September 20, 2018

Greetings from the OFLC Leadership team!

On Sunday, October 7th, we would like to invite all of you to a congregational meeting to be held after 9am worship.

In June, a call committee that was formed to explore calling Cathy Jones, recommended to council that our community call Cathy Jones and requested a congregational meeting to vote on this recommendation. Congregational meetings are necessary to formally call a new pastor into our community.

During the meeting on Oct. 7th the congregation will be asked to vote on three items:

* Calling Cathy Jones to our congregation (see complete details attached)
* A revised budget that reflects changes to Pastoral Leadership and immediate building needs
* Diane Mutterer as a new at-large council member. Diane brings a better connection to education to the leadership team and has requested to join council

We first announced this congregational meeting on September 9th and provided preliminary information to everyone that was present. At that time, we outlined the journey that has taken place which has led us to the need for this congregational vote. We wanted to share what has been the primary focus of our discussions and discernment for some time so that the congregation could begin thinking and praying about it prior to a congregational meeting.

The changes of the past several months have given us an opportunity at OFLC to reimagine our Pastoral Leadership Model. Council has been working together to look at many different scenarios that make meeting the needs of our congregational Pastoral Leadership possible. We began by looking closely at our community’s strengths, opportunities, areas for growth, and barriers. We believe strongly that the Holy Spirit has worked in our community to build this opportunity of having not just one Pastoral Leader but multiple Pastoral Leaders, formal (Ordained Ministers) and informal (Lay Leaders). While we were grieving the loss of Pastor Jon as a leader, we also acknowledged that yet again this was a sign of the Holy Spirit making room for an opportunity and showing up in the midst of our very best planning efforts.

Please join us on Oct. 7th with your hearts open and ready to discuss calling Cathy Jones to Our Father’s Lutheran Church as a Pastor. We hope that the included attachments will help you feel informed prior to the congregational meeting on Oct. 7th, and that you might come ready to ask any questions that we have not yet had the opportunity to answer.

We understand that these are big changes we are experiencing as a community. We have been listening patiently as God does his work and continues to transform our lives as church. We are closely supported by our Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Craig Pederson and his confidence in our community of faith and leadership gives us comfort that we are thoughtfully pursuing God’s work in our community. Please rest assured that the OFLC leadership team is listening and taking every step to ensure this is a stable and joy filled journey, and helping us to launch into a bright and exciting future!

You all have been an amazing support to church leadership and we are grateful to have the opportunities to be servant leaders in this community. We are all in this time of transition together, experiencing change together, so we ask you to continue to practice patience with each other, to pray without ceasing for our community, and our Pastoral Leadership.

With God’s Love and Peace your OFLC Leadership Team,

Anthony Wold, Sarah Jones, Rachel Baccam, Paul Bolstad, Erik Dahl, Rick Fuglie, and Julie Vergin

Attachments: Frequently Asked Questions, Proposed Pastoral Leadership Model, and Revised Budget