

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

December was a bit on the busy side. I did regular worship preaching and presiding. I was at all three of our off-site worships (The Woods, Bethany, & Messiah). I did my regular Men's Bible Study at Brother's Restaurant. I attended the usual monthly meetings. And I presided at the funeral for a family member of someone long associated with Trinity, Peggy Emory.

The more seasonal related things were getting gifts cards to help out several of our members at this of year. Between the Pastor's Benevolence Fund, and the generous donations of the Chancel Choir, we were able to help out four different households within our Trinity congregation. We were also able to give greater aid to non-members seeking aid.

Of course, Christmas Eve worship was once again what I would call very successful, with over 2200 in attendance. I felt the new times of worship were much easier to remember, and we really didn't seem to be affected by changing the times of the later three worships. All five appeared to run well, and I believe next year things will be even better.

I ended my last month report with a brief teaser about my beginning of December vacation to Walt Disney World. My trip was mostly just fine (I got sick on my last full day there, but that's really not important). Let me say, going to WDW with, at the beginning of the week, my special needs eight year old godson, and then finishing the week with a very precocious five year old, brought me new appreciation for the parks, in seeing everything through fresh eyes. Never a bad way to look at anything, as far as I can tell.

But what I would like to briefly tell you about is my Sunday worship experience at Castle Church Brewing Community in Orlando, FL. This is a barely one year old congregation that is centered around a brewery, much like Martin Luther's own congregation in Germany. It is a working brewery, and is a recognized congregation of the ELCA. They have a pastor. They have three times of worship each week (9:09A & 11:11A on Sundays, 7:07P on Wednesdays). The worship space is in the building, where during worship you can look around and see the brewing equipment, and after worship you can go up to the bar and order a beer. It is a new (and yet, kind of old, since Luther himself held worship in the same building in which they brewed their beer) way of worship. They don't print bulletins, they use an app that you can download on your phone or tablet. And Pastor Jared Witt gave an excellent sermon for the Second Sunday in Advent. If you are in the Orlando area and looking for a good place to worship, or some good beer (not being a beer drinker, I have to trust my spouse on this one), I would strongly encourage you to visit them. And maybe, you'll get some ideas for a new ministry here in Camp Hill.

<https://www.castlechurchbrewing.com/>

God's peace,

Pastor John Brock