

Significant Anniversaries

Congregations

1883 - 125 Years

Alameda	Immanuel Lutheran Church	1883	Pastor Roger Bauer
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1933 - 75 Years

Tulare	First Lutheran Church	1933	Pastor Richart Kristoff
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1958 - 50 Years

Citrus Heights	Advent Lutheran Church	1958	Pastor Raymond Olsen
Cupertino	Bethel Lutheran Church	1958	Pastor Randal Pabst
Fremont	Christ the King Lutheran Church	1958	Pastor Warren Nielsen
Fresno	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	1958	Pastor Theodore Niemi
Hayward	Messiah Lutheran Church	1958	
Sunnyvale	St Luke Lutheran Church	1958	Pastor Robert McKee

Significant Anniversaries

Clergy

1943 - 65 Years

The Rev Eduards Putnins

1948 - 60 Years

The Rev Norman G Pfothenhauer

The Rev Rudolph A Ramseth

1953 - 55 Years

The Rev Harry C Carlson

The Rev George R Demant

The Rev Roy C Hoch

1958 - 50 Years

The Rev David J Adamcik

The Rev William E Leshner

The Rev C Arthur Shultz

The Rev Philip Pei-Kun Sun

The Rev William M Stuhr

1973 - 35 Years

The Rev Eric T Ackerman

The Rev Harvey E Blomberg

The Rev Raymond Olsen

The Rev Robert L Phillippi

1983 - 25 Years

The Rev David J Hamilton

The Rev Edmundo Hassenteufel

The Rev Maurice M Ngakane

The Rev Clayton J Schmit

Roster Changes Since 2007 Assembly

Newly Ordained or Certified

The Rev. Virginia C Bishop. Mariposa, Mariposa
The Rev. Nicholas Droge Bethany, Kerman
The Rev. Trudy L Franzen. American, Woodland
The Rev. Kathryn Grindberg Advent, Citrus Heights
The Rev. Stephanie F Lord Bethlehem, Santa Rosa
The Rev. Holly C McHale-Larsen Our Savior, Lafayette
The Rev. Sara E Wolbrecht St Matthew, Walnut Creek

Additions to the Roster

The Rev. Laurie J Andersen Immanuel, Los Altos
The Rev. Judith Bangsund St Timothy, San Jose
The Rev. Cindy Beck Interim Ministry
The Rev. Cheryl L Corneliussen Zion, Stockton
The Rev. Jerayne Gray-Reneberg Grace, Redway
The Rev. Bryon H Hansen Bethlehem, Auburn
The Rev. Jose Luis La Torre St John's, Sacramento
The Rev. Patrick J Ryan. Beale Air Force Base, Marysville
The Rev. Thomas J Unmacht Retired
The Rev. Guta D Yadeta Oromo Christ Evangelical Church, San Lorenzo

Retired Ordained Ministers

The ordained ministers on the roster of the Sierra Pacific Synod listed below have retired since the 2007 Handbook was published.

The Rev Corazon Aguilar

Ordained in 1995, Pastor Aguilar served as campus minister at San Francisco State University. She served as pastor at Messiah Lutheran, Hayward until her retirement this year.

The Rev Richard L Foster

Ordained in 1967, Pastor Foster served congregations in North Dakota, Minnesota, and New York. For 6 years he was a staff person at th Evangelische Versohnungs, in Germany. He served as pastor at University Lutheran Church and campus pastor at Stanford in Palo Alto until his retirement.

The Rev David H Olson

Ordained in 1969, Pastor Olson served congregations in Texas and Nevada. In 1978 he became a chaplain at Nevada Mental Health Institution in Reno. At the time of his retirement he was serving as pastor at Our Savior Lutheran, Quincy.

The Rev Michael J Rogers

Ordained in 1970, Pastor Rogers served several congregations in California until his retirement July 2007.

Necrology

The Rev. Hardis Cornelius Bakken March 12, 1910 - May 5, 2007

The Reverend Hardis C. Bakken died Saturday, May 5, 2007. He was preceded in death by his wife of many years, Gladys.

Pastor Bakken was born in Lunds Valley, North Dakota. He attended Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN from 1941-1944 and then attended Luther Seminary receiving a C.T. in 1946, allowing for his ordination in 1946 through the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. (He later made up his undergraduate credits from DePaul and received a B.A. degree from Augsburg in 1952. In 1953, with credits from McCormick Seminary, he received a B. of Theology degree from Luther Seminary.)

Rev Bakken served as: Pastor at a two-point parish in Eagle Grove and Holmes Lutheran, IA from 1946 to 1950; Pastor, Hauge Evangelical Lutheran, Chicago, IL from 1950 to 1955; Pastor, Lemon Grove Lutheran, Lemon Grove, CA 1955 - 1965. He accepted the call as Pastor at Gloria Dei, Pinole, CA in 1965 and served there until his retirement in July of 1986.

Reverend John Marshall Bruneer March 17, 1924 - October 17, 2007

The Rev John Marshall Bruneer, age 83, died October 17, 2007 after a lengthy illness.

Rev John Bruneer was born March 17, 1924 in Rockford, Illinois. He graduated with a BA degree from Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter, MN in 1946. He and June Dalen were married in 1947. In 1951, he graduated from Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Il with a BD degree and was ordained that same year. He later received a MDiv degree from the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago in 1972.

Rev Bruneer served as pastor at: Trinity Lutheran, Alameda from 1951 to 1956 and Our Redeemer, Los Angeles, from 1956 to 1962. In 1963 he joined the staff of the Pacific Southwest Synod (LCA) as Assistant to the President (Bishop) until 1979. In 1979 he served as Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Fresno and in 1982 began serving as Pastor at Trinity, Fresno until his retirement in 1989. Pastor Bruneer was active in the Fresno Police Chaplain Program. His love of travel and his good humor will be remembered by all who knew him.

Rev Bruneer is survived by his wife, June and three children: Kathleen, Michael, and Kristine.

Ms Norma Hopfer
September 3, 1913 - August 25, 2007

Norma C Hopfer, Associate in Ministry, died Saturday, August 25 at her home in San Francisco.

Commissioned in 1950 in St Louis, MO, she served as a grade school teacher in San Francisco at St Paulus Lutheran Church until her retirement.

In retirement, she remained alive in the congregation and served in numerous ways from chairing the Worship and Sacred Arts committee, to the 125th anniversary committee and coffee hour coordinator. She remained interested not only in the church, but in local and national issues. In one of her annual reports to the bishop she commented that the Sunday morning worship was the most important time of her week.

Ms Hopfer is survived by her sister Doris McCall and many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and many friends who also cherished her.

Reverend Gilbert Anton Jensen
April 2, 1915 - April 2, 2007

Rev Gilbert A Jensen died the evening of his 92nd birthday, April 2. He was born April 2, 1915 in Sidney, Montana. He graduated with a BA degree from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1940 and in 1943 received his BD degree from Trinity Seminary in Blair, Nebraska. Pastor Jensen was ordained in 1943 and married Emma Pederson that same year. He later attended the University of Missouri, St Louis, Missouri and graduated with a MA degree in counseling in 1962.

Rev Jensen served as: Pastor, Nazareth, in Kenmare, North Dakota from 1943 to 1945; Chaplain, US Navy Reserve from 1945 to 1946; pastor, Our Savior, Ferndale, California from 1946 to 1949; pastor, Bethlehem, Royal, Iowa from 1949 to 1952; chaplain, US Naval Reserve from 1952 to 1959; pastor, Westwood, Kansas City, Kansas from 1959 to 1963. He served as: Pastor at St Mark's, Fairfield, CA from 1963 to 1974 and continued serving St Mark's as Assistant Pastor (counseling) from 1974 until his retirement in 1977. Pastor Jensen also served the wider church as Dean of the Vineyard Conference of the Sierra Pacific Synod.

Pastor Jensen was preceded in death by his wife, Emma. He is survived by four children: Monica Thompson, Rebecca Speer, Jonathan Jensen and Joel Jensen; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Lester C Johnson
October 21, 1916 - March 2, 2008

Reverend Lester C Johnson, age 92, died on Sunday, March 2. Rev Johnson was born in Bruning, NE. He received his BA degree in 1941 from Wartburg College and was ordained in 1944 after graduating from Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA.

Rev Johnson served as: Pastor at St John's, Bancroft, SD and Immanuel, Belle Prairie, SD, 1944-1946 and Development Manager, Lutheran Hospital & Homes Society, Fargo, ND, 1946-47. He served as: Pastor, St Paul's, Burlington, CO, 1947-1954 and Peace, Sterling, CO, 1954-56. Pastor Johnson served Grace Lutheran Hospital, San Antonio, TX from 1956-1964. He followed several positions as a hospital administrator in El Paso, Marin County and Ft Lauderdale. His last call was to Messiah, Los Angeles, CA from 1975 until his retirement January 1980.

Pastor Johnson's wife, Mattie died in 2003. He is survived by two daughters, Judy and Mary, and three sons, James, John and Joel and their families.

The Reverend Alfred Melvin Karlstad
February 9, 1916 - June 19, 2007

The Rev Alfred M. Karlstad, age 91, died today, June 19, 2007.

Pastor Karlstad was born in Banks, North Dakota. He received a BA degree from St Olaf College in 1941; a CT from Luther Seminary in 1945; and an MA degree from San Francisco State College in 1957. He married Doris Nykreim in 1941 and was ordained in 1945.

Rev Karlstad served as pastor at: Farland, Garden, Garden Valley and Banks, Watford City, ND from 1945 to 1946; Bethlehem, Auburn, CA and Central, Oakland, CA from 1946 to 1951; First, Poulsbo, WA from 1951 to 1955; Our Redeemer, South San Francisco, CA from 1957 to 1959; and Gloria Dei, Tacoma, WA from 1959 to 1965. He served as interim pastor at Faith Castro Valley, CA from 1968 to 1969. Between 1970 to 1977 he served as pastor at Sierra, Sierra Vista, Arizona. In 1977 he accepted a call as pastor at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Sacramento, CA until his retirement in 1982. He was well known for directing acappella choirs throughout his career.

Pastor Karlstad is survived by his wife, Doris, and four daughters; Jan Fosen, Judy Ainsley, Elizabeth Miller, Deborah Saethre, 18 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by son, Curtiss, an ELCA army chaplain in 1984.

The Reverend Elling Eugene Ramsey
May 11, 1902 - February 6, 2008

Rev Elling E Ramsey died Wednesday evening, February 6, at the age of 105 years.

Pastor Ramsey was born near Decorah, Iowa. He was graduated from Luther College, Decorah, in 1928 and received his BTh from Luther Seminary in 1931. Rev Ramsey served parishes in Montana and Iowa from 1931 to 1942. He served as chaplain in the US Air Force between 1942 and 1946. Pastor Ramsey served as chaplain at the MN State Training School for Boys, 1946-53; and between 1953 and 1959 served as chaplain at the VA Hospital, Portland, OR and executive director for the Lutheran Social Services in Portland. From 1959 until his retirement in 1972, Rev Ramsey served as chaplain at Sutter Community Hospitals, Sacramento, CA and as Area Director for Lutheran Social Services for Northern California. He became the full time chaplain at Sutter and created the chaplaincy program.

He was married in 1931 to Doris Anderson of Decorah, Iowa. The couple had three sons, David, Andrew, and Peter. Doris died in 1965. He was later married to Naomi Tinberg until her death in 1994.

The Reverend Wayne Earle Saffen
June 20, 1926 - August 18, 2007

The Rev Wayne E. Saffen, age 81, died Saturday, August 18 at his home.

Pastor Saffen was born in Pepin County, Wisconsin. He received an AB degree from Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO in 1947 and a MA degree from the University of Chicago in 1970. He was ordained by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in 1950. He was later rostered in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America following the formation of the new church in 1988.

Rev Saffen served as pastor at: Immanuel, Gowanda, NY, 1950-1953; and Grace, Oberlin, OH, 1953-1960. He served as campus pastor at St. Gregory of Nyssa (LCMS) at the University of Chicago from 1960 to 1972. Pastor Saffen served congregations at Grace, Manteca, CA (LCA/LCMS), 1972-1975; Spirit of Christ, Manteca (AELCA) from 1975-1987. Beginning in 1980 he served as the part time campus pastor at Sacramento State until his retirement in 1991. Though retired, he served as a developer pastor at Gualala mission for a number of years.

Rev Saffen is survived by his wife, Margaret and daughter Jennifer, plus adult children from a prior marriage.

The Reverend Gustav H Schultz
September 23, 1935 - December 3, 2007

The Rev Gustav (Gus) Schultz, age 72, died December 3.

Rev Schultz was born September 23, 1935 in Foley, Alabama. He received an M.Div. Degree from Concordia, Springfield in 1961 and a Master of Sacred Theology from the Lutheran School of Theology in 1972. He also did advanced study at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

Pastor Schultz was ordained June 25, 1961 at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Foley, Alabama. He served as: Pastor, Holy Trinity, Rome, Georgia, 1961-1965; Assistant Pastor, Ascension, Riverside, Illinois, 1965-1969 and then accepted the call to University Lutheran Chapel, Berkeley. He served the Chapel until he resigned his call effective the first Sunday of Advent, 1997.

Rev Schultz was active within the Ecumenical and Social Justice Action communities, and received many honors during his ministry in Berkeley.

Gus married Flora Leitner Redd in June of 1958. She survives him along with his children, Gustav Hobart (Bart) III; Timothy Martin, Locke Elizabeth, and Bettina Pauley (foster daughter) and six grandchildren.