

IN THE BEGINNING

Since Our Savior's began in 1950, the Lord has richly blessed the congregation. Its greatest blessing, of course, is that it has been a congregation which has been true to its name – it is our Savior's church. It is His!

Our Savior has also blessed the congregation in that its growth and later that of its daughter congregations in Mankato – and now North Mankato – has been beyond expectations. From its modest beginning, when 126 attended the first Our Savior's service, the work of the Lord under the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has grown to incorporate more than 5700 souls – 1572 at Our Savior's, 310 at Good Shepherd, and 3839 at Hosanna. Both daughter congregations were outgrowths of Our Savior's congregation.

CHURCH BORN OF CONTROVERSY

But a church is not just a building. It started in the hearts of those dedicated to service to the Lord, most of them members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato which was being torn by strong differences between members and one of the pastors, Rev. G. W. Fischer.

For some time, Lutheran families in Mankato felt the need for another Lutheran church in town. In October 1949, four families from Immanuel asked for, and received permission, to take the necessary steps to organize a new congregation to be affiliated with the LC-MS. They were Marv & Elaine Heuer, Hilbert and Adah Hantelman, Karl & Irma Malwitz and Arnie & Bea Meyer.

On January 7, 1950, the congregation was officially organized. The meeting of 14 interested men was held at the Heuer residence, and the first official act was to choose a name, "The Church of Our Savior," which soon after was changed to "Our Savior's Lutheran Church." A constitution was drawn up and adopted.

The following day, Sunday, January 8, what had been a dream was to become a reality. The first service was held in the Alpine Attic of the old YMC A, on the corner of Second and Cherry Streets, the site of the current Earl Johnson furniture parking lot and formerly the Greyhound Bus depot.

SIMPLE BUT BEAUTIFUL

It was simple but beautiful and impressive. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Fratzke furnished floral decorations from their nursery; Emil John played the piano; Rev. O. J. Brauer, Mission and Stewardship Counselor of the Missouri Synod, conducted the service from the Rotary Club's speaker rostrum; there was an improvised altar centered by Ernie Schmidt's beautiful Cross of Crosses.

Bulletins had to be printed with the hymn verses in them, as few people had hymnals of their own. Arthur Kautz gave his talents to writing the bulletins, and Florence La hann mimeographed them. Chairs were borrowed from the Mankato Armory and a funeral home. The offering plates were just round candy tins, but the collection totaled \$590.

There were 126 people present that Sunday morning, even though the temperature was 20 below outside. Among the congregation's first purchases were devotional booklets and three dozen folding chairs.

The next week a Sunday School was organized with 25 pupils enrolled, and a Ladies Guild followed soon afterwards. Within a month the congregation secured the use of the Seventh Day Adventist Church on State Street, which was also to be the beginning place of worship for the Good Shepherd congregation seven years later.

A total of 255 attended that first Our Savior's service at this location, and there was held the first communion service with 100 persons taking part.

There was also the congregation's first baptism, for Jane Laurie Bartsch, daughter of Ewald and Everell Bartsch. Other firsts: Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Ulmen were married in August 1950 in the parsonage, and Mr. & Mrs. Leland Bremer were married December 2, 1950, in the church building.

Pastor Brauer served until Rev. E. J. A. Marxhausen became the vacancy pastor, as he did in 1957 for the Good Shepherd beginnings.

The story is told of one Sunday in 1950 when Pastor Marxhausen's trip to Mankato was help up by a train at the Main Street Bridge. The congregation waited awhile and sang hymns until Marxhausen arrived.

Along with Pastor Marxhausen, Pastors Hugo Gamber, Boettcher, W.A. Poehler, Paul Zimmerman and Lazarz helped out. The record shows that on February 5, 1950, 87 more people joined Our Savior's. Soon it was necessary to have two services each Sunday.

In addition to those already mentioned, other earliest members of Our Savior's, some of whom are still represented on the roster include Harold & Lillian Ahl, Elmer & Nina Anderson, Darell & Lucy Apitz, Ward & Melvine Balbach, Ed & Catherine Dethloff, Al & Esther Emmel, Irv & Erna Fuller, Al & Betty Gast, Harvey & Claire Gilman. Also the Ed Hamers, Mary Heidel, Al & Florence Kawell, the Fred Kawells, Bob & Carolyn Kawell, Arnold & Irene Kietzer, Lloyd & Norma Kitzrow, Gus & Martha Krahnke, Walter & Bertha Kuhlman, Dell & Flo La hann, Bill & Alma Lichtenberg, Dr. George Penn, Art & Gertrude Roe, Ernie & Alice Schmidt, and Bill & Florence Stradtman.

While it may be hard to feel completely at home in the church building of a different denomination, the congregation still enjoyed its services.

A building committee of Chairman Harold Ahl, Marv Heuer, Ernie Schmidt, Walt Kuhlman and John Storm on March 19, 1950, voted to purchase what years before had been the barn for Mankato's once-thriving street car system but then was used by the Ira Nelson Insulation Co. The city streetcar lines had been abandoned in about 1930, 20 years before.

CAN THIS BE A CHURCH?

At the time, the structure housed an assortment of machinery, insulation and rats. This was to be remodeled into a parish hall?? Yes, it was! And, included, alongside the building were vacant lots which someday would be the site of the church proper. Cost: \$17,000.

It was on March 19, 1950, too, that the first officers were elected: Marv Heuer, president; Victor Monhardt, vice president; Al Meyer, secretary; John Storm, treasurer; Walt Kuhlman, financial secretary; Al Kawell, chief usher; Arnold Spiering, Ernie Silber and Harold Ahl, elders; Bill Fratzke, Dell La hann, and Arnie Meyer, trustees; and John Larson, Ernie Schmidt and Hilbert Hantelman, board of education.

Thirty-one men signed the congregation's first constitution; only male members could vote at that time.

Our Savior's first call in February to Rev. Herbert C. Meyer of Merchantville, NJ was declined, but Rev. Alvin Fehner became the first resident pastor and served 10 years. He was installed May 28, 1950, in a service at Franklin School.

Rev. Ray Haase of St. Paul's Wisconsin Synod church in North Mankato was liturgist. (The Wisconsin and Missouri synods were in fellowship then.) Rev. Marxhausen preached the installation sermon, and the District President Rev. Hugo Gamber performed the installation rite, with nearly 100 pastors attending.

A home at 1723 North Broad Street was purchased for a parsonage for the Fehners, but it wasn't available right away, so Mrs. Paula Timmerman turned over her apartment as a parsonage for the time being.

Organized in those early months were a Women's Study Club, Walther League for youth and a chapter of the Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL).

In June the first Sunday School and congregation picnic were held at the Fred Meyer place on Lake Washington. The communicant membership had now reached 350.

SHINGLES & STREETCAR RAILS

It was in June that men of the congregation went to work Saturdays and evenings, doing the cleanup and remodeling of the newly-acquired "barn". Some shingled the roof, others tore up the old streetcar rails or dug trenches for heat ducts. While the men worked, the ladies served coffee and sandwiches amid the sounds of an air hammer. The hall was to seat 450 for worship.

By August 17, 1950, the place was ready for the first service. Our Savior's had no organ, by Emil John played a piano which had been given to the congregation by the family of the late Rev. Adolph Ackermann, former pastor of Immanuel, the church that dissidents had left to form the Our Savior's congregation. The organist was accompanied by Mrs. Adah Hantelman on the violin.

Remodeling work, at a cost of \$18,000, with Harold Ahl as chairman, Ernie Schmidt as architect and Fred Kawell as contractor, continued until November 12, then the building was dedicated, with 707 people crowded into a hall intended to accommodate 450 for worship.

Most of the chancel furnishings, such as altar, brasses, cross and candlesticks, missal stand, offering plates, communion vessels and veil, altar books, flower vases, pulpit, baptismal font and hymnals were special gifts donated by members.

As is often the case, the excitement, commitment and inspiration of forming a new church brought out workers and givers to the ultimate. Ernie Schmidt contributed some impressive wood carvings with church symbols which graced the front of the fellowship hall when it was used as the sanctuary.

In January 1951 Our Savior's, with a proposed budget of \$21,500, including a \$3,000 salary for Rev. Fehner and \$10,600 for debt retirement, noted its first anniversary. Some other budget items: janitor, \$500; organist & choir music, \$300; telephone \$120; fuel, \$500; electricity, \$250; missions, \$2,000.

A feature article with pictures appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press that Sunday, and papers were available after services. In February, Cecil B. DeMille's Hollywood epic film about Christ, "King of Kings" was shown and later in the month the church choir, with organist Paul Mantz, gave its first concert. The first Vacation Bible School was conducted in June 1951.

After two years, Our Savior's had grown to nearly 800 souls, 600 communicants and 171 Sunday School students.

A house once owned by the church was that of Mrs. Louise Nelson who willed her home, which was across the street from the Fehner's parsonage home on North Broad. Rev. Fehner had driven Mrs. Nelson to church for some time when they were neighbors.

The years slipped by, and by 1954 the need for additional room for Sunday School and education facilities was evident. A campaign was launched to raise \$50,000. Pledges reached nearly \$58,000 by the end of July 1954. The congregation took out a loan for \$67,537. At that time, some churches listed individual contributions, and now here was a complete listing of all members with the amount of their pledges. If nothing had been pledged, there was a blank space in the pledge column.

"YOUR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK"

The handout explained that members could contact the financial secretary at any time and that "Another list may be published at a later date." At the close of this list was this: "Many of us, after viewing this list may desire to add our pledge . . . in the event that your financial outlook has changed for the better."

The late Dr. George Penn was chairman of the building committee, which also included Harold Ahl, Harold Appel, Marv Heuer and Walter Meyer. Jesse Cornish directed the fundraising drive, and the two-story educational wing was dedicated in May 1955.

David Ebert, in the 1955-56 term, was the first of 12 vicars to serve Our Savior's.

In 1957 about 50 members peacefully left Our Savior's to form a new Missouri Synod congregation in West Mankato, Good Shepherd. By 1960 the Our Savior's congregation had two parsonages, with Rev. Eugene Glade having been called to the staff in 1958 after having served as vicar during the 1956-57 term.

The 10th Anniversary Booklet gives the following statistics for the church's first decade: 1,181 worship services, 332,511 worshippers, 30,097 communions, 455 baptisms, 109 marriages, 137 burials, 189 adult confirmations or baptisms, 158 child confirmations, 1,647 VBS enrollments and 103,655 Sunday School attendants.

THE NEXT 40 YEARS

In 1960 that Pastor Fehner developed a persistent cough, and it was soon discovered that he had lung cancer. He died in November, 1960. The church chapel, part of the new church building constructed a few years later, was dedicated to him.

Rev. Noman Heidorn was called from Trimont to serve a senior co-pastor with Pastor Eugene Glade in July 1961 and served for nearly 28 years until May 1, 1989.

Until construction of the new sanctuary, every room in the education wing was being used. Sunday School classes were quartered everywhere, one in a store room, two in the kitchen, four in the Fireplace room. The main church auditorium had seven Sunday School classes. It was time to build again.

The decision to build a sanctuary was made in January 1962; ground-breaking ceremonies were held in May, with construction starting the following day; the cornerstone was laid in October and in May 1963 dedication ceremonies were held.

Preaching at the dedication communion service that May 26 was Richard Tetzloff, a son of the congregation who was a "candidate". Preaching the service of praise and thanksgiving was Rev. James Fehner, a son of Rev. Al Fehner, Our Savior's first pastor.

Long-time members of Our Savior's can probably recall only one time when Pastor Heidorn's sermon was interrupted to make an announcement. Before and during the construction of the main sanctuary in 1962 the congregation held services in the Fellowship Hall. The foundation had been built, the rough floor laid, and the first of the six large laminated arches that support the roof had been put into place. This was done toward the end of the week. Apparently workmen did not secure one of the arches properly; perhaps there was a severe gust of wind, or a combination of both, because during the sermon the following Sunday there was a tremendous crash – then complete silence. In a few minutes an usher handed Pastor Heidorn a note, who then announced to the congregation what some had already suspected, that an arch had crashed to the floor. Fortunately no one was injured, and there was very little damage. The building was delayed only a short time. So, when you sit in church and look toward the ceiling, especially note the first arch, nearest the altar. You are looking at a twice-raised arch.

The cornerstone laying was postponed, but when it took place there was placed in the stone a Bible, doctrinal writings and state and local newspapers.

The \$300,000 addition created a quadrangle with 187 feet of frontage (136 feet of it new) and 139 feet deep. The nave sat 710, with overflow space for another 120. There were 19 additional classrooms, the chapel and the library.

PASTOR GLADE MOVES TO MSU

In 1964 Pastor Glade became the full-time pastor at the Mankato State College campus Lutheran Chapel, and the next year Rev. Donald Waldo came to Our Savior's fresh from the Seminary as an assistant to Pastor Heidorn.

Pastor Waldo took a call to St. John's of Sherburn in January 1967, and the congregation voted to return to the vicar system. America's baby boom of the '50s and '60s contributed

to Our Savior's longest roster: 2,185 baptized souls in 1968. Some left to help start Hosanna's mission church on the east side of town in 1972.

On hand to assist with the workload in 1970 came Rev. H. L. Bussman who had recently retired after 45 years in the active ministry. He assisted with hospital and shut-in calls and with office details. Even after "retiring" again in 1989, Pastor Bussman helped some in the office on a volunteer basis for several years. Pastor Bussman, who loved to travel by train in his retirement years, died in 1997 at age 93.

From June 1975 to December 1976 Walter Timm served as Director of Christian Education. It was an assignment the congregation had talked about filling for several years.

Pastor Ron Stehr came to Our Savior's as an associate pastor in July 1977 and served for six years. Remembered by some for leading Our Savior's youth on camping trips to the Boundary Waters, etc., Pastor Stehr took a call to Red Wing in 1983.

Going along with the trend that enabled ministers to build an equity and own their own residences, Our Savior's sold its two parsonages to Pastors Heidorn and Stehr in 1978.

It was in the 1979 era that a rash of church break-ins hit Mankato, and Our Savior's was a victim more than once. It was after one such theft that it was decided to count Sunday receipts after services rather than on Monday night.

Our Savior's has published special booklets in 1960, 1975, 1990 and 2000, noting its 10th, 25th, 40th, and 50th anniversaries. The theme for the Silver Jubilee in 1975 was "Rejoicing in Mercy". The 40th Anniversary theme in 1990 was "Blessed to Be a Blessing", and the theme for the 50th Anniversary in 2000 was "Making a Difference – 50 years of Serving & Loving Christ".

Our Savior's has also published eight pictorial directories, offering answers to the countless questions about people you've heard of but – "what do they look like?" They've come along every three to seven years: 1969, 1972, 1979, 1984, 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2006.

During the Silver Jubilee celebrated in 1974 as the congregation's 25th year instead of after completion of 25 years, special services were held each month with emphasis on various organizations and areas of service. Guest preachers included a former pastor, former vicars, and sons of the congregation. The same approach has been pretty much followed in 1990 and again in 2000.

For the Golden Anniversary in 2000, a series of guest preachers marked the year. And just as he did in January 1974, it was Rev. Dennis Ahl, son of Mrs. Lillian Timm and the late Harold Ahl, who was the first guest preacher in January 2000. Other guest preachers in 1974 were Rev. Eugene Glade; Rev. Richard Tetzloff, who preached as a pastor candidate at

the sanctuary dedication service in 1963; Rev. Charles Kosberg and Rev. Jerry Kosberg, sons of Peder and Evelyn Kosberg; then district president Rev. Martin Lieske; and former our Savior's vicars Rick Zeh, Bert Schirmer, Harvey Kietzman and Bruce Zagel.

A special Silver Jubilee emblem was designed for the event and was used for birthday cards which were sent to each member of the congregation.

BLIZZARD CANCELS BANQUET

The culmination of the year was to be in January 1975. An anniversary dinner was planned, with Dr. Oswald Hoffman, Lutheran Hour pastor, as the speaker. But due to a "Blizzard of the Century" on January 11-12, the banquet and service were cancelled.

Pastor Heidorn, who never cancelled a service in his 37 years in the ministry, recalls that weekend. "Though very few were out, we had 17 at the early service and 30 at the second one that Sunday."

"Dr. Hoffman called from the airport to see how things were. I told him there was no way to make it down, and few would be able to show up for the banquet. I told him he might as well take the first plane out that he could. The banquet people at MSU never billed us for the dinner. None of the workers were able to make it up there to prepare food, anyway."

By the 1980s a segment of the congregation had become interested in the possibility of organizing a Day School at Our Savior's. Unlike the Seminex issue, which caused turmoil in a number of congregations in the mid-seventies but wasn't a big problem at Our Savior's, the Day School caused a good deal of taking sides. Pastor Stehr was a strong advocate for a Day School. Hard feelings tested Christian principles and brought the departure of a few members, but most weathered the storm after the proposal was voted down by a close margin.

Rev. Tim Booth served as a part-time pastor while also serving the MSU campus chapel in 1984.

It was in July 1984 that Rev. Charles Ortloff came from Ironwood, Michigan, as associate pastor. When Rev. Heidorn retired in May 1989 after nearly 28 years at Our Savior's, Pastor Ortloff was called to be the senior pastor.

After a period of 11 years without a vicar, Mart Thompson came to serve both Our Savior's and the MSU Lutheran Chapel in 1986-1987, with John Fenton serving in the same capacity the following year.

WHITE LIES AND DECEPTION

One of the 1986 highlights came in April when more than 400 turned out for a party honoring the Heidorns for Pastor's 25 years at Our Savior's. The Heidorns were brought to the church under the pretense of being guests at a wedding anniversary celebration. Loads of white lies and deception went into keeping elaborate plans from the Heidorns, and even their children were in on the surprise.

Pastor Heidorn on many occasions proved himself to be an unflappable Jack-of-all trades and master of many around the church building. Fixing the furnace, tending to something in the kitchen or with the printing equipment – he'd handle it. On one occasion he was in the office until 4 a.m. running off material needed the next day. There were even times that he ended up washing windows with other members.

With Pastor Heidorn's retirement, Barb Schoenbaum (later changed to Spaulding), a graduate of the lay ministry program at Concordia of Mequon, Wisconsin, was hired in the summer of 1989 as Program Director. She served Our Savior's for several years in the early 1990s, left to enter an ELCA seminary, and now serves as minister of a church in Sloan, Iowa.

Retired Pastor Emil Geistfeld served Our Savior's as visiting pastor for 13 years before he died unexpectedly on June 3, 1999 at age 84.

God's house is more than an assemblage of building materials, of course, but from an initial investment of \$17,000 for a rundown former streetcar barn, Our Savior's holdings have grown to an estimated value of \$2.2 million.

Phase I of a long-range project involved a \$375,000 renovation of the sanctuary, an enlarged narthex, new pews, electrical and mechanical upgrades, a new sound system and safety improvements, all dedicated at Easter in 1997.

Our Savior's has been a busy place during its first half century history. Included through 1999 have been 2,307 youth and adult baptisms, 1,890 youth and adult confirmations, 852 marriages, and 875 burials. All are duly recorded in a large, heavy book in the church office.

Part of Our Savior's recognition of its 50 years was the return of five sons of the congregation as guest preachers, each for one weekend: Rev. Dennis Ahl in January, Rev. Steve Wilson in March, Rev. Greg Heidorn in April, Rev. Jerry Kosberg in July, Rev. Kevin Kosberg in August, and Rev. Mark Rosenau in September.

The anniversary recognition culminated with an afternoon open house and evening Anniversary Banquet on September 24. Former Pastors Norman Heidorn, Eugene Glade, Ron Stehr and James Pragman were guest speakers at the banquet. Dr. Lane Seitz, District President was the preacher at the Anniversary Service.

History in Brief

Happenings at Our Savior's, in the Synod and around the world in the last half of the 20th century. (The following material was gleaned from a number of sources, including a set of Ladies Guild and LWML scrapbooks, which contain a wealth of interesting clippings, etc. The books were faithfully kept by historians in the Afternoon and Evening Guilds and offer a history of sorts of the congregation, along with trivia. Current events are included in order to help us remember the setting in which Our Savior's history was made.)

1949 Organization of Our Savior's begins in October

1950 First service held January 8 in old YMCA, corner of Second & Cherry. Services held in Seventh Day Adventist church February – August. Rev. Alvin Fehner installed May 20 in services at Franklin School auditorium. First services held August 13 in converted streetcar barn. Guild study groups begin.

* Korean War starts. Credit cards make first appearance. Patti Page's Tennessee Waltz top tune.

1951 First Vacation Bible School held in June. Proposed budget \$21,500, including \$3,000 salary for Rev. Fehner. Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) chapter organizes in September. Dr. Paul Manz plays newly-installed Consonata church organ.

* "I Love Lucy" made TV debut.

1952 Young People's Society becomes part of Walther League. The "Life" telecasts begin. Mrs. Albertine Rosin's estate leaves \$30,000 to Our Savior's.

1953 About 300 families make up the congregation. The church anniversary dinner becomes an annual affair.

*Three-year Korean war ends. Mt. Everest conquered.

1954 Mr. and Mrs. Fellowship Club, later the Couples' Club, organizes in February. A church banquet noting Our Savior's fourth anniversary had on the program a soprano solo by a Miss Lotta Racquet.

* Rock 'n' Roll music born. Sears wool dress sells for \$15.98. Kitty Kallen's "Little Things Mean a Lot" is a hit song. Supreme Court ends school segregation.

1955 Two-story educational wing dedicated in May. Dave Ebert is first of 12 vicars at Our Savior's. Evening Guild begins nursery for youngsters during Sunday services. Oswald Hoffman becomes Lutheran Hour speaker.

* Firsts: Salk polio vaccine, office computer, Sony pocket radio, McDonald's, interstate highway.

1956 Members celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries are recognized. Released time classes begin in January for confirmation students.

* Elvis Presley makes debut. Southdale, the nation's largest suburban mall, opens.

1957 About 50 members leave peacefully to form Good Shepherd congregation. A Junior Walther League is functioning. The week's full calendar of events appears in the Free Press for most churches for a number of years.

* Russia launches Sputnik I, first satellite. Jackie Robinson breaks baseball color barrier.

1958 Rev. Eugene Glade called to staff in September after term as vicar. The church's 52-voice Junior Choir sang for Cantata Sunday. Our Savior's plays part in Minnesota District of LC-MS establishing Gamma Delta student center at MSC. Twenty-one Missouri Synod congregations in Mankato area take part in a five-day Evangelism Mission, with 2,500 attending the opening session at Mankato High. Pastor Fehner is general chairman for a Minnesota Centennial Lutheran Pageant October 30 at Gustavus. One hundred Lutheran churches from 14 synodical groups take part.

* Minnesota notes century. School integration begins. A new Chevy costs \$2,081, gas 30.4¢, newspaper 5¢, hospital room \$28 a day.

1959 Mrs. Adah Hantelman organizes cherub choir. A bus chartered by Our Savior's brings college students every Sunday from six pickup points. Vacation Bible School first mentioned.

* U.S. median family income is \$5,417.

1960 Pastor Alvin Fehner and his wife Agnes are hospitalized within three days of each other in early October. Mrs. Fehner dies October 20 at age 61, Pastor Fehner dies November 23 at age 62. Rev. Eugene Glade officiates at both funerals. First of pictures of pastors hung in hallway. The 10th Anniversary Dinner is prepared and served by ladies of Good Shepherd congregation. A confirmand reunion and reconsecration service are held. Large photo is taken of 417 Sunday School children and staff. About 850 turn out for Loyalty Service aimed at raising \$150,000 in pledges over three years. First regular mid-week services – other than during Advent and Lent – are held. September receipts are \$6,423, disbursements \$2,805.

* Record 28 million U.S. population increase over past decade brings total to 179 million. 34.8% of women in work force. Birth control pill approved.

1961 Rev. Norman Heidorn called in July to serve as senior co-pastor with Rev. Glade. Wisconsin Synod suspends relations with LCMS. Lutheran Laymen's League dart ball tournament held. Our Savior's hosts Sunday afternoon worship services for the deaf.

* East Germans put up Berlin Wall. Twins and Vikings come to Minnesota. Four black students arrested at whites-only restaurant.

1962 Pastor Glade's engagement to Miss Pat Rupp announced in church newsletter. Members take a bus to Luverne for wedding at \$3.50 per person. Lutheran Medical Missions group is organized.

* Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" sounds warning about caring for the world's environment. Cuban missile crisis brings U.S. and Russia near war.

1963 A full-page ad in the Free Press helps attract 2,000 to the sanctuary dedication May 26. Included is a 2.5 foot square cake model of the church, baked and assembled by Darla Kopischke. The Fehner Memorial Chapel is dedicated, with Rev. Alvin Fehner's son, Rev. James Fehner, officiating. Dr. Oswald Hoffman helps draw 6,500 to a Lutheran Hour Rally.
* President Kennedy assassinated November 22 in Dallas. Farm worker produces food for 31 people, double the 1950 figure. Martin Luther King delivers "I Have a Dream" speech.

1964 Rev. Glade becomes full-time pastor at MSC Campus Lutheran Chapel in September.
* Beatles hit U.S. on Ed Sullivan show. Tobacco identified as health hazard.

1965 Rev. Donald Waldo, fresh from the Seminary, becomes assistant pastor in June. What was assumed were professional safe crackers take \$1,800 from the church on September 28. Lutheran Laymen's League (Men's Club) stages first ham dinner - \$1 for adults, 50¢ for children. Club's annual September retreat to Heuer's cabin on Lake George started about now, too.
* U.S. involvement begins in Vietnam war. Six-day race riot leaves 35 dead in Watts, California.

1966 Colored glass windows installed in the chapel.
* Dow-Jones Industrial Average tops 1,000 for the first time.

1967 Rev. Waldo takes call to Sherburn in January.

1968 Baby boom contributes to Our Savior's highest numbers with 2,185 baptized souls, 1,500 communicants. Our Savior's is scene of annual YWCA Banquet.
* U.S. involved in Vietnam War with half million men. Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy assassinated. Former VP Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota runs for president.

1969 Women can now vote in Missouri Synod Lutheran churches, a decision made in Houston about the same time Neil Armstrong walked on the moon in July.
* Population passes 203 million. Heart disease, cancer leading causes of death.

1970 Rev. Herbert L. Bussman, retired after 45 years in active ministry, joins Our Savior's to help with hospital and shut-in calls. Dennis Ahl becomes the second son of the congregation to be ordained. Steve Kosberg is credited with saving Lyle Kettner from drowning near Ely when 37 campers and eight counselors from Our Savior's go on a camping trip. Kosberg later received a Red Cross Certificate of Merit after a worship service at Our Savior's. Bethel Bible Study Program introduced.
* Four students protesting war in Vietnam killed by National Guardsmen at Kent State.

1971 29-rank pipe organ installed for \$35,000. Our Savior's plays part in Lutheran Hour Rally attended by 6,500 at MSU.

1972 Some leave to help start Hosanna mission church. VBS enrolls 250 students, with 70 adults and teens conducting the program. Chrismons, Styrofoam religious symbols made largely by Gus and Martha Krahnke, grace the chancel trees at Christmas. Sharon Waldo, wife of former Our Savior's pastor Rev. Donald Waldo, is strangled in the family's home in California by an intruder seeking money. Rev. Waldo, director of admissions at Concordia College in Oakland, said the unknown assailant should be forgiven and not punished but found and helped. Former vicar Bruce Zagel becomes first pastor at East Mission congregation (later Hosanna) meeting at Kennedy School. A "Spend the Day With a Minister" spread in the Free Press features Pastor Heidorn in a page of pictures. Rev. Glade leaves MSU Campus Chapel to accept call to Hudson, Wisconsin.

1973 Millie Nisja ends 10 years as church office secretary and is replaced by Gloria Schuft. Waldo Luedtke becomes church custodian in December.

* Abortions legalized.

1974 Our Savior's notes Silver Jubilee during its 25th year. Mission church named Hosanna Lutheran.

* Watergate scandal forces Nixon from presidency.

1975 The 25th Anniversary dinner and service in January cancelled by "Blizzard of the Century". Anniversary books are given to each family, with additional copies available for \$2. In June, Walter Timm begins 18 months as Director of Christian Education. Mrs. Anna Silber honored at open house for 25 years of library service at Our Savior. Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen Van Triet and family, refugees from Vietnam, are sponsored in Mankato by Our Savior's. Rev. Heidorn is feted August 24 on the 25th anniversary of his entering the ministry. Helen Morris, a congregation member, is elected to a four-year term as president of 200,00 member ILWML (International Lutheran Women's Missionary League). Maynard Spitzack, a member at Our Savior's while attending MSC, is ordained. Seminex (Seminary-in-Exile) split concerns many in synod. Late Sunday service starting time switched from 10:45 to 10:30.

* War ends in Vietnam. First personal computer hits the market. Only 4.2% of Americans live on farms. Long hair and facial hair change the appearance of many American men and boys.

1976 Steve Kosberg is commissioned at Mt. Zion in Minneapolis as a missionary to New Guinea.

* U.S. celebrates Bicentennial.

1977 Rev. Ronald Stehr comes in July as associate pastor. Mrs. Fred (Bertha) Meyer is recognized on May 15 as the congregation's oldest member at age 98. The annual congregation picnic, usually held at Tourtellotte or Highland, is staged at Nicollet County Park following the worship service held there. Pastor Heidorn's 25 years in the ministry is celebrated September 18 in a service of Thanksgiving.

* Men now live 70 years, women 7.7 more. Star Wars premieres.

1978 "The Voice" begins publication in January. Worship service June 25 recognizes Rev. Herbert Bussman's 50 years in the ministry and his and his wife's 50 years of marriage. Congregation sells parsonages to Pastors Heidorn and Stehr. Two large artificial Christmas trees grace the sanctuary, gifts from Dell & Flo La hann.

* 98% of Americans age 5 – 15 in school.

1979 A special program, Behind the Scenes – The Stableboy's Christmas, is presented by Bill & Helen Morris, who were present for some of the filming of the LLL movie.

* Near-meltdown at Three Mile Island nuclear power plant disturbs nation.

1980 Helen Morris begins 12 years of service on Synod's Board of Evangelism. Our Savior's hosts LLL's Minnesota South District Dartball tourney. Our Savior's basketball and softball players sponsor meals as a fundraiser.

* U.S. population 226 million. Walkman radios appear.

1981 Eight members named to committee to study feasibility of a Christian Day School in March. 1981 Church budget is \$166,256.

* President Reagan shot but recovers. Sandra Day O'Connor first woman on Supreme Court.

1982 Our Savior's one of six Mankato Lutheran congregations in Epiphany Choral Service. Mankato Lutheran Council of Churches, a new organization, holds an Easter Eve Vigil Service at Campus Lutheran Chapel. Minnesota South District celebrates its centennial. Greg Heidorn and Dan Polzin, sons of the congregation, are both ordained May 23 at Our Savior's in separate services. John Wohlrabe ordained. LeShaine Amundson is secretary.

* Average Minneapolis home price is \$66,000. First TV zappers boon to couch potatoes.

1983 Pastor Stehr accepts October call to Red Wing. Congregation rejects call for day school.

1984 Rev. Charles Ortloff accepts call, starts July 22. Rev. Tim Booth serves as part-time pastor and MSU Chapel leader. Dan Adams, son of the congregation, ordained August 19 at Our Savior's. Pastor Bussman's 80th birthday and 56 years in the ministry celebrated with May 6 open house.

* Geraldine Ferraro is first female VP candidate. Supreme Court OK's nativity scenes in public places. Jaycees must admit women.

1985 Don Bequette begins videotaping services for use on CCTV, joining the church's radio ministry which began from its start.

* National debt nears \$2 trillion. AIDS and AIDS hysteria disturb nation.

1986 After 11 years without a vicar, Mart Thompson comes to serve Our Savior's and MSU Lutheran Chapel. Four hundred attend surprise April 20 party noting Rev. Heidorn's 25 years at Our Savior's. Altar Guild formed. Pledge campaign has a western theme. Fred Kunst dies at nearly 103, the congregation's oldest member ever. Frieda Grove starts as secretary.

*Crew of seven die as space shuttle Challenger explodes after launch.

1987 Four-Couple Potluck groups organized for fellowship. Our Savior's wins first place in a Free Press contest for its Christmas decorations in the institutions category.

* First compact disk developed. Minnesota Twins win World Series.

1988 Pastor Bussman honored for 60 years in the ministry.

1989 Rev. Heidorn retires May 1 after nearly 28 years at Our Saviors, 37 in the ministry. Pastor Ortloff becomes Senior Pastor in May. Barb Schoenbaum hired as program director. Kevin Kosberg and Steve Wilson, sons of the congregation, ordained June 11 and 28, respectively. Retired Rev. Emil Geistfeld becomes visitation pastor.

* Berlin Wall falls after 28 years.

1990 40th Anniversary Banquet held October 21 at Garden Inn. 40th Anniversary book notes 23 sons and daughters of Our Savior's had answered the call to full-time church work. Confirmand reunion held June 24. Evening of Music held October 19.

1991 Rev. James Pragman called as associate pastor in December. Pastor Geistfeld's 50 years in the ministry celebrated August 11.

* Communism collapses with dissolution of Soviet Union. Gulf War staged in Middle East. Twins win second World Series in five years. U. S. population is 248 million.

1992 Needlepoint communion kneelers dedicated.

* World Wide Web introduced. Those on-line go from three million to 100 million today.

1993 Wendy (Horn) Frarck hired in August as part-time music director. Later combined with role as Director of Children's Ministries to become full-time.

* South Africa ends apartheid.

1994 Paula Moerer hired in May as part-time youth director. Eventually becomes full-time.

1995 *Oklahoma City bombing kills 168. O. J. Simpson acquitted in deaths of ex-wife and her friend.

1997 Pastor Bussman dies at age 93. Missouri Synod notes 150th anniversary.

* Princess Diana dies in auto accident in Paris. Iowa couple has world's first surviving septuplets. Sheep cloned in England.

1998 Rev. Pragman accepts call to District Office, ending nearly seven years as associate pastor.

* President Clinton impeached. Jesse Ventura elected Governor of Minnesota. Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa hit 70 and 66 home runs, respectively. Frank Sinatra dies. Octuplets born in Texas (one died).

1999 Rev. Emil Geistfeld, visitation pastor since 1989, dies. Our Savior's basketball team goes 13 – 0 for Mankato Church League White Division title. Jane Iverson starts as Director of Christian Outreach intern.

2000 Our Savior's budget for 2000: \$405,660. Basketball team wins second straight White Division title. Jane Iverson hired as full-time Director of Christian Outreach. 50th Anniversary marked by guests and two events.