

Hi, my name is James. I have been senior pastor at Hosanna Lutheran since October 2012. I grew up in a small town in Alberta where I learned there was value in a hard day's work. My family, which was a normal family in that it wasn't perfect, taught me that love is an action word. Faith has always been a part of my life as I was raised in a Christian home and was positively influenced by many faith mentors throughout the years.

I never originally planned to be a pastor, believing instead that I would be part of the Arts or Business community in some way. Being a member of "Gen X" cohort meant that part of my life experience included struggles with "what will I be when I grow up." This translated into a long educational journey that included; an Undergrad degree from Camrose Lutheran College (now Augustana Campus of the U of A), extended studies in Psychology, Music and Education at the U of A. That journey of becoming a pastor then took me all the way to Waterloo Lutheran Seminary for my MDiv degree and then eventually to Luther Seminary for my Doctor of Ministry in Mission and Leadership. Following my MDiv I began ordained ministry in 1995 at Peace Lutheran Church in Innisfail. This was followed by a term as the Program Director at Camp Kuriakos and then a roughly 13 year ministry at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Ellerslie, in Edmonton. I have been here since then. Wow, what a ride! What a journey and what ministry with so many of God's people!

You will find the people of Hosanna are passionately dedicated to reaching out with God's Good News of radical grace in Jesus. This community of faith is continuously putting their love for God into action in unparalleled acts of kindness in Jesus' name. Being a pastor at Hosanna Lutheran is both challenging and vigorously exciting. God is always up to something in this place.

My family includes my good friend and wife, Beth, we met in my first field placement congregation in Cambridge On. She is a gift from God to me. We have two daughters and a dog – all of which adds up to a full life.

I try to live my life keeping my eyes and ears wide open - God's always up to something and I don't want to miss it!