



First English Lutheran Church and Child Development Center  
a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God Loves. We Love. Everyone!

May 7, 2025

Dear congregation and friends of FELC,

On Sunday, May 4, in a special congregation meeting of First English Lutheran Church, and with prayer for discernment led by congregation members, we voted enthusiastically to issue a letter of call to the Rev. Katie Rode to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at FELC. Pastor Rode accepted our call and will be our sixth pastor!

Pastor Katie Rode began her journey in ministry in 2010 where she spent nearly 10 years as the Family Ministry Director and Business Manager at St. John's Lutheran in San Antonio. While there, she experienced the call of the Holy Spirit into ordained ministry and began making plans to attend seminary. She found Wartburg Theological Seminary's contextual education path in Dubuque, Iowa to fit her need to learn alongside earning an income. In 2019, Katie was hired by Immanuel Lutheran Church in Comfort, TX where she served as the sole pastoral leader during her 4 years of seminary. Ordained in May 2023, Immanuel Lutheran then called Katie as their Pastor.

In Pastor Katie, FELC identified mutual alignment of desired ministry skills that were outlined in our Ministry Site Profile, particularly in the areas of 1) Building a Sense of Community, 2) Administration, 3) Sharing Leadership and Working as a Team, 4) Worship, Music, and Arts, 5) Preaching and Worship Leadership, and 6) Effectiveness in Working with Children and Youth. We also identified gifts that Pastor Katie offers that we may not have been specifically seeking but that we imagine would bless our ministry together.

Of her call to ministry with FELC, Pastor Katie writes:

*Greetings Siblings in Christ,*

*With great joy I am preparing to join you in ministry as your called Pastor. Thank you for this invitation and your confidence in my gifts as a leader. I ask for your prayers in this next month of transition, especially for the people of Immanuel Lutheran in Comfort who are beginning the process you have recently completed. I am excited to begin building relationships with the First English community, and once I complete onboarding and settling in, I will share some ideas for how we can spend some time learning about each other. I give thanks to God for your faithful work as a congregation and praise the Holy Spirit for bringing us to this place of shared ministry.*

*Peace,  
Pastor Katie*

Pastor Katie begins her employment with FELC on Monday, June 9. On Sunday, June 15, we will welcome her in worship where she will preside and preach. A festive hospitality reception will follow that worship celebration. More information about a Celebration of Ministry and Installation worship service will come in due course.

We welcome Pastor Katie and her family to Austin, to FELC, and to God's mission we share in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

With great joy,

LaRu Woody, Congregation President  
First English Lutheran Church