



St. John's Lutheran Church

10 August 2010

To the people of St. John's Lutheran Church:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I write to you to let you know that on Monday I sent a letter to the Congregation Council resigning my call as Senior Pastor of St. John's, effective September 12. The congregation of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis has voted to call me as their pastor, and I will be accepting that call when the papers come from the synod office.

I am writing you with all kinds of conflicting emotions – excitement, sadness, trepidation, joy, nostalgia, anticipation – and I already am deeply aware of how much I will miss you, the people of St. John's. This has been a blessed place for me to do ministry, and you have been faithful co-workers with me for so many years. Leavings are never easy, and more so when leaving people who have meant so much to me and my family. But with leavings are also new beginnings, and I am eager to see what God has in store for ministry for me as I begin a new call.

There will be opportunities for me to say more things about this, in the next *Voice*, and in final sermons with you, and I hope there will be many opportunities for us to say farewell to each other. But for now, let me say my most profound thanks to you, the good people of St. John's, for being a gift to me, and to my family, who have always felt surrounded by the love of this congregation.

God has richly blessed me and my family in my time with you, and I have seen God's grace flow in this place in so many ways. It has been a privilege to serve as your pastor these fourteen years. I am confident of this, that the same God whose love for us in Jesus shapes and fills our lives and who moves among us in the Holy Spirit, will be with me and my family as we leave, and will be with you as you remain faithful disciples here. That gives me great joy. God bless and keep you always.

In Jesus' name,

Pastor Joseph G. Crippen