

DEATHS OF ROSTERED LEADERS

The Rev. Edward A. Neiderhiser, Ph.D.

Pastor Neiderhiser died April 17, 2019. He was born May 27, 1947.

Ed attended McDowell High School, Erie, PA. He received his B.A. in History and Greek from Thiel College, Greenville, PA; his Master of Divinity degree at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, PA and his Ph.D. in Hebrew Scriptures, Cognate Languages and Arabic at Dropsie University, Philadelphia, PA.

Ed was the Director of Chaplaincy and all religious programming at Graterford State Prison from 1989 until his retirement in 2015.

Ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in 1977. Ed was a dynamic pastor who served congregations in Havertown, Philadelphia and North Wales, PA for 42 years.

Ed was an experienced performer of trumpet, flugelhorn, piccolo trumpet and piano. Ed was a composer and arranger of Jazz, Classical, Liturgical, Pop, and Blues venues. He had recordings under his own name and with other jazz artists and he had several articles published in professional journals as well as a short story published in British Jazz Anthology.

Ed's family, faith and love of music was an integral part of his humanity. He was an inspiration, a mentor and an empathetic friend to so many.

Ed is survived by his loving wife of over 33 years, Sally (nee Kavash), his two sons, Joshua Edward Neiderhiser, Jason Wallace and his daughter Christy Lian Dougherty and her sons Michael Liam and Andrew John.

A funeral service was held Monday, April 29, 2019, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 211 S. Main Street, North Wales, PA 19454 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM.

The Rev. John N. Holman

Pastor Holman died June 28, 2019. He was born June 16, 1928.

John studied at Capital University in Columbus, OH in 1950 and then Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH in 1954. He was the Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Wilmington Delaware, St. Michael the Archangel in Kennett Square, PA, Salem Lutheran Church in Audenried, PA and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Beaver Meadows, PA and Zion Lutheran Church in Bristol for 24 years. John will be deeply missed.

John is predeceased by his siblings, William "Bill" Holman and Dorothy Holman Squire; and niece, Helen.

He is survived by his nephews, Craig, Mark, and John.

A memorial service was held July 12, 2019 at 11:00AM at Zion Lutheran Church, located at 301 Jefferson Ave., Bristol, PA 19007.

The Rev. Kenneth S. Ensminger

Pastor Ensminger died August 22, 2019. He was born September 28, 1929.

He was a graduate of Muhlenberg College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Rev. Ensminger served Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Schwenksville, from 1962 until he retired in 1994 as Pastor Emeritus.

He was a member of the Central Perkiomen Rotary Club and Schwenksville Fire Co. During his retirement he was a visitation pastor for St. John Lutheran Church, Phoenixville, and after moving to Peter Becker Community, attended Church Of The Holy Spirit, Harleysville.

In addition to his wife Amy (Fell) Ensminger, Pastor Ensminger is survived by his children, Paul Ensminger, Schwenksville, and Anne (Robert) Dow, Oxford, CT, Robert (Kimberly) DuBree, North Wales, Linda Pack, Quakertown, Mark (Angela) Dubree, Rockledge, and Brenda (Kevin) Workmeister, White Marsh, MD; his 13 grandchildren; his 4 great-grandchildren; and his brothers, Robert (Marjorie), Bethlehem, Richard (Carol), Sand Point, ID. He was preceded in death by his late wife Hetty Lou (Schick) Ensminger and his step-son, Jeffrey DuBree.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM, Monday, August 26, 2019, at Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church. 311 2nd St., Schwenksville, PA 19473.

The Rev. Frederic B. Geehr

Pastor Geehr died September 9, 2019. He was born June 3, 1933.

He graduated from Easton High School (1951), Muhlenberg College (1955), and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1958). He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States in his home congregation in Easton PA, on May 25, 1958.

Rev. Geehr served 4 Lutheran congregations during his 50-plus years of ministry including St. John's, Pen Argyl, PA.; Hope, New Castle, Del.; St. Paul's, Ardmore, PA.; and Zion Evangelical, Flourtown, PA. where he served for 26 years. In retirement, Rev. Geehr served 4 congregations as an Interim Pastor and 23 other congregations as a supply pastor.

At St. John's, Rev. Geehr helped the congregation develop a vision for its future and later relocate to a new building. At Hope New Castle, he helped stabilize a struggling mission congregation, enabling it to build a parsonage and its first church sanctuary, while retiring its

church site debt, and increase its membership. At Zion Flourtown, Rev. Geehr lead the renovation of its worship space including lighting and stained-glass windows.

Rev. Geehr was an advocate for the at risk and marginalized in our society. While at Hope in Delaware, he served on the Citizens Advisory Council. While at Zion Evangelical in Flourtown, he was the founding Director of the Family Action Council of Springfield Township and a member of the township's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Task Force, focusing on teen alcohol and drug abuse. Rev. Geehr lead Zion's outreach efforts in many areas: initiating a program for self-care skill development for Downs Syndrome children expanded by the Montgomery County Association for Retarded Children (MARC) it to several other suburban locations; establishing Kindercare, a preschool program for children ages 2 to 4; sponsoring housing for adolescent "runaway" children; resettling at least 3 Indochinese refugee families; and hosting a satellite pastoral counseling center. He was an early advocate for ecumenical outreach and engaged in Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogues with the local Augustinian parish (St. Genevieve's Church). This outreach later expanded to other Bethlehem Pike congregations and his election to represent the Synod on the Executive Board of the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia. St. Genevieve's Augustinian priest would offer the homily at Rev. Geehr's 25th Anniversary of Ordination.

Rev. Geehr also served the larger Lutheran Church as a district dean, a member of the Department of Metropolitan Ministry of the Council of Churches of Wilmington and New Castle County, as Secretary of the Delaware District of the Maryland Synod. He was an Executive Board member of the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod, and served on the Synod committees on discipline and the constitution. He was also a member of their team consulting with congregations suffering serious internal conflict as well as a member of the Board of College Education and Church Vocation of the Lutheran Church in America, which evaluate the church's 18 colleges.

Perhaps most notably, Rev. Geehr was known for his exceptional baritone voice, which graced several regional choirs and every Sunday's liturgy in each church he served in over his 50 years of ministry.

Rev. Geehr is survived by his wife, Lois Rae Lutz (m. 09/11/1954) children Lisa (James) Joyce, Kirsten (John) Fullerton and Ethan Frederic (Shelley Wilks) Geehr and sister Diane Kenerup of Bangor, Pa. He is also survived by granddaughters Megan Joyce (Kirk Landis), Erin Joyce, grandsons Joshua Joyce (Jen Petri) and Alexander Geehr and 2 great-granddaughters Charlotte and Amelie Landis. He was pre-deceased by a sister, Barbara Dunbar.

A funeral service, Friday 11 AM in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 211 S. Main Street, N. Wales, PA 19454.

The Rev. Dr. Clair B. Hoifjeld

Pastor Hoifjeld died September 25, 2019. He was born November 1, 1929.

The following story was composed by Rev. Dr. Clair Hoifjeld on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination: April 24, 1960 — 2010:

Quasi Modo Geniti — The liturgical caption for the Sunday after Easter, April 24, 1960, date of my ordination. It was from the appointed Introit for the day, read in part, "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word, alleluia ... Sing aloud to God our strength" (I Peter 2:2; Ps. 81:1). The presiding bishop preached with that as his base text, drawing on the New Birth emphasis of Easter and its direct application for one entering the holy ministry. It was a most effective launching pad for me, and it has often resonated with me through the years.

On that ordination day, I recall lengthy reflection on the 30 years of life that led me to this day and this calling: Born in a Lutheran parsonage in rural Iowa — Living in parsonages as my father felt led to various ministries — from Iowa to Minneapolis (pioneering Christian radio broadcasting) New York City/Manhattan (attended school in which white children were a minority) — Chicago — Ketchikan, Alaska (not a state, but a declared war zone [ww2]) — Eureka, CA (graduated from high school) — Three years of College at Augsburg (then-Lutheran Free Church) College in Minneapolis — Back to California (familial reasons) — Drafted into Uncle Sam's Army, - (during which term I took leave to return to Eureka and marry Virginia Helberg, who has been a true loving support and friend ever since. The union begot four offspring, grandchildren and great-grandchildren) — Following military service, we returned to Eureka, founded and operated its first Christian Bookshop — Entered and graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA — A wide panorama of people and places and other factors brought to this day of ordination.

The first parish I served as an ordained pastor was Trinity Lutheran Church of Fort Bragg, CA — a seacoast town of uncluttered, hardy, open people. The church was of Finnish (Suomi) orientation — small in membership, but open to outreach and growth. I learned much from these people as we grew and expanded together — Three years later, when the LCA came into being, I was called to be an Associate Director on the Commission on Youth Ministry staff. My responsibilities included managing church-wide youth gatherings, developing Youth ministry resources, being the LCA liaison on national and world-wide youth-related agencies and involvements, plus a wide variety of other youth-related meetings and events.

In 1973, while the LCA was going through a re-structuring, I already felt a yearning to return to parish ministry and was soon called as senior pastor at St. Luke, Devon — a large congregation consisting of a spectrum of suburbia in membership. The eight years there provided me with input, feedback and learning from people representing a wide variety of vocations, professions, and disciplines. During this time, I began studies with the Doctor of Ministry program at Drew University in Madison, NJ.

In 1981 I was called to the Philadelphia seminary staff as interim Director of Internships and CPE and to teach two courses, while Dr. Jack White was on secured leave. I gained much in fellowship and ministering with the seminarians and staff, including honest struggle with issues relating to our Christian faith — Following this, I was interim pastor at St. Matthew, Chester Springs. In 1984, a call came from St. Timothy, Fox Chase/Philadelphia, where I served for 11 fulfilling years, `til I retired in 1996.

Since "retirement" I've filled six interims in synod parishes, the last one being three years at Calvary, Bustleton/Philadelphia. All have been positive learning and growing experiences for me. My honest (if unrealistic) wish at times is that I could have known when I started what I've learned, including from many who will (hopefully) read what's said here. I suspect that's not an uncommon feeling for one at this point.

I truly, with thanksgiving, "sing aloud to God my strength!"

Clair is formerly of 25 Washington Lane, Wyncote, PA before moving to Southampton Estates. He was a member of The Four Good News Conclusions and The Four Gone Conclusions (same group Good News for worship based, Four Gone for regular singing), his barbershop quartet group.

Ginny and Clair hosted and directed travel groups over the years and managed to travel the world as travel hosts and coordinators.

He is the beloved husband of Ginny Hoifjeld (nee Helberg); father of the late Paul Hoifjeld, Grace Esther Klick and her husband Ronald, Mark Wesley Hoifjeld, and Ruth Deborah Hoifjeld; grandfather of Brian Inzerello, Steven Inzerello and wife Marisa, Deborah Inzerello, and Colleen Corbett and her husband Will; great grandfather of Robby, Paisley, Cadence, and Halas Inzerello.

A memorial service was held Friday, November 1, 2019 - 3:00PM at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 65 East Street Road, Feasterville, PA 19053.

The Rev. Rev. Donald C. Hagey

Pastor Hagey died December 20, 2019. He was born May 30, 1938.

He is a 1956 graduate of North Penn High School, 1960 graduate of Muhlenberg College, 1963 graduate of Philadelphia Theological Seminary and earned a Doctor of Ministry from the Philadelphia Theological Seminary in 1978. Rev. Dr. Hagey actively served as an ordained Lutheran Minister for 40 years. He began his ministry at St. Mark's Lutheran Church - Nescopeck, Peace Lutheran Church - Bensalem, Faith Lutheran Church - Montgomeryville and retired May of 2003 from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - Pleasant Valley (Coopersburg). He is a member of Christ Lutheran Church, Hellertown.

In addition to his loving wife, Mary Ann (Flynn) Hagey of 42 years; sons: Michael Scott of Newtown, Douglas Andrew (Michele) of Ooltewah, TN; previous wife: Elaine M. (Hobelman) Hagey of Bensalem; granddaughter: Angela Marie; step grandson: Kyle Wagner. Predeceased by brother: Walter Richard Hagey.

A funeral service was held Friday, December 27, 2019 – 11:00AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Main St. Hellertown. The interment will conclude services at Hatfield Cemetery of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hatfield.

The Rev. Charles H. Eiss, Jr.

Pastor Eiss died March 1, 2020. He was born on September 29, 1943.

Pastor Eiss was a 1961 graduate of Tottenville High School on Staten Island, NY and Upsala College in East Orange, NJ. Then was called by the Lord to become a minister. He earned his Master's degree in 1969 from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and after being ordained; Pastor Eiss served Christ Lutheran Church in Springtown, PA. for eight years. He went on to serve St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sunneytown with love, faith and wisdom for 33 years until his retirement in 2011. However, after retirement you could still find him doing Bible studies and preaching to the residents of the Topton Lutheran Home. He recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

An avid collector of fossils and American Indian artifacts, he was a member of the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society, the Museum of Indian Culture in Allentown, and the National Museum of the American Indian; where he and his wife, were one of the first contributors to the museum.

In his spare time, you could find him walking the fields looking for arrow heads or any other kind of artifacts to add to his collections.

The family is comforted by knowing that he is in the loving arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and all that knew him.

Surviving along with his wife Linda (Galloway) Eiss, with whom he would have shared 55 years of marriage in August 2020, are his two sons, Dr. Steven Eiss and wife, Dr. Sara Pike of Emmaus, PA and the Rev. Brian Eiss and wife, Ellen of Corry, PA; his four grandchildren, Emily, Hayden, Chase and Ashley; and his siblings, Patricia Wagner, wife of Richard and Donald Eiss and wife, Betsy.

Due to the updated recommendation from the CDC, Rev. Eiss's service will be postponed until further notice.

The Rev. Cindy L. Ray

On Friday, April 3, 2020, Bishop Davenport was notified by Pastor Henrik Sonntag of the death of Pastor Cindy Ray, which had occurred a few days earlier at her home. She was a faithful and beloved member of St. Paul's in Glenside, as well as a friend and beloved colleague to many. When we are able to gather together again a memorial service will be scheduled at St. Paul's in Glenside.

Pastor Ray served in the following calls:

Pastor, St. John (Folcroft, PA) 1998-2010; Assoc. Dir/Youth Ministry, Division for Congregational Ministry 1996-1997; Asst. Director of Advancement, LTSP 1993-1996 Assistant Pastor, Trinity (Lansdale, PA) 1992-1993; Assistant Pastor, Advent (West Lawn, PA) 1986-1992; Pastor, Salem-St. Paul (Kresgeville, PA) 1983-1984.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA
Report of the Secretary – Changes to the Roster
April 16, 2019 to April 15, 2020

Ordinations/Consecrations

Kvande, Alexa (06/15/19)
Smith, Daniel (08/17/19)

Deaths

Eiss, Jr., Charles (03/01/20)
Ensminger, Kenneth (08/22/19)
Geehr, Federic (09/09/19)
Hagey, Donald (12/20/19)
Hoifjeld, Clair (09/25/19)
Holman, John (06/28/19)
Neiderhiser, Edward (04/17/19)
Ray, Cindy (04/03/20 circa)

Transfers from Other Synods

Bruner, David from Central/Southern
Illinois Synod to Paoli Presbyterian
Church effective (01/01/20)
Johnson, Stephen from North Carolin Synod
as retired pastor (09/28/19)
Thomas-Breitfeld, Viviane from South
Central Synod of Wisconsin
to Interim Ministry Effective
(08/05/19)

Transfers to Other Synods

Clark, Linnéa to New Jersey Synod effective
(12/07/19)
Hotter, Amy from St. John Sellersville, PA
to New Jersey Synod effective
(09/19/19)
Goad, Terrance to Lower Susquehanna
Synod effective (06/20/19)
Latshaw, Burlington to Northeastern PA
Synod effective (10/24/19)
Presinger, Nathaniel to Rocky Mountain
Synod effective (12/08/19)
Rasmussen, Tyler to Greater Milwaukee
Synod effective (01/08/20)
Stobie, Sarah to Greater Milwaukee Synod
effective (05/16/19)

Tillman, Louis to Delaware-Maryland
Synod effective (10/15/19)

Roster Changes

Ainsley, Margaret from on leave to Director
of Pastor Care at Doylestown
Hospital, Doylestown, Pa
effective (02/27/20)
Baly, Anita from Prince of Peace Plymouth
Meeting, to on leave effective
(07/23/19)
Evans, Harold from on leave to retired
effective (04/01/19)
Ficken, Carol from Grace Wyndmoor to
retired effective (07/01/19)
Flippin, Jr., William to Director for
Evangelical Mission and Assistant to
the Bishop effective (08/05/19)
Frischmann, Margaret, from St. Stephen
Feasterville, to retired effective
(09/01/19)
Glod, DeBorah from pastor for visitation to
Chaplain at Compassus Hospice &
Palliative Care in Fort Washington,
PA effective (11/11/19)
George-Guiser, Asha from retired to
resigned from ELCA roster effective
June 8, 2019
Guiser, Kim from retired to resigned from
ELCA Roster effective June 8, 2019
King, Gwendolyn from Interim Ministry,
Holy Spirit Secane to Interim
Ministry St. Stephen Feasterville
effective (01/06/20)
Lang, Susan on leave from effective
(02/27/20)
Lawlor, Dyan from pastor at Upper Dublin
Ambler to retired effective (12/1/19)
Mason, Dwight from pastor at Good
Shepherd Philadelphia to on leave
effective (08/26/19)

Oppold, David from pastor Trinity South
Philadelphia to on leave effective
(12/27/19)

Rossi, Ashley from associate pastor at
Carmel Presbyterian Church to
resigned the ELCA Roster effective
(10/10/19)

Shelor, Wayne from interim ministry at St
Paul Exton to interim ministry at
Jerusalem Schwenksville, PA
Effective (06/17/19)

Shin, Jonathan from on leave to retired
effective (06/25/19)

Spaulding, Suzanne M. (UCC minister)
from pastor at St. Luke Ferndale to
resigned position effective
(09/19/19)

Varsanyi, Joseph from pastor at St.
Michael's Philadelphia to retired
effective (01/01/20)

Vogt, Janice from pastor Grace Norristown
to retired effective (02/01/20)

Wright, Donna Interim Ministry, Gloria
Dei Huntington Valley effective
to on leave from call effective
(07/02/19)