

December 1, 2023

Dear Members, Guests, and Friends of Faith Lutheran Church,

I wish I could tell you all in person, because I care about each one of you (but it's just not possible), the news that I am planning to retire next year, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. (Yes, that's five months away!) 😊

It will be exactly 17 years (I started here December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006) This month that I began my ministry here at Faith, and it truly has been an amazingly blessed and joy-filled part of my DCE career!

Y'all have been so good to me, with your prayers, words of encouragement, hugs of friendship, various areas of support, commitment to Christian education, and our partnership in the Gospel – for sure!!

My goal as a DCE has always been to strive to be a faithful Christ-like servant leader in the church, as well as in all aspects of my life! And YOU have shown that same Christ-like servanthood and love to me, and my family, in so many ways! I thank God for you - for blessing me, trusting me, and loving me - all these years!

Both Tonya and I have been thinking on this (she may be retiring next year also), planning for this, and praying about this for about a year now.

I simply feel it is time for the next big chapter in my life. (I have served in four LC-MS congregations, as a DCE, for a total of 41 years.) And I know that God still has plans for me...in retirement!

Are there still things that need to continue and new things that need to be done at Faith? Yes! Do I have some regrets about my time here? Sure. Is this also an opportunity for Faith to grow even stronger, for the future? Definitely!

Overall, though, I feel I will be leaving when, in my opinion, our church is at its healthiest: doing so much good and God-pleasing ministry and mission – for the kingdom – driven by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ! Each of you has a purpose here, and a giftedness, to continue to know Christ, live Christ, and make Christ known!

Going forward, I just want you all to know that in working with the called staff, Faith's lay leadership, our boards, the personnel committee, church council, the preschool director and staff, and all of you... that I will do all I can to help in this transition, being as cooperative as I possibly can, but also getting out of the way in certain matters as well.

God's Peace Be with You All!

In the Strong Name of Jesus,

Jonathan Loesch  
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Faith Lutheran Church  
Georgetown, Texas