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June 21, 2023

Dear Hawley Lutheran Church Family,

The past three years have been an exciting time for Hawley Lutheran Church. Our congregation, Vision Council and staff have moved with intention and purpose as we align our mission and vision to seek Jesus and best serve our community. From our RiseUp Team to increased involvement in Kids and Teen Ministry, the Hartford property purchase to restructuring Ministry Teams and ministry areas, there is no doubt that God is on the move at Hawley Lutheran. We look forward to the ways we will continue to know, grow and go in faith, as we welcome all people to lifelong faith in Jesus Christ.

One area we have committed to addressing is Pastoral Care. As you know, Pastor Darwin Stahl came back on staff in June 2022 in the capacity of Interim Care Pastor. At that time, Pastor Darwin was given a specific task: to assess Pastoral Care needs and provide insight, vision and a recommendation for the future. Pastor Darwin committed himself to this task and worked diligently to help us identify our needs. Working with Pastor Andrea and members of our Befrienders Ministry, the recommendation has been made to move forward in calling an Associate/Assistant Pastor. The Vision Council accepted his recommendation and voted in May to begin the process.

Next Steps:

Create a Call Team:

The Vision Council has identified members of the congregation who are specifically invested in Pastoral Care and Pastoral Health. Our goal is to have this team in place by the end of June.

Development and Approval of Pastoral Profile:

After the Call Team is in place, they will work alongside Pastor Darwin, Pastor Andrea and the Personnel Team to prayerfully create a pastoral profile that serves the current and future needs of Hawley Lutheran Church. Our desire is to be clear and specific as we develop this profile. Once this Pastoral Profile is approved, we will begin the process of call process: identification and screening of candidates, interviews, visits and a call.

Our goal is to find a candidate that compliments Pastor Andrea's gifts and passions, as well as those on our team. Our prayer is a candidate that is passionate about Pastoral Care, wants to "*compliment*" the team God has in place already, has a heart for Jesus and longs to see Hawley Lutheran live out its mission in mighty ways.

A Note on Timing and Process:

It is important to keep in mind that we are not looking for a candidate, we're waiting on God to reveal the *right* candidate. We believe God is *already* working on the heart of someone called to be a part of this ministry. We believe God is *already* nudging someone to a new thing, a new call, a new opportunity to serve for God's glory. We also know giving God praise for what he might do next means trusting in *his* timing. And so, we humbly request that all members of our family be in prayer: for patience, for the call process, for the person God is preparing to join our ministry team, congregation and community, and for the financial needs related to bringing on a second pastor.

If you have any questions about the recommendation process, do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Darwin. If you have questions about the broader vision for our staffing and this specific role, do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Andrea. We would love to hear from you and share how we believe God is moving! God is up to big things at Hawley Lutheran Church. God is at work, on the move in so many ways. We are excited for where God is leading us, for such a time as this.

Pastor Andrea Paulson

Pastor Darwin Stahl

KNOW. GROW. GO.
WE ARE A CHURCH COMMITTED TO WELCOMING ALL PEOPLE TO LIFELONG FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.