

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 Corps 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.**

The Elmer Weltz and Pastor John Thorstensen Hope Education Fund began in 1966. It was a collection of small donations over the years but was expanded with the proceeds from a \$40,000 irrevocable trust established by Elmer M. Weltz (1898-1981) with the help of Pastor John Thorstensen in December of 1966. Elmer was a retired farmer living on his 160-acre farm, living in near poverty conditions. His very humble surroundings were a matter of choice. It was Elmer's desire that he use his life savings to help others in some way. He chose four agencies to share this gift. Hope Lutheran

Church would award two scholarships, the State of Minnesota would get funds for wetlands acquisitions and improvements, the New Tomorrow Home for the mentally challenged would receive funding and Southwest State College in Marshall would receive funding. Elmer also left much of his land to St. Olaf College in exchange for providing his living expenses. A committee to provide oversight for distribution of these funds was established. Due to lack of oversight from the 1990s and into 2006, the fund was depleted. A settlement was reached in 2007, with each of the benefactors receiving \$8,000. This money was added placed in the Hope Education Fund. The fund was renamed in 2023 to reflect the historic start of the scholarship program.

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 his brothers Glen and Greg. His parents stressed a strong belief in hard work, being involved in church, school, and community activities. This sparked a strong belief in giving back and helping others. The criteria for the scholarship is being a junior or higher full-time student, maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Interest from the fund will go students attending a post-secondary institution in in majors such as business, agriculture, or marketing.

The Art and Anne Pennings Scholarship Fund was established in 2024. After receiving a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, Art and Anne moved to Minneota and established a successful practice. They raised five children, were involved in the Minneota community, the Minneota school, and Hope Lutheran Church. The family criteria was to stress college sophomore through graduate school.