

Dear First English Family of Faith,

As your new Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator, I am eager to meet you and get to know all of you. Pastor Steve has asked that I share some details about myself, and I am happy to do that!

I am the middle of three daughters, born to an insurance manager and a registered nurse. Both were from small towns in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan who went out and built a life together. We moved a lot when I was growing up, mostly in the Midwest, as my father's career advanced. "Do your very best", "Tell the truth", and "How are you helping?" come to mind when I remember that time. Wherever we moved, quickly finding our new Lutheran church was a priority. I was baptized in a small rural church, Bethany Lutheran and later confirmed in a large suburban church, Christ the King. Everywhere in between and forward, my faith grew through connections made in strong faith communities, but especially within my own close knit family. My Swedish grandmother once told me, "God's way is the perfect way." Now there's something to remember!

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wittenberg University, an ELCA college in Ohio. After graduating, I worked as a manager for IBM in Chicago, eventually leaving to raise a family. I have three children, Claire 29 a Communications Director in Minneapolis; Caroline, 27 a Research Assistant in Rochester, MN; and William, 18 a Senior in high school who will be attending UWW in the fall.

As long as I can remember, I have enjoyed and looked for ways to be involved with helping others, especially children's learning. I've been a weekly Sunday School teacher (K-7) and again this year am teaching Confirmation. I've volunteered for and directed VBS, led and coordinated Family Faith in Action programs, planned and led youth and family retreats, served as a Christian Education chair, youth committees, mission committees, and more. Outside of church, I was a Girl Scout Leader, coordinated PTA classroom art enrichment, tutored students, and most recently have been a volunteer for Busy Brain's Children's Museum, a leader for children's art programs via the Grayslake Arts Alliance, a Kindergarten Story Lady volunteer, and am teaching English as a Second Language at a local library.

As both a former Parish Life Assistant and a volunteer, I have a lot of experience with children and young adults. I've learned, that no matter the age and wherever they are in their life and faith journey, it is of great importance to meet them where they are. That is where my heart lies and it is deeply linked to God at work in me. My own faith journey is quite remarkable. (Well, I think so!) Simply put, I went from believing to BELIEVING!! And in that, sharing with others, young or old, the joy of Jesus as center, as truth, gives meaning to every part of my day, even those parts not so easy to embrace. For a long time, my favorite quote was, "It matters not so much where you are, but in what direction you are moving." O. W. Holmes. Now, I add, "...in what direction you are moving toward God." Being in relationship with Him and then others, is my solid point of reference.

Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Be on the look out for emails and FaceBook posts from me, and send me your thoughts, ideas, suggestions and maybe even a photo? via [karilcurran58@gmail.com](mailto:karilcurran58@gmail.com) or 224-714-8986. We're apart now, but not forever.

God's peace to us all,



P.S. Are you wondering about my name? ....it's pronounced "Carol"!