

Dear beloved members of Windsor Heights Lutheran Church,

Congratulations on the celebration of 75 years of ministry. The Carlson family has and continues to hold you in prayer as you live out God's mission in the name of Jesus.

On this special occasion in the life of the congregation, I thank God for the tremendous witness the people of WHLC has provided over these many years, and the ways in which God's gifts of grace has been given to all who have been woven into this community since 1944.

In my tenure as your pastor, I was consistently inspired by the ways in which the congregation fostered authentic relationships and served those in need both far and near. I will always be indebted to the congregation for the support provided to my family as we grieved the death of both my parents while serving WHLC.

In a way of an update, the term "transition" best summarizes the current status of the Carlsons. Our oldest child, Greta, completed her first year at Luther College in May. Her interests are in the areas of psychology and environmental studies. She is involved in vocal music, campus ministry activities and works in the Sustainability Office on campus. She will be a counselor at Camp Wapo in Wisconsin this summer. In addition to careers in the psychology field, she is discerning a sense of call toward youth ministry.

Ben graduated from Valley High School in May and will be attending Iowa State University in the fall. His area of interest is in music education, with the hopes of being a band director. One of his mentors has been his own band director, Josh Waymire, which is a fun tie to the Windsor Heights Lutheran community.

Beth continues to work as the Director of Whole Degree Planning at Grand View University. She and her staff assist students and families in the areas of financial interpretation and academic advising.

After serving over ten years as Assistant to the Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, I was called to Faith Lutheran Church in Clive in February 2019. Though the timing and context of ministry was not anticipated, we are grateful to be in the Des Moines metro area, and I look forward to ways in which our partnership in the gospel may grow.

As you celebrate the ways you are rooted in faith, history and service, trust in the love of Christ that calls us into God's hope-filled future.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

Pastor Eric Carlson