



Life Week 2023 Day 2 Speaker Info

Blessed in Longing – Our Lord Jesus Christ elevated and sanctified all human life when He becomes incarnate. In the midst of longing, the Lord of Life grants blessings. Pastor Cholak and Stephanie will be discussing the blessings granted by God to the barren and the orphan. Join us as we discuss the Sanctity of Life as it relates to issues of barrenness and infertility, miscarriage, foster care, and adoption.

Steven grew up in Akron, Ohio, as an only child. He attended Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois, for college and was an athletic training student in the exercise science and fitness management department. He majored in exercise science and minored in biblical languages (Hebrew and Greek). He learned American Sign Language in the seminary's deaf ministry program and worked with deaf churches in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Denver, Colorado. Steven did his ministerial internship (vicarage) at Memorial Lutheran Church and School in Houston, Texas. During that yearlong vicarage, Steven met Stephanie Blake, a pre-kindergarten teacher at Memorial Lutheran, and they began dating. He asked her to marry him in May, and they were married once he graduated from seminary the following year. He has served the Church as pastor and classical educator in Nebraska, Indiana, Texas, Missouri, and New Mexico. He has served as pastor, pastor to the deaf, teacher, and headmaster.



Stephanie grew up in Houston, Texas, as the eldest of three girls. Her father, being in oil, moved the family around a lot. Stephanie lived in Houston, Dallas, and Indonesia before starting college at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. She graduated with a degree in Interior Design. Stephanie was asked to teach preschool at Good Shepherd Learning Center in The Woodlands, Texas, after graduation. She loved teaching and returned to SFASU to complete a second degree in early childhood education. Stephanie has taught in a public school on the Lakota Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota and in classical Lutheran schools in Indiana, Texas, Illinois, and New Mexico.

Steven and Stephanie have been married for 18 years. They have always desired to be parents. They have been licensed foster parents in Texas and New Mexico. They have been in adoption situations in New Mexico, Texas, and Michigan. They have one child that they lost to miscarriage. They are strong advocates for adoption and foster care reform. They pray continually for an end to abortion and rejoice in the gifts that God gives in Christ.