

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA • GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD

PASTOR LINDSEY BEUKELMAN



January 24, 2021

Dear All Peoples Church Family,

As most of you know, 2020 was a particularly difficult year for me with a number of very painful and significant losses, and have seen my ability to “just keep pushing through” dwindle in effectiveness. This is a necessary time for me to pause, pray, grieve, and be able to find my footing to move forward as the healthiest leader I can be for the APC community. With the consultation of our church council, The Greater Milwaukee Synod, Bishop Paul Erickson, and my own spiritual director, I will be taking a brief mental health sabbatical beginning on February 1, 2021. While I don't know exactly what the shape of this time will look like, the current plan is to reassess at the end of the month with the hope of returning to APC life again at the beginning of March.

I tell you all this not because I am looking for an abundance of sympathy. After all, it has been a year filled with trauma of all sorts for everyone as we navigate a pandemic, civil unrest, and loss on a massive scale. My hope is that this letter can instead continue to normalize conversations about mental health, especially within the church, and give all of us permission to do the holy work of listening to our bodies, pausing, and resting.

You might wonder a bit about what this means or looks like for the ins & outs of life at All Peoples. With the gracious support of so many, there will be lots of pastoral support throughout the month! Pastors Meredith, Drew, Sara & Vicar Matt, our partners at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Menomonee Falls, will be preaching and leading worship each Sunday. Pr. Delaney (*St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Milwaukee*) & Pr. Kelly (*Lutheran Church of the Resurrection - Racine*) will be covering pastoral care needs if you need prayer or have an emergency come up. Reach out to Anna in the church office and she will connect you.

Thank you for being a community that is willing to speak hurts out loud and for lifting one another up in love at every turn. Remember, if you are hurting, tired, or feeling uncertain about where to turn, ***you are not alone***. Reach out for help, even when it's hard or scary. Your well-being is important. You are beloved member of the body of Christ. We would not be whole without you.

God's peace and abiding love surround and hold you!

Rev. Lindsey Beukelman

If you're thinking about suicide, are worried about a friend or loved one, or would like emotional support of any kind, the Lifeline network is available 24/7 to connect you with a trained counselor across the United States.

1-800-273-8255 OR www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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LET THE GLORY OF THE LORD RISE AMONG ALL PEOPLE!