

Synod Council
Bishop's Report
Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt
January 25, 2020

Stronger and Better Together....Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World

Welcome to 2020 and I hope you all had a great Christmas. Since we have last met lots of things are happening and I look forward to seeing you all at the January meeting.

1. Financial Matters:

- Winter weather, so far this season, has cooperated with Saturday and Sunday services which translate to better offerings than last year at this time. My hope is that we will end the year stronger.
- Statement of Intent for 2020-21 keep coming in and most are taking on the challenge goal or remaining steady at the 2020-21 level. Very few have declined. That is good news!
- Please check with your congregation to make sure that Mission Support and the Statement of Intent are sent in by January 31, 2020.
- First Commonwealth Bank transitions are concluded.
- New Lockbox is set and ready to go February 1 and communications are underway to notify treasurers of the change. The old lockbox will remain open for several months until the transition is complete.
- You will appoint the Audit Team at this meeting.
- Apple Growth will be at the Synod Office March 11-12, 2020.
- Audit Team will review the Audit with the auditors April 14, 2020.
- Finance Team is working on a Gift Policy for the Synod and it will be brought to you for approval.
- Mission and Mission Plan 2021-2022 will be presented to you for a vote for Synod Assembly approval.

2. Thrive! Equipping a Vibrant Church Together:

- Pastor Donner continues training congregational leaders on the Mission Campaign.
- Pastor Mike Ward will lead another Governance Workshop in February at Epiphany, Centerville.
- I will be meeting with key donors in the next several weeks. Pastors from PAC (Pastor Advisory Cabinet) congregations have given me names of potential donors.
- The Mission Campaign is fully in swing and if your congregation has questions please do not be afraid to ask.
- The next cohort of SAS (Stewardship for All Seasons) congregational training is underway. Pastor Kerrigan will give a report at the meeting.

3. Vibrant Congregation Event is planned for October 17, 2020 at Abiding Christ, Fairborn. It is a day of worship, workshops, Bible Study, and training for leaders, members and anyone who wishes to attend. A task force is forming to oversee this new event.

4. Building Update:

- Closing on the 300 S. Second Street office will be in February.
- New office space is secured 9200 Worthington Road.
- \$50,000 given to Thrive as part of the sale was received

5. Region 6 News:

- Jennifer Morehart, Region 6 Archivist is leaving for a new position. The Archive Board is working with Capital University to fill this position. We thank Jennifer for her commitment to this important work and wish her well.
- NEO Synod Assembly is June 12-13. I plan on joining several other Region 6 bishops at the assembly to support our siblings in Christ and welcome a new bishop. Please keep that synod in prayer as they discern their future.

6. Trinity, Englewood merger into North Riverdale Lutheran Church is completed as of December 31, 2019 and I will give you more details at the meeting.

7. Synod Assembly 2020: Stronger and Better Together....On the Way: Be the Light

- Preparations are in the works!
- May 16, 2020
- Epiphany, Centerville
- ELCA Rep: Bishop Bill Gafkjen

See you on January 25th at All Saints Lutheran, Worthington.