

Rev. Steven J. Duescher



Steven John Duescher, born June 26, 1956, was brought into the family of God through the water and word of Holy Baptism a few weeks later. He was raised on a dairy farm in rural Luxemburg, WI. Steve attended St. Paul Lutheran School from 1st through 8th grade. A combination of the Lutheran education and a live-in grandmother were particular influences on his spiritual development. Steve attended Luxemburg/Casco High School, graduating in 1974. He worked for three years after high school, mostly at a local cheese factory and for a short period at Truck Equipment Inc. in Green Bay, WI.

At age 21 Steve believed God wanted him to become a pastor to share God's grace in the sure forgiveness earned by Christ. He enrolled at Concordia, Milwaukee, in the pre-seminary program in the fall of 1977. Not being particularly gifted in biblical languages, his junior year he left the pre-seminary program for two hours for the teaching program but then graduated from the pre-seminary program in the spring of 1981. He entered Concordia Seminary, St Louis that fall and did his vicarage in Alliance, NE, graduating from seminary in 1985. Steve made himself available for a Call into the foreign mission field and was pre-pre-slotted for the Philippines. Later he was pre-slotted for Caracas, Venezuela. A few days before Call Day the LCMS Mission Executive told him he would NOT be going to Venezuela. This was news to the seminary placement officer, but Steve received a call on Call Night.

Steve served as the first full-time pastor to Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sand Lake, MI, from August 1985 until September 1997. While at Sand Lake he married Connie Raduenze in 1989. They are parents to one daughter and two sons. Steve accepted a Call to Living Water Lutheran Church, San Diego, CA, and the family moved in September 1997. It was a small, fledgling congregation. In April 2000, Steve also became pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church. He served both congregations until his retirement in June of 2023. About a year later he and Connie moved to Parker, CO to be closer to two of their children. Steve and Connie are grandparents to two granddaughters. One lives in Irvine, CA, the other in Colorado.

Steve and Connie are members of Our Father Lutheran Church, Centennial, CO. Steve sings in the choir under the direction of his daughter Emily Leeds who is the Director of Parish Music at the church.