

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reflection by

**Linda Martin**

When I read about Michael Krentz' excitement in introducing *Lutheran Book of Worship* to his congregation in the 1980s, it reminded me of my joy in helping children and adults explore that new worship book in my own congregation. In fact, I even had my children's choir teach and lead some of the music (much to their delight)!

When John Ferguson was a guest at our church early in my church music ministry career, I asked him for advice about where I could get the best practical resources for my work. His immediate response was, "Join ALCM!". I'm so grateful for all that I've gained from becoming a member. The national conferences have been excellent continuing education for my work. Through networking with fellow members, I discovered that my work challenges were not unique to me. Attending conferences was a special opportunity to meet and learn from those giants of worship and music ministry that I'd only read about. Thanks to all the workshop presenters and guest speakers who have delivered practical and inspiring materials, often with "hands on" exercises and experiences for participants.

The support I've gained through ALCM membership has been invaluable. My church music ministry has been enriched, and my faith life has been nurtured through what I've learned in workshops and conferences. Additionally, the enlightening articles in ALCM's *CrossAccent* and *In Tempo* have reinforced that enlightenment throughout the years.

I have treasured the opportunities to be part of uplifting hymn festivals and having the honor of presenting our Faithful Servant awards to Mark Bangert and Walter Pelz. I've had great admiration for those gentlemen (and so many other members of ALCM) and am ever grateful to "Ferg" for introducing me to such an amazing organization. It is truly amazing because of its people—many who have become lifelong friends. Let's celebrate ALCM's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary together in Northfield in July—hope to see you there!

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