



## Church of the Resurrection

September 1, 2016

Dear Friends,

Last month I wrote in the newsletter that “my time as your pastor is drawing to a close.” Well, in only a couple weeks Cathy and I will be saying, “Goodbye,” to you. It is both an anxious and exciting time for all of us. Cathy and I have never been “retired” together, and we will be adjusting to a new lifestyle. We’ll surely miss all of you, but we will also enjoy having the freedom to make our own schedules and be able to travel without having to think about getting back to work. You, of course will also be getting used to an interim pastor and learning about what the future will be like at church. At the same time, you can look forward to a new pastor who has lots of energy and many new ideas that will help the congregation flourish and grow.

Some have asked me if I’m worried about the church’s future. I am not! We have many strong and wise leaders at this church. We have members committed to ministry in this community and throughout the world. Pastor Kristin Nielsen, our synod’s Director of Rostered Leadership, has already met with our leaders twice and will continue to help the congregation secure a good Interim Pastor. She will also work with our Transition Team in working to call a new pastor. And, Pastor Liz will be here, providing leadership and continuity during these times. You already know her, and she will continue to be your pastor, leading you in worship and study and in the various ministries you do.

Please remember that Church of the Resurrection is, first and foremost, God’s church. He will guide and protect you, equip and encourage you, and blanket you in his love and mercy. You are in good hands!

One last word: some have wondered why Cathy and I won’t continue our membership here after I retire. This is our choice, and we make that choice knowing that we need to find a new church home in which we can be just members. That would be very difficult if we stayed here. In addition, we want the new pastor to be able to function as freely and fully as possible. Our continued presence could easily inhibit that. As I said in the newsletter in August, Cathy and I are looking forward to visiting the congregations of the ELCA Lake Country Cluster over the next few months.

Some of you may not have seen the August newsletter article to which I have referred. If you haven’t, you may wish to read it. I will post it on the bulletin boards at church and have it included on the church website: [www.sharefollowserve.com](http://www.sharefollowserve.com).

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in worship the next few weeks. May God bless you and may God bless the ministry of Church of the Resurrection.

Sincerely in Christ,

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Pastors James Stein and Elizabeth Rossing

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