

## HISTORICAL SUMMARY

### 1925-1926 GETTING STARTED

- 1925 Reformation Sunday, October 25, 1925 - 3 pm gathering of 105  
1926 Organized January 3, 1926. First worship on January 10, 1926  
Charter signed by 87 adults and closed on February 7, 1926.  
1926 Purchased property, built wooden chapel, first service, Feb 14.  
1926 Wynn Boliek began a 28 year pastoral ministry on June 1, 1926.



### 1927-1952 RAPID GROWTH for 25 years

- 1933 Built red-brick church  
1946 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; \$20,000 for Building/Property  
1947 Built annex (1947); parsonage (1948)  
1949 Started 27 years of radio broadcast (1949-1976)  
1951 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary: 1287 members (decline by 1952)



### 1953-1968 STABILITY BUT DECLINE

- 1953 Boliek resigned & Kenneth Hewitt called in 1954  
1955 First woman elected to serve on Council  
1960 Built current church facilities; first service Sept 18.  
1966 Hewitt retired  
1967 Stafford Swing called as pastor (1967-1980)  
• Membership in 1968 below 1000.  
1969 Purchased 3 Columbia Avenue lots (used for parking) in 1969  
1976 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; updated history; pictorial directory; burned mortgage; prepared a Reformation Cookbook.  
1980 Swing died; Shelton Moose became interim



### 1969-1997 VISIONS FOR RENEWAL EMERGE

- 1981 James Nichols called in 1981-1988. Challenges members for ministry outside its walls: Word & Witness study; LBW (1990).  
1987 Demolished old brick church; remodeled offices/educational space  
1989 Lynn Bailey called as pastor for 1989-1995. (Edgar Lindler, interim)  
• Upgraded 1960 Moeller pipe organ at \$89,635 cost  
1995 Clarence Stucke called as interim 1995-1997. Membership 330.  
1997 Started weekly communion (using intinction)

### 1998-2005 TRANSFORMATION SEEDS

#### A time of Reviewing, reflecting, trying, and testing

- 1998 Ozzie Herlong called as pastor 1998-2005  
• Members attend workshops: Healthy Congregations; Mid-size congregation transformation (2001)  
2001 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; published history in *Legacies of Faith*; started *Complete What We've Begun* fundraising for bells in the tower.  
2002 Established \$10,000 Newberry College scholarship; funds matched  
2003 Installed first bell - G bell - in tower  
2004 Established an Endowment Fund  
2005 Herlong resigned/retired



### 2006-2007 TRANSFORMATION BEGINS

- 2006 Nichols returned as interim; attended a weeklong ELCA transformation ministry training in Chicago with 5 members  
• Adopt Transformation Covenant and members sign it  
2007 Installed the next three bells in the tower: C4, D4, E4.

### 2007-2015 OLD CHURCH/NEW MINISTRY

- 2007 G.W. Bill Eiwien called September 2007-June 2012  
2007 Approved the partnership with LFS (now LSA); relocate in 2009  
2008 Approved a welcome statement and became RIC (November).  
2008 Changed worship schedule and early worship format (Nov 2008; begin Jan 2009); Conducted community visits to introduce new schedule and invite people to come (2008)  
2012 Eiwien retired; Nichols returned for a second interim (2012)  
2013 Tim Bupp called (2013-present)  
• First Steps/Early Head Start in Annex (2013)  
• Exceeded Growing in God's Mission goal with at least \$10,000 in contributions by members (2013)  
• Updated the Wedding Policies to be inclusive of all (2015)  
• Changed worship schedule to 9 and 11 (2015)

## Interesting Facts and Characteristics

### PROVIDES INSPIRING WORSHIP

Sunday worship is contemporary 9 & classic 11 am (5<sup>th</sup> Suns at 10 am); Memorial banners for liturgical season/days (1995); weekly communion since 1997; communion of all baptized since 1998. Used Common Service Book til 1958, Service Book and Hymnal 1958-1979, Lutheran Book of Worship 1979-2006, Evangelical Lutheran Worship and others 2006 - .

### USES FACILITIES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY NEEDS AND GROUPS

Site for Ward 3 voting; site for neighborhood association for many year; P-Flag; NAAC; PrimeTimers; site for Taize worship monthly 1990s-2012;

### WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS

Lutheran Social Services (LSA) Offices have used our space since 2009; First Steps/Early Head Start (since 2013); Red Cross partner since 2000; partners with Southern Seminary to prepare seminarians since 1946; commitment to SC Synod and ELCA ministries with both volunteers and financial support; long time participant in Breast Cancer Walk. Operate a Fair Trade store on Sundays since 2012.

### OFFERS OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY

Soup Kitchen 1982-2007; Day Care 1983-1990; Red Cross Shelter 2000+; Thanksgiving with Bantus/LFS and friends since 2004; Blessing of Animals 2004-now; SPLASH 2004-2014; Welcome Sunday since 2008; PRIDE booth since 2008; *Sights and Sounds of Nativity* in 2014. Trunk or Treat.

### PLANS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Bible study group; choirs; Sunday School for all ages; Retreat at the beach since 1982; Boy Scouts 1940-1971; a variety of service opportunities; annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and event; fellowship opportunities, including covered dish meals.

### GIVES THANKS FOR REGULAR AND GENEROUS GIVERS

Give beyond budget to synod and churchwide (ELCA) ministries including Newberry College, Lutheridge, Lowman Home, Southern Seminary, Lutheran World Relief, Disaster Response, Harvest Hope, World Hunger, and other projects. (Helped give an airplane to Liberian mission field in 1956.) Supported needs of the church with extra anniversary offering goals which were met, often \$1000 for each anniversary year; raised about \$113,000 in 5 years for the tower bells; raised \$89,000 for organ repair in 1989. Raised \$50,000 for the Day Care Center and Newberry College in 1982.

### SHARES INFORMATION AND MESSAGES

First issue of *The Reporter* was 1934. Annual reports have been printed 1978, 1985, 1999 to present. River Drive sign was updated in 2000. First web site was 2005 and updated about 2008 and continues today. Facebook and Google groups provide up-to-date information

## ARCHIVES OF REFORMATION CHURCH

In 2015 the Congregation Council named an archives committee to develop a working archives for Reformation Church. To accomplish this task a group set up working space and worked on procedures and guidelines to guide the preservation as well as the maintenance of files and records At the same time the group is worked to Sort, Organize, Catalog, and Store the files and records.

