

Thoughts From the Pastor's Study

It has been a busy first few days at United Lutheran Church. There are things to do and people to meet – working very hard to place names with faces - learning how each of you contribute to the life of the congregation.

One thing that has made a big impression on me already is, even in a difficult and emotional time in the life of this congregation, how welcome you have made my wife Connie and me feel. But I guess that should not come as a big surprise because, after all, that is what a church naturally does – welcomes in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



At the same time, being a place of welcome can be a challenge as the world around us changes. Over the years, Bella Vista has changed and continues to change. This whole corner of the state of Arkansas is growing explosively. Along with the business, economic and population growth of Benton County, Bella Vista has changed from a “retirement community” into a community including growing families and diverse cultures.

I noticed the city limit sign of Bella Vista listed a population of the city of over 30,000 people. That population is almost twice the population of the Fayetteville that Connie and I grew up in a “few years” ago.

So, some of my first questions that come to my mind as I begin serving this congregation as your interim pastor: How can we welcome the people around us in Bella Vista – not the Bella Vista we used to know but the Bella Vista of the time in which we live? How can this congregation meet the needs of the world in which we live? How can we share God’s love in Jesus Christ in our world today?

Peace, Pastor Carl