

In His Service: The Teachers

Compiled by Joy Martin

The Present

The teaching staff of the 2022-2023 sesquicentennial school year at Zion Lutheran School consists of the principal and nine teachers and the pastor. Along with a support staff, which includes classroom aides, office staff, kitchen staff, custodian, playground supervisors, plus parents, the School Board, and many valued volunteers, they share the privilege and responsibility of working together in the Lord's Kingdom equipping the students for a life in Christ.

As seen throughout the 150 years that Zion Lutheran School has been in operation, God has richly blessed his servants in the teaching ministry with gifts and talents that have enriched the school and the lives of the students.

It is by God's grace that His work continues today, as it has in the past, and will continue in the future.

The First Fifty Years: 1872-1922

There is a distinct contrast in 2022 to the staff that existed 150 years ago. The teaching staff in 1872 consisted of only the pastor, who was entrusted within his ministerial call to the congregation with the spiritual care of the whole congregation, including the training of the young people.

In many of the congregations in the Missouri Synod there would have been no school if the pastor had not taught. One of the reasons for the pastor also serving as the teacher was that most of the rural congregations were small and were not financially able to support both a pastor and a teacher, or because a qualified teacher was not available.

The recent Civil War also had a severe effect on the number of available trained teachers. These early teaching pastors did not receive specific training in teaching methods and subject content, but were still regarded as having had superior academic training due to the years spent studying for the ministry, compared to the limited training of teachers in public schools, especially in rural areas.

The first two teachers at Zion were also its first two resident pastors. The administration, direction, control, and maintenance of the school always has been entirely in the hands of the congregation, but it was left up to the pastors to decide the daily

and weekly schedule for classes, what subjects besides Bible history would be taught, and what curriculum materials would be used. The trustees elected by the voters of the congregation, together with the pastor, directed and controlled the affairs of the school.

Later, these trustees evolved into a school board with one or two members elected by the voters' assembly to serve with the pastor.

Rev. Johannes Rennicke (1872-1881) taught for the first nine years, followed the next four years by **Rev. Frederick Schneider** (1881-1889). Both were highly qualified and highly regarded.

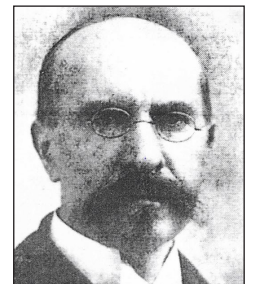


*Rev. Joannes Rennicke
1872-1881*

Rev. Rennicke had emigrated from Germany to America, trained at the Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., and had been preaching and teaching in several communities including Mequon River when he was called to Wayside in March of 1872. He and his wife Sophia moved in with nine children. He taught and confirmed several of his younger children at

Wayside before he left in 1881 because of ill health. In retirement he and his wife moved back to Wayside, where three of their daughters lived, from 1892 until his death in 1900.

Rev. Schneider was a licensed physician before becoming a pastor in 1870. He was serving the congregation in Waterford, Wis., when he was called to Zion in 1881, arriving with his wife and young daughter, for a promised salary of \$375 per year.



*Rev. Frederick
Schneider 1881-1885*

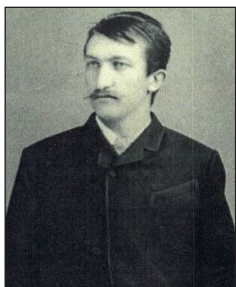
It was always a concern that teaching on the part of the pastor often interfered with ministerial duties in the congregation and the duty to study and delve into theological and pastoral sciences. Likewise, pastoral work could interfere with classroom teaching to the point where the pastor may only have been able to devote three or four days a week, or a few hours during the day, in the classroom, with frequent interruptions. This would have affected Rev. Schneider and the school when,

within a year of his arrival, Zion voted to embark on an ambitious plan to build a new school and a new church by 1883. Rev. Schneider personally secured the funds and pledges from the congregation members to complete the project. Therefore, the calling of a trained teacher was urged as soon as conditions permitted.

The calling of the pastor included instructing and preparing the confirmands attending the school and continued throughout Zion's history. They join the principals and teachers as members of the faculty because they teach the confirmation classes during the scheduled times during the school day. Typically, this took place at the beginning of the school day.

At first the confirmation instruction took place in a room designed for that purpose in the parsonage. In the 1922 parsonage, this room was located in the basement and was accessed through a door on the south side. When the current school was built in 1952, a designated instruction room on the north side of the stage area was used as the classroom for confirmation instruction. Today there is no designated area set aside for this purpose and instruction takes place in available locations.

Zion first attempted to secure a trained teacher in 1885. That attempt was hindered because of the lack of available men compared to the number of teachers needed throughout Synod.



August Janz
1885-1887

Twenty-three year old **August Janz** (1885-1887) had recently come to America from Brazil in May and arrived in Wayside by June of that year when he was called to become Zion's first trained teacher for a salary of \$250 a year. He would have received his training and possibly taught in Brazil before coming to America, his family having

emigrated there from Germany in 1874.

At Wayside he would have become the first resident of the new teacherage that Zion built in 1886.

Congregation members were responsible for supplying the fuel necessary for heating and cooking in this teacherage, as well as for the parsonage, the church, and the school. This teacherage served as a comfortable home for the principal/teachers and their families for the next ninety-five years, until it was sold for \$1800 in 1981 and moved to Blake Road in the Town of Wrightstown.



Teacherage built 1886

Mr. Janz left Wayside in May of 1887 to teach in Williamsburg Station, Milwaukee Co. He and Pauline Renniecke, one of Rev. Renniecke's daughters, were married later that year. Mr. Janz's widow moved back to Wayside following her husband's untimely death from cancer in 1894 to raise their two young daughters near her two sisters, Mrs. Philip Schatz and Mrs. George Frosch, and her parents.

After Mr. Janz left Wayside, Zion again was hindered in finding a trained teacher to take over the school for the 1887-1888 school year. **Carl Griese**, a seminary student preparing for the ministry, was finally able to step in and take over the teaching duties that school year. After completing his pastoral studies at the Seminary and being ordained, Rev. Griese eventually spent most of his ministry serving in Polar, Wis., near Antigo.

As the synod-wide demand for teachers grew, the need for proper training facilities was acutely felt. A teacher seminary was opened in Addison, Ill., in 1864. This normal institution was later moved to River Forest, Ill., and was called Concordia Teachers College. Another Concordia Teachers College opened in 1894 in Seward, Neb. These institutions are now a part of the Missouri Synod's Concordia University system.

Through 1908, the Teachers Seminary in Illinois where most of the teachers who taught at Zion were trained, offered five years of schooling for the training of teachers, three of which were on the preparatory level, which corresponded to the high school level and two years on the seminary level which corresponded to college level courses. A sixth year of study was added later at Addison and Seward, which brought these institutions to the common standard for public school training.

The school year ran from nine to ten months, and the weekly schedule included six hours of classes a day. Since Lutheran congregations always held that teachers were to be called in the same way as the pastors were, admittance was restricted to males.

It is important to note what the minimum requirements were at that time for admittance to these institutions, since the next two teachers at Zion were trained in this way. The standard path to becoming a teacher was that they would leave their homes after confirmation and graduating from elementary school to board at the seminary.

Those who were admitted were expected to have knowledge of the chief stories in Bible History, complete memorization of the Small Catechism, have the ability to read well from a German second reader, have knowledge of grammar, handwriting, and spelling at a German first reader level, and in English, have the ability to read and write the contents of a first reader, a mastery of the four fundamental operations in arithmetic, neat and legible handwriting, a knowledge of common hymn melodies, and the ability to sing them correctly. They must be in good health, be confirmed, be furnished with good reports by their pastor and teacher, be members of the Lutheran Church, and pledge to make teaching their life's profession in the Lutheran Church only. If they later turned to another profession, they were expected to repay \$40 for tuition for each year attended. This was quite a commitment for a young teen to make so early in life.

Since all students boarded at the school and were under strict discipline in class work and life, study was very thorough and intense. An extensive course load was carried.

In addition to classroom teaching and serving as the school's principal, the Lutheran teacher generally functioned as the congregation's organist, choir director, and secretary at voter's meetings. This is exactly what was experienced at Zion with the principals Baxmann, Dobberfuhl, and Kinas.

By the end of the training, a teacher prepared for a call to teach would have taken courses in: the Catechism; the Bible; the Reformation; the Augsburg Confession; school management; German and English through the fifth reader with public speaking, dictation, and composition; English with Shakespeare plays and classic literature, arithmetic; algebra; hymnody; choir singing; music theory; pipe organ; violin; piano; a practice teaching period added in 1898; World History; American History; Geography;

Nature Study including Physiology, Hygiene, Zoology, Physics; Memory Work; Penmanship, and Drawing.



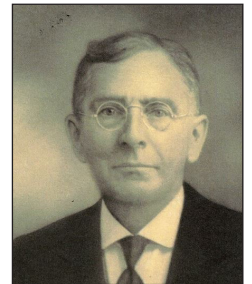
Edward Schmidt
1888-1892

Edward Schmidt (1888-1892) received a call to teach at Zion in 1888. He had graduated from the Evangelical Lutheran Teacher's College in Addison, Ill., and capably fulfilled all the needs of the congregation mentioned above, especially in the area of music.

While at Wayside, he also gave music lessons. After four years at Wayside, Mr. Schmidt received a call to Trinity in Sheboygan. Zion was reluctant to see him leave Wayside but voted to grant him a peaceful release in 1892 after realizing he was desperately needed in Sheboygan.

The following school year yet again found the congregation without a teacher. After searching for months, there was the possibility of having to close the school until a replacement could be found. It is not clear how this was resolved, but mention was made at a voters' meeting suggesting the pastor once again serve as teacher, in addition to serving as pastor, for at least a portion of that school year.

In the fall of 1893, Zion-Wayside was blessed with the arrival of **Ernst Baxmann** (1893-1939) who was twenty-two years old. He was born in Germany and had emigrated from there, coming to Milwaukee in 1885. He was installed in October and was to become the longest-serving teacher in Zion's history.



Ernst Baxmann
1893-1939

As was common for teachers, he served the congregation faithfully and ably, at first teaching all eight grades, then grades five through eight, but served ably as organist, choir director, and secretary at voter's meetings.

Mr. Baxmann taught into the third and fourth generations of many of the families at Wayside. He and his wife Otilie raised two sons, Herbert and Walter. Zion shared the Baxmanns' deep sorrow when Walter died of a ruptured appendix. They rejoiced with the family as Herbert became a pastor and was called to be the first pastor to serve at Redeemer in Green Bay and later as President of the South Wisconsin District of the LCMS.

Before 1910 there were relatively few women appointed as teachers in Lutheran schools and the Missouri Synod's training institutions at that time were not open to women. Women became employed in larger numbers as a matter of economy, since their salaries were lower and were paid only for the duration of the school year. Women teachers were also popular and regarded for their efficiency with the younger children.

As the demands by parents and the influences of public schools were felt more and more, Zion made the bold move in 1911 to hire their first female teacher to teach grades one through four.

Since most women had no synodical training for parochial-school work, the first female teachers at Zion would possibly have had only a high school education, have come from families known in the area, and were often quite young. Care was taken that women who taught religious subjects were thoroughly examined as to their orthodoxy so they would "not lead the lambs astray." Typically, these teachers would board during the school year with a couple or a family in the congregation who lived in or near Wayside. This would make the trip on foot to school more convenient. Their teaching careers usually ended at the point they married.



Sarah Schlei
1911-1914

When **Sarah Schlei** (1911-1914) came to Wayside from Collins in Manitowoc County where her father was pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, she was nineteen and had attended high school. Her parents were Rev. William and Mrs. Caroline Schlei. Sarah taught at Zion for three years. When she left Wayside, she returned to Collins and

married Louis Heberer, a farmer from Cato.

The second female teacher was **Beata Wichmann** (1914-1917) who was nineteen years old when she came to Wayside. Her parents were Rev. Paul and Mrs. Agnes Wichmann. Beata was born in Cedarburg and her father had been pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church at Rantoul. She also taught at Zion for three years.

Elsie Kaempf (1917-1920) next taught at Zion for three terms. She was born in India and emigrated in 1904



Elsie Kaempf
1917-1920

from there to Phillips in Price County, where her father was a Lutheran minister. She was about seventeen years old when she came to Wayside. She then moved to, and taught in, Detroit until she married Arnold Schroeder, a plumber, and raised a family there.



Frieda Heberer
1920-1922

Rounding out the teachers at Zion Lutheran School in the first fifty years was twenty-one-year-old **Frieda Heberer** (1920-1922). She was the daughter of August and Caroline Heberer, who farmed in the community of New Fane, Fond du Lac County. She had attended Milwaukee Lutheran High School and taught school for a total of six

years. Miss Heberer taught two years at Zion and then married Walter Oppermann and raised a family in Milwaukee.

The Next Fifty Years: 1922-1972

Before 1925 the Missouri Synod had no institutions open for the training of female teachers until the Concordia institution in Seward, Neb., opened its doors to women in 1926. By 1939, Concordia in Illinois did the same.

These institutions designed summer courses to train women teachers. Several of the women who taught at Zion during this period took advantage of this path to becoming a Lutheran teacher at Zion, even into the 1960's, if there were not enough graduates available to fill open positions.

Ella Goldbeck (1922-1923) was the eighteen-year-old daughter of Charles Goldbeck Sr. and his wife Albertina, a farm family near Reedsville, who were members of St. John St. James Lutheran congregation. Ella's father sent her to attend the Lutheran high school in Milwaukee since a Lutheran high school education



Ella Goldbeck
1922-1923

was all that was necessary to be able to teach in a Lutheran elementary school at that time. She taught the lower grades at Zion and boarded in the Brandt family home next to the barber shop in Wayside for \$35 a month. She then taught in Juneau and returned to Wayside in 1925 when she and Albert Siebert of Zion married.



Arvilla Borchardt
1923-1925

Arvilla Borchardt (1923-1925) was just seventeen when she was called to teach at Zion. She was the daughter of August Borchardt and his wife Ottilie and attended school at Morrison Zion Lutheran School. She had attended high school at the Lutheran high school in Milwaukee, but had to leave before completing the junior year

because of illness. After teaching at Wayside for two years, she married Fred Loppnow Jr. from Wayside. He was a Lutheran teacher spending his career teaching in Williamsburg, Iowa, Brillion, and Freistadt.

Miss Frieda Glandorf

(1925-1929 and 1937-1943) of Williamsburg, Iowa, was a veteran Lutheran teacher at age twenty-five when she came to Wayside in 1925. She taught the lower grades through 1929 when she left Wayside, but then returned to teach from 1937 through 1943. Besides Zion Wayside, Miss Glandorf taught in Lutheran schools for a total of twenty-two years in Storm Lake, Iowa, Brighton, Colo., Buhl, Idaho, and Wilton Junction, Iowa. At Zion she is fondly remembered by former students as a caring teacher who continued teaching students how to read, write, and sing some German, as it was slowly disappearing from the curriculum elsewhere. She and Zion member and widower, Martin Brandt married in 1950 and lived in Wayside. She became the wonderful stepmother of Dorothy (Mrs. Gilbert Loppnow), Victor, and Robert Brandt. Frieda continued to serve at Zion substitute teaching and giving piano and organ lessons in her home.



Frieda Glandorf
1925-1929 and
1937-1943

Gertrude Richter (1929-1930), age twenty-four, was the daughter of Rev. Bruno and Ida Richter and had completed three years of college when she came to teach at Wayside. But only one year later, the bottom had dropped out of the economy with the beginning of the Great Depression. Zion could no longer financially support two teachers and had to let Miss Richter go at the end of that school year. She went to live with her parents in Green Bay until she married Ernest Pohl later that summer. They continued to live in Green Bay and were members of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

The years of the Great Depression deeply affected the economy of the country, as well as the financial

picture for Zion Wayside and its school. But God blessed Zion with a firm resolve and commitment of staff and congregation to keep the doors of the school open.

Once again, the pastor was called upon to teach in the school. **Rev. Ave Lallemand** (1930-1937) responded by stepping in to teach the lower grades, in addition to his duties as pastor. With Mr. Baxmann continuing to teach the upper grades, Zion was able to keep the school in operation in this manner until 1937, when Rev. Ave Lallemand returned to his pastoral duties full-time and Miss Glandorf returned to Zion to teach the lower grades.



Rev. L. J. Ave
Lallemand 1930-1937

When the congregation enthusiastically celebrated Teacher Baxmann's forty-five years of teaching with a special church service and program of thanksgiving in November of 1938, no one could have imagined that Wayside would, within a year, be waiting for God to send the one he had already prepared to be the next principal to serve Him at Zion.

In appreciation of Mr. Baxmann's long service, the congregation had approved and collected \$600 for improvements in the teacherage. A "hot-and-cold water system with toilet room conveniences" was installed. Just months later, Mr. Baxmann's health became a concern when he sought treatment for a painful back condition that kept him from teaching for a period of time. It was later determined that the back pain was due to cancer. He recovered enough to return to the classroom by the end of the school year.

Later that year Pastor Ave Lallemand described Mr. Baxmann's last days with heartfelt compassion in his monthly newsletter :

"Soon after the new school year began on September 11, however, the pain came on with renewed intensity. He was only able to be in the classroom two days that first week and forced himself to be there early in the second week. But he had to leave the classroom by midday on Friday, September 22. His condition deteriorated noticeably through Sunday night and early Monday when at 3:30 in the morning he fell asleep, sound and happy, believing in his Savior. The sad news spread like wildfire through our congregation that our teacher, Ernst Baxmann had passed from this life. While his soul was filled with the heavenly warmth and white light, dense clouds of sadness and sorrow piled up over us.

Although our teacher had been suffering for a long time, no one had expected that he would say goodbye so soon after the school opened. Our farewell to the earthly shell of his soul, the body, was celebrated on Thursday, September 28, his funeral day. Probably never before had so many people gathered for a funeral in our church as there were 'loud-speakers' present inside as well as outside the school, so even if not everyone could go into the church, it was possible for everyone to hear the sermons."

Ernst Baxmann was laid to rest in Zion's cemetery. Miss Alma Ihlenfeldt of Morrison Zion Lutheran congregation filled in to teach Mr. Baxmann's classes until the next principal/teacher was secured.

In the decades since Teacher Baxmann had come to Zion, there were changes in the education of teachers to teach in the Synod's elementary schools. Additionally, legislation in most states now required all teachers, including parochial teachers, to be certified by the state to teach, and that teacher-training institutions be accredited. The Synod authorized a third year be added at the college level at the River Forest and Seward Concordia Teachers Colleges. Minimum semester-hour requirements over these three years were:

- Religion: 14 hours
- English: 12 hours
- German: 12 hours
- Physical Ed: 1 hour
- Social Studies: 9 hours
- Science-Math: 13 hours
- Education: 20 hours
- Music-Art: 8 hours

A fourth year was added by 1939 to offer a curriculum to approximate a standard 4-year course in state schools, which also made it possible to graduate with majors in subject fields and with bachelor's degrees.

Many veteran parochial teachers at this time had continued to teach for as long as they were physically able, had saved enough funds for retirement, or until their death.

The Social Security program was established in 1935 to provide retirement benefits for those who had worked in jobs covered by the system. It was financed by a payroll tax by employees and employers. Another major development was the institution of the Synod's comprehensive pension plan for professional church workers in 1937, which was financed by the workers, congregations, and institutional and mission boards.

Upon the death of Teacher Baxmann in September 1939, **Mr. B. E. Dobberfuhl** (1939-1979) from Freistadt, Wis., was called to be principal of Zion Lutheran School. He had graduated from Concordia Teachers' College in River Forest in 1935, but did not receive a call to teach because of the economic collapse during the Depression. He and his wife Eleanora were living in Denver, Colo., where he was doing mechanical repair work and she was running a small grocery store, when he accepted Zion's call. Mr. Dobberfuhl was installed on December 9, 1939, and served faithfully for nearly 40 years as principal, teacher, choir director, and organist.



*Bernard E Dobberfuhl
1939-1979*

He and Eleanora also served the community many years as 4-H club leaders. Outside of teaching, Mr. Dobberfuhl enjoyed bowling on the Roeschke team at the bowling lanes in uptown Wayside and continued his interest in electronics, setting up a workshop in his garage. They also raised chickens to sell and tended a large garden.

A cancer diagnosis and the resulting surgery brought a close to Mr. Dobberfuhl's long and dedicated teaching ministry. He formally retired from teaching in September 1979, and the Dobberfuhs moved to Arkansas in 1981 for more favorable climate conditions.

Mrs. Bev Kocian often taught his classes when he was not able to during the 1978-79 school year. Zion Wayside bid farewell to Mr. Dobberfuhl with sincere gratitude for his service in the Lord's Kingdom and best wishes with a farewell party in April, 1981. The Lord called him to his heavenly "Home" in 1985. The Dobberfuhl family was the last family to live in Zion's teacherage.



*Dorothy Maertz
1943-1946*

Dorothy Maertz (1943-1946) followed Frieda Glandorf as teacher of the lower grades at Zion. She was the daughter of Otto and Esther Maertz, who farmed near Reedsville, and was a member at St. John St. James Lutheran Church. Dorothy attended high school in Manitowoc and was seventeen when she came to Wayside to teach. She married Archibald Sperber in 1949 and they lived and raised their family in Milwaukee.



*Norma Natzke
1946-1952 and
1953-1970*

Norma Natzke (1946-1952 and 1953-1970), the first graduate of Zion Lutheran School to teach at her alma mater, was the daughter of Louis and Sophie Natzke of Wayside. After Confirmation and finishing eighth grade, she attended Milwaukee Lutheran High School and began her teaching career shortly after.

Not only did she spend time in Canada helping with VBS programs where her brother Paul was a missionary/pastor, she also taught in Reedsville, Clintonville, Racine, and Hayes before returning to Wayside in 1946, where she resided with her parents. Of her fifty years in the classroom, twenty-six were at Zion.

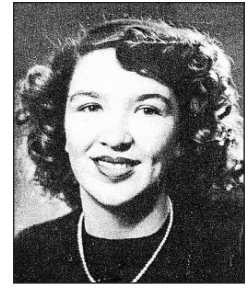
She had a special heart for those students who found learning more difficult, often finding time to give them extra help, working with them after school and holding sessions for them in summer. She even offered a kindergarten session after Easter, besides the classes she was already teaching. Music was an important part of every school day for her. It seemed to be a part of almost every subject taught in her classroom. In addition to teaching, she also started the Ladies Choir at Zion. Miss Natzke's legacy as an inspirational teacher can be attested to by the words of admiration from fellow teachers and her former students.

Miss Natzke was a strong supporter of mission work, introducing the "Hearts For Jesus" mission projects and telling stories of missionaries.

In retirement Norma found a new life and a new love. She moved to Wausau and got married for the first time at age 73 to Adolf Dahlke. They shared a love of music and spent many hours entertaining in nursing homes and playing for enjoyment. After Adolf died, Norma moved back to this area, but Parkinson's disease soon took over. She spent about ten years in a nursing home enjoying visits with family, friends, and former students, singing or humming along in harmony with her favorite hymns. God took her to her heavenly home at age ninety-five in 1997.

Joy Kasten (1952-1953), daughter of Arthur and Lydia Kasten, taught the primary grades at Zion for one year. She was confirmed at and graduated from Zion. She then graduated from Brillion High School. Joy attended Concordia Teachers College in River Forest for two years before she became the primary grades teacher at Wayside.

The school children attended class in the old school building until November in 1952 when the doors to the new school were opened, and Miss Kasten had the memorable experience of leading the first and second grade students inside. Following that school year, Miss Kasten left her teaching career behind and became the wife of Elmer Brandt. They lived and raised a family near Collins.



*Joy Kasten
1952-1953*



*Marion Schedler
1952-1954*

After Zion built the new school building with three classrooms, a third teacher position was added and **Marion Schedler** (1952-1954) became the teacher for the middle grades. Miss Schedler was the daughter of Pastor Paul and Edna Schedler. He served as Zion's pastor in the years 1947-1953. Marion attended De Pere High

School in 1948 and 1949 and may have graduated from Brillion High School. She and Joy Kasten were friends and both attended the Teachers College at River Forest and joined Zion's teaching staff the same year.

Miss Schedler taught at Zion through June of 1954 and then became the wife of Hilbert Hilgendorf. Hilbert was a seminary student whose father was Pastor of Trinity in Rantoul at that time.

Following Miss Schedler, the middle grades were taught by a series of female teachers who completed a summer course, receiving an emergency certificate to teach, or sometimes completing just two years of training at one of the Concordia Teachers Colleges before coming to Zion.

Marlene Prochnow (1954 - 1956) taught from fall 1954 to the end of the school year in 1956. She was a member of St John St. James Lutheran Church in Reedsville. Her father bought her a 1936 Chevrolet to be able to drive back and forth to Wayside from Reedsville. She then married Jerry Liebergen, a member of Zion.



*Marlene Prochnow
1954-1956*



LaVerne Doehrmann
1956-1958

Marlene was followed by Miss **LaVerne Doehrmann** (1956-1958) who came from Iowa and was the niece of Frieda Glandorf Brandt. She boarded with the Brandts and taught at Zion for two years. She married Zion member Bob Brandt and continues to be a blessing at Zion in many capacities through the years including as a substitute

teacher, member of the choirs, Ladies Aid, and serving on boards and committees.

Leanne Lemke Lange (1958-1961), daughter of Zion members Victor and Helen Lemke, was also a graduate of Zion Wayside and Fox Valley Lutheran High School in Appleton. She taught the middle grades from 1958 to 1961. Leanne married Ralph Lange from Denmark in 1960, therefore becoming the first married female teacher at Zion. She later taught for many years at N.E.W. Lutheran High School in Green Bay.



Leanne Lemke Lange
1958-1961



Vida Ewald Bruss
1961-1962 and
1963-1964

Vida Ewald (1961-1962 and 1963-1964) from Pocahontas, Mo., was the daughter of Urban Ewald, a Lutheran teacher, and his wife Helen. After attending three years at Concordia Teachers College-River Forest, she came to Wayside as a "supply teacher" for the 1961-1962 school year. Vida returned to River Forest to complete her studies and

then returned to Wayside to teach during the 1963-1964 school year, becoming the first female teacher at Zion to have a four-year teaching degree. She then married Harold Bruss and lived in the Denmark area.

Bernice Gutknecht (1962-1963) was originally from Manitowoc County and spent most of her school years in Sheboygan County. She attended Concordia Teachers College-River Forest and then taught at Zion. She also taught in Elkhart, Ind., for two years and married Calvin Kearins.



Bernice Gutknecht
1962-1963



Charlotte Ratsch
1964-1974

Charlotte Ratsch (1964-1974) came from Weston in Clark County and graduated from Concordia College-St. Paul. She taught Zion's middle grades. She then lived and worked in Brillion until she moved back to Clark County.

By the mid-1960's, the Concordia junior colleges had become coeducational and accepted women as students. The curriculum at these institutions expanded to include courses preparing students for teaching in Lutheran schools. Upon completing the first two years of college courses, students earned an Associate of Arts degree and could then complete the final two years of study at one of the four-year Concordia Teachers Colleges to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree and receive calls to teach in Lutheran schools. Many of Zion Wayside's teachers during the next few decades received their calls to teach in this way.

Elaine Washatko (1970-1971) taught the primary grades following Norma Natzke's retirement. She had come from Langlade County and graduated with an Associate of Arts Degree from Concordia College-Milwaukee and then graduated from Concordia-River Forest. Elaine and Ronald Hull were married during that school year.



Elaine Washatko
Hull 1970-1971

Before the first one-hundred years of Zion Lutheran School-Wayside came to a close, a fourth teacher was added to the staff and two new Concordia graduates came to teach at Wayside, both receiving calls in 1971.



Pamela Grote
1971-1974

Zion added a fourth teacher to the faculty when **Pamela Grote** (1971-1974) was called in January of that year and taught the primary grades in the former Confirmation instruction room through 1974. She later taught in Washington County, Ill., and married Gordon Yanke.



Ellen Reeb
1971-1976

Ellen Reeb (1971-1976) was called to teach grades three and four in the former primary classroom at the beginning of the 1971-72 school year. During her time at Zion she also directed the Ladies Choir, until she left in 1976. Ellen was originally from Loveland, Colo., the daughter of Rev. O. J. Reeb and his wife. She returned to

Colorado and married Larry Thayer.

The Past Fifty Years: 1972-2022

The fifty years since 1972 at Zion Lutheran School, Wayside saw many changes that reflected the growth of the school's student body and staff, as well as the expanding curriculum and extracurricular activities.

The Concordia system of educating teachers for its synodical schools also underwent changes. In 1978, the Missouri Synod authorized Concordia College-Milwaukee to become a 4-year accredited college to provide instruction for teacher education, with the other members of the Concordia system following. Then in 1989, the Board of Regents approved the move to university status and Concordia, now located in Mequon, became the first of the 10-member Concordia system to become a university – Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW). In 2012, CUW and Concordia University-Ann Arbor entered a unique relationship with one president and governing body presiding over the two campuses.

At Zion Wayside, one of the changes during the 1970s was the addition of the first husband-wife couple to the teaching staff.



Richard A. Beversdorf
1974-1986



Andrea J. Beversdorf
1976-1982

Richard Beversdorf (1974-1986), originally from Shawano and a graduate of Concordia-Seward arrived in Wayside in 1974 and taught grades five and six through 1986. In addition, he served as athletic director and also coordinated the building of the playground and social studies bowls, as well

as introduced the computer experience to students at Wayside.

Andrea Beversdorf (1976-1982), who was from Nebraska originally had also graduated from CTC-Seward. The couple taught in Michigan before coming to Wayside. Andrea taught grades three and four until she retired to stay at home to raise their adopted son. The Beversdorfs left Wayside in 1986 for a call to Grand Haven, Mich., later teaching at York, Neb.

Another addition to the staff in 1974 was **Sharon Mattes** (1974-1992), who was called from Concordia Teachers College-River Forest to teach Zion's primary grades, thus beginning an 18-year career at Zion.



Sharon A. Mattes
1974-1992

A gifted pianist, organist and children's choir director, Sharon also started the Singing Disciples, an ensemble made up of students from fifth through eighth grades to showcase advanced part-singing in church services and programs. Mrs. Mattes left Wayside in 1992 and became a reading specialist in the Sheboygan School District.

In 1977 Zion completed a major expansion with a large addition on the west side of the school which initially housed two classrooms, a large space for the youth ministry, restrooms, and janitor's room. Over the coming years, the character of this space evolved as the needs of the school changed. It has served as classrooms, library, lunchroom and space for art and science lessons.

By 1979, Mr. Dobberfuhr retired due to ill-health after nearly 40 years of service, all of them serving the Lord at Zion.

Elizabeth Stromman (1979-1980) from Galveston, Texas, was called to teach his classes when he was no longer able to be in the classroom from January 1979 until the end of the school year.



Kimberly D. Jedele
1979-1980

Rounding out the decade was the addition of **Kimberly Jedele** (1979-1980). She taught grades two and three and also served as the director of the youth group. She left in December of 1980 following her marriage to Helio Mendes, who eventually became an oral surgeon and relocated to Brazil.



*Harold Kinas
1979-1987*

Zion also called **Mr. Harold Kinas** (1979-1987) the fall of 1979 to serve as Zion's principal and teacher of grades seven and eight. His call also included serving as church organist and director of the male choir and the mixed choir. Later he was instrumental in the organization of Zion's adult handbell choir.

He was a veteran teacher when he arrived in Wayside, having taught for over thirty years in Lutheran schools at various levels from a one-room school to departmentalized teaching in the upper grades. Mr. Kinas was also the first principal at Zion to have received a master's degree in elementary administration and supervision in 1972.

He and his wife Bessie were the first couple to own their home while serving as principal at Wayside instead of residing in the teacherage. Mr. Kinas was feted at a retirement potluck dinner celebrating forty years of service in Lutheran schools, including seven years at Zion, in June 1987.

Zion continued to experience changes and growth during the decade of the 1980's. **Ruth Wagner** was called to the teaching staff at Zion in 1980, following graduation from Concordia College-St. Paul and began the longest career of a female teacher serving at Wayside.



*Ruth Wagner
Hagenow
1980-present*

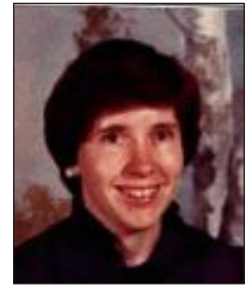
Miss Wagner capably and faithfully served in many capacities, from teaching in the third grade through sixth grade classrooms, physical education classes, health classes, coaching sports teams, and coordinating the sports program, walk-a-thons, and Jump Rope For Heart activities.

When Ruth and Carl Hagenow married and Miss Wagner became Mrs. Hagenow, she also became a step parent to Carl's children. When two sons were added to the family, she took a few years away from the classroom before returning to a full schedule in 1998.

Mrs. Hagenow, as a valued member of the teaching staff, was especially appreciated when she bravely took on the role of acting principal in addition to her teaching responsibilities during the 2019-2020 school year. The unexpected principalship vacancy, coupled with the closing down of classes during the COVID pandemic was a difficult time that also was an opportunity to trust that God strengthens His people to carry out His will.

The 150th anniversary celebration year marks Mrs. Hagenow's thirty-first year of service to the Lord in the classroom, a career spent entirely at Zion. Zion-Wayside is eternally grateful for Mrs. Hagenow's years of service in His Kingdom.

Mrs. **Kaeleen Maylander** (1982-1985) was called to teach grades three and four at Zion. She had previously taught in Lutheran schools in Young America, Minn., Bethalto, Ill., and Decatur, Ill., and was substitute teaching in the Manitowoc and Two Rivers school districts when she came to Wayside.



*Kaeleen Maylander
1982-1985*

The teaching staff then consisted of Mr. Kinas, Mr. Beversdorf, Mrs. Hagenow, and Mrs. Mattes.



*Margie Stein
1985-1986*

Mrs. Margie Stein (1985-1986), wife of Pastor Donald Stein, joined the classroom teaching staff for the 1985-1986 school year teaching grades three and four. She painted the mural on the east wall of the gymnasium.

Ellen Lau Zutz (1986-1995) was called to teach grades three and four. Her home congregation was Trinity in Rantoul, and she then made her home in Brillion following her marriage to Steve Zutz. Blessed with a strong background in music, Mrs. Zutz taught music for grades 3-8 as well as directed the Singing Disciples and the Junior Handbells Choir also coordinating the spring musicals during her years at Wayside. Following her years at Wayside, Mrs. Zutz taught for many years at Trinity in Rantoul.



*Ellen Lau Zutz
1986-1995*



*Gerald Schmidt
1987-1999*

When **Gerald Schmidt** (1987-1999), a native of Bonduel and a graduate of Concordia College-Milwaukee, arrived from Michigan to serve as principal and teacher at Zion-Wayside, he and his family made their home in Lark. Mr. Schmidt also received a masters degree in elementary administration in 1993.

The following years witnessed a transformation in how the faculty at Zion functioned. From a mostly self-contained classroom setting, a more departmentalized class schedule emerged with the teachers teaching lessons in a variety of subjects and grade levels.

Mr. Schmidt also brought with him a strong background in instrumental, as well as vocal music, which greatly benefitted the strong emphasis on the music program at Zion. During his years at Zion-Wayside the computer classes were expanded to the 3rd-8th grades, and the kindergarten program was started.

Gerry retired from his teaching career at Zion in 1999 to briefly join the Schmidt family farming operation in Bonduel, but later returned to the classroom serving also as principal at St. Paul's Lutheran School.



*Mark Moran
1988-2011*

Mark Moran (1988-2011) was the first teacher to be called to Zion-Wayside during Mr. Schmidt's years as principal. He graduated from Concordia Wisconsin.

A creative, talented individual, Mr. Moran served in several roles at Zion. In addition to teaching grades five and six, he also stepped in

to teach departmentalized physical education classes, math, science, and technology classes, directed the Singing Disciples, was instrumental in starting and leading the Student Council, and served as athletic director, and also as Zion's Youth Director for a number of years. He also taught summer school classes and after-school homework tutoring.

From 1999 through the 2001-2002 school year, Mr. Moran added the principal position to his call. During this time Zion laid a new cornerstone in 2000, expanding the school with the addition of two classrooms, restrooms, library, computer lab, commons area, kitchen, and new gymnasium. This project required countless hours of extra time added to an already heavy workload.

God's blessings abounded and the dedication of the addition was joyously celebrated in March 2001. The Morans became the second husband-wife team at Zion Wayside when **Valerie Moran** (2005-2011) was called to teach the third grade.



*Valerie Moran
2005-2011*

The first Moran home was located in Forest Junction. As the Moran

family grew, a country home northwest of Wayside was purchased. Zion bid farewell to the Moran family in 2011 with a program of gratefulness and thanksgiving for their years at Zion, as they relocated to Mr. Moran's home congregation in Menasha.

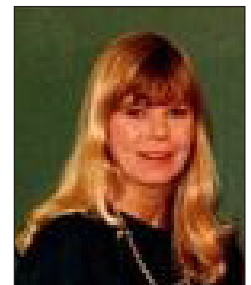


*Christine Schaub
1988-1989*

When Zion Wayside decided to add kindergarten to the school in 1988, **Mrs. Christine Schaub** (1988-1989) was called to be its first teacher. She graduated from Concordia-Milwaukee and was teaching science classes at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Hilbert where her husband Craig also taught.

Mrs. Gail Kunding (1989-1992) became Zion's second kindergarten teacher. At that time, most schools' kindergarten classes met half days. At Zion, the kindergarten class met all day three days a week and all-day two days the next week. This gave Zion the opportunity to start offering a preschool class twice a week, using the same classroom.

Mrs. Kunding then became the first pre-school teacher in 1991-1992, along with teaching kindergarten.



*Gail Kunding
1989-1992*



*Cindy Muther
1992-2000*

When she required bedrest before her twins were born, **Cindy Muther** (1992-2000) from Pilgrim Lutheran in Green Bay came to the rescue and became the next preschool and kindergarten teacher. She was originally from Milwaukee and a graduate of Concordia-Milwaukee and CTC-Seward.

The number of Zion's pre-school students soon grew large enough that the class was divided into a morning class for three-year-olds and an afternoon four-year-old class. Mrs. Muther later returned to Pilgrim to become the Day Care director.

Carol Schinke (1991-1993), a member of Zion, was added to the faculty to teach history, geography, language and spelling in the fifth-eighth department part time.



*Carol Schinke
1991-1993*



Joy Kiekhaefer Martin
1992-2002

Joy Kiekhaefer Martin (1992-2018), a graduate of Zion and also a graduate of Concordia-Milwaukee and Concordia Teachers College-River Forest, was called in 1992 to teach the first and second grades and also direct the Singing Disciples group. She then formed a group of third and fourth graders called the Fun Readers as an extra-curricular

Readers Theater. A cancer diagnosis resulted in a period of time away from the classroom during treatment. Mrs. Martin was then able to return to teaching until retirement from the classroom in 2002. She continued to serve as volunteer librarian for Zion through 2018.

Debra Feier (1993-2000), a member of Zion, was hired part time to teach seventh and eighth grade science, language, and remedial spelling. She brought many advanced science learning experiences to the students and is best remembered for the lessons dissecting fetal pigs.



Debra Feier
1993-2000



Linda Loppnow
Derricks 1995-2021

Linda Loppnow Derricks (1993-2021), a graduate of Zion and also CUW, had previously taught at St. Paul's Lutheran School-Montpelier. She was called in 1995 to teach the art lessons at Zion in the fifth-eighth department. Mrs. Derricks also taught third grade, grades five and six and then first and second, becoming one of the

longest-serving female teachers at Zion. She was feted at her retirement in 2021, celebrating twenty-six years of faithful service at Zion-Wayside. She continues to serve at the school as a teacher aide.

Kristen Petersen (1995-1996) and her husband Enoch were members at Zion when Kristen was called to teach grades three and four. Residing in Brillion, Enoch was the music teacher at N.E.W. Lutheran High School in Green Bay, and Kristen taught grades one and two at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Hilbert. The Petersen's left when Enoch accepted a call outside the area.



Kristin Petersen
1995-1996



Karen Schmidt
Hansen 1996-present

Karen Schmidt Hansen (1996-present) accepted the call to teach the third and fourth grades at Zion in 1996. A graduate of CUW, Karen also teaches Zion's music classes for grades three through eight and is the long-time director of the junior handbells choir. She taught parttime for a few years when her sons were young and

later returned to the classroom fulltime. The 2022-2023 Sesquicentennial Celebration year at Zion-Wayside marks Mrs. Hansen's twenty-seventh year of service in the Lord's Kingdom, one of the longest teaching careers for a female teacher at Wayside.

The first teacher to come to teach at Zion during the years Mark Moran served as principal was **Jackie Bouchard** (1999-2000), teaching grades seven and eight during the 1999-2000 school year.



Jackie Bouchard
1999-2000



Esther Burns
2000-2001

Esther Burns (2000-2001), wife of Vicar Daniel Burns followed and taught the seventh and eighth grades during the 2000-2001 school year.

Also joining the Zion faculty in 2000 was **Jan Stoll** (2000-2008), wife of Rev. Allen Stoll, who was the pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in De Pere at that time. She was a graduate of Concordia Teachers College-River Forest and was a veteran teacher in Lutheran schools. At Zion, Mrs. Stoll taught first grade when the enrollment in the first and second grade classes became large enough to separate into two classrooms. Mrs. Stoll left the area when Rev. Stoll accepted a call to a congregation in Michigan in 2008.



Jan Stoll
2000-2008

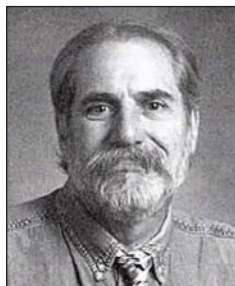


*Beth Cheslock
2000-2007*

Beth Cheslock (2000-2007) also joined the faculty at Zion in 2000 to teach kindergarten and preschool classes in the newly remodeled classroom that had originally been part of the old kitchen and gymnasium. She was originally from New York and had graduated from Concordia-River Forest with a degree in education

and was serving as Director of Christian Education at Faith Lutheran Church in Allouez. While at Zion, Mrs. Cheslock also directed the Singing Disciples. She served at Wayside until 2007 and then was active in a variety of areas at Hope Lutheran Church in De Pere.

Dennis Holmes (2001-2006) arrived in Wayside from California in 2001 to continue to develop the emerging computer curriculum in the new computer lab and also to teach in the sixth through eighth grade department. Mrs. Beth Holmes also was a part of the office staff. The Holmeses left Wayside in 2006 to take a call to a Lutheran school in Las Vegas to serve in the computer department.



*Dennis Holmes
2001-2006*

While serving as principal, Mr. Schroeder also taught grades five through eight in a variety of combinations during those years.

At first Marilyn taught the preschool classes and art for grades five through eight and then took over teaching kindergarten which had expanded to an all-day, all-week program while continuing to teach art classes.

A cancer diagnosis in 2013 meant that Mr. Schroeder spent months in treatment and was absent from the classroom during recovery. God in His mercy granted Mr. Schroeder strength and a return to health. Despite some setbacks, Ron was able to return to the classroom and also fulfill the duties of principal until he retired in 2016.

Marilyn continued to teach the art classes and joined Ron in retirement in 2017. Zion is grateful for the many years of faithful service of Ron and Marilyn Schroeder.

During the years Mr. Schroeder served as principal, a number of teachers came to Zion, some of whom still are on the faculty in this 150th celebration year.



*Ted Haese
2004-2009*

Ted Haese (2004-2009), a retired public school teacher from the area, taught classes in the middle school grades.



*Ron Schroeder
2002-2016*



*Marilyn Schroeder
2002-2017*

Ron Schroeder (2002-2016) and his wife **Marilyn** (2002-2017) arrived at Zion-Wayside when Ron accepted a call to serve as principal and teacher. For Ron, it was a matter of returning to Wayside. His parents, Harvey Schroeder and Lorraine Schedler Schroeder, were members at Zion until the family moved to Milwaukee before Ron started school.

Ron and Marilyn graduated from Concordia Teachers College-Seward and taught in Lutheran schools until Ron took over the family service station business in Milwaukee. The Holy Spirit was working through many heartfelt prayers for the opportunity to again serve the Lord in the classroom. Prayers were answered and the call to Zion was accepted.



*Jody Kasten
2006-2008*

Jody Kasten (2006-2008) from Reedsville also taught the middle school classes parttime.

Kim Miller (2006-2016), a member of Zion, was a key staff member of the faculty who brought the computer program to a level that exceeded what was offered in many public school districts. Students were well-prepared as they entered high school. Smart boards in the classrooms were added, as well as laptops for each student in grades 5-8 during her years on the faculty.



*Kim Miller
2006-2016*



Angela Piepenburg (2007-present), a member of Zion, joined the faculty in 2007 as the teacher of the preschool classes and continues in that role to the present. The class is now referred to as 4K and meets all day, three days a week.

*Angela Piepenburg
2007-present*



Robin Paul (2014-2015) had taught at Trinity Lutheran School in Green Bay before coming to Wayside. She taught language arts in the first grade.

*Robin Paul
2014-2015*

Sharon Benninghoff (2008-2014) brought her years of experience to Wayside in 2008 teaching first grade language arts, fourth grade part time, music in grades 5-8, as well as K-8 choirs. Mrs. Benninghoff taught until early 2014 when she had to leave unexpectedly and care for her husband, Rev. Benninghoff of Trinity-Rantoul, when he took ill.



*Sharon Benninghoff
2008-2014*

Dana Irish (2014-2015) taught Spanish classes.



*Dana Irish
2014-2015*



Jennifer Zirbel Hoelzel (2008-present), a Zion-Wayside and CUW graduate, joined the faculty from Wolf River Lutheran High School in Shawano in 2008 to teach in the sixth through eighth grade department. She also coaches athletics. The 2022-2023 school year marks her fifteenth year at Zion.

*Jennifer Zirbel
Hoelzel 2008-present*



Christina Scholz (2015-present), a graduate of Concordia University-Nebraska, joined the faculty in 2015 to teach kindergarten. She formerly taught pre-school at Trinity Lutheran in Green Bay. The 2022-2023 celebration anniversary year at Zion marks her eighth year as a member of the faculty.

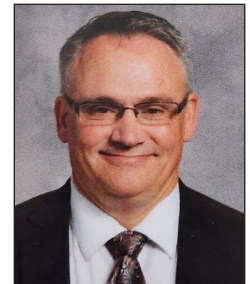
*Christina Scholz
2015-present*

Ann Mleziva (2012-2014), a member of Zion, taught language arts in the sixth through eighth grade department. She also led an after-school drama club which then put on the spring musicals, bringing the students to a new level of experience in musical performance.



*Ann Mleziva
2012-2014*

Doug Jacoby (2016-2019) accepted the call to become Zion's principal in 2016 and served into the beginning of the 2019 school year. It was during his administration that Zion-Wayside became a part of the school voucher program.



*Doug Jacoby
2016-2019*



Stephanie Maertz (2014-2016) taught language arts classes in the sixth through eighth grades, computer classes, as well as fifth through eighth grade music classes and kindergarten through eighth grade choirs.

*Stephanie Maertz
2014-2016*



During his term, **Jill Borchardt Hassemer** (2016-present), a Zion alumna and graduate of CUW returned to her alma mater in 2016. She had taught at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Bonduel previously. Mrs. Hassemer taught language arts in the sixth-eighth department and currently teaches the second grade.

*Jill Hassemer
2016-present*



Jen Treu (2017-2019) was added to the teaching staff to teach the music classes and serve as the music director for the church. She also directed the Spring Musical productions.

*Jen Treu
2017-2019*



*David Gosa
2020-present*



*Keri Gosa
2021-present*

Paula Olson joined the teaching staff in in 2017 to teach second grade reading and currently teaches fourth grade.



*Paula Olson
2017-present*

When **David Gosa** (2020-present) received the call to serve as principal, he and his wife, **Keri Gosa** (2021-present), were both serving as teachers at Clarinda Lutheran School in Clarinda, Iowa. Both are graduates of Concordia University-Wisconsin and David also obtained a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Northwest Missouri State University.

It was a daunting challenge Zion-Wayside faced when confronted with the COVID pandemic. God provided a strong leader and hard-working staff to keep Zion's doors open, not losing a day of classes due to the virus.

In addition to his duties as principal, Mr. Gosa also teaches in the Middle School department. When the Gosa's moved here with their two daughters, they found a home in Green Bay, Wis.

Keri taught at Pilgrim Lutheran School in Green Bay during the 2020-2021 school year. She was added to the Zion-Wayside faculty in 2021 and currently teaches first grade.

*“O teach them with all diligence
The truths of God’s own Word,
To place in Him their confidence,
To fear and trust their Lord,
To learn that in our God alone
Their hope securely stands,
That they may never doubt His love
But walk in His commands.”*

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