

# Meet the new Rector

On November 6, 2010, the Rev. Todd Young was called to be the twelfth full-time priest of St. Luke's.

Todd is a native of the Pacific Northwest; he was born in Seattle, went to high school in Des Moines (a Seattle suburb near Sea-Tac), and moved to Spokane in 1986. He attended Trend Business College while in Spokane, where he met his wife, Joelene. After graduating from Trend, he worked for several companies, the longest being with Bank & Office Interiors, a company that sold, installed and serviced office furniture systems, where he was in charge of the day-to-day administration of the company.

In 1996, at the urging of his parish priest and other friends and family, Todd began pursuing a call to ordained ministry. He enrolled at Spokane Falls Community College, earning his Associate of Arts degree in 1998. Later that same year he enrolled at Whitworth College and graduated *cum laude* in 2000 with a B.A. in Organizational Management. Concurrent with his studies, the exploration of ordained ministry deepened and developed, and he was allowed to enroll at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in 2001. Todd, Joelene, and their daughter Cecelia moved to Evanston, IL (just outside of Chicago) in August of 2001 where Cece attended grade school, Todd attended seminary, and Joelene worked as a medical assistant.

Todd graduated with his Masters of Divinity on June 4, 2004, from Seabury-Western. He was ordained to the transitional diaconate by the Rt. Rev. James Waggoner, Bishop of Spokane, at St. John's Cathedral on June 12, 2004; and he was ordained to the priesthood on December 18, 2004, by the Rt. Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart, Bishop of Montana, at St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena.

After graduating and his diaconal ordination, the Youngs moved from Chicago to Sheridan, MT, where he served as Vicar of a two-point charge; Christ Church, Sheridan, and St. Paul's, Virginia City. Both congregations saw significant activity during his time there. St. Paul's refurbished the interior of the church, including the replacement of 104-year old carpet; and Christ Church saw a new roof and bell tower, outside paint job, and an increase from 14 to 38 parishioners. Fr. Todd also served as chaplain for the Sheridan Volunteer Fire Department, was a member of the Sheridan Town Council, officiated football for local high schools in the area and served on several diocesan committees, most notably the Congregational Development Committee.

As of this writing, Fr. Todd and his family are just now starting to feel settled in their new home of Grants Pass, where he is looking forward to finding ways to be active in the community, officiate football, and enjoy Southern Oregon.

Fr. Todd loves the liturgy and works to ensure that our worship is a meaningful and dynamic experience within the Episcopal tradition. He has also been known to preach a fairly decent sermon every now and then.

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