

# **Trinity Lutheran Church New Members Bios 2021**

**EMILY FETSCH and JONATHAN JONES** were married at Trinity, October 23, 2021. Emily grew up in Olathe and Currently serves a Director Fiscal Policy at Kansas Action for Children. Emily attended the University of St. Thomas for undergraduate and KU for her Master's Degree. She loves cooking, hiking and listening to live music. Jonathan is from Arkansas but spent childhood days in England and Belgium. He is Political Director for the KS Democratic Party. He received his Undergraduate Degree from Arkansas Tech University, Washington University for his Juris Doctor Degree and University of Arkansas and University of Missouri for graduate School. Jonathan enjoys reading and loves Arkansas football!!

**JOHN and MARTHA ROWE** moved to Lawrence in 2014 from Kirksville, MO. John's 35 year career in the Federal Aviation Administration took them to NC, Alabama, Florida, Oklahoma and MO. Martha and John were married in OK in 1959 and as the Homemaker Martha helped raise their three daughters and one son! These children are scattered from Des Moines, Iowa, to Chicago, Kansas and Missouri! They are proud grandparents of six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren! After years in the Presbyterian church they are thrilled to be back "at home" at Trinity Lutheran!

**VIRGIL and JAN DEAN** are retired State of Kansas employees. Jan as a former hearing Officer with Disability Determination Service. Virgil retired as the Director of Publications and Historian for the Kansas Historical Society among other things. For 30 years he edited Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains. Their careers began as public school teachers with Jan, a Fort Hays State Graduate with a MS in Special Education from Emporia State University and Virgil, an Undergraduate of Emporia State University with MA in History and PhD in U.S. History, KU. Jan is an avid gardener and Virgil continues in history research and editing. Justice Matters was one of their involvements at Immanuel.

**PASTOR RANDY and NANCY WEINKAUF** are recent retiree as Pr. Randy retired from Immanuel Lutheran and University Student Center serving there from 2009-2019. His Parish ministries took him from Hilo, Hawaii; Guam; Rolla, Missouri and Westgate, Iowa and at the Lutheran/Episcopal mission on Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. He also served as a Chaplain in the US Naval Reserve and is a Minnesota native. Nancy hails from Texas and PR claims he had to go to Texas to find a good wife! They were married in 1974 and recently celebrated 47 years of marriage. Nancy has worked outside the home in various capacities- twice as a restaurant manager, real estate agent, office manager and twice as church secretary. Their latest assignment is caring for a 19-week old Irish Setter to keep them active. Nancy and Pastor Randy have 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**RODNEY and TAMMY GIEBEL's** latest adventure came with a move to Tonganoxie from North KC due to Tammy's job changing locations. Tammy is a Pharmacy Technician. The trip to Gloria Dei Lutheran became too much and they found Trinity! The liturgical worship, gifted musicians and inspired preaching made them spiritually full. Rodney's IT jobs have him traveling but still enjoying "playing with cars" and Tami enjoys quilting and sewing! They have three daughters in the KC area with six grandchildren all 9 and under.

**MANDY, SCOTT, MORGAN and ASHLEY SPONHOLTZ** are a busy family of four with involvement in church. Scott and Mandy are Marathoners-Scott in 2018 and Mandy in 2021, Morgan in aquatics and as an eighth grader in select choir at West Middle school, Ashley a second grader at Deerfield busy in gymnastics and anything Harry Potter! Mandy and Scott met at KU when both were working in Financial Aid office and now Scott is Director of Financial Aid at KU MED Center and Mandy is the Director of Operations for Blue Icon Advisors, the Consulting Arm of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators! Scott is a LHS and KU grad (Undergrad degree in Political Science and Communications) and Masters in Higher Ed. Mandy holds her bachelor's degree in English from Ft Hays State and her Masters in Higher Ed from KU! Both Mandy and Scott have held congregational Presidencies and Council Offices besides teaching Sunday School at Immanuel. The family enjoys board games and movie nights at home!

**SUSAN and RAYMOND "BUTCH" PONTOW-** Are Darrah Buren's parents. The Pontow's moved to Lawrence in May, 2021 from Beloit, KS. They are both native Iowans and were members of Zion Lutheran Church in Beloit! Butch is a veteran of the US Navy and Susan worked at the Juvenile Correctional Facility in Beloit for 17 years! They have a son named Jeremy and wife Jill and three grandchildren in Manhattan!

**GARY and KATHY BUFFINGTON** were born and raised in the Black Hills of South Dakota. They were HS sweethearts and married in 1965. They are proud parents of 3 children and their little James who God chose to live with Him. They left South Dakota in 1977 for first big move to Birmingham, Alabama (culture shock!!) Gary's occupation took them on various moves to Grand Junction CO, Orlando, Norwich CT, Olathe, Los Angeles, CA and finally back to KS! Pride and joy to be blessed with 4 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren!

**GARY and JULIE CROWE** met on the internet in 1996 before dating sites and were married in 1997! Gary is a native of Lawrence and Julie is from Alabama. Gary has been an employee of the city of Lawrence for 34 years as a Technology person in the Water Department. Julie works PT as an office manager for a Pediatric OT Clinic. They have 2 daughters; a son-in-law, 2 granddaughters and 3 dogs! They love the outdoors, fishing and time with family and excited about their new church as they leave Immanuel Lutheran.

**SARAH BELL and DUSTIN STRUBLE** Sarah Bell moved to Lawrence in 2010 to attend graduate school at the University of Kansas. She completed her Masters in Museum Studies and her PhD in History. She currently works as the Development Director at the Watkins Museum of History. Dustin Struble has lived and worked in Lawrence since 2012. He earned his PhD in Higher Education Administration and is currently the Director of Assessment and Strategic Initiatives for the University of Kansas. Dustin and Sarah got married in September 2020. They have an adorable Boston Terrier puppy Rosie, who brings them a lot of joy. Dustin and Sarah are so thankful for the kind welcome they have received from the Trinity Lutheran community.

**SUNNIE and RALPH PLANTHOLD** can be seen in the front pew every Sunday as Sunnie signs many parts of the service! She was founder of the Deaf ministry program at Immanuel and hopes to start that ministry at Trinity! Ralph and Sunnie are Independent Associates of Legal Shield and ID Shield. Ralph's Master's Degree in Computer Sciences is from Texas A & M. Sunnie has completed extensive training in ASL curriculums and has her Masters in Ed from the University of So. Mississippi. They are Officers in the START FLEET of Star Trek fans, and have held multiple leadership roles at Immanuel!

**SCOTT O'NEAL and CHRISTINE MENNICKE** have been married for 33 years and have lived in Lawrence since 1991. They have two adult children. Scott and Christine both work for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment: Scott is a Professional Geologist Supervisor in the Bureau of Environmental Remediation and Christine oversees data management and regulation development for the Bureau of Waste Management. Scott enjoys home improvement projects, motorcycles, and woodworking. Christine's pastimes are gardening, knitting, and watching old movies.

**CAMILLE WINGO** grew up in Louisiana and Mississippi near New Orleans. " I met my husband at Tulane University where both of us were studying architecture. We moved to St. Louis (his home) had two children but divorced early. I began working as an information technologist and late completed an MA in Religious Studies at Washington University. After my younger child graduated High School, I sold my condo, put almost everything I owned in storage and moved to England to finish my education. After completed a PhD. I moved to London and went back to work in information technology within the banking industry. Finally, in 2016 my family needed me to come home. My mother was becoming elderly and my daughter was expecting! I bought a run down, old house across the street from my daughter which I am renovating. I quit paid employment and am now a stay-at-home grandmother and project manager for the restoration of Kansas Historical Register. In the meantime, my son has retired after 20 years in the Air Force and is now enrolled in KU School of Business. He is living in the guest suite on my second floor. I have my family all back together again, now enlarged with a grandson and son-in-law."

**JEFFERY and CANDACE ALVESTAD** "joined" Trinity when he began serving as Trinity's pastor January 1, 2021. Jeffery is from Iowa and Candace from Texas. They are proud parents of "Katie, "an 8-year old Brittany, and "Rose a 9-month old Golden Retriever, both of whom enjoy South Park as their front yard. Jeffery graduated from KU in the last century and has two graduate degrees from Fuller and Luther Seminaries. He has also received certification in "Mediation Conflict Resolution" from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center and "Intentional Interim Ministry" from Luther Seminary – neither of which he or Candace hopes is applicable to Trinity! Candace attended the University of Texas and graduated from the University of Alabama Birmingham, and has degrees in Graphic Art and Nursing.