

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 24 Town Hall at 10:30 AM to discuss entering into an Anchor model partnership with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chandler and answer any questions or concerns from the congregation in preparation for a vote on July 31.

July 31 Congregational Meeting at 10:30 AM - Congregational Vote

A Message from Council:

Greetings to all! In follow up to announcements regarding a possible partnership with Holy Trinity in an effort to grow our family here at First, the council is providing the following update:

The Grand Canyon Synod sent a representative to meet with us last fall and let us know about three potential options for smaller churches like us that are looking for options for our future:

1. Satellite - We would be absorbed by a larger church and become a satellite campus, a somewhat formal legal process.
2. Anchor - Team up with a larger church to duplicate programs that work and share pastoral leadership. Each church remains its own entity, can be a less formal process, while a written joint agreement is encouraged and opens up access to grants and other mission support.
3. Partnership - work with one or more churches to meet the unmet needs of the congregation (e.g. bible studies, youth ministry). This approach can be done informally or formally between two or more churches.

We already have a partnership (option 3) with Holy Trinity with our youth group (including Confirmation classes as needed) and we feel there is great potential for more partnership or even the Anchor model (option 2). This spring, council has continued to discuss what this could look like and have been drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clearly identify the goals of Anchoring and what that would look like for both churches. The term 'accompaniment' is also used to indicate the kind of relationship we are working to build.

The council is excited to recommend we move forward with this process. To the end, we need to have open communication from one and all to help ensure we have a plan that is 100%

supported by the congregation. As Pastor Dana's Interim appointment has been extended a second time, now out to September 30, 'kick off' would be October 1.

Here is what has been discussed:

- Pastoral Care provided by Pastor Chris, Pastor Bernie, and Luis with a rotating schedule to preach during Sunday worship. Worship time will continue to be at 9:30 AM. The music director and pastors from Holy Trinity will work with Joy, Marilyn, and Jose to prepare for Sunday worship services - no formatting changes are expected and each church will continue to create their own bulletin each week. Members of Holy Trinity will be encouraged to join us for worship to create a feeling of 'fullness' in the pews and also build relationships between members of both congregations.
- Youth group will continue to be led by Luis and First will continue to provide adult leadership to support this program. Currently Rhonda and Connor Schmidt provide adult leadership on our behalf.
- Holy Trinity will help First build programs that help meet the needs of the current congregation but also with the goal of growing our membership, this includes marketing assistance as well as visitor follow up and evangelism.
- No changes to the current budget is expected as the pastoral coverage will continue as budgeted and much of this work will be volunteer based or overlap already existing budgeted items within each church's budget. We anticipate applying for as many grants as are available to help grow added funds for any additional needs.

Each church will maintain its own staff and financial obligations/budgets.

Please reach out to a member of council if you have any questions, concerns or ideas as we would love to address these prior to the Town Hall on July 24 if possible.

Council Members:

Sarah Shaw, Rhonda Schmidt, Diane Johnson, Kathleen Rogers, Evan Rogers, Corrine Cursi, Ellen Riske, Ann Marie Dyslin, Connor Schmidt

Best,

Sarah Shaw

Council President