



Pastor Mark Griffith

St Luke's Lutheran Church
Bellevue, WA

Feel free to get
in touch with me
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I grew up in Southeast Alaska. My family and I lived in the little town of Craig and in big city of Juneau. The wild Alaskan back country was my backyard! Growing up I spent a lot of time outside fishing, camping, hiking, boating, kayaking, cycling, and so on. After I graduated from Juneau Douglas High School I left home for the "lower 48."

I enrolled as a student at Pacific Lutheran University. My time at PLU was fantastic. I studied and worked hard, but also found time to play hard too. I was a guide and a trip leader for the outdoor recreation program and spent a lot of time exploring the Cascade and Olympic mountains. I studied physics at PLU and graduated with a B.S. in Physics with a minor in Recreation. I'm not sure anyone has repeated that course of study. I can throw a Frisbee and tell you why it's flying! When I graduated from PLU I had the best intentions to pursue further studies in physics and eventually seek a career in the field. Despite my best plans and ideas, I felt this strange call to ministry. Unsure how to best answer that call I took a year off to discern what it was I really wanted to do with my life. After a lot of prayer, some fear and trepidation I answered this call and went to seminary. My adventure took me to Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Now I'm not sure what was the greater leap; an Alaskan moving to Iowa, or a physicist studying religion.

I spent four years in Iowa working on my Masters of Divinity. While I had a great time in Iowa and made some amazing lifelong friends there, I am happy to be back in the Pacific Northwest. I was ordained in Juneau, AK on July 15th, 2007. Shortly after that I began my life as a Pastor in Shelton, WA at Faith Lutheran Church. I served as an Associate Pastor for two years in that congregation. After a wonderful two years in Shelton my wife was accepted to the UW Law School and we felt to keep a happy marriage happy a move would be in our best interest. That's when I accepted the call to be the Pastor at Mt. Si Lutheran Church. During my time at Mt. Si, I completed a Doctorate in Ministry in Semiotics and Future Studies through George Fox University. To read more about that work click [here](#).

After a great seven years at Mt. Si I discerned the Holy Spirit nudging me to consider ministry in Bellevue at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. After a lot of prayer and discernment I accepted the call and have been the pastor at St. Luke's since May 15th, 2016. This is a warm and welcoming congregation that seeks to be a vital part of a healthy Bellevue community. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and look forward to the future! Feel free to get in touch with me pastor@slukes.org.