



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Citation in Honor of Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

Always
being made
New.

25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

The call to be the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a call to serve as this church's chief pastor, teaching the faith of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church while offering both courageous leadership and untiring encouragement for witness and service throughout the congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and related institutions and agencies of this church.

The call to be presiding bishop is a summons to proclaim the promise of God's steadfast love, unending mercies, and enduring hope.

The call to be presiding bishop combines, on the one hand, detailed administrative duties in leading and overseeing the programs, activities, and commitments of the ELCA's churchwide ministries and, on the other hand, vast responsibilities in nurturing profound relationships with companion Lutheran churches as well as ecumenical and inter-religious partners in the U.S.A. and throughout the world.

The call to be presiding bishop carries with it the duty to be the chief steward of the resources available for the witness, outreach, and service of this church.

At his installation as presiding bishop on October 6, 2001, the Reverend Dr. Mark Stephen Hanson was asked, "Will you discharge your duties in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, and in harmony with the constitution of this church?" He has done so with diligence and distinction, giving eloquent witness to the Gospel and courageous leadership for the work of this church.

He was asked at his installation, "Will you pray for God's people, nourish them with the Word and Holy Sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?" He has done so thoughtfully with a spirit of both adventure and humility.

He was asked at his installation, "Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?" He has done so with untiring dedication, creative insight, and evangelical imagination. He has been a constant advocate for renewal of this church's witness and engagement in the public arena, seeking reconciliation, healing, and justice in both church and society.

Throughout his twelve years of service as presiding bishop, he has led during times of tumult and enormous change. He demonstrated courage in the face of difficulties, insight in the midst of his duties, and dedication to fulfillment of the heavy burdens of office.

In the midst of his responsibilities as presiding bishop, he was elected president of the Lutheran World Federation, becoming the first North American Lutheran leader in more than four decades to hold that position. He served as a focused and thoughtful leader throughout his 2003–2010 term in wise care on behalf of that communion of most Lutheran churches in the world.

For his service as a dedicated church leader since his ordination 39 years ago, including as a pastor of three congregations, synodical bishop, and presiding bishop, the thirteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America expresses the heartfelt gratitude of the members of this church for the life and ministry of Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson. Well done, good and faithful servant!

The blessing of Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you and sustain you in hope and peace throughout all of the years to come.

Upon action and approval of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the *Servus Dei* Medal is conferred upon the Reverend Dr. Mark Stephen Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (November 1, 2001–October 31, 2013).

Citation in Honor of Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson
2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

(As of August 15, 2013)