

Fellow Followers of Christ:

In many moments when Jesus was seeking direction, clarity, and guidance, he removed himself from the world to pray. He went up a mountain or to a place apart from the disciples to take a moment to listen to the Father. With all that God has before us, it is time that we do the same. And so, I and your Bishop's Committee have declared 40 Days of Discernment to listen to where the Holy Spirit is sending us.

During these 40 Days, we will not make any significant decisions. We will only listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us as his followers. To do this, we are forming a series of small groups, led by facilitators/listeners. Each of these listeners will lead a group in conversation about our life together as followers of Christ – who we are now and who God is calling us to be. I ask that each of you sign up for one of these groups beginning Sunday, May 9th. These groups will be offered at different times and in different places to accommodate our many different personal schedules.

For these 40 Days of Discernment, I also ask that you pray this prayer each day.

O God, our help in ages past, we thank you for blessing us at of the Church of the Holy Spirit with the new life that is before us. Allow these 40 days of discernment to be a time during which we hear all that you hope for this congregation. We pray for each person who is and will be a part of this church community. We listen to hear your call for us to serve your world through this church. We give you thanks for those who have planted the seeds of this congregation. We give you thanks for those who have watered the seeds of this congregation. And now, Father, we pray that you guide us to grow as we seek to serve you in this world. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. *AMEN.*

In the life of our congregation, I am pleased to welcome on board our staff this summer Taylor Bailey. Taylor is a rising senior at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. She will be with us part-time through an internship and working with Stacy Dowdy at the Diocese of West Texas. She will add a lot of energy and support to our congregational life this summer in the area of youth and families. She will also work with Emily VandeWalle, Holy Spirit member, to plan and lead a mission trip to Galveston, Texas for rising 9th graders (at least age 14 by the time of the trip) through graduated high school seniors. You can learn more about Taylor on Holy Spirit's youth webpage.

As always, thank you all for your dedication to serving Christ in the world through the Church of the Holy Spirit.

Your fellow missionary!

Jason

P.S. – Please be sure to remember our Easter challenge to bring items for putting together bags on the Feast of Pentecost. You can see the list on the church's website!