

*Rev. Erich Hartenberger, Interim Pastor, Barneveld Lutheran Church, Barneveld, Wisconsin*

*What are your initial thoughts on this conversation? What surprised you? What was most memorable to you?*

- ▶ *Erich discusses the difficulties of a congregation's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs being in tension. How do you identify these needs in your life? How do you balance these needs in your life? How do you navigate when people who are important to you balance those needs differently?*
- ▶ *Erich speaks of several aspects of calling - as a pastor, but also called to be a husband and father. What roles in life you feel are a calling from God? What roles might you live out differently if you understood them as a calling from God?*
- ▶ *Erich mentions the importance of renewal through time off and sabbath. Sabbath is not a suggestion, it's a commandment. What is your time for renewal? What are your places for renewal? What are the things you need to step away from for a time to find renewal?*
- ▶ *Erich shares the experience of silence creating the "opportunity to hear God speaking to me." How comfortable (or uncomfortable) are you with silence? What might help you create silence to "push all the other voices away"? What kinds of sound or noise are helpful to you as you are listening for God?*
- ▶ *Erich is serving a congregation in transition - moving from the leadership of one pastor to another. He says that we are "always in transition." What transitions are going on in your life today? How do you identify them? How do you adapt to them? How do you make peace with them?*
- ▶ *Erich points out that the church has always had to adapt: "We have changed with the times for 2000 years." Think about how different the church was 50 years ago, 500 years ago at the time of Luther, or even 1000 years ago. In what ways does understanding change as a continuing process help you think about what's going on around us now differently?*
- ▶ *Erich says, "Discipleship leads us to the cross, we are asked to pick up a cross. It's not living into something easier, but means living into something better." How might God be calling you away from an easier path and toward a better path?*
- ▶ *As disciples called to walk with Jesus to the cross, what might God be asking you to bring to the cross to put to death so you can experience new life?*

