

Vicar's Annual Report 2017

The Last 5 Months:

Confirmation: I have had the chance to observe as well as teach confirmation classes at Bethany. I have also been able to teach weekly in a one on one basis with a confirmation who has a time conflict with the time the confirmation class meets. This has been a wonderful experience for me to learn and to teach, and I am excited to finish out the rest of this year with the kids!

Bible Studies: I have had the privilege of participating and leading Bible Studies in many different contexts including nursing homes, Men's Bible Study at Bethany, the Monday Quilting Group, text studies, and circles. I have enjoyed delving into God's Word with all of these different groups of people, and learning from their perspectives as well as sharing my own.

Preaching: I have had numerous opportunities to preach while here, at Bethany and Lost Island, as well as at the various nursing homes in the area, and once at the Methodist Church in Ruthven. I appreciate the feedback I have gotten from all of you in regards to my preaching and look forward to our continued conversation around the Gospel.

Internship Committee Meetings: I have valued the feedback I have received from those on my internship committee, as well as feedback from the congregation which has been delivered to me through those on the committee. The internship committee meetings have been productive and I am thrilled to see how these congregations have committed to their roles as a teaching parish.

Worship Board: I have attended the worship board meetings and enjoyed being a part of the planning process of the services each week. I have also appreciated that the board has been gracious enough to humor some of my suggestions.

Youth Groups: Over the course of the last 5 months I have had opportunities to participate in each of the three youth groups. It has been great to be a part of faith coming alive in the lives of these young people.

Worship Leadership: I have been involved in leading worship almost every Sunday since my arrival at either or both churches.

Council: It has been an educational experience for me to be a part of the council meetings each month and to see first hand how the members of these congregations come together to take responsibility for the church and the missions of the church.

Counseling: I have had the opportunity to do some counseling for individual members of the church, within the realm of my qualifications.

Continuing Ed: I have participated in continued education through my weekly meetings with Pastor Peter, text studies, my own personal study, and internship clusters.

The Next 6 Months:

Lenten Services: I have designed a theme for the Lenten services this year and have facilitated the carrying out of that theme with select members from the both congregations. I have also worked on using a different liturgy during the Lenten services which is used by many congregations during the season of Lent, as well as other times within the church year.

Easter Sunrise Service: As a part of my internship requirements from the seminary I am to completely design one special worship service. Pastor Peter and I have decided that the Easter Sunrise Service is the service I will be designing, and I am very excited to continue working on the planning process for that service and to hear feedback from the congregation as to how the service goes.

Internship Cluster: I, along with some of my classmates have the responsibility of planning the internship cluster meeting for the spring of this year for interns and supervisors in Iowa.

Joint Potluck Picnic/Family Fun Day: I am working on planning an event which will be hosted by both Lost Island and Bethany, at Centennial Park in Ruthven. This event will be put on by volunteers from each congregation and will include a potluck and fun for all ages. I am currently looking for volunteers so if you are interested please let me know!

Lifest: In July I will be taking a group of youth to a Christian music festival in Oshkosh Wi, called Lifest.

Prison After Care Team: Later this spring I will be working on putting together a Prison After Care team in Palo Alto County, involving area churches whose purpose is to help people who are released from prison into this area become reintegrated into society, helping them to find housing, work, etc. to help them remove themselves from any toxic environments they were previously in that led to their arrest. If you are interested in this please contact me!

Vacation Bible School: I look forward to being involved in Vacation Bible School this summer.

Contemporary Service: We are looking at integrating a Contemporary style service one Sunday a month in the Spring and then over the summer creating a Saturday night Contemporary service. Anyone who would like to be a part of the planning and/or leadership of this service please contact me or Kristin.

Pastoral Acts 2017

Funerals: Ken Isbell 9/26/17

Harold Walker 10/9/17

LeRoy Kunz 1/4/18

Lewis Heghin 1/5/18

Baptisms: Kalloway Cook 11/12/17

Braxtyn Kropf 11/19/17

Wrapping up: I have LOVED my experience as your vicar this past few months and am eager to see how the next 6 months will shape up. Thank you for your warm welcome, your openness to some new ideas, and your support of me as I work towards ordained ministry. You have all been a true blessing to me and my family.