



January 21, 2019

Dear Saints of Christ the Good Shepherd,

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:1-6, NRSV

Beginnings and endings are always hard. Relationships that have intentionally formed and deepened over the years make transitions even more difficult to bear. But when God orchestrates and provides a call—let alone two calls—it would be unwise and unfaithful to resist too strongly or too stubbornly.

On Sunday, January 13, 2019, Christ the King Lutheran in Nashua, NH voted to extend a call to my wife, Pastor Kim Hester, to come and serve as their full-time pastor. On Saturday, January 19, 2019, Messiah Lutheran Church in Amherst, NH voted to extend a call to me to come and serve as their full-time pastor. We have prayerfully decided to accept these calls.

This letter serves as my 30-day notice to you. Wednesday, February 20, 2019 will be my last day serving as pastor at Christ the Good Shepherd. I hope that we can make good use of the waning days of my time here in Salem to say good-bye (literally “God be with ye”) to one another. If you would like to make an appointment, schedule a coffee date, a beer or a meal together please reach out to me at your earliest convenience.

Kim, Kai and I have been so blessed to be part of this wonderful community of saints. The holy moments of baptisms, communion, funerals and memorial services and a wedding are precious to me. I will miss your smiles, our shared laughter, your gracious hospitality and your generous and caring hearts. Thank you for all the ways you have cared for me and my family. I am grateful to God and to you for the rich blessings you have afforded me.

Thank you for the joy and privilege of serving as your pastor these last 6 years and some change. I wish, hope and pray for nothing but the best for this faithful community of saints.

May God bless you and keep you; may God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may God look upon you with favor and give you peace. †

Peace and Love, Pastor 

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