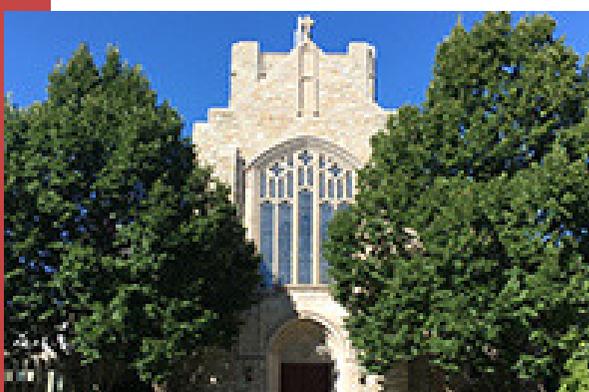


Congregation Anniversaries



**Our Saviour's
Lutheran Church
Minneapolis
150 Years**

www.oursavioursmpls.org



**Bethlehem
Lutheran Church
Twin Cities
Minneapolis
125 Years**

www.bethlehem-church.org



**Central
Lutheran Church
Minneapolis
100 Years**

www.centralmpls.org



**Westwood
Lutheran Church
St. Louis Park
75 Years**

www.westwoodlutheran.org

Congregation stories below



**Minneapolis
Area Synod**

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (1869–2019)

As we celebrate our 150th Anniversary of ministry, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is asking the question, "Who are we now?" It might just come down to the willingness to say yes.

Yes to questions of mission and ministry that at the time aren't easy to say yes to. That might not have a clear path ahead. That might not even be practical. That probably don't have society's blessing. But when love gets into the heart of missionaries (in whatever form one might be found) questions of ministry get asked. And the congregation of Our Saviour's is built on years of being willing to answer difficult questions with "Yes."

So begins our anniversary webpage, composed by member and internal historian, Dan Swenson-Klatt.

From the initial request from a missionary from Red Wing, Minnesota to a small group of Norwegians living in downtown Minneapolis, the offer to gather for worship in the Norwegian language created a space where new immigrants to Minnesota could find comfort in a shared culture and hymns that could remind them of home. That first "yes" was followed by new challenges and opportunities each decade; about location, about opening our doors wider - well-beyond that first cultural enclave, to changes in geography (Interstate construction), to changes in neighborhood identity (ever-new cycles of immigration), to social issues of justice and inclusion. And when the church building burned in 1995, the ability to say YES to staying and rebuilding was coming from a very long history of answering the question with love.

We can be assured that if we push the door open a bit wider, love will continue to enter in.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities (1894–2019)

Two campuses, rooted in their communities, working as one to be sent out with the Holy Spirit to change lives throughout the Twin Cities and around the world. After 125 years, we're still getting to know each other, forming new friendships and learning about the gifts we all have to accomplish our shared purpose. That will take time, but we'll be stronger for it. Former Bethlehem Pastor Olin Reigstad, who guided our church through the Great Depression and World War II, said, "If we can see a little farther, it is because we stand on the scaffold built by others." We stand on the scaffold built by the members of Minneapolis and Minnetonka. Now God calls us to build a framework for Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities so we can proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ for generations to come. Thanks be to God!

Central Lutheran Church (1919–2019)

The congregation of Central Lutheran Church was established in 1919 and draws members from across the metropolitan area. The current landmark sanctuary was completed in 1928; and the bell tower in 2006. The building holds two notable instruments: the 47-bell Paccard carillon and the 1964 108-rank Casavant Freres pipe organ. In 2018 Central supplemented the sanctuary with a mission-forward companion building that is open, community centered and eco-friendly.

Central has a long tradition of opening its doors to the community and offers fellowship, welcome, warmth, and direct services, providing clothing and resources to anyone who is struggling in the city, and works in partnership with other downtown service agencies. A community meal is served each Monday. The Augsburg Central Health Commons provides basic medical services through a partnership with Augsburg University. Central hosts the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, as well as Street Voices of Change, a creative advocacy group comprised of people who have or are experiencing homelessness. Central is heavily involved with Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH) and in justice and advocacy efforts.

Westwood Lutheran Church (1944–2019)