

Our Saviour's 50th Anniversary Banquet

Saturday, February 5, 2005
at Concorde Banquets
20922 N. Rand Road in Kildeer, IL
Cost: \$50.00 per person

6:00 pm Light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

7:00 pm Dinner of Mixed Grill

8:30 pm We welcome our dinner speaker: Martin E. Marty, one of the most respected and distinguished church scholars in the country. A University of Chicago professor emeritus, Lutheran minister, and senior editor of *The Christian Century*, Marty is the author of over 50 books. Dr. Marty's topic is:
"Active Faith + Faith Active = Love"

Music and Dancing will follow Dr. Marty's remarks until 11:00 p.m.

Invitations will be mailed out before November 1, 2004. Responses are requested by December 12, 2004. After December 12, the ticket price will be \$60 per person. No tickets will be sold after January 5, 2005. Please reserve your seat early.

***For more information on the Banquet, contact:
Linda Falotico***



The First 50 Years A Brief History of Our Saviour's

by

R.E. COOK

September, 2004

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Pastor Russ Sorensen
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Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1234 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL
www.oursaviours.org

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with joy and a humble sense of thanksgiving for the many blessings God has given us that we present to you this publication as part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration!

The enclosed history of our church was written by Dick Cook, an OSLC member since 1956 and a member of our staff (as Business Administrator 1981-2002 and Facilities Manager 2002-2004) since 1981. Dick has also acted as our historian and archivist over the years and is well suited to write a history of our congregation.

*After 23 years of service, Dick retired on September 30 to spend more time painting, walking, and volunteering. On behalf of a grateful congregation, **Thank You**, Dick, for your years of service and for this fine history, too!*

I hope you will take time to read this history during the next few months of celebration and participate in as many of the anniversary events as you can.

Our Saviour's has come this far by God's love and grace. Relying on God's grace we will continue to grow in faith to be active in love for 50 years and more to come!

*Russ Sorensen,
Senior Pastor*

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
The First 50 Years
R. E. Cook

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church had its beginnings back in 1954 when the Illinois Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America sent a mission developer, Pastor George Hoog, into the Arlington Heights area to start work on a new congregation. Many Lutheran families moving into the area found the closest churches available to them were Trinity in Des Plaines and Holy Trinity out in Elgin.

Pastor Hoog started work in the area on October 27, 1954, in preparation for the first service, which was held in the multi-purpose room at Dryden Elementary School on the south side of Arlington Heights on November 21, 1954. Over 70 worshippers participated in the service and heard "greetings" from Rev. Donald Hauser of the Board of American Missions. At a congregational meeting on February 19th, the name "Our Saviour's" was chosen by a vote of the Charter Members. A group of nine men were elected to serve as the church council and Pastor Hoog was designated as President.

From this beginning and many more calls by Pastor Hoog, the congregation grew rapidly, and on February 20, 1955, was organized and constituted a "church of Christ" by the Rev. Dr. Harmon J. McGuire, President of the Illinois Synod. There were 91 adults and 54 children in attendance. A congregational Fellowship dinner to celebrate the forming of the "new" church was held in the dining room of South Junior High School.

The first Communion service was celebrated by 80 people the following Wednesday, which was most appropriate as that was the beginning of Lent and the journey of Our Saviour's Church. The congregation continued to grow and with that a call was extended to Rev. John P. Petersen who was at that time the Pastor of Ascension Church in Chicago.

Pastor Hoog relinquished his duties on October 23, 1955, and Rev. Dr. Harmon J. McGuire installed Pastor Petersen as our first called Pastor the same day.

As the congregation continued to grow, it was not long before the decision was made to purchase land on the north side for a new sanctuary. The first operating budget for 1955 was \$3,725. The Board of American Missions paid \$3000 for the Pastor's salary and any amount above that was the congregations responsibility, which was \$1,000.

The proposed budget recommended for the future included: \$16,000 for land and \$21,000 for a parsonage. Various loan sources were available to acquire these funds. A further recommendation was made to start a building fund with a goal of \$5,000 for the first year and that challenge was met. The calling of the pastor required the purchase of a parsonage and that challenge was accomplished.

In June 1957, Robert Wolff, a music faculty member at Arlington High School, became our first organist and choir director. He served in that capacity for approximately six years when he resigned to accept a faculty position at Marshall University in Huntington, WV.

The congregation Building Committee hired the architectural firm of Charles E. Stade and Associates in 1957 to design a new sanctuary for the land purchased at 1234 North State Road. Ground breaking occurred on February 23, 1958 and the corner stone was laid in place on May 18, 1958. The first of many building additions was dedicated on Nov. 9, 1958.

The congregation continued to prosper and by 1962 the membership had grown to 1,062. It became obvious we were outgrowing our facilities, thus the first addition, the south educational wing was begun in 1962 and completed in May, 1963.

On May 24, 1964 Pastor Petersen resigned to take a position with Lutheran Social Service of Illinois to develop a ministry for juvenile and adult law offenders.

Pastor Donald D. Pritz was called from Faith Church, St. Louis, MO, and was installed on August 1, 1964 by the Rev. Dr. Robert Marshall, President of the Illinois Synod of the L.C.A. On the same day Paul Hanson, who had been on the music staff at United Lutheran Church in Oak Park, joined our staff as organist and choirmaster.

With steady increases in membership (1,292 by 1971), it became evident that larger facilities would be needed. By 1972, this growth necessitated the enlarging of the sanctuary, the adding of a large meeting room, and new church offices. This project was completed and dedicated on January 21, 1973. Because of this growth our first Assistant Pastor, Wilford P. Hendrix, from Southern Seminary, was called. Due to health problems he resigned after a short term in office. Approximately one year later a call

was extended to Pastor Gerald L. Meyers, from Gettysburg Seminary, who served for 2-1/2 years and then resigned to go back to graduate school. Carla Haubrick was called to direct our education and youth programs and served in that position for approximately two years.

In May of 1974, Pastor Pritz resigned to accept a call to St. John's Parish in Sterling, Illinois. During the selection process for a new pastor, a parish member, Dr. G. Everett Arden, served as our interim pastor until a new pastor had been selected.

On February 23, 1975, the 20th anniversary of the congregation was celebrated with special services and a membership dinner. At this point in time our membership had risen to 1,302 parishioners. On the same date, Pastor Richard N. Jessen was called to be our third senior pastor and was installed on April 6, 1975. Pastor Jessen had served as a Staff Assistant to the Bishop of the Illinois Synod of the L.C.A.

The congregation continued to grow and on February 24, 1980, our 25th anniversary was celebrated with the Rev. Dr. Robert Marshall preaching at all services. An anniversary dinner was held at St. Peter's Lutheran School with the Rev. Dr. Paul Erickson, President of the Illinois Synod, as the guest speaker. Former pastors were guest speakers during the celebration month.

The increased youth activities and workload necessitated the need for added pastoral staff, which resulted in the calling of Pastor William W. Zieche, Hamma School of Theology, who took office on July 1, 1976. He served as pastor to our youth for

approximately 4 years and resigned in May 1980 to accept the challenge of a mission church in Wisconsin. Pastor Christine Anderson Stiger of L.S.T.C. accepted a call in July 1980, to become Associate Pastor of our church. Pastor Stiger was the first of five fine women pastors called to Our Saviour's.

The next month, Mr. James Valentine, a rostered Associate in Ministry, accepted our call to be the parish Youth Director. With Jim's arrival the elements were in place for a strong effective staff.

It was during the following period of time that many activities were started and expanded. These included the "Word and Witness" program that prepared us to live the Christian life and witness the same to others.

In January, 1988, under the direction of Pastor Stiger, the "Stephen Ministry" program was started. It continues to this day and has been one of the most important outreach endeavors. Since its inception, 17 leaders have been trained, 128 ministers have completed over 50 hours of training, and well over 6,000 hours have been spent nurturing over 300 care receivers.

The "Friendship Callers" group was started to assist the Pastoral staff with home visits to members of the congregation. As the congregation grew it became more difficult to make all the required visits. The Mutual Ministry and the Kings Kids programs were also started to meet further congregational needs.

In March 1983 Pastor Jessen resigned to accept a call as the Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Pastor G. Frederick Aigner was called

from Christ the King Church in Florissant, MO and was installed on November 27, 1983 as our fourth senior pastor.

Growth in attendance at worship services and other activities necessitated the calling of another assistant pastor. Pastor Jeffrey R. Fricke of L.S.T.C. was extended a call and was installed August 25, 1985. He served until February 1987, when he resigned to accept a call to St. John's Church in Columbus, NE.

In order to maintain the continuity and effectiveness of the Pastoral Staff, a call was extended to Pastor Michael A. Ostrom of L.S.T.C., who accepted and was installed on June 28, 1987. He served approximately 3-1/2 years when he resigned to go on "leave from call" status to pursue graduate study.

Pastor Lois Ann Pallmeyer of L.S.T.C. was extended a call to fill the vacancy left upon Pastor Stiger's resignation to go "on leave from call" status. Pastor Pallmeyer accepted our call and was installed September 17, 1989. She served approximately 8 years when she resigned to accept a call to Easter Lutheran Church in Eagan, MN.

During the period of the 1980's growth in membership and attendance even with multiple services, made it obvious that the sanctuary (now our Fellowship Hall), was not large enough. At the end of 1985 the church membership had reached 1,724.

In 1985 two parcels of land contiguous to our property were purchased to provide future parking for approximately 178 cars. Additionally a long-term

agreement was reached with Ameritech (SBC) to use their parking facilities for any overflow parking.

In 1988 construction was begun on a new sanctuary, a south narthex and north wing classrooms to replace the old Fellowship Hall. The project was completed and dedicated on June 3, 1990. The old sanctuary under crowded conditions seated 275 people – the new sanctuary seats 550 people comfortably. Many were skeptical we could not fill the new sanctuary at any service. It was filled to capacity several times that first Sunday and numerous times since.

Also in 1990 our outreach program was further expanded to include a Public Action to Deliver Shelter, P.A.D.S., site for the homeless. The program continues to this day to provide a warm place to sleep and hot meals for those cold winter nights. There are approximately (400) volunteers on the roster and on each weekend from October through April, over 40 volunteers will work the 4 shifts to feed and care for the residents.

With the departure of Pastor Ostrom, the need for a replacement became evident and a call was extended to Pastor Donald L. Wink of L.S.T.C. He accepted our call and was installed on August 25, 1991 – he served the Parish for 7-1/2 years and resigned January 24, 1999 to accept a call to Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Barrington, Illinois.

Further growth in membership and activities made it more than obvious that a fourth pastor was needed. Pastor Janice L. Wiersma-Halverson, Luther N.W. Seminary was extended a call and was installed September 19, 1993. She served the Parish for seven

years and resigned September 13, 2000 to go “on leave from call” status to pursue a graduate degree program.

Increased membership and attendance in Sunday school (halls were used for classes) and the lack of meaningful storage space, the fellowship hall was renovated to provide additional space. The project started in 1992 and completed in 1993 provided a second floor room (#24) and two classrooms underneath.

Under the direction of our Organist and Choirmaster, Paul Hanson, music in various forms has become very important in our worship. In 1996 our original electronic organ was replaced by a Tracker Pipe Organ designed and built by Gabriel Kney and Company. This fine instrument further augmented an already excellent program of choral, instrumental, and organ music. Many additional concerts have been presented by a variety of college and university choirs.

In order to meet the expanding administrative needs of the church, more office space would be required. Desks were shared and office equipment was located down the hall. To meet these urgent needs, the north courtyard was enclosed in early 1997. The new facility provided for an expanded general office, an atrium area, offices for our associate Pastors, and an equipment room with much needed paper and stationary storage space.

To augment the pastoral staff, Pastor David J. Irgens was called from Trinity Lutheran Church, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was installed in August 1996. He brought with him much knowledge of the

construction field, which was a big asset to the Property Committee. He resigned in December 2002, to accept a call to Grace Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

After presiding over 14 years of much growth and the building of a new sanctuary, Pastor G. Frederick Aigner resigned in August, 1997, to accept a call to be the President of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

In the same month, a call was extended to Pastor Naomi M. Hawkins of L.S.T.C., who accepted and served until August 1999, when she resigned to accept a position with the E.L.C.A. Foundation.

During the selection process for a new senior pastor, retired Bishop Pastor Gerhard Knutson served as our interim pastor for the better part of the year 1998.

Late in 1998 a call was extended to Pastor Russell Sorensen to be our fifth senior pastor. He came to us from Faith Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico and was installed January 25, 1999.

After many years of use, the church kitchen began to show much wear and tear on the equipment. In 1999, a complete renovation was completed with a new stove, a large commercial refrigerator, modern cabinets and countertops, and two smaller freezers.

In 1999 a very important congregational need was met when a Parish Nurse program was started. As the congregation has aged, many parishioners have encountered a variety of health problems. Betty Hanson served for one year as our first Parish Nurse. Our current Parish Nurse, Jill Milner of Alexian Brothers

Health System, has worked many hours to meet the needs and concerns of members for the past four years.

Pastor Todd A. Eckblad was called from Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Matteson, Illinois, to serve as our first Youth & Family Pastor. He took office on January 18, 2000 and served for 2-1/2 years, when he resigned to accept a call to Shepherd of the Valley Church, Merced, California.

In order to keep our pastoral staff at full strength; a call was extended to Pastor Gail L. Heidtke of Grace Lutheran Church, Monroe, Wisconsin. She accepted and was installed as an associate pastor on August 25, 2001.

With the departure of Pastor Eckblad, and the increased pastoral needs, calls were extended to Pastor Seth Moland-Kovash of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Downers Grove, Illinois and Pastor Larry Morkert, E.L.C.A. Chaplaincy Program. With their taking office on June 16, 2003, we had in place a strong pastoral team to lead us into the next 50 years of service to God and the community.

In 2000, a Contemporary Worship was started with one weekly service in the renovated Fellowship Hall. By the summer of 2004 attendance had increased to the point where a second service was required and added to the Sunday morning schedule.

By the year 2002, the increase in members and the complexity of the administrative functions of the Parish required a change in direction. In order to lessen the administrative load on the senior pastor, James

Valentine, was appointed as our Congregational Operations Officer, reporting directly to the senior pastor. This office is now responsible for coordinating all administrative functions.

In 2003, the Pastoral Caring Ministry was started to nurture and care for the older adults in the congregation by forming support groups to assist members in time of crisis and needs. The group works with the Parish Nurse and Pastoral Staff in identifying those members in need. This support ministry has trained over 40 parishioners to be members of this team effort to strengthen faith relationships.

In our first 50 years we have grown from a mission with 91 members to a congregation of approximately 2,700 parishioners, serving many areas and needs of Christian service. At this time there are committees and other organizations in place surveying needs and planning for our Mission in Christ's Kingdom. These are exciting times to be a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

***MAY OUR GOD WATCH OVER US
AS WE GO FORTH!***

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Charter Members

Roy S. and Louise Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Anderson
William A. & Lily June Behlke
Louis G. & Barbara Behrle
Norman A. & Carlyle Blackwell
Richard & Dorothy Brettner
Rosemary Brice
Howard & Valarie Buchholz
Ben & Carole Carns
John E. & Joyce Czerney
Richard & Grace Ekstrand
Edward W. & Virginia Elste
Charles Elste
G. Werner & Lois Fritsch
Bonnie Gerrard
A.Vern & Jeanette Heim
John W. & Helen Hines
Robert J. & Donna Jo Hult
Leonard & Mary Jane Johnson
Edward A. & Myrtle Koester
Leonard & Mabel Keyes
Robert H. & Lorraine Lantz
Kenneth F. & Shirley Machacak
Judy Lee Meyer
Byrd T. & Jane Miller
Caroline Miller

Anna Mortensen
Arlene Mortensen
Edgar F. & Virginia Neas
Bruce A. & Helen Nelson
Burton H. & June Neuner
Donald R. & Carlee Petelle
Walter J. & Marie Petelle
John C. & Gertrude Pflingsten
John E. Pflingsten
George L. & Thelma Pflingsten
Keith & Adele Posselt
Donald D. & Ethel Quigley
Bonnie Quigley
William & Dolores Schaub
Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Seipp
Irvin M. & Lorraine Slepicka
Kenneth W. & Eugenia Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. George J. Swanson
Beverly Swanson
Robert G. Swanson
A. Phillip & Ethel Swanson
Robert W. & Janice Swanson
Woodrow J. & Iris Vogel
Sandra Vogel
Raymond B. & Esther Woodruff
Duane Yotti

SOUND THE TRUMPET O A JUBILEE YEAR

SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR 2004-2005



Sunday, October 3

Introduction of commissioned 50th Anniversary hymn for worship

Sunday, October 10

Paul Hanson's 40th Anniversary Recognition as Organist/Choirmaster at Our Saviour's

Sunday, October 17

Pastor John Petersen as guest preacher (*Senior Pastor at Our Saviour's - October, 1955 - May, 1964*)

Sunday, November 14

Pastor Dick Jessen as guest preacher (*Senior Pastor at Our Saviour's - March, 1975 - March, 1983*)

Sunday, November 21, 4:00 pm

Community Thanksgiving Service hosted by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 12

Pastor Fred Aigner as guest preacher (*Senior Pastor at Our Saviour's – November, 1983 - August, 1997*)

Monday, December 13

Mount Prospect Community Band Concert: 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 9

Combined Jazz worship services with Bishop Paul Landahl guest preacher

Saturday, February 5 - 50th Anniversary weekend

50th Anniversary Banquet with Dr. Martin Marty as the guest speaker

Sunday, February 6

Combined worship services with Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson as guest preacher

Sunday, February 27

Augustana College Choir concert at 4:00 pm

Sunday, March 13

Celebrating Our Future: Pastor Sorensen preaching

Sunday, March 20

Fauré Requiem performed by Our Saviour's Choir and Orchestra, 4:00 pm

Sunday, March 27

Easter Celebration
Traditional worship – 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 am
Contemporary worship – 9:00 and 10:30 am



In addition to these special events there are "Jubilee Moments," scheduled throughout the year during weekend worship services, that will highlight aspects of Our Saviour's past, present and future ministries.

Come and join the celebration!