


Trinity Lutheran Church  
1882-1982  
100 Years of Good News  
+  
Westbrook, Maine



Box  
6





"But the word of the Lord abides forever." That word is  
the Good News which was preached to you. I Peter 1:25

PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATED NOVEMBER 6, 1982



## FOREWORD

We are proud of our Danish heritage. The Danish tradition of devotion to family and church is strong in our congregation. On the occasion of our One Hundredth Anniversary we wish to display our pride in our relationship, not only to our forebears, but to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our gratitude is great; we are raising a banner of love to God for a century of blessings.

Trinity Lutheran Church, originally named the First Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, had its beginning when families and individuals came to Westbrook to settle as immigrants from Denmark. They brought with them not only their few belongings but also their strong faith in the word of God. We owe much to our former leaders; their memories linger to shout "KEEP THE FAITH."

We praise God for the good news which the growth of fellowship in Christ has brought about. By the grace of God, we have had a steady growth of baptized members. The congregation has seen several of its young men enter the ministry and also has seen many others of its members grown from "babes in Christ" to stalwart workers in the Kingdom of God.

The daily lives of our spiritual ancestors were dependent upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We still receive this benevolence, Praise to the Triune God!

From 1882 to 1982, we "count our blessings, and name them one by one -- to see what God has done."

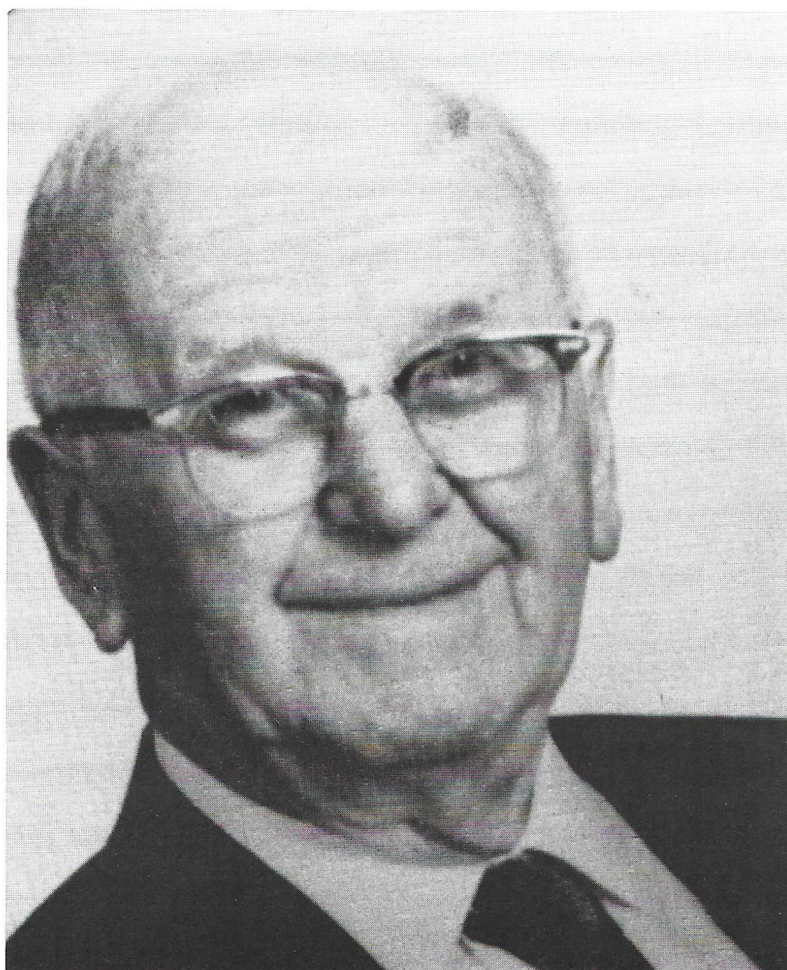


## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to members of Trinity Lutheran Church who have faithfully acted out their commitments to Jesus Christ by their participation in this congregation.

May their example serve as an inspiration to us and future generations as we live out God's call to follow and to serve.

--Rev. Allen Barnes



ERNEST SMITH  
1891-1981

Ernest Smith was exemplary of this commitment to God. He lived his faith and will be remembered for his many church activities including, Church Council Member, Superintendent of Sunday School, and Choir Member until his last illness.

Ernest lived by God's word, standing up for his beliefs. A terrific sense of humor and love of life endeared him to all.





Life of Luther

### MARTIN LUTHER

1983 will be the 500th Anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther in 1483. The year will be one of celebration in his memory.

Martin Luther was a Doctor of Divinity, Professor of Divinity, Vicar, Translator of the Bible from Greek to German and Composer of hymns. His original intent was not to revolt against the Roman Catholic Church, but his insight into the failings of man made rules as God's Word and his action in nailing the 95 Thesis to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenburg in 1516 began the Protestant Reformation.

In this celebration of Trinity's 100th year we honor Martin Luther for his stand on faith and grace.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

Based on his convictions, Luther voiced his commitment to his faith, saying; "Here I stand, I can do no other."  
"God help me."



OFFICIALS OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



"100 Years of Good News shared by Trinity since the first Danish Settlers organized a Lutheran Congregation in Westbrook!"

Kenneth Nelson  
Anniversary Celebration Chrm.

We praise the Lord for one hundred God-guided years at Trinity Lutheran Church.

"In Him we were also chosen". Ephesians 1:11

Russell Jensen  
President

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus.

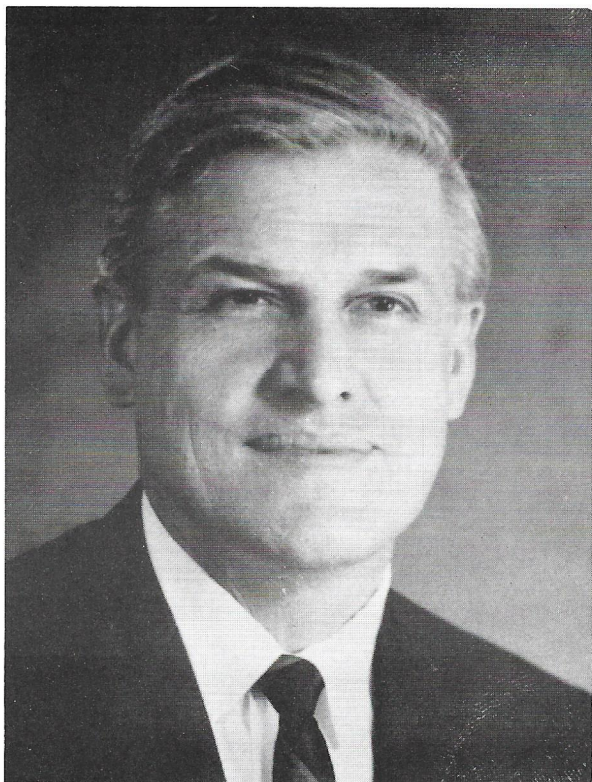
This has been a year of joy and encouragement as we have celebrated our 100th Anniversary with our monthly gatherings and special events. It has been a year of blessing. God has blessed this congregation richly over the past 100 years and I am sure he will continue to do so in the years to come.

In response to His continued blessing we are called to continue to be faithful. God has given each one of us talents and blessings; may we be willing to share them with others in our families, in the church and in our community. May the Good News of God's love continue to be part of our lives and may it continue to be the story we tell.

Peace  
Pastor Barnes



NATIONAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS



David W. Preus, President  
American Lutheran Church

The American Lutheran Church  
Office of the President



422 South Fifth Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415  
612-338-3821

June 24, 1982

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Main and School Streets  
Westbrook, Maine 04092

Dear Friends in Christ:

The American Lutheran Church joins in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God for your witness to Christ and service to others in your community. We thank you for your partnership in the worldwide mission of The American Lutheran Church.

An anniversary is an occasion for looking back, praising God for his faithfulness, and honoring those who have lived and served among you. It is also an opportunity to look ahead, recommitting yourselves to a fervent sharing of the gospel and caring for others in Christ's name.

Thank you for inviting me to share this important time with you. God continue to bless your life together and your ministry to others in your community and throughout the world through The American Lutheran Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

*David W. Preus*

David W. Preus  
President

DWP/lal





E. Harold Jansen, Bishop  
Eastern District, TALC



The American Lutheran Church  
Eastern District

June 28, 1982

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Main and School Streets  
Westbrook, Maine 04092

Friends in Christ:

A hearty congratulations to you on the 100th Anniversary of your life as a congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ!

The Churches of the Eastern District join me in greeting you on this festive occasion and sharing the joy of observing a century of service and testimony to the Grace of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

"Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever." He who called you to be a church and guided and sustained you through the first hundred years is powerfully able to sustain you as you begin this challenging Second Century.

Yours in Christ,

E. Harold Jansen, Bishop  
Eastern District, TALC

EHJ/sh



The American Lutheran Church  
Eastern District

July 6, 1982

The Rev. Allen Barnes and  
The Congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church  
Main and School Streets  
Westbrook, Maine 04092

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus:

We thank God that for 100 years a ministry to the community of Westbrook, Maine has been possible through the stewardship of life and means in Trinity Lutheran Church.

May God continue to bless and keep you as you enter a new century of service in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cordially,

Maury M. Drum, Dean  
Northeast Region, Eastern District

MMD/cp

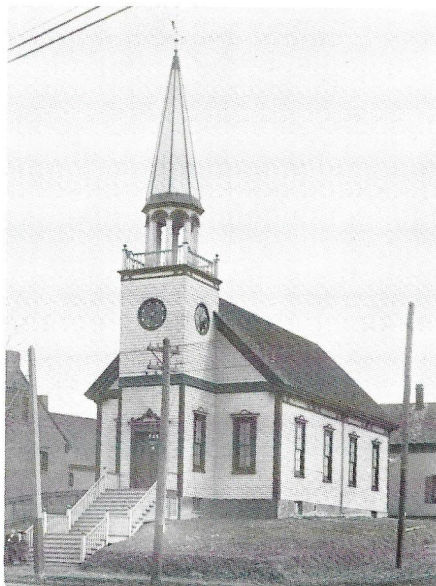


Maury M. Drum, Dean  
Northeast Region, Eastern Dist.





Pastor P.P. Thoreby



Original Church



Pastor & Mrs. K. O. Storli



Mr. & Mrs. Laust Horlick



Smith Family



Mr. & Mrs. Mads Nelson



C. Christensen - S.S. Nielsen  
C.C. Kloth - V.R. Staby



## FIRST DANISH SETTLERS ORGANIZE A CONGREGATION

The first Danish family to locate in Westbrook, Maine was Mr. and Mrs. Laust C. Horlick and four children. They arrived in Portland in the spring of 1873. Mr. Horlick, through a friend Mads Bruns, secured work at the Haskell silk Mills. In 1875, the Lawrensen family arrived and for several years there was a steady immigration of people from Denmark and from the former Danish province of Schleswig. Since Schleswig was then a part of Germany, young men were required to serve in the German army, thus many of them left the country. For political and economic reasons entire families as well as individuals decided to try life in the United States. Seven sons and daughters of Jannik and Maren Smith migrated to the States and later brought their parents and younger brother to Westbrook. Mads Nielsen arrived in 1875 and that same year married Maren Smith, oldest daughter of Jannik.

When the Horlicks arrived in Westbrook to establish a home, they brought with them the old family Bible, Luther's Postil, and their hymn books. Mr. and Mrs. Horlick, who saw and felt the need of spiritual guidance gathered the Danish families for worship in their home.

In 1876 the pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Portland, the Reverend N.J. Ellestad, was secured and came to Westbrook for services nearly every Sunday afternoon. From this year until 1893 pastors from First Lutheran Church served the Westbrook families who were meeting in homes.

Increased attendance created the need of organizing a congregation. On November 2nd, 1882 (date may be incorrect) a meeting was held at the home of Mads Nielsen on Reservoir Street, and under the guidance of Rev. K.D. Faegre they organized as "The First Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Westbrook, Maine." Some time after organizing they secured the basement of the Warren Congregational Church for services on Sunday afternoon. Later the Advent Christian Church was used. Soon the congregation felt the need of having a church of their own. Through the efforts of the Ladies' Aid, which was organized in 1891, five hundred dollars was raised and a lot on the corner of Main and School Street was purchased from Mr. John E. Warren for the site of the church. This made incorporation necessary. Accordingly, on the twentieth day of January 1892, application was made to the State of Maine for the right to incorporate by the following men: Peter Sorensen, John H. Fabricius, Mads Nielsen, Andrew Nielsen, Samuel Holm, Lorenz Peter Hinricksen, Jes Peter Paulsen, Anders H. Andersen, Iver R. Holt, Peter C. Jacobsen, Jannik H. Smith, Hans Petersen, Martin M. Fabricius, Christian Justesen, Niels H. Jessen, John Hinricksen and K.O. Storli.



## BUILDING THE CHURCH

Soon after incorporation it was decided to build the church. A complete record of the cost of erecting the church is found in the old church books:

Mr. John E. Warren, lot of land	\$500.00	
Foundation	133.16	
Building Material	849.88	
Mr. Niels A. Bruns, carpenter	405.50	
Mr. Jannik Smith, labor	78.50	
Painting of church	35.80	
Plastering of church	160.00	
Weather vane	27.00	\$2189.84
Inside:		
Altar and Baptismal Font	115.00	
Pews	114.00	
Furnace	80.00	
Organ	90.00	
Light Fixtures	66.00	
Carpet	130.40	
Matting	12.00	607.40
		<u>\$2795.24</u>
Other expenses		329.63
		<u>\$3124.87</u>

Most of the money required for building the church was collected among the Danish people in Westbrook, Falmouth and Portland, \$1,169.85 being subscribed by the congregation, and a loan of \$1,000 obtained from the Gorham Savings Bank. In addition, \$241.50 was contributed by the business men of Westbrook, and \$134.35 by the First Lutheran Church of Portland.

Rev. K.O. Storli, who was instrumental in the building of this church, was the pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Portland. He was a sturdy, untiring, zealous pastor serving the Scandinavian people of Portland, Westbrook, Falmouth, Yarmouth, and Berlin, N.H. His mission work was responsible for organizing other congregations in several of the New England States.

The church was dedicated on New Years Day, 1893 by the Rev. N.J. Ellestad, the first Lutheran pastor to begin mission work in Westbrook. On January 23, 1883 the first parish meeting was held in the church and the following officers were elected: President, Mads Nielsen; secretary, Lorenz Hinricksen; treasurer, Anders Andersen; trustees, John Horlick and August Webber. Jes Paulsen volunteered to see that the church was kept clean.

For ten years previous to the building of the church in 1892 there are no records available. We are relying upon the elder members of the congregation for the early history of the church. We give credit for the preceding information to the compilers of previous anniversary booklets.



## FIRST DANISH PASTOR AND SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

At the time the church was completed the congregation had grown to about forty adult members. At the suggestion of Pastor K.O. Storlie, who preached in Norwegian, a Danish speaking student P.P. Thoreby, from Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis was asked to come and serve the Westbrook congregation and a growing number of Danish settlers in Falmouth. Pastor Thoreby came in the summer of 1893, and after ordination accepted a call from the two groups to serve them as pastor. Rev. Thoreby was to receive fifteen dollars a month and three offerings. He later moved to Falmouth, where he bought a house; and with a horse and buggy drove to Westbrook every Sunday. The Danish language was used exclusively in the services.

Pastor Thoreby's work soon began to show its effect, especially among the younger people. A Choir was started, and the young people's meetings were held in the different homes. Pastor Thoreby was a very spiritual man and preached God's Word in and out of season. It was an awakening mostly among the young people. Reading the Word of God, singing of hymns and prayers became a daily occurrence in many a home. Later on some of the parents of these young people began to seek the Lord. The result of this awakening is evident even to this day. Pastor Thoreby served the people until June of 1905, when he discontinued his work in Westbrook to serve Falmouth exclusively until 1907. It was during Rev. Thoreby's pastorate that the congregation joined the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1898.

In 1899 Jens Smith was delegate to the National Convention in Minneapolis. The first convention of the Atlantic District was held at Westbrook in the fall of 1902.

## THE CONGREGATION GROWS

A call was extended to Pastor Eric Hansen of Beresford, South Dakota and in June he was installed. During his stay another district convention was held on October 12-16, 1905. One English service a month was introduced, as well as an offering for mission work, the first Sunday of every month. Rev. Hansen's pastorate was terminated on October 28, 1906. Pastor L. Larsen of Falmouth served the congregation during the vacancy which lasted until the fall of 1907.

On May 3, 1907 a call was extended to Pastor Christian Christensen of Lindsay, Nebraska and was accepted June 9th. During Rev. Christensen's pastorate there was a considerable growth in the congregation, and another spiritual awakening was experienced among the young immigrants that came from Denmark during the period from 1907 until the First World War in 1914-1918.



In 1908 it was apparent that a parsonage was needed for Pastor Christensen and his family. The Sullivan house directly at the rear of the church was purchased for \$1,600. An addition and remodeling cost \$800. The men of the congregation did most of the work.

During the same year the young people presented the church with a new reed organ. In 1913, Niels Smith was elected delegate to the Synodical Convention.

The size of the original church was 30' by 50'. Due to the growth of the congregation a meeting was held on April 13, 1913, and it was voted to enlarge the church by 20' to the front, putting the steeple to one side of the building and installing a balcony. The cost was \$2,200. A district convention was held in the renovated church August 27th to September 1, 1913.

The purchasing of the parsonage and the enlarging of the church resulted in a debt of \$3,200. Payment of this debt was made possible by each voting member giving four dollars a year, and with some aid from our different societies.

In 1914 the church was redecorated both inside and out by Mr. Isadora Rasmussen of Boston at the low cost of \$113.90. The Young Peoples Society generously presented to the congregation the beautiful stained glass window of Christ in Gethsemane over the altar.

On January 16, 1916 at the yearly meeting, Mr. Arthur Petersen was elected Sunday School Superintendent to replace H.H. Holm, who had served as Superintendent since 1894. In the same year a new heating plant was installed at the cost of \$550.

On March 9, 1919 Rev. Christian Christensen resigned due to failing health. A call was accepted by Rev. C. C. Kloth of Elk Horn, Iowa who arrived in Westbrook in July of 1920 and was installed in August. During Rev. Kloth's pastorate English services were increased to every other Sunday evening and the Lutheran Hymnary was introduced.

In 1923 a pipe organ was bought from a church in Lewiston and installed by the Young People's Society. A foundation was built for the church and the basement finished for use of the Sunday School. Maurice A. Sweet was a delegate to the Synodical Convention in Elk Horn, Iowa.

In 1928 the Young People's Society, Sunday School and Girls' Club asked permission to install a church bell, which request was gladly granted. On May 13, 1928 Rev. C. C. Kloth's resignation was read, Pastor Kloth having accepted a call as mission pastor in Toronto, Canada.



A call was extended to Rev. Victor R. Staby of Jacksonville, Iowa which he accepted and was installed October of 1928. During Pastor Staby's term a set of individual silver communion cups was imported from Denmark at the cost of \$150. Janitor work, previously purely voluntary by various members, was done by Jens Smith for \$300 a year. The Dana College Choir visited, a garage was built for the parsonage, and a new constitution was adopted which gave women members the right to vote May 27, 1934. Martin Thomsen resigned as deacon after forty-four years of faithful service.

The first and third Sunday morning services of every month were now in English. Permission was granted to the men to organize a Lutheran Brotherhood and the Atlantic District Convention was held here on August 28 to September 1, 1937. Rev. Staby resigned on May 14, 1939 to accept a call from Kimballtown, Iowa.

Pastor S.S. Nielsen of Lincoln, Nebraska accepted a call and was installed on November 19, 1939 by Rev. C.C. Kloth. A new bell was bought from the First Congregational Church of Falmouth for \$200. In 1942 it was voted to use the English language exclusively for Sunday services and to use the Hymnal for Church and Home published by our own Synod. A committee was appointed to make plans for our 60th anniversary and also to plan for a new altar and re-decoration of the chancel.

The Altar and Chancel Revision committee consisted of Rev. S.S. Nielsen, Holger Christensen, Wilson Herring, Alfred Christiansen, Maurice Sweet, and Ernest Smith.

With the remodeling of the altar a decided improvement in the appearance of the interior of the church was brought about. "The new altar and remodeled chancel is not only artistic and very beautiful, but encourages the feeling of deeper reverence and worship."

The plans and work were executed by Mr. Iver Knudsen of Boston, Mass. The altar itself is six feet in length, decorated by seven Gothic arches in the front. A reredos is continued from the altar and built around the stained glass window depicting Christ in Gethsemane. This reredos likewise has a panel of seven Gothic arches between the altar and the window, and at the top has two spires and seven elevations on each side with a cross at the center in the highest portion. Joining the reredos is the eight-foot paneling in Gothic design, covering the lower portion of the chancel walls. The new altar rail has a center opening. All the woodwork is oak, stained to resemble fumed oak.

The ceiling and walls above the paneling were painted a deep cream color, with a Gothic arch effect to match the woodwork. The entire chancel was illuminated by indirect lighting. The new altar linen was a gift from the members of the congregation. Gifts from one individual and from three organizations, together with many other voluntary contributions, and the services of several



individuals have made this work possible. The dedication service was held on Sunday morning, August 23, 1942.

From the original twenty charter members the congregation had grown to more than 300 baptized members.

At the annual parish meeting January 24, 1945 it was voted to change the name of the congregation to "First Lutheran Church of Westbrook, Maine." At the semi-annual parish meeting July 17, it was voted to begin an Organ Fund.

On April 2, 1944, Pastor S.S. Nielsen submitted his resignation, however, continuing until September, to accept a call from Bethany Lutheran Church, Denver, Colorado. A letter of call was extended to Pastor Otto Nielsen on July 14, 1944. The call was accepted and he was installed October 15, of this same year.

During the years of World Warr II many of our sons and daughters entered the armed forces, and served in various theatres of war throughout the world. Some gave their life in the service of their country. An Honor Roll was placed in the church listing the names of those in the service.

On March 11, 1945 a Bible was presented to Mayor Furbish from First Lutheran Church to be placed aboard the victory ship "Westbrook" which was built and launched at the South Portland shipyard. During World War II a Danish merchant ship, Jutta, and her crew were interned in the Portland harbor. Many kindnesses were shown to these men by members of the congregation. As their expression of appreciation these sailors presented a miniature sailing ship, Jutta, which was suspended from the ceiling in the nave. Lutheran Churches in Denmark suspend miniature ships in their naves which likens symbolically, the ship which carries people across the stormy seas to the Church of God which offers salvation from the temptations and storms of life. In 1962 for its preservation the ship was placed in a wooden and glass case built by Albert Dyer and hung in the church entry way.

January 27, 1946 it was voted to change the name of the congregation to Trinity Lutheran Church, Westbrook, Maine." On November 6, 1949 it was voted to purchase a new Moller pipe organ, which was located in the left front of the nave and dedicated October 24, 1951. Pastor Otto Nielsen submitted his resignation on August 6, 1951 after having served more than seven years.

Pastor Elmer W. Anderson was called and installed June 8, 1952. At the annual meeting January 25, 1953, the Church Council was authorized to engage an architect and ascertain the cost of an addition to the church to provide additional seating space in the church and facilities for Sunday School rooms. A plan was approved for an addition 12 feet wide and the full length of the church on the School Street side. On the main floor this provided additional seating capacity of eighty in the church and a pastors study at the rear. In the vestry an enlarged kitchen and three Sunday School rooms were added. Rededication of the enlarged



church was held May 16, 1954. The same year an exchange of property was made with the City of Westbrook, whereby Trinity Lutheran acquired fifteen feet of frontage on Main Street from the city, giving in exchange forty-five feet of church property at the rear adjacent to the city school.

It is gratifying to note the numerous gifts and memorials which have been presented to our church through the years. It emphasizes the warm personal interest in our church and the desire to glorify our Lord by enhancing the beauty of His house. Especially meaningful are the art glass windows which enrich the beauty of our church. Each one portrays a necessary step to Eternal Life; (1) Baptism, (2) The Chalice with the Host signifying the Lord's Supper, (3) The Symbol of the Trinity, (4) Descending Dove, signifying the Holy Spirit, (5) Lamb of God, (6) Peacock, the Symbol of the Resurrection and Life everlasting. Also a new front entrance was built and an amplifying system installed. A complete set of limed oak pews for the nave and balcony given as memorial to former members and friends of Trinity Lutheran Church were dedicated with appropriate services in 1957. These matched choir pews given in 1954 as a memorial.

The preceding information was taken from the 1942 and 1957 Anniversary Booklets.

Rev. Elmer Anderson was Pastor as we entered the last quarter of Trinity's 100 years. During 1958 the Red Liturgical Hymnal was introduced for our worship. A nursery for small children during services was started in the vestry.

Pastor Anderson resigned in 1958 and Pastor Allison Hansen was installed in January of 1959. He served until 1965. Pastor Hansen held Sunday evening services twice a month. An usher training program was set up and hosts and hostesses were appointed for Sunday mornings. The Council voted to discontinue publishing names of contributors in the annual financial report though envelope numbers and amount given remained. At that time there were 309 confirmed members.

The congregation voted to buy a new parsonage at 139 Mason Street. The old parsonage was to become a parish house and Sunday School Building. At this time the church was replastered and refurbished. New doors were installed in the nave and the balcony. A cloak room was built in the front hallway. New frosted lights were hung in the nave.

In 1962 Pastor Hansen asked for a part time secretary for five to six weeks at \$1.25 per hour. The Council voted to discontinue listing envelope numbers and amount contributed in the annual financial reports. Confirmed members numbered 329.

We were privileged to have the ordination of Andrew Jensen held at Trinity in 1964.



It has been said that there have been a greater number of changes in this century than in all previous centuries combined. In the quarter century since our 75th anniversary, economic, political and technological changes have been astounding. The church and its members have been effected by these changes. As we entered these last twenty five years we of Trinity had an established pattern of life and worship. Our lives centered around family, work, community and the church. Our Pastors preached the Word of God, which we strove to apply to our lives. We were aware of huge problems in the world, and attempted to meet our responsibility in a traditional manner; through prayer, our Synodical apportionment, and sponsoring missionaries.

Events in the late 1950's and 1960's raised momentous practical and ethical questions for all Americans, especially Christians. The black population, led by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., cried out in anguish for equal treatment as citizens. Man was sent into space and to the Moon; the arms race continued it's growth. The environment and natural resources were being threatened by misuse and by the huge increase in World population. Television graphically showed our fellowmen in Biafra, Bangladesh and South Africa suffering famine and political oppression. In the United States, citizens were divided over our involvement in the Viet Nam war. Our young people were confused and angry at the inconsistencies between ideals they were taught and the seeming realities of the world. The Catholic Church began a series of conferences, Vatican II, probing potential changes in the Church which would effect relationships with Protestant churches. These momentous changes were to influence the evolution of Trinity and would lead the congregation to re-evaluate their responsibilities to the church and the world.

In 1965 the District President asked Trinity to consider a seminary graduate as Pastor. Subsequently we called three recent seminary graduates. These young men, educated and trained during this period of accelerated change felt strongly that the responsibility of the church was to learn God's will and to become involved. This challenged the congregation to increased awareness of the Christian's role, to accept differences of opinion and to act, through Christian love, toward solving problems and healing wounds.

Pastor Timothy S. Greene, a recent seminary graduate was called in 1965. He served until 1967. Pastor Greene reached out to the parishioners and those in the community who were hurting, with a warm heart and a happy countenance. Loved and respected by all, he was especially effective with the young people. He formed a bridge between established practices and attitudes in the church to changes which were to come. During his tenure, deacons began assisting with communion.

In 1966 we were privileged to have the ordination of Peter L. Swan held at Trinity.



Pastor Perry Hansen was installed in July of 1967. He urged members to involve themselves in study groups, to participate fully in church activities, to promote personal fellowship among members, and to seek God's will in their lives. Koinonia, a series of fellowship meals and studies, created new friendships and personal understanding among participants. A Rogation Day service at the Roger Knight farm stressed the blessings we have in God's earth and our responsibility for stewardship of the land. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein". Ps. 24:1

Recognition of our earthly blessings was reflected in offerings given for the starving in Biafra and Bangladesh. "I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink." Matt. 25:42

Church attendance was falling throughout the country. Attendance was effected by people moving to new jobs, entering into marriage with persons of other denominations, smaller families and lack of interest by young people in traditional church services and activities. Pastor Hansen asked "Where are we going as a church?" "Are we communicating with each other about our faith? Are we giving enough time to people and their needs, as Christians?"

A departure from the traditional was a Folk Service at Trinity, which was well attended. We began accepting "making a joyful noise" literally. Communion was opened to confirmed members of other churches and to children over ten years of age having received special instructions. Younger children were brought to the altar to be blessed.

By 1970 the ecumenical movement had taken root in the community. Good Friday services were held in conjunction with the Congregational Church. At Trinity a Lutheran-Catholic wedding was celebrated with our Pastor and a Priest officiating. An ecumenical service A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, was held at St. Hyacinth Catholic Church with protestant ministers participating.

Another area of lack of involvement was the difficulty in recruiting teachers and members to fill other positions in the church. Many women were starting to work outside the home, limiting the time once available for church duties. Pastor Hansen wrote "Lack of willingness to get involved is very discouraging. Try to live together the way we would if Christ were with us today." In an effort to reach unchurched individuals in the vicinity of the church a Door Knocking Day was organized but was not well attended.

Church in the home, family gatherings for worship in various homes, were attended for a short time only. Two attempts to form a Bethel Series Study Group were unsuccessful. Beneficence was down and the "Young felt left out." A quote from Pastor Hansen lamented: "As a congregation we have not really come to



grips with what it means to become involved with each other." He urged spiritual and personal participation in the church. A variety of programs were offered, a Young Couples Club, the Wednesday Thing, and informal Scriptural Study Group, Saturday evening services twice a month for those working on Sundays. Pastor Hansen taped short spiritual messages titled "Just a Thought" to be broadcast on radio in an attempt to reach members of the community.

Slowly individual involvement grew. Lay lectors began reading the lessons. Young people conducted a Youth Service and Good News for Modern Man Bibles were given to all confirmands. The Blue Book of Contemporary Worship was introduced, and gradually accepted. Pastor Hansen said "The purpose of Trinity Lutheran Church is to teach the Christian faith, to witness by word and action to Christ. To renew our faith and gain strength by worshiping God and sharing one another's faith."

In June of 1972 Pastor Perry Hansen submitted his resignation. His efforts to lead the congregation in a new direction to greater spiritual and personal commitment were seeds which were to mature slowly for several years.

Pastor David Isaacson, a recent seminary graduate, accepted a call in 1972. He reintroduced the Bethel Series Study and ten members participated. Bibles were purchased for all eighth grade students. For the first time girls served as acolytes. There was increased cooperation between Lutheran Churches of the area including joint services for Lent and Reformation, Wednesday evening services during the summer, and weekly study groups for all Pastors. An ecumenical study of Job was offered at the Baptist Church and a Witness for Jews for Jesus spoke at a Sunday morning service at Trinity. Martin Luther King Memorial Day was observed in the community with special services. In 1975 a Viet Nameese refugee family was sponsored.

In 1978 the New Lutheran Book of Worship was introduced. Under God's loving guidance those who assembled this hymnal coordinated material from the ALC, LCA, AELC and Missouri Synods. The format of the early Church was followed to some extent in the liturgy. The result is a blessing in music and liturgy through Lutheran cooperation.

The seeds, planted earlier and nourished by Pastor Isaacson and the efforts of many members, were growing. Pastor Isaacson wrote in the 1977 annual report "It is positively a delight to look back. All the records and progress reports testify and witness to the many ways God has blessed Trinity and worked through so many of you in the ministry we share together."

In August of 1978 Pastor Isaacson resigned. During a prolonged period without a minister there was a real challenge not to lose the momentum which had been building. Michael Murphy, a lay minister conducted services. To his opening "Good Morning"



from the chancel the congregation responded, weakly at first, but soon with a strong "Good Morning" reply. The handshake of peace was becoming spontaneous.

In March Mr. Murphy asked to be relieved. Members assumed complete responsibility for the functions of the church. This personal participation and acceptance of responsibility based on the foundation of attitudes and teachings of Pastors Perry Hansen and David Isaacson, developed a free loving relationship among members. A warm joy and spontaniety permeated the congregation which enriched worship. God's love was showing.

In April of 1979 Pastor Allen Barnes accepted a call to Trinity and arrived in August. Under his leadership Trinity has continued to grow in the desire to learn and exercise the Word of God, to respect and be concerned for our fellowman. To enrich our spiritual life, Good News Bibles have been placed in all pews and given to every fourth grade student. An art wall with appropriate pictures was installed in the front entry. Psalm studies, prayer breakfast, and adult study classes increase our knowledge of God's Word. A second refugee family from Viet Nam was sponsored and a Clothes Closet for needy persons started.

As of January 1982, Trinity had 400 baptised and 270 confirmed members. During this celebration year of our 100th anniversary we have rejoiced in the many people, ministers, family members and friends who have joined with us in thanksgiving and praise to God. We thank God for those who through the years, have assumed the responsibility to God and man to perpetuate this church. We are thankful for our heritage of Grace, Faith and Love. We praise God that through changes, pressures, and adjustments we are privileged to hear and respond to the Gospel.

As we have experienced spiritual and personal growth through these past twenty five years, may we continue in love, understanding and execution of the Word under God's direction as priests and servants.

"And you will be known as the priests of the Lord and the servants of our God." Isaiah 61:6

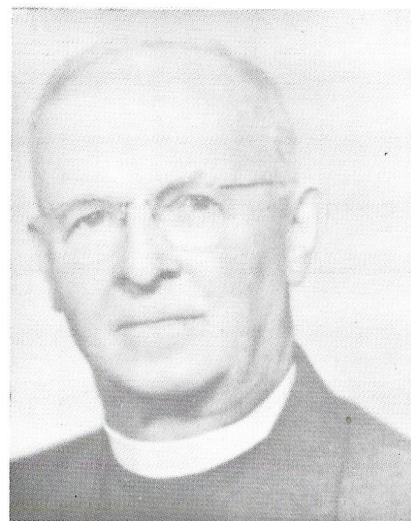
"Stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel." Phil. 1:27





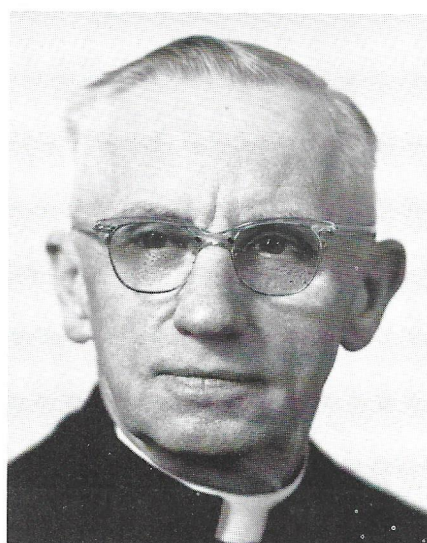
Christian Christensen  
1871-1959

Served  
\*1907-1920



C.C. Kloth  
1875-1963

Served  
\*1920-1928



V.R. Staby  
1885-1971

Served  
\*1928-1939



S.S. Nielsen  
1901-1950

Served  
\*1939-1944



Otto Nielsen  
1890-1973

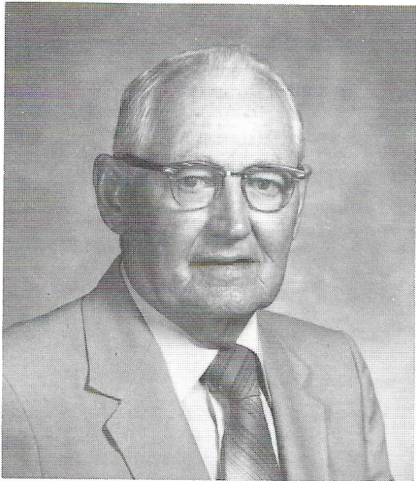
Served  
\*1944-1951

\*Dates of service at Trinity



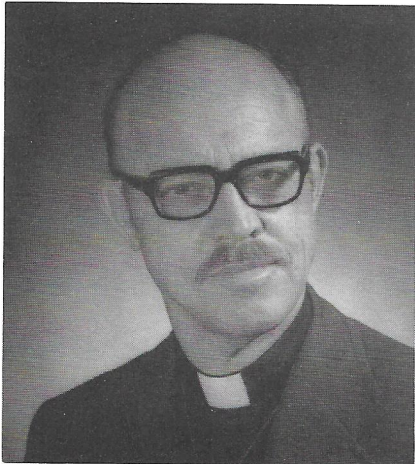
## PASTORS OF TRINITY

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



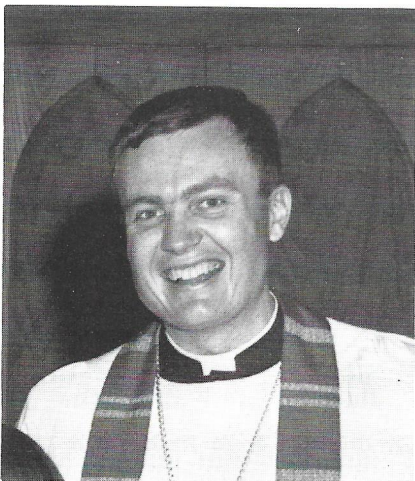
ELMER ANDERSON \* 1952-1958

Born: 1900, Beresford, South Dakota  
College: Dana, Blair, Nebraska 1926  
University of Ne. 1928-1929  
Seminary: Trinity Theological 1932  
Ordination: 1932  
Marriage: Anna Kaldahl  
Children: Ada, LeRoy  
Presently: Retired  
Resides at Good Samaritan  
Village, Hastings, Ne.



ALLISON HANSEN \*1959-1965

Born: 1922, Sioux City, Iowa  
College: Dana, Blair, Nebraska 1948  
Seminary: Trinity Theological 1953  
Marriage: Marie Nelson, 1948  
Children: Sharon, Randy, Sandra  
Parish Ministry: Now serving in  
Leland, Iowa



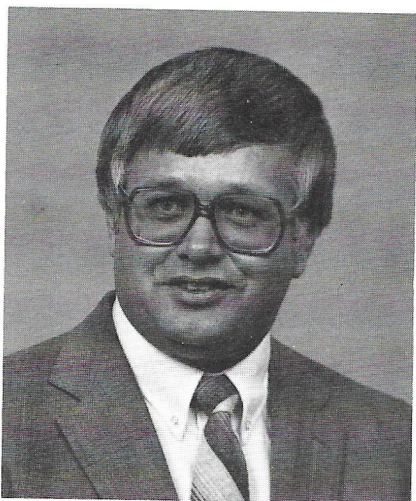
TIMOTHY GREENE \* 1965-1967

Born: 1937, Baldwin, Wisconsin  
College: University of Wisconsin, 1959  
M.A. Program, New York Univ., 1971  
Seminary: Luther Theological, St. Paul, Mn.  
Presently: Director of Physical Therapy  
Dept., Univ. of Wisconsin-  
Madison University Hospital and  
Clinics

\* Service at Trinity



# PASTORS OF TRINITY



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

PERRY HANSEN

\*1967-1972

Born: May 8, 1937, Mankato, Minn.

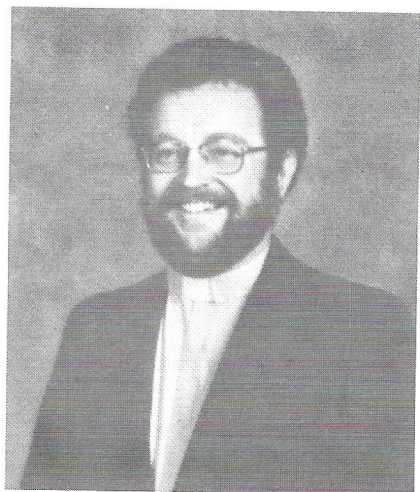
College: St. Olaf, 1959

Seminary: Luther Theological  
Seminary, 1963

Marriage: Lynn Ellen Lokensgard

Children: Nathan, Peter, Michael

Presently: Messiah Lutheran Church  
N. Fort Myers, Florida



DAVID ISAACSON

\*1972-1978

Born: Jan. 11, 1945, Perth, N.D.

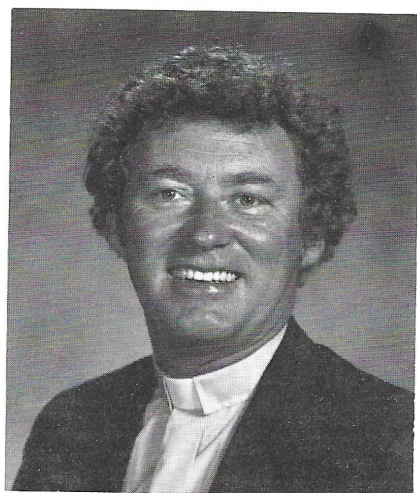
College: Concordia, Moorhead, MN  
1967

Seminary: Luther, St. Paul, MN, 1971

Marriage: Marilyn Berge, 1968

Children: Sarah, Aaron, Joshua

Presently: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran  
Church, Rocky Point, N.Y.



ALLEN BARNES

\*1979-

Born: Oct. 5, 1939, Baltimore, Md.

College: Capital University,  
Columbus, Ohio, 1967

Seminary: Evangelical Lutheran  
Theological Seminary, 1971

Marriage: Joyce Green, 1959

Children: Thomas, Ruth

Parishes: Redeemer, Bennington,  
Vermont, 1971-1979  
Trinity, 1979-

\*Service at Trinity



SONS OF THE CONGREGATION

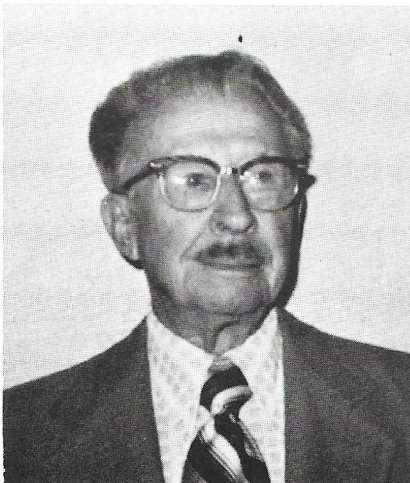


BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

FRANK NIELSEN

Son of Mads & Maren Nielsen

Birth: 1885-1977, Westbrook, Me.  
College: Dana, Blair, Ne., 1913  
Seminary: Trinity Theological, 1916  
Marriage: Hilda M. Larsen of  
Westbrook, Me.  
Children: Homer, Ruth, Luther, Vera



CHRISTIAN JUSTESEN

Son of Christian & Karen Justesen

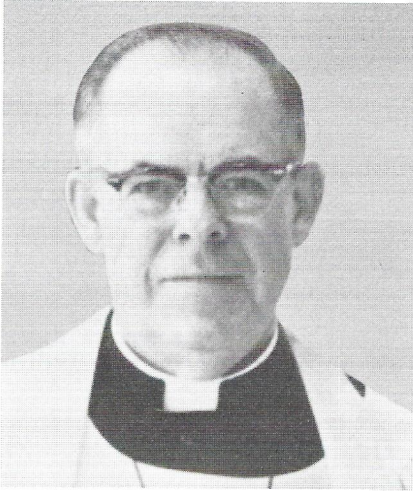
Birth: 1896, Westbrook, Me.  
College: Dana, Blair, Ne.  
St. Olaf College,  
Northfield, Mn., 1923  
Seminary: Trinity, Blair, Ne., 1926  
Ordination: 1926  
Marriage: Mary C. Hansen  
Children: Janet, Lois  
Presently: Retired 1965  
Resides in Anaheim, Ca.



ALFRED JENSEN

Son of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Jensen

Birth: 1899-1964, Cumberland, Me.  
College: St. Olaf, Northfield, Mn.  
Seminary: Trinity, Blair, Ne.  
Ordination: 1927  
Marriage: Lillian Brancholt  
Children: Rosell



### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

CORNELIUS K. HANSEN

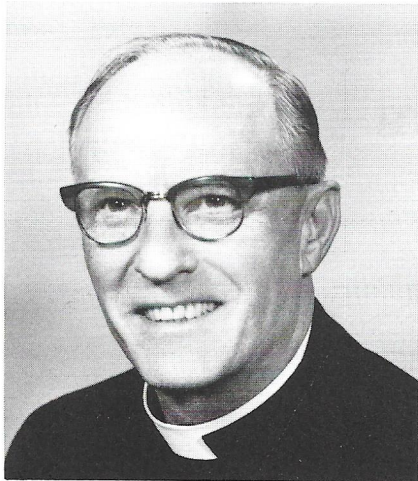
Son of Hans & Marie Hansen

Birth: 1901-1963, Schleswig, Denmark  
 College: Capitol University  
 Seminary: Trinity Theological  
 Blair, Ne.

Ordination: 1931

Marriage: Helen Karstensen of  
 Westbrook, Me.

Children: Virginia, Daniel



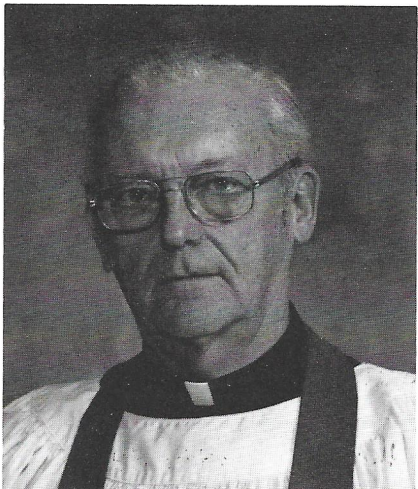
C. SCRIVER KLOTH

Son of Pastor C.C. & Elizabeth Kloth

Birth: 1905-1979, Freemont, Ne.  
 College: Wagner College  
 Staten Island, N.Y.  
 Seminary: Trinity Theological  
 Blair, Ne.

Marriage: Martha Hansen

Children: Paul, Dorothy, Mark



ANDREW STABY

Son of Pastor Victor & Lena Staby

Birth: 1912, Audubon, Iowa  
 College: Dana, Blair, Ne.  
 Seminary: Trinity Theological  
 Blair, Ne.  
 University of Wisconsin

Marriage: Martha Rasmussen

Children: Judith, Paul, John,  
 Mary Beth

Presently: Retired Jan. 1, 1978



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



### ADOLF KLOTH

Son of Rev. C.C. & Anna Kloth

Birth: 1915, Elk Horn, Iowa  
College: Dana, Blair, Ne., 1937  
Doctoral studies at  
Chicago Lutheran, Pacific  
Lutheran and Pacific  
School of Religion.  
Lutheran World Federation  
Scholarship in Denmark and  
Sweden, 1959  
Seminary: Trinity Theological, 1942  
Blair, Ne.  
Other: Pastor of The American  
Church of Copenhagen, Denmark.  
Founded Christ Lutheran  
Church, Orange, Ca. Founded  
Good Shepherd Lutheran  
Church, Irvine, Ca.  
Ordination: 1942  
Marriage: Lucille Neve, 1942  
Children: Joel, and four foster  
children. Maxine, Tom,  
Fran, Lowell  
Presently: Retired. Moorpark, Calif.



### THORVALD HANSEN

Son of Hans & Marie Hansen

Birth: 1916, Westbrook, Me.  
College: Dana, Blair, Ne., 1936  
Seminary: Trinity Theological, 1945  
Blair, Ne.  
Marriage: Esther Carlsen  
Children: Carolyn, Paula, Lois,  
Ruth, Sarah  
Presently: Retired

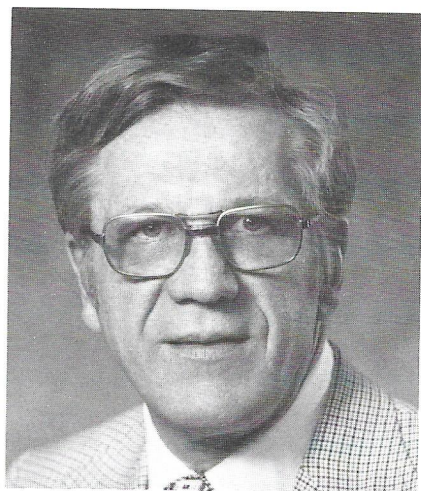
## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



HOMER LARSEN

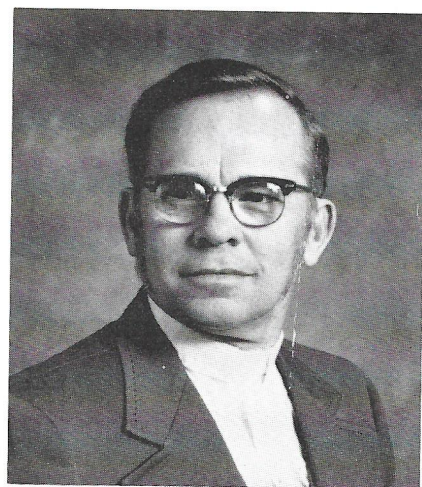
Son of John & Lena Larsen

Birth: 1924, Westbrook, Me.  
College: Dana, Blair, Ne., 1945  
Seminary: Lutheran Theological  
St. Paul, Minn.  
Ordination: 1948  
Marriage: Eunice Carlsen, 1947  
Children: Natalie, John, Julie  
Presently: Nazareth Lutheran Church,  
Cedar Falls, Iowa.  
Speaker on Christian  
Crusaders Radio Broadcast



HARRY L. ANDERSON

Birth: 1922, Urshult, Smoland, Sweden  
College: University of Minn., 1952  
Seminary: Luther Theological, 1955  
St. Paul, Minn.  
Marriage: Sylvia Nielsen  
Children: Bruce, Sharon, Ramona  
Presently: Director for Administrative  
Personnel and Education for  
the Evangelical Lutheran  
Good Samaritan Society,  
Sioux Falls, S.D.

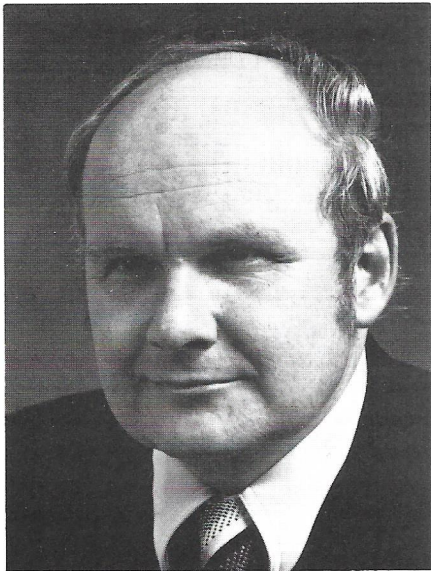


ROBERT KLOTH

Son of Arndt & Agnes Kloth

Birth: 1929, Westbrook, Me.  
College: Dana, Blair, Ne., 1951  
Seminary: Trinity Theological, 1954  
Blair, Ne.  
Ordination: 1954  
Marriage: Patricia Madsen  
Children: Ruby Ann, Rhoda Anna,  
Timothy, Allen  
Presently: Good Shepherd American  
Lutheran Church, Wichita, Ks.



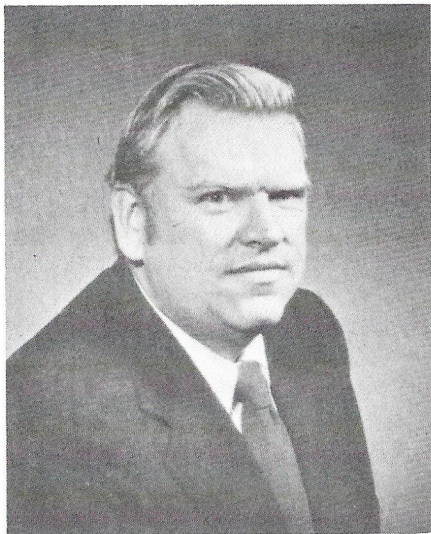


## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### LINWOOD FREDRICKSEN

Son of Jens & Clara Fredricksen

Birth: 1931, Westbrook, Me.  
 College: Dana, Blair, Ne., 1953  
 Seminary: Chicago Lutheran, 1956  
 Chicago, Illinois  
 University of Iowa  
 Ordination: 1957  
 Marriage: Joanne E. Havick  
 Children: Barbara, Linwood, David  
 Presently: Undersecretary and Manager  
 of the Program Development  
 Div. of Rotary International,  
 Evanston, Illinois

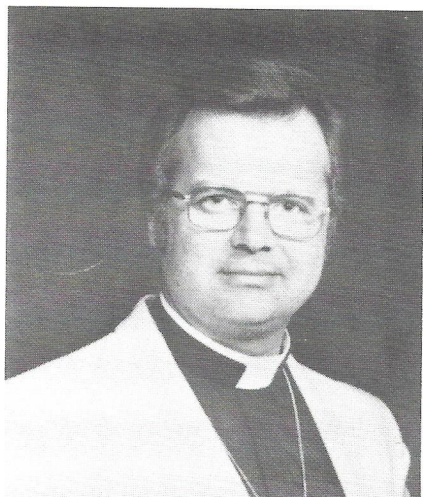


### ANDREW JENSEN

Son of Edwin & Carrie Jensen

Birth: 1938, Portland, Me.  
 College: Valparaiso Univ., 1956-1957  
 Valparaiso, Ind.  
 Dana, Blair, Ne., 1960  
 Seminary: Wartburg Theological, 1964  
 Dubuque, Iowa  
 Andover Newton Theological,  
 Massachusetts  
 So. Dakota State Univ.,  
 Luther-Northwestern Theologic  
 St. Paul, Minn., Doctor of  
 Ministry, 1980  
 Ordination: 1964, Trinity Lutheran Church  
 Marriage: Mary E. Halvorson  
 Children: Dan, Joel, Nathan  
 Presently: Emmanuel Lutheran  
 North Hollywood, Ca.

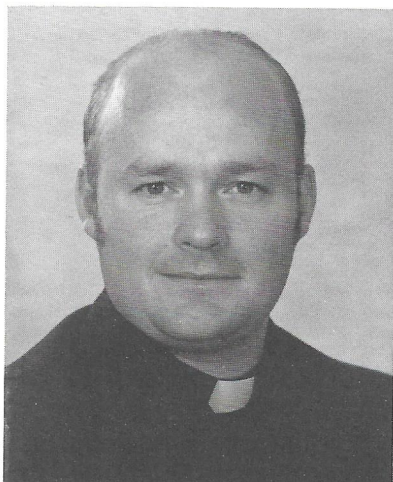
## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



PETER LEE SWAN

Son of Maurice & Jerainie Swan

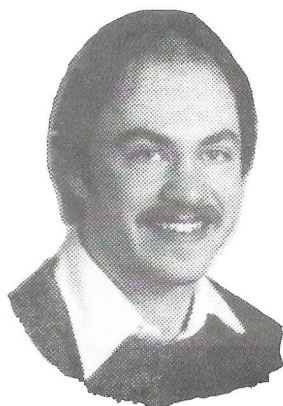
Birth: 1939, Portland, Me.  
College: St. Olaf, 1959  
Dana, Blair, Ne., 1961  
Seminary: Wartburg Theological, 1966  
Dubuque, Iowa  
New York Theological, 1975  
Ordination: 1966, Trinity Lutheran Church  
Marriage: Barbara Annis  
Children: Timothy, Paul, Julie,  
Stephen  
Presently: Oceanside Lutheran Church  
Oceanside, N.Y.



PAUL SEAVEY

Son of Francis & Viola Seavey

Birth: 1946, Westbrook, Me.  
College: Dana, Blair, Ne., 1969  
Seminary: Wartburg Seminary, 1973  
Dubuque, Iowa  
Marriage: Mary Ellen Studdendick  
Children: Kristine, Karmen  
Presently: Prince of Peace Lutheran  
Evansdale, Iowa



RANDY HANSEN

Son of Rev. Allison & Marie Hansen

Birth: 1952, Blair, Ne.  
College: Augustana College, 1974  
Sioux Falls, S. Dakota  
Seminary: Luther Seminary, 1978  
St. Paul, Minn.  
Ordination: 1978  
Marriage: Judy Fink  
Presently: American Lutheran Church  
Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Pastor Hansen is the founder  
and director of Renewal  
Outreach Ministries.





TRINITY LUTHERAN  
100th ANN

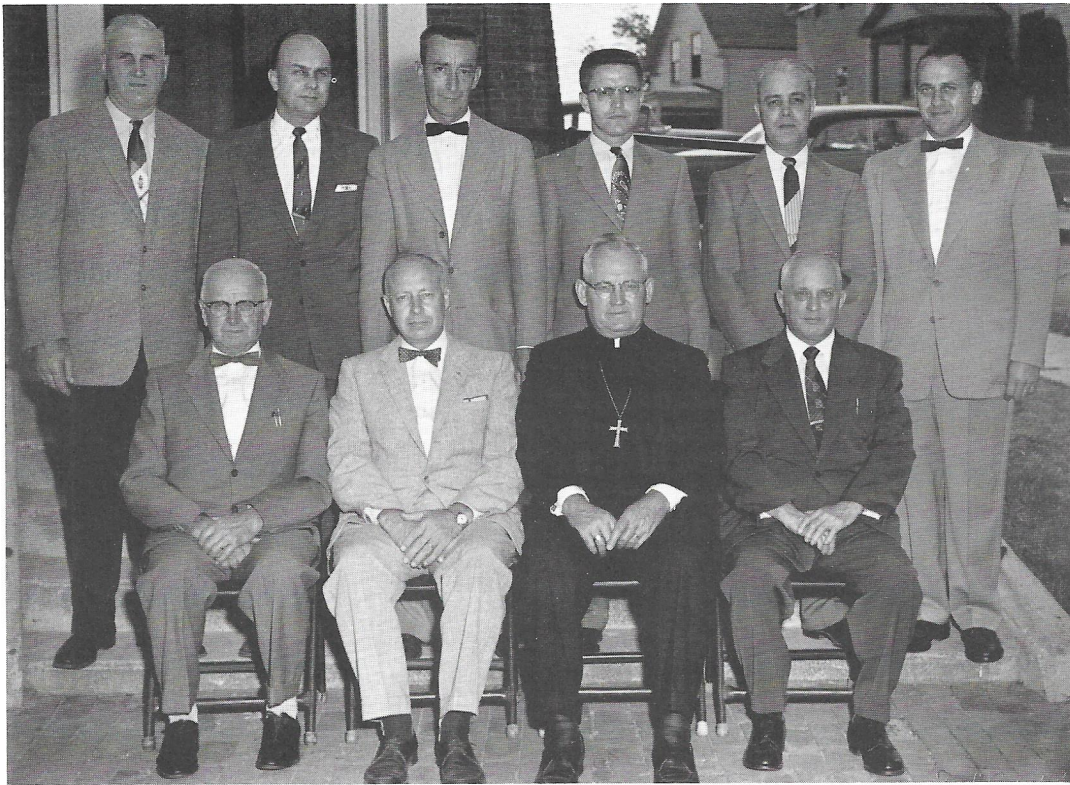




CHURCH SEPT. 1982  
ANNIVERSARY



CHURCH COUNCIL



1957



1983

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching".

I Timothy 6:17



## CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS

Through the years several changes have been made in the Church constitution. In 1959 the voting age was changed from age 21 to age 18. Later, another change ruled that all confirmed members may vote except in cases of purchase or disposal of property, when the age must be 18 years.

In 1961 the number of Council members was increased to 12. That was later reduced to 9. The first female council member took office in 1964. Since then there has been one or more women on each Council.

The growth of Trinity, and the accompanying responsibility of its leadership, is indicated by the growth of the proposed church budgets. In 1959 expenditures of \$18,942.50 were proposed. That figure rose to \$65,220 in 1982.

## PROGRESS IN THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Since our 75th anniversary in 1957, ten new mission churches have been established in the New England Conference. In Maine mission churches are located in Augusta, Brunswick, Kennebunk and Windham. Rochester, New Hampshire has a mission church. In Massachusetts there are three - in Billerica, Braintree and Wayland. In Vermont, the mission churches are located at Bennington and Jericho. In addition established churches in Enfield and Plymouth, New Hampshire transferred from the Missouri Synod to the ALC Conference.

## PROPERTY

There have been many alterations to the Congregation's buildings. For instance, the original round colored glass window over the altar was replaced by the beautiful stained glass picture of Christ in Gethsemane which we now enjoy.

It is interesting to note that a Gorham barn was later ornamented by a colorful round window which was enjoyed by the family and neighbors of Ole Jensen. Is there any way to measure how this beauty may have contributed to the contentment of the Jensen's herd of cows?



In 1959 land between the church property and the railroad was leased for additional parking. An arrangement with the city and school department was made to share costs of paving and maintenance in return for their use of our lot for school buses to Warren School.

Members of Trinity feel it is imperative to maintain the church property in good condition. Some of the projects consisted of installing combination windows, a new roof, new doors and casings installed in the entry to the church, the nave and balcony, carpeting, insulation and siding on both buildings, upgrading the electrical system, ceiling fans, furnace boiler, ramp construction and altar revision.

The need for more adequate Sunday School space and other activities prompted the congregation in 1960 to purchase a new parsonage at 139 Mason Street. The old parsonage was to become a parish house. In 1965 Rev. Timothy Greene, a bachelor, had no need for so much space. The Congregation voted to sell the parsonage. From that point the pastor was paid an adequate housing allowance and could buy or rent housing of his choosing. This seems to have been a satisfactory arrangement for both church and pastors.

In 1971 the Main Street end of the vestry was partitioned off to make an office for the secretary. In 1982 a corner was partitioned and furnished to make a more adequate nursery area.

The fuel crises of 1976 and 1981 caused the price of all petroleum products to rocket. All possible efforts were made to conserve fuel and electricity to lessen the burden of escalated costs.

We deeply appreciate the time and effort of many men of the church who have given of themselves to maintain our property. We would not have a house of worship if it were not for them.

#### ALTAR REVISIONS

The previous altar revision was done in 1942; the 50th anniversary year. A quote from the booklet of that year says, "the new altar and remodeled chancel is not only artistic and very beautiful, but it encourages the feeling of deeper reverence and worship. We are confident that the revision of the chancel area in 1982 continues those aims. The Lutheran Church has always emphasized the proper administration of the Sacraments and the preached Word. The revisions to the chancel were made to enhance this concept. The organ was moved to the balcony. The pulpit was moved two feet to the right, providing a more central setting for the Baptismal font. For easier access, the communion rail was moved to the front of the chancel and the platform removed. This opened an area for a free standing altar which was handcrafted by Hans Wolff. The pastor now faces the congregation in the communion celebration.





ORIGINAL CHANCEL - 1894



CHANCEL - 1942



CHANCEL - 1982

#### CARE OF THE ALTAR

Trinity is fortunate to have members devoted to and talented in caring for the altar. On Sundays, our faithful Altar Guild is on hand to change the Paraments and prepare for the communion service. Alice Sinclair and Ingeborg Warming have chaired this committee for years. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to them and their committee.

Through these last twenty-five years we have been indebted to Maren Christiansen and Kenneth Nelson who have beautified the altar with floral arrangements. At present we are truly blessed by the artistic talent and dedication of Ken, who orders and arranges the flowers every Sunday. On special occasions he uses unique and original ideas in his decorating, enriching our worship with God's beauty.

Since 1966 Ralph Billings has also brought special beauty to God's house during the Christmas season. At his summer home on Long Island Ralph makes evergreen wreaths. He transports them, a few at a time, on the boat, to the church and places one in each window in the nave and in the chancel. What a privilege to worship God in our beloved and beautiful church with the scent of balsam and fir permeating the air. What special beauty for celebration of the Advent of our Lord. We are deeply indebted to Ralph.



## THE RAMP



Dedicated to Carrie & "Eddie" Jensen

In recent years the public has become increasingly aware of the need for all individuals to be able to participate personally in all areas of life as easily and naturally as possible. Physical structures which restrict such freedom of participation are being removed in public buildings to facilitate involvement by elderly and handicapped. In 1979 Trinity Lutheran Church constructed a ramp from the parking lot to the rear of the church. It is useful to many who find the stairway limits their access to the church.

This ramp was dedicated in memory of Edwin and Carrie Jensen, faithful members of our congregation, who would have benefited greatly from such easy access.





SUNDAY SCHOOL - 1957



SUNDAY SCHOOL BAND - 1957



SUNDAY SCHOOL - 1982



## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School of Trinity Lutheran Church was organized about the year 1890 in the Warren Congregational Church by Pastor K.O. Storli, of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Portland. The Sunday School later moved to the Advent Christian Church, continuing there until our own church was built in 1892.

Through the years the Sunday School has provided formal Christian training for our children. The children are made aware that God is love, and loving means helping and caring for others. To emphasize this concept, varied and ongoing programs are used, such as the support of an American Indian mission, Lutheran World Relief, and Kiddee Kits sent to foreign missions. Local needs are stressed by the presentation of Christmas gifts for the less fortunate children in the city.

This year, in observance of our 100th anniversary, the Sunday School prepared a Time Capsule to be buried on the church property. It is to be unearthed in twenty-five years.

Projecting into the future is a difficult concept, especially for children. To help them to better understand the significance of the time capsule, we studied our church history, bringing to their attention many of the changes between the Sunday School of years ago and the present.

In the last twenty-five years there has been a substantial decrease in the number of children enrolled in our Sunday School. There are several apparent reasons for this. At present the mean age of our congregation is in the fifties. Among young people, there is currently a trend to smaller families due to economic factors and worldwide concern for overpopulation. A desire for rural living has removed families to outlying communities, changing their church affiliations. Though the numbers are fewer, the Sunday School program retains a strong commitment to the message of God's love and to teaching the Gospel.

## ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Bible Class goes back many years at Trinity. Originally it was strictly a Bible Study. In later years other topics were introduced, such as the Augsburg Confession and also contemporary topics. Teachers, both lay and the Pastor, have directed the material toward understanding the word of God and its implementation in the daily lives of members.



## CONFIRMATION CLASS



1917



1983

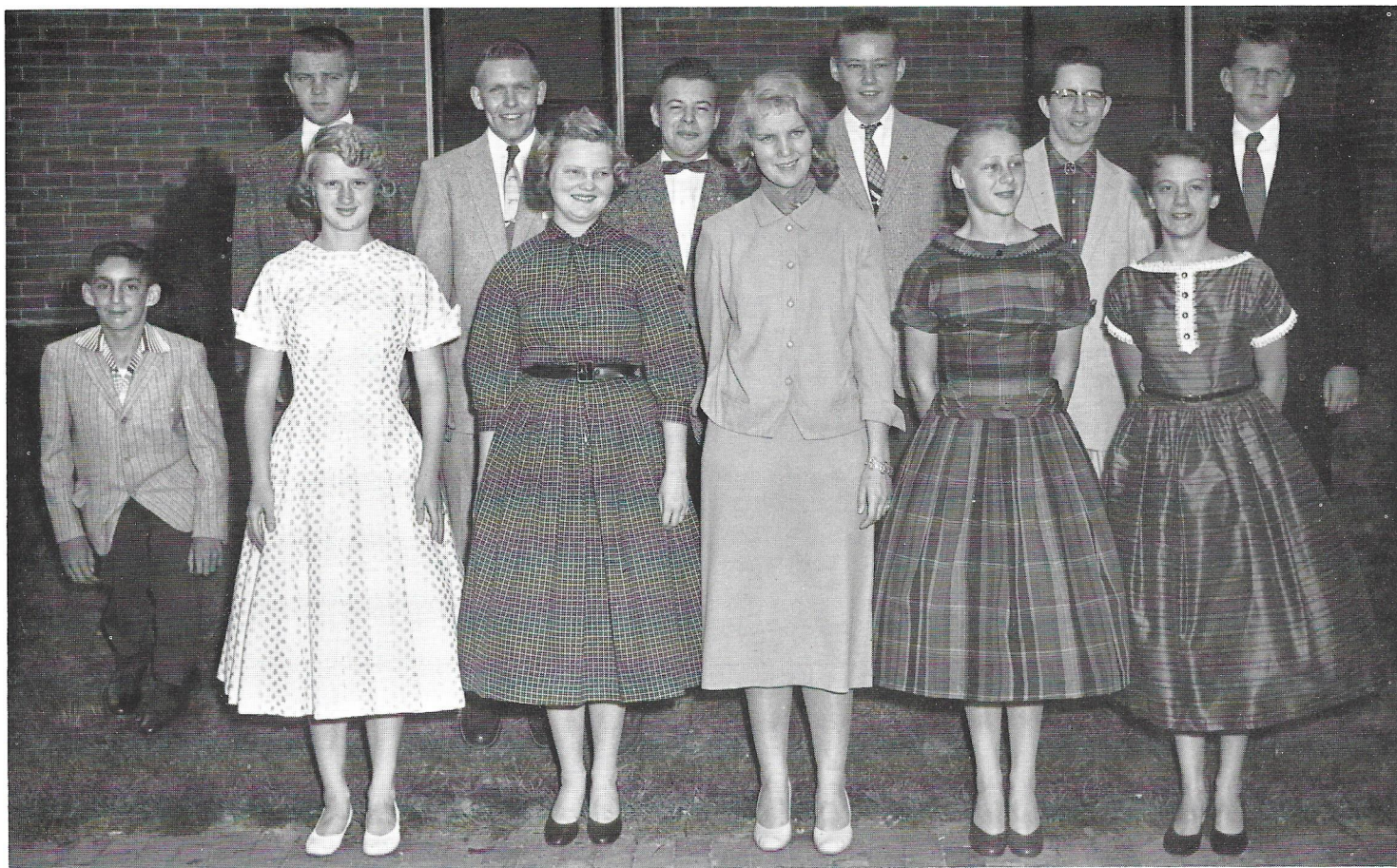
### THE CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

The confirmation program is a two year study, which students begin, usually, at the seventh grade level. The first year of study is devoted to the Bible. Second year students study Luther's Catechism. Classes vary in size but generally are smaller than several years ago. Confirmation is often held on Reformation or Pentecost Day.

Until about ten years ago the confirmand received first communion on the day of confirmation. Under present practice, all young children come to the altar for a blessing during communion. When a child has completed the fifth grade and is considered mature enough to prepare for Holy Communion by his parents and the Pastor, a preparation period is conducted by the Pastor. Upon completion of this study, the child may participate in Holy Communion. The ceremony of Confirmation takes the individual into a mature relationship in Christian life, both in regard to his relationship with God and in his responsibility to the Church.



LUTHER LEAGUE



1957



1983



## LUTHER LEAGUE

The Luther League of Trinity Lutheran Church is comprised of young people age 14 and over. They meet on a weekly basis for fellowship, fun and planning sessions.

There is one adult advisor who is assisted from time to time by other adults in the congregation. We are open to any Christian youth in the community who wish to join us and thus also function as an outreach organization.

The average weekly total participation is twelve. This is also true of retreat weekends. These weekends are planned twice a year and come under the heading of LYCNNE (Lutheran Youth of Northern New England). This organization is currently coordinated by the Westbrook Luther League Advisor (Merilee Bryant). Most of the meetings which are held are planning sessions for these retreats. This is the means to two ends:

(1) The youth here participate in the preparation and execution of the retreats and get their devotional work done as part of each meeting.

(2) At the actual events they play an integral part in helping the event to be a positive experience for everyone. This type of interaction and acceptance of responsibility gives each member a feeling of self-worth.

The Leaguers are also available for assistance in the nursery during church, and for help in the kitchen when church dinners are planned. During the past year the youth started participating on a limited basis as Lay Assistants for church services.

The Youth make an earnest attempt to fund all of their events by themselves. This is not always possible but the congregation of Trinity has always been available to assist them. Much emphasis is put on faith in God's will by their advisor and the attitude of this group always seems to be positive.

When the National Convention was held in New Orleans, La. in 1977, one method of raising money employed was a Bikathon. Several of our Luther Leaguers attended the New Orleans Convention, an experience to be remembered.

"Simple Gifts" held in Amherst, Mass., for all Lutheran Youth in New England has been highly praised by those who have attended. The Spirit of God, of fun and fellowship are truly present, making it a rewarding experience. "Simple Gifts" will be held again in December, 1982.





#### MEN'S CLUB

Church records indicate that originally Trinity organized a Lutheran Brotherhood in 1938. However there were years between then and the present that this group was inactive.

In January of 1981 the Men of Trinity reorganized for monthly meetings. The fourth Monday of the month was established as the meeting day. Dinner meetings were chosen as the format.

This is a Men's Fellowship including the preparation of the meal, serving, and securing various guest speakers from civic, educational and religious sources. The Group is also supportive of the Sunday School in work projects like making bookcases, etc.

Another 'outreach' to vary the meeting format has included 'cook outs' and serving the Mother/Daughter Banquet for Trinity LCW, etc.

The Men of Trinity have developed a sense of togetherness and fellowship which adds dimension to the regular worship experiences.





TABITHA SOCIETY - 1957



LADIES AID - 1957



ALCW - 1982



## OUR CHURCH WOMEN Past & Present

Women have been devoted, dedicated, active participants through all the 100 years of our church. Contributions have been made with service, leadership, assistance and money.

### A SEED IS PLANTED.....

The first contribution by a woman was made in 1875 when Mrs. Laust C. Horlick invited the Danish people to unite in praise, prayer and Bible study. Our church was founded from this group.

### THE SEED GREW.....

A Ladies' Aid was organized on November 28, 1891 through the encouragement of Pastor K. Storlie. Their goal was to raise funds for a church building. Women made their second contribution when the 22 members within a short time raised \$900 of which \$700 was given to the congregation to purchase the lot of land on which our church still stands.

### THE SEED SPROUTED.....

For some 80 years the Ladies' Aid held suppers, fairs and strawberry festivals. They paid for the installation of electric lights in the church in 1903. Large sums were given over the years for construction of the church, renovations, redecorating and modernization in the old parsonage, the first baptismal font, chancel carpets, chairs, altar raiments and candelabras. Contributions of money also were given for congregational expenses and for mission work at home and abroad. Members met monthly in the homes for Bible study led by the pastor, business and work on various projects.

### THE SEED MULTIPLIED.....

The Tabitha Society, a group of younger women, was formed on November 24, 1933 by Mrs. Victor R. Staby wife of the pastor. The Society's purpose was to provide a group for ladies who found it difficult to understand the Danish language which prevailed in church at that time. Tabitha meetings were held monthly with programs and Bible study. They raised money from dues and social activities which was contributed to the support of the church and to synodical missions.

### THE SEED BECAME A TREE.....

About 20 years ago all women joined in membership with the American Lutheran Church Women. All confirmed women are members. Our local group is titled Trinity Lutheran Church Women. Members meet monthly in the vestry for business and programs and bi-monthly in the homes for Bible Study. Following the established practice of the Ladies' Aid and Tabitha Society, TLCW continues to provide funds and services for the church and missions.



#### THE TREE BEARS FRUIT.....

For all these 100 years women have furnished the altar hangings, altar coverings, bridal carpets, dishes, glassware, cooking utensils, linens, baptismal towels, drapes in the vestry, parish house and pastor's study. Traditionally housecleaning the church and parish house is done yearly by the women. For 90 years women have purchased candles for the altar and candelabras.

#### THE TREE HAS BRANCHES.....

Women were given the right to vote in the church May 27, 1934. Some 30 years later the first woman was elected to the Church Council. Three women currently serve in our anniversary year.

#### THE TREE HAS DEEP ROOTS.....

The oldest member of our church is a woman. Mrs. Annie Smith Thompson, (Mrs. Henry), is 96 years of age.

#### THE TREE IS STEDFAST.....

A legacy for commitment to God's Words and His Ways and His Works was inherited by Trinity Women. We have accepted the responsibilities. We strive for the same perseverance of our founding Sisters in Christ. We cherish our legacy.

Written by Beverly Farley

### WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY

In the last quarter century an increasing number of women from various denominations are entering the ministry. To date, no "daughter" of Trinity has become a minister. However, several of our women have married ministers and have actively supported their husband's work and their congregations. We wish to recognize their contribution to the Christian lives of many people. We also wish to acknowledge the great service to our congregation by the wives of Pastors who served Trinity.

The following message was received from a former member of Trinity, Ethel Jensen Johnson, who served many years in this particular "ministry" as wife of the late Pastor Leonard Johnson.

"I still consider Trinity Lutheran my home church. All of our family members were confirmed there, some were married there, six have been buried from there, our memories are deep. I'm proud to have been a member there and am happy that my family has continued to be active members. All blessings to all of you on your 100th Anniversary."

Ethel Jensen Johnson



## MUSIC

The Lutheran Church has a wonderful heritage of church music and has been noted through the years for the importance it assigns to music in the service. The Good News presented through music has been enjoyed by many at Trinity this past century, and has been spread to the community through participation in joint choirs.

The members of Trinity have provided fine instruments for the musical program. Originally there was a pump reed organ. Presently we have a beautiful Moeller pipe organ. Several pianos have been given to the congregation, including a fine Baldwin studio piano now in the sanctuary, and a Yamaha in the Vestry.

Trinity has been privileged to have had accomplished organists and choir directors to beautify our services with music expressing emotions from the quietness of meditation to the swelling of praise. We wish to especially honor Mildred Staby Nelson and Euna Winther Miller for so generously devoting their special talents and countless hours to enhance our worship musically.

In 1965 the church established a policy whereby any seriously interested organ student of the parish would be assisted in taking lessons. Each would be allowed the use of the organ and be subsidized up to \$12.00 a month for lessons. Our hope is that the worship of God will be enriched musically by these students.

Participation in both youth and adult choirs has fluctuated. Generally, adult membership has been adequate and enthusiastic. The choir and congregation have readily accepted and implemented the new hymnal and liturgical material advocated by the Synod (1958 and 1978). All have found real joy in the variations of the beautiful hymns and in singing praises to the Almighty.

From 1979 to 1982 Patricia and Dr. Joel Hayden were organist and choir director. Their tenure enriched the congregation musically and spiritually. We are indebted to Joel for the composition of our 100th anniversary hymn, You Stand Between the Years. Following is his description of the hymn's inception.

### 100th ANNIVERSARY SONG

Dear Friends:

Last year Ken Nelson asked me on behalf of the Anniversary Committee to write an Anniversary song for Trinity. The song, now finished, is the result of a cooperative effort. I want to thank all those who helped with ideas and suggestions.

We announced that we would welcome ideas or actual verse for a text to such a new song. Three people responded with thoughts in verse form; Enid Smith, Lois Brix, and Harry Grant. The Anniversary Committee threw out thoughts about what sort of subjects might be suitable for the song. I read the booklet, "Sixty Years of Church Life", published at Trinity's 60th Anniversary.



I took these ideas and suggestions and let them soak. It was clear that we wanted words that would somehow express the past, the present, and the future, as any Anniversary celebration should. It was also clear that our devotion to God and trust in Him should be included in the words. I then waited for God to inspire the next move.

Before long I was reminded of an excerpt from the devotional book, "God Calling", that I've been reading daily for 25 years. It's the passage for January 1st, and it seemed to sum up both the backward and forward looking qualities of an Anniversary. I quote it here in full;

"I stand between the years, the light of My Presence is flung across the year to come- the radiance of the Sun of Righteousness. Backward, over the past year, is My Shadow thrown, hiding trouble and sorrow and disappointment".

"Dwell not on the past--only on the present. Only use the past as the trees use My Sunlight to absorb it, to make from it in after-days the warming fire-rays. So store only the blessings from Me, the Light of the world. Encourage yourselves by the thought of these".

"Bury every fear of the future, of poverty for those dear to you, of suffering, of loss. Bury all thought of unkindness and bitterness, all your dislikes, your resentments, your sense of failure, your disappointment in others and in yourselves, your gloom, your despondency, and let us leave them all buried, and go forward to a new and risen life".

"Remember that you must not see as the world sees. I hold the year in My Hands in trust for you. But I shall guide you one day at a time".

"Leave the rest with Me. You must not anticipate the gift by fears or thoughts of the days ahead. And for each day I shall supply the wisdom and the strength".

-----Two Friends

After I remembered this passage, the words came very fast. The next part of the job was to write music that would fit the text and that could both be sung by and would appeal to the whole congregation. I had a pretty good idea of what our members like musically from having made music among you for 3 years. I also wanted music that would not be too dated, but would be usable for years to come.

I put all this to soak again, to soak in God's love and wisdom, letting Him pick the moment for the proper inspiration to be given.

In due time the music came and was ready for singing praise to God throughout our 100th Anniversary year. It is now permanently affixed in our hymnal. The song is dedicated to the TLC Choir.

Joel Hayden





100th Anniversary Song for Trinity Lutheran Church, A.L.C., Westbrook, Maine.  
Dedicated to the Trinity Lutheran Church Choir.

## You Stand Between the Years

= ca. 58  
(In parts, if desired)

Words and Music  
by Joel Hayden  
February, 1982

1. From north and south, from east and west, we  
2. Lord Je - sus Christ, in you we live;

come in search of what is best. Some  
plan, you teach, you love, for give. We

knew and fol - lowed long a - go; Some .....  
walk with you: You take our hand; You .....

..... on - ly here have learned to know your strength,  
..... lead us through this earth - ly land, 'til we

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Your joy, your peace, your peace and rest.  
be - fore your throne, your throne shall stand.

*rall.* Your joy, your peace, your peace and rest.  
be - fore your throne, your throne shall stand.

*a tempo (In unison or solo)* You stand be - tween the years: Be - hind us is your  
shad - ow thrown to veil the bit - ter - ness of  
tears. Up - on the fu - ture, all un - known, you let your  
ra - diance shine to guide us on - ward one step at a time. (to Verse 2)

*rall.* *D.C. al Fine*

You Stand Between the Years - 2.





MILDRED NELSON AT THE ORGAN



CHOIR - 1957



CHOIR - 1982



## BENEVOLENCES

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation". Psalm 68:19

We, at Trinity, have been blessed by our beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Benevolence for Foreign Missions has always been a part of the budget at Trinity. In the 1960's and '70's there seemed to be an increased awareness that we should take more responsibility for our fellow-man, at home and abroad.

We sent 50 Hymnals for Church and Home to the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Montreal, Canada.

We helped support a full time Protestant Chaplain at Maine Medical Center.

We helped support the "Gate" which was a coffee house popular in the 60's. It was run by the greater Portland area churches with refreshment always available. It was an attempt to reach those confused about the Vietnam War, the runaways, dropouts--young people who were the product of that age and time. Local clergy and lay-people were there on a regular schedule to be of service to those who patronized the "Gate". Sometimes it was just to listen to what they had to say. It was an outreach showing that we cared.

In 1963 the official title of Memorial Fund was given to the several separate funds established to purchase beautiful furnishings for our church in memory of loved ones. A listing of gifts follows.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Numerous Gifts of Money  
Altar Cross  
Church Bell  
Organ Fund  
All Memorial Windows in the Annex  
Hymn Board  
Vestry Chairs  
Chancel Chairs  
Missal Stand  
Altar Vases  
Pulpit  
Lectern

Sunday School Hymnals  
Church Sign (Outside)  
Church Carpet Fund  
Carving of the Lord's Supper  
from the Philippines  
Red Drapes and Red Altar  
Chair Cushions  
Picture of Christ at 12 Years  
Brass Offering Plates  
Sacristy Door  
Baldwin Studio Piano  
Wrought-iron Advent Wreath Stand



Choir Pews  
Double Door to Nave of Church  
Balcony Door  
Balcony Pews  
Pews in the Narthex  
Bibles for the Sunday School  
Money for Choir Music  
Memorial Record Book  
One Hundred Communion Cups  
Baptismal Font  
Fifteen Hymnals

Wrought-iron Flower Stands  
Memorial Book Display Case  
Bronze Altar Vase  
Processional Cross  
Chairs for Vestry  
Three Hymnals  
Gold Leaf for Steeple Cross  
Construction of Ramp  
Sanctuary Lamp  
Organ Fund  
Altar Candelabra

THESE GIFTS ARE DULY RECORDED IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK.

In the late '60's special offerings were taken for various causes. Some of them were: starving children in Biafra, the East Pakistan Relief and Bangladesh. Also, countless boxes of blankets, quilts, clothing, soap, layettes, kiddee kits and bandages have been sent to Lutheran World Relief, an ongoing project at Trinity.

To raise money for world hunger, we joined the other Westbrook Churches in a Cropwalk. This year the combined Westbrook Churches raised \$5,029.13 to help feed the less fortunate.

We sent \$1,000.00 to a neighboring Lutheran Church for fire repair. We hosted the Jews for Jesus and gave an offering to that organization. A special offering was taken for the Christian Crusader's Radio Program. Underprivileged children and deaf children received holiday collections.

In 1974 Love Loaves from World Vision Inc. were first used for our annual Lenten mission giving. Each member received a small plastic loaf of bread in which their gift of money was collected. 40% of this collection is used by World Vision for their world wide mission work, 60% is used for Lutheran World relief.

The United Mission Appeal was conducted in 1974. It was met with enthusiasm as we were asked to pledge \$8,500.00. Our total pledge was \$12,360.00.

In 1981 the Seminary Appeal was made. It was an effort to upgrade all seminaries. Trinity pledged \$12,360.00.

The Good Samaritan Fund was set up by the Westbrook Clergy Association, the funds to be donated by all Westbrook churches. Ministers may use these funds for needy individuals who may come to them with special needs which are not covered by other assistance. Trinity has steadily supported this local charity.

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves".

James 1:22



## OUTREACH

The Lutheran Church is stressing reaching outside our own parish in Christian love, to others in need of support and care. It may mean working with other Lutheran Churches, other denominations, or those in the community in an effort to express Lutheran response to God's command to "do unto others."

By the Grace of God and many willing individuals, "outreach" at Trinity has increased. Rev. Perry Hansen encouraged reaching out and it has steadily grown. In 1981 a conference held in Boston for New England Lutheran Churches presented a program demonstrating the importance of Lutherans becoming more involved with each other, and with those outside the church in the name of Christ. The records reflect great effort exerted in this area of Christian ministry.

Portland Area Lutheran Churches have organized a cooperative effort called PALS. Joint monthly dinner meetings are held for senior citizens. A bus has been purchased for use by all. It is used for transportation to conferences as well as locally by all churches. PALS hope to build a retirement-nursing home in the Portland area.

Portland Area Lutheran Ministers broadcast a Sunday morning service, once a month. An ALC Radio program for teenagers, called Silhouette, has been aired in the area.

In conjunction with other Westbrook churches, Trinity has participated in the "A Bible in Every Home" project. The American Bible Society and the church shared costs of Bibles and Trinity members distributed 428 Bibles in the community. In addition Trinity members participate in Westbrook churches sponsoring of Christmas carolling in the city square and at local senior citizen retirement homes. Westbrook clergy also conduct services here and at the Westbrook Community Hospital. We are grateful that our Pastor is a part of this worthwhile program.

Bible School is another form of outreach. The 1982 Vacation Bible School had forty-four children in attendance, two-thirds of them coming from non-member families.

Two members and two former members of Trinity taught Sunday School at the School for the Deaf. With a minimal knowlege of sign language, Alice and Jane Sinclair and Myrtle and Charles Wiedmann used printed material and the Bible to bring the word of God to the deaf students. These people know the real meaning of "reaching-out".

We have used our vestry in ministries of outreach. In addition to scouting, the vestry has been used by the "Friends of the Retarded" for their members and families to enjoy Thanksgiving dinners together.

The Westbrook Rescue Unit utilized our vestry for training sessions until their own quarters were available. The Unit provides an excellent service and is meeting the needs of our community's citizens. A special offering was presented to the Rescue Unit from Trinity for their equipment.



Perhaps our newest outreach is the Clothes Closet. It was an idea that grew out of a movie called "Sharing" that was shown at Trinity two years ago. The Church Council felt that a "clothes closet" would be a way of reaching out to the community. Donations of clean clothing, in good condition are accepted. One Saturday a month it is displayed in the vestry and available, free of charge to anyone wishing clothing. Response indicates that a tremendous need is being met by this project.

We hope that these small efforts to reach out in love to our fellowman will be acceptable in the sight of the Lord.

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God". I John 4;7

#### TAPE MINISTRY

In 1972, Pastor David Isaacson developed a tape ministry, as a means of Out-Reach to our shutin members. The weekly service is cassette recorded. The resulting tapes are copied and delivered by parishoners to the elderly and shutin members who are unable to attend church. The tapes provide them contact with their church and the Word, as well as the persons who deliver the tape. This service has been gratefully received.

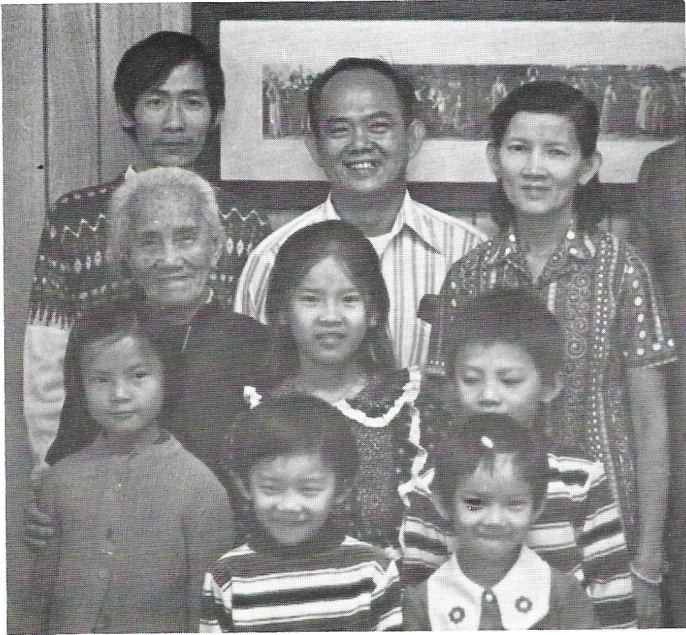
#### THE MINISTRY OF RESETTLEMENT

The Lutheran Church in America has a long tradition of ministering to immigrants and refugees. In the 1970's as the United States disengaged from the war in Viet Nam, many South Vietnamese citizens fled the enemy regime. The United States instituted a resettlement program for Asian exiles. The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service facilitated this ministry placing refugees with sponsoring churches whose responsibility it was to provide housing, clothing, household goods, a job and daily assistance until the family became self-sufficient.

In 1975 Trinity sponsored the 7 member Nguyen Hoa family. In 1979, another wave of refugees fled Viet Nam, packed in boats, to the islands of Indonesia. Responding once again, Trinity sponsored the Huynh My Loi family, eight of these "Boat People". Both families adjusted well and eventually moved to California.



## REFUGEE FAMILIES



Huynh My Loi Family  
1979



Nguyen Hoa Family  
1975

To The Trinity Lutheran Church:

We very enjoyed living in Westbrook, Maine. Peoples there treated us very nice, especially from the church.

We would like to say thank you to all the peoples from the church for treating us so nice, and for sponsoring our family over, and to help us as we needed them. Such as getting us into school, trying to teach us how to learn the English language, taking us around and all kinds of others too.

Love,

The Huynhs

"Verily, I say to you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethern, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:40



## 100 YEARS OF GOOD NEWS WALL HANGING



Members of Trinity created a lasting representation of the first one hundred years in a six foot by seven foot wall hanging. Approximately forty individuals planned, designed, selected material, embroidered in crewel and constructed the frame for the hanging. The twenty-four artistic and colorful squares represent symbols of Trinity's beliefs and activities performed in following these beliefs.

May we express our appreciation to Joyce Barnes, Chairman, and her willing workers for this work of Christian Art.

## BETHEL BIBLE SERIES

The Bethel Bible Study was initiated at Trinity by Pastor Perry Hansen as a Congregation Bible Study, but was not used until ten members made a commitment to an intensive two year teacher training course, taught by Pastor David Isaacson in 1973-1974. In turn, these trained members conducted classes for additional interested Congregational members.

The Bethel Series was a unique and valuable study. It correlated the often unrelated Bible stories into a picture of the whole purpose of God's will. Bible passages now gave an overall connected view of the Bible, and of God's blessing to us that we might be a blessing to others.

To those who studied Bethel, it had a tremendous spiritual impact and made for a closer knit church family.



## 1982 ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

January 31	Kick off dinner, Pastor Linn Opderbecke, speaker, music, Quintessence Woodwind group, Trinity Choir.
February 27	Tasting supper. All dishes from Anniversary Cookbook. Demonstration of selected recipes.
March 21	Memorabilia Sunday. Display of history in pictures, and artifacts.
April 11	Easter Concert at Trinity. Choirs from Westbrook/Warren and Pride's Corner Congregational, First Baptist and Trinity.
April 18	Sunday service guest speaker Pastor David Isaacson.
May 16	Presentation of Anniversary Wall Hanging. Rick Marston guest trumpeter.
May 23	"Sunday School Through the Years" presented at morning service by students. Ice cream social followed.
July 25	Sunday service/luncheon to honor descendants of charter families: Nelson/Nielsen
August 8	Sunday service/luncheon to honor descendants of charter families: Peter and Jens Smith family.
August 15	Sunday service guest speaker Pastor Robert Kloth.
September 26	Christian puppet show by Kathy & Lee Hutchins' "Sonshine Company" followed by a Continental breakfast.
October 3	Sunday service/luncheon to honor descendants of charter families: Fabricius and Justesen.
November 6	The Anniversary Banquet, Homer Larsen guest speaker.
November 7	Sunday service guest speaker, Homer Larsen. Coffee hour followed.
November 14	Sunday service guest speaker, Bishop Harold Jansen followed by luncheon.
December 5	Festival service of thanksgiving for all our blessings and for a spirit of renewal. Coffee hour followed.



# *"100 Years of Good News"*

## *ANNIVERSARY BANQUET*

NOVEMBER 6, 1982

### PROGRAM

Table Prayer      "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

### Dinner

Welcome      Kenneth Nelson, Chairman - Anniversary Committee

Hymn      "Praise and Thanksgiving"      Audience

Greetings      The Reverend Maury Drum, Dean - N. E. District  
C. Russell Jensen, President - Church Council

100th Anniversary Hymn      "You Stand Between The Years" -  
Audience

Guest Speaker      The Reverend Homer Larsen, Sr. Pastor -  
Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa  
- Radio Pastor - Christian Crusaders

"Wonderful Copenhagen"      David Goulet

Scroll Reading      Hans Wolff

Closing Prayer      The Reverend Allen Barnes

"The Lord's Prayer"      David Goulet

Hymn      "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"      Audience

Dinner Music:      Elaine Birmingham, Flutist  
Dorothy Hansen, Harpist



## CONCLUSION

"The purpose of Trinity Lutheran Church is to teach the Christian faith, to witness to Christ by word and action, to renew our faith and gain strength by worshiping God and sharing one another's faith."

Pastor Perry Hansen  
(quote from "Tidings") 11/15/71

"There are as many ministers here as there are baptized persons. Because the ministry is made up of those who follow the Great Commission of Christ."

Pastor David Isaacson 5/15/77

"I now realize that it is true that God treats all men on the same basis. Whoever fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him, no matter what race he belongs to. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the GOOD NEWS of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all men.

Acts 10:34-36

Booklet Committee; Bunny Dyhrberg, Lillian Keene, Ruby Clark  
Lois Brix, Ruth Mickus, Karen Brown.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many dedicated people were involved in making the 100th Anniversary celebration a success. Our special thanks to Kenneth Nelson, who has done such an outstanding job as general chairman. Thanks also to his fine committee for planning such a varied and meaningful year long program which reaffirmed the importance of the Lord in our lives.

This 100th Anniversary publication is the result of many hours and much effort by the booklet committee. The members wish to commend Bunny Dyhrberg, chairman, for the hours which she gave. Thanks to her leadership this great task has been accomplished.

Our appreciation to the S. D. Warren Company for the contribution they make to the City of Westbrook. We are indeed grateful to them for donating the paper needed for the publication of this booklet.

We wish to express our appreciation to Fred Endicott of Grace Press for his contribution in the publishing of this booklet.



