



Pastor's Annual Report to the Congregation For Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, 11:15 am

At the congregation's Special Meeting on July 16, 2017, a quorum of Christ Lutheran members unanimously voted to extend an open-ended Letter of Call to me. The call is three-quarter-time. I accepted this call, which succeeded the one-year term call that began August 2016.

It is a privilege to serve you. Here is the first paragraph from the Letter of Call which you extended and which I accepted in July:

“We call you to exercise among us the ministry of Word and Sacrament which God has established and which the Holy Spirit empowers: To preach and teach the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; to administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead us in worship; to proclaim the forgiveness of sins; to provide pastoral care; to speak for justice in behalf of the poor and oppressed; to encourage persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel; to impart knowledge of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its wider ministry; to endeavor to increase support given by our congregation to the work of our whole church; to equip us for witness and service; and guide us in proclaiming God's love through word and deed.”

Some of the ministries to which I have given emphasis during 2017:

Led an informal education hour for all ages each Sunday at 9 a.m., anticipating the growth of Christian education with children; currently we have no Sunday school specifically for children.

Preached and administered the Sacraments at weekly worship and special worship services such as Lenten Wednesdays, Holy Week and Easter, Advent Wednesdays, Christmas and: Celebration of First Communion at worship with CJ McColl on April 23, Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) on Oct. 29 for Erica McColl and Emilie Crochet, memorial service for Sharon Oines, sister of Judy Adams, on Nov. 18. Sharon died Nov. 11; memorial service for Lucille Marx on Jan. 3, 2018; Lucille died on Nov. 29; baptism of Anduin James Goehring, son of Amber and Jonathan Goehring, on Dec. 31; Anduin was born Dec. 2.

Created, with the assistance of preschool and congregation leaders, an AKIDemy Preschool Work Group that met regularly from April through August and has submitted proposed AKIDemy Preschool Bylaws for the congregation's review and vote in January 2018

Led preparations for the Discernment and Direction session with Assistant to the Bishop Erin Power on May 28 with these four February Sunday forum topics serving

as places to begin considerations: smaller council, pastoral support group, actual Sunday school, daycare is ours.

In February, began leading Tuesday night Bible studies, which continue most Tuesdays.

In March, scrambled with CLC leaders to network and secure funding and solutions for the asbestos issues that surfaced during flooring work in the fellowship room.

In October, initiated a Prayer Group that continues to meet twice a month.

Agreed to serve as chaperone for four youth (three from Ascension Lutheran and our own Erica McColl) to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering June 27-July 1 in Houston, TX with my costs paid by Ascension Lutheran, Cheyenne.

Continue to work with CLC leaders to secure a willing musician for our Sunday worship service. We miss our pianist, leader and friend, Paula Egan-Wright, who is temporarily unavailable. I extend special thanks to musicians Judy Adams and Carol Moler who have regularly shared their time and gifts.

I conclude this Annual Report in the same way I concluded my report a year ago. This good word comes from The Office of the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: The word "synod" comes from a Greek word meaning "to travel a common road--to walk together." This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Ministry, in my experience, is often a dance. This one is in three-quarter time. The chorus from Sydney Carter's song about Jesus, the Lord of the Dance invites all to the dance:

Dance, then wherever you may be.
I am the Lord of the dance said he
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance said he.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1: 14

Pastor Rebecca Aardahl