

Hello and Greetings!

If we have not yet met, I am Vicar Megan Shaffer. I am honored that your congregation has accepted me as their intern for a year. So what is a 'vicar?' This is a question that I have been getting a lot lately. Vicar means "one who serves in place of another." Yes our Anglican brothers and sisters do use this title for their parish rectors, yet in Lutheranism it translates into "intern;" a seminarian who serves a parish assisting the pastor *or in place of* to gain practical experiences.

This leads me to another question I am being asked, what do interns do in a church? While there are some general answers to this (and Church Council has a list of expectations), it is important to note that each community has its own context - what is part of the worship life here at Bethany is not necessarily a part of the worship life at a neighboring Lutheran church.

My internship will be tailored to meeting the needs of your community. I will assist in liturgical roles when needed, I will lead service when needed and I am expected to preach twice a month. I will be working closely to coordinate with our Worship & Music Committee and the office staff. I will attend Pastoral visitation with Pr. Shipman. Both Pastor Shipman and Pastor Dennis Smith will be helping me to define my 'Pastoral Identity and my Pastoral Leadership Style.'

As the church year progresses, I will learn what it is like to witness the changing of the seasons within the church. One of the goals I have is to attend (at least once) every committee meeting to observe how each committee contributes to the whole of the community.

Due to the nature of this internship (Pastor Shipman being off site), I am permitted to perform certain responsibilities and there will be certain things I will not be able to do. Please keep in mind there may be times where I may be asked to make a decision on something and I will need the permission of my Supervisor before doing so. This can lead to frustration, but note, I am an intern. I am here to learn, I will make mistakes and I am not your called pastor.

As Vicar, you can come to me for pastoral care, in fact...I strongly invite you to come say 'Hello!' I would love to get to know you and care for you during this time. I will be communicating office hours to our church staff and if you need me outside of office hours, please reach out!

Between now and the end of the year, I will graduate from Luther House of Studies, a subsidiary of Sioux Falls Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Additionally, I will receive an accreditation or secondary degree from The North American Lutheran Seminary.

Also one last thing I forgot to mention, from time to time, on certain Sunday's I will not be here. There are times when other area pastors need a Sunday off and I am *supply rostered*. With Pastor Shipman's permission, I will need at times to step away to help other congregations as needed and to help support our other Mission Districts.

I am excited to be transitioning into this final stage of my formal formation and for us to learn together!

Vicar M. A. Shaffer

Communion Cards, please remember to take time to fill out a communion card from time, so that you may remain able to be part of the voting process.

Return to the Altar rail Communion, Kneeling at the Rail - to begin May 1st, details will be shared at the time of service.

Looking for a Delegate to Western Mission District Convention on June 4th. This is a wonderful opportunity to see what other NALC churches are doing and to dream about the next 10 years as a community of confessionally grounded Lutherans.

Our Family has grown!!! On Palm Sunday, Our community welcomed a new sister in Christ! Thalia Huffsmith, welcome Thalia!

New Members transferred in: Dennis Smith
New Associate Members: John Bennett and Mike Twigg

VBS will take place the week of July 25th-29th. If you feel strongly that welcoming more families with children into our community is important, please consider volunteering to help at VBS! Contact Karen Paulhamus for information on how you can share your faith with youngsters.