



Minneapolis Area Synod

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

September 18, 2023

At our next Synod Assembly on May 2-4, 2024, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Ramsey, we will elect a new bishop for the Minneapolis Area Synod. “We” means more than voting members to the assembly; over the next eight months the whole Synod will be invited to discuss, discern, and pray. I hope that you and members of your congregation will take part in shaping what the office of the bishop will look like in years to come.

A Bishop Election Committee has formed in June under the direction of the Synod Council to coordinate the election process. (Are you wondering who is on the committee? [Read this news story.](#)) The committee not only will organize the logistics of how we elect a bishop, but also will invite the Synod — you — to define what we expect and elect a bishop to do.

What are the needs of this corner of God’s kingdom? How could a bishop more fully equip our congregations to meet those needs? In upcoming months, look for invitations from the committee concerning listening sessions to share your thoughts.

Who is eligible to be elected as our next bishop? According to the Synod’s constitution, the office of bishop is open to any ELCA Minister of Word and Sacrament (8.11). That person may serve up to two consecutive six-year terms. Our current bishop Ann Svennungsen will complete two terms in 2024, so a new person will be elected bishop at the 2024 Synod Assembly.

The first stage of nominating prospective names will be on February 10, 2024, when Synod Assembly voting members from each congregation will be at one of the 12 Conference Assemblies (one for each of the 12 Conferences). Our constitution allows each conference to make up to three nominations at that time. Those who agree to continue in the process will have opportunities to get to know the synod better (and for member of congregations to get to know them better) as part of the process. According to the Synod Constitution, additional names may be added from the floor of the Synod Assembly in May, where a new bishop will be elected. Look for more information and resources from the Bishop Election Committee as these dates approach.

In the months ahead, I ask for your prayers: for the members of the Bishop Election Committee, for the whole synod, and for people discerning their own call to the office of bishop.

Pray, and then participate: Join the respectful and honest dialogue about the nature of the leadership we will need to meet today’s challenges and work for tomorrow’s dreams. Together in Christ, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, the God of hope will fill us with joy, peace, and courageous trust to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed, ... in the Minneapolis Area Synod and beyond.

Felecia Boone, Vice President
Minneapolis Area Synod