

PIONEERS OF THE FAITH

Missionary Heroes of the Faith

District Blessed with Dedicated

Editor's note: This month we continue our presentation of the Florida-Georgia District's Pioneers of the Faith. These profiles are taken from the 60th Anniversary Booklet that debuted at the Circuit Convocations held earlier this year.

In keeping with this issue's focus on education, profiled this month are educators Orlyn Schlie, Roland and Joan Trinklein along with long-time LWML scholarship committee head Dorothea Rinkenberger. The blessings of their dedicated service continue to echo in our District and throughout the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

Charles R. Hofman, St. Mark's Lutheran-Hollywood, Historian-Archivist, was the biographer for Pioneers of the Faith. In 2004, the Concordia Historical Institute-St. Louis, commended him for the "warmth and personality of historical materials prepared for the 50th Anniversary of St. Mark's."

Orlyn Schlie

A dominant figure in Lutheran education, Orlyn Schlie has a distinguished 41-year history as a teacher, principal and District officer. He was born on March 10, 1922, in Elgin, IL. Orlyn attended Concordia Lutheran High School and College-River Forest. Later he completed graduate work and earned his Master's degree at Indiana University.

His extensive career began at St. John's Lutheran Church-Jefferson City, MO. Later, he had calls to New Albany and Columbus, IN; and Fort Lauderdale, FL. Orlyn spent his first three years in one-room schools, where he taught any grade from first to eighth. As was typically expected of parochial teachers of his time, his calls included additional duties. He lovingly accepted his added responsibilities as church organist, Sunday School teacher, youth leader and, as was often the case, janitor.

In 1946 Orlyn married Dorothy Umbach and accepted a call to St. Peter's-Columbus, Indiana. God blessed Dorothy and Orlyn with four children while living in Columbus.

After serving for 12 years at St. Peter's, Orlyn accepted the call to Trinity-Fort Lauderdale as school principal. Trinity had

a well-established school with a respected history going back to 1933, making it one of the oldest Lutheran schools in the District. In fact, it was at Trinity that the Florida-Georgia District Lutheran Teachers Conference had been established in 1953.

Orlyn Schlie was an exemplary leader at Trinity, which became Lutheran Central School in 1961. He not only guided the



growth of the school but was foremost its spiritual leader. As principal, teacher and coach he oversaw the students' academic needs as well as their spiritual well being. He was a strong supporter of his teachers and mentored many of them during their first years in the field.

Two teachers presently at Trinity, Lisa Maxwell and Candace Church, made the following remarks about Orlyn. "Mr. Schlie had a no-nonsense way of dealing with students and young teachers and had a straightforward approach to working with parents. He had a ready smile and subtle sense of humor. Mr. Schlie enjoyed humming our Lord's praises in hallways.

"He was an excellent steward of the school's resources. Small areas of what we remember as 'Schlie Green' paint, which at one time covered the entire school, can still be found in our storage areas and closets. As young teachers, right out of college, we saw Mr. Schlie as the heart of our school and an educator whose example we still follow today."

During his years at Trinity, Orlyn served the District in several capacities on boards and committees. Prior to the calling of a full-time executive for parish services, he filled the position of part-time executive of education. While serving as Chairman of the District

Committee of Parish Education, Orlyn was asked to head up the steering committee for one of the gatherings sponsored by the Board for Parish Services. Along with Dr. Ben Eggers, executive for the Board for Parish Services, he coordinated and presented a well-arranged program in November 1979. The event was attended by well-known leaders in the Synod, Dr. Oswald Hoffmann and Dr. Ralph Schultz; and District leaders, Dr. Lloyd Behnken and Dr. August Bernthal.

Mr. Schlie was active in the Lutheran Education Society, the sponsor of Lutheran High School-Davie, FL, which was founded in 1973. When Lutheran High School marked its tenth anniversary in April 1983, Orlyn was president of the Lutheran Education Society and was asked to serve as the general chairman of the anniversary steering committee.

After his 41 years of continuous service in many phases of

Lutheran education, Orlyn was awarded the District's *Doulos tou Christou* award at the 1985 District convention. Some 28 of these years were spent at Lutheran Central School.

In 1994 Schlie received the L. Lloyd Behnken Medallion at the Veterans of the Cross retreat. His active service continued well after retirement. Both he and his wife, Dorothy, spent much time assisting in building projects with Laborers for Christ at Lutheran churches across the country — 19 in all. In 1995 Orlyn and Dorothy became members of St. Luke's-Oviedo, when they moved to Lutheran Haven. Orlyn is seen often riding his bike around the Haven and greeting folks with a smile and a cheerful greeting.

"Schlie Green" paint had lasted a long time at Lutheran Central School, and the impact Orlyn Schlie had on students, parents and teachers will last into eternity.

Roland and Joan Trinklein

To some is given the gift of teaching; to Roland and Joan Trinklein the gift was given in greater measure. "If it [a gift] is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage ..." (Romans 12:7-8) They glorified God through their teaching skills for more than a quarter of a century in the Florida-Georgia District. Like Barnabas, who was named "son of encouragement," Roland and Joan became encouragers as they taught and as they lived their Christian faith working among God's people.

Roland and Joan were married in 1957. He taught for 15 years in Texas, and Joan for five years, before accepting calls as educators to Faith-Marietta in 1965. Roland was the principal at Faith from 1965 to 1986 and continued to teach there until retiring in 1991.

Roland was known and respected for encouraging others in a quiet, steady manner as he went about his duties as principal, which included leading many workshops on education. In the 1970s he trained in St. Louis to become a teacher of Synod's new Parent Effectiveness Training program. In turn he led a number of workshops on how to apply the principles of that program in everyday situations.

During his years of active ministry, Roland taught Bible classes, directed the VBS program, directed choirs and worked with the youth

A dominant figure in Lutheran education, Orlyn Schlie has a distinguished 41-year history as a teacher, principal and District officer. His service in the Florida-Georgia District included:

- Principal — Trinity Lutheran School/ Lutheran Central, Fort Lauderdale
- Part-time District Executive of Education
- Chairman of the District Committee of Parish Education
- Chairman of Steering Committee for Board for Parish Services Gathering
- President, Lutheran Education Society, Fort Lauderdale
- Servant of Christ award recipient
- L. Lloyd Behnken Medallion recipient

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Missionary Heroes from the
Florida-Georgia District's First 60 Years



Florida-Georgia District
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Copies of *Pioneers of the Faith* are available from the District office; please contact Kathy Keene at KKeene@FLGA-LCMS.org.



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