

Irving Park Lutheran Church

Continuing The Journey

Part IV: 1979-2003



Donna Jean Holmquist leads the Youth Choir as they perform for the King and Queen.

SWEDISH ROYALTY VISITS IPLC

King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden visited IPLC on Nov. 18, 1982.

Every seat in the church was filled an hour before the entourage arrived for the long-anticipated visit. Hundreds of people were on the street and in the Educational Building, where visitors watched closed-circuit TV coverage on a 6-foot screen. The Richard Wielock family carefully strung a television cable from the church balcony high across the intersection of Belle Plaine and Harding to the gym.

Tickets were different colors and guests had to enter at designated doors. Gifts presented to the royal couple were inspected by the Secret Service before the couple arrived. Even Pastor Larson's briefcase was inspected. The church was filled with local dignitaries and church members who were lucky enough to secure a ticket. The receiving line extended to



King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden are welcomed to Irving Park Lutheran Church on Nov. 18, 1982.

the gymnasium, where music was playing and greetings were shared.

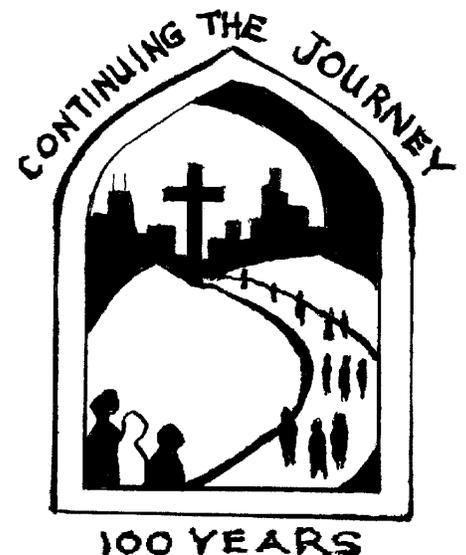
Later, at a reception hosted by Chicago Mayor Jane M. Byrne, the King said, "This morning at Irving Park Lutheran Church, I met almost 1,000 persons of Swedish descent, the kind who have worked over the years to make Chicago 'my kind of town.'" His comments were on all the television stations that night.

A PERFECT EXAMPLE

On June 3, 2001, eighth grader Nick Monroe, the oldest son of James and Norma Monroe, was recognized for his nine years of perfect attendance at Sunday School. He never missed a day of Sunday School since November 1992, when his mother first brought him to IPLC. The congregation gave Nick a standing ovation, trophy, certificate and special pen. His brothers, Michael and Peter, also had many years of perfect attendance.

THE FOURTH QUARTER CENTURY

This is our final installment of 100 years of Irving Park Lutheran Church history. It is appropriate that it is being distributed on Dec. 30, 2003, exactly 100 years to the day that our church was officially organized. The last 25 years began under the leadership of Pastor Ross H. Larson, and continued with Pastor Richard A. Poole and Pastor Kendrick Wm. Suter, with Interim Pastor Roger A. Nelson keeping the Friendly Spirit alive. In the last 25 years, IPLC has successfully navigated budgetary booby traps and property pitfalls while continuing to serve the community. Through it all, while neighboring churches have consolidated or faded into memory, Irving Park Lutheran Church remains vibrant, eagerly anticipating its next century of ministry. Our founding fathers would be proud to know their vision for a successful church is continuing.



IPLC TRIVIA

* January 1979: The new Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) arrived at IPLC. Classes were organized so people could become familiar with the new book. The 450 books were dedicated on Pentecost, June 3, 1979.

* Jan. 15, 1979: After a year of growth in offerings in 1978, in which the operating deficit was reduced from \$17,000 to \$7,000 and the bank loan reduced from \$25,000 to \$7,000, it was hoped the debt could be repaid by the end of 1979.

* Feb. 21, 1979: Mildred Bogren Tesberg died at age 78. Mrs. Tesberg was IPLC office secretary from 1920-49 and documented much of our church history.

* April 1, 1979: No foolin'. The 75th anniversary was celebrated at Antoine's Banquet Hall at 4380 N. Elston, currently the home of the Muslim Community Center, and formerly the Rivoli Theater.

* April 29, 1979: A memorial service was held for G. Erik Hagg, our interim pastor between Kenneth Farb and Ross Larson.

* Spring 1979: The walls and ceiling of the gym were painted.

* Jan. 10, 1980: Water poured into the pipe organ chamber because of an ice-damaged roof drain. Chicago Fire Dept. Hook and Ladder Co. 38 installed drop cloths. IPLC members Don Stensland, Bruce Anderson, Rich Plambeck and Ray Humbert helped with the cleanup.

* Feb. 3, 1979: For 34 years of work done in the Chicago area, Per-Hugo Kristensson was presented a gold medal from the King of Sweden at the Swedish Cultural Society meeting.

* Feb. 13, 1980: The Lutheran Church Women budget for 1980: \$2,530 for outside causes; \$2,100 for church activities.

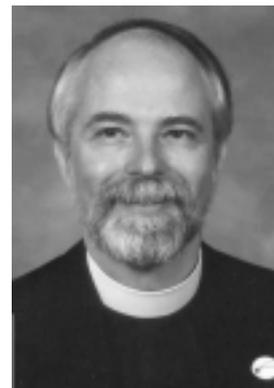
* March 31, 1980: At the height of the boom in silver and gold prices, IPLC asked members to consider donating silver and gold items to the church. Frankincense and myrrh were not on the "most wanted" list.

* May 13, 1980: "Chicken Fat Volleyball" began in the gym.

* Nov. 30, 1980: The Mid-City



The Rev. Ross H. Larson was pastor from 1971-86.

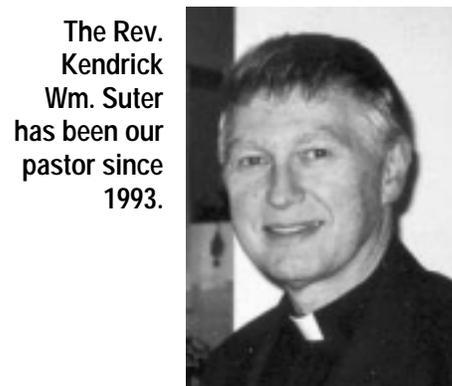


The Rev. Richard A. Poole was pastor from 1986-91.

THE PASTORS FOR THE LAST QUARTER CENTURY



The Rev. Roger A. Nelson was interim pastor from 1991-92.



The Rev. Kendrick Wm. Suter has been our pastor since 1993.

A BIT O' BALLOONACY

On May 6, 1984, the 80th anniversary dinner was held in the gym. Balloons were launched, with notes attached explaining our 80th anniversary.

One balloon landed near Elgin, and the finder wrote a note to IPLC: "Dear Irving Park Lutheran Church: I found your orange balloon in a horse fence in Kane County in Plato Center Township. I hope you can write me also--my dad really found it. Your finder, Becky Lynn Landmeier. P.S. Please write me back and tell me about you!"

Pastor Larson replied: "Dear Becky: Thank you for telling us about your balloon. It was sent on the last day of this church's 80th anniversary. We had a big birthday party. Do you like birthday parties? We had a lot of fun, and people enjoyed seeing the balloons fly up, although many got caught in the trees (the balloons, not the people). Your friend, Pastor Larson"

Choral Society and Lane Tech Music Society performed Handel's "Messiah" at IPLC.

* Jan. 31, 1981: Church Council and Ministry Team members decided to seek a second pastor who would focus on community service and recruitment.

* April 19, 1981: Easter Sunday saw the largest attendance since 1972: 563, plus 78 at the Swedish service and 98 at the Vigil.

* June 21, 1981: Richard A. Poole, the Church Council's nominee for

assistant pastor, preached at the service and visited at the church picnic at Indian Boundary Woods. Pastor Poole accepted the call and began work on Aug. 1. He was installed Oct. 4.

* July 12, 1981: Forty-three IPLC members took part in the annual family tent weekend at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, Ill.

* Dec. 6, 1981: The Mid-Town Choral Society performed "Messiah." A chorus of 80 and orchestra of 30 played to an audience of 400.



Children perform at the Magic Mushroom closing ceremony in 2000.

MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

Irving Park Lutheran Church members have been staunch supporters of mission work at home and abroad through "My Day on the Mission Field" contributions.

For example, in 1980 alone, IPLC members gave \$19,800 through the Illinois Synod to missions, \$1,538.80 to fight hunger and \$1,200 to support the Rev. Stanley and Marie Benson in their missionary work in Tanzania. Members also donated time to charitable projects, including Augustana Hospital, Augustana Center and a dozen other charities. IPLC and other churches supported the Bensons from the late 1970s to the early 1990s.

On one of his visits home, Pastor Benson preached at IPLC on July 25,

1982.

On May 30-31, 1980, IPLC hosted Mission Fest '80, which was sponsored by Community Friends and the Footlighters. Mission Fest '80 helped raise funds that were donated to Magic Mushroom, other missions throughout the world and the Outdoor Ministry Center in Oregon, Ill.

Immigrant families also have benefitted from the generosity of IPLC members. In 1980, IPLC helped sponsor the Ut Nguyen family from Vietnam.

A year later, the family thanked everyone for helping them adapt to their new lives in the United States, with a special thank you to Reuben and Evelyn Erickson for arranging employment for Mr. Nguyen.

* Feb. 6, 1982: Church Council member Richard Gaynor competed in the World Ironman Triathlon in Kona, Hawaii. He swam 2.4 miles, rode a bicycle 112 miles and ran a marathon (26.2 miles).

* April 5, 1982: Carl Sandell died at 78. He was a choir member for 55 years and Sunday School teacher for 45 years. His parents were charter members at IPLC and owned Sandell's Swedish Bakery at 4244 N. 40th Avenue, which became Pulaski.

* Feb. 10, 1982: Representatives of the Guardian Angels spoke at the LCW meeting.

* May 15, 1982: Charles Olson resigned as IPLC Choir Director after 10 years.

* July 25, 1982: Charles Peterson resigned as organist.

* July 31, 1982: Dial Good News was discontinued because of a declining number of calls. The daily devotional messages began Feb. 29, 1972. Final count over 10 years: 10,900 calls.

* Sept. 19, 1982: Susan R. Friesen was named Minister of Music and served until Oct. 25, 1987.

* Oct. 31, 1982: Violet Anderson was honored for serving as IPLC treasurer for 17 years.

* March 15, 1983: An 80th anniversary Property Preservation Fund appeal was made to restore and protect the priceless stained glass windows, which were installed in 1917, and other improvements. The fund appeal hoped to raise \$50,000.

* Fall 1983: At the annual meetings, church members were told of an impending financial crisis, with 1983 offerings projected to come in at a deficit of \$35,500. If the rate stayed the same, the Council thought IPLC would be broke by July 1984. Staff time was reduced by 20 percent and other cuts in services were proposed.

* February 1984: Ruth Circle celebrated its 75th birthday. The circle disbanded in 1990, when only seven members were able to attend meetings.

* Sept. 23, 1984: The Goofs Group (no doubt inspired by the Pickle People of the 1970s) announced their first outing, a trip to Brookfield Zoo on Oct. 7. Kim Munro and Sharon Iverson organized the group for goofs in college and older.

* Feb. 15, 1985: Edith Ottoson, a member since 1939, began a 13-year stretch of sending letters to the Tidings from her new home in South Dakota. She mentioned the weather in almost every letter. She died Sept. 27, 1998.

* April 7, 1985: Four services on Easter weekend attracted 615 worshippers, the most since 1973.

* Spring 1985: New siding and a back porch, improved wiring and plumbing were added to the IPLC two-flat at 4112 N. Harding.

* Aug. 11, 1985: A congregational meeting was called because of the financial crisis. The Council launched a fund appeal to pay off the debt of \$38,000 and raise an extra \$161,000 over two years to repair facilities. The Lutheran Laity Movement was hired for \$11,475 to direct the fund appeal, called "Life ... New Life." The Council asked to borrow up to \$50,000 for immediate roof repair and cash flow.

MORE IPLC TRIVIA

* February 1986: The church roof was replaced at a cost of \$45,000. A handicapped-accessible toilet and entrance elevator also were planned.

* Feb. 16, 1986: An early worship service was held for the first time at 9 a.m. in the Oden Memorial Chapel. Targeted especially for parents with children in Sunday School at the same time, the service continues today.

* March 30, 1986: Twenty-three cuts in services and programs were announced to help ease the financial troubles. A plan to eliminate the position of second pastor was to be considered.

* June 22, 1986: Choir member Chet Cwertnia performed a concert in the gym, with all proceeds going to IPLC.

* July 15, 1986: After 15 years at IPLC, Pastor Larson resigned, effective Aug. 31, to accept a call to Holy Community Lutheran Church in Racine, Wis. During his time at IPLC, Pastor Larson conducted 199 baptisms, 148 weddings, 320 funerals and received 418 new members. The resignations of Tidings editor Abbey Davis and treasurer Judy Nelson also were announced.

* Dec. 8, 1986: The Church Council recommended that a call be made to Pastor Poole to become IPLC pastor. He accepted Jan. 16, 1987, and was installed Feb. 22, 1987.

* June 14, 1987: Karl A. Mikkelsen Jr. was the only member of the 1987 Confirmation Class.

* Nov. 28, 1987: IPLC decided to use the "Pony Express" for its finance campaign. Members got a saddlebag with an estimate of giving card and passed it to the next family on the list.

* Jan. 1, 1988: The Lutheran Church Women (LCW) officially became Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA).

* June 25, 1988: The Demolition Crew removed the old kitchen in the Educational Building. The new kitchen, at a cost of about \$25,000, was completed early in 1989.

* Jan. 21, 1989: Longtime organist Lillian Carlson died at 99, just 2 months and 10 days short of her 100th



Sunday School children before their parade down Harding on Rally Day, 2001.

DONNA JEAN HOLMQUIST

Donna Jean Holmquist was baptized and confirmed at IPLC and remained a lifelong member. Professionally, she was a teacher at Brentano School in Logan Square. Personally, and spiritually, she was the heart and soul of almost every organization at IPLC. From Council to Magic Mushroom to Choirs to Youth Groups, she did it all with a passion.

Donna Jean died at 62 on July 2, 2000. Shortly thereafter, at the end of the Magic Mushroom program that summer, the Donna Jean Holmquist Award for Exemplary Volunteerism was established. Kris Helgeson was the first recipient of the award in 2000, and she was followed by Estelle Haupers in 2001, Darcy Wadycki in 2002 and Lloyd DaMask in 2003.



birthday.

* June 14, 1989: TV weatherman Harry Volkman spoke at the WELCA spring luncheon.

* Oct. 15, 1989: More cuts were proposed to balance the budget, including the elimination of staff positions Bookkeeper/Office Assistant and Youth Coordinator.

* Oct. 27, 1989: More than 50 children attend the Sunday



Gordon Johnson clowns around at the 1990 "Fat Tuesday" pancake supper.

School Halloween Party, which included a Haunted House and fortune readings by the mysterious Madame Schill. Rumors that her "visions of the future" were scarier than the Haunted House could not be confirmed.

* Feb. 27, 1990: The Church Council sponsored the first "Fat Tuesday" pancake supper in the gym to help support the Magic Mushroom.

Roger Bingaman conducts the "Sing-Along Messiah" at IPLC on Dec. 15, 1996. This photograph appeared in the February 1998 edition of "The Lutheran" magazine.



CURTAIN GOES UP ON FINE ARTS

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee was formed Dec. 15, 1994, with Roger Bingaman as artistic director. For nine years, it has provided almost 40 quality professional musical recitals and concerts for the community with no charge. The first season featured three concerts early in 1995. The first "Sing-Along Messiah," with 406

people attending, was performed Dec. 17, 1995. On Oct. 24-25, 1997, the Fine Arts Committee presented "Closer Than Ever" on the stage in the Educational Building, rekindling memories of Footlighters productions of years past. The Fine Arts program was featured in the February 1998 edition of "The Lutheran" magazine.

CURTAIN CALL FOR FOOTLIGHTERS

The Footlighters continued to offer quality theatrical and musical entertainment into the fourth quarter century of IPLC history. The last seven performances were Missing Link (1979), Irene (1980), Sentimental Journey (1981), The Butler Did It (1982), Turn Back the Hands of Time (1983), Breath of Spring (1984) and I Gave Him Myrrh (1985). The last show, which was the 25th annual production, was performed in the sanctuary.

Not only did the Footlighters produce great shows, they also contributed to IPLC in countless ways. Footlighters purchased a sound system, lighting panel, water fountain and an extra-length ladder for the Educational Building. The group also paid for fire-proofing of the curtains in the gym. Footlighters donated to Magic Mushroom, the church picnic, bought a new snow blower and gave checks to several church families for emergency aid.

* Sept. 15, 1990: Update on building projects: The \$7,400 handicapped "lift" was almost completed. A new floor was installed, and painting and plastering were done in Luther Hall above Victory Hall, with a total cost of \$8,950. The woodwork on the church towers was replaced (\$10,200). Choir room tile replacement (\$1,800) and various gym improvements.

* Jan. 28, 1991: Paul Hjelmgren died at age 29. He served on the Council, was Financial Secretary, Assistant

Scoutmaster, Youth Coordinator, Eagle Scout and friend to all.

* June 10, 1991: Pastor Poole announced his resignation, effective Sept. 28. He became spiritual director at the Claret Center in Hyde Park.

* July 15, 1991: Kim Munro became interim organist after the resignation of Minister of Music Joseph T. Fox-Hood. Kim became instrumental (bad pun intended) in organizing the Handbell Choir. The handbells arrived in January 1992.

* Sept. 1, 1991: Pastor Roger A. Nelson was named interim pastor.

* Dec. 25, 1991: The final Swedish Julotta service began at midnight. The tradition dated to the beginning of IPLC.

* Jan. 18, 1992: The Sunday School, accompanied by Pastor Nelson, went to Lifeline Theater to see the play, "Mr. Popper's Penguins."

* Jan. 19, 1992: Major damage occurred at the vacant parsonage, when a pipe burst and sent 3.5 feet of water into the basement.

* Oct. 11, 1992: Pastor Nelson took the Confirmation Class to Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale for a weekend retreat.

* Nov. 22, 1992: Council President Gordon Johnson announced that the Rev. Kendrick Wm. Suter accepted the call to be pastor, beginning Jan. 3, 1993. He was installed March 14.

* March 28, 1993: The Swedish Cultural Society hosted a Scandinavian Ecumenical Service at IPLC.

* March 31, 1993: The new social group was renamed the "Amigos."

* June 13, 1993: The Sunday School picnic was held at Independence Park.

* June 27, 1993: Kim Munro resigned as Director of Music. She was replaced by Roger L. Bingaman, who began in August 1993.

* Oct. 15, 1993: Erik Wm. Suter, Pastor Suter's oldest son, performed an organ concert to benefit the Edison Park Home, Lutheran Family Mission, Community Lutheran Church and the Irving Park WELCA. Currently, Erik is the organist and associate choirmaster at the Washington National Cathedral.

* Feb. 23, 1994: The Irving Park Children's Theatre began for children in grades 3-7. The group was an after-school music-theater program. The Wizard of Oz was performed Nov. 17.

* April 9, 1994: Nine church members enrolled in the first Community First Aid & Safety class.

* May 22, 1994: Former Councilman and Deacon Emeritus Fred Brink died at age 85. He served many years as head usher, waiter recruiter, robe roping-wizard and was a special favorite of IPLC girls of all ages.

MORE IPLC TRIVIA

* Sept. 31, 1994: The 90th Anniversary Cookbooks, featuring all IPLC recipes, finally arrived. About 275 cookbooks were sold, making a profit of \$556.71. There are still plenty available.

* May 13, 1995: IPLC basketball reunion game was held in the gym to raise funds for a new scoreboard.

* Summer 1995: Magic Mushroom celebrated its 20th anniversary. More than 1,700 children were enrolled in the program over the first two decades.

* July 29-30, 1995: The Contemporary Ensemble and Handbell Choir performed in Door County, Wis.

* March 31, 1995: The Century Fund was established with the intent to raise \$100,000 by IPLC's 100th anniversary in 2003.

* Fall 1995: Another funding appeal was successfully executed. A total of \$51,293.66 was donated in the last three months of 1995 so IPLC could start 1996 with a brighter financial future.

* Jan. 20, 1996: Our youth group participated in the LYONS (Lutheran Youth Organization-North Side) 9th annual ski trip. The same month, Valerie Wadycki was chosen as LYONS president.

* April 5, 1996: Lois Schill's last day as IPLC secretary. She began on March 30, 1975, and also played key roles with (among others) the Tidings, Food Pantry, Fine Arts and Children's Theatre.

* July 1-6, 1996: Sarah Frank and Roger Bingaman participated in the Twin Cities-Chicago AIDS Ride by riding their bicycles 450 miles from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Chicago to benefit people suffering from AIDS and HIV.

* June 9, 1996: Rain forced the Sunday School Picnic to be relocated to the gym.

* Summer 1996: The new hymnal, "With One Voice," is introduced to the congregation.

* Oct. 12, 1996: The church area code was changed from 312 to 773.

* Nov. 22, 1996: Children's Theatre performed "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."



Edd Wilson, 90, skates flawlessly at a church party sponsored by the "Contemporary Ensemble" at the Skokie Park District Skatium on Feb. 11, 2001. Edd said he shortened his name from Edward to Edd so he could do his part to eliminate war.



Outgoing Saint Lucia Swedish Queen of Lights Marie Helgeson adjusts the lighted wreath for her sister, Ingrid, at the Daley Center on Dec. 12, 1986.

LUCIA QUEEN TIMES THREE

It was a double delight and a triple treat for the Helgeson family in 1986. Ray and Kris Helgeson's youngest daughter, Ingrid, was crowned the Saint Lucia Swedish Queen of Light when her name was selected in a drawing at the Daley Center on Dec. 12, 1986. Ingrid was crowned by her sister, Marie, who was the 1985 queen. The girls' aunt, Dorothy Helgeson (Ray's sister), was the first winner of the crown in 1950.

SOMETHING IN THE (HOLY) WATER

Three IPLC members were studying for the ministry on June 30, 1984. Pastor Larson's son, Mark, graduated from Augustana College and received a scholarship to enter the Divinity School at Harvard University. He was ordained Aug. 27, 1988. Pastor Poole's wife, Carole, was a student at

the Lutheran School of Theology and was working toward ordination. She was ordained Aug. 25, 1991. Mark Knappe, who joined IPLC in 1978, graduated from Northeastern Illinois and entered the Lutheran School of Theology. He was ordained Aug. 14, 1988.

* Fall 1997: Dwan Buetow was named director of the soon-to-be merged Jr. High Ensemble and Contemporary Ensemble. She also took over the Sunday School Chorus.

* Oct. 19, 1997: Church members were told that a new boiler was needed at a cost of \$36,000. Karen McIntyre volunteered to head the Boiler Fund drive.

* Nov. 9, 1997: A concert was held to benefit the Nelson Memorial Chair.

* Jan. 18, 1998: Alan David Johnson,

the son of Katherine and John Johnson, was baptized. He is the fifth generation of Johnsons to be members of IPLC. His great-great-great grandfather, Aaron Johnson, was a charter member, and great-great-great grandmother, Netty Applegren, was a founding member. Alan's grandparents are Nancy and Gordon Johnson.

* Spring 1998: Old Men's Athletic League veterans Al Williams and Rich Plambeck led a combination of helpers in resurfacing the gymnasium floor.



DREAMING OF A WET CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day arrived with a splash in 1989. Literally. After the traditional Swedish Julotta service at midnight, and before the morning service, a water pipe burst in the south tower room and sent water cascading through the ceiling and

into the entrance way. Damage extended to the choir lounge. Steam ruined many banners and short-circuited the chimes, which sounded at 7 a.m. much to the amazement (perhaps not the most accurate description) of our neighbors.

NET GAINS IN VOLLEY FUTURES

What do you have when you're down to five nickels? Two bits? At IPLC, five Nickels added up to an impressive string of Lutheran Athletic Association city volleyball championships. Rosely Nickels and her daughters, Kathy, Judy, Laura and Nancy were key components of the IPLC volleyball teams that won five straight city titles from 1978-82 and permanent possession of the Lutheran Athletic Association



The 2003 City champions.

traveling trophy. The team was an impressive 27-0 in 1981. It would be a long time before IPLC won city again. The 2003 team returned to the top of the volleyball world.

* April 26, 1998: A stained-glass mural was placed in the Oden Memorial Chapel as a tribute to former Council member Frank M. Esposito. The mural, which was accidentally damaged the next year, was restored to its original condition by talented church member Calvin Johnson.

* April 27, 1998: Councilman Emeritus J. Albert Larson died weeks short of his 100th birthday in Cambridge, Minn. Among other things, he plastered the ceiling of the

Chapel. Along with his wife, Ingeborg, the Larsons donated their time and talents to IPLC for many years.

* Nov. 7, 1998: Former Pastor Ross Larson was master of ceremonies as IPLC took a Trip Down Memory Lane in the gym as part of the 95th anniversary celebration.

* Feb. 15, 1999: The Educational Building was temporarily closed when it was discovered a truss had given way under the weight of heavy snow in January.

* May 15, 1999: IPLC launched its own Web site, www.iplc.org.

* Aug. 15, 1999: IPLC decided to seek a new mission statement as the church headed into the 21st Century.

The winning statement was:

Inviting in Christ's Name,
Proclaiming the Gospel,
Living in Fellowship,
Caring for Others.

* Oct. 17, 1999: The Anderson Chair, in memory of Erling Anderson, was established to combine with the Nelson Chair for our music ministry.

* Jan. 1, 2000: Music Director Roger Bingaman added the title of Office Manager to his resume.

* May 21, 2000: An Alternative Service series began, with the service mostly in Spanish.

* June 10, 2000: Edna Magnuson Friedstrom died at 105 in Orion, Ill. She was Director of Religious Education from 1928-38.

* June 11, 2000: The Sunday School presented a check for \$4,000 to Pastor Suter to be sent to the Project Build Drive. The money was enough to build one home in South Africa. In 2003, the Sunday School raised \$2,057.41 for Heifer International to feed needy families.

* Aug. 15, 2001: Bill Gordon announced the formation of the Community Children's Choir for students from 2nd to 8th grade. The first rehearsal was Sept. 12.

* October 2001: IPLC begins a Midweek Service for those unable to attend on Sunday mornings. Dwan Buetow served as coordinator.

* June 18, 2002: Community Friends held its final meeting because of declining membership. The group for senior citizens enjoyed smelt at its first meeting on May 21, 1974, and finished with pizza as the last supper.

* Oct. 26, 2003: Two former members who had parents in the first IPLC Confirmation Class were present at our Centennial Confirmation reunion. Jean Larson Damisch, daughter of George G. Larson (Class of 1905) and Lillian Lundberg Larson; and Carolyn Larson Schiele, daughter of George A. Larson and Esther Lindberg Larson (Class of 1905).

TIDINGS

Volume 30, No. 12.5, December 2003

Fourth 100th Anniversary Issue

Irving Park Lutheran Church



TIDINGS

From **Irving Park Lutheran Church**

3938 West Belle Plaine Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60618-1997

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED