

MY OWN NOTES ON CHURCH'S HISTORY:

FROM GLADYS'S PAPER: IN THE EARLY 1950's many people in C.V. prayed for the establishment of a Lutheran Church to meet the spiritual needs of the growing population. As these prayers ascended to God, the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC), which became part of the A. L. C. of America in 1960, was also praying for guidance in selection of new fields where Home Mission Congregations would be established. Studies of population growth and proximity to other Lutheran Churches of the National Lutheran Council (a federation of 8 Lutheran Synods) were factors which entered into the selection of Chula Vista by the Home Mission Board of the California District (now South Pacific Conference) and then approved by the District President Gayler Falde in 1953.

WITH THE DECISION to begin a new church, the Home Mission Dept. set aside \$78,000 as a loan at low rate of interest to be used for purchase of a parsonage, a church site, and the building of the first unit of a complex, and a gift called "Grant-in-Aid" of approximately \$20,000 to be used for pastor's salary, rental of parsonage, supplies for church and Sunday school and office. A Parish Worker to assist in the canvass of the new area would be provided for 3 mos. free of charge to the new church. Next a pastor was selected to assume the task of organizing the new congregation and choosing a name for it.

IN AUGUST 1953 a call was issued to Rev. Erling R. Jacobson, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Minnesota. He accepted and with Mrs. Jacobson arrived in C. V. Jan. 20, 1954.

THE DISTRICT PARISH WORKER, Miss Dorothy Murray, arrived at the same time to assist in launching of the congregation. On Feb. 2, she began the canvass of the city spreading the message that a new Lutheran Church was being established with the 1st service to be held on Mar. 7 in 7th Day Adventist Church, 4th Ave. & D St.

THE PASTOR VISITED all who manifested interest and of these 66 families who indicated they'd attend, 64 families were present at the first service. Grateful hearts greeted them. The work was begun.

THE END OF THAT.

FROM THE 1964 DIRECTORY: St. Mark's Lutheran Church was established in C.V. by the decision of the Home Mission Committee of the Calif. Dist. and the General Home Mission Board of the ELC. Rev. Ansle Severson of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, S. D. was a member of this board and helped to initiate these beginnings. Rev. Erling Jacobson was called by the Mission Board to organize and serve this congregation. Miss Dorothy Murray was our 1st Parish Worker. She made 5000 house calls during her 6 mos. of work here. Rev. Jacobson, Rev. Severson & Mr. Chris Knutson met several times with the C.V. City Council for the purpose of obtaining a permit to establish a church in C.V. Many temporary locations for Sun. services were considered. The 7th Day Adventist Church offered their facilities which gave us a fine place for our 1st services. We paid \$15 per Sun. for these facilities. 1st service was held Sun. March 7, 1954, in the 7th Day Adventist Church at 4th & D Sts., in C.V., CA. There were 174 people in attendance at the 1st service. The offering was \$179. The 1st S.S. session was held also Mar. 7, with 42 children in S.S. and 18 teachers. St. Mark's came to C.V. for one simple but glorious purpose: to proclaim the good news of God's amazing love for mankind and to offer His forgiveness in Jesus Christ to everyone who will receive Him. The 1st baby baptized was Susan Kummer. The choir was organized with Rev. Jacobson as our director. Rehearsals were held at Al Myers' home and Mrs. Joseph Hansen was pianist for rehearsals.

Our first organist was Mrs. Ralph Withnell. St. Mark's was formally organized July 18, '54, with 198 membership. The Mission Board loaned the congregation funds with which to provide a parsonage and 1st unit of the church. In Apr., 1954, the present site of 2.7 acres at Hilltop Dr. & "I" St. was purchased. In Sept. '54, the parsonage at 48 E. San Miguel Dr. was purchased. Our 1st unit of the church was building during the summer of '55 and was dedicated on Oct. 23, '55. Our first Board of Trustees was composed of: Cecil Smith, Alvi Benson, Burton Bostad, Chris Knutson & Royce Bjorstad. Our 1st Board of Deacons was composed of: Leonard Moe, F. Zacharias, Noble Nussberger and Al Myers. The St. Mark's Ladies Guild held their organizational meeting on May 19, '54, at the parsonage. Mrs. Jacobson was acting chairman. 1st pres. was Mrs. Cecil Smith. There was one afternoon and one evening group. In '64, confirmed membership of St. Mark's was 684. Women's org. consisted of 4 circles and 4 evening circles. Add'l S.S. rooms and Fellowship Hall were built during '59. Ave. Sun. School attendance was 264 in '64. Miss Arlene Skaret was our 2nd Parish Worker. Our first Intern was Mons Tieg. Then, Alden Lerohl, Paul Hjelle, George Minor, and Norman Omodt ('64). St. Mark's will continue to extend the hand of Christian Fellowship in worship and service with the congregation and the organizations of the church.

THE END OF THAT.

FROM DON WEEDMARK'S PAPER OF MAY 1970 IN HIS SAN DIEGO STATE COLLEGE HISTORY CLASS, JUST EXCERPTS: St. Mark's began in 1953 when the Home Missions Dept. of the Evangelical Lutheran Church decided to establish a congregation in C.V. The Pres. of the Calif. Dist., Dr. Gaylord Falde, also Pres. of the Home Missions Committee of the Calif. Dist. recommended this on the suburban growth of this area. C.V. had grown from 5,138 in 1940 to 25,846 in 1953. So, in 1954, the Home Missions Report included C.V., CA as a region with a mission church.... The Home Missions Dept. called Rev. Erling R. Jacobson to organize a congregation there. He and his wife left Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Minn. and arrived in C.V. Jan. 20, '54. Miss Dorothy Murray, a Calif. Dist. Home Missions parish worker joined them for their preliminary work. For 3 mo. she traveled throughout C.V. and made 5000 calls. Half resulted in personal contact. When nobody was home, she left a pamphlet, which included info about the ELC Synod and the formation of a new Lutheran Church to be called St. Mark's. Pastor Jacobson visited those people who expressed an interest in forming a congregation. In preparation of the 1st Sun. service, he contacted the C.V. City Council to use the town's recreational center. He couldn't so he rented the 7th Day Adventist Church on 4th & D St. instead. 168 people came to the March 7, 1954 service. 47 children attended S.S. classes. They immediately started looking for real estate and eventually made a purchase April 5, 1954, of the property at Hilltop Dr. & I Street, for \$18,000. Org. mtg. was held July 18, adopting constitution. The Home Missions pastor Erling Jacobson, accepted a letter of call, and the new St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church of C.V. became officially incorporated Sept. 14, 1954. They purchased the parsonage at 48 San Miguel Dr. Aug. 17 for \$14,500. By Mar. '55 they broke ground for the church (April 3. Oct. 23, dedicated completed first unit. St. Mark's founding period lasted until 1958, when they refinanced their loan from the Home Missions Dept. of the ELC, the appropriate step to be taken. So, 1954 to 1958 are called the Founding Years, but substantial congregational growth did take place in those years! In '54, 198 confirmed members, and in '59, 749 members, 464 confirmed into Lutheran faith. Oct. 18, '59, added Fellowship Hall and the Education Unit (upper level of classrooms). Membership from '59 to '63 rose from 749 to 1045, with 684 confirmed. So, they began an internship program in 1959. The intern, a student of religion in a 4-year seminary program, aided the pastor. 1st was Mons Tieg. St. Mark's became a part of the American Lutheran Church Synod, organized in 1960; in 1962. The Women's Guild became the A.L.C.W., grouping in circles, concerned with Bible study, cultural exchange and various charities. Mar. 14, 1964, Pastor

Erling Jacobson passed away after a heart attack. Rev. Erwin Vossler, an intern Norman Omodt, and a strong church council continued St. Mark's mission in the community. Pastor Lauren Egdahl accepted a call in May, 1964, and accepted on June 8. They came from La Puente, Calif, Mr. Calvary Lutheran Church. They started a new building program in 1964 because of expansion problems. In April, 1965, the congregation had to have 3 services each Sun.! Ground-breaking took place in July 1966, and the new church was finished in March 1967. They dedicated the sanctuary on May 7, 1967 under the direction of Dr. Falde. They decided they needed an Assistant Pastor and James Donald, a former intern, became part of St. Mark's clergy. From 1954 to 1967, St. Mark's expanded its facilities 3 times! An expression of COMMUNITY service is present in Chula Vista, CA - it is St. Mark's Lutheran Church!

GLADYS MYERS TOLD ME: She and Al, the Fortners, and the Knutsons were members of Our Savior Lutheran Church in San Diego, part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Ansel Syvertson was their pastor, and he said they needed a church in Chula Vista, A mission congregation. Dorothy Murray, a parish worker, and the Jacobsons came to Chula Vista. Dorothy conducted a door-to-door survey of 5000 homes, and Pastor Jacobson visited those interested. 168 came to 1st service March 7, 1954. S.S. started right away. Met in 7th Day Adventist church. Had to take everything back and forth from there since it wasn't their permanent church. At the 1st communion service there, they ran out of glasses! Had to reuse. From then on, they always brought hot water in thermos bottles to rinse them out. *Also said choir kept charging from front to back to front of Jacobson Hall - Tell Pastor Jacobson "Will you please light somewhere?"*

CORA: "Getting to Know You". We do want to get to know you, SO I will introduce you to everyone. But first of all, I'd like to introduce the Pastoral Staff of St. Mark's and their wives, our guests this evening. Please stand as I call your name.

Please hold your applause until I have finished introducing them. Bud and Mary Egdahl. Troy and Annette Mooneyham. And Dick and Leila Ellingson.

And another guest of St. Mark's tonight is our Office Secretary who does so much for us and has been with us 16 years - Marg Wilkinson and her husband, Roger!

And now, we want to get to know our Founders. We want to learn your names and faces. So, would you please stand up when I introduce you and then please sit down so I may introduce the next person. And I ask again that you hold your applause until I finish so we can hear each name clearly. The ~~gxxxx~~ Found are listed in your program on Page 3 alphabetically.

First is Mrs. Carlette Barker, and She's a present Member.

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Benson.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bergan, still members.

~~Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Balin, presently members.~~

Mrs. Shirley Fortner, a ^{current} Member, *here with her husband, Jim*

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hansen.

Mr. Adrian Helland, still a Member.

Mrs. Myrtle Jacobson, our Founding Pastor's wife, still a Member.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Knutson.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Lindberg, present members.

Mrs. Mildred Mueller, who is not listed in your program, but was able to come tonight.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Myers, current Members.

~~Mrs. Esther Roberts, still a Member.~~

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Rollins, present Members.

Mr. and Mrs. George Selby, current Members.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Serabia

~~Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Supri, still Members.~~

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Zacharias, present Members.

