OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The organization of Our Savior's Lutheran Congregation of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, was the result of a survey by the Board of Home Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Board recommended that the steps be taken to form a congregation here and called the Reverend Truman P. Mohn to undertake the task. Rev. Mohn was at that time serving his first parish at Pequot Lakes, Minnesota.

Reverend Mohn arrived in East Grand Forks on February 22, 1947 to begin the work of organization. The first service was held on the 24th of February in the Woolworth Building. There were fifty-six people in attendance. On subsequent Sundays attendance increased rapidly, and by October 5, it was necessary to move to larger quarters in the American Legion Hall, 126 South Third Street. Somewhat later, services were again moved, this time to the old auditorium in Central High School, where they continued to be held until the new church building was occupied in September, 1949.

In the meantime, the organization was being perfected. The name "Our Savior's Lutheran Church" was adopted on June 29, 1947, and the Articles of Incorporation were signed in August of that year.

The Sunday School held its first session on September 7, 1947 with an enrollment of 75. By 1949 it had grown to 192. In 1957 the enrollment was 313 and the Sunday School required three sessions, four departments and a staff of forty-five teachers and supervisors. The Senior Choir was organized by Miss Gladys Eagle on October 9, 1947. The Women's Missionary Federation was organized on October 7, 1947, with Mrs. Emil Homme, first president.

A building site was purchased on Fifth Avenue and Third Street and construction began for the first church building with the total cost of $43,352.00. First services were held on September, 1949. The Service of Consecration was held on October 23, 1949 with The Reverend R. M. Fjelstad, President of The Northern Minnesota District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, bringing the message. There were at that time 600 baptized members, a Sunday School of 191 with a staff of 32, a choir of 32, Junior and Senior Luther Leagues, a Ladies' Aid with five circles and 90 members.

Reverend Mohn continued as pastor until the end of 1952, having accepted a call to Chicago. The call committee issued a call to The Reverend Alvin L. Stenberg, Scottsbluff, Nebraska. He accepted the call and was installed on August 30, 1953 by Dr. O. L. Proehl. Reverend Stenberg was a graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, and of St. Paul Seminary.

On August 30, 1954 the congregation purchased a temporary parsonage at 1343 North Fifth Street at a cost of $16,900. The Sunday School immediately held classes in the old parsonage.

The 25th Anniversary of Our Savior's was celebrated on September 24-25, 1972 with the Reverend Truman Mohn and The Reverend Loyal Tallaksen as guest speakers. Greetings were also given by the Honorable Mrs. Vivan Harney, Mayor of East Grand Forks; Father D. H. Krebs, Chairman of the East Grand Forks Ministerial Association; and by Pastor Peter Lagerway, President of the Greater Grand Forks Ministerial Association. The general theme for the anniversary was, "This Has Been the Work of God."

Mr. Fred Haugo served as Director of Youth and Parish Education from 1970-1974, with a leave of absence to serve in the military. Upon his resignation, the Congregation voted to call a part time pastor to be an associate of Pastor Stenberg. The Reverend Paul Meierding was installed by the Bishop of the Northern Minnesota District of the American Lutheran Church, Dr. Cecil Johnson, on October 5, 1975.

The staff presently includes Pastors A. L. Stenberg, Paul G. Meierding and Carl J. Field. The manager of the office is Mrs. Dennis Thompson and her assistant, Mrs. Don Danielson. The Custodial staff includes Warren Johnson and Mrs. Florence Mattson.

November 9, 1975 the congregation celebrated the 10th anniversary of its new church facilities with Dr. Paul Dreve, President of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota as its guest speaker. Our Savior's has generously shared its facility with many worthy enterprises of our community, such as pro-viding classrooms for our public schools, various health and medical clinics. Currently we provide facilities for the Head Start program, and Euterpe Music Club and Barbershop Chorus for their rehearsals and concerts...also for 4-H banquets, regular meetings of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Our Savior's congregation has benefited greatly by the sacrifices of its many people living in East Grand Forks and surrounding community. As a church we seek to benefit the lives of as many people as we can in Proclaiming the Gospel, ministering to people in all their needs, and by joining other Christian congregations in a spirit of ecumenism. Our Sunday Services have been broadcast every Sunday continuously since 1959 over Radio Station KRAD in East Grand Forks.

At this time we have a baptized membership of 1,323; confirmed membership of 881; 340 Sunday School students; 34 teachers; Organist is Mrs. Gary Berg; we have four choirs: Senior Choir directed by Donald Danielsien; Junior High Choir directed by Wally Selmanson; Youth Choir directed by Mrs. A. L. Stenberg; Cherub Choir directed by Mrs. Dale Brekke.

Celebrating the Bicentennial with the people of East Grand Forks is a time for us to renew and re dedicate ourselves to service for people in our community and to the Glory of God for all people throughout the world.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

A meeting to organize the Minnesota National Bank of East Grand Forks was held on December 13, 1929. People who attended this meeting were H. G. Giese, A. O. Rudh, John Martin, James B. Bingham, E. Deverell, M. M. Hayden, and E. A. Hoff. On this date they moved to form the Minnesota National Bank of East Grand Forks. The First Bank Stock Corporation of Minneapolis, Minnesota, bought the First State Bank building at the corner of DeMers Avenue and South Third Street. The capital stock of the association was $50,000 divided into $1,000 shares of $500 each. At a meeting of the Board of Directors on December 13, 1929, John Martin, A. O. Rudh, James B. Bingham, H. G. Giese, and E. A. Hoff were elected directors. Mr. M. M. Hayden of St. Paul, one of the corporation officers, was elected president of the Bank. E. A. Hoff, who had been an officer at The National Bank of Jamestown, North Dakota, was elected vice-president and cashier. The Board authorized that the bank should be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays.

A public reception from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. marked the opening day, January 2, 1930. On April 10, 1930, Miss Clara Bakke was hired by the Board of Directors.

At the annual meeting of the directors of the Minnesota National Bank on January 14, 1947, the following officers were elected: L. H. Everett — President; H. G. Giese — Vice President; Clara S. Bakke — Cashier; Howard R. Gravseth — Assistant Cashier; John Malmberg — Assistant Cashier. On Thursday, August 28, 1947, the Minnesota National Bank celebrated the opening of the new bank building with an open house. The bank's new home was a one story building with frontages of 50 feet and 72 feet located on the corner of South Third Street and Second Avenue South formerly known as Kittson Avenue.

On October 17, 1958, the First National Bank of East Grand Forks took out a building permit for the construction of the present bank building. When finished this new building will be twice the present size of the existing bank. At that time it was said by Lee H. Everett, president, that the extensive expansion and remodeling program now under way on the First National Bank of East Grand Forks will give East Grand Forks one of the most modern and distinctive bank buildings of any city of its size in the Upper Midwest. Highlights of the program include frontage totaling 100 feet along South Third Street, doubling the present space for customer service and operating departments, the first drive-in teller's window of any bank in the Grand Forks area. It was estimated that this project would take approximately eight months to complete.

During the summer of 1966 the interior of the bank was completely remodeled. The note window was moved to the