***Call Committee*
Conversations with highly qualified candidates reflect *your* energy, commitment**

The members of your Call Committee are happy to report that they currently are in discernment with three outstanding pastoral candidates. The synod office forwarded information about the candidates one at a time over a period of about a month, so it also took about a month to conclude initial conversations with them. Follow-up conversations take place this month, and all 10 people on the Call Committee are optimistic and hopeful.

They also are grateful – grateful to be part of the congregation to which each of you contributes commitment and joy.

Yes, our congregation faces challenges and, in conversation with potential pastors, the Call Committee discusses them and the congregation’s response to them honestly. But we also talk about the sense of community and energy that are so evident when we gather.

Just a few examples of that energy and commitment include recent council actions and the work of the Building Use Task Force to address our building debt, a new welcoming committee that is looking at how to more intentionally extend hospitality to newcomers and to people who haven’t visited Immanuel yet, the moving Bach Cantata, the congregational life event featuring Scandinavian dancers, the intergenerational event when we came together to pack hundreds of sack lunches to help feed hungry clients at Metro Lutheran Ministry, compelling worship services, and the fact that young couples who visit our congregation often return again and again – it’s all good news for any pastoral candidate.

As conversations with potential pastors move forward, your Call Committee members must maintain confidentiality. But they welcome your questions, and extend their gratitude for the part you play in Immanuel’s joy and commitment, as well as for your encouragement, support and prayers as the call process continues.