



Lutheran Church of the
Good Shepherd
Old Bridge, NJ

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Dear Members of Peace Lutheran Church,

I send greetings to you from Old Bridge New Jersey in the name of our Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I have received your Call to become the next Senior Pastor for Peace. I am honored and humbled at the same time.

Receiving a call is an exciting thing, but it is also an uneasy time for a pastor and his family because of all the change that accepting a Call might bring. And now the whole world seems to be in upheaval because of coronavirus.

It brings to mind Psalm 46 where it talks about the earth giving way, the mountains being moved into the heart of the sea, the waters roaring and foaming. Everything changes. And there is so much uncertainty.

But I love the name of your church. Peace! It reminds me that there will be uneasy and unsettling times in life. Jesus speaks of wars, rumors of war, famine, disasters, along with pestilence that we are dealing with now. God does not promise to spare us of these things, but what he does promise his presence that gives us PEACE as we walk through them.

Psalm 46 goes on to say, “be still and know that I am God.” I ask for your prayers for my family and I that we might have some stillness amidst all this upheaval to hear from God and to discern where he is leading us at this time. Pray for Good Shepherd, where I currently serve, as it is unsettling when your pastor announces that he has received a Call.

Barbara and I will pray for you to navigate this new normal. We pray that we would all know that God’s got this. Ultimately, we pray that God’s will is done and that he is glorified.

In Christ,

Pastor Phil Ressler

CC: New Jersey District, Texas District, Chris Schonberg (circuit visitor)