

THE COST IN PASTORS, PROFESSORS, TEACHERS, AND COMMUNICANTS  
IN CONNECTION WITH OUR SEVERANCE OF FELLOWSHIP WITH THE  
MISSOURI SYNOD.

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Church History

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WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

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When I first chose this topic I had no idea that it would be as difficult as it turned out to be to find the statistics on those who withdrew from the Wisconsin Synod before and after our split with the Missouri Synod. I must admit, that the research was rather interesting but it did become rather tedious at times.

I gathered the statistics from a combination of sources. I received some information from President Naumann and then checked his information with that which is listed in the District Proceedings for the nine districts of the Synod. The District Proceedings were the main source of my information combined with the statistical reports of various years.

I'm sure that you will notice that the communicant count of withdrawing congregations is incomplete. Even by searching the statistical reports of those years this could not be determined accurately because, in some cases, a few people withdrew with the pastor, in other cases some members remained with the Wisconsin Synod by joining neighboring congregations or organized a new congregation.

You will also notice that some people who left came back as did a congregation here and there. I tried to note as many of these as was possible but I may have missed some who did return.

On the following pages you will find my findings as to the number of pastor, professors, teachers and

communicants who left our synod as a result of our fellowship with the Missouri Synod or because we broke fellowship with the Missouri Synod.

Some of the years are combined to make it easier to follow and some pastors left the synod in the year before they are listed because they are listed in the year that their withdrawal is reported.

1957-1958

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS</u>	<u>COMMUNICANTS</u>
Minnesota	Rev. Gerv. Fischer, Mankato Rev. Gordon Radtke, Mankato Immanuel Congregation Rev. Geo. Barthels, Red Wing	ca. 84 Com.
Pac. N.W.	Missionary Fred Tiefel, Tokyo Japanese Christians Rev. M. J. Witt, Spokane, Wash. Trinity Congregation Rev. Robert Dommer, Opportunity Gethsemane Congregation Rev. Ivan Zarling, Shadle Park Shadle Park Congregation Rev. Waldemar Karnitz, Spokane St James Congregation Rev. Leonard Bernthal, Clarkston Orifino, Idaho St. John's Congregation Peace Congregation Rev. Gilbert Sydow, Ellensberg	100 Com. 32 Com. 46 Com. 17 Com. 67 Com. 30 Com. ca. 12 Com.
W. Wis.	Rev. Paul Prueter, Viroqua Rev. Orrin Falk, Plum City Rev. Robert Mackensen, Warrens	10 Com. Ca. 18 Com. ca. 20 Com.
Mich.	Rev. Ralph Shaller, Coloma	ca. 75 Com.
Dak-Mont.	Rev. Marvin Eibs, Ipswich Summit (T. C. Nazarene) Rev. J. Greve, Lemmon Lemmon Congregation Rev. C. Hanson, Florence & Henry Rev. H. Rutz, Jamestown, No. Dak. Jamestown Congregation	100Com. 200Com.
Nebraska	Rev. O. W. Eckert, Winner, So. Dak. Rev. Ken. Hallauer, Mission So. Dak. Whiteriver, So. Dak. Congregation Rev. W. Shaller Jr., Cheyenne Cheyenne Congregation Rev. Dan. DeRose, Denver Rev. N. Carlson, Denver (later returned for a short stint)	ca. 60 Com. ca. 15 Com. 50 Com. 50 Com. 20 Com. 12 Com.
Ariz-Cal.	None	

PROFESSORS

S. E. Wis.	Prof. Edmund Reim, Thiensville
No. Wis.	Prof. W. Shaller, Sr., Winnebago Ac.

TEACHERS(1957-1958)

W. Wis. Teacher Roger Hagen, Medford  
Minne. Teacher Alvin Sieg, Red Wing  
Teacher Walmar Voigt, RedWing  
Nebraska Teacher Leroy Hulke, Mission, So. Dak.  
Teacher Edmund Baer, Valentine, Nebr.

1959

PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS

W. Wis. Rev. Jonathan Shaller, Stoddard 14 Com.  
Rev. John Lau, Onalaska 14 Com.  
Rev J. B. Erhart, St. Louis(later returned)  
N. Wis. Rev. Robert Reim, Fond du Lac  
Rev. Geo. Tiefel, Stambaugh, Mich.  
Rev. Bertram Naumann, Marquette  
Marquette Congregation 84 Com.  
Green Garden Congregation 205 Com.  
Rev. Waldemar Schuetze, Fond du Lac  
Rev. Gerhard Pieper, Fond du Lac  
Minne. Pastor Roland Gurgel, Belle Plaine  
Rev. Rollin Reim, New Olm ca. 20 Com.  
Rev. Egbert Shaller, Nicollet ca. 15 Com.  
Rev. Paul Nolting, Sleepy Eye ca. 100 Com.  
Mich. Rev. O. J. Eckert, Saginaw ca. 50 Com.  
Dak-Mont. Rev. Albert Sippert, Hidewood 12 Com.  
Rev. Christ Albrecht, Grover 40 Com.  
Rev. Paul Albrecht, Bowdle ca. 150 Com.  
Rev. Leland Grams, Faulkton  
Faulkton Congregation 67 Com.  
Nebraska Rev. H.P. Bauer, North Platte, ca. 15 Com.  
(later returned)  
Ariz-Cal. Rev. Wm. H. Wiedenmeyer, Phoenix  
(later returned)  
Pac. N. W. 3 Com.

PROFESSORS(1959)

N. Wis, Prof. James Pelz, Winnebago Ac.  
Prof. Paul Kock, Fox Valley High  
Prof. Ronald Roehl, Fox Valley High

Minne. Prof. Martin Galstead, DMLC

TEACHERS

S.E. Wis. Teacher Ruth Shaller

N. Wis. Teacher Gerhard Mueller, Fond du lac

1960-1961

PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS

S.E. Wis. None

W. Wis. Rev. J.B. Ebbart(later returned)

N. Wis. Rev. Egbert Albrecht, Manchester & Marquette  
St. Paul, Manchester & St. Paul, Marquette ca. 525 Com.  
St. Peter's Congregation, Stambaugh ca. 90 Com.

Minne. Rev. H.C. Duehlmier, Sanborn  
Rev. Elton Hallauer, Hancock  
Rev. L.W. Schierenbeck, Austin  
St. Paul's Congregation ca. 230 Com.  
Rev. Harland Reed

Mich. Rev. Elmer Boniek

Dak-Mont. None

Nebraska None

Ariz-Cal. Rev. Joel Gerlach(suspension later lifted)  
Grace, Warren, Arizona ca. 25 Com.

Pac. N.W. None

PROFESSORS

N. Wis. Prof. Norbert Reim, Nigeria, Africa

1960-1961 cont.  
TEACHERS

N. Wis. Teacher Dorothy Schmolske  
St. Peter's Congregation, Fond du Lac ca. 400 Com.

Ariz-Cal. Teacher Donald Peterson, East Fork  
Teacher Lois Sorgatz, East Fork

1962

PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS

Dak-Mont. Rev. J. Johannes, *Isabelle* to CLC

Mich. Rev. R. Voss  
Salem Church, Coloma to Missouri  
Rev. Ch. Boeder  
St. Paul's Church, Hale to Missouri  
Our Savior Congregation, Glennie to Missouri

Minne. Rev. Karl Brandl to CLC  
Rev. E.R. Bewald to Missouri  
St. John's Congregation, Buffalo

Nebraska Rev. Arthur Clement (later returned) to CLC  
Rev. Victor Tiefel  
St. Luke's, Denver to CLC  
Trinity, Deer Trail to CLC  
Rev. Herbert Witt, Valentine to CLC  
Rev. Carl Thurow, Lamar to CLC  
Mount Olive Congregation

W. Wis. Rev. Edwin Becker, Cameron  
Bethany, Bruce & St. John's Congregation to Missouri  
Rev. Adelbert Geiger, Cambridge to CLC  
Rev. E. Geistfeld, Winona to Missouri  
St. Martin's Congregation to Missouri  
Rev. R. Korn (retired) to Missouri  
Rev. D. Schmiehl to Missouri  
Rev. John Schaadt, Tomahawk to Missouri  
St Paul's Congregation to Missouri  
Rev. Theo. Zaremba, Barron to Missouri  
St John's Congregation, Rice Lake to Missouri  
Rev. A. Pautsch  
Rev. R. Utti  
St. John's, Bay City & Immanuel, Plum City to Missouri

1962 cont.

TEACHERS

Nebraska	Teacher Shirley Wendland, Clatonia	to CLC
W. Wis.	Teacher G. Voigt	to CLC

PROFESSORS

None

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ca. 3,167 Com.

1963-1964

PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS

Dak-Mont.	Rev. J. Carl Hillmer	to Missouri
Mich.	Rev. Leonard Newman	to Missouri
	Rev. Lyle Rasch	To Missouri
	Rev. Herbert Walther	to Missouri
	Rev. Daniel Jungkuntz	to Missouri
	Rev. Martin Bradtke (later returned)	to Missouri
Minne.	Rev. Willard Kehrberg	to Missouri
	Rev. C. Wm. A. Kuehner	
	Rev. Herman A. Mutterer	to Missouri
S.E. Wis.	Rev. Waldemar Sauer	
	St John's Congregation, West Bend	To Missouri
	Rev. William Lehman	
	St. John's Congregation, Libertyville	to Missouri
W. Wis.	Rev. Carl Broecker	to Missouri
	Rev. G. Marquardt (later returned)	to Missouri
	Rev. E. Prenzlow Jr.	to Missouri
	Rev. Traugott Bradtke	
	Christ Congregation, Marshfield	to Missouri

PROFESSORS

W. Wis.	Prof. Hilton Oswald	to Missouri
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TEACHERS

None

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ca. 2,288 Com.



TOTALS

YEARLY

RUNNING

1957-1958

Pastors 22  
Professors 2  
Teachers 5  
Communicants 918

1959

thru 1959

Pastors 19  
Professors 4  
Teachers 2  
Communicants 789

Pastors 41  
Professors 6  
Teachers 7  
Communicants 1701

1960-1961

thru 1961

Pastors 8  
Professors 1  
Teachers 3  
Communicants 870

Pastors 49  
Professors 7  
Teachers 10  
Communicants 2577

1962

thru 1962

Pastors 18  
Professors 0  
Teachers 2  
Communicants 3200

Pastors 67  
Professors 7  
Teachers 12  
Communicants 5777

1963-1964

thru 1964

Pastors 15  
Professors 1  
Teachers 0  
Communicants 2288

Pastors 82  
Professors 8  
Teachers 12  
Communicants 7065

4065

It is very hard to draw any earthshaking conclusions from the material that I have gathered because the figures of the communicants are not as accurate as one would like them to be. I suppose one could have written to the congregations involved in withdrawals from the synod but that would hardly be worth the effort. The total number of communicants that we lost that I have is, I think, a fairly representative number although it may be a bit low.

It is clear from the statistics that, as a general rule, those who left WELS before 1961 did so because we did not break with Missouri sooner. Those who left before 1961 generally, but not always, joined the little synod which former WELS men organized, the Confessional Lutherna Church. For a year or so after 1961 some were still going to CLC, but mostly they went to Missouri. Of course, this is speaking generally and there are always exceptions such as the congregations who left us and remained independent. There were also some pastors who retired and withdrew from WELS and then did not join with any synod.

It also seems to me that more pastors joined the CLC than did Missouri, but the total number of communicants is about equally divided. The larger congregations joined Missouri in most cases while in many other cases in regard to those who joined CLC the congregations split up and not all or even the majority of the members went with the pastor.

I suppose the thing that surprised me most in

compiling these statistics is the great number of pastors and communicants that did leave the WELS. For some reason I was under the impression that the total number was much smaller. Though the total number which left was not a very high percentage of the WELS it still must have been quite disturbing to many of the members of the Wisconsin Synod to see their brethern leaving fellowship with them.

One can also see the the Lord has richly blessed our synod in spite of those who left, in spite on the stife that may have been created because of our breaking or not breaking with the Missouri Synod. The Lord continually blessed our mission efforts at this time and many souls were added to His church. In 1961 our synod had congregations in only sixteen states and the number of states had grown to forty by 1973. It certainly is obvious that the Lord has blessed us beyond measure in this difficult time of withdrawal of congregations from our midsts. It must be said that many of these new mission fields were opened up by the families and groups of families that left the Missouri Synod during this time of unrest.

When we look at the statistics in this light it is readily apparent that no matter what it may cost in numbers, be it seven thousand or seventy thousand, a church body must stand fast on the pure doctrine of Scripture. Cost should never sway us to relinquish the truth of the Word of God..It is far, far better to lose a few who leave because we stand fast on Holy Scripture rather than sacrificing Scriptural principals rather than

placing the souls which are entrusted to our care in danger. Yes, it did cost our synod first because we did not break fellowship with Missouri and then because we did, but it might have cost us much more had we given in to either side and relinquished our pure doctrine.

What do the statistics that I have compiled prove? If they prove nothing else, they clearly show that God abundantly blesses those who stand fast on His Word in spite of the work of the devil, the pressures of this world, and the frailties of man.