**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ELCA Pastor Tim Seitz-Brown with Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation to Iraqi Kurdistan, September 10-23, 2016**

Pastor Tim Seitz-Brown, currently on sabbatical until October, will join a Christian Peacemaker Team delegation to Iraqi Kurdistan from September 10-23. The team will offer an alternative to organized violence by supporting Iraqi Kurds engaged in dismantling violence. Since the fall of the Ottoman Empire at the end of the First World War, the Kurds have been ethnic minorities in four nations created by the victorious allies: Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria. The team will provide an international presence to reduce violence, act as human rights witnesses, and receive hospitality (food and shelter) from grassroots leaders, to gain a sound understanding of their nonviolent peacemaking efforts through rigorous conversation and deep listening.

Tim is motivated by

\*his prayer life, using *Common Prayer for Ordinary Radicals*

\*the practice of preemptive love

\*the need to build grassroots relationships across borders

\*the importance of humanizing people who have been demonized

\*the call to dismantle racism and the structures of human violence

\*God’s Reign of Love that comes not through ballots or bullets but through a shared table of friendship

He is looking forward to hearing stories, making new friends, sharing meals, being a witness, and seeing the image of God in strangers-turned-into-friends. He looks forward to returning to Paradise after his three-month sabbatical—inspired to listen to stories, share meals, work for peace, and announce God’s preemptive love in church and community. There are ripples of mercy and ripples of meanness, lapping over our nation and planet right now. Pray for this delegation that they might experience and become agents of God’s ripples of love.

A native of Washington, D.C., Tim has been married to Ann Seitz-Brown for 32 years. Together they serve with Paradise Lutheran Church, ELCA (Thomasville, PA), Tim as pastor, Ann as associate-in-ministry (or deacon). They have three adult children: CJ, MaryBeth, and Jeremy. Previously, the Seitz-Brown family served as Global Mission Volunteers in Tanzania from 1999-2000, plus two other congregations in Pennsylvania. Tim was also once a United States Peace Corps volunteer in Jamaica (1981-83), as a fish farmer.

Contact by email: timothy.seitzbrown@gmail.com

By cell phone: 717-332-4216