

**Report of
Ministry Director for Parish Life
The Rev. John H. Brock
September, 2018**

This has been a relatively good summer. We had several deaths, and I presided at the funerals for Peggy Hofer and Jim McGovern. I presided at the wedding of Barb Henderson & Tom Martin. And at Nawakwa, I presided for the baptism of the son of a friend of ours, on behalf of their home congregation, Trinity Lutheran Lansdale, PA.

We as both a congregation and a staff had a nice “goodbye & thank you” party for Nancy Martin as she wrapped up her time in the office. And then we welcomed Sarah Yee. And if I may, I think Sarah is doing a marvelous job of fitting into a well established office crew. She has come in with some good ideas. I, personally, find her to be a wonderful addition.

In June as well, we got to take part not only in the ordination of Elizabeth Frey, but we welcomed her to our Trinity family as well. Liz brings joy and energy to the pastoral staff, as well as a bit of needed relief. I am enjoying getting to know her, and am looking forward to a strong ministry with her.

In part, because of these new people, we had postponed our Staff Retreat until both Liz and Sarah were on board. Kelly Falck graciously opened her home to us, and we had a good opportunity to not only talk about the upcoming year, but get to know one another better.

We of course had our annual Affirmation of Baptism for our students in June. Pastor Horner and I, along with course teacher Peter Fox and his talented assistant Adrienne Brady, were able to take part in the rite. Unfortunately, one of the students, Max Wilken, had to choose between attending his own A of B, or taking part in one of his older brothers high school graduation. We were able to accommodate the Wilken's a few weeks later with a A of B just for Max. Adrienne was able to assist me. The Wilken's were very appreciative. This was also a bit special to me, because as to the best of my memory, Max is the first student here at Trinity that I not only baptised, but have now presided at his Affirmation of Baptism. So that was kind of cool!

June also saw the retirement of Rear Admiral Jon Yuen, a long time Trinity member. Jon was the commander of Naval Supply systems and Chief of Supply corps. He served here in Mechanicsburg for five years (longer than what is normal), and asked me to give the opening blessing and benediction for the Change of Command and retirement Ceremony. I had attended his installation five years ago, simply as a participant. It was an entirely different perspective sitting on the platform. Jon & Sandy have moved to the Raleigh Durham area, where their daughter Sara is in grad school. Jon has a teaching position there. Son Drew is serving our country in the Navy, just like dad, and is currently stationed in Japan.

Since it was summer, I once again helped out with various activities and events at Camp Nawakwa. I was able to once again assist with the Friday cookout, when I would have opportunity to spend at least half an hour standing next to my spouse while we both grilled. Not necessarily interacting with her, mind you, but at least standing next to her. I as plaed guitar for the Sunday opening and Friday closing worship music. I was asked to preside at a couple of communion worship services (during Family camp). And I helped out during Staff Training with a course "How To Be A Lutheran."

I was able to have lunch with Pastor Nancy Easton this summer. She is doing well, enjoying her position as visitation pastor for St. Paul Lutheran in Carlisle. She truly appreciated the out pouring of support she received from her former members here at Trinity upon the passing of her mother.

Of course, now that we're approaching the beginning of the new school year, I am feeling unprepared, wondering how I wasted the summer in not getting myself ready for all that I need to be doing. Because rather than working on Bible studies, I read several fiction books, took a vacation, and attempted to catch up on sleep that I seem to have missed out on, especially in May & June, as Pastor Horner and attempted to do a three clergy job with two of us. Not that I'm complaining, mind you. Much.

God's peace,

Pastor John Brock