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How the WELS/LCMS Split Affected the Ministry and Family of Loran Schultz

Loran Schultz was born on January 6, 1933 to Ferdinand and Matilda Schultz. He was the youngest of eleven children. He had three brothers and seven sisters. He grew up in Kenosha and Milwaukee, Wisconsin where his father served as Wisconsin Synod teachers. He graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which was known at that time as Lutheran High School, in 1950. He went to Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota to become a Wisconsin Synod teacher. At that time the students were given the choice of graduating in three years or four years. Loran graduated in 1954 from Dr. Martin Luther College after going there for four years. He served as a Wisconsin Synod teacher and principal for forty-five years from 1954-1999. His first call was to St. John's in Pigeon, Michigan. He served there from 1954-1958. His second call was to St. Paul's in Mt. Calvary/Town Forest, Wisconsin. He served there from 1958-1966. He served in Algoma, Wisconsin from 1966-1971 and Good Shepherd in West Bend, Wisconsin from 1971-1998. After retiring, Loran took a one-year call to Zion in Chesaning, Michigan. He served there from 1998-1999.

As a child Loran's father, Ferdinand would at times talk about the problems the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods were having. He discussed these problems both with his family and also with some of his close friends who were Missouri Synod teachers. As a teacher in Milwaukee, Ferdinand was able to attend a yearly teacher conference of the

Wisconsin and Missouri Synods. While the problems were going on with the two Synods not much was discussed about the problems in these conferences except in private. Later on when it came close to the break in fellowship between the two Synods then there was much discussion about the problems. However, the teachers still got along well with one another.

Besides at home Loran was not well informed about the problems the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods were having until he attended Dr. Martin Luther College. There he was kept well informed by his professors, especially Professor Hoenecke and President Schweppe. At Dr. Martin Luther College Loran often privately discussed the problems the two Synods were having with his classmates since several of them were members of the Missouri Synod and because many others had relatives in the Missouri Synod.

Loran received his first call to St. John's in Pigeon, Michigan. There he did not have to deal with many problems concerning the problems the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods were having. However, there was a problem at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Missouri and Wisconsin Synod congregations supported Michigan Lutheran Seminary. The Missouri Synod churches continued to do so even while the problems were going on between the two Synods, which led to a controversy at the school. Over time, these Missouri Synod churches either stopped supporting Michigan Lutheran Seminary or joined the Wisconsin Synod.

Loran was well informed about the problems the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods were having while he served at his second call at St. Paul's in Mt. Calvary/Town Forest, Wisconsin. His pastor, Pastor Siegler, served as the secretary of the Wisconsin Synod's

doctrinal commission. He also served for two terms as the District President of the Northern Wisconsin District. While Loran served at St. Paul's, he was the secretary at Winnebago Lutheran Academy. Winnebago was greatly concerned about the problems the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods were having and there was much discussion about these problems at their meetings. Several of the churches, which supported Winnebago Lutheran Academy left the Wisconsin Synod and joined the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

In 1961, while Loran was serving at St. Paul's, the Wisconsin Synod officially made its break in fellowship with the Missouri Synod. In 1966, he took a call to Algoma, Wisconsin. At this time, this church had many of the same doctrinal problems that the Missouri Synod had. However, by the grace of God, when Loran left, many of these problems were resolved.

Loran Schultz did not have to face many other problems with the Wisconsin and Missouri Synod split in his ministry. However, he did have to deal with it in his family life. Loran was married twice. His first wife was Patricia Klug, who died in 1994. His second wife is Arlo Schmidt. Loran's first wife, Patricia grew up in the Missouri Synod. After Patricia graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran High School she applied to Concordia, River Forest. At that time Concordia, River Forest had so many students they put Patricia on a waiting list. This led her to go to Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota where she met Loran Schultz who was a year older than her. After Loran graduated from Dr. Martin Luther College in 1954, Patricia and Loran got married in her Missouri Synod church in Town of Scott.

Patricia's family remained Missouri Synod all of their life. Patricia's father and mother were devoted Christians who read their Bibles every day and who were deeply concerned about the problems the Missouri Synod had. However, they could never leave their Synod. Patricia's brother, Dennis Klug, served as a teacher in the Missouri Synod. He too was conscientious about the problems the Missouri Synod was having, but he too never left. The rest of Patricia also remained in the Missouri Synod, but they did so mainly because they were faithful to their pastor, church, and synod.

Loran had many conversations with Patricia's family about the problems the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods were having. He had many of these same conversations with members of his own family as well. Two of Loran's brothers, Adalbert and Ronald became Wisconsin Synod pastors, as well as his brother-in-law Howard Russow. His other brother, Ferdinand, became a Wisconsin Synod teacher like Loran. Loran's brother-in-law, Howard Russow served in the Wisconsin Synod for many years. Yet later in his ministry he decided to join the Missouri Synod because he felt the Wisconsin Synod was too narrow minded. In spite of this three of Howard's children became Wisconsin Synod pastors and two became Wisconsin Synod teachers. Another one of his sons, however, did become a Missouri Synod pastor.

Loran's brother, Ronald, also served as a pastor in the Wisconsin Synod for about eight years, but he too joined the Missouri Synod because he thought the Wisconsin Synod was turning into a sect. However, since he was very appreciative of the training the Wisconsin Synod gave him, all of his children attended Wisconsin Synod schools. One of his sons became a Wisconsin Synod pastor and his youngest daughter married a Wisconsin Synod pastor. Loran had several conversations with his Missouri Synod

relatives about his concerns over what they were doing, but these conversations never resulted into fights or resentment towards one another.

Loran was greatly loyal to the Wisconsin Synod because he knew they taught God's Word in its truth and purity. He passed this belief onto his children who are members of the Wisconsin Synod. Of his six children, his son Stephan is a Wisconsin Synod teacher/principal in Juneau, Wisconsin. His son, Mark, graduated from Dr. Martin Luther College but did not receive a call. His daughter Lisa also graduated from Dr. Martin Luther College and served as a Wisconsin Synod teacher before she got married to Carl Schmugge who is currently the recruitment director at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. His daughter, Marleah, also married a Wisconsin Synod pastor, Mark Walters, who serves in Maribel, Wisconsin. Besides his children, eight of Loran's grandchildren attended Martin Luther College and two attended Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. In spite of all of the conflicts Loran Schultz had to face in his ministry and family because of the split of the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods, this did not affect his immediate family. He and his family remained members of the Wisconsin Synod.