

Kaesmeyer Family



The Kaesmeyer name came to this area through Reverend Leo Kaesmeyer. It all began in October 1879, when a nucleus of 22 voting members from three different congregations met and decided to form the St. John's Lutheran Congregation. By the early 1930's, the congregation felt the need for an English worship service. The pastor of the congregation preached a beautiful German worship service but had difficulty preaching English.

The young minister, Reverend Kaesmeyer, who had left his pastorate in Canada because of ill health, was invited to preach an English sermon once a month. Shortly after, in 1932, he was named to the pastorate of St. John's Lutheran Church. He was much loved by the members of St. John's and was a gifted preacher. His ministry only lasted a little more than a year. He died unexpectedly from a spinal injection after doctors had mistakenly diagnosed appendicitis.

Originally, August Kaesmeyer had settled in the Bay City area. The house he built is still standing on Kaesmeyer Road in Bay City. There were five known sons: Christian, Henry, George, Johann and John.

Henry married Katherine Veitengruber. Shortly after the birth of their son in St. Louis, Michigan, the couple separated. Katherine reared their son, Leo George (1897-1933), by herself. Katherine managed to send him to Concordia College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and to Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois.

After completion of his seminary training he accepted a call to a Lutheran Church in Eganville Ontario, Canada. Here he married Gertrude Mathilda Emelia Tiegs.

Their marriage was blessed with four children:

Bernice Erna Wiedmann (1923-1978) was a waitress and hostess at Fischer's and McNiven's Hotel and remained living in Frankenmuth.

Harris Paul (1925) graduated from Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin and received his theological training at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Thiensville, Wisconsin. He served a pastorate in Palos Heights, Illinois for 3 years and for the last 33 years was a professor at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan.

Eugene Arthur (1927-1976) died as a result of a heart attack while employed as a painter at Boeing Aircraft in Wichita, Kansas.

Victor Richard (1933-2001) was born six months before his father's untimely death. He graduated from Concordia Teacher's College at River Forest, Illinois and served in the teaching profession for 27 years, serving as a principal in New York and also in Chicago. He later was a financial consultant for Lutheran Brotherhood Society.

Gertrude, the widow of Reverend Leo Kaesmeyer, worked at Fischer's Hotel and at Universal Engineering Company. She lived on Cass Street in Frankenmuth until 1951 when she married Arthur Reinbold Sr. and moved to Frankentrost.

Leo and Gertrude's grandchildren include: Susan Kaesmeyer, Rachel Free, James, Daniel, John and Mark Kaesmeyer, David Kaesmeyer, Constance Kaesmeyer, Katherine Moxon, Angela Hyssong and Rebecca Kazal.



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