

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION HISTORY

21ST CENTURY HERE WE COME
THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

1961 -- 1999



Faith Lutheran Church
Santa Rosa, California

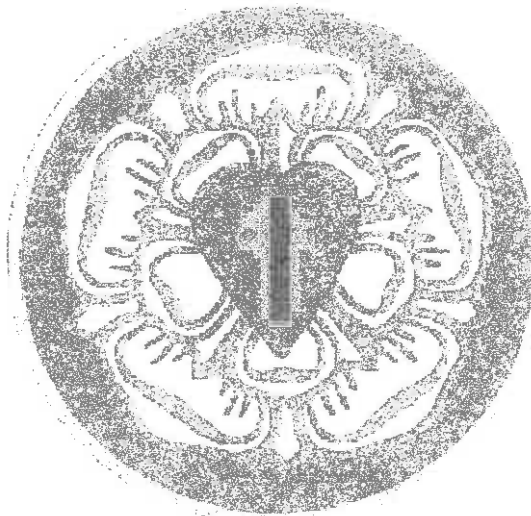
Written and Compiled by

RUTH E. BELL

Church Historian

Santa Rosa, CA

THIS IS DEDICATED TO ALL
OF THE SAINTS OF FAITH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF SANTA ROSA
WHO MADE THESE WRITTEN
WORDS POSSIBLE



CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY - 21ST CENTURY HERE WE COME!

THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN.

As we approach the twenty-first century, we celebrate our heritage by looking at the past forty years that we have been known as Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church.

There will be names of some that we have forgotten, some who have died, some who have moved away and those who have joined us and will celebrate with us.

The congregation began with four families: The Reverend and Mrs. Robert Freistedt, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel White, Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Bell Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Christensen, who met at the Service of Ordination May 15, 1960 at St. Marks Lutheran Church in San Francisco for Pastor Freistedt, who was designated mission developer in Santa Rosa for the United Lutheran Church in America. Those on the steering committee were: Pastor Freistedt, Chairman; Robert Bell, Vice-Chairman; Jim Nelson, Treasurer; Eva Vaughan, Secretary; Helmut Klee, Lyle Christensen, and Dan White. Our congregation met at 1411 Carlos Court in Rincon Valley. The first service of our mission congregation took place October 16, 1960 at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, our church for four years.

The "name the church" contest was won by Dan White, Helmut Klee, and Stephen Bell.

The first child baptized into our congregation was Terry Williams, November 6, 1960.



HELMUT KLEE

DAN WHITE

STEPHEN BELL

21st CENTURY HERE WE COME
1961

"Faith Lutheran Taking Final Organization Steps", were the words in the local newspaper. It begins with the signing of the Charter by 70 adults and 10 confirmands. Little did we know that the roll would be open for signing until we built our first church in 1964. Our first service was held with 140 in attendance. Bethlehem choir sang. Lily Greer had returned from her trip to Europe to help Dorothy White with the music. I still miss Dorothy's "Oh, toot", when she would hit the wrong key. Our coffee time had been called a time when "the sweet aroma of fellowship fills the air. Stay a few moments after service and let us become acquainted with you.

The Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America purchased property on Highway 12 as a site to build our new church for \$49,000 (needless to say, it was not build there).

Confirmation classes were held on Saturday mornings, and the "Women of the Church" was organized. Ruth Bell was elected president.

On May 7 we had our Service of Organization. The Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America sent us a letter of congratulations, as did the other fellow churches. Dr. C.V. Tambert of the Southwest Synod gave the sermon and officiated at the installation of the church council. They were Dr. Robert C. Bell, Jr., Robert Bills, Roy Besser, Hjelmer Elvig, Helmut Klee, James Nelson, William Schmidt, Eva Vaughan, and Daniel White.



By this time Mrs. Allen Parson had joined the ranks of the musicians. The first confirmation class had the following members, Blythe Allen (Babb), Billie Jean Block, Robert Bell III, Brian Compton, Eldred Compton, William Kent Davis, Dennis Neiblas, and Stephen Robinson.

Pastor Freistedt and lay delegates, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel White attended the convention of the E.L.C. and we were officially accepted into the Southwest Synod.

Bill Schmidt headed our first stewardship program. Our choir was organized under the direction of Lily Greer. The young people started the Luther League Program which we now know as F.L.Y. We grow. We had our usual picnics, potlucks, social hours, and special films (no videos then). In August a two week VCS was held with 40 students and 10 teachers. There were always special services to celebrate church holidays.

Service of Organization, May 7, 1961



1962

We have another historical day in the life of our congregation with the election of our first full term Council of Faith; President Robert Friestedt, Vice President Dr. Robert Bell, Jr., Roy Besser, Daniel White, Ray Allen, James Nelson, William Schmidt, Robert Bills, Allen Parson, and Lowell Thompson. H.N. Elvig was appointed Treasurer and Eva Vaughan Secretary.

In February, we started talking about a building fund. Eugene Heckathorn of the Lutheran Laymen's Movement came to explain the fund raising service. Later, Wilber Menke directed the publicity and fundraising program.

This description is applied to our congregation, "The church does not have a mission; it is a mission." These words were in our hearts and minds. Some people said, "Wait until we get a church building, then we will grow." If we do not reach out and bring others to Christ now, we will hardly do it when we have a building. We grow.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Parson accompanied Pastor to the first annual convention of the Pacific Southwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. This marked the merger of four Lutheran bodies. Dr. Carl Segerhammer, formerly of the Augustana Church was elected president.

The Lutheran Church Women sewed new red cassocks and white surplices for the acolytes as well as making baptismal napkins.

Faith Parson was elected president of our congregation's Lutheran Church Women.



Bob Bell, Roy Besser

Eugene Heckathorn, Pastor Friestedt
Al Parson

1963

January had two special meetings for us as a congregation. The first one finalized the "new" church site at 4930 Newanga Ave. The second was to hire an architect to design our new church buildings. The firm of Blewet and McGowan of San Rafael was engaged to draw up the plans. We now needed a building committee which was chaired by Walter Brelje. The committee was composed of Dr. Robert Bell, Roy Besser, Mrs. James Nelson, Daniel White and Pastor Freistedt.

During the year the master plan of development was approved with hopes to start construction on the first units in early Spring of 1964

We celebrated Easter Sunrise Service at the site of our future church home. How exciting, the neighbor's roosters even crowed on cue. Our member, Barney Dross, constructed a wooden cross (which is now behind the altar under the oaks) for the service. Barney was a charter member, master carpenter, story teller, Santa Claus, handyman, helper, AA adviser, father and husband to Freida.

Sunday Church School gained in attendance. Don Christensen was named superintendent. The need then, as it is now, was for more teachers. A quote from Don's report, "When we get into our new church, the space problem will be taken care of" (Oh, how we wish).

Luther League was active with an average of 22 members. Kathy Benedetti was their president.

We had a volunteer office staff with Eva Vaughan coordinating the ladies doing the secretarial work.

Our choir had twelve members under the direction of Lily Greer. Dorothy White led the youth choir.

In June a "Fun and Fellowship" night was sponsored by the Lutheran Church Women. This was held at the church property for the congregation and friends. An oriental theme was used and we dressed for the occasion. A buffet dinner was served and the entire evening, including excellent entertainment, was considered a success.

There was rejoicing among the members when the Board of American Missions approved our architectural plans and returned them to us.

Our "Red Cottage" was known as the "Fellowship House" and also served as our church office. Many, many decisions and friends were made inside its walls.

The property report given by Chairman Roy Besser states that during the year several work parties were held to cut down the weeds and general clean-up of the site and Fellowship House. Two of the chicken houses were torn down and the use of a third chicken house has been planned for storage.

Late fall brought cold weather and also a plea from Lutheran World Relief for used clothing. We collected eighteen boxes and delivered them to the depot at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Ray Allen was chairman for this event. The Lutheran Church Women sponsored gifts to be taken to Eldredge State Hospital for the mentally retarded in Glen Ellen. Mrs. Allen Parson was president for this term.

News Release

Sexagesima Sunday at Faith Lutheran will highlight the place of the laymen in the work of the church. There will be celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the installation of newly elected councilmen - Messrs, Don Christensen, Thomas Freeman, William Schmidt, Ray Allen, Elmer Burns, and Richard Sergaent together with the affirmation of the vows of the returning councilmen. The following were also installed: Dr. Robert Bell, President; Mr. Allen Parson, Vice President; Mrs. Sander Torgeson, Secretary; Mr. H. N. Elvig, Treasurer.

A big loss was when the White family moved in April. They contributed so much to our existence. Replacing Dan White on the building committee was Tom Freeman.

In May, the day arrived for us to break ground for our new church buildings. We caravanned up to the church site following service at the Art and Garden Center on Yulupa. Dr. Anders Farstrup, regional secretary of the Board of American Missions was there for the dedication. We all had shovels in hand to help celebrate the occasion. Christensen and Foster, building contractors in Santa Rosa submitted the low bid of approximately \$63,000 and substantially completed construction in early October.

We had another Fun and Festival celebration and this time the theme was India. Mrs. Don Williams, President of the LCW, wrote in her report that the women had worked hard to make the aims of a year ago actual accomplishments. The LCW contributed both money and many hours of work on altar paraments. Ruth Elvig did the couching on the white and green paraments and Donna Besser, Ruth Thompson, and Ruth Bell worked on the purple and red. "Christmons" for the holiday tree was another big project. The linens used on the altar were made by Mrs. Walter Vaughan. New bronze altar furnishing were purchased and the candlesticks are still being used today.

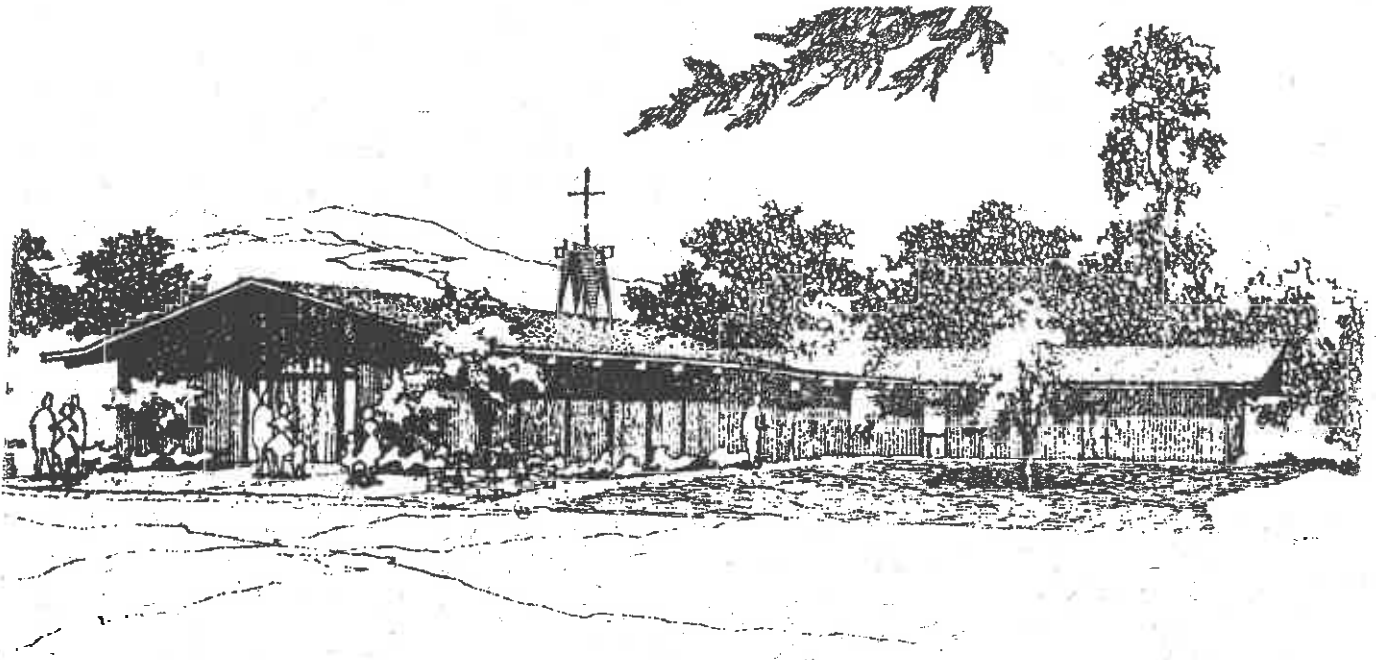
We have grown from four families to a membership of 154 confirmed members and a total of 240 baptized members. These were the figures in September of 1964 as we moved into our new church facilities. As we left the Art and Garden Center, members picked up items from the temporary worship service and moved them to the new church buildings in a car caravan. We have our first service in our own church. Dedication Sunday was October 11, 1964.

Pastor Freistedt resigned at the end of October as he felt the need to serve in some other area. He moved to San Diego and became a chaplain in the US Navy. Carl Berg became our interim pastor.

Our church is now established in our permanent home. We have all this room to grow. The beautiful oaks, and the surrounding pasture lands gives something special for us to enjoy and feel blessed. We thank God.



SERVICE OF DEDICATION



Faith Lutheran Church

4930 NEWANGA AVE - SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

October 11, 1964 - 6:30 p.m.

"ROOM TO WORSHIP"

"ROOM TO PLAY"



We start the year by welcoming the Rev. S. O. Thorlaksson, who replaced Pastor Berg. He will be our interim pastor until June, (the six months he was here he lived in the Red Cottage). He was a native of Finland and served as chaplain for the Bishop of Finland prior to moving to the United States. He spoke eleven languages. Pastor Toivo Harjupa was our guest speaker that day.

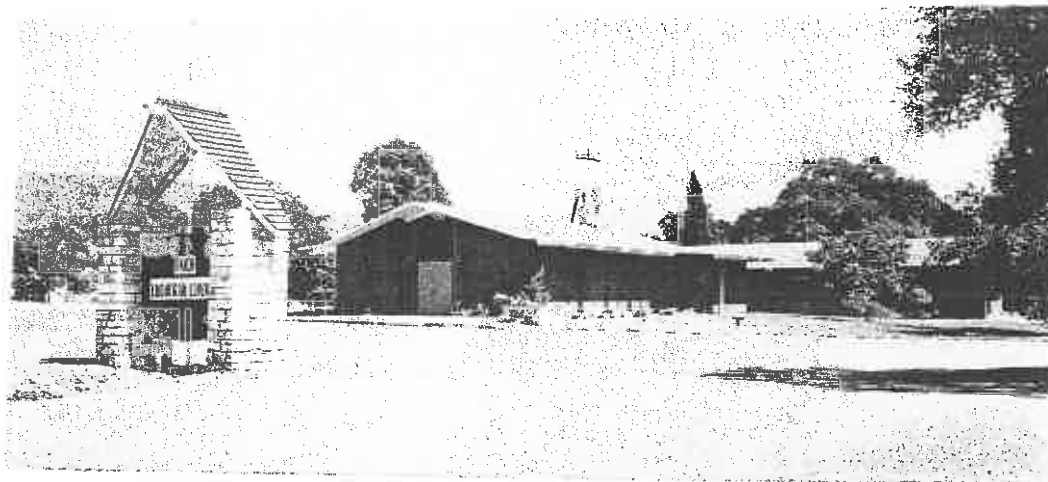
The council voted to have regular Lenten services beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Maunday Thursday. This was the first time we had Lenten services led by laymen. They were conducted by Art Lindberg, and Dr. Robert Bell. We are also having two services on Sunday mornings.

In March an official call was sent to the Rev. Elvin S. Hansen to become our pastor. He accepted and was installed on June 27th. Pastor Hansen, his wife, Esther, three sons and a daughter moved into the parsonage. They felt the need for another bedroom and also be closer to the church, and so we sold the one in St. Francis Acres for \$23,500 and purchased another at 2021 Woodward. They held an open house in early December for the entire congregation. Pastor Hansen writes in his annual report that, "The first six months have been interesting and exciting getting to know the congregation and its program and has been a pleasure, for I have found its people taking responsibility in a dedicated way to carry on the function of the church".

There are approximately 15 to 20 members in the choir under the leadership of Lily Green. In December the council voted to look into the prospect of buying an organ. At present we are using a piano given to us by the White family.

Council president, Robert C. Bell, Jr., DDS writes that "Thanks should be given to the council (Ray Allen, Roy Besser, Donald Christensen, Walter Brelje, John Lundberg, Art Lindberg, Elmer Burns, Tom Freeman, Richard Pearson, Bill Schmidt, and Al Parson), the choir, pianists and organists, the church office secretaries, ushers, altar guild and acolytes, Sunday School teachers (Don Christensen, superintendent), and the Luther League (Sue Christensen [Woods], president). In addition we thank the Women of the Church who have responded every time they were asked and initiated programs that were of benefit to the church and the community (Mrs. Don Williams).

The Luther League had an interesting year, an ice cream social, swim parties, hosted a treasure hunt and a party with Bethlehem, and invited a speaker from the community. They also had a Tuesday night clean-up on the property (followed by a party), hosted a Seminary District Luther League Rally, had a Halloween Party with St. Marks, and ended the year by planning and building an outdoor manger scene and made it come alive for two nights with a live pageant of the Christmas Story. As if that were not enough, they went to San Francisco to sing Christmas Carols as they rode cable cars. Mr. and Mrs. Noel Barrie were their advisors.



1966

The highlight of the annual meeting was the passage of the motion to purchase an organ for \$4,300. Elected to council were Guy Coats, Hjelmer Elvig, Louis Faivre, and Richard Sergeant. A special gift from the Ed Dermott Family made it possible to purchase choir robes.

"Dedication of the mural in the Fellowship Hall (now Hummon Hall) was held with a brief service. The lovely representation of the marching flags of the Reformation was taken from the bulletin cover for Reformation Sunday 1965. The original is a rendering of an idea proposed by the Fortress Press and painted by Davis Detzler. Permission was granted for its use as a mural. Our artists who saw the possibilities and completed the work are; Mrs. Robert C. Bell, Jr., Miss Judy Eng (Dick), and Mrs. Allen Parson. The mural measures 26 feet x 10 feet at its highest point and five feet at each end" (from the April 17, 1966 Bulletin).

In May Art Lindberg went to the Annual Synod Meeting in Los Angeles as lay delegate along with Pastor Hansen.

Our annual report shows records of growth and accomplishments. We had our first wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Watson, newcomers to our church. The quality of our music under the direction of Lily Greer, choir director and organist, ably assisted at the organ and piano by Mrs. Al Parson and Miss Elaine Hansen adds inspiration to our worship.

Dr. Robert Bell served as president for a second term. Gladys Torgeson was secretary. Don Christensen was Sunday School Superintendent. There are 83 students enrolled and 10 teachers.

The Worship and Music committee was headed by Lucille Smith. She wrote that the first responsibility was to insure that the services of God's house have been conducted properly and in accordance with the liturgy of the church. This is no problem as the services are always conducted in a proper manner.

LCW had a busy year helping to staff the Protestant Community Center twice a month besides gathering food for the shelter. The nursery in the Red Cottage was painted. A box of hand rolled bandages was sent to Tanzania. For the fourth year we held a "Fun and Festival", this time with a Hawaiian theme. The women made tray favors for the convalescent hospital and mailed Christmas packages to the young men in service. Mrs.

Thomas Freeman was president.

The Luther League was also active with Elaine Hansen, president. In reading over the report that they gave there was bowling with the Jewish youth group, followed by fellowship time, to Berkeley for Spring Rally, trips to the ocean and river, camp-outs at Armstrong Woods, a progressive dinner having many surprises, including "platter-chatter" with banana splits at the last stop, the Emmels. In October there was a "Halloween Spook House (I think that was held in the old chicken house). Another live pageant and caroling at the end of the year. Elaine writes that not all was fun and play for the Leaguers. They harvested the walnuts and sold them to the church members at well below market price to net about \$40.00. Our program is fun, study and service.

1967

"NEW LIFE", the theme for Lutherans in the 450th anniversary year. We proclaimed it at the Sonoma County Fair where we had a stall. The portrait of Luther nailing the theses on the door at Wittenberg was drawn by Ruth Bell and painted by Judy Eng (Dick), and it served as a backdrop. Information about Lutheran Churches was handed out. At the banquet, the inspirational address was given by Dr. Paul Empe, General Secretary for the USA National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation. We heard music from the all Lutheran Choir and the Santa Rosa Symphony played the Reformation Symphony. It marked a first in a unified and ecumenical witness by all Lutheran Churches working together in local matters. Pastor Elvin Hansen who was president of the council expressed appreciation to Dr. Robert Bell who served as chairman of the committee.

Elected to Council were Mrs. Ed Dermott (many of the Christmas programs were directed by her), Mr. Dave Chance (built the large storage cabinets in Hummon Hall that we used for many years), Mr. Moss and Elmer Burns (who served as Sunday School superintendent, treasurer, head of ushering committee, and stewardship chairman).

Marianne Burns served as LCW president. Our Fun and Fellowship festival was held in June with a Latin American theme. We made blankets and rolled bandages for Lutheran World Relief. We made cookies and wrapped gifts for our servicemen. Some of our programs had guest speakers, others featured films or studies.

Luther League was lead by Greg Bean. The young people participated in Youth Sunday, Seminary District Rallies, camp-outs 450th Anniversary Rally at St. Lukes Church, Christmas Pageant, and Caroling in San Francisco.



1968

Charter members and early members of Faith Lutheran Church are both shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Mr. Daniel H. White. He and his family were instrumental in making the first contact with The United Lutheran Church in America to draw out their interest in establishing a mission in Santa Rosa which became Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. He was a strong leader, serving the church wherever there was a need. He was on a business trip to the west coast from Milwaukee. He passed away last Thursday in Denver enroute home. He stopped in Santa Rosa briefly last week. Our prayers of sympathy and consolation are extended in behalf of his family at this time

From March 24, 1968 Bulletin

In his memory we established the Daniel H. White Memorial Garden. The dedication was September 1st. Dan's Wife Dorothy attended. Dr. Robert C. Bell, Jr. gave the tribute. The dedication was given by The Rev. A Everett Nielson, assistant to the President of the Pacific Southwest Synod.

Our January bulletin tells of our first "folk music", introduced at our 8:30 AM service, which brought a fresh approach, the kind being experimented with in many parts of the country and by many churches.

A mother-daughter luncheon was held and the committee consisted of Donna Besser, Shirley Williams, Esther Christensen, Marianne Burns, and Ruth Thompson. Their names may not have been mentioned often in these reports but they were always there when needed.

Newly elected members of the church council were Mrs. Doris Hix, Mrs. Mildred Linden, Mr. Don Christensen, and Mr. Thomas Freeman.

In August, the congregation honored Pastor and Mrs. Hansen on their 25th wedding anniversary with a dinner party.

Our hearts were saddened by the death of charter member Fred Moneymaker.

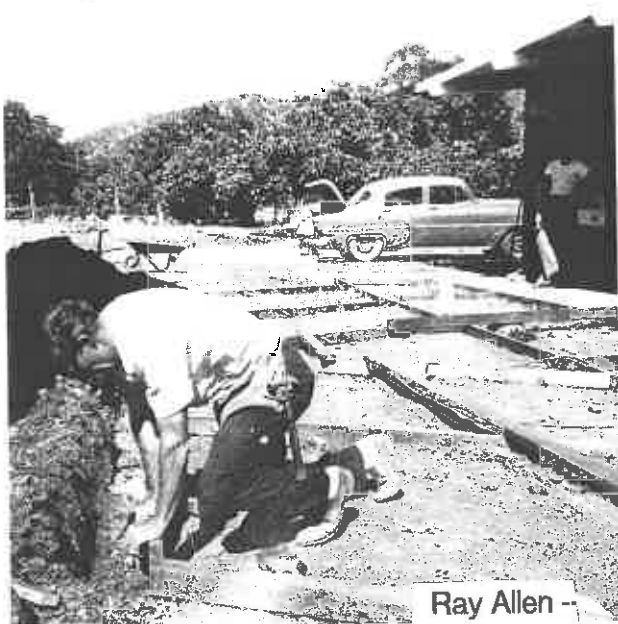
After many years as Sunday School Superintendent, Don Christensen retired and was succeeded by Elmer Burns. After serving six years as chairman of the alter committee, Ruth Elvig asked to be relieved of those duties. Her successor was Donna Besser. Esther Christensen replaced Doris Hix as director of acolytes and Betty Freeman took over the responsibility of Memorial Fund Secretary. Elmer Burns continued as head usher. Judy Lindberg has taken care of the nursery scheduling for many years. She was also our delegate to synod convention.

Throughout the year, the LCW made pajamas for the children of Vietnam, quilt blankets for Asia, and bandages made from old sheets for Africa.

The LCW also had charge of the coffee hour after church. Another project was the baking and packaging of cookies the first of every month for wounded servicemen returning to Travis Air Force Base. At Christmas time

tray favors were made and given to four rest homes. A busy year, but still time for "Fun and Festival", Japanese style. Marianne Burns was president.

If you think the LCW had a busy year, read the activities of the Luther League, which included, presenting the folk service, speakers, a hike to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain, attending district rallies, helping at Vacation Bible School, a "short" fifteen mile hike, followed by dinner at the Emmels. Three hours and 96 tacos later they had 27 fat Leaguers. There was baseball, a bike safari for the younger members of the congregation, harvesting of walnuts (200 lbs), a mini rally at Fort Bragg. There's more with Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas events. Debbie Faivre served as president. After all that, the sponsors must have been tired. I know I am.



Ray Allen --



Pastor Elvin Hansen

WORKING ON THE DAN WHITE MEMORIAL GARDEN 1968



1969.

The year started with the Youth of the Church handling the folk service. At the annual meeting Dr. Robert Bell and Mr. Roy Besser were reelected to council, along with Mr. Charles Hammond, and Mr. Harold Sorensen. Don Christensen was president. Mildred Linden was our delegate to synod convention.

LCW was busy with its Bible studies, projects and gifts to Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Social Services. The ladies also helped at the Rescue Mission. There was a trip to Berkeley for a tour of the Pacific Seminary and the wonderful view of the Bay Area--what sights to see. We continued our work for the Vietnam servicemen. Mother-daughter luncheon, and the "Fun and Festival" were special functions for the congregation. Lily Greer was our delegate to the LCW Convention at Asilomar. Esther Hansen served as our president.

Please note that for some years the Sunday School Classes have given school supplies to the Rocky Boy Indian Mission at Box Elder, Montana.

The "Couples Club" has also met for a number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Rich Pearson were the first to organize it. This afforded a social time for us and was usually a potluck with the host providing the entree. Entertainment could be slide shows given by our travelers, games, story tellers, semiprofessional dancers, sing alongs, or just good conversation. We knew one another and we were family. There were times we had service projects, such as one evening repairing toys at Welfare League's "Christmas Unlimited", and trimming the tree and decorating the church for Christmas.

Bob Sergeant led the Luther League this year with its many activities, spaghetti feeds, camp-outs, trips to the snow country, swim parties, folk service "Rejoice", Sunrise Service at Mt. Gilboa, Trips to San Francisco, live nativity scene, etc. etc. etc.

Mr. Charles Christian was appointed to Council to fill the unexpired term of Kris Dermott. Mr. Robert Duncan replaced Mr. Harold Sorensen.

In December Pastor Hansen submitted his resignation to accept a call at St. Marks Church in San Fernando. He writes in the annual report, "I close this report with words of deepest personal thanks for the kindness and cordiality you have extended to us all through the years we have been in Santa Rosa. Our prayers will always rise in your behalf." Signed, Elvin S Hansen, Pastor. The council accepted with regret the resignation of Pastor Hansen.



Again we find ourselves without a pastor, but the work of the church goes on. Thank goodness, we have competent lay people and interim pastors, Ed Hummon, and John Zeltin. The church calendar continues along the same lines.

In April Mr. George Falk accepted our call. He was ordained on June 14 in Concord. Several families from our congregation attended Pastor Falk's ordination. He was installed on the 21st of June. A reception followed for The Reverend Falk, his wife Ethel, and their four children, Patricia, Cynthia, George, and Katherine. Fortunately our parsonage was large enough for them.

New things were happening. The contemporary Service of Worship and Celebration was introduced and became our regular service at 8:30 AM

A newly-organized parent cooperative nursery was started for children in the three year old group. This was not run by our congregation.

The Reverend Edward Hummon (retired) and his wife Mildred joined our congregation. God knew we needed him.

In September, the Council went on retreat to write a "Statement of Purpose" (one of many) for our church.

Our hearts were saddened by the death of Thomas Kjeldgard.

The Alter Guild seems to do its work quietly, behind the scenes. Those that prepare the altar for Sunday worship services are Emma Chance, Edith Ricker, Esther Christensen, Dee Pearson, Elaine Finger, Mildred Hummon, Sandra Wilkening, Ethel Falk, and Donna Besser. Some have done this for years.

There is always something to do on the property, re-staining the buildings, picnic tables, repainting parking strips, and refinishing doors. You should have seen the look on some of the faces when they saw the blue doors. Arrangements were made with a neighbor to use the back acreage for his livestock. This solved our weed problem in that area. The youth group erected a basketball hoop for its own use and for the benefit of the neighborhood.

With no paid janitor, it was up to the congregation to keep the buildings clean. We have done so with our parish care groups.

The LCW continued to have their regular activities, Bible studies, hosting receptions, etc. Besides the Mother/ Daughter Luncheon this year, the LCW prepared a banquet for a Father/Son Evening. Dr. George Rostel showed his abilities as a magician. Esther Christensen was elected delegate to Asilomar. After two years of baking cookies for our servicemen it (fortunately) was time to stop. Yvonne Hudson had charge of collecting and packaging these boxes, an probably baked dozens. Doris Hix was president.

Carol Parson (Sergeant) headed the Luther League program. Ice skating and a ski trip to Boreal started off the year. Later there was a swim party and a return to get some of Mrs. Emmel's "famous" tacos, plus kite flying, and camp-outs. Sounds like fun time. A "kidnapping party" welcomed the Falk kids. Not all was fun and games. The youth found that a car wash was a very successful undertaking. The money earned went to defray some of the church organ's repair costs. In the Fall a new set of guidelines were drawn up. The former Luther League is now referred to FAITH YOUTH! Year's end found them caroling, partying, and presenting the traditional nativity scene. Carol Parson (Sergeant) was their leader.

1971 marks a special time as this year we celebrate our 10th anniversary of organization. We will write more about this later.

Pastor Falk writes in his annual report, "It is most gratifying to detect the struggles and frustrations of some committees and the church council. They are to be commended for their dedication and personal stewardship. In the future a broader base must be sought among the membership. The standing committee structure should be continuously evaluated for a possible re-alignment and/or reorganization".

Good news was that for the first time in our history we realized a record income, enabled us to eliminate seeking salary aid funds from the Board of American Missions. 100% of our accepted benevolence was reached, as well as giving considerable amounts to other causes during the year. (Elmer Burns reported.)

Newly elected council members for 1971 were Mr. Richard Hays, Mr. Gary Wilkening, Mr. Russell Letherman and Mr. Ron Hudson. Mr. Roy Besser served as president of the congregation.

Parish night was instituted for all committees to meet on the same night, at which all programs and plans for the church were initiated and presented to Council.

Among the requests that the Worship and Music Committee made in 1971 was that girls be allowed to participate as acolytes with the approval of Pastor.

It should be noted that we have continued through the last couple of years to make donations to the Blood Bank for the use of our members when needed.

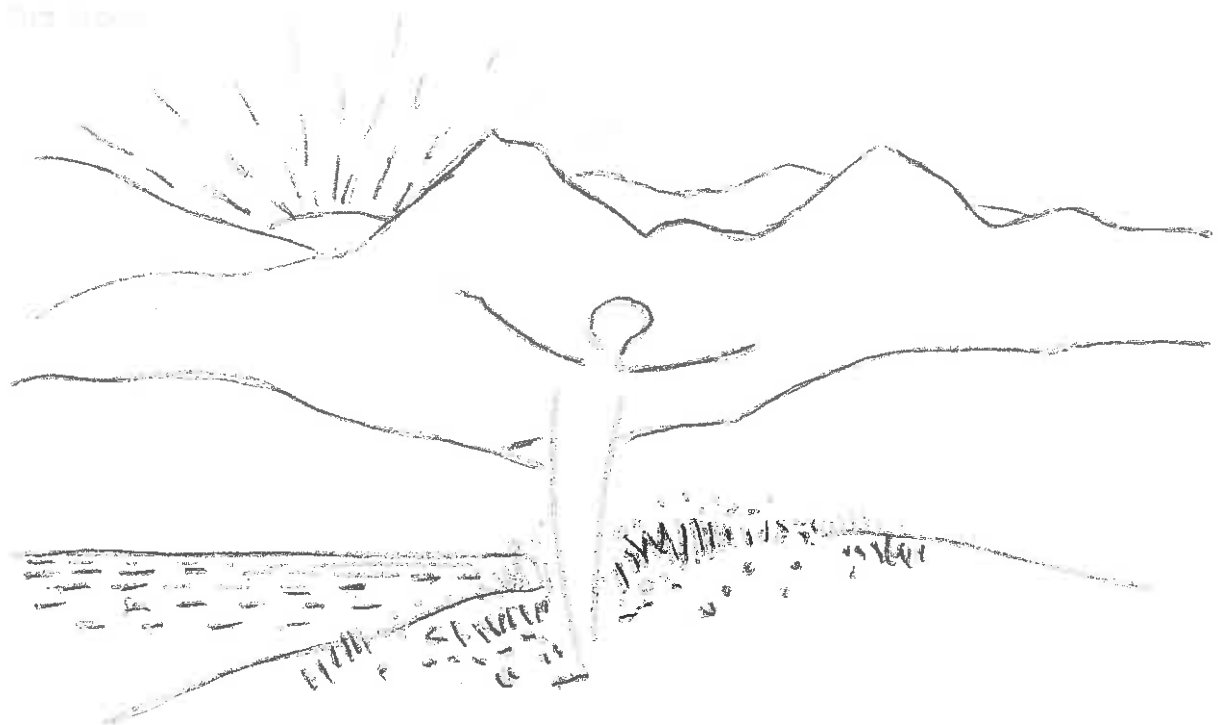
Lutheran Church Women grew in its active membership. For the first time program leaders presented their agendas to both circles which proved to be quite successful. The programs ranged through: book review, a lesson in church architecture, symbols and liturgies, travel slides of the Holy Land, studies in the "Miracle", current topics and a "Soul Food" dinner with real soul food. That evening was shared with the ladies of St. Marks. A one day retreat was held at White Sulfur Springs at St Helena. The theme was "Quest of the Best".

Special events presented by the LCW: Mother/Daughter--Father/Son Banquets, midsummer potluck salad luncheon and the Fun and Festival which was "Oktoberfest", chaired by Faith Parson. Projects were making quilts, rolling bandages, cleaning cupboards and rugs, serving at wedding receptions, repairing hymnals, visiting elderly persons, and those in the county dependent wards. Ruth Bell served as president.

Carol Parson (Sergeant) lead the youth group in another busy year. They earned money for their activities by having two car washes and the harvesting and selling of walnuts. This made possible a snow trip, and a bike rally. They also visited San Francisco to see "The Committee".

Doris Hix was president.

Carol Parson (Sergeant) headed the Luther League program. Ice skating and a ski trip to Boreal started off the year. Later there was a swim party and a return to get some of Mrs. Emmel's "famous" tacos, plus kite flying, and camp-outs. Sounds like fun time. A "kidnapping party" welcomed the Falk kids. Not all was fun and games. The youth found that a car wash was a very successful undertaking. The money earned went to defray some of the church organ's repair costs. In the fall, a new set of guidelines were drawn up. The former Luther League is now referred to FAITH YOUTH! Year's end found them caroling, partying, and presenting the traditional nativity scene. Carol Parson (Sergeant) was their leader.



We are 10
Bulletins of years
past decorate the table



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCA), will celebrate its 10th anniversary Sunday.

Prior to building its present facilities at 4930 Newanga Ave. in 1964, the congregation met for worship service at Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center. At that time the pastor was the Rev. Robert Freistedt.

In 1965, The Rev. Elvin S. Hansen became pastor and served until January 1970. The Rev George K. H. Falk is now pastor.

Since 1961 the congregation has grown from four families to 342 baptized members.

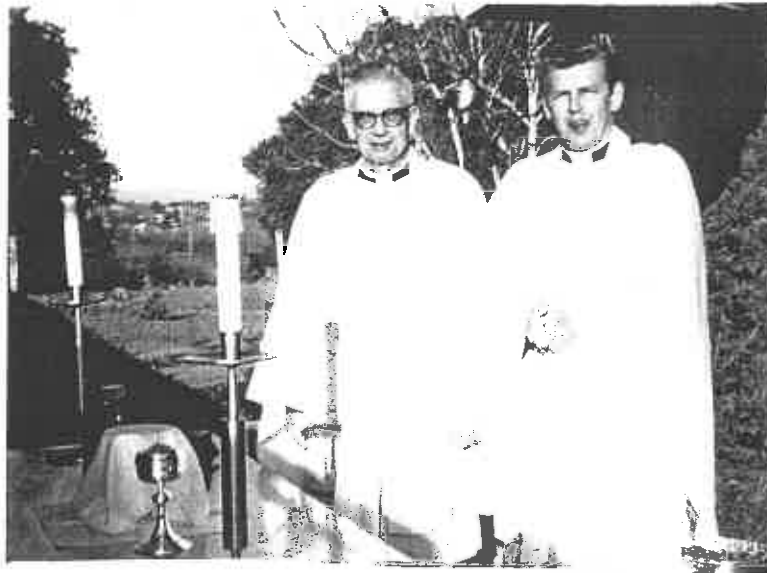
The special service of celebration will be held at 3:00 pm. The liturgist will be Pastor Falk. The sermon will be delivered by The Rev. Carl Segerhammar, President of the Pacific Southwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

A congregational dinner will be held in the social hall following the dinner.



Carl W. Segerhammar, D.D.,
President of Pacific Southwest Synod,
was present for this occasion,
pictured here with Pastor Falk





The Rev. Ed Hummon DD
and Pastor George Falk

1972

Our annual meeting did not open with a bang, just the usual reports, minor changes in our constitution, and the election of council members. Mr. Richard Sackett was elected and Mr. Roy Besser, Mr. Don Christensen, and Mr. Charles Hammond were reelected.

The following is quoted from the Link, "We sought a goal of \$1,000 from twenty people to relieve our interest indebtedness to the Board of American Missions. WE REACHED OUR GOAL OF TWENTY TERRIFIC SAINTS, but fell short of the Financial Goal by 20%. We received \$800 in Pledge Now--and will submit this amount. OUR CUP IS RUNNING OVER!!!"

The Church Council approved a new program for the Worship Life of our congregation by the formation of a group headed by Art Lindberg. Initially he and two other members, Lowell Thompson and Larry Spielman will be assisting the pastor with the liturgy on Sunday mornings. Our "Celebrate" calls for some portions to use assistants.

Several girl volunteers were added to the acolyte list (another first).

Our Baptismal Font Cover was presented to the congregation by the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Ed Hummon and dedicated to the Glory of the Almighty God and in honor of their grandson, Sean H. Dennis. The cover was sculpted by Mrs. Robert C. Bell, Jr., and is a gift of love given in gratitude to the Lord and His Church.

Mr. Hjlmer Elvig quietly performed many duties within the church, making certain our constitution read correctly, by taking on the Synod when he felt that its version was incorrect and not legal. Later Synod agreed with him and reworked its recommended form. This happened when we first organized. He served as usher, treasurer, and full time member of our property committee. One humorous sight was that of Hjlmer supervising the burning of remnants of one of our chicken coops. The fire was a tad larger than he expected. Even though he was there with hose at the ready, it was of little value because the well was not providing enough water to produce more than a trickle. With the flames shooting skyward he

never left his post. It was a glorious sight. He and his wife, Ruth grew the most beautiful gladiolas, which they shared with us by providing flowers for our altar.

Gary Wilkening heads the Social Ministry Committee. Two hundred and twenty-five pounds of clothing were collected for Lutheran World Relief. Twelve pints of blood were donated in 1972 making 41 pints in the church account at the Blood Bank.

As Finance Committee Chairman, Jim Kensinger met with President Roy Besser and Pastor Falk to develop a better "form" of reporting to the church council the actual income and expenses as they relate to the budget.

The church services were changed to 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

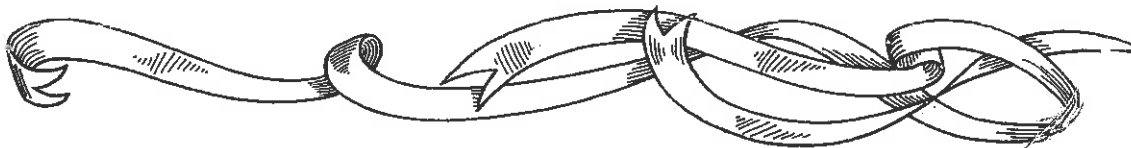
"The Sunday School got underway with what appears to be a good schedule. Nursery, kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 8th grades meet at 9:30 AM Third, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades meet at 11:AM All of the students meet in the church for the opening worship and hear a short children's sermon, which has become very popular with the adults as well as the students." This was a partial report from Howard Finger, School Superintendent.

The Women of Faith (LCW) met regularly and continued hosting the Mother/Daughter Luncheon and the Father/Son Barbecue, an Ice Cream Social to end with a Salad Luncheon and swim party. Their projects included gathering materials for Klenli-Kits (personal care) and Activiti-Kits. Bandages were rolled and mailed (for a leper colony in Africa), material squares were sent to an Indian Mission and donations made to the Board of American Missions. For our church, two acolytes albs were purchased and sewn. A chair cart was purchased and masks were made for the Sunday School Christmas Program. Two coffee pots and a table cloth were purchased using Betty Crocker coupons. (Please note that the ladies have purchased silverware, candlesticks plus other items through the use of these coupons). Many women also donated items through a "kitchen shower" for our church use. Esther Christensen served as president.

Faith Youth had a car wash, a spaghetti dinner, and a sale of walnuts to help finance the support of a foster child living overseas. Once a month they meet with St. Marks youth to share activities. President Randy Finger said there was a snow trip, the annual camp-out, decorating London House Convalescent Hospital for Christmas, plus caroling and a party.

The year ended with a special Christmas music program arranged by choir director, Lily Greer. Organists were Barbara Anderson and Faith Parson.

In November Pastor Falk announced to the congregation that he had accepted a call to Lord of Life Lutheran near Houston, Texas. His last day with this parish was December 29, 1972



1973

Once again we start the year without a pastor. Fortunately for our members, we had a fellow member, Dr. Edward Hummon, Ret., that provided care on behalf of the Vice-Pastor Kenneth Stenmon, named by Synod. Roy Besser was elected Council President. The Council approved placing a one inch ad in the Press Democrat to advertise our church services. Elmer Burns retired as church treasurer. For years, Elmer has served this congregation as Head Usher, Sunday School Superintendent, Treasurer and Councilman.

The Vietnam War ended. Dr. Hummon lead a special prayer service on Saturday, February 27th at 4:00 PM, the time coordinated with the signing of the peace agreement. The phones were ringing to call our members and friends to this special moment in history. So many came on such short notice.

Lutheran youth were busy this year, adopting a girl at an orphanage in the Philippines, having a garage sale, snow trip, camp outs, swim parties, and sending six of their members to a youth gathering along with their leaders, Howard and Elaine Finger in Houston, Texas. There was caroling, visiting London house, on several occasions, harvesting and selling walnuts to cover some of their expenses.

In April our congregation sent letters to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration supporting the astronaut's reading the Bible from their space craft and to support the right of every human being to express his faith on God and the Bible publicity without fear of censure.

Pastor Lorents J. Flak was called to become the new Pastor of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. He will assume that position in June. The parsonage will be sold because Pastor and Mrs. Flak desire to purchase their own residence. The Flak's have two children, Beth and Jon.

On July 24th, our beloved Dr. Hummon died after a short illness. In his honor, Hummon Hall was named. A funeral pall that was purchased with Memorial Fund money was dedicated. Dr. Hummon served as a pastor in Illinois, Colorado, and Washington prior to moving to Santa Rosa, California. He was a teacher, counselor, pastor but most of all, he was our friend. His wife Mildred lives in San Rafael and worships with us occasionally.

A new logo has been adopted to be used on our church stationary, Pastor's calling cards, and in our church ad. This symbol was designed by Ruth Bell.

Janet Hammond reported for the Social Ministry committee that approximately 100 pounds of clothing, and blankets were sent to Lutheran World Relief. The account

at the Blood Bank continues to grow. \$120 were given to Santa Rosa Community Ministries.

The Faith Lutheran Church Women had a busy year. Rolled bandages were still needed. They created three banners, did some necessary house cleaning in the kitchen and Red Cottage. They served at the 50th Wedding Anniversary for Hjlmer and Ruth Elvig and installation and reception for Pastor Flak. Many sweaters were collected for Lutheran World Relief. Shirley Williams served as president.

Finance director Gary Wilkening reported that the parsonage was sold for \$33,500. Those serving on council were Roy Besser, Chuck Hammond, Lily Greer, Gary Wilkening, Richard Sackett, Russ Letherman, Ron Hudson, Paula Nordby, Don Christensen, Robert Bell, Howard Finger Joanne Lantz.

Pastor Lorents J. Flak -1973





THE REVEREND EDWARD E. HUMMON DD 1906 - 1973

In a short period of time one man had a profound effect upon our congregation. Dr. Hummon, a servant of Christ, a member of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, gave us an example, he gave himself. As Albert Schweitzer said, "Example is not the main thing in influencing others: it is the only thing."

We loved his example. The tears that were shed were shed for us, we realize our loss. Now we can strive to be like him in our service to Christ's Church.

Dr. Hummon, we thank God for him.

He died at Memorial Hospital in Santa Rosa July 24, 1973. The funeral service was held at Faith Lutheran Church.

Another busy year. Roy Besser remains as president of the council. Newly elected members are Blaine Delvaux, Marianne Burns and Marv Cavallero.

Easter time was special because 23 youth members participated in a Good Friday interpretive drama, "Were You There", directed by Jean Flak.

It should be noted that Mildred Linden has given her time and talent to typing and mimeographing much of the information, bulletins, and newsletters that come out of the office, which is located in the Red Cottage.

The Executive Board reports that we show a steady growth in membership. All current bills, including the mortgage are paid. Our benevolence gifted to Synod were over and above our pledge this year. It made us proud to be members of Faith Lutheran Church.

Greg Dahlquist was president of the youth group. They continued their activities as in the past years plus having an agape feast for the congregation and collected money for "Flower of the Dragon" which helped returning veterans.

Our "church library" was moved from Hummon Hall to "The Fireside Room" in the Red Cottage.

Vacation Church School for 1974 was very successful. Almost every member of the congregation was in some way involved in the program. This must have been some kind of record.

Donna Besser of the Worship and Music Committee writes that the first contemporary service was held April 21 at 11AM. We are very appreciative of the musicians who practice once a week to accompany the service. This service has changed the "church going habits" of some of our members, but our church continues to grow and reach out to many different people. Donna also mentioned in her report that the highlight of the holiday season was the beautiful Christmas Cantata, "Night of Miracles", presented at both services. Lily Greer, Barbara Leach, and Faith Parson are faithful and talented members who serve by playing the organ. Many others are always in the background, serving. Ruth Elvig, who schedules the greeters, Esther Christensen who schedules the acolytes and Betty Freeman who was in charge of the Memorial Fund.

Our lath house was turned into a meditation corner. Faith Parson created the "Prayer of St. Francis" wall board.

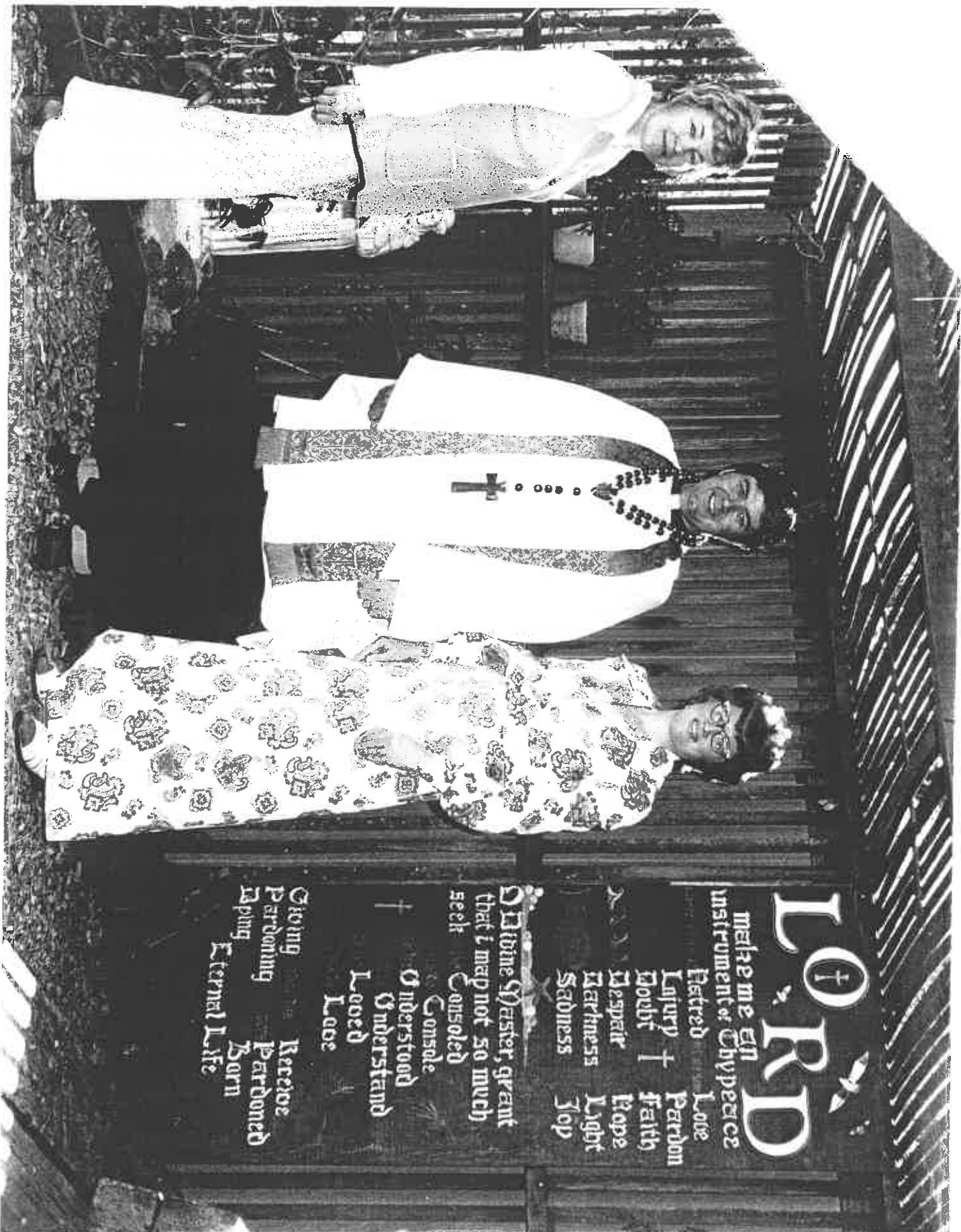
The recording of the year was "Song of Mystery" and Joy Breaking Out" sung by Pastor Flak and produced by Dr. R. C. Bell, Jr.

The Hammonds and the Fingers and their helpers provided a delicious Thanksgiving feast which they planned, cooked, and served for us to enjoy. They made \$24 profit which went to the Hunger Appeal Bank and we had a wonderful dinner.

FAITH PARSON

PASTOR FLAK

ELAINE FINGER



LORD
 make me an
 instrument of thy peace

Patred Love
 Injury + Pardon
 Doubt Faith
 Despair Hope
 Sadness Light
 Joy

O Divine Master, grant
 that I may not so much
 seek

Consoled
 Understood
 Loved
 Love

Giving Receive
 Pardoning Pardoned
 Dying Born
 Eternal Life

1975

Once again we, as a congregation, surpassed our Benevolence goal to Synod. We feel this is significant because of the overall success of the Stewardship Program. It also shows that as a congregation, we have placed our concern for others above that of our own.

Howard Finger was elected president of the congregation. Newly elected council members were Jerry Dahlquist, Glenn Johnston, Al Parson and Russ Letherman.

At the annual meeting, Pastor Flak reported that the average attendance for the contemporary service was 73.5 and 76.1 for the traditional service. A guest speaker was The Reverend Carl W. Segerhammer, President of the Pacific Southwest Synod. Since he is retiring, this was his last official visit to this area.

Faith Lutheran sponsored a softball team, coordinated by Gary and Jim Wilkening. Fortunately the game was for fun and not for win time.

President A. Besser wrote that the church youth held a "Hunger Fast" starting after a congregational dinner. This was a marathon for those participating and sponsors were needed. All money collected was given to the World Hunger Fund. In June, Faith youth held an Ice Cream Social. They gave a Christmas Party for a ward at Sonoma State Hospital (about 50 women). All was not work. They had their backpacking trip, bike riding in Golden Gate Park, snow trips dances and parties. They still had time to harvest walnuts.

Mr. and Mrs. Sy D. Hix presented a set of stoles to Faith Lutheran in loving memory of their parents.

Anna and Rebekah Circles continue to study the Book of Job, host luncheons and receptions and making tray favors for Santa Rosa Convalescent Hospital. The church benefited with some of their housekeeping in the kitchen and Red Cottage. We saved our postage stamps for Bethphage Home in Nebraska. We also saved nylons, Betty Crocker coupons (for silverware) and donated Blue Chip Stamps for kitchen items. Lucille Smith headed the LCW for 1975.

The Hammonds and the Fingers again hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for the congregation, this time with the help of the Roy Emmels. All moneys over the actual costs went to "The Flower of the Dragon".

Once again we were privileged to hear "Night of Miracles". Jeanine Dahlquist sang the soprano solo; Marianne Wilson, alto; tenor solo by Don Williams; Pastor Flak, baritone solo. Dr. Robert Bell Jr. was the narrator. What a great way to celebrate the Christmas Holiday and end another year.

1976

Our first woman to be elected Council President Marianne Burns, who presided over the annual meeting. Newly elected council members were Judy Bello, Will Gritter, Mike Lee and Pat Haug. Vice-president, Russell Letherman gave a brief description of "Parish Nights" and listed the responsibilities of its seven committees.

It should be noted that we continue to exceed our benevolence goal.

This was the year that we started our Social Ministry Program of the third Sunday of the month and presented to the congregation the various needs of the community.

Housekeeping crews (eight in all) kept the church buildings clean. Roy Emmel kept the lawns mowed. The entire congregation worked at the annual Spring cleanup.

The choir and the contemporary group made a joyful noise when they visited the Village Baptist Church in Marin City. This was in return for their choir presenting two concerts at our church.

Jeff Dahlquist headed the youth group. Sponsors were Val Peterson and Janet and Chuck Hammond. There were many fun activities, campouts, bike rides, and a snow trip, but also there were visits to Sonoma State Hospital, Christmas Caroling, church services and earning money for their projects.

This year the church women organized their third circle, Lydia. Anna and Rebeka were started during the first year of organization.

Sue Wilkening and Jean Flak headed the cook book project, "Food-Fancies from Faith" (good recipes I might add). Sixty-eight people helped with the "Country Faire", a successful money making project. Lucille Smith served as LCW President.

This was the year that our minister was escorted by the police to Easter Morning Sunrise Service. (See former Pastor Flak for further information.) Our softball team, managed by Gary Wilkening had its first and only win. To celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of our church we had a reception in the Memorial Garden after church service at which Pastor Stan Olson, assistant to the President of Synod, was guest preacher. There was a no-host dinner at Lena's Restaurant (\$6 per person) plus a special program.

Bells were rung following an outdoor worship service on July 4th to celebrate a nationwide observance of the 200th anniversary of the founding of our country.

Lani Thompson served as Sunday School Director. She wrote in her report, "Are we doing a good job? I believe so, but the people to give the true answer will be the children, not today, but 10, 20, 30 years from now."



CHOIR

FIRST ROW

Barbara Leach, organist; Judy Eng Moss; Blythe Babb; Virginia Whede; Shirley Williams; Cora Darling; Sammie Allen; Jeanine Dahlquist;

SECOND ROW

Lily Greer, choir director; Joanne Lantz; Carolyn Johnson; Ruth Parson; Marianne Wilson

BACK ROW

Faith Thompson; Val Petersen; Pastor Flak; Lowell Thompson; Don Williams; Larry Babb



Bell ringing by the congregation to celebrate our country's 200th Birthday. (1976)





Officer Bob Anderson
talking to a VCS class.

1977

This was a good year. We experienced growth in every area. The marriage Encounter movement was in place and many members of our church took part in it. Two dear members of our congregation died, Mildred Laver and Hjlmer Elvig. We had always been able to turn to Hjlmer for advice, whether it be financial, constitutional or for repairing a foundation. He and Ruth gave many hours, days, and years to further the growth of Faith. Our council President, Will Gritter wrote in his report that the most tangible evidence of our progress was to be seen in the increased participation of our members.

Val Peterson was added to our list of organist, that included Barbara Leach, Faith Parson, and Lily Greer. We are fortunate to have these talented people as a part of our church family.

Confirmation classes were changed from a two year program to a three year program so it would give more time to teach all of the material needed. Lani Thompson reported that 80 students were enrolled in church school with an average attendance of 48.

Believe it or not the Altar Guild used to make all those palm crosses that we give out on Easter Sunday.

F.L.Y. (Faith Lutheran Youth) painted the Red Barn (yes, we had a barn/chicken coop) that we used for storage and a Halloween spook house. President Terry Finger wrote that it was an active year with campouts, snow trips, regular visits to Sonoma State Hospital and participating in church activities.

Fifteen ladies attended the Pacific Southwest Synod L.C.W. convention at Asilomar. Throughout the year the ladies were busy with activities ranging from making tray flowers and knitting slippers to hosting Mother-Daughter luncheons, Father-son banquets, arranging for speakers on social issues, Bible studies, etc, etc, etc. Melodies Dahlinger was our president.

"Quoting Pastor Flak from his year-end report, "I don't know what the future will bring-all I know is that we will walk together in the faith that God is beside us, guiding us along new paths and ever new beginnings."

1978

Will Gritter was elected to serve as Council resident for a second term. Newly elected members were Emile Emmel, Gene Darling, Thomas Reinecke and Marianne Wilson.

Will Gritter wrote in his report that 1978 can be seen as a time in which we tried among other things, to be a caring people of God.

Over 40 people attended our "Soup, Salad, and Scholar". This was Dr. Goese's series on "Theology of the Cross vs. theology of Glory".

Evangelism Chairman, Elaine finger, wrote that the committee visited inactive and active members as well as prospective members. New member packets, including keys to the church, were handed out to 31 new members.

Yes, we had a volleyball team. Judy and Tom Reinecke were in charge and the team won the league championship.

Sammie Allen was responsible for the "profiles" of new members in the church "Link" each month.

This was the year we purchased 125 new green hymnals, the "Lutheran Book of Worship". Many members gave hymnals in honor of or in memory of friends and loved ones. We started using them the first Sunday in Advent.

The Men's Club was active as well. Mick Anderson wrote that the meetings were of a very relaxed type and the discussions were on a variety of subjects (no change there). The men did serve Easter breakfast and this year they served soup and sandwiches at the Country Faire held at our church in December. Monies were given towards the purchase of tables.

Terry Finger served as president of Faith Lutheran youth. Fun time was a trip to San Francisco for dinner, a snow trip and a Valentine Dance. Activities included an Encounter Group dealing with drugs and alcohol led by Diane Warner, visiting the ladies at Sonoma State Hospital, a car wash and fixing up the nursery. Grant Doering, Val Peterson and the Proknows were sponsors.

Historian's Note:

In reading over the report of the Lutheran Church Women written by Melodie Dahlinger, President, I had forgotten the love, sharing, support, activities, learning and good times we had. Is it possible to live it again?



1979 began with Chuck Hammond being elected President of the Church Council. Chuck was to serve on Council for many years and as we go into the 21st century, he is still among the leaders of Faith Church. Newly elected councilmen were Val Peterson, Debra Hammond, Gordon Stedman, and Eileen Flater. Bob Bell and Betty Freeman have been serving as Treasurer and Financial Secretary, respectively.

Pastor Flak writes in his report for the annual meeting, "We have many people working together to carry out the various functions of the Body of Christ within the congregation. We have a pastor, worship assistants, acolytes, ushers, altar guild, choir members, musicians, teachers, organizers, typers, staplers, mimeographers, folders, filers, cleaners, counters, checkbook writers, attendance takers, people who sing, people who pray and worship, people who give up their time, abilities and their money. It takes all of this for the Body of Christ to function at 4930 Newanga". (Twenty years later, in this computer age, things haven't changed much.)

It was a busy year for the Women of Faith. There were three circles that met monthly and four general meetings at which outside speakers were invited. For several past years (and years to come) they provided tray favors and goodies monthly to the patients at Santa Rosa Convalescent Home. Cecilia Procknow was Christian Action Chairman. A successful Mother-Daughter luncheon was held. Fellowship for all members was a "Food Fair". Emily Emmel and Eileen Flater were the chairmen for this event. Afterwards it was hoped that it would be an annual affair.

This year, Lily Greer was elected President of Lutheran Church Women. She has also served as choir director for the past nineteen years and was council secretary for six years.

1979 was a good year for our church. The Executive Board reported that we experienced growth, spiritually, financially, and numerically. Our council and congregation have continued to show love and concern toward people and needs throughout the congregation and community.

Twenty-nine new members were welcomed into our church. Sammy Allen had a busy year as she headed the Evangelism committee. Coffee continues to be served at the after church social hour, added an ad in the Press Democrat, made name tags for every member attending the four Sundays of June, had a faithful group of callers, had a photo made of the Council members (with various responsibilities noted), had photos of our new Saints in the narthex, assigned Share and Care Coordinator, wrote membership profiles for the "Link", and had shepherding couples for each new family. We honored new members with a flower when they joined, a membership packet, and a get acquainted pot luck dinner. New members were truly welcomed into the Family of Faith.

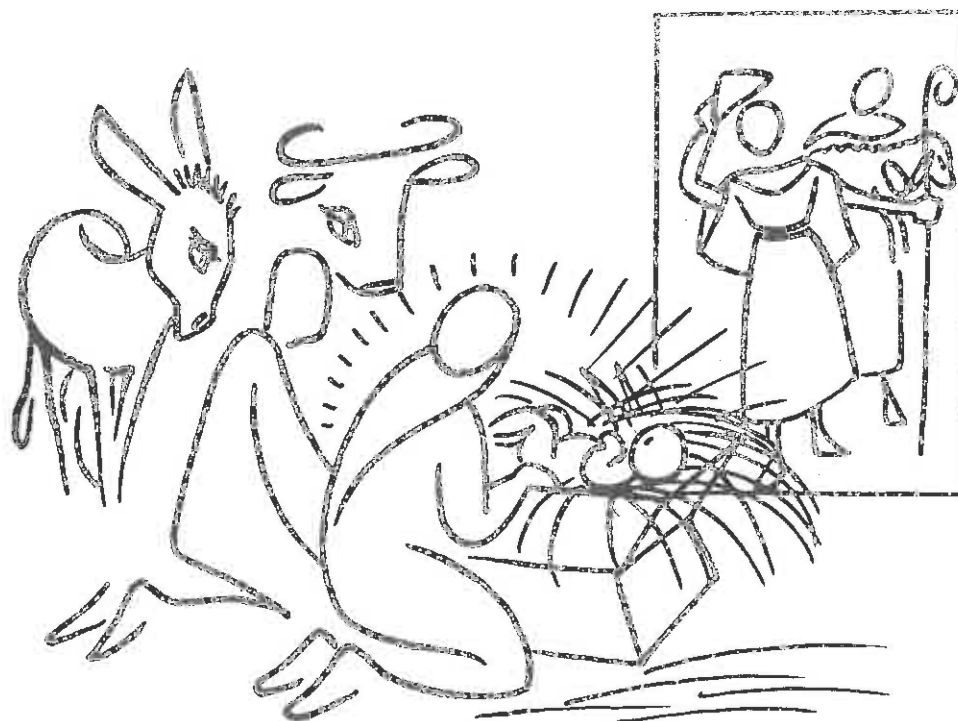
Randy and Beth Finger joined Faith Lutheran Youth as advisors along with Grant Doering. President Debbie Hammond led the Faith youth with their many activities, car washes, pie sales, harvesting of walnuts [when we had walnut trees on the church property]. This made it possible to earn money needed for their beach parties, swim parties, ski trips [great fun at the Bell's cabin] plus other activities.

On the serious side, there were duties at church. Community service included caroling for shut-ins, and visiting convalescent hospitals. This year the youth group was divided into grades 7-9 and 10 through junior college level for activities.

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The year ended with a Christmas Cantata for Choir and Congregation.

Let Us Go



Chuck Hammond was reelected to serve as President of the Council. Vice-President was Dave Rydquist.

We were still a congregation that did things for ourselves. From hand making the palm crosses for Palm Sunday to the talented volunteer musicians who gave of their time so we could have a worshipful service on Sunday. We who remember again say thank you. No stewardship fund raiser was hired. We knew we had a responsibility when we joined our church. We even exceeded our Benevolence goal. Yes, 1980 was good to us..

After looking at the pictures in the year book, we realized that we were having a good time at the Valentine, Mardi Gras Party, dancing our little hearts out. Eldon Flater and Terry Larson were part of the band that kept our toes tapping. Elaine Finger was the chairman.

In March we received a letter from The Reverend Stanley Olson, President of the Pacific Southwest Synod. He wrote, "I've just been reading over your annual report, and it is beautiful to read, one which is positive from first to last. It is obvious that you and your people both enjoy that special quality of being the Body of Christ that is yours in Santa Rosa. A positive spirit of witness is evident in each page. Your music and sense of being Christ's Body is wonderful. Just this note to say it is good to know that Faith Church has such a positive image of itself and responsibility to be Christ's people there."

The 'big production' of the summer was the musical "It's Cool In The Furnace" performed by our members. Three performances were given at the Santa Rosa Senior Center to which the public was invited. Ray Allen took the part of Daniel and Gordon Stedman portrayed Nebuchadnezzar. The musical was based on the Bible story about three believers in the fiery furnace. It was a summer learning experience at our church. There were over forty children and adults that formed an integrated cast, crew, choir, and music combo. A check for \$842 was presented to the Senior Center from sale of tickets and the Lutheran Brotherhood Fund. Mary Marten and Diane Warner were directors and Jean Flak was the producer.

Chuck Hammond's year end report told us that in February we refinanced our mortgage and are paying extra on the principal. "Our total indebtedness is now approximately \$21,000." This was also the first year we had a paid support position. We hired a part-time secretary to handle the work load in the office. (When I think of that ol' mimeograph machine Mildred Linden and I used --it was nightmare time.).

In reporting Church activities, I have been remiss in not mentioning the Men's Club. For several years they have prepared Easter morning pancake breakfast for all of us to enjoy. Besides solving the world's problems over an informal potluck dinner, they accomplished much more from behind the scenes, helping Eldon Flater with our much needed picnic tables, fire proofing Christmas trees, providing soup and sandwiches at our Country Faire, giving scholarships, buying chairs and tables for all of us to use, -- just some of their good works. "Thank you guys".

1980 continued

Our "Soup, Salad, and Scholar" programs were a fine source of Adult Christian Education. One our guest speakers was Dr. Tolvo Harjupaa, a former Interim pastor for us.

Lily Greer led the LCW for a second year. It was a travel year as Valerie Larson (Zanotto) reported on her trip around the world. Al Mansoor showed slides and artifacts from his native Egypt and The Rev. Luther and Ruth Knock told about their trip to the British Isles and Omerammergau, while showing slides. Kathy Phillips was chairman of the successful Mother-Daughter Brunch. Janet Hammond arranged for the girls from the California School for the Deaf to provide the program. Donna Besser and Shirley Williams had charge of the food and Blythe Babb donated many potted plants for the occasion.

Eileen Flater and Emile Emmel were cochairmen of the September Fun and Festival , which consisted of games and music and a white elephant table. A special children's area was set up ;for games and prizes.

The youth group started the year with a pot luck for their parents. During the Fall they held three fund raisers which included a car wash, a slave sale and cookie sale to provide money for a Christmas Party for children at the dependent unit. It was not all work as there were fun activities too. Craig Hammond was President.

For the old oldies, remember the coffee kiosk we used to have? Good idea, but awkward to handle.

Once again the year ended with the young people giving their program. Cindy Anderson narrated and the "heavenly angels" sang their hearts out to the delight of the congregation.





1981

Is this a rerun of 1980? From the Link: "Charles Hammond was elected on the fourth ballot to serve as President of Faith Lutheran Church, David Rydquist, Vice President. Paul Erickson was elected Secretary. Dr Robert C. Bell, Jr. was appointed treasurer, Gordon Stedman was appointed book keeper. Don and Esther Christensen were named Finance Secretaries. (Applause for these people that have served in this capacity for the last several years.) Also serving on our council were Grace Forrest, Grant Doering, Eileen Flater, Randy Finger, Diane Warner, Paul Erickson, Val Peterson, Debbie Hammond and Greg Philips."

This is also the year that we celebrated our 20th anniversary. More on this later.

February was a busy month with our Fellowship Mardi Gras fun time. Soup, Salad and Scholar with Ted Peters speaking on "Fear, Faith and the Future." There was a snow trip to Bell's cabin with the youth. Then of all things, Al Mansoor received final adoption papers on a camel bearing his name, "Big Al" at the San Francisco Zoo.

In March, we were saddened by the death of Orinda Giannini Petty.

After almost a year Marianne Wilson resigned as our church secretary and on March 30 Cheryl Rydquist assumed the duties of office secretary.

The ladies of Altar Guild out did themselves to make the church beautiful for Easter Morning services and throughout the year. Blanche Mansoor was chairman.

In May we celebrated our 20th year with a gala affair at the Art and Garden Center (where we first met to organize and hold services for four years) A no host wine tasting party was held at the Bell's residence prior to the dinner that was served by the Mormon Church ladies. Al Mansoor was the master of ceremonies. A word of welcome was given by President Charles Hammond. Pastor Flak gave the invocation. Following the dinner, past presidents were introduced:

The Rev Robert Fristedt, 1961-1963 (not present)

Dr. Robert C. Bell Jr., 1964-1969

Mr. Don Christensen, 1970

Mr. Roy Besser, 1971-1974

Mr. Howard Finger, 1975

Mrs. Marianne Burns, 1976

Mr. Will Gritter, 1977-1978

Mr. Charles Hammond, 1979-1981



1981, cont.

A solo was sung by Jeanine Dahlquist, accompanied by Lily Greer. The program was "History of Faith in Pictures." with technicians - Ruth Bell and Oren Smedshammer. The narrators were past presidents. A vocal trio consisted of David and Paul Rydquist and Terry Larson. Ending the evening was a prayer given by Pastor Flak. It was a grand evening with a special committee to organize it.

On Sunday, May 10th, a special church service was held at 10:00 AM to welcome all members. Letters of celebration were received from Stanley Oisen, President of Pacific Southwest Synod, and former pastors, Robert Freistedt, Elvin Hansen and George Falk. A reception followed church service. To continue the celebration we had a sumptuous Mother-Daughter Brunch served by the men of the church. The theme was "Mrs.' Noah's Ark held on the S.S. Hummon Hall. Members of the committee were given seamen's titles.

This was the year to celebrate Pastor's Flak's 20th anniversary of his ordination. A reception with a short program was held in the Dan White Memorial Garden.

We also recognized Pastor Luther Knock's 40th year in the ministry.

In July the congregation was saddened by the death of Elmer Burns. Elmer served Faith Lutheran and wore many hats, such as Christian Education Director, Financial Secretary, Director of ushers.

This was also the year that Diane Warner was named Christian Education Director. The addition of this staff position has had an effect on Sunday School attendance and the coordination of curriculum.

When the roof on the "Red Cottage" needed to be replaced, the Men's Club members took charge and were up there "roofing." (I almost hesitate to mention that Don Christensen fell off and fortunately only sustained minor aches and bruises.)

Joanne Lantz, president of the Lutheran Church Women of Faith reported some changes on their by-laws and the formation of a new circle.

The youth were alive and well during the year. The confirmation age group was sponsored by Casey and Pam D'Angelo. Their officers included Eric Lindberg, President; Paul Smedshammer, Vice President; Nicki Ireland, Secretary; and Kelly Snyder was chosen as treasurer. The "Haunted House" helped raise money for dependent children.

Val Peterson, leader from the older youth groups included in his report the participation in "Hullabaloo", an activity day with other churches where our youth took 1st place. An excellent ski trip and a day at Marriot's where among other activities. Their services including attending dances for the mentally disabled where they served refreshments that they had prepared. Wil and Elaine Gritter were advisors.

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY
21ST CENTURY HERE WE COME
THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN
1982

Council President Paul Erickson writes we had a good year and we did. Our goals including financial , membership and Christian education were met. Add to this good fellowship at all levels.

Elected to serve on Council were Eldon Flater, Casey D'Angelo, Bob White, Ray Allen, and Allison Besser to fill the unexpired term of Luther Knock.

Pastor's report listed 27 baptisms, 11 confirmations, 24 weddings and 7 funerals, three of which were members of our church. Our friend to everyone, Bernhard "Barney" Dross died March 21. His wife, Frieda died in 1976. Barney was a carpenter by trade. Evidence of it still remains, the storage cabinet in the Youth Room, the wooden missal stand we have used on our altar, the extra offering plates he created on his lathe, and the cross behind our outdoor altar. He provided the silver bowl in the baptismal font. He was also the "straw boss" during the development of the Dan White Memorial Garden. He made us feel like queens when he kissed the backs of our hands. He was a great story teller and he would share his tales with all ages. He was our favorite Santa Claus with a slight German accent, a special person that was our friend.

If you needed a laugh, you would get it from Gladys Yorgeson. Gladys died May 2nd. She was secretary to the council for several years and kept them on their toes. A charter member, she will be remembered for her wit, her words of wisdom and maybe be some time off key singing.

We knew Geneveive (Genie) Cressman more as the wife of Charles. Genie became ill soon after moving to Santa Rosa. She became acquainted with us as she worshipped with us via our taped services. Genie died October 24.

In June the Church Council instructed the president of the congregation to appoint a building committee for the new sanctuary. Members were to include a person from each of the standing committees of the church plus at large members. The following members were asked to serve: Will Gritter, Casey D'Angelo, George Brkich, Karen Anderson, Jean Flak, John Mauro, Dave Breninger, Bob Bell, Paul Erickson, and Janet Hammond. The executive board appointed Bob Bell to be chairman.

Christian Education Committee must have had the theme "And more on the way". Over seventy people were actively involved in the leadership of Christian Education and..... Vacation Church School attendance climbed to 65 and.....Sunday School had 49 children,

1982 continued

that's 68% involvement. The Cradle roll includes 19 babies and.....the list goes on.

Sammie Allen had an active Evangelism Committee. A group called "Contact" was organized. They would make special visits and fill needs of members. Lorraine Larson assigned greeters.

Eleven groups were helped through our social ministry contributions. Canned food was collected each month at the church and delivered to FISH. Rose White was chairman of this committee.

The news from the Worship and Music Committee was that Lily Greer retired after many years (over 20) as choir director. We are so fortunate to have her dedication, talent, and love. Diane Warner would be our new director.

The Folk Group introduced the "Chicago Folk Service" adding a new sound. The Folk Group continued to grow from its nucleus Terry and Karen Larson, David and Paul Rydquist, Judy Moss and Rocky Reed.

New additions to the musicians were the Youth Choir, and the Chamber Players, Luther Knock, cello; Ruth Knock, piano; Jan Payne, recorder; Dave Breninger, recorder; Kathy Franchetti, flute; Betty Van Noy, contra bass violin.

Nadine Smedshammer writes that she is impressed by the dedication to purpose by the Altar Guild members. Because of the large number of babies and adults being baptized this year, it was necessary to make a large supply of baptismal napkins.

Thank goodness we purchased the easier to store chair rack for Hummon Hall this year.

Twenty members of Faith Lutheran Youth and five adults attended "Rally 82" in Anaheim. Service projects included baking cup cakes for the dances for the handicapped and a Christmas party for the Dependents Unit at Los Guilicos. They continued to have their Sunday morning classes and a monthly Bible study at the Gritter's home. Other events were a retreat at Casini Ranch, a day at Marriot's, youth choir, ocean trip, barbecue and the annual snow trip. Darlene Williams served as president.

Donna Besser says in her report of Lutheran Church Women that they continue to have their Bible studies and special meetings with guest speakers. However, it was noted, "In June, a 'Flag Day Men's Barbecue for Women Only' was held in the picnic area but only after permission was received from the Men's Club to use the grills" Boy, have times changed. A trip to Filoli in Woodside, California was a special event for the women.

Vickie Matresi was chairman of the Country Faire held in November. With her support and her ideas for crafts, it was a successful project.

A weekend retreat for women was held at the Bell's cabin. It was led by Joan Giordano, who helped us discover the child in all of us. We were celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the granting of a charter to our organization by Synod. We had a party with balloons, cake, and

1982 (continued)

champagne

This year marked the start of many Memorial Day Picnics at the Smedshammer's Redwood Retreat at Austin Creek. A fun time for many. For those playing volley ball, sore muscles the next day.

Many of our members participated in the Redwood Empire "Sing Along" Messiah conducted by Dan Earl. Our own Christmas celebration included "A Heaven-O-Gram from the Sunday Church School.



Our "Red Barn" and play yard



CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY
21ST CENTURY HERE WE COME

1983

Faith Lutheran Church Council added a feminine look with Grace Forrest as our President. Our list of new Councilmen included Mike Smedshammer, Jan Goree and John Mauro.

Before we continue with the report of our church history, it is with great sadness that on Sunday March 27th we learned of the death of Debra (Debbie) Lee Hammond. Debbie was just twenty years old when she died in an automobile accident. Debbie served on the Sunday Church School, Vacation Church School Staff, was President of the Faith Lutheran Youth, and Youth representative to Church Council. Pastor Flak wrote, "We thank God for this life, lived in our midst for these short years". Yes you have been missed, Debbie.

The Building Committee continued to talk with experts (free of charge), took field trips to other worship facilities to gather information. Milt Hallett, provided to us by The Lutheran Church in America, was most helpful. He advised us to build a facility not only to serve our present needs, but also for the future. Recommended by the Committee, Milt Hallett was engaged to advise the congregation to help accomplish these objectives.

Diane Warner, Director of Christian Education and Music, reported that programs were promoted in Cradle Roll, Sunday Church School, Early Communion Training, Confirmation Ministry, Faith Lutheran Youth, Adult Class / Bible Study, Soup, Salad and Scholar, Choir and Folk Group, and Educational Ministry Support. This was Diane's first full year as paid staff worker.

President Grace Forrest writes in her report that one of the highlights of our year was our "Holy Smoke" celebration with the burning of our mortgage. We were honored to have Bishop Stanley Olson as our guest speaker. The final check was written on June 23 when Dr. Robert C. Bell, Jr., treasurer, paid the Exchange Bank. The celebration was delayed until September 4 when an outdoor communion service was held under the oaks. After the service, there was a short program followed by a champagne reception. The Committee for this event (The Holy Smoke Group) was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Besser, Mr. and Mrs. Don Christensen, Mr. and Mrs. Al Parson, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bell, and Pastor and Mrs. Lorents Flak

Christian Education Chairman, Sue Wilkening, reported a busy year, Cradle Roll with 25 babies, Church School had 66 students and 22 adult helpers. Vacation Church School had another successful session, led by Rose Knight Diane Warner, and Jean Flak.

Marianne Burns served as President of our Lutheran Church Women. There active members. Nine attended the convention at Asilomar.

1983 (continued)

The Men's Club served the Mother-Daughter Brunch. Jan Goree arranged the dinner for the men on their day. A retreat was held at Bell's cabin at the end of July. Emma Lou Alm led the study lessons. Vickie Matreci with the help of Cec Proknow, and Cheryl Rydquist chaired the Country Fairs.

The Social Ministry continues to help ten to twelve organizations throughout the year. This was administered by Gary Wilkening.

We never had a chance to know the baptized daughter of Randy and Beth Finger. Melissa Sue died two days after she was born, July 11, 1983.

Lily Greer, Faith Parson, Grant Doering, and Val Peterson were named by the Worship and Music Committee to establish an "Organ Replacement Fund". The reason is that the organ has been a little "difficult" lately, difficult to play and difficult to listen to. In October we took delivery of an Allen Organ from St. Luke's Lutheran of Santa Rosa. The cost was \$22,000. This purchase was made after much traveling, searching, studying and playing various organs. Another job well done.

Our communion ware was stolen in the Spring and was replaced by a simple and stately pewter set.

Bob Anderson organized the Usher Team.

The Men's Club, under the direction of Al Parson (if there was a direction) had a good year of fellowship. It wasn't all play though. The annual Easter Breakfast is a tradition now. They help prepare and serve the brunch for the women. Then there was the yard sale. With help from matching funds from the Lutheran Brotherhood, they were able to give \$250.00 to each of the following graduating seniors: Rob Anderson, Heidi Keith, Jeremy Molno, Mike Smedshammer, and Lisa Wilkening.

There was no report from the Youth Group, but after reading Jodi Gritter's treasurers report we know they had a busy year earning money from barn / yard / garage sale and Country Fair. They had a hunger fast so they would know how it felt to be hungry. They participated in Hullabaloo which involved other church youth. They participated in and with dances for the disabled. From personal experience I know they enjoyed their ski trip, even though there was a severe snow storm. Only one day of skiing, but lots of snow play and snowball fights at the cabin. Later, while vacuuming the shag rug, I found lots of pennies. I know some of them had their green visors on. I also discovered that many of them did not know what "Go to sleep" meant. I'll close this report with Jon Flak's poem about the trip.

"It Ain't Easy Being a Ski Bum"

On Thursday it was a long drive up,
On Sunday it was a long drive back

And in between nobody ever hit the sack

Friday showed as a good sunny day of skiing.

Then on Saturday the winter snow began to fall.

The grouchy people began to bawl,

And all those parents began to call.

Sunday morning was wake up, get up, clean up, and pack.

On Sunday morning it was take it, leave it,

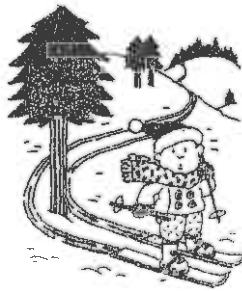
Hurry up and get back.

Very basically this year's snow trip can be summed up as follows:

Friday we were skiing,

Saturday we were dreaming,

Sunday we were leaving.



Faith Youth getting ready for their snow trip

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission Statement

We are the many parts of the growing Body of Christ, joined together from a variety of backgrounds and traditions.

We are committed to witnessing joyfully to our Christian faith in a way that will draw others into our caring fellowship. We are willing to risk and act on faith as we reach out to others as

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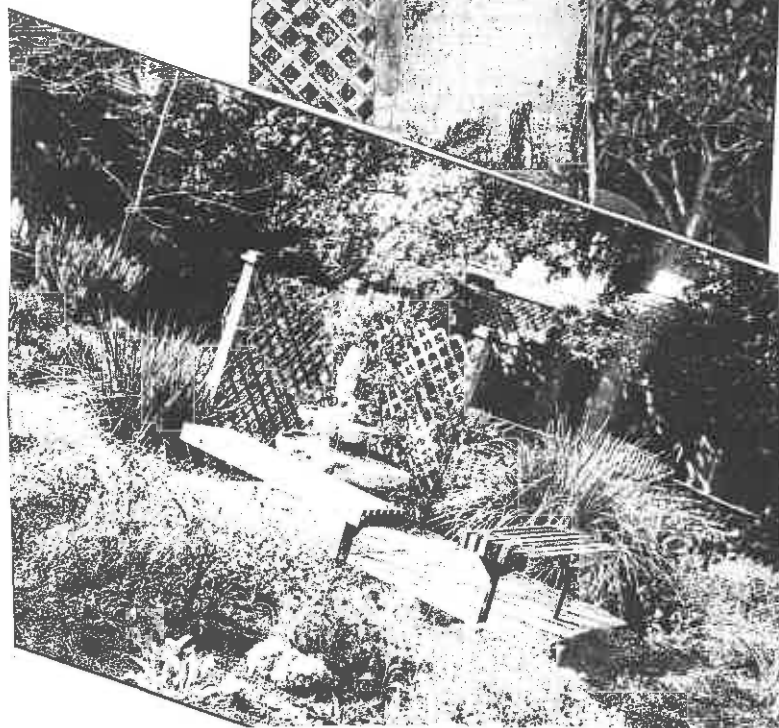
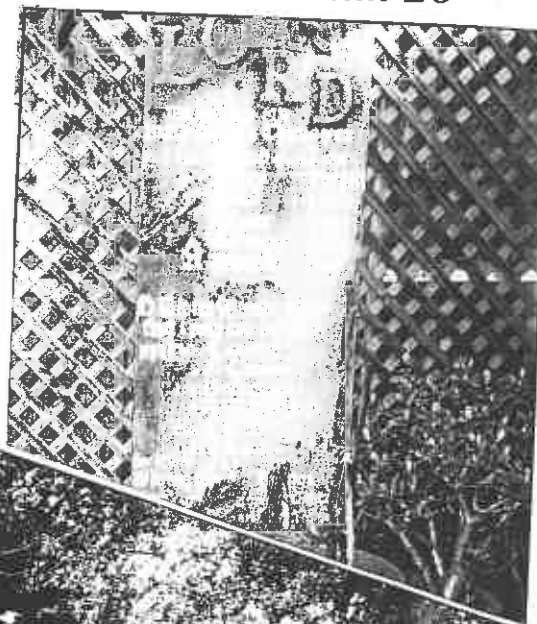
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*I have loved the place where
Your Glory makes its home.*

~Psalm 26~



MORTGAGE BURNING - SEPTEMBER 4

The mortgage on Faith Lutheran Church was paid in full on Friday, June 3rd, when Dr. Robert C. Bell, Jr., Treasurer of Faith Lutheran wrote the final check to Exchange Bank.

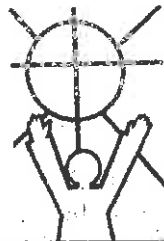
Twenty years of faithful congregational stewardship and regular monthly payments have brought us to this point in our history. Such an event shall not pass by quietly.

"Holy Smoke" will be the order of the day as we burn our mortgage in an out-door communion service on Sunday, September 4 at 9:30 am.

The morning events will include the following:

- a personal greeting from Bishop Stanley Olson, Bishop of the Pacific Southwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.
- former pastors will have been invited
- the President of Exchange Bank will have been invited
- a brief program recounting the years of the congregation
- former charter members will have been invited
- champagne brunch following worship and program

We will all celebrate before God the blessings that we have enjoyed in our corporate life together as a Christian congregation of the Lutheran Church in America here in Santa Rosa.



Mortgage burning

Members of Faith Lutheran Church, 4930 Newanga Ave., Santa Rosa, will burn their 20-year mortgage at an outdoor worship service beginning at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Events of the day will include a brief historical program; a greeting from the Rev. Stanley Olson, bishop of the Pacific Southwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America; a champagne reception following the worship service and program, and the Chicago Folk Mass.

Those in charge are Dr. and Mrs. R.C. Bell Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Don Christensen, Mr. and Mrs. Al Parson, and the Rev. Lorents J. Flak and Mrs. Flak. Mr. & Mrs. Roy Besser



1984

The church year started out with a bang and continued throughout the year. To quote Pastor Flak's report, " We began 1984 with more than a little fear and trepidation when we adopted our Church Building Proposal on January 8, 1984, and then moved immediately into a Stewardship Program led by Mr. Wilbur Mancke, which began on January 9, 1984".

Casey D'Angelo was elected President of the Congregation. It was during Casey's leadership that the Congregation adopted the; Church Building Program, retained an architect, Jack Ross, and appointed the church Building Committee Those appointed were: Robert C. Bell, Jr., Jean Flak, Howard Finger, Eldon Flater, Janet Hammond, Will Gritter, and Dan Jensen. [Note: Jensen resigned after moving to Napa.] Dr. Bell served as chairman and Jean Flak as secretary. In August, the congregation approved the schematic drawings of the site plan, elevation, and floor plan.

We were a busy congregation, two snow trips with youth, a "St. Patrick's Day Fun and Fellowship". Beautiful notes were heard from the Faith Chamber Players which included Dave Breninger on recorder; Kathy Franchetti, flute; The Reverend Luther Knock, cello; Ruth Knock, piano; Jan Paine, clarinet and Betty Van Noy, double bass.

The women held a retreat at Bell's cabin. Joan Giordano was the leader. Her topic was "Stress, You Deserve a Break Today". We even did some cross country skiing, which can be stressful for some.

The Men's Club provided the Easter Morning breakfast and with monies earned provided scholarships for our youth.

Our new-used organ was dedicated May 20th. Randall Hoffman, Val Peterson and Faith Parson gave a recital. The choir also presented an anthem, accompanied by the organ.

Diane Warner wore many hats, including Christian Ed. Leader, Youth Director, Choir and Folk Group Leader. Through her leadership many of our programs grew.

Three of our faithful members died, Edith De Lope, a German writer, who wrote supernatural stories, Hugh Onstot, a faithful usher here for many years and The Reverend Art Alm, who came to Faith Lutheran upon his retirement from southern California.

In August the call went out to "Give Us a Hand". The last remaining shed/hen house had to be torn down prior the construction of our new sanctuary. But first we had a "Barn, Yard and Garage Sale", organized by the Men's Club with monies going toward the Scholarship Fund.

Word came that former Pastor Elvin S. Hansen died August 21, 1984 in Irvine, California. Pastor Hansen served Faith from June 1965 to January, 1970

1984 (continues)

Schematic plans for the new Sanctuary were approved in mid August. The plans came to the floor at a special meeting with recommendations from the Building Committee and the Church Council. The results of the voting by secret ballot were:

vote on Site Plan	50 yes	1 no	
vote on Elevation	58 yes	2 no	3 undecided
vote on Floor Plan	7 yes	49 no	1 undecided
	[Amendment to move choir up front]		
vote on Original Floor Plan	51 yes	2no	2 undecided

In September, our Congregational President, Casey D'Angelo moved to England for a year. He had been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. It was reported that Mrs. Ruth Bell had been elevated from post of vice-president to President. Will Gritter was elected vice-president.

Communion is now being served twice a month, on the first and third Sundays. Judy Bello is Chairman of the Altar Committee which has 14 members.

Our third "Soup, Salad, and Scholar Night" was led by Rabbi Jonathan Slater, who served Temple Beth Ami, and spoke on Jeremiah.

A "Task Force on Existing Facility Use" was appointed by the Church Council. Rob Dunwoody, Lyle Howe, Nadine Smedshammer, Val Peterson and Laurie Urbais were appointed. Working under the direction of this committee was a kitchen subcommittee with Kathy Phillips, Lily Greer, Gene Darling, and Esther Christensen which was to design a larger kitchen facility

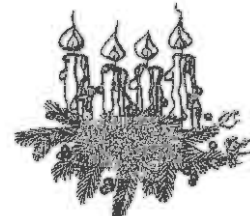
Marianne Burns served as President of the Lutheran Church Women. Two day time circles and one night time circle met monthly. Four General meetings with guest speakers were held. Ten of our ladies attended the L. C. W. Convention at Asilomar.

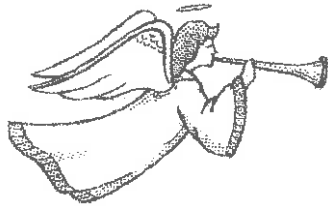
Gary Wilkening was chairman of the Social Ministry Committee. Through our giving fourteen organizations were helped.

All was not fun and games for our youth this year. They promoted chili dinners and programs plus a sale table at the Barn, Yard, and Garage sale to earn monies to attend Rally '84 in San Diego. They held a welcome rally and a Bible study each month.

To celebrate Advent, Cec Procknow organized an Advent Pot Luck Dinner. Families gathered to share dinner and make Advent Logs and Advent Wreaths to be used in their homes with Advent Devotional Booklets which Cec designed and prepared.

Sunday School ended the year with their family Christmas Celebration.





1985

This was the year of many changes and celebrations. Despite the turmoil of building a new larger sanctuary on our property and personnel changes, we continue to grow in membership.

Diane Warner resigned as Director of Christian Education, however she remained as our Choir Director. In August Janet Hammond assumed that vacated position. Randall Hoffman became our first paid organist. Paul and Mary Rydquist resigned as janitors and Judy and David Brainard replaced them in November. (note—these were paid positions). Dr. Robert Bell resigned as treasurer in December and was replaced by Don Lee.

Our council for 1985 elected Ruth Bell as president. There was some minor disagreements and the meetings were filled with discussions, such as AIDS and the common cup. At that time no one knew with certainty how AIDS was spread so the use of the common cup was discontinued. The effects of cigarette smoke were well known so President Bell asked that no one smoke in the meeting room. When her request was ignored, she brought an electric air filter to the meetings. Pastor Flak was heard to say, "Don't point that thing at me". Eventually common sense prevailed and the smokers graciously went outside to light up; and most eventually quit smoking.

So much went on this year, that it is difficult to know where to start. Ruth and Bob Bell had a fire in January that destroyed their home and they had to live elsewhere for five months.

The first activity was the youth snow trip. There was lots and lots of snow at the Bell's cabin and good skiing at Sugar Bowl and Boreal. In February, The Finger's and their committee sponsored a Hawaiian Luau Fellowship. Terry Larson and Eldon Flater were part of the group, "Homemade Jam", that provided music for our dancing and listening pleasure.

Michele Roland and her committee coordinated a booklet "Ministry to Young Children" to be distributed to members.

I think this was the year that the Property Committee began designating the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday as Spring Clean-up Day for congregational participation.

For a "Dessert and Discussion" program, The Reverend Mike Cooper chose the topic, "The Sanctuary Issue".

In April, the Women's Group was again at the cabin for a retreat. Joan Giordano led the discussion on "Affirm Sexuality as God's Gift". Needless to say it was an interesting weekend.

Sunday, May 12 marked the 24th anniversary of the organization of Faith Lutheran so we celebrated with a special service of worship and ground breaking ceremonies for our new

worship facilities. We all brought shovels. There followed a reception organized by Donna Besser.

The Smedshammer's had their fourth annual Memorial Day Picnic at Austin Creek. A time to which we all looked forward.

In the middle of July the Council held a retreat at Angela Center. It was at this retreat that our present "Mission Statement" was conceived.

Our Sanctuary Building started to take shape when the concrete slab was laid and the framing for the walls began. How exciting. Also at this time we enlarged the kitchen in Hummon Hall. Gene Darling, Donna Besser, and Edna Hetchler were on this committee. Kathy Philips helped design the kitchen as we see it today.

Janet Hammond assumed the job of Director of Christian Education. She coordinated the overall Educational Ministry of the Congregation and evaluated program quality, identifying needs and resources, and initiating new programs.

Laura Schiller was a member of Faith. For several years she battled Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, better known as Lou Gerhig's Disease. We at Faith held several events to help the Laura Schiller Fund. The event this year was a barbecue dinner with music, entertainment, raffle and much more held at the Pompeii Villa behind the old Asti Italian Swiss Colony Winery. Needless to say, it was a success.

Almost \$2,000 was sent to eleven different agencies through Social Ministries. Gary Wilkening was chairman.

We also had a fund raiser for the Contempo Group. It was known as the Folk Group then. There was a silent auction, food sold by the Youth Group and music by the Folk Group. Bob and Karen Anderson, Chuck and Janet Hammond, the Rydquists and the Smedshammers were the planners. The Folk Group thanked us later with a concert.

Serving on the Executive Building Committee were Dr. Robert C. Beli, Jr., Chairman, Jean Flak, Secretary, Don Christensen, Howard Finger, Eldon Flater, and Janet Hammond.

This year, Ed DeLope followed his wife in death. He was a sailor, a gardener, a collector of sheet music and books, and a writer of love/fantasy stories.

The Evangelism Committee wrote that 42 persons were added to our membership. Sammie Allen organized the welcoming pot luck dinner. Ray Allen saw to it that there was coffee for fellowship purposes between worship services.

A chili (hot) dinner and talent show, sponsored by the youth was well attended. Monies earned went toward the Youth Gathering in Anaheim at which seven of our youth attended.

Christmas season was celebrated with an Advent program and the making of advent logs and wreaths. Sunday School put on a program led by Lucille Smith (Mandel).

We close this year with Janet Hammond's report, ending with, "Let's keep dreaming and planning to make our total program grow and help each other live out our mission statement here at Faith Lutheran Church."

The building of our Sanctuary

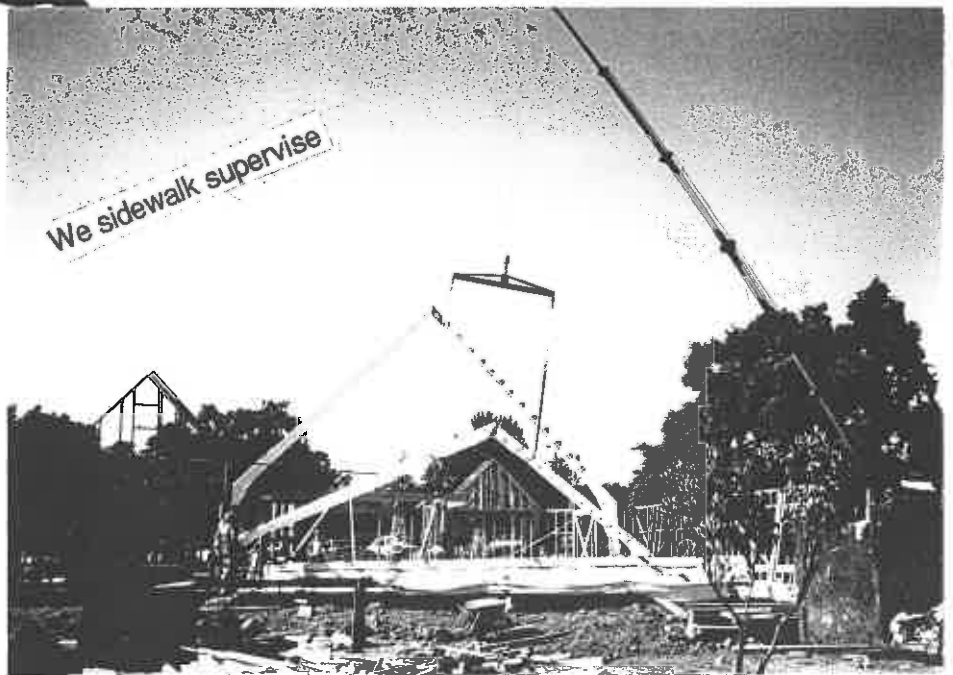


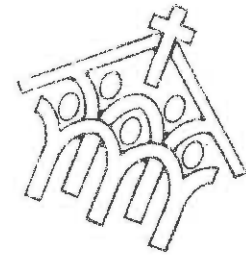
They start



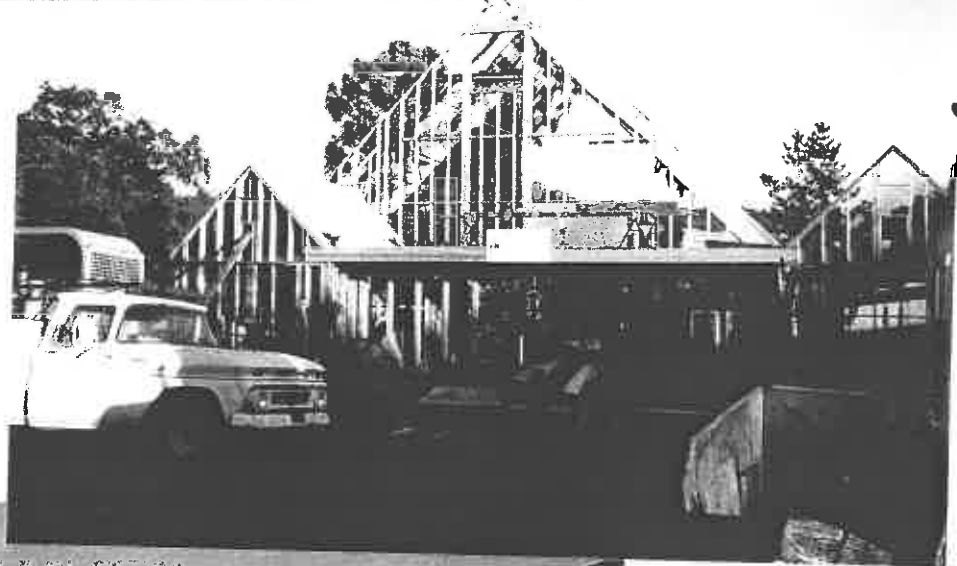
We watch

We sidewalk supervise





Starting to look good



1986

What a great year, so much took place. Chuck Hammond was elected President of the Council (doesn't that sound familiar?).

"Charter Hall" was the new name for our 23 year old sanctuary. The name was chosen through of the Ecclesiastical Ballot.

Our new worship facility continues toward completion. Dedication is on the calendar for May 4 at 4:00 PM.

A "Special Gift" List was mailed to members listing items that could be used in the new sanctuary. A scroll was hung listing donor's names.

For Adult Fellowship we had a "50's" Dinner-Dance--what fun!

On Palm Sunday we held our "Service of Entry". "Knock!, Knock! We enter in the Name of the Father, Name of the Son, Name of the Holy Ghost."

The Church Council and the Building Committee headed the procession from our "old worship facility (Charter Hall)" carrying the Processional Cross, Bible stand, Bible, etc. etc. Flak wrote, "We process with great dignity, with much emotion, with gratefulness and thankfulness to God for leading us to this point in our congregational life."

The California Lutheran University Choir helped us celebrate by presenting a concert in the evening

Press Democrat columnist Gaye LeBaron writes, "I like the new church that Faith Lutheran congregation built on Newanga. It had the 'old time religion' look that's comforting."

Another plus was Jerry Anderson's gift, the beautiful 400+ year old painting of Christ's Crucifixion which hangs in our Narthex.

We had a bell tower but no bell. A gift from Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Bell, Jr. provided the bell. The following people helped install it: The Christensens, Darlings, Bells, Chuck Hammond, Val Peterson, and Laurie Urbais. After it was placed, it was first rung to celebrate the marriage of Chuck Hammond, Jr., and Jamie Leete.

A note of sadness was the death of Elda Johnke.

Our 25th Anniversary of the organization of our Congregation was also a special event. Three of the four families that were lay developers of the mission church were here, the Whites, Klees, Bells, and Pastor Freistedt and wife Helen. Stan Olson, Bishop of the Pacific Southwest Synod preached the sermon. The men's club provided a delicious barbecued turkey dinner.

Honor guest at the Mother's Day Luncheon was Esther Hansen, wife of the Rev. Elvin Hansen, second pastor at the church.

Another day for celebration as we sent hundreds of balloons heavenward.

The final service for our month long 25th Anniversary and Dedication had the Rev. George Falk, third pastor of Faith as our guest preacher. This was a memorial service for those who had served the congregation in the past.

The annual Memorial Day Picnic was again held at the Smedshammer's summer home on Austin Creek. "Homemade Jam" entertained us after a wild game of volleyball and for the brave of heart who went swimming.

It was a special celebration for the Rev. Luther and Ruth Knock as we honored them on their 50th Wedding anniversary and Luther's 50th Anniversary of Ordination.

Leaders Betty and Ernie Engle gathered the young ones for Camp Big Oak. What a great experience to camp out.

This year, our church directory will show our church family in full color. Jan Lee is the coordinator.

We also celebrated Flak's 25th year since Ordination

Members of the Congregation continue to have Fund raisers for Laura Schiller which included, a golf tournament, barbecue, Pizza Experience, dance, raffle prizes, and a "Laura Schiller Fund" night at Star Skate.

As November arrives, so does elections and we hosted a "Candidate's Night". Jean

Harrison arranged for this evening. We welcomed new members to Faith at a get acquainted Pot Luck Dinner.

Jean Harrison writes in her annual report that twelve organizations were helped throughout the year. Bob and Rose White transported the food that was donated to the Fish Program.

Michele Roland led the team that renovated the Red Cottage for Ministry to Young People.

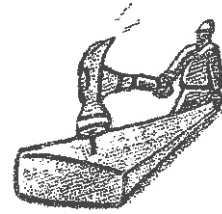
The year ended with a delightful Sunday Church Program, "The Late Great Potentate". Ray Allen starred with the help of the many young people in the cast. Linda Wolford directed.

1986 was truly a busy year of celebration, filled with activities, friendship, memories and thankfulness for our new place of worship.



Faith Lutheran Church
Santa Rosa, California





I am taking liberty to copy part of the Church Council President Kevin Conway's annual report, "As I see it 1987 was a challenging and exciting year for our church. With the dust of construction completely settled, we went about the business of making our new church 'home'. We also gave our other buildings a new look and a new identity (more on that later). We are all finally feeling comfortable with the structural changes we worked so hard to bring about. I would like to thank the property committee for their diligence and hard work all year long."

This year we are a new church in the larger sense. Now we are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America! The new Church represents tremendous vehicle for Christian work and leadership in the world.

The Council had an enjoyable retreat in March led by Roger Lee. It helped to bring inspiration and a sense of cohesiveness as we went about our work. Those on Council were Jean Harrison, Sandy Burroughs, Wally Fawcett, Lauren Urbais, Bill Procknow, Chuck Hammond, Ralph Jensen, Marc Roland, Jan Goree, Glenn Hetchler, and Dave Rydquist.

There is truly a sense of excitement in the air. We have wonderful new members, Attendance at the services is up, and the church is once again abuzz with chatter after the service.

Chris Ed. Director, Janet Hammond reported over seventy individuals helped to make the program a success.

The Autumn Harvest Faire was a highlight event raising, \$1,132 that the LCW distributed between the "Women's and Children's Emergency Shelter" and our own Kitchen Fund.

Youth group activities included ice skating, bowling, pizza party, car washes in which they thanked us for the dirty cars, then got some wet kids back after the successful event. A trip to the snow country was special. (Thanks to Diana Bell McDonnell for getting special rates on the lift tickets over the past years). It must have been fun and a busy year, since this is only part of the activities. There was always time out for prayers, lessons, and worship.

Charter Hall was altered to provide areas for Christian Education, a room for choir-library, and a room for our youth.

Hummon Hall required changes to construct storage facilities for tables, chairs and other items and to alter the movable cabinets for utilization for classrooms.

The Good Lord must have been with us when we moved the concrete altar and the baptismal font from Charter Hall to their present location under the oaks. We heard, "It won't work." "How are you going to get it out the door?" "It's too heavy to move; it will break." "Come on, we can do it." Our prayers were answered when with the aid of a small fork lift and Art Lindberg's pickup truck, we set the slab on the stone pillars, and it was sturdy, didn't crack, and miracle of miracles it was level, and ready for outdoor services.

The Evangelism Committee's project was the "Every Member Visit". This gave them a chance to meet people and provided a good vehicle for communications.

Val Peterson headed the Finance Committee with Gordon Stedman, Treasurer (jobs they held for many years). Howard and Elaine finger served as Financial Secretaries. Then there were the loyal group of counters.

Our giving to social ministries of \$3,870 helped sixteen different organizations throughout the year. Jean Harrison was chairman.

Thirteen members belong to the Altar Guild, Edna Hetchler, chairman. Basic paraments for the church year were finished and ready for embroidery.

The Worship and Music Committee recommended that Communion be made available at least two Sundays per month beginning February 7, 1988.

The death of Ann Rogers in September was a sad day for our members. She was a lady with a warm and gentle smile.

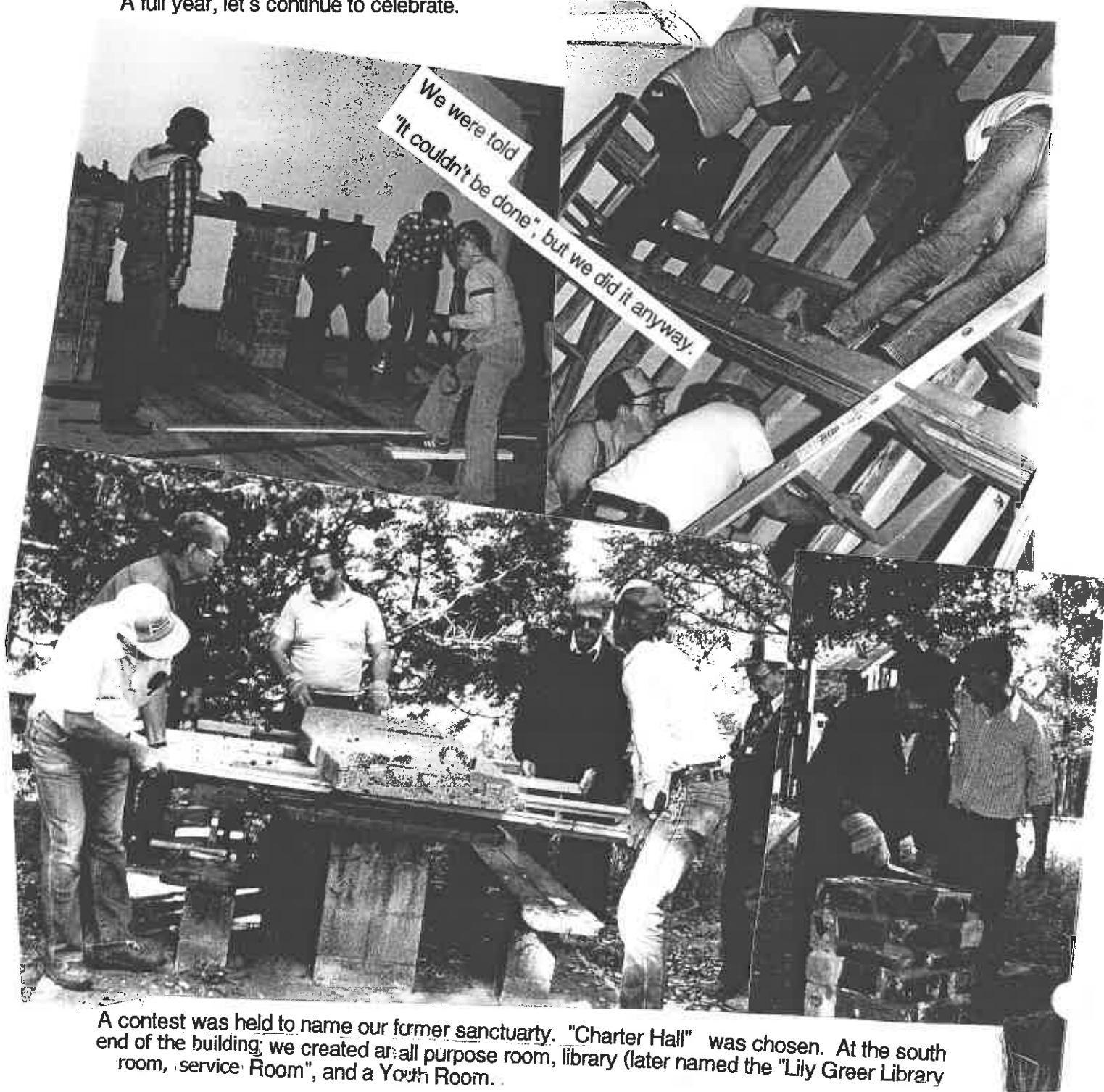
Festivities for the congregation included a "Hobo Party", Spring Work Day (yes, they can be

1987 (continues)

Converting of Charter Hall

fun too). Confirmation included: Scott Bell, Christine Hagenlocher, Lisa Johnson, David Larson, Jennifer Molno, Tamar Owens, John Roche, Rosalie Van Noy, Andrea Via, and Kim Wolford. There was the annual Memorial Picnic at Austin Creek, Work Day, Vacation Church School, Camp Big Oak with sponsors Betty and Ernie Engle, the Leo Party, (the list continues) Outdoor worship services, Communion followed by pot luck, welcoming Pastor Bob Wilse and family. He has accepted call to become the Mission Developer for west Santa Rosa, Work Day, Thanksgiving, Altar Guild decorating the sanctuary for the Holidays, Christmas "Arch the Angel for the 91st Airborne Division", a delightful musical presented by our Sunday Church School children and directed by Linda Wolford and Ray Allen.

A full year, let's continue to celebrate.



1988

Good-bye, LCA (Lutheran Church in America). Hello, ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). We formed our new Synod of Northern California / Northern Nevada with 216 congregations and 467 clergy. The Rev. Lyle C. Miller will serve as our bishop. Ralph Jensen was elected president of our Church Council and will be our delegate to Synod along with Jean Harrison and Pastor Flak.

Howard and Grace Forrest started our year by celebrating their 50th anniversary. Then in May we celebrated the 65 years of marriage of Wes and Edna Hammond. The candelabras behind the altar were given in their memory. There were several weddings involving our members this year. May they be so blessed. Easter was celebrated with a massed choir presenting the Easter portion of Handel's "Messiah".

Once again the Women of Faith held their retreat at Bell's cabin. Joan Giordano led us with her theme, "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off".

Remember our car people, "the Woods"? This was the year they were evicted after using our church property for several years.

With the help of a \$2,000 rebate from Lutheran Brotherhood and \$700 from LCW, plus monies from other events, one of which was the "Kitchen Fixin' Hoedown", we were able to furnish our kitchen. Gene Darling headed our refurbishing committee for the kitchen. For our hoedown we had square dancers and a caller, a beef barbecue, raffles, games, live music by "Home Made Jam", decorations using drawings in Hummon Hall; hay bales and a covered wagon surrounded our stone altar. We even had our first annual and last "cow pie" toss, using real cow pies, (gathered by yours truly from the neighbors pasture on the west). Cora Darling had her white gloves on when it was her turn to toss one. Honors for throwing the pies the farthest went to Rob Bell. It was hard work, but a fun day.

Once again Betty and Ernie Engle directed "Camp Big Oak". This will be their last time because they will be moving out of the area. Pastor Flak wrote, "They have always been there for the youth. They have gone on ski trips and beach trips. They have shared with the youth, cried with the youth, and laughed with the youth. They have loved the youth". They are still missed.

Also using our "Under the Oaks" this summer was "Family Ministry Campout". Coordinators were Beth Finger, Marianne Screen and Tim Huston. Vacation Church School's coordinator was Barbie Seger.

It was with sad thoughts that the congregation voted to sell 1.7 acres of our back property. The land to the west had been sold for development and we were pressured to sell part of our property so that a major street could be put in. Chuck Hammond, Sr., Jean Flak and Ruth Bell were asked to serve on the committee for the sale of the property.

Faith's Confirmation Class held a reunion in September for all who had been confirmed here. Many came, others wrote letters. Thanks to Jennifer Besser, Margaret Christian, Sue Emmel, Randy Finger and Jean Flak. After many years of teaching confirmation classes, Jean retired. Thank you for giving your time, your talent and your experience.

Those being confirmed this year are Kimberly Roland, Jonathon Haller, Eric Erickson, Kathryn Peterson, and Michael Trombley

Charter member Roy Besser's death brought great sadness to our congregational family. He served on Council with Pastors Freistedt, Hansen, Falk, and Flak. He was always there when we needed him. From written notes, "He was skilled at making his point stick, like kicking a chair across the room and screaming, 'We will send benevolence money to Synod'. (I hope the walls in the Red Cottage are still ringing from that. Ah, such memories.)

Frank Krutak, Milton "Mick" Anderson, and Grace Scott were also members of our church family that found their rest and peace this year.

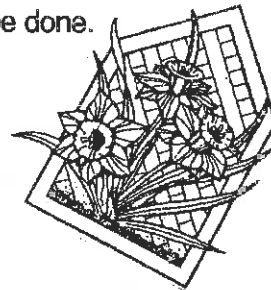
In reading the annual report for this year, the last paragraph reads, "The Men's Club is the proud preserver of male chauvinism and we cheerfully invite other men to unite with us on the

1988 (continued)

second Thursday evening of every month at 6:00 PM, with or without permission from your wife. [Hmmmmm...I noticed that this report we unsigned).

Jean Harrison had a great report for Social Ministry. The entire benevolence offerings from the people of Faith including Social Ministry Offerings was \$19, 239.82. A vast number of members of Faith were recognized at a special Sunday Service for their volunteer work to help charitable organizations outside the church in our community.

This was another good year. Much was accomplished. More needs to be done.



1989

Chuck Hammond continues to serve as President of the congregation at Faith. Here is part of his year-end report

"This has been a very interesting and busy year at Faith. We have seen our rural neighborhood change and be transformed into a non-rural neighborhood. This gives many of us strange and difficult feelings to wrestle with. It provides a sensation of sadness to not be able to look out at the oaks and cattle and yet, it brings joy and excitement to see the newness of it all. New people with new dreams and new joys to be in our neighborhood as they try to capture what we have had these many years. Well, prepare to share a little more because it looks certain that we will be experiencing more growth and sharing behind us. This time at Faith we will be directly involved by the sale of our back property.

This year we have seen our Sunday Church School attendance reach new heights and then also very nearly a new low. We have seen some very committed people and some not so committed. We purchased a new and beautiful Baldwin grand piano to give us pleasure (Val Peterson, Faith Parson, and Diane Martin served on this committee), and yet we have struggled to reach our commitment to Benevolence. We have new carpet in Charter Hall, thanks to an anonymous giver, and we still need the buildings painted. We voted to give the staff a well deserved salary adjustment by passing a faith budget to do so. I hope we all continue to remember that this is what it's all about, being a part of Faith, having faith, trusting each other, and most of all remembering why each of us is here at Faith."

Continuing on, it should be mentioned that the 5th and 6th grade youth made \$350.00 with its recycling program. Some of the money went to a nine year old burn victim. They also helped support Life Savers, an organization led by former baseball pitcher Dave Dravecky, plus giving \$100.00 to the children of Watsonville affected by the October earthquake. (Remember this was the year of the catastrophic earthquake that hit the Bay Area.

Bob Anderson writes that the Men's Club continues to solve all the worlds problem, the success of this activity is evidenced by the recent changes in Eastern Europe and the rise of democracy in Central America.

I counted 25 people plus the Choir, Contempo Group, and the Altar Guild involved with Worship and Music during the year. To name a few; Diane Martin--Music Director and Accompanist, Jennifer Besser--Worship Assistant Coordinator, Sandy Burroughs--Acolyte Coordinator, Lily Greer--Memorial Secretary, Oren and Nadine Smedshammer--Usher Coordinators, Val Peterson--Accompanist, Bill Sorenson--Organist, and Sue Wilkening--Altar Guild Chairman.

Gordon Stedman continues to serve as treasurer / bookkeeper through the years and the audit committee consisting of Dick Petersen, Don and Jan Lee write that they find the books in excellent order and in accordance with the records of receipts and disbursements.

Two of our members, Dorothy Jaymes and Wes Hammond met death this year. Both found Faith Lutheran late in their lives, and they will be remembered for their dedication to the teaching of the word.

1989 (continued)

In November, the Phoenix Coalition presented "Kristallnacht" to mark the 50th anniversary memorial of Kristallnacht (German) night of crystal, a term coined by the Nazi's themselves after the pogrom of November 9-10. This event was characterized by a great deal of broken glass resulting from vandalism against Jewish houses of worship, cultural institutions and private homes.

There were seven new confirmed youth for 1989. Robert Bertolini, Beth Jensen, Aaron Knight, Valerie Larson, Chris Rathbun, John Rydquist and Kirstin Snyder.

One of the resolutions made at the annual meeting and given approval was:

Whereas, our mortgage with Lutheran Brotherhood in the original amount of \$276,000 which has a balloon payment due on 11/31/91 in the amount of \$265,884;

And Whereas the congregation would save \$200,000 in interest over the life of the loan;

Therefore, be it resolved that when the proceeds from the completion of the Option Agreement (sale of the back property) are received that Faith Lutheran immediately pay off the mortgage to Lutheran Brotherhood.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the savings be directed toward the life and ministry of Faith Lutheran. (So be it.)

Congregational History 1990

Dick Petersen writes, "What a year to have had the privilege of serving as President of the congregation and the Council".

The council appointed a task force to study and develop a job description for additional pastoral staff. This later became known as the Personnel Committee. It wasn't until May that Diane Marten, a Deaconess at Faith, was called to the position of the Associate in Ministry.

Dick reports that the Youth Program has exploded at all levels...(bodies flying in all directions, just kidding Dick). The Youth have been a powerful and rich gift to our congregation. One of their projects was to develop a Youth Garden (later known as The Dream Garden).

The sale of the "back property" went into escrow, which enabled Faith to pay off most of the mortgage, \$225,000 to Lutheran Brotherhood. Amen.

Vacation Bible School's "Journey's With Jesus", directed by Jean Flak, was a hit. Over 75 children enrolled. Once again, Betty and Ernie Engle hosted "Camp Big Oak" for the young children.

Worship and Music Committee was chaired by Darlene Bayley. Working with her was Jennifer Besser, Altar Guild and Worship Assistant Coordinator. Howard and Elaine Finger made certain ushers were not only present, but also well trained. Sandy Burroughs scheduled the acolytes. Diane Marten was Director of Music and Lily Greer served as Memorial Fund Secretary.

It should be noted that we recognized two people for their services to the congregation at Faith, Cheryl Rydquist for ten years as Church Secretary, and Gordon Stedman for ten years of volunteering his service handling our church finances (thousands of dollars were collected and spent and never an error).

The Property Committee was kept busy installing, replacing, changing, upgrading, etc. etc. Eldon Flater writes that the committee put in at least 481 hours of labor in 1990. If hired out at \$20.00 per hour, it would amount to \$9,620, not including repairs.

Sue Wilkening was President of Faith Women of the ELCA. It was a busy year. Donna Besser headed the cookbook project. Joan Giordano was the leader at their yearly retreat. In September it was the yard sale, in October the convention, and in December the Advent tea. Yes, they still had time for speakers and Bible studies.

1990 (continued)

The hand of death reached into the family of Faith seven times this year.

Evald Anderson, Pastor Flak was a childhood friend of this family.

Mildred Linden, a member since 1966. She served as a volunteer secretary at our church for a number of years. One of her greatest challenges was the old mimeograph machine we used.

Then, dear friend and Charter member, Ray Allen. He was a gardener/landscaper, an actor, story teller, council member, teacher and a greeter to all.

Jeannette Keay attended Anna Circle and helped prepare our parish newsletter for mailing. She joined Faith in 1986

Family ties brought Edna Hammond to Faith Lutheran. She was preceded in death by her husband Wes. They had been married for 66½ years. The candlelabras in back of the altar were given in their memory by the family.

We learned by knowing Jerry Anderson. He told us what it was like to discover that you are gay and the fears that go with it. What it was like living with AIDS. Because of his generosity we have the meaningful painting of "Christ on the Cross". which is over 400 years old, in the narthex.

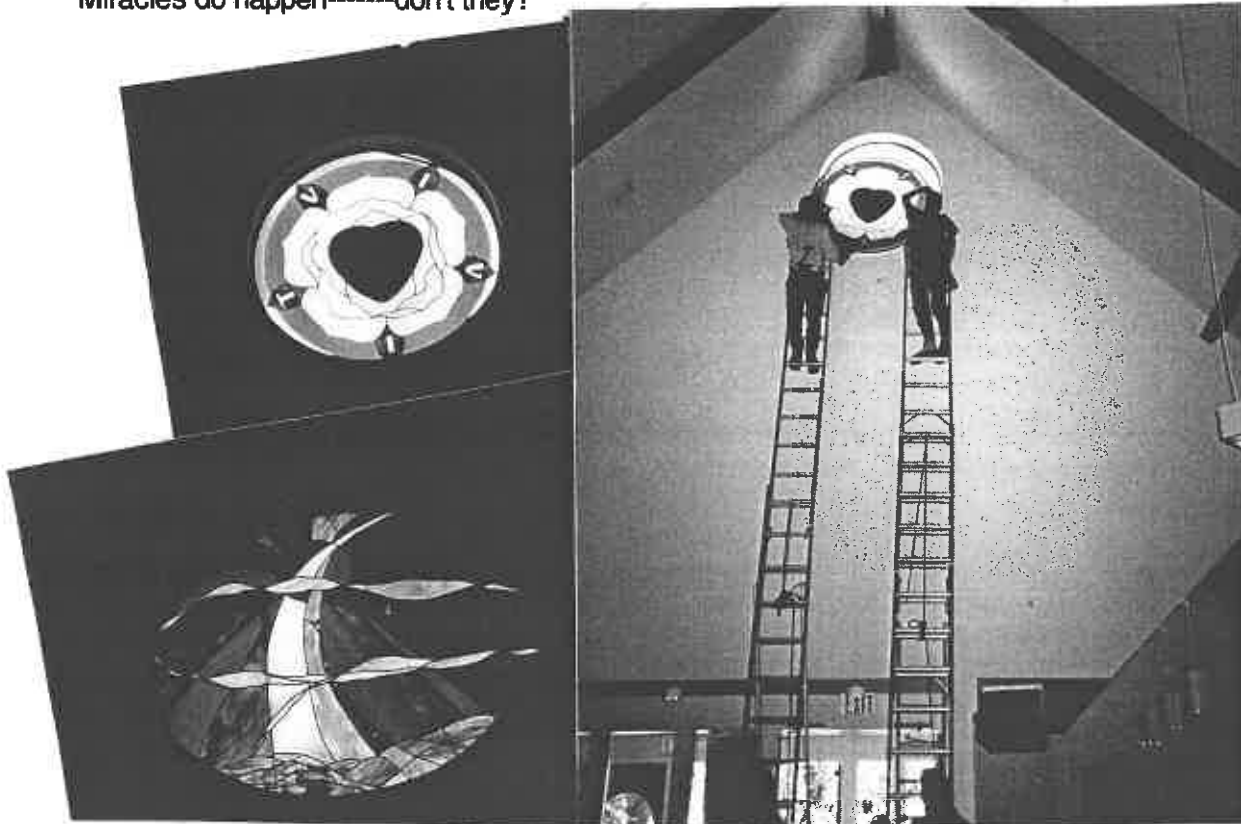
In November, Louise Pucker, mother of Faith Parson, died. Pastor Flak writes, " She was ready to die and didn't want anyone or anything holding her back".

Our two stained glass windows in the sanctuary were installed and dedicated this December. The Martin Luther window was presented for the Glory of God and in memory of Roy Besser by the Besser Family. The "Creation" window was designed by Faith Parson, Terry Raikes, artisan. Dr. and Mrs. Earl Rathbun were the benefactors.

We celebrated the holiday season with the program, "In Bethlehem Inn". They brought the play down from the stage, right into lap of the audience. The audience became the guests of the Inn on the night that Jesus was born. Beth Finger was the director.

We end 1990 with these figures. Benevolence giving hits a new high: Synod, \$18,192; Hunger, \$2,792; Social Ministry \$3,926; Total, \$24, 910. Average worship attendance January through August -- 155 per Sunday, September through December -- 188 per Sunday

Miracles do happen-----don't they?



Installing the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary

I have taken the liberty of starting this report as 1991 was ending. What I was reading was the "Goals and Guidelines--Long Range Plans--Update 1991." Every Committee within the church contributed. As we look back some have been accomplished. Some still need doing.

This year our church experienced and increased number of members leaving our congregation for various reasons. Richard Carpenter, Council President, had a challenging year and a busy year with new budget programs, the sale of the back property, new youth programs, a new loan, sharing our facilities with the community, cutting down trees, and planting gardens, plus updating our constitution.

Jean Flak with the help of Chuck Hammond handled the sale of the "back property". \$300,000 was received for the 1.8 acres, a total \$40,000 was paid prior to 1991 and \$260,000 was paid in 1991. Lutheran Brotherhood as holder of the mortgage on our property accepted \$225,000 of this amount as payment toward our loan.

Richard writes that we provided members and moral support to Thanksgiving Lutheran Church as they grow into a new congregation in Santa Rosa.

Our Church celebrated its 30th anniversary with a special service. Many of the hymns sung were those used during the first year of organization. The Rev. Michael Cooper-White, the Bishop's assistant, gave the sermon.

Original members of the Folk Group still participating, David and Cheryl Rydquist, Terry and Karen Larson, and Judy Dick sang "Irish Blessing" during the offertory.

Many of the long-time members participated in the church service, Marianne Burns, Don Christensen, Howard Finger, and Chuck Hammond, Sr. Charter members of the choir that are still singing included Faith Parson, Don and Shirley Williams and Lowell Thompson. Lily Greer directed.

A barbecue under the oaks followed the church service. The committee for this event was Becky Hinkels, Donna Besser, Don and Esther Christensen, Faith Parson, Norma Miller, and Judy Dick.

Member Joan Samuelson continues to make news as she addresses the House Energy and Commerce Health Committee in Washington, D.C. concerning financial aid to the National Institute of Health Research.

Our congregation was saddened by the death of two of our members. David Knight was the husband of Rose Knight, father of Aaron, Sarah, and Daniel. For Howard Forrest pastor Flak wrote, "Howard was one of those people that kindle light within us. He did it with his presence, his example of living with adversity, his gardening, his love of Grace and family, his faith in God, and of course, his gentle smile and humor." (A Liquid Amber tree donated by the Forrest Family has been planted in the Dream Garden as a living memory of Howard.)

After reading Diane Marten's (Associate in Ministry) report one is ready for a nap as she and helpers kept the youth and adults busy attending Shalom Camp, Camp Big Oak, V.B.S., Captive Free Concert, All Hollow's Eve, Sunday School, Christmas Program, the 30th Anniversary, the Great Volley Ball Challenge, FWELCA Advent Tea, and their Christmas Party, all Family Skating Party, Junior High at the Homeless Shelter, Newport Beach Congress, Magic Mountain, The Wooz, Confirmation, Hike----and the list goes on and on.

The property committee continues to upgrade the lighting, landscaping, and repairs to the buildings. Eldon Flater wrote that hours put in by the property committee would amount to almost \$3,000.

Bob Anderson wrote about the the well renowned Santa Rosa "think tank", better known as Faith Lutheran Church Men's Club.

Social Ministry helped twelve different organizations. The total amount given was \$3,861.13.

Jan Lee, Council Representative to the Stewardship Committee wrote in her report of the number of people helping this program being a success. Dick Petersen chaired this committee

1991 (continued)

that had at least twenty helpers. Pastor Quentin Garman was called to help with the campaign.

Our new green paraments were dedicated for our use. Nancy Conway and Bree Seger, who represented the Altar Committee guided the selection after research into fabric, color and design.

A new organist, Marquerite Koster (Crownover) with her gift for music was chosen. Val Peterson, Lily Greer, Faith Parson, and Carolyn Miller served on the search committee to find an organist, scheduling and listening to them before making their final decision.

After being on the Altar Guild for 30 years, Donna Besser resigned. (That dates her back to when the church started at the Art and Garden Center on Yulupa.) Other Altar Guild members were Nancy Conway, Judy Bello, Lonnee Carpenter, Jan Goree, Blanche Mansoor, Vickie Matrieci, Edith Ricker, Bree Seger, and Sue Wilkening. Two new members, Karen Peterson and Rose Knight joined the staff.



Donna Besser served 30 years
on the Altar Guild



Janice Hall
Music Director



Marguerite Crownover
Organist



Folk Group
on Easter Morning

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY
21ST CENTURY HERE WE COME
THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN
1992

Here we are starting our 31st year as Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. Last year was the celebration year. This year was the start of working on the goals that had been set. Richard Carpenter served his second year as president of the congregation. This year was seen as a renewed commitment to youth, the expansion of existing programs for the younger children and the beginning of two new programs, one being led by dedicated members of the "Second Generation", worked on developing new goals and long range plans for the churches needs, including special emphasis on our youth programs. Dick Petersen, Council Vice President submitted their report. (For goals see the 1992 annual report.) The second was the start of "Daytimers" for our "retired youth". This program was led by Esther Christensen.

We continue to share our facilities with the community, although this year Sumerfield Nursery School closed its operations at Faith. A special committee headed by Vickie Matreci looked into the possibility of running a day care school. This was a big step as we discovered in later years. Vickie also chaired the Altar Committee. Their main project was the making of new Christmas tree ornaments to replace the old worn out ones.

Diane Marten writes that Marguerite Crownover completes her first year, a new and very good organist with an old and not so hot organ.

On Maunday Thursday, we joined Bethlehem and Elim for a massed choir singing Rutter's "Requiem".

Lily Greer continues as the secretary of the Memorial Fund. (And she is still doing it.)

This must have been a busy year for Donna Hoberg, Sunday School Superintendent. There were 34 names listed in her report that took part in this years activities. Included, were names of this years confirmands: Kirstand Roland, Danielle Engle, Richard Bertoline, Matt Carpenter and Ken Lantz.

Pastor write, "Death laid a heavy hand on our congregational family this past year by claiming people we were not yet ready to let go of." Richard Sackett, a member since 1971. Dick moved to Santa Rosa when the U. S. Corps of Engineers transferred him to help develop Warm Springs Dam. Long time member, Art Lindberg, a kind and gentle man with high standards and a willing heart. Our blue paraments were given in memory of Art Lindberg by the Lindberg family. Ted Knock, brother of Luther united with us in 1986. He was interested in so many things that surrounded him. Once again we meet death in the newborn Zachary Burns. Carl Wennes, husband of Laurie was a very likable person who because of his illness we did not get a chance to know. Royce Slewing died at the age of 92, a handsome and dignified man. He learned later in his life of his early Lutheran baptism.

"The Women of Faith" met throughout the year under the leadership of Lonnie Carpenter. Gull House at Bodega Bay was the place for a retreat led by Corey Kidwell, using "This Much and No More" as her topic.

Our youth started the year with several activities until Diane Martin, Associate in Ministry resigned to accept another position. For the seventh and eighth grades, Darlene Bailey and Debbie Ferrunato help carry on so the youth could continue to have fun, look forward to confirmation and doing things such as going to Shalom Camp with the older group. Senior High's held several fund raisers such as pie baking sales, car washes and selling KZST books. With money earned they were able to afford a ski trip, two conventions (one in Monterey and another at Newport Beach) and in their own words, "and one of the most fun places- a beach house in Fort Bragg". Cheryl Rydquist and Rose Knight helped lead the group after Diane left to continue activities, caring and sharing for the youth.

The following is a report of the Call Committee:

"1992 was the year of the CALL. With a mandate from the congregation, assistance from Pastor Flak, the church council and the Bishop's associate, Chuck Ruthroff, the Call Committee followed synodical protocol and direction to interview for and call our Associate Pastor to Faith Lutheran Church. Effective November 29, 1992, James D. Cords was

CALLED to be that person, and was officially installed as Associate Pastor, Sunday December 6, 1992.."

Serving on the Call Committee were Gary Wilkening, Chuck Hammond, Lonnie Carpenter, Grace Forrest, Mariane Screen, Stephanie Darland and Oren Smedshammer, David Rydquist, Chairman.

Our Christmas program, titled "To Bring Our Hearts Together" was organized by Diane Marten. It was a combination program and service that included the children, congregation, clergy and choir. As Donna Hoberg wrote, "a delightful gift of togetherness wrapped in Christmas spirit and sound".

1993

This was the year of changes. President Dick Petersen, and Council members had their work cut out for them. Quoting Dick, "It was a roller coaster year", It was a year of transition caused by Pastor Flak's announcement and subsequent retirement at the end of September.

For the first time we have the full responsibility for our preschool. Prior to the 1992 fall term it was privately run. The school board consists of five church members and two parent members who serve no more than two consecutive terms. The Council appointed David Rydquist, Gordon Stedman, Cecilia Procknow, Tanya Harlin and Vickie Matreci. The operation of the school is the responsibility of Rae Anne Thurlow and Linda Sewell. The school has been self sufficient from the beginning.

We continued our Committee Nights which create ideas, suggestions and recommendations to give to the Council/Congregation. All committees fall into one of these: Outreach, Congregation Care, or Resources.

Death found Ora May Stelling at the Apple Valley Convalescent Home.

Shirley (Sammie, as we all knew her) Allen died. She was a Charter member of Faith Lutheran Church and a supporter of all our activities. She loved people and was the #1 welcomer to the church. Best of all she was a hugger.

The hunt was on for a pipe organ, led by Marguerite Crownover, Faith Parsons, Oren Doering, Lily Greer and Val Peterson. They discovered it took much time to travel, check out, listen and learn. Their concern was whether the old organ would hang in there until a new one could be found.

For the seventh year, Betty and Ernie Engle directed Camp Big Oak. The camp was designed to allow those too young to attend our Lutheran Camp at Mount Cross to have a camp out experience with the help of junior counselors.

The Confirmation Class attended "Night Watch" at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, a youth gathering at Santa Cruz, and a weekend camping trip to Lake Mendocino. That was when Paul Cords fell into the bonfire and mother Marilyn had to rush him to the hospital. Fortunately, all ended well.

A youth subcommittee was formed in the fall to plan some events as well as to communicate some of their feelings with keeping the youth involved in our church. Events from skiing to helping the homeless, attending youth conference in Santa Cruz and hosting a "Captive Free" concert were some that took place.

Bob Anderson, with tongue in cheek reported, "Cloaked in the anonymity of a small church group, The Men's Club continues to influence worldwide politics and policies."

Not all was fun and games for the "Daytimers", With the help of Marilyn Cords they tore sheets into strips and rolled them for use as bandages. These were sent to Madagascar.

Eleven organizations were helped by our giving to Social Ministry. Our largest recipient was the Parkinson's Action Network in the amount of \$1,097.85. All monies given remain locally.

Not all of our members had a chance to know Laura Leigh Schiller. However many gave of their time and money to help maintain a life style she could cope with. She wrote us stories and poetry. We gave support. Laura died May 22.

1993 (continued)

The end of September marked the retirement of Pastor Lorents Flak and his wife Jean. They served us faithfully for over twenty years through tears and laughter. A "Retirement Celebration" was a thank you for those twenty years. A check for \$5,392.23 was presented to them. Serving on the retirement committee were Al and Blanche Mansoor, Chuck and Janet Hammond, Bob and Karen Anderson, Stan and Mary Haller, Nadine and Oren Smedshammer, Faith and Al Parson, Grace Forrest, Donna Hoberg, Diane Marten, Pastor Cords, Paul and Mary Rydquist and Dave and Cheryl Rydquist.

In October, Pastor Richard Heim arrived to be our Interim Pastor and work with Pastor Cords.

Val Peterson, Financial Secretary, writes in his report --- "During 1993 the number of members contributing remained essentially unchanged from the previous year. In fact the number of contributors has been almost constant for the last five years. The number of members who pledge varies from year to year, but the total giving is relatively unaffected by this variation. Members who pledged contributed 93% of what they said they would; this is close to the historical average for Faith Lutheran".

The next paragraphs are copied from the Vision Committee Report for 1993. Those serving on this project were Joan Samuelson Corbet, Grant Doering, Donna Hoberg, Phil Rosen, Chuck Hammond, Sr., and Bob Matreci. "Faith's growth in staff and service, begun with the hiring of Deaconess Diane Marten as Associate in Ministry and continued with call of Pastor Cords as associate Pastor, demonstrated a potential for wider ministry. This development presented a challenge: although some financial growth occurred during the period, church income has not always equaled its expenses. At the outset of the hiring of Diane Marten, the church's savings (from the sale of church property) were required to meet the expenses, but by the time of the end of her tenure as A IM, Faith's income had grown to a point where it met that increased expense. With the further increase in expenses resulting from the call of a second pastor in place of an AIM, however, church expenses exceeded income and eventually the savings were entirely depleted. ----- Assuming the shortfall can not be met at this time without a substantial increase in giving or membership, Faith cannot address the vision with action to simply replace Pastor Flak as senior pastor. How will various priorities named be staffed, and by whom?"

Ah, yes, it was an interesting year.

Pastor Flak and wife Jean
At his retirement party





Here we go with many changes in leadership of our congregation. Once again, Dick Petersen is President of the Church Council. His opening statement for the annual report was: "We had a pastor--we had two pastors--we had one pastor--we had no pastor. We called--he came, but he left. Then a warm gentle caring interim pastor (his name was Dr. David Larson) came and guided us through disruption, confusion, hurt, anger, but mostly he guided us in our healing and our spiritual needs. But that was yesterday and now he has returned, with Faith's appreciation, to his retirement".

Serving on Council during the troubled times and having to make tough decisions were Jan Lee, Bob Matreci, Glen Crowover, Eldon Flater, Carolyn Miller, Bruce Kyse, Tim Nelson, Donna Hoberg, Ernie Engle, Jody Fairfield and youth representative Phil Rosen.

Spaghetti dinners, "Faith Follies" a talent show, and ice cream social helped raise funds to send our youth and chaperones to Mexico for the Servant Project (helping to build homes) which was quoted as being awesome, and a blast and which had a very powerful and lasting impact on all who went.

It was a busy year for youth as they hosted two "Captive Free" concerts, show trips, night watch, VBC, annual beach trip to Fort Bragg which was very spiritual, Youth Encounters in Santa Cruz, Shalom Camp, and the Kids to Kids Party for the homeless shelter families as well as the occasional skating party.

Pam D'Angelo reported that the annual women's retreat, focusing on "Faith in Daily Life" took place in March at Bodega Bay. Eighteen women participated. The retreat was led by The Rev. Susan Nachtigal.

Faith Lutheran preschool hosted a Mother's Day Tea. Vickie Matreci was in charge. This was a time for women to wear their spring finery and bring a fancy cup.

Not to be left out, the men of Faith held a retreat at the D'Angelo family home in Carmel using the theme, "Living out Faith in Everyday Life", led by Pastor Rubin Age.

This was a special year for Eldon and Eileen Flater, and Core and Gene Darling as they celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversaries with us.

Bob Matreci and Joanne Lantz reported on the Sunday School, Day Camp, and Vacation Bible School. It was all there, Opening Pow Wow, Christmas choir, rehearsals, lessons, singing, rap sessions, crafts, and mission impossible challenges.

In August the organ search committee found a used Moeller pipe organ with 10 ranks of pipes, complete for \$33,184.00. The church council accepted the recommendation to purchase this instrument with donations, honorariums and memorials. A vote was passed by the congregation to apply for an add-on loan, in the amount of \$50,000 from the Lutheran Brotherhood to provide funds for the addition to the church (to create an area for the pipes), rerouting the church, Charter Hall and Humman Hall.

In September, more than 100 folk gathered for an Aloha Luau under the oaks to say good-bye to the Cords family: Jim, Marilyn, Kristin and Paul. There even was a Luau pig that the Hammond family got and prepared for the occasion. Jamie Hammond and Jan Lee organized this special tribute for the family. We cared a lot about them and are grateful to have known them.

One of the many things Pastor Cords accomplished was the starting of the Wednesday Bible Class.

With sadness, we said our good-byes to Lowell Thompson who died in November. Lowell was a psychologist for forty years in the Piner-Olivet School System. He and his wife, Ruth, shared their musical talents and participated in activities of the church.

This was a busy year for the Personnel Committee. Prior to Pastor Chords leaving, long time parishioner and church secretary, Cheryl Rydquist retired. A good-bye party with gifts was given for her. Before that Diane Marten, Director of Music, transferred to Thanksgiving

1994 (continued)

Lutheran, and prior to that, Interim Pastor, Richard Heim retired to Colorado Springs. Yes it definitely was a busy year for the Personnel and Call Committees.

The coming of Pastor Graig Geiger to Faith Lutheran Church on January 1, 1995 will be cause for celebration. We look forward to a new year, a new pastor and a new beginning.



1995

We start this year with a full plate. Pastor Geiger preached his first sermon here on January the first. Usually the attendance is light on New Year's Day, but this year there was a sizable crowd.

The following Sunday, the eighth, was Pastor Craig Geiger's Installation, followed by a reception. This gave members the chance to meet his wife Pastor Rene Geiger of Marin Lutheran Church in Corte Madera.

For the second time, Casey D'Angelo was elected by Council to serve as President of the congregation. In February the Council had a retreat and a chance to get better aquatinted.

Remember the successful "Valentine Ball" fund raiser, headed by Jeanine Dahlquist and her many helpers. This was a dress up occasion with music, lights, food and champagne.

Our spending pattern began to outweigh our income. The Council decided to make some cuts to the budget to bring our expenses in line with our income. The Lutheran magazine, Celebrate, and lawn service were eliminated. When the custodian Grant Bayley resigned, we decided to use volunteers for our cleaning and lawn care as we found we were just keeping pace with our expenses.

We refinanced our loan for \$85,000 as we could no longer service and build the new organ needed to house our new organ.

After having several temporaries, Cheryl Hastan was hired as our church secretary.

The Book Club was formed and met twice a month, gathering informally in the Conference Room to have a busy discussion in the spirit of camaraderie, discovering and exploring food for heart, mind and soul.

Remember the Cherub Choir? It was discontinued because of low attendance. We remember to give thanks to Tina Gardner for her efforts in organizing the group.

Terry Larson wrote that the Contempo Group was starting to look better after struggling and floundering through the Fall of 1994. Glen Crownever dusted off his guitar and joined. Later, Dave Rydquist brought his harmonica back. In the Fall they switched from the "Chicago" to the "Feast of Life" service. Eldon Flater came with his percussion instruments. Rocky Reed added his touch and Val began as regular pianist. Around Thanksgiving time, Curtis Farber joined with his guitar. All of this was done by volunteers and a low budget.

Coordinator for the "Daytimers", Esther Christensen reported that they made tray favors for five different residential care homes. In the Fall they made Christmas ornaments for our Christmas Tree. It was a time for good conversations, sightseeing, games and lunch.

In May eleven FLC Women attended a retreat at Carmel led by the Rev. Susan Nachtigal.

Upon passing licensing requirements by the State of California, Faith Lutheran Preschool opened its doors in September of 1993. The school was started as part of Mission Outreach Program. Our church members have continued their involvement, through staff, board, teachers and students.

Lily Greer continues as Memorial Fund/Book Chairman. She reported that a large amount of money was donated to the Organ Fund in memory of loved ones. As members we certainly appreciate that giving.

Cathy Martin, Junior High Director, reported that the class made a quilt for the homeless people after hearing a guest speak on Homeless Services.

We thank the Men's Club for the new round tables and chairs they provided through the efforts of their world famous Easter Morning Breakfast Fund Raiser.

The organ committee that was formed in 1991 was successful in finding two compatible organs at Danville and Piedmont. Jeanine Dahlquist, chairwoman, reports that we will end up with a 10 rank Moeller organ and they heard that we have the best organ north of the bridge. Amen. One of the fund raisers for the organ was held on a hot, hot summer day when we had a "Hoe-Down Party" Pastor Craig had the coolest job behind the wet sponge toss.

In April funeral services were held for Ray Thomas Allen at Faith. He was the son of Ray and Sammie Allen and brother of Blythe Babb.

Ray King, a skillful and talented man of many trades died May 3rd. King suffered nine major strokes in the years after his wife died. He was 87 years old.

An open house to celebrate Roger and Lorraine Larson's 50th Wedding Anniversary was a happy occasion.

A record 34 excited children covering preschool through 2nd grade attended the Vacation Bible School. "Living In God's Creation", was put together by staff under the direction of Vickie Matrici.

There were seven young people confirmed by Pastor. They were Brian Carpenter, Justin Ferronato, David Knight, Brandon Kyse, Anna Martin and Garrett Procknow.

Our #1 resolution at the annual meeting of 1995 was the recognition of Gordon Stedman by the entire congregation of Faith Lutheran Church, giving its profound thanks and gratitude for his faithful and dedicated service these past 17 years as treasurer. Thank you, Gordon



Craig Geiger
Pastor

Heritage Grove was
created by members
who contributed
money and labor
in memory of
loved ones





1996

1996 was a year of steady progress, a year of celebration (we always seem to have something to celebrate). This year was the addition of a fine pipe organ. Thanks to the organ committee who found it. Ruth Bell took the console apart to refinish it and Terry and Dave Williams applied the stain and finish. Ruth Bell put it back together, minus the innards. Phil Browning with the help of Bob Bell installed the organ into the area that was constructed to house the pipes. Glen Crownover was there to help when it was time to put in the blower and did some wiring. More on this later.

Casey D'Angelo was elected for a second term as president of the congregation. A council retreat in January gave them a chance to know each other and make some decisions. They came up with eight areas that were felt to be important, youth support, social activities, new member support, welcoming at Sunday service, school marketing, sharing who we are, clear structure hierarchy single ministry and blended family.

Worship and music began to tackle the difficult task of copyright compliance for the music they use. Joanne Lantz headed the committee to survey our copy right needs and paying royalties. Terry Larson a member of the contempo group has made progress in attracting new members to participate. A "Worship and Music Suggestion Box" was installed in the Narthex for all to use.

Twenty people were involved with "Sharing the Faith"; this activity, which included an ice cream social, pee-wee golf and even a Golden Gate Bridge Walk. These were special times for all to gather once a month.

We hardly ever hear about the Staff Support Committee. It was formed last year. Its responsibility is to support the church staff and the entire congregation as a communication network, a liaison to forward concerns, questions, and challenges to the person in charge so that a resolution may be achieved. The committee members were: Dick Petersen, chairman, Mary Haller, Jamie Hammond, Kim Olney, Larry Zech, and Al Mansoor.

After receiving input from the congregation, the Social Ministry Committee headed by Cathy Martin decided to focus their attention on just three organizations that the church can help this year, "Homeless Service Center", "Parkinson's Action Network", and YWCA Women's Shelter were selected. The "Deacon's Fund" was reactivated. The Youth Group had existing monies of \$331.98 (from recycled cans) that went to the "Sunburst Project".

Each week our church hosted four AA groups, one Al-Anon group and a meditation group. Each month we were host to an AA general meeting, Step Families Association, P-Flag. Intermittently we hosted Moonlight Quilters, Piano Recitals and Election Polls. Donna Hoberg has served as liaison / coordinator for these groups.

There was no chairman for the Property Committee, but from the annual report that Bob Bell wrote there were at least nineteen (large and small) projects accomplished throughout the year; storage space for choir robes and music, painting, adopt a space to care for, Heritage Grove tree planting, and lath house renovation. The Dream Garden continues to be a place of beauty for solitude, prayer, and meditation.

In August twelve FLC youth and five adults traveled to Tijuana, Mexico with the goal to build a house for a poor family. They found the work was backbreaking, under the hot sun but they did complete an 11' x 22' house. A guide from Amar Ministries said it was the best looking house she had seen all summer.

A library committee was formed and plans were made to establish a library in the conference room. Additional shelves were built and the committee sanded and stained them. The congregation was asked to donate books for the library and for a book sale to raise funds. We responded with many boxes and stacks of interesting books. The committee consisted of Cathy Martin, Joanne Lantz, and Donna Hoberg. Donna Besser was named official Librarian.

There were three members who died in '96, Ruth Elaine Azoff, Charter member Esther Kjeldgaard who served Faith well, and Mildred Smith who gave much of her time as a volunteer

worker through Welfare League.

The Pipe Organ Committee could finally see closure as we celebrated on March 30th an organ debut. This was a dress up occasion starting with an Organ Recital led by Marguerite Crownover and Val Peterson. A champagne reception followed. An English Tea Room was set up in Charter Hall and dancing to a live band was held in Hummon Hall. Out door mini lights decorated the way between buildings. This was certainly a special night for all. Those who served on the Organ Celebration Committee Janine Dahlquist, chairman, Cora Darling, Jamie Hammond, Janet Hammond, Nancy Yamasaki, Jodi Fairfield, Darlene Nelson, Marguerite Crownover, Carolyn Miller, Mary Anne Screen, and Faith Parson, advisor.

Pastor and Ruth Knock showed us that life could be beautiful after 60 years of marriage. Bob and Ruth Bell celebrated their 50th. Where did all that time go?

We must not forget the surprise 50th birthday party we had for Pastor Geiger. At least we think it was a surprise. Wife, Renee helped. Faith Women prepared the event. A pistachio tree was planted on the south side of the play yard in his honor.

Yes a lot happened this year. We continue to work, pray, cry, celebrate and enjoy life as our family at Faith.



Those who installed the organ
Glen Crownover, Phil Browning, Bob Bell

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY 1997
21st CENTURY HERE WE COME
THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN



This year's history begins using the Pastor's Report as printed in our Annual Report. Pastor Geiger wrote, "As we began the year with a reduced council membership, there was a sense that some change was in the wind. At the '97 council retreat some keen scrutinizing was undertaken of the council's and the congregation's wants, needs, and goals and perceptions. Some inconsistencies were unearthed as to my perceptions and the congregation's understanding as to what model of ministry best meets the needs of Faith Lutheran Parish. I believe that the shift in how we work together was healthy and fruitful. The council set about offering a series of congregational vision meeting with the theme being, 'Welcoming the Stranger'."

Serving on the 1997 council were Donna Besser, Tina Garner, Chuck Hammond, Sr., Glenn Hetchler, Joanne Lantz, Karen Anderson, and Sandi McCracken. Wayne Henkle was elected by council to serve as president of the congregation.

Many members and friends donated monies to fund our "Heritage Grove" to honor past present and future "saints". Ruth Bell planned and organized the planting of the trees along the property fences with the help of the Property Committee. In addition to digging holes to plant the trees, the property committee painted the exterior of the church buildings. A new roof was placed on the Sanctuary. Portions of the wooden exterior that had developed dry rot were also replaced, as well as windows in the office.

For many years Terry Larson with wife Karen faithfully played and led the contempo group in the service. When they resigned, Michael Heintz was hired to lead the group.

In May Pastor Geiger took a three month medical leave. We were fortunate to have The Rev. David Larsen as our supply pastor to fill our needs.

Faith Lutheran celebrated its 36th birthday Sunday May 4th. To honor the day, everyone who had an FLC t-shirt or sweat shirt wore it.

There were thirteen different sessions for adult education. Topics ranged from "Politics Issues, Ethics and Issues" to a "Passover Seder" lead by Stan Haile.

The Women of Faith had a retreat to Silver Penny Farm near Petaluma. The theme was "Welcoming the Stranger". Elizabeth Weatherall led the session. Glenda Anderson and Jane Hammond hosted a gathering for "Sunburst" luncheon.

Karen Peterson, wedding coordinator had a couple of exciting moments during the year, one when the bride's veil caught fire when lighting the unity candle and another when 48 doves were released after the ceremony, and two flew back inside the church right at her. Who said the job was dull.

Speaking of weddings, the Wes Hammonds celebrated their 60th anniversary. The candleabras in the back of the altar were given in their honor by their children.

Faith and Al Parson celebrated their 50th with grand "bash" at church. The program included the choir singing, picnic barbecue and more.

Jan Goree, Grace Forrest, Cathy Martin, and Donna Hoberg continue to weed, feed, trim and water the Dream Garden. Add to that the care of the flowers in the front of the church and the east side, by Judy Lindberg.

On the third of August we welcomed back Pastor Geiger by having an Hawaiian Luau following the Sunday morning church service.

Through the summer months Faith Parson and Ruth Bell worked on a three dimensional "Noah's" Ark and Animals" mural. The outdoor scene was dedicated August 31st.

The 1997 Camp Big Oak was a huge success with eighteen helpers plus all the campers.

Off the record but noted: member Jan Goree won "Best of Show" at the Sonoma County Fair for her pine needle "Indian" basket and Chuck Hammond Sr., was awarded the "1997 Clean Air Champions" for his work promoting clean fuel vehicles in Santa Rosa ---- congratulations to both.

Another 50th anniversary was celebrated by longtime members, Don and Esther

1997 (continued)

Christensen..It was a special day for special people.

Rally Day for church school was a roaring success. Parents gathered to talk to their children's teachers and learn about what was being planned for the coming year. Rob Anderson planned the event.

Some of us had a chance to know Rosita (Rose) White before she died. She would come to Care and Share meetings and Sunday church services with her husband Bob.

Daniel, husband of Monica Thompson, was a name on our prayer list that as time passed we got to know and pray for with Monica.

Faith Lutheran Women had a busy fall schedule, another retreat near Fort Bragg, a craft fair, then the Synod Women's Organization Convention in Redding with Mary Haller as their delegate.

Six youths made their public affirmation of baptismal vows. Confirmed were Evan Shiller, Lee Screen, Melissa Reis, Caitlan Kyse, Eric Martin, and Jessica Fairfield.

The Rev. John Madsen-Bibeau was hired to be Youth Activities Coordinator. A walking trip through San Francisco after taking the ferry across the bay was a bone chilling experience for the youth and the chaperones.

An Advent Tea, under Vickie Matrici's direction started the Christmas season. Then an adult potluck, the Women's Christmas Party and children's program followed, ending the year with our beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight service.



Faith Parson and Ruth Bell
Creating Noah's Ark Wall

21ST CENTURY HERE WE COME
THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN
1998

Council President Sterling Thayer writes, "This has been a challenging and rewarding time to be a member of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. There is a wonderful outpouring of caring and love by members of this congregation".

As far as activities were concerned, we had a "full platter". We attended seminars. The sanctuary was painted, the lower areas by members, the higher parts by pros. Sue Wilkening Donker got married and moved away. We started buying our Sunday morning coffee through Lutheran World Relief in an attempt to help small farmers build a better future. There was a great turnout for Cleanup Day, so much needed work was accomplished. The Altar Guild presented beautiful Easter arrangements (they do this at Thanksgiving and Christmas time also). And of course we all expected and enjoyed Men's Club Easter Breakfast that they serve. They even make money. Not to be outdone the Women of the Church had a rummage sale to earn money for their projects. They also hosted the Sunburst luncheon, Donna Hoberg, Chairman.

The Splash Program (Ripples of the Baptized) was introduced to the congregation. Joanne Lantz, Sandy Thayer, Cathy Martin and Pastor Craig attended the training. This group has been focusing on raising awareness in our congregation of the many and varied ways we share faith at work, play with families, friends, and the many small encounters we have each day.

In June it was fun and games time with a down home rodeo. Band leader Tom Larson gave us plenty of music. Curtis Farber and Eldon Flater ran the barbecue. Many enjoyed games, face painting, etc.

Faith Parson headed the Stewardship presentation, a May meeting with "Bill" Otterson, director. Faith wrote that our social function phone callers, and our Bible study leaders were marvelous and all benefited from each event.

Super Sundays in July included a pot luck under the Oaks, a Brunch and Pie Festival. Sterling Thayer and Tine Gardner made the arrangements.

Charter Member Lily Greer made front page news as she celebrated her 94th year. The article told of her many years of volunteer work, including the S. R. Community Concert Association, directing Faith's choir for 20 years, member of the Saturday Afternoon Club and Saroptimist Club to name a few. The "Lily Greer Reading and Conference Room" here at church was named in her honor.

The Thayers hosted the "Camp Big Oak" (second session). Helpers were Tina Gardner, Bob White, Caitlyn Farber and Rob Anderson (his story telling around the campfire were awesome).

Many Youth attended the "Wacky Wednesday and Freaky Friday Overnights" under the leadership of Pastor Craig. It sounds weird, but I heard that they all had a good time.

During the week, member Sharon Willis operates a licensed day care for adults, which provides services for developmentally disabled seniors. This year she started using Charter Hall and for this she makes a sizable contribution to the general fund.

In the fall Amy Carpenter was confirmed. She plays goalie for the Montgomery High School Soccer Team, plus she has a hundred other interests. She says, "God is perennial and 'up there'."

Our hired youth director was let go for non performance.

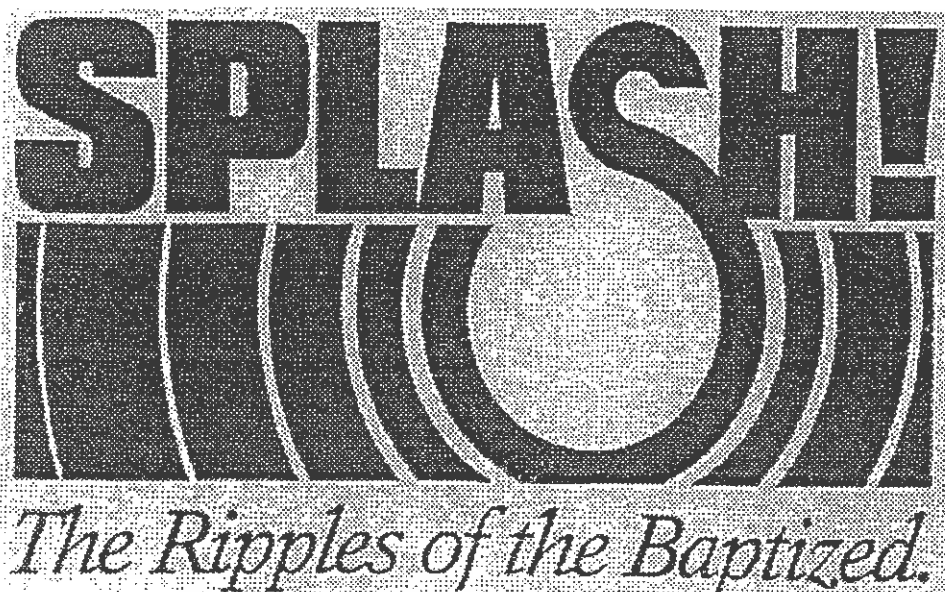
In November, Curtis Farber held a special meeting to discuss the formation of a vital in church ministry to benefit us all. With the support of the congregation, Curtis headed the leadership for our youth.

Food Fun and Fellowship sponsored by the women of the church gave us a great evening for family entertainment. Jan Goree and Esther Christensen were the cochairmen. Don emptied out his garage to provide prizes.

Faith Lutheran Scrip Program is well underway. Sandy Thayer gave a time consuming commitment for this project.

While cleaning up brush at church, Gord's hand was hurt when Bob Bell performed excellent CPR on Wally Fawcett enabling him to return to active participation in life. This occurrence made our congregation aware of the need to know CPR. Joanne Lantz, Joanne Lantz have classed taught, which were well attended.

The year ended with the Children's Christmas Program, Christmas Eve Church Services and on the last Sunday, "The Blessing of the Animals". Sorry, no snakes allowed, Larry.



21ST CENTURY HERE WE COME
THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN
1999

The new council serving Faith for 1999 was made up of old and new members. Sterling Thayer was elected to serve as president.

Charter member Bill Schmidt succumbed to cancer after a courageous battle for two years.. Three months later, Bill's sister-in-law, wife of Izzy Schmidt died after a short illness. Then in May, long time active member, Gene Darling died. He helped serve our church in so many ways. At midyear, gentle Ruth Knock, wife of retired pastor Luther Knock, died. Ruth was a teacher, musician and a friend. Yes, it was a sad year for our members, but there were also many happy times to remember.

Social Ministry, headed by Laurie Wennes had an active year. \$7,257.99 was raised to help ten plus organizations, not including donations to six other groups.

One committee that we hear little about is titled, "Mutual Ministry". Organized in 1997, Kim Olney writes that some of their duties include to field our concerns and input to our ministry staff and vision.

This was the year we started having the pew (choir) arrangement weekly/monthly and now in 2001 we are still trying. We make changes in some liturgical presentations just when we are getting used to what had been used. Also being discussed were mid-week evening service, more use of Taize service (I hope not), and the use of real bread during communion.

Larry Babb continues to spend many hours divising a successful tone bell friendly system for playing the tone chimes. Wife Blythe is there to help him.

The "Contempo Group" grew a little smaller as David Rydquist and his wife Cheryl moved to the foothills of the Sierra. Terry and Karen Larsen also reduced their involvement with the group after many years of being there for us. Fortunately, the Babbs, Joanne Lantz, Rocky Reed and Sterling Thayer, Jr. have stepped in to help fill the void.

Beautiful new red paraments were added for the Palm Sunday worship.

It is always interesting to read wedding coordinator, Karen Peterson's, yearly report. She wears many hats... organizer, cheerleader, referee, fan, financial planner, writer, best friend, hand holder, and spectator of one of the most beautiful of our ceremonies.

Dispite an exciting curriculum, there was a dramatic decline in enrollment in Sunday Church School. With so much offered, it is hard to understand why. Pre-K through 6th grade gathered for Camp Big Oak for their camping experience. Always a great event. Thanks, Kim Olney.

Adults have their class on Sunday, Bible study midweek, Book Club and short term courses at individual's homes. A five week Sunday study on "Evaluating Our Congregation Style and Priorities" was well attended.

Confirmands for this year were Kaitlin Procknow, Nicole Noonan, Shirah Ahders, and Brian Ries.

Curtis Farber writes that it was a time of learning as Youth Leader at Faith. Many plans made did not come about. Some due, in part, to lack of participation by the youth. He writes, "I feel we need to show our children that is is not only O.K., but truly great to have a personal relationship with Jesus. It's something to be proud of, and, if they can learn to talk about it among themselves it might be easier to talk about and live their faith in their daily lives". Thanks Curtis, we could all learn.

Faith Women of the ELCA continued to meet. Jan Goree was the delegate to the Synod Assembly in Concord. Their Christmas Party was entertained by the Elsie Allen High School Choral Group.

Yes it was a busy year. There were special programs such as "Splash" Youth Outings (like visiting the Rural Cemetry) Halloween Party, Egg Hunt, Scrip, Great work day to keep our property looking beautiful, Men's Easter Breakfast,, watching our big oak tree being cut down because it was diseased, Youth Retreat at Mount Cross in April, and confirmation camp in July. Roland's daughter's wedding made the newspaper. Faith Parson led us into a

successful Congregational Stewardship Family Event, a picnic under the oaks with Lutheran Brotherhood Redwood Branch, Choir had their year end Barbecue, our wedding coordinator, Karen Petersen's daughter was married, a harried moment since property committee also coordinated repairing a sidewalk that AIM, forgiven, I hope., neighbors met for a "neighborhood watch meeting", Minnie Roche celebrated her 81st birthday and we all helped her celebrate, Anna Martin made the newspaper on the "Teen" page, Secretary, Sherry Navarro left after several years, Thanks Sherry, Church Council held its retreat at the church. There was a picnic and trip to the Gallo Winery at Dry Creek arranged by Bob Bell.

This was the year the Andersons vacationed with the Flaks to Alaska. On the way back Bob decided to make history by detouring to Seattle via helicopter with life threatening problems. Two months plus later he and Karen arrived back in Santa Rosa.

Once again the Altar Guild made the Altar surroundings beautiful during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. The Christmas candlelight services are always a special time to attend out church, and it was again as we celebrated Christ's Birthday.

We also wanted to celebrate the ending of 1900-1999 and entering into 2000 so naturally we had a party on New Year's Eve. We had fun games, dancing, conversation, food, etc. etc.... The committee decorated in grand style and the band played on. A Prayer tree was decorated with notes for the next century. Entertainment was for all ages, since this was a family affair. Three of our youth provided us with baby sitting. Pastor gathered us prior to midnight for devotions. Then came the countdown. The bell rang, toasts were made, and then the fireworks were set off. The Century ended with the playing of "TAPS"

1999 WENT OUT IN STYLE

Footnote:

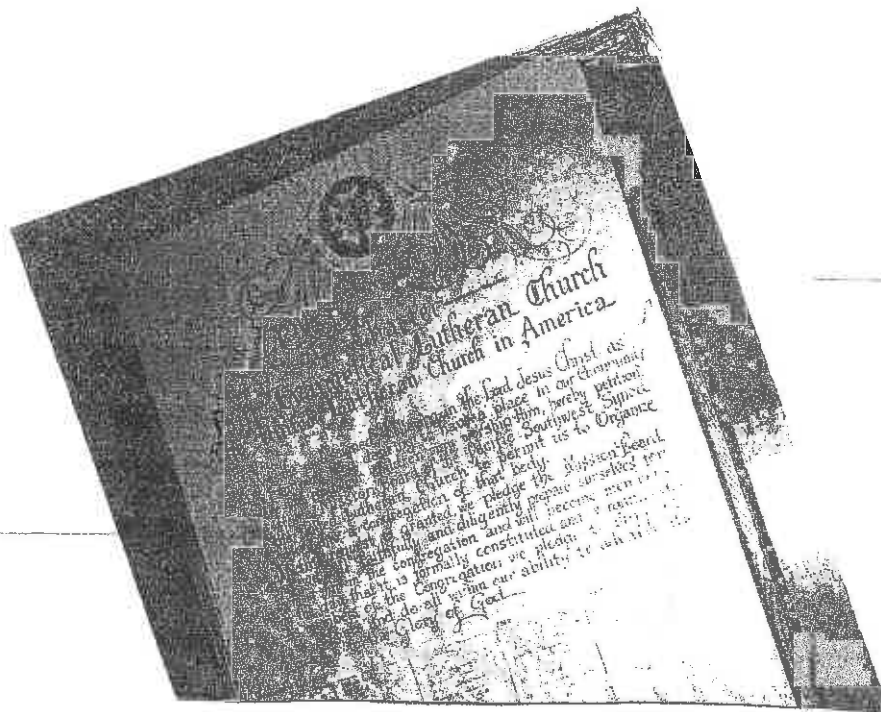
And so we end these reports of years past. I probably enjoyed it the most as I reminisced over the happenings of those years, smiles, tears, remembrances lost, new ones gained.

Come May 2001 we will celebrate our 40th. We have come through 39 years of them together these past couple of years of summarizing our history (actually it has been 40 years if you count the time prior to organization). If you have taken the time to read our church history, I hope you enjoyed it too.

I must not forget to give a special thank you to my staff, Bob Bell, for hours of typing.



Bob & Ruth Bell



**CURRENT MEMBERS OF FAITH LUTHERAN
THAT ARE CHARTER MEMBERS**

1961

Blythe Babb
Guth and Bob
Donna Besser
Lily Stear
Faith Varson
Tim Nelson
Jennie Schmidt

1962

Ruth Thompson

1963

Betty Freeman
Esther Christensen
Marianne Burns

1964

Cora Darling
Carol Hintze
Judy Lindberg
Blanch and Al Mansoor
Don Schmidt



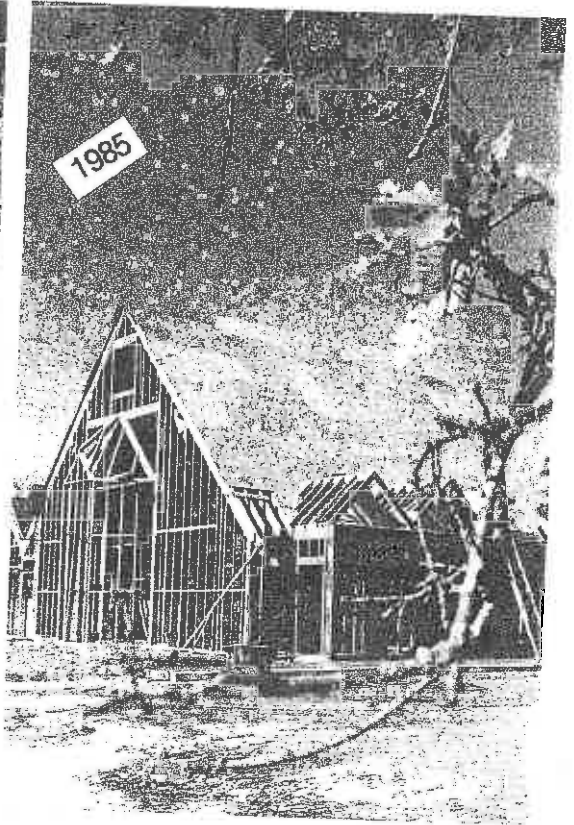
BUILDING THE FAITH



Dedication



Placing Flak's rock



MUSIC MINISTRY



Choir

Contempo



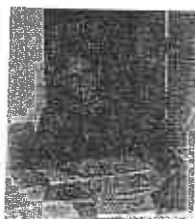
OUR FAMILY



Altar Guild



Choir



Cathy Martin with her class



Organ Committee



Folk Group



OUR FAMILY



Bible study class



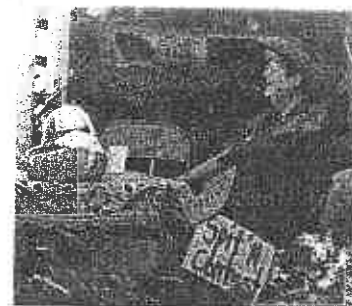
Janet Hammond with class



Men's breakfast club



Women's breakfast club

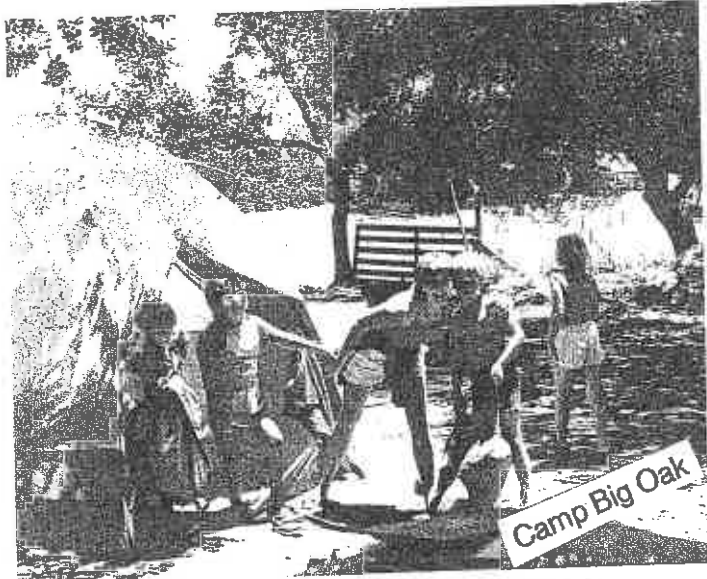


Hoe down time



Confirmation Class

THE FELLOWSHIP OF FAITH



Camp Big Oak



Fun and Festival



VCS



Youth Snow Trip



Placing the Steeple



Hummon Hall Mural

THE PEOPLE OF FAITH



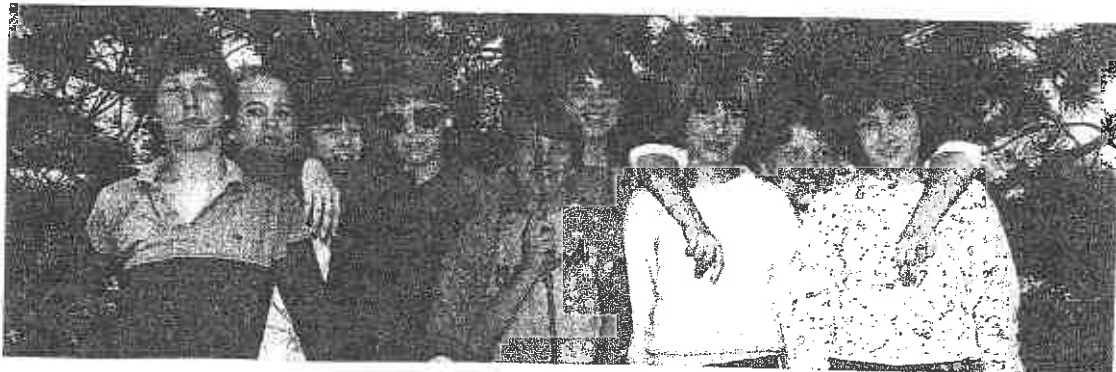
Lutheran Church Women



Men's Club



Church School



Faith Lutheran Youth

