

Mayer Family



he only son of Emanuel August and Augusta nee Jaeger Mayer, Martin Eugene Mayer, was born on October 21, 1886. Martin's father was pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska at the time (Martin later became pastor of this same congregation). Martin's mother died when he was two years old. His father then married Marie Pfothenhauer.

In 1893, Dr. E.A. Mayer was called to St. Lorenz congregation in Frankenmuth, Michigan and this is where Martin spent his boyhood, receiving his elementary education at St. Lorenz Lutheran School.

Martin's preparation for the ministry began at Concordia Seminary at Milwaukee, Wisconsin; continued at Winfield, Kansas; then he entered the Seminary at St. Louis, Missouri, where he completed his theological training.

Dr. Mayer ordained his son into the office of the ministry after graduation in 1909. Martin's first call took him to Burns, Wyoming, where he organized Immanuel Lutheran Church.

In 1911, he married Elizabeth Brauer, the niece of Pastor and Mrs. Henry Voss (associate pastor of St. Lorenz). Elizabeth had come from Norman, Oklahoma several years earlier to help in the Voss home while Mrs. Voss was ill. During that time she fell in love with Martin. She later returned to Frankenmuth as Mrs. Martin Mayer and lived in the big brick parsonage. Their union was blessed with five children: Reverend Martin Jr., Magdalene Trinklein, Elizabeth, Reverend Herman, and Martha Umbach.

In 1914, Pastor Mayer was called to St. John Lutheran Church, Oxford, Nebraska and served there until 1921 when he accepted a call to Christ Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska. At Norfolk he labored faithfully and diligently, serving the largest Missouri Lutheran congregation in the Middle West. During that time he was president of the North Nebraska District for six years. For 11 years he was a member of his church's board of appeals. Pastor Mayer organized the Nebraska and the Michigan Districts of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and served as its national counselor for six years.

In 1941, he was called to serve St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth, thus having the unique experience of twice succeeding his father.

One by one the Mayer children left home, but all would come together on summer vacations periodically. Grandmother Mayer was a gracious hostess to the large number of her children and grandchildren. They had wonderful times, especially the teenagers. They were allowed to use Grandfather's horse, Tippy, and his buggy and take a ride nearby. Also, remembered fondly, was that at four o'clock each afternoon, all of the family and guests were invited to gather in the garden haus (gazebo) for freshly baked coffee cake and a cup of coffee. The gazebo stood on the west lawn of the big brick parsonage house.

Reverend Martin Mayer faithfully served St. Lorenz congregation for 17 years until a serious heart ailment compelled his retirement. He died in 1961 and is buried in the Mayer plot of St. Lorenz Cemetery along with his wife, mother, father and sister.



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