

Information on Casper B. Nervig

Casper Bernhard Nervig was born May 1, 1905, in Tracy, Minnesota, to Reverend Anders and Mina Hansen Nervig. He received his BA degree from Luther College in 1925, where he excelled in forensics and music. After graduation, he was a teacher and dean of men at Luther Academy in Albert Lea, Minnesota, for three years. He received his BTh from Luther Seminary in 1931. From 1931-1944, he served as pastor of a parish in Roseau, Minnesota. During a leave of absence in 1936-1937, he studied theology in Norway and Germany. From 1944-1968, he was a pastor at First Lutheran Church in Williston, North Dakota. Casper Nervig died of a stroke at age 75 on January 30, 1981. He and his wife, Nora Josephine Halvorson, whom he married in 1940, had six children: Luther, Sylvia, Louise, Naomi, Sonia and John.

Nervig served in a number of capacities within the Lutheran church. He was associated with the Bethel Lutheran Home for the Aged, Lake of the Woods Bible Camp, Upper Missouri Bible Camp and Concordia College. He was Vice President of the North Dakota District from 1951-1957. He also served as Vice President of the church Board of Education (1944-1954) and was a member of the Board of Theological Education. He was on the national Rural Life Commission from 1945 to 1947. Nervig was the author of two books, *Christian Truth and Religious Delusions* (Augsburg, 1941) and *Catechism Cathedral: Luther's Small Catechism in Art Symbols* (First Lutheran Church, 1984). Concordia College awarded him the Doctor of Divinity degree in 1952 while Luther College presented him with a Distinguished Service Award in 1975.

Casper Nervig was known for his special interests in several subject areas. He was interested in art especially as a tool for teaching the Christian message. His book on the art work he planned for First Lutheran Church in Williston, North Dakota, is a testament to this philosophy. He also was a student of history as evidenced by his work compiling stories for the book *The Provocative Professor: the Billy Sihler Stories* (Luther College Press, 1992). Written by his brother, Roland (LC 1940), the book includes 122 stories collected by Casper (the book was completed with a total of 175 stories about a popular professor of German and coach at Luther College).