

Brief History – Faith Lutheran Church Albany, Oregon

**Original article by Timothy F. Arnold, October 26, 1975
revised and added to by Shirley Schoberg-Hebda, September 2011**

In the years immediately following World War II, the Albany area experienced a continuing growth rate as did much of our country. A number of surveys made in this area convinced the United Lutheran Church, Augustana Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church that a need existed to administer to the spiritual wants of many Lutherans and unaffiliated peoples who were not at this time being served.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in the early part of 1950 was given approval in a cooperative effort to organize another Lutheran Church in Albany. This endeavor was strengthened by the Home Mission Board of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who authorized the establishment of a mission congregation in Albany and made monies available for the acquisition of land, and the construction of a church and parsonage. A call was extended by the home office of the B.L.C. to Reverend Waldo Ellicksen of Milwaukie, Oregon to establish this mission. Subsequently, on June 9, 1950 Rev. Ellicksen accepted the call.

Rev. Ellicksen was installed at Albany on August 22, 1950. Immediately following the installation a preliminary organizational meeting was held with 33 members attending. After becoming formally organized there was much discussion as to a name for the congregation and the name of Faith Lutheran Church was unanimously adopted.

The Ellicksen family moved into a house on Ferry Street and began to help with the gigantic task of establishing a new church. The responsibility for this work fell to the original members and especially the Ellicksen family.

The first regular church services were held by Rev. Ellicksen on October 1, 1950 in the Adventist Church with about 40 people in attendance.

This attendance encouraged the original group to select a parsonage and church site; as they had been authorized to do by the Home Mission Board. They selected the block of land on which the church, parsonage, Sunday School building and Pink Poodle (now the Cornerstone) now stand. This block was purchased from Mrs. Maggie Sullivan for \$12,000.00 with \$100.00 in earnest money deposited until formal papers could be prepared, executed and sent to Albany by the Home Mission Board.

Many meetings were held concerning plans for the church and parsonage. A building committee of five members was elected and they employed Mr. Robert Miller of Salem as the architect. After the plans were completed and accepted by the home office work began on the parsonage October 23, 1950. It was completed in March 1951 at a cost of approximately \$13,000.00. The Ellicksen family moved in on March 7, 1951 and the formal dedication of the parsonage was on Palm Sunday, March 18, 1951. Rev.

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Ellicksen was formally installed as Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church on March 18, 1951 by Dr. H. L. Foss, President of the Pacific District of the B.L.C.

After becoming self-supporting on June 1, 1951, the church continued to make steady progress and by January 1, 1958 had a total membership of 432. By 1958 it became evident that additional space was needed. A building program was commenced and the second unit of the church was completed consisting of sixteen classrooms, a kitchen, library, fellowship hall and various improvements in the existing church structure.

On July 12, 1959 a “Certificate of Appreciation” from the Home Mission Board at Minneapolis, Minnesota, was presented to the congregation for paying off the loan on the original church and parsonage.

With the merger in 1961 of the American Lutheran Church, Evangelical Lutheran, United Evangelical Lutheran and several smaller groups into the A.L.C., the church emerged stronger in its determination to be of service to all who needed it whether in times of reflection or of need.

The 1960’s saw great growth in the church and a spreading of activities that reflected the changing times.

These pastors have served Faith Lutheran Church:

Waldo Ellicksen 1950-1958

James Burtness 1958 – 1960

Dennis Anderson 1960 - 1962

Robert Oestreich 1962 - 1973

Arnold Anderson 1974 – 1988

Nicholas C. Doversberger 1989 – 1998

Walter Gustav (*Interim*) 1998 – 1999

Laurel Ann Lofsvold 1999 – 2009

Dawn Gregg 2009 – 2016