

## 2019 Faithful Servant Awards

The Faithful Servant Award was established by ALCM in recognition of and appreciation for those who have made extraordinary contributions to the worship life of the church. In January 2019, ALCM's board of directors identified two gifted individuals to receive this year's award: **Susan Palo Cherwien** and **Charles Ore**.



**Susan Palo Cherwien** is a poet and musician. Born in 1953 in Ashtabula, OH, to John and Myrtle Grapatin Palo, she grew up attending Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, where she sang in the children's choir (occasionally in Finnish) and eventually the senior choir. She played French horn in the Harbor High School Band and sang in the Harbor High Choir and the Madrigal Singers.

She received her bachelor's degree in church music and voice from Wittenberg University in Ohio in 1975, and during her junior year attended the Berliner Kirchenmusikschule, Spandau/Berlin, where she studied organ with Karl Hochreither and Renate Zimmermann, conducting with Martin Behrmann, and voice with George Fortune.

In 1981 Susan completed the Abschlussprüfung in voice at the Hochschule der Künste Berlin, where she studied voice with Irmgard Hartmann-Dressler. She represented the Hochschule at the International Mendelssohn Competition, Berlin, and the International Pavarotti-Philadelphia Opera Competition in Modena, Italy, and has sung oratorio and lieder concerts throughout the United States and Europe.

In 1993 Susan received her master of liberal studies from Mundelein College, Chicago, where she focused on spirituality, ritual, and the arts. Her final project is titled, "Crossing the Threshold: The Transformational Journey of the Mass."

Susan has composed numerous hymn texts that appear in denominational hymnals in the United States, Canada, and Europe, and she has written for *The Lutheran, Christian Century, Gather*, and *Word and World*. She is the author of the hymn text collections, *O Blessed Spring: Hymn Texts of Susan Palo Cherwien*; vol. II: *Come, Beloved of the Maker*; and vol. III: *Peace, Be Still* (all with Augsburg Fortress Publishers).

Over the years, Susan has presented numerous hymn festivals across the country with her spouse David Cherwien, and the reflections from those hymn festivals are collected in three volumes: *Crossings: Meditations for Worship, From Glory into Glory*, and *To God I Give My Melody* (all published by MorningStar Music Publishers).

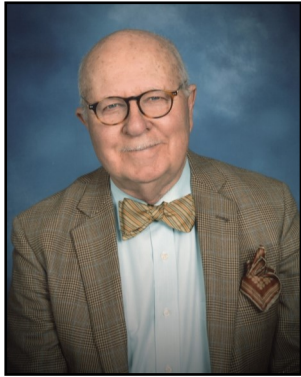
Susan also edited a sacred vocal collection, *To God Will I Sing* (Augsburg Fortress). She served on the ELCA Language Consultation, whose work set language guidelines prior to the development of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

*(Faithful Servant Awards continued)*

(Susan Palo Cherwien )

Susan lives in St. Louis Park, MN, with her spouse, David. They have two sons and three grandchildren. Susan can be contacted through her website: <http://www.susanpalocherwien.com>.

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**Charles W. Ore** was born in 1936 in Winfield, KS. In addition to being an accomplished organ recitalist, Ore composes organ and choral music and is a leader in the use and development of improvisation in organ playing. He is organist at First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, NE.

A 1958 graduate of Concordia University in Seward, NE, he was awarded a master of music degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Ore was previously minister of music at First Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL, and professor of music at Concordia University in River Forest, IL. From 1966 to 2001 Ore was professor of music and chair of the music department at Concordia University in Seward. He was also the cantor of Pacific Hills Lutheran Church in Omaha, NE, from 1975 to 2001 and associate organist at First-Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln, NE, from 2001 to 2006. Ore has released several recordings of organ and choral music available through Concordia Publishing House and Organ Works. His published music is available from Concordia, Augsburg Fortress, and MorningStar. A Festschrift titled *Charles W. Ore: An American Original*, edited by Irene Beethe, was published by Lutheran University Press in 2016.