

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: Gathered Under the Cross
[A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada]

Original draft by Norm Hodgson

The first worship service that marked the establishment of Good Shepherd (GS) was held at Roland Michener School August 20, 1978. The Redeemer Lutheran Church congregation acted as Sponsor and the Board of Canadian Missions (ELCIC) called Ken Finnestad to be Good Shepherd's first pastor. The inconvenience of rented worship space led the congregation to select a Building Committee in November 1979. Before building could commence, the Mission Board requested a Growth Plan Study be conducted. A 2nd Building Committee convened Oct 1981. The Missions Board approved the Growth Plan Report April 1981 and church-building process began.

Pastor Finnestad resigned August 1982 to return to the School for the Deaf and Pastor Al Miller was called September 15 that same year. Ground was broken for the building September 26, 1982 and construction began. On May 19, 1983 the congregation held the last service at Roland Michener School and then proceeded to the new church for a Benediction and a tour. The 1st formal worship service in the new building was held June 5, 1983 (in February, the Ash Wednesday service was held in the unfinished building); 98 people were in attendance. GS was Dedicated October 16, 1983 (Dr. S.T. Jacobson was the dedicator; Rev. Telmor Sartison was the speaker). In September 1985 Pastor Miller and his family went to Bossey, Switzerland for a sabbatical; Pastors Karen Willhelm and Oscar Johnson served as interim Pastors. Pastor Miller resigned December 31/89 and Dr. S.T. Jacobson served as interim pastor until August 31, 1990. Pastor Harley Johnson was called to be GS's pastor and his first service was August 19, 1990.

A few other important dates to note ...

June 19, 1994	Dedication of the Grande Piano
May 26, 1996	Dedication of the Memorial Plaque (made by Mr. Elmer Berg)
January - May 2001	Pastor Harley on sabbatical; Pastor Gene Grant interim
April 18, 1999	Sod Cutting ceremony for GS's Sunday School Room extension
May 24 - 25, 2003	GS's 25 th Anniversary Celebrations

A significant dynamic in the work of Good Shepherd was the creation of a Mission Statement. Early in 1991 the church council sought to define a vision to enhance the potential ministry for Good Shepherd. Today, we gather under the unifying banner that our purpose shall be to **'Know Jesus as Lord, Grow in our faith, and Show Christ's love to our world.'**

We continue to work with Canadian Missions (our mortgage is secured through this ELCIC fund). Within this debt, we are challenged to meet the needs of a highly mobile society. Our Worship Life, Christian Education programs, Youth Outreach, Small Groups & Senior Gatherings serve to enhance GS's goal of being a church of care for it's members and community.

GS's log crosses - on the parking boulevard at the corner of McKercher & Tait - carry significant symbolic power. Crafted by Pastor Harley and his son Joel for an Easter pageant, one cross was stationed in the ground as an invitation and proclamation of Jesus' love and a 2nd cross-used for seasonal processions & services - was balanced against it. The cross is the central symbol of Jesus, Saviour of the world. As Christians we are called to, "take up our cross and follow Him." GS's crosses symbolize life's cross-roads: intersections and transitions which we all face in our lives.

May we have the vision and faith to grow in the mission and love of the Gospel of Christ. We pray upon the witness within the Cross of God's love for the world.