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September 19, 2024

Minneapolis Lutherans to install new bishop

Saturday, September 21, 2024; 10:30 a.m. - Noon
Central Lutheran Church, [333 South 12th Street](#), Minneapolis
Press availability with Bishop-elect Nagel: 9:30 a.m.

Having been elected at the [Minneapolis Area Synod](#) Assembly on May 4, Pastor Jen Nagel will be installed as the fourth bishop of the Synod on Saturday, September 21, at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, at 10:00 a.m. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preside at the installation, with local Lutheran and ecumenical leaders joining in the installation.

“The installation of a synod bishop is a special event in the life of our church,” explains Presiding Bishop Eaton, the top elected leader of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#), a denomination of 3.3 million people. “It’s a time for the synod to come together and celebrate the newly elected bishop. We pray that God strengthens and sustains all our bishops, so that with patience and understanding, they may love and care for all those whom they serve.”

“A lot of similarity exists in the roles of pastor and bishop. A pastor in a congregation is connected to particular people and a particular place from which you can see the way God is working,” says Bishop-elect Nagel. “The bishop of the synod also has that lens, simply from a broader viewpoint. A bishop isn’t as connected to the daily life of a parish, but is intimately able to watch for Holy Spirit’s movement across a broader span.”

In the Minneapolis Area Synod Constitution, the duties of the bishop take up more than three pages. But, within the ELCA, the bishop has primarily administrative and pastoral duties with rostered leaders (pastors and deacons); congregations choose their clergy, in consultation with the synod office. The bishop is elected to six-year terms and can serve two terms. Bishop Nagel is following Bishop Ann Svennungsen, who served for 12 years.

“A bishop’s primary task is listening for the movement of the Holy Spirit and responding, explains Nagel. “You watch for things that bubble up from leaders of congregations, and make space for that bubbling to rise up across the synod.”

“The members, staff, and pastors of Central Lutheran Church are honored to host the installation of Bishop-elect Jen Nagel,” states Central’s Senior Pastor Peter Nycklemoe. “Bishop-elect Jen is a remarkable person of faith and will bring wisdom and gifts to our shared life as the Minneapolis Area Synod.”

The installation service will include a procession of more than 150 pastors, deacons, and bishops during the opening hymn.

Parking instructions:

When you arrive at Central, make sure to enter the lot through one of the three open air entrances; do not enter the ramp directly from the street, or you will have to pay for parking. [View a parking map](#).