



COME & SEE

Central Lutheran Church in Downtown Minneapolis

Celebrating, Discovering, and Sharing the Love of Christ

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centralmpls.org

Life Together

Reflections about life at Central

Installation Weekend



It is a privilege and an honor to be installed as one of your pastors. This service marks a new beginning for us as a congregation and pastor. It is wonderful that we have had a few weekends to begin our relationship.

At the Installation, our Bishop will ask me some questions, and then will ask some questions of you as the assembly. It is worth pausing for a moment to consider these questions and how they shape what we are called to be about as congregation and called pastor.

The first question I will be asked will be about this call. Essentially, am I confident that your call as a congregation is God's call at work through our Church? I am confident that your call is God's call. In the face of the opportunities and challenges that await us, it will be this call that will sustain all of us.

The second question will be about preaching and teaching. That is my opportunity to affirm that my life as a preacher and teacher is rooted in scripture, and within the gift of our Lutheran DNA.

The third question will be more personal than public. The Bishop will ask about my diligence in the study of scripture and the use of the means of grace, not for their sake alone but as they inform the way I love, serve and pray for you. In our context, the last part of this question is essential: will I lead by my own example in faithful service and holy living? Without holy living, faithful service is not possible. The most outstanding sermon is not authentic if the human being who preaches does not honor boundaries. It may be that the best gifts I will continually give to Central Lutheran are the life-giving boundaries and authentic life that I am called to tend.

Finally, the Bishop will ask about faithful witness, so that all will know God's love in what I do. This is the promise of all the baptized; it is my promise as well. It is not ordination that sets me free, but the water and the Word in my baptism where I was joined to the death and new life of Jesus Christ.

Then you all will get to respond. First, the Bishop will ask if you will receive me as a messenger of Jesus Christ, and will regard me as a servant of Christ and steward of the mysteries of God. It is an important moment for you. After all that you have been through, will you let me be one of your pastors?

Second, the Bishop will ask if you will pray, help and honor me, as well as strive to live together in peace and unity. This does not mean we will always agree; what fun would that be, after all! It does mean that we will enjoy the journey as we listen for God's call.

The Bishop will bless me, the symbols of the pastoral office will be presented, and then we'll be off on our adventure of grace, gratitude, mercy, faith and love. For this adventure with you, I give thanks to God in Jesus Christ.

*Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Peter*