

January 9, 2025

Dear Disciples of Christ at St. Paul,

I am announcing my retirement from active ministry effective June 30, 2025. My last Sunday here will be June 29.

This has not been an easy decision. Bernie and I have been thinking about this day for some time. Over the past several months I have been in conversation with our Church Council about cutting back. I have also had conversations with Pastor Amy Zietlow – Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Ministry and Bishop Greg Busboom. We discussed various options for continuing the ministry of Christ in this congregation. We must always remember that effective ministry is the purpose of any congregation and pastor. After prayerful discernment I felt it was the appropriate time for me to retire.

St. Paul should be served by a full-time pastor with the energy and passion to continue the ministry we have in place and to explore new opportunities for doing God's work in this community. It is a great opportunity for this congregation and a new pastor.

A point of clarity came from my Spiritual Director with whom I meet each month. I am in reasonably good health at this time and I thought I should take advantage of this opportunity. She invited me to see this as a gift from God for both me and the congregation.

Any transition is a time of anxiety for both you and me. Rest assured Pastor Amy and the Synod Office will faithfully lead you through the process of receiving an Interim Pastor and a new Called Pastor. You are held in prayer by the Synod Staff as well as a member of Synod Council and myself. The Spirit is at work.

One of the advantages we have is that I will still be with you for another 5 months. We will have time to grieve, to share stories, and celebrate God's work together. I began my ministry here in October 2007 and was ordained here on February 17, 2008. We have been together through many highs and lows and for that I give thanks.

May God guide and bless these days of sacred transition.

Pastor Pete

*There's a season for everything
and a time for every matter under the heavens.
Ecclesiastes 3:1*