

**Training Generations to be the Salt of the Earth:
The Ministry of Professor Emeritus Morton A. Schroeder**

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The crowds were gathered around the hill side eagerly awaiting the words of the carpenter's son. News spread quickly about the great things he was able to do: healing diseases and sicknesses, driving out demons, halting seizures, and freeing the paralyzed from their immobility. It was no wonder why they were gathered here today. But were they prepared to hear what Jesus was about to say to them? Were they prepared to hear the stinging truth about divorce, adultery, murder, anger, love for your enemies, stewardship, and prayer? Were they prepared to be told that they were the salt of the earth and the light of the world?

"You are the salt of the earth" Matthew 5:13. Morton Schroeder never imagined that he would spend over forty years training generations to be just that, the salt of the earth. But that is exactly what he did. He trained generations to be the salt of the earth through carefully crafted and passionate instruction, while other times through the silent witness of faith and the reverent dignity of his calling. It was through the befriending of a student who immediately felt like part of the Schroeder family. It was through the genuine concern of the well being of a colleague's family. It was the steadfast leadership which continued to press on despite difficult circumstances. It was the gospel comfort shared when tears were flowing and the world seemed as though it was crumbling. It was the dedication to excellence in everything that one did in life.

Just ask those early classes from Madison Lutheran School if Morton A. Schroeder trained them to be the salt of the earth. The answer would be evident. Possibly one can tell by the frequent visits and correspondence still received today between them and Morton Schroeder. Possibly one can tell by the tears of gratitude that flow from those students when they talk about their teacher, and their friend. Possibly it is seen in countless high school students from St. Croix Lutheran High School who made the ministry their life because of Morton A. Schroeder. Or

maybe it is the countless teachers of this current generation who learned what ministry meant from an English professor who taught them much more than just a love for Harriet Beecher Stowe or Ralph Waldo Emerson.

There is much more to the ministry of Morton A. Schroeder than just dates and places of service. There is much more to Morton A. Schroeder than just the publishing of writings and the various positions held throughout the years. There is much more indeed! For when one looks beyond the stately stature, one sees the heart of a servant. This servant dedicated his life to training future generations to be the salt of the earth.

This time spent with Morton Schroeder reveals more than just a roadmap that retraces the steps of ones ministry. This interview reveals the heart of a servant who listened to Jesus' words, and who fully expected others to do the same. This interview is meant to do much more than talk about those places of service, because it is meant to show how to carry out the ministry: whether it is guiding a two room school in Madison, overcoming challenges in New Ulm, rebuilding a Winona school in disarray, building an area Lutheran high school from nothing, or training future called workers in how to train Jesus little lambs to be the salt of the earth.

This time spent with Morton Schroeder will reveal expectations for the ministry from one who knows the struggles, the heartache and the joy of service. And now as one who sees the ministry from the standpoint of one who serves his God as a faithful layman. We would do well to listen to the story, to share the tears, to experience the joy of ministry, and to take to heart the sound advice of Professor Emeritus Morton A. Schroeder about what it means to train generations to be the salt of the earth.

Sola Deo Gloria

Timeline of Service

Eastside Lutheran School, Madison, Wisconsin 1941-1942

Madison Lutheran School, Madison, Wisconsin (formerly Eastside Lutheran School) 1942-1950

St. Paul's Lutheran School, New Ulm, Minnesota 1950-1955

St. Matthew's Lutheran School, Winona, Minnesota 1955-1958

Saint Croix Lutheran High School, West Saint Paul, Minnesota 1958-1971

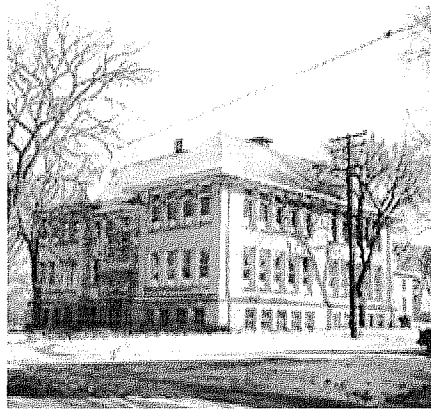
Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota 1971-1990

Board for Parish Education 1971-1980

Prof. emeritus Morton Schroeder also taught summer school at Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota and Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Illinois.

History of Madison Lutheran School

By: Judy Kuster



Madison Lutheran School, located first in Eastside English Lutheran Church and later at 1001 Jennifer Street in Madison, Wisconsin, began in 1942, as a "Synodical Conference School." It was supported by several Madison area Lutheran churches in the Missouri (now LCMS), Wisconsin (now WELS), and "old Norwegian" Synods (now ELS). It closed in 1965.

On February 1, 1927, Eastside Lutheran School (WELS) opened in a house on Fair Oaks Avenue. The first teacher was Mrs. William (Renata) Beschnett from Good Thunder, Minnesota, and the school served 21 children, grades 1-4. The following fall, the upper grades were added, enrollment was 59 students, and an additional teacher, was hired. Grades 1-4 moved from the original house to another and an annex was added to the church building on the corner North Street and East Mifflin for the upper grades. In 1930, the lower grades were also moved to the church site where the school continued to serve children primarily from Eastside English Lutheran Church until 1942. The school now "consisted of two rooms. The *floor level* of the upper room -- grades five through eight -- was the same as the *floor level* of the narthex, nave, and sacristy. It had tall windows on one side. The opposite side was separated from the nave by two folding doors which had to be opened on Friday afternoon to accommodate Sunday's worshippers and then closed on Monday morning to accommodate the week's scholars. The room was pleasant. . . . The *floor level* of the lower room -- grades one through four -- was . . . about one-half above the outside ground level and one-half below the outside ground level. It also had access to the outside through windows that were much closer to the ceiling than the floor." (personal correspondence, Morton Schroeder, February 2001). In 1941, Morton (Salty) Schroeder was called to this school. Esther Buchholz had been teaching there since 1936.

Holy Cross (ELS, organized as a daughter congregation of Our Saviour's in 1926) opened a Christian Day School on Milwaukee Street a few blocks away from Eastside English, in September of 1927 with 32 children in grades 3-6. Pastor at the time was Erling Ylvisaker. The first teacher was Miss Harriet Maakestad. From 1931-1935 the teacher was Mr. Emil John. He was followed by Mrs. Ada Sievert, Naomi Birkholtz, and Rev. Raymond Branstad. The pastor from Our Saviour's in 1927 was S. C. Ylvisaker and from 1930-1946 was Adolph M. Harstad. "Morning by morning he (Harstad) and his Model A Ford made the rounds to pick up children and transport them to Holy Cross Christian Day School. At the close of the school day they had

to be returned home and again he was on the job assisted at times by members and the pastor of Holy Cross." In the 1930's some children from Immanuel Church attended this school.

On August 3, 1942, Holy Cross was unable to fill staffing needs for the upcoming school year and Rev. Ylvisaker approached Eastside to request whether their students could be added to the Eastside Lutheran School. By this time, Holy Cross Lutheran School was also serving children from Immanuel and Our Saviour's

On August 11, 1942, a meeting was held with members of Eastside English, Our Saviour, Holy Cross, and Immanuel, "for the purpose of discussing a joint Christian Day School." The meeting was chaired by Rev. Theophil Mahnke, pastor of Eastside and Maurice Young from Eastside kept minutes. This minutes reflect the following were present: **From Eastside** - Edward R. Boldt, Henry von Hoersten, Morton A. Schroeder, William Hackbart, Theo Mahnke, A.C. Harbort, Maurice G. Young, and Clayton Hale. **From Our Saviour's** - F.A. McGinnis (sic F.H. Maginnis), L.O. Larson, Benjamin Torgeson, Roy. J. Nelson, A.M. Harstad. **From Immanuel** - H.O. Hemecke (possibly H.O. Heinecke?), F.C. Brandhorst. **From Holy Cross** - E. Ylvisaker, Andrew Dahle, Severt P. Shelvik.

Shortly after this initial meeting, the Madison Lutheran School was formed by East Side (WELS - Rev. Theophil Mahnke), Holy Cross (ELS - Rev. Erling Ylvisaker), Immanuel (LCMS - Rev. F.C. Brandhorst), and Our Saviour's (ELS - Rev. Adolph Harstad) congregations. Classes met in Eastside English Lutheran Church on North Street. 112 students were enrolled. The principal for the 1942-43 school year was Rev. Theophil Mahnke. The first teachers serving the new combined school were Morton Schroeder and Esther Buchholz. This was not the first time they had "worked together." Esther Buchholz was Morton Schroeder's teacher at Trinity Lutheran School, Bay City, Michigan. Schroeder reports that he still has his report card for the term - 1928-1929 when he was in Grade II. "When it became apparent that the faculty was grievously overworked -- yes, almost overwhelmed -- part-time teaching help was engaged. This *third* room was located in the church basement, then called by Eastside's members "the church parlors." (personal correspondence, Morton Schroeder, February 2001). A very interesting [article by Morton Schroeder](#), written February 2001, provides many details about the early days of Madison Lutheran.

An informational meeting of the parents and interested members was held on Friday, October 16, 1942, for the purpose of forming a P.T.A.

Monona (LCMS) joined the Madison Lutheran School association in the fall of 1942. St. Paul (WELS->LCMS), and Mt. Olive (LCMS) congregations later joined in the project, and in 1945, the Madison Lutheran School Association purchased the Harvey School at 1001 Jennifer Street on April 27, 1945, for \$10,500 as well as additional lots for the playground for \$4500. The total cost was \$17,816.95. In documentation from the Fidelity-Phenix Fire Insurance Company (undated) it states "This school was originally called the Washington Irving School. It was completed in March 1905 at a cost of \$25,751.17, according to School Board Records. The name was subsequently changed to the Harvey School. The Board turned the building back to the city on August 12, 1941. The Common Council proceedings of April 27, 1945 show the building and site was sold for \$10,500." Enrollment was 100. Another school in Madison, the Doty Street

School was built by the same architect. The Doty Street School is now an office building and still standing a few blocks from The Square by Lake Monona in Madison.

For anyone interested in exploring the neighborhood around Madison Lutheran, [Friends of Historic Third Lake Ridge](#) has collected interesting neighborhood data with pictures and information about houses and businesses in the area.

Dedication services for the new school were held at 10:30 a.m. on August 26, 1945.

The school was governed by a [school board](#) which consisted of the pastors and two elected members from each of the congregations. The Article of Incorporation are dated April 12, 1946 and the [By-Laws of Madison Lutheran School](#) are dated July 1, 1946. Madison Lutheran School celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1952. An undated article [Services at Three Churches Sunday To Mark 25th Anniversary of Madison Lutheran School](#) appeared in one of the Madison newspapers. The 25th Anniversary Book printed in 1952 explains how MLS was funded - "Madison Lutheran School is financed by the contributions of the members of the seven Synodical Conference congregations in Madison. The school budget is presented to all of the congregations. When the budget has been adopted, the total is prorated to the congregations according to the communicant membership of the congregations. The proportionate share of each congregation is included in the regular budget of the congregation."

Students also came from other Madison congregations besides the seven "Synodical Conference" churches that supported the school, including Bethel, Calvary, Luther Memorial, St. John's, Lake Edge, Grace, Peace, Our Redeemer, and St. Luke's Episcopal, and Trinity Lutheran Church.

[A list of students who attended Madison Lutheran School](#) - over 1000 names of children who attended MLS.

[A list of teachers who taught at Madison Lutheran School](#)

[A list of pastors from the seven Synodical Conference churches from 1942-1965.](#)

Individual Class home pages (other classes are welcome to join in this project and will be linked below):

- [Class of 1949](#)
- [Class of 1958](#)

Completed for the opening of school in the fall of 1950, the seven congregations supported improvement of the bathroom facilities at a cost of \$15,000.

The reported grading system was

- A-----93-100--Superior
- B-----85-92----Excellent

- C-----77-84----Good
- D-----70-76----Fair to Poor
- E--F-Below 70-Failure

Although I remember bringing lunch some days in first and second grade, we also enjoyed a hot lunch program which cost \$1.00/week. In 1957-58 the cost of hot lunch was raised to twenty-five cents per meal. At that time the average meals served daily was 265. The school was also a member of the National School Lunch Program. Milk was furnished in the Special Milk Program at a cost of two cents per day. Cooks serving the school included Mrs. Behrens, Mrs. Stolper, Mrs. Wolter, Mrs. Oakey, Mrs. Ziehlsdorff. Some favorite recipes. Mrs. Stolper passed away in 2002.

Bussing was started sometime during the 1950's at a cost of \$1.25/week for the first child in the family and \$1.00/week for each additional child.

Children with special needs could not always be accommodated at Madison Lutheran. The school was not accessible. Minutes reflected that some children were transferred to other schools where special needs could be better handled, although the classroom teachers did provide tutoring services. Children who didn't speak any English were also enrolled occasionally in the lower grades, including from India and Norway. Speech therapy services were available in the 1950's, at times provided by one of the teachers, at other times provided by a clinician coming from the University of Wisconsin. The minutes also reflect that the school did not tolerate repeated harassing (bullying) of younger children by older students. Occasionally children with serious behavior problems were asked to leave.

The school provided some innovative programs. For example, German was taught four periods/week in the first grade starting the fall of 1954. The music program at Madison Lutheran was also very strong. Students from the upper grades were also invited to be helpers/mentors for students in the lower grades - helping with playground duties, correcting tests, etc.

Janitors who served Madison Lutheran included

- Mr. Raymond Droster - Morton Schroeder, recalls that he "was always referred to as 'Mr. Droster' by students and staff. . . . He was very important to the school. He was 1) janitor, 2) handyman, 3) student confidant, 4) friend to all, 5) delivery man (gopher), and sometimes ambulance driver. When we took pictures of the staff, Mr. Droster was included." Mr. Droster was hired August 1, 1945 and retired at the end of the 1951 school year.
- Mr. Carling
- Mr. Paul Olson, 1952-1962, died in 1970.

School nurses included Mrs. Thomas Anderson. She retired in 1958.

Secretaries included Mrs. Evans.

Doctrinal disagreements between the three Lutheran synods supporting Madison Lutheran School in the 1950's led to a break in "fellowship" with each other in the early 1960's. Board minutes from the 1950's foreshadowed the storm ahead. January 25, 1954 - "Board discussed what should or could be done in case of the dissolution of the Synodical Conference." November 30, 1954 - "Synodical problems were discussed. Rev. Ries suggested that we all offer prayers asking guidance." July 25, 1955 - "Report on Synodical relations." With the break up of the Synodical Conference, the school was could no longer function as it had for nearly 20 years. In February 1961, Mt. Olive withdrew from the association. To resolve the problem of churches from three Synods no longer in doctrinal fellowship with each other, Immanuel (LCMS) bought the school in March of 1961 and planned to maintain it as Madison Lutheran School. A take-over date was scheduled for June 30, 1962. Rev. Alfred Zielsdorff was Immanuel's pastor. Other students were welcome to attend as "tuition students," and churches from the other synods were still supporting students. A letter from the Immanuel Lutheran Church Board of Parish Education to the pastors of the Synodical Conference Churches in Madison explained registration for the 1962-63 school year. The board suggested that "each congregation conduct its own registration of pupils. . . . Immanuel Congregation has approved the following tentative budget figures as a guide for congregations and individuals in estimating costs for the next school year:

Based on a continuation of the present enrollment, requiring ten teachers, the Budget has been estimated at \$60,000. Assuming that there are 275 pupils, this is an annual cost of approximately \$218.00 per pupil. If only nine teachers are required, the Budget has been estimated at \$56,000, or \$224.00 per pupil with an enrollment of 250 pupils.

. . . . A large drop in enrollment, of course, would increase the per-pupil cost, but we are confident that there is a strong desire within each congregation for the kind of Christian Education that a Christian Day School provides for our children. We hope to make improvements in the school operation, but no drastic changes are contemplated, and we expect that most of the present faculty will remain."

In the spring of 1963, Immanuel called Fred Bartel to become the next principal of Madison Lutheran. The former principal, Elmer Behrens, would remain as the eighth grade teacher for the 1963-64 school year. Bartel arrived in June. That summer all the classrooms in Madison Lutheran were repainted by Immanuel's members, and Immanuel members' enthusiasm for the school was high.

The faculty for the 1963-64 school year was

- Kindergarten - Grace Frutiger, from Immanuel. Classes were held in the basement of Immanuel's church on Spaight St. (MLS began a kindergarten program in the fall of 1959).
- Grade 1 - Esther Buchholz, from Eastside
- Grade 2 - Eleanor Lester, from Holy Cross
- Grade 3 - Marjorie Schwefel, from Holy Cross
- Grade 4 - Ruby Hougen, from Holy Cross
- Grade 5 - Gene Hoyord, from Holy Cross
- Grade 6 - Fred Bartel, from Immanuel

- Grade 7 - Mrs. Kiesling, Immanuel was there for one month Jane Ziehlsdorff, Immanuel, followed for 2 months, Mr. Bohlman, Immanuel followed for 1 month, and Mrs. Herbert Drachenberg, Monona, finished the year and continued the following year.
- Grade 8 - Elmer Behrens, from Eastside

In November 1963, Rev. Zielsdorff died unexpectedly of a heart attack. Immanuel called Rev. Luther Otto, who came in December. The next month, in January, 1964, Pastor Otto met with principal Fred Bartel to inform him that he felt Lutheran schools were a thing of the past and that it was his intent to close Madison Lutheran and begin the new LCMS concept of the weekday school, with Bartel becoming Immanuel's Director of Christian Education. The children would attend public school and the church would hold classes (Bible History, Catechism, Biblical Geography, Singing) two days per week (4:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.) and also Saturday mornings from 9 until noon. In the spring of 1964, Immanuel called an associate pastor, Rev. George Lobien who supported the senior pastor in the new educational format.

In January 1965, Pastors Otto & Lobien presented the new idea at an open congregational hearing. The MLS principal, Fred Bartel who did not hold this view, presented the Christian Day School concept as it was carried out in Madison Lutheran School. The Madison Lutheran School program was favored by the majority of the people at this hearing. At the subsequent annual voters' meeting a week later, Immanuel voted in favor of continuing the present MLS program.

Eastside (WELS) voted to relocate their church from North Street with plans in their building for an attached school. At a congregational meeting on January 18, 1965, Eastside voted to open their own school September 1965.

"The 1964-65 school term (at Madison Lutheran) finished with a competent and dedicated staff who worked well together," reports the former principal, Fred Bartel.

After Madison Lutheran was closed for the year, in June 1965, at Immanuel's quarterly congregational meeting, under new business a motion was made and seconded to close Madison Lutheran School for good. The majority of the school parents were not at the meeting since it was summer vacation for their families. The motion carried, and with very little discussion, MLS was closed. Subsequent to the decision to close the school, 30 to 40 families left Immanuel Church and joined Eastside and Holy Cross. Eastside opened their school in the fall of 1965. Teachers included Elmer Behrens, Marjorie Schwefel, Eleanor Lester, and Esther Buchholz, former teachers at Madison Lutheran. Children from Holy Cross attended Eastside until Holy Cross opened their own school in 1971. Fred Bartel writes that he "never did hear anything more about the weekday school concept -- anywhere."

Mr. Bartel shared in a personal correspondence, January 2001,

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Today there is no longer one Madison Lutheran School. There are several Lutheran Schools in the Madison area supported by various congregations (Holy Cross - ELS, Our Redeemer - WELS, and Eastside - WELS). St. Andrew Lutheran School (WELS) will open in September 2001. It is further reported that a LCMS church is planning on opening a new school in a few years.

Most of these schools can trace their history through Madison Lutheran School which served the Madison Community from 1942-1965.

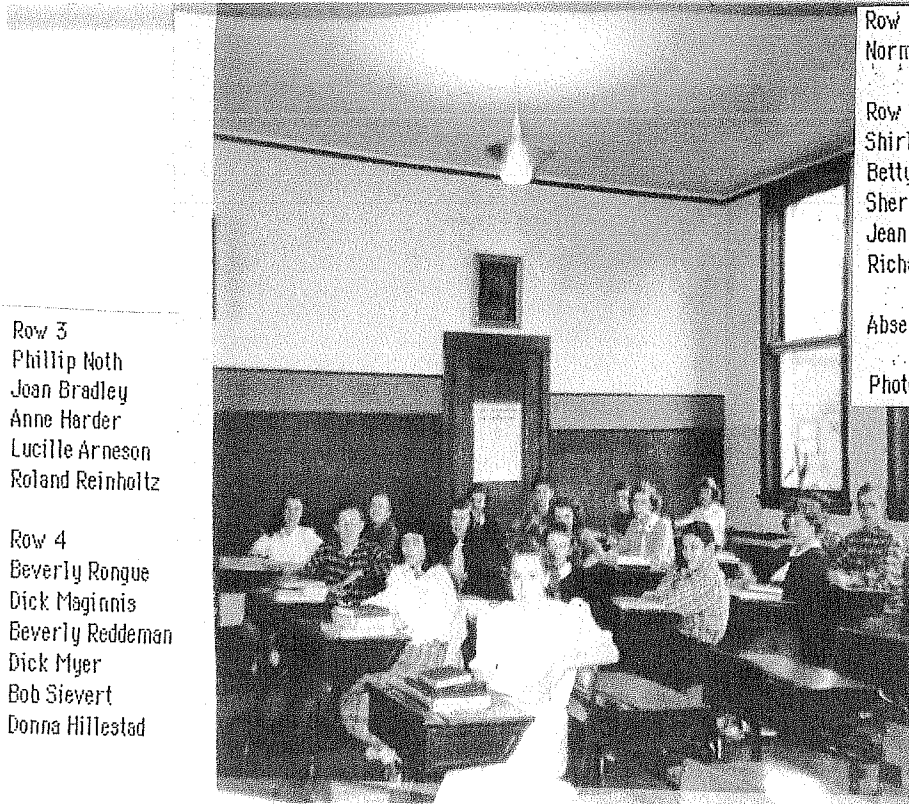
The Madison Lutheran School building was demolished in June 1973.

References

- 100 Years From A Gracious God 1887-1987 - a history of OSLC
- Immanuel's 75th anniversary Booklet -printed in 1978.
- History of Eastside
- Box of minutes and miscellaneous papers from 1942-1962 provided by Norman Marozick and now in the ELS archives in Mankato, MN.
- Correspondence
- Ruby Hougan, January 2001
- Fred Bartel, January 2001
- Oscar Ahlbrect, February 2001
- Information provided by classmates and their parents, including Jane Zielsdorff Bolle, Mrs. Oakey, and more.
- Class lists of students attending MLS from Immanuel Lutheran Church.



MADISON LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Row 3
 Phillip Noth
 Jean Bradley
 Anne Harder
 Lucille Arneson
 Roland Reinholtz

Row 4
 Beverly Rongue
 Dick Maginnis
 Beverly Reddeman
 Dick Myer
 Bob Sievert
 Donna Hillestad

Row 1
 Norma Hohneke

Row 2
 Shirley Guitzkow
 Betty Kruse
 Sherman Zimmerman
 Jean Larson
 Richard Gabbei

Absent: Dahal Stiegman

Photographer: Louis Milsted

Young 'Reporters' Write Stories On Truman's Visit

November - 1948
Capital Times

7th, 8th Graders of Local Lutheran School Provide 'Children's-Eye' Reports

The Capital Times received complete "childrens'-eye coverage" of Pres. Harry S. Truman's visit to Madison Thursday by a volunteer staff of 7th and 8th grade "reporters" from the Madison Lutheran school.

Morton A. Schroeder, principal, took 40 youngsters from the 5th through 8th grades at the school to the stock pavilion to see the nation's chief executive. Seven pupils, six girls and one boy, in the 7th and 8th grades, were asked to report the event as they saw it.

MOST ENTERPRISING of the school's reportorial contingent was Bob Sievert, who brought his flash camera along.

"I'm sure the Michigan football team could not plow through that crowd," Bob wrote. He confessed that he was unable to get in a position to snap a picture when the president's party drove up to the stock pavilion. Like a good photographer, he bided his time.

"The shortest introduction ever given to Mr. Truman was given by William T. Evjue, editor of The Capital Times," Bob commented. "While Mr. Truman was giving his 11½ minute speech, I got ready for him to come out."

"After giving reasons why we should vote for him," Bob continued, "Pres. Truman came out by the entrance where we were standing. I had to wait until he got into the Packard waiting for him. While standing up and waving his hat, he looked right at me. I snapped two pictures of him."

Bob didn't mention in his story whether the pictures turned out, but he did comment:

"I have often said that I want to be a press photographer, but after

(Continued on page 8, col. 4)

Children Tell of Truman Talk As 'Reporters'

Lutheran School's 7th, 8th Graders, Write Stories on Big Event

(Continued from Page 1)
being pushed around, I don't know. . . ."

JOAN BRADLEY admitted in her account that the crowd at the stock pavilion was too much for her and that a trip around the building failed to reveal any unguarded entrances.

"There were many cameras flashing and people yelling. The groups of children had to split up and go separately. It so happened that about six of us were with Mr. Schroeder, and he was kind enough to lift us up over the many heads to see the procession."

Joan reported that she was impressed by Mr. Evjue's short introduction of the president, which she apparently heard over a loud speaker.

"Mr. Evjue's introduction was short and simple," she wrote.

BARBARA NOTH claimed in her report that she saw the president four times, but it was a tough grind.

"We weaved in and out of the crowd and finally when the president was coming, I lost track of Mr. Schroeder. Two other girls and I tried to see him. We pushed and pulled and finally we saw the president when he went into the pavillion."

Barbara also noted that the introduction by Mr. Evjue was "very, very short." She outlined the remainder of her trials as follows:

"When the speech was over we followed the president's car around the road that leads to University ave. We also saw Gov. and Mrs. Rennebohm, Margaret and Mrs. Truman, and a bunch of press agents and secret service men. Altogether, I saw the president four times."

JEAN LARSON reported that she got a very good view of the president from her position near the pavillion.

"Pres. Truman was riding in a yellow Packard with five other men, she wrote. "Much to our advantage, he was sitting on the side where we were standing. He looked as I expected him to, very plain. We also saw Margaret and Mrs. Truman."

Jean revealed that she has the eye of a good society reporter in commenting of Mrs. Truman:

"If I remember correctly, Mrs. Truman had a fur piece about her shoulders."

Kari-Ellen Hill reported that seven of the 40 Lutheran school pupils were lucky enough to get inside the stock pavillion, but she admitted that she was not one of the lucky ones. She heard enough of the speech from the outside to make the following summary:

"The president talked for about 15 minutes. He said something about the Republican 80th congress and what Dewey had said."

ANNE HARDER described the fruitless battle she had in the crowd in her effort to see the president. Only when the president was leaving the pavillion did she succeed.

"We ran through paths in the experimental gardens so we could get to the road where he turned to go back to the station," she wrote. "By hurrying and pushing, we got up to the road. We saw Pres. Truman, Mrs. Truman and Margaret very well."

Anne confessed that most of the children were disappointed at not being able to get into the stock pavillion, but the day was a success from her standpoint.

"I don't mind being pushed around for something like seeing the president, but I wouldn't do it very often," Anne concluded.

AMONG THE MOST observant of the young reporters was Donna Hillestad, who got within 2 feet of the presidential car when it pulled up to the stock pavillion.

"By this time the police were shoving everyone back," she wrote. "You could see flash cameras and movie cameras all around, and, if I am not mistaken, I think I saw a man taking a movie with the cap over the lens."

Donna later took a look at the presidential train on her way home.

"I walked home proud because I was the only one in our family who ever saw a president of the United States," she concluded.

Preface written by Judy Kuster

Morton (Salty) Schroeder wrote the following article in February 2001 in response to a request for information about the early history of Madison Lutheran School. Mr. Schroeder was the first called principal of Madison Lutheran School, coming to Madison in 1941. His new wife Bettie joined him in 1942 and they remained in Madison until 1950 when they moved to New Ulm, MN, where Mr. Schroeder accepted the call to be the principal of St. Paul's Lutheran School. They had a daughter Susan who would have been in our class if they had stayed in Madison. I remember visiting/playing with Susan at their home before I started school. She had a little stove that actually heated up. We made "soup" out of water and some red, Christmas beads we'd found. Their apartment was on the second floor of a building owned by Phil Noth and his business partner, across from the fire station on Williamson Street a few blocks away from Madison Lutheran. I visited the Schroeder's in Winona, Minnesota, for a week one summer. We picnicked, climbed the bluffs, played with her younger brothers and sister. It was there that I first tasted liver;-) I was impressed with their house which had a front and a back stairway to get to the second floor, and with Mr. Schroeder's office, with shelves filled with books, reaching the ceiling. Although Mr. Schroeder left the year before our class entered Madison Lutheran, he had many of our brothers and sisters as his students, including Stanley and Rollie Reinholz, brother of Gary, Dick Maginnis, brother of Judy and Robert Sievert, who is the father of Scott, Judy's son-in-law,. Evan Wolter, brother of Richard, Louise and Wayne Droster, sister and brother of Linda, and Geraldine Unger, sister of Lois. He was also principal for others of our brothers and sisters including Herman Heinecke, brother of Andy, Alice Oakey, sister of Katy, Dennis Vick, brother of Linda. In 2001 Morton and Bettie Schroeder are living in Appleton, Wisconsin.

A Time Fit to Remember

Recollections of Madison Lutheran School

by Morton A. Schroeder

Madison Lutheran School had its beginnings in two small Lutheran elementary schools that existed in Madison, Wisconsin in the 1940's: Eastside English Lutheran School and Holy Cross Lutheran School.

Eastside English Lutheran School, supported by a Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregation of the same name, was begun some time after the congregation was begun in the mid to late 1920's. The precise dates are in the *History of Madison Lutheran School*. Although its teachers and its successive pastors were ardent proponents of Christian education, the school struggled, and it never really prospered numerically. During the 1940-41 school year, it had a faculty of two: Miss Esther Buchholz and Mrs. Charles E. (Edith M.) Pettengell, a member of the Eastside English Lutheran congregation who had volunteered to assume the teaching assignment of the principal after he had accepted a call to another school. The pastor of the congregation, the Rev. Theophil Mahnke, became the principal. The enrollment in grades one through eight was in the 50's

After being graduated from the three-year course at Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, in June 1941, I was assigned to Eastside congregation. This *first* call, which has an interesting story of its own, was "for the school term of 1941-1942." I was asked "to teach the upper grades five to eight in accordance with the prescribed course of study, play the organ for divine services, take an active part in the work of the Sunday School, direct the choir when called upon, and assist in the work of the school and church as occasion may arise." The congregation promised to honor me and pay me "a salary of \$70.00 per month for nine and one half months, to be paid monthly."



I had to pay my own room and board from this stipend. Although I do not remember the exact amount, I believe it amounted to 50% of my wages: \$35.00. A childless couple, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice G. Young, took me in. According to my later calculations, they were only in their mid 30's, but they seemed quite somber, serious, and even ancient to a young man who had celebrated his twentieth birthday less than four months before his teaching career began.

Although the Youngs were very good to me, giving me more than enough to satisfy both my stomach and my mind, Gladys - Mrs. Young - was careful with money. Sometimes a knock on the bathroom door reminded me that I had showered long enough, and every morning when I left 2017 Carey Court for school, my alarm clock was disconnected from the wall outlet.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, also located on Madison's east side, peculiarly within walking distance of Eastside English, supported a one-teacher school. It was smaller than that of Eastside, even though its enrollment was augmented by children who belonged to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, located some miles away and closer to Madison's downtown. The Rev. Erling Ylvisaker and the Rev. Adolph Harstad were, respectively, pastors of Holy Cross and Our Saviour's congregations. Although radically different in temperament - Ylvisaker was a man with a lively sense of humor, Harstad a man of sober mien given to careful speech -- they were equally staunch advocates of Lutheran elementary education. I was not privy to any financial arrangements, if any, the two congregations may have had, as far as supporting the school is concerned. Both were and remain members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

To the best of my memory, two members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, which belonged to what was at the time simply called the Missouri Synod, attended Holy Cross: Herman, Jr. and Harley, the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hinrichs, Sr. At least, they were the first to transfer to Eastside when Holy Cross school ceased operating.

When the teacher at Holy Cross Lutheran School was married during the summer of 1942 and the school was unable to call a replacement, the two ELS congregations approached Eastside. Their simple and obvious request to transfer their teacherless children to Eastside, beginning with the 1942-43 school year -- was readily granted, even though it placed unforeseen and tremendous strains not only on Eastside's two-person faculty but also on Eastside's modest physical facilities.

Esther Buchholz -- who was *always* called Miss Buchholz, even by her principal -- found herself trying to teach 40 children in grades one through four; I was faced with 72 in grades five through eight. The upper grades room of Eastside *school*, which had been built on to the church when the school was opened, was an integral part of Eastside's *church*. Trying to "hide" some 25 to 40 desks to make room for Sunday services was bad enough; trying to do the same for 70+ was well nigh impossible. The playground, which had a hard time satisfying the needs of 50 children, simply could not accommodate twice that many active youngsters.

Madison Lutheran School became a legal entity sometime between March 16, 1942, when I received my *second* call to teach at Eastside English, and October 26, 1942, when I received my *third* call, this one to teach now at *Madison Lutheran School*, Madison, Wisconsin.

Although I am not able to give you the salaries paid the other called workers, I can reveal that my wages increased by leaps and bounds, if percentages are an adequate measuring tool. My first year's salary was \$665.00, for nine and one-half months. The second, for ten months was \$760.00, an increase of 14.3%. The third was \$1,080.00, an increase of 42%. The second salary was supposed to support two people: the teacher and his new bride. Note that the third took me into the four-digit class.

This was at a time when unskilled line workers working in the Ray-O-Vac plant at the foot of Division Street complained, as they literally roared out of the plant gate, that they were paid "only" \$60.00 to \$70.00 that week. These same workers protested vocally and bitterly if ordinary folk shopped on Saturday. Non-defense workers, according to these workers, were to shop during the week so that "people who are aiding the war effort can shop on their says off."

Because Esther Buchholz and I were literally swamped with students, the school board hired Bettie M. (Mrs. Morton A.) Schroeder to help us. She taught the middle grades half days -- the fourth grade from the so-called lower room and the fifth grade from the so-called upper room. But what half days they were! The schedules were arranged so that the two called teachers taught many of the mechanics in the morning, leaving much of the content material for Mrs. Valiant Helper to teach in the afternoon. More than that! Because Eastside did not own enough extra desks, that is, two for each pupil in grades four and five, the students who were assigned to Mrs. Valiant Helper had to sit on folding chairs at typical lunchroom-sized tables. What was done with the desks that were used in the Holy Cross school remains a mystery.

This experience was by no means an adventure in maliciousness. Rather, it was a good faith experiment, an attempt to help one's neighbor. But it was based on incredibly poor judgment. Eastside agreed to a partnership it had no reasonable expectation of keeping.

However, all the children benefited from Mrs. Valiant Helper's extra help. The school prospered, so much so that a new school format was adopted and a new location was found.

Madison Lutheran School was formed by four congregations that belonged to the Synodical Conference: Eastside English, Holy Cross, Our Saviour's, and Immanuel. Three other congregations soon joined the Madison Lutheran School Association: Monona, Mt. Olive, and St. Paul's.

The pastors serving these churches were, in the order of the congregations listed above, Mahnke, Ylvisaker, Harstad, Brandhorst, Ries, Rathjen (?), and Berg. During the time I was principal of Madison Lutheran School, Reginald Siegler replaced Mahnke, Nils Oesleby replaced Harstad, and Alfred Ziehlsdorff replaced Brandhorst.

The impression these men made on me, a novice, remains with me even to this day. These men formed some of my thinking, and from them I took the best each had to offer. I believe all of them were interested in formal Lutheran elementary education. (Lutheran secondary education was not yet a prominent blip on the radar screen of evangelical outreach.) All of them were very kind to my family and me, and the salary their congregations paid me was no reflection of their support of Christian education or respect for my family and me.

Theophil Mahnke was a social animal, and he cultivated the friendship of certain members of his congregation. He enjoyed a beer, a game of cards, a fishing trip. Erling Ylvisaker was a friendly man, one given to jokes followed by his famously crooked grin. Adolph M. Harstad, a devout, quiet Christian, was the serious member of this septet. He and his wife had a large family, their children, like their parents, were also serious. I believe Mary was the oldest, and she often served as surrogate mother for her younger siblings. She was the kind of student every teacher wants, appreciates, and enjoys.

[More precise information regarding the Harstad family -- and its contributions to Madison Lutheran School -- is really much closer to members of the ELS than it is to me].

F.C. Brandhorst, who was older than the others and had largely shucked off the responsibilities of family, was more concerned about our personal well-being and health than the others were. When we were to have our first child, he inquired about the prospective mother's welfare. "Are you getting enough to eat? Are you eating the right foods?" Of course, she - and I also - were not. The members of the various churches did not know that often the entree was *Mother Grass's* noodle soup, dessert was a divided candy bar. Mrs. Brandhorst was formed in the traditional mold of the pastor's wire. She, too, was concerned about our welfare, and when things did not go as they should at a member's house, she pitched in and took up the slack. A famous dinner the Brandhorsts and we were invited to would never have taken place had not the good pastor's wife peeled the potatoes and "got things going."

Harold Ries was simply a very nice man. We got to know him rather well through our abiding friendship with members of the Monona congregation. Memory tends to fade when faced with the unwanted: I believe Rathjen, whose first name eludes me, introduced Scouting to Madison area congregations that belonged to the Synodical Conference. This was the very first rift in an

otherwise seamless garment, that eventually led to the dissolution of the school. I was, am and remain grateful that the good Lord led me to accept a divine Call to another school before the rift could not be repaired.

[Please note carefully: the name Rathjen and Rohlwing are confused in my memory. Whatever I say about both or either should be taken with a grain of salt and verified.]

Reginald Siegler was one of my tutors at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Michigan. I had established an ambiguous relationship with him that was based on the association of tutor and student. Siegler was quite different from Mahnke. He did not form close relationships with his members, he was serious, conscientious, and dedicated almost to a fault. He believed he was obligated to accept a call he had received because *one* (1) member of the congregation, in a secret ballot, voted for him to leave Eastside.

Nils Oesleby was friendly and more out-going than his predecessor. When he, a patient in a local hospital, confided that what he would really like was "a coloring book and some crayons," these to help him while away the tedious hours, we pleased him by supplying his secret desires.

The best adjective I can think of to describe the second Immanuel pastor is "smooth."

In spite of the synodical rift, we kept strong and lasting bonds with the families who had strongly supported the school. Burned into our minds are memories of these families: Bradley, Fleischer, Schweppe, Unger, Noth, Maginnis, Sievert, Stone, Wagner, Hinrichs, Harder, Klinke. *These people were uncommonly good to us.* Their daughters baby-sat our children. Because we had no car, their fathers brought them to our house and then picked them up at evening's end. We gave them a pittance because we had no more. At Christmas time, they gave gifts to our children worth more than the pennies we had paid them to baby sit. And the monetary gifts they gave me at Christmas time, which we never wasted on trifles, enabled me to attend summer school for years on end. These gifts also enabled me to begin a personal library.

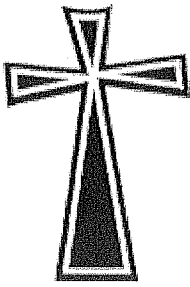
Madison Lutheran School was from its earliest days a progressive and innovative school. Its young faculty -- the senior member, Esther Buchholz, was only 36 -- was willing to try the untried. Reading and literature were important, and all the teachers worked closely with the Madison Public Library to provide rapidly revolving in-classroom libraries. Letters received from authors -- August Derleth, the Sage of Sauk City, Eric P. Kelly, who won the Newberry Medal in 1929 for his *The Trumpeter of Krakow*, and Laura Ingalls Wilder, who wrote the classic "Little House" books -- were read to the students and shared with them by means of bulletin boards. Because one faculty member was proficient in German, German was taught to children in the second grade. Students and faculty published a school newspaper, *The Echo*; each class was responsible for providing readable, interesting copy. The school reacted to the present. When the United States was being introduced to the possible civilian hardships of war, faculty members served on local ration boards. When World War II became a reality, it did its patriotic thing: the students cultivated a Victory Garden. (If my memory serve me well, the Gardener in Chief was John Helmke. John had fallen from a steel support brace on a playground slide and had broken his arm. The Victory Garden gave him an outlet for planning, planting, cultivating,

reaping -- and bossing). When President Harry S. Truman, running on his own in the election of '48, visited Madison, the 7th and 8th grade students were hustled off to the university campus to see him. Their reactions to him, his visit, and the circumstances surrounding the visit were published in the Madison *Capital Times*. A greatly enlarged, laminated, and framed version of the *Capital Times* article, courtesy of the Class of 1949 and the Rev. Robert Sievert, is posted proudly in our garage. Upper grade girls attended "home ec" classes and upper grade boys attended "manual arts" classes at within-walking-distance public schools.

Madison Lutheran School had an active PTA. It supported all kinds of programs to better the school, but it never once fell into the trap of raising of money. Everything it bought, it paid for out of pocket. It supported an active health/safety/nurse's program, and I regret I simply am not able to recall the name of the woman who served us faithfully for many years as our on-site RN. It also supported the hot lunch program, an expansion of the Eastside program.

Eastside Ev. Lutheran School had been a pioneer in the hot lunch program. Originally, the school participated in the School Milk Program, this before the Wisconsin Synod formally decided the program did not constitute an unholy mixture of church and state. Then it entered, quite tentatively, the "Hot" Lunch Program. *Hot* is in quotation marks because the food was not always "hot." On alternating days, the students were served cold sandwiches, either peanut butter or jam, and warm ("hot") soup/broth/chili/hot dish. The students augmented the one kind of food with carrying in their lunch bags/boxes the other kind. The program seemed to suit Sue and Sam. At least, we had few or no complaints. One paid cook did the basic work; she was assisted by mother helpers.

[We have been told that Giuseppe Verdi was guilty of "rearranging his memories in a more strikingly dramatic form." I sincerely hope that I am not guilty of doing the same. I have tried my best to recall the past carefully, truthfully. I sincerely hope you will find few errors in A Time Fit to Remember].



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September 21, 2006

Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus!

Please allow me a moment to introduce myself and the purpose of this writing. My name is Jonathan Munson and I am a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Each year one of the requirements for seniors at the seminary is to write a church history paper based on 19th and 20th Century Modern Lutheranism. One of the possibilities for our paper selections is to interview and write our paper on former or current WELS professors from DMLC (MLC), or from one of our two high school preparatory schools: Luther Preparatory School and Michigan Lutheran Seminary, or a professor from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Professor Morton A. Schroeder has graciously accepted my request to be the subject of such a paper. Professor Schroeder is the grandfather of my wife, Melissa (Fillner), who is the daughter of Sarah (Schroeder) and Doug Fillner.

This brings me to the purpose of writing to you. In preparation for my interview in mid November with Prof. Schroeder, it is my goal to gain further information and insight from those who were his former students and colleagues in the ministry. Enclosed with this letter is a questionnaire that will Lord willing give more insight into the ministry of Prof. Schroeder. These questions are based around the theme of the paper: ***“Training Generations to be the Salt of the Earth: The Ministry of Professor Morton A. Schroeder”***. The interview with Prof. Schroeder and subsequent paper will look at how Prof. Schroeder carried out his ministry and impacted countless lives by his ministry, and will be a practical example for future ministers of the Gospel.

If you would please assist me by answering the questions contained in the questionnaire to the best of your ability, I would greatly appreciate it. Please place the finished questionnaires in the self addressed stamped envelope contained in this writing by October 23rd to allow ample time to review the answers. Thank you for taking the time to assist with this project! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by the information listed above.

God’s Richest Blessings,

Jonathan Munson
Enc: Questionnaire, SASE

Questionnaire Participants

Eastside Lutheran School/ Madison Lutheran School, Madison, WI

Mrs. Lois Ann Heronemus (Kohler, WI)
Mrs. Joan Hilden (Minneapolis, MN)
Mr. Louis E. Milsted (Sheboygan, WI)
Mr. Philip F. Noth (Wheaton, IL)
*Rev. Robert A. Sievert (Milwaukee, WI)
Mrs. Jean Stanley (Madison, WI)

St. Paul Lutheran School, New Ulm, MN

Mr. Edwin Nolte (Edina, MN)
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin G. Wels (New Ulm, MN)

St. Matthew Lutheran School, Winona, MN

**Rev. Walter F. Beckmann (Annandale, VA)
Rev. and Mrs. David Tetzlaff (Fond du Lac, WI)

Saint Croix Lutheran High School, West Saint Paul, MN

Rev. Jerome Braun (Mission TX)
Professor Ronald D. Brutlag (New Ulm, MN)
Dr. James W. Gerber (Cottage Grove, MN)
Mrs. Carol Lemke (West Saint Paul, MN)
Professor Cynthia E. Whaley (New Ulm, MN)
Professor emeritus Wayne Zuleger (Watertown, WI)

Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN

Dr. Paul and Mrs. Jeanette Boehlke (Milwaukee, WI)
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Brinkman (South Milwaukee, WI)
Mrs. Laura Clovis (Albuquerque, NM)
Professor emeritus and Mrs. Mervin J. Ingebritson (New Ulm, MN)
Mrs. Laura Kitzrow (Fond du Lac, WI)
Mrs. Linda Smith (Saline, MI)

Board for Parish Education

Mr. Robert Adickes (Phoenix, AZ)
Professor emeritus David P. Kuske (Jackson, WI)
Mr. Roger A. Sievert (Tempe, AZ)
Rev. Stephen P. Vallesky (Houston, TX)

Additional Insight

President emeritus Carl H. Mischke (Sun Prairie, WI)
President emeritus David J. Vallesky (San Marcos, CA)

* Personal face to face interview also conducted

** Phone Interview also conducted

5. What made Prof. Schroeder an effective Lutheran teacher and friend?

6. *For former colleagues of Prof. Schroeder: What impact did Prof. Schroeder have on your faculty and your ministry?*

7. *For former colleagues of Prof. Schroeder: Describe your recollection of Prof. Schroeder's interaction with students and fellow faculty members?*

8. Are there any moments with Prof. Schroeder that stand out in your mind?

9. What impact did Prof. Schroeder have on your life?

10. How did Prof. Schroeder impact your faith life?

11. If you could thank Prof. Schroeder for anything in your time together, what would it be?

12. What characteristics of Prof. Schroeder and his ministry would be beneficial for future ministers of the gospel to emulate in their ministries?

Questionnaire Results: Madison Lutheran School 1941-1950

What was your first impression of Prof. Schroeder the first time you met him?

1. He scared me – red face and very stern. He is short and I believe he used different personas to control the older boys. **Mrs. Jean Stanley**
2. Terror! Strict! **Mrs. Joan Hilden**
3. “My first impression of Morton Schroeder came in 1942, when I was an eight year old second grader. I perceived him to be a very strict person. In his role as principal, contact with him was to be avoided. When he was provoked and irritated he would turn red faced and his jaw muscles would ripple.” **Mr. Louis Milsted**

Describe in as much detail as possible, your remembrance of the classroom setting in which you encountered Prof. Schroeder.

1. Mr. Schroeder had total control of the split classroom. He would set his jaw, which rippled his cheeks and we knew he meant business. He was an excellent teacher. He dullied us with spelling bees, frequently. We memorized a hymn for each Friday. He was a no nonsense teacher, but also laughed with us. We learned discipline as well as the academics and the Bible. **Mrs. Joan Hilden**
2. “Very organized, scheduled, humorous at times. His assigned seating arrangement had a purpose. You knew what Mr. Schroeder expected from you. Always ready to answer questions with very clear distinct replies. He was always ready to help both student and staff.” **Pastor Robert Sievert**
3. **See the comments made by Louis Milsted.**

How did Prof. Schroeder impact the church and school in which he served?

1. Steady, true to his convictions. Loved his Lord. **Mrs. Joan Hilden**
2. “His Christian professional manner was always respected and his counsel often requested.” **Pastor Robert Sievert**

Are there any moments with Prof. Schroeder that stand out in your mind?

1. “After one week as a student under Mr. Schroeder, I was sitting in the last row, the second last desk. He distributed a Bell telephone guide on telephone ethics. As the students in our row handed the guides back to the next student, I happened to get the last guide and there was a girl sitting behind me, so I gave the girl my copy of the guide. When he asked “who didn’t receive one?” I raised my hand. He noticed then that I gave my copy to the girl behind me. He then used me as an example of being polite.” **Pastor Robert Sievert**
2. “After succeeding him as principal of St. Croix Lutheran High School, he sent me a note after being in the office a couple of weeks wishing me the Lord’s blessings in my new calling and adding the remark; “Never in my wildest dreams did I ever expect one of my

students to succeed me as principal of St. Croix Lutheran High School.” **Pastor Robert Sievert**

3. “Mr. Schroeder introduced me to classical music by playing the William Tell Overture. I realized that this music was more than part of the “Lone Ranger” story.” **Mr. Louis Milsted**

How did Prof. Schroeder impact your life?

1. “In my recollection, he is the sole person responsible for my entering the holy ministry.” **Pastor Robert Sievert**

If you could thank Prof. Schroeder for anything in your time together, what would it be?

1. He and his wife new wife gave up a great deal to come to Madison Lutheran. That takes courage! **Mrs. Jean Stanley**
2. “His constant encouragement for me to enter the Lutheran ministry.” **Pastor Robert Sievert**
3. “Morton Schroeder was and is a role model/mentor for me. The ethics and standards he instilled have served me well.” **Mr. Louis Milsted**
4. **Gratitude, read the remarks of 1989 reunion of students of the class of 1949 from Madison Lutheran School**

What Characteristics of Prof. Schroeder and his ministry would be beneficial for future ministers of the gospel to emulate in their ministry?

1. “His thirst for knowledge and his keen ability to transmit that knowledge to his students.” **Pastor Robert Sievert**

Questionnaire Results St. Croix Lutheran High School 1958-1971

What was your first impression of Prof. Schroeder the first time you met him?

1. "Dynamite – short red hair, ruddy complexion, always moving quickly, doesn't (didn't) waste time and gets to the point. He commanded respect and had ours. He was a good teacher, taking time to explain, yet in spite of running a tight ship he would also laugh out loud along the way." **Mrs. Carol Lemke**
2. "Already when Morton Schroeder was in college his nickname was "Salty." He earned this name, as Bettie his wife tells it, because of the witty, sometimes sarcastic, and completely uninhibited way he expressed himself." **Professor Emeritus Wayne Zuleger**

Describe in as much detail as possible, your remembrance of the classroom setting in which you encountered Prof. Schroeder.

1. "Religion – in the first permanent building with several floor to ceiling windows. Often MAS would be called out for principal duties, but very seldom did the noise level increase or anyone step out of line. We knew what was expected. (A little fear of God or principal never hurt either)" **Mrs. Carol Lemke**
2. "On one occasion Mr. Schroeder stood in front of my desk, turned my paper around to face him and we kept going down the page with answers. I made a correction or addition to my page by writing upside down and backwards without turning the paper around. He was fascinated or weirded out by it and tried to do it on the board himself. (couldn't)" **Mrs. Carol Lemke**
3. "He demanded much but he was always fair. His students found him challenging in that he made them think. His students also found him interesting. I don't think there was ever a class that was dull and boring. As a friend if I had a problem in the classroom I could always go to him. He would listen and he would give sound Christian advice." **Professor Emeritus Wayne Zuleger**

How did Prof. Schroeder impact the church and school in which he served?

1. St. Croix was just beginning. He brought it up out of the basement (St. James Lutheran Church) into a new 1st building with several faculty additions, a growing student body and made it grow and go. No doubt there were difficulties and controversies. There always are.... For all I know he did a fine job. To God be the glory!" **Mrs. Carol Lemke**
2. "In ways both subtle and obvious. He lead with confidence but a servant heart beat within him." **Pastor Daniel Westendorf**
3. "He was a capable leader. He had a view of what Saint Croix could be and how it could serve the kingdom and he communicated that vision very effectively. He had us all working together and it truly paid off in getting Saint Croix established. We all carried full plus loads, but w didn't mind it. Those were great years." **Professor Emeritus Wayne Zuleger**

Are there any moments with Prof. Schroeder that stand out in your mind?

1. "November 1963 when he returned to our class red faced and serious. After having been called out and announced, "Our President John F. Kennedy has just been shot and killed in Dallas, Texas. Stunned silence. We thought perhaps he was making it up to get a reaction or make a point about the lesson. A little nervousness, uneasy laughter, shuffled

around the room. Then we were told it was no joke and we all went to the temporary building for a special chapel.” **Mrs. Carol Lemke**

2. “He kept our faculty together. Every major decision concerning the school was fully aired in our long faculty meetings. But once an issue was discussed and the faculty made a decision, that decision stood. We were never under cut. He respected us and we respected him. To me he was the model of a good leader. Later in my career when I happened to be in charge of a group of an activity, I tried to pattern my role as a leader after him.”

Professor Emeritus Wayne Zuleger

3. “We were a small faculty in those early years of Saint Croix. Frequently, we would get together after concerts or athletic evens. Morton and Bettie were usually there. One thing Morton didn’t like was talking “shop” on those occasion. He and Bettie both were more interested in how our families were doing.” **Professor Emeritus Wayne Zuleger**
4. “When Morton had the call to teach English at DMLC, he told me he thought I should have that call. He implied he was ready to turn it down for that reason. However, I encouraged him to accept the call for two reasons: First, he was an excellent teacher and could have a positive influence on future teachers. Second, he was also an excellent writer with a great command of the English language and a very readable style. That he would think so highly of my feelings regarding this call impressed me.” **Professor Emeritus Wayne Zuleger**
5. “I will always remember when he tore pages out of my Bible to make a point in religion class.” **Dr. James Gerber**

How did Prof. Schroeder impact your life?

1. “I had a public school K-8 background and was not convinced I should go to St. Croix. I remember arguing with my mother, “I won’t know anyone. I won’t have any friends” and so on. She was firm in her conviction that this would be best. Even though I was “blown away” by all the other/parochial grade school kids who knew about Bible history, it worked out for the best in giving my whole life a faith based approach. MAS was a big part of that.” **Mrs. Carol Lemke**
2. “I always felt that whatever Morton did it was motivated by a deep and abiding love for his savior. Behind all that he did, all that he accomplished in kingdom work is this man of faith. Seeing this for the years I worked with Morton strengthened my faith and helped me to speak more boldly for my savior.” **Professor Emeritus Wayne Zuleger**
3. “Taught me to trust in God. He continued to lay the solid foundation for my faith that was started at home and in grade school.” **Dr. James Gerber**

If you could thank Prof. Schroeder for anything in your time together, what would it be?

1. “Thank you Prof. Schroeder (Mr. Schroeder to us), for your years of dedicated service. There are several “girls” from our class of 64 who made the teaching ministry their life. This important heritage is passed down to and through our families as well.” **Mrs. Carol Lemke**
2. “His strong faith and convictions and for setting a good example by living his faith.” **Dr. James Gerber**

What Characteristics of Prof. Schroeder and his ministry would be beneficial for future ministers of the gospel to emulate in their ministry?

1. "A quest for excellence and professionalism (I remember him in shirt/tie/suit attire) surrounded by God's Word and growth in faith." **Mrs. Carol Lemke**
2. "Thoughtful and articulate in speech. Tidy habits and well dressed. Father to his family and counselor to his friends. Deserving of respect and devoted to his Lord." Pastor Dan Westendorf
3. "His dedication to the Lord's Work. His work ethic" His communication skills. His boldness for Kingdom work." **Professor Emeritus Wayne Zuleger**

Interview Questions with Prof. Morton Schroeder

Life before teaching

1. Could you explain the structure of your family growing up?
2. How did your upbringing influence your faith and desire to enter the ministry?
3. What impact did your years at Michigan Lutheran Seminary have on your faith?
4. How did Michigan Lutheran Seminary influence your desire for the ministry?
5. How did Dr. Martin Luther College prepare you for the ministry?
6. Were there any friends who were influential in your desire for the ministry or your faith life? Please explain how they did so?
7. Were there any teachers and professors from your education that stand out in your mind that molded you as Christian father, grandfather, great grandfather, teacher, and friend? Please explain how they did so?

Teaching: The Early Years

1. Your early years of teaching must have been challenging, let's start from the moment you received your first call into the ministry. Please explain the situation that happened with your first call to Eastside English Lutheran School?
2. What was the situation like as you arrived in Madison?
3. What were the initial challenges at Madison Lutheran School?
4. Were there any challenges in dealing with a school that was supported by a federation of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (granted there was fellowship at that time between the synods)? If there were challenges, what were they?
5. Are there any moments with students that stand out in your mind from Madison?
6. Please react to some of these statements from some of your students from Madison Lutheran School? (**what will follow will be comments from former students. Those comments are not listed here because I would like your candid response to them.*)
7. What do you think is meant by this statement? When asked what made Prof. Schroeder an effective Lutheran teacher and friend one student wrote, "His understanding of his calling and his desire to serve the Lord's ministry."
8. What was it like to take your students to see President Truman as he toured Madison?
9. From Madison Lutheran School you moved for the first time to New Ulm to serve St. Paul's Lutheran School. What challenges presented itself in your work at St. Paul's?
10. What blessings resulted from your work the first time in New Ulm?
11. From St. Paul's in New Ulm you accepted the call to St. Matthew Lutheran School in Winona, MN where you would serve from 1955-1958. In a time of doctrinal controversy in Lutheranism, what were the challenges and blessings facing St. Matthew's at the time?
12. In a time, before the concept of a Vicar year, when Seminary students were assigned to serve emergency calls early in their theological training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, you had a profound impact on one such seminary student in Winona. Pastor Walter Beckmann of Annandale, Virginia writes, "I was a young, fun-loving vicar who was pretty relaxed in my classroom discipline. He ran a much tighter ship. At first the students learned to love me and dreaded when he came into the classroom to finish the day. As the year went on and he had full control of the class he could relax a bit and I had

to start yelling and threatening to get the students attention. I certainly learned a lot about maintaining discipline from him.” What do you make of Pastor Beckmann’s statement? What were your impressions of the classroom in Winona?

13. And on the lighter side, please give me your thoughts about this situation in Winona. “I’m almost 6’6. He’s a bit shorter than that. One time he borrowed my car and when he came back he looked almost scared to death. He explained that the driver’s seat had been set for me, he couldn’t figure out how to adjust it and had to drive while almost driving on his back.” Is this the reason you left St. Matthew’s?
14. One of your duties at St. Matthew’s was to serve as an organist. You may not have particularly enjoyed that part, but you did have a profound impact on those you served. One future pastor writes, “He also served as one of the church organist and I learned to appreciate some music I had never heard before especially “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” and “Let All Things Now Living”. Did you ever imagine you would be an innovator of worship?

The Saint Croix Years

1. In 1958, you accepted a call to what would become St. Croix Lutheran High School. It is always challenging beginning any task from the ground up. What led you to accept such a challenge?
2. What would your daily routine as principal of St. Croix look like on a typical day?
3. How does this statement represent your earliest years at St. Croix? “St. Croix was just beginning. He brought it up out of the basement (St. James Lutheran Church) into a new 1st building with several faculty additions, a growing student body and made it grow and go. No doubt there were difficulties and controversies. There always are.”
4. What did you see as the vision of St. Croix Lutheran High School?
5. What were the struggles of St. Croix?
6. React to this statement: “Morton was then about 5’6, 145 pounds, while I was 6’2 220 pounds. In our first meeting he was giving me details on my teaching assignment and the extra curricular duties I would have. Early in that meeting he said something to the effect, “Here at Saint Croix we don’t measure men by their stature but by the size of their brain.”
7. What did you struggle with as you made the adjustment from grade school to high school?
8. “He kept our faculty together. Every major decision concerning the school was fully aired in our long faculty meetings. But once an issue was discussed and the faculty made a decision, that decision stood. We were never under cut. He respected us and we respected him. To me he was the model of a good leader. Later in my career when I happened to be in charge of a group of an activity, I tried to pattern my role as a leader after him.” What was the biggest challenge in molding a fledgling faculty in the early years of St. Croix?
9. What wisdom do you see in this statement? “We were a small faculty in those early years of Saint Croix. Frequently, we would get together after concerts or athletic events. Morton and Bettie were usually there. One thing Morton didn’t like was talking “shop” on those occasions. He and Bettie both were more interested in how our families were doing.”
10. How did your time at St. Croix impact you?
11. “When Morton had the call to teach English at DMLC, he told me he thought I should have that call. He implied he was ready to turn it down for that reason. However, I

encouraged him to accept the call for two reasons: First, he was an excellent teacher and could have a positive influence on future teachers. Second, he was also an excellent writer with a great command of the English language and a very readable style. That he would think so highly of my feelings regarding this call impressed me.” **Professor Emeritus Wayne Zuleger** What was it that led you to accept the call to DMLC?

Dr. Martin Luther College

1. What did you want to accomplish as a Professor/teacher of future called workers?
2. What challenges presented themselves when working with college age students?
3. What was life like in New Ulm?
4. What would the typical day of an English professor looked like?
5. Describe the dynamic of working with a college faculty.
6. What did you want to accomplish as an advisor to students?
7. Are there any moments that stand out in your mind from DMLC that are representative of your ministry at DMLC?
8. What were your favorite moments in New Ulm?
9. What are some of the less memorable moments from New Ulm?
10. During your time as a professor at DMLC, you wrote two books. The first Martin Luther, Man of God was published in 1983. Under the direction of the late Herbert H. Schaefer, then general manager of NPH, you were asked to undertake this writing. What was to be the main purpose of the book?
11. What do you see as its purpose today? How would you like to see the book used today?
12. The second book *A Time to Remember* was published in connection with the 100th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther in College in 1984. Describe the process of writing *A Time to Remember*.
13. What were the joys and blessings you received as you wrote the history?
14. How would you like to see this book used in the future?

Final thoughts

1. There are many myths floating around to the origins of a certain nickname you carry. “Already when Morton Schroeder was in college his nickname was “Salty.” He earned this name, as Bettie his wife tells it, because of the witty, sometimes sarcastic, and completely uninhibited way he expressed himself.” Some say it is simply because of the Morton Salt Company. Please help us by setting the record straight.
2. What impact do you believe you had on your students through out the years? ***Now please listen to some of your former students comments.***
3. What characteristics of yourself and your ministry would you find beneficial for future ministers of the gospel to emulate in their ministries?
4. As one who served in the ministry in many different aspects and places, what do you now expect, as a lay member, from your called workers?
5. What advice do you have for future ministers of the gospel?
6. If you could say anything to future workers of God’s kingdom, what would it be?