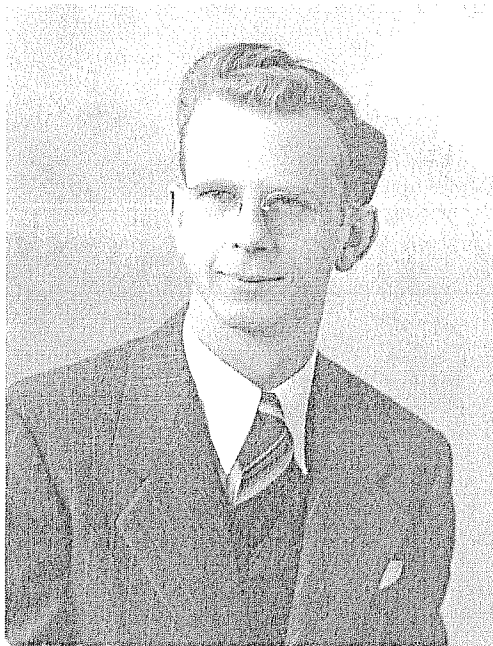


Commit Your Way to the Lord

*The Life and Ministry of
Robert Moldenhauer*



Tom Moldenhauer
Prof. Brenner
Church History
12/07/10

History always serves a good purpose. One just has to know how to spell it. It is not spelled h-i-s-t-o-r-y. Instead, HIS-story is much better. During the interview for this project, that is the saying and sentiment that I heard from my grandpa, Robert Moldenhauer. God is in control and everything has been done for a reason. It was my joy to learn and record a small portion of this story - the story of Robert Moldenhauer.

A grandson can learn a lot about his family from sitting and having a conversation with his grandpa. For years I have enjoyed learning tidbits from an experienced veteran of this heavenward highway. However, I have never taken to the task of gathering input from others who have had a wide range of experiences with my grandpa. I have never come up with an order of questions to ask him. I have never pieced everything together.

This church history project changed that. I had the chance to hear and discover some new things about my grandpa, his life and his ministry. What did I learn? Life isn't easy. I learned from my grandpa is that a tough life can be an amazing blessing from God. His dad died when he was 6. He lived through the tough times of World War II. "Flying by the seat of my pants" is his way of describing his first few years of teaching. It seemed at each call that he served there were certain problems that stared him in the face from day one. When I asked him what nickname he would use to describe himself, he said simply, "the Fireman, because I had to put out fires."

In spite of all the pain and problems, he didn't roll over. He never gave up his hope or joy. One of his favorite passages describes the attitude that kept him going throughout these difficult situations, "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this." He used his

gift of music, his enthusiasm of art and history, and most of all his love for the Lord and the ministry to bring change.

What can one learn from such a man? Many things, but none are more important than God's indescribable grace. Not only can a small town boy from Iron Ridge, WI be a good grandfather, but he is also such a good example of love and devotion.

Some have said, "Let the history of the church be honored." That history has been an intriguing story seen in the life stories of God's people. I am proud to honor the life and ministry of my grandpa, Robert Moldenhauer, with this project. I pray that I could have half of his Christian attitude toward life, his humble spirit, his willingness to serve, and his firm resolve in the face of adversity.

Appendix A

Survey Responses

*Email response from Dr. David Wendler about his experiences with Robert Moldenhauer
October 17, 2010*

In 1970 when I arrived at Riverview Lutheran School in Appleton, Bob was principal at Trinity Lutheran School in Neenah, WI. This Neenah school was a leader in the area, had an enrollment around 200 and was simply "humming." In the mid 70's, Bob received the call as principal of Trinity, Kaukauna. This Kaukauna school was experiencing challenging times. It had principal and teacher turnover for several years leading to enrollment declines. When I asked Bob why he left the "humming" Neenah school for the Kaukauna situation, he responded that when he received the call in the mail, he threw it on the floor because he knew he had to accept it. Bob did not need to be in the belly of fish for three days to know where the Lord needed him. That is Bob - serve where the Lord sends you. I have never forgotten this for it is a model of service and a model of ministry.

Bob is an artist. He paints, draws, sculpts and does just about anything artistic. Bob and Elaine were in Kaukauna, WI, when my wife and I were in Appleton. Bob was principal at Trinity Lutheran School in Kaukauna, I was principal at Riverview Lutheran School in Appleton, and Elaine taught second and third grade at my school, Riverview. Bob and I both accepted calls away from these congregations the same year - 1980. Bob accepted a call to Trinity in Watertown and I accepted a call to Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm. Before we both left the Fox River Valley area I wanted a remembrance of Bob and Elaine so I asked Bob to paint a picture for me. I left my request purposely vague - a picture. Bob painted and gave me a striking picture of Bethlehem surrounded with the crown of thorns. When he gave it to me, he related his attempt to depict "From Bethlehem to Calvary." Still today it is our most treasured wall picture. It occupies a prominent place in our dining room and it became the inspiration for redecorating our dining and living rooms. The picture captures God's grace to us in a unique way. That is your grandfather's gift; namely, focusing on Christ in beautiful and unique ways.

Bob loves music. I, on the other hand, am not a musician. Bob had his students at Trinity, Kaukauna, singing three part music. The year Elaine began teaching at Riverview I asked Bob how he does it. He responded by giving me various musical selections and by encouraging me to teach the parts and then try putting it together. He also encouraged me to teach students to read music. By Christmas Eve my 35 seventh and eighth graders were singing three and four part music. They loved singing and I, a non-musician, was directing them. In April 2009 I returned to Riverview Lutheran School for its 40th anniversary service. I could only smile when some of the "old-timers" remarked to me that the school children have never sung as well as when I was their director. My smile was for Bob who encouraged me and taught me how to teach seventh and eighth graders to sing.

*Email Response to Robert Moldenhauer survey from Charlene Lauersdorf
December 3rd, 2010*

Where did you serve with/learn to know Robert Moldenhauer? He was my first Principal when I began my teaching ministry in Sparta, Wisconsin. 1956

How long did you have personal experience with him? Three years in Sparta when he accepted a Call to Marinette. Then we had some contact when he was in Trinity/St. Lukes in Watertown.

What were some of his skills for service? Musical, organizational, discipline, generosity of his time, kindness with all people, well read, smart!

What were some of his responsibilities? Great organist, choir director, teacher, principal, mentor, and whatever happened to be thrown his way.

What were some of the things you remember about his life and ministry? He was about the best principal and mentor that a first year teacher could have. If I had a problem I would go to him. He would give me suggestions, and I think they always worked! He was a very willing worker. He didn't stand around looking for compliments, just did his work and went on. He did a great job with organ and choirs. People enjoyed his practice time. Made good use of time and materials.

If applicable comment on his:

...ability in the classroom AS far as I knew he was a good teacher because of projects his students did and the way they responded to their education.

Life in the church He was loved by all and could hold his head up high.

Attitude toward ministry He loved teaching and kids. And was interested in helping them in many ways.

Family life? The love between Bob and Elaine radiated from them. They were mentors in that way, too. They did a lot of things with the family. One of them being camping when they used the camping trailer which he designed and constructed himself. Very clever. His oldest son, Martin, was in that first Kindergarten class. On the first day of school, although I knew him quite well by then, he quietly came up to me and handed me a tiny piece of paper on which he had printed his name, "I just wanted to make sure you forget my name!" All the kids were very good students. I had to keep ahead of Nancy so that she wouldn't be bored and get

into trouble, not that she would have! But Mom was concerned about it. I didn't have Larry, so I can't tell any tales about him. But he was a sweetie!

Do any specific examples your time with Robert come to mind. Yes, they had us over for supper and the evening many times and the other female teacher and I enjoyed that no end. Then one time they took us on a family camping trip on a warm weekend at the beginning of school. The teacher's had their own little tent. We had such a good time sitting around the campfire in the evening, talking, probably singing and relaxing. All the while the lake water lapped along the shore close to us. I would also repeat the many times I took my problems to Bob and he always had things for me to try, which worked!!

*Email response by Jim Moeller to the Robert Moldenhauer survey. (He took over as principal of TSL in Watertown after my grandpa retired)
November 19, 2010*

Where did you serve with/learn to know Robert Moldenhauer?

I moved to Watertown in the summer of 1988. The first time I met Bob was at a Fourth of July gathering at the home of Pastor Bill and Beth Gabb.

How long did you have personal experience with him?

Since 1988, and especially those years Bob and Elaine lived in Watertown (although I went to a WLC concert this summer on their Quad and guess who I saw?)

What were some of his skills for service?

I think the Lord of the Church placed Bob at TSL at a time when a person strong in classroom management and a good divider of Law and Gospel was needed. His experience was greatly needed at that time at a school where a firm hand in school and classroom discipline was needed.

His music ability was well recognized. As an organist at Trinity he frequently sat on the bench of the Wicks organ (removed in 1991 when the current tracker-action organ was installed.) I believe he was the Trinity choir director during his time as a full-time servant at Trinity. When he retired Prof. Frank Zabell took over as a choir director.

His ability to direct Junior Choir and teach part-singing to children is still spoken of. When he was serving in Neenah he helped a young teacher and principal by the name of Dave Wendler (serving at Riverside in Appleton). Dave states with no hesitation that Bob Moldenhauer was the one who taught him how to teach part-singing.

Bob was also a promoter of forensics. The current forensics program used in the schools of the Central Conference and the format used at LPS had its beginnings with Bob Moldenhauer.

What were some of his responsibilities?

See above.

I would also add that I believe Bob served for many years for a number of WELS elementary schools as the School Visitor on behalf of the WELS Board for Parish Education (now the Commission on Lutheran Schools). As a school visitor he was responsible for visiting assigned schools, sitting in on the classrooms, and consulting with the principal on the overall administration and function of the school.

What are some things you remember about his life and ministry?

Bob came to Trinity Lutheran School (it became TSL a few years his arrival) at a critical point in its history. The previous principal, who served less than a year, resigned from the ministry because he could not control the students in his classroom. When the call was extended to Bob the congregation was looking for a church musician, a teacher, but – most importantly – one who could get the school back on the right track as the principal. The reputation of the school had suffered greatly. Jan Breiling Fredrich, a teacher a few years ahead of me at DMLC who was raising a family in town while her husband taught at NWC, would not initially substitute at TSL when I asked her. Her memories of Trinity students were not positive. While teaching at Lakeside Lutheran High School she relayed that when Trinity students were coming to LLHS to visit, the LLHS faculty would meet and pull straws. Those who got the short straws had to have the Trinity students in their classrooms. This illustrates not only the demeanor of the students, but also how they were received. When Jan finally could be convinced to sub in my room, she was surprised at the changes that had taken place. The credit goes to Bob. He had some rough ground to plow his years here in reestablishing the discipline within the school. The minutes of the school board during that time are not pleasant to read even 30 years after the events.

When Bob retired in 1987 the congregation called many times for his replacement. Perhaps it was the reputation of the school; perhaps it was the fact that the congregation paired the principal/teacher (grades 7-8) position with being organist at Trinity. That caused the call to be repeatedly returned. I know that several men declined the call because of the organ work. I was called (perhaps as a last resort because they were looking for someone older and I was only 33) on Father's Day in 1987. I agonized over that call for three weeks before I returned the call. Because of the lateness of the calling season, Tim Torgerson was asked to be principal for the 1987-1988 school year. It was decided to ask for the assignment of one of the unassigned DMLC graduates from the class of 1987 for one year to fill the grades 7-8 classroom. Gregg Birkholz was assigned. Gregg admits that first year was a challenging year – he has often stated that at the end of the school day he would walk out of the classroom “with pit stains down to my waistband.” Controlling the students in the room took a firm hand.

Trinity congregation waited five months and then called me at the first opportunity of the 1988 calling season – Sunday morning, January 3, 1988. I accepted the call six weeks later. I will state very clearly that the success I experienced in my early years at TSL was due to the groundwork laid by Bob Moldenhauer. Because the school was growing, Gregg was called to be a permanent teacher and has taught fourth grade ever since.

If applicable comment on his

...ability in the classroom?

...life in the church?

...attitude toward ministry?

...family life?

I don't have anything that comes to mind here other than Bob exhibited, demonstrated, and modeled faithful servant leadership.

Do any specific examples your time with Robert come to mind?

Because I taught Mark and Joy in the classroom, I received a special Christmas gift from each of them. Bob is a wonderful artist and woodworker. From each child I received at Christmas a simple Nativity scene in wood – one cut and painted (Mary, Joseph, and the Babe) and then another in wood in black with white cut-out figures. I treasure these scenes because of their folk-art quality. When I look at them I think of Bob and Elaine. I display then each year at TSL in our glass display case with other Nativity scenes. Older people looking at those will remark that Mr. Moldenhauer created those.

In the Clark Street Commons we have hanging on one wall and framed pastel piece that Bob did. His work with a variety of media was excellent.

You may also leave any other comments him. This may include the kind of hobbies you noticed, the type of family man he was, the way he carried himself, sayings that he had, etc....

The Lord is in his wisdom provides the right man for the right place at the right time. So it was with Bob Moldenhauer at Trinity congregation of Watertown and its school, TSL. God be praised!

Email response by Pastor Bill Gabb to the Robert Moldenhauer survey (He was a pastor at Trinity during my grandpa's time in Watertown)

October 14th, 2010

Where did you serve with/learn to know Robert Moldenhauer?

AT TRINITY LC IN WATERTOWN, WI AT A TIME WHEN THE CURRENT TRINITY-ST LUKE'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL WAS STILL JUST TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

How long did you have personal experience with him?

I KNEW HIM AS A FRIEND WHILE I SERVED ON THE FACULTY OF LUTHER PREP, AND AS A COLLEAGUE WHEN I TOOK THE CALL TO SERVE AS TRINITY'S PASTOR. SO, I KNEW HIM FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER HE RETIRED...TEN YEARS AT LEAST.

What were some of his skills for service?

HIS TEACHING, OF COURSE, AND FOR INSTILLING IN THE STUDENTS A LOVE FOR READING AND A LOVE FOR LEARNING. ONE THING THAT I RECALL IS HIS REQUIREMENT TO HAVE THE KIDS REPORT ON WHAT THEY HAD READ IN THE DAILY NEWSPAPER. THIS INSTILLED IN OUR OLDEST SON, MARK, THE INTEREST IN KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS, NOT JUST THE DAILY SPORTS EVENTS BUT ON ALL OF THE NEWS.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO SEND THIS SURVEY TO ANY OF OUR KIDDOS, ANNE, KIM, MARK OR STEVE. I CAN SEND THEIR INFO TO YOU, IF YOU LIKE. MARK AND STEVE ARE IN THE WELLS YEARBOOK.

What were some of his responsibilities?

YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS PRINCIPAL AND TEACHER; HE ALSO PLAYED ORGAN FOR WORSHIP

What are some things you remember about his life and ministry?

WHAT STANDS OUT IN MY MIND IS HIS SPIRITUALITY. IT WAS THE WORD OF GOD THAT PERMEATED ALL OF HIS CLASSROOM TEACHING. HE PREPARED HIS STUDENTS NOT ONLY FOR SURVIVING IN THE ADULT WORLD BUT FOR HEAVEN, AND FOR LIVING THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH IN LIVES OF SERVICE TO OTHERS AND OUT OF THANKFULNESS TO THE LORD JESUS. THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A "SECULAR" SUBJECT IN THE CLASSROOM. NOR WAS THERE ANYTHING IN LIFE THAT WAS NOT/IS NOT CONNECTED TO GOD IN A SPIRITUAL WAY. ..WITH THE SAVIOR'S LOVE REIGNING SUPREME.

If applicable comment on his

...ability in the classroom? A GREAT COMMUNICATOR AND CHRISTIAN ROLE MODEL; A CARING TEACHER WHO SAW THE LARGER PICTURE OF THE LIVES OF THE STUDENTS WHO SAT AT HIS FEET

...life in the church? COMPLETE AND TOTAL DEDICATION TO THE SERVICE OF HIS SAVIOR, USING ALL OF HIS MANY, MANY TALENTS TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

...attitude toward ministry? A LABOR OF LOVE THAT HE COMMUNICATED NOT ONLY TO THE STUDENTS BUT TO PARENTS. HE WAS THE LINK BETWEEN HIS SAVIOR AND THE CHILDREN AND PARENTS AND VIEWED HIS MINISTRY AS AN EXTENSION OF THE CHRISTIAN HOMES OF THE CHILDREN WHOM HE SERVED

...family life? HE WAS A ROLE MODEL FOR HIS FAMILY AS WELL AS CHRISTIAN HUSBAND AND FATHER, AS WELL AS TEACHER. HE AND YOUR GRANDMOTHER ARE A TEAM, A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE THAT WAS EVIDENT TO EVERYONE WHO KNEW HIM AT TRINITY

Do any specific examples your time with Robert come to mind?

WE ENJOYED MANY GOOD TIMES TOGETHER BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE OF OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE MINISTRY. WE PLANNED WORSHIP SERVICES TOGETHER AND SHARED THE SAME APPROACH IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN FACULTY MEETINGS AND SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS. WE ENJOYED EACH OTHER'S COMPANY SOCIALLY AND I APPRECIATED HIS SINCERITY AND GENUINE CHRISTIAN LOVE AS FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE.

You may also leave any other comments about Robert. This may include the kind of hobbies you noticed, the type of family man he was, the way he carried himself, sayings that he had, etc....

HE HAS A TALENT NOT ONLY FOR MAKING THINGS BUT FOR COMING WITH UNIQUE IDEAS ABOUT THINGS TO MAKE. HIS HOUSE WAS FULL OF THINGS HE MADE...A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS TREE, FOR EXAMPLE. HE WAS NEVER TOO BUSY TO SPEND TIME DOING SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE ELSE; HE LIVES HIS FAITH, HE MODELS HIS SAVIOR'S LOVE FOR HIS FAMILY AND FOR HIS FRIENDS AND FOR ALL WHOM HE SERVED.

*Email response by Steven Gabb to the Robert Moldenhauer survey (He was as student at TSL)
November 12th, 2010*

Where did you serve with/learn to know Robert Moldenhauer?

- I was his student at Trinity-St. Luke's School in Watertown, WI.

How long did you have personal experience with him?

- I don't remember exactly when He arrived, but I attended all 8 grades at Trinity-St. Luke's, so I interacted with him from the time he arrived until I graduated in 8th grade (1987)

What were some of his skills for service?

- I always remember your grandpa as an excellent teacher. He was firm, but fair which, at the time, the firmness wasn't always appreciated, but even as an immature grade-schooler, I knew he was doing the right thing. I always liked your grandpa as a person and as a teacher...he's funny, interesting, easy to listen to. He had a wealth of experience and other applicable ways to make alive the concepts of whatever subject he was teaching. He truly was a blessing to Trinity-St. Luke's and to me – and many others – personally.

What were some of his responsibilities?

- He was the principal as well as the 7th & 8th grades classroom teacher.
- If I remember correctly, I also had him for English class in 5th & 6th grades.

What are some things you remember about his life and ministry?

- In addition to what I wrote under 2 questions above... I also remember that he was very gifted musically as our Jr. Choir director and, I believe, as an organist(?).
- I seem to remember that he and your grandma like to travel.
- They were both very friendly and easy to get along with.

If applicable comment on his

...ability in the classroom?

- Excellent teacher...able to explain things very well.
- Easy to learn from
- Fun, had a great sense of humor in the classroom

...life in the church?

- Very active
- Very supportive (spoken from the perspective of the pastor's son at the church at which he served)
- Excellent musician

...attitude toward ministry?

- ALL positive...it was very obvious that he loved doing what he did, that he cared about his students – their faith and their learning, that he wanted his students to consider Kingdom work.

...family life?

- He seemed to be very close with his family. His job at Trinity-St. Luke's was a big one...lots of responsibility. I could never tell (and, to be honest, at that age, I wasn't paying attention to this) if he had much time to spend with his family. But when family was around, you could tell that he loved them very much and they loved him very much.
- He was a kind, generous, loving man in and out of the classroom

Do any specific examples your time with Robert come to mind?

- (Can't think of any personal experience outside of the school setting, but I'm sure there were some.)

You may also leave any other comments him. This may include the kind of hobbies you noticed, the type of family man he was, the way he carried himself, sayings that he had, etc....

- I remember him as a traveler and as a skilled wood-worker (again, it's been a while, so I could be wrong, but the wood-working thing seems to ring a bell like other things mentioned above).

Email response from Martin Moldenhauer about Robert Moldenhauer.

Dec 2nd, 2010

Where did you serve with/learn to know Robert Moldenhauer?

He's my dad.

How long did you have personal experience with him?

He was my principal for all nine grades of elementary school and my departmentalized teacher from 5-8.

What were some of his skills for service?

Dad was always very dependable, on time, trustworthy. Nobody would doubt his integrity for his work, nor the industry with which he tackled it.

What were some of his responsibilities?

Always principal, upper grade teacher, departmentalized art, English, spelling, history. He did not coach sports very often, leaving that up to the other male teachers or volunteer dads. He served on many synod and conference committees, as well as chaired many meetings in our local church. He was the chief organist and always directed children's and adult choirs.

What are some things you remember about his life and ministry?

He loved baseball and gave me a love for the game. He played the organ almost every single Sunday, rarely sitting with us in the pews. He built things for us, and took time to shoot bow and arrow with me, go hunting, and play catch. We didn't watch much television.

If applicable comment on his

...ability in the classroom?

Dad was a thorough teacher, always covering the lesson until it was understood. He insisted on good attendance and homework completed and good behavior.

...life in the church?

Dad served on many committees and had nightly duties to return to church or school. He never shirked work.

...attitude toward ministry?

He presented it as a privilege and an honor, and I trust that I did the same to my sons.

...family life?

Dad was busy during the school week, but we always took time for a summer travel vacation of some kind, camping being the key thing. He led us in devotions, and he disciplined us when we needed to be corrected. I am proud of the model he set for me to follow.

Do any specific examples your time with Robert come to mind?

He challenged me to live up to my abilities when we first moved to Neenah. I didn't want to be the smartest kid in a new school, and I under-achieved, not wishing to show my intelligence. He severely chastised me in public and in private, telling me to use my God-given talents, another lesson which I have tried to instill in my own children.

You may also leave any other comments him. This may include the kind of hobbies you noticed, the type of family man he was, the way he carried himself, sayings that he had, etc.... I could go on and on, but time is short, and I have to teach in a few minutes. He played lots of ping-pong with me, built things for me in his workshop, and was always busy. He rarely sat down to read or watch television. We were given the example of work and play, without wasting time.

*Email response to the Robert Moldenhauer survey from Nancy Moldenhauer
December 1st, 2010*

Where did you serve with/learn to know Robert Moldenhauer?
From the day I was born. He's my father.

How long did you have personal experience with him?
58 years

What were some of his skills for service?
Patience, enthusiasm for his subjects, caring attitude toward his students

What were some of his responsibilities?
Father, husband, teacher, principal, adult and children's choir director, organist, handyman, artist

What are some things you remember about his life and ministry?
No matter how busy he was, he always had time for his children, his pupils and his neighbors. I remember when we lived in Marinette, we took packed lunches, and Dad would eat his lunch in his principal's office, with the door closed, for a little quiet time. Often he would let me come in and eat my lunch there with him. I remember eating peanut butter sandwiches and carrot sticks and oranges. Dad always cut the peel of my orange with his knife, scoring it into pieces, so it was easier to peel. Maybe that wasn't particularly spiritual, but it was special father/daughter bonding time.

When I was very young, I remember Dad letting me sit on the organ bench with him when he played for Sunday services. I had to sit very, very still, and not swing my legs back and forth.

If applicable comment on his

...ability in the classroom?

He was my favorite teacher, and I had him for Reading and History and Art from fifth through eighth grade. In seventh and eighth grade I had him for every subject except science and math. He was always very fair as a teacher, even though I was his daughter. He may have been a bit harder on me than other students, but he was hard on all the bright kids and good learners. He has so much enthusiasm for his subjects, and I loved how he found interesting tidbits in history lessons to share that brought past eras to life.

...life in the church?

God was first in our lives, in every aspect, from home devotions around the supper table, to Sunday worship, and special services, like Reformation, Christmas Eve and Day and Easter. My memory of every sacred holiday was choir music, whether it was grade school choirs, Junior choir or Senior choir. We rehearsed well in advance and tried so hard to please him in singing two-, three- or four-part

harmonies. I don't think any children's choirs today are anywhere near the quality that Dad was able to elicit from young voices.

Even in our family camping trips, I know that Dad used every opportunity to speak of God's beautiful creation, His will in our lives, and patience in hardship.

Rarely did we sit together as a family to worship in church, because Dad was either on the organ bench or directing a choir, or both. But the sermon was always discussed on the way home from church or at Sunday dinner.

...attitude toward ministry?

See above – attitude toward church and ministry were very similar. I know that both Mom and Dad nurtured a strong respect for anyone doing the Lord's work, pastors or teachers.

...family life?

How can I take a few sentences to describe the best father in the whole world? As a father when I was small, Dad was patient, kind but firm, willing to teach and always, always loving. He taught me how to shoot a bow and arrow, he built and fixed things, and he encouraged me in my classwork, hobbies and sports.

I remember one snowy Saturday when Mom was gone doing something – don't know what – that Dad said to us three kids, let's go sledding. I think we went to High Cliff Park on the north side of Lake Winnebago. I can't remember why we couldn't go down the hill there. Either it was too icy or closed for some reason. So Dad tied the sled to the back of the car bumper, and he drove us around and around a snow-covered parking lot, with us taking turns being on the sled. We went fast and laughed and yelled and had a wonderful time.

Family was so important. Our summer camping trips, from out east to out west, became learning experiences, checking out museums, history, geography, and much more. Our family of five did so many things together, I can't even begin to name them all.

When I moved out to my own apartments, Dad always built something for each one: shelves or kitchen storage or closet poles. When I bought my own house, Dad spent days helping to attach banisters to stairways, fixing a door threshold, hanging things on walls for me, and much more.

Robert Moldenhauer embodies helpfulness and loving fatherhood in every way.

Do any specific examples your time with Robert come to mind?

See above

You may also leave any other comments him. This may include the kind of hobbies you noticed, the type of family man he was, the way he carried himself, sayings that he had, etc....

I never heard a curse word, swearing or any foul language from out of his mouth. I was shocked to hear those words from other friends' fathers. When Dad was particularly upset, he would say (probably still does say), "For Pete's sake!!!"

Other sayings from Dad: He who does not use his head must use his feet.

If I'd do something wrong, for example, if I drove my car with the handbrake on for a block, I'd ask, Dad, is that going to be bad for my car? And he'd say, "Well, it didn't do it any good."

*Email response from Larry Moldenhauer to the Robert Moldenhauer survey
December 2nd, 2010*

Where did you serve with/learn to know Robert Moldenhauer?
At birth...

How long did you have personal experience with him?
Since birth... about 53 years.

What were some of his skills for service?
Organization, dedication, perseverance

What were some of his responsibilities?
6, 7 and 8th grade English teacher, principal, organist, choir director, chief-cook-and-bottle-washer. Did everything and anything that was needed.

What are some things you remember about his life and ministry?
He had knee surgery and kept teaching, sitting down with his leg up on a chair. His life was teaching and church work.

If applicable comment on his

...ability in the classroom?
Awesome. Always kept things interesting and up to date. Cared about every student.

...life in the church?
My memory is of him on the organ bench or directing a choir. The few times he sat with us he was singing bass.

...attitude toward ministry?
Family and church work, in that order. He would take a few weeks off in July otherwise he was at school every day for some time. He never had a secretary or someone to do his paperwork. He did everything himself. When orders of books and supplies would come in, he and I would unpack everything, catalog and put away. Religion class was extremely important to him. The pastor taught 8th grade religion but he would fill in and continued to "talk" religion in every class. He lived what he taught.

...family life?

He was always busy at school or church yet had time to spend with the family. I seldom saw him at night but he was home for supper and weekends. When the rare time came that he did not have to play organ or choir we would often go to other churches and visit. Family life centered on church and school. Our family friends were teachers and pastors.

Do any specific examples your time with Robert come to mind? Oh.. about 47 years of memories.

You may also leave any other comments him. This may include the kind of hobbies you noticed, the type of family man he was, the way he carried himself, sayings that he had, etc....

Wood working, painting, carving, sand block carving, ink press, wire work, hunting, hiking, camping

Appendix B

Interview with Robert Moldenhauer

Background Information

Tell me about your parents...

- Their religious background
- Their families
- Their jobs
- Their lifestyle

When and where were you born?

How would you describe your childhood?

- The relationship with your parents and siblings
- Hobbies
- Education
- Describe the culture

Were there any differences you experienced after your dad died?

Briefly explain things you remember.

When you moved to Milwaukee, what happened?

- Education
- Hobbies
- Culture

What things influenced your decision to study for the ministry?

What was high school like?

- Classes
- Teachers
- Interests
- Attitude toward ministry

How would you describe the ministerial education program of WELS at that time?

Moving onto college, how did your high school years prepare you for college?

How was the college program at DMLC?

- Classes
- Teachers

- Interests
- Lifestyle
- Ministerial preparedness

After graduation and the assignment process, what was your feeling?

ST. JOHN'S, SPARTA, WI

Give me the background of the call?

How many years were you there?

Tell me about your ministry.

What were some challenges and some joys?

TRINITY, MARINETTE, WI

Give me the background of the call?

How many years were you there?

Tell me about your ministry.

What were some challenges and some joys?

TRINITY, NEENAH, WI

Give me the background of the call?

How many years were you there?

Tell me about your ministry.

What were some challenges and some joys?

TRINITY, KAUKAUNA, WI

Give me the background of the call?

How many years were you there?

Tell me about your ministry.

What were some challenges and some joys?

TRINITY (-ST. LUKE'S), WATERTOWN, WI

Give me the background of the call?

How many years were you there?

Tell me about your ministry.

What were some challenges and some joys?

Looking back on your ministry

How would you rate your early years of ministry?

How did you continue to grow as a teacher and leader in your ministry?

Do any experiences stand out as significant for your growth?

What kinds of things, if any, became distractions?

How was your family life?

What were some favorite passages and hymns throughout your ministry?

Appendix C

Timeline

Birth – September 11th, 1925

Graduation from DMLC – ..., 1946

St. John's, Sparta, WI – August 1946 – June 1959

Marriage to Elaine Rademan – June 4th, 1950

Trinity, Marinette, WI – August 1959 – June 1964

Trinity, Neenah, WI – August 1964 – June 1976

Trinity, Kaukauna, WI – August 1976 – June 1980

Trinity – St. Luke's, Watertown, WI – August 1980 – June 1988

St. Paul's, Lake Mills, WI – August 1988 – June 1989 (called out of retirement to teach)

Retirement – 1989 – present (as of December 7th, 2010)