

A Brief History
Of
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Chico, California

(Copied from approximately a 1964 document)

1910 First services held in private homes, conducted by the Rev. Herman J. von Renner of Artois.

Later in the year a Rev. Kowert held services. Among families that gathered at that time were the Julius Schnells, the family of Mrs. Louise Schnell, a Powell family, a Weber family, and the Herman Graebers.

1911 The Rev. Matthewick served Chico along with Los Molinos, Dairyville, Gerber, Marysville, and Red Bluff.

1914 The Rev. Bruno Saeger replaced Pastor Matthewick.

1916 In May the Rev. Paul A. Schmidtke was installed at a service in Los Molinos to serve the entire area. Services in Chico were held in the Methodist Church on the corner of 6th and Broadway and later in the Christian Church on Hazel Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets.

1922 An effort was made to organize the Lutherans in the City of Chico and a beginning was made to prepare a constitution.

1925 Redeemer Lutheran Church of Chico, California was officially organized on February 1st. Members who signed the constitution at that time were Pastor Paul A. Schmidtke, Ernest Graefe, Frank C. Dickey, William Stone, and Herman Graeber. Our member who has been a voting member for the longest period of time is Mr. Rueben Kohlhoff who signed the constitution on January 20th, 1932.

On November 1st, our first house of worship was dedicated on lots 11 and 12 of Block 2 of Barber First Addition to Chico, which property was donated by Mr. Herman Graeber.

1930 The Rev. Clarence Pickelmann was ordained and installed as pastor.

1941 Six lots were purchased on the corner of Sixteenth Street and Broadway in January.

1945 Four more lots were acquired so that the congregation owned all the property between Broadway and Salem Streets on the north side of Sixteenth St.

1951 The Rev. Martin C. Schabacker, Jr. was installed as pastor in February.

The new church was completed that year as was also the parsonage which was occupied on June 1st.

1954 2.42 acres were acquired at Moss and Hawthorne so that the congregation could expand facilities.

1955 February 20th: ground breaking ceremony.

November 6th: Cornerstone laying ceremony.

1956 May 6th: Dedication of new house of worship.

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- 1957 Completion of new parsonage on Hawthorne Ave.
1959 August 30th: Installation of the Rev. Robert W. Schwermann as Pastor.
1964 January 12th: Ground breaking for Parish Hall.
June 28th: Dedication of new Parish Hall.
Currently our property is valued at \$250,000.
Our indebtedness is roughly \$50,000.

ALL GLORY BE TO GOD!

(Continuation of Redeemer Pastors)

- 1983 - 1986 Rev. Paul W. Preisinger
1987 - 1999 Rev. Thomas R. St. Jean
2000 - 2004 Rev. Robert R. Roberts
2005 - Rev. Donald A. Jordan

(Assistant Pastor)

- 2001 – 2003 Rev. James W. Beilstein