



Transitions, Anxieties, and You!

As we ease into our new reality at Bethel – a life without Pastor Carl – many of us might be experiencing moments of anxiety, sadness, and maybe even a bit of excited anticipation about what the future holds for us! Believe me, I'm feeling all those feelings too! At the same time, I'm confident in a few things. I trust in Jesus' promise to always be with us. I believe that we, the current Bethel community, have all the skills, talents, and gifts we need to successfully navigate the transition. I know that the Servant Team is working hard with the Synod to provide the support we need.

Here's what you can expect in the weeks and months ahead. We will have a variety of pastors sharing their gifts and leading us in worship each Sunday until about mid-February. If all goes as planned, we will have an Intentional Interim Pastor with us in mid-February who will be with us until we call and install a new pastor. The Interim will be our pastor and work with the Servant Team focusing on areas determined to be necessary for the life of the congregation and a healthy transition. Current ministry teams will continue to provide support for the life of Bethel as well. To help all of us stay "in the loop" we will have a monthly Coffee Hour Extraordinaire starting January 28th – time to just chat, share ideas and updates, and lend support to each other and the congregation.

A successful interim and transition time is the responsibility of all of us. We each have a part. This is a time for us to be patient with each other as well as being open to new ways of being a part of Bethel. I encourage you to participate faithfully and often in worship; attend and help with fellowship opportunities; listen for new ways to volunteer your time, talents, and treasures; and above all, keep Bethel and those working directly with the transition in your prayers.

On behalf of the Servant Team, I invite you to step into 2018 knowing that God is already there and waiting to help on this journey.

Lisa Herlocker, Director of Discipleship & Faith Formation