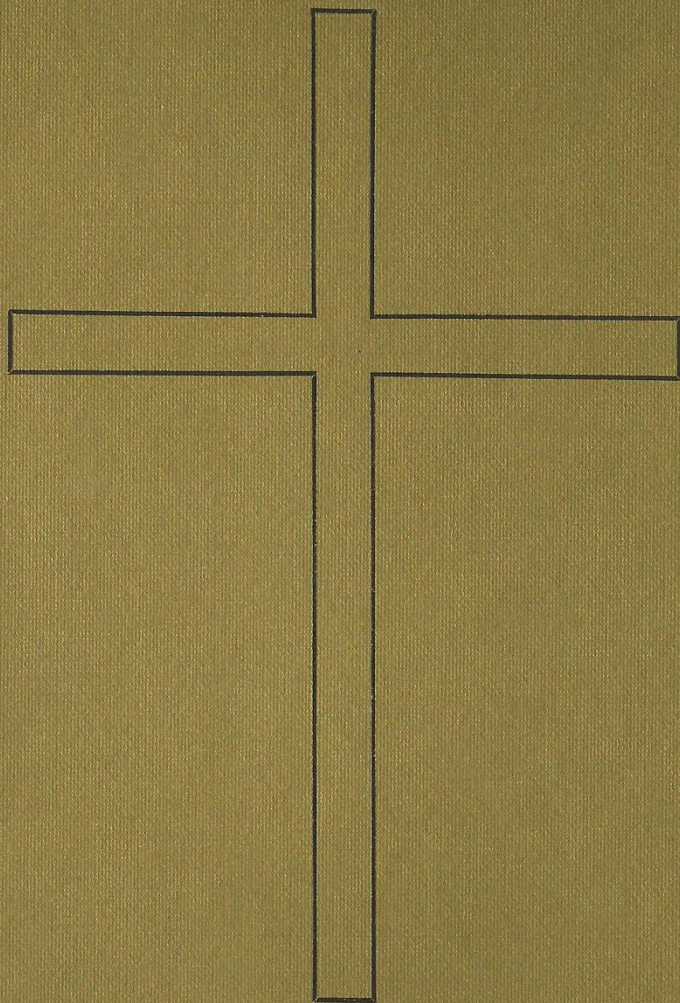


30th

Anniversary



First English Lutheran Church

Kimball, Nebraska

June 10, 1979

FIFTY YEARS OF GRACE

For many years, O God of grace
This Church has been Thy dwelling place
And we Thy congregation
Upon the precious cornerstone
Our faith is built, and Christ alone
Is still our one foundation.

Today we pray:

“Let us greet Thee,
Lord, and meet Thee
Here with singing,
All our praises to Thee bringing”

Here children have been born anew
As manifold as morning dew
Their vows to Thee confessing
Here many found a table spread
They ate Christ's body with the bread
And drank the cup of blessing.

Today we pray:

“Let none falter,
At Thine altar
We adore Thee,
Gladly worship here before Thee”

Here when the marriage vows were made
Both bride and groom besought Thine aid
Thy love their own transcending
Here mourners, with their troubled hearts,
Have found the peace Thy Word imparts
The joy that has no ending.

Today we pray:

“May the story
of Thy glory
Here resounding
Be a song of grace abounding”



(First church building)

"And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."
(Luke 2:7)



(Present church building)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."
(Matthew 28:19-20)

HISTORY

The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in January, 1929, according to accounts from old church records. Prior to that time, St. John's Lutheran Church was holding German Services and was connected with the Iowa Synod, a forerunner of the old ALC. There was a move within the Kimball community for English language Lutheran services. Some of the members of St. John's, as well as other Lutherans from the community, together with Pastor H. Stennfeld petitioned the Iowa Synod to support such a new mission venture, which resulted in the formation of a new congregation.

In 1930, the Buffalo Synod, the Iowa Synod, and the Ohio Synod merged to form the old American Lutheran Church. By 1953 it had become the fourth largest general Lutheran body in this country. In 1960 a major merger took place as the American Lutheran Church (German background), the E.L.C. (Norwegian background), and the U.E.L.C. (Danish background) joined to form a much larger body also called The American Lutheran Church.

Rev. H. Stennfeld served the new congregation until Pastor Otto F. Meyer accepted a call in July, 1929. The church board at the time of incorporation was President, John Stull; Vice-President, Gus Forsling; Secretary, James Hansen; Treasurer, John C. Leu; Elders, Martin A. Zabel and Gust Johnson.

The first Confirmation Class included Alice Danielson, Paul Knoedler and John Stull. They were confirmed on June 16, 1929, by Pastor Stennfeld at the Fraternal Hall.

On October 22, 1930, the congregation purchased the lots on which the church stands from Dr. M. Markley for \$750.

Pastor Meyer resigned in September, 1931 to attend school. Rev. F. Hefner, serving out of Wellington, Colorado, was pastor from Nov., 1931 to June, 1933. Rev. E. F. Wendt, from Ft. Morgan, served until May, 1936. Rev. Arnold E. Sommer arrived in May, 1936 and served until June, 1937. Following this time, Dr. E. G. Fritschel, then of Greeley, Colorado, was most active in keeping the field alive during the severe depression years. He served as pastor until 1942 when Rev. M. Stricker entered the work in December.

Our first church building was a remodeled barn. Phil Stahla and P. A. Pedersen looked over the barn to see whether it should be torn down or remodeled. A sacristy and chancel area was built onto the east end of the building, which was originally 16' by 32'. A narthex was added to the west end of the building. The cost of remodeling was about \$800 to \$900. This first church building was dedicated to the Glory of God on February 2, 1941.

The first marriage held in the little church was that of LeRoy and Beverly Halstead on Sunday evening, September 7, 1941, conducted by Pastor E. G. Fritschel.

Pastor M. Stricker was the first resident pastor, serving from Dec., 1942 until May, 1944. Pastors of neighboring congregations supplied the pulpit during the vacancy from May to November, 1944, when Pastor E. Rummel from Rushville came. Under his leadership, a building fund was set aside for building a new church.

Pastor W. Gies was installed as pastor on September 16, 1945, by District President E. G. Fritschel. Beginning January 1, 1946, First English Lutheran Church became self-supporting. In 1946, a Building Committee was

organized composed of five members. Later it was enlarged and included the following: Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hagstrom, C. E. Nelson, Ollic Johnson, Kenneth Gehrke, H. M. Vowers, Wm. Mackie, P. A. Pedersen, Phil Stahla Jr., and the pastor. In 1947, Lowell Green was here to assist Pastor Gies in the mission field. In mid-July, 1949, it was decided by the congregation to begin work on the new church. The building was not built sooner because building materials were not readily available. Building drives had been conducted for at least 3 years before the building started. Wm. Coleman and Ollic Johnson contacted Wm. Nelson and Sons of Bayard on July 4, 1949. On August 14, 1949, Pastor Gies conducted an official ground-breaking service. Work began the following day. In September the corner stone was laid at a regular Sunday service. With members of the congregation helping, the work progressed rapidly. On March 12, 1950, approximately 1000 people attended the two dedication services. Speakers at the dedication were District Pres. E. G. Fritschel and Pastor Emil F. Wendt of Ft. Collins. The approximate cost of the church, including the pews, was \$32,000. The first Smorgasbord was held in December, 1950, to raise money to help pay for the new church building. Pastor Gies served the congregation until the fall of 1951.

Pastor Edward Keller was installed on March 23, 1952. Prior to Pastor Keller's arrival, a parsonage had been purchased from the S. P. Dowd's at a cost of \$15,000. Many improvements and additions were made in the Church after Pastor Keller's arrival. The upstairs Sunday School rooms were finished, the small study at the front of the church was built, the Baldwin Organ was received as a memorial. On Good Friday, April 8, 1955, the individual Holy Communion set was first used and dedicated. This was paid for by the Memorial Fund of the Women's Missionary Society. The women's organization, now the ALCW, has been and continues to be a vital arm of the church. The Sunday School is also an important educational emphasis of the Church, as well as the Luther League. The Sr. Choir and the Jr. Choir add much to the worship service, too.

The organ chimes were received and dedicated in December, 1955 as a gift of several members, including memorials. Also in December it was decided to go ahead with the church basement project under the direction of the Nelson Contractors, Bayard. Additional room was needed for the increasing Sunday School enrollment and a larger kitchen was added to have better facilities. The cost of this project was about \$15,000 plus much donated labor and some donated materials. The mortgage held by Lutheran Mutual Life Insurance Co., Waverly, Iowa, was paid off in January, 1956, and a mortgage burning was held February 5, 1956. On April 29, 1956, the entire church plant was rededicated with Dr. E. G. Fritschel, District President, as speaker. In December, 1957, new chancel furnishings arrived and were installed and dedication ceremonies were held on January 19, 1958, with the Rev. W. Gies as guest speaker. These were a gift to the congregation. The parsonage debt was paid off in full in January, 1959, the final payment being \$4,202.03.

Another memorable occasion for the congregation was the ordination of Alvin L. Danielson into the ministry on June 24, 1962. He is the only son of the congregation to be ordained. Pastor W. Gies preached the ordination sermon and Pastor E. Keller ordained Alvin.

During 1962, the *ALC Service Book and Hymnal* was purchased and introduced for the congregation's use. These were purchased by the Sunday School and various memorials. Official dedication of the hymnals was

December 2, 1962. In January, 1963, the congregation decided to have two services to accommodate the increased membership. Oil field and missile site activity in the area brought in a number of people. Pastor Keller served the congregation until June 30, 1963.

Pastor A. C. Zeilinger served during the vacancy. During this time, the parsonage was extensively redecorated and the kitchen was improved before the arrival of Pastor Ludwig Scholl in August, 1963. Two services continued and several Family Nights were held. The new constitution was adopted on January 12, 1964. An Altar Guild was formed in 1964. The present office which was formerly a kitchen was built in 1966. Our first association with Sky Ranch was during this year also. Four committees were established: Stewardship, Property and Management, Evangelism, and Parish Education. Confirmation classes were extended to include the ninth grade in 1967. The Luther League began celebrating the Passover Supper during these years, as a special educational service. Pastor Scholl served until January, 1969.

We then went to one service, with Pastor Arthur Wachholz serving during this vacancy. Pastor Donald Schmidt, Scottsbluff, conducted the Lenten Services for us.

Pastor Donald Bentz came in June, 1969, and served until April, 1975. Fifth grade communion was instituted and also the contemporary liturgy was first used. The church library became a reality in 1972. Additional books have been purchased through memorial funds or donations. The new piano was also bought. On Christmas Eve, 1970, the first Candlelight Communion Service was held, in addition to the traditional Christmas Eve Children's Program. The Every-Home Plan of the *Lutheran Standard* was begun. Pastor C. H. Hinkhouse served us during this vacancy. Some renovation of the parsonage was done before our present pastor, Fred Harms, arrived and was installed on August 17, 1975.

Under Pastor Harms' leadership, the Shepherding Program was initiated. The Bethel Bible Series, an adult Bible study program, was begun. Folding pew chairs were purchased with the help of special donations. A Missions Committee and Family Life Committee were added. The congregation helps to sponsor a missionary family in New Guinea, through the Northern Colorado Conference. We are also working with the Episcopal Church in Vacation Bible School. On Easter Sunday, we have two worship services and the Luther League serves breakfast between the two services. The Luther Leaguers usually serve a Soup Supper in early December. The offerings from these activities are used for the educational trips they have taken. We have participated in the CROP Hunger Walk and the Christian Unity Service. In the fall, we have Blanket Sunday in conjunction with our Mission Festival. The *Lutheran Book of Worship* has been introduced and was dedicated April 22, 1979.

Clara Hansen is the only living charter member.

God and Country Scouting Awards (Pro Deo et Patria) over the years have been given to Alan Strauch in May, 1950, Stephen Knutsen on July 5, 1964, and to Brent Barrett on April 3, 1977.

Through the last fifty years, God has blessed this congregation in many ways. Let us give all our praise and thanks to Him through Jesus Christ our Lord. May we ask that God give us His loving grace as we enter the future as His children.

* * * * *

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)

CHURCH COUNCIL

Dan Barrett-President
Marv Talbott-Vice Pres.
Alice Evertson-Secretary
Reta Pahl
Ed Norden
Larry Engstrom
Dave Hagstrom
Harley Dietz
Maurice Kath

EVANGELISM & WORSHIP

Reta Pahl (Council Rep.)
Doug Onigkeit
Helen Donner
Debbie Jerred
Pat Dowd
Elaine Herboldsheimer
Florance Haug
Dave Farmer
Ken Mossberg

PARISH EDUCATION

Wilma Vencill (Superintendent)
Kate Stahla (Treasurer)
Larry Engstrom (Council Rep.)
Marv Talbott (Council Rep.)
Bonnie Kath
Carol Sigette

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT

Harley Dietz (Council Rep.)
Carl Schwindt
Lawrence Weigel
Dave Bashaw
Bruce Sigette
Dale Dietz

LIBRARY

Kathy Van Pelt
Connie Knutsen

TREASURER

Wanda Hagstrom

HEAD USHERS

Carl Schwindt
Charles Edmunds

SKY RANCH AMBASSADORS

Dave & Judy Anderson
Dave & Jan Bashaw

FAMILY LIFE

Ed & Janice Norden
Richard & Sharon Gehrke
Elmer & Hazel Nelson
Wayne & Terri Onigkeit
Chuck & Phyllis Edmunds
Jackie Stevenson

MISSIONS

Maurice Kath (Council Rep.)
Jack & Linda Gunderson
Mike Nelson
Lawrence & Lillian Engstrom
Alice Weigel
Maxine Dietz

STEWARDSHIP

Dave Hagstrom (Council Rep.)
Hilda Strauch
Marv Knutsen (Financial Secretary)
Jerry Knutsen
Leland & Faith Troutman
Wanda Beaver
Phil Stahla

"And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Eph. 4:11-12)

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Wilma Vencill — Superintendent

Kate Stahla — Treasurer

Vicki Stahla & Laura Hall	3 year olds
Dorothy Jungck	4 year olds
Marilyn French	Kindergarten
Connie Knutsen & Angie Heidemann	1st grade
Jackie Stevenson	2nd grade
Florance Haug	3rd & 4th grades
Elsie Simms	5th & 6th grades
Marv Talbott & Janice Nelson	7th grade
Pat Dowd	8th grade
Dave Farmer, Jack Vencill, Pastor Harms	High School & Adult
Substitutes: Larry Stahla, Fern Stahla, Teresa Stahla, Linda Barrett, Sharon Gehrke, Reta Pahl, and Carol Sigette.	

BETHEL BIBLE TEACHERS

Ella Mae Cederburg
Jim Cederburg
Rich Cederburg
Gale Gehrke
Larry Pahl
JoAnn Steele
Sue Ann Wallesen
Lawrence Weigel

ALCW OFFICERS

Barbara Vogel-President
Sue Ann Wallesen-Vice Pres.
Betty Fritzler-Secretary
Kathy Van Pelt-Treasurer
Evelyn Anderson-Education
Marilyn French-Stewardship
Alice Weigel-Memorials
Maxine Schneider-Flowers
Sue Ann Wallesen-Altar Guild

LUTHER LEAGUE OFFICERS

Jodi Simms — President
Leslie Simms — Vice President
Amy Mueller — Treasurer
Kathy Sisson — Secretary
Christy French & Jay Mueller — Historians

LUTHER LEAGUE SPONSORS:

Dave & Judy Anderson
Floyd & Pat Barrett
Gene & Betty Merkel
Pastor Fred & Margaret Harms

"And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."
(Deut. 6:6-7)



JUNIOR CHOIR — Directors: Bonnie Kath & Merceda Dietz



SENIOR CHOIR — Director: Ken Fritzler
ORGANISTS: Wilma Vencill, Elsie Simms, Janice Nelson, Gwelda Carlson,
 and Kathy Van Pelt
PIANIST for the Sr. Choir: Sharon Cederburg

"Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful!"
 (Psalm 149:1)

MEMBERSHIP, APRIL 29, 1979

Mr. & Mrs. David Anderson
Michael and Mark

Mrs. Evelyn Anderson

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Anderson

Mrs. Rose Anderson

Mrs. Tamara Argo

Mr. Ben Barrett

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Barrett
Craig and Anthony

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Barrett
Brent and Brenda

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Barrett

Mr. & Mrs. David Bashaw
Krista and David

Mrs. Wanda Beaver
Erica and Anglique

Mrs. Mildred Bentley
Robin and Todd

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bowman
Tom

Miss Katherine Bowman

Mrs. Mildred Brothers

Mrs. Leona Brown

Mr. & Mrs. Don Buddecke
Lisa, Lori, Donald Jr.
Diana Peterson

Mr. & Mrs. Randall Bybee

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Carlson
Alan and Lesa

Mrs. Ruth Carlson

Mr. & Mrs. James Cederburg
Bryan

Mr. Richard Cederburg

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Cederburg
Sharon and Robert

Mrs. Sally Cederburg

Mr. & Mrs. Arne Christensen
Carrie

Mr. Chuck Christensen

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Christiansen

Miss Karlene Christiansen

Mrs. Elizabeth Christiansen

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Christiansen
Tom and Gary

Mr. David Cory

Mrs. Sharon Deboodt

Mr. & Mrs. Dale Dietz
Liesl and Jeffrey

Mr. & Mrs. Harley Dietz
Jay and Bonnie

Mrs. Maxine Dietz

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Donner
Darbie, Tamie,
Kimberlie and Chelsie

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Dowd
Gene, Lorrie, Coni

Miss Joni Dowd

Miss Kathleen Dowd

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Ebel

Mr. Steven Ebel

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Charles J.

Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Edmunds

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Eva and Aaron

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Kurt

Mr. Larry Engstrom

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Mrs. Ida Gehrke

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Gehrke

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gehrke
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Mrs. Joyce Gilman
Lurel, Vickie, Leona

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Mr. & Mrs. LaVerne Goranson
Dennis and DeAnna

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Scott

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Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hagstrom

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Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hall
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Laura

Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Halstead

Mr. & Mrs. Merton Halstead

Mr. & Mrs. William G. Halstead

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Mrs. Ruby Hansen

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Pastor & Mrs. Fred Harms
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Mrs. Florance Haug
Luree and Carl Lee

Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Haug
Keelie

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Haug
Michael and Lawrence

Miss Carla Haug

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Haug

Miss Julie Haug

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Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Heidemann

Mr. Duane Heidemann

Mr. John Heidemann

Mr. Kenneth L. Heidemann

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Vickie and Tina

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Mrs. Elaine Herboldsheimer

Mr. & Mrs. Monte Herboldsheimer
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Greta and Christian

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Scott and David

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Tom and Mary Catherine

Mr. Theodore Kellner

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Mrs. Velma Knoedler

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Robert Jr., and Richard

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Scott and Stacy

Mr. Douglas Lockwood

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Wesley and William

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Lonsdale
Shelley and Brenda

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Gregg and Kimberlee

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Jennifer

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Mrs. Martha Mossberg

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Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Onigkeit

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Mr. & Mrs. David Schwindt
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Michelle

Mrs. Elsie Simms
Robin, Jodi, Leslie

Miss Kathleen Sisson

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Smartt

Mr. & Mrs. Glendel Snyder
Laurrie, Lawrence, Ronda

Mr. Raymond Snyder

Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Snyder
Collette

Mr. Jeffery Snyder

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Miss Marlene Stahla

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Mrs. Sarah Stahla

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Mrs. Hilda Strauch

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Jeffrey and Jeaneen

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Jeffrey Troutman

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Bradley, Bruce,
Linda and Tami

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Van Pelt
Becky

Miss Cheryle Van Pelt

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Pamela and Jennifer

Mr. James Vencill

Mrs. Susan Vernon

Mrs. Barbara Vogel

Mrs. Elsie Vogel
Todd and DeeAnn

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Mr. Lawrence H. C. Weigel II

Mr. Mack Vowers
Mark, John, Scott

Mrs. Leona Wendt

Mr. & Mrs. Merle Vowers
Ryan, Jason, Jed

Miss Kathy Wendt

Mrs. Sue Wallesen
Lynne and Marci

Mrs. Glenda Williams
Jason and Adam

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Weigel

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Worth

Mrs. Katherine Young

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Eph. 5:1-2)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

50th Anniversary Committee:

Roger Cedarburg—Chairman

Ollic Johnson

Dave Farmer

Mary Johnson—Co-Chairperson

Lillie Mueller

Abbie Pedersen

Carl Schwindt

Junior & Janice Snyder

Ralph & Imogene Anderson

Phil & Lydia Stahla

Hi Vowers

Lillian Engstrom

Minnie Vowers—Co-Chairperson

Clifford Stull

Clara Hansen

Velma Knoedler

Paul & Lucille Hagstrom

Pastor Fred Harms

Church History: The 50th Anniversary Committee with special contributions from Clara Hansen, Alice Weigel, Mary Johnson, and Dave Farmer.

Photography: Gene Merkel

Slide Presentation: Gene Merkel, Ed Norden, and Pastor Fred Harms

Smorgasbord: Imogene Anderson and Janice Snyder (co-chairpersons) and ladies of the Church.

Sr. Choir and Jr. Choir

Float for Farmers' Day Parade: Evangelism Committee and others

"We give thanks to thee, O God; we give thanks; we call on thy name and recount thy wondrous deeds."
(Psalm 75:1)

