

January 12, 2021

Dear St. Luke's,

I am Pr. Christian McMullan and I'll be your interim pastor. I'm sure y'all have a lot of questions for me, wondering who I am, what I'm about, and the process. I live in Phoenixville with my wife and kids. We moved to PA in 2001 after serving a church in central MI for four years (Midland, MI); the mid-Atlantic split the difference between our two families (Stephanie's in the Boston area, mine in the Charlotte area). I was the Associate Pastor at St. John's in Phoenixville for six years before doing interim work down by the airport at Immanuel, Norwood, preparing to enter a PhD program full-time the next year. In the years while I was on-leave from call I was an interim ministry consultant with three churches and also taught undergraduates as an adjunct instructor at Immaculata and LaSalle Universities. Teaching and consulting and trying to raise children didn't help me finish the dissertation, so... several years ago, I re-entered interim ministry full-time. I've since mostly served churches in Upper Montco—St. James, Limerick, St. Luke, Gilbertsville, and I'm finishing up at two small congregations in Pottstown (Emmanuel and Grace).

I enjoy transitional ministry. When I first got started it reminded me of my first call in MI. They did not have intentional interim ministry in my synod, and so I did a lot of "transitional" work not knowing that's what it was. It was difficult as the settled pastor, but I learned a lot. Trust me, doing your transitional work *before* you call your next settled pastor will make life a lot easier moving forward. I especially love preaching the "Good News" to anxious people trying to adapt to change, and boy, if that doesn't describe the past year(s). My job and call is to be your pastor while I'm at St. Luke's and to help y'all navigate change, focusing on who you are, where you've been, and where God is calling you to go.

A little more about me: I like to play soccer and have carved out time to be on various teams over the years, with some breaks to deal with rotator cuff surgery and arthritic knees. I like to read—science-fiction and fantasy, literature, philosophy, and occasionally history. My graduate work was in Church history and spirituality, and my dissertation is on the theology of the Holy Spirit in the Reformation—which I will finally defend this spring. I like to do things with my hands—mostly house projects. I subscribe to *Scientific American*. We have three kids, a freshman in college, a 10th and an 8th grader (2 boys, 1 girl) and a shy rescue dog (Boxer/hound mix), named Baxter. Doing interim work going here, there, and everywhere, my wife and kids worship at Grace, Royersford rather than follow me around.

I'm looking forward to getting to know all y'all; however, I will say I'm not great with names but I'm better with faces. So if you have a name tag please wear it and introduce yourself—even if it's on Zoom! I hope the pandemic will ease up enough to be able to meet you in person soon.

God Bless!

Pr. Christian McMullan