

Notes from Anniversary Booklets:

1) From 25th Anniversary Year:

Theme: *Do More For Christ*

Goal for 1955-56: Everyone Participate Somewhere

We have a progressive church: we offer effective worship, we offer a strong program of religious education, we offer a challenging program for young people, we have active organizations, we belong to a synod with a great program, we have thrilling history, our anniversary year was a year of remarkable achievements, we have great vision

Last Easter 602 attended church

Over 25% increase in SS enrollment and attendance . over 25% increase in church membership and attendance

2) Fifth Northeastern Lutheran Conference on the Holy Spirit: (Oct 8-9, 1982)

Oh Lord, our eyes are upon Thee 2 Chron 20:12

First Conference held on Oct 13-14, 1978

3) Dedication of Our Savior's Lutheran Church: Oct 22, 1961

This church is a monument of love to Christ, made possible by the vision, the prayers, the selflessness of God's people. Ps 26:8 Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house - the place where thine honor dwelleth Hymns: The Church's One Foundation / Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our volunteers play a major role in the building of our new church. 256 people put in close to 3500 hours of work on this project (sheet rock, insulation, painting, floor and ceiling tile, staining, grading, landscaping planting.

Total Cost, including land and furnishings about \$180,000

4) Forward with Faith (20th anniversary 1949) *Attempt great things for God – expect great things from God* Fifty five of our men served in the war. During these years of building and renovation. *We have also been deeply concerned about Christian education. This is the real molding force of the church.* A Stewardship program under direction of B. Von Schenk – major objectives: every member in church every Sunday and at Holy Communion each time it is celebration. Every member studying the Scripture at home and in Bible Class: Daily Prayer; tithing and freewill offerings. Each member telling others of the wonderful love of Christ. VBS started in 1947

5) 35th Anniversary – Spiritual Rededication (Nov 1, 1964) A Challenge to Greatness Psalm 147:5 *Great is our Lord and of great power.* Eph 3:20 *Unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think.*

A Great and Glorious God / Great Faith / Dedicated Pastors / Dedicated Lay Workers / The Spirit of Sacrifice: We must think big – God's promises are big (Eph 5:18, Act 1:8, 1 Jn 5:14)

Growth – yet greater things to come (Jn 14:12)

6) Dedication Service of White Building (Sept 8, 1935) purchased Van Buren property in July, 1931 for \$2000. Cost of new building \$8000. Words from Pastor Paul Prokopy, the father of the Mission Society: *To work for the Church, and to bring others to Jesus, the Lord of the Church, is exceeding joy. To help start a church and thus assist in expanding the Kingdom of our Redeemer's grace is a holy privilege. To continue to work for the Church as co-laborers of the Lord, both clergy and laity, is service that carries its own reward. To look forward to the time when we shall be together in the Church Triumphant, seeing Him face to face through Whom we have this ageless and endless happiness assured, is our common, grand, glorious, final hope. Yours for a courageously and heroically militant church, Paul Prokopy.*

7) From Second Northeastern Lutheran Conference on the Holy Spirit (10/12-13, 1979)

Refrain from song printed in booklet: *Come, Holy Spirit, dark is the hour, We need your filling, Your love and Your mighty power; Move now among us, stir us, we pray. Come, Holy Spirit, Revive the Church today!*

8) From Third Northeastern Lutheran Conference on the Holy Spirit: 10/10-11, 1980

Welcome (Pastor Litke) There are two things you can do to help make this Conference a truly great conference. The first is to come with the spirit of faith, the spirit of expectation and anticipation. The greater our faith, the more the Lord will be able to do in our midst. The other thing you can do is to help create an atmosphere of mutual concern and love in the body present. This will help us to share our hunger for God's blessing and our love for one another. Come ready to show such a concern for others that the atmosphere will be that of mutual concern and love for Christ.

9) From Bread of Life (booklet – Oct, 1979) for and about Lutherans in Renewal – Resurrection Lutheran in Flushing, NY Pastor Litke quoted: *We do not have a fixed program of evangelism. The people are evangelists. As a result of that, I would say, that on an average Sunday we have 120 people who are not members but are associated with our church and about 20 visitors in attendance. In all of our fellowship and study groups we have people who are seeking the Lord and find their way here. We have a great outreach, but it is done by the individual Christian, but his life. People see something in them. It is a spontaneous thing.*

10) From the 60th Anniversary Pictorial Directory *Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord (Rm 12:11)*

11) From 50th Anniversary Pictorial Directory (1979)

For fifty years one of the Father's arenas for gathering His people into their full potential together has been the life at Our Savior's. We sense that eternal purposes lie below the surface of our daily encounters. We are Father's carefully chosen gifts to one another. Relationships are the only way for us. His masterpieces, to reach full expression and development.

Unless He sets us in meaningful relationships, we remain as dull as words in a dictionary. But when different words are paced side by side, purposefully, there is communication

God has gathered us and continues to set us in relationships with each other to express Himself clearly to us and our worlds. "You are a letter of Christ, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God on tablets of human hearts."

12) From the Mortgage Burning – May 12, 1991

I will mention the lovingkindness of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us according to His mercies and according to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses. Isa63:7

It was on that First Sunday, only five days after the "Black Tuesday" which ushered in the Great Depression, that 9 people joined together in the old Fuller Road Fire House to worship God in the very first service of what would become Our Savior's Lutheran Church. What great hope must have filled their hearts!

God richly blessed those Founding Fathers and Mothers as they remained faithful to His call. The storehouse of His lovingkindness were faithfully poured out upon them. The congregation grew and prospered and slowly took its intended place within the local Christian community, never straying but a few blocks from its original birthplace.

We commit this day not only to a celebration of God's love toward us but also to a recommittal of our love and faithfulness toward Him, standing in humble and eager expectation as He continues to work out His good pleasure in our midst.