

Dear *Council of Lutheran Women*
Attn: Lucie Witte

I pray this letter finds you well and (starting) to get into warmer weather, I hope! It's again such a blessing to be able to be able to connect with you even briefly on the ministry that is ongoing in Indianapolis during the last few months of my vicarage, and I'm excited to share with you some of the updates from the projects that were ongoing over the past few months as well as what I'm working on now as I'm beginning to conclude my vicarage. You are always in my thoughts and prayers as my ministry partners as I'm so thankful for not just your financial support, but especially your spiritual support as well. Ministry and mission partners like yourselves continue to remind me of the support and help that is not just within the church I'm at, but across the world of people praying and supporting this ministry. As such, thank you again for your support and prayers. They are always extremely appreciated!

Over here in Indianapolis, things are slowing down a bit after the busy season of Holy Week. Holy week was extra busy this year as I was planning my Vicarage Outreach Project of the Easter Egg Hunt out at our Eagle Creek location the Saturday before Palm Sunday. I'm happy to report that it was an incredibly successful event that we ran and had a huge outreach impact to the community around. One of the questions I had asked on the form to register for this event was whether the families attending had a church home, and over 50% of the families who had registered for this event didn't have a church home. It was so exciting to see us reaching a demographic of unchurched families in our area and being able to connect with them. We had designated volunteers during the event whose job was entirely to meet and greet our visitors, and I saw many tables with these engagement volunteers having five to ten minute conversations with the families there.

Overall, the event ran very smoothly for a first time event. We had so many wonderful volunteers and a great turnout despite the poorer weather. We had just over 300 people that we served breakfast to and 5,000 Easter Eggs we gave out. It was such an amazing event and the families had so much fun! I'm looking forward to seeing how future Vicars will improve the event in the future.

During Holy Week, it was quite a whirlwind of services and work, but it was such an amazing week! I got to preach on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, which the Good Friday service was a dream of mine for a long time to preach on. I preached on John's Passion account on Good Friday and my sermon was titled "The Absurdity of the Cross", and I talked about how at times God's love is so magnificent it seems absurd that He would die for a sinner like me. But that's the beauty of the cross is that God's love as absurd as it seemed actually sacrificed Himself for me. It was honestly one of the sermons I loved constructing and seeing how God took it.

I pray that your Easter was a wonderful celebration at the end as well! Easter service over here was fantastic, and it was such a wonderful remembrance of our Savior's resurrection and victory over the grave. Our theme throughout all of Lent was looking at our Need for Jesus, and on Easter Sunday we had the theme of "Fulfilled" as all our needs were fulfilled in Christ as our hope and future!

All in all, I'm continuing to work hard as I finish up my vicarage here in a few months. I've got a Youth Service Project I'm planning in the summer as well as plenty of preaching opportunities, so I've no lack of things to do, but I love the work so it makes it a joy. I'll continue praying for you and your families as the weeks continue, and if you have any specific requests, feel free to reach out to me either by mail or by email at sturgesc@csl.edu. Blessings on your May and upcoming summer months!

In Christ,

Chris Sturge

Isaiah 43:1-2