



Trinity Lutheran Church

Real People, Real Faith, Real Life

935 West Bigelow Avenue, Findlay OH 45840

Phone: 419-422-2641

Fax: 419-423-7115

E-mail: office@trinityfindlay.org

RE: Congregational Meeting for Pastor Vote - June 18, after 9:30 AM Service

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church Member,

It is with great excitement that the Church Council will present for call, on Sunday, June 18, 2017 after the 9:30 AM service, Pastor Jeffrey Pedersen of Lutheran Church of Peace in Platteville, WI. Below you will find important background information regarding Pastor Jeff as well as links to a TV interview and a sample sermon. We recommend that you review this information prior to the congregational meeting on Sunday, June 18, immediately following the 9:30 AM service. It is important that you attend so that we have a quorum and your voice is heard in determining our next pastor.

Biographical information:

- Pastor Jeffrey Pedersen received his Bachelor of Arts at Concordia in 1983
- Master of Divinity at Northwest Theological Seminary in Minnesota in 1988
- Doctor of Ministry at Colorado Theological Seminary in Colorado in 2006
- He has been a pastor for 28 years at three congregations
- Pastor Jeff has been at his current congregation since 2003
- His current congregation regularly worships 245 people per week
- He has a passion for preaching
- Loves teaching bible study and confirmation
- Strong desire to do outreach ministry
 - Mission trips (some with youth and some with adults and some with both)
 - Missouri, Montana, S. Carolina, New York City, Gulf Coast, South Sudan, Russia and Palestine.
 - Started a homeless shelter in his church
- Has written eight books from youth, to confirmation, to marriage, the Holy Spirit, and other great topics. The titles: Endless Running, River Reflections, Cross-winter Skiing, Christmas Ponderings, A Solvang Christmas Tale, A Basic Christian Theology, The Tie that Binds, and God is Spirit.
- Hosts two TV shows on local Christian TV station
- Athlete in high school
- Has run 27 marathons including three in Boston
- Enjoys canoeing/kayaking/cross country skiing/biking/snowmobiling/model railroading
 - These experiences provide inspiration for his books
- 2008 Citizen of the Year

Key Takeaways from his Profile that provide some additional insight:

In his own words, Pastor Pedersen said, "I can do ministry in a variety of settings, but these maybe would be the best":

1. A setting where I can focus a lot of my time on preaching and teaching the Word of God. Also, provide programs and resources that can help people to grow in their faith, as they may face many of life's challenges.
2. A setting where people are excited about evangelism and outreach. This would also include doing local mission work, as well as support regional and international mission work.
3. A setting where I can live out my passions for life. I enjoy everything from surfing to snowmobiling. I enjoy canoeing and kayaking, running, and model railroading.
4. I enjoy ministry together. I like to listen to members and get a sense of what their concerns, needs, and ministry desires area. To develop a ministry that melds into the context of the people and their community.

Top 10 Survey responses and the Call Committee's thoughts on how Pastor Pedersen fits into these areas (links to sermon and interview are embedded):

1. Actively listens to others (94%)
 - a. He spends a lot of this time visiting the sick in the hospital, bringing Holy Communion to the home-bound members and counseling people. He calls on new visitors within one week to introduce himself, and helps them to make a connection with the congregation.
2. Makes everyone feel welcome and comfortable in church (93%)
 - a. We met with him three times, and when you meet with him he is warm and easy to talk to.
3. Shows empathy and concern for others (89%)
 - a. He helped to build an orphanage in Sudan and regularly takes mission trips, including a recent trip to Russia. He also provides local outreach ministry, such as starting up a homeless shelter in his church.
4. Clearly communicates information to others verbally (88%)
 - a. This is best illustrated in his TV interview that you will receive the link to. He can clear and concisely answer the questions given to him.

Interview Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT2id1nM650>

5. Develops spiritually meaningful sermons (83%)
 - a. If you would like to see a sample sermon, please watch the link provided to you. It is deeply steeped in Lutheran theology. Even though you may not see it in the link sent to you, multiple references indicated that he shares stories, personal insight, and keeps you pondering God's will for you during the week. His sermons are not just for Sunday morning, but are built to equip each one of us for life throughout the week.

Sermon Video

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21Ajo%5FSYk%5FaMy39go&cid=6E5DB788C5F461E0&id=6E5DB788C5F461E0%21149&parId=root&o=OneUp>

6. Makes time for his family (83%)
 - a. Pastor Jeff's passion for ministry and God's will is his life. We do not believe we could find another person who would devote so much time to serving God and our congregation and that does so freely and willingly. His wife and two grown daughters are very important to him, despite the fact that his two daughters live in different parts of the country.
7. Allows time for personal reflection, spiritual growth, physical health, and rest (80%)
 - a. Athlete – thinks while he runs, likes the outdoors, and God's will is constantly on his mind.
8. Provides support and counseling for people experiencing problems or crises (ex: loss, difficult decisions, illness) (78%)
 - a. Pastor Jeff is an emphatic listener and has written eight books to help people, including his book on marriage is called *The Tie That Binds*, a children's book, a book on the Holy Spirit, and a confirmation curriculum. He visits the sick, homebound, and spends a lot of time in the community. Establishes a spiritual community setting (74%)
 - b. His whole life is a spiritual community setting. He leads by example with Bible studies and mission work locally and internationally.
9. Encourages the development of faith in others regardless of age (71%)
 - a. He runs afterschool programs, confirmation classes with a curriculum that he wrote, youth and adult mission trips, and three congregational members were inspired to attend seminary.

For questions, comments or concerns please contact:

Jason Broerman 419-889-7997 or jmbroerman@marathonpetroleum.com

Doug McKinniss 419-348-0466 or doug.mckinniss@gmail.com

Thanks for all the Prayers, Support and Encouragement and may the Holy Spirit move you as it has moved the Call Committee and Church Council to present this call to you.

God's Blessings

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug McKinniss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Council President