

## **The Rev. Joshua N. Sullivan**

As a faith leader, artist and organizer Pastor Josh believes God has called him to work at the intersection of many cultures and sensibilities. At this meeting-ground, he hopes to nurture faith and resiliency through lasting spiritual practices. Together with the people he serves, he seeks to open the joy and transformation that God has revealed to all the cosmos in Christ—the goodness of creation, the gift of forgiveness, and our communion with God.

Born in 1985, Pastor Josh grew up in small towns along the Connecticut River valley. Although he was baptized, confirmed, and always in the orbit of the church (Bethany Lutheran, Cromwell), as a teen he circled far away seeking meaning and connection in Eastern traditions. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit was working on him all along through his artwork, personal study and prayer, and he experienced a surprising and life-changing call to pastoral leadership.

Showing a keen interest in the arts from a young age, Pastor Josh's spirituality was formed first as an artist. He was trained at the Rhode Island School of Design (Bachelor of Fine Arts: Printmaking, 2007) and lived and worked as a painter and musician in New York City until 2012, when he began discerning God's call to ministry. He earned theological degrees from Yale Divinity School and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music (Master of Divinity, 2016) as well as United Lutheran Seminary (Master of Sacred Theology, 2019). On ELCA internship in Seattle, WA, from 2016-17 he served as vicar for Ballard First Lutheran Church and as an organizer for the Faith Action Network of Washington. In 2018 he was called as the associate pastor at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Perkasio, PA, and was ordained a Minister of Word and Sacrament. With the people of St. Andrew's, he grew tremendously in the Spirit as they created adaptive new ministries together, strengthened their lay leaders, and journeyed faithfully through all the overwhelming changes brought on by the COVID-19 era.

His spouse Madelyn Robertson is a social worker and they enjoy cooking together, walking, making and listening to all kinds of music, going to the beach (especially on Cape Cod), streaming their favorite TV shows, and enjoying time spent with their daughter Simone (born October 2020). Lately, Pastor Josh and Maddy have really been pining for the woods and waters of their home state Connecticut. They are full of joy and hope as they return, and are eager to contribute to the communities they call home.