

NECROLOGY

"I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

John 11:25

Walter H. Mees **March 17, 1921 – June 30, 2007**

The Rev. Dr. Walter H. Mees entered the Church Triumphant peacefully at 1:35 a.m. on Saturday, June 30, 2007. He is survived by two of his three children: The Rev. Walter H. Mees, Jr. and Drue of Culver City, and Barbara Carr of San Gabriel; seven grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren, two of whom he was helping to raise. His wife of 60 years, Kathleen, preceded him in death in September, 2005.

Pastor Mees was born in New York City, the son, grandson, and great-grandson of Lutheran pastors. His younger brother, Arthur, is a retired pastor in the Grand Canyon Synod.

Pastor Mees retired from full-time ministry on May 31, 1989, from the church in which he "gathered a small group of people who chartered Trinity Lutheran Church [in San Gabriel, California] on December 16, 1945. The congregation grew from its initial 62 members to over 1,500 adults and children."

During his 43 years of ministry to Trinity, his community involvement was wide and varied and included the San Gabriel Kiwanis Club, of which he had been a member for over 35 years and served as its president. He also served on a number of Boards in the San Gabriel Valley. Pastor Mees served on the Solheim Lutheran Home Board; Lutheran Bible Institute President's Advisory Committee; California Lutheran University Convocators; and past president of the Religious Public Relations Council of Southern California.

Pastor Mees was ordained August 26, 1945, at Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canton, Ohio. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Capital University, Columbus, Ohio in 1943. He received his Certificate from the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbus in 1945. In 1971, he earned a Ph.D. from the California Graduate School of Theology in Glendale, California.

Following "retirement", Pastor Mees served a number of congregations as supply preacher and did interim pastoral work. The two congregations he served as their long-term Interim Pastor were: Calvary, Glendora and currently Christ, Monterey Park.

The family requested that, in lieu of flowers, a gift in his memory to your favorite charity be given.

A Celebration of Life Service was held on Saturday, July 21, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6868 N. San Gabriel Blvd., San Gabriel, California. Following the service an ice cream social was held in the fellowship hall in honor of Pastor Mees' great fondness for ice cream.



(Necrology continued)

Carol L. Scott
June 19, 1957 – September 25, 2007

The Rev. Carol L. Scott entered the Church Triumphant early Tuesday morning, September 25, 2007. She is survived by her three children: Portia, a medical student at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island; Lauren, a senior at St. Bernard's High School; and son, Asa, a student at Trinity Lutheran School, Hawthorne.

Pastor Scott was born in Los Angeles. Pastor Scott was ordained May 5, 2002 at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Inglewood, where she was currently serving as Associate Pastor. She was active in the Inglewood Area Ministers Association and volunteered 20 hours a month as Chaplain at King Drew Hospital. She was an advocate for peace and justice. Pastor Scott had an evangelism outreach to young people by introducing "Hip-Hop" Church to the community and served as its presiding minister.



Pastor Scott attended Pepperdine University in Malibu for four years and Immaculate Heart in Los Angeles for one year. She received her Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) certificate in Basic Theology from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California, in 2002.

In lieu of flowers, a fund was set up in her memory at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9300 South Crenshaw Blvd., Inglewood, California 90305.

A Celebration of Life Service was held on Saturday, September 29, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9300 South Crenshaw Blvd., Inglewood, California.

Cremated remains were interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, California.

50 YEARS OF ORDINATION



THE REV. RONALD C. BENNETT

**Ordained in the Augustana Lutheran Church
at Lake Chatauqua, New York on on June 22, 1958**

Most pastors attempt to follow where God leads, but Pastor Ron Bennett may hold the record for diversity in the doing.

In his 50 years of ministry, Pastor Bennett has led worship services atop Mt. Whitney (14,495 feet - very short, hard to breathe and sing, he says), led communion outside the Garden Tomb in Israel, and spoken from Luther's pulpit at Schlosskirche in Wittenberg. He's kissed Miss America (Vonda Kay VanDyke), hosted Colonel Sanders (of Kentucky Chicken fame), and shot the breeze with Astronaut Gene

Cernan.

He's served five congregations: Holy Trinity in Irving, TX, Church of the Master in Lancaster, Messiah (now Emanuel) in Bakersfield, Holy Cross in Pacifica, and retired from Peace Lutheran in Lompoc in 1994.

Since then he's served as interim pastor in the ELCA, LCMS and LCNZ (Marton, Feilding, Halcombe, Wanganui, Christchurch, New Zealand - where he bungy jumped from a bridge over the Shotover River 143 feet below).

Pastor Bennett has served as council commissioner and chaplain of the Boy Scouts and guest and resident minister of Church of the Sequoias on behalf of A Christian Ministry in the National Parks.

Pastor Bennett and his wife of 53 years, Priscilla, have lived in 32 homes and traveled in 48 of the U.S.'s 50 states. They plan to hit the last two - Alaska and Montana - this summer.

They have five married children, 13 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



THE REV. RONALD E. KRAGTHORPE

**Ordained on May 16, 1958 in the Northwest Synod of the
United Lutheran Church in America in a parish outside
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Few pastors have crammed so many widely divergent roles into 35 years of ministry as Pastor Ronald E. Kragthorpe.

After graduating from Northwestern Theological Seminary in Minneapolis in 1958, he served a year with the Board of American Missions in the predecessor United Lutheran Church of America. From 1959-61 he was called to organize a mission congregation, Holy Trinity, in the Spokane Valley of eastern Washington.

(50th Year of Ordination Anniversary continued)

From Washington, he traveled to Liberia, where he was a pastor for five years under call to the Board of World Missions of the LCA. He moved to California, where he served for six years as a campus pastor at the University of California Davis (and later director of student activities) on behalf of National Lutheran Campus Ministry and the Pacific Southwest Synod of the LCA.

In 1972, he was called to California Lutheran University, where he served as vice president of Student Affairs until his retirement May 31, 1993.

During his long career, he also served as a board member for Lutheran Social Services and was a member of the Social Ministry Committee at Holy Trinity, Thousand Oaks, where he is currently a member.

Pastor Kragthorpe and his wife of 57 years, Ila Jean, have three children: Kristin Kragthorpe Pero, Kimberly Kragthorpe Pulce, and William Kragthorpe.



THE REV. ANDREW KWOK

**Ordained on January 18, 1958,
at Hong Kong Lutheran Church in Hong Kong**

Pastor Andrew Kwok spent nine years preparing for the ministry - six years at Hong Kong Lutheran Theological Seminary where he received his bachelor of divinity degree and three years at Chinese for Christ Theological Seminary, where he earned his M.Div.

He didn't know it when he was ordained, but his ministry, begun at age 38, would span two continents and two widely diverse worlds.

In 1959, he was called to Yuen Long Life Lutheran Church in Hong Kong, where he served until 1976 and from there to Hong Kong Lutheran Church.

In February, 1980, he was called by the predecessor LCA to serve as pastor of the Chinese Life Lutheran Church in Alhambra and remained there until his retirement in January 1, 1991, at age 70.

Pastor Kwok and his wife of 54 years, Mary, have five children: Luke Kwok (who died in 1985), Paul Kwok, Dorcas Kwok, Iscah Kwok, and Lois Kwok.



THE REV. THOMAS G. NATTERSTAD

**Ordained on June 15, 1958,
at Wallingford Lutheran Church in Wallingford, Iowa
in the Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Pastor Natterstad has had more than enough to keep him busy since his retirement December 31, 1996. He thrives on regular exercise, loves reading, listening to music and gardening, as well as attending sporting events and traveling. The Cursillo Community in Southern California has been blest with Tom and Ardis' active participation.

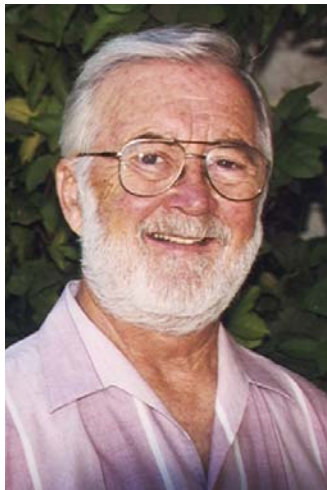
His busy schedule is probably a carryover from his 21 years at First Lutheran in Northridge, where in addition to serving an active and involved congregation, he put in three years as Conference Dean,

was a member of the Lutheran Social Services Board, a Synod Council member, and chair of the Mutual Ministries and Budget Committees.

Pastor Natterstad's first call was three years at West Nidaros Lutheran in Crooks, South Dakota. He was then called to be founding pastor at Hope Lutheran in Fresno, where he served 14 years.

He graduated from Waldorf College and received his B.A. from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn. in 1954, and his divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, in 1958.

Pastor Natterstad and his wife of 52 years, Ardis, have three adult children: Stephanie, Steven, and Stacy.



THE REV. JEROME C. TRELSTAD

**Ordained on June 22, 1958,
at Stordahl Lutheran Church in Zumbrota, Minnesota**

On his first day of retirement some 11 years ago, Pastor Jerry Trelstad pulled off his ministerial robes, picked up a hammer, and began a new life building homes rather than churches. With his wife, Mavis, he spent 11 weeks traveling throughout Arkansas and Texas working with Habitat for Humanity.

In the years since his departure from Bethel Lutheran in Santa Maria, where he served for 16 years, he and Mavis joined an HHH-affiliated RV trailer group called the *Gypsies* and continued to build still more homes. This September and October they'll head for Oregon and

Washington to tackle new HHH projects.

Pastor Trelstad is a graduate of Augsburg College in Minneapolis and Luther Seminary in St. Paul. While at Bethel, he served as president and vice president of the Santa Maria Valley Ministerial Association and as Dean of the Central Coast Conference.

Prior to moving to California, he served as pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Sandy, Utah for 10 years; Trinity Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona for seven years, and five years at Little Elk Creek

and New Hope, a two-point parish in Downsville, Wisconsin. Pastor Trelstad and his wife of 53 years have four children: Mark, Paul, Miriam, and Ann.

25 YEARS OF ORDINATION



THE REV. LAWRENCE D. BECKER

**Ordained at Westchester Lutheran Church
Los Angeles, California on August 14, 1983**

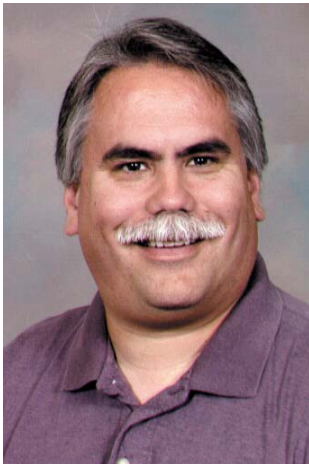
Look for Pastor Larry Becker and you're apt to find him out among the broken-winged within his community.

The Canadian-born Becker has served as board member of a women's shelter, chair of a food pantry, on the committee for a homeless shelter, and even found time to squeeze in a term as Dean of the South Bay Conference.

Pastor Becker is a graduate of Azusa Pacific College in 1978 and Luther Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1983. He has served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hawthorne for the past 14 years.

Prior to that he answered calls to Calgary Lutheran Church in Grand Island, Nebraska for seven years and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Moorhead, Minnesota for four years.

He and wife of 30 years, Shirley, have two sons: Jonathan and David.



THE REV. JOSEPH D. CAMPEAU

**Ordained at St. Philip's Lutheran Church
in Fridley, Minnesota on February 27, 1983**

Pastor Joseph D. Campeau has been faithfully serving Christ Lutheran Church in Santa Clarita for 13 years, the first four years as Associate Pastor and since then as Senior Pastor.

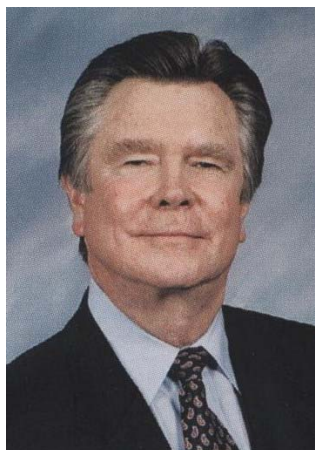
Prior to being called to Christ, he served four years at Zion Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Massachusetts; three years at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Irvine; two years at Emmanuel Lutheran in Longview, Washington, and three years at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Billings, Montana.

Pastor Campeau graduated from Augsburg College in Minneapolis with a bachelor's degree in history in 1978 and received his Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul in 1983.

He and his wife of 28 years, Barbara, have three adult children: Jeffrey, Lisa, and Sam.

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(25th Year of Ordination Anniversary continued)



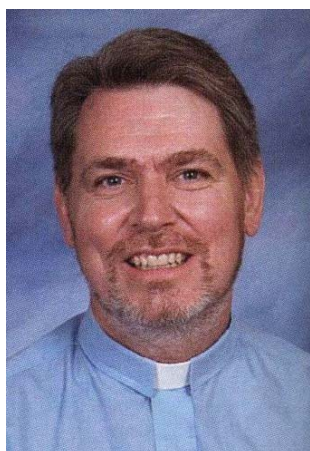
THE REV. THOMAS C. CARTER

**Ordained at Lutheran Church of the Foothills,
in La Canada, California on April 23, 1983**

After lengthy service in the military, both in Vietnam and at Fort Sill, the then Retired Captain, attended Stanford for three years and then received his bachelor of arts degree from California State University in Fullerton in 1974. He completed an additional two years of post-graduate work there before enrolling at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, earning his Master of Divinity degree in 1981.

Pastor Tom Carter served as visitation pastor at Lutheran Church in the Foothills in the La Canada for two years; Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Sherman Oaks for four years, interim pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in South Gate, and 16 years as shared time pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in West Covina until his retirement on December 1, 2005.

He has served as a board member of the Visiting Nurses Association, is interested in coin collecting, diving and reading. He is married to Veronica.



THE REV. Dr. THOMAS K. JOHNSON

**Ordained at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
Minneapolis, Minnesota on June 26, 1983**

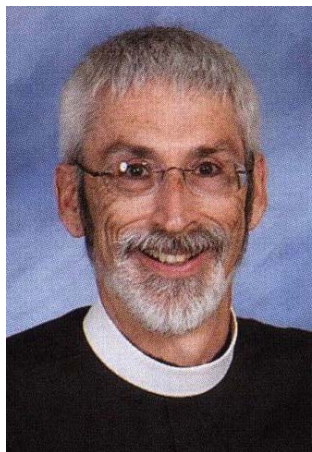
From Minnesota to California and from Cairo to Claremont, Dr. Thom Johnson's ministry has been as varied and wide-ranging as the geography in which it took place.

He has been a teacher's assistant for disabled children, founded a homeless shelter, served as a parish pastor, is an author, worked with the Lutheran Office of Public Policy Council, served on the Global Missions Board, and has developed a model for lifelong holistic confirmation instruction called *Waterlife*. Dr. Johnson has written several books, curriculum, and articles published by Augsburg Fortress Publishers. He also has a travel ministry where he has taken groups to Russia, Greece, Israel, and Egypt, to name a few.

Dr. Johnson is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (B.A.) in 1977, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (M. Div.) in 1983 and the Claremont School of Theology (doctorate of ministry) in 1996. Pastor Johnson served at Mountain View in Phoenix, AZ for two years and Gloria Dei in Fontana, CA, for 10 years. In Jan. 1995, he began as pastor of Prince of Peace, Covina and now divides his time between serving as solo pastor and teaching at Claremont School of Theology. We are proud that Dr. Johnson is one of our ELM (Equipping Leaders for Mission) instructors.

He and his wife of 25 years, Mary, have two children: Nathaniel and Annalisa.

(25th Year of Ordination Anniversary continued)



THE REV. DALE E. KRUMLAND

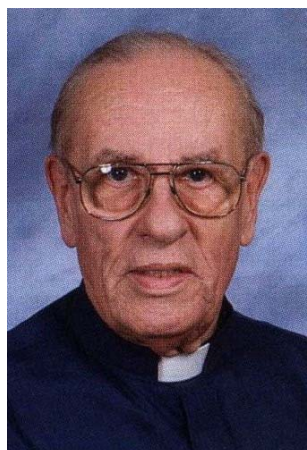
**Ordained at Holy Cross Lutheran Church
in Moraga, California, on September 24, 1983**

Pastor Dale Krumland has seen a good portion of the state of California during his 25 years of ministry.

He began his ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church in Oakland for four years; followed by being Pastor/Developer at St. Mary's Lutheran Church in San Diego; St. Stephen's in Granada Hills for two years; and currently serves Christ the King Lutheran in Torrance, where he has served for the past 18 years.

Pastor Krumland is a graduate of California State University Northridge (B.A) 1973 and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, where he received his Master of Divinity in 1982. Pastor Krumland has been a member of the cabinet for the San Francisco/Bay Area Urban Coalition and helped establish the Lutherans Feeding the Hungry in Oakland program.

He and his wife of 36 years, Alison, have one daughter, Petra Krumland.



THE REV. MATTI (Matt) K. SALOMAA

**Ordained at Faith Lutheran Church
in Quincy, Massachusetts on March 20, 1983**

Can science and religion coexist? Pastor Matti Salomaa undoubtedly would say they could.

The Finnish-born Salomaa was a research engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 34 years, the last three of which he was concurrently serving as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Quincy, Massachusetts.

He received his bachelor of science at Helsinki Technical College in 1947 and taught at the Finnish Air Force School of Electronics for four years, before moving to the United States.

In 1982, he completed his education at Boston Theological School of Theology, receiving his Master of Divinity degree. Pastor Salomaa was called to Finnish Lutheran Church in Los Angeles, where he served from 1987 until his retirement in July, 1992.

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(25th Year of Ordination Anniversary continued)

Pastor Salomaa was president of the Suomi Special Interest Conference of the ELCA, California Region, and producer and speaker for a weekly Finnish-language devotional radio program in New England from 1967-79.

His wife of 60 years, Hanna, just passed away at the end of April, 2008. They have four adult children: Kari, Paul, Samuel, and Ruth.



THE REV. BARRY VAIL

**Ordained at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
in San Jose, California, on August 28, 1983**

Pastor Barry Vail is a graduate of San Jose State University, where he received a B.A. in Psychology. Following his graduation, he worked teaching autistic adolescents in a private school and then as a parish worker for his home congregation, Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose. It was there he heard the calling into the ordained ministry and he enrolled at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree in May of 1983.

He first served Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Temple City for nine years as Pastor and then was called to Christ Lutheran Church, Visalia as Associate Pastor, where he served for eight years. His ministry at St. Stephen's of the Valley, Palmdale began October 1, 2000.

Pastor Vail currently serves as Dean for the Tehachapi Conference, has served in the Colleague 1 program, was a coach in the NCD program, and was involved in organizing the Antelope Valley Parish where he serves on the board.

He and his wife, Allison, have two children: Hannah and Isaac.

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES OF PASTORS' ORDINATIONS

2008

ORDAINED 70 YEARS – 1938

The Rev. Johannes Aarik -1938

ORDAINED 61 YEARS OR MORE

The Rev. John G. Simmons -1942

The Rev. Louis E. Fabrizius -1944

The Rev. Glenn W. Bragstad -1945

The Rev. Luther E. Olmon -1945

The Rev. Theodore T. Wu -1947

ORDAINED 60 YEARS - 1948

The Rev. J. William Bowman -1948

The Rev. Carl Peter Orberg -1948

The Rev. Joseph S.F. Pang -1948

The Rev. Clyde E. Showalter -1948

ORDAINED 51-59 YEARS

The Rev. Amon O. Johnson, Jr. -1951

The Rev. Sherman I. Korshavn -1952

The Rev. Vance R. Knutsen -1953

The Rev. Donald Ausland -1954

The Rev. Harry Durkee -1954

The Rev. Obed J. Nesheim -1954

The Rev. Alvin Rudisill -1954

The Rev. Harvey Sigurdson -1954

The Rev. Robert W. Varblow -1954

The Rev. James G. Kallas -1955

The Rev. Melvin C. Langeland -1955

The Rev. Paul T. Nakamura -1955

The Rev. John Normann Ottesen -1955

The Rev. S. Samuel Ujiie -1955

The Rev. Edward Busch -1956

The Rev. Leonard E. Dalberg -1956

The Rev. Philip L. Natwick -1956

The Rev. Thomas C. Cooper -1957

The Rev. Paul A. Kloth -1957

The Rev. Floyd Lawson -1957

The Rev. Jerry H. Miller -1957

The Rev. Russ Mueller -1957

ORDAINED 50 YEARS - 1958

The Rev. Ronald C. Bennett

The Rev. Ronald E. Kragthorpe

The Rev. Andrew Kwok

The Rev. Thomas G. Natterstad

The Rev. Jerome C. Trelstad

ORDAINED 45 YEARS - 1963

The Rev. James M. Bullock

The Rev. Donald Dallmann

The Rev. Gerald K. Swanson

ORDAINED 40 YEARS - 1968

The Rev. Donald E. Wilkowski

ORDAINED 35 YEARS - 1973

The Rev. Philip A. Demers

The Rev. D. Thomas Ford

The Rev. James E. Schoenrock

ORDAINED 30 YEARS - 1978

The Rev. Lynn Y. Bruer

The Rev. Raymond LeBlanc

The Rev. Kenneth R. Simon

The Rev. Jarvis Streeter, VII

ORDAINED 25 YEARS - 1983

The Rev. Lawrence D. Becker

The Rev. Joseph D. Campeau

The Rev. Thomas C. Carter

The Rev. Thomas K. Johnson

The Rev. Dale E. Krumland

The Rev. Matti K. Salomaa

The Rev. Barry Vail

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES OF CONGREGATIONS 2008

121 YEARS - 1887

Bethel, Templeton -1887

120 YEARS - 1888

Angelica, Los Angeles -1888

OVER 100 YEARS

Trinity, Santa Barbara -1902

Trinity, Pasadena -1903

Grace, Santa Barbara -1903

Trinity, Long Beach -1907

55 YEARS - 1953

Christ, Downey

50 YEARS - 1958

Mount Calvary-Faith, West Covina

45 YEARS - 1963

Shepherd of the Hills, Diamond Bar

Holy Cross, Ojai

70 YEARS - 1938

Lutheran Church of the Cross, Arcadia

40 YEARS - 1968

Faith, Monterey Park

60 YEARS - 1948

Redeemer, Bakersfield

Luth. Church in the Foothills, La Canada

Luth. Church of Our Redeemer, Oxnard

Ascension, Thousand Oaks

St. Luke, Woodland Hills

35 YEARS - 1973

Westlake, Westlake Village

30 YEARS - 1978

First, Carson

25 YEARS - 1983

No congregations begun in 1983

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES OF CERTIFICATION OF ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY 2008

CERTIFIED 45 YEARS - 1963

Alan Feddersen

CERTIFIED 30 YEARS - 1978

Vickie Beard

Freda M. Johnson

CERTIFIED 40 YEARS - 1968

Robert Federwitz

CERTIFIED 5 YEARS - 2003

Taflin Fisher

