

Greetings St. John's Family!

I know it has been a few months since I have seen most of you, and I am looking forward to being back in "The Valley" for Christmas. As we approach the Advent season, I find myself reflecting on the past year and the things I am most grateful for in my life. I wanted to write to all of you and express my gratitude for the support that you have given me. Your continued prayers mean the world to me, and coming home to all of your smiling faces is one of my favorite things.

This Fall semester, I have been keeping myself extremely busy. I am taking three classes: Triune God and the World, Lutheran Confessional Writings, and The Demonic. Triune God and the World is



all about the Trinity and how we as humans interact with this (mostly confusing and hard to explain) Christian belief. Lutheran Confessional Writings has taught me the core of our Lutheran belief system and reminded me that each of us is loved and honored by God. The Demonic is pretty much exactly as it sounds- it's a class that teaches us about the spiritual evil that exists in the world. This has been my most challenging semester so far with classes and I have learned so much not only about my faith but about how our faith is seen in the world.

A group of seminarians at our friends' wedding.

At my congregation out here in Minneapolis I have taken on a new role Education. This role has been so into. I have been having conversations about baptism with some of our young members, and I will be leading an Advent Bible Study this coming season. I've also had the privilege of helping my pastor and our church musician choose liturgy for different seasons. I was also given the opportunity to preach and help lead worship this past All Saint's Sunday. This church has been a huge blessing in my life this year.

Northeast leading Christian wonderful to step

While I am on campus, I have still been working in the chapel, mostly running our chapel live streams for each service, and coordinating our volunteers that assist in worship and help serve communion. I also work in our admissions office and in early November had the opportunity to travel with the Associate Director of Admissions to a few college campuses and the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries conference that was held in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. During that trip I had many discernment conversations with adults of all ages as they were working through whether they were called to attend seminary. I also was able to attend Holden Evening Prayer, a sung prayer service that is widely used in the ELCA, and experiencing this service in different spaces was so special.



My friend and I after leading worship together at our church this summer.

As I said, I've been busy out here in Minnesota! I can't wait to see you all when I am home in December. I hope that you all have a blessed Advent season, and I hope to see you when I lead worship on December 24<sup>th</sup> (for Advent 4 and Christmas Eve). You are all in my prayers daily, and I am so grateful for each and every one of you in my church family.

Advent peace and blessings,

*Ashley Teter*