

EMILIE BÜNGER WALTHER

Faithful Servant of Christ to Many

BORN: JULY 21, 1812 *Etzdorf, Germany*

DIED: AUGUST 23, 1885 *St. Louis, Mo.*

CHRISTIANE EMILIE BÜNGER WAS BORN on July 21, 1812, in Etzdorf, Germany. She was the daughter of Jacob Friedrich and Christiane (Reiz) Bünger. Emilie came to the United States with her widowed mother in the Saxon Emigration of 1838, along with seven of her siblings! As matters settled in the wake of the controversy surrounding Martin Stephan, C.F.W. Walther, now pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis, proposed marriage to Emilie on August 10, 1841 — via letter! He wrote: “Therefore I cannot wait any longer to express this my wish frankly, also to you. It is this: Will you, dearest Emilie, become my life’s companion? Can you return at least in some degree the love which, as I now confidently hope, God has enkindled in my heart for you? Do you believe that you can live with me happily, contentedly, and God-pleasingly in a union as intimate and inseparable until death as the holy estate of matrimony is?” Emilie agreed, and, on September 21, 1841, she and Ferdinand Walther married.

And inseparable they were! In addition to bearing Walther six children, Emilie supported her husband through his various and demanding roles as seminary professor and president, Synod president and editor. Without her support, he, the Synod and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, would not have grown into the institutions they now are.

Without Emilie Bünger, C.F.W. Walther would not have had the impact on The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and larger American Lutheranism that he did. For her part, Emilie did not desire such recognition. She was

content to serve quietly and selflessly out of gratefulness to God for the grace and mercy that He had shared with her through her husband, her children and her extended family, including the larger Synod. In carrying out her vocation as a faithful daughter, wife, mother and grandmother, she served Christ by serving her neighbor. And our Synod was richly blessed because of that faithful service.

For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit lcms.org/175.

DISCOVER MORE

Warren Schmidt, “*C.F.W. Walther’s Sweetheart*,” *Perry County Lutheran Historical Society Blog*, August 23, 2021, accessed May 6, 2022, lutheranmuseum.com/2021/08/23/c-f-w-walters-sweetheart/.

“Artifact: Birthday Poem from C. F. W. Walther to his Wife,” *Pieces of our Past* series, No. 47, concordiahistoricalinstitute.org.



1847 . 2022

ONLY JESUS
NO OTHER NAME

– 175 YEARS –



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD



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