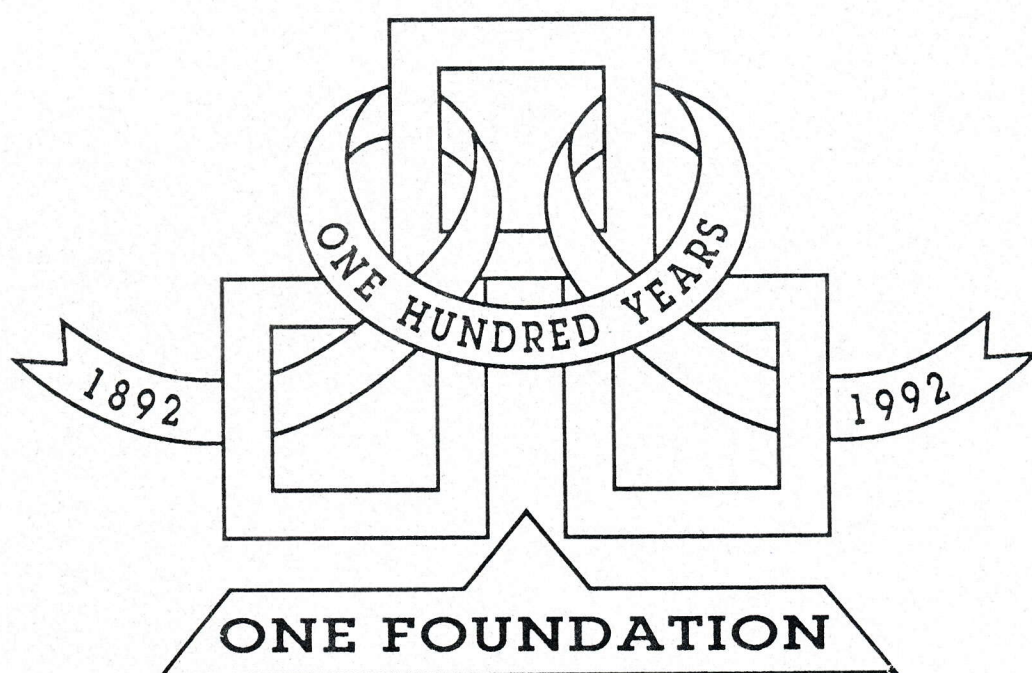
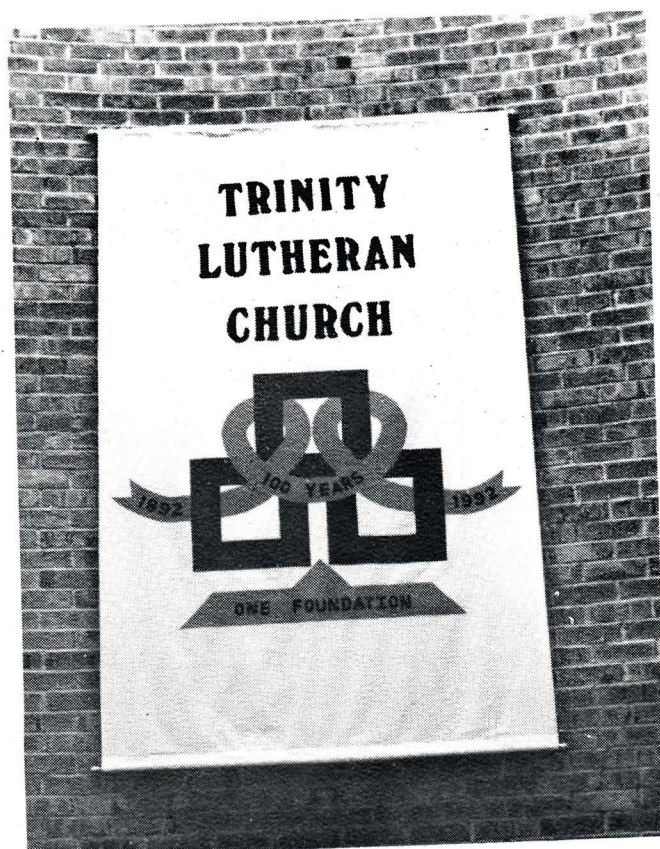


Trinity Lutheran Church



Spencer, Iowa



***Centennial History
of
Trinity Lutheran Church
1892 - 1992***

Centennial Theme
100 Years -- One Foundation

Hymn
The Church's One Foundation

Scripture
1 Corinthians 3:10-11

I am like a skilled master builder who by God's grace laid the foundation, and someone else is putting up the building. Let each take care how he builds. There can be no other foundation beyond that which is already laid; I mean Jesus Christ himself.

Centennial Calendar of Events

December 1, 1991	Proclamation of Centennial Year
January 12, 1992	Augustana Heritage Sunday
February 16, 1992	Wartburg College Choir Concert
March 22, 1992	Hymn Sing at Old Church
April 19, 1992	Centennial Easter
May 3, 1992	Centennial Drama
June 6, 1992	Centennial Banquet
June 7, 1992	Centennial Eucharist
	Closing of the Centennial Year

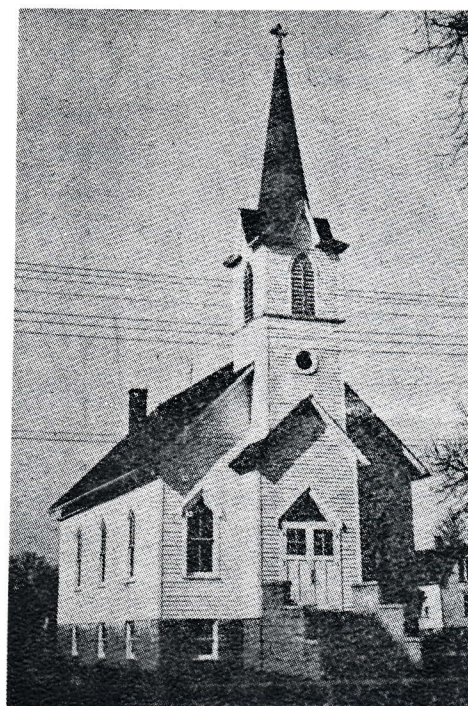


Lincoln Evangelical
Lutheran church
in Lincoln Township near
Royal, IA.

Organized in 1889, built in
1890. It was destroyed by a
tornado on September 21, 1894
and rebuilt by
December, 1894.



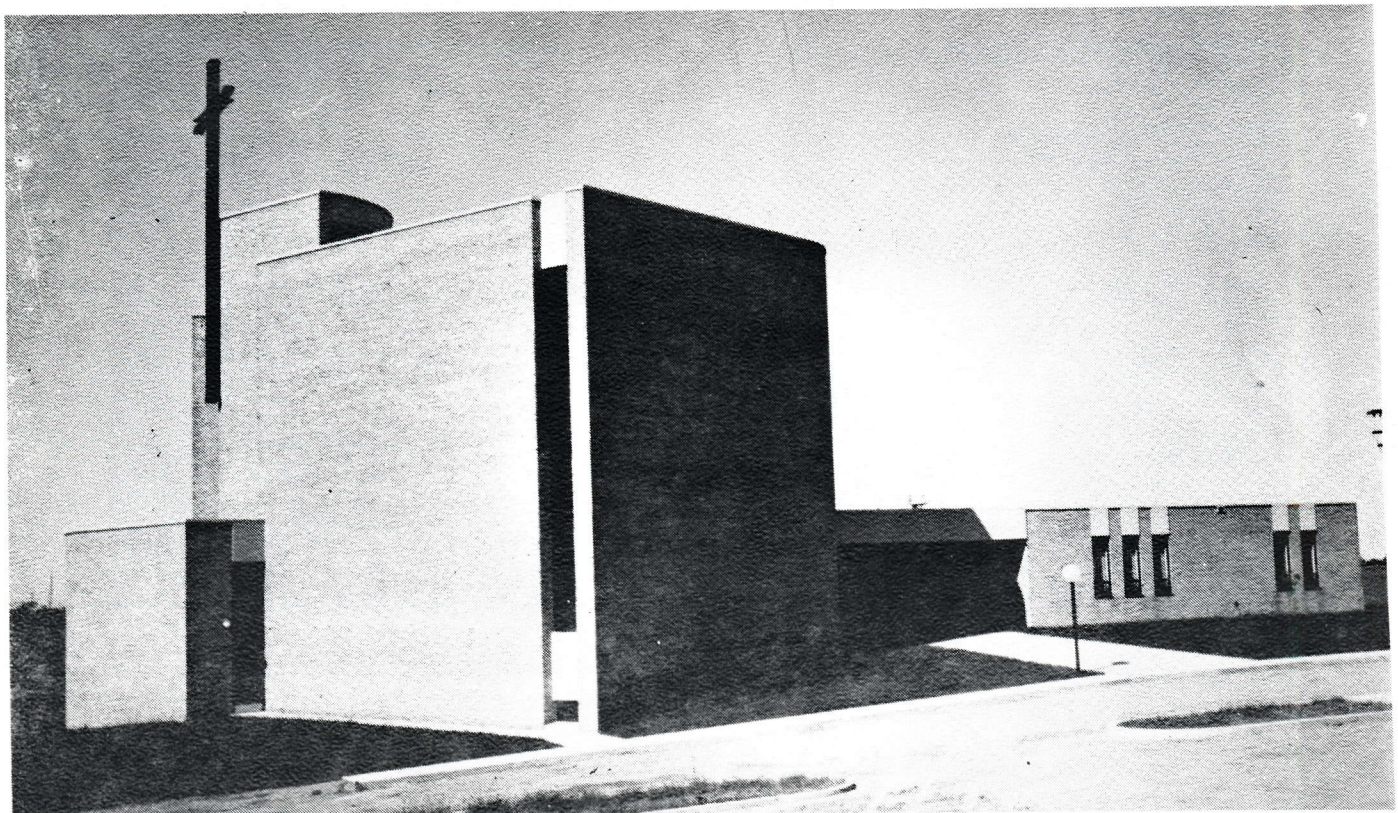
Lincoln Evangelical Lutheran
Church after it had been rebuilt in 1894.



Bethesda Lutheran Church at the corner of
9th St. and 3rd Ave. West, Spencer, Iowa.
Built in 1893



Lincoln Lutheran and Bethesda Lutheran merged to form Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church February 23, 1949, located on the corner of 9th St. and 3rd Ave. West. The two churches were joined together in an L-shape. The width of the Bethesda church and the length of the Lincoln Church made a nave of 72 feet in length, with a seating capacity of 275.



Trinity Lutheran Church at 9th St. and 11th Ave. West, after construction in 1968.

Trinity Lutheran Church

"The Little Church That Grew"

The history of Trinity Lutheran Church traces "a little church that grew" and grew and grew.

Its birth took place in 1889 when Lincoln Evangelical Lutheran Church outside of Royal was organized. Its first pastor was August Road who was a licensed lay catechist who was later ordained. His annual salary was \$150.00. Twenty years after its organization, Lincoln built a church. Membership dues, to be used to finance the new building, were \$5.50 per male and \$4.50 per female.

Three years later, in 1892, Bethesda Lutheran Church was organized. It was located on West Ninth Street. There were eighteen charter members. August Road also served Bethesda. In 1893, Andrew Mortenson, a non-member, built the church building and gave it to Bethesda. In 1917, Mr. Alfred Johnson, a member, purchased the lot from Mr. Mortenson as a gift to Bethesda. The cost? \$100.00.

On September 21, 1894, a tornado destroyed the Lincoln Evangelical Lutheran Church. The congregation showed its dedication by rebuilding the church by Christmas.

Through the years that followed, the governing boards of Lincoln and Bethesda met jointly. Wishing to benefit from a more complete union, the two churches were united into Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on February 23, 1949. The united congregations called Pastor A. Leonard Smith of Stanton as their pastor.

In order to provide the necessary worship space for the newly merged church, the Lincoln church was moved to Spencer and structurally joined to the Bethesda church. Dedication of this new structure was celebrated on January 21, 1951. On March 27, 1950, curious people lined Spencer streets to watch the Lincoln church move on wheels down busy Grand Avenue. Once again, "the little church that grew" was growing.

The generosity of a sister congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church in Alta, Iowa, was demonstrated with a gift - a Hilgren and Lane pipe organ. (Seven ranks of pipes and the console are a part of the present organ.)

Just as the merging of two churches represented growth, so did the Greater Trinity Committee formed in 1957 to study future needs. This needs study established 1963 as the year of ultimate growth for Trinity. The calendar of events read as follows: May 26 - New church site is blessed: June 30 - Funding campaign begins: October 8 - Executive Building Committee appointed. Donald Carlson was selected to chair the Executive Building Committee. Others involved were Hans Norgaard, Gerald Hollander, Gus Bendlin, Oscar Swanson, Paul Twesme, Ivan Carlson, Harvey Ordun, Gus Johanson, and Larry Albaugh. On March 28, 1967, the congregation voted unanimously to begin construction immediately.

On August 11, 1968, the service of leave taking from the old church marked another growing experience in "the life of the little church that grew."

The new church was dedicated on October 20, 1968.

Not only had Trinity grown facility-wise, it had also grown in its view of worship and its place in the world.

The new worship facility emphasized the importance of the Eucharist and the centrality of Baptism. Its contemporary style also led to the development of a contemporary form of the Eucharist which has now become a regular part of the monthly worship schedule.

In August, 1975 Trinity recognized its responsibility to the displaced of the world by bringing the first Asian refugee family to Spencer - the Van Caos.

On August 14, 1977, Trinity remembered the origins of her growth by placing the bell which had been purchased in 1910 for the Lincoln church by Mrs. Andrew Olin in the Trinity Memorial Bell Tower.

With more childcare needs emerging in the community, Trinity responded to this need in 1979 by establishing the Trinity Montessori Preschool and Day Care Center. (Although the Montessori approach is no longer emphasized, the TLC Preschool and Daycare Center continues to serve the Spencer Community.)

Further childcare and parenting needs were recognized by the acceptance of the Time Out Nursery into the Trinity facilities in 1980 and the Reach Out program in 1983.

In 1985, two giant steps in Christian outreach were taken when Jan Striepe introduced the Parish Nurse concept and Kathryn Groenewold was ordained as a pastor.

As Trinity moves into the 90's, it will continue to make history as "the little church that grew." Trinity is most thankful to her Lord and Savior that she has Pastor C. Peter Maisenbach to lead the way!

50th Anniversary of the Lincoln Lutheran Church

3 Miles East of Royal, Iowa

October 6, 7 and 8, 1939

OSCAR F. BOHMAN, B. D. Pastor

A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you -- Leviticus 25:11

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10 A. M.

With Greetings from former pastors G. L. Dagner, Elmer Sahlgren and former pupil Anton Danielson

COMMUNION SERVICE—10:30

Hymn—"Beautiful Saviour" No. 317
 Communion Sermon—"The Joy of the Forgiveness of
 Sins," Ps. 51:8-12 Pastor Elmer Sahlgren
 Confession of Sins—
 Hymn—"Saviour, Thy Dying Love" No. 499
 Offertory Miss Anna Danielson
 Vocal Selection Mrs. Harold Hamilton
 Altar Service Pastor Oscar F. Bohman
 Celebration of the Lords Supper—
 Pastors serving at the altar, Elmer Sahlgren, Anton Danielson, G. L. Dagner, O. F. Bohman

Communion Hymns—"The Death of Jesus Christ, Our
 Lord" No. 234
 "Thine Own, O Loving Saviour" No. 235
 Closing Ritual—

50th Anniversary of the Bethesda Lutheran Church

301 West 9th St., Spencer, Iowa

Sunday, May 3, 1942

OSCAR F. BOHMAN, B. D., Pastor

SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 3

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A. M.

Greetings from former pastors — G. L. Dagner, A. E. Gustafson, Elmer Sahlgren

COMMUNION SERVICE AT 10:30

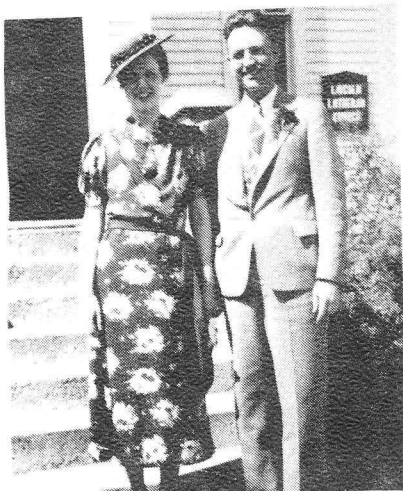
Hymn—"Beautiful Saviour" No. 317
 Communion Sermon ---- Pastor Elmer Sahlgren, Des Moines
 Confession of Sins
 Hymn—"O Christ, Thy Love Unbounded" No. 489
 Offertory Miss Nella Pederson
 Selection Double Quartet
 Mrs. J. H. Peterson, Miss Anna Danielson, Miss Elna Lidman, Mrs. Ernest Loe, Harold Lidman, Gust Johanson, Ray Erickson, Enoch Carlson.

Altar Service Pastor Oscar F. Bohman
 Celebration of the Lord's Supper — Pastors serving at the altar, Elmer Sahlgren, G. L. Dagner, A. E. Gustafson, O. F. Bohman.

Communion Hymns —
 "Thine Own, O Loving Saviour" No. 235
 "According to Thy Gracious Word" No. 239
 Closing Ritual

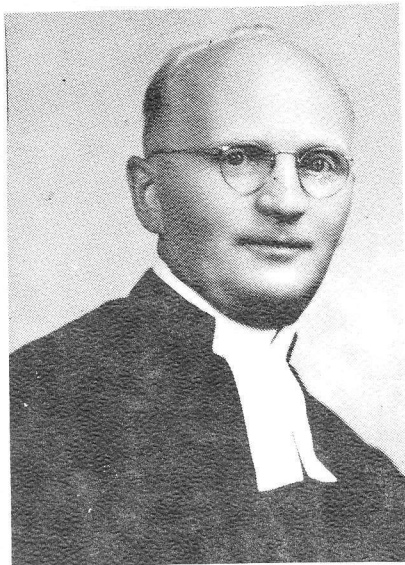
Pastors Through the Years

Lay Pastor August Road.....	Served Lincoln and Bethesda from 1892-1901
Vice Pastor A.V.P. Elfstrom.....	1892-1901
Pastor P.J. Sundeen.....	1901-1905
Pastor E.J. Sanders.....	Served only a few months and resigned because of ill health
Lay Pastor A.G. Englund.....	1906-1907
Pastor E.C. Jessup.....	1907-1911
Pastor A.E. Gustafson.....	1911-1925
Pastor G.L. Dagner.....	1926-1934



Pastor Elmer Sahlgren
1934-1937

Pastor Elmer Sahlgren graduated from Augustus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN in 1934. He completed his study in 1934 at Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, IL where he was ordained. He came to Spencer following his ordination where he served Bethesda Lutheran Church from 1934-1937. During his pastorate here, he was married to Anna E. Lundquist of Chicago.



Pastor Oscar H. Bohman
1937-1942

Pastor Oscar F. Bohman was born on June 5, 1896 in Moline, IL. He was ordained on June 10, 1923 in Rockford IL. Soon after his ordination he accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Akron, IA. He served there from 1923 until 1927 when he accepted a call to Mediapolis, IA. In 1937 he came to Spencer where he served both Bethesda and Lincoln Lutheran Churches. In 1942 he left to become Chaplain in the Army. He served several parishes in Minnesota before his death in 1979.



Pastor A. Harry Ericson
1943-1949

Pastor A. Harry Ericson was born on Dec. 21, 1891 in Kville, Sweden. He came to America in 1910. His ordination took place on June 10, 1923 in Rockford, IL. It was through the efforts of Pastor Ericson that the merger of Bethesda and Lincoln Lutheran Churches was accomplished. He served the two churches until April 17th, 1949 when he preached his final sermon. He accepted a call to the Friend's Home Lutheran Congregation, Savonburg, Kansas.

Pastor A. Leonard Smith -- 1949-1953
He served as the first pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church.



Pastor Wallace V. Setterlund
1954-1960

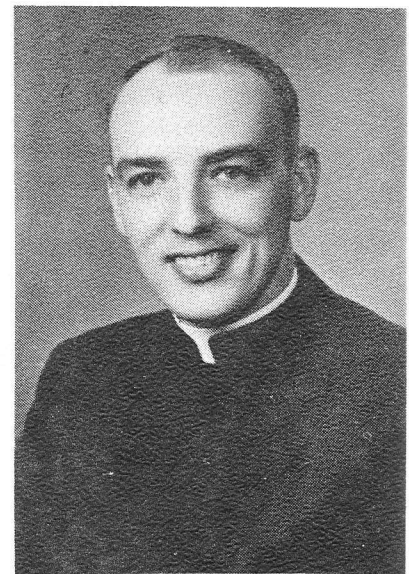
Pastor H. Eugene Cedarholm, a native of Marquette, KS graduated from high school in 1948, Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS in 1956 and Augustana Seminary in 1960.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1948-1952.

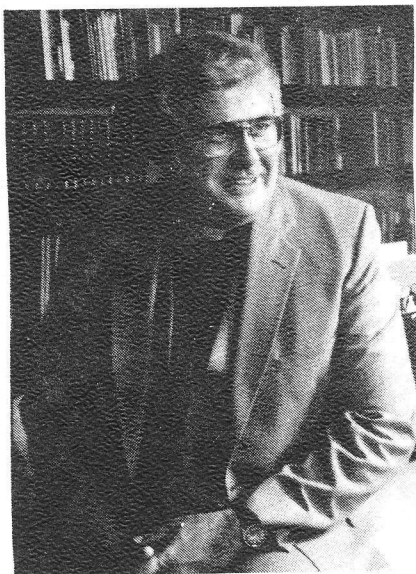
In 1960, he came to Trinity where he served until 1969 when he accepted a call to First Lutheran in Newton, IA. He continues to serve that congregation today.

It was under the guidance of Pastor Cedarholm that the present church was planned and built.

He and wife Delores have three daughters: Lori, Beth and Jan.



Pastor H. Eugene Cedarholm
1960-1969



Pastor Gary R. Gabel
1970-1974

Pastor Gary R. Gabel, a native of Swea City, IA, graduated from Swea City Consolidated School in 1953, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN in 1957, and Augustana Theological Seminary in 1961.

Before coming to Trinity in 1970, he served Hebron Lutheran Church, Burdick, KS, and St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Liberty, MO. After leaving Spencer in 1974, he was a Sales Manager for Pulpit Supply and did interim work until 1982. From 1982 until the present, he has served Bethany-Elm Lutheran Church, Ivanhoe, MN and Bethany Lutheran Church at Arco, MN.

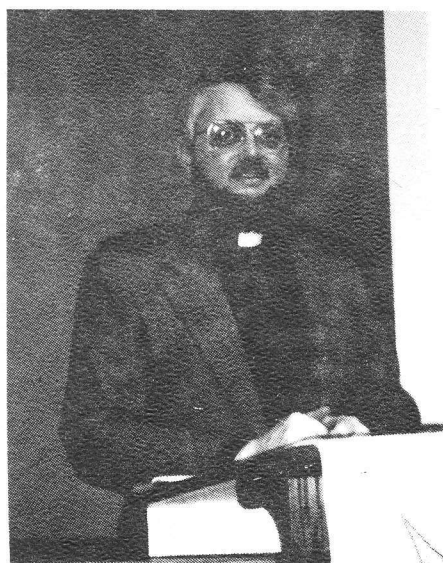
Pastor Michael A. Last was born at Rock Island, IL. He graduated from Ottumwa High School, William Penn College and Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN. He also graduated from the Doctor of Ministry program of the Graduate Theological Foundation, Notre Dame, IN.

Before coming to Trinity, he served Hope Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, IA from 1972-1975. He served Trinity from 1975-1980 when he accepted a call from Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Clinton, IA. He continues to serve that congregation today.

He and his wife Colleen are the parents of four children: Gretchen, Andrew, Megan and Joseph.



Pastor Michael A. Last
1975-1980



Pastor Jerry A. Olson
1981-1982

Pastor Jerry Olson is a native of Laurens, IA where he graduated from high school in 1966. He graduated from Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, IA and Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

He spent his internship year serving Faith Lutheran Church, Griswold, IA, and St. Paul's Lutheran, Atlantic, IA.

Before coming to Trinity in 1981, he served Elfsborg and Trinity Lutheran Churches in Pomeroy and Pocahontas.

From 1982-1989 he worked in various administrative positions at the American Institute of Commerce in Bettendorf, IA and the School of Communication Arts, Minneapolis, MN. He now serves Christ Lutheran Church in DeForest, WI.

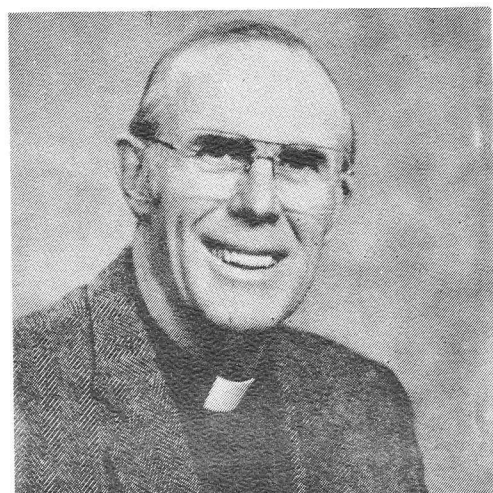
Jerry and his wife Susan have four children: Deanna, Julie, Tony and Linnea.

Pastor George Jacobson was born and raised in Oakland, CA. He graduated from Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS and Augustana Seminary in Rock Island, IL.

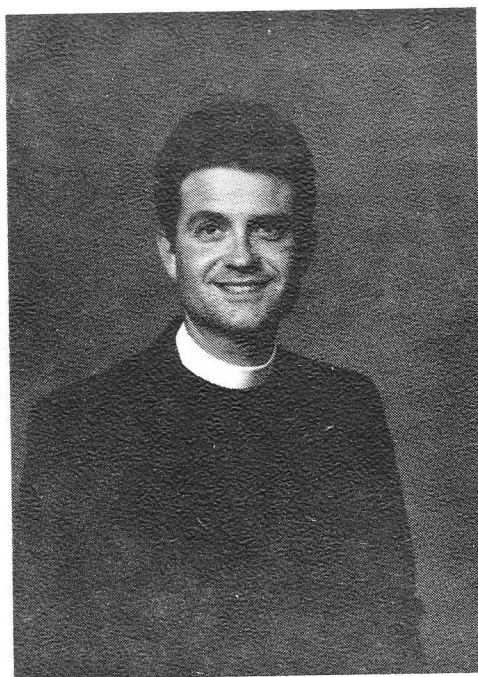
Following ordination in 1962, he accepted a call to Mi-Wuk Village, CA. After serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy for three years, he accepted a call from the Division of Missions in North America to develop a mission congregation near Colorado Springs, CO.

He came to Trinity in 1982. He served here until 1987 when he accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church, El Paso, Texas. He continues to serve this congregation today.

He and his wife Nancy have four children: Nels, Laura, Nate and Andy.



Pastor George Jacobson
1982-1987



The Rev. C. Peter Maisenbach, Pastor
1988-

Pastor Maisenbach graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, in 1977. Following completion of his pastoral studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, he was ordained on June 14, 1981.

Pastor Maisenbach served Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Elgin, Illinois, as an assistant pastor from 1981-1983. He then served as pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1983-1988. He also served as the principal of Emanuel Parish Middle School from 1988-1989. He is currently an associate member of the Fellowship of St. Augustine in Oxford, Michigan.

On January 24, 1988, Pastor Maisenbach was elected to serve as the sixth pastor of Trinity. In addition to his ministry at Trinity, Pastor Maisenbach also serves on the Alumni Senate of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and as a member of the Policy Council for the Head Start program. Pastor and his wife, Diane, have two children: John and Benjamin.

"100 Years - One Foundation"

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 3:10-11

The year 1992 A.D. is a time for us to remember. It is a time for us to remember that 100 years ago our parish community was founded. But the remembrance of this event must take us back beyond that foundational year of 1892 A.D. to a foundational event in history. That event is Jesus Christ. It is this event which gathers us each week to celebrate the Eucharist. As God's people, we believe that all history and therefore all remembrances flow from God's pivotal action in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The past history of our parish community is more than simply a collection of stories about past human events. Rather, it is a dynamic record of the continuing work of the Holy Spirit and of a people's response to Jesus Christ.

In remembering the past event of the founding of our parish community, we also can't help but be drawn into the future. You see, as God's people we look not only backwards but forwards as well. We look to the future praying what God's people have prayed in every generation; that one day God in Christ will establish His Kingdom bringing all creation to its fulfillment and consummation.

In Christ, we are called to move forward into the future. We are called to face the future with courage, joy and hope instead of fear, skepticism and pessimism. How is this possible? Because we have already seen the future in Jesus Christ! Yes, the future will be full of challenges, but at the same time, it also presents opportunities for mission and ministry, i.e. opportunities for living in Christ.

During our centennial year let us give thanks for all those who founded Bethesda Lutheran Church and Lincoln Lutheran Church and who now rest in Christ. As we continue to give thanks for what has been, let us also give thanks for what will be. As we look to the future, let us also ask God to strengthen and empower us by the Word, the Sacraments and the Holy Spirit that we might build upon the witness of those who have gone before us and so continue the work of Jesus Christ into our next century or until He comes again.

+Pastor Maisenbach