

# ***FULL HEARTS, FULL VOICES!***

*Some parting thoughts  
from your interim pastor*

## ***To all God's People of Peace,***

My heart is so full this morning! It's full of praise and thanks to God and to you all for a good fourteen months together in interim ministry. Thank you for yesterday, my final service as your worship leader and preacher! I treasure the parting messages you wrote in that huge stack of cards and the parting words and hugs we shared. I treasure the echoes of my ordination hymn, "Come Christians, Join to Sing" that the full church sang with such gusto to open our worship of Christ the King. I can see in my mind's eye the joy of six young sons and daughters of the king as they received their First Holy Communion. The echoes of "thank you" and "thanks be to God!" continued through my final services at Parkview and Meadowlark Homes. *What precious memories! Thank you for them all!*

Even more precious, though, is the promise of God fulfilled. Our Lord has prepared a new pastor to shepherd Peace into His future and yours'. Our Lord has prepared His people of Peace to recognize, receive, and rally' round Pastor-elect Rich Stevenson. On Sunday, Dec. 20, you'll join in full hearts and full voices to install him. You'll get to know Pastor Stevenson and his wife, Anita, beginning with the joyous celebrations of your first Christmas together. And in the seasons to come, you'll "ponder anew what the Almighty can do" in your lives together. *What joy awaits you, no matter what lays ahead!*

Unless there are emergencies that absolutely require a pastor's presence between now and Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, my interim ministry ends with the installation of the next called, settled pastor. From then on, Pastor Stevenson will be *the* Pastor of Peace. He will be *your* pastor. I fully trust and expect that you will turn to him in all things pastoral. This is how you'll learn to love and trust each other, just as you've loved and trusted me and every other pastor who preceded me. *What an adventure in Christ awaits you!*

Once a pastor leaves, whether interim or long term, it's not appropriate or expected that we will be anything more than friends in the future. I will step back, out of any pastoral relationship with you, to continue in whatever ministries the Lord has in mind next. I'll be tending to Red as he continues to get used to his new knee (he gets out of the "place of rehabilitation" this afternoon!) We'll be getting precious time over Christmas with our daughter, Sara, and son-in-law Jim in Idaho. Your prayers have sustained us through Red's surgery and Sara's continuing treatment for cancer. In between all of that, I'll continue caring for the ranch until Red is firmly back on his feet, teaching seminary classes, mentoring seminarians, writing, and volunteering. *What an adventure in Christ awaits me and mine!*

Let us all continue, with full hearts and full voices, giving thanks and praise to God for all that has been, all that is, and all that is to come. Thanks be to God and to God's people of Peace- Deshler!

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## ***Psalm 95:1-2 The Message (MSG)***

*Come, let's shout praises to God,  
raise the roof for the Rock who saved us!  
Let's march into his presence singing praises,  
lifting the rafters with our hymns!*

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In Christ,

*Pastor Cathi*