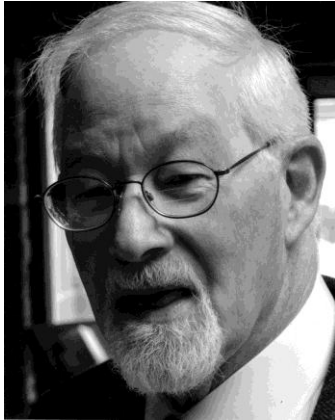

We Remember

Rev. Kenneth L. Kilheffer

April 12, 1938 – April 24, 2009



Kenneth LeRoy Kilheffer was born April 12, 1938, in Lancaster, PA, the son of Harold K. and Dorothy (Deaver) Kilheffer. Kenneth was baptized June 5, 1938, by Pastor G. Martin Ruoss at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lancaster. He was confirmed March 29, 1953, by Pastor Alfred L. Long at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lancaster. Kenneth attended Stevens Elementary and McCaskey High School in Lancaster. Upon his high school graduation in 1956, he enrolled at Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA, where he received the A.B. degree in 1960.

Kenneth was united in marriage August 6, 1960, to Sarah (Sari) L. Slick at the Church of the Abiding Presence, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, by the Rev. George H. DeFrehn, pastor of Kenneth's home congregation and who later also participated in his ordination. To Sari and Kenneth were born four children, Mark Steven, Kari Susan, Heather Suzanne, and Holly Noelle.

Influences from Kenneth's mother and the pastors of his home congregation led him to prepare for ordained ministry. He enrolled at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in the fall of 1960. In his first year he was a Student Assistant at Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greencastle, PA. July 18, 1963, Kenneth was ordained into the Ministerium of the Lutheran Church in America at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lancaster, by the Rev. Dwight F. Putnam, President of the Central PA Synod. Presenting Kenneth for ordination was Pastor G. Martin Ruoss, who had baptized him. Kenneth was the sixth son of Christ Lutheran, Lancaster, to be ordained. After his ordination, he continued his seminary studies for one more year and received the B.D. degree in 1964.

Pastor Kilheffer's first call was to be Assistant Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran, Baltimore, MD where he served 1963-65. In 1965 Pastor Kilheffer moved to Minnesota, where he stayed for the remainder of his ministry. He was Associate Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Cloquet, 1965-67, and thereafter Pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Walnut Grove, 1967-70; Spring Garden Lutheran, Cannon Falls, 1970-81; Faith, Avoca, 1981-89; and Providence Valley, Dawson, 1989-2003.

Pastor Kilheffer retired September 1, 2003. Kenneth and Sari then left the Midwest and chose to live in their retirement in Sari's hometown, Smithsburg, MD. Kenneth's personal interests were woodworking and refinishing furniture. He enjoyed reading, especially scientific fiction. During his years of pastoral ministry Pastor Kilheffer had preferred serving rural congregations. He saw to it that the sick and the shut-in were not neglected. He served on the Nursing Home and Camping boards and with Emergency Response groups. The service club in which he participated in the communities in which he lived was the Lions Club.

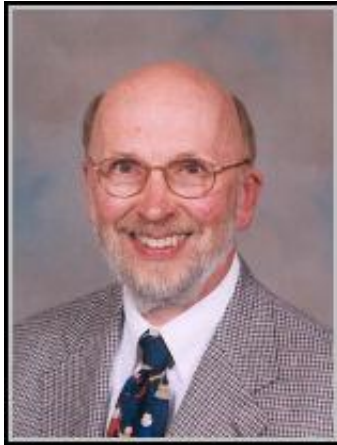
Pastor Kenneth L. Kilheffer died at his home April 24, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Sari Kilheffer, Smithsburg, MD; three daughters: Kari Gleason, Marshall, MN; Heather Kilheffer-Haugen, Flandreau, SD; Holly (Goeffrey) Kuchera, Chanhassen, MN; one son, Mark (Brenda) Kilheffer, Green Bay, WI; two grandsons, Samuel and James Gleason, Marshall, MN; and one brother, Richard (Ella) Kilheffer.

Pastor Kilheffer had requested that his funeral be held on a Sunday morning, within the church's weekly worship. This occurred May 24, 2009 at Haven Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, MD. The Rev. Linda M. Alessandri, who presided at the service, which included Holy Communion, called Kenneth Kilheffer's request "a bold sermon proclaiming the good news of a Risen Lord who saves, frees and unites us forever. Through his unusual memorial preference, he is still teaching as he reminds us that we have been called to be the Body of Christ, a community of disciples, who enact the gospel and support one another in all circumstances, in joy and sorrow." In the service the liturgies of the Easter season and the funeral service were blended. Assisting in the service were the Rev. Donald L. Turley, Middletown, MD; the Rev. David B. Kaplan, Hagerstown, MD; and Regina Beard, a student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Kenneth Kilheffer's body has been cremated and the ashes will be scattered the summer of 2010 near Split Rock Lighthouse, Lake Superior, MN.

We Remember

Dr. Henry James “Jim” Mahler, AiM

December 23, 1938 – May 9, 2009



Henry James Mahler was born December 23, 1938, in Plainfield, NJ, to Henry Fred and Meta (Vetter) Mahler. Henry Fred Mahler was a Western Electric Toolmaker. Henry James, also known as Jim, was baptized in January, 1939, by Pastor Walter Reuning at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Westfield, NJ, a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. When Jim was six years old his family moved to Hinsdale, IL, where he attended Zion Lutheran Elementary School and was confirmed April 6, 1962, at Zion Lutheran Church by Pastor Paul H. Scheer. Jim was graduated from Hinsdale High School in 1956 and continued his education at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, IL. He chose to enter the ministry of teaching because of the excellent teachers he had in elementary school. In 1961 he received a B.S. degree in education. September 1, 1961, Henry James Mahler became a commissioned Director of Christian Education in the LCMS. He was called to Zion Lutheran School, Westwood, NJ where he founded the school and served as Principal and Youth Director 1961-1967.

Henry James Mahler was united in marriage with LaNell Gloria Kappler in Houston, TX on August 17, 1963. To Jim and LaNell were born three children, Naomi 1967, Rachel 1969, and Matthew 1977. During the time Jim lived in Westwood, he also studied at Columbia University Teachers College where in 1964 he received a Master's Degree in Counseling and Guidance and in 1971 he completed his Ed.D. degree in School Psychology. The title of his dissertation was: *The Relationships between Pupil Background, School Quality, and Academic Achievement in Lutheran Elementary Schools*. In 1968-69 Jim was School Psychologist Intern at Hackensack Public Schools, Hackensack, NJ.

Dr. Mahler was Assistant Professor of Education and Psychology at Concordia University, River Forest, IL, 1969-75. He supervised student teachers, taught psychology and methods courses, and established a psychological service center serving Lutheran schools in the Chicago area. From 1975-79 Dr. Mahler was School Psychologist and Coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services at the Oak Park Public School District #97, where he supervised the work of three psychologists and eight social workers, administered the district testing program, and provided psychological services from pre-school through junior high school.

Dr. Mahler was affected by the troubles in the LCMS that led in 1976 to the formation of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. In 1978 he was removed from the LCMS roster of Directors of Christian Education, though he very likely retained this commission in the AELC roster. It was not until 1985 that the Commission for a New Lutheran Church placed all lay professionals in the three merging churches (ALC, LCA, AELC) in what became in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) commissioned Associates in Ministry.

In 1979 Dr. Mahler was called to be Associate Professor of Education and Chair of the Education Department at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA, and in 2000 became Professor of Education. During his years at CLU he was Director of the Henderson Institute for Lutheran Schools, directed CLU's Master's Degree program, and also established and developed a partnership agreement with Rio Real School in the Rio School District and a Professional Development School agreement with Arroyo Professional Development School, Simi Valley Unified School District. Professor Mahler retired in June 2004.

Professor Mahler contributed to a number of publications, the chief of which was *Lutheran Partners*, where he is listed seventeen times. He also contributed to *Lutheran Education* and *Parish Teacher*. He made a great many presentations to educational associations. He belonged to the American Educational Research Association and the American Psychological Association. Throughout his life he was an advocate for quality education, especially through the church. He was a voting member at the ELCA 2001 Churchwide Assembly and was a member of the Southern California West Synod Council 1993-1999. He was active at Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, CA where he taught in the Sunday school and was a member of the Stephen Ministry Committee. On October 7, 2005 he received the Donald A. Vetter Educational Service Award for extraordinary achievement and contributions distinguished by long-standing commitment to the values of the Evangelical Lutheran Education

Association. Jim had personal interests as well. He enjoyed genealogy, camping and traveling, and was while living in the Chicago area, a “suffering but proud” Cubs fan.

Jim and LaNell came to live in their retirement in Willmar, MN, where they chose to be members of Paz y Esperanza Lutheran Church. Jim died in his home May 9, 2009. Jim is survived by his wife, LaNell Mahler, Willmar; two daughters, the Rev. Naomi Mahler and son-in-law, the Rev. Todd Lynum, Willmar; Rachel (Brett) Kraemer, San Antonio, TX; and a son, Matthew James (and fiancée Loren Dealy) Mahler, Arlington, VA; four grandchildren, Andrew and Julia Kraemer and Sofia and Grace Lynum. Also surviving are Jim’s sister, Barbara Mahler, Chicago, IL, and his brothers, David (Julie) Mahler, Pittsburgh, PA, and Dr. Peter (Annette) Mahler, Madison, WI.

The funeral was held May 12 at Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar where Pastor Barbara Johnson was the liturgist and Pastor Steven Knudson was the preacher. A greeting from the Southwestern Minnesota Synod was brought by Bishop Jon Anderson. After the service there was a light lunch and a time of sharing at Paz y Esperanza Lutheran Church. There was interment May 18, 2009 at Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Oak Brook, IL where the Rev. Walter Bauldrick officiated.

We Remember

Rev. Arthur O. Aadland

March 30, 1918 – May 20, 2009



Arthur Othello Aadland was born March 30, 1918, in Minneapolis, MN, to Anders and Dagny (Rettedal) Aadland, who were recent immigrants from Norway. Anders Aadland was a painter and a decorator. Arthur was baptized on June 9, 1918 by Pastor Anders O. Aasen at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. The Aadland family returned to Norway but after several years returned to the United States and settled permanently in Minneapolis where Arthur attended the public schools. Arthur was confirmed May 15, 1932 by Pastor Louis T. Larson at Immanuel Lutheran Church. He was graduated from Edison High School, Minneapolis, and then enrolled at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, where in 1941 he received a B.A. degree with a major in history and a minor in music.

On August 16, 1941 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, Arthur was united in marriage to Inga Edeltrude Schroder, whom he had met while singing in the Augsburg College choir. To Inga and Arthur were born ten children: Carolyn, Daniel, Anders, Stephen, Arthur, Andrea, Rebecca, Luther, Laurie, and Julie.

Arthur continued his education at Luther Seminary. A factor that had led him to prepare for ordained ministry was a life-threatening experience in which he had promised to serve the Lord the rest of his life. During his seminary years, he spent 1942-43 as an intern at Christ Lutheran Church, Preston, MN. Arthur was graduated from Luther Seminary in 1945 with a B.Th. degree. He was ordained into the Ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Church on January 28, 1945 by the Rev. Dr. J. A. Aasgaard, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Pastor Aadland’s first call was to North Grand Lutheran in Wolfe Butte, ND and Bucyrus Lutheran in Bucyrus, ND where he served 1945-46. Congregations served thereafter were Peever Lutheran, Bethel Lutheran, and Buffalo Lake Lutheran, Peever, SD, 1947-48; American Lutheran and West Bethany Lutheran, DeSmet, SD, 1948-52; Immanuel Lutheran, Absarokee, MT and St. Olaf Lutheran, Red Lodge, MT, 1952-63; Highwater Lutheran and Old Westbrook Lutheran, Westbrook, MN, 1963-77; and Medo Lutheran, Mapleton, MN, 1978-85.

Pastor Aadland retired in 1985 and he and Inga moved to their lake home near Westbrook. Arthur Aadland enjoyed woodworking and gardening. At their lake home there was an apple orchard with other fruit trees. His main interest, however, was in music. He had studied voice and piano and wrote music. He was a soloist, pianist, and choir director. Arthur was interested in pipe organs. When he was at Augsburg College, he read a book about organ

building. He built three pipe organs, one of them at Old Westbrook Lutheran Church, another at Immanuel Lutheran, Absarokee, MT, and third for his home. Newspaper articles were written about the organs he built. Articles also appeared in *Grit*, *Minnesota Music Educators*, and *Lutheran Standard*.

In the parishes he served Pastor Aadland organized and directed choirs. He also promoted choir festivals. He felt it very important to visit the aged, the ill, and the shut-ins. His son, Daniel, remembers one Christmas Eve when the reading of the Christmas story and the opening of presents was delayed for what seemed to Daniel several hours as he was accompanying his father on these visits. Spreading the joy to others had to come first.

Pastor Aadland died May 20, 2009 at Westbrook Hospital in Westbrook, MN. He had been preceded in death by his wife, Inga, in 1993. He is survived by five daughters: Caroline Irene (Philip) Allmon, Eden Prairie, MN; Andrea Ruth (Charlea) Heeren, Plymouth, MN; Rebecca Dagny Aadland, Minneapolis, MN; Laurie Anne (Barron) Helgoe, Charleston, WV; Julie Annette Meyer, Eagan, MN; five sons: Daniel Arthur (Emily) Aadland, Absarokee, MT; Anders Bernard (Sandra) Aadland, Springfield, VA; Stephen Matthias (Jan) Aadland, Sioux Falls, SD; Arthur Bruce (Ellen) Aadland, Valley Spring, SD; Luther Philip Emmanuel (Julie) Aadland, Fergus Falls, MN; twenty-nine grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Sigrid Lybeck, Fostoria, OH, and Dorothy Mortenson, Venice, FL; and one brother, Otto "Bud" Aadland, Cape Coral, FL.

The funeral was held at Old Westbrook Lutheran Church on May 26, 2009. The liturgist was the Rev. Michael Stangeland and the preacher was the Rev. Thomas Aadland, a nephew of Arthur Aadland. A greeting was brought by the Rev. Jon Anderson, Bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Among the musical selections were "Christmas Meditation" (words and music written by Arthur Aadland) sung by Miles Lybeck, and "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art" sung by an ensemble of the Aadland children. Interment was at the Old Westbrook Church Cemetery, rural Westbrook, MN.

We Remember

Rev. Palmer E. Sevig

September 10, 1926 – July 10, 2009



Palmer Edward Sevig was born September 10, 1926 in Palermo, ND, the son of Peder and Anna (Halverson) Sevig, who were farmers. He was baptized by Pastor Aslak G. Lee at Trinity Lutheran Church in Palermo. Pastor John Dahlen confirmed Palmer, also at Trinity Lutheran. Palmer was educated in the Elementary School in Palermo. The Sevig family then moved to New Rockford, ND where Palmer was graduated from New Rockford High School in 1944. Palmer served in the U.S. Army in World War II. After his honorable discharge, he enrolled at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN. Following his graduation with the B.A. degree in 1950, he continued his studies at Augsburg Theological Seminary where he was graduated in 1953. Palmer Sevig was then also ordained in 1953. Pastor Sevig began his pastoral ministry as assistant pastor at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Minneapolis from 1953-54.

Palmer Sevig was married to Shirley Lee of Minneapolis on June 21, 1954 by Pastor Clarence J. Carlson at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. To Shirley and Palmer were born two sons, Lee and Todd.

Pastor Sevig's was called to Trinity Lutheran, New London, MN where he served 1954-59. From 1959-71 he was the pastor of Zion, Fergus Falls, where he enjoyed speaking regularly on the MorningWatch radio program sponsored by the Lutheran Churches of Fergus Falls. Pastor Sevig then moved to Iowa, where from 1971-73 he was the Protestant Chaplain at the Men's Reformatory in Anamosa, IA. His next call was to St. Sebald, Strawberry Point, IA, 1973-80. Thereafter he served at Zion, Rockford, IA from 1980-86. Pastor Sevig then moved back to Minnesota and 1987-91 he was pastor at Zion Irving, Paynesville, and at Harrison Presbyterian, USA, at Atwater. Pastor Sevig retired in 1991. Palmer and Shirley at first moved back to Iowa but then returned to Willmar, MN.

During the years of his pastoral ministry Pastor Sevig was a member of community organizations where he lived, such as the Lions Club and the Kiwanis Club. He enjoyed gardening, reading and traveling. A highlight of his travels was a trip to Norway with his family in 1975, during which he met relatives, saw the beautiful country in which they lived, and met Senator Hubert Humphrey outside a ship museum. Following his retirement he continued to preach and became involved in church and community groups throughout the Willmar area. Always one to stay active, when he could no longer drive a car he rode a bicycle to get to places in Willmar. He liked spending time with his sons, daughter-in-law, and his two grandchildren. Recently there had been vacations with his grandchildren that included swimming, fishing, and Monopoly marathons.

Pastor Palmer E. Sevig died July 10, 2009, at Westview Village in Willmar, MN. He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley. He is survived by his sons, Lee (Priscilla) Sevig, Brighton, MA, and Todd (Sharon), Ann Arbor, MI; two grandchildren, Mara and Joseph Sevig, Ann Arbor, MI; a sister, Martha Rovenko, Minot, ND, and a brother, Arthur (Alpha) Sevig, Minot, ND.

The funeral was held July 17, 2009, at Evangelical Free Church, Willmar, MN, near Westview Village where he had been worshipping. The Rev. Greg Gangwish, Senior Associate Pastor at Evangelical Free Church, gave the greeting and read the obituary. Reflections were offered by the Rev. Richard Carlson, Spicer, MN. The Rev. D. John Hopper of Hot Springs, SD, who had been one of Pastor Sevig's confirmands at Zion Lutheran in Fergus Falls, preached the sermon. There was special music by Mara and Joseph Sevig, Palmer Sevig's grandchildren. Interment was at Calvary Lutheran Cemetery, Willmar, MN.

We Remember

Rev. Clifford M. Grindland

April 25, 1922 – September 11, 2009



Clifford Merwin Grindland was born April 25, 1922 to Jens Christian and Mina (Smestad) Grindland on a farm near Bainville, MT. Clifford's parents were farmers and merchants (farm implements, Coast to Coast store, gas station, bulk oil). Clifford was baptized in May, 1922 by Pastor Olaf Kivile at First English Lutheran Church, Bainville. He was confirmed July 19, 1939 at First English Lutheran Church by Pastor J. L. Ranum. Clifford received his elementary and secondary education at Bainville Public School, from which he was graduated in 1940. He continued his education at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN. After one year he went back to Bainville to work in his father's business but later returned to Concordia, where majoring in philosophy, being graduated with a B.A. degree in 1948.

On April 10, 1949, Clifford was joined in marriage to Enid Ruth Jerde of Britton, SD, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, with Pastor Erling R. Jacobson officiating. To Enid and Clifford were born four children: Ann, Lori, Kay, and Eric.

Clifford's call into pastoral ministry came as a gradual and unfolding conviction throughout his high school and college days. He was influenced by the Christian home in which he was raised, his pastors, Sunday school teachers, and friends. He enrolled at Luther Seminary and received his B.Th. degree in 1951. During his seminary years Clifford supplied the Green Valley Lutheran Parish, Green Valley, WI from 1949-50. His senior year, 1950-51, he was also Assistant Lutheran Hospital Chaplain, Miller Hospital, St. Paul. In later years Clifford did further study at Biblical Seminary, New York, NY, and at San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, CA. Clifford was ordained into the Ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Church on June 3, 1951 at First English Lutheran Church in Bainville by the Rev. Laurence N. Field, President of the Rocky Mountain District of the ELC.

Pastor Grindland's first call was to a three-point parish in Nebraska: Zion Lutheran, Maskel; Our Savior's, Obert; and Bethany, Wynot where he served 1951-54. He then moved to St. John's, Webster, SD and served from 1954-60. Pastor Grindland's longest service was at First Lutheran, Morris, MN from 1960-84. He retired in 1984. Thereafter he did interim ministry at St. John, Marietta, MN, and St. Paul, Nassau, MN, 1985-91.

Pastor Grindland was a member of the South Dakota District Nursing Home Board, Bethesda Board of Beresford, SD, and the Bethesda Nursing Home Board, Webster, SD. He was president of the Ne-So-Dak Bible Camp Board, Waubay, SD. He was also a member of the Luther Crest Bible Camp Board, Alexandria, MN, and the Lutheran Campus Ministry Board, University of Minnesota at Morris, Morris, MN. He was on the original board that in 1960 started Lutheran campus ministry at Morris. Highlights of his pastoral ministry included training fourteen intern pastors and many lay Bible study leaders. He loved youth ministry. First Lutheran in Morris had a purple bus that was used for many youth outings and scout trips. The new University of Minnesota at Morris campus opened an exciting ministry to college youth, an effort he supported long into his retirement. In Morris he worked with many visitation pastors and helped build an area retirement facility.

In 1992 Clifford and Enid moved to their cottage on Lake Carlos, Alexandria, MN where they had vacationed for fifty summers. Clifford enjoyed fishing, boating and water sports. He had a strong interest in photography, both movies and slides. He also did recording, making the first recordings of the Concordia College Choir under the direction of Paul J. Christianson. Clifford liked to travel and made trips to Norway and the Holy Land. In Morris he was president of both the Kiwanis Club and the Sons of Norway.

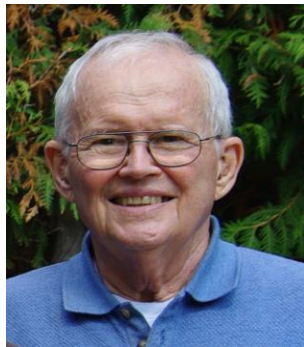
Pastor Grindland died September 11, 2009 at Douglas County Hospital, Alexandria, MN. He is survived by his wife, Enid R. Grindland, Alexandria, MN; three daughters, Ann Grindland, St. Paul, MN, Kay Grindland, Grand Marais, MN, Lori Woodruff, Cypress, CA; one son, Eric (Marlene) Grindland, Sartell, MN; three grandchildren, Chris Woodruff, Trevor and Kia Grindland; and a sister, Gloria (Robert) Guibord, St. Paul, MN.

The funeral was held September 15, 2009, at Calvary Lutheran Church, Alexandria. The liturgist was the Rev. Mark Astrup and the preacher the Rev. Dr. Rollen Halvorson. The Rev. Paul Ranum, Bishop Emeritus of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, spoke bringing greetings from the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Interment was at the Carlos Prairie Cemetery, Carlos, MN.

We Remember

Rev. Arthur R. Berthelsen

February 21, 1932 – October 23, 2009



Arthur Raymond Berthelsen was born February 21, 1932, in Oshkosh, WI to the Rev. Holger and Clara (Rehwal) Berthelsen. Holger Berthelsen was a pastor in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church. Arthur was baptized April 10, 1932 by his father at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Oshkosh. When Arthur was two years old his mother, Clara Berthelsen, died after the birth of his sister, Priscilla. In 1935 Holger Berthelsen married Ruth Jensen, who loved Arthur and Priscilla and helped Holger raise them. Arthur attended public schools in Royal, Iowa and Castro Valley, California. He was confirmed by his father April 14, 1946 at Faith Lutheran Church in Castro Valley, CA. When his family moved to Viborg, SD, he entered the Viborg High School and graduated in 1949. Arthur then attended Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD for two years until his father's death. Arthur worked for one year and then entered the United States Army in 1953. He was honorably discharged in 1956 and returned to Augustana College where he was graduated with a B.A. degree in 1959.

Arthur was united in marriage September 1, 1962 to Rose Marie Wornson of Hadley, MN, a graduate of Fairview Hospital School of Nursing, at Hadley Lutheran Church. Officiating at the wedding was Pastor Raymond H. Engh. To Rose and Arthur were born three children: Michael, Mark, and Beth.

Having been influenced by his father, Pastor Holger Berthelsen, Arthur chose after his college graduation to prepare for pastoral ministry. He enrolled at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN in the fall of 1959. His year of internship was spent at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Canby, MN. He was graduated with the B.D. degree in 1963. On June 16, 1963, Arthur was ordained into the Ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Church by the Rev. Dr. Everett O. Gilbertson, Bishop of the South Dakota District.

Pastor Berthelsen began his ministry at St. John Lutheran, Bradley, SD and Crocker Lutheran, Crocker, SD where he served from 1963-67. His next call was to Immanuel, Canova, SD where he served from 1967-73. His last call in 1973 was to Grace Lutheran in Belview, MN where he remained until he retired Easter Sunday in 1997. During his retirement Arthur and Rose chose to remain in Belview.

While in Canova, SD, Pastor Berthelsen was president of the Canova Commercial Club. In Belview, MN, he participated in the activities of the American Legion Post. He was a member of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Call Committee. In the communities in which he served, he felt it was important to attend school sports events and concerts in order to support the young people. He also thought it was important to meet people where they were, at work, at the post office, or at the Co-op gas station. His main hobby was model trains and he liked to share jokes and stories with the family and friends.

Pastor Arthur Berthelsen died October 23, 2009 at Parkview Home, Belview, MN. He is survived by his wife, Rose Marie Berthelsen, Belview, MN; his daughter, Beth (David) Jahn, Hutchinson, MN; his sons, Michael (Melissa) Berthelsen, Northfield, MN, and Mark (Kari) Berhelsen, St. Paul, MN; his grandchildren, Tasha and Devan Jahn and Erik, Nathan and Jonah Berthelsen; and his sister, Priscilla (Alton) Gunnarson.

The funeral was held at Grace Lutheran Church, Belview, MN on October 27, 2009. The liturgist and preacher was the Rev. Pari Bailey. Representing the Southwestern Minnesota Synod were Bishop Jon Anderson and Synod Minister Jeff Engholm, who, together with the Rev. Trevor Bailey, also assisted at the sacrament of Holy Communion that was included in the service. Interment was at Grace Lutheran Cemetery, Belview.

We Remember

Rev. Lowell O. Berg

May 11, 1944 – November 21, 2009



Lowell Orville Berg was born May 11, 1944 in Sioux City, IA, the son of Orville Theodore Augustus and Madalene V. (Miller) Berg. The family lived on a farm near Holly Springs where Lowell grew up. Prior to being a farmer, Lowell's father had been a shopkeeper and a carpenter who did home remodeling. Later in his retirement, he built grandfather clocks. Lowell was baptized August 24, 1944 at his home by the Rev. Glenn Squires, a Methodist minister who was the father of Lowell's aunt. He attended elementary schools in Holly Springs and Hornick. Lowell was confirmed May 25, 1958 at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Sioux City, IA by Pastor Stanley Ecklund. He was graduated from Westwood High School at Sloan, IA, and continued his education at Morningside College, Sioux City where he studied history, art, and philosophy and received a B.S. degree in 1967.

Lowell was married to Sonja Rae Johnson of Sioux City at Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City on November 26, 1965. Officiating at the wedding was Pastor Donohue Sarff. To Sonja and Lowell a daughter, Amy Christina, was born October 22.

At Lowell's confirmation interview he was asked by Pastor Stanley Ecklund, "Will you consider the ministry of the church when you choose your vocation?" The seed that had been planted led Lowell to enroll at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN in the fall of 1967. His intern year, 1969-70, was spent at a four-point parish in Montana, three small congregations: Dodson, Loring, and Whitewater related to Malta. Lowell was graduated from Luther Seminary in 1971. He was ordained September 5, 1971 at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Sioux City, IA by the Rev. Dr. Ednund T. Smits, one of his professors at Luther Seminary. This was the first ordination at St. Luke Lutheran of a son of the congregation.

Pastor Berg's first call was to a two-point parish: Foxhome Lutheran and Vukko Lutheran, Foxhome, MN where he served 1971-78. While at Foxhome he was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department. His next call in 1978 was to Bethlehem Lutheran, Hills, MN. During his years in Hills, he was also chaplain at Tuff Memorial Nursing Home. After twenty-nine years at Bethlehem Lutheran, he began on Christmas Day 2007 interim ministry for the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Together with Pastor David J. Webster he was interim pastor at Immanuel Lutheran, Clara City, until December 1, 2008 when he became interim pastor at St. John's Lutheran, Raymond.

Pastor Berg did not retire but died November 21, 2009 at Rice Memorial Hospital, Willmar, MN, while engaged in this interim ministry.

Lowell Berg was an artist who loved to do carvings, sculptures and paintings. He did several shields for the apostles now hanging at Bethlehem Lutheran, Hills. He also did shields for the women about whom he wrote in a "Women of Faith" series. In his sermons and speeches, he often referred to the great symbols of the church. The significance of his ministry was recognized. In 1986 he was one of those nominated as "Citizen of the Year" in Hills. In 1984 he was invited to preach at a service that was part of the Centennial celebration at Morningside College, his alma mater. During his period of interim ministry he enjoyed the monthly meetings of the Synod's interim ministers.

Pastor Lowell Berg is survived by his wife, Sonja Rae Berg, Benedict, MN, and his daughter, Amy Berg, Sioux Falls, SD, together with other relatives and friends.

The funeral service, which included Holy Communion, was held November 23, 2009 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Raymond. Officiating was the Rev. Jon V. Anderson, Bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, and the Rev. Jeffrey M. Engholm, Synod Minister. Scripture lessons were read by the Rev. David Webster and the Rev. Kurt Wied. Interment was at Lakeport Township Cemetery, Laporte, MN.

We Remember

Rev. Clair E. Johnson

October 5, 1925 – December 24, 2009



Clair Emery Johnson was born October 5, 1925, in Evansville, MN, the son of the Rev. Constant Carl Peter and Hildur (Renius) Johnson. Constant Johnson was a pastor of the Augustana Synod. Clair was baptized October 27, 1925, by his father at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evansville. Clair's early education was at the public schools in St. Paul and Chisago City, MN. In 1939 the family moved to Jamestown, NY where Constant Johnson was pastor of First Lutheran Church. Clair was confirmed May 19, 1940 at First Lutheran Church by his father. He was graduated from high school in 1943 in Jamestown. He served from 1943 to 1946 in the United States Army and was stationed in both the European and Pacific theaters. After completing his military service he attended Augustana College, Rock Island, IL where in addition to his studies, he played both varsity baseball

and basketball. Clair was graduated in 1950 magna cum laude and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. That fall he enrolled at Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island where he received the B.D. degree in 1954. Prior to applying for ordination he did post-graduate work at Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY, completing the S.T.M. degree in 1955.

Clair was united in marriage to Christine Brostrom on January 26, 1956 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, North Minneapolis. Participating in the wedding service were Abner W. Arthur, Pastor at Bethlehem; the fathers of the bridal couple, Pastor Carl A. Brostrom and Pastor Constant Johnson; and Pastor Malvin Hammarberg, whom Constant Johnson was assisting at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church. To Christine and Clair were born two children: Madeline Clair and Karl Christian.

On June 17, 1956, Clair Johnson was ordained by the Rev. Dr. Oscar A. Benson, President of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church at the ninety-seventh synod of the Church held at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN. The ordination service was held at the Auditorium-Field House of Concordia College. Pastor Clair Johnson was called to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, New York City where he served until 1958. During those two years, in addition to serving the congregation, Pastor Johnson was also continuing his graduate studies at Union Theological Seminary.

In September of 1958, Clair Johnson accepted a call to Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN to serve as its first chaplain and to teach in the Religion Department. In 1962 he became a full-time professor in the Religion Department and taught until 1995. In 1964 Clair's dissertation, "Verbum Vocale: Biblical Preaching Today," was approved at Union Theological Seminary and he was granted the Th.D. degree. Some years later in 1971 he explained to his colleagues in the Religion Department his interest in biblical preaching. He said that he had been

preaching on a rather regular basis for twenty-five years since he was discharged from military service in 1946. He preached as a college student, a seminary student, a graduate student; after ordination as a parish pastor, a college chaplain, a vice-pastor, and as a supply preacher in numerous pulpits. He had preached because, like the prophets and apostles he had felt impelled to become first an auditor and then a spokesman of the Divine Word. In the Religion Department, Clair developed what became a popular course, *Religion in America*, a historical survey and analysis of the interaction of religion and culture in the United States from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. During his years at Gustavus, he was an avid fan of the Gustavus baseball and basketball teams, carrying on his interest in sports developed when he was a student at Augustana College where he played both baseball and basketball.

While at Gustavus, Clair Johnson also served as interim pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church, Judson, MN and chaplain at the Mankato Lutheran Home. He received the Gustavus Faculty Service Award for his volunteer ministry at the Nicollet County Jail. He was given the Covenant Award by the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations in 2004 for contributions he had made which strengthened the partnership between the college and congregations. He preached in congregations throughout the area, reviewed books for theological journals, and gave presentations on religious topics, especially religion in America and the life and work of Martin Luther.

The Rev. Dr. Clair Johnson died at Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital, Mankato, MN on December 24, 2009. He is survived by his children: Madeline Clair Johnson and her husband, Jamie Pillers, and their daughter, Lucia, of Oakland, CA; and the Rev. K. Christian Johnson and his wife, Karen Christianson, and their children, Peter and Maya, of St. James, MN. He was preceded in death by his wife, Christine Brostrom Johnson, in 1995, and his brother, the Rev. Constant R. Johnson, in 2005.

The funeral was held December 30, 2009, at First Lutheran Church, St. Peter, MN. The Rev. Alan Bray was the liturgist and the Rev. Bernhard Erling preached the sermon. Words of welcome and remembrance were spoken by the Rev. Jon Anderson, Bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod and the Rev. Brian Johnson, Chaplain at Gustavus Adolphus College. Interment is to be at Resurrection Cemetery, St. Peter, MN.

We Remember

Rev. Clifford Nelson

June 17, 1916 – December 24, 2009



Clifford Harold Nelson was born June 17, 1916, in Belmond, IA, the son of Nickolai Rokke and Emelia (Oscarson) Nelson, who were farmers. Clifford was baptized at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Belmond on July 2, 1916 by Pastor H. C. Holm. He was confirmed December 27, 1931 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church by Pastor Arthur G. Langholz. Clifford received his elementary and secondary education in the schools of the Belmond Independent School District. After his high school graduation, he continued his education at Waldorf College, Forest City, IA where he completed the two year degree in 1935. Clifford then engaged in farming.

On June 4, 1938, Clifford Nelson was married to Elnor G. Olson of Badger, IA, whom he had met at Waldorf College, at Badger Lutheran Church. Officiant at the marriage was the Rev. Herbert A. Peterson, an uncle of the bride. To Elnor and Clifford were born four children, David, Naomi, Eldon, and Stephen. The couple made their home west of Belmond where they farmed and began raising their family. Clifford, however, felt called by God to leave the farm to prepare for gospel ministry. He enrolled at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN where he received the B.A. degree in 1946. He then continued his studies at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN where he obtained the C.T. degree in 1949.

Clifford Nelson was ordained into the Ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Belmond on June 5, 1949 by Dr. Nikolai Astrup Larsen, President of the Iowa District of the ELC. Also participating in the ordination service was the Rev. Otis M. Severseike, officiant and pastor at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, and Dr. Oscar C. Hanson, President of the Lutheran Bible Institute. Pastor Nelson's first call was to a four-point parish in North Dakota: First Lutheran, Fessenden; Hoff Lutheran, Heimdal; Hamburg Lutheran, Hamburg; and Trinity Lutheran, Bremen, 1949-51. Pastor Nelson then moved to Roseni Lutheran, Beresford, SD, and St. Peter Lutheran, Burbank, SD, 1951-55. From 1955-61, he served Zion Lutheran, Appleton, MN. At Atonement Lutheran in St. Cloud, MN, 1961-72, Pastor Nelson was a home missionary organizing a new congregation. While at Atonement on February 21, 1962, Luther Seminary upgraded his 1949 C.T. degree to B.D. Pastor Nelson served Zion Lutheran, Eureka, SD, 1972-74; then Immanuel Lutheran, Harlan, IA, 1974-80; and Grace Lutheran, Sisseton, SD, 1980 to his retirement in 1982. Thereafter he was Visitation Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran, St. Cloud, MN, 1984-1996. After living in their retirement in St. Cloud, Clifford and Elnor moved to Monticello, MN, and then to Dixon, IL, to be near where their son, David, is living.

In his ministry, Pastor Nelson was interested in evangelism and missions. While in St. Cloud he took a leadership role in Lutheran and Roman Catholic dialogue discussions and was active in racial and justice issues, cooperating with the Roman Catholic Board of Charities. He was once vice-chair of the Southwestern Minnesota District of the American Lutheran Church. He participated in a Hospital Chaplaincy program, spending two months in Houston, TX, where his daughter, Naomi, was living. In the congregations he served, he gave much attention to visiting the shut-ins. A record of his ministry is found in his ninety-one page autobiography "The Pages of My Life." In the summers Clifford Nelson played golf and enjoyed boating. He was interested in other sports and liked to read. All year round he found time to be with his family.

Pastor Clifford Nelson died January 12, 2010, in Dixon, IL. He is survived by his wife, Elnor Nelson, Dixon, IL; his four children, the Rev. David H. (Claudia) Nelson, Grand Detour, IL, Naomi D. Nelson (Philip Dahlberg), Houston TX, Eldon C. Nelson, Spring Valley, WI, and the Rev. Stephen J. (Maureen) Nelson, Park Ridge, IL, who is Director for International Personnel in the Global Mission unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; four grandchildren, Erik Otterstad, Austin, TX, Karl (Holly) Nelson, Elgin, IL, Kaitlyn and Benjamin Nelson, Park Ridge, IL; four great grandchildren, Niklaus, Thomas, and August Nelson, Elgin, IL, and Tristram Otterstad, Austin, TX. He is also survived by a brother, Reuben Nelson, and two sisters, Mildred Meyer and Esther Larson. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Ingrid Nelson.

The funeral was held January 16, 2010, at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Belmond, IA, with the Rev. James F. Harbaugh, officiating. A son, Eldon C. Nelson, spoke on behalf of the family. Four grandchildren were among the pall bearers. Interment was in the St. Olaf Lutheran Church Cemetery, Belmond, IA.

