

Monday, September 28, 2020

It is indeed good and pleasant

- Pastor Hank French

*How very good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity! (Psalms 133:1).*

Yesterday morning God's people in the community of faith known as First Lutheran Church gathered in the church parking lot to vote on whether or not to call Pastor Beth Pottratz to serve as the next pastor of FLC. It was absolutely wonderful to see the parking lot full of cars again and wonderful to look through car windows and see so many familiar faces looking back, faces that I have deeply missed over the last six months since the pandemic forced us to suspend in-person worship.

Over seventy people attended the congregational meeting in the parking lot, and they cast a unanimous vote to extend the call to ministry at FLC to Pastor Beth. The gathering and the vote were a profound witness to the truth of Psalm 133:1— "How very good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

I would urge all of you to pray for Pastor Beth as she considers the congregation's call. Synod protocols rightly give called candidates time following the vote to pray and to continue searching out the leading of the Spirit before informing the congregation of their final decision as to whether or not to accept the call.

And, assuming that Pastor Beth does formally accept the call, continue to pray for her and her family as they transition to First Lutheran in this strange and difficult time of the coronavirus. In fact, I would encourage every member and friend of First Lutheran to pray for Pastor Beth every day going forward. Prayer is the beating heart of faith and ministry. If Pastor Beth's ministry among you is grounded in your prayer for her and in her prayer for you, First Lutheran will thrive—no doubt about it.

Pastor Beth has indicated that she expects her first day to be October 5th. All of which means that my last day as your "bridge pastor" will be October 4th. During 22 months as your interim pastor between the summer of 2014 and the summer of 2016, and then with almost a full year from the end of last October to the beginning of this October as bridge pastor, I have come to love First Lutheran. FLC is vibrant community of faith. Working with the staff has been nothing but joy; getting to know so many of you and your stories has been an honor for me and for Bobbi. Thank you!

Prayer: Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now, bless and protect you forever. Amen.