

Into the Future

by Dr. Karl E. Moyer, FAGO

Let us welcome the return of the **Organist & Clergy Banquet** to our chapter's 2017–2018 schedule on Friday evening, September 22. **The Reverend Dr. Paul Westermeyer** will be the featured speaker. Each of us AGO-ers is urged to invite our respective pastors and perhaps others involved with us in parish music, with hopes of achieving better common understandings of the role of music and the musicians in public worship.

Our featured speaker comes to Lancaster after a busy summer of such presentations—perhaps chief among them as the keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada which took place at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in mid-July. Rev. Dr. Westermeyer is arguably one of the top English language scholars on the subject of Lutheran hymnody. We are honored to have him return to the city of his first theological education as our chapter celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Biography

An alumnus of Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Rev. Dr. Paul Westermeyer retired recently as Professor of Church Music at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. He served as coordinator of a graduate degree in Church Music conducted jointly between the seminary and St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. Under call of the ELCA, Westermeyer is a national authority on the relationships among Bible, theology, pastoral, and music ministries.



Rev. Dr. Westermeyer took his bachelor's degree at Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois. He then came to Lancaster Theological Seminary to study for the Bachelor of Divinity degree, now renamed "Master of Divinity," and served concurrently as organist-choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Following that were two years' study for the Master of Sacred Music degree at the School of Sacred Music, at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, and eventually the Ph.D. from University of Chicago. Completed under Martin Marty, Westermeyer's dissertation addressed theological, liturgical, and musical comparisons of 19th-century German Lutheran and German Reformed hymnody in Pennsylvania. His further studies include the Liturgical Studies Program at University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana and the Schola Cantorum at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

Westermeyer answered the call to edit the new hymnal companion to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006, of the ELCA. His published works include:

The Church Musician. New York: Harper & Row, 1988; Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, rev. ed. 1997; the role and vocation of the church musician.

With Tongues of Fire. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1995; surveys some twentieth century hymnody and hymn writers.

Let Justice Sing. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1998; analyzes hymnody and justice.

Te Deum. Minneapolis: Fortress Press (now Augsburg Fortress), 1998; scans church music from the Old Testament to the present.

Church Music in the United States, 1760–1901, St. Louis: MorningStar Music Publishers, 2014; coauthored with David Music; a broadly-based history.

Church Musicians: Reflections on Their Craft, Call, History, and Challenges. St. Louis: MorningStar Music Publishers, 2015.