

“Yea though I walk through the valley of death I shall fear no evil for though art with me.” Psalm 23:4

Pastor Karen Fowler-Lindemulder entered into the Church Triumphant this morning, April 6, 2024. The following letter was written yesterday to inform everyone of the seriousness of her illness and her deteriorating health situation. Unfortunately, we must now share the news of her death.

United will continue as a congregation and will worship on Sunday. Bishop Becca will be with us all.

With great sadness,
ULC Church Council

Dear United Lutheran Church congregation,

It's with sadness I write this message.

First and foremost, Pastor Karen loves you, as congregants and friends.

A few weeks ago, Pastor Karen found out she had metastatic cancer to her liver. Pastor Karen and Jeremy were devastated. She wanted to share the news with you when they knew the source and had a game plan.

Unfortunately, that never materialized. Two weeks ago, Pastor Karen went to the emergency room for shortness of breath. At that point, she was admitted to the hospital. Many blood tests, X-rays, cat scans, MRI's and procedures ensued, but no diagnosis came.

With each passing day, more serious complications presented themselves. Kidney failure with dialysis, liver failure, a stroke, and this led to heart problems. No primary site for the cancer was ever identified.

Karen's blood sugars dropped, her blood pressure was dangerously low. She was placed on 24/7 dialysis. It mimics the human kidney function better, and is less harsh on the body. The hope was that resting her kidneys would let them recover.

Unfortunately, things continued to deteriorate. Kidneys, liver and heart continued to fail. Tuesday night, Pastor Karen had a serious heart event. Wednesday morning, her doctors came in and told them she would be unable to survive without the dialysis and strong intravenous blood pressure medicines.

At that time, Pastor Karen was tired. There was no getting better.

Pastor went home Thursday into hospice to be with her family and puppies.

Pastor has fought valiantly and with grace. She has taught us to be good shepherds for Christ. She is now teaching us to die for Christ with love and grace.

Please keep Pastor Karen, Jeremy and their family in your prayers. **They have requested no visitors and no phone calls or texts. Please respect their wishes.**

Pastor Karen wanted you to hear this news as a congregation-so we would be able to grieve together.

Pastor's last lesson, as she told it to me is this: Our job is to learn to love. Then, TO LOVE!

May God bless Pastor Karen and Jeremy. May Christ be with her to greet her with His open arms.

With great sadness,
Kristi Kroona Morton.