

# BECOMING ALL SAINTS

All Saints Lutheran Church Congregation Development & Education

## Becoming All Saints - You. Me. Us.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE TRANSITION AND CALL COMMITTEES

"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2)

The process of transitioning to new pastoral leadership is a time of insecurity within a congregation. We love what was, but we have to let the past go. We have dreams for what we want in a pastor and a church community, but what if those aren't the things God wants for us? God doesn't tell us to build a community in serving ourselves, he calls us to build a community of serving others as the Body of Christ. If God is working to this end, it is no wonder He calls us to cooperate with Him. "Follow me," He says. "Imitate me." These solid directions from Christ aren't always as easy as they seem.

We found through our studies and interviews with All Saints members that we have some work to do. In our meetings, we were repeatedly discussing: How do we become more Christlike and continue developing our own faith? How do we become more welcoming to visitors and not just members? How do we revitalize our existing congregation? Will we grow? Or, will our church die off in a few years and close the doors?

We determined between the Transition committee and Call committee that sharing the information we learned with our congregation, the Body of Christ at All Saints, was not only important, but necessary. One of the definitions of "Become" from Merriam-Webster Dictionary is "to undergo change or development." We have to become new in Christ repeatedly in our faith journey as individual members. This continuous development of ourselves deepens our relationships with one another and reflects on our congregation and community.

We invite you to join us in daily prayer, scripture based lessons, and reflection as a member of Christ's body at All Saints. Over the next several months, we will share a faith based process that we have summarized from four books by Thom S. Rainer, a pastor and church consultant. He guides churches through self-assessment, adoption of healthy change, and revitalization of existing members. We believe this will help us as individual members and as a congregation as we work on "Becoming All Saints" for the future.

We don't know in any detail what All Saints will be like tomorrow, next month, or even a year from now, but we do know that we will be like Christ if we choose to be.

# Christ's Example of Humility

A READING FROM PHILLIPIANS 2: 1-11

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,[a] 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,[b] 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, [c] being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

think...

talk...

pray.



Think about the following questions and take some time for self reflection. Talk about them with friends, family, or another church member. Pray about the questions and the answers and use them to guide you through the week.

- How does All Saints fit in your life?
- Why do you believe God placed you in this church?
- Where do you find peace during times of transition?
- How can you use the scripture above to guide you in a life of humility and service to others?
- Do you pray daily? Why or why not?
- Is there a time of day you can set aside to pray specifically for All Saints and others in need?
- How can others pray for you? Ask someone to support you in their prayers and do the same in return.

## Committing to Powerful Prayer

**"I have yet to see a sustained church revitalization that was not under-girded by a powerful movement of prayer.**

**Please read that first sentence again.**

**It is categorical. It is imperative. It is a priority.**

**We have seen churches turn around for a brief season with a new methodology or a new emphasis. We have seen some churches reverse their negative trends briefly with a new pastor or dynamic staff member. But we have yet to see a sustained church revitalization that was not under-girded by a powerful movement of prayer."**

Excerpt from  
*Anatomy of a Revived Church*  
by Thom S. Rainer

### Lord, Teach Me To Pray

**Lord, teach me to pray. Teach me to pray consistently. Teach me to be a leader of prayer in my church. Teach me to keep passionate and believing prayer as the lifeblood of this church. Teach me to pray for your guidance and love in my life daily. Teach me to pray for others. Teach me, Lord, and help me give you the glory in all you do in my life every day.**

**Amen.**

# Powerful Persistent Prayer

"REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY CONTINUALLY, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN JESUS CHRIST."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

## Pray for Personal Reflection

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve others and praise you as part of this community in Christ. I ask you to be with us during this time of transition and guide our congregation in the way you see as best for us. Becoming new in you daily is something I desire and I ask you to give me an open heart and open mind as we take this journey together. Be with my church family and help us all to become of the same mind and love as you.

Jesus Christ is Lord and to you we give the Glory.

Amen.

## Pray for Local Churches

Lord God,

We pray for guidance for our local pastors and churches as they nurture Your congregation and seek to serve those around them. We pray congregations would welcome neighbors with open arms. We hope for residents to find a place to experience community with the body of Christ as they grow spiritually. Guide All Saints to embrace those seeking a relationship with you in the way they need, not in the way we want for them. Teach us to love as you do.

Amen.

## Pray for Our Community

Almighty God,

We ask for your presence in families in our community. We pray for strength and understanding in their marriages. We ask for loving, strong bonds between the children, teenagers, adults, and grandparents, and that each branch of the family would demonstrate love for one another. We ask for healthy, thriving relationships between neighbors. We pray different cultures will be able to understand and care for one another in our community, and that the diversity of your people will be celebrated by all neighbors, just as you affirm and love each one of us.

Amen.

## Pray for Our Schools

Father,

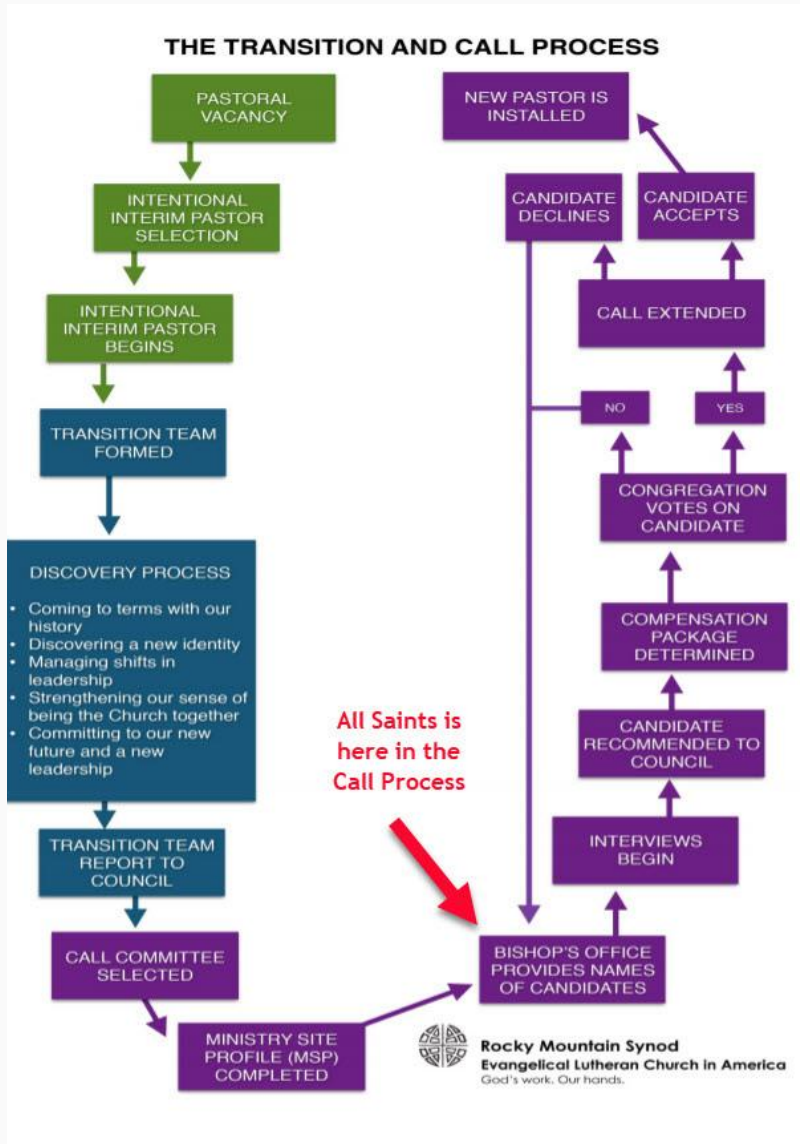
We pray for the children of our community. We pray for the teachers and local principals who devote their days to shepherding our students. Please be present as district and state leaders make impactful decisions on their physical, mental, and emotional health. We ask for guidance and patience for the parents in navigating new ways of learning and supporting their children. We pray that our schools will be a safe, positive community for our students.

Amen.

*God, we ask for a flourishing community, where neighbors learn to love each other and come to know Jesus. We pray that we can be good stewards of Your love to each one of our neighbors, our family members, and to ourselves. We ask that You help us to learn from our community, and it may be a place where all are welcomed. We ask for your presence in the streets and homes of our community, for your healing hand in our bodies and minds, and to teach us to love, serve, and forgive.*

*We need you. We love you. Be with us.*

*Amen.*



## Call Committee Update

All Saints Pastor Position is posted on the Rocky Mountain Synod Website.

The next step for the Call Committee is to prepare to interview candidates.

For the next three to five weeks, the Call Committee will be working on selecting interview questions for a preliminary interview and then follow-up interviews.

We are in a prayerful mode, asking God to guide us as we move forward in the Call Process.

Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers and ask God to send us the Holy Spirit to lead us to the best candidate for All Saints

### Pray for A New Pastor

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for being with us as we seek a new pastor for Your congregation. As we move through this process, we ask you to please be with the Call Committee as they prayerfully interview and recommend the best fitting candidate to spiritually guide us in serving others and praising you. Please be with each of us and help us all to become of the same mind and love as you. Jesus Christ is Lord and to you we give the Glory.

Amen.



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### Dig A Little Deeper

These are the four books by Thom S. Rainer we will be referencing:

*Autopsy of a Deceased Church*

*Anatomy Of A Revitalized Church*

*Becoming A Welcoming Church*

*I Am A Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference*

Click on each title above to be taken to a Smile.Amazon link for purchase. Don't forget to select All Saints to receive a charitable donation from your purchase.