

December Report

Submitted: January 6, 2022

Associate Pastor Elizabeth Eckman

The Advent season came with a change to our liturgy. We used a new resource that changed our language a bit and imagery for worship. We partnered the liturgy with an Advent devotional and Sermon series that brought some freshness to worship! We added a Blue Christmas service on Dec 15th that was well received as a chance for prayer and contemplation of what's been lost or that we grieve during the holidays. I really enjoyed this service and would love to add it into our advent worship rotation for many more years.

All of the confirmands served in worship as lectors, greeters, acolytes, altar guild, and even writing prayers! While many of them were nervous, they followed through so they could "complete the assignment" but reflected beautifully on their experiences. I will continue to encourage them to serve and find creative ways to use their gifts.

2 members from St. John's joined me at the Shiremanstown Tree Lighting with over 75 community members to sing christmas carols and meet Santa claus. I was excited to be invited and continue to build relationship with local community members.

Christmas eve felt crazy and wonderful! I loved seeing the festivity at St. John's and lead worship. One outdoor service, and three indoor I was thoroughly wiped by the end of the night! It was a blessing to experience the musicality of all who lead prelude music and anthems. Thank you to all who helped set up, clean up, and be hospitable to our visitors.

Winterfest is Jan 7-9 in Lancaster with 150 of our High School youth in the synod. I am looking forward to the faith formation opportunity and we have some great speakers and events lined up for them.

Funerals: 1

Homevisits/Hospital: 6