

## Dwelling in the WORD, January, 2018

### 1) Setting the context of the reading:

Israel needs a new king. Samuel had anointed the first one, Saul (cf 1 Sam. 10:1ff). God had promised a wonderful future. And there were signs verifying that Saul was indeed the one. Now times have changed; Saul is still in office. But God has told Samuel to anoint another. God has a new purpose and requires a new leader. How would Samuel choose a new leader? How will we choose a new leader for us? This is the first of four scriptures that we dwell in, seeking to hear as Samuel heard.

### 2) Dwelling in the Word - I Samuel 16:1-13 (20 minutes)

*(Hand out Bibles so all can follow along. Appoint two different people to read, once with a male voice and once with a female voice. After the lesson is read the first time, ask the following questions)*

1. a) Where did you find yourself stopping? What words, phrases or ideas stuck out for you? Or what did you find yourself wondering about, questions you might like to ask of this story?
2. b) Why did these particular words, phrases, ideas or questions capture your imagination?

*(Have the passage read a second time)*

1. a) What surprises you as you heard the reading this time?
2. b) What does this seem to say to our process of choosing our next bishop?
3. c) Where do you find hope in this story for our process?

**3) Close with Prayer** *(discuss what thanksgivings and what concerns need to be lifted up in your congregation at this time. If comfortable, ask the individuals to give voice to these things in your prayer time. And then conclude with prayers for the discerning process using these or similar words).*

**O God, as you chose your Son Jesus and as you chose apostles and leaders for your church through the ages, help us now as we discern your will for the leader you would choose for our synod. Bless our conversations and our discernment. This we pray through Christ, our Leader. Amen.**