**Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,**

In this my last newsletter article to our FELC congregation, I would like to share these words from the Apostle Paul:

**9**And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10**so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; **11**being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;  **12**giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.        **Colossians 1:9-12   ESV**

My first day as your Senior Pastor was on January 1, 1999.  It is hard to believe how quickly the time here has gone. That’s almost 22 years ago. In the normal passages of congregational life, we have seen many baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals. Through all of life’s many changes and seasons, we have always known the steadfast Love and Faithfulness of our Lord Jesus. In these years, we have shared together many different challenges, joyful celebrations, trials and exciting victories. We have experienced many great days of work together for Christ’s Mission. To borrow a phrase from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Kristi and I have been blessed to ***“Do Life Together”*** with you.

We thank and praise God for First English Evangelical Lutheran Church and the many opportunities that He as given to us in these almost 22 years. As of January 1, 2021, I will no longer be your pastor. But I am confident that God has already provided FELC with an excellent Interim Pastor in The Rev. Tim Hubert. God will continue to have so many new and exciting ministry challenges and opportunities for His people at FELC to ***“point people to Jesus through intentional relationships!”*** God is positioning FELC for its next great season of ministry!

I want to use this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the honor to serve as your Pastor. Because of our years together, the unity of our Faith, our mutual commitment to mission and ministry, and the bonds of love we share in Christ Jesus, I have been deeply blessed.

**In Christ’s Love,**

**Pastor Paul L. Larson**