

Pastor Elizabeth Eckman  
Associate Pastor August Report  
Submitted September 6, 2023

I am on the planning teams for ALIVE and Winterfest with the synod for our youth and young adults. I was a part of multiple meetings this summer to plan the theme, schedule, small groups and activities for these events. I love creating these events for our youth and being a part of it. These final details for ALIVE took up a good chunk of time this month. I look forward to our youth attending in a few weeks!

I actually took vacation time! My husband and I went to Boston for our Anniversary and we took a week to go to the poconos and enjoy the lake. It was much needed time to relax and recharge.

I helped lead a workshop at the Youth Workers retreat held at Nawakwa. This retreat had about 20 youth workers from 3 different synods who gathered to learn, grow and support one another. I lead a workshop on relationships between Pastoral staff and Lay staff, and what to keep in mind when working with your pastor. Grace Roux was there as well and we both took ideas from it and are working well together to learn and grow into our new roles.

Final preparation for the program year happened this month as I teach confirmation classes and Adult sunday school. Each group of students is different and theres no one size fits all approach for teaching confirmation class. I work hard to find ways to teach our students to keep them engaged and learn the material.

We are planning an exciting event on October 7th with Penn State Essence of Joy choir. Lots to prepare and I put a lot of time into working out those details. Unfortunately, the high school choirs backed out. But we will continue with the college choir and have them here for lunch, and a concert at 3pm.

I worked with the Altar guild to adjust our cleaning practices as we transition back inside and use glass cups for communion. We are transitioning out of plastic cups (except for big holidays) back to glass cups which are better for the environment. I located a dishwasher and cup trays for the sacristy for us to really clean our cups instead of handwashing them. This new practice will give people peace of mind that they are communing with clean cups.

I was really happy this summer with our attendance at outdoor worship. We had a good summer of an average of 80-90 people each sunday. We had lots of people helping to set up and tear down and it made for a much smoother sunday morning. While I look forward to being indoor again, I really enjoyed seeing church members mingle with those they don't normally sit next to or see. It was great seeing people feel relaxed and at comfortable (even if it was hott!).

Looking forward to September, I am excited for my final continuing education week in Arizona with my Leadership on the Way group. I spent a year in a cohort, and 3 retreats developing my leadership skills and am excited for my final time with them. I continue to seek new ways to learn and grow my pastoral identity and thank the congregation for supporting me in that journey.

Home visits/Hospital: 6  
Funeral: 1