

# Jason Peterson

## Roseville Campus & Contemporary Worship Pastor



The search for a Roseville Campus & Contemporary Worship Pastor began last fall, guided by prayer and thoughtful consideration. After a thorough prayer process, the search team unanimously recommended Jason Peterson as the ideal candidate for this role at Calvary Church. We are thrilled to welcome Jason back to the Calvary staff starting Sunday, February 2! Keep reading to learn more about Jason and his journey.

### **Tell us about your family**

My wife Kara and I have been married for 28 years and have 3 children – Ian, 20, who is a junior in college at the University of Minnesota and is currently studying abroad in Ireland, Ben, 15, who is a sophomore in High School at Irondale, and Eliana, 12, who is in seventh grade at Highview Middle School in New Brighton. We have lived in New Brighton for the past 20 years. Kara works at University of Northwestern St. Paul in the music department and teaches piano and voice in our home as well.

### **What is your ministry experience?**

I was on staff at Calvary for over 15 years working in music and worship, communication, and as campus pastor at Calvary's White Bear Campus. In 2016 my family and I accepted a call to go to Emmanuel Covenant Church in Shoreview where I served as Pastor of Worship and Community Life, functioning in many of the same roles I had served in previously at Calvary. During that time, Emmanuel experienced tremendous health and growth. We are very grateful for our time at Emmanuel and for how God used that time in our lives and the life of that church. We are very grateful to now return to our "home church" of Calvary and to Converge.

### **Educational background**

My undergraduate studies were at Bethel College (now University) where I studied Music and Psychology. I graduated in 1996. I then went to Bethel Seminary where I received my Master of Divinity degree in 2014, with a Preaching concentration.

### **How did you come to know Christ?**

I grew up in a wonderful Christian home with parents who actively followed Jesus in virtually every aspect of life, modeling for me and my two sisters what it meant to orient our whole lives around pursuing the Kingdom of God and following God. I "prayed the prayer" at age 5 after attending a Sunday evening worship service at Emmanuel Baptist in Wausau, WI.

My journey from there was a wandering one — a combination of passionate following and, too often, reckless walking away. In high school, for instance I was president of the youth group while simultaneously living a life well outside of God's best for me in many other areas of my life. That pattern continued through my time in college. It wasn't until the first year of marriage that God used my wife to draw me back to a fervent pursuit of God. In 2001 I was baptized at Calvary Roseville as a declaration that I intended to spend the rest of my life pursuing God with all of my being. My journey since then has not always been perfect but that is still my desire and the focus of my life.

### **Tell us about your call to ministry**

My call to ministry came unexpectedly and came almost exclusively through people in my life — a friend who suggested that I stop complaining about church and instead get involved serving the church; another friend and pastor who told me that he saw in me a pastoral heart and that I should pursue ministry; through a senior pastor, Rich Schoenert, who identified in me gifts and passions and invited me to pursue seminary. In my journey, God's call was always quiet, almost never conventional or logical by the world's standards, and almost without exception came through dedicated followers of Christ in my life who spoke into God's plan for me.

### **What is your philosophy of ministry?**

My philosophy of ministry as a pastor and leader in the church is perhaps best expressed through the words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians where he wrote:

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

Pastors are a gift, given primarily to equip the people of the church to do the work of God in this world. Each part is important and designed by God for the good of the body to do (and this is important) the special work, that God has prepared in advance, for each part to do. Pastors fail to realize our roles when we see ourselves in any other way; either as primary “ministers” of the church doing the work of the church for the church and in place of the church, not equipping them but rather functioning in substitutionary roles for them or, even more damaging, simply as high-minded teachers who deliver knowledge (which puffs up) but never call, equip, and challenge God's people to love (which builds up) and to action in the name of Jesus for the Kingdom of God.

### **What do you like to do in your free time?**

I love to read, to cook, to spend time with my wife and kids, and to travel.

### **What are you excited about in coming to Calvary?**

I believe that God has uniquely positioned Calvary, both in White Bear and in the first ring suburb of Roseville, to continue to be a city on a hill to the communities around her and around the world. Calvary has a rich and vibrant heritage and, as we continue to grow into this next season of ministry in Roseville, a suburb that has changed dramatically over the past 30 years of my being involved there, I am excited to see how God will use our heritage and resources to extend His kingdom here in new and innovative ways. It is a privilege and joy to be a part of what God is doing, building on our rich history, to bring new life and new ministry to the Twin Cities.



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