

Our pastor's name is David Berkedal. Our ministry is shared with additional staff, consisting of a part-time secretary to the pastor and four musicians, and all the members of our congregation who are unpaid but no less necessary to the work we believe God has called us to accomplish together. In fact, just about everyone who is a member, and some who are not, is a volunteer in some aspect of our ministry.

Pastor Berkedal is married to the Rev. Sally Welch, a protestant clergywoman.

Sally had earlier careers in ballet/modern dance (she studied at Juilliard) and in the film industry. She then went to seminary at the School of Theology in Claremont, where she was named alumna of the year in 2009, and teaches a class on movement and spirituality there. In addition, she helps area churches when their pastors are absent and is active on the board of the Southern California Ecumenical Council, where she served as president for three terms.

Their son, James, is in his last year of law school in San Diego, California.

Pastor Berkedal served Christ Lutheran Church in Compton, California from 1977-1986. He and Sally were married there and James was born there. Pastor Berkedal has served at Faith Lutheran Church since September of 1986.

He was born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin and was baptized at First Lutheran Church. He graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota in 1973. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1969-1971. He graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary with honors in 1977 and was ordained into the ministry of the American Lutheran Church on July 3rd of that same year.

He holds a second degree brown belt in Tae Kwon Do, played drums in jazz bands through college and seminary, and is a Masters Swimmer, competing from time to time in Southern California.

He has been active in the Southern California West Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (in America (ELCA), serving on its Evangelism Committee, planning worship for a synod assembly, and serving over two terms as the Dean of the San Gabriel Valley Conference, among other things.

He is the coordinator of the Evangelical Mission Network, a group of pastors and lay persons who are concerned about the current direction of the ELCA and are seeking reform.

Pastor Berkedal invites you to "friend" him on Facebook for photos and more info.

