

The Redeemer Guides the History of His Church
Redeemer Lutheran Church 60th Anniversary
Highland, Indiana

On September 26, 2014 Redeemer celebrated 60 years of God's grace in the Highland, Indiana community and the world. Many special activities took place including an Anniversary Worship Service with the dedication of the cornerstone. A celebratory meal followed, and a program including a video of the original ground breaking was shown. A panel discussion with five of the charter members was held. A family picnic was held during the summer, and pictorial scrapbooks were created. As the year progresses the Redeemer family is mindful of the many blessing the Lord has bestowed upon His people.

Redeemer's History



1950

Redeemer Lutheran Church's history began on January 10, 1954 when the first meeting of Highland Lutherans was held at Concordia Lutheran Church in Hessville. Several meetings followed to draw up the constitution and form a canvassing committee. The name "Redeemer" was chosen for the church in August of 1954, and a call was extended to Rev. David Koenig. September 26, 1954 marked the first service, and it was held at Pleasant View Dairy Hall with 162 people in attendance. The charter membership consisted of 98 communicant members, and 172 souls. In March of 1953 the site for the church building at Kennedy and 38th street was purchased

for \$10,000 by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The church building costing \$51,570 was dedicated on September 9, 1956. One year later the first kindergarten class was held.

Rev. Raymond O. Lassanske was installed as the church's second pastor on September 8, 1963. A room was added to the church above the narthex in 1970, and in 1972 the multi-purpose room was refurbished. February 13, 1977 marked the Rev. Lassanske's farewell, and the mortgage was also burned on that day.

Rev. Ralph Dipple was installed as pastor of Redeemer on February 26, 1978. One year later the congregation decided to expand and renovate the church. During the project services were held at Highland Junior High School. Dedication of the new building took place in September of 1980.



1980

Redeemer's fourth Pastor, Rev. Arthur R. Burkman, was installed on August 25, 1985. Beginning in 1986 until 2006 Pastor Burkman and Redeemer have nurtured 20 pastors in training through the LCMS vicarage program. Also in 1986, the new Zimmer pipe organ was dedicated on Redeemer's 30th Anniversary. That year the Little Lambs preschool was established. In 1994 the hail damaged roof was repaired with part of the funds raised through a walk-a-thon. Charter member Betty Jantzen was recognized that year for 50 years of service to the Lord as an organist, service she began in 1944. She

continued to serve as Redeemer's organist for an additional 18 years until her retirement in 2012.

In 2000 Redeemer rewrote its church constitution and created a Church Council to replace the previous Voter's Assembly governing structure. In 2004 a 50th Anniversary celebration was held that included a family picnic during the summer, a banquet at Teibel's Restaurant in September, and the publication of a pictorial directory.

In the summer of 2007 Rev. Eric Allan Kleinschmidt was installed at Redeemer as Associate Pastor and served along side Rev. Burkman for four years. He was installed as Sole Pastor on December 11, 2011 following Pastor Burkman's retirement on June 30, 2011. Rev. Burkman served 40 years in the ministry, including 26 as the Pastor of Redeemer. The vicarage program was resumed in 2011 under the supervision of Pastor Kleinschmidt and continues today.



2013

Redeemer is now the church home to approximately 350 families. God has truly blessed Redeemer throughout its sixty year history!

To God alone be the glory!