

Cluster 5 Report:

In January 2016, our newly formed cluster met to recommend a Cluster Dean for appointment at the 2016 Synod Assembly. When time honored selection methods failed to produce results, the last one to say: "NOT IT" yielded Alan Fox. "Too slow to say no". Yet, at the same meeting we were blessed to have Lisa Milzarek agree to be our Cluster Coordinator.

This year, we have had great support from all of our pastors and their congregational leadership. The first order of activity in 2016 was to work at building relationships of non-competitive trust and support among clergy and congregations so a number of relationship building events were held. In 2017 we hope to continue to engage one another and begin the visioning process for developing an "Area Mission Strategy". This strategy will build upon our current gains and seek to develop a picture of how we move our varied ministries forward as a cluster of congregations, instead of as individual congregations. I'm excited about this process as we discover how we are "better together".

In other news, out of the closing of Ascension Lutheran congregation the Synod Ministry Center was born and Bishop Girlinghouse and the Synod offices were relocated to this position.

We celebrated with Joy Lutheran the arrival and Installation of Pastor Jon and Sister Jenny Myers as pastor and deaconess.

Servant's Table Outreach was organized and Comunidad de Esperanza relocated to Fellowship. We are so thankful to Pastor Rob Martin and First Lutheran church for helping to launch these two important ministries. Servant's Table was featured in Gather magazine (WELCA) and a Living Lutheran video about non-traditional worship sites-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUGu5gBSIKk>

We said farewell to Pastor Carl Hoffman as interim at Joy Lutheran, Pastor Don Marshall from St. Andrews to Director at Oaks Indian Mission. We also said farewell to Pastor Dan and Alta Breunsbach who have relocated to an Independent Living Center in Michigan. A few of our other events:

- A Clergy "end of year" pericope cookout
- Monthly Pericope study meetings
- Monthly Cluster leadership meetings with representatives from congregations.
- Fish Fry @ Fellowship
- Beer and Hymns evening @Servant's Table
- Monthly Pub Theology with Pastor Rob
- First Ever Cluster Pastor Appreciation Banquet
- Las Posadas- a traditional 9 day Latino pre-Christmas/Nativity by Comunidad de Esperanza
- Messiah Presentation @ First Lutheran
- Hosted a luncheon for Pastor Wilfried Manneke from Celle Germany (sister city)
- Hosted Dr. Timothy Wengert who presented at Knippa Lecture series
- Developed a Cluster Facebook - "A-OK Cluster 5 (Tulsa)" page
- Formed "Tulsa Lutherans in ACTION" as training for community organizing

We are looking forward to a great year in 2017 by remembering: **"Hope begins when we start to envision that things can be different."** A Thousand Smiles, Pastor Alan Fox