

Dear Friends at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church,

Congratulations on the 75th Anniversary of your church. We share this joy with you.

Our parents, Rev. Ervin and Gertrude Schlachtenhaufen, served Windsor Heights Lutheran Church from 1954 until 1970. Our family....five boys and I, the only girl...essentially grew up in Des Moines and Windsor Heights Lutheran Church. Every part of our lives was wrapped in the WHLC community in those years....softball and basketball teams, Luther League, Sunday School, confirmation class and the list goes on.

Our home, the parsonage, was essentially part of the church. Dad's office was next to the Livingroom and people from the church and beyond came to see him. I remember hearing Dad at the typewriter for hours and then going to the basement where there was a mimeograph machine to make copies. Folding bulletins was part of our Saturday night ritual.

I think our dad was a wonderful pastor. His kids thought he could do anything even capture the hearts and minds of the congregation on Sunday morning. His creativity led him to help let down some of the barriers of old practices. He used drama to tell stories during Lent. He erected a huge cross on the church grounds which stood throughout Lent and then was secretly decorated the night before Easter. He organized outdoor services even helping to haul the organ to Greenwood Park. He organized work parties, Easter egg hunts, and much more.

After leaving Des Moines, our parents moved to northern Wisconsin where they lived until late in their lives. Their support of Lutheran World Relief and other local and global ministries never waned. The last years were spent in Vancouver, Washington where my husband, also a pastor, and I live. My Mom taught me how to be pastor's wife so like her I entertain the church council, teach Sunday School, host coffee hour and even help paint the church. By the way, Mom's Sunday School class was for special needs kids. She served them in many special ways for years. Dad died at the age of 93 and Mom lived to be 98 years old. She volunteered at our church until the last 6 months of her life.

After graduating from Roosevelt High School, the six of us kids moved on to do our own version of ministry throughout the United States. Paul earned a law degree from Columbia University and moved to Seattle where he served the community in a myriad of ways including as a Dean at the University of Washington and Mayor of that great city. John earned his Master's Degree from Dartmouth's Tuck Thayer and entered the business world. He moved to Rochester, NY and then on to Connecticut. His service in Darien includes working with the homeless and several community beautification programs. Joel graduated from Drake and Wartburg Seminary. His service with the Native Americans, refugees, and Transylvanian Lutherans has been a special focus of his ministry. He lives in Neenah, Wisconsin, where he served a parish. I moved to Seattle after college, received an MA from the University of Washington and taught

there for 25 years. I married a pastor and moved to Vancouver, WA, where I ended my teaching career. Most of my volunteer work involves serving the homeless in Vancouver and teaching ESL in China. Dan graduated from Texas Lutheran, moved to Denver, and enjoyed a very successful career at Church Mutual Insurance. His involvements include serving on the board of chinaconnect and supporting Joel's work in Romania. Roy graduated from SUI and Drake Law School. He worked for US Bank for many years helping people with their investments. He lives in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he serves the community in several capacities as a board member and volunteer, and is the primary caretaker of Mom and Dad's lake home which we all enjoy. All of us married and most have kids who are also mostly married. There were 53 of us children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We have lost two, Paul and our nephew, Jeff. Both were amazing men who served others until the end.

We all have such wonderful memories of Windsor Heights Lutheran. It helped to shape and form us. It helped to give us roots and wings!

May God bless you all and the work you do in your corner of the world. You have and are making a difference in the lives of many! Keep on serving. This broken world needs you.

Most Sincerely,
Tally Sally Schlachtenhaufen Aalbue
For my brothers, Paul, John, Joel, Dan and Roy