

Mission: We are called to be Christ's Light...in all things we are committed to seeking & following God's will and not our own. Believe It! Live It! Come to it!

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped make
Trick or Treating for the Hungry a success.
We took in 2.030 pounds of donations!!

Thanks for all who donated, collected, brought items to the church facility, and sorted. Thanks to Carrie, Colin and Lucas for checking expiration dates and weighing everything. It's a team effort.

This really helps the Food Pantry going into winter.



Set your clock back
1 hour before you go to bed
October 31st for the
time change November 1st.

Dear BLC Family,

By now you've all heard the news the Pastor Jim has resigned and will be relocating to IL. At first I was very sad to hear the news but understand the need to be closer to family. We were looking for a new Pastor when we found Pastor Jim and so I am hopeful that we will find our next Pastor who will be just as great for our church family as PJ was. I know right now that sounds like a stretch but I really am hopeful. The process to call a new Pastor is a lengthy one but rest assured that the council has already started the process. What we need right now from all of you is your patience as we go through this, but more importantly, your prayers. Prayers for Pastor Jim and Amy, prayers for each other and prayers that the Holy Spirit will send us the next pastor who is right for the ministry of BLC.

Here are the next steps:

- The council has already met with the Assistant to the Bishop to make our need for a Pastor known and the wheels are turning.
- Our only focus in the next two weeks is to make sure we send Pastor Jim, Amy, Anna, Peter and Liam off as Joyfully as we can. After all how can we possibly honor Pastor Jim's time here if we don't show him that we are JOYFUL and grateful for his time with us. We have a plan for that, more is to come.
- After that we will pretty much be on our own until December 1st. We have a plan for that.
- On or about December 1st we will get an interim Pastor who will be with us through the call process. There is no fast track for this process. After he or she is here for about six weeks we will vote on a call committee who will begin the process of figuring out exactly what we would like to see in our next Pastor and no, there is no Jim Hearne clone out there. I already checked.
- The call committee's work will take some time and we won't have a new Pastor for nine months to a year so again, it's time for us all to step up and step in. We'll send out updates as we get them

Yours in Christ,

Jeff Ziegler,

BLC Council President

Dear BLC Family,

Some of the last words of Jesus in John's Gospel can bring us comfort and hope right now: "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you" (14:18). We are a Resurrection people. Death, sadness and loss are not the last words in our lives. Change is a part of life and we face it together trusting in Jesus who holds our future, lives and spirits in His hands!

Amy, the kids and I have been touched by the outpouring of well wishes, kind notes, waves from a distance...we've shared a tear or two with some and done some virtual air hugs. We are so appreciative of the surprise meal train (*Teresa and Michelle are in trouble!*). I want to encourage you to welcome the interim pastor who will come to serve you. I hope and pray you will lift up and support the Church Council who is now tasked with moving BLC through this period of transition.



From day one you welcomed us. I could not think of a kinder and more gracious church family to have my first call. You helped teach me how to be a Lutheran pastor. For that, I am incredibly grateful to you. We have prayed together, laughed, cried, hoped, experienced highs and lows, but we have always done it with a sense of joy in Jesus Christ. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As I leave you, I return to the word that I have helped you find all along- *Joy*. It's important to be and see JOY even now. Here's my 4 simple ways for keeping a positive spirit:

1. **Surround yourself with positive people.** Don't hang around negativity.
2. **A smile is the way we send a blessing to each other.** It's free and simple.
3. **Look at people.** Get off the devices and social media. Really look at people.
4. **Learn to laugh at yourself.** Life is too short.

A Word from Amy...

It was exactly five years ago in November for Jim's second interview that I first stepped inside BLC. Jim and I both knew from that moment that Barneveld was the next part of our journey. We instantly felt welcomed and apart of the community. The past few years have been filled with many great memories. We are so grateful for our time here. We are

grateful for your patience as we figured out how to be a pastor's family, for teaching us what it means to live in a small town and for truly embracing our family with kindness and love. As we get ready to leave, these few lines from the song "For Good" from the musical *Wicked* comes to mind:

*It well may be
That we will never meet again
In this lifetime
So, let me say before we part
So much of me
Is made of what I learned from you
You'll be with me
Like a handprint on my heart
And now whatever way our stories end
I know you have rewritten mine
By being my friend*

If you're ever in the neighborhood of Wauconda, Illinois, please stop by and see us at Messiah Lutheran Church! We've done a lot together in a short amount of time, dear church. May the Spirit keep doing wonderful things here through all of you! Keep looking out for each other. And remember what we sing in Old Church Choir: "***There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!***"



With you a Christian. For you a Pastor.

PJ, Amy, Anna, Peter & Liam