

Associate Pastor Elizabeth Eckman
October Council Report
Submitted November 7, 2023

October was an activity filled month! We prepared our sanctuary space for our Essence of Joy concert by purchasing two pianos, and removing two pews. The removal of the pews created some much needed space up front and it was just in time to host Essence of Joy and Northern York High School choirs. The concert had around 35-40 church members and over 60 visitors! With just over 100 people in our sanctuary to enjoy some amazing music we hosted a great event. We had multiple people volunteer their time to cook lunch for the singers and help usher, greet, and point people to our parking lot. Thank you to everyone who helped bring such a special group to St. John's.

I attended the Bishops convocation for continuing education at United Lutheran Seminary in early October where I learned about Trauma informed preaching.

The following day I was off to Spain with my family for a 10 day trip. It was some much needed rest time in the tourist off season. It was a great lesson to me early on in my pastoral career that It is important to take time off even when its not the summer time. So often we jump from event to event and forget to rest in between.

I returned from Spain to pick up with helping put together the Fall Fest. Pastor Sarah worked hard to get vendors and organize volunteers, while Grace ran the chili cook off and the communication. We had to pivot during sunday school because of the rain and the cold. Grace did a great job organizing the changes while we had worship.

During our Reformation worship we introduced our 5 confirmands this year. The congregation had the opportunity to see them up front with their parents and pray for them on their final year of confirmation classes. Please affirm them when they serve in worship and strike up a conversation this year!

Grace and I handed out candy this year in front of the church for Halloween. We rolled out a firepit and distributed around 140 rice krispies. I had multiple families from the Children's Garden and people from the previous year remember the "cool church" and came to stop by and chat with us.

Funerals: 1
home/hospital visits: 4