



About Pastor Aaron

- ▶ Grew up on a dairy farm in Staples, MN
- ▶ Joined the Navy and served as submarine officer, engineer, instructor (2001-2009)
- ▶ Through his personal life struggles and reflection, he recognized that God's love changed him, and he wanted others to know and experience God's life-changing love
- ▶ Pivoted his career to focus on chaplaincy training

Education

- ▶ Bachelor's Degree in engineering from the US Naval Academy (2001)
- ▶ Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Old Dominion University (2007)
- ▶ Master's Degree in Divinity from Luther Seminary (2013)
- ▶ Earned a certificate in ministry function from the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors (2016)
- ▶ Completed mental health integration for chaplaincy training through 300 hours of continuing education (2018)

Vocation

- ▶ First call was at St. Andrew Lutheran in Virginia (2013-16). Simultaneously served as interim pastor to Holy Communion Lutheran, Virginia.
- ▶ Served as a Navy Chaplain in Virginia, including an overseas deployment in Germany (2016-19)
- ▶ Served at the Pentagon as the Director of Spirituality and Resiliency for the US Marine Corps (2019-20)





Highlights

- ▶ Incredibly bright and insightful
- ▶ Married to wife Kelly
- ▶ Recently bought a home in Robbinsdale
- ▶ Looking forward to starting a family
- ▶ In his spare time, enjoys being a wrestling coach and youth sports chaplain
- ▶ Aaron writes a reflective blog (wrestlinginspiredfaith.wordpress.com)

Highlights

- ▶ Aaron's mantra is "Courage in Faith, Commitment to Others"
- ▶ Spoke at the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston (YouTube)
- ▶ Is a regular contributor to *Living Lutheran* magazine (LivingLutheran.org)
- ▶ Aaron is longing to serve in a traditional congregation in order to support and be supported by a church family

"Military chaplaincy is transient and short-lived... I understand the benefit of having a community that claims and supports you long-term."



Leadership, experience and competency

- ▶ Sermons are typically “TED Talk” in style: Direct and focused, bring key questions from scripture to the surface so community can wrestle together
- ▶ Excels at pastoral care and meeting people where they are in life while bringing messages of God’s love, grace and acceptance through deep listening and wondering questions
- ▶ Aaron leads through accompaniment and advising rather than a CEO approach. *“I’m a facilitator, advisor, coach and leader. One of my favorite leadership quotes: “A leader is best when people barely know he/she exists. When his/her work is done, their aim fulfilled, they will say, ‘We did it ourselves.’”*
- ▶ Aaron is drawn to the culture we have built at OFLC to cultivate and encourage Christian leadership both inside church walls and out in the world

Leadership, experience and competency

- ▶ His extensive experience developing curriculum and leading programs tailored for young adults will be key in addressing our church's youth education gap (10th grade through young adulthood)
- ▶ Has led and assisted with the restructure of church committees, better aligning them to the congregation's evolving mission and membership
- ▶ Aaron is technologically savvy and adept at reaching folks through social media and web outlets
- ▶ Equipped to embrace the challenge of our north end building project; in interviews, he suggested creative solutions and seeking funds from outside the congregation

Leadership, experience and competency

- ▶ Has demonstrated high administrative competency and is experienced at managing complex budgets and overseeing multiple staff
- ▶ Has experience reviewing and revising church constitution and bylaws to help define and guide evolving ministry
- ▶ The Call Committee thoroughly assessed all candidates' competency through metrics by ranking each person's capability in the areas of desired leadership requested by our congregation. Aaron received the highest rating of all candidates, indicating that he is the best candidate for OFLC according to our congregation's wants and needs