

January 4, 2010



Dear Christ Church family,

On Sunday, January 31, at 11:45 a.m., Christ Church will hold its Annual Meeting in our Worship Center. Our agenda will include a resolution to terminate the relationship between Christ Lutheran Church (still our legal name) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The specific wording of this resolution and the full meeting agenda will be sent to your home in a separate mailing. If this decision is in the affirmative, as recommended by our Staff and Church Council, there will be a period of consultation with the E.L.C.A. followed by a ratifying vote at least 90 days after the first vote. We are currently exploring our options in terms of affiliating with another Lutheran body that is in keeping with the core values of our Lutheran spiritual heritage and our mission and vision as a congregation.

I spelled-out the issues that led to this recommendation in my previous letter to our Christ Church family in August of 2009. Rather than try to recap them here, I encourage you to read this letter again at [christchurchotsego.org](http://christchurchotsego.org)

To prepare for this important decision at our Annual Meeting, we will hold two Open Forums. The first will be held this coming Monday night, January 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Christ Church Worship Center. The second will be on Thursday night, January 21, also at 7:00 p.m. in the Christ Church Worship Center. Child-care will be provided in our Nursery for infants and toddlers.

At the January 11 forum, we will welcome Pastor Dave Glesne, Senior Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran in Fridley, MN. Pastor Dave has written an excellent book called "Understanding Homosexuality" that we have had available at the Welcome Desk. It provides a solid biblical foundation regarding the issue of homosexuality and the Christian Church. More copies of the book will be available that night.

Two of Pastor Dave Glesne's messages to his congregation, "Loving Your Neighbor: What does love mean?" and "Living By What Authority?" are also available at the Christ Church website. They provide a very helpful foundation for the deeper issues involved in our relationship with the E.L.C.A. I encourage you to read them before the Open Forum on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

At the heart of the recommendation that we leave the E.L.C.A. is concern for the authority of the Scriptures. Right now, we are sharing in a 3-part sermon series at Christ Church on these very issues. If you missed my January 3<sup>rd</sup> message, you can listen at our website. Next Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, I will explore more fully the issue of "scripture and interpretation" in light of these recent decisions by the E.L.C.A. I hope that you will make it a point to attend worship at either 9:00 or 10:30 a.m.

But especially, I encourage you to read the scriptures for yourselves. The New Testament passages that mention homosexuality are Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, and 1 Timothy 1:8-11. The Old Testament passages that mention homosexuality are Genesis 19:1-26, Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, and Judges 19:16-30.

We continue to trust in God's Word, the love of Jesus and the counsel of the Holy Spirit as we move forward with this process. Thank you for your participation in the opportunities highlighted above.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Greg Pagh". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Pastor Greg Pagh



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