

JEN-977
BOX 6-B
PACKET 26

PETERSEN, KENNETH HAMPTON
1918-

Individual Questionnaire for

Biographical Record of Ministers

of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (in America) and its parent synods:
The United Danish Ev. Luth. Church, The Danish Ev. Luth. Church Association
in America and The Danish Ev. Luth. Church in North America.

(Compiled for the Synodical Historical Archives)

Personal Data: (Please give all information you can)

Full name: Kenneth Hampton Petersen

Born when: Aug 30, 1918 where: Coral, Michigan

Baptized when and where: Nov 10, 1918 at Trufant, Michigan

Confirmed when and where: 1933, June? Trufant, Mich by whom: T. S. Beck

If immigrant, date of arrival in America: located where:

Date of ordination: June 11, 1944 where: Minneapolis, Minn by whom: Dr. N. C. Carlsen

If not in above synods, when and where accepted as member pastor of our synod:

Retired from active ministry when: why:

Located where: occupation:

If dead, what date: where: cause:

Buried where date

Marriage: (1) to whom Rutha Hansen date and place: June 7, 1944 at Coalter, Iowa

Wife's birthdate and place: April 25, 1919 at Alexander, Iowa

Her parents: Ole and Kristine Hansen location: Alexander, Iowa

If wife is dead, give date

(2) Second wife (if any; give same information about her).....

Children (give names and other information of interest, as occupation, spouse, and present address):

Girl - Alice Ruth
Son - Paul Kenneth

Other in

Parents: Father (give name, birthplace, occupation, residence, etc.) Peter Petersen, Farmer at Coral, Mich.
Mother (give her maiden name, birthplace, home before marriage, etc.) Anna Jorgensen, born at Trufant, Michigan where she lived until marriage.

Education Training: Give name of institution, location, and when attended.

High Schools: Coral High School, Coral, Mich.

Colleges (Give also degrees attained): Dana College - 3 yrs
Capital University - 1 yr - BA Degree

Theological Schools: Trinity Theological Seminary - B. degree

Honorary Degrees received (give name of institution and date):

[Handwritten signature]

Other specific training:

Lutheran Bible Institute, 2 terms
Luther Theological Seminary, Graduate

Additional comment on above: *work on pastoral counselling*

Ministerial Service. Please give in chronological order the names of congregations or charges served, and period of each.

Viborg and Irene, So Dakota

Installed on July 2, 1944

Farewell Service - Nov. 24, 1946

Northfield and Hazelwood, Minn.

Installed - Dec 8, 1946

Farewell - Febr 22, 1953

Luverne and Hofva Lutheran, Luverne, N.D.

Installed - March 1, 1953

NOTE: Our previous biographical records were lost in the night fire that destroyed the office building of the Lutheran Publishing House, Minneapolis, Feb. 15, 1953. Where the records of the past are lost, we are unable to provide them. If you can refer us to any person, book or paper that can inform us further, we shall be very much obliged to you. If you can refer us to any person, book or paper that can inform us further, we shall be very much obliged to you.

REV. P. C. JENSEN
STATISTICIAN & HISTORIAN
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
CLAIR, MINN.

Offices held in Synod and Districts, and when:

Pres of Minn. Dist. Luther League

Other activities and official services-at-large (teaching, chaplaincy, editorial, etc., and period of each):

Literary production (books and pamphlets): Give titles and when published.

Additional information of interest:

Date June 29, 1954 Signed Kenneth H. Petersen

NOTE: Our previous biographical records were lost in the tragic fire that destroyed the office building of the Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr., Febr. 15, 1953, where the synodical historian also had his office. This accounts for the detailed questionnaire now. In the case of deceased members of our clergy we are largely dependent upon living members of their family for correct data. Be assured all cooperation in gathering this historically important data will be highly appreciated. Please fill in what you can, perhaps with the assistance of others acquainted with subject. Furthermore, if you have clippings or other material about the person concerned, especially a photo or picture of him, and we may either have it or borrow it, please send it along. All our collection of cuts was also ruined in the fire. If you can refer us to any person, book or paper that can inform us further, we shall be very much obliged to you.

Return this report as soon as possible to

REV. P. C. JENSEN
STATISTICIAN & HISTORIAN
UNITED EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
BLAIR, NEBRASKA

Pastor encourages neighborliness between synods

Not long after coming to Northfield as pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, the Rev. Kenneth H. Petersen was called upon to speak at the closing session of the annual convention of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, according to a story in the Oct. 9, 1947, Northfield News — 50 years ago.

The convention was held at Owatonna. Several members of the local congregation attended sessions, according to the story. Mrs. C.N. Olson and Mrs. Mary Mikkelsen were the official delegates.

This was during Petersen's first residence in Northfield. For he returned here in retirement and only died four years ago.

He was born in August of 1918 at Coral, Mich., growing up on the family farm near Trufant, Mich. He graduated from high school at Coral and attended Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis and Dana College at Blair, Neb. He received his bachelor's degree from Capitol University, Columbus, Ohio, and graduated from Trinity Seminary at Blair in 1944. He was ordained in June of that year.

That same month he married Ruth Hansen at Coulter, Iowa,

and they immediately moved to South Dakota. His first parish consisted of two rural churches, Spring Valley and Turkey Valley churches near Viborg.

At the beginning of December of 1946, he assumed new duties as pastor of two churches here — St. Peter's and a rural church that was closed several years ago, Immanuel Lutheran Church at Hazelwood. That church existed throughout the years of Petersen's ministry.

The six years and three months he served became, according to The News story upon Petersen's departure, the longest ministry in the history of the parish. He and his family left for Luverne, N.D., at the end of February, 1953.

During the farewell party at St. Peter's, the Rev. Boral R. Biorn, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, was among the speakers. Biorn revealed that this was the first time he had participated in a farewell party for a pastor outside his synod. A message from the St. John's board of deacons was also read during the program, thanking the Rev. Petersen for his share in the cooperation and neighborliness that had existed between the two

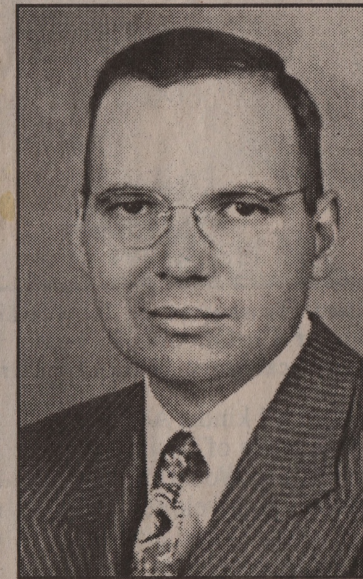
Lutheran churches. This was, of course, several years before the two churches — because of mergers — became members of the same synod.

At Luverne, Petersen served two churches that were members of two different synods. Luverne Lutheran Church was a member of the United Evangelical Lutheran synod in which he had been working, and the rural Hofva Lutheran Church, 12 miles away, was a member of the Augustana Synod. The churches were about 80 miles from Fargo.

Next Petersen served Shelby Lutheran Church in Iowa. From August of 1959 to November of 1966 he was pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church at Owatonna.

There were still more moves for the pastor and his wife: Trinity and Thompson Valley Lutheran churches near Mondovi, Wis., from December of 1966 to September of 1969; Grace Lutheran Church at Marshfield, Wis., until May 1975; Bethel and St. John's churches at Marion, Wis., until his retirement in August of 1982.

The couple then moved to Northfield where a News story said, they enjoyed renewing old



The Rev. Petersen while at his first parish

friendships and making new ones.

Petersen's obituary said briefly, "He enjoyed woodworking as a hobby." A feature story that appeared in The News in 1951 proves that his woodworking was much more sophisticated than what is done by many. He was pictured with a handsome grandfather clock he had just concluded making. He

had built the mahogany case between September and early November in his basement workshop.

He was quoted, "I don't hunt or fish, or even swim. Woodworking is my hobby." He added that he had started working with wood when he was in high school even though the little school he attended in Michigan did not offer a course in manual training.

The News reporter looked at some other pieces around the house that the pastor had made. There were, for instance, a walnut kneehole desk with Duncan Phyfe desk chair; an oak cabinet; a table lamp of polished wood blocks and brass tubing; a cedar chest.

The grandfather clock case was 6 feet 4-1/2 inches tall ("taller by far than the old man himself," the pastor quoted a long-time favorite song about a grandfather clock). It was 19 inches wide and 13 inches deep. It was made Georgian style with broken pediments and a finial. Petersen decided on a glass door rather than paneling in front because he said that half of the joy of such a clock to him was being able to see the pendulum and the weights.

friendliness between synods

FROM - RUTH PETERSEN
NORTHFIELD, MN
10-13-97



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The pastor revealed that a neighbor, Melvin Widman of the St. Olaf music faculty had joked that he was going to sing a dedicatory song upon the clock's completion. It was to go like this:

Bless this clock
This day we pray;
Keep me chiming
Day by day.

"When my friend, Pastor Biorn, heard about that he said he might give a dedicatory speech," said Pastor Petersen. "But the other night we just lugged it up out of the basement without any fanfare."

Petersen died May 28, 1993, at Northfield Retirement Center. The funeral service was at St. Peter's and burial was in Northfield Cemetery. He was survived by Mrs. Petersen, two daughters, a son and seven grandchildren.

His obituary stated that he had often said he wanted to be known as one, who like Christ, "washed the feet" of those in need.