

PIONEERS OF THE FAITH

Educators from Earliest Days

program at Faith. Using his gifts of teaching and leadership, he conducted circuit Sunday School conferences, where he inspired and guided other teachers with his quiet and consistent manner. He also mentored many teachers, parents and other congregations in the



area having or desiring to have parochial schools.

On the District level, Roland served on the Florida-Georgia Board of Directors for about ten years in the 1980s and was subsequently awarded the Servant of Christ award from the District. Upon retiring in 1991, he continued as minister of evangelism at Faith for several more years. In 1985 Roland was the first to receive the Ben Eggers Outstanding Educator award for his

gifts and his faithful service. The Veterans of the Cross honored Roland for his years of dedicated service with the gold medallion award, an honor bestowed upon distinguished retired servants.

On Epiphany, January 6, 2001, Roland, who had spent his life educating and encouraging others, was called home to Heaven.



Joan Trinklein taught first grade at Faith for 25 years. Encouraging the learning skills of first graders became a career in itself. Joan patiently listened and repeatedly encouraged them as she taught essential skills, always generating a caring classroom atmosphere that made learning fun. She listened with love and encouraged with patience.

During her 32-year career as a full-time teacher, Joan also involved herself in various avenues of service. She taught Sunday School and led circuit workshops for Sunday School teachers. She taught and served as supervisor of Faith's VBS programs from year to year. She was organist and children's choir director, and at one time worked as the church secretary.

Early in the 1990s Joan helped with the District's Early Childhood "caravan" program.

The effort included a group of Early Childhood teachers who traveled throughout the District presenting workshops. Joan was in charge of organizing and implementing area workshops at Faith-Marietta. Also in the 1990s she wrote Language Arts activities for the primary grades for Synod's curriculum guide that was published in 1997.

Since retiring from teaching in 1991, Joan serves as volunteer school librarian and presently teaches an adult Bible class, sharing God's Word with the same patience and motivation that characterized her career in education. In retirement she also worked on the school accreditation team to evaluate Peachtree City Lutheran School. Joan received a gold medallion Good and Faithful Servant award from the Veterans of the Cross.

Roland and Joan Trinklein's illustrious careers as Lutheran educators well reflect a lifetime of dedicated and humble service to the Lord. Indeed in every one of their efforts they were the personification of the high ideals of Lutheran educators.

In describing Roland, Joan wrote, "Roland served quietly with a listening ear and encouraging word ... I assisted Roland with encouragement and followed his directive to always be available to serve."

Truly, they were encouragers, quietly educating and leading others to Christ through their long careers of service.

Dorothea Rinkenberger

One of the matriarchs of the Florida-Georgia District, Dorothea Rinkenberger may well be remembered as the most motherly. Her distinctive service to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League ministry on the District level was filled with joy and enthusiasm.

Dorothea was widowed early and devoted her life thereafter primarily to spreading the Gospel through the work of the LWML. Her LWML District Board career began in 1954, when she served as Membership Chairperson for two years. During that period she was also in charge of the film and program library that loaned items to societies for Christian Growth programs.

In 1955 Dorothea attended a regional Leadership Training Institute and helped present zone workshops to the four zones formed at that time in Florida and Georgia. From early on Dorothea was known for her snow-white hair and her keen sense of humor as she graciously

mothered whatever project she undertook. That sense of humor and her warm and colorful personality characterized all the service projects in which she



took part. She joyfully witnessed to others and worked with a cheerful enthusiasm.



Dorothea adopted the duties of the LWML Scholarship Committee and made that commitment "her baby." Even though she was extremely active in other offices and committees, she accepted the Chair of the Scholarship Committee and invested her love and attention to the recipients as though each one were her own child. The first scholarships for pastoral students were granted in 1956, and until 1988, Dorothea undertook the self-assumed duty of a loving mother by staying in contact with every recipient during his or her college days. As the scholarships were later extended to include all church workers, she reached out again and again in her concern and motherly care for each scholarship recipient, writing letters to each one and following the progress of each recipient from year to year.

Dorothea was elected LWML Tampa Bay Zone President 1975-77, and once again proved to be an inspiring person and a ceaseless worker. In the 1970s and 80s Dorothea was the LWML Board matriarch whose unceasing service and buoyant leadership distinguished her career in the District.

She was famous for her keen sense of humor, which was evidenced in a retreat skit with a Funny Fashion Show theme put on by the LWML Board. Dorothea's assignment was Ball Gown, and when she came out in a billowing aqua gown covered with nearly one hundred gold Christmas tree balls, the crowd laughed uproariously — especially the zone counselors. They laughed till the tears rolled. She did not just walk in, she glided and pranced and twirled even though she was well into her 70s with snow-white hair. As in all of her other projects, she involved herself heart and soul, sharing her love with others.



Of special note is that Dorothea was a breast cancer survivor yet continued to work faithfully in numerous leadership roles in LWML. Dorothea radiated joy in everything she did. In June 1991 at the 24th District Convention, Dorothea received the *Doulos tou Christou* award for her outstanding work and leadership in LWML.

The Lord surely wanted her to serve Him, and serve Him she surely did with joy. Her lifetime of loving and serving others and her record of contributions to the District well reflect the LWML motto: "Serve the Lord with gladness." (Psalm 100:2)

To some is given the gift of teaching; to Roland and Joan Trinklein the gift was given in greater measure ... They glorified God through their teaching skills for more than a quarter of a century in the Florida-Georgia District. ... Roland and Joan became encouragers as they taught and as they lived their Christian faith working among God's people. Their service in Florida-Georgia included

Roland:

- Principal, Faith Lutheran School-Marietta, GA, 1965-1986
- Teacher, Faith Lutheran School-Marietta, GA, 1986-1991
- Member of the Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors
- Servant of Christ award recipient
- First recipient of the Ben Eggers Outstanding Educator award
- L. Lloyd Behnken Medallion recipient

Joan

- First grade teacher, Faith Lutheran School, 1965-1991
- Led circuit workshops for Sunday School teachers
- Organized/implemented area workshops for District's Early Childhood "caravan" program.
- Author of Language Arts activities for the primary grades for Synod's curriculum guide
- Good and Faithful Servant award recipient

One of the matriarchs of the Florida-Georgia District, Dorothea Rinkenberger may well be remembered as the most motherly. Her distinctive service to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League ministry on the District level was filled with joy and enthusiasm:

- Membership Chairperson — LWML District Board, 1954-56
- In charge of LWML film and program library that loaned items to societies for Christian Growth programs, 1954-56
- Helped present leadership workshops to LWML zones, 1955
- Chairperson of Scholarship Committee, 1956-88
- LWML Tampa Bay Zone President, 1975-77