

Lutheran Church in America **Pacific Northwest Synod**

5519 Phinney Avenue No.

Seattle, Washington 98103

(206)783-9292

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORICAL RECORD

NAME OF CONGREGATION UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF EUGENE, OREGON

STREET ADDRESS 2230 Washington Street

Eugene, OR 97405

TELEPHONE (503) 342-5808

LOCATION (DIRECTIONS BY WHICH TO COME TO THE CHURCH):

From Jefferson Street, turn east on 22nd
one block to Washington and 22nd

DATE OF ORGANIZATION Oct 6, 1926 / CHURCH BODY IN WHICH ORGANIZED Pacific Synod ULC

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED THIS CONGREGATION (NAMES AND YEARS):

Frank S. Beistel	1927-1940
Edwin J. Johnson	1941-1942
John L. Sawyer	1942-1949
Charles A. Epple	1949-1961
Weston W. LaMunyon	1961-1967
Earl V. Sakrison	1968-1982
Dan B. Hallgrimson	1983-

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION

"An extended introduction is offered to this history of the United Lutheran Church of Eugene for the reason that some in Eugene as well as in the church-at-large, have somewhat bitterly opposed its organization." These are the words of Rev. Frank Beistel as he attempted to capture the mood of 1925 when some Lutherans in Eugene were struggling to identify who they were and the shape and direction of their ministry. "It was not the desire of this group to injure Lutheranism in the University City, but to establish here the basis for future Lutherans such as they deemed impossible through the Nationalistic Churches. Whether all had been done with patience and good-will as becomes Christian people, may be open to doubt for even good men sometimes fail in judgment and are prone to prejudice. Whether the Church so organized will fulfill the hopes of its founders or find the approval of the Great Head of the Church must be left to the verdict of succeeding years. It is therefore the part of wisdom to accept the present situation and await God's guiding hand."

Dr. Edward Thorstenberg, a University professor and an initiator of the movement for an all-American Lutheran Church, writes, "Attention is called to the fact that there are in Eugene hundreds of people of Lutheran faith and ancestry who either do not understand any language other than English or who, at any rate, understand English better than any other language and, consequently, prefer all church services in that language." He also felt there were many others who would join if an all English Lutheran Church were established. Dr. Thorstenberg and his family were among the 48 charter members of United Lutheran Church of Eugene organized on October 6, 1926 to provide "a congregation free from any feelings of nationality," that is, to establish "an American program."

Pastoral care was requested by the congregation from the mission committee of the Pacific Synod of the ULC, seen at the time as the most American of Lutheran bodies. The Rev. Edwin Moll, Field Missionary for Oregon was assigned briefly as a supply pastor followed by the Rev. Frank S. Beistel. A fraternity house was purchased at 13th and High streets for \$10,000 and remodeled to provide a chapel seating 120, classroom space, and living quarters for the pastor and family. The congregation carried out its ministry from that location until 1947 when it worshiped temporarily in the music chapel of Northwest Christian College. On February 26, 1950 the cornerstone was laid for the new sanctuary, Sunday school, and fellowship spaces on a quarter block at 22nd avenue west and Washington streets. The congregation grew significantly and by 1960 additional Sunday school and fellowship space was added. The need for a larger worship space was anticipated and additional property was purchased. In celebration of the congregation's 50th anniversary, a Coulter tracker organ, Opus #1, was acquired, and later a Steinway grand piano was purchased. Both instruments have been shared with the community in a variety of musical presentations. In 1985 extensive remodeling was completed and on-site parking added. Additional adjacent property is now being purchased in a commitment to a growing congregation's needs to carry out ministry from its present location.

United Lutheran Church of Eugene today is inclusively diverse in membership, ecumenical in its relationship to other denominations, supportive of refugee resettlement, open to dialogue about difficult social issues, offering variety in manner of worship, has members serving as overseas missionaries, and other members serving on boards of the church. But members of United Lutheran see as their primary mission "proclaiming the reconciling love of God through Jesus Christ."

This material submitted by Dan B. Hallgrimson

DATE	COMMENTS
2/21/75	Phoned E. Sakrison on the way thru Eugene -- No Answer.
3/20/75	Met with E. Sakrison re: Planning of Council Retreat for April 19th. Sak. has been at United for 7 yrs. Beginning to feel the need to move. Wants a church that is "open" to progressive leadership. Also wants a cong. that can adequately pay him. He has done considerable amount of counseling with T.A. and Gestalt methods.

SOME HISTORY
United Lutheran Church, Eugene, Ore.

The United Lutheran Church in Eugene was organized to provide a congregation free from any feelings of nationality. Prof. E. Thorstenberg of the University and a member of Trinity Lutheran Church (Norwegian Synod now called Central Church) had diligently tried to get an American program in his own church but failed. Accordingly, he and some others withdrew from Trinity Church and joining with unattached Lutherans of the city formed an organization known as Eugene Lutheran Ch. Services were held in the chapel at 7th and Pearl now used by Salvation Army.

That an adjustment as amicable as possible might be made, these matters were presented to the Home Miss. Council at a meeting in Tacoma (Mission authorities of the various Lutheran synods in the northwest). After much discussion, action was taken recognizing the need of an American program in Eugene and suggesting that the new congregation unite with a synod of its choice but in the meantime the Norwegian Synod was to provide religious services. However, before the congregation took action for synodical choice, the Norwegian members returned to Trinity church. This left the others who had never been members of Trinity (except three families) unprovided for. Several informal meetings were held during which it was decided that an entirely new organization should be formed. Accordingly a call was issued to interested persons and a formal meeting held in the Y.W.C.A. Bungalow on the campus. At this meeting on OCTOBER 6, 1926 THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF EUGENE WAS ORGANIZED. Temporary officers were elected and a Committee on Constitution appointed. A charter was secured later. About 60 names were on the tentative roll but only 48 assumed active membership.

Contact was now made with the Mission Committee of the Pacific Synod with request for pastoral care though formal application for membership in the Synod was not made for several months. Rev. Edwin Moll who had been elected Field Missionary for Oregon was assigned to Eugene as a supply. He came late in November and left for Oakland Cal. about March 1. During this time the property at 13th and High was purchased for \$10,000 cash the full amount being borrowed from the Bank of Commerce at 8%. Partitions on the first floor of the building were removed to provide a chapel used for the first time for a "watch-night" service.

The Miss. Com. then called Rev. Frank S. Beistel to succeed Rev. Moll and he was sent to Eugene as a supply. He came on May 1 but the family on July 1. Plans were at once made for remodeling. A dining room was built, the garage beside it converted into a room for the primary department, back stairs built to 2nd floor and basement, much plastering done, 2nd and 3rd floor rooms papered and painted, and a two-car garage built. Approximate cost of all remodeling \$700.

After serving the congregation more than a year as Field Missionary, Rev. Beistel was called by the congregation as its first permanent pastor. Rapid progress was made and high hopes entertained for greater accomplishments. The 1930 minutes of Synod reports these statistics: Confirmed members 102, 2 Women's organizations 42, 2 Young People's soc. 32, Brotherhood 16, total expenditures \$2851.

THEN CAME THE DEPRESSION. People were without work, families moved from the city, business men were in trouble. Those were hard years.

Financial operations: Original debt \$10,000 at 8%. In June 1927 the debt of \$10,500 refinanced, Mr. R. M. Pratt taking \$7,500 at 7% and the bank \$3,000 at 8%. The bank note was steadily reduced and stood at \$1,750 when the bank failed. Later demand was made for full payment within 10 days. Impossible to borrow that much. Solicitations were made among members and \$1,200 cash secured. Balance borrowed from First National which was soon repaid. At the expiration of the Pratt note, a new note was given at 5%, Mr. Pratt making a donation of \$1,000.

After serving more than 14 years Rev. Beistel's health failed and he closed his ministry on June 1, 1941. Rev. E. J. Johnson of Nokomis, Ill. assumed charge at once and continued until Easter 1942. The congregation then called Rev. J. L. Sawyer who began his pastorate on Sept 1, 1942 and is now with us.

Recent events are not described for they are still fresh in our memories.

Sunday School
103



UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH,
Eugene, Oregon

The United Lutheran Church Goes Into the Educational Institutions of Oregon



In the great state of Oregon, which is larger than the combined areas of Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, there are three great educational institutions:

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, at Eugene.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, at Corvallis

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, at Monmouth

INTO these schools come the splendid young men and women from the entire state to be trained for their life work. Among them are many Lutherans. These young people will be the leaders of the future state of Oregon.

Heretofore the United Lutheran Church, which is the great American Lutheran body in the United States, has had no congregation at the seat of any of these schools and has not even had a pastor visitor to keep these young Lutherans true to their church.



REV. F. S. BEISTEL
FIELD MISSIONARY
FOR THE STATE
OF OREGON

NOW WE ARE GOING IN! A mission has been started at Eugene, the home of the State University. The American Board of Missions of the U. L. C. has called as its Field Missionary for the State of Oregon, the Rev. Frank S. Beistel of Seattle, who was for six years General Secretary of Thiel College in Pennsylvania and has located him at Eugene.

A Fraternity House (see cut above) has been purchased for \$10,000. It is located at the intersection of two principal streets five blocks from the University and is centrally located for the city. The house is being remodelled at a cost of \$1,000 and when finished will have a chapel seating 120, a social room for student activities and Sunday school and also apartments for the pastor and his family.

A congregation of 50 has been gathered. The Board of Missions pays the salary of the Field Missionary but provides nothing towards the cost of the property nor its remodelling. To meet these obligations and still put on an active program in a university town is probably too much for this mission. They are bravely going on with the task with faith that what ought to be done can be done and that God has somewhere resources for it.

WE FRANKLY ASK YOUR HELP TO PUT OVER THIS BIG PROGRAM, BELIEVING THAT YOU REALLY LIKE TO HELP A GOOD THING FOR YOUR CHURCH.

We promise on our part to do our best to make good with the trust the church has given us. Please send your contributions to REV. FRANK S. BEISTEL, 315 E. 13th Ave., Eugene, Oregon.

FIRST FIFTY YEARS
OF UNITED
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2230 Washington Street
Eugene, Oregon



1926-1976

PRELIMINARY HISTORY LEADING UP TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH, EUGENE, OREGON

An extended introduction is offered to this history of the United Lutheran Church of Eugene for the reason that some in Eugene as well as in the church at large, have somewhat bitterly opposed its organization. There were indeed, three Lutheran churches already existing within the city limits--Trinity (Norwegian, English), Grace (German-English) and Emmaus (Danish). They were nationalistic churches however and were too slow to move into an American program--a fault that has hindered Lutheran development in many other places and has been the cause of great losses by the Lutheran Church throughout the country for many years. Forward-looking members of Trinity Church many of whom were not of Norwegian ancestry withdrew in peace from Trinity Church and formed themselves into the Eugene Evangelical Lutheran Church. Even Rev. Skilbred, though pastor of Trinity Church, became a member of the new organization and petitioned the throne of heaven for divine blessing. It was not the desire of this group to injure Lutheranism in the University City, but to establish here the basis for future Lutherans such as they deemed impossible through the Nationalistic Churches. Whether all had been done with patience and good-will as becomes Christian people, may be open to doubt for even good men sometimes fail in judgment and are prone to prejudice. Whether the Church so organized will fulfill the hopes of its founders or find the approval of the Great Head of the Church must be left to the verdict of succeeding years. It is therefore the part of wisdom to accept the present situation and await God's guiding hand.

That there was great difference of opinion in Trinity church is manifest from the following quotations from the minutes of its congregational meeting held Dec. 29, 1925

" Dr. Thorstenberg called attention to the fact that the Lutheran Brotherhood of Eugene, which is not an exclusive Trinity church organization, had initiated the movement for an all-American Lutheran church ~~in Eugene and vicinity~~ as early as June 2 1925 by addressing a letter to all Lutheran churches in Eugene and vicinity for that purpose as follows:

"Attention is called to the fact that there are in Eugene hundreds of people of Lutheran faith and ancestry who either do not understand any language other than English or who, at any rate, understand English better than any other language and, consequently, prefer all church service in that language. There are also many English people who do not belong to any church, many of whom would become Lutherans if an all-English Lutheran Church were established in our midst.

"For the purpose of initiating a movement that will make it possible for all Lutherans of Eugene and vicinity to unite in an effort to provide a suitable church-home to meet the needs above mentioned, the Lutheran Brotherhood of Eugene respectfully invites each of the Lutheran congregations in Eugene and vicinity to name a committee of three persons to meet with a like committee of the Brotherhood for the purpose of devising ways and means for establishing, before the beginning of the next school year, if possible, an all-English Central Union Lutheran Church."

Commenting further, Dr. Thorstenberg said he felt that those who had interested themselves in the American Lutheran Church movement, might rightfully resent the insinuations in Rev. Hougan's statement were not sincere or conscientious or that they were not considerate etc. He said that the members of Trinity church had been begged and pleaded with in almost every possible way to get them to see how poorly the church was filling the needs of the community; to see how the young people were leaving because it was not being Americanized so they could not get the full benefit of church service and church work. Proposals have been made for a program of activity that would give those who prefer service in the Norwegian language as much or more than they are now getting and still improve its position to serve the young people and the student body, all of which have been met with sneers or underhanded efforts to prevent programs that have been adopted from going peaceably into effect. The Dr. informed the congregation that he had now been in Eugene 13 years, but affiliated here only the last 6 years, because his children could not get full benefit of the Sunday school until it was carried on in the American language, and that it was not without heartbreaking ordeals that the children were taken out of the Presbyterian Sunday School which they had learned to love. It does not sit well to have ones loyalty to the church questioned in the light of such a situation. "so far as I am concerned" said the Dr. "my conscience will not let me rest until there is an American Lutheran Church in Eugene and my family and myself actively participating in it."

Mr. S.P. Ness called attention to the fact that there was nothing unnatural about a number of us taking an interest in the development of an American Lutheran Church or even in participating in meetings, having matters pertaining to it under consideration. A number of us who have been urging that we in Trinity church should Americanize more completely than we are, have often been told in private and in public, even right here in this church at congregational meetings, that if we didn't like it the way it was done here we could leave the church. * * * Every effort that we have made to get Trinity church more Americanized have been met with charges of insincerity, or deeds and words indicating to us that we had no right to propose that the property of the church should be used for any such purposes. * * * Largely because of the part I have taken in trying to Americanizing the church, I have been accused of more wrong doings here in this congregation than in any other place I have ever been. "

Mr. Theodore Nelson said "It is apparent, after a survey among members, that there a number who will not peaceably go along on any program for greater Americanization for Trinity church or for consolidation with the new Lutheran church even if such a decision was reached by a large majority vote. We can never hope for peace, either here or in the new church as long as there are a few members who will not abide with the American principle of majority rule but on the contrary resort to misrepresentations among the members to prevent majority decisions from operating, thus keeping up a constant turmoil within the congregation."

The first active steps looking to the organization of an American Lutheran church were taken at a meeting held in Trinity church October 1, 1925 when some met to discuss the feasibility of such an organization. Mr. S. P. Ness was chairman and Miss Inga Larsen was secretary. The question was discussed by ST Ness, Theo. Nelson, Dr. Thorstenberg and Mr. Gredvig. Committees were appointed.

Committee on Constitution & By-laws,- G. Bauer
Mr. Gredvig
Theo Nelson
Mrs. Lundstrom
S.P.Ness

Committee on Meeting - place,-
Dr. Thorstenberg
Mr. Hines
Mr. E. Gilbertson

Another meeting was held on October 21 in the Y.M.C.A. Hut and committees on Site and on Synodical Relationship were appointed.

Committee on Church Site Dr Thorstenberg
L.J.Clave
Chris Monson
Miss Nordling
Chris Skilbred

Committee ~~XXXXXX~~ Synodical
Relationship,- Theo Nelson
Mrs. Lundstrom
G. Bauer

At a meeting held in the Y.M.C.A. on November 18, 1925 a tentative constitution was read and accepted as a basis for organization. A committee of five was appointed as incorporators, Board of Directors and Church Council until a permanent organization would be formed on or before the second Monday of January 1926. The committee elected are: G. Bauer, L.J.Clave, J.F.Olsen, O.P.Nordling and Mrs. Chas Hilberg. The name Eugene Evangelical Lutheran Church was selected by ballot. The committee organized with J.F.Olsen as chairman, O.P.Nordling as Secretary and Mrs. Chas Hilberg as Treas.

THE FIRST MEETING

January 11, 1926.

A call had been issued that all who were interested in the organization of the proposed All-American Lutheran Church should meet in the Y.M.C.A. Hut January 11, 1926. The meeting was opened with scripture reading and prayer by Chairman Olsen. A proposed constitution was offered by the Committee on Constitution and was adopted by the congregation. By-laws were also adopted. The congregation then proceeded to organize under the constitution by the election of a Church Council as follows:

For three years,- Theo G. Nelson, G. Bauer and J.F.Olsen

For two years ,- Dr. Thorstenberg, L.H.Jessen and O.P.Nordling

For one year ,- George Myrmo, Arnt Ree and S.P.Ness

A call was issued for the organization of a Sunday School Sunday January 17 9.30 A.M. The Church Council met the next evening (Jan.12) and organized by the election of J.F.Olsen chairman, S.P.Ness Secretary, Dr. Thorstenberg V. President and L.H.Jessen Financial Secretary. Theo Nelson and O.P.Nordling were appointed to organize a Luther League and Dr. Thorstenberg and Mr. Olsen were appointed to promote the organization of a Ladies Aid Society. The Secretary was directed to confer with the pastors from various synods to secure their services for Sundays.

SYNODICAL RELATIONSHIP

It was certainly to be expected that a congregation having arisen voluntarily without the directing hand of any synod and with a membership gathered from the various nationalities and synods, would have some difficulty in determining its synodical affiliations. This was anticipated by those who promoted the organization. Already at the preliminary meeting held on October 21 a committee on Synodical Relationship was appointed. This committee consulted with the officers of the Home Mission Council (an intersynodical association of the Mission Boards of various synods on this territory) and invited its Executive Committee to meet with them in Eugene. At the meeting when the congregation was organized action was taken "directing the Council to renew the request already made for a meeting with the Home Mission Council at the earliest date possible for the purpose of determining whether or not a satisfactory intersynodical relationship and basis for cooperation can be developed between this congregation and the synods represented in the Home Missions Council and in the membership of this congregation." The Council did so. Correspondence was also had with Revs. Schoeler(Joint Synod), Hendrickson(Norwegian) Bloomquist(Angustana), Deck(U.L.C.), Skilbred(Norwegian) and Aves(Free Church) In February, Dr. Thorstenberg presented before the congregation a series of charts showing the relative position of the several Lutheran synods.

At its meeting on February 25, the Church Council "recommends to the congregation that it make application to the Home Mission Council to be allocated to a synod and that the congregation express its desire to become a member of the U.L.C." Motion made by Mr. Ness and seconded by Dr. Thorstenberg. In the meantime, however, the Council recommended the calling of Rev. L.B.Deck of the U.L.C. as pastor and deferred the decision to join a synod. Rev. Deck declined the call. The Home Mission Council met in Tacoma on April 16 and considered the Eugene situation. The Executive Committee of the Home Mission Council had, however, previously(Feb.14) met with the Synodical Relations Committee. (The proceedings of this meeting are appended as printed in the "Oregon Parish Messenger" May 1926) see page 5 and 6

page 7 page

A special meeting of the congregation was called for May 19, 1926 for the purpose of considering the action of the Home Mission Council. After the reading of the action Mr. William Petersen moved, "That we proceed to consider the question of synodical affiliation and that we make application for membership in the United Lutheran Church." It was seconded. Mr. Theodore Nelson offered a substitute motion continuing co-operation with Trinity Church in a joint call to Rev. P.J.Invaas. The substitute motion was discussed and a ballot cast resulting in a vote of 20 "For" and 40 "Against". The original motion (Mr. Petersen's) was voted on by ballot with 41 "For" and 17 "Against" This action seemed decisive of the congregations desire to united with the U.L.C. Thereupon Mrs. A. Lundstrom moved "That the Council be instructed to apply to the Home Mission Board of the United Lutheran Church to send someone to have pastoral care of the Eugene Lutheran Church until the congregation is in a position to call a permanent pastor. Carried. This action was communicated to Rev. Deck, the secretary of the Home Mission Committee of the Pacific Synod of the U.L.C.

NOTE It is known by the writer of this history that no officer of the U.L.C. had up to this point any personal or written communication with members of the Eugene Luth. church except Rev. Deck who, himself was violently opposed to the congregation's making application for or being received into the U.L.C.

The congregation had now through great tribulations, much discussion, and many conferences, reached the conclusion that membership within a purely American Synod would best serve its needs. Application had already been made for membership in the Pacific Synod of the United Lutheran Church and this faithful group now awaited the fulfillment of their long cherished hopes that an American program could be inaugurated. Then came the great tragedy. Rev. Deck, though sent to represent the U. L. C. was zealously active in attempts to drive the congregation into the Norwegian Synod. He preached on August 16, and spent the next day visiting among the members to create a sentiment favorable to merging with Trinity Norwegian Church. The propaganda thus spread was clinched at the evening meeting, August 17, with the statement that the U. L. C. had no money to spend on Eugene work. This left the seven-month old congregation seemingly helpless. Therefore when the following resolutions were presented, there seemed little hope of doing anything else and the vote stood 36 for the resolution and 29 against.

RESOLVED That the Eugene Lutheran Church is willing to take part in the formation of a Central Lutheran Church in Eugene on the basis of the proposal made by the Trinity Lutheran Church.

RESOLVED That in order to facilitate the transposition of our congregation into a part of the proposed Central Lutheran Church, we hereby vest title to all property and assets of the congregation and all its auxiliary organizations, subject to all liabilities, in a trusteeship of three persons to be elected here tonight with instructions and authority to transfer, set over and deliver such property and assets to the proposed Central Lutheran Church as soon as it is incorporated.

RESOLVED That for the purpose of putting into effect the decision of this congregation now made, to merge with Trinity for the purpose of forming a Central Lutheran Church, the trustees just elected be further instructed as follows:

- (1) To inform the Pastor of Trinity Church of our action with reference to Trinity's proposal for consolidation and ascertain what time has been fixed for the re-organization meeting.
- (2) To inform the corporation commissioner for the State of Oregon that when the Certificate for Incorporation of the Central Lutheran Church is issued, the Certificate for the Eugene Lutheran Church becomes automatically void as a consequence of the congregation's decision to become a part of another organization.

The Eugene Lutheran Church had been killed. The next day the church in which they worshipped was invaded and its humble property consisting of hymn books and church supplies were taken out and removed to Trinity Church. The flock that had been organized with such high hopes some months before were now scattered. Some returned to Trinity Church, others dropped out of the church altogether, but a faithful remnant numbering forty-one met in their church the following Sunday and though without books or other equipment, resolved to continue their labors to establish in Eugene an All-American Lutheran Church. The activities of this group, their will to succeed and their heroic adventures form an interesting chapter in the history of Lutheran development in Oregon.

When the congregation made decision of its synodical preference, and applied to the Pacific Synod of the United Lutheran Church for membership therein, it had complied literally with the advice of the Home Mission Council given April 16, "to unite with one of the Lutheran Synods as soon as possible."

The later charge by those unfriendly to this congregation that the directions of the Home Mission Council had not been obeyed seems wholly without foundation. The congregation acted in good faith according to its best judgment.

Recognizing, however, that the solution of the difficult problem confronting the Lutherans of Eugene did not rest with this congregation alone but also in cooperative efforts with the other Lutheran Churches, the Eugene Lutheran Church issued a call to the other churches to meet with it in open conference Sunday evening, June 27.

"The primary object of the opening conference is to afford an opportunity to every one for a free and open expression of sentiment and exchange of views and view points regarding the local conditions of Lutheranism, thus paving the way for a better understanding between the several Lutheran groups."

"From this it will be seen that the discussions are intended to be through and through informal and hence not even a topic for discussion has as yet been selected or proposed. On the contrary, the supposition is that the proper kind of topics will be readily suggested from the floor by those who have the best interests of our Church at heart."

"To those who may ask what direct and definite good can come from such conferences, this much at least can be said with reasonable certainty:- As a means, if nothing else, of stimulating true Christian fellowship they are well worth while. If properly attended and conducted they can hardly fail to bring about a more sympathetic attitude of one Lutheran group toward another in the many vexing problems that confront them; and lastly, by considering our own particular problems in the light of the opinions and view points of others we might all be guided into a fuller realization of our personal and individual responsibilities for the furtherance of the common cause. Let us at any rate be open minded and give the matter a fair trial."

The conference was held and recommended that committees be appointed from the various churches for further consideration.

That the congregation was not averse to doing all within its power to bring harmony from the disturbed conditions and yet be true to the call of leadership in progressive Lutheranism, it heeded the recommendation of the Free Conference of June 27 and the request of the Mission Board of the U. L. C. as presented by its secretary, Rev. L. B. Deck and appointed, July 12 a committee of five consisting of: William Petersen, O. P. Nordling, Hans Jessen, J. F. Olsen and Dr. Thorstenberg to meet with like committees or groups of Lutherans to see what can be done to the end that there might be only one Lutheran Church in Eugene, using the English language morning and evening. This committee met with the committee from Trinity Church on August 9, and submitted the following report:

Report of the Conference Committee elected by the Congregation at its meeting of July 12 to meet in joint session with a like committee from Trinity Lutheran Church.

all-important nationalistic differences existing between the two groups.

This then led to the question as to what the Committee of the Eugene Church believed to be a reasonable basis upon which some approach toward unification might be made. To this the Eugene Committee replied that in their opinion such an end could be attained only on a 50-50 basis, including the elimination of all property interests and a willingness on the part of Trinity to renounce its identity as a part of N. L. C.

At this juncture, Rev. Luvaas presented the following set of proposals:

The general discussion was then renewed, and continued until very near midnight hour without any apparent indication that the two Committees had come any closer toward a general agreement.

The Committee from the Eugene congregation has since then taken the Trinity proposal under very careful and deliberate advisement, having also met to consider each of the paragraphs in detail, and begs to submit the following as embodying its final conclusions: (1) We highly commend the conciliatory tone in which the proposal as a whole has been drafted, as well as the expressions of willingness on the part of Trinity congregation to make certain concessions in the interests of consolidation or unification. (2) We regret to say that in our opinion these concessions are of such minor importance in themselves that they could have but little value at best in removing the main barriers against ultimate consolidation of the two congregations. (3) In view of this vital disparity the Committee holds that the question of union with Trinity must be left to the discretion of individual members, and therefore recommends that those of our members who are thoroughly convinced in their minds that such action would promote the best interests of Lutheranism in our city be left free to take the necessary steps for admission to membership in Trinity Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,

William Petersen
O. P. Nordling
Hans Jessen
J. P. Olsen
E. Thorstenberg

22-DAY HERITAGE TOUR

JULY 10-31, 1984

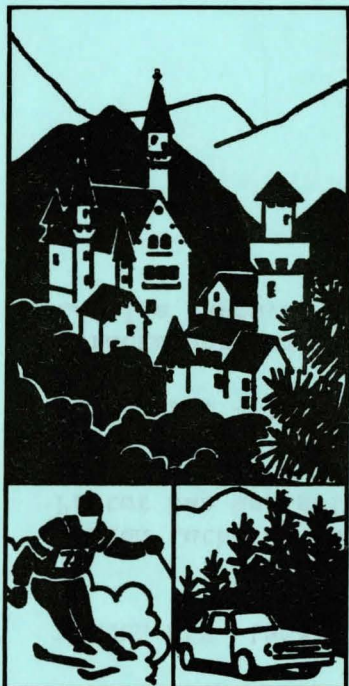
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CHURCH RELATIONS VISIT SUMMARY

"1/18/81

CONGREGATION/ORGANIZATION United
CITY Engene, Ore.
PERSON(S) CONTACTED Church Secretary
(Pastor gone)

ALC ☒ LCA OTHER
(circle one)

REASON FOR VISIT Revisit C.R.

IMPRESSIONS Chr. Sec. is Organ major at U. of O.
Interested in Portland Concert. She would promote both
at church and in her contacts at U. of O. - also
thought they could come up with C.R.
FOLLOW UP, PROCEDURE, ETC.

SUBMITTED BY John W. Adix DATE "1/18/81

Saints Alive - We're 75!

United Lutheran Church

Eugene, Oregon

Observes its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

1926-2001



RELIGION IN THE NEWS

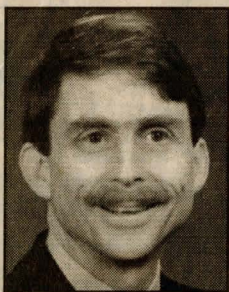
Pioneer church celebration

A centennial celebration for Walker Church is planned Sunday at the small, 100-year-old church, located between Cottage Grove and Creswell on England Road, just off old Highway 99. Activities include a 9:45 a.m. worship hour and an 11 a.m. service featuring special music. A potluck follows at 12:30 p.m. Descendants of several pioneer families will be on hand to share memories at a 2 p.m. service. For information, call 942-2747.

The Young Continentals will present their contemporary Christian music concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday at South Hills Assembly of God, 3195 Hilyard St., Eugene. These teen-age singers and dancers tour North America giving their "Get a Life" program designed to help other young people make biblically sound decisions. There's no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call 343-4122.

The Rev. Thomas Dodd will be installed Sunday as pastor of the United Lutheran Church, 2230 Washington St., Eugene. Bishop Paul Swanson of the Oregon Synod will preside at the 4 p.m. service.

Dodd studied at Pacific Lutheran



Rev. Thomas Dodd

University in Tacoma and Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. His first parish was at Shawnee Mission, Kan. He and his family will come to Eugene from Faith Lutheran in Coquille, where he has served since 1985. For information, call 342-5808.

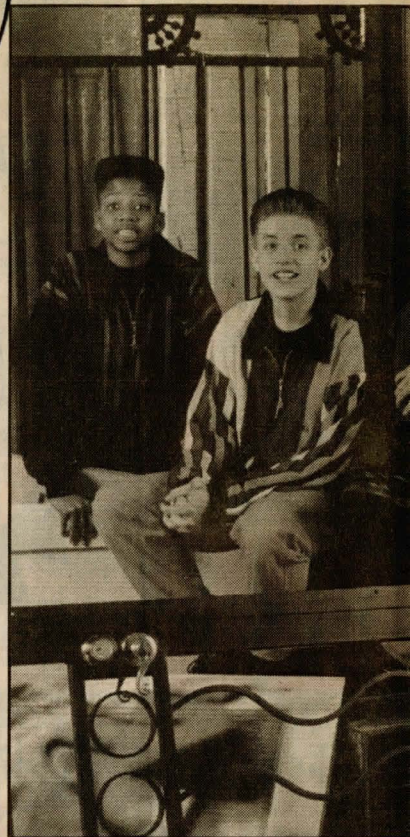
RELIGION ROUNDUP

The Oregon Slavonic Choir, which sings Ukrainian and Russian liturgical and folk music, will perform today at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on the Springfield Mall, Sixth and Main streets. Admission is free. For information, call 686-0546.

Paul and DeLois Wynia will present a ministry of music, Scripture and testimony at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at Valley Christian Center, 210 LaSalle St., Harrisburg. The presentation is free, but an offering will be accepted. For more information, call 995-6912.

"Clouds of the Mind," a video exploring Buddhist psychology and how to use the practice of mindfulness to create peace, will be presented at 11 a.m. Sunday at the Center for Sacred Sciences, 960 Fillmore St., Eugene. For information, call 345-0102.

Springfield Womens Aglow will meet from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday at Springfield Faith Center, 600 Hayden Bridge Way. Sue Crandall will discuss her missionary work in Chi-



The Young Continentals plan concert

na. For details, call 747-5528.

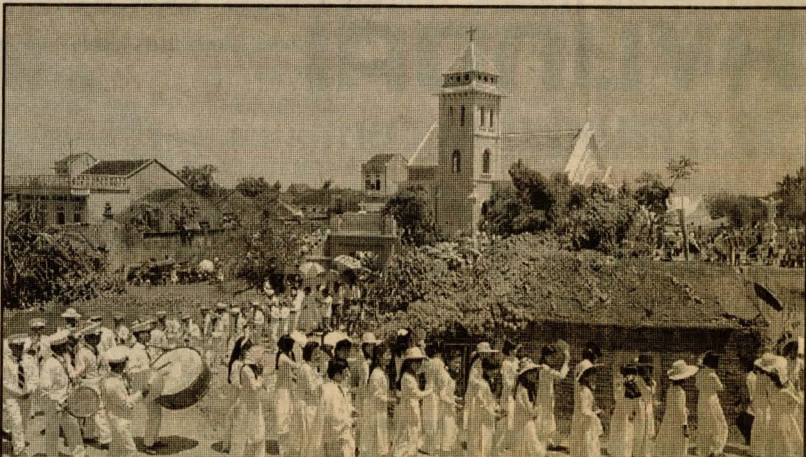
Coos Bay Women's Aglow will meet Thursday at the North Bend Library, 1800 Sherman Ave., for a time of praise and worship. Ione Sinclair of the Coos Bay Fellowship will present the second part of "Birthing the Word of the Lord," with a program entitled, "Setting the Standard of Righteousness." To ar-

Vietnam government cracks o

By the Los Angeles Times

HANOI, Vietnam — It is early Sunday morning in Hanoi, capital of one of the world's last officially Communist — and atheist — countries. The streets are nearly deserted, except for a few couples playing badminton in the parks or going through the slow-motion ritual of tai chi.

But at 6 a.m., the sonorous tolling of church bells telegraphs the hour throughout the sleeping city. At St. Joseph's, a gothic Roman Catholic cathedral, stragglers scramble for the few remaining seats at the back of the immense granite church,



VITAE
THOMAS H. DODD

EDUCATION

1978 Wartburg Theological Seminary MA Divinity
1974 Pacific Lutheran University BA History/Religion

WORK EXPERIENCE

1985 to Present: Faith Lutheran, Coquille, Or. Pastor
1978-1985: Westwood Lutheran, Shawnee Mission, KS , Pastor
1977-1978 Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA, Assistant to Admission Director

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Soccer Coach
Helpline Board Member
Children of Alcoholics Support Group Leader
Assistant Coach in basketball and baseball
Participant on Middle School panel on Sexuality

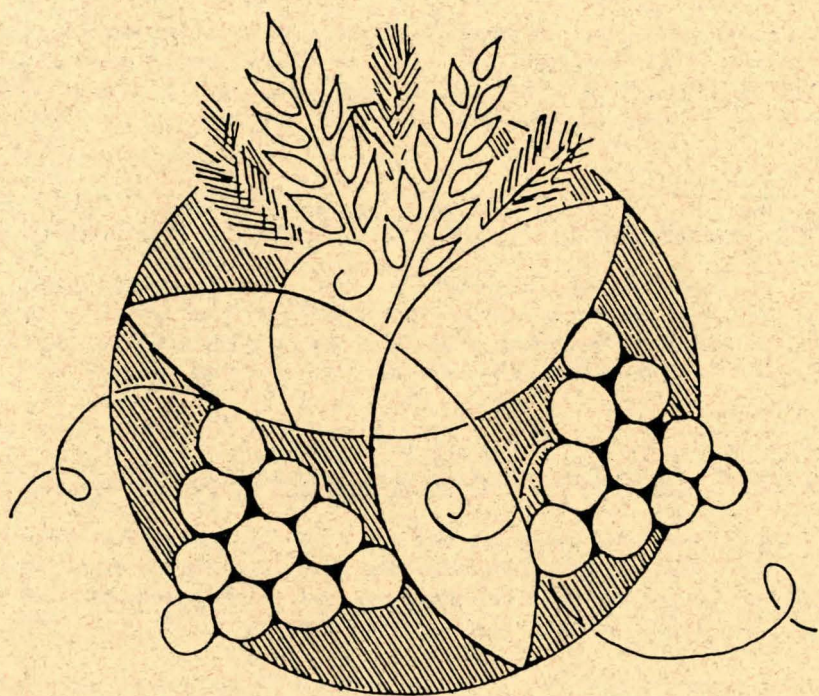
LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

Tennis, gardening, reading, family activities, writing

PERSONAL DATA

Wife: Gay Kramer-Dodd Law Librarian
Children: Mathew 11 years
Patrick 7 years

*The Installation of
Rev. Thomas H. Dodd*



*United Lutheran Church
2230 Washington Street
Eugene, Oregon*