

Highlights from Cluster 8

Christ Lutheran Church – Hot Springs Village, AR

Our most recently formed team, the Congregational Outreach Team, is focused on outreach into the community, to highlight our congregation and its mission. This was largely responsible for the 19 new members who joined in the last year, some of whom are already in important leadership roles. Pastor Warren Freiheit will be retiring at the end of June.

Community of Joy – Hot Springs Village, AR

Community of Joy met as a congregation on Friday, April 28, and voted to extend a call to Pastor Mary Beth Kovanen. We are waiting for her response.

Emanuel Lutheran Church – Stuttgart, AR

Emanuel is soon hosting our semi-annual Breakfast Pancake in the community! We are also very active sponsoring and volunteering at our local Food Bank.

Faith Lutheran Church – Little Rock, AR

Faith spent the last summer imagining what God is calling us to and from that began a marriage small group, a Wee Worship space in the sanctuary for young children, a quilt group, and plans for a communion food truck. We also celebrated 60 years as a worshipping community and 15 years in our “new” sanctuary.

Hope Lutheran Church – Heber Springs, AR

We are preparing for our next quarterly community fundraiser, a pulled pork dinner to support a local service dog trainer. We also support ministries that work in foster care, community youth, and transition from jail or rehab. We are excited to see familiar faces coming back to church and hope to have more growth.

Peace Lutheran Church – Edgemont, AR

This year Peace received many joyful blessings. These include new members and new pastor. We also were witness to one of the first infant baptisms in our congregation in “years and years.”

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – Hot Springs, AR

Prince of Peace, Hot Springs, Arkansas is a small church of about 65 active members. We provide a food pantry on the first Monday of each month which serves about 60 families. We also give funds and volunteer support to a local “help facility” called Jackson House.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church – North Little Rock, AR

We are in the midst of finalizing and obtaining approval of our call packet. We will host the fourth annual neighborhood yard sale May 6th. The previous three have been a great success with the community.

Mission & Ministry in Conway

After months of discerning, exploring, and praying about a new ministry in Conway, the Conway Discernment Team has recommended to the Synod Council that a mission developer be called to begin a new worshipping community in Conway.

Cluster 8

We are excited to have started a bi-monthly leaders lunch for the rostered leaders and Synodically Authorized Ministers to come together every other month to share about their congregations and continue to build relationships within our colleague group. At the February Synod Council meeting, Hope Lutheran Church officially joined Cluster 8 and we are excited to welcome them! There are many events in the Cluster being planned around the Reformation, including ecumenical gatherings, dialogues, and worship services in the Hot Springs Village and Little Rock areas.

Cluster Dean Deacon Shannon Johnson
Mission Cluster Coordinator Jackie Wilson