LUTHER COLLEGE
CLASS OF 1965
50th Anniversary Celebration

Homecoming 2015
October 16-18
TO LUTHER

To Luther let us sing
A joyous song of love and cheer,
May our voices loudly ring
In praise of Alma Mater dear.

Thy mem’ry dear we’ll cherish
And ever recollect thy care.
That thy fame may never perish
Is the burden of our prayer.

Our hearts are light and free
Whene’er we to Old Luther sing;
May she now and ever be
Faithful to our Heavenly King!

Chorus
May our thoughts to thee oft turn
When we’re absent far away
May we then sincerely yearn
To return to thee some day.

Tune: “There’s Music in the Air”

“PRI SEC”

Pri-sec-ter-qua
Hoopla! Boomla!
We yell Luther
Zip! Bang! Rah! Rah!

FIELD SONG

Our team goes in to fight and win,
The spirit of old drives them on.
With a “Pri Sec” shout
We all come out
To yell for Luther who wins today.
And Luther’s team is strong;
They fight as long
As victory hangs in doubt,
Opponents fall
‘Fore Luther’s wall,
All hail to our College dear!
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Beverly (Burkum) Allert

Spouse Name:  Bill Allert, deceased

Address:  1842 N Abner Circle, Mesa, AZ 85205

Phone:  (480) 641-1860

Email:  B2allert@aol.com

"Pip" Qualley and Ruth Mostrum were my favorite professors. Special memories are getting an A+ on a paper from Robert Jenson in philosophy, standing outside in the cold, while watching the gymnasium burn, and singing in Messiah.

This year I'm celebrating the 40th anniversary of my ordination in the ELCA. My husband and I were a team ministry until his death several years ago. Both of our sons are ELCA pastors. I retired in '03, and am now living in Mesa, Arizona.

I have travelled to all seven continents (including Antarctica), all 50 states, and all of the National Parks in the lower 48. My travel companion many times has been my college roommate, Mary Niebuhr. My advice would be to visit, and work to save the National Parks. They are the best gift to our country. Travel as much as you can. It will add exponentially to your education, and you will be living in a global economy much more than the class of '65. Keep your mind open and active. Don't take life too seriously. Mix in a lot of fun! Cherish those you love and those who love you. Live in the present, and create special moments to remember.
Barbara (Moen) Amundson

Spouse Name: Richard A. Amundson ’64

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After graduation, my first teaching position was in Minneapolis. Richard Amundson, a 1964 Luther graduate, and I were married in 1966, and we moved to Utica, New York. We moved to Decorah in 1967 where he owned Amundson's Clothing and I taught elementary school. We have three children and five grandchildren who absolutely love to visit us in Decorah. They love the swimming pool, the parks, the trails, the library, and the Whippy Dip!

We have a cabin in Wisconsin where we spend time year-round enjoying the beauty of the seasons. I retired after 25 years of teaching in schools in Minnesota, New York, and Decorah. Rich sold the store a few years ago and now we enjoy traveling to see our children and grandchildren who live in Apex, North Carolina, Lemont, Illinois, and Oak Park, Illinois. We enjoy living in Decorah with the activities at Luther and in the community; community and church activities keep us busy!

The education I received at Luther allowed me to pursue a vocation which was so fulfilling. I hope I made a difference in the lives of the children whose lives I touched.
Rebecca “Becky” (Simmering) Anderson

Spouse Name: Wayne Anderson

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I am the mother of three living children and one deceased child. My husband, Wayne, and I have ten grandchildren – all but two live close – so we see them on a weekly basis. Family life is good!

After 16 years of raising children, I returned to work as a social worker for the State of Minnesota. A few of my career highlights were teaching at Century College in White Bear, Minnesota, to help displaced homemakers make good career and educational choices – working with parolees from the St. Cloud Reformatory, serving on a committee for Welfare Reform for the State of Minnesota, and working with disabled and displaced workers whose jobs had been sent overseas. My career brought me a lot of personal satisfaction in knowing that maybe I helped make a difference in someone else’s life.

Since retirement, Wayne and I have been very involved with the Global Mission Team at our church, Christ the King Lutheran, in New Brighton, Minnesota. We have a companion congregation in Tanzania, Africa, and have raised money for schools, hospitals, orphanages, and helped build a new parsonage for our pastor and his family, along with improvements to eight other parish sites. Wayne and I have made two trips to Tanzania and are planning to go again with our team in January 2016. While we enjoy going on safaris, it’s the people/friends that we are eager to see again. We are blessed to be connected to Africa in such a meaningful way! Other activities since retirement include becoming a docent at our governor’s residence and serving as treasurer of the Women’s Organization at the Minnesota History Center.

My connection to Luther is strong. There are a couple of friends that I talk to on a weekly basis, and I am part of a group of LC women that get together once a year. We usually meet at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center in Carefree, Arizona, every other year – on the off year, we go other places. To celebrate our 60th birthdays, eleven of us travelled to New York City where we made a “brief” appearance on the NBC early show. In 2009, we, along with a spouse/partner, traveled to Egypt and took a River Cruise down the Nile. What great memories – and we will continue to make more!

Thank you Luther for giving me the background and resources to pursue life with enthusiasm and dedication.
I think it only fitting to start my memory contribution with the phrase “the tradition rolls on.” I will be so excited to introduce to some of you this 50th reunion, my sweet granddaughter, Haley Nelson, who is a freshman at Luther this year! Haley is the third generation for our family as her mom, our daughter Kari (Urevig) Nelson, graduated from Luther in 1993, as well as her dad, Troy Nelson. Our third daughter, Haley’s aunt, Sara (Urevig) Gross, graduated from Luther in 1998, as well as Sara’s husband, Matt Gross. Our middle daughter, Kristin, strayed: she’s a St. Olaf grad! Oops, but she turned out OK anyway! I met their father, Larry Urevig, at Luther and we traveled back to share many events during the years our daughters were at Luther.

I have so many fond memories of my years at Luther, but feel compelled to start with the endearing friendships that were made and that have stayed constant throughout the years. Especially the “girl friendships” that were made, bonding over late night conversations, coffee, a little studying, sharing hopes and dreams, fears, and concerns. What else was there to do when we had curfews and had to be in the dorms by 10:00 p.m.? And no boys were allowed in the dorms, so in retrospect, I feel that certainly added to the bonding with our female classmates. There are about 18 of us that have a tradition to gather every other year at Spirit of the Desert in Arizona to continue our late night chats, reminiscing, and tons of laughter. And thank you Luther. This is all possible due to our Luther heritage.

I think back about how different the teaching field was at the time of our graduation. I remember recruiters from Madison, Chicago, Minneapolis, and elsewhere coming to campus to interview us for teaching positions! And many of us received multiple offers and contracts being sent to us to sign for our future career – amazing memory. I started my career by teaching kindergarten in Madison, Wisconsin. (Remember teaching in three inch spikes? I do.) From there I moved to Farmington, Michigan, and continued teaching kindergarten, first-third grades, and then moved on as a reading specialist as a reading recovery teacher, which I absolutely loved! Thank you Luther.

I currently reside with my husband, Jim Atkinson, in Farmington, Michigan, for seven-eight months of the year, and then to sunny Arizona during the cold, snowy, wintry months. In Arizona, we thoroughly enjoy the Kent Finanger Golf Outing that he has sponsored for ten years that benefits the Luther Athletic Department. We enjoy traveling to Portland, Oregon, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, to spend time with those four grandchildren and have been blessed to have the three Nelson grandchildren living five minutes from us.

So to current Luther students: you are attending a quality Christian institution and I suggest you take advantage of all that it offers including the many music opportunities, theater, sports, develop your Christian faith, and cultivate deep and lasting friendships.
Lorna Lee and I did our practice teaching north of Decorah in Mabel, Minnesota, and either they liked what I did or more likely they were desperate and offered me my first teaching job. In 1966, Karen and I were married and we taught a few more years while she finished her Master’s Degree in Reading. I took the easy way out by taking a year off of teaching to be a full-time graduate student. I received my degree in the spring of 1970 and off we went to Madison, Wisconsin, where we were “born again” into a life of staunch Packer and Badger fans! I taught science in Middleton, and Karen worked with third and fourth graders in the Madison system, and once again, she was in graduate school, this time at UW Madison in library science. She worked most of her career as a librarian.

In the mid-seventies, following the Arab Oil Embargo, a colleague and I founded a home building company that specialized in super energy efficient design, and which reflected the geopolitical realities of the time. We did workshops at the UW, made brochures, newspaper articles and, of course, built houses. Our efforts were rewarded when the Capitol Community Citizens presented us with their Orchid Award for making a positive difference in Dane county housing. The company grew fast, making the workload overwhelming, so we took on another partner allowing me to concentrate on Middleton’s science students.

In 1980, Karen and I built a ten bay self-service car wash in Middleton just to make certain we would not get into any mischief by being too idle. We kept it for seventeen years and in 1994 we bought the most run-down, dilapidated, rat-infested farm one could imagine. It was perfect! It really, desperately needed something and that something was us. We both retired in 2000 and are now living a dream on 170 acres of beautiful hills and woods in Wisconsin’s Driftless area. Visitors are always welcome.
Marilyn “Molly” and Suzanne (Schwager) Baum

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Cell: (507) 261-1112
Email: mollysuebaum@aol.com

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Our years at Luther were some of our best and we treasure the friendships that have continued over the past 50 years.

Favorite Luther memories for Molly include playing basketball and baseball under Coach Pete and all the players he played with over the years. Sue's memories include the activities of Tau Delta Gamma, dorm chats, and singing in Messiah. We both enjoyed the activities of the WIMIs, especially the movies, and the talent shows.

Molly and I have lived in Climax and Chatfield, Minnesota. Molly taught geography and physical education, along with coaching basketball and baseball. I was an elementary teacher. Both of us were very happy with our career choices.

We have two sons, Brian and Kevin. Brian teaches and coaches in Chatfield, Minnesota. His wife, Stacy, also teaches in Rochester, Minnesota and they have two daughters, Sarah (14) and Alyssa (12). Kevin and his wife, Manivanh, live in Hanford, CA. He's a Correctional Officer and she's a Physician's Assistant.

We're both retired now and continue to live in Chatfield where we raised our two sons and are now enjoying the activities of our granddaughters. We spend a couple months in California during the winter months as we love the warmer temperatures and no snow. We are both very involved in church and community activities. Molly enjoys golfing, fishing, and hunting and I have had many fun get-togethers with my Luther friends over the years.

Our advice to Luther students: Make the most of your years at Luther through hard work and dedication to become the best that you can be. You, too, will make lasting friendships and be able to celebrate with them at your 50th Anniversary!
The years I spent at LC were among the most formative of my life. The leadership opportunities, the sports camaraderie, and the intellectual stimulation were priceless experiences. The 50-year reunion gives me cause to reflect on my brothers in the Kappa Phi Tau fraternity and my good friends, Fran Koch and Doug Wage, who I think about a lot, especially at a time like this. The faculty I remember most and who had a significant impact on me are Professor Harris Kaasa (religion), Professor David Johnson (sociology), and, of course, Coach Schweizer. My wife, Katie, a retired special education teacher, and I are parents of three sons and eight grandchildren, all of whom live close by. My career has involved child welfare and mental health responsibilities and providing individual psychotherapy. The past 25 years I have been teaching human development and adolescent theory/treatment. I maintain a private practice specializing in late adolescent/young adult issues and have published on the subjects. My advice for current students: master the art of the paragraph.
Looking back on the years since Luther, I realize I have led a fortunate existence – which makes me realize how lucky I am. I haven’t written or published any papers, held any high offices, served on any major boards, been asked to speak or perform at any events, performed in any choirs or any bands (by request), and in general, not faced many critical challenges.

Oh wait – there was one – I did teach physical education for five years in a Catholic elementary school. The challenging part was that I failed physical education at Luther, once, and almost twice! However, the good news is both the kids and I survived without too much permanent trauma.

Anyway, back to my life. After Luther, I married my best friend, Bruce (’66), and with the exception of seven years, part of which Bruce was in the Navy, we have spent most of our married life in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Our current residence is in Rochester, Minnesota. We were both in education – Bruce as a principal and I as a teacher. Over the course of my teaching career, I have taught or subbed in every grade, including working with gifted and talented students and alternative learning students.

The most important claim to fame is our three children, all of whom graduated from Luther: Lisa (’92), Brian (’96), and Laura (’98). All three of them and their families live close by in the Rochester area. We have seven grandchildren ranging in age from five to nineteen, and each is their own unique and individual person. Hopefully some of them will attend Luther and carry on the tradition.

Our retirement time is spent helping and being with our family. We also enjoy getting away to Wisconsin for a short or long “get-away.” We really appreciate these times and are grateful for them.

Luther, for Bruce and me, as well as our children, has provided us with not only a solid education and moral stability, but while there, we made some of the best friends that have endured the test of time. Some of my dearest friendships began at Luther and continue to this day. The memories are priceless, and together with the friendships, can never be replaced.
Dwayne Block

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Luther College deeply affected my inner life – the campus beauty and the spiritual campus life, especially the standard of excellence in the music performance department (esp. Weston Noble). The community student experience of living and sharing these aesthetic qualities filled my insides with beauty and the drive to lift up the rest of the world. Some of my favorite memories include the college band tours.

I taught instrumental music in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, at the elementary level. I helped build a fine instrumental performance program in which the junior high and senior high bands were each selected to perform at the Midwest International Band Clinic in Chicago three times. Having taught for 33 years in Oconomowoc, I received a master’s degree in music education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. I founded the Wisconsin Elementary Band Directors Association in the 1980s and also a community wind ensemble.

My wife, Joyce, and I raised a daughter, Gretchen, who is married to Frank, an investment banker. They live near London, England, with their three children, Chas, Grace, and Clay. We also raised a son, Paul, who is a Lutheran pastor in the South Bronx, New York, and is married to Theodora Brooks, an Episcopal pastor in South Bronx. They have two children, Miles and Isaiah.

We have lived in Oconomowoc since 1965. In our retirements we enjoy traveling to New York City, London, and to Naples, Florida. We spent one lovely week in Italy some time ago.

Since retiring in 1998, I have spent much time working on politics in Wisconsin. I ran for the state assembly and also the state senate, spending many hours working on various elections. I founded a local political group eight years ago, and worked closely with the Waukesha County Democratic party.
Joyce (Norum) Block

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After graduating from Luther, I married Dwayne ’65, and taught music in the Oconomowoc Public Schools for three years. Our children, Gretchen and Paul, then occupied my time for a while before I went back to teaching. This time, however, I spent teaching both music and technology. Enjoying the technology very much, I received a MS in Computer Science from Cardinal Stritch University and continued teaching technology until my retirement in 2010. Serving as music director in various churches in the last 55 years has been a very important part of my life, something I continue to do.

Gretchen Cerveny, our daughter, lives in England with her husband, Frank, and three children, Chas, Grace, and Clay. It is to our delight that Chas will be a freshman at St. Olaf in the fall of 2015 so we will see him quite often. He was accepted at Luther as well, but St. Olaf was his choice. Paul, our son, lives in New York City, with his wife, Theodora, and two children, Miles-Erik and Isaiah. Paul and Teddy are both pastors in South Bronx – Paul in the Lutheran Church and Teddy in the Episcopal Church.

My retirement from teaching came in 2010. I am enjoying my time very much. Dwayne and I spend some of our time traveling to Italy, England, New York City, and Naples, Florida. I have become certified to teach Zentangle (a meditative art form, more information can be found at www.zentangle.com) – and this keeps me quite busy teaching at an art studio in Milwaukee and various retreat centers in Wisconsin. With my Zentangle teaching partner, Don McCollum, I have written and published two books, Mindfulness in Pen and Ink and Kid Zentangle. In my spare time, I enjoy skydiving, reading, writing, biking, and maintaining my blog. Dwayne and I have lived in the same house in Oconomowoc for 45 years.
Roger Bothun

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Since graduating from Luther, I received an M.S. in accounting from Roosevelt University in Chicago. I am a Certified Public Accountant. I worked for the U.S. General Accounting Office from 1965 to 2001 as an auditor and was involved in auditing many government agency programs and contractors. After retiring, I returned to and purchased the family farm near Lanesboro, Minnesota. I am currently farming. I also served six years in the U.S. Army Reserves shortly after graduating from Luther.

Luther provided me a broad based education which helped me in my work and personal life. Dr. Berg was one of my favorite professors who helped me secure my job out of several opportunities. I am single and have traveled a lot for work, and personal, and to many domestic and international locations. My advice to current students is to study hard, stay motivated, enjoy college, and you will succeed.
After graduating from Luther, I moved to Milwaukee to work for Lutheran Social Services as a social worker, primarily in the areas of adoption, birth parent, and infant foster care counseling. I loved my job and remained there for approximately 30 years, ranging from full- to part-time employment. Following my years at Lutheran Social Services, I was privileged to work as a medical social worker/case manager for a large inner city Milwaukee hospital. I retired in 2009 at age 66 to begin a long coveted role as a grandmother.

Soon after moving to Milwaukee, I met my husband on a blind date (he’s a grad of St. Norbert College, DePere, Wisconsin). We were married in 1967. We have lived in our home in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin since the birth of our son, Chris, in 1971. Our daughter, Erin, was born in 1975. Highlights of my mom years were the destination weddings of my children – Chris and Lisa in Phuket, Thailand, and Erin and Matt in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. They were joyful and exciting events enjoyed by many friends and family. As our kids were growing up, we also had a timeshare and tried to spend a week in Puerto Vallarta nearly every year – wonderful memories.

Our greatest gift was becoming grandparents at age 66. Our son and his wife, Lisa, have a 5-year-old daughter, Olivia. They live in Chicago. Our daughter Erin and son-in-law Matt have three daughters. Adelle (6), Meara (3), and Teagan (8 months). They live five minutes from us in Wauwatosa – a major blessing! Tom and I babysit for them two afternoons a week and are fortunate to spend special times with them and their parents often.

I view my years at Luther as invaluable – not only for the education I received, but for the amazing and life-long friends I continue to cherish. I have been blessed with loving parents who made it possible for me to attend Luther, a wonderful younger sister, Barb (currently a sorority house mother at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois), an A+ husband and family, and many wonderful friends to share my life with. It doesn't get much better than that!
Madonna (Fure) Brue

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With my physical education degree in hand, I started teaching in Howard Lake, Minnesota. I taught physical education to grades 7-12 and seventh grade health and history. The following year, to make Keith’s commute easier, I started teaching at Wayzata Junior High, and I stayed there for three years before transferring to the new Ridge Mount Junior High.

The senior paper I wrote at Luther was, *The Value of Women's Athletics*, so with this in mind, I started pushing for an opportunity for girls to compete, and started the junior high swim team. I left teaching that year because of a move to Brainerd, Minnesota, and the adoption of our first son. While living in Minnesota, we went on to adopt three more children, another son and two girls. We adopted our last son when we moved to Wisconsin.

From Brainerd, we went to Verona, Wisconsin, where we would stay for sixteen years. In Verona, I ran the community summer recreation program, served on the park board, and started coaching. I started the youth soccer program, girls’ high school basketball program, and the girls' high school softball program. I was head softball coach for fifteen years.

We left Verona for Boulder, Colorado, where I gave up coaching and worked at the University of Colorado for several years. It was in Boulder that I started doing my volunteer work at the Humane Societies. I was a foster parent for many dogs, puppies, and cats with kittens.

In 2001, after Keith’s death, I moved to Rochester, Minnesota, to be closer to family. I started working at Mayo Clinic in 2002 and retired in December of 2015.
Larry and Karen (Aaker) Chellevold

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Luther impacted our lives in many ways; educationally, socially, spiritually, and in personal growth. But more importantly to us, Luther was where we met and fell in love. We will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in December.

Larry’s job took us from Wisconsin to Illinois, to Minneapolis, to Colorado, to Europe, and finally to Thousand Oaks, California, where Larry bought his company and we lived for 26 years. Karen had a dream job in Thousand Oaks as director of community services at Los Robles Regional Medical Center. We retired to Tucson in the fall of 2003. Every move enriched our lives and increased our circle of friends.

Our two daughters, Julie and Amy, and their families, live in Camarillo, California. We are blessed with three granddaughters and one grandson. They have all made life fun, interesting, and more than exciting – a true joy!

In retirement, we travel, enjoy our family and friends, play golf, and really are enjoying summers in Decorah.
Roger Churness

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First and foremost, the one with whom I fell in love while in Nordic Choir at Luther remains to this day my best friend and companion! Sandra Normann and I have been so richly blessed, having shared life together these past 48 years! Before marrying one another in August of 1967, we spent a year of courtship in NYC. She was teaching parochial school in the Bronx while I was "testing the waters" (before entering seminary) by working in two Lutheran congregations across from Manhattan in Hoboken, New Jersey, as a lay assistant.

I graduated from Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1971. Serving the church in the office of pastoral ministry has been a profoundly enriching career for me. I think I would do it all over again! 32 years of full-time pastoral work followed by three years of part-time work have been in parishes in Bowie, Maryland; North Minneapolis, Minnesota; Livingston, Montana; and here, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Sandi has written about our family so I will not repeat much, here. Just to say...we have three neat kids and two daughters-in-law for whom we are thankful. And, of course, our four grands!!

As I reflect back on my college days at Luther, I realize how many, many people and personalities influenced my life and development as one emerging into early adulthood. I cannot begin to credit each one, that's for certain. My roommates stand out as worthy of mention, though: Marcus Saegrove; Bruce MacLaren; Ted Bartlett. I was fortunate to have such good stable guys as role models and friends during those "growing up" years! And, of course, dear Weston Noble and Nordic Choir influenced my life tremendously. My life-long partner, Sandra Normann, and an abiding love for choral singing have been my rich gain from those Nordic days!
Music was the focus of my Luther experience. Hours of practice in the Quonset huts, music theory and ear training, senior recital in Valders Hall, but mostly: Nordic Choir! Rehearsals and tours under Weston Noble were the highlights and thrill of my college career. Not only did I gain life-long memories and a love for choral music---I met my life's partner there: Roger Churness. For 48 years, we've been "making beautiful music together!"

I got my teaching degree after leaving Luther and taught elementary school in the Bronx; Bothell, Washington; Minneapolis; and Livingston, Montana. It was a challenging, enriching, and satisfying career.

We are so thankful for three wonderful children. Jason, married to Darla with two children: Zach, age 17, and Emily, age 15. Aaron, married to Jayne and their two; Gavin, age 10, and Kaia, age 8. And our daughter, Krista, a social worker at North Point in North Minneapolis. They all live in the Twin Cities less than two hours from us.

Roger and I both retired in 2003; he, as pastor of American Lutheran Church in Livingston, Montana; and me from teaching. We were full-timers for a while, and then settled in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, where we have lived for 10 years. We enjoy our church, volunteering, camping, and traveling.

Years ago I learned Batik from friends in Minneapolis. We participated in many art fairs and opened a shop; but moving to Montana, teaching, and busy family times interrupted that artistic avocation. Now in retirement, I am back at it; doing art fairs and showing in galleries.

I am proud to be a fourth generation Luther grad! My great-grandfather, Olaus Normann, was in Luther's first graduating class in 1866! My grandfather, Halvor Normann, graduated in 1900, and my father, Rolf Normann was a 1929 grad. All became Lutheran pastors.
Beverly (Nelson) Clark

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Playing in the band under the direction of Weston Noble was one of the most memorable experiences for me at Luther; his sensitivity to playing with feeling has been with me my entire life.

Following graduation, I completed a Masters in Reading from Northern Illinois University and taught in Elgin, Illinois, for 27 years, working with the Title I program. The last seven years I taught Reading Recovery.

I have been married to BJ Clark for 47 years. We have two children. Brett (Margaret) has a dental practice in Madison, Wisconsin. He has four children. Kristin (‘94) Lance (Adam) is a teacher and has two children.

Since I was 14, I have been a church organist fulltime with the exception of a few years. In 1998 we retired to Minocqua where we enjoy outdoor activities and the beautiful gift of nature that we have been given. When our daughter and family moved to Australia for a year, we were fortunate to spend a month with them. Traveling to Hawaii and Alaska are also highlights. In our retirement I enjoy volunteering at our Hospice House, kayaking, gardening, quilting, church activities, and meeting people at all the different churches here in the area when playing the organ. We enjoy sharing our home with many, many visits from family and friends over the years. We have had visitors from all over the world. It is a delight to let them enjoy our beautiful Northwoods. We have been blessed. May the next generation be a blessing to others.
Jane (Dicke) Dettloff

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My Luther experience impacted me for my entire life: giving me an “I can do that” and “I can be me” attitude, instilling an intense curiosity about history/art/music/religions, giving me, my husband, John, and launching our son, Charlie ’96, into a fruitful, rewarding life. Luther also has provided me with an incredible group of lifelong friends who have laughed, cried, and traveled together.

My vocation and avocations have been 100% “Liberal Arts”: French and German teacher in Edina, Minnesota, Wayzata Chamber of Commerce event coordinator, Community Education teacher, owner home photo inventory service, editor of several newsletters and computer software, freelance writer and editor, Skijammers coordinator (children’s ski school), Great Books life time discussion leader, Luther Alumni Council, created Partners in Literature (Wayzata public school’s children’s book discussion groups), St. Thomas University Lifelong Learning student, coordinator women’s book club (1986-present), organized 15 international We Go Now Women’s Cycling trips.

John and I enjoy cycling and travel. We are fortunate that our sons, Charlie and Howie, live nearby. We will celebrate our 50th anniversary in January biking/kayaking/hiking the two islands of New Zealand.

Advice to current Luther students? Go travel and take advantage of “study abroad” programs, which will enhance your Luther experience in wonderful ways, which you will savor forever!
John Dettloff

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Luther is about people and building life-long friendships. As an example, Chuck Stern and I lived together for three years and have maintained an active friendship for over 50 years. Every time we are together, it's like we have never been apart and the conversations just start again. In addition, we have had the good fortune to travel with Luther friends and maintain active contact with a number of them, and that is a treasure.

Ahh, those memories, who can forget Chell Evenson and the time he asked Huey Mathews the color of a book she was reading. Her answer was incorrect as he gave a different color than she had. Or Louie asleep at the elevator at the Main Building. Yes, and Carolyn's for dime beer. Fifty cents went a long way! It was a good thing to have Jack and Jill nearby so as to borrow our annual Christmas tree. How about hauling a dead cow up to campus in the middle of the night and dumping it off at the Union. Blocking the Main Building with snow and having Cooney the maintenance guy mutter "damn kids." Making a 69 ice sculpture in the back yard of our landlord, and him wondering: "What are the boys doing now?" Playing croquet with Camilla Strom, a Spanish teacher, at Chuck Stern's insistence so he could "enhance" his grade. Of course, there was the placing of a Playboy centerfold in the map Wolfgang Welgart used for Anthropology class and upon pulling the map down having him exclaim: "This must be an example of primitive culture." Well, as to classes, many times I wasn't interested in what they were talking about! Our son, Charlie, has pointed out that if we had done those things when he was there we would have been kicked out – maybe yes, maybe no.

I've had the opportunity of doing a number of things in my career, which in a sense led to what I do now, and that is to develop small senior living buildings for assisted living and memory care in small towns in Minnesota. Retirement to me is not what I want to do as I believe a man needs a place to go and a reason for being there.

Jane and I have two sons, Charlie, Luther grad, and Howie, who graduated from St. Mary's University in Winona. Both live in the Twin Cities area and we are grateful for that.

Jane, the forever traveler, is always looking for new places to go, for which I am very grateful. We have had the good fortune to travel to many continents around the world, some with Luther friends. Next January we will join another couple and spend 20 days in New Zealand. We have also had the good fortune to raft the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon twice, and I've hiked across the canyon once, there is something about that place.

How about some advice for Luther students: Make friends, attend to your values as that is what will support you in the real world. Life is fun, rough, exciting, unforgiving, and demanding – you need to be a match for it.
My four years at Luther were very special. Luther is family and a community that cares. The friendships and bonds formed are still special today. A group of us reunites every two years in Carefree, Arizona, and have a wonderful time together. We laugh (a lot), cry and share memories, and get up-to-date on our lives.

One significant memory was in the spring of our sophomore year (1963) when my boyfriend, Leon Olson, was hit in the head by a pitched baseball in a game at St. Olaf and his life was forever changed – but the Luther community was so supportive, loving, and caring through it all and I could feel the prayers of everyone for Leon, his family, and for me. That meant so much!

After graduation, I taught fourth grade in the Brookfield school system outside Milwaukee. In 1967, I married my husband, Helmut Duschek, and we have two wonderful children – Mark, 45 years old, and Jennifer, 39 years old – and one beloved grandchild, Garrett, our joy.

In 1970, I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, which came on very aggressively. Little did I know then how impactful that would be. After numerous replacement surgeries, etc., you could call me, “the bionic woman,” I guess. But God is good and has sustained me (us) through all of this. I’m doing fine!

We live in Mesa, Arizona now, having moved here in 1979. Arizona is a great place to be in spite of the hot summers.

I keep involved in church and still love to sing and to spend time with friends and family.

Attending Luther was a “gift” that I will value always.
Stephen Ehrich

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I completed a Master of Arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado in 1971, with additional graduate work at the University of North Texas. My 36-year teaching career was as wind ensemble conductor at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. In the area of instrumental performance, I played French horn with the Fort Worth Symphony for five years. In 1994, I was the recipient of the Carlo A. Sperati Award.

I have been married to Pamela for 44 years. She completed a Master of Music degree in flute performance at Texas Christian University in 1976 and served as an adjunct flute instructor for six years before moving to public education. She retired in 2011 as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction in the Burleson Independent School District.

Our son, Ben (34), is co-owner of a company in the wholesale auto industry in the Fort Worth.

After retirement from Texas Wesleyan, I have devoted much time to digital photography with a specialization in fine art landscape photography and wildlife photography. My interest in photography has led to trips and summits in Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico with additional work in northern Wisconsin where we spend time at our cabin during the summer and fall.

I have many fond memories of my educational experience at Luther especially Professors Weston Noble, Maurice Monhardt, and Robert Getchell. These educators provided me with a positive lifelong model to work towards in my higher education profession.
Stu Eickelberg

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Shortly after I graduated, and knew very little, I realized Luther College had provided me with the ability and desire to learn and experience many new and exciting things. So when I started working in a laboratory at Mayo Clinic, I found myself actually using chemistry I had learned, and found out a number of folks around me had graduated from Luther years before me (notably Ralph Ellefson). After five years of doing some research and clinical practice, I left Mayo and for one year, and managed a small fiberglass manufacturing company in Shawano, Wisconsin. I missed the chemistry and lab work and returned to Mayo to supervise a laboratory and work my way into systems and administration, retiring in 2009. I was given the opportunity to work in Malaysia at a small hospital for a year in 2004 and then returned to Rochester to manage the medical transportation side of the practice (ambulances and helicopters) which was really enlightening...and uplifting!

My favorite memories of Luther always involve interactions with staff and fellow students. As a sophomore, I lived with five guys in the basement of Dr. David Baker's house which we called the "House of David." There were a few other biology majors in the house and often we had biology specimens next to the food in our refrigerator...resulting is a lot of loud expletives hurled about! The fire in the Preus Gymnasium was certainly one to remember and the resulting trips to Calmar for basketball (we dribbled a ball from Decorah to Calmar for the first game as I recall) certainly can't be forgotten.

Because of Luther, my faith was forever strengthened, and has resulted in many mission trips to Kentucky, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Minneapolis to serve with young adults and geezers...like me. I married my wife Diana in 1967 and we raised four daughters. Our oldest graduated from Luther in 1990. We have eight grandchildren, with the possibility that one may attend Luther next year.

We retired and moved from Rochester to Lake City and are building a house on the golf course...maybe I will get better at golf! We have traveled to Europe, New Zealand, Bangkok, and Canada and have many trips we still hope to make. I look forward to seeing many classmates at the reunion and wish safe travels to everyone.
Kathy (Gerber) Endersbee

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After spending the first 40 years of our marriage in a small upstate New York community, we moved to The Villages, Florida, in 2008. I worked as a social worker and retired in 2004 with 30 years of service primarily in the area of adult protective services. Our son, David, is an attorney in Washington, D.C., is married, and he and Julie have blessed us with two granddaughters.

Paul and I enjoy golfing together and with the many friends we have made since moving here. I sing with the Villages Philharmonic Chorale, the Villages Theater Company, and am a cantor at Hope Lutheran Church, where I am involved with several mission projects. We are both avid readers, card and game players, and benefit from the healthy, active lifestyle that is afforded us here.

I have many fond memories of Luther and the teachers I had – once in a while I find myself reciting "whan that Aprille with its shoures soote" and think about Dr. Bale, and the History of the English Language course from Dr. Harland Nelson, which was so fascinating. I also remember fondly Sharon Mueller, who coached me in French and Georg Koprio who did the same in German.

My life at Luther, with its foundation in the teachings of the Bible, has made me realize that I want to be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer.
James and Patricia (Regan) Engelhardt

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Our Luther experience had a great impact – Jim and I met there and have had 50 wonderful years of marriage.

Luther instilled the importance of God in our life. The information I learned in philosophy and religion has been invaluable in my life. Our music experience and education has been shared by Jim and I our entire life – singing duets for many occasions and singing in several choirs.

Great Luther memory – Messiah practice and performance – Jim as “Rakeop Queen” for Homecoming.

I was an elementary music teacher (vocal); church choral director for 44 years; piano teacher for 50 years. Jim has been director of marketing for several engineering firms; product manager for AT&T.

We have two boys – Christopher (Luther grad); Ryan; three grandsons – all very musical.

We have lived in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin for 50 years and have traveled all over the U.S., Germany, and the Czech Republic.

Advice for Luther students would be to always strive to do what makes you happy, work hard, know that God walks all your journeys, and keeps you forever in His love and care.
John Engelien

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We have been married 50 years. We have three children: Timothy, Kristine, and Kevin. I was a science teacher of biology and chemistry at Lincoln HS in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, for 34 years and a substitute teacher for 14 years. Add that to the two years at Spring Grove, Minnesota, and that totals another 50 years. My wife, Mary, was a nurse for many years, as well as raising the children and influencing the lives of our nine grandchildren.

Since retirement, we have been wintering for two months in Sedona, Arizona. We built a cabin on land that I grew up in in rural Ettrick, Wisconsin. We spend much time there during the other three seasons of the year. I feel that Luther College was instrumental in my life professionally, spiritually, and behaviorally. I feel very blessed that Luther was part of my life.
Judith Marie (Sykes) Eriksson

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I have always been very proud to say, I am a Luther graduate. The degree I earned there allowed me the opportunity to enter the field of education.

I can’t even begin to say enough wonderful things about Dr. Harlan Nelson. He inspired me; he cared; and he went above and beyond to keep me on the right track.

I spent 37 years teaching third grade in the Sandwich District #430 in Sandwich, Illinois. I received a master’s degree in education from National Lewis University. I also had the wonderful life experience of taking five third graders to New York City, so they could appear on David Letterman’s Late Night Show.

My family consists of my husband, Jon, 1,200 third graders, and many wonderful friends.

I’ve lived my entire married life in Somonauk, Illinois and at a cabin we have on Lake of the Woods in Ontario, Canada. I’ve traveled throughout North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. Kenya is my favorite.

I have been retired from teaching since 2004, but continue to be the school tutor in the Leland, Illinois school district. I also read and read and read and read.

My advice for Luther students would be to enjoy each and every moment you have the incredible opportunity to be at Luther College. That opportunity is a very special gift. I have thanked my parents for making that possible at least a million times.
Gary Evenson

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Luther...wonderful...Concert Band experience with Weston Noble...memorable...band director for 17 years in Hector, Minnesota, Portage, Wisconsin, and Willmar, Minnesota...insurance industry for 15 years in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Arizona...timeshare industry in California and Hawaii for 11 years...two daughters in Minnesota...lived there, Wisconsin, Iowa, Arizona, California, Arkansas, Hawaii, and, now, semi-retired back in Arizona...found a part-time job/hobby with an international wine company doing wine tastings in peoples' homes...love doing that, play a little golf, and visit with friends...The value of a liberal arts education is not measureable and it trains you for this wonderful thing called “life.”
Nancy (Bonde) Evenson

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I started my working career by teaching fourth grade for six years. After spending time as a stay-at-home-mom and working in temporary and part-time jobs, I took a job at the ELCA Board of Pensions and worked there for 22 years.

I have been retired for four years. I have two daughters who each have one child. My most memorable travel experience was a trip to China with my daughter and son-in-law when they adopted their infant daughter.

I have so many great memories of Luther – football games on beautiful fall days, great concerts and plays, interesting and concerned professors, pizza at Mabe’s, standing in line at the old Boarding Club, life at West Brandt, and senior year living at Vanaheim. Luther gave me confidence in a great education and made me a well-rounded person. It gave me friends that have lasted a lifetime.

My advice for Luther students would be to enjoy today, but prepare for tomorrow; keep the faith; and never forget that it all goes so fast!
DuWayne Federwitz

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I worked for Farm Credit Services for 43 years with nearly all of it in management. Farm Credit Services is the largest lending institution for agriculture in the U.S. I have five children who have college degrees and two master degrees.

I have served on the Clintonville School Board for nine years. Currently, the town chairman for the Town of Matteson Waupaca County. I’m an elected supervisor for the county of Waupaca and serve on four subcommittees. I chair the finance committee for the county. I am a commissioner for East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, appointed by the Governor of Wisconsin.

I’ve served in many capacities at our church – St. Martin Lutheran of Clintonville – including 15 years as chair.

I've traveled to 25 different countries – mostly in Europe. My wife and I have visited all but five states in the U.S. Under CNFA, I spent a few months during two consecutive years in the country of Moldova assisting farmers in financial matters after they left the Soviet Union and needed to start a completely new financial structure.

In my spare time, I mentor children in algebra at St. Martin Lutheran School, garden, and fish.

My religious faith and going to chapel were key to my four years attending Luther College.
Memories of Luther:

- fire destroying the gymnasium,
- walking to classes during crisp, frosty mornings,
- working as an announcer on KWLC radio,
- singing in Handel’s Messiah, for four years.

After graduating, I served a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Army, stationed in Missouri, California, Texas, and overseas in Germany. Besides Germany, I saw parts of Spain, Italy, and Scandinavia.

Stateside travel destinations included most U.S. states, including Hawaii and Alaska, around each Great Lake, many state capitals, and presidential libraries and museums.

My longest employment was as a U.S. Postal Service clerk in downtown Minneapolis from which I retired in 2003.
Judith (Larson) Fogdall

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I came to Luther because of a young pastor and his wife, both graduates of Luther, who came to my small rural church as his first call after seminary. I had just turned 17 on August 28 when I started Luther as a freshman. I now realize that they knew better than I that the size and environment of Luther made it the right place for me. I am thankful to them and especially to my parents who made the financial commitment. My parents were both very smart and valued education, but graduating from high school in 1938, they were not able to afford college. My mother would have loved college!

I was a teacher, including three years at the American school in Bogota, Colombia, where Jim was the business manager of the Lutheran Church Mission and bookstore from 1967-70. Studying Latin with Dr. Qualley and Ruth Mostrom gave me a good foundation for learning Spanish. This experience in Colombia and traveling in Europe were helpful in my volunteering for many years with the International Students at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

Favorite memories? Impossible to narrow it down – everything becomes a favorite! I especially treasure the 50-year friendships. For a non-singer, singing in Messiah was a thrill. Not favorite, but surely indelible memories, were the burning of the gym and the assassination of President Kennedy. As counselors in Larsen Hall, we spent many hours in Mrs. Finanger’s apartment watching the emotional coverage on television.

Family includes daughter, Sara, and family (two grandsons) living in Cedar Falls, and son, Jed, and family (one grandson) in Austin, Texas. We sold the family RV business in 2013 and now spend six months of the year in Florida.
Greetings to Class of 1965 classmates. I attended Luther my first two years of college, completed my bachelor’s degree at the University of Iowa, and did graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh.

I moved to the Twin Cities after graduate school and have lived in Saint Paul for more than 45 years. I moved to Saint Paul with 3M and worked in corporate public relations for 25 years. Observing that much of the dynamic work in social services was taking place in the non-profit world, I took an early retirement from corporate life to become a consultant in non-profit organizational management. My husband (an airline pilot) and I are now retired and pursue our favorite pastimes – traveling, boating, and non-profit board work. I have traveled to 40 countries and am always ready to travel again. In younger years, our avocation was restoring Victorian houses. One of our projects was pictured in National Geographic magazine.

I have fond memories of three Luther professors: Clara J. Paulson, who conducted brilliant classes in English; Dr. Scott Stringham, organ and chorale who died tragically in a plane crash in 1974; and Sharon F. Mueller, who valiantly taught French to midwesterners and now lives in Paris.

I plan to wear my freshman beanie to the reunion! Would you believe I still have it?! (Why was it green instead of the Luther color blue?) I also have my freshman class directory and a copy of Luther Lasses with unbelievable restrictions on how Luther women students could/should act. I may need that photo directory to help remember people – although I have a vivid memory of the freshman gals on third floor Larsen Hall.

All very best wishes to Luther Class of 1965.
Shirley Gangstad

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The Luther experience shaped my life in so many ways: the warm, welcoming atmosphere; the care and concern of the faculty; my experience singing four years in Nordic Choir; being a Tau Delt; and underlying everything, the strong spiritual base that engendered an outlook different from the world.

Weston Noble is an icon, and his approach to music and spirituality has hugely influenced the direction of my life. Warm relationships with English professors have been accented by occasionally meeting them in these later years at the Commonweal Theater in Lanesboro and at lutefisk dinners in southeastern Minnesota. I am always amazed that they remember me, and I cherish the relationships formed more than fifty years ago!

I taught English for five years at the Northwood-Kensett High School in Northwood, Iowa, and then moved to Spring Valley, Minnesota, where I taught English and speech for 32 years before retirement, initially at Spring Valley High School, and then after a consolidation, Kingsland High school. I directed a few musicals, coached extra-curricular speech, and originated a Mock Trial program, which was exciting and fulfilling.

I remain living in Spring Valley after my retirement and often meet former students—as my plumber, electrician, etc.—and also work with them on community and church committees—an experience that is always gratifying.

I have been very involved with Our Savior’s Lutheran Church over the years, currently serving as president for the third time. I have also been involved with the Southeast Minnesota Synod of the ELCA, serving three terms—twelve years—as synod vice president and then serving as synod Mission Interpreter Coordinator—both deeply gratifying and satisfying experiences. I currently serve on the board of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Winona and sit on the state Lutheran Campus Ministry-Minnesota board. The experience in the broader church is amazingly different from that in one’s local congregation and cannot truly be understood or appreciated until one has served in some way.

Advice for Luther students: The people you meet will be as friendly as you are. You will get out of an experience only what you give it; however, the more you give, the more you will receive. Ask and trust the Holy Spirit to guide you in all that you do, and the love of God and the promises of Jesus will take care of everything else!
Barbara Brustuen Gibson Gens

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Throughout my life I have followed three special loves...besides my dear family. I have worked in Republican politics, state and federal; I have immersed myself in the Spanish-speaking world through travel and hosting experiences; and, I have traveled as much as possible. I especially enjoy cruising and road trips. I am looking forward to doing much more before I hang up the car keys. I am thankful to Luther College and to my friends and family for the knowledge and experiences made available to me. I have fond memories of all my professors at Luther, especially Dr. Svanoe and Ruth Fjelstad, my dear friend and mentor.
Nelson Gigstad

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Following graduation, with a major in English, I worked five years as an English teacher. After taking a year off to get my MSE in Guidance and Counseling, I worked 29 years in Washburn, Wisconsin, on Lake Superior. I coached cross country and track. My wife, Sheryl, and I retired in 2000 and moved to Mesa, Arizona.

Sheryl and I have been married 46 years. We have a son in Madison, Wisconsin, and a daughter and two granddaughters in Hudson, Wisconsin. Since moving to Arizona, I have become a huge Arizona State fan. We have season tickets for men's and women's basketball and football. Our biggest rival is that "school down south" in Tucson, where Larry and Karen live. We also have season football tickets for the Wisconsin Badgers and try to get to one game there each fall.

We enjoy our trips back to Wisconsin in the summer to visit family. We also enjoy trips to Los Angeles and the San Diego area each year. With the summer heat here, we especially look forward to spending time on the ocean. This April, I did my first tandem skydive in Eloy, Arizona. What an adrenaline rush!

I often look back at my time at Luther as a turning point in my life. I would not be the person I am today, and I would not be living the life I am now without those years at Luther. It will not work for us to attend the 50th Celebration. We will see about the 75th.
Dave Graeven

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I started my career as Professor of Sociology at California State University. That had been my dream and goal ever since taking a sociology class from Dave Johnson. I enjoyed teaching and researching a variety of topics – spent several years on a federal research grant studying a heroin epidemic and later PCP users. I thought I would be a professor forever, but after twenty some years, an opportunity came along to become a jury consultant. In 1990, I became president of a small firm, Trial Behavior Consulting. Jury consulting has been very engaging, and my work involves conducting research and helping pick juries around the country – primarily with the defense in civil litigation. I will not be doing this forever and am beginning to cut back on my time.

I have a wonderful wife, Kathleen, and we have been together for 40 plus years. I enjoy light construction projects, decks, etc, and we love to garden (the drought in California is going to be tough on that), travel, and entertain.

I am thankful for the chance to attend Luther. My parents did not graduate from high school, so the collegiate experience was all new for me and my family. I remember expecting the dormitory to be like an army barracks with all the beds in one room, much like Sgt. Bilko on TV. I don't think there were many other places I could have gone where things turned out so well for me.
Karol Grandgeorge

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I worked for the Cook County Department of Public Aid after graduation for 21 months and then transferred to LaSalle County Public Aid for 15 months. My social work career was put on hold for the birth of our son in October of 1968. I began teaching primary grades in January of 1970 in a nearby community and then transferred to my community in 1976. I taught in the primary grades until May of 1998 with a three week break in September of 1975 for the birth of our daughter. My husband was the father of four daughters when we were married in 1968, so we have a family of six children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, only two of whom live in Illinois. This gives me good opportunity to travel.

I have traveled to five continents, some for pleasure and some for mission work. I spend a lot of time volunteering either at my church or the local hospital. As a widow, I can go whenever I decide, providing it doesn't interfere with the volunteer schedule.

Memories of Luther life are many – some to be repeated, others not so much – always remember the night of the gym fire my freshman year and how everyone rallied together to make things work after that; the football team in their helmets of many colors on Saturday; hiking in the nearby hills and the beautiful scenery will always be vivid; Weston Noble and the Christmas concert. Some things never change.
Lori (Wogen) Haaland

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Luther continues to have a significant place in my life as I consistently keep in touch with so many of our classmates. “Luther Women 1965,” is the name we have been given at each of our destinations. For twenty years, we have met every other year at Spirit in the Desert, Arizona, celebrated our 70th birthdays at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, and shared an Egyptian Cruise. Luther remembrances and life experiences keep us close, bringing us back together again and again.

In 1966, Gary Haaland and I were married. He passed away in 1983. We have two children, Dustin and Sharissa, and I have four grandchildren.

I earned a Master’s Degree and Administrator/Principal License from the University of Minnesota. Teaching elementary students in five states, directing two preschool programs in two churches, and administering the K-6 elementary math curriculum for Saint Paul Schools in Minnesota were so rewarding and allowed meaningful diversity for me in my education career. I often thought of Dr. Strand’s advice: Be prepared, but be ready for the “off the cuff teaching opportunities” you discover when you listen to the students and engage them! What great advice, and this effective strategy dominates the educational research today!

I have directed two handbell choirs at our church for the past thirty-two years – thanks to Dr. Getchell for his directing class!

I volunteer with Lutheran Social Services, coordinating their mentor program for homeless teen moms. It is very rewarding to build relationships with these resilient and wonderful teens as they navigate and embrace their challenging life events.

Luther College, warm memories of the wonderful relationships begun there, and the life skills learned that I continue to use today, are all synonymous for me fifty years later – for that I am most grateful!
Ronald R. Harder

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During my working career, I worked in the insurance industry, first at a life insurance company, then at the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, State of Wisconsin (auditing insurance companies), and last 34 years at Jewelers Mutual Insurance Company (serving as president and CEO for 25 years).

We have raised two children – Brian and Melissa. I am presently retired, enjoying the opportunities to play golf, travel, and help others.
John and Sandy (Muller) Hefte

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Even though having graduated 50 years ago, both Sandy and I feel Luther is a very special place where we spent four great years of our lives. We try to make it back to Luther many times a year for concerts, athletic events, and other special events. Christmas at Luther is always a fantastic concert to attend. When there is a group preforming from Luther or there is a get together for Luther alumni in the Madison area, we always try to attend.

Through friends, we have gotten to know Dr. Phil Reitan and his wife Ruth. When we come to Luther we always are welcome to stay with them. They are a wonderful couple who have dedicated their lives to Luther College.

Sandy and I both had wonderful professors for advisors who steered us in the right direction. Dr. Leland was my advisor, and Dr. Strand was Sandy's advisor. We always felt comfortable sitting in classes at Luther. We were challenged academically. We always felt our professors cared about us. We could always go in and chat with our professors as their office door was open for us.

I played basketball for the Norse and traveled the state of Iowa and then some. We had great fans. Our coaches, Coach Pete, Coach Finanger, and Coach Pipho were great. They treated us great whether we won or lost. The first three years, we had to practice and play games at Decorah High School or Calmar because the gymnasium burned in 1961 before our season started. It was not easy having to travel to even our home games and sometimes practice at 10:30 at night.

Sandy and I began teaching in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1965. Sandy taught third grade in four elementary schools, and I taught U.S. History at Madison East High School and also coached football and basketball. We taught in Madison for thirty-two years. I earned a Master's Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Curriculum and Instruction in 1976.

In 1970, we left Madison to teach at the American Oil Companies School in Tripoli, Libya. The principal of the elementary school was John Monson, who was a Luther grad. He told our superintendent to hire every Luther grad who applied, and as a result, we taught with a few other Luther grads in North Africa. During our two years in Tripoli we were able to visit twenty-seven countries in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. It was a fantastic experience living overseas for two years.

We came back to Madison to teach again in 1972. We also planned to start a family in the states. We were blessed with two children. Our son Mark, was born in 1975 and our daughter Leah, was born in 1980. We couldn't convince either one to attend Luther. Both Mark and Leah graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Mark got an academic scholarship and Leah got a scholarship
to play basketball for the Badgers. She played from 1999-2003 for Wisconsin. It was fun, but yet very stressful going to her games. Both Mark and Leah teach in Shanghai, China currently. They and their spouses have lived in Shanghai for many years. We have four wonderful grandchildren and we are able to tell people our grandchildren were all "Made in China."

Sandy and I both retired from the Madison School System in 1999. We have both enjoyed retirement. We both have part-times with Luther College. We supervise student teachers from Luther who come to the Madison area for their student teaching experience. Sandy does elementary, and I do middle school and high school. We both love our jobs with Luther. We have gotten to know some young people who will be a wonderful asset to the teaching profession. We applaud Luther College for sending out young people with wonder qualifications and characteristics which will enable them to become excellent teachers.

We continue to live in McFarland, Wisconsin. We always felt we were so fortunate to have gone to Luther. Luther is a very special college. Just ask any Luther graduate – they will say the same thing.
Diane (Sohn) Hoffstedt

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I wish I could say that I saved the world or spent my life in good works, but my life has been ordinary. I have been unbelievably blessed, however. Luther gave me a good liberal arts education, and I am grateful for the many experiences I had at Luther.

I taught English for seven years in the Twin Cities area after graduation. During this time, I met my husband, Carl, a U of Minnesota grad, and we moved to Golden Valley. We have two children and I was a stay-at-home mom, volunteer at church and schools, chauffeur, cheerleader at sporting and musical events, and keeper of the family calendar. I gave piano lessons for several years and then ventured back into the work force. I had several temporary positions prior to working in the General Mills Law Department. I came full circle in my employment. My first job at 16 was at Green Giant in Blue Earth, Minnesota and I retired from General Mills in 2008, which currently owns Green Giant.

Our daughter, Kirsten LC ’95, is an attorney for Cummins in Washington, DC. Our son, Brent, a senior analyst for BAE Engineering, lives in Maple Grove, Minnesota. My husband, Carl, retired as a civil engineer in 2000. We spend time traveling, especially to DC to see our three granddaughters, Kathleen, Caroline, and Hannah. My first trip abroad was the summer of 1967 with Sheryl White, LC ’65, when we visited 13 countries in 8 weeks. That started my interest in travel.

Luther was a great place to begin my adult life -- the friendships, learning, musical opportunities, learning to become independent. However, I am still wondering what I will do when I grow up.
Robert Allen Hovey

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As the class of “65” gathers for this occasion, my hope at point B is to find ourselves content, happy, and thankful for the journey taken. Yes, it is a journey from A to B. Yes, I am thankful for my professors who insisted on giving Cs, and the many people who have steered me along my career path. The Luther College degree helped many times.

The first step was a four-year enlistment with the Army Security Agency with a guarantee of being stationed in West Germany. The decision may have been one of the best. We worked in the communications area tracking the other person’s army across the border. Two people worked together in a small hut with just about fifteen people total in our outpost. We were able to get along with each other and the German people in the small town of Pocking, near Passau.

My first job for a short time was helping my aunts and uncles with some apartments. Another uncle later sent me over to Control Data. The start was on the phones, shipping parts and, toward the end of the fourteen years, thankfully, the company taught us how to be buyers/planners for the manufacturing line.

Control Data was closing down pretty much and I moved over to Dataserv a part of Bell South at the time. Like the first job, the start was on the phone expediting and shipping parts. The best job at Dataserv was kitting small suitcases of computer parts to ship out to the techs across the country for Kmart and Target.

Somehow or other along here, I missed the computer revolution during my nine-year stay at Dataserv. The temp jobs started then mainly through a dedicated temp purchasing agency. The results were both good and bad. The bad one was finding someone at my desk one day. No one had said I was done. Over the course of time, I have learned to pretty well march out and march on. The best result I had was going from temp to full-time at Caterpillar Paving in Minneapolis. The planning job was great, though short, and I marched on.

The last job I found at Home Depot and enjoyed being on the phone talking and sending people to the different departments. The highlight of the job there was finding a part for someone that got dropped off at the wrong building. Through the shipping people, I located the part at an old, mostly empty Control Data building that I used to work at. I brought the small rug over to the customer and we had one happy customer.

I retired after five years at Home Depot and along here, married my Cambodian wife, Siv. She escaped from Cambodia with a friend in the early 1980s – Ira stayed in Australia and Siv came to America. Siv and I reunited with Ira twice now and once going on to Cambodia to see her older sister and friends.

Finally, I would like to thank each of my “65” classmates for their contributions and, like all the preceding classes and all of us going forward, thanks for the help moving our country closer to its point B.
Melodie S. Hovland

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Luther gave me life-long friends.

At Luther, concern and a much-needed sense of humor were shown by Erling Naeseth, Dean of Men; Weston Noble, my Concert Band director; Mr. Bachelder, and the professors and staff who saw us students as individuals they cared about and helped.

Upon graduation, Mary Shafland Hutson and I flew with Luther students going to Holthorp Hall in England. That was our springboard to travel via Eurail Pass all over Europe for three adventurous months.

My oldest child now is Jenny, who lives in Nosara, Costa Rica, with her husband and two of my four grandsons, ages 10 and 12. They have become fluent in Spanish and relish experiencing another country and culture for a few years.

I am blessed to have my other two kids live within 20 minutes of me. Rachel, her husband and my two other grandsons, 23 and 3 months, and my son Max.

There have been many travels, but the most cherished is the trip I took to Israel with my church in 2008 after I retired from teaching elementary for 11 years.

I had the privilege of having my mom move to live with me from my hometown, Lake Mills, Iowa, in 2006 until her death in 2008 after my return from Israel. Hospice provided a gentle and peaceful passing.

My ongoing joke is that with my active and busy retirement I need a full-time job to get something done.

My gratitude for my life and all the lessons it has, is, and will continue to teach me is boundless.
Mary (Shafland) Hutson

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My four years at Luther were instrumental in helping me become who I am today. The support that I received from my professors (Dr. Bale, Dr. Johnson, and Dr. Nelson especially come to mind) was so appreciated (and needed). My semester as an exchange student to Spelman College (Spring 1964) was life changing and helped me make my career choice (social worker).

I retired three years ago from my last position (30 years as Director of Homemaker Service for The Children's Aid Society in NYC). Dave, my husband of 48 years and a Wartburg graduate (!), was also a social worker (now retired) in a family community health center in Manhattan for over 45 years. We have two married children, Rachel and Josh, and four grandchildren.

Luther was a wonderful place to meet and make lifelong friendships. Many of my NY friends have told me that they envy my Luther friendships. This helps remind me how very special Luther was. My trip to Europe with Melody Hovland (15 countries and every major city in those countries in two and a half months after graduation) will always stand out as one of the most adventurous things I have ever done – that and living in NYC, of course. I am so looking forward to being at our 50-year reunion!
Richard and Carolyn (Hove) Hutton

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After graduation, we moved to Columbus, Ohio for Dick to attend Trinity Seminary. Carolyn taught for many years prior to becoming an elementary principal, and Dick served the church in four parishes. In 2005 retirement seemed appropriate and we moved back from Escanaba, Michigan to Des Moines, Iowa (our hometown).

Today, our family includes two married children (Stephanie and Hans) plus five grandchildren. Some friends told us that life would slow down in retirement; however, life hasn't slowed very much – with family, gardening, dinner groups, travel, concerts, and fly fishing daily we seem to keep checking our calendars. Dick still enjoys serving the church as Pastor of Senior Ministry and Pastoral Care, but is coming closer to fully retiring. The gifts of Luther have been and continue to be a great blessing to both us.
Richard Jaeke

Spouse Name: Elaine (Brandsgard) Jaeke ’66

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When I left Luther, I taught school and coached football and wrestling for three and a half years and then went to work at Oscar Mayer Foods for over 27 years. During that time, Elaine and I adopted two children, a girl and a boy. They both have good careers. We have one granddaughter who will be entering seventh grade.

Most of the years at Oscar Mayer were spent in Human Resources, where I retired in 1996. After retirement, Elaine and I went on a couple of cruises and also on a trip to Alaska. Elaine has been keeping busy with church activities and musical groups.

My health has slowed me down quite a bit. Diabetes is no fun to live with. I certainly enjoyed my days at Luther, and Elaine did too. Sorry my health is not good enough to attend the reunion.
Helen (Hoff) James

Spouse Name:  Tom James, deceased

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The Last Fifty Years:

1965-70  Assistant Band Director, M-F-L Community Schools, Monona, Iowa
1970  M.M. in Music Education – University of Oregon
Studied with bassoonist at University of Washington, played Principal Bassoon in two orchestras
1973-75  Graduate School, University of Oregon (Graduate Teaching Fellowship, 1974-75)
1976  D.M.A. in Bassoon Performance, University of Oregon
1975-88  Double Reed Specialist, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado
Prin. Bassoonist, Fort Collins Symphony
1988  Married Tom James; lived in Iowa and Texas; away from professional world; traveled extensively; competed in track and field events in Iowa and National Senior Olympics
2008  Widowed; moved to Decorah permanently
2009-  Adjunct part-time professor of bassoon at Luther College

Current Activities: golfing, walking, quilting, knitting, reading, First Lutheran Church Chancel Choir, Principal Bassoonist – Oneota Valley Community Orchestra
Mary (Woizeski) Jervis

Spouse Name: Ron Jervis, deceased

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I was a fifth grade teacher in Waukesha for most of my teaching career, until I retired in 1998. My husband, Ron, passed away six years ago. He was a manager for GE Medical Systems. Beginning in 1990, we also had, and I still have, a tree farm near Spring Green, Wisconsin, where we grow and manage fine hardwoods, mostly black walnut and oak. I have a stepdaughter and a stepson, and two step granddaughters. I am also proud to say that both my nieces graduated from Luther.

Luther impacted my life in a way that I did not expect...certain influences that I can only attribute to a couple of professors that were there at the time, led me to begin delving into metaphysics (an interest which my husband also shared) and a passion I still embrace today. I love to travel and have had many wonderful experiences, especially traveling abroad. I cherish my days at Luther, the liberal education I received there, and will always be grateful for the experience.
Sylvia (Winge) Kellerman

Spouse Name: Kenneth Kellerman

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I majored in elementary education at Luther and taught elementary school for 34 years – four years in the Osseo, Minnesota, school district and 30 years in Aitkin, Minnesota. I retired in 1999. My husband and I have two daughters who are both married and have blessed us with eight grandchildren (seven grandsons and one granddaughter).
John C. and Sue (Albright) Kloor

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Cell: (419) 438-0172 – Sue; (419) 966-0860 – John

Email: suekloor@gmail.com; rantipole@gmail.com

We met during our freshman year at Luther, married in 1968, and 47 years later are living in our home in Bowling Green, Ohio. We have one son, John Carl Kloor IV, who lives nearby.

Sue had a long successful career in social work as Executive Director of a Mental Health Center for 12 years, and she was in private practice for 20+ years. She retired in 2011. John taught high school, college, and was a potter. He later worked in employment and training and retired in 2003.

Obviously the biggest and best memory of Luther was our meeting each other. We look back at that time with great fondness, especially the years spent at the art building.

Distance has prevented our return to the campus, but would love to see everyone.
David Rothnem Landsverk

Spouse Name: Joyce Collins Landsverk

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I came to Luther in the second half of my sophomore year, after attending a junior college in Glendale, California. During that first semester at Luther, my two senior roommates reprogrammed the carillons in the main building to play, *Roll out the Barrel*, although so slowly that it was hard to recognize. The statute of limitations on that ‘crime’ must have run out by now!

The most enduring memory I have is that I was walking across campus to class when someone told me that President Kennedy had been assassinated. Otherwise, I just had a very good two and a half years at Luther.

After Luther, I worked in the Health Physics field in the manufacture of radiation measurement instruments. In 1968, I enlisted in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War (the American War as I found out when visiting there in late 2014). Fortunately, I was not in a combat capacity. Returning from Vietnam, I resumed working in my old Health Physics role. Two years later, the 1971 Northridge, California, earthquake precipitated a move to Oregon where I worked as a policeman in Milwaukie, Oregon, for five years; then in production scheduling at a steel casting company for two years before returning to Glendale, California, and working with another radiation measurement company in a production management capacity for 14 years. I finished my working life as a middle school eighth grade math teacher and retired in 2007.

I have two wonderful daughters living in the Pacific Northwest and two wonderful step-daughters living in Southern California. Between those four daughters, I have nine grandchildren ranging in age from six to 23 years.

Retirement is nice. A weekly men's Bible study group, a photography class at Santa Monica Emeritus College, and frequent travel keep me busy.
Ronald A. Lundeen

Spouse Name: Linda (Kalmoe) Lundeen

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At Luther, in addition to the demands and pleasure of college, I discovered ideals bigger than myself: primarily the love of learning.

I met my first wife (Becky Simmering ’65) at Luther. We had four children, the oldest of whom recently died.

More than twenty-seven years ago, I married Lyn (Linda Kalmoe-Eide) and we together have five adult children and nine grandchildren. Lyn, originally from Montevideo, Minnesota, is an RN working in administration.

After college, I attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul. My career began in parish ministry and soon changed to religious institutions doing development work. From 1974-76, I was employed in fundraising at Luther College. By the mid-1980s, I completed graduate school and evolved into a solo strategic planning and fundraising consultant. At first, I served Lutherans, then Presbyterians. My clients or employers were social service or community service non-profits, seminaries, denominations, and a few charities of other religions. I attended law school part-time in the 90s and finally graduated in 2003. In semi-retirement, I still work part-time as a consultant and as a volunteer judicial officer in the Maricopa County, Arizona, Justice Courts.

Lyn and I met in Fargo, North Dakota. We’ve lived in Shoreview, Minnesota; Medway, Massachusetts; Novato, California; Scottsdale, Arizona; Hartford, Connecticut; Goodyear, Arizona. We also have an RV fifth-wheel hideaway near San Diego, California.

Fifty years later everyone knows about success, failure, disease, death, undeserved blessings, and other life-changing surprises. Still, so many decades later, I am very thankful for Luther College.
Marie (Peterson) Marin

Spouse Name:  Dean C. Martin

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I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to attend and graduate from Luther College! I appreciated all of the support from my parents, and the encouragement from faculty and friends at Luther. Some of the best memories involve all the music events: singing with chapel choir, and with Weston Noble, the Nordic choir, the Messiah chorus, and as a Messiah soloist.

For many years, I taught elementary music in public schools, directed adult and children's choirs in churches and communities, gave piano and voice lessons, and played the organ and piano for worship services. At the present, I teach piano at the Campanile Center for the Performing Arts Conservatory, and continue to sing and/or accompany various groups/students in our very active musical northwoods community. For the past several years, I've also sung with the Weston Noble Alumni Choir, which has been a remarkable, inspiring experience!

Fifty years ago, on June 12th, Dean and I were married. We have two children, Jonathan and Christine, both of them Luther graduates! Christine married Rob Ullius, and now we have three grandchildren, TJ, Ashley, and Callie...all of them gifts and blessings to us. Thanks be to God!

Besides music-making, I enjoy reading, skiing, kayaking, writing, and traveling. I also deeply treasure the gifts of continuing friendship with so many of my Luther friends and classmates!
Diann (Bilden) Marten

Spouse Name: Gregory Marten

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After graduation, I taught math in Freeport, Illinois, for one year. I returned to Decorah, was married, and taught math at North Winneshiek for five years. When our children, Kevin and Jennifer, were in school, I taught one year at South Winneshiek and 23 years in Waukon.

I love being retired because I can volunteer more at my church and other organizations in town. The best thing about living in Decorah is Luther and all its events, concerts, and lectures that I can attend.
Robert Masche

Spouse Name: Julie Masche

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Email: rjmasche@msn.com

Children:
- Son – Chad (Luther ’97), and wife, Beth Gower (Luther ’97), and daughters, Lily and Greta – Snohomish, Washington
- Daughter – Briana (Montana State ’02), and husband, Joe Sands (Montana State), and twin sons, Asher and Boden – Bozeman, Montana

Education:
- Luther ’65, History
- Minnesota State ’71, Education Admin.
- St. Thomas ’75, Ed. Specialist in Admin.

Career:
- History Teacher, Counselor and coach at North Winneshiek High School, Decorah, IA (1965-69)
- Principal, Comfrey High School, Comfrey, MN (1969-71)

Memories:
- Great classes from Earl Leland, Chellus Evenson, and Coach Pete
- Watching flames consume the old gym and then watching construction of the new Union and Field House
- Being part of the championship football team in 1963
- Wonderful friends and growing up together
- “Rake functions”

Enjoy:
- Golf, travel in the U.S., gardening, Gopher Football games, Norse Football, spending the winter months at our home in The Villages, Florida
Sharon (Johnson) Mikkelson

Spouse Name:  Torger Mikkelson

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Graduated with a B.A. in Elementary Education. Taught fifth grade for two years in Madison, Wisconsin (Dudgeon School). Did graduate work at U.W. Madison in Special Education Department.

Taught emotionally disturbed children at Mendota Mental Health Institute for 34 years. Retired in 2000.

Have a son, Leif, a daughter, Kärre, four grandchildren: Erik (12), Kajsa (10), Alex (8), Aksel (6). Feel very fortunate to be a significant part of their lives.

Currently attending grandchildren's activities, volunteering at school, church, and senior center, quilting, and going up north to Lake home.

Filled with gratitude for my health, family, and friends.

Soli Deo Gloria.
George and Elaine (Voss) Monis

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Celebrating 50 years since Luther, and 50 years of marriage, Elaine and I are so thankful for the life we have shared. Our children (4) and grandchildren (7) are a great blessing. Kim is a social worker at Kendal in Oberlin, Ohio. Peder is an electrician and carries on the tradition of Monis Electric. Jill, a Luther graduate, is a paper chemist and works for Packaging Corporation of America in Kennewick, Washington. Karl is a mechanical engineer and is happily employed at Harley Davidson in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Being somewhat retired (who actually retires when you own your own business), we enjoy the grandchildren and spend many hours watching basketball, baseball, and football. Church activities are a large portion of our life, including making all the lefse for the annual St. Olaf Lutefisk Dinner (First Saturday in December). Genealogy is a great pastime, and we did visit Norway to connect with our roots and visit close (second cousin) and not so close (eighth cousin and 9C1R) relatives.

One of the blessings of being a Luther grad is the many friendships we made that we continue today.

It was a transition time that we spent at Luther from curfew time for the girls, and from no dancing to dancing when we were seniors, and today’s co-ed dorms. We went from slide rules for math to today’s super computers that fit in an iPhone! Physically, the campus is not what we experienced. God has blessed Luther, and today Luther is a top-rated college. Even with all of today’s changes, we would not relinquish our experience at Luther.
Robert C. Naslund

Spouse Name: Ann E. (Aaker) Naslund '66

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Married Ann in 1966; three children, all LC grads; taught and coached at LC for 42 years; retired in 2009; Ann and I still live at 216 Riverview Drive; drive LC bus, Lions Club, Habitat for Humanity Board, Good Shepherd Lutheran, nine grandchildren within five hours!

Advice for LC students: “Hang tough,” “Take your laps,” and “When you put on that Luther College blue and white jersey with ‘Luther College’ on the front, excellence is expected of you!!!” “GO NORSE!!” SOLI DEO GLORIA.
Barbara (Forland) Neils

Spouse Name:  Ted Neils

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In the fall after graduating from Luther, I taught third grade in Madison, Wisconsin, for two years. In the summers between those teaching years, I worked at Wilderness Canoe Base in the Minnesota Boundary Waters. After saving enough money, I resigned from my teaching job in Madison and spent almost a year traveling in Europe and working for a family as a nanny in Norway. While there, I had a chance to meet relatives on my dad’s side of the family and see the hometown my grandfather had left when he was 16 years old.

When I returned home from Norway, I got a teaching job in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. While teaching there, I met my husband, Ted, through mutual friends, and we were married in 1970.

I went back to college to be certified as a school media specialist, after four years of teaching in Madison and St. Louis Park. I then was the media specialist in an elementary school in White Bear Lake for five years. I resigned from that job when our first daughter was born and stayed home during our children’s early childhoods. I eventually went back to working part-time for an educational publishing company. Later I held a two-year substitute job in Bloomington and then had other part-time jobs.

Ted and I have lived most of our 45 years of married life in Bloomington, Minnesota. We have three children, a son and two daughters, who are all married and luckily living in the Twin Cities. We have four grandchildren – ages 10, 7, 13-months, and 1 year – with whom we enjoy many times together.

We have been able to travel since our children left the nest. Some interesting places we’ve been include Portugal, Turkey, Tanzania, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, China, India, the Amazon, Peru, and the Galapagos. Travel has always been a love of mine and I'm lucky Ted likes to travel, too.

We still live in the same house we built and have had for 40 years. Since retirement a few years ago, we have also been busy with house projects and getting rid of stuff. Sound familiar to anyone?

My Luther experience is dear to me. I met so many wonderful friends while there, many of whom I see somewhat often. I’m always thrilled to hear about new and exciting things happening on campus. We’ve been to many of the Luther concerts, both on campus and in the cities. I always enjoy going back to campus and also being in Decorah. It’s a beautiful small town with so many natural treasures to see and enjoy. It feels like home.
Barbara Jean (Anderson) Nelson

Spouse Name:  Loren Nelson

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I began teaching music after graduation in the fall of 1965 and continued this career path until 1970, when I retired for the first time. Loren and I were married in 1968, and have three lovely daughters, and now five amazing granddaughters. Our middle daughter, Joanna Nelson Meehan, is a member of Luther's Class of '95. I went back to teaching in 1988, and retired for the second time in 1998. I was a professional singer in Twin Cities churches and choral organizations for 35 years, and retired for the third time (I was getting good at this retirement thing) in 2000. As a singer, I traveled extensively in the US and Europe with the Dale Warland Singers, and VocalEssence.

In 2001, Loren and I began exploring the southwest, looking for a warmer winter. We ended up buying a home in Silver City, New Mexico, and have made this our permanent home ever since. Our next life-changer came in 2010, when we learned of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This is an Early Childhood Literacy program where children are registered at birth, and have a free, quality, age-appropriate book mailed to their homes every month until their fifth birthday. We began a local Imagination Library affiliate in our New Mexico Grant County in December of that year, registering eight children. This month, we'll send books to nearly 1,400 children in our county. We're also working closely with our New Mexico legislators to bring this program to all of our state's preschoolers. We have worked hard to get books in the children's homes, and to encourage parents to spend quality time reading to them. All children deserve an opportunity to experience success. We're working diligently to make that happen here in New Mexico! Check out our website www.imaginationlibrarygc.org to get the whole story! One day, I'll retire for a fourth time, but not yet!
Michael Nesset

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On the first day of a graduate class at the University of Minnesota, the professor questioned us about the history of Western Civilization to determine how much we Ph.D. candidates remembered of our undergraduate courses in history, philosophy, and literature. After a few questions, he began to look at me expectantly after each question because, thanks to Robert Jenson, Arthur Oien (remember him?), Earl Leland, John Bale, and the gang at the English department, I was the only one in the class who had the answers. In spite of all my goofing off, my late-night bull sessions, sleeping in, and sudsy libations in the woods, Luther College managed to give me a ‘way-above-average’ preparation for graduate study and for a thirty-year academic career.

My academic career: M.A. in English from Washington University in St. Louis; two years of teaching at Sioux Falls College; six years as a graduate ‘associate’ instructor at the University of Minnesota while working toward a Ph.D. in American Studies; one year at North Hennepin Community College followed by ten years of what seemed to be underemployment as a custodian (with a boiler license!), day-care worker, foster parent and freelance writer; and finally, twenty-four years as an English instructor at Century College in White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

Marian (nee Torguson, ’64 although she started with us) and I were married for thirty years, had two redheaded daughters, were best friends for ten years after we split up. She passed in 2011, after a long illness, which she fought bravely for many years. Sarah (U of M ’92) and Anne (Luther, ’91) are presently out conquering the world, Sarah in Minneapolis and Anne in New Zealand, where I visit as often as I can. They are both happily married.

I have no grandchildren but, as a long-time mentor and foster parent, I have honorary grandchildren coming out of the woodwork (not quite literally). I loved my job and I love retirement. I spend my mornings writing (the results of which some of you may have read in the Star Tribune, the Luther Alumni Magazine, several obscure regional or national literary magazines, The Sun, The Wapsipinicon Almanac, Great River Review, among others). I’m working on a collection of stories about a priggish scholar and his goofy roommate at a place called Christiania College, in extreme northeastern Iowa (sound familiar?).

Advice to Luther students: no one my age ever looked back and wished they’d spent more time at work. Shower the people you love with love; the rest will follow.
Sherry (Lyon) Oakland

Spouse Name:  James H. Oakland
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After three attempts, I am retired from elementary education. I do substitute in the local school just to be with “the kids.” Otherwise, I spend time with grandchildren, sew, quilt, and raise wildflowers.
Paul Olsen

Spouse Name: Jeanne (Donstad) Olsen

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I am still a full-time professor of English and head (men’s) track and cross country coach at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. I earned my Ph.D. at the University of Oregon, and I have been at Augustana since the fall of 1966. Many summers led to teaching “gigs” at Holden Village, where I served on the board for 12 years, and various summer institutes.

Jeanne and I have two sons; David is a Luther grad (1998) and a fourth generation Olsen to graduate from Luther. He is an entrepreneur (and former Navy SEAL). Our other son, Eric, is an actor in Los Angeles.

I have special memories of track with Kent Finanger (and all my special teammates), football under Edsel Schweitzer, and terrific English classes with John Bale, Harlan Nelson, Bernard Bearer, and Mary Lou Mohr (“Hull” then).

I have been teaching and coaching at “Blue and Gold” Augustana for 50 years, but there is still a lot of “Blue and White” in my blood.
Luther got me prepared to go to Colorado to be a biology teacher in the local high school. Also, so I could go on to graduate school.

My favorite event was the National NCAA Track & Field meet in California with my teammates and Kent Finanger, plus all of the track meets for four years that led up to that event. Luther placed third in the nation that year!

My favorite two professors were George Bearer, my freshman English teacher, and Roger Knutson, my ecology teacher. George Bearer was a Harvard University graduate and was an excellent instructor of the English language.

Next, I went to the University of Wyoming and received a M.S. degree in Animal Behavior and Natural Science.

Marie Smith and I were married and had one son, Adam, who is a lawyer in Kansas City.

I have traveled all over the Western U.S., photographing scenery and big game animals. My favorite places are National Parks, and I have visited seven of them. Yellowstone is my favorite place on earth. Retirement has me traveling to new places to photograph. I am always planning my next trip.

My advice to Luther students is to go to the library and study there until they kick you out and then you can go to the dorm or off-campus housing.
Karen Nilsestuen Peterson

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The fond memories I have of Luther are all associated with life-long friendships and people I love. I met my dear husband, Deane Peterson, at Luther and was blessed with 45 years of marriage and an interesting life with him. We raised two sons, Andrew and Matt, and have two young grandchildren, Lucas and Zoe.

Deane was in his second year of seminary when we married in August, 1965. With my Luther degree I easily found teaching positions as Deane's ministry took us first to Michigan, then Illinois, and finally Wisconsin. God always put us in the right place at the right time to our way of thinking. I loved teaching and experienced it at various levels from pre-school, through middle school, junior high, and one year of high school. In the role of active church member and pastor's wife, I used my teaching skills to work with young Sunday School kids through adult classes. I enjoyed the varied and rewarding experiences of a clergy spouse.

Deane and I loved to travel and led eight trips to Europe and the Holy Land for friends and members of our congregations. Our favorite places were Norway and the Greek Islands.

My favorite Luther memories include living in drafty Larsen Hall as a freshman where I began life-long friendships; coffee dates; Homecoming; football games; Lambda Chi; WIMIs; living in Vanaheim as a senior; and getting pinned at Luther. An outcome of these friendships formed at Luther has been the regular gathering of 15-20 Luther women at Spirit in the Desert retreat center in Carefree, Arizona, New York City, and Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. Here, we nourish our friendships begun at Luther.

Deane passed away suddenly just days after we had attended my 45th Luther reunion. Our Luther friends have been a constant source of love and support to me since Deane's death, and now they are part of a large network of family and friends who pray for the health and well-being of my little Trisomy18 granddaughter, Zoe. For this support I will be forever grateful.

These days I spend the winters in Texas with my son, Matt and family, in Round Rock, Texas, a suburb of Austin, and the rest of the year at my home in Delafield where I enjoy gardening, keeping up with 30 years of friendships here, and seeing my son, Andrew.

I encourage current Luther students to take full advantage of the excellent education they're receiving, to enjoy the opportunities to engage in music, theatre, sports, etc., and to consciously and deliberately cultivate deep and meaningful friendships.
Being on the Luther College campus during the first half of the 60s opened my eyes to the issue of racism and to the need to work towards better black/white relations. The decision of Luther College to form a companion relationship with a mostly black college had a big and life-changing impact on my life.

Following my graduation at Luther, I moved to St. Paul, Minnesota and attended Luther Seminary. My two-year internship was in southern California and I returned to southern California following my graduation in 1970. During the next ten years, I served as a parish pastor and Bible Camp Director. In both ministries, I was heavily involved in working on the development of better black/white relations.

In 1980, I accepted a call to Hill City, South Dakota to develop a new mission start congregation in that small Black Hills community. During my second year in Hill City, the Bishop asked me to serve on a Synod-wide commission whose task was to seek opportunities for healing and reconciliation between the Indian and non-Indian communities of South Dakota. For most of the past 35 years, I have lived and worked on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in S.W. South Dakota.

In May of 2010, I moved to Loveland, Colorado so I could spend more time with my son and his family in Loveland, and my daughter and her family in Thousand Oaks, California.

In September of 2014, I moved back to the Black Hills where I am currently living and working at Outlaw Ranch as a full-time volunteer. Fifty great years shaped by my four years at Luther College!
Richard James Quast

Spouse Name: Linda A. Quast

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Since Luther, I have taught instrumental music at secondary and post-secondary levels in the Midwest. I also did music programming at several nursing homes in the Twin Cities for almost 20 years. My wife, Linda, and I are semi-retired and are continuing to live in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, where we have been since 1987. I continue to teach private brass students at our home each week. Linda is a retired kindergarten teacher, but continues to tutor elementary reading skills part-time. We continue to be active at First Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake by singing in the choir and varied other activities.

Our son, Ryan, is Operations Manager at Tendyne, a company developing a non-invasive heart valve procedure in Roseville, Minnesota. Our younger son, Joel, serves as Senior Manager of Organizational Development for Novo Nordisk at their diabetes headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with our two grandchildren, Scarlett, (4), and Julian (1).

Throughout the years, it has been my privilege to have several students attend Luther and participate in music ensembles. Many of my students have been selected as members of All State Orchestras and Bands, as well as continuing their performance in university and collegiate groups. The influence of Weston Noble has been a dynamic source of inspiration to me. Memories of soloing with the Luther Band on our '65 East Coast Tour and Messiah performances of, "The Trumpet Shall Sound" will always be special.

To future students: I congratulate you on your choice of Luther. Countless blessings have been given us as alumni, which we have gratefully shared with others. Now as we celebrate this anniversary, we anticipate our mutual future contributions wherever we are representing the heritage Luther has given to us.
Gloria (Evans) Rainer

Spouse Name: Brian L. Rainer '64

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I appreciate so much the Luther experience, where classes were small and faculty were committed to teaching, where students made eye-contact and greeted each other on campus while passing on the sidewalk, where you heard chimes playing at twilight, and where we all experienced academic life on a beautiful campus.

Highlights for me: playing in the Concert Band under the direction of Weston Noble; being a dorm counselor at Brandt with Joy Andreson; experiencing the high expectations of Dr. Helen Strand, head of the education department; experiencing Messiah at Christmas; appreciating the gentleness and kindness in German class from Knut Gunderson (I wasn’t his top student!); living my senior year at Vanaheim along with an extraordinary group of senior women; my participation in activities associated with Tau Delta Gamma; and the many friendships and relationships fostered in this caring and supportive community.

After graduation, I moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where I taught second grade at Phillip Falk Elementary School (there was a large group of Luther education grads who went together, teaching at different schools in the city system). After I married Brian in 1966, I taught in Roseville, Minnesota, from 1966-1968. We then moved to Champaign, Illinois, where I taught for 35 years at Martin Luther King School in Urbana, a public international school mainly comprised of children of international graduate students at the University of Illinois. I did educational consulting in literacy after my retirement, and since that time have volunteered at Krannert Art Museum, on the campus of the University of Illinois. At the art museum, I am a docent; I am the chair of the annual fundraiser; and as a master gardener, I chair the museum’s volunteer gardening team, which maintains the large flower and sculpture garden.
David E. Ramsett

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I was a junior in high school when I was invited to come to Luther to play in a band concert. While there, I thought to myself, “What a great school; I would love to go to college at Luther.” Two years later, after a military obligation, I married my wife, Maureen (’64), and enrolled at Luther. After four years, working several part-time jobs, I graduated.

I went to graduate school at the University of Oklahoma with a NDEA scholarship and earned a Ph.D. in economics in 1968. Following graduation, I took an economics assistant professor position at the University of Northern Iowa and held that position for two years. In 1970, we moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where I became the director of the Center for Economics Education and assistant professor at the University of North Dakota. I served 30 years there in the College of Business and Public Administration and was chair of the Economics Department for many years. During that time, Maureen held several positions at the University, ending with ten plus years as the Education Program Coordinator for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences where she worked with first- and second-year medical students in a problem-based learning program.

We both remember several professors we had at Luther and are grateful for how they helped to shape our lives with new knowledge and Christian values.

These days, we are both retired and living in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, during the summer, and in Florida during the winter months. We are blessed with three children – Renee Yoder (Harrisonburg, Virginia), Major Dean Ramsett (Wichita, Kansas), and Jodi Achterberg (Cincinnati, Ohio) – and six grandchildren (all girls, ranging in ages from 4 through 24).

Our advice for Luther students is to respect your faculty and take full advantage of the many ways they can help you to “learn how to learn.” I believe that this can have the greatest impact on one’s education, especially if it is fully valued as a student.
My Luther experience has impacted my life by enhancing my Christian foundation to include an in-depth approach to Biblical and theological education. This education is ongoing as I participate in Christian women's groups. Also, I am blessed to belong to a congregation with a strong adult education program which includes Sunday morning adult forum, small group studies, and classes focusing on scripture. While at Luther, I also gained a greater appreciation of the arts.

Some of my favorite Luther memories include Messiah rehearsals and performances with Weston Noble (yes, the trumpeter began practicing in September!), the burning of the gymnasium the fall of our freshman year, student congregation, dorm meetings with floor counselors, the fact that we were the first class to hold commencement exercises in the new field house, and, of course, Mabe's pizza!

Luther prepared me for a brief career in teaching. After student teaching in Rochester, I applied for and secured a teaching position there. While at Luther I did some secretarial work in the religion department. After a few years of teaching and moving on to parenthood, I pursued church secretarial work for approximately 20 years. Who knew that the bulletins I printed for student congregation were a forerunner for thousands of Sunday bulletins down the road.

I have been married to Dave, a retired IBM electrical engineer, for 47 years. I have a daughter, son, and grandson, blended with two stepsons, six step-grandchildren, and eight step-great-grandchildren. They live in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Colorado.

I grew up in Central Eastern Wisconsin, and have spent all of my post-college years in Rochester. Travels include Canada, Mexico, England (London), Spain (Madrid and Toledo), Hawaii, a "Lutheran Heritage" trip to Germany with my pastor and a retired German teacher, a congregation-sponsored trip to the "Isles of New England," and visits to the majority of the continental United States.

Both prior to and during retirement, I have been a participant and have shared leadership roles in congregation councils and synod assemblies, Church Women United (local and state), Women of the ELCA and its predecessor organizations at local, conference, synod, and church-wide expressions. I love flower gardening, and my husband and I both enjoy attending classical concerts.

My advice to current Luther students would be to avail yourselves of the many opportunities at your fingertips. Luther can be a magnificent springboard to your future. SOLI DEO GLORIA
Lee Roesti

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The beautiful Norway pines and the talented music faculty ensnared me from another college where my dad was a trustee. I won the piano competition contest, was elected to student council, and most of all, was the last person to escape the gym fire. In 1964, I was on the Nordic Choir tour to California. In 1963, I was in Mr. Wold's Chapel Choir and we premiered Dr. Monhardt's Te Deum, which I considered the greatest of the twentieth century and hope it is performed again. I was inspired to compose choral music and received the Sophomore Composers Award. With all this success, it was a big struggle to leave in 1963 to help my father. At his college, I received a composition award and performances of four pieces. At WVU I wrote a Missa Tritone and got a DMA in Piano, then 15 years of college teaching and 17 in church music in eight states. Four pieces are published by Hinshaw Music, Inc., one for each grandchild. My heart has always been with Luther. Our health makes it hard to visit the campus today. I sang in Weston's last Messiah. To see the new buildings seems like another college. So few of former faculty are alive (Noble, Wold, Monhardt, and Guy Johnson are alive!). So give them a note of appreciation. I never heard such a beautiful band and choir as was done under Weston Noble. The last time we lived in Dubuque, Iowa, was 1981. Semi-retired for six years at a small church, many times I wish I could be a student again. So make the most of it! Would love to hear from you.
After my Luther graduation in May of ’65, I entered a MAT program at Johns Hopkins University, which I completed in May of ’66. I then enrolled as a math graduate student at Iowa State University in the fall of ’66, completing an M.S. in ’68 and a Ph.D. in ’71 in pure mathematics (point set topology). Later, in ’84, I completed an M.S. degree in computer science at UW-Madison.

My entire 46-year career was spent teaching at the college level. I began with an internship at Baltimore Junior College in ’66, and continued as a teaching assistant and instructor at Iowa State from ’66 to ’71 while working on my Ph.D. My first full-time teaching job was as an Assistant Professor at the University of Guam from ’71 to ’75. In ’75, I came back to this area, accepting an Assistant Professor position in the mathematics department at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin, where I stayed until my retirement as Professor Emeritus in 2011. I taught various mathematics and statistics courses during most of my career, although I did teach a number of computer science courses for about ten years.

I married my wife, Diana, in Guam in ’74, and we still reside on our farm near Gays Mills, as we have for the past 40 years. We have one son, David, who works at Gundersen Health Services in La Crosse. He lives with his wife Shelly and six-year-old son, Johnny, in Stoddard, Wisconsin.

I very much enjoy retirement. I keep busy maintaining our farm, fishing, gardening, and collecting and pulling antique farm tractors.

Since most of my wife’s relatives live in Japan, much of our travel has taken us to that area. We have been to her home island of Chi Chi Jima (Bonin Islands) a number of times over the years, including a trip there and to Guam (where we met) last year to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary.
Joyce (Reynolds) Saul

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May 21, 2015

Today is a good day to write: It's my 72nd birthday and a reflection time of 50 years since we graduated. Time just has a way of catching up with us.

Four years at Luther of EXCELLENT education with a degree in education put me in a fourth grade classroom in Brookfield, Wisconsin; team leader in the campus school of Western Oregon State University; and finally as head teacher at the Alternative High School: Roberts High in Salem, Oregon.

I know the students I taught benefited from my Luther College education. To further this, my deceased husband, Paul Hanson, DDS, and I had established a family scholarship. Our two sons, Mark (Kim) and Eric (Kelly), and Al (married after Paul’s death), continue to fund this scholarship. It is great to receive notes from the scholarship recipients each year.

Although I will not be attending the 50th anniversary events, I join in wishing our class great joy in celebration.
Ronald M. Schultz

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Attended NSF opportunities at Valparaiso University, UW-Green Bay, UW-Platteville. Also obtained a Woodrow Wilson Scholarship at Princeton University, studying DNA. A Department of Defense Scholarship took me to Albuquerque, New Mexico, one summer where I worked on an Air Force Base, hands-on cancer research. All of these summer scholarships gave me wonderful opportunities to further my own education, but it also benefited my students in the classroom.

Married Jan Erickson in 1967. She worked as a Program Assistant at UW-Platteville, Platteville, Wisconsin. Retired in 2006.

Four children: Jon, graduate of UW-Platteville in 1992. Lives in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, firefighter/paramedic for the Eau Claire Fire Department for 13 years, promoted in 2007 and is now the Deputy Chief of EMS. Wife, Robin, is the EMS coordinator for EMS at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire. Three boys, ages 14, 8, and 7.


Kristin, Graduate of Luther College in 1999. Graduate of Medical School of Wisconsin in 2005. Pediatric residency in Ann Arbor, Michigan, now a pediatrician at Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wisconsin. Husband, Jon, Pathologist, heads up the Pathology Department at Marshfield Clinic. Three girls, ages 7, 5, and 2-1/2.

Now retired and living on our farm in Scales Mound, Illinois, just ten miles west of Galena, Illinois. Farming is my second career and I am thoroughly enjoying retirement.
Looking back, I could say I've had a happy, fulfilling, and interesting life. The best part about going to Luther was meeting Dave there. We've been married over 50 years, and he's my best friend. I also got a start on a teaching career, which was very rewarding. I taught a little while he was in the Navy, then 31 years at South Winneshiek – lower elementary grades and about ten years of Title I reading. While I was teaching, I got my master's degree from UNI.

I also met some wonderful people at Luther, and get together with former roommates and other friends. Four of us celebrated our 70th birthdays together in Arkansas. It's better to celebrate getting older with friends!

We are blessed with two sons, Bryant, age 48, and Kevin, age 45. They are both kind, good husbands and fathers, both have good jobs, and they are flexible and have a good sense of humor. Couldn't ask for much more. We also have two wonderful daughters-in-law, and each family has two children. Our grandkids are 17, 17, 14, and 11 – three boys and a girl. Two will graduate from high school this year. And they are cousins, not twins! It's been fun watching these four kids grow up and be a part of their lives. They all live within four hours of Decorah, so we can get together occasionally on weekends, and they seem to like visiting us. We are a close family and have a lot of good times together.

I retired at 58 – great retirement incentive package. Since then we've traveled a lot, and five years ago, we bought a second home in Bella Vista, Arkansas. We stay there for a time in the fall, and usually spend March and part of April there. Usually the kids and their families spend spring break down there with us. Our house is a VRBO when we're not there.

We volunteer, play a little golf, Dave plays guitar and harmonica, and we just resigned after years of being in Decorah Chorale. We get together with regular social groups, work in our huge yard and flower garden (my flowers), and take trips, car trips, cruises, one Amtrak trip. The best was probably a cruise to Norway. I'd do that again in a heartbeat. I have a wonderful extended family, and we travel with them quite a bit.

My advice for Luther students – find work you love, stay connected with other people, and don't spend your whole life at work! You don't want to miss the best parts of life – family, friends, helping others.

Oh, final note. We live on an acreage south of Decorah, the same place we've lived for 44 years. We love getting together with old friends. Give us a call when you're in town. We are often at Java John's and would meet for coffee most any day we're in the area.
Lynne (Boller) Stark Prahl

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My closest friends today are from the friendships formed while at Luther. In fact, that's where I met my husband John (although we were warned to stay away from the Muddas and the Rakeups), and we have four wonderful children. We started our married life with United Parcel Service which meant many moves. I didn't realize how it affected our four until our oldest son, when in sixth grade, asked if we were nomads (must have been studying that in school).

Our last thirty years were spent in Brookings, South Dakota – a community I consider home. John was director of distribution at Coast to Coast and it was there he died of heart disease. After John died, I retired from Birth to Five Special Needs in the public school system and started a new adventure. I became a house mom for the Tri Deltas at Simpson College (I still wore my Luther ring though). While at Simpson, I met Ron Prahl. He was a retired English teacher from Newton, Iowa, and was living in Ankeny, Iowa. No matter where you go or who you meet, it seems you can find a connection to Luther. Ron just happened to be Erik Hemp's teacher. Erik is the son of Dick and Joann Hemp. Ron and I married a year ago and he has a daughter, so now I have five wonderful children. We moved to Gilbert, Arizona and are just settling into our new home. We have plenty of room for guests and grandchildren, all twelve!
Thomas A. Stenson

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My wife, Susan, and I have been married for forty-six years and we were blessed with two wonderful children. Our son, John, graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and has taught English for the past thirteen years in Taiwan. Marnie, our daughter, who also graduated from Gustavus, is married and lives in Boulder, Colorado, with her husband and daughter, Brynley. Marnie is a middle school science teacher, and her husband is a school counselor. Brynley just started kindergarten this fall.

For the past dozen years, we have traveled to Taiwan four times and have had numerous trips to Boulder. Susan and I like to say that our kids are both fifteen hours away, one by flying and the other by driving.

My career path has been in the field of education. After teaching physical education and Spanish for two years, I then spent twenty-nine years as a high school counselor and two years as an adjunct professor teaching Intro to School Counseling at Minnesota State, Mankato. I also coached football, basketball, and tennis for many years.

As for Luther memories, there are many, however, my main mentors were Kent Finanger in physical education and Ruth Fjelstad in Spanish. I especially enjoyed living in the WIMI House (405 High Street) for three years and doing public address announcing for varsity football, basketball, wrestling, and track. Being involved in student government, student congregation on campus, KWLC, and singing in Messiah every year, were all terrific experiences that helped influence me in very positive ways.

A little advice for Luther students would be: attend every class, study hard, and become involved in campus activities!
Janice “Jan” (Moldenhauer) Strike

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The Luther experience provided not only education for my career, but it broadened my interests, stimulated my imagination, enriched my faith, exposed me to the arts, and gave me lifelong friends.

Being shy back then, I was mortified when Chell Evanson, said taking roll in American History, “Moldenhauer, what are you doing at a college like this with a German name like that?” Growing up near Cresco, Luther was too close, so I had my A.C.T. scores sent to Iowa State (Ames), Augustana (Sioux Falls) and even Wartburg. However, my friend (who later opted for Waldorf) and my parents pushed me to apply at Luther. My dad, anxious for me to start working, suggested summer school to graduate early. Thus, I began teaching fourth grade at Alexander, Iowa (CAL Comm.) in January of 1965. While I loved teaching, I sure missed all the fun I heard about in letters from friends back at Luther.

In 1967, I moved to New Hampton, Iowa where I taught third grade near my Cresco roots. Conversation with my dad the night before he died, led me to an M.A. in Elem. Ed. from the University of Northern Iowa in 1977 and a job with Area Education Agency 7 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Hoping for a job in talented and gifted, instead, I became an Educational Strategist working as part of a team doing diagnostic testing, developing strategies, and consulting with teachers and parents of students with all kinds of disabilities (night classes for more certifications). At Luther, Dr. Strand had a profound influence on me as did my supervising teacher in Waukon who demanded the best of her student teachers. A big lesson in treating students fairly stuck with me always when a mischievous, scruffy little boy, learning to write a description, said about his teacher, “Mrs. Schneider loves us all the same.” I remember being so scared bringing my first evaluation back to Dr. Strand (Mrs. Schneider had stapled on extra paper to tell how I needed to improve). However, I found Dr. Strand very kind that day explaining that she knew Mrs. Schneider well and that I was not to worry. I learned so much and was very prepared for teaching, even receiving an “Outstanding Educator Award” one year. I exchanged Christmas cards with both Mrs. Schneider and Dr. Strand until each passed away. My husband and I even attended Dr. Strand’s 100th birthday party. My husband, Eldon, the love of my life, also, with Howard County, Iowa farm roots, and I married later in life after dating for years and hoping to get jobs closer together (Cedar Falls, Iowa and Faribault, Minnesota). We married in 1994 in, yes, Decorah, and where? Dunning’s Spring, of course! After six years of commuting on weekends, I took early retirement in 2000. We are mostly in Faribault, Minnesota (where my husband will retire soon from Lampert Lumber), but we still have my parents’ home in Cresco. Plans are to sell both houses and live in Iowa (not too far from Decorah????).

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Retirement finds me busy: participating in a few antique shows but a collector at heart (years ago collecting stoneware with my Mom, now way too many things), volunteering genealogy research for others (enjoy the challenge of finding obscure info), writing (including a children’s workbook and two immigration stories—my husband’s grandparents in 1908 and my grandfather in 1870), going on two service trips a year to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, reading, spending time (tea parties, flying kites, riding John Deeres, etc.) with our great niece (age 12) and great nephew (age 6), and traveling (my husband says if a car is going somewhere, Jan is in it).

I can’t believe 54 yrs. have passed since green beanies, second floor Larsen Hall, chapel in Preus Gym, and being impressed by the “old people wearing the 50 year reunion buttons” at that first homecoming! Now, am I really that 70 yr. old person? In my mind, I’m still that girl in cutoffs walking with her roommate down to the Whippy Dip, but what a great life came from my Luther foundation!
Karen “Huey” (Mathews) Stuart

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Ever since I visited my sister, Sue, at Luther when I was in ninth grade, I never looked at another college. It was the only place I wanted to go. Two of my nieces, Mary Mathews Rotto and Julie Mathews Knudson also graduated from Luther. Now, my great niece, Annika Rotto, will be a freshman there in the fall. I am so excited! My best friends from Luther are still my best friends. I feel very fortunate that I have experienced the best of both worlds – growing up in Albert Lea, Minnesota, going to Luther, and now living in New York. Who would have thought that a sociology major, who almost flunked economics, would end up as one of the first women traders on Wall Street! That’s when I met my wonderful husband, Buddy.

Buddy is an avid golfer, so we have played golf all over the U.S., Mexico, Caribbean, England, Scotland, and Ireland. We have also been on a safari in Africa. I have been to Norway three times, once by myself, once with my mother who was ecstatic when we found her grandparent’s farm in Valdres, and once with Buddy who said it was the most beautiful country he had ever seen. He also thinks Luther is one of the most beautiful campuses he has ever seen.

I was very honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award five years ago. I am very grateful that I am able to give back to Luther because Luther has given so much to me.

Soli Deo Gloria.
Richard F. Svanoe, Jr.

Spouse Name: Genine Franklin-Clark (UC Berkeley, 1967, English)

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Luther memories: Working at KWLC, Chapel Choir under Leonard Van Camp, conductor, singing in annual mass chorus of Messiah with Weston Noble, conductor, burning of C.K. Preus Gymnasium my freshman year, my beloved uncle and speech professor, Dr. Harold Svanoe, and the JFK assassination in 1963.


Robert S. and Diane (Mallu) Thompson

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Two daughters, both of which attended Luther.
Kathleen (Larson) Throdahl

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My greatest gift from Luther College has been the life-long friendships that have lasted over 50 years.

One of my biggest memories from freshman year was the gym burning. This was a devastating event for the whole campus as it was the center for many activities. The morning after the fire someone stuck a sign in the smoldering ashes that said "When the going gets tough, the tough get going!" That really did rally everyone's spirit and did get the campus going again.

As an art major, my career choice was a good fit for me. Teaching art to high school students in Calmar and in Door County, Wisconsin, was a joy. When art eventually got to the chopping block of school budgets, I went back to school and became a preschool director. I retired about 20 years later.

After living in Excelsior, Minnesota, for many years and raising three children, we eventually retired to Clearwater, FL, where we live full-time. Our greatest joy is having our three kids and five grandchildren all living within three miles of us.

Peter and I love to travel, meet new friends and see the world.

My advice for today's students...when you look across the Homecoming campus and see the gray hair and bald heads, don't think of us as OLD, think of us as FIT and FABULOUS. For one day you will be there too.
Luther's lasting impact on my life are the friendships I made during those four years. The joy of sharing and laughter with those friends has served me well throughout the years. Luther exposed me to a broader world, instilled in me critical thinking, and comfort in exploring different sides to life's questions. I also met my husband, Dick Ulland, while at Luther and we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this summer!

One of many memories of Luther is going to class on Saturday mornings wearing cut-offs under a long coat I kept buttoned so no one would know I was not wearing the required skirt to class.

I have been a teacher, dental office appointment secretary, and worked in retail, among other occupations I have enjoyed.

We raised three children and have nine grandchildren.

We have lived in Flint, MI, Nashville TN, Minneapolis and Rochester, MN. We now live in Lake City, MN where we built a home overlooking beautiful Lake Pepin.

We spend much of our summer at our cabin on Whitefish Lake in northern MN.

In my retirement I enjoy quilting and traveling (we have been to about 21 different countries and most of the Caribbean islands). I also enjoy a glass of good, but inexpensive wine, and gardening.

My advice to Luther students is to cultivate friendships and keep them alive over the decades.
Gerald (Jerry) Vallem

Spouse Name:  Susan (Kosche) Vallem ’66

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My Luther education prepared me for a successful business career – 38 years with a financial services company as vice president of marketing services.

Memories: living in the Pi Sig house my junior and senior years and attending our social functions and building Homecoming floats with sororities. Cheering on the Norse athletic teams. There were some great ones! Meeting my future wife at a dance the start of my senior year – married August 7, 1965.

We have three sons – the oldest, Derek, graduated from Luther in 1991. Six grandchildren. Retired in 2003 and enjoy volunteer work, tennis, and traveling. Have visited 48 states and 20 foreign countries.
Marcia (Peterson) Van Vleet

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It is with great pride that I can say I am a graduate of Luther College. Luther is a very special institution. My career, community involvement, and faith life have been greatly enhanced because of how professors and the campus environment impacted my life. I grew in so many ways because of their teachings, especially, Dr. Helen Strand.

The friendships developed at Luther remain strong. They are grounded in our loyalty and affection for Luther. Several of us from the class of ’65 gather for a long weekend at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center in Carefree, Arizona every two years. The numbers and attendees can vary. It is a chance to renew and refresh our relationships as we share where the journey of life has taken us. That journey has included some travel together, both domestic and international.

My career path began as a third grade teacher in Madison, Wisconsin. Madison is also where I met my husband, Rod. We lived in Trempealeau, Wisconsin for one year before moving to Hastings, Minnesota for the next 41 years. I only taught full-time for five years before choosing to stay at home to raise our three children. Then, in 1992, I was offered a job with Lutheran Brotherhood as a Fraternal Unit Advisor for the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. It was a career I loved and continued until retirement in 2005.

My husband Rod is not a Luther grad. Regardless, he is a cheerful participant in all the gatherings and activities shared with fellow classmates and spouses. We have three children who live all around the United States. Amy in Indiana, Peter in Arizona, and Andy in Florida. Six years ago the Florida family convinced us we needed to move to Tampa to be near them and here we are! Life is always an adventure to embrace!

Homecoming 2015 is rapidly approaching. The words to the song, To Luther Let us Sing, keep going through my mind as I yearn to return to that campus far away. It has been 50 years since Eric Sevareid, our graduation keynote speaker, launched us into our unique and individual futures. I am excited to return and see all of you!
Joyce (Behrens) Wallman

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Attending Luther was one of the most formative decisions I've made. I have been especially grateful for the influence of Weston Noble, the English professors, as well as so many others. Singing in Nordic Choir gave me a lifetime of participation in all kinds of music.

My husband and I have enjoyed living in Fargo for 42 years (in spite of the weather!). Our two children and three grandchildren also live in Fargo, so we have the pleasure of attending events for dance, drama and hockey. I loved my 30 years of teaching H.S. English, but retirement is even better.
Leanne (Ryner) Ward

Spouse Name: Captain Timmie Joe Ward, deceased 1972

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I taught school and raised two children in Iowa until they were grown. Eventually, I was an editor for the McGraw-Hill Educational Publishing Company in Columbus, Ohio, for eleven years. Currently, I live in Massillon, Ohio, near my son and two grandchildren. In the summers, I spend time with them (and my daughter who lives in DC) at our cabin in Minnesota. Winters find me traveling with my friend to Florida, Arizona, or Europe. We will go to Israel in 2016. I also spend some time almost every year with my Luther College roommates!!
Wayne Wilken

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Jean and I were married while I was attending Luther. We have four children, fifteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Following graduation from Luther, I went to Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. After seminary I was pastor at Hope Lutheran (2X), Brighton, Iowa; St. John Lutheran, Palmer, Iowa; Fountain of Life Lutheran, Greenville, Ohio; and Peace Lutheran, Defiance, Ohio. I did short-term missionary trips to Haiti, Russia, Ukraine, and Baja California, Mexico. Jean taught in Christian and public schools wherever we were located.

Our travels include all of the states and Canadian provinces, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. We continue to travel during our retirement years. I also enjoy helping our children in a variety of ways including building projects and transportation of grandchildren to their various activities. With fifteen grandchildren, we attend a lot of sports activities, music concerts, graduations, etc. Jean and I are also involved in many activities at our winter resort in Texas with volleyball being my primary activity.

My advice for Luther students would be to make sure that you have Jesus in your heart and do not compromise Scripture. No matter what your occupation, do it as unto the Lord. Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-10: "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live of a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us. . . . Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord."
Hello fellow 65ians. I can’t believe it’s been 50 years. I remember Homecoming fifty years ago, sitting in the Union, commenting on how old those folks looked – those wearing the golden badges celebrating their fiftieth anniversary of graduation – now we are one. What a good time in our lives, experiencing some of the best years in our lives. Finding ourselves, getting our educations, embarking on our careers, and in some cases, finding the one we spend the rest of our lives. Luther provided us with a strong spiritual basis on which we could build our lives.

I would be hard-pressed to single out one special event during my stint at Luther – brotherhoods, Weston Noble, Messiah, sporting events, food fights, our trip to Buena Vista Marsh to count Greater Prairie Chickens, Dr. Haslett, Dr. David T. Nelson, Dr. Rebassoo – I could go on and on. Finding my life partner was one of the biggest events. I’m sure once you got us started we could share many, many more events.

After graduation, I decided to teach science, thus I spent one more semester at Luther taking my professional semester for education. At mid-term, I started my teaching career teaching in the Keosauqua school system, teaching seventh and eighth grade math, and coaching JV basketball and varsity golf. The following summer, Bettje Emery and I were married, and we settled down teaching in the Plainfield Iowa schools. I taught Jr. High social studies and Jr. High math. Coaching duties included Jr. High basketball, varsity basketball, varsity baseball, Jr. High track, and assistant football. In 1969, our first son was born, James Orr Willmore IV. After three years, we moved to Emmetsburg, Iowa. I taught eighth grade earth science. I began coaching seventh grade basketball, varsity cross county (one year), Jr. High track.

Our second year, I switched cross country for assistant football. Keeping the Jr. High sports and started the Jr. High wrestling program. I had the good fortune of starting an athletic health care position with football. At that time, high schools didn’t have athletic trainers. My duties consisted of offensive and defensive ends and taking care of all injuries. I traveled with seventh, eighth, ninth, JV, and varsity teams. In 1971 our second son was born, David Alan Willmore. I finished out my career in the classroom in 1997, staying on with the coaching until 2002. I still help some with football, mostly doing their statistics. I can say it was a wonderful journey. I was able to be a coach, all but one year, in the Iowa football playoffs – being able to be part of seven state championships. I consider myself very fortunate. After retiring from teaching and coaching we built a home on Ingham Lake, doing most of the work ourselves – and we stayed married. After that project, I got bored and worked for Hardware Hank in Emmetsburg, running their paint department. Bettje said

(over)
that when I reached 70 I had to retire, so I did.

Our boys are now well into their lives, Jim and his wife, Christy, live in Superior, Wisconsin. They have five kids. Jim works for Charter Communications and his wife works for the Superior School System as a coordinator of testing for the system. David and his wife, Jen, live in Fishers, Indiana. David has a degree in Computer Engineering and at the present is a stay at home dad with his two children. His wife Jen works for Eli Lilly. Jen has her Doctorate in Biochemical Engineering. Bettje has retired from her job as a Registered Nurse.

We are spending our retirement enjoying a hobby we both enjoy, classic cars. Bettje has a 1990 Mazda Miata and a 2006 Mazda Miata. I have a 1965 and a 1967 Mustang. We enjoy going on cruises and going to car shows. We do get to visit our kids and grandkids, but not often enough. I’m not much of a traveler, much to my wife’s dismay. We seem to enjoy the lake and working at our church home.

If I were to give advice to Luther students, it would be to work harder than I did. Enjoy and soak in all the things God has blessed you with and share them with other less fortunate.
### 1965 Deceased Classmates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classmate</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia (Jarland) Akre</td>
<td>8/8/2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Berg</td>
<td>10/27/2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Blekeberg</td>
<td>10/10/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwendolyn (Woodcock) Bowers</td>
<td>1/28/1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Brinkman</td>
<td>8/23/2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Brue</td>
<td>12/26/2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Burreson</td>
<td>11/24/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Demmel</td>
<td>6/17/2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Engum</td>
<td>4/17/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miriam (Frost) Featherston</td>
<td>1/1/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Fish</td>
<td>1/10/2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra (Altemeier) Grambo</td>
<td>6/10/2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Haydon</td>
<td>10/25/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Johnson</td>
<td>10/6/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Johnson '66</td>
<td>11/29/2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheryl (White) Knutson</td>
<td>1/1/1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Koch</td>
<td>1/1/1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almen Larson</td>
<td>7/21/2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorna Lee</td>
<td>12/21/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith (Backlund) Lowmiller '64</td>
<td>1/1/1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Lueder</td>
<td>1/1/1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arla (Erickson) Lyon</td>
<td>4/20/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darryl Meyer</td>
<td>8/6/2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JoAnne (Baumgardt) Nelson</td>
<td>1/15/2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherman Neste</td>
<td>5/19/1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Olien</td>
<td>3/6/2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon Olson '63</td>
<td>1/1/1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Olson</td>
<td>1/1/1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Oswald</td>
<td>8/29/1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth (Lovas) Otte</td>
<td>8/15/2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne C. Paulson</td>
<td>1/1/1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Peterson</td>
<td>1/15/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elinor (Hendee) Pool</td>
<td>2/5/2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Quamme</td>
<td>4/2/2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Rathjen</td>
<td>1/1/1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Reisetter</td>
<td>3/19/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolores Sande</td>
<td>1/10/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte (Goke) Soliday</td>
<td>2/7/2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances (Ruble) Tholl</td>
<td>1/11/2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evelyn (Pilgrim) Thomas</td>
<td>12/6/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edel (Stoa) Thomton</td>
<td>1/1/1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Tlou</td>
<td>6/29/2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillian (Madland) Torgerson</td>
<td>2/20/2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Wage</td>
<td>3/11/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ann Walker</td>
<td>3/26/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joy (Andresen) Wetzel</td>
<td>11/6/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Woolery</td>
<td>1/1/1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth (Branae) Wright</td>
<td>4/26/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Zaske</td>
<td>1/24/2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: We have been able to locate obituaries for most of your classmates who have died and have compiled them for you online. You may view them at [http://www.luther.edu/giving/reunions/1965/](http://www.luther.edu/giving/reunions/1965/). The collection of obituaries is in a pdf format and may be viewed on your computer or downloaded for printing.