Mr. John Figreus, a mill worker, and his wife, Augusta and Mrs. Andrew Carlson. She and her husband owned and operated the West Hotel and she was responsible for bringing many young people into the church as she made it a point to invite her employees and her hotel guests to go to church with her. Mr. J. H. Ekstrom, a harness maker; Alma Larson, who became Mrs. William Gustafson; Hanna Larson, who became Mr. Elver Elseth; and Emma Larson, who became Mrs. Rudolph Carlson. These three women were sisters and worked in Crookston. Miss Clara Lindell, who became Mrs. Levin Anderson and also worked in Crookston: August Miller, who owned the Crookston Tannery, and his wife Eva; Julia Sjoland, who became Mrs. Toby Hanson; Sarah Lindell, a cook at the Crookston’s Main Hotel; and Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson. Mr. Johnson worked at the Crookston Tannery. Mr. Louis Johnson was the first church treasurer.

The Augustana Lutheran Church on Woodland Avenue was the place in which the services of the church were held for the first year and a half. From there the services of the church were moved to the Grand Army Hall, then located where the Church of Christ now stands. Holding services in a rented hall created many problems for the growing congregation. Often they were faced with the task of cleaning up what remained of bottles and debris of a party that had been held in the hall on the previous night. At times, an outside group anxiously waiting for the service to close in order that they could hold a dance in the hall would all but disrupt the service! Yet, even in this, there was a blessing for it forced the group to see the need of owning a church home, which need became a subject of the prayers of this small but valiant group of Christians. In 1898 they began to definitely plan for a church building. It was not until February 3, 1902 that the work got under way. The lot on which the church now stands was purchased for the sum of $210. On March 28, 1903, the new building was dedicated to the service and the glory of God. The structure cost $2,200, and had been built at a real sacrifice by the small and not too prosperous congregation. Reverend E. August Skogbergh was present at the dedication, at which time $900 still remained to be paid on the church. Pledges at the dedication service liquidated the debt on the building.

The theme song of the church down the years seems to be J. A. Hultman’s “Tak, O Gud” (Thanks to God for My Redeemer). This is the song of the men and women who with visits and faith, and with love for God and their Saviour Jesus Christ, laid the foundation and continue on the work of the Evangelical Covenant Church. And to those who down through the years have sacrificed, and given of themselves in the spirit of Christ’s love that we today might enjoy this great spiritual heritage for which we are thankful.

**HISTORY OF OUR SAVIOR’S — CROOKSTON**

In the spring of 1890, the Rev. P. T. Hilman was installed as pastor for the small group of Lutherans who were previously served as a mission station by the Lutheran pastors from Fisher. Shortly thereafter, on May 2, 1890, the families served by the new pastor organized formally as Our Savior’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Crookston, Minnesota.

Pastor Hilman’s service to Our Savior’s was terminated by his death in 1897, and was followed by Rev. R. O. O. Amdalsrud (1897-1903); the Rev. Adolph Salveson (1904-1912); the Rev. J. O. Ensrud (1913-1917); and the Rev. H. M. Tjernagel (1917-1918).

During this time another Lutheran congregation, the future which became closely knit with Our Savior’s, came into existence through the efforts of the Rev. Paul Schedler of Fisher. On September 10, 1911, this group was officially organized as “The Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation,” under the leadership of Fisher’s pastor. In the fall of 1917, the Rev. E. A. Schuett was called as pastor of this congregation.

The Immanuel congregation had been renting the church of Our Savior’s for weekly services. A stronger bond between these two groups existed beyond the use of the same building. The doctrinal position of the two congregations was the same; therefore, when in 1918 Pastor Tjernagel accepted a call to serve elsewhere, the way was open for an amalgamation of the two congregations. This was effected on July 25, 1918, under the leadership of E. A. Schuett, with the new congregation retaining the name of the older group, “Our Savior’s.” Pastor Schuett was officially called as pastor. At this time, the congregation numbered about 60 communicant members and 100 souls. Also, at this time the congregation “Our Savior’s” became affiliated with The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

During the night of January 11, 1936, fire destroyed the old church edifice, and in spite of the depression, the members set to work planning a new building on the present site. The new church was completed and dedicated on December 20, 1936. The Rev. E. A. Schuett served this congregation until 1952 when he accepted a call to serve elsewhere. At this time the Rev. H. E. Seiving was called and served the congregation until April, 1961. In 1955 a Sunday School and Educational Building was constructed, being dedicated on January 22, 1956. In July of 1961, the Rev. Eyric H. Hansen was installed as pastor and served the congregation until March of 1973. In the summer of 1962 Laurain Jurchen was called and commissioned as the Parish Worker and Director of Christian Education. On August 19, 1973 the Rev. David L. Anderson was installed as pastor of Our Savior’s and at present serves this parish.

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church presently numbers 927 souls and 713 communicants.

**HISTORY OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

On January 8, 1937 the United Lutheran, Hauges Minde, Swedish, and First English Lutheran Churches merged to form Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston. Before this merger people began talking about building a new church. The first formal action occurred at a church council meeting on April 12, 1937, when Oscar Fredricks suggested that a “permanent building commission be appointed with its ultimate goal to build a new church.” The Council authorized chairman Foker to appoint this committee of three to prepare tentative articles