

Mark A. Tiede

(He/him)



**Current Position: Pastor at
St. John's Lutheran, Minneapolis**

Date and Year of Ordination: June 1, 1997

Previous Calls and Positions:

- 2014 - Current: St. John's Lutheran, Minneapolis, Senior Pastor
- 2003 - 2014: Zion Lutheran Church, Anoka, Associate Pastor
- 1997 - 2003: Vining Lutheran Parish (Vining, Nidaros, Leaf Mountain and Folden Lutheran Churches), Co Pastor

Education and Earned Degrees:

- Certificate in Pastoral Leadership and Administration 2010
- Luther Seminary, 1993-1997
- St. Olaf College, 1989-1993

Describe your process of discerning this potential call to serve as our next bishop:

The church has changed – I think we all know that. I also believe with every fiber of my being that the decline of our Lutheran tradition is NOT an inevitability. This is still Christ's church, after all, and Christ is the God of Resurrection. Now, with that said we cannot try to recreate what was. We cannot do nothing, and we certainly cannot go it alone. We need each other and our congregations need each other too. This is what got me privately wondering about the office of bishop, but then when I was called asked to allow my name forward, I thought "Oh no! Holy Spirit what are you doing to me?" As I said in my farewell address to Zion in Anoka, "God never calls you into your comfort zone," so here I am... discerning... just like you. I wonder: How can whole congregations join arm in arm to enrich our ministry to the world and grow -- not only our denomination but also the reach of the Good News of God's radically inclusive love of Jesus?

What is your vision for the Minneapolis Area Synod?

- Pray. A lot! Because this church and the Gospel we proclaim is worth working for.
 - Visit and listen. I'm really curious to see your congregational settings and hear:
 - Encourage growth. I would playfully challenge every congregation of this synod to participate in the Faith Practices/neighbor practices to listen hard for the Voice of God in Scripture in community and within the neighbor.
 - There are many moments when in the life of the synod where the bishop cannot be available to provide pastoral care, Because of that unfortunate reality, I'd like to explore assigning a synod staff person to be the pastor for the pastors. Synod chaplain?
 - Broaden the focus of the synod to add back in to the Synod's quiver tools for Local and Global mission, Evangelism, Stewardship, and even office administration. Can the Synod be a resource center for synod wide best practices?
 - Connect the synod leadership to Luther Seminary and tap into their scholars regularly.
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What do you see as principal challenges and opportunities to this synod in the next six years, and how would you approach them?

This synod needs to buck the trend of mainline decline and follow the creative ways the Holy Spirit is calling our churches to exit the box and start afresh with innovating and creative ministry meeting the needs of our emerging "post-COVID" world.

What has prepared you to be effective in creating belonging among various cultural groups?

I have served 6 years for a four point, rural Parish in Ottertail County, I served 10 1/2 years in a "suburban" large congregation at Zion in Anoka where I enjoyed getting to know and serving many people from South Sudan. I am now am serving St. John's Lutheran Church of South Minneapolis. I believe my years of rural, Suburban (with an emphasis of multi-cultural and global ministry, and urban ministry may serve me well to understand and appreciate the diversity of ministry settings of this Synod.

Describe up to five recent or past synod, churchwide activities or community-related activities that have significantly impacted you. How do these experiences inform your vision for serving as our next bishop?

Serving for several years as Co-Chair of the MAS Global Companion Table made me realize how vital communication is between the Synod staff and the Synodical Tables. Serving as Voting Member to the Church-wide Assembly in Milwaukee helped me see how diverse this church still needs to become. Serving as Program Committee chair for Lutheran Partners in Global ministries showed me that Lutheran Global Ministries can be done well through MANY different Lutheran Agencies. And it would be excellent for the ELCA Global Missions to continue to build those relationships with parachurch organizations. Recently I joined the Tangletown Neighborhood Association Board and EcoJustice committee. I have watched how effective this committee has been in getting the word out of resources available to all and been inspired to take their communication methods to the church I serve.

In what ways have you applied new learnings to your current context?

Born from the need to get our worship online, and coupled with me witnessing Tangletown Neighborhood Associations use of the power of effective communication strategies and use of social media to get the word out inspired me to create a position at St. John's titled Digital Media and Marketing specialist. Our online and in-person attendance in 2024 continues to rise.

What specific leadership skills and spiritual gifts have you used in developing lay and clergy leaders that you would bring as bishop of this synod?

In my nearly 27 years of Ordained Word and Sacrament ministry I have served in very diverse settings and experienced many different types of congregational conflict and recovery. In a Professional capacity, in 2010 I attended and earned a Certificate in Pastoral Leadership and Administration from then Augsburg College. I also have I gained a lot of experience with Administrative oversight while at St. John's Lutheran in Minneapolis. On a personal level, Strength Finders has my top 5 strengths as 1) WOO (Win Others Over), 2) Communication, 3) Strategic, 4) Includer, and 5) Activator. With Myers Briggs I am an Extroverted, Intuitive, Thinking, Perceiver, (ENTP) and my Enneagram is a 7 with 8 wing. Which means, I love to tell the story of what we are trying to accomplish, for people to be excited about it, and work hard to be sure everyone has all the information so they can make informed decisions. It also means that I don't seek out conflict, but I will never avoid it.