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*Jesus Christ, my sure defense  
And my Savior, now is living!  
Knowing this, my confidence  
Rests upon the hope here given  
Though the night of death be caught  
Still in many an anxious thought.*

*Jesus, my redeemer, lives;  
Likewise I to life shall waken.  
He will bring me where He is;  
Shall my courage then be shaken?  
Shall I fear, or could the head  
Rise and leave His members dead?*

*No, I am too closely bound  
By my hope to Christ forever;  
Faith's strong hand the rock has found,  
Grasped it, and will leave it never;  
Even death now cannot part  
From its Lord the trusting heart.*

*I am flesh and must return  
To the dust, whence I am taken;  
But by faith I now discern  
That from death I will awaken  
With my Savior to abide  
In His glory, at His side.*

*Then these eyes my Lord will know,  
My redeemer and my brother;  
In His love my soul will glow —  
I myself and not another!  
Then the weakness I feel here  
Will forever disappear.*

*“Jesus, Meine Zuversicht”  
Lutheran Worship, Hymn 266*

# Professor George Richard Kraus, D. Litt.

Our dear colleague, brother, and friend in Christ, the Reverend George Kraus, passed away after a nearly six-month illness on April 24, 1989. Born on November 26, 1924, in Plainfield, New Jersey, he began his study for the ministry in the Preparatory School of Concordia Collegiate Institute, Bronxville, New York, from whose junior college he graduated after the autumn term of 1944. Pastor Kraus graduated from Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, in 1949, having spent a year's vicarage in San Antonio, Texas. His thesis title was "The Concept of God in Christian Science." He was ordained into the holy ministry for service to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf in New York in 1949. Thus, in 1989 he completed forty years of service to the church.

During this forty-year ministry George Kraus served not only St. Matthew's Church for the Deaf in New York, but Prince of Peace Church for the Deaf in Minneapolis, Holy Cross Church for the Deaf in St. Louis, St. Peter's Church in Brooklyn, New York, and Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. After service to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in New Britain, Connecticut, he came to Concordia Theological Seminary as associate professor in pastoral theology in 1982.

In this seminary he initiated a program in the deaf ministry with which Dr. Kraus has been associated since his own seminary days. He was a major factor in involving the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in deaf ministry and was instrumental in the Mill Neck Manor Foundation. For his pioneer work in deaf ministry he was recognized by the faculty of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, with the Doctor of Letters degree in 1982. At the seminary here in Fort Wayne he taught in the area of deaf ministry, hispanic studies, dogmatics, pastoral theology, and homiletics. His course, "The Pastor's Devotional Life," was one of the most popular electives offered at the seminary. Along with his teaching duties, he assumed the care of St. John's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, which continues to worship at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. In the autumn of 1988 he led a group of students to study at Westfield House, the pastoral training center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England. Returning to Fort Wayne on December 1, 1988, he was soon diagnosed as suffering from cancer.

He authored articles in the *Concordia Theological Quarterly* and the *Concordia Journal*. His books include *By Word and Prayer. A Devotional Guide to Pastors. The Pastor at*

*Prayer, and A Guide to a Year's Reading in Luther's Works.* During his last year he was editing a pastoral theology, and days before his final hospitalization he brought to completion a study document on prayer for the Missouri Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations, which was delivered to its April 21-22 meeting. He is survived by his wife Helen née Sieck, whom he met on his vicarage, and his mother Helen née Schwarz of Clearwater, Florida. He is also survived by his daughter, Georgette, the wife of a Lutheran pastor in Texas; his sons Mark, Andrew, Paul, and John, all of Maine; and several grandchildren.

George was a committed Lutheran who lived his life in the tradition of this church's catholic tradition. His commitment to the church's faith is seen in his interest in the pastor's devotional life, preaching, and the liturgy out of which the strength of the church flows. Professor Kraus died as he lived — a man at prayer, a man content with his God, the world, and himself. He would want us to conclude with "*requiescat in pace, George!*"