

## Parish Council Update on the Pastoral Vacancy (and other transitions)

At its July meeting the Parish Council considered and approved the support documents for extending two Calls that laid out how the ministry would be divided by the three future pastoral staff members. The Council also heard and approved the proposal by Scott Rawlins regarding the task force for future ministry planning and the engagement of WELS Congregational Services.

But the meeting also included an extensive discussion of how immediate ministry challenges will be addressed. The Council approved the following recommendations to ease the burden on our remaining staff:

- Beginning the Sunday after Labor Day Faith will move to a **New Sunday Morning Schedule**. There will be only **ONE WORSHIP service on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:30 AM** starting **Sunday September 11**. **Sunday School** and **Bible Studies** will begin at **8:15 AM each Sunday**. Fellowship will follow the one Sunday service each Sunday. (There will still be a 5:30 PM Saturday service each week between Labor Day and Memorial Day with the Thursday 6:30 PM service remaining in the summer months.) A big element of this decision was the desire to draw our Faith family together. Our worship space seats 500 people. Our current Sunday morning worship average for both services totals at the average of just about 210 worshippers. We have plenty of space to grow our worship numbers before returning to more than one Sunday morning service in the future. If you were at the 10:45 AM service on July 10 when 280 people worshipped you were reminded of just how different the dynamics are when we worship together in larger numbers.
- Pastor Ungemach has been authorized and encouraged to schedule guest pastors for any weekend when the sacrament is served for the duration of the pastoral vacancy. He has also been encouraged to recruit area pastors and lay instructors to allow as many Adult Bible Studies as possible continue through the vacancy period.
- Selected staff and deacons were also tasked with the inventory, organization and potential liquidation of school campus furniture, equipment and instructional supplies. All income from any and every sale of anything from the School Campus has been directed by the Parish Council to be placed in a special dedicated account set aside for the purchase of instructional resources when our suspended school ministry reactivates on the Grass Lake Road campus in the future. If we should be blessed with the opportunity to divest of the Hwy 83 campus soon, the cost, labor, security and complication of storage space for everything housed on the school campus until we might use it again on the church campus is a clear reason we can't sit idle on this matter for any length of time.