

Trinity Lutheran Congregation



1858

2018



Nurturing Wholeness & Holiness
in Cedar-Riverside
for
150 years



Trinity Lutheran Congregation 150th Anniversary Program

Opening Song	“As We Gather” Ray Makeever, Trinity Music Director (2005-2015)
Welcome	Nancy Homans, President
Remarks*	Rev. Jane Buckley-Farlee, Pastor (1996 - present) Rev. Alem Asmelash, Pastor (2004 - present) Rev. Paul Rogers, Pastor (1994 - 2000) Lidia Abraha, Member Richard and Danielle Simms, Members Judy Tiede, Member Abdisalam Adam, Chair, ICSA / Dar al Hijrah Paul Pribbenow, President, Augsburg University Deb Stehlin, Director for Evangelical Mission, ELCA
Closing Song	“Mayenziwe,” South African Traditional arr. John Bell Ray Makeever

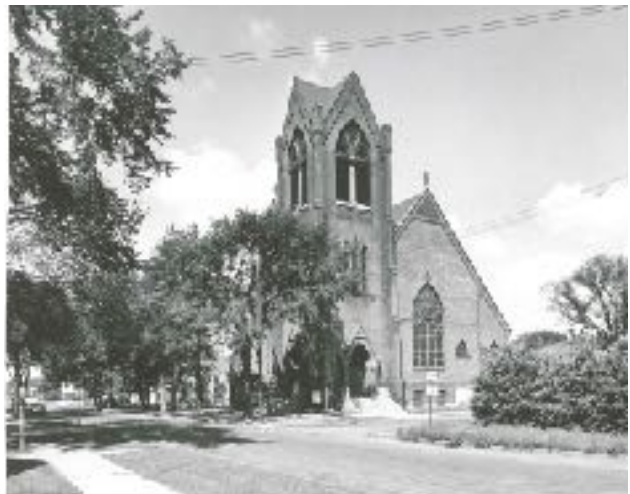
150th Anniversary Planning Committee
Margaret Stevenson and Jeanne Mugge, Chairs
Mark Boeyink, Liesl Spitz, Jane Buckley-Farlee

Cover art by Larry Rostad.
Special thanks to all who contributed their photos and memories.

History

Trinity Lutheran Congregation was founded in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1868 by Norwegian immigrants. Throughout the late 19th century and into the 20th century, Norwegian immigrants continued to settle in Minneapolis and Trinity quickly grew. In 1896, the congregation started building a new church at the intersection of 20th Avenue and 9th Avenue with a sanctuary to seat 1,000 people. Trinity was central in the formation of the Lutheran Free Church with its hosting of the annual meeting of the Conference in 1871. Trinity and its members also played a crucial role in the support and early growth of Augsburg Seminary/Augsburg College and what would become the Lutheran Deaconess Hospital. Trinity and its members were involved in founding numerous “daughter” Lutheran churches in the area as the city grew. Early outreach and connection with the neighborhood included tent meetings, Sunday School, and other religious education for children.

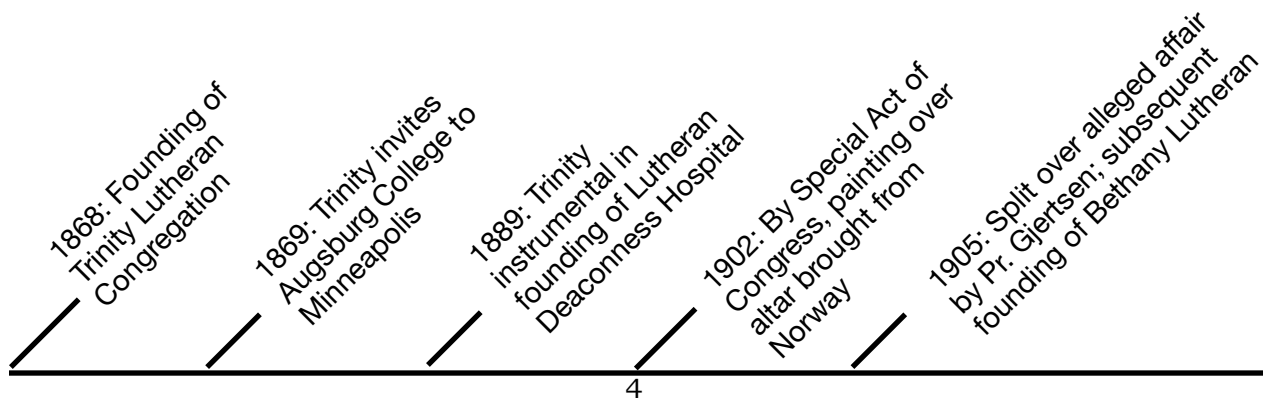
During the early decades of the 20th century as the immigrants became more settled and fewer new Norwegian immigrants were settling in Minneapolis, the congregation debated and struggled to determine when and how they should switch over to using English within the congregation rather than Norwegian. The language was a significant piece of the identity of the congregation so the transition was naturally a difficult one for a variety of reasons. The pastors and leaders of the congregation allowed the language transition to be a natural and gradual process and after 1945 there were no further



one way in which Trinity moved beyond its Norwegian ethnic heritage as the congregation and its members became more “Americanized.”

Even beginning in the first few decades of the 20th century, pastors and members of Trinity began to notice the changes happening in the neighborhood. Trinity leaders were aware of a need to appeal and minister to people of different backgrounds, religions, and ethnicities. In the 1950s and 1960s an influx of students and social activists moved into the neighborhood. Immigrants, including many refugees, from Asia, Africa, and South America moved into the quickly expanding housing created by the construction of high rise apartment buildings in the 1970s and 1980s. The changes in the neighborhood were an important part of the development of Trinity’s transition from a solely Norwegian congregation to a congregation that was focused on being engaged in a diverse American society and specifically in the diverse neighborhood in which Trinity is located.

The 1950s and 1960s brought a great sense of uncertainty and impending change for Trinity. Since 1887, Trinity had been a part of the Lutheran Free Church which emphasized the authority and power of local congregations over any sort of control by the synod or larger church governing body.

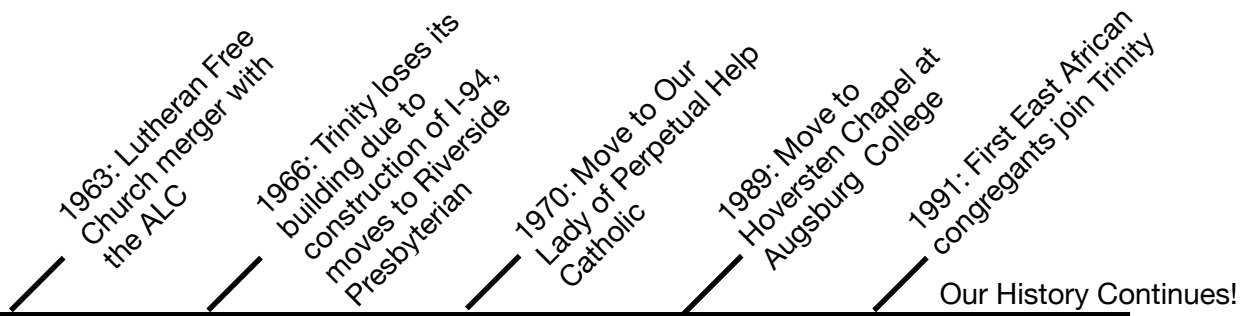


In 1963, the Lutheran Free Church voted to join with four other Lutheran church bodies to form the American Lutheran Church. There are still some small remnant indications of the Lutheran Free Church roots for Trinity that have been seen in Trinity's congregational independence since the merger, but overall Trinity adapted to the larger synod.

After about 10 years of being aware that the church building would eventually need to be demolished for the construction of Interstate 94 Trinity left its home of 70 years. Hennepin County compensated Trinity for the loss of the property but this compensation did not ease the sense of grief at the congregation's loss of history, tradition, and identity that were tied up in that building. Trinity relocated to Riverside Presbyterian Church on May 22, 1966.

In the years before the demolition of Trinity's building, the congregation engaged in many conversations to determine the future of Trinity. In these conversations they decided to stay in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood rather than relocate to a more comfortable suburb and they decided not to pour their resources into a new building but rather to use their resources to support the neighborhood.

On Pentecost Sunday in 1970, Trinity moved from Riverside Presbyterian Church to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. Trinity was welcomed by the



members of Our Lady, and the sharing of the building by these two faith communities demonstrated a strong ecumenical Christian solidarity that would pave the way for Trinity's eventual interfaith partnerships.

Trinity Congregation was instrumental in developing Block 185, the property it owned, in ways that would best serve the neighborhood. The council president in 1980, Martha Tiede said, "As reinstated owners of Block 185, we must once again examine our congregation's concept of mission. We have a responsibility to be wise financial stewards of this major investment; we have a challenge to be creative in making decisions that will determine future uses of this land, and we have an opportunity to serve the neighborhood community and the larger city community." The construction of town homes and an apartment building in the early 1990s helped create a healthy and positive residential neighborhood environment. In 1988, Trinity became a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America after a merger of the ALC, LCA and AELC.

In 1989, Trinity again moved to a new worship location at the newly completed chapel at Augsburg College (now Augsburg University) where Trinity worships today. This formal partnership has been one of many partnerships that have been mutually beneficial for Trinity as it engages in the work of serving the neighborhood community. Other partnerships have included the Community of St. Martin and St. Martin's Table from 1984-2010, Minneapolis area congregations, and nonprofit and community organizations. In addition to serving the local community, Trinity carried out its mission through helping to resettle and offer sanctuary for refugees and immigrants, political advocacy for peace and social justice issues, anti-racism work, and inclusion of all people regardless of sexual orientation.

In the 1990s, Eritrean Lutherans joined the congregation as they resettled in the neighborhood after fleeing their home country, reflecting the increasingly East African demographic of the neighborhood. Pr. Alem Asmelash, originally from Ethiopia, was

called to help minister to these members of the congregation and to the surrounding community.

On January 1, 2014, a fire next to Dar Al-Hijrah Mosque just blocks away from Trinity forced the mosque to close for repair. Trinity offered space in their office building for the mosque staff to use until their building could be repaired. It was during this time that the staff members from Trinity and Dar Al-Hijrah formed relationships that have furthered Trinity's connections within the neighborhood.

History by Melissa Johansen, drawn from James S. Hamre's *From Immigrant Parish to Inner City Ministry: Trinity Lutheran Congregation: 1868-1998*.

Memories

My family (Sigvald and Helen Hjelmeland) joined Trinity in 1952. Both my grandfather (Rev. John Hjelmeland) and my dad attended Trinity while students at Augsburg. I have fond memories of our years at Trinity which continued until the freeway needed that location. Our family then transferred to Nokomis Heights where my mother at the age of 102 is still a member. I was confirmed in the same class as Margaret Over Stevenson.

Laurene Clarke, Former Member

My memory of Trinity Lutheran Congregation reaches back to Lent of 1978 when I attended a Sunday morning worship service the Sunday before a date in St. Paul to rescind their Human Rights ordinance which had been in effect there. Pastor Sheldon Torgersen preaching made a statement in support of maintaining that ordinance and made a statement to the effect that "we need to stand with our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters."

In August of 1979 I was hired as sanctuary/parish assistant by Trinity and supported as a gay man by both pastor, church council and congregation. At the annual meeting in January 1980 the congregation voted to issue me a letter of call doing what I was doing at Trinity. Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC) Minnesota Synod President, Elmo Agrimson, had indicated he would sign such a call and keep me on the clergy roster of the American Lutheran Church (ALC). I would have been removed from the roster in March which would mark three years without a call since resigning from the pastoral position at First Lutheran Church in Duluth, MN and after resigning came out and moved to the Twin Cities.

I thank the pastor, the staff, council and congregation for the support I received at that time as a gay person. Thirty-nine years ago!

Ray Sanders, Former Pastor

We came to Minneapolis from Holden Village with several other people in 1984, to establish a faith community and start a bookstore/restaurant. In some way we wanted this to be connected with a local Lutheran congregation. After several, somewhat cold responses, we met Sheldon Torgerson. He came to visit with us in Jeanne Mugge's living room and said in typical Sheldon style, "Bless you. I hope it could be connected with Trinity but wherever it is, bless you." Thus began our ten year participation with you, as St. Martin's Table developed and John shared pastoral ministry with Sheldon, serving as interim pastor when Sheldon retired.

These years were enriching and gratifying for us. Our hope and prayer is that you continue your vital ministry and your shared life of faith. We know Trinity has been able to come through many transitions and that you look to the future in faith and with courage. As Sheldon would say, "Bless you."

John and Mary Schramm, Former Members

I was at Trinity from 1945 thru 1957, and have several friends from that time who are still friends. Living next door, I often felt part of activities--whether it was a lemonade stand in the driveway during hot days of summer conferences, or just watching and listening to people and sounds during the week. During summer months, with church windows open, I could hear Sig playing the wonderful organ--both when she practiced, and for events and services I was too young to attend. The hymn singing, often in 4+ part harmony, is also a favorite memory. Church organ and choir/hymn music is still my favorite music.

If I remember correctly, when my Dad (MJO) was called to be pastor, he was required to preach one Norwegian sermon each month. I do not remember how long this continued, but it seemed many or most of the congregation were Norwegian when I was a kid. Augsburg students, staff and faculty were always such a big part of Trinity.

It was so amazing to return to Minneapolis after living out of state for several years, to be aware of the diverse congregation that Trinity had become. How amazingly the congregation had grown to include so many nationalities and languages, and how lovingly Trinity continued to welcome and honor Augsburg students.

The old Trinity building was such an important part of my youth... a welcome, comfortable, safe, huge and beautiful building. It was so sad when it came tumbling down. I still have a few pieces of glass from the outstanding windows--some pieces have been made into butterflies or other flying creatures, and given to Trinity friends to remind us of our youth there.

Thank you for keeping true to what I always believed Trinity stood for... sharing, loving, being open and welcome to everyone, and always including others in our prayers.

Liz Olson Horton, Former Member

I have many memories of my days at Trinity--especially during the year when my son was involved with the young people's group at Trinity. He made friends with whom he is connected yet today; and I have friends who share memories of days at Trinity through the years.

Lori Christiansen, Former Member

Although I still feel like one of the 'new folks' at times, my memories of Trinity do go back more than 30 years. When we moved here in the early 80s, my best friend mentioned my name to his Luther Seminary advisor, Dr. David Tiede. In true 'small world' fashion, Dr. Tiede had spent a sabbatical year teaching at Harvard Divinity School, where he had a young man in his Greek class named David Boeyink. Curiosity piqued, Dr. Tiede called me, found out that it was my brother, and invited me to Trinity. We came to visit and haven't left. It also turned out that Bob Torgerson was one of my grad school classmates at the U of M. Bob and I became co-teachers of the confirmation Sunday School class, and I was firmly entrenched at Trinity at that point.

But what kept us here for 30+ years? For me it has been the people and the purpose.

I feel so blessed to have met so many good people with special gifts at Trinity. Sharing Sunday School teaching duties with Bob, Karin, Carolyn, Carol, and Jessie. I'm grateful to Nancy and Sture (wherever he is right now, he's probably wearing shorts) and so many others who shared God's love with my kids. I've learned what it means to be a servant disciple from Judy, Margaret, Eunice, Jeanne, Gloria, George, Tamra, Nancy, Garry, Meheretab, and others on our Church Councils over the years. My faith has been enriched by worshipping with Meheretab, Damer, their parents, their beautiful families and other members from Ethiopia and Eritrea. Newer members like Tim and Dawn Morgan, Alan and Peggy Nelson, and Richard and Danielle Simms have brought new energy and a fresh perspective to our faith community. And we always – always – heard the Good News from Sheldon, John, Mary, Paul, Alem, and Jane.

But while I can't imagine life without my Trinity family, Trinity's purpose – Nurturing Wholeness and Holiness in Cedar-Riverside – is even more important to me. I am especially grateful for:

- Homework Help and the support we have provided for the education of hundreds of local youth.
- Wednesday Night Supper, which opens our doors to neighborhood residents for fellowship and a nutritious meal in a safe setting.
- The strong relationship being developed with our friends at Dar Al-Hijrah.
- Our re-invigorated partnership with Augsburg University.
- The Trinity Center Steering Committee, which is working hard to ensure our future purpose in Cedar-Riverside.

Thank you all for these great memories ... and all the great memories still to come!

Mark Boeyink, Member

What joy it is to celebrate with Trinity 150 years of ministry. 150 years of preaching, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

My time at Trinity, from 1980 – 1981 as an intern, 1981 – 1984 on staff with the youth, 1984 – 1987 as an associate pastor, set me on a path for a strong and positive career in parish ministry. Without question Sheldon Torgerson, who was first my internship supervisor and then my first colleague in ministry, was the person who shaped my approach to public ministry. It was from him that I came to understand that it is not having the right answer that is important, rather asking the right question is what is important. The right question often involves conversation and discussion with many differences and rarely will have a tidy answer. It was also from Sheldon and from this diverse congregation that I learned the joy and importance of living with differences. It was from Sheldon and from Trinity that I learned that the

more confident I became in my own beliefs, the more I was able to live with differences.

No insignificant part of my time at Trinity was meeting my beloved Peter Samuelson, a son of the congregation, marrying him in 1983 and the birth of our first child Miriam in 1985, baptizing her at Trinity in January, 1986.

I am deeply and profoundly grateful for my years at Trinity, for the support and love I have known from this congregation and for how I was shaped, not only for public ministry but for who I am.

Debra Samuelson, Former Pastor

My first ever Women's Retreat was such a positive experience! Despite being a new member, I wanted to be part of such a wonderful group of people. I enjoyed spending time together and getting to know each other in a casual setting. I found our time to be relaxing and calming as we prayed together. It allowed me time for self-reflection and learning about forgiveness (so crucial to our well-being). Personally, I know the experience has helped me grow as I continue to deepen my faith.

Danielle Simms, Member

The continued existence of Trinity is remarkable in itself, almost miraculous, in the last five decades of turbulence in Cedar Riverside and the more recent years of decline in so many urban Lutheran congregations. This place was expected to close when the 94 Freeway came through in the early 60's, but visionary lay and pastoral leadership wouldn't quit. And now this small community of saints and sinners (same people) keeps boldly leaning into the future into which God is calling, sustaining worship, engaging with inter-faith programs for immigrants in the neighborhood, and (who would believe it?) exploring the possibilities of a Trinity Center...

My memory is of the Cedar Riverside crisis as the New Town in Town project died on President Nixon's desk in 1974. He was expected to sign the next stage of funding, but resigned to avoid impeachment. Trinity's Pastor, Sheldon Torgerson, and several lay leaders adapted to the disruptive change by re-affirming the congregation's decision to stay in the neighborhood. Several of the community leaders who had adamantly opposed the New Town in Town development trusted Trinity. Many of the members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help shared the commitment, even when the Archdiocese later closed the parish, displacing Trinity once again and prompting the relocation to Augsburg. God has been with Trinity in its migrations.

David Tiede, Former Pastor

I have so many special memories of growing up at Trinity where I was a member from birth until my late twenties. Spending time at the Parish House of Our Lady is something I will never forget. I fondly remember attending "Little Church" every Sunday in the basement of the parish house. Katherine and Else Michaelsen would be sitting in their regular spots and always so happy to see us. My brother Hans and I loved being the communion assistants and ushers.

I also remember the Sloppy Joe lunches. It was a fun time and the sloppy joes were delicious and a favorite. In fact, I use that recipe every time I make sloppy joes for my family.

Kari Dietrich Sifferle, Former Member

When I first came to Augsburg as a freshman in 1962, Trinity seemed sluggish and not very engaging. What seemed at first to be bad news (losing the building at 20th Avenue and 9th Street), became the impetus for transformation and a focus on celebrating God's presence in the city.

The first time I gave a sermon within a Trinity Sunday morning worship service felt intimidating because I was speaking to several I had known as Augsburg or Luther

professors or administrators- Chrislock, Cole, Joel, Sonnack, Stenshoel, Torstenson. In fact, they were very supportive and encouraging.

After serving as a pastor on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota, I returned to serve as a pastor of Trinity for 5 and a half years in the 1970's. I enjoyed being in team ministry and learned much from Sheldon Torgerson and David Tiede. Among the many pleasant memories from those years was accompanying a group of youth from the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, University Lutheran Church of Hope and Trinity to the Lutheran Youth Gathering in New Orleans in the bicentennial year, 1976.

While serving as an ELCA Mission Director from 1996 I connected again with Trinity and partnered with the congregation in another time of transformation and renewal.

Blessings to all of you who are part of Trinity as the mission goes on.

Dick Mork, Former Pastor

May I express my (and my family's) gratitude to Trinity for enabling me to come "full circle" twice in my and another life endeavor.

One of my earliest music studies was with the vocal coach of the Stuttgart Knobenchor (Boys Choir) in Germany in the mid-70s so it was delightful to hear one of my last "students" at Trinity, Kevin T., sing in the Minnesota Boys Choir shortly after Christmas at Landmark Center!

Also, I happened to be involved in an age "progression" of sorts, teaching youth and children in the Lutheran choral tradition. Trinity employed F. Melius Christiansen as he began his music career in Minnesota, where he started co-ed a cappella choirs in our Norwegian heritage colleges. He recommended Opseth for Augsburg. Professional

directing kept involving ever-younger singers, and I was happy to have the final rung here at Trinity, with expectant parents and babies.

Husband John and I, after retirement, are still singing, to our age seven-months and three years-old granddaughters, via our Augsburg graduate Erik in the Boston area on his Garry Hesser-inspired career track.

Diane E. Steen-Hinderlie & Family, Former Members

It was only six years that Cam and I were part of Trinity, a short time, but one rich in memories. The memories are images of faithful worship, ministry, and service in the ever-changing but always-the-same neighborhood of Cedar-Riverside.

- Just weeks after my arrival at Trinity, Fran Torstenson invited me to join the quilting group. As expected, there were no men at that time, and the women were mostly seniors. Two images: Tekla sat with others, tying off squares, communicating with smiles and nods, obviously feeling welcome. Secondly, pliers. Some of the women could no longer grasp a needle firmly enough to pull it through several layers of fabric, so they had pliers at hand. One image of a newcomer's contribution, the other of faithfulness.
- For several years the Christmas program was held at the Coyle Center. Through the creative efforts of Larry Rostad, the gymnasium was transformed into Nazareth, and our children became angels and shepherds, praising God in the highest. Occasionally some neighborhood residents would wander in, not knowing the story but enjoying the music and pageantry.
- Wednesday suppers are prominent in my memories: children impatient for the meal and anxious to get across the street to the gym at the People's Center; mothers pleased that they could share a meal with other adults without having to prepare it or clean up afterwards; the volunteers who prepared and served the food, coming from other congregations, Fairview Hospital, or Augsburg; the Augsburg students who helped the children from the serving line to the gym and back. Finally, Michael,

Trinity's own St. Stephen, standing at the kitchen door to take our dirty dishes with perspiration dripping from his chin and a smile on his face, letting no one in to give him some help. Doulos theo: Servant of God. His favorite name for himself.

- And then there were Donna and Ward. How many hymns were sung with Donna at the organ or piano? How many hymnals and bulletins did Ward hand out through the years? In that pre-digital era, how would we sing without a hymnal for the words and the organ for leading us?
- In the City for Good: a motto for the mission of urban churches back in the 90's. It could be a description of Trinity's history, in both senses of the phrase. Trinity's founding families started a ministry that was in it for good, for the long haul, for 150 years now and counting. They also started a ministry of doing good in the city.

Cam and I give thanks for Trinity Lutheran Congregation and for our time among you. We wish you blessings as you continue the history of worship, ministry and service in your part of the city.

Paul Rogers, Former Pastor

Trinity represents that which I most value among Minnesota's faith communities. They live their faith in love, community-focused action, and with an open-hearted kindness. I feel deep love for the people of Trinity Lutheran.

Michael Van Keulen
Open Path Resources & Islamic Civic Society of America

The Trinity Community is serving all of God's people, in a way that understands how and why God has called us to serve. They opened their hearts to the stranger, the new immigrant community. They deserve our praise and trust because they have shown that they treat all people with dignity and honor. My special memory was when the fire took our Mosque, January 1st 2014, and they were God's open arms to us when we most needed them – all the way from day one to our present. They gave home to

ICSA when our mosque was closed and in need of repair. They are brothers and sisters to the members of the Dar Al-Hijrah Mosque.

Imam Sharif Mohamed
Islamic Civic Society of America & Dar Al-Hijrah Mosque

I remember worshiping at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and marveling at the colorful Bohemian stained glass windows and the presence of the Virgin Mary through the Catholic statuary, including the stations of the cross. The choir sat in the creaky balcony; we weren't entirely confident of its stability. Before services, we'd find two different coffee setups...but which was the Catholic coffee and which was the Lutheran?!

I remember an outdoor service on the campus lawn of Foss Chapel in the summer. Mark Johnson was usher, and when we had trouble getting the offering out of our pockets in a timely manner, he'd say, "Dig Deeper!"

I remember when we had our annual meetings in the evening at University Hope Lutheran, and church basement cafeteria line of delicious hot dishes was a mile long.

Larry Rostad, Member

As a young child: Trinity was my church from the ages of 4 ½ to 11. My special memories include:

- singing in the children's choir under the leadership of those 2 wonderful Skurdalsvold sisters, Sigrid and Jennie, especially singing at the Deaconess Hospital for Christmas when we went to the cafeteria after singing to receive a box of hard ribbon candy (delicious!)
- attending Sunday School and Summer Vacation Bible School. My teachers did special things for us such as taking us for cherry sodas at the corner drugstore and buying us little Christmas or birthday gifts – I still remember receiving Woodhue cologne by Faberge from my favorite teacher. They also gave me a simple faith to

follow, using images of a seed (I think we planted bean seeds) and words, phrases, and Bible stories that are with me to this day.

- taking part in the Sunday afternoon fellowship meetings with my family and my friends from church. The missionaries and other speakers who presented their slides and programs opened my eyes to the wider world. Images of flowers and animals and leper colonies in Madagascar for example left me thinking for a long time that I wanted to be a missionary or a doctor or both. The other highlight of the afternoons was the cakes: all manner of home-made cakes were on offer at the serving shelf from the kitchen. I could never decide between chocolate cake with white icing or white cake with chocolate frosting. Often I had both!
- helping out in the nursery during church services. I loved rocking the babies!
- As a young woman: My family moved away and joined a neighborhood church during my teen years, but I returned to Trinity for many special services while I attended Augsburg college. And I had the unique distinction of being the last bride married by Pastor Torgerson in the wonderful brick building before it was knocked down to make room for the Freeway. The church was decorated for the season with 2 massive spruce trees that had to be cut down anyway for the new roadway. The scent of those trees plus the warmth of the stained glass windows and the beautiful woodwork are still fresh in my memory.
- Since then: I moved away after my marriage and have only passing memories of Trinity as it changed when the church building was demolished. I remember a shared service at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in particular – I became a godmother to my niece there. And over the years I have returned to the Congregation where it now meets at the college/university.

I have always been impressed with how the Church has continued its mission to meet the needs of those who struggle – both in the neighborhood and in the world. I hope the Congregation will continue to grow and thrive and to keep the vision described by those early Norwegian Lutherans. They were first Pilgrims in a strange land, motivated by the Haugean spirit of personal renewal and spiritual freedom, and now

the Congregation is a Pilgrim congregation, without building or land, but with heart and spirit. The seed just needs a little more water!

Carol Torstenson McCausland, Former Member

I was an intern at Trinity from August 2015 to July 2016 and it was one of the best experiences I could ever have had. It was actually a very tough year for me, but that made it all the more rewarding. My time at Trinity opened me up to new experiences that I never would have had in my life otherwise, and I now take those experiences with me into my ministry. The skills that I learned for engaging in Interfaith and cross-cultural work will become hugely important in my ministry. I still cherish the people I met there who embraced all of me and who I am with such loving and caring hearts. Pastor Jane was a remarkable supervisor who taught me so much about myself and grew me in ways I didn't even know that I needed. I am forever grateful that God brought me there and will never forget it! Congratulations Trinity on 150 years! God has done amazing things through all of you and I have faith that God will continue to do so. Blessings to you all as God continues to guide you in the future!

Jacie Richmond, Former Intern

St. Martin's Table used to offer some nice and reasonably priced food in the basement of Trinity's present building. One morning I paid a visit and found a familiar and somewhat controversial neighborhood character in place. He was a retired University of Minnesota professor of macho mien who allegedly had a torture chamber in his basement and would sometimes clarify his status by emphasizing, "I'm not gay, I'm a homo-sexual!" Although seated, he wore a military-style cap that announced the rank of first lieutenant.

Then several of the famous anti-war nuns of Riverside Park came in. I knew them also, and I thought it might be interesting to introduce the nuns and the erstwhile protector of life and liberty. Naturally I mentioned the good sisters' quest for world peace. Both parties remained polite, but within a couple of minutes the former

lieutenant began staring ahead, sternly repeating, “War is good, war is good,” while Sister Rita McDonald smiled, gently stroked his shoulder and reiterated her response of “Oh, you poor dear, you can’t really mean that.”

I enjoyed the coffee, the caramel roll, and especially the memorable moments in which St. Martin’s Table had become a little breakfast theater!

David Markle, Community Member

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

Dear Friends at Trinity/Riverside,

We at St Peder’s Lutheran Church rejoice with you as you celebrate 150 years of ministry! What an occasion to give thanks for the Spirit’s guidance, God’s love, and Christ’s grace as you recall stories of your past and look to the future with anticipation and hope.

As a mission partner, we want to thank you for being a present and active sign of God’s inclusive love in the Riverside community and beyond. What a witness you are as you reach out to love your neighbor! Thank you, too, for inviting us to share in that ministry - it is a privilege to be a partner with you!

Our prayers are with you, now and always. Enjoy your celebration - it is a sign of new-life that is ours in the resurrected Christ!

St Peder’s Lutheran Church, Partner Congregation

What we continue to learn from our partnership with Trinity is that we cannot have church figured out. The Spirit moves and leads us to the places and faces of our

neighborhood. Spiritual leadership then is being present and tending to the Spirit-moving, disrupting, pausing, creating and then stepping out with courage and faith. It is such a joy and gift for our church to walk with you and learn from your history, neighborhood presence, interfaith connections and the discernment of the wild and life giving Holy Spirit.

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth, Partner Congregation

A Word from Pastor Jane

I have had this on my bulletin board for about two and a half years:

“Paul Dafydd Jones of the University of Virginia argues that patience should receive a starring role in theology – the patience of God, first of all. This move would help to dispel some negative images of God: God as a control freak, God as a puppeteer. It would help people see that God grants human beings time and space to make themselves and others – the Hebrew prophets and Jesus demonstrated an impatience for injustice – but impatience must be marked by patience for people to live into the future that God hopes for them.”

And then I think of Trinity’s 150th Anniversary. I happen to believe we do a pretty good job of being God’s presence in Cedar-Riverside. I hope and trust that God is pleased. As you know, where we are has come with one hundred fifty years of trials and errors, successes and failures. There has been frustration, conflict, indecision, disappointment and doubt along the way. Through it all God has been quite patient with Trinity as we made our way to this point. There has also been great courage, faithfulness, trust, creativity, achievement and joy on this journey. All the way God has been patient as Trinity has become who we are today.

The good thing is that God's patience will continue long after we enter our one hundred fifty-first year. Even if and when Trinity's patience runs out, God's patience will not.

We have that promise and that seems like the best promise we could have.

I give thanks for God's patience with Trinity's and with Trinity's trust in God to carry on. We don't know what that will look like. But that's okay. God is patient; of that we can be sure.

Blessed Easter to you, and happy one hundred and fiftieth Anniversary!

Pastor Jane Buckley-Farlee

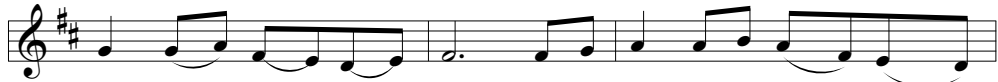
*Thank you for joining in our celebration. Please keep in touch!
Subscribe to our weekly e-news and find our latest sermons and
upcoming events at trinitylutherancongregation.org.*

As We Gather

Ray Makeever



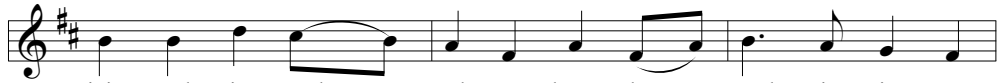
As we gath - er to - geth - er in this ho - ly place for an
We re - mem - ber our Fath - er's ho - ly faith that
As we look all a - round us on this ho - ly day, all we
As we turn toward the mor - row may the ho - ly way rise



hour of prayer and praise, to re - flect on the man - y things that
joined us to - geth - er in his name; the em - brace of our Moth - er's
see are the child - ren of God. We are one in the won - der of a -
up to guide our feet. May we walk on the road with the



God has done to build this house of faith, we re -
lov - ing arms that nour - ished the Spir - it's flame; - how the
maz - ing grace, what - ev - er the roads we've trod. So we
ris - en Christ, giv - ing hon - or to all we meet. And with



joyce and sing and cel - e - brate how good it is to
voice of God flowed from man - y'a tongue to our neigh - bor's near and
raise our voic - es and sing our thanks for the joys of Ju - bi -
shar - ing hands and car - ing hearts, may we shape the world with



be the bod - y of Christ re - new - ing life in the
far, say - ing "Come to the ta - ble, hear the Liv - ing Word, be ac -
lee, where the poor are made bless - ed, and the brok - en whole, and the
love, that the will of God may be done on earth as it



glo - bal fam - i - ly.
cept - ed as you are."
cap - tives are set free.
is in heav'n a - bove.

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