

## ***Proclaiming and Practicing the Love of Christ***

Filling Our Pastoral Vacancy  
February 24, 2018

Fellow Members of St. John,

Given the fact that Pastor Ratcliffe has accepted a Call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Perham, MN, we wish to update you on congregational plans for working through and filling our pastoral vacancy.

We give thanks to God for Pastor and Angie's seven years among us and pray for God's richest blessings on them as they move to Perham. PR has touched all our lives, and we will surely miss his matchless ministry style but will continue to Proclaim and Practice the Love of Christ as he moves on to another ministry position. We and the other lay leaders of St. John are always thankful for the many ways we are blessed as a congregation, and Pastor and Angie's ministry has been high on that list.

Pastor Ratcliffe will preach his final sermon at St. John on the weekend of April 7-8, and congregational leaders are planning a farewell event for the afternoon of Sunday, April 8. Please watch for announcements in the news bulletin as we prepare to gather for thanksgiving and farewell.

The Shepherding Staff is working on specific plans to cover Pastor Ratcliffe's ministry responsibilities as we move into a vacancy period starting April 9. The responsibilities that were taken care of by PR will be covered by members of the Pastoral Care Team, the ministry staff, lay leaders and volunteers, and perhaps some additional part-time pastoral help. We will do our best to make sure that the preaching, teaching, counseling, and leadership duties are covered to the best of our abilities.

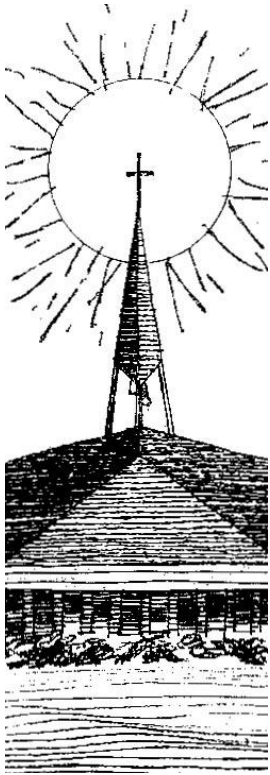
In consultation with Courtney Meyer, chair of the Board of Elders, we have directed the Personnel Committee to begin the process of calling a new Associate Pastor for St. John. A Call Committee will soon be formed, and nominations for candidates are open as of today.

We do not know how long our vacancy will last, but we trust that God will send us the pastor he wants to serve at St. John, and in His own time. Looking ahead toward this fall, Pastor Bruick's sabbatical leave will commence on September 16, and we plan to proceed as scheduled whether our vacancy has been filled by that time or not. We are confident that we will be able to make contingency plans to continue to meet our congregation's ministry needs in either case.

Please pray for God's guidance and blessing on this process. We thank you for your support and welcome your feedback.

In Christ,

Brady Johnson, Congregational Chair  
Brent Royuk, Congregational Vice-Chair



### **The Ministry of St. John Lutheran**

[www.stjohnseward.org](http://www.stjohnseward.org)

#### **Church**

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Seward, NE 68434  
402-643-2983

#### **School**

877 N Columbia AVE  
Seward, NE 68434  
402-643-4535

#### **Child Development Center**

1053 N Columbia AVE  
Seward, NE 68434  
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