



Commissioning Service

at which

Paul Bourman, Howard Mohlke, and Joel Nitz

are commissioned to serve

Tigard, Oregon; One Africa Team; and Southeast Asia

July 11, 2020

Order of Service

Prelude

Three Welsh Preludes: II. RHOSYMEDRE (“Lovely”)

R. Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

Opening Hymn

Holy God, We Praise Your Name — 278

Stand for the final stanza



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial song an - gel choirs a -
3 Blest Re - deem - er, vir - gin's Son, o - ver death his
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
bove are rais - ing; proph - ets, mar - tyrs join the throng,
vic - t'ry claim - ing, now as - cend - ed to his throne,
three we name you; though in es - sence on - ly one,



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing with the Church in
judge and king, his grace pro - claim - ing, o - pens heav'n to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, then, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
one ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
all his own. Praise and thanks to God a - lone!
bend the knee and con - fess the mys - ter - y.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

All Glory Be to God on High

Gloria in Excelsis



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has our
2 We praise, we wor - ship you, we trust; we give you
3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, your
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, pre - cious Gift, our Com - fort -



race be - friend - ed! To us no harm shall now come
thanks for - ev - er, O Fa - ther, that your rule is
heav'n - ly Fa - ther, you did for all our sins a -
er from heav - en, our wea - ry hearts and souls up -



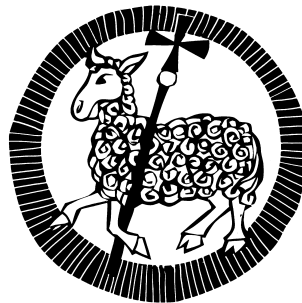
nigh; the strife at last is end - ed. The Fa - ther's
just and wise and chang - es nev - er. In bound - less
tone, and your lost sheep you gath - er. O Lamb of
lift; for this our praise is giv - en. De - liv - er



love, the Sav - ior's birth, bring peace, good will, to
pow'r, with might - y reign, done is what - ev - er
God, to you on high from depths of woe we
us from doubt and fear; when Sa - tan trou - bles



all the earth; oh, thank him for his good - ness!
you or - dain; your rule brings count - less bless - ings!
sin - ners cry, have mer - cy on us, Je - sus!
us, be near; we trust your love and pow - er.



THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and have sent your messengers to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near. Grant that by the witness of your Church many more may be brought into your kingdom and worship you, the only true God, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Micah 7:18-20

18 Who is a God like you,
 who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
 of the remnant of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever
 but delight to show mercy.

19 You will again have compassion on us;
 you will tread our sins underfoot
 and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

20 You will be faithful to Jacob,
 and show love to Abraham,
 as you pledged on oath to our ancestors
 in days long ago.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 63



1 O God, you are my God a - lone, whom ea - ger - ly I seek,
2 Your faith - ful love sur - pass - es life, e - vok - ing all my praise.
3 Through - out the night I lie in bed and call you, Lord, to mind;



though long - ing fills my soul with thirst and leaves my bod - y weak.
Through ev - 'ry day, to bless your name, my hands in joy I'll raise.
in dark - est hours I med - i - tate how God, my strength, is kind.



Just like a dry and bar - ren land a - waits a fresh - 'ning show'r,
My deep - est needs you sat - is - fy as with a sump - tuous feast.
Be - neath the shad - ow of your wing, I live and feel se - cure;



I long with - in your house to see your glo - ry and your pow'r.
So, on my lips and in my heart, your praise has nev - er ceased.
and dai - ly as I fol - low close, your right hand keeps me sure.

Second Reading

Romans 5:6-11

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 16:15

The minister sings the verse. All sing the refrain as indicated.



Refrain

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Refrain

Holy Gospel

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.
 The third day he rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
 From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

God Loved the World So that He Gave — 391

To be sung as follows: 1-3: All 4: Organ 5-6: All



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die— his Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the
 5 When you are sick, when death draws near, this truth your
 6 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
 sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
 sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus saves my
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word does teach how we the bless - ed goal may reach.
 Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.
 soul from death— this is the an - chor of my faith!
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Sermon

Making Known the Love Unknown

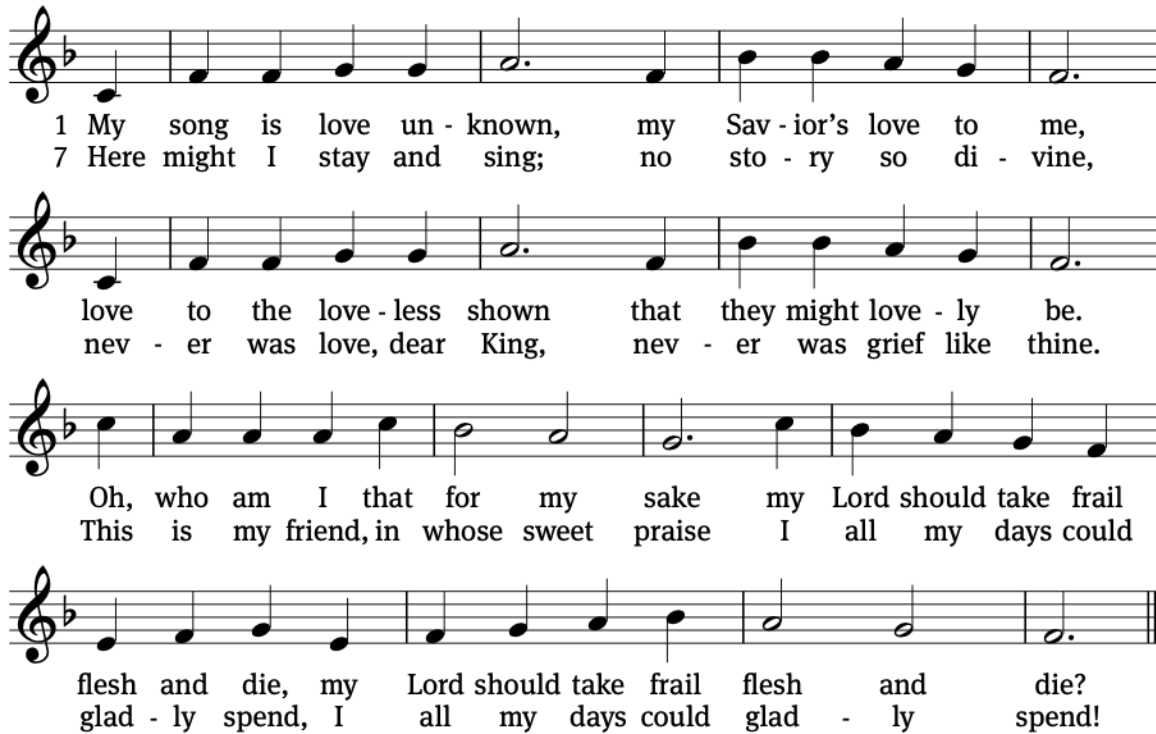
Romans 5:6-8

Stand

Hymn

My Song Is Love Unknown

Christian Worship 2021



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
7 Here might I stay and sing; no sto - ry so di - vine,
love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be.
nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like thine.
Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could
flesh and die, my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
glad - ly spend, I all my days could glad - ly spend!

Be seated

Rite of Commissioning

Presiding Minister (PM):

Dear Brothers,

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said to his church, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

“When he had ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe, he gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ might be built up.”

Since you Howie and Joel have been called by the Board for World Missions and you Paul have been called by Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tigard, Oregon, in keeping with the Lord’s command, to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Africa, Vietnam and Oregon, and are ready to accept these calls, we have assembled here to commission you to go and preach the good news.

I now ask you, dear brothers, before God and his people, are you, after prayerful meditation and consideration, fully determined to accept this commission and to perform the work of a Christian missionary according to the grace which God will give?

Missionaries-Elect (ME): I am, by the grace of God.

PM: Do you believe that the canonical books of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

ME: I do.

PM: Do you accept the three Ecumenical Creeds — the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian — as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

ME: I do.

PM: Do you believe that the Unaltered Augsburg Confession is a true exposition of the Word of God and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; and that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord — as contained in the Book of Concord — are also in agreement with this one Scriptural faith?

ME: I do.

PM: Do you solemnly promise that you will perform the duties of your office in accordance with these Confessions and that all your teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will conform to the Holy Scriptures and the previously mentioned Confessions?

ME: I do.

PM: Will you give faithful witness in the world that God’s love may be known in all you do?

ME: I will, and I ask God to help me.

PM: I now commission you to preach the gospel to the people of Africa, Vietnam and Oregon, and to perform the work of an evangelist among them, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Dear brothers, may our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Lord of the harvest, who called you to this service among the people of this world, fully equip you for this task and grant that you give no offense, neither to unbelievers nor to Christians, that the ministry may not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God, commend yourselves in

every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as an imposter; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying and yet living on; beaten and yet not killed; sorrowful, and yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

May the Lord give you grace to carry out the work to which you have been called, that when our Lord Jesus Christ shall appear to judge the living and the dead, you may give account to him without fear or doubt and may receive praise and honor from him.

PM: Let us pray, including in our prayer both our brothers here commissioned and their wives and families:

Lord God, heavenly Father,

Your great love for sinners has no limit. In love, you sent your Son into this dark world to bring life and immortality to light. In love, you caused your light to shine in the darkness of our hearts so that now we see your glory reflected in the face of Christ. And just as you sent your Son to give us life, so your Son sends us out into the world to proclaim true and everlasting life in his name.

Make us faithful in our mission both at home and abroad. Give us the eyes to see that the work you give us to do begins within our own families, and continues to the ends of the earth. Give us the power to proclaim your word boldly, as we ought, and free us from every fear that might hold us back or hinder us from speaking your truth.

We thank you for answering our prayers by supplying us with workers who are willing to go out into your harvest field. We ask for your blessing on our brothers whom we are sending out in your name. May the Holy Spirit equip them with every gift they need to carry out their work. Give them wisdom and understanding hearts that they may come to know and love the people among whom they are to work. Give them courage and strength that the message of Christ might be fully proclaimed, and that all might hear it.

We ask for your blessing also on our sisters, that these wives let their light shine in all they do and so be joyful witnesses to your grace in Christ Jesus. Through their work, may many who are now sitting in darkness and under the shadow of death see the brightness of the Lord's rising, and be united to your people.

Give these families the strength to stand firm in every trial and supply them with the patience to wait for you to carry out your gracious promises of love and care. Preserve them from every lie of the enemy, every false promise of the world, and every weakness of their sinful nature. Let your holy angels be a wall around them and a support to them in every need and trouble.

Finally, let the joy of your great love so seize our hearts that we may never cease to sing your praise and to yearn for our Savior's appearing. So may your will be done, your kingdom come, and your name be kept holy among us! Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

PM: Go then, dear brothers, keep watch over yourselves and all those whom the Holy Spirit entrusts to you, precious souls which the Lord bought with his own blood. Be a shepherd of God's flock, serving as an overseer — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being an example to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

The Lord bless you and make you a blessing to many, that you may bear fruit and that your fruit may remain to eternal life. Amen.

Hymn

Lord Jesus, You Have Come
Christian Worship 2021



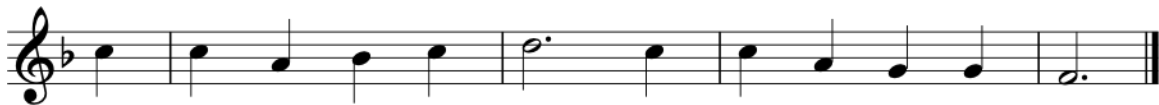
1 Lord Je - sus, you have come a teach - er sent from heav - en
5 Bring those in - to your fold who still to you are stran - gers;



and by both word and deed God's truth to us have giv - en.
guard those who are with - in a - gainst of - fense and dan - gers.



You wise - ly have or - dained the ho - ly min - is - try
Press on - ward with your Word till pas - tor and his fold



that we, your flock, may know the truth that sets us free.
through faith in you, O Christ, your glo - ry shall be - hold.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, that his way may be known on earth, his salvation among all nations.

May the peoples praise you, O God. May all the peoples praise you.

Loving Lord, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ has given gifts to the Church in the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. According to your will, raise up more workers and send them into harvest fields in our land and around the world. By the power of your gospel, strengthen them so that they do not become discouraged but continue in the course you have set before them.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

Pour out your wisdom on us, O Lord, through the working of your Spirit, as we train and prepare those who proclaim the everlasting gospel in their own communities and cultures. Help us to point them to the authority of your Word and to look for success in the witness of your love. Let them see us as their partners in ministry as we work together around the world.

May the peoples praise you, O God. May all the peoples praise you.

Extend your blessings on the men who this day have been commissioned to go in our place to Tigard, Oregon; Africa; and Southeast Asia. Lead them and their families safely to their fields of service and protect them from physical and emotional harm. Give success to their work so that many more in many lands may know the light of your love.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

Lord God, King of the universe, direct the governments of the world so that we may live quiet and peaceful lives. Protect us from crime and war. Let freedom of religion flourish that the gospel may be freely preached throughout the world. Cast down rulers who oppress their people; remove governments that oppose the gospel. Bring relief to Christians who are persecuted.

May the peoples praise you, O God. May all the peoples praise you.

Wherever we go, near or far, move us to share the gospel with eagerness and joy. Give us grace to be models to all so that our brothers and sisters might see our good works and glorify you. Plant in the hearts of your people a deeper desire to share the gospel with their lips and their gifts so that many more may come to know and believe the love of your Son.

Then the earth will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Remain standing for the closing hymn.

Closing Hymn

Go Forth and Preach the Gospel

Christian Worship 2021



1 Go forth and preach the gos - pel to all who are in need.
2 Go forth and preach the gos - pel to all who live in fear,
3 Go forth and preach the gos - pel; go spread the news a - broad!



As wit - ness to the Sav - ior, go teach by word and deed.
and share the joy - ful mes - sage that God is al - ways near.
Pro - claim to ev - 'ry na - tion the great - ness of our God.



The Spir - it is up - on us, and sends us to de - clare
The Spir - it is up - on us, and sends us forth in peace
The Spir - it is up - on us, that all may un - der - stand



good news of God's for - give - ness to peo - ple ev - 'ry - where.
to bring the poor glad ti - dings, that mer - cy may in - crease.
the prom - ise of sal - va - tion re - vealed to ev - 'ry land.

Be seated

Postlude

Three Jazz Preludes: III. Afro-Cuban

IN DIR IST FREUDE

Johannes-Matthias Michel, (1962-)

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister

Rev. Mark Schroeder
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, president

Preacher

Professor Paul Wendland
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Assisting Ministers

President Earle Treptow
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, president

Rev. Paul Janke
Board for World Missions, chairman

Rev. Keith Free
WELS Home Missions, administrator

Rev. Larry Schlomer
WELS World Missions, administrator

Organist

Professor Aaron Christie
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

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Gospel Acclamation. Music: From *Mass of Remembrance*, Marty Haugen © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Rev. Paul Bourman

Home Missionary in Tigard, Oregon

Paul Bourman, son of James and Hope Bourman, was born October 23, 1993, and baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Paul, mn, on October 25, 1993. He was confirmed in the Christian faith at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Rochester, mn, in May 2008. He graduated from Martin Luther College in New Ulm, mn (b.a. 2016) and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, wi (m.div. 2020).

This is Paul's first assignment out of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He will join a core group of people in Tigard, Oregon, in a mission restart effort to bring the gospel to the communities of southwest Portland.

He and his wife, Charis, daughter of Christopher and Heidi Goelzer, were married in Oakfield, wi, on May 27, 2016, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. God has blessed them with two children: Theo and Adeline.

In mid-July, Paul, Charis, Theo, and Adeline will head to Tigard where Paul will be installed and ordained on July 18. He will lead the core group in re-planting, re-naming, and revitalizing the gospel mission efforts in Tigard.

Rev. Howard Mohlke

One Africa Team Leader

Howard Mohlke was born to Harvey and Virginia Mohlke on June 7, 1963, and baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rochester, mn. Growing up on the family farm he attended church, Sunday school, and was confirmed at Grace Lutheran in Oronoco, mn. He graduated in 1981 from Martin Luther Preparatory School, Northwestern College in 1985, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1991.

He and his wife Leslie, originally of Green Bay, wi, have five children. The two oldest daughters, Elizabeth Svoboda and Sarah Sloan, live with their families in Norfolk, ne. Their son Philip lives with his wife in Boise, id; their son Timothy lives with his wife in San Antonio, tx; and their youngest daughter Rachel lives in Boise, id. They have five grandchildren.

Pastor Mohlke has served as missionary in Zambia from 1991-2000; pastor at St. Paul's, Norfolk, ne, from 2000-2008; pastor at Messiah, Nampa, id, from 2008-2017; and director of the Apache Christian Training School from 2017-2020. He also served on the Board for World Missions as pastor representative from 2007-2013 and as chairman from 2013-2017.

God-willing, following his commissioning, he and Leslie will be moving to Lilongwe, Malawi. From that location Pastor Mohlke will continue to lead the wels One Africa Team.

Rev. Joel Nitz

Hmong Asia Missionary

Joel Nitz was born to Paul and Carol Nitz in Tacoma, wa, on July 12, 1960, and was baptized 12 days later at Faith Lutheran in Tacoma. He was confirmed on April 7, 1974, at First Lutheran in La Crosse, wi. He graduated from Northwestern College in 1982 and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1987. While at the seminary, Prof. Ernst H. Wendland inspired his zeal for world mission work through his Missiology course, his mission stories shared in Old Testament Isagogics, and his book *To Africa with Love*. A zeal for home mission work came through summer vicar experiences in Kearney, Nebraska, and Central Illinois.

After two, one-year calls teaching at Northland Lutheran and Fox Valley Lutheran High Schools, Pastor Nitz received the assignment to become a home missions explorer to Olympia, wa. He remained with that mission, which became Messiah Lutheran Church, from 1988 to 2020, when he accepted the call to serve as the wels Hmong Asia Missionary. Pastor Nitz has experienced World Missions through four teaching trips to Christ the King Lutheran Seminary in Uruk Uso, Nigeria. He also had four teaching trips to Nepal while serving as Nepal Coordinator, and two trips to India while serving on the South Asia Administrative Committee.

Pastor Nitz met Kathryn, his now wife, at Grace Lutheran Church in Seattle, wa. They married on July 15, 1990. The Lord has blessed them with five children: Iver (married to Mackenzie), a firefighter in Lacey, wa; Ruth, teacher and wife to seminary student Conifer Berg, heading to his vicar year in Denver, co; Iraina, a banker in Olympia, wa; Faith, college junior at the University of Washington; and Talitha, high school sophomore at Evergreen Lutheran High School. The Nitz family currently lives in Port Orchard, wa, as they wait for everything to fall in place to allow the move to Asia.

