

# MISSION MOMENT

## **Goodbye Cairo, Hello Passages** *Message from Rev. Kirsten Fryer*



With great joy, I write with two updates.

First, this will be my last Cairo newsletter, as I am now settling into life in St. Paul, MN. I have been called to serve as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the Midway. I started on September 15 and am getting settled into new routines, doing lots of listening, and have plenty to learn about St. Paul, our local neighborhood (Midway), and life back in America. Joanna started preschool and is loving it. She is very excited to see "golden leaves" and experience her first real autumn. We'll see how she feels when the snow starts to fly. It's not in the forecast yet! She is also very excited about Sunday school at Bethlehem and looks forward to Sunday each week because "there will be lots of Sundays in St. Paul." Justin is enjoying time to be a stay-at-home-dad as he figures out what is next for him.

Located a block west of Snelling and University (the busiest intersection in St. Paul), Bethlehem is rooted in the neighborhood and discerning what it means to be church in a changing neighborhood. Construction is scheduled to start in a few weeks on a new six-story residential building on the other side of our alley, and the Minnesota United soccer (I still say football after six years in Cairo!) stadium is across the street.

Like in Cairo, we share the space with others, including Open Hands Midway, a non-profit housed in the building that feeds the hungry through meals, a food pantry, and providing a welcome space. We also share space with House of Mercy, another ELCA congregation, who worship on Sunday evenings. I am excited to see what the Holy Spirit has in store for us and grateful for the opportunity to share some of the things I learned in Cairo with an urban American congregation.

We worship at 9:30 on Sundays. Open Hands serves lunch every Monday from noon until 2:00 pm. If you're ever in the neighborhood, please stop by!

The second update is that Pastor Christie Manisto, and her husband, Steve Saari, are settling into life in Cairo. Their gifts are a perfect match for St. Andrew's and I am so glad that they are there, accompanying our beloved siblings in Cairo. Please consider supporting them, as you have supported me--in prayer, financial support, and encouragement!

If you would like to continue to receive updates from Cairo, please email [Christie.manisto@elca.org](mailto:Christie.manisto@elca.org) and/or [Steven.saari@elca.org](mailto:Steven.saari@elca.org) to be added to their newsletter list.

Click here for their most recent Passages newsletter. <http://bit.ly/PassagesfromCairo>

If you would like to receive the StARS newsletter, please email [news@stars-egypt.org](mailto:news@stars-egypt.org) to be added to the list. Thank you again for all of the ways you have supported and encouraged me over these six years. I will treasure our time in Cairo always, and look forward to figuring out how the Spirit is calling in years to come.