

## Content for Emailed Weekly Announcements

### **Pastor Kris is Retiring: Congregational decisions regarding our New Shepherd**

While the departure of a long-serving pastor is always difficult, Christ the Vine is very blessed to have early notice of Pastor Kris' intentions to retire at the end of the year. This affords valuable time for our congregation to engage in the work required to call a new pastor.

The Executive Director will call a Special Voter's Meeting for Sunday, August 27 at 1:00 pm.

Two items of significant importance to Christ the Vine will be on the Agenda:

1. Approval of the Plan for Christ the Vine School
2. Meeting with Circuit Visitor, Rev. Jim Sprengle to vote on a Vacancy or Intentional Interim Pastor

It is important that voting members of CTV understand the choices we have as a congregation as we proceed to find a candidate to be our new pastor. There are two distinct votes that will be taken:

#### Decision 1: Vacancy Pastor or Intentional Interim Pastor

A **Vacancy Pastor** provides pastoral care and leadership during the time between regularly called pastors. He will provide an on-going Gospel ministry of Word and Sacraments according to the teachings and practices of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. He will have all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of a regularly called pastor of the Congregation. His responsibilities include the general pastor duties of the Congregation, such as leading worship, visiting sick and shut-ins, baptisms, funerals, weddings, etc. The Vacancy Pastor may assist the Congregation in dealing with the grief of being without its previous pastor and working through challenges so that the Congregation is better equipped to carry out its mission and ministry with its new pastor. Vacancy Pastors may be part or full-time and are usually contracted with the congregation.

An **Intentional Interim Minister** is a specially trained and rostered Pastor of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to assist congregations in time of transition, such as the departure of a particularly long serving pastor. Ministers within the Intentional Interim Ministry program come with skills to help a congregation understand what it takes to get ready for a new pastor. As an unbiased outsider with insight into the issues and concerns a congregation may face, the interim minister has the ability to be a step removed and view the situation with neutrality and perspective. These ministers come to the congregation knowing they are temporary shepherds and not eligible to become the settled pastor. Their purpose - to bring the congregation to the best outcome - is well defined from the outset. The District Office appoints intentional Interim Pastoral Candidates. Intentional Interim Ministers work with a congregation for 6 – 18 months after which the Congregation moves to the Regular Call Process.

#### Decision 2: Call a Rostered Candidate or a Seminarian Candidate

If the Congregation votes to move forward with a Vacancy Pastor, following the completion of the Congregational Self-Study the congregation will pursue either a Rostered Candidate or a Seminarian for their pastoral vacancy.

**Rostered Candidates** are Pastors with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Following the completion of the Congregational Self-Study, Members of the Congregation may nominate Pastors who they feel would be a good shepherd to advance the ministry and mission of Christ the Vine. The District President utilizes candidate information forms and the self-evaluation tool to determine which pastoral candidates best compliment the Congregational Self Study. A list of candidates is sent to the Call Committee for consideration and potential interviews.

**Seminarians** are candidates who will be graduating in May from either Concordia Seminary (St. Louis, MO) or Concordia Theological Seminary (Ft. Wayne, IN). Congregations must apply for a candidate from seminary with the Northwest District by October for May graduation. If a graduating seminarian is known to and strongly preferred by the congregation, a specific request may be made to the District President. The District President or the Seminary chooses where seminarians will be placed. Candidate placements are announced in the spring and generally start their Pastoral Call during the summer following graduation.

Additional information about the Call Process can be found on the Christ the Vine Website >> About >> Pastoral Call Process (Password is CTV1517).

If you have questions for Rev. Sprengle regarding the Call Process, please forward them to CTV Executive Director, Galen Breckenridge ([ggbreck@gmail.com](mailto:ggbreck@gmail.com)).