

**Name: Meggan Manlove**

**Current Position:** Pastor

**Congregation Membership:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Nampa, ID

**Ordination Date:** 09-11-2004

**Previous Positions:**

- Pastor, Soldier Lutheran Church, Soldier, IA (2004-2010)
- Intern, Emmanuel, Cheney & Eastern WA Univ. LCM (2003-2004)
- Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Syracuse, NY, Refugee Youth Outreach (1998-1999)



**Education and Earned Degrees:**

- Doctor of Ministry, May 2021, San Francisco Theological Seminary
- Lutheran Year, May 2003, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
- M.Div., June 2002, University of Chicago Divinity School
- B.A. History and English, May 1998, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN

**List up to five current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod:**

- Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Development Committee Chair, May 2022-present
- Treasure Valley Cluster Dean, March 2021-present
- Thriving Leadership Formation, Synod Cohort Leader, Feb 2020-present
- Luther Heights Development Committee, 2019-present
- Memorials Committee for 2016 Churchwide Assembly, 2015-2016

**List up to five current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod:**

- Leap Housing Board, Oct. 2021-present (developing affordable housing in Idaho)
- City of Nampa Building and Design Committee, Feb. 2018-present
- Multi-Faith Action Project/Myrtle Collaboration-Treasure Valley, Oct. 2021-present
- Learning Peace: A Camp for Kids, 2017-present (free day camp for 100 kids)
- Nampa Chamber of Commerce, 2013-present

**What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of this synod?**

I cannot shake the lens of the gospel whether I am preparing a sermon, planning worship, speaking at a city council meeting, leading a meeting, discussing a budget, or providing pastoral care. I deeply love being a public theologian and the complexity of our work. I prioritize building

relationship and community, whether in a congregation or at camp, within my cluster, among ecumenical peers, or with the wider church. I am a strong writer and communicator. I am a life-long learner and intentional in building capacities to meet ministry needs. I am skilled at facilitating groups of many sizes both in-person and online.

**What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six years, and how would you address it?**

The principal challenge will be to continue boldly proclaiming a gospel of love and grace in a culture with so many other competing claims, such as church as country club, the purity culture, or Christian nationalism. We would build new partnerships with other synods and denominations, pooling our resources. I would bring my current congregation's extensive work around faith stories to the entire synod. I would keep us connected online and through in-person gatherings throughout our beautiful synod. I would use a combination of communication, videoconferencing, and in-person gatherings to continue equipping both pastors and lay people to share our faith in new and old ways.

**Describe your leadership style.**

I lead through questions and deep listening, making sure efforts are aligned with mission. The question my council got used to during the pandemic was, "what are the third, fourth, or fifth options?" I help others be creative and avoid either/or thinking. I am also careful to hear from all voices, not just the dominant ones. My favorite part of my job is lifting up other leaders, figuring out their gifts and passions and how they can use them to bring in the kingdom within the congregation or larger community and then providing support. Often I think, "the world would be better if I could just introduce these two people to one another."