



Trinity Lutheran Church

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Dear Trinity Family,

Based on feedback from our current strategic planning process, we identified a communication issue that we want to address immediately. Regarding the recent pastoral transitions, communication from the Council has not been optimal. While we must maintain some confidentiality as an organization and employer, we want to prioritize transparency moving forward.

Those of us who are not pastors may find it difficult to fully grasp the physical, emotional, and spiritual weight that comes with a call to ordained ministry. In recent years, Trinity has experienced significant challenges. At one point, three of our beloved pastors found themselves in deep conflict with one another. Unfortunately, that conflict affected not only their relationships but also, to some degree, the church staff and congregation.

Then the pandemic struck—intensifying existing tensions. Soon after, the flood added even more strain to already-strained relationships. In time, Pastor Megan Crouch departed, followed by Pastor Gerald Ferguson. Most recently, after open and prayerful conversations with the Council, Pastor Danielle Shealy and the Church Council mutually agreed on a transition plan. Pastor Danielle chose to conclude her call at Trinity and requested confidentiality regarding the details. The council is committed to honoring Pastor Danielle's request for confidentiality.

Transitions in pastoral leadership are never easy. Yet, as your Church Council, we recognize that each of these faithful servants needed to step away for their own health and well-being—to seek healing and a fresh start. As we look to the future with hope, we are deeply committed to listening to your feedback and leading with transparency and care. Together we will continue the work of our mission – to invite children, men and women and equip them to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Your Trinity Lutheran Church Council:

Michael Rogers – President

Carrie Schaller – Vice President

Peder Danielsen – Treasurer, Immediate Past President

Dick Peterson - Secretary

Kathy Allen

Pam Fagen

Glen Mutscher

Eldon Enger

Sandy Avery

Rev. Jeffery Gramza