

The Reverend Andrew A. (Andy) Taylor was elected Bishop of the Pacifica Synod on May 6, 2016, and began work on August 1. He was ordained on August 10, 1986, and served as Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries at Emanuel Lutheran in La Habra, CA from 1986-1992, Solo Pastor of First Lutheran in Tulare, CA from 1992-1997, and Lead Pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran in San Diego from 1997 until the time of his election. Bishop Taylor graduated with a BA in History from Long Beach State in 1980, and earned his Masters of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1986. In May 2017, he received his Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Mission and Leadership from Luther Seminary, writing his dissertation on Youth Ministry practices and their lasting effects on the faith of today's adults.

A native of Fresno, California, Bishop Taylor's congregation, Bethel Lutheran, experienced growth and enthusiasm for ministry during his childhood when the church began intentionally serving the needs of those who lived in the surrounding low-income neighborhood. During seminary, Bishop Taylor served a year-long internship at Northside and Zion Lutheran churches in Houston, Texas, serving Spanish-speaking immigrants from Mexico and El Salvador. His experience during that year gave him a life-long interest in immigrants and just immigration policies. His years of youth ministry have spurred an interest in life-long faith formation.

Bishop Taylor seeks to help the congregations of the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to proclaim the gospel more easily by sharing stories of how God is at work in their individual and congregational lives, to live more joyously and abundantly by encouraging financial generosity to God's ministry, and to live more hopefully by loving and serving their neighbors, striving for justice, and working for peace.

While not working, Bishop Taylor enjoys hiking, golfing, watching peak TV and sampling craft beer.