



Pastor Sorensen's April Monthly Letter

C S E

This month I want to address three different, yet very interrelated topics, Call Committee, Stewardship, and Easter.

Call Committee. Last summer you elected Laura Burbidge, Dayme Fitzpatrick, Paul Kittredge, Nancy Thomas, Mary Lou Till, and Bruce

Veenstra to serve as your Call Committee. They have been working hard since they were selected. They have been meeting twice a month and have hosted congregational conversations.

The product of these first months of work has been a self-study called the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). This self-study is required for all ELCA congregations in the call process. In late March they completed the MSP, it was approved by the Church Council and now is in the hands of the synod office. Our Savior's is looking for a full-time pastor gifted in spiritual leadership, pastoral care, community engagement, and worship.

The next steps for the Call Committee will be to prepare for the interviews to come. The synod office will prepare a slate of candidates for the committee to consider and interview. The process might be completed with the first slate of candidates, or it might take several slates to discern Our Savior's next settled pastor. Over the next few months, the Call Committee will seek to keep the congregation updated on the process. But the actual names of candidates under consideration will remain confidential. Please, please continue to pray for the work of your Call Committee and pray for that candidate that God is preparing to come and serve at Our Savior's.

Stewardship. Our Savior's is the first congregation I have served with a July 1 fiscal year, and a corresponding spring stewardship emphasis. While every Sunday is an opportunity to address the importance of stewardship, I look forward to the Easter texts being the lens through which I address stewardship. Our "stewardship season" will culminate this year with Commitment Sunday on May 25.

This will be an important stewardship season because, as I stated above, Our Savior's is looking for a gifted full-time pastoral leader for the God-sized vision for the vision and mission this congregations holds. OSLC is looking towards a faith-filled future with greater community connection, irresistible hospitality, and transformative justice on this path you walk together. But funding that current God-sized vision requires an income of \$100,000 greater than the current level of offerings. I do not think anyone should be alarmed by the difference between the finances needed to fund this vision and the current reality. After all, if you could fulfill your vision without God at the center, why bother. God is always calling us, sending us to proclaim the Kingdom, announce peace, and to make disciples. Which brings me to my final topic...

Easter. The reason behind everything we do as Christians, as a congregation is because God has raised Jesus from the dead. We are beloved children of God, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, not even death. This new-life, good-news shapes our existence and is what has shaped the work of the Call Committee, the congregation's God-sized vision for its preferred and promised future, and the bold stewardship plan to see beyond our current circumstances.

I am looking forward to celebrating Easter with you on Easter Sunday, April 20. And then, the continued Easter celebration in the weeks following.

See you in worship,
Pastor Scot



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