

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Historical Notes
Pastor 28, 1988-1996

(Part 1 of a 2-part series of notes.)

28. PHILIP SCHROEDER (1988-1996)

The final pastor of these fifteen decades, and the current pastor of Trinity and the author of these historical notes, is Philip Schroeder. He began his pastorate on 16 August 1988, though he began preaching and leading Sunday services on July 17 while still living in Rock Island. He was installed (at age 51) by Bishop Ronald Hasley on Sunday, September 11, at 2 PM. A 12:15 carry-in dinner preceded and a reception followed the service.

After visits by the Search Committee to Rock Island (Augustana College Campus Ministry) and by the Schroeders to Mt. Morris, the Council voted on 18 April 1988 to recommend Pastor Schroeder to the congregation on May 8. On May 1, the Schroeders met with the congregation in the nave at 2:30 PM as the recommended candidate of the Search Committee. On May 8, the Congregation called Pastor Schroeder. On May 16 at 7 PM the Schroeders met with the Council and the Search Committee. On June 6 Pastor Schroeder accepted the call by letter, suggesting a beginning date of August 16. On June 20 he was present at the monthly Council meeting. On July 10 the congregation recognized Pastor William Swarbrick, who had been interim preacher, and gave him a gift of \$250. Pastor William Nelson, Byron, who served as interim pastor, later received a gift of \$250, too. Pastor Schroeder began leading services on July 17 and was paid \$150/service, \$200/2 services, plus 21¢/mile. Volunteers from the congregation moved the Schroeders' furniture and belongings from Rock Island to Mt. Morris on August 12 (the day following the funeral in Michigan of Pastor Schroeder's mother, who had died in Rochester, MI, on Aug. 9; his father, also a pastor, had died in 1961.) The Pastoral Search Committee consisted of Charles Diehl (chairman), Stan Asp, Deb Buser, Hollie Guist, Jr., Ole Hiteman, Ron Lenhart, Wilda Lundin, Ruth Myers, and Phil Wessels.

Pastor Schroeder came to Mt. Morris from campus ministry. He had not pastored a congregation in 25 years. From 1983-1988 he had been campus pastor at Augustana College, Rock Island. From 1974 to 1983 he had served part-time on the campus ministry staff at Valparaiso University (Indiana) but primarily as director of the Center for the Study of Campus Ministry at Valparaiso University (half-time) and, from 1978-1983, as assistant to the executive director of the Division of Campus Ministry and Educational Services of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., Chicago (half-time). Prior to that he had been Lutheran Campus Pastor (Missouri Synod) at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio (1965-1974), Minister and teacher of religion at Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana (1963-1965), and pastor of two Missouri Synod Lutheran congregations, Pilgrim, Granville, and Our Savior, Newark, Ohio (1961-1963). He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1960 (BD/MDiv), and then studied at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, in 1960-1961, receiving his Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree from there in 1965 (major = systematic theology). He was ordained on 6 August 1961 at Granville, Ohio. He left the Missouri Synod and became a pastor in the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) in 1983, just prior to becoming campus pastor at Augustana College. On 11 June 1960 he married Sharon Ruth

Scherer in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where her father was a Missouri Synod pastor. They have three daughters: Sarah Jeanne (1961), Rachel Elisabeth (1964), and Maria Joanna \[Bethard\] (1965)...and one grandson, Tojh Nigel Schroeder (1989). Sharon is a registered nurse and worked for eight years in Mt. Morris at Pinecrest Manor and Village, the last years as Village Nurse.

Philip Schroeder (no middle name) was born 24 January 1937 in Lansing, Michigan, to Philip and Esther Anna (Ude) Schroeder. He has two older sisters - Lenore R. Stevens and Lois E. Stachel, both of Michigan. He has two older brothers, who also were pastors (now retired) in Michigan - Roy P. Schroeder, East Lansing, Michigan, and Robert H. Schroeder, Forestville, Michigan.

Pastor Schroeder began his ministry at Trinity at the age of 51. Two major preoccupations of his years at Trinity were the accessibility of the church building and small-group ministry. After several years of struggle over how to make the church accessible and how much to spend to do it, an access-parking project was completed in 1995 at a cost of \$114,469. In 1993, a small-group ministry program was begun. The congregation became a pioneer-partner in the Stephen Ministry Small Group Ministry System, later called ChristCare Ministry, and six small groups were formed and began meeting in September 1994. He also prepared the congregation for the celebration of its 150th anniversary in 1996 and did the study of Trinity's records (particularly the minutes and the annual reports) that enabled him to write these extensive historical notes and the briefer decade-by-decade history that appeared in the monthly newsletter, Tidings, from August 1995 through October 1996.

The congregation has remained stable and spirited through these years. No significant growth or decline can be noted. At first there was an upsurge in average church attendance of nearly 20%. Average church attendance went from 176 (1987) to 182 (1988) to 207 (1989) to 206 (1990) to 208 (1991) to 210 (1992). But then a decline set in that brought it back almost to the start - 193 (1993), 187 (1994), and 182 (1995). \[In the anniversary year, 1996, average church attendance rose again to 193.\] Pastor Schroeder, like his predecessors, deplored this decline. In 1992 he said: "For Trinity to be remaining stable is a great gift since many such churches are declining. Lists and statistics...show a slight increase in most categories during the past year." In 1994 he said: "God's people need to be in church on Sunday.... I tremble when I think how strong Trinity Church could be...if all our members were faithful in their church attendance.... Our membership numbers are not greatly declining, (but) our church attendance numbers are. More of our people are not giving church attendance priority in their lives. It's the saddest thing I have to report this year." And in 1995, after enumerating many satisfactions, he listed church attendance as one of the continuing challenges and said, "More of our members come to church less regularly." Though he is not one to measure success by statistics (campus pastors rarely do), these statistics clearly saddened him. The other continuing challenges mentioned in 1995 were Sunday School and the youth program and leadership development. Sunday School average attendance in 1995 was 37, down from 67 in 1988. (In her 1995 annual report, the Sunday School superintendent put the number of Sunday School age children in the congregation at 87.) The youth program was showing some resurgence, but its activity and vitality were fitful and sporadic, more apparently to the dismay of pastor and leaders than of the busy youth and their parents. Leadership development remains an ongoing need in the congregation as the

older generation passes the torch to the younger generations. No shortage of leaders is evident, and the congregation is well served by members and volunteers, but these need and generally welcome help in understanding their roles and in providing visionary leadership for an old but strong congregation.

Total membership statistics held steady during these years:

1987 - 650	1991 - 660
1988 - 637	1992 - 668
1989 - 650	1993 - 651
1990 - 645	1994 - 647
	1995 - 652

But included in this figure, as in previous years, were many not active. The number of active members ranged from 405 to 434: 405 - 395 - 383 - 437 - 449 - 469 - 437 - 410 - 434 (1987-1995).

Finances, too, tell a story of enviable struggle. The congregation has not easily maintained its financial strength, but the struggle and its results most churches would envy. In 1987 the total receipts for the year were \$149,642, and in 1995 they were \$292,714 (_not_ including an extraordinary bequest of \$179,062). For 1988 the proposed budget was \$150,690, and for 1996 it was \$190,535 (26.4% increase). Benevolences remained a steady 28+% of the budget all these years. The contributions to Synod and Churchwide ranged from 24.6% to 25.5% - from \$39,000 in 1989 to \$45,900 in 1995 and \$47,600 in 1996. Other ongoing annual benevolences have been: Pinecrest, from \$2,000 in 1988 to \$2,900 in 1995 and 1996; LOMC, from 1,000 in 1988 to \$1,750 in 1985 and \$1,900 in 1996; and LSSI, from \$1,000 in 1989 (none in 1988) to \$1,150 in 1995 and \$1,250 in 1996. And the benevolences have always been paid in full, even when receipts have fallen short of budget.

But meeting these budgets has not been easy. Many years receipts fell short of budget - \$2,873 in 1989, \$2,983 in 1990, \$8,053 (4.5%) in 1991, \$6,693 in 1992, \$5,516 in 1993, and \$1,844 in 1994. In the early years (1988-1991) receipts fell short also of expenditures - from \$636 in 1990 to \$6,718 in 1991...but not in recent years: in 1992 the surplus was \$120, in 1993 \$117, in 1994 \$723, and in 1995 \$12,287 (!). The year 1995 was unusual - receipts were \$12,287 over expenditures but also \$7,653 over budget...in the same year that the access-parking project also required much commitment. And for 1996 a record pledge total of \$152,627 (142 pledges) was reached. Budget surpluses from previous years were always available to meet any deficits, and so the congregation has not faced any serious shortage. In fact, surplus balances carried over from previous years made these deficits hard to notice at the time. At the end of 1995, budget accounts were "zeroed out" for the first time, and cash balances were placed into non-budget accounts. Investments during these years rose from \$68,181 in 1987 to \$176,844 in 1995, including \$121,351 in an endowment fund. The congregation is in a very strong financial position at the end of 150 years and is asking itself how to be a faithful steward of these resources. One idea being seriously considered is a mission partnership with Christ Lutheran Church, Rockford. (This was unanimously adopted by the Congregation at a special meeting on 25 August 1996.) More detailed statistics may be found below under "financial reports" and "proposed budgets."

Other pastoral notes from the annual reports include:

1988 - many deaths and funerals at first (11 in 4½ months) - "I did not come in the hope of making many changes but rather continuing and

developing the rich traditions of Trinity's 142-year history. But you have wanted some changes, and there have been some."

1989 - much grace, much work, much joy - simply continued its long tradition of steady, faithful ministry - 90+ people on church committees - new seriousness regarding access - Iron Curtain dismantled, Gorbachev and Bush "build a new world."

1990 - "Trinity is such a good church.... What a privilege it is to be pastor of a church with such rich tradition, such steady course, such good people."

1991 - a difficult year with access plans...not a bad year after all

1992 - "For Trinity to be remaining stable is a great gift since many such churches are declining. Lists and statistics below will show a slight increase in most categories during the past year." - Mt. Morris School District dissolved (4 members on school board given support)

1993 - tough year for Mt. Morris (loss of independent school district and end of Weekday Religious Education \[WRE\], loss of Dawson Subscription Services, tax exemption or reduction by Pinecrest Village and Quebecor) - tough year for Trinity (Carol Reckmeyer retirement, 8% decline in church attendance, continued struggle with access, very challenging budget, Adult Choir without director).

1994 -

1995 - "I have studied much of the 150-year history" - God "our help in ages past, our hope for years to come" - 1995 satisfying: access-parking project completed, ChristCare Ministry, additional monthly holy communion, good stewardship report, Middlekauff bequest, 150th anniversary plans - continuing challenges: church attendance, Sunday School and youth program, leadership development.

In January 1990 the minutes record a "unanimous vote of thanks to Pastor Schroeder for his dedicated leadership during the past year." Some noted the growth of the congregation in friendliness and in welcoming strangers during these years and credited the pastor with that.

In 1989-1992 Pastor Schroeder served on the MHAOC Board (Mental Health Association of Ogle County), for a while as vice president. He did this through the influence of August and Marie Hanke (August = long-time member, died 1989), who had devoted much energy and love to establishing it. In 1990 he was appointed to the Synod's Salary Guidelines Committee, and he continued to serve on it until his retirement in 1996. In 1990 he was appointed as the Council of Churches' representative to the Mt. Morris High School Long-Range Planning Task Force and served as chairperson of the academic task group. In 1990 he served as area group leader for the LSSI capital campaign. In 1991 he was appointed to the Pinecrest Board of Trustees and in 1995-1996 served as chairperson of the Communications Committee. In 1991 he served on the Dean's District Cabinet (dean = Philip Gronbach, Sterling). In 1992 he served as interim pastor of St. James and Faith Churches, Forrester, until Harold Brown came as pastor. In 1992 the congregation gave him permission to participate in a Campus Ministry Project on Worship, Evangelism, and Hospitality - after several preparatory meetings, a five-day conference (Dec. 15-19) was held in Chicago, and he served as writer for the project.

On 12 August 1996 Pastor Schroeder announced to the Council his resignation as pastor effective November 18. On November 17 he preached his "farewell sermon," and on November 18 he and Sharon left Mt. Morris for Spring Hill, FL, where they took up residence in an active retirement community called Timber Pines. In his resignation announcement he said:

"I am presenting to the Council tonight my resignation as pastor of

Trinity Church, effective (I suggest) November 18. That's three months away.

"This does not come as the result of some incident or any unhappiness but rather from the prayerful perception that Trinity is ready for a new pastor and Sharon and I are ready to move toward retirement. We think this move can be good for Trinity as it looks to its life and future following the 150th anniversary, and we believe it can be good for us at this time in our lives.

"We will have been here for more than eight years. They have been very good years. We are honored and grateful to have spent them with you. Trinity has good years ahead of it, too - we have no doubt about that.

"Bishop Hasley has been informed of this move, and he and his staff...are ready to assist Trinity and the Council in making the transition to a new pastor. You will be able to continue Sunday services as usual, an interim pastor will be assigned, the regular ministry program will not have to be interrupted. And by next spring or summer you will, God willing, have a new pastor.

"Sharon and I plan to move to Florida, to a community north of Tampa called Spring Hill. Probably we will continue to do some work there, but first we will rest a while.

"We are glad for your friendship and love. There will be time later for thank yous and farewells.

"With love and gratitude, and faith and hope, Phil Schroeder, Pastor"
The service on November 17 was followed by a pot-luck dinner honoring and thanking the Schroeders and an afternoon open house to which the community was invited.

The following are highlights of the years 1988-1995:

1. ACCESS-PARKING PROJECT

The congregation had talked of the need for easier access in earlier years - no entrance into the church was without steps, and all but the south had two sets (outdoors and indoors). During the interim (e.g. 3/21/88) the Council had looked at information on ramps and other entries. On 10 October 1988 a Committee on Access and Air Conditioning was formed, consisting of John Condit (chair), Stan Asp, T. Castle, Don Cornelius, Wilda Lundin, and Robert Stouffer. Two months later Elwin Zumdahl was added to the committee, and in 1989 Sharon Asp and Donald Snodgrass were added.

With Council approval, the Committee engaged several architects (including one from Dixon and Larson & Darby from Rockford) to study the situation and propose options. The complications of the access problem became so great that the concern for air conditioning was dropped early and never returned to. But the access problem early revealed the inadequacy of the narthex-areas, and in June 1989 the Committee recommended to the Council that we "seriously consider the possible expansion of our narthex area, including access for the handicapped, along the lines proposed by Larson & Darby, Architects." Council referred it to the Stewardship Committee, which advised going slow. In August 1989 informational forums were held for the congregation. In September 1989 the Committee took its task to be to seek access and more gathering space (that is, narthex) but not for more than \$250,000 - previous estimates had been \$360,000-\$400,000.

In September 1989 Richard Caemmerer, Jr., a church art and architecture consultant from the Gruenewald Guild, Leavenworth, WA, came to town, studied the problem, and discouraged ideas of remodeling the front (west) entrance but instead encouraged efforts at the belltower entrance since it is closer to most activity areas. Caemmerer recommended

Architect David Schultz, from Barrington, and he was hired on 20 May 1990 (date of Congregation Meeting, written ballot vote was 80-36) "for preliminary services on entrance, gathering space, and accessibility studies, with long-range planning studies for offices, education space, sanctuary, and parking" at a maximum expense of \$9,900. A congregational survey was made in July and August (1990). The questionnaire was completed by approximately 70 people and revealed that a) most people wanted the facility to accommodate not only church functions but also community programs and events, b) the opportunity to greet each other and mingle comfortably before and after church was rated very important by 80%, c) the order of priority need in general (not including worship space, offices, and classrooms) was nursery, kitchen, fellowship hall, gathering space, meeting rooms, library, cry room, music room, and chapel, and d) specific priorities for now included access, parking, gathering space, offices, Sunday School space, worship area, rest rooms, air conditioning, meeting rooms, nursery, and rear entrance.

The Committee worked extensively with Architect Schultz in subsequent months, and on 9 June 1991 (after a Sunday service of worship) he presented to the congregation what had been presented to the Council in May: plans for entrance without steps at the belltower with elevator-accessibility to the main floor and downstairs, increased gathering space, accessible rest rooms, some new office space, a free-standing altar in the nave, relocation of the choir, and a cry room - estimated cost = \$520,000. This was the introduction of a plan, and no vote on it was sought at first. But in the coming weeks sharp differences surfaced in the congregation regarding how much money could be raised for such a project and how much it was worth to Trinity and its future. Several open forums were held. Many liked the idea, but a protesting petition was signed by 80+ members. The Access Committee, bruised but unbowed, went to work to develop a less-extensive and less-costly modification.

On 31 May 1992 the Committee and Council presented to the congregation a scaled-down alternative (#3D) with an estimated cost of \$313,000 (see June 1992 Tidings insert), and it was rejected by a vote of 85 to 73 (see July 1992 Tidings). It was a tense meeting, but prayers that it not lead to angry and unkind words were abundantly answered. Now the Access Committee felt it had done its job and was not set to continue. So in December, with leadership from Council member Robert Hopp, a new Access Committee (referred to as Access II) was appointed, consisting of Stan Asp, David Etnyre, Nancy Lenhart, Karen Urish, Robert Hopp, John Sundvall, Robt. A. Urish (chair), Warren Reckmeyer, Wayne Bearman, and Robert Newcomer. The attempt was to give those who had strongly dissented from previous plans an opportunity to propose their own solution to the access dilemma; a few members from the previous committee provided important continuity.

Access II worked strenuously during 1993, considering accessible entrances at both the north-east and south-east corners of the building and finally agreeing on the north-east. In December 1993 it submitted to the Council a proposal for access to the main level and the basement by elevator at the north-east corner. Council took several months to deliberate the proposal. See Tidings of January and March 1994.

Meanwhile, plans for a rest room renovation project were quickly agreed to and were intended to offer the congregation a tangible sign of movement on the larger problem. The plan was to combine the two extremely small rest rooms in the belltower entrance (sanctuary level) into a larger unisex rest room equipped (sink, stool, bars, etc.) for use by handicapped persons at a cost (for labor and materials) not to exceed \$8,000. The Council approved this plan on 13 September 1993. The congregation

approved it on September 19 by a vote of 98 to 10 (3 abstaining) and gave pledge indications of \$3,942. Marv Miller Construction completed the project in January and February 1994 at a cost of \$5,818, which was paid in full within the year.

In May 1994 the Council, liking all but the location of the Access II proposal, adapted it to the belltower entrance, and on 14 August 1994 the congregation accepted, by a vote of 74 to 16, a plan for a handicapped-accessible entrance to the church (main and lower levels) at the belltower entrance using a Cheney elevette (3'x5', with automated accordion door) at an estimated cost of \$77,700 and, by a vote of 62 to 27, a plan for a driveway from Lincoln to Brayton and parking along the east edge of the property at an estimated cost of \$35,000 - a combined estimated cost of \$112,700. The congregation rejected, by a vote of 24 to 61, the idea of taking the elevette also to the top floor of the building at an estimated additional cost of \$17,800. Pledges were to be sought to be fulfilled over the next 3-5 years and construction to begin when at least 75% of the costs had been secured by gifts and pledges. By November the needed gifts and pledges (75%) had been received.

In December 1994 preliminary work was done by Rockford Blacktop on the driveway and parking area, and this was completed with paving and striping in July 1995. It provided 21 parking spaces, including four for handicapped drivers. In January, Richard Prescott Construction, of Sterling, began the belltower access work, which was mostly completed by April. Carpet was added in the belltower narthex, hallway, and secretary's office. Landscaping was planned and executed by members (Norm Nelson, Floyd Markham, Floyd Drumheller) and provided by the Allen Knodel memorial funds. Automatic door opener was installed by members T. Castle and Wayne Bearman. Part of a pew in the nave was removed by Marv Miller Construction to provide wheelchair space. Architect Joseph Scott, who retired and relocated in Mt. Morris during 1994, was hired to provide detailed planning and supervision of the project. The entire project was dedicated on 10 September 1995. The final cost to the congregation was \$114,469. In addition to pledges and gifts, \$15,914 of the Wishard invested funds were used to complete the payments. Approximately \$24,000 in pledged funds were outstanding at the end of 1995.

The satisfaction and relief of the congregation is evident in Pastor Schroeder's comment in the 1995 annual report: "It is a joy at last to have an accessible church, one that was quite inaccessible by today's standards when it was built in 1952. And quite clearly the beauty of the church, inside and outside, has only been enhanced." Many asked, Why didn't we do this a long time ago?! It was the most difficult project undertaken by the congregation in the past forty years, and the blessing of God provided the indispensable help and hope each step of the way.

2. SMALL GROUP MINISTRY (CHRISTCARE GROUPS)

General discussion and visioning of Trinity's future led the Council to see the need for some small-group development within Trinity. This seemed needed to provide the kind of caring and sharing people look for in a church today and to facilitate the integration of newer members into the general membership and activity of the congregation. The Council began to discuss this seriously in November 1992. Stephen Ministries, of St. Louis, began development of a Small Group Ministry System at this time and invited congregations to become "pioneer-partners" over a three-year development period with an enrollment fee of \$2,500. On 8 March 1993, the Council decided to join as a pioneer-partner congregation, and Evelyn Lundgren provided an anonymous gift of the enrollment fee and some of the subsequent expenses. In April, the following Council members volunteered to be a leadership team with the Pastor: Vern Welp, Janet Swanson, Ruth

Park, and David Etnyre. In the Stephen Ministry system they were known as Equipppers. Stephen Ministries provided extensive (!) planning and training and recruitment and promotion materials as well as several essential workshops. On 21-23 October 1993, the five attended Equippper Training Workshop 1 (ETW-1) in Chicago and got their first sense of what they were in for and how to proceed. In November, 18 potential small group leaders were recruited and their training begun. Though some discontinued for various reasons, it was an exciting and enthusiastic time for all. By August 1994, ten remaining leader-candidates had been trained to the point where they could begin small groups, and in September and October five groups were formed (most served by two leaders) and soon thereafter a sixth. The first small group meeting was held on 18 October 1994 in the afternoon at Pinecrest Village; Sharon Schroeder was the leader. September 25 was Kickoff Sunday for Small Group Ministry at Trinity. On October 23 the ten small-group leaders were commissioned: Marge Diehl, Lynn Etnyre, Avi Folk, Nancy Lenhart, Lillian Long, Wilda Lundin, Robin Obendorf, Marilyn Pazera, Sharon Schroeder, and Salley Wessels.

On 10-12 November 1994, the Equippper team went to St. Louis for Equippper Training Workshop 2 (ETW-2). They were pleased with how well they had caught the vision during the past year and with the ongoing training of the leaders. In 1995 there were 58 members meeting in six groups approximately twice a month and a staff of nine leaders and four equipppers plus the Pastor. In September 1995, Pastor Schoeder alone attended the third and final ETW (ETW-3) in St. Louis and was commissioned as an equippper. The training of the leaders continued in 1996, and in March 1996 the training of a second class of ChristCare Group leaders (8 potential leaders) began. On 29 September 1996 they were commissioned: John Condit, Brenda Higley, Bill Horst, Audrey Kelly, John Kelly, Bill Nicholson, Steve Pearson, and Arlene Sangmeister.

The four main activities of the small groups were relationship building and Christian care, nurturing and equipping Bible study, prayer and worship, and Christian witness and service. In the course of Stephen Ministry's development of small group ministry, they chose for it the name of ChristCare Ministry.

3. NEW PARSONAGE

On 1 June 1991 the Schroeders moved into a new parsonage at 401 East Lincoln, five houses east of the church, with more than thirty people assisting. It had been the home for eight years of William and Marge Anderson (Bill was the local bank president, who retired and moved to Rockford) and before that of the Les Lundgrens (Evelyn remains an active member of Trinity). Since 1947, when it was moved from alongside the 1878/second church on Seminary Street, the parsonage had been at 103 West Center Street. When it was learned that the Anderson home would be for sale soon, the congregation began to express interest in making this move. On 21 October 1990, by a vote of 66 to 46, the Congregation agreed to "approve purchase of the home at 401 E. Lincoln to replace the present Parsonage and authorize a maximum difference of \$30,000 between the sale price of the present Parsonage and the purchase price of the Lincoln Street house." The cost of the new house (including some blinds, curtains, etc.) was \$83,500 (\$82,516 after fees), and the sale price obtained for the old house (sold to Doug and Ellen Bramm) was \$59,500 (\$55,416 after fees). The closings were accomplished by Hollie Guist, Jr., on May 29. Pieper invested funds were used to make this purchase. An open house was held at the old parsonage on May 19 and at the new parsonage on September 15, both hosted by Trinity Women.

This is Trinity's fourth parsonage. The first parsonage was

purchased in 1865 for \$900. It still stands at 203 East Center near Clark Street, next to where the first church stood. The second parsonage was built next to the second church at Seminary and Main in 1890 at a cost of \$1,200. In 1917 this was torn down and the third parsonage built on the site. This third parsonage was moved two blocks south and located at 103 W. Center in 1947 (previous accounts have mistakenly said 1952) to make room for the building of a new and larger church at Seminary and Main. It was home for the Stones, the Cooperriders, the Rybergs, the Swedbergs, and the Schroeders.

4. BIBLE & NEWSPAPER

In January 1990, Pastor Schroeder began a new Bible study class called Bible & Newspaper. Its name was based on the exhortation of Swiss Theologian Karl Barth that Christians should be people who read both Bible and newspaper...neither without the other. The 75-minute class continued to the end of Schroeder's pastorate. For three years it met both on Monday morning (10:30 AM) and on Tuesday evening (7:00 PM), but it became difficult to sustain the Tuesday evening class and it was reduced to the one meeting time (Monday morning) in January 1993. In September 1995 the meeting time was moved to 10:15-11:30 AM. Attendance averaged ca. 18-20. It was the most successful attempt at adult education in the Schroeder years. The following were studied:

beg. Jan. 1990 - 1 Corinthians (part), Romans (part), 1 Peter
June 1990 - Micah
Sept. 1990 - Psalms (a few)
Oct. 1990 - Philippians, 1 Thessalonians
Nov. 1990 - Proverbs
Feb. 1991 - St. Mark
Sept. 1991 - James
Oct. 1991 - Witnesses to the Word (Mission90 course)
April 1992 - Acts 1-12
Sept. 1992 - 1 & 2 Timothy
Jan. 1993 - For All The Saints (church history review)
May 1993 - Psalms (a few)
Sept. 1993 - Witnesses to the Word (repeat)
April 1994 - World Religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity)
Sept. 1994 - James
Oct. 1994 - Hebrews
Nov. 1994 - St. Luke
Sept. 1995 - Word Alive! (by John Schwarz)
Sept. 1996 - Wrestling With Angels - An Intimate Look at the Tough Questions of Life (6-part video from Zondervan)

5. SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS

For several years the suggestion was heard that Trinity should make an annual gift to the community. And this led to what came to be called the Sunday Afternoon Concerts. Now they are twice-a-year features, in February and September, on Sunday afternoons at 3 and followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall, prepared by the Worship Committee and served by Trinity Women. At first free-will offerings were received at these concerts, and from them the performers were given honoraria. But soon the offerings were discontinued and instead benefactors were solicited. Normally two performers are sought, and each is given \$100. So far gifts from benefactors have been adequate to fund the program. Planning these concerts has been the responsibility of the Worship Committee, mainly carried out by Carol Reckmeyer.

The schedule of Sunday Afternoon Concerts looks like this:

10 Sept. 1992	Robert Wolff, organist	86 people present
14 Feb. 1993	Musical Variety Show: Sylvia Saunders, Reckmeyers, Ellen Miller, Dan Swinson, Disciples Choir	120 people
26 Sept. 1993	Donna Martin, flutist, and Sax 4th Avenue	
13 Feb. 1994	Church of Brethren Senior Choir, St. James (Forreston) Handbell Choir, Nellie Winters & June Swinson, organist-pianist	
18 Sept. 1994	Siaba Family String Ensemble, and Pam Edwards, soloist	
12 Feb. 1995	Kim Stout, Gospel folk singer, and Nel Allison, clavinova	
24 Sept. 1995	Brycellyn and Brittany Woessner, harpists	
11 Feb. 1996	Sterling Symphony Brass and PAG Soulnotes	
22 Sept. 1996	Trinity and Disciples Church Choirs (including Disciples Saxophone Quartet) and Festival Combined Choir	142 attend

6. THREE BOOKLETS

Pastor Schroeder wrote three booklets to encourage and assist members in their planning. They were reviewed by the Council in the course of their development and approved for printing and distribution. They are not policy statements so much as guidelines and suggestions subject to revision as times and needs (and pastors) change. They require periodic review and updating.

The first two, originally approved and distributed in January 1994, were *Preparing For A Wedding* (11 pages, revised in June 1994) and *Preparing for Death and Funeral* (15 pages plus enclosure). The third, approved and distributed in September 1995, was *Remembering The Church When You Die - Special Giving Opportunities* (8 pages).

7. MISSION STATEMENTS

Two mission statements were developed by the Congregation Council.

The 1990 Statement says:

Trinity Church is a congregation of Christian people of all ages whose mission is to come together regularly to worship and share in God's love, extend opportunities for all to grow and to serve, develop leadership, provide needed services, continue to support both local and outside missions, strive to develop a greater outreach into our community, exhibit more liveliness, and maintain a spirit of health and hope in our members and in our church structures so that, with gratitude and respect for the noble traditions of our past, we may build on those traditions and serve the continuing and developing needs (especially spiritual) of our people, families, and community.

The 1994 Statement says more briefly:

Trinity Church is a congregation of Christian people committed to worshipping God, serving others, and supporting one another. We strive for excellence, inclusiveness, and generosity. We stay open to where God may lead us in our understanding and our service.

8. THIRD SUNDAY COMMUNION

In 1994 the *Hymnal Supplement 1991* (GIA Publications, Chicago) was purchased in sufficient quantity for distribution in the pews with the memorial funds of Harold and Lena Thomas, William Snodgrass, and Reta Saunders. It contains "an alternate eucharistic setting" by Marty Haugen, called "Now the Feast and Celebration," as well as psalms and hymns numbered from 701 to 839.

In March 1994 the Council asked that this Hymnal Supplement and alternate setting of holy communion be used at the 8 AM service on the first Sunday, May through September (later expanded to include October), and also in the third Sunday services (without holy communion). The book and the setting were greatly liked.

In September 1994 the Council moved to provide holy communion also on the third Sunday of each month, beginning 15 January 1995, with the use of the Haugen liturgy. In 1995 and 1996 it was set for use again at the 8 AM services on the first Sunday of May through October.

Thus, since January 1995 holy communion has been celebrated on first and third Sundays at 9:30 AM as well as at the 8 AM services (first Sunday only) of May through September/October (Hymnal Supplement has been used at 8 AM first-Sunday services since 1994). Normally holy communion is distributed at the altar on the first Sunday and at the foot of the chancel steps on the third Sunday. Three factors motivated this change: a number of formerly Roman Catholic people joined the congregation, and they had a more frequent communion than once a month in their background; some desired a more frequent communion in case they missed church on the first Sunday; and our church (ELCA) urges a more frequent celebration of holy communion.

Worship Committee and Council several times tried to plan a second weekly service to offer more variety of time and liturgy, but the attempts always foundered on a lack of consensus about the second time: Sunday morning earlier, Saturday evening, Thursday evening, Monday evening.

In 1996, a third-Sunday early service (8 AM) without communion was offered on a trial basis, June through October (not in May due to Music Sunday), in large part to offer an alternative to those few who disliked the Haugen liturgy used at the regular 9:30 service.

9. NEW CONSTITUTION

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed late in 1987 from what had been the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), the American Lutheran Church (ALC), and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC). As a congregation of the ELCA, Trinity wanted to bring its constitution into line with this new church body. So in October 1988 a Committee on the New Constitution was appointed: Robert A. Urish (chair), T. Castle, Wilma Colvin, Julie Robinson, and Wayne Schelling. Using a Model Constitution offered by the ELCA as its guide, the committee re-wrote Trinity's Constitution, By-Laws, and Continuing Resolutions (Policies) largely in accord with its previous documents. Some Standing Committees received new names: Worship, Education, Outreach, Social Ministry, Youth, Stewardship, Ushering, Property, and Memorial. The Congregation Council continues to consist, besides the Pastor, of twelve members who are ineligible for re-election for three years after serving full three-year terms. The Pastor is ex officio president of Congregation and Council. Annual Congregation Meetings are to be held in January. Voting members must have communed and contributed during the current or preceding year. Continuing Resolutions, or Policies, are included for Building and Equipment Use, Undesignated Bequests, Sick and Bereavement Leave, Vacations, Guest Pastors, Memorial Fund, and the L.C. Lundgren Memorial Fund for Seminary Student Scholarships.

The new Constitution, etc. was presented to the Council on 12 December 1988 and was adopted by the Congregation at its Annual Meeting on 22 January 1989. Approval by the Synod was reported in March 1990.

In January 1992 (ratified in January 1993) minor changes were approved...and subsequently (March 14) approved by Synod. The Continuing Resolutions require an annual review, and from time to time changes have been made in them.

10. COMMITTEES

In addition to the regular standing committees, the following committees were appointed.

- A. Pastoral Search Committee - 1987-1988, see above
- B. Committee on Access and Air Conditioning - 10/88
Access II - 12/92 - see above
- C. Committee on the New Constitution - 10/88
- D. Banner Committee - 1988
Sharon Asp, Nancy Lenhart, Sharon Schroeder
8 new banners were made in 1989
- E. Long-Range Planning Committee - appointed 10/89 without term
Ron & Nancy Lenhart, Rob & Karen Urish, Pastor (and Sharon)
began meeting 11/89, 4-5 times a year thereafter
usually Sundays, 6 PM, with dinner, at members' houses
looking especially to celebration of 150th anniversary
- F. Church Records Committee - 9/89
Ruth Park and Wilma Colvin
gathered basic information on each member for church records
carried on through 1990
- G. Wellness Committee
10/88 Sharon Schroeder and Linda Melvin attended Congregation
Wellness and Lifestyle Management Seminar - this led to
Wellness Committee
1/21/89 Wellness Seminar, Rockford - attended by Sharon Schroeder,
Linda Melvin, Millie Knodle, and Crete LeFevre
original committee = Millie Knodle, Elaine Blume, Crete LeFevre,
Linda Melvin, Sharon Schroeder
wellness/fitness program in operation by 4/89
blood pressure checks began in 1989, have been administered monthly
after service on first Sunday (at first on last Sunday) in
Library by trained staff; records kept by Crete LeFevre
6/90 produced guide for ushers regarding medical emergencies
later acquired first aid kits, stretcher
participated in Parish Nurse discussions
see 1995 annual report for further information
- H. Publicity Committee
Carol Ubben, Helen Hollinger, Sandra Stengel, Pat Snodgrass
1989 - produced church brochure, information card, letterhead
1989-1990 - produced 1991 Pictorial Directory
not active after 1991
- I. Staff Support Committee - appointed 2/89, met first 4/3/89

4/89	1990	1991	
Charles Diehl	Charles Diehl	Dennis Hoffmeister	
LeRoy Dohlen	LeRoy Dohlen	LeRoy Dohlen	
Shari Ghibellini	Shari Ghibellini	Shari Ghibellini	
Sandra Stengel	Sandra Stengel	Sandra Stengel	
Karen Urish	Karen Urish	Janet Swanson	
Warren Long	Donald Horst	Donald Horst	
1992	1993	1994	1995
Dennis Hoffmeister	Dennis Hoffmeister	Same	Same
Bruce Obendorf	Bruce Obendorf		
Shari Ghibellini	Marcia Mongan		
Marilyn Pazera	Marilyn Pazera	1996	
Janet Swanson	Avi Folk	John Condit	Nancy Nelson
Donald Horst	Donald Horst	Charles Diehl	Lois Steffen
		Bill Horst	Janet Swanson

11. STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Early on in this decade the stained glass windows, particularly in the nave, needed repair. There was some bulging and cracking due to seasonal expansion, and some braces broke loose. At first a company in Oregon was doing repairs one window at a time - 1989, one @ \$310; 1990, \$390.

In 1990, the Council had the windows inspected by several stained glass window firms from Minnesota and chose Conway Universal Studios, Winona, Minnesota (a recommendation of Richard Caemmerer, who earlier inspected them), to repair them for \$7,800. At a special meeting of the Congregation on 9 June 1991 (the same as David Schultz's access presentation), the Congregation approved the contract. In June and July, the panels needing repair (the two ventilator panels and the top panel of the eight nave windows) were removed, taken to Minnesota for repair (releading, recementing, rebracing), then returned and reinstalled, and all the windows were examined on site. All were given a silicone bed to allow for contraction and expansion without cracking. Vertical braces were used to support the panels, and all braces were checked. A Chapel panel was removed and repaired, too. The installation was guaranteed for 15 years to be free from defect of material and workmanship. (Conway Universal Studios, Inc., 503 Center Street, P.O. Box 4, Winona, MN 55987, 507/452-9209, cf. Larry Conway)

Larry Conway expressed his appreciation of the windows: "You have some beautiful stained glass windows in the church. The chancel window is a very beautiful piece of art. As a visitor looking at it I felt that the center panel was obstructed by the view (sic) by the top of the reredos, or chancel furnishing. I feel that if the top section was cut off, you would get a much more beautiful view of the stained glass that you have. To replace that window at today's costs (June 1990), even a conservative figure would be \$35,000 and \$40,000. (The eight windows in the nave are each) "worth perhaps \$5,000 or \$6,000 if you were to replace them today, so as you can see you have a large investment to protect. Your church is in very fine condition, a tribute to the people who manage and take care of the building."

Pastor Schroeder commented in the newsletter (7/91): "The beauty of a church is its people. If the people are not beautiful, to one another and to visitors, no stained glass windows can cover that. If the people are beautiful, the stained glass windows provide an appropriate setting for their gathering."

12. MIDDLEKAUFF BEQUEST

On 12 June 1995, Trinity received a check for \$179,062 from the estate of Merritt H. Middlekauff, who died on 18 November 1959. In accordance with Trinity's policy on undesignated bequests, 65% (\$116,390) was to be invested in the permanent endowment fund, 25% (\$44,766) was to be placed in a capital improvement account, and 10% (\$17,906) was to be given to a wider ministry of the Synod or national church or one or more of its agencies or institutions.

At a special Congregation Meeting on 17 September 1995 (81 voters present), it was agreed that the 10% gift be sent to the Freedom Tree Village Campaign of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, in Oregon, IL, with more specific designation to be determined as the project nears completion. It was also decided that money from the capital improvement account be used 1) to enclose the east basement entry (estimate = \$6,300; actual cost = \$6,883) and 2) to replace the front circle drive (widening it from 12' to 14') and the sidewalk all around the church (estimate =

\$29,000; actual cost = \$28,250). These projects were completed in 1995, Randy Wagner Construction, Oregon, completing the first and Colin Greenfield Construction, Baileyville, completing the second. This meeting of the congregation also adopted the following resolution of thanks: "Trinity Congregation receives the Middlekauff bequest of \$179,062 with humble gratitude to God, in grateful memory of Merritt Middlekauff, and with the prayerful intention to use it to the glory of God and in the service of God's people in accord with the policy of the church and the wish of the donor." This bequest raised Trinity's endowment fund to \$121,351 (end of 1995).

In addition to the larger check, Trinity earlier received from the estate checks of \$725.89 and \$7,846.82. The first was reimbursement of the Illinois Inheritance Tax paid as a loan by the church on 30 September 1960, and the second was interest (7%) on that loan set by the court. These monies have been set aside by the Council to help meet expenses of the anniversary year celebration.

Insurance and the sale of his home at the time of his death in 1959 produced also an earlier bequest of \$13,500, which was given to Carthage College and the new Pinecrest Manor.

Merritt Middlekauff was born on 10 December 1888 and died of coronary occlusion on 18 November 1959. He was confirmed at First (Trinity) on 24 January 1915. He was married to Elverna, who was born on 2 October 1889 and died on 25 April 1958. She was received into membership by "renewal" on the same date as her husband's confirmation.

Merritt was the oldest child of Austin and Mary Catherine (Moats) Middlekauff and the brother of Olive Marie Smith (mother of Jean Dusing, a current member) and Mable Olson (mother of the late Rogene Sweet, not a member). Elverna was a sister of Clarence Bearman, who died in March 1996.

Merritt lived on the family farm on Canada Road south of Mt. Morris until the later years, when he and Vernie moved to 213 W. Main. It was the farm that was bequeathed (50-50) to Trinity and to the (143) nurses at KSB Hospital, in Dixon. The farm was not to be sold until Elmer and Alice Fulton, tenants, had finished living there. It was sold on 28 February 1995, and the final hearing on the will was held on 23 May 1995.

13. 145th ANNIVERSARY

On 29 September 1991, Trinity celebrated its 145th anniversary. The Long Range Planning Committee recommended, and the Council approved, a one-Sunday, low-key celebration. Former Pastor (1962-70) Ralph Ryberg, Janesville, WI, returned to serve as preacher for the day, and both choirs sang. The service of worship was followed by an abbreviated Sunday School, a pot-luck dinner at noon in the Fellowship Hall (Trinity Women serving as hosts), and the chancel performance at 1 PM by the Unicorn Theater Company, Dixon, of C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe." The emphases of the celebration were tradition, growth, and unity. The theme, depicted on a specially-printed bookmark, was "Praise With Us The God Of Grace." Thankoffering gifts were given to three nearby agencies - the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (a washer), Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (one-way mirror for training observation room), and Pinecrest Manor (wireless microphone for Chapel and Activities Room). Planning committee for the celebration included Carole Wyatt (chair), Priscilla Osborne, and Corey Kreider (youth). "Trinity had a rather elaborate celebration of its 140th anniversary, and of course we look forward to celebrating the 150th in 1996, so the instructions for this one were that it be relatively modest and low-key," said Carole Wyatt.

14. 40th ANNIVERSARY OF TRINITY'S THIRD CHURCH

Trinity's present church building was dedicated on 7 September 1952. The 40th anniversary was observed in a regular service of worship on 6 September 1992. Pastor Schroeder preached that day on "Why Do People Build Churches?" A reception on the church lawn was hosted by Robert and Eleanor Stouffer and Robert and Chris Hopp, coordinators of the event, who also set up historical displays.

In his sermon Pastor Schroeder said:

"The way to celebrate an anniversary, it seems to me, is to do whatever the anniversary is about - if it is a birthday, celebrate your birth just by being beautifully and wonderfully alive; if it is a wedding anniversary, look for a way to be beautifully and wonderfully married or to remember with love and thanks the days when you were; and if it is the anniversary of a church, be church and do church. The best way we can celebrate the 40th anniversary of this church today, I think, is to use it according to the purpose for which it was built. And so we gather in this place today to celebrate the holy communion.... The main focus of this room is the altar, the permanent symbol and reminder of God's promise to dwell among us and to bless us.... Today we gather not just in these comfortable pews, but we gather around this beautiful and highly significant altar. When we do that, we say we want to be God's people and we want God to be our God - and that's why people build churches...so that their relationship with God can be identified, clarified, and purified in this way....

"It's quite a church they built for us 40 years ago. Its monetary value has nearly tripled - beyond that, it is fairly unchanged. We love its windows, its organ, its wood. We wish it were better lighted, and we wish it were more easily accessible - we probably will not do our duty to the next two generations, do you think, if we leave it as it is. It was built at a different time in the history of this village, a time of expansion and growth. And some of you remember Sunday services when the nave and balcony were regularly filled with members. But these 40 years since 1952 have changed Mt. Morris, and so understandably they have changed Trinity. But I don't sense that anyone comes today to mourn what has changed so much as to celebrate what we have here, to receive it once again with great gratitude - gratitude to forefathers and foremothers of half a century ago and especially gratitude to eternal God for the way he continues to use this place to guide and bless us on our way. We continue to bring our children here to be baptized into Jesus, we continue to bring coffins here to celebrate the second baptism of those who die, and we continue to kneel at the altar so that God can make us again and anew people of his grace and people of his purpose....

"This is why people build churches: to remember God's name in the midst of all our secularity, to hear God's hard but healing word, and to help one another run the race of baptism-life with perseverance. These are very adequate reasons, don't you agree? We give thanks today for this good church!"

15. 150th ANNIVERSARY PLANS

Trinity began to anticipate its 150th anniversary in 1996 when it appointed a Long Range Planning Committee, consisting of Ron and Nancy Lenhart and Rob and Karen Urish and the Pastor, in 1989. This committee put its ideas together in 1994 in a list of 26 suggestions for 150th anniversary planning. In September 1994 Ron and Nancy Lenhart were appointed by the Council to chair the 150th Anniversary Committee, and they secured the other members of the committee: Robert & Eleanor Stouffer, history (soon replaced by Alice Crowell); John & Mary Lee Condit, quarterly and monthly celebrations; Kelly Kirk (Handschuh),

displays and publicity; Marge and Barb Diehl, food; and Hollie Guist, Jr., funds and thankoffering. At the 1995 annual meeting of the congregation, the following three goals were adopted: 1) plan year-long celebration (four major quarterly celebrations and something at least monthly) to call to mind the blessing of God on Trinity for 150 years, 2) gather and publish as complete a history of the church as possible, and 3) gather an appropriate and generous thankoffering for designated purposes.

The January 1996 newsletter announced and described the quarterly and monthly celebrations planned. Kickoff Sunday was set for January 14, when Bishop Ronald Hasley would be present to preach and meet with the Sunday School. On April 14, the Carthage College Chamber Singers were scheduled to come for the service and for dinner. On July 7, the guest preachers were to be Richard and Joel Swedberg (former pastor and son of the congregation), and the entire Swedberg family was invited for a pig roast and picnic on the church lawn. The Finale was set for October 13, but the Bishop of the ELCA, who was scheduled to come, declined the invitation. The Finale was moved to Nov. 3, and Jack Swanson (Trinity member and director of LOMC) was scheduled to preach. Others scheduled to return included Richard Horst (Feb. 11), Robert Van de Ven (April 28), Robert Ziegfeld (May 26), James Urish (June 9), Paul Park (June 23), Dolores Dohlen Stykel and Lois Cooperrider (Nov. 10), and Ralph Ryberg (Dec. 8). Organists scheduled to return included Christy Horst Lewis (Feb. 11), Carol Reckmeyer (April 28), Sarah Reckmeyer (May 26), Pam Wrasse (June 9), Claudia Park Guenther (June 23), Marcia Diehl Sweeney (August 11), Phyllis Horst Gates (Oct. 13), and Arlene Dohlen (Nov. 10). Meals are scheduled to follow each of the quarterly celebrations.

Alice Crowell and Pastor Schroeder spent the years leading up to the anniversary searching for historical records and studying them and writing the history of the congregation in its various facets. In 1990 and 1991 Alice attended the Congregational Heritage Workshop at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. She has concentrated her research and writing on the auxiliaries and organizations of the church. Pastor Schroeder has studied the history of the pastorates as these can be recovered especially from the recorded minutes and the annual reports. Since August 1995 the history of the congregation has been written in the monthly newsletter decade by decade; the fifteenth decade is scheduled to appear in October 1996. What further pulling together and publishing of the history is desirable remains to be decided. Since 1980, the historical records of the church have been preserved in the Regional History Library of the Northern Illinois University (see Swedberg notes). As a result of this research and writing, these archives have been updated through 1995.

For its thankoffering the congregation has set out three baskets, to which members are invited to contribute: the worldwide mission basket - support of seminary students in our sister Synod, the Arusha Diocese of Tanzania; the regional mission basket - support of a nearby new mission, Christ Lutheran Church, Rockford; and the local mission basket - gifts designated for identified needs.

For the anniversary, Trinity member and local artist Fran Swarbrick completed sketches of Trinity's three churches (1856, 1878, 1952), which have been beautifully framed and hung in the Chapel. From these, note cards, bookmarks, and pictorial directory cover also have been made. Smaller framed sets of the three sketches have been prepared as gifts to honored guests and to long-time members of the congregation who remain to celebrate this milestone.

Jack and Janet Swanson gave a gift (\$1,000) enabling the commissioning of an anniversary hymn, "God Of All People." Herbert Brokering, Minneapolis, wrote the words, and Rusty Edwards, Rockford, wrote the music. The hymn is being sung at each of the quarterly

celebrations and on other occasions.

The 1996 Annual Report contains a two-page summary of the 150th anniversary celebration on pages 7-8. The monthly newsletters of 1996 contain extensive reports on each of the celebrations (quarterly and monthly).

16. TWO RETIREMENTS

Two significant retirements marked these years.

a. On 30 June 1990, Ruth Myers retired as church secretary after serving for 27 years (as long as Nelson Mandela was in prison). The congregation honored and thanked her on July 1 both in the service, at which Pastor Richard Swedberg preached, and at a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Her "secretaryship" extended to four pastorates (Schroeder, Swedberg, Ryberg, Cooperrider). Her cheery greeting welcomed thousands of people to Trinity, on the phone and in person. She was replaced by Pam Wrasse as secretary.

b. On 30 May 1993, Carol Reckmeyer resigned as choir director and on July 25 as organist. She had been regular organist since September 1965 (just short of 28 years) and an assistant organist since 1962. She was thanked and honored on Sunday, September 26, at the regular service, in which she played the organ, and at the Coffee Hour following in honor of Carol's and Warren's many years of service to Trinity. They have made generous and outstanding contributions to the music program of the church and also of the community. They have remained in the community, and Carol is a frequent substitute organist. She was followed as organist by Cheryl Christians. The choir director's position was unfilled for a year, then (1994-1995) Fran Swarbrick served in a volunteer capacity, and then (in 1995) Donna Meyer took up the position.

Warren Reckmeyer was celebrated in Mt. Morris in 1996 when his fortieth year as director of the Kable Concert Band coincided with the 100th anniversary (1896-1996) of the Band. Charles H. Canode and Harry G. Kable organized the Band in 1896-1897.

17. MISSION90

In 1990, the ELCA began a series of programs meant to revitalize congregations in a variety of ways. Trinity appointed a committee, which met first on 20 August 1990 at the Lenharts, to study and plan the implementation of these programs: Nancy Lenhart (chair), Don Cornelius, Barb Diehl, Doreen Doyle, Robin Obendorf, and Doug Raney.

The first program produced was a series of six videotapes written and hosted by Bishop Herbert Chilstrom entitled "What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?" In September 1990 these were first used in an Adult Membership Class (or New Member Class), and they have been regularly used that way ever since (through 1996). In addition, they were used in the Midweek Lenten Services of 1991.

The second program was New Venture in Bible Reading, a year-long daily Bible reading program at three levels presented in booklet form (and new booklets were produced also in 1991 and 1992, making three booklets available in the end). Trinity introduced these opportunities in December of 1990, 1991, and 1992, and a significant number of people (nearly fifty the first year) participated in the program. Opportunity to discuss the experience was provided at several Adult Forums the first year.

The third program was a Bible study and witnessing program called "Witnesses to the Word," a 20-session course. This course was offered through the Bible & Newspaper class twice, first October 1991 to March 1992 and again September 1993 to February 1994.

The fourth program was a stewardship program called "Tithing As A Way of Life." With use of videotape, Bible study, handouts, and commitment

cards and a series of personal invitations, this program was presented through a series of monthly dessert meetings in May through November 1992 - third Monday evenings, 6:30-8:00 PM, with dessert by Helen Borneman. Attendance ranged from 6-15 for these seven meetings, which were interesting and challenging and friendly.

The environment program of Mission90 was not implemented. However, in September 1996 the mission partnership program was implemented when Trinity decided to become a mission partner of Christ Lutheran Church, Rockford.

18. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

When it was discovered that the state had no record of Trinity's incorporation (annual papers or reports had not been filed), the congregation moved with speed to incorporate. The date of incorporation is 20 October 1993 (file no. 5752-316-6), and the paper was stamped by the Ogle County Clerk Recorder on 28 October 1993. Annual reports (not financial - see below) were filed with the state on 3 September 1994 and 5 September 1995 and 26 August 1996.

On 19 January 1994 Trinity was declared a religious organization exempt from filing annual financial reports under the Charitable Trust and Solicitation Acts. The registration number is CO # 01-026,140.

Tax exemption from the Illinois Department of Revenue was obtained earlier, effective 12-27-91 through 1-1-97. The tax exempt number is E9983-9652-02. On 20 September 1996 a new tax exemption letter was received; it expires on 1 October 2001. The tax exempt number remains the same, the last two figures (not part of the tax exempt number) indicating the number of exemptions that have been filed: E9983-9652-03. The ELCA Group Exemption number is 9386.

19. COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS

In September 1990, Trinity established the position of Coordinator of Volunteers, at first temporarily and then to continue indefinitely. Sharon Wallace has served in this capacity since September 1990. She is paid a stipend (not a salary) which has remained the same: \$5/hour, 10 hours/week, for 40 weeks/year = \$2,000 annually. The coordinator is responsible to the Pastor, as are all staff persons. She has handled many matters as they arose and required attention, such as scheduling transportation to and from the hospital, working with people in emergency welfare situations, and delivering Christmas presents. Basically, the purpose of the position is to enable and motivate more members to serve as volunteers, to facilitate members' identification and recruitment and support in volunteer ministry, and to further Trinity's mission through volunteer ministry. Six responsibilities are:

- 1) to maintain a file of members' interests, skills, and strengths,
- 2) to match people with certain skills and interests to jobs that need to be done,
- 3) to support volunteers with encouragement, supervision, and recognition,
- 4) to contact new members within one month to learn their skills and interests and to help integrate them into the life of the congregation,
- 5) to be a resource person for committees and the congregation, and
- 6) to be familiar with similar positions in other congregations and relevant literature.

The Sharon Wallace who has served as coordinator of volunteers is a different Sharon Wallace from the one mentioned in earlier years especially in connection with the choir program. That Sharon Wallace was Mrs. Gerald Wallace (no longer a Trinity member, she lives in Wisconsin). This Sharon Wallace is Mrs. Robert Wallace.

20. SHERWOOD NELSON MEMORIAL GIFT

Sherwood Nelson (11/22/31-6/28/90) was a son of Trinity and pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, Chicago/Englewood, from 1967-1990. Trinity long supported him through its annual Benefit Pancake Suppers in February (beginning 1972), gifts of clothing, etc. The women of the congregations often visited one another for a day; this tradition was renewed on 17 August 1996, when women from Bethel visited Trinity for a Saturday picnic lunch (outside) and meeting (in Fellowship Hall). The Bethel Choir, directed by Pat Schnulle Nelson, sang at Trinity on 19 November 1989. When Sherwood died unexpectedly on 28 June 1990, Trinity looked for a way to commemorate him and devised the Sherwood Nelson Memorial Gift (Fund) of \$1,000 to be given to Bethel annually according to four provisions:

1. Trinity Church, Mt. Morris, will provide an annual gift in memory of Sherwood Nelson to Bethel Lutheran Church of Englewood, Chicago, in the amount of \$1,000...beginning in 1991 and continuing until further notice.

2. Of the \$1,000, \$700 is to be used for Bethel's athletic program expenses (youth teams), and \$300 is to be used for secondary education purposes (providing book cost or tuition assistance or the like to a member or members of Bethel enrolled in institutions of secondary education).

3. If the secondary education money goes undistributed for a year or more, it may accumulate until the time when it can be used for its stated purpose.

4. Bethel Church will administer these funds. Trinity Church requests only a brief statement each year of how the funds were used. (letter of 3/11/91)

The gift was established in August 1990 and initiated in April 1991 and was sent annually until 1995, when no report of the previous year was received, even after phone calls requesting it. The 1995 gift was placed in a non-budget account to be available for later dispersal. Bethel's new pastor, Beverly Conway, requested a copy of the letter of agreement in September 1996.

21. HARRY AND RUTH ALLEN

On 22 October 1988 Harry R. Allen, 88, Shawnee Mission, KS, died in Kansas City, MO. His funeral was held on October 26, 10 AM, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO, of which he was pastor emeritus, having been pastor from 1951 to 1970 and having been a Lutheran pastor for 62 years. A graveside service and burial was held at Oakwood Cemetery, Mt. Morris, on October 27 at 2 PM, Pastor Phil Schroeder officiating. Harry Allen was the first "son" of the congregation, ordained in 1926, born in Mt. Morris on 27 May 1900.

On 24 September 1990 Ruth Kabele Allen, 87, died in Merriam, KS. She was the wife of Harry Allen and the daughter of Pastor George Kabele, born in Chicago on 20 October 1902. A graveside service and burial was held at Oakwood Cemetery, Mt. Morris, on October 1 at 2 PM, Pastor Phil Schroeder officiating.

See Pastor's "People" file for obituaries.

22. REPORTS

Through the years of development, it has become easier to gather the story of the congregation's life. The following documents usually provide all the information necessary: the annual report, the monthly newsletters, the Council packets, and the service folders. Files of these are being kept both in the church office and in the Regional History Library at the Northern Illinois University Library, in DeKalb.

STATISTICS

	12/87	12/88	12/89	12/90	12/91	12/92	12/93	12/94	12/95
Baptized	650	637	650	645	660	668	651	647	652
Confirmed	538	528	533	536	547	540	526	528	528
Associate				5	11	8	11	11	7
Communing	343	322	343	347	351	360	331	337	311
Conf.	325	309	330	337	341	343	315	321	296
Pre-Conf.	18	13	13	10	10	17	16	16	15
Active	405	395	383	437	449	469	437	410	434?
Avg.Ch.Att.	176	182	207	206	208	210	193	187	182
Funerals		20	12	13	7	15	14	10	14
(mem/non-m)		16/4	8/4	11/2	3/5	11/4	9/5	7/3	9/5
Baptisms		10	10	4	11	10	5	7	8
adults			2			1		2	1
Aff. of Bapt.		8	13	20	11	15	6	15	10
Confirmation			3	9	7	3	3	6	2
First Communion			4	3	9	4	5	9	2
Weddings		2	9	3	4	2	3	7	7
Transfers to		4	2	13	17	13	5	1	5
Transfers from		7	3	8	10	11	17	5	2
Released/Removed		6	1	25	13	6	3	8	9
SCS (enrollment)		124	102	95					
(average attend.)		67	80	66		60		38	37
God & Country Awards								5	
Small Group Leaders commissioned								10	
Equippers commissioned								4	

COUNCIL

1988	Linda Melvin 1	John Condit 7	Shirley Hoffmeister 4
	Don Dusing 9	Ole Hiteman 3	Ronald Lenhart VP 10
	Scott Diehl 3	Cath. Tuttle Sec 5	Bruce Obendorf Tr 4
	Norm Nelson 8	Wendell Voss 2	Warren Reckmeyer 2
1989	Priscilla Osborne 7	Linda Melvin 1	John Condir 2
	Neil Minnis 3	Don Dusing 9	Ole Hiteman 3
	Merville Horst 2	Scott Diehl Tr 2	Catheryn Tuttle Sec 5
	Phil Wessels VP 10	Norm Nelson 8	Wendell Voss 4
1990	Hollie Guist VP 10	Priscilla Osborne 7	Linda Melvin 1
	Nancy Lenhart Sec	Neil Minnis 8	Don Dusing 9
	Robert Stouffer 5	Merville Horst 2	Scott Diehl Tr 4
	Don Snodgrass 2	Phil Wessels 3	Norm Nelson 8
1991	Charles Diehl VP 10	Hollie Guist Tr 4	Priscilla Osborne 7
	Wayne Bearman 2	Nancy Lenhart Sec	Neil Minnis 8
	Karen Urish 8	Robt. Stouffer 5	Merville Horst 9
	Mary Jane Warkins 1	Don Snodgrass	Phil Wessels 3
		Doug Raney (replaced Snodgrass)	
1992	Carole Wyatt 1	Charles Diehl VP/Tr4	Hollie Guist VP 10
	Robert Hopp 2	Wayne Bearman 2	Nancy Lenhart Sec
	David Etnyre 4	Karen Urish 9	Robert Stouffer 5

Stan Asp 8 Mary Jane Warkins 7 Doug Raney 3
 (Guist replaced Diehl as VP in Feb. for health reasons)

1993	Ruth Park Sec. 9 Janet Swanson 5 Wm. Horst 4 Vern Welp 8	Carole Wyatt 1 Robert Hopp 2 David Etnyre VP 10 Stan Asp 8	Charles Diehl 3 Wayne Bearman 2 Karen Urish Tr Mary Jane Warkins 7
1994	Louise Suttman Tr 4 Brenda Higley 1 Wm. Nicholson 8 Tony Ayala 1 Charles Diehl 1 (Sept. - Ayala resigned, Diehl appointed)	Ruth Park Sec 9 Janet Swanson 5 Wm. Horst 7 Vern Welp 8	Carole Wyatt 1 Robert Hopp 2 David Etnyre VP 10 Stan Asp 2
1995	Marilyn Pazera 1 Scott Diehl 3 Sandra Stengel 5 Ron Kunzelman 9	Louise Suttman Tr 4 Brenda Higley 8 Wm. Nicholson 2 Robt. LeFevre 2	Ruth Park Sec 1 Janet Swanson 5 Wm. Horst 7 Vern Welp VP 10
1996	Millie Knodle 5 Steve Pearson 7 Kevin Nelson 3 Warren Reckmeyer 9	Marilyn Pazera 1 Scott Diehl VP 10 Sandra Stengel Sec 5 Ron Kuntzelman 9	Louise Suttman Tr 4 Brenda Higley 8 Wm. Nicholson 2 Robert LeFevre 2

Code: 1 Education (1988 Learning)
 2 Property (1988 Church Property)
 3 Outreach (1988 Witness)
 4 Stewardship (1988 Support)
 5 Social Ministry (1988 Service)
 6
 7 Worship (1988 Worship & Music)
 8 Youth
 9 Ushering
 10 Memorial Fund

In the early years the Council met before its January meeting at a local restaurant (e.g. Beaky's) for dinner in honor of its retiring members and as a gift to them. One year Council had Bob Stouffer prepare a swiss steak dinner for this occasion. Then it was left to cake and/or ice cream following the meeting to celebrate those retiring. In 1995 the men of the Council provided refreshments following the meeting. In 1996 the retiring members hosted the meal given at the Welps' for the rest of Council - a return to the older custom of the retiring members giving a gift to the remaining members.

The Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) has been a regular and increasing feature of Council life since 1989 and before. In 1995 nearly the entire Council attended, and again in 1996.

Council retreats (whole day 9-3 or half day 8-12) were held in 1990, 1991 (LOMC, Antti Lepisto, leader), 17 April 1993 (LOMC), 6 December 1993 (Pinecrest, discussing access, stress management, and building an effective council), 26 February 1994 (Pinecrest), 1 April 1995 (Pinecrest), and 1 June 1996 (Pinecrest). The Executive Committee usually has set the agenda in consultation with the Council.

Synod Assembly (Augustana College, Rock Island) delegates have been:
 1988 - Jeanne Nicholson, Robert & Eleanor Stouffer
 1989 - Chris Hopp, Merville Horst, Sandra Stengel
 1990 - Doug Raney, Mary Louise Stengel
 1991 - Millie Knodle, Eric Sundvall

1992 - John Sundvall, Janet Swanson
1993 - David & Lynn Etnyre
1994 - William Horst, Sandra Stengel
1995 - William Horst, Ruth Park
1996 - Marilyn Pazera, Steve Pearson

NOTE: These historical notes, covering the first 150 years of Trinity's history, were made in 1995-1996 by Pastor Phil Schroeder from the church's records and minutes and earlier historical accounts. Other potential sources that have not been thoroughly studied are the monthly newsletters and the weekly service folders. These, of course, are not available for the early years, and for the latter years primarily the minutes and the annual reports were studied carefully. It is requested that no extensive printed use be made of these notes or their information without the courtesy of a review by their author.