



BETHEL - PASTORS

Who they are and where they are today.

75th Anniversary 1945-2020

Rev. H.(Henry) Walter Fruehling. 1945-49. Our first pastor, arrived newly-graduated from Wartburg Seminary. He was married shortly thereafter in Windsor. Later he became the CEO of Martin Luther Home in Beatrice, Nebraska. He retired and lives in Seguin, Texas. He was a soft-spoken, kindly man and worked hard with a struggling congregation. He and his wife, Gladys, were instrumental in starting many organizations of church. Sunday School, women's and men's organizations, council, Luther League, choir, to name a few. He is pictured here with Gladys on their 70th Wedding Anniversary in 2015.



Rev. Louis Fabrizius. 1949-1958. He was described as aggressive, strict, a motivator, and a hard worker. He was instrumental in construction of the new church building, even doing a lot of the masonry work.. He designed and built the "lyre" screen that covers the pipes of the organ. He was married to Genevieve, "Gen," a sweet, gentle woman. He moved to Bakersfield, California and was the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church until 1980. He continued to serve his Lord as a relief pastor and teacher for Lutheran churches in Bakersfield, California. Pastor Fabrizius passed away in August of 2009. He always said Bethel was HIS church, even up to his passing.



Rev. Gerhart S. Kuhlman. 1958-1962. He had a doctor's degree in theology. He was intelligent, genteel and theologically sound. His wife, Esther, was very active in women's work, choir and Sunday School. Pastor Kuhlman is deceased.



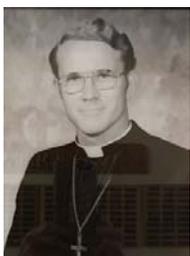
Rev. Dean Bushboom. 1962-1966. Our fourth pastor, was a young man and enjoyed working with the youth. He liked to play tennis and was active in sports. It was under his direction that volunteer secretaries helped print the bulletins with the help of an old ink-fed mimeograph. He moved to Austin, TX to do research at Riverbend Church and later became and still is the Senior Adults Pastor. He stays active attending his grandchildren's sporting events, loves to garden and his pet project is working on his 1919 Indiana tractor.



Rev. Erwin F. Janssen. 1966-1969. Our fifth pastor, was a kind and compassionate person, faithful in visiting the sick and homebound. It was under his direction that each year a Christmas tree was converted into a Lenten cross, which was then decorated with greenery and flowers on Easter Sunday. His wife, Lydia, was an untiring worker, mirroring her husband's compassion for people who were in pain. After leaving Bethel, he (as chaplain) and Lydia served at Bonell Home in Greeley. He passed away August 13, 1992. She passed away March 1, 2008 at the age of 103. Both are buried at the Ebin Ezer Cemetery in Brush, Colorado.



Rev. Craig Nydahl. 1969-1973. He was known for his beautiful singing voice which made the liturgy come alive. He also presented excellent sermons and heartfelt prayers While Rev. Nydahl has pastor here, the old parsonage was sold for \$14,000 and a new parsonage was built. The church building mortgage was burned in 1972. From Bethel he answered a call in Thornton, Colorado until 1977 when his child-onset diabetes made it necessary for him to take disability retirement. From 1977-1990, he and his wife, Delores, lived in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Though he was nearly blind and with limited use of his body, he continued to serve the Lord, on a volunteer basis, wherever he could. He passed away in October 16, 1990 and is buried at Bigfork Cemetery, Bigfork, Minnesota.



Rev. Harold Brokering. 1974-1986. During his pastorate, Kodak and other businesses became established in Windsor. He was seen, almost daily on his bicycle, visiting people. Consequently, the congregation grew steadily. He had great energy and zeal for his work. His sermons were good - fortunately, not affected by his indecipherable handwriting. His wife, Dorothy, was active in the women's organization, in choir and was director of the youth choir for many years. She introduced new teaching methods and recommended new Sunday School materials. During his ministry a new Parish Hall/Sunday School building was built and dedicated in 1980. In 1986 he accepted a call in Longmont, Colorado. He and Dorothy retired and made their home near Central City, Colorado. They stayed busy arranging tours to foreign countries. Both have passed away. Rev. Brokering, a faithful member of Bethel Lutheran, passed away February 18, 2019.



Pastor Don Johnson. 1987-1999 Pastor Don came to us in January of 1987. He had a personality that worked well with both conservative and liberal members of the congregation. Theologically, his sermons were frequently spiced with humor, drama, music, dialogues and other diversified means of presentation. During his ministry the parsonage was sold and the mortgage on the Parish Hall was paid off. Most importantly, the congregation grew and prospered, adding an associate pastor in 1987. A highlight was the merger in 1996 of Bethel with her "mother congregation," St John's Lutheran. After leaving Bethel, Pastor Don worked for AA/Thrivent for 15 years. He and his wife, Carol, have 4 children & 6 grandchildren. One child, Lauren, died from carbon monoxide poisoning in 2009. A non-profit, The Lauren Project, was created and continues to grow and prosper. Don and Carol, currently, split their time between Windsor and Tucson, AZ.

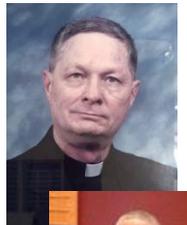


Pastor Darin Johnson. 1997- 2000 Pastor Darin was ordained at Bethel Lutheran in 1997 and served as Associate Pastor 1997-1999 and Pastor 1999-2000. Highlights include collaborating with Pastors Don and Lloyd, starting a Club Bethel after-school program for 50 kids, youth and confirmation ministry, plus teaching a variety of adult classes. Since then he served 4 years at Christ the King Lutheran, Durango, CO and 5 years in campus ministry at North Dakota State University. Since 2009 he continues to pastor at Agape House Campus Ministry at San Diego State University. He is passionate about spiritual and vocational formation, community organizing for racial equity and access to education. He is supportive of the southwestern region of the Lutheran Campus Ministry Network, which he helped found. He is a former structural engineer and first responder and is married to Angie. They have one daughter in middle school.



Pastor Lloyd Lorensen - Interim Pastor 1999-2004 and wife, Dodee. We are blessed they are members of Bethel Lutheran yet today and their loyalty of spiritual service to Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pastor Dean Smith. 2002-2009 Pastor Dean came to Bethel after restarting and serving a congregation in Wisconsin for 20 years. One of several highlights during his years at Bethel was leading a group of members on a 10-day tour of Israel. In addition to being the Pastor, he also served as a Chaplain in the US Navy Reserves for 30 years. Some of the members of the Council were able to attend his retirement from the Navy in November 2010. From Bethel he served as the Mission Developer of an Episcopal and Lutheran congregation in Elizabeth, CO until his retirement at the end of 2015. He now lives in Wisconsin near his son and daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.



Pastor Kevin Meyers. 2010-2015

Pastor Kevin came to Bethel Lutheran Church in 2010. Pastor Kevin started the Life Teams Program. Upon leaving Bethel Pastor Kevin pursued other avenues for serving the Lord and is still active in the field of ministry. He is the Philanthropic Engagement Director for the Lutheran Social Services of the southwest. He, and his wife, Renee, live in a community close to Phoenix, Arizona.

Pastor David Pedersen. 2016-Present

Pastor Dave went to seminary at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. His first call was in Kent, Washington, south of Seattle. His second call was to Dallas, Oregon where he served as the pastor for almost 30 years. While in Dallas he joined the volunteer fire department where he was a captain, medic and a chaplain. After his first 35 years of ministry he was excited to be called to Bethel. His wife, Karen, wrote and often performed the puppet shows for the children's sermons each Sunday. That she has chosen to continue her puppet ministry at Bethel is treasured. Pastor Dave has an undeniable infectious laugh and a personality that reaches to both the young and not so young. The congregation enjoy Dave's and Karen's love of the Lord and their involvement in the community.



Ordained at Bethel Lutheran



Rev. Clarence Zwetzig, a member of Bethel was ordained on July 16, 1961, by Pastor Louis Fabrizius. Graduate of Wartburg seminary. Living in Omaha, NE & pastor of churches in area. Father of 3 children. Served in hospitals as Chaplain and taught students how to be a Chaplain. Now retired.

Pastor Darin Johnson - ordained at Bethel in 1997 (see above)

Pastor Mary Wiggins, a confirmed member of Bethel, began her call with Scranton Lutheran Parish, ND in October of 2015. She is a graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary (2015) and the University of Northern Colorado (2010). She was ordained at Bethel on September 26, 2015 by Bishop Gonia on behalf of Bishop Mark Narum. Pastor Mary is a collaborative leader whose passions include preaching, inter-generational relationships, and all things artistic and creative. She can frequently be seen at quilting, Nighthawks sporting events, and drinking coffee.

