

## Pastor Benjamin James Dueholm

The Call Committee has recommended that the Congregation Council call a Congregational Meeting to extend a call to serve as pastor to Benjamin James Dueholm. Pastor Ben is currently the Pastor of Worship and Education at Messiah Lutheran Church in Wauconda, Illinois (metropolitan Chicago), where he has served since 2011.

As the Call Committee evaluated candidates presented by the NTNL Synod office, Pastor Ben quickly emerged as the leading candidate. A recommendation from the ELCA Bishop of Metropolitan Chicago describes Pastor Ben as a “fine young pastor” and an “outstanding young theologian.” Dueholm’s thoughtful, well-written Rostered Minister Profile made the Call Committee eager to speak with him. His strengths--teaching, stewardship, preaching and worship leadership, pastoral care, experience with a preschool, cultivation of congregational leadership, etc.--are impressive and well-matched to the CLC Ministry Site Profile. A Skype interview with the Call Committee confirmed first impressions as did conversations with Committee members during a June 14-15 visit in Dallas.

What drew Pastor Ben to the Church? What does he love about serving? In his own words, it is “the knotty words of Scripture: the water, wine, and bread: the voice of Jesus calling us from death into life: the presence of people gathered to worship and serve. To support all this faithfully is my calling.”

Born in 1979 and reared in Hudson, Wisconsin, Pastor Ben earned an Associate of Arts degree from Deep Springs College, a highly selective two-year liberal arts college on a ranch and alfalfa farm in eastern California’s high desert. He completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Chicago in 2002 and a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 2007, followed by certification from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2009. Now ordained ten years, he regularly attends workshops, conferences and educational opportunities to grow in his vocation and with his congregation.

Pastor Ben is a scholar of faith who strives to live his faith and offer his understanding of Scripture and its applications in contemporary life to not only his congregation but to a broader audience. Passionate about writing, Pastor Ben published his first book, *Sacred Signposts: Words, Water, and Other Acts of Resistance*, in 2018. He regularly contributes to publications such as *Living Lutheran* and *Christian Century*. One of his favorite things about ministry is “the opportunity to engage more deeply with people’s beliefs and experiences and to make theology and Scripture more relevant to people’s lives.” His intellectual grasp of Scripture and how it relates to contemporary life is impressive.

Pastor Ben and his wife, Kerry, are parents to four children, ages 11 to 2, the youngest of whom they are fostering. Kerry is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Disciples of Christ minister and University of Chicago Divinity School Master of Divinity.

The Call Committee looks forward to a July 28 Dallas visit by Pastor Ben and Kerry, when he will lead us in worship, preach and visit with the Council and congregation. We anticipate a Congregational Meeting on August 4 at which the congregation may vote to extend a call to serve with us as our pastor.

For more information about Pastor Ben, please go to the following websites:

[www.bendueholm.com](http://www.bendueholm.com)

[www.messiah-wauconda.org](http://www.messiah-wauconda.org)

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/benjamin-j-dueholm>

[www.livinglutheran.org/author/benjamin-j-dueholm](http://www.livinglutheran.org/author/benjamin-j-dueholm)

[www.deepsprings.edu](http://www.deepsprings.edu)