



Pastor James Irwin

Bio

- Age 54; wife, Carleen, has her BA in elementary education; cert. Lutheran schools; not rostered
- Daughter, 26, mission work in the Czech Republic; son, 22
- MDiv Concordia, St. Louis Ordained 1997
- St Mark, Omaha NE, Associate 1999-2007; Senior 2007-2011
- Holy Savior, Lincoln NE 2011-present
- 531 Baptized members
- 302 Communicants
- 224 Average worship attendance

Skill Sets

Preaching content/delivery:

- Good energy, content & delivery
- Currently only one contemporary service

People Skills:

- Good with visitation (Per his District President)
- Not strong personnel manager (per DP)
- Extrovert; loves people

Worship:

- Uses all screens; no bulletin
- Casual approach; no decorum/formality
- Not strong in structure and organization

Leadership:

- Good leading International Mission trips
- Excellent visionary with great mission eyes (per DP)
- Not strong Administrator (per DP)

Teaching/Outreach:

- Stephen Ministry Trained
- Works on how to be a Christian in a culture that doesn't support Christianity
- Sees need to connect with "digital discipleship"
- Believes in a presence on social media

Attitude toward Lutheran School:

- Preschool previous congregation; present at drop off, events, brought some healing and trust to school
- Advocates for church and school to be one.
- Realizes the ministry of the Lutheran school is an opportunity for congregations to reach out with the Gospel of Christ to families seeking a quality education for their children
- Would seek to build trust between pastor, principal and staff at school

Attitude toward Hispanic Ministry:

- Grew up in Phoenix; familiar with Hispanic culture
- Sudanese element in Omaha congregation

Family Ministry/Youth:

- Confirmation classes - asks parents to attend with child on Sunday mornings
- Need to have youth ministry programs, let kids have a part in the ministry

Additional Comments:

- Intergenerational relationships are important, as seniors have put in a lot of time, energy and money into congregation
- Uses trained "lay minister" in worship services, visitations, etc.