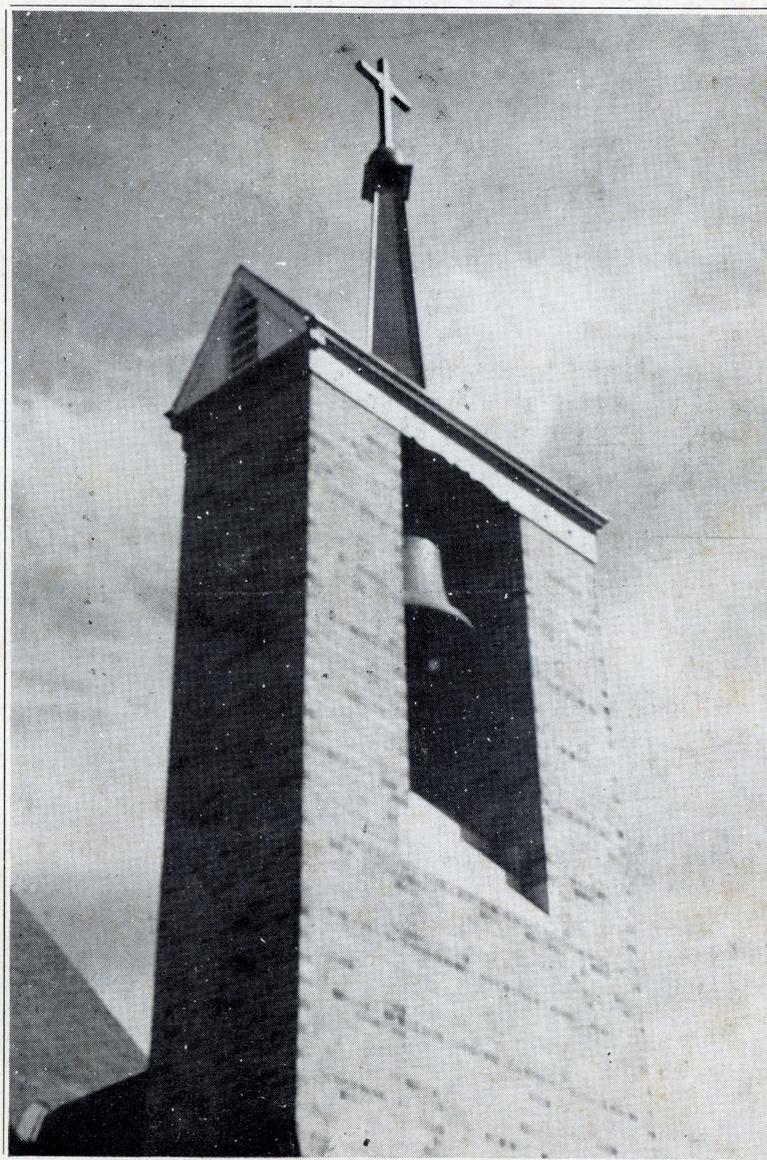


1880

1955

# 75th Anniversary



Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

# 75th Anniversary Program

## Sunday, May 22nd—

9:30 and 11:00 a. m.—Guest: Dr. O. V. Anderson, President, Illinois Conference

4 to 7 p. m.—Open House, program and refreshments, sponsored by the Ladies' Aid Society.

## Sunday, May 29th—

9:30 and 11:00 a. m.—In Memory of the Past. Conducted by Pastor Edquist

## Sunday, June 5th—

9:30 and 11:00 a. m. Guest, Rev. Olof H. Nelson, former pastor of Bethany.

3:00 p. m.—Song Service by the Church Choir, Junior Choir, and Luther League Chorus. Guest, Rev. Lloyd Burke, former pastor of Bethany. Refreshment, Ruth Circle.

## Sunday, June 12th—

9:30 a. m.—Confirmation and Reception of Members. 11:00 a. m.—Holy Communion, Rev. P. H. Nordlander, assisting.

## Sunday, June 19th—

Ordination of Norman Erikson and Ray Forstrom at Synod of Augustana Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn.

## Sunday, June 26th—

9:30 and 11:00 a. m.—Sermons by Pastor Norman Erikson and Pastor Ray Forstrom.

3:00 p. m.—Reception for the newly Ordained Pastors. Refreshments, Priscilla Society.

## Sunday, July 3rd—

Hours to be announced. Church picnic at Jorgenson's Woods, No. 2.

## Sunday, September 11th—

Services commemorating the Fifth birthday of Bethany in the new church.

## Sunday, October 16th—

75th Anniversary Confirmand Reunion.

# BETHANY IN THE SCRIPTURES

Bethany, "house of dates", a village on the southeast slope of the Mount of Olives; about two miles from Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:17—"And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there."

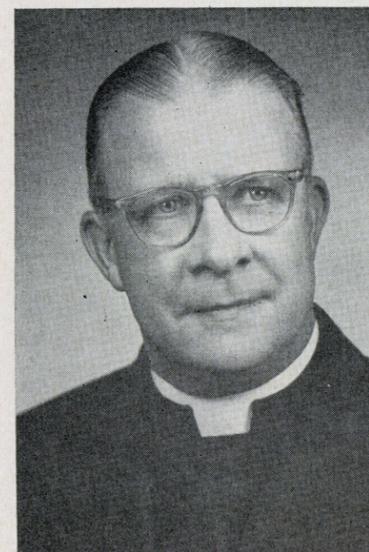
Matthew 26:6—"Now when Jesus was at Bethany . . . a woman came up to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head, as he sat at table . . . Jesus . . . said to them . . . 'Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world. what she has done will be told in memory of her'."

Mark 11:1—"And when he drew near to Jerusalem . . . and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, and said to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it. If any one says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord hath need of it'."

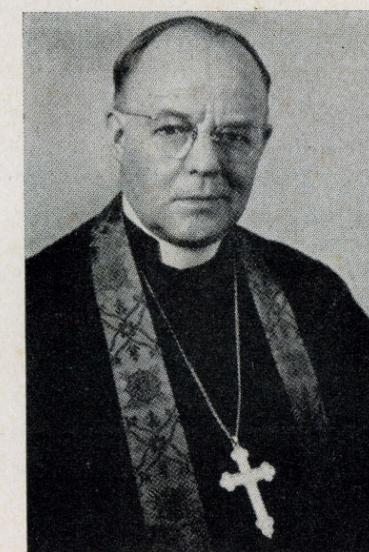
Luke 10:38—"Now as they went on their way, he entered a village (Bethany); and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her'."

John 11:1—"Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary that anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters went to him, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it.' . . . This he spoke, and then he said unto them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep'."

Luke 24:50—"Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple, blessing God."



DR. O. V. ANDERSON  
President, Illinois Conference



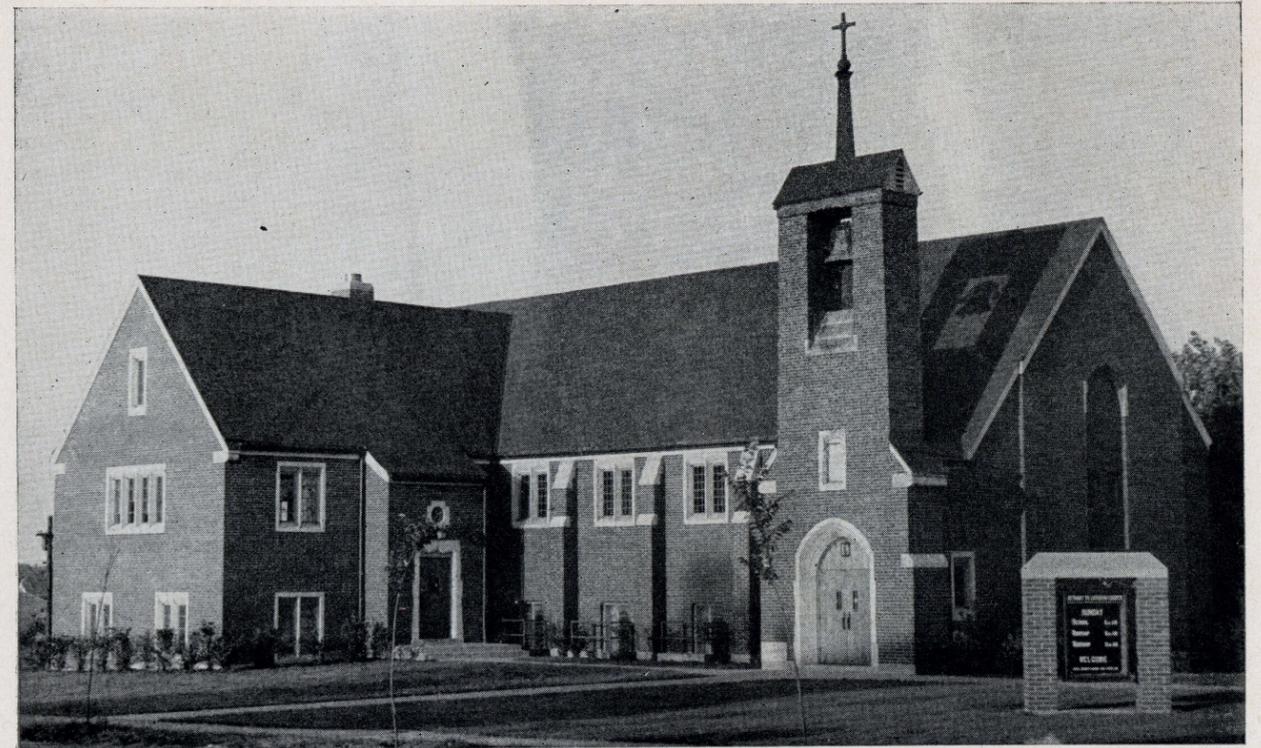
DR. OSCAR A. BENSON  
President, Augustana Ev. Lutheran Church

## Bethany on Houston

Bethany was organized as a congregation on May 30th, 1880. In July, 1880, two lots were purchased at 9118 Houston Avenue. Building of a church was voted at a special meeting held June 29, 1881. Work began August 17 that year and was completed in the spring of 1883. It was to be Bethany's home for many years. The bell and altar painting were purchased in 1905, and the Austin pipe organ in 1918. These are a part of the new Bethany on Jeffery. The church had originally built at street level. In 1899, as shown to the left, it had been raised, a basement built, and the entire structure brick-veneered.



The church steeple was removed in 1939, and the appearance of Bethany became as we see it to the right. Our last service was held there on Sunday, April 24th, 1949. The farewell to the building that had served through so many years was a sad one, but all were grateful for the many memories that remained. The altar painting, the altar, the pipe organ, and the bell were removed and later incorporated in the new Bethany "on the hill." From April, 1949 through August, 1950, the congregation met for worship in the beautiful chapel of The Augustana Home on Stony Island Ave., with Sunday School in the parsonage basement, 9207 Yates Avenue.



## THE NEW BETHANY

MANY YEARS AGO Bethany realized that she could not hope to remain on Houston Avenue where the congregation had been first established in the year 1880, seventy-five years ago. Our people had moved away; the neighborhood had changed; only the persistent loyalty of the membership kept the church doors open. Lots were purchased at 92nd Street and Yates Avenue in 1923 and a parsonage built, with the hope that a church could be erected later. The depression came; a war intervened; other obstacles arose; the church was not built.

With the development of Jeffery Manor and the increased building of homes west of Yates Avenue, together with the establishment of a bus line on Jeffery Blvd., it was thought that a location on Jeffery Blvd. and 92nd Street would be better for us. Five lots were purchased in 1946, and in 1947 we were able to secure two additional lots. This gave us a frontage on Jeffery Blvd. of 175 feet and a depth of 125 feet on 92nd Street.

Work on the present building began in the fall of 1949. As now completed it is the first unit of a church complex which is planned to include a church proper adjoining the present building on the south side and paralleling 92nd

Street, and a chapel extending north from the west wing of the present structure. The building we have now would then become a parish hall and educational unit.

However, this building should suffice for many years; it is adequate and fitting for our worship services and our Sunday School is provided with separate and suitable rooms for all departments. The facilities for organizations and social activities are also quite acceptable.

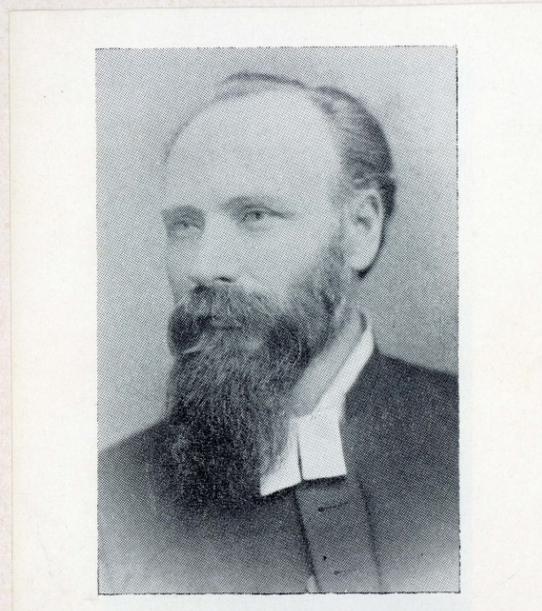
We are happy over the impression made by the belfry with its spire pointing to the skies and with the bell of old Bethany visible against the blue of heaven. We rejoice too that the splendid pipe organ from the old church is again making melody in Bethany, and that in the chancel we can again see the painting that graced our church on Houston Avenue. All else is new.

So we have with us both the old and the new. The old faith is ours; this we shall always treasure and proclaim. A new church is ours and a new day with new hopes and dreams and visions. A Challenge remains, ever old and ever new; one we dare not forget, for we read, "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2.

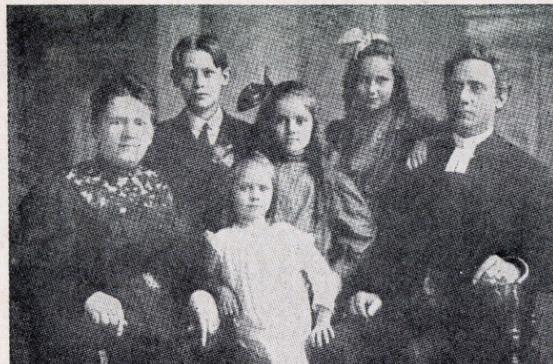
# FORMER PASTORS SERVING BETHANY



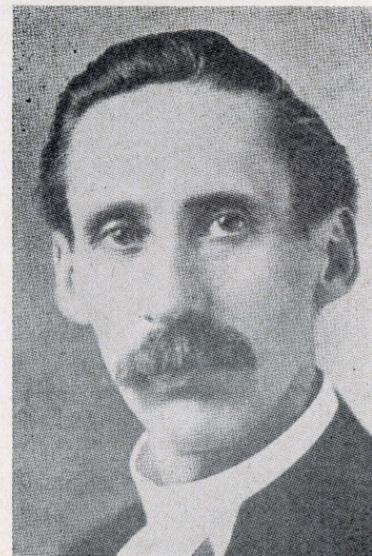
Rev. Johan Wibelius - 1884-1887



Rev. Gustav Lundahl - 1887-1907



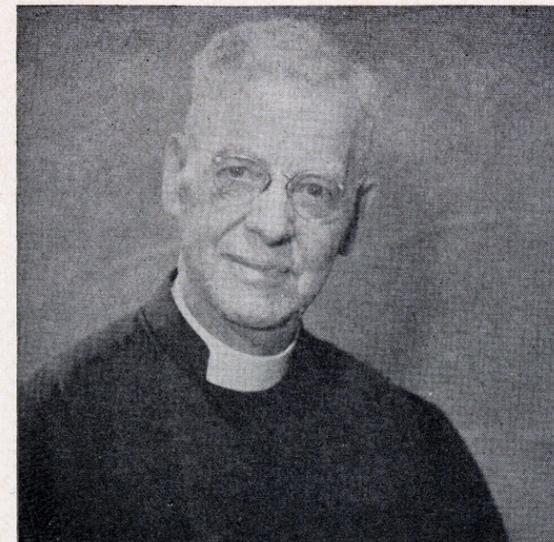
REV. P. MARTINSON AND FAMILY - 1907-1914



Rev. F. E. Engstrand - 1914-1916



Rev. C. Emil Bergquist - 1916-1919



Rev. O. H. Nelson - 1919-1936

of life. This also included a number of hardships which God in His providence turned into blessings. For these years we thank Him. God is faithful and righteous. The Lord bless you and keep you in His grace in the years to come, while waiting and looking for the blessed hope and the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Olof H. Nelson

May grace and peace be multiplied to you!  
We rejoice with you and congratulate you on this your seventy-fifth anniversary, your diamond jubilee.

We have noted with much interest the erection of a new church and the progress Bethany has made. The new location has proved a great blessing. You are now stronger financially and, we believe, also spiritually.

In the nineteen years since we left Bethany many members have passed from this life, and others have moved away. To those whom I baptized, to those I taught for confirmation and those I married I send special greetings. I enjoyed rendering these services, and especially preaching of the word of God.

Cordial greetings from Mrs. Nelson, also from Arnold, Paul, Philip, Elvira, and Norman who all grew up in Bethany. We all experienced many joys in your midst and got good training in the school

"Lo, I am with you always" - Matthew 28:20

There is no question about the presence of God for He is everywhere. This we know, and because we know it, we often take it for granted. In fact, we know it and say it so glibly that it doesn't always mean as much as it should.

At an anniversary such as the one you are now celebrating, there is much joy and gratitude for what God's presence has meant through the years. Your present opportunity testifies to your dependence upon this blessed promise.

As you emerge from your festivities and face the days ahead, the promise will still be there. The Saviour made this promise to the disciples whom He had just commissioned to bring the Gospel to all men. With this commission, He gave the assurance that, as they went, His presence would be with them.

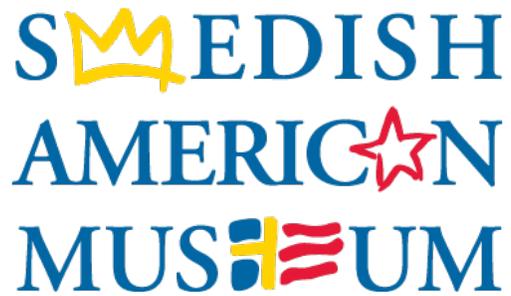
God always strengthens folks as they do His will. Not before, nor after, but while they do it. Then they depend on Him.

May you truly experience His presence and blessing as you seek to do His will in the days to come. Thanking God for a rich heritage, I am confident that the days that lie ahead are much richer.

Pastor Burke



Rev. Lloyd Burke - 1937-1942



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