

St. Marcus' Pastors

Rev. Joseph A. Westenberger

- 1845 Born in Hesse-Darmstadt on Luther's birthday, Nov. 10
- 1866 Immigrated to U.S. via NYC
- est. 1866-1869 Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, the seminary of the Iowa Synod (now part of the ELCA)
- 1869 preaching in the Madison area
- 1870 ordained in Bremer Co., Iowa, N of Waterloo (Plainfield?)
- 1870-72 **St. John's, Pocahontas**, Cape Girardeau County, **Mo.** Married Eliza (Lisette) Wegman on August 2, 1870. She had been born on April 16, 1852, in Memmingen, Bavaria. Son Joseph Carl born there in 1871.
St. John's had petitioned the Missouri Synod for membership in vain; the Iowa Synod took them in. Thence to ALC and ELCA. After the controversial vote on human sexuality in 2009, St. John's left the ELCA and joined the AALC.
- 1872-73 **Waterloo**, Iowa. Started in basement of Congregational Church in 1866; JAW was the first regular pastor. Built brick church on Jefferson St. in 1872. (This congregation does not seem still to be in existence).
- 1873-75 **St. Peter's, Prairie du Chien**. Had been founded in 1861 by the Iowa Synod. JAW was the fifth pastor; installed in December. He joined with other Iowa pastors protesting various issues at their Madison convention. He underwent a colloquy (formal interview regarding personal beliefs and doctrine) with the WELS and accepted a call to St. Marcus in 1875.
St. Peter's also joined the WELS in 1875. But in 1927 the congregation claimed its relationship was "broken by the synod" (led by Rev. W.K. Bodamer) during the Protes'tant Controversy; eventually ended up ALC and then ELCA.
- 1875-78 **St. Marcus**. 1876 WELS Proceedings, p.11: "*Nachdem der Herr Pastor Westenberger seinen Austritt aus der Iowa-Synode erklart und durch ein Colloquium seine Glaubenseinigkeit mit us bezeugt, folgte er einem Rufe an die St. Markus Gemeinde zu Milwaukee. Herr Pastor A. Liefeld hat ihn am 20.p.Tr. in meinem Auftrage eingefuehrt.*" (After Pastor Westenberger announced his exit from the Iowa Synod and indicated his unity of faith with us through a colloquy, he accepted a call to the St. Marcus Congregation in Milwaukee. Pastor A. Liefeld installed him on my instructions on the 20th Sunday after Trinity.") He was given \$40 a month "until such time as the congregation had increased its membership." He was given a raise to \$50 in November (living quarters provided). Since

Teacher Denninger had left in September, Rev. Westerberger had to teach the one-room school until Teacher Friedrich Risch arrived in May of 1877.

Daughter Tillie died at age 3 yrs, 8 months

The Westenbergers lived in the upper flat of a house owned by August Kelling at 111 E. Garfield Ave. (old number 171) across the street from the church.

In 1878 he accepted a call to Grace Lutheran Church in Ripon.

1878-1889 **Grace, Ripon.** “In the fall of 1866, a young theologian, Rev. Gottlieb Thiele, along with a group calling themselves ‘Temperance Lutherans,’ formed the Evangelical Lutheran Grace Church in Ripon. At first, the small group rented a hall and later purchased a small house on Mayparty Hill, now known as Hamburg Street. This building served as a church, parsonage and schoolhouse. As membership grew, they soon outgrew their building. The former Congregational church building was for sale and Grace Church purchased it for \$900.” They joined the WELS.

Ist zu berichten dasz Herr Pastor Westerberger in Ripon letzten Juli (i.e. of 1880) ein Schreiben an mich richtete, in welchem er unter dem Vorwande der ungerechten Beschuldigung, dasz die Synode sich dem Calvinismus zugewandt habe, seinen Austritt erklarte. Zugleich wurde auch ein Schreiben eingeschickt, in welchem sich die Gemeinde vom Verbande der Synode lossagte. (WELS 1881 Proceedings). (“It is necessary to report that Pastor Westerberger of Ripon last July sent a letter to me in which, under the pretext of the unjustified accusation that the Synod had gone over to Calvinism, he announced his departure [i.e. from the WELS]. He also enclosed a letter in which the congregation dissolved its ties with our synod.”)

In November 1887, they voted to build a new church. The church on Ransom Street was dedicated July 1888. In 1960 moved to a new sanctuary on Griswold St.

Launched Peace, Rosendale, in 1884, and Emanuel, Brandon

Son Oscar born in 1883

1890-97 **St. John’s, Rock Twp,** Mitchell Co., Iowa. Today area is called Osage. Church was founded in 1863. He must have been reconciled with the Iowa Synod.

1894 **St. James, Mason City.** 15 families in 1894. JAW helped get them organized until they had a full-time pastor

1897-? **Zion, Alta Vista,** Iowa (halfway between Prairie du Chien and Mason City, not far from Osage). Founded in 1887.

1932 Lisette died

1936 Joseph A. died. Obituary in Mason City Globe Gazette June 20, 1936

Much conflicting information on children. A tentative roster:

Sons: Dr. Joseph, practiced medicine in St. Ansgar, Iowa, for 50 yrs., 1871-1961
 Lorenz, became a pastor (possibly also known as Jasper?)
 John (“Jack”), b. 2/1/1877, baptized at St. Marcus
 Gustav
 Oscar, 1883-1948
 Max

Daughters Mathilde (Tillie) † age 3



Dora Bokmeyer
Antonia (Tony) Boelk
Ann Bokmeyer (also spelled Bolmeyer) (another name for Dora?)
Gretchen Dahlke
Leischen (sp? (Lieschen?) Suckow

Rev. Prof. Eugen A. Notz

- 1847 Born October 7 in Haberschlacht, Wuerttemberg, son of Rev. Gottlieb and Luise Notz
Brother Friedrich had been born in 1841
Education at Protestant convent school, the Maulbronn Klosterschule at Geisslingen, and at Blaubeuren. Spoke with a Swabian accent.
Emigrates to America, to St. Louis. Member of Immanuel; decides on pursuing ministry.
- 1872-1873 Attends Northwestern College, where his brother was teaching. Graduates in second NWC graduating class with B.A.
- 1873-1874 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
1874-1875 Tutor at NWC. He must have made quite an impression on synod leaders as a scholar; three years later he will be a seminary professor.
1875-1877 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
- 1877-1878 Ordained as pastor at **Menomonie, Wis.** Oversaw four congregations
- 1878-1880 **Seminary**, when Wisconsin Synod seminary was in two houses on Hubbard & Garfield. Primary fields of teaching: Symbolics and O.T. He was but 31, with one year of pastoral experience.
St. Marcus called him to serve as their pastor in addition, and he accepted.
Marries Dorothea (Dora) Bading, daughter of Rev. Johannes Bading, Dec. 1879
Also in 1879 he and Rev. Bading organized the NWC Alumni Society.
- 1880 The seminary moves to 13th & Reservoir. Notz informs St. Marcus that he cannot do both jobs and receives a peaceful release from St. Marcus. He moves into the inspector's quarters in the former park pavilion.
Serves as assistant pastor to father-in-law at St. John's on 4th St.
October 1891 helps launch Apostles' Lutheran Church on 38th & Michigan; in 1893 ordains a Sem graduate for Apostles'. Speaker at cornerstone laying in 1899
- 1893 moves to the new campus in Wauwatosa into one of two professorages
- 1902 Falls out of an upper window of his house and after weeks of suffering dies of injuries at 56 on February 5, 1903. His extensive personal library becomes the core of the seminary's newly expanded library
- Four children: Eugenie, Natalie, Helen, and Dr. Eberhard, who became a distinguished dentist

Eugen seems not to have made many waves, but was rather a quiet professor who faithfully discharged his tasks for 24 years. He is less well-known than his distinguished brother and was vastly overshadowed by his much more famous faculty colleague Adolf Hoenecke. Notz, August Graebner, and Hoenecke deserve our great appreciation for re-establishing the WELS' seminary.

Eugen's brother Friedrich received a Ph.D. at Tuebingen, 1863; emigrated to America in 1866; professor at Pennsylvania College (Gettysburg) and Muehlenberg College. Attended founding Synodical Conference in 1872 and decided to throw in his lot with the western synods. Might have ended up on the St. Louis faculty but Walther recommended that he serve at NWC, which he did, 1872-1912. Died in Milwaukee in 1921. Left 1200 books from his personal library to NWC.

Rev. Georg J. Heinrich Reinsch

- 1837 Born in Volkersdorf, Silesia, in September. (Today known as Wolimierz). 76 miles west of Breslau (today Wroclaw), near the Czech border
(Alt. source: Nimbsch, near Breslau.)
- 1861 Emigrated to the U.S. Became a naturalized U.S. citizen. His brother, Rev. Martin H.R. Reinsch, also emigrated and lived in Stuttgart, Arkansas, and Cole Camp, Mo.
- 1862-1863 **St. John's, Jones Co., Wayne Twp., Iowa** (LCMS). GR was not a resident—served them from Dec. 1862 to the fall of 1863. Organized in 1864. A.k.a. Sand Hill
- 1863-1865 **St. Matthew, McCracken Co., Kentucky** (now ELCA). Helped start St. Paul's, Paducah, in 1863, which was Illinois Synod at first, then LCMS in 1880. Married Clara Witte (b.1845 in Germany) in 1863, the year in which she emigrated.
- 1866-1872 **Immanuel, Milwaukee;** called at the suggestion of C.F. W. Walther; Immanuel splits off from Trinity (LCMS) and GR is their mission developer. His territory was north of Walnut St. June 1869 son Paul is born. Immanuel formally detached from Trinity in 1869. In 1870 there was internal conflict and discontented members left and formed *Kreuz* ("Cross") Church in 1871.
- 1872-1875 **St. Paul's, Janesville** (LCMS). St. Marcus called him at their organizing meeting in June of 1875 but he declined. Five of the founding couples at St. Marcus would have known him from their membership at Immanuel. But that year GR did take a call to Helenville, Wis.
- 1875-1880 **St. Peter, Helenville.** Daughter Martha born in 1876, though she is listed in 1880 census as "adopted". Caring for nephew Otto, who had been born in Michigan in 1872. They had a live-in servant named Louisa Groose.

- 1880-1890 **St. Marcus.** Installed in September. For four years the Reinsches lived at 2200 N. Hubbard (in one of the houses used by the Seminary from 1878-1880?)
In 1881 the frame church is erected; 1884 parsonage built. The congregation grew rapidly.
“Betrübende Vorgaenge, zu welchen sich ein gross Teil ueble Nachrede gesellte, fuehrten in Dezember 1890 zur Amtsniederlegung des P. Reinsch.”
- 1900 Census: clerk for govt. medical dispensary in Milwaukee. Lived in a rented house with newlywed daughter Martha and her husband Albert Quast. The census says that Georg and Clara had three children, only two of whom were living.
- 1910: Census: clerk in an agricultural office. The Quasts still living with them, along with three grandchildren Martha, Veronica, and Albert Jr.
- 1912 Death
- Son Prof. Paul S. Reinsch, Ph.D. obtained law degree from UW; prof of political science at UW-Madison and ambassador to China in Wilson administration, 1913-1919. He died in Shanghai in 1923.
- Daughter Martha Reinsch Quast died in 1946.

Rev. Prof. August O. Pieper

- 1857 Born on September 27 in Carwitz, Pomerania, to August B. and Bertha (Lohff) Pieper. The father was a corporal in the Prussian army and then became mayor of Carwitz. August and Bertha had one daughter (possibly a second, who may have died in infancy) and six sons.
- 1869 Father August dies. Son Julius had immigrated to America, settling in Iowa as a miller.
- 1870 Bertha packs up four of her boys and heads for America; her daughter stayed behind. She had heard that there were a lot of Germans in Wisconsin, and she chose Watertown and enrolled her boys in the Lutheran schools there. She got a job as housemother at Northwestern and lived in the old *Kaffeemuehle* building.
- 1876 Son August graduates from NWC. Since the WELS had suspended seminary operations and was sending its young men to the LCMS for training, August went to St. Louis.
- 1876-1879 Concordia St. Louis. August had the privilege not only of studying with the great Dr. Walther, but he was chosen to be the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew proofreader for Walther’s dogmatics textbook.
- 1879-1885 **Immanuel, Kewaunee.**
1881 marries Emma Koenig. They will be blessed with seven living children and an eighth who died at birth. Both boys became pastors and four of the girls married pastors.

1885-1890 **St. Paul's, Menomonie.** Severe health, especially throat, problems compelled Rev. Pieper to take a year off and go to the drier climate of Texas in 1890.

1891-1902 **St. Marcus.** The school was overwhelming its two wooden buildings. In spite of the financial panic of 1893, Pieper led the organizing of acquisition of two more half-lots and the construction of a large new school building in 1894. Because of immigration, the church was growing rapidly.
Rev. Pieper also one of the very first catalysts to get a Lutheran high school started in Milwaukee. His fiery 1902 essay on the need for a Lutheran HS for girls drew in three other pastors and some teachers. LHS was launched in 1903. Although he wasn't in the syndicate that owned the school, he and Emma volunteered as teachers that first year.

1902-1943 **Seminary,** first in Wauwatosa and then in Thiensville after 1929. His primary fields were Old Testament isagogics (survey) and exegesis (intense Hebrew study).

1904 He and his two colleagues launch the *Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly*, a scholarly journal, for which Pieper personally wrote over 100 articles

1919 Writes his masterful commentary on Isaiah 40-66 called *Jesaias II*

1921 Instrumental in the founding of St. James Church across 60th St.

1929 Emma dies. Daughter Margaret, with her husband Ed Kornreich and son Ed (known by everyone in the family as "Edo"), comes to live in his professorage on the new campus in Thiensville and keeps house for him

1930 The Seminary community celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination

1930-1937 President of the Seminary

1943 Retires after a ministry of 64 years, 41 of which were at the Seminary

1947 Dies on December 23.

He and Emma had eight children:

- Karl (died as an infant)
- Magdalena Oehlert
- Margaret Kornreich
- Gertrude Kirst
- Gerhard
- Paul
- Lydia Stern
- Ruth Plehn

August Pieper was known for his brilliant intellect, deep Scriptural insights, boundless energy, and extremely strong opinions.

Rev. Ernst F. Dornfeld

1856 Born on December 29 in Lebanon, Wis., the first of 12 children of farmer Ernst and Sophie (Schulz) Dornfeld. Had the desire to go into the ministry, but there were obstacles at first

1880 graduated from NWC at age 24.



ST MARCUS

- 1882 Seminary studies cut short by desperate call into ministry. Ordained by Prof. Hoenecke
- 1882-1886 **St. Paul's, Green Bay.** First Lutheran had bolted the WELS for the Ohio Synod, and a small group from the congregation desired to stay WELS. EFD became their first pastor. Built a church and school.
- 1883 Married Emilie Louise Schoenike in September, also the year St. Paul's formally organized. Taught 60 pupils in the one-room school for a year. Near health breakdown
- 1886-1902 **Friedens, Kenosha.** Brought congregation (back?) into the WELS in 1888. In 1900 preached a sermon at St. Marcus' 25th anniversary.
- 1902-1911 **St. Marcus;** installed in October. Eliminated debt of over \$12,000. In 1905 began publication of the *Markusbote* monthly newsletter. 1905 Ladies Society begins raising money for new church furnishings. 1910 a Building Committee is formed.
- In Dec. 1910 fell and broke his arm while on pastoral calls on Booth St. Operation for gallstones went badly and he died of an abscessed lung on January 23. He was only 54.

Synodical service:

1. Vice president of the synod
2. Member, board of control for NWC
3. Chair of synod's *Reisepredigerkommission* (traveling home missionaries' commission)
4. Board of Northwestern Publishing House
5. Editorial board for the *Gemeindeblatt*
6. Wrote for the *Kinderfreude* magazine

Ernst and Emilie Louise had five children:

1. Pastor Ernst Philip, his successor at St. Marcus after service in Mishicot, 1884-1968
2. Emma, Mrs. Otto Nommensen, 1886-1964
3. Karl, in the seminary at time of Ernst's death; 1889-1914
4. Infant, born and died 1892
5. Paula, 1895-1973

Authored two tracts: "Inspiration in the Holy Scriptures"
 "Christian Science and Divine Healing"

Rev. Ernst Ph. Dornfeld

- 1884 Born in Kenosha; oldest son of Rev. Ernst F. and Emilie Louise (Schoenike) Dornfeld
- 1900-1904 NWC
- 1904-1908 Wis. Luth. Seminary



1908-1911 **St. Peter's, Mishicot**

Married Gertrude Krubsack in Embarrass, Waupaca Co., Wis.

1911-1955 **St. Marcus**

Led fund-raising and construction team for new St. Marcus sanctuary in 1913-14
Managed the transition to English. First English service in 1914; German services still happening in 1955 when he retired from St. Marcus.

Was about to accept a call to NWC in 1921, but congregation promised him help and called a second pastor, G.A. Zeisler. He had pastoral assistance until 1953.

Lived at first in 1884 frame parsonage; moved with his family into new parsonage at 212 E. North Ave. in 1926; frame house thereafter used for on-site custodians.

Edna Vitense becomes first full-time church secretary in 1932 and must have come as an enormous relief to the pastor.

Oversaw major church renovation in 1950 The congregation celebrated his 40th anniversary at St. Marcus in 1951.

1955-1962 **Nathanael**, 50th St. just north of State

Rev. Dornfeld completed an amazing 54 years of pastoral ministry, including the St. Marcus record of 44.

1968 Died. Gertrude passed away in 1976.

Children: Twins Ernst and Erna (Koester) 1911, Gertrude (Boecher) 1916, Ruth (Wensch) 1919, John 1922

Rev. Francis J. Uplegger

1867 Born in Rostock, Germany on October 29

Educated in Germany, he emigrated to the United States at age nineteen and enrolled at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

1891 Ordained at St. John's (LCMS), Hermansfort, Wisconsin, in July. Marries Emma Plass.

Served in ministries in Denmark and Germany

1916 Director of the Lutheran High School in Milwaukee

St. Marcus calls him as a pulpit assistant to Pastor Dornfeld

1917 son Alfred goes to San Carlos reservation to serve the Apache Indians.



1919 Francis joins his son on the **San Carlos Reservation**.

Adept at languages, Francis quickly began to learn how to speak and write the Apache language. He went on to compile the first Apache dictionary. He also wrote approximately twenty-five Gospel hymns in Apache and translated several important Lutheran liturgical documents and portions of the Bible into Apache.

Held in high esteem by many of the members of the tribe, he was affectionately called "Old Man Missionary." He assisted the tribe in drawing up a constitution in 1930-31 that was later used as a model by several other tribes. In 1957 Concordia Theological Seminary conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon him.

1961 Retired. Officially adopted into the San Carlos tribe.

1964 Died on the San Carlos Indian Reservation in Arizona on June 13. Francis and Emma had four children: Dorothea, Gertrude, Johanna, and Alfred. Johanna and husband Henry Rosin joined the Apache ministry team.

Rev. Gustaf Adolf Zeisler

1918 Graduated from NWC

1921 Graduated from the Thiensville Seminary. Preferred being referred to as G. Adolf

1921-1923 **St. Marcus.** Installed as assistant pastor on August 7. Rev. Dornfeld had intended to accept a call to NWC because of St. Marcus workload but decided to stay when given help.

Married Erna Schmid(t) on August 15, 1922, at St. Marcus. The congregation held a gala reception for the newlyweds in the fellowship hall.

1923-1927 **Trinity Lutheran, Minocqua** missionary; took call in July.
Attended the "Watertown Transcript meeting" of the Protes'tants in 1924
1926 signed the *Protestschriften* against the Western Wisconsin district in convention in Beaver Dam. Trinity joins WELS. GAZ leaves the synod, but doesn't join the Protes'tants. Accepts a call to Golgotha on 4th St. in Milwaukee, installed on Oct. 2.

1927- **Golgotha, Milwaukee.** GAZ leaves there "under a cloud." Golgotha was one of the first Lutheran churches to bail out of the inner city—merged with Gloria Lutheran on 10th & Hadley, moved to Glendale in 1958, and renamed itself "Memorial Lutheran." ELCA.

1933 Writes article for the Protes'tants's journal *Faith-Life* entitled "Some Look for a New Deal, Some See the Old Deck."

1951 Wrote obituary for Prof. J.P. Koehler in *Faith-Life*

Children: Adolf "Cy", b. February 4, 1925, d.2019; rec'd Bronze Star for WWII bravery
Erna (Ward)



Paul

Translator of Hymn #430 in the Lutheran Hymnary, "By Adam's Fall Is All Forlorn"

Rev. Walter A. Gieschen

- 1898 Born in Flatville, Ill, to Rev. Henry M. and Lydia (Thurow) Gieschen. He was the 7th of ten children. Numerous WELS pastors among his brothers and nephews.
- 1921 Graduates from the Thiensville Seminary. Ordained in August by his father at Jerusalem Church.
- 1921-1923 Serves WELS church in **Goodman, Wis.** (south and west of Iron Mountain). (Not sure if that congregation is still in existence; Goodman is very small)
- 1923-1926 **St. Marcus.** He was installed in September. The previous month Teacher Martin resigned. In the staffing crisis Rev. Gieschen agreed to teach school in the fall term of 1923. Christian Heine came in December to relieve him.
- 1927-1931 **Jerusalem.** Henry M. Gieschen (Walter's father) was the long-time pastor of Jerusalem. After his death in 1926 Walter was called to serve there with his brother Henry A. Gieschen and he accepted.
While associate pastor at Jerusalem Walter served on the district mission board and helped to plant the Ruby Ave. Mission, which became Atonement in 1929. He would lead worship each week until Rev. W.J. Schaefer accepted the call as mission developer.
- 1931-1941 **St. Paul's, Green Bay.** Years of conflict. The principal resigned in 1939 and WAG resigned in 1941 "under pressure".
- 1941-1945 no information
- 1945-1952 **Immanuel, Greenville** and **Immanuel, Clayton Twp., Wis.**
- 1952-1955 **St. Paul, Douglas,** and **Grace, Warren, Ariz.**
- 1955 Resigned from the ministry for health reasons and moved to Albuquerque, perhaps because daughter Janet Miller lived there. WELS church there founded in 1967.
- 1974 Passed away on July 15 in Albuquerque. Buried in Oshkosh.
- Married to Ermgard Groskreutz, 1902-1976
- Daughters: Marilyn Meltz, b.1929
Janet Miller, b. 12/12, 1930

Rev. Prof. John P. Meyer

- 1873 Born to Rev. Johannes and Anna (Behnken) Meyer in Zittau, Wis. (a little town halfway between Oshkosh and Weyauwega)
- 1884 Johannes was serving the Lutheran congregation in Caledonia, Wis., when he died. John was only 11.
- 1893 Graduates from NWC
- 1896 Graduates from the Wauwatosa Seminary
- 1896-1902 **St. Stephen's, Beaver Dam;** served also congregations in Trenton Twp. and Fox Lake
- 1902-1903 **NWC,** dean and professor
- 1903-1915 **DMLC** professor of Latin and Greek.
Married Lydia Reinke
- 1915-1918 Called into pastoral ministry to take care of problems at **St. Paul's, Oconomowoc**
- 1918-1920 **DMLC.** President and professor of education
- 1920-1964 **Seminary,** Wauwatosa until 1929 and then Thiensville. Taught Dogmatics and New Testament, plus occasionally church history, Genesis, and Lutheran Confessions. His Dogmatics notes became the standard text for the Seminary's dogmatics classes.
- 1927-1964 Assistant preacher at **St. Marcus.** Prof. Meyer did not drive an automobile. He was a legend for taking the interurban train from Thiensville down to 3rd & North on Saturday evening and spending the night on the couch in the St. Marcus sacristy when he was speaking the following Sunday morning, of course at both the German and English services. He was renowned also for never wearing a topcoat or hat, even in winter.
- 1937-1953 Called as president of the Seminary.
- 1948 Wife Lydia died.
- 1964 Was teaching a full load of classes and had just preached at St. Marcus. Entered the hospital for a kidney ailment and died at age 91 on Luther's birthday, November 10, after an astonishing 64 years in the ministry.

He always had extremely pale hair that turned white early, earning him the nickname "Nixie" (the Latin word for snow is *nix*.) Nixie was known for his patient exposition of theology, courtesy with people with whom there were strong disagreements, and deep personal humility. He was a prolific writer, authoring 250 articles for the Seminary's theological Quarterly and the Northwestern Lutheran. But he would sign his articles only with the letter "M."

Prof. Meyer served on countless synodical committees and commissions, usually those involving doctrine, inter-church relations, and education. He was the main theological voice of the synod for two generations, steering the synod through major conflicts with the Protestants, CLC, and Missouri Synod.

He is the author of a commentary on II Corinthians entitled “Ministers of Christ” and a series geared for lay people entitled “Studies in the Lutheran Confessions.” His exceptionally long tenure at the Seminary enabled him to shape the pastoral attitudes of two generations of WELS pastors.

Four children: a daughter, Lydia, and three sons: Rev. John, Rev. Arnold, and Rev. Henry. Lydia lived with him in Thiensville, and after Prof. Meyer died she remained a St. Marcus member for the rest of her life.

Rev. Prof. John C. Jeske

1924 Born in Milwaukee on February 21 in the Divine Charity Lutheran Church parsonage on 1st St. to Rev. John G. and Elizabeth (Limbeck) Jeske, the third of their four children. He was the only boy.

1937-1943 Concordia Prep and Junior College in Milwaukee
1943-1944 Did his junior year of college at Concordia, St. Louis
1944-1945 NWC Senior year and graduation
1945-1948 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

1948-1949 Instructor at **DMLC** in New Ulm

1949-1953 **St. Marcus**, assistant to Pastor E. Ph. Dornfeld. He replaced Prof. Meyer; one of the reasons for this assignment was his ability to conduct German language worship
1951 Married to Eleonore Pieper, granddaughter of one of St. Marcus’ pastors.
They lived on Morris Blvd. in Shorewood. First child Mark is born in 1952.
When the Jeskes left, St. Marcus had just a solo pastor for the next 49 years

1953-1969 **St. John’s**, 68th & Forest Home (“Root Creek”). Kristine, Thomas, Mary, and Lisa join the family. St. John’s engaged in two major building projects to expand the school in 1956 and 1965 and a third to renovate the church in 1956.
In the 1960s John served the synod as chair of the Board for Information and Stewardship and then as chair of the Board of World Missions.

1969-1970 Called to the Seminary to teach Old Testament, John requested and was granted a one-year sabbatical to obtain a master’s degree in Hebrew at UW-Madison.

1970-1995 **Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary**, teaching Old Testament and homiletics.
For three years in the mid-1970s he works heavily on the NIV OT translation team. In the late ‘70s and early ‘80s he was an indefatigable traveling essayist and promoter of contemporary Bible translations and did more than anyone else to help the WELS transition from the KJV to the NIV.



Served as the general editor for the People's Bible Old Testament series and authored the Genesis and Daniel commentaries.

Author of "From Sinai to Calvary"

In retirement John and Eleonore bought a house in Lake Mills to be near their daughters.

1995-2000 **St. Luke's, Watertown.** Served as part-time pulpit assistant to Rev. Anthony Schultz

2014 Died on Christmas Eve.

Rev. Paul Knickelbein

Paul was a star basketball player at Concordia Prep and Junior College. Through his sister Alydda he met her friend Emily Worgull. He invited her to go roller skating, and he was impressed enough to ask her out a second time. Paul finished his college work and received his B.A. at Northwestern College in Watertown. He and Emily dated during his seminary years, and one month after his Seminary graduation in March they were married at St. John's Vliet St, on April 29, 1945. Thus began an incredible 53-year adventure.

Paul's first pastoral assignment was the triple parish of Mancos, Cortez, and Durango in the Colorado Rockies. They wasted no time in moving—Paul was ordained and installed on May 13. The Knickelbein marriage was blessed with a child—Tim was born in Colorado. But they didn't stay long. Paul accepted a call to teach at the Lutheran High School in Milwaukee for a year, and then he took a call to serve as the pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in the town of Nasewaupee outside of Sturgeon Bay. There Tom was born in 1948 and Naomi in 1950.

But soon they were off again. Paul accepted a call to serve at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. There the family grew to seven—Paul was born in 1951 and Nancy in 1953. The restless pastor took on another challenge—to move back to Milwaukee in 1954 and develop a Lutheran congregation among African Americans. Following up on the initial organizing work of Rev. Bertram Sauer, the Knickelbeins in just one year rejoiced to celebrate the founding of St. Philip's Lutheran Church in 1955. Its first home was an old church building on 4th St., not far from the Knickelbeins' home on 5th St.

Then came a pastoral call that Paul could not refuse—to serve at St. Marcus Lutheran Church on Palmer St., just a few blocks to the east. And after serving in five different places in ten years, Paul found what he was looking for and settled in for a dozen years. They moved into the former Dornfeld house at 212 E. North Ave. Debbie was born in 1957 and Philip Marcus Knickelbein in 1958. And Emily rested from having children.

The years of their service at St. Marcus were years of great racial unrest in all American society and especially in the northern cities. But Paul and Emily were leaders in bringing integration to St. Marcus and the synod. When fearful whites fretted about the "Negro problem," Pastor Knickelbein celebrated the "Negro opportunity." When some wanted to move St. Marcus to the suburbs, the Knickelbeins urged the congregation to stay put and serve all the people of the neighborhood. Through years of terrible staff turnover they stayed steady. Paul even had to serve on and off as school principal, especially during the crisis year of 1961. It was Paul's destiny to end two



deeply rooted St. Marcus traditions: a Sunday morning German worship service and the four-lane bowling alley in the lower level of the school.

In 1960 Emily went back to work, serving at Wisconsin Lutheran High School for seven years as a secretary. Paul managed to take care of the toddlers, helped out by dear family friend Irma Wachs. Emily got driving lessons, thanks to her friend Esther, and finally obtained her license.

In the spring of 1967 Paul accepted a call to serve a rural congregation in Cleveland, Wisconsin. Still restless, he received another call the next year and moved the family to Oklahoma City to develop the first WELS Lutheran church in the state. Not everybody went along—the older children were in college and never considered Oklahoma their home. Tim had moved out, Tom was married in 1971, Naomi in 1973, and Paul in 1977. Emily found work again as a secretary; in fact she was a Kelley girl, and she worked also as a Welcome Wagon hostess. During those years Paul helped to plant a second church in Oklahoma City and one in Tulsa.

The Lord had one last parish for his wandering couple, and that was the tri-parish of Stambaugh, Tipler, and Bruce Crossing on the Wisconsin/Michigan border. They moved to the north woods in 1979, just the two of them. Phil was married in 1983, Nancy in 1984, and Debbie in 1985. They loved the pine country and loved their work and had no intention of retiring. Then the blow fell—Paul suffered a major stroke in 1993, and that great big man had to sit in a wheel chair. Sadly he tendered his resignation, and they decided to move to Milwaukee to be close to old friends and get skilled nursing care. Paul lived at the Lutheran Home on N. 76th St. and Emily rented an apartment nearby, on 81st & Congress.

They decided to rejoin the church of their early ministry, St. Marcus. Emily tended Paul lovingly and faithfully and helped him get around. They were privileged to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 1995, held at son Tom's church, Good Shepherd's in West Allis. The gym was full of well-wishers and friends. In May of 1998 the Lord called his suffering child home to glory.

Rev. Richard M. Seeger

- 1931 Born July 5, son of Walter and Hattie Seeger, charter members of Atonement Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. Grew up in Milwaukee; home at 1824 N. 19th St. Youngest of three children; siblings Walter, Jr., and Jean. Hattie Seeger was a granddaughter of St. Marcus charter members Karl and Ernestine Jeske.
- 1949 Graduated from Concordia Prep in Milwaukee
- 1953 Graduated from Northwestern College
- 1953 Married to Shirley Busch, R.N.
- 1956 Seminary graduation. Assigned as second missionary to Japan. Commissioned in October.
- 1957-1966 April he & Shirley leave for **Japan**. Lone missionary Fred Tiefel had just resigned from the WELS for doctrinal reasons, due to the WELS' perceived slowness in breaking with the Missouri Synod. Tiefel kept all the existing members and even the properties, since

they were titled in his name. Synod president Oscar Naumann and mission executive Edgar Hoenecke met the Seegers in Tokyo. Tiefel had refused to meet with the two synod officials.

Richard began two years of intensive language training, and he also conducted English-language worship in their Tokyo Prefecture home. The Seegers were alone until joined by missionary Richard Poetter in 1958. The Seegers moved to Tsuchiura where Richard began Japanese language worship and teaching; the Poetters were in Mito. He preached his first Japanese sermon in 1959. Slowly built up a new mission church. The Seegers later moved back to Tokyo.

1966-1967 Helped plant the WELS presence in **Hong Kong** as “Friendly Counselor” and as a professor in the Hong Kong seminary

1967-1979 **St. Marcus**

St. Marcus’ North Ave. parsonage had been entered by arsonists twice during the city’s racial unrest. The Seegers decided to buy a house in Wauwatosa, becoming the first St. Marcus pastor to be a homeowner. The North Ave. parsonage was sold.

Richard helped St. Marcus acquire the lot to the north of the school and also the lot facing Garfield Ave. across the alley, thus beginning St. Marcus’ second century land acquisition.

Tended Ephrata Lutheran Church on 2nd & Concordia until it closed in 1977. They would have an early service and St. Marcus a later one on Sunday mornings. About 30 mostly older shutin members from Ephrata who liked Pastor Seeger came to St. Marcus in 1977.

Served on the board of directors of Wis. Lutheran High School and the Milwaukee Federation, as chaplain for St. Joseph’s Hospital, and on the Inner City Mission Committee.

1979-1989 **St. John’s, Antigua**

The Antigua mission had been begun by a group of Lutheran congregations that broke away from the Missouri Synod in the early 1970s for doctrinal reasons. They called themselves the “Federation for Authentic Lutheranism.” When the FAL decided to align with the WELS, the Antigua mission came under the WELS mission board.

1990-1996 **King of Kings, Alexandria, Louisiana**

Retired in Zephyrhills, Florida, to be near son Rick in Lakeland. Seven grandchildren.

1998 Passed away at age 67. St. Marcus held a memorial service on August 16.

Two children: Dr. Rick Seeger, Lakeland, Fla.

Kathy (Dr. John) Dahlie, Shawano, Wis.

Notice a pattern? God seemed to have chosen Dick for tough, challenging, non-traditional ministries. He was a big man with an even bigger voice. God blessed him with an absolutely tremendous set of pipes. In worship services, it was he who decided on the pace of the hymns, not the organist.



Rev. Mark A. Jeske

1952 Born in Milwaukee to Rev. John and Eleonore (Pieper) Jeske and baptized at St. Marcus.

1953 Moved to S. 68th St. when John accepted a call to St. John's on 68th St.

1966-1970 Wisconsin Lutheran High School

1970-1974 Northwestern College

1974-1978 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Spent his vicar year learning Spanish in Guadalajara, Mexico, and then serving a mission station in Medellín, Colombia, in 1977.

1978-1980 Instructor at **Northwestern Prep** (now LPS) teaching religion, history, English, and geography

1980-present Assigned to **St. Marcus**.

1982-1988; 1999-2005 Board of Regents, Wis. Lutheran College

1985-1993 Edited the hymn texts for *Christian Worship*

1986 Married to Carol Wynkoop. The Jeskes were blessed with four children: John, Samuel, Elizabeth (now Zweifel), and Michael.

1981 Founding director, the WELS Historical Institute

1993 Founding director, the CHARiS Institute

1990-2002 2nd Vice President, S.E. Wisconsin District of the WELS

1995-1999 Part of team that produced the "Let All the People Praise You" songbook

2000-2018 Speaker and principal writer for Time of Grace Ministry

2005-2011 Board of Directors, Wis. Lutheran High School

2011-2023 Board of Directors, Thrivent Financial

2014-2020 Board of Directors, Wis. Lutheran High School Foundation

2022- Board of Directors, St. Marcus Foundation

Writings:

Commentary on the General Epistles in the "People's Bible" series, 2002

Time of Grace, a collection of 365 devotional messages, 2010.

Messiah Is Coming (2011), a series of Bible studies of the great Messianic prophecies

Straight Talk (2012), a response to 120 tough questions sent by viewers and readers,

Grace for Today (2013), yearly devotion book

Grace in a Moment (2014), yearly devotion book

Timeless (2015), yearly devotion book

Set Free (2016), yearly devotion book

More Straight Talk (2016)

Rev. James R. Skorzewski

1972 Born in Clare, Mich., to Jack and Cynthia (Lansing) Skorzewski

1982 Jack dies. Cynthia adopts three African American boys. Damonte, Antonio, and Tre

1986-1990 Michigan Lutheran Seminary (academy)

1990-1994 NWC

1994-1998 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Vicar experience was at Martin Luther, Neenah



Volunteered several summers at the central city VBS at St. Marcus where he met and then married Janinne Rhodes

1998-2002 **Cutler Ridge Lutheran Church, Miami**

2002-2008 **St. Marcus**

Served as the first school pastor
Launched Sunday night contemporary worship in 2003
Recruited the praise band that became Koiné.
Brought screen use to worship—slides, video
Began organizing small-group ministry

2008-2013 **St. Peter's/the CORE, Appleton.** Planted a second-site campus for St. Peter's (Twp. of Freedom) in downtown Appleton, beginning in an Imax theater.

2014-present **Christ the Rock, Hutto, Tex.** Originally planted in Round Rock, Tex., the congregation moved to nearby Hutto to build.

The Skorzewskis have three children: Abigail, Megan, and Jack

Pastor Ski, as he preferred to be called, was legendary for his hospitality. He and Janinne always had people flowing through their house, and he was always talking to people on his cell phone. He was a sports maniac, papering the ceiling of his basement lounge with thousands of baseball cards and growing a huge collection of baseball bats, balls, and caps. He spent many happy hours watching the Brewers in Milwaukee and the Timber Rattlers in Appleton.

Rev. Dr. Paul S. Steinberg

1971 Born in New London, Wis., to Kenneth and Dawn Steinberg. Kenneth died in 2017

1985-1989 Fox Valley Lutheran High School

1989-1993 NWC

1993-1997 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Vicar year was at Eagle River and Phelps, Wis.

1997-2004 **St. Paul, Mauston, and St. Luke, New Lisbon**

2004-2008 **Immanuel, Medford, Wis.**

2008-2017 **St. Marcus**

Initially called as the third pastor with emphasis on outreach. When Pastor Ski left, Paul willingly took on the school pastor role. He and his family bought a house on First St. across from the school's main entrance. For a few years Rebecca's father, Rev. Kurt Gruenewald, lived with them and had a wonderful retirement ministry at St. Marcus, primarily teaching new-member classes.

Rebecca joined the school faculty as a music and art teacher, moving to the Center St. campus when it opened.



Pastor Steinberg was famous for his juggling performances. He was also an accomplished percussionist and often joined musical groups on timpani or trap drumset. He brought a sunny, cheerful disposition, evangelist's heart, and entrepreneurial spirit to his work, loving meeting new people and launching new projects.

Did graduate work at Liberty University and graduated with a D.Min. in 2014.

2017-present **Chaplains in Schools**, retitled **A City for God**

2019-present **Fairview Lutheran Church** (part-time)

Rev. Steinberg is a pioneer in bringing pastoral services to schools that are not connected to a congregation. Works primarily with Kingdom Prep, Hope Fidelis, and Shining Star/Capitol. He also worked in developing the JUMP urban ministry recruitment program.

His family stayed St. Marcus members. Rebecca continues to teach music at St. Marcus School.

Married to Rebecca Gruenewald

Six children: Luke, Jonathan, Joshua, Andrew, Mackenson, Mackencia

Rev. Kelly B. Huet

1982 Born in Bellevue, WA to Anne and Cullen Huet. Siblings: Christie, Corey, and Kate. Cullen was a diesel mechanic who unfortunately became disabled.

1984 The family moves to Phoenix.

1997-2001 Arizona Lutheran Academy

2001-2005 MLC

2004 Cullen passed away on Thanksgiving Day

2005-2009 Seminary. Kelly vicared in the Atlanta area, Sola Fide, Lawrenceville, Ga.

2007 Married to Katherine (Katie) Petermann

2008 Anne passed away

2009-2015 **St. Marcus.** Pastor Huet was in charge of the Sunday night contemporary service, which at the time they called "Live It." The Huets lived in a newly built house on Palmer & Wright.

His superpowers were logistics, planning, recruitment, and deployment of volunteers. The Sunday night praise band Koinè was at its height, and their Good Friday music/word/video presentations were legendary and heavily attended.

2015-2021 **St. Andrew's**, Middleton, Wis. Kelly received a call that he could not turn down--Pastor of Service and Outreach

2021-present **Prince of Peace**, Flower Mound, Texas.



The Huets are blessed with three children: Micah 2010, Ellen 2015, Zoe 2017

Rev. William J. Schaefer

1955 Born in Milwaukee to Rev. James and Ruth (Eggert) Schaefer. Grew up at Atonement Lutheran Church and School, which had been started by his grandfather, also W.J. Schaefer, in 1929.

1969-1973 Wisconsin Lutheran High School

1973-1977 NWC

1977-1981 Seminary. He vicared at St. John's, Westland, Mich.

1979 Married Judy Manske, an R.N. The Schaefers have three sons: Jonathan, Benjamin, William III

1981-1985 **Shepherd of the Verde Valley, Sedona, Ariz.** SotVV started a new church, Peace, Cottonwood. SotVV renamed itself "Trinity." Trinity closed soon thereafter and most SotVV members ended up at the Cottonwood church.

1985-2005 **St. John's, Minneapolis**

Served on the board of directors of St. Croix LHS

2005-2011 **St. Croix Lutheran High School**, development dept. One of the highlights of his time there was the building of a new freestanding chapel

2011-2015 **St. Marcus**

Rev. Schaefer was called to be the executive pastor. Led the "Alive" campaign that refreshed and renewed the sanctuary to celebrate its 100th birthday, including new carpeting, new oak chancel floor and steps, rebuilding the church's outer wooden doors, new roof, bracing for the Emmaus stained glass window, and expanding the organ casework in anticipation of the expansion of the organ itself.

2015-2019 **St. John's, 8th & Vliet** ("Hillside")

Also assisted with the vacancy at Salem, Cramer St.

The Schaefers bought a home in Germantown in 2011 and now live there in retirement. Rev. Schaefer is active with the WELS Historical Institute

Rev. James M. Hein

1981 Born in Saginaw to Michael and Cynthia Hein. Two sisters. Brother Jon had served as a St. Marcus vicar.

1996-2000 Michigan Lutheran Seminary (academy)

2000-2004 Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.

2004-2008 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. His vicar year was at Messiah in Wichita, Kans.



2007 Married to Adrian Donald

2008-2016 **Resurrection, Rochester, Minn.**
Pastor Hein was one of a three-pastor staff.

2016-present **St. Marcus.** Called to be Lead Pastor.
Moved Sunday night worship to Saturday night, which proved to be very popular.
Initiated a regular podcast of his messages. Blogs regularly. Began a daily video Bible study with wife Adrian entitled “Two Steps Forward”
Significantly increased the number of growth (small) groups
Began a campus group at UWM.
Developed toddler care and kids’ church during worship
Hired Martin Smith and Jack Albert as full-time media technicians for recording, editing, and posting content.
Ramped up community engagement
Hired D’Poschea Tyce as first Sunday morning barista

Rev. Daniel P. Leyrer

1963 Born on February 4 in Watertown, Wis., the last of the seven children of Rev. Carl and Leah Leyrer. Carl at the time was the dean of Northwestern College and Prep. Dan’s older siblings are Susan, Carl, Virginia, Joel, Philip, and Peter.

1977-1981 Northwestern Prep
1981-1985 Northwestern College, Watertown
1985-1989 Seminary. Dan vicared at Bethlehem, Hortonville

1986 Married to Leah David. Their marriage was blessed with three daughters: Erin in 1987, Lauren in 1989, and Allison in 1992.

1989-1993 **Immanuel, Salem, Oregon**

1993-1998 **Crown of Life, Marietta, Ohio**

1998-2016 **Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary**, teaching in the field of NT and evangelism
Elected vice-president of the Seminary. Leah was chosen to be the executive assistant to the Seminary president.

2016-present **St. Marcus**
Pastor Leyrer has been the education pastor at St. Marcus, finding talent for the school faculty, doing the orientation and assimilation, and overseeing the continuing education especially of those teachers who didn’t have a Lutheran background. He is chaplain on all the campuses and leads weekly worship for the children and staff, in addition to regular faculty devotions. He is the regular Bible study teacher on Sunday mornings. Pastor Leyrer became the fifth St. Marcus pastor to have taught at the seminary.



In June of 2022 Pastor Leyrer was elected president of the Southeastern Wisconsin District of the WELS. He continues as a part-time pastor at St. Marcus.

Rev. Joel Krieger

- 1982 Born in Michigan to Rev. Philip and Christine (Paustian) Krieger
- 2000 Graduated from Michigan Lutheran Seminary (academy)
- 2004 Graduated from Martin Luther College with a teaching degree. Assigned to Mt. Olive in Las Vegas.

- 2004 **Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Las Vegas.** Unfortunately the school closed in 2014.

- 2014 Married to Kate Hieb

- 2014-2016 Clark County School District.

- 2016-2018 Martin Luther College, pastor track
- 2018-2022 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. The Kriegers vicared at St. John's in Mukwonago. Assigned to St. Marcus in May of 2022.

- 2022 **St. Marcus** Ordained and installed as District Pres. Daniel Leyrer's graduate assistant pastor on August 14. The Kriegers bought a house in the neighborhood. They are blessed with three children: Reuben, Armin, and Ramona.