

HISTORICAL INFORMATION FOR HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Hazel (1914-2007) and Albert (1903-1991) Borson were lifelong members of Hope Lutheran Church. They enjoyed life on their farm and were committed to activities and groups of our church, as well as to Lutheran higher education. **The Hazel and Albert Borson Scholarship** is awarded to a **college sophomore with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher who is attending a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

Norman (1919-2008) and Lillian (1920-2003) Larson were lifelong members of Hope Lutheran Church and involved in many aspects of church life, helping as much as they were physically able to do. The **Norman and Lillian Larson Scholarship** was established in 2009 by Roberta and Scott Josephson in memory of their parents and is to be used by a **student to further his or her education in a graduate level, post-secondary program.**

Robert E. (1922-1967) and Alice V. (1922-2008) Geiwitz Scholarship fund was established in 1992 by Alan Geiwitz in memory of his parents. Robert served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and worked at Geiwitz & Company, a John Deere implement dealer in Minnesota until he died of cancer at age 44. Alice, commonly referred to as “Gussie”, was a teacher and active in community projects and organizations. Robert’s death in 1967 left her a single parent who raised their three children ranging in age from ten to sixteen. Both were very involved in the life of Hope Lutheran Church and active members. According to criteria established by Alan, interest from this fund is to be used by a prospective **student who is faithful in attendance and active in church activities to further their education in a post-secondary institution.**

The Agnes Rye Scholarship was established in 1996 in memory of Agnes Rye (1905-1995). Agnes was an aunt of Donald Rye and her profession was nursing. According to established criteria, the recipient is to use the scholarship given in Agnes’ name to further their education in a post-secondary institution **in a health-related field.**

The Donald (1920-1999) and Susan (1921-2003) Rye Scholarship was established in 1999. Don was a captain the U.S. Air Force in World War II. He was a farmer who was active in the Minnesota community and Hope Lutheran Church, and served many years on the Minnesota Board of Education. Susie was a nurse at the hospital in Marshall and they had six children. According to scholarship criteria, interest from the fund is given to a **college sophomore** desiring to further their education in a post-secondary institution **in a business-related field, including business education and agriculture.**

Hope Lutheran Education Scholarship, which included funds from other smaller donations, was expanded with proceeds from a \$40,000 irrevocable trust established by Elmer M. Wertz (1898-1981) in December of 1966. Elmer was a retired farmer living on his 160-acre farm in near poverty conditions. His very humble surroundings were a matter of choice, while public and private agencies collected money each year. It was Elmer’s desire that he use his life savings to help others, including the following four agencies: Hope Lutheran Church for two scholarships, State of Minnesota for wetlands acquisition and improvements, New Tomorrow Home, a home for the mentally-handicapped in Marshall, and Southwest

Minnesota State College. Elmer also gave his land to St. Olaf College, who used part of the profits to provide for his living expenses. At the time of his death in 1981, Hope Lutheran Church was one of the benefactors of what was then a \$48,000 trust. Once per year, a board would meet to decide how proceeds of the investment were distributed. The pastor of Hope Lutheran was a member of the committee for the trust. After years of mismanagement of the funds by various financial institutions, the fund was depleted. In a settlement in 2007, each of the benefactors received approximately \$8,000.

The Gary B. Johnson Scholarship Fund was established in 2021. Gary grew up on the family farm of his parents Gordon and Alta Johnson, with brothers Glen and Gary. A strong belief in hard work and being involved in church, school, and community activities sparked a feeling of giving back. According to the established criteria of being a full-time student and maintaining a 2.0 GPA. Interest from the fund will go to a student attending a post secondary institution in a business-related, an agriculture-related, faith-related, or a health-related career.