



*"All good things must come to an end."* We have all heard and/or uttered this quote at one time or another, but the truth of this statement does not make it any less easy to accept. A good life lived, a fun vacation, a loving embrace, nightly cuddles with your child, the perfect cup of coffee. We want these things to last, but we all know the reality of the situation. We want to cling to these holy moments, but in the end, all we are left with are the memories. It just goes to remind us to cherish *"all good things"* while we can and give thanks to God that we had those *"good things"* to begin with.

A few weeks ago, I had to, reluctantly, accept Jennifer McGrady's resignation. I have had the joy of serving with her in this ministry for nearly three years, not nearly long enough. And serving with her was indeed a *"good thing"*, a memory to which I will cling tightly. Many of you were blessed by her warm and loving smile in the office, around this church building and in this community. Her love for this church and for Jesus was evident in all she did. And though we are not losing Jen, as she is just accepting a new position within this community, her regular presence in this building and ministry will be missed. And so, this *"good thing"* has come to an end.

But what now? Well, we are preparing for the beginning the next *"good thing"* that God is going to do. God brought Jen to her ministry position here at Bethlehem to accomplish His purposes for His Kingdom, and now God will bring someone else to serve His purposes for His Kingdom going forward. And though I am sad that this *"good thing"* has ended, I am excited to see what new *"good thing"* God has in store for Bethlehem and His Kingdom. And whoever ends up serving in the office next to mine, I will give thanks and praise our awesome God, for His choice is always perfect for the time He decrees.

And so, I thank you, Jen, for your dedicated ministry and for being a faithful servant of the Lord. I thank you for the wonderful memories of serving together. I thank God for *"all good things"*. God be all glory, honor, praise, worship and thanksgiving through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen!



# Confirmation Class News

This talented class planned and led worship on April 28, and let me just say how proud I am of them. Many of them stepped outside their comfort zones that day and they all did a great job. To God be the glory. A big thank you to our confirmation leaders as well: Susan Jensen, Jen McGrady, Rachel Wubben, Brian Bashans and Matt Pentico. They worked hard to help prepare these students.

May 1 was our last day of class for this school year. We close things out with our annual confirmation retreat at Okoboji Bible Camp, May 10-12. Thanks for your support with our fundraisers (Baked potato bar and Easter breakfast) as the retreat is fully funded. The theme of this year's retreat is focused on prayer. Also, this year, we welcome Pastor Sue Shike and her three confirmation students from First Reformed Church.

We say "goodbye" to four students this year, those who will be confirming their faith in October: Brooklyn Price, Kevin Hagen, Braden Ullman, Carter Wubben and Alex Olson. But I pray it is not "goodbye" from the church. What a great year we have had. I will miss my Wednesdays with this group, but I am also looking forward to the new crop of students coming in the fall. Praise be to God for His amazing faithfulness.