



*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jer 29:11*

January 7, 2025

Dear ANJLP Members:

On Monday, January 6, Pastor René submitted her letter of resignation as A New Journey Lutheran Parish's called Pastor/Mission Developer effective February 28, 2025 to the parish council at a specially called meeting. It is with regret the council accepted her resignation.

The following information is being shared various ways throughout the parish. When a pastor leaves their Call to a parish, they are released from their duties of pastoral work for that parish. For us, effective February 28, 2025, this means that Pastor René will no longer baptize, marry, bury, or provide pastoral services for us. It is important for the well-being of our parish and our future ministry to respect this boundary and not ask her to do these things just because we know her. Pastor René will sign a covenant, a promise, saying she will no longer perform her duties here and can be disciplined for doing so. Please refrain from putting her in that position to have to say no.

As a parish, we prepare ourselves to continue the ministry with the help of parish and church leadership and all who will be here, while Pastor René prepares herself for her new role. On her resignation date, Pastor René's membership will have ended along with her call to ANJLP.

The synod staff is aware of our situation and is praying for our congregation and all others in transition. We will be working closely with Associate to the Bishop Pastor Genelle Netland in the time ahead.

Pastor René's last Sunday will be February 16, February 19 her last worship, and February 20 her last work day. A Parish Open House Celebration is Wednesday, February 19 at 5:30pm-7:00pm followed by worship at 7:00pm.

Watch upcoming newsletters as the council keeps you updated as we learn more about navigating our new reality. If you have any further questions about this, please reach out to a Parish or your Church Council Member.

Jimmy Steinmetz  
ANJLP President