



MEET THE CARLSSONS

Wednesday, July 24, Sanctuary
Doors open 6pm • Congregational Meeting 7pm

Following the Meet and Greet, Church Council will conduct the ELCA- required congregational meeting and member vote to formally call Pastor Mark to Good Shepherd. See you at this important and exciting event! Childcare with Fusion support available up to 5th grade.

Mark loves to be outdoors fishing, hiking or picking mushrooms in the forest. He also enjoys reading, traveling, drumming, skiing and sampling ethnic foods. Plus he's a Blackhawks fan!

Christie is a clinical counselor who loves different cultures, culinary arts, picking mushrooms and berries, reading, and having people over! She grew up in the Philippines as her parents are missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Christie graduated high school in Zion, IL in 1992, Taylor University in 1995 and Trinity Divinity School in 1999. She's a Cubs fan!

Axel is 15 and enjoys being active outside with friends and family. He experiments with photography and film. Soccer, skiing, swimming and hanging out with friends are high on his list of things he loves to do. He is excited about getting to know other Christians his age in Naperville, as is his brother, David.

David is 11 and enjoys adventures outside in the woods with friends, swimming, karate, drawing and jumping on a trampoline. He also likes reading with a cat in the lap. His absolute favorite activity is downhill skiing.



INTRODUCING SENIOR PASTOR CANDIDATE

MARK CARLSSON

*My passion is to know Jesus, walk in the Spirit
and participate in God's redemptive
transformation of the world.*

— Pastor Mark Carlsson



Thank you to everyone for your prayers and patience during the search process for the next Senior Pastor of Good Shepherd. After nearly two years of work by our call team, we are excited to introduce Senior Pastor Candidate Mark Carlsson, who was presented and approved unanimously in June by Good Shepherd's church council.

Pastor Mark Carlsson was born in California, but at age 18 months, he and his family relocated to live in his father's homeland in Sweden, raised speaking both English and Swedish.

TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT YEARS

Mark grew up in church, but at age 14 Mark's spiritual journey flourished. That is when his family returned to the United States to live in Ohio, and with the overwhelming change, his world felt as if it was turned upside down. As a young teen, Mark had many questions about his beliefs and his purpose. Seeking answers, he read the Bible, attended youth group and a Christian rock concert. Mark eventually discovered the reality of a personal relationship with Christ. This experience changed the course of his life.

As Mark continued his education through high school and college, he developed a desire to share the good news of Jesus, and that desire continued to grow. He was extensively involved in outreach, discipleship, leadership, and spiritual formation. He began to consider a vocation in ministry, and this was confirmed through ministry fruitfulness and affirmation from his peers and leaders.

Upon completing his bachelor's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, Mark moved to Illinois in 1994 to work with Cru, a campus ministry at Northwestern University, focused on reaching students for Christ, discipleship,

and serving. Mark was then led to complete his Master of Divinity at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. While in seminary, Mark was blessed to meet his future wife Christie at their home church in Evanston.

Christie was born in the Philippines, as her parents are Christian missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Christie returned to the United States at age 16, and eventually met Mark while pursuing her master's degree in Counseling Psychology at Trinity.

A CALL TO SWEDEN

With Christie at his side, Mark continued on a path towards pastoral ministry. After they were married, Mark and Christie were commissioned in 2003 by their church to serve as missionaries at a sister church in Sweden, which is a very secular area. Mark was ordained a pastor in 2004, then served as an assistant pastor, university chaplain and regional campus minister where he shared the Gospel, trained leaders and developed campus Christian fellowships through Credo, a ministry similar to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

In 2011, Mark was hired as Senior Pastor of Bethlehem Church in the heart of Stockholm. This congregation is part of the Swedish Evangelical Mission, an independent movement within the Church of Sweden, which is equivalent to the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Mark was ordained a Lutheran pastor in 2012. By God's grace, Bethlehem Church welcomed many new members, especially young adults, during Mark's tenure. It has been an exciting journey as the Carlssons have seen the Lord provide extensive growth in secular regions.

FAMILY

At the same time God expanded Mark and Christie's church family, he wonderfully expanded their personal family. Their son Axel is 15 and enjoys soccer, photography and hanging out with friends. Axel's brother David is 11 and loves adventures outside in the woods with friends, karate, drawing, reading and jumping on a trampoline. Both Axel and David look forward to getting to know more Christians their own age.

Together, the Carlssons enjoy nature activities, cooking, swimming and skiing. They also enjoy sports, and they look forward to coming back to the Chicago area to cheer on the Cubs and the Blackhawks!

A NEW CALL

After being richly blessed for nearly 16 years as missionaries in Sweden, the Carlsson family is following God's undeniable call to a new season in ministry and to return to the United States. They are filled with anticipation to further God's Kingdom in Naperville through the ministry of Good Shepherd.

