

Happy Easter! Christ is risen indeed! And, The day is drawing near! It has seemed like a lot has happened since the February Call meeting and my March visit. If I have learned one thing, it's that moving across the country takes strength, stamina and lots of help along the way. Coordinating everything begins to be a job in itself. With one home sold and another one still being built, we can reflect on two things: God has richly provided, and anything worthwhile demands a sacrifice. This is a beautiful truth for us to recall in our Holy Week and Easter observances. This year those beautiful services have been for us mixed with goodbyes. Krika and I have treasured our 20 years living near family- 15 years near her parents, and 5 years near mine. Now, although we will be far from all of them, nevertheless we look forward to a new family adopting us, that is, our church family at Christ our Savior! We thank you for your hospitality, your eagerness to help, and your close attention to our every need. It may take some time, but we have every intention of making Saint Augustine and Christ our Savior home for the three of us. Your patience and understanding will be more valuable than you realize. It's a big transition to make, and yet I am confident that God's loving care has been behind it all from the start, and He will never let us down.

As your pastor, my chief endeavor will be to prepare you and anyone you bring with you to meet Christ your Savior face to face, by delivering to you the many ways He has already arranged to meet with us, that is, I will preach and teach His Word and hand out His gracious gifts. I would regard it to be my proudest achievement if the Lord allows me to see that His congregation loves Him and loves one another. Not that I would accomplish anything by what I have done, but that He did His marvelous work through me, and sometimes in spite of me. We will have a lot to learn from each other, but most of all, I look forward to all of us knowing Jesus even better.

In his old age, the Apostle John wrote: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3 John v4) May we together at Christ our Savior share in this same joy over the saving truth of Jesus, and by God's grace share that joy with everyone He brings into our lives.

Yours, in service to Christ Jesus,
Pastor Stirdivant

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