



Ascension Lutheran Church

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Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 6, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Grace and peace to you, from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I wish to inform you that I have received and accepted a Call from the Church Council of our Synod to serve as Assistant to the Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories beginning August 1, 2010.

It was my desire to be with you this morning and to read this letter personally, however, responsibilities and commitments at the Synod Convention in Camrose mean that I am not with you. Thank-you to our Council Chair, Stephen Wildfang, for sharing this correspondence with you.

Because of the nature of this call necessarily coinciding with the re-election of Ron Mayan as Bishop of our Synod at the Synod Convention these past days in Camrose, the interview process, invitation to serve and conversation around this call have been confidential. Through this letter then, you are among the first to be made aware of my acceptance of this call. The Synod and wider church will be informed through correspondence from Bishop Mayan.

The process and decision to accept this call have been a long and challenging one filled with joy, fear, anticipation, sorrow and excitement. And after much prayer, evaluation, reflection and consideration I sense the consistent and gentle call of the Holy Spirit to bring closure to ministry with and among you and to begin ministry as Assistant to the Bishop.

I anticipate that my final day and Sunday with you will be June 27, 2010. The remaining days of June and the month of July will consist of holiday time and several days of continuing education. As I mentioned previously the position of Assistant to the Bishop will begin August 1, 2010 with a service of installation to take place at a later date.

I look forward to continued ministry with you through the “Journey to Colombia 2011.” I will continue to work with you to prepare for the journey which I will participate in as facilitator as planned, however, I will also journey to Colombia with several responsibilities given me by our Synodical Bishop.

My heart aches to share with you – and particularly the youth – that I will be unable to participate in the August Canadian and Anglican Lutheran Youth Gathering in London. I have approached a member of Ascension who has agreed to take my place along with Cathy as Home Team Leader from Ascension. More information will be shared in this regards at a later date.

I covet your prayers in these next days and weeks, and as I begin to serve in this new ministry.

My prayers will continue to be with you, rejoicing in the blessings God has given these past years and especially in the blessing you have each been to me, Cathy, and our family.

My prayers will also be with you as you seek the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit in calling your next Pastor.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Shalom,

Pastor Larry Kochendorfer

cc.: Bishop Ron Mayan