

Rector's Report- October 22- November 16, 2021

Worship Online and In Person

	In person/	views	
Oct 24	6/133		22 nd Sunday after Pentecost;
Oct 31	48/133		23 rd Sunday after Pentecost
Nov 7	41/100		24 th Sunday after Pentecost
Nov 14	72/		25 th Sunday after Pentecost—transferred Feast of St. Martin and Episcopal visitation with confirmation of 5. Had to post video after the fact due to issues with ReStream

Other worship/offices:

October 23: Funeral for Ben Braley- online and in-person (147 online views)

October 30: Funeral for Susan Richardson- online and in-person (59 online views)

DAILY OFFICE (Compline)

Moving back to two services of compline a week in October—looking for more volunteers who are willing to support this lovely, brief service.

	Views	Celebrant
Oct 23	52	GS
Oct 25	72	LG
Oct 30	42	GS
Nov 3	40	LG
Nov 6	39	GS
Nov 10	52	LG—from the Chapel!
Oct 16	103	LS

OVERVIEW: We welcomed 5 new Episcopalians through confirmation or reception from another denomination in which they had already been confirmed, including one member who had never been in the building prior to Sunday! We have had wonderful attendance at Adult Forum as well as at the Brunch at the Bishop's visitation. Adult formation has restarted with new energy thanks to the Rev. Shug's assistance. Preparing for Diocesan Convention this week.

Worship:

Regathering Committee continues to work together in allowing more parish groups to meet, masked and distanced, if they put forth a plan and fill out a facilities use form with Janet.

With the rapidly changing situation regarding COVID, we will continue in person as we safely can, but we still need more volunteers as acolytes, ushers, greeters, readers etc.

Looking forward:

- Annual Giving Ingathering on November 21
- Committal of Evie LaRock, December 5 after the 10:30 worship service.
- Restart of 505 on December 4 (Advent 2)
- Return of Blue Christmas Service, December 21, 7 pm

Administrative/ Programming:

Communications: Debra Matthews continues to a great job with the Beacon, and I am grateful for her help!

Page also is an absolute blessing with all the bulletins, especially for all of these funerals and special services.

Looking to get some sexton help for Lincoln.

STEWARDSHIP*/ ANNUAL GIVING

Annual Giving campaign began on Sunday, October 24. The campaign is from TENS and is entitled “Every Good Gift.” In-gathering will be on November 21—just before Thanksgiving, appropriately enough, so that we may begin the process of preparing a budget.

In support of this campaign, there have been speakers at worship as well as write-ups in the Beacon and sermons that focus on gratitude, generosity, boldness, and giving. My thanks to Mike Kelly, Jeanne King, Chuck Converse, and Chelsea Brewer for being willing to write and/or speak about giving and gratitude.

It is really important, dear vestry, colleagues, that YOU be visible supporters of this campaign, and our efforts to make this a year-round topic of discipleship. I hope you can all commit to having your giving estimates in by this Sunday so that they may be blessed—we will continue to bless estimate cards from the rest of the parish as they come in.

Remember our terminology that I am going to ask us all to utilize. We are using the term **“Annual Giving Campaign”** in lieu of “Stewardship Campaign” and **“Giving Estimate”** (in lieu of “pledge”) to help our members understand that they can make an estimate, and revise it upward at any time (the converse is also true). This should help people commit without reservation. We also will continue to talk about budgets as being targets (COVID certainly taught us that lesson abundantly) and also—and this is crucial—that **the budget is a statement of our mission and priorities as a parish**, and a very revealing one, at that. This understanding will take time to develop, but the message needs to be consistent.

Formation:

Completed confirmation classes on Zoom on Tuesdays at 6:30 for Lisa Willis, who had not been through instruction yet.

First adult forums have been an official 2-part presentation from Welcome Neighbor St. Louis which was attended by about 18-20 people on Sunday, Nov 7. November 14 we didn’t really have a formal forum, but we did get to have a discussion with the Bishop, which was also well-attended (no doubt helped by a delicious brunch from Julia! Next week is a Thanksgiving presentation on gratitude from Jeanne King, and then we will begin a four part series for Advent using spirituals for reflection. I am very thrilled that our music director has coordinated this with the Rev. Shug so that we will sing each week’s featured spiritual before heading into forum after worship!

Monday morning adult Bible study is resuming in person in the Library! Grateful for John Lange’s resumption of this wonderful program!

Outreach/ Garden/ etc:

Third Laundry Love outing another great success on November 9. We had about 13 volunteers, and one client was so eager they got to the cleaners before 4:30. This is a ministry that needs to be a line item in the budget for the 2022 year. It is vital that our ministries be funded in a

deliberate manner within the budget so that the entire parish has a role in financially supporting this ministry. Thanks to all the volunteers and donors of quarters! Garden put to bed November 9. Thanks to all who worked in it – and looking for more people to commit to helping out next year. Over 3000 pounds of produce was donated! Thanks especially to John Lange, who is the Chief Farmer!
Mike Kelly is the new leader for the Peace Meal volunteer program at St. John's Tower Grove. Thank you, Mike!!! We have asked for new volunteers for November 27, which is our next scheduled turn at St John's Tower Grove.

Pastoral Care:

Another long swath of funerals and funeral planning this month, and working with bereaved family members.
We have had a lot of illness and funerals the last few weeks. Let's hold each other close in prayer.

Self-Care:

Still have vacation and retreat time I have not used.... Will be taking time off in December to attend my niece's wedding and to sit by the ocean.
I will switch my day off this week to Tuesday due to Ben Braley's burial on Monday. Thank you to all of you who try to protect my day off.

Diocesan:

Diocesan Convention this week!

Building and Grounds:

Lincoln continues to keep on top of our ever-interesting facilities challenges.
Steve Brunkhorst is looking over options to expand the columbarium as Capital Campaign Chair

Appreciation:

Thank you to Janet for making sure that our new members have name tags waiting for them as soon as possible!

Thank you to Rev. Shug for her work on adult forum!

Thank you to Julia for a fabulous brunch at the bishop's visitation.

Thank you to Gina and Loretta for keeping compline so fresh twice a week.

Thank you to Bill for his work wrestling out broadcast into being each week.

Thank you to Loretta for being an ever-willing acolyte, esp. for special services.

Thank you to Page for all her work on bulletins.....

Thank you to Mike Kelly and all who have stepped for the annual giving campaign (see above).