

Welcome Pastor Doug !



Pastor Doug Gunkelman has accepted a call to serve as Prince of Peace Interim Pastor! He will begin March 1 and has graciously met with me to learn more about him and his family. His pick-up truck was filled with files and other items this morning to prepare his office as he “hits the ground running.” Doug said he loves preaching and teaching! His first service will be March 8, and we will have a lot to look forward to.

Pastor Doug was born in Medina, Ohio on March 1, 1959. He grew up in Valley City, Ohio with a younger brother, Donny. Their great, great, great grandfather had immigrated from Germany and started a family farm in 1832. Donny still continues to farm there. Doug attended Zion Lutheran Church in Valley City during this time. He attended Buckeye high school and competed in sports including football, baseball and basketball. He

furthered his education by attending Centre College of Kentucky in Danville, KY. His majors were Political Science and Education.

Later, his grandfather offered to pay tuition so Doug could attend Trinity Seminary. However, his future would change in a big way when he moved to Colorado's Sky Ranch . The beauty of the Rocky Mountains surrounds a Lutheran Youth Camp. This is where Pastor Doug met his future wife, Danette, and they were married Dec. 28, 1982 at her father's church in Grinnell, Iowa.

Danette was born in the mission field of New Guinea, an island area on the northern tip of Australia. The Christian message has been embraced by its people. Later, Danette was raised in Iowa, earning her degree at Wartburg College. Her career focus has been as an Activities Director and Teacher of Special Needs Children.

Doug did an Internship in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He was ordained in 1985 at the age of 26 and recently retired after 40 years. His first call was to North Dakota for 9 years. All 3 of Doug and Danette's children were born here. They have showered their love on Rachel, Nathan and Micah throughout life! Grandchildren provide more opportunities to connect as well. Rachel and her husband Andy are raising two boys, and live close to Nathan. Both attended Capital University in Columbus. Micah and his wife Jasmine live in Middleburg Heights and are raising daughter Emilia.

Pastor Doug received his second call at a church in Nebraska and remained there 9 years. The large church had 3 Pastors on the staff, a huge building and a radio station to spread The Good News. In 2003, Doug and Danette moved back to Ohio and continued at his last church that he recently retired from, Divinity Lutheran, in Parma Heights. He has been serving as a Supply Pastor until now when he was offered to accept an Interim Pastor position. He loves churches with large and active ministries and a high level of energy. Prince of Peace fits the bill!

Danette plans to use her singing talent and join the Contemporary Praise Band. Doug says that he is a dedicated sports fan of all Cleveland teams, Cavs, Guardians, and Browns. They reside in Strongsville. Please offer them a warm welcome, and a sincere "Peace be with You"!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter