

HISTORY

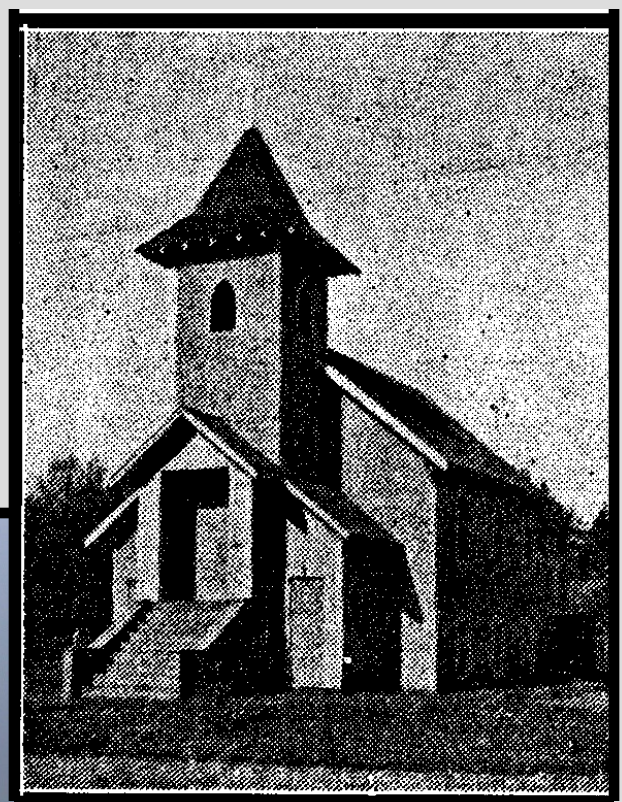
OF

REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSOURI SYNOD

CHICO, CALIFORNIA

100 + YEARS



1910 - TODAY

Jesu, Juva, Jesus help me.

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

750 Moss Ave

(corner of Hawthorne Ave)

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HISTORY OF REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSOURI SYNOD

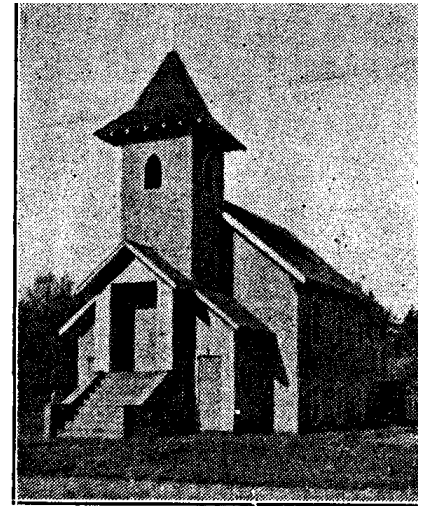
CHICO, CALIFORNIA

- 1910 First services held by Lutherans in Chico are in homes. Mrs. Louise Schnell makes a request of Rev. Herman J. Von Renner, pastor of the Germantown (later Artois) church for divine services to be held in her home. Later, other families make their homes available. Some of these families were the Julius Schnells, the Powells, Websters, Herman Graebers and many others. Oral history tells us that these earliest services were in German.
- 1910 - 1911 Rev. Kowert is assigned to serve the Lutherans in Chico and surrounding areas. Services are still being held in homes.
- 1911 - 1914 Rev. Mattwick serves Chico, Los Molinos, Dairyville, Gerber, Marysville, and Red Bluff. Divine services held in homes.
- 1913 The first wedding to take place among the Chico Lutherans is Mr. and Mrs. Ivan McDowell (She is the daughter of Mrs. Louise Schnell and shares the same first name with her mother.)
- 1914 - 1916 Rev. Bruno Saeger replaces Pastor Mattwick and continues holding divine services in homes.
- 1916 - 1930 Rev. Paul Schmidtke is installed in May at a service in Los Molinos. His area of service is the same as Rev. Mattwick's and Rev. Saeger's. By this time, services in Chico are being held by the Lutherans at both the Methodist and Christian churches at their kind invitation.
- 1922 At this time, an effort is being made to organize the Chico Lutherans to begin the preparation of a constitution.
- 1925 On February 1st, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chico, California is officially organized. Officers are



Rev. Schmidtke & family

elected, a constitution prepared, minutes of proceedings recorded and kept, and articles of incorporation drawn up. Incorporation is filed at the State House in Sacramento on March 25, 1925. Plans are then made to start construction of the church. Two lots for the church are donated by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Graeber. Pastor Schmidtke does most of the work himself. It is dedicated with special services on November 1st. Rev. William Huesemann and Rev. Carl March are guest speakers.



1925 Hymns for the divine services are played on an old pump organ. Unfortunately, the names of these early organists are unknown to us, except for one young girl--Adonna Neksted.

1930 - 1950 Rev. Clarence Pickelman is installed in November as pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Our Redeemer of the Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States, Butte County, California.



Rev. Pickelman

1930 - 1950 No recorded history of the beginning of the Walther League at Redeemer has been found.

1936 Earliest recorded meeting of the Ladies' Aid, although it is a part of oral history that they were meeting prior to this date.

1936 - 1988 Margaret Lilygren serves as secretary for the Ladies' Aid. She will serve for 52 years until her final illness and later death.

1938 Meetings are held to take under consideration the construction of a much needed larger church building.

1941 Six additional lots are purchased on the corner of 16th Street and Broadway.

On January 7th, it is decided to form another women's group to be called the Women's Guild. This group would be for the younger women and the Ladies' Aid for the older women. The two groups will alternate monthly to take care of the altar flowers on Sundays.

1945 Four more lots are purchased. The congregation now owns all of the property between Broadway and Salem Streets on the north side of 16th Street.

Plans to build a new church have to be postponed due to a shortage of materials during WWII.

First recorded meeting of the Lutheran Laymen's League at Redeemer.

1948 Organization of the Tabitha Society.

1949 Plans and blueprints for the proposed new church are prepared by architect, Vincent Rainey.

1951 - 1959 Rev. Martin Schabacker, Jr., pastor, installed in February in Memorial Hall in Chico due to a lack of space at the church.



Rev. Schabacker, Jr

1951 Construction is begun for parsonage on 16th Street and is dedicated with special services on July 29th. Rev. Alfred Volmer of Willows is guest speaker.

Organization of the Young Married Couples Club.

The constitution is revised and the name of the church is changed to Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Chico, California.

Several younger members of the congregation; Charles Kruegar, Eloise Kohlhoff, Gladys Peck, and Melvina Hoffman, serve as organists.

1952 The Tabitha Society joins with the Women's Guild to form a new group called the Mary/Martha Society.

1953 First Easter sunrise service outside the church. At 5:45 am on Easter Sunday, April 5th at the Starlight Drive-In Theater which is located off the Midway at Speedway Avenue. Worshippers sit in their cars and participate in the divine service. The roof of the snack bar/projection building is used as a platform from which the service is conducted using the public address system to all the cars. The robed choir is seated on the roof, visible to all in attendance, along with the pastor also in his official robe. Regular Easter services are held at 8:45 am and 11:00 am back at the

church. These services at the drive-in become a great success in the community and with the congregation.

1953

An organ concert, to dedicate a new electronic organ for the church, is held on a Monday at 8:00 pm with Charles H. Van Bronkhorst at the console. Bronkhorst is a well known area organist and is the music instructor at Central School. He performs several selections to demonstrate the versatility and adaptability to church music.

First recorded Vacation Bible School. Oral history tells us that they were having these much earlier.



1954

It is decided to relocate the church site to acquire more ground before construction on the new church is started. A small family farm of 2.42 acres in northeast Chico is purchased for the site of the new church. Not all of the members of the congregation are pleased with the new site. An exhaustive search is then made to find a more advantageous location that they can afford, but to no avail. Finally, in October, it is decided to go ahead with the Moss and Hawthorne site. Hignell & Strange are building tract homes near the area and younger families are moving in quickly.

1955

Groundbreaking ceremonies are held on February 20th following the morning worship services. Karl Franz, a member of the congregation, is hired as construction supervisor. Redeemer is fortunate to have most of the tradesmen needed to build the church as members of the congregation. Therefore, a large portion of the construction is done with volunteer labor--men and women donating their time. The groundbreaking



service was attended by 175 people, including Ted Meriam, mayor; Fred Davis, director of public works; Ray Black and E. Stokes, county supervisors, along with the president and officers of the church.

1955

A cornerstone for the new building is laid in a special service on the afternoon of November 6th. Rev. Martin Schabacker, Sr., of Dunsmuir, is guest speaker. Items placed in the cornerstone vault are: The Holy Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, a copy of the church constitution and by-laws, a short history of Redeemer, a list of officers, names of the builder and building committee, name of the governor of the State of California, the name of Chico's mayor, a copy of the Lutheran Witness of October 25th, a copy of the Enterprise Record of November 5th, a copy of the Groundbreaking and Cornerstone Laying service booklets.



1956

All four Sundays in May are set aside for special dedication services for the new church and Sunday School wing. On May 6th, a special valedictory service is held at 16th and Broadway at 8:45 am and again at the 11:00 am service. During the services, the old building is decommissioned. The congregation then gathers at the door of the new church at 3:00 pm for the opening ceremonies. Guest speaker is Rev. Henry Hartner. More than 200 people attend these services. Once inside, all the holy vessels and furnishings are blessed and dedicated to the Lord's service. A new organ has been purchased by the congregation and Eloise Kohlhoff serves as organist.

Fred Happold, Lloyd Schaffert, and Arthur Wells are appointed to design plans for a new parsonage. Hignell & Strange has a requirement in place that all homes must blend in with the existing tract homes in the neighborhood. They finally agree to a proposal that a Hignell & Strange style home be built, but with the exception that it will have more square footage with 1,800 square feet allowed. Construction begins with Karl Franz as construction supervisor.

1956 The “Rose” window, in the choir loft, is given to God’s glory in memory of Mrs. Louise Schnell by her son, August. The chancel window is given to God’s glory by the women of the Ladies’ Aid.

1957 The finished parsonage is dedicated with special services on October 6th.

Members of the Young Married Couples Club decide it is important to save the old bell at the 16th and Broadway site, which hasn’t sold yet. Oskar and Dennis Joksch (cousins) remove the old bell from the narrow bell tower. Later, it is mounted on a metal frame and placed in the quad area at the new church. Finally, it is mounted in the bell tower of the new church. Even though the church has electronic chimes that can be heard outdoors the old bell is rung every Sunday, also.

The old church is sold to the Foursquare Church on October 31st. At a later date it is sold to a private party for use as a private home. The wood cross on the steeple is never removed.

1959 - 1982 Rev. Robert Schwermann, Pastor, installed August 30th.

Edna Schwermann serves as organist.
Betty Strieby serves as substitute organist.



Rev. Schwermann

1959 First meeting of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League at Redeemer. They join with Mary/Martha Society to become the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

1960 LWML’s name is changed back to the Mary/Martha Society. At a later date it is called the Mary/Martha - LWML and is so called today.

1961 Young Married Couples Club’s name is changed to just the Married Couples club, eventually shortened to just the Couples Club. (The original Young Marrieds were all getting older!)

1963 Redeemer’s two voice choirs present a public performance,

‘Americana,’ on May 19th. There are 22 members of the senior choir, Rev. Robert Schwermann, director, and 19 members of the junior choir, Edna Schwermann, director. Edna is accompanist for both choirs.



1964

January 12th, construction on the Parish hall begins with Pete Peterson, supervisor. Herman Biederstadt designs the regulation game floors and the church sign at the front corner of the church. Redeemer’s young families enjoy Family Nights, using the game floor and the basketball court. The parking lot is paved at the same time.

The parish hall completed and dedicated on June 28th, with special services.

1967

The congregation honors Pastor Schwermann’s 25 years in the ministry on May 14th. Rev. Paul Jacobs of Belmont is guest speaker. Rev. Val Hergesheimer, liturgist. Later, at the luncheon, visiting pastors share humorous stories about Pastor Schwermann, which he thoroughly enjoys.



1972

Henry Biederstadt paints the ‘Luther Rose’ and ‘Three Magi,’ donating them to the church where they are hung in the Parish hall. Later, he paints a life size nativity scene using a Sunday School paper nativity as his model.



1974

The Allen digital organ is installed in July.

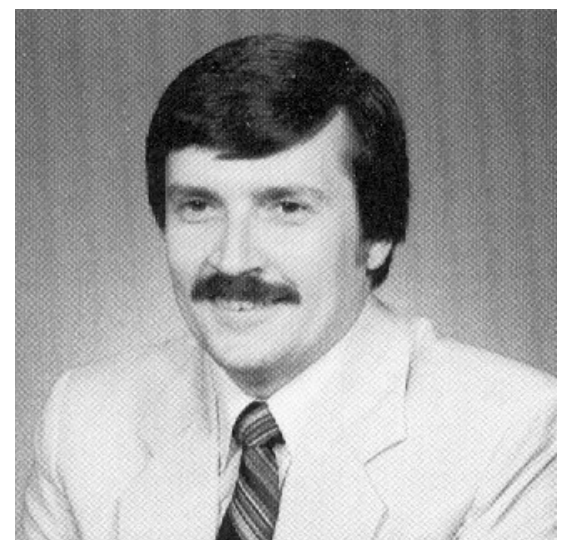


1975

The Allen organ is dedicated on Sunday, February 2nd, at 4:00 pm, with a special service featuring

Charles Van Bronkhorst, organist, along with Byron Thomas, soloist, and Richard Ramay, trumpeter. This is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the building of the first church at 16th and Broadway.

- 1976 A festival service on Sunday, July 4, 1976 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the United States of America. The church bell is rung for two minutes at 11:00 am together with all churches across the nation. The bells of Chico's churches can be heard all over town.
- 1978 - 1983 Ellie Hirko serves as office manager.
- 1981 A 25th anniversary celebration of the dedication of the sanctuary is held with a special service on October 11.
- 1982 On May 2nd, Redeemer celebrates Pastor Schwermann's 40 years in the ministry. Rev. Wilber Becker of Paradise officiates. District President, Orval M. Oswald is guest speaker. The congregation presents the Schwermanns with "seed money" for a trip to the Holy Land.
- On August 29th, Pastor Schwermann preaches his last sermon at Redeemer as he retires from active service.
- 1982 - 1983 Rev. Donald Heinz serves as interim pastor.
- 1983 New roof put on the Parish Hall and Sunday school wing. Lloyd Siercks, supervisor.
- The Yamaha piano is given to God's glory by Albert and Erna Jackson in the name of Edna Schwermann, organist at Redeemer for 23 years.
- 1983 - 1986 Rev. Paul Preisinger, pastor installed March 6th.
- 1983 Teddi Mangino serves as office manager.
- 1984 - 1988 Elizabeth Yokota serves as organist.
- 1984 Start of preschool and daycare center on November 27, to be held in the Sunday school rooms and parish hall at church. Playground equipment installed in side yard.



Rev. Preisinger

1984 “Good Shepherd” window given to God’s glory by Alvin and Anna Parsley.

Quilting group organized by Marie Rilea with four other women helping in the sewing of the quilts for the needy.

1985 Revision of the constitution.

1986 Galen Schaffert suggests a handbell choir for Redeemer. He and Elizabeth Yokota present idea to congregation. Fundraising begins in earnest.

The 30th anniversary is celebrated with the dedication of the sanctuary on May 4th. There are special services at the church and Elizabeth Yokota gives a special pipe organ concert at St. John’s Catholic Church on May 4th at 4:00 pm with all proceeds going to the Handbell Fund.

“Resurrection” window given to God’s glory in memory of Rev. Robert W Schwermann who went to be with his Lord on Sunday, March 23rd.



The first handbell practice is on Wednesday, September 20th, 7:30 pm. They use bells that are offered to them by Carolyn Taylor, director of handbells at First Christian Church. They are even offered for a couple of Sunday services. Galen Schaffert drives the bells back and forth between the two churches. Fundraising goes on with a spaghetti dinner, a rummage sale, bake sales, etc. Private donations are given and some funds from AAL are received. By September, they have raised \$2,674.00, but it will take \$3,200.00 to purchase the 30 bells needed. Finally, in early November, an order is placed with Schulmerich for 30 bells. On Thanksgiving Day, they give their first performance using their own bells. Those first handbell



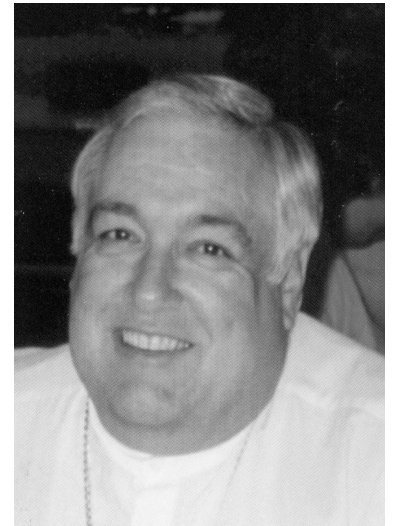
ringers were: Shirley Christian, Ruth Coulon, Margie David, Alice & Galen Schaffert, Alma Severud, Ruth Shuey, and Cori Standley. Cori is the only experienced handbell player at the beginning.

1986 Elizabeth Yokota makes effort to organize a voice choir.

1986 - 1987 Rev. Herbert Sorenson serves as interim pastor.

1986 “I Am Jesus Little Lamb” window given to God’s glory in memory of baby Benjamin Paul Martin.

1987 - 1999 Rev. Thomas St. Jean, pastor, installed on January 4th by Rev. Orval W. Oswald, with liturgist, Rev. Wilber May, and preacher Rev. Herbert Sorensen.



Rev. St. Jean

1987 Fundraising continues for the money to purchase the other nine bells needed for a three octave choir. Some of these are the very large bass bells and cost several hundred dollars each. The bells are ordered and arrive on August 17. Lloyd and Galen Schaffert build a cabinet to hold the bells and Alice and Sharon Schaffert sew the corduroy table covers.

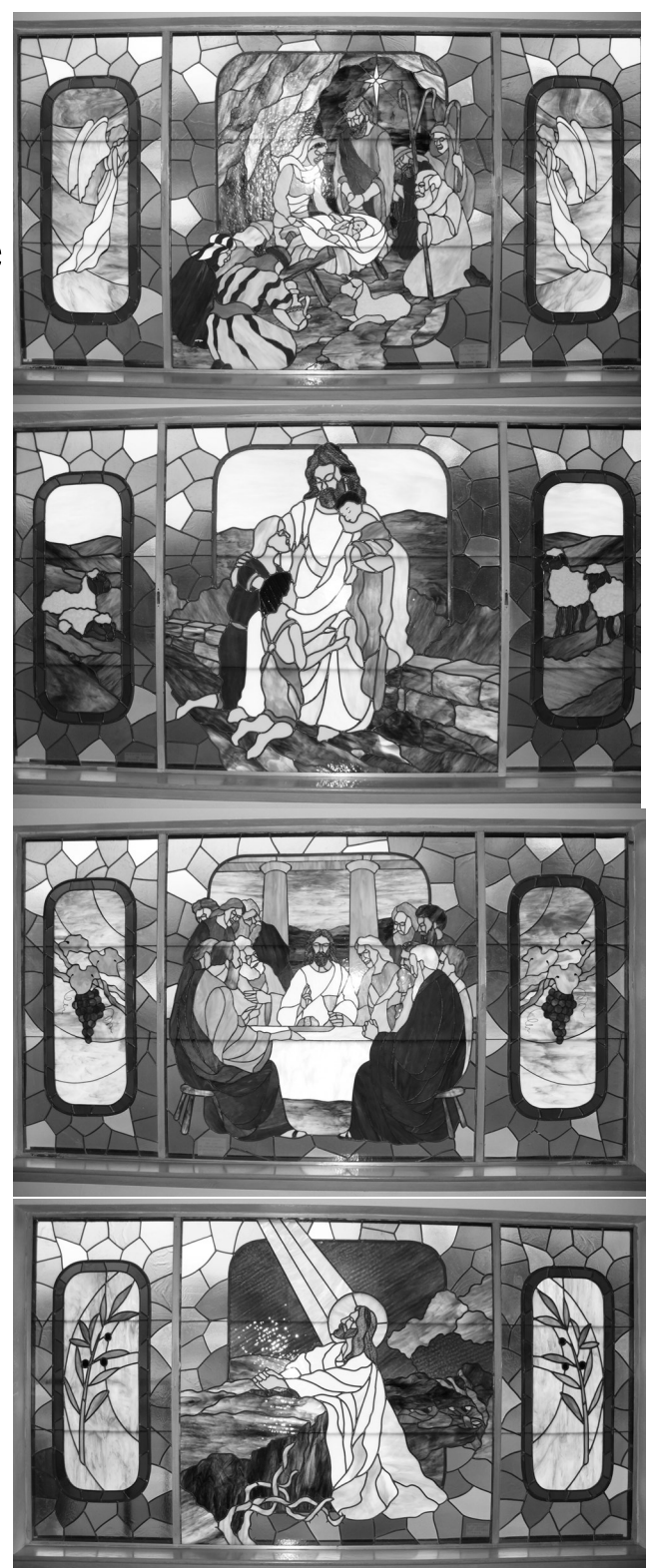
1987 “Nativity” window given to God’s glory in memory of Lyllian and Hermyna Weiss.

“Jesus and the Children” window given to God’s glory in memory of Olinda Burbank.

“The Last Supper” window given to God’s glory by Erwin and Ida Siebrass.

“Gethsemane” window given to God’s glory by Ralph and Phyllis Hedstrom.

Windows in the narthex portray the life of the Lord Jesus Christ:



“Birth,” Baptism,” “Ministry,” Redemption,” and “Resurrection” are given to God’s glory by Leona Stelter.

1988 Stained-glass windows are dedicated on September 4, with a special service explaining the meaning behind each window including the earlier chancel and “Rose” windows.



1988 - 1999 Sharon Schaffert serves as director of the handbell choir.

1988 - 1995 Marla Burgstahler serves as organist.

1988 The Wurlitzer piano is donated by the family of Alma Severud.

1988 - 1998 First meeting of the Men’s Saturday morning Bible breakfast at local cafe.

1989 Bullet-proof and BB-proof Lexan placed over stained-glass windows after BBs shatter a section of chancel window. Donated by Roy and Jane Martin along with nephew, Floyd Miller of Miller Glass.

1989 - 1994 Linda Allen serves as office manager.

1991 Four classrooms, office, workroom for preschool and daycare center are completed. Ernest Marshall, supervisor.

1992 Fireside room extension built.

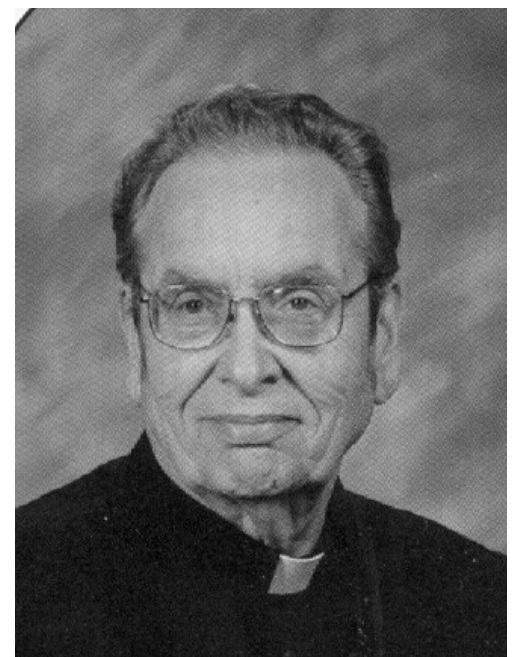
1992 Herman Biederstadt bequeaths money to finance a scholarship fund for young people going into full time service to the Lord.

1993 Groundbreaking service for parochial school building. Construction begins for two classrooms, teacher’s lounge, two storage rooms, two restrooms, playground equipment, fencing, trees, lawn sprinklers, patio door, paving of parking lot, and fire hydrant.



- 1994 Parochial school building completed and dedicated on January 30th.
- Freestanding, stained-glass cross in chancel given to the glory of God in memory of Ray Bossard. Wood cross designed and built by Lloyd Schaffert. Stained glass by Reuben Barclay. Dedicated on March 13.
- Van purchased in October to bring seniors to meetings and worship services at the church and for some of the school children, when needed. Ladies' Aid gives \$5,000.00 and Mary/Martha gives \$1,600.00 (the amount remaining in the Herman Biederstadt fund).
- 1994 - 1995 Loree Penner serves as office manager.
- 1994 Handbell choir, "Bells of Praise," perform a public Christmas program with Pastor St. Jean narrating the Christmas Story during the 10:30 am Advent worship service in December. Televised by Chambers Cable on channel 21 and for Viacom channel 23. Bells play from the chancel area.
- 1995 Jill Dollinger serves as office manager.
- 1995 - 1999 Melissa I. Westerfield (Stott) serves as office manager.
- 1995 Marie Dalhborg serves as organist. Ardell Becker serves as substitute.
- 1995 - 1996 Vianna Boring serves as organist. Ardell Becker and Katie Moran serve as substitutes.
- 1996 Jerry Brandt organizes a voice choir.
- New roof installed at parsonage. David Sweet, supervisor.
- 1997 - 1998 Katie Moran serves as organist while Vianna is exchange student in Germany.
- 1997 Air conditioner and furnace in church and parsonage replaced. Parsonage bathroom renovated and new garage door installed. David Sweet, supervisor.
- Church kitchen and secretary's office remodeled. New Formica tops put on long tables. David Sweet, supervisor.
- 1998 - 2004 Men's Saturday morning Bible breakfast become Men and Women's Bible breakfasts.

- 1998 - 2000 Vianna Boring serves as organist.
- 1998 Roof replaced on Sunday school wing. Metal roof on parish hall, Fireside room.
- Third and fourth classrooms and computer room added to parochial school. Brian Marshall, contractor. Obed Giles supervises computer and phone system.
- 1999 Extensive refurbishing of parsonage.
- 1999 - 2002 Linda Allen serves as office manager.
- 1999 A newer van purchased by Duane and Marge Huwe and Neale and Marné Sivesind. Dick and Helen Standley donate paint job.
- 1999 - 2001 Bill Allen serves as director of handbell choir.
- 1999 - 2001 Rev. Robert R. Roberts, interim pastor.
- 2000 Redeemer celebrates 75th anniversary of the building of the first church on 16th and Broadway in 1925. Special services followed by a luncheon in the parish hall on March 26th. Several pastors and former church members attend, some from out of state.
- 2000 - 2004 Redeemer has informational kiosk at Thursday Night Farmers' Market beginning April 6th. Alice Wescoatt, coordinator.
- 2000 - 2004 Rev. Robert R. Roberts, pastor installed October 8th, after coming out of retirement.
- 2000 - 2011 Marian May serves as organist.
- 2001 Jerry Brandt serves as director of handbell and voice choirs.



Rev. Roberts

Congregation donates new blankets, jackets, school supplies, playground equipment, etc. to help the struggling Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point,

Arizona. Lloyd and Sharon Schaffert drive pickup and trailer, both loaded with supplies, down to the mission to deliver items collected.

Eleven new, warm winter jackets for young children are purchased and shipped down to the mission by five members of the congregation and two new friends of Redeemer.

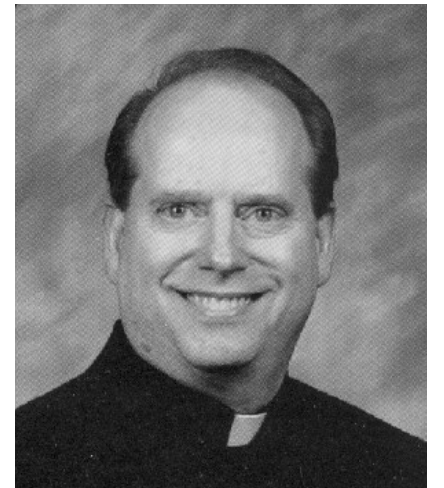
One hundred New Testaments are shipped down to the mission by a couple of members of the congregation with the help of The Lighthouse Christian book store in Paradise. The publishing house offers free shipping to the remote mission.

Dedication of Habitat for Humanity house on 22nd and Elm. Members of Redeemer help in the construction of the house.

Vicar, Jim Beilstein, September 9th.

2002 - 2003 Jan Halley serves as office manager.

Vicar, Jim Beilstein ordained September 8th. Pastor Ted Hartman, preacher, Dr. Walter Tietjen, district president led Rite of Ordination.



Rev. Beilstein

2002 Ed Voigt donates money for the glory of God and in memory of wife, Hilda, for new landscaping of church property. Hal and Anne Hermes supervise project.

2003 - Jackie Vieira serves as office manager.

2004 Women's Kaffeeklatsch group organized with Pastor Roberts' blessing.

2004 - 2005 Rev. David Atrops, interim pastor.

2004 Parochial school closed.

Sixty caps and scarves, knitted by several of Redeemer's women, are shipped down for the school children at the mission in Arizona.



Rev. Atrops

Web site, www.redeemerchico.org initiated.

Six new, warm jackets are shipped down to the mission by

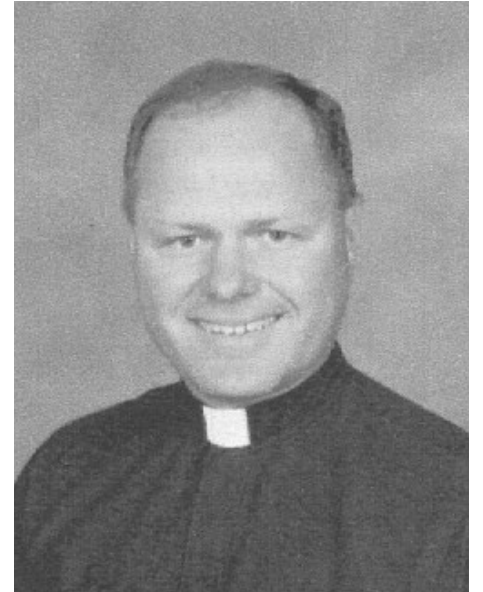
seven church members.

Turnabout Tea, sponsored by the Elders, becomes annual event.

Congregation celebrates Pastor Roberts' 23 years in the ministry with a retirement dinner on April 17.

2004 - 2009 Parochial school building leased to Blue Oak Charter School.

2005 Rev. Donald Jordan, pastor installed April 3rd, at 4:00 pm. Presiding minister, Rev. John-Paul Meyer; preacher, Rev. Charles Froh; liturgist, Rev. Dallas Dubke.



Rev. Jordan

Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission joins ELCA. Redeemer's relationship with the mission ends.

Slurry seal applied to parking lot.

2005 - Sharon Schaffert serves as director of the handbell choir.

2006 Redeemer prints "Help for the Grieving" on May 31.

Pew cushions installed.

Energy efficient dual-pane windows installed in church and parsonage.

2007 A 1929 Shoenstein pipe organ is given to Redeemer by Zion Lutheran Church of Piedmont, California. Redeemer's Pastor Jordan and volunteers do organ transplant. Jerry Brandt supervises repair work and setup in parish hall.

New chairs purchased for parish hall.

2008 Ahlborn-Galanti Digital organ purchased February 4th, for \$27,348.00. Organ dedicated on May 11th with special services.

Parsonage kitchen renovated.

Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent home on Ceonothus dedicated in November. Dan Braz, job supervisor.



New eternal flame installed.

Slurry seal applied to all parking areas.

2009

Crucifix from old church on 16th and Broadway found in back of a cabinet by Pastor Jordan. Repaired and refurbished by Hal Hermes. Given place of honor on altar in chancel.

Bunn digital coffee brewer purchased and installed in kitchen in memory of Dorothy Sweet.



October 6th, a mission statement by area LCMS pastors, Please Don't confuse Us With The 'Lutherans' Recently In The News, is published in the Chico Enterprise Record.

Inaugural organ concert by Dr. David Rothe, professor emeritus - CSUC, Sunday, November 1, 4:00 pm.

Lutheran Student Fellowship - Christ on Campus becomes official student organization at California State University Chico.

Upgrade of interior lighting throughout the church.

2010

Mission support for Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Northern California. Rev. Getabiche Dirasse of Redding is parish ministry consultant. Quilters group gives 24 quilts for residents in Redding.

Holy Communion is offered each Sunday.

Redeemer's companion booklet Help For The Dying, printed February 8th.

April 25th, new communion railing/kneelers installed at floor level. Hal Hermes, designer.

Parochial school leased to Sherwood Montessori School.



Organ concert by Jeffrey Cooper on Sunday, November 14, 4:00 p.m. Jeff is a recent graduate of Chico State University. He is also serving as organist and music director for both St. Augustine's Anglican Church and St. John's Catholic Church here in Chico.

2011 Organ concert by Jeffrey Cooper, Tuesday, May 1, 4:00 p.m. Choral pieces, hymns and organ works make up the program.

Pat Roy speaks on Creation and the Christian Life on Wednesday, May 4, 9:30 - 3:00 p.m. This seminar was sponsored by Holy Cross Conference.

KKXX Radio station hosts Redeemer as the church of the month of September. With donations from individual members of the congregation, Pastor's sermons are aired on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. on AM930, FM104.5, and www.chicochristianradio.com.

In September, Pastor Mark Rabe, his wife, and their three children leave for a two year mission commitment to Kenya. Pastor Rabe's main job will be teaching Systematic Theology and possibly Hebrew at the seminary. Area churches, along with Redeemer, join together to help support this mission family.

2012 Marian May retires as church organist after twelve years of service.

Rev. David Bunting serves as church organist.

Pastor Dennis and Deaconess Lorna Meeker visit Redeemer to share information on the Compassionate Social Care Ministry in Kenya on Tuesday, March 13.



2012 Members of Redeemer volunteer their services to work with Habitat for Humanity. Quilters donate quilts for family members who are the recipients of the finished home.

2013 Jerry Brandt retires as director of the voice choir.

Parsonage gets a new roof. Repairs are also made on a leak on the church roof over the kitchen area. Parking areas are slurry sealed.

Faith and Good Works - Doctrine of Vocation seminar given by Rev. Todd Peperkorn of Confessional Lutherans for Christ's Commission on Saturday, October 5, 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

1929 Schoenstein Pipe Organ in the Parish Hall restored by Dan Gates.

2014

Organ concert held in Parish Hall to benefit the Work Training Center.

Easter Vigil service was held for the first time.



Pastor Dennis & Deaconess Lorna Meeker, 4 Kenya's Kids, visit in October.

Bathrooms are remodeled to accommodate the handicapped.

The kitchen is remodeled

2015

Parsonage bathrooms are remodeled by contractor, Brian Marshall.

The Pastor's Study revamp includes mini-split heat pump, lighting, painting, desk, blinds, and carpet.

Remodel of Sacristy.

2016

Altar Stained glass window repaired and clear protective covers place on the outside over all the stained glass windows.

Purchased larger, newer van and sold the old one.

Exterior of church repainted.

Office painted and new blinds installed.



Front school building leased to Head Start.

2017

Sharon Schaffert retires as director of the handbell choir after serving for 22 years.

Jerry Brandt serves as director of handbell choir.

Mini-split heat pump installed in office.

Mini-split heat pump installed in choir balcony.

Back school building leased to Thrive.

2018

Parsonage converted into a home for those with special needs.

Head Start installs state required playground at the school.

Pastor Brian Cummins, Trinity Lutheran Church, was elected to serve as Circuit Visitor.

The Camp Fire strikes Paradise and surrounding areas. 85 souls perished. 14,000 homes were destroyed.



Redeemer receives and disburses large donations of supplies including

food, clothing, and funding survivors. Our Savior Lutheran Church Paradise church and parsonage were destroyed. Their flock worshiped here for several months.

2019

Surveillance camera security system is installed.

New carpet placed in sanctuary and pews are adjusted to provide more space along the aisles.

2020

A global pandemic hits. Services and Bible classes are cancelled for 10 weeks. Shut-ins are unable to receive visitors. Businesses are closed.

New exterior sign fabricated and installed by Magoon Signs.

Circuit 12 pastors meet in Paradise at the construction sight of Our Savior Lutheran Church being rebuilt after the Camp Fire.

2021

Our Savior Lutheran Church Paradise building is completed and dedicated.

2022

A solar electric system from AES is installed on the Parish Hall roof.

Turf is removed on Hawthorne and Moss Avenues and replaced with lava rock.

Vinyl planking is installed in the Pastor's Study, Office, and Fireside Room.

Exterior lighting around the church campus is upgraded to LED.

Moss, Hawthorne, and rear parking areas are resealed.

Exterior wood beams on the school building are replaced.

Processional crucifix dedicated. The corpus was hand-carved in Oberammergau, Germany by Robert Elder and the cross was crafted by Pastor Mark Mumme, Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverton, Wyoming.



Lutheran Reformation Altarpiece art placed in narthex.



Pastor Jordan announces he will retire in June 2023.

2023

Call process begins for the divine call to candidate Brennan DeForest, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Renata Peperkorn, senior attending Concordia University, Nebraska, performs an organ concert.

Van donated by Our Savior Lutheran Church, Paradise.

Jackie Vieira is honored for 20 years of service as office manager.

Candidate Brennan DeForest, Concordia Theological Seminary, accepts the divine call to serve as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church and installed July 15, 2023.

Rev. Donald Jordan celebrates his ordination anniversary of 40 years and is honored at his retirement dinner.

Divine Calls as Assistant Pastor-Emeritus are extended to Pastors Jordan, Mason, and Roberts.

Jay Erwin is lay delegate for our electoral circuit to the LCMS National Convention, Milwaukee, July 2023.

We believe that those who are saved will do the good works that God wants them to do, not in order to be saved, but because they are saved. We call these acts "Sanctification" as we live our vocations each day, glorifying God and serving our neighbor in love. Following is an incomplete list of such acts, the events and groups used to fulfill them by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the recipients:

- Acolytes
- Aglow
- Alive
- Altar Flowers
- Altar Guild
- Baptism Sponsors
- Baseball/Basketball Teams
- Bazaars/Garage Sales
- Bethesda Lutheran Communities
- Bible Breakfasts
- Blood Drives
- Box Tops/Labels for Schools
- Children's Christmas Programs
- Choir Directors
- Christmas Caroling
- Church Council
 - Board of Elders
 - Board of Trustees
 - Board of Stewardship
 - Board of Fellowship
 - Board of Education
 - Board of Young People
- Church Picnics
- Church Repair/Upkeep
- Church Staff
- College Students
- Concerts/Performances
- Confirmands
- Conventions
- Donations/Gifts
 - Time & Talents
- Eternal Candle
- Evangelism
 - Farmers' Market
- Fellowship
- Food Pantry
- Funeral Luncheons
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West
- HandBell Choir
- Health Screenings
- Home Bible Study Groups
- Homebound
- Home Builds in Mexico
- Home-cooked Meals
- Hospital Visits
- Ladies' Aid Society
- Landscape
- Lutheran Bible Translators
- Lutheran Laymen's League
- Lutheran Women's Missionary League
- Lutheran World Relief - LCMS
- Married Couples Club
- Mary/Martha Society
- Missions & Missionaries
- Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission
- Our Troops
- Parochial School
- Potlucks
 - Fifth Sunday
- Prayers
- Preschool/Daycare
- Publications
 - Help for the Dying
 - Grief Booklet
- Quilters Group
- Redeemer Review
- Scholarship Fund
- Seminary/Student Support
- Spirit Lifters
- Stamps for Missions
- Sunday School
 - Rally Days
 - Retreats
 - Superintendents
 - Teachers
- Tabitha Society
- The Jesus Center
- The Lutheran Hour
- Transportation - Van
- Turnabout Tea
- Ushers and Greeters
- Vacation Bible School
- Voice Choir
- Walther League
- Warm Coat Drive
- Women's Guild
- Women's Kaffeeklatsch
- Women's Resource Clinic
 - Baby Quilts/Afghans
 - Walk For Life
- Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Youth
 - Activities
 - Choirs
 - Harvest Moon Cafe
 - Ice Cream Socials
 - Italian Extravaganza
 - Lock-ins
 - Medieval Feast
- Youth Group Leaders

**A LIST OF SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF REDEEMER WHO HAVE
GONE INTO CHURCH WORK IN THE LCMS:**

Ruth Pickelman Ruppert attended Concordia College,
River Forest, Illinois and taught at Peoria, Illinois.



Mark Pickelman attended Concordia College,
River Forest, Illinois and taught for a number of years.

Arlene Severud Janke, graduated from
Concordia College, Seward in 1958 and taught at Our
Savior Lutheran School in Sacramento. Retired.



Janice Peterson Leistikow, graduated from
Concordia College, River Forest, Illinois in 1967.
Janice taught at Luther Junior High in Reseda,
California and Town and Country School in
Sacramento.

Roger Hedstrom, ordained July 6, 1969.



Ronald Arnold, ordained July, 1973, retired.

Mark Wescoatt, ordained August 14, 1991,
Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Guymon,
Oklahoma.



Faith St. Jean Spelbring graduated from Concordia
College, Irvine, California in 2000. Manager of
Research and Development, Women's Ministries at
Lutheran Hour Ministries

Soli Deo Gloria
To God, Alone, Be the Glory

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