

Cluster 6 Ministry Report

Greetings from Cluster 6, home to the mission centers in Oaks, OK; Northwest Arkansas; and the River Valley. It has been a very busy year for the cluster as we grew into the new mission structure of the synod.

Two of our congregations called new pastors to serve their needs. United Lutheran in Bella Vista called Pastor Karen Fowler-Lindemulder to serve them. She previously served St John ELC in Shawnee, OK. Peace Lutheran in Rogers called Pastor Melissa Ehrhardt. She previously served three congregations in Minnesota before coming to Peace.

Two of our congregations have taken concrete steps towards relocating and building new buildings for their mission centers. The Neighborhood, in Bentonville, has broken ground on their new property and is working to convert some existing buildings on the property for mission use. Christ the King, also in Bentonville, has begun the exploration phase of where would be the best place to move and what it would take to not only sell the current property but purchase new land and build a new mission center.

Good Shepherd Lutheran in Fayetteville is expanding their ministry by hiring new staff for Faith Formation and Development, Heather Pratt. They have taken on the issue of refugee resettlement by partnering with Canopy NWA, been an advocate for the LGBTQ community as a Reconciling in Christ mission center, and most recently resolved to be a good neighbor to all communities through their "Good Neighbor" sign program.

Eben Ezer in Oaks, OK, is staying active in the community through their continuing support of Oaks Indian Mission. They have also sponsored several outings for their members and youth. And, they have been excellent participants in synod youth activities.

St. Luke in Fort Smith is still working through the call process. Pastor Laird Duran is currently serving as their interim pastor. They are truly living out their call as a mission center by graciously providing their building to several community need groups for meetings.

Faith in Booneville is very busy showing the light of Christ in the Booneville area. From providing lunch to local law enforcement, to keeping a very active Facebook presence, to the numerous congregational activities going on, Faith is showing all of us how to be an active mission center in a rural area.

We invite all who are interested in the happenings of Cluster 6 to join us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AROKCluster6 or email us at elca.arok.cluster6@gmail.com.