

Report of Pastor for Engagement

Pastor Liz Frey

January 2021

Funeral

Kathleen “Kitty” Henne died December 30, 2020 and her funeral was held at Neill Funeral Home on January 6, 2021. She was the wife of Bill Henne.

Candidacy Committee Meeting and other Synod Business

On Thursday, December 10, I met with our synod’s candidacy committee to entrance a new candidate. Entrance is the first step of the candidacy process before someone starts seminary. Additionally, Bishop Dunlop met with rostered leaders of our synod that afternoon on Zoom to discuss his recommendations for Christmas Eve.

Christmas at Trinity

On December 13 our community started our Christmas celebrations with Christmas at Trinity. It was great to be a part of this year’s musical event. The music was beautiful, even though we were forced to do things a little differently this year.

Community Outreach Ministries and Missions Teams

At the close of the year, our Community Outreach Ministries team had the opportunity to give one more time in 2020. The team voted to share some Christmas spirit with those incarcerated at Dauphin County Prison; we gave an offering to support Christian Churches United in their initiative to give a small gift to each inmate at Christmas. We gave an offering to Christ Lutheran Medical Mission to provide socks and underwear for their clients. Finally, we gave an offering to Christian Churches United for their walk-in winter shelters in Harrisburg.

The Missions team will meet later this month to discuss plans for 2021 in detail.

Podcast

Our podcast has premiered! Be sure to check out the first episode that came out on Wednesday, January 6. This new project has truly been a team effort. Many thanks to Tom Stank and Mike Schwalm of FaithX who put together our introduction music.

Worship

Obviously, this year has been difficult, and worship changed a lot. We ended the year by celebrating Christmas Eve in new ways with various online worship opportunities and two parking lot services. Even with the rain, we celebrated the birth of Christ!

Covid-19 Task Force

The task force continues to meet every other week or as needed to discuss the situation surrounding Covid-19. I am grateful for the leaders who are a part of this team! The team met on Tuesday, January 5 to discuss recommendations regarding in-building worship. We decided to continue suspended in-building worship through the end of January.

Member Phone Calls

I continued to make phone calls to our older members this month.

On a personal note:

Thank you for your prayers and concern for my family last month. Both of my parents recovered from Covid-19. It was a scary time for my family, and I appreciate the support of Trinity during that time. And please continue to be a part of slowing the spread of Covid-19! This illness continues to affect so many of us, even as we look forward to the distribution of vaccines.

2020 Year in Review:

What a year? I don't think any of us expected so many changes to occur in such a short amount of time. But even with the changes, Trinity adapted and here are some of the highlights from my ministries.

Worship: As we pivoted from in person to online worship, I learned how to lead worship and preach digitally. It was an adjustment learning to speak to a camera instead of a gathered congregation. Trinity could not have done this pivot without the help of volunteers and staff willing to share their time and talents!

Connect: Before the pandemic, I was working on a Wednesday Connect series for kids with member, Kristen Skaugen. We were able to have two sessions before the pandemic-caused shutdown. I was the leader of one of the new Life Groups at Trinity in early 2020. We welcomed several new members before and during the pandemic. And during the pandemic, we learned how to connect in new ways, and I was blessed to be a part of several Faith Connections events, including the On Hold Series, Sermon Points to Ponder on Facebook Live, Zoom Coffee with Pastor Liz, and many more.

Serve: In March, I put together a list of service opportunities that were safe during the pandemic. In July, the Community Outreach Ministries team organized a virtual Christmas in July Giving Tree event. In October, Trinity had its first Week of Service. In November, Missions and Community Outreach Ministries organized a second virtual Giving Tree. We were able to support so many ministries this year! Thank you, Trinity!