



Message from Pastor Scottie

October 2012: New Beginnings

Greetings to our church family of Our Savior. As I write this first newsletter Karen and I are amidst boxes in final preparation to journey 3,000 miles to join you in the new adventure of embracing God's mission in the community of San Bernardino. We are excited and ready to join you. God's word through St. Paul comes to my mind about you.

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus....God is faithful ; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

(I Corinthians 1:4,9)

The mission begins immediately with four lines of effort presented to us both . First, on 29 Sept we host Pacifica Synod LIFT presenters and area ELCA church representatives to help us develop strategic plans for at least the next five years or more. Second, starting 1 Oct, Our Savior embarks on its annual stewardship review. This is a time for us to see how God has blessed us in the past and promises to continue to do so as we renew our pledges to tithe and beyond for his mission ahead. Third, we transition as pastor and congregation to form a team by getting to know each other. One of the ways I hope we do this is for me to visit each member and family in their homes including interviews of congregational leaders and church staff. Lastly, the nomination process begins for the next church council. It will be my recommendation to the nomination committee to have an open approach to this effort allowing everyone in the congregation to offer names for these positions up front to allow the greatest opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work among us on this important discernment of leadership for the congregation.

And speaking of leadership, I want to publically thank Pastor Tim for his diligent efforts in support of Our Savior during the last two years. I am privileged to follow this servant of God and build upon his transitional work. His trained eye and experience for assisting congregations during such challenging periods of discernment is a gift of the Holy Spirit that has enriched this congregation. May we all pray God's speed to him in his next ministry and return our thanks by advancing God's mission in San Bernardino.

It will be my approach to "slow down in order to speed up" initially. By this I mean to get to know you and give you every opportunity to get to know me so we can solidify our efforts to the year ahead and I can provide the best pastoral care possible for all. In advance, may I ask your forgiveness as I learn how things are done at Our Savior presently and ask repeatedly the question, "Why do we do this?". I mean no harm except to understand in order to better orient myself and begin providing spiritual leadership that is helpful.

Again, Karen and I thank you for your prayers and assistance during this change of leadership, establishing a new home, and new beginnings. Blessings to all and may God provide a quiet restful conclusion to your summer as we enter the fall season with renewed excitement to learn, grow, engage, and share with each other and with our community the Good News of Jesus and his love for all.

Pastor Scottie

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