

## **Policy on Pastoral Authority Faith Lutheran Church – Valders, WI**

From time to time, it happens that members of the congregation consider making a request to have another pastor come to preside over, or assist with, a special ritual in the life of their family: for example, a baptism, wedding, or funeral. These requests must be dealt with carefully, while keeping in mind the ministry of the congregation and the authority of the congregation's pastor(s).

The role of pastors in congregations to which they are not, or are no longer, called is governed by the *Constitution for Synods*, which states:

“Ordained ministers shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.” (§14.14. in the *Constitution for Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*).

Therefore, it is to be clearly understood by all the members of Faith Lutheran Church that, for the sake of good order and affirmation of the pastoral authority within the congregation, other pastors are never to be invited to exercise any Word and Sacrament ministry at Faith Lutheran Church without consulting the pastor(s) currently occupying the pastoral office.

If consideration is given to inviting another pastor to be involved in any ritual of the congregation:

1. Such an invitation is to be discussed with the currently called pastor(s) before any conversation takes place with a pastor the family desires to have involved.
2. It is to be understood that it is at the sole discretion of the currently called pastor(s) to extend an invitation to another pastor to participate in a church ritual.
3. It is the role and responsibility of the currently called pastor(s) to extend the invitation to another pastor.
4. If an invitation for pastoral involvement in any ritual of the congregation is extended by anyone before consulting with the currently called pastor(s), or in disregard of the decision made by the currently called pastor(s), such an invitation may be rescinded.

*Adopted by the Board of Directors  
April 8, 2009*