

Rev. Elizabeth Eckman
Associate Pastor August Report
Submitted: September 8, 2021

Last month council approved an update to the youth room. I've spent a large chunk of my time along with Stephanie Alsvan, making sure items have been picked, purchased, and implemented. We were able to have Tom Orris and his sons paint the room in a timely manner. While it did cost us, the paint job and ability for them to come on a rainy day and finish it in two days within my timeline was worth it. The paint has transformed that room. I do believe an update to the flooring will be needed at some point in the future. But for now, some new carpets and a good scrub have done the job. Deanna Kendalls sons came to help move furniture and they found new homes and did not need to be thrown away. I am thankful for their strong arms and helpful demeanor. I am looking forward to decorating the room and having both youth and adults feel at home in the updated space.

I continue to do lunches, dinners and walks with congregation members. There was definitely a correlation between who I have had these interactions with and who came to the open house. I will continue to do these all year long.

Pastor Sarah and I planned out the fall and are interested to see who shows up! I believe we have some meaningful programs planned for us to get to know each other and grow together in our faith. I am really looking forward to starting confirmation and begin teaching the 9th graders.

I met with Omar Muhammed, who helped relocate many of the Somali refugee's to the Shiremanstown area. We talked about how we can be better neighbors to one another's communities and learn more about each other. He is a part of Churchwide services in Lancaster that helps refugees get settled and comfortable where they live.

During a few days in August I flew to Wisconsin to plan the ELCA Youth Gathering. It was a wonderful three days to meet with peers and try and find meaningful ways to show Gods Boundless love to our students. This chance to get away and meet with other leaders around the country helped me to channel my inner creativity and recharge with other youth leaders about our ministry.

I will begin First Call Theological Training which is a monthly gathering of all first call pastors in the synod. It is an opportunity to meet with peers to share ideas, support each other, and educate ourselves on different resources in the area. I began this last year in the pandemic as an interim, and will be in it for two more years.

Parsonage

My husband Jay and I had an open house at the parsonage at the end of August. We estimated 65 people from the congregation came to see our home, and 1 neighbor. We were honored to see so many congregation members come and share the space with us. My hope in this process was to invite them into our lives as they continue to invite us into theirs.

After Hurricane Ida and all the flooding, there was no flooding in the basement. It seems as though the new window wells and landscaping paid off. No issues.

Washer/Dryer were finally delivered on August 31, 2021. After a long delivery delay and the inability for it to be installed. I managed to get \$300 back from home depot for inconveniences. Our handyman was able to install it for us. He came to repair dripping faucets, a new front porch light, and new downstairs bathroom vanity.

Pastoral Acts: Funeral for: Yong Gold - 8/8/21
Baptism - 8/1/21