Installation of

Pastor Peter Thomas DeMik

As Senior Pastor at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sunday September 24, 2023 – 4 PM Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 155 Linwood Avenue Ridgewood, NJ 07450 As we gather, take a moment to offer thanks to the Lord for sending us Pastor DeMik to serve among us.

Pre-Service Music - Robert Bosloper - Organist

Prelude and Fugue in C Major – Johann Sebastian Bach - 1722

Largo – George Frederic Handel – 1783

Special thanks - Steve and Gail Tilstra for their donation of altar flowers to thank the Lord for the ministry of Pastor DeMik.

Service Notes – You will see varied symbols throughout the service bulletin. They are as follows:

- **P** Sections read by the Pastor
- **C** Sections read or sung by the Congregation
- L Sections read by the Lector/Reader
- R –Responses read by Reverend DeMik during his installation

Today's Installation Service is being livestreamed via:

https://bethlehemchurch.live/

https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemchurchlive

PROCESSIONAL HYMN





Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund

Text and tune: Public domain

WELCOME Pastor Holstein

INVOCATION

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you
- P Let us pray.
 Gracious Father, in Your mercy You call faithful men and women to serve in Your Church and grant them the gifts of Your Spirit to strengthen and sustain them. Fill Pastor Peter Thomas DeMik, who has been called as Senior Pastor, with wisdom and patience, and with love and faithfulness to Your Word, that with gladness he may teach, comfort, counsel, and guide Your people in the way to life everlasting;
- C Amen.

PSALM 24: 7-10 To be read responsively by half verse.

- P ⁷Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
- **C** that the King of glory may come in.
- **P** ⁸Who is this King of glory?

through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- **■** The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!
- P Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,
- **G** that the King of glory may come in
- **P** ¹⁰Who is this King of glory?
- **■** The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

PLEASE BE SEATED

PRAISE BAND SONG

Forever (CCLI# 3148428)

C Verse 1

Give thanks to the Lord Our God and King His love endures forever For He is good He is above all things His love endures forever

PRE-CHORUS

Sing praise sing praise

PRE-CHORUS

Verse 2

With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

CHORUS 1

Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong Forever God is with us Forever forever

PRE-CHORUS -THEN CHORUS 1

Verse 3

From the rising to the setting sun His love endures forever And by the grace of God We will carry on His love endures forever Sing praise sing praise

CHORUS 2

Forever You are faithful Forever You are strong Forever You are with us Forever forever

CHORUS 1- THEN CHORUS 2

OFFERING

You may make an offering by placing cash or a check in the offering plate, scan the QR Code on the card in the pew, or on our website, bethlehemchurch.live. When you donate online, click the box for "Installation." The offerings will go for the education of future pastors at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, St. Louis, MO.

Choir Selection during the offering *Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart* – LSB (806a)

FIRST READING Isaiah 6:1-8 Michelle DeMik

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train^[a] of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

PRAISE BAND SONG

C Verse 1

I'm finding myself at a loss for words And the funny thing is it's okay The last thing I need is to be heard But to hear what You would say CHORUS

Verse 2

I'm finding myself in the midst of You Beyond the music beyond the noise All that I need is to be with You And in the quiet hear Your voice CHORUS SUNG TWICE

Word of God Speak (CCLI# 3912788)

CHORUS

Word of God speak
Would You pour down like rain
Washing my eyes to see Your majesty
To be still and know
That You're in this place
Please let me stay and rest
In Your holiness
Word of God speak

ENDING After Second Chorus I'm finding myself at a loss for words And the funny thing is it's okay

SECOND READING

Zechariah 9:9-17

Dan Cunneen

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. 11 As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. 12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. ¹³ For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword. 14 Then the Lord will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord God will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. 15 The Lord of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar. ¹⁶ On that day the Lord their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. ¹⁷ For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE





HOLY GOSPEL

John 12: 12-19

Reverend Stephen DeMik

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th Chapter.
- **C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

C Here I Am, Lord

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

CHORUS

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame I will tend the poor and lame I will set a feast for them My hand will save Finest bread I will provide 'Til their hearts be satisfied I will give my life to them Whom shall I send?

CHORUS

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them
They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send?
CHORUS

CHORUS

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Here I Am, Lord Text: Dan Schutte & New Dawn Music © 1981 All Rights Reserved One License Licensing A 741851

PLEASE BE SEATED

SERMON – REVEREND STEPHEN DEMIK

Pastor of Cypress Chapel, Cypress, Texas, and Chaplain LTCR USN

A Triumphant Entry

HYMN OF RESPONSE

644 The Church's One Foundation



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \pm of the world to come. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

+ RITE OF INSTALLATION + Bishop and NJ District President Reverend Steven Gewecke

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord, through the Church's usual order, the Reverend Peter Thomas DeMik has been called by the Lord of the Church to be Senior Pastor at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran church.
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O almighty God, by Your Son, our Savior, You have always given to Your Church on earth faithful shepherds to guide and feed Your flock. Therefore, we pray, make all pastors diligent to preach Your holy Word and to administer Your means of grace, and grant Your people wisdom to follow in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C Amen.
- P Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the institution of the Office of the Holy Ministry.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

P Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the responsibilities of the Office of the Holy Ministry.

¹⁴Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

⁴Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God,

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵As for you, always

be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Our Lord gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

P Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the strength and promise God gives to those in the Office of the Holy Ministry.

¹³Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

P Dear brother in Christ, the Lord grant that you receive and keep these words in your heart so that you may be strengthened and encouraged in your labors.

God gathers His Church by and around His Holy Gospel and thereby also grants it growth and increase according to His good pleasure. That this may be done, He has established the Office of the Holy Ministry into which you have been called by the Church and have been ordained and consecrated by prayer and the laying on of hands. It is fitting that you should again acknowledge the responsibilities of this holy office in which you are to serve as Senior Pastor at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In the presence of this congregation and before our Lord God to whom you must give an account now and at the Last Day, I now ask you:

Do you acknowledge that the Lord has called you through His Church into the ministry of Word and Sacrament?

R I do.

- P Do you believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- Yes, I believe and confess the canonical Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
- P Do you believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds, namely the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?
- Yes, I believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds because they are in accord with the Word of God. I also reject all the errors they condemn.
- P Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? And do you confess that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord—as these are contained in the Book of Concord—are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?
- Yes, I make these Confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God.
- P Do you promise that you will perform the duties of your office in accordance with these Confessions, and that all your preaching and teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with Holy Scripture and with these Confessions?
- R Yes, I promise, with the help of God.
- Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of Christian doctrine, will you forgive the sins of those who repent, and will you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you? Will you minister faithfully to the sick and dying, and will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and ready ministry centered in the Gospel? Will you admonish and encourage the people to a lively confidence in Christ and in holy living?

- R Yes, I will, with the help of God.
- Finally, will you honor and adorn the Office of the Holy Ministry with a holy life? Will you be diligent in the study of Holy Scripture and the Confessions? And will you be constant in prayer for those under your pastoral care?
- I will, the Lord helping me through the power and grace of His Holy Spirit.
- P Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture says, "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you."
- P Brothers and Sisters, you have heard the solemn promise of him called to be your associate pastor. Will you receive him, show him that love, honor, and obedience in the Lord that you owe to the shepherd and teacher placed over you by your Lord Jesus Christ, and will you support him by your gifts and pray for him always that in his labors he may retain a cheerful spirit and that his ministry among you may be abundantly blessed? If so, then answer: We will, with the help of God.
- **C** We will, with the help of God.
- P The Almighty and most merciful God strengthen and assist you always.
- P Are you willing and ready to assume this public trust and responsibility?
- R I am.
- P Reverend Peter Thomas DeMik, I install you as the Senior Pastor of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

+ THE ACT OF INSTALLATION +

The newly installed Senior Pastor kneels for the laying on of hands.

P Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C Amen.

Visiting LCMS clergy are invited to come up to individually bless the newly installed Senior pastor. The presiding minister dismisses and blesses the newly installed Senior Pastor. When all are finished, the following is said:

P Let us pray.

Go, therefore, and be a shepherd of the Good Shepherd's flock. Preach the Word of God; administer the holy Sacraments; offer prayer for all the faithful; instruct, watch over and guide the flock among which the Holy Spirit has placed you. Do it not for earthly gain but with great joy, for you have been called not to lordship but to serve His flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. The Almighty and merciful God, the Father and the + Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Members will present Pastor DeMik gifts representing the varied ministries and organizations in our congregation.

Dear members of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran congregation, you have heard the solemn promise of Pastor DeMik, whom you have called to serve you. I charge you to bear in mind what the word of God says to you as members of Christ's flock: Regularly attend the preaching of God's word, receiving it gladly not as the word of men but as it is the in truth, the word of God. Aid, and honor him as your pastor and love him, for his work's sake. For in so doing, you will show honor and respect and love to the Lord, whom he serves. Pray for him, always, and help him to do the

work of ministry with a cheerful spirit. Minister to him in Christ's name, even as he ministers to you. As an indication of your willingness to receive Pastor DeMik as the servant of Christ in your midst, I ask you to give your pledge as God's people in this place:

God's word requires of us as members of his flock: we promise to attend the preaching of the word, and to make use of God's sacraments for the forgiveness of our sins and strengthening of our faith. We promise to pray for him, to cheer and encourage him by working with him to spread the good news of Christ's gospel. We promise to provide for his needs and to honor him as a servant of God. These are our promises; help us to fulfill them, Lord.

REVEREND PETER THOMAS DEMIK CONDUCTS THE REMAINDER OF THE SERVICE

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Fon and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Take a moment to share the peace of the Lord with the people around you.

HOLY COMMUNION

Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Sanctus



The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

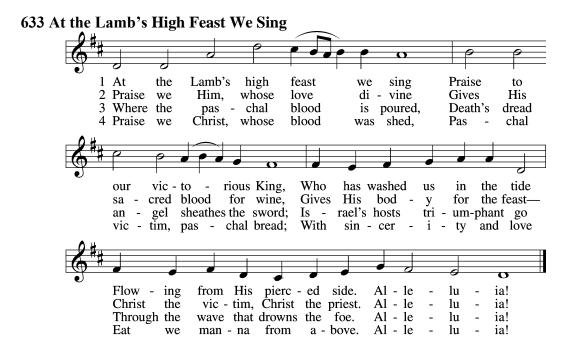
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

Distribution will be offered in a continuous manner. You are invited to receive Holy Communion if you believe this is the true body and blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Kindly follow the direction of the Elder.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN



- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie; You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall; You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.

Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice

Text and tune: Public domain

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

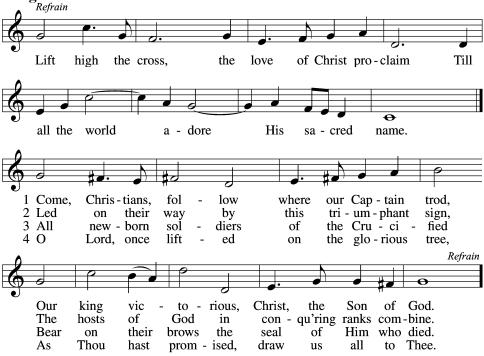
COMMUNION DISMISSAL

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

- **P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 - The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
- C Amen.

837 Lift High the Cross sts. ref–6



- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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DISMISSAL

- **P** Go in peace and serve the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Robert Bosloper – Organist **Psalm 19** - Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book
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The members of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ridgewood, NJ extend grateful appreciation to

Reverend Steven Gewecke NJ District President, Reverend Stephen DeMik, all participating Pastors, and all who shared in the planning of and participation in the Installation Service.

Following the service all are invited to go downstairs to the gym to share a light supper as we celebrate with Pastor DeMik and his family.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S INSTALLATION WORSHIP

Presiding Minister Reverend Robert Holstein,

Circuit Visitor

Lectors Michelle DeMik, Dan Cunnen

Gospeler Reverend Stephen DeMik Preacher Reverend Stephen DeMik

Installer Bishop & NJ District President

Reverend Steven Gewecke

Organist Robert Bosloper

Trumpeters Jonathan DeMik, Gene Gurick

Acolyte Barbara Reichelt Crucifer Thomas Isernhagen

Altar Guild Gale Gonzenbach, Sheryl Qualters,

Barbara Reichelt

Reception Church Council

Pianist Mariko Alexander



Pastor Peter Thomas DeMik was born in Washington D.C. to Tom and Liz DeMik and grew up in nearby Arlington, Virginia, in a strong Christian family which valued faith and service in the local congregation. He was baptized and confirmed at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Arlington before transferring to St. John Lutheran Church in Franconia during his high school years. During those years, he was encouraged to consider the ministry by a young Pastor Jack Meehan. He attended Valparaiso University in Indiana, where he met his wife Michelle. After graduation, they were married and moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he attended Concordia Seminary. After serving a vicarage (pastoral internship) at Peace Lutheran Church in Arvada, Colorado, Pastor Peter completed his seminary studies and was called to serve as Associate Pastor

at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Laurel, Maryland.

After serving as Associate Pastor for nearly 14 years, Our Savior congregation called Pastor DeMik as the Senior Pastor in 2014, where he continued to serve until he accepted the call at Bethlehem.

During his years at Our Savior, Pastor Peter and Michelle were blessed with three wonderful children: Allison Grace, Matthew Peter, and Nathan Wesley. Pastor Peter helped to lead the congregation in local and international missions, as well as supporting the worship ministry with his musical gifts. He helped to lead a Servant Event for LC-MS Youth Ministry in western Maryland for 18 years. He is a graduate of the Pastoral Leadership Institute. He was on the Board of Directors for New Day, a ministry to the disadvantaged in the Laurel area. He is a runner and has run in the Baltimore Running Festival each year since the race began in 2001. Pastor Peter encouraged the congregation to engage in the life of the community to be lights for Jesus, and he demonstrated that through local service in scouts, as a soccer coach, and in many other ways.

Pastor Peter and his family are excited to start their ministry at Bethlehem and in the Ridgewood community and look forward in hope to the great things that God will do!