

Program Ministry Report to Grace Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm, May 24, 2016, p.1

Pastor James Aalgaard

James' Goal One: **Alignment**

Celebrations

- Deepening a relationship with President-Elect Bob Black (topics of team leaders, synod assembly report, getting to know one another better). Set up the next tech team meeting and starting to see connections between tech team members and upcoming presentations (mission groups). Had a few 1/1 sessions with team leaders. Primary focus here is to be an encouragement and ask "God questions" like "how have you seen God at work in your ministry?"

Next 30 days

- Continue with Jim's coaching. Firm up plans for Sept 11 visit from Jim (Council needs to decide on commitment for another year). Continue to practice language having to do with our ministry, dropping questions into conversation like "what do you know about our BeFriender ministry that's beginning this summer?"

James' Goal Two: **BeFriender** Ministry

Celebrations

- Assigning BeFrienders to care recipients (ongoing). Participated in two "Making Meaning" meetings where BeFrienders bring cases to the group for reflection and mutual support. Researching admin materials for this program

Next 30 days

- Conduct trainings that I'm responsible for. Find creative ways to engage our new BeFrienders with care-receivers. Continue to incorporate BeFriender Info-Bytes in bulletins and newsletters

James' Goal Three: **Deeper Life** catechumenate

Celebrations

- Shared about Deeper Life during a "Synod Short" at the assembly in Boise. Wrote a reflection for the Synod Newsletter. Evangelism Team committed to host a catechumenate training event at Grace the end of April 2017

Next 30 days

- Firm up some dates for Inquirers for fall 2016. Discern who to invite into leadership for the next Deeper Life

James' Goal Four: Work toward an overall **faith formation** plan for all ages at Grace

Celebrations

- Had a good initial conversation with the Youth/Ed Team about the ministries we've had the last few years especially for younger ages, acknowledged some frustrations.

Next 30 days -

- Firm up plans for the fall formation schedule (include a facilitated book study on Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations). Get some dream-sessions on the calendar. The fall will probably look similar to what we've had in the past, but the larger conversation will be happening in the background to see what energies (and people) we have to begin an innovative process of change at GLC in life-long learning.

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Beth Smallbeck, Youth Minister

Goal #1

To return from sabbatical rested and refreshed, physically, mentally and spiritually ready to implement my other goals. Prepare a post-sabbatical report for the congregation and leadership and have 1-2 gleanings from my inquiries that I want to explore at GLC in 2016.

Celebration: I have scheduled my presentation for Sunday, June 26

Goal #2

Create a leadership development strategy for youth and adults for the purpose of growing the youth ministry and empowering the people of Grace.

Celebration: The youth are taking on leadership of the Faith Formation celebration Sunday, May 22 and fund raising for the new playground.

Nine team leaders gave presentations to the senior high youth during the education hour.

Goal #3

Use the Summer of Service trip to share planning and leadership responsibilities, practice justice and restoration of creation, and tell the story as a way of including the entire congregation.

Celebration: I am working with Rebecca Lake and Michele Sandberg coordinating housing and meals.

Opportunities for congregational participation in the Summer of Service are being offered via announcements, newsletter and personal invitation.

Goal #4

Work with Pastor James and other leadership toward a comprehensive faith formation plan for all ages.

Celebration: We are actually in the beginning phases of conversation.

Music Ministry Monthly Report Jameson Varpness, Director of Music Ministries, May 2016

Goals:

Incorporate hymnals into the life of the church as a tool for worship and faith formation.

Celebrations:

- Completion of the hymnal drive and use of hymnals in Sunday worship. Congregation seems to be comfortably transitioning to hymnal use in worship

Plans:

- Continue to support use of the hymnal in and outside of worship, continue to highlight resources in the hymnal, build culture of understanding around what the hymnal is and how it shapes our life together

Develop consistent music ministry outreach projects.

Celebrations:

- Successful outreach project with Chancel Schola at Bonaventure on May 1

Plans:

- Organize more sites for outreach and draw up a regular schedule of projects for the next program year

Renew and build the youth's vital role in Grace's music ministry.

Celebrations:

- Successful first year with Elementary Music, Chancel Schola, and youth in Bells of Grace and Grace Brass

Plans:

- Involve youth in short term, small ensemble work and in leadership as cantors/instrumentalists over the summer. Look carefully at rehearsal schedules for the fall and evaluate any possible changes for success

Create a Compline worship opportunity.

Celebrations:

- Planned trip to St. Mark's in Seattle for Compline with Chancel Schola and High School Youth on May 29/30

Plans:

- Select a night for Compline at Grace and a means of informally inviting participation