



March 15, 2017

Grace Lutheran Church
Board of Elders and Grace Congregation

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that this letter finds you and your family celebrating your faith in King Jesus and that you are continuing to be blessed as you walk with Him.

These are exciting times for all of us here at Grace as the Holy Spirit moves among us through word and sacrament. As we continue to prayerfully make decisions that will help us continue to expand our outreach to our family here at Grace and our community, we need to make some decisions on our leadership going forward. After a lot of prayer, discussions and seeking the Holy Spirit's direction and guidance, I have been led to step down from the Senior Pastor position here at Grace on January 21, 2018.

Maybe King Solomon said it best when the Holy Spirit led him to write, "To everything there is a season..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). In looking back to our 30 plus years of ministry here at Grace as a vicar, associate pastor and senior pastor, we have been richly blessed by your love, acceptance, forgiveness and friendship. Our family has been blessed as you accepted us into your families as we did life together. You helped make Cari and Tim the people they are today. You supported and encouraged Betty over the years. For all the time we spent together our lives, were forever changed.

There will never be the words to express how much we thank you for allowing us to minister with you as we explored God's grace together. I know that the Holy Spirit will continue to use Grace to touch the lives of people with the amazing story of God's mercy, love and grace through faith in King Jesus. It will be rewarding to watch as He takes you on the new journey. I know you will accomplish great things in the days ahead as you listen to His voice.

As we make this transition, I will work with our staff and lay leadership to make this transition smooth and successful. The elders are doing a great job in working the process that will lead the Holy Spirit to bring our new Senior Pastor to Grace. As we all work together, we know that the Holy Spirit has His plan and will provide everything we need in His time. I encourage you to begin or continue to pray for our new senior pastor and his family.

We love Grace and will always keep you close to our hearts. God's richest blessings as we move forward together.

Be there!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Jim