

Annual Report 2021 – Lead Pastor

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Is it too much of a cliché to say that this has been an unprecedented year? Maybe...but it has been. The past 15 months, our home lives, our work lives, our family lives, and yes, our spiritual and worship lives, have certainly been different, uncertain, unsettled and, well, unprecedented and impacted in so many ways by COVID-19.

But is it too much of a cliché to say how grateful I am to serve such a caring, patient, committed, giving congregation? Or to say how remarkably adaptive, creative, and flexible you've been? Or to say that God has indeed shown that the words spoken to and through Isaiah so long ago were spoken to us, and fulfilled for us this year?

I know you've heard me say it before – in our recorded worship services, in our emails, in "The Pastor's Study" – hopefully in many forms and many times over, but it is true. Cross of Christ... you... WE have had to endure much this past year, but we've also received many blessings, and shared many things that have bound us even more closely together, and have learned many lessons that will continue to serve us post-pandemic. God has upheld us. God's people have been blessed, and have continued to be a blessing to me, to one another, and to our neighbors, near and far.

As on fiscal year comes to an end, and another begins, we are prayerful and hopeful that recent positive trends will continue, along with continued opportunities to worship, grow, share, serve, and welcome – in new ways, and in the return to ways familiar and so much longed for.

As this journey continues, we'll continue to adapt and adjust as we have these past 15 months. This year's Annual Report isn't printed and bound, but collected online and shared virtually. Even our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held via Zoom, as it was last year. (We are offering written reports to those without internet access or capacity.)

And yet what hasn't changed, and what won't change, is the goodness of our God who promises to strengthen, help, and uphold us, and the goodness of God's people of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in beautiful Bellevue, Washington! Thank you! Thanks to all who submitted reports – and all the ministry they reflect! And thanks be to God!

Blessed to serve with you,

Pastor Dave Thomas

Lead Pastor/Head of Staff