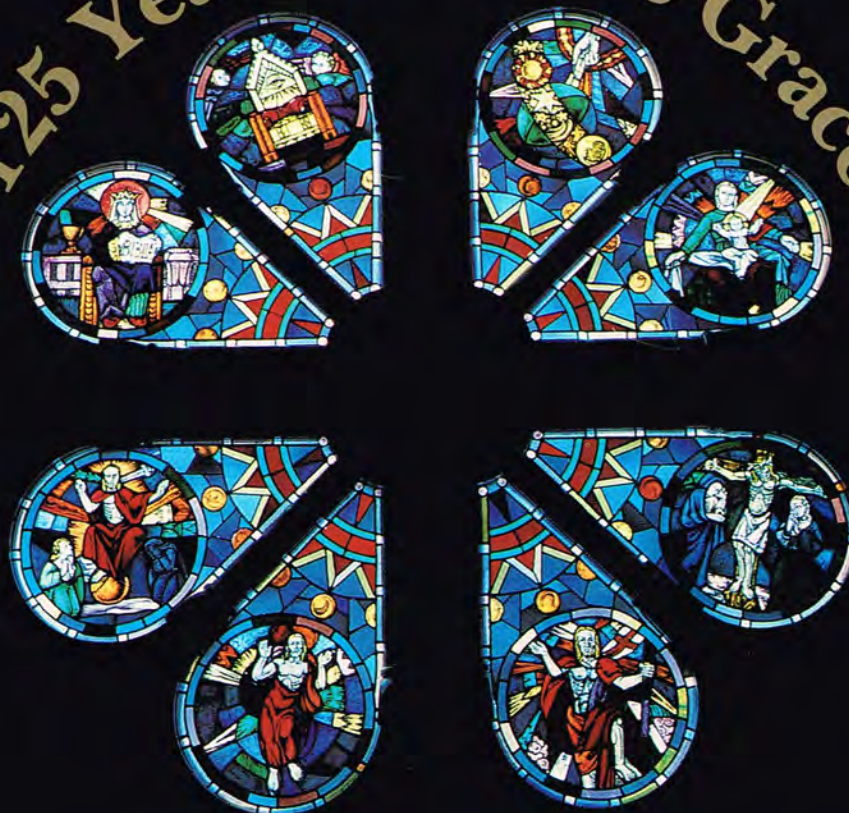




125 Years of God's Grace



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

1867 - 1992



About the cover:

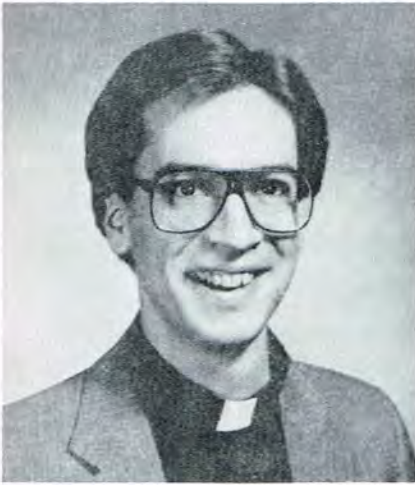
Pictured on the cover are windows found in our church. The three top panels are found in our chancel. They depict the hand of God's blessing; the Lamb of God; and the decending dove of the Holy Ghost.

The rose window, found in the choir loft, is shown at the center of the cover. The theme of the window is portrayed by symbolizing the eight major Biblical doctrines of the Apostles' Creed. The panels, from upper right, are: the creating hand of God; Mary and the Child, Jesus; the crucified Christ; the risen Savior; the ascension of Christ; the Word and Sacrament; life everlasting in heaven.

The five windows at the bottom, from left to right, are: Martin Luther, the Reformer; the chief doctrines of the Christian religion, Faith, Scripture, and Grace; Dr. C.F. Walther, under whose guidance the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was established.

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Rev. Paul G. Werner

Dear Fellow Members of Trinity,

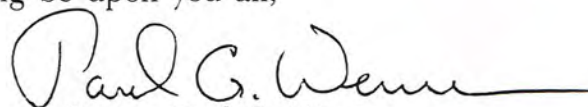
As we together pause to celebrate our congregation's anniversary, I am reminded of Jesus' words in the Parable of the sower: "Other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown"

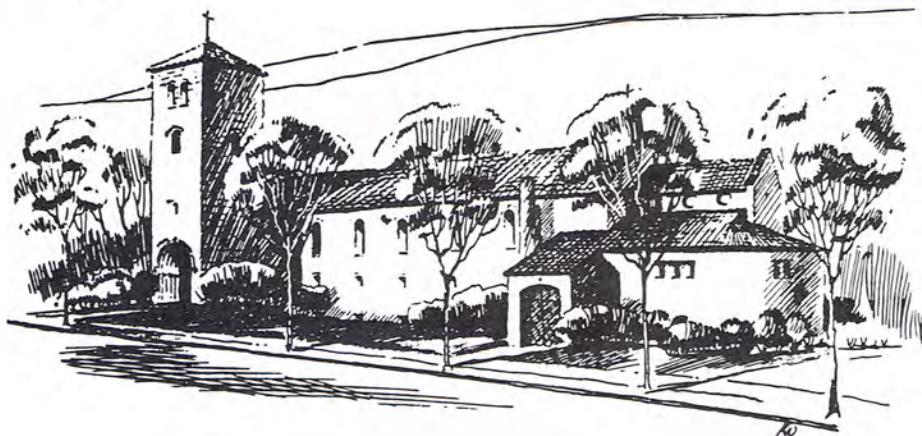
(Matthew 13:8). With these words our Lord teaches us how God's Kingdom grows. His Word takes root in the hearts of people in small ways. This faith grows in and through people to produce great things.

As we look back over one hundred twenty-five years of God's Blessings, we recognize that Trinity began in small ways. Faith took root in the hearts of a few Christian families. They gathered around God's Word and the Sacraments to form Trinity congregation. Through the years God's Kingdom has grown here, to produce a great crop. Trinity has enjoyed the blessings of many faithful pastors, teachers, and leaders. Our congregation has grown through several building locations. Many people have been baptized, confirmed, married, and buried within Trinity's doors. Countless numbers have grown in faith through the preaching and teaching of the Good News of Jesus Christ in worship services, education classes, our Christian Day School, and all other ministries of Trinity. I am grateful to have shared with you a brief portion of this grand heritage of God's Blessing.

Yet, so that we do not become satisfied and complacent regarding the growth of God's Kingdom among us, Jesus reminds us in this parable that the seed produced "a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown." The harvest was overwhelming, surprising, and beyond expectations! That is the kind of growth our Lord desires even here among us. May God's Kingdom continue to grow at Trinity so that many more people's lives are touched in new and courageous ways. May the faith in Jesus our Savior grow in us, and through us to people yet to be called into God's family. At the end of time may Trinity be known because "the seed fell on good soil, where it produced a great crop."

May God's continued Blessing be upon you all,


Pastor Paul G. Werner



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rochester, Minnesota

*In thankfulness to God for one hundred twenty-five years of grace,
this anniversary booklet is dedicated:*

*To the glory and honor of the God of our salvation,
Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
in appreciation of His undeserved loving kindness
and abiding presence in Word and Sacrament
through one hundred twenty-five years;*

*To the inspiring memory of those men of faith,
who in the fear and love of God established this church
for the ministry of reconciliation
through Christ, our Savior;*

*To the faithful pastors and teachers
who have had the oversight of the sheep and lambs
of the Good Shepherd in this place;*

*And to the members who, according to our Savior's command,
have scattered the precious seed of God's word
in and from this place through several generations.*

TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY



Ludwig von Schenk
1875 - 1878

Pastor's who served Trinity from 1875 to 1992

Photos not available

G.P.A.Schaaf
1878 - 1880

Henry Schmidt
1880 - 1881

Karl Schmidt
1881 - 1884

Carl Nickels
1884 - 1911



Martin Weinhold
1911 - 1941



Walter W. Eifert
1941 - 1968



Arden Malotky
1953 - 1956



Roger Polansky
1957 - 1958



Carl P. Brenner
1959 - 1964



Henry Gaertner
1965 - 1977



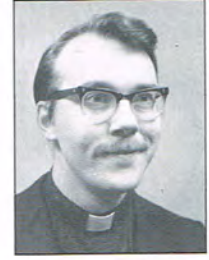
Victor Bittner
1969 - 1973



David Rose
1974 - 1978



Robert Raedeke
1977 - 1982



Dennis Aubey
1979 - 1981



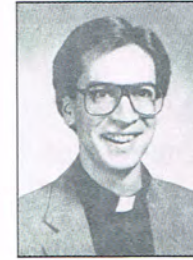
Martin Mueller
1981 -



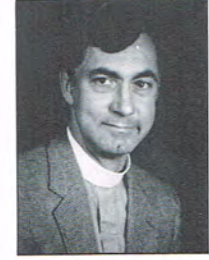
Frederic Baue
1981 - 1986



Donald Wuertz
1985 - 1989



Paul Werner
1987 -



David Zachrich
1990 -

Pastor Rassmussen
Pastor Tindal

Pastor Winkler
Pastor Wendt
Pastor Otte

Pastor Haag
Pastor Schwandt



First Log Cabin Seminary

In the year 1849, soon after the Minnesota Territory had been formed, a steady stream of settlers, of all nationalities, came to Minnesota, including many of German descent. It was not until 1855, after the territory had become a state, that three Lutheran ministers first set foot on Minnesota soil. They were Pastors William Thompson, William Weir, and Matthew Mallinson who arrived in Cannon Falls, and from there spread their Gospel mission to various communities of Southern Minnesota.

These three men, together with Pastors Heyer, Blumer, and Brandt, organized in the summer of 1860, the Evangelical Lutheran Minnesota Synod which constituted the first synodical body of German Lutherans in the state. The work of the synodical group expanded to other areas of Minnesota between the years of 1860 to 1866, during the great Civil War.

1866 was the year in which five businessmen from Wisconsin, Friedrich Siekert, Theodore Adler, Carl and August Brenndemuehl and Karl Oesterreich settled in the thriving little Rochester community. A year later they became the five founding fathers who sought to give new life to a struggling Missouri Synod congregation, which they named Trinity Lutheran Church.

Rochester numbered about 3,000 and the two Lutheran bodies....German and Norwegian....attempting to organize their congregations here were pitifully few in number, probably comprising a combined total of less than 75 souls. The faith and loyalty of those pioneer Lutherans were severely tested; yet, they remained steadfast in spite of a lack of pastors to serve their flocks, and primitive facilities for worship.

Sturdy Christians they were, who organized Trinity in 1867. Worship, sacraments and formal religious instruction for the young were provided only through intermittent, though faithful, services of pastors from area congregations: Pastors John Herzer and Johl from Claremont; Pastors Theodore Krumsig and G. P. A. Schaaf of Lewiston; and Pastor Sippel of Potsdam. In the absence of a minister, one of the members would read a sermon to the assembled congregation.

Numerically small and financially unable to support even its own pastor during the first eight years of its existence, the congregation then could hardly have envisioned that its church would, over the years, baptize more than 5,225 souls and pledge more than 3,850 confirmands to communicant membership.



Second Street Southwest in the 1870's

Pastor Krumsig recorded the first official pastoral acts performed for our founders' families: a daughter of the Adlers was baptized in March 1868; the Oesterreich daughter was confirmed the third Sunday in Advent, 1868; and 18 year old Wilhelmine Brendemuehl received a Christian burial in 1869.

The very character of Trinity congregation, shaped and moulded by the ethnic and religious traditions and close family relationships of its earliest members, still retains a measure of that dedicated spirit. Sons and daughters married within the faith and thus a substantial lineage has lengthened, broadened and woven itself strongly into the fabric of the congregation's present-day church life.

An example is the marriage of Olga Adler and Ernest Maass, Sr., in the late 1880's. The blessings of this union spans six generations of continuous membership since the inception of Trinity Lutheran Church. Other families, too, can be traced from our earliest records, and their proud heritage is further distinguished by loyal service and dedication to our church and school institutions.

It has been noted by our historians that in those early winters the roof of our first "modest" church leaked, and on more

than one occasion the pastors stood on patches of ice as services were conducted in the cold, drafty building. The parishioners considered themselves fortunate, nevertheless; the Norwegian Lutherans were unable to locate or build suitable facilities. They petitioned for and were granted use of our church on Sunday afternoons, and in return, they furnished the pulpit, altar and other church furnishings.

By 1875, Trinity had grown sufficiently to warrant calling a resident pastor who would devote his entire time to the spiritual care of its people. Pastor Ludwig von Schenk was ordained and installed, serving as pastor and Christian Day School teacher for three years.

Pastors G.P.A. Schaaf, H. G. Schmidt, and Karl Schmidt served in close succession during periods which varied from six to fifteen months. Such frequent changes might have discouraged the congregation; still, the number of worshippers and day school enrollment increased to such an extent that in 1882, Trinity was compelled to enlarge its house of worship.

The original 24 × 30 foot structure built in 1869, now was enlarged, and a steeple constructed . . . all at a cost of \$300.00.



Tornado of August, 1883



Northeast Rochester devastated by 1883 Tornado.

In 1883, the devastating cyclone which was such a critical factor in Rochester's ultimate development as a medical center, also wrought havoc upon the newly renovated church, located as it was on the north edge of town. No lives were lost from the congregation, but some members were injured and many suffered property damage, especially those who lived in northwest Rochester where the cyclone struck hardest.

Pastor Schmidt held a service after the catastrophe in a room of the public school, comforting his stricken parishioners with the words from Hosea 6,1: "Come, and let us return to the Lord, for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up."

A plea for help was published in "der Lutheraner," synod's publication, and one of the first donations received was from Dr. C. F. W. Walther. Gifts of food and clothing were received from other congregations and their monetary contributions provided the financial assistance needed for repairs on the church building.

The re-dedication, as described in the early records, was an occasion of heartfelt joy and gratitude. The congregation literally "cried out" their hymns of praise and thanksgiving. It is also noted that the first service to be preached in the English language was conducted at the Sunday evening re-dedication services in that year of 1883.

The ladies of Trinity soon recognized the areas of need where they could contribute a measure of assistance, and, organizing themselves as the German Ladies Aid in 1878, they developed a society vital to the promotion of church welfare. Considered by many as the oldest group established with the congregation, its causes have been the support of charitable institutions, furthering the cause of missions, support of the Lutheran Hour, and the collection and making of clothes for needy students.

Pastor C. W. Nickels, installed at Trinity in 1884, provided the able, consecrated leadership which for the next 28 years was to see Trinity grow and become one of the largest congregations in Minnesota.

Within ten years of his installation, the erection of a new church edifice was planned at a site on Center Street and Third Avenue Southwest, presently occupied by the Damon Parkade.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid in July 1894, and the new eight thousand dollar church, built to accommodate 500 worshippers, was dedicated the first Sunday in Advent, 1894. At last, the members were able to gather in a beautiful, spacious house of worship.

A pipe organ installed in 1905 was pumped by hand and the congregation paid .50 cents a Sunday for this service, until the Walther League Society furnished an electric organ blower. Just when the blower was installed is not made clear, but records show that electric wiring and fixtures were installed in the church in 1920, and an organ concert was performed in 1921. A logical assumption would be that certain stalwart individuals pumped the organ for more than fifteen years.

In the year 1909, the congregation, mindful of the diligent labors of Pastor Nickels in their midst, celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his ministry in Rochester.



Rev. C.W. Nickels and Family



Trinity Lutheran Church, at the corner of Center Street and Third Avenue Southwest, where services were conducted from the first Sunday in Advent, 1894, until Palm Sunday, March 18, 1951.

It was in the year 1911, that the Reverend Martin Weinhold of Lester Prairie was installed as pastor of an ever-growing parish. By the grace of God he served Trinity until 1941 as full-time pastor, and from 1941 to 1953 as associate pastor.

From the standpoint of history, Pastor Weinhold personally witnessed almost half the events which transpired here in this century. His 42-year pastorate is a record of service rarely equaled in one congregation. We rejoice that his work was visibly blessed by the Lord of the Church Who permitted him to see the fruits of his labors. He died in Christ, June 17, 1956.



Rev. Martin Weinhold



Christmas at Trinity in the 30's

I remember....

It happened many years ago, in the old church on Center Street. It was Sunday, and the bell in the belfry, had tolled it's last note, and the church service was about to begin, BUT SOMETHING WAS MISSING. Silence settled over the congregation, and all eyes were fixed on the church organ located at left front of the church, and it's beautiful blue and gold pipes were the pride of the congregation, however, no one was sitting on the organ bench, and no notes of the first hymn were being played. Suddenly, our Pastor Rev. Weinhold, appeared in his black robe, sat at the organ, adjusted the music, and began to play the first notes of the first hymn. Afterwards, he walked to the altar, and started the service, and a few minutes later, our regular organist took over the organ. He had overslept.

Aileen Livitz

I remember....

It was 50 years ago Christmas Eve in the sand-bottomed basement of Old Trinity, at the corner of West Center and Third Avenue SW., Lauren Dison with brothers Harold and Richard were reminded while rehearsing their 2 line parts for the Sunday School Christmas Pageant, "Stand on the planks so you won't get your polished shoes dusty." Even though they feared they would never remember their parts, they always did somewhere between "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night". Afterward, every participant received a grocery bag of apples, nuts and candy before proceeding home to continue their family's Christmas festivities.

Lauren Dison



Trinity Lutheran School when it was located at Second Street and Second Avenue Northwest.

A milestone in the history of Trinity Lutheran School was the construction of a modern, two-story brick building at the corner of Second Street and Second Avenue Northwest, at a cost of \$13,000. Dedicated in 1913, the school also served as a meeting place for most of Trinity congregation's social and business functions for some 38 years.

Young people of the church contributed funds they had personally raised in support of the school building program. Their gift of \$2,000 represents a considerable sum by current monetary standards; in 1913 a donation of such size was a remarkable achievement.

With the opening of the new school, the dwelling beside it used as a parsonage by Rev. Weinhold and his family was given over to use as a teacherage. The new two-story parsonage built adjacent to the church on Center Street was occupied by the Weinholds in 1913.



Pastor Johann Herzer

An important year was 1917, marking the Golden Anniversary of Trinity, and the Quadri-Centennial of the Reformation. Nearly 1500 persons attended the three jubilee services conducted July 15. Reverend Johann Herzer, one of Trinity's early pastors, was among the guest speakers. Statistically the congregation numbered 890 souls, 640 communicants, and 150 voters.



1921 Confirmation class members: Gustav Zieman, Armond Riege, Henry Raddatz, Elroy Eastling, Eckhardt Schultz, Bruno Nietz, George Raddatz, Elmer Moehnke, Erhard Kath, Selma Theel, Lillie Theel, Verna Marquardt, Lillian Radke, Sophia Grossbach, Gertrude Weinhold, Hilda Betcher. Pastor Martin Weinhold and teachers, K.F.G. Kath and Anna Kionka.

Forty-three young men from Trinity heeded their country's call in World War I, among them Carl Sonnenberg, who lost his life in the Argonne offensive, October 13, 1918.

The war pointed up dramatically the need for more communication in the language of our country, particularly in the areas of Christian Day School and catechetical instruction. On July 7, 1918, it was resolved to give religious instruction in English, and "children were to be confirmed in German or English

according to the wishes of their parents." Thus, in the post-war era, Trinity's first class of 10 members was confirmed in the English language, April 10, 1921. The transition also made possible the organization of an English Sunday School in 1923 which opened with an enrollment of 170 children. A 40-member adult Bible Class was begun the same year. Confirmation instructions continued to be given in both tongues until 1927, from which time both children and adults have been confirmed exclusively in English.



Men's Club 1942

Men's Club

The Men's Club was established in 1919, although a record book dating back to the year 1904 suggests that a group somewhat resembling a men's club was organized earlier. Certain men have argued that no self-respecting men's club would resolve "to have an entertainment with the girls of the church" as was noted in the 1904 minutes. More than likely this group was a forerunner of the young people's society. It disbanded in 1905.

There was a large turnout of men at the first meeting held in 1919, but when it was learned that the club had definite objectives of service in mind, rather than just a good time, most potential members did not return for a second meeting.

At first the group sought to function as a citizen's group to deal with post-war problems. Later it took interest in the affairs of the Christian Day School, furnishing athletic and classroom equipment. In 1939, the club affiliated with the Lutheran Layman's League and concerned itself with the support of the Lutheran Hour.

The Men's Club was probably the most active and had the best attendance (75 to 85 members) during the years 1950 to 1985 at

which time we were affiliated with the Lutheran Layman's League.

Besides our monthly dinner meeting we usually had a short Bible topic or study by one of our pastors, followed by a guest speaker on various topics of current interest.

During the summer we did not have regular meetings but in June we had a potluck supper with our families and friends. In July we had a steak fry which was a stag affair usually held at a member's cottage and in August we had a corn feed once again with our families and friends.

In the Fall we had a Thanksgiving or Christmas banquet usually in the Fellowship Hall or occasionally in a local hotel or motel. This was a dress-up affair with the women often wearing long evening dresses.

The big event and main money raiser was the annual Swiss Steak Dinner held in the spring and for many years would sell 500 to 700 tickets. All the profits from this event was in some way returned for the benefit of the church or school.

Before the new school was built in Northwest Rochester, the Men's Club supported the Trinity Lutheran School's athletic program by paying for the rental of the Armory where the practices and games were held and also helped on the purchases of uniforms and equipment needed.

The Men's Club supported and maintained a scholarship fund for Trinity members entering and studying for the work of the Lord. When Trinity moved into its new facility, the Men's Club tiled and painted the Fellowship Hall. They also financed black topping the parking lot and furnished the first carpet for the church proper.

The Men's Club was finally put into limbo a few years ago when the average age of its members was seventy years and there were not enough active members to put on the annual Swiss Steak dinner. Their treasury amounted to about \$4,000 at that time and this was divided equally among four organizations of the church. The club has retained a small bank account of two hundred dollars which it is hoped can be a basis for the organization to start up again with new and younger men at the helm.



Rev. William Petzke



Rev. Earl O. Schwerman

Trinity's pastors had ministered to those whose physical ills brought them to Rochester for treatment or hospitalization. This ministry continued until the needs of our congregation would not allow one man to carry the burden of responsibility for both efforts. Therefore, in 1925, the District Mission Board called and inducted our first chaplain, Rev. G. Drews, who brought spiritual care and comfort to fellow Lutherans from all parts of the world. He was called to his eternal rest in 1933. Chaplains who have served to the present day include Pastors Earl O. Schwerman, H. F. Brauer, William Petzke, Paul H. Panning and Martin E. Mueller.



Edwin E. Zielske

The man who was to become one of Trinity's most faithful servants, Edwin E. Zielske, was installed as principal of the school in 1925.

He was called from Detroit to serve as administrator, instructor, church organist, choir director and secretary to the vestry and congregation. This, together with extensive committee assignments would have constituted a heavy work load for any but the most dedicated man. For thirty-three years, Mr. Zielske carried out his responsibilities with unusual vigor and good cheer.

We are indebted to him for the exhaustive research detailed so beautifully in the published account of our 75 years of church history released at the time of Trinity's Diamond Jubilee celebration.



Pastor Mueller ministering to Margaret Schlosnagle at Saint Marys Hospital.

Youth

Trinity's youth have also been an active part of Trinity's 125 years of history. The youth first formed a group called the Walther League, in the year 1904. The Walther League made many significant contributions to church projects. The list of their accomplishments crowds several pages in our church annals.

Over the years changes have taken place with our youth groups. One major change was the youth room itself. It was remodeled in 1983. The room was freshly painted, new furniture, carpet and drapes were also added. Pastor Baue stated, "We now have a first rate youth room". A pool table, ping pong table and foos ball table have also been added over the years.

Originally the youth group consisted of one group, called the Walther League. In 1982 the group was divided into the Jr. and Sr. Youth groups.



Softball Team - Front row (left to right): Tara Southwick and Jessie Southwick. Second row: Jaci Coggins, Michelle Ruetter, Jessica Webster. Back row: Jane Wiertsema, Darin Fabian, Maelyn Fabian, Matt Voss, Brent Coggins.



Car Wash group Stacey Thomason, Jeff Moody, Katie Mack, Betsy Voss, Fritz Spooner.

Trinity's Sr. Youth Group has been very active in the LCMS National Synodical Youth Gathering. Over the years the Sr. Youth have traveled to San Antonio, Texas, Washington, D.C., Denver, Colorado, and in 1992 they will travel to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Both the Jr. and Sr. Youth have participated in annual activities such as, Valleyfair, Downhill Skiing, Channel One Can Opener, Christmas caroling, delivering Poinsettias to the shut-ins, teaching V.B.S., and serving Easter Breakfast.

Sports have also become a high interest area for our youth. Over the past ten years, they have formed volleyball and softball teams and competed in Various Rochester Church leagues. In 1990 Trinity's youth placed first in their volleyball league and also competed in a statewide tournament in Minneapolis. In the summer of 1991, Trinity's softball team made it to the playoffs for the first time and placed second overall in their church league.

Only the Lord knows what changes, challenges and projects lie ahead for our youth. But the Lord will empower Trinity's youth to face them with great determination and enthusiasm.

1927 was eventful in many ways.

It was during Holy Week of that year when Noon-day Lenten Services were first conducted at a downtown theater.

The state of the congregation's treasury late in 1927 necessitated some ambitious campaigning for funds to liquidate a \$6,000 deficit. Parishioners responded generously with pledges exceeding \$8,000. The surplus, after debt liquidation, ultimately formed the base for a new Church Building Fund.

The German Ladies Aid observed their 50th Anniversary in 1928, a milestone in our history reminding the congregation that it was coming of age.

A certain austerity was imposed upon most areas of activity in American life, secular and religious, during the years of the depression. Since this was true also at Trinity, the decade of the 1930's saw a much smaller degree of financial progress achieved in our church programs.

The historic celebrations continued undiminished, however poor the monetary situation! Twenty-five neighboring congregations joined Trinity in a mass observance to commemorate the Quadri-Centennial of Luther's Small Catechism on July 28, 1929. Morning services were held in the Armory, and during

afternoon services at Mayo Park, the Rochester Park Band and the Mayo Clinic Carillon joined the celebrants by making special music for the occasion.

A year later the Luther and Walther Leagues jointly presented a pageant at the Armory to commemorate the Augsburg Confession.

Jubilee services to mark the "Centennial of the Saxon Immigration" were sponsored by the Southeast Conference of the Minnesota District-Missouri Synod churches in September 1939.

Without a doubt the most successful Lutheran event ever to be held in Rochester was the Lutheran Hour Rally in September 1940, when Synodical Conference members from throughout southeastern Minnesota came in buses, car caravans or whatever means of transportation was available, to jam Mayo Arena to the very rafters. Standees in the overflow crowd stayed throughout the service which featured Lutheran Hour speaker, Dr. Walter A. Maier.

As the years passed, our membership grew to 1500 and the congregation was faced with the problem of insufficient seating capacity during worship services. Plans for a new building did not materialize at this time.



Quadri Centennial of Luther's Small Catechism, July 28, 1929, taken in the Band Shell of Mayo Park.

A solution for the problem was the introduction of three divine worship services *held each Sunday morning*. Two services were conducted in English and one in German. Candidate Armin Deye was the first man to be engaged as Pastor Weinhold's assistant in carrying out his pastoral duties.

At a special voter's meeting in 1941 the congregation resolved to make a change in the pastorate of Trinity Lutheran Church whereby a new minister was to be called and Rev. Weinhold would become associate pastor. A call was extended to Rev. W.W. Eifert of Alberta, Canada, and he arrived here with his family to serve as full-time pastor in October 1941.



Rev. and Mrs. Eifert and Oscar Maass at party celebrating Pastor Eifert's 40th year in the ministry.



Trinity Choir Members: (left to right) - Front row, Laraine Ritchie, Betty Dickerman, Joanne Thompson, Agnes Carlson, Margart Hamburg. Second row, Marilyn Kahn, Karen Mielke, Hazel Oldenburg, Darlene Forbrook, Mary Zastrow, Adeline Winkle, Joan Voss. Third row, Jonathan Triebenbach, Fred Elling, Gary Hamburg, Harry Algyer. Last row, Jerry Wollenburg, Ed Schultz, Jon Volker, Warren Heiden, Eugene Rush, Scott Mahle, and Director Burton Mahle.



Cherub Choir - Front row (left to right): Kimberly Halverson, Kristene Borland, Lynae Werner, Bryan Borland, Emily Werner, Jessica Johnson. Second row: Adam Heroff, Toni Hansen, Paula Triebenbach, Director; Aaron Triebenbach, Erica Triebenbach, Erica Kludtke. Back row: Lindsay Voigt, Laura Gustafson, Tiffany Hansen, Larissa Borland, Melanie Halverson, Alissa Kludtke, Jessalyn Thompson. Not in photo: Emily Schultz, Tiffany Griggs, Nicholas Griggs and Susan Kludtke, Accompanist.

Trinity Choir appeared in vestments for the first time in 1941, when it sang Handel's "Messiah" as a special Christmas presentation at the church. This was one of a number of cantatas undertaken every few years under Mr. Zielske's direction, and was a continuance of the tradition of choral music begun at Trinity as early as 1870. This group was directed by August Brendemuehl. Although the records make references to this early-day choir, as well as a Men's Choir in 1904, and a Mixed Choir in 1911, Trinity Choir was officially organized on December 19, 1919, under the direction of Teacher Kath. It consisted of 22 members. The choir has participated in large local and regional musical events on a number of occasions. It has also sponsored the appearance of many touring college groups and several organ concert-artists. A junior choral organization, in existence as early as 1913, has continued through the years with varying degrees of success. Mr. Kath served as the director until 1924. Erwin



Kids Praise Choir - Front row (left to right): Liz Lorenz, Angela Zachrich, Sarah Schaefer, Abigail Zachrich, Kathryn Heroff, Director. Back row: Molly Fitzgerald, Melissa Johnson, Sara Johnson, Sarah Gustafson, Janna Winkle.

Rutz then served as the interim director until 1925, when teacher Edwin E. Zielske arrived. It probably reached its highest point of achievement in the late 1930's and early 1940's. The High School Girl's Choir, which included several girls with exceptional voices, often sang with the Senior Choir. Their efforts were much enjoyed and appreciated by the congregation.

Mr. Zielske served as the choir director until his death in 1958. At that time, Frederic Nitschke became the director. Mr. Nitschke served as the director until 1990. Mr. Robert Rosin directed the choir from 1990-91. Mr. Burton Mahle is the present director.

Over the years, Trinity has had a Youth Choir, a High School Girl's Choir, a Men's Choir, a Handbell Choir, and Choralers. Presently, Trinity has a Senior Choir and Bell Choir directed by Burton Mahle, a Cherub Choir directed by Paula Triebenbach and Sue Kludtke, and a Kids Praise Choir directed by Kathryn Heroff.



Confirmation Reunion Classes of 1926 - 1936

As we embarked upon our 75th year in 1942, all was in readiness for the celebration. The two ministers who served the congregation, the three teachers in the school, the Sunday School instructors and the choir worked to prepare the minds and hearts of the people for the joyous event.

Vesper services of preparation were conducted in the week prior to Jubilee Festival Sunday, with the purpose of inspiring and consecrating the membership to true penitence and thankful hearts.

Three Diamond Jubilee Services and a reunion of confirmation classes were held November 29, 1942, with Synod President, Dr. J. W. Behnken, District President, Pastor R. G. Heyne, in attendance as special Festival guest speakers. Between services, members and visitors enjoyed fellowship and viewed the historical display assembled at Trinity Lutheran School for the benefit of confirmation classes attending the reunion.

I remember....

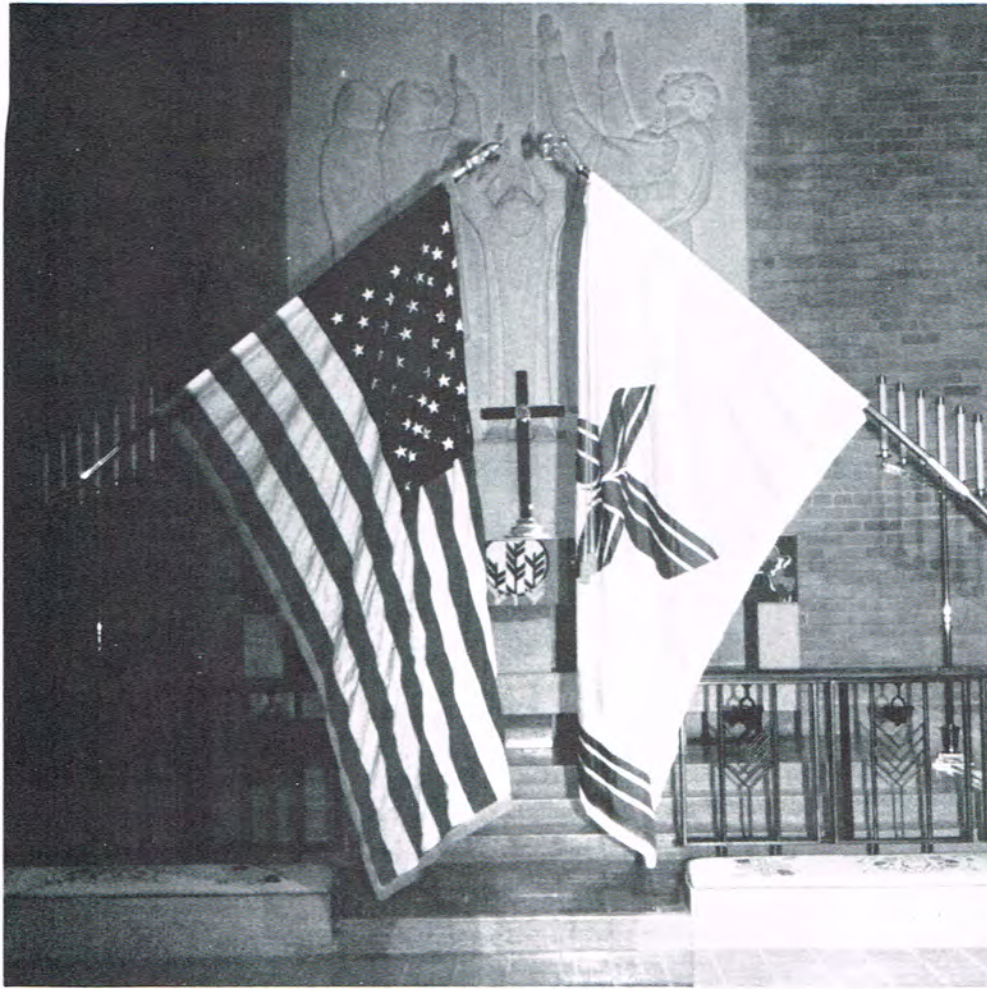
Singing in the Trinity Lutheran School choir in the old church on 3rd Ave. NW.-Downtown. Professor Edwin Zielske taught me the thrill and love of singing praises to God. I shall always remember Edwin Zielske for his contributions to my faith.

I also remember my March 18, 1951, confirmation day. It was the first worship day in the present church. We had an 18" snowfall the night before and the wind was blowing. Everyone was so excited. It was not a question of "should", but only a question of "how" we would get to church.

As a 13 year old boy, I shall always remember the thrill of singing and praising God with the mighty organ and my first communion in that beautiful sanctuary.

Thank the Lord for all the saints that went before me that helped to make all this possible.

Alfred E. Sellman



For God and Country

Social functions of the English Ladies Aid were voluntarily curtailed during World War II while its members busied themselves with Red Cross work. The organization, founded 20 years earlier, had previously concerned itself with such projects as the formation of the English Sunday School and charitable activities on behalf of the Lutheran Children's Friend Society. Now, when the war had taken sons, brothers and husbands to distant places, it was natural that the women directed their efforts toward assisting the war effort.

Out of the several hundred of Trinity's young men that had answered the call to duty, the following had given their lives for the preservation of American ideals.

World War I -

Carl Sonnenberg

World War II -

Lt. G. David Schroeder
Lt. Vernon W. Meyer
2nd Lt. Donald Palas
Lt. Milton Sell
Lt. Walter Garbisch

Sgt. Reuben O. Schulz
Sgt. Stanley A. Fischer
Sgt. Gordon L. Stewart
Sgt. Arthur H. Zuehlke
Cpl. John L. Campbell

Vietnam War -

L/Cpl Byrl Gaertner

Sgt. David W. Wehrs

It was imperative that construction of a new, larger facility get underway just as soon as materials would again be available for construction after the war.

In the interim a Building Committee was organized and charged with the responsibility of obtaining suitable land for the project, planning the new building, and making arrangements for the disposition of the old church property once we had moved to our new plant. The congregation voted to sell the property to the Kahler Corporation in 1943, with the stipulation that the congregation would have use of the church and parsonage until the new church was completed.

After studying a number of sites, the committee recommended for purchase a piece of property on Third Street and Sixth Avenue Southwest. In due time the property was acquired. Ellerbe and Company, with Mr. E. W. Buenger as local representative, were chosen as architects. The plans they submitted for a church and parsonage were adopted by the congregation, and Mr. Alvin E. Benike was awarded the general contract for construction.

The Building Committee agreed that the use of stone for the new church altar would be most appropriate, and carving for beautification of the altar would also be desirable. Cost of such a project was set somewhere between \$14,000 and \$20,000. Ladies of the Trinity Guild decided to adopt the project and in the following 13 years worked tirelessly toward attaining their goal.

A year after the war was ended, construction projects mushroomed all across the country. Excavation for Trinity officially began at groundbreaking ceremonies held on August 12, 1947. Material shortages continually hampered the project, causing unbelievable delays in delivery and installation. The entire effort ground to a halt when several labor unions called a general strike against local contractors. Congregational building bees were held to advance the project as men made

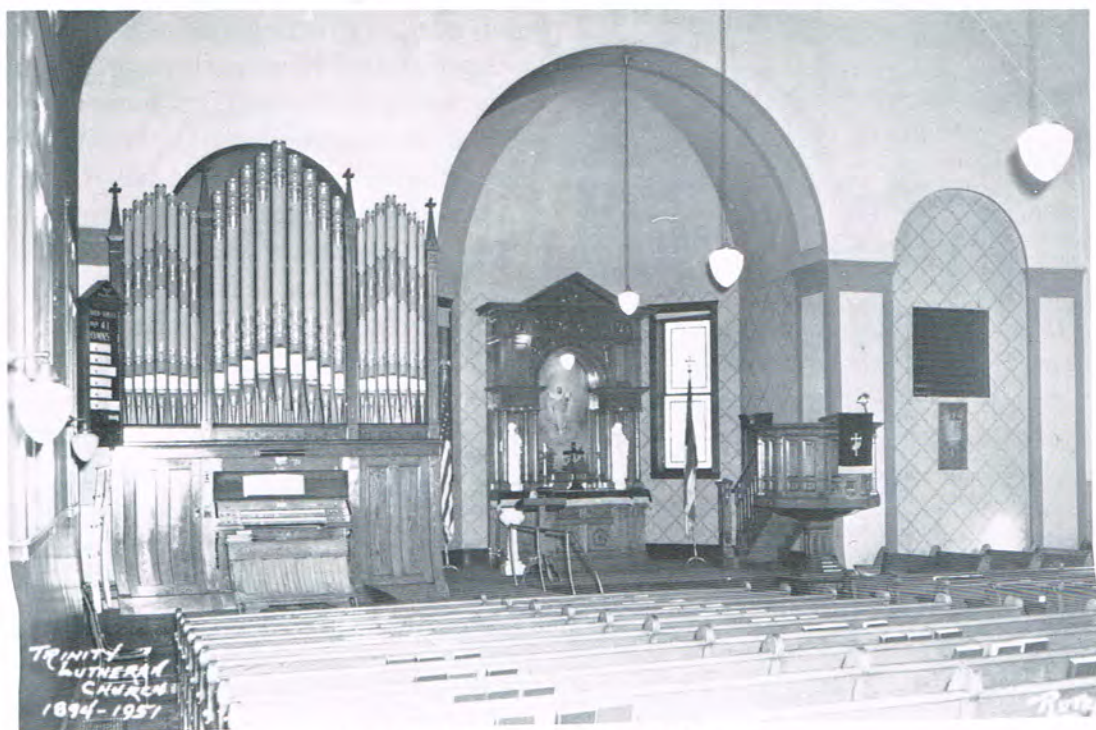
their services available. The Building Committee faced continuing financial crises. It took nearly 3½ years to build the new church.

On July 30, 1949, the cornerstone was removed from the old church. The box which had been sealed in for 55 years, was opened and revealed that most of the contents were badly damaged by moisture. They included a brief history of the parish written in faded German script, copies of the Rochester Daily Post, The Rochester Daily Record and Union of July 13, 1894, and various church periodicals of that time which were mostly printed in the German language.



Rev. Eifert, Rev. Petzke, and Rev. Weinhold officiating at the Cornerstone laying of present church in August, 1949.

Three weeks later a cornerstone-laying service was held at the new church site. This box contained the Bible, synodical catechism, the Lutheran Witness, der Lutheraner, Minnesota Lutheran, Rochester Post Bulletin Yearbook for 1948, history and constitutions of the congregation, church bulletin, school news, order of service for the cornerstone-laying, names of the President, Governor, Mayor, the Building Committee and officers of the congregation.



Interior of Trinity at West Center Street

By the end of 1950, work on the church was nearing completion. Delays in the delivery of pews, the organ, and other furnishings denied use of the new facilities until 1951. Limited space in the old church building forced the issue and the congregation voted to install a temporary musical instrument in the church so the structure could be used before formal dedication.

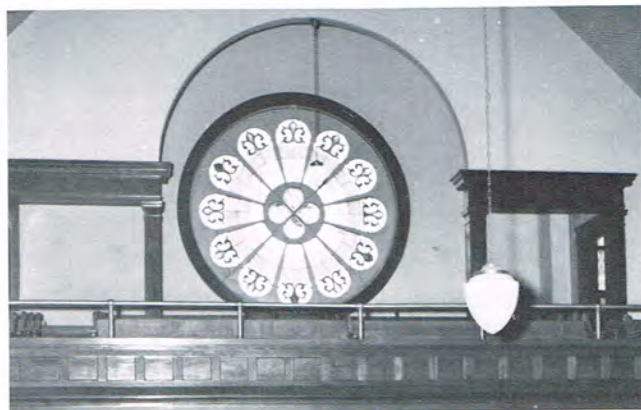
On Palm Sunday . . . March 18, 1951, the congregation conducted two farewell services in the old church, took leave, then met for confirmation services in the new house of worship. Attendance was 757 in spite of a heavy snowfall.

We left behind that day a sanctuary more than half a century old. It had served us well. Its creaking floors, worn pews and outmoded choir loft, the brown stained entrance doors through which we and our loved ones had passed to hear His message, our happy memories and those filled with sorrow, all were bound up in its history.

I remember . . .

Walter Koenig came from Oronoco and was confirmed on April 5, 1903 by Rev. Carl Nickels. We came to Rochester in 1920 from the Pine Island area. I remember the church on West Center with the beautiful round window over the front entrance. Also remember the beautiful pipe organ. Malinda Waldron, daughter, was confirmed by Pastor Weinhold. Walter and I have been members of Trinity ever since.

Mary Koenig



Rose Window in the West Center Street church



"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise." Psalm 100:4

Now we were moving, in and by the direction of God's holy spirit and love, into a new sanctuary. The visionary years of work and planning, the seed of growth first planted in the minds of our membership more than two decades earlier had become a reality.

The call to worship at formal Dedication Services on June 10, 1951, was sounded by one of the last remaining church bells in the city. Trinity's old 1,600 pound bell, presented as a gift to the congregation in 1916, rang out its familiar note from the new 70-foot bell-tower in a continuing summons of the faithful to the House of God.

Professor Martin J. Neeb and the Reverend William Buege were guest speakers at the day's festival services and Dr. Theodore Stelzer played an evening concert on the new three-manual Reuter pipe organ. It was a day

of great rejoicing and thanksgiving. Large crowds filled the church: nearly 1,500 crowded the nave, chapel and basement at morning services; an estimated 1,400 persons were served a noon luncheon by the Ladies Aid; about 1,000 attended the afternoon service; and some 900 people enjoyed the evening recital.

The completion and dedication of the new, imposing structure, whose value at that time was estimated at \$435,000, was a culmination of the consecrated efforts put forth by members of the congregation who had labored long and diligently for this blessed fulfillment of their fervent prayers. Trinity Lutheran Church on this day numbered 2,000 souls, 1,540 communicants, and 210 voters.

The term "Italian Romanesque" is used to describe the architecture of Trinity Lutheran Church, designed to meet the congregation's needs yet recognizing also the traditional and liturgical heritage of the Lutheran Church. Although it draws inspiration from the past, the architecture carefully avoids copying of any historical details. Its character is well-established in the classical spirit rather than in classical reproduction.

Its stone exterior is dominated by a tower whose entrance is flanked by columns of carved stone. The pillars feature symbols of the Holy Trinity, the Word, the Holy Sacraments, the Holy Christian Church, and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. On the interior, the beautifully carved stone reredos, the massive marble altar and baptismal font in the Chancel restate in eloquent witness the foundation and strength of our faith.

I remember.....

Our son, Richard Gottschalk, was the first baby baptized in our new church. It was on Easter morning, March 1951. In our old church, I remember, in the German service, all the men sat on the left side and the women on the right.

Alvin & Lucille Gottschalk



"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, and to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple." Psalms 27, 4.

At the time of dedication, Trinity, the half-million dollar edifice, was bare of the traditional stained glass windows, the altar was not completed and the chapel contained only altar and pews. Individuals and organizations undertook various projects to assist in furnishing the church.

I remember....

When our present church was being built, the building was finished and nearly ready for services. The pulpit was assembled and laying on its side near the front of the church. I was one of the men who helped lift the pulpit into place and held it while it was being secured.

Harold Dixon

The German Ladies Aid donated the rose window over the balcony.

The English Ladies Aid equipped the church kitchen with dishes, utensils, and linens.

Trinity Twosome couples spearheaded a folding door project for the Sunday School department.

The Men's Club tiled the basement floors, landscaped, painted the basement and provided other materials, equipment and services.

The Buenger family established a fund to furnish the Chapel with stained glass windows, a small organ, the specially-designed baptismal font and the beautiful brass lighting fixtures.

Already having donated the Altar rail and baptismal font for the main Chancel, the Trinity Guild continued to work for the day when the Altar reredos project would reach its fruition.

In 1955 the time seemed right to initiate a search for the 'right' sculptor and the architect did so, at the request of the Building Committee. Early in the 1950's he worked in association with some of the country's foremost artists when the Mayo Clinic art program was being developed, therefore was in a position to make the necessary inquiries and contacts.

Artists and art critics alike consider Ivan Mestrovic a man of monumental achievement. Mestrovic, a professor who taught art at Notre Dame University, came to America following World War II, a Yugoslavian in self-exile who wished to live and create in an atmosphere of freedom. The Mayo Clinic had commissioned him to create the sculpture which is mounted above the north entrance of the Mayo Building. That such a man would consider Trinity's project was almost more than the committee dared hope.

They received Mestrovic's courteous reply and request for information concerning the project. The committee suggested the theme which was considered most appropriate for the altar carving: the subject of sacrifice.

He replied, "The subject representing the supreme sacrifice of our Lord as a focus of Christian religion is the one which interests me most." Mestrovic was engaged to create a design for the reredos.



Altar prior to reredos carving

The committee traveled to the sculptor's Indiana studio to inspect and, subsequently, approve, a plaster model of "The Crucifixion." Cast at full size, eight feet wide and twenty-two feet high, the model was shipped to Rochester in July 1956.

A Nave window was removed and the model passed inside. From there it was swung into place against the Chancel wall and braced with scaffolding. Then a partition was erected to close off the Sanctuary.

The ladies of the Altar Society, well-trained to their duties in preparing and maintaining the Sanctuary must be commended here for their devotion in the months which followed. Theirs was a fine appreciation for things liturgical, both in the elements of the worship service and the altar furnishings in their care such as the sacred vessels, the linens, candles and flowers. But now the endless sifting, settling dust pervaded the whole area of the temporary altar and baptismal, in spite of the partition, and a strenuous cleaning operation was necessary each week before preparation of the altar could begin.

Mestrovic selected St. Paul sculptor, Anthony Caponi, chairman of the Macalaster College Art Department, to carve the design in the limestone reredos panel.



Artists Anthony Caponi and Ivan Mestrovic

Caponi traveled to Rochester on long weekends and intermittent weekdays, working at a furious, exhausting pace between his college classes. Four months later, when the work was near completion, Mestrovic visited Rochester to inspect the project. The 73-year-old master was pleased with the work of his young colleague whom he met for the first time that day. He suggested minor changes, then approved the sculpture.

Agencies outside the church took note of Mestrovic's visit here. Representatives of art institutions exhibited keen interest in the altar carving since Mestrovic's work is ranked with the finest art of modern times. The press was interested in Mestrovic the political figure, whose election and the appointment to political offices were declined. He was twice imprisoned, in both World Wars, and was marked for execution by the Nazis.

The sculpture was completed. Partitioning and scaffolding came down, the plaster model was cut into sections and removed, and a tremendous accumulation of dust was cleaned away in preparation for the dedication.

One thousand four hundred persons attended the reredos dedication services early in Advent, 1956. Artists, professional people and parishioners alike were strong in their praise for the crucifixion masterpiece. The Building Committee and Ladies Guild felt special pride at having attained their goal.

Artist Robert Metcalf was at work in Ohio creating the stained glass windows, their themes drawn from months of research and study directed by Mr. Edgar Buenger who agreed with Mestrovic's philosophy: "A church never finished is a growing church."

Another person who played an important role in the development of research for art themes in our church was Associate Pastor Arden Malotky. It was under his direction that the Trinity Tribune was published also, keeping the congregation abreast of the church news and its art program.



Pastor Weinhold announced his retirement in 1952, effective as soon as a successor was installed. Candidate Arden Malotky was installed Associate Pastor in August 1953, and one week later Pastor Weinhold preached his farewell sermon.

It was in 1955 that Dr. and Mrs. Eric Lofgren of our congregation were commissioned to serve Synod's hospital mission in Eket, Nigeria. Various church organizations contributed money to help support their mission endeavor.

December of 1955 saw the installation of the first stained glass window in the Nave. It was, appropriately, the Nativity window.

The end of an era was marked January 1, 1957, when German services were discontinued at the church.

1957 In May of the same year, the carved panel was installed over the guest registry in the Narthex, its inscription cut by Trinity parishioner, Charles Tannert. An earlier work of Mr. Tannert's was a walnut relief, created as a memorial to those who lost their lives in World War II. After its unveiling at a special banquet honoring our returning servicemen in 1946, the panel was later installed near the south entrance in the new church Narthex.

Eight months after Pastor Malotky was released to accept a call in Glen Lake, Pastor Roger Polansky was installed as associate pastor at Trinity, June 30, 1957.

Nearly 3,000 persons attended a Lutheran Hour Rally held at Mayo Civic Arena in July 1957. It was the highlight of a Lutheran Laymen's League convention for which Trinity was host congregation. Dr. Oswald Hoffman, Lutheran Hour speaker, and Elmer Kraemer editor of the Lutheran-Witness Reporter, were honored guests.

A circuit-wide Preaching-Teaching-Reaching mission was undertaken by 15 area congregations in November 1957. "Missioners" from surrounding cities and states were assigned to each Missouri Synod congregation

for one week of evangelism and community outreach. The community religious census here reached 80 new prospects for membership.

Frederic Nitschke, a parochial school teacher and organist who was called to fill the vacancy left by teacher Alvin Roth, arrived in August 1958.

Principal Edwin Zielske suffered a heart attack and died shortly before Christmas 1958.

Mr. Nitschke was appointed acting principal of the school and was named director of music at the church the following year. In March 1959 a call was extended to Henry Rediger to serve as school principal, which he accepted.



Frederic Nitschke, organist

During the closing months of 1959 and in many months that followed, the congregation engaged in the consideration of building a new Christian Day School.

The Board of Christian Education was instructed to make the intention of a new building known to other synodical congregations in the Rochester area and, hopefully, obtain their favorable action in the establishment and implementation of a Central School Association.

Purchase of a 15-acre tract in Northwest Rochester for \$38,000 for the purpose of a new school and possibly a mission church was completed December 31, 1958.



From left: Rev. Earl O. Schwerman, Redeemer Lutheran Church; Principal Henry J. Rediger; Pastor Eifert; and Rev. Walton W. Doering of Grace Lutheran Church signing constitution for Rochester Central Lutheran School Association.

Additional progress toward the realization of a new school was made when Trinity, Grace and Redeemer Lutheran Churches met in March 1959 to evaluate our proposals for the Central School Association. In May, Trinity's Board of Christian Education recommended that our trustees be authorized to sign an agreement with the Association. On November 12, 1959, the resolution was passed unanimously: Trinity was to transfer ownership of real estate in northwest Rochester to the Central School Association for the purpose of constructing a new school. The estimated value of our outright gift to the association was \$163,000.

Groundbreaking services for the new school were held April 7, 1963. Classes commenced in the beautiful new building on September 5 of the same year, but faculty and students found some of the most basic modern conveniences still missing.

Dedication, cornerstone laying and open house for the new building was held January 12, 1964.

The old schoolhouse located on Second Street Northwest had been sold to the Methodist Hospital Association.

As in the past, Trinity was again provided an opportunity to assist with the establishment of another local mission. Redeemer Lutheran Church founded in 1931, was followed by Grace Lutheran established as a mission in Northeast Rochester in 1941, and Christ Lutheran on Highway 52 South in 1959.

Now at a congregational meeting in January 1961, the congregation urged the Minnesota District Board of Missions to consider early establishment of a church on the new school site, and pledged to assist in the formation of such a congregation by permitting transfers to its members. The district accepted the recommendation and subsequently purchased three of the original fifteen acres from the school property.

Fifteen communicant members who transferred from Trinity were a part of the new congregation named Holy Cross.



Trinity Education Wing and Parish Hall

As the community grew, so also did Trinity congregation whose Sunday School enrollment had increased to the point where finding space in which to conduct classes was becoming a problem. Once plans for the new Central Lutheran School were underway, the congregation then turned its attention to the building of a new Sunday School wing and Parish Hall. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held August 28, 1960 and construction completed in September 1961 at a cost of \$140,000.

The local need of Christian education for the mentally retarded also had made itself known. This was another opportunity for a unique Christian mission, as was the case in 1925, when a department for the deaf was organized in our Sunday School. The blessing upon more than 17 years of work in that area resulted in the confirmation of several deaf children at Trinity.

It was in June 1963 that a group drawn from the ranks of Trinity's elder parishioners was organized into a Senior Citizen's Club. Even today this organization stands as a fine testimonial to the ideals of good Christian Fellowship shared by the young-at-heart.

A surprise party commemorating Pastor Eifert's 40th year in the ministry was attended by nearly 450 well-wishers on October 13, 1963.

In 1965, the congregation financed a trip to the Holy Land as a special gift for Pastor and Mrs. Eifert in recognition of 25 years of service to Trinity.

A call to serve as our administrative pastor was sent to Pastor Henry E. Gaertner of Bloomington, Minnesota. Following his acceptance he was installed at an evening service March 14, 1965.

1967 was the beginning of a year-long celebration of Trinity's 100th anniversary.

"Our Centennial Vision of Gratitude" was chosen as the theme for the year 1967, the Centennial Year for Trinity Lutheran Church. It was a year marked with special dinners, programs, and a Centennial reunion picnic. The year was divided into four quarters, each with its own special theme and speaker.

The first quarter's theme, "Thanksgiving for Past Blessings and Rededication for the Future" was led by Dr. Oliver Harms who was then President of the Missouri Synod.

The speaker for the second quarter was Reverend Wilbur J. Fields who spoke on Youth and Growth.

Reverend Eugene Seltz was the featured speaker for the third quarter. The theme was "The Church and The Christian World."

The final quarter was led by Dr. A.R. Kretzmann who spoke on the theme of the 450th Reformation Anniversary.

The final event of the year was a night watch service. Rev. Earl O. Schwerman, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church - our first sister congregation, gave the devotional message in German. John Kent was soloist and Barbara Klevene, organist. Candles were lit at the conclusion of the service, symbolically lighting the way into Trinity's second century.

In the same year weekly broadcasts of our Sunday worship service were begun on a local FM-stereo station.

Thanksgiving Day, 1967, was more than a civil holiday marked by religious services. Members of the Building Committee joined the pastors for a short ceremony in which the \$450,000 mortgage was burned. This represented the bond issue negotiated for our present church building, which, by the grace of God, we were able to pay off three years before the actual due date. It was truly a day for thanks-giving.



Rev. Eifert, William Radke, William Sperling, Erwin Rutz and Rev. Gaertner at mortgage burning ceremony.

In 1968 the congregation named Pastor Eifert as Pastor Emeritus. Later in the year we sold the second parsonage to Pastor and Katherine Eifert. After preaching his final sermon on December 29, Pastor Eifert died very unexpectedly at his home from a heart attack and went to his heavenly home. He had served our parish 27 years.

On January 19, 1969 Pastor Victor Bittner was installed as leader of evangelism and youth and during the same year the Church called Pastor Emil Winkler as Visitation Pastor to visit our shut-in members. The Synodical Convention was held in Denver with Dr. J.A.O. Preus elected as President. Trinity members participated in a special Synod offering of the "His Too" program. The upper lounge became a project of the Women of Trinity and was dedicated as the Eifert Memorial Lounge in memory of our sainted Pastor. The Rev. Edgar Eifert was the speaker for the dedication. The Eifert Memorial Scholarship Fund was established with the first recipient being Dan Lubbert. Membership in the Church at this point in history was 1,636 communicant members.

The Minnesota South District became involved in our congregational meetings in

regard to women suffrage and in September of 1970 women were allowed to attend, but not vote, at meetings. The Congregation commissioned Charles Tannert and Grover Richardson to design a Vietnam Memorial Plaque for the Church listing the names of our members who lost their lives in the war. Under the direction of Pastor Bittner, youth activities expanded and a bus was purchased for youth retreats that averaged 20-25 per year in the early 70's.

During the year, the Church went into a major choir loft renovation project. District President Lieske was invited as special speaker to help with our Loyalty Sunday projects. In the fall of the year, a special mission festival was held in the observance of the 75 years of world mission by the Missouri Synod.

Special anniversaries were held in the Church in 1971 when the congregation celebrated the 30th wedding anniversary of Pastor and Marion Gaertner, honored Fred Nitschke on his 25th Anniversary observance of teaching in Lutheran School and a service of Thanksgiving honoring Chaplain and Mrs. William Petzke upon his 50th anniversary in the Holy Ministry and their 50th wedding anniversary.



Charles Tannert and Grover Richardson designers of Vietnam Memorial Plaque shown at left.



Mark Gaertner
June 13, 1971



Richard Kruesel
June 9, 1963

Sons of members of Trinity who were ordained into the ministry.

A special service was held for the ordination into the ministry for Mark Gaertner, son of Pastor and Marion Gaertner. Trinity members also participated in a large offering for the new State Hospital Religious Activity Center.

1972 was filled with many worthwhile projects in the Church. The Women of Trinity celebrated with a special dinner for the Golden Anniversary of the organization. Mission Festival was held with Missionary John Huithausen from the Philippine Islands as speaker. Many of the members journeyed to the Metropolitan Sports Center for the 40th Anniversary of the Lutheran Hour with Oswald Hoffman as speaker. Trinity Quilters were kept busy throughout the year completing 71 quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

The International Lutheran Laymen's League Convention in St. Louis was attended by our delegate Grover Richardson. A very happy note ended the year when on December 2, Pastor Emil Winckler and Minna Rutz were married.

Many activities continued in the new year 1973 involving the membership. Pastor Gaertner was the area delegate to the 50th regular Convention of Synod in New Orleans. The Church participated in a special drive for the 125 Synodical Anniversary Thankoffering.

Pastor Bittner led area churches in the Synod approved "Key 73" program. This program made up of over 140 Christian denominations in United States and had as its goal "Ye Are My Witnesses" to give every person in the nation the message of Jesus Christ. From this project, over 1,000 Bibles were distributed to Rochester Homes.

Mission Festival was celebrated in November with Dr. Harvey Stegemueller, President of Concordia, St. Paul, as speaker. Dan Lubbert joined the Church Staff as an assistant to the Pastor.

As the Church moved forward, 1974 was filled with several memorable events. The Weinhold Historical Room was established and dedicated out of the work of love by the Women of Trinity. The membership rejoiced in August with a special service to burn the mortgage of the Educational Building.

Pastor David Rose's ordination and installation was held and member Lorraine Zabel was honored for her 25th year of teaching service at R.C.L.S. The yearly Mission Festival was held with the Rev. Otto Henrichs as the speaker. Pastor and Marion Gaertner acted as hosts to many of our members as they toured the Holy Land.

A very special service in 1975 was when Synod President Dr. J.A.O. Preus was guest speaker at the Church. This was also the year when women, along with all 18 year-olds, were given the right to vote at congregational meetings.

Trinity had many special offerings during the year, including one for the new music building at Concordia, Mankato University Lutheran Center and Valparaiso University's 50th Anniversary of Lutheran ownership.

R.C.L.S. started the Patron Endowment Plan and held a wonderful Thanksgiving Banquet for member churches to give them the opportunity to visit with former Pastors and Teachers.

Mission Festival was held with the Rev. Max Schaefer as speaker. The "Old West" was the theme of the Father-Son Banquet held in the Fellowship Hall of the Church and the Elizabeth Circle sponsored a bus to visit Bethesda in Watertown.

The Nation was celebrating the Bi-Centennial in 1976 with big events across the land. Trinity played its part with a Trinity Heritage Banquet at the Church. Many of our members, along with the Choir, participated at Mankato University in a Bi-Centennial Concert entitled "Sing For 200 Years". In the Fall a Congregational Bi-Centennial Picnic, with Al Quie as speaker, was held. All offerings for these events went to the Native American Mission.

Pastor Rose was a delegate from the area to the Synodical Convention held in Dallas. The youth attended the Youth Gathering in New Orleans. At the end of the year Pastor Gaertner retired from the Church and a re-

ception was given in his and Mrs. Gaertner's honor.

Trinity was without an administrative pastor for many months and Pastor Rose took over the duties very well with the programs of the church. After a period of time, Pastor Robert Raedeke was extended a second call to be our Pastor and was installed October 2, 1977. With him came the wonderful Lenten series of Passion Portraits. This program was a large attraction to our membership and the City of Rochester. The Lenten Services, which had to be offered twice in the evening, were filled to capacity. Easter Sunrise Service was held at Mayo Civic Theatre with standing room only crowd.

The Choir participated in the Lutheran Choir and Band Music Festival at Mankato State University sponsored by the Minnesota South District. Dale Orłowski became administrator of R.C.L.S.



Pastor Raedeke as Pilate



Carol Blucher as Martha

The Church observed the tricentennial of Lutheran Hymn writer Paul Gerhard's birth with special hymn sings throughout the year. Mid-week Bible classes were started and very well received by the members. "Hymns *You Like To Sing*" were bound in the back of our hymnals and paid for by the Ladies of Trinity.

Fred Nitschke was honored in February of 1978 for his 20th Anniversary Year of service to our Church. Pastor Rose accepted a call to California and a farewell party was given. Several Sunday School Teachers attended the Convention in Chicago. Major repair work was done on the beautiful stained glass windows of the Church costing over \$8,000 and all the pews and kneelers were removed, refinished, stained and padded for over \$19,000. Estate planning seminars were held at the Church with large attendance by our members. The members held a special dinner in honor of Pastor Raedeke's 20th Anniversary in the ministry.

Pastor Dennis Aubey was installed in January 14, 1979 as Evangelism and Youth Pastor. Under his direction Evangelism Calling Programs in the Church became a reality. The new chandeliers were installed for better lighting and many other areas of the Church were up-dated. Over 2,000 Rochester Directory's of Local Churches, with Trinity's picture on the cover, were printed by Pastor and Ruth Raedeke and given to the Welcome Wagon Hostesses of the City for new people moving into the Community and also placed in all local hotels and hospitals.

Sunday School Superintendent Sandra Lorenz, along with her Staff, participated in the United Nations "International Year of the Child" with various projects and emphasis on the rights of children. Mission festival had the Rev. Paul Hassey as the speaker and the offering going to Brazil Missions.

The Church moved forward in the 80's. Pastor and Bea Aubey took several of the members on tour of Concordia Seminary and other interesting points in St. Louis. A fund drive was held to help with the local building of the new center for the Salvation Army. Synod's drive, "Forward in Remembrance", was well received by the membership with over \$85,000 pledged for the projects of Synod. Bette Buenger, Jan Wheeler, Pastor and Ruth Raedeke attended the "Great Commission Conference" held in St. Louis.



Demolition of houses for lower parking lot.

The Congregation purchased properties located at 520 and 526 2nd St. S.W. for \$200,000 to be used as a parking lot for the membership. Regional Stewardship Meeting was held at the Church under the direction of Pastor Raedeke.

River Forest Concordia Teacher's College Chorale held a concert at the Church and Rev. Gerald Peterson was the Mission Festival speaker in the Fall.

Pastor Aubey accepted a call to Regina, Canada, and a call was extended to Pastor Martin Mueller who was installed September 27, 1981. Pastor Frederic Baue was also extended a call and was installed October 18, 1981.

Stewardship programs went very well with over \$400,000 generated in pledges for local and mission work of the Church. R.C.L.S. students were kept very busy with their project selling Christmas cards with sales over \$11,000.

Passion Portraits were now seen during the Lenten Season over Channel 5 TV. Trinity members were honored by the Church Extension Fund, Minnesota District, as the largest amount invested, largest increase in investments, and greatest number of investors per congregation.

Building contracts were extended to contractors for construction of a new gym at the school for nearly \$500,000. To raise money for this, an auction was held in May of 1982 with approximately \$40,000 of saleable items donated by people of the member churches and equally matched by A.A.L.

Area Mission Rally was held at Trinity with Dr. Chiu of Hong Kong as guest speaker. Pastor Emil Winckler was honored on June 6 at both services, followed by a reception on his 50th anniversary in the Holy Ministry.



Trinity Quilters from left to right: Edith Dallman, Helen Hunt, Doris Heiden, Margaret Weinhold, Esther Maass, and Esther Schroeder.

Under the direction of Pastor Baue, 50 youth attended "Lock-In" at Trinity. Valparaiso Choir performed a concert and the Trinity Quilters were kept busy making quilts for the families who were homeless due to the 1983 Town House Fire in Rochester.

The Sunday School had a special Open House Fair with the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's Birth as the theme. Ten youth

from the Church attended the Synodical Youth Gathering at San Antonio.

During the 1984 year, Trinity's Office became computerized with the purchase of the computer system. Pastor Krueger was hired as the Visitation Pastor and Trinity had a membership of 1,801 baptized members. Concordia Teacher's College Choir - Seward held a concert at the Church during May.

In December a dinner was held to honor Ray and Nancy Wehrs for the many years of service to the Church.

Trinity Players, directed by Pastor Baue, presented a chancel drama at the Easter Sunrise Service. 1,182 people attended Easter Services in 1985. Christine Wallman received \$2,000 from the Eifert Memorial Scholarship Fund this school year and a new Greeters Program was started at the Church. Pastor Donald Wuertz was called and installed April 14, 1985. Bible Class attendance increased with 300 - 350 people attending classes each week. The membership participated in the "Alive in Christ" program of Synod. A new heating system was installed in the Church.

The Church hosted the Minnesota South District Stewardship Workshop in April 1986. The National Synodical Youth Gathering was held in Washington, D.C. in August with several of our youth in attendance. A number of the Sunday School Staff attended the Ninth North American Lutheran Sunday School Convention. The Processional Cross was introduced and used in the Church Services. Pastor Baue resigned to attend the University of Arizona. The Minnesota South District Chaplaincy Service to St. Mary's and Methodist Hospital was approved with our Pastor Mueller in charge of the program.

Pastor Paul Werner was extended a call and was ordained and installed on June 28, 1987. He works successfully with many of the members in the field of Evangelism.

In 1988 the membership participated in the Lutheran World Relief drive for victims of Hurricane Gilbert. Holy Communion was served with both the common and individual cups at the same service. The Board of Evangelism, under the direction of Pastor Werner, had a booth at the Rochester Fest and it was very well received by the Community. Debra Bird was called as the new D.C.E. and Dr. O.H. Cloetter was elected to the 4th term as president of Minnesota South.



Trinity's Rochesterfest Booth

The Church Extension Fund investments by members, directed by Everett Weinrich, exceeded the one million dollar mark and the Church was honored for this. "Year Of The Family" was the theme for the year and many projects directed by Debra Bird emphasized this program. Trinity members participated in the Blood Donor program with Mayo Clinic and took a special offering for the City Center Children's Endowment Fund. Jeff Wuertz received money from the Eifert Scholarship.

Pastor Wuertz received a call to Missouri in 1989 and Pastor Schoewe of Winona became Interim Pastor until a new pastor would come. The artwork of Jon deVaal, a bronze statue of Moses, was displayed in the Church. Bob Rosin was hired as Choir Direc-

tor. Pastor and Mrs. Schoewe were honored for 45 years of Church service and their 45th Wedding Anniversary.



Construction site of new Narthex addition.

The Building Committee for the new addition to the Church was appointed with Joyce Robbins; Chairperson, Jim Pfeffer, Ray Purves, Dan Webster, Darlene Forbrook, Tom Born, Bob Lorenz, Marian Maass, Ralph Pike, Dick Brehmer, Phil Maass, Jim Voss, Ewald Koepsell, and Mary Kisilewski. The Fund Raiser Committee selected was Len Kludtke; Chairman, Harry Algyer, Fred Carlson, Marvin Muller, Dick Brehmer, Sherm Toensing, Jerry Wallenburg, Ethel Herrick, Marvin Fitzhum, Floyd Redenbaugh, and Jim Voss.



Jon deVaal, creator of Bronze statue of Moses and the Serpent, chatting with Hazel Oldenburg.

1990 found our baptized membership at 1864 souls. Dr. David Zachrich was installed as our Administrative Pastor in February. On May 6, 17 youth were confirmed.

Earl Murphy Associates was contracted for fund raising for the building project addition. "Faith To Build On" was chosen for the theme of this major project. Many months of planning, by the building committee, was now a reality. The month of May found the Pacesetters Dessert held at the Radisson Hotel followed by a well attended Congregational "Faith To Build On" Banquet held at Heritage Hall of the Kahler Hotel.

The senior youth were kept very busy with various projects to raise money for the Synodical Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. The sale of coffee mugs with the building theme "Faith To Build On" inscribed on them, was a well received project.



Hymnals currently in use at Trinity

The Lutheran Worship hymnals were introduced in our worship service to be used along with the Lutheran Hymnal. An informal mid-week service was again offered for those of our members that were not able to attend Sunday services and music from The Other Song Book was used.

Minnesota South District of the Missouri Synod continued working on various new mission projects and Rev. Lane Seitz was elected District President.

1991 found our membership growing to 1930 souls. The Elders of the Church developed the Shepherding Program. Pastor Werner and the Evangelism Board worked very hard in various programs in meeting new people with personal contacts as they came to Rochester and used the media very successfully in bringing our Church and what we believe in, to the people of our city.



DCE Debra Bird



Jane Wiertsema

Youth Directors

The Youth again served Easter breakfast. 17 persons were confirmed. In May, DCE Director Debra Bird resigned and in September Jane Wiertsema was hired as Youth Director. Burton Mahle was hired as Choir and Handbell Director.



Bell Ringers from left to right: Janet Mahle, Susan Werner, Lori Schultz, Kay Roundey, Jani Mahle, Joan Voss, Linda Fitzgerald, and Paula Triebenbach.

An old fashion mission festival was held in October along with a dinner in the fellowship hall. The offering was given to the Native American Fund, Trinity First of Minneapolis. Trinity First is known as the first

established Missouri Synod Church in Minnesota and is now our District's Mission to the Native Americans. Pastor DeLoyd Wippich, pastor of Trinity First, along with their choir, provided us with the message and music for this mission service.

Trinity, under the direction of Everett Weinrich, was again honored as having the largest total investments in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund in the District in excess of one million, five hundred thousand dollars.

The year had finally arrived, a year to celebrate 125 years of God's grace. Special Lenten offerings were given to our local Dorothy Day House and the Maundy Thursday offering was sent to our Synod's project at Concordia College in Selma Alabama. Trinity's building project, under Benike Construction Company was completed and the beautiful new addition with its elevator was put to good use.

Excitement of the anniversary continued in April as our members celebrated three special events. On Friday, the 24th, the Trinity youth groups hosted a youth dance from 7:00 pm. to 10:00 pm. at the Rochester Central Lutheran School gymnasium. An invitation was extended to our Sister Churches to participate in the event. KROC radio station provided "Music On Wheels" for the occasion.

Saturday, April 25, 1992, the emphasis for this day's celebration was on fellowship. A delightful banquet at the Rochester Central Lutheran School gymnasium provided the opportunity for Trinity members, friends and visitors to gather in a spirit of celebration.

Those who were present at this event enjoyed the singing of the National Pastime quartet. A word of thanks from the Anniversary Chairman, Arley Carlson, was given to all for having made this celebration possible. Guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Charles Mueller, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Roselle, Illinois. In addition to serving in the ministry, Rev. Mueller is also an author, essayist, and lecturer.

Rev. Dr. David Zachrich gave the invocation and words of welcome. Ewald Koepsell served as Master of Ceremonies highlighting the banquet program. Reminiscing about the past history of Trinity Lutheran Church brought about many memories and in joining with the Psalmist, we can truly say: "Indeed he did great things for us, how happy we were."

To help celebrate Trinity's 125th anniversary, on Sunday, April 26, the entire congregation was invited to join together in a special worship service at 10:30 am. in the Mayo Civic Theater. It was the first time in many years that the entire worshipping body was in a single service. A continental breakfast was served prior to the service in order to provide a time of fellowship.



Rev. Dr. Charles Mueller

The service itself included a great deal of special music, arranged and directed by Frederic Nitschke and Burton Mahle. The Rev. Dr. Charles Mueller, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Roselle, Illinois, was the guest speaker. Dr. Mueller is a former District President and Synodical Vice-President.

A decorating committee, chaired by Robert Lorenz, created special banners and color themes to enhance the worship hour.

It was a great day to be in fellowship with former members and friends of our sister congregations.

Talented members of the Women of Trinity compiled a cookbook of their favorite recipes, many of which were handed down to them these 125 years. The Bookstore, under the able direction of Maxine Schultz had fellow Missouri Synod member Wally Bronner of Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, Frankemuth, Michigan, design and make Christmas ornaments of fine Austrian glass for the occasion. Mugs commemorating the 125th Anniversary were also available.

Yes, God has been good to Trinity these past 125 years. As that old familiar hymn so states, "His Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever. May future generations be so blest and keep His teachings pure.



Acolytes lighting the candles for communion service.



Groundbreaking Ceremony from left to right: Pastor Zachrich, Joshua Edge, Pastor Mueller, Fred Carlson, Richard Brehmer, Lloyd Welty, Marian Maass, Darlene Forbrook, Mayor Chuck Hazama, Joyce Robbins, Ewald Koepsell, Leonard Kludke, Daniel Webster, Ralph Buske, Ray Purves, Robert Lorenz, James Pfeffer, James Voss, Mary Kisilewski, Sherman Toensing and Ralph Pike.

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

Ps. 16: 6

Guds Ord det er vort Arvegods

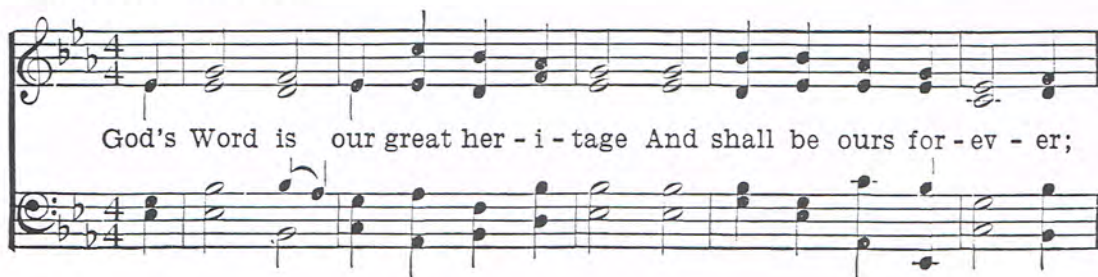
Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1817

Tr., Ole G. Belsheim, 1909

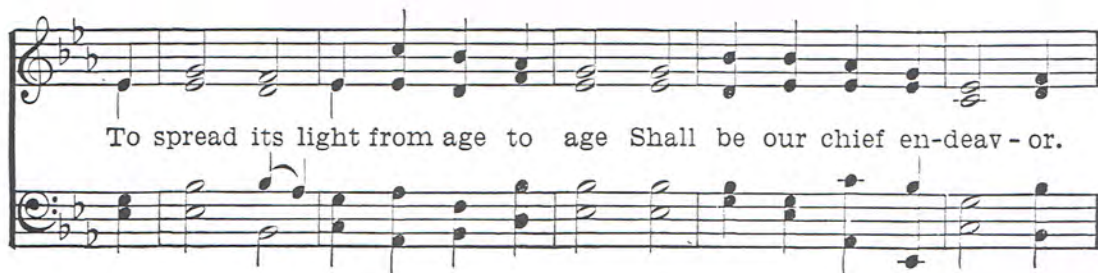
8. 7. 8. 7. 6. 6. 6. 7.

Reuter

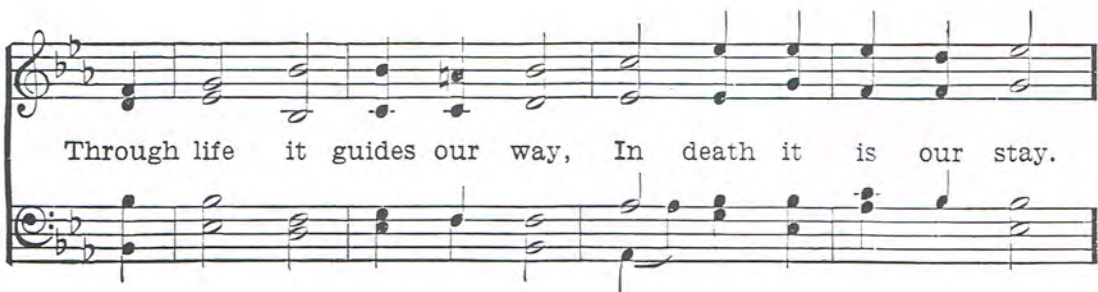
Fritz Reuter, 1916



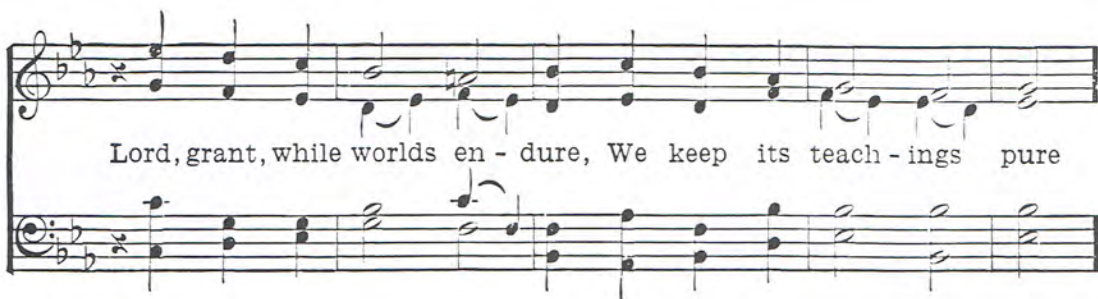
God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for - ev - er;



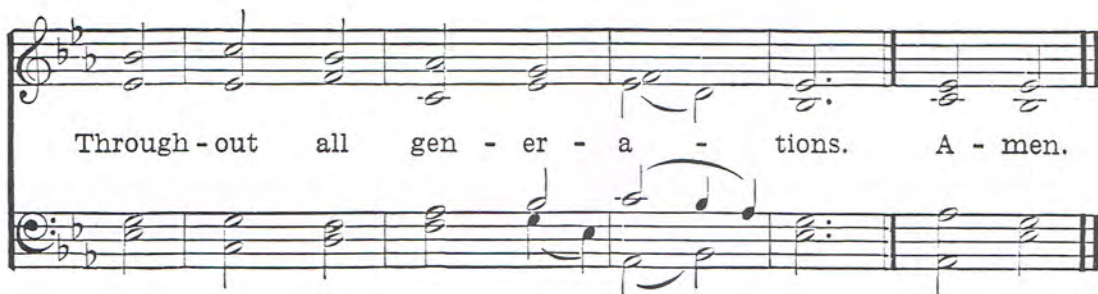
To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief en-deav - or.



Through life it guides our way, In death it is our stay.



Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its teach - ings pure



Through - out all gen - er - a - tions. A - men.

Trinity Lutheran School - 1867-1959



"Little German School"

The "Little German School" located at 2nd Avenue and 2nd St. N.W. was used as both Trinity Church and School in 1875. Pastor von Schenk instituted the first regular courses of instruction in 1875 with an enrollment of eleven pupils. By 1882, 35 children attended the classes. The first small church building of 1869 was converted to use as a weekday classroom through the ingenious installation of hinged writing boards to the backs of pews. These could be raised and used as desks, or conveniently lowered during Sunday services. Classes included Catechism, Bible History, German, reading and writing as the principal subjects.

The Brendemuehl residence was rented for temporary school quarters until an 18 × 24 foot building was constructed in 1884. A 12 foot addition was appended in 1886. Ten years later when our new church was completed on Center Street, the old church was converted to use as a school. Although time wrought many changes in the actual structure, the address remained constant for 79 years: Second Avenue and Second Street Northwest.

In 1884 Pastor C. W. Nickels and his daughter taught the classes until our first called teacher arrived in 1892. He was Gustave Frank whose seven years of service here resulted in an enrollment increase from 45 to 108 pupils.



Gustave Frank
1892



K.F.G. Kath
1916



Anna Kionka
1916

Succeeding Mr. Frank were teacher C. Cutkowsky who taught two terms; Pastor Nickels who again filled a vacancy; Gustave Stephani, who taught 81 young scholars in 1903. He served for five years. In 1911 Rev. Martin Weinhold became pastor of Trinity and as no teacher was at hand he took over the school with a class of 85 pupils.



An early class of the "Little German School"

December 10, 1911, Teacher H. A. Roeglin was installed. He worked enthusiastically for a new school. In 1913, the joyous year of its dedication, the congregation mourned the loss of this faithful servant.

Teacher C. Bahle was then called. On August 10, 1913, dedication services were held for the new school. After the service the congregation then marched in a processional from the church on Center Street to the school three blocks away. As the first marchers reached the school, the last were just leaving the church... so large was the processional body.

September 2, 1913 Teacher Bahle began work in the new school with an enrollment of 90 precious little ones. Because of the large number of pupils, the congregation in the voters' meeting considered the matter of a second teacher, but resolved to desist from calling one at this time. Instead, a janitor was engaged to lighten the load of the teacher in the matter of firing and keeping the school clean.

In 1916 Mr. Bahle accepted a call to Dubuque, Iowa. On June 4, 1916 Mr. K. F. G. Kath was installed as teacher. He dedicated his labors in our Christian Day School teaching for eight years.

In 1925 Mr. Edwin Zielske took up his duties here. Summer vacations were utilized by the teachers, the pastor and representatives of the School Board who visited every home of the congregation and invited the families to enroll their children in the school. Their efforts bore fruit with a peak enrollment of 141 students in 1931.

A second called teacher, H. P. Westermann, arrived in 1945, followed in 1947 by his successor, Alvin Roth.

In the ensuing post-war years, late in the 1940's and early 1950's, the old school was remodeled. Halls, large rooms and the basement were re-designed to provide more classroom space. Enrollment climbed to a high of 178 in 1958 and six teachers comprised the faculty. Frederic Nitschke had been installed as the second called teacher to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Roth in 1958. Later a third called teacher, Mr. Velmer Goebel, was added to the staff.

Alas, the untiring and consecrated efforts of many years spent striving for the erection of a new school by Mr. Zielske were never realized in his time. He would have known great joy and satisfaction in seeing the achievement of this goal which was realized five years after his death.

Rochester Central Lutheran School - 1959-1992



Rev. Walter Eifert, Rev. Raymond Krueger, Rev. Ed Lutz, Carl Volberding, Henry Rediger, Walter Behnken, William Sperling, Richard Maass, Eugene Rush, LaVerne Knappe, Kenneth Stoltenberg, Harold Geerdes, Joe Weichselbaum, Walter Benike, Rev. Carl Brenner, and Rev. Earl Schwerman. Groundbreaking at the Rochester Central Lutheran School, April 1, 1963.

Mr. Henry Rediger, the last called teacher-principal of Trinity Lutheran School in 1959, was released that same year together with Frederic Nitschke, both to accept calls as teachers to the newly-organized Rochester Central Lutheran School.

And thus the institution which began a singular existence as Trinity's "Little German School" nine decades earlier had become a chapter in history.

On April 1, 1963, ground was broken for the new Lutheran School. Nor rain, nor mud, nor lack of plumbing prevented officials at the school building at 2619 9th Ave. N.W. from opening the doors to approximately 200 children on September 5, 1963.

Mr. Frederic Nitschke was called as principal August 7, 1968 and on November 14th, 1971, Mr. Nitschke was honored at a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving on the Anniversary of his 25th year in the teaching ministry.

On December 19th, 1972, we were saddened by the sight of the old Trinity Lutheran School being razed.

On July 2, 1973, the school board voted to construct a building addition to the school. This addition was to consist of a gymnasium, locker rooms, two additional classrooms, and an association hall. Bids for this addition were taken November 5, 1981. Contracts totaling \$499,409.00 were awarded on February 1, 1982 to Benike, Maass, and Himec.



One of the last classes of Trinity Lutheran School on Second Street Northwest.

On July 26, 1973, ground was broken for a two-room addition to the Rochester Lutheran School.

In September of 1973 we were happy to add the ninth grade to our school and the following June graduated thirteen students.

On April 21, 1974 we celebrated the 25th teaching anniversary of Mrs. Lorraine Zabel who has worked tirelessly to serve her Lord. She has been our Kindergarten teacher for the last twelve years.

On November 17, 1974 was the dedication of the Zielske Memorial Library and two classrooms. This beautifully carpeted, beautifully furnished library is sincerely appreciated by teachers and students alike. The first ninth grade graduating class donated six pictures for the walls of the library. Using the two new classrooms also leaves us a science room for all science equipment and for experiments.

Mr. Dale Orlowski was installed as R.C.L.S. administrator on August 21, 1977.

After seventeen years of teaching service to R.C.L.S., Mr. Velmer Goebel was released from his call on June 5, 1978.

In May of 1981, a retirement party and open house was held to commemorate Mrs. Lorraine Zabel's 22 years of service at R.C.L.S.

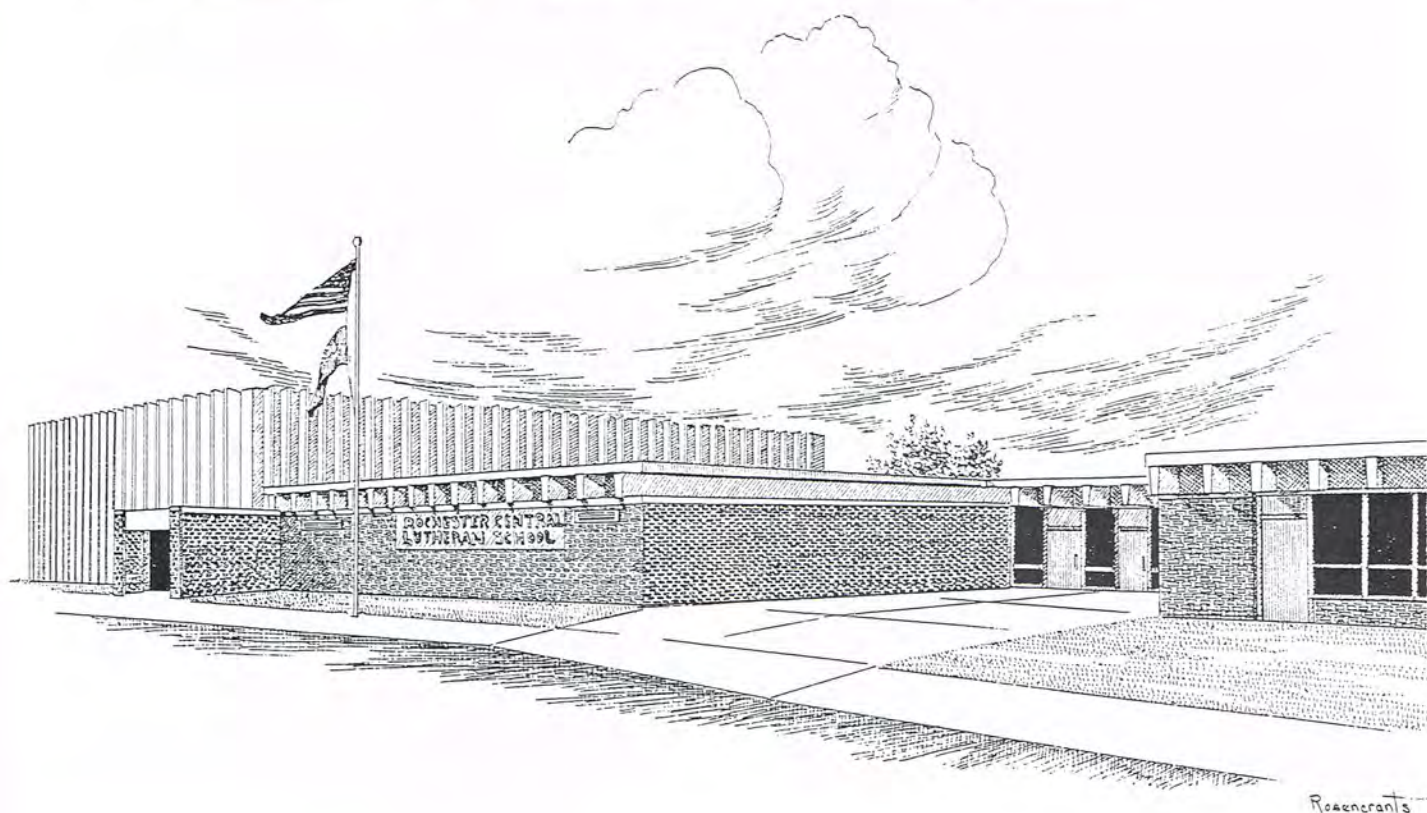
The fall of 1982 saw the completion of a new gym, locker area, and office space at R.C.L.S.

Mr. Dale Orlowski left R.C.L.S. in the spring of 1984. Mr. David Roth was installed as principal in September.

Mr. Fred Nitschke requested and was granted an early retirement effective August 1, 1985.

In February of 1990 a pledge program was established with mailings to all members of association churches to provide a third source funding for school costs.

An After School Care Program was started at R.C.L.S. in 1991 to care for children of working parents.





Pastor Mueller's Sunday morning Bible Class.

Bible Brunch

Bible Brunch was started about 1978 under the leadership of Pastor Raedeke. It meets on Thursday mornings at 8:45 - 9:00 a.m. for fellowship with coffee, doughnuts and rolls which are served usually by 2 volunteers who come at 8:00 a.m. to make coffee. Bible class is from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. and is led by one of our Pastors. These classes continue throughout the entire year unless Thursday falls on a holiday or if Vacation Bible School is being held.



Sunday morning Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall.

Many books of the Bible have been studied which are selected by the Pastor or by requests from the group. Pastor Theodore Schoewe led the class when the book of Revelation was requested for study for a second time. Being stationed in the area of the seven churches in Asia while he was in the military service made this a most interesting study.

At present the group meets in the Eifert lounge while construction is going on. The inconvenience of climbing the steps and being overcrowded will be overcome when we return to the Fellowship Hall once again.

The usual attendance runs from 50 to 70 people. This includes many persons from other churches and denominations. The church Van is available for those people who otherwise have no transportation to the Bible classes.

May God continue to grant us this privilege of serving our community with prayer and fellowship.



Youth Bible Class in Eifert Memorial Lounge.

I remember . . .

The Church Picnics each year at Stoppel's Grove in the pasture. Also the plays the Walther League put on; Don Eifert singing "The Preacher and The Bear" on one of the entertainments; and the Confirmation Class Reunion and Banquet.

Hazel Olsenburg



Trinity Lutheran School Picnic at Stoppel's Grove.

Trinity Altar Society

In the Year 1951, as the new Church was nearing completion, members of Trinity Guild and the Ladies Aid saw a great need to form another organization to be named Trinity Altar Society, whose purpose was to care for the Sanctuary and its furnishings, to prepare it for every service, to furnish suitable Vestments for the Altar, be custodian of all linens, and to foster a better understanding of the liturgical heritage of the Lutheran Church.



Ladies of the Altar Society, Helen Richardson, left, and Al-nora Paulsen preparing the altar for communion.

So, with God's help, the Altar Society was organized in November, 1951. Following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Gertrude Buenger; Vice President, Mrs. Amanda Sperling; Secretary, Mrs. Mildred McLain; Treasurer, Miss Margaret Olson. Twenty members were in attendance. Under the leadership of Rev. Walter Eifert, a Constitution was adopted and accepted on November 6, 1951.

In cooperation with the Trinity Guild and Ladies Aid, the Altar Society had to make many decisions for new furnishings in the Sanctuary.

A committee was appointed to study designs for the gold Cross.

Generous monetary gifts were given by the Guild, Ladies Aid and Individuals that made it possible to purchase the Main Altar, Chapel Altar, Baptismal Font, and Basin, the Altar Rail, Candelabra, Flower Vases, Missal Stand, 12 Collection Plates, and etc. Nearly all the linens were donated, hand sewn and embroidered by dedicated women. Floral arrangements were beginning to be provided by the members of the Congregation.

The Altar Society supports its work by the voluntary contributions of its Members, and by the generous monetary gifts, Memorials, and floral contributions it receives from other Societies, Families of the Congregation and Individuals.

All given to the Glory of God.

I remember....

We always had to announce for communion on Friday before we went to communion on Sunday. We had to be at church 15 minutes early on Sunday and Pastor Weinhold would make a little Sermon on repentance of sins.

*Alvin, Lucille, Ron, & Sharlene
Gottschalk*



Communion Service

Nursery

In 1969, Pastor Gaertner approached Eugene Miller asking if AAL would sponsor a nursery for Trinity. The nursery opened up that year with Shirley Bakken and Maxine Schultz as the first nursing committee members. As of 1969, the nursery has been located in the lower level of the educational building.

Improvements and additional equipment were made in the nursery in 1987 and 1988. This included new carpet, repair and paint walls, two cribs and accessories, playpen, swing, walker, toys, safety rail installed on changing counter and emergency intercom system.

As of today, we have approximately 50 regular and alternate volunteers staffing the nursery. The nursery is open during both church services and the Sunday School hour. We take care of an average of 10 children per Sunday.

In 1991, we started a bookmarker system in checking children into the nursery. We also sponsored CPR classes for the nursery volunteers.



Camping Club members Robert Morris, Rollin Miller and Joan Miller.

Our future hopes are a new nursery with more playroom for the children and an improved access into the nursery.

Current members of the nursery committee are Angela Goetting, Susan Kludtke, Carol Przytarski, Deirdra Ransom and Kathy Walter.



Nursery attendants Kathy Walter and Donna Mallan.

Trinity Camping Club

Trinity members interested in organizing a camping club met on March 17, 1974 in the fellowship hall. There were 11 families represented at this meeting. Earl Potvin was elected the first president of this group.

The purpose of this club is to promote Christian fellowship and to enjoy the beautiful parks and campgrounds in our area.

Membership is open to campers in the other Missouri Lutheran churches in Rochester as well. Campouts are held the second weekend of each month from May to October usually within a 50 mile radius of Rochester. During the winter months dinner meetings are held to finalize any plans for summer campouts.

The camping club would welcome any new members who would be interested in joining.

Women of Trinity

The Women of Trinity is the oldest organized group at Trinity. Formed in 1878 as The German Ladies Aid. In 1922 The English Ladies Aid was formed and worked together with the German Ladies Aid to further the interests of Trinity and carry out mission work. In 1944 affiliation with the International Women's Missionary League was affirmed. In 1966 Women of Trinity was adopted as the official title. Quilting was started in 1971 and is still a big part of Lutheran Women's Missionary projects. All women at Trinity are members and missionaries for Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The Women of Trinity foster Christian fellowship and exercise true charity in our community and through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Currently there are 6 circles where bible study and support discussions are held. The women's circles support fellowship and each other.

For the future we would like to see additional small groups formed with specific aims to support the single parent, the working woman, single women, and the grieving. In the busy world today we all need christian support. We should keep strong ties with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League as the work is endless. We should continue to support fellowship at Trinity and carry on mission work in our community. The Women of Trinity has experienced many blessings and look forward to years to come.



Women of Trinity, Karen Jacobsen, Marian Wilke, and Lori Schultz at Sunday morning Bible Class.

Bible Breakfast

The 6 o'clock Bible Breakfast was started in 1978 by Rev. Robert Raedeke who continued to lead it until he left in 1982. Pastor Martin Mueller became the leader early the following year and has been in charge ever since.

Beginning at 6:00 we have juice, sweet rolls and coffee for about fifteen minutes and then have our Bible study until 7:00. Through the years we have studied many Psalms and various books in the Bible, but we consider our meetings more devotional and supportive rather than an in-depth Bible study.

We have a nucleus of about twelve members with occasionally someone moving away or going away a few months in the winter.

Social Ministry

The Welfare Committee was formed in 1961 after several Trinity members, with the help of the community, renovated a house and provided clothing for a family with eleven children. The first committee consisted of Pastor and Mrs. Walter Eifert, Maxine and Herb Bornfleth, Walter and Cora Scharf, and Ray and Phyllis Purves.

The name was later changed to Social Ministry and is soon to become the Christian Care Board, with members being elected by the voters.

This group started the Senior Citizens, it organizes monthly visits to shut-ins, the Mayo Clinic Blood Assurance Program, prepares lunches for Circle Center, delivers holiday poinsettias to shut-ins, assists people with needs of clothing, food, etc., collects paper products for Gift of Life House, has purchased large print song books for the Senior Citizens. It is currently working to organize a social group for members in the "over 40" age group and working to bring Stephens ministry to Trinity.

I remember....

Mrs. William (Minni) Theel telling me about their 1911 first year's living on a farm near Douglas around 1911. They would drive in to Rochester with team of horses on a buggy to come to church. That was a ten mile drive when weather was good in spring, summer and fall. Then in 1918 they bought their first car but come winter that was put up on blocks in garage for the roads were blocked with snow. They went to a little country church at Douglas in winter when they were able to get there.

It was in 1943 when a snow plow first opened the roads, otherwise for special times a bunch of men would get together and shovel the main road from Douglas to the highway for people to get out to Rochester.

In 1927 Alfred took the train on Sunday night to Rochester, stayed with his Grandparents and went to German school for confirmation and Friday afternoon take train home to Douglas.

Alfred Theel

I remember....

The many activities that have given me so much pleasure and enjoyment in the celebration of our Church's Centennial and the 450th anniversary of the Reformation.

One of the activities was a congregational banquet on February 4 & 5 - it was such a pleasant memorable evening. The tables were covered with checkered table clothes and kerosene lamps at each table. William Radke read the history of the church, highlighting the different eras, during which members of the choir, soloist or groups of 3 or 4 sang selections of these eras. The members were dressed in colorful costumes worn during those times and appeared behind a large over-sized antique type picture frame.

Viola Zimmerman

I remember....

* In 3rd grade when someone glued Katie Podolske's hair to the Sunday School table.

* At a Senior Youth Lock-In, jumping out of a closet and scaring other youth members.

* Getting candy or treats from teachers because you did your memory work.

* Getting 2nd place in the City/Church Softball League for the first time in the Summer of 1991.

Junior and Senior Youth

I remember....

Singing "Pharoh, Pharoh" during Sunday School.

Shannon Mohr

Pastor Zachrich's sermons. I think he has the best sermons. They keep you awake.

Jessie Brumm

The portable sandbox in Sunday School and our 5th grade teacher, Mr. Webster.

Amanda Severson

Going to the Eifert Room to sing during Sunday School.

Matt Rosendahl



Photo of members behind Portrait background taken at Centennial Banquet.

Dates and Events to Remember. . .

- 1866—Late summer: Arrival in Rochester of Charter Members Friedrich Siekert, Theo. Adler, Carl Brendemuehl, August Brendemuehl, and Karl Oesterich.
- 1867—First divine service conducted by Rev. John Herzer of Claremont, Minn.
- 1869—First church building 24 × 30 ft. completed. This building also served as school.
- 1874—December. Congregation chose name "Evang. Lutherische Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde." Call extended to Rev. Johl of Claremont. He declined.
- 1875—First regular Christian Day School came into being with enrollment of 11 pupils.
- 1875—Candidate Ludwig von Schenk installed as first pastor.
- 1877—Nov. 22. Congregation incorporated. First trustees: Gottlieb Podolske, Theo. Adler and Friedrich Siekert.



Theodore Adler's residence on 706 Second Street S.W.

- 1878—November 17. Pastor G.P.A. Schaaf installed as pastor and served as teacher also.
- 1878—German Ladies Aid founded. Charter members: Mrs. F. Siekert, Mrs. Theo. Adler, Mrs. Brendemuehl, Mrs. G. Oesterreich and Mrs. Zingenhausen. First president: Mrs. Theo. Adler.
- 1879—August 10. Congregation was received into membership of Missouri Synod.
- 1880—Rev. Henry G. Schmidt installed.
- 1882—Rev. Karl Schmidt installed.
- 1882—The 1869 church building was enlarged and a steeple added at a cost of \$300 with 10% interest.
- 1883—August 21. Tornado struck Rochester and also damaged renovated church.
- 1883—First service to be preached in the English language was conducted at the Sunday evening re-dedication service.
- 1884—March 30. Rev. C.W. Nickels installed.
- 1884—August 17. Resolution to build a school 18 × 24, cost not to exceed \$425.
- 1886—January 1. First janitor, F. Witzke, employed at \$15 a year.
- 1887—July 3. Purchased Reed Organ.
- 1892—Gust Frank, first called teacher arrived.
- 1894—January 14. Resolved to erect new church building. Building committee: Julius Mundt, Reinhold Lietz, Claus Lamprecht, Henry Adler, Theodore Adler, Carl Rabehl, Fred Hoffman, August Behrendt, William Strege and Robert Walde.
- 1894—February 25. Two lots on 5th and Prospect Streets (West Center and 3rd Ave.) purchased as building site.

1894—July 15. Cornerstone of new church laid.

1894—First Sunday in Advent, dedication of new church.



Trinity Lutheran Church 1894 - 1951

1905—Pipe organ purchased for \$1,500.

1909—October. Monthly envelope system introduced.

1911—Regular evening services in English language introduced.

1911—May 6. Rev. Martin Weinhold installed.

1912—January 1. Resolved to erect new school at 2nd Street NW. Construction begun in September 1912 and completed in August 1913. Cost of building \$13,700. Building Committee: Ernest Maass, F. Vihstadt, Otto Riess, Frank Moehnke, William Theel, Albert Matzke, Julius Mundt, Teacher H. A. Roeglin, Pastor M. Weinhold.

1913—May 4. Resolved to build new parsonage adjacent to church.

1913—August 10. Dedication of New School on 2nd Street N.W.

1916—1600 pound church bell valued at \$530 presented to congregation by August Kutzky and Louis Hoffman, members of Trinity. The bell is still in use at Trinity.

1917—July 15. Golden Jubilee of Trinity Congregation observed.

1919—Men's Club organized by Teacher K.F. G. Kath, who served as president the first seven years of its existence. Charter members: Ernest Maass, Sr., Frank Moehnke, Herman Lehmann, Julius Mundt, John Lentfer and George Garbisch.

1919—December 19. Trinity Choir officially organized.

1919—Weekly offering envelope system introduced.

1920—August. Young People's Society with Ladies Aid paid for the original electric wiring and fixtures in the church.

1921—April 10. Confirmation of first English class. Ten members.

1921—April. Young People's Society became a member of Walther League.

1921—July 31. Walther League Rally held here. Collection of \$635 for Wheatridge Sanitarium.

1922—April 19. English Ladies Aid organized. Charter members: Mrs. Martin Weinhold, Mrs. Herman Brown, Mrs. Paul Brumm, Miss Bertha Braun, Mrs. Wm. Enke, Mrs. Walter Ewald, Mrs. John Fricke, Mrs. Fred Goetting, Mrs. Benjamin Green, Mrs. Wm. Holm, Mrs. Fred Haase, Mrs. Henry Jacobs, Mrs. George Morrison, Mrs. Ernest Maass, sr., Mrs. Julius Mundt, Mrs. Robert Pfeiffer, Miss Emma Priebe, Mrs. Emma Parker, Mrs. Henry Postier, Mrs. Harry Purves, Mrs. August Sawinski, Mrs. Louis Schuetz, Mrs. Albert Sonnenberg, Mrs. Arthur Stoltenburg, Mrs. Gus Schmidt, Mrs. John Vihstadt, Mrs. Lorenz Wenning, Mrs. Warren Yates, Mrs. Fred Maass and Mrs. Oscar Maass.



A cantata entitled "George Washington" was sung by pupils in the first through eighth grade of Trinity Lutheran School at a Bicentennial performance given in 1932.

- 1923—January. English Sunday School organized.
- 1923—April 15. Opening of Sunday School with 170 children.
- 1923—October 10. Adult Bible Class organized with 40 members.
- 1924—October 29. Teacher Edwin E. Zielske of Detroit, Mich. called. He was installed on January 4, 1925.
- 1925—April 1. Congregational Committee conferred with Mission Board regarding the appointment of Hospital Pastor. July 1. Rev. G. Drews was called as First Hospital Pastor by the Mission Board.
- 1927—April 11-14. First Noon-day Lenten Week Services in Lawler Theatre.
- 1927—September 23. Fire of unknown origin damaged the church to the extent of \$2,475.
- 1927—November. Drive for liquidation of \$6,000 debt in the congregational treasury. Pledges totaled over \$8,000.
- 1930—October. Supt. of Missions, Rev. J. C. Meyer, conferred with the congregation in the matter of establishing a mission in Southeast Rochester, Rev. H. W. Bailey, member of Trinity, made a canvass of that section of the city. Trinity provided Sunday School teachers for new mission and later transferred some of its members to form Redeemer Lutheran Church.
- 1931—May 17. Student Robert Nerger opened the new mission in S.E. Rochester on the corner of 6th. Ave. and 11th Street SE with 17 Sunday School children.
- 1934—March. Trinity Ladies Guild organized.

- 1935—December 8. First Southeastern Minnesota Lutheran Hour heard over station KROC. Financial support was given by the societies of the congregation.
- 1939—Committee formed to study enlargement of church facilities. At a later date this committee became the Church Building Committee consisting of 14 members: William Radtke, Chairman, Edwin E. Zielske, Secretary, Fred E. Maass, Oscar A. Maass, Lorenz J. Wenning, William F. Sperling, William F. Rutz, Charles W. Tannert, Glen Schroeder, Walter Lambrecht, Louis Tradup, Alvin Benike, Edgar Buenger, Erwin C. Rutz. (Added later: Victor Kretzmann and Walter W. Eifert.)
- 1941—Pastor Walter W. Eifert, Bruderheim, Alberta, Canada, was called and installed on October 12 by Rev. Weinhold.
- 1942—June. The first United States Flag and Universal Christian Flag, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ernsts Maass, Sr., as well as a service flag, a gift of the Sr. Walther League was dedicated.
- 1942—Diamond Jubilee celebration. On Sunday, November 29, Dr. J. W. Behnken, President of the Synod, preached the morning and afternoon services. District President Rev. Robert Heyne preached the evening service. Total thankoffering of \$10,237.23 for debt liquidation. Jubilee book issued.
- 1943—Having received an offer from the Kahler Corporation, it was resolved on June 2 to dispose of the church property on West Center Street for the sum of \$75,000 and in turn to acquire a site facing 3rd St. SW between 5th and 6th Avenues for the sum of \$24,500.
- 1945—Special services of thanksgiving for victory in Europe were held on May 8 and for victory over Japan on Aug. 14 and 15 at 8 p.m.
- 1947—Centennial of Synod observed by congregations of SE Minnesota on a mass service in Mayo Auditorium on June 8. Prof. W. Poehler, speaker.
- 1947—August 12. Groundbreaking ceremony on new church site for present church and parsonage. Excavation begun.
- 1948—October 10. German Ladies Aid observed the 70th anniversary of its founding.
- 1949—August 21. Cornerstone for new church was laid.
- 1950—November. Trinity Altar Society organized.
- 1951—March 18 (Palm Sunday). Farewell services 8 am and 9:30 am. (German) conducted in old church. In spite of heavy snowfall, attendance was 757.
- 1951—June 10. Formal dedication of new church. Guest speakers were: Prof. Martin Neeb and Pastor Wm. Buege. Organ concert by Prof Theo. Stelzer. Ladies served noon meal to about 1100 guests in Fellowship Room.
- 1953—Candidate Arden Malotky was installed as Associate Pastor on August 16, 1953.
- 1953—Pastor Weinhold preached his farewell sermon. The resolution of the congregation, passed in November 1952, to reduce the number of services in German from every Sunday and holiday to one per month now became effective.
- 1954—First Vacation Bible School conducted for two weeks.

1954—During this year stained glass windows were installed in the Chapel. Furnishings in the Chapel: baptismal font, light-fixtures, altar lights, stone cross, and organ are the gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Buenger.

1954—December 9. Congregation Stewardship Committee formed.

1955—October 15. Study begun for a suitable sculpture for the reredos panel above altar.



E.W. Buenger, William Radke and Artist Mestrovic

1956—February 9. Building Committee and Trinity Guild agree upon carving for reredos as presented by Sculptor Ivan Mestrovic. Project also endorsed by Vestry. Completed reredos was dedicated December 9.

1956—November 9. Resolved to drop German services beginning January 1957.

1957—June 30. Ordination, installation services and reception for Pastor Roger Polansky, new Associate Pastor.

1958—February 13. Frederic Nitschke called as teacher, director of music and youth counselor. He arrived for beginning of 1958-59 school year.

1958—September 11. Sunday evening services discontinued. Joint boards urged to prepare a resolution in favor of a Central School Association to be brought before their respective congregations.

1958—November. Principal Edwin Zielske stricken by heart attack during Thanksgiving holiday weekend and passed away just prior to Christmas.

1958—December. School Building Committee to contact architects concerning construction of new school. Trinity congregation voted in favor of a Central School Association.

1958—December 31. Purchase of Geselle property for the current Rochester Central Lutheran School.

1959—March 8. Representatives of Trinity, Redeemer and Grace Lutheran Churches met to consider the organization of a Central School Association.

1959—May 14. Trustees of Congregation authorized to sign the Central School Association agreement. Mr. Henry J. Rediger accepted the call as principal of Trinity Lutheran School.

1959—May 17. Rev. Carl P. Brenner installed.

1959—June 11. Board of Elders recommended to the congregation the establishment of a fund: "The Trinity Lutheran Sunday School Building Fund."

1959—October 8. Trinity conveyed the school building and property on 2nd Street N. W. along with Geselle property to Rochester Central Lutheran School Association.

- 1960—January 15. The Sunday School Building Committee was granted permission to interview, engage and hire an architect to proceed with plans for the new educational wing. Members of the Building Committee were: Garfield Kreter, Chairman; Calvin Lubahn, Secretary; Walter Prigge, William Ollhoff, E.C. Rutz, LeRoy Kruger, Marvin Muller, Donald Lubbert, Paul Kreter, Harold Luther, Wm. Fish, Sunday School Superintendent; Harold Geerdes and Pastors Carl Brenner and Walter W. Eifert.
- 1960—Architects hired to draw plans for the new Rochester Central Lutheran School and a motion was carried to establish an Edwin Zielske Memorial Library Fund. Building Committee: Richard Maass, Chairman; Carl Volberding, Kenneth Lorenz, Rev. Carl Brenner, Henry J. Rediger.
- 1960—March 10. Voter's assembly informed that all churches in the Central School Association had accepted the Geselle property, known as the Elton Hills site, for the construction of the new school.
- 1960—May 12. Voters accepted preliminary plans for new Sunday School wing.
- 1960—October 13. A committee appointed to study the establishment of a mission church in Elton Hills, Northwest Rochester.
- 1961—Open house and dedication of new Sunday School education wing.
- 1961—Trinity congregation accepted Rochester Central School Association building and financial plans for the proposed new Rochester Lutheran School.
- 1961—June 8. Minnesota District accepted recommendation to establish Holy Cross mission church on the Rochester Lutheran School site.
- 1963—April 7. Groundbreaking services held for the new school.
- 1963—Authorization, on a trial basis, for the use of written Communion announcement cards. Regular verbal procedure also still in effect.
- 1963—September 5. First classes begun in the new Rochester Lutheran School.
- 1963—October 10. Senior Citizens organization approved.
- 1964—January 12. Dedication service, cornerstone laying and open house held at the new Rochester Central Lutheran School.
- 1965—February 11. Congregational support pledged to the Chapel Center program at the Rochester State Hospital (now the Federal Medical Center).
- 1965—March 14. Installation service and reception for Pastor Henry Gaertner.
- 1966—Centennial Committee appointed: Walter Volberding, Chairman; Sterling Mestad and Elmer Gottschalk, Co-Chairmen; William Radke, Oscar Maass, Ed Kersten, Bette Buenger, Carol Geerdes, and Pastors Gaertner and Eifert.
- 1966—October 13. Synod's Ebenezer Thank-offering plan described, whereby every individual would be invited to contribute on his birthday, one dollar or more for every year of his age. Ken Watkins named to coordinate the project.
- 1967—January 8. Three Centennial Festival services begin official year-long observances at Trinity. Synod President, Dr. Oliver Harms, guest speaker at services attended by 1,116 persons.
- 1967—February 19. Youth and Education Director, Mr. Ed. Thiel, installed at Trinity.

1967—June 10. Southern Minnesota District Lutheran Layman's League convention held in Rochester with Trinity as host congregation.

1967—October 1. Dr. A.R. Kretzmann and wife were honored guests of the Lutheran Churches of Rochester as they observed the 450th anniversary of the Reformation. We were honored to have him as guest speaker at Trinity.

1967—October 12. Resolved that Trinity underwrite an annual contribution over a ten year period to support Camp Omega building project. A report called attention to radio broadcasts originating from the church during worship services as of October 1, an announcer providing live commentary from a booth with control equipment located in the church proper.

1967—November 23. Thanksgiving Day service with burning of mortgage to signify that the debt against the present church building was erased.

1967—December 31. Candlelight Watch Night Service from 11:00 to Midnight concluded Centennial Year events with Rev. Earl O. Schwermann guest speaker.

1968—December 29. Pastor Walter W. Eifert passed away.

1969—January 19. Installation of Rev. Victor Bittner.

1969—November. Rev. Emil G. Winckler hired to visit shut-ins and preach on every fifth Sunday of the month.

1969—The Rev. Walter W. Eifert Memorial Scholarship Fund was established.

1974—July 28. Rev. David R. Rose installed.

1975—February. Mortgage burning ceremony for the Educational building was held at the Sunday morning 10:30 worship service.

1975—April. President of the congregation welcomed the ladies to their first voters meeting with voting privileges.

1975—April 27. Dr. Jacob Preus, president of Synod, was guest speaker at the Sunday morning services. He also spoke at the John Marshall auditorium. His topic was "Know Your Synod." The event was hosted by Trinity and Rochester Circuit churches.

1976—March. Bi-Centennial Steering Committee appointed to recognize Trinity's heritage during our nation's 200th anniversary. Members were: Ray Hasley, Russ Hoven, Pastor Gaertner, and Eric Lofgren.

1976—June 9. Banquet was held to celebrate the Nation's Bi-Centennial and Trinity's 25th year in its new church building.

1976—September 19. Bi-Centennial services held at Slatterly Park. Representative A.H. Quie was guest speaker.

1977—October 2. Rev. Robert C. Raedeke installed.

1978—March. Trinity's Greeter program was initiated.



Greeters, Robert and Jeanine Rirgenberg, welcoming members Ruth and Rick Johnson.

1978—March. "Passion Portraits" were portrayed by Pastor Raedeke at the evening Lenten services.

1979—January 14. Rev. Dennis Aubey installed.



Pastor Dennis Aubey, Bea, Joshua and Jordan feeding geese at Silver Lake.

1980—July 27. Purchase of Second Street S.W. property for \$200,000 for lower parking lot.

1981—September 27. Rev. Martin E. Mueller installed.

1981—October 18. Rev. Frederic W. Baue installed.

1982—January. Contracts awarded for Rochester Central Lutheran School gymnasium addition.



Rev. Emil G. Winckler

1982—June 6. Celebration for Pastor Winckler's 50th anniversary in the ministry.

1984—May 29. Rev. Emil G. Winckler passed away.

1985—April 14. Rev. Donald G. Wuertz installed.

1985—September. Trinity participates in Synod's fund raising program "Alive In Christ."

1985—December. Trinity participates in the "Church Growth Process."

1986—February. Quarterly Voters Meetings adopted.

1987—June 28. Ordination and Installation of Rev. Paul G. Werner.



Pastor Mueller and Anne Koschmeyer visiting with a patient being released from St. Mary's Hospital.

1987—July 1. Agreement made between Minnesota South District of the LCMS for Rochester Institutional Chaplaincy and Trinity, that Pastor Martin Mueller serve half-time as Hospital Chaplain and half-time as pastor of Trinity.

1988—July. Mrs. Debra Bird installed as Director of Christian Education.

1989—July 31. Rev. Theodore M. Schoewe hired as interim pastor.



Pastor Werner leading the Children's Service.

1989—September 25. Building Committee appointed for church remodeling program.

1990—February 4. Dr. David R. Zachrich installed.



Pastor David Zachrich

1990—June 3. "Faith to Build On" Banquet held at Heritage Hall, Kahler Hotel; Len Kludtke directed the \$513,000 fund drive.



Daniel Webster's Fifth Grade Sunday School Class.

1991—August. Groundbreaking Service was held for the \$1.2 million addition and renovation project. Joyce Robbins was chairman of the Building Committee. Other members included James Voss, Robert Lorenz, Ralph Pike, Ewald Kopsell, Daniel Webster, Marian Maass, Richard Brehmer, Thomas Born, Mary Kisilewski, Darlene Forbrook, and Ray Purves.

1991—October. Jane Wiertsema installed as Director of Youth.



Christmas at Trinity

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD



International Center
1333 S. Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295
(314) 965-9000 Telex 43-4452 Lutheran STL
Office of the President

December 17, 1991

Trinity Lutheran Church
Third Street and Sixth Avenue SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Dear Fellow Redeemed:

On behalf of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, I extend to you, the pastors and members of Trinity Lutheran Church, my sincere congratulations on the 125th anniversary of your congregation. In spirit, I join you in praise and thanksgiving to our Triune God who has been our dwelling place in all generations, for His many blessings during these past years, blessings which have enabled you to experience 125 years of a Word and Sacrament ministry in your community. I also give thanks to God for the blessings that have come to many patients at the Mayo Clinic, who have benefitted from your ministry of Christian compassion to them.

Reflection upon God's abundant blessings over 125 years also provides an occasion to consider the promises of our Lord to continue to be with His church to the end of time. As you do so, I am sure that those promises will lead you to move forward in confidence, seizing the many opportunities for service which our Lord will place before you in the years to come.

May the Lord of the church, our Savior Jesus, continue to richly bless Trinity Lutheran Church so that pastors and people with renewed joy and zeal might carry out His Great Commission, bringing to many in and around your community, and by our joint efforts in the Synod to many throughout the world, the Good News of His forgiveness and salvation, which by the grace of God is ours through faith in our Savior Jesus Christ.

Cordially in Him,

Ralph A. Bohlmann
President

RAB:cls



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD



MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT
14301 Grand Avenue South
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
612-435-2550 FAX 612-435-2581

December 22, 1991

Trinity Lutheran Church
Third Street and Sixth Avenue SW
Rochester, MN 55902

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who blesses us beyond measure!

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I address this letter to you on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of your congregation.

It is indeed a joyous occasion when a congregation such as yours can celebrate 125 years of God's grace.

During the past 125 years many people have come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior through your ministry. In addition, the continued proclamation of Law and Gospel on Sunday morning, the many baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and Christian funerals all show your sincere commitment to proclaiming Christ as the Source of eternal life. For this, we thank and praise God!

On behalf of your brothers and sisters in Christ who make up the 245 congregations of the Minnesota South District, I wish you the Lord's richest blessings as you celebrate this milestone in the life of your congregation. And, I wish you God's richest blessings as you continue to serve Him during His second century grace and guidance to you. May He richly bless all that you do for Him as you continue to "tell everyone the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done." (Psalm 78:4)

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (I Timothy 1:17)

Joyfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rev. Lane R. Seitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rev. Lane R. Seitz, President



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD WORLD RELIEF



International Center
1333 South Kirkwood Road
Saint Louis, Missouri 63122-7295
314 965-9000 WATS 800 325-7912

February 1992

Trinity Lutheran Church
525 Third Street SW
Rochester MN 55902

Dear fellow-redeemed in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Church:

We note with joy that your community of faith is among those congregations of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod who are privileged by God's grace to observe the 125th anniversary of your founding during calendar year 1992!

It is a pleasure to join the many well-wishers celebrate with you on this special occasion. Raise your hearts and voices in prayers, songs, and special worship services of humble thanksgiving to God for His ever attendant presence and blessing in the history of your parish! And be assured of His continued grace and mercy in the years that remain ahead.

As you reflect on those past years of His goodness, you surely humbly confess with Jacob: "(We are) not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth, which Thou has shewed unto Thy servants!" (Genesis 32:11) Led by the Spirit of that merciful God, countless numbers of His people in your area and all over the world have been spiritually strengthened and upheld by the effects of the power of His Word and Sacrament in your midst.

We, who serve you in extending your ministry to the poor, hungry, sick, needy, and homeless throughout the globe, thank God with you for having made you, and your forefathers, instruments of His love and peace!

In the Savior's name,

Rev. Elmer J.C. Prenzlow, Jr., Ph.D.
LCMS World Relief Development Counselor

Rev. Melvin E. Witt, Ph.D.
Counselor for Church and Donor Relations

st

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 24, 1992

Barbara and I are delighted to send greetings to all those who are celebrating the 125th anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church of Rochester. Congratulations on this milestone.

We can all rejoice in what your house of worship has meant to its members. A place of prayer, fellowship, reflection, and renewal, it has also been the focal point for many acts of generosity and service to others. Indeed, because the faith and values nurtured within its walls are the foundation of strong families and communities, your church has been a source of strength for our entire country.

You have our best wishes for a joyous celebration.

Bill Clinton





Pastor Paul Werner



Pastor David Zachrich



Pastor Martin Mueller



Harry Algyer, Radio Tech.



Rev. T. Schoewe



1979 Mother-Daughter Banquet; Marilyn Sanford, Jessica Webster and Linda Webster.



Lucille Nietz and Viola Zimmerman

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

Psalm 126:3



Florence Washburn



Interior of Chapel



Kenneth Watkins and Greeters Char and Richard Brehmer

About the back cover:

The three windows at the top depict the Aaronic Blessing given in Numbers 6:24-26.

The symbol at the bottom tells of the gratitude we have for our growth in Christ. The cross represents Christ, and his role in the growth of Trinity. The plant under the cross depicts our growth through all of these many years. Next to the plant, we see the triangle. This represents the Trinity. Inside the triangle are the praying hands, embodying the gratitude of his people.

KRISTINE AMANN
2134 CHARDONNAY LANE NW
ROCHESTER MN 55901

