

North Conference Annual Report

The members of the North Conference—comprised of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Ministers of Word and Service, seminary interns and lay leaders—meet monthly, for fellowship, and collegiality.

- *October:* The conference did not meet in October, in order that all might be encouraged to attend the synod's continuing education event with David Lose.
- *November/December:* We met for a Christmas celebration hosted by Rockford Lutheran School and Gloria Dei. Our time together included worship, lunch and a Christmas concert by the Academy kids.
- *January:* We hosted the Rev. Louise Johnson from LEAD who led a workshop on adaptive leadership
- *February:* Kathy Shihadah, member of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, gave a presentation on justice and Palestine.
- *March:* This meeting was held on Zoom. We held worship and had an open format for conversation, concerns and mutual support as we began sheltering at home and away from our buildings
- *May:* Zoom meeting featuring worship and conversation.

The conference continues to work closely with Rockford Lutheran Schools and Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries, which includes Becca's Closet, Laundry Love and Park Players. We continue to be blessed by this partnership.

We welcomed a new seminary intern to the conference: Pastoral Intern Perrie Draille (Zion, Rockford). Vicar Katrina Steingraeber continues at Christ, Belvidere. We said goodbye to Pastor Neal Cannon (Christ, Belvidere) who took another call and to Pastor Troy Hedrick who went to the Church Triumphant. We joyfully welcomed new pastors: Brandon Nelson (GPS, Machesney Park), David Peterson (Zion, Belvidere) and Frank Langholf, (Emmanuel, Rockford)

Thank you to the Assistants to Bishop Clements, the Rev. Denver Bitner and Dcn. Cheryl Erdmann, for walking with us.

The North Conference is an active, positive, and collegial place to share in ministry in Jesus' name. We are blessed to gather and strengthen one another for service to the Lord.

Servants Together,

Pastor Julane Nease, Dean, North conference