Pastor Jon’s sending was one of bittersweet anticipation. We are extremely grateful to everyone that came and helped our community send Pastor Jon, Missy, Sam and Pete to their calling in God’s greater community. Thank you. Pastor Jon will be installed at Christiana Lutheran in Lakeville on August 19th.

As we met with Rev. Pederson from the Minneapolis Area Synod he continued to assure us that Our Father’s community is well equipped to handle this transition. Together we have been blessed with community faith connections and skilled lay leaders that are willing to serve God’s Church at Our Father’s. This helps in providing the stability that we need to continue our ministry both at OFLC and in the larger Rockford Community. The synod describes this transition process in multiple steps:

* Saying goodbye
* The in-between time
* Calling a new Pastor

Currently, we are focused on the in-between time. This time is marked by the arrival of an interim pastor. Our congregational leadership and the interim pastor use this time to discover and reaffirm the congregation's strength in ministry and its sense of identity. Often a future mission and vision plan will be outlined. Grounded in prayer and the scriptures, members and staff may use this window of opportunity to discern God's call for the future. We have done this work at OFLC over the past few years, making us ahead of the game and in the perfect spot to reflect and re-affirm God’s call on our community.

The synod directs us in interviewing and choosing an interim pastor that will align with OFLC. This typically starts with the synod identifying two or three pastors that specialize in interim work. These pastors may be local, do not currently have or are ending a call and have specific skills for supporting congregations through transitions. Once we have identified the pastor that will have the best fit, have agreed upon expectations, salary and benefits church council will notify the synod. The synod reviews and confirms the congregation’s choice and installation planning takes place for the interim to begin working in our community. We currently have been provided one pastor for consideration and are exploring their fit with our congregation, we are praying that additional interim pastors are identified so that we may discern the best fit for our congregation.

We love hearing your questions, concerns and ideas for the work that Christ is doing in our community during this time of transition. If you do not currently receive (or maybe read) [Gather & Serve](http://www.ourfatherschurch.org/gather--serve-weekly.html) we highly encourage you to update your email address with the church office, as that is secondary mode of communication to the congregation outside of worship and council updates. Council is planning another Council Update meeting, on Sunday September 9th after worship. Our last few meetings have been well attended and we love sharing the work of our congregation with everyone over coffee and breakfast! Please consider joining us Sunday morning to hear the latest in this time of transition.

OFLC Leadership Team

Anthony Wold, Sarah Jones, Rachel Baccam, Erik Dahl, Julie Vergin, Paul Bolstad, Rick Fuglie, Amy Blake-Field (Ad Hoc)