

The Men who Shape  
Christian Worship

Church History  
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Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Co. 3:13)

The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, gives his church a command. The Spirit urges us to show gratitude for God's saving work in Jesus Christ. One way to show this gratitude is in the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

The Lutheran Church has taken this command seriously during its' history. During the Reformation era Luther was a prolific hymn writer. He saw the importance of hymn singing in teaching the people. This rich musical heritage continued in the 20th century.

1941 saw the Synodical Conference publish The Lutheran Hymnal. As a member of the conference the Wisconsin Synod adopted the use of The Lutheran Hymnal. This hymnal served the Wisconsin Synod well, but the changing times called for a new hymnal.

At its' 1983 convention the Wisconsin Synod adopted a resolution that stated:

Whereas; The commission on worship has carried out past resolutions of Synod conventions calling for evaluations of options to meet our hymnal needs; and

whereas; Information gathered through surveys, questionnaires, personal consultations, correspondence from individuals, congregations, conferences, and districts, and an open hearing at this convention shows that a sizable majority of those responding favor the publishing Lutheran Worship or pursuing other alternatives; and

whereas; The commission on worship is recommending that WELS at this time begin preparation of its' own <sup>own?</sup> and roots of our Synod and will seek to meet the present and future worship needs of our congregations therefore be it

resolved; That we thank the commission on worship for its' conscientious efforts in these matters; and be it further resolved; That our Synod cease consideration of Lutheran Worship as well as a WELS produced supplement to meet the present and future needs of our congregations; and be it finally

resolved; That the Synod now begin work on a new/revised hymnal of its' own, one that under the blessings of God will be scripturally sound and edifying, welcomed and judged to be highly satisfactory for the purpose of devotion and worship by a majority of our members, in harmony with the character and heritage of our church body, and will reflect the larger perspective and mainstream of the worship of the Christian Church. 1

This action set in motion the creation of a new hymnal for the Wisconsin Synod. In keeping with Co. 3:13 and the concept of a church confessing its' beliefs in its' worship, the Wisconsin Synod embarked on the hymnal project.

The first step was the appointment of men to work on the new hymnal. These individuals would shape the way the Wisconsin Synod worshipped for the next thirty years. Ten years later the committee gave the Wisconsin Synod Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal. Opening this book gives us a small glimpses at the individuals who labored on the hymnal committee. During the ten years it took to complete the book many men left the project and many new men were appointed. This paper includes the biographies of fifteen of the seventeen men on the committee at the time Christian Worship was published. The two men not included did not wish to be a part of this paper. Their contributions to the hymnal project should not be overlooked. Their wish to be excluded for this

paper will be respected. The biographies included are not meant to be exhaustive but are to give us small taste of the men who shaped the new hymnal. We thank the Lord for giving us faithful men to work on our new hymnal. Along with these thanks a word of commendation should go out to those who left the committee during the years of production. Their work and contributions remain an important part of Christian Worship.

The number of departures and appointments on the hymnal committee makes matters a bit complicated. The introductory notes out of the way we begin our look at the men of Christian Worship.

### Bruce Backer

On December 13, 1929, the musically gifted family of Prof. Emil Backer was blessed. The blessing came in the form of a son named Bruce Backer. Prof. Backer showed promise in the musical talent spread through the family. His father Emil, a Dr. Martin Luther College graduate, had received other degrees from The

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Emil was called as a Professor at Dr. Martin Luther College to replace the great Fritz Reuter. Backer's mother Erna was also a gifted musician and assisted with piano instruction at Dr. Martin Luther College. Bruce Backer intend to groom all of the musical talent he had inherited with formal training.

Prof. Backer's education remained in New Ulm, Mn., for quite some time. After attending St. Paul's Lutheran School Backer moved on to Martin Luther Academy. He graduated from the academy in 1947 and attended Dr. Martin Luther College. Prof. Backer studied there until 1950 when he received a three year program diploma. Backer decided to change the focus of his education and enrolled at Northwestern College in Watertown, WI.. He graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and moved on to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI.. Upon his graduation from the Seminary Backer was assigned to Dr. Martin Luther College. While there Prof. Backer continued his education by achieving his Master of Music

Degree at Northwestern University. He has also completed many of the requirements for his doctorate at the University of Minnesota.

It is easy to see why Prof. Backer is a member of Dr. Martin Luther College's music department. His entire ministry has been spent as a professor at the school. Backer has taught choir, music theory, music history, Lutheran Worship, and organ.

Just prior to becoming a professor at New Ulm Backer had a major change in his life. The Lord blessed him with a wonderful spouse. On August 7, 1956, Bruce Backer married Virginia Spaude the daughter of a Lutheran minister. She is one of eight children, seven of whom were either pastors or teachers. Mrs. Backer is a graduate of New Ulm and holds a degree in church history from Temple University. She taught in South Dakota and Michigan. The Lord Blessed the Backers with five Children.

When the Conference of Presidents appointed members to the joint hymnal committee they needed a person from Dr. Martin

Luther College's music department. They found the eminently qualified Bruce Backer. Prof. Backer hoped to bring a solid background of theoretical and historical music knowledge to the committee.

In his humble and unpretentious way Prof. Backer shaped Christian Worship with his vast knowledge of hymnology and worship. When Backer spoke people listened. He would not argue a point but simply stated his opinion and went with the majority. Very often his opinions helped lead the committee to a decision on a hotly debated topic. Though a traditionalist Prof. Backer was not unwilling to listen and change. This man of great knowledge and willingness helped to shape a worship tool that will touch the Wisconsin Synod for years to come.

### Elfred Bloedel

On May 13, 1924 in Hamlet IN, the Lord gave the church a special blessing in the person of Elfred Bloedel. Mr. Bloedel along

with six other children were raised in the home of Missouri Synod Pastor Gustav Bloedel and his wife Clara. Here Mr Bloedel learned his love of music and the church.

Mr. Bloedel nurtured his love of music as he continued his education. He graduated from Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, IL, as a teaching candidate for the Missouri Synod. Bloedel went on to earn a graduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His love for music was furthered by organ study at the University of Chicago and piano at Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Bloedel put his gifts to use serving his Lord. He served as a Lutheran school teacher in the Missouri Synod. Mr. Bloedel also served as music director at Grace Lutheran Church of the Wisconsin Synod in Milwaukee. He filled this position for twenty-five years. Mr. Bloedel has spent many years on the Wisconsin Synod's commission on worship.

August 4, 1945 changed Bloedel's life as he married Florence Ahlmann at St. Marcus Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. Mrs. Bloedel also attended Concordia River Forest. She graduated from Carroll College in Waukesha, WI, with an art degree. This degree came after Mrs Bloedel had raised a family of five children. She is very active in wood and stone sculpture.

Mr. Bloedel's vast musical background and experience on the commission on worship and the hymnal supplement made him a good choice for the joint hymnal committee. Mr. Bloedel saw a need for good quality in this much needed book. Bloedel brought this eye for quality to Christian Worship. Working on the new hymnal brought out many of Mr. Bloedel's true gifts. Bloedel was always looking forward. He wanted to <sup>know</sup> what was going to be the far reaching effect of each decision. This gift showed in his great sensitivity to language issues, especially to inclusive language. Mr. Bloedel's placement as statistician of hymn usage showed his care for people.

By seeing how hymns were used he could see what the people wanted.

Beside his ability to look beyond the committee's decisions Mr. Bloedel also strove for high quality in the musical content of Christian Worship. He showed great passion for including tunes and settings of a greater complexity. Bloedel's passion for quality did not mire him in traditional music, He showed immense willingness to accept modern harmonizations if done well. Elfred Bloedel's contributions to Christian Worship were a great help in establishing a quality Hymnal. He fulfilled his wish of giving the Wisconsin Synod a much need book done with musical quality.

### Richard Buss

Richard Buss was born March 20, 1930 in Manitowoc, WI, to Edwin and Malinda Buss. Prof. Buss is one of four children. Buss, desiring to be a pastor, attended Northwestern College and received

his Bachelor of Arts degree. He continued on to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to complete his pastoral training. Buss received his Master of Divinities degree and was assigned.

Prof. Buss has great interest in literature and the media. This interest sprouted into a way the Lord could use him in his kingdom. After serving in Hittinger and Reeder, ND, and as Dean of students at Northwestern Lutheran Academy, Buss was called as Professor of English at Dr. Martin Luther College.

While a Professor of English, Buss developed an acute sense of the language. He also taught poetry giving him experience in the beauty of the English language. Prof. Buss' English experience and theological background made him a logical choice for the joint hymnal committee. The conference of presidents appointed Buss to help with the language of Christian Worship. Prof. Buss did the job admirably.

Prof. Buss served as the chairman of the hymn text sub-

committee. He was an efficient and conscientious chairman on a sub-committee that dealt with some very sensitive matters and high emotions. The hymn text committee determined changes in the wording of hymns. Prof. Buss had the courage to update language in even well known hymns. These changes were made to make for a clear text. Prof. Buss' fine sense of English grammar made for effectiveness in preventing textual errors and providing fitting language. Buss' middle-of-the-road WELS attitude was a blessing to the project and to the church. In the very important job assigned to Prof. Buss his approach helped keep the project from taking to great a swing to the right or left. For Prof. Buss' ability to make sentences say what they were meant to say we thank God.

### Kurt Eggert

Kurt Eggert was the son of the Reverend and Mrs. William Eggert. He was born May 5, 1923, in Wausau, WI. The Eggert

household was given five children. In a musical home Pastor Eggert grew to love music. He attended Northwestern Prep and Northwestern College. After graduation from the college Eggert moved to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon. After only a year at the Seminary, Eggert accepted a call to serve as a one year instructor at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN. After missing a year of school Eggert still graduated with his class in 1947 by taking special summer courses.

The assignment committee saw fit to use Pastor Eggert's experience as a teacher and sent him as a tutor to Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, MI. After his one year of service Eggert was reassigned to Valley City, ND. Pastor Eggert went on to serve two other congregations before accepting a call as head of the music department at Wisconsin Lutheran Teachers College. When the Synod shut down the school Eggert took a call to Atonement Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. He served there until his call as

director of the Hymnal project in 1984. Eggert remained in the office until his death in June of 1994.

In June of 1948 Pastor Eggert married Ruth Westcott whose father was superintendent of the Synodical Conference mission among the African-Americans. They met while at Bethany College and married at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Watertown, WI. Mrs Eggert also is a servant of the Lord, while raising seven children she taught Lutheran grade school and served as secretary to the special ministries board.

Both Pastor and Mrs. Eggert had great interest in music. Eggert enjoyed directing choirs and concert going. One might say Pastor Eggert was consumed by music. While on vacation he often brought his briefcase <sup>with</sup> if should happen to have to write, plan, or compose something. Pastor Eggert's love for music went beyond simple interest. He sponsored workshops and seminars to improve congregational worship. He was always interested in teaching

members new hymns, psalms, and an understanding of the liturgy.

Eggert also strove for variety and ways to stir the person in the pew to genuine participation worship.

In 1984 there was no doubt Kurt Eggert was the man to be project director for the new hymnal. This man's life centered on serving his church and his Lord as a Pastor and musician. Pastor Eggert's burning desire took the form of countless essays, publications, and seminars. Finally this Love for God and music took the form of Christian Worship.

Eggert was the creative force that moved Christian Worship for ten years. He used every gift the Lord had given in the publication of the new hymnal. Kurt Eggert was a competent theologian and a gifted musician. He help to make Christian Worship a book of theological worth, not a hymnal without spiritual meat. His musical work contained in Christian Worship shows the ability he poured into everything he did.

Kurt Eggert set high standards for himself and those around him. He show good leadership and judgment while leading a sometimes unpopular project. Pastor Eggert took the heat when things did not go well and answered every letter received personally. He did this to inform and teach about worship. Christian Worship is Kurt Eggert's life gift to the Wisconsin Synod and he should be remembered for the effort and love he put into this hymnal. The Lord saw fit to call Pastor Eggert to join the choirs of Heaven in June of 1993 only two months before Christian Worship was dedicated at the 1993 Synod Convention.

### Theodore Hartwig

Pastor Philip Hartwig, a Wisconsin Synod man, and his wife Lillian were blessed with three children. One of those children, Theodore Hartwig was born in Red Wing , MN, on July 17, 1921. A man of many interest including music, Hartwig had a great desire to serve his Lord. He chose to follow in the footsteps of his father and

become a pastor. Hartwig attended Northwestern College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary where he received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Divinities respectively.

Upon graduation Hartwig was assigned and began his public service to the Lord. Hartwig served as a Pastor in congregations in South Dakota and Wisconsin. He was called to serve as a Professor of history and religion at Dr. Martin Luther College.

The Lord gave Prof. Hartwig a helper in all of his work. This help was Lois Wegner. Lois became Mrs. Theodore Hartwig on June 7, 1947, at Atonement Lutheran Church. Mrs. Hartwig is a New Ulm graduate and served as a teacher at Atonement. God blessed Prof. and Mrs. Hartwig with two sons and four daughters, five of which served as teachers in the WELS.

While serving at DMLC, Prof. Hartwig's interest in music grew. Hartwig became interested in the liturgical side of worship. This interest grew into Prof. Hartwig's service on the worship planning

committee at New Ulm for thirty years. Prof. Hartwig also served on the Synod's commission on worship for a full decade before the Hymnal project started.

These credentials made it nearly impossible for the Conference of presidents to overlook Hartwig as a choice for the hymnal committee. When he was appointed Prof. Hartwig hoped to bring some unique talents to the project. Beside his enthusiasm and imagination Prof. Hartwig brought great historical and theological knowledge to the committee.

Prof. Hartwig's historical knowledge included a solid understanding of the Lutheran Confessions. It was this knowledge that made him the choice to work on the new versions of the creeds to be found in Christian Worship. His careful workmanship and scholarship came to fruition in the well worded forms of the creeds we now use. While a scholarly man Hartwig was always congenial and friendly. His opinions were always well reasoned and had good

theological insights. Prof. Hartwig's innovative nature was a driving force behind many of the new liturgies.

Prof. Hartwig wished to bring imagination and history to Christian Worship. In the creeds and liturgies of the new hymnal we see that hope become reality. Prof. Hartwig's gifts were indispensable to Christian Worship.

### Mark Jeske

Mark Jeske is a native of Milwaukee, born to Pastor John Jeske and His wife Elenore on May 26, 1952. Mark Jeske grew up in a solid Christian home as his father was a parish pastor and Seminary professor. His mother has served the Wisconsin Synod by donating considerable time to its' bargain center and working in the Seminary library.

Mark Jeske was one of five children in this family. He left this family to start his own in 1986. Jeske married Carol Wynkoop at St. Marcus Lutheran Church on July 26. Carol, who is a DMLC

graduate, is interested in arts and crafts. She shares her husbands love of music and singing. The Jeskes' have four children.

Mark Jeske's love for the Lord lead him down his path of education. Jeske attended Wisconsin Lutheran High School and on graduating he went to Northwestern College. In order to complete his pastoral training he went to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Jeske spent a year as an emergency instructor at Northwestern Prep. Pastor Jeske was assigned to St. Marcus Lutheran Church after graduation. Pastor Jeske has remained there for his entire ministry.

While Pastor at St. Marcus Mark Jeske has served the Synod in a number of ways. He served on the Board of Control at Wisconsin Lutheran College for six years and was a founding member of the WELS Historical Institute. Pastor Jeske was chairman of the conference and is presently 2nd vice-president of the district. Pastor Jeske has other talents as well, he is a fine musician and writer.

Pastor Kurt Eggert was a close personal friend to Pastor Jeske.

Jeske served as Eggert's Vicar in 1977-78 at Atonement, It was here Pastor Eggert saw Jeske's many talents. Jeske was a member of the Lutheran Chorale, a choir directed by Pastor Eggert. In 1984 Eggert asked Pastor Jeske to be a member of the joint hymnal committee.

Pastor Jeske entered the project with great ideas and many hopes. He wanted to give the Wisconsin Synod a book that would incite a worship renaissance in the WELS. Jeske hoped the book would establish worship and liturgics as a legitimate discipline to be studied and discussed.

It did not take long for Pastor Jeske to make an impact on the project. His innovative and energetic personality <sup>were</sup> responsible for many language changes. Pastor Jeske helped to keep the hymnal project from becoming an ivory tower of college scholars. His great language facilities help to make Christian Worship a book that can be understood and appreciated by the person in the pew.

Pastor Jeske brought an inner-city and cross cultural concern to

the hymnal project. His work in Milwaukee's inner-city opened him up to the Afro-American community and its' worship. He brought some of the unique qualities of their worship to Christian Worship. It could be said that Pastor Jeske is responsible for the inclusion of gospels and spiritual songs in the new hymnal.

When the Lord lead Mark Jeske to become a member of the joint hymnal committee he gave them a talented and multifaceted man. His humor, willingness to compromise, and his great perspective gave Christian Worship a special flavor. He help give the people of WELS a book they could understand and enjoy.

### Iver Johnson

Ivar Johnson was a Norwegian Immigrant from Arendal who settled in Parkland, WA. He work and owned a grocery store in Parkland. It was in Parkland that he met Ragnhild Greibrak. Into their family God sent five children and one was Iver C. Johnson.

Johnson attended high school at Pacific Lutheran graduating in

1941. He attended Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary. He received a seminary degree in 1948 and a Bachelor of Arts from Concordia, St. Louis. Johnson achieved his Master of Education from Mankato State in 1963. He enter the doctoral program at the University of Minnesota in 1969 and is continuing at present.

Pastor Johnson served a dual parish in Iowa for nine years and returned to Bethany as a Professor. He taught education and biology at the college while directing the choir. In 1968 he accepted a call to be Pastor at St. James Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN. He remained there until his retirement in 1989.

Pastor Johnson met his wife at Bethany and married her after his graduation. His wife, the former Marybelle Ingebretson, is an excellent wife, mother, and pianist. She help Pastor Johnson by being the best Pastor's and Professor's wife. Mrs. Johnson is the mother of six children.

When Pastor Johnson was chosen as a member of the joint

hymnal committee he was a bit surprised. His experience as choir director was a plus in his appointment. He enacted many liturgical changes in the worship life at St. James and had a great knowledge of Norwegian Lutheran history and practice. This fact was important in a committee dominated by German Lutherans. Once appointed Johnson hoped to bring to the committee a sense of the American way of worship. Pastor Johnson wished to give the Wisconsin Synod a book that expressed the heartfelt thoughts of worshippers.

Johnson's hopes manifested themselves in his work on the committee. While quiet during most meetings he had a great passion for his people. He pushed for an American worship order, something the people could call their own. Pastor Johnson often asked the question of why something was being done. This was instrumental in avoiding change for the sake of change. In Iver Johnson the Lord gave the hymnal committee a man with a heart for the worshipper. His love gave the WELS a worship book that states the thoughts,

prayers, needs, and happiness of the common person in the pew.

### Harlyn Kuschel

Harlyn Kuschel was worship Coordinator of the Northern Wisconsin District when asked to be a member of the joint hymnal committee. His booming voice and love for music were evident to all who met him. At the time he received the assignment he was not sure he was qualified. The Lord moved Kuschel to accept anyway. Pastor Kuschel brought some musical talent and training to the project. His greatest asset was his knowledge and feeling for the parish pastor's perspective.

Pastor Kuschel served as the chairman of the hymn tune committee. His musical training gave him the ability to judge on the matter of hymn tunes and his parish experiences gave the ability to see what a worshipper could handle. He chaired his committee with patience and good humor. His sense of practical worship kept a reign on a sub-committee where creative tempers sometimes flared.

Pastor Kuschel came from a solid Christian background. The son of Bernard Kuschel, who served St. Paul's in North Fond du Lac for thirty-eight years. Harlyn was born on June 23, 1945. His mother Diana was the perfect pastor's wife from the 1950's to the 1970's. She remained at home and raised two sons. Kuschel's family contained a wealth of musical talent. His mother loved music and passed this love on to her sons. Both Kuschel and his brother can play musical instruments. Pastor Kuschel's wife Ellen also has great interest in music. The Kuschel's five children are yet that musical.

Pastor Kuschel is a graduate of the <sup>s</sup>Seminary. Previously he graduated from Northwestern Prep and College. Kuschel has expanded his education with some pastor's institutes but not with for-credit courses. Pastor Kuschel was assigned to St. John-St. James in Reedsville, WI. Kuschel served there for sixteen years before accepting a call to Zion in South Milwaukee. Pastor Kuschel is still serving that congregation. Kuschel has a great many interest

including sports and writing. The latter came into use when, while serving as a member of the Synod's commission on literature, he was asked to write commentary for Phillipians, Colossians, and Philemon. Pastor Kuschel's hard work and patience made him a valuable tool in making Christian Worship. His writing and organization of hymn text help give the Wisconsin Synod a hymnal they could use effectively

### Arnold Lehmann

An interesting history surrounds Arnold Lehmann. The Lehmanns are a family accustomed to enduring hardship for their faith. They were forced to leave their home in Slazburg, Austria. This happened when the Archbishop there ousted all protestants from his domain. The Lehmanns moved to Prussia but left for America when faced with the Prussian Union. The family emigrated to America where Philipp Lehmann was born. Philipp married Elenore Grosnick of Watertown. The Lehmanns had two sons and

two daughters.

Arnold Lehmann was one of these children born on April 4, 1914. He married Esther Burhop, the daughter of former Concordia Ft. Wayne president Wm. Burhop, on October 3, 1941. While Dr. Lehmann was at Northwestern College Mrs. Lehmann served as the administrative Secretary for nearly twenty years. The Lehmann clan was expanded when the Lord gave Dr, and Mrs. Lehmann three sons. All of these men served in the ministry.

Dr. Lehmann has a long and distinguished educational training. Having graduated from Northwestern Prep and College he pursued his musical interest at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While there Lehmann serve as assistant band leader. He attained his Bachelor of Music in 1938 and his Masters degree in 1940. Dr. Lehmann took three years and served in the U.S. Army from 1942-1945. He spent twenty-five months on front line intelligence in the European theater. Lehmann continued his education by getting a

doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in 1966.

Dr. Lehmann's long teaching career was just as impressive as his education. After teaching in two public high schools, he moved on to teach at Cleveland Lutheran High School. Dr Lehmann made the jump to teaching college at Concordia College, from there he went to Northwestern College. At NWC Dr. Lehmann built the music department from one room to an entire program. In Watertown, Dr. Lehmann taught all music classes and ran all musical organization for both Prep and College.

Dr. Lehmann's track record made him a logical choice for the joint hymnal committee. Dr. Lehmann is a scholar who could not be left out. Lehmann was intent on giving the Wisconsin Synod a good hymnal and liturgy. Lehmann believed The Lutheran Hymnal to be an excellent book for it's generation and did not want to improve it. Rather Christian Worship was to be a hymnal that had been updated and made to fit our generation, not an improvement of The Lutheran

Hymnal. Hoping to give the WELS a hymnal to spread the truth of law and gospel Dr. Lehmann set to work.

Dr. Lehmann's broad knowledge of music history gave him some insights others might have missed. Knowing the trends, musicians, and music of the past help give Lehmann a knowledge of what work in the future. Dr. Lehmann had his opinions but understood that fact that in committee the majority rules. Dr. Lehmann's scholarship and ability to research made him a valuable asset and source of knowledge for the committee. Dr. Lehmann gave the Wisconsin Synod an updated and well thought-out hymnal, A<sup>ci</sup> hymnal born of scholarship and hard work.

### Kermit Moldenhauer

Kermit Moldenhauer was born on October 24, 1949 in Fond Du Lac, WI. The son of Warren and Verona Moldenhauer who were both factory workers. Kermit pursued his service to the Lord by attending Dr. Martin Luther College. He graduated with Bachelor of

Science in 1971.

Upon graduation Mr. Moldenhauer was married to the former Laura Smith. Mrs. Moldenhauer is also a graduate of DMLC. The Moldenhauers have been blessed with four children. Mrs.

Moldenhauer is presently teaching at St. Lucas in Kewauskum, WI.

After getting married Mr. Moldenhauer moved to Beaver Dam, WI, where he began teaching at St. Stephen's. He remained there until 1975 when the Lord moved him to Martin Luther Academy in New Ulm. When the Synod moved the school to Prairie Du Chien, WI, Mr. Moldenhauer went with it. A member of the committee already, Moldenhauer was called as music editor at James Engel's death. When the project ended Mr. Moldenhauer took a call to serve at Northwestern Publishing House as Music/Worship editor.

Moldenhauer's Master of Church Music degree from Concordia, River Forest, and his experience as a Professor of music made him a solid choice as a member of the joint hymnal committee. Having

served as a parish musician he had a practical knowledge concerning what really worked in the parish. It was this expertise and practical knowledge that brought Moldenhauer to the committee.

When he accepted the call to serve as music editor for the project Moldenhauer began to grow into the position. While on the hymnal project Mr. Moldenhauer showed his great capacity for work and his intensity in getting a job done.

Mr. Moldenhauer with his musical skills also possessed exceptional aesthetic judgment. His good sense and taste gave him an eye for how Christian Worship would look in book form. We can attribute the beautiful book in our pews to the work of Kermit Moldenhauer.

As Pastor Eggert's health began to fail in the latter stages of the project Mr. Moldenhauer picked up the slack. Moldenhauer's willingness to embrace and employ new technology helped Christian Worship come to full bloom. Moldenhauer became the computer

expert on the committee. He was responsible for setting the hymnal up on the computer. Mr. Moldenhauer was the most indispensable man on the committee. By all human accounting Kermit Moldenhauer was the reason Christian Worship got done.

## Carl Nolte

Fairmont, MN, has been the home of the Nolte family since 1912. Paul Nolte, a farmer and letter carrier in Fairmont, has lived there his entire life. He and his wife Frieda raised three sons in the little town. One of these sons was Carl Nolte born on April 2, 1950.

In 1964 Nolte left Fairmont and travel to New Ulm. There he attend Martin Luther Academy and DMLC. He graduated from DMLC in 1973 after taking a year off to teach as an emergency instructor at New Ulm. Mr. Nolte continued his education at Concordia, River Forest, where he received a Master of Church Music. Nolte was assigned upon graduation to teach the fifth and sixth grades at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Chicago. While he

was there he met Beth Ann Janke , another New Ulm graduate. They were married and blessed with a family.

After serving at St. Andrew for eight years Mr. Nolte accepted a call to Bloomington, MN. There he taught seventh grade and directed the choir. In 1986 Nolte resigned due to irreconcilable differences. After a year of doing odd jobs Nolte received a call to teach fifth grade at First German in Manitowoc. To this date Mr. Nolte is teaching at First German.

<sup>indirect</sup> → In 1989 President Carl Mischke chose Nolte as a replacement for Gordon Pape on the commission on worship. This appointment also made him a member of the joint hymnal committee. This was a wind fall for the committee. Nolte brought a keen interest in music and talent to match. His experience as a teacher gave him the unique insight to see how Christian Worship would be used in our classrooms. Mr. Nolte wished to bring the WELS a hymnal that showed the strength of using traditional forms with contemporary

variations.

Carl Nolte made the committee look at issues from a common sense point of view. His experience caused him to ask searching questions from an organist's point of view. This was a reminder to the committee to take into account the needs of these important musicians. Choir directors and organists owe much thanks to Carl Nolte for his work on Christian Worship.

### Victor Prange

On July 11, 1932, in Joliet, IL, God blessed Pastor B.F. Prange and his wife Concordia with a son. They named the boy Victor and he would do great things in the service of his Lord. Victor Prange was one of six children. He spent six years at Concordia, Milwaukee, and from there went to Northwestern College for two more years. He finished his academic career in 1958 upon his graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Pastor Prange has served Peace Lutheran Church in Janesville, WI, for his entire ministry.

While Prange vicared in Tucson, AZ, he met his wife to be. Ileana Sitz, daughter of E. Arnold Sitz, caught his fancy and were wed on July 11, 1958 in Tucson. The Pranges are parents to five children. Pastor Prange and his wife are both music lovers. Pastor Prange ranks music his number one hobby. Prange got to use his knowledge of music on the hymnal committee.

When Prange was chosen as a member of the joint hymnal committee it did not take long to see the gifts the Lord had given him. His good leadership qualities got him the appointment as chairman of the committee. It <sup>i</sup>as in this capacity that Pastor Prange began to shine. He moved the committee along with his reasonable work schedules and agendas.

Prange knew the purpose of the committee was to get the job done. He always had this in mind but never pushed ahead when something wasn't done correctly. His constant push for field testing showed his desire to do the hymnal well. Prange never cut useful

discussion off because he knew something important might come out of it. By planning ahead Pastor Prange was able to pay greater attention to detail.

Victor Prange served the committee with a mild demeanor and unwavering integrity. He was a solid theologian and an able penman. All of these qualities made Victor Prange the perfect man for the chair. Like all men who take the lead on difficult assignments Victor Prange deserves the thanks of the Wisconsin Synod for his solid and thoughtful work.

### Loren Schaller

Loren Schaller was born to Herbert and Irene Schaller as one of six children. The Schallers were wed in 1912 and Loren was born ten years later on July 14, 1922. Loren is the grandson of former Seminary President John Schaller. Loren married Gretchen Munstock in 1948 at St. John's in Wauwautosa, WI. The Lord blessed this marriage with five children before he took Mrs. Schaller

she is still alive  
to be with him in <sup>h</sup>Heaven. Loren remarried in 1984 to Ruth Warskow, a nurse from Tucson, AZ.

Pastor Schaller took the standard route of education for a Wisconsin Synod pastor. He attended Northwestern Prep and College graduating and giving the German oration in 1945. After graduation in 1948 from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Pastor Schaller entered the ministerium of the WELS.

Pastor Schaller had a long career serving his Lord and Church. He served pastorates in North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. In 1960 he accepted a call as principal of Manitowoc Lutheran High School. He also served at Northwestern Publishing House as an associate editor until 1984. Pastor Schaller retired from the active ministry in 1987, but is still serving vacancies in Arizona.

Pastor Schaller was chosen as the replacement for James Fricke. His abilities as an editor and a writer made him a helpful choice.

Schaller brought seniority, maturity, and an evangelical spirit to this fine group of men. Schaller's maturity showed in his steady but not forceful hand while he worked on the committee. He showed respect for the awesomeness of the project laid before him and yet was always cheerful. His grin and laugh made him a fine team player on a committee where personal opinions took center stage. Schaller's mastery of language and quite leadership were a tribute to the man. His many unseen contributions to Christian Worship should not be forgotten or unappreciated.

### Wayne Schulz

Born November 14, 1940 in Merrill, WI, Wayne Schulz was raised with two brothers in the parsonage of Wilbert and Agnes Schulz. Schulz attended St. Paul's Lutheran School in Wonewoc, WI. At age fourteen he went off to Northwestern Prep and then to Northwestern College. Schulz graduated from the seminary in 1966 after taking a year off to teach Latin at Martin Luther Academy and

DMLC.

Pastor Schulz was assigned to Trinity, Aberdeen, SD, where he served until 1975. Pastor Schulz served at St. Paul, Rapid City, SD, until 1989 when he became a Synod mission counselor. Pastor Schulz served the Dakota/Montana District in many ways while a pastor there. He was a member of the district's mission and worship boards. Schulz also served as district president and circuit pastor.

Through his entire ministry Pastor Schulz has been blessed with a faithful spouse. On June 26, 1966, Schulz married Anita Lemke, another New Ulm Graduate. Mrs. Schultz served as a teacher in Mobridge, SD. A very musical person, Mrs. Schulz has <sup>taught</sup> piano and organ for over twenty-five years. Six children were given by God to fill the Schulz household.

Though not a professional musician Pastor Schulz fit a need on the joint hymnal committee. The spot vacated by David Valleskey was ideal. The committee was in need of an experienced pastor with

an interest in music. Pastor Schulz was a member of the Dakota/Montana district and it helped give the committee some geographic diversity.

Pastor Schulz hoped to bring change to a book (TLH) which he felt <sup>needed</sup> structural change. This feeling was gradually chipped away as historical connections were discovered and upheld by the committee. A desire to give the WELS a hymnal that offered uncluttered orders of worship remained. For the book to be a success Pastor Schulz thought it needed to bring to light the joy of worship.

This concern for the worshipper showed Pastor Schulz's kind and dedicated pastoral heart. Schulz made the committee consider everything it did, so that it would speak to every worshipper. Pastor Schulz was a thoughtful man who never strayed too far right or left. The Wisconsin Synod can thank God for Wayne Schulz, who had their best interest at <sup>heart</sup> while serving on the joint hymnal committee.

James Tiefel

While Arnold Tiefel was serving Jehovah-Zion in Detroit, he and his wife were blessed with a son. On December 8, 1949 James Tiefel was brought into this world and the Tiefel home. James Tiefel and his sister moved often as Pastor Tiefel accepted calls to serve various congregations.

Tiefel's grade school years were spent at Bethel Lutheran School in Menasha , WI. Manitowoc Lutheran High School was the sight of his secondary training, he graduated in 1968. Coming from a family full of Pastors Tiefel went to Northwestern College and then to the Seminary graduating in 1976.

While vicaring at St. Paul's North Mankato, MN, Tiefel met Brenda Klukas. Miss Klukas was a student at Mankato State and graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. They married after his graduation. While the mother of three children Mrs. Tiefel still found time to teach piano.

After getting married the Tiefels packed up and moved to

Saginaw, MI, where Pastor Tiefel had been assigned upon graduation. Pastor Tiefel served as an associate at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for nearly ten years when accepted a call to teach at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. At the Seminary Prof. Tiefel teaches liturgics and education and is responsible for worship life and chorus.

While still Pastor at St. Paul's Tiefel was appointed to the Joint Hymnal Committee. Chosen because of his fine musical skill and knowledge of worship Tiefel added the benefit of a Michigan representative to the committee. All of this changed a bit when Prof. Tiefel came to the seminary three months later. Becoming a Professor at the seminary was added benefit because it gave the committee a direct line to the young pastor entering the parish.

Once appointed Tiefel set his mind to be a conservative voice on a committee whose purpose was change. Prof. Tiefel set standards that he wanted the new hymnal to meet. The book needed to keep a standard core of both hymns and liturgy. It also needed to raise the

awareness of the Synod to the importance of worship.

With these standard in place Tiefel went to work on Christian Worship. Though a younger man Tiefel became an important tool in the success of the new hymnal. Prof. Tiefel recognized the importance of this project and was a major player in the development of the major liturgies. His outspoken manner and great debating skill helped hi<sup>m</sup> point the committee down a road they might have overlooked. Though he might have appeared combative at time he had the unique ability to argue against a point and yet remain the friend to whomever had suggested it. Prof. Tiefel's position at the Seminary gave him the opportunity to field test hymnal materials among the future pastors of the Synod. This allowed the young men to become acquainted with the hymnal even before its<sup>t</sup> production. In the long run Prof. Tiefel efforts may have made Christian Worship's port of entry a bit smoother. As <sup>+</sup>The new hymnal hits the pews to rave reviews we can thank James Tiefel for building

confidence in the book among the pastors of the next generation.

We now end the biographies of the men who shaped Christian Worship. This hymnal is not the work of one man but a child of many, <sup>a</sup> child of men who put in love, time, and effort to make it a book that will be used in the WELS for decades to come. All deserve to be honored and thanked. This hymnal was their work but as they all expressed, <sup>†</sup> This is a gift from God to his Church.

## Endnotes

- I. Resolution 7, Proceedings of the 47th Biennial convention of WELS, 1983

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