

Rev. Jason Poole-Xiong

Candidate for Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church (Appleton, WI)

October 2025

In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes:

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39 NRSV)

This is one of my most meaningful passages of scripture. Even and especially amid a constantly changing world where we are being pulled in so many directions at once while trying to discern what is next; there is nothing we can do, nothing that can happen, nothing that can change God’s love for each one of us in Jesus Christ. What a gift.



My name is Pastor Jason Poole-Xiong, and I am delighted to be being considered as your next Pastor. I am a lifelong Lutheran who grew up in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan. I am an only child and had what can best be described as a “normal” childhood. I was active in high school and college with choir and drama and that passion for the arts has continued in my life today. Growing up my parents were very active in my home congregation (Zion Lutheran in Ferndale, MI) and that translated into my also being active from a young age. For as long as I can remember I have had a passion for ministry, and my past calls with two congregations has allowed me to thrive serving in the areas of development, worship, social justice, outreach, and growth.

I also have a strong passion for hospitality and immediately after high school I started working in the hotel industry. I spent 15 amazing and successful years working in hotels, beginning work at a front desk after high school and eventually working as a general manager for seven years. In my first career, like my parents, I was also involved in the life of a congregation at the same time. This has given me a combined 22 years of congregational ministry experience in worship leadership, administration, outdoor ministry, youth ministry, and five years as an ordained pastor in the ELCA.



In 2014, following the unexpected death of my parents, I began discerning where God was calling me to go. I found myself with a strong desire to make a change and went to work in ministry full-time. In November of 2014 I began studying at Wartburg Seminary and graduated in May 2020 with a Master of Divinity. My time at Wartburg was both challenging and incredibly rewarding as I learned and discerned what the future of the church looks like in the context of our challenging world today.

In my ministry, I have also found serving the larger church in addition to the local congregation to be very life-giving. I have been involved in the two larger expressions of the church. I served on synod staff in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin in communications. I have served on that synod's Youth Ministry Network, on Synod Council, and our LGBTQIA+ team, and served as Synod Champion/Coordinator for the 2018 and 2024 ELCA Youth Gatherings.

This past April, my spouse and I moved to the Fox Cities to be closer to his family. Making this transition has been both a gift and a grounding time for us as we've settled into a new rhythm of life and community here. Following the conclusion of my call in the Madison area, I have had the privilege of serving alongside the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Neenah as Interim Director of Discipleship. This role has given me the chance to walk with a congregation through a season of growth and discovery while also allowing my family and me to put down roots in this area that we now call home.



My spouse's vocation is as a Senior Accountant with Baker Tilly. We have been together 15 years and will celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary this November. When we are not working, we both enjoy being outdoors including fishing, hiking, camping, and engaging in new areas with family and friends. We also enjoy traveling; valuing the time away to recharge and explore new things. At home you can find us binge watching TV shows and taking time to cook together, something we learned brings us both joy during the pandemic.



We are living in a world right now where the ministry of our congregations looks and feels very different from the past. I feel called to serve alongside you at Zion because of the ministry God has, is doing, and will equip you to do as you discern the future of the congregation. God is calling us, the church, to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel in different and new ways and I am very excited to see what that looks like, and to accompany you on the journey. There is much we can accomplish together!

I look forward to meeting each of you and hearing your stories and how we may do God's work in this time and place however we are called. May the peace and wisdom of God be with us all.

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