



2020 MONTHLY DEVOTION

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Leadership Characteristic: CALLED

We are Called . . .

Acts 9:10–22

We are called . . . these words are included within the mission statement of First Lutheran Church in Tiffin, where I serve as pastor. They are bold words and it is a bold reminder of who we are as disciples and witnesses to Jesus Christ. Our full mission statement says:

*“God is among us!”
“We are called to go out, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile
and trust God for all that we need.”*

While these words serve as our own mission statement, they are a great reminder for all of us as leaders in Christ's church. First the proclamation, God is among us! Indeed, God is among us in bread and wine, in water and word, in worship, prayer, and individual devotion. Everywhere we go we can celebrate that God is among us! Then, filled with God's Spirit, the Calling.

Through worship you have likely heard the words, “As a Called and Ordained minister of the church of Christ . . .” (ELW, p 96 Confession and Forgives) and as we hear them we recognize that our Pastor is “Called”, but have you ever thought of yourself as “Called”? You should because you are. We all are! In the waters of baptism and on the day of our confirmation we are entrusted with or reaffirm these responsibilities:

*“To live among God's faithful people
To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper
To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
To serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and
To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”
(ELW, pg 236 Affirmation of Baptism)*

This is our Calling! This is our task! This is the means of discipleship! This is our challenge as leaders! Called as we are, we must remember that sometimes God's work takes us to unexpected places in the most uncertain of circumstances. The story of Ananias and Saul is a wonderful reminder. Do you think Ananias wanted to go to Damascus to

greet Saul? I think not! Do you think Saul was ready to be the voice of hope, forgiveness, and love in the name of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ? Again, I think not! Still, Called by God they were empowered to go out and share the gospel. As they did, they had to forgive, reconcile, and trust God for all that they needed. Filled with the Spirit, Ananias went, and Saul came to faith enabling the Good News to be spread through all of Paul's travels. How? Because they remembered first and foremost that God is among us!

Much like Ananas and Saul, together we pray that as leaders, we might be faithful enough to remember that we are all Called. Further pray that we would then be bold enough to go out into the world celebrating the Good News that "God is among us!"

Hymn Suggestion: We are Called (ELW # 720)