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The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." I Samuel 3:10

This story from the Old Testament is a story of God calling Samuel to service. However, God had to call him three times in this story, and even then Samuel only responded with the help of Eli. Sometimes when the Lord calls, we hear that voice loud and clear. Other times, it takes God a little longer to get through to us.

The spring assignment of seminary graduates is complete – some heard the call loud and clear, and others took longer to respond. But regardless of the circumstances, we are grateful for those who responded to God's call and have been assigned to our synod. Of those assigned to our synod, below is a list of those who have recently received calls (along with some "lesser known" facts about each of them):

Joseph Midthun – Joe grew up as a child of missionaries in Papua New Guinea until he was 10, then moved with his family to northern Minnesota. He recently accepted a call to serve All Saints & Ostmark Lutheran Churches in Darwin & Watkins, near Litchfield.

William Rosin – Willie is from Iowa and worked in a variety of fields before attending Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and playing saxophone. Willie was recently called to serve Saron & Our Savior's (Baxter) near Montevideo.

Jennifer Thul – Jennifer lived in our synod for a number of years before going to seminary, and is very happy to be graduating. She was recently called to serve Trinity & Sillerud Lutheran Churches in Balaton, along with her husband, Daryl, who began serving there last winter.

We are excited about all the leaders that God is raising up for the church, especially those recently assigned to our synod. These new pastors come from a variety of backgrounds and bring a variety of gifts. Some are married, some are single. Some are younger, some are older. Some have lived in various places all around the world (Papua New Guinea, Canada, Texas) and some have lived most of their lives right here in southern Minnesota. Some have a long history of working in the church, bringing a deep appreciation for our history and traditions, and others are brand new to this work, bringing fresh eyes to the ministry.

Please keep all these new leaders that God is bringing to our synod in your prayers.