

From the Desk of Pastor Jim:



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus – the most wonderful Savior anyone could ever ask for.

By now, you may already have heard, but just in case you have not, let me announce that after prayerful consideration, I have accepted the Call as Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church. I am both excited and hopeful that God would bless our working together, that the Kingdom of God would grow in our midst, and that God would receive all the glory and honor.

I shared in this past Sunday service (June 19<sup>th</sup>) my Pastoral theme or really chant. It goes like this:

***“What is my job as your Pastor?”***

***Answer: To love the people of St. John!***

***“What is your job as people of St. John?”***

***Answer: To love each other as Jesus loved us!***

If we keep this dual job description in our minds and hearts in all our dealings together, it can and will make a world of difference in how we work together and what can be accomplished for enlarging the Kingdom of God in this place.

There will be times when as your Pastor, I will say or do things that you may not like. But if you are convinced without a doubt that I love you and desire the best for you, you will be able to accept those times. That’s how we accept some of Jesus’ deals with us, don’t we? We are convinced beyond a shadow of doubt that He does love us and desires the best for us. In everyone’s life there are times and events that we don’t understand and so we may be tempted to question His love for us. That’s when our faith rises mightily to the occasion. We believe that Jesus loves us no matter what comes in life. Say it with me, “I believe that Jesus loves me no matter what comes in life.” Now say it like you really mean it and louder too!

Now, I am not perfect and nor can I love perfectly like Jesus does. But I promise you as your new Pastor, I will, to be best of my abilities and by the power of the Holy Spirit, love the people of St. John. Simply put, that’s my job from God. Your job is to love each other as Jesus loved us. You will not be able to love perfectly either. That’s why both your Pastor and all St. John people must continually stand before the Cross of Jesus Christ, seeking His forgiveness and renewed strength to love each other as He has loved us.

Jesus boiled down all the commandments into two: “Love God and Love each Other.” It doesn’t get any simpler or more difficult than that! God Bless us All!

Your Pastor Jim

A graphic logo featuring a stylized heart with a thick, black, brush-stroke-like line arching over it from the left. Below the heart, the text "Love as" is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font. Below that, the words "Jesus loves" are written in a large, elegant, black, cursive script font.

Love as  
*Jesus loves*