



Smiling

Judy Garland's sweet voice with Jimmy Dorsey's lyrics gave us a tune in the 1940s about smiles. Interim Pastor Paul Everett and leaders at Christ Lutheran gave us dates for smiling, as they scheduled photo sessions here in early October 2016 for a pictorial directory, to be prepared by Lifetouch. Lifetouch photographers Sandi and Tara (pictured below) wooed us to smile. We wait now for those photos to arrive at our homes and for those directories to be available for us in the coming months.

Life together in a congregation is about ministry. Sometimes that ministry produces smiles, like those at the Oct 8 rummage sale (shown in the Gallery section of this website) in which nearly \$2000 was raised to help with costs for some new flooring/carpet in our fellowship room and preschool areas. Sometimes our life together in ministry results in sobering moments as we seek to be prayer support for our sister Paula Egan Wright and her vision to benefit children in Haiti in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake there. The Ki Leslie Orphanage, which was the brainchild of Paula in 2010, suffered disaster in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. (See photos of the devastated orphanage in Haiti in the Gallery section of this website.)

The ebb and flow of emotion and life experience can be daunting. Congregations, since they are human institutions, know this ebb and flow. My arrival here on August 15 introduced me to a small and faithful cadre of baptized children of God, equipped for ministry. In the conversations I have shared with most of the people who make up the 35 or so households here, I am learning about what has caused tears and smiles and everything in between. We, as pastor and people during this one-year pastoral call which may be extended if pastor and congregation so deem, have the privilege of sharing the ebb and flow of life together here. We even have the privilege of making each other smile, for the good of the whole. As a congregation in ministry, we keep following the One who leads us to a hope beyond tears and smiles.

As the prophet Jeremiah announces (chapter 29, beginning with verse 11): "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope."

May the hope we have in the person of Christ continue to lead and sustain us. Keep smiling!

Pastor Rebecca Aardahl



[Click here to hear a song by Judy Garland](#)