

Jeff Cottingham ignored a call to ministry during his teenage years and all through college as he pursued a master's degree in geology.

A couple of years into the real world of geology work, though, the call became persistently loud and relentless.

Cottingham knew he couldn't resist any longer. He entered the seminary in Minnesota and from there a Lutheran minister was born.

Over the past 17 years and three congregations, Cottingham has experienced many good things.

One of them, he said, is coming to Gothenburg.

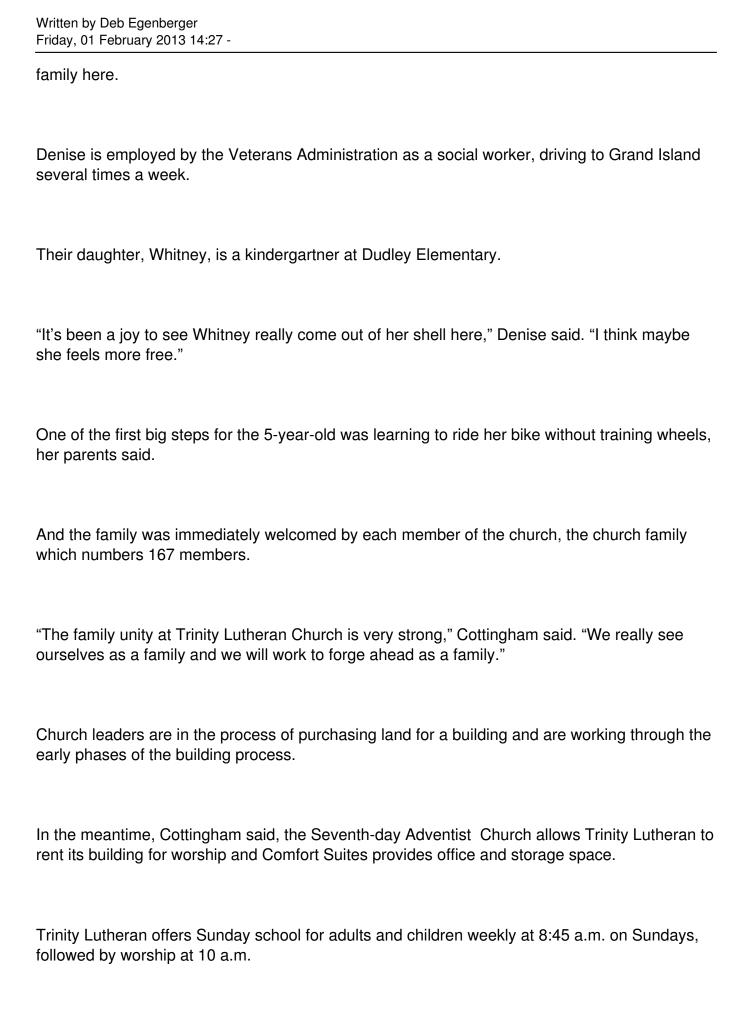
Trinity Lutheran Church was formed in Gothenburg in May 2010 by diligent residents determined to gather a congregation and get the church up and running.

Cottingham, who had served a church in Paxton, IL, for nearly nine years, said the new Gothenburg church family fit his family.

"We really felt God calling us here," he said.

Cottingham's wife, Denise, said moving to Nebraska wasn't a stretch for her because she has

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