

We Are Asked To Follow

By Pastor Audree Catalano
Synod Minister

At different times in my life, I've fallen prey to the question, "What if . . . ?" This often times causes me unnecessary anxieties or fears. Then my other little voice inside says, "You never know!" As a result, I find myself unable to let go of the question so I then have a tendency to create more doubt or uncertainty with the statement.

People who are discerning a call to pastoral ministry may, in the process, experience either or both of these two thoughts. When this happens, one may feel startled or surprised or one may feel affirmed.

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God's voice comes through to a person discerning a call to ministry in many ways: through a pastor, through a friend, through Church colleges, through family, through a congregation, through church programs. Recently, our synod staff sang a song during our devotion time that we could consider a hymn of call: "You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy but only asking for me to follow."

We are only asked "to follow." The unique thing about all of this is that sometimes we are God's voice to one discerning a call and sometimes we are the one hearing God's voice and discerning the call. Here's when the "What if?" and "You never know!" comes into play in the discernment process for an individual. This could be a time of restlessness and questioning: "Who, me?" but, you never know! This is the time when the individual and the church enter into a discernment process of seeking to do God's will. One thing for sure is that you never know if God is calling or prompting a family member, a friend, a colleague or student through your voice. Turning to and trusting in God, together, we can seek to do God's will.

PEACE+ and GRACE to you!

Pastor Audree

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