

Retirement: Right Around the Corner!

To be clear, my retirement will mean I will be leaving this beloved church by month's end. My final day is the day of my retirement celebration, Sunday September 29th. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your pastor for these 29 years! I am blessed beyond measure to have done so. It has been so sweet to start my ministry as your youth pastor and finish as your senior pastor. Having said this, nevertheless, I will leave here living out what is a Covenant Pastor's code of ethics which states I am to leave with 'a definite finality.' I will no longer attend nor give any leadership to this body allowing others to step into that sacred space. This might seem unnatural and awkward as we will continue to live in our current home and have involvement in the Willmar community and frequent the greater Kandiyohi County Christian community. Mary and I will tend to not initiate contact with you as members and attenders though we might reciprocate as appropriate staying clear of conversation regarding 'church.' We are resolved to end well and appropriately keeping good boundaries. We do so for the health of this body moving forward. Having said this, we will bump into each other here and there and please don't run away and be assured we will not either! 😊 It will be good to catch up with you as our paths cross in the future. Again, we will just stay away from talking 'church' but all else will be enjoyed!

'Farewell' is too strong a word for this time of transition, but we do say goodbye to what has been and embrace a new relationship which is appropriate to my retirement. We love you all!!

In His Grip, Pastor Kevin and Mary

PS My email 'pastor@nlcovchurch' will appropriately be phased out over these next months. My new email will be kmelin730@gmail.com and Mary's remains the same. The back page here gives you a transitional plan so all know how many of my tasks will be filled if you need to make contact with church leadership in this interim.

FYI: Who does what while in transition after Pastor Kevin retires...

- **Church Chair Mitch Barber & Staff Relationship Team** will lead & support the staff attending weekly staff meetings as needed in person or with conference calls. Pastor Matt will call and lead staff meetings while without a pastor. Staff will work with Office Managers for events, announcements and promotions.
- **Pastoral Care Needs:** Please notify the church office of care needs so they can be communicated to Elders, Staff and Visitation Team as appropriate to be covered as needed and available. Obviously, we can only do so if we know the need and have people to meet that need. Please be understanding of the season we are in. **Hospitalizations/Surgeries** will be covered by our Elders & Ministry Staff as most appropriate & available. Call them direct or the church office. **Visitation Commission** (Kevin Gronli's) will cover the shut ins, vulnerable, widows as volunteers allow. **New Visitors Visitation/Contact:** Sunday Ushers, Greeters & Staff along with the congregation at large will try to get contact info (Cell or email) and get it to 'Visitor Point Person' Jeff Koehler (320-444-3487) who will contact and distribute info back to those who are most appropriate for follow up. This is often an organic process involving all of us! **Pastor Mike McCain will cover deaths & critical crisis issues** as they present themselves. Thanks to the many who will step into the care of our congregation for such a time as this!
- **Setting Agendas for all Congregational, Church Council & Executive Meetings:** Church Chair Mitch Barber & Elder Ben Z. assisted by Office Manager(s) & Ministry Staff
- **Prayer Chain Needs:** Point People will be Sam & Nancy Greene (320-220-0055 & 320-220-4948 or email at swgreene@tds.net). It will be best if you can craft your prayer need and either text or email it so the Sam & Nancy can simply cut and paste it into our prayer chain data base! The church office can be notified too during office hours.
- **Weddings & Funerals:** Pastor Mike McCain, Pastor Matt Christiansen &/or Interim Pastor if one joins us at some time.
- **Communion:** Elder Josh Carlson & our monthly communion preparers as scheduled.
- **Galatians 6:2 Benevolent Needs:** Elder Josh Carlson
- **Confirmation:** Pastor Matt Christiansen
- **Adult Sunday School:** Elder Ben Zieske & Pastor Matt Christiansen
- **Scheduling Pulpit Supply by team (Pastors McCain, Hannig & Matt plus others)** until and if an interim pastor is used or the next pastor arrives. Church Chair Mitch Barber along with Elders are charge to schedule and coordinate this.
- **Getting Sermon Title, Text & Theme from pulpit person to worship team to help in the creative process:** Worship Co- Chair Mike Erickson.
- **Creating Weekly Worship Flow/Order and its communication to team who will need it:** Worship Leaders assigned... Elder Ben W. presides over others who all help with this week to week... Paula H./Karen & Saralyn/Rachel R. or TBA.
- **Creating & Maintaining Tech Schedule Leadership:** Elder Josh Carlson
- **Sunday Morning Church Open & Lock-Up:** Church Staff or their designee
- **For ALL else... let it be as in Judges 21:25** *'In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes!'* 😊 Just joking... BUT Let the Church Be the Church!

As always, In His Grip, Pastor Kevin