



TIDINGS OF PEACE

***We are rooted in God's love, united in
connecting people to Jesus***

Pastor's Message

"Lutherans and the Call"

On September 13th, I shared as part of the prayer announcements that the LCMS has a shortage of pastors, and the problem is growing. I've heard about the pastoral demographic cliff for twenty years, going all the way back to when I was in the pre-seminary program at Concordia University-Irvine. I then shared that my name had been on three different call lists—and another request came the very next day! I would like to use this article to share some more details about my name being on these call lists and talk about the Lutheran doctrine of the Call. This may be a lengthy article!

First off, what do we mean by a "call"? We use that word in several different ways in the Church. The first and most important call is the call to faith. God calls us out of sin and unbelief to trust in Jesus Christ for our life and salvation. Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians 2:14, "He called you through our gospel, so that you may

obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." Peter describes Christians as those whom God has "called...out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). This is the Gospel call. Anyone who believes in Jesus has received this call. It is foundational to everything else.

Our Lutheran Confessions explain that God does not leave us to somehow find our own way to faith. Augsburg Confession V says that God instituted the ministry of preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments so that we might receive faith. Through these means, "the Holy Spirit is given, who works faith." In other words, God calls us through His Word. Faith itself is His gift.

Then there is another kind of Call—the Divine Call from a congregation to a man to serve as pastor in its midst. Augsburg Confession XIV says, "No one should publicly teach in the Church or administer the Sacraments unless he be regularly called." The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope

also teaches that the Church possesses the authority to call, elect, and ordain ministers. That is important. A pastoral Call is not simply a job offer. Nor is it primarily an inward feeling where a pastor decides, “I think God wants me to move somewhere else.” The Call comes externally through the Church. God works through His people to place pastors among His Church.

The Apostle Paul describes pastors as gifts Jesus gives to His Church: “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:11–12). In Acts 20:28, he tells the pastors at Ephesus to “pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.” So, when a pastor receives a Call from another congregation, he and his family spend time in prayer, discernment, and conversation with people from both his current congregation and the congregation that has extended the Call. He is trying to discern where God is leading him to serve His people.

An important part of our understanding of the Call is that it is not supposed to be a “step up” in someone’s career. It is not advancement to a “better” or “bigger” church. Pastoral ministry is not a corporate ladder. The Apostle Peter tells pastors to shepherd the flock of God entrusted to them, “not domineering over those in your charge,

but being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:2–3). The question is not, “Which position is better for my career?” The question is, “Where am I called to serve?”

Now, how does this practically happen in the LCMS? For a pastor, the first Divine Call into the public ministry normally comes from a congregation to a seminary graduate. This is how Prince of Peace and I came together. Pastor Marc was planning to retire, and there was to be a transition. So, you all got a call committee together, sorted through a whole bunch of us, decided on five possible candidates, interviewed us, and ultimately gave the Seminary two names: Eric Hutchinson and me. The Seminary and the Council of Presidents then worked through the placement process, and on Call Day, May 4th, 2011, I received the Divine Call to serve you all as your pastor.

Once a pastor is “in the field,” the District office has our “papers”—a Personal Information Form and Self-Evaluation Tool, known as the PIF and SET. These contain information about my background and my views and practices on various aspects of ministry—things like children’s messages, Communion practice, social engagement as a pastor, and many other areas of congregational life. These are the papers a call committee receives and uses as it considers pastoral candidates after the District President sends them names.

Once a congregation looks at a pastor's PIF and SET, it may decide to interview him. Sometimes, before this happens, the pastor receives a phone call asking whether there is anything that would prevent him from considering a Call. It is often at this point that the pastor first learns that a congregation has been considering him. The process can already be fairly far along before the pastor even knows!

Through this entire process, prayer is a significant component for everyone involved. The call committee interviews candidates, prays, discusses, and then, if they believe they should move forward with a particular pastor, they recommend him to the congregation. Ultimately, the congregation issues or extends the Divine Call.

At that moment, when the pastor is informed they have received a Divine Call from another church, the pastor begins a discernment process that can range from two to eight weeks. The pastor now has two Calls: the Call to his current congregation and the Call that has just been extended by another congregation. That is one reason this process can be difficult. The pastor is not deciding between having a Call and not having a Call. He has two Calls. He is prayerfully trying to discern which one he should continue to serve.

It is important to recognize and believe that Jesus is Lord of His Church. Jesus said, "I will build my

church" (Matthew 16:18). The future of Christ's Church does not rest on one pastor, one congregation, one District President, or one call committee. The Lord will care for and provide for His Church. The pastor and his family pray and discern where they believe the Lord is leading him, and then the pastor announces his decision either to accept the new Call or return it and remain where he is.

Now, for the specifics as they relate to me over these last few months. I was on two call lists in the Rocky Mountain District—one in New Mexico and one in Colorado. I declined to move forward with either of those congregations. I did interviews with the churches in Wisconsin and Minnesota. I did those interviews because someone who knows me gave those congregations my name for consideration—my vicarage supervisor's son in one instance and a former vicar from my home congregation in Arizona in another. Throughout my fifteen years, I have been on other call lists (Virginia, Maryland x 2, Minnesota, Illinois, and New Jersey). For the majority of those requests, I did not do an interview.

When a congregation receives a pastor's name and asks the District President for his papers, the D.P. has to send the papers. That is how and why the Wisconsin and Minnesota churches received my name and information. It was not because I sought them out or asked for my name

to be considered. I reluctantly let them consider me and they both chose to request an interview.

When a church gets my information and requests an interview, however, I will almost always do the interview. One of my pastor friends put it to me this way: "You are helping them discern what they are looking for and desiring in their next pastor." I think that is helpful.

Doing an interview when there is the potential for a pastoral Call is not the same thing as someone else doing a job interview. A pastor should not be trying to "get the job." I intentionally do not try to sell myself. I do not particularly like talking about what accomplishments I have had here at Prince of Peace. I'm thankful that, for a lot of things, I do not even remember them! Instead, the interview is part of the discernment process—for them and for me.

I also want you to know this: I do not like it when another church contacts me. It is extremely stressful for me. I lose a lot of sleep. I spend mental and emotional time thinking about many things. Part of the reason is that I believe very strongly in this doctrine of the Call.

Here's a great example: my interview with Prince of Peace back in 2011 did not go particularly well! Weather greatly impacted the video interview, and I did not receive the full hour interview. I felt like you all should have said, "Chris, we didn't get the full

time with you. We want to finish this interview." But, you did not. The Seminary required us to rank the churches that interviewed us as "Prefer," "Open," or "Do Not Prefer." Since I did not get a full interview, I felt like I did not know Prince of Peace very well and you all did not know me very well. So, I chose "Do Not Prefer." Don't hold it against me!

Several months went by. Then Dr. Hoehner, who was the Seminary's placement director, told me that he wanted to place me at Prince of Peace. I was shocked. He wanted me to reconsider my "Do Not Prefer," so I took the weekend to pray about it and talk it over with people I trusted.

I had a very important phone call with a family in Oklahoma, and Debra said something that changed the whole thing. She said, "Chris, you are basing everything on the interview. Toss the interview. Don't consider it. How do you feel about the church based on the information in the packet?" I said, "I love it." She said, "Go with that then." So, I changed my "Do Not Prefer" to "Open." And here we are fifteen years later!

It is truly humbling when I look back at that call process. Had everything gone exactly according to my initial judgment, I would not be here. I would not be married to Aly. Noelle and Micah would not exist and you all would have had a very different last fifteen years. Yet the Lord was working through a process I could not

fully see at the time. Proverbs reminds us, “The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps” (Proverbs 16:9).

So, what does all of this mean? I’m still here with you all. I did not receive any of those Calls. Thankfully!. There is not much I can do to prevent my name from being included on call lists. Know this: I have not asked Kevin, our District President, to include my name on lists. He knows I do not want another call. There is a shortage of pastors, and this shortage will continue. There are pastors who find themselves on multiple call lists, and some pastors receive multiple Calls at the same time.

I am not desiring, seeking, or requesting to be placed on Call lists. But know that if my name goes on one and a congregation requests an interview, I will let the Elders know. The process is stressful for everyone involved. It is stressful for the pastor and his family. It can be stressful for the congregation that has called him. And it can certainly be stressful for the congregation he currently serves. But know this: I love you all. I am very happy here. I believe this is where God has called me and where He wants me to be.

And above everything else, there is an even greater comfort in the doctrine of the Call. Prince of Peace does not ultimately belong to me. It does not ultimately depend upon me. It belongs to Jesus. Pastors come and

go. Congregations experience different seasons. Calls are extended, accepted, and returned. But Jesus remains the same. He says, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11).

I may be your pastor, but Jesus is your Good Shepherd. He is the One who died for you. He is the One who rose for you. He is the One who forgives you, feeds you, strengthens you, and keeps you in the faith. And He is the Lord who continues to care for His Church.

That is ultimately why we can talk about something as potentially uncomfortable as pastors and Calls with confidence rather than fear. The Church belongs to Jesus. And I remain thankful that, fifteen years after my interview with you all and a change from “Do Not Prefer” to “Open,” He has allowed me the privilege of being your pastor.

May God bless you this month!

Pastor Chris

Congratulations to Emily and Brett

Emily gave birth to a son at the end of September. We give thanks to God for the birth and health of their son. We look forward their son’s baptism in the near future!

Women's Bible Study: Haggai

The Wednesday morning women's bible study has finished its study of Zephaniah. We will start a study of Haggai on Wednesday, October 28th. We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. (10:15 on the 4th Wednesday of the month). All women of the congregation are invited to participate.

Online Bible Study Starting Soon

A new online bible study will begin on Tuesday, October 6th. It will be at 6 p.m., lasting for 30 minutes. It will be through Google Meet. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

October Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser: National Youth Gathering

Join us for a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday, October 18, at 9:15 a.m. Come enjoy pancakes, fellowship, and the opportunity to support our high school youth.

A free will offering will be received to help send our high school youth to the LCMS National Youth Gathering in July 2028. This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage and support the faith formation of our young people as they prepare for this meaningful event.

Thank you for helping invest in the next generation of the Church!

What Is the LCMS National Youth Gathering?

The LCMS National Youth Gathering is a major youth event held every three years, bringing together thousands of Lutheran youth and adults from across the country for worship, Bible study, fellowship, service, and encouragement in their walk with Jesus. The Gathering helps young people grow in their faith, understand their Lutheran identity, and see the wider body of Christ beyond their own congregation.

The 2028 LCMS Youth Gathering will be held July 3–7, 2028, in San Antonio, Texas. The official theme and Scripture focus for 2028 have not yet been announced; the LCMS Youth Gathering website currently lists them as "Coming Soon."

Please keep our youth, families, and leaders in your prayers as we begin preparing for this opportunity.

Celebrating 15 Years of Faithful Service

On Sunday, October 25, 2026, we will celebrate Pastor Chris' 15 years of dedicated ministry with our congregation. To mark this special milestone, we will gather for one combined worship service at 9:30 AM.

Immediately following the service, everyone is invited to a luncheon celebration in the downstairs fellowship

area. Please join us as we give thanks for Pastor Chris's leadership, compassion, and commitment to our church family.

More details to come as plans for the celebration are finalized. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Quaintance, Fielding, or Albrecht families.

Sunday School

Sunday school for our children meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Event Hosted by the LWML

The POP LWML is planning a free flower arranging class for the ladies of POP and the Nepali church. The date is **October 27th at 7 pm**. All supplies will be provided. More information to come soon.

Joining Prince of Peace

If you would like to become a member of Prince of Peace, please contact the church office at 614-863-3124, info@poplutheran.net, or contact Pastor Chris at 480-540-5701 or alivefromfaith@yahoo.com and we can discuss the next steps to welcome you into formal membership at Prince of Peace. Pastor Chris recognizes that everyone takes this step in their own time, so if or when you desire to do so, please reach out.

Bible Study

Sunday morning @ 9:30 a.m. Pastor is leading a discussion and study of the LCMS' CTCR document of "Immigrants among us" discussion. We meet at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study – This bible meetings on Wednesday mornings at 10:00.

Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study: Meets at the Fieldings home on the 1st Saturday of the month.

October Communion

Communion will be celebrated on **October 11th and the 25th**. We will celebrate communion during the in-person service.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

We hold a monthly prayer meeting the first Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. at the church. This ministry is a time for people of the church to come together for prayer. The prayers can be for you, a loved one, the church, etc. The prayer meeting lasts from around 30 to 60 minutes.

L.S.S. Food Donation

The Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Central Ohio is in need of food donations due to the greatly increased number of clients and the ability to buy less and less bulk from the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. If you will donate, please bring your food donation to the church on **Sunday, October 11th** and we will take everything down there on behalf of the congregation. The items they are

requesting are fruits, vegetables, tuna, peanut butter, other 'shelf', non-perishable items, and personal care items. Jesus said in Matthew 25.40, "Whatever you did to the least of these My brothers, you did it for Me." Thank you for your willingness to help those in need. ***You can bring your food donation to the church and it will be unloaded for you.***

Flower Signups

If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar, please see the sign-up sheet near the church office. Cost is \$25.00

Streaming of Worship

We will continue our Sunday live stream worship services. Service will be at 10:30 a.m. If you cannot make it to service, we are posting the recording of it on our website (Poplutheran.net) under the sermon section.

In order to participate in the worship service, please download the worship folder. It should always be posted to the website by Saturday morning. You can access the worship folder at: [Worship Folder](#)

On the same page as the worship folder, you will find the link to the live stream. I have included it here in the newsletter as well. The live stream link is: [Live Stream](#)

Updating Contact Info

If you would like to update your information for the church, please contact the church office at 614-863-3124 and a link will be e-mailed to you. You may also contact

the church office at
info@poplutheran.net

August Ministry Support Report

	This Month	YTD
Income	14,611	217,701
Expenses	21,201	227,357

Celebrations of Life

Tom K. - 5th
Aly E. - 9th
Debbie F. - 11th
Thomas T. - 12th
Linda S. - 18th
Dave A. - 20th
Alexa S. - 22nd
Steve H. - 25th
Anne S. - 25th



ANNIVERSARIES



Jon and Denise S. - 4th
Jim and Cinda L. - 9th
Frank and Stacy - 12th
Mike and Katie H. - 27th

Sorry, if your birthday or anniversary was missed!

Please give Pastor Chris any missing information. Thank you.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a Thrivent member and have eligible Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate? If so, consider Prince of Peace. We have a special fund dedicated to Thrivent Choice dollars that the Thrivent members authorize for projects and purchases. You can check your Thrivent choice dollar amounts and direct them from the following webpage: [Thrivent Choice](#) or you can google "Thrivent Choice Dollars."

Online Offerings

You have the opportunity to support the mission and ministry of Prince of Peace through an electronic transfer of funds (EFT). It is a convenient way to support the Lord's work here at Prince of Peace. You can set up a recurring debit or manually input your ministry support weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Below are the steps to setting up your EFT for ministry support.

Go to [POP Website](#) and click the 'donate' tab. Enter the Amount and frequency and date(s) that you want to give. Enter the information on next page (incl. banking info). Enter a password if you want to create a profile and then submit it by clicking 'Process.'

ORGANIST: Maria G.

MORNING DEACON: Michael P.

PA SERVERS: Mike P.

COUNTERS: Philip S. And TBD

SERVICE HELPERS

October 4

ELDER SERVING: Joe K.

FLOWERS: Tom K (his birthday)

GREETERS: John & Dolores K.
Stephanie S. & Noelle E.

LECTORS: Jessica M.J. / Pastor Chris

USHERS: John and Dolores K. / Korto K.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

October 11

ELDER SERVING: Dave A.

FLOWERS: Open

GREETERS: Willie and Debby F. /
Michele D.

LECTORS: Willie F. / Monica T.

USHERS: Fieldings / Phillip S.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

October 18

ELDER SERVING: Amanuel M.

FLOWERS: Ron and Judy G. (Linda's birthday)

GREETERS: Richard R. / Willie and
Debby F.

LECTORS: Debby F. / Dawn R.

USHERS: Jessica M.J. / Phillip S.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

October 25: ONE SERVICE

ELDER SERVING: Jeff R.

FLOWERS: Open

GREETERS: Richard and Laura B.

LECTORS: Fieldings or Jeff R.

USHERS: Dawn R.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti