



Rev. Lowell D. Nelson retired last year after 40 years of church and corporate life and is enjoying the “3rd Chapter” of his life with his wife Deborah and their family: son Andrew & his wife Kendra with their daughter Evelyn; daughter Jordan & her husband Brent and son Joseph. Lowell and Debbie are enjoying membership at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Glendale, AZ.

Lowell’s church experience includes serving as a lay Family Life Minister at Tanque Verde Lutheran/Tucson, AZ (1990-1994) and lay Outreach Minister at Bethany Lutheran/Elkhorn, NE (2007-2011). He was ordained in 2011 and served as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran/Bellevue, NE (2011-2018) and Senior Pastor at American Lutheran/Sun City, AZ (2018-2022). His most formative theological training was provided by his dear parents, Rev. Benard and Evelyn Nelson, who joined the church eternal in the past 4 years.

Lowell’s corporate experience includes working in Finance/Business Planning for IBM in Tucson, AZ and San Jose, CA (1982-1989), as Financial Manager at Carondelet St. Joseph’s Hospital in Tucson (1990) and for an extended period at Immanuel Medical Center/Immanuel Health Systems in Omaha, NE (1994-2006). He served as Immanuel’s Manager of the Pastoral Care/Community Service department and Director of the Rehabilitation Center before becoming President of Immanuel Retirement Communities and later, CEO of Immanuel Health Systems.

Lowell is a life-long learner and graduated from Augustana College/Rock Island, IL with a BA in History/Psychology in 1979; from the University of Arizona/Tucson, AZ with a MBA in Finance- 1987; from Arizona State University with a MSW in Planning & Administration- 1993; and, a certificate in Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) jointly from Luther Seminary/St. Paul, MN & Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary/Berkeley, CA. He is recently completed Level II ELCA Coaching certification to strengthen his skill in encouraging individuals, teams and organizations as a volunteer Bishop’s Emissary for Encouragement for pastors and congregations within the Grand Canyon Synod/ELCA.

Lowell previously served as a Board member for the Suburban Rotary/Omaha; Boy Scouts of America/Mid-America Council, Omaha; Nebraska Lutheran Planned Giving Services/Omaha; ELCA Endowment and Foundation/Chicago; Alegent Health/Omaha and, is currently serving on the Sun Health Board/Surprise, AZ as Committee Chair of Senior Living and on Spirit of the Desert’s Retreat Center Board/Carefree, AZ.