

OFLC Pastor's Report – For November 2021

Worship & Education

- Worship attendance over Advent/Christmas:
 - o Wednesday night Advent (3 weeks): Average 15-20.
 - o Blue Christmas: 10
 - o Travelers' Christmas: 60
 - o Christmas Eve (5pm): 40
 - o Christmas Day (10am): 22
- Sunday School Christmas Program & Cantata on December 12th.
- First Communion for four 5th graders this year: Mary Dahl, Taryn Smith, Calvin Gustafson, Arie Field
- Thanks to Choir, Bell Choir, Dan Shiller, Amy Jacobson, Wayne Olfert, Pam Hoekstra, and Tammy Jarvi for providing music leadership this year!
- Engage & Confirm: Averaging about 15-20 kids/week. 5-7 adult/week.
- Sunday School: averaging about 10-20 kids/week. Adults: Dan, Pam, Rachel Reed, Gail Swanson, Lynne Greseth, Lindsey Bervig.
- Started offering Communion at rail and collecting offering in pews this month.
- Women's Bible Study concluded their study of the Book of Esther.
- Men discussing a spring retreat in March/April.
- **Worship for January 2nd, 9th, and 16th (tentative): Tammy will lead worship Jan. 2nd. Kevin Reed will lead worship on Jan 9th and potentially 16th, pending my surgery recovery.**

Pastoral Care

- Increase in COVID infections are affecting our congregation, although no serious health issues.
- Pastoral care concerns are communicated through the OFLC Prayer Chain.
- New members: Nate and Lauren Johnson, and sons Jack (5) and Miles (1) have joined OFLC. Baptism for Miles is scheduled for January 30th.

Outreach

- OFLC Christmas Market during Crow River Christmas: Discussed at December Council meeting. Have noted a number of new visitors attend worship due to the event.
- Read part of Christmas story w/other area pastors at Crow River Christmas evening celebration on December 4th.
- Christmas Tree Decorating – December 5th. Seemed to be well received.
- Attended Rockford Chamber Coffee Meeting December 9th.

Administrative

- **Annual Reports due to Melissa ASAP. (list is attached) Annual meeting date set for Jan 30th. Kathy Lunderby has offered to serve breakfast before meeting, will need help from council member to prep and serve on Sunday morning (COVID safety).**

- John Gilb terminated contact with MN Cleaners, effective Dec 31st. New contact starts on Jan 3rd (independent person).
- Strategic Committees update: decided to hold off on invitations until after Christmas. Also, tentatively holding Rick Fuglie's position on building committee as "tentative" due to upcoming Council elections.
 - o **Also will hold off on the Capital Campaign committee until we have a shared vision going forward. Looking at Dec 21st meeting notes, need to address competing priorities: immediate funding needs and long-term funding for building project.**
- Thanks to Diane Dorrel and Jackie Anderson for volunteering to staff office during Melissa's PTO.

Info for Council – Pastor Aaron

- Completed 4 day intensive for Doctor of Ministry studies Dec 7-10.
- Completed 1 day Moral Injury course on Dec 13th.
- Participated in Mpls Synod Candidacy Committee on Dec 2 (interviewing seminarians for ordination, etc).
- Attended area ELCA pastors' Conference meeting on Dec 16
- Surgery on right hip, Dec 28th.
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