

New Hope Deaf Lutheran Church
(Rib Mountain Lutheran Church)
3010 Eagle Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401

March 8, 2011

Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck
North Wisconsin District LC-MS
3103 Seymour Lane
Wausau, WI 54401

Dear Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck,

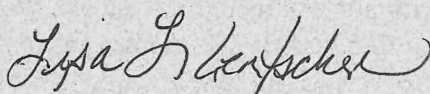
On behalf of the New Hope Deaf Lutheran Church in Rib Mountain, we would like to submit this letter of appreciation for Pastor William Knaack and his wife Diane.

Pastor Knaack and Diane came to the New Hope Deaf Lutheran Church in Rib Mountain over fifteen years ago. Pastor Knaack reaches out to the deaf/hard of hearing and hearing people to share the good news of Jesus Christ. He is the pastor who everyone can relate to. He goes out of his way for us when we need his counseling. He touches our lives because he is filled with the Holy Spirit. He is like the 'salt' thrown out on the icy sidewalk so we don't fall. He welcomes everyone who comes to our church. By listening to Pastor Knaack's sermons in ASL (American Sign Language), it enriches and empowers us and our spirit. He tells stories we long to hear. He always quotes the Bible with his stories so that we can understand the meaning.

Pastor Knaack and Diane work so hard traveling all over visiting the elderly deaf/hard of hearing people who cannot come to the church. We always pray for them for their safe journey back to our deaf church in one piece. They are the reason we come to our deaf church to hear the good news of Jesus Christ whenever they are in town. Without them, it would be hard for us to keep our faith stay strong. They are so wonderful and very faithful to us. We are grateful for having them in our deaf church and in our lives. There is no one like them who can understand American Sign Language and our deaf culture.

We thank God and the North Wisconsin District LC-MS for placing Pastor Knaack and Diane in our deaf church. We pray that they will continue to be with us for a long time. We will miss them greatly when Pastor Knaack retires.

God's blessings,

 Lisa L. Gertschen

Phuong-Anh Stieve, Lisa L Gertschen
and the New Hope Deaf Lutheran Church