

# The History

## OF GLENDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Timeline of Pastors Serving Our Congregation

**1943-1945**

**Rev. Professor  
Richard Caemmerer**  
*Interim Pastor*



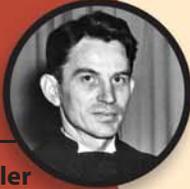
**1945-1947**

**Rev. Warren Schmidt**



**1947-1953**

**Rev. Lewis Niemoeller**



**1954-1977**

**Rev. Elmer Maschoff**



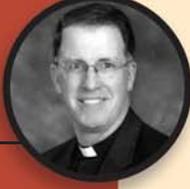
**1978-1979**

**Rev. Dale Griffin**  
*Vacancy pastor*



**1979-2011**

**Rev. Steven Albers**



**2011-2013**

**Rev. Stephen Carter**  
**Rev. Joel Hempel**  
**Rev. Edward Arle**  
*Vacancy pastors*



**2013-2016**

**Rev. Rodney Wise**

**2016-2017**

**Rev. Joel Biermann**  
*Vacancy pastor*

**2017-Present**

**Rev. Scott Jonas**

Seventy five years ago a series of meetings of interested individuals were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emlen Cooper in March and April of 1943. As a result, the first worship service was held on May 2, 1943 in North Glendale School, with the Reverend Professor Richard Caemmerer conducting the service for 65 people.

Encouraged by the success of the first services, the congregation was officially organized on June 24, 1943, again at the home of the Coopers, with eighteen communicant members received under the supervision of the Rev. Richard Jesse. A Sunday school was organized with 22 pupils and 14 Bible class students. Professor Caemmerer agreed to serve as interim pastor until a permanent pastor would be installed.

Within a year (June, 1944) the present 2 ½ acre site at 1365 North Sappington Road was purchased for \$5,250, but the congregation continued to meet at North Glendale School until June, 1949. In July of 1945, Warren Schmidt, who had been serving the congregation as a seminary student and then vicar, accepted a call and was ordained and installed as our first permanent pastor. After two years, Rev. Schmidt resigned but continued to serve the congregation until Rev. Lewis Niemoeller was installed as our second pastor in June of 1947. To accommodate Rev. Niemoeller, his wife and three children, the congregation funded a parsonage to be built at 915 Chelsea in Glendale.

The congregation continued to grow under the leadership of Rev. Niemoeller and led to the construction of our first church building on the 2 ½ acre site already owned. This structure was completed for a cost of \$30,000 and was dedicated on June 19, 1948.



*Pastor Niemoeller breaking ground for construction of Cooper Hall (1946)*

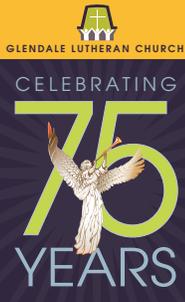


*Cooper Hall completed (1946)*



*Congregation gathers for Cooper Hall Dedication (1946)*





Pastor Maschoff standing by church directional sign placed at Manchester Road (1954)



Groundbreaking for the Parish House (1955)



Just seven years later, under the leadership of Rev. Elmer Maschoff, the need for more facilities increased and the Parish House was built in 1956 at a cost of \$137,000. We worshiped there in what is now our gymnasium. Multiple Sunday school rooms were arranged around the south, west and north perimeters as evidence today by the multiple doorways leading from the Gymnasium. The original church building, which became known as Cooper Hall, was reconfigured to be used for additional Bible classes.

Thirteen years later, as the congregation had grown to include 690 communicants and 904 baptized, ground was broken for our present sanctuary and construction was completed in September of 1969 at a cost of \$400,000. More extensive plans for a new administrative office area and church undercroft were eliminated to cut cost. The gable roof of Cooper Hall was reduced to a flat roof to allow a greater visual impact for the new church. Our sanctuary is still in use today and stands as a timeless visual expression of giving glory to God. Creating a flat roof on Cooper Hall proved to be the beginning of the end of our ability to use this facility.

To continue to expand our ministry opportunities, our congregation voted in 1983 to become a participating member of Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS), joining Concordia, Kirkwood; Webster Gardens, Webster Groves; Mt Calvary, Brentwood; and Prince of Peace, Crestwood. We continue to be a major supporter of that ministry as the CCLS pre-school has been dramatically expanded on our campus.

Worship in Parish House (1956) (now the gymnasium)



First wedding at Glendale Lutheran Church (1950)

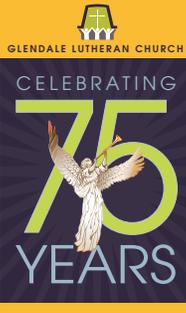
Basketball Team (1964)



Dedication of sign (1971)



Superstructure being erected for new sanctuary (1969)



*The children's message, a GLC tradition (1979)*



*Pastor Albers conducts 50th Anniversary dedication with honorary guest, former GLC Pastor Niemoeller (1993)*



In 1991, the original master plan was realized when the Family Life Center was completed at a cost of \$300,000. This building effort now completed the connection of our entire campus under one roof. The Family Life Center has proven to be an inviting and useful space for a wide variety of activities. The theme for this initiative was appropriately titled, "Joined Together in Faith and Fellowship."

As the years continued on, building maintenance costs continued to rise and space for our called staff and ministry activities - youth, Sunday Bible studies, fellowship - had become fragmented and less than "inviting". It became clear to the congregation that a new master plan for our campus was needed. An extensive study was completed and, in 2003, a new master plan was adopted that included the replacement of our original worship center now called Cooper Hall. With this document in hand as a guide, a Master Plan Task Force was formed soon after. This group found a way to fulfill a large number of the ministry needs articulated and approved in the Master Plan while reducing the projected overall cost. Rather than create a single story structure to replace Cooper Hall, a plan was recommended to create a three story structure on an enlarged footprint. After much discussion, the congregation made the decision to move forward in faith to make this \$2.7 million vision of a larger campus a reality. The theme for our effort is perpetuated on the building cornerstone. We are committed to "...in all things grow up into Christ who is the head" (Ephesians 4:15).

Our new three story structure and finished main level were dedicated in June of 2008. When office spaces were occupied on the main level, the spaces that were vacated by this move were then re-purposed by congregation volunteers. This effort created space for a professional counseling office for Lutheran Family and Children's Services, an enlarged nursery used on Sunday mornings as well through the week for our Early Learning Center, and a children's library. Work continued on the rough finished upper and lower level of the new structure generously supplemented by congregation volunteers. By Easter of 2009, the entire three story building was in use with Sunday school classes conducted in 6 of the 8 classrooms on the upper level and a generously furnished youth room in the lower level.

*Class of confirmands (2005)*



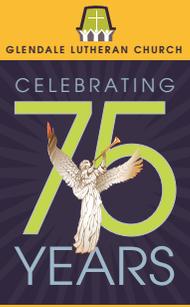
*Parishioners gather before service (2009)*



*Dedication of the new three story building replacing Cooper Hall (2009)*



*Pastor Albers conducting a baptism*



CCLS Pre-school class (2018)



GLC Youth Group at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans (2016)



A new chapter for ministry opened in 2011, when the congregation voted to become an official pre-school campus for CCLS. CCLS now provided all staffing and administrative responsibilities while “renting” space on our campus. Under this new arrangement, the expansion of the CCLS pre-school program supported the hiring of a full time pre-school director. With this new energy, pre-school enrollment expanded dramatically over the next few years. A growing urgent need was identified to expand the pre-school offering to include infants. The classrooms in the upper story of our new building were enhanced with classroom hand washing stations and expanded bathroom facilities. And the Early Childhood Education program moved from the Parish House, leaving one classroom in the Nursery area off of the gym. Needs continued to expand, however, and during the summer of 2016, spaces were re-configured in the Parish House. The Lutheran Family and Children’s Services counselor was moved from the Parish House to a reconfigured office on the main level of our new building, walls were then removed and flooring improved to create another classroom, morning drop off area, and lunch room. CCLS is now serving over 95 families on our campus.

Especially over the last five years, the congregation experienced significant challenges including a reduction in called staff, a significant loss of membership and the loss of Pastor Rodney Wise through death. Through those serious challenges attendance has now stabilized and the congregation has remained on course and continues to be a vital part of the larger church’s ministry and mission. Our long established mission statement: “To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to demonstrate God’s love to one another, the community and the world” will continue to guide our actions going forward.

Adult Bible study (2017)



Fellowship after Sunday service (2018)



Pastor Scott Jonas with his family and congregation celebrating his installation as pastor of GLC (2017)



DID YOU KNOW?

There have been  
**892 Baptisms**  
**936 Confirmations**  
**401 Weddings**  
 throughout our history  
 (1943-January 2018)  
*And still counting...*