

Report to Executive Council  
November 15, 2022

What a month! Even though there were many great things that occurred this past month's worth of time, it somehow feels like the Covid mass-spreader has overshadowed it all. Yes, on a joyous Reformation Sunday, when 10 of our middle-school youth reaffirmed their baptisms and confirmed their faith, we had a mass-spreader event. Not exaggerating, there are 25 people (that I'm aware of, which means there are probably more) who started displaying signs of Covid the following Wednesday and Thursday of the week, ultimately all testing positive. This included both Deacon Lindsay and myself, impacting our worship services on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Not aware of any protocol or plan in place (first year issues), I first called Nancy McNeal to ask for help, and followed that call up to John Burke. Thankfully we survived (both Covid and not having me & Deacon Lindsay leading), and we will be discussing and creating a clear plan at the next Worship Team meeting. The chances of this happening again aren't high, but in these days of Covid they are certainly higher than they were pre-pandemic.

Surprisingly, the weeks around my Covid illness and the week of vacation it flowed into, there was a lot that occurred. I visited with many people, some of whom are on my "regular" monthly visitation list, and others that aren't; I continue to connect with people for the first time as they return to the life here at St. Matthew. I also went and cheered on some of our church youth at their sporting events. I connected with a small group of the local clergy here in Medina, as well as with my Lutheran colleagues within our conference, and with one of the Synod assistants. The usual monthly meetings happened (Care Connection, Communication/Evangelism, Small Groups), and there were others that met that I couldn't attend due to illness and vacation. I also missed out on the Foundry with our church members, to which I was very much looking forward. Bible & Brews continues to go well, and we are now meeting out in the community. I met and sat in for a job evaluation with Personnel, and helped guide the formation of a Stewardship letter. Our newest team of people (College and Military Care Package Ministry) met for the first time to plan for our first mailing. Look for announcements to come in how you might help and contribute.

The Dandelion Team is in place (mostly ... still awaiting an answer from 1). The first training event took place October 22 (of which nobody could attend for various reasons). I've been assured this isn't a problem and we can "catch up" with everyone. I also have the notes & slides available, as well as an offer from one of the others to come speak with us once we are fully in place.

I'm still awaiting word that the Constitution & Bylaws team has been fully identified. Once I receive word that it's ready and in place then work can/will begin.

As we enter into one of the busier times of the church year, my prayer for all of us is that we experience the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that comes to us during this time and that it be the focus of all we do.

In Christ, with Christ, for Christ!

Pastor Steve Mahaffey