

**Report of  
Pastor for Parish Life  
The Rev. John H. Brock  
October 2019**

I got to take part in a couple of “outside the box” things this month. The first was a wedding. I have presided at many weddings, and even several outdoors. This was the first time I presided at an outdoor wedding, in a National Forest, at the same site that the bride’s parents were married. Ryan Wilson (lifelong member of Trinity and son of Contemporary Music Director Debbie Wilson) and Sarah Swisher (a wonderful young woman from Virginia) committed their lives to each other at the George Washington National Forest near Vesuvius, VA.

The other OTB event was a funeral for a former member (and sibling of a current member). The pastors at Trinity, I feel, do a good job of helping families in times of grief, and are often willing to preside at funerals for people who are currently not members, as our schedules allow. When the deceased is a former member, and/or a close relative of a current member, we strive to fit them in. As well, there are many times when individuals, or families, prefer to simply have a short service at the grave side. Such was the case for Lanny Lambert, a former member, and brother of Patty Marshall (one of our many talented members who contributes so much of the art work to our bulletins). What made Lanny’s service stand out for me is that the grave side service was held at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA. While Evergreen is directly adjacent to Gettysburg National Cemetery, it is more meaningful to me as the final resting place for several believers who were influential in founding and building the Lutheran Camping Corporation, specifically Camp Nawakwa. I have in the past joined the current camp director, Sister Marianne Brock, as she has visited the grave sites of the camp’s founder, the Rev. Dr. Hadwin Fischer, as well as many of those who were teachers and staff at the camp during its first few decades.

Speaking of funerals, I met with some members to plan how they would like their lives to be celebrated after they have joined the Church Eternal. This is something that any of our pastors are willing to do. Actually, we even *encourage* this. Having a plan, an outline, in place, is a great advantage to those, family or friends, who need to plan after a loved one’s passing.

I was able to attend an event at the Gettysburg Campus of United Lutheran Seminary, where Bishop Jim Dunlop and other synod staff and rostered people went over several of the main topics that were discussed at the Church Wide Assembly held last August. Among the speakers was Rev. Matthew Best, pastor at St. Stephen’s Lutheran in New Kingstown. He spoke about the topic that has generated the greatest amount of discussion among the church, that of sanctuary. This site has links to the articles which he wrote that he based his comments on: <https://www.lutheranadvocacy.org/blog/sanctuary-the-rev-matthew-best/>

I did a whole bunch of the “regular” stuff this month as well: Brother’s Tuesday Bible Study; filled in for a Thursday Bible Study; all the regular worship, both presiding and preaching (which reminds me, the Bishop’s Convocation was this month, at St. Matthew’s in York. The two primary speakers focused on preaching); of course Reformation celebration; and I was once again one of the prestigious judges of apple pie for Oktoberfest.

Finally, several of us (pastors and members of Property Committee) were able to meet with a lighting representative to discuss the luminescence possibilities in the nave. While I am sure we will hear more about this from Property, I want to point out that **Pastor Horner** voiced his support of how *beautiful* the chandeliers are. I want to emphasize that I - **John Brock**, no one else - am the one who made the comment about *removing* the chandeliers, primarily to make a better line of sight for when we begin live streaming worship (which is something that IT/AV is working toward). If you want to be annoyed with someone for talking about removing the chandeliers, please give **me** the credit for your annoyance.

God's peace,

Pastor John Brock