



OPPORTUNITY SNAPSHOT

SENIOR PASTOR

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Overview

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (www.sov.church) in scenic Afton, Minnesota, is seeking to call a new Senior Pastor. This is an exceptional and rare opportunity for a dynamic and experienced pastor to join with a large, healthy, well-prepared congregation to love, lead and inspire them toward the next season of missional impact in the St. Croix Valley and beyond.

The Big Idea



After more than 32 years of faithful service, Pastor Steve Kramer has decided to retire. He was once encouraged by a mentor to “leave on a high note.” He has certainly taken that advice. The congregation is deeply committed to the gospel and would like to see more people touched with the love and redemptive power of Jesus Christ. The intentional focus on excellence in children’s and youth ministries have made Shepherd a destination for many individuals and families. Currently, 600 adults participate in a small group, and children’s and youth programs offer relational small group opportunities, too. Shepherd is not a church with small groups; it is a church of small groups. Shepherd believes we were created by God to do good works, so they intentionally help attenders discover their gifts and the good works for which they were created. The incoming pastor will have an opportunity to view the various ministries of the church with fresh eyes, and work with staff to engage strategies or innovations that will catalyze fresh momentum that delivers Shepherd to the next level of Kingdom influence and impact.

The Church



DENOMINATION: Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (www.lcmc.net) **ATTENDANCE:** 1,600
ABOUT: Shepherd is a multi-generational church that is committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ as reflected in its mission *to connect all people to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through worship, small groups and serving.* Shepherd currently welcomes attenders to four weekend worship services: Saturday evening at 5 p.m., and three on Sunday morning at 8:30, 10 and 11:15 a.m. More than 270 children attend Sunday School (birth through 6th grade). There is also a thriving Wednesday evening student ministry that averages 300 students weekly. During the summer, all ages are invited to a Wednesday night service. This service averages 280 people and is great for youth families and for those who travel “up north” to lake cabins on weekends.

The Candidate



Following a beloved leader can be intimidating to some, so the right Senior Pastor will be humble, yet bold, self-secure and confident in the unique gifts and talents God has given. Shepherd will benefit from someone who has enough ministry experience in another context to bring new ideas or suggestions to the table. A talented communicator and preacher, the incoming Senior Pastor will effectively preach God’s Word with passion and inspiration, anchoring messages in Scripture, and connecting them to the challenges of everyday life.

The Location



Beautiful Afton, Minnesota is nestled between St. Paul/Minneapolis, and the scenic St. Croix river that divides Minnesota and Wisconsin. Home to Afton Alps ski area and St. Croix Bluffs regional park, Afton is one of a number of quaint towns and distinctive suburban communities that make up the East Metro area. Great schools, easy access to the conveniences of an urban area, and lots of options for outdoor recreation, make this a highly desirable place to call home.

The Qualifications



A Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary is required; Clear alignment with the Shepherd of the Valley Statement of Faith found on the website <http://sov.church/about/mission-beliefs/>, and Lutheran theology and doctrine as described at the LCMC (Lutheran Congregations on Mission for Christ) website <http://www.lcmc.net/statement-of-faith/231>; Significant pastoral leadership experience that includes quality preaching/teaching and communicating in a larger church context; A minimum of 10 years ministry experience with multiple years of senior leadership in a multi-staff setting; A genuine passion for the gospel, and a passion and ability to share the good news with those who have not heard it.

Next Steps



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