

Note from Rabbi Locketz:

When I began to look for the kind of congregation in which I wanted to be a rabbi, it was important to my wife Debbie and me that it be a congregation in which we wanted to be members. In addition to having a senior rabbi who would be a mentor and from whom I could learn, we wanted to find a synagogue that was warm, welcoming, menschy, and full of people and programs.

We were looking for Bet Shalom - and we found it. Bet Shalom has so much to offer, from tot programming and preschool, to a vibrant Religious School, to terrific adult programming opportunities. The breadth of what happens during the year here is truly remarkable. This community has heeded the prophetic call to make a place of "worship for all people." Bet Shalom is a place of worship, of religious action, and of community. It is a wonderful place.

I am proud to be one of your rabbis and look forward to sharing with you in all that life brings.

Shalom, Rabbi Locketz

Bio:

Rabbi Locketz was installed as Bet Shalom's Senior Rabbi in January of 2016. He came to Bet Shalom after rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2004.

Rabbi Locketz earned his undergraduate degree in Hebrew and Semitic Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Before entering Rabbinical School, Rabbi Locketz worked for three years as the Assistant Camp Director for our Union for Reform Judaism Camp, Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI), while also working as the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) Advisor to the Northern and Chicago Regions. His rabbinic thesis is entitled, "Rabbi Joseph Rauch: A Biographical Study."

Rabbi Locketz has been active in several organizations in addition to his work at Bet Shalom. He served on the board of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and is a graduate of the Synagogue Transformation and Renewal (STAR) Program. Rabbi Locketz is a past president of the Minnesota Rabbinical Association (MRA) and currently sits on the board of the Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) and the OSRUI Rabbis, Educators, and Cantors Committee (RECC). He was a Co-Chair of YACHAD: A Collaborative Initiative in Jewish Education. Since receiving certification from the Minnesota Emergency Service Chaplain Association (MESCA), Rabbi Locketz has served as a Police Chaplain for the Minnetonka Police Department. He was also a founding board member of the Non-profit Drops Fill Buckets Minneapolis Chapter. Rabbi Locketz is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR).

A native Minnesotan, Rabbi Locketz enjoys most things having to do with a lake – fishing, boating and water-skiing. He takes great interest in history, genealogy, and music.

Together with his wife, Debbie, they raise their two daughters and live in Minnetonka.