

**Pastor's Message
July Newsletter**

This summer has been a busy and hopeful time as I have met with many pastors in our conference and in our synod to discuss important matters for all our congregations.

The focus of our discussions has been the need to locate pastors to serve congregations in our Synod, the lives—present and future—of our congregations and to support both our own ministries as pastors and all the congregations that we serve.

As one way to support our congregations in Neighbors in Christ Parish and those in Fields of Grace Parish (Bernadotte, Lafayette and Swan Lake), Interim Pastor Mike Zaske of FOG and I plan to host a meeting this month with a single member from each of their three congregations and a single member from each of our three congregations. The three persons from Neighbors in Christ will come from our Ministry Site Profile and Call Committee. During and after a meal, we will discuss these topics:

- How are things in your congregation now?
- What are your hopes and dreams for the future?
- What do you believe may help those hopes and dreams come about?
- What challenges are in the way of their coming about?

In the months to come, I anticipate that not only I, as your interim pastor, but also both the leadership of Neighbors in Christ and the congregations of Neighbors in Christ will experience busy and hopeful times as pray and plan for the lives—present and future of Augustana Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church, and Saint John the Baptist Lutheran Church.

May God bless us in our ministry and in our work.

Pastor Leonard Hummel