



October 13, 2015

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

This past Sunday many of us gathered for worship and said good-bye to Pastor Scott and his family. By the end of this week, the moving van will have left and the Meiers will be heading to Badger, Iowa to begin the next chapter in their lives. Please keep all of them in your prayers. In addition, please pray for the people of Badger Lutheran Church, who will be starting a new chapter with Pastor Scott.

As it is with them, it is with us. We close one chapter and open another. New chapters of life can bring feelings of uneasiness and uncertainty. However, approaching new chapters with Jesus leading the way can be exciting. If we pray for His will to be clear and we follow it, He will abundantly provide. Jesus has our future. He always has. He always will.

At the time Pastor Scott announced his departure, the Congregational Council started to discern a plan to move forward. At a special Congregational Council meeting on September 27th, a plan was unanimously approved for implementation. The transition plan puts in place a team of gifted servants who are willing to work with us for at least a year. During this time, we intend to move boldly forward in ministry and further explore how we can expand the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

As a congregation, we continue to focus on Christ's Great Commission in 28th chapter of Matthew, verses 19 and 20:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

The command is clear: GO and make disciples. However, at this time of transition, we can also be assured by the message at the end of verse 20: Jesus is with us always. Let us all pray that we move forward in that confidence, where Jesus is leading the way.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a flyer which introduces the transition team. This coming Sunday, all of them will join us for worship and will formally accept their roles, moving into partnership with us. I look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, I hope the Holy Spirit has, or will be, poking at you to ask, "How is it that I can deepen my relationship with Jesus during this next chapter?" To start, I would ask that you pray daily for this transition. In the coming days, let's all look for additional ways to engage by serving and learning. Instead of thinking of ourselves as members of a church, let's think of ourselves as partners; partners in expanding the Christ's Kingdom one person at a time.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as a partner with each of you.

John Diamond
Congregational Council – Chair
Resurrection Lutheran Church of Alpena

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