

Greetings,

My name is Adam and I am so excited for the opportunity to serve as Lord of Life's next pastor. I am looking forward to learning more about each one of you. I love the intentional community that you have built and the genuine care and concern you have for one another. My hope is to empower Lord of Life to grow by spending time meeting with each of you individually and then investing time in forming genuine partnerships with our neighbors and others in our community.

I am a recent graduate of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago where I completed my Masters of Divinity with a Biblical Studies emphasis. I love reading the Bible in community and learning about how it speaks to us in our own time and place. The Bible is a wonderful library full of different authors and styles of writing. It is the foundation upon which we build our faith and draws us into conversation with its authors about who we are and what is our relationship with our creator. Ultimately, it points us to Jesus; a poor, brown man, born to an unwed mother living under Imperialist rule. That is our saviour and Lord.

Before studying to become a pastor, I served seven years in the United States Army on Active Duty as a Captain. I am grateful for the people I worked with, and the skills the military taught me a lot about leadership. However, My time in the Army was very difficult for me because many of the missions I contributed were in direct conflict with Jesus's command to love your neighbor as yourself. I am now a Veteran for Peace and believe the best way to make sure everyone is safe is by ensuring our neighbor's needs are met, not through violence or force.

I am an outdoors person at heart. I am an avid cyclist and love biking along the canals and lake front. I love spending way too much time in our garden trying to encourage things to grow. My undergraduate degree was in art and I enjoy incorporating it into my sermons whenever I can. I love cooking; chicken wings are one of my favorite things to make. Lastly, I am an activist. In addition to



Veterans for Peace, I am a leader with SOUL - Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation. I also care deeply about LGBTQ rights and environmental justice.

I live in a big house out in Plainfield with my spouse - Elle, my two kids - Alice and Jessica, my brother-in-law, sister-in-law and my nephew...along with a couple of dogs and a goldfish. Our house can be a bit rowdy at times but it is a holy chaos. I like to think the Holy Spirit is pleased.



My spouse, Elle, is also an ELCA pastor and is working in Chicago at South Loop Campus Ministry and serving at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square. She recently started her PhD in Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary. I am particularly proud of her for publishing her first book this summer with Broadleaf Books, an arm of the ELCA's publishing group. It is titled *Baptized in Tear Gas* and you can buy it wherever books are sold. My daughters are both fourteen years old and attend

the Naperville School District. They are from Sierra Leone in West Africa. Jessica loves drawing and singing. Alice is interested in writing and politics. Both of them adore their two and a half year-old nephew and are very helpful with caring for and playing with him.

I am so eager to learn more about the ways God is present at Lord of Life. My deepest desire is not only to get to know each of you but to be a source of encouragement in your spiritual growth. As your pastor, it is my honor to accompany you in all of life's celebrations as well as journey with you through adversity and distress. Together, I am sure God will be present with us in all that is to come.

Blessings,

Adam



## Sermons

<https://soundcloud.app.goo.gl/swZwRXfSSyRRLJij8> (about 18 minutes)

<https://soundcloud.app.goo.gl/gXW91BFHof3MEW8s9> (about 18 minutes)

<https://soundcloud.app.goo.gl/76xWRhAsQ9kbNtsf7> (about 8 minutes)

## A few words from Adam's references



His first reference commented on his professionalism, his confidence and willingness to take on new challenges (she knew him when he was in seminary and is currently a pastor in Logan Square). Also, she commented that his Holy Family members trusted him.

The second reference said “hard-worker” and general attentiveness when working in pastoral care plus he did several funeral services on his own (this was from the pastor at Holy Family). He also stated that Adam is an out-going individual.

The next reference was a member of Holy Family and is on the current church council. She commented that Adam is compassionate, caring and hard-working. He took care of the funeral for her grandmother and worked closely with the family for which they were very grateful. She said Adam excelled in spearheading the remodeling of the sanctuary which was emotional for the church members. He brought maturity and calm when emotions ran high. He painted a mural of a Black Christ using his

artistry. He was very active in the local community and added value to the transition that they are in with their new pastor.

The Executive Director of SOUL, a faith-based social justice organization working with the residents of the south and southwest side of the city said she knew both Adam and his wife for a few years and said they were incredible folks who brought their faith statements and that Adam was open and sharing and an amazing dedicated leader to SOUL. She also said Adam is very smart and listens deeply to people and works hard to bring people together without judgment.

Another member of Holy Family, who had been a member for a long time, said Adam led Sunday adult Bible study and that he attended the Worship and Music Committee. She commented that he had a wonderful demeanor, cares for people, is dependable and shares his faith. He used art in his experiences blending it into his teachings. She commented that even though he is newer from the seminary that he seems more mature than his young age. The last thing she said was “thank you for letting me tell you how good Adam is.” Those words said it all.

