

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS--GROWING IN GRACE



FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 29, 1941

BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH
of
MOUNT CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the spring of 1940 the Synod's District Mission Board, at the request of Pastor Shiley of Trinity Congregation in Waukesha, began a canvass of the west side of Waukesha called Westowne, in the Town of Pewaukee. James DeGalley, recently graduated from our Seminary, was asked to make that canvass. Later that year, in August, Pastor Waldemar Hoyer was assigned to follow through with the canvass work. Exploratory services were held in the Supreme Bottling Works warehouse on the 2nd floor. The first service was held September 8, 1940 with 16 souls in attendance. The Mission Board approved a loan of \$1,200 to acquire 6 lots in Westowne (bounded by Paradise, Western and Brad Streets). Funds were not available for the erection of any kind of facility.

A sister congregation in Whitefish Bay had a used prefabricated barracks, originally from the Great Lakes Naval Installation, in storage. It was obtained for \$100. A personal loan by Mission Board member Pastor Otto Nommensen, made it possible for Westowne Lutheran Mission to purchase the land, the building and the re-erection of the building.

On April 6, 1941 the first services were held in the "new home". A dedication service was held on April 27, 1941. The group of zealous members organized as a congregation and adopted the name Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church on September 29, 1941. The records show the signatures of: R. Miller, R. Maass, J. Shane, A. Stolte, and H. Swanson on the Certificate of Organization. Two weeks later the Church Council was elected consisting of A. Korth, R. Miller, J. Shane, R. Stolte, E. Swanson, and H. Swanson.

The following affixed their signatures as charter members of Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Congregation on A.D. Sunday, January 11, 1942:

Ralph Maass
Harvey Brunner
A. Richard Stolte
Henry Scherf
Ray E. Miller
Clarence Brunner
William J. Arndt

Ulrich Schickowski
Edwin Swanson
Walter W. Isdorf
Arnold Korth
Walter Yuds
George Isely
Harold Swanson

Frank Bosturick
Paul Steimke
Elroy Falk
John Shane

Elmer Tessmann
Frank Novotny
Emil E. Scherf
George Poff

The congregation began making plans for a Christian Day School. Extensive renovations would be required before state approval could be obtained for using the building for school purposes. An extensive volunteer group, including the Pastors from the Eastern Conference, P. Behn, A. Buenger, C. Hoenecke, J. Mahnke, W. Krueger, P. Monhardt, and H. Schwertfeger, upgraded the building so the school could open.

The Mount Calvary Christian Day School began classes in September, 1942 with an enrollment of 17 students, with Pastor W. Hoyer teaching.

In September, 1945, Pastor Hoyer was released to accept a call to Flagstaff, Arizona. For several months, Pastor Nicolaus of Christ Church in Pewaukee, served as vacancy Pastor. His wife answered the call for a full time teacher.

Pastor Waldemar Zarling accepted our call and began serving us in December, 1945.

A parsonage was purchased in May, 1946 at the corner of Westowne and Paradise Streets.

In July, 1950, Pastor Zarling was released to accept a call to St. John's of Newburg, Wisconsin. At that time, Mount Calvary's communicant membership was 80 souls, the total number of souls was 140.

Pastor Carl Leyrer and Vicar K. Roevers of Christ Lutheran, Big Bend, were to serve as vacancy Pastor until July, 1952.

The Mission Board assigned Miss Ruth Huebner as teacher to Mount Calvary. She began serving in August, 1950.

Calls for a pastor were fruitless. The District Mission Board was requested to assign a Seminary graduate to Mount Calvary. The request was granted with the assignment of Martin Stern, a tutor at Northwestern Academy, Mobridge, South Dakota, who arrived in July, 1952. Pastor Stern's ordination and installation was July 13, 1952.

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January 18, 1953 a new two manual, full pedal electronic organ was dedicated that evening: cost was under \$2,000, in contrast to \$20,000 for our new organ in 1986!

In 1955 the first school board was elected. We sought Mission Board approval to purchase property adjacent to the Church for \$750. Cash was paid for these lots, with \$797 collected as a special offering. Twenty students were registered for Christian Day School in the fall.

Mount Calvary began to grow in membership and financial responsibility. In 1955 2 additional lots were purchased for \$700. In the spring of 1956, the City of Waukesha annexed Westowne. The church address became 815 Western Avenue. The city recut the streets and Mount Calvary was "elevated" to 14 feet above street level. An extensive retaining wall was erected by volunteer labor along with a complete renovation of the building. The stones for the wall were torn down one by one from a silo on a farm on Westmoreland Road and hauled to our chapel. When the project was completed, the congregation held a rededication service on August 20, 1960.

The congregation continued to grow and in January, 1961, the congregation voted to hold two services every Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. and Sunday School at 9:15.

The Christian Day School enrollment also continued to grow. The assignment committee was requested to assign a male teacher, they responded and Mr. Ronald Schultz was assigned and began serving Mount Calvary in September, 1965. The school enrollment was 41 students. A second teacher was called in 1966. The church/school at 815 Western Avenue could no longer serve our needs. The chapel half was converted into a 2nd classroom in time for the September, 1966 school opening.

The congregation began having worship services at the Pix Theatre in downtown Waukesha on August 28, 1966. Services were to be held for 3 years at the Pix Theatre. In December, 1965 a decision was made to rent the V.F.W. hall for our Christmas Eve Service. One service was held and the result was gratifying - an attendance of 277. Had the weather been at all favorable (almost a foot of snow) it is doubtful if the rented quarters would have been adequate.

The congregation planned for expansion. A new site was approved and on October, 1966, Synod purchased the property at 1941 Madison Street. Note that the address is the same as the year Mount Calvary was organized. The congregation was to begin wrestling with development of the new property. Architects were engaged and plans for the building were developed. A loan of \$138,000 was obtained from Synod for our "New Home". Ground breaking ceremonies were held on November 9, 1969. Over 300 souls came to bless the Lord for His loving grace.

Lenten services were held at Grace Church on Thursday nights in 1970.

The building was finished and the setting of the "Cornerstone" was held July 26, 1970. Church services began in our "New Home" and a "Dedication" was planned for September, 1970. The chancel and front area of the church were finished off with barn boards from one of our member's grandparents farm on Northview Rd.

In September of 1970 our church bell was purchased for \$225 from Nathaniel Church in Milwaukee.

In October we purchased a parsonage at 155 S. Charles Street.

In July, 1971 Mount Calvary joined the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Conference.

February, 1972, Mount Calvary became self-supporting - one year ahead of plan! This means that all called worker salaries are funded entirely by the congregation.

The school expanded into three classrooms in September, 1975, one of which included the kindergarden, now operating on a regular basis.

In January, 1976 a committee was appointed to investigate building a new parsonage and teacherage. In October, 1977, Pastor Stern and his family moved into the new parsonage on top of the hill.

The years from 1978 to 1983 were difficult years for Mount Calvary; Pastor Stern became ill with cancer of the lymph system in 1978. He continued to serve Mount Calvary until the spring of 1983 when he was

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granted a 6 months leave of absence.

Professor Ulrik Larson of Wisconsin Lutheran High School accepted our call to serve as interim Pastor.

Pastor Stern died October 2, 1983. A funeral service was held to glorify God in memory of Pastor Stern on Thursday, October 6, 1983, with Pastor Wayne Mueller of Trinity, Waukesha, officiating. Pastor Stern served Mount Calvary for 31 years. God used his servant, Pastor Martin Stern, to accomplish much at Mount Calvary.

Pastor Michael Turriff was extended a call in November, 1983. He accepted our call to begin in January, 1984. His installation service was held January 22, 1984.

Objectives for a youth group were defined, and improvements were made to the inside and outside of the church. The fall school enrollment was 57. A greeter system was devised to welcome all worshipers to Mount Calvary. In February, 1984, Mount Calvary called Miss Carol Newman to teach grades 3-5. She accepted.

1985--Another year of growth. School enrollment grew to 60 in January, 1985. Total church membership was now 643 souls. Preparations began for the purpose of calling another teacher to the staff. In April, Mrs. Roseann Schultz accepted the call to teach grades 1-2.

A Long Range Planning Committee was appointed to determine the future needs of the church and school. In May, the congregation acquired two outlots to the West of the church, expanding its property to approximately 13 acres.

A committee was appointed to decide if the old organ should be fixed or replaced. A Peer Listener Group was established, and a significant deficit was eliminated early in the year.

1986--More growth, as school enrollment reached 83 by October, 1986. Since the school was growing and the need for additional staff was imperative, the congregation called a DMLC male graduate through the Assignment Committee that June.

Due to the need for a new church organ, Mount Calvary acquired a new Allen Digital Organ and dedicated the organ in a special service on July 13, 1986. Mr. Len Proeber from Wisconsin Lutheran High School was our

guest organist. Also in July, the congregation approved the use of a student assistant from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to assist Pastor Turriff.

Mr. Joel Radue was assigned as our new teacher for grades 5-6 and began serving in the Fall of 1986.

In September, Student Assistant, Vicar Dean Zemple, began his duties.

In November, a call was extended for a new teacher for grades 3-4 to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Nancy Schumann. Mis Sonja Oldre accepted the call through the Assignment Committee in December. The school teaching staff now numbered five, and a permanent classroom was added to the upper level.

A building fund was established for the new church, but deficit problems were surfacing again.

1987--In April, Mount Calvary decided to begin building a new worship facility by contracting with the Architectural firm of Rugg and Knopp, Inc. for the Master Plan, Concept, Design, & Construction of new facilities. In July, Mount Calvary purchased a lot on the south side of its property for future access. The property was landscaped to accommodate the anticipated growth. A new bell tower was built, along with other improvements. In its plan to build a new worship facility the congregation decided to attach the new facility to the East end of the present facility at a special Congregational Meeting in June. In August, the school experiences a record enrollment of 91 students for the '87-'88 school year. In September, the congregation installed new playground equipment. Lots of workers helped with this project which was funded through AAL and the Home and School Society.

Also, Student Assistant, Vicar Kevin Lisk, began his duties.

We participated in the GO '87 evangelism thrust, contacting over 1180 homes in search of unchurched souls.

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1988--In January, the Mount Calvary Ladies Guild celebrated their 20th Anniversary at the Holiday Inn, Waukesha. The ladies enjoyed a delicious buffet and the program was entitled "The Way We Were."

To meet the needs of the membership, Mount Calvary established a mid-week (Wednesday night) service all year long and the first service was held in May. Mount Calvary also began using individual cups, alternating with the common cup, for celebrating communion.

In September, Student Assistant, Vicar Thomas Schultz began his duties.

By November school enrollment reached 100. Membership reached 689 souls and 525 communicants.

1989--On February 12th, Mount Calvary held a special Worship of Celebration to kick-off the new building program. 291 members were present for the worship service, informational presentation and fellowship dinner at the C. F. Schuetze Building. The GROWING BY GRACE - BUILDING IN FAITH program and its financing was presented.

In August, the school experiences another record enrollment of 120 students. This also brought about the need for a Kindergarten assistant to help with 23 students.

1990--In January, Mount Calvary decided to call an Extended Learning Coordinator. Mrs. Jeanne Kionka accepted the call.

In September, due to the need for more pastoral help, the Congregation decided to do two things: 1) call someone to do visitation of the shut-ins and sick 2) call an associate pastor. Pastor Harry Wiedmann, recently retired, from Helenville, WI accepted the call to be Visitation Pastor.

In that same month, Mount Calvary started a Youth Bible Class for grades 7-12 which will meet during the regular Sunday School and Adult Bible Class times.

1991--In February, the Congregation extended the call for an associate pastor. Pastor Charles Papenfuss, serving the foreign mission field in Zambia, Africa, was chosen from the list. In March he accepted the call to be an associate pastor. On July 21, Pastor Papenfuss was installed.

The Building Committee submitted final plans to the State of Wisconsin and the City of Waukesha. Bids have been let.

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At this writing, the church communicant membership is approximately 547 and 753 souls. Our Christian Day School enrollment is 128 with a staff of Principal and 6 teachers.

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It is so wonderful the way God takes care of His own at Mount Calvary. He watches over us and protects us; He gives us growth and success; He feeds and nourishes us with His Word and Sacraments. Through these 50 years, He has showered His grace upon us and this History gives you but a brief glimpse of this truth.

It is our prayer that God will continue to bless us and to grant us His grace for many more years to come. May we grow as His disciples and remain committed to Him till the day we die. May we never fail in completing His mission and fulfilling His purpose. We find peace in these words: My grace is sufficient for you (2 Corinthians 12:9). His name be praised and His Kingdom come!

ORGANIZATIONS

Dorcas Society	Home & School Society
Altar Guild	Sr. Group
Mount Calvary Ladies Guild	King's Kids (youth group)
Choir	
Pioneers (boy & girl)	CCAP (Christ Centered Assistance Program)

1st Baptism at Mount Calvary-Neil Swanson, 7-6-41

1st wedding at Mount Calvary-Ethel Mae Bahr, 10-43.

MOUNT CALVARY LUTHERAN SCHOOL
TEACHERS

1942 - 45	Pastor W. Hoyer
1945 - 46	Mrs. Alfred Nicolaus
	Mrs. Waldemar Zarling
1946 - 47	Miss Shirley Tobin
1947 - 48	Miss Elsie Zierzow (Mattek)
1948 - 49	Pastor Zarling and others
1949 - 50	Mr. Benjamin Pankow
1950 - 52	Miss Ruth Huebner (Hatzung)
1952 - 53	Miss Lois Glaeser (Sell)
1953 - 54	Miss Joyce Wood (Binninger)
1954 - 56	Miss Joyce Wiechmann (Dallmann)
1956 - 59	Miss Donna Danke (Page1)
1959 - 60	Mrs. Robert Weir
1960 - 61	Miss Julie Hartmeister (Whitmer)
1961 - 62	Miss Judith Sievert (Weigand)
1962 - 63	Miss Margaret Nolte (Glaesemann)
1963 - 65	Miss Marley Zahn (Kuckhahn)
1965 -	Mr. Ronald Schultz
1966 - 67	Miss Barbara Seager (Klockziem)
1967 - 70	Mrs. Roseann Schultz
1970 - 75	Miss Diane Klope (Voss)
1975 - 79	Miss Donna Steinbrenner (Griffen)
1975 - 77	Mrs. Norma Jeseritz
1976 - 77	Mrs. Maude Stern
	Gloria Quade
1977 - 81	Miss Charlene Varnum
1979 - 83	Mrs. Norma Jeseritz
1979 - 84	Mrs. Jeanne Kionka
1980 - 83	Mrs. Patricia Scheibe
1982 -	Mrs. Mary Jane Scherf

1983	- 85	Mrs. Virginia Randall
1984	-	Mrs. Roseann Schultz
1984	- 85	Miss Carol Newman
1985	- 86	Mrs. Nancy Schumann
1986	-	Miss Sonja Oldre
		Mr. Joel Radue
1988	-	Mrs. Jeanne Kionka