



November 7, 2017

You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;

My God turns my darkness into light.

Psalm 18:28

To Pastor Frank Pomeroy and to God's Holy people of First Baptist,

Grace, mercy and comfort be yours ever-increasing through Jesus Christ who loves us and gave himself up for us all.

On behalf of the entire congregation of West Cohasset Chapel, please accept our heartfelt affection and condolences.

Once again, we find out just how broken this world is, how much grace we need, and what it means to carry our cross in these days.

One of the online news agencies gave a picture and brief bio of those whose lives were taken. They told a lovely story. Their pictures were heartwarming. Their memories were honored.

I suspect you are wearing a million different hats, trying to answer a million different questions, and trying to meet a million different needs, even as you grieve the loss of your own precious daughter. I want you to know that we are praying night and day for you, your family, the church and your community in light of everything.

Recently, I read Acts 7 telling of the martyrdom of Stephen. The grace of God was so powerful in Stephen's life that, when faced with an unjust death at the hands of an angry mob, his dying breath is spent pleading with God to forgive his murderers. He learned this love from Jesus, who prayed this same way even as they crucified him. This is radical and shocks the watching world.

We will probably never meet on earth, but by God's grace we will in heaven. In the meantime, may God give you grace to keep your hands to the plow. May this same grace abound in you and God's people at First Baptist Church Sutherland Springs.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Franzone". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joe Franzone on behalf of the entire Congregation of West Cohasset Chapel,
Cohasset, Minnesota