

## Biographical Information for James Armentrout

We welcome The Rev. James Armentrout to St. Mark's Lutheran Church. A native of Virginia and the youngest of seven half brothers and sisters, Pastor Armentrout grew up on a dairy in Keezletown (about four miles east of Harrisonburg). He was graduated from Bridgewater College in 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts in history where he also minored in Philosophy and Religion. In the summer of that same year Pastor Armentrout moved to Columbia, South Carolina and began his seminary education at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. He received a Master of Divinity degree from the school in May of 1999.

Pastor Armentrout was ordained in September of 1999 after he accepted a call to United Lutheran Church in Crockett, Virginia. His first call was a unique one because he served United as their pastor on a three-quarter time basis and was contracted by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Wytheville, through United, on a one-quarter time basis as their Minister of Youth.

On May 5, 2001, Pastor James married Jennifer Anderson of Cleveland, Ohio, whom he met through a mutual friend following seminary graduation. At the time, Jen was working as a Staff Attorney for the Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society. She primarily focused her legal practice on representing victims of domestic violence. On March 8, 2003 Jennifer (or Jen - **but not Jenny**) gave birth to their first son, Eric, and gave up the practice of law to be a stay-at-home mom. Two and a half months later the family moved to Lynchburg where Pastor Armentrout had accepted a new call to another Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as Co-pastor. On December 21, 2005 Jen delivered their second son, Benjamin. On January 5, 2008 she gave birth to their third and last child, a daughter, named Allison.

When he's not attending to ministry needs as a pastor or familial needs as a husband and father, Pastor Armentrout enjoys gardening, fly-fishing, wood working, learning how to (successfully) complete Do-It-Yourself projects around the house, mountain biking, watching movies and especially going to baseball games. He is quick to admit, though, that since the birth of their three children, gardening looks surprisingly like lawn mowing, fly-fishing is a distant memory, wood working is a repair skill, successful (and satisfactory) completion of a DIY project on a routine basis has yet to be achieved, his mountain bike is embarrassingly dusty, and watching movies is usually a luxury. The family always tries to make time for baseball, though.

Mostly, however, Pastor James and Jennifer are excited about the possibility of joining the St. Mark's Lutheran Church family and beginning a new chapter in their lives here in the Star City.