

James David Eckert

The Reverend James David Eckert is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Pastor Eckert was ordained in 1986 and has served five congregations in northeastern Ohio (Pastor, Gloria Dei, Cleveland; Senior Pastor, Grace, Cleveland Heights; Senior Pastor, Parma Evangelical, Parma; Interim Pastor, Reformation, Eastlake, and currently, Interim Pastor, Good Shepherd, Brooklyn) and as Chaplain Resident at the Cleveland Clinic Hospital. He has degrees from the University of Akron (B.S., Business Administration/Human Resources Management), Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus (M. Div.) and a Residency Certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Pastor Eckert is a commissioned officer (Lieutenant/O-3) in the United States Navy, Chaplain Corps. After completing Officer Indoctrination School and Naval Chaplains School in Newport, Rhode Island, he reported for sea duty as Staff Chaplain aboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) homeported in San Diego, California, serving two deployments (Arabian Gulf in support of OIF/OEF, 2007; Western Pacific, 2008). He then reported for shore duty as Command Chaplain for Navy Information Operations Command—Maryland/National Security Agency/Central Security Services at Fort Meade. Chaplain Eckert, a.k.a. “Chaps,” has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement medals while on active duty. He is currently Select Reserve (USNR) and serving as Reserve Chaplain for the Ninth Coast Guard District encompassing the Great Lakes and headquartered in Cleveland.

Jim and wife Dana have been married for nearly 30 years and reside in Sagamore Hills. Dana is employed with the Kichler Lighting Company in Independence as Hospitality Support Specialist. They are parents of two grown children. Daughter Emily is a middle school English teacher, specializing in the gifted student program, in Hagerstown/Washington County, Maryland. Son Evan is an infantry soldier (Specialist), 1st Cavalry Division, United States Army, Fort Hood, Texas. He has served two year-long deployments to Iraq in support of OIF/OND and has been awarded two Purple Hearts.