

## Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Bishop Nominee Biographical Information



**Name:** David Kappus

**Current Position:** Pastor, Central Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA

**Congregation Membership:** Central Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA

**Date of Ordination:** September 16, 1990

*List up to five (5) community, synodical, or Churchwide activities that would shape your call as bishop of this synod.*

- a. Community Theater: As a volunteer and board member over the years, I can attest that theater is the embodiment of God's gifts of teamwork, shared vision, and communication.
- b. LCSNW Area Support Council: I believe in supporting and encouraging ministry partnerships to address larger issues of peace and justice.
- c. EWA-ID Synod Finance and Stewardship Teams: Experience with personal stewardship training methods has convinced me that a focus on "abundance" rather than "scarcity" can improve the life of faith and the experience of being church together.
- d. ELCA Coaching Initiative training: As a Level Two Coach with specialization in stewardship, I am trained to help individuals and congregations recognize how God has blessed them for service in God's kingdom.

*What is the essence of the promises you made at the time of your ordination, and how would you seek to fulfill those promises in your ministry if elected Bishop? (150 words max)*

The promises that I made in ordination express my calling as a minister of word and sacrament and they are centered in the life of the community of faith, a community that has its own call to do the work of the kingdom. My commitments to preach and teach, to learn and listen within the congregational context have the goal of helping people see their own calling and connectedness to the larger body of believers. Not much changes in that goal if elected Bishop other than the scale. In an increasingly isolated world, lifting up the reality of the "oneness" Jesus says we *already* share in him, as individuals and as congregations, is critical.

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*Describe your spiritual life and the way you prepare for ministry each day. How do you maintain spiritual focus and integrity? (150 words max).*

I awake promptly at 5am every morning...wait...nope, that's my wife. <sigh> How many of us have the spiritual life and discipline we WISH we had? I struggle with keeping to a set schedule of Bible reading or prayer that isn't interrupted by one thing or another. And yet, devotional moments sneak quietly into my days. I'll be reading scripture to prepare for a sermon or teaching and find I've read well past what was necessary as the Bible pulled me in. I'll be struck by a picture of beauty or witness an act of kindness and suddenly find myself in a prayer of praise or gratitude. I try to be generous whenever I can, recognizing that giving is a reflection of the One in whose image I am made. God "on the go," I guess, looking for and finding God's presence with me wherever I am.

*What, in your opinion, is the measure of great leadership, and in what ways do you either achieve or aspire to achieve this standard? (150 words max).*

God blesses us, as individuals and communities, with many and varied gifts. That tells me two things: I don't have everything necessary to lead a group; and God doesn't expect me to have it all. Great leadership involves drawing out the gifts and talents that are present in the community to accomplish a goal. It is recognizing that the "best" idea may come from an unexpected source. It is inviting every voice to speak and listening for a different perspective. Recognizing the influence of authority inherent in leadership, I try to encourage viewpoints beyond my own, lift up skills that make other people excellent choices for projects, and acknowledge that someone else's idea might be a better one than mine. With all this in mind, the greatest measure of my own leadership might be the ability to say, "It doesn't need to be done my way" (and mean it!).

*What is your leadership style? (150 words max).*

My leadership style rests on high levels of communication and presence. I try to encourage a balance between dialogue and action, that is, let's not overthink things but, after giving prayerful consideration to something, let's move! I tend to go to more church events than is probably necessary. I'm always looking for additional ways to engage people in ministry, whether in their own lives or through the congregation. I tend to focus on the big picture, delegating the smaller tasks to people with a gift for details. I seek input from others in decision making. I do my best to model the service and generosity, kindness and care that I would expect those I am in ministry with to display to the world. My goal is to transform our work together by inspiring open communication and a shared vision of who we are as "church together."