



*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9)*

Believe - Think - Act - with Hope and Wonder

March 9, 2010

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church
c/o Neal Minich, Board of Elders Chairman
3425 Crescent Avenue
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our beautiful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through His Word, His people and His circumstances, God has spoken to me regarding the Divine Call issued by Holy Cross on February 21, 2010. It is with great joy and even greater reliance upon Him that I accept the Call to serve as your Senior Pastor.

As part of my personal devotions and prior to composing this letter, I read the last letter ever written by the Apostle Paul, his second letter to Timothy. There among so many memorable and helpful passages for a pastor are these wonderful words about a God “who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 1:9). What excites me most in anticipating pastoral ministry among you is to lift up that grace of Calvary’s cross and Easter’s empty tomb, as I learn and celebrate with you *from* what and *for* what our precious Lord has saved us. Please join me in praying that the words and actions of my ministry at Holy Cross indeed will proclaim the grace, mercy and peace of Jesus Christ.

It would be my hope to begin my pastoral ministry on April 1. I am ready and anxious to begin tackling the challenges and embracing the opportunities that face Holy Cross.

God’s continued and richest blessings be with each of you, your loved ones, and the wonderful work He has set before us that glorifies Him and serves others.

Your brother and Pastor-elect in Christ,

Thomas R. Ahlersmeyer

cc: President Daniel May (Indiana District – LCMS)
President David Maier (Michigan District – LCMS)
Rev. Dr. Lane Burgland (Circuit Counselor)
Paul Zilz (Congregation President)
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