



Reflections
by
Pastor Tom

Whew! This has come fast and yet for some, not fast enough!

I thank God for you and your overwhelming invitation to call me to serve with you as your pastor! What a blessed week it was to be with some of you April 19-23. Your welcoming, hospitality, and generosity has warmed my heart and we haven't even moved in yet. This past week I have been meeting with the staff together and one-on-one for various ministry and relationship building opportunities. I attended confirmation, a Women's Bible Study, and connected with a variety of people throughout the week. I had dinner out with a few call committee folks and at the Shupes. Also, I have been working with Chuck Thomas (OSELC member and our realtor) to get the last things on the list for closing completed along with checking out the details on the house (yard upkeep & utilities. We've got the pastor's office getting set up with bookshelves and some great scratch and dent furniture that is going for be so practical for projections, prep work, and counseling people. We got the laptop and desktop computers up to speed and an iPhone for exceptional communication between the staff and me via phone and e-mail plus a GPS application to help me find your homes and the hospitals.

As you read this now, this is what has already transpired or is in motion:

- April 24-25: More packing and saying goodbyes
- April 26-30: Tom's in Minneapolis completing training in Intentional Interim Ministry
- April 27: Kris and the children come to Wisconsin to close on the house.
- May 1-3: Pack and say final goodbyes
- May 4: Movers arrive at 8:00 a.m.; load truck; local pastors/friends arrive to clean house; travel to Delafield (N4 W29183 Venture Hill Rd) and camp out on the floor!
- May 5: Movers arrive at 10:00 a.m.; unload, set up beds, kitchen, table, garage, shed...
- May 6: Local synod Lake Country Cluster gathering; settle in to home
- May 7-8: Settling into home
- May 9: Installation Service
- May 10: First full week ready to serve to get to know you more!

I am so excited to preach weekly and to be what I call a "free range" pastor... that is, not confined to standing behind a pulpit. We are going to have fun with our Bibles in the pews, video and youtube clips on the screen, Power-Point slides, singing together, and digging into the scriptures in creative ways. I figure if Jesus used all the tools around him (seeds, plants, soil, fishing boats and nets...) then we should use what's on our turf now. My first sermon theme will be "Cry out to Jesus" on May 16. It will use the video of Third

Cry Out To Jesus by Third Day

To everyone who's lost someone
they love
Long before it was their time
You feel like the days you had were
not enough
when you said goodbye

For the ones who can't break
the addictions and chains
You try to give up but you come
back again
Just remember that you're not alone
In your shame and your suffering

And to all of the people with
burdens and pains
Keeping you back from your life
You believe that there's nothing and
there is no one
Who can make it right

When you're lonely
And it feels like the whole world is
falling on you
You just reach out, you just cry out
to Jesus
Cry to Jesus

For the marriage that's struggling
just to hang on
They lost all of their faith in love
They've done all they can to make it
right again
Still it's not enough

To the widow who suffers from
being alone
Wiping the tears from her eyes
For the children around the world
without a home
Say a prayer tonight

There is hope for the helpless
Rest for the weary
Love for the broken heart
There is grace and forgiveness
Mercy and healing
He'll meet you wherever you are
Cry out to Jesus, Cry out to Jesus

Day's song by that title and help us reflect on our need for God's mercy and grace in our lives.

My first sermon with you will share our deep need for a savior, found in Jesus the Christ or messiah. We will explore Matthew 9:35-38 and the essence of Jesus' ministry. We will "cry out to Jesus" for ourselves and for our neighbors. I look forward to our partnership in the gospel in the days ahead. Our family is praying for you. Keep us in your prayers as we transition in the days and months ahead.

Your partner in the gospel,

Tom Pietz
Pastor Tom Pietz