

**Report of  
Ministry Director for Parish Life  
The Rev. John H. Brock  
February, 2019**

I want to start by saying that I am tired of snow and cold. I realize that I am living in the wrong part of the country - still, I'm kinda done with winter.

January saw the usual preaching, presiding, hospital visits, home visits, and various meetings to take part in. Pastor Horner & I put away the nativity sets used in the Gathering Space, the Chapel, and the new one used in the Nave (which I have to say, I *really* like). The sets stay up through the celebration of Epiphany, which, as I am certain you all remember, is when we observe the arrival of the magi in Bethlehem to pay homage to the child Jesus.

I had the Men's Tuesday Bible Study, focusing on Jehu, who is tied to the prophet Elisha. This went well, since my previous Tuesday Bible Study was on Ahab & Elijah, and Elisah of course comes in at the tail end of Elijah's story.

I was able to attend *Preaching Perspectives* at Gettysburg Campus of United Lutheran Seminary. This time, we had the Rev. Dr. Kristen Johnston Lagen leading the discussion.

January happens to be the month I celebrate my birth, and as I have for several years now, I send birthday cards to Trinity members who share our birth day.

One of the more interesting things that happened this month is that Pastor Horner, Pastor Liz & I were invited to the Synod office for a discussion about possibilities of Lutheran outreach along the Carlisle Pike. The meeting was called and headed by Synod staff person Pastor Jennifer Hope Tringali. Several other congregations were represented there as well. It was an interesting discussion. I have hopes that, working together, we might be able to tap into the very quickly growth area.

Debbie Wilson, Pastor Liz Frey & I, along with Sister Marianne Brock, have signed up to attend the *Ignite the Church* conference, February 19-21. We are looking forward to this event. From the home page:

*Pedro Suarez, the passionate bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In his address entitled: The New Us, Living in the Next America, Bishop Suarez will share a presentation based on a study done by the Pew Research on the socio-demographic evolution of our country. Where are we now, and where are we going? How can our church respond to the new us? How can we defeat fears of living a different way of worship and holy living?*

The fact that this is happening in Orlando had NO influence on my participation whatsoever. On a side note, Sister Marianne & I will be taking a long weekend immediately following the conference, joined by Rick & Debbie Wilson. We're not going any place in particular, I'm told there's not much to do in the greater Orlando area. I'm certain will spend most of our time sitting by the pool, sipping some nice, cold Mt. Dew.\*

A while ago, Bishop Dunlop asked me to put together a workshop for Associate Pastors. I had a couple of health issues creep up that forced me to put that on hold, but since I appear to

have not died, I have picked this up again. I am working with two other associate pastors, Keith Fair from St. Matthew in York, and Sarah Keilholtz from St. John in Shiremanstown. We are currently in the very early planning stages, so we only have an inkling of what we would like. We are striving for a positive event. Between the three of us, we have thirty years experience as associate pastors. We're tentatively looking at a January 2020 timeline.

I think that's it for this month

God's peace,

Pastor John Brock

*\*This is not entirely true. I've been informed there are a couple of very interesting places in and around Orlando.*