

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Your Church Council has been busy during February assessing the status of Christ Lutheran Church and defining priorities that we might pursue in 2020. To jump start this work, Council met at a regularly called Council meeting on Tuesday, February 18 and again on Saturday, February 22 for a more in depth conversation to explore our path forward together.

As most of you know, the Church membership voted on January 19 to continue Christ Lutheran's affiliation with the Evangelical Church in America. The outcome of the vote led some members of our congregation to make their own personal decision about continuing to call Christ Lutheran their Church Home. A number of long-time members are now exploring other opportunities to practice their faith. These members have left a big hole in our hearts and in our Church body.

So, the question is, where do we go from here?

Our top priority is to respond to our mission of "being disciples of Jesus, **Growing** in faith, **Serving** our community and **Connecting** other to Christ."

Service positions that make our worship and ministry possible have taken a hit. We are actively recruiting members to step up and volunteer in ways they may not have considered before, and you are answering the call!

- Worship & Music has received support from you to rebuild that team. From Altar Guild to Ushers, all functions are welcoming new volunteers.
- Fellowship is experiencing great vitality as we work together to provide long held traditions such as our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Lenten Soup and Salad Suppers and Sunday morning Coffee Service, as well as make plans for Movie Nights and community outreach events to bring our Congregation and our Community together.
- The Church office needs your help to provide a high level of service to all, while attending to recurring duties that help our Church run smoothly week in and week out. Thank you to those who are considering the gift of your time on Monday and Tuesday each week, between 9:00am and 12:00pm to help answer the phone and greet visitors and members alike who drop by.

Like any organization we have a responsibility to meet the financial obligations of the Church. Due to your loyal and generous contributions, our financial condition is stable; however, we can't relax our attention on our Ministry Spending Plan. At the Annual meeting on February 3, our Ministry Spending Plan reflected a deficit for the year. To address that deficit, you are being asked to let the Administrative & Financial team know of your giving plans for the year. Please take a moment to fill out your "The Privilege of Giving" card and drop it in the offering plate or bring by the office. This will help them guide the business of our Church during 2020.

The Renovation Project is alive and well! Final paperwork is being completed to close of the MIF loan so that the project will be on sound financial footing. No funds will be borrowed until the

final construction drawings and detailed cost of the project are finished. We will keep you abreast of progress on those two important milestones. Your financial support is needed to beginning construction. Expect to receive a statement that will report on status of commitments and contributions in the next few weeks.

Calling a permanent Pastor is critical to our future. We are blessed to have Pastor Mary Anderson with us. Her energy and enthusiasm are gifts that she brings to every part of her ministry here at Christ Lutheran. The Church Council and Pastor Mary have agreed that she will be with us as Interim Pastor until the end of December 2020. In early Fall, we will assess our progress and look for guidance from the Holy Spirit to begin our Call Process at the appropriate time.

The Council has identified several goals that we can work toward in 2020.

- **Engage in Holy Conversations** – regular quarterly opportunities for us to gather as a Congregation to discuss activities of the ELCA, Christ Lutheran Church and our Community.
- **Inviting and Welcoming** events – how can we shine our light so that others in our Community will join us in our ministry here in this place?
- **Communication** on many levels – from our website, weekly emails, bulletins and social media to written communication sent directly to your home.

We ask for your feedback as we flesh out the details of goals for the year. We want to hear from you about your dreams and goals for Christ Lutheran Church. Together we can listen for guidance from the Holy Spirit and answer the Call for our ministry here!

In Christ's Service,
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