

Greetings Crosslake Presbyterian Church!

My name is Austin Nelson and I am so very excited to worship with you all in the coming weeks and to serve with you during this period of transition here at Crosslake Presbyterian. Just to briefly introduce myself, I am a Crosslake native, born and raised. I graduated from Pequot Lakes High School in 2012, and got my bachelors from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN in 2014. In May of 2019, I graduated from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN with my Masters of Divinity and a master's concentration in the History of Christianity.



Some of you may know me through my past involvement at Crosslake Lutheran. I additionally have served at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Pequot as well as McGrath and Wahkon Presbyterian Churches. Another way many may know me is through my long-term work managing my grandmother's antique store, Curious Belongings, here in town. I am a man with many hats and have been called to work in many various vocations—as an antique dealer, pastor, teacher, you name it! In other words, I like to keep busy. I currently live between my family's home here in the Crosslake area during the summer months and my own home in northeast Minneapolis during the antique store's "off-season." I also work during the school year at Luther Seminary as an assistant instructor where I help teach Early Church History.

As you all are in a period of discernment, I too have taken this time after seminary to discern where God is calling me in my own life. As a young person with many different passions and talents, this period of discernment has not been easy. I have dealt with the crushing bureaucracies of the church—both Presbyterian and Lutheran alike—broken denominational systems that drive away leaders. While on the other hand, pursuing my passions for teaching, I have been faced with the reality of the shrinking field of higher education and the general lack of jobs in the humanities. Certainly, a period of discernment, but one full of hope. I share this to give light to my personal context and stand as a testament to the power that the Spirit provides to those who trust in our God who is always making things new. And on this new path, I look forward to our continued prayerful discernment and our partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ,

Austin Nelson