**Pastor’s Report for January 2024**Worship&Music:

* Working with Ivana to implement new liturgy settings and musical styles. Appreciation expressed to Ivana for her openness to incorporate and blend worship styles.
* Lent/Holy Week 2024 planning is in progress. Met with Ivana to discuss liturgy changes and worship services for the season. A few particulars:
  + Mid-week services will be soup and bread suppers in the Pastor’s Flat, with a short Vespers service to end the time. I am working out my February schedule to determine dates/times.
  + Based upon a number of factors and in consultation with a number of members, no Ash Wednesday and Easter Vigil service will be offered this year.
* Joint Worship Services with Velky Kostol congregation. In consultation with Pastor Anna and Pastor Erika, the following services are planned. The congregation will be notified by announcement in worship and a small handout.
  + February 25: Velky Kostol families and children will attend BIC worship and perform a short play and song.
  + March 10: BIC will join worship w/the Velky Kostol congregation in the main sanctuary. Pastor Aaron will preach, members of BIC will provide prayers and communion will be celebrated together that Sunday.

Administration:

* Facilitated connections with ECAV leaders for two groups looking for meeting space in Bratislava: Viaa University in Zwolle, the Netherlands and Phiren Amenca.
* Drafted and presented contract to current Cantor, Ivana Jelen, for her review and either signature or further discussion.
* Finalized contracts for mobile phones and Pastor’s Flat with ECAV Bishop’s Office.
* Completed resources for upcoming congregational meetings on February 4th and 18th.
* Finalized plans for required ELCA Home Assignment in summer 2024.

Education:

* Held lesson for 2 confirmands on January 28th: Topic was an overview of the Bible and how to read it.
* Held Pastor’s Discussion group on January 15: Topic was an overview of the meaning behind the liturgy.
* Sunday School Teachers continue to do a great job planning lessons. We have minimal, sporadic attendance, however, since Anna Svennungsen’s departure.

Pastoral Care:

* Had coffee with a few new regular attendees at BIC who have moved into the area.
* Was invited and attended a celebration of Limpat Nulandaya’s successful PhD thesis defense at David and Tio Sarumpat’s home on Jan 28th.
* A few regular attendees at BIC indicated they will be away for travel to tend to personal matters, and ask for the congregation’s prayers.

Personal:

* Completed Navy Training in Stuttgart January 22-26.
* Helped Kelly with new YAGM volunteer orientation in Hungary January 6-13.

Upcoming Dates:

* I will be away the following dates:
  + 5-10 February: ELCA YAGM Retreat w/Kelly.
  + 12-16 February: Navy Training
  + 18-23 February: Navy Training
  + 25-29 February: ELCA Europe Missionaries’ Retreat

I will be available by phone, email, and text. Kelly will be in Bratislava to assist with any pastoral emergencies.

* Groups Visiting BIC in February:
  + Viaa University Study Group: February 11th (worship & coffee hour)
  + Rev. Bridget Gautieri, ELCA Director of Wittenburg Center (worship & coffee hour)
  + Velky Kostol Families (worship and coffee hour)