

# How did I get **HERE?**

by Kevin Draper and Clint Rogas

## KEVIN DRAPER

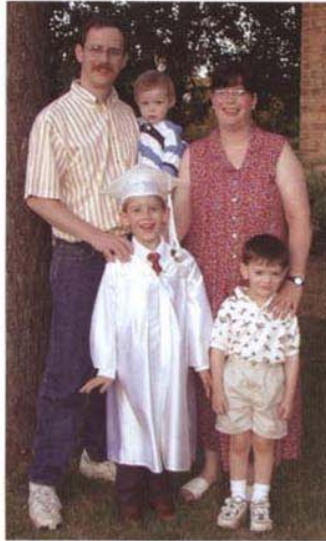
**D**on't you want to be a pastor?" my wife asked for the last time five years ago. It was a question she asked with some regularity as she saw me enjoy working in the church and leading family devotions. The idea of studying for the pastoral ministry was not new to me. As a high school student at Michigan Lutheran Seminary I considered that path for my life very carefully. At the time I didn't think I had the "people" skills to be a pastor and my talents seemed to be better suited for a career in technology. Now I see a better reason for the path I chose – the opportunity to meet my wife, Sallie. God is good!

As time went on, I matured, my faith grew, and I realized how I enjoyed serving my Lord in my church. I started to wonder about the outcome of my secular job as a computer programmer for IBM. I saw how technology changed – always new things to learn and old information that became useless. Even though change was constant, Solomon's words remain true, "there is nothing new under the sun."

There was still the gentle but persistent encouragement of my wife, "Don't you want to be a pastor?" But five years ago, the last time she asked that question, my answer was not "no" or "not right now" but "maybe so." I wasn't completely convinced, but over time the decision became firm in my mind and in my heart. After more than a year of planning, Sallie and I and our three sons moved to New Ulm, Minnesota.

Since that time there has been stress and concern over finances, insurance, and time, among other things. But our gracious God has taken care of us. We found a house in New Ulm to live in while I attended Martin Luther College, and I was able to keep my job at IBM, working part time from my home. When we moved to Milwaukee God provided a wonderful house for us to call home. Now Sallie works at the Synod Administration Building, and I no longer work at IBM, giving me more time for studying and spending time with family. We look forward to my vicar assignment and all of the other blessings God has planned for us. †

*Kevin Draper was assigned as vicar to Peace, Sun Prairie, WI.*



*The Kevin Draper Family*

## CLINT ROGAS

**H**i. My name is Clint Rogas. I'm a second-career student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. When people hear my Texas accent and notice my age they almost always ask, "How did you get here?" It's actually an easy question to answer. My home congregation is Holy Word in Austin, Texas. In 1992 a seminary graduate, Don Patterson, was assigned to our congregation. When Pastor Patterson and I made elder calls we always discussed ministry. One day shortly after he arrived, he asked me if I had ever considered becoming a pastor. I shared with Pastor that I had thought about it, but I really enjoyed my life the way it was. Pastor responded something like this, "Every Christian man should consider entering the ministry. He needs to ask

himself, 'If I have the gifts, why not use them for the church?'" After pondering his response for about nine years my family and I moved to New Ulm in 2001 to begin the Seminary Certification Program.

Our decision to leave to study for the ministry was painful. I had spent all of my life living in Austin, Texas which included attending college at the University of Texas (hook-



*Clint and Susan Rogas with daughters April and Kari Ann.*

em horns!). My wife Susan had lived in Austin since her father retired from the military in 1973. Susan loved being a homemaker and raising our two wonderful daughters Kari Ann and April. Leaving our way of life, childhood friends, church, and families was agonizing. Becoming a student after being out of school for 18 years was not easy for me. It was even harder for Susan to leave the girls to go back to work to support us. The Lord knew all of this before we experienced it. He was there all the time to support, encourage, and lovingly discipline us. Through this experience our family has grown closer and our faith has grown beyond our expectations. We have an amazing Lord! We look forward to my graduation in 2007 and, if the Lord calls me, to full-time ministry. †

*Clint Rogas was assigned as vicar to Our Savior, Brookings, SD.*