



Executive Vice President Jacob “Jack” Preus

Dr. Jacob A.O. Preus accepted the newly created position of Executive Vice President for Mission Advancement with Bethesda Lutheran Communities in 2009. With a background in Lutheran theology, parish leadership, academic administration, and international relations, Dr. Preus, will lead Bethesda in the advancement of its mission of enhancing the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Preus served as the third president of Concordia University Irvine from 1998 to 2009, where he was guided by the belief that a Christian higher education equips students to serve both God’s word and God’s world. Concordia University, a university of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod’s Concordia University System, is home to some 2500 undergraduate and graduate students pursuing over 50 majors and minors. Under his leadership, the university grew nearly 150 percent in student enrollment, together with new campus facilities and programs needed to meet that growth.

Dr. Preus frequently serves the church and community as a speaker on a variety of topics, including the intersection of contemporary culture and faith. Conversant in Spanish and Portuguese, he has traveled, spoken and taught extensively throughout Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Southeast Asia.

Prior to his call to Concordia University Irvine in 1998, Dr. Preus served at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was a Dean of Faculty, Professor and Chair of the Department of Systematic Theology, and served as the liaison to the seminary’s Hispanic Institute of Theology.

Before joining the Seminary faculty in 1986, Dr. Preus was a parish pastor at Holy Sacraments Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri, from 1984 to 1986 and Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, from 1980 to 1983. Dr. Preus served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy (Reserves) and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 24th Regiment of the U.S. Marine Corps during Operations Desert Shield and Storm.

Dr. Preus completed his Bachelor’s degree in Spanish and Latin American studies at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He earned his Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Theology and Doctorate in Theology degrees from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He and his wife, Sherry, live in Watertown Wisconsin, and have three children and three grand-children.