



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this letter finds you well and your New Year already off to a blessed start. As the outgoing Council Chair, I am writing to introduce a Pastoral Transition Process proposed for Shepherd of the Hills over the coming year. Our church is currently blessed with the servant leadership provided by co-pastors Tom Grevlos and Lauren Dow Wegner. During our last call process, which ended with Pr. Lauren joining our church, Pr. Tom and Council were optimistic that the fit would be such that Pr. Tom could eventually transition to other callings in life while allowing Shepherd of the Hills to retain Pr. Lauren's exceptional leadership after his departure.

Now the time for this transition has come. I personally feel we could not have asked for a better fit with Pr. Lauren. At the Council Retreat in August 2022, Council leadership voted to move forward with the transition process. As proposed, we will retain Pr. Lauren's leadership by voting to call her as Lead Pastor. This has the full support of the Southwestern Texas Synod Bishop, Council, Personnel Committee, and Staff, and will be affirmed through a congregational vote. I ask that you please mark your calendars to attend and participate in this upcoming process:

Q + A Meetings **to answer questions about goals, process, and timeline.**

Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00pm | Sanctuary + Zoom

Sunday, January 29 at 9:30am | Sanctuary + Zoom

Special Congregational Meeting **to vote to affirm the Pastoral Staffing Plan**

Sunday, February 5 at Noon | Sanctuary + Zoom

Annual Congregational Meeting **to vote to call Pr. Lauren as Lead Pastor**

Sunday, August 27 at Noon | Sanctuary + Zoom

In Gratitude,

Tim Stein, Council Chair

Continued on back
notes from Pr. Tom and Pr. Lauren

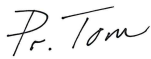
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. The Church is entrusted to be the conduit of this holy hope! It has been my privilege to be called as a Youth Director and Pastor in the Church for nearly 40 years. While the work of ministry is never finished, there are times when a transition is good and healthy. This is such a time. With full confidence in the excellent pastoral leadership of Pr. Lauren, our terrific church staff, and a thriving faith community, I will conclude my call to Word and Sacrament ministry at Shepherd of the Hills at the end of 2023.

The sacred promise of "God with us" is the anchor of our hope, both now and in the future. Living in that promise, I look forward to how the Spirit of the Living God will be at work in this transition process and in the continued vitality of ministry at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. My heart overflows with gratitude and thanksgiving for the gift of sharing faith and life with you.

At this time, my wife Jeanne will continue to serve as the Director of Butterfly Christian Preschool.

Peace,



Pr. Tom Grevlos

Dear Shepherd of the Hills Family,

When I was called to this wonderful congregation in 2019, I entered into ministry with you and with Pr. Tom knowing that there would one day be a time when PT would re-position to a new stage in his life and vocation.

These past three years at ShepHills have been a blessing for me: to learn and grow alongside PT's incredible leadership; to develop new relationships and renew old ones in a congregation that nurtured me in the past; and to further develop my leadership and pastoral identity. I am excited to move forward with you and I feel confident in the direction God is calling me, and calling us as a congregation, to continue sharing the Gospel together!

Times of transition can be confusing and disorienting, but we remain confident that the Holy Spirit has, is, and will continue to guide us. Moving into this future together will be a journey for all of us - and I am grateful to be on it with you. Our thoughtful and wise Church Council leadership, our creative and gifted staff, and YOU - our joyful and faithful congregation - are a gift to me and PT in this time of transition.

Shepherd of the Hills will continue to thrive in sharing Christ with our community and the world, growing our ministries for all ages, and changing lives by the grace of God! It is an honor to witness and lead this community of faith. God has always journeyed with those whom God has called - and together we trust God's most faithful promise and presence with us!

In Christ,



+Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner