

**TEEN SCENE – October, 2023**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**Lecanto, FL.**

**WHAT IS A PASTOR?**

It is October and that is when we traditionally celebrate and thank the Lord for our pastors. In contemplating this article, I thought about what I expect of our pastor. I also wonder, if as teens you take time to consider our pastor and what he does. So here are my thoughts on what a pastor is.

A pastor is not a CEO. He is not a president. He is not an accountant. He is not a Secretary. He is not an IT person. He is not a maintenance man. He is not a psychologist. He is not a lot of things we sometimes expect him to be in the daily operation of our church. There are times he may willingly step into some of these roles and times he fulfills them just because they need to be done and no one else steps up.

What I see a pastor as being is a shepherd who guides and cares for his congregation, a preacher, and a teacher of God's Word. He leads us in the Word and administers to us the sacraments. His authority comes directly from God. He is called by God. The Ministry is a special vocation, not just a job. Pastors set aside many years of study in college and seminary, and continue to study and pray for God's guidance throughout their lives. Yet, with a direct calling from the Lord, and being highly educated, a pastor humbly acknowledges he is human and can make mistakes. He prays fervently for God's guidance in all aspects of his life....for his family, congregation, the community, the saved, the unsaved, and for anyone in need. He realizes it is God's will and power, not his. He is a willing servant of the Most High. Yes, he is compensated in order to live comfortably and provide for his family. This too is God's will for him (Luke 10:7). God places specific guidelines of what a pastor should be. Check out some of the following verses for examples.

A pastor must be devoted to his wife; one-woman man.

(Titus 1:6; 1 Tim 3:2).

A pastor's children must be in submission, though not perfect.

(Titus 1:6; 1 Tim 3:4-5).

A pastor is a faithful steward. (Titus 1:7).

A pastor must be humble — not arrogant. (Titus 1:7).

So as you can see, a pastor's life is not one where he can arbitrarily choose to live as he pleases, but is one that is lived to please our Lord.

Here at Faith Lutheran Church, we are privileged to have Pastor Griffin. We thank him for his service. We thank God for sending him to us and for Pastor Griffin's loving family that support him in his work.

So you may wonder, what does this have to do with being a teenager? How does the role of a pastor affect you? Well, Pastor Griffin prays for you daily, he is available if you ever need him for spiritual advice. He will be there for you if you have family problems, if you or someone you love is sick, or if you just need a sounding board. He faithfully preaches God's word every Sunday and teaches Bible study. The Word he brings will touch your lives in ways you can only imagine. So, I encourage each one of you to reach out to Pastor Griffin, to pray for him, and to come to church to hear the Word he faithfully preaches and teaches. By the way, if you do miss a church service, Pastor Griffin's sermons are available on the church website!

Here at Faith Lutheran you will soon be getting a new pastor. He too will be a dedicated man of God. Give him your support as he starts his new ministry with you.

May God bless you,

Marcia Pridgen