

This fact sheet was prepared by Charlotte Knollin for the 1995 dinner ...

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH of BURLINGAME

44th Anniversary Dinner, June 4, 1995

Bits and Pieces of History

“Our congregation was first established as a mission church in San Mateo, holding its first service in October, 1922, with the Reverend Albert R. Kurtz serving as Pastor. Land was soon acquired, thanks to John H. C. and Katherine Baden, on San Mateo Drive and the small church was dedicated in December, 1924.” We started a congregation with the intention to glorify God, to spread the Good News of Jesus, the Savior, and to love others.

“On May 25, 1925, organization as a congregation - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - was accomplished and became affiliated with the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod in July of that year.”

“Again, thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Baden, property was acquired in Burlingame at El Camino Real and Sherman Avenue on July, 1935; and plans for a new larger church were drawn. Groundbreaking took place in September, 1938, and the cornerstone was laid in October, 1938.”

The Reverend Albert R. Kurtz led the morning and afternoon dedicatory services on February 26, 1939. The theme was: “I was glad when they said, Let us go into the house of the Lord.” The church choir was directed by Paul L. Scheer. In the afternoon, Rev. Professor A. H. Wessling from Concordia College, Oakland, preached the sermon and Mrs. Will P. Lass, was a soloist. The Parish Hall was added shortly thereafter (and dedicated November, 1939), as well as the Parsonage, now known as Baden Hall, in honor of our benefactors, John H. C. and Katherine Baden (and dedicated April, 1939).”

“With the growth of South Mateo after World War II, land was purchased on Alameda de las Pulgas, as it was felt that this growing area could well be served. A “sister” congregation was established and the first building -- a parish hall -- was soon built and dedicated December, 1948. We then had *Grace San Mateo* — both congregations being served by Pastor Kurtz and his son, Albert R. Kurtz, Jr. It soon became evident that each congregation should function individually, so a separation took place, with *San Mateo* retaining the original name of *Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church*.”

“Articles of Incorporation for Trinity Lutheran Church of Burlingame were developed by June 29, and filed on July 8, 1951, and on July 31, 1951, at a congregational meeting, a call was extended to the Reverend Professor Paul A. Huchthausen to be our permanent pastor. He was installed at Trinity on September 9, 1951.” The first Trinity dinner and anniversary was held on June 7, 1952. In December, 1952, the first volume of TRINETY TOPICS was issued.

In the late 50's, Pastor Huchthausen and Parish Assistant Pa411 Schreivogel led an extensive weekday *Christian* education program, grades I through adults -- something offered every day.

On June 11, 1961, Ivfr. Scheivogel left Trinity to be the Executive Secretaiy for Christian Growth of the Walther League headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Robert O' Sullivan helped in that area later in that year before he began his work at the seminary. Mr. Bill Plath (now an ordained pastor) and Dr. Walter Krueger have assisted in past years in the areas of youth, Christian education, or music.

On September 18, 1961, the voters met to consider the purchase of the property at 1519 Sherman Avenue for \$19,000. They had until October 29th of that year to decide, having had the first consideration to purchase. Obviously, they decided to buy!

In 1967, Martin Semniler received a 3rd year pin for Sunday School attendance. The next year, our stained glass windows in the sanctuary were dedicated on June 9, 1968. Each of the large windows cost \$825 and each smaller one cost \$150. Two were "purchased" later. The gilt of the Christ the King statue from the Morning Circle was dedicated on Januaiy 18, 1970.

"After serving us for 21 years, Pastor Huchthausen retired in February of 1972." Rev. Gerald Miner started to assist Pastor Huchthausen around 1972 and, later, was called to be pastor.

In June of 1975, a missing volleyball pole made news in the TRINITY TOPICS' In 1976, Trinity began to support the ministry of the Word to those living in apartments in and around San Mateo and Burlingame.

On October 1, 1978, at 5 P.M., the Reverend Samuel Battles was installed as the pastor at Trinity. After a time of pastoral vacancy and interim pastors, the Reverend William Reese was called and installed as pastor in 1988. After Rev. Reese returned to the seminary for further study, Trinity was served by interim pastors during another pastoral vacancy.

The Reverend Harlan Limmer. was installed as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church of Burlingame on April 1, 1990, to equip the saints to gorily God, to spread the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to love others by his teaching and preaching of God's Word and administering the Holy Sacraments.

We thank and appreciate Mrs. Charlotte Knollin for her research and writing about some of those early years of Grace and Trinity.