

February 7, 2023



Beloved Good Shepherd community,

By now, you should have received the news of Pastor Kathy's leaving Good Shepherd. Transitions are hard and saying goodbye can be difficult. We rejoice with Pastor Kathy in this new opportunity for ministry with the Chicago Metropolitan Synod but are also saddened at our loss of a truly wonderful pastor here at Good Shepherd. I'm sure that we are all feeling rather emotional about Pastor Kathy's forthcoming transition and departure from us.

15 years is a long time for a pastor to stay in one congregation and we are grateful for Pastor Kathy's leadership. She has been a faithful servant, an inspired leader and a dear friend who has guided this congregation especially over these last five years of the fire and the pandemic. Her leadership in all things has been a gift she has given to us.

Trust that the congregation's leadership - council, committee chairs and staff are fully prepared to meet these days and weeks ahead - both with celebrations of our ministry at Good Shepherd for the past 15 years and in our hopes and dreams for Good Shepherd in the future. We will send Pastor Kathy off with our love and gratitude, even as we mourn her leaving.

Preparation for the upcoming transition begins now. We will be welcoming an interim minister after Pastor Kathy leaves, to support and guide us through the process of discerning the future of our ministry and hear God's plans for us with renewed listening. We are blessed to have pastors among us, including Pastor Kerstin who will continue to support our congregation for the foreseeable future in ways similar to how she's supported our ministry for the last few years. We are blessed to have Deaconess Debbie to lend consistency to our staff, continued leadership for our programs, and a warm presence for us to lean into. Primary leadership and service during the interim time will be provided by our interim minister with significant support and program-specific leadership provided by Pastor Kerstin, Deaconess Debbie, Carl and Kimberly.

We are fortunate to be a healthy congregation with involved and visionary lay leaders. Your Congregation Council and Committee Chairs will continue to provide a solid foundation for our ministry. The need and desire for elevated engagement from the entire congregation is greater than ever - so we invite you to lean in, support one another, participate in our worship and programs and contribute to the bright future of our community. God's got us - God loves us - and God has great things in store for our congregation.

Your questions, feedback and support is always welcome and appreciated.

In Christ's love,

Gail Frost  
Council President  
On behalf of your Congregation Leadership Team

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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