

Pastor Evelyn Panula Weston

I was born and raised in Hibbing, the daughter of a mine worker and a homemaker. My home congregation laid a good foundation, and my faith came alive when I experienced God's grace during a week at Bible camp. Over the next five years, I was a canoe camper, volunteer, and staff member at Camp Vermilion. My faith grew so much amid the lakes and trees that I consider God's great north woods my spiritual homeland. It's a blessing to be back.

After studying at Concordia College in Moorhead, I worked in theater and office jobs in Minneapolis. I sensed God calling me to ministry after a trip to Israel with my church, and enrolled at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

I was ordained in 2002 as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and previously served 13 congregations in multi-point parishes in southwestern Minnesota. It seemed good to God and to Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Babbitt to call me to serve here. My ministry began September 1, 2014, and I am blessed to be here.

My husband, Steve, grew up in the Seattle area and currently serves as an interim pastor in northeastern Minnesota. Our sons are Sam (working in Babbitt), Ben (away at college), and Jon (high school student at Northeast Range). I enjoy singing alto harmonies, following the Twins, road trips, and meeting new people.