

November 2022 Pastor's Report  
(**Bold** = Pastor will for sure talk about at Council Meeting)

- Lincoln was sick (really bad ear infection) 10/31-11/5—my in-person work time in the building wasn't my usual schedule, but did work from home
- Joined a 12-course Transforming Leadership Formation group through the Synod with other pastors in Region 2, will have a 1 pm Zoom meeting most Thursdays
- Youth Group report:
  - o Had 3 high schoolers and 5 middle schoolers at the November gathering
  - o December 4 will be at All Saints
  - o Thanks to Alan Schmuck who was our adult helper, and to Debbie who made the food!
  - o First Communion classes will begin in January—3-4 kids already interested!
- **Looking ahead to Christmas:**
  - o 12/14—Christmas Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols: family friendly event with the aforementioned snacks; will have some crafts for kids to do as well. Plug with friends and neighbors!
  - o 12/21—Longest Night: Sometimes called “blue Christmas,” service to acknowledge grief and mourning
  - o 12/24—3:30 pm service will have the kid's Christmas Program, 7:30 traditional
  - o 12/25—online service ONLY; going for a “fireside chat” vibe
- Switching Rev. Kooi's: **Pulpit Swap** with Matt—January 15
  - o Heads up: Matt's denomination (Reformed Church in America, aka RCA) is going through a massive split. His church is remaining in the RCA, Matt is still an ordained pastor in the RCA. He can still preside at Communion since we have Full Communion partnership with RCA. His synod equivalent just lost half their churches—lots of upheaval!
- Lily Endowment Christian Parenting Initiative:
  - o 60 organizations across the US will be selected for up to \$1.25 million in funding over 5 years to equip parents on sharing their faith with their youths
  - o Read more [here](#) (or at [www.lilyendowment.org/christian-parenting-initiative/](http://www.lilyendowment.org/christian-parenting-initiative/))
  - o Pending Preschool Board approval, **can I submit a letter of intent?** Intent letters are due by 12/5. The actual proposal is due February 13, 2023—plenty of time to create the proposal or drop out if it turns out to be out of our current realm.
  - o My idea has two major components:
    - 1) All individuals are offered training for how to communicate their Christian faith and beliefs using personal story-telling
    - 2) Parent/guardians are then invited to a second phase, divvied up by their kids' ages, to learn both what their youth's faith development can be (based on Erikson's Stages of Development) and how to communicate with them about their faith
  - o It'd incorporate the preschool largely, but would cover all youth ages (through college)
- “From Worry to Wonder” Reminder: This upcoming Saturday at Lord of the Hills in Centennial, 10-noon. Lunch is on me if you attend in person!!! Sounds like we have a good crew coming

Time off:

- o Will be off December 26-28, either Pastor Chelsea or Nic is covering