

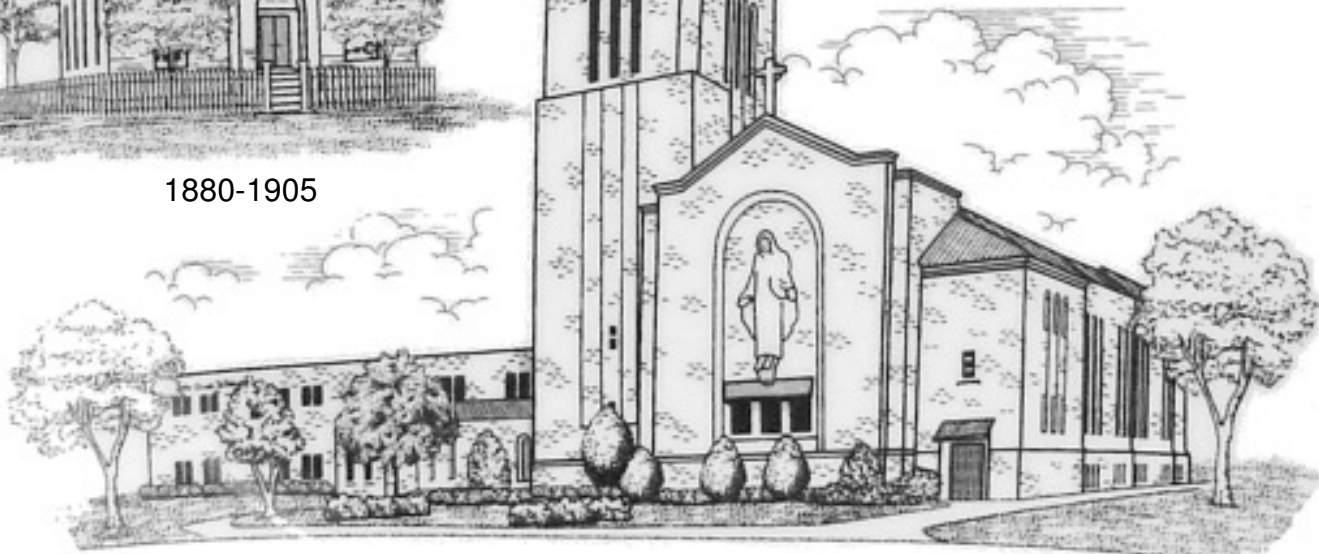
# 125 Years of Telling God's Story



1880-1905



1905-1954



1954-

***Trinity Lutheran Church***  
*800 Houston Avenue*  
*Houston, Texas 77007*



**On November 9, 2004, Trinity Lutheran Church and School  
celebrated 125 years of God's grace and love.  
We give thanks to our Savior who has blessed us  
with the joy of the faith that spans life on earth and in heaven.**

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## **THE EARLY YEARS - Houston 1870-1880**

At the end of this decade, Houston was a growing city with 16,513 residents. Houston and Harris County were showing a higher population growth than any other part of the state. It was the rail center of Southeast Texas and various communications systems, particularly the telegraph and telephone, promoted the city's growth. The first telephone exchange was installed in 1880 when there were 50 telephones in Houston. A milestone of progress was the first arc streetlight installed in the downtown area at the intersection of Main Street and Preston Avenue in December 1882. Education took a leap forward when free public schools were established in Houston in 1876.

Many people living in Houston and others moving into this city were beginning a new life in a new land. The locals and the newly arrived immigrants sought refuge in the few familiar things that reminded them of home. One place they could hear the language of home and enjoy the fellowship of familiar people with similar beliefs was in the church.

Germans were among Houston's first settlers. There have been estimates that German immigrants made up twenty to forty-five percent of the city's population during this period and the German language was spoken on Houston's Main Street as commonly as English.

Many times early congregations were established by groups of immigrants who wanted churches like the ones they had left back home. Often, groups met in homes or public buildings until the congregations grew and could raise enough funds to build their own houses of worship.

### **FOUNDERS OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - HOUSTON, TEXAS**

Carl Appelt	W. Kersten	F. Schnaucke
Louis Bathe	F. Leverkusn	Julius Schoeverling
G. Blohm	N. Nehrling	Adolph Stoppel
J. A. Blohm	Otto Neuert	Heinrich Stoppel
Fritz Borsum	A. Oppermann	Wilhelm Stoppel
Louis Geyer	A. Paulig	C. Voss, Jr.
Johann Hoop	Heinr. Sauber	C. Voss, Sr.
F. Janson	Herman Schiebler	Ernst Zeitler

On November 9, 1879, a group of twenty-four men met in the home of Mr. F. Schnaucke to found the congregation which they named Deutsche Evangelisch - Lutherische Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde of Houston (German Evangelical - Lutheran Trinity Church of Houston). These men had been leaders of an independent Lutheran congregation located at Milam and Texas Avenues in downtown Houston. They had accused that church and its pastor of un-Lutheran practices and had voted to withdraw and organize what they felt would be a true Lutheran congregation. Trinity Lutheran Church was the first congregation of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Houston.

These same forefathers also saw the need to nurture the spiritual, educational and social needs of their children, so they established a school at the same time the congregation was organized. That school was known as Deutsch-Englische Lutherische Schule (German-English Lutheran School) for a number of years.

With the assistance of the Reverend P. Roesener of Rose Hill, Texas, and the Reverend J. M. Maisch of Klein, Texas, the seceders extended a call to the Reverend Timotheus Stiemke of Warda, Texas, to be their first pastor. It was not until the call was extended a second time that Pastor Stiemke accepted the challenge of the new congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church.

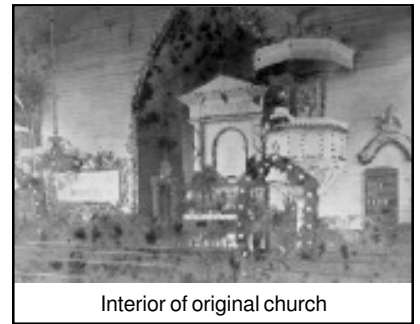
Initially, worship services were conducted in a rented room of a residence on Texas Avenue. Classes for the first school were held in that same room. Mr. Henry Nehrling was the first teacher and school was held even during the summer months “under extreme hardships.”



Original church on Louisiana between Prairie and Preston, built 1880

During its first year of existence, the congregation purchased a piece of property in the 400 block of Louisiana Street between Preston and Prairie (present site of the Lyric Center).

The church was built at a cost of approximately \$1,900 with an additional \$300 for fixtures. The congregation could not afford the expenses necessary for the construction of a house of worship and, consequently, in an unprecedented move, an urgent request for financial help went out to the readers of *Der Lutheraner*, a publication of the Missouri Synod. The contributions from Lutherans all over the country and from local citizens enabled plans for a church building to become a reality.



Interior of original church

The cornerstone of Trinity’s first building was put in place on August 1, 1880, and the building was dedicated to God’s service on November 28, 1880.

The first school building was erected behind the church on Louisiana Street and dedicated on January 1, 1881. The purpose of this school was “to give such children of the congregation who are of scholastic age and others who attend the school a thorough Christian training; to instruct them diligently in Bible History and Dr. Martin Luther’s Small Catechism; and also give them a thorough course of instruction of the necessary secular branches.”

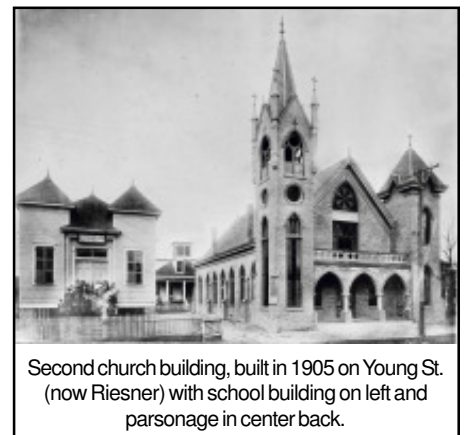


Trinity Lutheran Cemetery

On January 31, 1881, the Board of Trustees of the congregation, represented by Messrs. William Kersten and H. Schiebler purchased .81 acre, more or less, as a site for the Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, known for many years as the German Lutheran Cemetery. It is located at 500 Sawyer Street, about one mile west of the present church. After the purchase, the land had to be cleared and plotted into burial spaces and lots. On July 24, 1881, the cemetery was dedicated. Headstones reveal that some deaths occurred prior to 1881 and it is believed these deceased were moved from another location and interred at the new cemetery after its founding. Burials include

men who served in the military, beginning with the Spanish-American War in 1898. A number of former pastors and other staff members of Trinity are also buried there. Maintained by Trinity Lutheran Church and its volunteer sexton, the cemetery is still in active use today and presently has the remains of 411 sainted individuals.

At sometime in the 1890s the “district around the church had become so disreputable” that the congregation decided to relocate. In April 1903 a building site was purchased on Young Street (now Riesner Street). A new school building was quickly built and dedicated on September 6, 1903, two years before the new church was built at 12 Riesner Street and dedicated on December 10, 1905.



Second church building, built in 1905 on Young St. (now Riesner) with school building on left and parsonage in center back.

## **MOMENTS IN HISTORY**

- January 11, 1880** - The Rev. Timotheus Stiemke was installed as the first pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church.
- January 13, 1880** - Clara Alvine Richards (Richarz), born October 4, 1879, the daughter of Joseph Richards and Auguste Schulze Richards, was baptized by Pastor Stiemke. (The first infant to be baptized at Trinity was Emilie Louise Stoppel, born on October 16, 1879, and baptized by Pastor Roesener, Trinity's organizational pastor, on the congregation's founding day - November 9, 1879.)
- February 22, 1880** - Pastor Stiemke officiated at the wedding ceremony for Heinrich Hillendahl and Miss Lydia Weimar - the first couple married at Trinity.
- November 28, 1880** - Trinity's first sanctuary, located in the 400 block of Louisiana in downtown Houston, was dedicated.
- January 1, 1881** - Trinity Lutheran's first school building was dedicated. It was located directly behind the sanctuary in the 400 block of Louisiana Street. (No known photograph exists.)
- June 12, 1882** - Pastor T. Stiemke accepted a call to St. John Lutheran Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, and preached his farewell sermon at Trinity on July 16, 1882.
- September 3, 1882** - Pastor Gotthold Kuehn was installed as Trinity's second pastor and served until July 19, 1885, when he accepted a call to Effingham County, Illinois.
- March 1, 1885** - The Voters Assembly of Trinity Lutheran Church approved a sign to be placed in Trinity's cemetery "with all the necessary rules" printed in both German and English.
- August 30, 1885** - The Rev. J. Trinklein was installed as Trinity's third pastor. He also served preaching stations in Pattison, Sealy, Hempstead, and Reid's Prairie. Because of illness, Pastor Trinklein resigned in 1889. His successor, Pastor John Barthel, served Trinity from 1889 to 1896, when he accepted a call to Mobile, Alabama.
- January 1889** - The congregation passed a resolution to encourage mission work among the Negroes of the city.
- 1892** - The Voters Assembly passed a resolution approving a "Frauenverein" (women's organization).
- February 5, 1893** - An organization for young people of Trinity was established and called "Junglings und Jungfrauenverein" (Young Men and Young Women's Society).
- 1893** - The congregation decided to relocate the church and school, since the location on Louisiana Street was becoming disreputable.
- December 10, 1896** - The Rev. C. F. Brommer was installed and served as Trinity's fifth pastor "with great zeal" until June 9, 1901. He resigned because of illness when doctors advised him to "seek another climate." Pastor Brommer later served as president of Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska, from 1924 to 1941. Brommer Hall, the former dining hall and now the arts building at the university, was named in his honor.
- August 11, 1901** - The Rev. C. A. Waech became Trinity's sixth pastor. During his pastorate, property was purchased on Riesner Street for a new school building and a new sanctuary was built two years later at 12 Riesner Street. Pastor Waech received a call from the congregation in Klein, Texas, and after the call was issued for the third time, he accepted and was granted a peaceful release by Trinity in the fall of 1907.



**Pastor T. Stiemke**  
**Pastor J. Barthel**

**Pastor G. Kuehn**  
**Pastor C.A. Waech**

**Pastor J. Trinklein**  
**Pastor C.F. Brommer**

## THE GROWING YEARS

The turn of the century brought two exceptional individuals to Trinity congregation. A young man, John W. Behnken, Sr., who in 1906 had begun a new mission in Houston, accepted the call to Trinity after it was extended for the third time. He was installed at Trinity on April 5, 1908. Eventually most of the members of the struggling mission congregation which he had been serving became members of Trinity. The congregation experienced much change and growth under his leadership. One of his accomplishments was having the church's constitution translated into English. He was also instrumental in using English instead of German in the church services. At that time classes in the school were taught in German in the morning and English in the afternoon. Houston and Trinity congregation had a substantial German population. In 1918 use of the German language was discontinued because of the beginning of World War I and because the number of the pupils who spoke English was increasing.



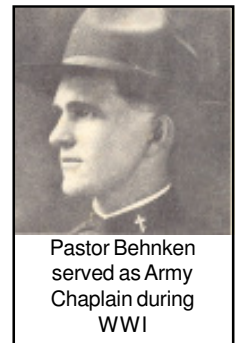
The second individual who was an outstanding organizer for the congregation was Mr. L. O. Kasper, who was called to serve as a teacher for the parochial school. He introduced the first report cards and it was through his untiring efforts that graduates from Trinity Lutheran School were finally admitted to Houston public high schools without having to take a special entrance exam. He also convinced the congregation to discontinue the custom of charging tuition for children of members and other children whose parents would promise to have their children confirmed.

In 1910 the enrollment grew to 80 students and it was deemed necessary to call a second teacher and enlarge the school building. That summer another school room was added to the rear of the building and a second story was added to serve as a "hall" for the young people, a meeting place for the voters assembly and the different societies, and a room for Sunday school purposes. By the end of May 1914, the student enrollment totaled 101 students. The new additions were dedicated on September 4, 1910, and this building served the congregation until 1933. In these early years the teachers were addressed as "professor" by the students.



On August 24, 1913, Mr. Emil Schultz began his 49 years of service to Trinity Lutheran School. In addition to being principal from 1917 to 1955, he also served as chairman of the Texas District Teachers Conference for 17 years. He was named principal emeritus in 1955 and retired fully in 1962.

In 1917, during World War I, Pastor Behnken was given a leave of absence to serve as Army Chaplain for Camp Logan and Ellington Field near Houston, and Fort Crockett in Galveston. During this period the Reverend A. W. Bartling was called to serve as an assistant pastor for the congregation.



While located in the downtown area of a growing community, church leaders recognized the need of area missions throughout the city. Trinity has the privilege of being the mother church of Lutheranism in Houston. In 1918 a mission was formed in the Houston Heights. This is now Immanuel Lutheran Church. Trinity's active role in local mission efforts brought about the organization of the Mission Society in 1921. This society formed six other missions in the Houston area, namely St. John, Messiah, St. Paul, St. Matthew, Bethany and St. Peter (Iglesia Luterana San Pedro) Lutheran churches. (St. John and St. Paul congregations have since been decommissioned and these properties are now serving as community centers and mission congregations - Centro de Fe y Esperanza and Comunidad de Gracia - under the direction of Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition [LINC]-Houston.) In the late 1930s the congregation continued to have a concern for spreading the Gospel in the greater Houston area by commissioning special missionaries to canvass and assist in the formation of other mission congregations.

In 1923 Mr. Oswald Mueller accepted a call to become a teacher at Trinity and served for 21 years. At various times he was given a leave of absence by the congregation so that he might establish a school or serve as organist and

Sunday school teacher in newly-established mission congregations. Mr. Mueller was a well-known entomologist and horticulturist, and in 1939 was named president of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club. He also was noted for translating *Roemer's Texas* into English.

### *Principals of Trinity Lutheran School*

(Prior to 1907, the pastor was the school superintendent.)



L.O. Kasper  
1907 - 1917



Emil Schultz  
1917 - 1955



Carl Aufdemberge  
1955 - 1967



Harold Kieschnick  
1967 - 1976



Edward Gallmeier  
1976 - 1999



Randy Einem  
1999 -

Trinity congregation continued to move forward in the community and also within the Texas District and the national church body. Originally the synod was named the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Missouri, Ohio and Other States. Later German was dropped from the name and at the synod's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1947, the name was shortened to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS).

In 1926 Pastor Behnken became president of the Texas District, having previously served as second and then first vice president. He served as president of the district until 1929 when the LCMS elected him to the position of second vice president. During the years when he was frequently out of town on district or synodical business, the congregation had vicars to assist with the pastoral duties.

The years also brought changes to Trinity congregation and school. By 1929 the school building was showing its age. The school now numbered 133 pupils and four teachers. In spite of "The Great Depression," the congregation began to dream of replacing the old building with a modern school building and parish hall. Historical records note that on September 12, 1932, the congregation resolved to build a new school building. Within one year (September 1933) a new modern building with classrooms, a large auditorium/gymnasium, library, pastor's study and storeroom, was completed. Also a bowling facility and a fully-equipped kitchen and lunchroom were housed in the basement. The cost of the building was \$35,000. It exceeded the original bid by a mere \$13.

In 1934 Pastor Behnken received the title of Doctor of Divinity from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Known for his accomplishments throughout the synod, Pastor Behnken was elected to the presidency in June 1935. His successor at Trinity was Oliver R. Harms, a young pastor from Eden, Texas.



(top) Front view of school building built in 1933 with corner of church showing at right (photo circa 1940s); (bottom) Rear view of school

## **MOMENTS IN HISTORY**

**September 6, 1903** - Trinity Lutheran School (known as German Lutheran School) dedicated its second school building located on Young Street (renamed Riesner Street). Mr. Frank H. Meyer was the architect.

**July 9, 1905** - Trinity congregation decided to construct a new brick veneer sanctuary (rather than wood frame construction) on Riesner Street at Washington Avenue and awarded the contract to C. H. Winn whose bid read \$6,889.

**September 3, 1905** - A used one manual pipe organ in good condition was purchased for \$210 from a congregation in Kendallville, Indiana. That instrument served the congregation in its sanctuary on Riesner Street until the church was remodeled in 1922 and a new organ was purchased.

**December 10, 1905** - Trinity's second sanctuary, located at 12 Riesner Street at Washington Avenue, was dedicated.

**February 14-20, 1906** - The Texas District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod was organized during Synod's convention held at Trinity Lutheran Church. The District's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be observed in 2006 and the District Convention will again be held in Houston.

**January 19, 1908** - The young adults of Trinity changed its organization's name to "The Young People's Guild." In 1920, the guild became a member of the International Walther League and the name changed to Trinity Walther League.

**1909** - English-speaking people were encouraged to join the church and were given the opportunity to express their opinions in the voters meetings. In 1913 it was decided to alternate the minutes of the voters meetings in German and English.

**September 4, 1910** - Trinity Lutheran School's third building (remodeled) was dedicated. A second floor was added to the original one-story structure built in 1903, along with an addition to the rear of the building providing additional classrooms and space for meetings, socials, and Sunday school classes.

**August 22, 1915** - A special meeting was called to discuss the hurricane damage that occurred on August 16, 1915, and needed repairs to Trinity's church roof, windows, tower, and the loss of flues. Mr. Edward Hans, age 27, a member of Trinity, was one of four Houstonians who died from injuries sustained in that storm. Edward and Elizabeth Stoerkel Hans were married at Trinity in 1909. In addition to his wife, Mr. Hans was also survived by his two-year-old son.

**July 2, 1916** - At worship services Trinity began using offering plates which replaced the "Klingel Beutel" (translated "bell bag"... the cloth bag and bell attached to the end of a staff was held by ushers at each pew for members to place their offerings.)

**September 9, 1917** - Mr. Emil Schultz accepted the position of principal of Trinity Lutheran School, succeeding Mr. L. O. Kasper. Mr. Schultz had begun teaching at Trinity in 1913 and served until his retirement in 1962.

**May 3, 1918** - Trinity Lutheran Ladies' Circle was founded. It was formed by uniting the "Frauenverein" organized in 1891, with the "Ladies' Helping Hands" organized in 1906.

**November 11, 1918** - Forty-six members of the congregation served in the military during World War I. All returned safely after the war ended.

(Moments in History continued on next page)

**January 14, 1923** - Trinity congregation endorsed the proposal for a college in the Texas District (Concordia, Austin). A committee of 10 members was appointed to solicit pledges for its development and construction.

**June 15, 1924** - The Houston City Council decided to pave Riesner Street and Trinity had to pay paving costs immediately. The money was taken from the building fund.

**January 15, 1928** - The original name of the congregation, "Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde," was changed to "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (U.A.C.), Houston, Texas."

**May 14, 1928** - The Voters Assembly approved the celebration of Trinity's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to be held on November 9, 1929.

**November 18, 1928** - The Voters Assembly approved the use of the individual cup along with the common cup at Holy Communion.

**September 17, 1933** - The new brick school building was dedicated. The architects were Lamar Q. Cato and Robert C. Smallwood. The general contractor was P. H. Fredricks. This building was used until June 1995.

**January 30, 1935** - The Tabitha Society was organized. By 1939, the society had 65 members, comprised of young women usually of German ancestry, who had moved to Houston to work in homes as maids and nannies. Their meetings were usually held on weekday afternoons on their "day off."

**August 20, 1935** - After being elected president of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Pastor John W. Behnken, Sr., preached his farewell sermon at Trinity. Dr. Behnken was Trinity's pastor for 27 years and then served as synodical president from 1935 to 1962.

**October 6, 1935** - Pastor Oliver R Harms preached his first sermon as Trinity's pastor. Pastor Harms was installed at Trinity on September 26, 1935, and served for 24 years until 1959.

**1940** - The use of the German language in worship services was discontinued. Those members who disagreed with this decision left and organized Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the Heights.

**January 13, 1941** - The Voters Assembly approved the recommendation of the Church Council to change the name on the church cornerstone to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**March 9, 1941** - A class of 41 women volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church was among the first groups of Houstonians to receive Red Cross training preparing them for service in the event of a national emergency.

**January 1, 1945** - As of January 1, 1945, Trinity had 243 men and women serving in the military during World War II and seven had made the supreme sacrifice.

**October 1, 1948** - The Trinity Lutheran School Activities Club (SAC) was organized. Later known as Trinity Lutheran Parent-Teacher League, it supported the ministry of the school.

**July 15, 1949** - The Voters Assembly passed (by written ballot 44-33) a motion to join the Lutheran High School Association which was organized to provide high school education to Houston area youth.



Interior of 1905 church during  
50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

### *Ministry anniversaries and retirements\* celebrated*

- April 23, 1928 - John W. Behnken, Sr., 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as pastor at Trinity  
May 7, 1933 - John W. Behnken, Sr., 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as pastor at Trinity  
October 4, 1953 - Emil Schultz , 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as educator  
September 28, 1958 - Emil Schultz, 45<sup>th</sup>, and Herbert Garske, 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as educators  
August 30, 1959 - Oliver R. Harms, 24 years as pastor at Trinity  
\*September 26, 1965 - Lil Kobs, 17 years as educator at Trinity  
November 8, 1973 - Marie Mueller, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as educator  
September 28, 1975 - Henry Traugott, 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in pastoral ministry  
October 10, 1976 - Oliver R. Harms, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in pastoral ministry  
October 1, 1978 - Richard F. Wagner, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in pastoral ministry  
March 22, 1981 - David Faszholz, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as educator  
\*May 29, 1981 - Marie Mueller, 33 years of ministry as educator at Trinity  
September 18, 1983 - Donald G. Black, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in pastoral ministry  
August 18, 1985 - David Faszholz, 29 years as educator at Trinity  
October 6, 1985 - Fred Witt, Jr., 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as educator  
September 13, 1987 - Edward and Elizabeth Gallmeier, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as educators

## **THE JUBILEE YEARS - Celebrating 75 years**

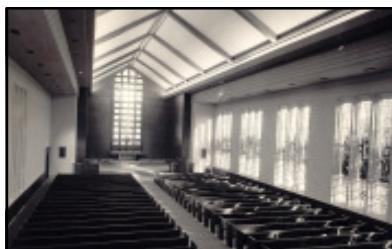


Pastor Oliver Harms

Under the leadership of Pastor Harms, Trinity again felt the need for expansion because the sanctuary was unable to accommodate the number of worshippers. Consequently, a building committee was appointed in 1937 to formulate plans to erect a new house of worship. These plans were temporarily suspended after World War II broke out in 1941. After the war materials were scarce. Further delay was caused when Houston Avenue was being considered as the route for a north/south expressway through the city. Several years elapsed before city officials were able to tell the congregation that plans for improving the property and building a new church could be resumed. The original architect, a Mr. Steinmeyer of St. Louis, had become ill and the services of Travis Broesche & Associates,

Architects & Engineers of Houston, Texas, were secured. Finally in April 1953, ground was broken and building operations began. Trinity Lutheran Church was able to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee with the dedication of the present sanctuary on November 21, 1954.

A dedication recital on the new organ built by the Holtkamp Organ Company of Cleveland, Ohio, was given on November 22, 1954, by Carl Halter, a former organist. As far as church records indicate, Mr. Halter was the first teacher specifically called to also be the music director of the congregation. The original organ is still in place but has been enlarged since its dedication.



Under Construction - Organ and Choir Loft (top left); Interior of Sanctuary (bottom left); Steeple (right)

The Golden Anniversary booklet published in 1929 notes that teachers and/or pastors were leaders of the choirs. There was one choir for the English services and another for the German services. In 1917 these choirs were united. Educators who also served as choir directors and/or organists in those early years included Oswald Mueller, Herman Silwedel, Emil Schultz, and Ruth Stelzer. Ed Schamber served during 1948 to 1949 while Herbert Garske was on a leave of absence to pursue a master's degree. In later years Ruth Hohle Gravesmill and Elizabeth Gallmeier served as directors of the children's choir.



Carillon Bells

Also in place since the dedication of the sanctuary is the carillon in the bell tower. The bells were made in Holland by the firm of Petit & Fritsen and are made of bronze. They vary in weight from nearly 90 pounds to 900 pounds and in diameter from about one foot to three feet. Through the years some of the called musicians and many lay members have served as carillonners, providing music for the enjoyment of members and the community.

***Organists/Chormasters/Ministers of Music***

Carl Halter	1937 - 1943	Cindy Costales *	1994 - 1998
Herbert Garske	1943 - 1964	Metford Mountford	2000 - 2003
Helen Frederking *	1954 - 1960	Mary Mountford	2001 -
Rodney Schrank	1964 - 1969	Carla Barrows	2003 -
M. Jackson Osborn	1969 - 1984	Rollin Cattau *	2001 -
Michael P. Held	1984 - 2000	(* assistant organists)	



Adding to the congregation's worship experiences, Mr. Garske introduced the use of banners in the sanctuary and for processions and in later years Michael Held added handbell choirs.

Following Mr. Held's retirement in 2000, Metford E. Mountford became organist and choirmaster on a part-time basis, while continuing with a new vocation in design and construction. In 2001 Mary Mountford was called to be minister of music, while Mr. Mountford continued as organist and choir director. Following his death in early 2004, Carla Barrows, who had served as choir accompanist, became the organist at Trinity.

While the new sanctuary was being planned, the school was also flourishing. A kindergarten was established in 1946 and four more classrooms were added in 1954. When Mr. Schultz was made principal emeritus in 1955, Mr. Carl Aufdemberge assumed the position of principal. He continued in this capacity until 1967 when he enrolled at Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, in order to prepare for pastoral ministry.

Mr. Harold Kieschnick was called as principal in 1967 and served until 1976 when he accepted a position with the Southern District of the LCMS. Mr. Edward Gallmeier, a teacher at Trinity since 1962, was appointed acting principal after Mr. Kieschnick's departure, and in the spring of 1978 was named principal, serving until his retirement in June 1999. On August 15, 1999, Randy Einem was installed as principal.

Dr. Oliver R. Harms served as pastor of Trinity until 1959, at which time he was elected to the full-time position of first vice president of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. He became president of the Synod in 1962. After his retirement, Dr. and Mrs. Harms returned to Houston and, during the congregation's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Pastor Harms assisted in evangelism ministry.

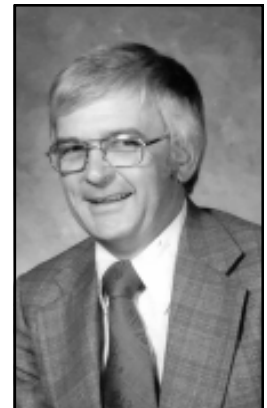
The Reverend Donald G. Black, a 1958 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, came to Trinity and was ordained and installed as assistant pastor on July 20 of that year. In March 1960 he was installed as senior pastor.

Serving together with Pastor Black for 24 years was the Reverend Richard F. Wagner, who had been a vicar at Trinity from 1951 to 1952 and returned as pastor in 1970. He retired in 1994 and was named pastor emeritus of the congregation.

In September 1970, Trinity, along with Messiah Lutheran Church located at 816 Roy Street, formed a cooperative effort in offering a Christian day school, which was then renamed Trinity-Messiah Lutheran School. Grades 1-8 were conducted on the Trinity campus and kindergarten on the Messiah campus. In later years the kindergarten classes were again held on the Trinity campus. In 2002, Messiah Lutheran congregation voted to discontinue this partnership and the name of the school reverted to Trinity Lutheran School.



Pastor Donald G. Black



Pastor Richard F. Wagner

### ***MOMENTS IN HISTORY***

***September 30, 1951*** - Miss Emilie Hoop was honored for 50 years of teaching in the Sunday school.

***September 9, 1952*** - Trinity Women's Club was chartered and had its first meeting on September 11. Isabella Parker was elected as the first president. On September 22, 2002, the organization celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

***April 4, 1954*** - The cornerstone for the new sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church, 800 Houston Avenue, was placed.

***April 18, 1954*** - On Easter Sunday, the mounting of the 18-foot sculpture of Jesus Christ, the largest in the city, on the facade of the new, unfinished sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church was completed. Created by sculptor Edward Galea in his Houston studio, the figure was cast in Indiana limestone in San Antonio.

***July 12, 1954*** - The Voters Assembly of Trinity gave approval for the Board of Trustees to proceed with plans to sell the bowling lanes located in the basement of the 1933 brick school building.

***November 21, 1954*** - Trinity Lutheran Church dedicated its present sanctuary at 800 Houston Avenue and celebrated its 75th "Diamond" Anniversary.

***November 22, 1954*** - Trinity dedicated its Holtkamp Organ with an Organ Recital by Mr. Carl Halter, a former music director.

***January 10, 1955*** - A contract was entered into for \$1,000 to raze the 1905 sanctuary at 12 Riesner Street.

***September 23, 1956*** - David Faszholz was installed as athletic director and teacher in the school and served until 1985. In his retirement years he continues to serve by volunteering his talents in the areas of art and sports.



18 foot sculpture of Jesus Christ

*(Moments in History continued on next page)*

**June 26, 1958** - The corporate name of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (U.A.C.) was changed to "Trinity Lutheran Church (The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) in the City of Houston, Harris County, Texas."

**July 13, 1959** - The Rev. Dr. John W. Behnken, Sr. and the Rev. Dr. Oliver R. Harms were each named Pastor Emeritus of Trinity Lutheran Church.

**August 30, 1959** - Upon election to the full-time position of first vice-president of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Pastor O. R. Harms (1935-1959), preached his farewell sermon. Attendance at the service overflowed as 1,286 members, former members, and guests gathered. The service was broadcast over local Radio Station KPRC.

**March 6, 1960** - Pastor Donald G. Black was installed as senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. He had been ordained into the ministry and installed as assistant pastor of Trinity on July 20, 1958.

**November 14, 1960** - The Ladies Circle established a scholarship fund to assist Trinity members entering full-time ministry in the church and enrolled in a synodical college.

**July 5, 1962** - Mr. Emil Schultz, principal of Trinity Lutheran School (1917-1955), died in Houston. Interment was in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery. Mr. Schultz had served as teacher, organist and principal.

**February 23, 1968** - The Rev. Dr. John W. Behnken, Sr., pastor of Trinity from 1908 to 1935, died at the age of 83 years and was interred in Concordia Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Behnken also served in several elected offices of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod (LCMS), including president from 1926 to 1929, and served the LCMS as president from 1935 to 1962.

**April 7, 1969** - The Board of Trustees of Trinity Lutheran Church recommended approval of a request from Houston's Civil Defense Department to use the congregation's facilities in case of a nuclear attack, including the use of storage space for food and first aid supplies. Permission was granted.

**September 1969** - Bus service, which served over 50 percent of the school students, was initiated. It continued until 1992, when the number of students requesting this service diminished.

**September 28, 1970** - Mr. Roy deVries reported to the Board of Elders that the outdoor Sunday school held at Allen Parkway Village had been successful, with as many as 80 children in attendance.

**October 11, 1970** - Pastor Richard Wagner was installed as pastor at Trinity and served the congregation until his retirement on September 1, 1994. He preached his farewell sermon on September 4.

**November 11, 1973** - Upon the request of several 8th grade girls to serve as acolytes in worship services, Trinity's Board of Elders approved their request and on this date girls served as acolytes for the first time.

**December 1973** - A Christmas Card Post Office was begun in 1973. The "mail box" was placed in the narthex and cards were to be picked up in the Assembly Room, where coffee and doughnuts were served in a fellowship time after the early service and before Sunday School. Members were asked to put a complete address on the envelopes and, if not picked up by the addressees, the cards would be stamped (8 cents) and mailed on December 23.

**October 6, 1975** - The Board of Trustees determined the origin and history of the baptismal font from the Riesner Street sanctuary and placed it on display in the narthex of the present sanctuary.



Baptismal font from  
Riesner Street sanctuary

## THE CENTURY YEAR AND BEYOND

### *November 19, 1978*

*In connection with the observance of Trinity's 100th anniversary, Dr. Oliver R. Harms was commissioned as evangelism director for the congregation to serve until November 1979. His commission was extended for an additional year. One of the goals of the anniversary year was to gain 100 new members.*

### *September 9, October 14, and November 11, 1979*

*Trinity celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on three special days. Theme for September 9<sup>th</sup> was "Christian Education," with Pastor Carl Aufdemberge, former teacher and principal at Trinity, as guest speaker. Emphasis on October 14<sup>th</sup> was on "People of God" with Pastor Donald G. Black as speaker and a Festival of Hymns presented by Professor Herbert Garske, former organist and choirmaster at Trinity. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the speaker for the morning services was Dr. Oliver R. Harms, pastor emeritus of Trinity, with Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann as speaker for the evening service of praise and thanksgiving.*

*Norman Gauerke served as general chairman of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, working with six sub-committees.*

*In thanksgiving for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary a special offering goal of \$100,000 was established and reached. Of this special offering, \$50,000 was donated to "Challenge of the Generations," a fund-raising effort of Lutheran Social Services of Texas, now known as Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc.*

*The other \$50,000 was designated for remodeling and renovation of the church, which included the installation of an elevator to facilitate entrance from street level up to the sanctuary and down to the fellowship hall. The renovation also included removal of the original kitchen on the lower level of the school, addition of a science room, and relocation of the kindergarten classroom and library.*

*These major additions and remodeling to the church and school buildings were accomplished with Charles Geyer as architect, Paisan Construction Company as the general contractor, and Arthur Wende as chairman of the Building Committee. Total cost of the work was estimated at \$330,500.*

In these years various new full-time and part-time staff positions were developed and filled as new ministry opportunities and needs became apparent. In 1982 the congregation extended a call to Matthew Headley to serve as minister of Christian nurture. Subsequently when that position was open, the ministry focus shifted and in 1990 Donald Christian was called first to be minister to young adults and later became parish life administrator, before accepting a call to Baltimore Lutheran High School in 1997.

In 1996 Travis Hartjen joined the staff as director of Christian education (DCE)-minister of youth intern and, after his graduation, was called to continue in that position. In 2000 he took a call to Redeemer Lutheran in Austin. In September 2001 Kevin Kersten was installed as DCE-minister of youth, a position he held until accepting a call to Palatine, Illinois, in 2004. In July 2003 Kurt Niebuhr was added to the staff as minister of contemporary worship and young adults. With the addition of this new worker, Trinity congregation also assumed responsibility for campus ministry at the University of Houston.

A part-time position in the area of assimilation of new members was first staffed by David Holeman, and later by Anita Gross, followed by Darlene Leiker. Since December 2001 Rollin Cattau has served in this area as director of discipleship.

Arthur Wende became the part-time business manager in April 1980. During the construction of the Christian Life Center, Dan Brockermeier held that position.

Throughout the last two decades of the century, God, in His goodness, moved the congregation to recognize a unique opportunity that would allow Trinity Lutheran Church to move forward even more aggressively into the next century to carry out the Lord's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). The congregation-wide efforts to realize this opportunity were called Trinity Celebrate, Trinity Celebrate II and Tell the Next Generation. With the Lord's guidance and blessing, much was accomplished during the years since the first campaign was initiated. Property north of Washington Avenue was purchased and the Trade-Rite Appliance building was remodeled into the present Trinity Lutheran Children's Center, which serves children from six weeks to pre-kindergarten. On April 14, 2002, an adjacent building at 1306 Washington Ave. was dedicated for use as the "youthouse."

The Christian Life Center was dedicated on September 29, 1996. It houses the kindergarten through eighth grade classrooms; administrative church and school offices, including a nurse's office; meeting and Sunday school rooms; library, extended care rooms; gymnasium; dressing rooms; weight room; handbell rehearsal and music rooms; and storage areas. The Mary and Martha Fellowship Hall with stage and kitchen, and the nursery, cry room and bride's room are all part of the sanctuary building.



Trinity Lutheran Children's Center (above);  
Trinity Lutheran Youthhouse (below)



Pastor Brian R. Bestian

A pastoral needs committee was appointed to survey present and future needs for the pastoral staff and in September 1995 the Reverend Brian R. Bestian was installed as associate pastor.

Early in 1997 Pastor Black announced his intention to begin the process of repositioning in ministry when he became 65 years of age at the end of the year. In March 1998, Pastor Bestian was installed as senior pastor and served in that position until accepting a call to Fort Collins, Colorado, in September 2002.

On July 29, 2001, the Rev. David A. Leeland was installed as pastor of Adult Ministries and on February 27, 2005, the senior pastor position was filled with the installation of the Rev. Michael P. Dorn.

In 1990 the congregation adopted a new constitution or Structure of Ministry which provided, among other changes, that all communicant members of the congregation who have reached a legal voting age in Texas are eligible for membership in the congregational assembly. Previously women could attend voters meetings; now they had both voice and vote.

In 1995 a New Hope Contemporary Service was added to the Sunday morning schedule at 9:45 a.m. This service was designed especially to serve as an opportunity for inviting people who may not be familiar with traditional liturgical services and was held in a more casual atmosphere in the Mary and Martha Fellowship Hall. Changing over the years, this service is now known as "Open Arms," and is held at 10:55 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the gymnasium.



Pastor David A. Leeland



Pastor Michael P. Dorn

***Ministry anniversaries and retirements\* celebrated (listing continued)***

- June 13, 1993 - Michael Held, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in music ministry  
\*September 1, 1994 - Richard F. Wagner, 24 years as pastor at Trinity  
\*June 28, 1998 - William Rutherford, 37 years as educator  
\*May 23, 1999 - Ed and Elizabeth Gallmeier, 37 and 35 years, respectively, as educators at Trinity  
April 9, 2000 - Dorothy Pralle Burroughs and Mary Lou Sentesi, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries as educators  
\*October 29, 2000 - Michael P. Held, 16 years as minister of music at Trinity  
\*June 3, 2001 - Fred Witt, Jr., 41 years as educator at Trinity  
\*October 20, 2002 - Esther Lampp, 45 years as nursery attendant  
March 2, 2003 - Randy Einem, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as educator  
\*June 1, 2003 - Mary Lou Sentesi, 28 years as educator, 20 years at Trinity  
December 7, 2003 - Mary Mountford, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in education and music ministry  
\*March 14, 2004 - John Gomez, 34 years as custodian and former school bus driver

In 1996 the Trinity Lutheran Children's Center opened with the fall term and provides for early childhood education. Kimberly Schaller Chaisson was installed as the first director.

In that same year, the kindergarten class was relocated from Messiah's campus to the Children's Center.

Because the early childhood ministry almost immediately needed additional space, the following year the kindergarten class was moved, this time to the Christian Life Center which houses the rest of the school. At that time the kindergarten class also went from half-day to full-day sessions.

Since the initial design and construction of the sanctuary in 1954, modifications include additional bells to the carillon, updating the organ, adding the zimbelstern, installing an elevator in the narthex, permanent doors and glass panels separating the narthex and nave, renovation of the cry room (parents' room) and restrooms, adding chancel lighting and handrails, installing a marble floor beneath the altar and illuminating the spire of the bell tower.

More recent changes since 1996 added a second exit door from the nave into the Christian Life Center foyer, removing several pews to facilitate exiting, redesigning the porte cochere (sheltered entrance), modifying the second floor level to include a chapel, moving the church offices into the Christian Life Center, and new lighting for the choir loft.

The congregations' ministries are the natural outgrowth of the members' needs to worship God, to instruct believers, and to spread the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. The members have always been encouraged to be mission-minded, in the local community and abroad. When a former pastor, Dr. J. W. Behnken, Sr., died in 1968, the congregation honored his memory and devotion to mission work by establishing the Behnken Memorial Fund. Following the death of another former pastor, Dr. Oliver R. Harms, in 1980, it was renamed the Harms-Behnken Memorial Fund. Since its inception the monies which are contributed annually for this fund have been used to support special missions. For a number of years the congregation supported the ministry of Missionary Merrell Wetzstein in Belem, Brazil, then Missionary Dale Talsma in Nigeria, and now Missionary David Londenberg in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Currently, Trinity also partners with Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition (LINC)-Houston in local mission outreach activities.

Hearts for the Homeless was originally a one-Sunday-a-month ministry when lunches were taken to the homeless in the downtown area. Today sack lunches are provided Monday through Friday mornings and are distributed at the

foyer doors. Additionally, the congregation partners with St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, a neighboring congregation, to provide food for hungry families in the community. Trinity also supports synodical and district mission efforts, as well as local relief agencies and the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Donor Program. Opportunities for Sunday, weekday and home Bible studies and intercessory prayer groups are provided. Trinity's CARELINE - 713-224-7000 - provides inspirational telephone messages. On the second Saturday morning of each month a Car Care Ministry provides an opportunity for help with basic car maintenance, a special blessing for single moms, widows and older people. Cradle Cooks provide meals for new parents and Bread Ministry volunteers take a loaf of homemade bread to first-time guests at our worship services.

Ministry for youth is carried out through Senior High SURGE (Serving Under a Righteous God Eternally), Junior High CREW (Christians Renewed and Encouraged by the Word), and SKWAD45 (Serving the King Walking as Disciples, for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders).

Two women's groups, the Ladies Circle and Women's Club, are members of the district and national Lutheran Women's Missionary League and also provide support for many service and mission opportunities within the congregation and community. Three groups of "more mature" members who gather mostly for fellowship include the 39 Club, Pep Club and Friendly Folks.

### ***MOMENTS IN HISTORY***

***June 3, 1980*** - The Rev. Dr. Oliver R. Harms died in Houston, Texas, at the age of 78 years. He was the former pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (1935-1959). During those years he also served as president of the Texas District (1948-1950); on Synod's Board of Directors (1950-1956); and as 4<sup>th</sup> vice president of Synod (1956-1959). He was elected to the full-time position of 1<sup>st</sup> vice president of Synod in 1959; and then served as president of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod from 1962-1969.

***1982*** - In 1982 an Extended Care Program was initiated to assist working parents by caring for students before and after school. A summer program of Kids' Camp was added in 2000.

***June 1988*** - Vicar John Baumgartner began a summer vicarage at the Seamen's Center, Port of Houston, and assisted with Trinity's worship services and Bible classes. He resumed his studies at the seminary in September 1988.

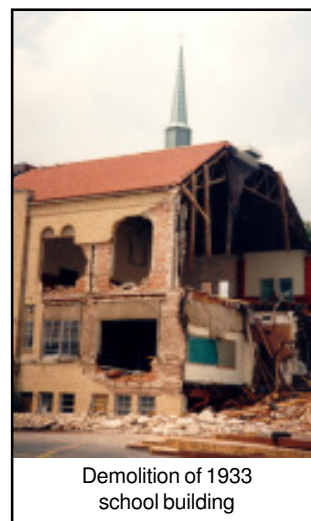
***February 1989*** - The congregation established the Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund as an opportunity for individuals to make contributions or bequests to a permanent fund. Interest earnings would then be used for special ministries or mission efforts. In January 2000 a separate Trinity Lutheran School Endowment Fund was established.

***October 27, 1989*** - Miss Esther Jordan retired after 65 years of singing in Trinity's Senior Choir.

***December 4, 1989*** - Trinity established the CARELINE inspirational telephone message ministry - 713-224-7000.

***March 4, 1995*** - Trinity's Car Care ministry was begun with volunteer mechanics and workers from the membership.

***October 8, 1995*** - A groundbreaking ceremony for Trinity's new Christian Life Center was held at the site of the former 1933 school building at 800 Houston Avenue, which had been demolished in August. One year later, on September 29, 1996, Pastor Richard Wagner was the speaker for the dedication of the new building which houses the school and provides facilities for church

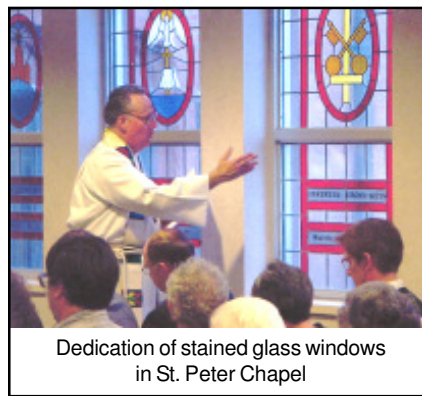


offices, chapel, meeting rooms and gymnasium. Design and construction were carried out by Hermes & Reed Architects and W. S. Bellows Construction Company.

**August 10, 1997** - Trinity's first Stephen Ministry class was commissioned.

**July 2, 1999** - The last issue of the Trinity Lutheran Church edition of "The National Christian Reporter" was published and on July 15 was replaced by an in-house publication, "Trinity Today."

**August - November 1999** - A series of 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary services were held from August to November 1999, with sermon themes focusing on the mission statement of the congregation, "Joyfully Sharing Christ's Saving Love With All People." A special thank offering gathered was designated to provide leaded stained glass window panels, along with baptismal font and accent panel with cross, for the St. Peter Chapel in the Christian Life Center. These were dedicated February 25, 2001.



Dedication of stained glass windows  
in St. Peter Chapel

**December 5, 1999** - The cornerstone of the former church at 12 Riesner Street was brought back to Trinity.

**June 2000** - The first Summer Kids' Camp was organized and held from June 5 to August 4.

**November 5, 2000** - The continuous flow method of serving Holy Communion was initiated.

**November 22, 2000** - The Graham property at 1306 Washington Avenue was purchased for \$200,000 - providing 12,929 sq. ft. of land and a 1,512 sq. ft. building. The building was remodeled and dedicated on April 14, 2002, as a facility for youth ministry.

**April 22, 2001** - Trinity Lutheran Church became the home base for the Houston Lutheran Chorale, under the direction of Metford E. Mountford.

**July 29, 2001** - The Rev. David A. Leeland was installed as pastor of Adult Ministries.

**September 2, 2001** - The first weekly edition of "What's Happening at Trinity" was published and distributed with the Sunday worship service folders.

**September 16, 2001** - The Rev. James R. Linderman, assistant pastor at Trinity from 1960 to 1962, was installed as president of the Texas District.

**July 14, 2002** - Messiah Lutheran congregation voted to discontinue its cooperative effort, formed with Trinity in September 1970, in offering a Christian day school. The former name of Trinity Lutheran (instead of Trinity-Messiah Lutheran) was restored to the school.

**September 1, 2002** - Pastor Brian R. Bestian delivered his concluding sermon after accepting a call to St. John Lutheran Church in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

**August 31, 2003** - A "note burning" celebrated the paying off of the ten-year \$395,000 note on the Trinity Lutheran Children's Center building and property.

**January 7, 2004** - More than 900 people gathered for a memorial service to celebrate the life and ministry of Metford E. Mountford, organist and choirmaster, who died on January 4.

**March 21, 2004** - The first chasuble (purple) was dedicated. These vestments are worn by the pastor serving as celebrant for Holy Communion worship services.

## *Celebrating Trinity's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

### **“125 Years of Telling God’s Story” January 11, 2004**



(L-R): Pastor David A. Leeland; Tom Behnken, guest soloist; Pastor Kenneth Behnken, son of a former pastor as guest speaker; and Pastor Donald G. Black.

New members received in 2003 were recognized.

### **“125 Years of Missions” February 8, 2004**



(L-R): Pastor Leeland; Pastor David Londenberg, missionary to Liberia and Sierra Leone supported by Trinity members through the Harms-Behnken Fund, guest speaker; and Pastor Black.

### **“125 Years of Telling God’s Story to Children” March 7, 2004**

As a kickoff to Lutheran Schools Week the children sang at the morning worship services. The awarding of “emeritus” status and special recognition were given to retired teachers who served at Trinity 25 years or more



Pastor Keith Gravesmill, son of the congregation, as guest speaker.



Pictured L-R are: David Faszholz (1956-85); Ed Gallmeier (1962-99); Elizabeth Gallmeier (1962-67, 1969-99); Fred Witt, Jr. (1960-2001); Carolyn Wilke, representing her mother, Marie Mueller\* (1936-39, 1947-48, 1952-81); and Dorothy Geyer, representing her father, Emil Schultz\* (1913-62).

(\*deceased)

**“125 Years of Sharing the Greatest  
Event of All Times”  
April 11, 2004**



Easter – Pastor Black, speaker

**“125 Years of Ministry to Families”  
May 9, 2004**



Mother’s Day - Pastor Leeland, speaker.

**May 19, 2004**

Dedication of mural in the gymnasium - a compilation of art submitted by Trinity students under the direction of their art teacher, Gigi Sacaris Spence. The project was assembled and artwork completed by David Faszholz.



**June 6, 2004**

Following the 8:15 a.m. worship service, a brief service was held in the church nursery for the dedication of a wall mural to the glory of God and in recognition of Mrs. Esther Lamm and her 45 years as caretaker of Trinity’s children. The artwork on the wall of the enlarged and expanded nursery was designed and painted by David Faszholz.



(Pictured L-R are: Pastor Black, Jean Faszholz, Esther Lamm, David Faszholz)

**“125 Years of Prayer”  
Pastor Black, speaker  
June 13, 2004**

Following the 8:15 a.m. service, the refurbished Bride’s Room was dedicated. Under the leadership of Vicki Harkrider, this room was updated into a beautiful dressing room including new lighting, carpeting, vanity mirrors, and an extensive display of photos of brides and grooms joined in marriage at Trinity’s altar.

At noon a luncheon was served to Trinity couples who were married 50 years or more.



Vicki Harkrider and Pastor Black at dedication of Bride’s Room



Couples married 50 years or more!

**“125 Years of Living Under The Flag”  
July 4, 2004**



Lieutenant Michael Moreno, U. S. Navy Chaplain, son of the congregation, as guest speaker

**“125 Years of Youth Ministry”  
August 8, 2004**



Travis Hartjen, director of Christian education-minister of youth at Trinity from 1996-2000, guest speaker.

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**“125 Years of Law and Gospel”  
September 12, 2004**



A “Homecoming” celebration, along with a church picnic, was held in the afternoon with a barbecue dinner served in the gym and class reunions.



The Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, president of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, guest speaker



A display of memorabilia and photos was available in the library and hallways.

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**“125 Years of Worship and Music”  
October 10, 2004**



Pastor William T. Mitschke, Jr., son of the congregation, as guest speaker



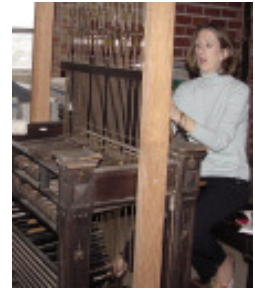
Herbert Garske, organist and choirmaster at Trinity from 1943-1964, as guest organist (1954 photo)

**“125 Years of God’s Faithfulness”  
November 14, 2004**



Pastor Richard F. Wagner (pictured on left), pastor emeritus, speaker for the morning services. Persons who had been members of Trinity for 60 years or more were recognized.

At 3:15 p.m. a Carillon Concert was presented by Carol Jickling-Lens. (pictured on right)



**“125 Years of Praising and Thanking God”  
November 14, 2004**

Of the special thank offering gathered, twenty-five percent was designated for Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition (LINC) - Houston; twenty-five percent for Village at Gleannloch Farms, a planned Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc. retirement home; and fifty percent for improvement projects at Trinity.



(L-R) Pastor Leeland, the Rev. Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann, guest speaker for the 4 p.m. service; and Pastor Black.



Sanctuary with  
125th Anniversary Banners



Descendants and families of charter members were recognized and memories were shared by Ruth Stelzer Pralle, a former teacher.



Elaine Kurz serving punch at  
125th Anniversary reception held  
in gymnasium

**November 21, 2004  
The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the present sanctuary.**

## **THE FUTURE YEARS**

As the congregation looks to the future it continues to seek ways to strengthen its ministry through worship, discipleship and outreach.

The neighborhood and the city of Houston have changed considerably in the last decade. Though the church and school are located close to the downtown business district, areas nearby are being developed for residential use. With the continued dedication of its many laymen, laywomen, youth and children, the congregation is prepared to meet the future with enthusiasm and optimism, praying that “every member will be on a mission for Christ” and that God will continue to bless Trinity Lutheran Church in its ministry of “Joyfully Sharing Christ’s Saving Love with All People NOW.”



### **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

Jean Faszholtz, chairman  
Vicki Harkrider  
Mary Mountford  
Sylvia Schmidt  
Pastor Donald G. Black

Ruth Stoerkel, secretary  
Bill Krauss  
Marceil Prestridge  
Eva Zoch

**+ PASTORS +**

Timotheus Stiemke	1880 - 1882	Donald Vetter	1954 - 1956
Gotthold Kuehn	1882 - 1885	Henry Traugott (part-time)	1957 - 1958
J. J. Trinklein	1885 - 1889	Donald G. Black	1958 -
John Barthel	1889 - 1896	James R. Linderman	1960 - 1962
C. F. Brommer	1896 - 1901	Walter H. Meyer, Sr. (part-time)	1962
Charles A. Waech	1901 - 1908	Jerry Ehrlich	1962 - 1965
John W. Behnken, Sr., D.D.	1908 - 1935	James E. Gaynor	1968 - 1969
A. W. Bartling	1918 - 1919	Richard F. Wagner	1970 - 1994
Oliver R. Harms, D.D.	1935 - 1959	Brian R. Bestian	1995 - 2002
Harold Theiss	1949 - 1950	David A. Leeland	2001 -
H. F. Meyer (part-time)	1950 - 1951	Michael P. Dorn	2005 -

**+ VICARS +**

A. Schupmann	1881 - 1883	Edwin A. Nerger	1939 - 1940
Walter Herrling	1917 - 1918	John W. Behnken, Jr.	1940 - 1942
Hobart Meyer	1920 - 1921	Wilbert Stelzer	1942 - 1943
Arthur C. Repp	1927 - 1928	Victor B. Growcock	1944 - 1945
Lorenz Wunderlich	1928 - 1929	Charles Koch	1946 - 1947
Fred H. Ilten	1929 - 1930	Harold Theiss	1947 - 1948
Rudolph F. Norden	1930 - 1932	Harold Klawitter	1948 - 1949
R. Winterstein	1932 - 1933	Richard F. Wagner	1951 - 1952
Adolph A. Gruell	1933 - 1934	Gerald Otte	1952 - 1953
Roland Wiederaenders	1934 - 1935	Robert Schroeder	1953 - 1954
Victor D. Buvinghausen	1935 - 1937	Robert Yount	1965 - 1966
Clarence W. Knippa	1936 - 1938	Herbert Swanson	1967 - 1968

**+ MEMBERS WHO ENTERED THE PASTORAL MINISTRY +**

Aufdemberge, Carl*	Buvinghausen, Victor*	Robbins, Douglas
Bacarisse, Adrian	Gravesmill, Keith	Traugott, Frederick W.
Bahr, Fred	Groeschel, Albert*	Traugott, William
Behnken, John W., Jr.*	McMillan, Whitfield	Westergren, Kevin
Behnken, L. Lloyd*	Mitschke, Herman	Wottrich, Herbert*
Behnken, Victor*	Mitschke, William T. Jr.	
Boysen, Albert	Moreno, Michael	(*deceased)



**+ MEMBERS WHO ENTERED THE EDUCATOR OR  
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY +**

Baden, Elaine Kotteman	Groeschel, Max M.*	McBurnett, Lurline Griffith
Barton, Ja'Nee	Harms, Ronald	Neumann, Janet*
Behnken, Donald E.*	Held, Jeff	Pike, Rebecca Petersen
Bernstein, Margaret Fuchs	Held, Jonathan	Ratcliffe, Donna Fuchs
Bertrand, Elizabeth	Hohle, R. Leroy	Stamp, Ellen Black
Boessling, Jacob **	Johnson, Margaret Ann Bigon	Vogt, Lisa Held
Boessling, Jordan	Lauder, Sharon	Wilke, Carolyn Mueller
Frank, Victor	Leech, Ima Fritsche	Witt, Fred, Jr.
Freudenberg, Sue Compton	Looney, Shelly Hoyt	Worchesik, Michael
Fritsche, Ronald	Lottman, Roland*	(* deceased)
Giles, Celeste Manichia	Mangels, Cheryl Heine	(** student intern 2005-06)
Gravesmill, Ruth Hohle*		

***Church Staff***

Michael P. Dorn, Senior Pastor	Ken Rodgers, Youth Assistant
David A. Leeland, Pastor of Adult Ministries	Nelson Flanagan, Director of Operations
Donald G. Black, Pastor of Visitation and Care	Sue Holeman, Business Administrator
Richard F. Wagner, Pastor Emeritus	Donna Cruz, Church Secretary
Mary Mountford, Minister of Music	Pam Schroeder, Ministry Assistant
Kurt Niebuhr, Minister of Contemporary Worship & Young Adults; U of H Campus Ministry	Barbie King, Receptionist
Carla Barrows, Organist	Adrianna Crane, Church Nursery Coordinator
Rollin Cattau, Director of Discipleship	Custodians: Carris Richards, Sheldon Oliver, Bob Smith, Leroy Taylor

***School Faculty & Staff***

Randy Einem, Principal	Judy Stevens, Third Grade	Lisa Schneider, P. E.
Julie May, Secretary	Karen Einem, Fourth Grade	Dorothy Burroughs, Band
Julie Bertrand, Nurse	Donna Rabel, Fifth Grade	Diana Ballard, Spanish
Carol Bowen, Kindergarten	Amy Boatman, Sixth Grade	Liliana deVries, Art
Julie Caton, Kindergarten Aide	Jason Shepherd, Seventh Grade	Sean Bowen, Technology
Melanie Bellinger, First Grade	Cheryl Mangels, Eighth Grade	Arlana Walters, Resource
Eva Zoch, Second Grade	Lisa Hopmann, Part-time	

***Extended Care***

Natalia Junkans, Director	Savaadria Henderson	Solange Inzillo
Julie A. Caton	Jennifer Horn	Erma Washington

***Children's Center***

Kimberly Chaisson, Director	<b>Assistants:</b>	Rosie Sanchez
Dana Carroll, Assistant Director	Stephanie McNiel	Kristi Shepherd
Vicki Fong, Pre-Kindergarten	Beverly Meaden	Sandra Smith
Amy Drosche, Pre-School 3	Mary Palacios	Miriam Velazquez
Georgina Hernandez, Pre-School 2	Elvira Rodriguez	Carla Washington
Tonisha Ricks, Toddler	Vivian Rodriguez	
Brenda Palacios, Infant Room		

## ***Officers of the Congregation***

Jim Baccus, President  
Dan Brockermeier, Vice President

Montie Callager, Secretary  
Gregory L. Gunn, Treasurer

## ***Board of Elders***

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