

February 22, 2015

Dear friends in Christ,

It has been my honor and privilege to be your senior pastor since 2005. The time has come for me to answer a call to serve God in a new congregation. I write today to let you know that my last day at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church will be Sunday, March 22, 2015.

This has not been an easy decision. You are wonderful people. Together, over the course of nearly ten years, we have engaged in some remarkable ministry and mission. We've created a true center for mission, with the work we do as GA Church, and with the welcome we've offered to other churches and organizations to use our facility as their home for mission. With the outstanding vision and listening work of the last couple of years, we have cast a vision for greater connection with our community, and a desire to deepen our faith together. We have walked together with God through all the seasons of life, celebrating birthdays, the lives of saints who have died, marriages, anniversaries and baptisms. We've embraced new opportunities to share the good news of Jesus, and we spend more time together around tables for fellowship and food!

While I am proud of our accomplishments and humbled to be your pastor, I have sensed that God is calling me to the next step in my journey of ministry and faith. I have accepted the call to lead the congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in North St. Paul, beginning at the end of April.

When I think about our time together I am filled with profound gratitude for you and what God has done in our midst. You have embraced me as your pastor, and walked with me in faith and friendship. You have shown me the love of God in many ways through your generosity, service, compassion, and understanding. The community is blessed by all the mission and ministry you do together.

I am excited about the Gateway of Faith for GA and am sad that I must now watch it from afar. Gustavus Adolphus is a special congregation with many gifts and a great deal of potential to bless God's people. I trust that just as the Spirit made a match between us back in 2005 through prayer, discernment, and self-study, the Spirit is at work even now preparing GA and its next pastor for the next stage of a journey that began back 126 years ago here on the East Side.

In the peace of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Bonnie Wilcox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Bonnie Wilcox, Senior Pastor  
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