

October Pastor Report  
Rev. Elizabeth Eckman  
Submitted: 11.4.21

October has been a month filled with so much good stuff. I have a consistent group of people coming for Adult Sunday School and they are really opening up to each other. We held a budget conversation before the Annual Meeting to allow people a more dedicated time to look at the budget, and proposed a building renovation plan and why its important to be ADA compliant. I think these conversations were great to have and look forward to having more conversations about who we are as St. John's in as I continue to plan Adult Sunday School.

We successfully held a Fall Festival with probably 100 people coming through it. Jay and I handed out Halloween candy to at least 200 kids and evangelized to the greater community. This opportunity allowed us to talk up the fall festival and have people know we are their neighbors. Our numbers of Preschool families coming to Word of Life Wednesdays are increasing and I continue to get to know parents and be a resource for them.

Confirmation has been going well. On Oct 31st we had the confirmands and their parents up front to be blessed and prayed for. While the students were uncomfortable being up front, it was a great opportunity to talk about taking some risk to be in community with others. There will be two more times they will be in front of the congregation for more visibility, relationship building and awareness of the journey they are on.

Jay and I hosted the Youth Group at our Firepit at the parsonage on 10/3, as a chance to get to know each other and do a bible study together. We enjoyed lively conversation and a root beer keg!

I met with three local Pastors in our area to build relationship with them and understand better the churches and their relationship with the neighborhood.

**Looking Ahead:** I am on a team of people who is planning and implementing this years Winterfest. Winterfest is a gathering of our High School aged youth in the synod in Lancaster every winter. So I am developing curriculum, finding speakers, music, and cultivating discipleship.

I continue to travel and plan for ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. I have built many meaningful relationships with people from all over the country as we plan this event.

We've been invited to sing some Christmas Carols at the Shiremanstown Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec 6th.

Pastoral Care/Home/Hospital Visits: 5