

# Deterding Family



The St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, one of the larger Missouri Synod congregations in America, has always been the focal point of Frankenmuth. Since the community was founded in 1845 as a missionary effort to convert the Chippewa Indians to Christianity, the church and its leaders have played a significant role in local history.

Rev. August Craemer was the first minister to serve the original 15 colonists and he established the first St. Lorenz Church in a log cabin near the present church on Tuscola Street in Frankenmuth. When Pastor Craemer left to establish the Fort Wayne Seminary, a series of pastors came to minister to the growing congregation. Rev. Ottomar Fuerbringer served as pastor when the original brick church was built in 1880. That building was enlarged and modernized when Rev. Philip Janz and Rev. John G. Deterding were the pastors of St. Lorenz.

Pastor John G. Deterding was born February 8, 1922 in Bluffs, Illinois to Pastor John H. Deterding and his wife Salome nee Schwagmeyer. He was baptized and confirmed there at Trinity Lutheran Church. His great grandparents came from Germany and settled in Illinois, near Jacksonville. His grandparents moved to Corder, Missouri, but his parents moved back to Illinois.

Young John was educated at St. Paul's College in Concordia, Missouri, and Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He also studied at Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, Illinois, in preparation for a combined preaching and teaching vicarage. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Divinity degree. Pastor Deterding was ordained August 3, 1947 and served pastorates in White Bear Lake, Minnesota and Sioux City, Iowa before coming to Frankenmuth.

July 29, 1962 Pastor Deterding was installed as associate pastor at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth. He served under Pastor Philip Janz, the Administrative Pastor, until 1968.

After Pastor Janz accepted a call to St. Paul Congregation of Trenton, Michigan, Pastor Deterding became the Administrative Pastor. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 1987. St. Lorenz congregation flourished under his leadership and yet continued to cling to tradition. The congregation currently has a membership of slightly more than 5,000.

Pastor John Deterding married Marion Voight on June 25, 1947, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. They had five children: Mary Katherine Anderson and her husband Bruce of LaGrande, Oregon; Jane Boerger and her husband, Charles, of Anchorage, Alaska; Dorcas Cook, and her husband David of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; John P. Deterding, and his wife Drew of Frankenmuth; Christine Maurer, and her husband Gerald, also of Frankenmuth. Their 15 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren continue to bring new joy and excitement to their home.

Reverend Deterding has been active in the Lutheran Church beyond the community of Frankenmuth. He served as Vice-President of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, serving as a member of the Board of Directors as well as the District Boards of Church Extension, Evangelism and Stewardship.

Reverend Deterding is the author of "Living with Jesus", a history of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, published on the occasion of the congregation's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1995. He has also written his memoirs in the book "A Pastor Called John".

