From:

Pastor Wenda Stedtfeld Fry

Serving The Yoked Parish of White Sulphur Springs (American Lutheran and First Presbyterian Churches) and Trinity Lutheran in Lennep, MT.

My Call began on July 1, 2018

“I was 5 months pregnant and lying on the floor of my oﬃce between services. I had just finished preaching at the early service and was trying to quell my nausea by nibbling on a soda cracker. It was my last Sunday on Internship in Hawthorne, CA, a suburb of LA; I heard a knock on the door. “Come in.” I said. It was the the Internship Committee Chair and a friend of his that was on the Church Council. “We just wanted to thank you.” they said. “We were not in favor of having a woman intern, but you have changed our views of women in ministry.” I said, “Oh, that’s great, and could you hand me another cracker?” This scene is a good summary of my experience as a female Pastor. A similar conversation happened in my first call within a few months, and, most recently here in Montana, it happened again. ”I wasn’t for having a woman Pastor, but...” That “but” is not my own doing. So many women paved the way before me and I am grateful to all of them, and also to the men and women that encouraged me and nurtured me in the faith. My Dad and Mom, my sister Aprille who is also an ELCA Pastor in Montana, Mark, my husband and ministry partner, faithful Pastors in the churches, Camps and church Colleges that I attended all contributed to the place I find myself in today. Today, I am Pastor of the oldest ELCA Church in Montana and a Yoked Parish of Presbyterians and Lutherans that have lovingly been working at their partnership for over 40 years. I love serving these two churches in Meagher County as they bring me back to my roots; White Sulphur Springs feels like “the old Montana” I grew up in—and the country church reminds me of my Norwegian heritage and my grandparents who homesteaded in the northeast corner of the state in the early 1900’s. I am “home” after several years away and these churches and the people in them uphold me, herald me as their Pastor and remind me of the grace and goodness of God and the faithfulness of the church and her people.”