

Dear editor,

As members of the Greater St. Cloud Faith Leaders group, we send warm greetings and congratulations to our Muslim friends as they end the holy month of Ramadan with its focus on prayer, fasting and charity.

We are thankful for the invitation they extended to us and other members of the community to join them for Iftar on one of the evenings of Ramadan. Their warm hospitality made us feel very welcomed. We learned much from our tour of a mosque and the opportunity to observe Evening Prayer (Maghrib). We had wonderful conversations and made many new friends as we shared a delicious meal together.

Invitations like the one extended by our Muslim brothers and sisters help to bring the St. Cloud-area community closer together. As area faith leaders, we again offer our thanks, and we renew our own commitment to building bridges of peace, understanding and dialogue among our area's different cultures and faith traditions.

Sincerely,

Rev. Randy Johnson, First United Methodist Church
Rev. Darin Seaman, First Presbyterian Church
+Donald J. Kettler, Bishop of Saint Cloud
Charlotte Stephens, St Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Rev. Dee Pederson, Bethlehem Lutheran
Rev. Leah Rosso, First United Methodist Church
Fr. William Skudlarek, OSB, St. John's Abbey
Kathy Langer, Catholic Charities
Fr. Michael Peterson, OSB, St. John's Abbey
Mayuli Bales, Diocese of St. Cloud
Fr. William Vos, Catholic Relief Services
Randal G. Baker, St. Cloud LDS Stake
Michaela Hedican, OSB, Saint Benedict's Monastery
Joe Towalski, Diocese of St. Cloud