

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Meet Our Pastoral Candidate: Pr. Joe McGarry

Pastor Joe McGarry (he/him) grew up in Rutland, Vermont. After high school, he went to Luther College to pursue Music Education. After three years in college, he decided to take a year off of college. He accepted a position at Camp Calumet as Retreat Specialist. He hosted retreats for congregations around New England. That one year at Calumet turned into three years.

Joe finished his college experience online at Concordia University in St. Paul, MN, with a degree in Youth Development.

During his time at Calumet, he heard a calling from God to go into ministry. He decided to work for a church to see if he wanted to pursue a career in ministry. He left Calumet to work at Hope Lutheran Church in Reading, PA. He was a youth director, after-school director, and assistant music minister. During his experience at Hope, he knew he wanted to be a pastor.

He attended seminary at The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. His focus in the seminary was Pastoral Care and Preaching. His internship was at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Red Hill, PA.

Joe has served three congregations: St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Baldwinsville, NY, Faith Lutheran Church in Gardner, MA, and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Kensington, CT. He was ordained on August 1, 2008. This year he will celebrate 15 years as an ordained Pastor.

After attending a conference in 2018, he felt another calling to become a Life Coach. He completed level 1 and level 2 coach training through the ELCA. He was selected to become a Together We Thrive trained coach through the New England Synod. He finished that training in 2022. He became a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) on August 1, 2022. He then started his own coaching business called Emmaus Collective. Under Emmaus Collective, he has served people through coaching and creating an online ministry community. In 2023 he became a certified Grief and End of Life Coach.

Joe has been married to Katie for 19 years, and they have two children, Logan (19) and AJ (16). Joe and his family love animals. They currently have two cats, two guinea pigs, a dog, and this summer (2023) will be getting some chickens.

During his free time, he enjoys podcasting, creating videos, and rooting for the New England Patriots and the Boston Red Sox.

Joe works as a Building Substitute Teacher for Glastonbury East-Hartford Magnet School. He enjoys getting to know the kids and helping them learn and feel supported. If you want to know more about Joe, contact him on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pastorjoemc/>) or his website <http://emmauscollective.com>.

