

October 3, 2019

To the voters,

You are urged to attend a joint meeting of the voters of St. John and Immanuel Monday, October 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Johns to consider the recommendation of the call committee. The call committee, made up of members of both St. John and Immanuel, has reviewed documents supplied by the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. From the five names provided, the committee will present the names of two pastors for consideration by the voters.

The committee will present (in alphabetical order) both the Rev. Phillip Beukema, and the Rev. Phillip Phifer for prayerful consideration by the voters.

Brief biographies:

Pastor Phillip Beukema 49, resides in Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin and was born in San Diego, California.

He graduated from Northern Michigan University in 1994 and from Concordia Ft. Wayne Seminary in 2016 as alternate route certification.

He has served at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church in Mincoqua, Wisconsin since July 2016 as his first call. He previously worked as a sales representative.

He is married and has three children ages 26, 24 and 21.

Pastor Phillip Phifer, 49, resides in Alpena and was born in Stanton, Texas.

He graduated from Houston Baptist University 1993 and from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1998.

He is currently serving Immanuel and St. John as a vacancy pastor. His previous LCMS congregations were Faith, Lampassas, Texas (1998-2001); Bethlehem, Lawrenceburg, Indiana (2001-2005); Trinity, Corpus Christi, Texas (2005-2008); Zion, Decatur, Indiana (2008-2014); Grace, Pensacola, Florida (2014-2017). He resigned 8/10/17 and was reinstated by the LCMS council of presidents in April 2019.

He is married with four children ages 20, 19, 16 and 6.

More information will be presented at the Oct. 21 meeting by circuit visitor, Pastor Charles Burhop of St. Barnabas, Sault Ste. Marie.

Richard Lamb-Chairman, St. John Lutheran
Ronald Sorgenfrei-Chairman, Immanuel Lutheran