

## Quarterly PLUM Meeting January 26, 2020

### Summary points to share with congregations Compiled by Susan Smith, PLUM President

#### Guests/New Intern/Changes

- *Hope Lutheran* is now officially a member of PLUM beginning their trial year 1/1/2020. Welcome!

#### PLUM Officers

- All 4 PLUM officers have been reelected to another term: Susan Smith, President; Bob Averell, Vice-President; Marissa Paule, Secretary; and Tom Hrabovsky, Treasurer.

#### PLUM Call Process for Sue Devine

- On Jan. 10, the call committee interviewed Vicar Sue and recommended that the PLUM Board interview her as well.
- The PLUM Board interviewed Vicar Sue at this meeting and recommends that congregational councils and congregations vote to call her to be a pastor of PLUM.
- The final and most important step is that each congregation must hold a call vote. It will happen in **all PLUM congregations on February 2, 2020**; a synod staff person will attend each meeting.
- A tentative date for ordination is Saturday, February 15 at 3 p.m. at Zion Lutheran. Watch for volunteer requests which will be sent to congregations soon.

#### Internship Committee for Vicar Mandy Gilberti

- Vicar Mandy is coming close to finishing her 9-month internship.
- The Internship Committee is meeting monthly. Their final evaluation will be completed in February.
- Vicar Mandy will be examined by the Northwestern PA synod on April 29. We hope that they will recommend that her eligibility be transferred to the Southwestern PA synod.
- To better fit this timeline, **the next PLUM Board meeting is moved to Sunday, May 31.**
- We hope that everything can be put into place so that Vicar Mandy can be ordained at SWPA synod assembly which is June 11-13. They will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women.
- Vicar Mandy graduates on May 15 (in Gettysburg); Vicar Sue's official graduation ceremony is May 31 (in Minneapolis).
- **The PLUM Board charges the Internship Committee to form a Call Committee with a representative of each congregation.**

#### Leadership Training

- The PLUM board approved a plan to **focus on Welcoming the Stranger/Neighbor for 2020**. Some parts of the training will be for all congregations. Then, individual congregations will continue the work as best suits their neighborhoods/context.
- First, we will all examine the Biblical underpinning for Welcoming the Stranger. Then we will study the ELCA's concept of accompaniment (working with others instead of for or to them).
- The Vision Committee is charged with continuing the planning.

## PLUM survey

- All members of the 11 congregations are encouraged to complete the evaluation of 2019. It is available as a paper copy or online at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLYDGYC](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLYDGYC)
- **Deadline is February 15.** Complete paper surveys are to be given to a pastor, Deann, or Susan.

## Events

- **Confirmation**
  - \* 5 youth are participating during monthly meetings. Their parents also meet at the same time.
  - \* They will attend Lutherlyn **June 21-26**.
- **Lenten Study (Optional)**
  - \* Topic: Understanding the readings for the Easter Vigil
  - \* Book: Words Around the Fire by Gail Ramshaw (optional)
  - \* Pr. Paul will be providing study materials
- **Easter Vigil**
  - \* **April 11** at 7 p.m.
  - \* at Trinity Mt. Oliver
- **VBS**
  - \* We will continue to cooperate; Vicar Melba is organizing a workshop.
  - \* The Narrative Lectionary now has VBS materials
- **Rise Against Hunger:**
  - \* Mark your calendars - **September 12**
  - \* At Christ, Duquesne
  - \* We will pack 20,000 meals for 2020!

## Finance

- Tom Hrabovsky gave a report.
- Reports from 2019 were discussed and approved.
- The 2020 budget was discussed.

## Thrivent

- PLUM churches continue to benefit from Thrivent's generous charitable giving.
- Kurt reminded us that those with Thrivent insurance projects can support two **Action Teams** per year; those with Thrivent Mutual Funds can support 1/year. Anyone can become an Associate member for \$19.95/year and then support 1 Action Team a year.
- **Action Teams receive \$250 for a specific project.** Only one team can support a particular project. Apply for and report about the Action Team work online.
- **Those with Thrivent products need to designate their 2019 Thrivent Dollars before March 31.**

## Newsletter/Website

- *Send newsletter items to Sandy Curry.*
- *Send items for the website to Keith Devine.*
- *PLUM has reactivated its Facebook page; items can be sent to Keith Devine.*

## Next meeting:

- **May 31, 2020**
- **Lutheran Church of Our Savior**