

## Intern's Report

I am Judy Holmen, the Kenyon Area Intern. Beginning September 1 I began working with the following churches and pastors: Vang and Dennison Lutheran, Dennison area – Pastor Gerry Gengenbach, Grace Lutheran of Nerstrand – Pastor Judi Reitz, Holden and Dale Lutheran outside of Kenyon – Pastor Mike Lockerby, Gol and Hegre Lutheran outside of Kenyon – Pastor Keith Holmstad, and Trinity Lutheran of West Concord – Interim Pastor John Hagen. It has been a joy working with the various pastors and congregations.

I moved into the parsonage in Dennison the end of August while the construction workers were busy preparing the streets for black top. Yes, by early fall the streets in Dennison had curbs and were black topped. It was better than rolling the red carpet out in my book. Within in the community of Dennison I helped with the Halloween Party that the Lions organized and was able to meet people within the community. Throughout the last several months I have had the opportunity to meet various neighbors and individuals within Dennison. I have been enjoying the area with the beauty of the rolling hills and farm country as well as the Big Woods State Park.

I have had the privilege to attend various church dinners, suppers, Women's Christmas gatherings and work the Lutefisk Supper at Vang. My experience thus far consists of leading worship and preaching as well as assisting with a couple of funerals, a wedding and observed several funerals, a baptism and a wedding rehearsal and wedding. Visitation within homes, nursing homes, and hospitals are part of my responsibilities in addition to the items listed below. Through attending text study, Kenyon Area Pastors Meetings, the Cannon River Conference meetings, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Theological Conference this fall, and the St. Olaf Christmas Concert I have met other colleagues and have enjoyed good discussions.

This fall I attended a class on Rural Church Organization. It was helpful taking this class while I was interning for several times things came up in class and in ministry that directly applied to what I was learning. I feel that I gained more from the class having been involved in the rural community and congregations.

In October and November I had the opportunity to coordinate and collect items that were needed for the Austin Area Flood Relief. **THANKS** to all the churches for their contribution of the handmade quilts, blankets, pillows, sheets, towels, silverware, dish towels, dish clothes, dishes and microwave. Your response was outstanding!! Thanks for reaching out to your brothers and sisters in need.

## **Responsibilities and Project**

- At all the churches I lead liturgy and preach as well as assist with funerals and weddings as the opportunity arises.
- I will rotate attending council meetings, various women's Bible studies and church events.
- Attending text study with various pastors as well as attend pastor conferences give me different perspectives as well as opportunities to get to know other colleagues.
- Meeting with all the individuals on the internship committee will provide support to me while I develop relationships with the congregations and individuals as I minister among you.
- More broadly is the question "How do I connect with people living in Dennison and exercise the spirit of evangelism within the community in which I live?"
- Holden and Dale – 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation
- Vang and Dennison – Lenten Season, lead an adult education at parsonage (which will be open to all congregations.)
- Gol and Hegre – Advent services, young adults, visitation
- Grace – VBS, visitation
- Trinity - visitation, evangelism (including preparation of outreach brochure)

My **project** this year will concentrate on theological readings and devotional materials provided by the pastors for my reading followed with discussion and reflection with the various pastors.

I have learned much and look forward to gaining further knowledge of the ministry and role as a pastor, developing skills for the ministry which God has called me and growing in my faith and knowledge of God. I look forward to this New Year with excitement and joy as I minister with and among you.

May God bless you richly as you serve Him,

**Pastor Judy Holmen**, Intern