

Gretchen Brauer-Rieke Bio



Gretchen Brauer-Rieke received a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Pacific Lutheran University and Master's Degree in Nursing from University of Minnesota. She then spent 23 years delivering babies as a certified nurse-midwife, becoming a specialist in home-waterbirths. After retiring from midwifery in 2005, she obtained a post-Master's certification in Nursing Education from OHSU and began several years of teaching nursing at Oregon Coast Community College and Concordia University/Portland.

Becoming increasingly aware that patients and families often struggle over how to deal with complex treatment choices at the end of life without the information they need to make good decisions inside the medical system, she became certified as an Advance Care Planning Facilitator. In 2011, she founded an educational service called *CodaConversations* and now travels the state of Oregon providing presentations to congregations and community groups, motivating them to document and discuss end-of-life wishes well in advance of health crises. She also teaches classes for faith leaders, parish nurses, and health ministers on how to minister to those making end-of-life health care decisions.

She authored the book *InAdvance: A Practical Guide to Making Your Own End-of-Life Health Care Decisions*, with editions specific for both Oregon and Washington, available from www.codaconversations.com.

With her husband Dave, who is Bishop of the Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Gretchen makes her home in Milwaukie, where she raises goats, chickens, and finches. She and Dave have three adult children.