

Greetings People of Hope!

Grace and peace to you from Christ our Savior, his loving Father, and the Holy Spirit!

It's been one month since I started serving as Hope Lutheran's pastor. Adjusting to part-time ministry and a long commute is a challenge, for the congregation and for me. Thank you for your patience and flexibility. As we work together to explore the future Christ is calling Hope into, know that I am always glad to talk with you about that process and its impact. Feel free to e-mail, text, or call me so we can set up a time to talk or meet.

Thank you to those who set-up and attended the "Welcome Pastor Kari" potluck. I enjoyed meeting several of you and getting a sense of the congregation. A couple of times, I stopped in and visited with the quilters. Thank you for sharing some stories, some knot tying, and snacks. Confirmation class is now underway. We're talking about Martin Luther, the Reformation, and the Book of Concord (mostly the Small Catechism) this year. Youth group also met October 29. Eleven students showed up to paint pumpkins and eat a meal together—it was great to meet you. Thanks to Tamijo for setting up the pumpkin painting and hosting.

We were not able to hold a council meeting in October, but I did meet individually or in pairs with most of the council members to talk about each one's sense of Hope Lutheran's history, present, and dreams for the future as God calls Hope into another season of ministry sharing the love and compassion of Christ. This is the beginning of forming a Transition Team and engaging people of Hope in conversation. It may be an anxious time; it is also an exciting time.

November is the month of Thanksgiving. Consider these words from St. Paul:

³ I thank my God for every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy ⁵ for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest[□] of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

—Philippians 1:3-11, NRSVUE

Peace,

Pastor Kari