

## 9. MOVE TO GREATER RESPONSIBILITY

Four months before moving to Green Bay, I had been elected 2nd Vice-president of the North Wisconsin District. The Green Bay parish involved considerably more opportunity for service to the kingdom, as I tried to tell myself in the expression. "You should feel it more important to build the kingdom than to stay where you are and build a church." In addition to this increased opportunity to build the kingdom there was also the service to the District that was involved. The Green Bay congregation was aware of this latter responsibility when they extended the call. As a result I never felt any guilt if I had to leave something undone locally to carry out my responsibility to the District. This situation continued for the full 11 years of my ministry at Redeemer. After the next election I was 1st Vice President and continued in that for 8 more years.

At the time of our move we had been having an unusual amount of rain so that the farmers had difficulty getting their crops off the field. If they could get out into the field at all, the wheels of their wagons would sink down for half a foot or more and soon after they had driven through, the tracks of their wagons were again filled with water. That's how saturated the soil was. In Green Bay many homes had problems with water in their basements. After this experience the city required new homes to have sump pumps built into the basement from the outset. But I don't recall that the Redeemer parsonage had a special problem along this line.

The parsonage at 1015 Shawano Avenue was a couple long blocks from the church. It was a two-story house with rather small rooms. There was a fair-sized living room to the right of the small entrance with the dining room and kitchen to the left. Off the far end of the living room was a stairway that led to the three bedrooms above. Two of the bedrooms were fair-sized but the third one was hardly big enough for a double bed. At the top of the stairway there was an opening to the large attic, that could be reached via a stairway that would

drop down. Since the officers we had spoken to left the impression with us that they soon planned to build a new parsonage we kept some of the furniture we could not use at the time and stored it in the huge attic. They had built a small study on the back of the house just off the stairway in the living room and had added a separate outside entrance. Because of the necessity of carrying bedding through the whole house if one wanted to give it an airing outside, we had them build a shake porch on the back from a door where there was previously a window in the smallest bedroom. This hardly left room to get by the bed to reach the shake porch but it was quite convenient. The back yard was small on a 50-foot lot and not very deep. It had been filled in with heavy clay to correct a low area that was often water soaked before. At any rate the heavy soil held the moisture for the lawn longer and it needed less watering during a dry spell. It provided enough space for the dog's exercise and for a clothes line. There was a one car garage at the back of the house to the right of the study.

My installation took place on Oct. 17, 1954. Redeemer was a congregation that was organized in 1937 to fill a need on the west side of the Fox River that divided Green Bay. It had grown rather rapidly to around 800 communicants and 1200 baptized members. It had almost split over some problem before the previous pastor moved to Minnesota. However, the new District President had managed to effect a reconciliation of the two factions before they issued a call. My challenge was to get all members to forget the former wounds and to work together. Occasionally a little of the former animosity surfaced but for the most part the established harmony was maintained. The number above would suggest that this was a young congregation. No more than 5% of the adults were over 65. As a result we had few shut-ins to minister to, usually somewhere between 6 and 10. A later family profile revealed that in the majority of homes the oldest person was below 45.

The church building was new, having been dedicated just two years before. Obviously it had a debt that had to be repaid. It was built of lannin stone and was quite attractive. The sad thing was that they had squeezed it on to the corner lot and attached it to the former chapel which had been built at the east end of the lot. The two levels of the two buildings were tied together resulting in what one might call considerable chopped up space. Obviously there was no off street parking, which the city later required with any new construction. The major large area was the basement of the church, which could seat about 250 persons at tables, with a kitchen under the north transept. The sanctuary, balcony and two transepts would seat about 400. The vestibule was narrow across the back under the balcony, leaving only limited space for fellowship.

The large basement was needed to house the large Sunday school of over 300 youngsters. Classes were held in almost every available space, including the former chapel. In the latter we arranged for the classes from kindergarten through 2nd grade so that they could have their own devotions. With the organization of this Edna helped for most of the time. There were 8 or 10 classes of 8-10 pupils each. For teaching purposes the classes were separated by movable curtains. Even the basement of the chapel was used for a class plus the full expanse of the large church basement. Some areas were not too conducive to good teaching because of the traffic that moved by.

Some of the pupils were brought in by bus from outlying areas or picked up along the route. The unfortunate thing was that they didn't want to pay the bus driver for a second hour. As a result those who rode the bus left after the SS session was over. Consequently these families did not attend church very often, if at all. In the course of time the interest in the use of the bus diminished so that this service was discontinued.

Because of the crowded conditions some consideration was given to holding two SS sessions to reduce the pressure as the congregation kept growing. But this created two major problems in dividing the enrollment.

One was to avoid splitting up families and also not penalizing the teachers. No action along this line was ever taken, as conditions changed to take off the pressure for space.

The large number of children also meant large confirmation classes. The first year or two I conducted both the 7th and 8th grade classes. The 8th grade group met on Tuesdays after school, since most of them attended the nearby high school which also included the junior high students. How they felt about having their class at the end of the school day was indicated one time when I gave them a short quiz. At the top of his paper one of the group wrote "seventh period." But with around 30 or more in each grade we were forced to pursue this course.

The 7th grade pupils I taught on Saturday mornings. In each case we met in the church basement and for lack of other classroom equipment, they sat at tables next to each other. Any teacher knows that this did not make for the most desirable teaching situation.

The church had developed a fairly large senior choir. For several years they had a capable Lutheran as director. He happened to operate a music store and was knowledgeable with good music. But he had to resign because of business pressures. This necessitated the search for a new director. Since the choir had been free to run their own affairs, they found a man who knew his music fairly well, but who was of a different faith and usually left after the choir number in the service. Obviously, this was not a very desirable situation. It made one think of a mercenary choir which is not really involved in the worship.

The youth group, which rarely numbered more than 20 - 30, had been directed by a youth committee. Somehow, committed members tried to direct the youth group's activity with rules rather than with friendly persuasion and guidance. I recall very limited use of special programs or activity. As a result participation was quite limited when compared with the potential.

Without any special effort at outreach, the congregation continued to grow by as much as

10%, or about 80-90 communicants per year. New people would come to the pastor and ask to join even though you had not seen or met them before. This was partly due to the fact that there were four possible exits and the pastor could greet the worshippers at only one of them. Besides, the city was expanding to the west and ours was the most visible and largest Lutheran church on this side of the river. After a couple years this changed as a Danish Lutheran church relocated farther to the west and also the ALC started a new church to the southwest at a location, which a few years earlier the District had encouraged Redeemer to purchase for a new mission, but which the leadership then felt was unnecessary, thinking that they could well serve all of the west side.

Because of the steady effortless growth, the congregation began to consider some kind of assistance for the pastor. But what type would be most helpful? The large number of children for education and the need for a more stable direction for the choir, as well as guidance for the youth program suggested going in the direction of a Director of Christian Education. Such a person's responsibility was to oversee the entire SS program, give guidance to the youth activities and to provide a more Lutheran flavor to the choir direction, but with the added challenge of working toward the establishment of our own Christian Day School. The District Education Counselor recommended only a few people whom he knew who had spent most of their life up until then in a Christian Day School and directing a choir. The man from the short list who was called came out of a two room school of which he was the principal, named Redeker. With that limited background he had trouble organizing his efforts to fit our broader needs, so much so that some members wondered what he did with all of his time. After about a year he received a call and I was ready to grant him a release and make a new beginning. However, a few members spoke rather strongly in his favor so that he remained. After a couple more years, we began to move toward our own school.

Something else that affected our program around this time was the beginning of activity at Pulaski, 10 miles to the northwest, and the

desire of the District to see a new mission begun in the southwest part of the city where home building was progressing quite rapidly. At Pulaski a group of 12-15 families living in and near the village wanted to start their own church in town where there had been only a large Catholic church and a small Polish Catholic church. So they began inviting pastors of all Lutheran groups to conduct a service for them in one of their homes. It so happened that I was the first one asked and thus conducted the first Lutheran service in Pulaski in late January of 1956. Later I learned that the reason I was finally asked to help them get started was because our District had a Church Extension Fund from which they could borrow money at a fairly low interest rate to build their first church. So we began conducting their weekly service in a Polish Catholic or National church on the outskirts of town on a Sunday evening.

Since at this time the District Board felt that a new mission should be started in southwest Green Bay, they decided that I should supervise the beginning of such a new mission and at the same time give guidance to Pulaski's development with the help of a vicar which the District would support and finance. So a vicar was obtained and it happened to be a very capable and consecrated young man, named Evan Temple, who was very helpful in meeting the challenges of the multi-faceted task I was given in the fall of 1956.

But how could we begin activity in SW Green Bay since there was no building in that area that could be rented? As a result the District borrowed an idea from the South Wisconsin District which they had used a few times in the Milwaukee area. After purchasing a plot of ground at a desirable location it was resolved to construct a home for use as the first worship facility that could later be used as a parsonage. Another factor that prompted this approach was the limited amount of available loan funds from the Church Extension Fund, no more than \$25,000. So in the early fall, the construction of a home was begun but two partitions were left out to produce a larger open worship space. So the vicar and I gathered a nucleus of people for the new mission for the beginning of services during the 1957 Lenten season and the

organization of a congregation of from 15-20 families. I recall that I made an altar for the worship facility that could be folded and moved to another location, if necessary.

During the same fall and winter one of us conducted a morning service at Pulaski. I usually went there once a month to conduct the Communion service. Gradually, they also moved toward actual organization and the planning of their own church building. I couldn't convince them of the benefit of hiring an architect. So I ended up drawing a floor plan for their proposed building, since I had taken a correspondence course in church architecture several years before. Then they used a local licensed engineer to draw up the detailed plans for the exterior of the building for submission to the State for approval. However, he did not draw in the details for the chancel, etc. As a result, I always felt that they more than paid the cost of an architect since the contractor and building committee chairman stood and planned out the details, which would have been completed already by an architect. The groundbreaking ceremony was held around the middle of May in 1957. I recall clearly, because after the afternoon service the vicar and his wife steered us back to Redeemer church, where the congregation had planned an observance of our 20th wedding anniversary.

With these two special projects initiated, the District proceeded to call a pastor for the new mission and also for Pulaski, which they had made a parish with the church at Oneida, which had been subsidized for many years. Therefore, when these two posts were filled by the end of the summer, the vicar went back to the seminary and I returned to my full-time activity at Redeemer.

Redeemer had a constant change in membership. There were almost as many transfers out as there were transfers in each year. As a result the growth did not show up in annual statistics. But contacting the new people and following up on those who moved away involved a considerable amount of time. At the end of 11 years I looked over the roster of members and calculated that only about 40% of the members had been there when I arrived.

The rest had come and gone several times over.

In addition there was considerable opportunity for adult confirmation instruction. Some of the contacts were made through intermarriages, some resulted from initial contacts made by alert members, and others developed from visits at our services and an early follow-up. Usually we had both a spring and a fall class. I recall one group being rather large with 17 participants. In one case, there was a couple, but the man was unable to read. He did an excellent job of covering up his deficiency by closely observing the moves of other class members, that is, by turning a page when the rest did. At the end he was able to confess his faith with simple answers. He seemed very grateful for what he had found and it so happened that about a year or so after he was received into membership he died of a heart attack and I was able to give him a Christian burial and to bring solid comfort to his surviving family. Twenty five years after I had confirmed one couple and in the course of time had baptized their children I received a letter from him at Christmas time from another city where he now resides, expressing his gratitude for what I had enabled them to find for a happier life.

When I came to Redeemer the church mimeograph and bulletin supplies were in the parsonage study. In all the space in the church no provision had been made for an office or for a secretary. At first I took care of these chores myself. However, I was soon aware that I should spend my time at more important tasks and asked for a part-time secretary. But where to put the secretary? To begin with she did her work in my study at the parsonage while I was out of it making calls of one type or another. This system wasn't very suitable or efficient. So I asked that some office space be provided in the church. This wasn't as easily solved as it seemed because one had to heat too large a space to have one part comfortable for working at a desk. We did solve the problem, however and the duplicating equipment was moved to the church. After a time my first secretary gave it up and we were fortunate to find a member, who had served as an office manager but

wanted to work only part-time. She actually did her work so rapidly that I sometimes felt that it kept me busy to keep her busy at her part-time job. But gradually I could turn over to her much detail work related to record keeping. 25 years later she continued to serve in this capacity.

Speaking of record keeping, one summer the St. Louis Seminary offered a one-week course in church office management. So I asked the church council to send me there to hopefully find ways to streamline our procedures. I must say that I learned a number of valuable procedures from a pastor of a larger church in Flint, Mich., who was the course's instructor. As a result of this we used a tabbing system for our new self-designed family file. This enabled us and some boards to quite easily cull out the information they or I desired. In fact, each family page was so compact that on the back side you could keep a 20-year record of Communion attendance and contributions. Later I offered this to mission stations when they needed a new but simple system for keeping such records. Being loose leaf, they could be used in a small as well as larger congregation. We even set up a separate notebook with all the Baptisms each year so that in a few minutes I could get a list of the youngsters who should be starting in kindergarten at Sunday school or of those who should be starting confirmation instruction. Children of families received into membership were included in whatever list their birth date happened to put them. Such a system could still serve well where a computer is not practical.

One custom that I continued but kept on revising steadily was that of personal registration for Communion. At first it was their custom to either come to the parsonage in person or to phone there during the week or on a designated day previous to the monthly Communion. Since it had always been my practice to offer a brief spiritual message in connection with such registration, this didn't work out very well at the parsonage, where the entrance to the study led directly from the outside. So we asked for a phone to be installed in the church sacristy so that we could receive registration there and receive phone calls during

the stipulated hours of a given day designated for personal registration. No matter what system we devised, there were always some members who chose to come in person. Others regularly phoned and still others came to the sacristy before the service at the last minute regardless.

When Holy Week came a special problem arose. With so many coming within just a couple of designated hours, we invited them to gather in the church and every 10 minutes or so I would give the group gathered my special message and record their names. I was regularly in touch with the Board of Elders about procedure and sought their input. When we increased the opportunities for Communion, our first thought was to offer the Sacrament in one of the two services each Sunday. However, they thought it better to concentrate on the Sacrament in both services twice a month. This led us to initiate a different registration procedure to hopefully increase the use of the Sacrament. At first, we invited those who wished to register for Communion the following Sunday to remain on a non-Communion Sunday after the service and move to the front after the group as a whole was dismissed and I had greeted them at the door. Then I would come to the front and share with them my message of a minute or two and follow this by recording their names. However, the Elders suggested revising this so that before dismissal I should share with the whole assembly my brief Communion message and then have the ushers offer registration cards to those who planned to attend the following Sunday while I greeted the worshippers at the door. This practice continued until I moved on. Today most churches use a card system, mainly offered in each pew for Communion registration. We've seen other systems used in some churches in recent years.

Something else related to the celebration of Communion was different at Redeemer. Already before I came they had instituted what they called the office of "sacristan." This was to speed up the distribution and in that way help to shorten the Communion services. In other words, a faithful member was authorized to assist the pastor in the distribution. However,

he did not distribute either element. Rather he had the paten ready after each group was dismissed and the cleansed and filled cup ready after the bread had been distributed so that he could hand these to me without my taking any time to return to the altar to pick them up. Also we used two cups so that after one half had received the wine across the wide altar, he could hand me the other cup which was ready for me to continue almost without interruption. He had served in this capacity for several years before I came and was willing to stay for both services to assist as often as we celebrated the Sacrament. I don't recall him ever missing. But as time went on I felt that something could happen to him at his age, being past 70, that would make him unable to serve and suddenly we needed a substitute. So I suggested that we set up a contingency plan. This the Elders hesitated to do lest they offend the faithful worker. However, after we had postponed action on this he did run into a problem that landed him in the hospital over one Sunday. Since that Sunday was a non-Communion day no emergency developed. By the next Sunday he was able to be back. However, this gave us a basis for setting up an alternate procedure in case it was needed. Soon after we moved on, the Lord did call him home and the congregation continued to use the alternate, but, as I understand, designated individuals to assist in one of the other of the services. Of course, now most congregations use a member of the Board of Elders to assist the pastor with the distribution by actually distributing one of the elements.

The organ in the church was one of the original Hammond electronic organs. Even with strategically located speakers this organ had difficulty leading the congregation in worship. And after 20 years of service it would occasionally fail at the most unexpected times. Obviously, something needed to be done. An opportunity arose to acquire a pipe organ at a quite reasonable cost. A member of another Lutheran congregation in Green Bay stated that in his travels as an insurance representative, he knew that two practice organs at Lawrence University in Appleton were to be replaced and sold on a sealed bid basis and asked if we might be interested in placing a bid. So we formed a

committee to look into the matter. An organ builder from Oshkosh was asked to check the organs and their potential for use. He found that the two organs had only one duplicate set of pipes and that put together as one instrument they would complement each other and could be made into a 10 rank pipe organ. So with the help of the original contact we placed a bid and were successful in getting them for less than \$2000. This meant that church balcony had to be remodeled for the organ's installation. As I checked back in my files I found that the total cost of the organ, the console and the installation was less than around \$8000. Although this came at a rather inconvenient time, it was an opportunity that could hardly be passed up. This installation gave us a much better instrument for our size of church and also gave the choir a better place from which to sing and fill the church with its music. We mention the inconvenient time because around this time we were in the midst of planning for construction and opening of our new Christian Day School and construction of a new parsonage.

One of the problems related to this construction project was the location for the same. A study committee for a site came up with two alternatives. One was across the street from the church where a double lot fronting on the street both front and back (a total of 4 lots of about 100' X 300'). Its advantage was to provide some needed parking for church functions, but its primary disadvantage was its smaller size. After putting up a school there wouldn't be much space left for playground or parking. The second site was the present location. It was an L-shaped plot of 100 feet fronting on Oneida and 300 feet fronting on Hudson. When the matter was put to a vote the latter site won almost unanimous approval at only a slightly higher cost. This latter site made it possible to erect the parsonage on Oneida and the school on Hudson , which was the final result.

With the site problem settled the Building Committee proceeded with the planning of the two buildings. At first there was some hesitancy about including the parsonage at this time. But I reminded them of the verbal promise made about 5 years earlier as well as

the fact that a good part of the parsonage cost would be paid for via the sale of the present building, leaving only a small indebtedness for it. For the most part I drew up the floor plan for the parsonage, gathering suggestions from one built in Preble several years before. The floor plan included four bedrooms and a study. First the committee felt that three bedrooms were enough but I pointed out that a couple having only two children, a boy and a girl, would already require a third bedroom. The detailed plans were ready for both buildings by October 1, 1959. So construction was begun. However, in mid-October we had an 8-inch snowfall that was followed by a cold snap, leaving the snow only gradually melt on the already-laid subflooring. The result of the swelling wood was an addition of about 2 inches to the 72-foot long ranch style house.

The parsonage was completed in March of 1960 when a dedicatory ceremony was held followed by an open house before we were able to move in on the following Saturday. Again Edna had to direct the moving process because I was committed to other activity in the forenoon when the members who volunteered to do it with a truck loaned for the purpose wanted to do the moving. There was a large room in the basement that could be used for some fellowship purposes as well as a recreation space for the family. However, it was unfinished. Others had made special donations. So we offered to tile the floor and ceiling as well as paint the walls at our expense as a special donation. A couple volunteers had helped to lay the floor tile the preceding Saturday. But the ceiling tile we put up over the Easter weekend when the boys were home from college. On Sunday we had a heavy snow earlier so that only a limited number of people made it to church and the best place to be the rest of the day was at home. So in the afternoon we worked at this project and at about 7:00 p.m. the last ceiling tile was stapled in place. By the time I did this the children were already playing ping pong at the far end of the room. When the last tile was in place they urged me to join them for a doubles match. I was almost too tired to do so but I did join them for a game.

The longer part of the basement was separated from the large room by a supporting wall made of blocks, in which we had left three openings for doors. One went to the furnace and hobby room, another was undesignated but could be made into an extra room, and the third could be made into a den. In time Roger made this latter room into his own room.

The school was planned with 4 classrooms, a large auditorium (with stage) and a gym and a kitchen off the side of the gym. The building was completed in time for opening in the fall of 1960 and a special dedication was held. The enrollment was only in the 70's the first year. But the principal insisted that the number be divided into 4 classes and his room of 7th & 8th graders had the least. This was done even though we had budgeted for only 3 teachers. So this put a strain on our finances from the outset.

The teaching staff included the principal, his wife for grades 3 & 4, and two new graduates of River Forest. Charles Lind taught grades 5 & 6 and his future wife taught grades 1 and 2. They were married in the summer of 1961. This staff remained the same for the 5 years until we moved to Wausau. The Linds had accepted a call to St. Louis that summer so two new teachers had to be engaged.

The school program added to the time I needed for confirmation instruction. On two mornings of the week I taught the upper grades in school and then on Saturday forenoons I had a class of about 30 7th and 8th graders who were not enrolled in the school.

At first the janitorial duties at school were given to one of the members who was knowledgeable with heating systems and other mechanics. When the board proposed giving him an annual contract at a wage higher than the teachers were receiving I objected in an effort to get the two salaries at a more equitable level. In the end this benefitted the teachers.

On one occasion the lady who cleaned the church was startled by a strange man who came into the building. In her fright she locked herself into a supply room until she thought he had left. When we looked around the place, the

only thing we could find missing was the pulpit Bible. We felt that if he would use this and would find salvation through it, we would gladly replace it.

Another unusual incident involved the financial secretary and the counting of each week's offerings on Monday evening. We began to get a few complaints about contributors not getting credit for their offerings. This reflected on the honesty of the financial secretary and I fully trusted him. Learning to know what his procedure had been and who his helpers were, I had my suspicions regarding one individual. To solve the problem, I suggested a change in his procedure in the use of his suspected helper and this solved the problem.

Perhaps at this point we should review what happened to the family during this period. We'll start with Gloria. We were happy that one of the members had offered to pick her up and take her along to a Wisconsin Synod School at the east end of the city, if we wanted to enroll her there. This we gladly did since the two synods were still in fellowship at that time. After school she could conveniently catch a city bus that would bring her all the way back to almost our own door. Being 11 at that time she had become quite confident in doing something like this. Besides, the dog was always at home to greet her if neither of us was there and to protect her after she got there.

Since our house was only a block from a large park where the city sponsored a summer playground, that was where she spent most of her days and began her long career as a softball pitcher. In the competition between parks her team was usually on the winning side. In fact, she developed quite a skill so that when she was still quite young she was asked to join a team of older women and serve as their pitcher for out-of-town as well as home games. We agreed to the latter only after we were assured that she would not be exposed to any drinking after games as was so often the case. Her long summers of playground experience stood her in good stead later when she could get a job as a hired playground supervisor.

Edna spent the first winter and following summer getting settled in our home. However, by the next fall she began to think about finding a job. She did get a week's training for a possible job at Prange's for the annual fall sale. However, she was called to work only a few days because business was more slack than they had anticipated. Later during that season she did get a job for part-time work as a clerk at Montgomery Ward's. Getting there was quite convenient because she could catch the bus almost in front of our home and ride it all the way to Ward's. The return trip was just about as convenient if I was not able to pick her up. In the slack post-Christmas period she was laid off, together with others, for a month or two. The first season she did not apply for unemployment pay because we felt that this was primarily for those who needed it desperately. But when the second year rolled around we had learned that the store had to pay into the unemployment fund on the basis of its number of employees. Therefore, we did not hesitate to draw unemployment pay during the time of her layoff. She continued to work at Ward's store until they cut down on the number of clerks when retail stores generally were moving to the self-help concept with only a limited number of checkout counters. By that time she had become a full-time part-time employee, working from 35-40 hours per week. She continued at Ward's until after we moved into the new parsonage. We could well use the extra income to be able to support the two boys at school in Milwaukee and in college. But she did manage to save some of her earnings so that we could afford to buy some new pieces of furniture when we moved into the new parsonage.

After Ward's laid her off permanently she soon found another job. With her knowledge of yard goods she soon got a job as assistant manager of a new yard goods store that opened in a shopping center on the west side. The pay was good enough but soon the manager, a French lady, began to demand more and more of her time as her assistant without any increase in pay. When her demands interfered with the opportunity to attend Lenten services the next spring she decided that she had enough of the



lady's changeable moods and tactics and quit, after 6 months at that job.

She wasn't without a job very long. It wasn't more than three weeks when she began to work at Penney's in the childrens' department, where handling of goods was much less of a strain than handling the heavy bolts of yard goods. While she saw several changes in managers at the local Penney store over the few years she worked there, the relationship was always pleasant and she continued working there until we moved to the Wausau area. They even offered her a transfer to the Wausau store if she so desired.

Her employment during the last ten years of our life in Green Bay was quite a boost in helping us keep the boys in college and for the final three years Gloria also. In fact, for at least one year we had all three in college. That was the year after Jim was on vicarage and before his graduation from the Sem.

In the meantime what were the boys doing? About 6 weeks or so before we moved to Green Bay Roger also enrolled at Concordia in Milwaukee, where Jim had already attended for two years, both in the high school department. While at Milwaukee one or the other of them tried to catch a ride to Green Bay or take the train every two or three weeks. They would bring the laundry for both of them along for service so that they could return with the clean clothes on Sunday afternoon or evening. For several years we managed to get it done, dried and ironed. However, there were times when it proved difficult if we happened to have a wet weekend. Then you couldn't dry it outside and doing so in the basement was very slow, if successful. So in the fall of '56 or '57, I bought a dryer at Sears when it was on special. This made the task more predictable and simple.

When summer came the boys were looking for something to do to earn some spending money. The first summer Jim got a job at Walgreen's soda and lunch counter through the courtesy of a member, who was manager. I don't recall what Roger did. In the summer of '56 Jim worked for Oliver Griese at one or the other of his two restaurants. That summer Roger was 16

and got a job working at Willaert's Bakery. He'd ride his bike to work around 3 in the morning and get home around noon. He'd always bring home with him whatever unsold day-old bakery he thought we could use; the rest was donated to an orphanage. After a while he thought he knew how to bake bread and tried scaling down the recipe for a small number of loaves at home. In fact, one day he was in the process of kneading the batch, when a doctor stopped by to invite the boys to come to his home that evening to look at the stars through the large telescope that he had made. He took the batch of dough with him to the door and was working it while visiting with the doctor. We often wondered what the doctor thought about our standards of sanitation. Part of a summer one or the other of the boys may have spent with their Uncle Elmer on his farm near Iola.

In the summer of '57 Jim had his first job as a playground supervisor for the city and their recreation department. It was at one of the toughest parks in the city near Velp Avenue. Several times he had to call the police to take care of several rowdies who refused to obey the park rules. But this was an interesting job from the standpoint of dealing with all types of personalities. It was also a sure thing for 11 weeks of the summer, since the park program usually ended around the middle of August or so.

At any rate, when both boys graduated at Milwaukee in late May of 1958, Jim from Junior College and Roger from high school, we attended their graduation on a Thursday and drove home that night. The next forenoon we got ready for a weekend trip into Michigan and took the ferry across from Manitowoc to Ludington and then drove up the east shore of Lake Michigan. I recall that we stopped to see the Walther League's camp at Arcadia. By Saturday night we had made it across the Mackinaw Strait via ferry (no bridge as yet), had gotten a motel at St Ignace for the night, and then still had time to travel to Sault Ste. Marie to see the locks where ocean steamers moved from Lake Michigan to Lake Superior. The next morning we traveled toward home, attending the services at a small country church

at Engadine. After church the hospitable pastor's wife insisted that we stay for a chicken dinner she had prepared. In such an isolated place people are usually thrilled to have company, even on the spur of the moment. Soon after dinner we had to start on our way back to Green Bay, because Jim had to start his second park playground supervisor job the next morning. This was at the Norwood School playground. Enroute we did have a little time to stop along the shore of Lake Michigan to try to find some interesting pieces of driftwood. But we did make it home that evening from the only family vacation we had taken in several years and actually the last one we had together. That summer Roger again worked at Willaert's Bakery.

For two years, 1958-60, Jim attended Concordia Senior College at Fort Wayne, Ind. There he was one of several organists and enjoyed practicing and playing for chapel services on the large organ there and also sang in the chorus. He even composed a musical arrangement for the chorus for use in the annual concert tour since he had developed a close relationship with the chorus director. He also had a chance to serve as substitute organist at one of the local churches. In the summer of 1959 both he and Roger were fortunate to get a job as common laborers for a contractor named Elmer Lade, since jobs were scarce that year. This parish member had a number of projects under way so that they were kept on for the entire summer.

After his second year at the Ft. Wayne college we drove there for his graduation. We spent one day visiting with a friend from Seminary days who was pastor near there. At the graduation service Jim was privileged to serve as organist and played his own arrangement of "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord," for the processional. After the ceremony we had a chance to visit with Dr. W. Wentz whom I had learned to know during my years at Winfield. For that summer Jim stayed at Fort Wayne working at the school doing maintenance work and serving as organist at Redeemer church, where he had developed a close relationship with pastor Lindeman and his wife.

At the end of the summer we drove to Ft. Wayne to pick up Jim and his belongings and bring him to St. Louis for his first year at the seminary. There he again found a job as organist at one of the local churches. This provided him with day-to-day spending money. At the end of the school year we picked him up at St. Louis after attending my father's funeral at Lincoln, Nebr. For the summer of 1961 he again served as a playground supervisor at a third park called Tank Park. Here the experience and problems with the youngsters were quite different from previous years. But it was again a growth experience in dealing with a variety of personalities.

For his second year at St. Louis we again drove him there and he again served as organist at one of the area churches as well as a regular organist for the daily chapel services. In spring we again picked him up for his 4th summer job as a playground supervisor, this time at Seymour Park near the railroad tracks. Here the clientele of youngsters was again different from previous years.

Since his vicarage assignment took him to Immanuel at Elmhurst, Ill. at the end of the 1962 summer and necessitated a means of transportation, we arranged to help him buy his first car, a Corvair. From this time forward he had his own transportation. After his year of vicarage he returned to St. Louis for his final year. Since his resources were limited despite another organist job on weekends, we assisted him by keeping up his car payments for this year.

For his graduation in late May of 1964 we drove to St. Louis again. He returned to Green Bay for a short period before his marriage on June 13 to Gail Schuth, whom he met at Elmhurst during his vicarage. After their marriage they settled into an apartment in St. Louis where Jim began study toward his STM degree in the summer course, graduating at the end of the summer course the following year. After graduation his first assignment took him to Bronxville, N.Y. His ordination was arranged at Redeemer, Green Bay on July 4, 1965. Soon thereafter they drove to Bronxville to get settled as dorm counselors and to begin

his teaching duties at Concordia Collegiate Institute, as it was named at the time.

We now turn to Roger. After his graduation from high school at Milwaukee's Concordia in May, 1958 he enrolled in the mechanical engineering course at Valparaiso, U. During the preceding summer he worked at Willaert's Bakery again. During his first year at Valpo he had to catch up on math courses, which had not been offered at Milwaukee, making it a rough year. For the second year he joined a fraternity and lived in the crowded frat house. Whether it was the crowded conditions of the frat house, making serious study difficult, or the accent on social activity, isn't clear to us. But at the end of the semester he was discouraged to the point where he wanted to come home because he wasn't sure what he wanted to do. So beginning the 2nd semester in early 1960 he came home and began looking for a job. His first job was on the night shift at Krueger Metal Products, spray painting folding chairs. Since he now had a steady job he began looking for a car. He ended up buying a used VW and soon began the task of reupholstering the interior and finally having the exterior repainted for a small fee at the State Reformatory. When the night shift closed, he ended with a conflict between school and working the day shift and quit. He was out of work a few weeks until he found a job at a fertilizer plant handling bags of fertilizer. At the end of his first day he was especially tired because he wasn't accustomed to such heavy work and the long hours. But this job lasted for the planting season only.

In fall of 1960 we encouraged him to take a few courses at the Green Bay University Extension Center during the day, since he was working the 3-11 p.m. shift. This he continued thru the year at school, at work and at his car refurbishing project. In late spring of 1961 Nabisco was seeking a student to fill in for various employees' vacations. Being at home earlier than other students he successfully applied for this job. At first his job consisted in putting together orders and loading delivery trucks. Later he was promoted to substitute delivery truck driver. He established a good rapport with drivers and management and got jobs substituting during Thanksgiving and Christmas

breaks as well as summer employment during several succeeding summers. By the fall of 1961 he had researched several possibilities and ended up with a clear goal toward a dual degree at Valparaiso. So he re-enrolled at Valpo in the engineering course and psychology and it involved four more years of study. During the 1962-63 school year he served as a dorm counselor to help pay for school costs. For the 1963 summer he again worked at Nabisco. For the 1963-64 school year he again served as a dorm counselor to help meet the school costs. For the summer of 1964 he again worked at Nabisco. During the preceding school year his VW had failed him and needed a new engine before he could sell it. This set him back financially but he managed to pull thru. After selling it at a small profit I sold him my 1962 Corvaire because he needed a means of transportation for the school year to get to his part-time job at Brown Trailer Co. about 40 miles away from Valpo to help pay expenses. In spring of 1965 he graduated from Valpo with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Psychology. We were able to attend the colorful ceremonies.

For that summer he had a job at Seattle with Boeing Aircraft Co. In fall he enrolled at Illinois U. at Champaign on a research scholarship to earn his Master's degree over a two year period. During the intervening summer he had a job at Buffalo, N.Y. with Bell Aerosystems Corp. After his graduation on June 17, 1967, later that day he was married to Charlotte Shepherd at Sadorus before they proceeded to his first job at Boeing Aircraft Co. at Seattle, living at Mercer Island. His first assignment was to work with a couple of Ph. D.'s on solving the problem of waste disposal on 747s. His comment was that he was starting "at the bottom of things."

Gloria's experiences weren't quite as varied as her brothers' were. In 1958, the same year the boys graduated from Concordia, she graduated from St. Paul's Lutheran School and was confirmed at Redeemer. For the next 4 years she attended West High School, which was located near Redeemer church, and to which she could easily walk from the old parsonage. However, from 1960 on she had a longer walk

from the new parsonage on Oneida Street. In her final year she was in an advanced math class.

At first her summers were spent at the Fisk Park playground, improving her skills at softball pitching. She also was responsible for doing the dishes and starting dinner for the family. In the new parsonage the first summer she had quite a jumbled schedule, because everybody came home for lunch at a different hour.

Her first job was at Walgreen's lunch and soda counter, courtesy of the manager who was a member of Redeemer. That was in the summer of 1961. On one occasion she was left alone and if a customer asked for something she hadn't made before she'd ask how it was made and then prepared it.

In spring of 1962 she graduated from West High as a Merit Scholarship semifinalist. Having received a scholarship from Valpo as well as from the local university Extension she enrolled at Valpo to join her brother there. Since he had his own car they could ride together. She also received help through a work program, gaining valuable experience in the school library. Her major was in math with a minor in physical education and psychology. In sports she played on the university's field hockey team and on intramural basketball teams.

Since she had developed a fine relationship with the Green Bay Recreation Dept. she was able to get at least part-time work as a sub in the park playground program in the summer of 1963 because their new requirement was for completion of 2 years of college to be eligible for a full-time position. But for the summer of 1964 and 1965 she had a full-time park playground supervisor job, first at Murphy Park and the next year at Seymour Park, where Jim had serve a couple years earlier. Later in the summer of 1964 and 1965 she had an additional job on the second shift at the pickle factory. This meant hurrying home from the park, grabbing a quick lunch and getting to her second job in time via her bicycle. We usually picked her up at night but she had to shed her

work clothes and hang them in the garage lest she drag the brine odor into the house.

During the Christmas vacation she had a job at Westphal's Hardware in their toy department. This helped her keep her expense account intact, especially with the generous bonus they gave even the part-time employees.

When her playground job ended around mid-August of 1965, she quit her pickle factory job and joined us for a trip to New York to visit Jim's and see where his first placement had taken them. A couple weeks preceding that we had moved to Wausau but she stayed in Green Bay with friends to complete her job commitment at the park until our New York trip.

Before giving further details about the move to Wausau, permit a few more details about life in Green Bay.

Occasionally, I had special tasks as District VP to assist the president, who served a congregation full-time. On one occasion he asked me to accompany him to Marquette, MI for consultation about a problem. Our meeting there ended early enough and by 10 p.m. we were within 100 miles of my home. The sky was clear and bright with myriad stars so we figured we'd reach Green Bay by midnight. However, about half-way home snowflakes began to fall. As we traveled on they became heavier and heavier. As a result travel was difficult and hazardous the rest of the way. The whole roadway was white and the only way we could be sure we were on the highway was by having the rider watch the roadside and tell the driver to keep farther to the left or the right and stay about in what appeared to be the middle. Slowly traveling along in this way, we finally reached my home and a warm bed by 2 a.m.

On another occasion I was to represent him at a congregational call meeting near Algoma. The previous pastor had died of a heart attack but had been poorly paid, not even being covered by Synod's pension plan for the widow's benefit. As a result the widow suddenly found herself without any assured income. My assignment was to try to get them to increase the salary

offered to a more respectable level. Since a goodly number of the members worked at industries in town, I suggested that they think in terms of the size of income they needed to adequately take care of a family. After some open discussion, plus some private discussion during a recess, they did come up with a more realistic salary offer to accompany their call.

One summer I spent my entire vacation attending a 3-week course at the St. Louis Seminary since we usually stayed home otherwise with the boys at jobs and no family vacation was possible.

While at Green Bay I also was asked at times to represent the District president at Synodical meetings or somewhere in the state. I recall substituting for him at one meeting of the Council of Presidents and several interdenominational meetings at Madison. At another time our Circuit Counselor became ill just before a Synodical Counselors Conference. So I was asked to attend in his place. I clearly recall some of the insights gained at that meeting, which I was to share with our group of congregations in the weeks after my return.

While living at Green Bay we, of course, had to become Packer fans. I don't recall attending any games the first several years when they played at a small high school field with limited bleacher seating. But after the new stadium was built we bought two season tickets. At the time the stadium was built we could select the area where we preferred to sit. We chose the northwest corner for protection from the wind on cold days but still in the bright sunshine when it shone. Besides it was the lowest priced section without going to the end zone. We happened to get seat 3 & 4 in Row 2 just north of the next higher priced section. It was just above the playing field, which was about 10 feet below us. This was about at the north goal line, giving us a beautiful view of line play at that end.

Since there were 4 home games in Green Bay at the time, we tried to divide the tickets so that each family member could attend at least one of them. The children usually suggested making an advance selection for the game of their

preference, leaving what was left for Mother and me. Since all games began at 1:00 p.m. (in later years at 12 noon), there was time after church to eat dinner and still make it to the stadium in time for the kickoff, especially from 1960 on when we lived on Oneida Street. Before each game Oneida was made a one-way street from just north of us to the stadium parking lot, while it was designated similarly in the opposite direction after the game. By 12:30 or so the heavy traffic had already passed our house and we could leisurely travel in that direction to the game. Besides, we had a Redeemer family living less than a block from the stadium parking lot and they reserved a place for us in their driveway. This enabled us even after a late start to get to our seat in time. Unfortunately when they moved to Montana we had to allow for more time for walking from a parking spot several blocks away.

On Packer home game Sundays or otherwise, it was foolish to schedule any activity at church until after the game, since a number of members had parking lot attendant and other jobs that related to the game. Besides, all attention via radio or TV was usually riveted on the game until it was over.

Because of the keen rivalry between the Packers and the Chicago Bears, that game usually attracted special attention. In the earlier years many Bear fans still came to Green Bay via train in the forenoon and returned in the early evening. Therefore, it was interesting to see the excitement around the depot especially after the game's end until all the fans were on their way home.

After 25 years we still get the same season tickets in order to maintain our priority. But we use only one game's tickets occasionally, not even annually. The rest we have no problem selling to interested people in Wausau, usually through Gloria's contacts at Wausau Insurance. We sell them at cost, since our interest is not in profiteering, rather in keeping on the mailing list, because we are informed that there are over 10,000 people waiting to get on the season ticket list. In fact, staying on the list enabled us to get tickets for a championship game which Gloria was able to attend despite the bitter cold

that day. While finalizing this history in late 1992, I was able to transfer my rights to season tickets to Gloria. From henceforth, they will be processed under her name.

While at Redeemer I received a call from Peace, Antigo, but felt disinclined to accept it because we were just in the midst of some development at the time that it was unwise to interrupt. Then in 1964 I received a call to Tomahawk, but couldn't feel convinced that this situation was for me. Then in 1965 the District's position of Missions and Stewardship Counselor became vacant, and although I was a member of the District Board at the time and had been for 11 years, the rest of the board felt strongly that I had the qualities and ability to fill that vacancy. This included a member of the board who was a member at Redeemer. As a result, I was extended the call to serve in that District position.

I recall that this happened shortly before the Synodical convention in Detroit that year. Since I felt inclined to accept the call I was asked to attend the convention on short notice. Since I was unable to arrange for a substitute for the Sunday service, I flew back on Saturday and returned to the convention on Sunday evening. Having reached the decision to accept this call, I planned to conclude my ministry at Redeemer at the end of July and take up my duties for the District on August 1, reserving some time for my vacation later in August. In the meantime we arranged a special service on July 4th weekend for Jim's ordination before he moved to Bronxville.

Our move was scheduled for about August 1. Some weeks before that Edna and I took a day to spend at Wausau to evaluate our option to use the District-owned home or to purchase our own. We didn't make too much progress on the first trip. But a short time later we spent most of the day with a realtor looking at homes for sale, the number of which was quite small at the time and prices of which were noticeably higher than for similar homes in Green Bay. So we felt somewhat discouraged. But about midafternoon we picked up the daily newspaper and looked for the For Sale ads in it. One of the few we saw was in Rothschild at a price that we

felt we could handle. After looking at it, then getting a bite to eat, we decided to take a second look. Feeling satisfied that it was a reasonably good buy, we signed a purchase agreement just before another prospective buyer came to buy it after having looked at it earlier. So he was too late. That evening we returned to Green Bay. Later we returned to Wausau again to arrange for the loan and consummate the purchase. Our new address was 306 Falk Street. It was about 10 miles from the office, but it was a pleasant, quiet and friendly neighborhood. There was public bus service into Wausau. From this point our activity would be associated with the District office in Wausau.

For our move to Wausau on August 1 we used a van from Green Bay that was driven by one of our members there. On the day the van was loaded I again had a funeral and was not around to observe the loading. So I had carefully packed an overnight case and set this in my study to be picked up later. When I came to get it, I found that it had been loaded near the front of the van. As a result I had no pajamas for our overnight stay in a motel and had to sleep in my underwear or in the nude. What a note on which to end this chapter!