

Organist 75 years

Mrs. Walter, 89, has an amazing record of service

GORDON — Mrs. Alma (Fetterolf) Walter was honored during weekend ceremonies in Christ United Lutheran Church, near here, for her 75 years of activity as church organist.

She was born in Mowry, on April 17, 1905, the youngest of 12 children, and lived most of her life in Lavelle, the wife of the late Raymond Walter. She has two sons, Donald and Jack Walter.

Employed by the local school district for many years as a cook, Mrs. Walter spent many of her evenings giving piano lessons to local residents.

As a congregation, we realize that we are honoring a wonderful person, the kind which is rare to find today, and a true treasure of our community. In her 89 years, Mrs. Walter has so often exhibited the best of what makes us human and has shared that with countless people. That alone is the greatest testimonial she could receive. **;**

— Rev. Jay Serafin

... pastor of Christ United Lutheran Church near Gordon

Started in 1919

Mrs. Walter began her career as church organist at Saint Peter Lutheran Church in Lavelle in 1919 at the age of 14. During her three-quarters of a century as church or-

ganist she also served the church in many other capacities. At times she served on the church council of Saint Peter's, was Sunday school pianist,

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★ Organist

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involved herself with the Lutheran Church Women, and participated in numerous other events in the life of the congregation in addition to her duties as organist and choir director.

In 1969, Saint Peter Lutheran Church combined with several other Lutheran churches in the area to form Christ United Lutheran Church. Worship services continued in the various church buildings, so Mrs. Walter continued to fulfill her duties as organist at Saint Peter's. In addition, she played the organ during many other Christ United joint services, as well as at funerals and weddings.

New facility

In December of 1992, Christ United Lutheran Church completed construction on a brand new church facility, and worship services were discontinued at Saint Peter's. Mrs. Walter was selected to be the organist for the congregation in its new, unified facility. It is in this position that she currently serves.

In addition to her organist duties, Mrs. Walter is active in the congregation's Women of the ELCA service organization, a member of the worship and music committee, and is active in the community, most

notably as a member of and pianist for the Ashland Area Senior Citizens.

Dedicated

"In her 89 years," according to Christ United Lutheran pastor, Rev. Jay Serafin, "Mrs. Walter has been a person of great generosity, unusual energy and activity, and caring warmth. Her life has been one of dedication: to her family, which now includes five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; to her church throughout her many years of service and to her community, which she loves with her entire heart.

"As her pastor for nearly five years, I have been impressed greatly by her musical ability, her love and care for her church, her steady faith and her unswerving desire to make the music program and worship service of Christ United as beautiful as possible.

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Mrs. Alma Wal-
ter (center), ac-
cepts presenta-
tion by Connie
Welker,
program coor-
dinator and
Pastor Jay
Serafin of Christ
United Lutheran
Church for her
75 years as
church organist.
Evening Herald
Robert N. Kyler

