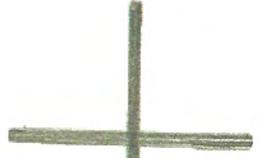


TRINITY

Lutheran

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Cover art by David Hahn

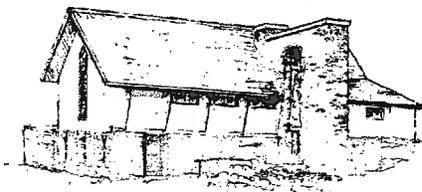
The Centennial  
Anniversary Celebration  
Of  
Trinity Lutheran Church

Hovland, Minnesota

September 12, 1909 – August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009



Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Services commenced October 12, 1913  
Dedicated, Summer 1914



Trinity Lutheran Church  
Dedicated July 16, 1950

## Commentary on the Centennial Hymn Text

When entering the beautiful sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hovland one's eyes are naturally drawn to two images. The first are the words from Psalm 51:17 engraved into the altar: "The sacrifices of God are a broken and contrite heart." This text is in the last line of the fourth stanza of the hymn. The second is the marvelous stained-glass window above the altar. Arnold Flaten, professor of art at St. Olaf College, was the principal designer of the new church building in the late 1940s; spent three summers in Hovland along with students helping with construction; and conceived the artistic design of the window, fabricated by his students in Northfield in 1951. It is fitting then that composer Bill Beckstrand named the hymn tune FLATEN.



All artistic creation is a work of imagination, and to my knowledge it is not known what Professor Flaten fully had in mind in the design. Experiencing and interpreting an artist's work is equally an imaginative act. What have worshippers at Trinity seen in the window for almost sixty years? I have contemplated the window now for half that time and have incorporated several Biblical texts and images that appear in my mind's eye as I gaze from bottom to top, which point to the larger story of salvation history.

The liturgical colors of the church year are represented in the window: blue for Advent and purple for Lent; white for Easter, Christmastide, and some festival days, such as All Saints; and red for Pentecost and other days of celebration, for example, Reformation Sunday. The vertical, angular center that culminates in the cross—with something of a Trinitarian design around it—can depict many images central to the life of faith. The way is long, crooked, and narrow (Mt. 17:13f.), but the prophet proclaims that the "crooked shall be made straight" (Isaiah 40:4; Luke 3:5). Along the way we know we are surrounded by the saints, living and dead, who encourage us on (Heb. 12:1). Or the image may suggest our wilderness wanderings like sheep (Isaiah 53:6), rescued and straightened out by the staff of the shepherd (Ps. 23; John 10: 11, 14). Perhaps an entwining serpent is seen (recalling the staff of Aaron and Moses in Exodus 7: 9-13), and the application of John symbolized in the appearance of the cross at the top: "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (3:14f.). A white dove is seen descending, if one looks carefully, depicting the baptism of Jesus—"the Spirit of God descending like a dove" (Mk. 1:10)—and the gift of the Spirit as the promised comforter and advocate (John 14:16f.). The window suggests the ongoing song of the faithful, the "new song" (Rev. 14:3), the "song of Moses and the Lamb" (Rev. 15:3), one of everlasting joy and gladness where sorrow and sighing shall flee away (Isaiah 51:11).

I am grateful that my son Erik has turned these scattered images into poetic verse, and that Bill has written such a beautiful and memorable tune in the Scandinavian tradition, together presenting this as our gift to Trinity. Arnold Flaten would no doubt have wanted all who worship at Trinity to keep answering the question: "And what do you see?"

—Phil Anderson

# Sing All You Souls



1. Sing all you souls, all hearts—and cre-a - tion; Stone, wood, and wat-er are Tri-ni-ty's home.



Look to the win-dow, Christ's col - ors are ma - ny; Look to the al-tar, Christ's call-ing is one.



Text: Erik P. Anderson, b.1977; Philip J. Anderson, b.1949  
Tune: William Beckstrand, b.1962

FLATEN  
10.10.11.10

2. Narrow and crooked each pilgrim journey;  
Long is the footpath and steep is the grade.  
Gathered with saints, all supporting and cheering;  
Leading the way to redemption, to grace.
3. Our wand'ring way, a serpent entwining;  
Staff of the shepherd will straighten the course.  
Promise and herald, God's pledge of salvation;  
God of our ancestors dwells in our hearts.
4. Christ our Good Shepherd, Friend, and Protector;  
Guide O! our souls through the gate to the cross.  
True light gives witness by font, word, and table;  
Broken and contrite, the heart's sacrifice.
5. With Dove descending, promise of Jesus;  
With cross uplifted, forgiveness is ours.  
All that is living sings praise to the Father;  
All that is dying is rising in song.



August 2009

Dear friends in Christ:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Hovland, gives glory to God for our first 100 years! We are a congregation of year around residents, part-year residents, and occasional visitors. Each plays a role in building this community of faith. The Holy Spirit calls us together that we might together worship God and be sent out as disciples proclaiming the Good News of Jesus.

We are fortunate to have a new hymn written to honor this centennial year. The hymn, composed by Erik Anderson, Philip Anderson, and William Beckstrand is titled "Sing All You Souls." It reflects with words and tune what our building and history also reflect:

"With Dove descending, promise of Jesus;  
with cross uplifted, forgiveness is ours.  
All that is living sings praise to the Father;  
All that is dying is rising in song."

Our intent, here at Trinity, is for our future to be one in which the many people who attend worship, stop by to see the flowers, hear the bell calling out on Sunday morning, or long to be here while living far away will know the promise of Jesus, and let the Holy Spirit turn their minds and hearts to God. God calls us to see and serve our neighbors, and we pray that we will continue to do so.

I ask that you will join me in thankful prayer to God for this congregation.

Rev. Kristin V. Garey  
Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Hovland, MN



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**Trinity Lutheran Church  
History and Congregational Reflections**

**Our Early History**

**Our Recent History, 1984-2009**

**Reflections from members, friends, and visitors**

## The Early Years...

Early in the month of July 1905, a courageous and dedicated young man left his home in Pennsylvania and traveled to Grand Marais to begin his work in the Lutheran Church there and to assist Reverend Stacy in his ministry to the pioneer settlers along the North Shore of Lake Superior. During the following seventeen months, the young man, Reverend Gable, conducted worship services all the way from Beaver Bay to Hovland—a formidable task because of the hardships of travel in those days. The record shows that during this time Reverend Gable traveled a total of 3,904 miles: 1,058 miles on foot, 2,532 miles by boat, and 314 miles on the stage.

In the pioneer settlement of Hovland at that time, there were no regular religious services, no church building, and no organized congregation. The settlers were dependent upon itinerant ministers who occasionally visited Hovland. With the arrival of Reverend Gable in Grand Marais, the people of Hovland were able to have services more often.

The first of these services was held September 9, 1905, on a Thursday evening. Reverend Gable walked all the way to Hovland, returning to Grand Marais on the steamer *America* that same night. From then on he held services at Hovland about once a month until November 1906 when he left to take charge of a Lutheran mission in Superior, Wisconsin.

Early in the summer of 1907, Reverend Carl Eidnes, who had just been ordained, was called to take charge of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Grand Marais.

At a meeting of interested residents of Hovland on August 10, 1907, a Norwegian Lutheran congregation was organized and called the Zion Congregation. The officers elected were: Reverend Eidnes, chairman; Louis Ellingsen, secretary; Martin Jacobsen, treasurer; John Eliassen, Louis Ellingsen and John Jacobsen, trustees; Hjalmer Eliassen, janitor; Mattie Jacobsen, organist; John Jacobsen, usher.

From then on services were held in Hovland on the average of every three weeks, usually in the Chicago Bay School. The minister made the trip from Grand Marais by horse and sleigh in winter and by horse and buggy when the ground was bare. It was necessary for him to stay overnight at Ellingsen's Hotel, returning to Grand Marais the next day.

In the year 1906 more settlers arrived, taking up homesteads farther inland, where they hoped to farm. One settlement was known as Poplar Hill; another one, also an inland community, was called Flutereed Valley. Both new settlements were located about four miles from Chicago Bay, a considerable distance in those days of almost impassable roads. A September 1907 issue of the *Cook County News Herald* said, "More roads and better roads is the crying need of Hovland Township."



—Elsie Palmer  
*The Seventy-fifth  
Anniversary Celebration  
of Trinity Lutheran Church*

## Trinity Congregation Organized...

The difficulty of traveling those four miles to Chicago Bay was no doubt an important factor in the formation of a separate congregation. Trinity Lutheran Congregation was organized September 12, 1909, at a meeting at the Flutereed Valley School with Reverend Eidnes presiding as chairman. The charter members were: Esten and Ingaborg Jacobsen and six children, Hans and Olive Christiansen and four children, Martin and Caroline Johnson and six children, Stephen and Lise Nilson and one child, Tom Knutson, Jacob and Maria Soderlund and two children, Andrew and Mary Westerlund and one child, Mr. and Mrs. John Teberg, Werner and Anna Maria Sundquist and two children, Oscar Halvorson, Mons and Anna Hanson—a total of forty-two members.

The name "Trinity" was chosen for the congregation, which belonged to the Hauge Norwegian Evangelical Synod of America. The first officers of the congregation were elected as follows: Pastor Carl G. Eidnes, chairman; Martin Johnson, secretary; Andrew Westerlund, treasurer; Esten Jacobsen and Hans Christiansen, deacons; Jacob Soderlund (1 yr.), Tom Knutson (2 yr.), and John Teberg (3 yr.), trustees.

At the meeting held on January 17, 1910, the annual pay of the pastor for Trinity was set at \$75.00, tentatively, with the understanding that if more money would be forthcoming, his salary would be higher. Also at the same meeting, a Sunday school was organized with the following teachers: Samuel Nilson, Jennie Jacobsen, Olive Christiansen, and Anna Sundquist. Another important matter decided was to organize a Ladies' Aid Society or, as it was called in Norwegian, *Kvindeforening*. The main purpose of this organization was raising money to build the church. The church notices in the *Cook County News Herald* of that day state that services were held at 11:00 A.M. for Zion and at 2:30 P.M. for Trinity; the congregations meeting respectively at the Chicago Bay School and the Flutereed Valley School.

One can imagine the growing activity in the congregation, especially in the Ladies' Aid, whose members raised money through projects such as basket socials and auction sales or bazaars. Women sewed, knitted, crocheted, and embroidered articles to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. At the annual meeting on March 9, 1911, officers were elected, among them a janitor, Hans Christiansen, and a *Kjorkesanger* (church singer), Mons Hanson. For many years Mr. Hanson led the hymn singing, since there was not always an organist available, or perhaps at first there was not even an organ!

In January 1912 Reverend Eidnes tendered his resignation to accept a call from the Litchville parish in North Dakota. He did not leave immediately, however, but remained in the area several months and preached his farewell sermon in Hovland on March 31. A reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ellingsen to show the people's appreciation for the work and friendship of Pastor Eidnes during the years he spent in Hovland. Reverend T.G. Sandeno arrived in Grand Marais in June and was installed as parish pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on June 18, 1912. On July 13 the new pastor met with the Trinity Congregation at the Flutereed School. Two vital matters were discussed: the possibility of a merger with Zion Congregation and the building of a church. A committee was elected to meet with the members of Zion to discuss the possibility of joining with Trinity; Martin Johnson, Andrew Westerlund, and Mons Hansen were selected for the committee. It was also decided that Pastor Sandeno should preach in English as well as Norwegian.

The work of the committee was evidently successful; the Zion Congregation was dissolved and its members joined Trinity Congregation on August 1, 1912. The pastor's annual salary from Trinity was set at \$100.00, to be paid on a quarterly basis. Since services were held only once in three weeks, the pastor's pay from Hovland was approximately \$6.00 per Sunday that he served.

The following news items from the *Cook County News Herald* give a glimpse of church activities of that day:

"The Ladies' Aid Society of Hovland and Flutereed Valley will have a sale of their articles and also serve lunch at Ellingsen's."—Oct. 5, 1912.

"Reverend Sandeno held services in English at the Flutereed School, Sunday afternoon, the school being crowded with representatives from the several settlements."—Oct. 27, 1912.

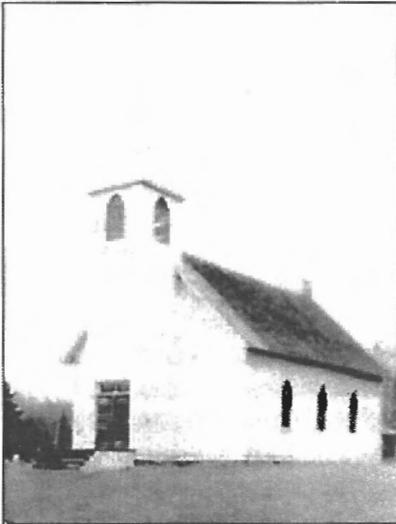
"At the close of the church services at the North School (The Flutereed School) on Sunday afternoon, Reverend Sandeno was tendered a pleasant surprise in the shape of a \$50.00 purse."—Dec. 27, 1912.

As well as conducting services in Hovland, Reverend Sandeno ministered to the men in the logging camps on the Pigeon River. On Saturday, February 13, 1912, traveling with horse and sleigh, he came as far as Hovland.

After spending the night at the Ellingsen Hotel, he continued on Sunday morning to the Pigeon River camps. There he held religious services during the afternoon and evening, presumably spending the night in one of the camps. Judging from the news items of that day and from Elsie Palmer's recollections of her parents' conversation regarding him, Reverend Sandeno was a very popular pastor. He enjoyed participating in the various social gatherings and visiting Hovland homes.

At the annual meeting of Trinity Congregation on March 17, 1913, at the Flutereed School, the secretary's book records that it was unanimously agreed to build a church building that year. A building committee was elected, consisting of Martin Johnson, Ludvig Eliassen, and Andrew Westerlund. The Ladies' Aid provided coffee and refreshments, according to the *Cook County News Herald*. The April 24, 1913, issue of the paper tells of the building committee meeting to perfect plans for the new church building. The hauling of the timbers had already been started. As related by Mary Westerlund Rex in later years, the foundation timbers came from the Andrew Westerlund place. It was decided to obtain 10,000 feet of lumber and to build a concrete foundation for the church. By July 24, 1913, the lumber for the building had been hauled from the dock by members of the congregation "during the past week." Professor R.M. Hall and his father were hired to build the church, and the work was "rapidly pushed forward," (*Cook County News Herald* accounts of July 24 and August 14, 1913). The Ladies' Aid paid the sum of \$500.00 to Professor Hall, for his work, according to information given by Mary Westerlund Rex.

The accounts in the *Cook County News Herald* of August 14 and September 4, 1913, are worth recording, respectively, as follows:



"The church building is being rapidly pushed forward, the builders have been somewhat handicapped by delay in receiving much needed material ordered sometime since. The building is already enclosed and the steeple has been completed, the whole making a fine appearance.

The new church building which has been built the past summer for the local Lutheran Congregation by Professor Hall and father, is finished ready for seating, and is an imposing looking structure for these parts, reflecting credit upon the designer, the builders, and the congregation. It is 28 by 40 feet with a 19-foot ceiling and has a capacity of about 250. The height from the ground to the top of the steeple is 57 feet. The formal dedication of the building is postponed till next summer, but services will be held there commencing with October 12<sup>th</sup>. The structure is a valuable asset to the town of Hovland."

The December 18, 1913, issue of the *Cook County News Herald* stated: "Preaching services will be held in the church on Sunday following Christmas, Dec. 28." The chairs for the church had not yet been purchased, for at the congregational meeting on December 29, 1913, one item of business was to buy five dozen chairs for the church. Temporary seating was probably provided by planks on nail kegs as was first used in Bethlehem Church in Grand Marais. Interestingly, those chairs are still in use in the social room of the present church—after seventy years at this writing.

To provide shelter for his horse during services, Pastor Sandeno built a small stable at the church. The *Cook County News Herald* wrote: "Reverend T.G. Sandeno, believing that a merciful man should be merciful to his beasts, has had a frame stable shed erected on the rear of the church lot for the benefit of his horse. Shed covering for all the teams of the members of the congregation will doubtless be a feature of the future, so that they can be sheltered in stormy weather during the holding of meetings in the church." (Sept. 4, 1913). As noted in the Oct. 21, 1915, issue, he also raised oats for his horse on a piece of farm land in Hovland and he had the threshing done there.

On January 11, 1914, the annual meeting was held at Louis Ellingsen's. Among other officers elected was the *kjirkesanger*, Mons Hanson. The only other item of business recorded was to pay Johan "Dyrstad seventy-five cents for each Sunday service as janitor. Presumably his duties would be to build fire for heating the church, in addition to cleaning the church building. Little detail of the years 1914 and 1915 can be found in the secretary's book. The annual meeting at Ellingsen's on February 1, 1915, was given over to discussion of the cemetery plots. The price of the lots was set as follows: \$5.00 for a family lot, and \$2.00 for a single grave for members; \$10.00 per family lot and \$3.00 per single grave for non-members. The committee elected to be in charge of the cemetery was composed of members O.L. Johnson and Ludwig Eliassen.

On New Year's Day 1916, religious services were held in the morning, followed by a basket social—the receipts of which were to be used in needed improvements to the church building. Basket socials were a popular fund-raising activity. Each lady decorated a box or basket and filled it with food to be shared with someone. The baskets were auctioned to the highest bidder, who then shared the contents with the basket maker. On January 27, 1916, the Ladies' Aid met at the Andrew Westerlund's, at which time the annual meeting of the congregation was also held. The Ladies' Aid met every three weeks, usually on Monday following the Sunday service. Ministers usually were present at the Ladies' Aids; this practice continued through the years until the late 1950's when it came to an end. The Ladies' Aid meetings were attended by men and children, as well as by the women. School was dismissed earlier on Ladies' Aid days so that children who wished to could join their mothers and enjoy the good food served. Preparing to be hostess took days of effort as the lady of the house cleaned and scrubbed, washed windows and curtains, and baked. No one dreamed of serving *one* item as is the custom today. The table was filled with sandwiches, cakes, donuts, cookies, and whatever else the hostess had prepared. It was, indeed, one of the social activities enjoyed by all.

On April 10, 1916, the congregation met at Paul Jacobsen's to discuss the matter of incorporating the congregation under state law. Pastor Sandeno resigned in 1916, probably in April, since the record for April 23 indicates he was no longer chairman as he had previously served. Mons Hansen was elected chairman. According to the church notices of that time, John Larson served as interim pastor for part of the year 1916 until the summer of 1917 when Reverend H.F. Johnson assumed ministerial duties of the parish, which at that time included Tofte, Grand Marais, and Hovland. The 11:00 morning services, held in the church, were in the Norwegian language; and the 7:30 evening services, held at Ellingsen's, were in English.

An important matter was discussed at the annual meeting of February 4, 1918, at the Paul Jacobsen home. A committee was elected, with Pastor Johnson heading it, to look over the constitution for the congregation to see whether any changes needed to be made before adopting it.

The annual meeting on March 17, 1919, was held at the Andrew Westerlund home. Members decided to work two or three days in the spring on the church yard, the time to be determined by the chairman, Mons Hanson. Those who did not turn out for work on the church yard would have to donate \$3.00 per day!

March 29, 1920, the annual meeting was held at Jacob Soderlund's. Each family was to pay \$10.00 a year toward the minister's annual salary of \$150.00 from Trinity. The next year the pastor's salary was set at \$225.00. Pastor Johnson resigned some time in 1921, preaching his farewell sermon in Bethlehem on November 27, 1921.

For almost a year, the parish was served by an interim pastor, L.C. Jacobsen, until Reverend H.M. Herstad arrived October 1, 1922. Reverend Herstad carried on his ministerial duties until December 1929, when he resigned.

What was it like for a child to attend church in the 1920's? The sermons were in the Norwegian language, so very little was understood by a child of Swedish-speaking parents. The hymn books were in a strange Norwegian script; the women sat on the west side of the church with their children; and the men sat on the east side. However, the children liked to attend Sunday school, which was held before regular service. In 1925 there were also four weeks of religious school in the summer, which were well attended and enjoyed by the children of the community.

Mons Hanson was elected the superintendent of Sunday school in 1925 and served in that capacity for twenty years. The women were given the right to vote at annual meetings, as decided at the meeting in May 1926.

During the next few years, there was evidently a struggle to keep the congregation alive. Membership dwindled and little money came into the treasury. The pastor's salary would depend on free-will offerings, as entered in the secretary's book for January 25, 1928. Even the Ladies' Aid meetings seemed to be attended by only an average of five or six women. However, these faithful few agreed at their meeting on January 29, 1930, to give Reverend Herstad \$100.00 from their treasury as a gift.

After Reverend Herstad's resignation, a call was extended to P. Lauritz Mork, a senior student at Luther Theological Seminary. Reverend Mork arrived in September 1930. The annual meeting was held at the John Eliassen home on February 11, 1931. The pastor's salary was set at \$20.00 a month for 1931. In 1932 the salary was the same. In 1932 two younger officers were elected: Edwin Thoreson, treasurer, and Clarence Eliassen, secretary. Anton Arnquist was a trustee. The record shows that the Ladies' Aid was active at this time. Anna Eliassen was president; Gudrun Norman, vice president; Beatrice Eliassen, secretary; Esther Drouillard, treasurer. On July 8, 1932, the Ladies' Aid voted to give \$150.00 toward needed repairs on the church building. Reverend Mork tendered his resignation in 1932, effective on September 1.

Reverend James O. Pederson was called to succeed Reverend Mork and assumed ministerial duties of the parish on September 1, 1932. His first meeting with the congregation was November 10, 1932. A record of all confirmed members showed a total of 27. Reverend Pederson served many years. In January 1934, the question of

moving the church to a more convenient location was discussed. Since the new highway had been completed, many families had moved, and the church was no longer centrally located. No decision was reached at this time and the matter was tabled for the time being. Vacation Bible school was held for three weeks in the summer of 1935. In 1936 new doors were installed on the church building by Julius Bergstrom. The same doors are still in use on the present church building.



Rev. & Mrs. J. G. Pederson  
Family

By 1937 a decided decline in church attendance was noted in the pastor's report at the annual meeting on February 3. At the same meeting, the matter of moving the church to a site somewhere on the new Highway 61 near the Flutereed River bridge was again discussed. Reverend Pederson pointed out that "the church could not prosper as it should, being isolated from the community as it is at this time. If the church were located in the heart of the community, we could have a Sunday school. This we must do something about if our young people are going to get any religious training." (Since the construction of the new Highway 61 had been completed, most Hovland residents preferred to live near it, instead of on the old highway.)

The financial cost of this project was discussed. An interesting suggestion by Reverend Pederson was that a history of the church and congregation in Hovland could be made and sold for about fifty cents. Advertising from business firms would bring in money. Reverend Pederson also suggested that when the church was moved to its new location, a celebration could be held and the books sold at that time. As the secretary's minutes read for February 3, 1937: "Some of the members were whole-heartedly in favor of this proposal as they agreed that we must consider the future of our little congregation. On the other hand, there were members who did not express themselves either way." A vote was taken upon this motion: "If we can raise the funds without a decided expense or indebtedness to us as a congregation, should our church be moved from its present out-of-the-way location to a more centrally located spot in the community?" The vote was six for, zero against, and six neutral. This attitude was discouraging to the pastor; but after more discussion, a committee to look further into this project was appointed.

These were the years of the Great Depression, and the financial report for 1936 reflects the struggle to keep the church alive:

\$107.00—pledges from members  
 117.60—given by Ladies' Aid  
56.31—collections and contributions  
 \$280.91—total receipts for the year

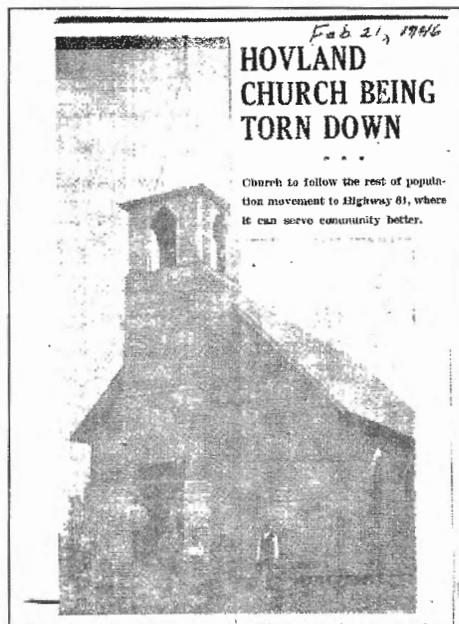
The Ladies' Aid Society was active and met regularly. Amazingly, even during these depression years of the thirties, these women managed to raise considerable monies to assist the church financially. Examples of bank balances of the Ladies' Aid after disbursements for the years of the 1930's are: \$152.50, \$118.52, \$167.40, \$100.48, \$90.74. Fund-raising projects were mainly the annual auction sale of fancywork, basket socials, and suppers, as well as offerings at the Ladies' Aid meetings. The money raised was used to help pay the pastor's salary, the pastor's pension fund, the synodical budget, expenses for vacation Bible school, repairs and improvements to the old church, and any other miscellaneous expenses, such as tree trimmings, materials for the altar, etc.

Again at a congregational meeting on April 5, 1938, there was a discussion of moving the church to a more convenient location near Highway 61. Once more no decision was reached and the matter was deferred to a later date. In October 1938, Reverend Pederson resigned, preaching his farewell sermon December 25 in Grand Marais. A call was extended to Jerrold L. Moilien, who accepted; and installation services were conducted on March 12, 1939.

The possibility of moving the church was again discussed at the annual meeting December 18, 1940, and also at the annual meeting January 1943. By January 1944 the decision had been made to build a new church instead of moving the old one, tearing down the old building and using all lumber and materials possible. A committee composed of Nels Norman, Anton Arnquist, and Marian Jacobsen were to look into the possibility of acquiring a site on Highway 61. Arthur Ongstad offered to contact an architect to discuss plans for a suitable small church building. Several members had second thoughts about tearing down the old building, and after discussion at the next annual meeting on December 27, 1944, everyone favored moving the old church building to the new site.

During the years of Reverend Moilien's ministry, the Ladies' Aid membership increased, as well as did their activities. These faithful workers met once a month in various homes, with the pastor also in attendance. Fund-raising events helped support the work of the church. The minutes of meetings in 1940 record such events as a rummage

sale at Chicago Bay School, a supper at the town hall, a bake sale at the town hall, a chop suey supper at the town hall, and the annual bazaar on December 7. All these fund-raising activities were held in the year 1940. Other events in the 1940's were a strawberry social, a bazaar and supper, a clothing drive for Norwegian Relief (1941), a victory program and buffet supper, a pie social, the sending of testaments to boys of the community who were in the armed services (these were the war years), a fish ball supper, a donut and coffee sale, and an apron sale. Pastor Moilien resigned April 29, 1945, but did not leave for his new field in Everett, Washington, until August 1945.



Reverend Aubrey Edmonds accepted the call from the parish and arrived in January 1946. At the annual meeting on January 29, 1946, in the school house, the question was repeated—what was to be done about the church? The decision was again made to tear the old building down, salvaging as much material as possible. The new church lot, slightly more than two acres, was purchased February 8, 1946, from the State of Minnesota for the sum of \$219.70.

The idea of a student work camp was suggested by Dr. Howard Hong, professor of philosophy at St. Olaf College, to a gathering of senior students at his home in Northfield, Minnesota. Some of the students had dreamed of working among the displaced persons in Central Europe for the Lutheran World Federation, as Dr. Hong would be doing during the coming year; but Dr. Hong encouraged them to do a job in their own country. And so the dream was born, and the students pursued it through the coming weeks.

Then, during the summer of 1946, when Dr. Hong visited in Hovland, he and Pastor Edmonds discussed the need for the new church building and the possibility of initiating such a work camp in Hovland. The time for the project to proceed seemed right, for the

people of Hovland were eager to build. They missed having a church, for the old building had been used less and less after the highway had been moved, the the church had, in fact, been torn down in 1946. Services meanwhile were being held in the Chicago Bay School or the Hovland Town Hall. At the annual meeting of the congregation on January 19, 1947, the location of the new church was discussed, and a building committee was appointed, consisting of the trustees and other members as follows: Harold Schuppel, chairman; Anton Arnquist, Carl Thoreson, Arthur Ongstad, Nels Norman, Gordon Finley, Clarence Johnson, and John Koss.

—Elsie Palmer

*The Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration of Trinity Lutheran Church*



Two weddings: Helen Thoreson and Clarence Strand, 1943; Chris Hammer and Ida Jacobsen, 1931, and attendants Esther Jacobsen and Art Eliassen

## Fram, Fram, St. Olaf...

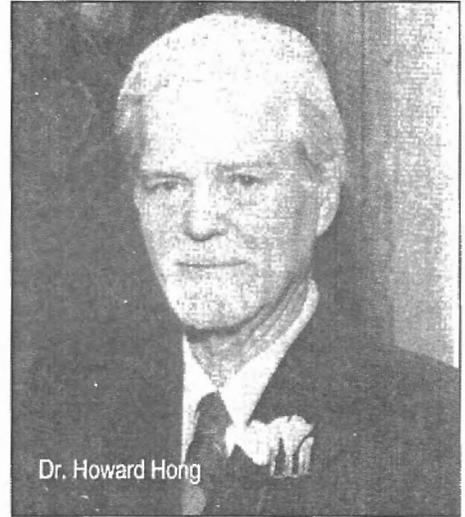
In April 1947 Professor Howard Hong and Professor Arnold Flaten, head of the art department at St. Olaf College who had been chosen to design the new church building, came to Hovland to look over the building site. They were happy to find that the site had already been cleared by the men of the church and the ground prepared by Clarence A. Johnson's bulldozer. Everything was in readiness for the work of the building to proceed. They went back to St. Olaf filled with enthusiasm—an enthusiasm which was reflected in the students' planning for an organized work camp. In the weeks ahead, plans for the building were drawn up by Professor Flaten, assisted by Ed Sovik.

On one of his visits to Hovland, Dr. Hong had met Mons Hanson, who owned a farm seven miles northwest of Hovland. Mr. Hanson had offered the use of his farm for living quarters for the camp, because he and his wife had moved to Grand Marais.

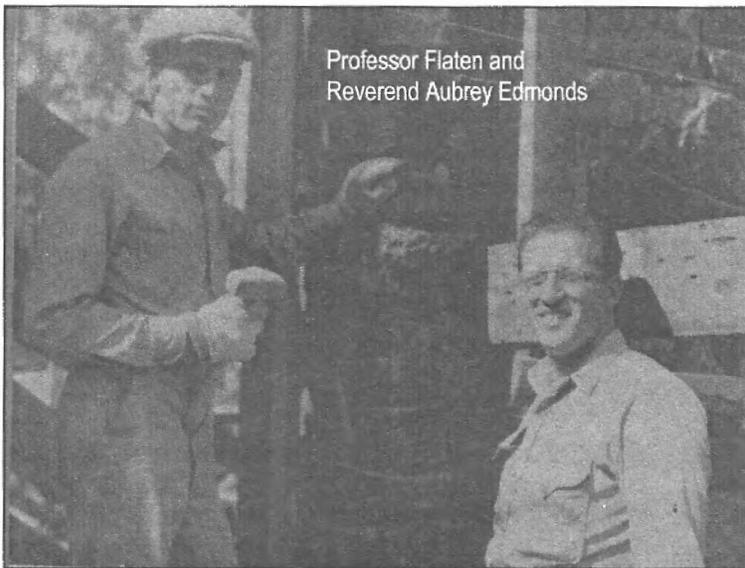
This offer was accepted, and on June 16, 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Flaten, who had agreed to act as camp directors, their four children, and the following St. Olaf students arrived: Armand Asper, Ed Barsness, Oliver Carlson, Bill Dion, Paul Hanson, David Helgen, Les Larson, Bill Ostroot, Alice Erlander, Irma Gangsie, Doris Grimsvedt, Celeste Johnson, Ruth Johnson, Marilyn Morgenson, and Faythe Nelson.

The girls moved into the upstairs of the farm house, while the boys used the hayloft of the barn. The hayloft had been converted to sleeping quarters for this purpose. Guests were housed in a log cabin, and the Flaten family moved into the nearby cottage of Reverend Carroll and Mary Hinderlie.

Under Mrs. Flaten's supervision and teaching, the girls learned how to cook satisfying meals for hungry workers. Hours were spent at the church site. The basement was dug, and on July 2 the men of the congregation helped pour the footings.



Dr. Howard Hong



Professor Flaten and  
Reverend Aubrey Edmonds

The building was designed to make use of natural rock in harmony with the rugged setting of the North Shore. Oscar Sundquist had loaned a trailer to the group, and with Dr. Hong's jeep to pull it, the trailer hauled rock to the building site. Most of the rock was picked up along the highway, and some was even carried up out of the Flutereed River bottom! Water for the cement mixing was hauled from Lake Superior. By the end of the summer the rock wall was completed to the main floor level by sheer manpower, without the use of any modern equipment such as front loaders or cranes.

There were other activities carried on by the students in addition to the construction work. The life of the

community was enriched by the music of the work camp choir at the Sunday services at the Chicago Bay School and by the students' teaching of Bible school.

At the farm there were chores such as cutting wood and taking care of Pokey, the cow loaned by Anton Arnquist. Many hours were spent in discussion and reading, and always there was singing. There were many hours of companionship with Mons Hanson as he told them stories of pioneer life in the north woods.

The work camp students in 1947 participated in many activities of the church such as sharing in the money-raising events and in the programs of the Ladies' Aid meetings. The Ladies' Aid record gives an account of the bazaar held at the Chicago Bay School on August 8, 1947. Paul Hanson led the St. Olaf students in lively songs; and

two other students, Les Larson and David Helgen, acted as auctioneers for the sale. The bazaar and accompanying bake sale netted the magnificent sum of \$323.83.

After the students left at the end of the summer, the men of the church put in the joists donated by V. Agurkis and built a temporary roof so that the basement could be used for worship. The women served noon meals to the men of the community, as they hurried to complete the roof before winter set in.

The following year, 1948, Professor Flaten led a group of six men and four women to Hovland for another work camp: Ed Barsness, Bob Bergeson, Norris Erdahl, Ivan Fagre, Maurice Schmidt, Bill Smith (from Carlton College), Ann Harang, Beatrice Helgen, Faythe Nelson, and Allyson Rieke. That summer the rock tower wall was completed, the arches fabricated, and several arches placed. The men lived in the church building and the women in a cabin donated for the summer by Charles and Mildred Mainella. At a special meeting on August 29, 1948, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the board of trustees be authorized to execute a note and first mortgage in the amount of \$3,000 from the "Church Extension of the E.L.C." (Minutes of July 18 and August 29, 1948, record this.) After the departure of the work camp students, the men of the church finished erecting the arches, put in all the framing, and roofed the building. Cedar for the shakes and part of the paneling was donated by Walter Wojtysiak.

The first wedding in the church building was November 3, 1948, when Mildred Potter and Ed Thoreson were married in the basement room, which was still being used for worship services.

In the spring of 1949, the floor from the old church building was installed. Warren Hansen had sanded it, and it was ready for the wedding of Karin Seaberg and Paul Westin, which took place in May.

In the summer of 1949, Professor Flaten again led a group to Hovland; this group consisted mainly of art students of St. Olaf College. Members of this third work camp decorated the arches and inscribed the words on the altar and above the main entrance doors. Professor Flaten, along with Dorothy Divers, Dorothy Berge, and the art students, designed and sculptured the figure of the Resurrected Christ over the main entrance. The members of the 1949 work camp were: Ed Barsness, Willie Buehl (U of W), Don Cook, Morris Dalton, Lambert Locker, John Makestad, Dick Nelson, Dorothy Berge, Dorothy Divers, Beatrice Helgen, Celeste Johnson, Polly Lindem, and Floy Schimmel. The group lived in the church building that summer, the men in the basement and the women in the room that became the narthex and sacristy.

The building was given its finish lumber and the windows were installed during the summer and fall of 1949 and into the spring of 1950. The work begun by the students was carried on and completed by the men of the church, who spent many evenings and holidays to bring the building to a state of readiness. A service of dedication took place on July 16, 1950. The dedicatory sermon and the rite of consecration were given by Dr. P.S. Dybvig, Director of Home Missions, E.L.C. Maurice Schmidt, who had returned to instruct vacation Bible school and work on the church building, sang two solos. Attending the dedication services were several pastors; members of the St. Olaf work camps; two charter members of Trinity Church, Mons and Anna Hanson; and a host of church members and friends—numbering well over two hundred. Many had to stand outside where they heard the service by means of a public address system. At the piano and organ were Dorothy Koss and Helen Edmonds. Following the dedication, ladies of the church served a supper in the social room.

Worth remembering is the work of the Ladies' Aid during the years that the church building was being built and in the years following. Little mention, if any, of the women's support was made at the dedication service. The record shows the financial aid given by the Ladies' Aid: January 1948, \$500 for the building fund; 1949, \$1,000 to be paid on the mortgage; and in 1950, \$450 payment on the mortgage. Raising money was only part of the activities of the Ladies' Aid. In the secretary's record book are to be found accounts of many other projects and causes in which the women were active: support of missions, the polio fund, Sunday school, and Thank Offering; participation in Bible study and devotions; adoption of a child in Africa for



L to R: Pat Potter, Marilyn Risch, Mildred Potter Thoreson, Edwin Thoreson, Gene Malner, Lloyd Norman



Reverend Aubrey Edmonds, Anna and Mons Hanson at the dedication supper

one year (1950); sponsorship of hunters' dinners every fall. Not to be outdone in zeal, the men of the church put on a ham and trout supper every year in May to help pay off the mortgage. As a result of these combined efforts, the loan of \$3,000 from the Church Extension of the E.L.C., received in August 1948, was paid back within three years and three months.



## THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Issues This

### Certificate of Appreciation

To  
*Trinity Lutheran Church*

Acknowledging with thanks that your loan of

[ **\$3,000.00** ]

from Church Extension has been paid in full.

The Church is thankful that it had the privilege of granting this loan and now has the opportunity of helping some other young congregation with the same money.

We are also happy that The Evangelical Lutheran Church found it possible to give your church a grant-in-aid in the amount of \$14,308.79 for salary, interest and other needs, which sum was contributed by the thousands of congregations and the hundreds of thousands of people of The Evangelical Lutheran Church scattered throughout the United States, its territories and Canada and remitted through the budget of the Board of Home Missions.

This sum was given in full confidence that mindful of Paul's admonition to "owe no man anything save to love one another," you will find ways and means of sharing the Gospel with others through the same church fellowship.

Issued this

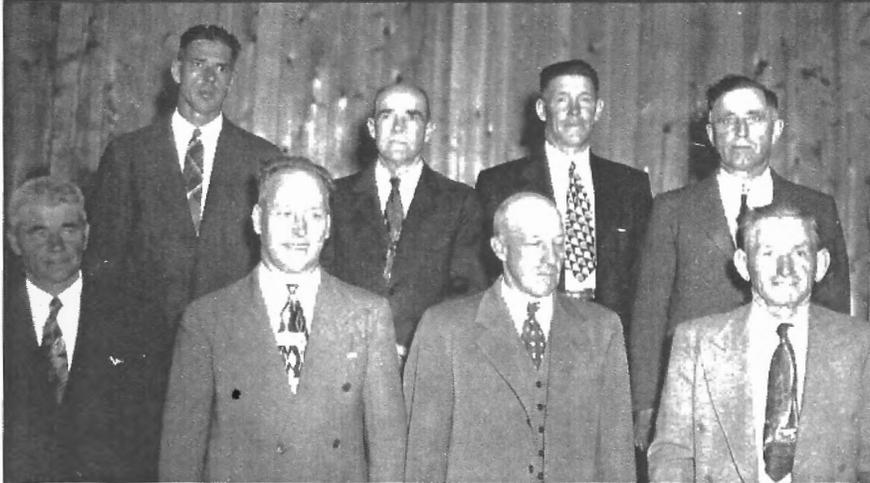
18th day of June, 1955

in the year of our Lord

*J. A. Schlotz*  
PRESIDENT OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

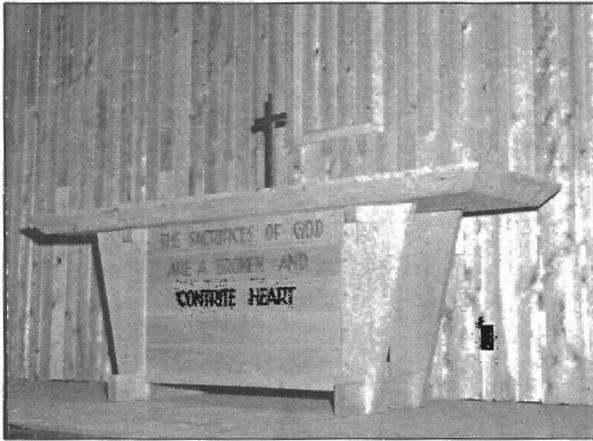
*Walter S. Dybing*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS  
*Walter C. Peterson*  
CHAIRMAN BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

## The Building Committee of Trinity Lutheran and Others Who Helped



Front row, L to R: Nels Norman, Clarence Johnson, Anton Arnquist, Carl Thoreson. Back row, l to r: Harold Schuppel, Gordon Finley, John Koss, Arthur Ongstad

HAROLD SCHUPPEL was the chairman of the building committee. He was involved with every phase of the building. He put together the stained glass window, did the altar, the communion rail, the lectern and made all the pews except



two that were added later. MARVIN SODERLAND made them. The rest of the building committee were: CLARENCE JOHNSON, NELS NORMAN, ANTON ARNQUIST, ARTHUR ONGSTAD, GORDON FINLEY, JOHN KOSS and CARL THORESON.

OSCAR SUNDQUIST—they used his steel trailer that he built in California to haul things home after World War 2 to haul all the rocks for the church. They pulled it with Howard Hong's old jeep. He made the other odds and ends when they needed special pieces; for example—the steel braces on the communion rails.

EDWIN THORESON—the church was being built about the time Ed was starting his business. At night he let the church use his dump truck to haul sand for the cement work. Naniboujou was closed at that time (during World War 2). They had a caretaker, "Happy" Sather who let them drive out on the sand beach on planks, as that was the best place to get the sand. It was all shoveled by hand by the church men. Some nights they got two loads. Later on, when the church was farther along, they used Edwin's first crane to raise the arches. They started on the lake side. When they had several up, they hoisted the rest with block and tackle by hand. He has since donated many loads of crushed gravel.

MAX KUBIS planed the floor joists for the main floor. He had a big steam engine, wheeled tractor, that he did that with. It was a real antique. VINCE AGURKIS donated the floor joists. WARREN HANSEN sanded the floor that came from the old church building. BILL DEATER and WALTER WOJTYSIAK both had saw mills. They furnished the cedar lumber inside and out. They were both Catholics but were generous to our church. CHARLES MAINELLA donated the nails and many other things. He was also Catholic and very generous to our church.

GENE MALNER laid the first shakes on the roof. OTIS ANDERSON made the shakes with a machine that OSCAR SUNDQUIST made. Some of the local loggers helped cut the cedar on Otis Anderson's land. DUANE JOHNSON and DON PALMER were two of the loggers.

LARRY PETERSON used Edwin's backhoe to put in the cement floor in the basement later. It was a skillful operation running it through the door and there was a big crew there helping. Larry put gravel in first to level the floor. Tim Hall and the crew did the cement work.

LADIES' AID—They gave the church a lot of financial aid towards the building fund and mortgage payments. They sponsored a hunter's dinner every fall.

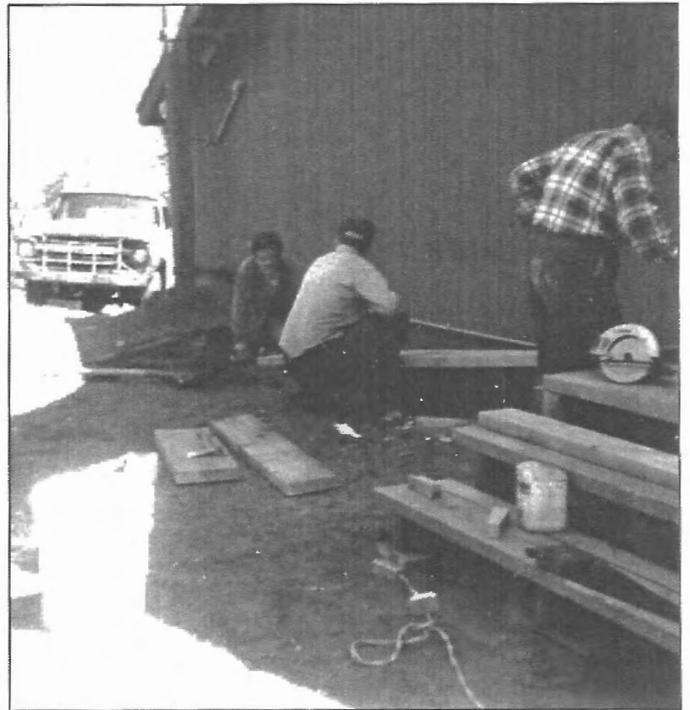
The following are names of people that helped in many ways: ART and RAY ONGSTAD, NELS and LLOYD NORMAN, CLARENCE and DUANE JOHNSON, JOHN and KENNETH KOSS, DON PALMER, ANTON ARNQUIST, ART ELIASSEN, GUST BERGLUND, CHRIS HAMMER, EINAR LOFGREN, LARRY PETERSON, GORDON FINLEY, OSCAR SUNDQUIST, KARINE JACOBSEN, ART SUNDQUIST, EDWIN THORESON, PASTOR AUBREY EDMUNDS, MONS HANSON, CHARLIE MAINELLA, BILL DEATER, MAX KUBIS, GENE MALNER, OTIS ANDERSON, CHARLIE JOHNSON, CLARENCE STRAND, CARL THORESON, WARREN HANSEN, WALTER WOJTYSIAK, VINCE AGURKIS, MARVIN SODERLAND, and HAROLD SCHUPPEL.

TIM HALL did a lot of cement work later on in years.  
PAT FLACK put the second roof on. The shakes were factory made.

—Duane Johnson



Above: Larry Peterson puts gravel into the basement.



Right: Tim Hall and others build the handicapped ramp.

## The 1950's...

In August 1950 Pastor Edmonds tendered his resignation and left for Lewiston, Montana, much to the regret of Trinity and the other three congregations at Tofte, Lutsen, and Grand Marais. His inspiring leadership was responsible for a growth in church membership and gave the impetus for erecting the present church building.

The heating system for the church at this time was ingenious, although primitive by today's standards. A jacketed stove, formerly used at Chicago Bay School, was installed in the basement of the church building. A jacket extension on the basement stove connected with a register in the floor upstairs, allowing the heat to travel up into the sanctuary. Coal was purchased from Charles Mainella at \$15 per ton and used to keep the fire going all Saturday night before Sunday service. Men of the church took their turn at firing and also cut wood to supplement the coal.

On October 1, 1950, Dr. C. S. Thorpe, a retired pastor, arrived to serve as interim minister until June 1951. Dr. Thorpe will be remembered fondly as a warm, gentle person who spoke to the hearts of all in his sermons. On June 17, 1951, Reverend Rolf Hansen was installed as the new pastor, with Dr. Thorpe conducting the service. The



Cradle Roll Party, September 29, 1951

exterior of the church building was oiled in the fall of 1951. Harold Schuppel was in charge of a crew of church members to get wood for the winter. The stained glass window for above the altar was being created by art students at St. Olaf College under the direction of Professor Flaten in the fall of 1951. A letter received from him at that time stated that the cost would be \$100. In May of 1951 the annual ham and trout supper was put on by the men of the church. Fellowship suppers were held regularly once a month; a girls' choir, which had been organized and led by Marian Jacobsen, received robes; and a Cradle Roll was active, with at least sixteen children under the age of three.

The Ladies' Aid, as it was still called, continued their activities of giving financial support to the church through fund-raising projects including rug making, pie socials, bake sales, rummage sales, and the annual hunters' suppers. They sewed layettes and sent baby clothing to the mission in Liberia, put on a Father's Day supper, improved the sacristy, sponsored other improvements for the church, purchased supplies and equipment for the kitchen, and supported vacation Bible school financially.

An important matter under consideration in 1953 was the purchase of a coal and wood furnace to replace the jacketed stove. At the February 15, 1953, meeting, it was decided to buy such a furnace from the Marshall-Wells Company. The men's ham and trout super in May of 1953 netted \$264.00. Another matter under consideration was that of roofing the church building. No action was taken at this time in 1953.

At a congregational meeting on February 4, 1954, Pastor Hansen tendered his resignation. On March 22, 1954, a meeting was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Grand Marais to discuss the separation of the parish. Representing Hovland were Arthur Ongstad, president; John Koss, treasurer; and trustees Jacob Norman, Nels Norman, and Harold Schuppel. The meeting was turned over to A.E. Hanson, president of the district. The resolution before the delegates read as follows: "We resolve that the Cook County parish be divided into two—one consisting of Grand Marais and Hovland and the other of Tofte and Lutsen." There were 25 votes cast by representatives of the four churches of the parish, and all were in favor of the separation. Before this change became legal, it was necessary for members of each congregation to vote on it. No record of the vote was recorded in the secretary's book, but the resolution was evidently favored by the majority. Previously, because of the pastor's having four churches to serve, services at Trinity were held every other Sunday. From then on, Trinity was able to have services every Sunday. After Pastor Rolf Hansen's departure in May 1954, Herman A. Muus, then a seminary student, served as the interim pastor until July 1954. Pastor Stewart Govig accepted a call to be pastor and arrived in July to take over his duties.

A church library had its beginning in 1954, with Harold Schuppel making the bookshelves and members donating books. Other additions and improvements in 1954 were covering the social room tables with masonite and purchasing low tables and small chairs for the Sunday school.

During 1955 an adult choir was organized with Marian Jacobsen as director. Pastor Govig, who had a beautiful tenor voice, was a member of the choir. Other members were Ida Hammer, Andrea Odean, Elsie Palmer,

Anne Sundquist, Marjorie Sundquist, Einar Lofgren, Otis Anderson, and David Nordquist. An important project of the



year 1955 was that of paneling the basement ceiling and walls. The cedar timber was donated by the State Forest Service and the U.S. Forest Service in the Colvill area where Donald Palmer's mill was set up. A crew of church members cut the cedar logs, Philip Hedstrom skidded the logs to the mill, and the crew of men helped saw the lumber and pile it, all in the period of three days. After drying all winter, the cedar lumber was hauled to Hedstrom's Mill the following June, planed and made into paneling. With Harold Schuppel as foreman, the paneling was installed in the basement in the fall of 1956. All materials used in building the church were native products of Cook County, except for the hardwood flooring and the two sets of doors from the old church building and the main beams and arches of West Coast fir. In May 1956, a gas furnace for the upstairs was purchased; the basement was still heated by the coal and wood furnace.

Also in May of 1956, Otis Anderson was engaged to saw the cedar shakes for the west side of the church building. Harold Schuppel had made the shakes for the east side; he also constructed the first pews in his spare time. In January 1957 Harold, who had served as building chairman in the years that the church was being built and later as foreman of additional work projects, was transferred to Hill City. His ten years of dedicated labor will be remembered by all who knew him. After Harold's departure, Art Eliassen was appointed work foreman and Marvin Soderlund was hired to make the additional pews. Due to illness, Art was unable to carry on the work after May 1957, and Donald Palmer was appointed to replace him.

In June 1957 a crew of eleven church members cut and skidded cedar logs which were then sawed into shakes by Otis Anderson at his mill. The men of the church installed the shakes on the east side of the church building. Stone Brothers were hired to put the shakes on the west side, thus completing the roofing. In September 1957 the decision was made to install a new floor in the basement to replace the temporary floor. The project entailed removing the old floor, putting in cement pillars and new floor joists, laying lumber over that, and finally putting plywood over all. Later, the plywood was covered with tile. The work crew started on a Tuesday and by working evenings the rest of the week, the men had completed the job by Saturday evening. These men all worked at their jobs during the day, but they aimed at finishing the floor in time for Sunday school the next Sunday and they did.

While the men of the church worked on finishing the church building, inside and out, the women were busily engaged in their activities. Leona Schuppel and Pastor Govig attended the WMF district convention at Bemidji in June 1955. Five fellowship suppers were held with groups serving in their turns. Proceeds from the pie social were given to support the new choir. New members were added to the Ladies' Aid, making a total of 29 members in 1955. The church library grew to a total of 32 books. The Martin Luther film was purchased jointly by the four churches. Offerings were made for missions and Youth in Action, and donations were made for the seminary. Clothing drives were held every fall. Fund-raising activities for the years 1955-1957 were bake sales, pie socials, the annual bazaars, and hunters' dinners. Specific missions supported through offerings by the Ladies' Aid were: Columbia, S.A.; Nome, Alaska; and Japan, as well as home missions and foreign missions in general.

The various departments of the Ladies' Aid, each headed by a chairman, were: Charities, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Higher Education, Cradle Roll, Christian Nurture, Literature and Library, Hospitality, Life Membership, and In Memoriam. Each month the chairman of each department was responsible for an informative program emphasizing her special subject, as well as carrying on the work throughout the year. More time and emphasis was being given to devotions and Bible study at the monthly meetings. The Ladies' Aid helped support an evangelist Bible teacher, Isao Makayama, and his wife in Japan as part of their mission work. Ladies' Aid also contributed generously \$100 to the Organ Fund and \$400 to the Building Fund.

In August 1957, much to the regret of the congregation, Pastor Govig resigned and left for Norway to study under a special fellowship. Reverend Theodore Lerud arrived in October to serve as interim pastor until July of 1958. At the end of 1957, the membership of the church showed a steady growth through the years: baptized members numbered 89; confirmed members numbered 66.

For many years, plans had been progressing for purchasing an organ. An organ fund had grown steadily until on April 15, 1958, at a special meeting, the congregation decided to buy a Conn organ at the price of \$2,300. The organ was installed on April 24, 1958. In August the organ dedication took place, with Loretta Wilkinson playing the recital.

Reverend Joel Anderson was installed as pastor in July 1958. On January 16, 1959, Pastor Anderson asked for a Board of Deacons to assist the pastor. At the annual meeting on January 18, three deacons were elected. On December 26, 1959, a gas wall furnace for the basement was purchased from Stoltz.

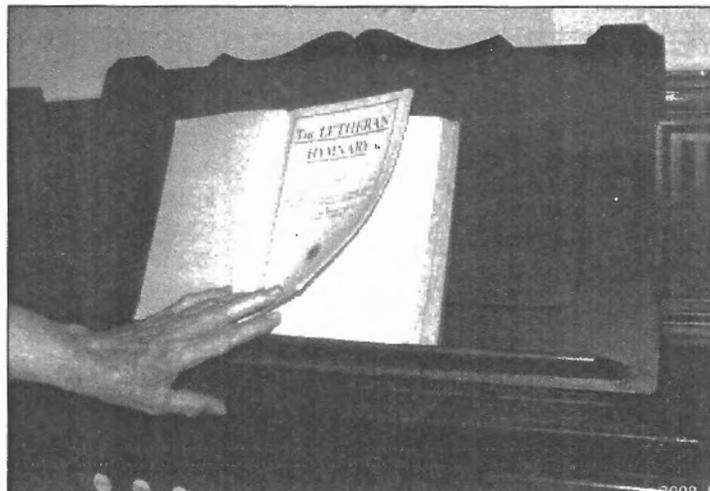
—Elsie Palmer  
*The Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration  
of Trinity Lutheran Church*



Cradle Roll Party—September 25, 1953

In the first years of its existence, Trinity Lutheran Church had no organ to lead the congregational singing, but instead, a duly elected "church singer," Mons Hanson, led the small group in hymn singing. The first organist, Lena Ellingson Arnquist, played a pump organ. Other organists who served through the years were Ideall Kjarum, Ragna Hanson, Beatrice Eliassen Hall, Helen Thoreson Sundquist, Dorothy Peterson, and Marian Jacobsen.

—*The Cook County News Herald*  
1982



## The 1960's...

At the January 13, 1960, council meeting, it was decided to have a movable communion rail and a stairway railing built. Both of these additions were designed by Donald Palmer and built with the help of other members. On January 31, 1960, the congregation began using the new red *Service Book and Hymnal*.

In 1961 the church council voted to give \$25 toward expenses of Luther League delegates to the convention at Miami Beach. Dianne Anderson and Maribeth Strand attended and brought an interesting report back to the congregation. During the year 1961, the Trinity Lutheran Church Women, formerly known as Ladies' Aid, budgeted \$200 for ALCW projects: American Missions, World Missions, Education, Inter-Church, Pensions, and Charities. Local needs were budgeted at \$95: Sunday school, Thursday school, and vacation Bible school. Other needs such as convention offerings, literature, etc., brought the total amount budgeted to \$400 for 1961. The Bible study for the year was "How Shall I Pray?"

In 1962 the church women sponsored one camper from Plymouth Youth Center in Minneapolis to go to the Wilderness Canoe Base on Seagull Lake.

At a church council meeting on January 16, 1963, Pastor Anderson told the group about the Bethel Bible Study that would be starting within a year. During the summer Pastor Anderson took the Bethel course in Madison, Wisconsin, in preparation for teaching it during the next two years to ten students: Hannah Johnson, Ethel Johnson, Roger and Rauha Scott, Luther Wallace, Harvey Lampel, Elsie Palmer, Louise Anderson, Ade and Bertha Toftey.

In 1963 the women served coffee after two services. They contributed to the expenses of Bible school, Sunday school, Lutheran Girls' Home and to the district and general conventions.

During 1964 Luther Wallace and Elsie Palmer studied the Bethel Bible Course in Grand Marais under Pastor Joel Anderson. The classes were held once a week for two-hour sessions, which were inspirational and enlightening.

Fellowship suppers were held once a month in the social room. On February 16, 1964, at a special meeting held after services, the church council accepted the offer of the church women to pay for a new heating system, a wall furnace, for the basement. The new furnace to be purchased from Mr. Stoltz would replace the overhead heating unit. The project was approved by all.

During Pastor Anderson's years of service, July 1958—September 1966, the Cook County Ministerium, composed of the pastors of the various churches of the county, was organized and is still active. For the first time joint Lenten services were held in 1965, with churches of the county participating. The services were held alternately at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church and at St. John's Catholic Church, since these were the largest and could accommodate the most people. The services were well attended by an enthusiastic number of people from the different churches.

The Bethel Bible Study continued in 1965 with Pastor Anderson as instructor for those who later would teach it to other members of the congregations. After completing the course, Elsie Palmer began teaching it to a group of Trinity members once a week in the fall of 1965 and through the winter and spring of 1966. The Old Testament was covered in the first half of the course.

Again in 1966, community Lenten services were held in Grand Marais, with all churches participating.

On June 1, 1966, four members of Trinity Church Council, Clarence and Ida Johnson, Luther Wallace, and Mabel Johnson, met with Bethlehem Church Council in Grand Marais. Pastor Anderson had resigned, necessitating a search for someone to replace him. The group accepted his resignation, but in the words of Trinity's secretary, Mabel Johnson, "I know in our hearts, we didn't want to." The members of Trinity congregation were deeply saddened by his resignation, as he was held in high regard by the Hovland group. After Pastor Anderson's departure in August, Merton Christensen served as interim pastor through the next months until Reverend Joseph Nystuen arrived in December.



The Reverend Joseph Nystuen Family



Matters discussed at council meetings and events of 1967 included: safety measures needed—stairway slippery (no railing), ramp dangerous, outside steps slippery in winter; rules for church building use changed—anyone could use the building after contacting the president, and a small donation would be acceptable and appreciated; joint services with Bethlehem would be held at Thanksgiving; donations were given to Plymouth Youth Center. In April Annabel Parode of Uruguay gave a slide presentation and talk at the fellowship supper.

During 1967 the Trinity Lutheran Church Women continued regular monthly meetings, with Bible study and a program, in addition to the business meeting. They contributed \$100 a year toward the "Cause of the Month," gave a \$35 campership to be used at Wilderness Canoe Base on Seagull Lake, helped pay for redecorating the parsonage, and raised money through bake sales and rummage sales for these projects and other local needs of the church. The matter of getting carpeting for the church was brought to a vote on July 30, 1968, at a congregational meeting. Results of the vote were 13 against carpeting and 2 for carpeting.

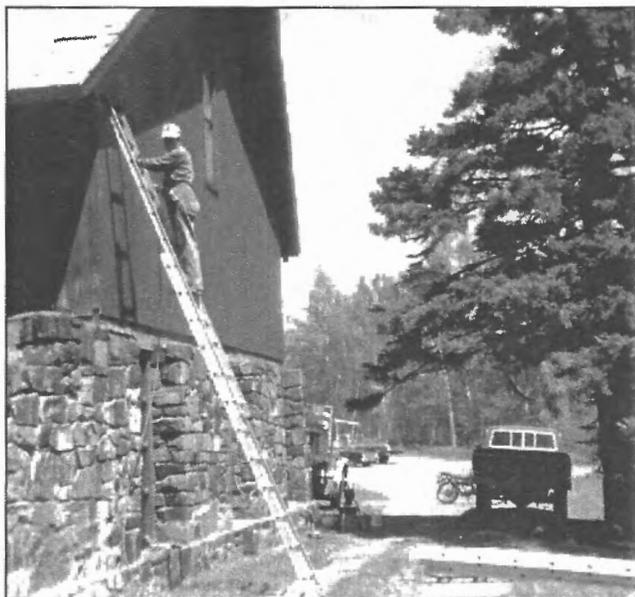
On September 11, 1968, at the church council meeting, Alan Clothier was present to discuss funeral procedures. The members voted to disregard previous regulations concerning funerals and to leave the matter up to the pastor, funeral director, and family. The Sunday school picnic was held at McFarland Lake on June 16, 1968.

Christmas cookies were sent to servicemen and eleven local bachelors were given Christmas boxes.

Projects of the congregation for 1969 included repairs and staining of the church building exterior. The church women contributed \$467.64 for the cost of the above project, gave Christmas gifts to the nursing home, and made blankets to send to New Guinea.

—Elsie Palmer

*The Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration  
of Trinity Lutheran Church*



### The Luther League Convention in Miami Beach

There were two of us from Trinity who went to the Luther League National Convention in Miami Beach, Florida—Maribeth Strand and me. My parents couldn't really afford to send me, yet they knew this was an important event and that I wanted to go. When Trinity Council voted to help with expenses, I knew that my church cared about youth.

This was a life-changing event for me—I remember the moving speech of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as he told us about the black person's struggle and about justice and equality. The theme of the convention was "Christ Is Living!" I was questioned by a Jewish business person in one of the stores about our theme and what this meant to me. I also remember the song, "Lead On, O King Eternal!" as being sung at just about every gathering we had. When Maribeth and I got back to Trinity, we talked about our experience to the congregation. We also got them to start singing the song, which has now become a familiar hymn at Trinity.

After our presentations to the congregation, Reverend Carroll L. Hinderlie, a regular summer visitor, remarked that he was pleased with our presentations and that we were proof that the convention was worthwhile for young people. It was many years later that a friend of mine told me that Reverend Hinderlie was the one who had secured the main speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and that he had to struggle to get approval for his suggestion. I was humbled to know that those many years ago our presentation was an affirmation that Reverend Hinderlie's choice was right. It was right—I have become more sensitive to injustices, discrimination and inequality, and I know that *Christ Is Living*, and that He lived in those thousands of young people who attended the Luther League Convention.

—Dianne Anderson Pelto



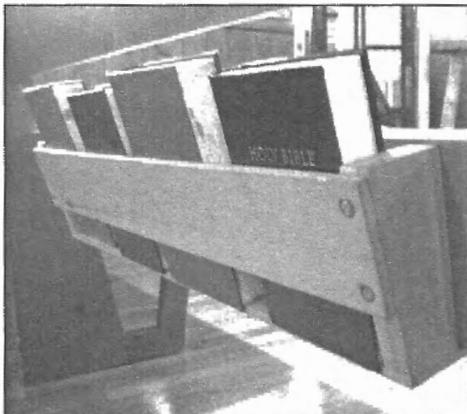
## The 1970's

A farewell party was held for Pastor Joe Nystuen on March 2, 1970. Pastor Nystuen will be remembered for his love and concern for all, in particular for some of those outside of the congregation who remember his visits to their homes. Pastor Nystuen left April 15, and Pastor Joyce Ranum agreed to serve as interim pastor when he arrived in June; Pastor Herman I. Muus would fill in during the intervening months. Pastor Robert Stoskopf arrived in August 1970. He was welcomed at a buffet dinner at the home of Nancy and Virgil Lindquist. Members of the Bethlehem and Trinity call committees and their spouses attended.

The church women met in February 1971, but from then on until 1977 they were inactive due to declining membership.

In 1972 Gilbert Bloomquist was in charge of installing the railing on the stone steps to insure safety during icy conditions. Also in 1972, a pall was given by the Johnson family in memory of Ida Johnson. At the September 27, 1972, council meeting, a motion was made, seconded, and carried that the decision regarding funeral regulations made at the September 1968 council meeting be rescinded. Instead, the council voted for the following regulations: (1) use of the pall covering the casket within the sanctuary; (2) limitation of flowers; (3) viewing of the body in the narthex, but not in the sanctuary. The decision to allow ten-year-olds to receive communion was made at the annual meeting in January 1972. Another change in 1972 was advancing the time of worship services on Sunday to 8:30 A.M. instead of 9:00 A.M.

In 1973 funeral procedures once again were discussed at the annual meeting on January 28. The following regulations were to be followed: (1) no viewing of remains in sanctuary or narthex, except in unusual circumstances; (2) coffin to be draped with pall and no flowers thereon; (3) flowers may be placed elsewhere; (4) music to be approved by pastor and organist and must be in keeping with Christian beliefs; (5) funeral services for non-members shall be approved by pastor and deacons.



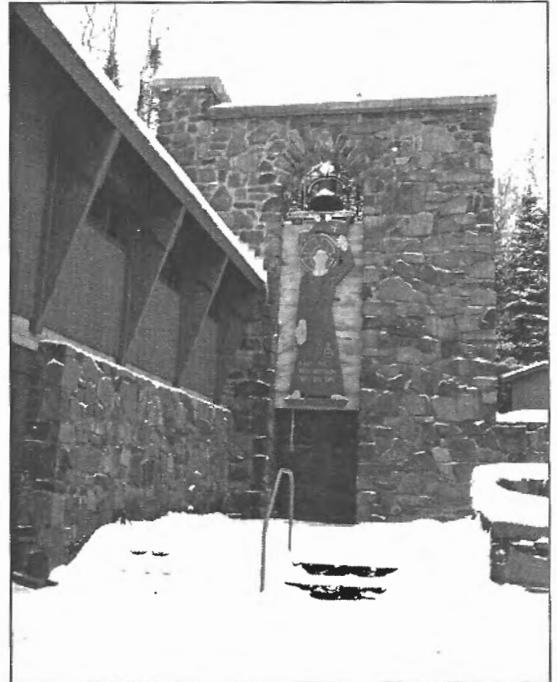
At the council meeting on December 2, 1974, the decision was made to have a roster of ushers to coincide with the cleaning and firing list. During 1975 the book racks were made by several members of the congregation, including women who did the sanding and varnishing.

At a congregational meeting following Sunday worship on September 7, 1975, members voted to help sponsor a Vietnamese couple with Bethlehem. The refugees temporarily lived with the Earl Niewald family. On October 8, 1975, Earl Niewald gave a progress report before the Trinity Congregation and introduced members to Bey and Mai. The Vietnamese refugee couple later moved into an apartment in Grand Marais. Bey, a trained diesel mechanic, was by then employed at Cobblestone as a mechanic.

At the annual meeting on January 14, 1976, Arthur Sundquist was named head of the project of improving the cemetery. On June 20, 1976, the men served a pancake breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 A.M. with Arthur Sundquist in charge of making his special pancakes.

In order to conserve energy, the congregation decided at their annual meeting on January 16, 1977, to have services in the basement during the winter months, using the coal and wood furnace for heat.

Another topic of discussion at the annual meeting was initiated by Susan Krueger, that of re-activating the Trinity Lutheran Church Women, who had not met as a group since 1971. Susan was appointed to get the organization activated once more. Subsequently the TLCW met on January 25, 1977, at the church social room for the purpose of re-organization. With Susan Krueger as chairperson, the TLCW was successfully reactivated. From



then on the church women met regularly and continued their activities, even though the membership had noticeably declined; many older members had passed away or moved, and there were fewer young members living in the community. On August 21, 1977, the members of Trinity gathered at the Hovland dock for a fish planking feed; in charge were Gordon and Marie Lindemann.



A project of the year 1978 was that of making storage cabinets in the sacristy for storing the communion service, the pall, and the altar hangings. Another project was the installation of fluorescent lights in the social room. The church women paid for the fixtures, and Arthur Sundquist and Donald Palmer installed them in the spring of 1978. On April 30, 1978, Mission Festival Sunday was celebrated in conjunction with Bethlehem

Church, with special message given by Pastor Kawie of South Africa. The work of plotting the cemetery, which included setting marking posts, was completed in the summer of 1978 with Arthur Sundquist in charge. On Sunday, November 12, 1978, the congregation voted in favor of changing to the new *Lutheran Book of Worship*. This was also the year that a land exchange was negotiated with Consolidated Pulp and Paper Company, which enlarged the area of the cemetery. The church women purchased new folding tables for the social room in 1978. Another event of 1978 was the Maundy Thursday Seder and Communion Service at Bethlehem, conducted by Pastor Gordon Lindemann, with Trinity members participating also. The Trinity Lutheran Church Women prepared and served the meal.

In 1979 Pastor Bob introduced the congregation to the new *Lutheran Book of Worship*. The new books were dedicated on the third Sunday in February when the congregation began using them. Since the receipts for the past year had far exceeded expectations, with a year-end balance totaling nearly \$6,500, the congregation voted to send \$1,000 to the Lutheran World Refugee Fund. A major improvement of 1979, suggested by Pastor Bob, was the construction of a shingled narthex roof with a fluorescent light beneath. The project was carried out by Walter Rouser, Gilbert Bloomquist, and Donald Palmer.

The congregation gave financial support through special offerings for the two seminary students of the parish: Rolf Morck of Bethlehem and Arvid Sundet of Trinity. The TLCW contributed \$100 to the Lutheran World Hunger Appeal. They also ministered to Marie Hagen, a cancer victim, with visits, gifts of food, and personal items.

—Elsie Palmer

*The Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration of Trinity Lutheran Church*

## The 1980's...

A heart-warming decision in 1980 was for Trinity to co-sponsor a H'Mong refugee family with Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Duluth. On March 1, 1980, Evalyn and Jesse Sharpe of Thunder Bay, Ontario, observed their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at Trinity with an exchange of vows and a sharing of a buffet dinner with their Hovland and Thunder Bay friends. Word was received of the Thao family's arrival to Duluth on May 22, 1980. The H'Mong family members were: Cher Sona, the father; Youa Her, the mother; Seng, their nine-year-old son; and Yong, their six-year-old daughter. Joining them later were Cher Sona's sister-in-law, Lee Her; her seventeen-year-old son, Ky; and an orphaned boy whom they had befriended.



A farewell fish planking for Samuel and Shirley Alle was held at the Holy Hovel, home of Gordon and Marie Lindemann, on June 23, 1980. Samuel and Shirley Alle, moved to Florida soon after. On October 26, 1980, a welcome party was held at Trinity for the Thao family, who were brought here for the occasion by Duluth friends. It was a moving experience for all to meet the Thao family, to share with them a buffet dinner, and to learn more about them.

An important decision at a special meeting of the congregation on December 27, 1981, was to purchase a new organ. The vote in favor was unanimous.

On January 17, 1982, Marie Lindemann became the first woman president of the congregation. Another first at the annual meeting was the organization of a disaster fund to provide emergency help when needed. Among the social events enjoyed in 1982 was a snow day for young and old at Bloomquist Mountain in Colvill. Nels Norman was honored at a coffee hour on his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 31. Another social gathering was a Palm Sunday brunch.

On Sunday, March 14, 1982, the new baptismal font was dedicated at Trinity. The earthenware bowl and ewer were designed and crafted by Jan and Tim Hall, and the stand to hold them was made by Gilbert Bloomquist. Jason Hall, the son of Jan and Tim Hall, was the first child to be baptized in the new font on this special day.

A new organ was purchased from Schmitt Music Center in Minneapolis, at the cost of \$5995.00. The dedication recital took place on the evening of July 18, 1982, with Don Hogenson as recitalist.

At a special meeting on August 5, 1982, the problem of installing a new roof on the church was discussed. Timothy Hall was named to secure information on the cost of materials. Also discussed was the purchase of new light fixtures for the sanctuary. On September 24, a work-day crew gathered to repair the roof covering the east wing of the narthex. A special event on October 3 was the ordination of Arvid and Kim Sundet, who were installed as pastors of Calvary Lutheran Church in Minong, Wisconsin. Arvid was the first member of Trinity to be ordained as a pastor. Pastor Stoskopf, accompanied by Donald and Elsie Palmer, traveled to Minong for the event. They brought with them a gift of money from the members of Trinity and the best wishes of Hovland friends. As a finale to the year, members and friends of Trinity gathered at the Bloomquist Mountain cabin on December 26, bringing leftover Christmas food for a potluck dinner. Outdoor winter fun for some and visiting and games indoors for others kept everyone busy and happy.

Among the subjects under consideration at the annual meeting of Trinity Congregation on January 23, 1983, was the need for replacing the roof of the church. (The original shakes had been installed in the summer of 1957.) With this in mind, members voted to budget \$12,000 toward capital improvement. The church council was authorized



L to R: Nels Norman, "Tiny" Rouser, Pastor Bob Stoskopf

to consider specifications and present them to the congregation for a vote. There was also discussion of the merger of the ALC, LCA, and AELC. A motion to approve an amendment to the constitution allowing for the merger was made and carried. At the February 17 council meeting held at Bethlehem Church, members viewed a video tape regarding the merger of the three synods. Following this tape, the Trinity Council met in the library. Among topics discussed were: engaging Roger Waage to install new lights in the narthex and sanctuary; the seventy-fifth anniversary celebration of Trinity Congregation, to be held July 29, 1984; and the roof project.

At a meeting of the congregation following Sunday services, the seventy-fifth anniversary was further discussed, with Gordon and Marie Lindemann named as co-coordinators of the event. At another special meeting, the congregation voted to approve the roof project. The congregation decided to add insulation as well as cedar shakes. Financing the roof project was the main topic discussed at the March 21 meeting of the church council. Members decided that the new roof should be on a labor bid, notices for bids to be published in the *Cook County News Herald* with the closing date on May 7.

At the May 25, 1983, council meeting, bids were opened and members voted to accept Patrick Flack's quote for labor at \$4,200, with materials to be purchased by the church. The new roof was completed on September 26. "T-Blast" members of Bethlehem donated \$500 from the proceeds of their corn feed. Trinity's "Coffee an'" donations of \$278.89 were matched by Lutheran Brotherhood, as was the \$500 from "T-Blast."

Pradeep Sugathadasa, AFS student from Sri Lanka, gave a slide presentation on May 29, 1983. On

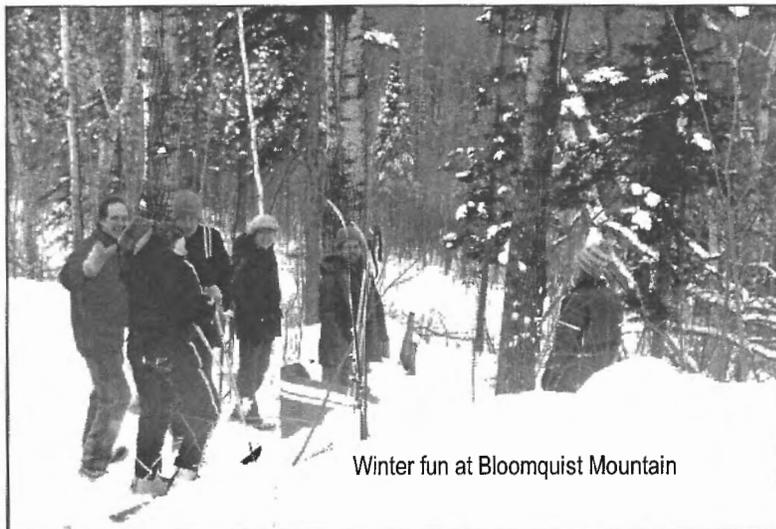


October 23, Denise Carlson gave a slide presentation and talked about her experience as an AFS summer student in Indonesia. Cindy Fern, a domestic AFS student from Cleveland, was a guest speaker following services on December 4, 1983. In the summer of 1983, the "Worship and Witness" workshop in Minneapolis was attended by Pastor Bob and Dorothy Stoskopf, Patrick and Mary Jo Flack, and Christine McClure. Trinity Church Women carried out a soap-making project, making over 100 pounds of soap to be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

A December special offering went to the Cook County Food Shelf. Christmas boxes of baked goods, fruit, and candy were given to thirteen families in the community. For the first time a community Christmas Eve supper was served. Following the well-attended dinner, the traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service was held.

—Elsie Palmer

*The Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration  
of Trinity Lutheran Church*



Winter fun at Bloomquist Mountain

## Church Women of Trinity...

Trinity Lutheran Ladies' Aid was first organized on January 17, 1910, with the main purpose of raising funds for building the first church building. No records are available regarding officers or activities of the Ladies' Aid during those early years. Some information may be gleaned from perusing the files of the *Cook County News Herald* of that time. Many fund-raising activities and gatherings were carried out to build the new church building, to purchase the furnishings, and even to help pay the pastor. A legacy of those pioneer years is the bell in the tower of the present building.

The first minutes recorded are dated January 4, 1928, when Anna Eliassen was elected president. Other presidents serving through the following years were: Idella Kjarum, Chrestine Aakvik, Borghild Ongstad, Jenny Arnquist, Helen Strand, Marian Jacobsen, Lulu Finley, Elsie Palmer, Anne Sundquist, Anne Eliassen, Marie Hagen, Bernice Wallen, Dorothy Peterson, Tyna Ongstad, Inez Anderson, Susan Krueger, and Marie Lindemann. In 1960 the name Trinity Lutheran Ladies' Aid was changed to Trinity Lutheran Church Women.

Following are names of women who have served in other offices of Trinity Lutheran Church Women: Gudrun Norman, Anna Hanson, Blanche Englund, Beatrice Eliassen, Esther Drouillard, Randy Thoreson, Mabel Johnson, Mrs. Oscar Fintland, Leona Schuppel, Karin Berglund, Dolly Koss, Edith Mickelson, Ida Johnson, Ruth Pearson, Ailie Waananen, Nellie Sundquist, Louise Clevette, Mickey Norman, Barbara Petz, Olga Turensky, Shirley Alle, Christine McClure, Loretta Bloomquist, and Sharon Bloomquist.

—Elsie Palmer

*The Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration of Trinity Lutheran Church*

Right: President Helen Strand's prayer for a meeting of the American Lutheran Church Women. The reverse side includes the following agenda notes: Roll call, Sec. report, any corrections, stand approved as read, Treas. Report, motion to accept, Old business, New business, Rummage sale?, Thanks to Karin, Hostess--, lesson, Rummage Sale—May 20—1—3, Bake Sale, Evening Meetings.

Below: Members Elsie Palmer, Anne Sundquist, Dolly Koss and Borghild Ongstad enjoy coffee after a home meeting of the Ladies' Aid.



**MINDFUL** that our Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Head of the Church, made use of the service and devotion of women during the days of His earthly ministry, and desiring in our day likewise to follow and serve Him, we now with united effort dedicate ourselves to the furtherance of His kingdom by a stewardship of life and service to the glory of the Triune God.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

**DOWFLAKE®**  
(77-80% Calcium Chloride Flakes)

**PELADOW®**  
(94-97% Calcium Chloride Pellets)

Dear Father in Heaven ~~help us to~~  
~~help us to~~ help us to know the  
better and to love the more. Hold  
our ~~life~~ life that it may become  
a life of service to our fellow men  
and to Thy honor and Thy glory.  
~~Help us to read~~ Help us to read  
and study Thy word faithfully  
and diligently. Use us, we pray  
and help us to have in our heart  
that peace that only Thou canst  
give. We ask it in Jesus name.  
Amen.

**Our Recent History, 1984-2009**

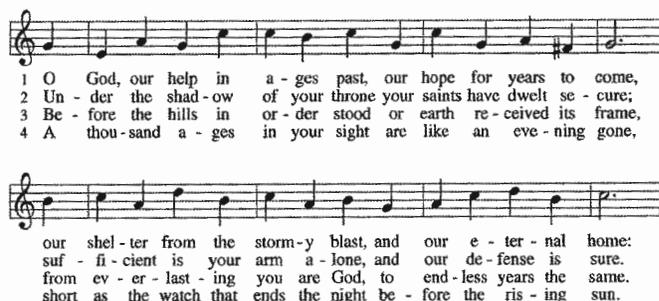
Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:9

## Our Recent Years, 1984 to 2009

Well, actually, we'll begin with 1983!

**1983:** Planning was underway for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, scheduled for July 29, 1984. The theme chosen was based on the hymn, "O God Our Help in Ages Past." From the hymnal used at the time, the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, it is easy to see how the hymn would have been representative of the hopes of the congregation.

### O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,  
our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

(Text: Isaac Watts, 1675-1748, alt. Tune: William Croft, 1678-1727)



Other ministry plans were underway as well, including to install improved ramp accessibility into the church building. Looking back, we can appreciate Trinity's willingness to provide for all God's people.

### 1984: A Year of Celebration, honoring Trinity's 75 years as a congregation serving Christ.

Highlights of the 75<sup>th</sup> year were baptism, (including Jay LaFavor, Deb Waage, and Desiree Nelms); new members, including Laura LaFavor, Roger Waage, Jewel Zeman, Linda, Merlyn, Janell and Teresa Kiel, Kenneth and Ardth Reiss, Mildred West. Ministry focus continued to be Nursing Home Worship services, North Shore Recreation Ministry, Christmas Eve Potluck, Easter Brunch, and Camp Vermilion support. There was also early discussions of the merger of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), and other Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches that resulted in the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). As Pastor Bob Stoskopf wrote in his year end report, "Each congregation is part of a greater body; our yet to be named new denomination and the Christian Family throughout world which begins with smallest unit, each individual."

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a successful time of gathering, recalling the past and looking forward. A thorough and fun-to-read history of Trinity's first 75 years was compiled by our local historian, Elsie Palmer, and edited by Dianne Pelto. It was a work of art! Another part of the 75<sup>th</sup> was that the Trinity cookbook from 1950 was recopied and put together for sale.

"Everyone worked, and we served a good meal to 120 people, dished up in 20 minutes with help from Vi Freeberg (a Baptist) and Marge Scully (a Catholic). Many people came together to help, and we had fun."  
Dorothy Peterson

In December, the Trinity Lutheran Church Women decided to disband because of lack of interest in serving as officers, time constraints as many women were now working, and a feeling that men and women would be active in projects together. The possibility of beginning a Bible study was discussed. Linda Kiel recalls "In December 1984 I went to my very first Church Women meeting, and they disbanded! I felt it showed the women to be strong and capable, and that they knew they would be able to continue to serve together with the men. I got a kick out of my first attendance being the end of the formal group."

**1985:** The theme chosen for the year was "Commitment to Mission: That all might know Christ's love." Benevolence (giving from the Congregation to those in need), as in many previous years, continued to focus on World Hunger, support of a refugee Hmong family, Grand Marais Food Shelf, and a hunger walk . Discussions continued about the possible merger of the Lutheran denominations, and the need for a youth pastor for the Bethlehem/Trinity parish. Trinity continued to provide subscriptions to the *The Lutheran Standard* for church members, and have *Christ in Our Home* devotionals available. Average worship attendance was 53 each Sunday.

**1986:** Pastor Bob Stoskopf's report: "ALC and LCA will soon become ELCA ; there will be a struggle in the details, but we are giving emphasis to the mission to which Christ calls us. Together we will continue to seek out the will of the Lord. " Also, there was a goal to send youth from the combined parish to the national youth gathering.

**1987:** "A new roof, basement floor and door, a new fire exit upstairs and painting and lighting and the list goes on. And now we must go beyond the physical facility which enables us to do our work. ...We are an important congregation in the mission we have to the surrounding area and to the large numbers of people who call this their 'home away from home.'" The 1987 Church Council approved cottage meetings to give everyone the biblical background for tithing. The ELCA was born on April 3, 1987; as part of the recognition of the serious struggle and to rejoice in God's work, plans were made with three other Cook County Lutheran churches "to celebrate with a Festival Service of Thanksgiving on February 7, 1988. This gave opportunity for a "combined expression of praise and thanksgiving to God for his gifts of salvation and for new opportunities for usefulness through the new church."



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**1988:** Indicating the determination to support the newly organized ELCA, the budget included \$1750.00 for the Synod. Worship attendance averaged 40 on each Sunday. During the years of serious discussions about the merger and formation of the ELCA, Trinity, like many congregations across the country, experienced difficult internal conversations and transfers in membership. The work of the church continued, and important events at Trinity included a pie-social fund raiser for medical needs of Jason LaFavor; Lenten services at Trinity; support of a Hmong immigrant family; repair to the base of the bell tower; and installation of a fire exit door and steps for the door completed. A computer was actually talked about as something that might be used in the church office (the church office was at Bethlehem), and John McClure and others brought forward the idea of a newsletter that could be mailed to members and seasonal visitors. John also mentioned having a cemetery history compiled (a project worked on over the years and being redone for the Centennial 2009 through the work of Dusty and Nicole Nelms).

Council President Stan Pelto, on the transition time leading up to the formation of the ELCA , wrote, "My faith has been truly renewed during this period, because as I saw these things taking place, I also saw a congregation working as a body of Christ, sharing whatever came along, adjusting and going forward to do God's work."

**1989:** The booklet containing history on the cemetery and those buried there was in process by Elsie Palmer. The Council decided to check out possibilities for getting running water in the church building, as it was recognized that this would ease the work of many ministry gatherings, especially the summer Coffee An' fellowships.

**1990:** A new Church Constitution to fit the ELCA standards was officially adopted in January. Notes indicate that the congregation experienced unease in adapting to the ELCA style of structure, such as a more formal constitution, but were forging ahead. Decisions were made for committee names, with the motto "shorten-em up" being applied (those established were short, indeed: WORD and WITNESS). Average attendance began to grow again, and ministries including youth, North Shore Recreation, Nursing Home, as well as benevolence, continued.

**1991:** Pastor Mark Osthus's report says, "We began the year with our spirits on edge as our U.S. troops joined other UN forces in the Persian Gulf." Water was piped to church (money raised from pie social in July), parking

nearer to the handicapped ramp was made available. The WORD committee reported that Sunday school numbers were down slightly; Communion was being served without the use of the altar rail. This had been widely accepted as was the use of homemade bread. A decision was made to support a scholarship at Luther Northwestern Seminary. Coffee An' fund was used for youth programs, and Tim Hall offered to provide additional money if needed.

**1992:** Treasurer David Martin wrote, "The steady giving of our members has enabled us to meet all our obligations. Thanks to you all and Praise the Lord! The well project was completed and we had the water tested the result showed it to be drinkable." After many years on the Council, Loretta Bloomquist stepped aside...but our history shows that before long she was back serving for many additional years.

**1993:** Pastor Mark Osthus left Trinity/Bethlehem, and Pastor Wayne Edmund served as Interim Pastor for 3 months. Council President Dorothy Peterson wrote in her annual report: "Thanks for work *'beyond the call of duty.'* We have established a great working relationship with Bethlehem, may that continue. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." Benevolence support was given to Wilderness Canoe Base, and included Flood Relief. Subscriptions and camperships were also maintained, and support of a local family in need was significant.

**1994:** Pastor John Hogenson, having earlier been a summer intern, arrived in 1994, and Pastor Bob Sorenson began providing valuable part-time service in areas of Visitation and Adult Education. The Trinity Summer Bible Series was being planned, and has continued since. Many congregational reports through the years show a thirst for more Bible studies, and the Summer Series was begun partly as an answer to those requests. President David Bloomquist wrote, "In 1994 we added 24 new associate members, had another successful Bible study and Bible School, pie social; adopted a family for Christmas through the Salvation Army, had a Christmas Eve potluck and candlelight service. If you see a need, let the church know... Let's not miss the chance to witness for our Lord and make a difference right here at home."

**1995:** For the first time in years, VBS was held at Trinity; the Trinity Summer Bible Series very well attended. Pastor Hogenson challenged the the congregation to "ask how can we do an even better job of welcoming the stranger, the neighbor, and those new to our community. What is God calling Trinity to do?"

Other important activities included installation of a new furnace with battery timer; many new windows with insulated glass were installed in the sanctuary. Don Lessard was working with Ham Muus on new doors into the sanctuary. This was another year in which the ongoing issue of "what to do about the outhouse" was mentioned. The need was clear, but there were many opinions on how to solve the problem. Outreach to neighbors in need was evident through disaster funding and programs. The congregation voted to purchase the hymnal supplement *With One Voice* in its initial publication year.

**1996:** This was a busy year in many ways, including a Vision 2001 program for discerning's God's purpose for Trinity. Improvements to the kitchen were made, and new chairs were purchased for the Fellowship Hall. The Bethlehem/Trinity Parish Nurse program was active, Trinity held an Advent Festival for the first time, and commitment to the Camp Vermilion Adopted Cabin and North Shore Recreation Ministry continued. The previously disbanded Trinity Lutheran Women checking account was closed, and the money given to the Center for Family Crisis. Average Sunday worship attendance was 51.

**1997:** This year Trinity had the privilege of hosting of the NE Minnesota ELCA Synod Task Force on Prayer, and the Summer Bible Series was again strong. The usual desire to provide solid youth ministry continued, and the Bethlehem/Trinity youth director Mike Carlson took a group, including Jason Hall, to the national ELCA Youth Gathering. In the annual report a note was made of the importance of Coffee an', the after-worship fellowship time,



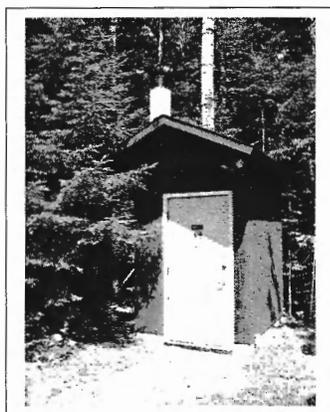
*"The  
Power  
of  
Water"*

1995 Summer  
Bible Study Series  
JULY 12 - AUGUST 16  
Wednesday Evenings  
7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Hovland, Minnesota

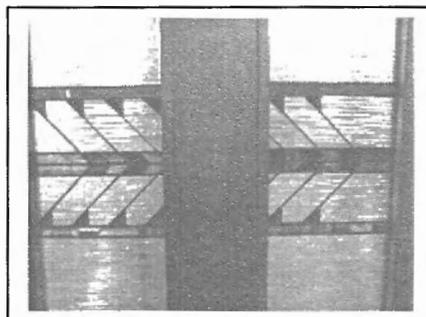


which "gives us a time for renewal with our church family, friends, and vacationers." Also important was the Nursing Home ministry at the Grand Marais Care Center, and funding for a hospital in Liberia.



The Properties Committee had much to report, including:  
"Handicap-accessible toilet finally became a reality.  
Posh potty is equipped with an electric heater and light!"

December 14<sup>th</sup> the congregation dedicated  
the beautiful new  
doors to our sanctuary.



*Ham and Pearl Muus by the Sanctuary  
doors designed by Ham and Don  
Lessard, and built by Don.*



A new light pole outside was installed and a gravel wheelchair-accessible entry to the fellowship hall was created. These improvements served Trinity and offered greater hospitality to those attending worship and events.

In 1997, the congregation also began considering having its own mission statement, rather than using the same mission statement as Bethlehem. **"Teach, Live, and Share Christ's Love"** was adopted by the congregation in 1999. President David Martin wrote: "We have countless opportunities for us to carry out the mission statement, offering our unique gifts."

**1998:** Trinity held a Healing Prayer Service on January 29, and the Order of St. Luke Healing Ministry began to play a role in the life of the congregation. The Witness Committee reported on the impact of the Martin home fire, and injuries to Tim Ramey and Clarence Hagen. A work weekend at Camp Vermilion was again held; Benevolence through the Synod was increased to \$2000.00, with additional monies given locally and globally.



At the annual meeting, held in January 1999, phone installation (a first at Trinity!) was approved.

**1999:** By the annual meeting in January 2000, the phone had been installed, and the phone number was handed out. Looking back, it can be seen that this was an important step in Trinity's ministry. A more difficult problem was the discovery that the church's well was contaminated, and while possibilities for handling the summer water needs were discussed, no decision was made.

**2000:** In the summer, Pastor John Hoganson accepted a call to another church, and Youth Director Mike Carlson left to attend Seminary. Interim Pastor Art Dale arrived for a several month period. In that time he visited most members, surveying the needs and hopes of the congregation. In the annual report Pastor Dale wrote: "You have declared your intention to shape a program which will call a full time resident pastor to the pastoral office at Trinity. You have begun this century by experiencing what might have been a dual crisis and instead have grown into new challenges. The new picture is this: two congregations with full-time, resident pastors serving separate communities and participating together in ministries of youth and family, senior and office ministries, and others as they emerge."

Dear Pastor Art, This letter is written with big letters and a fancy font. That signifies the big impact you have left on our small congregation...

Kim and Burt Carlsted-Gillis, Trinity Mission Supporters, 3/18/01

At a meeting on December 10, 2000, there was a review and discussion of "what the Trinity Mission, as intended by God" was. After lengthy discussion, member Rev. Ham Muus presented the following substitute resolution, which passed:

As members of Trinity Lutheran congregation present on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2000, we affirm an ongoing process regarding future pastoral leadership together with member associates; we are beginning to shape a vision where Trinity will 'grow its strengths' by responding to expanding opportunities for ministry. To meet these challenges and visions, we believe additional pastoral and lay leadership will be necessary. We encourage continued dialogue and prayer to determine the scope, shape, and substance of our Trinity Mission Initiative. We look forward to increased discussion with our Parish Partners at Bethlehem and the valued counsel and directions of our new parish pastor.

Congregational ministries continued, including Pastor Bob Sorenson's visitation, healing prayer, and adult education ministries. New members joined, Chris McClure assisted the Parish Nurse program, and Tom Murray, in his year-end Office Report for the combined parish, wrote, "Trinity Lutheran Church is a very important part of why I love working for the parish."

**2001:** President Stan Pelto wrote: As I sit here thinking about the past year, I can't help but think about all that has happened in this country and the world. The first thing on our minds should be prayer for peace for all people. Pastor Art Dale opened our eyes to see the need for Trinity to receive greater pastoral care. Some of the greatest things I have witnessed this year are the many prayers for healing and peace that go out to our church family when someone is stricken; I have seen God's healing power at work. The congregation continues modest growth in membership and ever increasing number of associate members and summer worshipers. So many of these people have become very special friends to us at Trinity, friends who are missed throughout the winter months.

### STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT



TO CALL AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
TO EXPAND EVANGELISM, WORSHIP,  
YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY,  
AND SMALL GROUP MINISTRY.

BETHLEHEM - TRINITY LUTHERAN PARISH  
GRAND MARAIS AND HOVLAND, MINNESOTA

JANUARY 27TH, 2002

Pastor Mark Ditmanson was called to serve Bethlehem/Trinity. A Strategic Planning Project identified four areas of ministry focus, Evangelism, Worship, Adult Ministries, and Small Group. The Annual Report states: "The vision of having two fulltime pastors serve separate congregations, which was the conclusion of the strategic planning committee at the end of last year, has undergone a significant revision in the past nine months. Now we choose to affirm the value of remaining together as one parish but served by two fulltime pastors. This revision will allow Trinity to grow into its ability to support more pastoral care over time." It was recommended that within days the process begin to call an associate pastor to serve the Parish.

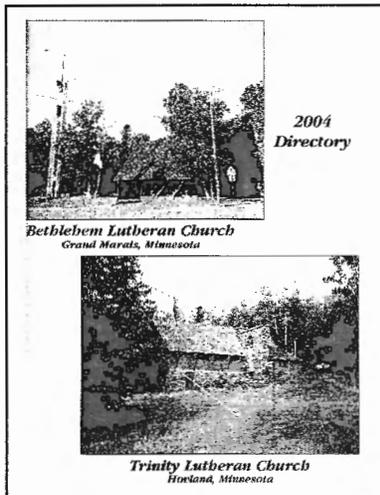
The inclusion of support for the Pan de Vida church in Arizona, a connection important to many Trinity members, was; (and is) an example of Trinity's response to the Holy Spirit. A budget item for National Disaster Relief indicates the impact of the September 11, 2001, tragedy.

The Parish Office Report for 2001, written by long-time Office Manager Tom Murray, shows the expanding needs of the two churches. A new telephone system for Bethlehem, which made communication more reliable, was installed (a gift from a parishioner). Also, the parish purchased a duplicator for bulletins, newsletters, and other printed materials, and found that in a year-and-a-half they had run 230,000 (yes, 230,000!) copies.

**2002:** Trinity provided funding and prayer support for Dean Bloomquist, who was receiving training for Youth Ministry. Mike Carlson served as summer intern; Trinity held a second worship service on summer Sundays, and hosted a Bluegrass Music Worship service on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. At the annual meeting in January 2003, there was discussion of moving the annual meeting date to later in the year so that more people would be in residence. As the constitution stated that the meeting is to be held in January it was felt that the process to change seemed a stumbling block. (It was noted, however, that the meeting does not have to be held on Super Bowl Sunday!) Funding was raised through the "Souper Bowl Sunday" program to give to food shelf programs.

**2003:** To address the increased pastoral needs for youth, families, Trinity, and adult education, Rev. Susan and Rev. Jeff Wallager were called to serve Bethlehem/Trinity. They were installed in March, 2003, and left for other ministry as the year ended. In his 2003 Report, Pastor Ditmanson wrote, "Transitions are difficult in any organization and result in a certain level of friction...by October a new division of pastoral roles was worked out and introduced, and the Bishop's office sent consultants to help everyone understand the unrest. Also it was a trying time financially as all struggled with the downturn in the national and local economy. It came as a surprise when Pastors Jeff and Susan resigned after one year of ministry; the positions did not fit their family needs at this time. We will move quickly into the call process."

Despite the tensions and changes, benevolence remained strong at Trinity. Stand with Africa, World Hunger, Pan de Vida, Operation Boot Strap, and Voyageur Lutheran Ministry were among the programs Trinity supported, in addition to the local food shelf and ELCA support.



A new Picture Directory for Trinity/Bethlehem was published to help members and friends of the parish serve in ministry together.

*"They shared everything they had..."*  
Acts 2:44-45

Another strong indication of the direction Trinity would be able to move came with the purchase of the Hollins property and house, which adjoined the Trinity church property. The possibility of using the house as a future parsonage was part of the decision.

The home required some updating, maintenance, and repairs, and over the years many individuals have contributed money and effort. Anonymous personal loans and designated donations applied to the purchase during the year resulted in a mortgage balance of \$58,992.52 on December 31, 2003.

2003 was also significant because of the establishment of the Arnold and Evelyn Flaten St. Olaf Student Work Camp Scholarship Fund to assist Trinity members who attend St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. This scholarship, made possible by the generosity of Dr. Howard and Dr. Edna Hong, with other anonymous donors, is intended to maintain the unique history shared by Trinity and St. Olaf students.

**2004:** The congregations participated in a four-session educational process initiated by Bishop Strommen's office. The program, Healthy Congregations, addressed the friction experienced in 2003 with changes in pastoral staffing.



In the annual report, Pastor Ditmanson wrote, "At the beginning of the year, we thought we needed to move quickly into a call process in the aftermath of Pastor Jeff and Pastor Sue's departure....the Lord's providence changed the necessity... Jonathan Rova and Bill Beckstrand called to offer their help...and the council's of both congregations reviewed our current staffing and have decided we should continue with our staff as it is (with Jonathan and Bill)....What does it mean to be a parish with a full-time senior pastor, a fulltime office manager, and two half-time pastoral associates? ....In general we have been utilizing Bill's focus toward Trinity."

An initiative for 2005 was a study titled "Deepening Faith through Study, Prayer, and Practice." Prepared and led by Pastors Mark, Jonathan, and Bill, the study pointed to the many ways faith practices intersect with our lives.

"The Trinity House went from rental to residence for our Pastor Bill Beckstrand. Only a dream a year before became a reality for Trinity House to be a parsonage, bring Pastor Bill and his ministry to downtown Hovland."  
President David Bloomquist, *2005 Annual Report*

Trinity is a growing place, and it has been a joy to be a part of the energy and enthusiasm there over the past year. Certainly the biggest of the changes has been the transition to a parsonage in Hovland and the presence of the office, church phone, etc....the life of the church made stronger as a result.

Pastor Bill Beckstrand, Synodically Authorized Lay Pastor, *2005 Annual Report*

The quietly consistent giving of members continued to pay for the mortgage, and the Holy Spirit brought many creative ideas to Trinity members—among them Trinity sponsored a very successful tour of area homes, and sales of hand crafted jewelry and greeting cards.



In 2004 new members were added, and average attendance for Sunday worship was recorded at 47.

With the addition of staff, the Trinity House, and the Flaten Scholarship, the accounting reports became more complicated. Still, as was often the case, the annual reports reflected benevolence to the ELCA, Camp Vermilion, and Lutheran Social Service. We also assisted in funding and serving at Michael Carlson's ordination, which took place at Bethlehem in the spring.



To address the needs for drinking and cooking water, especially for the busy summer months, bottled water showed up on the 2005 proposed budget for the first time.

Another issue that needed energy, patience, and attention to the Spirit of God was in the conversation brought by the ELCA Study on Human Sexuality. Pastor Mark reviewed this at the annual meeting as we prepared to send delegates to the Synod Assembly.

**2005:** Over many years there has been mention of Bible study in the annual reports and minutes of monthly council meetings. In 2005 the *No Experience Necessary Bible Study* material was used by small groups who met in homes. There was also an in depth study of the Gospel of Matthew, and a series titled Intersections.

A mission trip to Pan de Vida in Arizona included Jonathan Rova, Laura LaFavor, LeeEllen, and MaeAnna LaFavor. Much was learned and brought back to Trinity and into the lives of those participating in the trip. The Pan de Vida congregation presented the LaFavors with a cross for our congregation.



The Summer Bible Series focused on earth stewardship, and John Morrin from Grand Portage presented on Race, Culture, and History.

Concerns regarding the stewardship balance and budget needs of Bethlehem and Trinity were increasingly voiced. In October, talk of Trinity becoming an independent ELCA congregation served by its own pastor became a more serious issue of deliberation, a continuation of the discussion initiated in 2000; Rev. Scott Jacob of the Synod Office was consulted. These discussions gained momentum when Pastor Bill Beckstrand realized that his call from God was for dedicating more time to music and composing. While he would be able to continue assisting the parish, he would not be able to serve as Pastor at Trinity.

The Mission Initiative Team of Trinity (MITT) Report for the Annual Meeting detailed the 2005 events. Plans were made for an early summer congregational vote on council recommendations regarding future association with Bethlehem as a two-point parish, or separation into two individual churches. Conversations, discussions, debates lasted throughout the year, and, as the MITT Action Summary pointed out, the congregation was able, thanks be to the Holy Spirit, to stay focused on "Mission Priorities of Faith Nurturing, Mission Projects, Outreach, Pastoral Presence, and Quality Worship." Options included being a mission partner to a larger congregation outside the area, staying in the parish arrangement with Bethlehem, taking on the challenge of becoming a solo congregation without the financial backing of another congregation, and more. Costs of the differing approaches to ministry were also reviewed. The many hours spent on the topic cannot be calculated, and reflect the seriousness with which this was approached by all those involved.

Trinity again showed its willingness to adapt, and began adopting resources available in the new hymnal to be published in October 2006. Pastor Bill and Virginia Johnson, who at that point had been our organist for 34 years, led the acceptance of this new material.

The Trinity House roof was replaced, and other maintenance done; the 12/31/05 loan balance was \$57,811.60.

At the annual meeting, Pastor Mark referred to a devotional prayer found in the hymnal, saying it expresses what the Trinity Lutheran experience of the last five years has been for him.

*Lord God, you have called your servants  
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.  
Give us good courage, not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**2006:** The Annual Report for 2006, prepared for the January 28, 2007 congregational meeting, reflected much change, a mix of joy, anticipation, sorrow, and uncertainty. President Stan Pelto's report began, "To say this year was exciting is an understatement. We have felt God's hand in our congregational life; we have deliberated and prayerfully considered what God has in store for Trinity. And, we have been challenged by our Mission Statement to: **Teach, Live, and Share Christ's Love.**"

The report continued, "Change began long before the year 2006. The idea of Trinity's calling a pastor of its own dates back to 2000 with the Strategic Planning Committee of the Bethlehem/Trinity Parish and before that in conversation among Trinity members." When Associate Pastor Bill Beckstrand resigned, Council formed a Mission Initiative Team to review past mission efforts and explore the option of becoming an independent congregation with its own staff. The committee held several meetings and there were many informal after-worship conversations." Rev. Scott Jacob, Assistant to the Bishop, attended a January Bethlehem/Trinity joint council meeting regarding options and possibilities. Bethlehem Council members expressed support for Trinity in whatever decision was reached.

"At the regular Trinity Council/MITT meeting in January, a majority of Council and MITT members decided to explore a mission partner relationships to help Trinity financially through the initial months of 'going it on our own'. This was later discarded as an option because members felt we should step out in faith and "really 'go it on our own'." It was also decided that MITT would present a report for the congregational meeting on January 29, 2006. At the meeting, the congregation decided to vote in June or July on the MITT/Council recommendations.

"MITT continued to meet. To help decide if Trinity could afford a full-time pastor, a call for stewardship pledge cards took place between Easter and Pentecost....it was determined that Trinity could expect contributions of about \$58,000 for a year. In May of 2006, Rev. Scott Jacob again visited with the congregation and answered questions. The MITT committee and Trinity Council decided to recommend the internship program of the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministry) program for seminary students seeking to serve in remote and rural areas.

"On July 9, 2006, a letter went out to members to inform them of the vote on July 23, 2006. By then a new proposal was presented by Bill Beckstrand which did not break completely with Bethlehem but compromised in certain areas....another compromise proposed by Trinity member Rev. Ham Muus was presented to MITT and the Council in August. This, too, was explored."

"Recommendations from MITT and Council included: That Trinity hire an intern pastor to serve as worship and spiritual leader in the office of Word and Sacrament...that Trinity pay 100% of the costs associated with supporting the pastor and the related costs of independence; that Pastor Ditmanson supervise and guide the intern; that Trinity, in hiring an intern to serve, is committed to a process leading to issuing a regular call to full-time ordained ministry; that Pastor Mark will resign his call as pastor of Trinity, and Trinity will terminate services of other shared staff." Other recommendations included ways to maintain the supportive relationship between the two congregations, a relationship that was at that point 97 years old.

On October 8, with 41 voting members present, Trinity Lutheran of Hovland, Minnesota, passed the proposal by a 2/3 vote, reflecting their decision to become a distinct congregation in the ELCA.

On December 2, 2006, Kristin Garey was installed as our Intern Pastor approved by the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. We thank God for our Pastor and we are busy working with her to "teach, live, and share Christ's love."



*December 2006, Pastor Kris holding the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Guest Book, the photo used in the December letter introducing her to the congregation.*



December 3, 2006

*Trinity's tradition of decorating the tree and Sanctuary together following worship on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent continues...*

During the years leading up to the decision to become a separate congregation, there were many concerns and hopes expressed. The length, depth, and breadth of the process, discussions, options, and considerations cannot be overstated. The congregation may have become weary by the continual effort being extended, but they kept at the work being asked of them. Perhaps the Holy Spirit was reminding Trinity,

...they who wait for the LORD  
shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40:31*

2006 was not only about policy and procedure or major decisions regarding the congregation's structure. It was also a year in which the decision to order the newly released denominational hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) was made. In cooperation with Bill Beckstrand, Virginia Johnson, and the church council the decision was made to acquire the new hymnal when it became available.

Other activity included major work being done on the Trinity House. A poster with tasks that needed to be done was put up in the Fellowship Hall. Many members and regular visitors signed up, and many, many hands made the work not necessarily light, but fun. As the report puts it, "Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make a beautiful welcoming home for the Garey's. All work (except floor refinishing) was done by volunteers."

Also busy were the Trinity Teens, who met frequently throughout 2006. Pastor Bill, Treg and Denise Axtell, and Dianne Pelto led the 2006 group in Bible studies, games (Bible Baseball being a favorite), fishing, kayaking, and sledding. A significant activity was a July fish burger fundraiser during the Hovland Arts Festival. The Axtell family assisted greatly by providing fish, and Trinity members made other food. The proceeds went into the youth fund, and the youth in turn helped fund the purchase of a new stove for the kitchen (after all, those pizzas were cooking *really* slowly!). Council agreed with the Trinity Teens request that the Christmas Eve offering go to Stand with Africa.

Benevolence in other ways continued as well, to the ELCA, to Camp Vermilion, Pan de Vida, World Hunger, for the local food shelf and for assistance to a local family whose home was lost in a fire.

**2007:** The annual meeting was moved to an after-worship breakfast and meeting, which many people remarked helped attendance increase to 28 members.

"This past year, 2007, leaves us much to be thankful for. Our first year of a dream for our own full time pastor has been fulfilled. Pastor Garey has given us a taste of what is possible. Now, what we need to do and where we need to do it, will be up to us."  
—Sharon Bloomquist, President

## Pastoral Call Committee Report 2007 Annual Report

In 2007 Trinity established its first Call Committee as a solo congregation within the ELCA. This was an exciting venture, prayerfully conducted with an attitude of listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We saw this process as one through which God calls a person into ministry here at Trinity.

The Call Committee (Stan Pelto, Chair; Denise Axtell, Cheryl Ford, Dorothy Peterson, Jurine Schellberg, Jay LaFavor, Marcia Lacey) was activated by the Church Council as the internship year of Kristin Garey was coming to an end. The Committee considered several aspects of the congregation's mission, asked input from congregation members, discussed the needs and visions of the congregation at this time. It was helpful to meet with Pastor Scott Jacob, Assistant to the Bishop for the NE Minnesota ELCA Synod Staff, to review the congregation profile and receive his input regarding options and potential candidates. The Call Committee also met with Kristin Garey, Intern Pastor, to reflect on the internship year and the insights of the congregation as a whole has gained.

Trinity had a year in which much happened. From having its first Call Committee to a Women's Bible Study, led by Denise Axtell and Pastor Kris; from a Lenten Series that reflected on the Worship and prepared us to use the new hymnal, to the introduction of the new hymnal on Easter Day; from Summer Bible Series to Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Mid-Week Lenten services.

Benevolence included support for Lutheran Social Services, flood disaster relief for SE Minnesota, Cook County Salvation Army, World Hunger, and for a Maasai Lutheran Girls School scholarship for a Tanzanian young woman, Maria Yohana,. An important and moving worship experience was the first of Trinity's Easter Vigils. The Hovland Dock was the site, and in very cool temperatures we built a bonfire and enjoyed hot dogs before engaging in the centuries old traditional Worship anticipating the Resurrection of Our Lord. Scripture readings, candles, bonfire....and then there was Pastor Bill's jacket that began to smoke after sparks landed on it!

The Easter Vigil gives a chance to come together in celebration and reflection, out of doors, beside the Lake, with stars and moon and ice...knowing that it is all God's creation.

### RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD EASTER VIGIL



*"The Easter Vigil is the ancient and powerful celebration of the new creation that springs from Jesus' open tomb. The striking of the Easter fire; the lighting of the paschal candle; the singing of the ancient Easter proclamation, which calls the faithful to join the universe in new creation; the baptismal washing that buries us with Christ and raises us to life -- all these powerful actions draw us into the wonder of resurrection. The church gathers to hear the whole story, from creation through exodus and the prophets, ending the liturgy with the first taste of the resurrection celebration."*

Sundays and Seasons 2007  
Augsburg Fortress Publishing



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF HOVLAND,  
MINNESOTA



In May the Trinity Teens held their "Spring Splash" fundraiser with friends from the area. A few hardy adults helped out and they all jumped into Lake Superior in early May (yes, early May....brrrrr....brrrrr ....brrrr...brrrr) raising over \$1000.00 !



Spring splash, May 5, 2007

Other 2007 ministries included Women's Teas in June and December, and Thanksgiving Day Worship at which we gathered food for the Cook Co. Food Shelf.

**2008:**

"As we prepare for the centennial year of Trinity Lutheran Church of Hovland, we have much to be thankful for.

- We have seen the dream of our own pastor, living in Hovland and reaching out to the community, giving care to our church family and beyond.
- We could see the Trinity House paid for in this centennial year. What a gift to ourselves in this Centennial year.
- We have an opportunity to buy land north of the church and parsonage for future needs of parking, sewer system, well, community garden or..... The timing is right to go ahead and purchase the land before we lose the opportunity.

Thank you for your time, talent, and support for the work of Trinity at home and in the world. We ARE the eyes, hands, and feet of our Lord and you are seeing, doing, and taking up the work in His Service."

Sharon Bloomquist, President, 2008 Annual Report

Many ministries were occurring, including a Pie Social which featured sales of reprinted Edna Hong books. Trinity was also available for community needs, including weekly Hovland Area AA meetings, occasional meetings of the Undoing Racism Task Force and of the Flute Reed River Association Woodland Advisor Trainings. Vacation Bible School, Adult Bible study twice weekly, and Sunday School also were in place. Thanksgiving Day, Veteran's Day, Blessing of Graduates, Lent and Holy Week services offered additional worship opportunities. A request from the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee to raise funds for an piano was approved; the total of the fund at the end of 2008 made it clear we would be able to reach our goal and have a piano in place for our Centennial.

Centennial Celebration planning became more definite, with a growing awareness of the rejoicing to be done in thanking God for the life of Trinity Lutheran. We also had a Mission and Vision meeting, participated in the Hovland Arts Festival with sale of fish sandwiches, made duck nesting boxes (donated to DNR and sold with proceeds going to the food shelf.) December included a "Community Christmas Carol Sing" at Trinity to help the church and our neighbors look forward to Christmas.

World hunger, Dodoma Tanzania Medical Center, and the shipment of our old hymnals to a Lutheran church in Liberia are indications of our global focus; support of the Hovland Volunteer Fire Department, local families, and our prayer-card and prayer shawl ministries show our desire to share Christ's love in our community. Trinity also led Sunday worship at the Care Center several times this year.

For statistics, it was reported that our average worship attendance was 54, the Trinity House Balance on 12/31/08 was \$23,270.70. The Flaten Scholarship fund increased thanks to a major gift and book sales; Duane and Virginia Johnson, who keep the Cemetery records, reported that we received \$1300 sale of plots. The careful cemetery upkeep was pointed out as a sign of consideration for family and visitors.

An important event in the life of the congregation was the April 19 Service of Holy Communion, Ordination, and Installation of Kristin V. Garey. Filling the sanctuary, narthex, fellowship hall and all the aisles were nearly 250 people; following the service we served a meal at the Town Hall. The Holy Spirit brought people together from many places as Trinity held its first Ordination and Installation.

The Bulletin for the day told those attending:

*You are celebrating with us the first ordination that has occurred in our 99 year history. It is also our first opportunity as a single congregation to install our own full-time pastor. We see this as God's work within and through us.*

*Waiting for the ordination service to begin.*



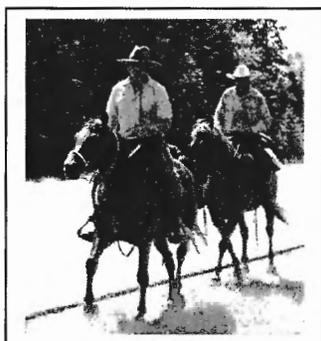
#### **2009, January to mid-August:**

In 2009, much of our attention has naturally gone to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration planning. However, other ministry has remained vital and valued. The Holy Spirit has brought needs of the community to the attention of the congregation, and families have been helped with cooperation of Trinity, the Hovland Volunteer Fire Department, Hovland Arts Festival Committee, and Thrivent Financial. Benevolence through our ELCA Synod and partners, such as the Dodoma Tanzania Health Center, Cook County Food Shelf, and Salvation Army continues.

Lenten Services using the Holden Evening Prayer offered a time of reflection and worship, a Healing Prayer Service was held, the Easter Vigil at the Hovland Dock drew many people together, The Resurrection of our Lord Easter worship included many Alleluias, the Trinity Brass, and much rejoicing.

In her annual report, President Sharon Bloomquist voiced the hope of the congregation to pay off the Trinity House Mortgage during our Centennial year, and possibilities for purchasing land adjoining the Church property are being explored.

Centennial preparations have included countless gifts from God. Music ministry through Trinity has been bolstered by purchase of a new Kawai Piano and 7 year old Johannus Organ, following a fundraising program begun in 2008. Our Summer Series has highlighted these gifts with Dedication Concerts for the Organ (with Bruce Bengston, Organist), Piano (Bill Beckstrand, Pianist and Pat Dorn, Vocalist), an evening of Celtic Hymns (Laura MacKenzie) and an evening with the local Christian youth band, Stalemate (which includes youth from Trinity and Bethlehem). There was a fundraising walk early in August, replicating the work of the original pastors of Trinity who walked from Bethlehem in Grand Marais out to Trinity once a month. More than \$1,200.00 was raised; half was used to reduce the Trinity House mortgage, half for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Of course, as is often the case at Trinity, people found many ways to accomplish the same goal. Walkers were joined by roller-bladers and horseback riders, and an invaluable support team led by Kim Carlsted-Gillis kept track of all us, fed us, and made sure we had cheers to greet us on each mile.



*Pictured here are only some of those who participated!*

As we look forward to the August 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> celebration, we have much to complete plans for and anticipate. We will welcome Trinity friends and family who live here year around or on a regular basis, and others who will travel from out of the state to join us. The history you are reading, T-shirts designed by Marge Fay, a Trinity Lutheran Cookbook compiled by Laura LaFavor and Lisa Bloomquist, and a Trinity Cemetery History compiled by Dusty and Nicolle Nelms will all be available. Erik and Phil Anderson, in collaboration with Bill Beckstrand, have written and composed a Hymn, *Sing All You Souls*, for this occasion (included in this book). We will have many opportunities to gather, reflect, and look forward together in Christ. Activities will include a Memorial Service at the cemetery, a Welcome and Hymn Sing on Saturday at the church, followed by a dinner held at the Hovland Town Hall.

On Sunday we will be joined by our ELCA Bishop Tom Aitken, who will preach and bring us greetings from our Synod. After our joyous Festival Worship, we will have a panel who will look at the history of the congregation while helping us anticipate God's movement in our future.

It is a bountiful time, and we are thankful to God for the Holy Spirit and the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ.

***With prayer we will endeavor to pursue our mission, Teach, Live, and Share Christ's Love, throughout our Centennial year and into our next centuries, praying in anticipation for the day Christ comes again !***

**Reflections from Members,  
Friends, and Visitors**

## Presidential Wisdom

At the Installation of Elected Parish Officers, the Pastor asks, "On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?" The officers are invited to respond, "Yes, by the help of God."

The congregation is then asked by the pastor, "People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?" And the congregation is invited to respond, "Yes, by the help of God."

Trinity is grateful for all those who serve this congregation and God as parish officers.



The faith and dedication of the early settlers of Hovland laid the groundwork for Trinity's Centennial Celebration this summer. With praise and thanksgiving, Trinity Lutheran Church continues to reach out, keeping our mission as a guide to "teach, live and share Christ's love" in the community and beyond.

Just as the early settlers did, today's members and friends continue to lay ground for those who are to follow. We have much to be thankful for that has made today's celebration possible: foresight to plan, cooperation to work as one body, perseverance to bring dreams to reality, and leadership for guidance. Trinity truly has a reason to celebrate today and every day—**God is good!** May we continue to be filled with His Spirit.

—Sharon Bloomquist, current Council President

—When you think of "mission field," what comes to mind? Is it a far away place with hungry and homeless people? Yes, BUT we have a "mission field" right next door to each and every one of us. Have you called on your new neighbors and asked them to join you in our worship service? Do you support a youth program, fire department, search and rescue squad? Do you call on the sick or the shut-ins in our community? When you ask someone, "How are you doing?" do you mean it and take the time to listen to what they need to tell you? WE HAVE A MISSION where the people have names we know—people we see with real needs. We all can make a difference daily, starting at home and next door.

—David Bloomquist  
*1994 Annual Report*

As I sit here thinking about the past year, I can't help but think about all that has happened in this country and the world. The first thing on our minds should be prayer for peace for all people.

—Stan Pelto  
*2001 Annual Report*

Trinity is a small church with versatile talents. To each member I say "thank you" for sharing your gifts in God's work.

—Dorothy Peterson  
*1992 Annual Report*

Dear Trinity Family: Our proposed mission statement is, "Teach, Live and Share Christ's Love." During the service we say, "We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love." This past year God provided countless opportunities for us to carry out the mission statement, offering our unique gifts. It is my prayer that we continue to recognize the Lord's opportunities and act upon his will for us.

—David Martin  
*1997 Annual Report*

## Trinity Means *Mission*

One way or another over the unfolding decades, Trinity embraced "mission." Early Hovland settlers carried hearts of faith which found expression in mutual care and devotion. Tough times as well as moments of celebration had common roots of spiritual depth. Immigrant neighbors and newborns were welcomed; weddings and baptisms performed; life storms were faced; deaths were mourned. The Trinity family was in "mission"...reaching out to others; inviting folks to share God's Good News thru Word and Sacrament. *Koinonia*...caring for others...formed the foundation of meaningful "mission."

Over the years...to this very day...many instinctively call Trinity a "mission parish." What a wonderful compliment to those who have faithfully shaped the worship and outreach life of this congregation. For some, Trinity is "mission" as partner with Bethlehem, Lutsen, and Zoar...along the North Shore. For others, Trinity is in "mission" reaching out to the surrounding community...a living, symbolic presence of Christ. Still others know the warm "mission" welcome hospitality that accompanies traditional gatherings. Many marvel at the incredible diversity of support extended thru Trinity to undergird "mission" outreach both at home and abroad.

All "mission" understanding is birthed in the heart commitment of each of us. We begin at home. As the pebble radiates out its circles on calm waters, so we find "mission" expressions radiating out from our own center. Trinity is blessed with folks who see the larger vision afar because they know the pastoral power of Christ's presence in their daily walk.

Dag Hammarsjold, the outstanding Secretary General of the United Nations, was a man of great spirit and faith. In his personal journal *Markings* he expressed this insight:

"How long the road is...

But for all the time that this journey has already taken, how we

have needed every second of it...in order to know what the road passes by..."

We are encouraged at this important Centennial moment to reflect on Trinity's "road"...our journey in mission...to "Teach, Live and Share Christ's Love.

Trinity history reveals a profound sense of mutual care. This humble community responds to neighbor's needs. Generosity abounds in Trinity's "open door" hospitality...a Christly presence.

How great is God's "mission" calling. From Superior fish house to distant Madagascar shores; from Cook County nursing home to the life giving African hospitals; from renewing Seagull wilderness and Vermilion campsites to blighted urban ghetto; from heroic work camp construction to Katrina habitat recovery; from devastating fires at home to war torn displaced refugees; from nurturing parish children to touching the hungry and homeless; from the gifts of music we hear to the songs and cries for solidarity in faith beyond...Trinity is enthusiastically a "mission" parish. From front door openness to global points of healing and hope, Trinity embraces its mission calling: "Teach, Live, and Share Christ's Love."

Thanks be to God.

—Pastor Ham Muus



## Tyna Ongstad's Invitation

I'm so glad that house turned into a parsonage. Well, everybody who ever walked into that house remarked about the feeling of love in it. That was our first house; we were moving away to a new life.

We moved here from California in April of '73, and we bought the old Jacobsen summer house. It was not in real good shape, and we had lots of work to do both inside and out. One day we were all working, working, working real hard out in the yard, when out of the blue came this lady with a greasy face and she had a babushka on. She was elderly and had an accent, because she was Finnish.

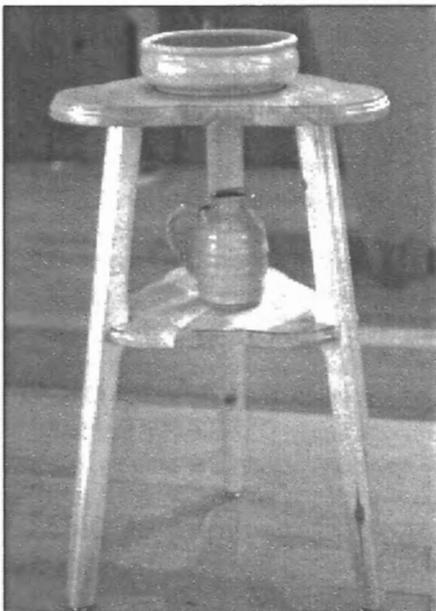
We were wondering, "Who was this strange-looking lady?" She said her name was Tyna Ongstad and that she hadn't seen us in church yet, and wondered why, and she said she wanted to see us in church. She was wearing tan slacks and a little flat shoe, a tennis shoe. She said she had been next door mowing the church lawn; then she looked at Denny and said, "You could be helping with the mowing." Then she said, "Well, I expect you to be in church on Sunday." And we were a little surprised because she was a little authoritative—and then she gave each of the kids a dollar bill that she had in her pocket. That was for a donation to put in the church collection, she said. Denny was 6 and Cortnee was 3 at the time. So, Tyna was the reason we started going to Trinity—and we were so happy to have a church family. We've been going ever since.

Later we got to be really good friends with Tyna. We found out that she greased her face with vitamin E to keep from getting wrinkles. The kids were a little afraid of her at first—she looked kind of scary. And then she started dropping off lettuce and she needed water, she said. Soon she had full run of our kitchen to get water and would fill up her bottles. Lots of people got water from us because it was such good water. Tyna would always tell me to come down for a sauna, and I thought, "I don't know—do we sauna without clothes on, and just what is a sauna?" Eventually Denny and Tim took over doing the church lawn.



The Jacobsen House 1946

—Janice Hall



On Sunday, March 14, 1982, the new baptismal font was dedicated at Trinity. The earthenware bowl and ewer were designed and crafted by Jan and Tim Hall, and the stand to hold them was made by Gilbert Bloomquist. Jason Hall, the son of Jan and Tim Hall, was the first child to be baptized in the new font on this special day.

—Elsie Palmer

*The Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration of Trinity Lutheran Church*

## Baptism Remembered

Each year, as a family, we remember our daughter Martine's baptism, which was celebrated at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hovland, MN on June 11, 2006. Pastor Mark Ditmanson led us and the congregation through this important event in our lives. We were pleased that Pastor Mark was present since he had also performed our marriage ceremony at Trinity in 2004.

On that Sunday, we requested that the congregation fill the role of sponsor(s). Since then, we have enjoyed watching Martine develop relationships with her "church our Trinity family cares for her and takes interest in her spiritual development.



As we recall Martine's baptism, as well as our own, we claim again the promises of the new covenant in Jesus Christ: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:18-20 Thanks be to God. — Kristen Carlsgaard, John Redshaw, Martine Redshaw.

## The Power of Baptism

Baptism to me is the dedication of someone (your child or self) to God. I was baptized as an infant and don't recall it. I was confirmed as a teenager and totally got it. It is another gift, given freely of God. When our son was born and we were thrown into a very chaotic situation of life and death for him, it was just natural that we should have him baptized. For us it wasn't the ceremony, as we did it in a hospital as they were literally taking him off to an unplanned surgery. But the baptism for us was to physically, emotionally and in every way, give him and his care to God. There was nothing more we could do for him from a physical point, no more love, nourishment; worldly things would make him better. Our hope was now in the medical field to see what they could do. But the real part for me was giving my child Jason Daniel LaFavor, completely to God. That time was emotional, but also very calming and powerful because I knew that he was a child of God and belonged to him and his wisdom. That our son would be OK, no matter what happened because God loved him and was caring for him. After a 5-hour surgery on a premature baby, God laid out the plan through the Doctors for his recovery. During the surgery, the chaplain came and told us that Jason means "Healer" and Daniel means "God is my Judge" I again was filled with God's powerful love and felt secure in trusting God no matter what.

—Laura LaFavor



Eric Ford

## Confirmation, Thursday School, and Summer School



Summer school was taught at the school house in Hovland. It lasted two weeks and cost \$5 for either each person or family that attended, I can't remember exactly. The day started at 9 a.m. and ran until 2 p.m., which was plenty long, boring. We brought our own lunch. I can tell you that after lunch I started watching the clock at 1 until 2. I can't remember having any books, but I doubt it very much. The material was mostly memorizing *Luther's Small Catechism*. There were no games, no one sent cookies, and I don't remember what we did for water. Water used to be hauled from Clyde Johnson's for the school; maybe that's where we got water. Well, that was over 60 years ago, who can remember 100% correctly?

We started Confirmation in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and went to Thursday School, what they call "release time" now. We had a book written by Jacob Tanner; he was Alice Govig's grandfather. The book was very, very good. I wish I knew where mine was—I haven't found it. Thursday School consisted mainly of memorization and work books. We had a hard cover book with an introduction to the Commandments, baptism, petitions... There were Bible verses that related to what we were studying. Everything had to have a meaning—"What does this mean?" So, anyway, I think mostly we went to get out of going to school...That's also when I learned from one of my Catholic friends about giving up something for Lent. He said he always gave up something he didn't like anyway. We never gave up anything for Lent.

Pastor Jerrold Moilien confirmed us. There were confirmands from all four Lutheran churches in the county. We were not all the same age or grade. Four of us were confirmed from Trinity—Mavis Udenberg, Lloyd Norman, my brother Kenneth Koss, and me. I think I was a sophomore in high school when I was confirmed, so that probably was in 1944 or 1945; it was in the fall. The Sunday before Confirmation we had to attend church at Bethlehem and stand up before the congregation and give answers to questions we were asked about the Catechism and other things. After Confirmation a lunch was put on, but we never even got a Bible. This is most certainly true, and what is the meaning of this?

—Dorothy Koss Peterson

## Confirmation

My faith started when I was only a few months old. Although I had no concept at the time, my faith started. My parents made a vow to the Lord and gave me to him. Now is my chance to proclaim God in my life. Confirmation to me is not about taking classes and memorizing scripture, to me it is the choice to confirm what my parents instilled in me; my faith. It is the chance to build my own concept of what faith in God means for life. Confirmation to me means standing before God and saying I choose to walk in your ways and study your will. It is also the first time that I as an individual belong to the church.

I remember ready the lessons on the day I was confirmed looking out at the faces and for the first time really feeling a sense of togetherness with my church family. Confirming my faith gave me a better understanding of what life with Jesus and the Holy Spirit really means. Standing in church that day gave me such a warm feeling of the presence of God so near to me, a sense of direction. From that point He has helped me make many life decisions.



Confirmation gave me the confidence to lean of God for guidance and a trust that he will truly be there always and forever. Pastor Mark and Pastor Bill were important for me during confirmation.

—LeeEllen LaFavor

MaeAnna, LeeEllen, Jason, Laura, and Jay LaFavor.

## Trinity Teens

"There is a Teen Bible Study offered two times per month at Trinity in Hovland created by LeeEllen LaFavor as an internship project for confirmation that has touched the lives of more than 12 youth who have attended."

—Pastor Sue Wallager, 2003 Annual Report

Trinity Teens always started out with us kids showing up and hanging out in the kitchen, throwing some pizzas into the oven, and talking about the fishing and hunting we'd done in the past week. When the pizza was done we ate and sat down in the basement. Pastor Bill shared his Bible reading and lesson and we talked about that for a while. Then we played games, usually Bible baseball. He encouraged us to read our Bibles and grow closer to God personally. Trinity Teens was always open to whoever wanted to come hang out at the church.

—Karlee Axtell

Trinity has been the field for a lot of activities by a group who refer to themselves as Trinity Teens. When their schedules weren't quite so busy, they'd meet twice a month at the church, eat pizza, plan outdoor fun, talk about how to raise money for programs like Heifer International, and learn about God through relationships with pastors, parents, mentors, and one another. Oh, and then there was the fun of Bible Baseball—fun for all ages, but it seems the Trinity Teens really know their stuff as they often send the rest of us back to the dugout.

"Batter up! It's time to test your Bible knowledge. With each question, players can hit a single, double, triple, or even a home run! The colorful new game board and pieces help you keep track of who's on first, as well as keep score. Great fun for the family or the classroom—even young children can get a base hit or bring the whole team home with a dinger! Recommended for ages 6 and up, 2 or more players. Contains 600 questions."

*Bible Baseball, from Standard Publishing.*

## Going on our own with God...

Here are some reflections on the past. It's all God's fault and I'm stickin' to my story.

I had the privilege of being chairperson during this period when Trinity went from a two church parish to a one church parish. Having been chair for much of the process I witnessed how God "suddenly" made that happen.

It probably began when an Interim Pastor by the name of Art Dale suggested we should have a full-time pastor: the seed was planted and God began his work. It wasn't very long before Dorothy Peterson said, "Let's buy that house next door for a parsonage." After much deliberation, that was done.

You think that was enough, but, oh no... Kim Carlsted-Gillis and Virginia Hahn said "we should have a pastor for that parsonage." Again, much deliberation, and then we were glad to have our Lay Associate Pastor Bill Beckstrand move in. It's at this time that our Synod began helping us along. Specifically, by a Pastor who was in charge of these things by the name of Scott Jacob. Our options were brought before us, including stay a two church parish, go "solo", have a seminary Intern, have a part-time pastor. Again much deliberation. By this time without us even realizing it we were committed to finding a pastor.

Now Pastor Scott Jacob, I liken to the nicest used car sales person you'd ever want to deal with. No high pressure, just facts and maybe a little hint here and there. Like, "I've got a good one for you." ain, much deliberation.

Now I could go on about all the committee work involved and list names and talk about the many meetings and the significance, but I'd rather just say we voted to try the Synod's suggestion (using a Seminary Intern from the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries —TEEM – program) for a year.



Dinner at the Hovland Town Hall.

Now it seems God had this all planned right along because I can truly say although I cannot compare her to a used car, this pastor was made for Trinity.

Trinity had the privilege of seeing Pastor Kris Garey ordained in its sanctuary on April 19, 2008 following a call to become pastor of Trinity. At this 100 Year Celebration we are in our third year with Pastor Kris leading us in worship. I think I speak for the entire congregation when I say that although much of God's work has been done and is being done, I believe we have just scratched the surface in bringing God into ourselves and the greater community that surrounds us.

—Stan Pelto

I was fortunate enough to be on Trinity's first Call Committee. This was both a rewarding and painful process. It was such a big step of faith for Trinity to call our own pastor. The Call Committee was made up of a group of very dedicated people. We spent many evenings working through the process of calling a Pastor. There were many concerns about separating from Bethlehem. I think in the end we really grew in our faith as we realized we were not separating from Bethlehem, but rather adding a new dimension to our religious community.

I thank all the members of Trinity for all their support and prayers for our Call Committee.

—Marcia Lacey

## Ordination

### Martin Luther's Daily Pastor's Prayer (from about 1540)

*Lord God, dear Father in heaven,* I am, indeed, unworthy of this office and ministry into which I am to make known your glory, and to nurture and to serve this congregation. But since you have appointed me to be a pastor and teacher, and the people need teachers and instructors, O be my helper and let your holy angels attend me. Then, if you are pleased to accomplish anything through me, have it be to your glory, and not to mine or to the praise of mankind.

Grant me, out of your pure grace and mercy, a right understanding of your Word, and that I may also diligently perform it. O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, our Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, send your Holy Spirit that He may work with me, yes that He may work in me to will and to do through your divine strength according to your good pleasure. Amen.

—included in the *Bulletin for the Ordination Service of Pastor Kristin Garey, April 19, 2008*

Of all the ordinations I have participated in, the ordination of Kristin Garey at Hovland had perhaps the most energy and excitement in the air. This was not someone being ordained to go elsewhere. This ordination service was for someone serving this congregation just as it was anticipating a new and promising future. People from the Hovland area were out in force, making special arrangements for the service and celebration afterwards. Quite a number of guests came from Duluth and beyond so the parking area was filled with cars. I've always loved the intoxicating smell that greets me as I walk into this church - - a whiff of pine needles and log cabin all mixed together with a tinge of smoke and brewing coffee. Today the place was filling up with people as Kris greeted friends and helped instruct those who would lead the worship.

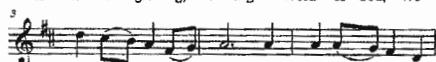


*Composed for the Ordination into Word and Sacrament of Kristin Rolvæg Garey  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Hovland Minnesota, April 19, 2008*

#### Lifegiving, Living Word



*Solo:* 1. Life - giv - ing, liv - ing Word of God, God's  
*All:* 2. "This is my Son," God's voice did say, "In  
*Solo:* 3. Lis - ten! Rise up, be not a - fraid! For  
*All:* 4. Life - giv - ing, liv - ing Word of God, We



own be - lov - ed Son, From bright - ning sky, from  
Him let all re - joice." His life makes dif - rent  
God's trans - form - ing grace Makes each be - liev - er  
long to take our place, To rise and fol - low



heav - en high His name: God's chos - en one.  
all you see, His na - ture: God's new choice.  
chos - en, too. Look up and see His face!  
where you walk, To be your cher - ished race.

Text: Kristin Rolvæg Garey, b. 1959 and William Deckstrand, b. 1962  
Music: William Deckstrand b. 1962  
FLUTE REED 8685

Amid all the excitement, I sensed Kris was moved by the significance of this day. I know I was. Only twelve years or so earlier, she had shared with me that a newly found faith was beginning to stir within her. A few years later she sat in my office and described an emerging sense of call to ordained ministry. And now, here she was, about to be ordained. How life had changed in ways she could not have imagined. And yet to me and, I believe, to Kris and those in attendance that day, it all seemed right, so very right.

This day was a joy-filled gift from a surprising, gracious God. And people were excited.

—Rev. Peter Strommen

*(Bishop, Northeastern Minnesota Synod  
of the ELCA, 1996-2008.)*

When I recall Ordination, I recall a kind and caring congregation, a true sense of being included by God in history-happening at the moment, and the mystical and powerful presence of the Holy Spirit.

Trinity Lutheran was taking a step, I was taking a step, and together

we were daring to affirm God's activity. There aren't candles mounted along the walls of Trinity, but my mind's eye recalls them. I felt music was heard *and* seen; good-will was offered by all people, for one another and to God. May all our work as individuals and congregations be for the glory of God!

—Rev. Kristin Garey

## Worship at Trinity

### Our Participation in the Body of Christ

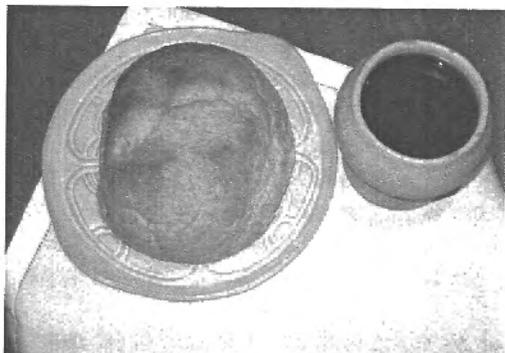
The communion reminder card you see here comes from another era—a time in the church when Holy Communion was celebrated once each month, and in many places even less frequently. In the early church, and for at least the first 1000 years, Christians gathered each week on the Lord's day around God's real presence promised to us in two things: His Word proclaimed and this meal, where we gather around a table with all of the church throughout the world—past, present, and future.

These early Christians could no more imagine a Sunday gathering without the meal than to consider worship without God's word proclaimed. For them (because of the Lord's command and invitation), Word and Meal belonged together, like "horse and carriage," or "love and marriage," as the old song goes.

In this new millennium, the church has been on a journey back to the essentials of the early church, and Holy Communion is now, once again, restored to its rightful place with the Word of God each week, as we gather around our risen host and Lord of all, Jesus Christ.

Trinity, too, has joined that renewal. We now celebrate Christ's Holy Meal each week as we gather. No longer do we need communion registration cards or reminder cards. At every Sunday gathering we eat and drink together—saints and sinners alike—called to God's forgiveness made known to us in this encounter.

I am grateful to Trinity and to God for having had a small part to play in the stream of history of this marvelous place, and I have yet to experience a parish that is more genuinely the "participation in the Body of Christ" that St. Paul talks about. With him, I can say that I merely prepared the ground, Pastor Kris came along and watered it, but God made grow our life together, gathered around His table of mercy. —Bill Beckstrand

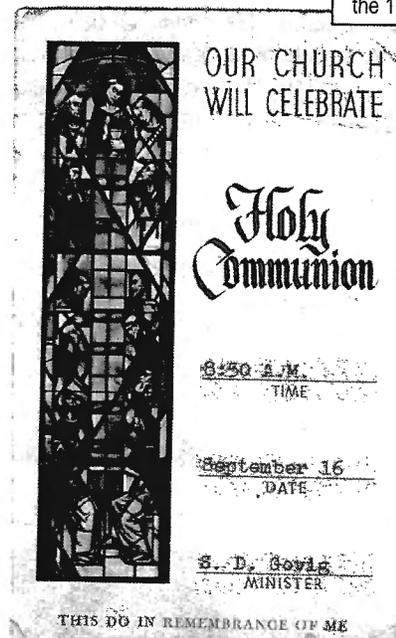


"When I made the communion plate and chalice, I gave considerable thought to an appropriate Christian symbol. I tried several ideas, but it seemed that nothing worked. I ended up by using a tool to inscribe continuous circles, symbolizing the everlasting love of God, the everlasting presence of the Holy Spirit, and the everlasting forgiveness of Jesus Christ."

—Rev. Arvid Sundet

(Arvid attended Trinity while working in Hovland in the 1980's. He realized God's call into ministry, returned to college, then attended seminary, and was ordained with his wife Rev. Kim Sundet.)

This card is from  
the 1950s.

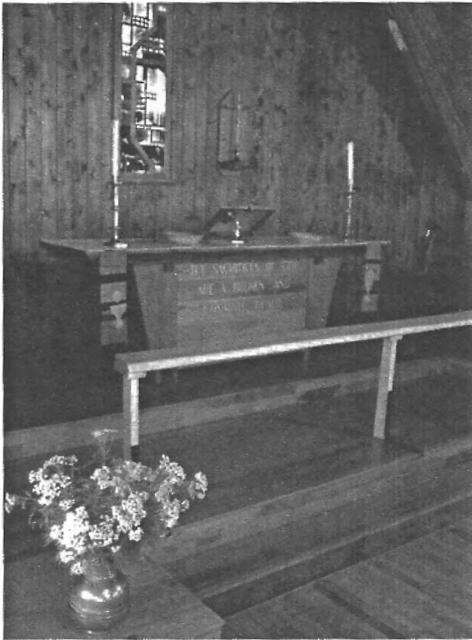


I really enjoy making the bread for Communion which I started doing sometime in 2008. I did have an old Catholic Church cookbook that has a Communion host type recipe, but I thought I didn't want to make that because it then had to be wafer thin. I was looking for a flatbread recipe that has multi-grains in it, because I thought that might be a little closer to what was used by Jesus. Then I found the one I use most often in a Minnesota cookbook. It's a Finnish recipe and has several grains; I found another recipe that I could make, without as much stuff in it, so I combine them and also vary the recipe as I don't always have everything the recipes ask for. Last time instead of wheat of germ I used steel cut oats....so I just substitute. That's the way it would have been originally, you make it with what you have. It's simple and I just put it all together, and then I let it sit there and let it rise (I do use the yeast type bread for us). I make a ½ batch so it doesn't get stale. It tastes good. Sometimes on Sunday I think "lets see, I could critique that, should I have used oatmeal instead?" But then, I realize: it's not the bread I've made, it's the Body of Christ.

—Diane Bjorklund

For the first many years we were here at Trinity, the bread and wine was prepared by a wonderful guy named Tim Hall. His untimely passing a few years ago turned over this responsibility to me, and recently Cheryl Ford has joined in this service. You see, there are a few things in this world compared to seeing the expression on a child's face when they are taking communion. That alone is all the reward one needs in serving Christ in this way.

—David Hahn



Each Sunday we have the opportunity at Trinity to receive Communion, and each Sunday I'm given an awareness of the gift that God gives us.

There are Sundays when we have the opportunity to kneel at the altar rail, and Sundays when we stand to receive communion; the host to the Bread of Life is always Jesus.

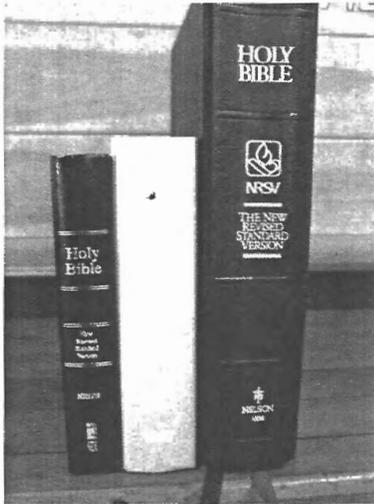
As I've talked about with those who make bread for us to use, "You make the bread, measure and mix the ingredients, form and bake the loaves, and then bring them to church. Then before long, you are standing with hands held out, ready to receive God's gift. This always humbles and teaches me."

—Pastor Kris Garey

## Word

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” Mark 13:31

Everything points us toward Christ



In 2008, The ELCA introduced an initiative to encourage individuals and ELCA congregations to renew their commitment to become more knowledgeable about our book of faith, the Bible.

“When we Lutherans say the Bible is the Word of God we mean, above all, that the Bible is the book that reveals Jesus Christ to us....Everything in the Bible points us toward Christ and helps us to know Christ and to love Christ to have a relationship with Christ who is risen from the dead.”

Mark Allen Powell, *Opening the Book of Faith*, (page 32)  
Augsburg Fortress, 2008

“Bible study for me is: a time to look forward to, for gathering with my neighbors, to share and care with them as we prepare our soil together for God to plant his seed and enable us to blossom and flourish into God’s beautiful vine of Christianity.”

—Stephen McNeally

Preaching that Proclaims Christ

“You have been called among us to proclaim the good news.”  
(from Installation Service for ELCA Pastors)

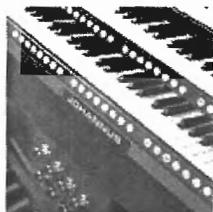
“The preaching of the Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ is rooted in the readings of the Scriptures in the assemblies for worship. Called and ordained ministers bear responsibility for the preached Word in the Church gathered for public worship.” (Use of the Means of Grace, ELCA 1997, Augsburg Fortress )

Trinity has been served by many pastors. Each has had a different voice, each has had a different style; . each has been called to bring the Word of God to the congregation. In December, 2006, Kristin Garey became the first pastor to serve Trinity as a single congregation. Previous pastors who served the combined Trinity/Bethlehem parish included: Mark Ditmanson, Robert Sorenson, William Beckstrand (lay associate); Jonathan Rova (lay associate), Jeff and Susan Wallager, Art Dale, John Hogenson, Wayne Edmund, Mark Osthus, Robert H. Stoskopf, Joseph P. Nystuen, Joel Anderson, Steward D. Govig, Rolf G. Hanson, Aubrey L. Edmunds, Jerrold L. Moilien, James O. Peterson, P. Lauritz Mork, H. M. Herstad, H. F. Johnson, Thomas G. Sandeno, C.G. Eidnes (and T. K. Jacobs served Bethlehem from 1901 – 1904 and may have brought ministry to Hovland) and Rev. Gable.

Thanks be to God for the spiritual guidance, leadership, and hard work each of them and their families have brought. If we have missed someone, it is not by intention, but rather mistake.

## Music at Trinity

One of the remarkable facts about Trinity is that we have "almost always" had musicians who have shared their talent and interest in music with us. Virginia Johnson continues to be our full-time organist; her willingness to be with us, to share music leadership with others, and to adapt to changes in hymnal, instruments, and other musicians taking a turn sets a tone for many Trinity endeavors. Over the years we've had several other people who have regularly assisted with music. It is obvious that music is important for worship and community at Trinity.



As part of our preparations for the 100<sup>th</sup>, we raised funds to purchase a new piano. A joyous part of the story is that we planned on how much we needed, and raised the money we felt necessary. God's generosity reached further—more money was received, and the dealer we purchased the Kawai piano from helped us buy a seven-year old Johannus Church Organ to replace our thirty-year-old organ by adding to our funds. These fine instruments will help us continue to worship, serve God, and proclaim Christ for generations to come.

Our 2009 Summer Faith Series featured dedication concerts for both the organ and the piano. Thanks to all who have made this possible! Music is a vital part of worship on Sundays, at mid-week services, for weddings, funerals, and meetings. We are grateful to God for our new instruments, our musicians, and music. We also enjoyed a Celtic Hymn concert, and the band, Stalemate, from Bethlehem Lutheran (with members from Trinity and other churches).



## Music in Worship



Music in worship takes many forms. From the way that the persistent urging "Come, Holy Spirit, Come" gives us time to really invite the Spirit to be with us and to guide us, to the story that lays out our sin and the way to be saved from our sin; from the songs of encouragement and God's love, like "Borning Cry," to songs that guide us, "We give Thee but Thine Own," to the celebration of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," we have many pieces of music that add to our worship and that ARE worship.

We have many musicians that share the gifts and messages that God has given us, such as Bill Beckstrand, with his original compositions and arrangements, the Trinity Brass, Virginia Johnson, the Trinity Choir, Kim Carlstad-Gillis, Kristen Carlsgaard, and many others who contribute to the worship of our Lord. Most of all though, it is Jesus along with the two or three that are gathered who make worship complete.

We praise you Lord, and thank you for giving us music! —Treg Axell

My natural gifts (meaning I enjoy them the most) include sharing my voice by singing solos, using my simple but welcomed guitar skills, and by joining in the choir we assemble when Bill Beckstrand joins us. But probably the most enjoyable place for me to sing and play is at the Care Center in Grand Marais when Trinity leads their Sunday worship. With past faithful "regulars" such as the Hahns, Bloomquists (Loretta, Sharon, David), Petersons, and Cheryl Ford I have enjoyed singing with and serving the residents who beam with delight as we spent time with them every few months. I know when I share music and conversation with these lovely, well-aged people, it is me that leaves blessed; and double blessed when piano accompaniment has been given by Bill or Al Fuller. The Trinity Brass group of the Axtells, Jay LaFavor, and John Redshaw made it real special one Sunday.

At Trinity we enjoy the gift of so many people's music. Mildred Thoreson, Philis Anderson, Karina Roth, Stacy Hawkins, Hans Peterson, and all the Trinity members and friends who join in choir or gatherings come to mind.

In addition at the time of this writing, we now have the Centennial Celebration coming up; we'll pull together our choir and have a special hymn. Ah yes, and the "new to us" Johannus Organ and Kawai piano. Indeed instruments God had reserved to locate in Trinity.  
—Kim Carlsted-Gillis



I'm over 90 years old now, but when I was a kid living out on the Camp 20 Road, I took lessons from Mrs. Kjarum. Then I started playing for church on the pump organ. I remember practicing at church and it was really cold in the winters because I'd practice on Saturday and the fire wouldn't be going for Sunday worship yet. The pastor would tell us the hymns, and we'd put them on the board for people to know what was going to be played. I remember the pastor sometimes would change the hymns in the middle of the service, and I didn't like that because I'd worry that I hadn't practiced. We took the

pump organ and the hymn board from the old church to the new church, I remember that. Then at the new church we got the electric organ. That was quite a thing for the church. It took awhile to pay for it. I didn't play too much longer after that. I find myself even now humming hymns to myself sometimes. Favorites that come to mind were *Yield Not to Temptation* and *In the Garden*.

—Helen Sundquist (from an interview with Kim Carlsted-Gillis and Pastor Kris Garey)



*Hymn Board used in the old church, and still today!*

When I started playing for Trinity, Helen Sundquist was the regular organist. I'd had a couple of years of lessons in Grand Rapids. The instructors were real strict, and I was only about 10 to 12; you don't learn much at that age, so I learned by playing. When my family moved to Hovland, I started substituting in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade; at that time they had church in the old school house, and sometimes in the old hotel, before the new church building was finished.

Dorothy (Koss) Peterson played the piano and Helen and I took turns on the pump organ. When the church basement was finished, we had worship there until the upstairs was done. Then we got an electric organ after awhile. I remember that Carolyn Bergstrom, Ida Hammer, and Esther Kilstrom used to sing together in church. I probably have copies of all the old hymnals, including the thin one *Triumph* that the Sunday school used. My mother was Sunday school superintendent when they got that one. My daughter Misty used to sing with me for certain songs. For favorite hymns I'd say you can tell by the ones we play at church the most, but I like

*In the Garden, How Great Thou Art, Old Rugged Cross.* When the Hinderlie family was here a lot, it always helped because they could really sing. I like it when the people sing, and it's been good when singers like Kim are here so people have some one to follow, it helps make it fun. Otherwise people seem afraid to sing.



Some of the songs I can't stand to play, but we have plenty that are ok. Some of the ones now in the new hymnal have two or three tunes; sometimes I like all the tunes and then it depends on what the people are used to and can sing. Like *Love Divine All Love's Excelling*. They put some of the good old songs we used to sing in the new hymnal, too.

I think music is important for church. It's ok with me if other people like Bill Beckstrand or people who visit want to play sometimes. I've kept playing because I'm here at church anyway and I like to play.

—Virginia Johnson (from an interview with Kim Carlsted-Gillis and Pastor Kris Garey)



## This Generation

and

the Next



## The Bell

Our Sunday bulletins show the first action in the order of worship to be "Prelude and Bell." The organ or piano is played, and at 8:30 a.m. the bell is rung. This bell was used at the original church, and the congregation brought it along to the new Highway 61 location.

Every generation at Trinity has had its young people, or older-people, ring the bell which summons us to worship.



Stories are told by folks camping in the area who thought they'd pass up the opportunity to worship, only to hear the bell ring at 8:30 a.m. and give one another "that knowing look." The next week they were at church, ready to worship.. And then there are the people who go deer hunting...they tell about being in the woods on Sunday morning, and knowing what time it is, and where their friends and family are when the bell rings.

Since the parsonage came to life, and pastors reside there, it has become possible for the bell to be rung at midnight on New Year's Eve, proclaiming with all God's creation that Christ is Alive.

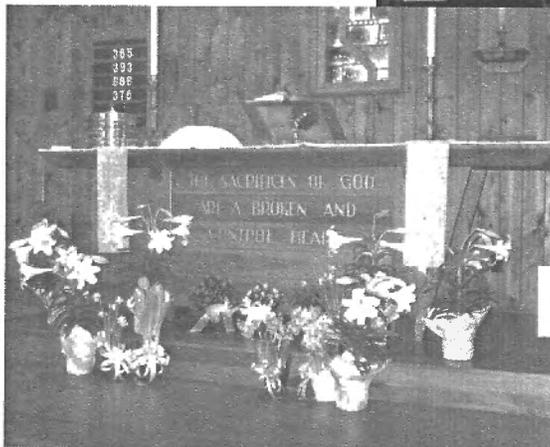
## The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Sunday

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!*



Easter Vigil at the Hovland Dock

Trinity Brass



Easter Garden

“Tis the queen of season, indeed. Easter is the great feast of the church, the week of weeks, a fifty-day festival of rejoicing. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed with shouts of alleluia, and there is good news for everyone: death has been put to death, humanity has been restored, even the face of the earth is renewed with life, the desert flowering into a garden.”

Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2008

On Easter, Trinity joins all the Church in rejoicing and proclaiming,  
*Alleluia, Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed!*

## Christmas at Trinity

Traditions form the foundation of our character. Imagine a life of continuous "going on" with no "going back." Going back plants us in a place, in a family, in a community. I have noticed that as time goes by I enjoy going back to my old neighborhood, my elementary school, the place of my first job. I enjoy reconnecting with old friends I haven't seen in a long time and I enjoy celebrating special times and seasons and going back to those experiences which have become traditions.

Christmas Eve Candlelight worship and potluck at Trinity has become one of those traditions for my family. As Trinity celebrates one hundred years of ministry with a focus on hospitality there is a special warmth in the community on Christmas Eve in worship and in the connection between families. The candlelight worship is a long-standing tradition and over the years music and presentations have enhanced the experience and special outreach has been achieved with offerings dedicated to World Hunger relief, the Cook County Food Shelf, Pan de Vida congregation in Arizona and the Dodoma Tanzania Health Development program. All of these and more are expressions of the Trinity congregation reaching beyond its own boundaries.

While the potlucks of Christmas Eve have focused on our own community, they too have been motivated by the commitment to ministry of this congregation. Whether the loss of a loved one or the loneliness of the elderly there continue to be opportunities for Trinity to comfort those in need in our midst. Lifelong member Dianne Peltó says about the Christmas Eve potluck, "What began as an outpouring of love for a grieving family has now grown to become an inclusive and inviting tradition at Trinity; the outpouring of love is still there."

We have been members of the Trinity community for only twenty years but we have adopted the tradition of Christmas Eve Candlelight worship and potluck at Trinity. They have become part of our "going back" of our connecting with a serving and loving community that energizes our Going On. Thanks be to God.

--David Nasby



Emily Martin plays special Christmas music.



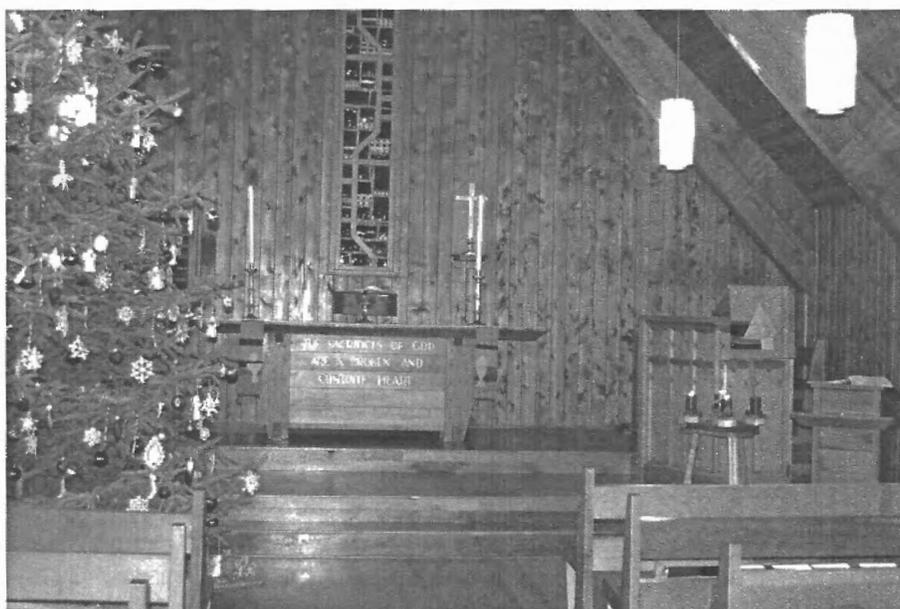


"Twas a cool brisk and dark winter's eve. The hay filled wagon rolled and swayed along the old country road heading for its final destination. Its grand finale. The main reason for its neighborhood rounds. Christmas carolers, nestled atop and amongst the hay bails, were primed but subdued. They'd made their rounds, successfully completing their practice run of joyous offerings to many a neighborhood home and family. The dress rehearsal was complete. Now came the final performance. How would it be received?"

That is the beginning of the story that ends with the formation of the Trinity Christmas potluck tradition. As Mary Jo Flack beautifully tells it, "Don Palmer had recently died; his wife Elsie and son Mark were home alone on their first Christmas without Don. But neighbors stepped in, delivering friendship, companionship, and what became a new ministry for Trinity Lutheran and many Hovland neighbors. Mary Jo puts it this way, "The Lord reached out through that window of pain and touched them with His love and light that brisk and dark winter's eve." Carolers and a horse drawn sleigh came by, "bringing this couple some of the Lord's peace and love on the sad Christmas they were experiencing."

Because they would have been alone on Christmas Eve, Mary Jo goes on, "the idea came to mind to have a Christmas Eve potluck at Trinity Lutheran Church. So now, when you hear about or enjoy the Trinity Christmas Eve potluck, you'll know the story behind it."

And when Mary Jo wrote this story, she closed with: With His Love—Mary Jo Flack



## Healing Ministry at Trinity

Gordon and Marie Lindemann were the instigators and we went through a study so we could all join the Order of St. Luke and we read books on healing and scriptures on healing and there were people at Bethlehem also interested and other area churches and we would try to have healing services about once a month for a couple of years. We had music during the healing service time and people were invited to come forward for prayers. We had two stations, one led by a pastor typically and the other by a lay person. There were people that would come that were not from Trinity, so it was an outreach to the area. People who had a current health or family concern would come forward and we would literally pray for the specific ailment or crisis.

It was very moving, and you really felt God's spirit present as you shared in a confidential setting someone's physical or emotional concerns with you. And then you were able to pray with them and for them. One time we held this at the Congregational Church in Grand Marais. There was contentment in knowing that people felt lifted up in prayer. Not everyone would come up in prayer, but they were in the midst of the body of Christ praying for one another. Pastor Bob Sorenson would often participate and was a good model for us. —Kim Carlsted-Gillis

### There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-c-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,

2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,

3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain,

you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all." and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

From Evangelical Lutheran  
Worship, Hymn # 614  
Augsburg Fortress, 2006

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BAF M IN GIL. 2210, African American spiritual

I had never been part of a healing service before. I mean, not on the praying for and putting hands on someone end of the ministry. I have been prayed for, and had healing oils put on me, and I remember feeling overwhelmed and feeling comforted and feeling warm all over. Not a physical warmth but an inner warmth or glow. That tiny flicker or spark to rekindle the light I needed to find my way back from the darkness I'd sentenced myself to. I'd turned away from God for a long time and it wasn't until a few years ago that I was able to let that spark of light re-ignite my soul.

At our Lenten Service of Prayer and Healing in 2009, I found myself standing beside our pastor laying on hands and asking God to heal those who came forward. They came to ask for healing of their bodies and souls. As I whispered a healing prayer and put my hand on a shoulder I could feel that overwhelming feeling of comfort and warmth within me. God was healing us, all of us, in this little tiny church way out here in Hovland. It wasn't anything spectacular or amazing. Nobody threw away crutches and walked away or had their physical sight restored but there were miracles that night, little ones we couldn't see, but knew were happening.

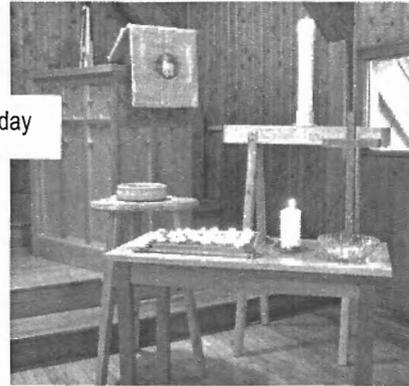
—Penny Schuppel

## Funerals, and the Resurrection Promise

"At a person's death, the church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth. At the funeral we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise in baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure hope of the resurrection. When the church gathers to mark the end of life, Christ crucified and risen is the witness of worship, the strength of mutual consolation, and the hope of healing." At the death of a loved one, we grieve, but we also hold on to the Resurrection promise."

—Evangelical Lutheran Worship,  
Augsburg Fortress, 2006

All Saints Sunday



### Cemetery

The Trinity Cemetery is located on the North Road, at the site of the original Trinity Lutheran Church, Hovland. It is tended with care and respect by a variety of people, and there are area residents who find comfort in walking quietly among the trees there.



### *Sending a Saint to Heaven*

When the illness of his daughter, Magdalene, became graver, Martin Luther said, "I love her very much. But if it is thy will to take her, dear God, I shall be glad to know that she is with thee....In the last thousand years, God has given to no bishop such great gifts as he has given to me.... I'm angry with myself that I'm unable to rejoice from my heart and be thankful to God..."

When she was in the agony of death, Luther fell on his knees before the bed and, weeping bitterly, prayed that God might will to save her. Then she gave up the ghost in the arms of her father....When she died, Luther said, "I am joyful in spirit, but I am sad according to the flesh. The flesh doesn't take kindly to this. The separation troubles me above measure. It's strange to know that she is surely at peace, and that she is well off there, very well off, and yet to grieve so much.... There is no sorrow except that of the flesh.... Do not be sorrowful. I have sent a saint to heaven."

*Luther's Works* 54.430,431,432,433

September 1542

## Sunday School at Trinity



I taught Sunday school for 20 years, until my children were done. At one point years ago we had 21 kids in Sunday school. For one Christmas program we had a terrible blizzard, and the dilemma was if we cancelled, the following weekend families would be gone. In the end we decided to have it even though one family was drifted in...we had it and the church was full, people managed to get there. I had struggled for hours with the decision...but it worked out, the people were glad they came and the kids really liked it.

—Loretta Bloomquist

When we moved here in 1984, Sunday School consisted of our two daughters, Janell and Teresa and Jason Hall. I taught several years as did some of the other women. Over the years more young families had children and Sunday School increased teaching such a small class of many ages was challenge but rewarding.

—Linda Kiel

With the "advent" of a new church year, Trinity began offering a Sunday School class for pre-schoolers through 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Participants enjoy a special learning time designed with kids in mind. We are focusing on the meaning of a variety of symbols used throughout the liturgical year. *Rings, Kings, and Butterflies*, a publication of Augsburg Fortress, is our guide for weekly discussions. Each week children have the opportunity to learn about Christian observances, to learn a Bible verse, to sing and to pray. And, of course, we still enjoy fellowship time with the teens and the adults! Thank you for your prayers for Trinity kids as they grow in faith.

—Kristen Carlsgaard



2009

Our youth population is scarce now, but thanks to Kristen Carlsgaard who started an after service Sunday school time in the Sanctuary. She brings creativity and knowledge about other cultures to the kids, who in turn teach us. This past Lenten season we learned about the meanings of different crosses.

—Kim Carlsted-Gillis

1970s



## Vacation Bible School

When I taught Vacation Bible school I had an old Pontiac station wagon. I'd drive up the Colville road, pick up kids there and then; heading to Trinity. All along the way I'd pick up more, and the kids would be jammed in the car. And then later, the same with a pickup with a topper. We'd stop at the Flute Reed store before going home, and the kids would be so glad to get an ice-cream cone after a fun day.

—Loretta Bloomquist



There was a great team of Laura LaFavor, Kathi Johnson, Nancy Martin and myself. Put in Mike Carlson, Youth Director at Bethlehem/Trinity for awhile, and we know God was hearing lots of songs and prayers from young and old. Even Gordy and Marie Lindemann were involved some days. Trinity VBS reached beyond member families, spreading God's love to the whole kid-community

—Kim Carlsted-Gillis

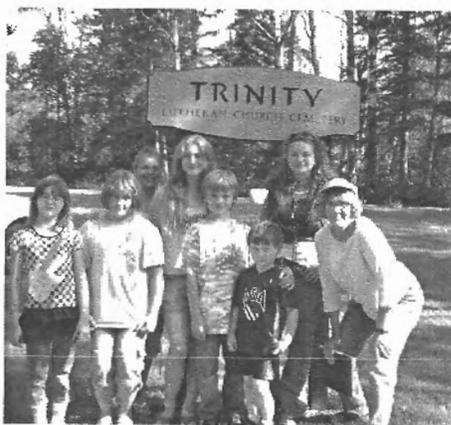
Over the years Trinity has provided a "Community Vacation Bible School. It has varied in length, duration and style over the years. But each summer we find a need for God's word, love, and story to be told to children, and we find children filling up our church—it has made each year so amazing. Even though our children numbers may seem small in our attendance numbers, the Vacation Bible School sessions I have been involved in have always been successful in how the kids respond. I have been involved in Vacation Bible School for the past 20 years and I just learned that one of our past students has now had a child of her own, and so it continues!

—Laura LaFavor

VBS Children's Prayer, April 12, 2009

Prayer

God loves all people  
 trust in gods love  
 pray for all the churches  
 in the world, for all  
 the pastors, and for all  
 the people who lead VBS.  
 for all the friends on earth  
 for the war to end,  
 have faith in god, for the  
~~from the~~ ~~for 100~~ ~~trinity~~ ~~to~~  
 Amen  
 to last another 100 yrs;  
 and for the doors to  
 keep opening up for  
 other people Amen



## We're not here year around, but it feels like home



Kris and I, along with Kris's parents Curt and Ruth Johnson, have been seasonal/associate disciples of Trinity for nearly 40 years. That is rather significant in that most of those 40 years Kris and I were disciples within a different Protestant denomination. So, there must be something about Trinity that's special. It has always been spiritually comforting to have a "church home" to return to when we've returned to Hovland over the years. We could have chosen another faith community in Grand Marais but something about Trinity kept us in Hovland.

That "something" is a combination of rich spirituality and hospitality. While we do not attend a church just for hospitality or the feeling of a "safe harbor," it has been comforting to have been included and welcomed over these years even though we have not been regular attendees. We have never felt as "outsiders" because we lacked regular attendance. Quite the contrary. The spirit of "invitation" has always been a core value at Trinity. It has been wonderful to have been accepted as faith friends over all these years even though our absences at times have been extensive.

We have always felt a part of the Trinity family. Though hospitality and invitation are honorable attributes within Trinity, it's the spirituality within Trinity that is most important to us and highly visible in its daily church life. Trinity's "works" are both local and global and continue to grow. We have become closer to God through our association with Trinity. It's Trinity's "words, works, and discipleship" that have allowed us another growth opportunity in our faith journey. Happy 100th, Trinity! May your "words, works and discipleship" serve God well into the next 100 years.

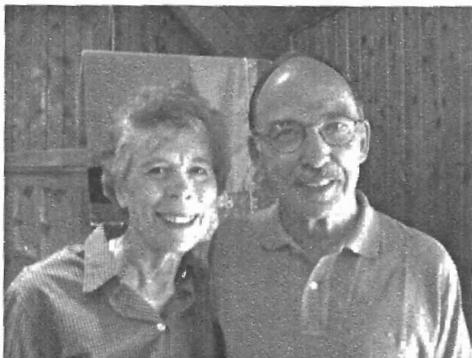
—Greg and Kris Palfe

I remember meeting Greg and Kris Palfe on my first Sunday at Trinity, December 3, 2006. Greg was pouring coffee, and kept saying to people he knew and didn't know, "Hi, I'm Greg, I'm seasonal." That told me about the acceptance Trinity extends.

—Pastor Kris Garey

Trinity is a place where you can meet people that have been in the same area for years, but that otherwise you wouldn't meet. Even after years of being in and out of Hovland during our working years, in retirement we are spending more time at Trinity and meeting and getting to know many people. When we built the cabin in 1953 our primary local connection was with Charlie and Millie Mainella, who went to the Catholic church. Charlie loaned us equipment to use, from hammers to trucks to a mortar box. Hovland and Trinity have a common way of bringing neighbors together. Clarence Johnson and Harold Schuppel and John Koss were also people that made us welcome and were helpful. Lots of people, then and now.... reach out to strangers and us new "immigrants" who show up here. From Otis Anderson to Greg Palfe to Rusty, Kathi, CoLee, Skyler, and Clay Johnson who make us feel at home and share fish with us. Oh, and Axtells, Peltos, and Nasby's.... I guess the list goes on and on.

—Jurine and Willis Schellberg



We are grabbing the moment to tell all the great blessing this church community has been in our lives. Always, we have felt welcomed and loved; always, we are graciously welcomed back, when we once again show up. No one asks, "where have you been?" No one treats us like anything but a welcomed member of the family of God. The church is the center of our lives; God uses Pastor Kris and Trinity to bring the Gospel and his unconditional love to all who come. The Gospel bursts from this church community.

—Cassie and Bill Gamble

## Trinity/Community

A small community, a small church. From its beginnings in 1909, membership must not have been as important as knowing your neighbors and sharing: horses, plows, gardens, rides— my father Oscar Sundquist was in that very first list of members, but my mother and his children never have been on the rolls. Mother worked as hard as any other in the Ladies' Aid in doing the money-raising pie socials and apron sales; she sang in the early choir, and was the coffee stop for the pastors on their way to the next church. One of the stories we heard during the years was that the sermons were in Norwegian. Another anecdote was that the preacher visited and told Mom that if she didn't have her babies (this was around 1929) baptized, they'd go to hell—she told him that's where he could go. The stubborn Swede never joined. During the 40's we left the area and joined a Baptist church and were baptized (complete immersion!) as teenagers. Not many Lutherans in Southern California. We returned in 1945 and are back in the fold, members of Advent, our family away from Trinity.

The Hovland Community Club and Trinity were mostly the same people, same goals—working together, worshipping together, playing together. Most of us were related in some way or another and can trace our roots to those early founders.

—Marge Sundquist Fay  
Cedarburg, Wisconsin  
& Hovland, Minnesota



Church Women, L to R: Gudrun Norman, Elsie Palmer, Anne Sundquist, Leona Schuppel

## Trinity from a Hovland Point-of-View

Trinity Lutheran Church has always been very community oriented. Each 4<sup>th</sup> of July Hovland has its annual Hovland Arts Festival. This year, I had the wonderful opportunity to be the Director of the Festival. It was so enjoyable working with Trinity Church and Pastor Kris as we worked out all the food details. It takes a lot of dedicated church members to serve the food at the Festival each year. As the Director, I heard so many people tell me how wonderful it was that a Church would work so hard to serve food. What a wonderful way to raise money for the various outreach projects of Trinity. The Festival truly thanks Trinity for all their support.

—Marcia Lacey, Hovland Arts Festival Director

Trinity Lutheran Church, fondly and so rightly known as "TLC", has become a cornerstone for so much of what it means to live in the Hovland area. Throughout the year residents, summer residents and other visitors gather to enjoy and become enriched not only by the Worship Services, but also by the other activities presented at Trinity. Our family has been welcomed at Trinity as we have shared many different celebrations and events there.

Our oldest son Sean, along with Erik Anderson and Blaine Flack, was involved with the summer vacation Bible sessions. Ben and I have been present during many of the Summer Talk and Summer Music Sessions. I was also invited to be a part of a panel presentation on vocations led by Phil Anderson. During many of those times our son Ryan and daughter

Erin, and Kajsia Anderson, spent time together playing board games and eagerly awaiting the Coffee and Dessert Social later in the evening! My faith growth (in being Catholic all my life) has inspired me to continually seek knowledge to help me be closer to the Lord, and hopefully spread the Good News to others by how I live. I cherish the sharing I have been privileged to be a part of in attending gatherings with TLC members.



This winter a group of us read "The Shack", and it was so interesting getting all the perspectives that we each shared. There have been several Women's Evening Socials to get us acquainted with newcomers, and community members we've never had the chance to meet. During various events at the Hovland Town Hall, Trinity has had a presence to help those gathered celebrate even more so, as when the Youth Group helped keep us fed with the Fish Sandwiches, etc.!

And being we didn't very often have family near during the Christmas season, we have been included in the Christmas Eve Service and community meal. That has been so welcomed by our family and helped make the meaning of Christmas more of what it is all about to live in Christian community with others around us. Thank you to the membership for all the time, talents, and treasures that have helped build the Trinity Community.

—Mary Petz

## God's Global Vision through Trinity

**HOLY COW!!**  
**LOOK WHAT WE DID FOR WORLD HUNGER!!**



Awarded to  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
Hovland, MN

for generous giving in 2008

◆ \$29.36 per confirmed member ◆

Blessed be God, who is our Bread;  
May all the world be clothed and fed.

The Hunger, Justice, Rural Life Concerns Committee  
Northeastern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Darlene Munnack*  
Mrs. Darlene Munnack, Chairperson—April 26, 2009




If you look back a few years, or twenty years, or longer, it becomes clear that God has kept the people who come to Trinity interested in meeting the commands of Christ to feed his sheep. One of the most frequent recipients of benevolence from Trinity has been food for the hungry. Perhaps because we share so easily within the congregation, we find it important to also share with those outside the doors of this building.

The Cook County Food Shelf, Lutheran Social Services, Grand Marais Salvation Army; share responsibility with all of them for our neighbors. We also contribute annually to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal—and last year again received an award (one of the Holy Cow awards) for our giving. In recent years we have also gathered food during

worship on Thanksgiving Day, at Christmas, and when the food shelf quantity is low.

Money donated for coffee during our fellowship time after worship (Coffee an'....) goes to the Hunger Appeal, and there are often other times when we specify donations for this effort.

—Trinity Lutheran

We began hosting AFS foreign exchange students in 2005. At first we weren't sure about the idea, but after 5-10 minutes of talking it over, we dove in. Paul Stodt was our first AFS student.



Next was Svenja from Germany, and then Sarah from Italy; next was Ida from



Norway and now Nuchada from Thailand. Each of these young people has brought new challenges, joy, knowledge and sometimes pain into our lives. Each has changed the community around them in very special ways and they have been changed by the love and support they've received here, through host family, friends, community and church.

We've always discussed the option of attending church with our AFS daughters and sons and all have shown an interest in going to our church. Their contributions have been noteworthy. Paul helped bring German traditions to our

Christmas service, helping us learn *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* (Silent Night) in German; this has become a favorite at Trinity Lutheran on Christmas Eve. Svenja brought her own touch to Trinity during Reformation Sunday. She read from the German Bible both at Trinity and Bethlehem Lutheran in Grand Marais. The languages didn't matter; two cultures had come together in Christ.

Ida recited Advent scriptures in Norwegian, and assisted with Communion. We now have Nuchada (New to her friends), who is Buddhist but shows an interest in going to Trinity; we're excited to introduce her to our church family. We've enjoyed sharing our AFS experience with Trinity. The AFS is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world.

—Barb Wiltz and Joe Knox

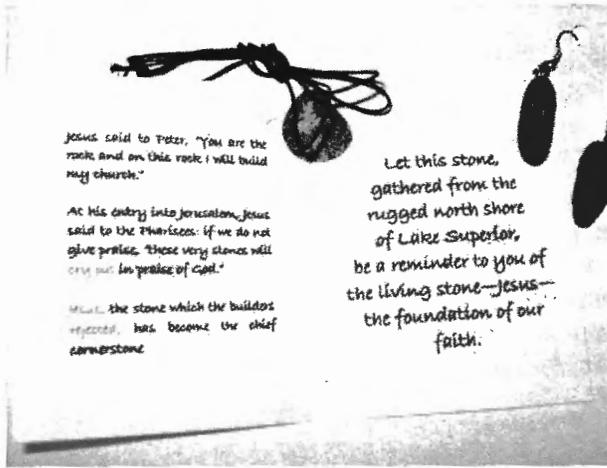
## Parsonage



In 2003, the house and land next door to Trinity was up for sale. Quick thinking and planning gave Trinity the chance to buy the house. The thinking was that it might be good just to own the property and rent it out, and that it would offer the possibility of having a pastor who lived in Hovland.

Much hard work and fund raising for purchase and repairs ensued, including a tour of nearby homes (of members and non-members). This gave us a chance to meet new residents, and to raise money to help with expenses.

Other methods, which seem smaller in scale but which show the creativity God was bringing, were welcomed by the members of Trinity. Included were greeting cards, and rock jewelry.



Large or small, the projects showed the determination of the congregation to let the Holy Spirit guide, even when it seemed to go against common sense sometimes.

The Trinity House parsonage today. There is always work to do, but what a lovely place to be!



## The Unexpected at Trinity

### A Fox Comes in the Door



*Photo by Sandy Updyke*

The summer of 2004 Trinity held 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. One very warm midsummer Sunday morning the doors to the church were left open for ventilation. Pastor Susan Walager was conducting the 10:30 a.m. service; while delivering the sermon she suddenly stopped speaking. She said softly, "A fox just came through the door into the church." As everyone turned around to look, the movement startled the fox, and it turned and ran out the door. The glimpse of God's creation made us all appreciate that Sunday a little bit more.

—Doris and Hod Bolinger

### The Parable of the Hummingbird

MaeAnna LaFavor stopped me one Sunday during Worship. We were sharing Christ's peace when she said, "Look up there, Pastor Kris, there's a hummingbird, and it looks stuck in the beams. It's flying back and forth. We need to help it get unstuck." I looked up and realized and realized, sure enough, there was a hummingbird. After the service MaeAnna, and then Katrina Axtell took a stronger interest. Many people seemed to pitch in, and soon Katrina was convincing someone to get a latwith great patience was and a tall ladder, to be sure we helped get it back in flight.

—Pastor Kris



On Sunday August 18, 2008, a hummingbird visited us in church. The bird flew to the highest peak of the ceiling. Flying back and forth it seemed to be trying to find a way out, by the end of the service it looked to us to be exhausted. Several members of the congregation attempted to rescue the bird. They tried flowers, red clothing, and sugar water to guide it to safety. They even tried to frighten the bird down; but nothing worked.

Katrina, a high school student, was determined to help. She taped two poles together with a cup taped on one end; sugar water was added to the cup. Climbing as high on a step-ladder as possible, she raised the cup to the bird. The bird at first flew to the opposite beam. Katrina quietly held the cup, and the bird came to trust the cup and perched on the cup's rim. Gently lowering the cup, Katrina carefully enfolded the bird in her hands. Taking the bird outside, she offered sugar water, then released the bird to fly away to safety.

In life, we find ourselves trapped by the actions and words of others and by our own failure, folly, lack of wisdom, self-centeredness, and sin, which imprisons us. Like the hummingbird, we seek a way out. Back and forth, trying the same thing over and over to find a way out. Our fear turns to terror and exhaustion. All the while God's grace is beckoning us to follow, for God's grace will rescue. But we are afraid and believe we must find our own way out.

Then, one who is lifted up with outstretched arms, offers to us the cup of living water, bread and wine. We come to trust these gifts as the food our souls need. The one draws us to himself. Christ takes us by the hand. We know it is not the hand of retribution and judgment, but the hand of steadfast love. He leads us to safety and sets us free to live a new and abundant life.

Then we are able to sing with Charles Wesley in his grea hymn, "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing:"

He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free.  
Hs blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

—Tom Sears, August 18, 2008

## The Church Building and Grounds

Like all buildings that are 69 years old, our church building will be needing repairs over time. The unique style is recognized and appreciated for the artistic craftsmanship that brought the design to life. The history of the building is Trinity is found in the pages of our earlier history, and we hope you will come to know it, for it is a story of partnership and cooperation.

Perhaps one of the lasting impressions of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History is the quote from Martin Luther:

Any one who is to find Christ must first find the Church. For how can one know where Christ is, and where faith in Him is, unless he knows where His believers are? Whoever wishes to know something about Christ must not trust himself, nor by the help of his own reason build a bridge of his own to heaven, but must go to the Church, must visit it, and make inquiry.

Now the Church is not wood and stone, but the company of people who believe in Christ. He must keep company with them, and see how they believe, teach, and live.  
—Martin Luther

As Trinity faces our next century, we will be not only keeping up and tending to the building that God has provided for us, but we will be tending Christ's flock (John 21:16).



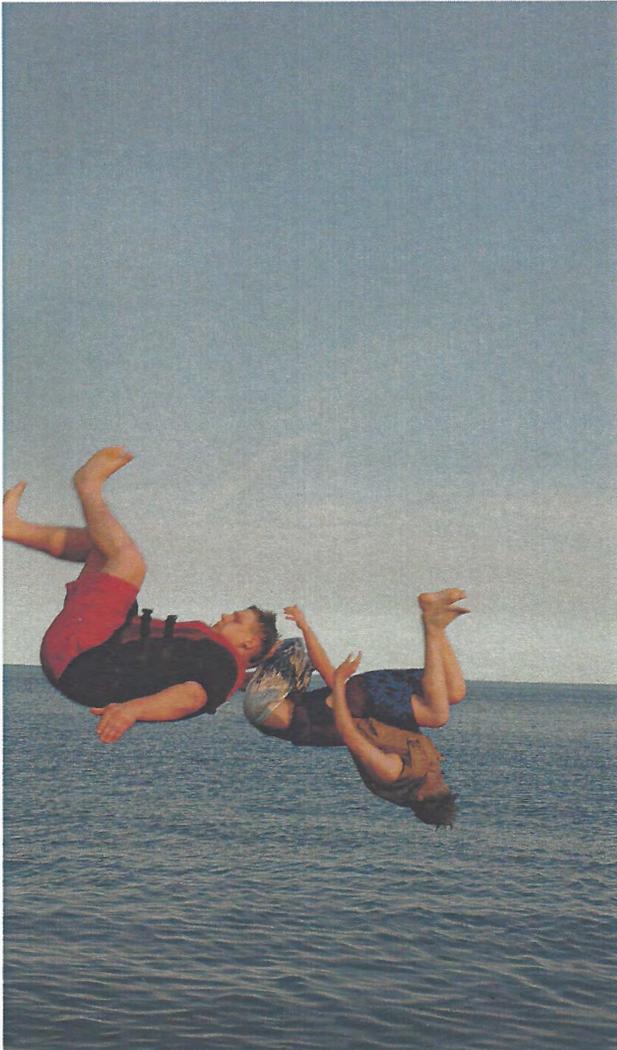
### With God in our Future

With God in our future, we rejoice. We hope to finish paying the mortgage on the Trinity House parsonage within this Centennial year; there is a possibility of an opportunity to purchase adjacent land to protect our future needs, but our main focus is on the ministry God call us — spreading the Gospel. Our ancestors in faith have taught us well, here at Trinity. We will strive to do the same for the next generations, and to Teach, Live, and Share Christ's Love, and ask the Holy Spirit to help us as we do so.

Please include Trinity and the work of this congregation for the Gospel in your prayers.

Pastor Kristin Garey

## Thanks for Diving in!



Thanks to all.....There are too many to name, and our list will be incomplete. However, in addition to all those whose words, photos and reflections fill this book, a few specific "thank-yous" must be handed out:

Dianne Pelto, Pastor Kris Garey, Historians and Editors; Elsie Palmer (deceased 1997) Editor, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History; Sandy Updyke, Karen Nasby, Phil Anderson, Proof Readers and Reviewers; David Hahn, Trinity 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Cover Art (front and back); Erik and Phil Anderson, William Beckstrand, Hymn Text and Music, "Sing All You Souls;" Kim Carlsted-Gillis, photos, scrapbooks, and ideas; Penny Schuppel, photos; Laura LaFavor and Lisa Bloomquist, cookbook; Dusty Nelms and Nicolle Nelms, cemetery history collaboration, Elsie Palmer, Jan Hall, Linda Kiel, Chris McClure, and Coutnee Ashford; Larry Spaulding at The Print Shop in Grand Marais.

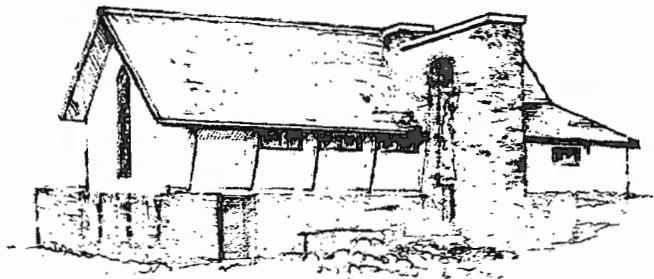
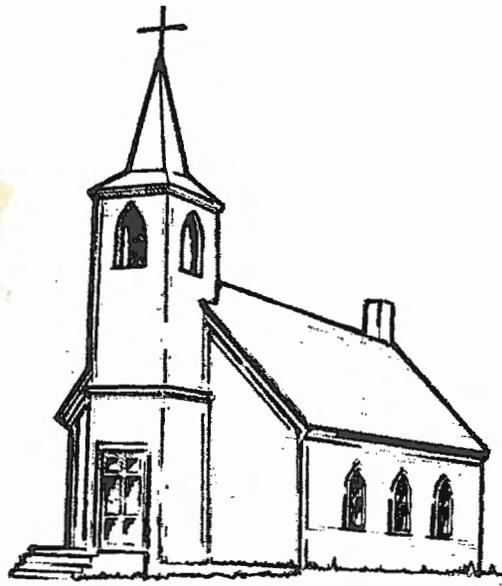
To those who contributed material for publications or displays, thank you. If you don't see it explicitly here, you can still be certain it gave those working insight and knowledge.

To those who encouraged the process, thank you.

For the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the parsonage, church building, grounds, and cemetery will all be prepared for visitors. Food will be prepared, guests will be welcomed. choir, Trinity Brass, organ, piano and liturgy will lead us into worship that allows us to encounter God.

For thank yous on the centennial weekend and year, again, any list will be incomplete. Our congregational president Sharon Bloomquist has said it will be "an all hands on deck weekend," and that our efforts won't stop with the end of the year. Thank you to all who lend hands in labor and in prayer.

***May the Holy Spirit stir us to pray for Trinity's centennial year, ministries, and congregational life — so that all might look up and see Christ Jesus and know the love of God.***



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