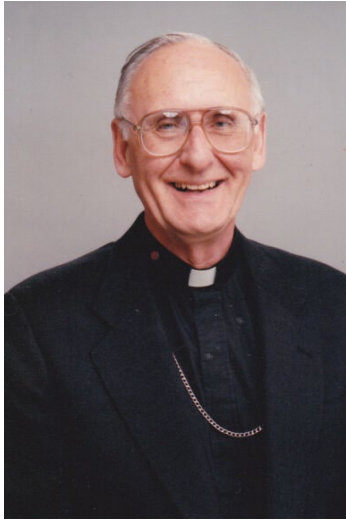


Rev. Dr. Roger Dean Pittelko



The Rev. Dr. Roger Dean Pittelko was born on August 18, 1932, in El Reno, Oklahoma, to the Rev. Elmer H. and Lydia (Niemann) Pittelko. Two childhood episodes foreshadowed the youth's later role in life. One Sunday Roger paid more than ordinary attention to his father's Sunday sermon. The sermon inspired the child to action because that same afternoon he set out by himself to visit members who had been absent from morning worship. He wanted to know why they had missed church. Another time he and a playmate, Ralph Bohlman, discussed their future occupations. Ralph was heard to say that he planned to be president of the Missouri Synod someday, upon which the young Pittelko emphatically replied that someday he would become a pastor. Both dreams were to be fulfilled.

During his year of vicarage, 1955-1956, Seminarian Pittelko met his wife-to-be, Beverly Ann Moellendorf, who was serving her year of vicarage in the same congregation. He married Beverly on July 6, 1957, and they were blessed with two children, Dean and Susan, and four grandchildren.

Pittelko earned his B.A. (1954), M.Div. (1957) and S.T.M. (1958) from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He also studied at Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, Maywood, Illinois; Lutheran General Hospital, Pastoral Care Department; the American Divinity School, Pineland, Florida, which awarded him a Doctor of Theology degree in 1968; and Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Tacoma, Washington, which conferred on him the Doctor of Ministry degree in 1983. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), in 1991 and the LCMS English District in 2014.

Pittelko served as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in New Orleans (1958–1959), Concordia Lutheran Church in Berwyn, Illinois (1959–1963), and Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Elk Grove Village, Illinois (1963–1986).

From 1986 to 1997, Pittelko served as president of the LCMS English District. In addition, he was a professor and supervisor of the D.Min. program at CTSFW, fourth vice-president of the LCMS (1998–2001) and chairman of the LCMS Commission on Worship (1983–1990 and 1992–1998). He also served as chairman of the Agenda committee during the production of *Lutheran Service Book*.

Pittelko sat on a variety of district and Synod committees and boards, authored numerous articles, and was a frequent presenter on topics related to liturgy and worship.

The Rev. Dr. Jon D. Vieker, senior assistant to the LCMS president, called Pittelko a “truly wise and good bishop,” noting his important work on both Lutheran Worship and Lutheran Service Book and his extensive influence on many pastors and other church workers “during their formative years of service.”

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison said, “When I was a young pastor in need of counsel and wisdom, the Lord provided Roger at just the right moment. What an honor to have known him and been a recipient of his Gospel-soaked churchmanship.”

The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, president of the LCMS English District, described Pittelko as “a true churchman who led by example. He was my teacher, mentor and brother in Christ. The church is a better place for having had him at a season in time as bishop of the English District. He will truly be missed.”

The Rev. Dr. Dean O. Wenthe, president of the Concordia University System, said, “During multiple teaching sojourns at Concordia Theological Seminary, Dr. Pittelko’s warmth and wisdom attracted colleagues and seminarians. Theological depth and fidelity characterized his calling as a shepherd of souls. He embodied and exhibited the identity of a true bishop.”