

December 15, 2020

“But Ruth said, ‘Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people, and your God my god.’” (Ruth 1:16)

Dear Emanuel Council and Congregation,

I’m still ecstatic over what just happened this past Sunday! You voted to call me to be your next pastor. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your willingness, generousness, and affirmation. And especially to the youth who voted; it was unanimous in their decision and I will strive every day to never let you down. To be clear, I accept the new call and am honored and humbled at the same time because of you all.

I know that you overwhelmingly have called me to be the next pastor, but for those who were unsure or voted to wait for another, please know that this church is still your church, for as our presiding bishop has stated time and again, “We are church together”. Differences in opinion allow us to see the grace of God more tangibly. I look forward to learning more about you so we can build Christ’s mission together, for we are in this together now.

Keep the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Patchogue at the forefront of your prayers as they enter this transition period. As you know, the waiting for a new candidate can be hard upon congregations.

Well now, there’s some boxes to pack and a Christmas to celebrate. I will be seeing you all soon and I can’t wait until that day. Until then, be well, be blessed, and thank you again.

Merry Christmas, Emanuel Lutheran!

In Christ,

Rev. Kevin O’Hara