

Some changes for September

At Chapel

Many of you already know this but for those that have not attended in awhile it is good to keep you up to date. Many thanks to all 31 people who came and voted 18 – 13 to change our service time and our second vote 26 – 5 to change from 9am to a 10:15am service so that we can help support our sister congregation, Hope in Twin Lakes. That new service time starts September 6th. It is always a difficult time when a pastor leaves a congregation, especially when that pastor is loved. Hope in Twin Lakes now has the process of calling a pastor to serve them with the Gospel. They are changing their service time from 9am to 8am. It is a difficult process even when all the pieces are in place. They have many questions to answer. Questions about whether they want to call from the field or from the seminary. They have questions to answer regarding who they are and how they want a shepherd to care for them.

I know... these are questions only they can answer. And yet, it is something that every congregation at some time must go through. Here at *The Lutheran Chapel of the Cross* you have had 3 pastors in your 57 years as a congregation. Two of them were from the seminary and one from the field. The life of a congregation is always changing. When the number of people increases, there are changes to those serving on boards and taking care of the numerous responsibilities present. When the number of people decreases, there are changes to those serving on boards and taking care of the numerous responsibilities present. Many times that means fewer people to take on the same amount of duties. Life looks different. The many activities of a once busy congregation no longer occur as there are fewer people to participate and fewer people to lead.

This could be a rather depressing reality. But Christ loves His church. Yes, His church. He has called each of you to this place to hear His Word and receive His mysteries, the sacraments. Here you get to receive His gifts – forgiveness, life, salvation, and yes, fellowship in His name. Christ is the one who builds His church and He does this through the proclamation of the Gospel. Christ builds His church as He is the foundation. While humbled at the request to serve Hope as their vacancy pastor, there is a joy in knowing that they will continue to receive God's Word and sacraments while they await the man whom God has appointed to fill the pastoral office in that place. The church does not mean just our location or theirs. We all belong to THE CHURCH that is made up of all believers in Christ Jesus. We all have fellowship in HIS name and all are blessed to have His gifts. It is good to support each other, even if that means sharing a pastor for as long as God desires, whether short or In some ways this is fulfilling the great commission to Go, to Make Disciples, to Baptize, and to Teach all He has commanded.

God's peace (Pax Dei),

Pastor Ficken