

# Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

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Encounter God | Love one another | Reach the World

Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation in the ELCA, I am so grateful to have been a part of the vibrant ministry that Christ the Servant has engaged in here in Vadnais Heights. I know that I have only been here for a small portion of these past 60 years, but I have seen and heard so much of the rich history our community of faith has. There have definitely been some challenges this congregation has faced over the years, but the fact that we are still an integral part of this community is a testament to the faithfulness of all those who have been a part of our mission and ministry the past 60 years.

When we think of our history, I am sure the building itself comes to mind as an integral part of our work together. As we were going through some of our historical documents, we came across a message from Pastor Gary Anderson about the need for Christ the Servant to have its own building. This is what he wrote.

“To better fulfill our responsibilities we must have another tool-our own building-to:

**REACH** more people for God’s Kingdom

**TEACH** more efficiently for greater Christian understanding

**WITNESS** more effectively in this community

“To serve better will be costly. We will be asked to give freely of our time, talent, and money. When we respond in all of these ways, we are responding to Jesus Christ and our neighbor. A challenge has been thrust into our laps – by God. With prayer, sacrifice and hard work we will meet the challenge. I am confident you will respond now as you did in the beginning.”

The amount of care and personal sacrifice that has gone into building, expanding, and maintaining our church is astounding. Many of our members have been personally involved in its construction and maintenance over the years. Pastor Anderson presented Christ the Servant with a challenge and opportunity. And 60 years later, we can proudly say that this challenge was met entirely.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jon