

## **1959-1969**

### **The Founding Years**

The seeds for St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church in Huber Heights, Ohio, were planted in the fall of 1957, when the Ohio District Mission Committee of the American Lutheran Church purchased three and one-half acres of land at a cost of \$10,323 for a mission congregation. A new community of single-family brick homes was being built by Charles Huber, and the nearest Lutheran church was several miles away.

Under the auspices of the Ohio District Mission Committee, Huber Heights residents who had been worshipping at outlying Lutheran churches met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kesatie on December 6, 1957 to discuss the possibility of building a facility in Huber Heights. Further meetings, along with a canvassing of homes in the area for a church census, indicated the need for a Lutheran Church in Huber Heights. Two lots next to the church property were purchased in June of 1958: one lot to be used for a parsonage and the other to be left vacant to facilitate access to the church parking lot. At this time a Steering Committee was appointed:

Co-Chairmen:

Bill Kesatie and Bill Scholl

Committee Members:

John Buchanan, Ronald Smith, John Fluke,  
John Dilley, and Nelson Keener

On July 15, 1958, the first official meeting of the Steering Committee was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dayton, Ohio. At this meeting, the "Package Mission" was selected to be built in Huber Heights. The sponsoring church, St. Paul, donated \$10,500 to the new mission. The down payment for the parsonage and the lot adjacent to the parsonage was provided from St. Paul Sunday School funds.

A call was issued to the Reverend John L. Kennedy in December of 1958, and he accepted. Pastor Kennedy, his wife Marcelene, and their children--Becky, Mary Beth, and John David--arrived in Huber Heights on January 5, 1959.

The name "St. Timothy" was chosen for the new church on January 8, 1959. Since St. Paul was the sponsoring, "parent" congregation, the name "St. Timothy" was chosen based on the biblical relationship between Paul and Timothy. Four committees were established to further the work of the new congregation. Serving on the Worship Committee were Kenneth Lauber and John Buchanan; Finance Committee: Bill Kesatie and John Dilley; Publicity Committee: John Fluke and Ronald Smith; and Parish Education: Rev. Kennedy and Bill Scholl.

Temporary arrangements were made to conduct services at nearby Kitty Hawk school while the new facility was being built. The first worship service was held in the school auditorium on January 25, 1959, with 101 persons attending.

Ken Lauber and John Buchanan built an altar and lectern for use during these services. Formal Sunday School and Bible Class began on February 1, 1959, with 85 in attendance. Also in February, the adult and children's choirs were organized under the direction of Barbara Piatt, with Mrs. Charles Brown as pianist.



The groundbreaking service for the first unit of the church was held at 3:00 p.m. on April 12, 1959, with a reception at the parsonage afterward. The congregation officially organized with 92 charter members on April 19, 1959. Pastor Kenneth Priebe, President of the Ohio District (ALC), was the guest speaker. The constitution was adopted, and a church council was appointed to serve until the regular annual election. St. Timothy's application for membership in the Ohio District of the American Lutheran Church was confirmed on June 12, 1959. Cornerstone-laying ceremonies were held on May 3, 1959.

The first Sunday School classes in the newly constructed building were held on September 13, 1959, followed by worship at 10:30 a.m. Though the interior work on the building had not yet been completed, a joyful congregation humbly praised God for His great blessings.

Preliminary planning for St. Timothy's educational unit began in July, 1961. In May, 1962, final plans were approved, and the building contract was awarded to Wenrick Construction Company. Ground breaking services were held on May 27, 1962, and construction began on June 6, 1962. The completed two-story structure measured 35' by 40' and consisted of 7 classrooms, and nursery with restroom facilities, and additional furnace room. The total cost of construction was



\$24,460. The congregation also contributed their labors towards finishing work such as painting, floor tiling, interior decorating, landscaping, etc.

In January, 1963, the church council appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of opening a Kindergarten. The committee considered many factors, including teacher qualifications, available space, and curriculum before bringing their findings to the congregation in a special meeting held March 17. The congregation unanimously voted to establish a Christian Kindergarten at St. Timothy beginning in September, 1963. Mrs. James Coddington was appointed teacher, and 30 children were enrolled.

Pastor Kennedy received and accepted a call to Peace Lutheran Church in Gahanna, Ohio in the summer of 1965. St. Timothy issued a call to Pastor Frederick Klopfer, who accepted and assumed his duties on September 1, 1965. As of December 31, 1965, the membership stood at 894 baptized and 470 confirmed. The church school membership was 389. Due to the rapid growth of the congregation, one of the first things Pastor Klopfer noticed upon arriving at St. Timothy was "the extreme over crowded conditions." He commented that "there have been families who have joined other congregations rather than St. Timothy because of the crowded conditions." Thus, the seeds for further expansion were planted.

In 1966, work began on a new building program. At the 7th Annual Congregational Meeting on January 16, a motion was passed to authorize the church council to appoint a new building committee. On February 14, a motion was passed to appoint Bill Kesatie (Chairman), Ed Huber, and Ervin Bostelman as the St. Timothy Building Committee. With a goal of \$78,306, member total commitments amounted to almost \$80,000.

At a special congregational meeting held on April 24, a motion was passed to empower the church trustees to hire an architect to design the new building. In June, architects were interviewed, and in July, Fred Stritzel was hired as architect for the project.

In October 1966, a fund-raising dinner was held to kick off the building fund drive. In 1967, preliminary drawings of the new facility were received by the church council. In October 1968, the church approached the \$50,000 mark for new building construction. At this time, the Building Committee was reorganized. Members included Robert Theil (Chairman), Ron Piatt, Marvin Michel, Henry Telljohann, and Pastor Klopfer.

During St. Timothy's first decade, the mission of the church was always clear, as expressed in Pastor Klopfer's 1969 Pastor's Report:

*What should the church be about? The people who make up the church should be about "the Father's Business." And the one who first uttered these words showed what He meant. A congregation grows and is strengthened when it is actively concerned about the unsaved and at work spreading the Gospel.*

## **1969-1979**

### **Growing Years (New Facilities)**

The congregation began this decade with 3 general goals: (1) developing more opportunities for fellowship and spiritual study and growth; (2) strengthening efforts in social actions and personal and group witnessing in the community; and (3) continuing the church's building program. In September 1969, the trustees of St. Timothy were authorized to contract with L. B. Robinson Company to build the new worship and educational facilities. In a special congregational meeting in April of 1970, the congregation approved the sale of bonds by First Dayton Corporation. When this necessary financing was approved, a groundbreaking service was held, and construction of the new facility began. The cost of the building was \$293,000, and construction was projected to be complete in the spring of 1971.

A Furnishings Committee, chaired by Bob Henderson, was established in September 1970 to select the pews, car-

peting, organ and many other interior items for the sanctuary. Jerry Hanson headed the “NOW” Committee to raise funds for these furnishings, and the congregation responded with gifts of over \$11,000 on “NOW” Sunday, March 14, 1971.



On June 20, 1971, the new sanctuary was dedicated. In the dedication booklet, Pastor Klopfer wrote: “The Church was built to extend the Lord’s Kingdom. This is really the one and only purpose for the existence of any church building or congregation. Nothing more, except the winning of the unbeliever for the Lord. The Command still stands: ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.’”

Two additional important programs were started in 1971. In June, four Parish Mission Builders (Georgia Ausman, Betty Boyer, Richard Urie, and Mark Nygard) surveyed Huber Heights residents to identify unchurched Lutherans and those interested in learning more about the Christian faith. In addition, Bob Hemphill spearheaded the Bethel Bible Study pro-



gram. In October, 79 members attended one of three Bethel classes, which provided a systematic study of the Bible.

The 70's also saw the growth of several youth programs at St. Timothy. In addition to the Senior and Junior Lutheran Leagues, the church adopted two girl scout troops and a boy scout troop. In the late 70's, Boy Scout Troop 490 grew to 35 members. A cub scout troop was also added. For adults church members, a program called "Koinoina" was initiated. Beginning with four groups and eventually growing to seven, the groups provided members the opportunity to grow in faith through small group fellowship and regular Bible study.

With a new facility and many opportunities for members to deepen their understanding of God's word, St. Timothy experienced a period of growth. The theme for 1974 was "Growth Galore in '74," and that goal was met, as Pastor Klopfer indicated in the following passage from 1974's annual report: "The final two months of 1974 have seen a decided increase in those who worship. More than 3 times the number of adults are involved in adult religious education than there were 3 to 4 years ago.... I know of no other congregation, and I am well acquainted with more than a few, that have the team work, readiness, cordial attitude and ungrudging disposition that moves the members to undertake a task and successfully carry it through to completion and success."

In June 1975, as part of its mission outreach, the congregation voted to commit to a one-year sponsorship of a Vietnamese refugee family as they adapted to life in the United States. This sponsorship included paying a Huber rental lease, and providing household goods, furnishings, clothing, and money. In October 1978, the congregation voted to sponsor another Vietnamese family in a similar manner.

In 1978, Bill Scholl designed a large brick sign for the front church lawn. The building work was completed by members, including Jim Morris who laid the brick.

The final years of this decade could best be summed up with the words “challenge” and “transition.” An energy crisis in the late 70’s caused the church to adopt many energy-saving measures, including purchasing storm windows and worshipping downstairs in the Fellowship Hall during one particularly cold winter. In 1976, Pastor Klopfer accepted a call to David Lutheran Church in Columbus, OH. Pastor Larry Raudebaugh accepted a call to our congregation, but remained only until August of 1977, when he resigned due to personal issues. Also in 1977, the parsonage was sold. The Reverend Dr. Lyle Darnauer, who had been teaching Sociology at Capital University, was called to serve as Interim Pastor following Pastor Raudebaugh’s departure. An Advisory Call Committee, chaired by Bill Scholl, was established to select candidates for a new pastor. Five pastors were chosen to be interviewed. After completing this process, in June of 1978

the congregation issued a call to Pastor Darnauer. He accepted, and became St. Timothy's full-time pastor.

## **1979-1989**

### **Standing Firm on the Lutheran Confessions - Withdrawal from the Formation of ELCA**

In 1979, the congregation celebrated its 20th anniversary. As the congregation looked towards its future, Pastor Darnauer initiated new efforts toward church revitalization and growth. One was to begin holding Sunday evening worship services on the first and third Sundays of each month. Another was to hold a Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Memorial Camp the first week in July. Seventeen confirmands, plus three "juniors," attended. During this time, the Evangelism Committee activated the "Evangelism Explosion" program, to train members in effective visitation ministry. A lawn tractor was purchased, with Erv Bostelman serving as primary groundskeeper.

In 1980, Pastor Darnauer worked with four other Huber Heights pastors, the township, and Wayne high school to survey the Huber Heights area. The purpose of the survey was to discover more about the community, how it was changing, and how people felt about Huber Heights. This information could then be used to guide St. Timothy in the proper direction for the ministry of the congregation. Congregation President

Bob Hemphill also expressed a desire to develop a comprehensive 5-year plan for the church. Some ideas considered at that time were the establishment of a Christian Elementary School, and to become debt free by the church's 25th anniversary.

In 1981, the township of Huber Heights became a city on March 29th. At St. Timothy, plans continued toward the establishment of long-term goals. Ten goals were identified and assigned to committees for incorporation into committee plans. Council also used the identified goals to begin developing a 5-year plan for the congregation. Regarding capital improvements, the church parking lot was resurfaced and sealed, and in May the congregation voted to purchase a used school bus for church use.

In 1982 Council President Arnold Patchin's report mentioned the move toward formation of a new Lutheran Church. He urged everyone to "read the articles in The Lutheran Standard, the concept papers maintained by Pastor Lyle, and other material put out by the ALC pertaining to the new church."

In 1984, St. Timothy celebrated its 25th anniversary. Two special services were held--one commemorating the first Sunday School session, and one reenacting the groundbreaking and cornerstone laying. Work continued on expanding the church's youth ministry, with the investigation of hiring a part-

time youth worker through the “Tentmaker” program. The Sunday evening services were dropped due to lack of interest.

In 1985, several capital improvement projects were undertaken. New carpeting was installed in the Narthex, new supplementary hymnals were purchased for the Sanctuary, new tables and chairs were purchased for the Fellowship Hall, and a drainage problem around the church building was corrected. Also, plans to become involved in the “Tentmaker” program were fulfilled when David Walli was hired on August 17th to work with the youth.

In 1986 a new ministry began at St. Timothy--Clowns for Christ. Originally led by Dave Thomas, this group was an evangelistic outreach of the church whose members pantomimed Bible messages. The group lead worship services, and performed in area churches in support of VBS, youth retreats, and fellowship dinners. Their goal was to share the love of Jesus through drama and humorous skits.

From 1982 to 1986, Pastor Darnauer and church leaders continued communication with the leaders of the ALC regarding the planned merger of three Lutheran denominations. Most of St. Timothy's concerns centered around a drift toward looseness in theology. Specifically, the new merged church--to be known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)--would not say that the Bible is infallible. Many biblical scholars teaching in the seminaries at that time saw the first

11 chapters of Genesis as myth, and were backing away from the Lutheran Confessions. Thus, after long study and much



discussion and prayer, the congregation voted during the Annual Meeting in September, 1987 to disassociate from the ALC and become an independent Lutheran congregation. Also, as of August 31, St. Timothy discontinued the Tentmaker program. David Walli served the congregation for two years, and Virgi Sharp served as an intern Tentmaker for over six months.

1988 was a year of reflection and rediscovery as St. Timothy wrestled with who we were as a congregation, and worked to define the basis on which we would move forward. Two study groups reaffirmed that St. Timothy was conservative theologically, and that our special emphasis should be in the area of religious education. Pastor Darnauer provided

several opportunities for members to take a “Gifts of the Spirit” class so members could identify their gifts and learn how best to use them to build up the Body of Christ. A great deal of time and effort was also spent on reshaping the physical facilities, including expanding the parking area, completing the circular driveway, updating the computer system, and renovating the old chapel into a library and meeting room.

## **1989-1999**

### **Troubled Waters - Pursuit of Healing**

In 1989, Pastor Darnauer led congregation members through the first year of a demanding yet rewarding two-year study of discipleship. The second year of studies, entitled “The Ministering Disciple,” began in September.

During 1989, Pastor Darnauer announced his plans to retire. Congregational President Dick Carnal noted that since the call for his replacement would not occur until 1990, the church would seek advice from the new Pastor prior to further consideration of synod affiliation. An Advisory Call Committee, led by Marv Michel, developed church and pastor profiles to send to the LCMS and AALC for pastoral candidates. After evaluating all the candidates submitted, St. Timothy issued a call to Richard Becker (LCMS). He returned the call. Another LCMS pastor, Rev. Schroeder, was contacted for an interview, but he declined to come in. It seemed that Missouri Lutheran

pastors were hesitant to accept a call from an independent Lutheran congregation.

An AALC pastor who fit our congregational profile, Rev. William Ahlfeldt, was then contacted and invited to come for an interview and “meet and greet” session in March, 1990. Following this process, a call was issued to Rev. Ahlfeldt, and he accepted.

The adjustment to a new pastor did not go smoothly. The 1991 President’s report noted that the past year had been very difficult. “There has been conflict in personalities within the congregation this past year and this has created problems in attendance and giving.” Unfortunately, these conflicts were not resolved and Rev. Ahlfeldt left St. Timothy after accepting a call to another congregation in 1992. President Robert Hemphill noted in the Annual Report that “in the summer of 1992, in terms of finances, attendance, and general morale, St. Timothy was probably at its lowest point since it was established.” A time of healing was needed, and a retired pastor from Sidney, Ohio, Richard Jesse, agreed to serve as our interim during this time. A new pastoral call committee was formed, and they conducted a written survey of the congregation on the attributes they desired for a permanent pastor.

In 1993, a call was issued to Rev. Terry Jobst, who accepted. At the September congregational meeting, Pastor Jobst proposed the establishment of a Board of Lay Ministry,



which was approved by the congregation. During this time, the congregation began to look at ways to make the facility handicap-accessible, and began collecting funds for a handicap access "chair lift." In addition, a special congregational meeting was held on October 17th, to determine if St. Timothy should proceed to apply for membership in the LCMS. The congregation voted to proceed with the application.

In 1994, a Constitution Committee was formed to update our church's constitution. The congregation continued to examine ways to make our facility handicap accessible. The congregation approved the purchase of a Stair Trac, a portable piece of equipment, including a wheelchair and recharging equipment, that could be used throughout the building. On May 7, 1995, the congregation approved phase one of a remodeling project to add two restrooms in the Fellowship Hall, both to be fully handicap accessible. In 1995, the church's exterior was painted, and in 1996 a new sound system was purchased for the sanctuary.

During Pastor Jobst's time at St. Timothy, issues arose regarding counseling, confidentiality, and conflicts with members of the congregation. At a special congregational meeting on September 8, 1996, Pastor Jobst's resignation was accepted, and the congregation agreed to participate in a Peace in the Parish program. After completing this process, a new Call Committee was formed to begin the process of finding a

new pastor. Pastor Jason Stanton served as our interim pastor during this time.

Special Committees performed quite a bit of work during 1997. The Daycare Committee examined the need for a Christian daycare center in Huber Heights, and the possibility of establishing one at St. Timothy. The Milas Van Fund Committee worked to raise funds for a handicap-accessible van for church member Stephanie Milas. In order to raise funds, church members performed in an old-fashioned melodrama, under the direction of Rod Trego. The first melodrama was such a success that it became an annual event for several



years. The Call Committee received candidate names in September. The committee developed questions for interviews, and agreed to a deliberate and prayer-filled approach to filling the pastoral vacancy.

In 1998, St. Timothy agreed to serve as host congregation to Dennis Dobbins, who needed to complete a year-long vicarage as part of his seminary training.

## **1999-2009**

### **Standing Firm on Truth, Facing Tomorrow's Challenges**

After serving as vicar at St. Timothy for a year, Dennis Dobbins was ordained at St. Timothy on June 27, 1999, and accepted a call to serve as full-time pastor. St. Timothy also celebrated its 40th anniversary, hosting a dinner for over 230 past and present members. The church adopted a new mission statement in 1999: "Touching People with the message of God's Love and Eternal Life through His Son, Jesus Christ." Handicap accessibility continued to be a major issue, with studies being done to ascertain the best way to provide access to the Fellowship Hall from the Sanctuary.

In 2000, a committee was established to set the groundwork for addressing renovation and upgrades to our building. A Pastor's Advisory Board was established to enhance Pastor Dobbins's ability to lead the congregation in spiritual growth.

In 2001, renovating the church facility was the primary focus. Upgrades included putting on a new roof, installing an

elevator in the Cry Room, installing new carpet in the sanctuary, refinishing the pews, and purchasing window treatments. On a personal note, it was a very trying time for Pastor Dobbins and his family as his wife, Lori, continued her battle with cancer.



In July, 2002, Lori passed away. Though saddened by her loss, the congregation had drawn strength and comfort from Lori and Pastor's unwavering faith in the face of her terminal illness. Many members made contributions to the church Memorial Fund in Lori's memory. Since Lori loved flowers, it was determined that the funds would be used for landscaping in front of the church.

In 2003, congregation president Tony Latessa noted the church's potential for growth. At that time, there were almost 100 families on the membership rolls, but only a small percentage of people were active in the church's programs and activities. During this time, the church investigated ways

to restructure the Council to make it more efficient and make the committees more focused on the needs and goals of the congregation.

In June 2004, the congregation celebrated the happy occasion of Pastor Dobbins' marriage to Ann Coyle. Also in 2004, an Endowment Fund Research Committee was formed to investigate the pros and cons of establishing an Endowment Fund at St. Timothy. The Evangelism Committee was renamed the "Mission Board" and given a new focus. The Board would concentrate on local, national, and worldwide missions. That same year, the Mission Board hosted St. Timothy's first annual Mission Fair. This was a weekend-long event, and various organizations that were part of St. Timothy's Benevolence Fund came to the church, displayed their materials, and answered questions. The purpose of this event was to educate the congregation about St. Timothy's mission involvement.

At the May 2005 congregational meeting, the Endowment Fund Articles of Association were approved. During this time, the congregation experienced some financial difficulties, which were dealt with in several ways. The financial reporting system was improved, and the Stewardship Committee developed and trained a Financial Review Committee. A tract on Lutheran Stewardship was developed and distributed, and a class on handling money God's way was offered to members. In September 2005, a committee was formed to begin plan-

ning St. Timothy's 50th Anniversary celebration. The committee was chaired by Alvera Bostelman.

In July, 2006, Alvera Bostelman passed away unexpectedly. In addition to serving as the 50th Anniversary Committee chairperson, Alvera had served as the church organist and Worship Committee chairperson for many years. In the weeks and months following Alvera's death, the Lord called other church members to fill the positions she had held, including Sarah Davis to serve as organist, and Lisa Shrewsbury to head up the 50th Anniversary Committee.

In September, 2006, Pastor showed a video to the congregation on the new Lutheran Service Book from the LCMS. Following this presentation, many members of the congregation contributed funds to purchase these new Service Books for use in Sunday worship. Congregational President Curt Campbell also acknowledged Sandy Kothman in his 2006-2007 President's Report, thanking her for her 30 years of dedicated service as Parish Assistant at St. Timothy.

In 2008 and the early months of 2009, plans continued in earnest for the church's 50th anniversary celebration. Lisa Shrewsbury presided over committee meetings and produced a commemorative DVD, Marv and Doris Michel organized a music program featuring performances by past and present church members, Skip and Teri Wilson researched venues for our dinner event, Judie Evans designed and assembled a

commemorative banner for the sanctuary, Joyce Whisler oversaw the compilation of a new pictorial directory, Pauletta Talley and Elisabeth Rath researched memorabilia items, and Martha Bernard and Bill School conducted research for this church history booklet. Many other members volunteered their time to clean the church and assemble gift items for attendees.

## **Ministries That Span the Decades**

The history presented thus far is a brief outline of important events in St. Timothy's past. However, any history would not be complete without mentioning the many programs and ministries that began during the congregation's early years and continue to this day. The purpose of these ministries has been to reach out to our community with the saving message of Jesus Christ, and also to enrich the spiritual life of St. Timothy's members.

In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven." St. Timothy has always valued the spiritual welfare of children, and the many youth programs through the years bear witness to this commitment. We have held Vacation Bible School (VBS) every year since the church was formed. Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and Cub Scout troops—which were organized in the 60's—continued to be active throughout the 1970's. In the 1980's, Pioneer Girls and Boys clubs were

active. Junior and Senior Luther Leagues provided children opportunities for Bible study and fellowship. In addition, St. Timothy has always had an active Sunday School program, and our pastors and various lay leaders have provided catechetical instruction to our youth. The children's Christmas Program is an annual event both adults and children eagerly anticipate. The congregation has been generous in supporting the youth to attend various retreats and church camps throughout the years. And finally, our Preschool—which began as a Kindergarten in 1963—still continues to serve our community under the direction of Pamela Wilmer. We have been blessed to have many dedicated members serve in our Preschool throughout the years.

The women of our church have had their own unique opportunities for fellowship and service. Originally under the auspices of the American Lutheran Church Women (ALCW), and more recently through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), the women of St. Timothy work diligently to meet needs both inside and outside the congregation. They teach children in Sunday School and VBS, serve on the Altar Guild, provide help and food to the sick and shut-ins, and attend Circle meetings for Bible study and fellowship. In the past, they have also hosted Mother/Daughter banquets, helped organize and run the church library, and provided baby sitting in the church nursery. In reaching outside our congregation, St. Timothy women have shared the love of Jesus by



collecting money and supplies for church missionaries, Wernle Children's Home, Bethany Lutheran Village, and many other local faith-based organizations. Recently, women began meeting weekly to knit and crochet items for Alaska missions and for church members residing in assisted living facilities.

St. Timothy men have shown strong leadership over the years by serving in various council and executive positions. They have assisted our pastors in the teaching ministry of the congregation by leading adult Sunday School and weeknight classes. They have also put in thousands of hours of volunteer service to maintain our facility and property. They have laid sod, painted, built furniture and storage cabinets, repaired faulty equipment, mowed and maintained the church lawn, and served on cleaning teams. They have enhanced our worship services by volunteering as ushers and communion assistants. They have also participated in men's Bible studies, fellowship breakfasts, and Father/Son banquets.

One ministry that has involved members of all ages throughout the church's history is our music program. St. Timothy has shown that the Lutheran church is a singing church! During the 1970's, the Chapel, Chancel, Crusade, Chorister, and Cherub choirs involved members of all ages in singing praises to God and enriching the worship services. Many special music programs have been conducted over the years, including informal music services (Hymn Sings) in the 1960's, a presentation of the Una Sancta in 1972 with the

combined choirs of St. Timothy and Peace Lutheran, a pulpit musical (“Celebrate Life”) in 1973, and cantadas and special music for seasonal services—including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Reformation, and Thanksgiving—throughout the years. The adult choir continues to enhance St. Timothy’s worship services today under the direction of Doris Michel.

## **St. Timothy: The Next 50 Years**

As we look to the future, we see many challenges from within and without. Our aging facilities continue to require maintenance and upgrading. Outside our facility, we see a shift in what people are looking for in worship. Over the past decade, the “mega-church” has risen in popularity, with people seeking entertainment and a “feel good” message rather than spiritual growth. The greatest challenges facing our congregation as we move into the next 50 years of ministry are to stand firm on our foundation of Lutheran Confessions based on biblical truth, while at the same time making the Gospel message relevant to those around us who are searching for that truth.

While these challenges may seem daunting, we must always remember where our power comes from to accomplish these things. St. Paul said, “I can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). St. Timothy is Christ’s church and we are members of His body, here to accomplish His will in this time and place.

What is St. Timothy's future? It is up to US! For we are the ones who:

- Worship regularly
- Support the church financially so it can minister at home and abroad
- Volunteer to help in one or more of St. Timothy's many ministries
- Serve on committees
- Attend programs, classes, and fellowship activities on a regular basis

If we, the members of St. Timothy, continue to be faithful to our Lord by spreading the Gospel message; reaching out to the community through our Preschool, VBS, and other programs; and ministering to the sick, hungry, and homeless; then this church will grow and flourish through the next 50 years and beyond!

