

# Evangelical Lutheran Synod Congregations and Pastors

A Historical Register, 1918–2023



## Preface

Over one hundred years ago, an ambitious project was undertaken to publish a three-volume set of books recounting the work of Norwegian Lutherans in North America.

In 1918, a two-book directory was published with the title, *Norsk Lutherske Menigheter i Amerika, 1843–1916*. These books comprise a record of 6,754 Norwegian Lutheran congregations which existed in North America. The information, while limited by the information and accuracy of that which was submitted to the compiler, has been vital for historical purposes of the past century.

Previously the first volume in the series had been published in 1914, pertaining to the Norwegian Lutheran clergy under the title *Norsk Lutherske prester i Amerika, 1843–1913*. It included the biographies of 1,826 pastors and was revised in 1928 as *Who's Who Among Pastors in All the Norwegian Lutheran Synods of America, 1843–1927*.

A third volume was *School Calendar, 1824–1924: a who's who among teachers in the Norwegian Lutheran synods of America*, which listed 3,600 names.

In the preface to the final volume, the compiler of the series, the Rev. O. M. Norlie, writes, "It is profitable for any race group to sit down at times to take an inventory of what it has given and what it has received."

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod considers herself to be the rightful spiritual successor of the Norwegian Synod. As such, this historical directory is prepared after the manner of the above works. The scope is more limited, pertaining only to the congregations, pastors, and teachers who have been members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and served within her congregations. Additional earlier historical data also is included for congregations and pastors finding their origins within the Norwegian Synod.

The historical record of some congregations is short. The record of other congregations is long. Some congregations are young while others are well aged. Some congregations have a simple history while others are more complex. As with its predecessors, accuracy is limited to the information available. Yet, this is the heritage of God's history and working to extend His kingdom on earth.

May this volume also serve as a resource for the coming decades.

– C.A.F.

## Joice Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

*Joice, Iowa*

ELS 1919–1921(?)

Organized 1915.

97 souls in 1915.

Silver Lake congregation was organized in 1859. In 1869 the congregation split over the issue of slavery. The congregation divided again in 1876 due to distance and formed Concordia. The Concordia congregation split in 1915, forming the Joice Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation.

Pastor A.J. Torgerson, 1919–1921.

Closed 1921(?).

## Lake Mills Lutheran Church

*Lake Mills, Iowa*

ELS 1919–

Organized 1865. Reorganized 1918.

85 souls in 1930; 134 in 1950; 150 in 1975; 68 in 2000; 18 in 2020.

Worship services among the Norwegians were conducted in the Lake Mills area as early as 1865 by the Rev. T. A. Torgerson. After early doctrinal divisions, a congregation, Our Savior's, was organized in 1889. When this congregation entered into the Merger, Lake Mills Lutheran Church was reorganized by a minority. In 1921 the former church building, constructed in 1895, was repurchased. A new entrance was added in 1967. The nave and exterior were

remodeled and rededicated on October 15, 1972.

Pastors T. Torgerson, 1865–1873; J. Dahl, 1874–1887; T. Torgerson, 1888–1890; A. Lee, 1890–1907; O. Ottesen, 1907–1910; H. Ingebritson, 1911–1944; L. Vangen, 1944–1948; I. Johnson, 1948–1957; G. Becker, 1957–1960; P. Anderson, 1961–1966; A. Merseth, 1966–2001; K. Hermanson, 2001–2009; E. Hoef, 2009–2015; D. Emmons, 2015–2023.

Vicars C. Morales, 1972–1973; C. Keeler, 1976–1977; G. Schmeling, 1977–1978; C. Artigas, 1978; D. Metzger, 1979–1980; D. Faugstad, 1980–1981; G. Haugen, 1981–1982; G. Obenberger, 1982–1983; S. Sparley, 1983–1984; T. Bartels, 1984–1985; D. Hoyord, 1985–1986; M. Bartels, 1986–1987; M. Ernst, 1987–1988; D. Basel, 1988–1989.

Parsonage (Northwood).



1895 building



1967 addition



1972 remodeling



2017



1913

### Petersen, Emil Johan

*Ord. 1879*

Born January 24, 1854, at Rønne, Bornholm, Denmark, of Christian Petersen and (Christine) Ane (Kofoed). Immigrated 1868. Attended Concordia College, Ft Wayne, 1869–75 (A.B.); Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1875–78 (C.T.); Copenhagen University, 1878. Pastor, Newport Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Dells, WI, 1879–1882; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Portage, WI, 1879–1882. \* Elizabeth Larsen Østeraa, 1879 († 1881); Mary Dowie Cornils, 1893 († 1915); Sanna Elisabet Hufdala, 1917 († 1959). Died November 13, 1919.



2017

### Petersen, John J.

*Ord. August 19, 1985*

ELS 1986–

Born 1957. Graduated Bethany Lutheran College, 1977 (A.A.); University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, 1980 (B.A.); Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 1985. Vicar, Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, FL, 1984–1985. Pastor, River Heights Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, MN, 1985–1991; Grace Lutheran Church, Madison, WI, 1991–1997; Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, FL, 1997–2005; Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, 2005–. Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Board of Appeals, 2007–2008, 2009–2014; Committee for Archives and History, 2008–; Board for World Outreach, 2009–; Missions Advancement Project Board of Directors, 2018–. \* Joyce L. Eisberg, 1996.



1993

### Petersen, Joseph N.

*Ord. April 22, 1945*

ELS 1945–1997

Born April 1, 1919, in Rembrandt, Iowa, of Rev. Justin Petersen and Nettie (Knutson). Graduated Bethany Lutheran High School, 1936; Bethany Lutheran College, 1939 (A.A.); Northwestern College, 1942; Thiensville Theological Lutheran Seminary (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary), 1945. Pastor, Ascension Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, 1945–1951; Pinehurst Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, 1945–1951; Calvary Evangelical Church, Seymour, WI, 1946–1951; Concordia Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, 1947–1949; Cornwall, England, 1951–1955; English Lutheran Church, Cottonwood, MN, 1955–1958; Norseland Lutheran Church, St. Peter, MN, 1958–1968; Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church, Gaylord, MN, 1958–1968; Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN, (director of student recruitment) 1968–1971; Missionary-at-large, 1971–1975; Indian Landing Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY, 1975–1979; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Scottsville, NY, 1975–1979; Peace Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO, 1979–1985. Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Young People's Work Committee, 1948–1950; Committee on Fraternal Organizations, 1948–1952; Home Missions, 1951–1952; Board for Missions, 1955–1959, 1969–1971; Board of Trustees, 1959–1962; Board of Regents, 1962–1963, 1977–1980; Vice President, 1962–1963, 1966–1968; President, 1963–1966; Board of Trustees, 1963–1968; Golden Anniversary Committee, (ex officio) 1963–1969; Bethany High School Matter, 1967–1968; Circuit Visitor, 1974–1977; Special Committee on Anniversaries, 1974–1978. \* Shirley E. Knudsen, 1946 († 2019). Died June 7, 1997. Buried at Norseland Lutheran Church, St. Peter, MN.



### Petersen, Justin Axel

*Ord. 1916*

ELS 1925–1954

Born January 2, 1891, at Escanaba, Michigan, of Julius Petersen and Mary (Gaasrud). Attended Manistique, MI, High School, 1905–08; Luther College, 1909–13 (A.B.); Luther Seminary, 1913–16 (C.T.). Pastor, Center Lutheran Church, Scarville, IA, 1925–1942; Scarville Synod Lutheran Church, Scarville, IA, 1925–1942; Forest Lutheran Church, Forest City, IA, 1925–1928; Center Lutheran Church, Scarville, IA, 1943–1949; Scarville Synod Lutheran Church, Scarville, IA, 1943–1949; Bookstore manager, 1949–1954. Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Christian Day School Board, 1925–1926, 1927–1929; Home Missions, 1927–1939; Jubilee Committee, 1938–1943; Board of Regents, 1940–1946; Board for Publications, 1951–1954. \* Nettie Knutson, 1916 († 1963). Died February 18, 1954. Buried at Scarville Lutheran Church, Scarville, IA.

# Lutheran Elementary School Teachers

## **Aaberg, Helena**

Born October 21, 1885, in North Dakota of Rev. Ole H. Aaberg and Thea (Evenson). Teacher, Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, 1907–1912. Died March 15, 1964.

## **Aaberg, Ida**

Born May 30, 1887, in North Dakota, of Rev. Ole H. Aaberg and Thea (Evenson). Teacher, Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, 1906–1907. Died October 10, 1921.

## **Aaberg, Marie**

Born 1954. Graduated Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN (B.S.). Teacher, Saude Lutheran Church, Lawler, IA, 1977–1979; Scarville Synod Lutheran Church, Scarville, IA, 1979–1983; Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, 1983–2002, 2003–2004.

## **Aaberg, Sarah**

Born 1953. Teacher, Saude Lutheran Church, Lawler, IA, 1975–1977; Jerico Lutheran Church, New Hampton, IA, 1977–1978; Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, 1978–1982. \* Rev. Ronald Mehlberg.

## **Aasheim, Gladys**

Born August 27, 1908, in Ransom County, North Dakota, of Alfred Aasheim and Julia (Olson). Graduated Bethany Lutheran College, 1930 (A.A.). Teacher, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Princeton, MN, 1932–1934; Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Albert Lea, MN, 1934–1935, 1936–1937. \* Thor Selvig, 1942 († 1979). Died October 2, 1997.

## **Abraham, Patricia**

Teacher, Family of God Lutheran Church, Fort Mohave, AZ, 2008–2009.

## **Achey, Mrs. Melanie**

Teacher, Peace Lutheran Church, Kissimmee, FL, 2021–. \* Jonathan Achey.

## **Acosta, Mrs. Gloria**

Teacher, Lakewood Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lakewood, WA, 2014–2018.

## **Adickes, Mark**

Teacher, Saved by Grace Lutheran Church, Gresham, OR, 1995–1997.

## **Anderson, Donald**

Born June 13, 1930, in Freeborn County, Minnesota, of Oscar Anderson and Betsy (Troie). Graduated Bethany Lutheran College, 1949 (A.A.); Mankato State College, 1951 (bachelor's). Teacher, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, 1954–1956. \* Barbara Weigt, 1955 († 2016). Died May 16, 2021.

## **Anderson, Mrs. Laura**

Teacher, Lakewood Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lakewood, WA, 1997–2000.

## **Anderson, Marie Louise**

Born October 4, 1884, in Lyon County, Minnesota. Graduated Pacific Lutheran Academy, 1906. Teacher, Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA. \* Oscar Wenberg, 1911 († 1952). Died November 15, 1972.

## **Anderson, Orla**

Born July 2, 1925, in Winnebago County, Iowa, of Oscar Anderson and Betsy (Troie). Graduated Bethany Lutheran College, 1947; Mankato State College. Teacher, Norseland Lutheran Church, St. Peter, MN, 1944–1945; Saude Lutheran Church, Lawler, IA, 1947–1951. \* Justin C. Petersen, 1960 († 2000). Died March 26, 2019.

## **Andreson, Marie**

Born November 29, 1917, in Polk County, Minnesota, of Peder Andreson and Sigrí (Anenson). Graduated Bethany Lutheran High School, 1936; Bethany Lutheran College, 1938 (A.A.). Teacher, Bethany Lutheran Church, Ames, IA, 1937–1938; Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, 1940–1943. \* Peder J. Tjernagel, 1947 († 1969). Died March 28, 2002.

## **Annexstad, Clara**

Born November 5, 1917, in Nicollet County, Minnesota, of Gustaf Annexstad and Olga (Lokensgaard). Graduated Bethany Lutheran High School, 1937. Teacher, Norseland Lutheran Church, St. Peter, MN, (assistant) 1941. \* Emmett Norell, 1950 († 2004). Died March 17, 2013.

## **Annexstad, Gudrun**

Born April 30, 1930, in Nicollet County, Minnesota, of Gustaf Annexstad and Olga (Lokensgaard). Graduated Bethany Lutheran High School, 1948; Bethany Lutheran College, 1950. Teacher, Lime Creek Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, IA, 1950–1951. \* David Kenyon, 1952. Died June 3, 2015.

## **Anthony, Jeanette**

Teacher, Scarville Synod Lutheran Church, Scarville, IA, 1983–1984. \* Kevin Hewitt.

# Indices

## Year Joined ELS

1919—St. Luke's, Chicago IL . . . . .	22	1930—Concordia, Eau Claire WI . . . . .	120
1919—St. Mark's, Chicago IL . . . . .	23	1931—Thompson, Thompson IA . . . . .	40
1919—St. Paul's, Chicago IL . . . . .	23	1931—Clearwater, Gonvick MN . . . . .	70
1919—Joice, Joice IA . . . . .	30	1934—West Prairie, Winnebago County IA . . . . .	44
1919—Lake Mills, Lake Mills IA . . . . .	30	1936—Holy Cross, Sheyenne ND . . . . .	99
1919—Lime Creek, Lake Mills IA . . . . .	31	1938—Bygland (River Heights), East Grand Forks MN . . . . .	66
1919—First Shell Rock, Northwood IA . . . . .	36	1938—Zion, Tracy MN . . . . .	88
1919—Somber, Northwood IA . . . . .	37	1940—Immanuel, Holton MI . . . . .	52
1919—Center, Scarville IA . . . . .	39	1940—Pinehurst, Eau Claire WI . . . . .	121
1919—Scarville Synod, Scarville IA . . . . .	40	1942—Redeemer, New Hampton IA . . . . .	35
1919—Our Savior's, Albert Lea MN . . . . .	56	1942—Bethel, Sioux Falls SD . . . . .	108
1919—Fairview, Minneapolis MN . . . . .	80	1944—Salem, Eagle Lake MN . . . . .	65
1919—Our Savior's, Milnor ND . . . . .	99	1945—Trinity, Calmar IA . . . . .	28
1919—Parkland, Tacoma WA . . . . .	114	1945—Our Redeemer's, Currie MN . . . . .	64
1920—Bethany, Ames IA . . . . .	27	1948—Richland, Thornton IA . . . . .	41
1920—First Evanger, Fertile MN . . . . .	68	1948—Our Savior's, Hawley MN . . . . .	73
1920—Hartland, Hartland MN . . . . .	72	1949—Zion, Thompson IA . . . . .	41
1920—Chester (Mt. Olive), Trail MN . . . . .	88	1949—Grace, Elk Rapids MI . . . . .	48
1920—Zion, Marshfield OR . . . . .	104	1949—Hiawatha, Minneapolis MN . . . . .	80
1920—Western Koshkonong, Cottage Grove WI . . . . .	119	1950—First, Delhi MN . . . . .	64
1920—Our Saviour's, Madison WI . . . . .	123	1950—Bethany, Luverne MN . . . . .	76
1921—Cross Lake, Fosston MN . . . . .	68	1951—Rose Dell Trinity, Jasper MN . . . . .	74
1921—Our Savior's, Hayfield MN . . . . .	73	1951—Lakewood, Lakewood WA . . . . .	112
1921—Our Savior's, Princeton MN . . . . .	84	1952—Bethany, Luverne MN . . . . .	76
1921—Mt. Sterling, Mt. Sterling WI . . . . .	127	1953—Calvary, Seymour WI . . . . .	128
1922—Forest, Forest City IA . . . . .	29	1954—Bethany, Princeton MN . . . . .	83
1922—East Paint Creek, Waterville IA . . . . .	42	1954—Edgecumbe Hills, St. Paul MN . . . . .	86
1922—Scandinavian, Holton MI . . . . .	52	1954—Ascension, Eau Claire WI . . . . .	119
1922—First, Suttons Bay MI . . . . .	55	1955—Our Savior's First, Granada Hills CA . . . . .	12
1922—English, Cottonwood MN . . . . .	63	1955—Bethlehem, Ellsworth MN . . . . .	67
1922—Our Savior's, Amherst Junction WI . . . . .	116	1956—Our Savior's, Bagley MN . . . . .	59
1923—Saude, Lawler IA . . . . .	32	1957—Our Redeemer, Canoga Park CA . . . . .	11
1923—Jerico, New Hampton IA . . . . .	34	1957—St. Timothy, Lombard IL . . . . .	25
1923—Rockwell, Norman Co. MN . . . . .	81	1957—Indian Landing, Rochester NY . . . . .	96
1924—West Paint Creek, Waukon IA . . . . .	43	1959—Holton, Holton MI . . . . .	51
1924—Pinewood, Burlington MA . . . . .	46	1959—Clearwater, Oklee MN . . . . .	82
1924—Norseland, St. Peter MN . . . . .	87	1961—Pinehurst, Eau Claire WI . . . . .	121
1925—Rock Dell, Belview MN . . . . .	61	1961—Grace, Madison WI . . . . .	123
1925—Immanuel, Lengby MN . . . . .	75	1963—St. Paul, Lengby MN . . . . .	75
1925—First American, Mayville ND . . . . .	98	1965—Pilgrim, Waterloo IA . . . . .	42
1926—Calvary, Ulen MN . . . . .	90	1966—Faith, Muskegon MI . . . . .	53
1926—Holy Cross, Morgan ND . . . . .	99	1966—St. Paul's, Portage WI . . . . .	128
1927—Oslo, Volga SD . . . . .	108	1966—Newport, Wisconsin Dells WI . . . . .	131
1927—Holy Cross, Madison WI . . . . .	124	1967—Central Heights, Mason City IA . . . . .	33
1928—Manchester, Manchester MN . . . . .	76	1967—King of Grace, Golden Valley MN . . . . .	70
1928—Bethany (Mt. Olive), Mankato MN . . . . .	78	1967—St. Paul's, Clintonville WI . . . . .	118
1928—Emmaus, Minneapolis MN . . . . .	79	1968—Faith, East Jordan MI . . . . .	48
1929—Concordia, Clearbrook MN . . . . .	62	1968—Concordia, Traverse City MI . . . . .	55
1929—St. Paul's, Redtop MN . . . . .	85	1968—Faith, Austin MN . . . . .	58
1929—Grace, Manitowoc WI . . . . .	125	1968—Froen, Fosston MN . . . . .	69
1930—Immanuel, Audubon MN . . . . .	58	1969—Faith, Hillman MI . . . . .	50
1930—Our Savior's, Belview MN . . . . .	60	1971—Heritage, Apple Valley MN . . . . .	57
1930—Central, Duluth MN . . . . .	65	1971—Grace, Crookston MN . . . . .	64
1930—Our Savior's, Watford City ND . . . . .	100	1971—Good Shepherd, Bloomer WI . . . . .	117
		1972—Trinity, West Bend WI . . . . .	130