

Dear First Lutheran Family,

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus says to his disciples, “Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest for a while.” Pastor Perry has faithfully served our church since October of 2012. The ELCA recommends pastors serving in a congregation continuously for at least six years be granted the opportunity for a time of sabbatical. Pastor Perry will be taking eight weeks of sabbatical leave beginning on April 15th and will return on June 16th. Pastor Perry will use this time for spiritual and physical renewal, visioning for the renewal of First Lutheran Church, as well as reconnecting with family and friends.

In the interests of First Lutheran Church’s ongoing vitality and effectiveness as a congregation, we believe it is important that we provide this time for our pastor to strengthen himself as a leader. We have worked out a sabbatical plan with Pastor Perry to make the time away as meaningful as possible. We, the Deacons and Pastor Perry, have complete confidence in Pastor Brian’s leadership, the skill of our great staff, and our congregational leadership during his leave. Brian will be handling preaching, teaching, visits, and funeral services. We have asked Kim Wermersen and John Adams to assist as needed to support the congregation.

It is important that we respect this sabbatical period and not contact Pastor Perry as though he were still at work. Please respect his privacy and time of renewal. We ask for your prayers for Pastor Perry that this sabbatical will be a time of renewal, re-tooling, and re-visioning.

His desire and ours is that he be inspired and renewed in body, mind, and spirit for the next phase of his ministry in our church. We welcome any questions you have. Please contact congregational President Archie Barriage if you have any questions on Pastor Perry’s sabbatical. In the coming days, there will be more information about Perry’s sabbatical on First Lutheran’s website. <https://www.3cross.org/sabbatical/>

In Christ,

Phylis Anderson
Board of Deacons Chair
First Lutheran Church