



Dr. Amsalu Geleta accepted a call from St. Mark's Lutheran Church to become their pastor on February 15, 2007. A native of Ethiopia, he graduated from Mekane Yesus Seminary in 1995. He served as a teacher at Christian Education College in Nekemte, a town in Western Ethiopia. In 2000, he earned a Master of Philosophy in Religious Studies at the Norwegian Lutheran School of Theology; in 2011, he earned his Doctorate of Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC.

In 2002, Pastor Geleta and his family went back to Ethiopia where he was assigned to Mekane Yesus Seminary to train ministers for the national church. Returning to the US with his family, Pastor Geleta graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary with a Master of Theological Studies in 2005, after which he served as the interim director of Pastoral Care at Inova Alexandria Hospital. As the partial fulfillment of the pastoral candidacy process at the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod of the ELCA, he did a year-long internship at Christ Lutheran Church (Christ Inner Harbor) in downtown Baltimore. During his quest to become an ordained minister, Pastor Geleta has held various positions in academia and has served as a hospital chaplain. In 2009, Pastor Geleta was elected to the ELCA Church Council. He enjoys spending his free time with his wife Ife Choma and his daughters Deborah and Simbo.

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