7. Lutheran Church

Baehnisch, Paul, born on April 5, 1863 in Lissa, Posen, Prussia, Germany (now Poznan, Poland); immigrated to the USA from Germany in 1887; his wife was Elizabeth, born in Germany on May 14, 1867; studied at Wagner College, then located at Rochester, NY (now on Staten Island, NY) and Mt. Airy Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia, PA; ordained by the New York Ministerium on June 11, 1893; served as a missionary for some years in Turkish Armenia; joined the Manitoba Synod (1906); served St. Paul, Gretna, MB (1906–?) and Rosenfeld, MB; St. Paul, Langenburg, SK (1917–1921) and St. Peter, Bashaw, AB (1921–1922); St. Paul, Gretna, MB for a short time in 1922; Zion, Massey, ON (1922–1924); St. John, Penn Yan, NY; died on August 20, 1931 in Penn Yan, NY; his wife Elizabeth died on January 25, 1943 – Manitoba Synod.

Baepler, Walter, served Concordia College, Edmonton, AB (1923–1936). He was the third teacher at the College after Dr. Schwermann (since the fall of 1921) and Rev. Rehwinkel (from 1922 on). From 1924 on Professor Baepler, together with his colleague John Herreilers at Concordia College in Edmonton and other college staff and students and, later, with John Henry Boettcher, played an important role in establishing a church home for English-speaking staff and students, Grace Lutheran Church (until then Edmonton Lutheran churches had provided services only in German, Swedish, Norwegian and Danish). They canvassed the Norwood area for English-speaking unchurched families and found 860 families for their prospect list, but the first three years of the mission church's organization were difficult and often disappointing; mission pastors did not last long for a variety of reasons. The congregation's first pastor, James R. Sheppard (formerly R. Schippanowski), lasted for one year from November 30, 1924 to November, 1925. He returned to the United States in ill health. Professor Baepler filled in with lay preaching until a second mission pastor, Rev. Louis A. Menking was installed on September 19, 1926. Pastor Menking left in August, 1927 to teach at Luther Institute, Chicago. Once more Professor Baepler prepared sermons as well as lectures. Despite the on-and-off start to the work of the mission congregation, somehow the church survived to attract the first of a line of long-serving pastors, each remarkable for accomplishing the proper objectives at appropriate times.

After many years of dedicated work in Edmonton Professor Baepler took up a new position at the Theological Seminary of the Missouri Synod in Springfield, Illinois in 1936 – LCMS.

Baron, Carl Reinhold, born on December 19, 1907 in Golden Spike, AB; parents: Johann Philip Baron and Wilhelmina née Rauland; studied at Concordia College, Edmonton, AB (1922–1929) (he missed one year of college); studied at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1929–1933); vicared at Kirkwood, MO (1932–1933); assistant in Wilkie, SK for a few months, then Rochester / Boyle / Ellscott, AB; ordained on August 12, 1934; served Northmark / Spirit River, AB (1934–1936); Craigmyle, AB (1936–1941); married wife Adeline on May 11, 1941; served Drumheller, AB; Fort Saskatchewan, AB, Bethany (1941–1946); Whitecourt / Rochfort Bridge, AB (1961–1968); Golden Spike / Devon (1972–1976); worked at mission development in Vermillion, AB and German services at St. Matthew, Stony Plain after official retirement – LCMS – LC-C.

Bartram, Inger, born in Iceland and half German and half Danish in heritage; active Lutheran Church lay person in Edmonton at St. John and Augustana; served previously with the Ecumenical Institute headquartered in New York City, NY – LCA.

Basboll, Lisa, born in 1942 in Flensburg, Germany; after high school went to a teachers' college in Copenhagen; subsequently studied theology at the same university and became a pastor, graduating in 1973; married a fellow student, Lars Basboll; worked as a teacher for six years in Flensburg in addition to assisting her husband in his ministry; moved to Calgary where she served the Danish Lutheran Church for 10 years;

after almost two years again in Denmark they served Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton; she served Trinity, Edmonton, AB (1993–2001) as a supply pastor and Christ, Calgary, AB (now disbanded) – ELCIC.

Baumann, Carl, served Mannville, AB (1917–1919) – LCMS.

Baumgaertner, W., served Milk River, AB (1927–1928) – LCMS.

Becker, Gerhardt William (Wilhelm) Theodor, born on August 13, 1912 in Emerson, MB; parents: Pastor Heinrich Becker and Cecilia née Zado; his father was born on February 4, 1881 in Cuxhaven, Germany; after a theological education he immigrated to Canada in 1901. Mother Cecilia was born in Poland in 1892 and her family immigrated to North Dakota and from there to Emerson, MB; completed high school, college and seminary training in Saskatoon, SK; he graduated from the Lutheran College and Seminary in 1938; was ordained as a priest on December 4, 1938 at St. Peter, Winnipeg, MB by the Synod of Manitoba and Other Provinces.

Pastor Becker's first call was in the province of Saskatchewan, a two-point parish: Trinity Lutheran Church at Esk, SK and St. Paul Lutheran Church at Kandahar, SK (1938–1945); he also had a preaching point at Attica where he married Marie née Beitler, born near Kiev, Russian Empire (now Ukraine) on November 1, 1917; her parents were Daniel Beitler and Marie née Gallvitz; her family had immigrated to Canada in 1928; they were married on October 26, 1942 on her parents' farm at Attica, SK by Pastor Henry Poggemiller; he also served St. Paul, Ellerslie, AB (now Edmonton) (1945–1953); St. Matthew, Conestogo / St. James, St. Jacob, ON (1953–1958); St. Mark, Chesley / St. Peter, Bentwick Township, ON (1958–1961); then St. Paul, Guelph / Trinity, Shantz Station (1961–1981); in retirement he held the German services at St. Peter, Kitchener, ON and St. John, Waterloo, ON; died on May 8, 2008 in Guelph, ON; the funeral service was held by Pastor Hammer and Bishop Pryse of the Eastern Canada Synod; his wife died on March 8, 2012 with the funeral held at St. Paul, Guelph, ON on March 16, 2012 – Manitoba Synod – ULCA – LCA – ELCIC.

Becker, Ludwig C., served German Lutherans in Stettler, AB.

Becker, Otto, born in 1876 in Hanover, Germany; studied law at the University of Goettingen and worked as an assessor; immigrated to the USA in 1910; studied theology at the St. Paul (Minnesota) Lutheran Seminary with later studies in Medicine with the intention of becoming a foreign missionary; ordained to the priesthood by the Ohio Synod on June 2, 1912 in St. Paul, MN; served Stettler, AB and St. John, Castor, AB (1912–1913) and established a congregation at Botha, AB; Rabbit Lake, SK (1913–1918), where he organized St. Paul, Rabbit Lake (1913); served St. Paul, Neuheim, MB (1917–1920).

After World War I and upon completion of his medical training he spent two years in Germany and then became a missionary to Kurdistan; served St. Paul, Brunkild, MB (1924–1928); received from the Ohio Synod (1931); served in Gretna, MB after the outbreak of World War II; because he was an American citizen, he was not allowed to cross the border into Canada; served in North Dakota and California; his funeral was held at Bethany, Los Angeles, CA with H. J. Kohler and H. Ansprach officiating – Ohio Synod – Manitoba Synod.

Becker, Theodore Daniel, born in Oregon, OH; his home congregation was First St. John Lutheran, Toledo, OH; received his entire education in the U.S. and is a graduate of Capital University with a B.A. degree and its theological seminary with the B.D. degree; was ordained on June 21, 1952; served his vicarage / internship at Trinity, Regina; served Grace, East Kildonan (now Winnipeg), MB (1952–?) and Peace, Fraserwood, MB (1953–?); Shepherd of the Hills, Calgary, AB (1972–?) – ALC – ELCC.

Behrends, Bernard F., served Tomahawk, AB (1924–1928); Fort Saskatchewan, AB, Bethany (1928–1938); Rochester, AB (1938–1951); Prince George, BC (1951–1959) – LCMS.

Behrendt, August, served Calgary Immanuel (1922–1924) and Bruderheim, AB (1924–1934) – LCMS.

Beltz, Walter, served Hilda, AB (1918–1921) – LCMS.

Belzing, Wolf-Ruediger, born in Lindaunis an der Schlei, Germany on December 23, 1945; mother: Irmgard; immigrated in 1957 to Ottawa where he studied for a B.A. at Carleton University, graduating in 1971; married Renate in 1971; studied at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, SK (1971–1974); degrees: B.A., M.Div.; was ordained on September 7, 1975; served Radisson / Langham, SK (1975–1979); Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton, AB (1979–1986); First Lutheran Church, Toronto, ON (1985–2004); died on January 1, 2004- ELCC – LCA.

Bergbusch, Julius Ernst, born on December 9, 1896 in Wanne-Eickel (now a part of the city of Herne), North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany; parents: Herman Adolf Bergbusch and Victoria née Schneider; went to school in the Netherlands and so was fluent in Dutch as well as High German; grew up on his father's estate in Berglust close to the Dutch border; studied religion at the Christian Teachers College in Holzwickede, Westphalia; served in the German Army during World War I (1914–1918) as a medic; studied at the Rhenish Mission Seminary in Barmen, Germany, a practical college which served for agricultural and church missionary purposes; assistant pastor in Barmen for youth and social work; immigrated to Canada (1926).

Rev. Bergbusch was ordained on April 8, 1926 in Winnipeg, MB; field missionary in MB (1926–1929) serving six small parishes regularly and others intermittently including Camper, Moosehorn, Niverville, Friedensfeld and Gretna; married December 28, 1936 to Maria (Mary) Magdalena Augusta Ruccius, born on January 20, 1904 in Winnipeg, MB; her parents: Pastor Martin Gustav Ludwig Ruccius (1865–1943) and Wilhelmine née Wagner (1878–1977), a teacher in Winnipeg, MB; served St. John, New Sarepta, AB (1929–1935); St. Matthew, Spruce Grove / Immanuel, Rosenthal / Stony Plain, AB and Good Shepherd, Stony Plain, AB (1935–1949); elected president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Western Canada of the ULCA (1946–1949) and then moved to Saskatoon, SK where he was also honored with a D.D.; served Good Shepherd, Victoria, BC (1955–1967); retired at the age of 71 and continued to reside in Victoria, BC; died on June 14, 1982 in Victoria, BC; buried at Royal Oak Burial Park, Victoria, BC with synod president Donald W. Sjoberg and Pastor Ron Nelson officiating at the funeral service at Grace, Victoria, BC; his wife died on December 20, 1994 – Manitoba Synod – ULCA – LCA.

Berendt, Erich A., member of Trinity Church, Edmonton, AB; studied at the University of Alberta, Edmonton and the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Maywood / Chicago, IL; served as a missionary in Japan (1964–?) – ULCA.

Bertermann, Ernest H., served Holden / Ferintosh, AB (1912–1915) – LCMS.

Bertram, Martin H., served Didsbury / Trochu, AB (1911–1912) and Bismark, AB (1912–1915) – LCMS.

Bethmann, A. K., had Bashaw, AB as his address in 1912 – Ohio Synod.

Bickel, Adolph M. served Sexsmith, AB (1945–1949) – LCMS.

Bickel, Kurt A. served Grande Prairie, AB (1953–1959) – LCMS.

Bietsch, Henry, ordained in 1919; served St. Paul, Burstall, SK (1923–1929); Bethlehem, Schuler (or Hilda), AB (1923–1925); St. Peter, Scapa, AB (1931–1936); organized Redeemer, Hanna, AB (1929); resided in Hanna and served about four smaller points in the surrounding area where services were held in school houses; served the area (1927–1937); he was the first Ohio Synod pastor to serve St. Peter, Hemaruka, AB.; served St. Paul, Burstall, SK (1923–1929); served Trinity, St. Boswells / Zion, Flowing Well / Salem, Hodgeville, SK (1937–1943) – Ohio Synod – ALC.

Birk, ?, served the German Lutherans at Stettler, AB, in the early years of settlement – Ohio Synod.

Boehm, Helmut, lay worker; served Slave Lake, AB (1970–1978) and Langley, BC (1979) – LCMS.

Boehme, Hermann, active layman; married to Mary; synod treasurer for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Western Canada; member, St. John, Edmonton, AB – Manitoba Synod – ULCA – LCA.

Boelter, A., served Calgary, AB Downtown Mission (1918–1923) – LCMS.

Boetke, Karl, served St. John Lutheran, Calgary, AB (1909–1913) as its first minister; before the first church was built, he held services in the Baptist Hall located on 1st Avenue and 7th Street NE in Bridgeland; the dedication was held on July 10, 1910 by Reverend Boetke and his brother, who was vice president of the Iowa Synod at that time – Iowa Synod.

Boettcher, Henry J., served Camrose / Ferintosh (1918–1921); came to Edmonton in 1927 from St. Matthew in Stony Plain where, as a graduate of the Normal School in Camrose, he had been very successfully in charge of the parochial school between 1921 and 1927; the mission at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Edmonton was begun in 1928 under him from Grace Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod, and the storefront mission began holding Sunday School in 1933; he had recruited Concordia College ministerial students to teach at the City Park mission that served until 1940.

Pastor Boettcher and his family remained at Grace until he left to become Counsellor of Parish Education for the Minnesota District of the Lutheran Church on December 31, 1939. Pastor Boettcher was active in Edmonton's German community and participated vigorously with speeches at the German Days celebrations in Edmonton – Missouri Synod – LCMS.

Brandt, H. J. C., served Hope, Forestburg / St. John, Galahad, AB (1942–1944); Redeemer, Hanna, AB / St. Peter, Scapa, AB (1945–1947); is mentioned as having served Stettler, AB – Ohio Synod.

Braun, Alfred, teacher; served Calgary, AB (1910–1911) – LCMS.

Bredlow, Friedrich B., born on May 31, 1852 in Eichberg near Kreuz (Filehne?), Posen / Poznan, West Prussia, (now Poland); parents: Johann Gottlieb Bredlow and Karoline Radike; worked at an orphanage for two years and then in a hospital in Berlin, Germany; immigrated to Wisconsin in 1881 (according to Felix G. Kuehn, 1883); studied at Northwestern University (later called Northwestern College), Watertown, WI (1881); studied at the seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin; was ordained as a priest in May 1886 in Theresa, WI; served a congregation in Milwaukee, WI (1886–1889); married Auguste Ziebell, born on October 17, 1853 in Germany; then served another congregation in the USA (1889–1895); was persuaded by Dr. Nicum, president of the German Home Missions Board of the General Council to enter the mission field at St. John, Wetaskiwin, AB (1895–1903); in 1896 he is listed as serving Zion, Wetaskiwin, AB as well as congregations / preaching points in Reinhalt / Leduc / Lacombe / Red Deer Lake (St. Peter, Bashaw, AB) and Beaver Hills (1895–1903); in these years he also served Ferintosh / Bashaw / Sarepta / Hay Lakes / New Norway / Waldheim / Beaver Creek / Stettler and Duhamel, AB; another source adds New Norway; he had joined the Manitoba Synod (1897); served St. Paul, Denbigh, ON (1903–1905); Bashaw, AB (1905–1910); between 1902 and 1905 he attended to the spiritual needs of Grace (Gnadenthal), St. John (Heimthal) and others; retired to Wetaskiwin, AB (1911); died on November 9, 1944; his wife had died 29 years previously; the funeral service took place at St. John, Wetaskiwin, AB with pastors Goos, H. C. Klingbeil, R. Krisch, L. F. Schoepp, J. Bergbusch and H. Luetkehoelter officiating – Manitoba Synod.

Breitwieser, Robert, born in Lackawanna, NY; married to Sandra; grew up in West Seneca, NY; attended Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA; graduated with a B.A. majoring in history and psychology; studied at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo, ON; spent 1965–1966 at Haunstettin, a suburb of Augsburg, Germany where he was assigned to the Augsburg Jugendwerk (Youth Work) and worked with youth in an orphanage; did Hospital Pastoral Care and assisted with youth work in the area; was also a contact with the German military and did retreats with young recruits; was ordained by the Upper New York Synod LCA

(1966) and served St. John, Syracuse, NY and Grace, Oswego, NY (1966–1974); Redeemer, London, ON (1974–1982?); in 1981 he took Clinical Pastoral Education at Cedar Springs, ON, at University Hospital, London, ON, Kings College in London in Death Education and later in Calgary in Perinatal Loss Support; Director of Pastoral Care for Lutheran Hospital Ministries, Calgary, AB (1982–?); chaplain of the Peter Lougheed Hospital, Calgary, AB for nine years; preached, upon occasion, in German at St. Matthew, Calgary, AB and also served as Minister of Visitation at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Calgary and developed a ministry in Sudanese; was a professor at Covenant Bible College, Strathmore, AB (2006); resides in Strathmore, AB – LCA – ELCIC.

Brenner, Ludwig, cantor / teacher; born in Poland; resided in Edmonton, AB – LCMS – ELCIC.

Brenner, Paul (also known as *Peter*), born on June 28, 1922 in Gnadental, Bessarabia, Romania (today Ukraine); parents: Gottlieb and Margarethe née Bantel Brenner; locksmith manufacturer; studied administration and public service in Chisinau, Romania (1939–1940); worked in the town office and mill in Gnadental; was a sailor on the famous battleship Emden; prisoner of war near Marseille, France; worked for an Italian farmer near Nice, France (1947–1948); married Berta Scherer on October 29, 1955 in Kornwestheim, Germany; immigrated to Calgary, AB; active in various German groups in Calgary as well as a lay reader at Resurrection Lutheran Church where he was president (1971–); worked for Calgary Parks and Recreation; retired in 1985; owned a grocery store for five years; sold health supplies; together with his wife Berta, active in supporting people in Moldova; died on March 19, 2011 with the funeral service led by Pastor Douglas Priestap – WELS – Bad Liebenzell Mission Society – CLC.

Brockmann, Friedrich W., served Calgary, AB (1908–1911); pastor of the Immanuel Lutheran School at 215-4th Street in Calgary where he taught the lower grades in a school with 110 students registered in 1911 – LCMS.

Brose, Harold Herbert, born on May 8, 1921 in Pembroke, ON; parents: John and Mathilda Brose; B.A. from Waterloo College, Waterloo, ON; graduated from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in 1947; married Leona Nabert on August 29, 1952, St. Mark, Kitchener, ON; vicarage at St. Peter, Ottawa, ON; ordained in 1947 at Zion, Pembroke; served St. John, Waterloo, ON (1947–1948, youth pastor); St. Matthew, Conestoga / St. James, St. Jacobs, ON (1948–1953); Redeemer, Toronto, ON (1953–1957); Emmanuel (mission developer) Scarborough, ON (1957–1963); Christ, Sudbury, ON (1963–1968); served Ascension, Edmonton, AB (1969–1973); St. Matthew, Spruce Grove / Good Shepherd, Stony Plain, AB (1973–1976); then only St. Matthew, Spruce Grove until retirement (1982); interim ministries afterwards were from 1982–1990: St. Matthew, Thorsby / St. John, Golden Spike / Trinity, Westlock / Augustana, Edmonton / Central, Edmonton / St. John, Alberta Beach and Holy Cross, Inuvik, NWT; died on January 4, 2015 in Stony Plain, AB; funeral service at Trinity, Edmonton on behalf of Augustana, Edmonton on January 16, 2015 – ULCA – LCA – ELCIC.

Buck, Erwin, born in Friedensthal, Bessarabia, Romania on April 12, 1932; parents: father Otto Buck was a Lutheran sexton-teacher in Friedensthal, Bessarabia; immigrated to Canada (1949 or 1952); studied at the University of Saskatchewan and Lutheran Seminary Saskatoon, SK; served Biggar, SK for two years as a student pastor, then Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL; ordained by the Evangelical Church of the Rhineland in Wuppertal, Germany on August 27, 1967 or St. Johannes, SELK in Muenster, Germany; was an assistant to Dr. Karl Heinrich Rengstorf in the Institutum Judaicum Delizschianum in Muenster, Westphalia, Germany during the 1960s; pastor in Muenster, Westphalia, Germany (1967–1969); served St. Peter, Medicine Hat, AB (1969–1974); degrees: B.A., B.D., S.T.M., Th.D.; installed as professor at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon on September 8, 1974 – ALC – ELCC – ELCIC.

Buegel, Hermann, arrived on September 2, 1891 to become the first resident pastor of the Missouri Synod in Winnipeg and all of Western Canada – LCMS.