



P.O. Box 568
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

October 24, 2016

It is an honor to be your interim pastor at this time in the life of Christ Lutheran. My job as your interim pastor has many facets. In addition to being a pastor in this congregation, preaching the word and administering the sacraments, there are a few other aspects to being an interim. Most importantly is assisting you in your journey from the many years of faithful service in this community with Pastor Randy, to helping you unwrap the vision of where God is calling you next. My task is temporary. I am called to be gracious, loving, caring, and at the same time kick over a few stones and open a few closets and see what comes out. My task is to honor your traditions and at the same time help you get up out of the ruts that any organization ends up in over time, so that as you look to your future, all options are on the table.

We have had some great listening sessions that have not only explored what brought you to and kept you at Christ Lutheran, but also created moments of fellowship for which many have expressed gratitude. This first gathering of listening sessions brought together more than 70 people who shared their thoughts and ideas, as well as time, with one another. We are now starting into our second round of sessions which will look at where you see Christ Lutheran's ministry and presence in this community, and in the world, currently. Sometime after the new year we will move on to the third session which will explore your thoughts and ideas of where you feel God is calling the ministry of Christ Lutheran to in the future. All this is to prepare the congregation for what will be and to get an idea of the strengths and passions of the person you would like to travel with you as your pastor on this journey.

FAQs:

- Can you be our pastor? No, not only by contract, but also by practicality. Interim ministry is by design not long term. And, besides all that..... My wife does kind of miss me once in a while.
- How long will you be here? My contract is to the end of December with monthly extensions as needed. I hope to be done mid to late spring and to take the summer off in actual retirement.
- Why can't Pastor Randy be here? Pastor Randy is doing the very difficult job of staying away so that Christ Lutheran can move forward to where they feel God is calling them next. The danger is that Christ Lutheran will simply want to find another Pastor Randy. First, that will never work. Secondly that is not where God is calling you. Pastor Randy's job was to prepare you for where you are going, not where you have been. You need a happy, healthy congregation that is moving forward. That will be a gift to Pastor Randy and family ...as well as to all of you.
- Why doesn't your wife ever come down? Short answer she works and there are grandkids. My wife Jan has been here and will be here again, but logistics sometimes make that difficult.