



Pastor Sorensen's March 2025 First of the Month Letter

Greetings Saints and Sinners of Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

The holy season of Lent starts Wednesday, March 5, so I am going to share some thoughts about Lent. Finally, I will provide an update on the progress of your diligent and dedicated Call Committee.

Lent. To say that Lent is an ancient practice of the Christian Church is an understatement. Many historians believe it started mid-second century and the 40-day practice we know today has roots back to around 325. This was a time of intense preparation for those new to the faith with the culmination of their baptism at the Vigil of Easter.

Lent is a time marked with special emphasis on spiritual disciplines, most often prayer, fasting, study, giving, and works of service. As you experience Lent 2025, I would ask you to consider NOT giving something up for Lent. No, instead, I would like you to consider what spiritual discipline you could intentionally add. Perhaps a more robust prayer before dinner thanking God for the gifts of that day. Perhaps a self-challenge to read through the Gospel of Luke through these 40 days. Maybe you might want to try fasting a meal a week? Is there something tugging at your heart for you to give of your time? You know what will bring joy to your faith journey.

As the entire congregation of Our Savior's is in this liminal season of discernment about the future, I encourage you to be bold and practice a new spiritual discipline this Lent. I believe you will find great blessings to be discovered.

And now, a word about your Call Committee and the Call Process. The Call Committee is on track to complete the Ministry Site Profile, (the self-study document shared with synod offices and potential candidates) by early April. It will then be available for your Church Council to review at its April meeting before being submitted to the Bishop's office. On Sunday April 27, the Call Committee will meet with Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Charlane Lines to discuss the next steps in the process.

Practically speaking, this means that they will be poised to begin interviewing candidates this summer. Before you get ahead of yourself and get too excited, the interview process is rarely linear. There might be starts and stops. It may go quickly, or it make take a couple slates of candidates. Remember, this is a discernment process, not a hiring process. The Committee and candidates will jointly be discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the preferred and promised future of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

What an exciting time for Our Savior's. I know the Call Committee deeply appreciates your continued prayers for their work, and for the future pastor.

I will see you in worship,

Pastor Scot



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