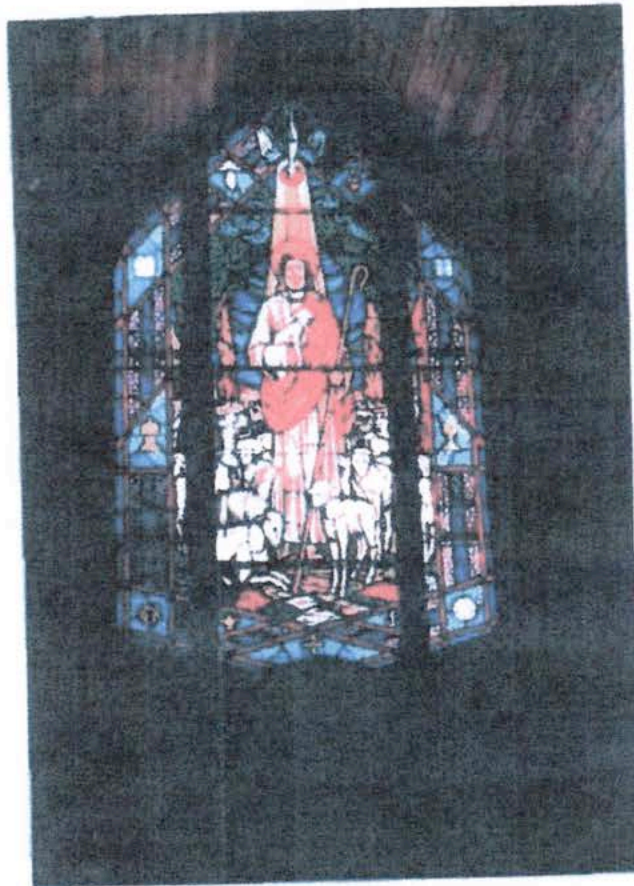


**Redeemer Lutheran Church
Portland, Oregon**



**1920-1995
Diamond Jubilee**

Celebrating Ministry to Seven Generations

Vision Statement

We, the congregation of Redeemer, invite you to participate in a sanctuary with all God's people. So, gathered and centered in Christ, we will:

† *Worship God and teach our children to do the same.*

† *Share the good news of Jesus Christ with all.*

Greetings from Rev. Terry A. Moe Pastor, 1981- present



To the saints of Redeemer: grace and peace to you from God our maker and from Jesus Christ, the Faithful One!

I bring this greeting and blessing to those who have lived faithfully through the years in the neighborhood and in the city, who have found in Redeemer a sanctuary for all God's people and a community in which to give and receive love, care, support, forgiveness and healing while

reaching out to share the good news and build goodwill and justice in the world.

We celebrate seventy-five years of worshiping God and teaching our children to do the same, of growing in faith and service, of working together in our diversity and celebrating our community. May God be praised for God is good! May God be glorified for God has done a wondrous thing in our midst. May God be thanked because so many faithful people have been nourished and have ministered in Redeemer over the years, many of whom have gone to their eternal rest, many of whom are now being nourished and ministering in other communities literally throughout the world, and many of whom are still here. May God be honored as we go forward called again to this place, strengthened and enlightened in this time to continue to be a sanctuary for all God's people.

The blessing of our almighty God, the grace of the Savior Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit keep us forever.
Amen.

Peace of the Lord,
Rev. Terry Allen Moe

Greeting from Bishop Paul R. Swanson Oregon Synod Bishop

Dear Friends,

It is my understanding that Sunday, January 29, 1995 marks the beginning of several months of celebration in honor of Redeemer's 75th Anniversary. I wanted to take this opportunity to extend my hearty congratulations on your 75 years of ministry to the community of northeast Portland.

I rejoice with you at 75 years of faithful ministry. Redeemer Lutheran Church has been blessed with both lay and clergy people who have provided creative leadership and vision over the years. As with all congregations, you have shared joyful times and shared struggles. Redeemer congregation has triumphed over the struggles and continues to move ahead with vitality. It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to bless Redeemer congregation as it now looks to the future with commitment.

I commend you all for being faithful people of God in your community for these many decades. Thank you for your partnership in the life of the Oregon Synod.

Yours in Christ,

Paul R. Swanson, Bishop



A BRIEF HISTORY OF REDEEMER

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer began as a Sunday School, held on August 24, 1919, in Baker Hall on Alberta Street near N.E. 18th Avenue. The first Church service was held on October 12, 1919, by the organizer of the mission, Field Missionary, Rev. T.A. Schoenberg. Also that fall, on November 19, 1919, the ladies of the church met to organize a Ladies Parish and Missionary Society.



Doorstep of Baker Hall, where the first services of what was to become Redeemer Church were held.

A Congregational meeting was held after the services on January 11, 1920 "for the purpose of organizing an English Lutheran Congregation in the community." A previously prepared constitution was read and adopted by those present. Three councilmen were also elected as follows: J.T. Ellingbo, Vice President of the Congregation, William Moore, Secretary, and G.R. Magadanz, Treasurer.

At a congregational meeting on January 25, 1920, it was agreed that the new congregation's name would be "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Portland Oregon." Action was also taken to seek admission to the Pacific Synod of the United Lutheran Church of America.

On February 22, 1920, Mr. Magadanz offered to purchase in his own name an existing Church building located at N.E. 15th Avenue and Wygant Street, on condition that the congregation support him on this project. An offer of \$2,800 was made for this property.

On March 17, 1920, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer was incorporated with the state of Oregon.

As a field missionary for the Board of American Missions, Rev. Schoenberg's services were lent to the congregation for the first two years. In January 1922, the congregation voted to call him as their regular pastor. He accepted and began his regular pastorate on May 1, 1922, and served until November 30, 1924.

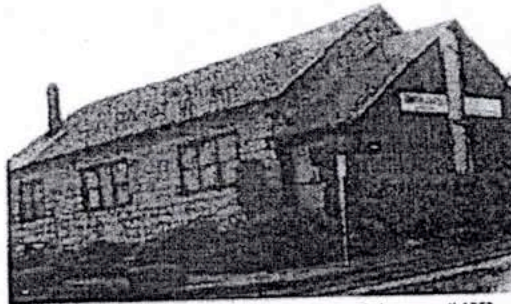
A call was extended to the Rev. Andrew Engeset and on January 25, 1925 he preached his first sermon as pastor of Redeemer. He served until June 1930.

Adolph W. Nelson, a student at Pacific Theological Seminary, began serving as supply pastor in June 1930. He served in this capacity until his ordination in May 1931. However, Redeemer had put in a call for him in January of that year; he accepted and continued as "Pastor" Nelson.

From the beginning, the Church had been receiving aid from the Board of American Missions to supplement the pastor's salary. It also struggled under a first mortgage and the Church Extension loan. But on May 1, 1942, Redeemer became self supporting and ceased to be a mission. This was made possible, in part, by Pastor Nelson taking employment at the Oregon Shipyard through the years of World War II. A mortgage-burning ceremony was held on June 7, 1942, and a "colored motion picture was taken of the same showing the Rev. Dr. Eck, Rev. Brinkman and Rev. Paul Kunzman congratulating Pastor Nelson upon this glorious occasion."

Because of extensive repairs needed to continue operation for an extended time, a special congregational meeting was held on August 29, 1943, to consider the purchase of a piece of property at the corner of N.E. 20th Avenue and Killingsworth Street. It was approved, and the full payment of \$1,000 was made in November 1943.

Pastor Adolph W. Nelson resigned as of June 4, 1947, to accept a call to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. He had been pastor for sixteen years.



Site of the 15th and Wygant building, Redeemer's home until 1952

Next to be called was Rev. Harold E. Hamilton. He served from October 11, 1947, until his resignation on July 15, 1951, when he accepted a call to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Salem, Oregon.

It was during these years that plans were being made for the construction of a new Church building on the Killingsworth property. Thus started the seemingly endless series of meetings, conferences, and frustrations with

architects, contractors, and financing arrangements needed before construction could begin. Finally, at two special Congregational meetings in September 1950, the proposed building plans were presented and accepted by the congregation, and the Council was given authority to proceed toward the erection of the new Redeemer Church.

In the midst of the final preparations for construction, Redeemer called the Rev. Olin G. Dasher. He and his family arrived on September 19, 1951, to begin his pastorate.

After a long wait, the ground-breaking ceremony was held on September 30, 1951, in a light rain. A tarpaulin protected those present, including the speaker, Dr. L.H. Steinhoff, President of the Pacific Synod.

In an afternoon service on February 24, 1952, Pastor Dasher, Pastor Hamilton, President of the Southern Conference of the Pacific Synod, Rev. Theodore Hartig, and builder E. F. Balgemann, laid the cornerstone of the new church. The cornerstone contains: Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version of the New Testament, Golden Anniversary Minutes of the Pacific Synod (1951), "The First Fifty Years" (History of the Pacific Synod), 1952 ULCA Yearbook, brief history of Redeemer Church, groundbreaking service and brochure of the new church, present membership roll, roll of charter members, newspaper account of sale of old church to Congregation Tiffereth Israel, newspaper accounts of cornerstone laying, copies of "The Lutheran," "Lutheran Women's Work," "Parish School Magazine," "Pacific Lutheran," "Lutheran Men," and "Luther Life."

The new church was dedicated on Pentecost Sunday, June 1, 1952. According to an informational flyer written before completion, cost of the church was to be approximately \$70,000, \$33,000 of which had been accumulated from gifts of the members and sale of the previous property. The balance was obtained from a local commercial loan and low-interest loan from the Board of American Missions.

The next years were filled with activity: preaching missions, congregational activities, and activities with various groups in the Church.

Following Pastor Dasher's departure, Student Pastor Arthur E. Osmundson served from May 1, 1955, until August 21, 1955. On November 1 of that year Rev. Erwin A. Vosseler began his ministry until his resignation on October 28, 1956.

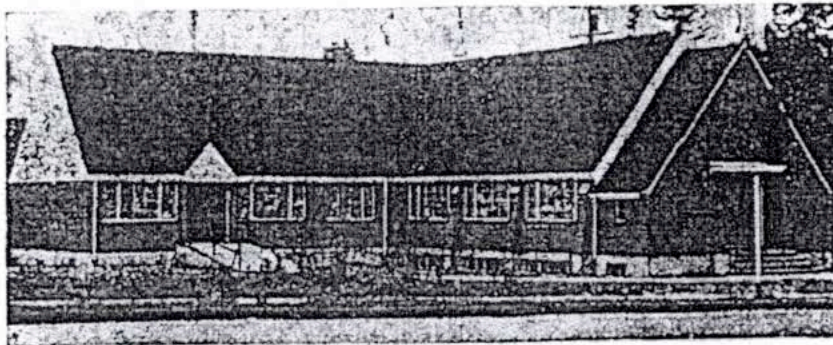
During these years Redeemer was privileged to have Dr. L.H. Steinhoff, president of the Pacific Synod, present in his official capacity at many special congregational meetings. He guided the congregation in the selection of the pastors mentioned above and other related matters. Dr. Steinhoff had become full-time Synod President in 1949. He and his wife moved to Portland soon afterward and became active members of Redeemer.

After a special congregational meeting on October 14, 1956, a call was sent to Rev. Werner Jessen, a pastor with considerable experience. He attended a Church service on October 28 and a congregational stewardship dinner that evening. Pastor Jessen accepted the call and arrived in Portland on December 7 during a driving snow storm. He was, however, greeted warmly by the congregation.

In the next few years, the congregation continued to grow rapidly. On March 31, 1957, a congregational meeting was held to buy a house next to the parking lot for more Sunday School space. This was the first of several houses we were to buy.

On June 2, 1957, at a special fifth anniversary celebration of the dedication of the first unit, the highlight was the burning of the fourth mortgage. Burning of the third, second, and first mortgages followed in the next few years.

Until the year 1960, two services (9:30 and 11:00 a.m.) had been sufficient to handle attendance, but in that year, chairs were often placed in the aisle to accommodate the congregation. An 8:00 a.m. service was started,



Redeemer Lutheran Church in 1952. The lighted cross attracted much attention in the press, including this photo from the December 1952 issue of the Lutheran. It was "believed to be the only one of its kind in the United States" and was kept lighted continuously.

but even with three services it became necessary to rent the Vernon School auditorium to accommodate the expected worshippers on Easter Sunday.

By this time, a second house had been purchased to house the Sunday School, but still classrooms were crowded. At the annual congregational meeting on January 15, 1961, it was decided to have a building fund canvass for funds to build. On October 3, Lloyd Danielson from the Lutheran Layman's Movement for Stewardship came to work with us for six weeks on a fund-raising drive. The fall Every Member Visit that year included a three-year building fund pledge drive. Redeemer members responded enthusiastically, with a total pledge of \$72,757.

Over those three years, there were many special meetings of the council, building committee, and congregation before plans were finally decided upon. Then a second three-year pledge drive was begun. This time the congregation pledged \$55,336. Now steps could be taken to apply for a loan from Lutheran Mutual Life Insurance Company. Bids were taken, and the construction contract finally awarded.

A ground-breaking service was held on April 25, 1965; work began immediately and continued through the summer and unusually dry fall. The dedication was held on November 14, 1965. We now had room for Church and Sunday School under one roof and could accommodate everyone at only two services.

In all, five houses and two extra lots were purchased and the houses razed, thus leaving room for ample parking. Total cost of the existing building: Original building \$70,000 in 1952; additional land \$30,000; addition \$155,000; furnishings \$10,000. All of this had been accumulated except \$110,000 which was borrowed from Lutheran Mutual Insurance Company.

On January 5, 1967, Mrs. W.I. Eck came to personally hand over 100 shares of AT&T stock, the dividends of which were to be used for the education of deserving members. Thus started the W.I. Eck Scholarship Fund. The fund has been active ever since and has been instrumental in furthering the education of many of our youth and adults. In the fall of that year, Mrs. Eck presented another 100 shares of AT&T stock to augment her previous donation.

Redeemer celebrated its 50th anniversary on January 11, 1970. Dr. L.H. Steinhoff served as guest pastor. A 50th Anniversary booklet was prepared. Also in that year, the property on the corner of N.E. 19th Avenue and Killingsworth Street, known informally as "The Ice Cream Store," was

purchased at a cost of \$1,200. The building once housed a business selling dairy products but was no longer in operation; the building itself had gone into disrepair and was a neighborhood eyesore. It was torn down, the area fenced and turned into a playground and/or vegetable garden.

At the annual meeting of January 16, 1972, Pastor Jessen announced that he would be retiring on January 31, 1973, thus ending his service to Redeemer of over 16 years. On August 7, Dr. Fjellman, President of the Synod, spoke to the Church Council about the calling of a new pastor. After numerous meetings, it was decided to invite Rev. Dennis Marttala to conduct the December 31 church service. Later, by an overwhelming majority, the congregation voted to call Rev. Marttala as our next pastor. He was installed on February 2, 1973.

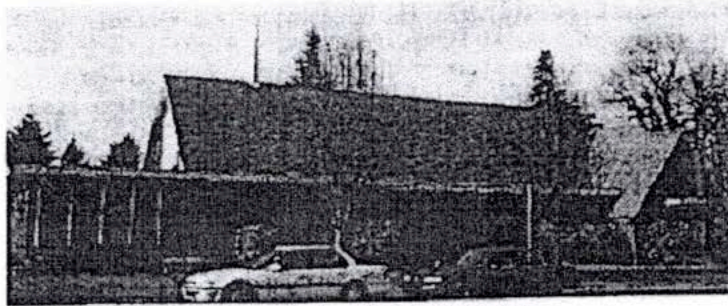
No outstanding events occurred in the next few years until, in September 1978, Pastor Marttala resigned and the congregation called Pastor Jack Kelly. Pastor Kelly immediately began his duties with vigor, calling on members so as to get to know his parishioners better than would be possible by only meeting them at Sunday services.

The next year is notable in that the Church purchased the house on Killingsworth Street adjacent to the Church property formerly occupied by Mrs. Halla Lewis, Mrs. Jessen's mother. This was made possible by a gift of \$12,000 given by one of our members, Mrs. Zoa Brown. It was then rented to a family from our congregation. Also in that year, at a congregational meeting on February 18, The Rev. Werner Jessen was given the title "Pastor Emeritus."

In June 1979, a catered dinner was held to celebrate the burning of the \$110,000 mortgage held by Lutheran Mutual. The 20-year mortgage was paid off nearly seven years early.

1980 was another busy year, primarily due to the resignation of Pastor Kelly - who was called to be Dean of Students at Luther-Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. After interviewing several candidates, the congregation issued a call to Rev. Terry A. Moe, who accepted and was installed on January 13, 1981.

In 1982 Werner and Ruth Jessen deeded some additional property to the south of our property, thus expanding the parking area and providing two garage bays for storage of equipment.



Redeemer Lutheran Church as it looks today.

In 1986 a member family donated to the Church a parcel of land located in Clark County, Washington. The donation was greatly appreciated but led to long discussions about what should be done with the property. Since it did not seem feasible that we could develop the property in the foreseeable future, it was finally sold.

At the December 1987 council meeting, a suggestion was made to enter the Internship Program. At the January meeting, approval was given to pursue the possibility. A fund was established and when our goal of \$5000 was met, an application was submitted. Thanks to our participation in the Horizon Program, which helps fund internships in inner city ministry, the support of other churches, and the generosity of members, Redeemer has enjoyed the blessings of several seminary students preparing to lead their own congregations.

1990 also saw the start of the Community Children's Choir known as the Hallelujah Kids. This group of children, many from outside the congregation, enlivens the Sunday service on occasion and other events with Gospel and other appropriate songs. They have been effective good will ambassadors to other churches in Portland and throughout the Northwest.

As Redeemer looks forward to our next 75 years, we pray that the Holy Spirit will bless our ministry in this place.

Pastors at Redeemer Lutheran

1920-24	Rev. T.A. Schoenberg	1955-56	Rev. Erwin A. Vosseler
1925-30	Rev. Andrew Engeset	1956-73	Rev. Werner Jessen
1930-47	Rev. Adolph W. Nelson	1973-78	Rev. Dennis D. Marttala
1947-52	Rev. Harold E. Hamilton	1978-81	Rev. Jack W. Kelly
1952-55	Rev. Olin G. Dasher	1981-	Rev. Terry A. Moe
1955-55	Arthur E. Osmundson		

Memories of Rev. Harold E. Hamilton Pastor, 1947 - 1951

I was called by the Board of Home Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America in June of 1947 to survey an area of Vancouver, Washington as the possible site for a new mission of the church.

I soon realized that the area was in a changing condition and its future uncertain. Pastor John Sawyer, President of the Pacific Synod during my survey, asked if I would preach at the Sunday services for Redeemer Lutheran Church in Portland. Later he asked if I would consider a call to serve Redeemer as the pastor. Upon consultation with the Board of Home Missions of the ULCA and with their approval I accepted the call to become your pastor and served from October 1947 thru July 1951. Our memories are rich as we began married life together in our first called parish.

We Remember:

..... when Harold surprised the congregation one Sunday by stepping out of the pulpit to ask what the sermon was about the previous Sunday! I had preached about the ABC's of our Christian Faith.

..... when Harold gave 25¢ to each person present on that Sunday and asked them to make the amount "grow" by using their talents and returning the amount and its growth together with their regular offering the next Sunday. We like to think that the larger offering received was a result of our 'seed gift.' One thing we felt confident about was that it had planted an idea for stewardship.

..... when the junior and senior high youth, members and friends of the parish, had to attend three Sundays out of four to be eligible to play on Redeemer's basketball and softball teams.

..... the discussion about the holly tree that was near the front entrance of the church and how it 'hid' the sign and information about the time of worship and Sunday school services. A compromise was reached. When the tree was cut down, the branches were shared with a Veteran's Group to make wreaths at Christmas.

..... when Harold approached the hospital Nursery window to see our newborn baby and a Roman Catholic nun cheerily greeted him by saying "Hello Father" and he blithely asked "Have you seen our little son?"

..... Sunday School in the basement of the church with a pot belly stove. We converted a curtained off space (corner) for the 3-5 year-olds Darlene taught with our son, Jay, in a buggy.

..... the Sunday that half the choir sported a sun drenched blush from skiing on the slopes of Mt. Hood the previous day.

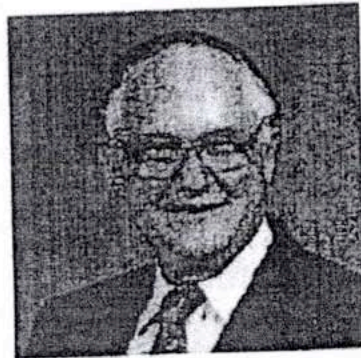
..... potted pansy plants for all the children for Easter Sunday. The flowers filled every window of the church before they were shared with the children.

Memories of Rev. Olin G. Dasher Pastor 1951-1955

During World War II Olin G. Dasher was a Navy Chaplain, and the last year (1945) was spent on an attack troop transport in the Pacific. Lillian lived in Portland much of 1945. We learned that the West Coast then was only about ¼ active Christians, so we decided to stay in the Pacific Northwest - Georgia and North Carolina natives.

While in Portland Lillian and I had attended Redeemer Church several times and I had preached there. We first served Redeemer, Fircrest, Tacoma, 1946-50. We were called to Redeemer, Portland and served there 1951-55, where I was involved with my first church building program.

In Portland the congregation was still worshipping in the old building on the corner of NE 15th and Wygant. After services we would go to see the new building in progress. A unique feature was the lighted cross next to the main front entrance which had the inscription "I am the Way and the Truth and the



Light" (John 14:6). That sounded appropriate but several questioned the last word, "light." Sure enough, John 14:6 reads Way . . . Truth . . . Life." So LIGHT was changed into LIFE.

It was a good act of evangelism to build the new church in such a strategic location. Growth was steady and at times, rapid, and a second service was added.

A Jewish synagogue with a cantor in charge bought the old church building. It was remodeled and a basement added. We were invited back for a dedication service one Sunday evening. Basically the sanctuary was not changed a great deal. It seemed that Redeemer folks sat where they did before. There was a notable difference - the men wore the "yarmulke" (skull-like cap).

When the building was first in use there was a need for a phone, so a pay phone was installed in the side annex just outside the chancel. But strange calls were coming in, "Is this the Doodle Bug Tavern?" What? How could this be? A call went to the Doodle Bug Tavern's correct number. It was not even in the shadow of Redeemer Church. Their new number was not put into books of matches which were still given to customers, so the old number was called and Redeemer Church answered, sometimes during a mid-week Lenten service. Maybe the church should have taken the opportunity to invite them to worship services. Of course, a new number was soon assigned to Redeemer.

Memories of Rev. Art Osmundson Student Pastor, March - September 1955

It was forty years ago that I was privileged to be a student interim pastor at Redeemer. From March, 1954, following the departure of Pastor Dasher (who taught me a lot), to September when I left for the first year of Seminary.

It was a great experience for me and I thank God that there were a goodly number of knowledgeable people there that got us through those six months. I recall that Dr. Foelsch, President of our Seminary in Berkeley, was a bit disturbed that the Congregation didn't call a recent Seminary graduate awaiting a call.

I remember the time that Dr. Steinhoff was with us for an evening Communion service. I conducted the liturgy and when time came for the lesson there was no Bible on the lectern. I discovered the door to the office was locked and I had no key. Dr. Steinhoff rescued me with his New Testament but I sweated blood (almost) finding the correct passage in I Corinthians! I shall never forget the time I mispronounced "Beelzebub." I can still hear Mr. Magadanz's loud laugh in a quiet church!

Jo and I vividly remember how kind and generous you people at Redeemer were to us and our three young children while we were there and especially your monthly LOVE gift that actually made it possible to attend Seminary.

We are proud to have been a part of Redeemer Lutheran Church and to work and worship with such a fine community of God's people. The Lord continue to bless Redeemer and may you continue as his witnesses in Portland and to the ends of the earth.

Rev. Werner Jessen (1908 - 1994)

Pastor, 1956 - 1973

Pastor Emeritus 1973 - 1994

Written by Peter Jessen

This period is part of God's story, told by an unbroken chain of wonderful men of God, beginning with Pastor T.A. Schoenberg, and continuing this day with Pastor Terry Moe. Redeemer fulfilled a long held dream in 1965 by completing the current building/facilities/parking, with which to continue God's ministry. Redeemer's people carried out model building, stewardship, and funding programs, involving 100+ members on various committees/sub-committees ("that my house may be filled").

Redeemer has been God's instrument in a 75 year tradition of keeping the faith ("where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"), carrying out its two-fold mission: the Great Commission - "Go forth . . ." and the Great Commandment - "love one another." Redeemer achieved stability and growth through reaching (visitations to members, unchurched, newcomers, hospitalized, home bound, people with emergencies); teaching (Sunday School, Vacation Church School, youth confirmation, and adult confirmation classes); preaching (upholding the Gospel message of

caring, justice, reconciliation, grace and salvation). Redeemer members have made a difference in N.E. Portland, motivating each other to work together to meet each decade's challenge of change.

Memories of Rev. Dennis D. Marttala Pastor, 1973 -78

The SEVENTH-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY (March 17, 1995) is indeed your celebration of great joy in remembrances of the past and for visions of the future, 75 completed and 75 begun.

My Remembrances are of the era of the mid 1970's, 1972-1978, when I was privileged to share some of this rich history making with you in what was known then as "inner city ministry."

I think of those years as ones of experimentation and acronyms reflecting the decade of the 70's. We experimented with new forms of worship and called it a change from SBH (Service Book and Hymnal) to LBW (Lutheran Book of Worship), with a host of trial liturgies, folk songs and instruments. We experimented in ways of greater cooperative ministry and gave them the initials of AMR (Augustana, Messiah, Redeemer) and NEPICA (Northeast Portland Inter-Church Association) (Augustana, Bethany, Bethlehem, Central, Faith, Luther Memorial, Redeemer, Saint Michael, Trinity - the "NEPICA Nine"). We represented more of the Lutheran Campbell's Alphabet Soup: ALC, LCA and LC-MS! Today it's fruit - PLUM - instead of soup. And that seems fitting: out of the soup of the 70's came the fruit of the 90's (and that's better than "nuts of the 90's") - just so long as the *fruit* is not just Scandinavian <or even German> PLUM pudding! (We are known for our annual Scandinavian smorgasbord and plum pudding here at Faith, Roseburg!)

Every ministry and mission we share together as God's people is special, and I will always remember Redeemer as a place and time in my life as special. From the day Werner Jessen placed his stole over my shoulders to the day I went to begin a new ministry of the Church in Oregon City, Redeemer was a very important and growing experience that has benefited me and the following years of ministry with a significance defying words of appreciation.

We look forward to sharing the celebration of your 75th with you on the weekend of March 11-12, 1995!

Memories of Jack W. Kelly Pastor, 1978-1981

Dear Pastor Moe and Members of Redeemer Lutheran Church:

First of all, I want to express my gratitude to you for inviting Karen and me to the celebration of your 75th anniversary. We are indeed planning to come to the festivities. I also want to thank you for asking me to prepare a greeting for you. I am honored to do so.

A gift from a friend reads, "Life is a continuous process of getting used to things we hadn't expected." All of us, individuals and congregations, experience unexpected changes. I expected to always be a pastor, now I no longer serve as a pastor but am seeking new ways to serve in ministry. At present I am working as a real estate salesperson with Windermere Real Estate/Everett. But I am asking the question: What is the ministry to which God is calling me now?

When I was at Redeemer in the late 70's we asked this question and the answer we were working on related to the changed community and the need for a Loaves and Fishes program. I remember the satisfaction of putting that program together. It was our ministry at that time. But the answer you find for today, for the new century will be a different one. Yet the answer will still be ministry, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anniversaries are times for looking back and remembering with fondness and joy. They also give us time to look forward. I am in the midst personally of asking what my ministry is to be now that I am no longer a pastor. What is the form of ministry to which God is calling Redeemer Church for the rest of this century and into the next?

May you live in peace as you serve our Lord.

Intern Program

Redeemer's Intern program began as a dream in 1988 and became a reality in 1989. Luther-Northwestern Theological Seminary (LNTS) in St. Paul, MN sent us our first two interns and gave us over \$12,000 in financial aid. Currently we are receiving \$6500/year from the ELCA Horizon Program to support our inner city internship. St. Luke



Sue Seiffert



Jacqueline Moren

Lutheran, Central Lutheran and the Oregon Synod have been faithful partners in our Internship program with their support.

Our first intern, Sue Seiffert, came in December, 1990. Sue lives in Portland, working at St. Vincent's Hospital while awaiting a call.

Jacqueline Moren came in September, 1991. She lives in St. Paul and is awaiting a call.



Kay Doyle



Mary Amundson

Kay Doyle, our third intern (1992-93), was ordained in Sacramento, CA, September 11, 1994 and now serves Our Saviors Lutheran in inner city Boston, MA.

Mary Amundson, our fourth intern (1993-94) is finishing her studies at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (LTSG) in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. She has been assigned to the Mid-Atlantic Region of the ELCA which includes her home area of Washington, D.C.

Our current intern, Solveig Nilsen-Goodin, is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and is Redeemer's first fourth-year intern. She just finished her Synodical and Seminary approval interviews and will be ready for call this summer!



Solveig Nilsen-Goodin

The Early Years at 15th and Wygant

Thank you to Al Francis for these memories:

While the building at 15th and Wygant served our needs adequately for a time, one facility was sorely lacking. The heating system for the entire main floor area consisted of one wood-burning stove, later replaced by one burning fuel oil. This made it necessary for someone to build a fire on Saturday evening during the cold winter months so as to at least have the chill off before Sunday service.

One person we should always remember was Marie Markman. Mrs. Markman who, as the saying goes, "never took a lesson in her life" performed admirably whenever a pianist was needed for any occasion. She was also active in many other church-related activities.

Another lady of that generation (who shall remain nameless) was often seen in the arms of Morpheus during much of the service. However, she never neglected to compliment the pastor on an excellent sermon.

One time, near the closing segment of the combined service, when the choir would recess to prepare for the Sermon/Sunday School section, Pastor Nelson announced "The next hymn is number _____. The choir will pass out during the last stanza." Even the pastor got a laugh out of that one.

During the 30s and 40s, Redeemer Luther League was a popular activity for the young people of the church. They never failed to perform some sort of skit or pageant whenever a special church program was scheduled.

For one Easter program, it was decided to depict the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Thus it was necessary, somehow, to dim the stage lights at the moment of Christ's death. A couple of commercially available dimmers were tried but while they worked fine with one bulb, the power needed to light the stage destroyed their smooth action. Then one leaguer, whose vast knowledge of electrical properties (gleaned from a high school General Science course) remembered that while pure water is a poor conductor of electricity, the addition of some impurity can vastly increase its conductivity. So, at the appropriate time, this fellow knelt behind the scenes with two wires, their bare tips immersed in a jar of salt water, and pulled them apart slowly to simulate the dimming sun. The act went off as desired, nobody was electrocuted, and the church did not burn!

Redeemer Sunday School

Thank you, Jack and Wanda Sullivan, members 1954 - 1978:

Some years after Wanda and I joined Redeemer, I fell on the steps of the Sunday School house and the Sunday School Superintendent, Ruth Skogseth said she would help me up if I would teach Sunday School! She did, and I did, for many years.

A tradition of many years, giving pansies to the children, was begun by Mr. Days. These living plants were symbolic of Christ's resurrection from the dead, new life coming forth at Easter time. Easter services had to be held at Vernon School as there were too many people to fit into the church. We remember decorating the school stage with lots of greenery and Easter lilies.

The Sunday school children enjoyed visiting Mrs. Jessen's mother, Mrs. Lewis, who lived next door to the church. She would tell the children Bible stories and give them cookies. Another dear neighbor, Mr. Jake Bostrom, was our yard caretaker and unofficial guardian of the church building. He would invite the children to see the goldfish in his back yard. We combined this visit with the teaching of the disciples fishing at the Sea of Galilee and catching nothing until they listened to Jesus as to how and where to cast their nets.

The "Feeding of the 5,000" was enacted with tiny loaves of bread given to each child by Wonder Bakery. How excited they were to get to take home their own loaf of bread.

Bible stories came alive with a real life presentation of life in a carpenter shop at Mr. Cash Piercy set up shop at Sunday school and shaved "curls" from a block of wood portraying the lessons Jesus learned as a child. One Sunday, we set up a tent in Alberta Park and held class there recalling the events of building the tabernacle.

We enacted the story of the Ark of the Covenant as we marched around the neighborhood, singing and carrying the Ark.

Many church picnics were held at Alberta Park with lots of interest in fellowship, children's games, and softball games. All these activities were encouraging many families to Redeemer and our walls soon began to bulge.

In 1961, we began ground breaking ceremonies with representatives from all classes taking turns at the shovel.

When the building was completed, we took the kindergarten class upstairs to see the new stained glass window. Jack Gradwohl's little granddaughter excitedly exclaimed, "Oh, isn't that a beautiful picture of Jesus taking a shower!" A closer look revealed that in the eyes of a child, it did look like that as the rays of the sun shone down on Jesus.

These are just a few of the special memories of our years at Redeemer. We're thankful to God and to each of our Redeemer family for the love and care you have shared with us through the years.

Thank you, Lorna Carson-Kendig, member, 1963 - 1981:
I taught for over 17 years and was Superintendent for a time. What I remember was a full house, caring and very helpful parents, and dedicated staff!

I first became involved with Redeemer Sunday School back in 1964, I believe. It was a growing congregation with lots of activities. The Sunday School was under the direction of Wanda Sullivan, Superintendent, a dynamic lady with a big heart filled with love for everyone. She put in long hours and dedicated years of service, as did Katie Keller, then Secretary.

I started teaching first grade, where Carolyn Tom our dedicated pianist and music teacher, coordinated our children's choir. I remember we found old, white robes in storage. We took them home and washed, starched and ironed them, and "presto"—choir robes for our youth!

Each year we had a special theme for Christmas Eve service, and the children looked forward to it and worked hard to perform well that night, knowing all their families were there. Several years we had a live manger scene, and another year a story "Through the Ages" which was a HUGE Book of the Bible with live characters coming through as the pages turned and the narrator read the Old Testament. Then followed the children's choir, ages three years to high school.

Other thoughts that come to mind are our youth teachers and helpers. It seemed that many of our team couples that assisted in teaching met and eventually married because of their meeting at Redeemer. We used to tease them with, "Great place to meet a mate!"

We also had an active youth group and a basketball team under the direction of Jim Carson. The youth group had many outings and community work. The basketball team played at Concordia College, and their first year ended the series in last place. The very next year, they finished first, receiving a trophy!

I can add that personally I always consider Redeemer my Church Home and have many cherished memories behind those doors!!!

The Women of Redeemer

Thank you, Margaret Finseth, for this history:

November 19, 1919, the Ladies of the Alberta English Lutheran Church met at the pastor's home to organize a Ladies Parish and Missionary Society. (After April 20, 1920, the minutes stated the name as English Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and continued as such.)

On December 30, 1919, a constitution was drawn up stating that four members would constitute a quorum to do business, each member to pay 15 cents dues at each monthly business meeting, and a free-will offering at social meetings. It was also decided that the Society would assume the \$25 organ debt. A penny offering box was used towards purchase of flowers.

At a later date (probably May 1920) the Society made the final payment on the organ. They also saved waste paper, which was sold; the money received went towards the purchase of a piano.

The first bazaar was held November 1920. No mention is made of how much they earned; but in December, they voted to turn over \$100 to the Church Council to pay bills. The group was quite instrumental in paying the bills of the church. Twice in the early 1920's they voted to buy a load of wood for the church. In the spring of 1923 they paid the interest of \$39 on the church mortgage and the next year paid a \$38.50 sewer assessment. Apparently, the pastor's salary was in arrears, as mention was made several times of helping out with back salary.

The Society had many money-making projects and many ways in which it was put to good use. On May 25, 1941, the Society was asked to serve lunch for the wedding of Lester Thies. Frances Thies is still an active

member of our Church. In September 1941, they started laying aside a small sum each month to be saved towards furnishing a new Church.

Throughout the war years, they took their turn serving at the various organizations for our Servicemen. After the war they did sewing for the children in Europe and made afghans for the victims of the war.

In 1947 the Miriam Club was formed; and in a joint meeting with the Ladies Parish Society on November 10, 1953, the members voted to form one group as Women of Redeemer, meeting in the evening. Women subdivided into five circles. There were various names; but in 1958 they were listed as Miriam, Lydia, Priscilla, Rebecca, and Dorcas. In early 1964 they were reformed into Mary and Martha afternoon circles and Esther and Ruth evening circles. Women of Redeemer met on the first Tuesday of the month, always with some sort of program and business meeting.

Women of Redeemer had many ways of earning money to help with various projects. They sponsored a nursery at the 9:30 and 11:00 services, were responsible for wedding receptions and other receptions, had charge of the flower chart, helped with outfitting our new Church, gave to worthy charities and used the money for many other needs.

In 1966 the circles were reorganized again with Mary Martha in the afternoon and Esther Ruth in the evening. Happy Hands, a circle for younger women where mothers could bring their children, was formed in 1976. One of their projects was "Golden Garbage."

One special project in 1971 was the making of Chrismons for the Christmas tree. Some of the ladies worked on these for many months meeting the same day as the sewing group. The Chrismons were used on the tree in 1974 for the first time and each year since.

There were no formal meetings of Women of Redeemer after April 1981. However, the women finished making and tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief and held craft and bake sales in 1984, 1986 and 1988.

At this time there is one active circle (Esther Ruth). When necessary, this group fulfills many of the responsibilities of the "Women of Redeemer."

Refugee Ministry

Thank you, Margaret Breithaupt, Darrel King, Miriam and Glen Fors, and Vivienne Flitcraft for this history:

Redeemer has done a great job of sponsoring and caring for people from far away lands. Many folks from Redeemer have been involved with all the details of the resettlement process—meeting newcomers at the airport, finding them a place to live, obtaining dishes, furniture, clothing, etc., helping with transportation, showing them how to ride the bus, shop for food, even how to use the stove and telephone. We have taken them to appointments and helped with paperwork for medical care and education; shared holidays and been available for emergencies.

The first refugee family that Redeemer people seem to remember is a Latvian couple, Stefan and Zalma Bercs. They arrived in September 1950. The Bercs were so impressed with the warmth and caring at Redeemer that they gave an engraved silver plaque which now hangs in the council room. Mr. Bercs was a silversmith who as a youth learned his craft in the court of the czars in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1976 the Van Phan family came from Vietnam. Since then the Phans have become very successful. He is now a pastor of a Vietnamese Church and runs the filling station and repair shop on Union and Killingsworth.

In late 1982 the Lutheran Refugee Program asked Redeemer to sponsor a family that was to be re-settled in America under the auspices of Lutheran International Refugee Services (LIRS). We had recently sponsored Zewdie Wondim, an Ethiopian, and LIRS wanted us to sponsor another Ethiopian family.

In June 1983 Fessehai Reta, his wife Berhana, and their daughter Nisite arrived at Portland International Airport. Later that year we sponsored two more (single) brothers from the Reta family, Girmai and Mehari.

It took us a while to realize that the Reta family had quite a different background from our first Ethiopian refugee. Zewdie was an Amaharic-speaking "highlander" from Addis Ababa. The Retas were Tigrinya-speaking residents of Eritrea, a former Italian dependency on the Red Sea which had been under British protection after World War II, and subsequently was annexed by Ethiopia. The Eritreans had been fighting for

their independence for about 20 years at that time, so, despite cultural similarities, the Retas definitely did not consider themselves Ethiopians.

Through the Reta family, Redeemer developed ties with Portland's Eritrean community. Today we are the home to a Tigrinya language school which conducts classes on Saturday mornings. There, children of the Eritrean refugees, many of whom were born in America, learn to read and write in their parents' language.

A Message from one of Redeemer's sponsored refugees:

On June 11, 1986, nine of the Saleumvong family came from a Thailand camp to the United States. Many people from Redeemer Church helped us buy food, clothes, furniture and dishes. They took us to welfare, dentist, and doctor appointments; took me to my first day of school; and brought us to Redeemer Church.

In 1988 another brother, Thongphoun, came to the United States with his family, sponsored by Redeemer. All four children in the Saleumvong family were baptized at Redeemer Church. On March 25, 1989, Pastor Terry Moe married Luck and me; he also baptized our baby, Paulina, at Redeemer Church. We, the Saleumvong family, are very, very proud that Redeemer people sponsored us and helped us until now. We appreciate very much the help from all of you. We just want to thank all of you.

Somboun Saleumvong Luangsisongkham

All of the Saleumvongs are hard workers. Three of the four families now own their own homes. The oldest girl, Soumaly, who was eleven when they arrived, is now in college, and several of the adults are taking classes at Portland Community College.

Similar stories could be told about other refugee families and communities, from the Van family from Vietnam, sponsored shortly after the fall of Saigon in 1975, through the Saleumvongs from Laos in the mid 1980s, to many of the Pentecostal families from the former Soviet Union who lived in Redeemer's immediate neighborhood in the late 80's and early 90's.

Will there be refugees from war and famine 75 years from now? Sadly, the answer is probably yes. Let us pray that Redeemer will minister to them, whoever they may be, as we have to those who have come to us in the past.

Following are the Redeemer sponsored refugees who came with the help of Lutheran Family Services:

<u>Name</u>	<u># in Family</u>	<u>Arrival Date</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>
VANG, Xaysee	3	8/30/78	Laotian
VANG, Fong	6	1/18/79	Laotian
WONDIM, Zewdie Trunch	1	11/6/81	Ethiopian
RETA, Fessehai Waldemariam	4	6/9/83	Ethiopian
RETA, Girmai Waldemariam	1	9/22/83	Ethiopian
SALEUMVONG, Phouvong	9	6/11/86	Laotian
GEBREZGIHER, Asefash	2	8/12/86	Ethiopian
DABEK, Czeslaw	1	6/7/88	Polish
SALEUMVONG, Thongphoun	3	8/16/88	Laotian

Alberta Park Loaves & Fishes Center

Thank you, Helen Earnest, for this history:

With the sponsorship of ten Churches and groups, Redeemer Lutheran Church opened the Alberta Park Loaves & Fishes Center on June 4, 1979, with 35 persons attending this first luncheon.

The Center was open five days a week and served nutritious meals to senior citizens. For persons over 60 years of age, the cost of the meal was to "pay as you can"; and for those under 60, the cost of the meal was charged.

The volunteers enjoyed looking forward to working once or twice a month (sometimes more) at the Center. Meals served since 1979: 382,995 (including Meals on Wheels) and volunteer hours totaled 65,535. Average attendance was 35 at the Center, and Meals on Wheels averaged approximately 100 per day.

Many special "fun" activities were held, such as Valentine and Christmas parties, craft and garage sales, birthday celebrations, games, etc.

Due to costs and a need to centralize more centers, Alberta Park Loaves & Fishes moved from Redeemer Lutheran Church in June 1992 to a new Center called the Northeast Multicultural Senior Center, located on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Killingsworth.

On December 10, 1994, an Alberta Park Loaves & Fishes reunion party was held at our Church. There was a large turnout, and everyone had a wonderful time visiting, viewing snapshots of members and activities; and having refreshments.

Portland Organizing Project

Thank you, Vivienne Flitcraft, for this history:

The Portland Organizing Project is a community organization dedicated to empowering low and moderate income and working class people to improve the quality of their lives through institutional change. The project is rooted in 14 Catholic and Protestant churches that are located throughout the neighborhoods of Portland's east side.

In 1984, pastors and community leaders in this area joined together to look deeper into the problems affecting their congregations and communities. By the spring of 1985, 8 churches had begun training their leaders to listen to their communities about their most important problems. Since then the number of churches has almost doubled.

Redeemer joined "POP" in 1987 and has been a very active part of the organization. Members have been involved personally and collectively in a wide variety of issues POP has worked on, including creating and enforcing an ordinance for closing down drug houses, preventing unreasonable sewer installation costs for East county residents, and jobs for at-risk youth.

As the Portland Organizing Project enters a new era, Redeemer continues to be deeply involved and strongly committed to our relationships with each other and with our community.

Vacation Church School

Thank you, Nancy Phelps, for this history:

Our current Vacation Church School program has its roots in Sue Perhus's 1980 idea to begin a neighborhood outreach program complete with flyers and door to door invitations. Just about everyone helped distribute and our turnout was great! By 1987 our program had grown to about 50 students with 25 staff, all from Redeemer. We served breakfast, had staff devotions each day and even had a creche built by Bill Flitcraft. Grace Jewett-Baranski wrote the curriculum for all age levels around the theme "Christmas in August." The culmination was an all-school Christmas party to celebrate Jesus's birthday.

In 1988 our theme was "Jesus Loves Me," one of the most popular curricula used; so much so that we used it a second time the next year. Our attendance grew to 77 students as we tried recruitment in Alberta Park during the weeks before VCS. The following year we had 90 students including 40 unchurched children and children from 9 other churches. We welcomed many non-English speaking children which expanded our experience as a church community.

Beginning in 1990 we began to seek our staff from a wider community. Adults from Bethel Lutheran and Ainsworth United Church of Christ spent a week in VCS ministry with us. And our enrollment continued to grow. In 1990-91, our intern, Sue Seiffert, developed a recruitment plan that resulted in 18 staff members from 11 other churches. That year we registered 139 kids! Our music program developed extensively with the Hallelujah Kids leading opening songs. Our evening event welcomed out-of-town guests. The children and staff proudly wore their student-designed t-shirts. The expansion of our ministry gave opportunities for other congregations to support the work financially.

In most recent years we have seen the sharing of leadership responsibilities increase with ever more folks involved. Rick Rudge printed VCS calendars and developed a flyer as a recruitment and publicity tool. Interns have shared the story of our summer ministry at churches around Portland, offering a broad range of opportunities for participation. We began a Youth Leadership Training segment of the program to develop the gifts our youth bring to the community. We expanded our staff to include an entire youth group and pastor from Bellingham, Washington.

Each year we have chosen to enter this ministry, we have been blessed by the experience and the opportunity for growth. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in the coming years.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.
Hebrews 10:22-24

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There are, of course, many areas of Redeemer's ministry that could not be included in this necessarily brief history of our church. Please excuse any errors or omissions.

Thank you for joining us in celebration of our 75th Anniversary.



*Let this be a record for a generation to come, so that a people yet
unborn may praise the Lord.* Psalms 102:18