New Member Profile for April Ulring Larson and Judd W. Larson

Judd was born and raised in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was baptized, confirmed and an active member of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. April was born and raised in Decorah, and was baptized, confirmed, married, and an active member of Decorah Lutheran Church.

During their first two years of marriage, they lived in Decorah while Judd finished his last two years at Luther and April taught music in the Catholic School in Cresco. During those two years, they were members at Washington Prairie Lutheran, where April directed the adult and youth choirs and Judd was part-time custodian. They also were volunteer youth directors.

They spent the next four years at Wartburg Theological Seminary, becoming pastors in February, 1978. April and Judd served their first eleven years as co-pastors in Iowa. In February, 1989, April took a call to be Assistant to the Bishop in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. In the summer of 1992, she became the first Lutheran woman bishop in the U.S., serving sixteen years as Bishop of the LaCrosse Area Synod. Judd continued as a parish pastor, first near Rochester, then in LaCrosse. Following April’s maximum allowable three terms of service, she return to parish ministry in 2008 as Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota. Judd eventually joined her as a staff pastor. After 36 years of active ordained service, they returned to Decorah in 2014 to retire.

Their retirement was interrupted when April had the joy of serving as interim pastor at Good Shepherd for 8 months, and then as interim pastor at Washington Prairie. During that time Judd served three semesters as an Interim Campus Pastor at Luther College.

Their main hobbies include seeing their eight grandchildren, working on their cabin in northwest Minnesota, a few miles west of Itasca State Park, and for the first time, having nights, weekends, and holidays to see family and friends. They’re also trying to become more skilled at making strawberry jam and applesauce.

All three of their children are Luther College graduates. Katie and Amy are physicians at the University of Iowa. Ben was a semester away from becoming a pastor when he died in the Haiti earthquake while doing ministry there.

“We joined First Lutheran when we came back to Decorah. After serving as interim, we missed Good Shepherd, which is an amazing congregation, and in consultation with Pastor Amy Zalk Larson, joyfully became Associate Members. Judd and I are so excited to walk with you in the great mission the Holy Spirit is leading at Good Shepherd.”