

# Hoffmann Family



The Hoffmann name comes to Frankenmuth through the persona of Dr. Oswald Hoffmann. Although Dr. Hoffmann never resided in Frankenmuth for more than a week at a time, it seems appropriate to have a room name in his family's honor. He was well known in the community as the speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" which is sponsored by the International Lutheran Laymen's League, an auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which is an approximately 130,000 member organization with headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. Hoffmann was a frequent guest in Frankenmuth, not only as a speaker on behalf of the Lutheran Laymen's League but, also, as a guest of the Zehnder family at their annual "Schlachtfest" (a butchering and sausage making get-together). Dr. Hoffmann served as speaker for 34 years, and was named Honorary Speaker of the International Lutheran Hour. The Lutheran Hour messages are broadcast over more than 1,200 radio stations in the United States and Canada and over more than 600 additional stations in more than 30 other English-speaking countries around the world.

Dr. Hoffman was born in Snyder, Nebraska in 1913. He graduated from Concordia College, St. Paul, Minnesota, received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Divinity degree for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri; an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana; and the Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the Philippine Christian University in Manila. In 1999, he was inducted into the National Religious Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Dr. Hoffmann served as Instructor and Dean of Men at Bethany College, Makato, Minnesota, as Instructor in Linguistics and Classical Languages at the University of

Minnesota, and was Professor of Greek and Latin at Concordia College, Bronxville, New York. He served congregations in Cottonwood, Minnesota and at America's oldest Lutheran Church, St. Matthew Church in New York City. He was named Director of the Department of Public Relations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, establishing offices in New York City, Washington D.C., and St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Hoffman was a life member of the American Bible Society Board of Managers and chairman of its translation committee. He was elected President of the United Bible Societies and the World Association of National Bible Societies. He received the Gutenberg Award from the Chicago Bible Society and was the recipient of the first annual American Bible Society Award and spoke on behalf of the United Bible Societies at the dedication of the Amity Printing Press in Nanjing, China.

Recognized as an outstanding Protestant church leader in *Who's Who in America*, Dr. Hoffman was also named "Clergyman of the Year" by Religious Heritage of America and received the Gold Angel Award from Religion in Media as "International Media Clergyman of the Year". In 1980, Dr. Hoffman received the Secretary of Defense Award for Outstanding Service from the United States Department of Defense. He appeared on numerous network television and radio programs and was the author of many magazine articles as well as books.

Dr. Hoffmann died on September 8, 2005. He is survived by his children, the Rev. Peter (Elaine) Hoffman of Chicago, Illinois; the Rev. Paul (Jane) Hoffman of San Jose, California; Katharine Ann (Brian) Bates of Pearland, Texas; John Hoffman of Kirkwood, Missouri; and, also, by 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. His wife, Marcia nee Linnell Hoffman preceded him in death on November 16, 2000.



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