

Zeile Family



he son of Johann Ludwig Zeile and Karoline Magdalene Keim, Ludwig Zeile, was born in Memmigen Bavaria, Germany April 21, 1854. He was baptized and confirmed (1868) in St. Martin's Evangelische Kirche in Memmingen.

Ludwig attended the Latin school at Schwabach and Noerdlingen and received his professional training at the seminary in Altdorf Bavaria, Germany. He taught school in Mauren Bavaria from 1874-76. He then left the State Church and taught in the school of the Free Lutheran Church at Niederplanitz Saxony, Germany. He married Barbara Buder October 18, 1876. In 1880 he accepted a call to the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, Michigan. They arrived in New York May 1, 1880. Barbara died August 28, 1884.

Ludwig received a call to teach in Woodworth, Illinois. He met and married his second wife, Pauline Schramm, December 28, 1885. Following teaching assignments in Layfayette, Indiana and Fraser, Michigan, he accepted a call in 1898 to St. Lorenz Church in Frankenmuth to teach in the NE District (Gera) School. Seven years later in 1905 Pauline died. Three years later Ludwig married Margarethe nee Frank Wenderlein who was called to her eternal home in 1921.

Ludwig retired from teaching in 1926 after 52 years of service. His last years were spent between the homes of his sons, William, a Lutheran teacher in Detroit, and Andrew, a Lutheran pastor in Saginaw. Death came unexpectedly when he was returning from a church dedication and was struck by an automobile on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. He died January 23, 1931 and is buried in the St. Lorenz Cemetery.

Ludwig was a man of letters and fluent in five languages. He was the father of nine children: Katharina (died in infancy); William (Lutheran school teacher; Ernest (died in infancy); Andrew (Lutheran pastor); Albert (died at

age 12); Amalia Roekle (wife of a pastor); Louis (died at age 11); Martha (piano teacher); and Adolph (salesman).

Andrew Zeile was born November 30, 1886 in Woodworth, Illinois. Andrew was confirmed in 1900 at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. He entered training for the ministry at Ft. Wayne, Indiana and following his graduation in 1906, he entered Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, completing his theological training in 1909. Summers he returned to Frankenmuth and was employed by local farmers and also enjoyed playing baseball.

His first call brought him to a multiple pastorate in Wilson Twp. Alpena County, Michigan, familiarly known as "Wolf Creek". He had two congregations and three preaching stations. He also taught school in two locations traveling the "tote" roads in all seasons with his faithful horse "Lady Belle". After 6 years he accepted a call by Bethlehem Lutheran in Saginaw, Michigan and was installed as their first resident pastor in October 1915. He served there for 44 years.

Pastor Andrew Zeile's ministry included a special interest in mission growth and finance. In 1942 he was elected President of the Michigan District, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and served until 1957. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1951 from Concordia Seminary and in 1952 he served as official delegate to the Lutheran World Federation meetings in Hanover, Germany.

He married Hilda Moser of Reese, Michigan. They had six children: Dorothea Voges, Rev. Theodore Zeile, Ruth Stern, Rev. Walter Zeile, Louis Zeile and Rev. Erhard Zeile. Dr. Zeile was called to his eternal home February 1, 1960 and, in an editorial The Saginaw News noted, "Dr. Zeile was one of those on whom the tribute 'A MAN OF GOD' rests as a mantle squarely and in its fullest dimension".



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