



About Pastor Julie A. Kanarr

The year 2015 marks my 25th year of service as a pastor in the ELCA. I have served at Christ Lutheran since September 2012. My prior calls include: Port Angeles, WA (Holy Trinity Lutheran), Wilsall, MT (Shields River, Wilsall and Redeemer, Livingston) and Flaxville, MT (Zion and Pleasant Prairie). You might need to use Google Earth to find them...and zoom in!

I am a native of the Pacific Northwest. I was born and raised in Port Townsend, WA, where I still maintain a home, but my “residential range” includes Belfair as well as Olympia. (Long story; complicated commute-- yet I’ve got it figured out and I’m able to be where I need to be when I need to be there. That also means that it isn’t always possible for me to be somewhere on ‘short notice’ – but that’s probably true for you, too). I went to college at Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma), and graduated with a double major in Religion and Classics and a minor in Philosophy. After college, I spent a year working at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, then went to seminary at Luther in St. Paul, MN.

Theologically, I would describe myself as a Lutheran progressive. What does that mean? I take the Bible seriously and read its texts carefully—recognizing that while these ancient texts still speak to us as God’s word for us today, we need to read them for what they are: ancient texts which reflect world-views we no longer share and contexts we no longer live in. (When the Bible was written, among other things, people thought that the world was flat, that the sun revolved around the earth, that slavery was okay, and that women were the property of men.) I believe that reading the Bible literally distorts its message that God loves the whole world and everybody in it. As the Bible is in conversation with itself, we as communities of faith continue to engage it – and one another—in conversation, asking that quintessential Lutheran question, “what does this mean for us?” I am deeply sacramental. In baptism we are incorporated into the mystery of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. In Holy Communion we are fed and nourished by the body and blood of Christ and empowered for life and service in the name of Christ. As a Lutheran Christian, my life is devoted to living into and living out what all this means as I live as a grace-filled disciple (student) and follower of Jesus.

In addition to All Things Considered Church, I am interested in sea kayaking, bicycling, hiking, and camping. I am still learning the finer points of Stand Up Paddleboarding. I am also a writer and do some freelance work for assorted church related publications, such as magazine articles, Bible studies, worship and devotional materials. I’ve been described as “serious and fun.” (People also think I’m intelligent, but you can decide for yourself about that.)

On any given day, you might find me hanging out at Starbucks or paddling on Hood Canal, even in January. You might find me in my office, especially if it’s a Tuesday, but it’s better to make an appointment than just dropping by, because I might be in a meeting or out visiting someone. You can even find me on Facebook. On most Sunday mornings, you can find me at Christ Lutheran in Belfair. Join us for worship at 10:00 a.m. We’re the sort of church that welcomes everybody. Even if it is all new to you, it’s okay. You won’t be a stranger for long. I’m happy to talk about faith, to listen to your story (and questions) of how you see God at work in your life, and to wonder together about...everything!