



**A History of  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Marshalltown, Iowa**



**A History of  
Our Savior Lutheran Church**

Marshalltown, Iowa

1975-2000

Written & Edited by

Larry D. Park

Marshalltown, Iowa

September 2000



## Table of Contents

Editor's Preface for 1985-2000 .....	i
Preface To 1975-1985 History.....	ii
Pastor's Forward .....	iii
A History of the First Ten Years 1975-1985 .....	1
History 1985-2000 .....	19
Confirmation Classes 1976-1999 .....	33
Elected Church Officials 1975-2000 .....	35
Membership & Budgets 1975-2000.....	39



## Editor's Preface for 1985-2000

The history of the first ten years of Our Savior Lutheran Church is included with only minor editorial revisions. The history from 1985-2000 is new and based on the minutes of the church councils and from the church newsletters. Thanks should also go to the secretaries of the Parish Planning Council, the office secretaries, many members who contributed to the newsletters and the Pastors who edited and wrote many articles for these church newsletters.

Many names of persons at Our Savior Lutheran Church are mentioned in this history but numerous people's names are not listed. I could not list everyone although, as noted above, many contributed to doing Christ's work at Our Savior over the first 25 years. The original group of "pioneers" at Our Savior had to be volunteers out of necessity. Later, others have joined and soon picked up this spirit of volunteering and have extended the work done for Christ at Our Savior.

We have also been blessed by the generosity of financial support at Our Savior. Some of these financial contributions have come from memorials and a few are noted in the history. I did not note all of the memorials but that does not lessen their significance.

The writing of this history deserves thanks for those who encouraged me and assisted me. My wife Nancy deserves a big "thank-you" for all of her encouragement and serving as the "first editor" of what I had typed into the computer.

Pastor Bill Spencer and my long-time friend Floyd Harthun also deserve thanks for their support and for being editors of this history. Thank you also Pastor Spencer for writing the Pastor's Forward. I could not have done it without Nancy, Pastor or Floyd!

The world has changed over the past twenty-five years of the existence of Our Savior Lutheran Church. In the United States in 1975 we were still recovering from the aftermath of the Vietnam War and Watergate. Gerald Ford was our President and we were trying to cope with gas prices that had jumped to over 60 cents a gallon.

We note other changes in our lives such as the fact that the personal computer was not around in 1975, in its infant stages on our tenth anniversary in 1985 and a necessary tool for many of us in the year 2000. Although I used a Commodore 64 computer in 1985 for the initial draft of the ten-year church history, Barb Jons typed the final draft on an electric typewriter. Now it is hard to find an electric typewriter.

One of the church members who helped with this edition of Our Savior's history was Alvin Blackburn who "scanned" in the 1985 typewritten history so that it could be read by my personal computer. Who ever heard of "scanner" just a few years ago?

But even though the world has changed, God is still with us. "Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult." Psalm 46:2-3.

We hope our continuing theme at Our Savior Lutheran Church will not just be "25 Years of Making Christ Known" but will be "Continually Making Christ Known."

Larry D. Park  
Marshalltown, Iowa  
September 2000

## **PREFACE TO 1975-1985 HISTORY**

The writing of this history was made easier because of the recorded minutes of congregation and church council meetings. Especially useful were the detailed minutes recorded by Nancy Park of the church meetings during the first few weeks and months of the congregation's history in 1975 and 1976. Paul Discher's comments were helpful in describing in personal terms the time between his resignation as Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church and his call to be the first Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church.

The Rev. Dennis E. Bauer preserved much of the church's history through his correspondence and church newsletters. Also, a note of thanks goes to the Rev. Dwight E. Wascom, Pastor at Our Savior(1983-1989), for his suggestions and help.

Barb Jons, continuing in the Our Savior tradition of being a willing worker in His Kingdom, deserves credit for typing the published 1985 copy of the history.

The works of many Our Savior members and friends are noted in this history. However, it is humanly impossible to give all the earthly credit due to the many who aided the work of the Lord at Our Savior. My apologies go to those whose names have been unintentionally omitted.

The history of Our Savior Lutheran Church of Marshalltown, Iowa, was written not only to preserve the events of its first ten years, but also to encourage others to continue to write a history of Our Savior Lutheran Church in future years. It is my hope and prayer that the members of Our Savior Lutheran Church of Marshalltown, Iowa, will continue to record the history so that others will be able to "Pass It On!"

Larry D. Park  
Marshalltown, Iowa  
September 1985

## Pastor's Forward

It is a great joy to celebrate an anniversary as a congregation. It is an opportunity to recall our faith journey, which has brought us to this point in time, and it is a time to remember and recommit ourselves to the basics, which have allowed this faith journey.

In the pages that follow, you have a synopsis of the history of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marshalltown, Iowa. It is a witness to the Spirit of God working in our midst and through us.

The theme verse for this our 25th Anniversary as a congregation is II Corinthians 4:1 – “Since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.”

It is God’s mercy that has brought us into our saving relationship with Him. It is God’s mercy that has enabled our sharing the news of the Gospel in the past. It is God’s mercy that will enable our sharing the news of the Gospel in the future. It is only because of the presence of God in His church, in Our Savior Lutheran Church, that we can celebrate an anniversary. Because of the presence of God we will not lose heart in doing the ministry we have been given. God will bless the ministry of His people with success for His sake.

Anniversaries are indeed a time for backward reflection and celebration, but when it is an anniversary of a congregation it is a time to look forward and celebrate with joy the ministry we have before us, and to commit ourselves anew to that ministry. Both need be a part of any celebration.

God has indeed blessed Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marshalltown with the presence of His Spirit, with gifted members, with pastoral leadership, and with a deep sense of mission. We thank Him for each gift of His grace.

Our Savior Lutheran, like every congregation, is more than brick and mortar. It is according to Peter “living stones” built up together into the church. It is living stones who gather around Word and Sacrament and move out into the world with the news of Christ.

Our Savior Lutheran has been called by God for 25 years to “Make Christ Known.” That can be said of every congregation within the church of Christ, but Our Savior Lutheran Church has a particular mission in this time and place within this community and the world. This mission is not completed; we must, under mandate of our Lord, continue to be His presence in this time and place.

We had a vision when we first came together, and we have a mission as we move into the 21st century as the people of God at Our Savior Lutheran, Marshalltown. We have our primary roots in the Gospel of Christ as expressed through the Lutheran church. Individually we have roots with other Lutheran congregations and other denominations, but together we are a visionary people looking forward to ministry in the 21st century rooted in the Gospel first preached in Galilee by Jesus the Christ.

Together we “Lift high the cross, the love Christ proclaim, Till all the world adore His sacred name.” (Refrain to “Lift High the Cross”, Lutheran Book of Worship, # 377)

Remember – “Since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.” (II Corinthians 4:1)

God, bless today and always as we are about Your mission.

Rev. Dr. William Spencer, Pastor  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Marshalltown, Iowa  
September 2000



# **PASS IT ON**

## **A History of the First Ten Years of Our Savior Lutheran Church 1975-1985**

“It only takes a spark to get a fire going” and so it was when a group of Lutherans gathered at the Anson Shelter House in Marshalltown, Iowa, on October 1, 1975.

“That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it. You'll want to sing! It's fresh like spring! You'll want to PASS IT ON!” These verses from the hymn “Pass It On” brought to a close the organizational meeting of what was planned to be a new Missouri Synod Lutheran Church In Marshalltown, Iowa.

A total of 27 families placed their names on a sheet of steno notebook paper agreeing to charter a new church. The group was composed almost exclusively of members of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Marshalltown. Members of the organizational group had stopped attending Redeemer Lutheran after the Redeemer church council had requested and received the resignation of the Rev. Paul K. Discher as pastor of the church in September 1975.

The group of protesting Lutherans had met informally several times during late August and September in the homes of the Floyd Harthuns and William Doughertys and the log cabin at the Riverview Park in Marshalltown. At first there were no plans to form another church, but the number of people attending the informal meetings and worship services prompted Floyd Harthun and Larry Park to place a short article in the local newspaper, the Marshalltown Times-Republican, on September 26, 1975. The short article was entitled “Missouri Synod Interest Is Sought.” The purpose of the meeting thus was for the intent of forming a new Missouri Synod Lutheran congregation in Marshalltown. From that article, 27 families agreed to form a new congregation called “Our Savior Lutheran Church” and to meet for its first Sunday worship service on October 12, 1975. The name, “Our Savior Lutheran Church,” was proposed by Roy Hill at the organizational meeting.

The fledgling group met again at the Anson Shelter House one week later on October 8, 1975, to continue working on the plans for the new congregation and the plans for the first Sunday worship service. On a recommendation from Chuck Stief, an offer from Major Rema Feldman to use the Salvation Army Citadel at 107 West State Street was accepted. The offer approved was “...to use their facilities for two Sundays or however long we needed to use them at \$25.00 per week.

Strong financial commitment to do the Lord's work at Our Savior Lutheran began at the second meeting on October 8, 1975. At that meeting the families attending were asked to submit two pledges. One was a onetime lump sum for the start-up expenses of the new congregation and the other was a weekly pledge for ongoing expenses. The pledges and first offering were collected in the lids of garbage cans at the shelter house. The collections for the evening netted \$194.45 with one-time gift pledges at \$1,670 and a \$300.00 per week commitment.

Officers elected on an interim basis to serve until a constitution could be formulated and approved were: Floyd Harthun, president; Larry Park, vice-president; Nancy Park, secretary; Bill Gross, treasurer. Most of the current committee structure was established at the October 8 meeting with committees formed for worship, education, stewardship and trustees. A week later, on a motion by Harry Wooten, an evangelism committee was formed. The Rev. Paul K. Discher was asked to preach at the first Sunday service but declined the invitation. The Rev. George

Nickelsburg, a Missouri Synod pastor serving in the school of religion at the University of Iowa, was the preacher for October 12, 1975, and also for the second Sunday service on October 19. The congregation agreed to pay guest pastors \$25 per service plus mileage. The organist for the first service was Felicia Duffy, who served as the organist for most of the services until she and her husband Joe moved to Texas in 1992.

The spark had begun to glow at Our Savior, but more work had to be done to keep the spark going. A permanent place to worship had to be found, and the call to an interim or part-time pastor had to be made. The decision to call a part-time pastor was made by the congregation on October 15, 1975. The Rev. Discher was called with the details of the call as a part-time pastor or worker-priest to be negotiated between Pastor Discher and a committee consisting of Floyd Harthun, Larry Park, Bill Gross and Dennis Eige.

Throughout the period of time from the resignation of Pastor Discher until he received the call as worker-priest, Pastor Discher was not involved in any of the meetings or the formation of Our Savior. Prior to receiving his call as worker-priest at Our Savior, he was flown to Chicago by members of the national Evangelical Lutherans in Mission (ELIM) for a week's workshop about the role of a worker-priest. A worker-priest was a rather new concept that was spawned by the removal of several pastors in the Missouri Synod as a result of the moderate-conservative controversy. ELIM was formed by a group of moderates as its voice within and later outside the Missouri Synod.

Also, in the fall of 1975, ELIM provided monthly checks for Pastor Discher so he could support his family after he resigned his pastorate at Redeemer. "I never asked them (ELIM) for it," Pastor Discher recalled. "Somehow they were aware of my situation and they sent me monthly checks until I got this call from Our Savior and had the worker-priest situation lined up (with a job as teller at Commercial State Bank)."

"That was like manna from heaven," Discher continued. "It really taught me that God can provide in the midst of your thinking 'Where will it come from?'"

"In the midst of this controversy, too, I was taught another lesson in that the church is God's church and that He always has his people here on earth and always will have," Discher said.

Pastor Discher announced the acceptance of the call on November 9, 1975. The call meant that he would serve Our Savior Lutheran congregation for approximately 20 hours per week while working full time as teller at Commercial State Bank.

Among the reasons why Pastor Discher decided to accept the call to Our Savior was that (1) "...he was convinced that the Holy Spirit is moving in the formation of Our Savior Lutheran Church, in the call and in his acceptance of the call" and, (2) "the nature of the fellowship at Our Savior, our joy, openness, honesty, caring and he wants to be part of that fellowship."

Pastor Discher began his duties at Our Savior on Sunday, November 30, 1975. Part of the conditions of the call was that he would have off every fifth or sixth Sunday with the elders to supply a preacher for those Sundays.

When he began his call as worker-priest, Pastor Discher, his wife Mildred, and children Deb, Ann, John and Bob were still living at the Redeemer parsonage. The Redeemer church council had allowed Pastor and his family to live there (rent-free) until January 1, 1976, or until he accepted another call. Pastor Discher purchased a home on South Seventh Avenue but was unable to occupy the home until late January 1976. A request was made to the Redeemer church council to allow Pastor Discher to live in the parsonage until late January. Our Savior was willing to pay the rent of a suggested amount of \$250-300 per month.

But the Redeemer council, meeting on December 2, 1975, decided not to rent the parsonage and requested that Pastor Discher “vacate the parsonage and church study by December 12, 1975.”

The Our Savior congregation acted swiftly and found a house for Pastor Discher and his family to rent for two months. The house was located on South Second Street, about four blocks west of the Redeemer parsonage. The congregation moved the Discher family before the December 12 deadline and then moved them to their own home in late January 1976.

The search for a permanent worship, Sunday School and meeting site continued throughout the fall of 1975 and into the early months of 1976. That congregation turned down an early suggestion of sharing facilities with the Seventh Day Adventists on South Sixth Street. Trustees Chuck Stief and Vern Hunzelman also checked into sharing facilities of The Christian Scientist Church on West Main, but the local Christian Scientist congregation also turned down the idea.

Weekly meeting sites were also necessary as the young congregation made many important decisions. After the first two meetings at the Anson Shelter House, the next meeting was in the basement of the office of the Sunset Mobile Home Park. Church members were asked to bring their own chairs to the meeting.

Sunday worship services continued at the Salvation Army Citadel at 11:15 each Sunday morning. The education committee chaired by Jane Tech organized Sunday School that first met on Sunday, November 2, 1975, at the Salvation Army following worship services at approximately 12:15 p.m. There were 38 children and 30 adults present at the first Our Savior Sunday School classes.

Although the first meeting of the Our Savior Sunday School was at the Salvation Army Citadel, Our Savior members felt that a separate site for Sunday School might be necessary. Sunday School met from 12:15 p.m. until 1 p.m. after church services. The Marshalltown School Board was contacted regarding the renting of the Anson North building (the former site of the education wing of the First Baptist Church and then housing the district offices of the Iowa Department of Human Resources) on West State Street about one block west of the Salvation Army Citadel. A request made by Our Savior to use this facility was denied by the school board because of a board policy that prohibited “the use of school facilities for religious purposes.” Other possibilities suggested but not pursued by the congregation were the Arbie Feeds meeting room, the First Baptist Church, the Blue Room of the Marshalltown Coliseum, the Jewish Synagogue, the YMCA, Tallcorn Towers and a building at the corner of South Twelfth Avenue and Highway 30 East.

Another reason for seeking another worship site was that the Salvation Army would not allow wine to be served in their building. Grape juice had to be substituted for wine at Holy Communion. Wine was used for communion when celebrated at special congregational meetings during the week at other sites such as the basement of the office of the Sunset Mobile Home Park.

The first Sunday communion service (with grape juice) at the Salvation Army Citadel was Sunday, November 16, 1975. The Rev. George Nickelsburg was the guest preacher that Sunday. Also at this first communion a kneeling bench was broken by the weight of one of those communing. The trustees soon had the kneeling bench repaired.

But despite the minor problems at the Salvation Army Citadel, that building was used for Sunday worship services until September 1976. The first baby baptized at Our Savior Lutheran Church was Lori Michelle Beal, the daughter of Dene and Joyce Beal. Lori was baptized on Sunday, December 14, 1975, at the Salvation Army. The Beals were charter members of Our Savior but moved from the community in 1976. Martin Paul Kretzmann, son of Hap and Mary

Kretzmann, was born on December 2, and baptized on January 25, 1976, to be the second infant baptized at Our Savior.

Other notable firsts in late 1975 included the first printed Sunday bulletin on December 2, 1975. At this Sunday morning service the first children's Christmas program was presented. Linda Gross and Barb Jons coordinated the first children's Sunday School Christmas Program.

The teachers for the various classes were:

Pre-school—Fern Thompson, Doreen Hasenwinkel, Lois Wilson, Missy Rohde, Kim Younge and Fauna Mohler;

First and second grade—Susie McMillen and Lana Wilson;

Third and fourth grade—Lois Eige and Joleen Schwarz;

Fifth and sixth grade—Karen Hammitt and Verda Stief;

Seventh and eighth grade—Jana Hunzelman and Judy Hunzelman.

The coordinators took the children to the Marshalltown County Care Facility to present the Christmas program to the residents on the day of Christmas Eve.

The attendance at the twelve Sunday worship services in 1975 averaged 126. From the \$194.45 collected in the garbage can lids at the Anson Shelter House on October 8, 1975, Bill Gross' treasurer's report on December 31, 1975, showed a balance of \$12,331.53 in the bank. Included were contributions of \$16,774.32 with \$6,500 earmarked for the building fund.

The constitution for Our Savior Lutheran Church was approved in December 1975, and the first annual congregational meeting using the new constitution was January 14, 1976, at the basement meeting room of the Sunset Mobile Home Park. The officers elected were: Floyd Harthun, president; Larry Park, vice-president; Nancy Park, secretary; Bill Gross, treasurer; Vern Hunzelman and Chuck Stief, trustees; Ed Damrau, Loyd McMillen, Ken Schwarz and Harry Wooten, elders.

The 1976 church budget projected income for Our Savior Lutheran Church to be \$26,250.00 with \$26,035.00 for expenses including \$4,000 to be transferred to the building fund. At the 1976 annual meeting the congregation voted to keep \$1,000 in the general fund to meet current expenses with the excess to be transferred to the building fund. The generosity of the members of Our Savior continued in 1976 with \$27,810 in regular contributions and \$35,672.53 in total contributions when special gifts and miscellaneous income were included. The cash balance on December 31, 1976, was \$20,827.75, which included \$18,052.30 in the building fund.

Congregational meetings became less necessary and thus less frequent in 1976. But major decisions had to be made during the year and usually they were done after considerable study and discussion. Among the prominent issues in 1976 were the establishment of a communion policy, the investigation to affiliate with a Lutheran synod, and the on-going search for its "own" place of worship. The church council and its appointed committees did most of the study and investigation although the congregation made the final decision of all these issues.

The need for a communion policy was brought up at the first Our Savior church council meeting on February 11, 1976. The issue was given to the Board of Elders to study the report back to the council. The elders, meeting with Pastor Discher, studied the communion policy and reported to the council in July 1976. The policy approved by the council and later by the congregation read, "Any Christian who shares our scriptural and confessional position concerning Holy Communion and approaches the Lord's Table with a believing heart is welcome to commune." Also added was an age limit of fifth grade or older.

After worshipping at 11:15 a.m. from the start of Sunday worship services, Our Savior made a change to an 8 a.m. worship time beginning March 21, 1976. The Sunday School time was at 9:30 a.m. while the Salvation Army was having worship services. Discussion over a hymnal began early in the church's history. The hymnal used at first was "The Lutheran Hymnal," more commonly known as the "blue hymnal." This was the hymnal used at Redeemer Lutheran Church and at most Missouri Synod churches at the time. At first Our Savior members brought their own hymnals to the worship services. A few weeks after its formation, Trinity Lutheran Church of rural Dillon donated enough old blue hymnals for use at Our Savior services. Also, at this time a red hymnal supplement had been published, and Our Savior purchased enough for services. The hymnal contained additional hymns and orders of service.

The worship committee, chaired by Ed Damrau, recommended that the blue hymnal be used until after Easter, 1976, and then the red supplement be used for four consecutive weeks. After that a survey was to be taken of the congregation about their "feelings regarding the use of the red supplement." Later a questionnaire was distributed to the congregation, but no final decision was made on the continued use of the red supplement. The blue hymnal was used predominantly until December 1978, with the red supplement used only occasionally. The blue hymnal was replaced by the Lutheran Book of Worship, or the "green hymnal," beginning on December 3, 1978. Although the blue hymnal was used occasionally after that eventually it was retired to the church storage room.

Our Savior Lutheran Church was formed with the intent of having it become another Missouri Synod Lutheran Church in Marshalltown. In early news stories in the Marshalltown Times-Republican, it was referred to as a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. However, Our Savior could not officially call itself a Missouri Synod Church until it was accepted by that synod. The question of affiliation with a Lutheran Synod was not addressed in the first few months of existence because of the time and energy spent in becoming organized and functioning as a local congregation.

The move to ask for membership in the Missouri Synod began in the spring of 1976 when representatives of the Iowa District East of the Missouri Synod and the English District of the Missouri Synod were asked to come to Marshalltown to answer questions from the congregation. The English District was a non-geographical district of the Missouri Synod and had most of its member churches in the larger metropolitan areas of the United States.

The representative of Iowa District East was its President, the Rev. John C. Zimmermann. Rev. Zimmermann had not been supportive of the formation of Our Savior nor of Pastor Discher accepting the call at Our Savior. In a letter dated November 5, 1975, from Rev. Zimmermann to Rev. Discher with regard to Pastor Discher accepting the pending call to Our Savior, Zimmermann wrote, "When a pastor has been a center of controversy in a congregation, rule #1 in good churchmanship calls for him to remove himself from the scene."

Later in the letter Zimmermann wrote, "I do not take a negative position over against Our Savior Church as such at all. I am willing to work with them in Iowa District East and to assist them to find a place for ministry in the community. You know it isn't a matter of a District in the LCMS but our relations in LCUSA (Lutheran Churches in the USA) also require full approval of the LCA and ALC for a proper kind of beginning. Congregations don't just start on their own these days, unless they want to be totally independent of Lutheranism."

When Rev. Zimmermann appeared before the congregation on April 26, 1976, he still was not encouraging for the chances for Our Savior to join Iowa District East of the Missouri Synod. The President of the English District was the Rev. Harold L. Hecht of Detroit, Michigan. He could not come to Marshalltown but sent the Rev. Donald W. Balster, a circuit counselor from Chicago.

Following these two meetings the affiliation question continued to be discussed. Pastor Discher, who was still a member of the Iowa District East, attended their convention in June 1976. The congregation sent President Harthun to the English District convention that same month.

A controversy had been brewing within the Missouri Synod since the early 1970's between "moderates" and "conservatives." Conservatives were gaining the upper hand politically within the Synod and its many districts. The English District was a stronghold of the moderates in the Missouri Synod and at their district convention in June 1976, voted to form their own English Synod which was to be a part of a national Lutheran church body known as the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC). The AELC was formed by congregations that had decided to leave the Missouri Synod or had formed new churches after leaving Missouri Synod congregations.

Before a decision could be made about affiliation with this new English Synod, the congregation needed more information. Our Savior sent Ivan and Marlene Prigge to an AELC convention in July 1976. Their report to the congregation in August 1976 was positive with regard to joining the new synod. Among the advantages the Priggess listed were: (1) spiritual fellowship; (2) spiritual outreach; (3) source of pastors in the future; (4) organized but flexible administration; (5) a synod where all voices would be heard.

A vote on affiliation was delayed into the fall of 1976 after an invitation was extended to Our Savior to meet with representatives from the district offices of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) about a Lutheran mission congregation in Marshalltown. The ALC had tentative plans for starting a mission congregation in Marshalltown but after this meeting decided to make no mission effort at the time because of the presence of Our Savior Lutheran Church. The representatives at this meeting suggested that Our Savior affiliate with a national church body.

A straw poll on affiliation was taken at a special congregational meeting in November 1976. The first vote was AELC, 16; LCMS, 7; independent, 1; ALC, 2; undecided, 4. After discussion a second straw vote showed: AELC, 17; LCMS, 10; independent, 1; ALC, 1; undecided, 2.

No action was taken at this meeting as, again, the congregation felt more study should be done. Early in 1977 congregation Vice-President Chuck Schneider was appointed to chair a committee to study the issues comparing the AELC and LCMS. The other members of that committee were Ken Schwarz, Joe Duffy, Dennis Eige, Marlene Prigge and Karen Hammitt. After the committee met several times to study the issues, the congregation was divided into groups of 15 adults each. Members of the committee met with each group of 15 in "cottage meetings" to discuss the issues. Following the four cottage meetings in April 1977, a special congregational meeting was called for May 1, 1977, to vote on affiliation.

A two-thirds majority was needed before Our Savior could affiliate with any synod. Forty-six members were present at the meeting. A motion to affiliate with the LCMS was defeated 16-30. The vote to affiliate with the AELC failed by one vote of the two-thirds majority, 30-16. So after much study and discussion, the congregation remained an independent Lutheran church and agreed to vote on the affiliation question again between November 1, 1977, and May 1, 1978.

The affiliation question was finally decided on April 2, 1978, when 36 of 37 members voted to affiliate with the English Synod of the AELC.

In the first year of Our Savior Lutheran Church, the evangelism committee under the leadership of elder Harry Wooten and chairman Hap Kretzmann established a major mission project for the church. Stan McMillen, son of Our Savior members Loyd and Susie McMillen, was with the Wycliffe Bible translators working with the Indians in the mountains of Guatemala.

The evangelism committee voted to give \$150 per month to Stan's work. The support of Our Savior for the work of Stan McMillen remains as the major mission project to the present time. The evangelism committee also established a minor mission project of the Lutheran Family Services in 1976. Another evangelism effort was "Project Phillip," a correspondence home Bible study, primarily for non-members.

Lenten services in 1976 consisted of only an Ash Wednesday service and a Maundy Thursday service at the Salvation Army Citadel. But the young congregation joined with other Marshalltown churches at the Wednesday morning ecumenical Lenten breakfasts. Various churches hosted these breakfasts. Although Our Savior did not host any of the breakfasts the first two years, the choir, known originally as the "Our Savior Singers," led the worship at the final joint Lenten breakfast in 1977 at the Tallcorn Towers. Later Our Savior co-hosted a breakfast with Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1978 and hosted by itself at Trinity Lutheran Church in 1979 and 1980 before hosting the 1981 and subsequent Lenten breakfasts at the church building on South Sixth Street.

The first confirmation classes were taught in the homes of one of the students. Pastor Discher taught the eighth grade class and Ed Damrau taught the seventh graders. The first confirmation class at Our Savior consisted of: Debra Lynn Discher, daughter of Rev. Paul and Mildred Discher; Matthew Gillam, son of Mrs. Elise Gillam and John Gillam; Mary Elizabeth Hartwig, daughter of Don and Joan Hartwig; and Traci Lynn Schwarz, daughter of Ken and Jolene Schwarz. The class was confirmed on June 20, 1976. The first seventh grade class had only two students: Kirsten Danielson, daughter of Joe and Felicia Duffy; and Heidi Stief, daughter of Chuck and Verda Stief.

The trustees continued to seek a place for Our Savior to rent and perhaps buy. The search led to a building about one block west of the Salvation Army Citadel. A newly constructed cement faced office building had been constructed at the site of the former First Baptist Church. That church had relocated in a brand new worship building on East Olive Street. Our Savior signed a lease for the west one-third of the office building. The lease was for two years until September 1978, for \$5,000 a year to be paid quarterly. The first worship service at this location was October 3, 1976.

With the move to its own place of worship at the rented office building at 204 West State Street came the need for church furnishings and equipment. The church altar, used until 1999 at the building at 3001 South Sixth Street, was purchased at an auction at the former Immanuel Lutheran Church near Utica, Nebraska. Floyd Harthun, Chuck Stief and Ivan Prigge rented a trailer and went to the auction after staying a night at the home of Ivan's mother in Nebraska. Immanuel Lutheran was the church where Our Savior charter member Jane Tech was baptized and confirmed.

Within the next month the Prigges donated the baptismal font that they had purchased from a Wisconsin Synod Church near Seward, Nebraska. Before its use the font was repainted and trimmed with gold paint by Ella Harthun.

Folding chairs were needed for seating at worship services and meetings, and each family was asked to donate for the chairs. Tables were also purchased for Sunday School classes and church meetings. A used electric organ was purchased at an auction. The money donated by the Sunday School children purchased an American flag and church flag.

Before the move to the rented office building in September 1976, the congregation met for an outdoor worship service at Lion's Park west of Marshalltown. This tradition continued for the next four years.

The annual congregational meeting was set by the constitution to be the second Sunday in October. On October 10, 1976, the following officers were elected to take office January 1, 1977: Floyd Harthun, president; Chuck Schneider, vice president; Nancy Park, secretary; Bill Wilson, treasurer; Chuck Stief and Don Hartwig, trustees; Loyd McMillen, Ken Schwarz, Larry Park and Ivan Prigge, elders.

The Rev. Paul K. Discher, who had served as a worker-priest for Our Savior since November 1975, announced his resignation as Pastor in June 1977. In his letter of resignation to the congregation, Pastor Discher stated that he felt he would no longer have the time to be a full-time counselor with the Iowa Department of Social Services and be a half-time Pastor for Our Savior.

A special congregational meeting was called on June 26, 1977, to make plans to call a new pastor. The congregation accepted the recommendation of the church council to call a pastor to a full-time pastorate. A call committee was elected with Ronda Rohde as the chairperson. Others who served were Felicia Duffy, Chuck Schneider, Fern Thompson and Dale Wilson. A decision was made to call a pastor from a list of candidates from Concordia Seminary in Exile or Seminex. This seminary had been formed in 1974 as a result of the dispute between conservatives and moderates at the Missouri Synod Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. At the time of the calling Our Savior remained as an independent Lutheran congregation, and as a result its chances of calling a pastor from the Missouri Synod roster seemed remote.

Two candidates from Seminex, Dennis Bauer and David Stevens, were invited to Marshalltown for an interview. At a congregational meeting on August 28, 1977, a call was extended to the Rev. Dennis E. Bauer, who soon accepted.

Rev. Bauer was ordained and installed as the first full-time pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church on October 2, 1977. Rev. Paul Discher was the ordinator while a friend of Rev. Bauer, the Rev. candidate Allen Bauer was the liturgist and the Rev. Dan Dana of Peace Lutheran Church of Cedar Rapids was the preacher for the service. Peace Lutheran was formed at approximately the same time as Our Savior and under similar circumstances. At this time Peace Lutheran was already a member of the AELC.

One of Pastor Bauer's first duties at Our Savior was to teach the communion instruction course for children in grades 5-8. The church had approved a communion policy that had separated communion instruction from confirmation instruction.

Pastor Bauer taught the eighth grade confirmation class consisting of Jacky Jons, John Hunzelman and Ann Discher while Ed Damrau continued to teach the seventh grade class.

Not only was there a change of pastors in 1977, but also a new president was elected in the October 1977, annual meeting to succeed Floyd Harthun. Floyd had served as president of the congregation since its formation two years earlier. Ivan Prigge was elected as president for 1978 and was re-elected for 1979.

Other officers elected for 1978 were Chuck Schneider, vice-president; Liz Adams, secretary; Dale Tech, treasurer; Joe Duffy, Hap Kretzmann and Harry Wooten, elders; and Ray Thompson, trustee. Mission commitments for 1978 were \$150 per month to the Wycliffe Bible Translators (for Stan McMillen and family) and \$50 per month for the Lutheran Family Services. The treasury balance at the end of 1977 was \$30,910.88.

Our Savior, under the guidance of a full-time pastor in Rev. Bauer, made strides toward becoming a force in Lutheran unity and fellowship in Marshalltown in 1978. Our Savior and Trinity Lutheran (LCA) of Marshalltown combined for mid-week Lenten services. The same two churches co-hosted Vacation Bible School at Trinity in June. Our Savior had 25 of the 100

students enrolled. The two churches joined together for a Reformation service on October 29, 1978.

The Our Savior choir wore robes for the first time in 1978. The used robes were purchased from another Lutheran church in Marshalltown, Elim Lutheran (ALC). And, in 1978, Our Savior was invited to join the central Iowa ALC cluster of churches that included Elim Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran.

In another decision that would lead to Lutheran unity, the congregation voted to purchase the newly published Lutheran Book of Worship. The LBW was first used at Our Savior on December 3, 1978. The new hymnal has been adopted by many of the LCA and ALC Lutheran congregations. The initial cost of each new book was \$7.50 with each family of the congregation encouraged to purchase two for the church.

There was a concern about lack of growth in the young congregation in early 1978. The confirmed membership total was slightly over 100 at the time. Some thought that the early worship time (9 a.m.) was too early, but a survey of the congregation determined that 35 of 42 who responded were satisfied with the worship starting time and the 10:15 Sunday School hour.

In 1978 a local branch of Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) was formed at Our Savior. It was organized through the efforts of AAL district representative Dick Vaudt of State Center and members of the congregation who held Insurance with the fraternal insurance company. One of the first activities of the group was to host a "White Elephant Auction" to raise money for the building fund. The event was very popular for five years. The AAL branch also supplied the paint for the interior walls at the new church building in 1980 and the education addition in 1985.

The first Our Savior newsletter was published in September 1978, with Pastor Bauer as the editor. The newsletters were printed monthly at first but later were published 7-8 times a year.

Shortly after the congregation voted to affiliate with the AELC in April 1978, the congregation made another important decision. A 5.8-acre tract of land on South Sixth Street was purchased on contract from Homer Harrison of Marshalltown for \$40,000. The tract of land was to become the site of the church building that was to be built in 1980.

But in 1978, the congregation was still worshipping in the rented office building on West State Street. The \$30,000 in the building fund was not enough to build although the lease for the office building was to expire in September 1978. The trustees were able to negotiate an extension of the lease until September 1979, with a rent increase from \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year.

Under Pastor Bauer's leadership a combined junior and senior high youth group was organized in 1978. Among their first-year activities were a bike ride and wiener roast, a pizza party, an outing at Pine Lake, Eldora, a day at Adventureland, a swimming party at the pool of Dr. Ted Lund and an outdoor retreat at Pilgrim Heights near Tama.

An official church seal was approved and first used in 1978.

Several families prominent in the formation of Our Savior moved away from Marshalltown in 1978. Ed and Marie Damrau moved to Nebraska. Ed had worked on the first constitution committee and was the confirmation teacher for the seventh graders. After he left, Pastor Bauer took over both the seventh and eighth grade classes. Dale and Jane Tech also moved away in 1978. Jane had organized the first Our Savior Sunday School. Dale was the church treasurer at the time of their departure and was replaced by Jim Root. Jim and Mary Root had joined Our Savior in 1977 shortly after Pastor Bauer had arrived. Dennis and Linda Thorp moved to Texas in 1978. Dennis was on the ushering staff.

Pastor Bauer sought and received church council approval to begin clinical pastoral training at the Marshalltown Area Community Hospital in the fall of 1978.

At the 1978 annual meeting the following officers were elected: Ivan Prigge, president; Don Hartwig, vice-president; Karen Hammitt, secretary; Jim Root, treasurer; Dennis Eige and Bill Wilson, elders; and Dale Wilson, trustee. Council members, whose terms continued through 1979, were Joe Duffy and Hap Kretzmann, elders and Ray Thompson, trustee.

Although there was little business at the 1978 annual meeting except for the approval to purchase 75 copies of the Lutheran Book of Worship, there was some discussion about the formation of a building committee. In November 1978, President Prigge appointed Ronda Rohde, Nancy Park, Floyd Harthun and Ella Harthun to the building committee. There was \$32,042.16 in the building fund as the congregation proceeded into 1979.

Our Savior Lutheran Church began struggling in 1979 to determine its future role for its mission in Marshalltown, and the struggle continued for most of the year.

The American Lutheran Church (ALC) had determined several years earlier to start an ALC mission congregation in Marshalltown. In November 1976, all the existing Lutheran congregations in Marshalltown met to inquire about Our Savior's future role among the Lutheran churches in Marshalltown. The plans for the establishment of an ALC mission congregation were delayed after the group determined that Our Savior had a mission among the Lutheran community in Marshalltown. Floyd Harthun and the Rev. Paul K. Discher, Our Savior's representatives at the 1976 meeting, brought back a report that indicated that the other Lutheran church bodies (LCMS, ALC and LCA) felt that Our Savior should affiliate with a synod. This was done in April 1978.

In January, 1979, the Rev. Bill Benbow, mission developer for the Iowa District of the ALC, met with Our Savior Pastor Rev. Dennis Bauer to again assess the future mission of Our Savior in Marshalltown. Benbow reiterated that the ALC still had intentions of establishing a mission congregation in Marshalltown and suggested that Our Savior could join the ALC and become that mission congregation.

The church council considered this offer when it met for a retreat January 27, 1979. Seeking to assess the identity of Our Savior at the time and in the future, the leaders drafted six statements:

1. We are an existing core group of Christian Lutherans.
2. We are committed to a building program with congregational support through a building committee.
3. We are committed to the establishment of congregational goals through our existing committee structure.
4. We identify ourselves as the Marshalltown mission congregation affiliated with AELC, because of its emphasis on Christian unity.
5. We are serious about the inclusion of new members in our congregation.
6. We will invite the ALC to support us in our mission endeavor.

By those statements the church council of Our Savior stated its intention to remain with the AELC and to ask the AELC for financial assistance with a future building program. Pastor Bauer related the outcome of the retreat to Rev. Benbow in a letter dated February 8, 1979: "There is a consensus of the leadership that our primary reason for staying with the AELC at this time is because of its emphasis on Lutheran unity. We want to align ourselves with other Lutheran churches and seek ways to cross denominational boundaries. Of the Lutheran churches in Marshalltown, Our Savior is the only one that has done things with all of the others. We want to develop this idea more in the future."

Although the ALC was supportive of the position of Our Savior, it was unable to offer any financial support in 1979 because of its own budget and financial restraints. Pastor Bauer, at the same time, wrote to the Rev. Harold L. Hecht, President of the English Synod of the AELC of his

meeting with Rev. Benbow. “He (Benbow) assured me that the ALC had no desire to compete with us provided that we demonstrate that we are serious about our mission. His (Benbow's) interpretation of being serious is (being) 'building-oriented' and growing.”

Pastor Bauer also inquired of the AELC about financial assistance for a building program. President Hecht could offer no help from the English Synod since that newly formed synod itself did not yet have enough of a financial reserve to make loans.

A building committee that had been appointed by President Ivan Prigge in November 1978 began meeting in early 1979. But before the building committee could make its report, another church building in Marshalltown came up for sale. The Jehovah's Witnesses congregation had outgrown its structure at 201 West Olive Street. The appraised value of the structure and real estate was set at \$61,500. Members of Our Savior agreed to tour and inspect the building. At a special congregational meeting on May 6, 1979, a majority of those present favored the purchase of the Jehovah's Witnesses building on West Olive Street as “an intermediate step with the goal of serving as a mission congregation in Marshalltown.” But the 25-14 vote fell three short of the necessary two-thirds majority required by the bylaws. The building committee also disbanded at about this same time because it was felt there was not enough money in the building fund to construct a new building.

Individual members of the congregation were asked to share their dreams for the future after a Pastor Bauer sermon on dreams in June 1979. Most of the comments revealed a role for Our Savior in Marshalltown for Lutheran unity and the members were looking forward to a new building. Among the written comments were: “My wish for our congregation at this time is that we set a goal as a congregation for a new facility designed for fellowship, education and worship and then, in a step by step fashion, work, with God’s help, to make it happen.” Another worshipper that Sunday wrote: “I see Our Savior as a catalyst for Lutheran unity in Marshalltown. In the next few years I envision us continuing to work with LCA and ALC congregations...perhaps moving to a different location. Then perhaps joining Trinity when AELC, ALC and LCA merge as I see it happening in ten years or so.”

The need for a new church location for worship services became quite necessary, as the third and final year of the lease for the building on State Street was to expire in September 1979. The lease could not be renewed because Job Service of Iowa had expressed its intentions to expand into the area occupied by OSLC.

Before a new location could be found for services, representatives of Trinity Lutheran Church (LCA) of Marshalltown met with Pastor Bauer and President Ivan Prigge to discuss the possible merger of Our Savior and Trinity.

Another special congregational meeting on July 15, 1979, met to decide on the future direction for the congregation. The options proposed and discussed were:

- To merge with Trinity;
- To become an ALC mission congregation;
- To construct a new building on the congregation's property on South Sixth Street;
- To buy an existing building, such as the Jehovah's Witnesses building.

By a 37-10 margin the congregation voted to work towards a new building on South Sixth Street while seeking to share facilities with another church until the new building could be constructed. Five families volunteered to find a church with which Our Savior could share facilities. They were the Hap Kretzmann, Bill Dougherty, Bill Wilson, and Ted Lund and Harry Wooten families.

In the August newsletter Pastor Bauer summarized the mood and thoughts of that July 15 meeting. "Several members expressed the idea that our faith in Christ needed to be tested towards building as it has been tested toward our formation in the past. The positive vote to work toward building seems to be an affirmative response that, as a congregation, we are again ready to put our faith on the line."

Pastor Bauer continued, "As I understand faith in Christ, that means that we are now approaching a situation not knowing at this point how it is going to be accomplished but trusting and hoping that with God's help it will come to pass."

Although the future was still uncertain in the summer of 1979, the "shared facilities" committee soon found a place for Our Savior to worship. Their recommendation was that Our Savior meet at the First Congregational Church, 304 West Main. The congregation approved a "covenant" with the First Congregational Church to allow Our Savior to use the First Congregational sanctuary for worship on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. while the host church was having Sunday School. The Our Savior Sunday School was allowed to meet at 10:45 a.m. while the Congregationalists were having worship services. The cost of the shared facility was \$400 per month. The covenant became effective in October 1979.

At the meeting when the covenant was agreed upon, a building study committee chaired by Hap Kretzmann reported on the cost of constructing a steel building on the church's lot on South Sixth Street. Cost was estimated at \$30 per square foot for a 3,500 square foot building for a total cost of \$105,000. At this time there was about \$34,000 in the church's building fund. The stewardship committee was asked to determine if the members would be willing to make a one-time gift commitment as well as to make a continuing commitment to support a building program. The survey began in late 1979 and continued into the first two months of 1980.

The members of Our Savior moved out of the State Street building on September 24, 1979. The altar, baptismal font, chairs, tables and some other church property were moved to a building located near the railroad tracks and owned by Our Savior member Bill Wilson.

Other events affected the life of the congregation in 1979. Worship planners were organized by the worship committee to plan the weekly services. Worship planners first met in February 1979, to plan the Sunday services for March 1979. The first three families to participate were Harry and Linda Wooten, Bill and Karen Dougherty and Bob and Carol Bankes. Among the duties for the worship planners were:

1. Selecting of hymns to sing;
2. Preparing of the church building for worship which included cleaning, arranging the chairs and taking care of the altar vestments;
3. Greeting worshippers at the door before services;
4. Reading of the lessons during church services;
5. Cleaning of the communion ware;
6. Baking of the bread for communion;
7. Proposing creative ideas for worship, such as the making of banners.

Also begun by the worship committee in 1979 was the acolyte program. Also in 1979 as in 1978, the treasurer moved from Marshalltown. Jim Root, who had replaced Dale Tech several months earlier, took a new position in Wisconsin. Jim was replaced by Ronda Rohde, who served as treasurer from February 1979 through December 1983. Stan McMillen, who Our Savior supported as a Bible translator in Guatemala, returned on furlough with his family after rebels in Central America had burned their house. After speaking to the congregation in August, the McMillens returned to their work in Guatemala.

The four Iowa AELC congregations met in Marshalltown in August 1979, for a picnic and communion service. The service was at the Riverview Log Cabin, site of some of the early meetings of Our Savior members before the actual formation of the church.

On October 14, 1979, SALT Sunday was celebrated with Pastor Bauer and two Our Savior members going to Messiah Lutheran in Des Moines and the Rev. John Gugel and two Messiah Lutheran members coming to Our Savior. Messiah was also an AELC member until joining with an ALC congregation to form Faith Lutheran Church in West Des Moines in late 1984.

In the first formal annual report, Pastor Bauer reported in October 1979, that there were 115 confirmed members. The first membership list was published which showed 141 baptized members in the Marshalltown area. After the move to the First Congregational Church, average Sunday morning worship attendance was 70. Of the 42 children enrolled in Sunday School, the average attendance for October and November of 1979 was only 20.

Church officers elected in the annual meeting of October, 1979, to serve in 1980 were Chuck Stief, president; Don Hartwig, vice-president; Karen Hammitt, secretary; Ronda Rohde, treasurer; Roy Hill and Larry Park, elders; and Floyd Harthun, trustee.

While 1979 was a year where the congregation struggled to determine its identity and future, the direction in 1980 became clear early—construct a church building! Following an every-member visit conducted by the stewardship committee, the congregation voted on February 24, 1980, to seek bids for a 3,700 square foot steel structure at a cost of approximately \$100,000. At the time there was almost \$40,000 in the building fund, and it was hoped enough pledges could be secured during 1980 so that the building loan would not exceed \$50,000.

The final decision to proceed with construction of a new church was made on May 18, 1980, and the ground breaking on South Sixth Street was set for Sunday, June 1, 1980, after worship services.

President Chuck Stief summarized the earlier struggles through which the congregation had endured in his letter of invitation for the ground breaking. Chuck wrote on May 27, 1980, “As I began writing this letter I was reminded of the situation and circumstances about 4 1/2 years ago when about 25 families decided to form Our Savior congregation. Being one of those charter members I have a strong feeling, a good feeling, that God has allowed things to happen to test our congregation and to test our faith. We have endured these tests and have had additional families join our congregation so that today we have about 45 families.”

All through the summer and early fall of 1980 the congregation watched the steel building take shape. In November 1980, the congregation rolled up its sleeves and started to stain and varnish the woodwork and paint the interior walls. Marlene Prigge and Nancy Park coordinated the interior work.

Before construction of the new building was completed, the fifth anniversary of Our Savior was celebrated on Sunday, October 12, 1980. After his sermon, Pastor Bauer again asked members of the congregation to write down their “dreams” for Our Savior Lutheran Church. One of the members wrote prophetically, “In five more years with the help of God we will have a large enough congregation that we will have to put on an addition to the church. The three Lutheran churches will be united in five years.”

Sarah Kretzmann, seven-year old daughter of Hap and Mary Kretzmann expressed her feelings of the past: “We've gone through a lot of moving around, from the little church to here at the Congregational Church and now we are finally going to have a church of our own. It means so much to our congregation to have a church of our own.”

The first worship service in the new building, whose address was 3001 South Sixth Street, was December 7, 1980, with 163 in attendance. The congregation had at last found a permanent home after five years of worshipping at three rented or leased facilities: the Salvation Army Citadel, an office building at 204 West State Street and at the First Congregational Church.

Dedication of the new church was January 25, 1981, with the President of the AELC English Synod, the Rev. Dr. Harold L. Hecht as the guest preacher for the morning service. Attendance at the morning service was 181. Many more from the community attended the open house in the afternoon.

At the dedication service the gift of the guest register stand from the First Congregational Church was acknowledged.

Pastor Bauer summarized the accomplishments of the congregation as the new building was dedicated. In the January 1981, newsletter he wrote:

*“We have made for ourselves a home together with others and have provided a place for Christian family life—a home.*

*“We have given of ourselves to provide for the next generation's nurture in the Christian faith.*

*“We have made ourselves visible to the community in which we live.*

*“We have set up housekeeping for God as he desires to live with His people.”*

Also in 1980, the church council accepted Pastor Bauer's recommendation that the worship, education, evangelism and stewardship committees meet on the same evening as the church council. “Care and Share,” a group of women in the congregation was formed in 1980 and met in the homes of its members.

Our Savior again joined with Trinity Lutheran for mid-week Lenten services in 1980 with all the services at Trinity. Our Savior hosted the ecumenical Lenten breakfast using the Trinity facilities. The worship committee began selecting a “Hymn of the Month” a new hymn that was sung each Sunday throughout the month.

At the 1980 English Synod convention attended by Hap and Mary Kretzmann, along with Pastor and Sue Bauer, it was noted that the AELC, LCA and ALC were beginning to work for Lutheran church unity.

In May 1980, there was the tragic death in a plane crash of Pete Wengert, a seventh grade confirmation student at Our Savior. Pete's mother Connie Retter and grandmother Deloris Jordahl were Our Savior members.

A Vacation Church School was held during the summer of 1980 with the combined efforts of Our Savior, First Congregational, First Methodist and the Central Christian Church. Also, a junior high youth group was formed late in 1980.

During the summer of 1980, as the new church was being built, the congregation worshipped at 8 a.m. at the First Congregational Church as the host church scheduled its summer worship for 9:30 a.m. As the summer drew to a close the church council set worship time at 9:15 a.m. for the new building with the Christian Growth Hour (renamed from Sunday School) to begin at 10:30 a.m. Also as part of that motion the recommendation was made that when the average Sunday morning worship attendance reached 110 that there would be two worship services.

At the 1980 annual congregational meeting the following officers were elected for 1981: Joe Duffy, president; Fern Thompson, vice president; Ronda Rohde, treasurer; Doris Stubbs, secretary; Paul Discher, Dennis Eige, and Chuck Schneider, elders; and Chuck Mathison, trustee. The budget for 1981 was set at \$37,245.

Pastor Bauer's report put the membership at 152 with 109 confirmed members.

Among the baptisms in 1980 was that of Joshua Clemons, son of Bill and Becky Clemons, on December 7, 1980, the first worship service at the new Our Savior Lutheran Church building. Bill and Becky Clemons were also kept busy as sponsors of the revived church youth group along with Randy and Sherilyn Howard.

Shortly after the new church building was dedicated, a church organ was dedicated, a gift of Ivan and Marlene Prigge. Felicia Duffy continued as the church organist.

The Lenten services in 1981 were only within the congregation after several years of sharing the season's services with Trinity Lutheran.

During the first few months in the new building the chairs in the sanctuary were arranged in various ways. In May 1981, several members of the congregation presented their concerns about the constantly changing arrangement of the worship area, and as a result the council agreed to establish a consistent manner of arranging the worship area. Later in the year a worship platform was constructed for the altar area.

In 1981 after the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan, members of several Marshalltown churches became concerned about the needy persons of the community in light of the proposed cut in welfare programs. Several churches joined to form a Coalition of Compassion and Concern for such people. Our Savior sent representatives to this group almost from its start.

Early in 1981 the congregation was made aware of the impending merger of the AELC, LCA and ALC.

At the annual meeting in October 1981, Pastor Bauer reported that there were 184 baptized members in the congregation (although several lived outside the Marshalltown area) with 124 confirmed members in the local community. In 1979 there were 141 baptized members and in 1980 there were 152 baptized members. In November 1981, the church council decided to publish a church directory with photographs of all members. The directory was published in early 1982.

At the annual congregational meeting in October 1981, the following officers for 1982 were elected: Joe Duffy, president; Fern Thompson, vice-president; Doreen Hasenwinkel, secretary; Ronda Rohde, treasurer; Floyd Harthun and Hap Kretzmann, elders; Galen Behrends, trustee. Galen later resigned his position and was replaced by Don Hartwig.

The first amendments to the original constitution were approved at the 1981 annual meeting. But the amendment to allow women to be elders of the church was narrowly defeated. The budget for 1982 was approved at \$41,252.

Pastor Bauer noted in his report to the council in November 1981: "It has been a joy to notice the caring that goes on after our worship services in the narthex. I sense a great deal of warmth being conveyed to members and to visitors. This is neat!"

As 1982 began, the congregation set its priorities and goals for the year. The question of identity was again at the top of the list although it was not as intense as was the case three years earlier in 1979. The issues were not where to worship or to merge with another congregation but ways to expand the worship possibilities for others. The evangelism committee, through volunteer drivers, provided rides to people in the congregation. The Care and Share Circle held a "Love Banquet" in February. Also, the worship committee planned a Sedar meal for Palm Sunday evening. A Thanksgiving Eve service was held for the first time since the early years of Our Savior. Pastor Bauer was elected as President of the Marshall County Ministerial Alliance.

The congregation lost two of its charter members in 1982 when Ivan and Marlene Prigge moved to Independence, Kansas. Ivan was the congregation president in 1978 and 1979, and

Marlene had been active in the choir, the worship committee and several special committees. The Prigges also donated the organ still used at Our Savior in the year 2000.

The kitchen cabinets were added in 1982 with money from the Bagnall Foundation.

In the 1982 annual congregational meeting the following officers were elected: Larry Park, president; Chuck Mathison, vice-president; Virginia Hauser, secretary; Don Hartwig, treasurer; Jeff Dodge and Owen Kerber, elders; Bill Dougherty (one year) and Bill Wilson (two years), trustees. The 1983 budget was approved at \$39,901.04, down slightly from the 1982 budget.

Pastor Bauer pointed out the need for Our Savior to financially support the merger of the AELC, LCA and ALC that was to be completed in 1988.

Activity within the congregation picked up in 1983. Members of the congregation in January gave secret pledges. A church rummage sale was held for the first time by the AAL branch to replace the annual white elephant auction.

In March the council okayed the appointment of a committee to investigate the possibility of constructing an addition to the church building. Chuck Mathison chaired the committee with Ronda Rohde, Nancy Park, Hap Kretzmann, Fern Thompson, Don Hartwig and Randy Bishop on the committee.

The committee had completed most of its work by May 1, 1983 when Pastor Bauer announced his resignation at Our Savior to accept a call to Community Lutheran Church, Cornell, Illinois. Pastor Bauer also planned to pursue studies towards a doctoral degree in pastoral counseling at the Illinois Pastoral Services Institute of Bloomington, Illinois.

Again, the congregation met in a special meeting to accept the resignation and to appoint a Call Committee for a new pastor. Members of the committee were: Felicia Duffy, Floyd Harthun, Kathy Hill, Chuck Mathison, and Bill Clemons.

Pastor Bauer's farewell sermon was on July 31, 1983, and as a result of the pastoral vacancy, the congregation voted to delay any building expansion plans until six months after a new pastor was installed.

During the vacancy, the interim pastor was the Rev. Alan Henderson, an LCA pastor from Ankeny.

Three candidates accepted invitations to come to Marshalltown to interview for the pastorate at Our Savior. Rev. Keith Sievers of West Hatfield, Mass., came on September 11; Rev. Paul Jagusch of Chicago, Illinois, came on September 18; and the Rev. Dwight F. Wascom of Aurora, Illinois, came on September 25.

Rev. Wascom was called as pastor at a special congregational meeting on October 2, 1983, and accepted the call a month later. The President of the English Synod, the Rev. Dr. Harold L. Hecht, installed him Sunday, December 11, 1983.

During the summer of 1983, Our Savior hosted a Cluster #7 softball tournament with four congregations participating. Between 80 and 100 people attended the event.

The importance of Christian education among adults was emphasized again, and a goal of 20 members in class per Sunday was set. The class first studied the Lutheran Confessions, as this was the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther. Later, the class studied the various cults in the United States.

At the annual congregational meeting in October the following officers for 1984 were elected: Larry Park, president; Chuck Mathison, vice-president; Barb Jons, secretary; Randy

Bishop, treasurer; Joe Duffy and Dennis Eige, elders; and Ronda Rohde, trustee. The 1984 budget was set at \$45,023.

The baptized membership at the end of 1984 was 192 with 135 confirmed members. Average weekly attendance was 92.

With the start of Pastor Wascom's pastorate came several small capital improvements. Bookshelves were added to the pastor's office, and the parking lot was expanded for an additional 28 cars. A photocopy machine was added to the church office. The bulletins could now be printed at the church. They had been printed at the office of Arbie Feeds through the permission of Leroy and Ronda Rohde since the first Our Savior Sunday bulletin on December 21, 1976.

The building committee appointed in 1983 resumed its work in March 1984. The committee recommended that Our Savior build a six-room education addition on the northwest corner of the church. In 1983 only four additional rooms on the west had been planned. The cost of the proposed addition was \$65,000. The congregation approved the plans on July 15, 1984, pending financing. Again, as with the financing of the original structure, the stewardship committee organized an every member visit to ask for "faith contributions" for the addition.

A goal of \$22,000 in contributions and pledges had been set by the stewardship committee to pay off the existing debt on the original church building and real estate. When the congregation gave final approval to the project on September 30, 1984, nearly \$27,000 had been pledged.

The ground breaking for the addition was Sunday, October 14, immediately after morning worship services. Construction began immediately with the foundation poured before winter began. Again members of the congregation did the interior painting and finishing of the woodwork. Chuck Ethington headed the work. The addition was first used for Sunday School classes on March 10, 1985, and was to be dedicated during special tenth anniversary festivities on October 6, 1985.

Rev. Glenn Kramer and his family began attending Our Savior early in 1984. Rev. Kramer was a former ALC pastor who was then employed at the Iowa Department of Human Services. Rev. Kramer substituted for Pastor Wascom one Sunday in 1984. In August 1984, Rev. Kramer received a call to start a mission ALC congregation in Corpus Christi, Texas. The congregation voted to include Rev. Kramer's mission congregation in its evangelism budget for 1985.

In the annual congregational meeting in October the following officers for 1985 were elected: Fern Thompson, president; Randy Bishop, vice-president; Karen Hammitt, secretary; Dean McMullen, treasurer; Floyd Harthun and Gary Gifford, elders; Val Hanzelka and Ronda Rohde, trustees. Val had assumed a trustee position in September 1984, after Bill Wilson resigned. The budget approved for 1985 was \$56,324 plus \$7,200 to pay off the previous debt for a total of \$63,554.

Our Savior continued to show its Christian witness in the community by providing meals to the inmates of the Marshall County Jail at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our Savior members Jim and Kay DeGrado prepared the meals. Also, after the Easter services, the church lilies were given to recipients of the Meals on Wheels program. The same was done with the poinsettias after the Christmas services.

The church council in 1980 had recommended that Our Savior schedule two Sunday morning worship services when the average attendance was more than 110. In the fall of 1984, when attendance was averaging over 150, a committee was appointed to study the possibility of having two worship services. At a congregational meeting on February 24, 1985, the members voted to go to two services beginning Easter Sunday, April 7, 1985. The first worship service was scheduled for 8 a.m. with the education hour at 9:20 a.m. and the second service at 10:45

a.m. Time was allowed between the services and education hour for fellowship as the congregation realized the importance of this time. The communion schedule was first Sunday, late, individual glasses; second Sunday, early, common cup; third Sunday, late, common cup; fourth Sunday, early, individual; fifth Sunday, late, common.

Karen Griebel, a Seminex graduate, began attending Our Savior in the fall of 1984. She was serving her internship as a chaplain at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. In order to have her meet the requirements to be placed on the roster of Lutheran clergy, Karen needed to be ordained and called to a ministry. Our Savior agreed to extend a call to Karen and Rev. Griebel was ordained at Our Savior on June 9, 1985, and called to serve as a chaplain at Iowa Methodist. She substituted for Pastor Wascom when he was absent on Sundays and taught some adult Bible classes.

To celebrate the congregation's tenth anniversary, President Fern Thompson appointed the following committee: Nancy Park, chairperson; Adelia Woizeschke, Sandy Bishop, Chuck Stief, Jeff Dodge and Brian Danielson. A church picnic was scheduled for September 15 at the Anson Shelter House, site of the first organizational meeting. Special Sunday worship services were scheduled for October 6, 1985. Theme for the anniversary celebration was 'Believe...and Keep on Growing.'"

After nearly ten years of worshipping God together, Our Savior Lutheran Church was still keeping the spark going and was ready to "Pass It On!"

## A History of Our Savior Lutheran Church 1985-2000

Our Savior Lutheran Church celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 6, 1985 using the theme “Believe and Keep on Growing.” A large tent for the special worship services was erected southeast of the church building near South Sixth Street. Pastor Dwight Wascom led both the 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. worship services. The Rev. Alan Henderson (interim pastor, 1983) was the guest preacher at the 10 a.m. worship and the Bishop of the English Synod of the AELC, the Rev. Dr. Harold L. Hecht, was the guest preacher at the 2 p.m. service. The Our Savior “Alleluia & Cherub Choir” composed of elementary age children directed by Sonja Discher and Sandy Bishop, sang “And I will Praise Him” during the afternoon service. The University Lutheran Campus Choir from Ames also sang anthems during the 2 p.m. Holy Communion Service.

Pastor Wascom noted the significance of the day in the printed worship bulletin for the day:

*“Today our parish celebrates and remembers a time when God created a new church out of adversity and trials. God meant it for good. And what goodness he has given us!*

*“We hope this is a special day for you, too. This service of Holy Communion, the fellowship which follows, and the conversations all are reasons for joy. We hope that this day will inspire you to the rich future God has planned for us. For this is a day not only to remember times gone by, but a time to renew hope and renew confidence that we are still God’s, blessed by him to be a blessing to all. And we hope that this day will renew your appreciation of the entire Church, with special concern for this God’s parish.”*

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee was chaired by Nancy Park with Sandy Bishop, Brian Danielson, Jeff Dodge, Chuck Stief, Fern Thompson, and Adelia Woizesche as committee members.

During the years immediately preceding and following the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, membership, attendance and the church budget all increased. The figures indicate that church attendance increased almost 80% in three years while contributions, as reflected in the church budget, more than doubled.

Year	Baptized Members	Church Attendance	Attendance Increase (%)	Church Budget	Budget Increase(%)
1983	196	90	—	\$39,901	
1984	238	122	36	\$49,339	24%
1985	307	156	28	\$75,586	53%
1986	333	160	2	\$82,100	8%

Another sign of growth at Our Savior was the hiring of Amy Mills as part-time office secretary in December 1986.

Members of Our Savior participated in “Project Angel Tree” for the first time at Christmas 1986 which provided Christmas presents for eight children from three needy families. Support for “Project Angel Tree” continues today as more than 40 individuals are helped annually with Christmas presents from members of Our Savior. Also in their mission work, the church continued to sponsor Stan and Margo McMillen in their Bible translation and missionary endeavors in Guatemala.

Because of Our Savior's growth in membership and to help the congregation function more effectively, the congregation in April 1986 approved a new constitution. Two new boards, Parish Fellowship and Young People's Ministry, were added. The Evangelism Committee was renamed to the Mission and Growth Board and the Church Council was renamed the Parish Planning Council. The fiscal church year was changed to run from September 1 until August 31. The first full terms under the new constitution began September 1, 1987. The reason for the change was that the terms of office would follow the church activity year. The constitution was modeled after that of "Parish Leadership Seminars" developed by the Rev. Don Abdon.

In early 1987 the Worship Board asked members to submit articles for Lenten Devotional called "Holy Places." The devotional booklet was well received and a new edition was printed in 1991.

Our Savior joined the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC) in 1978. The AELC, the American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) initiated conversations in the early 1980's toward forming one Lutheran church body. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) came into being on January 1, 1988 and Our Savior was an immediate member. There had been only four Iowa congregations in the AELC but beginning in 1988 Our Savior was among approximately 130 congregations in the Southeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA. The Rev. Dr. Paul Werger was elected as the first Bishop of the SE Iowa Synod and the Synod office were located in Iowa City.

During the late 1980's a new tradition began at Our Savior. Lenten soup suppers prior to Lenten services on Wednesday evenings began in 1988. A new organization, the Women in the ELCA (WELCA) formed at Our Savior in 1988 after the creation of the ELCA.

The significance of Our Savior's membership in the ELCA and the SE Iowa Synod became important for both the congregation and the pastor as the church attendance and contributions declined after reaching peaks in 1986. Attendance dropped from 160 per Sunday to 134 in 1987 or 16 per cent. The church budget of \$82,000 in 1986 the budget was down to \$75,000 by 1989. The congregation, the Parish Planning Council and pastor struggled with these disturbing trends and, in 1988, requested help from the SE Iowa Synod. The Rev. John Carlson, assistant to Bishop Werger, met with the Council in February 1988. In April 1988 Rev. Carlson recommended the formation of a "Mutual Ministry Committee," composed of church members and the Pastor to listen to the problems of the pastor and the members of the congregation. Appointed to the Mutual Ministry Committee were Galen Behrends, Linda Borsch, Barb Jons, Larry Park and Karen Wilkinson.

As attendance and contributions continued to decline in 1989, congregational leaders led by Council President Floyd Harthun and Joe Duffy met with the SE Iowa Synod Bishop to investigate the problems in the congregation. The Bishop formed a task force of four members from other congregations in the Synod. The Task Force met with Pastor Wascom and members of the congregations during the summer of 1989. After compiling its findings, the Task Force recommended that both the congregation and Pastor Wascom receive spiritual counseling and that Pastor Wascom resign his position. Pastor Wascom complied with the Task Force's recommendations and resigned effective August 31, 1989. The Synod assigned Ms. Louise Koch of Lutheran Social Services of Iowa to provide spiritual counseling to the congregation.

As the members met with Ms. Koch in late 1989, the SE Iowa Synod appointed the Rev. Paul Axness as the interim pastor for September 1989. Beginning October 1, the Rev. Allan R. Thoreson of Altoona was appointed by the SE Iowa Synod as interim pastor at Our Savior.

After several months of Pastor Thoreson interim ministry at Our Savior, congregational leaders approached Bishop Werger about the possibility of issuing a call to Pastor Thoreson as the permanent pastor. Bishop Werger acknowledged Our Savior right to issue such a call. On

May 20, 1990, the congregation voted to issue a Call to Pastor Thoreson. He accepted and was officially installed as Pastor of Our Savior on July 1, 1990.

In accepting the Call to Our Savior, Pastor Thoreson wrote to the congregation:

*"I feel that the Holy Spirit has led us together. I trust that we can have a mutually satisfying 'partnership in ministry,' as a part of the wider church of Marshalltown for the time the Lord allows us to work together.*

*"I also feel that the nine months of 'interim' ministry I have experienced with Our Savior congregation as a result of Bishop Werger's assignment has been a gratifying experience for me and, I hope, for the members. We have been able, I believe, to work together amicably and that the 'troubled seas' of the past are considerably lessened. Now we can, together, chart a course 'full speed ahead' into the future seeking to provide worship; fellowship; nurture; witness; service; and stewardship (the six facets of the church's mission that we considered during Lent) opportunities for all members."*

Pastor Thoreson continued: "My mind and heart are beginning to accumulate a number of 'ideas' and 'visions' of what we might be able to do together." The meaning of Pastor Thoreson's remarks was revealed a few years later with the formation of the Futures Task Force that eventually would lead to the construction of a new worship center for Our Savior.

But first Pastor Thoreson and his wife had to purchase a home in Marshalltown (at 504 Thomas Drive) and sell their house in Altoona. This was accomplished during the summer of 1990 and the congregation began the new church activity year in September 1990 with a full-time resident pastor.

In April 1990 the congregation was saddened by the death of Annette (Annie) Rohde Wuest, daughter of Leroy and Ronda Rohde. Annie was killed in a truck accident while vacationing in Mexico. As a memorial to Annie, Leroy and Ronda donated funds for the construction of a brick church sign. The sign was dedicated September 23, 1990.

**Comment [ldp1]:** Memorial for Angela Wilson and son must also be noted later.

"Cornerstone," a group of singers from Central College in Pella, presented the worship service on March 25, 1990. The "Cornerstone" singers' appearance was a traditional annual event during Pastor Thoreson's pastorate at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Another tradition began by Pastor Thoreson was the annual confirmation class trip each spring. The confirmands, a couple of parents and Pastor Thoreson took a two-day motor trip with the usual stops at Iowa City (SE Iowa Synod offices), Dubuque (Wartburg Theological Seminary) and an overnight stop at a Dubuque church followed by second day stops at Waverly (Bremwood Home and Wartburg College).

Pastor Thoreson initiated the weekly men's Bible study. The group began meeting Friday, September 6, 1991 at a local Restaurant and continues to meet every Friday morning.

Another interesting tradition began in March 1992 with the appearance of the column "Chirps from the Corner" in the monthly "Southern Lights" newsletter. Although the "Church Cricket" wrote the column, most members would agree that the ghostwriter was Pastor Thoreson. The Church Cricket began the first "Chirps from the Corner" with this introduction:

*"I am the cricket who lives in comfortable quarters in Pastor Thoreson's office. You know—those boxes of papers he's not sorted through yet. I'm the one who tries to stay out of the way of your heavy feet but from my hiding place I'm very observant of what goes on at Our Savior Church."*

Signs of renewed growth began to appear in 1992. In first four months of 1992, average Sunday worship attendance increased from 103 in 1991, to 122 in 1992. Lenten attendance grew

from 58 in 1991 to 75 in 1992. Offerings during this period increased from \$24,853 in 1991 to \$29,058 in 1992. A class of 15 young people ages 10 and up attended first communion classes and took their first communion on Maundy Thursday, 1992.

Pastor Thoreson noted in his report to the 1992 annual congregation meeting in January that when the church became 80 per cent full on Sunday mornings, the congregation should consider scheduling two worship services. In March 1992 the altar was pushed back against the east wall to gain more room in the sanctuary that was now nearly 80 percent full for a typical Sunday morning worship service. In June 1992, after 40 new members had joined in the past twelve months, the congregation approved a two-month trial of Saturday evening worship services beginning August 1, 1992. Attendance at these additional services averaged 36 until Labor Day and eventually fell off to about 25 as the Saturday service continued until late November.

Although there was a big membership gain in 1992, two of the founding members of Our Savior, Joe and Felicia Duffy, moved to Texas. Felicia was the church organist from the church's beginning in 1975 and was very active as a leader on the Worship Board. Felicia was instrumental in the integration of the "Lutheran Book of Worship" in the congregation in 1978 and established worship planners. Joe served as congregational president and was a leader in several of the other church boards as well as serving on the board of the SE Iowa Synod.

On Pastor Thoreson's recommendation, the "Our Futures Task Force" was formed to research the needs, establish a statement of the congregation's mission, and make recommendations for the implementation of those needs. The Task Force was formed May 11, 1992 with members Paul Discher, Hatti Groth, Floyd Harthun, Martin Kretzmann, Ken Lindblom, Ronda Rohde, and Jim Wilkinson.

The Task Force met frequently during the summer of 1992, surveyed the congregation, compiled the results and made 13 recommendations that were approved at a congregational meeting in November 1992. The first recommendation was that the congregation adopt Matthew 28:16-20 as its mission statement. Pastor Thoreson suggested that each member memorize the Matthew passage. The congregation began reciting Matthew 28:16-20 at the close of each worship service and soon many of the congregation had the passage memorized. Gordon Miller provided an enlarged copy of the mission statement on the north wall of the narthex to further encourage members to learn and commit to the mission statement.

*Matthew 28:16-20 states: "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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."*

The thirteen recommendations of the Futures Task Force of 1993 were that:

1. Our congregation alone and together with each other engage in a thorough study of Matthew 28:16-20. To catch the full impact of what it says, it is best to do this in the light of Matthew's entire gospel. It is important for all our members to be involved in this study, because this passage is the guiding light for defining who we are and what our purpose is. All our recommendations flow from it.
2. Our congregation develops a plan to enlist every member of our congregation in some form of Bible study once a year.
3. Our teachers in our education program receive good training for their task.

4. Our congregation join hands with other Lutheran churches in our county to provide education for our people to help them with life issues such as parenting, divorce, retirement, Christian life values, health, marriage, etc.
5. Our Congregation develops a plan to identify and make contact with those who are less actively involved so that their discipleship can be strengthened and their abilities and resources enlisted for fulfilling God's mission.
6. The congregation develops a plan for sharing our discipleship with those people in our county who are not actively affiliated with one of the churches. This plan would go beyond the informal efforts already being done by our members.
7. Our congregation finds and develops ways to help each other learn how to share our discipleship with others.
8. Our congregation strengthens our discipleship in terms of service to those in need.
9. The congregation be encouraged to think of and adopt a major service project(s) that we can support and carry out to express our concern. Meeting human need often precedes sharing what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.
10. Our congregation strengthens its efforts to minister to be growing elderly population of our church family.
11. Our congregation continues to work toward broadening the cooperative effort of the Christian community in Marshall County to feed the hungry, promote justice, and make disciples.
12. Our Savior place a special emphasis upon supporting and working with the Lutheran Coalition of the ELCA of Marshall County in order to strengthen the combined Lutheran Christian witness in our area and to make and strengthen disciples.
13. Our congregation appoints a feasibility study committee with regard to considering the expansion of our existing facility. The results of that study should be shared with the Parish Planning Council and the congregation for appropriate action.

While the congregation began memorizing Matthew 28:16-20 and reciting the Mission Statement each week during worship services, three committees were formed to implement the 13 recommendations of the Future Task Force. The Bible Study Committee began making plans to meet the goal of having every member be in a least one Bible study a year. An adult Bible class was added to Vacation Bible School. The Publicity Committee developed plans to publicize the Mission Statement. Members gave "Temple Talks" following services and where they related their personal identification to one or more sections from the Matthew passage. The Building Feasibility Committee sent out a survey regarding financial commitment to a building program.

The surveys returned by 22 families in the summer of 1993 showed that \$90,000 in pledges could be raised over the next three years. The Building Feasibility Committee determined that the congregation could afford a mortgage of \$150,000 so the estimated cost of building was about \$250,000 was well within reach of the congregation. The balance in the Building Fund in August 1993 was \$8,500 (The previous mortgage on the education addition had been paid in December 1992).

At a congregation meeting on September 19, 1993 a Building Committee consisting of Randy Bishop, Ron Duimstra, Bev Spain, Floyd Harthun, Ken Lindblom, Darrin Eige and John Byerly was elected. The Committee was authorized to spend \$2,500 for architectural fees in preparation of preliminary plans for a building addition and remodeling. The Committee was directed to make a recommendation to the congregation at its annual meeting in January 1994.

The 1994 annual meeting was in January because of the new constitution approved in September 1992 with new bylaws approved in June 1993. The new constitution changed the terms of office to the calendar year and additionally, brought the Our Savior constitution in line

with the ELCA constitution. As a result, terms of Council members that began on September 1, 1993 either ended at the annual meeting in January 1994 or the annual meeting in January 1995.

At the January 1994 annual meeting the congregation voted to proceed to form a new church finance committee whose task was to develop a three-year plan to make construction of a new worship center a reality. Church finance committee members elected were: Arnold Hanke, chair, Fred and Ardis Luthe, Ken and Kevin Lindblom; Ronda Rohde; Chuck and Verda Stief, and Dale and Lois Wilson. The design proposed by the Building Feasibility Committee to include a new worship center, fellowship hall and narthex, was approved. To help fund the construction, the church accepted an offer of \$22,000 to sell a strip of land the church owned bordering South Eighth Street.

The Church finance committee goal was \$120,000 in pledges over a three-year period and the amount pledged amounted to \$136,634. At a congregation meeting on May 1, 1994 the congregation voted 49-16 to proceed with a “full project” of as estimated \$384,000 to construct a new worship center attached to the east of the existing building and a fellowship room addition the north of the existing church. The amount pledged was \$142,000 by the time the Church Building committee convened on May 18, 1995. The Building committee members were: Randy Bishop, John Byerly, Ron Duimstra, Darrin Eige, Floyd Harthun, Ken Lindblom, Nancy Park and Ronda Rohde.

The Building Committee met with architects during the last months of 1994 in an attempt to present plans to the congregation for the new worship center and fellowship hall. The pledges by the congregation continued during 1994 and 1995. However, the architect’s estimates were higher than anticipated. Thus on June 11, 1995 the congregation reluctantly voted to delay the project. According to secretary Jan Stubbs’ minutes of this meeting, the congregation felt that “the vision of Our Savior Lutheran Church is still there, but the timing is not right.” President Ron Patton summed up the meeting by stating, “Even though we are regrouping, we still are in unity of purpose.”

Because the seating area in the current building in 1995 was “getting tight” and also due to the popularity of Saturday evening services, these services were continued until December.

Because of the energy invested in the effort to build a new worship center, no plans were made to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the congregation in October 1995. However, Pastor Thoreson suggested that the congregation recognize its 21st anniversary in 1996 with the theme “Twenty One-Coming of Age for the Twenty First Century.”

During these times, the congregation continued to actively participate in the House of Compassion. The House of Compassion moved to 211 West Church and was ready as the Homeless Shelter on November 1, 1996. The soup kitchen was also added to the House of Compassion. Meals were prepared at the House of Compassion and served there and at Woodbury School.

Just before Christmas 1995 Angela Wilson and her young son were tragically killed during a domestic dispute near Des Moines. Angela was the daughter of Bill and Lana Wilson and attended Sunday School at Our Savior and was confirmed in 1987. Several memorial gifts were donated to the church by Angela’s parents including several large round tables for the fellowship hall and the kneeling pads along the communion rail.

Because the students at Pleasant Hill School no longer were cleaning the church building, the congregation voted to employ a part-time custodian starting in 1996 at an hourly wage of five dollars for six hours a week.

The prospect of building a new worship center remained a high priority for the congregation in late 1995. Randy Bishop reorganized the building committee that met with the architects and contractors to get the building project within the financial capabilities of the congregation. While the Building Committee met the congregation appointed a Seating Committee to make a recommendation to purchase seating for the current worship sanctuary. Dale Wilson headed this "Pew" committee and the congregation voted on December 3, 1995 to purchase 120 padded chairs for the current sanctuary at a cost of \$14,595. A total of \$10,300 of the needed funds was received from the estate and memorial of Clarence Hamre, a member who died in 1995. The new chairs were used in the old sanctuary until the new worship center was constructed and ready for use.

The year of 1996 was significant in the growth of the Our Savior Lutheran Church. At the annual congregational meeting on January 21, 1996 three noteworthy actions were taken:

1. The congregation authorized the building committee to proceed...if the total project cost could be kept under \$360,000.
2. Pastor Thoreson officially notified the congregation of his retirement in early 1997 after his 65th birthday in December 1996.
3. Hap Kretzmann was elected president of the congregation for the first of two two-year terms. During the next four years, Hap would guide the congregation through a building project and the calling of a new pastor!

The building committee proceeded rapidly. The strip of the church property bordering on South 8th Street was sold and \$20,000 was netted for the building fund. By removing the fellowship hall from the previous building plan, the project cost was brought down to \$357,596.66 and was approved by the congregation in a meeting on Sunday, March 17, 1996. Ground breaking was two weeks later on Palm Sunday, March 31, 1996. The ground breaking was reported by the Church Cricket in the April 1996 newsletter "Cricket Chirps."

*"The Palm Sunday ground breaking was wonderful-a service of word and song followed by a procession to the east side of the church. Shivering in the cold and yet bathed in the bright light of the sun, the sod was broken and the soil turned to mark the beginning of a new era of Our Savior Lutheran congregation!"*

During the spring and summer of 1996 the landscape began to change on the South Sixth Street property as construction equipment moved in. Later in the summer large steel beams were brought in and the new worship structure began to take shape.

An Our Savior tradition began in 1996 as a result of one of the Future Task Force's recommendations. The Outreach Board led by Director Ken Sohl sponsored the first "Bring A Friend Sunday" on February 18, 1996. This annual event stressed the importance of evangelism at Our Savior. Numerous guests were in attendance on this Sunday each year. Over the first five years of "Bring A Friend Sunday several families joined as a result of being invited to this special worship event.

In the summer of 1996 Sarah Kretzmann returned after serving two years in a teaching and mission assignment in Hungary. After graduation from Valparaiso University in 1994, Sarah volunteered to teach English at a high school in Hungary. Sarah also led Bible studies for the youth in the former Communist country. Our Savior assisted Sarah financially and also sent Sunday School papers for Sarah to use in Hungary. After Sarah's return to Iowa, she made the decision to enter the diaconal ministry program at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque in the fall of 1996. Not long after Sarah began her seminary program, she felt called to become a pastor and shifted her major to prepare for the parish ministry. The congregation financially assisted Sarah at Wartburg seminary.

As part of the construction 1996, the Pastor's office and the old sanctuary had to be remodeled. The pastor's office, which was to the immediate right of the main entrance on the south, was dismantled and the office moved to the west side of the building where the former nursery and small classroom were located. The wall behind the altar in the old sanctuary was opened for the new construction and the congregation had to worship and conduct its activities in a construction zone from early fall until March 1997 when the building was completed.

The new worship center was not yet completed when it was pressed into use for Confirmation on Reformation Sunday, October 27, 1996. No carpet was on the floor and all the chairs and new padded church chairs had to be carried into the partially done sanctuary. Members of the last confirmation class at Our Savior during Pastor Thoreson's pastorate were: Bret William Ingebritson, Ashley Jo Duimstra, Beth Ann Headley, Stephen James Kretzmann, Shannon Ruth Ingleby, Andrew Thomas Nelson, Lance Randall Bishop, Anna Kathryn Mairs, Beth Ann Muckler, James David Savage, Jr., and Christine Elizabeth Eige.

The chairs were moved back to the old sanctuary as the final touches were added to the building over the next six weeks. After the carpet was laid and other work complete and the first worship service in the new Worship Center was December 8, 1996. Stan and Margo McMillen, home on furlough from Guatemala, gave the message for the first regular service in the new addition. Construction continued on the remodeling of the former sanctuary into a fellowship center during the first three months of 1997.

The new Worship Center had developed from the 13<sup>th</sup> recommendation of the 1993 Future Task Force as part of Our Savior Mission in Marshalltown. Pastor Thoreson noted in the "Southern Lights" newsletter that "Our church building is not a 'fort' to which we flee from the world but a 'training base' from which we go forth to live and serve neighbor in word and deed all the while bearing witness to our Savior."

Pastor Thoreson and the Parish Planning Council planned several special events in early 1997 as the congregation celebrated the completion of the new worship center and noted the retirement of Pastor Thoreson.

The church celebrated its 21st anniversary on October 13, 1996 with the theme "Twenty One and Preparing for the Twenty First Century." Pastor Dennis Bauer, Our Savior's first fulltime pastor from 1977-1983 was invited to speak but could not work it into his schedule until January 12, 1997. Pastor Bauer moved back to Iowa in 1996 to serve at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. In Pastor Bauer's sermon on January 12, 1997, he reminisced about the congregation's journey from Salvation Army building to the office building downtown to the Congregational Church and to the church on South Sixth Street.

The months of February, March and April of 1997 were filled with a flurry of activity. The events were:

- ✠ February 9 – "Bring A Friend Sunday"
- ✠ February 12 – Ash Wednesday with Lenten Services preceded by soup supper served by youth.
- ✠ February 23 – "Cornerstone Singers" from Central College led the Sunday morning worship
- ✠ March 2—Students from Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque participated in Sunday worship.
- ✠ March 9—"Riverside Bible Camp Sunday" with Camp leader Dan Scharnhorst
- ✠ March 16—Sunday sermon given by Wartburg seminarian Catherine Burroughs. Ms. Burroughs was awarded Our Savior scholarship. The scholarship was funded by a gift from Floyd and Ella Harthun with others in the congregation also contributing.
- ✠ March 23—Dedication of Worship Center with Bishop of the SE Iowa Synod Rev. Philip Hougren with the sermon at the 9 a.m. service. Following a brief dedication ceremony at 2 p.m., an open house was held for the community. The Stoneback triplets from Sioux Falls,

SD played their trumpets at the 9 a.m. service as well as at the Dedication Concert on Saturday, March 22. The Stoneback triplets were 15 in 1997 and were baptized as infants by Pastor Thoreson when he served in South Dakota.

- ✠ March 30—Easter Sunday, 1997 was Pastor Thoreson final Sunday worship services at Our Savior.
- ✠ April 6—Farewell Sunday for Pastor Thorson and his wife Iris as interim pastor Rev. Gene Cedarholm from Newton led worship services.

After Pastor Thoreson retired from the ministry, he and wife Iris continued to live in Marshalltown. Before Pastor Thoreson left, he had an exit interview with the Parish Planning Council. Pastor noted that the five areas of greatest satisfaction and improvement during his seven and one-half years at Our Savior were:

- a. Stability and regained confidence of the congregation
- b. Involvement of the laity.
- c. Better stewardship, increased giving.
- d. Building Fund drive
- e. Saturday services, Wednesday's Wonders

Pastor Thoreson also expressed five areas of frustration or disappointment:

- a. The congregation had not grown very quickly.
- b. There is cultural competition for our loyalties-especially for our young people-too many choices to make. This is a challenge for all ages!
- c. Young adults after completion of high school seem to be aimless, lack focus and have no purpose or goal. Pastor Thoreson felt that needed to be addressed.
- d. There is a lack of interest on the part of older adults in Bible study and adult Sunday School. Some members never come to such activities.
- e. Disappointment in the participation in the SEARCH Bible study series.

Shortly after Pastor Thoreson's retirement and with interim pastor Rev. Gene Cedarholm of Newton serving the congregation, the Call Committee was organized. The Call Committee members elected at the January 1997 annual meeting were Doreen Hasenwinkel, Beth Headley, Mike Headley, Dan Kersbergen and Larry Park with Larry serving as chairperson. The Call Committee met with the Rev. Dr. Walter May, assistant to the Bishop of the SE Iowa Synod in February and started to work on the congregational profile. This profile was mostly a statistical view of the congregation but the Congregational Profile also included results of a survey of Our Savior members on the traits sought in the new pastor. The most important traits the congregation was seeking in a new pastor were: 1) Worship planner and leader; 2) Preacher; 3) Interpreter of Theology; 4) Minister in crisis; 5) Youth Leader; and 6) Counselor.

The Call Committee members received three names from the SE Iowa Synod office in late May 1997 and the committee began its task of visiting each of the three pastors in their respective churches before bringing the three to Marshalltown for separate interviews. From the three candidates, the Call Committee selected the Rev. Jim Lindekugel of Minnetonka, MN. However, before the congregation could approve the Call, the Rev. Mr. Lindekugel asked to be removed from consideration.

The Call Committee asked for three more candidates from the Synod office and in September the Call Committee began visiting the prospects and scheduling interviews. Before the second set of candidates were visited, Beth Headley asked to be replaced on the Committee and Christy Eige took her place. The candidate selected this time by the Call Committee was the Rev. Roy Rogers of Muscatine who was issued a Call by the congregation. But the Rev. Mr. Rogers declined the call. So as the congregation celebrated the birth of Our Lord on Christmas 1997, the congregation was still without a pastor.

Pastor Cedarholm filled in very capably and was well liked. Like most of the congregation, Pastor Cedarholm expected the Call process to be over in a few months. Pastor Cedarholm wrote in the December 1997 "Southern Lights" church newsletter about watching and waiting:

*"We tend to be rather impatient in watching and/or waiting for anything. Check up on yourself and all the watching and waiting you do, (for the light to change, or for a new Pastor to come, for example) and see how you handle it! If you are like I, you are more apt to mutter your impatience because your hurried race to here or there has been interrupted for a minute or two. So, in Advent when we are called to think about what God has promised to do...well, we aren't so sure how to wait for that. After all, Christians have been waiting for a long time, and the wait still goes on. But perhaps the watching and waiting in themselves is where God Himself is watching and waiting to work His way in our individual lives."*

Christ's work at Our Savior Lutheran Church continued during the interim under Pastor Cedarholm's guidance. The confirmation classes met with the confirmation classes at Elim Lutheran during the vacancy. The Church had its children Christmas program and the adults sang Christmas carols to the various shut-ins of the church and at the Iowa Veterans Home and local nursing homes. Christmas Candlelight services were held in the early evening with no late night Christmas Eve service.

Pastor Cedarholm agreed to stay on an interim pastor as 1998 began but he and his wife Del had vacation plans for four weeks in January and February. Area pastors filled in at the Sunday morning services during this time.

The Call Committee received its next three candidates in January 1998 and nominated the Rev. Dr. William Spencer of Mesa, AZ for the vacancy. Since the Call Committee could not afford to travel to Arizona to observe the Rev. Dr. Spencer in the pulpit, Pastor Spencer and his wife Dee were invited to come to Marshalltown. The Call Committee interviewed Rev. Spencer on March 21, 1998 and Pastor Spencer preached to the congregation on Sunday, March 22.

After the congregation unanimously approved the Call to Dr. Spencer on March 29, 1998, congregation president Hap Kretzmann signed the necessary documents. Vern Hunzelman drove to Iowa City the next day to personally deliver the Call documents to the SE Iowa Synod office.

Pastor Spencer notified the Call Committee of his acceptance of the Call. His acceptance was announced to the congregation on Easter Sunday, April 12, 1998. Plans were begun immediately to welcome the new pastor and his wife to Our Savior!

Pastor Spencer arrived in Marshalltown on the evening of May 19, 1998 in time for the monthly Parish Council meeting. After that meeting, the council accepted Pastor Spencer invitation to a "tailgate party" which meant the council members helped move his books and other items into the office of the church. He led his first worship service at Our Savior on Sunday, May 24, 1998.

Dee was not able to accompany her husband to Marshalltown because of her job in Arizona. However, she was here for the official Installation of Rev. Spencer was Sunday June 28, 1998. The Spencers purchased a home at 212 So. 9th Street and moved to that home in July 1998. Prior to the move to their house, Pastor Spencer stayed with Mike and Barb Headley.

As soon as Pastor Spencer arrived in Marshalltown, the congregation was anxious and ready to get to work. The church parking lot was expanded during the construction of the new worship center but the surface was crushed rock. The congregation planned a hard surfaced parking lot costing approximately \$48,000. About \$14,000 was available from the building fund in May 1998. It was proposed at a Church Council meeting in June 1998 that the congregation sponsor

an ice cream social with the proceeds going to the parking lot fund. Judy Lindholm, chairperson of the Fellowship Board, quickly organized the ice cream social with the help of many in the congregation. The ice cream social was scheduled for August 29, 1998 and was a very popular event for the congregation and for those in the community who attended. The net profit for the ice cream social was almost \$2,500 and gave a boost to the parking lot fund. With the help of generous donations from its members, a blacktopped parking lot was constructed in October 1998.

Our Savior continued to grow during the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Spencer. Attendance at the Lenten services in 1999 and 2000 both exceeded the figures of the previous years. Church attendance in 1998 and 1999 both increase by 7% over the previous year. Pastor Spencer joined and became very active in the Marshall County Ministerial Alliance. The Ministerial Alliance organized a very well attended community worship service on New Year' Eve (December 31, 1999). More than 250 people from the community joined in the Good Friday "Walk of the Cross" on April 21, 2000 also sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance. Pastor Spencer and Rev. Greg Davison, pastor of Trinity Lutheran, another ELCA congregation in Marshalltown, were elected as co-presidents for the Marshall County Ministerial Alliance for the 2000-2001 term.

Pastor Spencer strongly advocated the formation of "Future's Task Force II" which was organized and began work in the summer of 1999. Members of Future's Task Force II were Dennis Eige, chairperson, Bruce Meyer, Tina Larson, Jill Byerly, Kayla Danielson, Alyson Hicks, Ashlee Duimstra, Robert Weltzin, Paul Discher, and Floyd Harthun. President Hap Kretzmann and Pastor Spencer were ex-officio members. Future's Task Force II met for Bible study, discussed the future of Our Savior and surveyed the congregation much as the first Future's Task Force had done.

Future Task Force II received the Biblical basis for the new Our Savior Mission Statement from Acts 2:42-47 (New International Version):

"(42) They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (43) Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. (44) All the believers were together and had everything in common. (45) Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone, as he had need. (46) Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke break in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, (47) praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Future's Task Force II contrasted Our Savior's first Mission Statement with the Acts passage. "In the Biblical passage from our first Mission Statement based on Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus commands us to go and make disciples by baptizing and teaching. In the above passage from Acts, Luke describes how the early church carried out the mission of Jesus. Their life together and the way in which they did God's work becomes a model for us to follow today."

The Future's Task Force II recommendations to the congregation (which were approved in a congregational meeting on November 14, 1999) stated that for Our Savior to fulfill its mission we as individuals and as a congregation must devote ourselves constantly to the following activities:

- Teaching the Apostolic faith to all;
- Worshipping daily in our home and weekly at our church around prayer, Word and sacrament;
- Strengthening Christian fellowship;
- Looking to Christ for healing;
- Praying for one another publicly and privately;

- Making Christ known as friend and Savior to the world around us through our witness and personal relationships;
- Sharing ourselves and our possessions generously to help anyone in need and to support the mission of our congregation.

Each of the eight boards of the congregation were charged with carrying out the activities recommendations of Future's Task Force II and began doing so in 2000. Also Pastor Spencer used the Lenten service times in 2000 to teach church families about Acts 2:42-47. These Lenten services proved to be very popular and well attended.

Some of these activities suggested by Future's Task Force II were already a part of the fabric of the congregation. The weekly list of prayer requests was printed in each week's worship bulletin. Prayer requests could be submitted during the service and were read along with the prayers for those in the bulletin. The congregation's fellowship was strengthened each week with refreshments after worship services. The Fellowship Board began serving refreshments in 1993, first only for special events, then once a month and eventually every Sunday. The fellowship hall, remodeled from the former sanctuary when the new Worship Center was constructed in 1996, provided space for members and guests to converse after worship services.

There were other significant events at Our Savior before, during and after the Future's Task Force II work and recommendations. Nathan Montover was ordained into the ministry on May 23, 1999 at Our Savior. The Rev. Mr. Montover, a native of Marshalltown, married Sarah Kretzmann while both were at Wartburg Seminary. Although he did not attend Our Savior as a youth, many of the congregation knew his parents, Harold and Rose Montover when they were members of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshalltown. The Rev. Montover first Call was to serve as associate pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Eldridge, IA.

The church had another successful Ice Cream Social in 1999, a volunteer directory of all the church volunteer positions at Our Savior was published under the editorship of Nancy Park, the men's fellowship breakfast met each Friday morning, changing their location from Perkins to the Worthy Bean restaurant. WELCA was very active and helped host the 1999 SE Iowa Synod WELCA convention in Marshalltown. The Worship Board continued to assist Pastor Spencer with the planning of worship services. The Property Board assumed additional responsibilities after the construction of the new Worship Center in 1996. An attractive front entrance vestibule was constructed in the spring of 2000 to provide for better temperature control and better security for the building. Volunteers from the congregation mowed the lawn each summer but the snow removal was contracted to outside firms.

The Christian Education Board planned carried out its mission for both youth and adults with Sunday School, Confirmation instruction, Riverside Bible Camp scholarships and a week-long Vacation Bible School. The youth were active serving Soup Suppers during Lent and helping at other congregation functions. Each summer the Youth Group planned a trip Adventureland for fun and relaxation. Wednesday's Wonders met twice a month and took "field trips" several times a year.

To celebrate Our Savior's 25th anniversary in 2000, Pastor Spencer urged the formation of a committee in 1999 to prepare for the events. The committee, consisting of Doreen Hasenwinkel, chairperson, Floyd Harthun, Larry Park, Donna Pfantz, Fern Thompson and Judy Lindblom began meeting late in 1999 to organize and promote the special activities for the 25th Anniversary celebration.

One of their first anniversary projects was to publish a church cookbook. The recipes were solicited from the congregation and compiled by Cookbook Committee consisting of: Judy

Lindblom, chairperson, Brenda Boetel, Kayla Danielson, Marj Hunzelman, Gloria Ohrt and Jean Scully. A thousand copies were printed and went on sale May 21, 2000.

The 25th Anniversary committee mapped out seven Sunday celebration schedule:

- ✠ Sunday, September 24 - Assistant to Bishop (SE Iowa Synod) Rev. Dr. Walter May will preach.
- ✠ Sunday, October 1 - The Rev. George Nickelsburg (preacher at the first Our Savior service on October 12, 1975) and Our Savior's first Pastor Paul Discher and will preach at a service to be held at the Salvation Army Citadel, site of the first Sunday worship service for Our Savior.
- ✠ Sunday, October 8 - Former Pastors Dennis Bauer and Allen Thoreson will preach.
- ✠ Sunday, October 15 - Pastor Gene Cedarholm (interim pastor 1997-98) and current Pastor Bill Spencer will preach.
- ✠ Sunday, October 22 - Bishop Philip Hougen of the SE Iowa Synod will preach.
- ✠ Sunday, October 29 - Reformation Sunday and Confirmation.
- ✠ Sunday, November 5 - Sarah Kretzmann, in her final year at Wartburg Seminary, will preach.

The theme chosen by the 25th Anniversary committee for the Our Savior observances is "25 Years of Making Christ Known." With God's help and guidance, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Marshalltown, Iowa continues to strive to fulfill its mission in Marshalltown and in the world!



## Our Savior Lutheran Church Confirmation Classes

### 1976

Deb Discher  
Matt Gillam  
Mary Hartwig  
Traci Schwartz

### 1977

Kirsten Danielson  
Heidi Stief

### 1978

Ann Discher  
John Hunzelman  
Jacklyn Jons

### 1979

Sharon Harthun  
Carrie Hartwig  
Guy Schwartz

### 1980

John Discher  
Karla Dougherty  
Michele Gross  
Jennifer Jons  
Steve Peterson

### 1981

Missy Estes  
Brian Wilson

### 1982

Bob Discher  
D'Anne Gross  
Brian Harthun  
Joel Hunzelman  
Jason Jons  
Tracy Luthro  
Mike Schwarz  
Maria Stief  
Jason Wegner  
Dana Wilson

### 1983

Greg Dougherty  
Cheri Grabenbauer  
Todd Reisetter  
Jeff Wooten

### 1984

Deb Coughlin  
Jody Gifford  
Amy Hedrick  
Dan Kretzmann  
Phil Stief  
Todd Wilson

### 1985

Lisa Behrends  
Alyson Duffy  
Terri Luthro  
Toni Luthro  
Angela McCullough  
Jeremy Park

### 1986

Craig Patton  
Heather Gross  
Brett McCullough  
Rodney Wooten  
Sara Kretzmann  
Douglas Stubbs

### 1987

Phil Hedrick  
Angela Duimstra  
Angela Wilson  
Thomas Grewell  
Misty Clawson

### 1989

T.J. Spain  
Tim Gifford  
Tina Behrends  
Jill Kerber

### 1990

Stacie Frank  
Amy Ferren  
Martin Kretzmann  
Kevin Lindblom

### 1991

Amber Duimstra  
Darren Eige  
Monica Heil  
Trisha Luthro  
Aaron Miller  
Chad Winter

### 1992

Janette Aguilar  
Laura Kersbergen  
Karl Lindblom  
Collin Winter  
Corbin Winter

### 1993

Karen Aguilar  
Andrew Eige  
Lindsey Ingleby  
Andrew Miller  
Adam Muckler

### 1994

Luke Bishop  
Amber Ferren  
Bart Ingebritson  
Michael Majerus  
Sara Nelson  
Megan Spain

### 1995

Adam Behrends  
Stacy Heil  
Michael Kerber  
Diana Kersbergen  
Adam Miller

### 1996

Lance Bishop  
Ashlee Duimstra  
Christine Eige  
Beth Headley  
Bret Ingebritson  
Stephen Kretzmann  
Ann Mairs  
Beth Muckler  
Andrew Nelson  
James Savage

### 1998

Thomas Kersbergen  
Laura Ingleby

### 1999

Adam Bergeson  
Bryan Dale  
Erin Headley  
Chad Nelson



**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Elected Church Officials**  
**1975-2000**

**1975(Temporary)**

President—Floyd Harthun  
Vice-President—Larry Park  
Secretary—Nancy Park  
Treasurer—Bill Gross  
Trustees—Vern Hunzelman  
          Chuck Stief  
Elders—Ed Damrau  
          Loyd McMillen  
          Ken Schwarz  
          Harry Wooten

**1976**

President—Floyd Harthun  
Vice-President—Larry Park  
Secretary—Nancy Park  
Treasurer—Bill Gross  
Trustees—Vern Hunzelman  
          Dale Wilson  
Elders—Ed Damrau  
          Hap Kretzmann  
          Dennis Eige  
          Bill Wilson

**1977**

President—Floyd Harthun  
Vice-President—Chuck Schneider  
Secretary—Nancy Park  
Treasurer—Bill Wilson  
Trustees—Chuck Stief  
          Floyd Harthun  
Elders—Loyd McMillen  
          Bill Wilson  
          Roy Hill  
          Larry Park

**1978**

President—Ivan Prigge  
Vice-President—Chuck Schneider  
Secretary—Liz Adams  
Treasurer—Dale Tech, Jim Root  
Trustees—Don Hartwig  
          Ray Thompson  
Elders—Joe Duffy  
          Larry Park  
          Hap Kretzmann  
          Harry Wooten

**1979**

President—Ivan Prigge  
Vice-President—Don Hartwig  
Secretary—Karen Hammitt  
Treasurer—Jim Root, Ronda Rohde  
Trustees—Ray Thompson  
          Chuck Stief  
Elders—Joe Duffy  
          Loyd McMillen  
          Ken Schwarz  
          Harry Wooten

**1980**

President—Chuck Stief  
Vice-President—Don Hartwig  
Secretary—Karen Hammitt  
Treasurer—Ronda Rohde  
Trustees—Dale Wilson  
          Don Hartwig  
Elders—Dennis Eige  
          Ken Schwarz  
          Larry Park  
          Ivan Prigge

**1981**

President—Joe Duffy  
Vice-President—Fern Thompson  
Secretary—Doris Stubbs  
Treasurer—Ronda Rohde  
Trustees—Floyd Harthun  
          Chuck Mathison  
Elders—Dennis Eige  
          Chuck Schneider  
          Paul Discher  
          Larry Park

**1982**

President—Joe Duffy  
Vice-President—Fern Thompson  
Secretary—Doreen Hasenwinkel  
Treasurer—Ronda Rohde  
Trustees—Chuck Mathison  
          Don Hartwig  
Elders—Dennis Eige  
          Paul Discher  
          Floyd Harthun  
          Hap Kretzmann

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Elected Church Officials**  
**1975-2000**

**1983**

President—Larry Park  
Vice-President—Chuck Mathison  
Secretary—Virginia Hauser  
Treasurer—Ronda Rohde  
Trustees—Bill Dougherty  
          Bill Wilson  
Elders—Dennis Eige  
          Floyd Harthun  
          Jeff Dodge  
          Owen Kerber

**1984**

President—Larry Park  
Vice-President—Chuck Mathison  
Secretary—Barb Jons  
Treasurer—Randy Bishop  
Trustees—Bill Wilson  
          Ronda Rohde  
          Val Hanzelka  
Elders—Dennis Eige  
          Joe Duffy  
          Jeff Dodge  
          Owen Kerber

**1985**

President—Fern Thompson  
Vice-President—Randy Bishop  
Secretary—Karen Hammitt  
Treasurer—Dean McMullen  
Trustees—Ronda Rohde  
          Val Hanzelka  
Elders—Dennis Eige  
          Joe Duffy  
          Floyd Harthun  
          Gary Gifford

**1986**

President—Fern Thompson  
Vice-president—Don Hartwig  
Secretary—Karen Hammitt  
Treasurer—Dean McMullen  
Financial Secretary—Jan Stubbs  
Trustee—Val Hanzelka  
          Arnie Hanke  
Elders—Floyd Harthun  
          Gary Gifford  
          Ron Patton  
          Ray Herzog  
Youth Ministry—Doreen Hasenwinkel

**1987**

President—Larry Park  
Vice President—Ray Herzog  
Secretary—Karen Hammitt  
Treasurer—Dean McMullen  
Properties—Arnie Hanke  
Financial Secretary—Kathy Drexel  
Director—Doreen Hasenwinkel  
          Brian Danielson  
          Ed Lemke  
          Leonard Stubbs  
          Fern Thompson  
          Ron Patton  
          Randy Bishop

**1988**

President—Larry Park  
Vice President—Ray Herzog  
Secretary—Verda Stief  
Treasurer—Galen Behrends  
Properties—Larry Groth  
Financial Secretary—Kathy Drexel  
Director—Doreen Hasenwinkel  
          Sandy Bishop  
          Fern Thompson  
          Leonard Stubbs  
          Arnold Bollhoefer  
          Chuck Matheson  
          Ron Patton  
          Dennis Eige  
          Dan Kersbergen

**9/1/1988—8/31/1989**

President—Floyd Harthun  
Vice President—Joe Duffy  
Secretary—Verda Stief  
Treasurer—Galen Behrends  
Financial Secretary —Beverly Spain  
Properties—Larry Groth  
Director—Sandy Bishop  
          Fern Thompson  
          Felicia Duffy  
          Annie Ethington  
          Chuck Ethington  
          Dave Luthro  
          Hap Kretzmann

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Elected Church Officials**  
**1975-2000**

**9/1/1989—8/31/1990**

President—Floyd Harthun  
Vice President—Joe Duffy  
Secretary—Nancy Park  
Treasurer—Don Hartwig  
Financial Secretary—Beverly Spain  
Properties—Ron Duimstra  
Director—Chuck Ethington  
    Felicia Duffy  
    Fern Thompson  
    Dave Luthro  
    Hap Kretzmann  
    Jim Wilkinson

**9/1/1990—8/31/1991**

President—Floyd Harthun  
Vice President—Randy Bishop  
Secretary—Nancy Park  
Treasurer—Don Hartwig  
Financial Secretary—Beverly Spain  
Properties—Ron Duimstra  
Director—Hap Kretzmann  
    Felicia Duffy  
    Jim Wilkinson  
    Dennis Eige  
    Ronda Rohde  
    Dan Kersbergen

**9/1/1991—8/31/1992**

President—Floyd Harthun  
Vice President—Randy Bishop  
Secretary—Diane Ingleby  
Treasurer—Beverly Spain  
Financial Secretary—Brian Danielson  
Properties—Robert Lepird  
Director—Dennis Eige  
    Ron Duimstra  
    Ken Lindblom  
    Felicia Duffy  
    Jim Wilkinson  
    Ronda Rohde  
    Dan Kersbergen

**9/1/1992—8/31/1993**

President—Ron Patton  
Vice President—Dave Luthro, Arnold Hanke  
Secretary—Diane Ingleby  
Treasurer—Beverly Spain  
Financial Secretary—Brian Danielson  
Director—Gordon Miller  
    Jim Wilkinson  
    Doreen Hasenwinkel  
    Dennis Eige  
    Ron Duimstra  
    Ken Lindblom

**9/1/1993—1/31/1994**

President—Ron Patton  
Vice President—Arnold Hanke  
Secretary—Abby Kersbergen  
Treasurer—Tom Nelson  
Financial Secretary—Bonnie Riemenschneider  
Director of Properties—Randy Bishop  
Director of Christian Education—Mike Headley  
Director of Service & Mission—Larry Park  
Director of Outreach—Ken Sohl  
Director of Stewardship—Gordon Miller  
Director of Youth—Martin Kretzmann  
Director of Fellowship—Doreen Hasenwinkel  
Director of Worship—Jim Wilkinson

**1994**

President—Ron Patton  
Vice President—Arnold Hanke  
Secretary—Abby Kersbergen  
Treasurer—Tom Nelson  
Financial Secretary—Bonnie Riemenschneider  
Director of Properties—Randy Bishop  
Director of Christian Education—Mike Headley  
Director of Service & Mission—Larry Park  
Director of Outreach—Ken Sohl  
Director of Stewardship—Gordon Miller  
Director of Youth—Martin Kretzmann  
Director of Fellowship—Doreen Hasenwinkel  
Director of Worship—Jim Wilkinson

**1995**

President—Ronald Patton  
Vice President—Arnold Hanke  
Secretary—Jan Stubbs  
Treasurer—Tom Nelson  
Financial Secretary—Bonnie Riemenschneider  
Director of Properties—Dale Wilson  
Director of Christian Education—Hans Larson  
Director of Service & Mission—Larry Park  
Director of Outreach—Ken Sohl  
Director of Stewardship—Gordon Miller  
Director of Youth—Monica Heil  
Director of Fellowship—Doreen Hasenwinkel  
Director of Worship—Jim Wilkinson

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Elected Church Officials**  
**1975-2000**

**1996**

President—Hap Kretzmann  
Vice President—Dan Kersbergen  
Secretary—Jan Stubbs  
Treasurer—Tom Nelson  
Financial Secretary—Bonnie Riemenschneider  
Director of Properties—Dale Wilson  
Director of Christian Education—Hans Larson  
Director of Service & Mission—Larry Park  
Director of Outreach—Ken Sohl  
Director of Stewardship—Fred & Ardis Luthe  
Director of Youth —Monica Heil  
Director of Parish Fellowship—Alice Jewell  
Director of Worship—Verda Stief

**1997**

President—Hap Kretzmann  
Vice President—Dan Kersbergen  
Secretary—Jan Stubbs  
Treasurer—Diane Gilliland  
Financial Secretary—Bonnie Riemenschneider  
Director of Properties—Tom Ethington  
Director of Christian Education—Fern Thompson,  
Dennis Eige  
Director of Service & Mission—Ken Lindblom  
Director of Outreach—Ron Patton  
Director of Stewardship—Fred & Ardis Luthe  
Director of Youth —Ron Duimstra  
Director of Parish Fellowship—Alice Jewell  
Director of Worship—Verda Stief

**1998**

President—Hap Kretzmann  
Vice President—Randy Bishop  
Secretary—Jan Stubbs  
Treasurer—Diane Ingleby  
Financial Secretary—Nancy Park  
Director of Properties—Tom Ethington  
Director of Christian Education—Fern Thompson  
Director of Service & Mission—Ken Lindblom  
Director of Outreach—Ron Patton  
Director of Stewardship—Allen Dale  
Director of Parish Fellowship—Judy Lindblom  
Director of Youth —Ron Duimstra  
Director of Worship—Shirley Ruddick

**1999**

President—Hap Kretzmann  
Vice President—Randy Bishop  
Secretary—Annie Ethington  
Treasurer—Diane Ingleby  
Financial Secretary—Nancy Park  
Director of Stewardship—Allen Dale  
Director of Parish Fellowship—Judy Lindblom  
Director of Worship—Shirley Ruddick  
Director of Youth—Janine Muckler  
Director of Outreach—Larry Park  
Director of Service & Mission—Karen Weltzin  
Director of Christian Education—Fern Thompson  
Director of Properties—Tom Ethington

**2000**

President—Mary Carol Fish  
Vice President—Randy Bishop  
Secretary—Annie Ethington  
Treasurer—Diane Ingleby  
Financial Secretary—Nancy Park  
Director of Stewardship—Bill Mauzy  
Director of Parish Fellowship—Mary Miller  
Director of Worship—Pam Mauzy  
Director of Youth—Janine Muckler  
Director of Outreach—Larry Park  
Director of Service & Mission—Karen Weltzin  
Director of Christian Education—Fern Thompson  
Director of Properties—Tom Ethington

**Membership & Finances  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
1975-2000**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>BAPTIZED</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
1975		68	127		\$12,331.53	
1976		81	110	-13.39%	\$26,035.00	111.1%
1977		89	90	-18.18%	\$28,320.00	8.8%
1978		107	85	-5.56%	\$28,660.00	1.2%
1979	141	110	74	-12.94%	\$29,215.00	1.9%
1980	152	109	82	10.81%	\$34,213.00	17.1%
1981	184		86	4.88%	\$37,245.00	8.9%
1982	201		92	6.98%	\$41,252.00	10.8%
1983	196		90	-2.17%	\$39,901.04	-3.3%
1984	238	156	122	35.56%	\$49,338.93	23.7%
1985	307		156	27.87%	\$75,586.00	53.2%
1986	333		160	2.56%	\$82,100.00	8.6%
1987			134	-16.25%	\$82,336.00	0.3%
1988	318	257	127	-5.22%	\$91,145.00	10.7%
1989	315	242	117	-7.87%	\$75,000.00	-17.7%
1990	290	227	98	-16.24%	\$77,500.00	3.3%
1991	299	236	97	-1.02%	\$82,100.00	5.9%
1992	292	231	98	1.03%	\$88,933.00	8.3%
1993	314	251	108	10.20%	\$95,862.00	7.8%
1994	333	265	114	5.56%	\$107,544.00	12.2%
1995	324	258	108	-5.26%	\$113,358.00	5.4%
1996	323	267	113	4.63%	\$118,855.00	4.8%
1997	335	271	109	-3.54%	\$114,104.00	-4.0%
1998	355	285	117	7.34%	\$117,105.00	2.6%
1999	364	295	126	7.69%	\$142,280.00	21.5%
2000	375	305	133	5.56%	\$157,930.00	11.0%

These statistics were gathered from the Our Savior Lutheran Church Registry Book and reports to the congregation and church councils.