

Introducing Rev. Michael Mandsager



**CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR –
VISITATION, MISSION, AND TEACHING**
Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota

Introduction

Your Bethel Call Committee is pleased to present our candidate of choice, Rev. Michael Mandsager, to the congregation. Here are some of the reasons we are excited about the gifts Pastor Mandsager brings to Bethel:

“Pastor Mandsager has a very calming presence. He has a strong passion for visitation and meeting people where they’re at in life, as well as for music and the arts. I believe he will be a very good fit for our pastoral team at Bethel.”

Jordan Anderson

“Pastor Mandsager’s dedication to the Lutheran doctrine, passion for visitation, love of preaching and teaching, and wonderful sense of humor guarantees that he will fit right in with the Bethel pastoral staff and congregation.” *Pat Eichhorst*

“He is candid, positive, humorous, and musically gifted, which he likes to incorporate into the worship service.” *Bill Shea*

“Pastor Mandsager comes to Bethel with a successful career as a pastor and chaplain with ample life experiences to share God’s word to congregants of all life stages. His interests and gifts include drama, musical talent, community building, and passion for youth and family ministry.” *Ian Greenlund*

Call Committee Members

Jim Deutschle, Chairperson

Jordan Anderson

Pat Eichhorst

Sarah Eslait

Ian Greenlund

Bill Shea

Paul Wittmer

Jackson O’Brien, youth representative

Michele Ratelle, Church Council representative

Pastor Anjanette Bandel

Rev. Michael Mandsager

Hometown: Decorah, Iowa

Home Congregation: St. John's Lutheran Church,
Northfield, MN

Education

Master of Divinity, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN 1992

**Bachelor of Arts, English, St. Olaf College,
Northfield, MN 1987**

Ministry Experience

- Solo pastor, St. Paul's/ St. Matthew Lutheran Parish, Harmony, MN 1992-1995: A wonderful rural community that helped me develop and hone my skills in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.
- Associate pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, LaCrosse, WI, 1995-1999; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN, 1999-2007; First English Lutheran Church, Faribault, MN, 2007-2014. In LaCrosse, I had primary responsibility for visitation. In Northfield, I was the primary teaching pastor. I participated in social ministries and led youth service trips at all three of these congregations.
- Solo pastor, Highview Christiania Lutheran Church, Farmington, MN, 2014-2021: I preached, led worship, taught all ages, led service trips, and helped the congregation navigate through COVID.
- Chaplain, Northfield Retirement Community, Northfield, MN, 2021-2024; St. John's Lutheran Community, Albert Lea, MN, April 2024-present: I preach and lead three weekly worship services and teach five weekly Bible studies. I provide visitation and spiritual support for residents and staff.

Other Work Experience

I went straight from college to seminary, but I worked a number of interesting part-time jobs as a student. My favorite of these was working at a small independent bookstore, where the boss encouraged staff to read on the job when not helping customers. He wanted us to be knowledgeable about the books we were selling. (“That’s what makes us different from the big guys,” he said.) I also enjoyed working in maintenance and housekeeping at the seminary and the Lutheran Campus Ministry Center at the U of M. In these jobs I found that when I did my work well, often no one would comment; but if I missed a spot, I would often hear about it. This experience taught me to be intentional about praising a job well done, and to allow plenty of grace for the mistakes we all make (James 3:2).

Volunteer Experiences

- Acting, Northfield Arts Guild Theater.
- Singing, Northfield Youth Choirs Chorale, also a board member for Northfield Youth Choirs.
- Rice County Homelessness Prevention Task Force
- Organizer, CROP Hunger Walk
- Board President, LaCrosse Area Food Shelf

Family

I am the second of four children. My dad is a retired pastor. He served as a campus pastor and college administrator during my childhood. A teacher by training, my mom became a full-time homemaker after we kids arrived.

I married Jenelle Keltto, another pastor's kid, in 1988. (Jenelle's parents were members of Bethel for a time.) Together we had a daughter, Julia (31) and a son, Erik (27). Julia is a pediatrician in Massachusetts, where she lives with her husband Tim, a grad student, and daughter Maya, age 2. Erik is a high school teacher in Salt Lake City. He and his fiancée, McKenna, will be married next year.

After receiving life-extending brain tumor treatment at Mayo, Jenelle died in 2007. In 2009, I married April Fitzloff, a physician assistant in women's health. Together we have twin sons, Noah and Jacob (13).

Hobbies and Interests

In addition to acting, singing, and reading, I enjoy travel, music, movies, and watching sports.

Quote

"That love is all there is, is all we know of Love; it is enough...."
— Emily Dickinson

Associate Pastor- Visitation, Mission, Teaching

Purpose of Position: To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by developing and expanding a ministry of education centered on God's Word and continuing a ministry of visitation.

The Associate Pastor in Visitation, Mission, and Teaching will serve on a pastoral team sharing in the ministry of Word and Sacrament. This pastor will oversee Bible Studies and develop expanded opportunities for the members of Bethel to be engaged with God's Word and each other. This pastor will maintain a visitation program for shut-ins, hospitalized and those in crisis.

This pastor will work with benevolent efforts of the congregation managed by the Social Missions and Neighborhood Outreach Team. The position reports to the Lead Pastor, and provides leadership and direction to Visitation Pastor, Parish Nurse, and Director of the Gate of Life Service. This Pastor will help guide the work of the Adult Education Team, Devotional Team, Gate of Life Leadership Team, Men's Ministry, Health Cabinet, Social Missions Team, Neighborhood Outreach Team, and the Bethel Women.

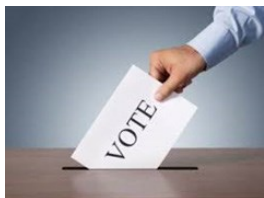
Professional qualities:

A strong desire and ability to:

- Preach, teach and share God's Word and Sacraments in accordance with Lutheran Confessions
- Work collegially with members of the pastoral, program, and support staff team
- Connect and develop positive, dynamic relationships with youth, families, and adults
- Utilize the most effective tools of communication with staff and members of Bethel
- Help people discover their gifts and use these gifts in ministry
- Represent Bethel with honesty, integrity, biblical morality, and be able to maintain confidentiality

Timeline

Introduction of and Vote for Candidate



At our congregational meeting today, August 18, 2024, the candidate for the called position is presented and those Bethel members present will cast a written ballot. A 2/3rd majority is necessary to extend a call.

Welcome!



Pastor Mandsager has indicated that he would be available to begin serving at Bethel in September. His first day in the office will Tuesday, September 3rd, his first Sunday in worship on September 8th (Rally Weekend!), and his first weekend of preaching will be September 14th & 15th.

Installation at Bethel Lutheran Church



Once introduced to the congregation in September, Pastor Mandsager's service of installation will be included in all four weekend worship services on Nov 16th and 17th with Bishop Regina Hassanally officiating at the installation service.

Pastor Michael Mandsager's Personal Ministry Statement

My personal mission statement is,

“³Let us then pursue what makes for peace and mutual upbuilding,” Romans 14:19

I seek to carry out this mission through grace-centered preaching and worship, theologically sound teaching, and fostering trust through fellowship and healthy communication.



**Candidate for Associate Pastor –
Visitation, Mission, and Teaching**
810 3rd Ave SE Rochester MN 55904