

Today is a very special Day at Living Savior. On this 3rd Sunday of Easter, we pause to recognize and thank God for Lois Finnern and the 27 years she has served our congregation as Music Director. Lois has touched the lives of hundreds of people, not only at Living Savior, but throughout the world with her Ministry of Music.

Thank you, Lord, for your gift of Lois Finnern.

Lois started piano lessons at age 8 and began organ instruction in high school. Lois sang as lead soprano and soloist in the high school choir and accompanied multiple soloists and ensembles on the piano for district and state music competitions. She first played organ at age 16 for her home church, St Paul's Lutheran Church, in rural Lakefield, Minnesota.

During her college years in Moorhead, Minnesota, Lois substituted at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church near the collage campus. She also played dinner music and sang at a local restaurant and was lead vocalist and keyboardist for a cover band in Fargo, North Dakota. Lois graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead with a BS in Vocal Music Education and a minor in piano.

After their marriage, the Finnern's moved to Wichita Falls, Texas, where they began their 28-year career in the US Air Force. The Chapel Program at Sheppard AFB had an opening for an organist familiar with Lutheran liturgical services. Lois auditioned and was selected for the position which also led to the organist and choir accompanist positions for two additional General Protestant Services. Lois was unable to play for the Christmas Eve services in 1979 because her first child, Shelly, was born Dec 23, but she played for Worship Services the following weekend. 1976-1980

They moved to Lubbock, Texas, for one year and Lois served as substitute organist at Christ Lutheran Church. 1980

They moved to Yokota Air Base (Tokyo), Japan, and attended the Base Chapel Lutheran Service. Lois became the children's choir director for all the Protestant Services and directed a children's Christmas musical with over 200 children. She also substituted as church organist and taught at the ToHo Music University in Tokyo. 1981-1984

The Finnern's moved to Abilene, Texas, where Lois auditioned and was selected for the organist position for all four of the General Protestant Services for the Dyess AFB Chapel Program. She also served as the choir accompanist. Her youngest child, Scott, was born on Sunday evening 16 December 1985 after Lois accompanied the morning Cantata performance and a Sunday evening Worship Service. Lois was back playing for the Christmas Eve services one week later, with baby Scott in a basket on the floor by the organ. 1984-1987

The next assignment took the Finnern's to Dayton, Ohio, for one year where Lois served as the children's choir director at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fairborn, Ohio. 1987-1988

They then moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, where Lois served as the choir and hand-bell director and assistant organist at Trinity Lutheran Church. She brought together two Lutheran Church Choirs each year at Christmas and directed 6 Christmas Cantatas. She also directed a mass choir of 250 members from several Lutheran churches for the Joint Reformation Service in North Little Rock. 1988-1995

The Finnern's moved to Burke, Virginia, in Aug 1995 and Lois assumed the Music Director position at Living Savior Lutheran Church in 1996 as the organist, pianist and choir director. During her tenure, she planned, rehearsed and directed 17 Christmas Cantatas and directed more than 100 different choir members, soloists, and instrumentalists.

Lois served for more than 50 years as a Church Musician and Music Director, including 27 years at Living Savior Lutheran Church, all to the Glory of God!