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For the Life of the World

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For the Life of the World is mailed to all pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the United States and Canada and to anyone interested in the work of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

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By Douglas H. Spittel

Pastor Malinsky and the congregation at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Catonsville, Maryland, set me up to become a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The setup was not an overt or manipulative one. Rather, it was their steady emphasis on Christian education, life-long catechesis and respect for the Body of Christ that our Lord used to create an environment that has produced many pastors and other church workers.

7 Formed for Service: The Work of Rosa Jinsey Young

By Roosevelt Gray Jr.

My journey into the Lutheran Church began 100 years ago this August through the ministry of a faith-filled and gifted young African-American woman in rural Alabama. No, I'm not that old, but I am indebted to the ministry of this woman born into the segregated South, who dedicated her life to bringing the light of the Gospel to those sitting in darkness.

10 Your Path to the Seminary

Matthew J. Wietfeldt

If you are considering service to God's people, the best thing that you can do is to come visit CTSFW. Come and see what the possibilities are here in Fort Wayne for you and for your family. Come and experience our community. A great deal of the formation process for seminary happens through the community that is established here, through interactions and relationships with our faculty, staff and students.

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Gentle En



Pictured above are the high school aged young men and women who attended Christ Academy High School and Phoebe Academy High School at CTSFW in June 2016. It's a great way for high schoolers to learn about the vocations of pastor and deaconess. Connect with ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu for more information.

The melodies wafted down the stairwell from the nave to the youth room. From the small upright piano in the dimly lit church came the familiar tunes of ancient hymns, American standards and Bach preludes. The eclectic musical mix told the youth group gathered on that Friday night in 1980 that Pastor Walt Malinsky was in the building. Whether he intentionally tickled the ivories on Friday nights in order to be around the church when the youth group met or he just happened to have some free time we never knew. The music had a way of inviting us up to the church to say “hello” and talk with our pastor—something that didn’t happen informally very often in what was a rather large congregation and school. That particular night, probably between games of ping-pong or billiards, I took some time to follow the music.

Couragement

By Douglas H. Spittel

I had known Pastor Malinsky for most of my life. He had come to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Catonsville, Maryland, to serve as the parish pastor in 1970 and knew my family well. I had been his acolyte through my catechism years and after. He was easy-going, but his training as an Air Force chaplain came through in his precision and eye for detail. Our conversation that evening was mostly unremarkable small-talk. During our brief talk, I mentioned an interest in the ministry. Still playing the piano, he asked where I would like to study. I guessed Bronxville or Valparaiso. He casually said that I would be more comfortable at Ann Arbor or River Forest. I went back downstairs. That was it. That was the whole of the conversation that set me on a course beginning two years later to study at Concordia in Ann Arbor, then to Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, then ordination into the Holy Ministry, a Doctor of Ministry and now over 26 continuing years in the pastoral ministry and service in our beloved Synod.

What I did not realize until much later was that pivotal conversation was simply one small part of an encouraging culture at Emmanuel in which I grew up in the faith and began to be prepared for the Holy Ministry. It was a parish culture in which the pastor and the congregation exuded a spirit of gentleness, faithfulness and brotherliness. My whole life growing up at Emmanuel was one that was forming and leading me to the vocation of the Office of the Holy Ministry.

Walt Malinsky was a pastor who clearly preferred to come to his people “in love and a spirit of gentleness” (1 Cor. 4:21). He was a shepherd who quietly and gently led his flock. He taught and preached with conviction, but let the proclamation of God’s Word do the work rather than the force of his own personality. He embodied the work of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, as he worked among the flock, and his approach to encouraging me to study for the ministry was no different. He taught me the Catechism, allowed me to serve by his side at the altar and made himself available to me when I had questions. Never once did Pastor Malinsky tell me that I should go to seminary. It was never about what he wanted. He encouraged me not by coercion of expectation but by leading through example.

Emmanuel congregation was equally a part of encouraging me to consider the ministry. In that congregation I found people, like my family, who practiced what was preached from the pulpit. They took to heart the forgiveness that they received from Jesus in Holy Absolution and the Lord’s Supper and practiced it in their lives. The Lord knows that teenagers can be rambunctious and in need of much patience and forgiveness. The congregation at Emmanuel knew it too—and they practiced it. They put up with our shenanigans and still treated us as important members of the congregation. They were generous toward us, helping our service projects and social events with their time and money. They created a scholarship fund for ministerial students

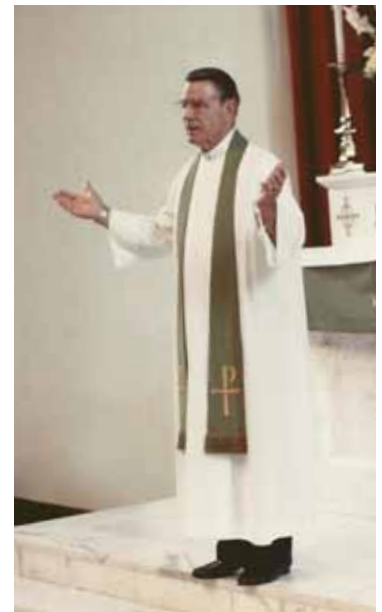


Photo courtesy Dr. Douglas Spittel.

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Seeing and treating those who seem to be the weakest among us as fellow saints who live by the power of Jesus Christ not only humbles each one of us before God’s mighty hand, but also builds up every member of the body of Christ. The uplifting culture of the Church, the very body of the risen Jesus Christ, whose prayers ascend like incense before the throne of God, raises up men to move from the youth room to the nave to the seminary and out into the world proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to yet another generation.

named in honor of sainted, long-tenured pastor, Rudolph S. Ressimyer. Emmanuel congregation continued this tradition by also creating the Walter G. Malinsky Seminary Students Scholarship Fund after he fell asleep in the Lord in 1990. Emmanuel congregation was a culture that lived the forgiveness of Jesus Christ, encouraged young people to live the Christian faith and inspired young men to study for the Holy Ministry.

Pastor Malinsky and the congregation at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Catonsville, Maryland, set me up to become a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The setup was not an overt or manipulative one. Rather, it was their steady emphasis on Christian education, life-long catechesis and respect for the Body of Christ that our Lord used to create an environment that has produced many pastors and other church workers. Emmanuel treated the youth of the congregation as members of the congregation. Our youth are certainly inexperienced and sometimes struggle in the faith. The people at Emmanuel understood that “those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary” (1 Cor. 12:22). The adults welcomed the youth into “their” organizations. Whether it was the senior choir, the Sunday School faculty or the financial counting teams, youth were brought alongside the adults and entrusted with the things that were part of

the workings of the congregation. It was a permission-giving parish culture that encouraged the young members to engage in the life of the whole congregation.

The quiet, ongoing encouragement of Pastor Malinsky and the people of Emmanuel led me and my friends to life-long service in the Church. While telling a young man that you think he would make a good pastor someday is certainly helpful, those words will carry far more weight within a congregation that fosters a culture of encouragement in the faith for all of her members. Seeing and treating those who seem to be the weakest among us as fellow saints who live by the power of Jesus Christ not only humbles each one of us before God’s mighty hand, but also builds up every member of the body of Christ. The uplifting culture of the Church, the very body of the risen Jesus Christ, whose prayers ascend like incense before the throne of God, raises up men to move from the youth room to the nave to the seminary and out into the world proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to yet another generation. And the music plays on. 🎵

The Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel (pastor@firsttrinity.net), CTSFW 1990, serves as pastor of First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Upper left: *Rev. Brian Kachelmaier, (CTSFW 2005), Redeemer Lutheran Church, Los Alamos, New Mexico, brings a new life into Jesus Christ through Baptism.*
Above: *Dr. Paul Grime, dean of Spiritual Formation, visits with seminarian Matthew Adjei.*