

Hope Lutheran Church

Updated Information for Voters

A special meeting of the Hope Lutheran Church voters will be held on August 18, 2024, at approximately 10:45 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review the recommendations from the Call Committee for the Headmaster and Associate Pastor position and to vote whether to issue a formal Call if desired by the voters.

Information regarding each of the potential candidates is in a binder that is in the church office. Please feel free to stop by to review the information. The binder will remain in the office at all times.

As this is a special meeting, the only items of business are those related to calling a Headmaster and Associate Pastor, including:

- Opening prayer.
- Vote on applications for voting membership.
- Review the Call Committee's slate of candidates consisting of Rev. Stephen Kieser, Rev. Daniel Olson, and Rev. Jeremy Swem.
- The voters shall then adopt a list of candidates (as per Bylaws Article III, Section 2, Paragraph 2, Sentence 2).
- Motion and vote. (Bylaws Article III, Section 2, Paragraph 2, Sentence 3: "...the voters shall elect one of the proposed candidates by ballot and 2/3 vote.")
- If the vote is favorable, increase Hope Church and School budgets, contingent upon acceptance of the Call.
- The president will promptly notify the candidate of the Call by telephone.
- Closing prayer.

Potential Candidates
For
Headmaster/Associate Pastor

Rev. Stephen Kieser, MDiv, age ~54. Married to Julia and they have 7 children.

Plano, TX Faith Lutheran Church, August 2014 – present.

Concordia-River Forest Pre-Seminary MA 2001

Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne (alternate route) Seminary Degree/ MA 2006

Rev. Kieser is a skilled teacher with both classroom experience and experience as Headmaster at the school where he serves. He enjoys preaching and teaching. He also enjoys serving both children and adults. Visitation and care ministry are strong suits. He is very traditional and has a caring heart for God's people. He also currently serves as president/chairman of the board of the Consortium for Classical and Lutheran Education,

Rev. Daniel Olson, MDiv, age ~55. Married to Katie and they have 5 grown children.

Luxemburg, WI St. Paul Lutheran Church, July 2014 – present.

Concordia, WI Pre-Seminary BA 1991

Concordia, Ft. Wayne Seminary Degree/ M.Div. 1995

Concordia, Ft. Wayne, STM (Master of Sacred Ministry), 2002

Concordia, St. Louis, DMin, 2005

Rev. Olson is considered above average in preaching, leading worship, teaching, children's ministry, older adult ministry, family ministry, tact, patience, administration, leadership, people skills and visitation. He is also involved in evangelism, counseling, and working with the youth. He is traditional, but flexible in his liturgical attitude and a little to the right of evangelical in his theological position. He is respected by his peers. He strives to do the right thing and is concerned about people's spiritual growth. He is currently involved in a multi-staff ministry and works very closely with the faculty and staff members at the school.

Rev. Jeremy Swem, MDiv, age ~46. Married to Katherine and they have 4 children at home.

Grand Rapids, MI Our Savior Lutheran Church, July 2019 – present.

Concordia University, River Forest, IL Pre-Seminary BA 2000

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN Seminary Degree/ M.Div. 2011

Rev. Swem has been through Doxology pastoral care training. He is an outstanding, Gospel-centered, Christ-proclaiming Pastor, teacher, and principal. Always well prepared, thorough, insightful, and hard working. He is a bright articulate, and engaging confessor of the Truth - able to handle himself well in challenging circumstances. He is faithful to the Lutheran confessions and integrates the Catechism well into regular teaching and preaching in a winsome and well received way. He says that his days are filled with interactions with students, staff members, and congregants--each day with unique opportunities and challenges. He also leads daily devotions with the staff and preaches short sermons each day at the school.