



**The Rev. Dr. Gerald L. Mansholt, Bishop**

East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In May 2014, the Synod Assembly of East Central Synod of Wisconsin of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) (ELCA) elected Gerald L. Mansholt to serve as bishop.

Before being elected bishop in Wisconsin, he had served as bishop for 12 years in the Central States Synod (ELCA) which covers the two states of Missouri and Kansas. He briefly served as interim bishop of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin immediately prior to being elected to a six-year

term.

Earlier in his ministry he had served as pastor to 4 congregations: First Lutheran Church, and Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, both in Chickasha, OK; Lutheran Church of the Living Christ Lutheran Church, Florissant, MO; and Reformation Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS.

Born in Alton, IL, on July 6, 1948, Mansholt grew up in Bunker Hill, IL, and graduated from Concordia Senior College of Fort Wayne, IN, in 1970 and from Christ Seminary-Seminex, St. Louis, MO, where he received a Master of Divinity degree in 1974. He received his Doctor of Ministry from [Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago](#) in 1989.

Mansholt brings gifts of leadership and pastoral care and has a passion for mission and outreach. In his ministry he has provided leadership to help transform congregational and synodical life so that participation in God's mission is at the heart of the synod's life and work. He is committed to building strong healthy relationships with the congregations and rostered leaders of the Synod.

Mansholt previously served on the Board of Directors of [Bethany College](#), Lindsborg, KS, as well as the board of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He has served on the Conference of Bishops Immigration Ready Bench and continues to be an advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. Ecumenical work has been a priority throughout his ministry and will continue with the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

Married to Anita, they are the parents of two daughters, Christa and Monica, both married, and grandparents to Sydney, Elliot Marie and Claire.