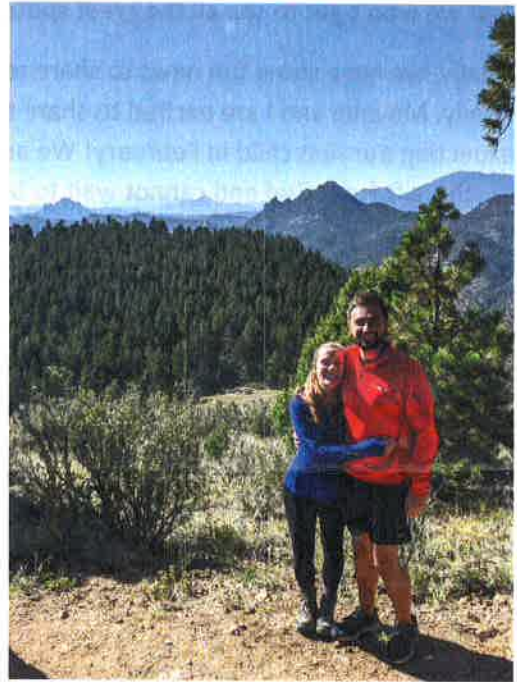


Hello Immanuel Plainview,

We hope this finds you well. A lot has happened over the past few months and we hope that you are safe with COVID and everything else going on. As we have started the next chapter in our seminary journey, we wanted to thank you for your continued support making this possible and update you on what has been happening.

We left the seminary in June. It was sad to leave the community that has embraced us and been our home for the past two years (and our first two years of our marriage). We are very thankful for the memories and growth that we take with us as we move on to vicarage and are excited for when the time comes to return to St. Louis.

For vicarage, we have been placed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School in Lakewood, CO (Denver area). We will serve here for 1 year, ending next July. We have loved it here so far! We have been embraced by such a welcoming and Christ-centered congregation. Obviously with the pandemic, things have looked quite a bit different from previous vicars' experiences, but nevertheless we have been making the most of the opportunity. The staff and members of Bethlehem have continually found ways to make Lakewood our new home and encourage us along our way.



The stain glass in the front of Bethlehem's sanctuary.

I currently help with worship on Sundays and at our Thursday night services which serve as an outreach to the homeless population in our area. In addition, I teach 7th and 8th grade religion, assist with school chapel, and am helping with some of our small groups and new member education courses. I love my co-workers; they are all so talented and so helpful. Their presence and encouragement really push me to grow.

Melanie is currently balancing both school and work. She is working towards a master's degree in Family & Community Services online through the University of Missouri. It has been fascinating to hear her work as she is focusing her studies on technology and parenting. It has been a good chance to reflect on our own relationships with technology, especially our smart phones! In the afternoons, she works in the early learning center at Bethlehem. She works with toddlers, which she loves. She always comes back excited to tell me about her time with the kids and loves sharing the progress that they make!

In addition to being a great church and school, the Denver area has been a great place to live! The weather here in Colorado is beautiful as it is significantly less humid than our previous homes in Missouri and Minnesota. It is also great for us since we both love hiking, and the mountains are only a 30-minute drive away! We have loved exploring the Rocky's and all the beauty here. We have already

gotten to see so many beautiful mountains, rock formations and lakes on our various hikes. We are sure that we won't get to see all the great spots out here even if we tried!

Finally, we have some fun news to share regarding our family. Melanie and I are excited to share that we will be expecting our first child in February! We are so thankful for this gift from God and cannot wait to be parents. While the first trimester was pretty rough, Melanie is now feeling much better and the baby seems to be doing great. He/she is now kicking on a daily basis!



Thank you again for your support. We are so appreciative of the blessing that you are to us. Everything about vicarage has confirmed that pastoral ministry is where I want to be, and I sincerely thank you for supporting and praying for us!

God's Richest Blessings,
PJ & Melanie Aarsvold