

To the members of

Christ Lutheran Church, Port St. Lucie, FL;

St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Lombard, IL;

as well as the members of Faith Lutheran Church, Oregon, WI:

It's not often that two additional calls come to a pastor already serving his current call. I did not see that coming. While tempting to feel "puffed up" at the prospect of being wanted by three congregations, it reminds me a quote from Martin Luther:

"It is impossible for a person not to be puffed up by his good works unless he has first been deflated and destroyed by suffering and evil to the point that he knows that he is worthless and that his works are not his but God's."<sup>1</sup>

The call process is good for that sort of "deflation," not that it is bad by any means, but the process helps me see my limitations.

After prayerfully considering the needs and plans of all three parishes, and in seeking the advice and counsel of members and leaders at both places, as well from brother pastors, I have decided to return the calls and remain in my current congregation.

We are in the process of trying to open a classical school, something which would be hard for me to leave in the midst of.

Thank you for the opportunity to consider serving at your congregations. I pray that the Lord will quickly provide a shepherd for your flocks. We will keep you in our prayers. Please keep us in yours.

May our God and Father bless and keep us.

In nomine Jesu,

Rev. Jeff Hendrix

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther, *Heidelberg Disputation*