



Aloha Akua

The Lutheran Church is a little peculiar when it comes to pastors and churches. Pastors cannot choose where they want to be a pastor - they have to be called by a church. Churches can choose who they want as a pastor - but the pastor can say no. At its best - it's a holy dance choreographed by God. At its worst it's a hot mess that makes ministry and a life in the Gospel almost impossible.

I don't remember having a call over Christmas before. With everything that needs to be done - adding something else to the plate seems a little overwhelming - and if you've ever seen the guy trying to keep all the plates twirling on the sticks - all it takes is one wobbly plate crashing to start the whole thing crashing down.

But as I was praying through some stuff last night, I realized I had little, if anything, to complain about. Mary and Joseph had their whole life planned out - where they were going to live, what they were going

to do - and God stepped into the midst of it and turned it upside down.

And that is the way it is and always has been with God. Proverbs 16:9 says, *"A man's heart plans his path, but the Lord determines his steps."*

With God, it is the journey AND the destination that matter - never just one or the other. Too often we think we have to get somewhere and don't think about what is between here and there. Other times we are enjoying the journey so much we haven't much thought about where we're going. Which is why it's more of a holy dance than anything else.

To place ourselves in the hands of God is to know that He may ask for something we do not want to give. But in His asking and our giving - He reveals our heart (Matthew 6:21). And only then will we discover whether God will take what we gave or return it to us to care for. Regardless - we trust in the giving or the taking we will be drawn closer to Him.

*Me Ke Aloha,
Pastor Mitch*

Wittenberg Door
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OUR SAVIOR'S WEEK...

Week of December 23rd

- Sunday 1:30pm Chuuk Language Service
No Youth Group
- Monday 5:30pm Family Flashlight Service
7:00pm Traditional Candlelight
11:00pm Candlelight Communion
- Tuesday 9:00am The "ChristMass"
- Wednesday Church Office Closed
- Saturday 2:00pm Worship Team Practice

Week of December 30th

- Sunday 1:30pm Chuuk Language Service
No Youth Group
- Monday 7:00pm New Year's Eve Worship
- Tuesday Church Office Closed
- Thursday OSLS resumes classes
- Saturday 2:00pm Worship Team Practice



PASTOR...has been asked by Beautiful Savior in Boise, Idaho, to be their next pastor. Over the next few weeks, he and his family will be praying about where God would have them serve and would love you to pray with them. He hopes to make a decision by January 6th.


9:37 - 10:22am
 L.I.F.E. Classes for adults and Sr Hi
 in the sanctuary.
FaithIsland Sunday School
 PS - 8th Grade
 in the FaithIsland Room



NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP 7PM

Join us for a simple service with Holy Communion and God's promises!



MELE MAI PAKI LIMA Handbell Choir Concert Sunday, January 6th, 6:30pm

Join us for an evening of music and fun. Mahalo to Karen Carlisle and her team of "ringers."

2019 QUARTERLY MISSION PROJECTS...we'll vote on January 6th. If you have suggestions for the ballot - let Pastor or DCE Kayla know soon!



CHURCH STAFF GIFT...if you would like to give a gift to Pastor, DCE Kayla and the staff - you can give it to the

elder, place it in the offering plate (label it Staff Gift) or go online at Vision2 (our online giving partner). Mahalo!