

Good morning, I'm here on behalf of Church Council to give an update on Messiah's leadership transition.

A few weeks ago we promised a more detailed update regarding an interim pastor to assist Pastor Bridger as he continues to lead us in the months ahead. I'm happy to report that after working with the Northeast Ohio Synod we have identified and secured the services of Pastor Steve Krebill.

Pastor Krebill comes to Messiah with 44 years of service to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, including 36 years as an ordained pastor. He retired in 2021 after nearly 24 years of service at Bethel Lutheran Church in Middleburg Heights. Before that, he served for 12 years in his first call as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, Michigan.

A native of Jackson, Michigan, Pastor Steve earned a B.A. in elementary education from Olivet College, then graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament in 1986. Later, in 1996 he earned the Doctor Of Ministry degree from the Graduate Theological Foundation.

During his time in ministry, Pastor Steve has attended 10 ELCA National Youth Gatherings with young people from four congregations in two states. He also served as a volunteer chaplain and Bible discovery leader at Camp Mowana in Mansfield for 41 years.

Pastor Krebill will of course assist with the Word and Sacrament as you'd expect – preaching & teaching. He'll also assist our office staff, while helping with Middle School Faith Formation & pastoral care. Perhaps most importantly, one of his main duties is to further guide and prepare the congregation for the eventual call of a second pastor. In this way, he'll lead us in further discernment and consideration of Messiah's future mission and vision, amongst other topics.

Now, onto the specifics. Steve will be joining Messiah Labor Day weekend, Sept 4th. He'll preach on Sunday Sept, 11th and also teach First Communion classes as we return to our normal fall schedule. [Details of welcome reception?].

In closing, take heart that this important step of identifying an interim pastor is now complete. It is however just the first of many steps in the weeks ahead as we now begin our transition in earnest. Your church council remains committed to frequent and open communication and consider this yet another gentle reminder to watch our normal communication channels where you'll additional updates soon.

Thank You