

Clergy Renewal Sabbatical Grant

In August 2015, St. John Lutheran Church and Pastor Lauren were awarded a Clergy Renewal Sabbatical Grant. You may be wondering exactly what that means. Here's a small article about the purpose of sabbaticals for pastors.



"The Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program at Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make the pastor's heart sing. Pastors serve a variety of roles in their privileged position at the center of congregational life: preacher, teacher, spiritual guide, pastoral visitor, friend, confidant. The responsibilities are continual, and the pace and demands of parish life can be relentless, often leaving even the most dedicated pastors recognizing the need to replenish their own spiritual reservoirs to regain energy and strength for their ministry. Life-giving experiences — strengthening relationships, renewing a sense of call, meeting and serving the neighbor in a new way, finding joy and purpose in a simplified life, traveling to new lands and unfamiliar territories, creating opportunities where members of the congregation can exercise their gifts for ministry — are common themes of these renewal times. Profound discoveries that pastors and their congregations describe as "life-changing events" occur as they participate in this program. Ministry is profoundly important, not only to the people directly served, but also to the larger community and society. The clergy renewal program honors pastors and congregations."

In the coming months, you will hear much more about Pastor Lauren's sabbatical from July 10-October 10, 2016. You'll learn about how her study of Sabbath keeping will aid the whole congregation, and what plans are in place for pastoral coverage during her time away. Keep looking back to the Voice, Green Sheet, and eNews for more information.

Epiphany Sermon Series

“Called to Community”

January 9/10: ***God’s Vision for the Church***

January 16/17: ***Spiritual Growth and One-Another Care***

January 23/24: ***Reaching Out***

January 30/31: ***Community: An Unexpected Family***

Guest Preacher Ms. Janice Locke

February 6/7: ***Living Out God’s Vision in Today’s Church***

Guest Preacher Pastor Jana Swenson