

Daniel Joseph LeCouteur

I was born March 19, 1952, as the fifth of seven children born to Walter and Doris (Grandmaison) LeCouteur. I received my middle name at the suggestion of my older sister, who pointed out that March 19th is the feast of Saint Joseph. Coupled with my first name, which means “God is my judge,” one could make the point that God had marked me from the very beginning.

I was baptized and raised in the Roman Catholic tradition and attended a Catholic school through 3rd grade. When my family moved to rural Brownstown Township in the middle of 1959, my next two older brothers and I transferred to a public school and continued our religious training by taking catechism on Saturdays.

After graduating from high school, in 1970, I joined the U.S. Navy and served our country during Viet Nam era. Following the Navy, I worked a number of odd jobs and toyed with a higher education. During this time I met Sharon, who eventually became my first wife. Wanting now to provide a better life for my family, I finally decided to get serious about my education. By this time, however, the family had doubled with the additions of Eric (1977) and Timothy (1978) and I had become a Lutheran.

Sharon and I parted in 1982 and I found myself living back with my parents in rural Brownstown, but the process of getting my undergrad in business continued. I met Sue in a calculus class a year or two later and in the spring of 1986 we were married. Several years later, we both received our degrees in business from Lawrence Technological University. Meanwhile, I had joined the computer industry as a programmer and spent the next 20 years in that industry.

Following a Via de Cristo weekend in 1989, I learned to play the guitar and joined Transfiguration Lutheran Church's praise band for the next nine years. During that time, my increasing involvement in the congregation included presiding and preaching when pastor had to be away. I then found myself to be urged to consider seminary, and in November of 1996 I attended an open house at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary (ETS) in Detroit. I was overcome by the Holy Spirit and discovered what God had planned for me from the day I was born. I joined ETS in January of 1997 and received my Mdiv in the spring of 2004. During that time, I served three ELCA congregations as supply or stated supply pastor. Following graduation I served an internship at Emmanuel Lutheran, in Palmyra Michigan and took additional classes at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

I am currently approved for ordination through Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), and I am working at a local market while awaiting my first call. Since Sue and I would prefer to remain in Michigan, and since there were no LCMC congregations available in the state, I began to take on the study of Church Planting in the spring of this year. In May, the LCMC association sent me to a week-long Church Planting Seminar, hosted by the Evangelical Free Church. Since that time, I have been establishing mission and vision statements for Open Arms church and attempting to find a core group for a church plant in the Livonia area.