

Dear members of UNITY Lutheran Church,

With gratitude for Pastor Sherrie Lorbeck's twenty years of ministry among us, the Congregation Council of UNITY Lutheran Church acknowledges receipt of her letter of resignation dated September 30, 2026.

This difficult decision followed prayerful consideration and thoughtful discussion by Pastor Sherrie and the Congregation Council. Together, we have mutually agreed that this is the appropriate time to conclude her ministry at UNITY. The Council understands that this news may prompt questions. We offer reassurance: Pastor Sherrie's resignation is not related to any kind of misconduct.

Through her worship leadership and ministry, Pastor Sherrie has touched many lives at UNITY, and she will be remembered with fondness and gratitude. We offer appreciation for all she has shared and hope for the path ahead.

Please hold Pastor Sherrie and her family in prayer as she discerns her next chapter in life and ministry. Although she will not return for a farewell, we will offer prayers of thanks for her twenty years of ministry at each of the services this weekend – Oct. 3 and 4. For those who wish to send a card or note of gratitude, we will collect those at both Cross of Life and Christ the King for delivery to her in the coming weeks.

Please also keep UNITY's leaders in prayer as we navigate this transition. We are working closely with the bishop's office to develop a pastoral leadership plan and expect to share updates in the coming weeks. We move forward together with faith, gratitude, and hope for UNITY's future.

In God's peace and with hope for all that is to come,

The UNITY Church Council

Dear People of UNITY,

There is no easy way for me to say this, but after much prayer, reflection and discernment over these past 2 1/2 months, I think the time has come for me to bring to a close my ministry and time as one of your Pastors at UNITY.

As I have struggled to make this decision, I feel that it is time for me to say good bye, in order for you to fully see where God is leading you next. My last day will officially be September 30, 2026, though it will likely take me a few weeks to gather up my things and pass off all the important files and notes gathered from over the years. I will then go on leave from call for a time as I sense that God has something in mind for me.

I am sorry that this road has come to an end so abruptly. Having experienced this three times before with pastors that I was blessed to have been shaped by, I know all too well how hard this will be and the range of emotions and questions it can stir up. While I wish there would have been time to more appropriately prepare, the reality is that doing so would likely have made the decision to leave that much harder.

Please know that this time I have been on leave has by far, been the most difficult that I've ever experienced in my life. However, I thank you for continuing to support me and pray for me and my family during this time, as you all were in my prayers each and every day. Thank you for all the ways you continued to make UNITY the special place it is and for all that you did to help support Pastor Justin, Pastor Eric, and the rest of the staff, along with your prayers for Carole, Bert, Mark and Nicki of the Advisory team and the rest of the Council too.

During my leave, I was able to more fully realize the toll that the past six years has had on me and was greater than what I was even willing to admit, beginning with the stress of figuring out an entirely new way of being the Church and one devastating loss after another, including Jo Ann Tomm and that of my own mother, along with so many beloved members. Next came the time of transitions and though, we did our best to plan and prepare for them, I think I was so focused on trying to help us move through each that I forgot what I most needed in order to be at my best.

I pray you know how hard I have tried to do my best and to do what I thought was best, trying to always find a balance between living as people who seek to be life-giving instead of its opposite, living within the means of the budget while also trusting that God would help us to continue to be the welcoming, joy-filled, connectional, generous and mission focused congregation that UNITY has always been.

It has truly been an honor for me to be one of your pastors for the past twenty years. Thank you immensely for the all the countless ways you have been patient with me, you've been an example to me, you've trusted me, and allowed me to be a part of your lives.

Thank you for all the love you have shown not only to me but to Matthew and our children: George, James, Emily and Peter. They have spent countless hours at church over the years from the time they were just weeks old and I know they are all struggling in their own ways without the words, but thank you for all the ways that you have welcomed them, included them, given them way too many sweets from the kitchen, lifted them up, yet let them be who they were, and for all the wisdom and faith you have poured into them through your teaching, love, and example. I am forever grateful!

And though, things will change, I'm not dying and NEITHER are you, and you are so needed by God to be Light and share Love and be people who boldly proclaim just what it is that Christ CAN do, and DID, and WILL! LIFE, even out of death, when it seemed as if all was hopeless. So, remember to keep your eyes and your ears open, because you never know when Christ will be walking right beside you as I trust he already is.....and you never know when Christ will be working through you to speak the message he longs for all of us and this world to hear....."Peace be with you".

With great joy and thanksgiving for each of you and much love,

Sherrie (aka....."PSher")