

FAITH EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF NORTH KITSAP

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

26736 Miller Bay Road, N.E.  
Kingston, Washington 98346

## THE KINGSTON MISSION

This is the Story of the Kingston, Washington Lutheran Mission. Although actual work was not started until March 21, 1972, it had been a spiritual dream for at least four years. Kingston is a thriving ferry town located at the west end of the Edmonds-Kingston Ferry line. About four years ago, Mr. & Mrs. Alex Dombrowsky moved to Kingston and started operating the A & M Food Market, so named for the initials of Mr. & Mrs. Dombrowsky; namely, Alex and Maureen. At that time, my sister, Mrs. Margi Gibson, moved to Kingston. (Maureen is Margi 's daughter)

From time to time, we visited there, even considered investing in land with the idea of eventually retiring to this delightful town. We envisioned considerable population growth because of its strategic location and being conveniently located near Metropolitan Seattle. We did, however, decide against investing for several reasons.

Every time we visited there, we spoke of the need of a Lutheran Church for the community, since there was none closer than Poulsbo, about 15 miles away. We found that there were a number of Lutheran families in the area, and several indicated, in general conversation, that they surely wished that there were a Lutheran Church nearer to them. This was also the concern of Lutheran families on the North Kitsap peninsula, such as Hansville, Indianola, and others.

One day I was asked if it could be possible to establish a Lutheran Church in the Kingston area. It was just too difficult to get to Poulsbo for Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Activities, Organizational Meetings, and Worship Services.

This was early in 1970. I decided to do some checking. Was anyone doing any missionary work in the area? Who could sponsor such work? The Association of Free Lutheran congregations had looked at the field but decided against it because of lack of funds. Who could take over the actual work? I decided to check with Faith Lutheran Seminary in Tacoma to see if it might be feasible to use one of the students, possibly on an internship basis. They agreed that this could be arranged. However, there was one hitch. The ALC would not accept (and still does not) students for internship from the Seminary. So, as far the ALC was concerned, it was a foregone conclusion that we could not get satisfaction from that source. The LCA and the Missouri Synod, being in co-operation with the ALC would likewise be out of the picture. There was but one avenue open; namely, to start as an independent mission and, if and when the time comes for admission into either of the aforementioned synods, we might be accepted.

There cannot, of course, be any idea that we are infringing on any other Lutheran Congregation. With a considerable population increase, it is inconceivable that fifteen miles is too close to an existing church. After we organized at Bethel, one LCA set up operations 185 blocks away, another LCA just 12 blocks away and one Missouri congregation set up house about six blocks from Hope Lutheran. If a congregation can serve its own community, it is doing very well. I can foresee about three Lutheran congregations in North Kitsap. We must look toward the future. We must be there when the population moves in. That's Christian progress. There had been rumors that First at Poulsbo was contemplating more intensive work to the North, but it takes more than contemplation. We could wait no longer.

In correspondence with me, the Rev. Peter Tengesdal, pastor of First Lutheran in Poulsbo, stated on November 23, 1971, "For some time I have felt that the Lutheran Church has not been able to serve the north end as effectively as it should be doing. I know there are many former Lutherans living in the area -- some of whom are members of First Lutheran, and others whose membership has been lost." Regarding the possibility of the Vinland Congregation serving the area, he stated, "At one time I felt that perhaps Vinland, the other Lutheran congregation out in the country, and First Lutheran could become a two point parish, with two pastors serving the entire north Kitsap area! This, however, seemed to fall through when Vinland finally obtained their own shepherd." In speaking about the District involvement, he stated, "Since that time, Pastor Ted Brueckner has been here to look over the entire field -- in a brief manner, from the car window, that is."

## THE KINGSTON MISSION

With this added information at hand, we decided that someone should get to work. We mailed a letter to as many residents of the Kingston-Indianola-Hansville areas as we could find, regardless of their church affiliation. I quote in part from said letter: "There is a movement afoot to organize a Lutheran Congregation in Kingston in the near future, and we would like to have a few people, particularly of Lutheran background to get together to discuss the possibility of such a venture. The movement has been inaugurated by Dr. Carl O. Pederson, Pastor of Bethel Lutheran of Shoreline, Seattle, Washington, and a few interested members of that church, and some her in the Kingston area who recognize the importance of having a Lutheran Church which would serve the community. Although Bethel of Shoreline is an ALC congregation, as Pastor Pederson is an ALC pastor, a congregation here might, at least for the time being, be an independent organization, at least until we see what the structure of the new church will be." The letter invited the recipients to a special meeting at the Kingston Inn, on March 21, at 8 p.m. After considerable discussion, the group voted to sponsor a canvass of the community, on Sunday, April 16th.

A group from Bethel, youths and adults, also some students from Faith Seminary in Tacoma, and residents of the community, turned out for the canvass. The canvassers were instructed to do the following: If they found people who were members of any other churches, they were simply to tell them what we were doing and then leave.

On May 15th, 1972, another letter was sent out (to those who had indicated that they were interested) inviting them to the first Worship Service, which had been scheduled for May 21, at 3 p.m. This was a most inspiring and well-attended Service. Since that time, Services have been conducted every Sunday at 10 a.m.

To date there has been no actual organization of a congregation. Statistics are about as follows: Both Adult and Youth confirmation classes are being conducted; Communion Services have been conducted once a month by Dr. Pederson. Attendance has been as follows: Average attendance, 35; June 14 offering, \$22.00; July 21 offering, \$20.09; August 29 offering, \$29.99. To date, Bethel has contributed \$240.00 to the project, plus gifts by individuals and Vacation Bible school classes; one Altar given by the Oscar Floan Family; a Reredos for back of the Altar, given by the Bethel Vacation Bible School classes; also some old hymnals and discarded confirmation books, and extra devotional booklets and bulletin folders.

Admittedly, this is not an outstanding beginning, but indications are that there definitely is a great future for this dedicated group of His People. We continue to keep hands off families who are members of other churches. We accept them into the fellowship if, they insist that this is where they wish to be.

If I have wronged anyone, I sincerely apologize, but I see that there are souls that need salvation, and we are reminded by Christ: "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day; the night comes when no man can work." John 9:4. Next week, next year, may be too late for some lost soul, while we dicker about who is to do what.

Dr. Carl O. Pederson, Pastor

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FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY

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AGENDA-GENERAL MEETING

April 16, 1972

Kingston Inn, Kingston, Washington

Meeting called for the purpose of finding out the attitude of the key people in the Kingston community, relative to the organization of a Lutheran Church in the area, These matters will be discussed,

1. The reasons for suggesting that a Lutheran Church be established here.
  - a. There are a number of Lutheran families and individuals living within the Kingston area who are Lutherans, or potential Lutherans.
  - b. There is no Lutheran Church in the North Kitsap Peninsula area north of Poulsbo, which is about 15 miles away.
  - c. A special problem is to get children to Poulsbo, particularly for Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, and general youth activities, many of which occur during weekdays and weekday evenings.
  - d. It is important that we have a Lutheran Church in any community, if there are sufficient numbers who would be concerned.
  - e. Church activities here would be concerned with this entire community.
  - f. There is a definite Mission Field here besides the need of active Lutherans. There are the nominal Lutherans who could possibly be brought back to the Church, and then there are the non-Church people, who should be our concern.
2. Future prospects for this community.
  - a. Population trends for this area are on the increase. People are moving here to get away from the congested urban areas across the Sound. Twenty-five years from now this should be a very thriving community and the Lutheran Church should be ready to welcome the new arrivals.
  - b. Oil drilling may make a considerable change population-wise in a very few years, if the drilling is successful. If it does, we should be ready for it, and the time for that is before it happens.
  - c. Then there is the North End of our community, Hansville, and the surrounding farming area, as well as the many homes along the Shores of the Sound. There also is the area along the South Shore, and the farming area to the west.
3. Can we do it? How many would it take to start such a program? How about finances?
  - a. Groups smaller than this one, and with less promising prospects, have started very successful churches. Of course, it takes effort and a real determination.
  - b. Leadership will be provided by folks who have experience in this type of program.
  - c. Some material support is already secured.
    - Bethel Lutheran of Shoreline voted \$1,000.00, if needed.
    - A complete set of Church furniture, including an electronic organ, is available.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
17404 8th Avenue N. E.  
Seattle, Wash. 98155

May 15, 1972

Friends of the North Kitsap Peninsula  
Washington.

Dear Friends in Christ:

We are now ready to take the next step toward the establishment of a Lutheran Congregation to serve the North End of the Kitsap Peninsula. With the results of our recent survey tabulated, we are convinced that there are definite favorable possibilities for such a move.

After pretty thorough investigation and thought, plus discussion with interested folks, we have decided, at least for the first service, to meet in the Grange Hall, two miles west of Kingston. This seems quite centrally located, and the room which we can use is very acceptable and it is available.

WE HAVE SCHEDULED A WORSHIP SERVICE FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY. MAY 21st, at 3 P.M. This will be sort of a trial balloon, At that time we will discuss future possibilities with those who are concerned. We hope you will make an effort to be with us at that time.

Mr. Irwin (Ervin) Dobberstein, student at Faith Lutheran Seminary in Tacoma, and Dr. Carl O. Pederson, Pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church in Seattle, will be in charge, and both will speak. We will also have special music.

I have one favor to ask of you. The room we will use has not been used for some time, and does need some cleaning, dusting, and arranging of chairs, and moving furniture around. We hope some of you can come over on Saturday afternoon to help with this work.

We will be looking for you on Sunday, May 21st, at 3 P.M.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Carl. O. Pederson.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION  
NORTH KITSAP PENNINSULA  
Washington

February 1, 1973

TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OUR CONGREGATION:

GREETING IN CHRIST JESUS, OUR LORD

I understand that we are all cordially invited to a Covered Dish (Potluck) dinner at our Church on Sunday evening, February 4, 1973, 6:30 P.M. I hope you can be there.

Besides the wonderful eats, we have a number of very interesting features:

1. Reports on the Progress to date.
2. Presentation, in pictures and words, by Mr. & Mrs. John Halloway, who have served two terms as Missionaries for Bethel Lutheran Church of Seattle. They have served in Tanzania, East Africa, and in Cuenca, Equador.
3. What our procedure should be from now on, after a year of congregational activity.
  - a. Shall we continue to operate as a Church in this community?
  - b. Is there a field here, or is the community adequately served from Poulsbo
    - Sunday School ?
    - Worship attendance?
    - Confirmation Instruction?
    - Bible Study?
  - c. Is it now time to officially organize?
  - d. We should have an official name, what shall it be?

This should give you something to think about between now and Sunday Evening.

See you in Church, on Sunday Evening.

Dr. Carl O. Pederson

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION  
NORTH KITSAP PENINSULA

February 5, 1973

Dear Friends:

It was good to be with you people on Sunday Evening. I enjoyed the whole evening, and so did the Hallowsays.

I still believe that the Kingston area definitely has a need for a Lutheran Church. Had hoped that there would have been some more time to discuss the whole situation on Sunday Evening.

As far as I can understand it, there are quite a number of good prospects for a Church in the Community. I did send out about 30 invitations before the Sunday meeting, and I hoped that some of those who have expressed some interest might have shown up so that we could have talked to them about the possibilities. By the way, practically all those who were sent the letter were not connected with Poulsbo.

Is there sufficient possibility for growth of a Lutheran Church here? I believe it has tremendous possibility. There is only one way this community can grow, that is forward and upward.

Can this community be successfully served from Poulsbo? How can it possibly be 7, 10, 15, 20 miles is just too far for people to go for Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, Worship Services regularly, weekly Bible Study. Is it time to officially organize this congregation? Actually there is no particular reason why we must do so at this time. It might have some advantage.

Should we have an official name? Actually, I believe that it might be in order to select a name -- permanent name, so that people will know who we are. This would be important in our publicity.

Should we be having a Pastor of our own? I believe that would be very good. We might be able to make an arrangement whereby we could call at least a part-time Pastor; perhaps a man who could hold a part-time job, say for 5 or 6 hours a day, week-days, to help provide a living salary. He could then serve the community during the afternoons and weekends, as our Pastor. You might be thinking about that approach.

Should we be thinking about a permanent Church? This might be a bit premature. Our present quarters are definitely adequate and the building is in quite good repair. How about affiliating with a specific Synod? Why should we? There would be nothing special to gain. It might be better to see how the present church bodies decide to go.

Just a few thoughts. Bethel Lutheran of Shoreline has again voted some partial support. It could be a help in calling a Pastor.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Carl O. Pederson

A group of local residents agreed to the establishment of a Christian Lutheran Church in mid 1973. The following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION**

*WHEREAS being sensible of our spiritual needs and the needs of the community and mindful of our Christian duties in Jesus' name and with the hope of His blessing we the undersigned*

*THEREFORE RESOLVE to take the steps necessary to organize as a full-fledged Christian Lutheran Congregation.*

*WHEREAS this is seen as requiring some additional steps to be taken, such as the writing of a Constitution for subsequent adoption and preparing the necessary papers to meet State requirements,*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the necessary people be selected and charged with completing same, hopefully by June 10, 1973.*

Name	Date
Mitsi Nelson	May 13, 1973
Margie A Gibson	May 13, 1973
Eddie S. Lohre	May 13, 1973
Carl E. Anderson	May 13, 1973
Ruth M. Anderson	
Lois Rose	May 16, 1973
Fred Tullar	May 16, 1973
Louis Triebenbach	May 16, 1973
Violet Triebenbach	May 16, 1973
Alex Dombrausky	May 20, 19673
Maureen Dombrausky	
Dallas DeLay	May 20, 1973
Clarice DeLay	May 20, 1973
Alberta Syverson	May 20, 1973
Helmer Syverson	May 20, 1973
Glen Rose	May 20, 1973
Marilyn Davis	May 20, 1973
Floyd M. Davis	May 20, 1973
Howard A. Dean	May 20, 1973

Mary A Dean

May 20, 1973

CHARTER MEMBERS

Voting

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Lohre

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Davis

Mrs. Gerald Orr

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas DeLay

Captain and Mrs. Robert Nelson

Rev. and Mrs. Ervin Dobberstein

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Rose

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Dombrausky

Mr. and Mrs. Helmer Syverson

Mr. David Dombrausky

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Triebenbach

Mrs. Janet Egan

Mr. and Mrs., Fred Tullar

Mrs. Margie Gibson

Communicant

Miss Terrie Nelson  
Miss Rebecca Tessmer

Baptized

Jennifer Dollar

Lee Triebenbach

Roger Nelson

Mark Triebenbach

Anne Triebenbach

Neil Triebenbach

Kay Triebenbach





The Bremerton Sun, August 29, 1973



REV. ERVIN DOBBERSTEIN

***Pastor Installed at New Church***

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Kitsap, which meets in the Grange Hall outside Kingston, was the site of a special service on Aug. 26. The first pastor called by the new congregation, the Rev. Ervin C. Dobberstein, was installed.

Dr. Carl O. Pederson of Bethel Lutheran Church of Shoreline, who initiated the new congregation a little over a year ago, conducted the installation service and presented the Lord's Supper.

The Rev. Dobberstein is a native of Dayton, Ohio, who came to the Puget Sound area to enter Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Tacoma. He served three years in the Navy, two in the South Pacific Theater during World War II. He was employed for 29 years by the National Cash Register Co. of Dayton, the last 15 years in the engineering management field.

The Rev. and Mrs. Dobberstein have two grown daughters. Mrs. Jane Brown is currently serving with her husband in a Lutheran mission in New Guinea. The younger daughter, Mrs. Susan Malloy, and son Timothy are residing in Holland, where 1st Lt. Malloy, a navigator in the Air Force, is stationed.

Although the Faith Congregation is a fully independent Lutheran congregation, it is anticipating in the near future affiliating with a conservative group that shares its beliefs.

Home for the Dobbersteins is now just two miles west of Kingston on Star Route 1. They look forward to a rewarding stay in the area.

The Bremerton Sun, November 22, 1975

## **Former Grange to become Church**

By Karen Gorham  
Sun Religion Writer

What was once the Kingston Grange Hall has been turned into a church and it will be dedicated to the service of God tomorrow.

The Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Kitsap now has no ties with any Lutheran synod. It is independent because of the congregation believes, unlike some Lutheran congregations, that the Bible is without error and is the final authority in all matters of faith and life, the Rev. Ervin Dobberstein said. The Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation subscribes to the Lutheran Symbols set forth in the Book of Concord, along with the three ecumenical creeds, he said.

“There is the hope that in the not too distant future all other independent Lutheran congregations who have the same beliefs might be united so that they might be more effective in spreading the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the multitude who so desperately need it,” the Rev. Mr. Dobberstein said.

In 1972 on Pentecost Sunday, 20 persons assembled in the Kingston Grange Hall for services led by Dr. Pederson, the former pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church of Shoreline, who is now a professor at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Tacoma. That was the first meeting of what was to become Faith Evangelical *ran* Church.

The present pastor, the Rev. Mr. Dobberstein, then was third year student at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Tacoma, but he served this group as a student pastor under Dr. Pederson’s supervision until his graduation and ordination. Shortly after the Rev. Mr. Dobberstein became the pastor, the first church council was elected and the church was registered with the State of Washington as a not-for-profit corporation.

Earlier this year, the church purchased the Grange Hall and began to refurbish it. The room where services are conducted takes up only one end of the building’s basement. The congregation is still small and only *has* 68 baptized members but these members did much to transform the Grange Hall into a church, the Rev. Mr. Dobberstein said.

The public is invited to the d dedication day activities. Sunday school will begin, as usual, at 9:45 a.m., regular services at 11 a.m.

At 4:15 p.m. congregation singing groups will put on “A time for music.” The Rev. Dr. Rueben Redal, pastor of Central Lutheran Church, Tacoma and President of Lutherans Alert National, will sing “How Great Thou Art.” His wife, Eleanor, Will accompany him.

A traditional Thanksgiving meal will be served during “A Time for Fellowship” at 5 p.m.

Then, at 6:15 p.m., the Rev. Dr. Pederson will dedicate the church. The Rev. Dr. Redal will speak about “These Building Years.”

(On 9/17/00, Mrs. Dobberstein, widow of Pastor Ervin Dobberstein, attended service at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. At that time she mentioned that a turkey dinner was served in the fellowship Hall to a sit down group of about 150 people at the dedication.)

### **Faith Lutheran plans family Thanksgiving dinner**

The third annual family Thanksgiving dinner of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Kitsap will be held on Nov. 23, and it will take on a special significance this year.

The church's refurbished building, formerly the Kingston Grange Hall, will be dedicated the same day. Guests from as far away as Lacey, Tacoma and Seattle are expected to attend, and the women of the church, coordinated by Mrs. Clifford Granneman, are planning to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

The schedule for the day includes Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and Divine Worship at 11. At 4:15 p.m., there will be "A Time for Music," featuring the Echoes of Faith Bell Choir with Sherri Flaherty, Virginia and Leon Jones, Karen Rodarmel, Anne, Kay, Mark and Neil Triebenbach and Pastor Ervin Dobberstein, the director; Faith Sunday School Choir; and a ladies' choral group with Sherri Flaherty, Virginia and Vivian Jones, Karen Rodarmel and Kay Triebenbach. Mrs. Louis Triebenbach will be the accompanist. An honored guest, the Rev. Dr. Reuben Redal, will sing "How Great Thou Art" and will be accompanied by his wife, Eleanor.

Dinner will be served at 5 p.m., and dedication ceremonies will begin at 6:15. Dr. Carl O. Pederson, the founder of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, will dedicate the building. He is the former pastor of Bethel Lutheran of Shoreline and now a professor at Faith Lutheran Seminary of Tacoma.

Others participating in the ceremonies will be Rev. Redal, pastor Central Lutheran Church in Tacoma and president of Lutherans Alert National; Dr. Julius Farup, academic dean and a professor at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary; Rev. Theodore Schubkegal, registrar and professor at the seminary; Rev. Carl Randoy, chaplain of the: Scandinavian Seamen's Mission in Seattle; and Lloyd R. Nelson, assistant to the president of Lutheran Bible Institute. Mrs. William Siem of Bethel Lutheran of Shoreline will be the organist, and Rev. Dobberstein, pastor of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, will be the liturgist.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremonies.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church began in the spring of 1972, when six Kingston-area residents met on Pentecost Sunday, May 21. There were 20 persons in attendance at the Kingston Grange Hall. Weekly services were held throughout the summer, and the attendance swelled to a high of 45 on the Sunday before Labor Day.

The present pastor, then a third-year student at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, continued to serve the group under Dr. Pederson's supervision until his graduation and ordination. Pastor Dobberstein was a member of the first class graduated by the seminary and the first one in his class to be ordained.

Shortly thereafter, the congregation was constituted formally, elected its first church council and was registered as a non-profit corporation, an independent congregation having no ties with any of the other Lutheran bodies.

Although the congregation still is small in number (68 baptized members, of which 38 are voting members), much has been accomplished in refurbishing and transforming the building into a church. Fred Tullar, president of the congregation served as chairman of the refurbishing committee, and Mrs. John Velarde was his associate chairwoman.

Other council members are Glen Rose, elder and secretary; Louis Triebenbach, deacon and treasurer; and Dallas DeLay, Alex Dombrasuky and Clifford Granneman, trustees.

News Article 9/20/78

### **Faith Evangelical to note anniversary**

The Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Kitsap, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Federation, will mark its fifth anniversary as a formally organized Lutheran congregation next Sunday, Sept. 24.

The celebration will begin with the regular worship service at 11 a.m. Dr. Carl O. Pederson, professor of Practical Theology at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Tacoma, will be the guest speaker and will also assist in the administration of the Sacrament of the Altar.

Dr. Pederson was the founder of this congregation which actually traces its beginning to April, 1972. However, they did not formally organize and call their first pastor, the Rev. Ervin Dobberstein (who is still serving the congregation), until August, 1973. Pastor Dobberstein also served the congregation as an intern in its beginning.

The celebration will continue at 4 p.m. with a special service of thanksgiving and dedication. Guest speaker is Dr. Rueben H. Redal, pastor of Central Lutheran Church and president of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, both of Tacoma. The Women of Faith will serve dinner to guests from Tacoma and north Seattle, says Alan Shelbourn, chairman of the planning committee.

The congregation purchased their present building and grounds from the Kingston Grange in 1975. That same year they remodeled the lower floor so that a chapel was available for worship. As part of next Sunday's celebration, church members plan to dedicate a bell tower to the glory of God and in memory of Lori Faulkner, who died at the age of 10.

All volunteer labor built the tower. Even the 30-foot-long 4" x 6" vertical timbers were locally cut by Louis Triebenbach and his sons. They also sawed most of the structural lumber used.

A local builder and church member, Dallas DeLay, provided the leadership for the construction crew, made up of most of the men from the congregation. Warren Killick restored the bell to ringing condition.

The bell that is to be officially rung for the first time during the dedication service has a unique history. Judson Keller, brother of Mrs. Dobberstein, located the bell at an antique sale near his hometown of Dayton, Ohio.

News article of about July, 1978



Howard Lyons

### **Howard Lyons installed as Faith Lutheran vicar**

Howard Lyons was installed as vicar at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Kitsap during the regular worship service July 12.

Vicar Lyons is a student at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Tacoma. He resides with his wife, Deborah, and their five children in Tacoma, where they will remain until he has completed his seminary education. He will be serving part time while being employed as a senior data processor systems analyst in Seattle. He is to serve his vicarage over a two-year period under the supervision of the Rev. Ervin C. Dobberstein.

The Lyons family came to the area from Louisiana. As a computer scientist with three year's education in civil engineering at the University of Southern Louisiana, he has traveled extensively working for oil companies.

He is an amateur radio operator and a private pilot licensed to fly fixed-wing aircraft as well as helicopters. Although he will not likely employ all these skills in his vicarage, he is to be exposed to all facets of the parish ministry with special emphasis in the area of ministering to the youth.

Mr. Lyons said he is pleased to have the opportunity to serve his vicarage at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, and upon graduation and ordination is looking forward to serving a congregation which, like Faith Evangelical, is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Federation;

News Item 4/11/79

## **Faith Lutheran Church has groundbreaking ceremony**

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Kitsap held a groundbreaking service March 25, for a parsonage to be erected on the church's five acres on the Suquamish Highway.

Dallas DeLay and Louis Triebenbach were elected to oversee the construction project. Fred Tullar, president of the congregation, will do the cabinet and finish work, Eddie Lohre the plumbing, and Alan Shelbourn will take care of the excavation and septic tank installation. These men are also members of the congregation's governing body.

The congregation purchased the property in 1975, from the Kingston Grange. Church members have until now been concentrating on remodeling the existing building. First the chapel was completed for their place of worship. This was followed by the addition of a bell tower and entrance dedicated last year.

News Article, Kitsap Herald, about July 1981

**Faith Evangelical started as a mission**

by Mario Zuarri

The Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is one of two Washington State churches in the Evangelical Lutheran Federation.

The organization is small, but growing. There are currently member churches in New York State, Indiana, Louisiana and Ohio.

Faith Evangelical started as a mission in 1973. It is located in Kingston at 26736 Suquamish Way N.E., down the road from Kountry Korner. Irwin C. Dobberstein is the church pastor.

Reverend Dobberstein is originally from Dayton, Ohio. Prior to joining the ministry, he worked in engineering and management for 29 years with the National Cash Register Company. After resigning from that corporation, he entered the Faith Evangelical Seminary in Tacoma and was among the school's first graduates. Faith Evangelical Lutheran is his first pastoral call. He and his wife, Evelyn, are the parents of Mrs. Jan. E. Brown and Mrs. Susan Malloy.

"We basically adhere to the Lutheran Confessions in the book of Concord and we see our purpose as administering to the needs of the soul of man, as well as meeting their physical needs as they present them. Our goal is spiritual, not social," explained the Rev. Dobberstein.

Religious activities and education at Faith Evangelical include Bible studies, catechism, confirmation classes, Sunday worship, adult education, and Sunday school. In addition, the church sponsors an Evangelical Lutheran Federation mission outreach in Michigan City, Indiana, and a missionary in Hong Kong.

In the future, the church hopes to expand its ministry.

"We're still in a growing stage," said the Rev. Dobberstein. "In the distance we see a need to maybe start a parochial school, and even farther off in the future we'd like to build a new church. That's quite a ways away, however, but a year ago we erected a new parsonage and we're currently buying the old grange hall. We've refurbished it and built a new chapel inside."

Pastor Dobberstein believes the main issues in Christianity today are upholding the truth of the Scriptures, sin, and forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ.

"We're living in an age," said Pastor Dobberstein, "where many people are refusing to accept God's word. They're saying everything is relative, which gives them the idea they can do anything they want. They think that nothing is right or wrong but that everything is relative. This is not in the word of God."

Pastor Dobberstein continued, "When I speak of God, I don't mean God in the sense of hard punishment but rather in God in the sense of His truths. The fact that people are turning away from God is showing up in society and is spreading, as we see in things like abortion. The main issue today is sin and the only answer to sin is forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We must uphold the truth of the scriptures."

Kitsap Herald, August 20, 1986

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church to host convention**

by Carol Stull

This weekend, August 22-24, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Kitsap, near Kingston, will host the ninth annual national convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Federation, and the Rev. Ervin C. Dobberstein and his congregation are busily preparing for company.

About 15 guests from churches in California, Ohio, and New York, which comprise the E.L.F. , will join the local parishioners for fellowship, meetings, and a special Saturday night banquet, prepared and served by Faith Lutheran women.

The dinner will feature Dr. Norbert Mueller, a professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., as the keynote speaker. His address will coincide with the convention's general theme: "Forward with Christ with Prayer".

Members of Hope Mission -an extension of the N .K. church, situated on Marrowstone Island - will also participate in convention activities. The Rev. Dobberstein currently serves as pastor for both congregations - traveling between sites each Sunday, to perform his duties.

Pastor Dobberstein has also been president of E.L.F. since it was established in 1977, to unite four formerly independent Lutheran congregations which share a common confession of beliefs.

According to the local pastor, the theological teachings of federation churches basically follow those of Missouri-Synod Lutherans. But the independent group believes in the autonomy of the local congregation and its right to self-government and ownership of its own property.

One problem of non-alliance is the lack of a seminary for training ministers, and the Rev. Dobberstein said his group is working with the Missouri Synod to find an educational source for new pastors.

The federation is also seeking other independent Lutheran congregations from throughout the nation, who would like to join them.

Pastor Dobberstein explained the main concept that separates the independent churches from the main body of Lutherans is their desire to keep "the historic faith" which accepts scripture as the final authority.

He said that today, some Lutherans do not adhere strictly to that belief, but rather have changed to adapt to modern ways. One example he cited is the ordination of women -a practice his group believes is not in accordance with scripture.

"Scripture is timeless - it never changes," said Pastor Dobberstein. " And we believe we have to stay in step with scripture - not with the times."

**Pastor Dobberstein passed away Wednesday  
March 22, 2000 in Dayton, OH.**



*The Rev. Ervin C. Dobberstein*

Was born February 26, 1923 to Adolph and Helene Dobberstein in Dayton, Ohio, where he resided most of his life. On April 1, 1923, he was baptized into the Holy Christian Church at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran by the Reverend M. C. Hecht and confirmed there by The Reverend C. F. Mittler on March 21, 1937. Then on April 27, 1946 Evelyn R. Keller of Dayton and Ervin were united in marriage. Their two daughters were baptized, confirmed and married at St. Paul also.

His primary and secondary education was received at Dayton, Ohio, graduating from Wilbur Wright High School in June, 1941. Early in 1943 he enlisted in the Navy serving for a total of three years during World War II, two of which were in the South Pacific Theater. It was in the Navy that he started training in the engineering field. By 1952 he was advanced enough to start practicing in that field with the National Cash Register Company, his employer for 29 years. The last fifteen years with that firm was in the management end of engineering. In 1970 he resigned to enter Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Tacoma, Washington. In 1973 he was awarded a Master of Divinity degree. His internship was serving a mission congregation in the North Kitsap area and was done concurrently with the senior year. This mission congregation, known as Faith Evangelical Lutheran of North Kitsap, issued the call he accepted becoming their first full-time pastor.

When he retired in June 1993 he returned to live in Dayton. He became a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fairborn where he was active in filling various responsibilities. He has also provided pulpit supply at Bethlehem and at various other parishes in the Miami Valley.

*To God be the Glory*

**Summary Articles About Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church History**

**FAITH CHURCH IN STUDY**

In 20 years, many Bible studies have covered, either in depth or cursory studies from Genesis to Revelation -- some books a number of times. We have had weekly and/or monthly Bible studies since 1972, led by Pastor Dobberstein.

There have been studies and seminars on Sunday School teacher training, "Competent to Counsel"; evangelism seminars "How the West was Won" and "Good News According to You"; the New Age Movement study; Adult Information Sessions year round and mostly on individual basis. Pastor R. M. Hendricks led a study on the Formula of Concord.

Sunday School classes were offered since July 23, 1972, for all ages and continued year round. At various times we had Junior Lutheran programs on Saturday mornings and 1st - 6th grade catechetical classes mid-week.

Daily Vacation Bible School ran from 1977-1986, bringing in as many as 40 students a year, many from the neighborhood.

Except for Sunday School, the other children's classes were disbanded for the lack of teachers. Many mothers started working outside the home.

Pastor Dobberstein conducted worship services at Martha and Mary Nursing home bi-monthly for two years. Women's and children's' choirs sang and we served cookies for refreshments.

The congregation hosted the Evangelical Lutheran Federation conventions and their mid-term board of directors meetings 5 times each.

**TEACHERS**

Many men and women have served as teachers throughout our 20 years. The one permanent teacher was Pastor Dobberstein. Others who taught or assisted in Sunday School; Daily Vacation Bible School or Junior Lutherans on a regular basis were:

Evelyn Dobberstein	Cindy Morgan
Holly Dollar	Kathy Nettin
Etta Helland	Mr. and Mrs. Marty Peterson
Marvin Horch	Mr. and Mrs. Alan Shelbourn
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Manus	Susie Velarde

Where can one begin to tell about our men? They have offered leadership through the Council and inspiration through their teaching and laymen led worship services. It is impossible to count all the things they have done and all the hours they have spent for their Lord through service to Faith congregation. They have helped our elderly and shut-ins with various tasks. They have driven every nail, painted every board. They have hammered, sawed, dug, glazed, planted, weeded, mowed, felled, built, plumbed, electrified and repaired from floor to rooftop.

We appreciate our men more than words can express for their dedication and leadership in this congregation for the past 20 years. We thank God for such talented and willing workers.

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

1973 Mr. Glen Rose	1981~1982 Mr. Alan Shelbourn
1974-1978 Mr. Fred Tullar	1983-1988 Mr. Marvin Horch
1979 Mr. Glen Rose	1989 Mr. Robert Bronow
1980 Mr. Louis Triebenbach	1990- Mr. Will Morgan
1972.1984 Pastor Dobberstein was Chairman of the congregation and the Church Council	

**PAST SECRETARIES**

1973-1974 Dallas Delay	1983-1984 Alan Shelbourn
1975-1977 Glen Rose	1985-1989 Will Morgan
1978-1979 Dallas Delay	1990-1991 Delay & Shelbourn
1980-1982 Glen Rose	1992- Alan Shelbourn

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS**

1972.1986 Pastor Dobberstein	1987 Eugene Manus
1990 Alan Shelbourn	1991 Henry Thomas

The treasurers of the congregation, and in most cases their wives who served as bookkeepers, have put in double time and duty. They not only count and bank the offerings weekly but pay all the expenses and prepare all the financial statements for the month. The past treasurers are Dallas DeLay, Louis Triebenbach, Warren Killick, Eugene Manus, George Randolph, and Marvin Horch. Mr. Manus served 7 years and Mr. Horch has been serving 4 years to the present time.

**DEDICATED WORKERS**

Many of the men have held positions on the Council for quite a few years. Dallas DeLay served in almost every position from 1973 until 1991; Louis Triebenbach has served since 1973, except for one year, and Alan Shelbourn has served since 1977, also in most capacities; Richard Nettin has been a Trustee since 1978, with one year off; Marvin Horch has served in most all capacities, including Sunday School teacher and conducting the Sunday School opening services since he joined in 1981. Likewise Will Morgan has served continuously since 1983.

Some of the men have served with the Evangelical Lutheran Federation as officers and members of the board of directors. Pastor Dobberstein has been the president since it began in 1977 Charles Henderson served as treasurer, as did Eugene Manus, and Louis Triebenbach is serving in that capacity currently. Marvin Horch is also a member of the board. These men have given of themselves unselfishly to further the cause of the Federation.

The church pianists also serve weekly and additional extra services during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Wedding and funeral services, extra programs such as anniversaries are also included from time to time. The first regular pianist was Marie Tullar who served for 6 years. During that time, Violet Triebenbach played for Sunday School. Following Marie Violet served for 6 years and Susie Velarde played for Sunday School. Then Susie moved to church pianist and has been playing for 7 years now. Violet substitutes for her when needed.

We are so very thankful that God has blessed us and given us very dedicated people with whom to work.

Not an officer, but a contributor whose worth cannot be measured very accurately is the church office secretary Evelyn Dobberstein. She has served as a volunteer for as many years as Faith has been in existence. To list the many activities to which she has contributed would be a monumental task.

But her greatest contributions have been as the Pastor's God-given helpmeet, thereby putting into practice and bringing forth the richness of God's Word and the blessings that His Word proclaims. Even as is written in Proverbs 31: 28 and 29, "Her children stand up and bless her: her husband too; in addition, he sings her praises, saying, 'Many women have done noble work, but you have surpassed them all!'"

**FAITH'S MISSION OUTREACH**

Over the years we have had various missionaries speak to the congregation. The first were Pastor and Mrs. John Halloway who had been to Africa and South America followed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown.

from New Guinea (Mrs. Brown is the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Dobberstein), and Pastor Roger Lai in Hong Kong.

We provided monthly support for Roger Lai even to this time and have also supported Lutheran Bible Translators, the Gideons. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Michigan City, Indiana; Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in El Cajon, California and Hope Lutheran Mission in Jefferson County, Washington.

We have had service projects to benefit the Kingston Ambulance, and a member who needed hearing aids.

### **WOMEN OF FAITH**

The women of the congregation have always been ready and willing to serve whenever the need arose. But in July 1978, they organized themselves into the Women of Faith. Since that time they have had Bible studies, served wedding receptions, funeral luncheons, cooked Thanksgiving dinners and Easter breakfasts, they implemented the first "First Fruits" box to collect food for the less fortunate, they had a Tupperware party to benefit the church kitchen. They purchased lights for the dining room and kitchen; they purchased a riding lawnmower and helped finance a mimeograph machine and hearing aids for a member. They have cleaned and scrubbed, planted, mowed and weeded, cooked and baked. Some of them formed the Altar Guild. Mrs. Ruth Anderson sewed our first fair linen and corporal for the altar Mrs. Gina Bronow sewed the green paraments and Gloria Thomas sewed the purple and white ones.

The latest project undertaken is sewing for the veterans' hospital and area nursing homes. They have made scuffies, lap robes, bibs, pillows and bags for walkers and wheelchairs.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

The very first meeting of the Youth Group was on February 18, 1973, with 16 youths and Pastor and Mrs. Dobberstein present to make pizza. They had a Bible study, a business meeting and played games.

The group waxed and waned over the years depending upon the number of youth in the congregation at the time, availability of sponsors and interest.

They took part in worship services, Easter and Christmas pageants, produced a Reformation Day skit, served as acolytes and altar guild helpers, rang handbells and sang in choirs.

They had Bible studies and discussions on many topics including Aids, alcohol, career planning, drugs, depression/suicide, God Makers film, New Age Movement, peer pressure, Satan worship, sex and dating.

Their service projects included making Christmas wreaths and cookies for shut-ins, went Christmas caroling to shut-ins, hosted fellowship periods, made visits to Martha & Mary Nursing Home, served Easter breakfasts, had church work parties, planted trees on the church property, did yard work for members, and helped package outdated Sunday School material for mailing to overseas missions.

The youth group sponsored Mother's Day luncheons, Father's Day breakfasts, Valentine parties, costume parties, an ice cream social, congregational picnics, family nights and talent shows and a car wash.

They took trips to Wild Waves; Hurricane Ridge for skiing and tubing, camped on the Olympic Peninsula, went roller skating, swimming, fishing and had some shut-ins at the church, played baseball, volleyball and had kite-flying contests.

They ate dump soup, spaghetti, tacos, pizzas and other things too numerous to mention.

The youth are a vital part of our congregation and the hope of our future.

### **SPECIAL MILK PROJECT**

In May of 1980, we learned from Ethel Lohre's Sissiton newspaper, of a successful program being done in South Dakota that was helping patients who had Multiple Sclerosis (MS). The patient took daily doses of colostrum first thing in the morning followed by 8 ounces of water. It seemed to reduce the symptoms of the disease and allowed the patients to function in a nearly normal lifestyle. Some in South Dakota had been on it for a long time.

One of our members had MS and was willing to try the treatment. We also learned of a man in Seattle who was interested. With these two people, we began on a journey of exploration to find the secret formula.

Letters were sent to South Dakota and finally arrangements were made with a local dairyman for the needed colostrum and a veterinarian for the necessary inoculation of the cows. He did it free of charge and only charged us for the serum. "Our" first cow provided milk in July. We went to the farm to pick up the milk in sterilized jugs and brought it to church where we poured it into sterilized thermos jugs. After we skimmed off the cream we packaged it into 3 ounce, lidded containers and froze it until it could be delivered. The news spread and we were soon sending the special milk to 9 people in Washington, Ohio, California and Alaska. All reported that it was beneficial.

A good crew from Faith worked diligently on this project until a doctor published a report that dairy products were not beneficial. However, during the time the MS people were getting the special milk, they related that they were feeling better. We were thankful that we had the opportunity to serve in this manner.

### **A VIEW OF FAITH FROM THE PARSONAGE**

Some things are not recorded in the official history of the congregation. I'd like to relate some of the unknown or little known facts that add to the personality of the congregation.

For instance, while serving his internship during his senior year at the seminary, the then Mr. Dobberstein and I drove up every Sunday for worship services. Since we were just renting the Grange Hall at the time and had no place to leave our supplies, we had to carry the church in the trunk of our car. We had songbooks, candle sticks and candles, all the Sunday School supplies and lessons and an old realtor's sign on a metal post that my husband had painted to read, "Evangelical Lutheran Church" and he would hammer it into the ground before every service.

By the time we came upon the scene, interest in the Grange had greatly diminished and they didn't have enough members to keep up the building and grounds. So in order to earn some money for repairs they rented out the upstairs to people who sponsored dances on Saturday nights and the downstairs to us on Sunday mornings for worship services. My husband and I had to leave Tacoma very early on Sunday mornings to get here in time to fire up the huge old oil furnace and to make sure everything was ready for services. I can still sense the anticipation of not knowing what lurked in the darkness of the building as the door swung open. Sometimes the furnace wouldn't work at all, sometimes in the rainy season there was an inch or so of water covering the floor. To preach while standing in a puddle of water was not uncommon. We often had to clean up leftover beer and whiskey bottles from outside and bodies of revelers inside who couldn't make it home the night before, sleeping on tables or wherever they could. One such stocking-footed, blurry-eyed young lady said someone had stolen her boots. We offered to take her home to Squamish but she refused and walked home in midwinter without her boots.

We didn't have a regular pianist so the first person through the door who could play, at least somewhat, got drafted. One such person was John Nelson who lived in a beach house and spent summers in Kingston. He was the Superintendent of Seattle City Light. Poor John He played partly by ear and partly from notes so when his memory failed him he tried to find the notes to play. It was very interesting and he was such a good sport! One Saturday night the Nelsons had gone to a party over in Seattle. Since he was so conscientious he was worrying about playing the piano the next morning. He asked everyone at the party to come play for him the next day but all refused. He was in quite a state when they returned to their beach home about midnight, but lo and behold, his neighbor's light was still on and she was a pianist so he went over and begged her to play for him. She agreed and John got a good night's sleep after all.

The property sported a "For Sale" sign on the door when we first began services here. We didn't think we could ever buy it but three years later when it was still unsold we decided that we couldn't find a better site and voted to purchase it. Then the remodeling began. One thing I remember, in particular that wasn't funny to the remodelers at the time, but hilarious to watch was when a couple offered to redecorate the women's lounge. They purchased everything to do the job they anticipated would go smoothly since it is a rather small room. While they were hanging the wallpaper, he started at the top to attach the roll of paper and continued down the wall lining up the edges and pasting. She followed him with a squeegee to remove the air bubbles. I'm sure that's the way it is to be done. But what happened was that as soon as they started to move down the wall, the paper started slowly rolling down after them. By the time they reached the bottom, the paper was close behind. That scene was repeated several times and surely would have won a prize on America's Funniest Home Video show.

Then there was the time when there was to be a wedding on Saturday night. A member of their family, with nothing but love in his heart, gave the happy couple a boat trip to Victoria Saturday morning as sort of a pre-wedding trip. After they arrived in Victoria, they realized that the boat wouldn't return them to the U.S. in time for their wedding. They spent the whole day in frenzy trying to find a way home by chartering a boat or a floatplane. I think they finally did fly back and made it almost on time.

Over the past 20 years there have been so many very rewarding and exhilarating experiences. There have been hard times and sadness too to keep everything in balance. And throughout it all we have shared the love of our congregational family who have substituted for our mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren. We have known the love of our Lord Jesus and thank Him who sent us to be among you.

Evelyn Dobberstein

(Editor's Note: Each issue in this column we shall attempt to introduce to you a congregation or person affiliated with E.L.F. We hope it will be interesting, informative, and enable you each to pray more effectively for one another. )

#### FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTH KITSAP Kingston, Washington

It was early spring of 1972, that a group of approximately twenty interested people gathered under the guidance and leadership of Dr. C. O. Pederson in a small banquet room at a local inn situated at the entrance to the ferry dock in Kingston, WA. Their purpose was to survey the general countryside to ascertain whether there was enough interest in the area to start a congregation who would adhere to the Evangelical Lutheran Confessions.

The survey results proved promising and a then seminary student, Ervin Dobberstein, was given the assignment to serve his internship attempting to start a congregation. Dr. Pederson would supervise this activity from his office across Puget Sound at Bethel of Shoreline, where he was pastor.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 21, 1972 the first service was held in a room of the local Grange Hall with 6 people from the community and a nice group from Bethel of Shoreline in attendance. From that day on, regular services were held each Sunday, sometimes in a private home when the Grange Hall was not available. By summer's end, God had worked in such a way that those in the area for the summer only, and the permanent residents, brought together some 45 worshippers for what was to be the last service. However, the year-round residents chose to underwrite the expenses of travel for the intern who would be returning to his final year at Faith Seminary in Tacoma, WA. some 53 miles to the south, that he might; commute each week. By the grace of God and Him working through His people, sufficient support was realized to continue as an informal independent Lutheran congregation. One year later, two young ladies instructed by Mr. Dobberstein, were confirmed by Dr. Pederson on Pentecost 1973. Dr. Pederson also preached the fourth Sunday each month and administered the Sacrament of the Altar.

During the year the people met for study each Wednesday evening using, in part, the Epitome of the Formula of Concord as the topic to ascertain whether all were seeing together since different backgrounds were involved. From this, the group started to work on a constitution, and articles of incorporation. By August of 1973, shortly after Faith Seminary graduated its first class, a member of that class was called and ordained. He was installed Aug. 26, 1973, by Dr. Pederson. The local leadership (council), Messrs, Glen Rose, Dallas DeLay, Fred Tullar, Louis Triebenbach. And Rev. Dobberstein, their first pastor, now set about to complete the necessary documents to be fully incorporated as a congregation in the State of Washington. By October 1973 all was finally accomplished.

One family, the Louis Triebenbachs, became the nucleus of a Sunday School, which has been holding forth ever since. It now has a staff of five teachers.

Having no synodical backing or similar support, the pastor, though provided with housing by a family of the congregation, found it necessary to work part-time. By the grace of God he was able to find very suitable employment at a nearby manufacturing firm. He worked there in the mornings until February 1977, approximately 20 hours each week

Continuing in God's grace, the congregation working together grew in depth and numbers so that when the year 1975 came around and the Grange Hall was offered for sale, they had the vision to commit themselves

to its purchase. God's hand had guided a skilled cabinet maker into their midst. Mr. Fred Tullar fashioned all the chancel furniture. This was accomplished in just a few short weeks. The Triebenbach family donated a large supply of paneling, Mrs. Tullar, the Dombraskey family and the Clare Grahns of Tacoma, donated carpeting and others contributed still more supplies and a meeting room was turned into a beautiful chapel. The grounds and building were dedicated Nov. 1975, to the glory of God with the help of members of Bethel Lutheran of Shoreline and Dr. C. O. Pederson; members of Central Lutheran and Dr. R. E. Redal, along with others from Faith Seminary.

Faith continues to receive God's providential care and keeping. It is to celebrate its 5th Anniversary the Fourth Sunday in September and at that time hopes to have most of their friends from central and Shoreline Ev. Lutheran Church return and help them dedicate a bell and the tower that holds it. The bell was found in Ohio near their childhood home by Mrs. Dobberstein's brother. He shipped it such that it was rung on July 4, 1976. A very interesting thing about this bell is that it was cast the year Washington State became a part of the Union. The bell tower was erected by the members. The structural timbers and lumber were cut from logs by Louis Triebenbach and his sons, Neil and Mark. Some of these logs were trees from their own woods. They once again donated some exterior plywood as well. Mr. Dallas DeLay served as the working crew chief on the actual erection of the tower. The tower is a little over 30 feet high.

We've talked mostly about the physical plant and the progress made there. Only perhaps because it is the most obvious and easiest to observe. Still though, it is somewhat a measure of the commitment of those who make up the congregation. Nonetheless, other activities have been mounted over the years along with the more or less expected kind, such as confirmation classes when there are students. But besides continuing the Wednesday night Bible study there are special studies for the Sunday School staff each month and for people inquiring about what the church teaches. A special course in evangelism, along with the course of Dr. Jay Adams, "Competent to Counsel", has been offered and is to be offered anew this fall. Some are trying their hand at handbell ringing and many faithful serve as hosts *for* a fellowship held after each Sunday worship service. The Women of Faith are formally organizing this year after meeting weekly for 1-1/2 years for Bible Study only. A Daily Vacation Bible School as well as bi-weekly Junior Lutheran program during the school year are provided for the children.

We pray God's blessing continues to be known such that Faith might be used still more in the furtherance of God's Kingdom, not only in the north of Kitsap County, Washington, but even abroad. Further, that God would bless the now 27 member families with still more to His honor and glory.

Much more could be said about each incident that comprises the history of Faith and the effort that has been expended to transform the grounds and building into a more suitable monument to God which can be readily seen with the eyes. And certainly more could be said of the transformation God's Means of Grace has wrought in the lives of these people. Hay this above all continue until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

North Kitsap Herald, August 5, 2000



**New vicar joins Faith Lutheran**

by Tracey Cooper

KINGSTON-There's a new face at the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Vicar Joel Wood and his wife Lee arrived to the church in June from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

"We love it here," Wood said. He is originally from Southern California and calls the Northwest a welcomed change. Wood is completing his education by working at the church.

During his tenure at the church Wood said he plans "to be faithful to the word and sacraments of the ministry."

Faith Lutheran, under Wood's leadership has placed a renewed emphasis on education. For the first time in about 10 years, the church is offering a Vacation Bible School program. It is scheduled from Aug. 14 to Aug. 18, at the church. Classes will run from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. with registration beginning at 8:15 a.m. on Aug. 14. The classes are open to all children ages 5- 10. The theme is an Outback Expedition, said Vacation Bible School Director Kolean Kelley

Confirmation classes begin in September and are open to children in seventh grade or higher. Adult education classes also begin in September for people who want to join the congregation and for current members.

"For Lutherans, it's primary," Wood said of education.

Wood, who has three grown children and four grandchildren, taught second and third grade at a parochial school before becoming a vicar.

The church has about 65 members and is a member of the Lutheran Church *Missouri* Synod. Members are happy about the new addition.

"He is going to be a great gift to us," Kelley said.

For information about the classes, call the church at 291- 2736. ,

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HISTORY OF  
FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTH KITSAP  
Kingston, Washington

1972	April 16	North Kitsap area was surveyed by members of Bethel Lutheran Church in Seattle led by Dr. Carl Pederson, some residents of the area and some students and their wives from Faith Ev. Lutheran Seminary, Tacoma.
1972	May 21	Pentecost Sunday. The first worship service held in the Kingston Grange Hall by people who were to later constitute Faith Ev. Lutheran Church of N.K. Dr. Carl Pederson and Mr. Ervin Dobberstein, seminarian, were the speakers. Mr. Dobberstein was introduced to the congregation. Mr. Dobberstein will serve his internship at Faith Ev; Dr. Pederson will serve communion each month. Six of the 20 in attendance were from the Kingston area
1972	June	First Confirmation class - Terrie Nelson and Rebecca Tessmer
1972	July 23	First Sunday School classes were offered.
1972	August 16	First evening Bible study offered in members' homes
1972	August 27	Received first reredos from Bethel DVBS classes
1972	November 19	First Thanksgiving Dinner and Vesper Service
1972	November 26	First infant, Jennifer Dollar, was baptized
1972	December	Faith became financially independent with no sponsors but with lots of help from friends
1973	February 4	Missionaries Mr. and Mrs. John Halloway spoke
1973	June 10	Mr. Ervin Dobberstein graduated from Faith Seminary
1973	June 17	First youth confirmands: Terrie Nelson and Rebecca Tessmer
1973	July 22	Ervin Dobberstein accepted call to serve mission congregation in Kingston
1973	August 12	Congregation voted on constitution for new church.
1973	August 19	Pastor Dobberstein was ordained at Central Lutheran in Tacoma. Pastor Forrest Stoneburner, good friend from Dayton, Ohio, was the officiant.
1973	August 26	Pastor Dobberstein was installed as pastor of Faith Ev. Lutheran Church of N.K., by Dr. Carl O. Pederson. The Triebenbach family provided the first parsonage. Pastor Dobberstein worked at Fenwick Products on Bainbridge Island for 3 1/2 years.
1973	September 23	First Church Council elected: Glen Rose, President and Elder; Dallas Delay, Secretary and Treasurer; Fred Tullar, Deacon; Alex Dombrausky and Louis Triebenbach, Trustee
1973	October 14	Congregation voted to have Mr. Fred Tullar build chancel furniture
1973	November 18	New chancel furniture was dedicated at Vesper Service following 2nd annual Thanksgiving Dinner

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY

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1973	December 23	First Christmas pageant by the 5 Triebenbach and 5 Jones children plus Stephanie Hampton
1973	December 24	First Christmas Eve Candlelight service. The electricity went off in the whole area an hour before services were to begin. Pastor and members scurried around to find gasoline lanterns and more candles. Dombrauskys brought their whole supply of utility candles from their grocery store and we quickly made drip protectors from all the index cards we had on hand. Shortly before the service was to begin, the power was restored.
1974	November	Youth bell choir "Echoes of Faith", made its debut at Thanksgiving Dinner/Vespers. They played at Junior High Christmas program in December and at Lutheran Alert meeting in Tacoma. Ringers were Leon, Mickel, Virginia and Vivian Jones; Anne, Kay, Mark and Neil Triebenbach, and Karen Rodarmel, directed by Pastor Dobberstein.
1974	November 20	Missionaries Bob and Jane Brown, (daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Dobberstein) spoke at Thanksgiving Vespers
1974	December	Congregation trimmed Christmas tree the first time
1975	May 18	Voted to purchase Grange Hall property, started remodel
1975	November	Dedicated building to the glory of God
1976	July 4	Rang bell sent air express from Dayton, Ohio for the nation's bi-Centennial
1976	December	First Christmas caroling party
1977	August	First Daily Vacation Bible School
1977	August 21	Dedicated missal stand in memory of Dr. F.R. Stoneburner
1977		New fluorescent fixtures for dining room and kitchen purchased by Women of Faith from earnings selling cedar
1977	November 6	Missionary to Hong Kong, Roger Lai, spoke at Family Night. Congregation voted to support him and his family.
1977	December	Dedicated chapel lights designed by Pastor Dobberstein and made by Warren and Myrna Killick
1978	January	Congregation surveyed Federal Way for future church
1978	March 4	Junior Lutheran group started - 12 students -- 7 teachers
1978	March 19	Started work on bell tower
1978	April	Started adult hand bell choir: Evelyn Dobberstein, Jamie Sue Faulkner, Myrna and Warren Killick, Kathy Nettin, Cheryl Offenbacher, Karen Shelbourn and Susie Velarde
1978	May	Curtain drain installed
1978	June	Missionary Roger Lai spoke at Family Night
1978	July	Women of Faith group organized at Killick's home
1978	September 24	5th Anniversary & dedication of bell tower - Dr. C. O. Pederson preached. Bell cast in 1889 was gift from Judson Keller, Dayton, Oh., brother of Mrs. Dobberstein
1978	November	Dedicated Sunday School hymnals in memory of Lori Faulkner

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FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY

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1979	February 11	Approved building parsonage
1979	March 25	Groundbreaking service for parsonage
1979	April 15	First Sunrise service and Easter Breakfast
1979	April 22	Dedicated organ, Clare Grahn, Tacoma, was organist. Honored Marie Tullar for 7 years as pianist.
1979	August 27	Pastor moved into new parsonage
1979	August 29	Faith hosted 2nd annual E. L. F. convention
1979	November 18	Dedicated the parsonage
1979	November 25	Parsonage open house
1980	March	Rainwater flooded church dining room and rest rooms. Emergency repairs and installation of sump pump
1980	April	Started mid-week pre~confirmation classes and choir for 1st - 6th graders
1980	July	Started special milk program for MS patients
1980	October	Women of Faith started "First Fruits" box to collect food for needy
1981	April 12	Dallas DeLay and Louis Triebenbach conducted Lenten service due to Pastor's illness
19681	May 31	First public exam of confirmands
1981	July 12	Vicar Howard Lyons installed as intern
1981	August	Women of Faith rummage sale at the firehall to purchase a hearing aid for a member~~\$789.75 with matching funds
1981	November 15	First responsive reading from catechism in worship
1981	November	First Advent Services conducted
1981	December 20	Building flooded again
1982	February	Started roller skating upstairs for members & friends
1982	May	Faith's Convocation on Great Commission
1982	July	Daily Vacation Bible School
1982	August	Hosted E. L. F. convention
1982	October	Faith Family Fun Day--moved picnics indoors for winter
1982	November	New well dug to 147 feet. Loan of \$2,000.00.
1983	May 1	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pfluger from Lutheran Bible Translators spoke at a family night.
1983	June 12	Surveyed for new mission church on Olympic Peninsula at Port Hadlock
1983	July 17	10 people came to first afternoon Bible study at Chimacum Grange for Hope Mission
1983	July	Faith Daily Vacation Bible School
1983	July 24	First Sunday school class for youth taught at Hope
1983	September	Weekly Singspirations Tuesday nights until Nov, led by Marvin Horch

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FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY

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1983	November 20	10th Anniversary-burned new well mortgage after 1 year indebtedness.
1984	June 10	First worship service of Hope Mission
1984	November 25	First worship service of Hope Mission on Flagler Road First baptisms at Hope: Nathaniel and Randy Rowe
1984	March	Adopted name--Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
1984	April	Pastor no longer chairman of Council and congregation after 12 years & 8 months; the President will shoulder that responsibility
1984	May 19	Celebrated retirement of parsonage debt
1984	May	Faith made pledge to help Hope purchase property
1985	July	Faith had Daily Vacation Bible School
1986	January	Faith hosted E. L. F. Board of Directors
1986		Started building parsonage carport
1986		Hope members joined Faith congregation until they can get formally organized.
1986		Daily Vacation Bible School
1987	February	Faith hosted E. L. F. Board of directors
1987	July	Faith mailed 3123 piece survey mailing to Chimacum, Port Hadlock, Port Ludlow and Nordland
1987	August	Daily Vacation Bible School
1987	August 23	Pastor's 14-year ordination anniversary celebration hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roberts and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Manus.
1987	October 23	Purchased new pews in chapel paid for by memorial funds and special gifts from congregation
1988	January 1	Combined Hope Service and brunch at Fort Worden chapel
1988		Major landscaping in parking lot
1988	February	Pastor and Mrs. Dobberstein planted Lombardy Poplars on church properly.
1988	August 7	Old faithful church bell cracked
1988	November	Added volleyball to roller skating on Family Sport Night
1989	January	Hosted E. L. F. Board of Directors
1989	February	Youth Group planted 100 Douglas Fir trees on property
1989	August 24,25	Hosted E. L. F. Convention
1989	September	Purchased new property for Hope on Airport Cutoff Road
1990	April	Dedicated new pastor's study
1990	August	Hosted a wills seminar
1990	September	Had a mailing in the tri-city area of Jefferson County to get new members for Hope

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY

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1991	January	Hosted E. L. F. Board of Directors
1991	June	First confirmand confirmed at Hope - Jordan Peterson
1992	April	Installed septic system on Hope property
1992	April	Introduced "Hooked on Phonics" to congregation to be used for members and also for outreach
1992	May	Celebrated 20th Anniversary of first meeting of Faith congregation
1993	June	Pastor Dobberstein retired and returned to Dayton Ohio
2000	March 22	Pastor Dobberstein died
2000	September 17	Mrs. Dobberstein attended service and family picnic
2000	September	Family picnic held at Buck Lake Park after church service

## PROFILES

(Editor's Note: Each issue in this column we shall attempt to introduce to you a congregation or person affiliated with E.L.F. We hope it will be interesting, informative, and enable you each to pray more effectively for one another. )

### **FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTH KITSAP**

Kingston, Washington

It was early spring of 1972, that a group of approximately twenty interested people gathered under the guidance and leadership of Dr. C. O. Pederson in a small banquet room at a local inn situated at the entrance to the ferry dock in Kingston, WA. Their purpose was to survey the general countryside to ascertain whether there was enough interest in the area to start a congregation who would adhere to the Evangelical Lutheran Confessions.

The survey results proved promising and a then seminary student, Ervin Dobberstein, was given the assignment to serve his internship attempting to start a congregation. Dr. Pederson would supervise this activity from his office across Puget Sound at Bethel of Shoreline, where he was pastor.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 21, 1972 the first service was held in a room of the local Grange Hall with 6 people from the community and a nice group from Bethel of Shoreline in attendance. From that day on, regular services were held each Sunday, sometimes in a private home when the Grange Hall was not available. By summer's end, God had worked in such a way that those in the area for the summer only, and the permanent residents, brought together some 45 worshippers for what was to be the last service. However, the year-round residents chose to underwrite the expenses of travel for the intern who would be returning to his final year at Faith Seminary in Tacoma, WA. some 53 miles to the south, that he might; commute each week. By the grace of God and Him working through His people, sufficient support was realized to continue as an informal independent Lutheran congregation. One year later, two young ladies instructed by Mr. Dobberstein, were confirmed by Dr. Pederson on Pentecost 1973. Dr. Pederson also preached the fourth Sunday each month and administered the Sacrament of the Altar.

During the year the people met for study each Wednesday evening using, in part, the Epitome of the Formula of Concord as the topic to ascertain whether all were seeing together since different backgrounds were involved. From this, the group started to work on a constitution, and articles of incorporation. By August of 1973, shortly after Faith Seminary graduated its first class, a member of that class was called and ordained. He was installed Aug. 26, 1973, by Dr. Pederson. The local leadership (council), Messes, Glen Rose, Dallas DeLay, Fred Tullar, Louis Triebenbach. and Rev. Dobberstein, their first pastor, now set about to complete the necessary documents to be fully incorporated as a congregation in the State of Washington. By October 1973 all was finally accomplished.

One family, the Louis Triebenbachs, became the nucleus of a Sunday School which has been holding forth ever since. It now has a staff of five teachers.

Having no synodical backing or similar support, the pastor, though, provided with housing by a family of the congregation, found it necessary to work part-time. By the grace of God he was able to find very suitable employment at a nearby manufacturing firm. He worked there in the mornings until February 1977, approximately 20 hours each week

Continuing in God's grace, the congregation working together grew in depth and numbers so that when the year 1975 came around and the Grange Hall was offered for sale, they had the vision to commit themselves to its purchase. God's hand had guided a skilled cabinetmaker into their midst. Mr. Fred Tullar fashioned all the chancel furniture. This was accomplished in just a few short weeks. The Triebenbach family donated a large supply of paneling, Mrs. Tullar, the Dombrausky family and the Clare Grahns of Tacoma, donated carpeting and others contributed still more supplies and a meeting room was turned into a beautiful chapel. The grounds and building were dedicated Nov. 1975, to the glory of God with the help of members of Bethel Lutheran of Shoreline and Dr. C. O. Pederson; members of Central Lutheran and Dr. R. E. Redal, along with others from Faith Seminary.

Faith continues to receive God's providential care and keeping. It is to celebrate its 5th Anniversary the Fourth Sunday in September and at that time hopes to have most of their friends from central and Shoreline Ev. Lutheran Church returns and help them dedicate a bell and the tower that holds it. The bell was found in

Ohio near their childhood home by Mrs. Dobberstein's brother. He shipped it such that it was rung on July 4, 1976. A very interesting thing about this bell is that it was cast the year Washington State became a part of the Union. The bell tower was erected by the members. The structural timbers and lumber were cut from logs by Louis Tribenbach and his sons, Neil and Mark. Some of these logs were trees from their own woods. They once again donated some exterior plywood as well. Mr. Dallas DeLay served as the working crew chief on the actual erection of the tower. The tower is a little over 30 feet high.

We've talked mostly about the physical plant and the progress made there. Only perhaps because it is the most obvious and easiest to observe. Still though, it is somewhat a measure of the commitment of those who make up the congregation. Nonetheless, other activities have been mounted over the years along with the more or less expected kind, such as confirmation classes when there are are students. But besides continuing the Wednesday night Bible study there are special studies for the Sunday School staff each month and for people inquiring about what the church teaches. A special course in evangelism, along with the course of Dr. Jay Adams, "Competent to Counsel", has been offered and is to be offered anew this fall. Some are trying their hand at handbell ringing and many faithful serve as hosts *for* a fellowship held after each Sunday worship service. The Women of Faith are formally organizing this year after meeting weekly for 1-1/2 years for Bible Study only. A Daily Vacation Bible School as well as bi-weekly Junior Lutheran program during the school year are provided for the children.

We pray God's blessing continues to be known such that Faith might be used still more in the furtherance of God's Kingdom, not only in the north of Kitsap County, Washington, but even abroad. Further, that God would bless the now 27 member families with still more to His honor and glory.

Much more could be said about each incident that comprises the history of Faith and the effort that has been expended to transform the grounds and building into a more suitable monument to God which can be readily seen with the eyes. And certainly more could be said of the transformation God's Means of Grace has wrought in the lives of these people. Hay this above all continue until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

No information about Pastor Eng or Pastor Swift. When did they come and go

Other information -

History of grange hall

What did it cost to buy, when

When were major maintenance actions taken - roofing, building additions, etc

What happened to Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

What was the attendance level as time went by

