

Friends of St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

I look forward to walking with you from May 1 to July 31, providing pastoral coverage during Pastor Matt's time of sabbatical restoration. During my time with you, I will be leading worship, meeting with staff and church council, attending some congregational activities and providing pastoral care. I live at Lutheridge, so I have an easy commute. In addition to Sunday mornings, I will be at the church building every Tuesday during office hours office. I will also be available by appointment through the church office or by email at pastortim@stmarkslutheran.net. I will have a week off at the end of June for our family beach retreat, for which coverage has already been arranged. Obviously, I will not be fully replacing Pastor Matt. St. Mark's is blessed with gifted staff, who will have increased leadership, including helping me know when it's important to respond to a need in person.

I agreed to provide interim coverage because I've found a sabbatical to be valuable in the health of a pastor and congregation. Sabbatical rest is important for all! However, our weekly "Sabbath" is a workday for pastors. While pastors do take a day off and have vacation time, they are always on call even during those times away. A sabbatical provides a time for a pastor fully disengage for rest and renew. Times of pastoral sabbatical are constructive for congregations as well, as it reminds us that "we" are the church, lifts spiritual gifts in the congregation and allows us to hear different voices in the proclamation of the Gospel.

I look forward to walking with you during this time and watching how the Holy Spirit is at work in your lives and the life of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

God's Peace, Pastor Tim CK

