



Meet the Pastor



A Staten Island native, Pastor Olsen received a B.A. in Anthropology from SUNY-Albany and Kansai Gaidai University, Japan. He worked as a staffer for a member of Japan's Parliament before returning to New York to launch and manage several successful transportation-related companies. He entered the seminary at age 30, studying in NYC and Philadelphia.

Before accepting the call to Faith Lutheran, Pastor Eric served congregations in Plainview, Buffalo, New Hyde Park, Manhattan, and Staten Island, NY. He also interned at the Lutheran World Federation's U.N. office. Eric served as a Chaplain for The New Hyde Park and Garden City Park Fire Departments as well as for Nassau County. He was chaplain to Rescue 5 FDNY during and following 9/11 and served as Fire Chaplain for The City of Buffalo. Eric has served on the board of directors for numerous non-profits. He is a past Chair of the POB Interfaith Clergy Council and of LI-CAN (Long Island Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods) and served as Vice-Chair and development committee chair for The Wartburg, Mt Vernon, NY. Eric also served on the Lutheran Schools Association of New York and The Martin Luther Camp Association (Koinonia) boards.

A lifelong learner, Pastor Eric was a fellow in the prestigious Clergy Leadership Program at The Chautauqua Institution (2015-17). He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Fordham University's Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education.