

**Rev. Wm Chris Boerger** served as Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from November 2013 until October 2019. Prior to this he served two terms as bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, Seattle, WA. His parish experience was a mission developer of the Lutheran Church in the San Juans, Friday Harbor, WA, Central Lutheran Church, Everett, WA, and Northlake Lutheran Church, Kenmore, WA.

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, OH 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 with a degree in Communication Arts. He then attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO until the creation of Christ Seminary-Seminex in 1974. Graduating from Christ Seminary - 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. DeDe is a retired nurse having worked in several hospitals in Washington State. She retired with their move to Chicago and volunteered as a Faith Community Nurse at the Lutheran Center. They have two grown children, John and Mary, and four grandchildren. His hobbies include raising and showing Dahlias, reading, and being a fan of baseball, college football and college basketball. His interest in constitutions and parliamentary procedure began in a class on Robert's Rules of Order in college. He has served as parliamentarian at District Conventions and Synod Assemblies prior to his election as bishop.

