



**FIRST EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH**  
**3311 HAMMOND AVE, SUPERIOR, WI**

April 22, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is with mixed emotions that I write to you today to announce my resignation as Pastor of First Evangelical Covenant Church, effective June 30, in order to pursue a Doctor of Theology degree in Old Testament Studies at Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC, beginning this fall.

In 2014, the people of First Covenant graciously extended to me a call to serve as their pastor. I received that call, confident that God was opening this door for this season, a season which has lasted nearly five years. I now believe that God has opened the door for this new season.

While Carolyn and I are excited for this new opportunity, still our coming departure is bittersweet. It is difficult to leave this church family, this community, and this place that we have come to know and love over the past five years. You all have become our friends, our family, bonus grandparents to our children. You have walked with us through five years of life, just as we have had the privilege of walking with you through both joys and sorrows. You welcomed me as a newly minted seminary grad and entrusted me with the great and awesome responsibility of teaching God's Word, of caring for your hearts and souls, of leading you in God's Mission. You have forgiven my faults and foibles, loved me in spite of my mistakes, and helped me to grow in the calling that God placed on my life. You have always, *always* showed me and my family love and cared for us well. I can only hope that I have, in my time here, given half as much as I have received.

I want to thank you for trusting me, for loving me, for listening to me, for forgiving me, for sharing your lives with me, for laboring in the work of God's Kingdom alongside me.

In the coming months, I will be working with the Leadership Team to effect a smooth transition out and to lend whatever aid I can in preparing this congregation for a season of transition and eventually a new pastor. I would urge you all to keep the Leadership Team in your prayers as, with the help of our Northwest Conference, they begin to lay out a process for determining the next steps for First Covenant.

Most of all, I urge you to keep pressing on in the work of God's Kingdom, maintaining the unity of the Body of Christ and following the leading of God's Holy Spirit, knowing that God works all things for the good of those who love him.

Grace and peace to you all,

Pastor Luke