

## Luther Memorial Newsletter for November, 2017

### *It is Time for Change!*

Leaf blowers are at work, sweaters are replacing short sleeves, and heat registers are being dusted in preparation for the coming chill. Fall is in full swing and winter will soon set in. We all are noticing a change in seasons. As your pastor I've noticed another change as well. I'm no longer your "brand new" pastor! While I'm by no means seasoned, my relationship with you has changed. This is a good thing! Like the changing of seasons, our relationship has gone from the unexpected to the expected. You've learned more about me through my preaching, teaching, potluck dinners, and work days. I've learned much about you as well since my June ordination. Starting in November, I want to move from visiting with you only inside the church and go *outside* the building and into your homes.

God has given to pastors the responsibility to shepherd the flock. Paul says in Acts 20:28: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He has purchased with His own blood." Visiting believers one-by-one is Biblical. When Paul spoke to the church leaders at Ephesus he told them to follow the example of his ministry (Acts 20:18-35). He reminded them that he had preached both in public and in private: "I ... have taught you publicly, and from house to house". The same pattern is in Paul's letters; he not only wrote to churches, but to Philemon, Timothy and Titus personally.

In preparation for these visits, I would like you to think in advance about several questions:

1. What has been a personal success, failure, or other significant event in your life lately?
2. What resources did you draw on as you dealt with this event in your life and/or how did you celebrate it?
3. Is there anything I can do better as your pastor?
4. Do you have any questions about why we do certain things in the liturgy on Sunday Morning?

There are no "right" answers. If our discussion takes us away from the questions to other matters, we need not be anxious about it. And if you truly don't want to meet in your home, we can meet for coffee or at a restaurant.

Jesus does not care for his flock generally. He loves every single believer personally, and rejoices over each one's salvation individually (Luke 15:3-5). Likewise, I will be calling members in the months to come about visiting with all of you individually outside of the church building. I'm looking forward to this change!

In Christ,

Pastor Barkley