

Christ the King Lutheran Church - Hutchinson, MN

+ Jon V. Anderson - Bishop Southwestern Minnesota Synod

I am concerned about the members of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN., following the congregation's very close second vote in the constitutional process to disaffiliate from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). This vote happened May 23rd.

On Tuesday last week (May 25th), it was revealed to me that there was an additional ballot that had not been reported in Sunday's results. The vote on Sunday was reported as 348 ballots cast, with exactly two thirds supporting the resolution to disaffiliate (232). This was the second vote in our constitutional process for disaffiliation. How this single ballot is counted could change the outcome of Sunday's decision to disaffiliate. The congregation's leadership is working to resolve this matter.

On Thursday afternoon, in the meeting Pr. Linda Pedersen and I had with the President Peter Royer and Pastor Jon Lindekugel of Christ the King Lutheran Church, I did not take a position on the ballot in question. I did receive a ruling from the Christ the King Church Council and a letter certifying the resolution, but that does not mean that I endorse their decision concerning the ballot. As I understand our polity and policy in this situation, my opinion about the ballot and the process is not determinative. This matter will need to be resolved within the congregation in accordance with their constitution.

It is up to the voting members of Christ the King to decide what will happen next. I am available to assist as requested and to support all the members of the congregation as I am able.

Please join me in praying for the members of Christ the King Lutheran Church and their leaders in these days.

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