



October 29, 2021

A Letter from the President of the Church Council

As the leadership for our congregation works on priority items, the item at the top of our list is working towards bringing a third pastor to our pastoral team. Before I get into details I want to share great appreciation and thanks to Pastor John, Pastor Ladd and our staff who have diligently kept our mission and ministry at work.

As a bit of background information, since the change to staffing with Pastor Kris departing, Pastor John and Pastor Ladd, along with council representatives, have been working to find a bridge pastor. We have interviewed a few candidates and reached out to the synod for suggestions. During the discussion, Pastor John and Pastor Ladd came forward with a surprising, yet very exciting proposal to bring Pastor Kris back to the pastoral team as our bridge pastor.

After lengthy council discussion with input from Pastor Ladd and Pastor John, we invited Pastor Kris to join us at the council meeting. The purpose was to ask any questions that needed her input. We learned our pastors had stayed in touch and had worked through key changes that would improve communications, listening and relations. We also learned Pastor John proactively reached out to Pastor Kris to see if a full time position as a bridge pastor would work with a start date in December.

The process the council followed was to carefully listen to the proposal, ask questions to understand what led to the proposal, and learn what would be done differently to maintain effective pastoral leadership for our congregation.

The Great News

With that done, the council made a motion, voted, and had **unanimous** support to have Pastor Kris start working with us again on December 6, 2021.

Everyone on the council was glad we had an opportunity to seek and navigate this proposal. In addition, we were glad our pastors maintained strong relationships to navigate the details to make this proposal work. The council has a tremendous amount of confidence in all of our pastors and their ability to support our mission and ministry!

Please join me in welcoming Pastor Kris and supporting all of our Pastors and staff.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Church Council.

Jeff Maki
Bethel Lutheran Church Council President