

March Council Report
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Submitted April 7, 2022

Lent began with a change in liturgy and the second time we've used the Sanctified Art worship materials and devotionals. We had a positive response from people who enjoyed an expansion of artwork, poetry and language. We also introduced two more moments for our confirmands to be in front of the congregation. The signing of the cross and gifting of the apostles creed were two powerful moments for our youth. Their reflections included "the more im up there the more the faces staring back at us are real people who do care about us" and "yeah it was awkward but I felt pretty loved". I was very happy with their reflections and the response from the congregation in trying something new. I think these moments to gather and remember the promises we made to each other in baptism are so vital to our faith formation.

During Lent our Adult Sunday school class engaged in their first ELCA Social Statement where we explored Race, Ethnicity and Culture in our church. This propels us into a greater discussion on addressing racism with the YWCA 21-Day Race Against Racism. Conversations like these are bringing new people into the dialogue. We have three prospective members signed up as well as multiple youth who will participate. I am very excited for our congregation to engage in these hard conversations and to see how the Holy Spirit will move in us in the future.

In March I served the greater church on a national level by being a part of choosing the next round of recipients for the ELCA Fund For Leaders Scholarship. I was a recipient in 2016 and we welcomed 30 more seminarians to receive full tuition scholarships. It was hard work but joyful work to give back to something that gave me so much.

Parsonage: We had our ducts cleaned and are very happy with breathing clean air. We planted bushes in the front yard to improve the curb appeal and got help mulching around the house on property work day.

Pastoral Acts: Home/hospital visits: 5