



Welcome to St. Leo's....

When Beth Hegedus first came to St. Leo's to do her lay pastoral ministry internship, this summer she talked about wanting to work with immigrants and refugees. Family members had fled Hungary to come to the United States and a recent visit there deepened that desire. "I saw the same train station my relatives had come from" and identified with those who were leaving everything behind to escape war and disaster in their home countries today. It felt like a fit. And she agreed to help weekly with English as a Second Language (ESL).

As she further developed her internship plan she added working in the food pantry helping with intake and taking patrons through the aisles and choosing food for their families. Both of these activities drew on her talent for organization, teaching, and following through with a set plan, something she did daily in her work as a medical technologist.

The largest part of her internship called her to stretch beyond her comfort zone and work with the summer youth program which ran from 10 am to 2 pm. two to three days a week. This type of work required a great deal of flexibility and response to the present moment. Initially Beth was uncomfortable but she soon realized that her ministry was more about being with than completing specific teachings and activities.

She said that when members of the youth group greeted her and her husband at the Culture Fest she realized she had become part of the St. Leo family, an unexpected bonus of her internship.