



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating

75 Years of
Faith

To the people of Faith Lutheran Church,
past and present,
who, through their vision, generosity, hard work, and faith,
built and continue to sustain this building,
its mission to those outside its walls,
and to one another.

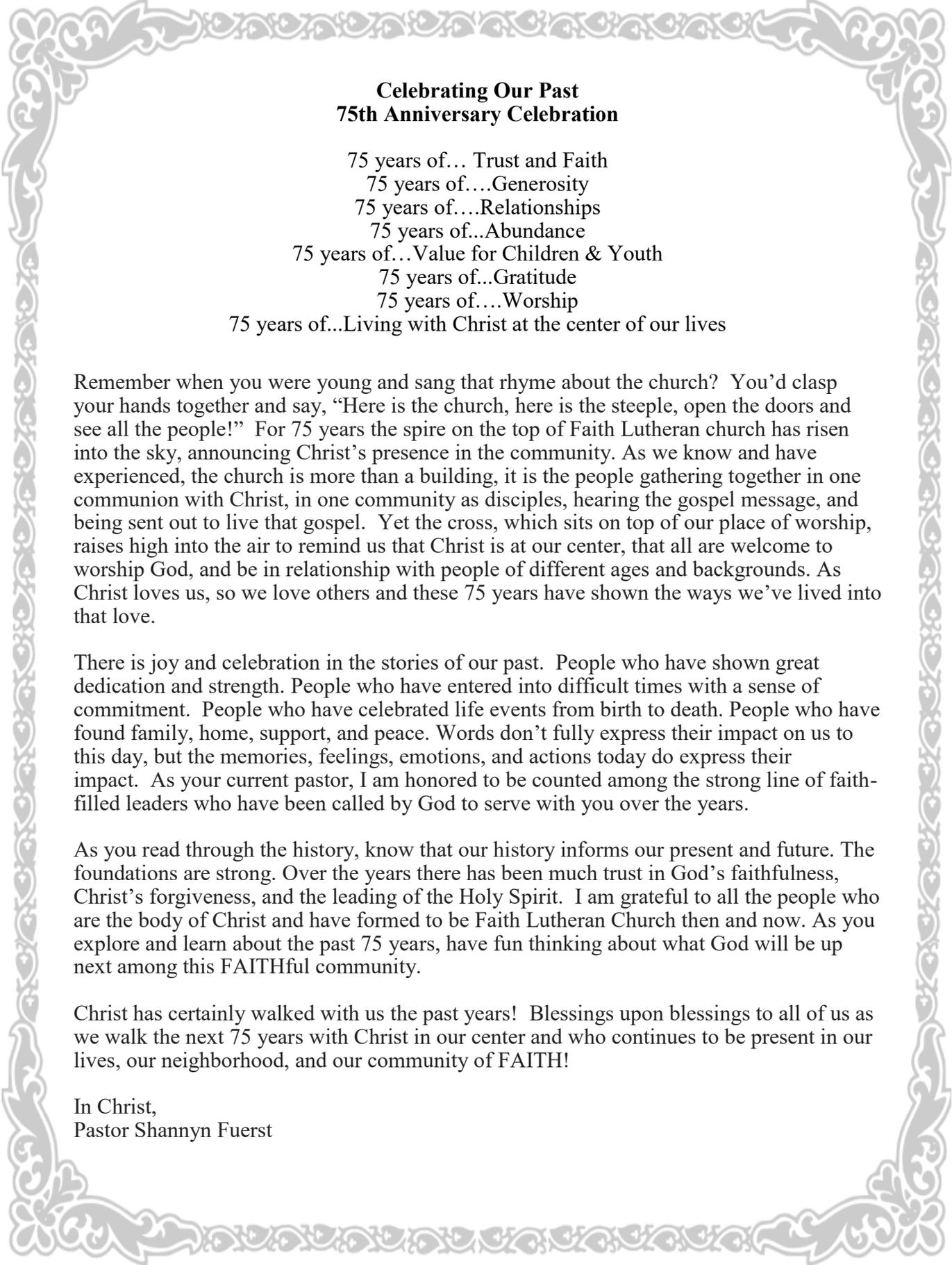
Faith: n. 1. complete trust or confidence in someone or something
2. strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on
spiritual apprehension rather than proof (Oxford American Dictionary)

Faith: belief and trust in God (Webster's II New Riverside University
Dictionary)

Synonymous with: confidence, trust, reliance, conviction, belief, assurance (Word)

This story is told in different voices over many years. A compilation of the first
twenty-five years by Pastor Orrin Consear, then histories by Jane Rieke, Connie Meyer,
and Carol Pease, and finally new additions by Barbara Sharkey and other contributors as
noted throughout the text.





**Celebrating Our Past
75th Anniversary Celebration**

75 years of... Trust and Faith
75 years of...Generosity
75 years of...Relationships
75 years of...Abundance
75 years of...Value for Children & Youth
75 years of...Gratitude
75 years of...Worship
75 years of...Living with Christ at the center of our lives

Remember when you were young and sang that rhyme about the church? You'd clasp your hands together and say, "Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people!" For 75 years the spire on the top of Faith Lutheran church has risen into the sky, announcing Christ's presence in the community. As we know and have experienced, the church is more than a building, it is the people gathering together in one communion with Christ, in one community as disciples, hearing the gospel message, and being sent out to live that gospel. Yet the cross, which sits on top of our place of worship, raises high into the air to remind us that Christ is at our center, that all are welcome to worship God, and be in relationship with people of different ages and backgrounds. As Christ loves us, so we love others and these 75 years have shown the ways we've lived into that love.

There is joy and celebration in the stories of our past. People who have shown great dedication and strength. People who have entered into difficult times with a sense of commitment. People who have celebrated life events from birth to death. People who have found family, home, support, and peace. Words don't fully express their impact on us to this day, but the memories, feelings, emotions, and actions today do express their impact. As your current pastor, I am honored to be counted among the strong line of faith-filled leaders who have been called by God to serve with you over the years.

As you read through the history, know that our history informs our present and future. The foundations are strong. Over the years there has been much trust in God's faithfulness, Christ's forgiveness, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. I am grateful to all the people who are the body of Christ and have formed to be Faith Lutheran Church then and now. As you explore and learn about the past 75 years, have fun thinking about what God will be up next among this FAITHful community.

Christ has certainly walked with us the past years! Blessings upon blessings to all of us as we walk the next 75 years with Christ in our center and who continues to be present in our lives, our neighborhood, and our community of FAITH!

In Christ,
Pastor Shannyn Fuerst

The Beginning

THESE 25 YEARS by Pastor Orrin Consear

In the summer of 1941 Dr. L. Ludwig, President of the Northwestern District, ALC (*American Lutheran Church*), assisted by Pastors E. R. Pflueger of Seattle, F. H. Theuer of Puyallup, and Orrin Consear of Cashmere made a two-day survey of several areas in the northeastern part of Seattle. Pastor E. C. Knorr of Queen Anne Church had encouraged the planting of a new church in northeast Seattle.

Pastor John Hopp was called and arrived in Seattle the first of May in 1942 and immediately began canvassing the area near N.E. 80th and 15th N.E. There was no rental housing available for the pastor and his family in those war years. A small house at 1512 N.E. 82nd was purchased for \$3,850 and served as a parsonage.

A vacant office, 18' x 20', (*1415 N.E. 80th St.*) was rented for \$20 a month and converted into a modest chapel. An old altar from the Georgetown Church, used in the Sunday School room of Bethlehem Church was offered the young mission. Neighboring Bethany Church loaned an organ. Other items came from Tacoma and Port Angeles. Some chairs, benches, etc., were secured for the sum of \$25. On May 30, 1942, the pastor's wife and her mother, Mrs. Rorem of Tacoma, washed the windows, cleaned the little storeroom chapel working long and late to get ready for the first service on May 31, 1942. It was a beautiful Memorial Day Sunday. Five children were in Sunday School that day and 20 people were at the church service. Mr. and Mrs. John Redlin were present and became charter members. On the next Sunday, the Sunday School increased to 12.

A Vacation Bible School was conducted by the pastor and his wife for 2 weeks in June. This drew many new children. By August 8, a total of 1,324 homes in the area had been visited. The first baptism was on October 9, 1942, Pamela Adele Morgan whose father was in the Navy at Sandpoint. On December 12, 1942, the first wedding took place, Ruth Lundberg and Eldridge B. Edwards. The first funeral was conducted on February 14, 1943, for Anne Ingeborg Sather.

The new mission was formally organized on January 17, 1943. The charter was kept open until Pentecost, June 14, 1943 at which time the first confirmation took place, Mrs. Gnagey. There were 37 charter members, 22 adults and 15 children.

From the beginning, Faith Church has been about the Lord's business, proclaiming the Word of God, administering the Sacraments, giving Christian instruction to all who would come, inviting the unchurched to participate in the Gospel, comforting the bereaved with the promises of the Living Lord. God has blessed this ministry through these 25 years. We thank Him for His abundant and sustaining grace.

The building of a house of worship and securing a parsonage has involved much prayer, time, effort and money on the part of the people of Faith Church over the years.

In April, 1944, Pastor John Hopp purchased the site at N.E. 82nd Street and 18th Avenue N.E., 180' x 96', at a tax auction for \$812.25. The ALC board of American Missions approved a loan of \$15,000 from the Church Building fund for the erection of a church building.

In the 25th Anniversary Celebration bulletin listing charter members, there is one who is still a member of Faith: Rich Meyer, who with his brother was one of the original children. Today, the Meyer, Rieke and Tarbox families represent five generations of membership at Faith!

Originally called Christ's Church, the name was changed to Faith Lutheran Church in 1944 when it was decided to buy property and try to get a "priority" to build a chapel (Vol. 1 Historical Binder) and to avoid confusion with Christ's Episcopal Church in the University District.

After two applications for a priority to construct a basement chapel had been rejected in April and July, a third application was approved on October 12, 1944. Excavations were made and construction began under competent supervision of Mr. Max Hopp, father of the pastor, who contributed thousands of hours of labor toward the new church. When the war ceased in August, 1945, an additional loan of \$5,000 was granted by the ALC toward the brick super-structure of the first unit. The small parsonage at 1512 N.E. 82nd street was sold and after an extended sojourn in Tacoma, the pastor's family was moved into the apartment in the rear of the church. Funds from the sale of the parsonage were applied to the new church building.

On January 6, 1946, the congregation moved into the unfinished sanctuary for the first service there. Nearly a year later in November, the first unit was dedicated.

Sister congregations of the Northwestern District, ALC, contributed \$1,650 toward the new church. \$3,000 in cash plus thousands of hours of donated labor by members also helped to make the first unit possible.

Faith Church is also grateful to the ALC for the subsidy of \$17,305.66 received from the mother church. Many people throughout the Church had a part in the beginnings of Faith Church.



Figures 1 & 2: Original church building and sanctuary

Wedgwood Coop

At the July 6, 1948, meeting of Faith Lutheran's church council, there was a request to provide space to what was named Wedgwood Cooperative Preschool. The council approved the request and since that time, Wedgwood Coop has been in community with Faith Lutheran Church.

The benefits to the community of having a space to offer parent education and a preschool experience have been great over these last 70 years. Parents learning how to parent and children learning through their play have made for a remarkable program. The benefits to Faith include a wonderful stewardship of our space; a number of families making their way to Faith as a result of their attending Wedgwood; and Faith's Pre-Elementary Sunday School being provided with a beautiful room on Sunday mornings. Over the years, the preschool has upgraded the facility with fresh and wonderful murals on the walls, a child-size sink, a treehouse loft, and this summer (2018), a whole new home play center! The old and dear kitchen equipment was generously donated to Faith for the childcare room.

The Coop functions under the umbrella of North Seattle Community College. The college supplies each class with an instructor to provide parent education as well as insurance coverage. The preschool program has made a difference in the lives of so many, including friendships that have lasted for years. That Wedgwood Coop has been in our community for 70 of Faith's 75 years is a blessing to us all!

--Sandi Dexter

Pastor John Hopp followed a call to Petersburg, Alaska, in August of 1949. For nearly a year Dr. E. C. Knorr of Pacific Lutheran College conducted services Sunday after Sunday (*and taught confirmation*). In July of 1950 Pastor Arnold Wittrock, a recent graduate of Wartburg Seminary, came to serve the young church. After one year he resigned and accepted a call to Macksburg, Oregon.

On September 2, 1951, Pastor Orrin Consear was installed. For two years he and his family lived in the apartment in the rear of the church until the present parsonage at 1706 N.E. 82nd Street was purchased for \$16,250 in 1953. The apartment rooms became available for the growing Sunday School. Improvements were made including new pews and a new Baldwin organ.

Bowling was a popular sport after WWII, and Faith supplied several men over a period of two or three decades. Early games were played at the Imperial Lanes in downtown Seattle, and later moved to the U Village Lanes. The Lutheran Men's Bowling League was popular with our members. Rich Meyer's first-place team trophy is available in our archives. A lone surviving score sheet listed 16 teams at an unknown date.

--Connie Meyer

In the fall of 1955 the first and very successful Every Member Visitation was conducted with 85% of the growing membership making pledges to the financial program. In 1956 the final payment of the ALC loan on the church building was made. Anticipating the need for future expansion, also in 1956 the congregation began purchase procedures for the properties north of the church at 8222 and 8226 18th Avenue N.E. In the summer of 1958 the architectural firm of W.G. Brust and Associates was engaged to prepare plans for the enlargement of the church and a building committee was elected. At the annual meeting of the congregation on January 18, 1959 the building committee was authorized to proceed with the building of the addition.

In July of 1959 a contract with the Wallace B. Questad Company was signed to build the addition for \$101,588. Ground was broken on August 10. Loans were secured from the Lutheran Brotherhood, (\$65,000) and from members of Faith Church, (\$27,000). The cornerstone was laid on December 27, 1959.

A time capsule was placed near the new office entrance, which in 2018 is the stone mosaic wall on the west patio.

The new sanctuary was completed for dedication on April 3, 1960. On that morning 20 children were baptized reminding the congregation that the purpose of the new enlarged building was to help the congregation carry out the great commission of our Lord.

The Great Commission: 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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20 NRSV

On the following Sunday, which was also Palm Sunday, 25 children were confirmed--the largest class in our history.

In 1959, with the help of four Mission Builders, college students, sent out by the Youth and Evangelism departments of the ALC, about 7,000 homes in our area were contacted and given an invitation to our church.

In 1961-1963 two interns from our Columbus Seminary, Milo Strozensky and David Blecke served us for a year each and also received practical training.

Two sons of our congregation are serving in the ministry of the ALC: James C. Jaeger of Ascension Church, Seattle, and Richard O. Consear at Ascension Church in Orofino, Idaho.

Three of our sons are now in the seminary: John Rieke at Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, Charles Meyer and William Weed at Pacific Lutheran Seminary, Berkeley, California. Another of our sons, Robert James Rismiller will enter Luther Seminary at St. Paul, Minnesota this fall.

About 1500 members including children have been received into membership with Faith Church during these 25 years. Many of these now live in other areas and are serving the Lord in other congregations of Seattle, in the State of Washington, and in other parts of our nation.

During these 25 years there have been 562 baptisms, 436 confirmations, 214 weddings, 183 funerals.

As Faith begins her second quarter century of service to her Lord, she numbers just under 400 confirmed members and just over 500 baptized members.

SOLI DEO GLORIA (GLORY TO GOD ALONE)



Growing the Neighborhood

from histories by Jane Rieke and Carol Pease

In the early 1950's the congregation was still not growing as well as had been expected. After one discouraging year, the young pastor had left. Faith was then served by an interim pastor who commuted from Pacific Lutheran College on Sundays to preach and conduct confirmation classes. The congregation decided to call one of the visionary pastors who had served on the mission committee which had originally approved this church in this place.

A call was sent to Pastor Orrin Consear who was serving a large congregation in Idaho. He accepted the challenge and in September of 1952, moved with his wife and son from a lovely parsonage in Moscow to this struggling congregation and to the small apartment in the church building.

This was baby boomer time and the modest homes in the area were being occupied by young couples with children. Pastor Consear was a tireless visitor and loved children. He was also able to inspire the small congregation to invite friends to worship and the membership grew rapidly. It was soon apparent that more space was needed and in 1953 a parsonage was purchased. In 1956, 120 feet of frontage on 18th NE, with existing frame houses, was purchased.

In the year 1958 the average Sunday School attendance was 256; the average church attendance, 236. Dividers made of thin plaster board and mounted on casters were built to separate classes. Still, classes met in hallways, entry ways, and in stair wells, in the balcony, in the cry room, and in the sanctuary. Classes also met in the basement of the parsonage, a half block from the church.

In the present day, women—girls, youth, and adults—participate in every aspect of church life, from acolytes at an early age to being pastors. But it was not always so, and in early years the women of the church formed their own organizations to serve the congregation and support one another.

Faith Lutheran Church Women

The women of Faith Lutheran have been organized and meeting together since this congregation began. They recognized early on the importance and the benefits of women gathering together for education, Bible study, fellowship, refreshments, and projects.

The Women's Missionary Society of Faith Lutheran was organized in January of 1948 and existed through 1960. The Society, throughout the U. S. was made up of local guilds. Faith named theirs "The Dorcas Guild".

Following the 1960 merger of Lutheran synods, the women's organization was named the American Lutheran Church Women. At Faith it was "Faith Lutheran Church Women". Organized with officers and constitution, they met for occasional general meetings and also divided into about 4 or 5 circle groups meeting monthly for study and fellowship. Pastors as well as lay persons have led the studies, realizing that congregational units across the U.S. are united in the same common study. The studies, along with interesting related articles, have been included over the years in the women's periodicals: The Missionary Outlook, Scope, Lutheran Woman Today, and Gather.

In 1988 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed and the women became Women of the ELCA. At Faith they chose to continue calling themselves "Faith Lutheran Church Women". Restructuring roles and duties at Faith included all members, not just the women, in projects and responsibilities.

Regardless of what the women are called, their role and contribution to the life of the Faith Community has been monumental. Devoting their talents and energies to preparing and serving meals, hosting, quilting, handcrafting, sewing, decorating, kitchen care, cleaning, and serving where needed, they also monetarily support projects at Faith, many local agencies, local and foreign missions, women's ministries, Lutheran World Relief, etc.

The following words from our Statement of Purpose nicely summarize the goals of Faith's women: "We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

--Estelle Morley

Luther League

Luther League, the youth group of teenagers at Faith was begun in the mid-1940s, but little was recorded. Much of the history has been learned by reading the notebook of Minutes from 1957-1964. The Luther League was structured and organized with a constitution and election of officers. They were a part of the Congregation under the direction of the Pastor and the Vestry/Council and the Youth Committee. Members were welcomed following Confirmation and they could participate through High School. There were adult advisors and the Leaguers were divided into teams that were assigned portions of the work for meetings and events on a rotating basis. Minutes were written, attendance taken and names of those present were recorded.

Leaguers met at least twice monthly, and some of their activities included: devotions, education, films, speakers, worship services, local programs, skits, plays, field trips, local, district and national conventions, retreats and rallies, cruises, sports events, picnics, skating, swimming, bowling, softball, welcoming banquets, meals of various kinds, etc. Offerings were taken and with the addition of some fund-raising events the Leaguers were able to contribute to local and foreign missions, projects at Faith Lutheran, and many worthwhile causes.

Luther League provided a great avenue for education, spiritual growth, and fellowship for teens. There were assigned responsibilities, opportunities for developing leadership, practicing hospitality and planning service projects and events. In other words, a great training ground, all the while providing great care and attention to Faith's young people.

—Estelle Morley

Many joking comments have been shared over the years by some of those earliest Luther Leaguers. Probably the best known comment is that Don Keith and Jim Jaeger used to offer to visit the local store to pick up ice cream for the Leaguers to share at the end of a meeting. With much laughter and winks between them, both men admitted they would buy licorice -flavored ice cream because no one else liked it and the two could share it all!

--Connie Meyer



Figure 3: House at 8222

1959: The Expansion Project

In August of 1959 a building expansion project was undertaken with Leon Spencer serving as chairman of the building committee. Members of Faith made loans to the church in the amount of \$27,000 which good faith effort made it possible for the congregation to borrow \$65,000 from Lutheran Brotherhood. A 20 year mortgage was obtained. During the congregational meeting at which the vote on the expanded building was approved, the pastor (*Orrin Consear*) warned us that the major undertaking would mean some members would need to defer the purchase of a new car or a home in order to make this expanded church building possible. We took him seriously. An architect was hired and bids were submitted. After some altering of the original plan, the price of \$104,000 was agreed upon and construction got under way. At this time the pastor's annual salary, including car allowance and retirement, was \$6,060.



One of the frame houses (8222) was demolished and a parking area was surfaced. (*Years later, the "dip" in the parking area was attributed to the settling of the remains of 8222 beneath it.*) On the middle floor the new addition included the present kitchen and is marked by the metal strip on the floor which extends from the kitchen to the library area. This greatly enlarged the social room. The addition upstairs included the transepts, sacristy, and office areas. The entire church was rewired for electric heat. There was now more space for Sunday School classes, the pastor could have an office in this building, and we could add a secretary to the church staff. Volunteer work continued. Everyone joined paint crews. A steeple was erected and lighted. The women made and embroidered paraments for the new altar, pulpit and lectern. Once more the many hours of volunteer labor made it possible to keep the costs contained.



On April 3, 1960, the new building was dedicated.



Figures 4-6: New building and sanctuary.

Pastor Consear retired in 1968, and Pastor Luther Cronrath accepted the call to become the fourth regular pastor of Faith. Pastor Cronrath became interested in the Lutheran Charismatic Movement (healing, speaking in tongues, exorcism, and prophecy) in about 1972. He served as pastor of Faith until he was asked to resign by the Church Council. He left the congregation in 1974, taking some members with him.

In 1975, Pastor Kent Spaulding accepted the call to be the fifth pastor for Faith and led the congregation for the next five years. *(Pastor Spaulding provided a stable and peaceful atmosphere which greatly assisted the members in a time of healing after the previous tumultuous years.)*

By the early 1970s the Sunday School census was down. In the mid '60s a new freeway (I-5) cut through much of the residential area where Faith members had been living and members moved out of the area. Families in the small homes in the neighborhood outgrew their houses and moved to the rapidly expanding suburbs. The neighborhood became of neighborhood of older homeowners. We reviewed our mission.

Faith congregation, always service minded, began to make space available for groups needing a place to meet: AA, hiking groups, Dahlia Club, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and others, including a German historical society. At a time when money for florist-bought flowers was tight, Ruby Spencer was well-known for her beautiful flower arrangements that were used both on the altar and as decorations in the sanctuary and the social hall for special occasions.

The smaller frame house (8226) to the north of the parking lot was, for a while, rental property. Later it was occupied by Faith interns. The larger (*Heuston*) house, 8232, was used briefly as a parsonage. When both houses became empty, the Social Concerns committee investigated service projects for their use.

Basketball
Details about the Seattle Churches High School Basketball League are no longer easily attained, but Faith's participation in the 1960's was reported by Ed Hunnicutt who coached Faith's team for a few years. In 2018, when asked about his participation on the team, Paul Rieke shyly replied, "Well, I was tall" In 1992, the coach did proudly report that Faith's players took the Sportsmanship Trophy two years in a row!
--Connie Meyer



Figure 7: House at 8226



Figure 8: House at 8232

In 1976 a joint project spearheaded by Faith and including committees from Hope and Maple Leaf Lutheran Churches, refurbished the larger house at 8232 and sponsored a Vietnamese family with ten children. The family was provided low income housing and support in getting established in their new community. In a few years a second Vietnamese family arrived and occupied the other house, 8226. The congregation and Sunday School slowly began to grow again.

On June 25, 1978, Faith established the Orrin Consear Scholarship Fund in honor of Pastor Consear, who had led so many young people into full-time Christian service. Intended to assist young men and women to attend the seminaries of our Church, the fund was greatly appreciated and has helped many over the years.

On Palm Sunday, March 30, 1980, the mortgage was burned. Pastor Kent Spaulding presided at the celebratory worship service with Bishop Clarence Solberg, and former Pastors Consear, Cronrath and Hopp all attending as honored guests.

Vietnamese Refugee Families
Many Lutheran congregations in North America helped refugees fleeing the war and turmoil in Viet Nam in the 1970's, and Faith was among them. Using the two houses Faith owned—8226 and 8232 18th Ave. NE—they welcomed the Vu and Huynh families. Many people in the congregation got to know these people well, and the congregation enjoyed a couple wonderful Vietnamese meals as a thank you. The families established themselves in Seattle and moved from the houses into their own homes in the early 1980's. —Pastor Nancy Winder



Figure 9: Mortgage Burning in 1980. From left to right: Rev. Hopp, Rev. Spaulding, Bishop Solberg, Rev. Cronrath, Rev. Consear

During this time, several North End Lutheran churches came up with an innovative way to better share resources for their youth programs; the Northeast Seattle Lutheran Youth Association NESLYA.

The Northeast Seattle Lutheran Youth Association, NESLYA

In 1980 Faith, along with the congregations at Ascension, Maple Leaf, and Hope, decided to join forces for a more significant program for high school youth. They hired a recent PLU graduate, Michael Staudinger to try it out for one year. The program proved successful, and it was incorporated as a separate entity with a board made up of representatives of each congregation. Ascension and Hope closed, and Bethany joined. Bethany left the group and Prince of Peace and University joined. The directors of NESLYA were: Michael Staudinger, Ron Moe-Lobeda, Pastor Mark Hagen, Pastor Woody Carlson, Pastor Craig Johnson, and Nicole Kleinmeier. –Pastor Nancy Winder

In September, 1980, a mural of carved mahogany, cast bronze and enameled copper inlay and brass, was created for the church by Dr. Jens Knudsen as a memorial to many people of Faith and in memory of his son, Jimmy. The carving was installed in the south end of the sanctuary. A scholarship fund was established in Jimmy's name at Pacific Lutheran University.



Scope, the publication of Women of the ALC, featured the Knudson Carving on the cover of its December, 1982, issue.

Figure 10: Knudson Carving at the back of the sanctuary

The Knudsen Carving, an expression of Dr. Knudsen's love of God, was described thus by Faith's Pastor Kent Spaulding in a booklet accompanying the work: "How fortunate for us that Jens Knudsen is not only a biologist but an artist! ... The symbols of faith which are built into our lights and described in a small booklet, border each side of this work. ... He has successfully tied together the Old Testament and New Testament concepts, (the sacrificial lamb, the fire, and the words of Jesus quoting the Old Testament), and at the same time has led the message to the culture in which we live, (the modern church, the family, and the living of the Spirit,) thus making the whole a beautiful and picturesque sermon to be seen and meditated upon each Sunday morning. The heart of that sermon is not hard to find, for if one were to draw lines bisecting the entire work, from the center of one side to the other, from the center of the top to the center of the bottom, from corner to corner, either way, the very center (heart) of the entire work are two smaller bronze castings, showing the pierced hands and feet. I take it that this must be the heart of Jens' faith, just as it is the heart of the scriptural revelation, that 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself.'

"If I were to make a prediction, (and that isn't too hard), it would be that the members of Faith will never tire of this work, for they will never 'see it all...' Sunday by Sunday and week by week, this work will continue to bear its quiet witness." –Pastor Kent Spaulding

In 1981 Pastor Nancy Winder was called to Faith. Ordained in 1976, the first woman in the Pacific Northwest and the 14th in the American Lutheran Church, she had begun her ministry at Holden Village and then served three interims. Call committees were very reluctant to interview one of the new woman pastors! But Faith's committee did, and so this congregation became the first in the Pacific Northwest to call a woman as their sole pastor. When Pastor Clifford Lunde, the Assistant to the Bishop for the North Pacific District preached at Pastor Winder's installation, he titled his sermon "The Big Event." The congregation and the Sunday School grew steadily through Pastor Winder's 29-year ministry here.

As always, supportive relationships were then and continue to be the underpinnings of Faith's congregation from the initial days of the women's circles and Altar Guild. In the earliest years, the men's group Lutheran Brotherhood tackled their to-do list while the women's circles did theirs, with some joint projects included, too. Family Circle in the '70's (begun when 12 babies were born in one year) and Parents of Young Children in the '90's involved both men, women, and children, offering advice, support and wisdom to the newest parents from those who had experienced the sleepless nights of newborns to the joys and frustrations of busy toddlers and older siblings. The phrase "Family of Faith" was coined in the '70's, referring not just to related persons, but to the feeling of belonging throughout the congregation that on-going friendships brought. The Women's Book Group, originally convened as the Women's Theological Book Study, first met in March, 1986, and continues today, discussing fiction and non-fiction in light of both history and current events.

Throughout these years, the people of Faith, Pastor Winder, and the staff, worked together to define and fulfill their mission in the community and world.

The sanctuary light fixtures were designed and constructed by Faith's Brotherhood men's group. A photo of lights in the original sanctuary indicates they were done in the late '40's. The men also made wooden tables for the classrooms and for the church's social functions.

A special element of Pastor Winder's yearly Christmas Eve services was a new installment of a *Sherman the Sheep* story for the children's sermon. Sherman had many adventures over the years, delighting listeners young and old. So popular were the stories that the congregation began bringing Pastor Winder sheep of all sizes and construction which she collected in her office. The first grade Sunday School made a trip there each year to literally count sheep...there were well over one hundred!

The building projects of the late 1970s and early 1980s included:

The balcony: Choir risers were removed, new windows were installed, a storage room was partitioned off and an auxiliary heating unit was installed.

The Narthex: Partitions which divided the narthex from the sanctuary were removed and double glass doors installed near the (southwest) entry door. In 1980, Professor Jens Knudsen from PLU was commissioned to do a wall mural for the narthex. The cost: price of materials plus a yearly offering to the Knudsen scholarship fund at Pacific Lutheran University for a period of ten years.

The library: (installed in west transept of social hall): Shelves, furniture and carpeting were a memorial gift. Some work was done to try to stop moisture in the walls.

Use of frame houses: The Vietnamese families moved on to take their place in the community at large. The larger house (8232) became a residence for men in transition from Mental Health homes to community living. When our arrangement with the Mental Health Agency terminated, a major repair and cleanup was undertaken so the house could be used for families in transition for a few years, and then it was used for classes on Sunday mornings and for the NESLYA program. It was named The Faith House. The present House of Hope (8226 18th Ave NE) was then made available to homeless families.

From the House of Hope House Blessing Service, November 20, 1988, Bulletin:

For a house that was bought with the expectation that it might be torn down to help enlarge the original church, 8226 has been a home to a surprisingly large number of individuals and families. And even though countless hours have been spent at Council meetings deciding its fate, and some of you have painted it more times than you care to remember, it seems fitting that as we approach the holiday season, 8226 will once again hear the patter of little feet within its walls. --Barbara Sharkey

In 1992, Faith celebrated the 50th anniversary by beautifying Faith's grounds. Twelve trees for the west and south parking strips were purchased and planted by twelve three-generation families still active in this congregation. Additional planting was done to beautify the building. The design was drawn and the work was done by members of Faith's congregation.

The wear and tear on a much-used church building became increasingly apparent and a refurbishing project was undertaken in 1992. The needs of our congregation in the '90s were different from those of the church in the '40s so remodeling became largely reconfiguration of present space. The work was planned with the help of our member architects, was supervised and completed by members of the congregation, and was largely paid for with low or no-interest loans from members. Blessed again by members willing to commit their time and by the skills within the congregation, the work was done with minimum financial outlay.

On the middle floor an electrical furnace was moved from what was then the Youth Room, adjacent to the kitchen, to newly built space in the north hallway. A new Sunday School room was thus created. New heating ducts were installed. Moveable partitions were installed in the north end of the social room to make additional space for Sunday School classes and committee meetings. The custodian's room was refurbished: shelves were built, and space was organized for storing tables, chairs and other equipment. Cupboards for storage were built in the passageway to the parking lot. A new women's washroom, handicap-accessible, was built at the north end of the social room. The women's washroom, previously at the south end of the building, was demolished; the men's room there was enlarged and re-plumbed. A new Sunday School room was built in that area with a handicap-accessible entrance to the middle floor. A dish washer was purchased for the kitchen; new light fixtures were installed.

Major remodeling was completed on the upper level as well. The women's choir robing room with its private washroom was redone, moving the washroom outside the new office space. The other washroom on the north end of the second floor was redone and a mini kitchen was built. The conference room was reconfigured, remodeled and re-carpeted; an office work room was remodeled. The pastor's office got some needed repair and some remodeling was done in the secretary's area. The space above the sacristy, referred to as the "organ loft", was cleaned out and organized for better storage. The bridal/cry room was painted and refurbished. Again members of Faith volunteered their time and expertise. They drew plans, tore down partitions, built new, wired, painted, cleaned out accumulated messes and carted it away. Volunteers did it again.

Sharon Lone-Browder joined the staff as an Associate in Ministry in September, 1993, until December, 1999. As our Parish Assistant, Sharon re-organized and re-energized the volunteer committees, supported Sunday School, and instigated the beloved Family Retreat. From about 1997 until 2005 Faith folks took a weekend away to play outdoors with swimming and boating, outrageous skits and games, camp-style feasts, singing, studying, sharing, and old-fashioned playtime. Sharon's forte was connecting to new members, coaxing them to connect to others through participation in church life beyond Sunday morning worship.

The New Millennium 1995-2018

Barbara Sharkey, Carol Pease

In 1995 the congregation voted to add a second worship service to its Sunday morning schedule, beginning Easter Sunday, 1996, and continuing for a minimum of two years. The addition of a second service was prompted by a desire to make our community more welcoming to visitors, by alleviating overcrowded pews.

By 1997, our welcoming included the donation of a large, wheelchair-accessible van, making transportation of those with mobility challenges no longer dependent on only the few drivers with vans of their own that could accommodate a wheelchair. Then, helped by Mike Tarbox, the church bought a used, 15-passenger van to transport seniors and youth to worship services and outings. Thus began the church's ownership of occasionally temperamental but carefully tended vans, including one which was driven to Seattle from Los Angeles with its side rear door secured with duct tape after it flew open while entering the freeway around a curve.

With a growing congregation and despite past remodels, it was recognized that planning for future expansion was needed.

The North Addition Project

In November, 1997, the Congregation Council met in retreat to begin setting priorities for the future of Faith Lutheran Church. From that retreat, it was concluded that the physical plant is clearly of paramount concern to the council...[and] we need to work on a future masterplan that includes continuing growth. Meeting again in February, 1998, the Council formed the Revision for the Mission Committee (RMC), appointing seven people to make a plan for the future of the building. Their extensive work, which included review of existing ideas for a kitchen, elevator, new west doors, and plans drawn in 1990 for a remodel, the RMC, after interviews with every person and group who uses the building, recommended that the congregation seriously consider an extensive remodel of the building. Building, Housing and Finance Committees were formed in March, 1999.

The congregation was invited to participate in every step. One big decision was whether to remodel within the existing walls, or to expand to the north. Deciding on the north expansion, the architect was hired, and serious planning began. In January, 2000, the decision was made to have a Capital Campaign, Growing Our Future. In May, 2000, almost \$900,000 in pledges were collected. In January, 2001, the congregation committed itself to a \$2.1 million project. Groundbreaking was held on May 20, 2001. Due to permit and other delays, the building was not begun until July, 2002. The new addition also included seismic retrofitting of the existing building, a new south entrance to the building, and other improvements to the older part of the building. The congregation began to occupy the new addition during Holy Week, 2003. This was Phase 1 of a two-phase project. Phase 2 included a redesign of the sanctuary and remodel of the older half of the building.

This project could not have happened without the consistent and significant gifts of volunteer time and financial gifts from hundreds of people. This amazing community is itself a gift from God.

—from the dedication bulletin, May 4, 2003

Two days after the May 4, 2003, joyful dedication and celebration of our remodel and new northern addition, Vern Rieke fell ill and passed away later that week. Our joy was mixed with sorrow at the unexpected loss of this long-time member who had, along with so many others, done so much to see the new building completed. With Jane Rieke's persuasive encouragement as the director of the volunteer efforts, members had contributed hundreds of hours doing everything they could to save money: interior design, dumpster diving to save good bricks, staying up all night in the sanctuary after the welding for the earthquake retro-fit to be sure no burning embers started a fire, painting, cleaning, landscaping...every effort had been made to help and save money.

The new addition gave the Sunday School a chance to expand into lovely new classrooms. They were even plumbed for sinks, although that part was left unfinished. The attractive and well-organized kitchen was a delight to work in, especially for anyone who had carted the heavy racks of dirty dishes to and from the previous dishwasher, or bent over the deep, metal, triple sink of old. The new restrooms on both the sanctuary level and the social hall level finally provided adequate facilities, and the elevator allowed our members with mobility challenges easy access to the social hall floor. (For all the previous years, getting from the sanctuary to the social hall had required going back out the west office door, around the building, and in through the “garden” Sunday School room in the southeast corner of the social hall level.) The south entryway on the social hall level was upgraded by Dan Dierks. And the narthex doors at the southwest corner of the sanctuary were refurbished after years of weathering had wreaked havoc on the wood. The pre-school space in the sub-basement received new windows which gave them more light and improved egress from their space in case of emergency, and their space was retrofitted for earthquake safety.



Figure 11: Church Steeple

A final piece of the remodel, a Memorial Garden on the southeast corner of the property, was landscaped in the fall of 2003. A pathway of flat stone was laid in the shape of a cross, and a very heavy landscape rock with a dish-type top that acted as a bird bath, was moved in. Benches creating a circle completed this garden space for contemplation and meditation (and also covered the manhole covers of utility line inspection points).

From 1993 to 2007, Faith member Pastor Bob Weinman became our Visitation Pastor. Due to visual challenges, Pastor Bob was driven to members' homes first by his wife Jan, and later by other members such as Loren Eastman. It was remarked that a guardian angel must have been watching over Pastor Bob and Loren during their drives, as there were apparently some strong disagreements regarding how to get where they needed to go. (Obviously, neither had GPS with them!)

Per proud Lutheran parents everywhere, Faith's youth were known to be inquisitive and intelligent, ready to expand their knowledge at every opportunity. Thus was born the Ailanga School Project in 2002, a relationship that has broadened our congregation in ways we could not have imagined, from warm friendships formed, to a high schooler's senior project involving malaria nets and a college student's screenplay about the illegal ivory trade.

Music Director Nan Beth Walton had taken over for organist Don Galt in 1990 in a part-time position. In 2004 the congregation voted to make this position full-time. Faith had always been known for its music; a series of volunteer directors had provided opportunities for the congregation from the beginning. Under Nan's direction, the music program continued to flourish, with an adult choir, children's choir, adult and youth hand bell choirs, orchestral accompaniment, liturgical dance, and music created or arranged for the skills of the congregation. Nan was well-known for encouragement of members who wanted to participate in the music program at Faith.

The Ailanga School Project

In 2002 a group of Seattle high school students decided they wanted to know more about the world. As part of the Northeast Seattle Lutheran Youth Association, they had been on summer service trips to the states of South Dakota and Montana. Their experience learning about how people in different parts of their own country lived made them determined to know more about people in other countries. And they wanted to go to Africa.

Leaders of their youth group and of their Lutheran congregations in Seattle - Bethany, Faith, Maple Leaf, Prince of Peace, and University - began looking for a good way to achieve the students' goal. Pastor Nancy Winder of Faith knew that her colleague Pastor Charlie Mays in Port Angeles, Washington, had a wonderful experience with the people of the Meru Diocese in Tanzania. In fact, Bishop Paulo Akyoo of Meru was going to be in Port Angeles that December. A meeting was arranged at SeaTac Airport before Bishop Akyoo flew back to Tanzania. In that meeting, Bishop Akyoo mentioned a new school that the Meru Diocese was just beginning, an amazing project that would prepare students from all around Tanzania to be leaders in their country. The name was Ailanga Lutheran Junior Seminary, a place that would be a shining star for its students and for all who came there. ("Ailanga" means "star" or "light" in Swahili.) He noted that, although Meru had many partnerships with churches all over the world, he thought the people of the diocese might want to do Ailanga on their own. He would bring the idea of our group partnering with Ailanga to the Meru partnership committee and see what they thought.

Pastor Winder shared the idea with the Seattle churches, and we waited to hear from Bishop Akyoo. In January, 2003, we got the great news that they wanted us to be in partnership with Ailanga. And so plans began to take the first group of students to Ailanga that summer. After a delay due to flight cancellations, the trip planning shifted to July, 2004.

That first trip in was a wonderful and joyful time. Our students and adults were so overwhelmed by the generosity and hospitality of our Ailanga and Meru hosts. No one on that trip will ever forget the relationships forged or the depth of learning and experience. The Ailanga building was just started, and we laughed with our new friends as we tried to paint walls, walk through the mud and bricks, and, at the same time, celebrate this amazing beginning. Our farewell gathering at Ailanga was an evening to be remembered forever.

From there the partnership was established. The Meru Diocese asked us to be involved with computer items and with the science building they were hoping to begin. The Seattle congregations, now working together in the Ailanga School Project, planned trips that would be life-changing for students and adults alike. Subsequent youth delegations traveled in 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2013, with another trip planned for 2015. A delegation of adults, including two over 85 years old, visited in 2012. In 2014 eight adults, five of whom had visited before, went to Ailanga for the celebration of ten years of partnership. Each delegation has been amazed at the continued growth of Ailanga, the success of its students and teachers, and the continued joy of the place. In Seattle we have enjoyed visits from our Meru friends, another way to connect these two places in distant parts of our world. We are much closer together than our geography would tell.

A most important part of this collaboration has been our commitment to pray for each other. In January or February every year, during Epiphany, the season of light, the Seattle congregations have an Ailanga Sunday when the school and the Meru Diocese are particularly remembered. But Ailanga is in our hearts and minds all through the year, when we receive greetings, when pictures and stories are shared, and at the annual events raising funds to support the work of the school. This is a story of relationships, of sisters and brothers in Christ united in common work, in the way in which the grace of God breaks down any barriers of nationality and culture and simply unites us in love and joy. We have been so proud to walk in the light of Ailanga and are thankful for this 10th anniversary celebration. St. Paul writes this in Second Corinthians 4: For it is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Ailanga is our shining star!

-Pastor Nancy Winder, 2014

The congregation found ways to participate together outside of Sunday morning worship as well, with group excursions and a softball team of our own.

On May 13, 2007, Faith's exterior mosaic mural created by member artist Carol Haffar, was dedicated. Members of the congregation contributed some of the stones used in the mural, and were invited to assist in the process of putting the mosaic pieces in place. (The mural was created in the quilting room and then carefully carted around the outside of the building to be put in place. It was too heavy for the elevator!) The mosaic was installed on the west wall of the building at the site of the former entrance to the office.



Figure 12: Mosaic on outer west wall

initiate the Men's Bible Study Breakfast, which continues to undertake needed building repairs and tasks on a monthly basis along with Bible study, fellowship, and, as the name suggests, something hearty and nutritious to get them going.

During the next years, the work of the congregation continued despite pastoral changes. Parish Education reached from the youngest to the oldest, with a Cradle Roll/Shepherds, Pre-Elementary Sunday School, Elementary Sunday School, Confirmation, a High School youth program and Adult Forum. We had Christmas

*Faith's Softball Team 2002 - present.
It all started in 2001. Pastor Nancy Winder knew my love for baseball from the many Faith Nights at the Seattle Mariners. She told me there was a church softball league in Northeast Seattle that had six teams, but one team was dropping out the next year, and they needed a replacement. I met with some of the coaches, and watched a couple of games at the end of that year. Looked like fun. Co-ed, all ages, church members, no umpires (base coaches called the game), with fellowship before and after the game. I told them Faith could get a team for the next year. And, we did. Recruiting was easy. Turned out to be a family affair. Most of our players were parents at church with their young adult children wanting to play as well. It started out that way and has continued to this day. Fathers and their daughters. Mothers and their sons. Many individual players as well, too many to name.*

With a little bit of coaching this team has won more games than it has lost. We actually won the league, twice. Our bright red Faith shirts brought us together and put "fear" into our opponents. It has been a real pleasure to be the "coach" all of these years. I have stepped down this last year with Tim Overlund taking over the reins. We are in good hands with a lot more games to play. Joining the league has been more than just playing a game. It has allowed me to get to know Faith members better, and helped the Faith team be better neighbors in our community.

--Your Coach, John Bergo

In 2008, Pastor Abby d'Ambruoso was called as a second full-time pastor, with responsibilities including Youth and Family Ministry.

After 29 years of ministry at Faith, Pastor Winder left in August, 2009, for a one-year call at Holden Village, the very place her ministry had begun. Pastor Brian "Red" Burchfield, and then for a very short time, Pastor Karen Hanson, served as interims. Pastor Burchfield helped

pageants, youth trips, and Vacation Bible School/Camp in various configurations. Women's circles, Bible studies, the Quilters, the Women's Book group and Men's Bible Study Breakfast met, offering a time of mutual support, study, and fellowship. The church's standing committees of Property, Finance, Worship, Music and the Arts, Stewardship, Social Concerns, Transportation, and Youth kept the church in good order as we approached the age of declining church enrollment across the country. (The Fellowship Committee had slowly become inactive along with Outreach in the previous years.) The Altar Guild supported the pastor and continued the ancient tradition of preparing the altar for worship and communion. We brought food for the food drives; furnished school supplies, quilts, layettes, and soap for Lutheran World Relief; and continued to cook once a month for a local shelter (earlier it had been for the Compass Center, now for Blaine Center at First United Methodist).

Altar Guild

Altar Guild members perform an extremely important role in the life of our congregation by preparing Faith's Sanctuary for worship. They prepare Communion, wash and store the Communion vessels, change the paraments according to the Church calendar, order supplies, and keep order in the Sacristy, as well as maintaining the altar linens. Over the years the colorful paraments that decorate the Sanctuary have been lovingly made and designed or donated by members of the Faith Community.

--Estelle Morley

Faith's Memorial Wall sculpture, created by artist Anna MacDonald, was dedicated on November 1, 2009, All Saints' Day. The sculpture was created in memory of long-time Faith member Ann Johnson Gehrts and is installed in the west transept of the sanctuary. This inspiring work of art includes a shelf holding notebooks where baptisms and deaths in the congregation can be recorded.

Quilting

Quilting has been occurring at Faith forever. Quilt tops are sewn at home by several members of the congregation, then the quilt is completed at church by adding the batting, backing, and tying all three layers together with yarn. Then the edges are turned and sewn to complete the quilt. While eight years ago approximately 200 quilts could be finished in a year, now it is closer to 80-100, due to fewer folks able to help. Most of the quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief, while ten percent are saved for local shelters.

Figure 13: Memorial wall sculpture in the sanctuary

In June, 2011, Faith called Pastor Kris Anderson Ostrem of the United Church of Christ to serve as an administrative pastor. She was the first pastor called to serve a Northwest Washington Synod congregation from the roster of an ELCA full-communion partner.

The next year, in February, 2012, a small committee organized and held five well-attended, congregation-wide meetings to discuss Faith's willingness to become an RIC church (Reconciled in Christ), the name for churches offering an open welcome to all. Although the final steps for official designation as RIC were not taken, as a result of our discussions, the following welcome statement took prominence in our bulletins and web site:

“We are an intentionally inclusive community proclaiming a warm welcome to people of every race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, age and ability into all aspects of our church life. We invite you to participate in our vibrant ministry of worship, education, fellowship and service. Whether you are visiting for the first time or are a member here, it is our privilege to welcome you and to gratefully accept the unique gifts you bring to this day. Come as you are; all are welcome!”

In 2012, Pastor d'Ambruoso accepted a call to Fir-Conway Lutheran Church in the Skagit Valley, and Faith was once again a single-pastor church.

In 2013, Callie Moothart was hired to direct Next Generation Ministry, our youth program for Confirmation and High School. Youth trips included visits to Detroit for a Youth Gathering, to Portland, and Ailanga in 2015 and 2017. Youth excursions in previous years had included trips to Montana and to Ensenada, Mexico.

At the end of Pastor Ostrem's service in April, 2015, Pastor Jim Kruse served as respite pastor for the next 16 months. Pastor Kruse's calm demeanor and quiet encouragement sustained the congregation as we began the call process once again.

In August, 2016, Pastor Shannyn Fuerst was called from Council Bluffs, Iowa.

After serving as a parsonage for Pastor d'Ambruoso and her husband Will, the house at 8232 had been used in partnership with Lutheran Community Services Northwest to provide transitional housing for 18-to-21-year-old immigrant young men who were aging out of the foster care system. The house had been painted and refurbished once again for that use. As most of the young men had moved on, the house was returned to Faith's use and became the parsonage for Pastor Fuerst and her husband, Pastor Jeremy Fuerst of Central Lutheran Church, Everett.

After Nan Beth Walton's departure in the spring of 2017, David Buice joined the congregation as part-time music director and organist in October. Callie Moothart departed in June of 2018. It was decided that Pastor Shannyn, with her strong background in Youth and Family ministry, would teach confirmation, integrate the high school program into the on-going activities of the congregation, and broaden the Adult Forum curriculum with expertise from outside the church.

Pastor Shannyn's enthusiasm and energy are helping to give confidence to the congregation and dispel the worries that are shared across churches nationwide. New ideas are routinely tried and tested. Faith has continued to actively take the church outside its walls, as well as inviting the outside in.



Figure 14: The preschool made chalk drawings to welcome shelter guests.

In March, 2018, Faith hosted the Winter Shelter on the social hall level, part of Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness, for the first time. Inter-committee cooperation, space sharing, and a huge volunteer effort that included preparing the sleeping areas as well as furnishing evening meals and “take-along” breakfasts, made this effort a success. The congregation seemed eager to put words into action, and accepted this challenge with enthusiasm. Faith will host the shelter again in February, 2019.

Our building use is expanding: meditation, yoga, a second quilting group, worship opportunities at different times, even as our efforts outside the church multiply, such as offering continued support of those experiencing homelessness through God’s Little Acre (hygiene and food access) in Lake City.



Figure 15: Current church building.

Today and Tomorrow

A church is more than the building it resides in; it is the generations of people who have worshiped, prayed, sung, studied, learned, volunteered, laughed, and cried there together. On this 75th Anniversary of the year that a small mission church was formally organized as a congregation at a pot-luck dinner meeting after the service on January 17, 1943, we trust that with God’s help, sustained by our belief in Jesus, and nudged ever onward by the work of the Spirit, we will go forward together in peace to make the world a better place.

Wanderings Revisited

by Larry Howard

Revisiting “Wanderings” is like watching your life flow past you at warp speed! Many of you will not be familiar with the sequence of articles which appeared every month in the Notes of Faith from December of 1969 to the end of 1982. After that there were random articles for a total of about 140 issues. How do I know that? I just found the box of material in the garage! I have been asked to write one last Wanderings as part of our reflections on the first 75 years of our Faith Congregation, thus the search for the box.

So what was Wanderings? Simply put, it was one family’s attempt to reflect on the issues of everyday life as lived in a community of faith. Things happen. Big things and little things impact a family and a congregation and each month we would write about such things, being sure to know that we were not the only ones with such things going on in our lives. The congregation sometimes responded with comments that implied they were glad these things were shared and we often felt great support and love based on these comments. Life in the community of Faith was rich and alive with our young family just getting started right along with several others. Bonds were formed that last to this day and the stories are all there in the articles. I wonder if my sons and grandsons will enjoy reading them. This is relevant because it documents their arrival, going to school, joining the Navy, going away to college, their mother dying in 1993, etc. It actually spans most of their formative years. For a person who likes to write and loves history it all seems relevant. But is it?

Connie Meyer asked for one more article and said specifically that she would be interested in what would be said in the context of today, so to speak. So much has changed over the years but then again perhaps very little has changed; children are born, they leave home, loved ones die, we commune at church every Sunday and we give love and support to all that we can as often as we can. This is a community of faith and love that is still functioning as a servant to the community. This is our history and it is what defines us. We are indeed defined by our actions and Faith has always been an action-oriented family. It has taken many forms but it has always been a foundational element for our congregational life. In looking back over the years I see how we have been quite lucky in this regard. There are many congregations that have lost their youth or their vision and they are not able to do the things we are working hard at these days. We are blessed, but we are challenged along with the rest with things like a declining church population, fewer children committing to a church life once they are adults, etc. We are not alone and we are not about to give up easily. Such is Faith Church!

There are many things in today’s society that tend to work against a strong sense of community and family. The ubiquitous cell phone is one such thing. Society is just beginning to come to grips with how to best make use of such new tools. We will stumble along the way as society has done with all such new things. At one time people thought the Sears and Roebuck catalog system would spell the end of the small-town merchants. Now we have Amazon and Costco and the merchants are not all gone yet because we seem to rise to the challenge and reinvent ourselves as America is wont to do. I see Faith church doing a lot of this at this point in its history. We are again trying to clarify our mission in the midst of rapid and significant change. All is not well but we are still reaching outward while at the same time looking inward. This is an important dynamic tension to always have. We need to be servants both to one another as well as the community. If it gets too far out of balance one way or another things are not going to be so good. My bottom line for Faith is that it is still a strong congregation with a solid foundation. I see new leadership in many areas but perhaps not enough depth in some areas. We need to nurture new leaders at all times, even when things look just fine.

And finally perhaps a few words about a sense of family at Faith. It is still there! When I go to church I get energy and it comes from each of you. Perhaps I do not know as many of the names these days but I was never good at that anyway, just ask my wife Nancy Winder! I am still blessed with the chance to sit with good friends, to meet some for lunch, to travel together with others, and so it goes. There are just too many relationships to count them all, especially when I consider the relationships formed after the years of the Wanderings articles. And then there are the wonderful memories of those who have died and moved on to another wonderful place. Memories! At 81 I find them ever more meaningful, intriguing and rewarding to have around. I would end these “wanderings” with a challenge to each of you and every family at Faith and that is to be sure and reach out and form these bonds built around our community at Faith. It is a unique opportunity in these challenging times where everything seems to be pulling us apart rather than bringing us together.

See you next Sunday perhaps. Until then keep finding ways to be a servant. It is who we are.

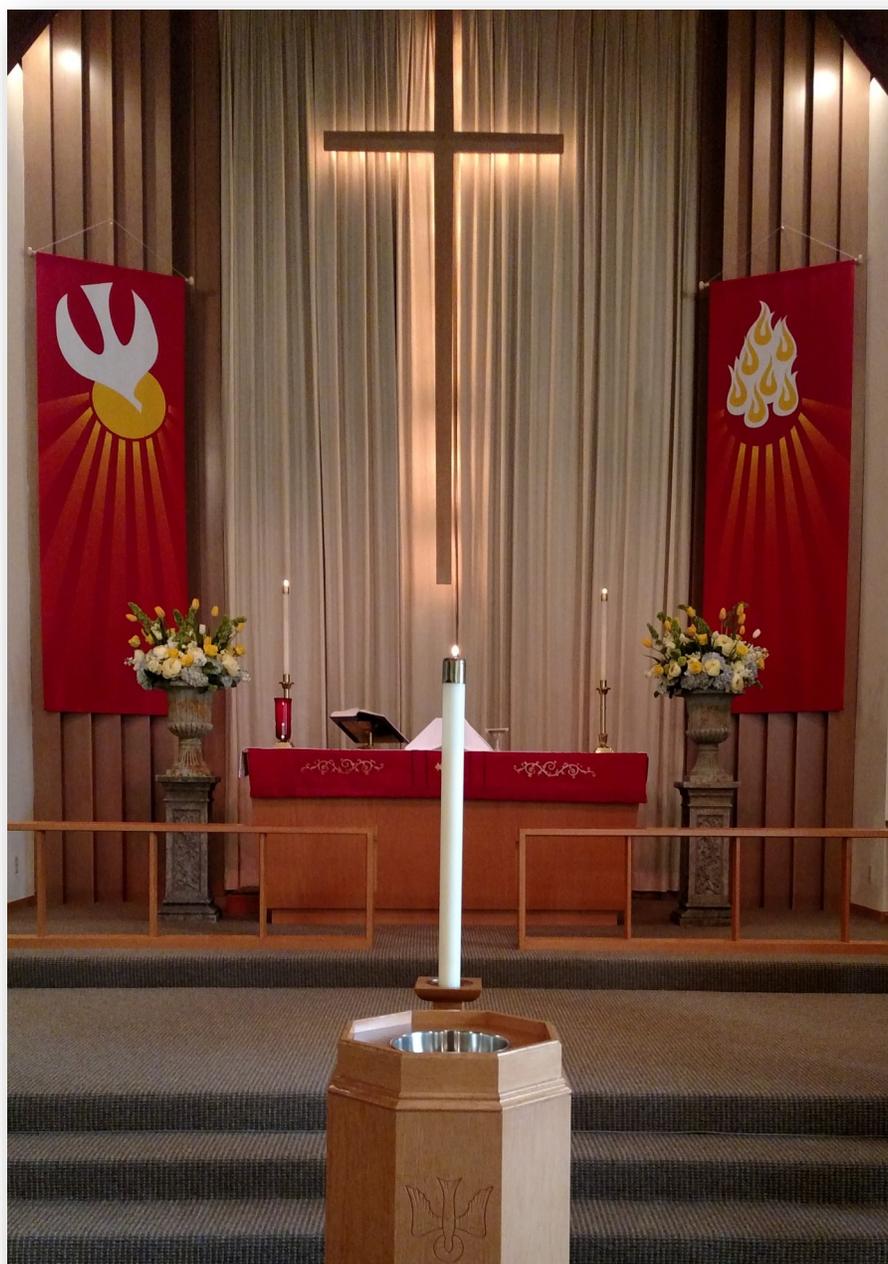
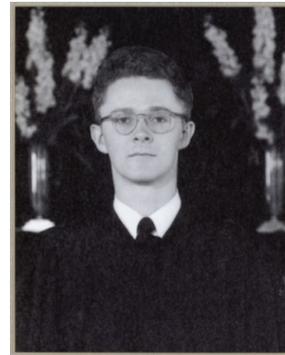


Figure 16: Current sanctuary

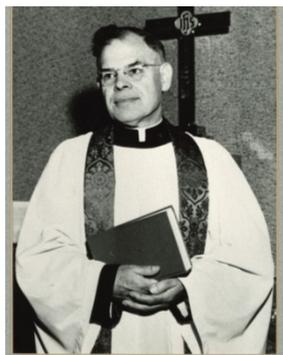
Pastors of Faith Lutheran Church



Pastor John Hopp
1942-1949



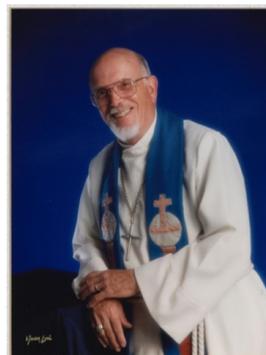
Pastor Arnold
Wittrock 1950-1951



Pastor Orrin Consear
1951-1968



Pastor Luther
Cronrath 1968-1974



Pastor Kent
Spaulding 1975-1980



Pastor Nancy Winder
1981-2009



Pastor Bob
Weinman,
Visitation 1993-2007



Pastor Abby
d'Ambruoso
2008-2012



Pastor Kris Anderson
Ostrem 2011-2015



Pastor Shannyn
Fuerst 2016--present

Youth Directors and Leaders

Dan Traxler (LBI student) 1971

Michael Staudinger

Ron Moe-Lobeda

Pastor Mark Hagen,

Pastor Woody Carlson,

Pastor Craig Johnson,

Nicole Kleinmeier

Mary Minor

Anna Rieke

Pastor Abby d'Ambruoso

Kate Bakamis

Callie Moothart

Faith Lutheran Church Members

Ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Leonard Patzold, late 1950's

The Rev. Steve Rieke, 1960's

The Rev. Jim Jaeger, September 25, 1960

The Rev. Richard O. Consear, June 30, 1963

The Rev. Elwood Rieke, July 14, 1963

The Rev. John Rieke, August 11, 1968

The Rev. Charles Meyer, September 27, 1970

The Rev. Jim Rismiller, August 22, 1971

The Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, June 17, 1984

The Rev. David Brauer-Rieke, August 2, 1987

The Rev. Dr. Mark Mattes, August 30, 1987

The Rev. Scott Geister-Jones, September 2, 1990

The Rev. Virginia Emilie Johnson, February 5, 1995

The Rev. Pamela Russell, June 24, 2001

The Rev. Heather Spears Geest, July 12, 2008

The Rev. Gretchen Wagner, July 22, 2014

The Rev. Anna Rieke, November 22, 2014

Commissioning

Estelle Morley,

Certified Church Staff Worker, 1987;

Associate in Ministry, 1988



Figure 17: Steeple in the snow.

Acknowledgments

As I began working on this history project, looking at the detailed histories of the past, and considering the complexity of our efforts at church, I quickly came to realize it would be impossible to mention, describe, and honor all that members and staff have done and continue to do in this community we call Faith, from praying for one another to helping build the new addition. We are a sunflower sea star with a thousand arms, reaching out, pulling in, evolving, changing, yet holding fast to the basic rock of our faith.

My sincere apologies for errors and omissions. I was unable to cover all of Faith's various, interesting, and significant programs and grace-filled people in the scope of this booklet. For the writer of Faith's history for the 100th year celebration . . . I suggest you begin now!

Mentioned or not, please know that you are all recognized and appreciated for being part of this community, whether you have been here forever or are newly joined.

My sincere thanks to all who helped answer my many questions, contributed comments, and especially to Rich Meyer, Connie Meyer, and Pastor Nancy Winder for their historical knowledge and help with the manuscript.

For more information, the church archives are filled with topical booklets, pictures, and factual information.

Special thanks to Missy French, Faith's Office Manager, for final production.

Barbara Sharkey

Photo Credits:

Theo Roe (Cover and Figure 11), Faith History Archives (Figures 1-9),
Missy French (Figures 10, 12-16), Bruce Eichert (Figure 17).



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