



**Rev. Richard Hembrock**

Pastor Richard Hembrock was the first BLC member to become ordained. He was born at home in Fairport, NY, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March in 1932. He grew up in Fairport and lived on Jackson Place, High Street, East Street, and High Street Ext. He had four sisters; Ruth Huscher, Helen Scott, Judith Martins, (all deceased), and Patricia McMillen.

Pastor Hembrock went to Fairport High School. His favorite subject was English. He graduated in 1950. After high school from 1951 to 1955 he attended Capital University in Columbus, Ohio where he majored in Theology and Sociology. From 1955 to 1959 he attended the American Lutheran Theological Seminary where he got his Master of Divinity degree. Later in 1967 at went to Boston University's German Campus where in 1969 he got his Masters in Secondary Education.

He knew he wanted to be a pastor at the end of college, when another more lucrative career path was offered to him, but he turned it down and went to seminary instead. Pastor Hembrock met his wife, Marilyn Goessler in Texas, while he was at his first parish. They became re-connected when he was in the military at Ft. Hood, Texas and were married June 28, 1964, at St Mathew's Lutheran Church, Sandy Hill at Brenham, Texas.

They have 2 children, Sara Toscano, married to Tim and Joel Hembrock, married to Michele. They have 4 grandchildren--Chad Hembrock, married to Viviane, Devin Hembrock, Madison Conway, married to Hink, and Marleigh Toscano. They also have 2 great grandchildren; Brody and Anna Hembrock.

After attending the American Lutheran Seminary and graduating in 1959, Richard was ordained at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on June 7, 1959. He travelled to Cat Spring, Texas to his first call at a three-point Parish. Pastor Hembrock's favorite hymn in his youth was Onward, Christian Soldiers, later it was A Mighty Fortress and now it is Jesus Loves Me. His favorite scripture readings are John 21:15-17 "Do you love me--feed my lambs" and John 14: 6 "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Marilyn and Richard live in Boonsboro, MD and they worship at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Smithsburg, MD, which is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year. Marilyn and Richard both sing in their church choir. It is an active, growing church, whose Mission Statement is to "Worship Jesus Christ and to respond in love to others."

Pastor Hembrock retired in 1994, on June 30, but has served interims in churches more than 7 times since retiring. He identifies with St. Peter. He entered the Military on June 30, 1962, served active duty through 1975, including 2 tours in Vietnam, then spent 14 years in the active reserve unit and 4 years in inactive reserve, before retiring. During that time, he was Chaplain at the National Lutheran Home for 8 years, a year as Chaplain at Fort Detrick, MD and served the Sharpsburg Parish, a three-point Parish, which is in the neighborhood where he now lives.