

Name: **Thomas E. Madden**

Current Positions: Executive Director and CEO: Lutheran Charities of Western New York

Congregation of Membership: The Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, Rochester, NY

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): 11/13/1959

Previous Positions:

Senior Principal Scientist and Group Leader: Eastman Kodak Company
Adjunct Faculty: Rochester Institute of Technology

Education with Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most current first):

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering: Rochester Institute of Technology, 1988
Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering: Valparaiso University, 1982

Current Board and Committee Membership:

Vice President: Upstate New York Synod–ELCA
Vice President and Worship & Music Chair: The Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word
Vice President, Board of Directors: Stages Youth Theatre, Rochester, NY

Past Board and Committee Membership:

President, Alumni Association Board of Directors: Valparaiso University
Board of Directors: The Lutheran University Association, d/b/a Valparaiso University
President, Board of Directors: Inter-Lutheran Agency for Campus Ministry in the Rochester Area

Honorary Degrees:

What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of vice president?

A stalwart soul juxtaposed with a lighthearted spirit. A pillar of my congregation once referred to me as a stalwart churchperson. I was fairly struck and touched by that perceived conviction of faith and resolve. A disposition of gentle lightheartedness, inherited from where I know not, has served well in most things to which I've plied my hand or mind. In the distinct positions of board chair and chief executive, I've sat at both sides of the table, serving within the confines of each role to help advance an organization in its mission. I also bring a desire and capacity for continued growth and increased breadth in skill and service.

What is your concept of the primary role of the vice president of the ELCA?

As its highest-elected lay officer, the vice president is a model of servant leadership and a public face of the ELCA in whom is placed significant responsibility, trust and expectation. The vice president works with and under the supervision of the presiding bishop as a supportive partner and is tasked with guiding the church council to its consensus while fostering fair voice from all sides. The vice president may be called upon to represent the ELCA in contexts across and beyond this church and is entrusted with chairing the churchwide assembly at times when the presiding bishop cannot, such as during an election to that office.

What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?

A heart for the church. My mom recalls when I was very little, my stepping into the center aisle in church to make the sign of the cross along with Pastor Carl Schuette. It mildly embarrassed her and perhaps distracted others. That memory is all but faded save for my still-vivid image of Pastor Schuette's response to my behavior—he wanted to see me after worship! Still in his clerics, he knelt and placed on my lapel a little pin portraying a cross. I don't recall what he said, but his profoundly simple act nurtured a seed already planted. Skill or gift, this heart compels me to serve in the church for the sake of the gospel. I still have that pin...

How do you practice care for others and for yourself?

Fatherhood is the best thing that ever happened to me—love and care beyond measure are given and received. What would I do without music in my life—especially the camaraderie and spiritual nourishment of choral singing? Many Sundays I conclude the day and begin my week awash in chant and candlelight at Christ Church's service of Compline. My congregation's feeding and sheltering ministries are sources of service and fellowship. Regular exercise is growing on me. I've taken up turning viniferous grape juice into wine and the enjoyment and sharing thereof. And there's this ongoing pipe-organ project in my basement...

