

Congregational Council President's Report 2017-2018

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." **1 Peter 4:10.**

These words from 1 Peter remind us that God has gifted each of us and we use these "gifts" to glorify God as we are "gathered" together and then "sent" out into the world.

As I reflect back on this past year, I am pleased with all that we have accomplished with a sense of excitement and hope! As Church Council President, I know that this past year has been successful because of the people who make up our council. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve along with Pastor Scott Thalacker, Joan Mahoney, Colin Johnson, Brad Kropp, Paula Zsiray, Heather Johnson and Regina Dickinson. *Thank you!*

- As a council, we began this year where we left off last year, focusing on and sharing our Purpose Statement and Guiding Questions to be used as a tool for discernment and to help us catch God's vision of things as it can be seen here at Prince of Peace. We hosted several Grace Gatherings where we connected and reflected with congregational members looking at how are we "Gathered, Gifted, and Sent" into the world. These gatherings were well attended and, we hope, enjoyed! Our final gathering was at our Reformation Fest held on the 500th Anniversary and Celebration of Reformation. We focused on one question- "What is one thing Prince of Peace wants to be known for". The responses were plentiful and the most common answer was grace (grace for you and me). The council will continue to focus on living and daring confidence in God's grace in the coming year as we look to the future of Prince of Peace where God's vision always exceeds our expectations!
- We as a council also discussed Colossians, created a covenant of leadership, met with Pr. Ken Carrothers to discuss the call process for a new pastor/director of Luther Heights Bible Camp and ways that Prince of Peace can continue to be involved. Council also enjoyed a Q&A with Pr. Carl Zimmerman (close friend of Joan Mahoney and a pastor of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Huntingdon Beach, CA). Pr. Carl provided insight and discussion about deadlines and direct accountability, council pre-planning and calendaring. It was inspiring to have him share his 40 years knowledge of pastoring congregations.
- The council continues to closely monitor for the benchmark triggers set forward with our approved 2017-2018 budget. We cautiously and carefully move forward as we present the 2018-2019 proposed budget to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. This includes an increase to pastor's salary package, continued strong support of the Rocky Mountain Synod and ELCA benevolence, and other ministries of Prince of Peace not previously supported. We look at three basic elements of Liturgy, Faith Formation and Service to understand the the commitment to this budget.

This has been an incredible final year of serving on Council. I am humbled and blessed by the vision, courage, and grace of this congregation. My thanks to each of you for sharing your lives, your faith and your courageous hope as we journey together in ministry. As we serve one another with the gifts that we have received, may we have the living, daring confidence to be sent out in the world and glorify God.

In hope,

Deanna S. Outsen
Congregational Council President