

Pastor Dennis Preston

Thank you for the invitation to serve as interim pastor at Shalom! Here is a bit about myself so you have a little picture of who I am.

I have served as a Lutheran pastor for the past 34 years. I enjoy almost all aspects of pastoral ministry, especially pastoral care, leading worship, and teaching. I hope as pastor that I can help others to be drawn deeper into the realm of God's unconditional steadfast love and to find joy in discovering their own personal gifts for ministering God's love to others through words and actions.

I officially retired at the end of February after nearly 20 years serving at Grace Lutheran Church in Brandon. Also the past 3 years I served at Faith Lutheran Church in Evansville. For a while in retirement, I plan to serve congregations in interim ministry.

Before Brandon I served 10 1/2 years in Hanskan MN at Zion and Linden Lutheran Congregations, and before that I served 3-3/4 years at Our Saviors and Naples Lutheran Church in rural South Dakota.

In 1994-1995 I exchanged positions with a pastor from Northern Norway. Our families exchanged houses, cars and jobs for one year. During that year I preached, taught confirmation, and presided at funerals in the Norwegian language. It was an amazing experience!

I grew up on a farm in NE Nebraska and farmed for two years before going on to school at Dana College, Blair, Nebraska and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. I find joy in many activities besides serving as a pastor, gardening both flowers and vegetables, traveling with Leila, bicycling, hiking, reading, informative podcasts, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, keeping up my Norwegian, learning Spanish and camping with our tent/trailer camper.

My life's partner, Leila, pronounced Leela, is a fiber artist, weaving, knitting, designing, calligraphy, water colors, etc. Leila is also a pre-school music teacher teaching musikgarten to preschoolers and families at First Lutheran Church.

Our son, Erik, is married to Pastor Megan Preston, currently serving at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grove City, MN. Erik is Data Consultant for Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque IA and a skilled wood craftsman.

Our daughter, Siri, and the love of her life, Kagan Riedel, live and work in Minneapolis. Siri, works for Periscope in Minneapolis as a UX designer. UX stands for user experience on phone and computer apps. Siri is training for the Grandma's Marathon in Duluth in June. Kagan works in computer coding in Minneapolis.

