



**Celebrating 125 Years
of God's Faithfulness**



Mission

With God's love we embrace one another, our neighbors, and all creation.

Vision

Doing God's work with our hands by providing:

Spiritual growth for all

Opportunities for living out our Christian faith

Support of our mission and ministries

Church Values

TRUST and **LOVE**
Jesus Christ

COMMIT to living
God's Word

PRACTICE
hospitality with
welcoming and
kindness

RESPECT and **CARE**
for all creation

SERVE our
community

LIVE as generous
stewards



First Lutheran Church Historical Narrative 1992-2017

Spirit!

The Swedish forebearers who planted what became First Lutheran Church brought with them their love for the Lord and for one another, and the results of this love have been seen down through the years. First Lutheran has been a wonderfully caring congregation: An organized structure exists to respond to needs of the congregation and community, plus we are blessed with folks who are alert and just simply reach out when they are concerned.

The congregation's long history of being there for one another and keeping the bond strong has been a big help in getting through bumps and tough times. The bond we have as brothers and sisters in Christ has held, and we have made it through conflicts and hurts that have come along. We are stronger than ever, and so we move forward, seeking to follow our Lord Jesus and to embrace one another. As we begin the next phase of our journey, it is an "Onward Christian Soldiers" moment: Our heritage and great spirit as God's people will help accomplish great things at First Lutheran Church.



Our heritage and great spirit as God's people will help accomplish great things at First Lutheran Church.

“A Day or 125 Years in the Life of the Church”

Friday, July 28, 2017, Aitkin, Minnesota – First Lutheran Church

7:30 a.m. – Men in Mission Breakfast/Bible Study – We looked at a passage from II Kings 4:1-7 where a man of God died - leaving his wife and two sons broke and owing lots of money. All his widow had left was a little pot of oil. The creditors insisted on making the two sons serve as slaves to pay off the debt. The widow begged God’s prophet, Elisha, for help. Elisha instructed her to gather as many pots from her friends and neighbors as she could. Pots were precious in those days. But, people shared. Then, following Elisha’s instruction, the woman proceeded to pour oil from her little pot into all these other pots. When the borrowed pots were all full, the oil stopped flowing. Then Elisha instructed her to sell the precious oil to pay off her debt and to support her and her sons into the future. **It is a miracle. One woman trusted God. Neighbors shared. God provided. Her family was saved** from slavery.



The Men’s Breakfast group then talked about us sharing our own pots. We talked about people we know who could definitely use some more of God’s oil to meet their life’s needs. We talked about the three suicides that have happened in our community in the past month. We talked about how many other terrible things happen to people in this world. We talked about how many kids, families, people are living desperate, seemingly hopeless lives right here in Aitkin. **They need God’s life-giving oil.**

11:00 a.m. – Funeral for a 92 year old child of God – It was our third funeral in four days. Once again the sanctuary was filled with members of this faith family grieving, comforting, supporting each other and the families of the departed loved ones. Once again, the women and men of this church prepared a fine meal, served and cleaned up afterward. Spit-shined the building and welcomed close friends and strangers with the embrace and comfort of Jesus.

1:30 p.m. – Pre-surgery visit for an 8-year-old child of God - She and her family have been battling a serious health problem for 2 ½ years with little success. The scheduled surgery has hopeful percentages of success. This little girl is proud and excited that her name has been included in our bulletin, and in our hearts, for prayers of healing. And we pray for her parents and siblings as well.

3:00 p.m. – Contested Omnibus Hearing for a 30 something child of God – This young person and their family are battling to be spared from a sentence that could mean this individual spending double digit years locked away in prison. Brothers and sisters in Christ sat in the courtroom too, seeing the need for justice, but also hopeful for compassion and a new and forgiven start for the future.

5:00 p.m. – Relay for Life event at the Aitkin County Fairgrounds – Hundreds of people gathered to join in solidarity with the dozens of cancer survivors who were honored. Hundreds of others, who lost their lives to cancer were later memorialized with candles burning in the darkness. I saw many of your brothers and sisters in Christ setting up displays, staffing booths, serving food, placing luminaries and walking in the parade of survivors. Tens of thousands of dollars were raised to end cancer.

By 8:00 p.m., I was home. I went for a walk and thought about the events and people of the day. I soaked up the beauty of the setting sun. I felt the love of God lift the weight of the world from my shoulders. By **10:00 p.m.**, I’d fallen asleep reading the paper. I went to bed and prayed for God to help us all, and to keep us safely in God’s loving care. Especially my own family and all those in special need.

At 1:00 a.m., the last of the Relay for Life folks shut off the lights at the fairgrounds and went home to bed. Some of God's people stayed up all night – at the hospital, jail, nursing homes, in the police cars and ambulances, loved ones standing vigil near deathbeds, young moms nursing newborns, and who knows how many others. And God waited with them. And God waits with us.

We learned this again on Friday, 7:30 a.m., as some of God's people gathered together in God's Word. Someone in need trusts God. Neighbors share. God provides. Lives are saved, right now and for all of eternity. All one in Christ. God has faithfully loved and cared for people and creation for the past 125 years here. Thanks be to God. Thank you for being a part of the Body of Christ here in this place.

Pastor Darrell

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

Paul's greeting to the almost brand new church of Ephesus seems as apt today as it did 2000 years ago. Even though we are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the creation of First Lutheran Church of Aitkin this year, we are still something new today. We walk today holding the traditions of all those that came before us in one hand and the exciting new possibilities of the future in the other.

I am honored to now be a part of the storied tradition of 1st Lutheran. Looking through the list of pastors that served, it is a privilege to now be a member. There have been 125 years of hard work and at times great pain to get 1st to where it is now.

I cannot say I have ever been more excited than when I heard I was being called to serve here. It has been a long journey that God has taken me on to lead me here. I was born in Morris, MN but spent most of my childhood in North Branch MN. Church was always a big part of my life. In middle school my family ended up being part of a mission start up church. We were one of those core families that were there almost every Sunday. I was one of 2 confirmands in our first confirmation ceremony. I was active throughout high school in youth group as well going on trips and running our sound system. After High School at UMD I was part of Lutheran Campus Ministry with Pastor Doug Paulson. For 3 summers of college I worked at Luther Point Bible camp. And it wasn't until after all of that did I even consider becoming a Pastor. All I can say is that while God may have been preparing me for this my entire life I wish God would have let me in on that calling a little sooner. After Graduation I worked for a few years as a youth director in Duluth and then started seminary at Luther in St Paul. Seminary was a profound and eye opening experience that challenged and grew my faith more than I could have imagined.



Along in this incredible journey I have been joined by my amazing wife Samarah, and my 2 adorable daughters, Elora and Mira. They have been so supportive and wonderful that I thank God every day for blessing me with them. They have changed my life and my deepened faith.

Now we are at time of great change within our community and within the church universal. Change can be scary. Change is hard. But it is also exciting. God is always with us in the midst of it all. That is the Rock that we hold to, where we draw strength and joy from. God has brought us together to work side by side in the ministry of God to this word. We are already doing that here, now is the time to continue and to keep pushing and growing.

I look forward to all of our times together, in joy and in pain, as the Body of Christ.

Grace and Peace, Jordan Gades



125th Anniversary Committee

Members: *Standing:* Al Midthun, Lavonne Bowman, Pastor Darrell Pedersen, Janet Peterson Karilyn Martinson
Seated: Ruth Carlstrom, Jill Blanchette, Janet Gardner, Norma Lehmann (Chairperson), Lael Carlstrom

Not pictured: Pastor Bob and Darlene Munneke, Bob Nelson, Gus Carlstrom, Christine Bright, LeeVae Hakes

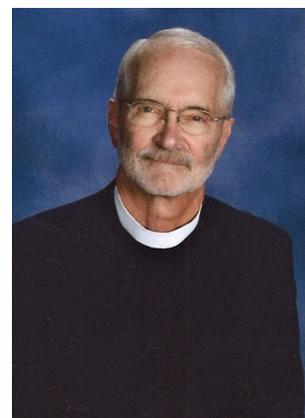




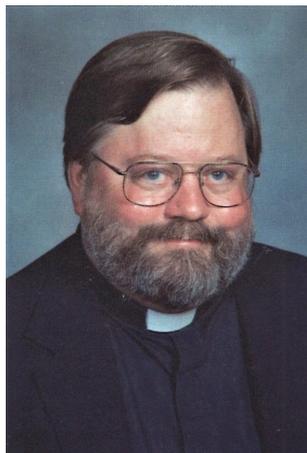
Pastor Jim Walth
1991-1994



Pastor Erika Nilsen
1995-2001



Pastor Douglas Larson
2000-2001



Pastor Lance Isaacson
2001-2010



Pastor Kris K. Johnson
2002-2004



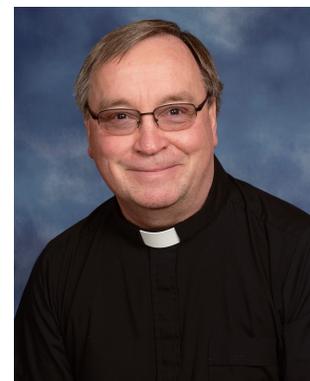
Pastor Sarah Cordray
2005-2009



Pastor Dorothy Sand
2010-2012



Pastor Melissa Carmack
2013-2016



Pastor Darrell J. Pedersen
2012-Present



Congregational involvement has been a priority in designing meaningful worship experiences.



Worship

The music under the direction and leadership of talented and dedicated musicians has been inspirational.

There has been an exciting blend of the traditional and the new, avoiding the “worship wars” that other congregations have faced. New music has been introduced, helping meet the needs of a changing society. Leaders have researched and discovered new liturgies, hymns and songs.

Musical groups have included:

- Sr. Choir
- Jr. Choir
- Contemporary worship leaders
- Confirmation singers & instrumentalists
- Sr. High singers & instrumentalists
- Instrumentalists
- Youth motion choir
- Sr. High Band
- Middle School Band
- Pastor Bob’s Band
- Maria Chapel Singers



Emphasis has been on selecting music the congregation can sing, rather than concert numbers by a choir. Congregational involvement has been a priority in designing meaningful worship experiences.

So many “assisting ministries” – altar guild, ushers, communion assistants, acolytes, and readers – have contributed greatly to our worship life.

Communication of services has been expanded and improved, with enhanced sound systems as well as television and radio broadcasts of our services.

Saturday night services were added to the weekly worship opportunities. And in 2012, Wednesday night worship at Maria Chapel with potluck was started; this grew to become a prepared supper at Maria.

Wednesday night worship – combined with supper – has continued during the school year at the church.

We offered our own “Mime” ministry.

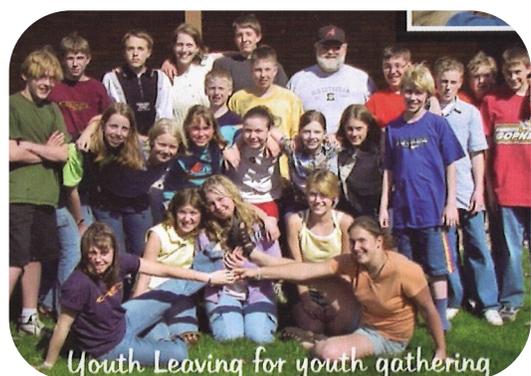


Youth

Many adults relate to our young people as a way of enriching their lives. And we welcome the young peoples' participation in the life of the congregation.

Programs planted, grown, and expanded through the past years:

- Confirmation classes are enjoyable and fun as the Word of God and the catechism are taught. Kids are anxious to attend, bring their friends, and work on amazing faith projects. Adult mentors provide positive experiences. Off-site gatherings add to the spirit.
- VBS is strong, with a creative environment and strong teaching to make an inviting experience.
- Church camp staff were used to lead VBS in the 1990's. They now lead a day camp week for elementary age children.
- Many youth have attended church camp, which is considered an important ministry of the church. Camperships have been offered to whoever wants to attend. And since 2013, all students in 5th grade receive a campership to attend camp.
- Milestone Ministries create a special connection with the church at each grade level.
- Tiny Tots ministry helps to grow Christian values and knowledge of Bible stories for preschool children.
- The Puppet ministry provides a special communication of Bible stories.
- We host Wednesday after school "coffee house" for students.
- Sunday School is still vibrant, with efforts to try various schedules and formats.
- National Youth Gatherings and mission trips have involved many young people.
- Cross-generational experiences provide enriching opportunities for youth and adults.
- Summer mission opportunities help youth and adults build their faith and gain skills as they help others.
- Cradle roll for preschool children nurtures our children and their parents.
- College visits and crash baskets are sent to college students, helping them remain connected to their home church.



Youth Leaving for youth gathering

Property



We enjoy our new worship area, offices, choir room, bathrooms, library – a building that works well for the mission and life of the church.

The older part of the property was remodeled, making it more functional for our teaching ministry and community service efforts.

Our property is constantly being maintained and

upgraded, serving as a good witness to the community.

Maria Chapel serves as an important part in our faith life and is in “upgrade” mode.

We welcomed the donation of a church van to more effectively handle group transportation.

Our property is constantly being maintained and upgraded, serving as a good witness to the community.



Leadership

Strong lay and pastoral leadership over the years.

Church Council:

- This elected group of lay people has given dedicated leadership and has grown to be a group of 12 people

Ordained Pastors:

- Robert Munneke
- Erika Nilsen
- Doug Larson
- Lance Isaacson
- Kris Johnson
- Sarah Cordray
- Dorothy Sand
- Darrell Pedersen
- Melissa Carmack

Lay Pastoral Ministry:

- Kurt Hagestuen
- Jeanie Collins
- Debra Clark
- Karen Newton

Home congregation for the following ordained pastors:

- Michael Fossen
- Linda Johnson Seyenkulo
- Douglas Paulson
- Kurt Hagestuen (currently in seminary)

Growth

During the past 25 years, First Lutheran has been in a growth mode in many ways:

- Membership
- Financial support
- Involvement in mission and ministry (grew from "Pastoral" to "Congregational" ministry plan)
- Outreach including "muggers" welcome gifts for visitors (First Lutheran mug, plus an invitation to come back)
- Evangelism - members growing in

inviting friends, relatives and neighbors to participate

- Spiritual growth, including Bible Study opportunities through the Women of the ELCA, Men in Mission, Wine and the Word, Men's noon gathering, Wednesday Bible Study, and forums





Did You Know?
Dinner at Your Door provides meals for members with a death in the family, just being released from hospital or other caring situations.



Caring Ministry

- Hospital, nursing home and home visits, communion visits
- Parish nurse ministry, including healing services, health forums, and many ongoing services
- Befrienders (supporting those experiencing troubles or challenges)
- Ministry in special family crises
- Prayer shawl ministry
- Overseas missions kits
- Grief support
- Note writing
- Library ministry encourages reading on seasonal topics and maintains a well-organized library
- Dinner at Your Door provides meals for members with a death in the family, just being released from hospital or other caring situations
- Graceful Dining provides a fellowship opportunity in members' homes



Spiritual Gifts

Recognition of the spiritual gifts that individuals have been given has always been important. A coordinator was hired to give special attention to this ministry, which is now done on an ongoing basis by staff and volunteers. Spiritual gifts from all ages are recognized and appreciated.



Staff

- Office manager
- Administrative assistant
- Accountant
- Custodian
- Musicians
- Equipping lay participants
- Mutual ministry team
- Volunteers recognized
- Recruitment of volunteers
- Nursery supervisor
- Wednesday night cook



Communications

- Bulletins
- Newsletters
- Web site
- Publicity
- Radio
- TV



Technology

- Upgrading technology and software in the church office has enabled better data recording for membership and financial data
- Web page
- Facebook



Financial Management

- Financial management and reporting updated
- King's Men count offering weekly
- Financial staff assists the finance committee
- Planning, gathering, reporting functioning well
- Extra Mile Giving provides an opportunity to give additional support for mission projects





First Lutheran has more members involved in the wider work of the church than any other congregation in the Synod!

Support for the Wider Work of the Church

Growth in support of wider work of church as well as local ministries.

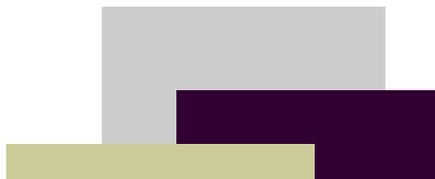
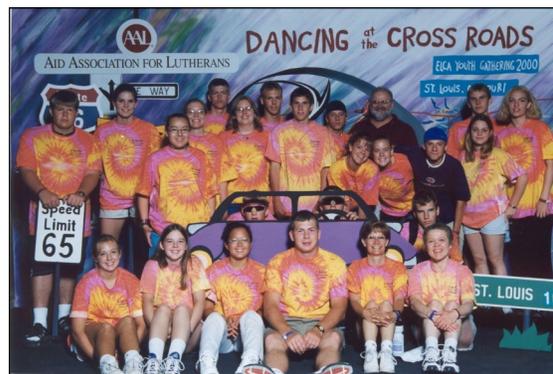
First Lutheran has more members involved in the wider work of the church than any other congregation in the Synod!

Members have filled positions in the Synod as elected board members and as treasurer; Mission Interpreter; Conference and ELCA committees; and leadership through VLM Camps, hunger program, immigration task force, creation care committee and other areas of mission and ministry.

Women have been elected to serve on the Synod Church Women board and conference positions.

First Lutheran has been involved in:

- Lutheran Social Service
- Kuwaa Mission (program for Liberia)
- Global missions
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- ELCA World Hunger
- Seafarer's Ministry
- Campus Ministry
- Brainerd Soup Kitchen
- Lutheran Colleges
- Creation Care
- Lutheran World Relief – quilts and kits



Role in the Community

Sharing our building for community projects and events.

- Food ministry: Monday and Thursday meals – coupled with Loaves and Fishes organization – provides meals for community. Provide Wednesday night meals for congregation.
- Commercial kitchen established to enable further ministries.
- Community Christmas Dinner, local school support, Helping Hands to do house repairs, Habitat for Humanity involvement.



Looking Ahead

- Systems and operations always being evaluated
- Safety committee active in helping make sure everyone is safe and the building has good rules and procedures. Maintain fire extinguishers and AED kit.
- Mission Endowment fund in place to help keep planning and working for extra support of congregation.

Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning is an important part of what we do!

Demographics, culture, family life, community life is always changing. Things that worked in the past maybe don't work as well now. Our calling is to be creative in thinking about the mission and ministry of the congregation.

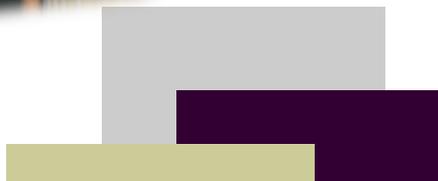
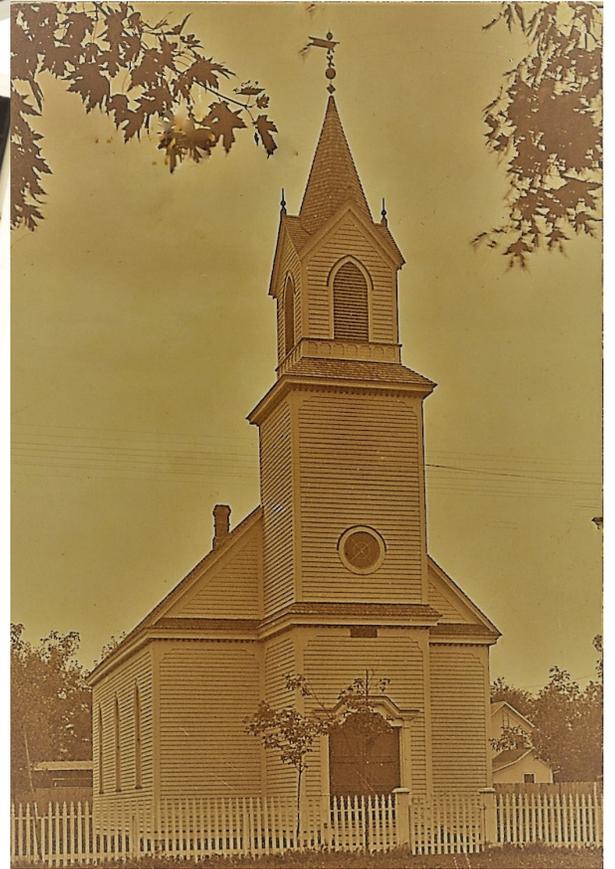
The First Lutheran Strategic Planning Committee in the 2015 Annual Report indicated that First Lutheran is a Missional Congregation. The committee further indicated that there are three main areas or pillars of “what we believe builds our future as a missional congregation:”

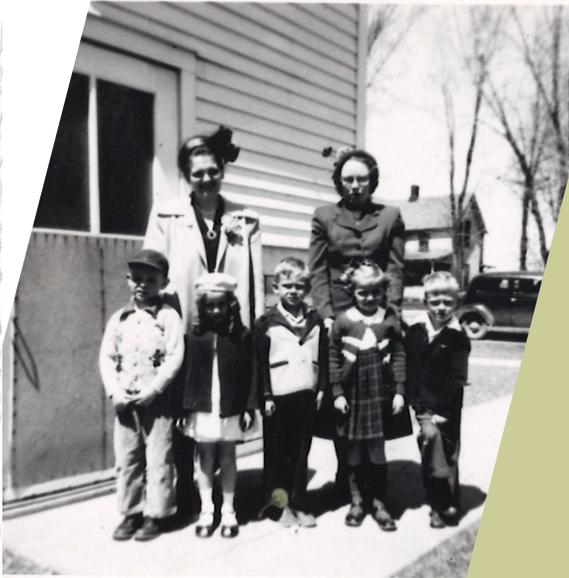
1. A Missional Church is a center of Christian spiritual growth opportunities.
2. It provides opportunities for its members to “live out” their faith by collectively and individually serving the needs of others.
3. It is effectively organized to support its mission and ministries.

These guidelines will help guide First Lutheran in planning for the future and implementing programs and missions to best serve the Aitkin area as we move into the next 25 years.

May God guide and bless us in providing opportunities for faith building and faith action.

Lost and Found Pictures of the 1940's



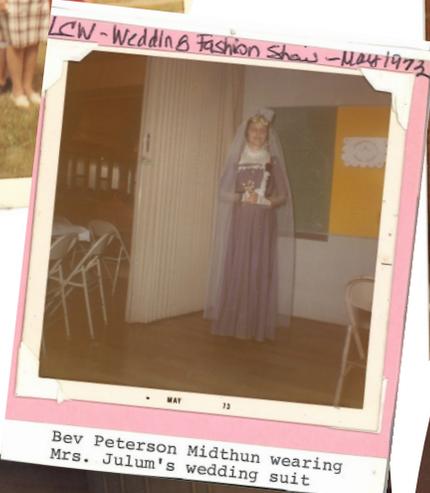


Lost and Found Pictures of the 1960's





1970



Bev Peterson Midthun wearing Mrs. Julum's wedding suit



Lizzie Carlstrom wearing her own wedding dress from 1920



APR • 71

Lost and Found Pictures of the 1980's

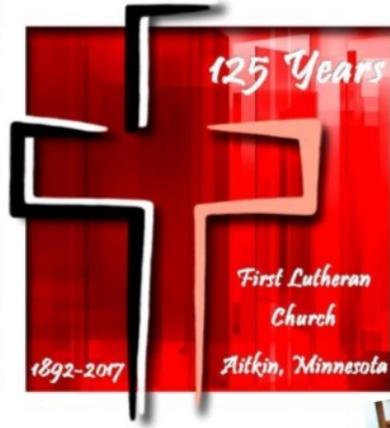




Lost and Found Pictures of the 2000's







First Lutheran Church
107 2nd St SE
Aitkin, MN 56431
(218) 927-2028
www.flc-aitkin.com



About this book:

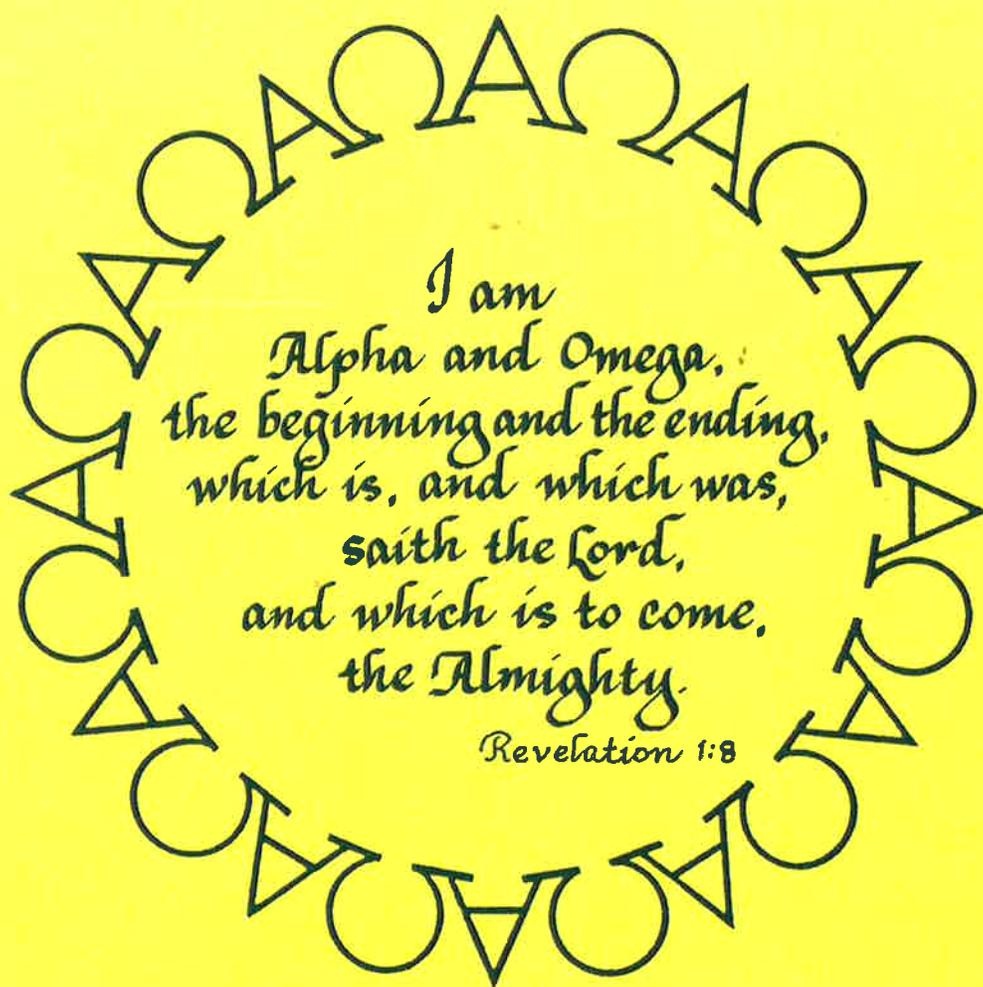
The first part of this book is focused on the past 25 years (1992-2017) . A special thank you goes out to the following people for making this happen. The narrative was written by Pastor Bob and Darlene Munneke. Their daughter Janine Johnson did the formatting and design work, and Jill Blanchette, our office manager, sorted, selected and inserted all the photos.

Lavonne Bowman and LeeVae Hakes sorted through all the “historical record boxes” and organized, preserved and labeled them. They also put together a wonderful display of our history.

(Pictured on page 4)

The second part of the book is a copy of the book put together to celebrate the first 100 years (1892—1992). This book was put together by the Centennial Committee.

Fit Gulum



*First Lutheran Church
Centennial Year
1892 ~ 1992*

*107 Second Street S.E.
Atkin, Minnesota 56431*

Dear Members and Friends of First Lutheran Church

It is my pleasure to greet you on this occasion of the 100th birthday of First Lutheran Church. It has been said that unless we know our history, it is difficult to know who we are; hence, many people are searching out their roots and genealogy. Congregations also have a history which helps us understand who we are. This Centennial Booklet, which will preserve the past and be a treasure for the future, is offered that we might better know that we are a family of God with rich traditions and faith.

As you carefully read, you will have a sense of appreciation and gain vision for the future as you catch the dedication, sacrifice, and devotion of those who have gone before. You will have a

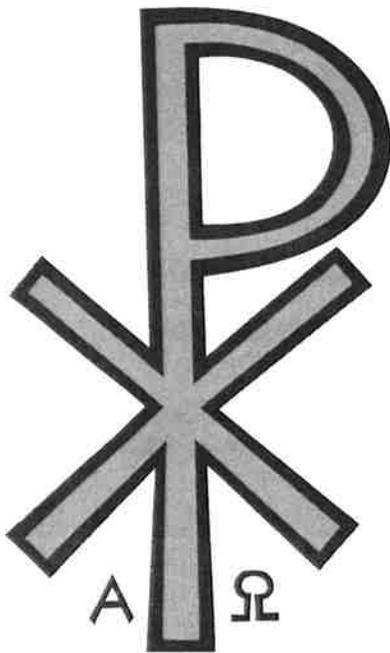
sense of awe as you recognize the hand of God operating through these pioneers and forefathers. You will be reminded that God continues to work through people to get things done. You will dream new dreams about what it means to be a giving people as you count God's blessings and mercy.

Keep before you our Centennial theme:
"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, which is, and which was, saith the Lord, and which is to come, The Almighty." (Rev. 1:8)

May God be praised in and through us in the years to come. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Munneke
Ash Wednesday 1992

Of the Father's Love Begotten



I am Alpha and Omega

Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
He the source, the end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
have been, And that fu - ture years shall see,
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE



L.to R. Front: Betty Monroe, Byron Ware, Helena Dotzler, Albert Lloyd Paulson
Back: Luella Julum, Kenneth Nelson, Lawrence Carlstrom, Lorraine Malmgren

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>ICE CREAM SOCIAL</i> July, 1991	<i>ORGAN DEDICATION</i> Concert-January 5	<i>REV. A. WALLACE CARLSON, GUEST</i> Augustana Service Noon Pot Luck, April 5, 1992
<i>PICTORIAL DIRECTORY</i> August, 1991	<i>LOIS SWANSON MISSIONARY</i> January 5, 1992	<i>FESTIVE SUNRISE SERVICE</i> Centennial Easter Breakfast April 19, 1992
<i>RALLY DAY</i> September, 1991	<i>CENTENNIAL ANNUAL MTG</i> January 26, 1992	<i>SEMINARIAN MICHAEL FOSSEN</i> Guest Speaker May 3, 1992
<i>HARVEST SUNDAY</i> October, 1991	<i>REV. GARY CUMINGS</i> Guest Pastor, February, 1992	<i>ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION</i> Bishop Roger Munson Noon Banquet-June 7, 1992
<i>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</i> Augustana Service	<i>DOUG PAULSON, GUEST PASTOR</i> March 1, 1992 Noon Pot Luck	<i>PASTOR LINDA SEYENKILLO</i> Afternoon Celebration June 7, 1992
<i>SCANDINAVIAN CHRISTMAS</i> Festival With St. Lucia	<i>REV. STEVE THOMPSON</i> Guest Pastor, March 15, 1992	<i>REV. BERNARD ERLING</i> Guest Speaker Noon Pot Luck, July 5, 1992

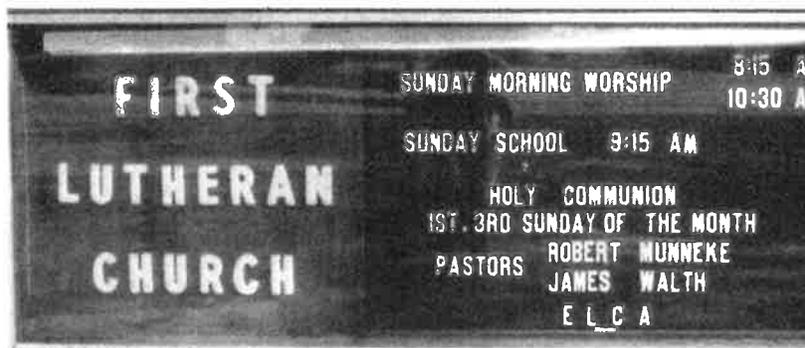
100th Anniversary



A Centennial is not only a time to recall past experiences, but is also a valuable opportunity for growth and learning.

"Pass It On" is our job description as we look to the next 100 years. Through dedicated service and prayer by past members, this admonition has been a reality at First Lutheran over the past 100 years of history. As we begin our second century of history, the calling to "Pass It On" helps focus our energy and attention.

Changes have taken place- buildings, liturgy, books and hymnals, classroom materials, clergy vestments, the many audiovisual aids in the teaching program, and numerous other aids, are new or different. But the calling to be God's people remains constant and his love remains steadfast.



1892 ANNIVERSARY 1992

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

- Ephesians 3:20-21

A Century of Spiritual Growth for First Lutheran Church.

We commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of our church and are happy to share with you a historical sketch, giving a timeline of highlights from the history of our congregation.

This is possible because of the pioneer workers' sense of challenge, pride and dedication to their church.

(Notes throughout this booklet are from the record books of the proceedings of The First Lutheran Church from 1892 to 1933, which Minutes were written in Swedish by J.G. Morine, and from the English Minutes of the Annual Meetings to date.)

On May 16th, 1892, Pastor Collins of Duluth was called to organize our Church. He opened the organization meeting with a message about the need and urgency of thinking of the Lord in our land and remembering Jerusalem. The following resolution was presented:

"We the undersigned do hereby declare to constitute the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran St. Pauli Church in Aitkin, Aitkin County, Minnesota, and for this purpose we adopt the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod's constitution as the congregation's constitution."

First members were:

- Mr. & Mrs. O.G. Nordin
- Mr. & Mrs. Gust Jansson
- Mr. & Mrs. Anders Backstrom
- Mr. & Mrs. Kjell Olson
- Mr. & Mrs. J.G. Morin
- Mr. & Mrs. Anders Feider
- Mr. Wiktor Carlsson

The congregation became a member of the Minnesota Conference of the Augustana Synod on May 23, 1892, at which time the Articles of Incorporation of the Church Constitution were adopted.

A student was called in 1893 to hold "Swede" Summer School for children for a period of two

to three months for which he was paid \$10 a month by the Conference.

The Sunday School was organized in 1895 with Mr. Morine as Superintendent and Mr. K. Olson as Vice-Superintendent. This same year lots were acquired to build the church on. (Yearly congregation income: \$78.08 expenses \$71.41).

591

Dietrich Casady & Wife
Swedish Evangelical Lutheran
St. Paul Church of Aitkin

Filed for Record this *4th* day of *Dec*
 A. D. 1896, at *St. Cloud* Minn.
P. L. Larson
 Register of Deeds.

This Indenture, made this *fourteenth* day of *September* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *ninety six* between *Dietrich Casady and Emma C. Casady his wife*

parties of the first part, and *The Trustees of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul Church of Aitkin Aitkin County Minnesota Erickson Gustafson Olson and their successors* party of the second part

Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of *Four Hundred* \$400.00 DOLLARS, to *them* in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby GRANT, REDEEM, SELL AND CONVEY, unto the said party of the second part, heirs and assigns, FOREVER, all *that* tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of *Aitkin* and State of Minnesota, described as follows, to-wit:

Lots (1 & 2) one and two in block (26) twenty six original town site or village of Aitkin as per plat on file and of record within and for Aitkin County in office of Register of deeds Aitkin County

Jöns Jönsson, the contractor who built our first church in 1898, was a skilled carpenter in Sweden. He came to America from Klövsjö, Sweden, with his wife, Kristina, and children: John, Olof, Anna (Julum), Jens and Louis. The family spent the first 1 1/2 years in America at New London, Minnesota, where Mr. Jönsson built a church. The money he made enabled him to purchase a team of oxen in 1889. There were many other families from Klövsjö, Jamtland, Sweden, who had arrived previously and settled in Aitkin County. The Jönsson family homesteaded on the east side of Rabbit Lake in Glen Township. Martha and Victor were born there.

Jönsson designed and built the church much like the one he had left in Klövsjö. The first parishioners donated their labor. Mrs. Julum said he had received \$125, spent \$100 for room and board during his year of building, and contributed



Jöns Jönsson

\$25 to the church so came home with nothing. Kristina was planning on buying clothes for the new baby boy.

(Submitted by Luella Julum, Granddaughter.)

Louis Johnson was named the head builder for the parsonage in 1909, with helpers Jöns Jönsson, John Berglund, Olof Johnson and others. The parsonage was moved in 1980 to 422 1st Avenue N.E., Aitkin.

Early church records show that Jöns, Louis and Olof were active members of the church, having served many terms as deacons and trustees.



Church and Parsonage

Jöns' daughter Anna married Gunder Julum October 2, 1900, which was one of the very first weddings in the church. Mary Olson was her bridesmaid. Mary married Charlie Johnson on June 14, 1905. Mary was the daughter of Kjel Olson. Kjel's family were very active, as are his grandchildren, in our church.

In the very early days, services were often held no more than once a month, and frequently the pastor would come by train from Brainerd at a charge of \$2.00. Until the parsonage was built in 1910 ministers had to find a place to board and needed horses to get about.



The altar, altar railing, and pulpit were of fine intricate handcarving done by Jönsson. In later years, Andrew Carlstrom made a baptismal font in the same style and design as the original pulpit.

Two of The First Weddings in St. Pauli Lutheran Church



Gunder & Anna Julum, Married Oct. 2, 1900



Carl (Charlie) & Mary Johnson June 14, 1905

Mr. and Mrs. Kjel Olson
 request the pleasure
 of your company at the marriage
 of their daughter
Mary
 to
Mr. Carl Emil Johnson
 at Swedish Evangel Lutheran Church
 on Wednesday Afternoon,
 June the fourteenth, nineteen hundred five
 Three O'clock

RECEPTION AT BRIDE'S HOME
AFTER CEREMONY

Pretty Church Wedding Last Wednesday Afternoon 06-14-05

The marriage of Carl Emil (Charlie) Johnson and Miss Mary Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kjel Olson, took place on Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock at the Swedish Lutheran Church on Cedar Street, the ceremony being performed by Rev. M. Mattson of Brainerd.

The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and was crowded by the friends of the contracting parties, to witness the nuptials. The bride was attended by Misses Lydia Peterson and Annie Erickson, while Messrs. Geo. Olson and Chas. Sieverson performed a like service for the groom. Alfa Olson and Elida Forsvick were flower girls, and Ole Olson and Ole Erickson officiated as ushers.

After the church service, the guests retired to the hospitable home of the parents of the bride, where a bountiful supper was served to all comers. The young people were the recipients of many valuable presents.

Aitkin Independent Age.

Early Confirmands that are living and present members of First Lutheran Church.

1913-1992
1914-1992

Malvina Newstrom Call
Freda Johnson Seguin

1920-1992
1923-1992

Alice Ryden Halek
Harold Giesler



1913 Rev. J.A. Gustafson

- 1st. Row: Anna Johnson Wallander, Selinda Newstrom, Alfa Olson, Adeline Hanson Hartman, Esther Larson Collins, **Malvina Newstrom Call**.
- 2nd. Row: Oscar West, Ole Johnson, Oliver Martinson, Axel Johnson, Ole Brown, Carl Lind, John Glad, Edwin Olson.
- 3rd. Row: Christine Arvidson Petterson, Cecelia West Malmgren, Tilda Lundeen, Caroline Eskelson Jacobson, Maybele Larson Deitz, Signe Stenmark Cole, Hilma Lind.



1914 - Rev. J.A. Gustafson

- 1st Row: Clarence Carlson, Hilding Hendrickson, Ed Hataja, Nannie Green Swanson, Esther Johnson, Hulda Johnson Sugrue, Emily Carlsten, Walter Anderson, Emanuel Lidberg.
- 2nd Row: Ernest Green, Ed Christenson, Gotfrid Johnson, Bertel Arvidson, Betty Engstrom, Leonard Engstrom, Victor Lundeen, John Johnson, Severt Osberg, Enoch Johnson, Rose Johnson, Martha Ecklund, Hilda Landgren D'Addea,
- 3rd Row: Fred Johnson, Josie Green Carlson, **Freda Johnson Seguin**, Gertie Green Dillon, Ellen Fredrickson, Jennie Williams Misfeldt, Agnes Johnson, Hulda Johnson, Esther Johnson Berggren, Altie Christenson Anderson, Anna Johnson, Helen Jacobson, Lillie Landgren.



May 23, 1920

Rev. E.J. Peterson

1st Row: Myrtle Hagen Nyberg, **Alice Ryden Halek**, Ethel Monson, Mildred Julum Robinson.
 2nd Row: Ellen Johnson, Mabel Edquist, Egan Skatt, Edith Skatt Hillman, Ernie Johnson, Agnes West Ware, Gilette Newstrom, Evelyn Landgren Conlow.

Memories of My Confirmation

My confirmation class consisted of twelve students. Our pastor was Rev. E.J. Peterson. We met Saturday mornings at the Swedish Lutheran St. Pauli Church. All of our confirmation lessons were in Swedish.

Before I would leave for the class on Saturday mornings, my father would sit down with me to cover the lesson and see if it was memorized. We were to know the Ten Commandments and my father usually insisted on my learning the Bible verse in connection with the commandment as he felt they were so important. There was also Bible History for us to study.

We were confirmed May 23, 1920. The girls were dressed in nice white dresses which our Mothers had made. The boys wore suits. We sat around the altar railing on chairs. I received the first question "Hvarfor kallas du kristan?" (Why are you called a Christian?) The group had memorized the 23rd Psalm and repeated it together.

Rev. Peterson presented each of us with a book at the end of our confirmation and with it the following Bible verse. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.

Rev. 2:10



Confirmation Class 1923
 Pastor E.J. Peterson, **Harold J. Giesler**,
 Lucile E. Giesler

*Ethel Monson Isaacson
 Palisade, MN &
 Pacific Palisades, Calif.*

HISTORY

" All baptized in Christ you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, and there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:27-28

- 1901** - First Organist - Ellida Johnson - Yearly Salary - \$5. Janitors - K. Olson and J. Morine. Yearly Salary - \$5. Yearly church dues: Men - \$1.50, Women - \$1.
- 1902** - Organist - Jenny Morine, Electric lights were installed and the yard landscaped through the paying for same by the Ladies Aid.
- 1904** - Records show that Rev. F.J. Peterson served the congregation from 1901 to 1904. We're unable to find out much information on his service, but we believe that he also served churches in Brainerd and most likely was supported by the Conference. Each family was requested to give a half cord of wood for heating the church.
- 1905** - Special meeting to call Pastor Ernest Sandeen. Annual parish salary: Aitkin \$125; Maria - \$100; Bethlehem - \$125; and \$300 from the Conference.
- 1909** - Church dues increased: Man and wife - \$5.00, Unmarried man - \$3.00, Unmarried woman - \$2.00, Confirmands under 18 - \$1.00. Parsonage building committee made report. Louis Johnson named head builder, with helpers Jon Jonsson, John Berglund. Resolution made that each and everyone should give help by labor, money or materials.
- 1910** - Parsonage built in Northeast Aitkin, next to the church. Student David Knock summer school teacher.
- 1911** - Congregation served by students and by Pastor P.O. Dahlberg.
- 1912** - Pastor J.A. Gustafson from Upsala became pastor after several calls had been made. His son, Paul followed his father by becoming a pastor of the Augustana Lutheran Church.
- 1913** - Plans for constructing a basement under the church because of need for expansion. Special mention is made of a 4th of



Pastor J.A. Gustafson and family

July picnic at the Christ Nilson's "beautiful park" near Cedar Lake. Free ice cream and lemonade, with the American flag displayed above the table added to the annual summer picnics, many of which were held at Bonn's Point on Cedar Lake.

- 1914** - An outstanding Christmas Sunday School program Christmas night, with an enormous and beautifully trimmed tree, ablaze with real candles. Eighty-five communicant members, 14 confirmed.



Many Lutheran Churches had paintings behind their altars. The original church building on 4th Street had a painting "Garden of Gethesamne" done by the famous artist, August Klagstad. (1866-1949) A German

artist by the name of Hans Thoma painted many biblical scenes. Mr. Klagstad would copy the image by hand-coloring on portraits and altar painting. The painting was salvaged from the building after the fire, but was unable to be repaired.

1915 - Sunday school teachers to help Mr. Morine and Mr. Olson: Gunder Julum, Lizzie Olson, Alfa Olson, Fred Monson, A. L. Dahlberg. Mr. A. Bomgren was summer school teacher.

The picket fence (shown on first pictures of the church) was taken down and plans were made for a sidewalk.

1916 - Rev. E. J. Peterson became pastor, and student John Benson was summer school teacher.

1918 - Armistice signed. World War I ended. Men will be returning to our church after serving their country. Many called to assist in the "flu" epidemic, which took the lives of many in the community, and our former organist, Jenny Morine Heft.

1922 - Women obtained the right to vote on the church affairs. Lyric Men's Choir of Gustavus Adolphus College presented a concert. Lizzie Olson Carlstrom resigned as organist, which post she held since 1908.

1923 - Pastor J.E. Carlson called as new pastor. The Augustana Church no longer to be part of parish. Book racks were added to the church pews.

1924 - Women's Missionary Society organized.

1925 - Membership increasing. Adults 120, children 60. New Year's Eve "Watch Night" service. Entire families went to church, which consisted of a program, excellent lunch, and then prayer before midnight. At the stroke of twelve, the church bells rang in the New Year. The church bell in the early years tolled the age of anyone who passed away. All knew who were ill and this was a message as the tolling began immediately after death. This was before radio and television and very few had phones.

1927 - Pastor's report states both languages have been used in Sunday School, with introducing the opening and closing in English, which has seemed both necessary and satisfactory.

1928 - Pastor Shipp was called as pastor. Gunder Julum retired as Sunday School Superintendent after about 15 years of

service. Sophie Julum was elected, and followed with more than 20 years of service in our Sunday School.

1929 - Motion was made to have half of the sermons in the Swedish language and half in English.

1930 - Meeting held for the merger of St. Pauli and Maria Church to become First Lutheran Church of Aitkin. Resolved (formal language) to change the church name from "The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran St. Pauli Church of Aitkin". to the simpler "First Lutheran Church of Aitkin". Up to this point, church minutes were in Swedish, thereafter in English. Church purchased a Baldwin piano thru Julum's Song Shop.



Andrew Lawrence '72

This baptismal font was built by hand by the late Andrew Carlstrom in the 1930's for the old church on 4th Street. It was designed in the same style as the pulpit. We are thankful it survived the fire.

Andrew Lawrence, son of Lawrence and Ardys Carlstrom, was received as a member through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, December 6, 1971, and was the last infant to be baptized at this font. The font is now located in the church chapel.

1931 - Annual winter Sunday School sleighride a great success and a big highlight for the children for many years. Fire threatened to destroy the church, but church records state the fast action of the

- Aitkin Fire Department controlled it. Services were held at the Episcopal Church while ours was redecorated.
- 1932** - Considering the continued depression, the congregation was commended on being able to break even for this and the two previous years. Pastor Shipp quotes "Take courage and trust. God will provide."
- 1933** - Pastor Shipp retired, and student Alvar Walfrid took charge for the summer. Rev. J.S. Benson called as pastor.
- 1934** - Lutheran Brotherhood was organized with a membership of 24. The Midsummer Festival at Maria Chapel on June 24 was successful. Junior Mission Band organized for the children. The prior two years of confirmation classes formed a Summer Sunday School at Lone Lake School House with hopes that it would be a spiritual force in the community. Mrs. Albin Carlson, Superintendent. Concordia Choir concert well attended. Girls Sewing Circle commended on fine "smorgasbord" which was enjoyed by the entire community. Individual communion service set donated by the Circle.
- 1935** - Women's Mission Society reported to be very active, meeting quarterly, and doing a fine mission program. It was organized in the parish in about 1923.
- 1937** - 32-voice choir under direction of Wm. Aanestad presented a concert over KDAL at Duluth. Also, presented a concert at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in the evening. 45th Anniversary of the church. Potted plants sent to all charter members.
- 1938** - Special meeting called for purchasing of a Hammond Organ at a price of \$1400 to replace the old pump organ. Dedicatory recital of electric organ April 8, 8 p.m. with Mrs. Hugo Heimdahl, church organist opening with a prelude and followed by a recital. Taking part were Theo. Bergman of MacPhail School of Music, and three local ladies: Mrs. Helen Kelts Davis, Miss Romelle Erickson and Mrs. Helen Kelly Smith. April 10-8 p.m. Dedication Service In Memorium of Jennie Morine Heft, organist of First Lutheran Church 1902-1907, by her family. Bernard Erling leading an active Luther League.
- 1940** - Luther League in charge of booth at County Fair - portraying youth in Christianity and distributing religious publications.
- 1941** - Pastor. Erling from Bethel Lutheran in Palisade serving as temporary vice-pastor. Son, Bernhard Erling, serving First Lutheran on weekends while student at Gustavus Adolphus College. Miriam Circle (teen-age girls) program. Mother-Daughter tea, nice spring event.
- 1942** - Rev. G.R. Grahn accepted call to become our new pastor. Many young men off to war and many of our congregation working in defense areas, which curtailed our local church activity.
- 1943** - Purchase of war bonds encouraged for building fund.
- 1944** - Sympathy extended to parish "sons" who had given their lives for their country. A bronze memorial cross was given for the altar from the Hulin family in memory of Arthur Norman Hulin, born August 25, 1916, who gave his life in the service of his country September 7, 1944. Lightning hit the steeple of the church but fire damage was not extensive.
- 1946** - Rev. Grahn, pastor, paid extra for janitorial duties.
- 1947** - Annual "Lutefisk" supper served by organizations to community with proceeds designated for the building fund. Lutheran Brotherhood to be re-organized.
- 1948** - Alpha Jaques in charge of summer vacation Bible school. She is now serving in Tanzania as a missionary nurse. Women's Missionary Society and the Luther League were hostesses to the District Conventions.
- 1949** - Action on building. Build new or remodel?
Wooden offering plates made and donated by Carl Holmgren.
- 1950** - Student Robert Cunningham, with Vice-Pastor Rev. Ofelt of Crosby, serving parish. Board action to transfer church funds to the Security State Bank.
- 1951** - Rev. Erling accepted temporary pastor's position at \$150 per month. Rev. Holmberg accepted call as pastor.
- 1952** - Continued plans for remodeling or building new. Funds available \$8,139.00. Sixty-year anniversary committee set up. Those serving will be Ernest Pearson, F.C. Kaplan, Al Baumgartner, and Kari Laukkanen. A motion for Lutheran Brotherhood to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop. Church bells to ring on Saturday evening at 6:00.

Rev. and Mrs. Erling were killed in a car accident, and a double service was held in our church. Rev. and Mrs. Erling were on their way to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend Rev. Holmberg's ordination.

1954 - The Women's Missionary Society held a Commissioning Service for Alpha Jaques before she left to serve as a Medical Missionary in Tanzania, East Africa, the mission field supported by the Augustana Lutheran Church. Congregation voted 56 "yes" to 18 "no" to build a new church. Present church building committees elected: Finance committee: Ernest Thompson, Ernest Pearson, Molly Call, Mrs. Koukis and Mrs. Edwin Engquist. Site committee: Edwin Hedberg, Andy Newton, Mrs. Carl Carlson, Mrs. Walt Petraborg, Miss Luella Julum. Building committee: Mrs. G. Starkey, Carl Spaeth, Severt Osberg, chairman, Kari Laukkanen, O.W. Newstrom Fred Nyberg, Mrs. F.C. Kaplan, Mrs. Lambert Nelson, Mrs. John Hendrickson, Hjalmar Hulin, Roy Peterson, and Henry Lidfors, who served as secretary for the committee.



1955 - Conference budget, Lutheran World Action, Pension & Aid Funds were met in present financial situation. The old church was destroyed by fire. Basement was saved and while it was repaired, services were held at the Congregational Church.

As services were held temporarily in the basement of First Lutheran after the fire, there was a need for an altar and kneeling bench. Carl Spaeth, industrial arts teacher at the high school and an active member of our church, built one that was later used in the fellowship hall and is now located in the Chapel.



DEED RECORD NO. 99

Warranty Deed,
Individual to Corporation.

FORM NO. 3
Minnesota Uniform Conveyancing Blanks (1931)

Herzog-Oswald Publishing Co.
New Ulm, Minn.

134993

FILED MAY 23 1956 AT 22.M

This Indenture, Made this 18th day of April 1955,
between Alma B. Skone and C.E. Skone, wife and husband

of the County of Crow Wing and State of Minnesota,
parties of the first part, and The First Lutheran Church of Aitkin, Minnesota,
a corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota, party of the second part,

Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part, in consideration of the sum of
One dollar and other good and valuable consideration, to-wit: DOLLARS,
to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby
acknowledged, do hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell and Convey unto the said party of the second part,
its successors and assigns, Forever, all the tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County
of Aitkin and State of Minnesota, described as follows, to-wit:

**Lots Ten (10), Eleven (11) and Twelve (12), Block One
Hundred Seventeen (117), of the Plat of the First Addition
to Aitkin, Minnesota, according to the plat thereof on file
and of record in the office of the Register of Deeds in and
for Aitkin County, Minnesota;**

Subject to reservations and restrictions of record;

1955 - Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Skone donated the site in Southeast Aitkin for the proposed new church, through the efforts and generosity of their son-in-law and daughter, Henry and Betty Lidfors. November 18th, ground was broken for the new church on this date. Work to begin that week on the \$97,000.00 building.

1956 - It was voted to have a full-time pastor, starting April 1. Salary was to be \$3,200 plus \$400 for expenses. Previously the shared salary was Aitkin \$2,800 plus \$200 travel, Bethlehem \$450, Bethesda \$350.

1957 - The church was completed and the planning and work of landscaping was done by F.C. Kaplan, Ag instructor at the Aitkin High School. A Dedication Service was held on 11-3-57. This year the Swedish early morning Julötta was changed to a Christmas Eve Service.

1958 - Pastor Holmberg passed away after seven years of service. His ministry was brief but very effective. Pastor J. Edor Larson released from Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis to serve our needs. Dr. Pettersen appointed chairman of committee for procurement of an electric organ. Received fine Conn organ through memorial gifts for Rev. Vernon Holmberg and John and Mary Beth Lidfors. Annual yearbook was

published to be made available to all members.

1960 - Pastor A. Wallace Carlson of Beckville Parish, Litchfield, Minnesota, called to be the pastor. He arrived September 1st.

First Lutheran Church Women organized. Nine groups of women participate actively in life of congregation and community. National and World missions are supported through generous offerings. The appearance of "St. Lucia" high-lights the Christmas meeting. Mother & Daughter banquet served by the men of the church. Parsonage planning committee formed. Funds available, \$5,305.

1961 - Purchase of new parsonage, and sale of parsonage on 4th Street N.E.

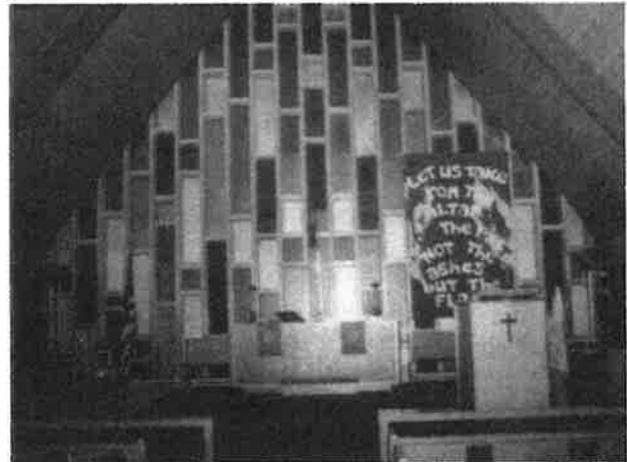
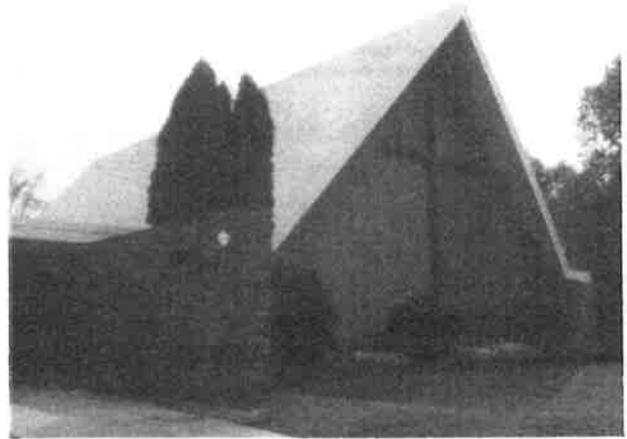


1962 - 70th Anniversary observance. Dr. Kendall, President of the Lutheran Minnesota Conference, speaker, and blessing of newly-acquired parsonage. Mrs. Charles Johnson, daughter of one of our charter members, K. Olson, was able to be present. (We still have a few members who are descendants of charter members.) Merger of four bodies of the synod to become Lutheran Church of America. Baldwin piano given through memorial gifts.

1963 - Altar Guild organized February 18th. The congregation adopted the new constitution for congregations of the Lutheran Church in America.

1964 - The congregation adopted the lesson materials prepared by the Board of Parish Education of the Lutheran Church in America for use in the Sunday Church School, the Week Day School, the Vacation Church School and the Confirmation School. First Lutheran Church began the three year program of confirmation instruction. Three classes were conducted for Sunday Church School teachers, using the newly-prepared materials for this purpose.

1965 - Women of Maria Chapel Church area holding devotional services throughout the summer months. Their receipts maintain the Maria Chapel property.



Four High-Leaguers, Vicki Paulson, James Thompson, Linda Way, and David Yattaw attended the International Youth Convention held at Miami Beach, Florida in August, 1965.

1966 - The congregation participated in the UNITE (Undergrad Northwestern In Theological Education) Program of the Minnesota Synod in raising funds for the erection of the new Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul. \$1,648.00 was given over a period of two years.

1967 - First Lutheran considers itself fortunate to have three choirs which sing at the worship services. Mr. C. Steffen Sanvick directs the Senior Choir; the Cherub and Junior Choirs are directed by Mrs. William Hudson.



Alma (Mrs. E. N.) Skone, Helen (Mrs. Clifford) Carlson Wikelius, Laura (Mrs. John) Paulson
Clifford Wikelius

On August 6, the congregation celebrated the 75th Anniversary with the theme "Set The Work Forward." Guest pastors for the morning service of Holy Communion were Pastor John S. Benson who served our congregation from 1933 to 1941 and Pastor Paul Gustafson, son of Pastor J.A. Gustafson who served from 1912 to 1916. The Rev. Dr. Melvin A. Hammarberg, President of our Minnesota Synod, LCA, was guest speaker for the afternoon service. Two milestones have been reached- the 75th Anniversary of First Lutheran and the 450th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The reformation followed the 1515 event of Luther's calling the church to response and obedience. Present membership of 424 confirmed members and 175 in the Sunday School enrollment. Current budget is \$29,700.00.

1968 - Irvine Anderson was hired as custodian. Several church rooms were repainted and four rooms at the parsonage were redecorated. Adequate insurance on all of the church property was implemented.

1970 - Seventeen Sunday School pupils and six adults visited the Minnesota Synod Church offices and Augustana Lutheran Church which conducts the Cross Road Program for children and adults in the City of Minneapolis in their area. Evelyn Carlson was the first woman member elected to the church council.

1971 - A series of inter-church fellowship services were held in the community with the congregations of St. James Catholic Church, the United Methodist Church, and First Lutheran participating.



Pastor Carlson, Anne Carlson, Mark, Kent, Marta, Vicki,

1972 - David Benson was hired as a parish worker to serve as counselor with the junior and senior youth groups. The church mortgage on the present structure was burned. Pastor A. Wallace and Anne Carlson were able to visit the Holy Land in June and July. There were 465 confirmed members, 157 children, for a total of 622 baptized members.

1973 - The 85th Anniversary of Maria Lutheran Church was celebrated at First Lutheran July 8, 1973. Minnesota Synod President, Dr. Melvin Hammarberg, was the main speaker for the day. Pastor Alvar Walfrid, who served as a student pastor in the 1930's also preached at the morning service. The afternoon service included a brief history of the merged Maria and First Lutheran churches, which was prepared by Mrs. Byron Ware and Mrs. Luther Malmgren for Maria, and by Luella Julum for First Lutheran. From 4 p.m. until evening, an open house was held at the Maria Chapel, considered to be the oldest Lutheran Church in Aitkin County, having been built in 1889. Completed payments on the parsonage which was purchased in 1961. Key '73 Bible study groups studied the books of Luke and Acts. The wedding service committee was organized, with Carol Knutson and Muriel Sall as co-chairs.

- 1974** - Church Council set up a Seminary Scholarship Fund to help members of our congregation in a financial way, who want to prepare for a life of service in the ordained ministry of the church. Due to lack of income, the parish worker position was eliminated. This was done with great sadness since Dave Benson had a wonderful ministry of teaching and working with the young people.
- 1975** - Participated in "Let's Invest in Theological Education for 1975-1976." In March the Church entertained a group of about 40 Swedish persons from Klövsjö, Sweden, who showed the life, folk costumes, and crafts of 19th century Sweden and who came to visit with relatives whose ancestors settled in the Aitkin area almost a 100 years before. Coming from the northern Swedish province of Jamtland, the group's visit in Aitkin was coordinated by First Lutheran in cooperation with the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Of the 40 persons, 16 were related to Sidney Berglund on both his mother and father's side.
- 1976** - Bicentennial year of our country - 200 years of history. We see the history of the church intertwined with the history and development of the nation. Many of the first explorers were people of the church who brought a priest or a minister with them when they came to America. Many of our early settlers were of Christian background and were eager to establish churches as soon as they built their homes. A heritage program was held November 8, 1976, with Mrs. Byron Ware noting the beginnings of Maria and with an interview with Lizzie Carlstrom, a daughter of charter members, Mr. and Mrs. Kjel Olson. Honored guests were descendants of the charter members.
- 1977** - Evangelical Outreach (EO). This was an effort of the Lutheran Church of America and American Lutheran Church to reach the lapsed members and unchurched in the community. To accomplish this, would be four thrusts: Bible study, witness program, a mass media evangelism strategy, and training of parish evangelists (callers) for integration of new life in the church and restored members.
- 1978** - In August the new Service Book and Hymnal, prepared by InterLutheran Commission on Workshop, was introduced. It is green in color and called the Lutheran Book of Worship. Tom Nacey, intern from Northwestern Lutheran Seminary in St. Paul, was here to help with the two Clear Lake Parish congregations and assist in parish preaching, youth work and visitation. Vesper services were held at Maria Chapel Saturday evenings from July thru Labor Day.
- 1979** - Shepherding Plan, with Myrtle Anderson as director, was held. Zones were set up for volunteers to visit members and non-members in the Evangelical Outreach program of the Lindsborg, Kansas. Pastor A. Wallace Carlson and family moved to Minneapolis after serving our church for 19 years. Our thanks and prayers went with him as he continued the Lord's work in the Twin Cities.
- 1980** - The 93rd Annual meeting was held January 20, 1980, with the pastor as chairperson of the church council. A motion was made and seconded to place on the ballot the proposal that the chairperson of the church council be elected by the council. Motion carried. Church improvements were the installation of ceiling fans in the nave, covering the pipe system in the fellowship room and adding more insulation. Church council delegated to develop a policy regarding church use for non-church functions. Pastor Gary G. Cumings and family arrived April 6, as our new pastor. Began "Adult Forum" which is held during the church school hour. Discussions cover a whole variety of issues that concern our life together as members.
- 1981** - First Lutheran Churchmen, a new organization within the church, was formed. Lay people began reading the scriptures during worship.
- 1982** - "Keepers of the Vineyard" was organized. This all-church organization was set up to handle serving events for which no one group is specifically responsible. Members are placed into eight groups and are called on in rotation to arrange for workers and food for weddings and funerals of non-members, banquets, visiting groups, synodical functions and community affairs, etc.
- 1983** - The Aitkin Area Parish Committee was formed between the First Lutheran Church of Aitkin, Bethesda Lutheran Church of Rosburg, and St. John's Lutheran Church of Cedar Brook. Tiny Tots program was initiated for the pre-school age child to increase each child's positive self-image. A major addition was made to the church this year. A series of classrooms, pastor's study, small chapel, and a library were added. A sizable amount of money was willed to the church by deceased member, Anna Wallander. She designated the bequest for a library. It is called the "Anna Wallander Memorial Library."
- 1984** - The grounds were landscaped by volunteers. Shrubs, sod, and labor were free-will

gifts of interested members. On April 20, 1984, the new addition was dedicated by a service with Pastor Cumings officiating. Edward Schafer Associates of Duluth was the architect and Lawrence Carlstrom was head building contractor. The building committee consisted of Don Hagestuen as chairman, Franklin Kosbau, Patricia Nyberg, James Nelson, Byron Ware, Robert Hoffman, Robert Nelson, Betty Monroe, and Jim Anderson. This addition was very well planned and has proved to be a great asset to our church.

1985 - On May 31 a loan of \$10,000 was made to enable the purchase of the property east of the church for a parking lot. Jim Anderson, Dennis O'Neil, and Franklin Kosbau did the work necessary to provide the parking lot. We are grateful that members of the congregation had the foresight to see the need for this property. Pastor Steve Thompson was ordained at the Synod Convention in St. Peter in June of 1984. Steve, Debbie and three sons came to Aitkin in 1985 to serve the three churches in AAP.

1986 - Pentecost Sunday was celebrated on May 18 by a joint worship service at the high school between St. John's Lutheran of Cedarbrook, Bethesda Lutheran and First Lutheran of Aitkin. A mass choir was enjoyed along with all the festivities of the service. This has been an annual celebration. Vacation Bible School was successful with First Lutheran and the Congregational Church children studying and worshipping together.

1987 - Pastor Cumings resigned August 31 and accepted a call to St. Pauli's Lutheran Church at Red Wing. Vice Pastor Winnie Johnson and Steve Thompson served us well during this interim time. The Welcome Place, a radio ministry of area ELCA churches, inaugurated. Pastor Johnson's annual report quoted that the laity occupied a prominent role and share in the active ministry as lay members. "Truly, one of the blessings from God's grace is the 'Priesthood of all believers.' It is not only the pastor who 'ministers', but each one of us who has been baptized in Christ's name. God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others." With the national three-church merger, the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), the American Lutheran Churches (ALC), and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC), we officially became a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) on January 1, 1987. On December 31, 1987, membership totaled 709 baptized members 582 confirmed members and 177 children.

1988 - ELCA Women of the Church are planning to sponsor a portion of the cost of each youth of our congregation to Camp Hiawatha as encouragement to attend. Confirmation retreat was held early in April at Camp Hiawatha.

Mrs. Sig Skatt and Mrs. John Hendrickson were given permission by our board to make an application for the Maria Church to be put on the National Register. This was not accomplished, but another attempt will be made. With almost a year without a regular pastor, Pastor Munneke arrived and was installed on July 31, 1988. Welcome to Pastor Bob, and his wife Darlene, and their family. Fred and Clara Soelberg celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in August of 1988. Fred passed away a short time before their 68th anniversary. Contemporary worship service "Let Us Enter In" was scheduled for the third Sunday in the month at the 8:15 service. Communion is by intinction (dipping the wafer in the wine) with a member of the board and a youth assisting in the serving. Sixty Bibles were placed in the pews. A new sidewalk was installed at the north entrance and a handicap rail from the church to the curb. This is a very welcome feature to have a "handicap entrance", which is now a requirement for all new structures. The parking lot was blacktopped by Anderson Bros. Thanks expressed to the Wilbur Nelsons for the loan making this possible. A new PA system was installed, with Pastor Steve Thompson as main engineer. Pastor Thompson's newly adopted daughter, Jenna, arrived from Korea. On August 29, Douglas Paulson, son of Mrs. Mildred Paulson and the late Chester Paulson, was ordained as a minister of ELCA at a festive service at First Lutheran. In September he began service as a pastor in Alamo, North Dakota. Congregation introduced to Godfrey Achaw from Ghana, Africa who is seeking political asylum in the USA. A generous offering was received in the three AAP congregations to assist Godfrey's family in Ghana. Rev. Munneke noted in his year-end report his concern with the lack of youth involvement and attendance at our worship services.

1989 - A number of members have become involved in "Cursillo" where they attend a renewal weekend retreat held at various churches within the state, which is to inspire, challenge, and equip them for Christian action in their homes, churches, and communities. Holy week services included Stations of the Cross and also a Tenebrae Service by the Clown Ministry

Team. Pastor Steve serves on Youth Issues Tax Force on behalf of the Bishop. Pastor Steve and Youth Committee drafted a Mission Statement for Youth. First Lutheran joined other congregations in the Synod in encouraging tithing through a "Try Tithing Sunday." A Farmer's Market opened in the fall with proceeds designated to Camp Hiawatha.

A membership totalling 756 was noted as of December 31, 1989, with 614 baptized adults and 142 baptized children.

1990 - Computer purchased for the church office. Pastor Steve Thompson and family moved to West Fargo. Sorry to see them leave, but wish them well. Special World Hunger Appeal offering sponsored by Service Committee, with a goal of \$5,000 which was exceeded, as almost \$6,000 was received, to be used for wells in self-help hunger projects. Recycling program carried out by churchmen. Arlen Holmen called as interim youth director and pulpit supply. Pastor Holmen also serving St. John's and Bethesda. A Christmas Day dinner for the community held at First Lutheran with St. James Catholic, Congregational, and First Lutheran churches serving a sponsors.

1991 - A new Rodgers organ arrived in October and was installed, debt free, through memorials and gifts of our members. James Walth called as pastor at the Aitkin Area Parish, with one-third of his time designated for youth ministry at our church. Digital duplicating machine for office purchased. Centennial pictorial directory project initiated. Maria Chapel painted by volunteer members of First Lutheran Church and those with special association with Maria Chapel. Pastor James Walth was ordained June 1, 1991 at the Salem Lutheran Church in

Deerwood, and began his service for the three AAP churches June 16. A kick-off Rally Day program was held in September for the Centennial Year. Major fund appeal for Lutheran Social Service was adopted with 23 families pledging some \$20,000, which more than doubled the goal. Successful family Christmas Scandinavian dinner held December 8, with approximately 160 enjoying the smorgasbord, fiddle music, and St. Lucia-Naomi Klingelhofer. Not many were aware that the hour and a half of candlelight atmosphere was due to a blown transformer.

803 baptized members as of December 31, 1991, with 615 adult members and 188 baptized children.



Suka Paulson serving punch following the Sunday School Christmas program, 1987.



Altar area of
First Lutheran Church

PASTORS THE FIRST 100 YEARS

"REMEMBER THEM THAT HATH THE RULE OVER YOU, MEN THAT SPAKE UNTO YOU THE WORD OF GOD; AND CONSIDERING THE ISSUE OF THEIR LIFE, IMITATE THEIR FAITH."
Heb. 13:7



Frederick Peterson
1901-1904



E.H. Sanden
1905-1910



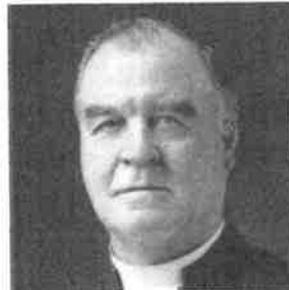
J.A. Gustafson
1912-1916



E.J. Peterson
1916-1923



J.E. Carlson
1923-1928



J.E. Shipp
1928-1933



John S. Benson
1933-1941



Gunnard Grahn
1942-1950



S.A. Erling
1950-1952



Vernon Holmberg
1952-1959



J. Edor Larson
1959-1960



A. Wallace Carlson
1960-1979



Gary G. Cumings
4-6-80 to 8-31-87



Winnie Johnson
9-1-87 to 8-31-88



Robert Munneke
8-1-88 to Present

STUDENT PASTORS

PARISH WORKERS

ASSISTANT PASTORS

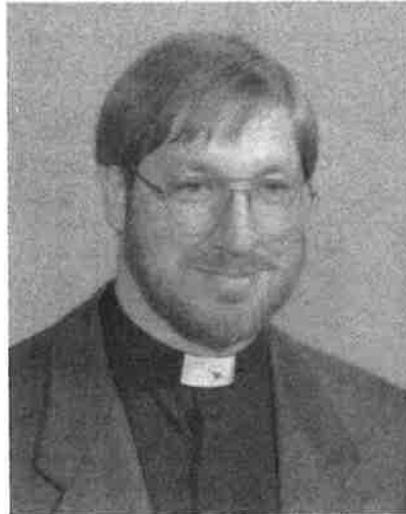
We have been very fortunate to have student pastors, intern pastors, and interim pastors to fill our pulpit and work with the youth. Some of those that have served are as follows:

A.F. Seastrand, Hugo Throne, Rev. Shaleen, John Benson,
Theodore Nordale, Alvar Walfrid, Evald Conrad,
Bernhard Erling, Robert Cunningham, David Everett,
Tom Nacey, Arlen Holmen, Rev. Ingolf Kronstad.

The following have served most recently as parish workers in youth ministry.



DAVID BENSON
1972-1974



STEVE THOMPSON
1985-1990



JIM WALTH
1991-

HISTORY Of The MARIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

(The First Lutheran Church)

In the late 1870's and early 1880's several persons from various parts of Sweden settled southeast of Aitkin. After getting their own log cabins built, they began talking about building a church where they could meet to worship and praise the Lord and have a Sunday School for their children.

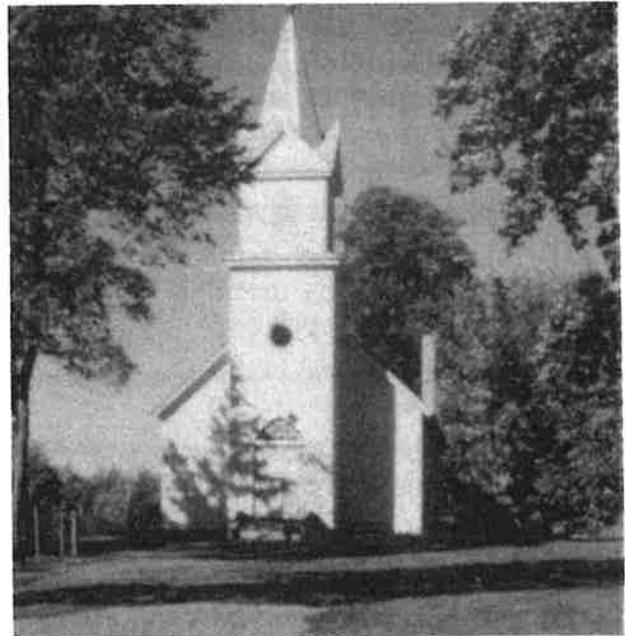
On March 14, 1888, the men met under the leadership of Pastor Sjobloom of the Augustana Synod and officiated at the organization of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Maria Church. The seventeen charter members were:

Mr. & Mrs. Per Eklund
 Mr. & Mrs. A.H. Enberg
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Lofgren
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Olson
 Mr. & Mrs. William Olson
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew West
 Mr. & Mrs. Olaf Olson
 Mr. & Mrs. Olaf Norin
 Mrs. Britta Nils Dotter

On January 22, 1889, at the annual meeting they voted to build a church of logs, 40 x 26 feet, with as much free labor as possible. Yearly church dues were \$2.00 for men and \$1.00 for women. Gust West and August Hedlund did most of the work aided by volunteer labor. It took between three and four years before completion was enough to hold services. The men sat on the right and the women sat on the left in the church.

During those first years there was no resident pastor. Whenever possible, one would come by train and be met by a church member. A mention in the annual minutes stated -a Pastor coming from Brainerd would receive \$2.00. In 1893 together with St. Pauli's Lutheran and Bethlehem Lutheran, a student was called for the summer and be paid \$8.00 per month. This practice continued for a number of years.

The Swedish language was used in the services through out the first years.



- 1891** - July 13, A Cemetery was established on the southside of the church. Family lots were \$5.00 and single non-members \$1.50.
- 1893** - Asked Lake Superior District for help to finish the church interior.
- 1896** - Put stone foundation under the church.
- 1900** - Voted as willing to join Bethlehem and St Pauli to build a parsonage in Aitkin.
- 1901** - The altar ring was built by Ben Stenmark and with other help.
- 1908** - Voted to buy an organ. Selma Johnson first organist at \$10.00 a year.
- 1912** - Built shed for pastor's horses. Each member to contribute as able to town parsonage.
- 1916** - Pastor chided congregation for poor attendance. Jenny Martinson was organist.
- 1917** - Ladies Aid: Income \$79.62, balance on hand \$243.48, less expenses \$101.47. Balance \$221.63. Church income: \$231.52, Expenses \$239.87, Debt -\$8.35.
- 1920** - Pastor reported better attendance. Church voted to build a steeple and to buy a

bell from Sears. Total cost was \$825.00. A special assessment of \$8.00 per man and \$5.00 per woman was made to raise this money. Mabel Edquist, organist at \$20.00 a year.

- 1922** - Women given the right to vote on church affairs. English introduced into the Sunday School. Classes in both languages, English for Opening Worship.
- 1926** - New roof put on the church and the interior redecorated. A large picture purchased for behind the altar and frame for it was made by Rudolph Edquist. Gust Malmgren paying for most of the picture.
- 1928** - Tabled a motion to join St. Pauli.
- 1929** - Pastor Shipp serving. It was decided to use Swedish for the morning service and English for the afternoon one.
- 1930** - All services held in the afternoon, Mrs. Shipp organist.
- 1930** - November 3; voted to merge with Aitkin First Lutheran Church congregation - 8 yes and 6 no.

So ended this first phase of the history of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Maria Congregation.

1901-1904	Fredrick Peterson
1904-1910	E. H. Sandeen
1910-1912	No resident pastor
1912-1916	J.A. Gustafson
1916-1923	E.J.Peterson
1923-1928	J. E. Carlson
1928-1930	J.E. Shipp

The 100th anniversary of the Maria Chapel was celebrated in August of 1989 with an ice-cream social.

The Maria Ladies Aid, a community organization of approximately 25 members of various church backgrounds, meets every two weeks at the chapel with devotions, program, lunch and a time of fellowship. With their funds and service, they maintain this church which remains a symbol of the dreams of early founders of the congregation.

The cemetery was not ceded to the Aitkin Church, but is a separate unit, known as the Diamond Lake Cemetery Association with Marge Carlson, secretary, and Wilbur Nelson as treasurer.

FOR 100 YEARS, FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH HAS CARRIED OUT A MINISTRY OF WORSHIP IN MUSIC - - "MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD".



One of the first Choirs, Anna Shank Narveson, Mrs. Berglund, Lizzie Olson Carlstrom, Martha Hanson Erickson, Mr. Berglund, Gunder Julum, Dr. Magnusson.

The choir is important in church service and has been led by both men and women. Known choir directors in recent years have been Carol Proctor, Mary Lee Jess, Steffen Sanvik, David

Roxin, Greg Ronnback, Sue Benson, Alice Hudson, and Elaine Palthe, with Sonja Hagestuen the present director of the junior and senior choirs since the mid-seventies.

1992 CHOIR



L to R: 1st Row: Deanna Hoffman, Linda Delaney, Janet Peterson, Carol Femling, Elma Johnson, Karen Johnson.
 2nd Row: Sandy Bratlien, Genevieve Kullhem, Lynn Kellerman, Susan Meyer, Arlene Lottman, Margery Haugen, Darlene Munneke.
 3rd Row: Sonja Hagestuen (Director), Byron Johnson, Gary Johnson, Richard Peterson, Robert Nelson, Sharon Eder, (Accompanist), Elaine Palthe.
 4th Row: Tom Martin, Bruce Femling, Gerald Delaney, Dale Woodrow, Pastor Robert Munneke.

The first organ was an old-fashioned pump organ. The second a Hammond organ dedicated in 1938. An electric Conn organ was purchased in 1959 through memorials honoring Pastor Holmberg, John and Mary Beth Lidfors. A new Rogers 445 model pipe organ was purchased in 1991 from King of Instruments Studios, Minneapolis and installed under the direction of Dennis C. Davis. A dedication concert was presented by organist, Kevin J. Ballard on January 5, 1992 at 6:30 p.m. The first organist was Ellida Johnson, followed by Jenny Morine, Lizzie Olson Carlstrom, Mildred Julum, Esther Julum, Elvira Glad, Elinore Newstrom, Hazel Johnson Cooper, and Lorraine Heimdahl. She presided at the Hammond Electric Organ dedication on April 10, 1938. Many organists through the years were high school girls and also some men. Serving since the late fifties to the present have been Mary Ann Ronnei, Jeanne Wenzel, Rebecca Lidfors, M. Thomas Anderson, Marta Carlson, Gloria Nelson, Shirley Hermel, Mary Giesler, Kari Forsberg, Vicki Carlson and Elma Johnson since 1980 to present.

The Motion Choir was started by Darlene Longballe and Elaine Palthe in May of 1988 to enhance the worship service of LCW Sunday. Because the Methodist Church already had a motion choir, two of their members were enlisted to help interpret and teach motions to the Lord's Prayer while it was being sung by Elaine Palthe. Using white, full-length robes and flowing scarves of various colors, the choir performed for special Sundays. Special effects for character dramatizations were achieved by various costuming details. using either live or recorded music. The choir continued to perform under the direction of Marcy Coit until 1990.



Rebecca Lidfors



Elma Johnson



The Motion Choir preparing to interpret the song by Carmen "The Champion." 8th grade girls: Amy Kellerman, Kaisha Palthe, Megan Helling, Jamie Nelson, and Joy Larson

SUNDAY SCHOOL



1938 photo Sophie Julum

From the beginning, Sunday School has always been a very important part of our church family. Up until recent years it was held year-around. Early records show that offerings usually consisted of only pennies, averaging 100+ pennies per Sunday. The average offerings in 1991 were \$17. Attendance has averaged about 75 to 125. Families were larger before the 50's so even with the growth of our church membership, Sunday School has not increased in number.

Gunder Julum was one of the first superintendents and held that position for about 25 years. His niece, Sophie Julum, acted for the next 25 years, and when she became ill, Luella Julum served in that capacity for about five years.



Karen & John Pierson, Kindergarden Class

The pre-school through 8th grade are a separate department and the 9th thru 12th meet together in the Youth Room. Rally Sunday begins the season in September and the last few years they have held an exciting "balloon send-off".



Terry Mehr & Pat Liljenquist helpers S/S Program

Christmas programs have been the highlight of every child. The program this past Christmas was entitled "Jesse The Shepherd Boy" and was created by Sue Benson, Becky May, Val Thompson and Lynne Duffy. The Augsburg Series have been used for years and the current material is called the "Witness Series".



Darlene Munneke's, 4th Grade Class.



Lynne Duffy, Rally Day September, 1991.

The following have served as superintendents since 1966:

- 1966 - Ernest C. Thompson
- 1967 - Muriel Sall
- 1968 - Sonja Hagestuen
- 1969 - Ardella Rued
- 1970-71 - Donna Erickson
- 1972 - Ardella Rued
- 1973-75 - Harlan Buisman
- 1976 - Mrs. George Smith
- 1977-83 - Mavis McGuire



- 1984-85 Darlene Longballa
Mary Webster
- 1986-87 Darlene Longballa
Jim Nelson
- 1988-89 Marcy Coit
Lynne Kellerman
- 1989-90 Tom Martin
- 1991-92 Val Thompson

Thanks to God for the many who give their time and talents in this ministry.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

The few members of our congregation that are able to speak, read and translate Swedish credit it to the "Swede Summer School" they attended in the early 1900's. The emigrants were very anxious that their children and themselves, learn English and become full American citizens, but still held onto the church services in Swedish. The summer school gave them a good Christian background, which has followed to the present day.



1964

Vacation Church School was held at First Lutheran the week of June 3 thru 7, 1991, from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. The First Congregational

Church and the United Methodist Church were also invited to attend with 130 total so a very exciting week. Worship, singing, art activities (at least one activity per age group a day).

Excellent materials have been offered through the past few years from the Augsburg Publishing Company that appeals to the children of all ages. Jayne Anderson was the superintendent this past year.

Coordinators, teachers and parents do an excellent job that is summarized by a program on the last day.



Diane Fielder, Becky Lidfors, Kathy Hulin,
Carolyn Wick

WOMEN'S ROLE AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Official church records seem to rarely mention women and the records of women's organizations are not continuous. However, from the beginning, women of our church have been at the heart of making the church of vital importance in the lives of their families.



Ladies Aid

Left to Right :

Hildur Newton, Ellen Swanson, Laura Paulson,
Elvira Laukkanen, Hulda McGown, Hedvig Pearson



Mission Society 1967

During the years, the speakers at the Missionary Society spoke in Swedish and English. Money was raised for mission work in China, India, Africa, Japan, Mexico and for Jewish, Negro and migrant people. Gifts were also given to Gustavus Adolphus College, Deaconess Institute and Child Placement (now Family Service) and sponsored camperships for girls. May 2, 1954 they held a Commissioning Service for Alpha Jaques, who served many years in Tanzania and later as a Medical Missionary in Arsim, Kenya, Africa. On January 1, 1959 the Women's Missionary Society disbanded to become part of the LCW of the merged Lutheran Church of America.



Workshop Oct 1967

Alice Thompson, Carol Proctor, Eva Newstrom, Anne
Carlson, Alfa Olson, Hulda Sugrue, Alice Halek, Anna
Wallander, Selinda Newstrom, Alice Curran, Evelyn
Carlson, Sarah Fossen, Rowena Moore, Ruby Johnson



Front L-R: Hilbur Newton, Minnie Olson, Agnes Ronnei, Elizabeth Holtman, Harriet MacGregor, Hazel Kaplan, Mae Tollefson, Sarah Fossen, Wanda Berg, Zinda Fossum, Cecelia Malmgren, 1971.



1968

Erma Hendrickson, Rowena Moore, Adeline Thompson, Jenny Swanson, Martha Monson

The organization date of the *Ladies Aid* is unknown, but it continued in active service until disbanded in the mid-1980's. They met once a month and records show they made substantial contributions to the minister's salary, to the church budget as well as purchasing many items for the running of the church, in the kitchen and for the church parsonage. The Steinway Piano was purchased by this group at the time of the 75th Anniversary celebration. Numerous other items around the church were bought by this group, including a generous contribution toward the pew cushions.

The present organization of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church Women* began in January of 1988 following the national three church merger. Very few changes were made in the overall program to conform to the present format. Monthly meetings are held with singing, programs and refreshments served by individual Circles. The Circle groups continue to meet

monthly in homes for Bible study. The Circles alternate monthly on programs at the local nursing homes. Projects include camperships for youth attending Camp Hiawatha, (\$800.00 in 1991); over 100 quilts a year; clothing drives for World Relief, knitting of caps, scarves and sweaters for the Seamen's Mission in Duluth; also ditty bags, layettes, health and school kits are prepared for World Relief. Contributions are made locally to the operation Christmas (Family Service), a Holiday afternoon program and refreshments are served to the Friendship Club, which is composed of local Senior Citizens and usually there are between 100-140 present. Bibles are given to the third grade Sunday School Class, and a book gift to all high school graduates each year, A wedding committee handles all wedding details for the church

Much more could be written about the work of the women in our church. This has just touched upon some of the things that have been done in the past and is still being done presently and will be passed on for the future. Churches cannot function without the active participation of the women.



Erma Hendrickson, Leonore Nelson, 1980's



1948 Sewing Circle Dress-up Party
Adeline Thompson, Irene Petraborg, Betty Lidfors, Edna Spaeth, Molly Call, Erma Hendrickson, Eleanor Fielder,

ALTAR GUILD



L-R Front: Elnora Johnson, Rowena Moore, Evelyn Carlson, Erma Hendrickson
2nd Row: Arline Falk, Mae Skog, Clarice Barry, Lorryne Wikelius, Eleanor Fielder

The purpose of the Altar Guild is to study the Lutheran pattern of worship. Members may be referred to as caretakers of the church worship life and as such carry out the responsibilities under the direction and leadership of the pastor.

The Altar Guild of First Lutheran Church was organized February 18, 1963, with Pastor A. Wallace Carlson presiding. Fourteen women responded to the invitation to join: Palma Baumgartner, Anne Carlson, Molly Call, Sarah Fossen, Erma Hendrickson, Eleanor Fielder, Evelyn Johnson, Eva Newstrom, Selinda Newstrom, Leonore Nelson, Elsie Paulson, Rowena Moore, Jean Wikelius and Lorryne Wikelius. Of these members the following are still active: Eleanor Fielder, Erma Hendrickson, Evelyn Johnson, Rowena Moore, Leonore Nelson and Lorryne Wikelius. Our membership is about sixteen. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday afternoon, ten times a year. Each meeting opens with devotion and after the business session there is a Bible study having to do with the symbols or appointments of the church. The duties are divided so two women serve for two months. These include changing the paraments according to the seasons, supplying fresh linens, preparing for the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, arranging for altar flowers, checking on the vestments, ordering supplies as needed. All the linens are handmade.

A linen altar cloth, complete with drawn work, was made by Mrs. Olof Johnson and Mrs.

Carl Seagren in the late 1920's. It was necessary to freshly launder and iron the 18 foot cloth before each Communion Sunday. The altar cloth is still in use on special occasions.

The Constitution

ALTAR GUILD

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, AITKIN
Organized February 18, 1963

ARTICLE I Name

The name of the organization shall be The Altar Guild of First Lutheran Church.

ARTICLE II Purpose

Under the leadership and direction of the pastor, the purpose shall be the care of the sanctuary and its furnishings.

The Guild shall change paraments according to the pastor, the purpose shall be the care of the sanctuary and its furnishing.

ARTICLE III Membership

The membership shall consist of a sufficient number of women to conduct the work assigned to the Guild. all women must be members of First Lutheran Church and shall be active communicants.

After initial organization, membership shall be by invitation of the Altar Guild.

ARTICLE IV Officers

There shall be a Chairman and Secretary and such other officers as may be needed who shall be elected for a term of one year.

ARTICLE V Committees

There shall be the following committees: vestments, flower, linens, paraments, and silver, and any other as needed. These committees shall be approved by the pastor.

ARTICLE VI Relationships

The Altar Guild of First Lutheran Church shall be an auxiliary organization of the Lutheran Churchwomen. The president of the L.C.W. is to be a member ex-official, if not already a member of the Altar Guild. conversely, the Chairman of the Altar Guild shall attend executive meetings of the L.C.W.

ARTICLE VII Meetings

There shall be at least ten monthly meetings. There shall be a nominating committee and an election held in November of each year. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or the pastor.

ARTICLE VIII Duties of the Guild Members

1. Pre-Sunday Work:

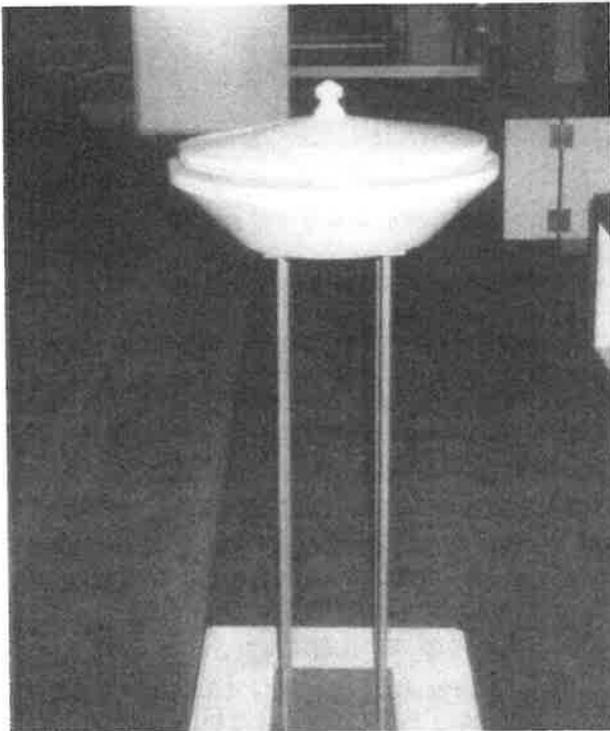
- Brighten the brassware
- Tidy or place the proper candles
- Check on proper vestments at the altar
- See that clean linens are used
- See that the sacristy is cleaned and ready
- Repair and provide for all vestments as directed
- Aid at occasional services during the week, as needed
- Arrange flowers

2. Sunday work:

- Check that all things are correct before services
- Distribute flowers after the services
- In case of the sacraments, see that proper vessels and materials are available

ARTICLE IX Amendments

Amendments may be made by 2/3 vote of members present at a regular meeting; provided it has been read at the previous meeting and approved by pastor or church council.



Baptismal font presently used in First Lutheran



John Richard Cummings, son of Kent and Jane (Burman) Cummings, baptized on July 21, 1991.

The Lutheran Brotherhood



Ernie Pearson, Ed Lange, Alfa Olson, Elsie Nelson

The Lutheran Brotherhood of Aitkin Parish was organized April 3, 1934. Pastor Benson was serving the congregation at this time. there were 26 charter members, which included President-Ernest Pearson, Vice President-A. Lundblad, Secretary-M. Dahlberg, Treasurer-J.O. Ronnei, and Carl Holmgren, Andrew Carlstrom, Ed. A. Wikelius, Louis Johnson, Erick Wallin, Elmer Julum, Swan Swedberg, Herman Dahlberg, Olof Johnson, Henry Julum, Kenneth

Newstrom, Melvin Mattson, Isadore Glad, Kenneth Johnson, Wilbert Johnson, Sidney Berglund, Robert Johnson, Clifford Wikelius, John S. Benson (Pastor), John Mathson, John Johnson and Oscar Strom. These were dedicated members, some being in high school at the time. If a member would be absent a number of times, members present were appointed to contact these people to encourage them to attend the meetings.

The meeting would open with a hymn, then scripture reading by the pastor, roll call, old and new business and a special program, followed with lunch and fellowship.

One of the first projects by the Brotherhood was a lutefisk supper in the church parlors in November, 1934. This was a tradition for more than 20 years. The Brotherhood also had father-son banquets, turkey suppers, fishing trips, picnics and served mother-daughter banquets. They also sponsored softball teams and choir concerts and hosted district meetings and conventions.

At the November 25, 1952 meeting, a motion was made and seconded to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop. The Scout Troop *Explorer, Post 75*, was organized with 29 members. George Starkey was the first scoutmaster, followed by Kari Laukkanen, John Soderlund and others.

Ernest Pearson was elected District President of Lutheran Brotherhood in this era.

January 10, 1957, Lutheran Brotherhood was changed to Augustana Churchmen of First Lutheran Church of Aitkin, Minnesota. In 1962 another change was made with the merger of four bodies to become the Lutheran Church of America.

Over the years interest in the men's group has fallen and then has been revived. At the present time we have the "King's Men" who count Sunday's offering on Monday. Also "Men in Mission" began in 1990. This group meets Thursday noon for a sack lunch, fellowship, a short program and Bible study. They have served the Easter breakfast and were instrumental in starting the recycling program in Aitkin, at First Lutheran.

Lutefisk Suppers

The first lutefisk suppers were served in the church parlors, beginning in November 1934. This was a tradition for many years. With the growing number of people coming for the suppers, it was then held in the Aitkin Armory basement. All serving equipment was hauled from the church to the Armory. The fish was cleaned by the men at the Aitkin Creamery.



Cleaning Lutefisk

The suppers were served by the Men's Brotherhood, Women's Missionary Society and the Girl's Sewing Circle. This was a fund raiser towards building a new church.

At the October, 1958 Men's Brotherhood meeting, a motion was made and seconded to have a ballot vote on whether or not to continue serving the lutefisk suppers. The result of the voting was 6 for and 8 against. Then in 1959, at the recommendation of Pastor Holmberg and the Synod, this type of fund-raising was discontinued in the church and monies were to be derived from our members.

It is interesting to note that in 1954 the supper netted \$729.00 at \$1.50 a ticket for adults and \$.75 for children. In 1955 the net

was \$660.00, and in 1956 the net was \$951.00. Monies were turned over to the building fund.

There was great fellowship in each working group and most all members of the congregation were involved.



Lutefisk Dinner, Potato peelers

Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia brings light to the darkness of winter every December 13. This treasured celebration starts the Swedish Christmas season. There are many legends associated with Lucia, beginning with her Christian martyrdom in about the year 300 in Sicily.



Naomi Klingelhofer, 1991 Lucia

She vowed to God to give the dowry, received from her father, to the poor Christians if her mother recovered from a severe illness. With her mother's recovery, Lucia fulfilled her vow, leaving nothing for her fiance, a wealthy nobleman. He resented her actions and demanded that she give up her "foolish obsessions". Enraged, believing no sane person would act in this manner, he accused Lucia of witchcraft, Lucia was jailed and sentenced to death. There she was badly tortured, to the point of being intentionally blinded. She did not give up her faith in Christ and her eyesight was miraculously restored. Legend continues that Lucia's death did not occur by burning at the stake. As the fire raged, many in attendance believed her not be a witch, but a saint and understood her acts of kindness. Frustrated authorities then ordered her death by plunging a sword into her limp body. The news of her virtue and acts of charity became known throughout the Christian world and she was later declared a saint. The Church of Rome canonized Lucia.

Another legend tells of Lucia appearing in a boat on the shore of a lake in Sweden. She was dressed in a white robe and was encircled by light. The boat stopped to give food to the famine stricken people of Sweden. She was indeed a "Supernatural Light" and is pictured as carrying a light or torch and her head was encircled by a halo.

December 13 was the longest night of the year. The Swedish people chose St. Lucia to represent the "New Light", so the celebration of Lucia Day begins the promise of longer days to come. She is a symbol of hope, peace, sharing and especially light, during the darkest season of the year in Sweden.



Kaisha Palthe, 1987 Lucia

Youth Groups

The teaching of our young people and their inclusion in the work of our church has always been important. The young people have had organized groups using various names and some varied activities and functions. There have been junior and senior Luther Leagues and Hi-League. The present group is Aitkin Parish Youth Group. It is for grades 7 thru 9 with encouragement of senior high youth to participate with the youth pastor in planning and organizing activities. Youth ministry and fun activities intertwine.



Tiny Tots



Tiny Tots, 1992

This is a Monday morning - 9:30 to 11:30 A.M., non-denominational two hour class for 3, 4, 5 year olds. The Tiny Tots program is to share with the preschool age child the wonderful love that God has revealed in Jesus Christ, to increase the preschoolers ability to work and

play in relationships with each other and has also a "grandma" figure in care given, not in age. The youngsters have a variety of activities... a free play period, worship divide into small groups for a lesson or project, then games together and music time. Sandwiched in is a snack time. A portable playhouse was built and donated to the Tiny Tots in 1988. It is in use today, 1992 and greatly enjoyed by the group. There is sometimes a waiting list for participation in the Tiny Tots program over the 24 that can be accommodated.

Truth-N-Fun Clown Ministry

May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again; rejoice! Philippians 4:4



The Truth - N - Fun team began in 1986 with two members. There has been as many as 14 members. We always have room for one more!

This team has brought God's message to many different groups such as: Visiting nursing home residents, Mother and Daughter teas and Children's sermons. We have also done some special services like the Tenebrae Service and Pastoral Installation Service.

Clown Ministry isn't just entertainment nor is it preaching in costume. It is a means of touching souls. Clowning is very often a ministry to the clown as well as to those he touches.

The clowns are not around very often. They like to pop in once in a while to share a message or two of God's love and grace.

Mentor Program

Mentor is linking a young person with an adult member of the congregation to share together what it means to be a member of the community.

The Mentor Program was started at First Lutheran with the 1989 confirmation class. It began with the idea from Pastor Steve Thompson that it would be a great program of support and learning for the post-confirmed young people. They would have someone to follow them in their young adult years after confirmation. The confirmed is paired with an adult from church and the pastor gives both some study materials.

The group try to meet at least once a month for as long as possible and also for meals and fun activities. It has been found that the mentor program is a rewarding experience for both parties. Parents should encourage and make sure that their confirmands are involved. You will never regret this.

Prayer Chain

A vital project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Women is the prayer chain, consisting of volunteers who promise to pray for an urgent request or thanksgiving - a concentration of prayer.

The Bible verse claimed is Matthew 18:19 - "I also tell you this, if two or three of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask for, my Father in heaven will do it for you". (Living Bible)

The prayer chain was organized in 1978 with DaVon Sherwood and Lois Lyons as contact persons. In 1981, the prayer chain was reorganized into three groups with Lois Lyons, Leonore Nelson and Ethel Haugse as contact persons. Upon receiving a prayer request, these women contact the next person on their list who in turn call the next person on the list and so on until each person has been called. Prayer always precedes the call to pass on the request.

The commitment of a participant of the prayer chain is to make every possible effort to maintain a continuous communication with God on behalf of the party whose needs are being brought before Him, whose needs He knows, and whose needs He will answer.

Anna Wallander Memorial Library

The Church Library is a resource center undergirding the total ministry of the church. The library has over a thousand books on the shelves that have been donated with a few purchased copies. The circulation is not great, but is being used on various occasions, special days or events.

Many magazines have been placed on the magazine rack and they seem to circulate well.

The members of the Library Committee have been reorganizing the books according to the Dewey Decimal System. It is hoped that this will make the search for a particular book an easier task. The committee welcomes donations but does make the decision if the books are to be placed on the shelves. The Committee is also available to help in locating particular information. Members of the current committee in 1992 are Darlene Munneke, Donelda LaRoche, Laurie Esler and Mary Beth Woodrow.

Aitkin Area Parish

With the assistance of the Division of Missions in North America of the Lutheran Church in America, the Aitkin Area Parish was organized in 1984. First Lutheran joined with St. John's Lutheran of Cedarbrook and Bethesda Lutheran of Rossburg in this unique arrangement for ministry. The Aitkin Area Parish Commission, which has two elected members from each congregation serving specific terms, gives overall guidance and direction to the ministry. The purpose of the AAP is to develop and implement the needs of the three congregations, while allowing each congregation its own individual identity.

The first major accomplishments were securing approximately \$14,000 funding from Division of Missions of North America and calling the first Aitkin Area Parish Pastor, Steve Thompson, with office space being provided at First Lutheran.

Other activities of the commission included sponsoring of joint Lenten services and Pentecost service. The Area Parish Youth Committee was formed in 1989, with the responsibility of enriching and strengthening the faith, life and growth of the youth.

Pastor James Walth began serving in June of 1991 as the new AAP pastor.

THOSE WHO HEED THE CALLING

Ordinations



Pastor Douglas Paulson

The Ordination Into the Holy Ministry in The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America of Douglas Martin Paulson in the First Lutheran Church, Aitkin, Minnesota, August 28, 1988, at 9:00 a.m.

Service participants were:

Thomas Widmark, Campus Pastor, U of M, Duluth, Minnesota

Mark Knutson, Campus Pastor, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks

Robert Munneke, Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Aitkin, Minnesota

"And to some his gift was that they should be apostles; to some prophets; to some evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-12

Douglas Paulson, son of Mildred and the late Chester Paulson, upon graduation from Bemidji State University in 1974, served as a lay associate with Lutheran Campus Ministry at Bemidji for the next ten years, working with music and programming. He attended Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, and was ordained on August 28, 1988, at First Lutheran Church in Aitkin upon a call to Calvary Lutheran Church in Alamo, North Dakota. Since August of 1991 Pastor Doug has served as Campus Pastor at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Doug married Debbie Everson on July 9, 1991, in Williston, North Dakota, and they now reside on Skyline Parkway, Duluth.

Other Members of our congregation who have gone into ministry or missionary work:

Rev. Paul Gustafson, son of Pastor J. A. Gustafson followed his father by becoming a Pastor of the Augustana Lutheran Church.



Pastor Glenn Johnson, Stanley and Marie Benson

Rev. Stanley Benson, son of Pastor John S. and Doris Benson served as missionaries in Borneo and then for the past 30 years in Tanzania.



Rev. Bernhard Erling

Rev. Bernhard Erling, son of Svante A. and Edna M. Erling. Bernhard began his theological education in 1944. He attended University of Chicago, Princeton and Yale and was ordained in 1948. He received his PHD in 1954. He has served in various locations in the United States, Germany and Sweden. He is a retired professor of religious living at St. Peter, MN.



Alpha Jaques

Alpha Jaques, daughter of Alfred and Inga Jaques, was born August 22, 1926. She was received into the Christian Church in Holy Baptism in October 1926 and was confirmed in the First Lutheran Church of Aitkin on July 18, 1943. She graduated from Aitkin High School, June 1, 1944, worked in Minneapolis for a time, and began school at Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, graduating in 1949. Alpha entered Swedish Hospital of Nursing, graduated in 1952. She was commissioned as a missionary to Tanzania, East Africa, and has been a medical missionary and clinic nurse throughout the years. She is presently in Kenya, East Africa.



Linda Johnson Seyenkulo

Linda Johnson Seyenkulo, daughter of Arnold and Elma Johnson. Born January 23, 1952, at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Baptized at Zion Lutheran, Battle Lake, in March 1952. Confirmed First Lutheran, Aitkin, on June 18, 1967.

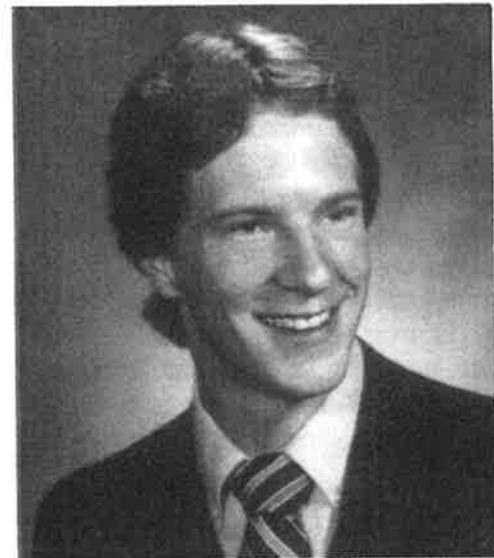
She graduated from Aitkin High School,

attended Bemidji State College and the University of Minnesota. Linda earned a Master's Degree in Family Counseling from Purdue University.

She married Pastor D. Jensen Seyenkulo on October 21, 1989. They lived in Liberia where she taught classes at the Seminary until they were forced to leave because of the Civil War. Returning to the United States she completed her studies at Luther/Northwestern Seminary, graduating May, 1991.

They have a daughter, Apu Amonda, born February 24, 1992.

Presently awaiting a call and subsequent ordination.



Michael Fossen

Michael John Fossen, son of Jack and Betty Fossen, born October 21, 1966.

Sacrament of Baptism, October 22, 1966 - Pastor A. W. Carson.

Confirmed at First Lutheran Church, 1981 - Pastor Gary Cumings.

Graduated from Aitkin High School, 1986.

Graduated from Bemidji University-Biological Science, 1990.

Entered Luther Northwestern Seminary, March 6, 1990.

Married Sheri Modesette at First Lutheran Church, October 13, 1990 Pastor Robert Munneke.

Mike and Sheri live on campus at the Seminary. Sheri teaches children with disabilities.

Reminiscing



Esther Julum

When I was a child, the old St. Pauli Church had a big stove in the back of the church and a bench with a big enamel pail of water and a dipper.

The sermons were two to three hours long. Sunday School was separate, and then often a prayer meeting in the evening.

The bell tolled the age of anyone who passed away. This was before radio and television and very few people had telephones. Everyone knew who was very ill and this was a message to everyone. The tolling began immediately after the death.

Summer's big event was the Sunday School picnic at some lake in the country, Morine's farm, Cedar Lake, etc. Free ice cream and lemonade with the American Flag displayed above the table.

Christmas started at the church with Julötta. Entire families arrived in the moonlight - babies in bright red enameled cutters. Grandma Sakrison (Newstrom's grandma) was pulled in a big bobsled all covered with blankets, her sons pulling the sled with great merriment along the way. Large fur muffs were the style and the church floor was so cold that girls put their muffs on the floor and their feet on them, even though the janitor had the fire going all night. In the last part of the service, a table was put up in the aisle and everyone walked in a procession around it and gave money - this was the pastor's Christmas gift.

Christmas night - the Sunday School program "Don't let the candles in the window

drip on your new dress", and after the songs and recitations, bags of candy were distributed and gifts. The trees were enormous and beautifully trimmed, ablaze with the real candles lit. The windows all had larger candles lit too.

Ladies Aids were held at homes, wonderful coffee, cake, etc. To this day we call coffee that is excellent "Ladies Aid Coffee".

I was church organist during my high school days and received \$100 a year. I was so very proud of the money I made. My sister, Mildred, was an excellent musician, and because I was her sister, I carried on after she left with my mediocre talent.

New Year's Eve, entire families went to church, had a program, lunch was served, then prayer just before midnight, and at the stroke of twelve, the church bells rang in the New Year.

Father was the tenor in the choir most of his life and Superintendent of the Sunday School for years, too. To this day, I love to sing the old Swedish hymns and now we are coming back to the Psalms sung in our church many years ago. They are truly beautiful. Esther Julum - 1960

RE: Confirmation of Lottie Heineman Erickson, Pearl Heineman Ofafson and Evelyn Olson Vall - 1920

In 1920 things were somewhat different than they are today. I was 16 and my only sister was 14. Ours was a devout Lutheran family of six boys and us two girls. We lived in Kimberly township in Aitkin County, and the closest Lutheran Church was in Aitkin.

My folks decided it was high time my sister and I should get started on our confirmation - but where, and how, could we go to get the proper instructions. After much deliberation, my folks came to Aitkin and arranged with the Rev. E. J. Peterson, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church for us to come to Aitkin once a week, until Easter, for our Confirmation lessons. Our transportation, to and from Aitkin, was the main obstacle. The Soo Line Railroad ran through Aitkin at that time, and the passenger train ran west in the forenoon and back to Duluth again in the afternoon. This worked out just great for us. We walked about 2 1/2 miles from home to the Soo Line station named 'Darina'. We flagged the train down to stop for us with a man's handkerchief that my mother was sure was always in my pocket. We rode to Aitkin, had our lesson, ate our bag lunch and

then returned to the Soo Line depot to catch the train for our ride home.

There was one other girl in our class, Evelyn Olson, daughter of Swan Olson. She later married Oscar Vall and is now deceased.

Our class met at the parsonage of the church on 4th Street N.E. and on Easter morning on June 6, 1920, we were confirmed in the church. The pastor told us to really concentrate on reviewing the entire catechism as he might ask us a question any place in the book and he would expect the right answer at the confirmation service. We went to the services with fear and trembling, but that was all for naught, as he only asked us to repeat the Lord's Prayer.

Our mother made our neatly tucked white dresses for the occasion and we actually had white, silk ribbons in our hair. Bless her!

We were told to attend church as often as we could, which we did, but discovered to our disappointment that all of the services were in Swedish. This went on for a while, and when I came to Aitkin to work, I met friends and gradually began going with them to their church. I favored going to the First Congregational Church of Aitkin, which I later joined and still attend.

I do enjoy attending First Lutheran on many occasions. I don't appreciate how so much of the biblical terminology of the scriptures is being so revised by most of the churches. I liked it the "old" way, as I memorized so much of it such a long time ago during my confirmation, and as it appears in the Bible that Rev. E. J. Peterson gave me on that important day. My sister, and all the other members of my original family are deceased.

Submitted by Lottie Erickson



Rev. E. J. Peterson, **Charlotte Heineman Erickson**, Evelyn Olson Vall, Pearl Heineman Riley

Swedish Lutheran Picnic
The Swedish Lutheran Church picnic will be held Sunday at Griffith's Point on Lone Lake. Those not having cars and wish to attend are asked to meet at the church at 9 o'clock. Picnic baskets will be taken by those who go and ice cream and lemonade will be on sale. (July 1928)

October 11, 1936

CHURCH HONORS PIONEER WOMEN

The ladies of the First Lutheran church did a gracious bit of entertaining in the church parlors on Tuesday afternoon having as their guests the pioneer women of the church, those who have stood at the helm of the Ladies' Aid and other departments during the years the church has been making a place in the community which is outstanding for loyalty and fellowship. The party took the form of a general birthday observance for all the guests and on that day Mrs. J. G. Morine reached her 86th year.

A program that included Swedish songs, a solo by Mrs. Svante Erling, reading a poem by Mrs. B. N. Glim and a short talk by Rev. John S. Benson added much to the occasion. A color scheme of green and yellow was carried out in nut cups and place cards at the table centered with a birthday cake around which was seated the honor guests.

Some included in the list of pioneers were detained at home by illness, but those who attended were Mesdames N. G. Carlstrom, John Julum, Andrew Mattson, J. G. Morine, J. N. Nelson, Ben Olson, K. Olsson, Chas. Hokanson, Anna Sjodin, Anna Nickander, John Ryden, John Linde, Peter Peterson, Anna Ecklund and Miss Inga Larson.

SMORGASBORD SUPPER

A smorgasbord supper will be served Nov. 3, election day, in the basement of the First Lutheran church by the Girl's Sewing Circle. Serving will begin at 4:30. The menu consists of a variety of appetizers, meats, salads, cheese and various Swedish delicacies. The charge for the supper will be 50 cents.

OUR CHURCH TODAY

The Congregational Council has general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation, with the standing committees carrying out of the day by day work and ministry.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee is an active committee which is concerned with the liturgical and devotional life of the church. It is involved with setting the time and form of the worship services. The acolytes and choirs are considered also.

The daily devotional needs of the congregation are provided for with books available and, at times, special books for lent are offered. The membership of the committee consists of the organist, choir director, altar guild representative, church council member, and three members at large.

SUPPORT/FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Support/Finance Committee continues to bring the budget into line with the offerings. A one-pocket envelope was designed and ordered for use in 1992 and 1993. The committee assisted in the Stewardship Appeal - PASS IT ON -.

SUPPORT/PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The main function is to review the normal maintenance of the church property and make necessary recommendations. Much time is spent on the repair of the church roof as to warranty on the fabric and installation. Painting of the Maria Chapel completed in 1991 with volunteers. A new roof for the Maria Chapel is scheduled for 1992. Another major project is the replacement of present furnace. Bids are being sought for a gas furnace.

LEARNING COMMITTEE

The Learning Committee has the educational activities of the congregation under their jurisdiction. These responsibilities include Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Cradle Roll, Adult Form, Bible Studies, Pre-Confirmation, Confirmation, Mentor Program, Camping, First Communion, Library, Tiny Tots, and youth activities.

Many people are involved with the educational ministry of the church. It is indeed grateful for willing people to serve in this capacity.

WITNESS COMMITTEE

The Witness Committee has varied functions as providing orientation, sponsors, reception of new members. Pictures are taken of new members to be placed on the bulletin board.

Sponsoring of Lois Swanson, missionary in Singida, Tanzania. The minimum support is \$1,000 per year that is outside the church budget. William and Martha Radatz and family had been sponsored for several years, until they left the mission field. Committee members call and arrange for greeters for worship services throughout the year.

Visitors who worship and register at First Lutheran are sent a note of thanks for worshiping with us. Supports the Outreach Committee and arranges for contributions for radio ministry on KKIN. Connie Pettersen has been enlisted to handle publicity of church events in the news media.

SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Service Committee visits shut-ins, provides transportation to services, provides tapes of church services and delivery, supports the pastors' emergency fund and donations for radio broadcast.

The Farmers' Market has been a fall activity in which garden produce can be shared. Recycling, elimination of styrofoam, and limited use of paper products is in operation.

HONOR THE PAST

CELEBRATE THE PRESENT

PASS IT ON TO THE FUTURE

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL



CHURCH COUNCIL 1992

Left to Right Front: Betty Monroe, Arnold Johnson, Gerald Thompson, Allen Midthun, Elaine Selseth.
Back: Steve Bare, Dale Woodrow, Pastor Robert Munneke, Gerald Delaney, Lawrence Carlstrom, Paul Kellerman, (not pictured-Ernest Carlson and Craig Klingelhofer)



Lori Chenevert, Marge Haugen
Office Staff



Maurice Skar
Custodian



Tom Martin
Assistant Custodian

Our Mission



Confirmation Class - 1991

Left to Right, Row 1: Clara Clement, Claire Webster, Amy Femling, Abby Lindell, Jessi Hiler.
Row 2: Charles Nelson, Brandon Eder, Pastor Robert Munneke, Nathan Klingelhofer

***We, First Lutheran Church
see ourselves as loving, gifted children of God,
allowing the Holy Spirit to shine through our lives in
Christ-like
service to one another, our
community and the world.
In response to God's love, we commit ourselves in
unity with Christ to the
Glory of God***

Probably our mission statement is best of all symbolized in the Rite of Confirmation as young people, who have been touched by the Holy Spirit working through his Church, now commit themselves to following and serving Jesus forever.

HYMN: "PASS IT ON"

1. It only takes a spark
To get a fire going
And soon all those around
Can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's Love
Once you've experienced it
You spread his love to everyone
You want to pass it on

3. I wish for you, my friend
This happiness that I've found
You can depend on him
It matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want my world to know
The Lord of my love has come to me
I want to pass it on!

2. A hundred years ago
This family was started
We thank you Lord for those
Now here and those departed
Their faith shines like a beacon now
It guides us onward still
We spread your love to everyone
We want to pass it on

Verse 2 words were written by Doug Landsverk

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here be - low;

Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Father, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!

First Lutheran Church
107 ~ Second Street Southeast
Aitkin, Minnesota 56431
218.927.2028

