



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Bishop Nomination Information Form
2015 Bishop Election
Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

Name: **Rev. Trevor A. Bailey**
Address: P.O. Box 116
Belview, MN 56214
Phone/email: 507-938-3285
tbail65@gmail.com

1. Brief biographical information including parishes served, education, conference or synod offices held, ministry you are called to at the present.

Education: Bachelor of Music Education, 1989 organ principal, Eastern Illinois University; Master of Arts in Music in Worship 1994, Luther Seminary/St. Olaf College; Master of Divinity, 1998, Luther Seminary; Ordained May 1998. **Parishes Served:** Bethesda & Calvary Lutheran Churches of Murdock, MN 1998-2003; Kviteseid Lutheran Church 2003-2004 as Interim Pastor; 2004-2007 On Leave from Call to be a stay-at-home dad; 2007- present Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Walnut Grove (also pastor of Trinity Lutheran (Johnsonville) until its closure in 2012). **Synod and Other Church Offices:** Synod Assembly Planning Committee 2010- 2013; Walnut Grove Area Ministerium treasurer 2008 – present; Society of the Holy Trinity – Minnesota Chapter Dean, Dec. 2012 – present.

2. How would you describe your leadership style?

I prefer to lead by consensus, but if a decision needs to be made, I can and will make it. I tend to need time to process and pray alone before making decisions. My worship leadership has been characterized as “warm liturgical”.

3. Describe your vision of ministry of the bishop: (2015)

The bishop must first and foremost be a person of prayer, steeped in Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, holding to the apostolic faith that has been handed on to us, and of strong trust in our Lord Jesus Christ.

A bishop is a pastor who is called to a larger role in the geographic area we call "synod." I believe that the bishop should be a pastor to the pastors of the synod. The bishop is also a pastor to each of the congregations of the synod. This means the bishop should preach and teach regularly among the pastors and congregations of the synod. The bishop and synod ministers should strive to visit each parish of the synod once per year or at least every other year.

4. If you were elected bishop, what would be your focus of ministry? – 2015

My primary focus will be on pastoral formation for congregational ministry. Pastors need to be grounded in the Holy Scripture, the Holy Sacraments and prayer. Even pastors with many years of experience in the parish must attend to their own pastoral and spiritual formation and care. This will mean that the life of our congregations is deepened and strengthened for mission, because we will be building a strong grounding in the "basics" of Word, Sacraments, the discipline of prayer, cultivation of Christian identity in the world, strengthening of distinctively Christian faith practices, and a continual drawing from the deep wells of Lutheran theology.

5. Describe your understanding of the relationship between the synod staff and the congregations' ministry partners: (2015)

The synod staff is a partner and advocate for our synod's partner ministries. The synod staff has a unique position to nurture the relationship between these ministries and the congregations of the synod, through advocacy, teaching, and nurturing a broader and deeper understanding of both the ELCA and the entire Christian Church.