

## **To the Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,**

Regarding the resignation announcement shared by Pastor Ritchie this past Sunday, we, the Church Council, wish to offer additional clarity and reassurance to our church family.

After many meetings, much prayer, and deep reflection, Pastor Ritchie and the Trinity Council mutually and unanimously agreed to conclude our working relationship due to ongoing differences in perspective, approach to ministry, communication style, teaching, leadership, and alignment on core values. This decision was not made lightly. Both Pastor Ritchie and the Council invested significant time, prayer, and effort seeking understanding and resolution. Despite these efforts, it became clear that our differences were not reconcilable. In our conversations, Pastor Ritchie himself expressed concern about his ability to be fully successful in serving at Trinity. Together, we discerned that it would be in the best interest of both Pastor Ritchie and Trinity to part ways amicably, allowing both to move forward in renewed health and purpose. Towards this, pastor Ritchie chose to resign.

Because Trinity remains under a two-year agreement with the VanderBloemen search firm, they will continue to assist us in the process of finding our next pastor. We are confident that God will lead us to the people to guide and shepherd our congregation in the days ahead.

We recognize that this news may raise questions and emotions within the congregation. Please know that your Council has acted carefully, prayerfully, and with Trinity's best interests at heart. We welcome healthy conversation and encourage all members to remain engaged through prayer, service, and participation on committees and boards so that your voices continue to be heard in constructive ways.

Our shared goal remains steadfast—to keep Trinity the vibrant, Christ-centered church family that we all love. We ask for your continued prayers for both Pastor Ritchie and our congregation as we enter this next chapter together, trusting in God's faithfulness and provision.

With prayer and unity,

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council