

## A Brief History of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

9320 Meadow Way, Everett, Washington

1958 – Present Day

The decision of the Board of Home Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to establish a church south of Everett was made in the 1950s upon recognition of the increasing population in that area. The site of particular interest was a rapidly growing housing development (Eastmont) under construction in southeast Everett. D.A. Duryee of the Everett Improvement Company gifted the Board of Missions with approximately three acres in Eastmont for the building of a church. Later, a house near this property was purchased for use as a parsonage.

Pastor Bernt I. Dahl accepted a call to serve this new congregation in August of 1957. The first service was held on September 22, 1957, in the parsonage basement, with 58 worshipers present. The Board of Home Missions engaged the firm of Grant, Copeland and Chervenack, architects, to draw plans for the church, named Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Contracts for the building, costing approximately \$50,000, were let in time for construction to begin by the middle of December, 1957. The congregation was officially organized on January 26, 1958, with the Reverend Clarence Solberg presiding. There were 101 baptized members in the congregation on that date.

The congregation accepted the responsibility for its financial commitments on February 15, 1958. The first service in the church was held on Sunday, May 25, 1958. Dedication of the church building and the installation of Pastor Dahl occurred on August 3, 1958. In October, 1958, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church became a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church, two outbuildings were placed on the property and dedicated for the use of Sunday School. They bear the names *Foss Building* and *Luther Building*.

In 1969, Pastor Dahl accepted a call to serve at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Spokane. Pastor Kenneth Daus was installed at Prince of Peace on September 5, 1969. In 1973, he was instrumental in developing a preschool at Prince of Peace. The school is still operating as of this date, with two satellite locations.

In 1969, a new congregation, Shepherd of the Valley at Startup, was begun, sponsored by Prince of Peace. Volunteers from our congregation helped in the construction of the Shepherd of the Valley worship center. Todd Wagner was installed as Associate Pastor at Prince of Peace on September 7, 1980. He served with Pastor Daus in team ministry with Prince of Peace and Shepherd of the Valley until 1983.

Our parsonage was sold in July, 1982. Only July 18, 1982, the congregation met to celebrate the burning of the mortgage for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

In September, 1985, Pastor Daus accepted a call from St. John's Lutheran Church in Bellingham. Prince of Peace was served by an interim pastor, Rev. Paul Running, until April, 1986.

Pastor Richard H. Shouse was installed as pastor of our congregation on April 11, 1986.

In 1987, following the merger of ALC, LCA, and Association ELC, the congregation of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church voted to become a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

In December, 1987, we began a three-year capital stewardship campaign: *"A Journey of Faith"*. Construction of a 9600 square foot addition to our existing facility began on September 22, 1988. Sunday School and office areas were completed and dedicated in February, 1990, and the first worship service in the new sanctuary was held on December 23, 1990. The new sanctuary was dedicated on April 21, 1991. The original sanctuary was remodeled to become our Fellowship Hall.

A three-year intern program began in August of 1992, with the arrival of our first intern, Tim Wittwer, and his family. He was followed in 1993 by Charlie Kurtz, and Laura Ziehl in 1994. This program was beneficial to our congregation as well as the interns, as we learned much from each other.

Pastor Shouse retired at the end of the year in 2000. Pastor Sandra Kreis served as interim pastor preceding Pastor John Ericksen, who accepted a call to be our pastor in 2001. He was installed on January 13, 2001. He retired for medical reasons on February 28, 2006. Rev. Doug Stensby served as our interim pastor from mid-year 2006 until the installation of our next pastor, Jack Richards, in 2007.

Pastor Jack Richards served Prince of Peace and was instrumental in leading the congregation as we voted to withdraw from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to become a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The vote to join the NALC was official on March 6, 2011 and we are currently still affiliated with the North American Lutheran Church.

Pastor Richards retired in 2013, but still serves in chaplain ministry and as a Mission District leader in the Pacific Northwest to this day. On February 9, 2014, our current pastor, Rev. Gaylon "Gib" Botten was installed as pastor of Prince of Peace, with his installation presided over by Rev. Dr. David Wendel. Pastor Botten serves the congregation Prince of Peace Lutheran Church to this day.