

Good evening/morning!

My name is Jason Swenson and I am the President of First Lutheran Church Council. I come here today to give you all an update on where we are at in Call Process and the direction we are heading. On Tuesday, March 8th, the First Lutheran Church council gave the Executive Committee the authority to form a Transition Team and a Call Committee. The Transition Team, which will be made up of 6-8 members of our congregation and will be assisted by Pastor Dave. The Transition Team will review First Lutheran's mission and ministry statement and indentify what we need in our ministry and where we want to go. This team may conduct interviews with members to find out what is needed now in the life, ministry, and family of First Lutheran Church. From there, the congregation will meet with synod staff to develop a Ministry Profile. During this time, there may be a healing worship service to help everyone move on with mission of First Lutheran Church. This will be worked out with Pastor Dave and the Executive Council. When this process is completed with a Ministry Profile from the synod, a Call Committee will be formed and then we can proceed with interviews. I ask you all not to compare ourselves with our sister congregation St. Stephen Lutheran Church as they recently went through a congregational survey and Call Process and their situation is totally different than ours here at First Lutheran. Throughout this process we must remember 3 key words...PRAYER, PATIENCE, and COMMUNICATION. We ask you to keep the full Church Council and your brothers and sisters in Christ at First Lutheran Church in your thoughts and Prayers during this interim time. The Executive Committee will be doing their best to bring you updates periodically of the Call Process through Temple Talks and the Parish Newsletter. If you are interested in being on the Transition Team, please let me, Deb Mitlyng our Vice-President, Shelly Maes, our Past President, Pam Russell our Treasurer, and Marlene Nordby our Church Council Secretary know by Friday, April 1st, and that's NO FOOLING!!

Isaiah 40:31 says...

But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

May these words give us comfort and peace during this interim time. Again, please remember PRAYER, PATIENCE, and Communication. Thank you all for your support and love for the family of God at First Lutheran Church.