

Seeking the Shepherd

C O N C O R D I A L U T H E R A N C H U R C H , F O R T W A Y N E

C O N G R E G A T I O N A L F O R U M J A N . 2 2

The entire church body is invited to participate in the congregational forum this Sunday. It will be held in the sanctuary shortly following the 10:30am worship service.

The forum will be led by the Senior Pastor Call Committee. The main purpose will be informing the congregation about the two candidates, then providing spiritual guidance so members can prayerfully consider their selection.

The presentation will first focus on the steps that guided the Calling proc-

ess. After this, the committee will inform about both candidates. Aside from a picture and brief biography, there will be a list of each man's ministerial strengths and passions. Clips of their Skype interviews will be shared (Skype is a video conferencing program that can be recorded. This allowed Pastor May to be interviewed from his home in Indianapolis).

A time for questions and answers from the floor about the process and the men involved follows.

The two pastors involved the final

portion of the process are Pastor Doug Croucher of Concordia, and Pastor Ron May of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church of Indianapolis (Avon), Indiana. Please pray for them and the congregations over the next week, and pray that God's will be done.

Note: To learn more about Pastor Ron May, you may view his church's website and listen to his sermons by visiting www.ourshepherd.org. Pastor Doug Croucher's sermons can also be heard online by visiting www.concordiachurch.org.

P R A Y E R V I G I L S U N D A Y E V E N I N G

Concordia members and friends are also invited to attend our Prayer Vigil on Sunday evening from 6-9pm. It will be held in the sanctuary.

How much time one wishes to pray is up to them. Some people may stay for a few moments, and some may choose to stay longer.

This opportunity is provided as we face the importance of our Senior Pastor Call. We know, through the Scriptures and our doctrinal practice, that God has already chosen the man for the position. Through prayer, we wish to discern God's will for Concordia, and submit to God's will in this process.

People are invited to bring this newsletter in the church with them, if they are in need of suggestions for resources in prayer:

1) The Holy Bible

- *Jeremiah 3:15*
- *Acts 20:28*
- *Ephesians 4:11-12*
- *1 Corinthians 4:1-2*

2) Lutheran Service Book

Pages 282 through 298 — A grouping of prayer services are included here, such as Responsive Prayers 1 & 2, The Litany, and prayers of confession.

The hymns portion has poetic words of guidance and comfort. For example:

- 589: *Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens*
- 850: *God of Grace and God of Glory*
- 497: *Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord*
- 857: *Lord, Help Us Walk the Servant Way*
- 649: *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*
- 586: *Preach You the Word, and plant it home*

3) Please pray for:

- *God to hear our confessions and forgive our sins, thanks for cleaning our hearts through the Baptismal waters, and for him to hear our prayers.*
- *Wisdom and discernment as we prepare to choose next Sunday.*
- *Thanks for leading Concordia through this time of transition, and for making His will become apparent to us*
- *Pastor Ron May, his wife and children, and Our Shepherd Lutheran Church*
- *Pastor Doug Croucher, his wife and children, and Concordia Lutheran Church*
- *Harmony, that Concordia congregation may fully unite its hearts together through His Holy Spirit.*

This publication is produced by the Senior Pastor Call Committee of Concordia Lutheran Church, 4245 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46815.

**SENIOR PASTORAL CALL CANDIDATES:
PASTOR DOUGLAS E. CROUCHER**

Pastor Doug Croucher has been associate pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church for seven years.

He is a native of Ohio, and a graduate of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Pastor Croucher's 1st Call was as a Lutheran school teacher and Director of Christian Education at St. John Lutheran Church of Oxnard, California. He also served as a teacher/DCE at Bethlehem

Lutheran Church of Lakewood, Colorado.

In 1998, he started courses at Concordia Theological Seminary of Fort Wayne. While studying for the pastorate, he served as director of youth at Concordia, Fort Wayne.

His first pastoral Call (after graduating from the Seminary in 2002, was to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Newark, Ohio.



He accepted a divine Call as assistant pastor to Concordia in Nov. 2004.

PASTOR RONALD P. MAY

Pastor Ron May has been senior pastor of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Indianapolis (Avon), Indiana, for twelve years.

He is a native of Erie, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In 1989, he graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary of Fort Wayne.

Pastor May's 1st divine Call was to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Walker, Min-

nesota. He first served as assistant pastor, then as associate pastor, at St. John Lutheran Church of Indianapolis.

In August 1999, Pastor May accepted the divine Call to serve as Senior Pastor of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church of Indianapolis (Avon), Indiana.

He has also been a chaplain in the United States Navy reserves since 1991.



Note: On Sunday, January 15, our 3rd candidate withdrew his name from our process. He prayerfully decided that God led him to remain at his current ministry. We are thankful that God made his Calling clear for him and his congregation!

D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R

Sunday, January 22, shortly after the 10:30am worship service: Congregational Forum. The SPCC will share information about both

candidates (we hope to include video clips from their final interviews). There will also be a question-and-answer forum. This will be held in the sanctuary.

Sunday, January 22, 6-9pm: Prayer Vigil in the Concordia sanctuary. People are invited to pray for God's guidance and will in naming our new Senior Pastor.

Sunday, January 29, shortly after the 10:30am worship service: Voters' Meeting to select the new Senior Pastor of Concordia (sanctuary).