



Years of Ministry

Reflections

on

Ministry

Including brief biographies

ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

October 8, 2024

Muhlenberg College
Allentown, PA



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
AMERICA

THE REV. WILLIAM WESTLEY FAIRCHILD, JR. (“Chip”), son of William Westley Fairchild, Sr., and Blanche Verna (Himmelberger), was born on December 21, 1947, in Reading, PA. He attended Kutztown State College (now University) and graduated with an A.B. in Liberal Arts from Muhlenberg College in 1970 and a M.Div. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary Philadelphia Campus) in 1974. He was ordained by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America on May 21, 1974, at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Easton, PA. He served the following calls: Pastor, St. Luke, Freeland, PA (1974-1979); Assistant to the President (Bishop), NEPA Synod (1979-1986); and, Pastor, Christ, Conyngham, PA (1986-2013). Pastor Fairchild married Sandra Jean (Rentz) on August 14, 1970. They are the parents of Laura Kate and Timothy Carl.

I count it a great blessing to have been called to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and to have served as an ordained pastor of the Church these 50 years. I will always be grateful to God for the privilege it has been to proclaim the Gospel and serve the spiritual needs of God’s people in my three calls to ministry.

While my first call to St. Luke, Freeland was only five years, they were formative years for my parish ministry. I learned a great deal about myself and about being a pastor from the loving and supportive people of the church and community. They warmly welcomed my wife Sandy and me and were ready and excited to be partners in ministry with the new young guy fresh out of seminary. In that excitement and with a strong commitment of time and talent the congregation grew significantly in both size and the vitality of its mission.

After five years in Freeland, I accepted a call to serve as an Assistant to the bishop of our synod. I was given the responsibility to serve as pastor to pastors and their families in the northern

portion of the synod and to be a resource to 70 congregations under my care. Since the territory I covered stretched from the New York border to Palmerton, and from the Susquehanna River to the Poconos., I spent a lot of time on the road away from home and family. I also had leadership responsibilities for certain synodical committees, including serving as an ecumenical officer. It was a great opportunity to meet and work with faithful and gifted pastors and lay leaders, especially in forming mission strategies for shared ministry in that part of the synod. I had the chance to meet and learn from leaders of ecumenical and inter-faith communities from around the world. I also got to work under two wonderful bishops and with a talented and diverse synod staff. It was a great experience, but I yearned to be a parish pastor again.

In 1986, I was blessed to receive a call to pastoral ministry at Christ Church in Conyngham where I served for almost 28 years until my retirement in 2013. The previous pastor had served 23 years until he died while still in office. After a time of healing, we began nearly three decades of shared ministry. Through loving and devoted members, the church grew and embraced its mission in the community and world. To have the honor to be the pastor of generations of families in one place and become such a part of their life histories is something I’ll always cherish.

Someone once asked me to define in one sentence my role as a pastor. After much thought I answered, “To help people see their lives, the joy and sorrow, in a new light; in the light of Jesus Christ.” I can only hope that as a pastor I have and will continue with God’s help to fulfill that calling.

William “Chip” Fairchild

THE REV. DR. GARY JOSEPH LANGENSIEPEN, son of Eugene and Mary (Szivos) Langensiepen, was born on January 7, 1949, in Bethlehem, PA. He graduated with a B.A. in English from Muhlenberg College in 1970 and a M.Div. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary-Philadelphia Campus) in 1974.

He was ordained by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America on May 21, 1974, at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Easton, PA. Following his ordination, he served the following calls: Pastor, St. John Lutheran, Pine Grove, PA (1974-1979); Pastor, Grace Lutheran, Macungie, PA (1979-1985); Case Worker, Topton Children's Home (1985-1986); Pastor, St. Michael Lutheran Church, Hamburg, PA (1986-1990); and, Pastor, St. John Windish, Bethlehem, PA (1990-2012). In retirement, he also served St. Mark, Allentown.

He has also earned an STM and D.Min. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary-Philadelphia Campus).

Pastor Langensiepen was married to Kathleen (Holetz) on August 15, 1970, and they had one son, Scott Geoffrey. He married Elizabeth (Carter) Langensiepen on August 7, 1992.

As I write this, I recall vividly being a young Pastor participating in our annual Synod gathering and politely listening as colleagues celebrating their 50th anniversary of ordination, shared remarks and memories. I also vividly recall thinking, as one after another went on and on, that if I ever make it to my 50th anniversary of ordination and am asked to make similar remarks, KEEP IT SHORT GARY!

So, I will indeed endeavor to follow my own advice from five decades ago and keep this short.

I was a son of St. Matthew's, Bethlehem, and was influ-

enced to consider entering ordained ministry because of my great love and respect for our pastor, the late Helmut Kaffine. With that goal in mind, I entered Muhlenberg College and then the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (we were often referred to as "pipeline" students back then because of our attendance at those two great schools).

After gradation from seminary, I was called to St. John, Pine Grove. After that, I served Grace, Macungie, and St. Michael, Tilden Township. Finally, since my parents lived in Bethlehem and were growing older, I thought it wise to seek a call closer to them so I could help my late brother care for their needs. I was fortunate enough to be called to St. John's Windish, Bethlehem, and spent the next 22 years of my ministry there before retiring from full time ministry. Having a Hungarian mother and being a Bethlehem native, the customs and culture of the Slovenian (Windish) folks at St. John's were right up my alley and I was greatly blessed to be called to minister to and with these fantastic parishioners. After retiring and leaving St. John's, I also served St. Mark, Allentown, on a part time basis.

In an effort to indeed keep this short, let me conclude by simply saying the following. In each and every parish I served, it was the parishioners who were a blessing to me. Yes, I ministered to and with them. But, truth be told, they ministered to me as well. I will never forget their love and support. They were constantly living, breathing reminders of why I entered ministry in the first place, that is, to share the good news of our Lord in a world that so badly needs that loving message.

Gary Langensiepen

THE REV. JOHN PHILLIP MINNICH, son of Rev. Harold F. and Mildred S. Minnich, was born on February 7, 1948, in Reading, PA. He graduated from Kutztown State College (now University) with a B.A. in 1970. He also earned a M.Div. and STM from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary- Philadelphia Campus) in 1976 and 1980, respectively.

Pastor Minnich was ordained by the Central Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America on June 23, 1974. Following his ordination, he served the following calls: Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Southampton, PA (1974-1982); Pastor, Redemption Lutheran, Philadelphia (1982-1996); Pastor, St. Michael, Hamburg, PA (1996-2001); Interim Pastor, St. Paul, Trexlertown, PA (2002-2003); Pastor, Nativity, Allentown, PA (2004-2008); and, Pastor, St. Michael Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Nativity, Allentown, PA (2008-2020).

Pastor Minnich married Margaret R. (McClurg) on June 9, 1973, and they had two children: Rebekah Elizabeth and John Charles.

Seventy years ago, as a young boy in Lancaster County my father was the Lutheran pastor of a parish consisting of 3 congregations. Over the course of that decade, I saw him build three churches and two education wings. When I started out in the ministry in 1974, I was hoping I might someday have the opportunity to do a little building myself. However, the course of much of my career did not

take me to calls where building a new church was an opportunity.

In 2001 a fatal car accident resulted in the death of my wife, and almost took my own life. It put me on two years of disability trying to regain my strength, speech, and the use of my right hand. After a year of interim ministry, I accepted the call in 2004 to Nativity Lutheran Church on the west end of Allentown, commonly known as the Wegmans church being right next door. Nativity had in their congregational profile for their 10-year plan to build a new church. I thought that said a lot about the congregation and having seen my father's building activities, I thought I might be able to be of some help. It was the challenge for which I was looking. In 2006 the congregation committed themselves to be in a new church by Christmas of 2010. That goal was met with time to spare.

That time of building was a time of growth for the church, and the joy of my pastoral career. After my accident, I could not have imagined being entitled to the joy of this marvelous blessing. But I do believe that the Lord brought me through all the trauma because he wanted me to be a part of building the new church at Nativity. He had a purpose for me that I could not have imagined in my darkest days. And I will always be eternally grateful for his bountiful provision. Whatever I have been able to achieve at Nativity, or the other locations of my call spanning 45 active years, it was the Lord's doing. To God be all the glory.

John Minnich

THE REV. CHARLES HOWARD OLDLAND III, son of Charles H. Oldland, Jr. and Emiy Katharine (Holland), was born on September 7, 1946, in Uniontown, PA. He graduated with a B.M. in Sacred Music from Wittenberg University in 1970 and a M.Div. from Hamma School of Theology in 1974.

He was ordained by the Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Synod of the Lutheran Church in America on June 9, 1974. He served the following calls: Associate Pastor, Bethany Lutheran, Montoursville, PA (1974-1976); Pastor, Seven Valleys Pastoral Charge, Seven Valleys, PA (1976-1984); Pastor, Salem Lutheran Church, Elizabethville, PA (1984-2001); Chaplain, Susquehanna Lutheran Village Millersburg, PA (2001-2006); Pastor, St. Peter, Reinerton, PA (2010-2012).

Pastor Oldland married Sanya Sue (Phillips) June 20, 1969, and they are parents to John Christopher Houston, Mark Colin Howard, and Elizabeth Holley Katharine.

Recently I have been reflecting on the ministry of my great-grandfather, Rev. Isaac Keil Wismer. He was a seven-year-old farm boy in Bucks County when the Civil War began. Ordained by the General Synod in 1885, he served four parishes in Western Pennsylvania, participated in the merger of the ULCA in 1918, and helped introduce the “Common Service Book and Hymnal.” Growing up I sang from the same hymnal and led services in the same space where he had preached years earlier in St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Uniontown, Pa. Now, decades later, I have helped introduce three new hymnals, SBH, LBW and ELW, and participated in two subsequent mergers, LCA and ELCA. It is has been a humbling experience.

I recall the sentence we used to sing in place of the Alleluia Verse during Lent. “Christ hath humbled himself and become obedient unto death....” There is not a lot of space for being

humble in today’s celebratory worship, but we need to preserve it and lift it up when it does appear. Approaching ministry with a good healthy dose of humility after the example of Christ has always proved helpful to me.

Of course one does not set out saying, “I think I will be humble today.” In the back of my mind I sometimes think of it this way: there is always at least one major thing that you don’t know, and you don’t even know that you don’t know it. That way, it leaves room for life to surprise you.

I think it was Paul Tillich who said, “A sign of God is that I go where I did not plan to go.” Thinking back over all the places I have been over the past fifty years, there have been plenty of surprises, and, soli Deo gloria, it has been an amazing journey.

Charles Oldland

In 1974 . . .

Hungarian structure professor Erno Rubik invented a cube to teach his class about spatial relationships. To his surprise the Rubik’s Cube would be one of the top-selling toys of the century.

THE REV. FRED STANLEY OPALINSKI, son of Fred and Margaret (Mihovich) Opalinski was born on April 16, 1948, in North Charleroi, PA. He graduated from Thiel College in 1970 with a B.A. in Philosophy and The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now United Lutheran Seminary-Gettysburg Campus) in 1974 with a M.Div.

He was ordained on June 9, 1974, by the Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. Pastor Opalinski served the following calls: Pastor, Williamson-Upton Parish, Mercersburg, PA (1974-1980); Associate Pastor, Trinity Lutheran, Latrobe, PA (1980-1987), Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran, Latrobe, PA (1989-2003; and, Senior Pastor, Trinity, Reading. (2003-2014).

Pastor Opalinski married Janet Ruth (Kepple) on September 4, 1971. They have two daughters: Megan Ruth and Kristen Lucille.

I've been blessed to have served wonderful congregations in a variety of settings, each helping to shape me as pastor and person.

My first call in 1974 was to the Williamson-Upton Lutheran Parish in rural Franklin County, with the parsonage located in historic Mercersburg. I was greeted at the first call meeting with: "We've had 3 pastors in the last 6 years, and two of them left the ministry. What do you think of that?" After a big gulp, the conversation began and blossomed into a call. I knew nothing about farming, but the members were willing to introduce me to the challenges of weather, livestock, and pricing. In addition, they were incredibly gracious in sanding off some of the rough edges of an eager pastor. Fifty years later, we still have close relationships with several members, and I cherish the memories of that start.

In 1980 I was called to be Associate Pastor to Trinity, Latrobe, the largest congregation in the synod. Moving from a quiet rural parish to a 2,700-member church, with 4 services weekly, an 18-member council, and a gazillion activities and ministries was an endurance challenge for sure. We had 100 shut-ins, often 10-15

people in the hospital, 25-30 funerals/weddings/ baptisms each year. After 8 years, my senior pastor was elected bishop, and I was called to that position. In addition to keeping up with the calendar and frequent pastoral emergencies, I frankly struggled to oversee a large staff, including 2 other colleagues in ministry. I failed a lot and learned a lot in my 23 years there. Returning this summer for my 50th anniversary of ordination, I discovered that most folks remembered the good things of our life together, gracious enough to forgive whatever ouches there may have been.

2003 brought us to historic Trinity, Reading, founded in 1751 and located in the heart of a changing urban setting. (No longer mostly German, the city was now 70% Latino—an interesting reality for "Old Trinity.") In addition to its amazing history, the congregation had a tradition of wonderful music and worship, a 25-year-old cable TV ministry, and a Deaf congregation, housed in a 1791 facility, the 'new' church. Most of the members were suburbanites but devoted to this historic church in the city and eager to develop new ways to serve in Jesus' name. My 13 years there flew by and, with two of my predecessors as members, we were welcomed to remain in the congregation.

The rural, small town, and urban settings each provided unique opportunities for growth in self-understanding and ministry. My wife Janet was a teacher in each place, and our daughters Megan and Kristen were blessed to grow up literally in Mister Rogers neighborhood (Latrobe). In each call, we were profoundly blessed by the love, witness, and faith of so many brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jan and I are enjoying retirement and travel. Our daughter Megan is a singer/actor on stage across the country and around the world, and Kristen is serving as Manager of Ecumenical and Inter-religious relations for the ELCA.

Fred Opalinski

THE REV. DR. JOSEPH JOHN SCHOLTES, JR. son of Joseph J. Scholtes, Sr. and Mavis (Neal), was born on March 3, 1948, in Pittsburgh, PA. He graduated with a B.A. in Social Sciences from Muhlenberg College in 1970 and a M.Div. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now United Lutheran Seminary-Gettysburg Campus) in 1974.

He was ordained on July 14, 1974, at St. John Lutheran Church, Sinking Spring, PA, by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. Pastor Scholtes served the following calls: Pastor, First English, Minersville, PA and Trinity, Buck Run, PA (1974-1980); St. John, St. John, PA (1980-2000); and, St. Paul, Orwigsburg, PA (2000-2013).

He also earned an STM and D.Min. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary-Philadelphia Campus) in 1999 and 2006, respectively.

Pastor Scholtes married Bonita “Bonnie” (Boyer) on August 29, 1970. They are the parents of Christie Elizabeth and Rev. Michael Joseph.

At some point in the latter years of my ministry, I began to describe my work as a parish pastor as “telling the story, splashing the water, serving the meal, and getting out of the way.” That is, preach and teach, baptize, preside at Holy Communion, and then watch the wonderful ways the Holy Spirit moves the people of God to do ministry in Christ’s name

The congregations with whom I did those things were Trinity Chapel, Buck Run; English, Minersville; St. John’s, Saint Johns; and St. Paul’s, Orwigsburg. These are the people who helped me discover what it is to be a pastor,

and what it is to be a community of faith putting flesh on God’s love.

I had the privilege of a “front row seat,” so to speak, watching these folks as they worshipped weekly, related to youth with patient kindness, taught children, supported the grieving, fed the hungry, forgave one another, manned food pantries, provided meals for families in distress, remembered the homebound, repaired houses, listened attentively to one another, opened their hearts to those who were different, and so much more.

To those actions just cited, names could be given and stories told: grace stories, of people putting God’s love into action. I am grateful that I had the privilege of seeing and receiving the kindness of these people.

Joseph Scholtes

In 1974 . . .

Stephen King, a 26-year-old author, published his debut novel *CARRIE*. Mel Brooks’ *BLAZING SADDLES* was the top grossing movie. *People* magazine began publishing, and *Happy Days* started an 11-year run on ABC.

THE REV. GLEN THOMAS SEGOND, son of Francis and Evelyn Segond, was born on October 8, 1948 in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from Upsala College, East Orange, NJ, in 1970 with a BA in Religion and Psychology. He attended Concordia Seminary— St. Louis and then Seminex. Pastor Segond graduated from Seminex with an M.Div. in 1974, support by the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

He was ordained at King of Kings Lutheran Church, Mountain Lakes, NJ, by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod on June 15, 1974. Pastor Segond earned a MSW in Social Work from the Marywood School of Social Work in 1979.

Following his ordination, Pastor Segond served the following calls: Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church (LC-MS), Owego, NY (1974-1978); Assistant Pastor, St. Paul, Craigs Meadow, PA (1978-1985). Pastor, St. Mark, Minisink Hills, PA (1985-present). Pastor Segond also practiced as a counselor within several health systems in New Jersey and currently operates a private practice in Stroudsburg, PA.

Pastor Segond married Hannelore (Stoeffler) on January 17, 1970, and they had one son, Samuel.

I received my BA in religion and psychology from Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey. For my M. Div. I went to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, for three years and was in the first graduating class of Seminex, with the seminary in Chicago under writing the degree, (I've never been to Chicago which is the irony).

In 1979 I graduated from Marywood School of Social Work with a MSW and have worked in mental health for the last 40 years. Twenty years at Newton Memorial Hospital in Newton, New Jersey. I've done significant consulting work for hospitals over the years in the area of customer satisfaction and employee engagement. This helped in the various consults

I've done for the synod over the years. Most recently I conducted Boundary Workshops for the synod, it's the workshop everyone is required to attend but no one wants to. The compliment that I once received was "This was the best of the worst workshops I've attended" I counted that as a compliment LOL.

For the last 35 years I've served St. Mark Lutheran Church in Minisink Hills, (just outside of East Stroudsburg). It's a small lovely congregation that has never had a full time pastor, there is a dirt road leading to the church a quarter of a mile long and there is no running water on the property. However I'm blessed to be there and serve the people who are now family to me. Soli Deo Gloria

Glen Segond

In 1974 . . .

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act was enacted. The law "prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, or age in credit transactions." The law also requires creditors to provide a reason if credit is denied.

THE REV. GLENN LEROY SIMMONS, son of Russell and Virginia (Allison) Simmons was born August 25, 1948, in Greenville, OH. He graduated with a BA in English Literature from Wittenberg University in 1970 and a M.Div. from Yale Divinity School in 1973.

Pastor Simmons was ordained by the Ohio Synod of the Lutheran Church in America on August 4, 1974, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Versailles, OH. He served the following calls: Metropolitan Lutheran Council, Wilkes-Barre, PA (1974-1975); Pastor, Salem-St. Paul Lutheran, Kresgeville, PA (1975-1982); Assistant to the Bishop, Northeastern PA Synod and Division for Mission in North America, LCA (1982-1988); Assistant to the Bishop, Northeastern PA and Mission Director, Division for Outreach, ELCA (1988-2009); Associate of the Bishop for the Lehigh Mission District, Synod Assembly, and Bishop's Conference, Northeastern PA Synod (2009-2015).

Pastor Simmons married Mary K. (Bolton) on December 30, 1983.

Having gone to a non-Lutheran seminary, I didn't do my internship until after I'd graduated and completed my CPE quarter. I was placed in Wilkes-Barre with the Metropolitan Lutheran Council of the Wyoming Valley. It was a year after Hurricane Agnes had flooded the valley. The experience of working with 6 different LCA congregations and 2 LCMS congregations in the MLC profoundly shaped my outlook on ministry and my appreciation for congregations working together to serve their community. The pastors gathered weekly for pericope study and to support each other. I realized the value of team ministry and committed lay ministers.

Following a brief term call as Assistant to the Executive Director of the MLC, I was called to serve as the first full-time pastor of Salem-St. Paul LC in Kresgeville in the southern Poconos. Assisted by some strong lay leadership and the Holy Spirit, S-SP grew in many ways. We developed cooperative relationships with our neighboring Lutheran and UCC congregations. We

started a day care ministry that continues to this day. In the seven and a half years there, I performed 115 baptisms.

In the fall of 1982, I accepted a call to a shared staff position between the LCA Division for Mission in N.A. and the NEPS. My primary Synod focus was to be staff liaison to the Pocono Mission District and as the Director of Pocono Area Lutheran Ministry, the leisure ministry arm of the Synod. That emphasis on campground ministry led to my representing the LCA and then the ELCA on the board of A Christian Ministry in the National Parks. It continues to be an interdenominational cooperative ministry that has evolved and developed in its 70+ year history. For the last 19 years I have served as ACMNP's Board Secretary.

When the ELCA formed in 1988, I continued in a shared staff position with the Division for Outreach and the Synod. New Life LC in New Tripoli (1991) and San Martin de Porres in Allentown (1989) organized in that period. I was blessed to be able to work with several specialized ministries such as Latino Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Arab Ministry, and the Appalachian Coalition (ELCMA.)

I was privileged to serve as part of the Synod Staff Team with 4 bishops: Touhsaent, Weiss, Strobel, & Zeiser. Being part of the Synod Staff Team has plenty of challenges but the reality that those challenges are shared makes a world of difference. During Bp. Zeiser's term, my staff responsibility was moved to the Lehigh Mission District and I began coordinating the Synod Assemblies and the Bishop's Conferences.

Throughout my ministry it's been my privilege to build warm relationships with congregations across the Synod as they faced challenges and leadership transitions. I've been blessed to witness God at work in the lives of people and a wide variety of ministries across the Synod and the whole ELCA. Thanks be to God!

Glenn Simmons

THE REV. ROBERT ALVIN VONFRISCH, son of Alvin W. and Arline June (Smith) vonFrisch, was born on August 12, 1948, in Southington, CT. He graduated with a BA in German from Wagner College, Staten Island, NY, in 1970. He earned a MA from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1971 and a M.Div. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now United Lutheran Seminary-Gettysburg Campus) in 1974.

He was ordained on September 8, 1974, at First Lutheran Church, Southington, CT, by the New England Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. Pastor vonFrisch served the following calls: Pastor, St. John, Towamensing, PA (1974-1983); Pastor, Zion and St. Matthew, Weatherly, PA (1983-1993); Pastor, Schwarzwald, Jacksonwald, PA (1993-2003); and, Pastor, Trinity, Lehighton, PA (2003-2012). In retirement, he served as designated pastor to Christ Lutheran, Hazleton, and St. Matthew, Weatherly..

Pastor vonFrisch married Karen Marie (Levan) on April 19, 1975, and they are the parents of Matthew, Andrew, and Joshua.

Throughout my ministry, I sought to understand the needs of the people I was serving. Whether preparing for baptisms, marriages, funerals or new membership preparation, or engaging in Christian education or youth ministry, or seeking to address the needs of community members, it was essential to understand where they were coming from, or where they were at, and to then purposefully minister in sharing God's message, care and love. We love and serve the Lord by loving and serving his people.

It was my privilege and pleasure to serve four different congregations/parishes in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod over the course of my 38 years of full-time ministry, serving between 8.5 to 10.5 years at each. The nature of pastoral ministry changed significantly over that period. Initially, it was desirable to schedule visits to members' homes during the first year for the purpose of getting to know one another better, and members welcomed the

informal visits. In each succeeding call, home visits were more difficult to schedule and less desired. Likewise, shorter hospital stays meant less opportunity to visit, and nursing home/homebound visits were supplemented with lay visitors and Eucharistic ministers. Consequently, ministry shifted toward more programmatic outreach and less personal contact, with the exception of baptismal, marriage, and funeral preparation.

In two of my four calls, I followed long-term pastorates (43 and 33 years of service) and this presented both unique opportunities and challenges. In short, each successive location was different, became more challenging, but was still rewarding.

During the course of my ministry, I had the opportunity to be a delegate to two church-wide assemblies, serve two terms on synod council, three terms as mission district dean, and one term on the Lutheran Welfare Service board. At various times, community service included board membership on the Blue Mountain Health System, board member and chairperson of Shepherd House, Inc., Weatherly Area Community Chest, Kiwanis Club, Lions' Club, and assistant Little League and T-Ball coach (during the years when my three sons were players.) I also derived great pleasure playing guitar with the Trinity Praise Band (Trinity, Lehighton) for ten years, until my retirement.

Over the past twelve years of retirement, I have continued to do supply preaching, and have been the interim pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Weatherly, for the past six years. I also continue to serve as board member and treasurer of the Weatherly Area Community Library.

My wife Karen and I enjoy seeing and dining with friends and family, travel to different locations, and annual trips to the Jersey shore. We especially appreciate spending time and activities with our four grandchildren, who are between the ages of 2 and 19.

Robert vonFrisch

THE REV. DR. THEODORE IRL ZIMMERMAN, son of Herbert A. and Ellenia (Sells) Zimmerman, was born on April 14, 1948, in Peking, China.

He graduated in 1969 with a B.A. in Psychology and French from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN. In 1974, he earned a M.Div. from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Pastor Zimmerman was ordained by the Southeastern Synod of the Lutheran Church in America on November 29, 1974. He served the following calls: Assistant Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tullahoma, TN (1974-1980); Missionary, Division for World Mission and Ecumenism, Taipei, Taiwan (1980-1989); Missionary, Division for Global Mission, Hong Kong (1993-2014).

He also earned a Ph.D from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary (now Luther Seminary) in 1993.

Pastor Zimmerman was married to Jane (Davis) on August 29, 1971, and they have three children, Daniel, Sarah, and Jonathan.

Thanks to my missionary parents, I was born in China and grew up mostly in Hong Kong before college at Gustavus Adolphus in Minnesota and then seminary at LSTC. My first call was as Associate Pastor in Tennessee and my second was to the mission field in Taiwan. After 9 years there, I spent 4 years in doctoral studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and then went back to Hong Kong to teach for 21 years at the Lutheran Theological Seminary there until we retired here in the Lehigh Valley in 2014. Since then, my wife Janey and I have enjoyed worshipping and being involved at St. Luke's Lutheran Church

on Seventh Street in Allentown.

Frustrations and struggles, I have found, come in all cultures and languages, but joy, love, and meaning are even more abundant no matter where we are planted. Looking back, I am thankful for God's presence, prodding, and persistent forgiveness each day in every phase of my life. We are blessed with the gift of life in Jesus Christ and the privilege of sharing that gift with this world.

Thanks be to God.

Theodore "Ted" Zimmerman

In 1974 . . .

The average family income was \$12,840, and a new house cost around 32,900. Americans paid an average of \$4,441 for a new car. A gallon of gas averaged 53 cents, the minimum wage was \$2.00 per hour, and an ounce of gold cost \$183.77. Milk was \$1.39 a gallon and eggs were 58 cents a dozen.

The Inn at Bushkill Falls, May 17—19, 1974

The Report of the Examining Committee was presented by the Rev. Richard C. Wolf.

The committee recommends that the following be ordained:

1. Robert L. Boyer, a member of Christ Church, Allentown, called to Mediator, Philadelphia.
2. William W. Fairchild, Jr., a member of Christ Church, Reading, called to St. Luke, Freeland.
3. Dennis P. Kohl, a member of Christ Church, Reading, called to First, Brockton, Massachusetts.
4. Gary J. Langensiepen, a member of St. Matthew Church, Bethlehem, called to St. John, Pine Grove.
5. Robert S. McEllroy, III, a member of Grace Church, Allentown, called to Uniontown Parish, Uniontown, Maryland.
6. Glenn R. Neubauer, a member of Good Shepherd Church, Easton, called to St. John's, Hagerstown, Maryland.
7. Arthur F. Sonnenberg, a member of St. Peter Church, Reinerton, called to St. Peter, Reinerton.
8. Lester E. Stephenson Jr., a member of Peace Church, Reading, called to St. John, Jim Thorpe, East.
9. Willard J. Uhler Jr., a member of Good Shepherd Church, Easton, called to Archbald-Carbondale Parish.
10. Ronald W. Weir, a member of Holy Spirit Church, Reading, called to Greater Reading Area Involved Lutherans.
11. Robert A. Young Jr., a member of St. James Church, Coopersburg, called to Our Saviour, Philadelphia.

The committee recommends that Peter W. Fauerbach, a member of Prince of Peace Church, East Bangor, be ordained when he shall have received and accepted a call.

The committee recommends that Everett L. Miller, a member of St. Paul Church, Allentown, be ordained when he shall have received and accepted a call.

The committee recommends that Ronald R. Miller, a member of St. Stephen Church, Allentown, be ordained when he shall have received and accepted a call.

The committee recommends that Joseph J. Scholtes Jr., a member of St. John Church, Sinking Spring, be ordained when he shall have received and accepted a call.

The committee recommends that Richard H. Goodlin, a member of St. Matthew Church, Bethlehem, be ordained when he shall have completed his seminary work and when he shall have received and accepted a call.

RICHARD C. WOLF, *Chairman*

The recommendations of the Examining Committee were adopted.