

WM. CHRIS BOERGER. KEYNOTE



Secretary, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Wm. Chris Boerger was elected secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. Prior to election, he served two terms as bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, Seattle, Washington. His parish experience was as mission developer of the Lutheran Church in the San Juans, Friday Harbor, Washington; Central Lutheran Church, Everett, Washington; and Northlake Lutheran Church, Kenmore, Washington.

As the son of a career Navy enlisted man, he lived and went to school in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Tennessee, and Washington. His “call to ministry” came when his kindergarten teacher at Trinity Lutheran School, Marysville, Ohio, asked who wanted to be a missionary when they grew up. His hand went up and the seed of being a pastor was planted. Encouraged by family and local congregations, he graduated from Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington, with a degree in Communication Arts. He then attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, until the creation of Christ Seminary-Seminex in 1974. Graduating from Seminex in 1975, his first call came from four families in the San Juan Islands in Washington to start an independent Lutheran congregation. The congregation was organized in 1976 and became a member of the American Lutheran Church in 1977. He was ordained in June of 1978.

Chris is married to DeDe (Finlayson) Boerger. They have two grown children, John and Mary, and four grandchildren. His hobbies include raising and showing dahlia, reading, and being a fan of baseball, football, and college basketball. His interest in constitutions and parliamentary procedure began in a class on *Robert's Rules of Order* in college. He served as parliamentarian at district conventions and synod assemblies prior to his election as bishop. He first met David Swartling when they both were members of the Synod Planning Group for the Northwest Washington Synod. They served together on the Synod Council and its Executive Committee. Chris states that it is an honor to follow David as secretary of the ELCA.

BISHOP JAMES F. MAUNEY. PREACHER. BIBLE STUDY

The Rev. James Foltz Mauney is the bishop of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

He was elected to this position in 1999, re-elected to a second 6-year term in 2005 and a third 6-year term in 2011. Before being elected to this position, Mauney served as assistant to the bishop of the Virginia Synod, 1988-1999. Before that, he was an associate pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in San Diego, Calif., 1978-1981, and the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Richmond, VA, 1981-1988.

A Lynchburg, VA. native, Mauney received his Bachelor of Arts in English and Speech from Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1974 before receiving his Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 1978, a Master of Sacred Theology in New Testament Studies from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in 1994, and a Master of Sacred Theology in Old Testament Studies from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 2009.

In 2000, Bishop Mauney was honored with honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees from Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, NC, and Roanoke College, Salem, VA.

Mauney comes from a distinguished family of Lutheran ministers. His father, Rev. Marshall Mauney, and grandfather, Rev. John D. Mauney, both served the Lutheran Church. His uncle, Rev. Dr. J. Luther Mauney, was president of the Virginia Synod for 26 years.

Bishop Mauney lives in Salem, VA, with his wife, Lynda, a retired math teacher. Their daughter, Mem, a graduate of Roanoke College and the University of Virginia Medical School, is a certified Neonatologist in Charlotte, NC. She is married to Jason Zolak, who serves as an Intensivist and is on staff at the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC. They have three beautiful granddaughters, 5-year-old Charlotte (Charlie), 3-year-old Sarah (Sally), and newborn Louisa (Cricket).