

GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR



As we stand at this milestone in the history of Bethania Free Lutheran, we rejoice and thank God for His faithfulness to us as a congregation. We also praise God for our precious Lutheran heritage. One of the characteristic marks of our heritage is effective Law and Gospel preaching.

The Law is spoken of in the Bible as the schoolmaster that leads us to Christ. On the other hand, the Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who will believe.

Narrowly, the Gospel refers to the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross. It is upon this that the Lord has and is building His church. As our theme says, "through Him . . . are all things". Through faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross the Church is built. This distinctively sets the church apart from all other organizations.

During the past century our church has met many needs. In addition to being a spiritual lighthouse, equipping people to live for and ultimately with their Creator, the church has also been a point for social gathering. This is good. It's a joy to be part of the Lord's church. We are enriched, encouraged, and uplifted as we fellowship with one another. The Lord has brought the church together for His purposes. We as believers don't live primarily for ourselves but for Jesus. "To Him are all things." My prayer for us as a congregation is that we would be a living example of God's goodness.

The following pages stand as a record of where we started from, of how God led our predecessors. And finally this book gives us a bird's eye view of where we are today. One hundred years, drastic changes in technology and accommodations, along with a host of other things separate us from our forerunners. However, we have one spot of vital ground in common - salvation through Jesus Christ. Here we stand, and from here we launch out into our second century of service to Jesus Christ. In the sands of time we as individuals occupy not too large a space. But may we never become weary in well doing because the Word of God tells us that even in our time we will reap if we do not faint spiritually. Let us faithfully carry on the task of discipleship remembering that "from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

Pastor Larry Haagenon

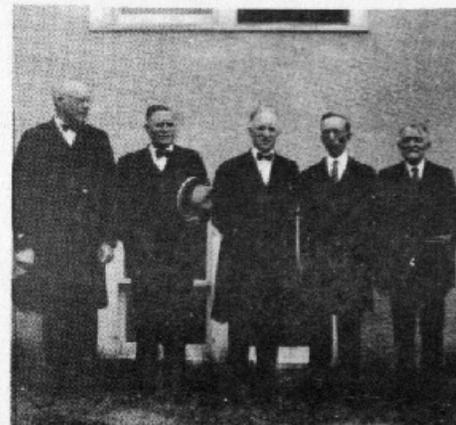
Rev. Larry Haagenon



REVEREND CHRISTIAN SAUGSTAD



REVEREND HANS OSTGULEN



REVERENDS GILSETH, BJORNSON, RONHOLM,
HJELMELAND, AND E. AAS



REVEREND E. J. RAAUM



REVEREND GORDON BERNTSON



REVEREND E. OSCARSON



PASTOR GENE SUNDBY



PASTOR EDWIN MATHISON



PASTOR RODNEY STUELAND



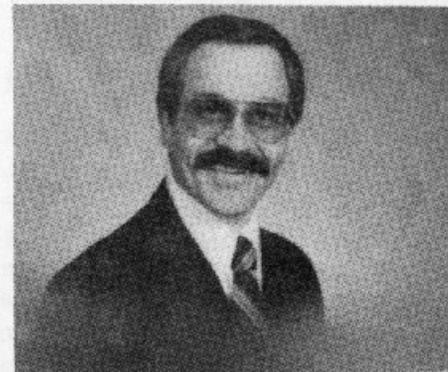
REVEREND HUBERT DeBOER



REVEREND MERLE KNUTSON



PASTOR WILLIAM GOODMAN



REVEREND LARRY HAAGENSON

PASTORS

1884 - 1885
 Pastor Christian Saugstad
 1885 - 1886
 Student Elies Berlie
 Pastor Knut Birkeland
 1886 - 1888
 Pastor Elias Aas
 1889 - 1906
 Pastor Hans Ostgulen

1907 - 1912
 Pastor Martin Bjornson
 1912 - 1919
 Pastor Albert Gilseth
 1919 - 1926
 Pastor John Hjelmeland
 1927 - 1945
 Pastor G. P. Ronholm
 1945 - 1952
 Pastor E. J. Raam
 1953 - 1958
 Pastor Gordon Bernston
 1958 - 1962
 Pastor Eldor Oscarsson
 1963
 Pastor Karl Berg
 Pastor Herbert Larson
 Student Pastor Robert Lee

1963 - July 1969
 Lay Pastor
 Gene Sundby
 1969 - January 1970
 Lay Pastor
 Edwin Mathison
 1970 - 1973
 Lay Pastor
 Rodney Stueland
 1973 - 1975
 Pastor Hubert DeBoer
 1975 - 1980
 Pastor Merle Knutson
 December 1980 - December 1981
 Lay Pastor
 William Goodman
 1981 -
 Pastor Larry Haagenon