

The George W. Boldt Papers

An Inventory



Archive of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Mequon, Wisconsin

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March 2003

The George W. Boldt Papers

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Collection Level Description

Title: The George W. Boldt Files

Dates: 1935-1981

Extent: 1.1 meters of textual records

Biographical sketch:

George W. Boldt was born on November 28, 1918, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Boldt. He was baptized at St. Lucas Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. He received his elementary school education at St. Lucas Lutheran School and was confirmed at St. Lucas in 1932.

After grade school, Boldt attended Northwestern Preparatory School and College in Watertown, WI. He received his BA from there in June 1940. From there he attended and graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI in June 1943.

In June 1943, Boldt was assigned to St. John's Lutheran Church in Lannon, WI. On October 23, 1943, Boldt married Miss Anita Quade of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The couple was blessed with four children—one son: Paul and three daughters: Gretchen, Annette and Rachel.

From 1948 to 1951, Boldt also served at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Theresa, WI and from 1951-1955, he served at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Roscoe, SD. On April 17, 1955, he was installed as pastor of Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Morton Grove, IL. He served there actively until his death in June 1983.

In 1972, Boldt was elected president of the Southeastern Wisconsin District, responsible for 140 congregations including his own. He served in that capacity until his death, being re-elected five times. In 1973, he was elected as second vice-president of the Wisconsin Synod. He was re-elected five times to the vice-presidency as well. With the death of Pres. Oscar J. Naumann in 1979, Boldt became first vice-president of the WELS, as Carl H. Mischke became president. He served in this position until his death. Throughout his ministry Boldt served in numerous other district and synodical offices, including the Committee for Synod Administrative Structure, Committee on Grants and the Board for Home Missions.

Mischke is quoted in Boldt's August 1983 obituary in the *Northwestern Lutheran*, "Although Pastor Boldt served on a variety of boards and committees of the Synod and was elected to several of its key posts, he remained a pastor through and through. His pastoral approach, his obvious love for people, his burning desire to share Christ, were the hallmarks of his ministry which gave a special quality to his counsel and decisions as an administrator."

On the morning of June 10, 1983, George W. Boldt died suddenly in a Flint, Michigan hospital following a heart attack and joined his Savior in the eternal rest at the age of 64. Funeral services were held at Jerusalem Lutheran Church on June 12. President Carl H. Mischke preached the sermon. A memorial service was conducted on June 13 in Boldt's home church, St. Lucas, Milwaukee, WI. President Winfred B. Nommensen of Milwaukee, Boldt's successor as district president, preached the sermon. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery, Milwaukee.

Custodial history:

The George W. Boldt papers were originally collected shortly after his death in June 1983 by Rev. and Mrs. Winfred Nommensen. Nommensen served as the first vice president of the Southeastern

Wisconsin District at the time of Boldt's death and succeeded him as president. Due to the fact that the SEW district convention was to be held shortly after Boldt's death, Nommensen needed Boldt's papers to prepare a President's Report for the convention. Rev. and Mrs. Nommensen traveled to Morton Grove, IL, where they collected most of Boldt's papers and brought them to Wisconsin. Rev. Nommensen kept what he felt was necessary and the remainder was donated to the WELS Archives, Mequon, WI. Upon Rev. Nommensen's death in 1997, Mrs. Nommensen and their son brought his papers to the WELS Archives after Rev. David Rutschow, the new SEW district president, had removed the necessary papers. Included in these files were more of the Boldt files. The Boldt collection currently resides in the WELS Archives, Mequon, WI. Information supplied by former WLS librarian, Prof. em. Martin Westerhaus.

Scope and Content:

The collection is made up of materials created by and collected by Rev. George W. Boldt. The collection reflects the life of a very active man balancing his involvement between his congregation, district and synod. Many items reflect that the Lord gave this man the talents and abilities to carry out the many tasks assigned to him particularly between 1970 and 1983. The collection also reflects the overall pastoral concern for souls that dominated his every decision, statement and reply, whether they be on the congregational, district or synod levels.

The collection consists of the following series:

- Series 1: Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod documents
 - Subseries 1: Budget/Payment requests and requisitions – 1974-1983
 - Subseries 2: Commission on Higher Education self-study – 1981
 - Subseries 3: Committee on Administrative Structure correspondence – 1981-1982
 - Subseries 4: Committee on Grants – 1978
 - Subseries 5: Conference of Presidents – 1974-1979
 - Subseries 6: Coordinating Council minutes – 1981
 - Subseries 7: General Board – Home Missions – 1963-1981
 - Subseries 8: Miscellaneous reports, pamphlets and nomination blanks – 1972, 1976-77, pre-1979
 - Subseries 9: Special Ministries – 1970-1983
- Series 2: Documents on Boldt's divine calls
- Series 3: Assignments, calls and colloquies – Southeastern Wisconsin District
- Series 4: Case files of pastors, teachers, laypeople and congregations
- Series 5: Protestant controversy documents
- Series 6: Kokomo controversy documents
- Series 7: Circuit pastor reports
- Series 8: Correspondence and reports on retirements and resignations
- Series 9: Documents on staff and teaching ministry
- Series 10: Wisconsin Lutheran College documents
- Series 11: Miscellaneous documents
- Series 12: Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Morton Grove, IL documents
- Series 13: Documents on vicarships
- Series 14: Exegetical papers and essays
- Series 15: Documents on synodical and district stewardship
- Series 16: Correspondence
- Series 17: Southeastern Wisconsin District documents
- Series 18: Documents on WELS/LC-MS doctrinal issues

Series 19: Documents on the roles of man and woman

Series 20: Documents on church and state

Source of supplied title: Title based on the provenance of the records.

Arrangement: See appendix A for arrangement of the folders in the boxes.

Restrictions: None.

Accruals: No additions are expected.

Series level description

The George W. Boldt Papers

Series 1: Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod documents

Dates: 1963-1983

Extent: 20 folders, 17 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence, reports and other documents pertaining to committees and organizations of the WELS. During his tenure as Vice President of the WELS, Boldt was involved in many of these directly, often as chairman or indirectly as an advisor.

Subseries 1: Budget/Payment requests and requisitions – 1974-1983

Subseries 2: Commission on Higher Education self-study – 1981

Subseries 3: Committee on Administrative Structure correspondence – 1981-1982

Subseries 4: Committee on Grants – 1978

Subseries 5: Conference of Presidents – 1974-1979

Subseries 6: Coordinating Council minutes – 1981

Subseries 7: General Board – Home Missions – 1963-1981

Subseries 8: Miscellaneous reports, pamphlets and nomination blanks – 1972, 1976-77, pre-1979

Subseries 9: Special Ministries – 1970-1983

Series 2: Documents on Boldt's divine calls

Dates: 1960-1970

Extent: 1 folders, 2 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence and information pertaining to ten divine calls, which Boldt received during this decade. Calls from this decade include: Michigan Lutheran Seminary (Dean of Students); Pilgrim, Denver, CO; Trinity, Brillion, WI; St. Paul, Douglas, AZ & Grace, Bisbee, AZ; Mt. Calvary, Kimberly, WI; St. Matthew, Benton Harbor, MI; St. Paul, Ft. Atkinson, WI; Dr. Martin Luther College (Dean of Students); Northwestern Lutheran Academy (President); and Mt. Olive, Tulsa, OK.

Series 3: Assignments, Calls and Colloquies – Southeastern Wisconsin District

Dates: 1967-1983

Extent: 21 folders, 15 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence regarding the reception, acceptance and refusal of divine calls to pastors and teachers to enter the SEW district. There is also a great deal of

information from assignment committee meetings of both pastor and teacher candidates, as well as a large number of call lists from individual call meetings and colloquy correspondence. Included also is some biographical information on Martin Janke, Leroy Dobberstein and Gerhard Ehlert.

Series 4: Case files of pastors, teachers, laypeople and congregations

Dates: 1968-1983

Extent: 13 folders, 7.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists primarily of correspondence dealing with a number of cases during Boldt's time as district president and synod 2nd and 1st vice president. Notable cases included are: Melvin Beth/Racine Lutheran High School Case (1975); Bethany Lutheran Church and School Cases, Kenosha, WI (1968-69, 1979-82); Grace Hagedorn Case (1981-82); Theodore Hartwig Case (1980); Monte Huntington Case (1979-82); Frederick Jungkuntz Case (1978-81); Paul Kante Case (1982); Elmer Mahnke Case (1975-81); Jay Minzlaff Case (1982-83); and Peter Prange Case (1978-83).

Series 5: Protes'tant controversy documents

Dates: 1935-1981

Extent: 1 folders, 0.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of photocopies of original documents from the time of the controversy and correspondence regarding a revival of Protes'tant issues in 1981.

Series 6: Kokomo controversy documents

Dates: 1977-1983

Extent: 3 folders, 6.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists primarily of correspondence involving the Faith Lutheran Church, Kokomo, IN case. Primary correspondents are: Mr. & Mrs. David Hartman, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pohlman, Armin Panning, Alan Siggelkow, A.T. Kretzmann, Carl H. Mischke, and several others.

Series 7: Circuit pastor reports

Dates: 1980-1983

Extent: 4 folders, 3 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of reports from and for circuit pastors, some to be distributed from WELS Pres. Mischke through the circuit pastors. Also included are a number of subscription reports from each circuit in the Southeastern Wisconsin District and documents from the 1980 Circuit Pastor's Conference.

Series 8: Correspondence and reports on retirements and resignations

Dates: 1973-1982

Extent: 3 folders, 3 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists primarily of correspondence dealing with the resignations and retirements of called workers. Also included are reports and correspondence on pensions for retired WELS called workers, as well as correspondence dealing with the resignation of William Neumann and his request for a call (1980-1982).

Series 9: Documents on staff and teaching ministry

Dates: 1949-1983

Extent: 11 folders, 8 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists primarily of documents pertaining to the teaching ministry, as well as some reports on the development of the staff ministry program. Included are correspondence and

reports concerning the role of the teacher as a called worker and the calling procedure, synod certification and uncertified teachers, secondary education training, cases dealing with Steve Schiller (1979) and James Finster (1973-1979), and requests for calls.

Series 10: Wisconsin Lutheran College documents

Dates: 1973-1983

Extent: 1 folder, 2.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence and reports dealing with Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, WI. A great deal of development with WLC took place during Boldt's tenure as SEW district president.

Series 11: Miscellaneous documents

Dates: 1970-1981

Extent: 1 folder, 0.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of miscellaneous copied newspaper and magazine articles, as well as a number of skits, jokes and funny writings collected by Boldt.

Series 12: Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Morton Grove, IL documents

Dates: 1980-1983

Extent: 1 folder, 0.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of a number of congregational newsletters sent by Boldt to his congregation, as well as various correspondence dealing with preaching engagements, students at Shoreland L.H.S. and other topics.

Series 13: Documents on vicarships

Dates: 1969-1983

Extent: 2 folders, 1.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of documents pertaining to the duties of a vicar, his compensation and tax information regarding vicars. Included also are particular assignments, reports and information on some of the vicars who served at Jerusalem. Those included are: Joel Schroeder, Dennis Kleist, and Nathan Pope.

Series 14: Exegetical papers and essays

Dates: 1960-1977

Extent: 1 folder, 2.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of exegetical papers, exegetical notes and essays collected by Boldt during most of his time in the Southeastern Wisconsin District.

Series 15: Documents on synodical and district stewardship

Dates: 1971-1983

Extent: 7 folders, 8 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of budget reports for the SEW district and the WELS, correspondence and documents pertaining to the Deferred Giving Program, correspondence encouraging stewardship and three files of correspondence and reports on the Reaching Out synodical stewardship program.

Series 16: Correspondence

Dates: 1952-1983

Extent: 9 folders, 7.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence dealing with a variety of topics from Boldt's ministry and personal life. There are two files with correspondence for particular individuals: Christoph Weigel (1979-1981) and Matthew Zehms (1979-1980). There is also a great deal of personal and pastoral correspondence, as well as forty years of Boldt family Christmas letters.

Series 17: Southeastern Wisconsin District documents

Dates: 1936, 1938, 1973-1983

Extent: 14 folders, 10 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of reports, proceedings, correspondence and documents dealing with Boldt's tenure as district president of the SEW district. The largest portion of the series deals with the District Council and its proceedings from 1978-1983. Also included are documents from the 1982 district convention, Commission on Evangelism reports and newsletters, and other reports from the district.

Series 18: Documents on WELS/LC-MS doctrinal issues

Dates: 1962, 1974-1981

Extent: 4 folders, 4 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of doctrinal issues that arose during Boldt's time as a synod and district leader. Included are files on fellowship issues at The Lutheran Home for the Aged, inter-church relations, the "installation, ordination or induction" issue," as well as a file of documents comparing the WELS and LC-MS positions in 1962.

Series 19: Documents on the roles of man and woman

Dates: 1975-1983

Extent: 2 folders, 4.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of essays, statements and correspondence written concerning the debate over the roles of man and woman. Included also are reports and papers from the committee that studied these issues and formulated a document clearly stating the position of the WELS concerning the Scriptural doctrine of the roles of man and woman.

Series 20: Documents on church and state

Dates: 1956-1980

Extent: 3 folders, 3.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence, reports and statements on the role of government in private/parochial schools, as well as legislation concerning the tax exemption of WELS churches and schools. Included also are documents concerning equal employment and issues concerning government aid to WELS schools.

Appendix A

The George W. Boldt Papers

Arrangement

Box 1: Folders 1-56
Box 2: Folders 57-100
Box 3: Folders 101-115
Box 4: Folders 116-124

- Series 1: Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod documents
 Subseries 1: Budget/Payment requests and requisitions – 1974-1983
 Folders 1-6
 Subseries 2: Commission on Higher Education self-study – 1981
 Folder 7
 Subseries 3: Committee on Administrative Structure correspondence – 1981-1982
 Folders 8-9
 Subseries 4: Committee on Grants – 1978
 Folder 10
 Subseries 5: Conference of Presidents – 1974-1979
 Folder 11
 Subseries 6: Coordinating Council minutes – 1981
 Folder 12
 Subseries 7: General Board – Home Missions – 1963-1981
 Folder 13
 Subseries 8: Miscellaneous reports, pamphlets and nomination blanks – 1972, 1976-77, pre-1979
 Folders 14-17
 Subseries 9: Special Ministries 1970-1983
 Folders 18-21
- Series 2: Documents on Boldt's divine calls
 Folder 22
- Series 3: Assignments, Calls and Colloquies – Southeastern Wisconsin District
 Folders 23-43
- Series 4: Case files of pastors, teachers, laypeople and congregations
 Folders 44-56
- Series 5: Protes'tant controversy documents
 Folder 57
- Series 6: Kokomo controversy documents
 Folders 58-60
- Series 7: Circuit pastor reports
 Folders 61-64

- Series 8: Correspondence and reports on retirements and resignations
Folders 65-67
- Series 9: Documents on staff and teaching ministry
Folders 68-78
- Series 10: Wisconsin Lutheran College documents
Folder 79
- Series 11: Miscellaneous documents
Folder 80
- Series 12: Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Morton Grove, IL documents
Folder 81
- Series 13: Documents on vicarships
Folders 82-83
- Series 14: Exegetical papers and essays
Folder 84
- Series 15: Documents on synodical and district stewardship
Folders 85-91
- Series 16: Correspondence
Folders 92-100
- Series 17: Southeastern Wisconsin District documents
Folders 101-115
- Series 18: Documents on WELS/LC-MS doctrinal issues
Folders 116-119
- Series 19: Documents on the roles of man and woman
Folders 120-121
- Series 20: Documents on church and state
Folders 122-124