

Alive in our *Heritage*
and *Hope*

Celebrating 125 Years
1874-1999

TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Trinity Lutheran Church

125th Anniversary

Celebration Events

For four months early in 1999, our congregation will be celebrating a significant milestone: the 125th anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church, which was officially incorporated on April 26, 1874. The following special services and observances are on the agenda:

- Feb. 6: Former Pastor Wendell Frerichs - Educational Event on Millennium
- Feb. 7: Pastor Frerichs guest speaker at morning worship.
Middle Hour -- Reunion of Confirmands from 1955 - 1956
4 p.m. -- **Historical Pageant** (Gil Halverson, Author) followed by a light supper.
This excellent portrayal of our church history, set in context with the city's and nation's events, features special music and pictures.
- Feb. 13: 5 - 7 p.m. "Nostalgia" Sweetheart Dinner - Trinity Youth Event
- Feb. 21: Pastors Knutson and Maxfield conduct morning worship
Middle Hour -- Reunion of Confirmands from 1985 to the present
- March 7: Former Pastor Stanley Klyve , Guest Speaker
Middle Hour -- Reunion of Confirmands from 1957 - 1961
- March 21: G. James Oliver, Guest Speaker
Middle Hour -- Reunion of Confirmands from 1972 - 1980
- April 25: Worship in the old church, corner of Strongs and Brawley.
Former Pastor Orville Wold, Guest Speaker.
Procession from the old to the present church; old time transportation.
Ongoing Reception between and following the three worship services, with Reunion of Confirmands from 1918 - 1954.
Celebration Dinner at Trinity at noon
- May 2: Former Pastor Ronald Pechauer, Guest Speaker
Middle Hour -- Reunion of Confirmands from 1981 - 1984
- May 16: Former Pastor Vern Holtan Speaker; Pastor Gene Anderson, Assistant
Middle Hour -- Reunion of Confirmands from 1962 - 1972
"Syttende Mai" Brunch with Norwegian Motif
- May 23: Pentecost Sunday -- The Vision for the Future
Bishop John Beem, Guest Speaker

Alive in Our Heritage and Hope!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - 1410 ROGERS ST. - STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

Booklet Contents

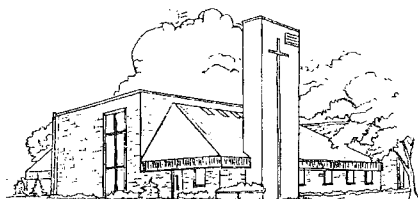
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1874 - 1901



1901 - 1953



1953 - 1999

OUR BEGINNINGS

In 1847 -- the year before Wisconsin became a State -- Stevens Point got its name. Mathias Mitchell filed an indenture dated Jan. 29, 1847, concerning a land transaction platting Stevens Point's first streets: Main and Clark running east and west; First and Second running north and south. None of the streets was more than four blocks in length. Mr. Mitchell also set aside the Public Square, around which most of the first business places were located.

In this same year -- 1847 -- the first worship services were conducted here by Cutting Marsh, an itinerant Presbyterian preacher. The first Norwegian Lutheran services were nine years later. When the infrequent worship services occurred, they were held in homes or boarding houses. The first Norwegian services were either in the Joel Scott boarding house -- Scott's wife Maria was Norwegian -- or in Knut Kvie's shanty. Both places were located on the river bank near the Clark St. bridge, and both are mentioned in early writings about this area.

Conditions were primitive. Here are quotes from letters of two of our first missionary pastors, writing to their parents back in Norway:

From Olaus F. Duus, who served seven Waupaca area congregations from 1854 to 1857: "May 28, 1856...I arrived here (Stevens Point) yesterday toward evening and am now sitting in a house beside the Wisconsin River, which is flowing rapidly past my windows. The river is filled with rafts of logs and other timber which are to float down from the pineries via the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers to the southern states, where there are few pines...the crew of the raft have all their possessions there. They earn from one and a half to four dollars a day but they are unfortunately the scum of humanity, the dregs of both Europe and America.. They live a life of constant drinking, gambling, swearing and cursing, and even of occasional murder ... This forenoon at 11 o'clock I shall preach here..."

And from A Mikkelsen, Scandinavia, 1863..."People are fearful about the Indians up here; in and around Stevens Point a thousand Indians are encamped; but so far they have showed no hostility except that they are very demanding in regard to whatever they want. In addition, they tear down fences and turn in their horses. People are arming themselves against them...there has been much excitement among the settlers, but I believe without real cause..."

These missionary pastors were sent out from the Norwegian Lutheran Church, which had been organized in East Koshkonong in the southern part of the State in 1851. Churchmen met again in Muskego (near Milwaukee) in 1852 to make changes to the proposed constitution, and it was ratified the following year at East Koshkonong. The little church building in which the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America was born is now on the campus of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

At first Stevens Point was part of the Scandinavia Circuit, which later became the Central Wisconsin Circuit of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. In all immigrant churches, language tended to make them exclusive to their particular language and customs. Later mergers made the church organizations inclusive of all nationalities, recognizing that God is Lord of all.

(Sources: Our County, Our Story - Rosholt; Norsemen Found a Church - Preus; Frontier Parsonage-Duus)

Trinity - Alive in our Heritage and Hope

Joyful Worship -- Centered on Word and Sacrament, Sunday services are the time to gather as Trinity's family. Choirs sing; we pray and listen; we share the peace; we kneel at God's Table. "Go in peace, ...serve the Lord." "Thanks be to God.."



Youth Choir - Songs from the Loft



Worship - All Saints Sunday

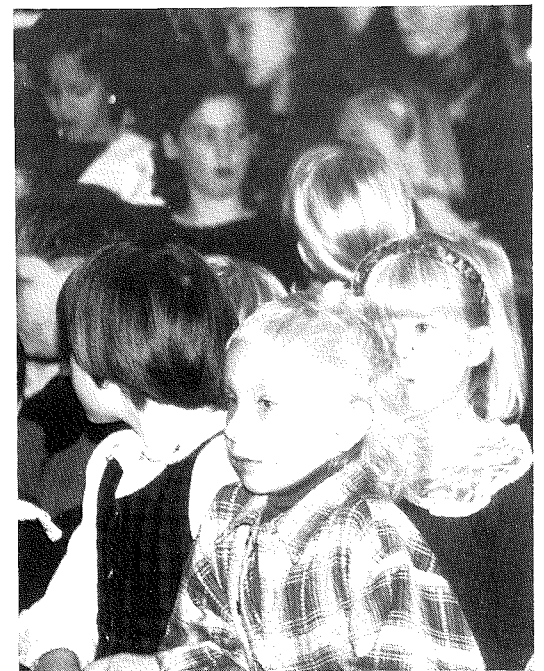


Parenting Discussion Group



Holy Communion

Spiritual Growth -- Education for all ages: Sunday School, Confirmation, Vacation Bible School, Adult Bible and book studies and discussion groups; a place for growth within the fellowship of believers.



Church School Children



Trinity Quilt Makers



Trinity Day Care



Community Food Collection



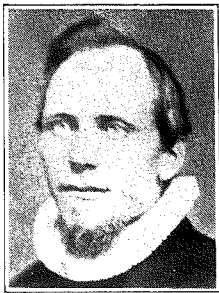
Trinity Women Rummage Sale

Mission Outreach -- So many opportunities for spreading God's love to so many people ... Trinity Quilt Makers meet twice monthly, making use of donated fabrics. The quilts are distributed internationally through Lutheran World Relief and locally through Operation Bootstrap, the Red Cross or Salvation Army. These same local agencies receive food drive donations. Loose change in the offering supports the "Brother, can you spare a dime?" program, which gives financial aid to disaster areas and community agencies. Trinity Day Care provides a loving, nurturing environment for young children from about 40 families in our nationally accredited day care program. Bible Camps, Mission churches, Nursing Homes, all are part of Trinity's Alive-ness.



Trinity Library

Alive in our Heritage and Hope



Nils Berge

Pastor from 1870 - 1881

Sponsored by the Norwegian Synod, Pastor Berge had been coming from North New Hope (Amherst Junction) to conduct occasional worship services in Stevens Point for three years prior to the congregation's organization in 1873. He continued as pastor of "Den Norske Evangeliske Lutherske Menighed i Stevens Point, Wisconsin," when the mission congregation (with 28 male members) took steps toward incorporation. Trustees appointed were Jorgen O. Wrolstad, Anders Johanson, and Helge Halverson. Official incorporation occurred on April 26, 1874.

At first, worship was conducted in homes. Then, for a time, the Presbyterian church shared space. In 1874 the Norwegians bought a half interest in the German Lutheran building at Elk and Shaurette Streets. They held services there on Sunday afternoons, giving the pastor time to travel --probably on horseback -- from his primary parish at New Hope.

Pastor Berge became ill with tuberculosis in 1881 and resigned. His grave is in the North New Hope cemetery. He was the first pastor to be buried there.

- 1880 - The first Sunday School was organized by Ole L. Sande, Jacob Peterson and John A. Murat.

(Sources: 1898 History written in Norwegian by Congregational Chairman John A. Murat; Our County, Our Story by M. Rosholt)

During Pastor Berge's illness and prior to his resignation, Johan Musaeus, assistant at Scandinavia, preached here occasionally. In May, 1881, our congregation, together with the new congregation at Amherst, called the Rev. Nils Forde. By this time there was passenger train service, and church worship could be scheduled on a more regular basis.

Born in Norway, Pastor Forde came to the U.S. as a child. He was ordained at Moorhead, MN. After 11 years in Stevens Point, he resigned to go to Starbuck, MN.

- 1884 - First Confirmation class
- 1889 - Church constitution and by-laws written (in Norwegian)
- 1890 - West-Side and East-Side Ladies' Aids established.
- 1892 - Reactivated the Sunday School, L. R. Anderson Superintendent

(Sources: J.A. Murat's History; Peace Church, Amherst, Centennial Book)



Nils Forde

Pastor from 1881-1892



Ingvar Monson

Pastor from Dec., 1892 -

Nov., 1896

Pastor Monson was ordained in Wausau. He was called to serve here and in Amherst, where he resided, but he also assisted Norwegians who lived in the Eau Plaine (Dancy) area to organize a church in 1894. He wrote their history in 1896. Pastor Monson's successor, Christian Hovde, was the last of Trinity's pastors who served the Eau Plaine congregation. In 1955, when this church closed, the members affiliated with Trinity.

During the summer before Pastor Monson came, Trinity had tried to buy the Episcopal building on Clark St., but did not succeed. They continued to seek ways to have their own church

building. The German Lutheran congregation would have sold the half interest in their current small structure, but Trinity would have preferred to sell their share to the Germans.

- Trinity selected a committee of both sexes (women did not as yet have the right to vote) to work out "ways and means" for purchasing or building a church.

(Sources: Stevens Point Journal, Amherst Centennial Book, and John Murat's History)



Trinity's "Old White Church" was built between 1898 and 1901 during the pastorate of the Rev. Christian Hovde (next page).



Christian Hovde

Pastor from 1897 - 1902

Pastor Hovde was the first of our ministers to be born in this country: Spring Prairie, WI, son of a pioneer pastor. The historian for the Amherst congregation characterized him as interested in Indian Missions and as a "strict and demanding" preacher. He served in Amherst, Stevens Point and Eau Plaine. When he became ill with tuberculosis in 1902, he resigned.

Significant events:

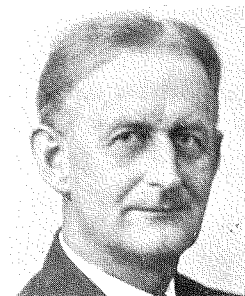
- March 6, 1898 - Voted to buy lot at Strongs and Brawley. Funds primarily provided by Ladies' Aid and Girls' Club.
- March 20, 1898 - Name legally changed to *Trinity Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*.
- At the same meeting: Voted to build a new church, design by Architect Jeffers. Building Committee: A.P. Lewis, L. R. Anderson, H. Holen and J.A. Murat.
- Sept. 25, 1898 - Laid cornerstone; sermons in Norse and English; Amherst Choir sang.
- Oct. 13, 1901 - Church dedicated.

(Sources: Amherst Centennial Book & John Murat's History)

Born in Manitowoc, WI, Pastor Sundby was ordained in Amherst. He and his bride lived in the Amherst parsonage, which was modernized with electric lights and a telephone at that time. A now deceased Trinity member, Ethel Fonstad, recalled the Rev. Sundby as a stern, very fine pastor who was an excellent organist. Church notes in the newspaper mentioned special offerings -- one for the organist, another for the Martin Luther Orphanage and Bethany Indian Mission. Time of services varied -- 10:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. -- with some English sermons, but more often Norwegian.

- 1905 - Church records changed to English.
- 1910 - Trinity Ladies invited the public to a luncheon in the "new parlors" of the church.

(Sources: Amherst Centennial Book, Trinity Tower, Stevens Point Daily Journal)



Gustave A. Sundby

Pastor from Aug., 1902 - Oct., 1910



Max F. Mommsen

Pastor from Oct., 1910 - 1911

The Mommsen family immigrated to the United States from Germany when Max was five years old. He attended Wisconsin schools and was a school principal before attending Luther Seminary. He was ordained at Spooner, WI.

- Ladies served "10 cent Coffee" at church as fund raisers.

(Sources: Amherst Centennial Book, Stevens Point Daily Journal)

Born in Norway, Pastor Magelsen was ordained in Amherst. He was here only one year before Trinity called a full-time resident pastor. He continued serving at Amherst through World War I, and also traveled to the Nelsonville church, driving his own team of horses.

- 1912 - Ladies Aid collected used paper to be recycled by the paper mills.
- They received \$275 for 15 tons.
- 1913 - Voted to have all services in English.
 - Adopted a New Lutheran Hymnary.
 - Purchased house and two lots on Church and Brawley Sts. for parsonage.

(Sources: Amherst Centennial Book; Trinity Women's records; Trinity Centennial Book)



Finn Magelsen

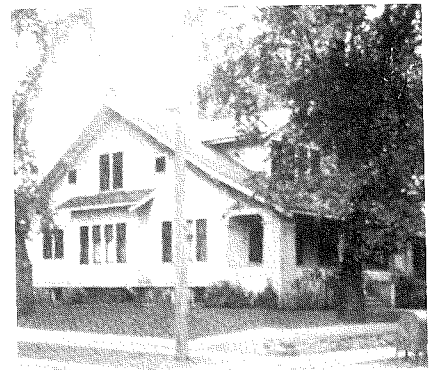
Pastor from 1912 - 1913



T. R. Ringoen

Pastor from 1914 - 1927

Our first resident pastor was Theodore Ringoen. The congregation had purchased a house and two lots at Church and Brawley Sts. The Ringoens lived in the house for five years until it was sold and a new parsonage built for \$9000. This remained the residence for all our pastors until in 1967, when it was decided to provide a housing allowance rather than a parsonage. Pastor Ringoen is remembered by some of his confirmands who are still part of our congregation. One recollection was that he liked to make pastoral calls on Mondays, which was rather disconcerting to the housewives who were likely to be in the middle of wash day!



Parsonage

- 1921 - Women were given the right to vote in congregational meetings, which were held quarterly.
- Ladies' Aid regularly served coffee and cake as fund raisers. A couple of women or girls would stand outside ringing a bell to invite passers-by to the church parlors in the basement.
- 1926 - Paid off the mortgage on the parsonage.

(Sources: Trinity Women's Records; Trinity Centennial Book; Members' memories)

At their Aug. 5 meeting, 1927, the Trinity Board of trustees voted to call O.E. Hesla to serve full time here and at Eau Plaine one Sunday per month for a salary of \$1800 per year, plus use of the parsonage. (The minutes also show that the part time janitor was paid \$37 a year.)

The Heslas were remembered as "fun people" by Laurence and Gertrude Rasmussen, now deceased, who were an engaged couple at the time. Pastor Hesla had been in China, where he taught missionaries' children. He drew on these experiences for the Sunday evening "Fireside Hours" -- potluck suppers and programs -- which he introduced at Trinity. He also began a Trinity tradition: Christmas Eve services.

- 1928 - To correct the idea that Trinity was exclusively a "Norwegian" church, the congregation changed its name to "First English Lutheran."
- Replaced the reed organ with a pipe organ.
- The Ladies' Aid joined the Women's Missionary Federation.
- 1930 - Organized a younger women's group called "The Gleaners."

(Sources: Trustees' Minutes, Trinity Tower, Trinity Centennial Book)



Otto E. Hesla

Pastor from 1927-1931



Philip Dybvig

Pastor from 1931-1936

Called by "Night Letter" in April of 1931, the Rev. Philip Dybvig became pastor here at a salary of \$2000. He also traveled to Eau Plaine (Dancy) where he held worship services on Sunday afternoons.

- June, 1931 -- dispensed with services of janitor until further notice. Mrs. Johnson hired to clean church basement. Salary -- \$2 for each cleaning.
- 1932 -- High school age girls' group: Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation.
- 1934 -- LeRoy Fieting became church organist; continued for 40 years.
- 1935 -- Bought parish house adjacent to church.

(Sources: Trustees' minutes; Trinity Centennial Booklet)



Parish House

The Great Depression was still on when Pastor Dale came from Chicago at a salary of "\$1800 and free parsonage," the same as offered Pastor Hesla in 1927. He was given two Sundays off with pay, but if more was taken he had to supply his own substitute. Characterized by a later pastor as having "the heart and manners of an Evangelist," Pastor Dale was also seen as a disciplinarian by teenagers in his congregation. The Dales gave room and board to CSTC (now UWSP) students in exchange for household help.



Mars Dale
Pastor from 1936-1940

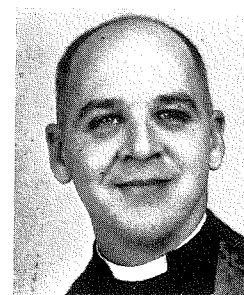
- 1937 - Lutheran Student Association formed.
- 1938 - Began having two worship services.
- 1939 - Began building fund for a new church.

(Sources: Trustees' minutes; Trinity Centennial Booklet, Pastor Wold's letter)

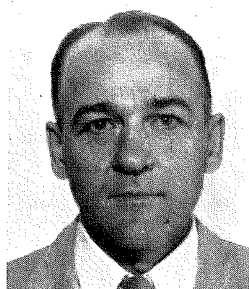
Pastor Romstad is remembered as a pleasant, approachable person by current members of Trinity who were in his confirmation classes. The United States entered World War II during his pastorate, and he resigned to become a Navy Chaplain. After his departure, the church was without a regular pastor for three months.

- 1941 - A parish newsletter called The Bond was published.
- Through the efforts of Walton Murat (Esther Berndt's father) and Laura Cook's husband Arthur, Crooked Lake -- renamed Mission Lake and now Waypost -- Bible Camp was purchased.
- 1943 - Lots on Clark and Rogers Streets, where our present church is now located, were purchased,

(Sources: Trinity Tower, 1974, Trinity Centennial Booklet)



Alf Romstad
Pastor from 1941 - 1943



C. Russell Johnson
Pastor from 1943 - 1945

Trinity was without a pastor for three months between the Romstads and the Johnsons. A severe snowstorm delayed their arrival even more by stalling their moving van in Minnesota. The Johnsons' stay in Stevens Point was rather brief. He felt called to be a missionary in Madagascar and tendered his resignation in Oct., 1944, leaving at the end of the following August. Mementos from Madagascar, gifts from the Johnsons, now on display in our church Heritage Room.

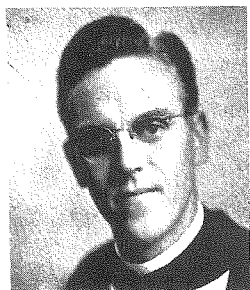
- Trinity congregation held quarterly meetings in the 40's.
- First church secretary, -- June Lake.
- Gilbert Halverson and Clarence Solberg ordained in January, '45.

(Sources: Trustee's minutes, Trinity Centennial Book)

Heritage . . . As remembered by . . .

With the exception of Pastor Orvis Hanson (below) who died in 1994, pastors who served Trinity from 1945 to the present time have written greetings and memoirs for our anniversary year. The following pages contain excerpts from their letters.

Pastor Orville Wold began his letter with tributes to his predecessors, then continued as follows:



Orville Wold

Pastor from 1945 - 1949

"Trinity was the kind of congregation that helped its pastors grow. The people excelled in every branch of churchmanship...Walton Murat was the moving force behind the Crooked Lake (now Waypost) Bible Camp project...delegates to the Circuit meeting -- Bert Kalsow, Laurence Rasmussen and Russ Broton -- broke the roadblock, offering to take on half of the proposed Synod budget increase...another giant, LeRoy Fieting, a superb organist, made every worship an experience.

"The congregation was blessed with a large number of people who served in many ways...90 year old Pastor J. C. Hogum assisted with communion, and there were countless times I went to him with questions and for advice...German immigrant, Jacob Haag, one of my shut-ins, was a railroad worker, green thumb gardener, and amateur wine maker who furnished our communion wine.

"Contact at the growing college was challenging and very pleasing... professors, members of Trinity, especially Dr. Roland Trytten, were involved in that ministry.

"A rural congregation in Eau Plaine shared Trinity's pastor, as did Campus Ministry at Central State (UW-SP). Local pastors shared in morning devotionals on WLBL Public Radio, and the women of Trinity had a regular program. Members were good neighborhood missionaries, as we experienced fine growth.

"Thank you for the invitation to gather some memories from our years as Pastor of Trinity.

(Source: letter from the Rev. Orville Wold)

- 1946 - Mothers' Club started; Cradle Roll -- contact from baptism to age three
- 1948 - Ladies Aid formed four circles; 860 pounds of clothing sent to post-war Europe
- 1949 - Changed church name from First English Lutheran to Trinity Lutheran

(Sources: Trinity Women's Records; Trinity Centennial Booklet)

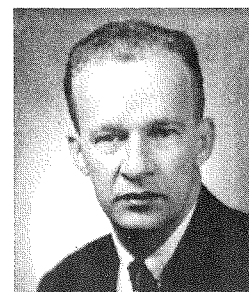
Previously a missionary in China, Pastor Hanson began his ministry here in the white church the year of Trinity's Diamond Jubilee. "Congratulations...on the many years of the ministry of the Gospel," he wrote in the Festival booklet. "In confidence we step forward... working together to the glory of God."

With a building fund started in 1939, and lots purchased in 1943, Pastor Hanson encouraged the dream of a new church. Church organizations and individual members contributed to its financing, building, and furnishing. Most evenings and every weekend found members getting into the actual labor of completing our church building. As the predetermined date came near, more and more volunteers came forward. Eager hands were still polishing the interior a few hours before the time of Dedication.



- 1950 - Began building program
- 1952 - Laid Cornerstone on September 7
- 1953 - Dedication of the new church May 24

(Sources: Diamond Jubilee booklet, 1953 Dedication booklet, and Trinity Centennial booklet)



Orvis Hanson

Pastor from 1949 - 1954



Wendell Frerichs

Pastor from 1954 - 1956

"My first contact with Trinity began on a very high note. Pres. Hal Larsen asked me to meet with congregational leaders. What an impressive group of people!...It took some courage and daring to accept (the call). Preparing sermons for such a sophisticated congregation continued to be an on-going challenge... Did you know sermon preparation was not confined to the office? I used to sit in a pew or on a little chair in a Sunday School room and ask: 'Lord, what do you want me to say to people like these?'"

"Worship life was inspiring. Excellent organist, Mr. Fieting, and choir director, Mr. Michelson, gave us the best music in town.

"Also memorable were the youth work and education programs...so competently done...good people willing to do their share. Confirmation classes were a challenge.

"Life was busy at Trinity...never enough hours in the day. What a help Bob Lea, seminarian, was for two summers!

"Thank you for the privilege of serving you over 40 years ago. It is one of my fondest memories. As a congregation you have rejoiced a lot, prayed a lot, suffered a lot in these 125 years, and the Lord has been with you. May you continue to witness to your faith for as long as our civilization endures. Cordially, Wendell Frerichs"

(Source: Letter from the Rev. Wendell Frerichs)

- 1955 - Bob Lea, summer internships
- 1956 - Ladies Aid formed visitation committee for the ill
Lutheran Student Association dinners began at church

(Sources: TLCW Records; Trinity Annual Report)

"The years I had with Trinity were exciting years of growth for me, my family, and the congregation.

"My greatest joy was you, the people of the church. It was a privilege to participate in worship. It was a joy to be part of your lives at special times -- baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, counseling, visitation, and planning for the future.

"My family grew in Stevens Point. We came with four children and left with seven: Craig, Candace and Corwin were baptized at Trinity.

"The congregation grew...I remember coming when we numbered around 800 and leaving when we were around 1200.

"There were many building changes...finished Fellowship Hall...the parking lot...bought the apartment building...built the connecting tunnel. We added staff - three interns, working at Trinity and also establishing a Lutheran Student Ministry at the University.

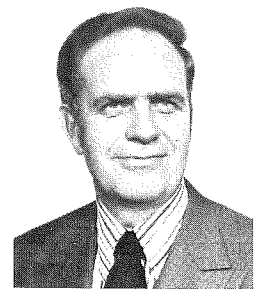
"I appreciated the competent leadership and faithful Christian people willing to share ministry. Memories of people and incidents, humorous and serious, keep bubbling up because of your invitation to celebrate 125 years as a church. Thank you for the blessing of my years spent at Trinity."

(Source: Letter from the Rev. Stanley S. Klyve)

- 1959 - First intern, Al Erickson
- 1960 - Bought Breitenstein Apartment next door for education building.
Fred Mastad, intern
- 1961 - ELC, UELC, and ALC merged to become the American Lutheran Church.
The local women's groups became Trinity Lutheran Church Women, with four circles.

Don Nelson, intern

(Source: Trinity Annual Reports)



Stanley S. Klyve

Pastor from 1956 - 1962



Education Building

"First -- I remember the solid churchmanship of so many at Trinity... willingness to be innovative: turn the church around, install a new organ, etc.

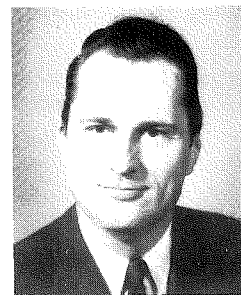
"I think buildings are important, but I always felt Trinity members dwelt more on 'people things' -- creativity and the like. I think of Emma Smith, a born teacher, who led the Art League to do some beautiful work (banners) ...George Haertel's support in selecting the beautiful marble for the altar area...Heinie Hanson, congregation president, helping set up Sunday Evening Club with talks by Christian leaders like Dr. Michael Petrovich, UW Madison.

"A high point for me was the 'Cathedral of the Pines' retreat at Red Lake, Ontario, when Reuben Gornitzka and Dr. Hjortland inspired us with daily talks and discussion groups.

"Then there was the visit by Sally Struthers on Pentecost. Her effort to relate her Lutheran Christian faith to her vocation was an inspiration...The men's retreat led by Dr. Morris Wee was also a high point.

"All in all, I am always grateful for the way Trinity opened hearts and minds to the new and untried. They were good years!

(Source: letter from the Rev. Vern Holtan)



Vern Holtan

Pastor from 1962 - 1972



Eugene Anderson

Associate Pastor 1966- 1967

"...I really enjoyed the people at Trinity. They were very good to us and I enjoyed working with them. The confirmation classes were some of the largest I had ever worked with and they were quite a challenge, but we made it."

(Source: letter from Pastor Eugene Anderson)

- 1962 - Ted Greenfield, Intern
Frank Brocker ordained
- 1963 - 1964 - Paul Gilbertson, Eldon Olson, Interns
- 1965 - Bethel Series offered
- 1966 - First Associate Pastor, Eugene Anderson, installed
- 1967 - Associate Pastor Merton Fish installed
Parsonage sold to the Holtans; housing allowance provided

- 1968 - Lance Holthusen ordained
- 1969 - Acquired Pine St. property for parking lot
- 1970 - Began remodeling, (turning sanctuary around); worship in basement
Associate Pastor James Oliver installed
Moved into remodeled church Dec. 13

(Sources: Trinity Annual Reports, Centennial booklet)



Merton Fish (Deceased)

Associate Pastor 1967 - 1970

I am honored to share recollections from my decade as pastor. I have many fond memories, but the ones that hold the tightest grip are tied to people -- humble servants who made use of buildings, organizations, programs and staff to express the life to which they were called in Christ.

During the 1970's there was rapid growth in membership, and attendance reached its peak. Growth of the congregation and community led to establishment of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Members in good standing and proven leadership accepted the challenge to build this new mission congregation.

Generous gifts of love came in the form of special offerings and bequests leading to significant debt reduction, a foundation for college and seminary scholarships, and a discretionary fund to assist the locally distressed.

It is gratifying to me to see some contributions made during my pastorate continue -- carrying newly baptized children into the midst of the congregation and the children's sermon. I am also pleased to note the continuation of the early morning men's bible study.

I had the special privilege of ordaining Paul Hedquist. I am also humbled by the memory of baptisms, confirmations and weddings. I'll never forget farewells to the saints "who went on before." I believe that by the grace of God they are now joining us in this anniversary celebration along with the angels, and arch angels, and all the company of heaven.

(Source: letter from G. James Oliver)



G. James Oliver

Pastor from 1972 - 1980

Heritage ... As remembered by ... continued



Daniel Litzer

Associate Pastor 1973 - 1980

- 1973 - Associate Pastor Daniel Litzer came
- 1974 - Trinity Centennial Golden Trinities began
- 1975 - Trinity sponsored the Duong family -- eight Vietnamese refugees
- 1976 - First "Walk a Christmas Mile"
- 1977 - Sponsored second Vietnamese family, the Nguyens
Trinity hosted organizational meeting for Good Shepherd. Nineteen families transferred.
- 1978 - Began use of Lutheran Book of Worship
Christian Education Director Mary Markwardt came
(Source: Trinity Annual Reports)

"Remembrances...significant happenings...impressions. These will be random, not in any special order.

- Good, good music! And good worship! -- A great staff to work with
- Strong lay leadership --Great people...children, young people, adults
- Stewardship emphasis that included growing in benevolence commitment
- Seeing a greater number of our youth attend church-related colleges
- I believe the Annual Meeting in January, 1981, was one of the

shortest on record. It was held in the sanctuary and people applauded at its conclusion, about 30 minutes after it began.

- The planning and development that led to the new construction

"I also remember falling out of the pulpit one time, and walking into Ed's (Hurst) wheel chair during a Lenten service when John (Rasmussen) and I were processing in a darkened church.

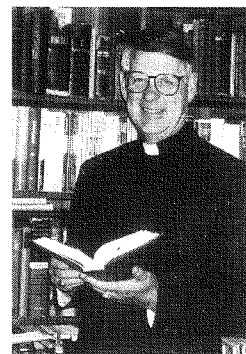
"Rachel and I are really looking forward to being with you next May!

Peace and Joy, Ron"

(Source: Letter from the Rev. Ronald Pechauer)

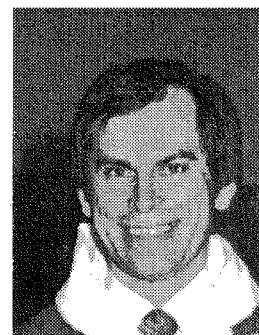
- 1980 - Beginning of Radio Ministry
- 1981 - John H. Rasmussen, Associate Pastor, called
- 1982 - Facilities Task Force formed to recommend property changes
- 1984 - "Building for Mission" construction project accepted

(Source: Trinity Annual Reports)



Ronald Pechauer

Pastor from 1980 - 1985



John Rasmussen

Associate Pastor 1981 - 1985

In this anniversary year, we are aware of the debt of gratitude we owe to congregational leaders -- teachers, singers, Trinity Women officers, youth workers, and all the faithful members who serve. The Church Staff, Council, and standing committees carry forward the work of the congregation, giving structure and impetus to our ongoing programs.

Church Staff

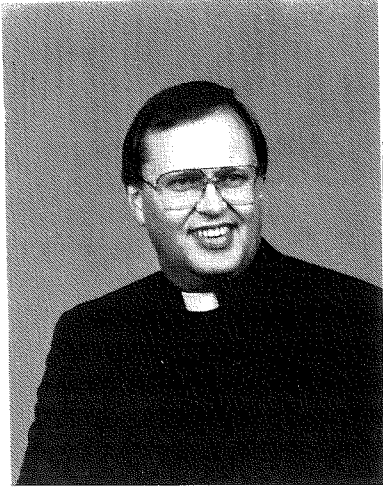
Senior Pastor - Kenneth Knutson
Associate Pastor - David Maxfield
Visitation Pastor - Gilbert Halverson
Associate in Ministry - Sandra Wendland
Interim Youth Director - Aaron DeBenedetto
Administrative Secretary - Jane Flanagan
Office Clerk - Roberta Holthusen
Ray Johnson - Director of Building & Grounds
Diana Strommen - Music Coordinator, Choir
Barbara Towey - Choirs & Organist
Anita Wray - Organist
Stephanie Baublitz - Interfaith Coordinator
Ellen Miller - Day Care Director

Church Council

Charles McKee (President)
Cris Harris (Vice President)
Sue Brock (Secretary)
Sue Acaley (Treasurer)
Steve Knee (Building & Grounds)
Barb Krueger (Christian Education)
Joan Johanson (Christian Life & Growth)
Mary Schultz (Christian Youth)
Bob Price (Communication)
Joe Murin (Evangelism & Social Ministry)
Bob Schmidt (Stewardship)
Doug Strommen (Finance)
David Ray (Personnel)
Janet Meyer/Roberta Holthusen (Worship)
Jean O'Brien (Day Care)

Alive in Our Heritage and Hope!

Our Current Pastors, Recent Events



Kenneth Knutson

Senior Pastor - 1985 to the present

"Having served Trinity as pastor for 13 years, I reflect on those years and my observation of the congregation. I came to Trinity in September, 1985. There was a veiled excitement about the future..A brand new staff was to evolve, a building program was emerging, a mixture of feelings were driving the congregation. Trinity was "Building for Mission." A lot of the focus was on building, getting it done, getting the money, and meeting the debt.

"That is not all that happened. We added staff as Pastor Dave Maxfield came in May, 1986. Sandra Wendland came as part time in 1987. All through these years, Pastor Gil Halverson willingly and ably visited, contacted, and gave leadership to visitation. We have also had dedicated office staff with Lynn Anderson and Jane Flanagan, along with Nancy Horvath, Faith Doeblor, and Roberta Holthusen. Most of all, we have had emerge people with great leadership gifts, who have given of themselves for the life of Trinity Congregation. People's lives have been touched, faith has been nurtured, and the gifts of the congregation have reached out in mission.

"There have been some significant changes. A major revamping of the confirmation ministry program took place, without watering down the importance or the faith content of confirmation. In 1992-93 about 160 members joined in the new mission venture at Redeemer Lutheran on the east

side of town. There was grieving in the congregation when these good and faithful members left to do mission. But new leaders emerged with new ideas and strong commitment. Christ continues to lead the Church.

"Every confirmation and new member class has heard me quote 1 Peter 2:9-10: *You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wondrous deeds of God who called you out of darkness into marvelous light. Once you were no people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* These words remind us it is God who led us in the past, sustains us in the present, and leads us into the future. What He would have us be and do is exciting speculation. We can count on it: our venture into the future will be an exciting journey as Christ leads us."

(Source: letter from the Rev. Kenneth Knutson)

"Dear friends in Christ,

"We meet him as the sun is setting. He is pulling his wooden milk cart because his horse is hurting and he needs to complete deliveries before sundown. He welcomes us on his journey and tells us what he is doing and why. Looking us straight in the eye he says, "**Traditions!** *Because of our traditions, every one of us knows who he is and what God expects him to do.*" This hard working milkman is Tevia from "Fiddler on the Roof."

"As we prepare for the 125th anniversary celebration of Trinity, Tevia's words seem very timely. 125 years! What a milestone, what a journey, what a legacy. From the Norwegian settlement in Stevens Point to a congregation that serves the greater Stevens Point community, we have the opportunity and invitation to celebrate our traditions during 1999.

"One of our traditions -- one of those things that tell us who we are -- is that we have always been a journeying people. From those first settlers from the hills of Norway, to the many of us who have found our way to Stevens Point via jobs or education, we are a journeying people.

"As a community of faith we are a journeying people. Welcomed in the water and promise of Baptism, we are a pilgrim people. Jesus has invited us to "follow" and we have heard His call. Many things have changed -- the ink blotter has given way to the mouse-pad; the horse and buggy are now the airplane and e-mail. Many new faces have come; many old friends have gone.



David Maxfield

Associate Pastor
from 1986 to the present

"Yet despite all the changes, one thing remains the same. Throughout the 125 years of our congregation, God has remained unchanging. God still invites, transforms, sends, calls his people to be the church for each generation.

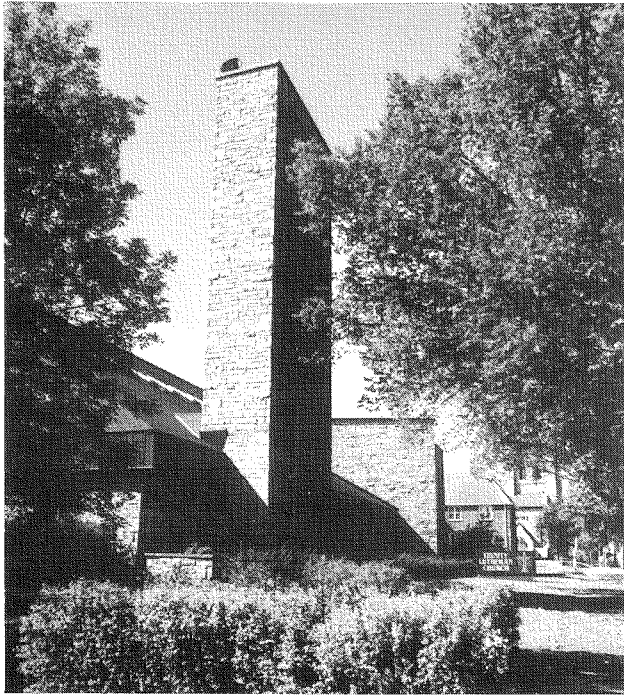
"You and I are a part of that journey. You and I are a part of the tradition of a journeying people. You and I are a part of what God is doing here and now!

"Traditions! Not only do traditions give us identity and link us to the past; they also give us direction as we step into the future. We are on the threshold of a new millennium. We may not know what the future holds, anymore than our forefathers and mothers 125 years ago could have envisioned what God has done among us.

"We may not know the future, but we know Who holds the future. And we know Who leads us there. As we celebrate our heritage, may we hear God's beckoning voice, the one that calls from just over the horizon of today and calls us to be His people in the tomorrow that is God's gift

"Come and celebrate! Let's learn who we are and what God calls us to be. Shalom!"

(Source: letter from the Rev. David Maxfield)



Trinity after Building for Mission, 1986

- 1985 - Building for Mission Fund Drive completed.
- 1986 - Began construction for Building for Mission project.
Church offices relocated three times during the project.
Ann Fritschel ordained.
Sandra Wendland, Associate in Ministry, hired.
TLC Women pledged \$24,000 for new kitchen.
ALC, LCA and AELC merge to
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.
- Sept. 13, 1987 -- Rededication of remodeled building
- 1990 - Services taped for telecast on Community Access channel.
Ellen Taube ordained.
Brass handbells purchased.
- 1993 - Redeemer Lutheran Church becomes chartered.
- 1994 - Trinity Youth Director - Jim Ranney.
- 1995 - Brother/Sister, Can You Spare a Dime program.
- 1996 - Trinity Youth Director - Andrew "Mo" Moscinski.
- 1997 - 125th Celebration Committee appointed.

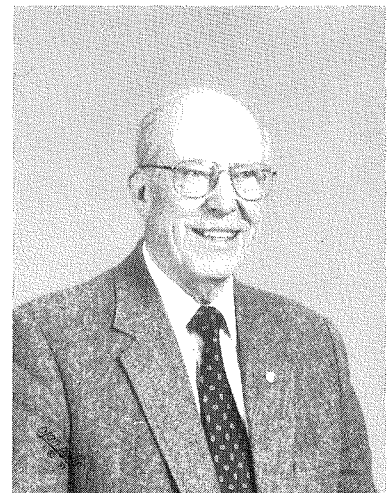
"My retirement began Jan. 1, 1984, after a 38 year ministry at Navarino and Eau Claire, WI, Chicago, IL, and Oshkosh, WI. Returning to Stevens Point, my home town, and Trinity, my home church, I was asked to do an interim ministry with Pastor Rasmussen when Pastor Pechauer resigned. With the coming of Pastor Knutson and the subsequent resignation of Pastor Rasmussen, I was asked to continue as interim until a full time associate was called.

"In 1987 the part time position of Visitation Pastor was established, with particular attention to the home bound, nursing home residents and hospitalized, and -- as time permitted -- visitation of other members in their homes.

"This ministry has been a most rewarding one. For the greater number, life is drawing to a close. Many feel a sense of gratitude for the gift of life and God's providential care, and are prepared to join the Lord in His eternal home. To be able to discuss these very personal matters in this context has been so richly rewarding. Then too, there have been times when faith has been severely tested by life's sudden changes. To give support and assurance of God's never-failing grace is a joy.

"Trinity's 125 years of grace can only provoke the most heartfelt thanks to God who has been our help in ages past and our hope for years to come. Soli Deo Gloria! (To God alone be the glory!)"

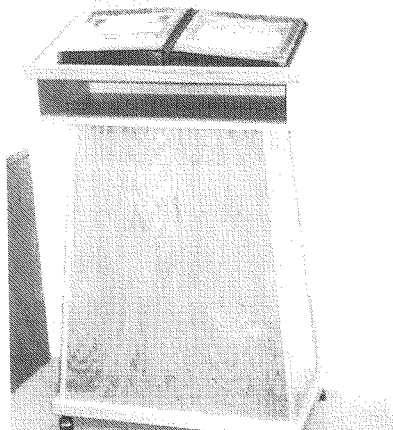
(Source: Letter from the Rev. Gilbert Halverson)



Gil Halverson

Interim/Visitation Pastor
from 1984 -

Alive in our Heritage and Hope



Confirmation Album Stand

Alive in Hope

We remember with gratitude the faithful men and women who founded and carried Trinity forward through these 125 years. We look ahead with Hope to those who will continue -- through God's Grace -- to be the Church in the future. Since its founding, Trinity has placed emphasis on training its youth. Sunday School and Confirmation are an important part of the church program.

On Confirmation day, our young people are asked this question:
"Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the Word and share in his supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?"

(Response "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

--Lutheran Book of Worship, p. 201



Mortgage Burning Oct. 4, 1998

We Burned the Mortgage -- What is our next Mission?

Trinity has burned numerous mortgages in its 125 years. The most recent one, on October 4, 1998, was the most extensive. Its final figure was about one and one-half million dollars. The fund raising challenge began in 1984, and the debt was paid in 1998.

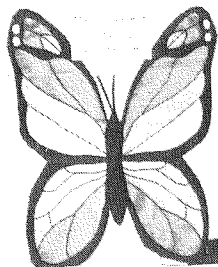
What will be our next challenge?

Trinity now has an opportunity to give of itself to help young churches in their building programs or to reach the unchurched, either locally or through the Church at large.

Perhaps an appropriate celebration of our 125th anniversary would be a commitment of \$125,000 toward that Mission. We have a challenge to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in assisting others in spreading the message of what God has done for us throughout our history. With a large segment of our population without connection with Jesus, we have a challenge to be creative and inventive in our mission.

What is God leading us to do and to be as a congregation? May we catch the Vision. and act with thankful, generous hearts

Roots and Wings

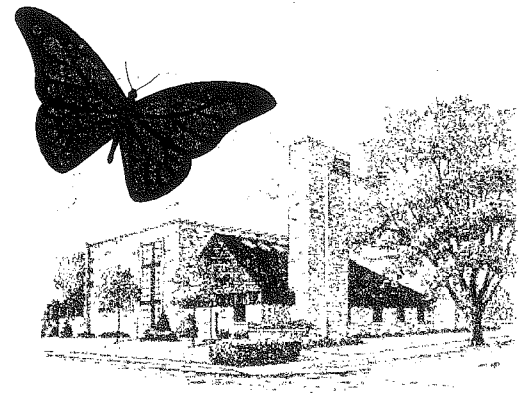


Roots and Wings

Beyond the Anniversary -- Roots and Wings

There has been a butterfly in the church narthex since early fall of 1998. It represents the idea that our congregation needs to have a "Vision for Mission" to take us into our next years in God's service. Beyond our anniversary and the special Mission offering mentioned above, we need -- as a congregation -- to seek God's will for Trinity for the future. It is the way in which Trinity will be
"Alive in Hope!"

Alive in our Heritage and Hope



In Spring of 1998, as the 125th Anniversary Planning Committee was continuing its work, the Church Council also created a Vision Task Force to look forward to discern what Christ was calling us to do in mission and then use our strengths to grow in ministry. The Task Force used a church planning process called *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church* to evaluate our strengths and weaknesses. It was apparent throughout the study process that Trinity lacked a clear vision for the future and mission objectives to direct our ministry.

The Task Force then adopted a process entitled *The Miracle of Vision* developed at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Combined Locks, Wisconsin as a way to see what Christ was inviting Trinity to become and work together as God's people to make it happen. Using the theme *Roots and Wings*, the entire congregation was invited to come together for a one-day Vision Summit.

On October 24, 1998, over 40 people of Trinity spent an exciting day together reflecting on the questions: How should Trinity serve? How should Trinity feel? What should Trinity's focus be? What should be Trinity's place, size and style?

Beginning with a Bible study of Jesus' commandment in Matthew to love God and our neighbor and His commission to go and make disciples of all nations, the group prayed, reviewed and rated possible characteristics, shared individual opinions and reached consensus. The group clearly saw Trinity as...

- **A Christ and Scripture centered congregation,**
- **A mission centered congregation constantly evaluating its vision to accomplish its mission and**
- **A congregation whose members sense they belong to the Body of Christ and, in turn, want to provide for the needs of others.**

Soon groups will be formed to reflect on each of these three vision points and develop action plans that will direct us as we work together to make our vision for mission happen. In May of 1999, we will gather again to review these plans and choose those actions and programs that will guide Trinity as we wing toward the future to which Christ has called us.

Vision Task Force Members:

Dennis Bonikowske, Fred Fleishauer (Chairman), Ruth Harpstead, Cris Harris, Pastor Ken Knutson, Jeff Martin, Pastor Dave Maxfield, Charlie McKee, Joe Murin, Tina Peters, Ted Rusch, Bob Schmidt, Renae Sheibley, Donna Watson.

Sidelights and Highlights...

- 1852 -- Lois Mickelson, Trinity member since 1958, is a great-great granddaughter of Erik Flesje, one of the men who helped draw up the constitution for the national Norwegian Lutheran Church Synod. With eight or nine men seated on a lumber wagon, he traveled to the meeting place at Muskego, WI, 10 miles south of Milwaukee, a distance of about 40 miles from their home congregation at Koshkonong.
- 1857 -- Nils Brandt, one of the first Norwegian missionary pastors to hold worship services in Stevens Point, walked all the way from Rock River, in southeastern WI, to Scandinavia -- a distance of about 130 miles. He came by way of Winchester, where a Norwegian group called the "Neenah Parish" existed. Pastor Brandt conducted a Norwegian religious service in the home of Knut Kvie. Nine people were in attendance.
- During Pastor Berge's illness, Pastor Johan Musaeus, the assistant pastor in Scandinavia, preached in Stevens Point.
- 1926 and counting -- A Boy Scout program was started at Trinity, with Laurence Rasmussen as the first Scoutmaster. Although the program was not continuous in the early years, Troop 293 has a strong program, and marked its 50th anniversary in 1990. It is a matter of pride that a member of Troop 293, Eagle Scout Bruce Mickelson, is now the Scout Executive for the Samoset Council.
- 1951 -- The contemporary design of our church building won an award for Architect Donn Hougan of Wisconsin Rapids.
- 1971 -- Trinity Women sponsored a Cadette Girl Scout Troop, which continued several years.
- 1974 to the present -- Since our Centennial celebration 25 years ago, the following people have served as presidents of our congregation:

Arthur Fritschel	Todd Boehm	Ted Rusch	Howard Carlsen	Phil Gjevre
Orwoll Hagen	Fred Fleishauer	Donna Watson	William Meyer	Lois Hagen
David Llewellyn	Myrv Christopherson	John Gauder	John Paulson	

- 1978 -- Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation, Inc. was founded. It has since combined with the Memorial and Special Gifts Committee, becoming The Endowment and Special Gifts Committee. "The Rasmussen Fund" and "The Ottem Fund" provide scholarships for Trinity youth. Seminarian Julie Summers, now an intern at a two-point parish in N. Dak., is one recipient of tuition support.
Committee's Total Assets 1978 \$ 68,820 Total Assets 1998 \$ 278,128
- Some comparisons: 1978 Expenses: Water \$ 299 Postage \$ 844
 1998 Budget: Water \$ 2000 Postage \$ 3500
- TLCW Rummage Sale Receipts: 1978 \$ 1816 1998 \$ 4666
- 1986 -- David Maxfield was installed as Associate Pastor on the same Sunday that we broke ground for the most recent renovation of the church building. His first sermon had "Foundations and Mission" as its theme

Celebration Features and Displays

Besides the events listed inside the front cover, the following features and displays are planned:

- Beginning in January, 1999, the Anniversary Booklet, Souvenir Notepaper and Medallions will be available.
- In the Narthex during the celebration, special displays will portray our history. The exhibit schedule is:

Jan. 3 - Jan. 17

Our Beginnings

*Norwegian Scripture Passages and Translation
Time Line, City Map, Chart of important dates*

Jan. 24 - Feb. 7

Women in the Church

*Old costume Display and Pictures
History of Mission Work, Projects*

Feb. 14 - Feb. 28

The Altar and the Bible

*Old Altar Pieces - Pictures
Old and new editions of the Bible*

Mar. 7 - Mar. 21

Music in the Church

*Purchase of Organs; Hymnals and other Music
Choir Directors, Organists*

Mar. 28 - Apr. 11

Members of the Church who have been Ordained

Apr. 18 - May 2

Organizations in the Church

*Art League - Crosses, Banners
Women's Stewardship
Scouts*

May 9 - May 23

Norwegian Display

Folk Costumes, Artifacts, Wall Hangings, etc.

Mission and Vision of the Future

- Prior to and during the anniversary, the Trinity Tower will feature interviews with longtime members who share memories of our church and community.
- Permanent display: Confirmation Pictures from 1924 to the present have been put in new albums and placed in a specially built stand in the narthex.

The 125th Anniversary Committee

Gil and Esther Halverson

Cris Harris

Charlie McKee

Judy Anderson

Ethel Hill

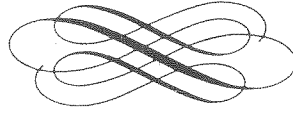
Sandra Wendland

Lois Hagen

Rudy and Vi Horn

In addition, dozens of people have volunteered to assist in the many aspects of the anniversary celebration.

Sincere thanks to all.



Theme Hymn for our Anniversary Year:

O God, our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.

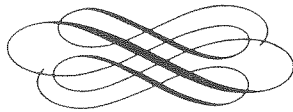
A thousand ages in your sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly, forgotten as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674 - 1748
Tune: William Croft, 1678 - 1727

Lutheran Book of Worship # 320



Booklet Committee

(Design, Photography, Interviews and Research, Editing)

Lynn Anderson	Judy Lerand
Tom Charlesworth	Sue Oliver
Mavis Gaedtke	Nancy Wimpe
Rudy and Vi Horn	

* * * * *

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