

ESPERANZA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ray Road at Thunderhill

2601 E Thunderhill Road

Phoenix, AZ 85048-9517

480-759-1515 *phone*

480-759-1436 *fax*

www.myesperanza.org



December 20, 2023

People of Hope:

We have bittersweet news to share, both news of great joy and news of sadness.

First, from Pastor Sarah:

I give thanks to God for you, the Esperanza community! In the time I have served as your interim pastor, I have valued your trust and sharing, have appreciated your generosity, and have simply enjoyed all that we have shared together: weekly worship, the Easter parade and 4th of July festivities, Garden of Eatin' events and Oktoberfest, preschool chapel and Trivia Night, Thursday Matters and Sunday morning Bible study, home visits and hospital visits, and even all the meetings. 😊 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve alongside you, to lead you, and to love you. Doing so has been a true privilege. Now, the Holy Spirit has made a way for my future ministry. I have accepted a call to serve St. John's Lutheran Church of Cedarbrook outside of Aitkin, Minnesota beginning February 6. This means I will complete my ministry at Esperanza on Sunday, January 28.

However, the Holy Spirit is also at work at Esperanza! For just as Pastor Sarah completes her ministry at Esperanza, we have the opportunity to call our next pastor. After prayerful deliberation and the unanimous endorsement of the entire call committee and the council, we are presenting a pastoral candidate to the congregation for a vote to extend a call. Though we cannot yet release the name of the candidate, you will have the opportunity to meet the candidate at a Meet & Greet on Sunday, January 14th following the worship service. After this brief Meet & Greet period, approximately 45 minutes, the congregation will gather back in the sanctuary to vote on the candidate. All voting members of the congregation are encouraged to attend both the Meet & Greet session and the voting meeting. Per our constitution, no votes may be cast in absentia.

In addition to this meeting on January 14, we will still be holding a congregational meeting on January 28 to approve the 2024 Mission Plan and elect a nominating committee. Continued communications on both meetings (January 14th and January 28th) will take place over the next few weeks.

Please be in touch with either one of us regarding questions about this transition process. We trust the Holy Spirit is guiding us!

Trusting in the Spirit,


Pastor Sarah Stadler


Jim Gisselquist
Council President



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America