

# ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN

## *Chaplain and Professor*

BORN: **JUNE 21, 1907** *Milwaukee, Wis.*

DIED: **DECEMBER 13, 1973** *St. Louis, Mo.*

**A**RTHUR CARL PIEPKORN WAS THE FIRST PASTOR IN HIS FAMILY, going back as far as anyone could trace. But his parents were faithful Christians and loyal supporters of their Lutheran church. They saw to it that their son would get a good education, one that would set him on his path in life. And it would be a life of service to the church.

Piepkorn graduated from Concordia College, Milwaukee in 1925, and from there went to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he graduated in 1928 at the age of 21. He hoped to be a missionary in China, but the financial crisis of the Great Depression made his goal unattainable. After seminary, he attended the University of Chicago where he graduated in 1932 with a Ph.D. in Oriental Languages.

He received his first call to Hope Lutheran Church in St. Louis, where he served until 1931. He later served other congregations in St. Louis; Chisholm, Minn. and Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1936, Piepkorn joined the U.S. Army Reserve as a chaplain. He served on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1940 to 1953. He attended the Army Chaplain School which was located on the campus of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. and the United States Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

He quickly rose through the ranks and was senior military chaplain of the U.S. occupational forces in Germany in 1945, serving on the personal staff of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower.

After the war, Piepkorn was the commandant of the Chaplain School in Pennsylvania from 1948 to 1950, and president of the Chaplain Board

from 1950 to 1951. He retired from all military service in 1967, having received 13 medals and decorations.

In 1951, Piepkorn was called to teach the Lutheran Confessions at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he served until his death in 1973.

He was a scholar of the Confessions, serving as collaborator in the publication of the Tappert edition of the Book of Concord in 1959.

Piepkorn also was an essayist and scholar of sacramental theology and of liturgical studies and practices. In the latter area, he became an instrumental leader in the liturgical renewal movement in American churches.

In 1965 Piepkorn was an original member of the Lutheran-Catholic dialogues, participating in ecumenical meetings until his death.

Distinguished by his service as a military chaplain and scholar, Piepkorn was much beloved as a Seminary teacher and colleague. He died suddenly in December 1973 and was buried with full military honors at the National Cemetery at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis.

**For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit [lcms.org/175](https://lcms.org/175).**

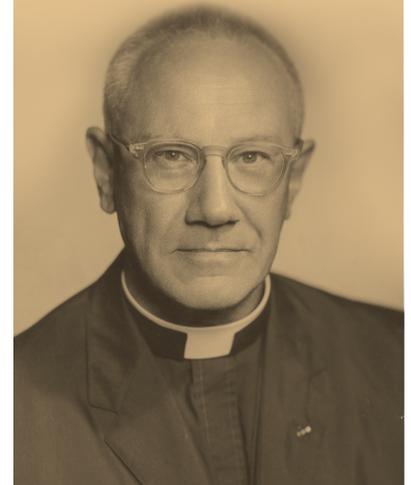


### DISCOVER MORE

John Hannah, *Arthur Carl Piepkorn: Chaplain to the Greatest Generation* (Delhi, NY: American Lutheran Publicity Bureau, 2020).

Philip J. Secker, “*Arthur Carl Piepkorn—Confessor*,” *Lutheran Forum* (Fall 2004):28–36.

The Arthur Carl Piepkorn Center for Evangelical Catholicity at [piepkorn.org](https://piepkorn.org).



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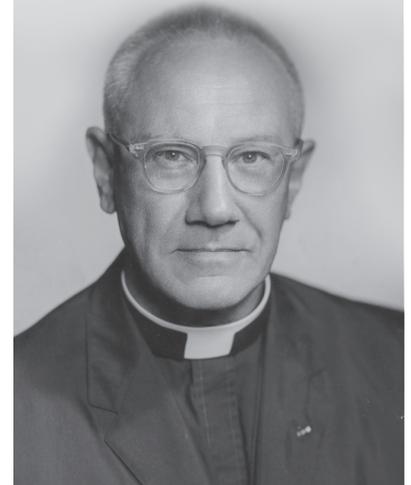


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