

The year was 1945, and a call was extended by the Mission Committee of the California District of the American Lutheran Church to Mr. L.A. Kampfe to found a new Lutheran congregation in the community between San Jose and Santa Clara. Property was purchased at 1650 The Alameda. This 16 room mansion was converted into an upstairs living quarters, with a chapel and Sunday school rooms on the bottom floor.

The first service was conducted August 12, 1945, with 42 persons in attendance. On December 2 of that same year the new mission was organized into a congregation with 19 members.

A lot was purchased at 1948 The Alameda just prior to the congregation organizing, at a cost of \$8,000. Plans began to be made for building on the lot as a permanent site for the congregation. In February 1947 the property at 1650 The Alameda was sold, and for 19 months services were held in the Hester Theatre, prior to the dedication of the congregation's new building in September of 1948.

On June 8, 1949, after just over 4 years of ministry at Holy Redeemer, Pastor Kampfe received a call to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

It was January of 1950 and the Reverend Erwin Walz was installed as pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church. His tenure at Holy Redeemer was a time of building.

The new parish hall was dedicated on Pentecost Sunday, May 17, 1959, The new office and study were completed and dedicated on November 22, 1959.

In July of 1961, after 11 ½ years as pastor of Holy Redeemer, Pastor Walz took a call to Placentia, California, where he established a new mission.

On August 6 of 1961, Rev. Paul Imschweiler was installed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church. On December 3, 1961 the Memorial Electronic Bells and Carillon were dedicated.

During this time Holy Redeemer grew in size, hovering around the 400 member mark from 1961 until 1966. In the years following 1966 many members transferred to other congregations within the valley (the 1960's and early 1970's were an era of rapid Lutheran Church growth in our area).

In 1970 the ALC voted to approve the ordination of women.

In November of 1971 Pastor Imschweiler resigned as pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, after just over 10 years of service.

Rev. James Fish was called to be the 4<sup>th</sup> pastor of Holy Redeemer in November of 1971. His pastorate began a series of ever shorter pastorates by 1<sup>st</sup> call pastors at Holy Redeemer. It also began an ongoing period of time during which Holy Redeemer has reached out to others.

In 1975 the first Vietnamese refugee family arrived in Santa Clara County, co-sponsored by Holy Redeemer and Resurrection Lutheran Churches. In the following years many more families would follow.

The Korean Assembly of God Church became the first congregational tenant of Holy Redeemer in April of 1977, and in that same year a self study was conducted by the members of Holy Redeemer.

In September of 1978, after almost 7 years of ministry, Pastor Fish took a call to Holden Village.

On November 15, 1978 Pastor Imschweiler died. This was the first death of a pastor who had served Holy Redeemer. The following month Holy Redeemer began to use the Lutheran Book of Worship, and in February of 1979 James Bangsund was installed as the 5<sup>th</sup> pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church.

During Pastor Bangsund's pastorate Holy Redeemer participated in its first CROP Walk (1982) and Thomas Clark Stephens was ordained at Holy Redeemer (where he had been baptized and confirmed).

On December 31, 1984, after 5 years of service, Pastor Bangsund left Holy Redeemer to serve as a missionary pastor in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

It was July of 1985 when the first co-pastors of Holy Redeemer were installed: Pastors Bill and Susan Kirlin-Hackett. Six months later the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation was celebrated.

1987 was declared the Year of the Child at Holy Redeemer and in December of that year a Grand Piano was purchased to replace the organ.

In 1988 Holy Redeemer joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. From 1987 through 1988 Pastor Bill was the interim director of the Council of Churches of Santa Clara County.

In July of 1989, after 4 years, Pastors Kirlin-Hackett left Holy Redeemer.

October 1, 1990 the Vietnamese Southern Baptist Church began sharing the facilities at Holy Redeemer. On April 22, 1990 the new "freestanding" altar was dedicated.

On May 6, 1990, Rev. John L. Freesemann was installed as the 8<sup>th</sup> pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church. In October of 1990 Holy Redeemer began sharing the facilities with a 3<sup>rd</sup> congregation: the Korean Praise God Church.

In 1991 Pastor Freesemann joined the Council of Churches of Santa Clara County, serving them as president for 8 years.

In 1992 the Santa Clara Valley Lutheran Parish was formed.

On June 12, 1994 Holy Redeemer adopted a three year long range plan, designed to change the nature of the congregation and move toward a new era of ministry.

December 2, 1995 Holy Redeemer concluded a five month celebration of its first 50 years with a rededication service for the newly remodeled sanctuary. In 1995 Holy Redeemer was also the recipient of the Gertrude Welch Ecumenical Award, presented by the Council of Churches to the congregations that were instrumental in the founding of the San Jose Rotating Men's Shelter.

In 1996 Pastor Freeseemann was honored with the Richard J Peterman Award, as the outstanding steward in the ELCA. That same year he was also awarded the Gertrude Welch Ecumenical Award by the Council of Churches for his ecumenical leadership.

In 1997 Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church began studying *Dancing With Dinosaurs* and *Sacred Cows Make Gourmet Burgers*; in that year it shared the Gertrude Welch Ecumenical Award with the other congregations who helped to start the San Jose Rotating Shelter.

In 1998 Holy Redeemer was chosen as the Outstanding Congregation in the county by the Council of Churches.

In 1999 Holy Redeemer disbanded its Congregation Council and Standing Committees in order to become a Purpose Driven, Permission Giving Congregation that functions with a small Leadership Team, Personal Ministry, Task Forces and Small Group Ministries.

LaVerne Kampfe, the founding pastor of Holy Redeemer, was killed in an automobile accident in the year 2000. He was the second pastor of Holy Redeemer to die.

Holy Redeemer became a Reconciling in Christ Congregation in 2000.

In June of 2001 Holy Redeemer celebrated Pastor Freeseemann's 25<sup>th</sup> year of ordination. In October of that year he became the longest tenured pastor in the history of Holy Redeemer.

Pastor Freeseemann was given time off to participate in the Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride during the fall of 2002, riding a bus from San Jose to New York City to bring attention to the need for a change in immigration policy and to highlight the plight of immigrant workers in our country.

In 2003 Holy Redeemer organized a Stability Triangle to help facilitators of task forces and small group ministries carry out their ministries.

In the fall of 2006 Holy Redeemer entered into a Sister Parish partnership with the Nyagatare Parish of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. In addition to continuing support

through prayer and monetary gifts, Holy Redeemer members were able to make a substantial contribution to the Nyagatare church building project in 2009 by tithing from a bequest received that year. Bonds between the congregations were further developed through visits to Nyagatare in 2010 and to San Jose in 2011.

Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church continues to be a small, exciting, socially and theologically progressive congregation.