

Grace, mercy, and peace be yours in Christ Jesus our risen and ascended Lord!

Since the congregation of St. Paul's is now in vacancy and I have already assumed the responsibilities of serving your vacancy pastor, it was suggested a brief letter of introduction could prove helpful to the members of St. Paul whom I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting.

I was born at Pontiac General Hospital to Larry Sr. (now Rev.) and Geraldine (nee Ramig) Loree. I spent my childhood through my 11<sup>th</sup> Grade year of high school in Lapeer, MI. Due to my father's decision to enter Concordia Seminary, St. Catharine's Ontario, I graduated from high school in Youngstown, NY. Upon graduation, I returned to Michigan and attended Concordia College Ann Arbor for one year. The following fall, while employed at Montgomery Ward at the Summit Place Mall in Waterford, I met the lovely Teresa Brownell. We were wed by my father at his first call out of seminary, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in southwest Detroit in April 1991. We made our home in the Clarkston area and were both employed at National Bank of Detroit.

Sometime in 1994, I decided to return to school for the purpose of finishing my bachelor's degree in preparation to enter the seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I transferred my bank job at NBD to a branch in Fort Wayne and began my studies at Concordia University Wisconsin's program located at the seminary. In December of 1994, I enlisted in the Indiana Air National Guard serving as a chaplains' assistant. In 1995, Teresa and I purchased a house near the LCMS church we attended in Fort Wayne (Redeemer Lutheran-English District). Though I continued working full time and taking classes at night, my military service disrupted my pursuit of a college degree and delayed my entry to the seminary until September 1998.

Having received permission to do a delayed vicarage, I served the congregation of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Monroe, and survived my one-year of parish training under the supervision of my father, the Rev. Larry K. Loree, Sr. I graduated from seminary in May of 2002 and received the divine call to serve God's people at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Steger, IL in the south suburbs of Chicago. Since 2002, I have also served in Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania. I concluded my military career as a chaplain assistant, and then as a chaplain officer in the Air Force Chaplain Corps in December 2020 after 25 years of total service.

Teresa and I have three adult children, all of whom have graduated from Lutheran High Schools (Ana-Lutheran High South, Monroe; Lewis and Quentin-Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills). In summer of 2021, we gained a wonderful son-in-law, Noah.

Teresa works from home as a coder for Trinity Healthcare (St. Joe's Hospital Ann Arbor). Our home is almost within walking distance of the historic Pine Knob Music Theatre.

It is a joy for me to serve you during this time of vacancy. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for pastoral care, or even just to chat. I pray that our time over the next few to several months will be a mutual blessing as we gather and receive together the Lord's gifts of Word and Sacrament.

In Christ's light and peace,

*Pastor Loree*