

Hello! My name is Holly McHale-Larsen and I serve St Paul Lutheran in Oakland, CA as their pastor. When I entered seminary, in 2002 at Seattle University, I never imagined I'd spend my first fifteen years of ordained ministry in the Bay Area. (Even though I grew up in San Diego- and outside of Seattle- I had never been to the Bay before 2005!) Nor did I realize that because I chose to attend a divinity school instead of a Lutheran seminary, I'd live a very ecumenical life. (My husband is an Episcopal priest.)

While raised Lutheran, because my father was in the Navy, I experienced/attended many different faith traditions growing up: Assembly of God, Southern Baptist, Methodist, Evangelical, Catholic, Buddhist, etc. These traditions shaped my faith and affirmed my choice to be Lutheran. These experiences also made it so I am able to translate and find commonality between different faiths.

I am honored to be on the Candidacy Committee and serve in this role. It is a privilege to accompany others and aid them in their discernment. Because I did not attend a Lutheran seminary, I have a soft spot for those who are taking a different seminary path, especially those who are second career.