

Biography Book Examples

Erica Larson

After CLC graduation, a package arrived containing Dr. C. Robert Zimmermans's photo, superimposed in front of the old Pederson Ranch house with this inscription, "*Wishing you the Joy of creative living.*" I packed it away since my first choral position was located in the New York "Borscht Circuit." This meant if I said "*Jesus*" in the classroom, I would be fired! I wanted to be near "the city" for vocal lessons and cultural opportunities.

When I married Andrew, I moved to Connecticut. After five years, we came back to the Midwest, teaching in Decorah, and then Keokuk, Iowa. Living near the Mississippi River caused my allergies to explode. I lost my singing voice and most of my speaking voice.

In 1970, we moved to Arizona for my health. There was a nearby mission church with a singer-volunteer as choir director. Soon he was diagnosed with cancer and they asked me to help. I never intended to direct a church choir. But God sometimes changes minds. I had no excuse, so I agreed to direct for a few months. The first rehearsal could have been my last when I boldly said, "*I will direct as long as I can worship through the music. Any comments made are to achieve our gold of letting God's Word shine through the music.*" Instead of this being the end of my church career, I spent 37 years as director of music ministry at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Tempe, Az.

A full multi-choral program came into being. I became a full-time director with a full-time associate, plus a part time organist. An added bonus was that Barron, Noah, and Peter were active participants in the ministry.

I have now experienced what Dr. Z wished me, "*The Joy of Creative Living*"!

Erik Peterson

It has all been great! God. Life. Love. Marriage. Family. Children. Grandchildren. Friends. Work. Play.

Living near Seattle has offered mountains for skiing and hiking, plus Puget Sound for crabbing and fishing. We have been able to travel the world.

I have loved being a pastor in one congregation for 34 years. As a consequence, we have numerous, long-term friendships. It is a priceless blessing to have our children and grandchildren living within minutes. My adult life has been stable: I have had the same wife, same address, and same phone number for decades. Hopefully, these will continue during the unforeseeable future.

Like many of you, I have been overwhelmed by the goodness and beauty of life.

Grace. It has all been God's grace, God's immeasurable gifts to us. Yes, I know, it can change in a moment. Meanwhile, we live life fully and vigorously.

My Cal Lutheran years set the foundation for future epochs. The pursuit of excellence began here. My love of beauty, music, art, literature, service, and intellectual rigor were indelibly imprinted in my soul during these years.

Like many of you, my best gift (by far) from CLC, was my wife. Jan and I share a common legacy from CLU, the primary daily values that guide us.

Professional accomplishments? I was a good, Lutheran parish pastor who preached the Word, gave the Sacraments, loved the people, and led the congregation. Along the line, I wrote a text, *Quest For Better Preaching* (Augsburg), gave preaching seminars throughout the country, and published a website, *Sermons From Seattle*, that numerous pastors from around the globe use. I served on the board of Lutheran World Relief for twelve years. Like many of you, I am a global Christian, a citizen both of the USA and Earth.

Andrew Fisk

Cal Lutheran music major, Erika Larson '64, and I were married in 1964. We are blessed with two sons and three grandsons, all living in the Phoenix area. Our lives have been filled with music, both vocal and instrumental, with Carole being a long-time minister of music at King of Glory Lutheran Church.

We were teachers for two years in Connecticut, three years in Decorah, Iowa, where we were both on the faculty at Luther College, one year in Keokuk, Iowa, and we settled firmly in Arizona in 1970.

I am now in my 50th year of teaching physics with 42 years at Mesa College. I continue to enjoy helping others learn about that which interests me so much – how the physical universe operates. My students respond so graciously and seem to appreciate my efforts. I have been blessed to have a profession which I greatly enjoy.

Memories of Cal Lutheran are so many: Singing in the Christmas Festivals in the old gym, late night physics problem-solving in the cafeteria, walking up the hill to the CLC rocks.

We left Thousand Oaks that June of 1964, with a spirit of confidence that Cal Lutheran had prepared us well for a life of challenge and service. Now, looking back over a half-century, we have a profound appreciation for that spirit of confidence.

John Doe, Bad Example

After graduation, I took a job with the state and have been there ever since. I got married to Jane and we have two children, Jack and Jill. We have a house in Eagan, Minnesota, and lake place up North.