ARTICLE:

Aprille Dae Jordan

Atonement Lutheran, Billings as interim pastor, 2002 to 2003

Immanuel Lutheran, Missoula as pastor, 2003-2013

Valley of Christ Lutheran, Frenchtown as pastor, 2018 to present

My thirty-five years of pastoral ministry have included service in Billings, Missoula, and Frenchtown ELCA churches. Pastoral ministry was made up of both an outward calling by these churches to serve as their pastor and an inward calling to do what God gave me the gifts and resources to do with my life.  Along with the call to be a pastor I have the joy of a loving relationship with my husband, Skip, and the privilege of being a mother to daughters Kirstin and Britta.

My pastoral calling was enfolded in the love of church I had from growing up in my family of origin. Besides playing church with my sister Wendy, who is also an ELCA pastor in Montana, my life was made up of a relationship with God. My calling as a pastor was full of various ministries, one of which was being schooled as a spiritual director. Still the highlight of my calling was preaching and worship and getting to know people of faith. But added to this aspect of life and ministry was the amazing love of my husband and my daughters which opened my eyes to the work of God beyond the church.

During these years in Montana I underwent serious mental and physical health experiences. The leadership of Bishop Crist, the prayers of congregational members and colleagues, the benefits of hospital care and therapy along with the committed loving presence of my husband and daughters and Wendy brought me back to health. I give thanks for my life as a wife, mother, and pastor here in Montana.