

## Dennis Hendricksen – a Brief Bio

Dennis was born in 1960 in Brooks, Alberta. At an early age he began taking piano lessons, and has been involved in music ever since. After High School he attended Camrose Lutheran College, followed by the University of Alberta, where he graduated with a B.A. majoring in music. Dennis took his theological training at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, graduating with a M. Div. in 1986.

While attending seminary Dennis sang in the University of Saskatchewan's Greystone Singers, where he met Beth, a lovely, talented alto. They were married at the end of his internship year (1984). In 1986 Dennis accepted a call to be an Assistant Pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Regina. Initially his main responsibilities were Youth Ministry, Christian Education, and overseeing the various Music Programs. In 2014 Dennis was called to be the Lead Pastor of Christ Lutheran. To have served in the same congregation for over 3 decades is a rarity amongst Lutheran clergy, but it speaks to the healthy and mutually respectful relationship between the congregation and the clergy in this circumstance.

Dennis' whole ministry has been marked with creativity. Together with David Hunter he co-wrote *Hosanna: a Jazz Setting for Holy Communion* while still in seminary (it is still in use today). Early in his ministry he created *Aurora Productions*, which published books and produced recordings by various Canadian Christian authors and musicians. Ten years ago he developed *Mysterium*, an alternative, meditative and creative worship gathering held monthly on Friday evenings.

Dennis began composing original music in his teen years, including incidental music for local drama productions. This began a cinematic approach to music which was recognized at the 1990 Saskatchewan Film and Video Showcase where Dennis won an award for *Best Original Music* for his soundtrack to the film *Roots & Wings*. With fellow Pastor Orville Kaminski as librettist, Dennis composed and presented an Easter Cantata in 1998 called *And Jesus Said*. Collaborations with a wide variety of musicians and singers has led to Dennis producing albums as diverse as Christian Singer/Songwriter Jennifer Jade Kerr's debut album *Somehow it Always Does*, two albums by the women's vocal quartet *Grace Notes*, and choral albums featuring Saskatchewan choirs.

Most recently Dennis produced what he calls his *magnum opus* – an instrumental concept album with a mixture of styles ranging from jazz to classical, ambient to rock, world beat to folk. This album, *Dreams & Visions*, was nominated for Best Instrumental Recording and Best Album Artwork at the 2015 Covenant Awards. Dennis is a well-known musician around Regina, playing in a number of bands and leading his own jazz-funk group *The Ministry of Groove*.

Dennis and Beth have children: Thomas, Joshua, and Anna – two of whom have done focused their university education in music, the result, no doubt, of growing up in a household saturated with music. In addition to music and ministry Dennis enjoys photography, stained glass work and cheering for the Saskatchewan Roughriders.