

Report to Executive Council  
August 16, 2022

What a blur of a month! Busy, busy, busy. Worship this summer continues to be well attended at the one service on Sunday, and the Wednesday service was consistent with the same group most weeks. Although the goal for attempting a Wednesday service wasn't met (to provide a worship experience mid-week for those unable to attend on Sunday during the Summer), those that did come (mostly people coming on Sunday as well) were pleased. One of the blessings that came out of these services was the creation of a "camp style" service, which seemed to really resonate with most who came. We concluded the Wednesday services this past week with the camp service (held outside, finally!), a grilled hot dog and chips meal beforehand, followed by a camp fire and s'mores at my house next door. It was a nice evening of worship and fellowship. Additionally this past Sunday was our worship at Buckeye Woods Park with a blessing of the backpacks. Despite the threat of rain, and the lack of electricity at the pavilion, the service went well and was well attended (so I was told for that service).

We are now entering into our 5<sup>th</sup> week of Bible Study in the book of Acts. It continues to grow each week it seems, as a new face appears. It would seem we've almost outgrown the space we've been temporarily meeting in (the old nursery) and will need to move to the fellowship hall soon. We are still awaiting for the FourPaws Brewery to open so we can meet there at least once a month, and are also looking for a more "local" place to meet outside of St. Matthew as the cooler weather approaches.

St. Matthew offered a couple of really fun fellowship opportunities and service opportunities this past month. Some of the congregation met on July 21<sup>st</sup> to view Where the Crawdads Sing at the movie theater in Brunswick, followed by dinner and discussion. The annual get-together/cook-out at the Burke's was held after worship on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Some of the Youth and parents traveled to Cedar Point for the day on July 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a bicycle ride up to Whiskey Island that occurred July 31<sup>st</sup>. We hosted our first ever blood drive on August 7<sup>th</sup>, at which 25 people made donations (our goal was 24). The youth also went to Deacon Lindsay's for a cook-out on August 11<sup>th</sup>. And some of the men of the church met again for breakfast at Yours Truly. Who says the summer months are slower?!!

Ecumenically, synodically, and locally I (and Barb Woodard) attended the Lutheran cluster meeting at Zion at which we planned our God's Work Our Hands event for September 11. I (along with Deacon Lindsay and Barb Woodard) also traveled to the LOVE Inc. office to hear about our cooperative efforts to help people in our area and how it all works. Additionally I met with the Operation Homes director, Rick Sullivan, and Sandy Andrews as that ministry starts back-up in our community. I also connected with Pastor Luke (UCC) and Pastor Kelly (Episcopal) for mutual support and collaboration in ministering to the great Medina area. Finally, I met with the Cleveland West cluster of Lutheran pastors here in Medina the afternoon of August 11.

We held a beautiful memorial service for Esther Svoboda on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Many people helped to make that day special for the family (the choir, the kitchen ladies, ushers, sound and streaming technicians). Thanks to everyone who lent a hand that day! We also held a beautiful memorial service for Jim Apana August 14<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Joe Obermeier for changing his plans that day to run the sound, and to Owen Blakslee for recording the service.

Visitation of members continues to go well. I have a list of members I'm trying to see approximately every month, as well as working with Nurse Brenda to visit others who might ask for or "need" a call from me. Additionally I'm still getting to meet with more "active" members by invitation and request. I'm thankful for this time out of the office visiting with everyone and getting to "know" them outside of Sunday mornings.

In Christ, with Christ, for Christ!

Pastor Steve Mahaffey