

Council accepts Bishop's appointment of new interim pastor



Pastor Chuck Erzkus

Hope's church council members met in a special meeting on April 19, 2018 and were introduced to Pastor Chuck Erzkus by Connie Schmucker of the Bishop's staff. Council unanimously approved the Bishop's appointment of Erzkus as interim pastor starting May 14, 2018.

Pastor Erzkus retired in August 2017 after 39 years of service. He spent the first 11-1/2 years of his career as a pastor at Franklin Lutheran Parish in Franklin West Virginia as pastor to three Lutheran Churches, Faith, Hope and New Hope. He then moved to Christ Lutheran Church in Lavale, Maryland where he was pastor for 27 years before retiring to Ocala, Florida six months ago.

Pastor Erzkus was best known as Pastor Chuck was described by the Cumberland Maryland Times News as a pastor and community advocate working for the benefit of area residents for nearly three decades. he was known as a "problem-solver" in his roles as pastor, counselor and community leader. In the article he said, "I felt a call to ministry as early as fifth grade."

Pastor chuck grew up in Buffalo New York where he attended Calvary Lutheran Church. His undergraduate degree is from Concordia Senior College in Ft. Wayne Indiana. He received a Master of Theology degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Columbus, Ohio. He also earned a second masters degree in counseling from Loyola University in Columbia, Maryland.