

Saturday, September 05, 2020

Dear members of St. John's Lutheran Church and Valley Bible Academy, school families, and School Board members,

With this letter I am resigning my divine call as teacher at Valley Bible Academy. Due to my current health situation I am unable to continue to teach.

I have been so blessed and thankful to teach the little lambs at VBA for the past five years. I love all the students dearly. Just last week, on Thursday August 27th, I was able to teach a Bible lesson to my students. The Bible lesson was when the mothers/families brought their children to Jesus, and Jesus' disciples told the mothers to go away, don't bother Jesus with the children. My students and I memorized the passage from Matthew: "Jesus said, Let the little children come to Me." Jesus does have time for the children. He loves them and He wants us to teach them. I personally want to thank the members of St. John's and Peace churches for supporting VBA. I so strongly believe in Christian Education. I know that the truths taught at our school will serve the students into their eternal life.

I ask your prayers for my husband who has been an amazing support for the school for the past five years. Many of you probably have no idea how much work he does behind the scenes. He has cleaned the bathrooms on an almost daily basis and he takes out all the school garbage twice a week. Nathan and I had planned to take over the daily cleaning this year and Dave and I had asked Nathan to take care of the garbage for the last year and this year just because it is probably more of a principal/teacher duty than a pastoral duty.

At the start of the school year we had 12 students enrolled. Mr. Buck is a fine Christian teacher. He always shared that he wasn't overly comfortable with the lower grade students. We now have 10 students enrolled and we have 2 students who plan to move away in the next month or so. Of course, this isn't my concern right now, but since I trust the school board, I will share that it seems to me that Mr. Buck would be fine to teach 8 students for the school year. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year of our school I was the only teacher (although I did organize assistance from volunteers) and I taught 10 students the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and 12 students the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. God will guide.

I think you all know this, but I want to share it with you. My husband and I have been married for 32 years. He has served 6 congregations during this time. God has given you an absolutely amazing earthly Shepherd. I have never known a Pastor who loves his sheep so dearly. Like I said, we're married, he's not perfect, ha!, but boy does he love you and care for your souls.

I also want to share that Dave is our conference visitor. If he needs support, Dave and I both have total trust in our synod president, Pastor Michael Eichstadt. We also dearly love our pastors to the north. Pastor List can preach the gospel in such comforting ways. Pastor Wayne Eichstadt and I were college classmates, wow, he is so gifted and I know that he will also serve everyone who needs the Word. Don't be afraid to reach out if you need support from the Word. I personally love all the online church services (I'd recommend our sons!) and also the podcasts. Becca and Ben are strong Christians who are also a shining example to me already.

Please pray for our students by name:

Logan, Patrick, Lincoln, Luella, Briar, Jackie, Alanna, Kathryn, Annabelle, Josephine, Braxton, Chelsea. I love them like they were my own children. Jesus shed His blood for them and they have an Eternal Home for them in Heaven.

I've always loved memorizing hymns with the school students. Many hymns have been a source of strength through the past days.

What God ordains is always good:  
His will is just and holy.  
As He directs my life for me,  
I follow meek and lowly.  
My God indeed in ev'ry need  
knows well how He will shield me;  
to Him, then, I will yield me.

2 What God ordains is always good:  
He never will deceive me;  
He leads me in His righteous way,  
and never will He leave me.  
I take content what He has sent;  
His hand that sends me sadness  
will turn my tears to gladness.

3 What God ordains is always good:  
His loving thought attends me;  
no poison can be in the cup  
that my Physician sends me.  
My God is true; each morning new  
I trust His grace unending,  
My life to Him commending.

4 What God ordains is always good:  
He is my Friend and Father;  
He suffers naught to do me harm  
though many storms may gather.  
Now I may know both joy and woe;  
some day I shall see clearly  
that He has loved me dearly.

5 What God ordains is always good:  
though I the cup am drinking  
which savors now of bitterness,  
I take it without shrinking.  
For after grief God gives relief,

my heart with comfort filling  
and all my sorrow stilling.

6 What God ordains is always good:  
this truth remains unshaken.  
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,  
I shall not be forsaken.  
I fear no harm, for with His arm  
He shall embrace and shield me;  
so to my God I yield me.

1 O for a faith that will not shrink  
Tho' pressed by many a foe,  
That will not tremble on the brink  
Of any earthly woe;

2 That will not murmur nor complain  
Beneath the chast'ning rod,  
But in the hour of grief or pain  
Will lean upon its God;

3 A faith that shines more bright and clear  
When tempests rage without,  
That, when in danger, knows no fear,  
In darkness feels no doubt.

4 Lord, give me such a faith as this,  
And then, whate'er may come,  
I'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss  
Of an eternal home.

God bless you all, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ. God bless our churches  
and God bless Valley Bible Academy.  
Love to all, in Jesus' Name,  
Desirae Naumann