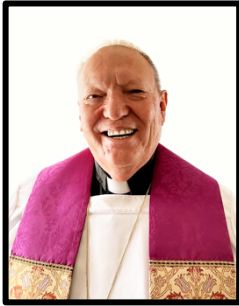


Rev. Dr. David Cox



Ordination Date: May 18, 1980

Education & Earned Degrees:
PhD, Philology, Biblical Studies,
University of St Andrews, Scotland
1993

MS-LIS, Library Information Science
Administration, University of Illinois
Urbana Champaign, 2013

STM, Biblical Theology, Wartburg
Theological Seminary, 1988, Dubuque, Iowa

M.Div., Wartburg Theological Seminary, 1979, Dubuque, Iowa

B.A, Religion, Classical Languages, French, Pacific Lutheran
University, Parkland, WA 1977

Current & Previously Held Positions

New Mexico Tech, Director of Library and Office for Student
Learning, June 2017 to present, Socorro, New Mexico

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Interim Senior Pastor,
November 2013-June 2017, Norfolk, Nebraska

St Mark Lutheran Church, Senior Interim Pastor, June 2011-
September 2012, Sioux City, Iowa

St Luke Lutheran Church, Senior Interim Pastor, July 2009-June
2011

Grace Lutheran Church, Senior Interim Pastor, July 2007-June
2009, Spirit Lake, Iowa

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

I am a child of God. I discerned I was called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in childhood and into adulthood. Born and raised in Bellingham, Washington, I was ordained on the day Mt Saint Helens erupted! I am a father and grandfather: I am the blessed parent of two adoptive children, and a high functioning Autistic child. My adult life has had its feet in both the Church and Academia. My vocation has been cultivated by these two great influences. As a pastor and librarian, my passion for learning, information, building of community and inclusivity are a journey of love and search for wisdom. I love people. I seek for Jesus and the Image of God alive and present in others. I am an ally to LGBTQIAP+ persons, and see opportunity in the exchange of love, wisdom, and insight. Compassion is my practice. I believe, and seek to live in the grace of God in Christ Jesus. I seek inclusion, welcome, and equity for all people. Serving the Gospel; reading and teaching the Bible; and the development of community and individual Spirituality are my great loves within the Body of Christ. Anti-Racism, and finding authentic compassion, which creates community are core values.

Describe what brings you energy as you consider the role of Bishop and how this might be a best use of your gifts, skills, and passion.

My faith in Christ, professional life and study have prepared me to connect with others to engage and support a servant faith which changes people and circumstances for the better in communities and the church. My world view and faith merge: based on the energy of prayer, the faith of Christ, and the Gospel which makes all things new. Having been called and claimed by Christ in baptism, marked with the Cross of Christ forever gives me energy in living each day by the "yes" of God's grace in Christian community. All of the above fuel my desire to lead a diverse group of believers in the transformative gospel. All of the above will need intentional devotion, prayer, and willingness to move together as one. Having served a variety of venues as an Intentional Transformational Pastor has given me the vision to listen to people, learn to love them, and then lead with a common vision centered in Christ. Having served as an Assistant to the Bishop of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod has taught me and given insight on the needs of congregations, organizations and extended avenues for mission and ministry. I have some idea of this calling to service. I bring various skill sets, but am a leader who seeks and respects the skill sets of others.

As a candidate for Bishop, how would you describe God's call for the Nebraska Synod and your relation to this call?

God's call for the Nebraska Synod is to prayerfully hear the Gospel and celebrate its promise with action; follow the example of Jesus in approaching people with Jesus' sequence of showing Compassion, creating Community; and then building Commitment within individuals, congregations, organizations and the greater community for Christ and the Gospel. This is a process requiring intentionality, understanding, and courage. The generous people, resources, and leaders of the Nebraska Synod are the key to success. Both the gifts of gentleness and restlessness are essential, so that the church moves forward with common vision and ministry. We put our hands on the plow, find our mark, and look forward. As individuals, congregations, pastors and synods within our ELCA synod, we are called to the crossroads of faith and life. We need to meet at the gate areas of our communities, and then work together to move beyond Status Quo comforts to see the edges and margins-and be Christ to one another. All of our opportunities and challenges as the Nebraska Synod ELCA are found in our ethic of grace, to love God and Neighbor. Discipleship, Faith Formation, and Spirituality center on an Evangelical Justice. Being Christ to the neighbor, the poor, and the voiceless is a center of our actions and intents.

Reflect on the opportunities and challenges facing the Nebraska Synod in the next 6 years.

Reading the Bishop Election Survey is both eye opening, hopeful, and clear. The Office of the Bishop is essential for creating collaborative action for ministry, proclamation, and service. People are naturally concerned about membership declines, the need for Spiritual and Theological Formation. Being centered in God in Christ to mend what is broken and to understand that Evangelism and Justice are intertwined. Working together to envision and create a more effective Nebraska Synod structure, with the hope for more communication and mission clarity. We know our needs as a strong rural community state with large population centers at times creates discord as to how the Gospel compels us to serve and do ministry. Finances come to the fore, and the need for Pastors, Deacons, and Parish Ministry Associates to lead in ministry in smaller parishes. Creativity to find new alliances, with congregations sharing ministry needs together, using Ecumenical Partners as area ministry areas are crucial avenues for regenerating new life together. So is recognizing resources of every kind, and welcoming new ideas and options. An Asset Based Approach is better able to consider pathways towards life rather than a sense of despair in our needs. How do we move forward? Our opportunities are found in cooperation, not in isolation. We are one community in Christ, together.