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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Our Savior's, La Crosse Calls Senior Pastor

At a special congregational meeting, Sunday, May 7, after almost a year of searching for a pastor, Our Savior's, La Crosse voted to welcome Ms. Joanne Richmond as its new senior pastor, an invitation Richmond joyfully accepted.

Richmond's education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Carthage College, Kenosha, WI, a Master of Divinity with Honors, from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA, and a Master of Public Policy, with an emphasis in Ethics from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA. Richmond began her ministry as an associate pastor at Westby Coon Prairie & Vang Lutheran Churches, Westby, WI, and then at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & Lutheran Campus Ministry, Houghton, MI. Later she served as the College Pastor at Dana College, Blair, NE. She also previously served as Executive Director of the Hunger Task Force of La Crosse. Richmond is currently employed full-time as an Instructor of Philosophy and interim Associate Dean/Assistant at Western Technical College. She has also been serving part-time as Interim Minister here at Our Savior's, La Crosse as we searched for our new pastor.

The Our Savior's, La Crosse Call Committee, which included 10 church members, spent almost a year seeking a pastor with such impressive qualifications, who would also be a perfect fit for the church.

- Support of our *Reconciling in Christ* status & creating a welcoming & inclusive atmosphere
- Promoting social ministries & connecting members to our response to current issues in the world
- Serving distressed populations in our community
- A passion for serving & living the gospel

"Through our intentional process of discernment, interviewing, reviewing references, and more discernment, we feel confident that this candidate possesses the qualities and strengths required of this position and important to congregation members. Ms. Richmond's clarity of responses, ability to vision, and her love for the ministry at Our Savior's was very affirming. It is with great confidence and joy that the Call Committee has the honor to recommend Ms. Joanne Richmond (to Our Savior's) for the Senior Pastor position."

Christine Krueger, Call Committee Chair

Richmond and her wife, Jeanne Johnson, who live on French Island with their 2 dogs and 2 cats feel blessed to be asked to serve the congregation and are excited to call Our Savior's home. Richmond will start full time ministry July 1, preaching her first sermon as senior pastor on Sunday, July 2.

Services at Our Savior's, La Crosse are held Sunday's at 9am and Wednesday's at 12 noon. For more information about Ms. Richmond or Our Savior's, La Crosse please visit www.oursaviorslutheranchurch.net.

Installation announcement to follow.



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