Pastor’s Column May 21, 2018

Pastor Jacob Sherry, St. John Palmer.

The Call

I have recently received a call to Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy in Champaign, Illinois. Did I ask for the call? No. Did I seek the call? No. Did the call come from God? Yes and that’s why I am taking the time to go visit the congregation. A call can be a confusing thing in the church, but the reality is that at this present moment I have two distinct calls to serve. God is calling me to St. John Lutheran in Palmer and God is also calling me to Friendship in Champaign. One of these calls will be declined.

What this means is that someone is going to be disappointed. There’s no way around it. I can’t possibly serve two congregations in two different states and therefore I will have to determine through prayer where God is calling me. The reality is that the members of Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy have prayed for a man to serve their congregation and that has led them to me. They need a pastor, just as any congregation does. So the responsibility is for me to call upon God to lead me in the direction he wants me to go.

The only way for me to serve God in any calling, whether it be as a father, as a husband, as a pastor, or any other vocation that God has called me to, is to trust in Him. He leads, and I follow. He led me to Texas, He led me to Indiana, He led me to Kansas, and I will go wherever He calls me. During this time of deliberation I ask that you pray for my wife and for the members of St. John and Friendship. And in anything in your life, when you have to make difficult decisions for your job, your family, your health, or really anything important I ask that you remember these words from Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

The truth is I am very blessed to serve at St. John and as I said earlier I’m not trying to leave this calling in any way. But I have to be faithful to God when it comes to The Call.