

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL - A HISTORY

1. *Come worship now at Bethany, God's house of truth and light.
Receive God's Word, confess, give praise, Come set your hearts aright.
Look back to see how Bethany, Whose stories now we sing,
Gave host to Jesus' life and ways, To him our praises ring.*
2. *The Jordan flowed near Bethany, Where John would greet our Lord.
He humbly baptized Christ our King With water and the word.
This pleased the Father, who then said, From high in heav'n above,
"This is my Son now sent to you, Whom I do dearly love!"*
3. *A message came from Bethany: "Now Lazarus is dead!"
While others mourned with tears of grief, Our Lord taught faith instead:
"Believe in me and you shall live, Now and eternally.
My friend is free of death today. He lives because of me!"*
4. *Hosannas rang near Bethany As Christ rode through the town.
"What Joy to have a king!" they thought, "We must find him a crown!"
But voices soon yelled "Crucify" This man who says he's king.
And so our Lord took on our sins; Salvation he did bring.*
5. *A fig tree grew in Bethany, Where Christ revealed his might:
"A barren tree deserves no life Now die before my sight!"
"Bear fruit, my children," says the Lord. "My word now go proclaim.
Find those who do not know of me, Connect them to my name."*
6. *When Jesus came to Bethany; Dear friends there gave him rest.
The oil there placed upon his feet Was known to be the best.
Though some thought this a waste of oil, Our Lord proclaimed it good.
His days with them were numbered then, And cherished Him they should.*
7. *See Christ ascend near Bethany Back to his heav'nly home.
He lived and died and rose again To make us each his own.
He gave his Word and firm command To follow scripture pure.
His grace has saved the faithful souls What joy, our hope is sure.*
8. *This faith bestowed at Bethany Is giv'n to us this day
Through Jesus Christ, the Crucified, The Truth, the Light, the Way.
Look forward now: behold the Cross, See Christ, ascended reign,
Salvation comes from his blest throne; Give glory to His name.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Below is a brief outline of BETHANY'S HISTORY. You will find the history of our school interwoven with the topics in each of the sections. We trust you will enjoy learning about the history of our congregation.

INTRODUCTION (page 1)

- I. A BEGINNING 1830-1928 (page 1 – 2)
 - Early history of Naperville/attempts to start a congregation
 - Founding of Bethany congregation/charter members/first location
 - Calling our first pastor
- II. PASTOR ULLRICH 1928-1952 (page 2 – 6)
 - A new location
 - Building our first church
 - Christian Education - Bethany Lutheran School is opened
 - A stand on lodges
 - Confirmation instruction
 - German heritage
 - A choir is formed
 - Our first pipe organ
 - A mission congregation is formed (Good Shepherd, Warrenville) / Bethany in the early 1940's
 - A lay teacher is finally hired – Mrs. Thanepohn
 - Our church grows
- III. VICAR FISHER 1952-1953 (page 6)
 - Need for a parsonage
- IV. PASTOR BROECKER 1953-1956 (page 6 – 7)
 - Mr. Koehler – new school principal
 - A new parsonage and teacherage / Church debt paid off/ New pipe organ
- V. PASTOR ROSCHKE 1956-1987 (page 7 – 15)
 - Outgrowing Washington & 7th Ave. location
 - Move to 919 S. Washington St. (p. 8ff)
 - Fred Martin becomes new principal/teaching staff grows
 - Another mission congregation is formed (Trinity, Lisle p.9)
 - Arthur Albrecht is called as new principal / More rooms needed at the Washington site
 - A temporary setback in our school, but new growth
 - Dr. James Kirchhoff is called as new principal (p. 10ff)
 - Bethany adds associate pastors – PASTORS SCHAIBLEY and PETERSEN
 - Jr. High is again added to our school (p. 13ff)
 - 50th anniversary / Need for Expansion
- VI. PASTOR WESOLIK 1978-1992 (page 15 – 16)
 - Last expansion at 919 site
 - Dr. Kirchhoff moves on to District office / Interim principal
 - John Kosinsky becomes new principal
 - 1980 – year of celebrations
- VII. MOVE TO MODAFF (page 16 – 20)
 - Stewardship of Life – The plan to move to Modaff
 - The PAC is built
 - Another mission church (Word of Life, Naperville) / Continued growth
 - Pastor Roschke retires - 1987
 - PASTOR McREYNOLDS 1988-2003
 - Congregational concerns – Pastor Wesolik accepts call 1992
 - Don Wischmeyer becomes new principal
 - Renewed interest to relocate to Modaff /1990's
- VIII. A LEAP OF FAITH – THE MOVE TO MODAFF (page 20 – 24)
 - PASTOR ROSSOW 1994-2016
 - Groundbreaking
 - Design
 - Construction
 - Moving in / Dedication of complex

(continued on next page)

- Moller pipe organ
 - Organ loft / Importance of music
 - Dedication of organ
- IX. THE STORY CONTINUES (page 24– 27)
- Building Supervisor and new Youth Director
 - A new Cantor – Phil Magness
 - PASTOR SCHUMACHER 1999-present
 - Todd Stirn becomes the new principal
 - Looking to the future
 - Bethany's 75th anniversary
 - Facing reality
- X. ROSCHKE MEMORIAL WINDOW (page 27 – 29)
- Design
 - Symbolism
 - Dedication
- XI. BETHANY MOVES ON (page 29– 31)
- Membership loss / Rev. McReynolds accepts a call
 - Pam Mueller becomes school principal
 - Rev. Schumacher assumes leadership of youth / Does mission work in Sudan/New constitution and by-laws put in effect / Rev. Rossow earns doctorate degree
 - Church debt paid off
- XII. BILL SHOEN MEMORIAL WINDOWS (page 32 – 34)
- Old Testament windows
 - New Testament windows
 - Judgement window
- XIII. A YOUTH PASTOR AND NEW ADDITION (page 34 – 39)
- PASTOR JONATHAN FISK 2012-2015
 - A new Kantor
 - The Harris Center / Delays
 - Pastor Rossow does missionary work in Africa
 - Assistant Cantor
 - Cantor Giuliani and PASTOR CLEMMER 2015-present
 - Bethany History / Archives
 - Courtyard of History
 - Pastor Rossow retires in December 2016
 - Expanding the Early Education program
- XIV. CONCLUSION (page 39 – 41)
- XV. TEACHING STAFF OF Bethany Lutheran school 1930 to present (page 41 – 45)
- CELEBRATING OUR YEARS OF EDUCATION EXCELLENCE (page 46 – 47)

THE HISTORY OF BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL 1927 - PRESENT

(researched and compiled by Glenn Sonlitner - revised Fall and Winter 2022-23)

It is important to know the history of a people or place. It determines who we are. It affects us and the things we do. It builds pride in our achievements and teaches us from our mistakes. Despite the turmoil of history, God's hand has always been there guiding man along the path of life. It is through us that He works, furthering the cause of His kingdom. He provides us with all we need, and we show our love and gratitude in the lives we live and our service to our Lord and Savior.

The history of our congregation is broken into sections of significant events and church leaders. These act as markers as we cover our history. The church archives were used in the compilation of this HISTORY. We thank those who compiled council reports, voters' minutes, wrote articles, or collected memorabilia. The outline of the first 50 years of history written by Mrs. Gwendolyn Diller helped in organizing this work. Our thanks to Charlene Fiene whose review of this document and input contributed to its completion. This history is written to inform you of our past, present, and to help plan for our future. We write this to the glory of God and the edification of His people here at Bethany. May your reading of this be both enjoyable and enlightening.

I. A BEGINNING

Naperville is an old community, dating back to the founding of Chicago itself. A group of enterprising businessmen in the area decided to build a "road of planks" stretching almost to Chicago and "charged fees" for its use. The idea of "toll roads" is nothing new. They date back to antiquity. A reminder of this still exists today in Plank Road, parallel to the Burlington railroad tracks. However, the toll road was derailed as a business when the railroad came in with its steam locomotives. Naperville really got its start in May of 1831 when Joe Naper left his sailing vessel "Telegraph" in Chicago and decided to go west to DuPage County. He and his brother John built a saw mill in 1832. In these early years marauding bands of Indians descended upon the area and some families were massacred. Some Naperville residents sought refuge in Chicago at Fort Dearborn. Later, the Blackhawk War caused residents to take shelter in Fort Paine which was on the land occupied today by North Central College's athletic field. But, the town grew. In 1832 there were 180 people. By 1860 it had risen to 1500. Land was cheap in those days. Under the Pre-Emption Act an acre was \$1.25. Naperville was booming in 1837. It had a trading post, a saw mill, a grist mill, and a school. It even was the county seat at that time. That honor was taken away by the town of Wheaton which spirited away county documents one night – but that is another story. One of the first industries to locate here was Kroehler Manufacturing Company, makers of fine furniture. Its plant still stands today, converted to fashionable apartments, shops and restaurants known as Fifth Avenue Station.

Bethany is a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church founded in Naperville in the fall of 1927. Even before this time the few Lutherans living in the area had gathered together at various times in homes for services conducted in German by Missouri Synod pastors from neighboring communities. Efforts were made several times to establish a mission church, but something always intervened to prevent the organization of a congregation. In the fall of 1927, at the request of the Home Mission Board of the Northern Illinois District, Rev. A. M. Loth of Aurora and Rev. T. W. Strieter of Hinsdale canvassed the area. This led to the first divine service being held October 16, 1927, in a store building

located on the south side of Chicago Avenue between Washington and Main streets in downtown Naperville. In recent years it used to be a sewing and yarn shop, but at that time it served as Bethany's first home. This mission church steadily grew and prospered.

The first voters' meeting of record was held after the regular church service on January 15, 1928. It was at this meeting, presided over by Rev. Strieter and William Landorf acting as secretary, that official organization was begun. Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church was officially organized by 21 charter members. These members were: Fred Mueller, William Schoen Sr., Carl Mueller, Fred Landorf, William Moeller, Emmanuel Hensel, William Hodel, Richard Lance, William Kerske, Martin Kaelz, Edward Bartha, Christ Hensel, Jacob Hensel, Theodore Moeller, William Landorf, Joseph Landorf, Otto Purpur, Martin Nietschke, William C. Mueller, August C. Mueller, and Arthur Katz. The number 21 is deceiving because women did not participate in the running of the affairs of the church at that time. These men and their families represented some 85 souls that made up Bethany's first congregation.

Through Pastor Strieter and Pastor Wangerin, present on behalf of the Mission Board, a call was extended to Rev. Adolph E. Ullrich to become Bethany's first pastor. Pastor Ullrich was born and raised in LaGrange, Illinois, and at the time was serving as missionary to the state of Nevada. The Mission Board of the Northern Illinois District, upon recommendation of Pastor Wangerin, adopted a budget of \$2000 for the new congregation. They would subsidize any shortfall the new congregation would have to meet this budget. The Board also recommended beginning a Christian Day School at the earliest possible date.

II. PASTOR ADOLPH ULLRICH – 1928 to 1952

Pastor Ullrich accepted the call and was installed March 4, 1928. The congregation then rented and began using the old stone church owned by the Naperville Woman's Club at 14 S. Washington Street – Bethany's second location. The building still stands in downtown Naperville today. As the congregation grew, it purchased property to build its own church with the help of the Church Extension Fund. On August 20, 1928, the first church calendar was adopted and a five-man building committee was formed consisting of: August Mueller (chairman), Martin Kaelz, William Schoen Sr., William Hershie, and Richard Lance.

THE FIRST CHURCH Land was purchased on the corner of Washington and Seventh Avenue in Naperville. The congregation engaged Herbert Brand of Western Springs as architect, and on October 13, 1928, a contract for a \$20,000 building was awarded to contractor E. G. Meiley. Wilbur Waggoner was designated as mason for the project. These events took place in the home of William Schoen in the presence of Rev. Abel of Elmhurst, the representatives of the Mission Board - Rev. Strieter and Rev. Loth - Pastor Ullrich, and members of the building committee.

From the *Naperville Clarion* we read that “*the new building would be modest, but modern in all respects. It will be 68 feet long and 35 feet wide. The church will front on Washington Street with the entrance on 7th Avenue. A gray brick with stone trim will give the building an impressive appearance. The nave would sit 200 people. A large basement would be finished off to be used for Sunday School and Day School classes. A stage will allow for performances. A modern kitchen, restrooms, and heating plant complete the building.*” The building still stands today, slightly

remodeled and expanded in recent years and used for offices. Groundbreaking took place on October 11, 1928, and construction commenced.

On the chilly day of November 18, 1928, the cornerstone was laid for Bethany's first church. Pastors Wangerin, Loth, and Strieter all participated in the occasion. Lutheran congregations from the surrounding area were present to celebrate. A band played the opening hymn – "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation." An invocation was given followed by an address. A copper box was placed inside the cornerstone. Among the items it held were: articles from the *Naperville Clarion*, the *District Messenger*, *Lutheraner*, and *Lutheran Witness*; the constitution of the congregation; a list of church members and members of Bethany organizations and societies; and names of the architect and contractor. On top of all this were placed the hymnal, catechism, and the Bible. The service ended with a benediction and the singing of the common doxology.

Bethany now was in its third location. Dedication of the finished structure was held on June 16, 1929, and Bethany was formally accepted as a member of the Missouri Synod at the Northern Illinois District Convention held in River Forest. The service was conducted in both German and English. It began at 10:30 AM in front of the new church and proceeded inside. In addition to Rev. Ullrich and Rev. Strieter, many others contributed. There were: Rev. Bramscher of Zion Lutheran, Wheatland; Rev. Wangerin from the Mission Board; Rev. Arndt of Immanuel, Downers Grove; Rev. Lohrman of Good Shepherd, Berwyn; and Rev. Alex Ullrich, President of the Northern Illinois District. It was quite the event. Three services were conducted that day. The Lydia Society of Bethany provided a chicken dinner at noon in the church basement. A modest fee was collected. Supper also was served in the social hall that evening. Refreshments were served outside. In this way people could attend the festivities all day without interruption. Much zeal and devotion were shown by members of Bethany, from the making of vestments to donating the altar or furnishing the organ for the church. Business men in the community gave generously to the building fund.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Christian education immediately received the attention of the congregation. A Sunday School was organized even before the organization of the congregation itself. Bethany Lutheran School was opened in September 1930. It met in the lower level of the church. Pastor Ullrich taught all eight grades. Six students were enrolled that first year, coming primarily from three Bethany families. A few more enrolled before that first year ended. School colors were chosen - they would be royal blue and gold. Even at that time, inspections and evaluations of the school's program gave it high ratings in the community. In addition to the Day School and Sunday School and Sunday morning Bible classes, special week day religious instruction was given after school hours for those students not attending Bethany's Christian Day School. It was strongly felt that no child need lack the necessary Christian training and education. This value of Christian education goes back to Martin Luther and the Reformation.

LODGES In the congregational meeting of January 13, 1930, the question was raised on accepting lodge members into Bethany's congregation. Other congregations did so, and there were lodge members who wanted to join Bethany. Could we not accept them into membership? Pastor Ullrich spoke of the members of the meeting. He informed them that, *"This would be entirely impossible. The primary reason is that lodges are organizations with an un-Christian religion. It does not accept the true God – Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. In fact, they deny Jesus Christ as Savior. A secondary reason is that the lodge is a secret organization. In order to join them a person must commit the sin of giving an oath concerning 'uncertain things.'* A Christian congregation must adhere to God's

Word in all matters. If it admits lodge members it rejects God's Word. For this reason, Bethany congregation can never accept lodge members as members of the congregation." This has been the policy of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

CONFIRMATION In January of 1931 the voters' assembly decided that all children not attending the Christian Day School were required to attend instruction preparing them for confirmation for a period of two years. The first year would run from September to June and the second year from September to Palm Sunday, the day of confirmation. Students who attended the Day School for at least two years immediately preceding instruction only need attend a one year program from September to Palm Sunday. Students in the Christian Day School had the opportunity to study God's Word in more detail than did their public school counterparts, so there would be no need for this study outside of the school day.

The Great Depression saw a world-wide economic collapse. Growth in the new church slowed. However, membership gradually increased with Warrenville residents to the north of Naperville joining the congregation. In November of 1932 a Sunday School program was established in Warrenville. Eventually this effort was combined with Bethany. The Warrenville children were brought to Bethany by Pastor Ullrich every Sunday for instruction.

THE GERMAN HERITAGE AND LANGUAGE Being true to the German roots of their forefathers, men sat on one side of the church and women on the other side. Communion was always first given to the men. This practice would continue through much of the 1930's. Even when it came to finances, all bills were paid in cash by the church treasurer for more than 20 years. Services were conducted in both English and German. German was the language of the many Lutherans migrating from the Germanic provinces of Europe in the 18th and 19th century. They came to America for both political and religious reasons. Their numbers eventually led to the formation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in 1847 with the large influx of Saxon Germans. It is the nature of a people to congregate together in an area and carry on their traditions and language, even after immigrating to a new land. But as these immigrants adapted to their new country, and especially when "German war hysteria" swept through the United States in World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945), the emphasis on the German language died out. In 1937 a policy was adopted by Bethany to conduct German language services only on the second and fifth Sunday of the month, following the 10AM worship service. Other changes were made later.

A CHOIR A choir was organized as a result of the celebration of the "Centennial of the Coming of the Saxon Lutherans to America." In 1939 the congregations in the Aurora area joined in a mass celebration at the North Central Field House in Naperville. A large chorus was created for the event. After the event Bethany members decided to organize a mixed choir in their congregation. Although there had been group singing in their midst especially on festive occasions, no choir was ever organized. This first choir was under the leadership of Paul Witte of Aurora, and later led by some of the theological students who came to Bethany. During the years of World War II, the group became more of a Woman's Choir as men enlisted or were drafted into the war. The choir eventually fell under the leadership of Pastor Ullrich's wife, Lillian, who served as music instructor and church organist.

A PIPE ORGAN Up to 1940 a reed organ provided the church music for the Bethany congregation. The purchase of a pipe organ seemed impossible until St. John's Lutheran Church in LaGrange

underwent remodeling. They offered their pipe organ to the congregation on the condition that Bethany would remove it from their church. This generous offer was accepted, and the organ was dedicated September 15, 1940. The cost for removal and repairs was a mere \$200, thanks to the donation of the display pipes by Fred Landorf.

MISSION CONGREGATION FORMED Membership increased slowly but steadily. The “big event” of each year was the church picnic. As their numbers increased, the Warrenville members expressed a desire for services and Sunday School in their own community. Under direction of the Home Mission Board, services began in Warrenville on Easter Sunday of 1941. Bethany released 30 communicant members and on April 13, 1942, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Warrenville was formed. Rev. Ullrich served as pastor of both locations for the next two years.

Starting in 1940 three theological students were brought in to help Pastor Ullrich with teaching duties in the Day School. They were John Katz, Theo. Goehle, and Harold Hitzman. Pastor’s duties demanded more time, and their help was both needed and appreciated. They continued helping until 1942. Circumstances and conditions again made it necessary for Pastor Ullrich to take over the work of the Day School.

The loss of those 30 members and their children (around 50 people) to Good Shepherd was about one-fifth of Bethany’s membership. However, this loss renewed vigor at Bethany. During World War II many changes took place. The church constitution was revised, the financial condition improved, a telephone was installed, and the church opened a checking account and bought a safe. German services were terminated in 1942, although communion in the German language was offered until January 1, 1950, when the practice was discontinued.

Besides the yearly picnic, another big event each year was the Mission Festival. Originally held in the month of August, it eventually was moved to October. Sometimes speakers from Synod or the mission field spoke before the congregation. These services were yearly events and were one of the high points of the church year. However, they seemed to die out after the late 1940’s. Minutes for voters’ meetings were meticulously hand written all these years. Much of the history of the church at this time comes from these minutes. Starting in 1940, minutes would be typed. The introduction of the “mimeograph” would allow them to be printed for the voters.

In the spring of 1942 the church was redecorated under the leadership of one of the theological students assisting Pastor Ullrich with teaching in the Day School. In 1944 a debt reduction drive was held, and with a gift from the Women’s Missionary League of Northern Illinois and the Church Extension Fund, the church debt was greatly reduced. The old coal furnace was converted to “the new oil burner” in 1945, with most of the funds donated by the Lydia Ladies Society. In 1946 the congregation was considering hiring a lay teacher for their school. Both the Great Depression and the war years seemed to have created a “severe shortage of synodical teachers” at the time. Pastor Ullrich would continue with teaching the students of the Day School. By 1947, Bethany’s 20th anniversary year, the congregation was self-supporting. That year, on April 27th, a special service was celebrated to honor the “Centennial of Synod.”

A LAY TEACHER IS HIRED The following year Pastor Ullrich received a call to St. Paul’s Lutheran in Tinley Park, Illinois. In a special voters’ meeting the congregation unanimously voted to retain him as their pastor. Pastor Ullrich appreciated their vote of confidence and responded to St.

Paul's. In January of 1949, he again informed the people of a call to Grand Junction, Colorado. He left the decision in the hands of God and the congregation. Bethany again unanimously voted to retain him, but he urged the congregation to find a full time lay teacher so he could give full attention to all his pastoral duties. A fund drive was conducted and tuition was increased. Special offering envelopes for the school were put into use. In the fall of 1949 Pastor Ullrich's daughter, **Eunice Thanepohn, was hired as the first schoolteacher for the eight-grade school.** Mrs. Thanepohn was a good choice. She was a graduate of Bethany and Naperville High School. She graduated with honors from North Central College. She came to Bethany with many years of teaching experience in the public sector.

In the latter half of the 1940's the membership of Bethany had grown to such a point that the church was in need of more pews. War shortages prevented the finding of quality wood, and they could not find a carpenter to make them of the same design as those already installed. The need for more seating space was solved with the purchase of steel chairs. By the early 1950's pews finally were added.

In the early 1950's Bethany's membership steadily increased as the community grew. This was a time when suburbs grew up around major city areas creating the urban environment we know in our country today. Many improvements were made to the building including remodeling the kitchen, which was paid for by the Lydia Ladies Society. The coal furnace was already converted to oil. The church hall was redecorated under the leadership of the Men's Club. A tile floor was installed and new school desks were purchased. In 1951 a neon bulletin sign was placed in front of the church, purchased from the funds donated in memory of Rev. Ullrich's father. Pastor's father was a great benefactor of Bethany. It was his home that Pastor Ullrich and his family rented for almost 25 years for the modest monthly sum of \$45.

III. VICAR EDWARD FISHER – 1952 to 1953

Pastor Ullrich requested a release from his call to Bethany in May of 1952. He accepted a call to serve as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Matteson, Illinois, south of Chicago. His request was reluctantly granted. Circuit visitor Rev. R. M. Beckemeir of Yorkville suggested that a student pastor serve the congregation until a parsonage could be purchased. It was felt it would be difficult to call a pastor who had a family if there was no parsonage in which to live. In June of 1952, Vicar Edward Fischer was called to serve the congregation. A \$5000 gift from the Kroehler Manufacturing Company, added to by member donations, provided down payment on a house at 523 N. Webster Street. Bethany purchased its first parsonage for \$14,500. During this time, the Lutheran congregations in the area came up with the idea of a "central school" for their use, even if it meant part of the grades in one location and the remainder in another. After much discussion, Bethany voted not to follow that path in 1955 but continue with their own Day School.

IV. PASTOR C. F. BROECKER – 1953 to 1956

Vicar Fischer served thru June of 1953 when Rev. C. F. Broecker was installed as pastor of Bethany on July 5. The following year **the church debt was retired** and two Sunday morning worship services were initiated. Upon **Mrs. Thanepohn's resignation**, Mr. Alan Ostwald was hired to teach the first semester of 1953, at which time **Mr. Herbert Koehler**, newly graduated from Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, **took over** in 1954. In addition to teaching, Mr. Koehler was the organist, choir director, and principal. The congregation sold the house on N. Webster Street and

purchased the home directly behind the church at 623 N. Center Street for use as the parsonage. A home to the south of the church on Washington Street was purchased for the residence of Mr. Koehler. Sunday School sessions were held in both homes in addition to the church building due to the large increase in enrollment.

Around this time the old pipe organ was requiring regular tune-ups. At the November 6, 1955, voters' meeting the members were informed of an eleven rank pipe organ being offered by St. John's Lutheran in Decatur, Illinois. It would cost \$500. It would require some \$4000 to \$6000 to repair and install. The voters approved the purchase. Also during the year, surveys showed that having a new school would increase the number of students attending. The present location in the church basement was hindering growth.

V. PASTOR WALTER E. ROSCHKE – 1956 to 1987

OUTGROWING OUR LOCATION Rev. Walter Roschke was called to serve the congregation following the release of Pastor Broecker. He was installed April 8, 1956. Under Pastor Roschke's direction Bethany grew and it became evident that the location of the church and school proved inadequate for expansion. In September it was reported that relocating to new land and constructing new facilities would cost around \$200,000. This idea seemed intimidating at the time, and voters sought an alternative. Studies were made to see what could be done. One idea was to remodel and enlarge the present church and build a school on the lot south of the church. A second idea was to buy land and build the school first, bringing over the church later on. A third was to buy a new site and build the church first. The old church building would be converted into a school temporarily. The fourth idea called for buying a new site, selling the old property, and building a new church using the "overflow area" temporarily by means of folding doors for the Day School and Sunday School. Study showed that "reconditioning the present property" would cost almost the same as relocating. The need for church and school and adequate play area was too great. Staying on the Washington and Seventh Avenue property would not solve it at all. The congregation decided to relocate rather than try to expand where they were. Failure to expand would only limit their ministry to the members and the community.

At this time a two-lane road went beyond Edward Hospital, which was south of the Washington and Seventh Avenue location. When developer Harold Moser offered to donate the land at 919 S. Washington Street, Bethany accepted the offer. The church purchased the property for the cost of improvements – approximately \$31,000. Mr. Moser promised that if his offer were accepted, he would help the church. His offer was generous and greatly appreciated. A loan from Aid Association for Lutherans helped with the purchase of the property. Bethany began a move to its fourth location.

Meanwhile, Mr. Koehler received a call to Messiah Lutheran Church in Sterling. He was called to be Director in Youth Work and Music and to assist the pastor. He felt he should leave the decision in the hands of the congregation. The voters' body decided that the call to Messiah Lutheran did not use the talents of Mr. Koehler. He was a trained teacher, and trained synodical teachers still were scarce at this time. He would not use his God-given ability wisely by not teaching students. Also, Bethany was considering an expansion program. There were other duties that Mr. Koehler performed for the church. Bethany's needs seemed greater than those of Messiah Lutheran. The voters unanimously gave Mr. Koehler a vote of confidence to stay. To show their gratitude, the congregation raised his salary and that of Pastor Roschke.

A MOVE TO 919 Plans moved ahead with relocation. It was found that the pipes on the recently acquired organ could not be used in a new building, so the old pipe organ was eventually sold. This influenced the decision to put the money collected so far in a new Organ Fund. The committee looked at pipe organs in the area as well as electronic organs. It was agreed that an Allen Electronic Organ be purchased for the new sanctuary. Meanwhile, during all that was going on, Mr. Koehler received two more calls. He declined both to stay on at Bethany.

A building committee was appointed consisting of: Orman Boldt, Wilber Fisher, Walter Janke, Herbert Koehler, Paul Kueker, Robert Hering, Theodore Moeller, Gerald Purpur, Otto Purpur, Lee Sack, Roland Schaefer, Waldemar Schmidt, Merrill Gregory (fund-raising chairman), and Kenneth Steinbock (monitoring chairman). Charles Edward Stade & Associates of Park Ridge were chosen as architects. Architectural plans were ready for the congregation in May 1958. Concannon Builders, Inc. of Naperville was hired as contractors. Ground breaking took place Sunday afternoon, April 12, 1959, at 3:30PM. The church would be located in the new West Moser Highlands subdivision, just south of Edward Hospital.

At the start of the 1959-60 school year, Mr. Koehler received yet another call, this time to Sadorus, Illinois. Considering the building program and his importance to the school program, he declined their call. A Baptist congregation contacted Bethany about the purchase of their Washington and Seventh Avenue property. It was decided they could use the building on Sunday and Wednesday nights until Bethany vacated the location. They also were told they could purchase the parsonage and teacherage if they so desired, otherwise they would be sold to help pay off the construction cost of the new facility. With the change of location, Pastor Roschke asked the voters if a change in worship gowns could be made. He favored a white gown with changing stoles for church seasons and festivals. It was agreed this change be made when they moved into the new location. As the new site neared completion, an open house was held to stimulate interest in the school.

The cornerstone was laid September 13, 1959. Members gathered at 919 Washington for the ceremony. Items from the cornerstone of Bethany's first church were put in the cornerstone of the new location. At the February 1960 voters' meeting, Mr. Koehler reported he was called to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Hannibal, Missouri. As he had done so often in the past, he declined their call to remain at Bethany.

Dedication of the new edifice took place March 13, 1960. A valedictory service was first held at the old church at 9:45AM. After an opening hymn and responsive Psalm reading, the Church Council approached the chancel and reverently received the sacred chancel appointments, books, and vessels to bear them to the new sanctuary. The congregation quietly left the church, followed by the Council and Pastor. The chairman of the Trustees locked the doors and the congregation proceeded to the new site.

The parishioners gathered outside the new church and sang "Onward, Christian Pilgrims." After the invocation and prayer, the keys of the new building were given to the chairman of the Church Council by the architect and contractor. A prayer followed and the Pastor unlocked the door. The congregation's president opened them for the parishioners. With that Pastor Roschke read the words of Psalm 100: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord, He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with

thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting: and His truth endureth to all generations.”

The people processed into the new church to be seated. The opening hymn was “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty.” The Rite of Dedication followed. The anthem “O How Amiable” by Ralph Vaughan Williams was sung by the adult choir. After the hymn of dedication, the Rev. John Behnken, president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, delivered the sermon of dedication. After the dedicatory prayer, hymn of thanksgiving, and the benediction, the congregation responded with a triple “Amen. Amen. Amen.” The congregation left to postludes of Henry Purcell. This indeed was a stirring beginning for Bethany’s new location.

That afternoon saw a festival service at 3:30PM. There was an organ recital by guest organist, Hans G. Wurman at 7PM followed by a service of music and song. On March 20th, Rev. Adolph Ullrich, Bethany’s first pastor, delivered a service on Christian education to the congregation. The following week on March 27, Rev. Carl Broecker, second pastor of Bethany, delivered a service of rededication to Christian service. The first Sunday of April saw the first communion served by Rev. Roschke in Bethany’s new sanctuary.

The total cost of the project was \$255,000. The congregation adopted a unified budget as growth continued. A pledge card system was also initiated. With the move to the new site the congregation incorporated and the name was changed from Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church of Naperville to Bethany Lutheran Church of Naperville. The job of caring for the new property would require a full time janitor. This was taken under consideration - perhaps this is something a retired person could do. Wells Organization was chosen to run a pledge program for the congregation. Some \$90,000 was pledged as a result.

In June 1960 the voters were informed of yet another call extended to Mr. Koehler. It was to Immanuel Lutheran in Crystal Lake. The voters of course expressed their desire for him to remain. Mr. Koehler explained that Immanuel was giving him a greater opportunity to work in his area of interest – music. He therefore asked for a release to do so. It was granted. A pot luck supper was held for Mr. Koehler. A monetary gift was presented to him in gratitude for all his work over the years.

OUR SCHOOL GROWS At the new location, Bethany’s Day School was no longer a one-room school. In fall of 1960 two teachers now taught in two classrooms. Mrs. Lee Sack taught grades one, two, and three, and **Mr. Fred Martin became principal** and taught grades four through eight. He also taught foreign language and worked with the children’s choir. Bus service provided by the public school district transported students to the “far side of town.”

ANOTHER MISSION FIELD The sale of the church and adjacent properties at Washington and Seventh Avenue enabled the church to purchase a house at 729 S. Wellner as a residence for the principal. Furthermore, contracts were submitted to build a parsonage at 1016 Catalpa Lane, right behind the church property. Near the end of the eventful year of 1960, members of Bethany again reached out into the mission field and 50 members were released to form Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle. In our Day School, a **Kindergarten was added** in 1961 with Mrs. Coodelia Pehlke and Mrs. Sack as teachers. Miss Karen Albers taught grades one through three and worked with church music. Mr. Martin taught grades four through eight. Interscholastic athletics began and the teams adopted

the name “Bethany Braves.” Blue and gold remained the school colors. As enrollment grew, so did the size of the staff.

Mr. Martin continued his tenure in 1962. Mrs. Sack moved back to the primary grades and Mrs. Pehlke taught Kindergarten. By the end of 1962 the congregation had some 508 communicant members with a total of 750 souls. The use of acolytes in church services was discussed. 1963 marked the 35th Anniversary of Bethany Lutheran Church. A celebration would be held the second Sunday of March, which marked the third anniversary of the dedication of the new sanctuary.

CONTINUED GROWTH AT 919 Mr. Martin accepted a call in the summer of 1963. In his last report he informed the voters that Bethany now had 82 students enrolled. Recent testing of all grades showed they are doing well. A call was extended to **Arthur Albrecht to serve as principal**. He would teach grades four through eight. Mrs. Pehlke returned to Kindergarten. Due to health issues, Mrs. Pehlke’s class was taken over first by Mrs. Arthur Albrecht and later by Mrs. Gregg Mueller. Miss Phyllis Buchhorn was hired to teach grades one through three. In the 1964 school year Miss Buchhorn taught Kindergarten with Miss Ruth Meschke teaching in the primary grades. At the April voters’ meeting, discussion took place on the fact that “the new location was reaching a saturation point.” A building of four to five classrooms would be needed to meet the school’s needs. That cost could be \$150,000 to \$175,000. The mortgage company gave favorable feedback on refinancing the loan for the church. The long range outlook for the 1969 budget looked good, and it was expected that Bethany would see growth from the new Bell Laboratories which moved to the area. Meanwhile, the Planning Committee urged moving ahead with a future addition. The voters approved the use of acolytes in the church services. Although Pastor Roschke received a call to Milwaukee, he returned it. There was much to be done at Bethany!

The Building Committee met with a dozen architects and presented concrete proposals for a building addition at the January 1966 voters’ assembly. Members of the committee were: Harold Lietzow (chairman), Ray Fabre, Albert Johnson, Henry Merkle, Waldemar Schmidt, Donald Strohschein, and Thomas Gene Tuech. Plans settled on adding six classrooms plus a kindergarten, halls and offices; redesign the church narthex and convert the church basement into a multi-purpose room. The projected cost would be around \$275,000. The present mortgage of \$87,000 cost \$22,000 yearly in payments. Refinancing this and the new addition would require payments of \$27,000 a year. It was felt the projected growth of the congregation could handle this.

Two new teachers, Mrs. Leanne Frank and Miss Carolee Allen, joined Mr. Albrecht for the 1965 school year, replacing Miss Buchhorn and Ruth Meschke. The functions of the church office had reached a point that it was suggested the church secretary be made “full time” effective September 1, 1966. The 1966 school year saw another facet added to the educational program of Bethany Day School. **A Pre-Kindergarten program was added**. Mrs. Joanne Van Scycle was the teacher for both Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. Miss Roberta Bishop taught the primary grades and Mr. Albrecht taught grades four through seven. There was no eighth grade that year. School colors were changed to purple and white. The September voter’s meeting reported that there were some 350 pupils enrolled in the Sunday School program. Things were getting overcrowded.

A TEMPORARY SETBACK / YET NEW GROWTH In the summer of 1966 Bethany Lutheran Church and School underwent some dramatic changes that resulted in deep soul-searching. Enrollment in our Day School had dropped. The architectural team of Ekroth, Mortorano and Ekroth

was engaged, but designs for the building program kept changing and tentative costs were rising. A voter's meeting early in 1967 discussed double sessions as a possibility to solving overcrowding in Sunday School. To assist with the growing church, a vicar program was adopted to assist Pastor Roschke with his work. By April, the drop in Day School enrollment compelled the Board of Education to propose dropping grades six through eight temporarily for the coming school year, and if need be grades one through five. A reasonable tuition would be charged once they were re-integrated into the program.

In the summer of 1967 Mr. Albrecht received two calls. Although the congregation gave him a vote of confidence, he favored the call to Timothy Lutheran in Chicago. The voters granted him a peaceful release. A staff member would assume the responsibility of interim principal. Voters agreed that Bethany proceed with construction of the new educational wing without the gymnasium. While the 919 structure had rooms that could be used for some classes, their use was shared with others and more room was needed. The Board of Elders and the Board of Christian Education would meet together to determine what the course of the educational program should be.

The school year began with classes in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten only. Mrs. Van Scycle acted as both teacher and principal. Mrs. Jean Walters helped with pre-kindergarten in the morning and Mrs. Charlene Fiene helped with kindergarten in the afternoon. This would be the start of a long and distinguished career for Mrs. Fiene with Bethany. At the January 1968 voters' assembly, it was pointed out that enrollment had seriously declined in the school. If there were enough enrollments, maybe first grade would be added. The church published its first pictorial directory that year. The teacherage on Wellner Road was sold for nearly \$23,000.

It was decided that the building program would continue with Wil-Freds, Inc. of Naperville as contractors. They agreed to freeze the cost of construction at \$283,449. While there would be no gymnasium at this time, the educational wing and all tie-ins to the existing structure were included. A carillon was to be installed to the church organ. It was hoped it would be ready by Christmas. During summer of 1968, work on the building addition was pretty much on schedule. The contractors would turn over three rooms (pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and one classroom) by the projected target date of October 14. With the start of the 1968-69 school year, the Board of Education decided to add one grade per year. Miss Judy Reinking taught first grade and was acting-principal. Mrs. Charlene Fiene taught Kindergarten and Mrs. Walters handled Pre-Kindergarten. Mrs. Marianne Hoffmann becomes the first librarian. Bethany's first pictorial directory was ready for distribution in fall. The new addition was dedicated Reformation Sunday, October 27, 1968. Total cost of the building with needed furnishings was \$345,000. Vicar Werner was installed December 1. He would assist Pastor Roschke and run the youth program.

DR. KIRCHHOFF Early in 1969 the voters agreed to call a new principal. He would teach and carry on duties of Director of Christian Education. In July, **James Kirchhoff became the new second grade teacher and principal.** The congregation assisted with a down payment on a house he wished to buy. While at Bethany, Mr. Kirchhoff earned his doctorate degree. Under his leadership the Day School would begin a five-year program of evaluation starting with the 1969-70 school year. Mr. Kirchhoff believed in a well-stocked school library, and one was begun under his leadership. Carol Eickemeyer was added to the staff as first grade teacher. Mrs. Fiene and Mrs. Walters continued in their positions as Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten teachers. Mrs. Hoffmann continued as

librarian. Mr. Kirchhoff reported a gradual increase in the enrollment of the Day School. Kenneth Sinclair became Bethany's new Vicar.

More staff was added in the following school year as replacements or new positions were needed: Mrs. Barbara Riggert (grade 2), Miss Susan Bee (grade 1), Mrs. Janet Pogue (K), and Mrs. Ruth Rauscher (Pre-K). The third grade was added with Mr. Kirchhoff and Mrs. Fiene sharing in the teaching duties. The enrollment for pre-kindergarten through grade three was up to 110 students. A three-year confirmation program was adopted and a church library was established in 1970. Robert Schaibley became the new Vicar. Grade four was added in the 1971-72 school year. Mrs. Florence Schmidt Landorf was hired to teach the class. Lillian Sargeant was added to the staff as a Pre-Kindergarten teacher. This would be the start of a fruitful stay for Mrs. Sargeant working with pre-kindergarteners at Bethany. A revised constitution was adopted in 1971 and provisions were made to phase out the vicarage program and call an associate minister.

GROWING IN THE LORD - PASTOR ROBERT SCHAIBLEY (1971 to 1974) and PASTOR ROBERT PETERSEN (1974 to 1977) In April of 1972 the Board of Education presented its study of future growth of the Day School. It hoped for a full Jr. High program and expansion of facilities for Day School, Sunday School, and congregational use. Plans called for an additional three to six classrooms, two of which were for specialized use of junior high needs. In addition, the learning center would be expanded and a gymnasium would be added. In the 1972-73 school year grade five was added to the program, completing the first phase of class additions. Another Pre-Kindergarten class was added. Mrs. JoAnn Rassmussen (K) joined the faculty. In addition to her teaching Kindergarten, Mrs. Rassmussen taught part time in fifth grade, giving time to Mr. Kirchhoff for administrative duties. Mrs. Riggert moved to grade 3 and Mrs. Fiene moved into grade two – the grade for which she became so well known and loved over the years. Enrollment had climbed to 155.

The Rev. Robert Schaibley accepted Bethany's call and became Bethany's first associate minister, having previously served Bethany as a vicar. Because of the growth of the congregation, a third service was added on Sunday morning – at 8, 9:30 and 11. This would help with overcrowding. Since Sunday School had a similar problem, children up thru grade six would have Sunday School at 9:30. For those in grades seven through twelve, classes would be at 11. At the December 1972 voters' meeting, the congregation granted Mr. Kirchhoff a partial leave from September 1, 1973, to July 1, 1974. During these 10 months he would be working on his doctorate degree in education. One of the teaching staff would assist with the running of the school during this time.

Glenn Steinbrenner was added to the teaching staff in 1973. He would teach grade five, be assistant principal, and was actively involved in school and church for many years to come. At this point the congregation had to consider whether or not they wished to continue adding more classes to the school until all eight grades would be represented at Bethany again. A committee was created at the December voters' meeting to study the idea. **Enrollment in the Day School was at a record high with 183 students in grades pre-kindergarten thru five.** In an effort to support continued Lutheran education, Bethany joined the Fox Valley Lutheran High School Association. The Day School Board also was looking into providing special education for the 1974-75 school year.

In 1974 Rev. Schaibley took a position at St. John in Fraser, Michigan, a congregation established in 1864. Its head pastor was elected to the position of First Vice-President of Synod which elevated their present associate to his position. In need of a new associate pastor with experience and proven

ability, they called Rev. Schaibley. Rev. Robert Petersen became Bethany's new associate pastor, being installed in August of 1974. In 1975 **Rev. Roschke celebrated 35 years in the ministry**, much of it here at Bethany. Rev. Petersen continued his ministry at Bethany until October 1977 when he accepted a call.

REBUILDING THE JR. HIGH AND LOOKING AHEAD In 1974 Bethany did indeed expand its junior high program. Grade six was added. Fifth and sixth grade met in classrooms rented from Grace Methodist Church on Gartner Road, just east of the 919 Washington site. Moving fifth grade in with sixth grade created some needed space at the 919 location. There were more staff additions too with Mrs. Judy Beirne (grade 5), Mrs. Katie Skewis (grade 4), Mrs. Darlene Hanneman (grade 1), and Mrs. Janice Govi (Pre-K). This began the long career of Mrs. Hanneman with Bethany as an excellent first grade teacher. Dr. Kirchhoff and Mr. Steinbrenner shared teaching fifth and sixth grade. **Bethany's enrollment now stood at 216 students.** Seventh grade was added in 1975. Joyce Lohrentz and Donna Kiedaisch were added to the staff that year in part time positions. Mrs. Kiedaisch was a teaching aide and Mrs. Lohrentz taught part time in seventh grade with Mr. Steinbrenner. Mr. Steinbrenner also taught part time in grade six, giving time to Dr. Kirchhoff for administrative duties. **Enrollment had increased to 240 students.** Chapel services became part of the regular weekly school routine. By the end of 1975 there were some 1621 baptized souls in the congregation.

At the start of 1976 the congregation initiated its Rite of Friendship to help parishioners get to know their fellow members on a more personal basis. This practice has carried through into our present time. In May 1976 the congregation was presented a program entitled "*Looking Ahead – A Guide to the 1976-1981 Period*" prepared by the Planning Committee of the congregation. The committee was chaired by Carroll Ebert and consisted of fellow members Alta Dunlap, Jack Mortenson, Glenn Volkmann, Don Etter, Linn Riggert, Glenn Schmidt, and Sly Kanzler.

Considering the growth of the community and the congregation, the following points were recommended. As top priority, this plan supported the Board of Education's program to expand the Day School to include classrooms through the eighth grade. A learning center for library and audio/visual materials was needed for the growing education program of both church and school. A gymnasium was needed not only for the athletic program of the school, but also for musical and dramatic presentations. It was suggested that fellowship before and after services be provided, as well as for planned dinners and the like. This leads into the need for larger facilities for fellowship gatherings. A large gymnasium with kitchen facilities would again solve the need of both church and school. **With 38 Sunday School and Bible classes, more room was needed to prevent a drop in attendance. Attendance had risen to some 384 students and adults.** The present facilities lacked adequate space for youth and adult programs. A centralized office would benefit the handling of both church and school business. Storage facilities were woefully inadequate. Salaries and living allowances for church and school staff needed to be increased to meet the rising cost of living over the years. A program for the education and rededication of the members of Bethany was needed to get them more involved in the life of the congregation. Finally, we as a congregation needed to do more in the area of missions. It had been many years since the last mission congregation was established. One in the nearby Bolingbrook/Woodridge area would soon be needed. Our support of foreign missions needed to be improved. A congregation of our size would benefit from a Business Manager. Our worship services could be edified with a full time Music Director. Full-time custodial care would be needed for our growing congregation and complex.

It was estimated that if the proposed plans of building, program additions, and increased cost to the budget were begun in 1977, by 1981 congregational growth would be able to cover support of the budget and new mortgage. The congregation would need to raise approximately \$350,000 in a fund drive and carry a mortgage of \$675,000 to fund the building program. Blueprints were drawn up for the 919 S. Washington Street site. Had things gotten off to a quicker start, Bethany's story today may very well have been centered at the 919 Washington Street location. You will see as the story continues, as things worked out this plan for the future would lead to the facility we have today at 1550 Modaff Road.

For the 1976-77 school year the eighth grade was added to the Day School. The junior high was complete. Wayne Anderson (grade 6) and Keith Wilharm (grade 5) were added to the faculty. Mr. Wilharm would be actively involved for the next 10 years. The students walked back to Bethany for chapel services, special programs, and hot lunch days. The junior high students voted to become the "Bethany Royals" and made blue and white the school colors. Mr. Steinbrenner and Dr. Kirchhoff split teaching the eighth grade. Mrs. Lohrentz took over seventh grade and Mrs. Kiedaisch taught fourth grade. Mrs. Messer was hired as a teaching aide for grade two. Mrs. Anderson became librarian. This year the Lutheran schools in DuPage County created a Lutheran Teachers Conference – holding yearly conferences for their teachers in the county. **258 students were enrolled in the Day School.** The Parent Teacher League had been very active in the life of our school. Over the past few years they had donated over \$14,000 towards the school and its programs. In June 1977 Bethany graduated 16 students, the first graduating class in 12 years. Dr. Kirchhoff began the practice of placing a framed picture of the graduating class outside the school office. This practice continued until Bethany moved to its new location.

For the first time since its beginning, Bethany had a full time principal with Dr. Kirchhoff. The congregation extended a vote of thanks to him for his accomplishments and years of service. His doctorate degree and ability as an administrator had made him a man sought by others. He already had turned down a call to another congregation to remain at Bethany. Dr. Kirchhoff began a program for accreditation of our Day School. Marlene Baughman (grade 5), Connie Krueger Gluck (grade 7), and Shirley Wiemers (teaching aide) were new staff additions for the 1977-78 school year. An enrichment class was added to the curriculum. Mrs. JoAnn Rassmussen, already on staff, would be hired to cover that as well as continue her Pre-Kindergarten duties. She would serve in many ways in the Bethany program over the years. She assisted with Jr. High performances. She was a dedicated teacher. Mrs. Yaverski took over as librarian. Other minor adjustments were made as duties were shifted among a few staff members. Pastor Petersen accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran in Carlos, Minnesota, in October. **Enrollment in the Day School now was 270 students.**

A special voters' meeting was called in September to discuss the need for expansion. As news of furnishing a new addition raised proposed costs and the discovery that the existing boiler could not heat a gymnasium addition, the Building Committee was told to investigate the projected costs with the schematics of the architects and that these be broken into various phases for the Finance Committee to study. The closing voters' assembly of 1977 approved assistance of sacristans to expedite the serving of Holy Communion.

50TH ANNIVERSARY 1978 marked the 50th Anniversary of Bethany. The *Naperville Sun* featured a two page write up on the history of the church and school. On January 15, Bethany began its celebrations with the president of the Northern Illinois District, Dr. E. H. Happel, preaching at the

morning services. The president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Dr. J. A. O. Preus, spoke at a special service of thanksgiving and praise held at 3PM, January 22nd, at Pfeiffer Hall of North Central College. The senior choir, under the direction of Dr. Kirchhoff, presented special anthems. On August 20, another special service of celebration was held at Pfeiffer Hall. The guest speaker was Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, the celebrated speaker of the “Lutheran Hour.” A catered luncheon and free-will offering followed.

NEED FOR EXPANSION In May of 1978 a two year study was presented to the congregation. It addressed the needs of expansion at that time. *Growing in the Lord – The Challenge* was a four-part program to meet the needs of the growing church and school. The first priority was for four classrooms, a science/art center, and an extension to the learning center. Phase two called for a much needed fellowship hall. It would be a double level structure providing locker rooms and gymnasium on one level and church gatherings on the other. Phases three and four would add needed office space and remodel the lower level of the existing sanctuary. The problem of parking space was not addressed in these plans. Bethany’s property was surrounded by the residential community. Fortunately, Mid America Savings and Loan had its main bank building a block south of Bethany. On Sundays we could use their parking lot for those cars not finding room in Bethany’s parking area. This would save purchasing residential property to convert to more parking. Each phase had its price quotation, and if all were done at one time the price would be almost \$900,000. The fund drive began to receive pledges.

VI. PASTOR LARRY WESOLIK – 1978 to 1992

As the congregation grew, a call was extended to Pastor Larry Wesolik. He was installed on August 27, 1978, as assistant pastor of Bethany. That year Bethany was knee deep in mud, bricks, pipes, workman, and cement trucks. The congregation had decided to expand with Phase 1 of the *Growing in the Lord* program with four new classrooms, a science/art center, and a library addition. Grace Methodist was in need of expanding their own educational program so this helped motivate the new building program at Bethany. This addition enabled the Jr. High to be brought over to the 919 site and the entire school was housed together under one roof. Several committees and subcommittees helped plan the new construction project. Balluff and Balluff of Elmhurst were the architects and Wil-Freds, Inc. of Naperville was again the contractor. The construction cost for the new addition was \$259,839. In spring of 1979 Bethany enriched its worship with the purchase of handbells. With the start of the 1978-79 school year, Mrs. Mae Froehle was added to the staff as third grade teacher, and Faith Wesolik came at mid-year to take over Mrs. Govi’s pre-kindergarten class. Mrs. Millie Knosher became the new church secretary, replacing Iris Fisher who had been with us for many years. Some class adjustments were made among teachers for the year.

Dr. Kirchhoff took a call to the Northern Illinois District in 1979 to become Assistant Secretary of Education for the Northern Illinois District, later moving to the top position. However, because of his love for music he remained active in Bethany’s music program. In honor of his years of outstanding service, a plaque was placed in the library in the new addition – the **Dr. W. James Kirchhoff Library and Learning Center**. This plaque was placed in the new library of our present location when Bethany relocated to 1550 Modaff Rd. **Glenn Steinbrenner took over as interim principal**. Changes brought new staff additions that year: Miss Sharon Mason (grade 5), Miss Sue Dumford (grade 7), and Mrs. Esther Kaups (art). A hot lunch program was added as a regular part of the program once a week. The new addition was dedicated in fall of that year. In spring of 1980 the

church council agreed that Elders and called teachers be allowed to assist with communion when requested to do so by the pastors.

John Kosinsky was installed as principal on June 29, 1980. Mrs. Jan Ott (grade 5) and Carol Stirling (grade 6) were new staff additions. Other positions remained the same. Mrs. Myrna Neumann replaced Mrs. Diersen who had been school secretary for many years. Beginning with the 1980 calendar year, cash flow problems for the congregation seemed to be a problem at times. Mr. Anderson resigned to take a position in the public school sector. Because of these recent problems with meeting the budget, it was felt sixth grade could best be filled with a contract teacher. Janet Pogue taught choir in fifth thru eighth grade while Jan Ott covered music. There still were some unfinished projects with the new addition that needed to be gotten out of the way. An instrumental program for students in the Day School was begun.

A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS 1980 was a year filled with anniversaries: Rev. Roschke celebrated 40 years in the ministry, Rev. Wesolik was celebrating his 10th anniversary in the ministry, Bethany Lutheran School held its 50th anniversary, and it was 20 years that Bethany occupied its new site at 919 S. Washington Street. To lead up the overall youth program in the congregation, **DCE Greg Mueller was added** to the staff in 1983. Bethany had its first full-time youth worker.

VII. MOVE TO MODAFF

Day School enrollment for the 1981 school year had risen to 280. Marlene Baughman returned as fifth grade teacher when her husband was transferred back into the area. The other positions remain unchanged. Mrs. Pogue returned to take choir and Mrs. Bittner was hired to teach music. Realizing the needs and potential of the church and school, Bethany adopted a long-range plan for growth in 1982. Mr. Wilharm pointed out that it was getting more difficult to run the athletic program of the Day School because of the lack of a gymnasium. It was obvious Bethany needed to relocate since the 919 Washington Street location was filled to capacity and did not allow room for needed expansion. Bethany literally was “bursting at the seams.” A new site would be the most effective way to serve long-term growth. A variety of site locations were looked into. The 1982-83 school year did not see many changes. Mrs. Toni Hupp became the new librarian. Carol Stirling remarried and was now Carol Sundstrom.

In the 1983-84 school year Dee Hillman joined the staff to cover music and choir. Helen Tipler (art and Spanish instructor) and Sandy Todd (librarian) joined the staff in part time positions. Bethany began to offer electives for its junior high students – Spanish, computer programming, and first aid. At this time, Bethany began a campaign called *Stewardship of Life* to eventually move the church and school to expanded facilities. Architectural plans were unveiled at two dinners held Sunday and Monday, October 2nd and 3rd. The design would serve the needs of the congregation for the next several decades. The fellowship dinners were held at Jerry Sharko’s Restaurant in Lisle. Pastor Roschke, Carroll Ebert, Lynn Riggert, and representatives of the Church Growth Services discussed Phase 1 building plans with the members of the congregation. The weeks following would be devoted to family visits. Members of the Building Committee were: Jim Seitz (chairman), Lynn Riggert, Syl Kanzler, Wilma Diersen, Ernie Baughman, John Wiemers, Howard Graff, Bonnie Abernathy, Rick Bizup, and John Kosinsky. They worked for months on the needs and the plans for the new church and school buildings.

Bethany made the proposal to the Naperville Plan Commission in April of 1984. It would develop 22 acres on the east side of Modaff Road and south of the Bay Colony subdivision with a church, school, and gymnasium/fellowship center. The original proposal called for the gymnasium/fellowship center to be constructed first, with the church and school to be completed in four to six years. The size of the congregation at the time was around 2,500 with a school of some 300 students. The facilities needed room to expand and serve the needs of church and school. The church planned to buy the 22-acre site once the land was annexed by the city. Despite some concerns of neighbors about the existing traffic on Modaff Road, the Plan Commission and City Council went ahead with its approval. Bethany purchased 22 acres from Mrs. Irene Flock in July 1984 at a cost of \$530,400.

THE PAC IS BUILT In the fall of the year Miss Joanne Ford (Rach) joined the teaching staff as fourth grade teacher. A 3-year old Pre-Kindergarten class was added to the program. Mrs. Tipler gave up art instruction to stay with teaching Spanish and also cover spelling classes. In 1985 Peggy Trick was hired as art instructor for the Day School. Construction on the 22 acre Flock Farm on Modaff Road was begun with construction of the Parish Activity Center (PAC). This would be the gymnasium and fellowship center. On October 27, 1985, Bethany had a ground breaking ceremony on the site. The service was led by Pastor Roschke and Pastor Wesolik. Among the dignitaries present were Bethany's two pastors, John Kosinsky (principal), Mrs. Flock, Bob Hunter (architect), Harry Pokorny (contractor), and other committee leaders. The Bethany School Choir was directed by Dee Hillman and the Adult Choir was led by Jim Kirchhoff. Construction on the Parish Activity Center began quickly.

In 1986 Walter Shiffer was added to the staff as third grade teacher. Sandy Todd spent time teaching in third grade as well as being librarian. Nikki Vahle also joined the staff as a language arts teaching instructor. The Pre-Kindergarten program was expanded to include 5 year olds. Construction of the Parish Activity Center was completed and dedicated December 14, 1986. The cost of the 12,160 sq. ft. structure was \$964,817. Unfortunately, the financial conditions of the late 1980's flattened. This would put a hold on Bethany's plans to continue its building program for the next nine years. Meanwhile, the PAC provided a gym for the school children who were bussed from the 919 S. Washington site in the old "blue and white Bethany bus." The PAC also served for large congregational activities, youth, sporting events, and school play/musical productions. It also was viewed as an extension of the church until the time Bethany could move its facility to the Modaff location. Plans were made for church services and Bible classes to be held there on Sunday. Paraments, an altar, lectern, and candles were bought for that purpose. Ushers and Sunday School teachers were lined up.

CONTINUED GROWTH - NEW MISSION CONGREGATION During this time the city of Naperville was growing quickly. The little rural town of a few hundred people had grown into a city of over 100,000. Bethany again saw a need to establish a new congregation in the area, this time in north Naperville. Bethany provided their pastor with office space by walling off a section of the hallway between the church and school wing. In December of 1987 another mission field was established with **Word of Life Lutheran Church**. Although several Bethany members joined this new congregation, we still saw growth in membership. Some of this growth was due to the fact that in 1987 Bethany brought to their staff **Ralph Geisler** as the **Director of Outreach and Assimilation**. Mr. Geisler, who served through 1990, was instrumental in starting a fourth Sunday morning service held in the Parish Activity Center. By this time Bethany was holding three worship services at 8,

9:30, and 11 AM, with Sunday School and adult Bible Class at 9:30. An additional service was held on Monday evenings, which later was moved to 5PM on Saturday.

REV. ROSCHKE RETIRES Pastor Roschke retired in June of 1987. A retirement dinner was held in the PAC to honor Bethany's beloved pastor for his 31 years of service to the congregation. So much took place at Bethany during his years of leadership. The congregation relocated to its present location; four building programs took place – the building of the church, the first school addition in 1968, the second school addition in 1978, and construction of the PAC in 1986; the growth of the congregation as Naperville changed from a small country town to a bustling suburban community. Pastor Roschke was the pastor with whom much of the congregation grew up.

The end of the 1986-87 school year saw Mr. Steinbrenner and Mr. Wilharm moving on. Mr. Steinbrenner ended 14 years of dedicated service to Bethany and Mr. Wilharm left after 10 years of faithful service. Both accepted positions as administrators in their new locations. The 1987-88 school year saw Glenn Sonlitner added to the junior high staff along with Ken Howard. Mr. Sonlitner was the eighth grade homeroom instructor and added his skills to the language arts and social studies programs. He would graduate many eighth grade classes in his stay at Bethany and be editor of the school yearbook. He worked with the school newspaper and assisted with Jr. High musical productions for many years. Mr. Howard was the seventh grade instructor and gave his talents to math, science, and the athletic program. Sue Ilich (art) and Amy Wanic (motor facilitator) also joined the staff. JoAnn Rassmussen remarried and become Mrs. Sislow. Sandy Todd continued her work as librarian and also moved into part time teaching in grade four.

PASTOR TERRY McREYNOLDS – 1988 to 2003 Pastor Terry McReynolds was called to Bethany to assist Rev. Wesolik. He was installed as Pastor of Discipleship on March 27, 1988 - Palm Sunday. As the congregation and staff continued to grow, a need for more office space developed. A house on the corner of Sycamore and Washington streets was purchased for around \$100,000 and converted into an office. The garage became Bethany's print shop. The house was conveniently located adjacent to the church parking lot. JoAnn Sislow became full-time enrichment/resource instructor for the Day School in the 1988-89 school year. Mary Lou Gibbs (Spanish) and Enid Groch (librarian) also joined the staff. Joanne Rach moved to the sixth grade position and Sandy Todd took over fourth grade. Mrs. Sundstrom dropped to a part time teaching position that year. **Enrollment stood at 304 students.** Things did not change much for the 1989-90 school year. Mrs. Karen Howard became the new librarian. Mrs. Theresa Krueger replaced Mrs. Neumann as school secretary, who had served as secretary for many years.

CHANGES IN STAFF AND CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS Questions were raised in 1990 about lack of a unified salary base and inequitable health care coverage. Workers were not being paid equally or covered equally with benefits. The pay scale lagged behind the public sector. The Allen Electronic Organ was some 30 years old and beginning to show its age. Replacement would run between 40 and 50 thousand dollars.

In August Mrs. Vahle moved into the sixth grade position. Mrs. Nancy Jahnke became the new kindergarten and pre-kindergarten instructor. This began her long and honored career with Bethany and the early education department. Mrs. Nancy Yonker also joined the staff teaching pre-kindergarten. Mrs. Ruth Rost became a teaching aide, replacing Shirley Wiemers who had been on staff for many years. Mrs. Sue Connors took over the position as art instructor. The following school

year Mrs. Jahnke devoted herself full time to kindergarten. She was a superb teacher with the kindergartners. Mrs. Vahle replaced Mr. Shiffer as third grade teacher and Mrs. Renee Lasch took over the teaching aide position. Mrs. Rose Andermann took over physical education and Mrs. Sundstrom again was in charge of sixth grade. Mrs. Karen Calpin took over the position of school secretary after the Krueger family moved away, beginning her long carrier with Bethany Lutheran School.

It was about this time that Bethany was considering adding air-conditioning to the sanctuary to make summer worship more comfortable. Plans were drawn up and debated, but finances were becoming a problem in 1992. Things were so bad that several suggestions were made to balance the budget. It was suggested that the Jr. High be closed or that we drop back to one pastor. Maybe we should drop the position of Director of Christian Education or the DCE intern. Other suggestions even considered selling the Modaff property. The best scenario would be to continue with no salary increases for staff or budget increases for church programs. In faith Bethany decided to continue and trust in the Lord for guidance.

With Bethany's hopes of moving to a new location to meet the growing needs of the school and congregation in a state of limbo, some church leaders thought new leadership would help solve the problem. In the midst of Bethany's "growing pains," Pastor Wesolik took a call to Ohio in 1992. With the assistance of Elders and called staff, Pastor McReynolds administered to the needs of the congregation until another pastor was called.

With the start of the 1992-93 school year, Mrs. Louise Bolt joined the staff as pre-kindergarten teacher. Together, she and her husband, Kirk Bolt, did much with the school music program. Mr. Bolt became the new third grade teacher. The Bolts were a wonderful addition to our school. The Bolts would be with Bethany for many years to come. Miss Arndt and Miss June Eschbach became the new teacher aides. Mrs. Sue Carnevale took over the position of sixth grade instructor. She brought her talent for literature into the junior high and would be remembered for her creativity. Mrs. Karyl Silerzio became the new art instructor. A band program was initiated for Bethany students with Mr. Dave O'Fallon in charge. Sue Carnevale was injured in a fall during the early months of the school year and Mrs. Jan Ott filled in until her return.

John Kosinsky took a call in spring of 1993. **Don Wischmeyer was called and installed as the new principal.** With the start of the 1993-94 school year, Mrs. Lana Hahn and Mrs. Cherie Malenke became teaching aides. Mr. Betz became the new band director. Mrs. Ott again filled in for Mrs. Carnevale as she underwent corrective surgery from her injury the previous year. A series of DCE interns worked with Greg Mueller in the late 1980's. **Kendis Bender** was one of the DCE interns. As Mr. Mueller took on more administrative duties, Kendis was called to serve full time in the position of **Youth and Children's Ministry** in 1992. Greg continued his duties until he left in 1995. Several work camps and conferences saw our Bethany youth involved in these years.

In February of 1992, focus groups were held resulting in the overwhelming consensus to begin raising funds to build a church on the Modaff property. By late summer the Modaff Building Committee was formed. The question that was debated for a while was which to build first – the church or school. With previous financial concerns, building one at a time would be the "safe and sensible thing" to do. It would be a "leap of faith" that would lead the congregation to decide on building both church and school at the Modaff location.

Although Dr. Kirchoff had taken a call to serve the Northern Illinois District and had become Director of Education, he continued to serve Bethany in the area of music by directing the choir, playing the organ, and assisting with the church music program. Bethany was blessed with many staff and congregational members who were gifted in music. **Dee Hillman** directed the bell choir during many of these years. Bethany's bell choir became well-known in the community under her leadership. Many of the Day School teachers directed children's choirs. With a growing program, however, Bethany felt it best to bring on **Lynn Little** as part time **Music Director** in September of 1994.

VIII. A LEAP OF FAITH – THE MOVE TO MODAFF COMPLETED

PASTOR TIMOTHY ROSSOW - 1994 to 2016 After ministering to our congregation on his own for over a year, Rev. McReynolds received assistance when Pastor Timothy Rossow was called to Bethany in November of 1993. Pastor Rossow was installed as Pastor of Spiritual Life on January 24, 1994. Bethany again had two pastors for our large congregation. By the early 1990's Bethany was looking into renewing its dream of an expanded church and school facility. The church and school continued to grow and the national economy rebounded, allowing plans to once again proceed. The new building program would be called *Together in Christ We Grow*.

It was February 6, 1994, when Bethany members gathered at the Radisson Hotel for a Kick Off Dinner. At this dinner, and the many subsequent home visits made by the Kirby-Smith representatives, the congregation pledged \$1,000,000 over the next three years to begin its move to the Modaff property. In a "leap of faith" it was decided to build both church and school on the Modaff site. By putting their trust in God's hands, Bethany felt it could handle this challenge. Architects Williams and Elliott of Rockford were hired. They provided designs of the sanctuary, office, and school complex.

Ken Howard took a call to Wisconsin and Mrs. Nancy Kline filled in for the 1994-95 school year. Mrs. Hahn took over fifth grade when the Baughmans moved away. Both Mr. and Mrs. Baughman had been active in Bethany for the nearly 20 years they were with us. Mrs. Kim Bass was added as a teacher aide and Mrs. Tena Noffke became the new librarian. As the work load in our church increased, Mrs. Debby Franzen was hired as office administrator and Mrs. Debbie Kokaska was made confirmation coordinator. A few changes took place in the 1995-96 school year. One was a new band director with Miss Lori Zlotow. She worked both with Bethany and St. John's Wheaton. Miss Michelle Galfano (Stehle) became a new teaching aide. Todd Stirn was hired as the new seventh grade instructor/athletic director. This began Todd's tenure with Bethany. In September of 1995 the congregation voted to approve the \$4 million project to relocate to Modaff Road. Rekstad Builders was retained as general contractors.

A JOURNEY OF FAITH - GROUNDBREAKING On October 15, 1995, Bethany Lutheran Church and School held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new facilities at 1550 Modaff Road. Nearly 1000 people attended the ceremony at the 9:30 service held in the Parish Activity Center. Music was provided by the Bethany School Choir, the Adult Church Choir, Joyful Ringers and Chapel Chimes. The congregation then marched outside for the ground breaking ceremony. Three groups of people broke ground: the church pastors and school principal, church lay leaders, and professionals involved in the construction project. Mayor George Pradel and several councilmen also attended the ceremony. A luncheon followed.

THE DESIGN A new 500-seat sanctuary, narthex, administrative wing for church and school offices, a multi-purpose room, a nursery, and a 14-room school housing pre-kindergarten through grade eight including a library and science/art room would be constructed next to the existing Parish Activity Center. The new plan differed from the original blueprint drawn up in 1983. The original plan called for a large, three story, semi-circular sanctuary. A two story school wing radiated out from it. Administrative offices, learning center, multi-purpose room, fellowship hall, and a small chapel were part of that design. But costs for that design were now too expensive after 13 years of inflation. While the church was given expanded space over its present location, the school held approximately the same number of classrooms – although containing slightly larger floor space. A future building program would be planned as needed to accommodate the school’s continued growth.

The sanctuary is **a post-modern design, blending the traditional and contemporary.** The outside gives the appearance of a traditional cathedral with a 65-foot high ceiling to draw the eyes of the worshippers heavenward. But **the inside holds some unique and outstanding features.** There would be half-round seating instead of a conventional main isle with pews on either side. A continually flowing baptismal font flows into a small pond on both sides of the main isle which leads to the altar. Its prominence and constant flow reminds the worshipper of the importance of baptism in the life of the Christian. As the worshipper passes down the main isle for communion, passing through these two ponds helps us remember that God has forgiven us through the Waters of Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar. It helps us remember how God saved the Israelites by the parting of the Red Sea, tying the Old and New Testaments together. 60-foot high pillars flank the altar area. Reminiscent of the two bronze pillars erected at the entrance to the vestibule of Solomon’s temple, they, and the clerestory windows that run the length of the sanctuary, draw the worshippers' attention upward. A 40-foot high glass cross-shaped window is in the wall behind the altar. A pipe organ would be one of the largest in DuPage County with some 2,600 pipes. Bethany had planned ahead for this while in their old location. A 1954 Moeller instrument had been purchased and was stored at the Bradford Organ headquarters where it was being refurbished for its installation.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS Construction began in December and foundations were poured. Framework soon went up. Walls and brick work were underway in February and March of 1996. By late April the church superstructure was rising and the roof was being added to other parts of the building. May and June saw offices and rooms taking shape. In July things were well enough along that “tour days” were held to let the congregation see the new facility. The Wiche’s art collection was given to the church. These were 28 water colors by artist Evelyn S. Hardy depicting events and people from the Bible to be displayed in the new facility.

On September 8, 1996, a special service was held at the new site – it was a cornerstone celebration. Bethany’s other cornerstones would be preserved as a memento of our past at the new location – a position of prominence near the main entrance to the church. Nearly 700 people moved outside from the Parish Activity Center for the cornerstone laying. Pastors McReynolds and Rossow officiated. “We are here to state that this is Christ’s place, and on Him we build everything,” Rev. Rossow stated. A Bible passage from Ephesians 2:20 that describes God’s people as “built on the foundation of the prophets and apostles, with Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone,” was read. Hymns and Bible passages referring to the “firm foundation” were sung and read. Pastor McReynolds read a list of items to be placed in the time capsule behind the cornerstone. Children put their hand prints in wet cement slabs that would flank a sidewalk entering the office wing.

With the start of the 1996-97 school year, Mrs. Hanneman had ended her many years of dedication to the little ones. Miss Pam Mueller was called to fill the position. She brought to Bethany her talent with reading in the elementary grades. As time went on, Miss Mueller took courses in administration – which led to her becoming assistant principal and finally principal of Bethany. Miss Galfano married and became Mrs. Stehle. Mrs. Debbie Buckman and Mrs. Lynda Wischmeyer joined the staff as teaching aides. Mrs. Buckman would serve in many positions in her long stay with Bethany Lutheran School. Mrs. Betty Knutson was hired to be the new art instructor. As responsibilities grew in the school office, Mrs. Calpin became the office administrator and Mrs. Laurie Cade became school secretary. Mrs. Cook took over the position as confirmation coordinator. Mrs. Carnevale became ill in the late fall of the year and Mrs. Pam Bunte took over. We regret the passing of Mrs. Carnevale during Christmas break. She lost a short battle with cancer. Bethany lost a popular and talented teacher.

Work continued on the Modaff complex during the summer and fall with the expected completion being December or January. Meanwhile, the building program was helped by the purchase of Bethany's property on Washington Street and the 5 Sycamore house by Our Savior Lutheran Church. They were looking to expand their program and the Bethany property was conveniently located down the block from their own church building. The purchase price of some \$1.6 million helped close the overall mortgage of \$4,074,879 that Bethany congregation would have to carry. The Lord continued to bless Bethany! Meanwhile, changes in the city ordinance required the sprinkler system to be extended into the nave of the new sanctuary. October and November saw the sanctuary exterior being completed, with the interior worked on the last two months of the year. A cross with the Triumphant Christ was to be placed over the large glass cross-shaped window behind the altar. The sculptor John Mix was commissioned to construct the statue of the Risen Savior. It was put in place in December along with finishing touches on the interior of the sanctuary.

The years between 1983 and 1997 were indeed a “journey of faith” for Bethany Church and School. When the 919 location was built, the property was at the southern boundaries of Naperville. Now the city had grown in all directions and the church and school were in need of more space to serve its people and community. It took 14 years to fulfill that dream.

MOVING IN Classes at Bethany's Day School were cancelled on Friday, January 31, 1997, as church and school staff, with the help of many members and families, packed up to move to the new site. It was quite the feat to get the church and school offices, library, and the classrooms moved to the new location, but it was accomplished with all the help. On Sunday, February 2, a final church service was conducted at 919 S. Washington Street. Members gathered at 10:30AM in the parking lot to march to the new location. The procession was led by the processional cross and Bethany's two pastors. Carrying hymnals and Bibles, the people marched the mile-long route down Washington Street to Gartner Road and over to Modaff Road, then down to the 1550 Modaff location. Young and old alike marched in this procession – long-time parishioners and new members marched together. The congregation bade farewell to its old location as it sang “Onward Christian Soldiers.” At the new site they circled the building and prayed for the future. Bethany's old location would be converted into a day-care center by Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Later the old complex was demolished and a new community center was built by Our Savior.

DEDICATION On February 8, 1997, a fellowship dinner was held in the Parish Activity Center. Dedication Services were held on Sunday, February 9, at the 8 and 11 AM services. In attendance

was Mrs. Minnie Landorf, a lifelong member of Bethany who at 103 had attended the dedication of all three Bethany locations. After the completion and dedication of our new site, Bethany began a new campaign to tackle the huge debt of the new building. *Ready to Answer God's Call* resulted in pledges of \$1.3 million. The Lord continued to smile upon Bethany's ministry to the community.

MOELLER PIPE ORGAN While organ music certainly is not new to Bethany Lutheran Church, a pipe organ is. The pipe organ which was installed in the old church on Washington and Seventh was not brought to the new 919 S. Washington location. A "modern electric organ" was used. While still in the old site, members once again considered the possibility of a pipe organ. The electronic organ in the balcony was aging. The worship committee was faced with the possibility of having to replace it. Electronic organs do not provide the tonality and range of wind driven pipe instruments. Christmas of 1987 saw a large gift designated for a pipe organ. The organ fund had limped along for many years until a group of members set up an interest-bearing account and donated \$100,000 which others added to over the years. With the prospect of moving to a new location on Modaff Road to accommodate the growth of both the church and school, hopes of a pipe organ became more real. On April 5, 1994, Bethany's worship committee established a working subgroup. Those contributing their expertise and time were: Dr. W. James Kirchoff, Virginia Boyer, Kathleen Woehlke, Tom Mueller, Arvilla Slusarski, George Johnson, Lynn Little, Pastor McReynolds, and Pastor Rossow. The planning phase began with the first organ committee meeting in May 1994, followed by organ builder interviews and auditions. The pipe organ would go into our new location on Modaff, not the present site that would eventually be vacated.

An organ built in 1954 was purchased from Salem Lutheran Church in the Logan Square section of Chicago. It was in running condition and members of the organ committee had the opportunity to hear it before they purchased it. "I couldn't believe how good it sounded, considering how old it was and the shape it was in," said Lynn Little, Director of Music Ministry at Bethany. The organ had 40 ranks made up of 2,067 pipes. Each rank was a set of sound such as a trumpet, violin, oboe, etc. The organ was built by the Moeller Organ Co., which was no longer in operation. A contract with the Bradford Organ Co. was signed February 1995. They removed it and stored it while undergoing redesign and augmentation for the new location. Installation began in December 1996 in the organ loft. Despite the fact that dedication of the new sanctuary took place on February 9, it would be about three months later that the organ project was completed. The cost for the Moeller organ, refurbishing, and installation was \$163,950.

ORGAN LOFT As viewed from the sanctuary floor, three of the four basic divisions of the organ are easy to identify. At the chancel end of the organ loft is the shuttered expression box for the "Choir" division. Moving to the left is the "Great" division whose pipe work is exposed. To the left of that is the "Swell" division whose enclosure has shutters on the front and west side. Most of the pipe work for the "Pedal" division is arranged against the back wall and is easily visible because of their large size. Some of the "Pedal" division is located inside the "Swell" enclosure. In addition to the permanently exposed pipes in the center of the "Great" organ section, facade pipes are located in front of the "Choir" and "Great" divisions, facing the congregation and chancel.

2609 pipes make up the pipe organ. Each pipe must be individually tuned, and a great deal of wiring is required. Voicing adjusts the strength of a pipe to take the best advantage of room acoustics. Tuning adjusts the pitch of the pipe so that a note played on the organ matches the same note played on any other instrument. The pipes are divided into sound – violin, oboe, trumpet, etc. Each sound

set is activated by draw knobs called “stops” arranged on each side of the organ console. Without stops, all pipes would play at the same time. A certain number of pipes of a certain sound are called a “rank.”

The smallest pipe organ practical for a small church is five or six ranks. The largest in the world has 285 ranks. It is in the chapel of the West Point Academy in New York and has 23,511 pipes. Bethany’s is a very respectable 40 ranks. The console is the original H. P. Moeller case work containing three keyboard manuals and pedal board. The console was modernized with state of the art electronic switching allowing optional functions. One such function is a computer interface which allows the organist to store all the information relative to the playing of a composition in an electronic sequencer. Once done, he can sit back and listen to the organ play itself. Bethany’s Moeller restoration is a majestic instrument and adds character and history to the sanctuary.

Music is a strong part of worship at Bethany. There are a variety of children’s choirs, adult choirs, vocalists, and instrumental groups – all of which add to the church service. The Day School has its own band program. The importance of music in faith can be traced back to Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. Luther himself felt that “next to preaching, music was the best way to reach the people.” So strong is the music in the worship life of Bethany that the organ committee had the money for the new instrument before the building committee had the funds for the new facilities at the Modaff location. The new organ was ready for use in church by July.

DEDICATION Dedication of the organ took place Sunday, September 28, 1997. Dr. Donald Busarow, organist and director, was invited to play for the dedication. Dr. Busarow was a graduate of Concordia, River Forest. He did further studies in organ and composition at the University of Michigan, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and Michigan State University. Dr. Busarow served as Professor of Music at Wittenberg University where he taught theory, composition, organ, and church music. He was director of the university choir, as well as organist and director of chapel music. He composed hymns, preludes, a sacred opera, and choral music. Bethany choirs and instrumentalists assisted in the program officiated by its pastors.

Since the dedication service, between 1997 and 2003, the Trompettes-en-Chamade has been installed beneath the Bethany Window in the rear of the sanctuary, an adjustable bench was gotten for the organ, and chimes also were added. Dr. W. James Kirchhoff presented a gift of a zimbelstern to the congregation – those lightly sounding tinkling bells. The final cost of the organ with the additions was \$206,886. This instrument is an impressive instrument to listen to when played in “all its glory.”

IX. THE STORY CONTINUES AT MODAFF

With the start of the 1997-98 school year, Mrs. Stehle moved into the sixth grade position. She also had a talent with literature as did Mrs. Carnevale, and she headed up the student council. Mrs. Nancy Yendrejczyk, Mrs. Barb Johnson, and Mrs. Nancy Duitsman became teaching aides. Mrs. Kristi Taylor became the new motor facilitator for the lower grades. Miss Lori Zlotow, our band director, married and became Mrs. Foster. Mrs. Patty Pedigo took up the position of confirmation coordinator. Due to budget cuts in the near future, this position and its duties would again be taken over by one of the pastors with the help of church office staff. To honor our graduates in our new location, Mr. Sonlitner set up a Graduate Album near the school office. Later it would be moved into the hallway of the Harris Wing, but they later would be stored with the archives when they kept getting damaged.

BUILDING SUPERVISOR With a complex as large as the new facility on Modaff, it was decided to have a Building Supervisor in charge of day to day operations. This would be the person to talk to if there were issues that need to be taken care of. He would be responsible for the daily upkeep of the facilities. Jim Jacobson became the new “supervisor.” This position would be slightly altered in future years to become a part time position. Shortly after the move to Modaff was complete, Kendis Bender accepted a call back to Ohio in May of 1997. **Nick Malleos accepted Bethany’s call to be Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries** and was installed in July 1998. Mr. Malleos served until 2005.

The 1998-99 school year saw Mrs. Linda Prestemon become a new teacher aide. Mrs. Rach returned to teach P.E. in the lower grades. Not too many changes took place that year. Lynn Little, music director and one of the committee members who helped in the project which acquired the Moeller organ, accepted a position at Concordia, Mequon, outside of Milwaukee. Bethany’s search for a new music director led us to Phillip Magness. **Mr. Magness was installed as Bethany’s new Cantor** in January of 1999.

CANTOR At first some people were confused with the new title – “cantor.” For those who may know something about the Hebrew religion, a cantor is “a person who sings or chants liturgical music and leads the congregation in prayer.” Christianity is an offshoot of Judaism, and the roots of our worship go back some 2000 years. The early Christian church revised the purpose of a cantor to be a person “who sings or speaks solo verses or passages to which the choir or congregation respond orally or in song.” Over the years Bethany had a variety of people being organists – some were staff members and others were members of the congregation. Cantor Magness would be the primary organists, setting up a schedule for others to do so in his absence. He assisted with directing choirs, setting up the worship program, and he even wrote music. He worked with Synod in St. Louis helping set up forms of worship services. Cantor Magness was a gifted individual who was very talented on both organ and piano. He did much to elevate and edify Bethany’s worship services. It was under his leadership that the procession down the main aisle began, and bringing the Gospel to be read in the midst of the congregation began to be practiced. Both of these go back to the early roots of our Christian heritage and faith.

PASTOR STEPHEN SCHUMACHER – 1999 to PRESENT **Seeing the need for additional church leadership, in August of 1999 Bethany added a third pastor.** Rev. Stephen Schumacher would serve as Pastor of Evangelism and Assimilation. **School enrollment was at its height – 385 students.** Mrs. Pam Winterroth became the new sixth grade teacher as Mrs. Stehle began to raise her family. She fit well into the Jr. High program. Mrs. Todd took ill at the start of the school year and Mrs. Rach became interim fourth grade teacher. We regret that Mrs. Todd passed away in January after a short battle with cancer. Mrs. Rach stayed on teaching fourth grade. Mrs. Sharon Lenich became interim P.E. instructor for the lower grades that year. We were blessed with the addition of Mrs. Carole Stauch that school year as our new art instructor. Mrs. Stauch had a great talent in bringing out all students’ artistic abilities. The quality of art work produced has been amazing all the years under her leadership. Mrs. DiGiovanni taught elementary and sixth grade science, and Mrs. Carole Armbrecht picked up the school choir and music program – both on a part time basis. Todd Stirn was made assistant principal.

Mrs. Lenich was retained in her position as lower grade P.E. instructor for the 2000-01 school year. There were no other changes. In 2001 Don Wischmeyer moved from his position as Day School

principal to become Director of Family Life. For the new 2001-02 school year, **Todd Stirn accepted the call as principal** of our Day School. Miss Mueller became assistant principal. Mr. Rob Johnson was called as seventh grade teacher. This was the start of his years of faithful service to Bethany. His skill in science, algebra, and computer added to the junior high program. His knowledge of computers also was a blessing to the church and school office. For the next several years he, like so many seventh grade instructors since 1987, also served as athletic director. Mrs. Terry Dierking and Mrs. Diana Guebert became teaching aides. Mrs. Buckman filled in for Mrs. Winterroth who went on maternity leave. Dr. Jennifer Fitch joined the staff to teach music appreciation. Bethany's resource and enrichment program was added to with the hiring of Miss Jesse Dawson.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE / FACING REALITY December 31st, 1999, not only marked the end of another calendar year, but the end of a decade, century, and millennium. We stood at the threshold of the year 2000. There was some fear in the minds of humanity as they wondered if the computers which now ran their modern world could adjust the change from 1900 to 2000. The Y2K scare caused some people to "store up rations in case the unthinkable happened and there would be a disruption in the flow of their lives." But the clock ticked off the hours and the last chimes of midnight brought us all into a new century and millennium "without a hitch."

The end of the 1990's had seen Bethany's baptized membership pass 2600 souls. Weekly offerings were well over \$20,000 with attendance of over 800 parishioners. Day School enrollment was at 380 students with a waiting list in several classes. We had just moved into new facilities at 1550 Modaff Rd. and we were talking about a proposed addition to the church and school. The plan in the 1980's was for 22 classrooms, a library, enrichment room, and a science/art room. Additional room was needed for fellowship, youth, and music. The "Move To Modaff" was toned down so we could relocate both church and school in one move. The time had come to fulfill the dreams of our past. In 2000 Bethany began another capital campaign. Members responded to *Building on God's Legacy* with gifts totaling \$623,000 over the next three years. The north parking lot was expanded in 2001.

Fox Valley Lutheran High School ran into difficulties with enrollment and finances in later years and was forced to close its campus in St. Charles in 1991. It did reorganize and move around before resettling in the northwest suburbs. In an effort to get Lutheran secondary education closer to the southwest suburbs, Christ Lutheran Academy was opened in 2000. First meeting at Zion Lutheran in the southwest corner of Naperville, it moved to land between Naperville and Plainfield. Declining enrollment and loss of support caused it to close in 2010. Fortunately, there are a number of fine schools providing religious education at the high school level in the surrounding area.

2002 marked the 75th anniversary of our church. With the start of the 2002-03 school year, Mrs. Winterroth was back on staff in sixth grade and Mrs. Lila Berger became a teaching aide. Mr. Conditt took over the band program. In fall of 2002 Dr. W. James Kirchhoff retired from his years of service in the teaching ministry. Former principal of Bethany, assistant to and eventually Secretary of Education for the Northern Illinois District, Dr. Kirchhoff had a long and distinguished career. A service of recognition was held Sunday, October 27, followed by a potluck dinner. As we move into the 2003-04 school year, Todd Stirn took a position elsewhere and **Don Wischmeyer stepped back into the position of principal.** Miss Sonja Ruppel replaced Mrs. Winterroth who wished to stay home to raise her family. Mrs. Buckman again was a teaching aide. Mrs. Angie McKissick took up the position as lower grade P.E. instructor and Mrs. Kim Antenen replaced Mrs. Berger as teaching aide in kindergarten. Mrs. Susan Buck taught a junior high math course and Miss Erica Grass would

lead the band program. The following year Mrs. Kathleen Woehlke took over the junior high music appreciation course. Don Wischmeyer continued as both principal and Director of Family Life. Nothing else changed in the 2004-05 academic year other than the position of athletic director being taken over by Mrs. Buckman. The position no longer involved being P.E. instructor and coaching sports as it had through much of its history. Rather, it now dealt with scheduling sports activities and finding coaches to be in charge of Bethany's sports teams. We have been very fortunate to have many qualified adults to volunteer their time and talents in coaching. During these years the church office staff increased with a number of administrators to carry out the needs of Bethany's ministry. The church secretary mainly greeted visitors and directed people or calls to the proper personnel.

With the start of the new millennium Bethany faced problems with its budget. The national economy flattened. It either was through bequests that Bethany could balance its unified budget or a debt would be carried into the next fiscal year. Bethany had to face some hard facts in order to continue into the future. Needless or duplicated expenses had to be curtailed. In order to reduce expenses some staff cuts were made in the years that followed. By the summer of 2005 the librarian and enrichment instructor in the Day School were released, as were several part time workers in the church office. Several teaching aides also had hours reduced. The full time position of Director of Building Operations was eliminated in 2002 and a part time "building supervisor" would fill the void. An excellent part-time volunteer was found in Bob Airhart. More volunteers assisted with minor maintenance of the facilities to help cut costs. Office staff took on a little more workload to cover the loss in staff. These measures helped with the congregational budget. Bethany could continue into the future with new vigor!

X. REV. WALTER E. ROSCHKE MEMORIAL BETHANY WINDOW

One of the questions the building committee had to deal with when planning the design for the new sanctuary at the Modaff location was what to do with the large columned windows on the north, east and west walls of the church, not to mention the large diamond shaped window at the rear of the sanctuary and the clerestory windows. Should they go with colored glass as they had in their old location at 919 S. Washington Street? Should there be stained glass designs? The decision was made to leave the windows clear. These large windows allowed the community to see the sanctuary, "providing a feeling of accessibility and welcome." But it wasn't long before some members wondered if it would be possible to add stained glass to the sanctuary while preserving the integrity of the original design. The large diamond-shaped window in the back of the sanctuary provided the perfect place. Donations began to pour in to make this a possibility.

As the idea of a stained glass window developed, Bethany's former pastor, Rev. Walter Roschke, was called to his eternal home October 26, 1997. Pastor Roschke had served Bethany from 1956 until his retirement in 1987. During his 31 years of ministry at Bethany, the congregation grew from 150 communicant members to some 2000 souls. Pastor Roschke led Bethany from the old church on Washington and Seventh Street to the location at 919 S. Washington. He led the congregation through several building programs that resulted in fully utilizing the site at 919. The Day School grew from a one-room school until it included eight grades as well as Kindergarten and Preschool. Pastor Roschke was a beloved spiritual leader who shepherded Bethany's members through the milestones of their lives as well of that of the congregation. The "Rev. Walter E. Roschke Memorial Bethany Window" would be the perfect remembrance.

THE DESIGN It was the task of Bethany’s Interior Committee to select the imagery for the stained glass design. After careful study, the committee decided it would be appropriate to honor the events recorded in the Bible taking place in and around the town of Bethany, the Biblical town after which our congregation was named. Bethany was a town two miles southeast of Jerusalem which served as the Judean home of Jesus during his ministry, an area where John the Baptist conducted his ministry, and the town where Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus lived.

The Bethany Window was designed by David Wohlrab, a commercial artist, Naperville resident, and member of Bethany congregation. The Interior’s Committee had considered other designs, but upon seeing David’s design they asked him to become the artist of the window. David was a talented artist who viewed his ability as a gift from God, and indeed it was. This talent enabled him to create a bold composition with radiant color that filled the window and conveyed the story of each event that was portrayed. David graciously donated his artwork and oversaw the entire project. Bovard Studio of Fairfield, Iowa, was chosen as the most qualified and competent to reproduce and install the complex design. This would be a stained glass window whose proportions were 25 ft. by 25 ft. The overall price for the project would be \$60,000. After seeing their completed work, Bovard Studio could not help but call it “a masterpiece.”

Six events were chosen to be depicted on the stained glass window. Foremost is the central figure of the ascending Christ, who extends into the four quadrants of the diamond window (Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:1-11). In the upper right quadrant we see Jesus being baptized (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:28-34). The lower right quadrant has Lazarus being raised from the dead (John 11:1-53). Moving to the lower left quadrant we have the starting point for the triumphal entry of Jesus riding into Jerusalem (Matt. 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:12-15). In the top left quadrant we have two events. First is the reference to the withered fig tree (Matt. 21:17-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24). Then we have Mary of Bethany anointing Jesus’ feet (Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8).

SYMBOLISM The Biblical events surround the 16-foot tall image of the ascending Lord. It should be noted that the artist included Christian symbolism hidden within the window. As Jesus is baptized in the upper right quadrant, the heavens are opened. Its whiteness depicts holiness. A dove descends representing the Holy Spirit. Children are included in this scene for they are also part of God’s command for all nations to be baptized. A small girl holds three sheaves of wheat. Interestingly, they point to the different elements of the Trinity – the void of heaven from which the voice came saying, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” (the Father), the dove (the Holy Spirit), and Jesus himself (the Son). The wheat also symbolizes Jesus’ body in communion. The hand gestures of Jesus in all the scenes seem to point heavenward. In the lower quadrant a vine of grapes signifies the blood of Christ. Lazarus’s hand reaches towards Jesus as He extends His hand towards Lazarus. It helps point out our dependency on God for all things, as well as God’s care and concern for His creation.

At the base of the diamond-shaped window we see 10 lilies. Ten is a number which symbolizes the completeness of God. The seven to the left symbolize perfection and the three to the right symbolize the Trinity. Three of the lilies have large single carpels that recall the three large nails that held Christ upon the cross. There are six stamen from three lilies that recall Christ’s death on Good Friday – the sixth day of the week. Adam was created on the sixth day and Jesus died on the sixth day. The gnarled and twisted branches of the fig tree in the upper left quadrant symbolize the judgment and

weight of God's Law against sin. Mary, wiping the feet of Jesus with her hair, shows her submission to him, just as Lazarus was shown submissive to the Lord. The alabaster jar containing the oil has five colored beads. Black symbolizes sin; red is the blood Jesus shed; blue is for baptism; white stands for Jesus' forgiveness; and green is for continued growth in the knowledge of His word. Finally, the eyes of the observer cannot help but notice the huge central figure of the ascending Lord. The movement of the panels all lead back to Christ who has completed the atoning work of God and now ascends into heaven, yet for whom we wait when He returns in glory one day to judge the world - the Last Day.

DEDICATION Installation was scheduled to begin February 3 and take only a few days to install the panels. After seeing the early designs of the Rev. Walter E. Roschke Memorial Bethany Window, member Donna Linnemeyer sought to give members a simple hymn, "Come Worship Now at Bethany," to enhance their understanding of the events depicted in the window. Working with Cantor Magness and other Bethany musicians, the words were finalized and an appropriate tune was chosen for the text. The hymn was sung at the dedication service. A special service of hymns and readings was designed to focus on the life of Christ in and around the village of Bethany. The hymns were selected by the Worship Committee to highlight each scene included in the window. The inspiring words served to enhance our understanding of the wonderful artwork that would now add to the glory of our sanctuary. All of the verses of the Anniversary Hymn were sung at the service. After the dedication service a reception of light refreshments was held in the Parish Activity Center hosted by the Anniversary Committee. Arrangements were made with an heirloom glassmaker to reproduce the window in miniature for purchase by members. This was the culmination of Bethany celebrating its 75th Anniversary year. On February 10 and 11, 2003, the long awaited stained glass window was installed. The dedication service was held at 5PM, Saturday, February 15. The stained glass replicas of the window were sold to congregation members in December.

XI. BETHANY MOVES ON

MEMBERSHIP LOSS Weekly attendance seemed to reach a peak early in 2002 with 875 parishioners attending worship services. At this time there developed some disagreements over leadership and governance style. Budget concerns only added to this uneasy period. A yearly mortgage of some \$250,000 was taking a toll. Bethany saw a drop in attendance and contributions. In October a plan was presented to cut costs and raise tuition to balance the budget. Cost saving cut over \$100,000. Later, a sale of unused land at the Modaff site helped tremendously. In the midst of all this **Pastor McReynolds accepted a call** to St. Luke, Itasca, in 2003. The past years of conflict and concerns, and the fact that he was extended a call to a congregation where a friend of his was in charge, made Pastor McReynold's decision and transition to a new location easy to make. We bade farewell to our pastor who worked with Bethany since 1988. A reception was held that summer. A formal reconciliation process marked the end of the conflict and the beginning of the healing process for the members of the Body of Christ at Bethany. Bethany membership was down to some 2000 souls and now would function with only two pastors. But things once again moved forward.

NEW LEADERSHIP IN OUR SCHOOL Our Day School principal decided to retire his position in June of 2005. Don Wischmeyer wanted to move to Colorado to be near his family. His years of faithful service to Bethany were recognized in his farewell dinner and reception. Bethany called assistant principal and first grade teacher **Pam Mueller to assume leadership of the Day School.**

Miss Erin Thompson was called to replace Pam Mueller in first grade. Mrs. Tracey Kuerschner became the new sixth grade instructor. Mrs. Marnie Esposito became the new first grade aide, replacing Mrs. Wischmeyer. Mrs. Erin Dunwell became the new fifth grade teacher, replacing Mrs. Hahn who left after many years of service. Everything else stayed in place. Miss Dawson married to become Mrs. Mouis. That same year Nick Malleos left his position as Director of Young Adult Ministries. Work among the youth of our congregation would be covered by Pastor Schumacher for the next several years. He would diligently carry out his task until Bethany called a new youth leader in 2012. Although the congregation was smaller in size by 2005, new members had joined the congregation, bringing a wonderful sense of enthusiasm and unity. During this time our leaders determined that a new form of governance was needed and a committee was formed to write a new constitution and bylaws for Bethany. In June of 2005 Pastor Schumacher went to Sudan as part of Lutherans in Africa. He spent his time training young men and pastors in the ministry. He returned early in July. In October 2005 the new constitution and bylaws were ratified establishing a Voters Assembly as the highest deliberative body, always placing a premium on the spiritual matters of the congregation. Four boards were set up to carry out the work of the church – Elders, Trustees, Finance, and Day School Policy. A Voters Board was put in place to serve as an advocate for the Voters Assembly to each of the boards. After several years of study and courses taken at Ft. Wayne Seminary, Pastor Rossow earned his Doctor of Divinity degree in 2006.

The 2006-07 school year began without Mrs. Nancy Jahnke in charge of Kindergarten. She decided to accept a call and moved on. Everyone will remember her cheerful personality and creative teaching units like “The Circus,” “A Day at the Airport,” and “A Day at the Beach” to mention a few. She was highly respected and much loved. Mrs. Cyndi Niccolai took over Kindergarten and Mrs. Marnie Esposito became her new aide. Mr. Bruce Burhandt became the athletic director that year and Mrs. Holly Spooner became the new special education instructor. Mrs. Karen Calpin retired her position as school office administrator and Mrs. Laurie Cade moved up to her position. Mrs. Dee Lieb became the new school secretary. Mrs. Patty Pedigo was put in charge of youth support for the church office which dealt with the confirmation and Sunday School program. This was a year which saw many changes.

Bethany had originally purchased 22 acres of land on the Modaff site in 1985. During the 1995 building process it was determined that use of the land on the east side of the creek was limited. In addition, it now was felt that all of the needs as a church and school could be met with the buildings that were contained in the original fire loop that surrounds the complex. When the burden of the large mortgage continued to cause yearly deficits in the budget, church leaders gave serious consideration to selling off part of the land to a housing developer. In June of 2006 the Voters Assembly approved the sale of 3.5 acres with the provision that the proceeds go primarily towards reducing the mortgage principal and toward capital improvements. Land developers had approached Bethany earlier with offers of \$200,000 and later \$1,000,000. In March of 2007 Bethany received \$1,650,000 for property the other side of the creek. \$1,300,000 was used towards the debt and the rest for needed repairs.

For the 2007-08 school year Mrs. Dunwell took up the position of athletic director. Mrs. Buckman took over as fourth grade teacher since Mrs. Rach retired. Mrs. Stehle rejoined the staff as sixth grade instructor and returned to using her talent teaching literature in the Jr. High. Mrs. Sharon Lenich became first grade aide. Mrs. Aimee Walsh replaced Mrs. Yonker as Pre-Kindergarten teacher. She also taught Kindergarten. Mrs. Dierking picked up teaching a math class in addition to her being a

teacher aide. Miss Grass married and now was Mrs. Willemssen. The Day School Board approved “extended care” before and after school.

DEBT PAID OFF By 2007 the members of Bethany were determined to “totally” eliminate the burden of debt from our building program in 1995. We began a capital campaign to do just that. The congregation’s response was amazing. *Freed to Connect* resulted in pledges of over \$1,000,000. In June of 2009 a joyous celebration took place. Bethany “burned the mortgage” for the entire church and school project which began in 1995. The Lord had enabled Bethany to pay off its debt in such a short time – 14 years. With God all things are possible!

Worship attendance was slowly beginning to climb after reaching a low point of around 570 parishioners weekly. With the 2008-09 school year, Mr. Chad Baganz became the new fourth grade teacher. This would begin his tenure with Bethany. Mrs. Jennifer Gutzwiller joined the staff as a new Pre-Kindergarten aide. We were also pleased with the addition of Mr. Michael Vasilie as the new band director. He would do great things with the band program during his stay at Bethany and soon was made a called staff member at Bethany. Bethany also resumed the Spanish language program that had fallen by the way side. Senora Ingrid was in charge. Earlier attempts were not well organized. This covered all grades. Mrs. Yendrejczyk took on the responsibility of school librarian.

In the 2009-10 school year Mrs. Walsh just devoted her time to teaching Pre-Kindergarten. She also was made Admissions Director. Her warm personality made her a perfect choice to recruit perspective families for our school. She spoke with neighboring congregations and made certain our church and school found their way into the public media. Louise Bolt had begun her battle with cancer in 2000. Things progressed well. During the next 10 years she continued to do the thing she loved to do – teach the little ones. Mrs. Bolt suffered a relapse and in the middle of this school year she was hospitalized. Mrs. Gutzwiller took over her class. We regretted Mrs. Bolt passing away in February of 2010. Bethany lost a great teacher. She will always be remembered for her cheerful personality and teaching the young children that “we are Jesus with skin on” representing Him in all we do and say in our life. “Well done though good and faithful servant. You have fought the good fight, you have run the course, you have kept the faith. Yours is the crown of eternal life!” (2 Tim. 4:7)

Mrs. Fiene decided to retire in June of 2010, ending her long attachment to Bethany Lutheran School which began in 1967. Her life and talent touched hundreds of students in the primary grades. She was recognized for her achievement in a Sunday church service and a luncheon and reception was given in her honor. Her retirement left an opening for a new second grade teacher in the 2010-11 school year. We found a good replacement in Mrs. Kari Janetzke. Mrs. Martin became a new Pre-Kindergarten aide. Senora Gomez-Savina joined Senora Ingrid in teaching the Spanish program in Kindergarten thru eighth grade. Jennifer Gutzwiller filled the vacancy caused by the passing of Louise Bolt. She assumed control of her class when Louise became hospitalized. She now continued in the new school year as the Pre-Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Dunwell and Mr. Baganz became co-athletic directors for the Day School. Miss Thompson married and became Mrs. Ennis. With so many years devoted to the teaching ministry, Mrs. Fiene would stay around tutoring and assisting teachers a few hours twice a week.

XII. BILL SCHOEN MEMORIAL WINDOWS

Bill Schoen was a longtime member of Bethany. His parents were among the original founders of the congregation. Bill was active in the church choir over the years. He was one of the proponents for stained glass windows when Bethany planned its move to Modaff. Despite the decision to keep the windows “clear, open and welcoming to the community,” Bill hoped that one day stained glass would be one of the features of our new sanctuary. In January of 2010 Bill passed away. He left his home to Bethany with the stipulation that additional stained glass be installed in the church. As much as Bill loved the Roschke Memorial Bethany Window, he hoped to see more within the sanctuary.

Early in 2011 Bethany entered into a contract with Lynchburg Stained Glass of Lynchburg, Virginia, to install ten panels of stained glass along the two sides of the sanctuary. The columned windows extend like arms from the Bethany Window. It was decided that those on the north side would tell the stories of the Old Testament leading to Christ. Those on the east side would deal with God’s actions in New Testament history. The height of each window varies, getting taller as they move from the corners of the sanctuary towards the diamond-shaped Bethany Window. These windows would give Bethany a unique collection of stained glass panels to tell the story of God’s interaction throughout history.

THE OLD TESTAMENT WINDOWS We start with the story of God’s involvement in history with the columned windows on the north wall. “In the beginning God created....,” Gen. 1:1. Here we have the Story of Creation. In this panel God creates the greater light to rule the day and lesser lights to rule the night. The firmament is formed and vegetation appears. The second window continues the story of the creation of Adam and Eve. “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness,” Gen. 1:26. We see God giving life to Adam and Eve and blessing them. In the third window we have the story of the Flood. “The earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence,” Gen. 6:11. The artist depicts the Flood with Noah, the ark, and the dove that was sent out to see if dry land had again appeared on the flooded earth. Above that we see a panel depicting an event in the life of Abraham (Gen. 12 & 22). God had revealed Himself to Abraham to become a “great nation” and be a “blessing to all the earth.” From him the promise of the Messiah would be fulfilled. He would have to leave his homeland and move to Canaan. Yet in old age Abraham still had no son. We can trust God to always keep His word and Abraham eventually had two sons – Ishmael and Isaac. From Isaac the Hebrew line would continue. In the panel that is depicted God had asked Abraham to do the unthinkable. He was to sacrifice his son as a sign of faith. In the artist’s rendition we see Abraham ready to do so only to have an angel stop him. He indeed had proven his trust in God. On the fourth window we have three stories dealing with Moses. “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters....I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians....and bring them to the land flowing with milk and honey,” (Gen. 3:7-8). The Israelites who came to Egypt under the rule of Joseph now were slaves. Moses, who survived the killing of the first born, had grown up a prince of Egypt. Now God calls him to lead his people to freedom. In the bottom panel the artist depicts the Passover. Blood is put on the doorposts as a sign for the Angel of Death to pass over the houses of the Israelites. Above that we see Moses dividing the waters of the Red Sea so the children of Israel could escape from Pharaoh – a foreshadow of our going through the waters of baptism to be saved. Finally, the third panel shows God giving Moses the Ten Commandments when the Israelites came to Mt. Sinai. The fifth window carries four images. On the bottom we have a portrayal of Deborah, a female Judge. She is pictured because God gives women a place in our society. Above her is the Prophet Isaiah

who gave us many prophecies concerning the birth and death of the promised Messiah – “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,” (Is. 7:14). “He was stricken, smitten and afflicted, He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, and by His wounds we are healed,” (Is. 53:4). Above him we have the young King David playing his harp. The final panel portrays the story of God taking the Prophet Elijah to heaven in the fiery chariot.

THE NEW TESTAMENT WINDOWS Moving to the east wall of windows we move into the New Testament world. Our first window is the tallest of the five. At the bottom we see three of the four evangelists – Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Right above them we have the symbol of an eagle – representing the evangelist John. Next to him we have one of the early church fathers – Irenaeus, who attacked early heresies in the Christian church and said all interpretation must be based on the Scriptures. Right above is a panel portraying St. Augustine – another of the early church fathers whose teachings were studied by Martin Luther. The top panel portrays John Hus, an early reformer who was burned at the stake for questioning the false teachings that had crept into the church. He prepared the way for Martin Luther. It is not surprising that the panel at the bottom of the second window portrays Martin Luther. He is nailing the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. God had led Luther’s life to reform the errors of the church in his day and age. This act of nailing those theses on the church door was his public acknowledgement that he questioned the practices and teachings of the church. It began the Reformation. Luther extends into the second panel as well. To his right we have Johann Sebastian Bach, the great composer. He not only wrote secular music, but he also gave much music to the Lutheran church with his religious compositions. You can see the notes of his music rising upward from the organ pipes as if they are “a sweet offering to the Lord.” The last panel portrays Martin Chemnitz, another of the early leaders of the Reformation. He was instrumental in getting the Lutheran Confessions gathered together in the Book of Concord. The third window is dedicated to the history of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. In the bottom panel we see C. F. W. Walther. He helped with the great influx of German Lutherans coming to the United States in the early 19th century. Under his leadership the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was formed. Over his shoulder we see ships carrying these immigrants looking for a new life in America. The top panels of the window show us Rev. Dr. Robert Preus, one of the presidents of Synod. He undoubtedly had the broadest impact on the church at large, even outside Lutheranism. His hand is raised in benediction. Behind him we have a window bearing Luther’s coat of arms – a black cross on a red heart which sits in the center of a white rose. Our sin is taken away by the blood of Christ to make us pure in the sight of God. The rose rests on the background of blue encircled by a golden ring. Our faith and forgiveness give us a crown of life in heaven. The fourth and fifth windows are dedicated to Bethany Lutheran Church. The first shows Almighty God watching over the likeness of Bethany’s previous locations at Washington and Seventh Avenue and 919 S. Washington Street. The last bears the likeness of our present Modaff site.

THE JUDGEMENT WINDOW Behind the Cross and Risen Savior which is mounted over the 40-foot glass cross-shaped window, the Judgment Window was placed. Two heavenly hosts – one on either side of Christ – hold a billowing cloth panel which runs the length of the cross. The hues of gold can be seen at the top and the bottom. As the panel descends the cross behind the figure of Christ, it seems to become transparent. It appears to form a pathway from heaven above to earth below. At the bottom of the cross we see three sheep on the right side of Christ and six goats on his left. The eyes of the sheep are fixed on their Lord and Savior. These represent those followers who have faith and believe. They will be saved by God’s atoning act of forgiveness. They will inherit the kingdom of heaven. The eyes of the goats seem fixed in every direction except on Christ. They either

do not believe or lack saving faith. These are the people who will not be saved but cast for eternity into hell.

In keeping with the original idea of “keeping the church open and inviting” to the outside community, the stained glass panels do not cover the entire length of the columned windows, as is the case with traditional stained glass panels. The bottom panel was designed to be opened as needed for air circulation. These were left untouched in this project. Stained glass begins with the section above and progresses up the window to convey the desired stories and events that are portrayed. As it reaches the top portion of the window the design and color fade to clear glass. Even the workers installing the windows commented that “this was a clever idea to keep the sanctuary open to the outside community.”

These windows tie God into the entire span of history – from creation to the fulfillment of the Messiah, down to the present age, and point us to the future. Cantor Magness was instrumental in developing the theme and design. Windows 1 and 2 take us to the dawn of time. Windows 3 through 5 cover some of the history of Israel. The Bethany Window not only honors Jesus who came into our world to redeem mankind from their sins, but also shows the events in the Gospels concerning Bethany for which our congregation is named. Window 10 takes us into the Roman era of the early Christian church. Windows 9 and 8 move the church into Europe and the New World. Windows 7 and 6 bring us to our present time in history as Bethany ministers to the community. Each time Bethany’s members join together for their weekly worship services, the eyes of the congregation cannot help but be focused on the promise that “Christ will come again one day.” In front of them and behind the altar is the Judgment Window. We look forward to the time our Lord and Savior will return to judge all mankind.

The committee who worked on this project wanted to acknowledge Bill Schoen’s love for music. That was accomplished with the addition of David playing the harp (window 5) and J. S. Bach playing the organ (window 9). They also wanted to acknowledge that women have a part in God’s plan, so they included a stained glass panel for Deborah, a female Judge (window 5). What a wonderful story surrounds the parishioners in the sanctuary! The art work of these windows encircles the sanctuary as a reminder to all that God has made His presence known throughout time and for whom we wait to return at the end of time. We are grateful to Bill Schoen for his generous gift to Bethany. Bill was a man devoted to his church.

Installation of the stained glass panels took place in spring of 2012. The overall cost of the project was \$136,561. Dedication of the Bill Schoen Memorial Windows took place during the 11:15AM service on Sunday, June 24, 2012. A potluck reception followed afterwards.

XIII. A YOUTH PASTOR AND NEW ADDITION

Erin Ennis decided to retire and start a family. She and her husband eventually moved to the Dallas area and had a child in December of 2014. Her departure required a replacement for the 2011-12 school year. Mrs. Niccolai moved up to first grade. Mrs. Leah Gedvilas became the new kindergarten teacher and Mrs. Gretchen Brouch became a new teaching aide. Mrs. Rossow, who worked in the church office, took up the duties of youth support for the church. Mr. Vasile would pick up Jr. High P.E. for the new school year.

PASTOR JONATHAN FISK – 2012 to 2015 As a result of the total repayment of the mortgage and generous bequests from former members including Alta Dunlap, Cliff Riebe, Lynwood Spears, and Bill Schoen, by 2011 Bethany had accumulated a cushion of cash reserves that prompted leaders to once again “**step out in faith.**” In June of 2011 the Voters Assembly approved a mission with two components: call a Youth Pastor and begin a capital campaign to add a much needed youth room and music practice hall to the current facility. First, Pastor Jonathan Fisk was called to be Youth Pastor. He was installed Sunday, November 20, 2012. A dinner followed the 4PM service. Pastor Fisk was a dynamic speaker and talented in youth work. He was editor of “Worldview Everlasting,” a website on Internet dealing with evangelism. He even had a book published during his stay at Bethany. Pastor Fisk was a wonderful asset to our program.

A NEW KANTOR Cantor Magness left Bethany and the search was on for a replacement. Bethany found a replacement in Miss Erin Hanke. While the title “cantor” was retained, the spelling was changed to “kantor.” It reflects more of a German heritage with this spelling. Besides her talent in vocal, organ, and piano music, Kantor Hanke was gifted as a harpsichordist. In 2014 Kantor Hanke began a concert series for the congregation. The excellence in our music program in church and school begun by Cantor Magness continued under Kantor Hanke. Bethany has been blessed with the fine work of these two individuals. Bethany has been blessed with a number of talented members in the area of music – individuals who are gifted in playing musical instruments and who have exquisite voices that add to our worship services.

THE HARRIS CENTER A capital campaign was started in late summer of 2011 called *Bridging the Past to Our Future Through Music and Youth*. Its emphasis was on building the much needed addition to the church and school. Music and youth have always been an important part of Bethany congregation. More space was needed at our Modaff location to accommodate the needs of these programs. So Bethany gave itself a challenge to first support a third pastor to assist with the growing work load and be in charge of the youth program, then to construct a much needed addition for music and youth. The design of the addition was undertaken by Tim Morgan and Associates of Northbrook and the building project was undertaken by Chapple Design-Build of Roselle. The overall construction cost would be approximately \$909,000 and added over 6,000 square feet of space.

Nothing changed with staff for the 2012-13 school year other than Mrs. Guebert taking over the aide position from Mrs. Martin. There were several departures at the end of the school year. Mr. Sonlitner decided to retire, ending 44 years in the teaching ministry, 26 of them here at Bethany. Over 550 Bethany students were graduated during his tenure. His gift in social studies and English helped many excel as they moved into high school. He is remembered for his organization and love for his work, his work with Jr. High productions with Mrs. Sislow, his production of the school yearbook, and heading up the school geography and spelling bees. A reception was held in June with students from many of his previous classes attending. Mrs. Lieb and Mrs. Cade also retired in June. Mrs. Patty Pedigo was chosen to become office administrator. Mrs. Cade began training her during spring. Then Mrs. Beth Verbeck joined the staff to become the new school secretary. Mrs. Gedvilas had an opportunity to work at Concordia University. Mrs. Buckman decided to retire after her many years teaching and serving as an aide. Mrs. Yendrejczyk also decided to retire from teaching; however, she would return to Bethany to run the library.

The new school secretaries were in place during summer of 2013. This is a time when class lists need to be updated as families may move away or new families join our school. They are needed to get

the new year rolling along. For the 2013-14 school year a replacement for Mr. Sonlitner was found in Mr. Alec Kemnitz, a new graduate from our Lutheran college in Austin, Texas. Mr. Sonlitner would work on a voluntary basis at Bethany on the yearbook and the school spelling and geography bees. It is hard to take the teacher out of a person who had devoted his life to the teaching ministry, so he continued to be a common sight at Bethany. He continued to be in charge of Morning Care and tutored some students. He was the mentor to his replacement that year and tutored students in math throughout the year. Mrs. Jill Ireland became a new teaching aide. Miss Kim Harrison and Mrs. Kristin Gemkow became the new Kindergarten instructors, teaching two separate classes. Mrs. Guebert, Mrs. Pedigo, and Mrs. Jamie Rogoz taught Pre-Kindergarten classes. Our pre-kindergarten program was expanded this year with a new classroom opened in the church nursery. Mr. Vasilie continued to cover Jr. High P.E. Mrs. Meredith Fisk took over the position of confirmation and Sunday School coordinator. Mrs. Jill Dirilten was added as a speech specialist for the school. Mrs. Yendrejczyk volunteered her time as librarian. By the end of February Mr. Sonlitner was back teaching U.S. history and English to the eighth graders. This definitely was a year filled with many changes.

Bethany had hoped to begin construction on its new addition in fall of 2013. A groundbreaking service was held Sunday, September 15. Maybe the light rain that began after people processed outside was an omen of things to come. Delays resulted concerning drainage from the original complex and the new addition. By the time this was resolved and needed changes were made, severe weather set in – one of the coldest and snowiest seasons in history. Work really did not begin until spring of 2014. But once work commenced, it moved along briskly. The land was leveled, ditches were dug, and the footings were poured. Plumbing and drainage were next. Foundations were poured and walls went up. By August the roof was in place and work begun on the interior. Pastor Fisk and Kantor Hanke contributed their ideas to the design of the youth and music rooms.

Mr. Bolt decided to retire in June of 2014. He and his wife led up the music program in our school for many years. After Louise Bolt passed away in 2010, Mr. Bolt continued his work with the third grade students. Both gave so much to the music program and their classes. Mr. Bolt now felt it time to retire. A farewell and reception were held in June shortly after the school term ended. Meanwhile, work continued on the addition during summer. For the 2014-15 school year Mr. Baganz moved down to third grade and Mrs. Stehle decided to move down to fourth grade. Mr. David Bremer became the new eighth grade teacher and Mr. Joshua Schultz took over sixth grade. Mr. Schultz would not be the literature teacher as so many of his predecessors had done over the years in Jr. High. All three junior high teachers would handle their own literature classes, which was a common practice in earlier years. Mrs. Jessica Gade was hired as a Pre-Kindergarten teacher. Mr. Bolt had been assistant principal since Miss Mueller stepped up to the principalship of Bethany. With his retirement, Mrs. Dunwell became assistant principal. She and Mr. Baganz continued as co-athletic directors. Mrs. Gemkow and Miss Harrison began the year team teaching Kindergarten. Mr. Sonlitner spent the year tutoring a student in math to help bring her up to grade level, as well as working with a few other students during study period. He continued with the school spelling/geography bees and Morning Care. Senora Alma took over the Spanish program. The building addition continued as windows were put in during September and the floor was poured. Interior walls were all up by October and finishing work was underway.

Mrs. Gemkow took a maternity leave and Mrs. Traci Downs came in to assist with Kindergarten. Miss Harrison decided to leave during the fall quarter, so Mrs. Buckman, who had retired but returned

as a second grade aide this year, stepped in to the position of Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Buckman has served in a variety of positions over the years and has proven herself a teacher of many talents. She would be assisted not only by Mrs. Downs, but also Mrs. Gutzwiller and Mrs. McKissick when they had no classes of their own to cover. These ladies continued to do so until Mrs. Gemkow returned as an aide in January. Mrs. Gretchen Brouch came back to Bethany this year and assumed the second grade aide position. Mrs. Walsh received an offer to run a pre-school for Trinity Lutheran. We regretted her departure, but Trinity had asked her to set up their program during the summer of 2014 and they decided to offer her the position of chief administrator. Mrs. Walsh's cheerful and outgoing personality would be missed, but Bethany found a wonderful replacement in Mrs. Linda Fox who joined the staff in November. Mr. Bolt, following the example of Mrs. Fiene and Mr. Sonlitner, volunteered his services for a while around Bethany as well. Yearbook duties were now picked up by Mrs. Stehle and Mr. Schultz, a job that Mr. Sonlitner had done since 1989. Mr. Schultz also used his talents working with school performances for both the lower and upper grade productions.

Meanwhile, the music/youth addition was nearing completion. Things were finished by the end of December. Finishing touches needed to be done and the city had to approve occupancy. The addition houses offices for our Kantor and band director. There is a band practice room which also housed the church archives. There is a large room for youth gatherings and another that is a rehearsal hall for choirs and band groups. There is direct access into the sanctuary from this room. A room between the two is the new conference room. Bethany had no debt to pay for this addition. The *Bridging Our Past to Our Future* campaign called for a fund drive. \$1,136,000 was collected over a three year period to pay for this project and hire our new youth pastor.

Pastor Rossow spent almost a month in Africa after Christmas of 2014. He went there to help in the training of Lutheran ministers, much as Pastor Schumacher did several years earlier. Pastor Rossow's work was centered in Kenya. He returned home in mid-January, just in time for the dedication of the Harris Music and Youth Center. This addition was dedicated in memory of Carolyn Harris, daughter and Marjorie and Samuel Harris. They had funded an endowment to care for their daughter. However, Carolyn passed on before them. The Harris family generously donated that fund to the church. This was an inspiration to Bethany members who generously contributed to the fund raising program. A dedication service was held on Sunday, January 25, 2015.

THE ASSISTANT CANTOR Kantor Hanke decided to leave Bethany the end of January 2015. Susan Keller, alumni of Bethany Day School, took up the challenge of acting as interim Cantor. She is well versed in music and an accomplished organist. She assisted with the parish music program during the tenure of Cantor Magness. She did an outstanding job during the departure of Cantor Magness and the calling of Kantor Hanke. She continued to assist with school and church music under Kantor Hanke. Now she would faithfully discharge her duty as Assistant Cantor until a replacement could be found once again.

CANTOR MICHAEL GIULIANI AND REV. SETH CLEMMER We regret that Pastor Fisk felt the Holy Spirit directing him to accept a call to be head pastor of a church in Oakes, North Dakota. His work among the youth and adult members of Bethany would end April 12, 2015. While he faithfully carried out his duties at Bethany, he found that with a congregation so large his work with writing and his Internet evangelism program were not getting the time he would have liked to devote to them. A farewell reception and luncheon was held after the Sunday service of the 12th. He was extremely grateful for the opportunity to have served Bethany, its members, and its youth.

Bethany went about the procedure of seeking replacements for these two positions. The Holy Spirit directed us to two very qualified individuals. Several candidates for both positions met with leaders at Bethany in the process. First, we called Michael Giuliani as Cantor of Bethany. Cantor Giuliani has roots in the Midwest and came to us from his last position in Charleston, South Carolina. He is skilled in piano and organ and both youth and adult choirs. Cantor Giuliani was installed July 12, 2015. A reception and luncheon followed the church service. Rev. Seth Clemmer came to us from Estes Park, Colorado, where he had served for the last four years. Rev. Clemmer was installed at Bethany on August 23, 2015. A reception and dinner followed the service.

BETHANY HISTORY/ARCHIVES Mr. Sonlitner had continued to work around the school throughout the 2013-14 school year. With the start of the summer of 2014, Pastor Rossow asked him if he would like to take on a project. History records for the school and church needed to be organized. In the process of organizing them, maybe he would like to write up a history of Bethany Church and School. In effect, he would become the congregation's historian. Needless to say, this was a chore much to his liking. Materials were scattered in a variety of files throughout the office complex and stored in boxes in closets. Mr. Sonlitner began to organize "these treasures." When the Harris Wing was completed, they were placed in filing cabinets in the small band rehearsal room. By the start of the 2015-16 school year the history was fairly well organized – over 40 pages documenting the history of Bethany and its pastors and staff. A final revision was done by spring of 2016 with title page, table of contents, and a complete listing of staff over the years. The history would be put on line and updated as needed.

Meanwhile, the 2015-16 school year began with a few changes. Mr. Sonlitner was asked to teach the 8th grade English course due to a glitch in scheduling. Mr. Baganz was Athletic Director with the assistance of Mr. Bremer. Mrs. Staunch would assist as second grade aide. Mrs. Buckman took over P.E. in Kindergarten thru fifth grade. Mrs. Melanie Colt took over the position as school secretary from Mrs. Verbeck. Mrs. Angela Hess became Kindergarten aide. She would take over the classroom when Mrs. Gemkow went on maternity leave the start of December. Mrs. Buckman moved into the aide position until Mrs. Gemkow returned in January. Meanwhile, Mr. Grant Baganz took over the P.E. responsibilities until Mrs. Buckman resumed them. Mrs. Janetzke would go on maternity leave the end of February. Mr. Bill Moser, a regular sub during the school year, took over the class until she returned the end of April.

During the fall of the year the three cornerstones from the old Washington and 7th Avenue church and the 919 location were moved from their place of honor at the entrance to our church here at Modaff and placed in the courtyard between the church and Harris Wing. A statue of the Triumphant Christ, similar to that hanging in our sanctuary, was placed on the outside wall of the hall connecting the music rehearsal room to the sanctuary. This courtyard is now designated as our "Courtyard of History." It is appropriate that the statue represents Christ watching over Bethany in the past, present, and the future. It was suggested that the Grand Hallway be a "History Corridor" in the future with displays of our past periodically exhibited along with portraits of Bethany's pastors from 1928 to the present. In October of 2015 Bethany held its first Oktoberfest. Despite the cold weather, it was a huge success. Cantor Giuliani began his *Nachtmusik* concerts – a series of five concerts covering an organ concert to a women's choral/hand bell choir, an Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols to a jazz ensemble.

Pastor Rossow had long been the senior pastor of Bethany. He took us through the Move to Modaff. During these later years, Pastor Rossow began to work on advanced studies towards a doctorate degree, obtaining it in 2006. For many years he had worked with the Lutheran Church in Africa program, which led to him teaching there for a month after Christmas of 2014. During the course of 2015/16 he was approached by Synod to take a position working for Lutherans in Africa in the United States. Seeing that he was approaching retirement in the near future, Pastor Rossow decided to retire early and bring this part of his career to an end. Bethany held its farewell to the Rossows on December 18th in a farewell luncheon reception. The Rossows moved to Washington state where they built their new home and Pastor began a new phase in his life. God's blessings on Pastor's new calling.

Bethany congregation continued with its two pastors – Pastor Schumacher and Pastor Clemmer, Shortly after the start of the New Year, it was thought best to move Assistant Cantor Susan Keller into the Harris Wing so all the music personnel were together. Mrs. Keller had been operating out of one of the offices in the office wing of the complex. Since the band practice room was so large, Mr. Vasilie put his office into that room and still had room for individual practice sessions. Mrs. Keller would occupy Mr. Vasilie's old office. The archives were moved into Mrs. Keller's old office in the office wing.

It was decided to add another pre-kindergarten classroom to Bethany. That meant moving the existing kindergarten room. The "old" kindergarten room would easily be made into another pre-kindergarten room. Since the Harris Wing held a larger conference room, the old conference room in the office wing was demolished along with the print room and adjacent supply room. It would be converted into the "new" resource room. The old library was converted into the new kindergarten room. Work continued throughout the summer to get things ready for the new school year. Meanwhile, this and a few other changes created a "domino effect." The print room needed to be relocated. It was moved into the unused office where the archives were placed. Since Mrs. Keller decided to retire to spend more time with her family, the archives were moved into her office of the new addition the last part of the 2015/16 school year. Meanwhile, work began on building risers in the large rehearsal room. This meant the music filing cabinets had to be relocated. The small practice room which Mr. Vasilie used as his office would become a music office and Mr. Vasilie would move into Mrs. Keller's office. Risers were built in the large practice room. The archives would have to be moved again – this time to the back corner of the Youth Room. Later they would be moved into the store room of the Harris Center. Work slowed on organizing them and updating the history until a more permanent location could be found.

The story of our church and school will continue to unfold before us. We continue to put our trust in the Lord to guide our way as we travel the path through life. Bethany continues to do its work in Naperville, the surrounding community, and in foreign missions. All thanks be to God!

XIV. CONCLUSION

From humble beginnings, Bethany has made great strides. Despite some obstacles and drawbacks over the years, the congregation endured and prospered. The history of Bethany Church and School has been laid out for you in the previous pages. We can be proud of our church's outreach into the community and mission field. There are a number of service projects and activities in our church and school helping those in need. We can be proud of our pastors who minister to Bethany's needs and shepherd our congregation. We can be proud of the quality of our teachers – many of whom hold

advanced degrees. While several are new or have taught only a few years, jointly the staff has decades of teaching experience. We can be proud of our school and church office staff who diligently carry out their work and serve as good Christian role models. We can be proud of the many volunteers who assist with church and school activities. We can be proud in the high quality of work of our Day School students – both in the area of academics, sports, and the fine arts – proud of their achievements while at Bethany and as they move into high school and college. While Bethany is a private parochial school, we can be proud that our school is certified both by National Lutheran School Accreditation and the Illinois State Board of Education. We can be proud of all we have here at 1550 Modaff Road. We are thankful to God for His many blessings.

As we conclude, we would like to end with some thoughts found in the 20th anniversary booklet of Bethany Lutheran Church. Their message is as relevant today as it was in their writing in 1948, so we tie our past to our present. “We must realize the unmerited blessings of our Lord upon all our activities. At any and all milestones in our existence we should erect a memorial of gratitude to the glory of the Lord God. With the prophet Samuel we say: ‘Hitherto hath the Lord helped us’ (I Sam. 7:12). And with Israel’s sweet psalm writer our song ascends: ‘Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name do we give glory’ (Ps. 115:1).”

“We pray that the hand which has led us thus far may lead us further on our way. May the Almighty God preserve unto us our true treasure and possession, His pure Word and Sacraments. May it be to us sinners a revealing light to the entrance of God’s harbor of peace. May Bethany be unto us the Holy Place that leads to the Holiest of Holies – the eternal home of blessedness and joy. May God’s richest blessings rest upon Bethany in the future so that her efforts to the salvation of souls, dearly bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, may bring fruit unto eternal life.”

“It is a foolish notion to think that the mere size of a church body or its achievements add to its strength. In Scripture we read ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts (Zech. 4:6).’ That congregation is strong which lives and works by the Word. That church is weak which owes its greatness to indifference to any teaching of Scripture. O Thou Gracious God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Thy Holy Spirit, be and abide with us. Amen!”

*1. My Church! My Church! My dear old Church! My fathers’ and my own!
On Prophets and Apostles built, and Christ, the Cornerstone!
All else beside, by storm or tide, may yet be overthrown.
But not my Church – my dear old Church – My fathers’ and my own!*

*2. My Church! My Church! My dear old Church! My glory and my pride!
Firm in the faith Immanuel taught, she holds no faith beside.
Upon this Rock, ‘gainst every shock, Though gates of hell assail,
She stands secure, with promise sure, They never shall prevail.”*

*3. My Church! My Church! I love my Church, for she exalts my Lord!
She speaks, she breathes, she teaches not but from His written Word.
And if her voice bids me rejoice, from all my sins released,
‘Tis through th’ atoning sacrifice, and Jesus is the Priest.*

*4. My church! My church! I love my church, for she doth lead me on
To Zion's Palace Beautiful, where Christ, my Lord, hath gone.
From all below she bids me go, To Him, the life, the Way,
The Truth, to guide my erring feet From darkness into day.*

XV. TEACHING STAFF OF BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL 1930 TO PRESENT

September 1930 – School opened with grades 1 thru 8. Rev. Ullrich taught all eight grades in the lower level of the church. From 1940 thru 1942 vicars helped with the school. Rev. Ullrich resumed teaching alone after that time and continued to do so thru the end of the 1948-49 school year.

September 1949 – Mrs. Eunice Thanephon assumed control of the school and became the new teacher for grades 1 thru 8. She taught thru the 1952-53 school year.

September 1953 – Mrs. Thanephon resigned. Alan Ostwald was hired to teach grades 1 thru 8 for the first semester. Herbert Koehler was called to finish the year and run the school. He assisted with church music as well. Bethany moved to its new location at 919 S. Washington in March of 1960. He taught thru the 1959-60 school year.

September 1960 – Fred Martin became the new principal teaching grades 4 thru 8. He taught foreign language and worked with the children's choir. Mrs. Lee Sack taught grades 1 thru 3.

September 1961 – Kindergarten is added with Mrs. Coodelia Pehlke and Mrs. Sack as teachers. Miss Karen Albers was hired to teach grades 1 thru 3 and worked with church music. Mr. Martin taught grades 4 thru 8.

September 1962 – Mr. Martin continued his tenure. Mrs. Sack taught grades 1 to 3. Mrs. Pehlke taught Kindergarten.

September 1963 – Mr. Martin accepted a call and Arthur Albrecht was called as principal. He taught grades 4 thru 8 and worked with choirs. Mrs. Pehlke taught Kindergarten. Due to health problems, first Mrs. Albrecht and then Mrs. Mueller finished out the year. Miss Phyllis Buchhorn taught grades 1 thru 3.

September 1964 – Miss Buchhorn taught Kindergarten. Ruth Meschke taught grades 1 thru 3. Mr. Albrecht continued in his position.

September 1965 – Mr. Albrecht continued in his position. Mrs. Leanne Frank and Miss Carolee Allen took over the positions of Miss Buchhorn and Ruth Meschke.

September 1966 – Pre-Kindergarten is added. Mrs. Joanne Van Scycle taught both pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. Miss Roberta Bishop taught grades 1 thru 3. Mr. Albrecht taught grades 4 thru 7. There was no 8th grade that year.

September 1967 – Mr. Albrecht took a call and the school year opened with only Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten due to declining enrollment. Mrs. Van Scycle was principal and teacher. She taught with the help of Mrs. Jean Walters (Pre-K.) and Mrs. Charlene Fiene (Kind.) as aides.

September 1968 – A building program was underway. Grades slowly were added again. Miss Judy Reinking taught first grade and was acting principal. Mrs. Charlene Fiene taught Kindergarten and Mrs. Walters taught Pre-Kindergarten. Mrs. Marianne Hoffmann becomes the first librarian.

September 1969 – James Kirchoff was called as principal and 2nd grade teacher. He would work as organists and choir director over the years. Mrs. Fiene(K) and Mrs. Walters(PK) continued in their positions. Carol Eickemeyer was added as 1st grade teacher.

September 1970 – Mrs. Barbara Riggert(2), Miss Susan Bee(1), Mrs. Janet Pogue(K), and Mrs. Ruth Rauscher(PK) took over the positions in pre-kindergarten thru grade 2. Mr. Kirchoff and Mrs. Fiene both taught 3rd grade.

September 1971 – 4th grade is added and Mrs. Florence Schmidt Landorf was hired as teacher. Mrs. Lillian Sargeant took over Pre-Kindergarten. Other staff positions remained the same. **September 1972** – 5th grade was added. The teaching staff was: Pogue(PK), Sargeant(PK), Rassmussen(K), Bee(1), Fiene(2), Riggert(3), Landorf(4), and Kirchhoff(5). Mrs. JoAnn Rassmussen taught part-time in 5th grade. Mrs. Rassmussen(Sislow) was added to the staff this year.

September 1973 – Glenn Steinbrenner(5) was added to the teaching staff and served as assistant principal that year. Jim Kirchhoff is on leave working on his doctorate. Remaining staff stayed in their positions.

September 1974 – 6th grade is added. Mrs. Judy Beirne(5), Mrs. Katie Skewis(4), Mrs. Darlene Hanneman(1), Mrs. Janice Govi(Pre-K) were added to the staff. Teachers Rassmussen, Sargeant, Pogue, Fiene, Steinbrenner (5 and assistant principal) stay in their positions. Mr. Steinbrenner and Dr. Kirchhoff split duties with 5 and 6.

September 1975 – 7th grade is added. Joyce Lohrentz(PT) and Donna Kiedaisch(aide) are added to the staff. Teachers Pogue(PK), Govi(PK), Rassmussen(K), Sargeant(K & PK), Hanneman(1), Fiene(2), Riggert(3), Skewis(4), Beirne(5), Steinbrenner/Kirchoff(6), Steinbrenner/Lohrentz(7) covered the remaining classes.

September 1976 – 8th grade is added. Wayne Anderson(6) and Keith Wilharm(5) are added to the staff. Other staff continue in their positions. Changes were: Kiedaisch-4, Lohrentz-7, Steinbrenner\Kirchhoff-8. Mrs. Messer is hired as a teaching aide for grade two. Mrs. Anderson becomes librarian.

September 1977 – Dr. Kirchhoff becomes the first “full time” principal. Marlene Baughman(5) and Connie Kruger Gluck(7/athletics) join the staff. Shirley Wiemers would help with 3rd grade. Mrs. JoAnn Rassmussen (Sislow) is hired to teach enrichment classes (and continue with Pre-Kindergarten). Changes: Wilharm-5/8/athletics, Steinbrenner-8/7. Mrs. Yaverski becomes librarian. Other positions were mainly unchanged.

September 1978 – Mrs. Mae Froehle(3) was added to the staff. Mrs. Faith Wesolik joined mid-year to cover Pre-K for Mrs. Govi. Mrs. Millie Knosher replaces Mrs. Iris Fisher as church secretary. The remaining staff continue in their positions. A new addition is added to the facility.

September 1979 - Dr. Kirchhoff moved to a District position. Glenn Steinbrenner became interim principal. Miss Sharon Mason was 5th grade teacher and Miss Sue Dumford was 7th grade instructor. Mrs. Esther Kaups taught 5th thru Jr. High art. Changes: Wilharm (8). The remaining staff continued their positions.

September 1980 – John Kosinsky is called as principal. Mrs. Jan Ott (5) and Carol Stirling/Sundstrom (6) join the staff. Janet Pogue taught choir 5 to 8 and Jan Ott covered music. Other positions remain the same. Changes: Steinbrenner-7. Mrs. Myrna Neumann becomes new school secretary (replacing Mrs. Diersen).

September 1981 – Marlene Baughman returns to 5th grade. Other positions: Wesolik(PK), Rassmussen(PK/enrichment), Sargeant(PK&K), Wiemers(K aide), Hanneman(1), Fiene(2), Froehle(3), Keidaisch(4), Stirling(6), Steinbrenner(7), Wilharm(8), Mrs. Pogue(choir). Mrs. Bittner was hired to teach music.

September 1982 – No change in teaching positions. Mrs. Toni Hupp becomes new librarian. Carol Stirling remarried to become Carol Sundstrom.

September 1983 – No change in teaching positions. Dee Hillman (music + choir), Helen Tipler (art + Spanish), and Sandy Todd (librarian) were added to staff in part time positions

September 1984 –Joanne Ford(Rach) joins the staff as fourth grade teacher. Mrs. Tipler gave up art and other positions unchanged.

September 1985 – Peggy Trick is hired as art instructor. Remaining positions unchanged. Construction begins on the PAC.

September 1986 – Walter Shiffer becomes third grade teacher and Nikki Vahle (language arts) joins the staff. Sandy Todd teaches third grade part time in addition to library duties. Other positions are unchanged. Construction of the PAC was completed and dedicated in December.

September 1987 – Glenn Sonlitner(8) and Ken Howard(7 – athletic director) join the staff. Sue Illich (art) and Amy Wanic (junior high part time instructor) join the staff. Other positions remain the same. JoAnn Rassmussen remarried to become Mrs. Sislow.

September 1988 – Mary Lou Gibbs (Spanish) and Enid Groch (librarian) join the staff. JoAnn Sislow becomes full-time enrichment/resource instructor. Joanne Rach moves to 6th grade and Sandy Todd took over 4th grade. Carol Sundstrom took a part time position.

September 1989 – No change in staff. Karen Howard becomes librarian. Mrs. Theresa Krueger became the new school secretary.

September 1990 – Nikki Vahle becomes 6th grade teacher. Nancy Jahnke joins the staff as Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher. Nancy Yonker is hired to teach Pre-K and Ruth Rost becomes a teaching aide. Sue Connors is the new art teacher.

September 1991 – Mrs. Jahnke devotes her time solely to Kindergarten. Mrs. Vahle takes over 3rd grade. Mrs. Renee Lasch is a new teaching aide and Rose Andermann takes over as P.E. teacher. Mrs. Sundstrom returns to 6th grade. Karen Calpin became school secretary.

September 1992 – Kirk (3rd gr.) and Louise Bolt (Pre-K) join the staff. Miss Arndt and Miss Eschbach become new teacher aides. Mrs. Sue Carnevale takes over 6th grade. Mrs. Karyl Silerzio is the new art instructor. A band program is initiated under Mr. Dave O’Fallon. Mrs. Ott is interim teacher during Mrs. Carnevale’s convalescence.

September 1993 – Don Wischmeyer becomes the new principal. Mrs. Lana Hahn and Mrs. Cherie Malenke become teacher aides. Mr. Betz takes over the band program. Mrs. Ott fills in while Mrs. Carnevale undergoes corrective surgery.

September 1994 – Mrs. Hahn is made 5th grade teacher. Mrs. Kim Bass becomes a teaching aide and Tena Noffke is hired as librarian. Mrs. Nancy Kline takes over the 7th grade position and Lynn Little becomes part time music director.

September 1995 – Miss Lori Zlotow takes over the band program. Todd Stirn becomes new 7th grade teacher/athletic director and Miss Michelle Galfano (Stehle) becomes a teaching aide.

September 1996 – Mrs. Hanneman moved on and Miss Pam Mueller becomes the new 1st grade teacher. Mrs. Debbie Buckman and Mrs. Lynda Wischmeyer become new teaching aides. Mrs. Betty Knutson is the new art instructor. Mrs. Calpin becomes the school office administrator and Mrs. Laurie Cade is hired as school secretary. Miss Galfano married and became Mrs. Stehle. Mrs. Carnevale took ill and Mrs. Pam Bunte took over. Mrs. Bunte stayed on when Mrs. Carnevale passed away.

September 1997 – Mrs. Stehle becomes 6th grade instructor. Mrs. Barb Johnson, Mrs. Nancy Yendrejczyk, and Mrs. Nancy Duitsman become teaching aides. Mrs. Kristi Taylor is the new motor facilitator and Miss Zlotow married to become Mrs. Lori. Foster. Nick Malleos becomes the new Youth Director in spring of 1998.

September 1998 – Mrs. Linda Prestemon becomes a new teaching aide. Joanne Rach returns to teach P.E. in the lower grades. Phil Magness is called as new music director.

September 1999 – Mrs. Pam Winterroth replaces Mrs. Stehle. Mrs. Rach took over 4th grade when Mrs. Todd took ill and then passed away after a short battle with cancer. Mrs. Sharon Lenich became interim P.E. instructor and Mrs. Carole Staunch became the new art instructor. Mrs. DiGiovanni

taught elementary and 6th science and Mrs. Carole Armbrecht picked up school music and choir. Todd Stirn becomes assistant principal.

September 2000 –Mrs. Lenich stays on as lower grade P.E. instructor. No other changes.

September 2001 – Don Wischmeyer becomes Director of Family Life and Todd Stirn moved up to principal. Miss Mueller becomes assistant principal. Rob Johnson joins the staff as 7th grade instructor/ athletic director. Mrs. Terry Dierking and Mrs. Diana Guebert became teaching aides. Mrs. Buckman filled in for Mrs. Winterroth who was on maternity leave later in the year. Jennifer Fitch taught music appreciation. Miss Jesse Dawson was hired as a resource/enrichment specialist.

September 2002 – Mrs. Winterroth returns to 6th grade. Mrs. Lila Berger takes over the teaching aide position of Mrs. Prestemon. Mr. Conditt became the new band director.

September 2003 – Todd Stirn moved to the public sector and Don Wischmeyer resumes the principalship. Miss Sonja Ruppel took over 6th grade as Mrs. Winterroth wished to raise her family. Mrs. Buckman again was a teaching aide. Mrs. Angie McKissick took over the lower grade P.E. Mrs. Kim Antenen took over for Mrs. Berger and Mrs. Susan Buck taught junior high math. Miss Erica Grass took over the band program.

September 2004 – Mrs. Kathleen Woehlke took over music appreciation. Debbie Buckman becomes athletic director. No other changes.

September 2005 – Don Wischmeyer retired. Pam Mueller assumes the position of principal. Tracey Kuerschner becomes the new 6th grade instructor. Miss Erin Thompson takes over 1st grade and Mrs. Marnie Esposito becomes her aide. Mrs. Erin Dunwell became the new 5th grade teacher. Miss Dawson married to become Mrs. Mouis. Due to budgeting problems some part time church and staff positions were let go. Tina Noffke, librarian, and JoAnn Sislow, enrichment instructor, were let go. Jim Jacobson's position as Plant Manager was dropped in 2002. Some teaching aides had hours dropped and some church staff were let go.

September 2006 – Nancy Jahnke retired and Cyndi Niccolai took over. Mrs. Buckman went to 1st grade as aide and Mrs. Marnie Esposito became the kindergarten aide. Mr. Bruce Burhrandt became athletic director that year. Holly Spooner joined the staff as special education instructor. Mrs. Calpin retired and Mrs. Cade moved up to school administrator. Mrs. Deeann Lieb becomes the new school secretary. Mrs. Patty Pedigo is hired as the person in charge of youth support for the church office.

September 2007 – Mrs. Dunwell takes up the position of athletic director. Mrs. Buckman is the new 4th grade teacher. Mrs. Stehle returns as 6th grade teacher. Mrs. Sharon Lenich is a new teaching aide. Mrs. Dierking picks up teaching a math course. Mrs. Aimee Walsh replaced Mrs. Yonker as a Pre-K and Kindergarten instructor. Miss Grass married to become Mrs. Willemsen.

September 2008 – Mr. Chad Beganz is the new 4th grade teacher. Mrs. Jennifer Gutzwiller joins the staff as a new Pre-K aide. Mr. Michael Vasilie is the new band director. A Spanish language program is added led by Senor Ingrid. Mrs. Yendrejczyk takes over the school library.

September 2009 – Mrs. Walsh devotes her time just to Pre-K but is also made Admissions Director. Louise Bolt became hospitalized and passed away in February 2010 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Mrs. Gutzwiller took over her class. Charlene Fiene retired at the end of the school year.

September 2010 – Mrs. Kari Janetzke is the new 2nd grade teacher. Mrs. Gutzwiller stays on in the Pre-Kindergarten position. Mrs. Martin becomes a Pre-Kindergarten aide. Senor Gomez-Savina assists with teaching Spanish. Mrs. Dunwell and Mr. Baganz are co-athletic directors. Miss Thompson married in spring to become Mrs. Ennis. She decided to retire in June to start a family.

September 2011 – Mrs. Niccolai moved up to first grade. Mrs. Leah Gedvilas became the new kindergarten teacher and Mrs. Gretchen Brouch became a new teaching aide. Mrs. Rossow, already

working in the church office, took up the duties of youth support for the church. Mr. Vasile picks up Jr. High P.E.

September 2012 – Mrs. Guebert takes over the aide position from Mrs. Martin. Remaining staff remains in their positions. Mr. Sonlitner decides to retire at the end of the school year. Mrs. Lieb and Mrs. Cade both retire from their positions in the school office too. Mrs. Gedvilas moved on and Mrs. Buckman and Mrs. Yendrejczyk both retired after their years of service.

September 2013 – Mrs. Pedigo became the office administrator and Mrs. Verbeck became the new secretary. They both began their training before the previous school year ended. Alec Kemnitz took over as 8th grade teacher. Mrs. Kristin Gemkow and Miss Kimberly Harrison were hired as kindergarten teachers. Mrs. Jill Ireland becomes the 2nd grade aide. Mrs. Jamie Rogoz, Mrs. Patty Pedigo, and Mrs. Guebert teach Pre-Kindergarten. Mrs. Jill Dirilten is added as a speech specialist. Mrs. Yendrejczyk volunteers to run the library. Mr. Sonlitner picked up some 8th grade classes the last quarter. Remaining staff stay in their positions. Kirk Bolt retired at the end of the school year after his many years of service to Bethany.

September 2014 – David Bremer became the new 8th grade teacher and Joshua Schultz the new 6th grade teacher. Staff changes: Dunwell(5/assistant principal/co-athletic director), Stehle(4), Baganz(3/co-athletic director), Gemkow and Harrison team teach Kindergarten. Remaining staff stay in place: Johnson, Janetzke, Niccolai, Gutzwiller, and Rogoz. Mrs. Jessica Gade is hired as Pre-K teacher. McKissick, Staunch, Dierking, Lenich, Yendrejczyk, Vasilie, Dirilten, Spooner continue in their positions. Mrs. Gemkow leaves on maternity leave and Mrs. Traci Downs helps as aide to kindergarten. Mrs. Walsh was made full time Director of Admissions but took a call in September. She was replaced by Mrs. Linda Fox who took over in November. Miss Harrison left the end of October and Debbie Buckman stepped up from being the 2nd grade aide to teaching Kindergarten with the assistance of Traci Downs, Angie McKissick, and Jennifer Gutzwiller all serving as aides. Mrs. Gemkow returns to replace Mrs. Downs as aide in January. Mrs. Gretchen Brouch assumed the 2nd grade aide position in the absence of Mrs. Buckman. Mrs. Melanie Colt took over Mrs. Verbeck's position. Mr. Sonlitner and Mrs. Fiene continued working with the youth at Bethany.

September 2015 – The staff remained intact with some minor modifications. Mr. Sonlitner was asked to teach the 8th grade English class due to a conflict in scheduling. Angela Hess became the new Kindergarten Aide and took over for Mrs. Gemkow while she was gone during December on maternity leave. Mrs. Buckman became Kindergarten Aide and Mr. Grant Baganz took over her P.E. responsibilities in P.E. until she returned to her position. While Mrs. Janetzke was out on maternity leave during March and April, Mr. Bill Moser taught 2nd grade. He had been a regular sub throughout the year. Mrs. Alvarez ran the Spanish program. Mrs. Staunch became 2nd grade aide and Mr. Bremer become co-athletic director with Mr. Baganz.

CELEBRATING OUR YEARS OF EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

P = principal IP = interim principal AP – assistant principal T = teacher PT = part time
 ST = substitute teacher A = aide At. Dir. – athletic director P.E. – physical education
 Note: (parentheses lists year first joined staff)

Miss Karen Albers (T) (1961)	Mrs. Debbie Buckman (A/ST/PT/ At. Dir./T) (1996)	Mrs. Mae Froehlke (T) (1978)
Mr. Arthur Albrecht (P/T) (1963)	Mrs. Pam Bunte (ST) (1996)	Mrs. Gade (T) (2014)
Mrs. Arthur Albrecht (ST) (1963)	Mr. Bruce Burhandt (At. Dir.)..... (2006)	Mrs. Leah Gedvilas (T) (2011)
Ms. Carolee Allen (T) (1965)	Mrs. Suzanne Carnevale (T)..... (1992)	Mrs. Kristin Gemkow (T) (2013)
Mrs. Rose Andermann (P.E.)..... (1990)	Rev. Seth Clemmer (2015)	Mrs. MaryLou Gibbs (Spanish)..... (1998)
Mr. Wayne Anderson (T) (1976)	Mrs. Patty Pedigo/Compton (T)... (1997/2013)	Cantor Michael Giuliani (2015)
Mrs. Wayne Anderson (Library) (1976)	Mr. Conditt (Band) (2002)	Mrs. Connie Krueger Gluck (T) (1977)
Mrs. Kim Antenen (A) (2003)	Mrs. Susan Connors (Art) (1990)	Mrs. Janice Govi (T) (1974)
Mrs. Carole Armbrecht (Choir & Music) (1999)	Miss Jesse Dawson (PT) (2001)	Mrs. Enid Groch (Library) (1988)
Ms. Arndt (A) (1992)	Mrs. Terry Dierking (A/PT) (2001)	Mrs. Diana Guebert (A/T) (2001)
Mr. Chad Baganz (T/At. Dir.)..... (2008)	Mrs. DiGiovanni (A/PT) (1999)	Mrs. Jennifer Gutzwiller (A/T/ ST) (2008)
Mr. Grant Baganz – (P.E.) (2015)	Mrs. Jill Diriltten (PT) (2013)	Mrs. Lana Hahn (A/PT/T) (1993)
Mrs. Kim Bass (A) (1994)	Mrs. Traci Downs (A) (2014)	Kantor Erin Hanke (2012)
Mrs. Marlene Baughman (T)..... (1977)	Mrs. Nancy Duitsman (A) (1997)	Mrs. Darlene Hanneman (T) (1974)
Ms. Susan Bee (T) (1970)	Ms. Susan Dumford (T) (1979)	Miss Kim Harrison (T) (2013)
Mrs. Judith Beirne (T) (1974)	Mrs. Erin Dunwell (T/AP/At. Dir./ IP/P) (2005)	Mrs. Angela Hess (A) (2015)
Mrs. Kendis Bender (Youth Min.) (1992)	Ms. Carol Eickemeyer (T) (1969)	Mrs. Deloris Hillman (Music & Choir) (1983)
Mrs. Lila Berger (A) (2002)	Mrs. Erin Thompson/Ennis (T)..... (2005)	Mrs. Marianne Hoffman (Library) (1968)
Mr. Betz (band) (1993)	Ms. June Eschbach (A) (1992)	Mr. Kenneth Howard (T) (1987)
Ms. Roberta Bishop (T) (1966)	Mrs. Marnie Esposito (A) (2005)	Mrs. Karen Howard (Library) (1989)
Mrs. Bittner (Music) (1981)	Mrs. Charlene Fiene (A/PT/T)..... (1967)	Mrs. Toni Hupp (Library) (1982)
Mr. Kirk Bolt (T/AP) (1992)	Vicar Edward Fisher (P) (1952)	Mrs. Sue Illich (Art) (1987)
Mrs. Louise Bolt (T) (1992)	Rev. Jonathan Fisk (2012)	Mrs. Jill Ireland (A) (2013)
Mr. David Bremer (T/At. Dir.) (2014)	Dr. Jennifer Fitch (Music) (2001)	Mrs. Nancy Jahnke (T) (1990)
Rev. C. F. Broecker (1953)	Mrs. Holly (Spooner) Fletcher..... (2006)	Mrs. Kari Janetzke (T) (2010)
Mrs. Gretchen Brouch (A) (2011)	Mrs. Lori Zlotow/Foster.....(Band) (1995)	Mrs. Barb Johnson (A) (1997)
Ms. Phyllis Buchhorn (T) (1963)	Mrs. Leanne Frank (T) (1965)	Mr. Rob Johnson (T) (2001)
Mrs. Susan Buck (PT) (2003)		Mrs. Esther Kaups (Art) (1979)

Asst. Kantor Susan Keller (2015)	Mrs. Cyndi Niccolai (T) (2006)	Mrs. Glenn Steinbrenner (T/AP/IP) (1973)
Mr. Alec Kemnitz (T) (2013)	Mrs. Tena Noffke (Library)(1994)	Mr. Todd Stirn (T/AP/P) (1995)
Mrs. Donna Kiedaisch (A/T)..... (1975)	Mr. David O'Fallon (Band) (1992)	Mrs. Carol Stirling/Sundstrom (T/PT) (1980)
Dr. James Kirchhoff (P/T) (1969)	Mr. Alan Ostwald (T/P) (1953)	Mr. Jonathan Swett (Kantor)... (2022)
Mrs. Nancy Kline (T) (1994)	Mrs. Jan Ott (T/music/ST) (1980)	Mrs. Kristi Taylor (P.E.) (1997)
Mrs. Betty Knutson (Art) (1996)	Mrs. Coodelia Pehlke (T) (1961)	Mrs. Eunice Thanephon (T)..... (1949)
Mr. Herbert Koehler (P/T) (1954)	Rev. Robert Petersen (1974)	Mrs. Helen Tipler (Art/Spanish)... (1983)
Mr. John Kosinsky (P) (1980)	Mrs. Janet Pogue (T/PT Choir)... (1970)	Mrs. Sandy Todd (Library/PT/T)... (1983)
Mrs. Tracey Kuerschner (T)..... (2005)	Mrs. Linda Prestemon (A) (1998)	Mrs. Peggy Trick (Art) (1985)
Mrs. Florence Schmidt Landorf (T) (1971)	Mrs. RuthAnn Rauscher (T)..... (1970)	Rev. Adolph Ullrich (P/T) (1928)
Mrs. Renee Lasch (A) (1990)	Mrs. Joanne Rach (T/P.E./ST)..... (1984)	Mrs. Nikki Vahle (PT Lang. Arts/T) (1986)
Mrs. Sharon Lenich (P.E./A) (1999)	Ms. Judy Reinking (T/IP) (1968)	Mrs. Joanne Van Scycle (T/IP)... (1965)
Miss Megan LeResche (Band).... (2016)	Mrs. Barbara Riggert (T) (1970)	Mr. Michael Vasilie (Music/Band/P.E.) (2008)
Mrs. Lynn Little (PT Music Dir.).... (1994)	Mrs. Jamie Rogoz (T) (2013)	Mrs. Aimee Walsh (T/Ad. Dir.) (2007)
Mrs. Joyce Lohrentz (PT/T)(1975)	Rev. Walter Roschke (1956)	Mrs. Jean Walters (A/T) (1967)
Mr. Phillip Magness (Cantor)..... (1999)	Rev. Timothy Rossow (1994)	Mrs. Amy Wanic (P.E.) (1987)
Mrs. Cherie Malenke (A) (1993)	Mrs. Ruth Rost (A) (1990)	Mrs. Faith Wesolik (T) (1978)
Mr. Nick Malleos (Youth Dir.)..... (1997)	Ms. Sonja Ruppel (T) (2003)	Rev. Larry Wesolik (1978)
Mr. Fred Martin (P/T) (1960)	Mrs. Lee Sack (T) (1960)	Mrs. Shirley Wiemers (A) (1977)
Mrs. Lisa Martin (A) (2010)	Mrs. Lillian Sargeant (T) (1971)	Mr. Keith Wilharm (T) (1976)
Ms. Sharon Mason (T) (1979)	Rev. Robert Schaibley (1971)	Mrs. Pam Winterroth (T) (1999)
Mrs. Angie McKissick (P.E/A)..... (2003)	Mrs. Florence Landorf Schmidt (T) (1971)	Mrs. Erica Grass/Willemsen (Band) (2003)
Rev. Terry McReynolds (1988)	Mr. Joshua Schultz (T) (2014)	Mr. Don Wischmeyer (P) ((1993)
Mrs. Messer (A) (1976)	Rev. Stephen Schumacher (1999)	Mrs. Lynda Wischmeyer (A) (1996)
Miss Ruth Meschke (T) (1964)	Mr. Walter Shiffer (T) (1986)	Mrs. Kathleen Woehlke (PT Music) (2004)
Mr. Bill Moser (ST) (2015)	Vicar Kenneth Sinclair (1969)	Mrs. Yaverski (Library) (1977)
Mrs. Jesse Dawson/Mouis (PT).... (2001)	Mrs. Karyl Silerzio (Art) (1992)	Mrs. Nancy Yendrejczyk (A) (Library)..... (1997)
Mr. Greg Mueller (Youth Dir.)..... (1983)	Mrs. JoAnn Rassmussen/Sislow (T/PT) (1972)	Mrs. Nancy Yonker (T) (1990)
Mrs. Gregg Mueller (ST) (1963)	Mrs. Kathy Skewis (T) (1974)	
Ms. Pam Mueller (T/AP/P)(1996)	Mr. Glenn Sonlitner (T/PT)(1987)	
	Mrs. Carol Staunch (Art/A) (1999)	
	Mrs. Michelle Galfano/Stehle (A/T) (1995)	