**Semi-Annual Pastor’s Report**

**July 26, 2015**

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

Though it’s only halfway through the year, today we celebrate a little over a year of shared ministry together. Thank you all for making it such a special year for me and my family! Our ministry has produced many fruits since last summer. We’ve come a long way together and I pray we have many years of shared ministry ahead.

The fruits of our ministry has come in many forms in the last 6 months. Since starting up home visitations back in February, I’ve been blessed to be welcomed in 35 of our 130 member households. What a privilege to get to know many of you better than Sunday morning allows. Thank you for opening up your homes and lives to me and my family. Sadly, we’ve sent 3 of our members to be with the Lord. Gladly, we’ve welcomed 9 children into God’s care through the baptismal waters and a family into our congregation through a new member’s class. My ministry was enriched by 3 continuing education opportunities: Rural Ministry Conference in Dubuque, IA, Prepare/Enrich training in Kearney, NE, and the Festival of Homiletics in Denver, CO. Thank you for sponsoring me at these 3 training events. I was blessed by joining members at a few congregational events: a UNL women’s basketball game, a golf tournament at Hidden Acres Golf Course in Beatrice, NE, and a party at the pool here in town. We’ve shared another joint service with our sister congregation, St. Paul Lutheran, and teamed up with both the First United Methodist and St. Augustine’s Episcopal congregations to lead another successful 4th of July service. What a joy to get away for a week of summer camp up at Carol Joy Holling up in Ashland, NE!

Of course we’ve also had a big shared struggle to contend with as well. A devastating 30-year flood at the start of May has tested the faith and patience of a lot of us over the last couple months. We’ve rebuilt and cleaned but the process is slow, especially as the summer heat grinds down on us. Even so, the floodwaters have brought out the best of us, giving an opportunity for great generosity to be shared. Our shared ministry has only been strengthened by the disaster.

We should be welcoming a few more students into the confirmation class this fall and perhaps some new members at another new member class. We’ll incorporate some new music through the praise choir and reboot our parent study and youth groups. We should have a good sized group of students getting confirmed in the spring. We might even have a synod-approved constitution to ratify into effect at our annual meeting in January. May the Lord continue to bless us with such fruitful ministry!

Many blessings,

Pastor Sean Koos