

Biography of Marcella Nelson

I grew up on a farm near Watford City, North Dakota in a Christian family. I am thankful that my homesteading grandparents helped to start the small country church where my faith was nurtured through worship, Sunday school, and cozy community life together.

I graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota and went on to attend Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota for a time, then became a parish outreach worker in the inner city of Minneapolis. In 1985, my husband Ken and I were married. Three years later we were called to become missionaries with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania and during our time in Tanzania, our oldest daughter

Johanna was born. After five years, we returned to Minnesota where my husband entered the seminary and I worked as a Christian Education Director. Our second daughter Else-Marie was born while we lived in Minnesota.

Our first call out of seminary was to Spencer, Nebraska, a two-point parish where we enjoyed small town life for four years. It was here that we welcomed our third daughter, Ingrid to the family. From Nebraska we moved to Minot, North Dakota to serve at First Lutheran Church for 12 years. While we lived in Minot, I served as Women's and Family Ministry Director, taught preschool and later worked as the manager of a free clinic for the medically uninsured.

I have witnessed God's faithfulness in the many communities we've had the privilege to live in. Through these experiences I have also had the joy of meeting so many fellow Christians who have strengthened me in my faith by their witness to Christ.

In 2011, we lost our home to a flood in Minot, ND. Through the experience of a natural disaster, we were blessed by the people who came to help our community. We saw God's hand in the helpfulness of so many. In 2015, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, but was again blessed through the kindness of others on my journey back to health.

In 2017, we moved to Brookfield, Wisconsin, where my husband serves as the pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church. We are excited to be part of the NALC and the new opportunities this provides to serve and to bear witness to God's continued faithfulness.