

Rev. Dr. Scott P. Frederickson



Ordination Date: October 12, 1991

Education & Earned Degrees:

BA, English, 1981-1985, Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter MN

Graduate School, English, 1985-1986, University of Texas – Austin, TX

M.Div., 1987-1991, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago IL

Ph.D., Systematic Theology, 1994-2001, Luther Seminary, St Paul MN

Current & Previously Held Positions

First Lutheran Church, Senior Pastor, 2014-Current, Blair, NE

Prairie Table Ministries, Mission Developer, 2008-2011, Bismarck, ND

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Discipleship Pastor, 2003-2007, Bismarck, ND

Luther Seminary, Affiliated Faculty, Congregational Mission and Leadership, 2003-2016, St Paul, MN

Church Innovations, Congregational Analyst, 1995-2010, St Paul, MN

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

I bring change. For 31 years I have created and innovated ministry opportunities for people in the context where they live. My ministry uses the unique talents and gifts of people, inclusive of all genders, races, sexualities, and economic classes. I believe God calls each person and the communities where they reside to live lives that grow God's mission for a flourishing world. In my experience that has meant I must bring change.

I believe the cross of Christ empowers radical freedom for all of God's creation. Through our living in the power of the Holy Spirit we are invited by God to use this radical freedom to help and walk with our neighbors. This has led me over the years to engage in conservation of land and natural resources; hunger ministries that serve local, national, and international people in need; and to preach an unflinching Gospel of God's steadfast mercy and love.

I am who I am because God placed me in a family of unconditional love. My parents, my wife and children, and my grandson are the ground for my understanding of God's steadfast mercy and grace.

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.

I am excited to see what God has been doing in the Nebraska Synod, not only over the last 150 years, but especially since 2020. I believe God has a preferred future for every person in Nebraska, and for all the congregations of the Nebraska Synod. My gift as a teacher is to help us find ways that we can continue to strengthen our communities, our congregations, and our neighbors, as we seek to follow God's mission of mercy and grace.

I assume that there are many changes before us. Some of them will be easily adapted and others will require time, patience, and compromise. I believe I have the skillset to manage those kinds of conversations and I look forward to hearing the stories.

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

I believe God is calling the people and the congregations of the Nebraska Synod to be people of creativity, forgiveness, patience, and courage, as we engage in difficult conversations for the future of the Lutheran tradition. Through the Bishop's Office, this call extends to each of us who comprise the Nebraska Synod and the congregations that we call home, but also extends to our relationships with our ministry partners, others within our Lutheran family, and with ecumenical and interfaith people of God.

I am confident that as the Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, we can be a leader in initiating the conversations and changes that will drive ministry opportunities toward how we can be Lutheran together in Nebraska, in the United States, and throughout the world.

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

One challenge is how do we listen together, as people who have experienced being ignored, undervalued, disregarded, overlooked, or neglected? Since we come from such diverse arenas of wealth, status, power, and privilege, listening with others is difficult for everyone. The challenge is to not push away from the table of conversation. This challenge leads to a great opportunity because we are all equal in our current levels of fear, unease, and dissatisfaction. The opportunity exists to build relationships of trust and joy centered in the promise of God, in Jesus Christ, to be heard and valued.

An opportunity in the Nebraska Synod is our immense wealth and resources. The challenge will be to steward those resources in ways that encourage our neighbors, sustain our communities of faith, and continue to provide ministries of meaning. It is not a question of survival, but rather of changing our mindset, to see that spending resources to help and support your neighbor is the joy of the Gospel itself.