



# LIVING GOD'S LOVE

## YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW

## PASTOR BIO: JOYCE SANDBERG



Pastor Joyce (Smith) Sandberg grew up and completed her entire education in St. Paul, MN. After graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1973, she married Irving L. Sandberg. Both entered the four-year Master of Divinity program at Luther Seminary that fall. They were part of a small group of students who were “clergy couples,” in the early years of the ordination of women.

She and Irving were both ordained on July 16, 1977. She served parishes in Wisconsin and Minnesota before receiving a call to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and School in 1996. She joined Pastor Dennis Dickman and Pastor Michael Burk in a team ministry. St. Paul’s was her only call where she was not the first woman pastor to serve the congregation.

During her time on the team ministry at St. Paul’s, she worked with a variety of boards and ministries, taught confirmation and for a short period between youth directors, was responsible for senior high programs. She adapted to pastoral staff changes that led eventually to a head of staff structure. Understanding her gifts suited her best for an associate pastor role, Sandberg was also willing to serve two short periods as the sole pastor while the congregation prepared to call first Pastor Curt Schneider and later Pastor Arthur Bergren as head of staff at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church & School.

Pastor Sandberg retired in 2017. Following Irving’s retirement in 2018, they moved to Roseville, MN, near their daughter Diane and grandson Noah.

“From my first day at St. Paul’s, through the floods and the changes over two decades, I always found the people and ministries at St. Paul’s to be both challenging and rewarding. The two sabbaticals I was granted were renewing. The challenges were interesting. God was steadfast. So many people were deeply committed to making a difference for their neighbors. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve there,” said Sandberg.



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## PASTOR BIO: BUD BUCHHEIM



Pastor Durwood L. “Bud” Buchheim was born on July 27, 1923 on a farm in Humboldt, South Dakota. Buchheim began his educational journey at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, then went on to enlist in the Navy. After serving as a Naval Air Cadet then a Naval Aviator, he was released from active duty in January 1946.

Buchheim then enrolled at Wartburg College and graduated in 1953. He attended Wartburg Seminary and was ordained in 1956. After being ordained, Buchheim went on to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Waterloo as the assistant pastor. He then studied abroad at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, learning about the New Testament of the Bible. He returned from his studies to Trinity Lutheran Church, serving as the senior pastor.

Buchheim served at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church & School from 1968 to 1973. In his retirement, he continued to serve throughout numerous intra ministries and taught at the Wartburg Seminary as a professor of preaching. He also served as an assistant bishop then bishop of the Iowa District of the American Lutheran Church (ALC).



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## PASTOR BIO: GLEN WHEELER



In the summer of 1975, Pastor Glen Theodore Wheeler received a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly. He joined Pastor Dave Brown, Pastor George Hanusa and Principal Dick Pinkley in a team ministry.

Pastor Wheeler is the youngest of four children born Dec. 30, 1940 in Conrad, Montana. He graduated from Cut Bank High School in 1958 and accepted a basketball scholarship to Concordia College Moorhead. He graduated from college in 1962.

His journey in worship involves being enrolled in Luther Seminary at St. Paul, MN in September of 1962. Shortly after, he began his seminary internship at Grace Lutheran in Michigan. This led to him graduating and being ordained in May, 1966.

In June 1966, Pastor Wheeler accepted a call to St. Thomas Lutheran in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He made fundamental societal changes with Father Groppi in participating with the fair house marches, which eventually led to the National Fair Housing Law.

Pastor Wheeler has three children by the names of Matt, Jon and Amy. The family grew after he married Jane Jaspers in 1982, who worked as a teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran School. They became a blended family accompanied by Jane's children who go by the name of Jack, Joe and Janelle Jaspers.

Pastor Glen Wheeler retired in 2006 after serving at Bethel Lutheran in Minneapolis, MN for 12 years. He is currently a member at Lake Nokomis, Lutheran MN at the present time.

Pastor Wheeler will serve as the first guest preacher of June specifically for the weekend of June 4 & 5.



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## PASTOR BIO: RICHARD REHFELDT



In the fall of 1960, Pastor Richard Rehfeldt entered the Wartburg Seminary and served as a student minister at Yosemite National Park. This opened his avenue to doing Pastoral Clinical Training at Boston City Hospital and afterwards serving a year as an intern at Bethany Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, NY which led him to receive his Bachelor of Divinity in 1964. His educational achievements did not only start there. He graduated with a BS in education from the University of Wisconsin in 1960, where he was also born and raised.

He answered his call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1964 to serve as an associate pastor after his graduation where he moved with his wife, Cathy, to Waverly. This is where his son and daughter were born. He continued to engage in academia by receiving his Master of Sacred Theology from Wartburg Seminary in 1969 during his time off and later received his PhD from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland in 1975.

During his doctorate education, Pastor Rehfeldt accepted a call to serve Windsor Heights Lutheran Church in Des Moines. His involvement in the church led to him and his wife traveling to Jerusalem where he studied at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute.

His excursions include joining a professor of biblical geography at the University of Jerusalem where he and his daughter explored the "unseen Israel." He was with Windsor Heights Lutheran Church until 2005, where he also coordinated the monthly Central Iowa Pastors' Forum for 28 years.

Upon his retirement, he and his wife moved to Rochester, Minnesota. This is where he stepped up to serve as Adjunct Professor at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

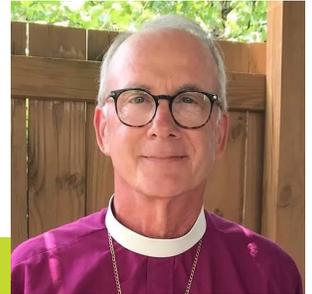
Pastor Rehfeldt has attended international gatherings of "the crib" societies in Augsburg, Germany, Pamplona and others with his wife by being members of "Friends of the Creche."



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## PASTOR BIO: MICHAEL L. BURK



The Rev. Michael L. Burk is a well recognized pastor who has served on the boards of Wartburg College, Grand View University, Luther College, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Lutheran Services in Iowa, and the hospitals of UnityPoint Health - Des Moines.

His academic achievements were brought to life by being a graduate of Wartburg College, Wartburg Theological Seminary and the University of Iowa.

This led to Dr. Burk being labeled the “Albert E. Stone Distinguished Alumnus in American Studies” by the University of Iowa in 2001.

Wartburg Theological Seminary recognized and granted him an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree.

“In recognition of his evangelical leadership, reflected in the development of the worship resource, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, and in his continuing ministry on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,”

His contributions as a bishop for the ELCA do not go unnoticed as he has immensely contributed to the ELCA’S advocacy efforts on matters related to hunger and poverty. His role as the Vice Chair of ELCA Conference of Bishops has also presented him the opportunity to be a speaker on matters related to worship and the culture of the church.

Pastor Burk has retired and relocated to Edina, Minnesota with his wife, Diane, to be near their three children and their families.

As St. Paul’s Lutheran Church & School celebrates 150 years of ministry in Waverly, Iowa, former pastors will be welcomed to preach. Pastor Burk will serve as the guest preacher for March, specifically for the weekend of March 12 and 13.



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## YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW

## PASTOR BIO: LARRY TRACHTE



In the spring of 1970, Pastor Larry Trachte received a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly. He joined Pastor Durwood Buchheim and Pastor George Hanusa in a team ministry. During his time at St. Paul's, his area of focus was on youth and education. He also shared preaching/teaching duties. Pastor Trachte revised the confirmation program to include "service modules," such as "Adopt-a-Grandparent" program, where students regularly visited St. Paul's shut-ins and nursing home residents. Senior high youth met Sunday nights and made monthly visits to the Bremer County Home. Highlights of those years included a retreat ministry with youth and confirmands to EWALU, Luther Village, Canada and national youth conventions. He also began a "Young Couples Club" and organized a family camp retreat to Luther Village during his years at St. Paul's.

Pastor Trachte had "imported" a Phillipus Gemeinde elderly visitation program when he arrived at St. Paul's, and the pastors began to make "birthday calls" on members of the congregation on their 65th birthday (with complimentary flowers from Eckers!) and then yearly after 70.

"I'm pleased that fifty years later this contact continues as a lay ministry," Trachte said.

Pastor Trachte enjoyed his contact with St. Paul's Lutheran School, loved doing children's sermons for school worship, and was a champion "kick ball" player when he could join the school children for recess. He also began teaching German to St. Paul's third through sixth graders twice a week and worked with the ELCA's Dr. Don Vetter, with continuing theological education/dialogue with teachers of St. Paul's Lutheran School.

"Both of our children, Aaron (now a cardio-thoracic surgeon in Lawton, Oklahoma), and Joy (now a Professor of mathematics at Wartburg) benefited from a St. Paul's Lutheran School education," said Trachte. "We are blessed with six multi-talented grandchildren, and Joy and Joel's children are now the second generation to attend St. Paul's Lutheran School."

After his retirement from Wartburg in 2009, he began to serve as a "supply pastor" to the many congregations in Northeast Iowa who needed one. He remained active at St. Paul's leading a grief support group and being one of St. Paul's the "preaching pastors."

"I have enjoyed and appreciated the chance to return to the pulpit where I first began my ordained ministry," said Trachte. "The call to ministry remains strong for me, though the desire is now tempered by age and health issues (for both Lois and me). But I remain grateful to God and St. Paul's for half a century of blessings shared in this special community."