



Southwestern Texas Synod

2024 Synod Assembly Biographical Information



Rev. Dr. Paul Ziese

Birth Year: 1950

Ordination Date: 10/23/77

Congregation Membership: Christ Lutheran Church. San Antonio

Church Service background:

Co-Pastor, Salem of Austin and Grace of Lockhart, 1977-1979. Co-Pastor, St. Paul of Yorktown, 1979-1983. Senior Pastor, St. Paul of Yorktown, 1983-1984. Senior Pastor, St. John's of Austin, 1984-1996. Senior Pastor of MacArthur Park of San Antonio, 1996-2018. Interim Pastor of First of Edinburg, 2018-2020.

Church Involvement: Congregation, Synod, Other

General duties of parish ministry. Had four sabbaticals with a variety of experiences, including retreats with Jesuits and Benedictines; trips to the Holy Land, Costa Rica, Germany, and Taize; community organizer training.

Chair, Southern District Council and Executive Committee; Dean of Victoria and San Antonio Conferences; Chair, Education Committee; Co-Chair, Vision Committee, Member, Administration and Finance Committee; Volunteer in fund appeals

President of Texas Lutheran College Student Association and Campus Congregation; Chair, Lutheran Social Service Board of Directors; Chair, Lutheran Outdoor and Retreat Ministries of the Southwest; Member, Lutheran Peace Fellowship Board; Volunteer in South Texas for global Lutheran group by posting two essays daily on Facebook on how to resist authoritarianism

Involvement in Community Service:

President, San Antonio Community of Congregations; Lutheran Co-Founder, San Antonio Community Action Network; Officer in San Antonio Chapter, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State; Member of Board, San Antonio peace CENTER; COPS/Metro Alliance, Interfaith San Antonio Alliance; Texas Impact; Austin Community of Churches; various ministerial alliances and service clubs; 40 gallon blood donor.

Family:

Married since 1972 to Rev. Dr. Lynn Schudy Ziese, first female pastor in the South for The American Lutheran Church. Daughter, Rachel, ELCA pastor in Pennsylvania. Son, Jonathan, university professor in New York. Son, Timothy, government attorney in Washington, DC. Seven grandchildren.

List four key functions of the office.

1. Handle duties of the office as outlined in ELCA and synod documents. 2. Provide care to congregations and fostered leaders. 3. Be a symbol of the unity of the church. 4. Be a public voice for the Southwestern Texas Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.

What personal strengths you bring to the Office of the Bishop:

Since my youth, I have had a long history of Lutheran leadership and parish service in Texas. As President of the Texas Lutheran College Student Association, I appointed the first officers who were members of racial minorities and have been committed to diversity ever since. I am now a volunteer Lutheran voice in South Texas for an international Lutheran group pursuing efforts to preserve democracy and reject authoritarianism, using insights from leaders of the Peaceful Revolution in East Germany. If called as synod bishop, I will recruit others to help with this international work and update my ethics training.

What your leadership style is:

I am a collegial leader who emphasizes leadership development. I see the synodical bishop more as a denominational middle manager than a local CEO. I would re-energize committees such as poverty and justice, consultation, and discipline to help spread out the workload and involve more people. I would encourage deans to be the front line of care in their areas. I would call the Seguin office the synod office instead of the office of the bishop to keep the focus on all the people of God and not on me. I would want to teach as well as preach.

What vision you bring for the Synod and the ELCA:

The synod, ELCA, and other mainline Protestant groups have seen numeric declines in recent years. We need to adapt our mission to a different church and world. While Texas can sometimes be isolated and provincial, I recognize that Lutherans need to offer a more global perspective. We need to work more with other faith and civic groups and bring Lutheran biblical interpretation, theology, and history to the table. We need more public witness and better communication to improve our outreach. The ELCA needs to recognize a global expression as well as the current congregation, synod, and churchwide expressions.

Honors and Awards Received:

First Alum in Residence, Luther Seminary; MTh in Systematic Theology, Luther Seminary; DMin in Comprehensive Stewardship, Garrett-Evangelical Seminary; ELCA representative to End of Cold War and End of Berlin Wall celebration in 2019 in Germany; Texas representative to Lutheran Ethicists Gathering in 2020 in Washington, DC.

Last Clergy Ethics: 10/15/2019

Disclosure Form for
Out of care for this church, the following questions are asked of all who are making themselves available for election to churchwide office:

1. Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, charged with, or convicted of illegal conduct or a crime, including conduct resulting in suspension or revocation of your driver's license?
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain below.
2. Do you have any health conditions (physical or psychological) or any addictive behavior, including a history of drug, alcohol, or pornographic addictions that might interfere with your ability to serve or continue serving as a leader?
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain below.
3. Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, investigated for, sued, or charged with sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, substance abuse, child or spousal neglect or abuse, or financial improprieties?
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain below.
4. While on the roster, have you ever engaged in, been accused of, investigated for, charged with, or disciplined for any conduct proscribed in *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*?
☐ Never Rostered ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain below.
5. Have you ever engaged in any behavior or been involved in any situations that, if they became known, might seriously damage your ability to begin or continue in leadership and ministry?
☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please explain below.

I have read the above statements and my replies are true and accurate. Print

Name Paul R. Ziege

Date: 4-1-24

Signature: Paul R. Ziege

I have attached _____ additional page(s). ☐ Yes ☒ No