

## HISTORY OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

The need of a church in the growing community of Brook Park Village, Ohio, was expressed by many people in answer to a telephone survey. To offer this new community Christian life and fellowship, an application was sent to the Regional Home Missions Committee of the National Lutheran Council to start a mission church. On August 31, 1957, 5.67 acres of land on Smith Road at Sylvia Drive, was purchased by The Ohio District Committee for \$21, 000.00 for the future site of a Lutheran Church. A sign was erected on this vacant field and for over a year; people traveling this road wondered if a church would ever become a reality.

Meanwhile, the Evangelism Committees of neighboring churches, St. Paul's of Berea, Puritas Lutheran in Cleveland and Divinity Lutheran of Parma Heights, Ohio were busy making calls to people of Brook Park Village. A Pastoral call was then extended to The Rev. Norman E. Minich, who was at the time serving as a Pastor in Fairport Harbor, Ohio. Recognizing the spiritual need of the community, he accepted the call in June of 1958.

The Ohio District Mission Board purchased the parsonage at 6837 Middlebrook Blvd., Middleburg Hts., Ohio, our neighboring community.

Pastor and Mrs. Norman Minich arrived on July 13, 1958. He immediately began to make his survey calls on people in the locality. As a result of these calls, those interested met on August 23, 1958, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Clark. Here many strangers became friends and endeavored to combine time and talents for the organization of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

A few blocks from the building site, Evangeline Davies Elementary School was being constructed and was to be completed by August 31. Permission to use this school for Worship Services was granted from the Berea School Board, but due to a builder's strike, it was not ready.

Disappointment did not daunt the spirit of this small group of people. Mr. and Mrs. Leland Smith offered their garage for this first service. Without God's blessings and the help of many dedicated people, this service would not have been possible. Mr. and Mrs. Smith used rugs and curtains from their home for the chancel area, made a wooden cross for the altar, and improvised altar vases out of waxed milk cartons and covered them with aluminum foil. From another mission church, Christ Lutheran of Willoughby, we were given an altar. The men made the necessary repairs on the altar and also made a lectern. One of the many not to be forgotten preparations for this first service was the sewing of the paraments by a small group of women who sewed until 1:00 am the morning of the service.

It was a sacred moment in the lives of the seventy-nine people who met to worship in this garage on August 31, 1958. Thirty-six adults indicated a desire to become affiliated with this new mission which was soon to become Redeemer Lutheran Church.

A steering committee was organized and met for the first time on September 18, 1958, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Meermans. The members of this committee were:

Leland Smith	Fred Lane	Ronald Meermans
Raymond Saylor	Norman Simmonds	John Gouç
Donald Mercer	Paul Bricker	Pastor Minich

Many long hours were spent in the basic planning, and many decisions were made in preparation for the building of the first unit. Many members offered their homes for long committee meetings to start this new mission.

Permission was granted to hold Worship Services at the Armory on Engle Road until Davis School was completed. September 7 at the Armory saw our first Sunday School in session. Services were held there for six weeks until October 12 when we began to worship at the school.

A gift of a reed organ from First Lutheran Church of Strongsville was received. Although it was old and off key, it was welcomed and cherished as we sent our Praises to the Lord. Our first organist was Mr. Elroy Boherstengel.

By now, church attendance was growing as people heard of the friendly atmosphere that prevailed among us.

The spiritual growth of the youth was increased as the first confirmation class, a group of seven young people, started receiving instructions at the parsonage.

The people showed love for their future church in their generous gifts of Hymnals, candlesticks, altar vases, a cross, offering plates and numerous other needed items, all given to the Glory of God in the early start of this mission.

On November 6, 1958, the first meeting for the Senior Choir was held. Mr. Don Mainzer agreed to serve as choir director, and Mrs. John Graff offered her services as our organist.

Needless to say, at our first Thanksgiving Service on November 26, we shared our many blessings by helping a needy family in Brook Park with \$21.00 in cash and a basket of food.

We were officially organized as Redeemer Lutheran Church by the District President The Rev. Kenneth Priebe on November 30, 1958. The installation of the following members as our first church council was as follows:

Paul Bricker	Leland Smith	Norman Simmonds
Fred Lane	John Gouch	Raymond Saylor
Donald Mercer	James George	Ronald Meermans
Richard Treharne	Edward Pintner	John Slenkovich

By early December, Miss Dorothy Cronrath, Parish Mission Worker, was sent to assist us. She was an inspiration to all who worked with her. In the short two months she was here, she worked diligently in organizing the choir and Sunday School, and was fundamental in training our Evangelism Committee. This group of twenty-one people, inspired by her guidance, made over three hundred survey calls in January of 1959.

On December 28, 1958, twenty-one people were received into membership. These new members were given the privilege of becoming charter members along with the first group received November 30, Organizational Sunday. Their names are as follows:

Pastor and Mrs. Norman Minich	Mrs. Dorothy Kolesar
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Clark	Mrs. Violet Susaneck
Mr. and Mrs. John Gouch	Mr. Robert Sedlack
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Youngblood	Miss Sue Montz
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Meermans	Mr. and Mrs. Don Mayer
Mr. and Mrs. Maiden Lindamood	Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Squires
Mr. and Mrs. John Slenkovich	Mr. and Mrs. James George
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pintner	Mr. and Mrs. David Mikol
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bricker	Mr. and Mrs. Glen Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Zilgenrucker	Mr. and Mrs. William Good
Mr. and Mrs. George Meyer Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montz
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Pintner	Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Erdner
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Riemer	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schultz
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Saylor	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fowler
Mr. and Mrs. John Graff	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Straub
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Treharne	Mr. and Mrs. Ira Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Walter	Mr. and Mrs. Norman Simmonds
Mr. and Mrs. Cloyd Biddle	Mr. and Mrs. Leland Smith
Mr. Richard Biddle	Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mercer
Mr. Julius Schaaf	Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mainzer
Mr. Edwin H. Scrivens	Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Campbell
Mrs. Nellie Hugo	Mr. and Mrs. Don Holztrager
Mrs. Edward Fegan	Mr. Fred Lane

Mrs. Christine Smith  
Mrs. Norma Stoessner  
Mrs. Robert Eberhardt  
Miss Hilda Zilgenrucker  
Mrs. Lucille Gilpin

Mrs. Andrew Sedlack  
Mr. Charles Lindamood  
Mrs. Harriet Herndon  
Mrs. Carol Repella  
Mrs. Ruth Paduch

A total of ninety-five confirmed and one hundred and eighty-nine baptized members.

Mrs. A. M. Douglas, president of the Lake Erie Conference of the Women's Mission Federation, met with the women of the church on January 20, 1959, to begin work and programming of the Women of the Church duties.

After the Worship Services on February 22, 1959, the members formed a caravan and drove to the site of our future church. On this beautiful sunny day the Ground-breaking Service for our first unit was held. Conducting the service were the Rev. Norman Minich and The Rev. H. Leonard Anderson of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Berea. Also participating in the ceremony were Mr. R. Meermans and Mr. J. Slenkovich, who represented the congregation. Mr. Bruce Houston, architect, Mr. R. S. Ursprung, contractor, and three Village Councilmen, Raymond O'Donnell, Cecil Forrester and Paul Ziats.

Redeemer Lutheran Church was the first Church to build in the growing community of Brook Park.

By March 31, 1959, the foundation was started and work was begun on this House of God. On this day also, the Women of the Church were officially organized. The following women were elected to office:

Mrs. Carol Repella, President  
Mrs. Betty Biddle, Secretary

Mrs. Paul Bricker, V. President  
Mrs. Dorothy Kolesar, Treasurer

By the next two weeks, three Circles were formed and were called the Ruth Guild, Christine Guild, (so named after our Senior woman member, Mrs. Christine Smith), and the Tabitha Guild. Meetings were scheduled monthly and every woman member was assigned to a guild convenient to her.

All members kept a vigilant watch on the progress being made in the construction of the first unit. Just as the building increased in progress, so did the activity of our membership. April 5, 1959, twenty-three people, after completing an adult instruction class, were received into membership.

Marilyn Sedlack and Thomas Simmonds, the two senior members of the confirmation class, were confirmed on May 17, 1959.

June 21, 1959, another fifteen members completed instructions and were received into the fellowship of Redeemer.

Ninety students and teachers enrolled for two weeks of Daily Vacation Bible School on August 3, 1959. St. Paul's Lutheran of Berea graciously offered its cooperation and facilities for a joint session with their students and staff. Car pools were formed and drove our school of ninety back and forth each day for the two weeks of classes.

For weeks the members worked on the church interior. With a combination of time and talent, we were quickly beautifying this nearly completed unit. Time was not all given to work and the first Sunday School picnic was held August 6, 1959, at Wintergreen Hill. Members met for hours of fun, games and fellowship. Members and friends of Redeemer were invited to attend an open house on August 15 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Saylor in honor of Mr. Julius Schaaf's ninetieth birthday. Mr. Schaaf was our senior member, and father of Mrs. Saylor.

After weeks of activity of painting and laying tile, what seems to be an impossible deadline was miraculously met. By the Grace of God and His Providence, this House of Worship had been completed. On September 6, 1959, three hundred and twenty people gathered at the door to participate in the dedication of this Redeemer Lutheran Church. District President, the Rev. Kenneth Priebe, the Rev. Donald Hesterman and the Rev. Karl Mohrhoff assisted Pastor Minich with the service. The choir, in their new robes expressed the feelings of all our hearts as they sang their anthem "We Dedicate This House, O Lord to Thee".

On September 13, 1959, an Open House was held with local dignitaries, residents of Brook Park and surrounding communities who toured the newly-dedicated building.

The Luther League was officially organized by September 18, 1959, by John Slenkovich. Eleven of these youth elected Charles Lindamood as their first president.

After completing Adult Instruction Classes, nine people were received October 18, and eight more by Letter of Transfer November 15, 1959 into the membership of Redeemer.

The first part of November, Mr. Julius Schaaf, recognizing the importance of Sunday School in teaching the word of God, agreed to underwrite the entire cost of \$17,200.00 for a new educational unit to meet the pressing needs of these classes. Membership of the church had now doubled in number to one hundred sixty-nine confirmed, making a total of three hundred and fifty-two with baptized members. November 29, 1959, was the installation of Church Council members. Their terms varied from one, two and three years with Ron Meermans as Council President. Because of limited facilities, it was necessary to partly celebrate our Savior's Birth at Brookpark Memorial Elementary School. The Sunday School youth returned us to the Manger Scene in their presentation Christmas Eve. We returned to our church for late Christmas Eve Worship and Services again on Christmas Day.

By letters of transfer, eight members were received on January 15, 1960. On February 15, 1960, the first Evangelism Committee since the organization of Redeemer met to make long range plans to reach new families moving into Brook Park daily. Over two hundred fifty calls were made by the end of February.

Ground-breaking Services for our second unit took place on February 21, 1960, retracing the steps made only one year ago. To God Our Father we gave thanks for having called us together as a congregation, thus making it possible for sharing His Blessings, to Mr. Julius Schaaf, who, with the vision of our Lord, saw the need for bringing children unto Jesus, to Pastor Anderson for bringing us the message, and to Mr. George Novak, General Contractor and Mr. Bruce Houston, the Architect.

Organization of the Junior Choir by Mrs. Alan Sundeen was first held on March 10, 1960. All children from ten to fifteen were invited. Also on April 10 the Altar Guild was formed under the leadership of Pastor and Mrs. Minich.

Not only were we making history for Redeemer Lutheran Church at this time, but we became part of a bigger historical event within the history of the Lutheran Faith. Starting with April 22, 1960, the merging of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norwegian background, United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Danish background with our American Lutheran Church of German background became known as the American Lutheran Church. Beginning at Pentecost, a "Year of Jubilee" was observed by all the congregations of the merging churches. During this "Year of Jubilee", many opportunities were provided for us to learn more about our brethren in the Faith and Significance of The American Lutheran Church.

Our first Mother and Daughter Banquet was held at the church on May 25, 1960. A songfest and slides on India were shown. All proceeds from the dinner were sent to the India Missions. This same Sunday nine people were received into the fellowship of Redeemer.

Four Parish Mission Builders arrived June 17, 1960, to begin their work with Redeemer. These college students remained with us for three weeks. Members of the congregation housed and fed these students while they worked diligently programming and outlining our work for the coming year.

June 20, 1960, we held our first Daily Vacation Bible School which lasted for two weeks. The program theme was, "Teach Us To Pray", based on the Lord's Prayer. This program enabled our children to learn more about prayer in their lives. It was a very rewarding experience for all as one hundred forty-six children were enrolled.

On August 7, 1960, we dedicated the second unit to the Glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Agustas Eckert Schaaf, mother of Mr. Julius Schaaf, the donor of the building, to be known as Schaaf Hall. The Rev. Donald Saylor, grandson of Mr. Schaaf, was our guest speaker.

After completing instruction classes, seven new members were received on September 4, 1960.

By September 18, 1960, an eight week program called EMV, "Every Member Visitation" started, during which all members studied and appraised the current and future needs and resources of Redeemer.

During these busy eight weeks, another group of our members were busy surveying three hundred new homes, extending to them an invitation to worship with us. Plans were in progress to reach another seven hundred and fifty homes that were to be occupied before the end of the year. This was certainly a challenge for Redeemer Church to increase our membership commitment to the Lord. Results of these visitations were Beginning to show as our membership began to grow. November 20, 1960, nineteen members were received and welcomed as part of the family of Redeemer. On this same date, Life Membership pins were presented to six members of our congregation by the Women of the Church. This was in appreciation for the outstanding services in the work of the Lord. To receive this recognition was an honor and a privilege.

For the Women of the Church's Christmas Program on December 2, 1960, a baby shower was given for the Lutheran Children's Aid Society. Miss Martha Kelly, a representative from the Society and case worker, was our honored guest. The following Sunday the new officers of the WOC were installed. Mary Jane Owen was elected president and Elaine Szabo, vice-president.

After receiving ten weeks of adult instructions in the Lutheran Faith, twelve new members were received into membership on December 4, 1960.

December 18, 1960, Miss Patricia Mohrhoff, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Karl Mohrhoff of Puritas Lutheran Church, became our new organist.

The children of the Sunday School presented their Christmas program on December 18, 1960, at the Church, and on Christmas Eve a Candlelight Service was held with Worship on Christmas day and again on New Year's Eve.

A Family Bible reading plan was initiated on January 8, 1960. Families agreed to read a portion of the Bible together for one week and then pass it on to another family. This Bible will eventually be placed in the cornerstone of the future Worship Building.

The Evangelism Committee surveyed another three hundred thirty-five homes the Beginning of February, with a commitment to make another four hundred calls within the next two months. February 26, 1961, thirteen members were received, and on April 2, seventeen additional members were received into their new Spiritual home at Redeemer. The Lord's work is evident as we review the history of the rapid growth of our church.

May 14, 1961, eighteen of the youth were received by Rite of Confirmation. Jubilee Service on May 11, 1961, came to a close. The Worship Committee, along with the Luther League, held a special service in observance of the merger. May 21, 1961, ground breaking services were held for the third unit of the church. Without His continual Blessings and Favor, this building would not have been possible. Appreciation was extended to the Board of American Missions, the Ohio District for all their efforts in the preliminary studies for a new unit, to Mrs. Christine Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Saylor for their contributions which made this building more possible, to the building committee, Mr. Houston, the architect, and Mr. Frank Lytle, the contractor, for all their many efforts.

The second Mother and Daughter banquet was held at the Church on May 24, 1961, with Mrs. R. Kulow who spoke on the "Women of the Bible".

The installation of the 1961 Church Council elected Mr. Ronald Meermans again as the president of the congregation and Mr. Edward Pintner as vice-president, with Mrs. Cloyd Biddle as Secretary (May 31, 1961).

On June 18, 1961, another twelve people were received into the family of Redeemer. During August, five hundred and six more survey calls were made by the Evangelism Committee and one hundred and thirty-four calls made by the Women of the Church.

A newly-formed circle to enable more women to participate in the many activities of the church been July 1, 1961. It was called the Hannah Guild. Plans were in progress for another circle to be named later for the confirmed young ladies to eighteen years of age, to being under the leadership of Mrs.

**Barbara Fowler.**

The third annual Picnic of Redeemer Lutheran Church was held on August 6, 1961, at Wintergreen Hill. And the Women of the Church held their picnic at the Shanholtzer home on August 17, 1961.

A two-week session of Daily Vacation Bible School was held at the church beginning on August 7, and extending through the 21. The theme this year (1961) was "The Ten Commandments".

Two Evangelism survey calls were made in September, contacting two hundred fourteen homes in all.

Because of the rapid growth of Redeemer, we welcomed Miss Wilma Schardt at the end of September 1961. Miss Schardt, a part time Parish worker, while attending Baldwin-Wallace College, assisted Pastor Minich in his many duties. She also worked with the Parish Education Committee. Miss Schardt's services were made possible by personal interest in some Lutheran people who had noted the challenge facing Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Mary Jane Owen was elected president and Dorothy Pintner vice-president of the Women of the Church for 1962 and 1963. They were installed at the Thank-offering Program on November 5, 1961.

Our new unit was dedicated October 30, 1961, with the Rev. John Houch, Regional Director of the Board of Missions, as guest speaker. With the completion of this building, we were able to have two Sunday Schools and two Church Services simultaneously.

The December Christmas party of the WOC was held on the 15th and a "Good Old-Fashioned Christmas" program was enjoyed, with a White Elephant Gift exchange.

December 17, 1961, the Sunday School Christmas program took place at Evangeline Davies School. A song fest and film presentation of "Joseph and the Nativity" was presented by the children. A midnight Holy Communion Service was held Christmas Eve, with regular worship services on Christmas day and services New Year's Eve of 1961.

January 8, 1962, the Brotherhood was formed and held its first meeting and dinner at the church. An invitation was extended to all men of Redeemer. At the second meeting the men elected Edward Pintner as president and Jack Stackhouse as their vice-president. Many suggestions and worthwhile projects were discussed as the Men of the Church gathered in fellowship.

The Junior Lutherans met for the first time on Saturday, January 20, 1962. This was scheduled to be held once a month in the new educational unit. Here the students learn to worship and study the activities of our fellow Christians all over the world. Children from four years through the sixth grade were invited. Seventy-five children were enrolled.

A committee was appointed on January 29, 1962, to investigate a site and style for a new parsonage. After many meetings, the committee was in agreement that the home best suited was the three or four bedroom models in Starlite Acres on Holland Road, just east of West 130th Street. The present parsonage on Middlebrook Blvd. Was inadequate, due to limited facilities.

February 11 and 25, 1962, three hundred and seventy-seven calls were made by the Evangelism Committee and on March 4, 1962, fourteen couples made two hundred and eighty calls.

George Behrend received his Handbook for the Pro Deo Et Patria Award for his many hours of service in the Boy Scouts. This same day of March 25, 1962, the Brotherhood, for their first project, announced their sponsorship of the Bethel Bible Study in our church. This was a new venture in adult Bible Study which was widely received in our nation with enthusiasm. The Bethel Lutheran Church of Madison, Wisconsin, invested \$100,000.00 to originate this unique approach to adult education in Bible History. This study will lead many people to the living present of God in their lives. On July 15 to the 27 that summer of 1962, Pastor and Mrs. Minich, Mr. and Mrs. Burdette Theophilus, and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Pintner attended the Institute at Madison.

April 1, 1962, fourteen people were received into the membership by letter of transfer and eight by adult confirmation. April 29, 1962, a special congregational meeting was called to discuss Pastor Minich's recent call to Olivet Lutheran Church in LaCross, Wisconsin. After prayerful consideration on behalf of Pastor and the congregation, his announcement to stay was made.

Final plans for the purchase of the new parsonage and sale of the old parsonage were completed and on April 29, 1962, a frame and brick four bedroom, split level home with an attached garage was approved, and all papers signed. The new parsonage is located at 14079 Starlite Drive, Brook Park, Ohio.

May 13, 1962, the following members were elected to Church Council:

Ronald Meermans, President  
Robert Berg  
Frank Lenner  
Roger McCaughey  
Elsie Montz  
John LaRosa  
Ruth Paduch  
Maiden Lindamood

Burdette Theophilus, V. President  
Charles Adams  
Jack Stackhouse  
Michael Szabo  
John Barlow  
Dick Andrukat  
Susan Sedlack

The Luther League at this time held their elections for officers, and Jack Lenner became president and Tom Simmonds, vice-president. A busy year was scheduled for this young group of teenagers. On May 20, 1962, another teenager, Kurth Thornblah received his Handbook for the Pro Deo Et Patria Award for his many hours of service in the Boy Scouts.

The Mother and Daughter banquet May 21, was held at the church. The Brotherhood cooked, served, and put on a comical fashion show. All proceeds were turned over to them for use in the Bethel Bible Series.

Twenty of our youth were received into the church by Rite of Confirmation on May 27, 1962. They pledged themselves to God, promising to be faithful unto Him throughout all life's way.

Daily Vacation Bible School was held on June 18 through the 29. Because of the large number of enrollment, a second session was held August 6 through the 17. The theme this year of 1962 was "We Believe", explaining in full the Apostles' Creed.

June 23, 1962, Pastor and Mrs. Minich, with the help of members and friends of the congregation were moved to their new home.

Thirteen new members were received into the fellowship of Redeemer on June 24, 1962. On July 8, seventeen members answered the call of evangelism and visited three hundred and eight homes.

We welcomed Paul Kosower as our new organist on July 15, and said farewell to Miss Marilyn Kerr, who just completed one year with Redeemer. Paul was only eighteen years old, and came from Lisbon, Ohio.

The fourth annual church picnic was held at Wintergreen Hill on August 26, 1962. Fellowship and fun was the order of the day with the largest crowd to date.

Our congregation observed the fourth anniversary of its organization this day of November 25, 1962. Our guest speaker was the Rev. Paul Radloff, the son-in-law of Mrs. Saylor and grandson-in-law of Mr. Schaaf. We welcomed him as part of the family of Redeemer. The announcement was made at this time that the third unit would be known as Christine Smith Hall.

Eleven new members were received October 14, 1962. Also this same Sunday, Kurt Schmidt received his handbook for the Pro Deo Et Patria Award for his many hours of service in the Boy Scouts.

October 14, 1962, was the dedication of the parsonage. An open house following the service was held with an invitation to all members of the congregation to attend.

An invitation was extended to the Women of Redeemer from the Women of Divinity Lutheran Church to join them in a retreat at Camp Mather, Hinckley, Ohio the week-end of October 20, 1962. Eight of our women joined in fellowship as we united with them.

The election of the WOC officers for 1963 and 1964 was held at the regular Thank-offering program in November. Mrs. Pat Andrukat will serve as president and Dorothy Pintner as vice-president. December 14, 1962, the WOC Christmas party honoring the Lutheran Student Foundation of Greater Cleveland was held with songs, fun and a gift exchange.

The Junior and Senior Choir of Redeemer presented the Advent Christmas Concert. A Candlelight Service was held on Christmas Eve at 7:30 with the youth participating.

A second service with Holy Communion was held at 11:00 pm; a New Year's Eve Service was also held closing the year of 1962.

Five men and five women, after prayerful consideration were called to serve as teachers for the Bethel Bible Series here at Redeemer. They were as follows:

Mrs. Joseph Chonko  
Mrs. Frank Lenner  
Mr. Clarence Pintner  
Mr. Harry Fowler

Mrs. George Meyer Jr.  
Mrs. Burdette Theophilus  
Mr. Charles Adams

Mrs. Leo Paduch  
Mr. Jack Stackhouse  
Mr. Al Stricker

On January 20, 1963, the above began their first classes with the Pastor with a two-and-a-half hour study each week. Following completion of the teachers training program in October of 1964, the Bethel Bible Study Program was offered to the members of the congregation.

The Luther League surveyed eighty-one homes on January 27, and at this time eighteen adults were received into membership by Adult Confirmation.

The official Library opening was held on February 17, 1963, with members of the congregation joining in a Open House. Ninety-nine books were on hand at this first opening.

Seven adults (after the completion of adult instruction) were received into the membership of Redeemer on February 24, 1963.

Church Council members were installed this April in 1963 with Burdette Theophilus as president of the Congregation and Charles Hovey as vice-president, and the following members on Council:

Don Anderson  
Betty Biddle  
Maiden Lindamood  
Russell O'Neal  
Al Parry  
Ruth Paduch

Roger McCaughey  
Frank Lenner  
Robert Berg  
John LaRosa  
Virginia Erdner  
Marge Tampson

Dick Andrukat  
Rudi Wacker  
Leland Smith  
George Behrend  
Don Mainzer

The fourth Mother and Daughter Banquet was held at the church on May 5, 1963. A catered dinner was served and all proceeds were turned over to LEAF "Lutheran Educational Aid Fund".

On May 17, 18 and 19, 1963, at Goodrich house, Hinckley, Ohio, all members of the senior confirmed class and Luther League were invited to attend a retreat. Pastor Minich led their Sunday School and Worship Services on the last day.

Thursday, May 23, 1963, Burdette Theophilus was granted the Lamb Award at the Youth Festival Service. This award is the highest recognition given to a leader in the Scouting Program.

On May 26, 1963, sixteen members of the senior Confirmation class were received into the membership by the Rite of Confirmation. After completing two years of instructions, these youth are prepared to declare their desire to serve the Lord Christ in life.

The newly formed young ladies group (to 18 years old) met for the first time to prepare a full summer schedule. They were named the Deborah Guild at their meeting on June 14, 1963.

At this time Pastor announced his decision to stay with Redeemer in regards to his call from Crusader Lutheran Church in Rockville, Maryland.

June 16 through the 28, 1963, Daily Vacation Bible School was in progress with one hundred and fifty children attending. "Lord, Teach Us To Pray" was the theme. They learned the Lord's Prayer and the meanings of the petitions and how they applied to their daily lives.

The annual church picnic was held this year at "Little Cedar Point" in Metropolitan Park on August 25, 1963. Each member brought a basket lunch.

Dorothy Pintner was hostess for the annual Women of the Church picnic held at her home. Bible study and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

An adult retreat was held for the members of Redeemer. Pastor Minich and Pastor Varner officiated.

Friday October 4, 1963, Mr. Mark Henderlie, Resident Counselor of the ALC arrived in Brook Park to lead us in our fall Stewardship program.

October 13, 1963, eighteen people were received by letter of transfer and fourteen received by affirmation of faith. This October 1963 the Brotherhood elected as their president Don Anderson and



Rudi Wacker as vice-president.

Memorial Services for the late president of the United States, assassinated November 22, 1963, were held on November 25 with an invitation to all members and friends to join in Services, as prayers were offered in behalf of the late President's family, our Nation and the World. Above all, we thanked God for having given us such an outstanding leader in these trying times. May all which he endeavored to do in behalf of truth and freedom become our cause, so that he will not have died in vain. Prayers for President Johnson and for those responsible for this infamous crime were offered. May God have Mercy.

On December 1, 1963, twenty-one adults were received into the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church. On this day also, we observed the fifth anniversary of Redeemer. The Rev. Donald Hesterman was our guest speaker. The membership now numbers four hundred confirmed and a total nine hundred and fifty baptized members.

Chris Kienast was awarded the handbook for the Pro Deo Et Patria Award, December 1, 1963. On December 5, the Women of the Church held their annual Christmas Party, programming the "Traditions and Customs connected with Christmas". The Sunday School Christmas Program entitled "Over all the Earth", was held at Brook Park Memorial School.

A special Vespers Service was held on December 22, 1963, to conclude the thirty-day mourning period following President Kennedy's death.

Christmas Eve Worship Services were held with services on Christmas Day of 1963, and the day after Christmas the children of the Sunday School enjoyed themselves at a fellowship party at the church. Films were shown and candy and popcorn added to the delight of the children. Worship Services at 7:30 on New Year's Eve brought to close the year of 1963.

With the transfer of Mr. Burdette Theophilus, congregational president, Mr. Charles Hovey was elected from vice-president, to president of the congregation on the first of January of 1964. It was announced at this time that the vacancy of Mrs. Theophilus on the Bethel teaching staff would be occupied by Mrs. JoAnne Minich.

January 26, 1964, saw the Evangelism Committee into full swing visiting two hundred and twenty-eight homes and again on February 2, with two hundred and six calls.

February 4, 1964, Miss Ama Njja, Director of Stewardship for the ALCW was guest speaker for the Women of the Church. Miss Njja serves all of the United States and Canada. This was indeed a privilege for Redeemer Women.

Fourteen members were received into membership this February and eighteen on March 22, 1964.

April 26, 1964 the following people were elected to serve on the Church council:

Evelyn O'Neal	Luke Weaver	Mel Brubeck
Sally Coburn	William Edgar	Roger McCaughey
Lester Ferguson	Clarence Pintner	Charles Hovey

At the April 26, 1964 congregational meeting, a motion was made that a Steering Committee should be appointed to obtain preliminary sketches of a sanctuary from several architects and select final plans for one.

The announcement was made at this time that council approved a call from Mr. and Mrs. Leland Smith to Pastor and Mrs. Minich to tour the Holy Land.

The Mother and Daughter Banquet was held on May 3, 1964 at the church, and a fine program was presented by the different Guilds. All proceeds again were given to LEAF.

Twenty youths were received by the Rite of Confirmation on May 17, 1964. May they receive the Crown of Life which awaits all who are obedient to death.

Beginning May 17, 1964, the Brotherhood began to sponsor a program to keep in touch with the boys from Redeemer that are in the service of our country. A New Testament Bible will be given to each boy on the last Sunday before he goes into service.

On May 17, 1964, Pastor Minich conducted Service for the United Protestant Hour on Radio Station WERE.

The Brotherhood of Redeemer held a "Father and Son" picnic on June 13, 1964 at Maple Grove in the Metropolitan Park area.

Ninety members of Redeemer signed up for the fall Bethel Bible Study program. Registration began for the spring of 1965.

"Trust and Obey" was the theme for this year's Daily Vacation Bible School, with a day session from June 14 to 26 and an evening session June 16 through the 26, 1964. There was a study of the Ten Commandments for both young and old alike.

Eighteen new members were received into the ever-growing family of Redeemer on June 26, 1964.

A day-long retreat was held at the Kiwanis cabin on July 11, 1964 for the WOC. The topic study was on the book "Pace of a Hen", with prayer and meditation, closing with the partaking of Holy Communion.

Ninety-two homes were surveyed July 26, 1964. A commitment at this time was made to make another one hundred and fifty calls within the next two weeks.

August 3, 1964, Pastor and Mrs. Minich began their trip to the Holy Land with the prayers of the entire congregation for their safe return as they "walk in the footsteps of Christ".

During the absence of Pastor Minich, the Rev. Bernard Loesch, the interim pastor, conducted all services.

The Women of the Church held their annual picnic at the home of Dorothy Pintner with Bible Study and plenty of games and fun on August 23, 1964.

August 30, 1964, the annual Church and Sunday School picnic was held at Old Fort Hill Scout cabin. At this time we bade farewell to our organist, Mr. Paul Kosower.

The Men of the Church, the Brotherhood, finalized plans for the Ray Saylor Memorial Hamburg and Corn Roast. The first one was held on September 19, 1964.

A welcome to Mr. Arnold Nordahi, organist, was extended on September 20, 1964. Mr. Nordahl has served some 43 years as organist with some of the West Side Lutheran Churches. A former member of the American Guild of Organists, he attended Case School of Technology.

An Evangelism survey on September 20, 1964, took place with ninety calls made. September 19, 1964, we welcomed Pastor and Mrs. Minich home from their travels to the Biblical Holy places. They went from Shepherd's Field in Bethlehem, where the angels appeared to the shepherds the night Christ was born, to Nazareth, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of the Agony, the Church of the Nativity, the traditional place where Christ was born, and the Dome of the Rock, now a Moslem Shrine, but where once stood the Temple where a twelve-year old Christ preached to the wise men of Jerusalem. They reverently traveled the Via Dolorosa, the hall to Calvary. Fourteen Stations mark the way of the cross. They visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which now enshrines the traditional places of Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection. In Jerusalem, in Haifa and Tel Aviv, the Minichs left the Holy City to travel in "Paul's footsteps" to Damascus and Syria, to Athens, Greece where they saw the Acropolis and places Paul had preached. They visited Corinth and its ruins. In Rome they toured Vatican City, St. Peter's, the Pantheon, the Forum and many religious sights. They visited Florence and her museums and cathedrals and took a look at Michelangelo's works of art. Then they went to Venice and St. Mark's Cathedral, and on to Milan, where they viewed Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper". October 18, 1964, Pastor and Mrs. Minich shared their travels with the congregation in film as they retraced their steps with us.

November 11, 1964, ninety members began their first classes of the Bethel Bible studies. The following week, the Thank-offering services took place with a Bible study and the election of WOC officers, Dorothy Pintner as president and Betty Vannucci as vice-president.

The Pro Deo Et Patria Award was presented to James R. Wilbanks on November 8, 1964. This award is the highest Scouting Citation that a Lutheran boy in the Scouts can receive.

Twelve new members were received into the family of Redeemer on December 6, 1964, after completing ten weeks of instruction in the Lutheran Faith.

On December 6, 1964, the Sunday School Advent Christmas Program was held. The theme "Lo, He Comes" was presented as we learned the significance of the Four Advent Symbols and Four Advent Candles. A concert was held at the Church with both the Junior and Senior Choirs, along with the Hand Bell Choir from North Royalton Methodist Church.

The Hannah Guild presented the WOC Christmas program with a summary "Empowered by the Spirit to do His Will" with slides of some of the places that St. Paul traveled. There were games, exchange of gifts, refreshments and Christian Fellowship that everyone enjoyed.

The men of the church enjoyed a Christmas fellowship dinner on December 20, 1964, with table tennis, the singing of Christmas songs, and general conversation of interest to all.

Twenty new members were received this 20th day of December, 1964, celebrating the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with us as one family, and again on Christmas Day. The New Year's Service on New Year's Eve of 1964 brought to a close another year for Redeemer.

Redeemer Lutheran Church on January 10, 1965, was host to a Protestant Community Fellowship Program for the three Protestant Churches in the Brook Park area, the Community Church and the Methodist Church. True Christian fellowship prevailed as we gathered in His name. It was at this time a decision was made that a "Family of the Week" program be initiated so that each member could become better acquainted with the others. A picture and a brief outline of each family was posted in the foyer.

By January 13, 1965, a total of eighty-five more members had registered for the second semester of Unit I in the Bethel Bible Series with registrations opened for the April Classes.

The Brotherhood re-elected Don Anderson as president and Luther Weaver as vice-president on January 20, 1965. Plans were made at the time to erect a cross on the grounds of Redeemer. The Civil Defense, in June of 1964, removed the large beam from a barn on Smith Road that was built by Mr. Julius Schaaf's father in 1858. Mr. Schaaf, at this time, the oldest charter member, was born on that farm August 4, 1869. The Men of the Church made the cross from this beam and so it is called, "The Old Rugged Cross".

By February of 1965, the members of the Building Committee for the new Church unit had interviewed six architectural firms, made numerous visits to churches of different denominations, and held many meetings. Reports to the congregation were made, and at the Congregational meeting on March 19, 1965, final approval was given to have the architects Conrad and Fleishman to design the new church unit of Redeemer.

In April of 1965 the American Lutheran Church observed the fifth anniversary of the organization of a United Family of nearly five thousand congregations and over two million six hundred thousand members. From Christ, through the Church, by the local congregation, to the individual: this is how the message of salvation is brought to man. Locally, Redeemer has benefited greatly by the blessings of Christ through the American Lutheran Church. Many of us have come to know the Grace of God anew because this church came to this community. We saw evidence of this continuously as we received 19 more members into fellowship, April 10, 1965.

Our small but growing library held Open House April 11, 1965, displaying new books and information available to its members, with a total of two hundred and fifty-seven books. Some of these books were given as memorial gifts and others were donated by various people.

Good Friday, April 16, 1965, at three pm the Luther League draped "The Old Rugged Cross" in black signifying the death of our Lord. The Scriptures tell us Christ gave up His Spirit at the third hour of the afternoon, dying for all our sins. On Easter morning at five am the Luther League draped the Cross in white, signifying the resurrection of our Lord. A crown was placed between the cross bars signifying victory over death.

April 21, 1965, the third Unit 1 of the Bethel Bible Series began and registrations started for the fall semester.

"Ask, Believe and Receive" was the theme of the May 2, 1965 Mother and Daughter Banquet. A silly hat contest took place with all guilds participating.

May 9, 1965 - members of the Senior Confirmation Class were received by Rite of Confirmation, completing two years of study.

Installation of the Church Council was held on May 16, 1965, electing Charles Hovey as president and Clarence Pintner as vice-president along with the following members:

Jack Stackhouse	Mel Brubeck	Don Mainzer
Marge Tampson	Ronald Cilli	Luther Weaver
Harvey Booker	Sally Coburn	Al Parry
Glen Smith	Tony Trocano	Ed Williams

The women of the church held a retreat at the Methodist Children's Farm. The topic "The Four Loves", a book written by C.S. Lewis, was the study, with prayer and meditation. The women from Divinity Lutheran Church joined us in this spiritual fellowship, closing with Holy Communion.

On June 6, 1965 we welcomed Miss Reggie Hunter, former District Officer of the Luther League, for a two-week stay as she assisted our Luther League in their programs. "A Time to Live" was the topic in prayer and Bible study as our youth held their retreat at the Kiwanis Cabin in metropolitan Park. It was at this time they bade farewell to Miss Hunter.

June 14 to 24, 1965, Redeemer held Daily Vacation Bible School. The overall theme was "I Believe in God". The topic was broken down into visiting foreign missionaries on St. Paul's Plane of Faith. They departed from Redeemer "Airlines" on a pretend trip around the world with stop-overs in Japan, India, Africa and various other countries in study to see what children in far away countries believe about God.

By July 1965, Redeemer Lutheran Church numbered more than five hundred members. One-fifth of this membership was actively participating in the Bethel Bible Studies.

On July 11, 1965, 11 new members were received into the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church with another 15 beginning their ten-week study in the Lutheran Faith.

The new officers for the Women of the Church were introduced at the annual Women's picnic. (Dorothy Pintner as president and Doris Benedict as vice-president.) Swimming, games and fellowship followed the Bible Study.

The Sunday School and Church picnic was held at Wintergreen Hill on August 15, 1965.

On September 11, 1965, the men of the Church were host to all the brotherhood of the Cleveland Conference for the annual Ray Saylor Memorial Corn Roast. Dr. Merlin Hoops, Professor of New Testament at the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary, was the guest speaker.

The Evangelism committee surveyed two hundred and forty-four homes this September, carrying with them personal invitations to become part of our growing family. At this time 15 new members were welcomed after their completion of an adult instruction course.

A presentation was made November 14 1965 at the congregational dinner and meeting by our architects of the new worship area, Mr. Conrad and Mr. Fleishman. Slides of different phases of the proposed building plans were shown. A motion was made and carried that we accept the preliminary plans for the new worship and administration building as proposed by the architects.

Nine new members were received on December 12, 1965 after completing 10 weeks in adult instruction class.

On December 19, 1965 the Sunday School classes took us to Brookpark Memorial School for their Christmas presentation of "How Great a Gift", where the children from the nursery class to intermediate classes performed in the true Christmas Spirit. After the program, all returned to the church for a dinner and following, the teenagers put on a very gay and delightful play entitled, "Way Way Way Down East", an old time melodrama.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was held and midnight services with Holy Communion followed. Worship services were offered Christmas morning as Redeemer members and friends gathered together to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We closed the year again with New Year's Eve Vesper Services on December 31, 1965.

Friday January 7, 1966, Mr. Mark Henderlie, Resident Counselor, arrived at Redeemer for a ten day Stewardship Program to assist the congregation in our preparation for the building of our worship

area. This program helped to determine the future of our church. As a result of this program, we had a clearer picture concerning our hopes and dreams for the future. Nearly two hundred members actively participated in the four Bible studies offered. The results of the program brought a total of \$124,430.58 pledged by two hundred and ninety members.

Sunday January 9, 1966, Redeemer held its first Sunday School Open House as parents joined in sharing lessons with their children and teachers, giving them a better understanding of the work of the Sunday School department and the Parish Education Committee.

The first get-together of the "Married Couples" group was held at the church on January 23, 1966 with guest speaker Mr. Irwin Ryan, an attorney. His topic "You and Your Will", was most informative. Following, a chili supper was enjoyed by all. These gatherings will become a bi-monthly fellowship.

The World Mission Committee Ohio District made it possible on Tuesday, March 1, 1966 to hear Pastor Luthardt Eid speak to us concerning the work of our church in Hong Kong.

Mid-week Lenten services began this year of 1966 with Ash Wednesday services February 23, with "The Transfiguration" to Good Friday's three-hour services and a 7:30 Tenebrae service. Again the Luther League draped the "Old Rugged Cross" in black on Good Friday and in white on Easter morning April 19, 1966, as we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our pastor, Norman Minich, this April of 1966, just completed a two year term as treasurer to the Cleveland Ministerial Association and also a four year term on the Southwest District Committee of the Family Service Association, serving as president this past year.

We welcomed Dr. Mars A. Dale, the Assistant Director of Evangelism of the American Lutheran Church, as our guest speaker Sunday, April 17, and again the following three evenings for the "Christian Family Life Week" program. Dr. Mars' topics were "Christ in the Home" and "Living Seven Days a Week with Jesus".

The semi-annual congregation dinner and meeting was held April 24, 1966, with the election of new church council members as follows:

Charles Hovey, Pres.	Clarence Pintner, 1 St VP	Jack Stackhouse, 2nd VP
Jim Coates	Tony Immormino	Tony Garcia
Dick Howell	Sally Coburn	Al Parry
Joe Sabo	Dick Stetina	Norma Stoessner
Jim Suci	Tony Trocano	Luke Weaver

A spaghetti dinner was enjoyed by the mothers and daughters in their annual banquet May 1, 1966. It was served by the men of the church and followed by a talk by Miss Alta Madden, a missionary nurse from New Guinea.

The married couples group gathered again with a dinner and a special guided tour of Holland, led by Mrs. Ludia Calvage of Berea.

The average attendance for May 1, 1966 was 312 and the average enrollment was 424. Last year at this time the average attendance was 287 and enrollment was

328. We believe that everyone ought to enjoy the great blessings and marvelous fellowship which believers enjoy in the Christian Church, the church which instructs children, trains young people, builds noble character, fortifies and strengthens all for life's varying experiences, ministers to millions through its program of mercy and missions, and that everyone outside the fellowship of Christ is really missing the best and finest things in life we have. We will continue to extend the invitation to come to church and share the privileges and blessings of the church. It is for this reason that we continue Evangelism invitation to our neighbors and friends. This month, the Evangelism committee extended the hand of fellowship to one hundred and eighty families in the community,

Twenty-three of the Senior Confirmation Class were received by Rite of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 29, 1966. May they receive the Crown of Life which waits all who are obedient unto death.

On June 6, 1966, Mr. Charles Lindamood, charter member of Redeemer, Graduated from Capital University after a four year study. He entered the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in

Columbus on September of 1966, to continue another four years of studying for the ministry.

The newly elected officers for the Luther League for 1966 were Bob Ellis, president; Jack Stackhouse, vice-president; Diane Goble, secretary; Sandy Good, treasurer.

On June 12, 1966, thirty-seven members completed the Bethel Bible Series Study of six semesters which were spread over a two year period. Completing both the Old and New Testament.

Daily Vacation Bible School started June 20 this year with classes both morning and evening. The overall theme "I Believe in Jesus" was geared to the different age groups. The "Chuck Wagon" cook-out took place June 26 closing the two weeks' DVBS with the youth, highlighting the evening with a Variety Show.

On July 3, 1966, we extended the hands of Christian fellowship to thirteen new members joining Redeemer's family.

The annual Women of the Church picnic was held on July 17, 1966 with swimming, games, dinner, fellowship and devotions at the home of Mrs. Terry Lewis. The yearly Sunday School and Church picnic was held in the metropolitan Park area August 28. A Basket lunch was enjoyed.

This August of 1966, Redeemer Luther Church membership numbered five hundred forty-three with a total of two hundred and fifty-two families in the congregation. The Brotherhood extended an invitation September 11 to all men of the church and their friends to attend the Ray Saylor Memorial Corn Roast Dinner, followed by films recapping the 1965 Cleveland Browns' Football Season. The guest speaker was Joel Daly, a Cleveland Television Sports announcer.

The married couples group played host to their guest speaker from the State Highway patrol with a very informative evening on September 18.

The women's retreat was held on Wednesday September 21, at the Methodist Youth Farm in Berea. Scripture study was from the book of Proverbs on "the Woman". Mr. Robert Moresko from the Lutheran Children's Aid was guest speaker. His topic was "The Women's Role as Wife and Mother".

A new church choir composed of 2nd and 3rd graders, to be known as the Cherub Choir, began under the leadership of Mrs. Marilyn Sundeen September 22, 1966.

The Thank-offering Services were held on Friday, October 21. Pastor Elfers from the Service Society delivered the message.

October 30, 1966, nine new members were received into the family of Redeemer after completing the ten-week course in the Lutheran Faith. On this same date, the married couples group held a Halloween costume party with a box lunch, games and dancing.

The semi-annual congregational meeting took place November 13, 1966, with reports from the various council committee chairmen. A dinner preceded the meeting. It was at this time Pastor, after prayerful consideration, announced his decision to decline the call from Town Line Lutheran Church.

On Wednesday the 16th of November, representatives of our National Church Body joined with representatives of other Lutheran Churches in Cleveland to organize the Lutheran Council in the United States of America. The new agency will link the Lutherans of America in theological study and works of Christian service. We take note of this important event with prayers of Thanksgiving and intercession.

A new venture was undertaken by a group of local churches in cooperation with the Lions' Club. A Coffee House Ministry was provided at the Southland Shopping Center. An Open House was held December 1 and 2. The Coffee House will be known as "The Net."

A "Prelude at Christmas" was held at Marguerite Raub School on December 4. Redeemer's three choirs, Senior, Junior and Cherub choirs and the choir from St. Phillip's Episcopal Church participated in a Christmas festival.

This year's Sunday School Christmas Pageant was presented December 11, at Brookpark Memorial School. A stage play entitled "One Night in Bethlehem" was enacted by the intermediates. Carols were sung by pre-school and intermediate children.

This year, our Christmas Tree on the Altar was decorated on December 14, 1966 with gold and white symbols called Chrismons, which refer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. These designs were originally created by the early Christians to identify themselves to one another and to designate their meeting places during the time when they were being persecuted for their beliefs. Others were used by inspired writers of the Bible. Still others were new interpretations which add depth to our understand of

our Lord and ~our relationship to Him. All Chrismons were made in white, the liturgical color for Christmas, referring to our Lord's purity and perfection, and gold, for His majesty and glory.

The women of the church elected Doris Hovey as their president and on December 16 held their Christmas party ad Johnny Garneau's Restaurant. A smorgasbord was served with songs and a gift exchange.

December 18 seven new members joined in closing another year in Redeemer celebrating Christmas service with us. The Christmas Candlelight service and New Year's Eve Vesper Services closed the year of 1966.