

A History of Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Traverse City, MI



"Jesus still teaches by the water."

Church History 3031
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The Grand Traverse area and Traverse City, Michigan in particular had become a popular spot for tourism. Many people took their vacations in the area and many others decided to start making Traverse City their permanent home. But for some of Traverse City's Lutheran residents the area still lacked one important feature, a place to worship. A small group of individuals who had moved from areas with Wisconsin Synod congregations decided to change this. In 1980 survey work began in the area.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Tester had moved from their church home at Our Savior in Gaylord, Michigan seventy-five miles to the west to Traverse City. Soon Mr. and Mrs. Tester contacted their former pastor in Gaylord, Pastor Dayton Fritz. Knowing the people in Traverse City were anxious to explore the area in hopes of finding other interested families Pastor Fritz contacted Pastor Robert Hartmann of the Michigan District Mission Board. In a letter dated March 10th, 1980 Pastor Fritz informed the Testers

that Pastor Hartmann was eager to begin survey work in the area.¹ In the letter Pastor Fritz also informs the Testers that he has been called to serve a congregation in southern California, but adds that he does not know at that time whether he will accept or not. With the help of the Testers, Pastor Hartmann began to survey the area through ads in the local papers. The Lord blessed their work; in one month eight families expressed interest in WELS services.

The group continued to share the gospel with the community and invited others to share in their joy. In a letter dated May 26th, 1981 Pastor Hartmann talks of the plan to begin running ads in the local papers. "I am enclosing copies of the ads we would like run in the Traverse City area papers before Pastor Brenner comes to do some survey work and follow up on any additional prospects."² In the letter Pastor Hartmann had placed a visual entitled "Why Not Investigate?" The copy that followed read:

"The Christ preaching, Bible believing and teaching, people serving the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod. We are committed to teaching all of the Bible as God's Word of truth for life and salvation. The Wisconsin Synod, with 120 churches throughout Michigan is planning a new church for this area."

The letter also included \$110.00 for the ads to be run. The ads ran on June 8th in the *Community Preview* and June 13th in the *Traverse City Record Eagle*. On July 31st Pastor Hartmann relayed the good news about the effect of the adds to the eight families,

"Based upon the information forwarded to our mission board by Pastor John Brenner of Big Rapids, we feel we ought to consider further this possibility of beginning worship services. A number of people called in response to our newspaper adds and Pastor Brenner has spoken with you and a number of other families, who have expressed interest in the work of the Wisconsin Synod."³

By October of that year the Mr. and Mrs. Tester and Mr. and Mrs. Al Althoff of Traverse City were hosting informal Bible classes and fellowship gathering in their homes twice a month. Pastor John M. Brenner who was the pastor in Big Rapids, Michigan at Redeemer Lutheran church and Pastor Ronald F.

¹ See letter in Appendix 1A

² See letter in Appendix 1B

³ See letter in Appendix 1C

Zindler who was the pastor at St. Paul's in Manistee, Michigan officiated alternately at these classes. Letters announcing each bi-monthly meeting were sent to those who expressed interest. The letter on the 15th of October, 1981 shared some even more exciting news for those interested in starting a mission in Traverse City. "As mentioned in the last letter, the Michigan District Mission Board of our Synod plans to request exploratory status for Traverse City in February. Regular Sunday services can be started at that time."⁴ And on November 23rd 1981 a letter was sent to all by Pastor Brenner requesting that they fill out an enclosed card expressing their interest in establishing a mission in Traverse City.

Some general information can be gathered about the Grand Traverse area from the report given to the General Board for Home Missions. The population numbers as gathered by the Census Bureau showed that the number of residents had increased from 33,490 in 1960 to 54,598 in 1980. The projection for the year 1990 was 70,216. Traverse City had great potential for growth.⁵ As stated in the report, "Traverse City is expanding residentially in each of the three possible directions. The industrial park is nearly filled to capacity (2 lots are still available) – plans are being made for more industrial expansion. A major hotel/recreational complex has recently been completed about five miles east of town adding considerably to the already significant recreational/tourist business in the area."⁶ The report also lists a plethora of other churches which were in the area but no other WELS congregations. A note made on the report sums up the eagerness of the people gathered in this exploratory congregation. "Three of the families have been involved in other WELS missions. The majority of the nucleus gathered appear to be willing and eager to become involved as "mission" workers." The group of small worshippers shared the sentiments of Paul in his letter to the Romans, "I am not ashamed of the

⁴ See letter in Appendix 1D

⁵ Traverse City has continued to grow, the Census Bureau's webpage listed the 2000 population at over 77,000 and the estimates for 2003 have it booming to over 82,000.
<http://censtats.census.gov/data/MI/1602680340.pdf>

⁶ See report Appendix 2A

gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” It would be the power of God’s gospel that would bless and continues to bless the work of this congregation today.

The report also lists the families which made up this growing family of believers. They are as follows:

Mr. Albert Althoff	Mr. Michael Dawson	Mr. Al Tester
Mrs. Patricia Althoff	Mrs. Christine Dawson	Mrs. Betsy Tester
		Alison Tester
Mr. Nick Basil	Mr. George Kokke	
Mrs. Diane Basil	Mrs. Beverly Kokke	Mr. Leon Vietzke
Nick Basil	Brian Kokke	
Kimberly Basil	Tammy Kokke	
Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Becker	Mr. Phillip Seitz	
Calvin Becker Jr.	Mrs. Karen Seitz	
	Allen Seitz	
Mr. Gerry Chloger	Dawn Seitz	
	Brain Seitz	
	Jeffrey Seitz	

Good news came to the group in a letter from Pastor Brenner dated February 11th, 1982. “Dear Friends, This past week our Wisconsin Synod’s General Board for Home Missions granted our Traverse City group both exploratory status and manpower.”⁷ The granting of “manpower” did not mean that the synod was directly sending someone over to pastor the exploratory group but rather that they had the ability now to call a pastor from the WELS. But most importantly, the small group of believers in Traverse City could now begin to hold public worship services. The letter from Pastor Brenner also planned a meeting where the details about where and when to worship would be worked out.

On March 14th, 1982 the group of Lutheran believers held their first public worship service at the Holiday Inn on highway 31 in Traverse City. Services were held every Sunday at 7:00pm until the mission received its own pastor. In the aforementioned letter Pastor Brenner also told the group that they would be issuing a call for a pastor in the near future. And if no one had accepted the call by the

⁷ See letter in Appendix 1E

middle of May the hope was that the Holy Spirit would assign a graduate from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

The bulletin for the very first worship service on March 14th informed the group that the District Mission board had called Pastor James Kleist to be the first resident pastor for the Traverse City outreach effort. Pastor Kleist was serving as an associate pastor at St. Stephen's Lutheran church in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin where he had served for five years. According to the April 11th service folder Pastor Kleist decided to return the call to serve as the pastor in Traverse City. The Mission Board decided to have a graduate assigned from the graduating class of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.



Robert P. Kujawski, Jr.

On May 18th, 1982 the Holy Spirit called Robert P. Kujawski to serve as the first resident pastor in Traverse City. Pastor-elect Kujawski was assigned to Traverse City upon his graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin. Pastor-elect Kujawski was from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Pastor Kujawski and his wife, Sybil, moved to Traverse City and took up residence at 212 Griffin in Traverse City. On Ascension Sunday May 23rd the congregation was informed that Pastor-elect Kujawski was assigned to serve their group of believers. The sermon text for that Sunday was from Luke 24: 50-53; Luke's account of Jesus' ascension into heaven. The sermon theme and parts were "Jesus Ascended Into Heaven" I. A source of great blessing II. A cause for great joy. The group of believers in Traverse City did have a cause for great joy! Not only had the Lord blessed them with faith and fellow believers to gather with, but now they had someone to serve them with the gospel on a full time basis! The hearts of the people and Pastor Kujawski can be summed up in the words of his acceptance letter to Pastor Brenner and the congregation.

"In accepting this call I am keeping in mind our Lord's words to His disciples from the fifteenth chapter of John's Gospel: 'I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I have learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me but I

choose you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”⁸

On July 18th Pastor Kujawski was installed in the Heidelberg room of the Fox Haus Motor Lodge in Traverse City. The installation service was held in another location because of unnamed scheduling difficulties for that Sunday. The preacher for the service was Pastor John F. Brenner of St. John’s Lutheran church in Bay City, Michigan. It might be of some interest to note that one of the assisting ministers at the service was Pastor James C. Bourman of Our Savior Lutheran church in Gaylord and Hope Lutheran in Indian River. Pastor Dayton Fritz who had made the initial call to the District Mission board for a few of his members in Traverse City had taken his call to southern California. But the Lord used his work and from it grew a congregation of believers in the Traverse City area. Church services continued at the Holiday Inn in Traverse City. However the service times were moved from 7pm to 10am. The group continued to meet at the Holiday Inn for another three years and nine months.

In September of 1982 another exciting change came about for the group of believers. They began to narrow down the choices of names for their exploratory fellowship. Four names were being discussed among the members. They were: Beautiful Savior, Epiphany, Prince of Peace and Shepherd of Truth. On September 26th the name Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church was chosen by the members. This name is taken from Isaiah’s prophecy concerning the promised Messiah,

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, *Prince of Peace*. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.” (Isaiah 9:6)

The people knew this peace without end and they knew the one who brought it, the Prince of Peace. Now they too would share this peace with each other and with their community. That is why in November Prince of Peace was able to celebrate and give thanks for another exciting first; their first

⁸ See letter in Appendix 1F

adult confirmand. Mrs. Berniece Beyersdorf was confirmed into membership at Prince of Peace on November 21st, 1982.

Prince of Peace also received generous gifts for their mission work from one of their fellow congregations in Allegan, Michigan. Some of the items were hymnals, service books, paraments and hymn boards. But some of the items had to be stored until the congregation could move into their own permanent worship space. They were a permanent altar, lectern and organ. In the following months and into the early part of 1983 the exploratory status of the congregation was renewed by the General Board for Home Missions due to the encouraging reports which came from Pastor Kujawski. In a December report pastor reported an average Sunday attendance of twenty-three and that twelve prospects had attended services during the month. And as the letter the General Board stated "media blitz still producing phone calls."⁹ The people of Prince of Peace continued to share the good news of forgiveness with their neighbors.

The year 1983 can be considered a year of 'firsts' for Prince of Peace. On February 20th the first children were baptized at Prince of Peace. They were: Laurie, Sarah and Cory Mikowski. On September 3rd the congregation was able to celebrate the first wedding among its members. Mr. Gerry Chloger and Miss Melissa Jurgensen were married. In that same month the first Sunday School was begun with eight children in attendance. And on September 4th Pastor Kujawski baptized his newborn daughter, Caitlin Theresia. By December the number of souls had grown from twenty-seven to thirty-eight.

Prince of Peace received some more great news in September. On September 28th, almost exactly a year after the congregation chose its name, the General Board for Home Missions granted the congregation mission status. Pastor Norman Berg informed Prince of Peace and Pastor Kujawski by letter. With the good news came encouragement from the board to begin to look for a permanent

⁹ See letter Appendix 1G

worship space in the community. “We encourage your congregation immediately to establish a building fund so that it can look forward to active participation in the funding of its future worship facilities.”¹⁰ Prince of Peace also got considerable press in November of that year when an article was written about the church in the *Traverse City Record – Eagle*. In a straight forward interview Pastor Kujawski explained the why the Word of God is so precious to Lutherans and what it means to us regarding fellowship with other church bodies. Pastor Kujawski also received space in the paper under the article to write an article of his own which he entitled “**3 Truths are rallying cry**”. In the article Pastor Kujawski explained the threefold rallying cry of the reformation, Sola Scripture (By Scripture Alone), Sola Gratia (By Grace Alone) and Sola Fide (By Faith Alone).¹¹ The page editors at the paper must have certainly understood his point. Under his picture was his name and this caption, “... listen to Luther”. The article also gives us a picture of how the congregation had grown since it began. Prince of Peace had grown from 27 souls to 40 individuals from 13 different families.

Articles of Incorporation had to be filed with the state of Michigan and this process began in late December. The Articles of Incorporation were duly filed and became official on March 2nd, 1984 and the congregation was incorporated as PRINCE OF PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN. But even before the articles were made official the congregation had taken the encouragement of Pastor Berg and Synod’s General Board for Home Missions by starting the process to apply for land search authority. On the form which was filled out on January 24th, 1984 a note can be found next to the box that is checked for “incorporation.” It reads, “in process, they took our money but sent the wrong form.”¹² But governmental delays could not hinder the desire of these Christians to share their faith and worship publicly in a place of their own. Pastor Kujawski’s comments

¹⁰ See letter Appendix 1H

¹¹ *Traverse City Record – Eagle* “Prince of Peace Grows” & “3 Truths are Rallying Cry” November 5th, 1983

¹² See Land Grant Application Appendix 2B

on the form conveyed the hopes and the hearts of the congregation, "The people of the congregation are excited about the prospect of beginning location of a place of our own. Yet their excitement does not obscure the facts concerning the added responsibilities and labors that lie ahead. We have knowledgeable, faithful people, and we pray that the Lord would guide those who make the decisions to grant this request." On March 12th, 1984 the congregation received an approval from the General Board of the Synod to begin its search for a site and church.¹³

During this time Prince of Peace also began to put together their constitution. At the voter's meeting on March 8th pastor informed the voters that District Constitution committee found the document to be in good order and accepted it. By the end of 1984 the members of Prince of Peace totaled fifty-one souls.

After receiving permission to search for land and a building Prince of Peace mission congregation searched for over a year until they found the space that would best suit their needs. In August of 1985 Prince of Peace found land and a church building that would suit their needs. The site was located at 1776 High Lake road in Traverse City. The lot was three acres of wooded land. On the property was a 3700 square foot church building. The building had previously been owned by a Baptist church that outgrew the facilities and moved to a larger space in town. The property at the time was being held by a private speculating group which took it in a trade from the former owners. The survey report of the property conducted by Pastor Norm Berg summed up the church with these words, "The buildings can be upgraded and renovated to provide the permanent facilities for the congregation for many years. The size and condition of the interior are such that pleasant worship and educational/fellowship spaces are possible." However, Pastor Berg did feel that the asking price was "out of line in view of the sale possibilities and the condition of the buildings." The property did not

¹³ One major stipulation that came from the board was that the land which the congregation bought not be more than 3 acres.

have a parsonage for the pastor so Pastor Kujawski and his family continued to live at 212 Griffin street. The group holding the property was asking for \$99,000 for the sale. Prince of Peace formally requested permission to purchase the land on 1776 High Lake road on August 16th, 1985. In the request the congregation set a starting point of \$70,000 which was not to exceed the price of \$90,000. There was also the figure of \$25,000 which was not included in the initial price for renovations which needed to be done on the building. The Church Extension Fund Board of Trustees approved an allocation for the congregation in the amount of \$90,000 on August 28th, 1985. There were several offers and counter offers during the process. In late September the congregation accepted the offer of \$87,500 with 25 percent of the total mineral rights of the land. On December 20th, 1985 the warranty deed for the property was signed and registered for the purchase.

The first worship service to be held on the new site and in the new church would be Christmas Eve, December 24th, 1985. The bulletin for Sunday worship on the 22nd of December contained this note:

“It is terribly fitting that the first worship service of Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church to be held in the new worship facility at 1776 High Lake road, will be held on the Eve of the birth of our Prince of Peace, December 24. Beginning on Christmas Eve, all of our worship services will be held in our own church. We thank the Lord for this wonderful Christmas present, and pray that we serve him to the best of our abilities in the new church.”

What a gift indeed! This point in Prince of Peace’s history offers a moment for reflection. The Lord used this congregation’s love for the gospel to start exploratory work in the Traverse City area. From this exploratory work the Lord opened hearts to his gospel and created a family, a family of believers. As the family at Prince of Peace grew the Lord continued to bless the people by adding another member to their family, a full time pastor. As the exploratory outreach grew they became a mission and as the mission family grew they looked for a more permanent worship home. Prince of Peace found that place in 1985 and held its first worship service in the new church on Christmas Eve 1985. The year continued

to see souls added to the family of believers at Prince of Peace. There were fifty-nine souls that made up the Prince of Peace family. Through each step the Lord held his guiding hand over Prince of Peace and blessed them. It is amazing to think of all the changes that this family of believers went through in just six years. Certainly Prince of Peace echoed Paul's words to the Romans, **"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."**¹⁴

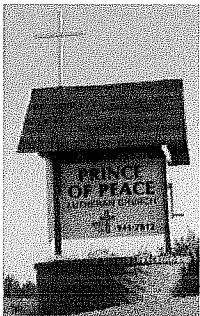
As the congregation moved into 1986 it had an opportunity to help out fellow brothers and sisters who had helped them as they grew. Hope Ev. Lutheran in Indian River and Our Savior Ev. Lutheran churches in Gaylord, Michigan were without a pastor. Pastor Kujawski served these congregations during the vacancy from February until June. During that time in May Prince of Peace was able to celebrate its first examination and confirmation. On May 25th Angela Schroeder and Cassie Salonen were confirmed in the new church building.

In July Prince of Peace began preparations for the necessary remodeling which was outlined in the survey report. The renovation was extensive. In order to keep costs low the bulletin announced that the congregation would begin "re-construction Thursdays". Members were invited to help with the demolition and reconstruction of the grounds prior to the work of the contactors. In September the Board for Home Missions recommended a spending allowance of almost \$30,000 for the remodeling project. The work of the members allowed the remodeling project to stay within the proposed budget. During the renovation the fellowship hall had some walls removed for added space. A new sign was added on the front of the property on High Lake road. The church also received new siding during the remodeling. On Christmas Eve, the one year anniversary of the new church the bulletin called the congregations attention to all of the changes that had occurred in that year. "Do you remember that it was one year ago today that we held our very first worship service in this building? Much has changed

¹⁴ Romans 11: 33,36

since then. We could list... The new furnace, the new siding, the interior construction, a congregational growth of nearly 50 percent, our first funeral, four weddings, meeting our budget (sort of), sending our full mission offering to WELS and many blessings on the individual and family level.” In one year the Lord had blessed the people at Prince of Peace with many additions to their family. At the close of 1986 the total number of souls served at Prince of Peace was seventy-eight.

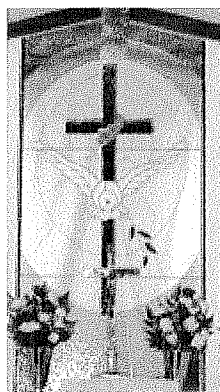
The new year brought another blessing from God to the congregation in February. The District Mission Board granted the request of the congregation for a parsonage to be built on the property. This was quite a surprise for the congregation because Pastor Oelhafen had submitted their request months earlier than expected and it was approved. The thinning of the trees began later in warmer weather when many of the details were worked out. Construction on the new parsonage began on August 3rd, 1987. The hole was dug for the basement and the foundation was laid. Work continued on the house through the end of summer and into the fall season. On October 31st Pastor Kujawski and his family moved into the parsonage.



In the spring of 1988 Prince of Peace added a more permanent sign to the front of the property replacing the one that had been erected in 1986. It was a “well” design with the sign resting under the awning of the well. It was designed and built by Mr. Al Tester.

The new church building and the parsonage were dedicated in a special service on June 12th, 1988. Pastor John M. Brenner was asked to preach at the special worship service of thanksgiving. Pastor Brenner used his gifts to help start the mission in Traverse City and now he was able to see how the Lord had blessed those early efforts. Many congregations sent letters of praise and thanksgiving to Prince of Peace rejoicing with them over their many blessings. What had started out as a small exploratory outreach with about twenty-even souls had grown to a congregation of almost ninety believers! The members continued to beautify the church even after the major remodeling project was

finished. A communion railing was designed and installed for the front of the church by Mr. Philip Seitz. Hand needlepoint was done by a group of ladies on cushions for communion kneelers. The



exterior of the church also received a steeple which was found by Pastor Kujawski in a prospects backyard.¹⁵ Later in March 1990 the beautiful stained glass window that sits above the altar was installed. The window scene is a cross on a golden yellow background. Draped around the arm of the cross is a golden crown. Descending in the picture is a dove with an olive branch in its mouth. The window was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Wells of Flint, Michigan the parents of Karen O' Connell. A carillon

system was installed in May of 1991. It played two hymns four times a day and the bells ring at the beginning of each worship service. It was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Appold.

The Lord had changes in mind for his people at Prince of Peace. In August of 1992 Pastor Kujawski received a call to serve as an associate pastor at Bethany in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Pastor Kujawski had served Prince of Peace for a little over ten years since he was called from the seminary. After prayerful consideration Pastor Kujawski informed the congregation on September 6th that he had accepted this call to serve Bethany Lutheran. A special meeting was held with the Michigan District President Pastor Robert Mueller and it was suggested that Pastor Kurt Uhlenbrauch be appointed to serve as the vacancy pastor. Pastor Uhlenbrauch was the pastor of First Lutheran in Suttons Bay, Michigan. At the same meeting on September 15th the voters of the congregation placed a call to Pastor Michael Schultz of Flagstaff, Arizona to serve as its next pastor. Pastor Schultz returned the call to serve as Prince of Peace's next pastor. Three more calls were extended to pastors and each was returned. In May of 1993 it was decided that Prince of Peace would look to the assignment committee for a graduate from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. While waiting for a new pastor the ladies of Prince of Peace formed a Ladies Aid group in February of 1993.

¹⁵ See *The story of the Steeple* by Pastor Kujawski in Appendix II



Duane C. Scmeichel

President Mueller announced to the congregation by letter in May that Duane C. Scmeichel had been assigned to be the pastor at Prince of Peace. Pastor Scmeichel had served as a tutor for two years at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. He was a native of South Dakota and according to his letter of acceptance had grown up in a mission congregation named Prince of Peace. Pastor Scmeichel was installed as the second resident pastor of Prince of Peace on August 8th, 1993. Soon after Pastor Scmeichel's installation the congregation celebrated its tenth anniversary! For ten years the Lord had blessed the Traverse City area with the faithful preaching and sharing of His Word by the family of believers at Prince of Peace.

Prince of Peace held its first vacation Bible school in August 1994. Thirty children from the congregation and the surrounding area attended. August also saw another first for Prince of Peace. Pastor Kujawski's wife, Sybil, had been the organist until he accepted the call to Bethany. While there were people at Prince of Peace with musical gifts none of them were able to play the organ. The congregation decided to purchase a computer organ in order to support the congregation's worship services.

By God's grace Prince of Peace continued to grow. Believers grew as a family. The church grew in its mission and outreach efforts. Prince of Peace continued to grow spiritually and physically in numbers. A special milestone in this growth was the ability of the congregation to stop receiving the operating subsidy. This was a sum of money given monthly by the Wisconsin Synod that helped to support the ministry of Prince of Peace in Traverse City. In July the congregation informed the synod that it no longer needed this assistance. Prince of Peace was one step closer to becoming a self-supporting congregation! July also brought another blessing. Pastor Schmeichel was united in marriage to Laurel Ann Beckmann on July 21st, 1995. With the wedding came the blessing of adding another believer to the family of believers at Prince of Peace.

In October of 1995 Prince of Peace formed the congregation's first evangelism committee. The members had the opportunity to attend a three day School of Outreach workshop in Bay City, Michigan. The seminar was put on by the WELS Commission on Evangelism. 1998 found the people of Prince of Peace continuing in the Savior's Great Commission to preach the gospel to their community. Prince of Peace entered a float into the annual Cherry Royale Parade. It was a float depicting Noah's ark and inviting the community to worship at Prince of Peace and to attend vacation Bible school. Also in 1998 two more hand made needlepoint cushions were given to the church. One cushion was for the confirmation classes and the other was to be used at weddings.

1999 saw another change in pastor's for Prince of Peace. In April Pastor Schmeichel received a divine call to serve as pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Maple Grove, Minnesota. In early May Pastor Schmeichel announced to the congregation that he had accepted the call to serve as pastor at Redeemer. In his letter to Redeemer Pastor Schmeichel shared that, "this decision has been especially difficult to reach." The congregation in Traverse City held a special place in Pastor Schmeichel's heart. On May 11th the congregation held a voter's meeting to issue a call for their next pastor. After prayerful consideration the voter's decided to ask the assignment committee for a graduate from the graduating class. Only eight days after the voter's meeting Brent Brutlag was assigned to Prince of Peace. Between the time after Pastor Schmeichel left and Pastor Brutlag was to be installed Pastor Jonathan Arndt from Petoskey, Michigan served as the vacancy pastor.



On July 25th, 1999 Pastor Brent Brutlag was ordained and installed as the third pastor at Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church. Pastor Brutlag arrived with his wife Jessica and their daughter Alyssa.

In February of 2000 Prince of Peace formed its first stewardship committee. At this time it was decided by the congregation to begin a drive to reduce the current debt of \$141,250.00 by fifty

percent before beginning work on a new facility. The membership for Prince of Peace at this time stood at 210 souls with 136 communicants.

In March of 2000 Prince of Peace became a self supporting congregation. After seventeen years of receiving support from the Mission Board Prince of Peace was now able to move off of synodical support. In letters from both the president of the Michigan District¹⁶ and the president of the Wisconsin Synod¹⁷ the people of Prince of Peace were encouraged to always regard themselves as a mission congregation. President Gurgel wrote, "While in the technical sense you are no longer a mission, I pray you will always view yourself as a mission congregation. The mission, as our Synod's mission statement defines it, is to nurture believers and reach out to those who do not yet believe in Jesus as their Savior." The congregation offered its thanks to the Mission Board but most importantly to their God and Savior who made all things possible.

In August the church building underwent some reconstruction. Walls were added to the fellowship wing in order to provide space for Sunday school classrooms. The walls also provided space for a secretary's office and a cry room for services.

September 11th, 2001 was a tragic day for the whole country. It was a nervous time for many who knew of loved ones in New York or flying that day. But how much more so for those who did not know the love of Christ. The people at Prince of Peace showed this love that had filled their hearts by offering a gift of money to those who needed the assistance through the Wisconsin Synod's Committee on Relief – "Attack on America" fund. Almost seven hundred dollars was offered to the fund from the congregation. Even though Prince of Peace was not in New York nor affected directly by it, they continued to show the heart of a mission congregation by letting Christ's love shine through their words and deeds.

¹⁶ See letter in Appendix 1J

¹⁷ See letter in Appendix 1K

On July 14th of 2002 the members were informed that the goal set in February 2000 to reduce the current debt in half had been reached. This was an important step in order to begin plans for a new worship facility. A meeting was set for July 28th so that the congregation could discuss the plans to build a new worship space. After prayerful discussion between the members and their families a special voters meeting was held on August 4th, 2002. At this meeting the congregation decided to start making plans for a new worship facility. Another special voter's meeting was held on February 23rd, 2003 and the voters authorized the congregation to proceed with the new church plans.¹⁸ In connection with this plan the council authorized the Building committee at its April meeting to present a "Plan of Ministry." This would allow the committee to see if the congregation was financially ready to build.

On September 11th satisfaction of the original mortgage was made to the Church Extension Fund. This payment allowed the congregation to purchase two additional acres on the north boundary of the existing site in order to help with the building of the new sanctuary. The amount of the new land which was purchased cost \$52,202.77. In November the drawings for the new sanctuary arrived from the architect.¹⁹

In April of 2004 the congregation was expected to break ground on the new facility. When the Plan for Ministry forms returned from the congregation it appeared that the necessary funds would cover the budget but not the extra \$30,000 (\$580 per month) that would be needed for a new facility. Prince of Peace continued to pray that the Lord's will be done no matter what the decision was concerning the building. However it appeared as though the Lord temporarily has closed the door on this project.

The Lord did have in mind other work for the family of believers. Using the mission heart of his people he allowed Prince of Peace to become a "mother" congregation by daughtering a church in Cadillac, Michigan!

¹⁸ See meeting minutes in Appendix 1L

¹⁹ See Drawings Appendix 2C

This idea began when Michigan Lutheran Seminary was given a grant to do North American outreach. The grant was part of a larger block grant given by Thrivent Financial. During discussions with pastors and professors at Michigan Lutheran Seminary it was realized that there was an absence of a Wisconsin Lutheran church in the area of Cadillac in the Northern Michigan conference. After doing a little more research it was realized that about 40 WELS members resided in the area and were driving about an hour to worship services.

After the initial meetings things began to move quickly for the new outreach opportunity. Meetings were arranged with these members by Pastor Brutlag of Traverse City and Pastor Michael Biedenbender from Big Rapids, Michigan. The meetings were held at Brad and Beth Eurich's house. They were members at Prince of Peace. On May 19th, 2004 a name was chosen for the new church. At the suggestion of Gabrielae Eurich, the twelve year old daughter of Brad and Beth Eurich the new congregation was named "Crown of Life Lutheran."

If one were to recall the process that Prince of Peace went through in order to become an exploratory outreach and then a mission congregation they would not many similarities to the way Crown of Life was formed. Due to restructuring in the WELS Board for Home Missions responsibility for starting new missions was laid at the feet of the districts and their conferences, circuits and congregations. In June of 2004 at the Michigan District convention the district adopted Crown of Life exploratory outreach, as its mission project. During this same convention all the congregations in the district were encouraged first and foremost to remember Crown of Life with their prayers. But also they were asked to consider this outreach in their budgets and gift offerings. In response to this request Prince of Peace offered \$1,166.18 to the outreach effort on July 4th at Crown of Life.

On July 12th – 15th a group of students from Michigan Lutheran Seminary came from Saginaw and conducted a religious survey of the area. The Lord blessed their work with amazing results. Of 126

families who were interviewed fifty-two people were interested in knowing more about the congregation! Thank you letters were sent to those who expressed interest in the congregation. The Lord had certainly used the people at Prince of Peace to help open the door to this exciting opportunity to share the gospel! Crown of Life had also begun the process of calling for a pastor. After two calls had been returned, Crown of Life called Pastor Jim Getka for a one year sabbatical from Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Later in July Crown of Life received a letter from Pastor Getka informing them that eh had accepted the call to serve as their pastor.

The Lord continued to open a door for work in the Cadillac area. In August the congregation looked into purchasing a church in downtown Cadillac to use as their worship facility. They also knew that they would need a place for Pastor Getka and his family to reside. The home adjacent to the church building was also for sale. After viewing the home the congregation felt that they could use it as a temporary worship space until they could purchase the church building. In a letter dated August 5th, 2004 Crown of Life asked the members of Prince of Peace for assistance. Since the congregation was not yet incorporated they could not hold the title to the property. Crown of Life asked Prince of Peace to hold the title until they could become incorporated. Crown of Life agreed that during this time they would make all payments on the home. In a special voter's meeting on August 15th Prince of Peace agreed to hold the mortgage on the home Crown of Life wanted to purchase. At the meeting Prince of Peace also agreed to make the mortgage payments on the home for the next two years! During this time a bid on both the home and the church were made and accepted. Redeemer Lutheran Church in Big Rapids agreed to hold the mortgage on the church building. Due to the generous and thankful hearts of the people in the Michigan District Crown of Life was able to make a down payment of \$46,800 which was matched by a grant of \$36,000 by special gifts given to WELS CEF. Payments on the facility are

\$597 per month.²⁰ The Lord moved the hearts of twenty-seven congregations and many other individuals to give gifts that aided in the purchase of these buildings.

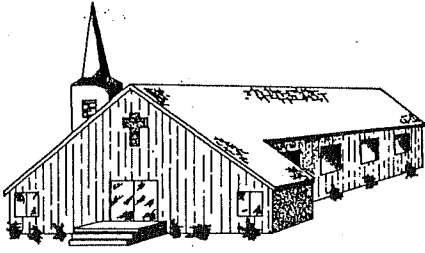
On September 12th, 2004 the members of Prince of Peace Lutheran commissioned and bid farewell to the twelve members who would be leaving to join the congregation in Cadillac. They were: the Eurich, Warner, Holst, Allen, Lytle and Oliver families. On September 26th these families and others held their first worship service in the new parsonage as a congregation. Since the first worship service average worship attendance is over thirty people. Pastor Getka continues to meet with the families who have expressed interest in Crown of Life. In October another survey was taken and another ten families expressed their interest in the congregation and six people have enrolled in Bible Information classes. On December 19th, 2004 Crown of Life held its first formal public worship at a 10:00am service. All thanks are to God!

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Traverse City, Michigan was founded by a group of people eager to have a place to worship their Savior and an opportunity to share their Savior with the community. As the years have passed the Lord continues to bless Prince of Peace in many different ways. And the people of Prince of Peace continue to serve their Savior in thankfulness by proclaiming his good news to their community.

²⁰ As a reference point: At this time the average monthly cost for a 2 bedroom apartment in the Milwaukee area is \$600-\$625 per month.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hoerber, Robert ed. *The Concordia Self Study Bible New International Version*, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis. 1984.



OUR SAVIOR

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fifth and Court Street

Gaylord, Michigan 49735

P.O. Box 1001

March 10, 1980

Dear Al and Betsy,

I received a note this morning from Pastor Hartman, our Mission District missions man. I sent him your address. He says that he wants to do some survey work in the area soon. If you should ever want to get in touch with him his address is:

Rev. Robert Hartman (313) 422-3428
34243 La Moyne
Livonia, MI 48154

I received a Call to a congregation in Southern California. I do not know at this time whether or not I would accept.

The Bah's came to church yesterday.

In HIM
our Salvation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Fritz".

Dayton A. Fritz, Pastor

Wisconsin EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN Synod



MICHIGAN DISTRICT MISSION BOARD

REV. E. FREY, Secretary
4524 Radnor
Detroit, Michigan 48224
Phone: 313-885-3023

REV. HERBERT C. KUSKE, Chairman
2633 W. John Beers Rd.
Stevensville, Michigan 49127
Phone: Res. 616-429-8459
Off. 616-429-5141

REV. ROBERT C. HARTMAN, Mission Counselor
34243 LaMoyné
Livonia, Michigan 48154
Phone: 313-422-3428

May 26, 1981

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Tester,


I am enclosing copies of the ads we would like run in the Traverse City area papers before Pastor Brenner comes to do some survey work and follow up on any additional prospects. I have also enclosed a check for \$110.00 to cover the cost. If this is not enough, Pastor Brenner will reimburse you when he comes, but as I figure the cost, it should be close. I also need to know the exact cost, (save the receipts if they give you one), so I can report it to the Mission Board.

Please submit the ads to the two papers by Wednesday, June 3, to make sure they get printed on the days I have chosen. The ads in the Preview will run on Monday, June 8, and in the Record Eagler on the 13th for the display ad, and the classified ad on the 11-13th.

The information on the ad sheets should be self explanatory for the newspapers. If there are any questions, call me collect.

I have also included the Althoffs phone number. Please call them and confirm again that they will be around, and are willing to do this. I am not sending them a copy of this letter, because I do not have an exact address. They live on Greenwood Dr. (938-2858). If people call, give them what information you can, and obtain from them their name, address, and phone number, and tell them that Pastor Brenner of Big Rapids will be in touch with them when he comes to Traverse City on the 15-17th of June.

Thanks much for your help. We enjoyed visiting with you the other week. Again, if you have any questions, call. Greetings. Blessings.

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert C. Hartman

*P.S. Save Copies of
The Ads for Me!
Thanks!*

C: Pastor J. Brenner

Wisconsin **EVANGELICAL**
LUTHERAN Synod



MICHIGAN DISTRICT MISSION BOARD

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REV. ROBERT C. HARTMAN, Mission Counselor
34243 LaMoyné
Livonia, Michigan 48154
Phone: 313-422-3428

July 31, 1981

Dear friends,

As you know, our Wisconsin Synod Michigan District Mission Board has been investigating the Traverse City area regarding the possibility of starting worship services in the area.

Based upon the information forwarded to our mission board by Pastor John Brenner of Big Rapids, we feel we ought to consider further this possibility of beginning worship services. A number of people called in response to our newspaper ads, and Pastor Brenner has spoken with you and a number of other families, who have expressed interest in the work of the Wisconsin Synod.

I would propose that we meet on Thursday evening, August 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al Tester to discuss as a group what would be involved in getting Wisconsin Synod services started in the area. The Testers have already consented to host this gathering.

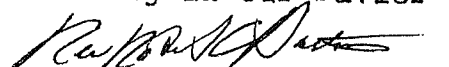
The Testers live at 2059 Fielstra in Traverse City. Their phone number is 941-8436. Give them a call, if you would need directions to their home. Also give them a call, if you would plan to attend, or would be unable to attend this gathering.

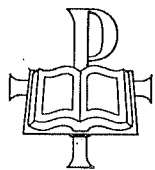
Pastor Brenner of Big Rapids, Pastor Zindler of Manistee, and myself as a representative of our district mission board, would be present for this meeting to give information, and to answer any questions you might have about such an effort.

This letter is going out to 8 different families who have expressed interest. In addition Pastor Brenner will be continuing to contact other interested families.

We thank you for your interest. If it be God's will, we may soon be working together under the auspices of our Wisconsin Synod to begin worship services in the Traverse City area.

Serving in our Savior's name,


Rev. Robert C. Hartman



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

1305 E. Maple

Big Rapids, Michigan 49307



John M. Brenner, Pastor
606 Bjornson K-8
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

Phone (616) 796-0227

October 15, 1981

Dear Friends,

The group of people interested in establishing a Wisconsin Synod congregation in the Traverse City area will be meeting for the next few months on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. for an informal Bible Class and fellowship. For the time being the meetings will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Al Tester, 2059 Fielstra in Traverse City. Their phone number is 941-8436. Our next meeting will be this Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Pastor Ronald Zindler and I will be conducting the Bible Class. Pastor Zindler will be in Traverse City on the 1st Wednesday of the month. I will be present on the 3rd Wednesday. If you want or need any information or if you know of anyone who might be interested in a Wisconsin Synod mission, please contact Pastor Zindler or me at:

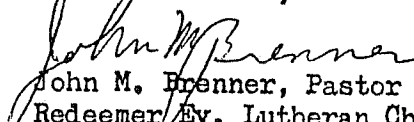
Pastor Ronald Zindler
317 Fourth St.
Manistee, Mich. 49660
(616) 723-2943

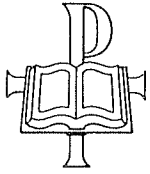
Pastor John M. Brenner
606 Bjornson K-8
Big Rapids, Mich. 49307
(616) 796-0227

As mentioned in the last letter, the Michigan District Mission Board of our Synod plans to request exploratory status for Traverse City in February. Regular Sunday services can be started at that time.

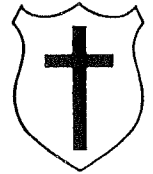
We look forward to continuing to work with you to establish a Wisconsin Synod congregation in your area.

Yours in Christ,


John M. Brenner, Pastor
Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church
Big Rapids, Mich.



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

1305 E. Maple
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

John M. Brenner, Pastor
606 Bjornson K-8
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

Phone (616) 796-0227

February 11, 1982

Dear Friends,

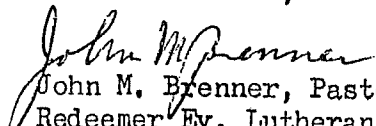
This past week our Wisconsin Synod's General Board for Home Missions granted our Traverse City group both Exploratory Status and Manpower. The granting of Exploratory Status means that we will now be able to begin regular weekly worship services. The granting of Manpower means that our District Mission Board will begin calling a Pastor to serve the Traverse City area full time.

Therefore we would like to encourage everyone to attend our regular meeting this Wednesday, February 17, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Al Tester, 2059 Fielstra, in Traverse City. We will have to determine where we will be worshipping, the time our services will begin and on what date our first service will be held. Pastor Zindler and I will both be present to answer questions and to assist in making those decisions.

If you need directions to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Tester, you may call them at 941-8436. A letter will be sent to everyone who has expressed interest in a Wisconsin Synod congregation to announce our service time and place. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me collect at (616) 796-0227.

We look forward to starting regular Sunday worship services with you in Traverse City.

Yours in Christ,


John M. Brenner, Pastor
Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church
Big Rapids, Michigan

Robert P. Kujawski
2000 North 60th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208
May 19, 1982

Rev. John Brenner
606 Bjornson, K-8
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

To Pastor John Brenner,

On May 18th I received the solemn call which was extended to me through the Assignment Committee of our Synod. Since you have been conducting services in the Traverse City, Michigan area, I am, with this letter, stating my acceptance of the call to do Exploratory work there.

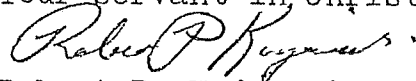
In accepting this call I am keeping in mind our Lord's words to his disciples from the fifteenth chapter of John's Gospel: "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."

I look to the Lord, who has chosen me, to grant me strength and wisdom through his Word, trusting in him to bless our endeavors in the Traverse City area. In this way I look forward with joy to serve in this portion of the Lord's kingdom.

As far as installation and moving plans are concerned I await word from you as to possible dates and locations. I look forward to your letter which I am sure will speed the moving process on its way.

My wife, Sybil, and I are looking forward to seeing you and we pray that our Lord of love will bring us safely into the Michigan District.

Your servant in Christ,


Robert P. Kujawski

RPK/sk

cc: Pastor Waldemar J. Zarling
Pastor Herbert C. Kuske

January 5, 1983

GBHM
3512 W. North Ave.
Milwaukee, WI

Dear Brothers:

The MI DMB has resolved to request the continuation of exploratory status for Traverse City, MI.

The December, 1982, report from Pastor Kujawski gives these stats:

- average December attendance of 23
- average December offering of \$152
- 12 prospects attended services in December
- the current committed membership is 20 communicants, 27 souls, from 11 families
- media blitz still producing phone calls

On the basis of this encouraging report, we request an affirmative reply to this request for continuation.

In Him,

Erhardt G. Schultz, chairman
Michigan District Mission Board

cc: Robert Hartman
R. Kujawski ✓
file

GENERAL BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

3512 West North Avenue • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208 • (414) 445-4030

September 28, 1983

Reverend Robert P. Kujawski
212 Griffin Street
Traverse City, MI 49684

Dear Brother:

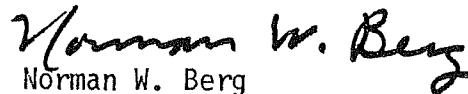
Please inform the exploratory group at Traverse City, Michigan that the General Board for Home Missions has granted it mission status.

Enclosed are forms and Handbook references needed in the days ahead as the mission congregation develops its program.

We rejoice with the new mission congregation at this sign of commitment by our Synod to work with the group permanently in our cooperative evangelistic work in the Lord!

We encourage your new congregation immediately to establish a Building Fund so that it can look forward to active participation in the funding of its future worship facilities.

Sincerely,



Norman W. Berg
Executive Secretary

NWB:mb

Enclosures

cc: D. Gieschen
DMB Chairman

THE STORY OF THE STEEPLE

This story behind the steeple also includes the standing sign near the steps, and the pews. During Pastor Kujawski's first vacancy in Indian River he made the acquaintance of a man named Rex Middleton. Rex was a "scrounge" (a word any mission pastor will use with the utmost respect). One day Pastor was at Rex's home where the steeple was standing in his back yard. When Pastor asked about it Rex said he had bought it for their church, but that the church didn't want it. Pastor thought it would look nice at Prince of Peace and so arranged to buy it. (It was later paid for as a memorial for James Finch by his wife). Pastor also got the wooden sign from Rex at that visit. When Pastor finished his vacancy Rex asked him what else he needed. Pastor joked, "next time, get me some pews!" About two months after the vacancy was over Pastor got a phone call from Rex. You guessed it, he had found some pews for \$45.00 each, but Rex assured pastor he could get them cheaper. Pastor told him to go for it, which Rex did in his usual style. He came back with the deal that if we wanted them they would be \$25.00 each, but we had to take them all, the 8-footers and the 10 footers.

A special voters meeting was held and Walt Hauser, (not yet a member) was attending as an observer. He asked to be excused, and after a brief time returned and asked whether we would mind if he and his wife Opal bought the pews for us. Of course, we didn't mind at all. Others might also remember the night they arrived and were unloaded, only to have the truck break down in our driveway.

By Pastor Robert Kujawski



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 14, 2000

Prince of Peace
1776 High Lake Road
Traverse City, MI 49686

Dear Christian Friends,

Recently I was informed your congregation was able to go off of all mission support. Congratulations! The mission dollars you were receiving can now be used to support some other mission congregation, extending the Kingdom of our Savior ever further.

While in the technical sense you are no longer a mission, I pray you will always view yourself as a mission congregation. The mission, as our Synod's mission statement defines it, is to nurture believers and reach out to those who do not yet believe in Jesus as their Savior.

As we walk along the road to Calvary (this Lenten Season) with our Savior, seeing Him bear the awful load of our sin's guilt, we eagerly await the announcement of victory on Easter morning. And, for all days to come, may we be eager to proclaim this message of salvation far and wide.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl R. Gurgel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Karl R. Gurgel

Michigan District

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor John C. Seifert, President
907 Mattes Drive
MIDLAND MI 48642-3708

Pastor Paul S Naumann, 1st Vice President
1965 Broadway
BENTON HARBOR MI 49022-6523

Pastor Carl T Otto 2nd Vice President
2745 W Genesee Ave
SAGINAW MI 48602

Pastor James P Seelow, Secretary
8765 Ederer Road
SAGINAW MI 48609

2 May 2000

Prince of Peace
Pastor Brent Brutlag
1776 High Lake Rd.
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49686

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

“Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing to the glory of his name; offer him glory and praise! Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf! Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.” (Psalm 66)

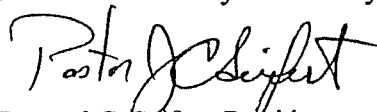
What a privilege you have in joining the psalmist by praising the Lord with words like these. You have certainly seen the blessings of the Lord among you particularly as you have taken the step of moving from mission status to self supporting status.

I’m confident that you will find this change to be a wonderful blessing for you as you discover even new opportunities and ways to serve our Savior and proclaim his saving name to those around you.

The new freedoms which you enjoy as a “self-supported” congregation certainly bring with them great responsibilities and privileges. Please remember that as you move ahead with your building project and seize other opportunities which the Lord lays before you that you have those who are committed to support you with their prayers and who are willing to provide you with whatever counsel and advice and encouragement you might need.

Congratulations on this major milestone in your life as a congregation. God bless your work.

In his service with you and for you



Pastor J.C. Seifert, President
Michigan District - WELS

PRINCE OF PEACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING
23 FEBRUARY 2003 —

MEMBERS SIGN CONSTITUTION: Brian Campbell, Keith Moore, and Salonen.

ROLL CALL: Harold Ramoie, Brian Campbell, Phil Seitz, Dave Schroeder, Dave Fortin, Rex Balentine, Wolfgang Kost, Frank Wright, Glen Salonen, Chance Arbuckle, Richard Lytle, Paul Bucco, Chad Reuckert, Dave Koenig, Pastor Brutlag, Jason Dreffs, and Keith Moore.

MOTION #1: Motion by Rex Balenting, supported by Chance Arbuckle that the Church Council/Executive Building Committee be authorized to extend an offer to Gladewood (Mr. Rudy Savage) for the purchase of lot #17(see attached proposed subdivision plat map) consisting of 1.32 acres of land. Further, that President Phil Seitz be authorized to negotiate with seller for the purchase of said lot at a price range between \$40,000 and \$47,500. Finally, this offer is contingent upon bank financing. The motion carried with 16 yes, 1 no, and 0 abstaining.

MOTION # 2: Motion by Dave Schroeder, supported by Chance Arbuckle that the design for our new church building as identified by Architectural Technology Preliminary Drawing #5 be accepted. The motion carried with 15 yes, 2 no, and 0 abstaining.

MOTION #3: Motion by Dave Schroeder, Supported by Chance Arbuckle that the Church Council/Executive Building Committee be authorized to proceed with the development of final plans for our new church building as identified by Architectural Technology Preliminary Drawing #5. The motion carried with 15 yes, 2 no, and 0 abstaining.

MOTION #4: Motion by Rex Balentine, supported by Chance Arbuckle that the Church Council/Executive Building Committee be authorized to secure a loan from a local lending institution in an amount not to exceed \$300,000. The proceeds of said loan shall be used for payment of architectural fees, land purchase, and remaining balance of our current mortgage debt. The motion carried with 16 yes, 1 no, and 0 abstaining.

MOTION #5: Motion by Dave Schroeder, supported by Rex Balenting that the Church Council/Executive Building Committee be authorized to extend an offer to Gladewood (Mr. Rudy Savage) for the purchase of lot #18 (see attached proposed subdivision plat map) consisting of .70 acres. Further, that President Phil Seitz be authorized to negotiate

3.0 The Proposed Mission Field

NOTE: Metro area data are for Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMA) as designated by Bureau of the Census.

3.1 No. of residents:	<u>City</u>	<u>SMSA</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Other</u>
Today	_____	_____	54,698	_____
1960	_____	_____	33,490	_____
1970	_____	_____	39,175	_____
Your projection: 1985	_____	_____	61,974	_____
1990	_____	_____	70,216	_____

3.2 Principal income-generating industries in the area and sources of employment (e.g. manufacturing, processing, trade, agriculture, mining, etc.) Manufacturing, Recreation & Tourism, Agriculture

3.3 Transportation Network (indicate on community map, including projected highways)
Streets and Roads, including collector streets and arterials - Highways, unlimited access - Expressways, limited access - Rapid transit lines - Bus Service - Rail lines. Confer enclosed map.

3.4 General Evaluation of Community Trends
In what directions and ways is the area changing? What are the paths of expansion and prospective growth in population, commercial activity industrial development? What city, metro, or regional plans as outlined by the authorities, such as planning departments, highway departments, business investors, etcetera, would have an effect upon the area in question?

Traverse City is expanding residentially in each of the three possible directions. The industrial park is nearly filled to capacity (2 lots are still available) - plans are being made for more industrial expansion. A major hotel/recreational complex has recently been completed about five miles east of town adding considerably to the already significant recreational/tourist business of the area.

3.0 Proposed Mission Field (continued)

3.5 Proposed Area for Mission (Define on a map the area of responsibility)

Grand Traverse County -- confer map.

3.6 Special notes on characteristics of the population as an indicator of age, sex, and racial distribution. 98.1% White, .3% Black, .7% Am. Indian, .2% Asiatic, .5% Mexican American, .2% Other.

3.7 Determine as closely as possible the percentages of homes in the market value ranges below: (consult experienced local realtor)

	percent
Under \$25,000	_____
\$25,000 -- \$39,999	_____
\$40,000 -- \$49,999	_____
\$50,000 -- \$59,999	_____
\$60,000 -- & Over	_____

3.8 How does the location relate to the population movement and economic changes taking place in the general area? N.A.

3.9 What other churches are there in the area? List them and locate on map

Church	Approx. Adult Membership
<u>Confer enclosed brochure.</u>	_____
<u>X ALG - 1; LCA - 2; LCMS - 2</u>	_____
<u>X Roman Catholic - 2</u>	_____
<u>X Baptist - 7; Methodist - 6; Wesleyan - 2</u>	_____
<u>X Assembly of God - 1; Church of Christ - 2; Church of God - 2</u>	_____
<u>X Nazarene - 1; Pentecostal - 1; 4-Square Gospel - 1</u>	_____
<u>X Episcopal - 1; Prebyterian - 1</u>	_____
<u>X Reformed - 1; Independent Fundamentalist - 2</u>	_____
<u>X Congregational - 2; Unitarian - 1</u>	_____
<u>X 7th Day Adventist - 1; Jehovah's Witness - 1; Christian Science - 1</u>	_____
<u>X Latter Day Saints - 1; Reorganized LDS - 1</u>	_____
<u>X Friends - 1</u>	_____
<u>X Jewish - 1</u>	_____

4.0 General Evaluation

The GBHM is interested in your evaluation of the proposed project as a result of your field work. The Board will take your general evaluation into account in their consideration of the proposal.

4.1 Justification for establishment of a mission congregation in this community. The Traverse City area is one of the fastest growing areas in the state of Michigan. The closest WELS congregations are 60-90 miles away; the closest ELS congregation is 15-20 miles away. A recent LCMS county by county Michigan survey lists Grand Traverse County as being 47.8% unchurched. Our preliminary survey work has already uncovered a number of interested WELS and non-WELS families -- growth potential appears to be very good. Traverse City Regional Psychiatric Hospital is one of the major psychiatric hospitals for the State of Michigan. There are WELS patients at this institution -- a WELS pastor in Traverse City would be able to serve the spiritual needs of these patients.

4.2 Evaluation of the immediate areas under consideration for location of a church.

4.3 Other General Evaluations: Grand Traverse County appears to be a very stable community showing steady growth over the last 15-20 years. The area has a broad-base employment structure including agriculture (fruit, etc.), recreational and industrial. The Chamber of Commerce Industrial list indicates that there are 57 companies employing from 3-30 each; 26 companies employ from 31-75 each; 11 companies employ from 76-200 each; 5 companies employ from 201-800 each. The number of small industrial plants would indicate a very stable employment environment.

SITE REQUEST INFORMATION

This form is to accompany a request by a mission for Land Search Authority. It is to be filed in duplicate with the District Mission Board together with two copies of a completed M-1 Request Form. The information is essential for good decision-making by the District and General Mission Boards. Please complete all applicable sections.

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

Name of Congregation: Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church

Location: Traverse City, Michigan

- Congregation is incorporated in process, they took our money but se
is not incorporated the wrong f

Pastor: Robert P. Kujawski Phone: (616) 941-4975

- Address: 212 Griffin St. Traverse City, MI 49684

President: Mr. Albert Althoff Phone: (616) 938-2858

- Address: 3165 Greenwood Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684

History:

- Survey Work begun: 6 / 1 / 81 Exploratory Status granted: 2 / 18 / 82

- Mission Status granted: 9 / / 83

Congregational Statistics (past 4 years, if applicable)

	Souls	Comm.	Ave. offerings per communicant per year			
			All Purpose	Home	Synod	Other
19 <u>82</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>283.20</u>	<u>223.20</u>	<u>60.00</u>	<u> </u>
19 <u>83</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>389.47</u>	<u>329.47</u>	<u>60.00</u>	<u>18.00</u>
19 <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
19 <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Building Fund:

- Present Balance in Building Fund: \$
- Amount of Building Fund invested in CEF: \$
- Describe congregation's program for obtaining offerings and/or commitments for its Building Fund.

The portion under building fund I have left blank due to the fact that we are in the process of setting up our building fund and changing banking establishments. As soon as this process is sorted out a building fund of \$50.00 will be set up here in T.C. To this fund will be added any undesignated gifts, all interest from savings, and special member contributions to be garnered by means of every member informational visitation. As soon as the banking process is taken care of we have earmarked \$2000.00 of our monies to be placed into C.E.F.

SITE REQUEST INFORMATION - Page Two

COMMUNITY INFORMATION These figures apply to Grand Traverse County

Present Population of community: 56,199 ; 10 years ago: 39,175

- Projected Population in five years: 62000; In 10 years: 70216

In General Area(s) selected for proposed Site(s)

- Ave. Cost of Houses: \$ _____ (older: \$ _____; new \$ _____)

- Ave. Cost of Lots (10-12,000 s.f.): \$ _____
(cost range from \$ _____ to \$ _____)

We have no proposed site at present, prices vary throughout county

OTHER COMMENTS:

Personal comments as to this request would differ very little from the comments made on our Mission Status request. Our growth has kept pace with our projections, as has the growth of our community. The people of the congregation are excited about the prospect of beginning location of a place of our own. Yet their excitement does not obscure the facts concerning the added responsibilities and labors that lie ahead. We have knowledgeable, faithful people, and we pray that the Lord would guide those who make the decisions to grant us this request.

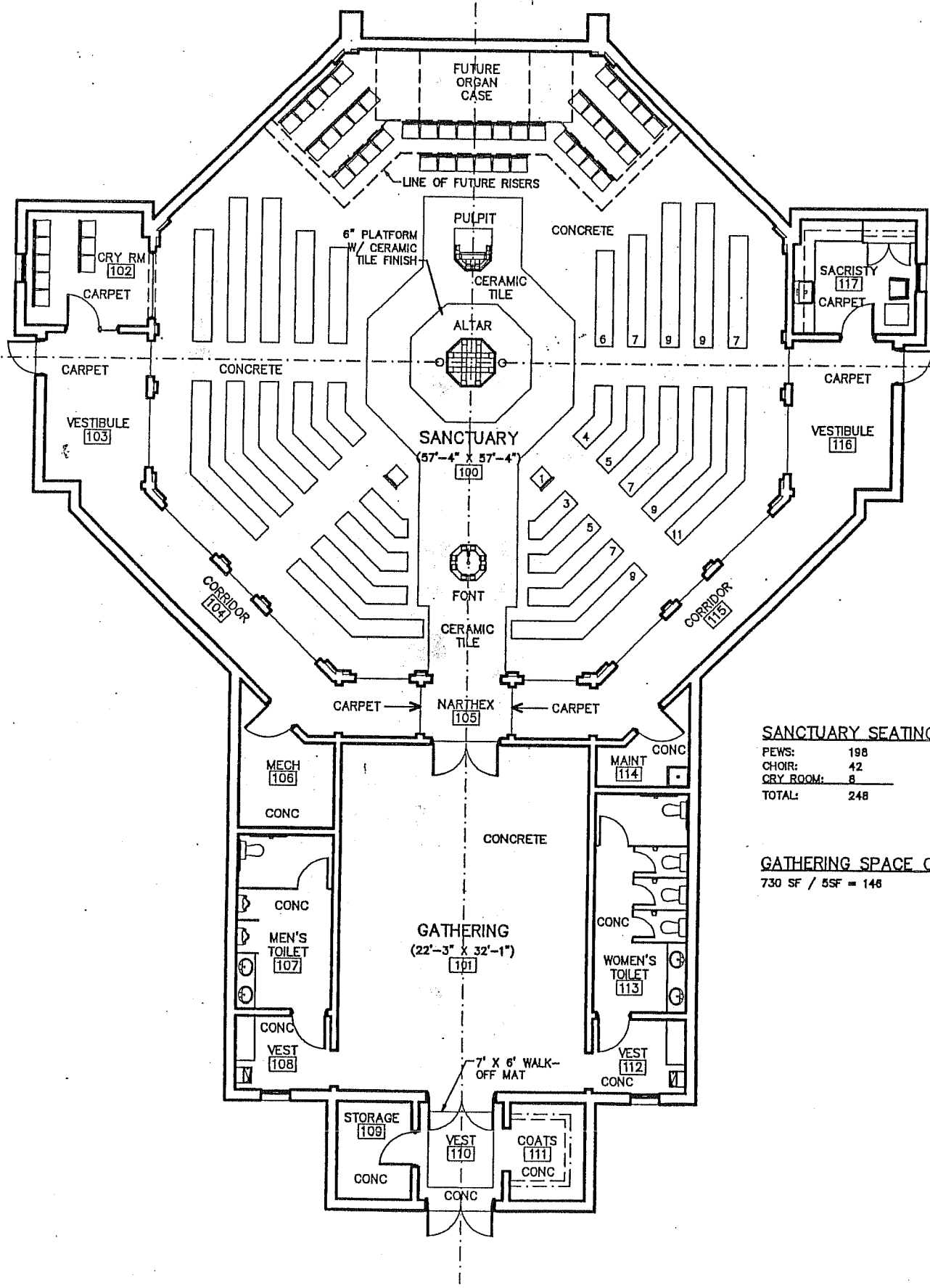
Form prepared by: Albert J. Whiff President

Date: 1 / 24 / 84

Al G. Tester Treasurer

David C. Schneider Financial Sec.

Rev. Robert P. Kyzar

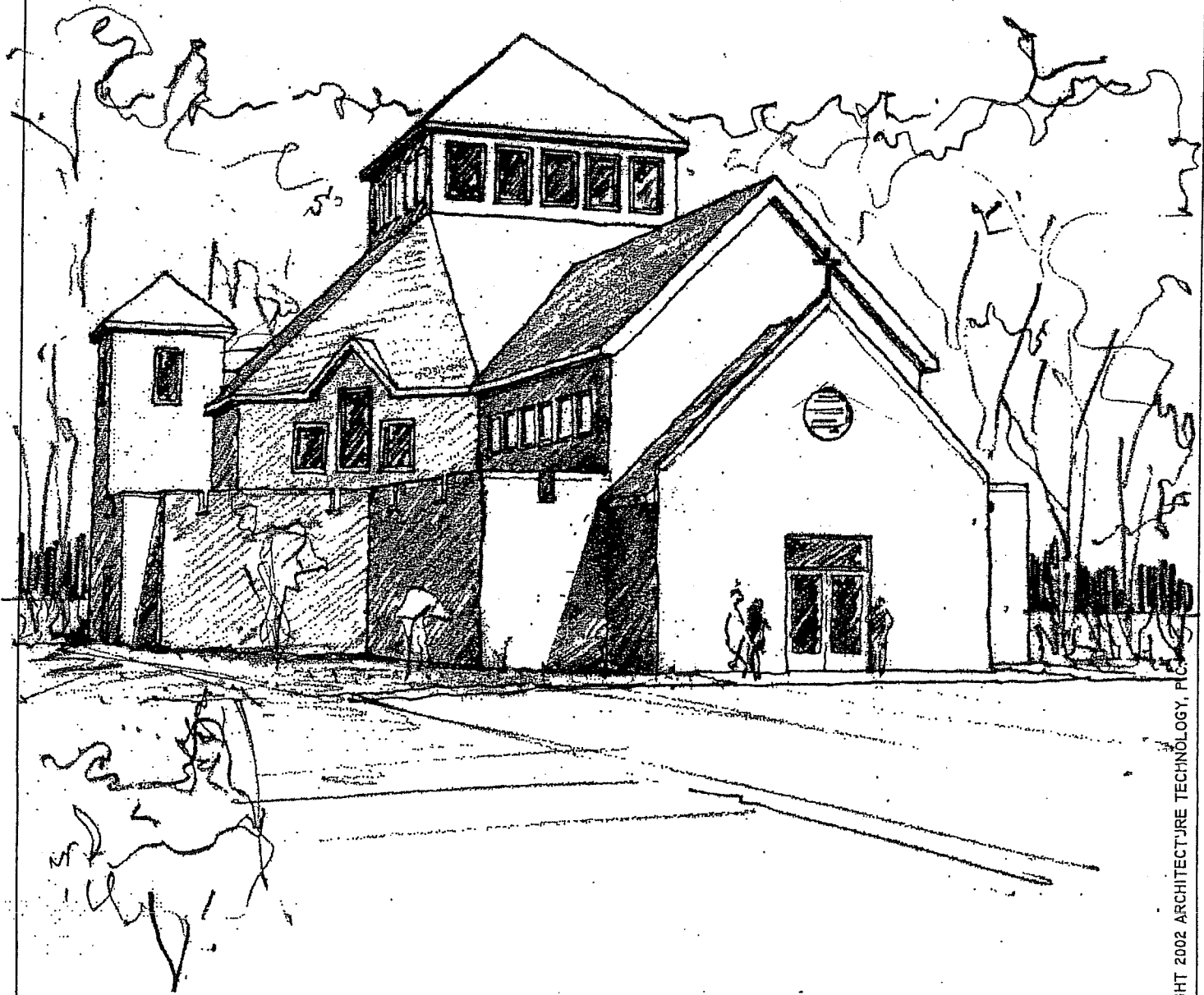


SANCTUARY SEATING

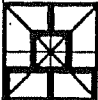
PEWS:	198
CHOIR:	42
CRY ROOM:	8
TOTAL:	248

GATHERING SPACE OCC LOAD

730 SF / 5SF = 146



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ARCHITECTURE
TECHNOLOGY, P.C.
15645 S. WEST BAY SHORE DRIVE
SUITE 102, TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684
(231) 933-4489 / AT@ATI.COM

PREINICE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
1776 HIGH LAKE ROAD
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49686

PERSPECTIVE VIEW

DATE	02-14-02
REV.	
REV.	
REV.	
REV.	

PRELIM
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