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# In Memoriam: Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Hordern

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## In Memoriam

### Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Hordern

**T**he Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Hordern died on Sunday, at the age of 94 years. He was the first president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, a merger of the Lutheran College and Seminary and Luther Seminary Saskatoon, from 1966-1985. Dr Hordern graduated with a B.D. from St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon in 1945 and served the Marsden-Neilburg United Church parish from 1943-1945. He married Marjorie Joyce in 1944 and together they had three children, Richard (Nancy), Joyce (Randy Zutter), and Davis. Marjorie passed away in 2002 and Joyce in 2010. Of all his accomplishments, he treasured most his family.

Bill earned an STM at Union Theological Seminary, New York in 1946 (writing a thesis on "The Theology of the Social Gospel"), and a ThD from Union in 1951 (writing a dissertation on "Marxian and Christian Views of History"). While in New York, he joined the Lutheran Church, and served as an assistant pastor in a Lutheran congregation. As a graduate student at Union he served as a teaching assistant to both Paul Tillich and Reinhold Niebuhr, who was also his doctoral advisor. He later taught at Swarthmore College and Garrett Theological Seminary in the United States, before taking the call to serve as the president of LTS. His influence has been noted by noted theologians such as James Cone, and he was a founding president of the American Academy of Religion. A chair of theology was established in his honour in 2010, celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He was a world-renowned theologian, and a prolific author, with books such as *A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology*, *Living by Grace*, *The Case for a New Reformation Theology*, *Experience and Faith: The Significance of Luther for Understanding Today's Experiential Religion*, *Speaking of God*, and, with Frederick Dale Bruner, *The Holy Spirit: Shy Member of the Trinity*.