

Rev. Elise Anderson
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Tell us a little about yourself and how you serve.

My name is Elise Anderson, and I am the associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hixson, TN. I grew up in Chicago but have deep family connections in the south and am excited to have ended up here in the southeast for my first call. I am a second career pastor, I decided to go to seminary while I was working as a teacher and athletic trainer at a high school outside of Atlanta, GA. I loved the years that I was dedicated to my work in sports medicine but my journey started to shift and take on a new shape after I served in South Africa for a year through the Young Adults in Global Missions (YAGM) program. That experience really opened my eyes to the needs of the world and how I might fit into the greater solution through work in ministry.

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

This was a tough one! There are many verses that speak volumes but I always come back around to the same one - Hebrews 12: 1-4. As a distance runner I think the idea of running a race with perseverance is something I've always been able to relate to the idea of pushing through to the next mile. It also serves as a great reminder to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Where have you seen God recently?

For Ash Wednesday our church did a service of stations that allowed people to come through in their own time and safely worship and experience some good church life on such a holy day. I was at the communion station where folks could come through, hear the liturgy and receive the bread and wine. For most of our congregation they have been either worshipping at our parking lot service or watching online so being able to take communion in person had a profound effect on people. It was beautiful to see how much the sacrament of communion truly means to people and their faith.

When/how have you been blessed by God's abundance?

I have started working in homeless services here in Chattanooga working in outreach; visiting the homeless in camps and on the street, helping to connect them to services they need to survive. Not only has it opened my eyes even wider to the trials that many people go through but it has also shown me how generous people can be. My congregation has stepped up in some big ways, donating what they can to those in need. It has also helped me realize just how lucky I have been to have grown up in the family that I did, have the friends I have, and the opportunities that have come my way. I plan to continue to use the privileges life has given me in order to do what I can to help others find the opportunities they deserve so that they can also feel the blessings life has to offer.