

Program Ministry Report

Oct, 2017

Edit your goals to show what you were able to accomplish since the last report.

Next, let us know how you will be focusing your work over the next month. Please note this would also be a good place to communicate other ongoing things you're doing that may not be part of a focus on goals.

Pastor James Aalgaard

- communication practices:
 - Migrated website to a more user-friendly dashboard interface. We are still adding content. I'm hopeful we will have a more complete website by this time next month, and then focus on new content and maintenance. Also glad that I've become more familiar with Google Forms. Example: there are almost 20 people signed up for Spanish lessons, almost all through the google form. (By the way, we boosted this Facebook post with Evangelism Team dollars). I created a draft of a photo opt-out policy for GLC. I will be posting the GLC Winter closure policy on the website soon.
 - help ensure healthy input and feedback processes for the congregation.
 - Worked with Council to create a simple survey about Sunday morning schedule. I encouraged members who are positive or negative about the schedule to be sure they communicate with the Council.
 - Seems like daily there are occasions to double check myself (and sometimes others) about making sure the communication loop keeps going when an idea happens.
- Engage the congregation in intentional care practices – Strengthen BeFriends ministry, Begin incorporating care for the dying through the use of "Peace at the Last"
 - After a workshop for Peace at the Last, I know there are several in the congregation ready to come together around this ministry. There is one family that has been approached about holding the service for their family member, and they are very interested but not quite ready.
 - BeFriends have begun to make plans for another Continuing Education event for the team, which will be "how to pray with someone." The ELW Pastoral Care book will be given to participants as a resource.
- Highlight "Community" through mentoring, coaching, preaching, prayer and teaching.
 - Newsletter article for November will feature this theme.
 - Participation in book study, experiencing community and keeping in mind our Catholic siblings down the road. Included them in personal and church prayers.
 - Encouraged the newspaper article about the labyrinth, participated in the dedication service.
 - Will continue to have this as an overarching theme, and I'm very glad to hear others begin to speak about this theme.

Beth Smallbeck

- Continue to create community through our groups and activities. Encourage youth to invite friends to youth group, events, and gatherings.
 - Bunco night and Trunk or Treat are open to the community and welcoming to all members and friends.
- Introduce the idea of what it is to be "Reconciling in Christ". Jameson will open these doors in the December senior high faith formation classes.
- Work on publishing an education piece for the adults of the congregation. Include a "did you know/get to know the youth" format in the Good News of Grace monthly newsletter.
 - An introduction to this feature article was in the October GNG and the first installment will be in the November GNG.

Jameson Varpness

- Foster a deeper connection between the music ministry and the assembly in worship – encourage ensembles to lead from within the assembly, find ways for ensembles to worship more regularly within the assembly
 - Voices of Grace – learning new hymns in rehearsal to help support the singing of the congregation from within
 - Chancel Schola canting for global liturgy

- Catecheo learning hymns and liturgy in rehearsal to help with participation and understanding of worship (also applies to my second goal)
- Increase worship literacy, flexibility, and agility in our response to both God in the word and the world around us – include resources with direct relevance to world events in worship, creatively adapt worship to speak to world events
 - Prayer vigil following violence in Las Vegas
 - Slight changes to the Sunday liturgy for the Sunday following the Las Vegas shooting
- Instrumental inclusion in music ministry – find inventive ways of using instrumental accompaniment on a more regular basis, communicate accessibility and availability to our instrumentalists
 - Plans and parts written for Chancel Schola instrumentalists to play with anthems
 - Encouraged Chancel Schola members to play in global liturgy
 - Broader instrumental participation in *One Vine, One Body*

Donna Giese

- I will become aware of how people respond to me in the role of clergy to a level of identifying a person's behavioral response to me during interactions. (Congregation members, community members, professional colleagues)
 - I have been observing people's physical reactions (stare/look twice) at me when I am wearing a clergy shirt. I have also noticed how people tune into conversations I may be having with someone else related to Scripture when out in public. People are curious, but do not ask questions or engage in the conversation.
 - On one occasion I reached up and covered my collar when I saw a woman staring at me. I will not do this again. It was a spontaneous reaction that I stopped immediately, but I was disappointed that I did it.
- I will develop skills to monitor my ability to recognize the need for self-care and approach both positive and negatives of my role in the church in a healthy manner
 - I have been blessed to not have encountered any negatives at this point in my internship. The critiques of my preaching have been honest and beneficial.
 - I am being consistent with saying no to invitations for events that occur on Monday. This is a day that I rest, take care of other responsibilities I have outside the church, and contact family members.
- Throughout this internship year, I will discern with the assistance of others to determine if my call is to be the pastor of an ELCA congregation/church
 - I had the opportunity to attend the Bishop's Convocation in Boise Idaho. The focus this year was on specialized ministry. It was rewarding to hear both ordained and those not ordained speak of their lives ministering to people in need. The ministers who are ordained spoke about how their years serving a church were beneficial to the position they hold now as a Word and Service minister.
 - Met with my internship committee.
 - Weekly meetings with Pastor James.