

Those Who have Served Zion



1915-1917:	Rev. Frederick C. Proehl
1917-1918:	Rev. J. Koch
1918-1918:	Vacant (Oct. 1918-Aug. 1919)
1919-1924:	Rev. Victor Bartling
1924-1944:	Rev. J. V. Richert
1944-1950:	Rev. Elmer J. Moeller
1950-1951:	Vacant (July 1950-Jan. 1951)
1951-1958:	Rev. Norman E. Brauer
1958-1959:	Vacant (Nov. 1958-Sept. 1959)
1959-1985:	Rev. Alwin Reimnitz
1983-1987:	Rev. Gregory R. Williamson
1986-1988:	Rev. James P. Wuebben
1988-1989:	Vacant (Aug. 1988-July 1989)
1989- :	Rev. Thomas R. Marcis, Jr.
1992-2006:	Rev. Bradley R. Stoltenow
2007-2015:	Rev. Douglas J.D. Bergelin
2016-2017:	Rev. Kevin C. Zellers
2024- :	Rev. Vincent J. Otto

FREDERICK C. PROEHL (1892-1965)



The Reverend Frederick C. Proehl was born March 8, 1892, in Watertown, Wisconsin. His childhood and youth were spent in Plymouth, Wisconsin, where his father, the Rev. Henry F. Proehl was pastor for 20 years. He attended Concordia College, Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin, and Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. He was ordained into the Holy Ministry in July 1913. The following year he married Ella Proehl of Maintowoc, Wisconsin. Their marriage was blessed with three children.

From 1913 to 1916, he served the missionary field in North Dakota and organized congregations at Windsor, Cleveland, Medina, Sterling, Driscoll, Bismarck, and Mandan. For the next two years, he served as chaplain of the 164th Infantry, of the 41st Division, A.E.F., and was the first Lutheran chaplain to go overseas in World War I. This experience greatly influenced his future ministry and prepared him for his future work on the Armed Services Commission, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. From 1919 to 1930, he was pastor of Ebenezer and Our Savior's Lutheran churches in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

On October 9, 1930, Pastor Proehl was installed at Layton Park Church where he served until 1957, when he assumed the status of Pastor Emeritus. With the class of 1913 motto of DEI GRATIA still fresh in Pastor Proehl's memory in 1963, he reached another milestone by the grace and mercy of God by serving fifty years as pastor. Fifty years under God, for God!

Pastor Proehl entered eternal glory on January 2, 1965, at Tacoma, Washington.

JOHN HENRY KOCH (1892-1918)

Rev. John Koch was born at Indianapolis, Indiana, September 21, 1892. He was baptized by Rev. F. Wambsganns and confirmed by the Rev. Theo, Schurdel. He attended college at Ft. Wayne, Indiana from 1907-1913, and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis from 1913-1916. He was ordained into holy ministry in his home church on August 13, 1916, by the Rev. W. C. Meinzen, and departed in September for his first charge at Anaconda and Deer Lodge, Montana, where he labored faithfully for over a year.

The Mission Board then transferred him to Driscoll and Bismarck, North Dakota, and put him in charge of several mission stations in that neighborhood. His work was prospering! He had gained the confidence of the people and the prospects were bright. Then came the Spanish influenza epidemic. He became ill and died a week later on October 24, 1918.

After a short private service by the Rev. J. Brandt of Wilton, North Dakota, his remains were brought to Indianapolis and buried in Concordia cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Pastor of Emmaus, Rev. W. C. Meinzen, spoke on Proverbs 23:26 and Psalm 116:15. The pastors and teachers of the city and vicinity attended the funeral, the former acting as pallbearers.

The deceased was mourned by two brothers and his young wife. A promising career ended after two short years of service as the Lord had called him to rest. "It is the Lord; let Him do what seems Him good."

1 Samuel 3:18



VICTOR BARTLING (1895-1978)

Born on December 22, 1896 to the Rev. Albert and Lucy (Brohm) Bartling, the Rev. Victor Bartling was ordained into the ministry in 1919. In 1920 he married to former Dorothea Pfotebhauser, whose father, the late Dr. F. Pfrtenhuer, was General President of the Synod for 21

years. Rev. Bartling began his career in the ministry in Bismarck, North Dakota, in August of 1919, before there was an official church organization. He also served Windsor and Driscoll, North Dakota. His first child, Victoria, was born in Bismarck. He remained in Bismarck until 1924, when he received a call to Grace Lutheran Church in Fargo, North Dakota. He remained at Grace for two years and then became Professor at Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In between times he had returned to school. In 1942 he received an M.A. degree from Marquette University, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He attended Concordia Seminary at Springfield, Illinois, and received his D.D. degree in 1957. From 1950 to 1972, he was Professor of New Testament Exegesis at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

Pastor Bartling died on October 16, 1978, at the Lutheran Altenheim in St. Louis, Missouri at the age of 92. His funeral service was held at Lutheran Memorial Victoria. He left two more daughters and three sons, 25 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren.

J. V. RICHERT (1898-1962)



The Rev. J. V. Richert was born on April 10, 1898, in Rockford, Illinois, to Joseph and Wilhelmina Ursin Richert. He graduated from St. Louis Seminary and was ordained in July of 1922. He married the former Marie Paust in that same year. He served parishes in Croff, North Dakota, from 1922-24, and Bismarck, North Dakota from 1924-1943. He served as chaplain in the Army from 1943-1947, and after that time he accepted a parish at Susanville, California. From 1949-1951, he made his home at Salinas, California.

He was in ill health the later part of his life, and died on January 29, 1962, at Glendale, California. Besides his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Ruth, Eleanore, and Helene.

ELMER J. MOELLER (1918-1987)



The Rev. Elmer J. Moeller was born on April 9, 1918, at a parsonage at Ainsworth, Nebraska, the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Albert Moeller. He lived there and in other rural parsonages at Bennet, Nebraska, until 1928. They moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, and lived there until 1938, where he finished his grade and high school training.

From 1935-1938, he was a student at St. Paul's College, Concordia, Missouri. He received his Master's

degree from Washington University in 1943 and his B.D. from Concordia Seminary in 1943. He was pastor in Bismarck, North Dakota, from 1943-1950. He was the first Missionary-At-Large for the District, and after a year was called as the pastor for the Zion Congregation. From 1948 to 1950 he was the chairman of the Press Committee of the North Dakota District.

He was married to Lorraine Ernstmeyer of Hastings, Nebraska, in 1944. They had two children, Karen and Randy.

In 1950, he accepted a call as an associate professor of Classical Languages at Concordia College, Milwaukee. He was also Director of Testing from 1952-56 at this institution and became Registrar. In 1956 he accepted a call to Springfield, Illinois, where he was a professor in the Exegetical Department, New Testament Division. He was also Acting Registrar and Director of Admissions. In 1966 he became pastor of Grace Lutheran Church at Lamar, Colorado until he retired in 1983.

Pastor Elmer Moeller entered eternal rest on April 30, 1987, at Estes Park, Colorado. His funeral service was at Immanuel Lutheran Church at Loveland, Colorado.

NORMAN E. BRAUER (1918– 2013)

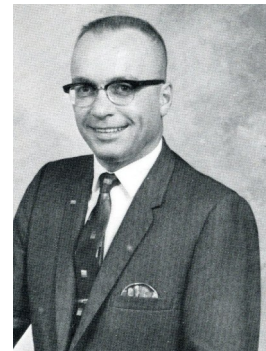


Rev. Norman E. Brauer was born on October 1, 1918, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the son of Rev. Herman and Lily Hartman Brauer. He received his early education at parochial schools at Marengo, Illinois, Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and graduated from the Seminary in St. Louis in 1943. He was ordained by his father in 1943, and served with his father as an associate in the parish at St. Martini's in Chicago from 1943-1946.

He married Virginia Bartell in Milwaukee on August 22, 1943. In 1946 he came to North Dakota to service Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bottineau. He served the Bismarck parish from 1950 to 1958, when he accepted a call to Sunnyside, Washington. In 1962, he returned again to the Chicago area to be pastor at Faith Lutheran in Oak Lawn, Ill. The Brauers had two sons, Norman and Joel, and one daughter, Mary. Pastor Brauer entered eternal rest on October 6, 2013. His funeral service was at Hope Lutheran Church in Woodburn, OR

ALWIN REIMNITZ (1925-2005)

The Rev. Alwin Reimnitz, son of the Rev. and Mrs. O. E. Reimnitz, was born at Murdo, South Dakota, on May 1, 1925. He was the oldest in a family of six, three boys and three girls. Since his father was a pastor, there was considerable moving in his early childhood. He lived in



Arkansas and Nebraska, where he got his early schooling. He attended St. John's at Winfield, Kansas, and graduated from the Seminary in St. Louis in 1950.

The Rev. K. J. Durdell ordained and installed him on July 9, 1950, at his first parish at Crosby, Fortuna and Wildrose, North Dakota. He served there until 1952. He served at Spencer, South Dakota, from 1952-1959. He was at Buhl, Idaho, in 1959 when the call from the Zion parish at Bismarck was received and accepted. He was installed at Zion on September 13, 1959.

Pastor Reinnitz served as District Pastoral Advisor for the Lutheran Laymen's League and in 1967 he became the President of the North Dakota District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He served Zion until June 1985, when he became District President full-time and served in this office until 1991. He was Zion's Shut-in Visitation pastor from 1998 until his death in 2005.

He met his wife, the former Helen Gibson, during his vicarage in Howard, South Dakota. They were united in marriage on June 18, 1950. They were blessed with ten children, six sons and four daughters. Pastor Reinnitz entered eternal rest on August 9, 2005. His funeral service was at Zion Lutheran Church.

GREGORY R. WILLIAMSON (1957-)



Gregory R. Williamson was born on January 20, 1957, in Rock Island, Illinois, the son of Robert and Aldeline Williamson. He was baptized in June of the same year. He was confirmed at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Moline, Illinois in the summer of 1976.

After graduation from Moline Senior High School in May of 1975, he attended Black Hawk Community College where he received the Associate of Arts degree in 1977. He continued his education at Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in May of 1979. The following fall he entered Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He served both a summer internship and a year internship at St. John Lutheran Church in Libby, Montana, and Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Troy, Montana. He received his M.Div. degree May of 1983. He was ordained and installed at Zion on July 31, 1983.

He married Pamela Ann Ling, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Ling, on July 31, 1982, at Rockford, Illinois. They have one daughter, Laura and one son, Andrew.

In November of 1987, he left Zion after accepting a call to St. John's Lutheran Church in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He later served St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, IL and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Marion Iowa. Pastor Williamson retired June 2020.

JAMES P. WUEBBEN (1932-2019)



James P. Wuebben was born in Poyette, Wisconsin, on May 18, 1932 to the late Pastor and Mrs. John Wuebben. He received his training for the holy ministry at Concordia College, Milwaukee, and graduated in 1956 from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

He was called to be missionary-at-large in Pocatello, Idaho from 1956-60 and was instrumental in organizing Faith Lutheran Church. He also ministered to students at Idaho State College. In 1960 he accepted a call to Zion Lutheran Church and school at Hastings, Nebraska. The congregation flourished and made plans for relocation and expansion during his ministry. He became pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Spokane, Washington, in 1964. During his stay, the congregation became self-supporting and built a new worship structure. From 1968-1970 he served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1970, he was called to serve Faith Lutheran Church and Student Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin. His pastoral duties included ministering to the student body of the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. During his years in the Student Center in LaCrosse, he served on the District board of Directors and was District Director of Evangelism. He was installed as Senior Pastor at Zion August 24, 1986.

In 1957 he married Ester Loesal, a former Lutheran teacher and synodically trained parish worker. She taught in public and parochial schools and was an art specialist in the LaCrosse public school system. She served congregations as organist and church secretary. The Lord blessed them with four children: Tim, Ann, Tom, and Mike.

He entered eternal life April 15, 2019.

THOMAS R. MARCIS, JR. (1957-)



Thomas R. Marcis, Jr., was born in Jamestown, New York, on October 22, 1957, the oldest son of Rev. and Mrs. T. R. Marcis, Sr. He became a member of the body of Christ through baptism on November 17, 1957. He went to Bethany Lutheran grade school in Parma, Ohio. He made public confession of his faith in confirmation on June 6, 1971, at Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church, North Royalton, Ohio. He graduated from Lutheran High School West, Rocky River, Ohio, in 1975.

He attended Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan, graduating in 1979. In 1980 he married the former Sara Ruth Hessler. Sara attended Concordia College, Ann Arbor and Eastern Michigan University where she

acquired a B.S. in special education and a M.A. in Guidance and Counseling. Pastor Marcis entered Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and served his vicarage at Trinity Lutheran Church, Reese, Michigan, from November 1984 to November 1985. He graduated in May 1986 from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

His first call was to be pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Zap, North Dakota. He was ordained by his father Rev T. Richard Marcis, Sr. into the holy ministry at St. Luke and served there from July 6, 1986 to July 1989 when he accepted a call to Zion. He has served the church at large as the Coordinator of Children's Education for the North Dakota District, the Young Adult Advisor for the North Dakota District Lutheran Laymen's League, Chairman for the Board of Directors for the North Dakota District, Chairman for the LCMS Board for Human Care Ministries and Chaplain for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. His Bismarck community involvement included coaching soccer in the Bismarck Public Schools at both Simle Middle School and Legacy High School.

He and his wife have two sons, Richard and David, and two daughters, Kathryn and Rebekah. All four children were confirmed at Zion and Bekah and David were both baptized at Zion. Pastor and Sara have been blessed with six grandchildren. Pastor Marcis' father, brother and several uncles are also LCMS pastors. Sara Marcis, a professional in the human service field, also is directly related to several LCMS pastors – her father, grandfather, brother, two uncles and a nephew.

BRADLEY R. STOLTENOW (1962 -)



Bradley R. Stoltenow was born on July 3, 1962, in Ada, Minnesota. He was baptized July 29, 1962 at Zion Lutheran Church, Ada, MN. He made public affirmation of his baptism April 11, 1976 also at Zion, Ada. Upon graduation from Ada High School in 1980, he attended Concordia College in St. Paul, Minnesota, North Dakota State University and the University of Minnesota; earning degrees in Psychology and Physical Education.

While at Concordia, he met his wife Jodie nee' Puckett, who was from St. Paul, Minnesota. They were married at Zion Lutheran Church in Ada, Minnesota on December 30, 1983. After finishing undergraduate studies at Concordia, St. Paul in the spring of 1984, he attended Concordia Theological Seminary. He completed a basic unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Parkview Memorial Hospital in the summer of 1985. His year of vicarage was at St. John Lutheran Church in Chester, Illinois under Pastor Charles F. Campbell. He graduated with a Master of Divinity degree on May 20, 1988.

Following seminary graduation, he was ordained at Zion Lutheran Church of Ada, Minnesota on June 12, 1988 and was installed as Pastor of Redeemer and Centennial Lutheran Churches of Deer River and Squaw Lake, Minnesota, on July 17, 1988. He was installed as Zion's Assistant Pastor August 1992. His title was changed to Associate Pastor in January 1993. Pastor Stoltenow has served the church at large as a member of the North Dakota District Board of Directors, Director for the Division of Youth for the North Dakota District and as Chaplain for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. He also was a writer/contributor for the Portals of Prayer.

He received a D.Min. from Concordia, Ft. Wayne in May of 1998 and D. Min. from Princeton in 2008. His Bismarck community involvement included coaching varsity wrestling at Bismarck High School. In May 2006 Pastor Stoltenow took the call to be Senior Pastor of Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, Colorado.

Jodie graduated from Concordia in 1984 with a degree in Elementary Education and with an M.A. in Education from Concordia-Mequon in 2013. She is a Lutheran School teacher and taught at Martin Luther School for several years. At Shepherd of the Hills she has served as Director of Family Ministry.

Pastor and Jodie have three children; Anna, Kylie and Joseph. They have been blessed with seven grandchildren.

DOUGLAS J.D. BERGELIN (1981 -)



Pastor Douglas Bergelin was born May 5, 1981 and grew up in Howard's Grove, WI. He became a child of God through the waters of baptism May 17, 1981 and made public profession of his faith on May 7, 1995 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Howards Grove, WI. Pastor Bergelin graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin in 2003, and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo in 2007. He was ordained at Trinity in Howards Grove, WI by his father Rev. Darrel L. Bergelin. Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND and St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Napoleon, ND was his first call. Part of his call was serving as chaplain at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Bismarck, ND. While in Bismarck he traveled to the Holy Land, and took a Footsteps of Paul trip. In 2015 he took the call to be pastor of Saint Peter Lutheran Church, Lebanon, WI. He now serves on the board for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Pastor Bergelin has served as Circuit Visitor since 2022. St Peters was the host congregation for 2022 South Wisconsin District Convention. He was a delegate to the 2019 & 2023 LCMS Conventions.

VINCENT J. OTTO (1997 -)



Pastor Vincent J. Otto was born to Rev. & Mrs. Craig Otto in Perryville, Missouri on July 28, 1997. He was baptized at Immanuel, Perryville on August 21, 1997. In 2004, his father's ministry led the family to St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit, Missouri, where Vince spent most of his childhood and adolescence. He made public confirmation of his faith at St. Matthew on May 8, 2012. He is a lifelong product of Lutheran education, having exclusively attended LCMS schools from pre-school through Seminary. He went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a Pre-Seminary Endorsement at Concordia University Nebraska in 2020, where he also met his wife, Dana (nee Simpkin, of St. Charles, Missouri) who studied to be a Director of Christian Education. They were married in O'Fallon, Missouri on June 21, 2020, immediately prior to the start of Vince's education at Concordia Seminary St. Louis. During his third year of Seminary, he completed his vicarage assignment at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zanesville, Ohio. He graduated from the Seminary and received his Masters of Divinity in May of 2024. His first Divine Call was to serve as Associate Pastor of Zion, Bismarck, where he was ordained and installed on July 14, 2024. His father preached for the service, and the ordination rite was led by circuit visitor Rev. Jonathan Walla. In addition to serving at Zion, Vince also acts as chaplain for the Western Plains campus of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.