



# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

January 2026

Dear Saints of Holy Cross,

Happy New Year! Thank you for your faith filled generosity this season! We ended the year in the black without borrowing from savings and are 80% to our goal for Lighting and Organ! Well done good and faithful servants!

I am writing to share with you that I will be retiring in 2026. My last Sunday serving at Holy Cross will be June 7<sup>th</sup> of 2026. Why that date? I was Ordained into ministry 40 years ago on June 8<sup>th</sup>. I have served three congregations with the longest tenure being here at Holy Cross marking 20 ½ years of ministry together.

A Pastor is invited to the most joyous and sad times of people's lives. I thank you for sharing your stories, pain and joys with me over the years. The night of my second interview back in the summer of '05 was thick with the Holy Spirit's presence. That sense of call has always been the foundation for our work together.

Pr. Andy has been the best colleague and it will be difficult to leave such a tremendous staff not to mention all of you. But it is time for a new call to retirement. I'm looking forward to Paul and I having more time for adventures. Pr. Andy and I have been in conversations with our Bishop Paul and Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Kristin.

There will be a transition process come June and they will guide the congregation, Pr. Andy and staff along the way. Holy Cross is a dynamic congregation and we have the promise of Jesus, "*Lo I am with you Always!*" Matthew 28.

What an incredible blessing it has been to serve here! However, I'm not gone yet! We still have five more months of doing the work to which we are called in serving our Lord.

Pastor Meredith

PS Please fill out your 2026 Commitment Form to help us avoid such a large gap in giving at the end of 2026