

Calling Third Pastor @ December 18 **Congregation Meeting**

The Call Committee has spent several weeks studying the information forms that we received on the pastor's from the most recent Call List that we received from our District President, Rev. John Willie (see reverse side about the two tracks the Call Committee is using in our pastoral search). The committee has conducted a couple of interviews and is recommending to the Congregation that we extend a Divine Call to

Rev. Kyle Backhaus of Gonzales, TX

Pastor Kyle Backhaus is a graduate of Concordia University Mequon, Wisconsin (2009) with a degree in Biblical Languages and Christian Thought and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana (2014) with a Master's of Divinity degree. Pastor Kyle's vicarage was at Luther Memorial Chapel, Shorewood, Wisconsin. His first Call was to serve a dual-parish: Abiding Word Lutheran Church, Gonzales, Texas and Vineyard of Christ Lutheran Church, Rosanky, Texas. He was ordained into the ministry June 29th, 2014 at St Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. Pastor Kyle has helped both congregations focus on ways to reach out into their communities. Over Pastor Kyle's three and a half years both congregations have grown. Fellowship and spiritual growth have improved.

Pastor Kyle and his wife, Tessa, both were members and grew up in St. Paul and frequently attended St. Paul while in college. Tessa graduated from Concordia University Mequon, Wisconsin (2010), with a degree in Nursing. They have been blessed with two little girls, Jolene 5, and Emaline, 2. Jolene was baptized at St. Paul, Sheboygan Falls, and Pastor Kyle had the privilege of baptizing his daughter, Emaline, as his first baptism in the ministry. Jolene currently attends Gonzales Primary Academy in Gonzales, Texas. Tessa is currently a stay at home mom, with Emaline.

A Special Congregation meeting will be held Monday, December 18 @ 6:30 pm in the Worship Center

At this meeting the Call Committee will report to the congregation on their work and those present will vote on extending a Call to Pastor Backhaus. Please mark your calendars and plan now to join us for this important Meeting.

Summary of Call Committee Report To Congregation Meeting 11/28/17

Pastor Tom shared the history thus far of our pastoral search. Several years ago our Church Council recognized the need for our church to have 3 pastors. After that was presented to the congregation, the voter's assembly strongly voted to begin searching for a third pastor. For the first 2+ years, the focus had been on searching for a pastor who would serve as an associate pastor for a year or two. Then he and Pastor Tom would reverse rolls and Pastor Tom would remain on staff as an associate pastor until he retires. This approach worked very well 20 years ago.

However, after 5 Calls declined so far over the last couple of years, the decision from a joint meeting of the Church Council and Elders in September was to shift the focus and look to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to see if we could find a Spring graduate who could serve well at our church. However, it has been learned that the number of candidates graduating this Spring is very low. Last year 60 requests from churches for a graduate went unfilled. Our District President has said that number may double this Spring. So, the Call Committee has resumed searching for an associate pastor from the field and will also apply for a graduate from the seminary. If we receive an acceptance of a Call from a pastor from another church before the end of April, we can withdraw from the seminary process. Once we have an associate pastor installed, we will evaluate when to begin the search for a senior Pastor.