Urseth, Jens C. Peterson, Nels M. Kaarstad, Hans O. Urseth, S. M. Christenson, Ole Nelson, John B. Anderson, and Jens Peterson. Total membership was 45.

In 1886 construction of a church at a cost of $3,865 was completed in a wooded area about seven miles west and one mile south of Crookston in Roome Township. Labor was furnished by Hans Olai Hanson and other volunteers. Pastors who served over the years were C. Saugstad, 1882-94; M. Michelson, 1894-96; B. L. Sundal, 1896-1901; P. S. Vang, 1901-05; Peter Steen, 1905-14; John Hjelmeland, 1914-18; H.A.B. Winther, 1919-20; I. Hovland, 1920-27; C. J. Christiansen, 1927-31; and Louis Olson, 1931-39. The pastor’s salary was noted to be $90.00 a year in 1878, and $150.00 in 1914. No records are available concerning organs prior to 1901, but subsequently Julie Aune, Emma Matson, Alpha and Martha Brevik served in that capacity. The first child to be baptized in the church was Hans J. Aune, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Aune, who were early members, and whose funeral services were the last services to be held in the church.

Local residents who are descendants of pastors of Bredo Church are grandchildren of Pastor Saugstad: Belva and Olaf Saugstad, Mrs. A. E. Morck and Mrs. Thorsten Morken, and a great-granddaughter, Alpha Morck: and the daughter of Pastor Vang, Henrietta Vang.

In 1939 the church became inactive with members joining other congregations. As a result the church building and cemetery became deteriorated, and former members decided to put the building up for bids. It was bought by J. C. Brevik and the building was dismantled. The altar was bought by George Knutson, who donated it to the Fisher Luth. church. Mr. Brevik landscaped the area and mounted the bell on a mound on the original site of the church. Since that time Mr. and Mrs. Brevik have continued the care of the cemetery, a beautiful peaceful spot serving as a memorial to the pioneers who founded the congregation and to those who followed faithfully in the work they had begun.

THE FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH — ELDRÉD

The Eldred church was dedicated on December 14, 1930. This little congregation had been looking forward to this day ever since June 17, 1914. It was then that an organization was completed, bearing the name: “First Lutheran Community Church of Eldred,” with J. O. Ensrud as pastor. At this time it was the wish of all members that some day in the near future a church building should be erected.

The charter members of this first organization were: B. E. Bredele, R. Carlson, A. A. Dragseth, J. E. Elg, C. J. Gilbert, Hans Glaserud, T. E. Johnson, O. M. Kasberg, J. O. Nyberg, Anton Peterson, M. O. Sivle, P. H. Solstad, E. W. Swanson, Alf Thorson and George E. Wise.

The congregation was served by Rev. J. O. Ensrud from 1914 to 1916. Rev. H. M. Tjernagel served from 1917 until March 1918 and Rev. J. N. Dordal from 1918 until 1921. From 1921 until May 27 the church activities in Eldred were at a standstill.

Seven were resumed in May, 1927 by Rev. E. A. Schuett, pastor of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church of Crookston, under whose leadership a re-organization of the congregation took place on August 3, 1928.

The charter members of this organization are: J. E. Elg, M. A. Helgeson, Henry Jobe, August Jurchen, Willie Jurchen, O. M. Kasberg, and G. C. Rife. The first officers of the congregation were: C. G. Rife, Henry Jobe, and August Jurchen as trustees, and O. M. Kasberg as secretary-treasurer.

At a meeting of all members February 16, 1930, the congregation decided to build a church to the glory of Christ Jesus. This already created such happiness in the hearts of many that it was not unusual to see tears of joy flowing freely when the unanimous decision was reached. However, the joy was still greater when on June 29 the congregation marched in a body to the place of the new church for the purpose of laying the cornerstone.

The pastor said in his sermon that “The cornerstone of every true Christian congregation must be the stone which the builders refused, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.”

The Eldred Church is 30 × 46 feet in the main building, with a 14-foot altar niche, joined by a room on each side. The size of the rooms is 7 × 9 feet. The steeple is 12 × 12 feet, towering up 77 feet with the steeple on top. The church was designed and built by Mr. August Jurchen of Eldred. As far as could be done the building was carried out in the Gothic style, displaying wherever possible the Trinity. We have seating room in the main auditorium for 140 adults and for 50 more in the balcony.

The church was taxed to the limit for the dedication services Sunday, December 14, 1930. Some 320 people were “pressed” into the building. It was certainly a day of exceeding joy for the Eldred people, waiting for all these years for a little church to be erected and now to find that their prayers were heard, the church is completed!

Practically all building materials were furnished by the Wilcox Lumber Company through their Eldred office. The first furnace and the hardware was furnished by Emil Marvin. We certainly want to express our thanks to Mr. Larum and Mr. Marvin for their helping hearts and hands during the period of construction.

The corner-stone for the church was donated by the Crookston Granite Company, 411 North Broadway, Crookston, Minnesota.

The Rev. J. C. Meyer, Director of Mission in the state of Minnesota, delivered the sermon at the morning services; and our pastor, E. A. Schuett, delivered the sermon in the afternoon. The mixed choir as well as the men’s octette from Crookston rendered several selections at each of the services. Both speakers urged the congregation to stay true and loyal to their church, built on Jesus Christ and Him crucified. They also pointed out that a church must be what it is built for: “A house in which people assemble to worship God. The God of this church is and always should be the God of the Bible, The Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Ghost.”

Pastor E. A. Schuett served the First Lutheran Church of Eldred for 34 faithful dedicated years. The Rev. H. E. Sieving took over the pastorate in 1952 and served the congregation till 1961. The Rev. Sieving was born July 6, 1911, and his wife Ester and family of six children were with us for twelve years. Installation ceremonies took place August 19, 1973 for the present pastor. The Rev. David L. Anderson, who also serves Our Saviors of Crookston. The Eldred Church has a membership of seventy persons from about twenty-four families.

Church services are held every Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Sunday School and Bible Class at 8:30 A.M.

Organists are Mrs. Charles Sylvester, Mrs. Elmer Bredele, and Mrs. Wayne Johnson. The late Mrs. Ted Jobe was organist for many years. The present Sunday School teachers are Mrs. Russell Sylvester, Mrs. Allan Dragseth, Mrs. Orris Hegge, Mrs. Charles Sylvester and Allan Dragseth, Bible Class teacher. Present church board is Ted Jobe, Roger Odegaard, Charles and Russell Sylvester and Myron Peterson. Allan Dragseth is head usher.