

April 13, 2021

Dear Members of the Church Council,

You and the people of Zion have been welcoming, kind, and generous to me beyond anything that I ever expected. I'm especially grateful to you and Pastor Erin for giving me an opportunity to enrich my spiritual and relational life at Zion Lutheran. This *City on a Hill* is truly a place of grace.

The leadership at Zion has not only enriched my life but they have enriched the lives of people who want to love their neighbor as they love themselves. This church has established effective structures to organize our love to truly be encouraging to both people in the church and in the community. In the twenty-first century, the church is changing and Zion is striving to meet that change through love. I'm honored to be included in this outreach of caring. I've said many times, I'm deeply impressed with the commitment and the effectiveness of the visitation committee. They do what they promise to do. That's no small thing. I've also done some volunteer work with the Social Concerns committee, another fine group of people. The worship people are also faithful to their callings from the musicians to the altar guild members. Working with Pastor Erin and the paid staff is a joy! Sadly, I think that this vital work is largely invisible and can be taken for granted. Thank you for your work as a church council. It has been especially challenging during this time of Covid with its resulting isolation.

With my wife's retirement, we are both at home together now. The time has come when we feel more intimately the miles between us and family. We also feel a longing to find outlets to experience nature in the outdoors around us. This week we are putting our home on the market. When it sells we will be leaving Aberdeen. We have some options to weigh concerning where we will go. A move to Minnesota puts us close to our daughter and son-in-law, along with Nancy's sister and numerous nieces and nephews with their families. Alternatively, we could move to Rapid City to be close to our son in Rapid City, and much closer to my parents and sisters in Colorado.

Every time that we have sold a home in the past, it has taken months. However, when we spoke with realtors this week they told us that we might not find that to be the case this time. They say that houses are selling quickly in Aberdeen right now. I'm comfortable if it takes some time or if it happens quickly. Until it sells, I'm more than happy to continue to serve Zion as your visitation pastor. If the house sells, then I'll need to let go of that role. This Friday, April 16, the house will be opened up for people to come through it with realtors.

Again, thank you for the place that you have made for me at Zion. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to give me a call. You have been a gift to us!

Gratefully,
Pastor Tim