

# Borcherding Family



The Borcherding name was brought to Frankenmuth in 1961 when Lowell Robert Borcherding (1943-1976), along with his wife Jeanne and their two children, came as a result of a divine call from St. Lorenz Lutheran Church to teach at St. Lorenz Lutheran School and to be their music director.

Lowell was born in Hampton, Iowa, the son of Harold F. Borcherding and his wife Bertha nee Staehr. His paternal grandparents were Carl Frederick Borcherding (1868-1929) and Sophie Caroline Marie Margaret nee Lubkeman. Carl and Sophie both emigrated from Nuendorf Germany at the age of 14. However, Carl Frederick, like many other immigrants to America, came to avoid the military draft in Germany at that time.

Lowell was baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Latimer, Iowa. He attended Concordia Teachers College at Seward, Nebraska. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Education with a major emphasis in music.

Lowell married Jeanne Marlys Kellerman, the daughter of Rev. Alvin T. Kellerman and Edna Lenore nee Spitzer. Lowell and Jeanne's marriage was blessed with three children: Linda Kuhl, Program Manager for American Axel in Detroit, married to Steven Kuhl and they have two children, Erin and Ryan; Steven L., Vice President of Citizens Bank of New York, married to Dawn and they have a daughter, Kirstie; David M., Vice President of Peoples State Bank in Madison Heights, Michigan, married to Leslie and they have a daughter, Abigail.

After teaching in Detroit, Michigan for five years, Lowell accepted the divine call to St. Lorenz. While in Michigan, he obtained a Master's degree in Education from Central Michigan University.

His musical talents and his rare ability for bringing forth the beauty of music from people and from instruments, gave him the opportunity to touch the lives of thousands in a very privileged way.

He served the St. Lorenz congregation for 15 years until his untimely death in 1976. Rudy Petzold, editor of the Tuscola Advertiser, wrote the following about the music at St. Lorenz (music which Lowell Borcherding developed) after attending Lowell's funeral service:

*“. . . for 41 years a dedicated servant of the God to Whom he had dedicated his life as a teaching minister and practicing musician . . . The mighty organ – which this special musician had helped to design – poured forth the glorious meaning of man's passage from mortality to immortality. The woodwinds gave new credibility and dimension to the beauty of the memorial service's theme. The brass flung back the very doors of paradise for a brief, but awesome look. The tympani, like the murmuring thunder of an approaching storm, recalled the strength of the Creator who allows us life – and who, in His good time, recalls us to His presence. And the pure, beautiful and simple hand bells poured forth the gentleness and assurance of promise to the trusting and believing Christian. The hand bells, a special love of the music master whose service was being honored, never spoke the message of his ministry more beautifully than they did in this final moment of tribute.”*

Lowell Borcherding died June 7, 1976 and is buried in the St. Lorenz Cemetery. His widow, Jeanne, was office manager at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland. There were four grandchildren.



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