

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lenten blessings to you all! As leaders of the congregations of Gloria Dei, King of Kings, and St. Peter's we want to take this opportunity to formally update you on our collaboration efforts. We invite you to walk with us in this journey toward establishing a stronger/healthier Lutheran Community in Huntington/Melville.

Our collaboration efforts are gaining momentum; the Collaboration Leadership Table is meeting twice a month and putting the final touches on our covenant (for approval by all three councils this month). We are also working on proposed objectives and evaluation metrics. These documents will serve as roadmaps for our work together over the next few months. Copies will be available as soon as they are approved; please check your email and announcements. We are also challenging all of you to put on your thinking caps to find a name to call our new partnership. Deadline is March 26th for naming entries.

The cooperation of all three of our churches is essential for us to accomplish any meaningful ministry in the community moving forward. None of us can successfully navigate on our own any longer. We must work together for the spiritual health of our memberships and our communities. Together we must move forward thinking of our congregations as one greater congregation with three unique expressions, located on three distinct campuses. We are no longer able to think of this as a competition between rivals for the loyalty of Lutherans in our communities. We must pivot toward the thinking that what benefits one, benefits all. We are all stronger and healthier when any one of us succeeds in any way.

To that end, we encourage you to participate in any, and all, of our joint events/services. We anticipate that some joint services will continue to be in our future, and our experimentation helps us work out any kinks and design plans that will work for the future. However, we need your partnership in these efforts:

- We need your participation and your attendance.
- We need your open mindedness to things not being as, or where, they always have been.
- We need your willingness to try new ways of being God's people in community.
- We need your continued financial support for all our partner congregations.

Attached please find the schedule of worship opportunities from Palm Sunday through Easter. We invite you to walk with us as we accompany Jesus from his walk into Jerusalem to experience the waving palms, his last supper with his disciples, his death on the cross and his glorious resurrection!

Changes are never easy, and this new way of doing ministry is new to all of us. We continue to pray for all of you who have faithfully been part of our congregations for many years. May God bless us with many more years of sharing God's love and serving our communities.

In His Service,

Ms. Sandy Dietrich, Council President, St. Peter's

Ms. Barbara Record, Council President, King of Kings

Mr. Peter Teichmann, Council President, Gloria Dei

Rev. Rebecca Pollicino, Intentional Interim Pastor St. Peter's; Coverage Pastor King of Kings, Gloria Dei

Vicar Jean Dougherty, Pastoral Assistant, King of Kings, Gloria Dei, St. Peter's