

This picture appeared on my Facebook wall on August 17. As you can see, that



was moving day 2021. We were preparing to leave the life we knew in Western Washington and begin a new chapter in Northern Iowa. There was a lot of anxiety and excitement in the air. Lot's of details to come together and lot's of bumps along the way, but we made it. And now it is one year later. I share this because I want to extend a heart-felt "thank you" to each and everyone of you for the love you have shown me and my family this past year. I also want to thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

The Women's Bible Study group just finished studying Philippians 1 (we move to chapter 2 this month). In chapter one, Paul begins with the famous greeting: ***"3 I thank my God in all my***

***remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."***

Three things stand out to me in this text. First, it is God who formed this partnership over one year ago. It was not a chance meeting or something orchestrated by individuals. God brought us together so He could do a "thing" through us. Second, God began the "good work" in us. He brought us together and HE began doing something. It was not good ideas from individuals, but God did it. And thirdly, God will "bring it to completion". That which He began over a year ago, God will finish ***at the day of Jesus Christ.***

On August 17, 2021, I had no idea what God was going to do, and I could never have imagined God doing what He did this past year. But God did it and He is still doing it. God is working good works in you and me. God is doing amazing things through Bethlehem Lutheran Church. God is up to something in Buffalo Center, Iowa. In what seemed like an unlikely partnership, God is being

glorified. And so I thank you, but more than that, I give thanks to God. I can hardly wait to see what I will write about in September 2023. To God be ALL glory, now and forever, in Jesus' name, Amen.