

# ARIEL WILLIAMS

## Candidate for Associate Pastor

The Call Committee is pleased to introduce you to Ariel Williams, candidate for Associate Pastor.

Ariel graduated from United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania this past spring with a Masters in Divinity. Like many who are called to ministry, her journey has not been a straight line, and she obtained lots of relevant experience on the way.

Prior to seminary, Ariel served four years as a Director of Child, Youth & Family Ministries and as Associate for Youth for one year. She feels that empowering youth to be current leaders in the church is very important. "They are our present, not our future", Ariel writes. She has vast experience creating and adapting curricula, and in writing family and social media devotions, Christmas pageants and youth group lessons.

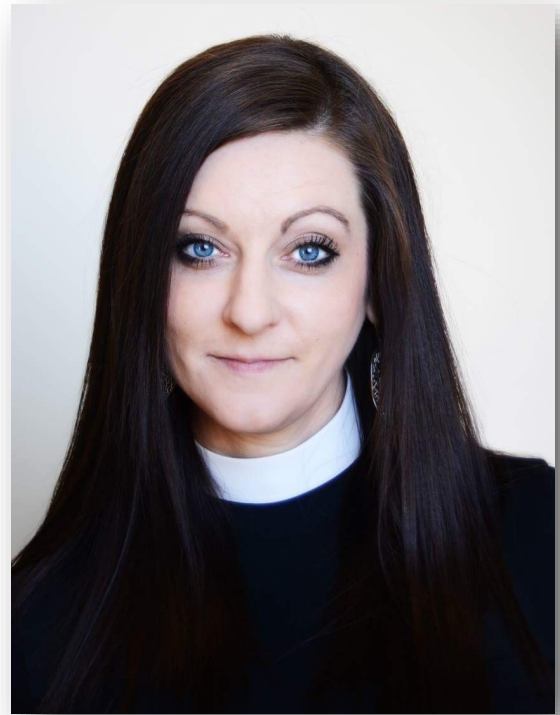
During her internship at Grace Lutheran (Pennsylvania), Ariel was instrumental in reforming and revitalizing the child, youth and family ministries.

Ariel is passionate about eco-stewardship and eco-theology. She has created a community garden at her prior church, and was Garden Steward and Food Pantry Coordinator while at seminary. She also is passionate about the global church and global ministries, and has taken trips to Honduras and Guatemala to study human migration.

Ariel writes of her calling, "As great love and forgiveness has been bestowed on me, I in turn am called to reflect this love to others."

The Call Committee feels Ariel will be a vibrant voice proclaiming the Gospel to Living Word's church family, its children and the community.

Ariel currently lives in the Katy area with her two children, Patrick (12) and Isabelle "Izzy" (11).



### Overview of Job Description for Candidate for Associate Pastor at Living Word

#### Required Leadership Skills:

- Spiritual gifts of leadership, planning, teaching and faith.
- Strong experience in youth and family ministry.
- Innovation and creativity to build education programs for all age groups.
- Good communicator from the pulpit and in one-on-one relationships. Able to demonstrate the relevance of Scripture in daily life.
- Consistent practice of personal spiritual disciplines (i.e. Bible study, prayer, fasting, tithing, etc.).
- Team Builder who recruits, inspires and equips lay leaders with the leadership abilities and skills necessary for ministry.
- Understands and implements servant leadership to emphasize collaborations, trust, empathy and the ethical use of power. The Associate Pastor is a servant first, making the conscious decision to lead to better serve others, not to increase his/her own power. The objective is to enhance the growth of others by increasing teamwork and personal involvement.
- Exemplary Lifestyle – The Associate Minister's personal life should be an example of integrity, humility, honesty and openness. His/her life should reflect a Christ-like maturity in all relationships, including marriage and family.

## Primary Responsibilities

### Small Groups:

Continue to develop the language, vision, theology and structure of the Small Group Ministry at Living Word.  
Recruit, empower, develop, mentor, train and equip leaders and potential leaders.  
Think of creative ways to have most of the church community be part of a small group.  
Think strategically about multiplying groups each quarter.

### Sunday School & Christian Education:

Develop the language, vision, theology and structure for classes to help our congregation grow from spiritual infancy to maturity.  
Empower, develop and equip leaders and teachers for the spiritual formation classes.  
Working with pastoral and ministry staff, plan spiritual formation classes and other spiritual formation experiences.

### Preaching:

Must be a strong and effective communicator who can preach 10-15 times a year.  
Work closely with the Senior Pastor to develop and improve preaching and worship leadership.  
Help develop the preaching calendar with the pastoral staff.

### Provide Leadership for Major Community Formation Events:

Organize an annual summer church-wide retreat/activity.  
Organize and lead silent retreats three to four times a year.

### Spiritual Formation Strategy:

Develop an overall church spiritual formation strategy that aligns with the needs of the church and community and encompasses the overall spiritual health, growth and development accounting for various ministries, growth stages, and affinity groups.

## Pastoral Ministry

Spend weekly time in personal spiritual renewal, as well as scheduling retreats for spiritual reflection, study, and prayer for vision and direction.  
Share general pastoral responsibilities with the Lead Pastor and other pastoral staff, including preaching, teaching, and overall leadership and care of the faith community.  
The Associate Pastor shall be one of the spiritual leaders of the congregation. He/she shall provide for continued spiritual health and vitality of the community, identify the needs within the faith community and the larger community, explore and adopt trends, best practices, and cutting-edge methodologies.

Keep abreast of current trends in the church through reading, seminars, conferences, and networking, with responsibility for communicating these trends to the church leadership.  
Serve the wider church through local, synod, and church-wide leadership roles as time allows. The Associate Pastor shall foster good relationships with the ELCA, our synodical community, other churches within our community, and provide for ecumenical relationships.  
Oversee pastoral support for The Learning Center (TLC) ministry and help promote TLC as an important outreach ministry of Living Word. This includes supervising The Learning Center Director, conducting children's chapel once a week, and developing the faith curriculum.

Create a comprehensive plan for assimilating new members into the life of Living Word Lutheran Church.  
Oversee Sunday School (all ages), the Confirmation program, and the High School youth program with the assistance of coordinators (a combination of staff members and parent volunteers).  
Provide leadership for Camp Hope summer camp.  
Expand our Confirmation program in cooperation with our Confirmation support staff, parents and guides.  
Develop additional worship opportunities that are focused on youth and young adults with the goal of increasing youth involvement in worship.  
Regularly evaluate Discipleship ministries and the teaching ministries of the congregation to align with the mission, vision and values set forth by the Lead Pastor.

