ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH – HOLLAND, MN

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***A NEW BEGINNING***

When I was a teacher and was playing with the children at recess they liked to have what they called, “A do over.” That was a chance to correct a mistake by doing it over and trying to get a better result at what they were doing. It didn’t always work, but it was an opportunity to make something better. Well, we are at the start of, “a do over!” After several pastors, I have the chance for a do over as I begin to serve you as your vacancy pastor for an unknown period of time. I am happy to be starting again as your pastor and I promise to do my best to help you to be a vibrant, successful congregation as we await a positive answer to our call for a new pastor in this place. The real advantage for me is that I know most of you quite well from my previous ministry among you and I won’t have to spend a lot of time getting acquainted.

During the vacancy, there are some things that we want to get correct right from the start. Mainly we want to continue to do what has been done from the very beginning of this congregation more than 125 years ago; we want to preach the Gospel in all its truth and purity. That’s the “do over” that God has accomplished for us as He sent His Son to suffer and die that our past sins are forgiven and we have fellowship with Him and His people as we look forward to eternity with Him. That’s the main thing. Let’s be sure that we keep the main thing the main thing! Sunday after Sunday I will preach the Gospel and I want you to live and speak that gospel to all with whom you come into contact. That’s the greatest need of our sin sick world.

There will be other, less important things that we will work on to keep St. James working well. During a vacancy when there isn’t a fulltime pastor at the parsonage and church the members of the congregation have to be ready and willing to use their time and talents to keep things going as they should. I ask that you make it your personal task to assist in any way you can as you volunteer to help with the tasks that need to be done. God will bless us as we work together to build His kingdom here and throughout the world by prayerfully making His mission our own. I am ready and willing, are you?

In His service,

Pastor Schiller