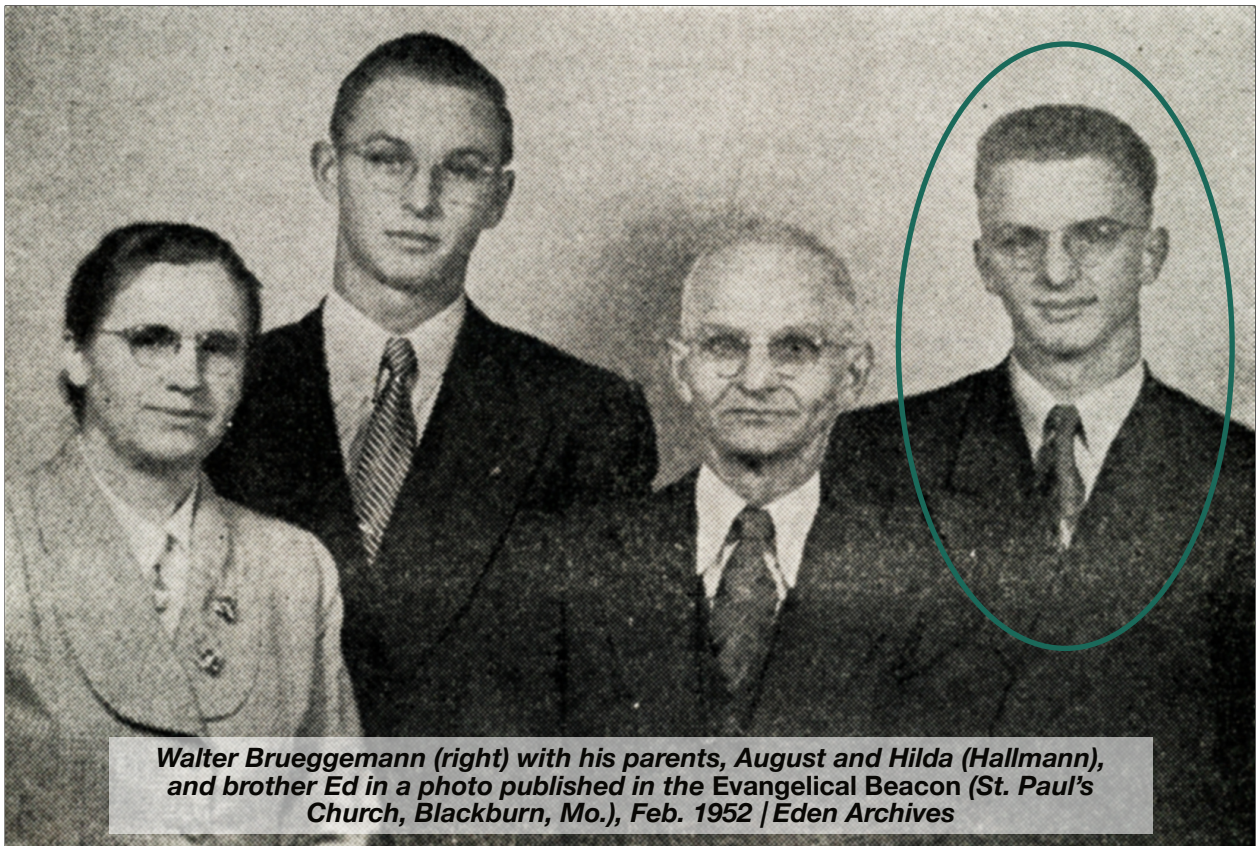


This Week in Eden History
March 11 | Walter Brueggemann



Walter Brueggemann (right) with his parents, August and Hilda (Hallmann), and brother Ed in a photo published in the Evangelical Beacon (St. Paul's Church, Blackburn, Mo.), Feb. 1952 | Eden Archives

Walter Brueggemann, noted Biblical scholar, author, and former Eden Academic Dean, was born on March 11 in Tilden, Neb. to the Rev. August L. Brueggemann (Eden, 1925), an Evangelical Synod pastor, and Hilda Hallmann. “Pop” Brueggemann served churches in Kansas, Nebraska, Indiana, and Missouri from 1925 to 1962. Walter considered his father to be his “first and best teacher.” At his confirmation, Rev. Brueggemann picked as his son’s confirmation Bible verse

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Psalms 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Walter’s brother, Edward (Eden, 1958), pastored congregations at Napoleon, Mo. and Lebanon, Ill. before becoming Minister of Program for the United Church of Christ Illinois South Conference and later Conference Minister for the New Hampshire Conference.

Walter was educated at Elmhurst College (1955), Eden Theological Seminary (B.D., 1958) and ordained in St. Paul’s UCC, Blackburn, Missouri on June 29, 1958. He continued his education at Union Theological Seminary (Th.D., 1961) and St. Louis University (Ph.D., 1974). He taught on the faculty at Eden, 1961–1986, and at Columbia Theological Seminary, 1986–2003.

Walter has been a seminary teacher his entire career. Choosing to locate himself in the seminary, not the university, proceeded out of his decision to be “a scholar for the church.” In his 42 years of teaching, he has presented a prophetic, biblical vision of Christianity to many students preparing to be leaders in the Church. Where he has communicated with the largest number of people, however, has been through his many books, articles, and sermons. A rough count of book titles alone totals more than 60.

In 1997, Eden Theological Seminary presented Dr. Brueggemann with the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. In the citation he wrote for this event, Dr. John Bracke stated, “As scholar, prophet and teacher, Walter, a faithful son of the evangelical tradition, has called us all to discover God’s power mediated through God’s word.”

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