



First English Lutheran Church

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New Release
January 2023

First English Lutheran Church is pleased to announce its new Pastor, Luke Hollander.

Pastor Hollander will preach and preside at First English Lutheran Church for his first Sunday service on January 22, 2023 at 9 am. Hollander is a graduate of Luther Seminary and is transferring from Mount Olive Church in Rochester, where his ministry focused as an associate pastor of children, youth and families.

Pastor Hollander said, "It is clear to me that the Holy Spirit is up to something at First English and I am eager to be a part of it."

Pastor Hollander also stated, "The call committee was so warm and such a wonderful group of people. I look forward to being a part of the First English family and Cannon Falls community, and to the opportunity to grow into my pastoral calling."

Pastor Hollander is taking over clergy duties from Interim Pastor Mike Zaske, who served as interim since March 2022. Previously, Pastor Phil Ruud served as senior pastor at First English Lutheran Church for 30 years.

Call Committee and Transition Team Chair, Phil Jacobson, recognized the history of strong leadership at the church by stating, "First English was blessed with excellent leadership from Pastor Phil Ruud for 30 years.

This was continued over the past year by Interim Pastor Mike Zaske. Pastor Mike has been outstanding and his interim leadership has been a critical component of preparing the way for Pastor Luke and our congregation's ongoing success. We are excited about our future." Pastor Hollander will start full time ministry January 16, 2023, preaching his first Sunday sermon as First English Lutheran Church's pastor on January 22.



Pastor Luke Hollander