

1 Describe your understanding of the church and its mission, especially regarding outreach to the lost.

The church, as I understand it, is a community of believers called to embody and extend the love and message of Christ to the world. Its mission encompasses both nurturing and equipping believers for spiritual growth and engaging in outreach to the lost. Central to this mission is the proclamation of the Gospel, which offers hope, redemption, and reconciliation to all humanity. Outreach to the lost involves actively reaching out to those who have not yet encountered the transformative power of Christ's love, seeking to meet them where they are, demonstrate God's love through acts of service and compassion, and invite them into a relationship with Christ and His church. This mission is rooted in Jesus' own ministry, where He sought out the marginalized, embraced sinners, and called all people to repentance and faith. Therefore, the church's outreach to the lost is not only a response to Christ's command but also a reflection of His love and compassion for all people.

2 Describe your understanding of the Office of the Public Ministry.

The Office of the Public Ministry, as outlined in the Lutheran Book of Concord, is the ordained ministry established by Christ in the church. It is tasked with proclaiming the Gospel, administering the sacraments, and providing pastoral care to believers. Furthermore, the Office of the Public Ministry is seen as a service to the entire Christian community. Pastors are called to care for the spiritual needs of the congregation, offering guidance, counsel, and equipping believers for service.

3 What is your understanding of the role of pastor as it relates to the role of the laity as members of the universal priesthood of all believers?

The pastor serves as a shepherd and spiritual guide within the church, called to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and provide pastoral care. However, in the context of the universal priesthood of all believers, the laity also play a vital role. While pastors are ordained for specific duties, all believers share in the priestly responsibility of offering spiritual sacrifices and proclaiming the Gospel. Thus, while pastors have distinct responsibilities, the laity are empowered to participate actively in the life and ministry of the church, serving as witnesses to Christ's love and extending His kingdom in the world.

4. Describe your commitment to the doctrine and practice of the Synod.

As faithfully as I can, I adhere to the teachings of Scripture as the inspired Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. As a church worker/pastor I am dedicated to Word and Sacrament ministry, emphasizing Christ's grace and salvation through his atoning and substitutionary life and death. My commitment includes pastoral care, catechesis, and fostering a loving, faithful community. I strive for doctrinal integrity, prayerful ministry, and faithful witness, aiming to glorify God and serve His people faithfully.

5 Describe your pastoral approach and practice

My pastoral approach emphasizes compassionate care, faithful teaching, and Word and Sacrament ministry. I focus on listening, addressing spiritual needs, and fostering a supportive community. Grounded in prayer and doctrinal integrity, I aim to guide and serve the congregation with humility, dedication, and Christ-centered love.

6 Describe your personal spiritual disciplines, prayer and devotional life

My spiritual disciplines include daily prayer, scripture reading, and meditation. I engage in regular devotional studies and reflective journaling. I prioritize personal worship and participation in the sacraments, seeking continual growth in faith. This disciplined practice is something that I've learned to be integral in my ability to nurture my relationship with God and is also a strengthening to my pastoral ministry.

7 What do you consider to be your strengths in ministry?

My strengths in ministry include compassionate pastoral care, clear teaching, and effective communication. In my experience I do well with relational leadership in a Norwegian context, and I hope and pray that I would be able to do that in an American context as well. Building and upholding relationships and meeting new people are among my top strengths in life, ministry and leadership.

8 Describe the areas of your ministry needing improvement and what you are doing to improve them

One area needing improvement in my ministry is time management, balancing administrative tasks with pastoral care. I think this will be even more necessary in an American context, especially in the beginning, with linguistic and cultural challenges. To address this, I want to continue to implement better organizational strategies and delegate tasks more effectively to people that are gifted in areas I am not. Another area is enhancing outreach efforts to engage with the broader community. I believe the knowledge and relationships that the church family already has, will help in developing programs to connect with people outside the church. Additionally, I seek to deepen my theological knowledge through continuous education and reading. Regular feedback from mentors and peers helps me identify specific areas for growth and refine my approach to ministry.

9 Describe your preferred practice regarding the use of The Lutheran Hymnal, Lutheran Worship, Lutheran Service Book, Lutheran Service Builder, other hymnals and song books

From my own (limited) experience, I enjoy using the Lutheran Service Book for its rich liturgical tradition and doctrinal soundness. In the church I would want to (continue to?) incorporate The Lutheran Hymnal and Lutheran Worship to honor heritage. I would like to cooperate to use Lutheran Service Builder for planning and flexibility, ensuring worship is reverent, inclusive, and doctrinally faithful.

10 Describe your preferred practice regarding alternate forms of worship (Creative Worship, writing own liturgies, use of technology [projections screens, video clips, etc.], etc.)

I'm cautious about alternate worship forms, prioritizing and being most fond of traditional liturgies and minimal technology, to maintain reverence and doctrinal consistency. Sometimes (very seldom) I can use a YouTube-video or a song to underline a sermon/teaching point.

11 Describe your preferred practice regarding children's sermons in the worship service.

I value children's sermons for their role in engaging young minds and hearts. I am a fan of keeping the messages simple, relatable, and biblically sound, often incorporating visual aids or storytelling. In my opinion (and experience) this seems like a good way to assist in

fostering early spiritual growth and helps children feel included and valued within the worship service, building a foundation for lifelong faith. A little “generational (hidden) humor” also goes a long way, so that it’s communicates both to the younger and the older generations.

12 Describe your preferred practice regarding pastoral services (weddings, funerals, visitations, etc.) to non-members, non-Lutherans, or the unchurched.

I would want to approach pastoral services for non-members, non-Lutherans, or the unchurched with openness and compassion. For weddings and funerals, I emphasize the Gospel's message of grace and hope, respecting their beliefs while sharing Christ's love. In visitations I would focus on offering support, listening, and gently witnessing faith, aiming to build connections and invite further spiritual exploration.

13 How do you view healing ministries, speaking in tongues, baptism in the spirit, etc.?

I view healing ministries, speaking in tongues, and baptism in the Spirit with caution. While acknowledging the Holy Spirit's work, I align with Paul's teachings in 1 Corinthians 14:33, emphasizing order and clarity in worship. Jesus warns in Matthew 7:21-23 about false signs and wonders. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches that faith comes by hearing the Word (Romans 10:17) and that baptism and the Lord’s Supper are the primary means of grace. Therefore, I focus on these means, ensuring ministry remains biblically grounded and doctrinally faithful. Maybe there are older Christians in the church that has more knowledge and wisdom concerning these things, and the board of elders would also be good conversation partners in dealing with these issues.

14 How do you view working in a multi-staff ministry (pastor-pastor, pastor-DCE, pastor school staff)?

I view working in a multi-staff ministry positively, valuing collaboration and shared responsibilities. This teamwork enhances pastoral care, allows diverse gifts to flourish, and fosters a supportive environment. I also consider the close connection between the school and the church as a big advantage in having more opportunities in knowing and loving people well in the community.

15 How do you view serving as the pastor of a multi-congregation parish?

My preference is serving in a one-congregation parish, for the purpose of having more opportunities of knowing the parishioners more deeply. I also find it to be more of a “family feeling” if it is only one gathered congregation, instead of having pastoral obligations in a multi-congregation.

16 How do you view the ministry of the Lutheran school?

I view the ministry of the Lutheran school as vital, fostering faith formation and Christian values combined with a high quality academic level. The role of the Lutheran school as an outreach opportunity, is in my opinion immense, but it could differ depending on the location.

17 Describe any strong preference you have toward a certain type of ministry

I have a strong preference for pastoral care that happens in and through bible teaching, focusing on spiritual growth and discipleship, and the foundation it lays in fostering a supportive, loving, faith-centered community of believers.

18 Describe your preferred Communion practice in view of Resolution 3-08 (Indianapolis, 1986) “Resolved, that the pastors and congregations of the LCMS continue to abide by the practice of close communion, which includes the necessity of exercising responsible pastoral care in extraordinary situations and circumstances.”

I would adhere to the practice close communion, ensuring the participants at the Lord’s table understand the significance of communion and share our faith. In extraordinary situations, I exercise pastoral care, discerning readiness and understanding while upholding doctrinal integrity and fostering unity within the congregation. There are probably practices already established in the church where members gives a heads-up to the pastor beforehand, if they have visitors. In practice, I don’t think I would deny a new person in the church to partake in communion, if the person came up to the altar during communion. If I don’t have a chance of having a conversation before the service, I would rather seek to have a conversation afterwards ensuring there is a doctrinal agreement for future reference and potential participation.

19 Describe your preferred practice regarding the priority of the Lord’s Supper in public worship, including its frequency

I see the Lord’s Supper as central in Lutheran worship, advocating for its weekly celebration to strengthen faith, convey grace, and foster a deeper connection with Christ and the church community. I see it as a natural and integral part of a church service that we welcome the incarnated Christ every Sunday, to be present among us bodily for the preservation of the believers.

20 Describe your preferred practice regarding the use of common or individual cups for communion

My personal preference is common cup, underlining unity in the body of Christ. My preferred church practice, though, is offering both common and individual cups, respecting tradition while accommodating personal preference and health considerations.

21 Describe your preferred practice regarding first communion: before or after confirmation

I would advocate an approach that honors the child’s/young person’s understanding and belief in the sacrament, fostering spiritual growth and connection to the church. I would seek to find a way that respects Lutheran tradition while encouraging ongoing catechetical instruction and preparation for confirmation. As a pastor and/or church worker I would cooperate with the tradition and practices in the local church to find the best possible way in practicing the sacrament for children.

22 Describe your preferred practice regarding the use of lay people (men, women, youth) to assist in worship as acolytes, lectors and others (please list).

I support using lay people, including men, women, and youth, to assist in worship as acolytes, lectors, ushers, greeters, and communion assistants. This involvement fosters a

sense of community, encourages active participation, and utilizes diverse gifts to enhance the worship experience and strengthen congregational life. Together with the other pastor(s) and the board of elders I would seek to find a suitable way to include lay people in the life of church, that respects and builds up under complementarian biblical principles.

23 Describe your preferred practice regarding women's suffrage in view of Resolution 2-17 (Denver, 1969) and as reaffirmed in Resolution 3-05 (St. Louis, 1995)

I support women's suffrage in the church, as affirmed by Resolutions 2-17 and 3-05, recognizing their valuable contributions. In ways that upbuilds and not undermine the complementarian biblical principles, women voting and holding non-pastoral leadership roles enriches congregational life, ensuring diverse perspectives in decision-making while upholding doctrinal integrity.

24 Describe your preferred practice regarding the service of women in the church in view of Resolution 3-08A (St. Louis, 2004)

I support the service of women in the church, per Resolution 3-08A, valuing their roles in non-pastoral positions like educators, administrators, and ministry leaders. This practice acknowledges their gifts and contributions, enhancing church life while upholding the biblical and doctrinal guidelines of the LCMS. I would like to be part of a church culture that celebrates the differences in role and service, yet at the same time upholds the equality in value and importance.

25 Describe your preferred practice regarding the church's involvement in human care ministries in the community

I think the church has better insights as to what the needs are in the Camarillo and wider Ventura area. But I have a heart for reaching the families and children with the love of Christ, and therefore I could advocate for organizing after-school tutoring programs. This service supports children's education yet at the same time as it could possibly foster positive relationships and witnessing opportunities.

26 Describe your preferred practice regarding inter-Lutheran relationships and inter-Christian relationships

I support fostering local, respectful, collaborative inter-Lutheran and inter-Christian relationships, focusing on shared faith in Christ, joint community service, and open dialogue, while maintaining doctrinal integrity and commitment to Lutheran confessions. My personal opinion is that Sunday services should be true to and exclusively for the specific confession, but that there might be opportunities for inter-Christian relationships both socially and spiritually in other gatherings and activities during the week.

27 Describe the community or extra-congregational activities in which you have participated

My experience from such activities are limited to participating in leading bible group studies, Christian choir director and participating in Christian sports events.

28 Enumerate skills you have acquired (Clinical Pastoral Education, sign language, substance abuse counseling, etc.) and other continuing education courses you have taken

I haven't answered this one and it might be better to have a conversation about a potential continuing education plan in the future.

29 What plans do you have for future continuing education and/or special skill building?

I would like to further increase my competency in both theology, marketing, counselling and relational skills. I would also like to see what the chances might be of pursuing ordination to become an LCMS pastor.

30 What hobbies or activities do you pursue outside your regular work of ministry?

Soccer, BBQ'ing, beer and wine tasting, coffee-making, meat, reading, eBooks, beach life, watching documentaries and series, family-time with my wife.

31 How do you safeguard quality time to be with your family?

I safeguard quality time with my family by setting clear boundaries between work and personal life, making quality time with my loved one(s) as important as (if not more!) than the hours I am working. Daily meals and devotionals, and weekly trips to go hiking or to the beach. I am detail-orientated and a planner, so I love to plan vacations and trips, ensuring we have meaningful and fun time together.

32 Do you presently own your own home? How do you feel about home ownership for you and your family?

Yes, we own the home we live in now here in Bergen, Norway. We love the location and the views, in the middle of nature at the same time as it is a 10min drive from downtown Bergen (the 2nd largest city in Norway).

33 Do you have any strong feelings or needs relative to the size of community in which you live?

I am adaptable to various community sizes, valuing both the close-knit feel of small towns and the diverse opportunities in larger cities. My primary focus is on serving the congregation effectively and fostering strong community connections, regardless of the community's size. My personal preference, though, is the smaller community, and the church gathering where it's possible to see who is present that Sunday and who is not. This might be because I grew up in a small rural fjord-village in the north of Norway, where my dad pastored a small congregation for 35 years in total. I love the peace and quiet of a small place, at the same time as it's close to a larger community.

34 Do you have any strong feelings about the size of the parish where you serve?

Yes, connecting to the answer just before this, I prefer the smaller congregations, and not the "mega-church"-vibe. I just imagine I would find it easier to be present and relatable in a smaller church context, where you could actually get to know the parishioners more and pastor to what goes on in their lives.

35 Describe any special health or personal needs which you or your family have which would enter into your consideration of a Call

Both me and my wife are healthy and considerably young. I am 37 and she turns 29 this year. I have no health needs. My wife got diagnosed with MS (multiple sclerosis) when she was 16. It's a neurological disease, but she currently experiences that the regular treatment at the

hospital is good for her, and that the symptoms are mild and under control for the time being.

36 Describe your preferred practice toward an interview by a calling congregation before a Call is issued.

I feel we've had a good process so far. Going forward we would like to continue the mutual transparency to see whether there might be a way forward together, that allows both parties a mutual understanding of expectations and a shared vision, where we continue to explore whether our ministry compatibility would fit the congregational needs. Our hope and prayer is that we, together, will come to a well-informed decision as to what the Lord's will is for this specific process and clarity for both parties.

37. Is there anything else that you would like to share that might be pertinent to a calling congregation (e.g., description of current or previous ministries, intention to home school your children, special resources which would be needed, etc.)?

We feel privileged to have the callings on our lives as we've had for years now, with Sara Louise (my wife) working as a student worker in Intervarsity/IFES, and me working in the bible school context here in Norway, both with discipling young adults, bible teaching, marketing and traveling. At the same time, we are open to the guidance of God and also the possible adventures he has for us, in other ministries and new friends internationally in the family of God. Along those lines we are privileged to experience the love and care and interest from your church in Camarillo and the process with pastor Mike together with Blaine and the board of elders. We look very much forward to meeting everyone in, what is now, a very short time!

Our biggest concerns, if this is the place for those things, would be concerning the social side of being 9 time zones away from family, friends and life (as we know it). The financial side of such a move, house property both here in Norway and over there, and the living expenses is also a big one for us. And generally it is always challenging to move to a different country, culture and language.

For now, we have decided that we will not worry about any of those things. We would rather want to enjoy the moment and the chance of being able to get to know you and the church more very soon, instead of making up our own mind as to who you are and what the church and ministry might look like. We pray for good preparations, safe travels and are excited about what lies ahead, and we look very much forward to meeting the people of Peace Lutheran Church and "the Camarillans"! For, as the motto of Camarillo city goes: "The People are the City" (Las Personas Son la Ciudad), so also with the church-people at Peace. See you soon!