

8-9-2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. Paul's,

What a delightful opportunity we had this morning to celebrate all the wonders God has done among us. Our new facility is a remarkable place and serves as a further testament to God's faithfulness to His people here at St. Paul's. While the building will enhance the day-to-day experience of our students and teachers, it will also create opportunities for ministry that we have yet to discover. What an exciting time to be at St. Paul's!

It is my great joy and humble honor to share that I've been led by the Holy Spirit to accept the divine call you extended to me to serve as the next senior pastor of St. Paul's. Over the past two weeks, I've had conversations with trusted friends, members of the St. Paul's staff, and current congregational leaders. Most importantly, I have spent time in prayer. Again and again, I've been reminded of two important things. First, that God's timing is always right. Second, that He has placed us here at the right time and in the right place to serve Him and you in this way.

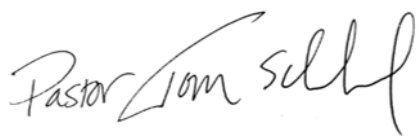
My family and I love St. Paul's. We are continually thankful for this church and school, for the opportunities we have had to become involved, and for the relationships we have formed with other members of the St. Paul's family. We are also in awe of the ways God has blessed this congregation over the past 177 years, and we are excited to see how He will continue to bless us in the years ahead.

I look forward to transitioning into this role over the next few weeks, getting to know you all better, and serving God together. I would like to ask two things from you during this time of transition:

1. Please continue to pray for me, my family, and St. Paul's as we navigate this transition.
2. When I start, please treat me like I am new here. This might be a weird request, but St. Paul's is a big place. Although we have been here for a few years, there are still people I do not know and things about the congregation that I have yet to learn. I would much rather have you assume that I do not know something and tell me than assume that I already know and allow something to be overlooked.

I can't wait to get started and to see all the wonders God has in store for His people here at St. Paul's as we gather around His Word, receive His gifts, and live together as His people.

God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Tom Schlund". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Pastor Tom Schlund

Cc: Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, President – Missouri District
Rev. Scott Jonas, Circuit Visitor