

Christ's United

Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

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Dear Sisters and Brothers of Christ's United Lutheran Church,

In the May 2021 Messenger newsletter, I announced to you that my husband, Pastor Mark Swanson, had resigned his pastorates in our Schuylkill Mission District and taken on an interim position at a congregation in Clay NY. We all knew that sooner or later I would need to move on to be closer to him. This has now happened. I have received a call to serve as Chaplain at Lutheran, Jamestown, NY. Lutheran was founded in 1886 as the Gustavus Adolphus Home for Children, with a mission to serve the children of Swedish immigrants who lost their lives in the journey to America. Today Lutheran is a community for youth with special needs as well as seniors who reside in independent units, the assisting living program, or the Lutheran Nursing Home.

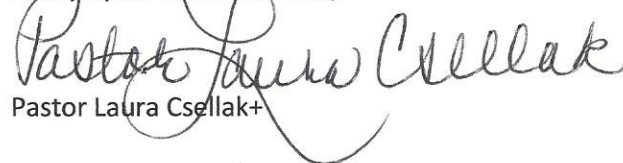
Given this new position I hereby resign my call as Pastor of Christ's United Lutheran Church, effective August 31. My last Sunday with you will be August 15. August 17 will be my last day, followed by two weeks of vacation.

I left a previous call thinking I would never again serve a congregation with such strengths. You, dear siblings in Christ, proved that wrong. As I wrote in the May newsletter, "No congregation I've served has stronger lay leaders, volunteers, outreach to the community, the ability to try new things, and commitment to Christ".

While I am enthusiastic about the opportunities of this new call, my heart aches to leave you. As I wrote in that May Messenger, "I love this congregation dearly and am so very privileged to serve as your pastor". During our three years together, we have experienced healing from past controversies; engaged in lively worship, faith formation, service, outreach and fellowship; and established protocols to improve communication, as well as identify conflicts and resolve them.

While my departure from you is sooner than I expected, I have every confidence that you have everything you need to continue in exciting ministry and mission. Remember that we serve a God of abundance. Your next pastor will find a vibrant and loving congregation with whom to serve.

Always your sister in Christ,


Pastor Laura Csellak+