

Vision for an Associate Pastor Lutheran Church of Honolulu

The Lutheran Church of Honolulu seeks an Associate Pastor to work with the senior pastor and staff to grow the LCH ministry, programs and congregation.

Call Classification: full time

Term of Call: Two-year term call

Degree: MDiv

Ordination: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Associate Pastor will work in partnership with the staff of Lutheran Church of Honolulu including the Senior Pastor, Cantor, and Parish Coordinator to grow the mission of the congregation. The Associate Pastor will be a full partner in this ministry and will be expected to share the full range of pastoral duties including preaching, visitation, pastoral care, parish administration, teaching, and administration of the sacraments. The Associate Pastor will be a part of a comprehensive ministry team where each member's gifts and talents will be utilized to share Christ's mission.

The Associate Pastor will concentrate on mission development in four key areas:

LCH

- Work with LCH committees and staff
- Assist in coordination of volunteer activities and LCH campus maintenance and enhancement
- Grow the LCH congregation and membership
- Stimulate increased congregational fellowship

Outreach

- Work with members and staff to grow a ministry presence in the Makiki/Manoa neighborhoods
- Work with members and staff to grow a ministry presence in Waikiki

Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministries

- Work with the senior pastor, volunteers and OYEA coordinator to enhance ministry with youth (connected with outreach to Waikiki and Makiki/Manoa)
- Facilitate growth in focus areas of spiritual growth including small groups, social life, and community care
- Help to form meaningful ministries among young families in the congregation and community

College and Campus

- Work with students and staff of the University of Hawaii and Hawaii Pacific University to determine how LCH could help them live out their ministry in Christ

Perhaps chief in the attributes the Associate Pastor must possess is a commitment to mission. We are called to proclaim Christ in word, sacrament, witness, teaching, and life. LCH is committed to that mission and expresses that commitment through powerful worship, embracing

diversity, an uncompromising sense of welcome, and utter dependence on the hopefulness of Christ.

The Associate Pastor must be in good standing with the ELCA, eligible to serve an ELCA congregation, and be willing to relocate to O'ahu, Hawai'i for a two-year period. In addition, the Associate Pastor must be able to work in close partnership with staff, members, and volunteers. Spiritually mature, creative, energetic, faithful and committed persons will do well here.

Abstract:

Lutheran Church of Honolulu is the second oldest Lutheran Congregation in the State of Hawaii. Established in 1900, the congregation has a long history of excellent worship, passion for issues of justice, and a willingness to engage difficult and controversial issues. We prize good worship, excellent preaching, and share the gift of music with the entire community of Oahu. Today, LCH sits at a crossroads. We are financially and spiritually healthy, there is a stated desire in the congregation to focus more on outreach and mission, and the current staff is working to capacity. The congregation could easily continue in its present course and staffing and have what most would consider being a "successful" ministry. However, prayer and discernment have brought some LCH members to recommend that a sense of mission inform the congregation's staffing plan. Areas of greatest opportunity are both geographical and demographic.

While Makiki and Manoa have a number of congregations and churches to serve their spiritual needs, LCH is uniquely placed to be a church home for people who seek a connection to a congregation with deep roots in liturgical worship, engaging learning opportunities, and a vibrant Sunday School. With proper staffing and direction, LCH can better determine the needs of people living in the neighborhood and be more effective in ministry with them. Waikiki has over 20,000 permanent residents and very few traditional churches to serve them. Lutheran Church of Honolulu is about 1 mile from Waikiki and could easily serve as a church home for residents, and as a place of worship for visitors to Oahu. Possible outreach might include outreach worship in a Waikiki location, advertising in local publications, visitation to neighborhoods, Pastoral presence in and around the neighborhoods, and interface with hotel staff.

LCH also has an excellent Sunday school program that is ably served by volunteers. However, like many congregations, mission to youth, especially Jr. High and High School is limited. By better reaching the families of youth, we can serve them more fully.

Finally, outreach to college students by mainline congregations is nearly zero. While HPU does have a Lutheran Pastor on staff, there is no effort to connect those students with a local faith community. UH is served by Campus Crusade, Navigators, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. There is ample opportunity, especially to serve the music and gay communities of both campuses.

Clearly no one person can serve all these needs. Our hope is the presence and gifts of an additional staff person will complement the current staff to allow us to address each of these missional opportunities and fulfill God's call to proclaim Christ.