



**Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## **The Rev. Richard H. Graham**

BISHOP

2007 - present



The Rev. Richard H. Graham is serving a second term as bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the ELCA. Initially elected by the 2007 Synod Assembly to a six-year term then re-elected by the 2013 Synod Assembly, he has been in office since September 1, 2007. Bishop Graham finds his work inspiring due to the "abundance of opportunities" to help church leaders and congregations "share the love of Jesus Christ with the world around us."

Raised in Lutherville, Maryland, just outside of Baltimore, Bishop Graham moved to Lexington, Virginia for his undergraduate education at Washington and Lee University in 1973 where he majored in English. He attended Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he earned a Master of Divinity. He began studies on a Fulbright scholarship at the University of Strasbourg, France, and holds a Master of Arts degree in Church History from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Prior to his current position, Bishop Graham served as pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in College Park, Maryland; assistant pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hagerstown, Maryland; and associate pastor of St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Annapolis, Maryland. Additional positions of leadership include as elected secretary of the Metro D.C. Synod, member of the synod's Candidacy Committee, and member of the board of trustees of the National Lutheran Home for the Aged in Rockville, Maryland.

Currently, Bishop Graham is a board member of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area. He serves on the ELCA Conference of Bishops Immigration Ready Bench and as the Region 8 Bishop Liaison to the ELCA Church Council. He is also interested in ecumenical work; in October 2014, Bishop Graham received the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation Award for his contributions, time commitment and support toward understanding and solidarity between Holy Land Christians and Christians elsewhere.

Bishop Graham is married to Nancy Ann Graham, and they have two adult daughters and two granddaughters. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, gardening, cooking and hiking.

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*"There's an abundance of opportunities to share the love of Jesus Christ with the world around us."*

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