



CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor: *Patricia Giannelia*

Council Chairperson: Angela Bailey

December 20, 2021

Christ Lutheran Congregation

This letter is to provide you, the congregation, some information about what the council and call committee is doing and planning over the next month.

As everyone is aware, January 16, 2022 is the last Sunday that Pastor Patricia will be preaching at Christ Lutheran Church prior to her retirement. We are aware that this leaves all of us unsure as to what will happen after she has retired.

Call Committee:

Firstly, the call committee is working with the Bishop and Bishop Elect of the BC Synod to come up with possible names for who could become our new pastor. Names can come from any congregation members and will also come directly from the Bishop and Bishop Elect. If anyone is aware of any pastors that may be candidates for this position, please provide them to one of the call committee members. Please note that you are not to contact any of these pastors, rather just provide us names, as it is up to the Bishop to contact any and all pastors as to their eligibility for call.

The call committee members are Stefanie Benke, Jessica Pommer, David Peter, Tim Cousins, Angelika Offenwanger, Renate Hess and Angela Bailey.

The call committee will be providing you updates as to the progress as we move forward. But it is very important for the congregation to understand that the names of candidates and information provided to the call committee is extremely confidential and will not be provided to anyone other than the call committee members.

Interim Pastor:

The church council is currently working with the Bishop and Bishop Elect to come up with interim pastor options during the period after Pastor Patricia's retirement and the ability to call a new full time pastor. For January, we will have a lay leader led German service on January 23, 2022 and Sue Palmer will be leading the English service on January 30, 2022.

The council will then provide more updates as to who will be leading the ongoing services thereafter. We are hoping to have some supply coming from existing pastors in the Okanagan and some short term contracts with other Pastors.

German Service:

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church is an inclusive and vibrant congregation.

We would like to have a meeting with the German congregants after the service on January 23, 2022 to discuss options and desires as to how we can continue to provide German services. We would like to have an open dialogue with everyone as to what your ideas and options might be and what might be acceptable to everyone.

Pastor Patricia's Retirement:

The final item to discuss is Pastor Patricia's retirement and how we might wish to celebrate this occasion with her. Due to new Covid-19 restrictions being put into place, until at least the end of January, we do not think we are able nor is it wise to have a formal meeting/event in Luther Hall or in any other venue. In light of this, we are still able to hold worship services, so we would like to acknowledge Pastor Patricia's retirement, in the sanctuary, after the German service on January 9, 2022 and after the English service on January 16, 2022.

We ask anyone who would like to speak at these retirement services, please contact Angela Bailey (at 250-215-0416 or at acbailey62@gmail.com), to let us know. If anyone wishes to provide some words for the Pastor but are uncomfortable to speak yourself, then please contact Angela Bailey and we can work on getting something written from you and we will have someone read this on your behalf. We will allow Pastor Patricia to also say some words to us.

Retirement is a special time in everyone's life and although we can't hold a large social function, we wish to make this time special for Pastor Patricia.

As this will be at the end of the services on those two Sunday's in January, we will hopefully be livestreaming the service and therefore will continue to livestream the retirement festivities. So if you are unable to attend one of these services, you can still watch.

Finally, the congregation will be providing a retirement gift to the Pastor on her retirement, but we are aware that members may wish to provide something themselves. We have spoken to the Pastor as to what she might wish to receive as many at retirement have most everything they need. Firstly, she indicated that she does not need anything. If we wish to do something for her, we could provide a travel voucher/funds for some travel she is intending to do or provide funds towards a new bike which she wishes to buy herself. Finally, she also indicated that a donation to the CLWR in her honour would also be a wonderful consideration.

If any congregation members wish to provide funds towards the congregational gift, please feel free to contact Angela Bailey and we can include this with the gift from the congregation and we will ensure that the Pastor is provided the names of everyone who contributes towards this retirement gift.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Angela Bailey (250-215-0416 or at acbailey62@gmail.com).

Blessings to All,

Angela Bailey
Chair and Treasurer