



News for the Flock

"We are passionate about fostering faithfulness to Jesus along our individual and shared journeys of faith."

February 13, 2010

A Message from the SOTV Church Council Continuing Conversation on ELCA Ministry Policies

You may be wondering...

...Is Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church going to leave the ELCA? That's a fair question. Some Lutheran churches have made the decision to leave the ELCA. Although we don't know all the details, many of those churches left because of ELCA Ministry Policies on Sexuality which were adopted last August.

The SOTV Council understands the importance of carefully and prayerfully considering the questions and implications which the ELCA Ministry Policies have raised. However, our primary focus is to keep SOTV centered on the mission of the Gospel — in our own words, To Welcome All People to Gather, Grow, and Give in Christ.

The Council believes the best way to stay focused on our mission is to remain in the ELCA for the following reasons:

1. The ELCA offers many opportunities to expand SOTV's Christian impact nationally and globally through its programs and people. Our relationship with Tungamalenga was started and is strengthened through our ELCA affiliation.
2. SOTV decided to be a member of the ELCA many years ago, and has enjoyed many benefits of that affiliation. Those benefits need to be considered alongside any potential reasons to now leave the ELCA.
3. SOTV uses many foundational elements from the ELCA that define and enable SOTV to function. For example, SOTV calls its pastoral staff from the ELCA roster. Recreating new processes and underlying structure would be a huge undertaking, significantly detracting from our ability to focus on our mission.

The SOTV Council also believes it is important to study further the issues raised by the ELCA vote on Ministry Policies. Accordingly, after much prayer, listening to members of the congregation, and hours of discussion, the SOTV Council has chartered a study group to further examine the issues and the impact of the August vote. If you would like to discuss this further with a council member, please look for us in the narthex Sunday mornings between 9:30 and 11:00 AM.

On Behalf of the Church Council,

Kari Slotten, President



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Children, Youth & Family Ministries Office: 952-432-6385 • Church Office: 952-432-6351 • Website: www.sotv.org
Celebration (traditional worship) in the Sanctuary on Saturdays at 5:00 PM & Sundays at 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 AM
'The Table' (alternative worship) in the Great Hall on Sundays at 9:45 & 11:00 AM