





OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
50th Anniversary  
STRONGER TOGETHER IN FAITH AND PURPOSE  
1948-1998 (1871-1878-1898)

The founding of churches in pioneer days was an act of faith of our forefathers. People of different ethnic backgrounds naturally banded together for churches of their own nationality. As the years passed, people realized that their common Lutheran faith was a deeper bond than nationalities. Consequently, Our Saviour's came into being. St. Stephen's Lutheran Church was organized in 1871. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, which later changed its name to First English, was organized in 1878. In 1948, these two merged to form Our Saviour's Lutheran. Zacchaeus Lutheran Church was organized in 1898 and merged with Our Saviour's in 1962. On this, the 50th Anniversary of Our Saviour's, we renew our commitment to "Praise God from whom all blessings flow".

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OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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and witness God's love to all  
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Lord

Lamentations 3:22-24 "His compassion never ends. It is only the Lord's mercies that kept us from complete destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His lovingkindness begins afresh each day. My soul claims the Lord as my inheritance; therefore I will hope in Him.



# Southwestern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

175 East Bridge Street P.O. Box 499 Redwood Falls, Minnesota 56283-0499  
Phone 507 637-3904 Fax 507 637-2809 Internet SWMN\_ELCA@ecunet.org

A ministry partner with the South-Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa

April 29th, 1998

Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
Canby, Minnesota

Dear Friends:

*I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind--just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you--so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
I Corinthians 1:4-7

On behalf of all the congregations and people of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod I send you congratulations as you celebrate the 50th anniversary of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church this year. Thank you for the ways you have served God in your community and beyond through these years! You are a model of faithful, creative, self-giving congregational life.

A milestone such as this is a significant marker to be observed in the life of the congregation. You look back at a history of faithful service and of being the people of God in that place. Even more importantly you look ahead to decades of service to come. New times bring new challenges but we can always depend on the exciting power of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the celebration. I am sorry that prior commitments will keep me and all members of the synod staff from being with you. It is always a privilege to take part in such observances of God's grace, and we regret missing it.

May you have a wonderful celebration and may God continue to bless your mission and ministry together in the years to come. I look forward to your continued partnership in this part of Christ's church.

In Christ,

*Stanley N. Olson*  
Stanley N. Olson, Bishop

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Bishop Stanley N. Olson  
Pastors Stephanie K. Frey, Marcus R. Kunz, Lawrence R. Wohlrabe - Synod Ministers



*"STRONGER TOGETHER  
IN FAITH AND PURPOSE"  
(1948 - 1998)*

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

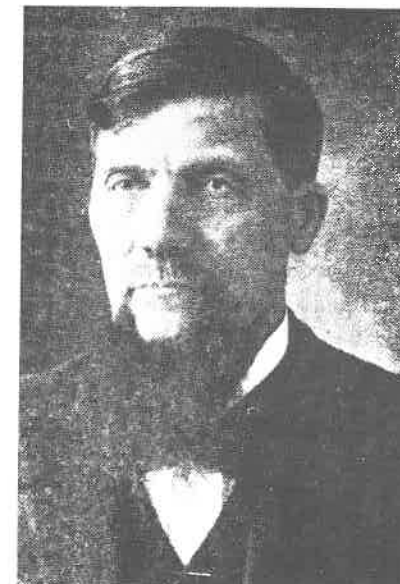
*We give thanks to God for the fifty years of life and ministry of Our Saviour's Lutheran congregation. As your imagination moves over the past fifty years, you recall names and faces, events, acts of love and sacrifice. The message of Jesus has been told and heard in times of joy and sorrow, in homes, in church, and at hospital beds, and it has brought life.*

*We celebrate with you that this life-giving Word has sounded forth for so many years. We give praise and thanks to God for the living Word and for the people called to faith and life through this Word.*

*As you recall the work of God in your midst and remember the witness of his people, we give thanks for how the mission and ministry of Jesus has changed and touched lives. Fifty years ago we gathered as people of God. Since that time the ministry of this congregation has developed. We think of that little maple tree planted in the front yard. As a young tree it needed to be watered, fertilized and cared for. It was not a home or shelter for birds. Squirrels could not climb and secure food in the branches for the winter. But as the tree grew it became a haven for many. The tree provided shelter from the hot sun. They found rest and refreshment. The tree continued to grow and soon the branches reached out to any creature needing a place to call home. Our congregation has grown in its ministry and mission. May we be empowered for joyful obedience to the mission of Jesus Christ in the coming years as we provide spiritual care for our members and as we branch out to serve the Lord Jesus in this community and world.*

*As we live out this mission to preach, teach and reach may our lives be empowered by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May our foundation for service be rooted in the knowledge and experience of knowing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. May Christ and the blessings of God which we have come to know empower us for effective service to our Lord in the future. We share with you these words from Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

*The Lord be with you,  
In Christ,  
Pastor Ron Warnes  
Pastor Jan Warnes  
Pastor Ron & Pastor Janet Warnes  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church*



Rev. Olaf H. Hoel  
1876 - 1912 St. Stephen's



Rev. Paul Moen  
1912 - 1917 St. Stephen's



Rev. Clarence Haugen  
1918 - 1937 St. Stephen's



Rev. William Schmidt  
1902 - 1905 Zacchaeus



Rev. G. Bents  
1905 - 1923 Zacchaeus



Rev. William Kolble  
1923 - 1925 Zacchaeus



Rev. William Hennig  
1925 - 1944 Zacchaeus

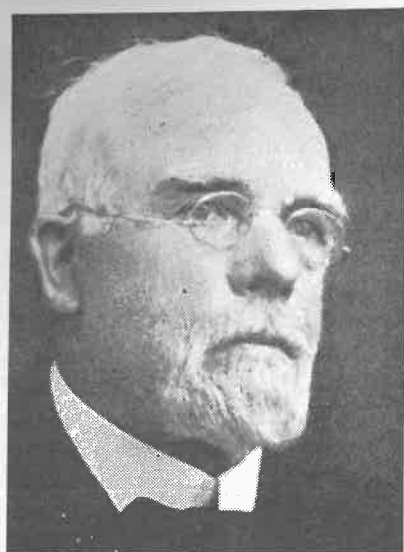


Rev. William Mohr  
1945 - 1958 Zacchaeus

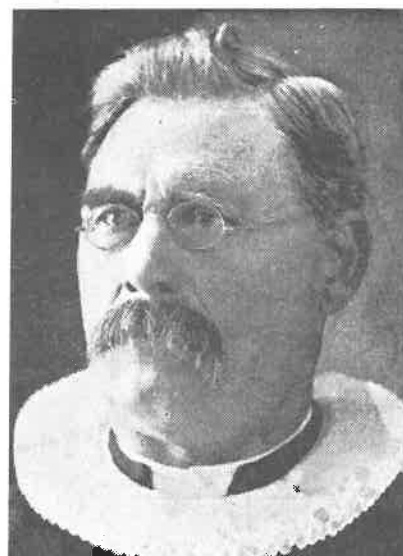


Rev. Dr. Lowell C. Green  
1958 - 1962 Zacchaeus





Rev. I. H. Hinderaker  
1879 - 1895 St. Paul's



Rev. K. C. Hinderlie  
1896 - 1913 St. Paul's



Rev. C. Michaelson  
1913 - 1919 St. Paul's



Rev. Nels S. Magelssen  
1953 - 1962 Our Saviour's



Rev. Reynold Tange  
1962 - 1973 Our Saviour's



Rev. Wesley Haugen  
1963 - 1966 Our Saviour's



Rev. Henry Noss  
1919 - 1921 St. Paul's



Rev. Omar Brenne  
1921 - 1927 First English



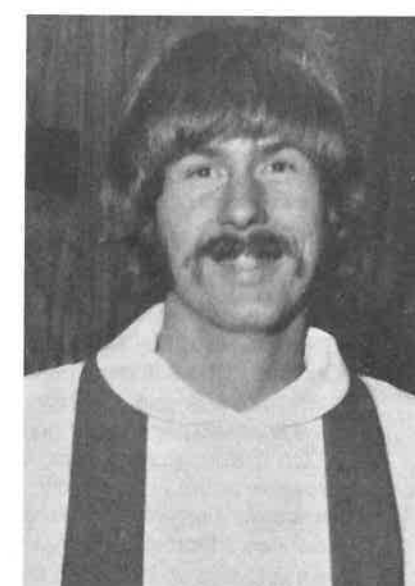
Rev. M. E. Hauge  
1927 - 1931 First English



Rev. Dan Thurmer  
1970 - 1973 Our Saviour's



Rev. Earl Dreyer  
1973 - 1985 Our Saviour's



Rev. George Megard  
1974 - 1978 Our Saviour's



Rev. O. A. Olson  
1931 - 1948 First English



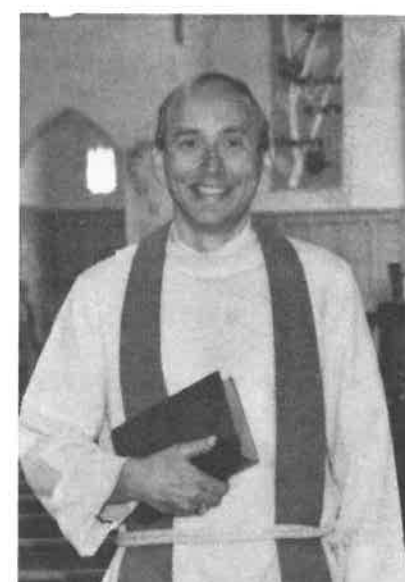
Rev. M. O. Kraabel  
1937 - 1948 St. Stephen's



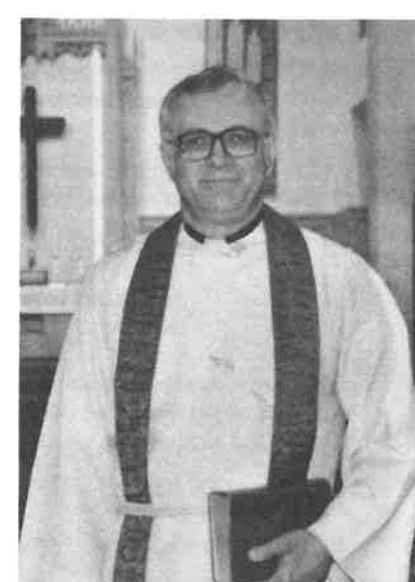
Rev. O. H. Hove  
1948 - 1952 Our Saviour's



Rev. Eldon Thuro  
1978 - 1981 Our Saviour's



Rev. Paul Andree  
1982 - 1994 Our Saviour's



Rev. Myron Grams  
1986 - 1996 Our Saviour's



**Rev. Dr. Andrew G. Jensen**  
**Rev. Mary E. Jensen**

28531 Alder Peak Avenue, Canyon Country, CA 91351  
Tel: 805/250-9206 FAX: 805/250-9213  
E-Mail: INASMUCH@aol.com

March 22, 1998

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Congratulations on the celebration of fifty years of ministry in Canby. Mary and I remember the many wonderful events which happened during the late sixties with Pastor Rey and Ruth Tange. You took a young pastor and his family and taught us many things that have been the strength of our ministries. Thank you!

Today finds us in a very different kind of life. Andy is now the Director of Planned Giving for the Paragon Foundation. Paragon is a group of ten skilled individuals who offer their administrative skills to other parachurch organizations. Presently Andy serves California Lutheran Homes and Community Services as well as Lutheran Social Services of Southern California. This means a lot of travel since Andy covers all of the southern part of California. After leaving Canby, Andy served the following parishes:

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville, MN  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, No. Hollywood, CA

He is presently the parttime interim pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Fernando, CA. Andy has continued his education, receiving his Doctor of Ministry degree in Christian Education in 1980. He has also studied courses in a variety of financial and computer fields and the certificates of completion now fill a notebook!

Mary was ordained in 1989, having completed her Master of Divinity studies at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA. Her internship was done in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. She subsequently wrote a book, *We Belong to the Land*, published by HarperCollins, about the life and work of a Palestinian Israeli Christian priest. It became a best seller in France and has been translated into more than twelve languages. Mary continues to take people on tours of Palestine and Israel as a licensed pilgrim tour guide. In 1991 she became the pastor developer of a new ELCA mission congregation in Canyon Country, CA. The Church of Hope has now grown to about 250 members and will soon purchase property and build its first worship structure. Currently the congregation rents space in a shopping center where it operates a thrift shop, a food pantry and a gift shop, in addition to carving out space for worship and education on Sundays! In 1999 Mary will receive her Doctor of Ministry degree in Christian Spirituality, writing her dissertation on icons.

Our three sons are scattered about the country, each one involved in his particular field of interest and expertise.

Dan is 35, married to Sheri, working as a high school social science teacher and coach at Waverly High School, just outside of Lincoln, NE, where they live.

Joel is 32, married to Julie, working as an account executive for an advertising company in Minneapolis, MN. They live in Brooklyn Park and are parents of our two beautiful granddaughters, Brikken, 3, and Merlyn, 1.

Nathan is 29 (born at Canby Community Hospital!), living in Olympia, WA, and working in his beloved field of music. He is the music director at St. John's Episcopal Church and also gives many private voice and piano lessons.

We are sorry that we cannot be there to celebrate the special anniversary days in June, but we will celebrate in our hearts as we remember the days we spent in your midst. May God richly bless your time of celebration!

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Andrew G. Jensen*  
*Rev. Mary E. Jensen*  
Rev. Dr. Andrew G. and Rev. Mary E. Jensen



Rev. Andrew G. Jensen  
1966 - 1970 Our Saviour's

History of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church --May 1998

Religion played a very historical part in the development of Yellow Medicine County. Missionaries and trappers were the first settlers. In 1852, Dr. Thomas Williamson and his family who had established a mission in Lac Qui Parle County, moved his family down the Minnesota River and became the first resident of Yellow Medicine County. They had lived and worked in Lac Qui Parle County since 1835.

The early missionary and his family did not only inspire and teach the Word of God, they also taught the basic principles of daily living. The women in the family taught knitting, needlework, washing and ironing to the Indians. The missionaries themselves taught school, farmed and built sawmills and buildings.

In 1877, the situation looked rather grim for the pioneers. After three years of battling drought and grasshoppers, the farmers were either destitute or bankrupt. It was almost more than they could bear. John S. Pillsbury, governor of Minnesota at that time, saw the almost hopeless situation the people of his political realm were undergoing. He set aside April 26th as a day of fasting and prayer. On that day religious services were held throughout the state and deliverance from the scourge was asked. The day was generally observed in Yellow Medicine County. They were able to gather strength as a group who were in one way or another affected by the situation.

Mr. & Mrs. Friber Olson were truly concerned Christian pioneers. It was at their home that the first religious service in Norman township was held. That very meaningful day was July 10, 1871. Rev. N. Brandt was the Norwegian minister who conducted the service. A Lutheran parish school taught by Christian Houg at private homes in 1875 was the first school conducted in the township.



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



It is with the preceding historical background that the roots of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church are begun. The congregation today is the result of absorbing some small congregations and the formal merger of three pre-existing congregations.

Fifteen men and their families met at the home of Friber Olson on that beautiful historical day of July 10, 1871 when the foundation of St. Stephen's congregation was begun. One of the Olson children was baptized, hymns were sung in the Norwegian language and an understanding pastor, Rev. Brandt, delivered a meaningful sermon in Norwegian. For the next five years these Christians who had so valiantly bonded together in Christian faith were left without a resident pastor. Rev. Brandt had a huge territory and increasing duties. He never visited them again. During that five year period, three ordained pastors took turns visiting the congregation and a few services were conducted.

From 1876 -1912 Rev. Olaf H Hoel was the first resident pastor. He and his wife arrived in the summer of 1876. For 36 years they led, struggled and labored arduously. While he was minister, a church building was erected in 1884 on lots donated by John Swenson. The first services were held on Easter Sunday in 1885 in the church on the south side of Canby. The Ladies' Aid was organized in 1889 with 11 chartered members. In 1902 the church building was moved to the site on Main Street across from the city park to the corner of Third and St. Olaf Av. N. In 1903 the choir was organized. In 1905 the basement was put under the church. The church property at this time was valued at \$14,000.

In 1912 a parsonage was bought at 311 N Lyon Av. Rev. Paul Moen came in 1912. During his pastorate the English language came into use to meet the demands of the day. Accidental death suddenly and tragically removed him from his work in 1917. St. Stephen's was a member of the Norwegian Synod until 1917.

From 1918-1937 Rev. Clarence Haugen was the pastor. In the late '20's or early '30's, Canby's one and only Negro resident died. Lou Wilson was a man whom everybody knew and loved. He trained horses for the local horse owners. In his last years he lived very humbly in a shack at the fairgrounds. Lou had no religious affiliation. When he died, Rev. Haugen offered to give him a Christian burial. St. Stephen's was packed with friends. Rev. Haugen paid him great tribute with a fine sermon. The town officials served as pallbearers. Lou is the only black buried in the Canby cemetery. (from 1979 Canby News)

In 1924 the church was enlarged and proved more adequate for the needs of the congregation. In 1925 Bethlehem (Burr) Lutheran joined with St. Stephen's and few years later Our Saviour's of Fortier. In 1929 a modern pipe organ was purchased by the Ladies' Aid. In 1930 the ritual as proposed by the synod and found in the Lutheran Hymnal was adopted for use. Rev. M.O. Kraabel served from 1937-1948. In 1937 the envelope system was introduced. In 1947 women members were granted voting privileges. In 1946 the support of foreign missionary C.G. Lygre was undertaken. In 1948 St. Stephen's merged with First English Lutheran.

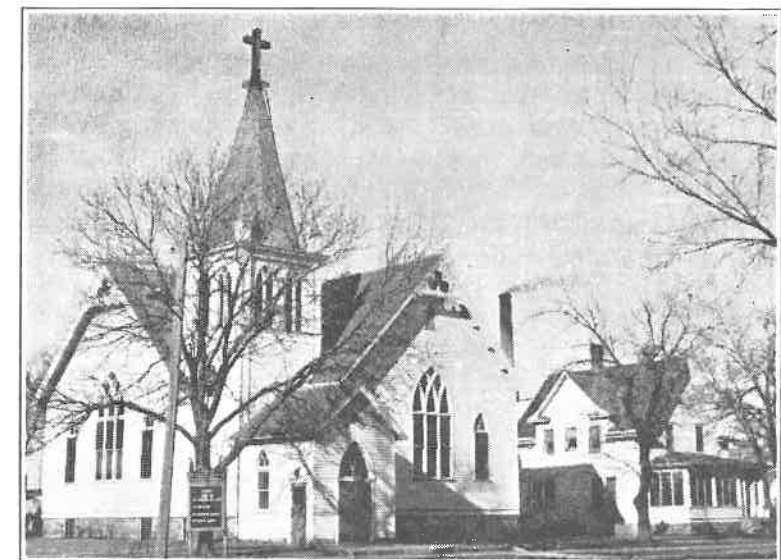
## First English Lutheran Church

In 1878, Rev. O. A. Solem was serving the Bethlehem Congregation in Astoria, South Dakota, but he had been requested by Rev. Hatlestad, Foreman of the Norwegian Augustana Synod, to serve and assist in organizing the congregation. Rev. Hatlestad was a personal friend of Rasmus Thorson, one of the families who had moved into this community from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Thorsons and seven other families comprised the first congregation that was organized in 1878. On April 30, 1879, with the Rev. Hatlestad presiding, St. Paul's congregation adopted its constitution. Together with the congregations of the Bethlehem and the Florida churches, they sent a letter of call to I. H. Hinderaker, who was in the process of finishing his studies at the seminary. In the early part of his ministry Rev. Hinderaker received an annual salary of \$35 from the congregation of St. Paul's which had only two families remaining, \$35 from Florida and \$100 from Bethlehem. In 1882 the congregation accepted Ellef Quenroe's offer of one and a half acres of his farm at \$2.50 per acre to be used as a cemetery.

Until 1888, the schoolhouse in Canby was used for divine worship services. Each member was assessed 25¢ at each service to pay for heating the rooms where the services were held. Offerings were taken for missions. In 1880 the Ladies' Aid was organized. The first church was built in 1886 and Sunday School was started that year. The cornerstone is dated 1884 and the dedication of the church is 1888. In 1890 the pastor was paid \$60. In 1893 a steeple was added for \$118. By 1895, twenty-six families had joined the fold and the pastor's salary was \$100. From 1884-1918 song leaders (klokkers) were elected annually.

In 1896, Rev. K. O. Hinderlie came. On Dec. 28, 1905 at the annual meeting the congregation decided to buy the old school site and build a new church. It was to be 46' by 50'. The site was purchased for \$2,000 from C. Anderson. The estimated cost of the new building was placed at \$5,000. The old building was sold to the Baptist congregation for \$1,200. The new church was dedicated in 1908 with the location being at the corner of 2nd and Haarfager N where the present Our Saviour's is located. Norwegian services were held until 1913. Rev. Hinderlie retired in 1913 and moved to Northfield.





From 1913 to 1919 the Rev. C. Michaelson served the parish of St. Paul's. The English language was more in demand so English hymnals were purchased and in 1914 the first class was confirmed in English. The parsonage was built next to the church on 2nd Street and the pipe organ was purchased. Parish belonged to the United Lutheran Synod until 1917.

From 1919 to 1921 Rev. Henry Noss was the pastor. He organized a church orchestra. On March 22, 1921 the church reorganized and reincorporated itself as an English Lutheran Church. All former members of St. Paul's Lutheran became charter members of the new organization along with 81 other families in Canby. Articles of incorporation and the constitution of the First English Lutheran Congregation were adopted. Women members were given the privilege of voting. All services and meetings were to be in English. Special services were held in Norwegian. Membership was 550 souls.

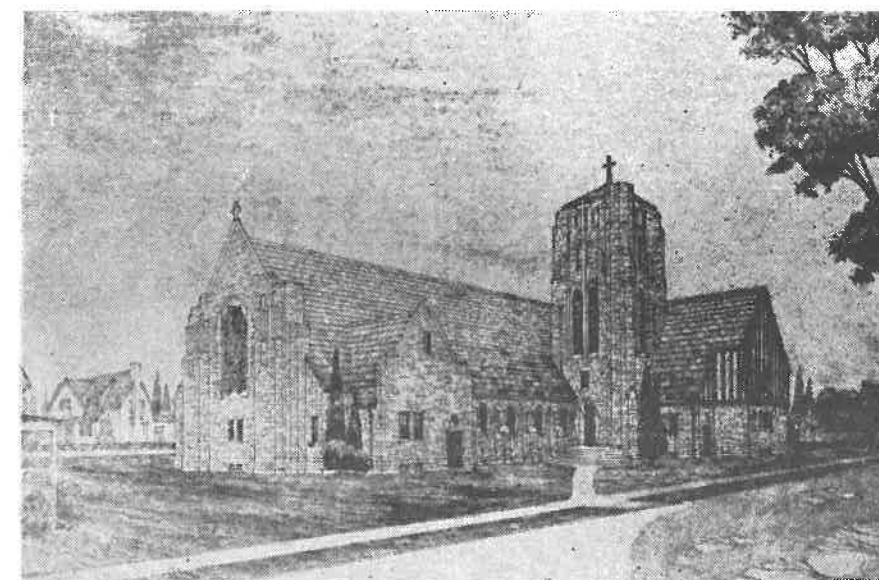
The Rev. Omar Brenne served from 1921 to 1927. In 1926 the Men's Brotherhood was organized. In 1927 Florida and First English called a minister together, namely, Rev. M.E.Hauge who served until 1931 when Rev. O.A.Olson came. In April, 1939 art glass windows were purchased for \$2,160.

As early as the 1930's all three churches showed progress in a uniting spirit. At that time they joined together for the mid-week Lenten services. In the forties First English and St. Stephen's were in dire need of Sunday School rooms. Just as throughout the history of the early churches-the need for bigger and better accommodations was an absolute necessity. Church leaders thought as long as both churches were in the same situation - the most practical and Christian solution would be to do it together. A large educational unit was planned and both churches would have joint Sunday School. The obvious solution was that if the children could learn together, the parents should certainly be able to worship together.

Several attempts had been made in the past to unite but had failed. In January, 1948, the first of several joint council meetings began. One of the members of the youth group recalls that the youth had voted to unite and waited with anticipation on April 13. In the words of Stella Lyslo: "Some of you were present in the First English Church or St. Stephen's the evening of April 13, 1948 to vote on the merger of the two congregations. After the voting everyone was tense and praying--waiting for 9 o'clock. At that time it had been agreed that if the vote was "yes" each congregation would ring its bell. First we heard our bell in First English and then the answering bell in St. Stephen's. There were tears among the smiles and realization of all the work for years that had been done to unite us."

The two ladies'aids immediately joined in 1948 with Alma Benson as president and in 1949 Eunice Monson was president. We were careful to have officers evenly divided and alternate every year from both congregations. Eunice had the big job of organizing us into a working society.

The churches became known as the West Church and the East Church and activities were shared. Pastor O.H.Hove was called in September and he arrived in December 1948. On April 25, 1949 the congregation voted to build a new church. The building site chosen was the lots on which the First English Church and parsonage were located. Pastor Hove wanted to live in the parsonage at 311 Lyon Avenue N. and use the West Church parsonage as an office and parish house. The West Church would remain until \$75,000 was in the building fund. The congregation was divided into twelve districts. In May there was a group of first anniversary banquets held to celebrate new members joining and one year of togetherness. This is the preliminary sketch of the new church.

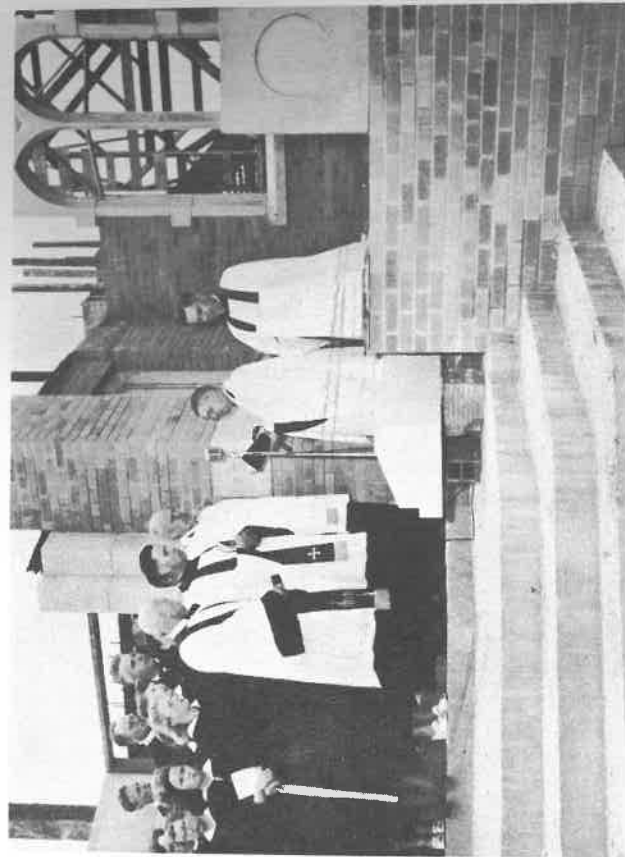


OUR NEW CHURCH?

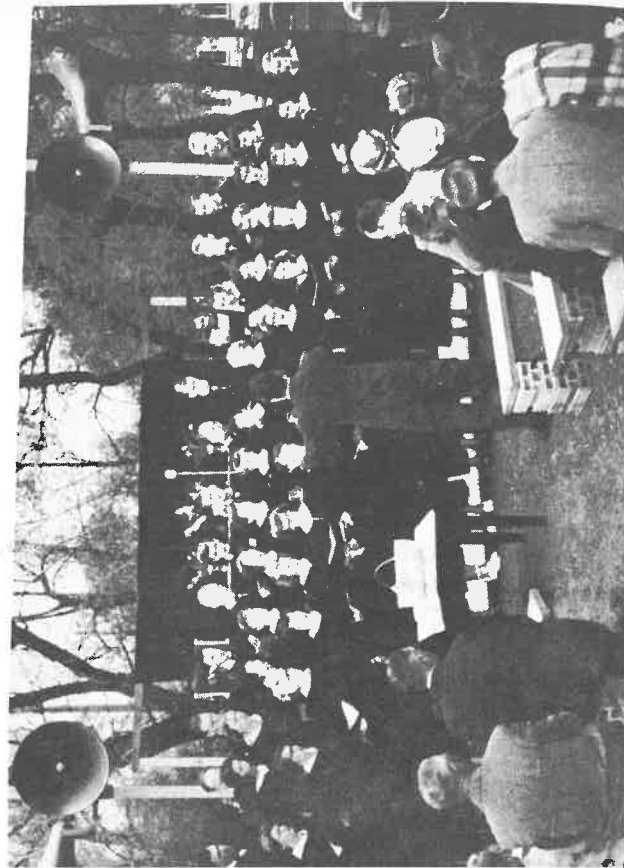
By September, construction had begun. The parsonage had been moved to 413 St. Olaf Ave. N. and sold and the church torn down. An excerpt from Mrs. Lyslo's letter: "Circles were organized and they were working circles. We give credit to Vera Larson and her circle for starting the Fair Project. They had a lunch stand used by the women who served lunches for the Sales Barn--not a very attractive place. They were so successful that someone had a bright idea of a building out of the lumber from the demolished church. In a few weeks the men of our church had the building ready. Except for the year of the polio epidemic, 1952, our church women and men have had that big project. Unless one has been on that committee one can't realize what a big job it is".

Two services were held each Sunday in the East Church. The church office is moved to the National Citizen's Bank building. The General Officers, Trustees and Deacons had 35 members, all deceased





CORNERSTONE LAYING CEREMONY

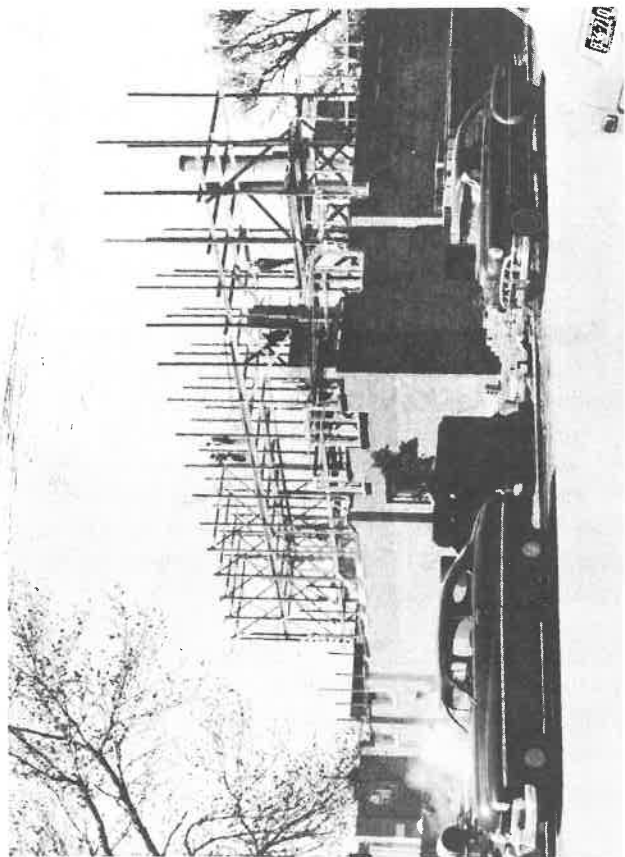


but one at the time of this publication. The Board of Education had 13 members, 8 of them deceased at the present time.

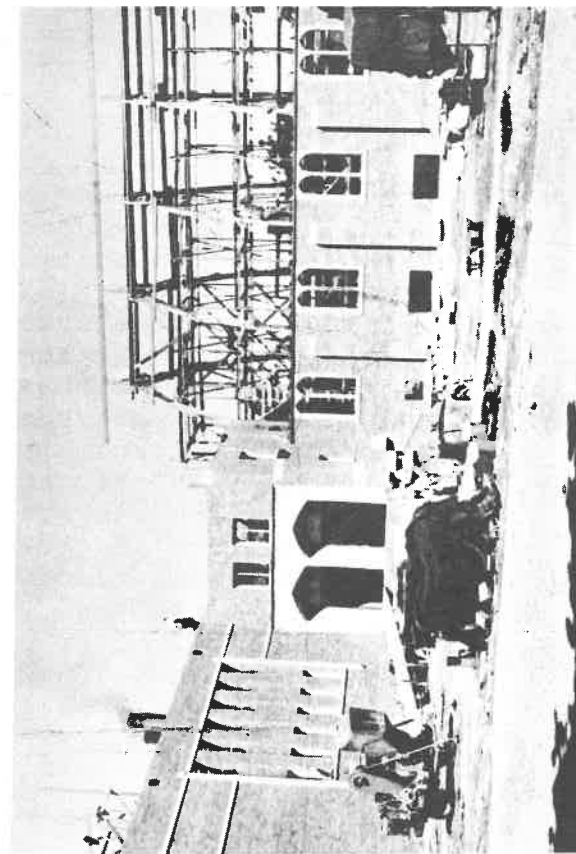
In 1950 the new constitution is written and it is very clear that the president, vice president, deacons and trustees are to be chosen from the male members of the congregation. The Lutheran Visitor is the church publication. The East Church was sold to the Nicolai Lutherans for \$16,000 and the store building owned by the church was sold for \$14,000. On April 15, 1950 the council minutes read, "All anniversaries will be celebrated from the date of the oldest founding - 1871."

The Cornerstone Laying Ceremony was on May 28, 1950. The first service held in the new church building was on Christmas Day 1950. The pews and chancel furnishings have not arrived, the carpet is gray, there are folding chairs in the nave, the Christmas trees have blue lights on them and the church is full.

The outside architecture changed from the 1949 plan to the design with which we have all been familiar until the summer of 1998 when there are plans to build an addition to house the elevator and front steps.



CONSTRUCTION



First Service, Christmas 1950



# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Canby, Minnesota

## First Mortgage Serial Bond

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Canby, Minnesota, a religious corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota, having its office in the City of Canby, County of Yellow Medicine, Minnesota (hereinafter called the CHURCH), acknowledges itself to be indebted and for value received promises to pay to Lutheran Brotherhood, or order, at the office of the Lutheran Brotherhood in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the sum of

**FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS**

on December 1, 1962, and to pay interest thereon from the date hereof at the rate of four per cent (4%) per annum on the 1st day of June and the 1st day of December in each year, both principal and interest being payable in any coin or currency of the United States of America which at the time of payment is legal tender for public and private debts.

This Bond is one of a series of 150 bonds numbered from 1 to 150, both inclusive, in the denomination of \$500.00 each, all of like date and tenor except as to maturity, aggregating the total principal amount of \$75,000.00, duly authorized by resolution of the qualified voting members of the CHURCH and secured by a mortgage or indenture of even date executed by the CHURCH to the Lutheran Brotherhood, and assigning and conveying property of the CHURCH, both real and personal, located in the City of Canby, County of Yellow Medicine, State of Minnesota, to which instrument reference is hereby made for description of the property conveyed and the nature and extent of the security and the terms and conditions upon which the bonds are issued, held and secured.

The Bonds of this issue are fully registered and both principal and interest are payable solely to the payee above named unless the same are transferred and such transfer noted on the books of the CHURCH. The payee hereof and any transferee hereof shall have all of the rights of a bona fide holder of a negotiable instrument except as limited herein.

The CHURCH reserves the option to prepay and redeem this bond on any interest payment date by payment of the principal amount thereof and accrued interest to date of such redemption. No notice of such redemption shall be required in advance of such date of payment.

If default shall be made in the payment of principal or interest on any of the bonds of this issue or in the performance of any of the covenants or agreements of the CHURCH in said indenture contained, then the principal of this bond may be declared and become immediately due and payable.

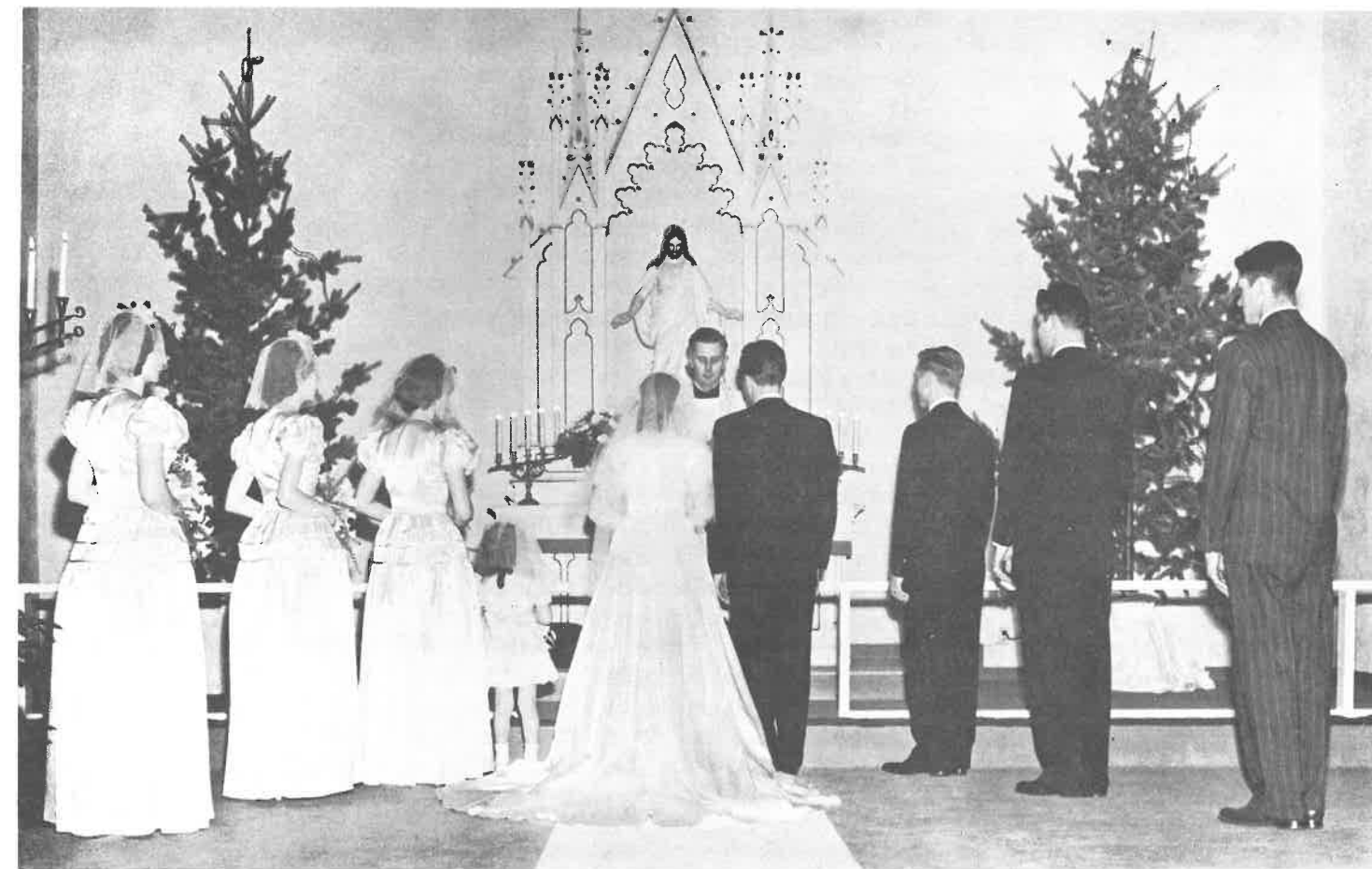
It is Hereby Certified and Recited that all acts, conditions and things required under the Laws of the State of Minnesota to make this bond a binding obligation of the CHURCH according to its terms and to provide for the execution of the mortgage and the security thereof have been done and taken as required by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Canby, Minnesota, by authority of its qualified voting members, has caused this bond to be signed in its name and on its behalf by each member of its Board of Trustees, and sealed with its corporate seal, on the First day of July 1960.

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CANBY, MINNESOTA

*M. A. Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Secretary—Board of Trustees  
*W. H. Haglund* (Seal)  
Trustee  
*Chas. Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Trustee  
*Harold Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Trustee  
*Laurence Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Trustee  
*Herman Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Trustee

*H. Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Chairman—Board of Trustees  
*John Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Trustee  
*Ed. Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Trustee  
*Chas. Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Trustee  
*John Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Trustee  
*M. J. Rasmussen* (Seal)  
Trustee



FIRST WEDDING IN THE NEW CHURCH

The following is from Shirley (Jeppesen) Holt:

"Clayton was back from the Navy and finishing his engineering degree. He called me at college and said, 'I will get my degree at the end of this quarter. Why don't we get married at Christmas?' We had no idea we would have the first wedding in the new church."

"I grew up loving the sculpture in the front of the First English Church and often said, 'I'm going to be married in front of it.' My mother called one day and said, 'The church is gone and so is the sculpture you were so attached to.'"

"They borrowed chairs from the school and my wish was granted. The sculpture was in front of the church for our wedding. It was a Saturday eve and the balcony and part of the church was full of welcome but uninvited guests who came to see the first wedding."

I believe that sculpture of Christ influenced me and I found I was turning more and more to sculpture in my art." (That sculpture is presently in the 1st and 2nd grade Sunday School Room.)

In January, 1951, the total membership was 1551 with 328 children in Sunday School. The American Lutheran had been invited to join the LacQuiParle Circuit and a letter had been sent from OSL to Zacchaeus to invite them to share services or space with us at any time. Rev. Hove expressed a need for a secretary and a parish worker. An attempt will also be made to secure an intern. Congregational meetings were held quarterly. Benevolence giving was planned to be one-half as much as the total budget. In the November 1951 meeting, the president, Dr. L. J. Monson, outlined some of the difficulties encountered by the trustees in the past three years in not knowing how much money was going to be needed to operate a new church and not having a program of income for operation. An "every member canvas" was planned.

The Ladies' Aid was the WMF (Women's Missionary Federation) and Mrs. Wendell Snortum was First Vice in 1951. Stella Lyslo was president and tells, "All the organizations in the city, county and church district were waiting for our church to be completed so they could have a banquet in our big dining room. We served a banquet or big dinner every month of 1951 besides a Smorgasbord, monthly dinner for the Sunday School teachers and Christmas parties for the choir and teachers. I especially remember serving the Young Citizen's League which included all the country school children in the county. They told us to prepare for five hundred. Four hundred seventy-five came. The tables were very close together-even on the stage. It was good they were small people. I also remember going to the church one day at 4:30 to see if the circle designated to serve was ready. The kitchen was empty. They had forgotten. I called faithful Alma Benson and told her of my predicament. She came right over---I rushed to the store for food. By 6:30 we had supper ready. At the end of the year the WMF contributed \$7,500 to the building fund, bought dishes, silverware, electric roasters, coffee pots, chairs for the Sunday School rooms and tables and drapes for the dining room. That is a lot of dollars in today's money.

I have only good memories of that busy year. Everyone was anxious to do their share and more. Some women spent almost as much time in the church as at home. All of us were anxious to make our union succeed as we knew neighboring congregations who had talked of merging were watching us. We showed them we were truly united. In a few years we couldn't remember which church people came from. Our Saviour's has been richly blessed with the wonderful pastors we have had and our beautiful church. I am thrilled every spring to come home to Our Saviour's. I have yet to see a church more beautiful and functional."

May 1952 minutes: The new intern will be permitted to wear a black choir gown and conduct services within the chancel rail and to assist with bread in communion and be subject to limitations as he and Pastor Hove agree on. There will be two weeks of parochial school this summer. Pastor Hove informed the congregational council on June 17 that he had been elected to the position of General Secretary and Director of Public Relations and Publicity of the general church body. A call was extended to the Rev. J. H. Moilien of Everett, Washington for \$4,800 annually plus \$300 moving expenses. He had been called in 1948 and had not accepted. He declined again.



Seymour Lofthus  
Canby Home Bakery

In 1952, Seymour baked a "masterpiece" for the wedding of Marion Hove at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Canby. Using church blueprints to make the cake, it was three feet long and two feet wide at the bottom of the "L", 18 inches to

the peak of the roof and 22 inches to the top of the steeple. The cake weighed about 60 pounds and about 20 pounds of frosting were put on. The hardest part of the job was making the windows - 167 of them.

Pastor Trelstad served us as interim pastor from October 1952 until February 1953 when Pastor Nels S. Magelssen came from Glendive Montana. His salary was \$5,000 annually plus parsonage, utilities and moving expenses. Pastor Magelssen had the distinction of having his grandfather serve one of the first congregations founded in Minnesota. In Fillmore county, in 1869, Rev. Kristian Magelssen was called to a fifteen year old congregation. His son joined him in 1909 as assistant pastor and continued as senior pastor until 1949. This family served as pastors in the Southern Minnesota district for a combined total of 107 years. A fourth generation member of this family, James, was ordained in OSL Church in 1971. Envelope numbers instead of names will be published with the giving amount in 1953. We began the radio ministry at 10 A.M. over 1400 KMHL, Marshall, on the first Sunday in March. The broadcast is a distinct service to the sick and shut-ins who so often feel out of contact with the church. The Sunday bulletins are mailed to them on Friday, making it possible for them to follow the service. The radio ministry has been a help in making effective contact with the unchurched and to recall members who have dropped out of active church life. We feel it has increased attendance.



From Mrs. Lyslo's story: "Pastor Magelssen was opposed to serving at the fair on Sunday. All the workers promised to go to church for the 10 o'clock service so he agreed. When the service ended everyone rushed to the fairgrounds to be first to get into the building. Someone opened the doors and soon the tables were filled with people looking at the empty kitchen. The food was still in the church and the cooks had to bring all the food - which took awhile. We learned a lesson - WE DO NOT OPEN THE DOORS UNTIL THE FOOD IS READY TO BE SERVED-. The following year the fair started on Monday." (Take note of the ceiling in the fair building. I remember seeing it on the ceiling of the church.)

The membership was 1681 in January 1954 with 375 in Sunday School and 39 teachers. The teachers met once a month. The hiring of an interne was now a part of the regular church program. His office was in the bell tower and the pastor's office was in the first room off the ramp entrance (No ramp at that time). The secretary's office was next to the pastor's office and what is now the main floor handicapped restroom was a storage closet with shelves. A loan of \$75,000 had been taken with Lutheran Brotherhood @ 4% interest payable in June and December for 20 years. There were 150 bonds of \$500 each to pay off by 1970.

It was resolved that Our Saviour's Lutheran Church cooperate with other congregations of the LacQuiParle Circuit in the sponsorship of a new home mission congregation in the Bloomington area of Minneapolis and to this OSL lent its support in the amount of \$15,000. We took out a second mortgage @ 5% interest and paid \$99 per month on this for 20 years. This is Christ the King Church. There was hail damage to the church in 1954. The District Luther League Convention was held here in October. Couple's Club and Men's Brotherhood were active groups as was Ladies' Aid. The Lutheran Daughters of Reformation disbanded.

In 1956 new altar cloths were purchased, the sound system was rebuilt, air conditioning was put in the offices, flood lights in the tower were planned, a stretcher was secured and there was a vote on location of ELCA headquarters-Mpls. or Chicago. OSL voted 100% for Minneapolis. Attendance in Sunday School is 402 while there were 203 in Vacation Bible School.

In 1957 our operating budget was \$50,000 and the mission budget was \$15,000. Improvements were: painting hallways and other rooms, adding new hymnals, getting coat hangars, projector for Sunday School, rectifiers for organ, tower room finished so it can be used as a Sunday School room, sound room finished, fix church lawn, get storage building on church property to use for equipment and supplies, new folding chairs for overflow room and a new mimeograph.

In 1958, the debt is at \$40,000. There are 42 confirmands and the Leaguers are planning to go to Missola, Montana next summer. The vote for summer worship time was 275 for 9AM and 291 for 10 AM. Dr. Conrad Eastwold was a medical missionary to the Sudan. He was sponsored on a 50/50 sharing basis with Hope Lutheran in Minneota. Fifty inactive members were cut from the membership resulting in a decline to 1864.

Pledges in '56, '57 and '58 were part of an every member canvas. The Sunday School turned over \$1,104.63 to the general fund in 1958. The Ole Skorseth house at 105 4th Street West was given to the church to be used as a parsonage. Plans were made to repair and remodel it at a cost not to exceed \$9,000. The new stained glass windows in the nave, transepts and under the balcony were dedicated on May 17, 1958. The chancel windows were dedicated in 1948; the center one given by Pastor Hove, the left window given in memory of Rev. Olaf Hoel and the right window given in memory of Rev. I.H.Hinderaker. The theme of this set of windows is "CHRIST, THE KING". Pastor Magelssen is to be credited for the selection of the remaining windows. He said that the colored windows in his church received his full attention when he was a little boy.

#### The Nave:

THE CREATION --"In the beginning God..."  
 THE FALL --"All have sinned"  
 THE DELUGE --"I will remember My Covenant"  
 ABRAHAM --"In Thy seed"  
 EGYPT --"Ye shall be My people"  
 THE LAW --"Written with the finger of God"  
 THE PSALMS --"Sing unto the Lord"  
 THE PROPHETS --"Wounded for our transgressions"  
 THE PRESENTATION --"They brought Him to the Lord"  
 THE CHILD JESUS --"I must be about my Father's business"  
 THE BAPTISM OF JESUS --"Thou art My Beloved Son"  
 THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT --"Blessed are they..."  
 CHRIST BLESSING LITTLE CHILDREN --"Suffer the little children to come unto me"  
 THE MIRACLES --"Faith hath saved thee"  
 THE PARABLES --"The Good Shepherd giveth His life"  
 PALM SUNDAY --"Hosanna in the Highest"

Windows given in memory of:

James Hegg  
 J.P.Christianson  
 Mrs. Frank Braucher  
 Eric Gjovig  
 Pfc. Herman O. Gorum  
 Pvt. Barton Grondahl  
 Mr.& Mrs.M.S. and  
 Lloyd Nelson  
 in honor of:

Vernald & Waldemar  
 Hagebak families  
 The above windows are on the EAST side  
 The windows listed below are on the WEST  
 in memory of:

Mrs. Agnes Lueders  
 Mrs. G.O. Miller  
 Chris O. Olson

#### The Transepts:

THE LAST SUPPER --"This do in remembrance of Me"  
 GETHSEMANE --"Not my will, but Thine"  
 THE CRUCIFIXION --"It is finished"  
 EASTER --"He is Risen"  
 ASCENSION --"Go ye...make disciples..baptizing..teaching"  
 PENTECOST --"Ye shall receive..the Holy Spirit"

Mrs Carl A. Victoria,  
 C.Walter,& Carl Young Jr  
 and Donald Nelson  
 in honor of:  
 Mr&Mrs Richard A Olson  
 Mr&Mrs Louis Rottum  
 Men's Lutheran Brotherhood

#### Under the Balcony:

THE 95 THESIS --"October 31, 1517"  
 LUTHER'S SEAL --"The World Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone"  
 THE OPEN BIBLE --"The Just shall live by Faith"

Under the Balcony in memory of:  
 Donald Anderson  
 Mrs Conrad Peterson  
 Mrs Carl J Saltee

In the Narthex the windows showing the First English and St. Stephen's are given in memory of Clarence Erickson. The balcony windows - THE NATIVITY - were installed at a later date.

The red hymnals and balcony carpet came in 1959 and the church was painted.

In the spring of 1960 the school was bursting at the seams with the consolidation so the spring kindergarten class was held in the kindergarten SS room on the second floor. In the fall three classrooms were in OSL and two in the Presbyterian Church and four country school houses were on the front lawn of the high school. The \$5,000 from the public school's rental was given to the John Knox Home for the Mentally Retarded. In 1960 the confirmation class had 31 members, the mission budget was \$16,500 while the operating budget was \$33,500.

On the national level on April 22, 1960 the uniting of the American Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the United Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Free Church into the AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH found two church bodies in Canby which were a part of the same synod. On Pentecost Sunday a celebration was held with the re-enactment of the Ceremony of Joining Hands. The Canby Area Choir composed of Our Saviour's, Florida, Porter and Zacchaeus sang "The Lord is a Mighty God". Ephesians 4:5-6 "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, one Father of us all, who is the one over all, the one working through all and the one living in all" was the theme verse.

This year, 1998, 50 years since the beginning of OSL; the German heritage of OSL had its beginnings 100 years ago.

During January 1898, Rev C Wannemacher canvassed the Canby and Marietta areas under the auspices of the Minnesota District Mission Committee of the former Ohio Synod. His survey indicated that there were enough families in the area interested in having German Lutheran Services. On January 23, he conducted the first service. After several months of successful services he recommended to the Mission Committee that a man be placed in the immediate vicinity.

In June 1898, fresh from the seminary came Rev O Just to organize Zacchaeus Lutheran Church. Seven families were charter members of this church body. At first this group held church services in private homes or the town hall. They commenced the erection of a new home for worship, the corner stone being laid with ceremony on Sept 11. The building was finished the following year and impressive services of dedication held on July 2, 1899. Rev Just was replaced in Nov 1902 by Rev Wm Schmidt. He first served as a theological student and later as an ordained minister. Church membership boasted 45 families. The first parsonage was erected in 1905. Rev G Bents was the first full time resident pastor in June 1905. The following is a literal translation from German of the first meeting of the Zacchaeus Ladies Aid: "On October the first 1913, we came together for the first time by Pastor G Benz, because of the Ladies Aid. The names are: Mrs. Ufkin, Mrs. Berndt, Mrs. Hansen, Mrs. Volbrecht, Mrs. Jake Miller and Mrs. Hinrichs. Then we made out when we like to have the first Ladies Aid. Then we made out of October the 30, 1913. Their names were: Mrs. Fred Berndt, Mrs. Wm Ufkin, Mrs. Fred Vollbrecht, Mrs. Richard Mennen, Mrs. C Mennen, Mrs. Nels Hansen, Mrs. Gust Engel, Mrs. Winter,

Mrs. Jake Miller, Mrs. Busse, Mrs. Fred Meyen, Mrs. Herman Wolff, Mrs. Fred Reiners, Mrs. Emil Erick, Mrs. Gottlieb Hinderer, and Mrs. Henry Hinrichs.

The first year the meetings were held at the home of Rev. Bents. Total balance at end of year was \$24.70.

After the first year they met at the church. In later years the Ladies Aid greatly increased the scope of their activities by joining the Women's Missionary Federation of the American Lutheran Church and during the following years rendered many worthwhile accomplishments to the congregation, to Missions, as well as to other charitable institutions.

A new church was erected at a cost of \$5,000 in 1914 at the corner of 6th and Haarfager N. Rev. Wm Kolble came in 1923 at which time a Sunday School was started.

He was compelled to resign in 1925 due to ill health. Rev. Wm Hennig was pastor from September 21, 1925 until 1944.

There was a large increase in membership, many improvements were made inside the church, a new envelope system was introduced, a new garage was built and new sidewalks were made. The most outstanding achievement was the new Wicks Pipe Organ purchased in 1940 at a cost of \$2,300.

While Rev. Otto Kruger was here from June 1944 to June 1945 the church joined the Pension Fund.

From July 1, 1945 until 1958 the Rev. William Mohr served the parish of Zacchaeus Lutheran. The entire church basement was remodeled, rearranged and redecorated and an oil burning furnace was installed at a cost of \$2,500 with much of the labor donated. A new parsonage was built and dedicated on November 19, 1950 at a cost of \$14,000. The church together with the Ladies' Aid and the Women's Missionary Federation helped support Miss Gertrude Knetter, missionary to India during these years.

The Rev. Dr. Lowell Green came in December 1958 and left in April 1962 at the time of the merger with Our Saviour's.

A resolution favoring the merger was passed unanimously at the joint meeting of the two councils. The legal notice was read to both congregations for four Sundays (Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18). A vote was taken at Lenten services on March 21, 1962. Approval by 84% of OSL and 68% of Zacchaeus satisfied the 2/3 majority. Rev. Dr. Lowell Green and Rev. N.S. Magelssen left their respective pastorates. Arthur Berthelsen, intern, was left in charge until the interim pastor, Rev. E.G. Stolen came in May.





The dedication of the new congregation took place June 10, 1962 with a membership of 2,165. Dr. L.J. Monson was the president and the newly formed boards have members of each former congregation on them. Church times and Sunday School times were in turmoil for awhile. Summer services were at 8 and 10. The seminary informed us there would be no more interns provided. The twelve districts were changed to ten districts for 1963. We were in the Redwood Conference. Our first call for a pastor was declined. On September 10, Pastor Reynold Tange from Luck, Wisconsin was installed. The organists were Delores Peterson and Viola Laabs. It was decided that the deacons would visit all new members in their respective districts and bring them their offering envelopes. The congregation will participate in the Prayer of the Church in the Lutheran Book of Worship. The bread, during communion, will be put in the communicant's hand instead of into the mouth. The interim pastor helped Pastor Tange for a time until things got settled and Pastor Wesley Haugen came in January 1963. The office situation was not compatible for two pastors so they moved into the two Sunday School rooms off the overflow room. (see floor plan)

In 1963, Pella doors were installed for dividing the Sunday School rooms in the dining room at a cost of \$8,797. The ALCW had paid the telephone and Visitor postage bills up to this time. The Lutheran Standard Magazine will be put in every home by the church. Two Lenten services will be held; Good Friday worship at 10:30 AM and Easter Sunday at 6:30 and 10. The offering was changed to be given after the sermon. Church attendance cards were used during Lent and studied and tabulated. A two month notice is required for weddings. On May 23, 1963 the deacons passed a policy that pregnant brides should have a private wedding in the chapel. Evening Bible studies were well received and another series of 6 is planned for January. OSL is involved in the CROP program. OSL Men's Club meets. The ALCW has 650 members; 142 of them over 65. Seventy-five choir gowns have been ordered. In January '63 there are 2152 baptized members, 1461 confirmed members, 42 confirmands and 1026 is the average attendance. The Oak Hamilton piano was bought for \$575.

In 1964 we had two Lenten services at 6:30 and 8PM. Pastor Tange is concerned about the 400 who did not commune last year. After letters had been sent, 40 attended communion. Time and talent sheets were put into use as well as cards to report people who are ill. Family Life Conference and Lutheran Educational Aid Fund are organized as well as a Seminary Fund. Donations for the Alaskan Earthquake were collected. The organ from the Zacchaeus Church was sold.

1964: Hallways were painted; sidewalk put in back of church; dictation machine bought; too much going on to have a Harvest Festival; Senior Citizen's Club from the community was organized; combination blackboards & bulletin boards were put into Sunday School rooms for \$10 each; the Allen Organ was purchased for the chapel; guest speakers receive \$.07 a mile.

1965: The 5th anniversary of the American Lutheran Church was celebrated by commemorating the merger of OSL and Zacchaeus with the dedication of a bronze plaque and a lighted window of Zacchaeus in the narthex. Articles added to the OSL cornerstone contents were Martin Luther's translation of the Bible; a songbook and Luther's small catechism in the German language; Oct. 4, 1914 issue of the official church paper of the American Lutheran Church published in Columbus, Ohio; Oct. 1, 1914 issue of a St. Paul-Minneapolis daily paper in the German language; Oct. 2, 1914 issue of the "Canby News"; 1963-'64-'65 church directories containing information on the progress and work of the new congregation in its early years of existence; a service book and hymnal; April 20, 1965 issue of "The Lutheran Standard" giving recognition to the fifth anniversary of the American Lutheran Church. (From the May 2, 1965 celebration bulletin) The Zacchaeus church was sold to the Assembly of God Church for \$5,000. PTR (Preaching, Teaching, Reaching) Mission was scheduled as well as a Family Life Program with Dr. Armin Grams and a Lay School of Theology with Bethel of Porter and the Presbyterian Church. Marshall and Canby will exchange pulpits in a Total Mission Sunday. Dewain Englund asked for consideration for the Man Power Program at the vocational school. Adhesive strips were put on steps to prevent slipping; a new turntable was ordered for use in the Tower; Ray Coequet was paid \$45 for use of parking lot; desk chair tops ordered for overflow room; funds which had been held for The Retarded Children's Home were released for the Day Activity Center. A paper jogger was purchased; budget is \$81,183 (world missions for \$26,262 included); "How Great Thou Art" placed in hymnal in honor of the wedding anniversary of a parish couple; End of 1965: 2126 baptized 1549 confirmed members.

1966: Changes were made in the constitution at Nov. trustee meeting. The "Bethel Series" was put into place after much planning. Wednesday night was designated as "Church Night" in the Canby community. A Mission Fest is planned for April. The deacons visited their respective districts as to the need for a visitation pastor. Plans are being considered for changes in the chancel, chapel and balcony as to wall and floor finishes and AC in office. The pews in chapel will be painted. The west sink was moved in the kitchen and new counter top was installed. (In 1961 the kitchen was remodeled and equipment bought). A typing table was bought as well as a new mimeograph and the cracks in the outside steps are repaired. We will sponsor Pastor Dessen as missionary to Africa. A sewer line was put in at the fair building and the parking lot in back of the church was blacktopped. Pastor Haugen resigned and a call committee was established to call an Assistant--not Associate Pastor. Pastor Andrew Jensen was called in September 1966 as Minister of Education and Youth. The youth used the Fireside Room as the Recreation Room was occupied by the Day Activity Center.

We thank Lee Ruth for the following information: The Canby DAC came into being due to research done by Dr. Robert Olson and a great community interest in serving the mentally handicapped. The not for profit organization was incorporated in April of 1966, with Dr. Olson, Rev. Reynold Tange and Orvis Anderson being the incorporators. The Agency was licensed under the Dept. of Public Welfare to serve up to 10 mentally handicapped children

from the ages of four through eighteen years. The term of instruction was to coincide with the public school, and was in session from 9 to 2 each day.

The Agency began in the basement of Our Saviour's Church in April of 1966, with Hazel Abel as Director and Leola Ruth as Assistant. There were eight clients enrolled in the program. Two years later, when Mrs. Abel moved from the community, Mrs. Ruth became Director and the Agency moved to the 2nd floor of the church where it was in operation for seven more years.

"The children attending ranged in age from two (for a limited time) to fifteen years of age. Teaching or training for mentally handicapped in such a facility was a new concept and there were only a few DACs in the state, however, Minnesota was a leader in the field. Except for observations of other DACs and a few state sponsored workshops there was little training for leadership. The staff was challenged to use their own ingenuity.

New doors were opened for the children. With the local newspaper publicizing the DAC activities, the families and public displayed a new pride and respect for the handicapped. The philosophy at that time was "Happiness first and all else follows". Later the philosophy developed into a work ethic."

1967: The Cry Room or Mother's Room was not used much so it was used to store Board of Ed materials. The kindergarten and primary rooms will be decorated for \$500; light green paint went into the offices; the former maroon dossal curtain was replaced with ivory; we committed to support the Student Religious Center at SW State in Marshall; by-laws were initiated concerning inactive members; a three-year instructional program for confirmation was adopted and the rec room later became known as the learning center as the kids progressed through the program at their own pace using tapes, film strips, references, etc. The 1967 records convey the timeless concern of the pastors of having the congregation stay for the entire communion service. After the bread and wine is instituted the portion of liturgy which follows is a necessary part of the worship.

This "new" church building is constantly undergoing change and improvement. In 1968 the furnishing of the chapel is progressing rapidly; mostly funded with gifts and memorials. Estimates are out for building a ramp. During Jan and Feb there was one service at 10 AM. James Magelssen, son of a former pastor, was given financial help for his '68-'69 year at the seminary. Ushers will no longer "usher out" at the end of service. OSF pastors will minister temporarily at Florida Lutheran.

1969: Family communion during Holy Week; Lenten Drama for services at 6:30 and 7:45 PM; Two morning services starting the 2nd Sunday in Feb; Congregational meetings have been on the 2nd Sunday in Dec and continued in Jan-changed in 1969; Mileage is \$.085 a mile.

1970: Mileage allowed is \$.10; Hoover vacuum purchased; church used by school for music contest; Flowers for ushers are replaced by usher bars to wear in the pocket; Only one or two people assist communion at this time; Ramp plan for west side of church chosen; A suggestion presented for communion in the chapel to accommodate those unable to attend Sunday service.

1970(con't): Plan for mid-week services in Advent, a Laymen Sunday in Oct and a Harvest Festival Dinner; A letter was sent to those who had not participated in Holy Communion in 1969; Pastor Andy Jensen left and Pastor Dan Thurmer came and was thrust into a trip to New York to the Nat'l Youth Convention with 35 kids he did not know plus 5 adult chaperones. He did a commendable job. A very pregnant Mary Ann Thurmer was left home in a strange town. Our indebtedness was paid off on the \$75,000 borrowed from Lutheran Brotherhood @ 4% for 20 years.

1971: Budget is \$95,731--1762 baptized and 1354 confirmed souls. The centennial was celebrated as the first church of this body was founded in 1871. Ten circles are active; 24 funerals took place; women made 80 half-gal cartons of soap, 92 quilts, packed activity kits, children's clothing and bandages; twenty men were remembered in Viet Nam with packages; Senior Citizen's (community) met 2nd Wed of month in Fireside Room; the church was approved for a Civil Defense Fall-out Shelter; furnace was converted to #2 fuel; supplemental electric heat installed in offices; ramp completed and painted; Young Couples Club organized; Youth groups such as confirmation, Sunday school, vacation Bible school, YIPS, ACE, Young Christians in Action, Luther League, youth services, nursery roll; The Sparks of Life, organized by Al Reesnes, was a very involved youth group in music ministry. James Magelssen, son of former Pastor and Mrs. N.S. Magelssen, was ordained on July 4, 1971. Dr. Monson was chairman of the Improvement Committee. Repainting, carpeting, remodel overflow room, landscaping, sidewalk and step repair and replacement, carpeting the nave aisles and chancel, primary room renovation, basement changes and air conditioning are under consideration.

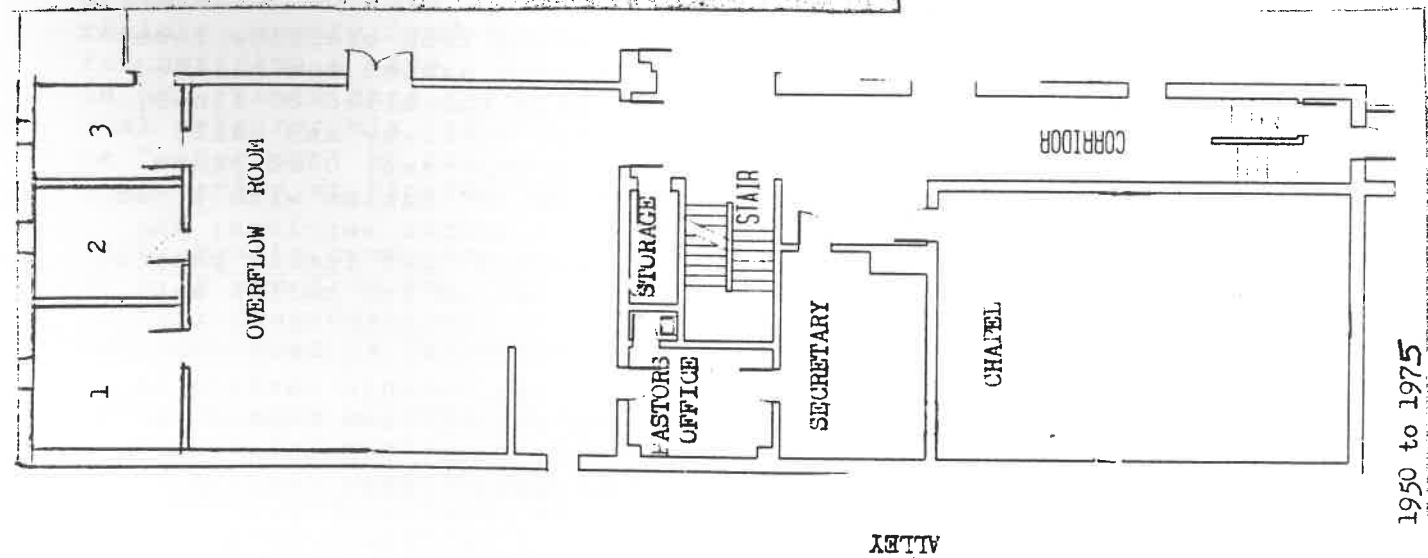
	Yes	Against
Vote on Air Conditioning .....	9.....	244
Carpet nave-aisles.....	134.....	120
Remodel overflow room.....	28.....	215
First communion in grade 5.....	280.....	84

A government wage freeze in effect; Ladies' Aid Bazaar in spring; Ruby Evanson resigned as organist, Delores Peterson will play for both services; Midweek summer services-share with Presbyterians if they wish; Advent worship mid-week at 7:30PM.

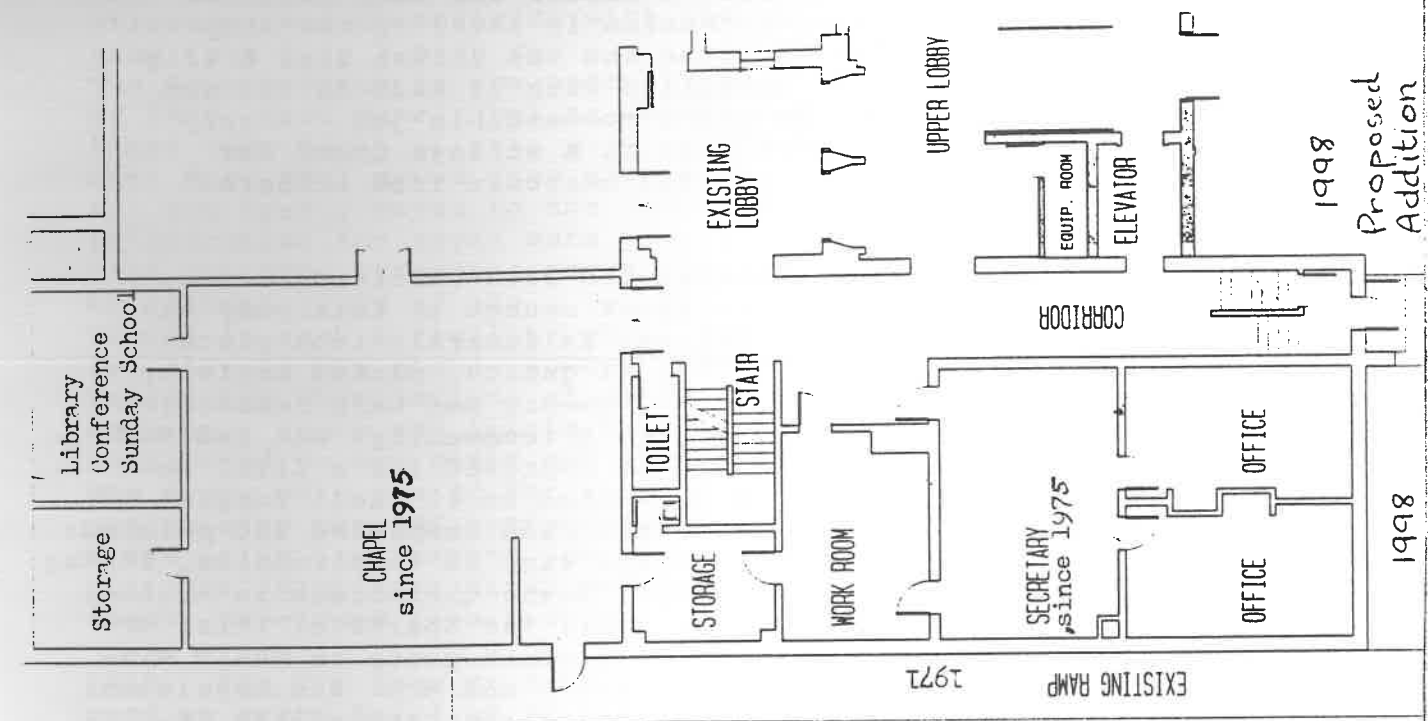
1972: Budget \$90,543; Folding doors were moved from overflow room to primary SS room; Dividers in men's room were sanded and painted at Body Shop-new asphalt tile and ceramic tile installed on floor; Carpet ordered; New lighting in primary room, stairway and hall; First communion for eleven year olds who are baptized; Used piano bought for choir for \$475; Voted to buy 8 new 96" tables with linen finish tops for \$38.50 including S&H; Midweek summer services; The Fund Appeal for Lutheran Social Services for \$30 per family passed; Potluck dinner before '72 annual meeting, recessed for coffee and continued on January 14, 1973.

1973: Glenna Myers was first woman deacon; One worship service in summer; One Lenten service; upstairs Sunday School room rented to Preschool; Paneling and wallpaper in Fireside Room; Discontinued pledge cards; Budget for '73 was \$96,052; Pastor Tange left Aug 1, 1973.

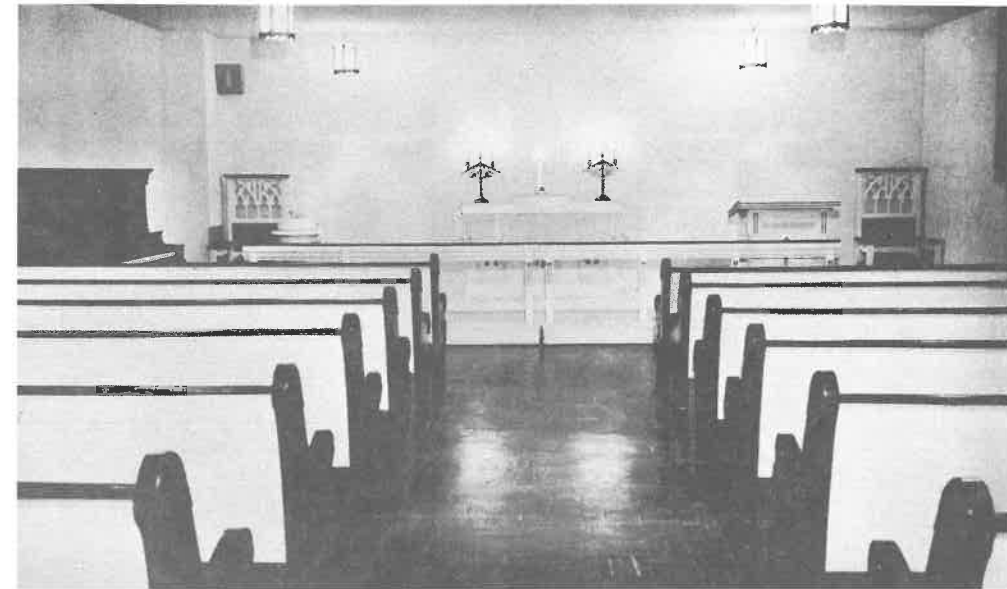




- 1 Sunday School Room until 1962 or 3
- 2 Sunday School Room until 1962 or 3
- 1 Pastor's office 1963 - 1974 or 5
- 2 Pastor's office 1963 - 1974 or 5
- 3 Cry Room or Mother's Room 1950 - 1969



## CHAPEL



CHAPEL  
IN 1951

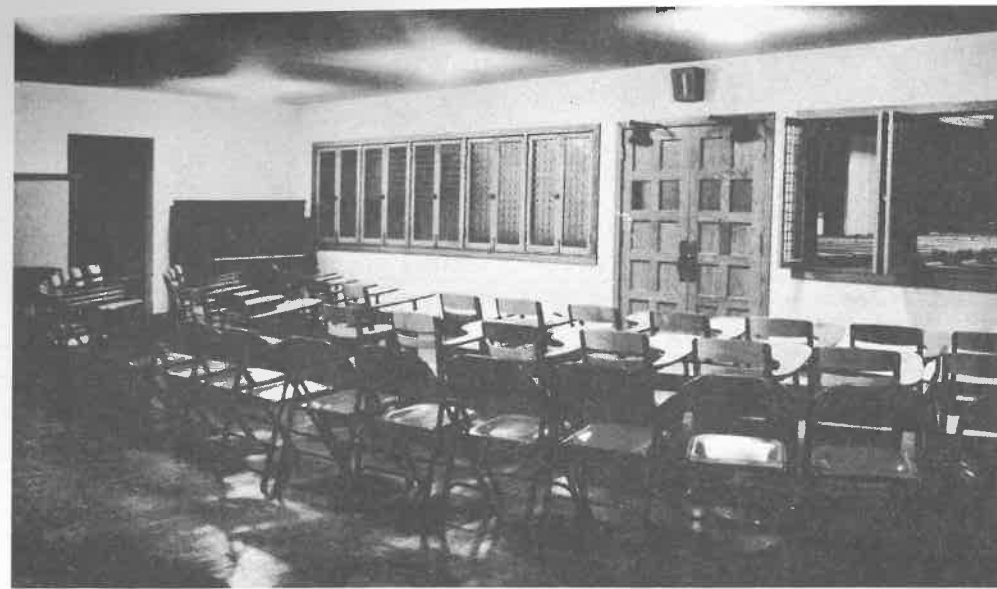


CHAPEL  
IN 1968

## CHAPEL CONVERTED TO OFFICES



"OVERFLOW" ROOM



IN 1971



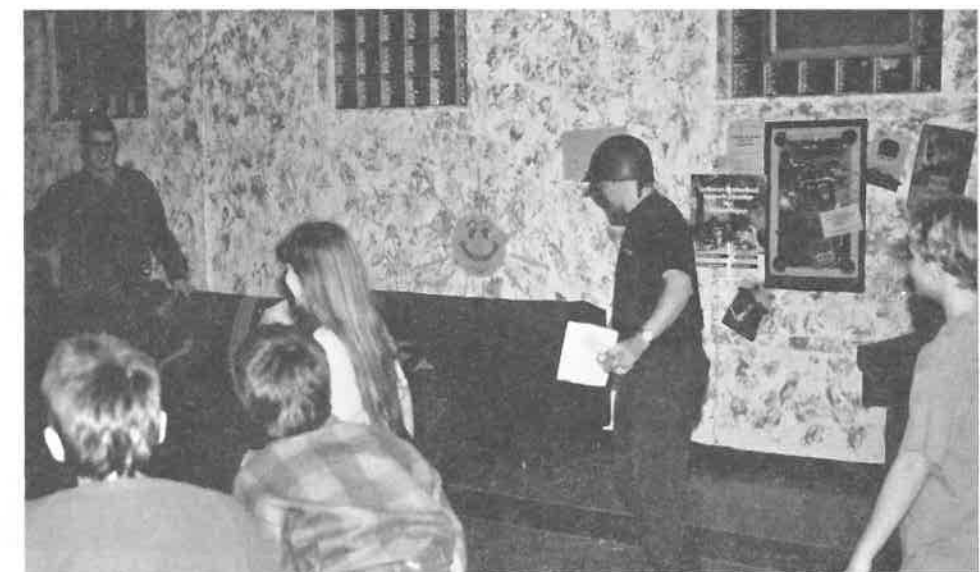
RECREATION ROOM



OVERFLOW ROOM  
CONVERTED TO  
CHAPEL  
IN '74 & '75



CONFIRMATION  
AND  
LEARNING CENTER







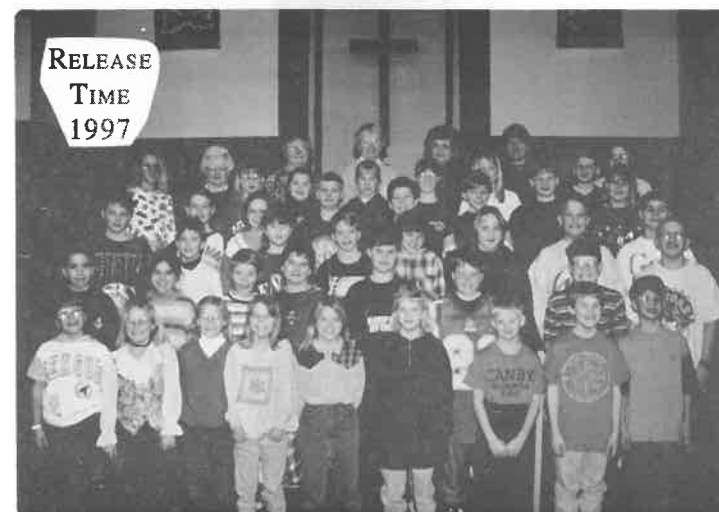
HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT 1951



CHILDREN'S  
SERMON 1971  
(LEFT)



CHILDREN'S  
SERMON 1997  
(RIGHT)



RELEASE  
TIME  
1997



R.E.M.  
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
(late 70's  
to present)

Pastor Thurmer resigned June 1973 due to a condition in his letter of call that if the senior pastor left he also had to resign; Pastor Earl Dreyer's first service was October 28, 1973; Sold the parsonage at 508 Haarfager North to Pastor Dreyer for \$23,100 @7% interest, \$2,000 down on a 20 year loan; Budget for '73 was \$96,052.

1974: Budget \$103,874 Three deacons will assist at each communion service; Sound system serviced with work in basement \$1,026; Rev. Ose is our sponsored missionary; No communion on Ash Wednesday as the next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month; Lois Thomas is first woman trustee; Pastor George Megard called in June; Congregational meeting to sell parsonage with terms as of Dec meeting  
make constitutional revisions.....187 yes....3 no  
remodel chapel into offices.....171 yes....6 no  
remodel overflow into chapel & family room.128 yes...57 no

1975: Computerized water softener; Weight Watchers rent church for \$20 each night; Borrow \$2800 to pay for remodeling; Budget \$109,678; Radio broadcast costs \$27.50 - will be raised to \$33 on July 1  
New locks on doors-only 5 keys-organist, janitor, secretary, 2 pastors

1976: Discontinued sending "Lutheran Standard" to each home; Trouble with sound system; Steps fixed at corner of 2nd and Haarfager; Recommend ushers have high school students help; ALCW will make their own decision if they wish flowers at worship service; Heater installed in swell box of organ to prevent temperature extremes; Hand rail on east entrance; New step on side entrance; Tiny Neighbors classes in church; Pastor Megard wants to buy a home so bids were let-auction-bids again to sell the parsonage at 105 4th Street West-Dr. Greg Dvorak bought it for \$32,000; All the interest and half the note for office remodeling was paid (\$14,000 plus \$200); The 1955 mortgage note for \$15,000 for Christ the King Church in Bloomington was paid off. The stained glass windows from the chapel will be utilized in shadow boxes with lights. Youth to National Convention in New Orleans.

'77 Cupboards built for tablecloths next to dining room doorway; Paint dining room walls and stairway and main hallway by church office; Windows refinished and fixed by D.Kamrath-upstairs still in bad shape; \$3,474 remodeling to Chuck Houge; March 13, 1977-ELCA voted to accept women into clergy so constitution needs to change masculine pronouns and nouns to neutral-passed overwhelmingly; Round robin Lenten services; Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are identical services; Radio broadcast is now \$50 but it still remains self supporting from gifts.

1978: Budget is \$128,728; Overhauled PA system; Fix fountain by office; Ceiling plug-ins in the Learning Center; New pulpit mike; Replacement cost of church is \$1,249,160 plus \$50,000 contents; St. Stephen's Cemetery Fund changed to OSL Cemetery Fund; Crack discovered in arch in front of church; Pastor Megard resigned in March; Pastor Eldon Thurow called in June.

1979: Budget is \$141,472; Dialogue Lenten services; voted to support a refugee family; Trustees to check on cement and redwood to fix front steps; Green Lutheran Book of Worship put into place; voted to use familiar creed, not the one in the LBW. Youth to National Convention in Kansas City.

1979 (con't): Flower boxes added to outdoor calendar; New cassette player and new speakers for chimes; Install heater in nursery; Pastor Ose is ill--We will sponsor Karen Holms in the mission field; Plan to move the altar away from the wall on a temporary basis so the minister can stand behind it and face the congregation; ALCW has bazaar in the spring.

1980: Budget is \$191,261 which includes cost of shingling main church; Cost to insulate ductwork is \$1,000; Discussion of how to handle inactive members; Constitution revised--annual meeting changed to 4th Sunday in January, terms of officers are two years instead of three and can serve two terms, any expenditure over \$2,500 needs congregational approval; Al Reesnes went to Bell Choir Clinic; Memorials will go into a special fund--not General Fund; Baseboard installed in Fireside Room; buy two basement humidifiers for pianos; Place repair of front steps on '81 budget; Sold cemetery property to Henry Doom; Deed for Florida cemetery signed; Recommend sponsorship of Mr and Mrs Wayne Nelson from Madison, WI as missionaries to Cameroun; Refugee family is becoming independent; Roof on educational wing needs fixing; Addressograph bought for \$802 with undesignated memorials; Reinvest 6 month CD @ 9.14% When the Florida Church closed the people disbursed to congregations of their choice--not a merger.

1981: Trustee's minutes read "Gabled roof over educational wing not feasible"; Flat roof was insulated and replaced by Rick's Roofing for \$14,160; Ceiling fans in nave for \$2,417; Basement access for handicapped was addressed; Urinal and vent problems in Men's room; Out of town members placed on responsibility list; Redistricting is presented; Stewardship committee planned; Fix-up/repair committee formed; San Antonio trip planned for youth; Day Camp instead of Vacation Bible School; Radio Broadcast is \$67.81.

1982: Consultant to study handicapped accessibility; New radio in radio room donated; New calculator; March-renew money market certificate from sale of Florida Church \$26,000 for 6 months @13.5% the interest and principal to cemetery care; Purchase new push type lawn mower for cemeteries; Dennis DeGrote checked the heating system, thermostats, etc.--operating OK; June-paint outside of fair building, women paint interior; Sec'y is now Sec'y-Bookkeeper; Lanny Knutson sponsored by OSL in seminary; Plan Pew Sheets to identify one another; District Visiting Committees formed; Nov. insulate ceiling- 2 layers 3 1/2 inches thick at right angles to each other with tongue in groove #3 type knotted cedar decking over that to bring the insulation factor to R-28, presently at R-5

1983: New ceiling and insulation in main church cost \$18,360 acoustics are fine-significant savings in heating expense; Visitor pads discontinued; January '83 Pastor Paul Andree installed; services at 8 & 10; Purchased new riding mower for \$1350; Fire-proof safe purchased from Hardies for \$30; Kitchen back door replaced; Resource Center established; New copy machine paid for by the ALCW; Restrooms made handicapped accessible in basement and on the main floor--cost \$1454; Stewardship Committee changed title to Committee for Long Range Planning & Utilization of Resources and Talents; 1983 Budget \$178,477.

1984: Each radio broadcast is now \$80. Gifts were \$862 short of the cost. Congregation voted to continue with radio ministry. This enables all shut-ins and anyone unable to attend church to share with us the gospel message; Deacons' program of District Care People overlapped with ALCW District Visiting Chm; Missionaries Nelson resigned--Rev. Daniel & Mrs. Lynn Henderson will be sponsored; Head usher requested two pews moved to back of church; Purchased Olivetti typewriter and new folding machine; Secretary wages are \$4.50 per hour--need someone Sat AM @ \$3.50. Shelves built for bells; Approved sound mixer system for \$548; Changes to be made in the Confirmation program; Replace roof ridge caps; September--Church Accessibility Sunday; Concern for outside steps--cover with quarry tile or outdoor carpeting.

1985: Plan to provide communion on the lower level.....95 yes...189 no  
In June bought parking lot across the street--\$4,460....257 yes...64 no  
(\$2,919 used from House account)

Raise to ministers and secretary of \$500.....defeated  
September-Handicap Awareness Sunday--communion on lower level approved  
194 yes...162 no

Microfilming at Wartburg discussed; VCR and camera donated; The roof is leaking and still under warranty--organ pipes damaged; Bought weed eater, vacuum cleaner, wet-dry vacuum cleaner, bath-room door fixed, mirror by ramp door, windows being repaired, take out water fountain in dining room for aesthetic reasons and cap the water line in case we ever want to tap it again.

1986: Annual meeting- Professional study of elevator.73 yes..66 no  
Increase Dreyer salary \$900-Andree \$600.....62 yes..87 no  
New confirmation program adopted; Letters sent to inactive members; "Lutheran Standard" sent to all council members; Sink and hot water heater for sacristy installed; Furnace cleaned and running well; Garden Food Pantry produced 10,000 pounds of food--Meredith Maynard donated potato seed-Dr. Myers donated seeds-Marion Oellien donated the tilling-Mrs. Alfred Graner donated the land; Purchased dumpster; Word Processor acquired; Council voted to not have a congregational picnic; Passover Meal in '85 & '86; Pastor Dreyer's last service on September 7; Call extended to Pastor Myron Grams on November 9; Forty blue choir gowns given as a gift; ALCW Bazaar in the fall; Catherine Halstenson first woman on the executive board; Kids Who Care actively practiced caring by raising \$400 to help others.

1987: Merger at synod level to ELCA .....143 yes.....102 no....  
Increase World Mission giving to \$14,175.....90 yes.....81 no....  
One service...130 two services...126 Maybe a Saturday night  
Communion served on both levels in Feb & Mar--favorable comments;  
Discontinue church garden; Use a short prayer before offering; Use bulletin covers designed by youth or adults; Worship Committee formed in Feb; Cordless hearing aids purchased as a memorial; Piano moved up to level 1 in balcony; New sign in St. Paul's cemetery; Bell tables bought; Community Thanksgiving service at 7:30 PM; Re-decorate Ladies' restroom; Dining Room extensively redecorated with paint, wainscoating and wallpaper; Informational meeting after church the Sunday before annual meeting to familiarize congregation with issues being considered.



1988: Vote to return to two services.....128 yes...110 no  
Elevator-construction proceed when 90% money is raised  
Council to assist in communion; 97 yes...139 no  
Inactive list of members addressed; Invite Presbyterians for Thanks-  
giving Eve; Discussion of which creed to use; Policy regarding use  
of handbells; Landscape plan developed by Dar Snortum; MISSIONARY  
FOR A DAY project to begin in 1989 with a posted calendar to buy  
a day for \$10; Discussed Scott Peterson's church in Alabama; Snow-  
blower purchased for \$1305 minus \$205 trade-in; Air Conditioner  
installed-a \$25,000 gift from a parishioner; Paint for chapel and  
hallways; WELCA's cash gift to the budget this year was \$2553.

1989: Voted on Apostles' Creed (word Catholic).20 (word Christian).74  
Voted one service...137 Two....50 --- 9AM...104 10AM...54  
Voted to not send out annual reports by mail to members; Fellow-  
ship of Christian Athletes active; Advent coin folders for mission-  
ary sponsorship; Letters go to inactive members; Parents allowed to  
choose to baptize during church or otherwise; Offer choir gowns  
to Messiah Lutheran in Alabama-Scott Peterson to preach here July 16;  
Purchased candelabra from Snortum's Flowers; Wheelchair purchased  
for \$50; Continue discussing upkeep of Bell Tower, eaves, new out-  
side doors;; repair of bell rope so the bell can be rung again,  
automatic lights in tower, reglaze and repaint windows.

1990: Lenten coin folders for missionary sponsorship; Head Start  
Graduation May 17-fee \$75; Plan to "Adopt a Highway"; Christian  
Women may use nursery during meeting; Paint church doors; Fix ramp  
steps; Altar Paraments committee (new ones are being made); Start  
a carpet fund; \$2,000 to wire fair building; Make church announce-  
ments after the first hymn in case we are late getting on the air;  
Contact Courtney Ramlo for video equipment-committee working on  
starting video ministry.

1991: Youth are concerned we do not use the creed as printed in  
the LBW -decided we would honor their concern; Motion carried to  
have bell rung before church; Communion servers will be served  
communion first; Continue to use real light for eternal light in-  
stead of electric; Handicap sign in back of church for REM for  
Sunday School; Cut off some front pews for wheel chair use; Ex-  
haust fan in fair kitchen; Use money from House Account to remove  
the 40 year old fuel tank from the ground; Will go to natural gas  
with LP as back-up. On one of the coldest days of the winter when  
natural gas cut off its supply on the overload program, the back-  
up malfunctioned. It was very cold in the sanctuary for the fun-  
eral that day!!; WELCA paid \$3,000 to Wm Dumke for painting the  
sanctuary and \$1,100 to missionary sponsorship besides the many  
gifts they regularly give to the ministry of the less fortunate;  
A new furnace burner was purchased; Expenses for 1991-\$204,117.

1992: Continue with afternoon advent services as they were successful;  
Shingling of roof cost \$20,000; New oven units are gift from estate;  
Report on alternative worship; Repair of ceiling in nave to be done;  
Video committee has 22 people-in debt for materials-In February be-  
gan Sunday broadcast on TV channel 8 at 10:30; Moved radio broad-  
cast money to Memorial account; Expenses paid out 1992-\$207,826.

1993: Budget is \$189,946; Redistricting is finished and presented  
as 8 districts; Purchased a funeral pall; Give children's Bibles  
to families having a baptism in addition to white blankets;  
Coffee money from summer to be used for new candlelighters/extin-  
guishers-were later given as a memorial; Foundation established  
for \$20,000--\$6,000 In ELC Mutual Fund and \$14,000 in T. Rowe  
Price Balanced Fund where it earned at 11.5% interest during '93.

1994: Budget \$195,553 Actual debits \$172,025 of which \$22,193 was  
spent on World Missions; Dedication of Messiah Lutheran in Alabama  
whom we have been sponsoring-congratulations and gift sent with Dr.  
Myers-Jerry is a member of Messiah and the pastor, Scott Peterson,  
was baptized in OSL; The cost of an elevator is \$30,000-the council  
wants it 100% funded before construction; Long range planning com-  
mittee proposes: refinish doors, window repair, wheelchair access  
through curb in front of church(street to sidewalk) back steps,  
front steps sealed, men's restroom, new roof over educational wing  
in 3 to 5 years, raise balcony railing to meet code for \$2500; WELCA  
put vertical blinds in social hall - cost \$1623; Pastor Andree left  
in July; Pastor Grams implemented home communion by lay persons to  
the homebound to relieve his load. A prayer group began meeting at  
8:30 am on Mondays in the library. Continuous communion on Easter Sunday.

1995: Use of lay person cantor is implemented to enhance our wor-  
ship; Supplemental hymnbook "With One Voice" is used by choir;  
Plastic holders for Visitor & Communion cards have been put on  
the pews-a gift in memorium; The roof on the educational wing was  
resurfaced by Four Seasons Roofing from Tyler for \$6,500; The 3rd  
annual auction netted \$1,093 plus \$700 from AAL; David Maas began  
his work as youth director in January; Deacons made contact with  
college students to let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers;  
Landscape plan from '88 was finished as an Eagle Scout project by  
Jake Olsen with the help of Snortums' Nursery, funds raised by Jake  
as well as donations and memorials; Worship committee introduced the  
singing benediction, "Go Now In Peace" to be used by congregation  
on non-communion Sundays.

1996: January 28-Annual meeting-Voting age changed to "those who  
are confirmed"; Foundation reported \$1,000 to be used for supple-  
mental hymnals and homebound communion sets, \$500 scholarship, \$500  
donation to Our Saviour's Lutheran in Mpls which was destroyed by  
fire; Selected "The Other Songbook" for alternate hymnal(\$800 from  
Foundation-\$500 coffee money-\$113 Carol Choir Fund); Gilbert Bliss  
made the communion boxes to use for home communion; New wallpaper  
and vertical blinds in the Fireside Room cost \$1250, paid by WELCA  
and memorials; A gift of artificial Christmas trees for the chancel;  
March '96 changed to EXCEL phone service; Thanksgiving Eve worship  
again shared with Presbyterians-offering to World Hunger; New member  
Sunday for all who joined church during year-entire congregation in-  
vited; Chapel communion continues at 1:30 on the Wed. afternoon fol-  
lowing the first Sunday in the month; Computer bought from Gateway;  
New copy machine; Need to ask the congregation to remain in the pews  
until the candles have been extinguished after worship; Purchased  
pew cushions for first ten rows; Calculator purchased for financial  
secretary; Agape singers led worship in April; The Sunday School  
purchased an outdoor life-size nativity scene; January-first meeting  
of core committee interested in developing a plan for handicap access.

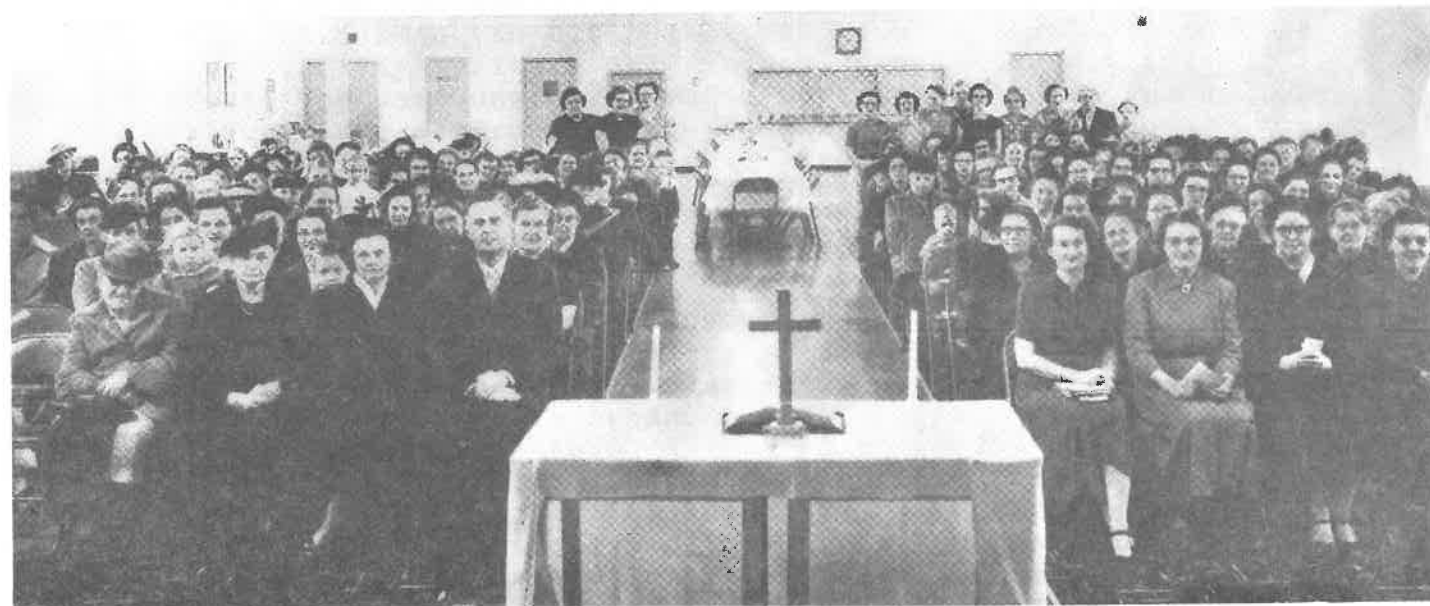
From February to September the committee reviewed past committee plans (plans were drawn in 1987 and again in 1992 but were voted down), researched options, discussed needs and concerns with members of congregation. Sept 9 the Church Council officially recognized the Building Committee as a special committee of the church. Oct 10-Committee reviewed, adjusted and accepted plans as they were presented by Group II Architects. Drawings will now be presented to congregation for approval; A Retirement party took place in Sept for Pastor Myron and Florence Grams as they left for a long overdue rest at their lake home; A call committee of eleven was chosen. Pastor Cy Solberg filled the position of interim pastor. It was the Winter of Ice and Big Snows of 1996-7 as he and Betty Jo traveled from Tyler to minister to our congregation. The lengthy interim lasted until the end of March 1998 when Pastor Ron and Pastor Janet Warnes, a clergy couple were installed; Our thanks to the diligent call committee who functioned for 18 months before our call was answered; Amount spent 1996-\$182,773 of which \$19,155 was for missions. Negotiations ongoing all year to get direct cable hookup on TV 9. The Kermit Olsen apartment building on the corner by the church collapsed under the weight of snow and the church opened its doors for food for the workers and quilts for the displaced.

1997: Budget \$188,024 of which missions is \$21,895; Service of Reconciliation and Healing was so well received it is planned for next year but at a better time; voted to support University Church of Epiphany in St. Cloud as a mission church; In January '97, A. Anderson, Montevideo, spoke to the congregation about their elevator project. Their only regret is not extending it to all floors. At Jan. annual meeting the details of project were discussed. Project expected to cost \$303,120. Motion to approve construction design was passed by 2/3 majority. Motion to begin construction as soon as possible was passed. April -review of drawings by city and local sub-contractors. May 22-only two general contractors bid on the project. Lowest bid was Sussner @ \$354,000. June-Congregation approved new figure. After a festive groundbreaking ceremony we learned we needed to read the legal details of the loan for 4 weeks prior to voting.-state law--. Approval to secure loan and begin construction was voted down by 14 votes. Costs have escalated by now. In Sept, architect Jerry Lindberg, introduced the idea of using a construction manager and be our own general contractor. This will save us sales tax. In October the hail storm did extensive damage to the roof on the educational wing. In November Jeri Zuber and Associates of Glenwood, MN found our situation to be workable. The church council approved hiring the Zuber group for initial bidding phase. Reading of legal description for land and mortgage began on the first Sunday in January '98. It has been noted that 20% of our members are inactive. It took 6 months but the Men's Room has been completely redone at a cost of \$4900 paid by WELCA. Some of the plumbing labor was donated as well as the painting. New plumbing was put in the walls to insure against a leak in the near future; Dave Maas left in May; Elan Hacker replaced him as youth director; New furnace/AC in office complex; \$177,094 actual expense for 1997 of which \$10,874 was for MISSIONS. 1997, the year of the spring floods-OSL with the entire community sent manpower as well as supplies to Granite, Monte, Moorhead, etc.

The annual church auction was held. In the past the proceeds have been used for computer, roof fund, fuel fund and building/remodeling, etc; Fund raisers for the building/remodeling have been initiated by many groups: Quilt Show with Pie Day & Yard Sale, Pancake Supper, Garage Sales, Pampered Chef Benefit, '96 Christmas Tour of Homes, Tina & Lena Show by two gals who grew up in this church; The Mission Action ladies spend hours each year making from 220 to 275 quilts as well as health kits, school kits, layettes, sewing kits, and soap to share with the less fortunate.

1998 Budget: \$190,326 of which \$15,245 is earmarked for missions; Jan 25 '98 Annual meeting-Pastor Solberg read from Jeremiah 31:7-14 "We are not fulfilling our purpose unless we are sharing our faith with one another." What better way to do that than to work with fellow parishoners on church projects. Vote on change of worship time: 147 for 9AM 49 for 10AM; Change to a smaller council was defeated; Absentee voting was approved; Motion to secure a loan not to exceed \$275,000 for building project was defeated by 12 votes-138 Yes and 90 No; Motion carried to have a building committee appointed and authorized to explore other possibilities to provide handicap access and prevent further deterioration of the entrance steps; Each time we change the plans it costs more and inflation continues. Hail damage insurance on the educational wing is received. Zuber plans a new slanting roof with a rubber membrane, will make the addition over the front steps smaller thus cutting costs by needing lighter weight trusses, and using less expensive materials for walls resulting in needing a loan of up to \$225,000. May 3, 1998 the vote was 199 Yes and 31 No. The architect and construction managers will get the bids firmed up immediately; On March 29, Pastor Ron and Pastor Janet Warnes were installed in the ministry of OSL. On Good Friday we experienced a moving drama of the crucifixion. In May the annual Mother-Daughter Party prepared and served by the men was enjoyed; WELCA paid for new kitchen faucets; April-new sound system with the controls moved to the balcony; May-WELCA put a new automatic coffee maker in the kitchen(\$2,000) WELCA operates with district chairmen who are responsible for serving after funerals, calling for food and workers for funerals, fair, bazaar and special events; visiting chairmen who visit and send cards to sick, shut-ins, & anyone having a special day; the activity committee who serve for any special event; an altar group who set up communion, clean up after, dust altar areas, care for candles, for acolyte robes, paraments and banners; the charities committee pack quilts and clothing for missions and collects stamps and soup labels; the fair committee is responsible for the organization of the food stand; the card committee has cards available, the profit to do the work of WELCA; the bazaar a money-making project for WELCA; the kitchen committee keeps things in order there; the banner com. makes the banners; history keeps records; library organizes the books for us; office assistants help put together publications; window committee does the windows; tablecloth committee takes care of them; mother-daughter committee arranges that activity; and many more things going on behind the scenes too numerous to begin to list but we are so thankful for the people who give of their time and talents so generously to keep the church going forward to minister to one another in the immediate community as well as world-wide. The church building is worth 1.9 million dollars. Sunday School-202 teachers-25.





WMF THE LADIES AID 1950



ALCW  
1975

1998 PRAYER GROUP



WELCA QUILTING



#### THE ORGAN

When the church was built, the organ console was located in the left transept in the space where the pews are short. That transept became known as the choir loft.

In 1966, the organ maintenance program revealed that over the years the organ's electrical system was deteriorating from age and usage. It was built during a time when the pipe organ with electric action was as new as the telephone or car. The pipes were located out of sight. The speakers located on both sides of the upper chancel wall were too small. The organ was buried in the chambers in such a way that only 50% of the organ was heard. The chancel does not project the sound out into the Nave. The two chambers will never be exactly the same temperature because they are on separate sides of the chancel; therefore, the two divisions (Great and Swell) will never be in tune with each other. The pipe work of the organ is rather out-of-date by contemporary tonal standards and the sound is dull, thick and inarticulate. The organ lacks clarity, brilliance and support for congregational singing. If left in place, it would necessitate the removal of the acoustical tile on the ceiling of the chancel, and the elimination of at least one of the present organ chambers; the greater percentage of the pipes of the enlarged organ being visible and exposed in the chancel area. The chancel cannot project sound unless the carpeting is removed along with the dossal curtain. Any exposed pipe is an attention-getter and will draw the eye away from the altar, cross and minister. The sound would still not be get-out into the Nave.

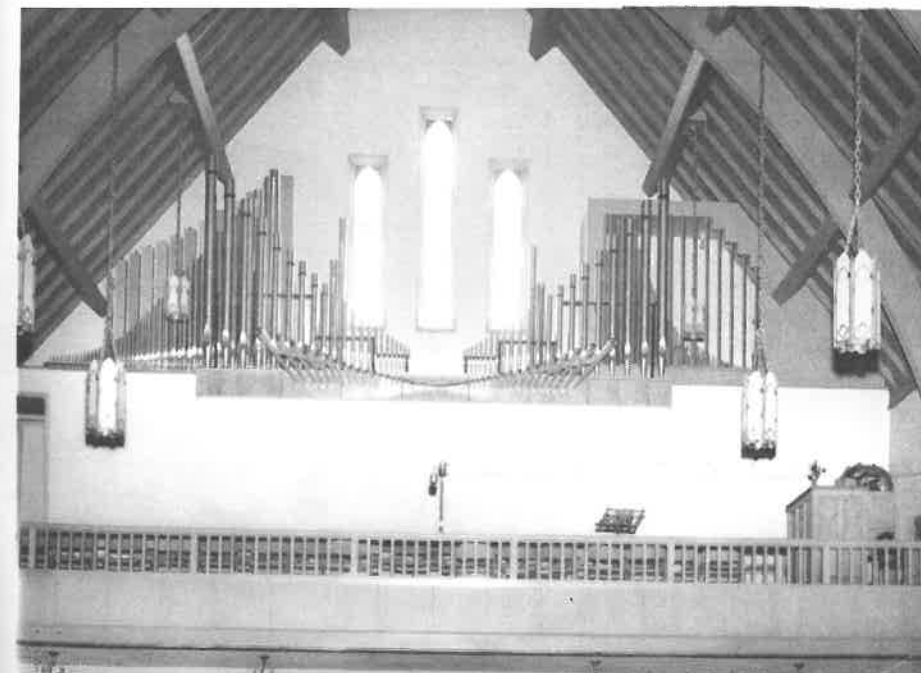
Lance Johnson of Johnson Organ Co. in Fargo was contracted to move the organ to the balcony. Parts of the Page organ were used and new ranks were added and exposed. The Great organ has a Principal chorus of eight foot pitch through the more brilliant mixture which is the most characteristic sound of the modern classic church organ. Its pipes along with some pedal pipes are exposed and not installed in a chamber so their tones can be heard at their utmost clarity without masking the tones. The traditional Swell division is placed in an expression box and with the aid of expression shades, the accompaniment stops can be shaded for different volume levels. The added Trumpet En Chamade (Trumpet horizontal), the crown of glory for the whole organ, is a carry over from the cathedral state trumpets of the English cathedrals. With the organ pipes in the back of the congregation and on a high elevation, their majestic tones will sound forth with unimpeded projection to aid in the worship service. The balcony was remodeled to support the console. A wall, to create an area for the workings of the organ and blower box, was erected in back which decreased the size of the balcony. Temperature and humidity have been monitored over the years as improvements were made to maintain the quality of this beautiful addition to our worship service.

It cost \$10,555 to move and rebuild the organ. On May 15, 1968, an organ dedication recital was given by Kathryn Ulvilden Moen, daughter-in-law of Mabel Moen, former organist of St. Stephen's. The balcony was later designed in a semi-circle for the choir. I include this lengthy collection of information because many of us never knew all the factors which culminated in the move of the organ and choir to the balcony.



DEDICATION SERVICE 1951

INTERIOR OF CHURCH





## MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

Singing has always been an integral part of the Lutheran Church's worship. Early church records tell of the "klokker" (song leader) whose duty it was, before the advent of the organ, to lead the hymn singing. He also conducted the opening and closing prayers. Previous to 1914, a small organ augmented by a piano, was used at St. Paul's. In 1919 the pipe organ was purchased.

Mrs. Anna Evanson Tweed has a letter in the files where she relates that in 1903 a group of girls (age 12) came to her requesting that they sing in a choir. Out of that grew a choir which sang for many years in the St. Stephen's Church. A pipe organ was purchased in 1929.

All the churches had a capella choirs who shared their talents with neighboring congregations as well as participating in competitions. The churches had youth choirs as well as adult choirs. Our Saviour's had a Carol Choir, a Junior choir, a Senior choir, as well as small groups over the years. The Sparks, a group of nine youth, were invited to sing at the National Youth Convention in San Antonio in 1971. The "Seven Last Words" was presented annually on Good Friday as far back as the early '50's. Sometimes soloists came from a distance to complete the necessary personnel. For many years we were able to sing it with local talent. Perhaps the last presentation was in the late '70's. One year Delores Peterson broke her wrist only days before Good Friday and Sonja Reesnes did the difficult accompaniment for "The Seven Last Words". Handel's "Messiah" was presented as a community endeavor in December '74 and in 1978. An orchestra from the Dawson-Canby area accompanied the chorus. There have always been Christmas Cantatas, Thanksgiving Cantatas, and Easter's "Hallelujah Chorus".

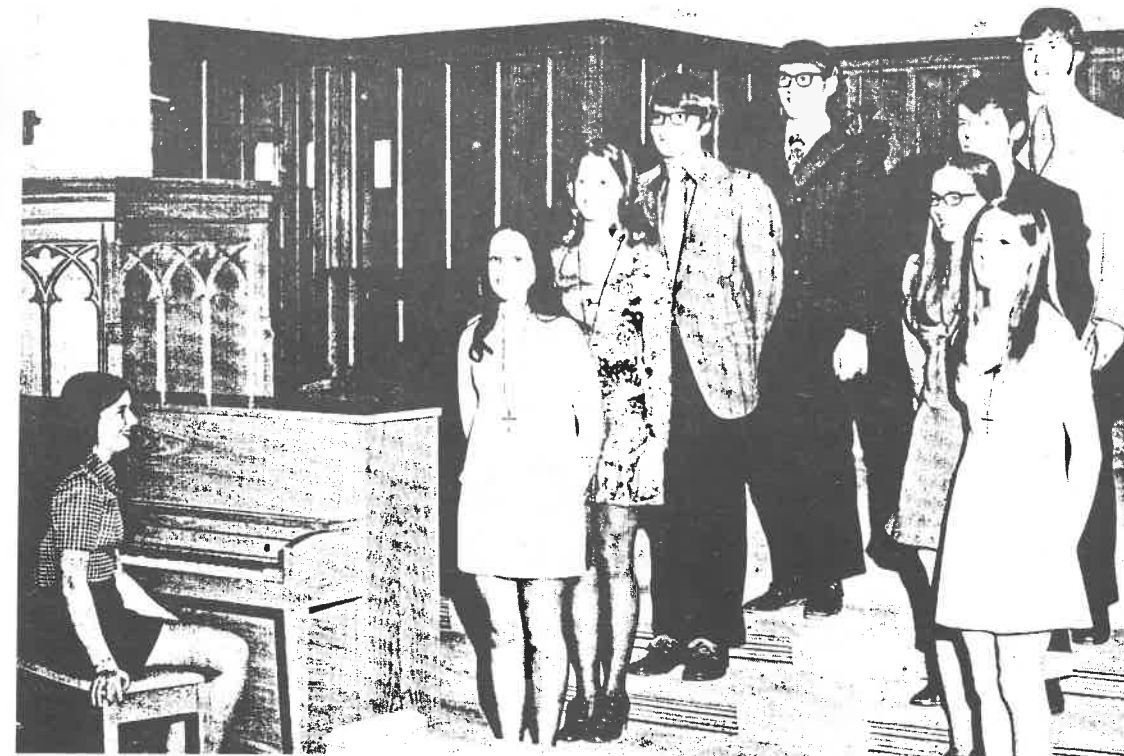
In the school year '76-'77 Mr. Reesnes organized a group of youth from community churches who shared a worship service called "Tell It Like It Is". It was presented at area churches on Sunday evenings. In 1980 Al Reesnes, the director of church music since 1959, attended a handbell clinic. An inmemoriam gift had been given to purchase handbells. In 1982, there were ten members in the Handbell Choir who presented a concert with a guest handbell choir. A youth handbell choir was organized in the '80's. The group has had from nine to fifteen members. We have five octaves of bells.

The first contemporary worship was on Rally Day in September '92. The Sunday we have "Sonshine" worship there is always a crowd with many visitors. We are so blessed to have such talent within our congregation. At present there are three guitars, drums, the keyboard, piano, and seven vocalists. This group usually leads worship on the second Sunday of the month. In 1994 a synthesizer was purchased as Rhonda Andree had played her own keyboard for "Sonshine" when she was here. The synthesizer has proven to be a versatile instrument in church music.

Much time and effort is spent by individuals who prepare music for our worship service and also by those who plan the music to fit the scripture for the day. We tend to think that the only thing these talented people have to do is open their mouths or sit down with an instrument and it happens; but there is a commitment to practice. We are deeply indebted to them as they spend Wednesday nights and/or Saturdays at practice.

Psalms 150: 3 & 6 Praise God with trumpets and all kinds of harps;  
Let every living creature praise the Lord!

## YOUTH



Left group: Steve Snortum, Mike Husby, Jan Olson, Karen Quenroe  
Right group: Colin Mosier, Paul Christensen, Ann Thorson, Jennifer Olson.  
At the piano: Karen Jacobson.

"THE SPARKS OF LIFE", a singing group from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Canby, Minnesota, sing songs of the good news of Jesus Christ. They were organized under the direction and leadership of Alfred Reesnes and Rev. Daniel Thurmer in November of 1971. They sing to inspire worship and praise of Jesus Christ at churches, schools, conventions, banquets, etc. Their goal is to be a "spark" in life that ignites through song - the love, the joy, the power, and the witness of Jesus Christ - who was born to set men free and to renew people through His revolutionary love that transforms lives. It is their prayer that this record will be an on-going ministry to its listeners which will continue to ignite sparks of life, love and faith in Him. Praise Him!





HANDBELLS







1951

#### JUNIOR CHOIR

Front row (left to right): Douglas Gorder, Ruth Salhus, Marian Hegg, Diane Anderson, Lucille Ewing, Diane Hoseck, Mary Hanson, Marilyn Yackley, Janice Hegg, Myrna Peterson, Walter Meyen. Second row: Phyllis Ochs, David Friedrichs, Morris Koch, Bjorn Monson, Wendell Yackley, Karl Salhus, Sherwood Knutson, Michael Meyen, Dennis Lund, Kay Hagebak, Linda Thronson, Janet Knutson. Third row: Juanita Jants, Dorothy Polesky, Nancy Hagebak, Linda Melrose, Sharon Anderson, Sandra Amundson, LaDonna Pries, Sharon Schuver, Janet Nelson, Diane Peterson, Anita Martinson, Mrs. O. H. Hove, director. Fourth row: Constance Lueders, Joan Knutson, Sharon Ottinger, Ronald Peterson, Keith Goettsch, Larry Fliss, Argil Larson, Diane Peterson, Stefani Monson, LeAnn Kragness, Darlene Ewing. Back row: Sharon Iverson, LuAnn Plinski, Carole Hensch, Kathryn Ottinger, Delores Shackelton, Mimi Fliss, Neva Wollum, Virginia Hagebak, Hildur Thronson, Ruth Paulson, Zona Larson, Sharon Blankenfeld.



1971



1983

CAROL CHOIR—(front row) Brad Haugen, Denise Schentzel, Heather Westphal, Sonja Zimmerman, Elaine Maas, Lynn Ramlo, Bethy Richter, Beret Fluttum; (second row) Scott Larson, Jason Houtman, Karen Wollum, Rodney Thurov, Valorie Richter, Terri Paulson; (third row) Mike Armitage, David Jeremiason, Brent Swanson, Brian Schmidt, Kelly Hansen, Jill Larson, Amy Nordseth, Rhonda Gentz; (back row) Don Norlin-director, Tammy Jesme-accompanist, John Houge, Paul Hansen, Jann Ramlo, Shawna Eilers, Amy Adkins.



1951

#### SENIOR CHOIR

Front row (left to right): Janice Cole, Suzanne Livingston, Lavonne Bockes, Carol Peterson, Barbara Schuver, Marie Rein, Maxine Gorder, Alona Thovson, Beverly Christianson. Second row: Torrence Carlson, Director; Lao Mohn, Patsy Ochendorf, Mrs. Olga Snortum, Jeanette Larson, Mrs. Ella Pries, Mrs. Thekla Bardahl, Mrs. Edith Bockes, Sandra Enga, Mrs. Ruth Carlson, Stella Leisure, Mrs. Delores Peterson. Third row: Mrs. Erma Poulson, Julene Killen, Louise Nelson, Mrs. Lorraine Grondahl, Mrs. Ilene Jacobson, Mrs. Leona Mohn, Mrs. Arleen Christianson, Marvel Drengson, Sharon Hustad, Lavonne Lindberg, Sharon Nelson, Mrs. Ann Lortie. Fourth row: Mrs. Florence Drengson, Mary DeBettignies, Ronald Kragness, Dallas Fliss, Norman Fliss, Wally Lyslo, Paul Nelson, Vernon Jacobson, Joel Christianson, Mrs. Marilyn Nichols, Marilyn Gudmundson. Fifth row: Norman Peterson, Dennis Peterson, Randolph Peterson, Roy Grondahl, Bjarne Grong, Henry Peterson, Willie Peterson, John Snortum, Darold Snortum, Wendell Snortum. Not present: Carol Dysvick, Iona Mathison, Eva Dysvick, Marlys Killen, Stanley Hanson, Douglas Sherlin, Mrs. Laura Hanson.



1971



#### ZACCHAEUS, 1958

Back: Jim Winters, Clarence Benck, Clarence Hacker, Reynold Swenson, D. Sillman. Middle: Charles Wolff, Allen Swenson, Diane Hansen, Janice Winters, Viola Tesch. Front: Elvera Dumke, Hazel Hansen, Ione Benck, Mary Swenson, Betty Swenson, Rosalind Swenson.



1998



1982

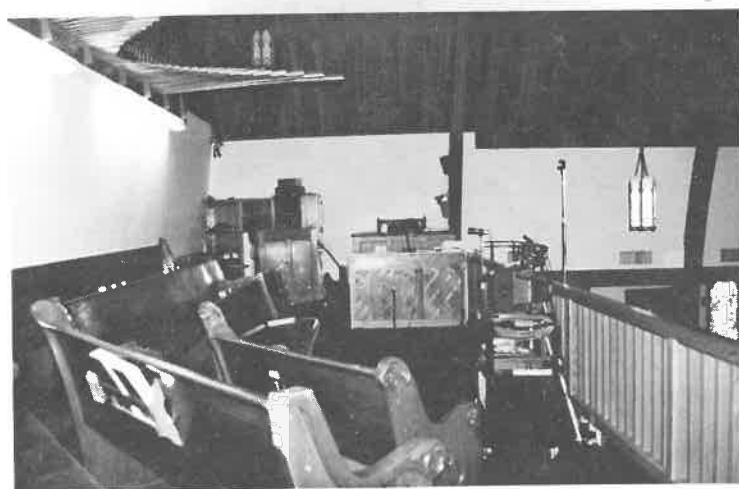
SENIOR CHOIR—(front row) Olga Snortum, Verlene Jacobson, Sue Hanson, Karen Ostroot, Marry Dreyer, June Norlin, Delores Peterson, Norma Bockes, Al Reesnes-director; (second row) Carol Kopperud, Audrey Christensen, Lorraine Grondahl, Ilene Jacobson, Irene Madsen, Bunny Reesnes, Helen Schultz, Margaret Olsen, Lue Eddy, Doris Myers, Ione Thorson; (third row) Mike Dreyer, Dewain Englund, Lester Bockes, Don Norlin, Phil Reesnes, Paul Houge, Dennis Richter, Florence Drengson; (back row) Wendell Snortum, Dar Snortum, Roy Grondahl, Harry Olsen, Earl Thorson, Roger Ostroot, Cal Christensen.



MEMORIAL  
GARDENS



1983  
CEILING IN  
NAVE



BALCONY - TV AND RADIO EQUIPMENT, 1998

My parents joined Our Saviour's in May of 1949 during one of the First Anniversary banquets. All of my life I remember my Dad telling the story of building the church. He worked with the concrete for Hasslen Construction. When the finishing work was completed and the clean-up was in progress and the scaffolding was ready to come down Dad felt the cross needed to be polished. So he climbed up the steeple and put a finishing gleam on the cross one last time. As it points heavenward it reminds me and my children of the place my Dad had in building this church. Told by Laurie Thorston

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When the new Our Saviour's Lutheran was nearing completion it was noted that the bell from St. Stephen's should be used as the tone was to our liking. The "experts" said it couldn't be done--too much work, too difficult, too heavy. The story as we have "heard it" goes like this. Three (or more) men just decided to do it anyway. To the best of our knowledge, the three men were Frank Braucher, Ed Dysvick and J P Christianson. They climbed to the belfry and by means of ropes, pulleys and muscles, they let the bell down. Then the bell was installed in the OSL belfry. We assume the bell from First English was then placed in the belfry at St. Stephen's.

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The culmination of confirmation studies was always a public questioning. This was a very intense emotional struggle for the confirmands and sometimes embarrassing. Each individual was presented about three questions from the study book. One did not know in advance what those questions would be. In 1952 the most knowledgeable kid in the class got stage fright and couldn't answer the questions. Public questioning in OSL became a thing of the past.

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Interns:		Anniversary Committee:	
		†	
Judeen Johnson	1952-53	†	Darold and Olga Snortum
Marshall Moen	1953-54	†	Ilene Jacobson
Bruce Boyce	1954-55	†	Ed and Ruby Evanson
Carl Lucky, Jr.	1955-56	†	Clarence and Phyllis Saltee
Elwood Skarpness	1956-57	†	Gilbert and Arlyn Bliss
Jorgan Vaage	1957-58	†	Bennie and Irene Madsen
Oscar Stene	1958-59	†	Wendell Snortum
Rolf Heng	1959-60	†	Juli Wornson
Luther Tolo	1960-61	†	Lorraine Grondahl
Art Berthelsen	1961-62	†	Helen Schultz



February 27, 1998

Ruth and I were very pleased to receive our letter inviting us to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. How good it is to look back in gratitude for events in our lives that have been so valuable. I will be willing to participate in any way you may choose. I jokingly told Ruth that I would do anything except sing a solo.

When Ruth and I came on the scene it was still another big event in your history of the joining together with another congregation the Zacchaeus Lutheran Church. I remember so well visiting in the homes of both congregations and rejoicing over the wonderful way you entered into that new fellowship. There was a beautiful spirit of acceptance on the part of both Congregations.

I remember with appreciation the good emphasis on Music at Our Saviour's Lutheran. The Senior Choir directed by Al Reesnes and the Junior Choir directed by Don Norlin added so much to our worship experience.

A major improvement in the church was the moving of the Organ to the balcony from the chancel area. Singing on the part of people toward the rear of the church was much improved because they had the support of the Organ.

There were often comments about a Dane serving as Pastor of a congregation composed primarily of Norwegians and Germans. That was all in good humor of course, and you made me feel very much at home.

Ruth and I look back to our years in Canby as a very special time in our lives. We want to say a warm thank you to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church for a time of shared faith and so many good times together.

May God Bless you with a wonderful future!  
Reynold and Ruth Tange and family

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March 9, 1998

Since receiving the invitation to the 50th Anniversary Celebration a week or so ago, our thoughts have traveled often to Canby. We lived there only three short years, but our memories are rich and still kindle the heart with warmth and affection.

Mary Ann and I are scheduled for another activity over that weekend in Illinois, but we have changed all of that and look forward to joining you for the occasion of your 50th. It has been so long since we have taken the opportunity to visit Canby.

Per your request, certainly if there is a role of some sort to play in the overall scheme of activities, we would do whatever fits the need.

Thank you for the invitation. We look forward to joining you. Until then, may God bless your planning.

Dan and Mary Ann Thurmer



12 W. Marshall Street, P.O. Box 730 • Rice Lake, Wisconsin 54868-0730 • Phone: (715) 234-3373  
LutherLink: NW SYNOD WI Internet: nw\_synod\_wi.parti@ecunet.org

March 14, 1998

Darold and Olga Snortum  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
108 Haarfager Avenue North  
Canby, MN 56220

Dear Darold and Olga:

Thank you very much for the invitation that I received for the Anniversary Celebration on June 27 and 28. I would very much like to be there. There are a couple of things that we need to work out as a family. Those days do fall during my vacation, which makes it very timely. However, we had tentatively planned to be in Montana, visiting my wife's sister and her family during that time. So, we need to figure that out, and I'll let you know for sure, later on.

Your letter said that former pastors and interns should let you know about attendance, so they could participate in some way. I was not a former pastor or intern, but my father was pastor there from 1953-1962. After my graduation from seminary, my ordination service was held at Our Saviour's, on July 4, 1971. If I am able to attend, I would be honored to be included in the festivities, in whatever way you think appropriate.

My memories of Canby and Our Saviour's are great ones. I was in second grade when we moved to Canby. I had finished my junior year in high school when we moved to New Ulm. In many ways, I still think of Canby as my hometown.

I have been a pastor in northern Wisconsin for 27 years. For the past couple of years, I have been serving as Assistant to the Bishop in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Sharon and I have two children. Krissy is 18, and will graduate from high school in June. Scott is 23, is married, and is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota.

If you have a time line that I need to honor, please let me know, so I can respond accordingly.

In Christ,

Jim Magelssen

P.S. Please note That your letter went to my old address. My new home address is:  
2231 Spring Creek Drive  
Rice Lake, WI 54868

REV. ROBERT D. BERG •	REV. JAMES M. MAGELSSSEN •	REV. CARMALA ADERMAN •	SANDRA SIMONSON THUMS
Bishop	Assistant to the Bishop	Assistant to the Bishop	Shared Ministry Specialist, Synod/ILDR
LutherLink: ROBERT BERG	JIM MAGELSSSEN	CARMALA ADERMAN	SANDRA SIMONSON THUMS
Internet: robert_berg.parti@ecunet.org	jim_magelssen.parti@ecunet.org	carmala_aderman.parti@ecunet.org	sandra_simonson_thums.parti@ecunet.org



Dear Friends,  
My wife and I have fond memories of my year in Canby from Sept '60 to Aug '61. We offer our congratulations on your Church Anniversary. We regret that we will be unable to attend.

I was single during my intern year. Kay, my fiancée at the time, stayed with the Maas family when she visited.

Our high school youth attended the National Youth Convention in Miami, Florida. We raised and sold 3 acres of potatoes on the Larson farm to raise money for the trip. I enjoyed singing in the Senior Choir under the leadership of Al Reesnes. Also sang in the Community Men's Chorus and a quartet of Reesnes, Norlin, Carlson & myself.

I remember we had eight sets of twins in the church Sunday School. I served with Pastor Nils Magelssen as my senior pastor. I believe his son Jim was a Junior in high school that year.

Following Seminary graduation and ordination, my wife and I lived in Grove City and Hancock, MN. In 1970 we moved to California where I served churches in Los Angeles and Ventura before my retirement from parish ministry.

We have four children, all grown, and two grandchildren. We have been married 35 years.

Please say hello to all those who remember us. I have purposely not mentioned many family names because I felt so close to so many of you and wouldn't want to forget some of you who were closest to me. Thank you for your faithfulness to your God and your church. May God bless you as you celebrate God's faithfulness to you.

Sincerely in Christ  
Luther and Kay Tolo

Seeing double is a common affliction in Our Saviour's Lutheran Sunday School what with four sets of twins in the classes for four and five year olds.

The facsimiles are, from left to right, Linda and Laurie Holmlund, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Holmlund; Bonnie and Connie Stein, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Stein; Patricia and Pamela Nelson, daughters of Dr. and Mrs. D. T. Nelson, and Mark and Michael Victor, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Victor Jr. 1960

4/7/98

I wish to acknowledge your recent letter. Thank you for remembering me. As I sit here reading again your note and the invitation so many memories are rushing through my mind.

I am not going to be attending the "Celebration of Faith" with all of you. At the moment I have no history items or stories to share, but if I do get an inspiration I will pass it on to you. In fact, as I think more about it I hope I do because those years of my life spent in Canby and as a member of Our Saviour's are so very dear to me and my family. I have been so blessed in so many ways.

My family continues to grow. My three granddaughters are married and have children. I have four grandsons who are not married. As of January I have two great grandsons and two great granddaughters. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the celebration of Our Saviour's Lutheran on its 50th anniversary and extend my love and best wishes to the people who are belonging, believing, becoming and being a blessing.

In His Love,  
Eunice Monson

421 N 31st Ave  
Yakima, WA 98902-1601

March 1, 1998

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you very much for the invitation to the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration. I would have enjoyed taking part. Unfortunately, I have already committed to a trip to Norway at that time.

Congratulations to all of the members of the congregation on your years of service to our Lord and to the community! I have fond memories of my year of internship in your midst and, of course, I will always cherish your kindness and support at my ordination. When I was there we took two busloads of kids to the Luther League Convention in San Francisco. The youth were terrific. There were no problems except a case of "mono". Can you blame me for looking back with fondness on that time? Stephani Monson was one of the youth and years later I had the privilege of performing her wedding to Jon Lee.

I remember Clara Lundring who was so motherly to a succession of interns. She taught me how to eat "Lutefisk" and enjoy it. She opened her home to my girlfriend when she would come to visit from the cities. And it was while I was an intern there that Marta and I became engaged.

That was all a long time ago--almost back to the beginning of your fifty years. I'm retired and living in White Bear Lake where I served for many years.

I pray that you have a joyous celebration. Thank you for the great service you did for me and the beautiful memories I have of a faithful and dedicated people.

Yours in Christ,  
Bruce Boyce

4739 Sharon Ln.  
Saint Paul, MN. 55110



A Memory of OSL by Hildur (Thronson) Satre Brees June 1998

Growing up in the community that was Our Saviour's Lutheran Church was more than simply going to church on Sunday; it was a way of life. I knew what was expected of me, and that I was a part of a church family that both 'watched over' and 'watched' me. Sometimes that was a heavy burden-especially in one's teen-age years-but most of the time I understood that I had support and encouragement for my efforts. Since I was involved in music in almost every conceivable way for the times and the place, it was logical that I would be identified as one who would 'go on' in music. After years of piano lessons, in the 11th grade I began studying organ with Mrs. Ruby Evenson, with the eventual goal of playing for church services.

When I have related this tale to friends over the years invariably someone will say; "How on earth did you find the courage to get back on the bench again!"

In the summer following my high school graduation-1956-Mrs. Evenson persuaded me to play a Sunday service. I was both elated (that she thought I was ready to do it) and scared to death of what 'could' happen. I practiced hours daily for weeks so that everything I played would seem natural and polished. Our worship services were broadcast on the radio at the time so that everything had to fit the clock, so to speak.

On the appointed day my mother, father and sister took up their positions about eight rows from the back of the nave so that when I looked into the mirror which was placed on a pillar near the organist (the organ was in the left choir transept then, and the mirror allowed the organist to see when the choir was ready at the back of the nave for the processional hymn), I would be able to see their encouraging faces and their smiles of pride. I had all of my music for the entire service in order on the music rack which was rather loose and even floppy at times. It had to be handled with care and without any fast or ill-thought-through movements! I played the prelude rather well, I thought-feeling more and more confident as I went along, bringing the carefully chosen piece to its closing cadences just as the "ON THE AIR" sign flashed on. At this point my life took a decidedly downward turn when-not realizing that both the Full Organ (for the opening hymn) AND the chimes to sound the hour preceding the hymn were both ON! As I quickly reached up to correct this horrific din I touched the edge of the music rack, and-yea, of course-all of the music tumbled on to the already programmed keyboard setting up such a din and roar as no one had ever heard before! And where did I look at that moment? At my dear mother, of course, whose face was changing color rapidly and who looked as if she hoped the floor would open up right then and there, and she and I could disappear together!

It didn't, of course, and what seemed like an eternity but was really only seconds finally pierced my conscious state of shame and acute embarrassment, and we went on. The remainder of the service went well from my perspective, but all I could think of was my mother's face and what that horrible first sound must have done to the radio audience. I could imagine them spinning the dial, sure that had missed the station's call number or worse. And, being a teenager, I simply KNEW that everyone in the whole world knew that I did it, and I would forever be THAT organist! The one whose roaring dissonances ushered in a quiet and dignified Lutheran worship service on an otherwise peaceful summer Sunday morning.

As anyone who has ever been a first-time performer and 'bombed' totally-at least in their own judgment-will understand, this is not the end of the story. I so dreaded seeing people after the

service-wondering if they would scatter as fast as possible or if they would try to think of something positive to say to me or my parents, for whom I think I was even more embarrassed than I was for myself.

As I recall a few folks were gracious enough to find something nice to say, and some even voiced the hope that I would play again. Well, I didn't resume immediately, but I came in time to make church music my full-time career. And I must say it has been a long and exceptionally rewarding choice, and - for the most part - "calamity" free!

The gratitude I feel for this community of believers is deep and abiding. No one enjoyed a richer or more blessed nurturing than I did-through the wonderful music, the choral experiences, confirmation, Luther League, church camps, church dinners, support during critical times in my early life, the special blessings of the sacraments of marriage and the baptism of my first child. I have been a part of a church family wherever I have lived, but Our Saviour's will always hold a dear and special place in my heart.

God bless you all for many years to come!

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MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH      Pastor Scott Peterson  
7740 Highway 72 West  
Madison, Alabama 35758

Dear Friends at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for the invitation to your Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration. Long ago the Lord promised to bless Abraham and through him bless others I see God at work in the same way through Our Saviour's. God has richly blessed your congregation through the years. I am one of many who can also say, you have been a blessing to countless others in the larger church. Your support of our mission here has helped us go from one family with a dream in 1989, to an established congregation with over 350 members in less than ten years. We thank the Lord and we thank you whom the Lord works through.

I am sorry our family will be unable to attend the reunion. All our children are at camp that weekend. Bonnie Jane and I will be in Maine. Some of you remember my parents, Randolph and Dorothy Peterson. They are also celebrating their fiftieth anniversary this summer. In July we will have a week long family reunion with them in the Black Hills. If you wish to share the story of the development of our congregation with the help of Our Saviour's, you may wish to talk to Dr. John Myers. His son Gerry is an active member of our congregation and an excellent tenor who sits next to me in choir. Gerry, who grew up in Our Saviour's is another blessing you have handed on to Messiah Lutheran. Gerry and Jackie, Noah, Adam, and Luke, all are great blessings to us. We share in the joy of your celebration and with you look forward to many more blessings from our Lord in the years to come.

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor Scott Peterson

Baptized at Our Saviour's on March 29, 1954

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the kind invitation to Our Saviour's celebration of 50 years. I had thought that I would be able to attend, but now that appears unlikely. It is my prayer that the celebration will be a great blessing to all!

Our Saviour's has been a special blessing to me in several wonderful ways. Just to mention three of these seems personally in order.

A rich training experience for a seminary intern

Site of my ordination into the ministry of the Lutheran church

The place of celebration of my marriage to Joan Thomsen of Porter  
In each of these and countless more I give thanks for the friendship and love of members and friends of Our Saviour's.

In a real sense Our Saviour's sent me out to minister as a parish pastor at LaCrosse, WI-Lakefield, MN-and Lincoln, NE; a military chaplain in the U.S. Navy; and in social ministry with the Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota and as President/CEO of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota. Since my retirement in 1996 I have served with Lutheran Services Florida and Lutheran Disaster Response ELCA/LCMS.

I have been blessed with two children, Jorgen J. who is married to Katie, one grandson Jorgen D., Kirsten who is married to Tom Semple. They live in Denver and Minneapolis areas respectively.

The Our Saviour's congregation will share countless memories that will produce laughs and tears. In all we rejoice together for the faithful ministry in the past, present, and most certainly in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Jorgen U. Vaage

15021 Punta Rassa Rd.

2-404

Ft Myers, FL 33908

Special greetings  
to Cy Solberg

"A friend from out of the past"

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#### GUNDER HOMME, CUSTODIAN

Gunder Homme was the first custodian of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Canby and continued to be for many years.

Gunder was a devout Christian and he took pride in caring for his Lord's House. His love of God and all people made him a special person, showing in his smiling blue eyes and ready smile.

At first it was a challenge with chairs to move, clean and rearrange again. Gunder took everything in his stride, never complaining, always willing to do for anyone. The women "loved" him for his kindness and gentleness in every situation. They in turn fed him. He brought home many recipes for our family to enjoy.

He had his certain way of ringing the bell on Sunday morning. It was a thrill for all to hear that certain ring, so pleasingly and meaningfully done. They all knew it was their faithful custodian ringing it.

His wife, Anna, was a loving person and happily assisted him when he needed it. Together they invited many young interns to their home for a home cooked meal. They were friends of the young and old, neither ever knew a stranger.

We, his daughters, Anna Belle, Grace and Helen, were proud he was the custodian and felt the congregation were fortunate to have him in their midst. Written by daughter Grace.

I tried to be there and also for my 60th class reunion, but it proved to be too much of an effort. I was very happy to be remembered with an announcement of the celebration. If there is a history of the church put together in booklet form, I would like to have one to share with family. I am sorry this is late-hope it can be used to give our dad the recognition so deserved. Anna Belle Jenkins

02488 Kuzmik Rd. Boyne Falls, Michigan 49713



## Some Interesting Statistics 1951

(in round figures)

Approximate number of square feet of floor in new church — 25,000  
 Approximate number of cubic feet in new church — 500,000  
 Approximate cost of construction per cubic foot — 50c  
 Approximate total cost, including furnishings, pipe organ, chairs, tables, etc., and all stained glass windows, when complete — \$300,000  
 Normal seating capacity — 850  
   Main nave — 600; two transepts — 110; balcony — 140  
   With overflow room and extra chairs — 1200  
 Total length of building — 162 feet  
 Total width of building — 124 feet  
 Parish Hall — 36 feet by 124 feet; 3 floors  
 Outside width of nave — 55 feet  
 Length of main aisle — 100 feet  
 Height of main roof from ground — 50 feet  
 Height of spire from ground — 100 feet  
 Outer walls of blond brick with stone trim  
 Interior walls of plaster  
 Roof of asbestos shingles  
 All floors of asphalt tile  
 Interior woodwork of oak and fir  
 Chancel and main aisle carpeted  
 Oil-burning warm-air heating system, thermostatically controlled in nine zones  
 Sound system for amplification in main church and social hall, and also to reach any or all main rooms  
 Intercommunication system between offices and the upstairs, downstairs, and sacristy  
 Eight lavatories  
 Modern equipment in office and kitchen

## Epilogue

The information herein, has been accumulated, copied, and/or condensed from former history articles written in previous publications, from annual reports, from minutes of board meetings, etc. Some dates are approximate because of the time lapse from planning to implementing the plan. We appreciate the time some of you have taken to relate incidents you remember or to write your memories.

This is the time to honor our heritage and discover new horizons. A celebration must make a difference. We should observe changes in individuals or in the church as a whole. OUR CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY IS OUR STORY OF OUR FAITH JOURNEY. It gives us a sense of identity. As we read let us ask ourselves:

What has happened? What has NOT happened? We need to remember our troubled times-and resolve them-as well as our good times! Where is our Christian outreach? What has the mission of our congregation been --in the 1800's--the early 1900's--since 1948--since 1962???

As we celebrate, other questions come to mind. What have we inherited? What do we expect to achieve? Who were the leaders? What leaders have been produced?

It is a time when we want to honor the ministry and dedication of our older living members. We want to inspire leadership by showing challenges that yesterday's leaders overcame to result in today's ministry. We need to create an excitement that will move us off a comfortable plateau and move us toward growth.

So 1998 is the year the physical appearance of the building of OSL will change. The building is almost 50 years old. The organization which created the building IS 50 years old. Pastor Grams once said, "This congregation is so unique because ethnic groups have moved together to be one in the community. Very often it doesn't happen." We know it doesn't always go smoothly but with faith and consideration and love for each other we move forward.

We pause in retrospect and as we do it reminds us of our sins which we pray our Heavenly Father to graciously forgive. We want to recognize with thanksgiving and praise the rich and countless blessings which God has bestowed on us through these many years.

As in the song "Find Us Faithful" by Jon Mohr  
 But as those who've gone before us,  
 Let us leave to those behind us  
 The heritage of faithfulness passed on thru godly lives.  
 O may all who come behind us find us faithful;  
 May the fire of our devotion light their way;  
 May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe  
 And the lives we live inspire them to obey.  
 After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone,  
 And our children sift through all we've left behind,  
 May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover  
 Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find.  
 O May all who come behind us find us faithful!!!!!!