

Larry and Ethel Thompson
Tree Dedication
May 19, 2018
Biography Presented by Bob Johnson



Ethel and Larry met at Dakota Lutheran High School, a boarding school which ran in Minot from 1948 to the late 1970s. Ethel went on to St. Olaf getting a four-year Registered Nursing Degree, while Larry attended one year at the Lutheran Bible Institute, Minneapolis before graduating from Concordia College, Moorhead. They were married June 3, 1959. They have two daughters Rachel Joy and Lois Rene.

Larry attended Luther Seminary in Minnesota and was ordained in 1963 at Shelly Lutheran, a few miles from where he was born north of Halstad, Minnesota. His home church, Marsh River Lutheran burned down and the congregation joined with Shelly. Larry's father, a Pastor had been ordained here in 1945 and accepted a call to a 5 point parish at Coulee, ND. Today all five of those congregations have been closed.

The Thompsons went on to serve five parishes, Medicine Lake and Rudyard, Montana, Camano Island and Connell, Washington and Hazel Run, Minnesota.

In 1988 Larry left the parish ministry to get a M.A. Degree in Archives and Records Management. This led to a 10 year stint on the faculty of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois as College Archivist and Curator of Special Collections in Buswell Library.

After this wonderful hiatus in an "old books home" Larry returned to parish ministry, retiring to Arlington, WA in 2002. Here they were near daughter Lois. Soon after this Lois' family went to work for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Nepal and later to Bangkok, Thailand. In 2002 they moved to Bismarck.

Ethel has had a passion for quilting, most quilts going to Lutheran World Relief. To this she has added the creation of fleece tug toys.

Larry's hobbies include reading, historical research, and genealogy. Larry belongs to two Norwegian-American bygdelags, Tronderlag (maternal side) and Vestlandslag (paternal side). In 2003 they took their two daughters and grandson to visit Norway.

Their volunteer service includes church choir and church work. In addition both Ethel and Larry were active members of the Sons of Norway choir, and he often participated as a pastor in the Sons of Norway memorial services. They were truly a part of the giving population and appreciated the wonderful friends they have made through lodge activities. They are most deserving of be honored with a tree dedicated in their name in the Sons of Norway Park