

November 22, 2021,

Thanksgiving Greetings Shalom Family and Friends:

I am writing to inform you of an important transition in our life together, and to assure you that the Revitalization Covenant and Anchor Church relationship with Calvary, including a smooth transition of pastoral leadership at Shalom, will continue as new and dynamic mission opportunities for all unfold.

The very short version of this exciting new development is this: Pr. Ken Greble has just accepted a new call and Pr. Dan Quagliata will be stepping in to serve with Shalom under our current Revitalization Covenant beginning December 12. Below is a longer narrative version with important details that I hope you will take a few minutes to read. Thank you in advance for your continued prayerful support of God's work through Shalom!

First, Pastor Ken Greble has received and accepted a call to serve as pastor of Grace Lutheran in Howell, and thus will be leaving Shalom and Calvary's staff. His last Sunday at Shalom will be December 5. While this transition may seem very quick, the timing will allow Pr. Ken to be in place at Grace before Christmas Eve, something both the Synod and congregation strongly desired.

Even though Ken was not looking to leave ministry with us, he has faithfully and continually remained open to the Holy Spirit and discerning next steps in ministry at this early point in his career. Ken has served on Calvary's staff for over 5 years, first as an intern and then for his first call during which he engaged in mission development work in Lapeer and Pontiac, before coming to Shalom for the past one and half years.

While I would not have chosen this moment for such a transition, God's timing is often not the same as ours, and so with the Synod's encouragement and given the great need for strong pastors to help congregations seeking healing and new vision, Ken was open to listening for God's call at this time. Ken's strong gifts for ministry are much needed at Grace, which has recently experienced some very difficult transitions. Grace is also nearer his home in Fowlerville and his wife Pr. Diane.

Above all, Ken remains excited and positive about our work together at both Shalom and Calvary, and he is so very appreciative of the privilege of being part of this innovative revitalization process. While this is a natural and anticipated move for a pastor early in their career, I will greatly miss working with Ken and I applaud his great work at Shalom during this critical and challenging time, made even more difficult with the pandemic. Through it all, he has served faithfully and joyfully sharing God's love. And now as he moves on, we see another example of how someone trained in one place can be a gift to the greater church and our Synod. I am excited about this opportunity for Ken, and clearly see God's hand in it, and I view it as a way we can continue to help grow Christ's church. Job well done Pr. Ken and congratulations on your new call!

Second, Pr. Dan Quagliata, who formerly served on staff at Shalom, as you may be aware, recently moved back to Pinckney due to some unanticipated major transitions in his life and ministry. It had been hoped by Shalom's leadership that Pr. Dan might come to Shalom upon Pr. Kurt's departure last year. However, the timing was not right for Dan's family, and it was then that Calvary was asked by the Synod to step in as Anchor Church. Remarkably, and I would say serendipitously, Dan is again available to serve at Shalom.

I want to be very clear that Dan came back to Pinckney during a time of personal transition and because his family owns property nearby, and that this occurred well before any of us knew that there might be a pastoral opening at Shalom. In fact, as he learned of the revitalization process and the Anchor Church relationship, and reflected on his own journey, he clearly sees how God's hand has been in this process, and he too is very supportive and excited about all that is happening with this innovative arrangement.

However, this is where things get really interesting, because Dan is not currently a rostered ELCA pastor even though he did serve at Shalom as a "lay pastor" up until about 10 years ago. He is ordained in the Nazarene Church and his

ordination cannot just be transferred to the ELCA without review and some additional work in Lutheran theology and ecclesiology, all of which could take up to a year or more. Furthermore, Southeast Michigan Synod Bishop Kreiss is open to Dan pursuing this work while he serves as campus pastor at Shalom, under the current Revitalization Covenant, my supervision, and as a Calvary employee (lay staff, not ordained, pending his acceptance as a rostered ELCA pastor). This would entail the same arrangement we currently have, with Shalom covering his salary and benefit costs.

Pr. Dan and I have spent significant time together recently and we both feel that this is not only a workable plan but one that would bring great blessing for all as we work together in the revitalization process and take advantage of his great love for Shalom and Pinckney and the deep relationships he already has. He has much experience as a lead pastor growing a congregation substantially in New York. He has also had the growing sense that he fits better in an ELCA setting that is more accepting of diverse persons, and less literal and fundamentalist in views. I have met and talked with him in some depth about all of this, and it seems very clear that we would work very well together and that we have similar approaches to ministry. He is also very open and excited about continuing the revitalization process and learning new things through all of this.

So, the plan moving forward is to bring Dan on to Calvary's staff as Ken concludes his ministry with Shalom on Sunday, December 5. He will be appointed and deployed, like Ken, to be Campus Pastor at Shalom, subject to the ELCA ordination process and the Revitalization Covenant being continued as is for at least the time it will take for him to complete the ELCA pastoral candidacy process. This arrangement would initially be for a year, though could easily be extended, depending on what is best for all. While not technically a pastor in the ELCA, Dan would be authorized by the bishop to serve fully as pastor and able to preach and preside at the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. As with Ken's transition, the timing is rather quick and the process unanticipated, but I see God's hand clearly in all of this, and I am very supportive and excited about this new plan. All of this has been strongly affirmed by both Shalom's Revitalization Team and Calvary's Church Council and the hard work of implementing it is well underway.

Looking ahead:

Sunday, November 28 both Pastors Ken and Dan will be present at worship.

Sunday, December 5 wish Godspeed and say thanks to Pr. Ken

Sunday, December 12 will be Dan's first Sunday as pastor at Shalom.

If you have any questions about all of this, please do not hesitate to contact me, Pr. Ken, Pr. Dan, the leaders on the Revitalization Team, or the Synod. We are very excited about all of this and anticipate it will be a great blessing for all.

WOW, that's a lot to share with you all at once! It is certainly never dull around Shalom or Calvary as it relates to new opportunities in ministry, and it seems God is always up to something we aren't expecting as we continue to be faithful, nimble, and open to the Holy Spirit moving in surprising and unexpected ways. God is good – all the time!!

Blessed to be a blessing!

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cc Bishop Don Kreiss & Pr. Sean Ewbank