

# Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Basset to serve Zion, First English Churches

Zion Lutheran and First English Lutheran Churches of Ortonville held installation services on Sunday, Sept. 28 for Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Basset, who has been serving both churches on an interim basis from September of 2024 to June of 2025, before becoming the called pastor.

Rev. Seyward Ask, Synod Minister of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA for Equipping Congregation Leaders, Rostered Ministers, Youth, & Families, was present to give the sermon and oversee the installation.

Pastor Cheryl grew up in Wilmot, SD. She has lived there most of her life, but has lived in the Twin Cities; Lebanon, OR; Belcourt, ND; and Sioux Falls, SD. She currently resides in Wilmot with her husband, Scott Basset and has been married 31 years. Scott farms and has cattle.

Pastor Cheryl has six children: Christopher, Samuel, Daniel, Sally (deceased), Joseph (deceased), and Patrick. Two live in the Twin Cities; one in Texas; and one in Utah. Nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She has an Associate in Business Management Degree; Bachelor in Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing and accounting; a Masters in Journalism and Mass Communication with a minor in Education; a Masters of Divinity; and she is currently in the writing stages of earning a Doctorate in Ministry in Biblical Studies from Sioux Falls Seminary writing in the area of the Christian funeral sermons.

Pastor Cheryl started Seminary in 2012. She commuted to Luther Seminary in St. Paul once a week often leaving at 3 a.m. to drive to Luther for an early morning class. She did her internship at Tri-parish Combine Congregations of Our Saviors, Veblen; First Lutheran, Claire City; and Faith Lutheran in New Effington while a full-time student. She did her CPE at the same time at St. Luke's in Aberdeen, SD. She graduated with her MDiv in

2015 and was ordained in June 2015. She served the Tri-Parish from 2015-2020 before serving Grace Lutheran Church in Watertown, SD from 2020-2024.

"I'm excited to be at First English and Zion Lutheran Churches and enjoy the many gifts they have to offer and share in the mission and ministry God has called me to," said Pastor Cheryl. "It's truly a blessing to me as I can be home every night. I am passionate about preaching and love to read, study and contemplate upon the Word so I can proclaim it in a relevant and understandable way. Scripture is so relevant to our lives in this age that we can find

such peace and guidance through it."

In her spare time, she likes to build waterfalls out of rocks and "mix in the wheelbarrow" cement. She also likes to garden, do jig-saw puzzles, play the tenor saxophone and has been playing with the Tri-State Band the past couple of years, along with playing guitar, piano and fiddle.

"It has been my joy to lead worship and preach the Word of God, planting seeds knowing those who listen will be blessed by His Word and grow in faith," said Pastor Cheryl. "I acknowledge it is not my word spoken, but Words spoken through me by the Holy Spirit for His people whom I am called to serve."



**PASTOR CHERYL RONDEAU-BASSETT**, at right, was installed as Pastor of Zion Lutheran and First English Lutheran Churches of Ortonville on Sunday, Sept. 28. Pastor Seyward Ask, at left, Synod Minister of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), presided over the installation.