

# Kuske Family



The St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth was established in 1845 by Pastor August Craemer and 14 other immigrants who were sent over by Pastor Wilhelm Loehe of Neuendettelsau, Germany. Their mission was to bring the Gospel to the Chippewa Indians in this area. They were most successful teaching the Indian children, and records show that 39 Chippewa children were baptized after receiving some instruction.

St. Lorenz has always considered the education of children as one of its primary purposes. Pastor Craemer started instructing school-age children in 1846. The first called teachers were J.L. Flessa and teacher Pinkepank.

In 1966, St. Lorenz Lutheran School was one of the largest elementary Lutheran Schools in the United States with 682 children instructed by 18 teachers.

In that same year, St. Lorenz extended a "call" to Eugene C. Kuske to teach sixth grade and be Director of Youth. Eugene accepted, and with his family, moved to Frankenmuth in July of 1966. Besides teaching and directing the youth group, he also taught Bible class, served on various curriculum committees, and wrote a Michigan history text. He was honored by being listed in the "Who's Who of America". He served St. Lorenz Lutheran School until his retirement in 1993.

Eugene was born in Owatonna, Minnesota on March 24, 1931 to Gustav Adolph and Agnes Marie Fritze Kuske. His grandfather, Julius W. Kuske, came to Wisconsin with his parents, Julius J. and Wilhemina Schmidt, a brother Albert, and three sisters, Amelia, Caroline, and Emma.

They came in 1870 from a little town called Gresen, which is near Posen, Poland. They "homesteaded" 40 acres and turned this land into a successful dairy farm.

Eugene Kuske attended Concordia High School at St. Paul, Minnesota, and then three years at St. John's Lutheran College in Winfield, Kansas. Undecided whether to be a pastor or a teacher, he left school and taught for two years at Hope Lutheran School in Westcliffe, Colorado. In 1956, he finished school with a Bachelor's Degree from Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska.

Eugene's first teaching position was in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, at St. Mark the Evangelist Lutheran School. There he met Mary Ellen Moll, who was a teacher at Bethany Lutheran School in Detroit. They were married on July 19, 1958. Eugene did further graduate work at the University of Michigan and acquired a Master's equivalent from there.

Eugene and Mary Ellen had two sons, Kevin and Kirk. Kevin married Janice Friesen in June 1984. They had three children: Matthew, Stephen and Gina Marie. Kevin and Janice are Lutheran teachers in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Kirk married Rebekah Ruyts in June 1995. They had one daughter, Vanessa. Kirk and Rebekah are chemists at Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan.

Eugene was suddenly called to his heavenly home July 6, 2001, to be with our Savior.

The Kuske clan has produced 18 teachers with a total of 294 years of teaching.



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