

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Rev. Paul Schwartzkopf

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
People of Faith Oral History project

Interview # PFM-A-L-2017-095

Paul Schwartzkopf, a pastor who began his ministry in the Missouri Lutheran Church and spent the bulk of his career as an Evangelical Lutheran Church of America minister, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *People of Faith – Mosaic of Faiths* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 18, 2017, Jan 9, 19, 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 & Mar 2, 2018

Location: Our Lord's Lutheran Church, Merryville, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:16(Sess 1) + 2:21(Sess 2) + 2:42 (Sess 3) + 2:26(Sess 4) + 2:17(Sess 5) + 2:12(Sess 6) + 2:35(Sess 7) + 2:00(Sess 8) + 1:42(Sess 9) + 2:07(Sess 10) / 2.27(Sess 1) + 2.35(Sess 2) + 2.7(Sess 3) + 2.43(Sess 4) + 2.28(Sess 5) + 2.2(Sess 6) + 2.58(Sess 7) + 2.0(Sess 8) + 1.7(Sess 9) + 2.12(Sess 10) = 22.63 hrs.

Session 1: Early life in Columbus, Indiana and Lutheran upbringing

Session 2: College years at Purdue University and arrival in Tanzania

Session 3: Peace Corps experiences building bridges in Tanzania

Session 4: Years in Concordia (Springfield) Seminary, 1966-1970

Session 5: Early ministry in North Chicago, 1970-1973 in Missouri Synod & Seminex

Session 6: Ministry at Peace Lutheran in Lauderdale, MN, 1973-1976 & church conflict

Session 7: Church conflict, Seminex, and ministry in Florissant, MO in AELC

Session 8: Mt. Tabor Lutheran and merger of ALC, LCA & AELC synods, 1984-89

Session 9: St. Mark's in Olathe, KS, hiatus from and return to ministry, 1989-1999

Session 10: Ministry at Christ Church, Quincy thru 2009 and interim ministries
Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 9, 2018.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
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Abstract

Paul Schwartzkopf, *People of Faith*, PFM-A-L-2017-095

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Paul K. Schwartzkopf was born in Columbus, Indiana on January 17, 1943. The family had a small acreage, and during the war his father found war work. Paul grew up in a tight-knit Christian (Missouri Synod Lutheran) family where faith was always emphasized. After graduating from Columbus High School in 1960, Paul enrolled at Purdue University in the School of Engineering Sciences. He also became very active in campus life, helping to start the Student Peace Corps Committee and the Student Volunteer Corps, an organization that encouraged students to volunteer in the local community. Following President John F. Kennedy's assassination, Schwartzkopf was one of hundreds on campus who applied for the Peace Corps.

Paul served in the Peace Corps from 1964-1966, helping to build bridges and culverts in Tanzania. Upon his return from that experience, he made two important decisions. He married his college sweetheart, Ann Holdeman, upon his return, and then enrolled in Concordia Seminary, a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS) seminary in Springfield, Illinois. That church was in the midst of transition, a fact that impacted Paul's life in dramatic ways for the next several years. In 1968-1969, after two years at the Seminary, Schwartzkopf did a vicarage (internship) at Mt. Olive Lutheran in Minneapolis. Upon his return he was viewed as a liberal in an institution that was trending more conservative. He was ordained in June 1970 and began his ministry at Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church in North Chicago. In 1973 he pastored at Peace Lutheran Church in Lauderdale, Minnesota. In 1969, Jacob Preus became the president of Missouri Synod Church and was active in moving Concordia Seminary in St. Louis dramatically to the right. Unknown to Pastor Schwartzkopf at the time, some of his sermons were being recorded at both Chapel of the Cross and Peace with intent to develop charges of heresy against him. Under the leadership of President Jacob Preus, the LC-MS officially charged John Tietjen, the President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis with harboring false teaching. The seminary students requested that the false teaching and the false teachers be identified. When they were not identified by the LC-MS or the seminary board of control, the students declared a moratorium on attending classes and walked out. The seminary board of control then fired 90% of the faculty and staff who with the students continued their theological education at Christ Seminary – Seminex (Seminary in Exile) in facilities at St. Louis University. That led to the creation of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC), the body with which Paul aligned himself during his next several church calls in the St. Louis area.

By the mid-1980s the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), the American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the AELC were actively in conversation about merging. That merger officially occurred in January 1988, with Paul's congregation at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Manchester, Missouri being one of the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations. His next call in 1989 was to the financially struggling St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Olathe, Kansas. In 1990 Paul returned to St. Louis and tried his hand at selling insurance. Shortly thereafter, he answered a call to serve as interim pastor for Atonement Lutheran Church in Springfield, Illinois. This interim confirmed his reputation in the new ELCA as a creative problem solver for congregations in crisis. In 1999 he received a call from Christ Lutheran Church in Quincy, Illinois, where he served until 2009. By this time in his life, Paul was also known as a skilled story teller, participating in festivals and events as well as incorporating many of his stories into his sermons. He also was appearing at events and church functions as Martin Luther as well as other historic religious leaders. He retired in 2009 but returned to the ministry as an interim for a series of congregations until his second retirement in 2017.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Purdue University; church conflict; Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod; Seminex (Seminary in Exile); Peace Corps in Tanzania in 1960s; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC); Rev. Jacob Preus; growing up in small town Indiana; John F. Kennedy assassination; Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois; Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, North Chicago, IL; Peace Lutheran Church, Lauderdale, MN; Christ Lutheran Church, Quincy, IL; John Tietjen

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