

## The Reverend David R. Shaheen



## The Reverend Leonard F. Ashford

My mother told the story of overhearing me say as I walked past the open coffin of Pastor Floyd Eichner that I wanted to be like him one day. Her continued encouragement along with the Spirit of the Lord led me toward ordination. Initially I served sixteen years in the parish. First at Kempton-Stony Run, then at St. Paul's Mountaintop and finally at Messiah Bethlehem.

The next twenty-two years placed me in a variety of ministries all around the areas of major gift fundraising and financial planning. I began with the Office of Administration and Finance of the LCA in NYC which took me to synods and congregations east of the Mississippi.

I then moved on to developing fundraising opportunities with social service agencies such as The Lutheran Home at Germantown, the Artman Home and Lutheran Social Services of New Jersey. I also worked with Muhlenberg College, where I met my wife Sandra, who taught Art History and headed the Art Gallery. Fundraising also led me to Cedar Crest College and Villanova University. I worked briefly with Cooper Medical Center in Camden before my last development work with LTSP. I retired in 2006. These years gave me a great wealth of interaction with the priesthood of all believers in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sandra fell in 2005 resulting in a Spinal Cord Injury. Rehab in the States was limited. Since Sandra's family is Icelandic it seemed most prudent and practical to resettle in Iceland. We have been here since late 2007 and the Icelandic State Health Care System continues to work with and for her without question.

Since the Lutheran Church of Iceland is the national church it has been easy to become involved with assisting in worship services. Tourism has now become important to Iceland and I have found ways to work with English speaking tourists. My Icelandic is far from great but most speak English which makes life much easier. There are possibilities of working with the Red Cross and immigrants, but this is still under consideration.

The Joy in Christ holds us more firmly every day and therefore our cup of life is always filled to overflowing.

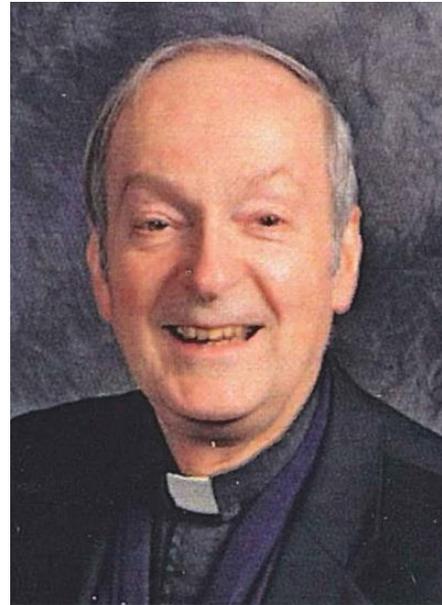


## **The Reverend Thomas T. Kochenderfer**

After graduation from LTSP in 1968, I was ordained by the Rev. Samuel Kidd at St. John's Lutheran Church in Easton.

My first call was to Mediator Lutheran Church in North Philadelphia at 28th and Cambria Sts. I was fortunate to be there at a time when the neighborhood was filled with young families with wonderful children. I stayed there five and a half years.

My second call was to Tabernacle Lutheran Church in West Philadelphia at 59th and Spruce Sts. Again the neighborhood was filled with lots of great young people. At one point Tabernacle had the best choir of any Lutheran Church in the Central District. We also had a great Get Set Center there. I stayed there eleven and a half years.



My third and last call was to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Audubon. We had a fine Nursery School and Sunday School there. We built a new church and bought the property next door to facilitate new growth. I stayed there 23 years.

At various times I have served on the Synod Worship Committee and the Bear Creek Camp Board. I served as the Dean of the Central District. I was the preacher for one of the Synod's ordination Services when it was held at Calvary, West Chester. I can't remember the year. I served as the M.C. at Bishop Hand's funeral.

I now serve as the Visitation Pastor for Augustus Church in Trappe and St. John's Church in Phoenixville. I also do a little supply preaching from time to time.

I am now doing something a bit different. I do a re-enactment program of stories from the life of Henry Muhlenberg. This grew out of serving as a docent at the Muhlenberg House in Trappe. Our people know about Luther and Castle Church, but most know very little about Muhlenberg and the struggle for Lutheran people to get settled in colonial America. It is wonderful story about overcoming extreme poverty, and striving for tolerance and diversity.

I enjoyed my life in the ministry and I am grateful to all the people that made it possible



## **THE REVEREND SOENKE B. R. SCHMIDT-LANGE**



Born in Munich, Germany, I grew up in Graz, Austria, and in Bielefeld, Hannover and Osnabrück, Germany. In my youth I was active as a member and leader in Lutheran youth organizations. I went through the rigorous system of education and training required for pastors in the Lutheran Church of Hannover, Germany, including studies at Bethel Seminary, the universities of Tübingen, Marburg and Göttingen and the Lutheran Preachers' Seminary in Pullach near Munich.

The practical work included pastor internships (Vikar) in German congregations in London and other cities in England and in Hannover. My first call was to Christus-Kirche (Christ Lutheran Church) in Leer in the far

northwest corner of Germany where I was ordained on May 23, 1968.

In 1969 I received a World Council of Churches fellowship for post-graduate studies in Dallas, TX, at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University (SMU). There I met my wife Anne, and we were married in 1970.

We lived the following year in Champaign-Urbana, IL, where Anne attended graduate school at the University of Illinois. I served as interim pastor of a local Lutheran congregation and assisted in Lutheran Campus Ministries.

Returning to northern Germany I served in Bovenden, a suburb of Göttingen for about ten years. In 1981 I accepted a call to Toronto, Canada, to serve as overseas pastor for the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) in Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church in Toronto.

In 1987, also as a pastor in the German churches' overseas ministry, I was called as pastor of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Paul on West 22nd Street in New York City and stayed there until 2002. This ministry included work with expatriates as well as German speaking Lutheran residents, also teaching religious education at the German International School New York.

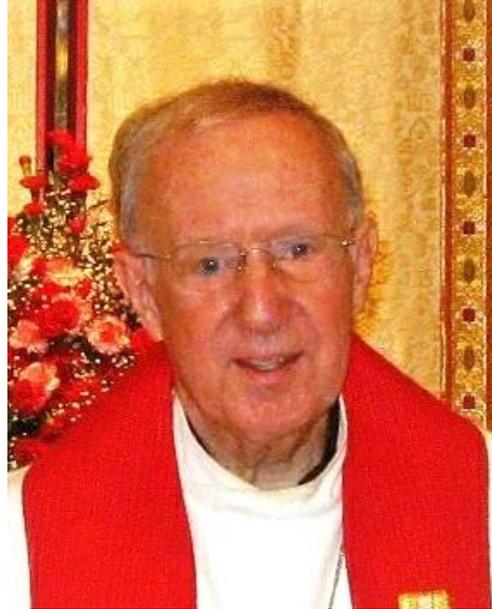
In 2003, I accepted a call to the bilingual English-German ministry of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Somerton section of NE Philadelphia, and I retired in 2013.

Since 1981 I have participated in German language ministry in North America through the German Lutheran Conference of the ELCA and ELCIC (DELKINA). Today I volunteer at the Immanuel German Language School in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Protestant Home, the work with seafarers, refugees and asylum seekers through Seafarers International House (ELCA) in New York. Anne and I led our Synod's 2016 Lutherland-Tour. – Our three children were born in Germany. They, their spouses and our five grandchildren live in Pennsylvania and in Florida.



## THE REVEREND JOHN SMOLIK

I was raised in the Bronx, New York City, by parents who were faithful Lutheran Church goers. It was a small Slovak Church, with bilingual worship services, that baked the best apple strudel and nut roll you ever tasted. My family attended Billy Graham Crusades in Madison Square Garden in the fifties and John Kress, my Junior High Sunday school teacher, encouraged me to consider the ministry. In High School my Jewish history teacher introduced me to reading the Sunday N. Y. Times and fostered a concern for social issues.



Wagner College provided an education in philosophy and psychology with weekly chapel, challenges and growth in my faith development. Mt. Airy Seminary and graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, in philosophy provided my career path to ordination in May of 1968. Internship involved assisting the Rev. William Wagoner at the University of Pennsylvania Student Association and Rev. Walter Harrison at the Germantown Home. I married a Staten Islander, Joanne (fifty-two years but who's counting) we raised two children Chris and Stephanie. We are blessed with having them live near us enabling us to have close contact with our grandchildren Ryan and Kelly.

Grace Lutheran Church, in Norristown, was my first call as Assistant Pastor with the Rev. Asa Wohlsen for two years. I am presently serving my forty-eighth year as Pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Pottstown. I have served our SEPA synod as Dean of the Trappe District, Treasurer of the Upper Montgomery Lutheran Conference and served on numerous synodical committees: Social ministry, Stewardship, Cardinals Commission on Roman Catholic and Lutheran Relations, Czech Relations, and Strength for Mission District Director. Pottstown has provided involvement as President of the Pottstown Clergy Association, Convener of the Pottstown Lutheran Cluster, eleven years Coordinator of the Tri-County Grief Support Group (meeting twice a month) and seventeen years on the Home Health Care Board overseeing three Visiting Nurse Associations.

My love of the parish, ministry to members and community causes me to continue to be at St. Peter's. During my ministry the church retired indebtedness of the Christian Ed building and parsonage, and making the buildings handicap accessible. We are serving the community by providing facilities for preschool and an Alternative School and serving community meals. For twelve years we were one of two county community food banks. Presently, we are concluding a Capital Campaign which members have graciously supported. Weekly preaching, pastoral care of families who I have baptized, confirmed, married and buried is rewarding. Being the longest serving parish pastor in our conference is humbling.

I have been blessed with good health, a wonderful wife, and members who support my ministry to Learn, Celebrate, and Express the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

