



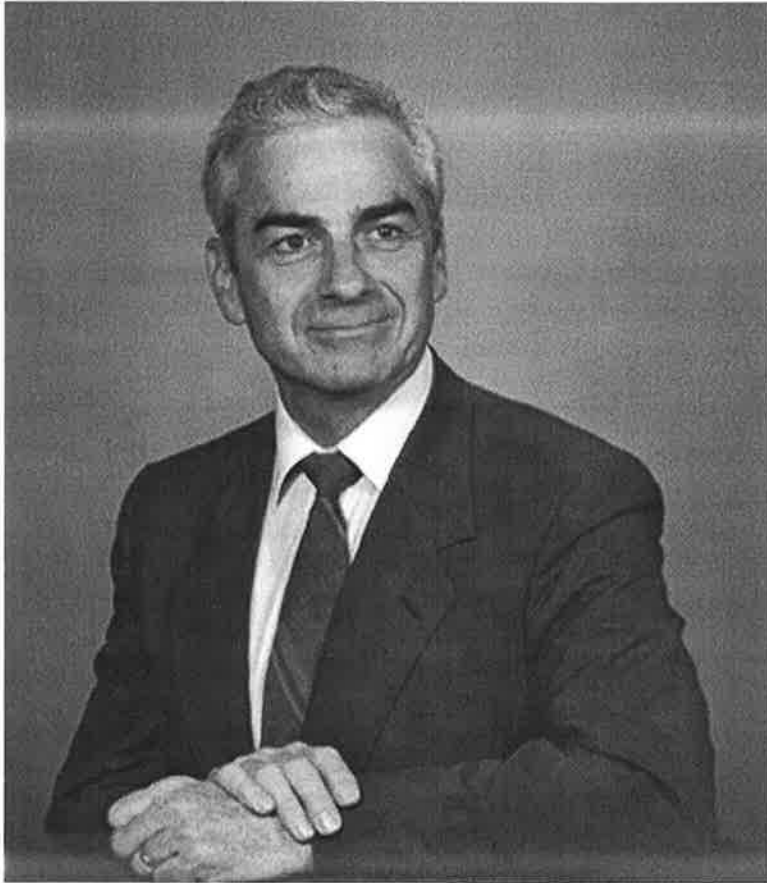
# On Our Way Rejoicing!

**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
Shoreline, WA  
1949-1999

## GREETINGS FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

A Fiftieth Anniversary is a time of great joy. We have come to this time with the guidance and blessings of God.

For the families of the church, fifty years can be measured by being almost two generations; in the eternal scheme of things, fifty years is less than a blink of an eye; in our remembrance of the past, fifty years may seem to some like yesterday. For Bethel, our fifty years represent a commitment to love and serve God. Our commitment has grown from our strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



This anniversary book is an important record for us. Here we will be reminded of the events, program, excitement and courage which have brought us to this day. This has taken place through people. As you read through the pages, I suggest that you add names to the events and programs that have touched you. So many facets of congregational life are touched that we couldn't begin to do justice to the names of the hundreds who have made Bethel a blessing. Enjoy this record! God has done great things in our midst.

An interesting thing about our anniversary is that it comes on the eve of the third millennium. Our booklet helps us celebrate the past, but our eyes are cast confidently toward the future. Bishop H. George Anderson of the E.L.C.A. has recently written, "The future mission of the church could well be a mission from the margins - from the fringes of our society and the edge of the public's consciousness." If he is correct in his vision, Bethel is ready and perfectly situated to tackle mission in that way. We dream new dreams, yet we proclaim an old Gospel. The future that God has waiting for us convinces us that we go forward with no fear. We go forward joyously, depending on the blessings of God.

And we have found God to be faithful. Alleluia!

Pastor James W. Schoeld

## ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND SCHEDULE

### Friday, June 11

- 7:30 Service of Evening Prayer, Pastor Terry Teigen, Preacher
- 8:15 Coffee Hour, with Scandinavian Baking and fellowship

### Saturday, June 12

- 5:00 Social Time in Lower Fireside Room
- 5:30 Anniversary Banquet in Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 Program in Sanctuary - Greetings from previous pastors, video presentation, music by the Good News Alumni and the Bethel Youth Choir Anniversary  
Cake and Coffee in the Fellowship Hall following the program

### Sunday, June 13

- 8:15 Festival Worship, Pastor Susan Burchfield, Preacher
- 9:30 Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 Festival Worship, Pastor Lorin Sanden, Preacher

**Our Mission:** *To share the love of God through Jesus Christ using...*

***B**read, wine and water*

***E**ncouragement*

***T**eaching*

***H**elping*

***E**nriching*

***L**istening*

**HISTORY OF  
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SHORELINE  
1949 - 1999**

Exciting things were happening in 1949 in the area that is now called Shoreline. Much of the area beyond the city limits was still wooded, and young families were discovering it to be a great place to raise children. The Second World War had ended, so the building of houses and schools was on the top of the agenda.

Hope Lutheran Church had already been organized and had constructed a small church at 15th Ave. N.E. and about 145th Street. By 1949, however, it was evident that the Northend area was entirely too large to be served by one congregation; therefore, the Home Mission Board divided the area roughly at N.E. 145 Street. Hope Lutheran Church established itself at 127th and Roosevelt Way. On May 27, 1949, the remaining portion of the members, who jokingly referred to themselves as "beyond Hope," organized under the name of Bethel Lutheran Church. There were twenty-two family units listed as charter members:

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson  
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Baker  
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bateman  
Mrs. F. G. Everson  
Mr. and Mrs. William Iverson  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jacobson  
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lewis  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lewis  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Magness  
Mr. and Mrs. Lester Nelson  
Mr. and Mrs. John Wimmer

Mrs. Minda Nelson  
Mr. and Mrs. Orval B. Risan  
Mrs. Roy Roth  
Mrs. and Mrs. Clifford Sanden  
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Sanden  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sieveke  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wallin  
Mrs. Nora Wick  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wisner



The Charter Members at the 25th Anniversary Celebration

Here are the words of one of those charter members, "After we had organized, our meetings were held in the recreation room at Mayme and Chester Lewis' home. Many times we were joined by Dr. Foss, our district president, and people from the Home Mission Board in Minneapolis. Our fellowship always



Laying of the Cornerstone - 1951

ended with coffee and cookies. This group was one happy family - young, eager and not too sure of our direction. The Ladies' Guild was formed almost immediately and soon had a treasury from the bake sales held in the Lewis' Grocery Store on 15th at 148th."

Plans for a parsonage began as soon as the Mission Board had purchased the site at N.E. 175th and 8th. While the congregation waited for God to send a pastor, Bethel was served by various Northend Lutheran pastors, seminary students, and our hospital chaplain, Pastor A. K. Vinje. A Ridgecrest Elementary School classroom became the first formal worship area. The members' responsibility was to get set up for each service and then carefully replace everything in readiness for school on Monday. This weekly chore involved each family. As Bethel grew in numbers, it arranged to rent the auditorium at Ridgecrest. A cloth-covered folding table held the bowl used for baptisms.

The first annual congregation meeting's report showed a Sunday School enrollment of 167 with fourteen teachers. What a lot of good work was accomplished for the children of Shoreline! Bethel issued a call to Dr. Carl O. Pederson, then serving Trinity Lutheran Church in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The acceptance of this call by Dr. and Mrs. Pederson and the completion of the parsonage occurred during the late summer of 1950. That is when Bethel really came alive. Ground clearing for the first worship unit began immediately, followed by a Ground Breaking Ceremony on May 6, 1951.



Laying of the Cornerstone for the “Little Brown Church”

Here is how one member recalls the dedication of the first church: “The date had been set, November 18, 1951, but the building wasn’t quite ready. The faithful, enthusiastic members worked many hours, often late at night, putting the final touches on the floor, preparing food to bring for the celebration, and then washing dishes after the reception in wash tubs, because the small basement kitchen had no equipment yet.”



The “Little Brown Church”

The song, “The Little Brown Church in the West,” became Bethel’s theme song. It was an adaptation by Dr. Pederson of “The Church in the Wild-wood.”

One of Bethel’s strengths throughout the years has been its music ministry. From its beginning Bethel was blessed with great musicians and directors. Soon there were three choirs, and later they grew to five. Everyone in the congregation seemed to love to sing, so worship was a joyful time.



Bethel's Original Sanctuary

Organists

Dorothea Wissner  
Hallie Stegelvick  
Dorothy Herivel  
Lorraine Sutch  
Barbara Siem  
Sylvia Oines

Steve Randoy  
John Lackey  
Jeff Ogard  
Eileen Nesse  
Paul Allen

Directors of Music Ministry

Jeanne Pederson  
Dewey Teigen  
Walter Scarvie, Jr.  
Gordon Hilstad

Gaylon Quaring  
Jim Bueamier  
Elmer Stitzlein

There have also been many choir directors of children's and youth choirs and other choral ensembles.

In the beginning, Bethel was a church full of young families, as this was the makeup of the neighborhood. The Shoreline area continued to grow, and by 1951 Bethel had 90 family units and 300 in Sunday



School. Amazing! Is it any wonder that the congregation relied heavily on prayer for answers as to how to serve all these children in the "Little Brown Church in the West?" There were two complete sessions of Sunday School with Junior Church between. Dr. Pederson encouraged each of the members to reach out to others with his slogans - "A Family For Me In '53" and "One More In '54." Bethel's confirmed membership was 350, with a baptized membership of 654 by 1954.

During this first decade, Bethel's membership consisted of about as many men as women, and there were very few seniors. Great participation by both men and women in all areas of worship and service resulted in spiritual growth as well as growth in numbers. When the men were building, the women were right there with food for the workers and also helped with the painting. Smorgasbords and lutefisk dinners were the women's way of earning money to reduce the debt and furnish the church. The men were right there to lend a hand. The Ladies' Guild became quite famous in the area for its smorgasbords, and attendance was so large that the dinners had to be held in the high school cafeteria to serve the 1200 diners. One of the men, who was a chef, decorated the salmon and ham; another man, a florist, decorated the salads so beautifully that it was a shame to eat them. Bethel discovered early on that working together is a lot of fun and is the way to get to know one's brothers and sisters in the faith.

To accommodate this growth, architects Durham, Anderson and Freed were hired to design the present main sanctuary, and it was dedicated on December 20, 1959. What a way to end the first decade!

The beginning of the second decade was marked by the merger of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the American Lutheran Church, creating a much larger Lutheran denomination in America. Bethel was fortunate to have an intern, Walter Scarvie Jr., from Lutheran Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, come in 1961. He was a fine musician and helped the congregation enjoy and understand the liturgy. He was another gift of music to Bethel. After his nine months were over, an assistant pastor was called. Martin Simmons was ordained at his home church in Clinton, Washington, and began his

ministry at Bethel in 1962. There were now 700 in Sunday School, so Pastor Simmons really had a job to do in education. However, he was well-equipped for this ministry. There were three in the Simmons family when they came - Pastor Marti, Lois and Billy, but just before they left, Robert was born.



Arches for the new Sanctuary

A specialty of the first pastor, Dr. Carl Pederson, for which he became famous, was his mastery of the art of making Potato Pancakes. He made them annually for the men of Bethel. That may be why Bethel had such a large membership of men! Finally, in 1962 he invited the women for this grand occasion, and they then understood why the pancakes were so popular. When the Ladies' Guild published their cookbook, *Tasty Treasures*, a featured recipe was. ...





Placement of the Cornerstone at the new Sanctuary

### PEDERSON'S POLISH POTATO PANCAKES

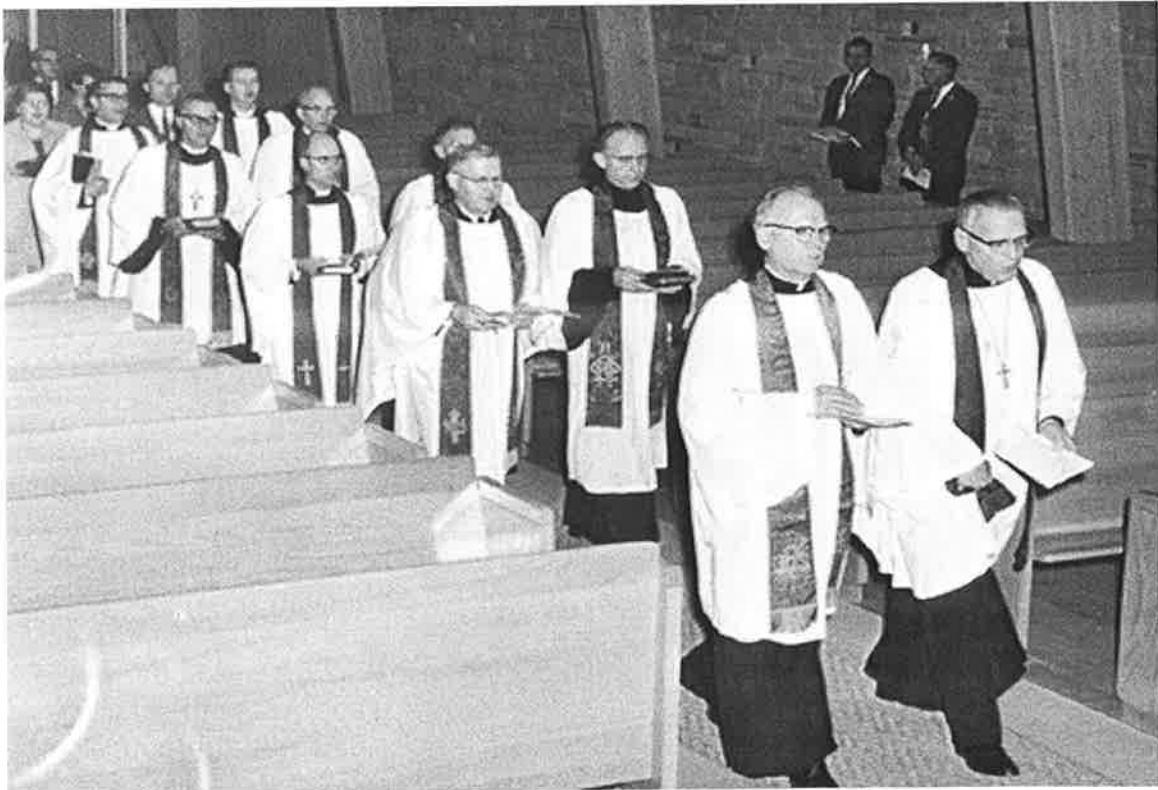
Grate, grind fine,  
or osterize 5 or 6  
good-sized  
potatoes.

Mix in:

egg 1/2 cup flour 1  
tsp. salt (level) 1  
heaping tsp.  
grated onion 1/2  
tsp. baking powder

Mix well and fry  
like ordinary  
pancakes

Dr. Pederson,  
himself



Dedication of our current Sanctuary

Bethel's mission emphasis grew in 1963 when it began full support of John and Pauline Halloway, two of Bethel's members. The Halloways were called to Tanganyika to work. It was special to have people known to the congregation as its missionaries.

Excitement for Bible study at Bethel grew when a Cottage Bible Study program was begun. Pastor Erman Lunder of Lutheran Bible Institute, a member of Bethel, prepared study guides for the groups. There were eight adults in each group, meeting in homes to study. One hundred and eight people began the program, and this number grew to 150.

In 1964 a much-needed Education Unit was built. There were now 759 in Sunday School, so those rooms were quickly filled. Today there are twelve more churches in this area and the school age population is smaller, hence the potential Sunday School enrollment has changed.

FIRE! Late one night in 1965 a fire began in the choir room of Bethel. (The music got hotter!) By the time it was discovered, it had burned through the doors into the sanctuary. What a blessing that all doors had been closed and the fire station was so close. Bethel came close to being totally burned. The feelings that members experienced when they came to worship the next Sunday were ones of gratitude that they still had a building and also the realization of how much their place of worship meant to them. Believe it or not, there was a wedding scheduled for the evening after the fire. The members got together and scrubbed and cleaned up the ashes and soot so that the wedding could take place. There was quite a lot of damage that needed repairing after that.



Sunday School in the original Building

The Baby Boomer children were now in junior high, so more emphasis needed to be on confirmation and youth programs. A Wednesday night program for confirmation students was begun. It was quite a volunteer undertaking which began with dinner, followed by classes and fellowship. There were about 120 students to care for and feed. The congregation backed the youth 100 percent by funding the dinner, teaching, leading, cooking and washing dishes.

These junior high students soon became high schoolers, and a miracle was needed to keep those students in the church. After much prayer, the Holy Spirit gave the answer - the gift of music in a folk musical, *Good News*.

Guitars were seldom used in churches at this time, but they were becoming popular with the young folks. This musical was written for guitar and piano accompaniment, and the choir director decided to use them. In the fall of '68, Bethel heard the first of many presentations given throughout the state.

The message of the Gospel was so strong it made changes in those who sang, played, or listened. A group of young adults with parents and leaders worked with sixty high school kids. Together they shared the love of Christ with many. Their faith and membership grew until there were ninety. The prayer that was always prayed before singing was that the love of Christ would come through the songs and through them to the listeners. The high school youth also conducted Sunday School at Children's Orthopedic Hospital for several years. There are four pastors today who were part of this youth ministry: Lorin Sanden, Terry Teigen, Karl Pishaw and Susan Van Hoy Burchfield.

Ministry to seniors was also begun in 1968 with the Golden Circle. It continues today with a change of name to Senior Fellowship. This group gathers for lunch, a program, fellowship, and sometimes goes on bus tours to interesting places in the Seattle area.

What a busy decade! It came to a close with the first ordination of a son of the congregation. On June 22, 1969, Hans Floan was ordained at Bethel. He is currently serving in Iowa.

The 70's brought new projects. A family from Nome, Alaska, became a part of the Bethel family. Steward Davis came to attend LBI in preparation for mission work back in Alaska. He needed a home for his family, and Bethel had a house just waiting to be filled. Bethel supported the Davis family while they were here, and the BLCW (Bethel Lutheran Church Women) continued support by sending supplies and money after the family returned to Alaska.

The year 1974 was full of joys and goodbyes. Bethel celebrated its 25th Anniversary in May. Shortly after that, Dr. Pederson retired after 24 years of fruitful ministry at Bethel. He had shown the parish how to "work together" by being a part of the work itself. His wife Jeanne was choir director in the early years and was an excellent confirmation teacher. In those days the Ladies' Guild did not have a magazine with a Bible study as the BLCW now has, so often the pastor or his wife led the study. Jeanne insisted that the women could lead the study themselves. And that was most certainly true! The Pedersons have since both died.

Another cause for joy and celebration in 1974 was the ordination of Lorin Sanden, son of the congregation and graduate of Luther Seminary. Pastor Sanden is presently serving a parish in Montana.

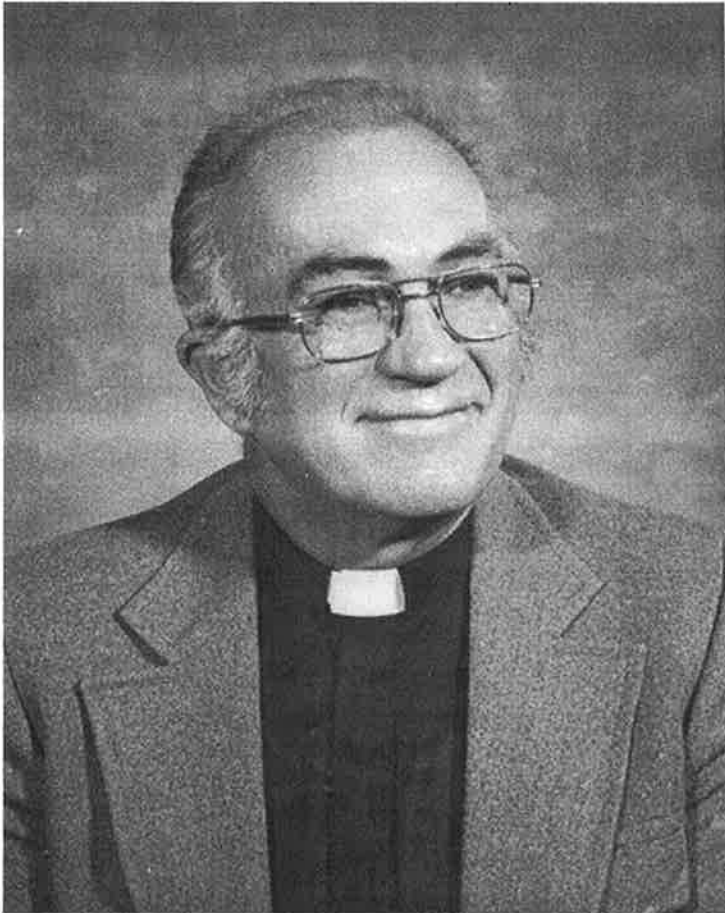
Pastor Martin Larson began his ministry as lead pastor in September 1974. Pastor Larson's ministry strongly influenced Bethel's appreciation of the gifts of music through his wife Marguerite and their six children.

Dr. Eugene Stime began assisting Pastor Larsen in 1977 and continued until 1985. The



Dr. Carl O. Pederson

Senior Fellowship and Prayer Intercessors were a part of his ministry.



Pastor Martin Larson

Aviation Fellowship in Boa Vista, Brazil and Africa.

Rex and Faye Nerrison and family - ALC New Guinea Lowell and Ardyth Savage - ALC Taiwan

Jim and Carol Sack and family - ALC Japan

Dr. Jo Elliott-Blakeslee - ALC Cameroun, Africa Dr. Virginia Scholl - ALC Cameroun, Africa

Lutheran Bible Institute, Seattle, was utilized by Pastor Larson to expand the congregation's awareness of world missions. When the Larsen children began their studies at LBI, some fellow students began regular participation in Bethel's services and ministry. They became part of Bethel's family, teaching Sunday School and working with the youth. When they departed for their missionary service, Bethel followed them with prayer and financial support. The following list includes the LBI graduates and ALC missionaries that Bethel has supported:

Alice and Herb Ellis and family - World Prayer Mission League, stationed in Pakistan.

Tom and Mary Holeman - Lutheran Bible Translators in Ghana.

Tim and Bo Stime and family - Wycliffe Bible Translators in Canada.

Dale and Lillian Nesse and family - Lutheran Bible Translators in Ecuador.

Dick and Lois Peterson and family - World Prayer Mission League in Mexico.

Tim and Roxanne Ault and family - Mission

During these years, the congregation continued its emphasis on Bible study through the Search Bible Study Program. After many members attended a Church Growth Seminar in 1977, Bethel started its Prayer Chain. Sixty people agreed to pray for church growth and any other prayers that might be requested. In January 1978 Pastor Isaiah Chow asked to begin a Chinese Church at Bethel. What an answer to prayer for outreach in the community! Pastor Chow had just come from Hong Kong. He knew if he had a place where newly arrived students and workers could eat together and have fellowship in their own language, he would have a chance to tell Buddhists, non-believers and others about Jesus. After a few years they had grown enough to become Bethel Chinese Lutheran Church, ALC, and in 1988 bought their own building near Children's Orthopedic Hospital. It was a real experience to occasionally worship together - a taste of heaven as the Lord's Prayer and familiar hymns were prayed and sung together in two languages. The Prayer Chain continues today and will go on to the next century.

Another longed-for milestone occurred in 1978 when Balcom and Vaughn designed, built and installed a pipe organ. An interesting note in the minutes that year said the organ was financed by "selling keys" and by donations. The organ was entirely paid for by the time of dedication - another gift of music for Bethel.

The choirs have presented concerts every year and have blessed the congregation every Sunday. Other blessings to the congregation have been some of the quiet, faithful workers who serve as ushers, Altar Guild members and caretakers - those who prepare the sanctuary for worship and clean up afterwards. It would be interesting to know how many communion cups have been washed by the Altar Guild over these fifty years! Bethel has also been cared for and made ready for worship and all occasions by many dedicated custodians.

In the 1980's Bethel's outreach expanded beyond the support of downtown missions, the Seamen's Center, Fircrest Residence for the Disabled, and the programs of the national church. Bethel has always had a big heart, and the need to expand support arose because of the hungry people in the neighborhood who came to Bethel. This led the congregation to join with others in an Emergency Feeding Program (EFP). Through the years EFP has grown and meets the needs of many of the hungry in the greater Seattle area. Bethel has been the largest contributor for several years. It is evident that when a need is presented to the members of Bethel, they quickly respond.

In 1982 Bethel called Pastor Joel Kutzke to be an associate pastor. The renovation of "The Little Brown Church" was in progress. It was completed and dedicated in 1983 after much volunteer work. This provided new offices and a small chapel. The old office became the library Bethel had needed and wanted. It is a very necessary part of the education program. The stained glass windows in the chapel and the hand-woven altar cloth were created by members willing to use their many talents for the glory of God. Included in those talents is the work of Prayer Intercessors. With the completion of the chapel, Thursday mornings have been set aside for a special time of prayer. The Intercessors intercede for many of Bethel's needs and continue the ministry today.

Bethel had the honor of ordaining two more young men in the 80's. The first was a son of the congregation, Karl Pishaw. Karl graduated from Wartburg Seminary in 1984 and accepted a call to Starbuck, Minnesota. The second young man was John Bent, son-in-law of Pastor Larsen. Pastor Bent was ordained on July 17, 1986. It is a blessing to a congregation to be a part of an ordination.

After ten years of ministry at Bethel, Pastor Larsen accepted a call back to his first parish in Drayton, North Dakota. Thinking about how cold it is in the Dakotas, the congregation gave Pastor Larsen a pair of red flannel underwear at the farewell party. The Larsen family, all eight of them, had been willing to share their musical talents and were surely missed.

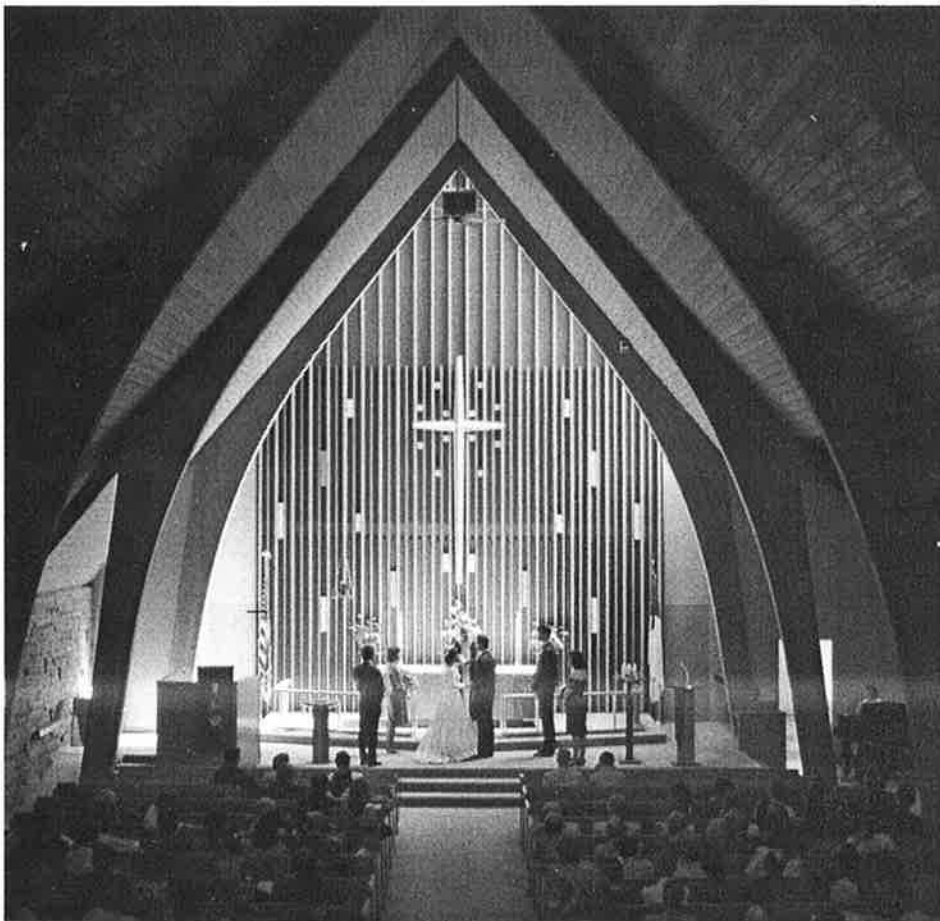
The coming ELCA merger was causing much discussion and some controversy. Some members chose to leave, so it was a difficult time for the Bethel family. The search for a new pastor had begun, and Bethel was without a lead pastor for two years. Bethel was fortunate to have two excellent interim pastors. Pastor Madsen served from September 1984 until July 1986, and Pastor Ralph Fisher accepted the call as interim pastor until the end of 1986.

Pastor Joel Kutzke completed four years of ministry with youth and as associate to Pastor Larsen. He had many young friends, and when Pastor Joel accepted a call to Waterville, a trip east of the mountains by youth and parents was soon planned. The congregation celebrated with Pastor Kutzke and his bride Diane at their wedding at Bethel prior to his accepting the call to Waterville.



After two years of prayerful searching by the call committee and congregation, Pastor James Schoeld said "Yes" to our call. God's timing again was perfect for the Schoeld family and the congregation. Pastor Schoeld, Rachel and their family of four have been responsible for widening our sensitivity and visions of service to people. Pastor Schoeld wrote a song for the congregation, "We Are the Heart of Bethel." It helped us to know there was a job to do and we began praying again for ways to reach out.

Bethel now had young families who were ambitious and wanted to reach to children in the neighborhood. Pioneer Club and KOW (Kids on Wednesdays) began in 1989 and still continues. Before long there were 70 to 80 children having a great time and learning to know Jesus. The Wednesday program begins at 5:00 p.m. with choir for all children who want to sing; then all are welcomed to dinner, followed by classes, crafts and fun. Parents are invited, and it has become a real outreach to the community. That is certainly not the only way the community is welcomed at Bethel. The building is constantly in use for meetings, classes, support groups, and Shoreline community meetings, and the congregation supports this outreach.



Wedding Ceremony in the current Sanctuary

In 1989 it was time to celebrate again, and Bethel always enjoys celebrating. This time it was Bethel's 40th Anniversary. The average age was beginning to lower as young families were again moving into the smaller homes in our area. Older and larger families had left to move farther north to larger homes. Pastor David Lund was called as associate pastor in the fall of 1989. Pastor Lund brought his bride Elizabeth with him. Pastor Lund's call was to youth and education. The Crossways Bible Study was begun, and Pastor Lund's teaching skills were put to use right away. The congregation had just completed

Search, and now began another "search." This Crossways Bible study program is still being offered.

In the summer of 1991, Pastor Lund and Elizabeth were instrumental in arranging an exchange between Bethel youth and a Lutheran congregation in Leipzig, Germany. A number of our youth, plus sponsors, spent three weeks in Germany, visiting many of the places connected with the life of Luther.

Then in the summer of 1992, our youth and congregation hosted a large group of youth and sponsors from Leipzig. This exchange of countries and cultures was a fun and educational experience for everyone involved.

Bethel has always had Sunday School and for many years Vacation Bible School. Attendance has ranged from 39 to over 700 over the years. There have been many faithful men and women who have taught or led Sunday School. Giving time to the children blesses the teacher as much as the youngsters. What a joy it is to be standing in the narthex and have little ones smile and say, "Hello, Teacher," and then years later have them come and say, "I bet you don't remember me. I was in your Sunday School class." Sometimes you can remember their names; other times, you'll remember something about them. We know that God has blessed everyone who has taught Sunday School or confirmation classes during the past fifty years.

The 90's have seen the addition of several ministries which reach to our neighbors and congregation. "We Care" is primarily for shut-ins and seniors who find it difficult to get to church. Volunteers pick them up and bring them to Bethel for a communion service and time of fellowship and food. This ministry gives homebound people the opportunity to share communion with others.

North Helpline serves neighbors in the Northend. Together with several churches and civic organizations, Bethel helped to form this emergency service. It helps people with eviction notices, utility shut-offs, bus tickets, gasoline, prescriptions, food and referrals. A major fundraising event for this ministry is an interdenominational choir festival held each fall, in which Bethel's senior choir has faithfully participated.



Easter at Bethel

One of the most urgent needs in the Northend area is affordable housing. A number of Lutheran churches have banded together and formed LATCH, Lutheran Alliance to Create Housing. After six years of hard work, there are now 260 people who have been provided with safe, affordable housing. One hundred and thirty of these people are under the age of 18. Bethel has been an active and supportive member of LATCH.

Our building is presently being used by the Korean Galilean Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoons, and the Ukrainian Prayer Fellowship on Saturday evenings. Bethel now has worship services in three languages.

There were several changes in the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the 90's. A Children's Time for the little ones became a regular feature, with lay people or one of the pastors presenting. Families really appreciate this special time for their children. A contemporary communion service, "Now the Feast and Celebration," written by Marty Haugen, was tried and



accepted and is now regularly used at the 11:00 a.m. communion service.

Pastor Schoeld challenged the congregation to become a Mission Outpost in the Shoreline area. "Each one has a task that grows out of his or her talents. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves and feel it a duty as a Christian congregation to reach out and care for one another and those within our community." To help make this happen, Bethel has trained volunteers to be Stephen Ministers. The purpose of this ministry is to extend the arms of the pastors to help individuals through times of grief and difficult decision making.

This history has made mention often about the many times the men have worked on the building - constructing and repairing. They have worked together with the women in many of their projects and have been leaders on the council, teachers, and mentors. What hasn't been mentioned is the men's organization, the Men's Brotherhood. The third Saturday of the month finds men at Bethel enjoying pancakes. The pancake recipe has changed, but the result is the same - good fellowship. They have speakers to inspire them and they learn of the work of the ELCA and local missions.

There were several musicals presented by the youth and adults of the congregation in the 90's. First the youth performed, *Homeward Bound*, written by Pastor Lund. Then all ages joined together to present the musical *Lazarus*. It was written for Bread for the World. Its message was to tell why Christians are to feed the hungry of the world, and it had a profound effect on all who sang and listened.

Pastor David and Elizabeth became parents to a baby girl, Elsa, in June of 1991. The congregation loved having a baby in the parsonage again. Later, Alexander joined the family. Pastor Lund received and accepted a call to the International Church in Stavanger, Norway, in 1994.

Bethel has supported the Cluster Sabbatical Internship program since its inception in the early nine-ties. In 1995 Pastor Jim and Rachel were able to go on a six-month sabbatical. Cluster Intern Steve Vitalich and Interim Pastor Ed Roe served in Pastor Schoeld's place while he was gone.

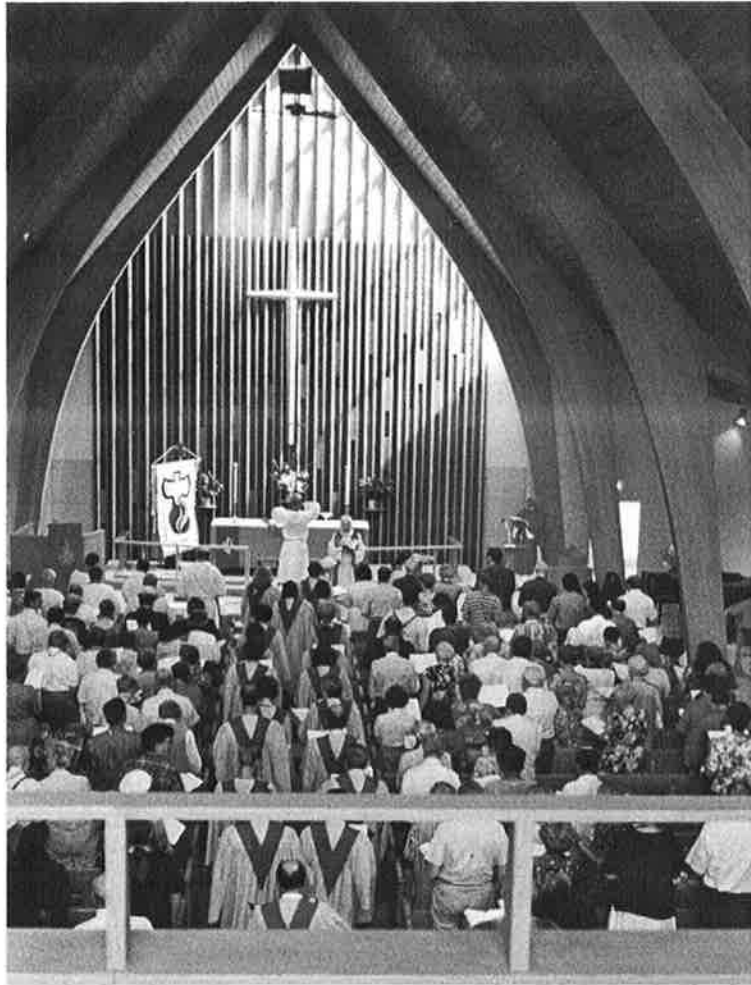
Bethel again needed to call an associate pastor to work with Pastor Schoeld. The congregation and call committee began to pray, and Angela Renecker answered the call to come to Bethel for her first call out of Luther Seminary. This was a first for Bethel, to have a woman pastor. Thank God for the Holy Spirit's leading the call process. She was called to work especially with youth and education. Pastor Angela Renecker was ordained at Bethel on September 10, 1995.

In 1996 the youth presented the musical drama of Martin Luther, *Here I Stand*. It involved much work by the youth ministry, music ministry, parents and youth. The youth took to the road with it and spread the Martin Luther story south to Oregon.

The highlight of the year 1996 for the youth was the Western States Gathering, "Taking it to the Streets of Anaheim." Four thousand young people from 17 states went to Anaheim for a week of worship, workshops, service projects and fun. In the Youth Ministry report following the Anaheim Gathering it was noted that "Sometime during the gathering it became obvious that something wonderful was taking place among the youth as friends, and with God's help they were becoming bonded into a cohesive group. They had things they wanted to do and began talking about it even before getting home."

In preparation for the Gathering, the youth had worked hard at fund-raising, and the congregation responded generously. The BLCW's Pass It On Group invited the youth to help with the spring rummage

sale and reap the profits. Bethel's youth are a blessing to the congregation and have helped us become an intergenerational family.



Ordination Ceremony for Pr. Renecker

The year 1996 was a great challenge for Bethel. There had been much talk in previous years about the large capital projects needing attention. The "Now and New" campaign outlined carefully how to handle them, and a pledge campaign was instituted through which these improvements could be funded. By July 1997 the scaffolding was in place to begin redoing the stained glass west wall of the sanctuary. It needed to be reinforced and reglazed. Richard Caemmerer, director of the Gruenwald Guild in Leavenworth, Washington, designed the window. Joe Hester was the craftsman who constructed and installed it. The many sections are made of thick, colored glass. The window tells the Biblical story of Jacob's dream at the place which he called Bethel - House of God. The primary visual motif is the cross. There are four dominant ideas in the window - the cross, the pillar of stones, the stairs, and the vortex or spiral. The stairs with angels going up and down are now supplanted by the cross. Christ has come to die and has risen and ascended. The spiral is the traditional symbol of new life and re-

generation. It speaks in the design of Christ's resurrection and ascension ... and ours.

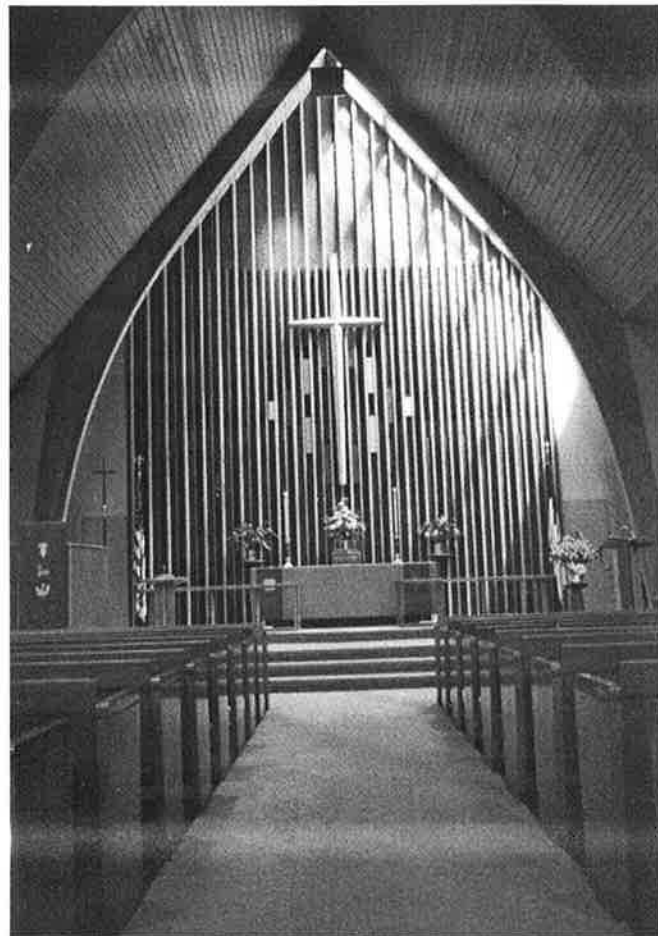
The year 1997 was definitely one of repairing and remodeling as planned in the "Now and New" project. The bathrooms were beautifully remodeled and a composition slate roof installed, which should last far into the next century. The furnaces were also replaced and there were numerous other upgrades, such as improvements in the appearance of the east entry.

Some of the memorial donors began to talk with the Memorial Committee about the possibility of an etched design on the narthex east window to memorialize their loved ones. The design would depict the verse from Hebrews, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses ...". An artist, Robert Hill, submitted his design, which was accepted. The window was dedicated June 7, 1998.

In the summer of 1998, adults joined Bethel's youth to work on a "Habitat for Humanity" project in Yakima. They used hammers, saws, shovels and paint brushes to help construct two homes. A part

of the crew prepared the food for the rest. After working in the hot sun each day, they looked forward to Holden Evening Prayer to close the day. The young people have listened to Christ's command to "love your neighbor." Again, the congregation supported them.

In November of '98 another intergenerational event happened. A play, *The Long Way Home*, written by Bret Keogh, was presented for all to enjoy. It was a true story about a priest who was jailed during World War II for hiding escapees from Germany. This was an exciting play with a strong message.



Bethel's Sanctuary

Bethel's church councils have given 50 years of outstanding leadership. It is safe to say that lay leadership has been strong. In the 1998 annual report there is a council mission statement- "We the Council of Bethel Lutheran Church, being duly elected or appointed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws, accept responsibility to provide leadership, support and guidance to the congregation in order that we may better serve the Lord and carry out his work."

## PRESIDENTS OF BETHEL LUTHERAN

1949	Kenneth Magness	1976-77	Dewey Teigen
1950	Carl Anderson	1978	William Stoebuck
1951-52	Edwin Hanson	1979	Lowell Nesse
1953-54	William Iverson	1980-81	Jack Windsor
1955-56	Raymond Madsen	1982	William Stoebuck
1957	Louis Larson	1983-84	Chuck Vollbrecht
1958-59	William Ramstad	1985-86	Marlene Knie
1960-61	Oscar Floan	1987-88	Tom Radcliff
1962-63	Charles Henderson	1989	Rick Davenport
1964-65	Lloyd Nelson	1990	Dewey Teigen
1966-67	Stan Young	1991-92	Charles Haasl
1968-69	Burton Appelo	1993-94	Diana Holeman
1970-71	Rheinhold Schmitt	1995-96	Chuck Vollbrecht
1972-73	George Dawson	1997-98	Randy Barber
1974-75	Don Nelson	1999	Charlie Brown

The support staff of Bethel has worked together with the ordained staff over the years to provide leadership and administration.

## SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

### Youth Ministry

Lowell Nesse	1965-69
Craig Jorgensen	1970-72
Jerry Leibersbach	1973-76
Wendall Henderschott	1976-79
Sheryl Beigert	1980-81
Bill Haines	1987-88

### Parish Worker

Fern Peterson

### Parish Administrators

Dela Van Hoy	1967-69
Lee Gyldenvand	1977
Joe Campbell	1981-82

### Secretaries and Receptionists

Jane Asmann	1954-55
Loia Sand	1956-59
Esther Ring	1960-74
Kathleen Willms	1975-79
Birdee Oien	1979-80
Loree Anderson	1980
Judy Goulet	1981

### Assistant to Pastor

Lloyd Nelson

### Minister of Education

Jim Steele 1977-79

An underlying strength of Bethel through the years has been the Bethel Lutheran Church Women. They have initiated service projects to support the church financially while it was being built and continued to support local and worldwide missions as well. There has always been a sewing group as part of the BLCW to meet needs around the world. That group has grown over the years and is now called "Pass It On." They truly 'pass it on.' This spring they sent, through Lutheran World Relief, 133 pounds of clothing, 24 pounds of soap, 138 quilts, 101 health kits, 109 school kits, and paid \$ 200 to LWR for shipping costs. In the fall they'll do it again!

Along the way art has contributed to our worship and spiritual understanding. It began with the creating of altar paraments for the liturgical seasons. The choice of symbols to be used in the designs were suggested by congregational input. The first four sets utilized fine needlework on raw silk fabric. The fifth set (blue) was handwoven with decorative embroidery. Many women in our congregation shared their particular skills in making these paraments to the Glory of God.

Art continues to surround us in the sanctuary with seasonal hangings. The four heraldic angels, the Christmas triptych, and Easter panels were also created by the hands of our members. These works of art are amazing. The impact of the heraldic angels in Advent grows with each season and has affected many visitors as well as Bethel's members. Using their creative gifts, members seem to love to make and care for things with their hands.

Pastor Angela Renecker has shared her gift of writing with the parish through her poetry and reports. A quote from her annual report: "There are many ministers at Bethel, and many gifts of ministry. As we live our life as a Mission Outpost, reaching out to strangers and friends in the community and beyond, this is my prayer for all of us": "Let the favor of the Lord God be upon us and prosper for us the Work of our hands. O prosper the Work of our hands." Psalm 90:7

Bethel's Jubilee Year began with the lighting of its Jacob's Dream Window on the first Sunday of Advent in 1998. Members gathered outside and sang carols, lit candles and invited the neighborhood to join them. Later they gathered inside for fellowship, sharing lefse made from a recipe that a charter member used fifty years ago.

How blest we are!

## DID YOU KNOW THAT

- \* There have been 1783 children and 353 adults baptized at Bethel. The first baby baptized at Bethel was Mary Ellen Scott on April 2, 1950.
- \* There have been 1004 youth and 210 adults confirmed at Bethel.
- \* There have been 1441 weddings performed at Bethel. The first couple married was Leroy Roth and Donamae Chaffee on December 30, 1951, just a month after the church was dedicated. In the record year, 1969, there were 67 weddings, with as many as four weddings on a weekend. Can you imagine being the wedding coordinator then?
- \* The first funeral service was for Alfred Sorum. Since that funeral, Bethel's pastors have conducted 521 funerals or memorials.
- \* There has been a scout troop meeting Monday nights at Bethel continually since 1955. There was an average of 50 scouts in the troop for many years. Most of those years also had a cub pack. There have been many Eagle scouts.
- \* The Cradle Roll was begun by the women fifty years ago and still continues today as a ministry by one woman.
- \* In the 1950's there were Lutheran Reformation Services downtown at the Civic Auditorium with thousands in attendance. Many of Bethel's choir members joined with several hundred others to praise God in song at these services.
- \* The earliest instant coffee was Nescafe, and a representative of that company came to our Smorgasbords and made the coffee to advertise their project. Believe it or not, the coffee passed the test even with the Scandinavians!
- \* In the early days the adults at Bethel used to have Halloween costume parties, and some of the men even dressed up as women. Often their identities were not discovered until time to go home. Do you suppose it's time to have an intergenerational costume party?
- \* There were three bowling teams in 1949. There have always been bowling teams, and at least two of the original bowlers still bowl on Bethel's team.
- \* The Parish Life committee provides ongoing opportunities for family fun at campouts, going to ball games, and game nights.

**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
Shoreline, Washington

Our Vision for the third millenium:

*Graced disciples weaving the touch of God through the fabric of our community*