



Pastor Hanke's Blog

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The Call

Bible Reference: Matthew 4:12-25

A question that often comes up when people find out I am a pastor is when did I receive the Call. To answer properly according to LCMS doctrine I could say, “In 2007, when I was Called to my first church.” But let’s be honest, seminary recruiters wouldn’t have a job if that was entirely true. Instead I usually tell of how I remember my uncles telling me I should be a pastor when I was around 10 years old. Although, I might be a bit off with my age since I found the ticket stub of the Promise Keepers event I attended in 1995 with my uncles when they made those comments. I would have been 14 in 1995, not 10. Yet, I distinctly remember resisting their comments and thinking I would be a basketball player or lawyer instead, and that it was in confirmation class, around age 13, that changed it all. See, apparently the details are fuzzy, but the Call never was.

I was never allowed to use the word “Call” in my pre-sem or seminary work. According to them, my Call was yet to come, as mentioned above. But I had chosen the schools and followed the process to be a pastor because a long time ago Jesus laid it on my heart at 10 years old...or 13...or 14...doesn’t matter when it was...it was clear to me and I never left that path. Greek tried to detour me. I barely passed my first test and my professor said, “Some of us are cut out to be pastors, and some of us aren’t.” Yet, I never waived from the Call put on my heart, so I worked hard to pass Greek. Reflecting on my prof’s statement, if we are not all Called to be a pastors, or apostles, then what are we called to do?

In this week’s reading Jesus Calls His apostles. My study of this passage reminds us to not consider the apostles Calling to be the same as other disciples’ Callings. We can’t lump them all together. I get it—the apostles had a huge responsibility to get the Gospel to the world, and in the end, were martyred for their faith—not a Calling we all have. Yet, I believe there is a unique Calling for each of us. This weekend we will process through the Calling of the apostles, and ask what can we learn from it about Jesus, but also ask what is Jesus Calling us to do.

God's Peace,
Pastor Will