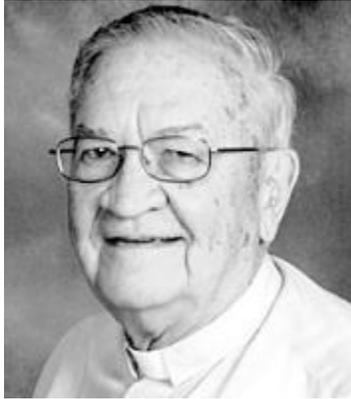


Rev. Robert L. Wietelmann



Rev. Robert L. Wietelmann will be always remembered fondly as the founding pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Royal Oak, MI.

Robert Louis Wietelmann was born on August 15, 1921, in Zanesville, OH to Frank and Jessie Wietelmann. Bob married Phyllis Rolf at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH on May 31, 1946. In 1943 Bob graduated from Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH (1946). In 1946 he was ordained into the Lutheran ministry at Christ Lutheran Church, Struthers, OH (his home congregation).

Pastor Wietelmann served as a mission developer in Flint, MI (1946), and on July 13, 1947 he was installed as the first resident pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Royal Oak, MI. Under his leadership a charter service was held on November 2, 1947 and 40 members signed the charter. Over the next year under Pastor Wietelmann the church was built and dedicated. The following year saw the membership increase to 180 and an additional service added. In 1961, after 14 dedicated years of ministry, Pastor Wietelmann left Good Shepherd, leaving behind many lifelong friends and memories.

Pastor Wietelmann became an assistant to Dr. Norman Menter who was President of the Michigan District of the American Lutheran Church (1961-1967) and then went on to become President (Bishop) of the Michigan District (1967-1978). Upon leaving the Michigan District office he returned to Pastoring another congregation, yet another Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, this time in Kettering, OH (1978-1983).

After retirement he provided interim or assisting ministry to eight congregations throughout Ohio. In his 65 years of ministry Bob served the community and church in many ways, including scout leader, probation officer, local clergy associations, district and national church committees. In 1968 he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Capital University. In 1970 he was a delegate to the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Evian, France.

From 1976-1980 Bob was a member and co-chairman of the National

Lutheran/Episcopal Dialogue II. In 1973, a sabbatical provided him the opportunity to visit and witness the work of the Lutheran World Federation Churches throughout the world. This strongly influenced his interest and concern for the global witness and social mission of the Church. He remained a faithful servant of our Lord until he entered eternal life on December 21, 2011.

In January of 2012, the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Royal Oak decided to honor Pastor Wietelmann by establishing a scholarship fund in his name. This fund will provide financial assistance to students who are also faithful active members of their ELCA congregations for many years to come.

Donations to the Wietelmann scholarship are welcome and may be sent to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 814 N. Campbell, Royal Oak, MI 47067 (attn. Scholarship). Applications for eligible qualified students are available on the Good Shepherd website.