


2012

Remembering for the Future

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Recommended Citation

Leask, Margaret (2012) "Remembering for the Future," *Consensus*: Vol. 34 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.
Available at: <http://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus/vol34/iss1/1>

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Foreward

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary/Wilfrid Laurier University at 100/Eastern Synod of the ELCIC at 150: Remembering for the Future

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The phrase “Inspiring Lives of Leadership and Purpose” defined centennial celebrations for Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and Wilfrid Laurier University during the academic year of 2010-11. In this issue of Consensus Paul Helmer, musicologist and professor emeritus from McGill University, provides the text of his lecture-recital on the legacy of “Ulrich Siegfried Leupold, 1909-70: Waterloo’s Unknown Genius.” It was given at Keffer Chapel on Saturday, March 5th. The Rev. Karen Kuhnert, anniversary archivist, has contributed an article on her research in the Synod Archives and working with Lutheran congregations to prepare for the concurrent centennial anniversary and sesquicentennial anniversary of the Lutheran Eastern Synod. She and her team of volunteers organized photographs, news stories, reports and memorabilia into attractive displays by the decades for the March 5th open house at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Marge Watters Knebel, chair of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Board, has presented a report on the Seminary’s plan for its future development. The three articles spell out the purpose of the university’s centennial motto and of the motto adopted by the anniversary planning committee which organized the Lutheran centennial and sesquicentennial events: “Remembering for the Future.”

The anniversary year committee - Bishop Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; the Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer, Principal Dean of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary; the Rev. Karen Kuhnert, anniversary archivist; and Debbie Lou Ludolph, director of Worship Ministries and of the Kanata Centre of Worship and Global Song, Dean of Chapel – organized a program of celebrations marking the era between Adam Keffer’s two long treks to the Philadelphia Synod in 1849 and 1850 in search of pastors for Waterloo region and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary’s recent initiative to develop its new undergraduate program in Christian Studies and Global Citizenship. The anniversary year opened on November 4th and 5th, 2010, with “Remembering for the Future: A Musical Play” written and directed by Leslie O’Dell, professor of English at Wilfrid Laurier University. It tells the story of 150 years of Lutheran history in the Eastern Synod. In March the Seminary hosted “The Leupold Legacy: Inspiring Lives of Leadership and Purpose.” The year of centennial and sesquicentennial anniversaries concluded on Sunday, October 23rd, 2011, at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Kitchener with a service of

celebration, “Retell, Reclaim, Rejoice”, featuring J. S. Bach’s Cantata No. 80, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” sung by a mass choir representing congregations across the Eastern Synod.

“Ulrich Siegfried Leupold, 1909-70: Waterloo’s Unknown Genius”

In his lecture Dr. Paul Helmer demonstrates how Ulrich S. Leupold epitomized the centennial motto “Inspiring Lives of Leadership and Purpose.” It covers three distinct periods in Dr. Leupold’s life, beginning with the story of his Christian-Jewish family, his studies in the emerging field of musicology, and his early career in music and theology amid turmoil in Germany in the mid-1930s. The second part of the lecture tracks, briefly, the risks and compassion he experienced during 1938-39 in England and Ohio before coming to St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in Kitchener where he was ordained by the Canada Synod.

The third section demonstrates how Ulrich Leupold returned to Waterloo, following a wartime pastorate in central Ontario, as professor of music, New Testament and Greek at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary where he served as Dean for most of his teaching career, setting up the Department of Music for Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and Waterloo College and publishing articles on theology and pastoral issues for the Canadian Lutheran and other periodicals. He called on his knowledge of music, theology, Greek and pastoral ministry to build graduate studies in divinity at Waterloo Seminary, and he guided Waterloo College into full status as Waterloo Lutheran University. His life of “leadership and purpose” modeled a record of scholarship and publication, extraordinary teaching, service on national and international academic and church committees, while attentive to students, colleagues, family and community.

Paul Helmer chose as illustrations representative pieces of organ music, liturgical responses, choral arrangements and a congregational song related to the life and work of Ulrich Leupold. The music illustrations included two compositions by his composer/organist father Anton Wilhelm Leupold, liturgical responses from the younger Leupold’s doctoral dissertation, and examples of his choral music and a Tanzanian congregational song performed by the Alumni Choir, the Chapel Choir, and the Leupold Chorale along with guest musicians including faculty, alumni and current students from the Faculty of Music and the Seminary.

Following the lecture Bishop William Huras and Mark Leupold (son) paid personal tributes to the memory of Ulrich Leupold. The organizing committee included: Debbie Lou Ludolph, chair of the Anniversary Committee, Karen Kuhnert, acting archivist for the Eastern Lutheran Synod and the Seminary, Elvera Froese, Chapel Choir conductor and director of music for the anniversary, David Hall, university organist, Julia Hendry, Wilfrid

Laurier University archivist, Karen Gastmeier and Scott Knarr, publicity, Kathy Mauer, co-chair of the Alumni Choir, and Margaret Leask, committee chair.