

FACTS ON OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
DALLAS, NORTH CAROLINA

- December 9, 1956---The following people went to Salisbury, N. C. for a meeting with the president of Synod, Dr. F. L. Conrad, about starting a new church in Dallas, N. C. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Clemmer, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Clemmer, Mr. Joe Bailey Clemmer, Mr. William R. Rhyne, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Summey, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ratchford, Mr. Steve Trudnak, Mr. Vernon Bickley, Mr. Wray Witherspoon, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rhyne, Mrs. Ray Rhyne, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rhyne, Mr. Kelly Clemmer and Michael.
- February 24, 1957---Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock a meeting was called to set up temporary organization and elect temporary officers. Council elected--Earl D. Pasour, Vice-chairman; Clyde Ratchford--Secretary; Ralph Summey, Sr., Vernon Bickley, Sam Rhyne and Paul Rhyne. Church secretary--Mrs. Vernon Bickley; Church treasurer--William R. Rhyne; Organist--Mrs. Larry Penley, Assistant--Mrs. Vernon Bickley. Ushers--Dan Clemmer and Charles R. Gardner. Sunday School officers--Supt.--Wilburn Witherspoon, Assistant--Kelly Clemmer, Secretary and Treasurer--Joe Bailey Clemmer, Organist--Kenneth Witherspoon, Assistant--Billy Ray Rhyne, Primary Supt--Mrs. Clyde Ratchford, Young People's Supt--Mrs. Paul Rhyne, Nursery Supt--Mrs. Charles R. Gardner. The Council appointed the Building Committee--Kelly Clemmer, chairman, and Wayne Clemmer. Financial chairman--Sam Rhyne.
- March 3, 1957---The first Sunday School was held at 9:45 a. m. Morning worship service at 11:00 a.m. Rev. W. G. Cobb supply pastor. Services were held in the Gaston County Agricultural Building.
- March 10, 1957---Dr. F. L. Conrad visited on Sunday night and preached.
- April 14, 1957---A congregational meeting was held after the morning worship service to select a name. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour was selected. This was Palm Sunday.
- May 1, 1957---A beautiful tract of 9 1/2 acres of land on Highway 321 south on the Gastonia Highway was purchased for \$6,000.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Wilson of Gastonia. Our future home. Later a small plot was purchased from Charlie Friday.
- May 5, 1957---The first wedding in the church family was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jennings Lineberger. Miss Evelyn Faye Lineberger and Mr. Richard Neil Breedlove were married by Rev. W. G. Cobb following the morning worship service.
- May 6, 1957---The Sunday School officers and teachers held their first meeting at the home of Mrs. Clyde Ratchford. Plans were made the first Vacation Church School---June 10th thru June 15th.
- June 1, 1957---Rev. Cobb plans to give up the work for the summer. Dr. F. L. Conrad sent a Seminary student to work until September. We have the services of Mr. Everett Price a first year student. His first sermon was on Sunday, June 2, 1957.
- June 15, 1957---Born to Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Clemmer, a son, David Grant, the first baby in the church family of Our Saviour.
- June 17, 1957---Vacation Church School picnic was held on the church lot. Everything is progressing nicely and everyone is hard at work.
- July 25, 1957---Dr. Karl Henry of the Survey and Research Division of the Board of American Missions, New York arrived with Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Conrad to discuss the possibilities of mission help. Picnic lunch was served at the church lot with 53 members present.
- September 8, 1957---Our summer student pastor, Everett Price had to return to the Seminary in Columbia to enter school. We hated to see our young pastor leave us. He was loved by all and everyone commends him for his great work. However, we will have him to supply our pulpit on the 15th and 22nd. On September 29th, Mr. Jack Rhyne a Senior Seminary student supplied.
- October 1, 1957---Rev. Cobb returned to supply and plans were in the final stages before the formal organization service.

- October 6, 1957---Organization Day has arrived. The service was held at 3:30 o'clock. Conducted by Rev. Cobb, Dr. Conrad and Mr. Everett Price. The confirmed membership was 81 and baptized membership was 110. The charter will remain open until January 5, 1958.
- October 13, 1957---The first administration of the Holy Communion was held at the morning worship service.
- December 1, 1957---Another milestone, ground breaking service for our parsonage was held at 3 o'clock. A large number of members and friends were present, despite the cold wind and weather. Dr. Conrad began the official service assisted by Rev. Cobb, Rev. Leroy Trexler, the Southern Conference president; Rev. John L. Morgan, the future pastor; Rev. Leo Smith of St. Paul's; Mr. Everett Price and the following council members---Vernon Bickley, Earl Pasour, Ralph Summey, Sr., Clyde Ratchford, Sam Rhyne, J. R. Presley, Jr., Jennings Lineberger, Paul Rhyne, Wayne Clemmer, Kelly Clemmer, and Wray Witherspoon. Auxiliary presidents--Mrs. Sam Rhyne of U. L. C. W., Kenneth Witherspoon of the Luther League and all the members of the building committee.
- December 22, 1957---The first Christmas pageant was held at the 10 o'clock Sunday School.
- January 5, 1958---The charter membership roll was closed today. Rev. Cobb confirmed 4 and baptized 3 children. Total membership 87 confirmed and 115 baptized.
- April 20, 1958---Rev. John L. Morgan assumed work as the first full time pastor.
- May 15, 1958---Rev. and Mrs. Morgan moved into the parsonage.
- June 15, 1958---Dr. Conrad was here to dedicate the parsonage on Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, assisted by Rev. Paul Morgan, Southern Conference president, Rev. Cobb and Mr. Everett Price. A large number of the members were present.
- July 6, 1958---The choir robes received from Center Grove Lutheran Church, Kannapolis were worn on this Communion Sunday.
- September 14, 1958---Ground breaking services for the Church and Educational Building were held at 4:30 o'clock. A large crowd of members and friends were present. A fellowship supper was served in the parsonage basement. Those taking part in the service were Dr. F. L. Conrad, Rev. John L. Morgan, Rev. W. G. Cobb, Rev. G. H. Needham (Methodist pastor), Mr. O. J. Rhyne, the oldest member, Mr. Kelly Clemmer, Mr. J. R. Presley, Jr., Mr. Tom C. Lewis, the architect, Mr. Vernon Bickley, Mr. Wilburn Witherspoon, Mrs. Sam Rhyne, and Kenneth Witherspoon. We were sorry that Mr. Everett Price could not be present for the service.
- January 1, 1959---Work of the church is progressing. The brick work has been completed on the Educational Building.
- March 4, 1959---The Arnold Stone Company began raising the trusses and beams on the sanctuary.
- April 30, 1959---What a BIG DAY at the church---the roof was put on, putting up the roof in 12 hours. Around 25 of our men did the work.
- July 10, 1959---The draperies were made for the Educational Building by the ladies of the church. All of the ladies worked in the parsonage basement. Those who came to spend the day and sew were--Mrs. John L. Morgan, Mrs. Ralph Summey, Sr., Mrs. Wray Witherspoon, Mrs. Robert Finger, Mrs. Fred Friday, Mrs. Larry Penley, Mrs. Roy McGinnis, Mrs. Paul Rhyne, Mrs. Harold White, David and Jeff, Mrs. Jennings Lineberger and Linda, Mrs. Clyde Ratchford and Jeanne and Mrs. Vernon Bickley, Beverly and Libby.
- August 2, 1959---The Educational Building was used for Sunday School today. The morning worship service was held in the nave although incomplete.
- October 18, 1959---The first Evangelism mission began. Rev. W. G. Cobb was the Missioner.

- December 24, 1959---The first Christmas Eve Candlelight service was held at 7:30 p. m.
- December 27, 1959---A congregational meeting was held and decided to purchase all church furniture and pews from Southern Desk Company, Hickory, N. C. Chestnut finished oak was selected.
- April, 1960---The tile was laid in the Nave and several weeks following this the Educational Building floor tile was laid.
- May 15, 1960---Dr. Conrad visited with us for the worship service.
- June 5, 1960---Today was Pentecost Sunday. The pews and chancel furniture was installed this week and red carpet laid in the chancel and down the center aisle.
- August 7, 1960---Today was DEDICATIONAL SUNDAY, and laying of the cornerstone. Dr. Conrad officiated and Pastor Morgan was liturgist. 225 were present for the worship service. Open house was held in the church and parsonage from 2 until 5.
- July 9, 1961---The first marriage in the new church was Mr. George Lee Absher and Miss Frances Louise Morrow of Dallas. They were married by Dr. John L. Morgan at noon following the morning worship service.
- September 17, 1961---A letter of acceptance from Rev. Donald R. Deal to become pastor of Our Saviour was read. Call accepted as of November 1, 1961.
- October 23, 1961---The Morgans moved to Rockwell, N. C.
- October 24, 1961---The Deal family moved from Cleveland, N. C.
- November 5, 1961---Rev. Deal began his duties as pastor and on November 19 was installed by Dr. Ernest Misenheimer. Brenda Kay Deal, infant daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Deal was also baptized.
- June 3, 1962---The congregation voted to make Dr. John L. Morgan, pastor emeritus and on July 29, 1962 Dr. Morgan was presented a resolution and citation as pastor emeritus at the 11 o'clock worship service. Picnic lunch followed the service.
- December, 1962---The uniquely beautiful tree decorated with Chrismons---- monograms of Christ was enjoyed. There were 75 of the Chrismons, all lovingly made by the women of the church.
- September 27-October 1, 1964---Rev. Everett Price was missionary for a preaching mission.
- June 21, 1965---The first funeral service was conducted in the church. The service was for Mrs. J. J. Bickley, a charter member. On October 31st a service of Blessing for a Funeral Pall, two offering plates and receiving basin was held. These were in memory of Mrs. Bickley given by Mrs. Thomas G. Horner.
- November 7, 1965---A service of Blessing for a Processional Cross, memory of Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Rhodes by Mrs. Dora Rhodes Carpenter a friend of the congregation.
- February 13, 1966---A service of Blessing for the Communion Rail given in memory of Barney L. Bickley by Mrs. Thomas G. Horner.
- March 19, 1967---The Adult choir was outfitted with new choir robes.(black cassock and white surplice)
- September 10, 1967---The congregation experienced worshipping in the Chapel at Lutheridge. Many families spent the week-end at the mountain camp facility.
- October 8, 1967---Dr. F. L. Conrad preached on this the 10th anniversary of the church. A service for the Retirement of Indebtedness (note burying) was held. A picnic lunch was held in Carr School Cafeteria.

- March, 1969---The Nave and Educational Building were air-conditioned. Total cost, \$4,875.00.
- July 27, 1969---The Allen Organ was installed. Total cost, \$10,300.00.
- January 3, 1971---Rev. Deal resigned as pastor of Our Saviour to become pastor of Holy Trinity, Mt. Pleasant, N. C. Effective February 15th.
- February 18, 1971---Rev. Carroll L. Robinson, pastor of St. Paul's Church was appointed vice-pastor by Synod.
- November 24, 1971---The Dallas Community Thanksgiving Service was held at Our Saviour.
- March 4, 1972---The congregation called Rev. Carroll L. Robinson to become pastor. A letter of acceptance was read on April 9, 1972 and the call was effective May 1, 1972. Rev. Robinson was installed on June 11, 1972.
- All of 1973---Improvements : parking lot paved, parsonage air-conditioned, new roof and gutters on the parsonage and church and church tower raised an additional 8 feet.
- October 28, 1973---Our Saviour was host for the joint Reformation service.
- May 19, 1974---Rev. Robinson resigned, effective June 30, 1974.
- September 8, 1974---Rev. Edwin McKinley of Holy Cross Church, North Charleston, S. C. was called as pastor.
- October 6, 1974---Rev. McKinley assumed the parish and was installed by Rev. George Whittecar.
- April 7, 1975---Shock and dismay was felt by the congregation. On April 5 Rev. McKinley left his family and returned to Charleston. The council met and terminated his duties and a copy was sent to Synod.
- May, 1975---Rev. Charles McManus was appointed vice-pastor.
- May 18, 1975---Pentecost Sunday. Rev. John N. Woodard of Christ Church, Fort Lauderdale, Florida supplied. He confirmed 3 young people, and administered Holy Communion. On May 23 the pulpit committee voted to recommend Rev. Woodard. At a call Council meeting at 10 a. m. on May 25th the council accepted the pulpit committees recommendation. On June 9th the call was extended. June 22, 1975 a letter of acceptance was read to the congregation. Rev. and Mrs. Woodard moved July 4th and was installed on July 27th by Dr. Ernest Misenheimer. Picnic lunch followed the service.
- May 16, 1976---The Activity Building was dedicated and memorial plaque installed to read the Brady Ratchford Activity Building. Children gave this plaque.
- Fall, 1976---A pictorial directory was compiled.
- June, 1978---The Quilting group of Our Saviour quilted the LCW quilt for Rev. and Mrs. George Whittecar. The quilt has 210, 8 inch squares representing each congregation in the North Carolina Synod and centered with the LCW dove square. The quilt was presented on August 18, 1978 during the unit convention.
- August, 1978---Rev. Woodard resigned as pastor. He had accepted a call to Wittenburg Church, Granite Quarry, N. C.
- September, 1978---Rev. John F. Merck was appointed vice-pastor.
- October 1, 1978---Rev. Robert W. Edsell was extended a call. His acceptance was read on November 5. He assumed his duties December 1, 1978 and was installed by Rev. David Martin on December 3, 1978.
- February 4, 1979---The Lutheran Book of Worship was used for the first time.

- June 17, 1979---A service of Blessing for the Sanctuary Lamp in memory of Mrs. Wayne Clemmer(Nellie) was held. Also, the furniture in the narthex, in memory of Mrs. Kathy Summey Cobb. Also, 200 hymns.
- January 6, 1979---Celebrated Epiphany with a parade at Eastridge Mall, Gastonia. This celebration is to be an annual event by the Lutheran churches in Gaston County.
- December 2, 1979---A service of Blessing for Blue Paraments was held
- April 27, 1980---The first LCW Sunday. LCW members participated in the worship service. Greeters--Mrs. Kelly Clemmer, and Mrs. Ralph Paysour. Readers--Mrs. Vernon Bickley, Mrs. William Carpenter and Mrs. Robert Edsell ; Temple Talk--Mrs. Doyle Clemmer; Prayer of the Church--Mrs. Marie Robinson.
- September 14, 1980---Observed the 200th anniversary of Sunday School. Held a special service at 9:45 a. m. with lots of hymn singing and memories of the first Sunday School for Our Saviour in 1957.
- October 4, 1980--The quilting ladies of the church won a Quilt-a-Thon sponsored by Matthew-Belk, Eastridge Mall, Gastonia.
- October 19, 1980---Pastor Edswill resigned, due to poor health.
- November 1, 1980---Rev. Robert F. Shelby, Jr., a retired Lutheran minister living in Belmont was appointed vice-pastor full time. Pastor Shelby served the congregation well for 19 months. He completed his duties on June 13, 1982.
- February 14, 1982---The congregation voted to call Mr. Carl M. Haynes to become pastor upon his graduation from Southern Seminary and ordination by the North Carolina Synod on June 6, 1982. Mr. Haynes' letter of acceptance was received on February 14, 1982.
- April 6, 1982---The congregation was saddened by the death of Dr. John L. Morgan, pastor emeritus of Our Saviour. Dr. Morgan was 97 years old.
- March 3, 1982---The congregation was invited by the Christian Education Committee to a SOUP SUPPER as the first event in celebrating the 25th anniversary of our church.
- May 9, 1982---A special celebration "The Other Birthday" was held at Sunday Church School. This was celebrating our baptismal birthday.
- May 31, 1982---The quilting ladies surprised Rev. and Mrs. Shelby with a quilt and shames. Also, a luncheon was enjoyed.
- May 31, 1982---MOVING DAY for Carl and Cathy Haynes. Moved into the parsonage from Columbia, S. C.
- June 6, 1982---Ordination service for Mr. Haynes and other ordinands was held during the closing session of Synod at Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, N. C. A delegation of 40 from Our Saviour attended the service and sat in a body with representatives from Carl and Cathy's family and home congregation.
- June 20, 1982---Rev. Carl Michael Haynes was installed by Rev. David Martin, Secretary of Synod. A covered dish luncheon followed the service.
- September 19, 1982---A service of Blessing for a Paschal candle and stand was held at the worship service.
- September 26, 1982---The congregation has the privilege and pleasure of having Dr. F. L. Conrad(now 88 years old) to preach.
- September, 1982---The anniversary committee along with standing committee's composed a MISSION STATEMENT for the congregation.
- October 6, 1982---Twenty-five years of an organized congregation. Worshiping and witnessing and working for our Lord and Saviour. Thus endeth this compilation. The compilers(Almeda Bickley and Margaret Ratchford) of this history hopes the compilers of the 2007(50 years) makes many improvements. With joy we anticipate hearing Bishop Michael McDaniel on October 10, 1982 and enjoying a covered dish luncheon in the Activity Building. Present membership 241 baptized, 199 confirmed, 123 communing.