

**Pastor for Parish Life
The Rev. John H. Brock
Year End 2021 Report**

Taking a few moments and looking back on this year that was, I see that once again, we were bouncing around, trying to reach as much of our membership as we could while still staying safe ourselves.

We started our podcast "Good Things Comes In Threes." From the comments I have heard, this has been rather well received. I have enjoyed the talks with the other two pastors, as well as the occasional guest. We've taken on some difficult topics, and kept the light ones in there, too. In general, this feels like an accessible way for people to get to know the pastors, as well as the ELCA, a bit better.

While we were not able to renew our monthly in-person worship at Messiah Village, Bethany Village, or The Woods, we have been doing what we can to keep in contact with our members in those facilities. We send weekly the sermon and a bulletin, and, as each facility will allow us, will do individual home visitation.

I feel all of our festival and special times of worship were successful. Ash Wednesday parking lot worship was good. We were able to begin the in-person worship beginning in Lent, and we were pleased with the attendance. Palm Sunday this Year I felt was especially meaningful, as ALL the styles of worship got to experience the great artwork that went along with the reading of the Passion story. We had one member who went out of her way to tell the pastors how moved she was to hear the story while looking at the art on the screens.

Of course, celebrating Easter in person was very meaningful, especially after not being together on that most holy holiday last year.

The summer went well. While Pastor Horner was away on his mini-sabbatical during August, Pastor Liz & I were able to "hold down the fort" rather ably, if I may say that about the two of us.

Fall has seen us reactivate our Bible Studies - both the Thursday study, and the Men's Tuesday Morning one. With our wonderful new Director of Faith Formation, Moses Kavishe, Affirmation of Baptism is also back in action, with two classes: 7th grade two year program; and 8th & 9th grade, one year program.

December, with Advent and Christmas, brought their own challenges. We were able to hold the five Christmas Eve times of worship we have been doing for several years now: 2P Traditional; 4P Children's Pageant; 6P Traditional featuring Matins Choir; 8P Contemporary; and 10P Lessons & Carols. All were slightly under half of the attendance of pre-Covid worship. Add to those the number of views we had for the recorded on-line Christmas Eve worship, and we were roughly three-quarters of the pre-Covid attendance. Personally, I feel that was fantastic.

In all, I am glad that this last year is over. It was, though, a good year, where God was praised, and we learned to love and care for one another. And those are always good things to do and learn.

God's peace,
Pastor John Brock

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January Report for December 2021

Normal things for December:

- Staff meeting
- Pastoral Care
- Production / Live Stream Prep meetings.
- Live Stream Worship, In Person Sunday / Saturday - Preached once.
- Podcast Planning / Recording
- Work on and lead Thursday Bible Study.
- Work on and lead Men's Tuesday Bible Study.
- Noon prayer service/On Call weekend.
- Council meeting

Additional things:

- Wedding: Shannon Jones & Joe Brown
- Taught Affirmation of Baptism twice
- Presided at Cumberland Conference worship at Trinity
- Pastoral contacts: in person, in hospital, & phone
- Along with Pastor Liz, Moses and Debbie Wilson, led the Blue Christmas worship
- Recorded Christmas Eve on-line worship, and the message for the Christmas Morning on-line message.
- Christmas Eve: presided at 4P Children's Pageant, & 8P Contemporary. Greeted people at the front door at 2P, 6P, & 10P
- Christmas Day: preach & preside

Other things:

- I was able to get a week of vacation in (yes, I went to my "happy place" to see the Christmas decorations).
- I was able to make up several days off.

God's peace,

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