

April 20, 2021

Dear Members of Zion,

I am writing to announce that I will soon be leaving Zion and taking a call to another congregation in the state of Washington. By the leading of the Holy Spirit, and the tug of our family, Eric and I feel it is the right time to move back to the West Coast. As our family grows with new grandchildren and our mothers age, we want to be closer to them.

I have been called to Bethel Lutheran Church in Brush Prairie, Washington, which is north of Vancouver, WA. It is a similar sized church to Zion and we anticipate it will be a good pastor-congregation partnership. We will be close to Interstate 5 and within a few hours to a day's drive to most of our family members.

Please know that this move has nothing to do with my call here. Zion Lutheran has been a wonderful first call for me. You helped me live into the identity of "pastor" with grace and loving guidance. You welcomed Eric and me into your hearts six years ago and this congregation and community have been a blessing to us in so many ways.

What does this mean for Zion?

My last Sunday here will be May 30th. This means that I will not be returning for weddings, baptisms, or funerals beyond that date. Pastor Jason Asselstine serves as the Associate to the Bishop of the Montana Synod and he will be guiding the Zion leaders and congregation through a season of transition and the call process. You will be well cared for and I trust our Church Council to lead you well.

Thank you for these years of beautiful ministry we have shared together. We have all learned and grown as disciples of Jesus and as God's beloved people. A piece of my heart will stay here, even as I carry you with me wherever I go.

With deep gratitude,

Pastor Lynne Ogren