

December 16, 2018

Glen William Borhart, ordained in the Holy Ministry by the will of Jesus Christ and pastoral servant to congregations of Rogate Lutheran Church, Clearwater, Florida and Zion Lutheran Church and School, Marengo, Illinois.

To all the saints who have served with me over the last 40 years.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

### Chapter 1    ***From farm boy to pastor***

I was born on my parents', *Delwin and Frances Borhart*, 12<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, *December 28, 1953*. I was the 6<sup>th</sup> of what would be eight children in the family. Valentine's Day must have been on a Sunday in 1954 because that was the day I was baptized into the Holy Christian Church. The Borhart family went to church faithfully year after year.

The idea of being a pastor was not something I came up with on my own. When I was young, I was going to be a farmer like my father. Pastor Frederick Harm of Trinity Lutheran Church in Huntley, planted the idea of becoming a pastor when I was in confirmation class. (I was honored to preach at his memorial service last month.) It was not until my year at McHenry County College that I decided to pursue the pastoral ministry. My last two years of college were at Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, Illinois. Acquiring a teaching degree has been a blessing to me over the years. After graduating college, I married my High School sweetheart, Dale Ann Nevel, who grew up at Zion, Marengo, and then it was off to the seminary.

We would move every year for five years. Concordia Theological Seminary was in Springfield, Illinois. The seminary was moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana my second year. Jason was born there. My vicarage year was spent at Rogate' Lutheran Church, Clearwater, Florida. I was placed at Rogate' to learn more about sign language and working with the deaf. Pastor Frank Wagenknecht would be my supervisor and mentor. Our fourth move would be back to Fort Wayne for the last year of my seminary training. Call night in April of 1979 would be when I found out we were moving back to Rogate'. My ordination on July 1, 1979, would mark the first time a farm boy from Trinity, Huntley, had become a pastor. Dale Ann had made a banner, "Here I Am, Send Me."

Matthew 6:33 is the confirmation verse I share with my mother and son. "*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*"

## Chapter 2     **Rogate' Lutheran Church**

During the 11 ½ years at Rogate', I learned what it meant to be a pastor. The congregation had built a Chapel for the Deaf while I was finishing up at the seminary. With two pastors, Rogate' was able to offer Sunday morning worship services for both the hearing and the deaf congregations. Pastor "W" and I would alternate between the two churches. The deaf were very patient and loving towards me. I am sure my signing was very childlike to them. On September 27, 1981, I baptized a screaming Jessica Rosemary Borhart at a deaf worship service. After five years, Pastor "W" went to Charlotte, NC, to work full-time with the deaf. I then worked solely in the hearing congregation until I came to Marengo.

Rogate', like most churches in Florida, would swell in numbers during the winter season with the influx of "snow birds." Year round, I would teach and preach to the young and old, whom the Lord led to the church. The Youth of the congregation traveled with me to the mountains of North Carolina for several retreats as I drove the old, blue school bus. Some of the Youth got a taste of farm living on my family farm in Huntley, Illinois. We collected and loaded tons and tons of recycled newspapers and aluminum cans.

Many adults were trained in the **Evangelism Explosion** program. The two questions posed in the program, *"If you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven?"* and *"Why should the Lord let you into heaven?,"* made a lot of people seriously think about their faith. **The Bethel Bible Series** and the **LifeLight** classes were foundational Bible study resources we used in Florida which found their way to Marengo. **The Stephen Ministry** series was also implemented at Zion. Dozens of caring members continue to use this training in their daily lives. A 50-week study covering the whole Bible was written in Florida and used again this last year of my ministry. The 70 devotions written on the Book of Genesis was started in Florida and finished in Marengo 25 years later.

One lasting impression I left at Rogate' was a stained glass window. The artist depicted Bible stories from the Old and the New Testaments. For the window showing Christ on the cross, the point of view was from above and behind the cross, looking down at the faces of those weeping at the sight. I was the outstretched model for Jesus.

As the years rolled along, the Lord and our aging parents made us begin thinking of returning closer to home.

1 Timothy 4:12-13 are verses which speak to my early years as a pastor.  
*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and teaching."*

### Chapter 3    **Zion Lutheran Church and School**

The 28 years I have served at Zion have been very busy. The main difference between the two congregations is the Lutheran school here in Marengo. Between the many activities of the Church and School, Zion's facilities are put to good use every day.

My wife, Dale Ann, had gone to Zion Church and School and was confirmed here. When I was installed on December 9, 1990, Jason was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Jessi was in 4<sup>th</sup>. They would be confirmed at Zion too. My grandchildren, Ashley, Paetyn and Blaine, would go through Zion and be confirmed here as well.

Those serving the Lord at Zion would change over the years. I would work with Vicars (pastor interns), Associate Pastors, Directors of Christian Education, Directors of Christian Outreach, Directors of Music and a Deaconess. The school would be served by many faithful principals and teachers. Support staff in the church and school would include teacher aids, office staff, financial officers, custodians, cooks, and I.T. guys. Volunteers from the congregation would also be a vital part of what we do here at Zion. I am grateful for all those who served on various committees and boards over the years. Every one of these people were part of our ministry together here at Zion. Zion, like every Church, is made up of the Body of Christ, each person doing their part.

The present building containing the Church and Chapel was in place when I arrived and has proved to be a tremendous blessing. Since then, the congregation would upgrade the school, pave the parking lots, air condition the church, reroof the buildings, recarpet throughout the church and chapel and offices, buy the last lot to complete the play field, build the teacherage garage, upgrade the church organ, install computers and wi-fi, build the Early Childhood Center, and added the front addition to the school. I am sure you can think of other accomplishments. The Lord has blessed us with great facilities.

My main functions were to preach and teach. I feel that the greatest accomplishment in my preaching career happened in 2001-2002. We walked through the entire Bible in a series of 104 sermons. The Doctor of Ministry degree I received in 1999 was to help the congregation to grow in their stewardship through preaching and teaching. Every class I took for my Doctorate was turned into a Bible Study for the congregation. As a teacher, I have encouraged our members to study the Bible. The ***Bethel Bible Series*** and all of the studies in the ***LifeLight*** series have been shared here at Zion. I pray that the lessons taught in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation will be remembered by my students in the years to come.

We have worshiped together here at Zion thousands of times over these 28 years. We have had four worship services each weekend for well over twenty years. Zion School has weekly Chapel services where our little ones learn to worship their Lord. One of my greatest thrills is to hear the school children say the Lord's Prayer with one voice. The great festivals of the Church Year have been celebrated together. The Boar's Head Festival was a highlight for many. The first two Sprites in the Boar's Head were my granddaughters, Ashley and Paetyn.

We have held worship services at the Florence Nursing Home for all the years I have been here. My parents would spend their last days at the Florence Home. Caring members have joined me at the Bethesda Homes in town for monthly devotions the last few years. We have confirmed a number of our friends from the Bethesda Homes. One of the other great ways Zion has reached out into the community has been through our **Love Project** for many years. Just last week, we shared many blessings, including food, religious literature and love with over 100 families once again.

Prayer has been the center of all we have done together. The Prayer Board in the Narthex has lifted up our friends. The Prayer Page was a daily reminder to pray for one another. The Email Prayers have gone out weekly to hundreds of families for many years. Thank you for all of your prayers for me over the years. You certainly will be in my prayers.

I have been allowed to be a part of many families and their significant moments in their lives. It has been a privilege and honor.

Acts 2:42 speaks of what we did together here at Zion. *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

#### Chapter 4    **The future**

I could not have ever imagined the ways I would serve the Lord over the past years. I wrap up my career with a confidence that the Lord used me, a Huntley farm boy, to be a blessing to His Churches here in Marengo and in Clearwater. In both cases the Lord placed me among great people of similar values and beliefs. I never had to pretend to be someone different than I am.

Only the Lord knows what He has in store for me and my family and Zion in the days ahead. I pray that the Lord will find ways for me to use my time and talents in ways that will be a blessing to me and to others. I pray for the best for Zion.

Ephesians 2:8-10 is true for all of us. *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

I wish you joy and peace on earth and eternal life in heaven. Amen.