

Meet Pastor Paul Miller and Karen (his bride)!

I was born July 16, 1942 in Los Angeles, California. My early years — birth to 13 yrs — were spent in the Maravilla Housing Projects, East Los Angeles. In 1955 we relocated to the unincorporated town of Bassett in the San Gabriel Valley. It was in that year that I met the girl that would ultimately become my beloved wife. Karen was born September 2, 1942 in Columbus, Nebraska and moved to La Puente, California in 1951.

Karen and I were together as boy friend and girl friend throughout Jr./Sr. High School. The year following graduation we married, April 1, 1961 at First Lutheran in El Monte. We purchased our first home in that year in which we lived for the next 15 years. Our two children were born there. First, Arthur, August 14, 1963 and the second, Roberta (Bobbi), May 16, 1966.

I had various jobs from the time I was 15. I remember working at a car wash in order to earn enough to buy Karen's engagement/wedding rings. I worked as a truck driver from 1964 until 1974 and drove routes in LA and Orange Counties.

In 1970 I entered sobriety because of my addiction to alcohol. I began weight training and other physical fitness activity to cleanse my body and renew my mind. With physical wellbeing came an awareness that the spiritual side was needing attention. Or, should I say, there was something still lacking in my life. We began attending the church a couple of blocks from our home (Holy Cross Lutheran Church — LCMS). I had forgotten that when Karen and I wanted to marry that her pastor, Rev. Geo. T. Fisher, insisted that I be instructed and Confirmed. When asked about my religious upbringing it was discovered that I had never been baptized — my family didn't attend any church although I did go to a local church for VBS. During instruction the Holy Spirit worked faith and I desired to be baptized. So on January 29, 1961 I became a child of God. We became very involved and one thing led to another and the decision to become a pastor was made...and the rest is history.

In 1974 I left trucking to enroll at Mt. Sac. Jr. College — 1974–1976, graduating with an AA degree. Karen went back to work until I graduated from seminary. We sold our home in La Puente and in the summer of 1976 we moved to Ft. Wayne, IN, to begin seminary education and was ordained July 20, 1980 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Pacifica, CA. I served there until 1984. From there I served Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Anaheim, CA 1984–1995. From 1995–2017 I served the saints at Christ Lutheran Church, Desert Hot Springs, CA until retirement. Karen was my secretary for 16 years at Christ Lutheran. (She retired before I did.)

As for hobbies, well, in the early 1990s I took up oil painting on canvas. Unfortunately since we moved to Desert Hot Springs I have not continued with it. Hopefully it won't be too much longer that I will once again paint. Keeping physically fit remains a top priority. I should also mention that I have served my community — beginning 1990 in Anaheim and then in Desert Hot Springs — as a volunteer Chaplain for the Police Department. My main function is as a support for all employees and their families. I am also on call for emergencies involving the public.