

Rev. Werley installed as CULC pastor

By MAURICE HUBLER
Herald correspondent

GORDON — The Rev. Jimmy Lee Werley was welcomed into the folds of the church as the new pastor of Christ United Lutheran Church of Northern Schuylkill County, during Service of Installation ceremonies at Saint Paul Church here last evening.

The new pastor, installed by the Rev. Harold Weiss, secretary of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and assistant to the Bishop, was born 30 years ago in Bethlehem, Pa., to Carl and Helen Werley. An only child, he is of Windish (a northern Yugoslavian people) and Pennsylvania Dutch descent.

Pastor Werley attended schools in Bethlehem where he graduated in 1970 from Liberty High School. He attended Muhlenberg College in Allentown, where he was a pre-theological student and a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and from where he graduated with a B.A. in Social Sciences in 1974. He then went onto the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

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Pastor installed — The Rev. Jimmy Lee Werley (left) was installed as pastor of Christ United Lutheran Church of Northern Schuylkill County during ceremonies Sunday. Participating here are (left from the Rev. Werley): The Rev. Harold Weiss, secretary of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and assistant to the bishop,

installing officer; the Rev. Philip Bendle, associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Pottsville and dean of the Schuylkill District of the synod, lector; The Rev. Lee Diefenderfer, pastor of Saint Mark Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, liturgist; the Rev. Bruce T. Ewen, pastor of Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, N.J., preacher. (Emil Yenchick photo)

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☆ Rev. Werley

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The summer prior to beginning seminary, while working as chaplain at Resica Falls Boy Scout Camp in the Poconos, he met Sharyn Rorick. Sharyn's family is from the Bloomsburg-Danville-Shickshinny area. They were married just before Pastor Werley began a year of internship at Christ United Church in 1976-77.

Pastor Werley graduated from the seminary in the spring of 1978 and soon after was ordained into ministry by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. He was ordained in his home church of Saint John Windish Lutheran in Bethlehem.

In June of that year Pastor Werley began serving Saint Paul Lutheran Church of Linden, N.J., as pastor. While living in Linden the Werleys were blessed with the birth of two sons, Benjamin and Jarett. Pastor Werley served Saint Paul Church for 4½ years, during which time he was active not only in congregation, but also in the community as a member of the Lions Club and on the board of the Police Athletic League. Pastor Werley was also very active in serving the New Jersey Synod by working on a number of committees. In November of 1982 Pastor Werley accepted the call to be one two associate pastors of Christ United.

Also participating in the ceremonies was the Rev. Philip Bendle, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Pottsville and dean of the Schuylkill District. He served as lector. Conducting the liturgy was the Rev. Lee Diefenderfer, pastor of Saint Mark Lutheran Church, Bethlehem and a seminary classmate of Pastor Werley.

The preacher for the service was the Rev. Bruce T. Ewen, pastor of Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, N.J., a long-time friend of Pastor Werley.

Christ United Lutheran Church includes the chapels of Saint Paul in Gordon; Zions, Girardville; Saint Peter, Lavelle, and Saint John, Kimmels.