



## Bulletin Announcement for January 18, 2009

Where do pastors come from? Where does the church find faithful pastors and lay diaconal ministers? The truth is that they all come from congregations like ours! Indeed, research indicates that the greatest influences on persons who hear the call to ordained or lay diaconal ministry are their pastor, home congregation, and family. Next Sunday, we will be participating in our church's *It's Your Call* programme. We will be asked to identify persons from our congregation whom have the gifts, and perhaps the call, to serve in ordained or lay diaconal ministry. Help someone else hear the message ... *It's Your Call*.

## January Newsletter Article

God is calling, but are we listening? Are we encouraging the members of our congregation to hear and consider their call?

Once again this year our congregation is going to participate in the ELCIC's *It's Your Call* programme. The purpose of *It's Your Call* is to help congregations seek, identify and encourage women and men to become ordained pastors or lay diaconal ministers in our church.

Jesus' words "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" ring particularly true for many of us. A growing number of congregations across our church are presently without a pastor. At the same time our seminaries have been experiencing what many consider an alarming decline in enrollment. This year (2008-2009) the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon has three incoming M.Div. students and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary had 6.

At our worship service on January 25, 2009, we will be given the opportunity to nominate members of our congregation whom we believe have the gifts for ordained or diaconal ministry. Those nominated will be interviewed will, if willing, be interviewed by the pastor and have their name forwarded to our Synod Office as a possible future candidate for ordained or lay diaconal ministry. Let's all play a part in this crucial programme for our church ... *It's Your Call*.