

Pastor for Parish Life
The Rev. John H. Brock
Report for January 2024

Recurring Events:

- Staff meeting
- Pastoral Care meeting
- Production / Live Stream Prep meetings
- Live Stream Worship, In Person Sunday / Saturday
- Weekend Preach Advent 1, Advent 4
- Write weekly Prayers of the Church (along with Every Member Prayer list) and Pastoral Care reports
- Friday Prayer Service/On Call weekends December 1-3, 22-24
- Creative Worship
- Council

Additional things:

- Brother's Tuesday Bible Study and prep: 1st Corinthians 8
- Teach Affirmation of Baptism:
9th & 10th Commandment (*Don't covet*)
- Home / Hospital / Phone Visitations
- Member Conversations at Trinity
- Financial Aid & Christmas gift distribution to several families
- Attend the funeral for former member Virginia Ely at Trinity Lutheran Mechanicsburg, (where she had transferred her membership).
- Preach Blue Christmas Service (this is a service we began doing a few years ago, that we hold as close as possible to December 21st (Winter Solstice, "Longest Night"), recognizing that many people have a difficult time dealing emotionally with the holiday season)
- Assist with signing the Give Serve Lead 'thank you' letters
- Cumberland Conference monthly gathering at Trinity: I preach, Jack preside, we all host
- Took part in Christmas Eve/Day worship (see below)

Other things:

- I was able to take several days of vacation (some of which were a "use it or lose it" situation) (and yes, for some of those days, I was in the Promised Land of WDW).
- I took part in the Camp Hill Pharmacy Flu & covid shots
- **Christmas worship:** I know that you all realize we have extra times of worship as we gather every year to celebrate the birth of Christ. But this year, with Advent 4 falling on a Sunday, I feel our staff went above and beyond. I would like to point out the eight (yes, **8**) times of worship from Saturday, December 23rd - Monday, December 25th :
 - Saturday Evening Advent 4 5P
 - Sunday Morning 9A Live Stream Advent 4
 - Christmas Eve:
 - 2P Traditional
 - 4P Children's
 - 6P Traditional
 - 8P Contemporary
 - 10P Lessons & Carols
 - Christmas Day 10A

- Those times of worship, while similar, each needed their own bulletin. Some of the content was used in more than one setting (Advent 4 used the same hymns Saturday evening and Sunday morning, as well as much of the liturgy). Each worship setting needed volunteers: ushers; lectors; people to set up for communion and then clean it all up and get ready for the next one; folks to light the aisle candles in the nave, and all the window sill candles; one pastor to preach, another to preside; and of course musicians.
- When all was said and done, we worshiped nearly 1500 souls in our building on Christmas Eve alone. That's not counting Advent 4 or Christmas Day, nor does that number include those who tuned into any of the December 24th Live Streams (9A, 2P, 8P, 10P).
- I simply want to **Thank** all those who Graciously and Joyously took part in either planning, carrying out, or just coming and worshiping at any of those times.
- Christ is Born! Alleluia!

God's peace,
Pastor John Brock