

INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT
Semi-Annual Meeting – Christ Lutheran Church
17 April 2016

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Continued Mission

We thank you, Lord God, for brave and believing people who planted your message in this place. We praise you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, who worked in them to gather and give order to this community, and who still sustains it. Remembering all those who have gone before us, we pray that we may follow as they followed, in the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Statistics (20 September 2015 - 17 April 2016)

29 Sunday Services

12 Services @ Autumn Leaves

8 Weekday Services

6 Preschool Chapel Services

4 Services @ Victory Centre

39 Average Sunday Worship Attendance
(1,200÷31)

2 Weddings

Highbarger/Stook

Menis/Widing

2 Baptisms

Olivia Prodic

Kate Bomkamp

3 Membership Transfers

Mike & Judy Tetour

Janet Klopp

State of the Congregation

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

As I reflect on the last seven months I rejoice that average worship attendance is consistent and slightly up (39) over the previous 31 weeks period (37). Worship during Lent was well attended and there is a spirit of optimism amongst the Church as we move forward in mission and ministry. We are blessed with a vibrant and visionary group of leaders on the Church Council as well as on the School Board. In particular I wish to lift up Lynn Brandl who has served as Office Steward, Chief Musician and Council President, we are blessed by her service.

My relations with the School (children/parents/staff) is good and I've enjoy my engagement greeting families at the door, teaching a bible story once a month and monthly Chapel Services.

Interim Process

In relations with the Interim and Call Process. In the Interim Covenant (Contract drawn up between Christ Lutheran and myself), I was asked to:

- Assist with determining the congregation's financial capability for calling a new pastor and help us explore alternatives.
- Assist with determining the appropriate structure, type and nature of the position for the next pastor.

When I met with the Council, I said, lets live into the paradigm of Part-time Pastor and see if it works. It works adequately - Sundays are covered, home calls/hospital call occur, the pastoral needs of the preschool are met. (Education ministry needs to be addressed with actionable steps) So, this is one option for Pastoral Leadership we can feel confident in exploring.

Steps

During the Interim congregations:

- Revisit their History
- Review/Renew Denominational & Synodical Ties (Constitution reviewed as well)
- Examine Mission Statement and Vision – Are we living it?
- Review Leadership model – Does it serve our mission and vision?
- Review Financials so that congregation has an informed understanding of its financial health.
- Leadership Assessment – How might the saints be better equipped for ministry?
- Form a Call Committee
- Call Committee Develops a Parish Profile
- Profile released to synod and candidates are recommended for interview.
- Call committee Interview and recommends a Pastoral Candidates
- Call Committee Recommends Candidate to the Congregation
- Congregation meets candidate and votes whether or not to extend a Call.

Council leadership and I have been decidedly on the slow road regarding the interim steps. As a community we have been through a lot of transition in the last few years and going slow allows for us “to be” a community together, not driven by process but rather held by the core of our faith tradition – the Worship of God.

Were to from here...

We have revisited history, and have done a bit of visioning in worship settings.

My suggestion is that we plan a Cottage Meeting or two for us as a community to hear one another articulate our vision for Christ Lutheran.

After the Cottage Meeting(s) a Call Committee can be formed – drawing on the dynamics of these meetings to inform their work in developing a Parish Profile.

On the Education Front – I would like to offer two opportunities for faith enrichment in the next few weeks.

- A Three Week course - “This ain't your Mothers Catechism”
Open to all: Those preparing for confirmation, those recently confirmed and those who were confirmed when the hymnal colour was black!
- Lay Reader Training – Lay Reader is a historic term used for lay men and women who led the service in the absence of ordained clergy. As a clergy person may not always be available, equipping Lay Readers to lead worship comfortable and with a fuller understanding of ritual dynamics that are present in formal and informal worship settings will help to make Lay led worship services all the more rich.

As mentioned, my time with you has been a blessing for me and I pray it has been for the membership of Christ Lutheran. I look forward to our walk together as vision and mission draw us to new ventures in the name of Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Calling

O God you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.