

May 21, 2026

*Commemoration of Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, reformer*

Dear members of Grace,

I pray this letter finds you well and blessed.

I write you to let you know about plans that I have for the summer.

My letter of call provides for me to have three months of sabbatical every seven years. Given the deep challenges of the Covid pandemic, I petitioned the Grace Advisory Board in early 2025 to waive the seven-year provision in my call documents. The GAB was most gracious and understanding and voted to approve a sabbatical for the summer of 2025.

Yet, as we all know, our plans must yield to the greater plans of God. The several changes in our staff that happened in the late spring of 2025, particularly the call to Deaconess Anna Voelker, required my presence for several weeks during the summer to ensure a smooth welcome and beginning. In consultation with the GAB, I cancelled one month of my planned sabbatical.

Since the first of this year, leaders of our congregation have strongly urged me to not “let go” that month, but make full use of the time the congregation has given me. In addition, there have been some changes and challenges for my extended family that, as I pray, I sense the Lord calling me to be present and supportive. I see in these developments how God’s plans and purposes work to our good.

So, with the support and approval of the GAB, I will be making use of the final four weeks of the sabbatical to attend to those changes and challenges. The time will be broken into two two-week portions on the following dates:

June 5-19

August 7-21

In addition, I am scheduled to represent our circuit (Circuit 13 West, Southeast District, LCMS) at the National Convention this July. I will be away July 16-30 for the convention and for a few days of vacation wrapped around that event.

During my time away, our care ministries will operate in the same way as they did last summer. We have a wonderful and skilled group of lay ministers who are ready and able to help with spiritual care, and supply pastors will lead the Divine Service when I am away.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me or to Bev Hudgins and we will be glad to talk with you.

I am so grateful to be a part of a caring and generous parish, and I thank God for each one of you as we go with our Lord!

In Christ,

Pastor Dave Brooks