

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Rev. Katrina Holland, *Intentional Interim Pastor*

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, *Pastor Emeritus*

January 7, 2025

Dear community in Christ,

It is with joy for the progress of your journey towards a new, healthy future that I must announce to you that I am completing my part of the journey with you at the end of January. I have tendered my resignation to your Congregation Council and spoken with all staff. My last Sunday with you will be January 26, and my final day with you will be Thursday, January 30, 2025.

I use the word "joy" for it is true...you have come a very long way from where I met you first. You have a strong lay leadership team and staff, and have spent countless hours discerning how to use those gifts in a new future. You are very, very close to fulfilling the call process, and I am convinced God is already calling your new pastor towards you and you towards that person. In the meantime, the Synod staff will be working with your council leadership to make sure pastoral presence is with you in this bridge time.

An occupational hazard of the Intentional Interim is staying so long as to fall in love with the congregation and then start to see dreams that are far enough on the horizon to imagine staying longer. As warm as it has been to hear folks say over the last few months "Can't we keep you?," it is also a sure sign that new things are beginning to grow among you, and that harvest is not mine to nurture with you. My particular call to ministry lies in the desert, into the chaos of the wilderness. I am sad to leave you, for you make it easy to fall in love with you. I don't say that with every call I leave, but I do mean it with you all. You have made it very hard for me to answer a call towards another place that is soon to find itself in a difficult wilderness. I have only said yes to the next call because I am confident you are so strong, resilient and close to walking through the gates to your own next chapter.

To God be the glory that the way was forged here, the path through was found, new life was celebrated. To you I offer my most sincere and profound thanks. I could not have imagined the grace, the challenge, the joy, the laughter, the fellowship, the hope, the commitment, the hospitality and the courage that makes your discipleship so faithful to Jesus' call for the church. You have made my leaving by far the hardest part of this journey.

With heartfelt gratitude in Christ's service,  
Pastor Katrina