

August 13, 2020

Concordia Lutheran Church
505 South Kirkwood Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

After prayerful deliberation and Spirit-led conversation, with great joy, I accept the call to serve as Senior Pastor of Concordia!

After 26 years of ministry at Immanuel in Valparaiso, I sincerely believe that God is calling me to a new adventure in ministry at Concordia. My wife, Becky, and I look forward to seeing people we met on our brief mid-July visit. We eagerly look forward to getting to know so many more of the individuals and families of Concordia.

Concordia is such a vibrant, active, faith-filled community of Lutheran Christians. Becky and I feel blessed to be invited to share the exciting journey in ministry that lies ahead. The people closest to me have told me that they can hear the excitement in my voice as I talk with them about the possibilities for ministry at Concordia.

I will be communicating with the leaders of Concordia soon about the timing of the transition. I will need some time here in Valparaiso to say farewell appropriately. And then will come a time of transition and introduction to life at Concordia. Exciting times!

Please continue to pray for Becky and me during this time of transition and relocation as we make some emotional good-byes and at the same time form new relationships in St. Louis.

Thank you for your prayers, hospitality, great conversation, and honesty when I visited in July. We're looking forward to more of the same!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Steve Bongard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Pastor Steve Bongard

cc: Rev. Daniel Bregge, President, Indiana District, LCMS
Rev. Lee Hagan, President, Missouri District, LCMS
Rev. Donald Williams, Circuit Visitor, Valparaiso Circuit LCMS