

for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you."

After being graduated from Fremont Ross High School on June 1, 1956, Pastor Jim enrolled at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, one of the many Lutheran colleges of the church. Majoring in English, he was graduated on June 6, 1960 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. The following fall he entered The Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary (now known as Trinity), and served his year of internship at Christ Lutheran Church, Minot, ND. Upon his graduation from the seminary on May 31, 1964, he earned the degree of Bachelor of Divinity.

Pastor Jim was ordained at his home church of St. John's Lutheran with his father as presider and Dr. Ralph Doermann, professor of the seminary and former intern of St. John's, as the preacher. The ordination took place in the American Lutheran Church and was authorized by the president of the Eastern District, Dr. Gordon Huffman, whose roots were in Miller's Lutheran of Hickory.

In July, 1964, Pastor Jim was installed as the Assistant Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Arlington, VA. Just a year later on August 7, 1965 he married Paula Schellhase, whom he met when she was a student at Capital University. It was then three years later on August 14, 1968 that their first child was born, Lisa Marie.

In the summer of 1970 the family moved to East Northport, Long Island, NY where Pastor Jim had accepted the call to be pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. It was during those years that Kristen Michelle was born on November 24, 1970 and Heather Lynn on February 26, 1975.

It was on the Easter Sunday morning of 1979 that it was announced that Pastor Jim had accepted the call to be pastor of Mt. Zion. Arriving later that summer, he was installed on August 5, 1979 with the following participating in the worship service:

Liturgist: Pastor Robert Winters,
Visitation Pastor at Mt. Zion
Lector: Pastor Maury Drum,
Dean of the NE Region,

Eastern District, TALC

Homilist: Pastor Richard Browder,
Mt. Pisgah Lutheran, Hickory
Installer: Pastor David Wolber,
Dean of the SE Region,
Eastern District, TALC
Congregational President: Gene Setzer

In March of 1993, Pastor Jim's and Paula's daughter Kristen was commissioned as a volunteer missionary to Cameroon, West Africa, where she now teaches French to the children of missionaries and Cameroonian students. The oldest daughter Lisa returned to her birthplace of Washington, DC where she works as a research assistant in the governmental affairs office of McGraw-Hill, and the youngest daughter Heather is a freshman at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Paula, who is a violinist, teaches violin and piano with the Kids In Koncert Suzuki program and is a member of the Western Piedmont Symphony Orchestra, and String Quartet.

Pastor Jim continues with his interest in organic gardening, sailing, running, wood-working, and celebrating family and life.

DAVID WILSON ECK 1988 - 1993

David Wilson Eck was born April 7, 1962 in Pittsburgh, PA. He graduated cum laude in 1984 from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry. Pastor Dave received his Master of Divinity degree in 1988 from the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, PA where he served as co-director of Children's Choir Musical. His ordination service was held at Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, PA in July, 1988.

He was director of Teen Time, a youth program funded by the State Drug and Alcohol Council in Gettysburg. Pastor Dave served as chaplain at the Williamsport Hospital in Williamsport, PA. His first year of field education was at Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellitsburgh, PA.