

Ed Ruble, Pastor

I have always been a curious person. This curiosity first compelled me travel to Argentina as a Rotary Youth Foreign Exchange Student when I was 16 years old. Later, it drove me to attend Northwestern University where I studied Chemical Engineering. During a gap year between undergraduate and graduate school, I moved to the Colorado front range where I fell in love with beer. After completing a year of graduate school in Melbourne, Australia, I returned to the US and started looking for jobs in the brewing industry. I landed at Anheuser-Busch where I began a rewarding 15 year career in the brewing industry. After 8 years at AB. My family and I moved to Michigan in 2011 so I could join the team at Bell's Brewery in Kalamazoo where I spent over 4 years in a variety of roles. In 2015 I started my own company as a brewing quality consultant and had a chance to work with a number of area breweries including an extended stint with Brewery Vivant.

Life changed pretty dramatically in late 2017 when, my family and I decided to answer a call to ministry. In January 2018 I started pursuing my Masters in Divinity as an online student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Through the power of the Holy Spirit I was introduced to Castle Church Brewing Community, an upstart ELCA word and sacrament congregation that dreamed of owning, operating and worshiping in a craft brewery taproom. I was immediately interested in learning more. After talking with the founders, Pr. Jared Witt and Aaron Schmalzle, the opportunity to blend my past experience in brewery operations with my goal of public ministry was just too good to pass up. I joined the CCBC team as the Head Brewer in early 2018 and stayed until November of 2019. It was amazing to not only start a craft brewery but see a Christian community come together in such an exciting and innovative atmosphere. My family, who also lived in Orlando from August of 2018 until July of 2019 took full advantage of Disney World while we were there!

Speaking of my family...my wife Lisa and I met in college and have been together ever since. We were married in 2005 and have three rambunctious sons: Thomas (13), Josiah (11) and Benjamin (8). When we aren't at the church, you will most likely find us at one of our sons' many sporting events, out on our bikes, water skiing, snow skiing/boarding or otherwise enjoying the outdoors.

In the summer of 2019, I received a Mission Developer/Re-developer scholarship from the ELCA Fund for Leaders which allowed me to move back to Michigan with my family and focus on completing my seminary studies full time (but still online). From July, 2021 through June, 2022 I served as an intern with the Alliance of Settlement and St. Paul Lutheran Churches in Gowen and Greenville,

MI. This was a fantastic opportunity to not only hone my skills as a preacher and teacher but learn from two churches who were living into a new ministerial partnership. It was amazing to work with two congregations that realized they were both stronger when they worked together than they could ever be working alone. At the conclusion of my internship, I officially graduated from Luther Seminary. I'm excited to complete the call process and become ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. I look forward to meeting everyone in the coming weeks and hearing your stories.

Cheers and God's peace be with you all! Ed Ruble