

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOPE, MINNESOTA
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

GROWING IN CHRIST. SHARING HIS LOVE. REACHING THE WORLD.



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in Believing, that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Romans 15:13

1919 – 2019

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1919 - 1921

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Hymns of Majesty"

Jan Clementson, Sandy Brooks

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING LITANY

- L. We gather today in the presence of Almighty God, to celebrate one hundred years of mission and ministry in this place.
- C. Creator God, may we continue to bear witness to Your love!**
- L. We give You thanks for the Saints before us who have prayed, worshipped, studied, and given of themselves in service to You.
- C. Living God, may we continue to bear witness to Your saving grace and peace!**
- L. May we continue to be a reflection of the faith of those who have prepared the way for us.
- C. Eternal God, may we continue to bear witness to the hope and joy that we find in You!**
- L. We open our lives to this moment, realizing that Your Spirit has led us to this place and that it is Your Spirit calling us into the future.
- C. As You have blessed us in the past, bless us today and in all of the days to come. May we be found faithful to Your love and to Your Word by those who come after us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

#660

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- L. God's Word assures us:
- C. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- L. In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God in the silence of our hearts.

Silence is kept for reflection

- L. Eternal God, in every age,
- C. You have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. Forgive our indifference to Your will. You have commanded us to speak, but we have been silent. You have called us to do what is just, but we have been fearful. Have mercy on us, Your faithless servants. Keep before us faithful people for us to follow, that by the power of Your Holy Spirit, we may grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to the glory of His holy name.**
- L. Hear the Good News! While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that for all who humbly seek the mercy of God through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
- C. Thanks be to God.**

*GREETING

- L. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C. And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. God of the Ages,

- C. We praise You for all Your faithful servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God. We praise You for all who have sought Your new creation in and through the ministry of First Lutheran Church, and who, by their steadfast faith, have shown their discipleship in Christ Jesus. We praise You for those whom we have known and loved,**

and pray that we, with them, may follow in the way of Christ, until together we dwell in Your holy city, sharing the inheritance of the saints in light, all for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now and forever. Amen.

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

A TIME OF SHARING

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Find Us Faithful"

Pastor Sandy Miller

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:1-13 (pg. 151)

R. The Word of the Lord **C. Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Acts 2:14-21 (pg. 910)

R. The Word of the Lord **C. Thanks be to God.**

The GOSPEL

Matthew 28:18-20 (pg. 835)

R. The Word of the Lord. **C. Thanks be to God.**

CENTENNIAL MESSAGE

Pastor Sandy Miller

*HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Church's One Foundation"

#654

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L. Lord in your mercy, **C. Hear our prayer**

OFFERING

"I Got Saved"

Arlen Brekke, 1964 Confirmand

*OFFERING PRAYER

L. Loving Father,

C. In obedience to Your word, we honor You and thank You with the offering in these plates and the offering of our heart. Bless it all to Your work in this world that there may be an abundance of light and love, and of care and mercy, that all whom You love will be saved and redeemed, in Jesus name, Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

L. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

L. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF THE MEAL

COMMUNION SONG

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

#655

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L. God of All,

C. We thank You for all that You have done for us today and in days gone by. Help us to walk into our future with the confidence of faith, knowing that in You broken hearts are made whole, sins are forgiven, and new life comes to all who call upon the name of Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

*BLESSING THE GATHERED

*SENDING HYMN

"By Faith"

L. Strengthened by Word and Sacrament, go now into all the world to love and serve the LORD.

C. We go to fulfill the hope of our calling.



The first service was held in the church on Christmas Day, 1921

In 1973, a new addition in front added an enclosed entrance, a place to gather before and after worship, and improved access to the basement. In 1994, another addition was built on the east side of the church providing office and meeting space.



A new steel roof was added in 2014. In 2015, the old narthex was torn down and rebuilt along with a new 20 x 28 addition extending to the south. Included in the project was a much needed handicap lift going to all three levels. The church was completely resided with permanent siding. In 2018, the bell tower and steeple were refurbished and resided with permanent siding.



The first parsonage was built in 1898. O. C. Dahlager was the first pastor to reside here.

In 1955, a new parsonage was built across the road from Pontoppidan Church.

Upon termination of the shared ministry between First Lutheran and Pontoppidan Church, the parsonage remained the property of Pontoppidan Church.



Centennial Celebration Committee

A special thank you to the following people who worked diligently and prayerfully in putting together a Centennial celebration that showed gratitude for those who came before us, hope for those who will come after us, and joy for those who are here in the present.

All glory and praise be to Jesus Christ who is, and who was, and who is to come!

Lisa Borchert, Chairperson
Warren Suchanek
Barb Hrdlicka
John Pirkl

Dawn Armstrong
Richard Hansen
Beverly Meixner
Lori Springer

PASTORS



O.C. Dahlager
1921-1926



G.B. Bretheim
1927-1938



Clifford Olson
1938-1946



P.G. Sonnack
1946-1954



Lyman Oman
1955-1958



John Soli
1959-1970



Dick Hegal
1970-1974



Steve Gutzman
1974-1977



Wayne Hagen
1977-1981



Leo Bjorlie
1981-1989



Mark Vinge
1989-1994



Jack Miller
1995-2004



Josh Ehrler
2005-2010



Sandy Miller
2011-

THE HISTORY OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE, MINNESOTA

Among the early settlers of the Hope area was a group of Danes who organized a congregation and built a church about two miles southwest of Hope. As the years passed, many of the original members had retired from active farming and their farms were rented or sold. Nearly all of those who moved in were of other nationalities. Since the language used in the church was Danish, the newcomers could not make use of its facilities and services. Perhaps, as had been the case in many other places, the church was too slow to adapt itself to new situations. The church stood, but membership gradually decreased until those who were still active were too few to keep the work going.

In the summer of 1919 S.J. Hansen, the Danish Lutheran pastor from Owatonna, canvassed the community to learn whether church work could be resumed. He found the prospects favorable, and at a business meeting on October 8, 1919, First Lutheran Church was organized. Its original name was The First English Lutheran Church of Lemond. A constitution was drafted, read and explained by Pastor Hansen and was adopted by the group. The following signed the constitution and became the charter members of the congregation:

John Nelson	Andrew Stevenson	L.E. Schuster
Louis Zuelke	William Hanson	Fred Larson
Olaf Hanson	D.A. Kruckenberg	

The first council members chosen to serve the church were:

President:	Pastor S.J. Hansen
Deacons:	D.A. Kruckenberg and L.E.Schuster
Trustees:	John Nelson, Louis Zuelke, Olaf Hanson
Treasurer:	D.A. Kruckenberg
Secretary:	L.E. Schuster
First Organist:	Mrs. William Hanson

At first, the meetings were held at the Danish Lutheran Church. Its work prospered, and the congregation grew. In December, 1920 Pastor A.P. Andersen, also of the Danish Lutheran Church of Owatonna, was called to serve the church. It was then necessary to find another church home. The building which had been their church home stood on land opposite the farm owned by Irvin Jensen. It was sold to Clarence Hagen who moved it near New Richland and converted it into a home.

A special business meeting was held at the home of John Nelson, and it was at this meeting that a decision was made to build a new church in Hope. A building committee consisting of L.E. Schuster, D.A. Kruckenberg and E.G. Grunwald was elected. Funds were solicited and nearly \$1,400 was pledged by members and friends. Pastor Andersen resigned in June, 1921. However, the congregation was determined to have a church home and proceeded with the erection of the church on the site where it now stands. It had been decided the cost of the church should not exceed \$3,000. H.P. Rasmussen loaned the rest of the money to finance the building.

At this time, the congregation approached Pontoppidan Lutheran Church of Lemond to see if the two congregations could be united in a parish served by the same pastor. This was agreed upon, and

Pastor O.C. Dahlager, who was then serving the Lemond congregation, was extended a call. Thus began our affiliation with the Lutheran Free Church. Pastor Dahlager began his work with us in August, 1921. Until the new church building was ready, services were held in the hall over Joseph Slezak's store.

The first service was held in the church on Christmas Day of 1921. Dedication of the building took place on July 2, 1922, with Pastor Claus Morgan, Minneapolis, officiating. At that time, he was vice president of the Lutheran Free Church. He was assisted by Pastor C.J. Carlson of Wanamingo and Pastor Dahlager. This was a great day for the congregation. The church building with a full basement was finished. The church furniture had been purchased in Hartland, Minnesota, and brought into Hope on horse-drawn hayracks. The Ladies' Aid purchased the furniture. An organ was paid for by the Young People's Society. The total cost of the church was \$4,583.70. A good illustration of inflation is that the budget for the year 1968 was over \$5200, and in 1994 was over \$28,800. There was a debt of \$2,841.68.

The congregation observed its 25th anniversary December 10, 1944. The church was incorporated on May 27, 1946, and the name became First Lutheran of Hope, Minnesota. Our affiliation with the Lutheran Free Church came to an end in 1963 when we voted to merge with the American Lutheran Church. This meant a change in the order of service, new liturgy and vestments.

Worship services were held every other week until 1946 at which time it was agreed that there would be weekly services at 9:30 am from Easter until New Year. They remained bi-weekly from New Years to Easter.

The 50th anniversary was celebrated on July 27, 1969. During the first fifty years of the church's history, 198 children and 27 adults were baptized. Marvin Heinz was the first to be baptized on October 26, 1919. Fifty-seven marriages were solemnized with the first in the congregation being that of Ed Oldefendt and Ethel Hanson on February 1, 1920. The first marriage in the church building was that of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Graif on June 6, 1923. Fifty-one deaths occurred in that time and 211 were confirmed.

First Lutheran celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1994. Their observations at that time are worth noting and repeating. *The young people who were nurtured here leave this small community to seek employment in more favorable financial surroundings. That trend continues which has caused our membership to drop from 172 to 150 in the past 25 years. Yet, we hear the call to nurture faith as all the more important, to give our children the most important gift for life today, faith and love in Christ Jesus. First Lutheran Church also remains an important factor in the well-being of all people in the Hope community. We are part of the kingdom of God and we will bloom where we are planted. We hope by God's grace that the work of the church may continue to prosper. We are ever mindful of God's grace and now look to God for guidance in the future. Let us remember the labors of those who have gone before. Let us appreciate those who now are his workers. We are thankful to all who are members past and present, for their prayers and help. In the knowledge that God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, we face the future with confidence.*

In 1996, the youth went on a mission trip to Mexico as well as an "Urban Plunge" in Minneapolis. For the congregation, 1996 was a difficult year with several deaths and dwindling worship attendance. In spite of that, WELCA & Sunday School stay faithful to ministry and church life.

In 1997, a pastoral advisory committee was formed to consider ways to strengthen the congregation. Members are: Roxy Biesterfeld, Delbert Hanson, Doug Matthees, and Sharlene Nelson. The youth attended the ELCA National Gathering in New Orleans.

- In 1998, consideration was given to merging with other churches in order to help resolve the declining offerings of the congregation. The youth helped with tornado relief in the St. Peter/Comfrey area.
- In 1999, the Alpha Course was offered and well attended. The outside of the church was painted. Studies reveal that many of the rural churches in our area are experiencing declining attendance and offerings. We continue to pray for guidance and direction.
- In 2002, a call was made by ARMS (Area Rural Ministry Sharing) to remember the faith practices to Pray, Study, Worship, Invite, Encourage, Serve, and Give.
- In 2003, for the first time in six years, Sunday School was reinstated under the direction of Darla Skalicky.
- In 2004, Pastor Jack Miller resigned and Pastor Josh Ehrler was called.
- In 2010, a new youth group was formed called Y-HM (Youth Home Meetings). Every other week they meet in homes to discuss faith issues and how to serve God in meaningful ways. The youth also did a summer mission trip to Martin, SD.
- In 2011, Pastor Ehrler took our youth on a mission trip to Cairo, Illinois. In July, Pastor Ehrler resigned. Sandy Miller is called as interim pastor in September.
- In 2012, the average worship attendance had dwindled to 20 people. In July, First Lutheran started the process of ending our 90 year parish relationship with Pontoppidan Lutheran in order to pursue a new direction. On November 18th, the congregation approved by a vote of 42 to 1 to leave the ELCA and join Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). This transition brought both heartache as well as great anticipation for what the future may bring. Sandy Miller was then called as fulltime pastor and ordained on April 13, 2013. In July, our youth went on a mission trip to Denver, CO.
- In 2013, WOW (Women of the Word) was organized. Officers were elected, service groups formed, and ministries established. In June our youth went on a summer mission trip to Nashville, TN with CSM. The congregation started a policy of giving 10% of general offerings as Benevolence to local, regional, and global ministries. Our first annual benevolence totaled \$8,450. How grateful we are to tithe back to God with what He has blessed us with! The "More Than a Lift" project team was formed to continue with developing a plan for a handicap lift and narthex expansion. Team members: Jim Springer, Mike Hartle, Rick Majerus, Dean Shankland, Warren Suchanek, & Dave Luedtke.
- In 2015, a local ministry outreach called Laundry Love was initiated. The location was Gena's Laundromat where we provided free laundry on a first come, first serve basis on the third Monday of every month from 6-8pm. This has been a blessing to the unprivileged in our community as well as to our congregation. In March 2015, the home of long time member Steve Jensen burned down, destroying everything. The church came together and put on a benefit at the Snowmobile Club in Hope and raised \$6,700 to help Steve rebuild. The church in action! In July, we joined together with the youth group from Holy Trinity @ Litomysl on a summer mission trip to Denver, CO with YouthWorks. Air conditioning was installed in the church.
- In June, 2015, we voted to move forward with a narthex project and renovation. Back in 2005, First Lutheran had started putting money aside for a handicap lift. Initially, the fund grew slowly, but in 2011 the LORD started to give indication that He had plans for our little church. In a matter of a few years, we received some extremely generous memorials as well as two unexpected insurance settlements, one for

wind damage to the roof, the other for flooding in the basement. By 2013, our attendance was growing significantly so work began on getting quotes to renovate and increase the size of our narthex area, make the church handicap accessible on three levels, and do some much needed maintenance to the outside of the building.

Quotes were obtained and on June 15, 2015 a congregational meeting was held to vote on whether or not to move forward with the \$252,000 project. With a vote of 29 to 14, we voted to move forward in faith trusting that God would in some way provide the \$70,000 projected shortfall. A contract was signed with Gingerich Construction, an Amish contractor from Mabel, MN to do the work which started in October, 2015 and was completed in January, 2016. Evan Oldenfendt, son of Ed & Ethel Oldefendt (first couple to be married at First Lutheran) passed away during the final week of construction. With the final building inspection on Friday and his funeral on Monday, we received a call over the weekend wondering if a handicap relative would be able to get into the sanctuary. YES! It was as if God Himself was announcing that we had done what He had called us to do. A Service of Dedication and Contractor Appreciation was held on February 20, 2016. It was a glorious celebration as we gave thanks to God and committed ourselves and our church to His work.

Following is how the project was funded (approximate)

Memorials		\$65,178
Elaine Halla Estate (2014)	\$30,978	
Delbert Hanson Memorial (1997)	\$ 4,992	
Gordon Schuster Memorial (2011)	\$25,000	
Stuart Streiff Memorial (2016)	\$ 7,000	
Lift Fund		\$35,000
Music Fund		\$ 7,500
Building Fund		\$ 1,800
General Fund		\$15,000
Ruth Circle		\$ 1,700
Member Pledges		\$83,000
WOW (Women of the Word)		\$ 5,000
Miscellaneous Memorials/Donations		\$37,822

In 2016, the More Than a Lift project was completed. We also converted from propane to natural gas. In August, Hope was flooded from heavy rains resulting in 17 inches of water in the basement. Repairs were made with insurance money and action taken to prevent this from happening again. A concrete parking area and landscaping was added to the west side of the church. Our youth attended summer camp at Camp Okoboji.

In 2017, we voted to move forward with making repairs/improvement to the steeple and bell tower, again contracting with Gingerich Construction in the amount of \$30,880. Our summer youth mission trip this year was to Duluth, MN with YouthWorks.

In 2018, our youth went on a summer mission trip to Rapid City, SD with YouthWorks. In August, Pastor Sandy and Michelle Ingvaldson participated in our first ever international mission trip to Tartu, Estonia through Eastern European Mission Network (EEMN) where we facilitated an English Speaking Bible Camp for adults and children.

In 2018, we developed a new vision statement. *Growing in Christ. Sharing His Love. Reaching the World.* We felt this really captures the essence of who we are and what God is calling us to.

Our Centennial Celebration is being celebrated on July 14, 2019. There will be a worship service at 10:30 am with a picnic lunch following. The High 48's, a bluegrass band from Minneapolis, will be providing bluegrass/gospel music for the occasion. At the time of our 100th Anniversary, about 85% of our current membership is new within the last 7-8 years. We are so grateful for the new life that has been breathed into our ministry. First Lutheran isn't just surviving, we're *thriving* by the grace of God! With an average worship attendance of 50, we have an active group of people who are "Growing in Christ. Sharing His Love. Reaching the World." Worship services are uplifting and Spirit-filled. Prayer is central as we seek God for guidance and call upon Him for our needs. Almost all of our members are actively serving in some way. People are generous and growing in their tithes and offerings. We also offer 2-3 Bible studies every week which are well attended. In this post-Christendom era, we are so very grateful for how the Holy Spirit is moving among us.

Our worship service is currently a blend of contemporary and traditional hymns. We no longer do the standard liturgy, but a Confession and Forgiveness; Prayer of the Day; Offering Prayer; and Sending Prayer are always included as a part of our worship. The order of service, the readings, and song lyrics are now projected up on the wall. The messages are focused on Biblical principles and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Discipleship has become a part of our culture.

Present Members of First Lutheran Church

*Charlie & Carol Anderson	Jim Krause	Gary & Dawn Schwartz
Dennis & Dawn Armstrong	Dave Kuckenbecker	Marliese Severson
Aaron & Amanda Better, Jerod Battey	Gene & Audrey Larson	Dean & JoAnn Shankland
Randy & Lisa Borchert	Dave Luedtke & Pam Bartz	Jerrold & Jacquelyn Skalicky, Jerome
Nancy Brekke	Tony & Jennifer Malepsy, Coen & Rhett	Steve & Darla Skalicky, Jack
Jan Clementson	Doug & Carole Matthees	Sylvia Smuland
Richard & Karlene Hansen	Marvin & Beverly Meixner	Jim & Lori Springer
Todd & Raquel Hansen	Steve & Pastor Sandy Miller	Kathy Streiff
Cheryl Harlicker	Rhonda Nappin, Carissa, Danielle, & Dakota	Velma Suchanek
Paul & Kathy Harty	Harvey & Anna Nelson	Warren Suchanek
Mary Hoelz	Angela Olson, Jadan Young	Jim Thompson
Barb Hrdlicka	Wendell & Kathy Peterson	Ron & Janet Thompson, Andrea & Bobby
*Jon & Michelle Ingvaldson	John & Kim Pirkl, Andrew & Joseph	Steve & Ruth Weigt
Steve Jensen	Buzz Pool, Maryn	*Carol Wilker
Dave & Christine Jensen	Richard Prokopec & Diane Schmidtke	Karlene Zepp

*Denotes Associate Member

Church Affiliation

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8). But the Church is forever changing. While First Lutheran has always kept its doctrine rooted in the Lutheran Confessions, we have been a part of various Lutheran denominations and/or associations over the years. We are grateful for the journey, trusting that in each transition the LORD was faithfully building His Church.

1919 - 1921	Danish Lutheran Church
1921 - 1963	Lutheran Free Church (LFC)
1963 - 1985	American Lutheran Church (ALC)
1985 - 2013	Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA)
2013 - present	Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

A CENTURY OF MAKING OUR CHURCH FIT FOR MINISTRY AND WORSHIP

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>	<u>AMOUNT FINANCED</u>	<u>PAID OFF</u>
1921 -	Original church built	\$4,584	\$2,842	1936
1940 -	Basement remodeled and oil furnace installed	Unknown		
1948 -	Addition to both sides of the entry was built to allow for an adequate stairway to the basement, a small cloakroom on the south side, & a nursery to the north.	Unknown		
1950 -	Water added to the church	Unknown		
1962 -	New kitchen cupboards and a sink island (where the furnace used to be)	\$426		
1972 -	Addition to the west side - narthex and entry	\$6,200		
1978 -	Back entry to kitchen built	\$1,119		
1988 -	Addition to the kitchen with new cupboards	\$5,034		
1994 -	Addition to the east side - office/classroom	Unknown		
2008 -	Community of Hope was connected to a new sewer system	N/A		
2009 -	Basement bathrooms remodeled	Unknown		
2014 -	New steel roof (paid for by insurance - wind damage) Gingerich Construction	N/A		
2015 -	Air Conditioning Installed	Donated		
2015 -	New narthex, entrance, and handicap lift to all three levels; also included residing the entire church with permanent siding - Gingerich Construction	\$251,980	\$40,000 Line of Credit	2017
2016 -	Concrete parking added to the west side Member Jim Springer contractor	\$2,712		
2017 -	Basement remodel (paid for by insurance - flooding) Member Rick Majerus contractor	N/A		
2017 -	Concrete sidewalk and landscaping added to south side	\$2,000		
2018 -	Converted to natural gas	N/A		
2019 -	Permanent siding for the bell tower and steeple; refurbished bell wheel - Gingerich Construction	\$30,880		

A CENTURY OF FAITHFUL COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

<u>Offices</u>	<u>50 Years</u>	<u>75 Years</u>	<u>100 Years</u>
President	Leland Coulter	Mike Hartle	James Springer
Vice President	Robert Graham	Jeff Johnson	Lisa Borchert
Secretary	Ione Thom	Lucille Weber	Raquel Hansen
Treasurer	Delbert Hanson	George Weisjhan	Steve and Ruth Weigt
Deacons	Duane Wobschall	Dave Oeltjenbruns	Randy Borchert
	Marvin Meixner	Ed Winzenberg	Steve Miller
	Melvin Lund	Dave Matthees	Kathy Streiff
Trustees	Richard Weber	Doug Matthees	Todd Hansen
	Harry Mogenson	Lonnie Nelson	David Jensen
	Oliver Thom	Tom Biesterfeld	Dean Shankland
Sunday School Supt.	Jennie Kaplan	Heidi Hartle	
Bd. of Education	Carol Anderson	Debra Krause	Lori Springer
	Hazel Ribbe	Darla Matthees	Kim Pirkle
	Gwen Rasmussen	Debra Oeltjenbruns	
Memorial Secretary	Evan Oldefendt	Jane Johnson	Steve Miller
Building Fund Treasurer		Jeff Johnson	Steve Miller

A CENTURY OF GENEROUS GIVING

Donations & Memorials

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMORIAL</u>	<u>DONATED BY</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>
1948 -	Bookcase made out of the old reed organ in the church (currently in church office)	Robert Graham	
1948 -	Outdoor bulletin board (replaced)	Martha & Mary Circle	
1948 -	Bronze cross and two vases for the altar (still use)	John Nelson Family	Mrs. John Nelson
1954 -	New doors and chancel windows (still in place)	John Nelson Family	Mr. & Mrs. John Nelson
1954 -	New hymnals (replaced)		Mrs. Anna Johnson
1954 -	Interior of the church painted (repainted in 2019)	Ladies Aid	
1955 -	Two candleabra (still use)	Mrs. Frank Hayek	Mrs. Lueders
1959 -	Sound system in sanctuary (used until it was replaced in 2014)	Miscellaneous Memorials	
1959 -	Electric organ (replaced in 1986)	Miscellaneous Memorials	
1960 -	Altar paraments (still use)	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Oldefendt	
1960 -	Painted the outside of the church	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Oldefendt	
1962 -	Two silver sets (currently in storage)	Mrs. Mabel Mohs	Mrs. Louis Zuelke
1962 -	New kitchen cupboards and a sink island (still in place)	Miscellaneous Memorials	
1963 -	New hymnals (replaced)		Mrs. Gladys Evenson L. J. Schuster
1964 -	Purchased pews from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna (still use)		Mr. Ed Oldefendt Walter Kaplan, Jr.
1971 -	Refinished altar vases (still use)	Ruth Circle	
1974 -	Church steeple painted (\$350)	Mel Lund	
1974 -	Communion Candles (still use)	Mr. & Mrs. H. P. Rasmussen	
1976 -	Carpet for new addition (still in use)	Mel Lund	
1980 -	New furnace (\$4,485 - still in use)	Gordon Schuster	Louie Schuster
1980 -	Blue paraments (still use)	Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Johnson	Mrs. Bertha Olson
1981 -	Sanctuary fans (still in place)	Martha & Mary Circle	
1983 -	Red pew cushions (still in place)	Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Hanson	
1984 -	Eternal Light (used until 2014 when it was replaced with electric)	Gwen Rasmussen	Jerry & Sandy Rasmussen
1985 -	Hand rails up to the altar (still in place)	Mrs. Lucille Anderson	
1985 -	Painted both the inside and outside of church	Gordon Schuster Robert Schuster	
1986 -	Used organ (\$2,500)	Miscellaneous Memorials	
1988 -	Oneida stainless silverware (still use)	Martha & Mary Circle	
1989 -	Basement floor tile (\$2,461)	Jerry Rasmussen / WELCA	
1991 -	Carpet in the sanctuary (still in place)	Kaplan Family Ruth Circle / WELCA	Mary Kaplan
1992 -	Basement fans (still in place)	Martha & Mary Circle	
1993 -	Confirmation Display Stand (\$700)	Don & Ione Standke	Gail Standke
2006 -	Electric piano (still use)	Music Fund	
2014 -	New sound system (\$3,428)	Ruth Circle	
2015 -	Air conditioning installed (\$3,400)	Anonymous	
2016 -	Furnishings for the narthex (\$1600)	Dean & JoAnn Shankland	
2016 -	Stainless sinks in kitchen (\$2200)	Dean & JoAnn Shankland	
2019 -	New banners for sanctuary (\$600)	Todd & Raquel Hansen JoAnn Shankland, Jan Clementson	Hansen grandchildren
2019 -	Painted the sanctuary and office (\$4200)	Family of Karen Wincell	Karen (Kuckenbecker) Wincell
2019 -	Illuminate the bell tower (\$850)	Family of Karen Wincell	Karen (Kuckenbecker) Wincell

Confirmands of First Lutheran Church

1920 S. J. Hansen, Pastor

Stanley Johnson	Mildred Peterson
Ted Nelson	Lillian Peterson
Clarence Rasmussen	Mabel Sable
Helen Rasmussen	Helen Clausen
Loretta Kruckeberg	Gladys Clausen
Norman Olson	

1922 O. C. Dahlager, Pastor

Raymond Johnson	Elsie Rasmussen
Clifford Kraudy	Harvey Rasmussen
Nina Nelson	Floyd Sable

1924 O. C. Dahlager, Pastor

Irene Nelson	Stanley Grunwald
Evelyn Strand	Elmer Voss
Mabel Zuelke	Walter Voss
Ordena Kruckeberg	Clifford Clausen
Minnie Zimmerman	Sigurd Veien
Edna Ebeling	Harold Sable
Louise Utpadel	Howard Sable
Tom Bedney	Galen Wobschall

1926 O. C. Dahlager, Pastor

Gladys Olson	Marvel Christianson
Viola Kruckeberg	Merlene Wobschall
Florence Hanson	Frederick Sable
Edith Rasmussen	

1928 G. J. Bretheim, Pastor

Everett Henderson	Lorna Schuster
Carl Kelm	Irma Schuster
Hazel Zuelke	

1931 G. J. Bretheim, Pastor

Burnett Bailey	Gladys Johnson
Raymond Bailey	Herbert Kelm
Vernon Clausen	Donald Murdock
Phyllis Ellingson	Gordon Schuster
Elmer Hanson	Erlis Sorenson
Howard Hanson	Bernard Sorenson

1934 G. J. Bertheim, Pastor

Irene Brown	Robert Lutz
Irma Brown	Glendon Oldefendt
Albert Boettcher	Libbie Pechacek
Beatrice Sorenson	Lorraine Johnson
Jane Ellingson	

1935 G. J. Bretheim, Pastor

Margaret Kuchenbecker (adult)

1937 G. J. Bretheim, Pastor

Laurel Grunwald	Helen Kuchenbecker
Maxine Grunwald	Evan Oldefendt

1939 C. T. Olson, Pastor

Robert Schuster	Clinton Elton
Florence Schuster	Gerald Elton
Wm. Kuchenbecker	Milton Sommers

1941 C. T. Olson, Pastor

Beverly Ellingson	Betty Schuster
Frances Kuchenbecker	Shirley Schuster
Yvonne Oldefendt	Marlowe Sorenson

1942 C. T. Olson, Pastor

Leola Schultz

1945 C. T. Olson, Pastor

Bernard Ellingson	Irvin Schultz
Lavonne Elton	Helen Sommers
Geraldine Grunwald	

1946 C. T. Olson, Pastor

Alton Johnson	Donna Johnson
John Johnson	Lester Schultz

1947 P. G. Sonnack, Pastor

Warren Barney (adult)	Duane Rasmussen
Harold Kaplan (adult)	Roger Sorenson
Steve Langlie	Ray Vesely

1948 P. G. Sonnack, Pastor

Donald Standke (adult)	Joan Nelson
Richard Halla (adult)	James Grunwald
Lloyd Lembke	Wayne Wodrich

1950 P. G. Sonnack, Pastor

Harvey Lembke	Lyle Rasmussen
Phillip Evenson	Manuel Johnson
Kenneth Johnson	Donald Sorenson
Warren Larson	Ronald Halvorson

1951 P. G. Sonnack, Pastor

Doris Johnson	Glenn Rasmussen
Ardella Wodrich	Lyle Kuchenbecker
Geraldine Distad	Milton Barney
Norita Vesely	Ronald Jensen
Norine Vesely	Robert Krampitz
Joan Brekke	Marlene Halvorson

1953 P. G. Sonnack, Pastor

Faye Barney	Jeanette Jensen
Bette Lou Bedney	Darrell Nelson
Yvonne Brekke	Allan Johnson
Ruth Graham	Duane Wobschall
Helen Borchert	Vernon Mogenson
Janice Halvorson	Richard Sorenson

1955 Lyman Oman, Pastor

Mary Jo Perkins	Katherine Hansen
Thomas A. Bedney	Beverly Kuchenbecker
Richard Bedney	

1956 Lyman Oman, Pastor

Gary Brekke	Sharon Graham
Bruce Johnson	Sallie Ribbe

1957 Lyman Oman, Pastor

Carol King (adult)

1958 Lyman Oman, Pastor

Wilford Conklin (adult)	Claude Johnson
Dorothy Conklin (adult)	Richard Hansen
Harris Bedney	Sherman Jensen

1959 Lyman Oman, Pastor

Betty Boerner (adult)	Elliott Johnson
Virginia & Mel Lund (adult)	Marilyn Oakland
Carol Bork	Susan Oldefendt
Patricia Brekke	Gary Peterson
Owen Graham	Roger Wobschall
Barbara Hrdlichka	

1961 John Soli, Pastor

Keith Brekke	Diane Distad
Linda Oldefendt	

1962 John Soli, Pastor

Jeanne Coulter	Robert Bursheim
James Kuchenbecker	Glenn Wiesjhan

1963 John Soli, Pastor

Carolyn Distad	Douglas Standke
Peter Bedney	

1964 John Soli, Pastor

Arlen Brekke	Gary Hrdlichka
Karen Kuchenbecker	Jerry Rasmussen

1965 John Soli, Pastor

Matthew Bedney	Cheryl Coulter
Coralyn Kaplan	Dianne Lund

1966 John Soli, Pastor

Gail Boerner	Linda Stange
Brenda Brekke	John Kuchenbecker
Gail Standke	

1967 John Soli, Pastor

Susan Coulter	Roxane Ribbe
Dinah Kaplan	Julie Spinler
Myron Lund	Darrell Weber
Gary Oldefendt	

1968 John Soli, Pastor

Roxanne Boerner	Heidi Kaplan
Kevan Brekke	Eldo Wobschall
Henry Conklin	

1969 John Soli, Pastor

Charlene Brekke	Douglas Boerner
Daniel Hansen	Dean Weber
Larry Kuchenbecker	

1970 John Soli, Pastor

Christine Coulter	Thomas Standke
Mark Kaplan	Terry Stange
Robert Oldefendt	Susan Williams
Sherry Standke	

1972 Richard Hegal, Pastor

Marcia Meixner

1973 Richard Hegal, Pastor

Donna Anderson	Mavis Meixner
Kathryn Marik	Gary Turnmire

1974 Steve Gutzman, Pastor

Rhonda Gentner	Michael Boerner
Janet Stange	

1975 Steve Gutzman, Pastor

David Kuchenbecker	Shelly Marik
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1976 Steve Gutzman, Pastor

Rodney Lund	Kimberley Thiede
Nathan Thompson	Michael Turnmire

1977 Wayne Hagen, Pastor Teresa Techau		1991 Mark Vinge, Pastor Ryan Thompson	Amy Stoltz
1978 Wayne Hagen, Pastor Carolyn Haberman Cindy Lageson Kathleen Lageson	Susan Lageson Martin Thiede	1993 Mark Vinge, Pastor Brandt Boerner	
1979 Wayne Hagen, Pastor Robin Boerner Timothy Gedicke Robert Stiles	Sonya Techau Diane Vesely	1994 Mark Vinge, Pastor Breanna Krause	
1980 Wayne Hagen, Pastor Connie Turnmire		1995 Jack Miller, Pastor Kara Boerner	
1981 Wayne Hagen, Pastor Mark Meixner		1996 Jack Miller, Pastor Holly Ann Biesterfeld Kevin Tomasko	Courtney Anne Hartle Holly Renee Wilkie
1982 Leo Bjorlie, Pastor Cynthia Winzenburg	James Wobschall	1997 Jack Miller, Pastor Justin Hagen	Steve Tomasko
1983 Leo Bjorlie, Pastor Lisa Sommers	Eric Thompson	1998 Jack Miller, Pastor Anthony Buttera	Brandon Hagen
1984 Leo Bjorlie, Pastor LouEllen Stoltz (adult) Karen Techau	Bruce Haberman Shannon Wobschall	1999 Jack Miller, Pastor Seth Hartle	Heather Wilkie
1985 Leo Bjorlie, Pastor Debbie Oeltjenbruns (adult) Craig Haberman	Laura Williamson Randy Williamson Christa Christianson	2003 Josh Ehrler, Pastor Heidi Wilkie	
1986 Leo Bjorlie, Pastor Rick Techau		2004 Josh Ehrler, Pastor Sadie Habeck	
1987 Leo Bjorlie, Pastor Joel Boerner David Coulter Dana Thompson Keven Rolwing (adult)	Craig Christianson Curtiss Christianson Eric Winzenburg Shannon Rolwing (adult)	2013 Sandy Miller, Pastor Jack Skalicky	
1989 Leo Bjorlie, Pastor John Stoltz	Jason Biesterfeld	2014 Sandy Miller, Pastor Carissa Nappin	Cody Worden
		2015 Sandy Miller, Pastor Zachary Bahe	
		2016 Sandy Miller, Pastor Lydia Rieck	
		2019 Sandy Miller, Pastor Andrew Pirkle	Danielle Nappin

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Romans 15:13



Photos
courtesy of
Sandy Miller

GETTING TO KNOW...

First Lutheran Church Hope, Minnesota

By: Rev. Sandy Miller

Two years ago, First Lutheran in Hope, MN, took a huge step of faith. With only 20 faithful worshippers, a long term relationship with a sister parish was ended as we put our hope in the Lord that He would be faithful to breathe new life and a fresh Spirit into the 93-year-old congregation. To no surprise, the Lord was faithful. As we worked toward affiliating with LCMC in November, 2012, our average worship attendance quickly grew to 65. Small potatoes to some, but we knew in our hearts that you don't have to be a big congregation to make a huge impact in the Kingdom of God.

Sunday morning worship became vibrant and Spirit-filled; weekday and Sunday morning Bible studies began to flourish; Sunday school and confirmation was established; benevolence became a precedence; and global ministry partnerships were initiated in Uganda, Tanzania and the Republic of Congo.

Oh, that's not to say there weren't a few bumps along the way. When a congregation has been around for 90+ years, there are certain ways you do things! And now 70% of our membership was new. It took a real work of the Spirit to bring us all together, building trust and growing us in love toward one another. Again, the Lord was so faithful to bring just the right people who had genuine care and concern for the history of the church and the people who worshiped there. At the same time, the Lord extended grace through the long-term members toward all the new faces that had converged upon this quiet, traditional church. It's not always love at first sight, if you know what I mean! But again, how faithful the Lord has been to shape us and mold us into one body working together to bring glory to God!

Early on, we received what we felt was a prophetic word, that "*the LORD would teach us how to pray, how to study His word, and how to love God and love each other.*" Again, it sounds pretty simple, but He has been so faithful to bring forth that Word. We immediately put a prayer team in place and did some study on prayer. Our faith was built up and we've experienced many miraculous answers to prayer. Our Bible studies continue to thrive, and we are ever-growing in our love for God and for each other. We're especially excited to do an outreach this Christmas season where members will use their spiritual gifts to bless underprivileged families with a beautifully framed family portrait. This will also give us an opportunity to give a reason for the hope that we have in Christ Jesus.

According to church statistics, our little church in Hope, MN, population 100, should be dying. But true to the Gospel, it has been resurrected! There is "hope in Hope"!

"May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope!" — Romans 15:13

The above article submitted in 2014 for the quarterly LCMC Newsletter, summarizes our most recent journey of faith. The season of ministry that we now enjoy is in part due to the faithfulness of those who have gone before us, to which we are extremely grateful. Throughout the century, there have been seeds of faith planted, but it is the LORD who has watered them and caused them to grow (1 Cor 3:6). With humble appreciation, we move forward in being 'faithful and obedient' today, so that those who come after us may also experience the saving grace of Jesus Christ and proclaim His Gospel to the nations.

CURRENT OUTREACH MINISTRIES OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Lutheran strives to live out the Great Commission by finding ways to share the gospel locally, regionally, and globally. In doing so, the LORD has led us to establish the following ministries:

Laundry Love – On the third Monday of every month from 6-8pm you'll find us at Cedardale Laundromat offering free laundry on a first come, first serve basis. This gives us an opportunity to connect with people in our community who are stretched financially. We simply love on them and take advantage of opportunities to pray with them giving a reason for the hope that we have (1 Pet 3:15).

Operation Christmas Photo – This is an outreach to the underprivileged families in our area that offers them a professional family photo. It's a time for us to get to know them, serve them, offer prayer, and to bless them with a beautifully framed family photo in the hopes of creating a positive and lasting family memory.

MN Adult & Teen Challenge – For several years, we've had a relationship with MN Adult and Teen Challenge in Rochester, MN. Once a year their choir comes to lead worship and share testimonies. We're so grateful for what the LORD is doing in their lives and grateful to be a part of their recovery.

Mission Trips – Our Jr/Sr High students generally go on a mission trip every summer to serve Christ by serving others in communities like Denver, Nashville, Louisville, Rapid City, and Duluth. We also organized our first adult international mission trip to Tartu, Estonia in 2018 through EEMN.

Global Ministry Partners – First Lutheran has established relationships with the following ministry partners. They are an integral part of our ministry as we encourage one another to stay faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Pastor Bob Mankaka - Pastor Bob is originally from the Republic of Congo but currently resides in Rochester, MN. In addition to pastoring his own church, every Saturday night at approximately 3am, Pastor Bob preaches live into the Congo via cell phone. Hundreds of people have come to saving faith in Jesus Christ through his preaching.



Eastern European Mission Network (EEMN) - Pastor Siimon Haamer from Estonia is a third generation pastor in Estonia working to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to a country that is less than 7% Christian as a result of communist indoctrination during 50+ years of Russian occupation. First Lutheran is partnering with EEMN to facilitate an English Speaking Bible Camp for Estonians who are seeking to improve their English skills using the Bible as a text book and therefore learning about Jesus at the same time.



Pastor Enrique Estrada - Pastor Enrique is an LCMC pastor serving in Monterey, Mexico. He is associated with Mission Mexico International which is a ministry that supports Lutheran pastors in Monterey & Guadalajara. We got to know Pastor Enrique while he was serving on the Board of Trustees for LCMC. He is a lover of Jesus Christ as evidenced in the way he ministers with love and grace.

