

# Milestones of Lutheran Church of the Master

**June 29, 1959** - Rev. Robert DeYoung arrives to establish American Lutheran Church mission church in southwest Omaha.

**Aug. 9, 1959** - DeYoung conducts first worship service in former Redick Dance Studio, 95th & West Center Road.

**Dec. 6, 1959** - Congregation formally organizes Lutheran Church of the Master

**April 3, 1960** - Services moved to former tavern, 114th & West Center Road

**May 29, 1960** - Ground broken for first LCM building; occupied by winter

**Jan. 8, 1961** - First building dedicated: sanctuary, now LCM's Fellowship Hall

**May 24, 1964** - Second unit dedication: education wing and sanctuary overflow

**October, 1966** - Dr. Paul Nyholm installed as first assistant pastor

**1967** - Two-year building fund pledge drive begins (\$400,000)

**June 7, 1970** - New sanctuary dedicated

**August 1970** - Rev. J. Paul Schiotz named assistant pastor, replacing Dr. Nyholm

**Sept. 4, 1970** - Rev. Robert J. Schaff installed as senior pastor, succeeding DeYoung; Schaff was called from American Lutheran Church, Gothenburg, Neb.

**April 18, 1976** - Rev. David Larsen installed as assistant pastor, succeeding Schiotz; Larsen called from Trinity Lutheran Church, DeWitt, Neb.

**May 14, 1978** - Rev. George Megard installed as youth pastor; called from Our Savior Lutheran Church, Canby, Minn.

**April 10, 1983** - Latest addition dedicated: expanded sanctuary, additional offices, kitchen remodeling, youth room

**Jan. 1, 1988** - LCM becomes part of new Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**December 1993** - Rev. Kip Tyler, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wakefield, Neb., installed as assistant pastor of small groups; replaced Pastor Larsen

**1997** - New ministry/mission objectives: more worship services, staff, programs, space

**Sept. 30, 1999** - Schaff retires as senior pastor after nearly 30 years at LCM

**Oct. 24, 1999** - Tyler installed as senior pastor

**January 2001** - LCM breaks ties with ELCA over

confessional issues, becomes charter member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

**February 2001** - Rev. Bill Wallis, Prince of Peace

Lutheran Church, Phoenix, installed LCM March 2002

**August 2003** - LCM votes 92 percent for dual-site ministry: 2617 S. 114th St. and new site near 180th and West Dodge Road

**September 2003** - Rev. Eddie Greschel, Racine, Wis., installed pastor of outreach and servant-leadership

**Oct. 5, 2003** - Services begin at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School, temporary west site and Western Avenue, for second church

**Feb. 28, 2004** - LCM buys 28 acres, 180th and Western Avenue, for second church

**April 25, 2004** - Land dedicated at new site

**September 2004** - Begin remodeling of LCM-East Campus: bathrooms, Fellowship Hall, classrooms, Youth Room

**April 15-17, 2005** - Celebrate LCM's 45th anniversary, dedicate LCM-East renovations and break ground at LCM-West Campus; 1,002 households, 2,241 baptized members

**April 17, 2005** - Groundbreaking for new church at 180th and Western Avenue; to be completed early 2006



*"Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord."*

Psalm 102:18

Jerry Reiman, Trinidad, Colo. Charter member of LCM April 8, 2005

*"Thank you kindly for the invitation ... I can still recall vividly our church services in the abandoned tavern. Most of you will not recall the headline on the religion page of the Omaha paper on the Sunday we left the tavern and moved into the new church: 'Local Lutheran Church quits tavern.'*

*"I also recall the meeting that was held outside the tavern after church services for the purpose of deciding which color brick to select. George (Neustrom) was president and presided. The first vote was for one of the two color options that apparently George did not like. In any event, he immediately called for a revote, and, sure enough, the vote went for his color. Of course, it really didn't make any difference either way.*

*"It is nice to know that not only has Church of the Master survived, it has succeeded in grand fashion. Bring the congregation my best wishes."*

## LCM Mission Statement

The mission of Lutheran Church of the Master is to make Christ known to all people; aiding them to become

baptized believers, equipping them to become committed

Christian disciples, and inspiring them to become servant-leaders of Christ in God's Church and world.

# Our History

November 1959 - April 2005

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER

*"Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord."* - Psalm 102:18



The remodeled LCM east site.

# Breaking new ground ... Lutheran Church of the Master

The new pastor found a phone booth in a corn field across the street from George Newstrom and called to ask him if he'd like to start a church.

And with Newstrom's "Sure would, pastor; come on over," all Pastor Robert De-Young had to do was find the front door with the waving hand and Lutheran Church of the Master was born.

Pastor DeYoung, fresh from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, found himself smack dab in the middle of a Newstrom family of 11 children and another 31 people eager to start a new church in growing southwest Omaha. It matched his assignment from the American Lutheran Church.

After meeting in DeYoung's home, 12301 Seldin Drive, a few weeks, 42 people attended the first service Aug. 9, 1959, in a former dance studio at 95th and West Center Road. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study were at 9:15 a.m.; worship at 10:30.

Every week, members brought their own chairs. Newstrom brought the organ. Blandina Johnson played.

Charles Young spread the news about LCM as he delivered milk around town.

On Dec. 6, the congregation formally established itself with 18 families, about 70 charter members.

LCM's name came from a church in Los Angeles that fatefully played a role in De-Young's decision to become a pastor after a boyhood friend invited him to church there. By the grace of God and an invitation from that Church of the Master, De-Young was thankful he sidestepped

the wrong direction taken by other friends, including Norma Jean, later known as Marilyn Monroe. That this LCM could also make a difference in people's lives ...

In a few months, April 3, 1960, the growing church exchanged its dance digs for a somewhat ramshackle former tavern on the west side of 114th Street, directly across from the current LCM-East Campus.

The tavern's draftiness, it is said, and growing numbers prompted the congregation to buy 2.85 acres across the street. Ground was broken May 29, 1960. The new sanctuary, now Fellowship Hall, was dedicated Jan. 8, 1961.

"No Hands But Ours" is an appropriate theme for this congregation, for this has been the case," DeYoung said. "No one in particular can say, 'This is my church,' but rather, 'This is God's church, built by our hands.'

"May it always be that Lutheran Church of the Master is a strong right hand doing the work of the Master. To God alone be the glory."

LCM became self-supporting in January 1961. By late 1963, a second unit, the education wing and sanctuary overflow, was begun; it was dedicated May 24, 1964. There were 260 Sunday school students. Soon there were three sessions each of worship and Sunday school.

Thelma (Mrs. C.R.) Minkner became the first full-time staff worker, certified by the ALC as the official office secretary.

Dr. Paul C. Nyholm became LCM's first assistant pastor in October 1966.

The new church operated frugally, helped by the talents of its members. For example, in 1967, LCM bought a '57 Chevy school bus for \$375 - less than the cost of hiring transportation for one youth trip. Ralph Filter and others rebuilt the bus: extra cost was only \$250 in-

cluding parts, licensing and insurance.

A two-year building fund pledge drive for about \$400,000 began in 1967. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Auburn, Neb., and American Lutheran Church, Gothenburg, Neb., where Robert Schaff was pastor, mortgaged their properties and loaned the money to LCM.

A new sanctuary, the current one, and expansion of the Sunday school, offices and meeting areas were dedicated in 1970, the same year Pastors J. Paul Schioetz and Schaff were called. Schaff succeeded DeYoung as senior pastor.

Pastor David Larsen arrived in 1976 to replace Schioetz, who left in 1975, as assistant pastor. Pastor George Megard became the youth pastor in 1978, the first time LCM had three pastors.

By the spring of 1983, the church had grown enough so that another addition, including expanded sanctuary, additional offices, kitchen remodeling and a new youth room were added.

That wasn't the only thing that expanded. So did the benevolence of LCM.

Beginning in 1972, the church pledged 10 percent of its yearly income to benevolence. By 1974, the pledge increased to more than 22 percent and by 1977, to more than 30 percent. After that, benevolence has ranged from 40 to nearly 50 percent.

Small group ministry got a boost in 1993, when Kip Tyler was called as assistant pastor of small groups.

Tyler became senior pastor Oct. 24, 1999, to succeed Pastor Schaff, who retired in September 1999, after nearly 30 years at LCM.

Bill Wallis was installed as pastor of discipleship in the spring of 2001. He left in 2002.

Eddie Greschel was installed pastor of outreach and servant-leadership in September 2003.

By January 2001, LCM members had voted twice by overwhelming majorities to break with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America over confessional issues. LCM became a charter member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, a centrist Lutheran presence in the world that has grown to 127 congregations in less than three years.

New ministry and mission objectives made in 1997 looked for more worship services, staff, programs and space. By August 2003, LCM approved, by 92 percent, going for a dual-site ministry, keeping the one at 2617 S. 114th St. and adding a new site near 180th and West Dodge Road.

Temporary west services began Oct. 5, 2003, at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School.

On Feb. 28, 2004, LCM bought 28 acres at 180th and Western Avenue for its second site and dedicated it on a very windy day a month later.

In keeping with a promise and a vote, LCM began remodeling its east campus in September 2004, adding bathrooms and improving Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, classrooms and its Youth Room.

On April 15-17, 2005, LCM celebrated its 45th anniversary, dedicated renovations at LCM-East and broke ground at its new west site with a weekend full of activities. Among the musical attractions was a reunion appearance of The Master's Men, an LCM group born and active in the 1980s.

In the same way the ground was broken at the original church in 1960, a single-bottom plow cut through the earth in a symbolic start to construction of the new church, the new mis-



**Pastor Schaff**