

# CHLE BITTERSWEET

Written by  
MATT BUCKA

Friends of Mount Calvary,

It is a bittersweet moment and one of mixed emotions for our church as we say goodbye to the daily ministry of our beloved Pastor Brenda and her husband Joel as they embark on retirement.

When I first met Pastor Brenda in February of 2011, my wife Emily and I were greeted with her welcoming spirit, kindness, and life-giving smile. Over the 14 years I've been privileged to know her, she never delivered anything less. A true servant and disciple of Christ. A willing and gifted teacher. One who has always been eager to promote and expand our mission; to engage, build up, and send out disciples of Jesus Christ. As a congregation, we will be forever grateful for the ministry she shared and the lives she touched.

While transitions are never easy, it is important to reflect on the strength and stability of our congregation. I am so confident in our future, the passionate leaders we have in place, and the team that's been assembled to serve as the committee to call our next associate pastor. The team includes Charlie Eggert, Rachel Livingston, Kevin Hruby, Kristina Olson, Amanda Fortman, Pastor Kyle, Trina Volbrecht, and me.

As a team, please know that while we have a front row view of the potential candidates to serve Mount Calvary as our next associate pastor, we bring the entire congregation's interest and mission to our selection process. We recognize the important work we've been called to do. We ask for your prayers, and we welcome your feedback.

Two meetings have already taken place, and, while there isn't much to report just yet, we will provide updates as the call process makes progress. Until then, I'll leave you with this.

When the chapter of our church's story turns, a prompt is created for each of us.

Let's ask ourselves...

**How can we build on the legacy that Pastor Brenda leaves?**

**How can we exhibit a welcoming spirit?**

**How can we bring kindness to our community?**

**How can we smile in a way that might bring a glimmer of light to one in need?**

Please mark your calendars for March 13 6-6:45pm in the Gathering room. Our new Bishop Jen Nagel will visit us to hear from you and what you want for the future of Mount Calvary. Council and staff will be in attendance, and the Call Committee invites all who are interested to attend.

Friends of Christ, thank you in advance for your support throughout this journey. And, Pastor Brenda, THANK YOU (and Joel!) for all that you've done and will continue to do in your next chapter as faithful disciples of Christ.

See you at church,  
Matt Bucka  
Call Committee Chair

