

## The History of Tanque Verde Lutheran Church

- 1973** The first service of what would later be known as Tanque Verde Lutheran Church was held on November 4<sup>th</sup>. A group of 100 individuals, representing 40 families, gathered in the clubhouse of the Villa Caprice Apartments, located on the southeast corner of Pantano and Wrightstown. Pastor Robert L. Linder, Mission Developer, and the Rev. Howell Foster, who represented the Lutheran Church in America's Division for Mission in North America, led the group.
- 1974** The growing mission congregation moved to Wrightstown Elementary School on Wrightstown Road. The congregation made plans to build at 8625 E. Tanque Verde Road. On October 6, Tanque Verde Lutheran Church, with over 160 members, became a member congregation of the Lutheran Church in America.
- 1977** A sanctuary, office and Sunday School space were dedicated.
- 1979** The Tanque Verde Preschool began operating in 1979 with 12 children in one class for 3-4 year olds.
- 1982** Pastor Linder accepted a call to Buena Vista, CA, and Pastor Frank Nausin was installed.
- 1983** A new educational building was dedicated, allowing expansion of the Sunday School and Preschool.
- 1984** The Rev. William E. Wong became the first Associate Pastor. The multipurpose room was renamed Linder Hall in honor of the church's founding pastor.
- 1986** The congregation voted to purchase an additional 4.5 acres located north of the church and began developing a building program.
- 1987** Pastor Wong left to become the head of Asian ministries for the greater church.
- 1988** Associate Pastor Kent Tuohino joined the staff. Groundbreaking occurred for a new sanctuary and office space. TVLC became a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- 1989** On Easter Sunday, the first worship service was held in the new sanctuary.
- 1994** Pastor Jill Gendreau became the third pastor, leading Youth Ministry and Family Life. The congregation's 20th Anniversary was celebrated and ground was broken for the addition of a nursery, an expanded kitchen, and fellowship space for Linder Hall.
- 1995** Pastor Gendreau departed and Pastor Erik Feig joined the staff.
- 1996** The Linder Hall expansion was completed and dedicated.

- 1997** A capital campaign was initiated to raise money for a family life center, additional classrooms, remodeling and expansion of the church offices, a new parking lot scheme, and a master plan for the facilities.
- 1999** A year-long celebration of the 25th anniversary of TVLC began. Pastor Feig accepted a call to Faith Lutheran in Lake City, MN, and Pastor Ivan Gunderman filled the position of Interim Pastor.
- 2000** The Family Life Center and the office expansion were dedicated. Pastor Tuohino left to accept a call at Living Christ Community church in Flagstaff.
- 2001** In March, Pastor Sondra Krogstad was called to be the Associate Pastor of Outreach Ministries and Pastor Mark Perry was called to be the Associate Pastor for Family Life Ministries. Kathleen Miko was hired to be a fulltime director of Christian Education.
- 2002** Pastor Frank Nausin accepted a call to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks, CA. Pastor Jan Womer arrived to serve as Transition Senior Pastor.
- 2003** The call committee recommended Pastor Jim Cords to be TVLC's new Lead Pastor. Pastor Cords arrived in late October and Pastor Womer departed.
- 2004** New mission and vision statements were formulated.
- 2005** The Preschool added a class for Kindergarten.
- 2006** A crew of adults and teenagers traveled to Biloxi, MS, to help with post-Katrina rebuilding. The NFLC kitchen was completed.
- 2007** Pastor Sondra Krogstad accepted a call to Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church in Mesa.
- 2009** Pastor Mark Perry accepted a call to Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Vista. In August, the ELCA adopted a new social statement on human sexuality. In October, a Meeting of the Congregation was held and the congregation voted to hold off implementation of the ELCA church wide vote.
- 2010** Following the work of a grassroots group called "Concerned Members", the congregation voted to confirm its commitment to the ELCA. Pastor Cords resigned the following month and Pastor Greg Mannel was appointed by the Bishop and welcomed as Interim Pastor.
- 2011** The congregation voted unanimously to extend a call to Pastor Gayle Bintliff. Pastor Gayle joined the church was installed on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Mannel left to assist another congregation. New Mission and Vision statements were developed.
- 2012** Pastor Greg Mannel was welcomed back as a part-time Associate Pastor. Five members of the congregation and Pastor Gayle joined with others in the Grand Canyon Synod and began an 18-month study of adaptive leadership and church evangelism called the Missional Leadership Academy.

- 2013** Pastor Greg Mannel retired. An Endowment Committee was re-established. The congregation joined ELCA members across the nation serving neighbors as part of the ELCA's inaugural "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday. The constitution, bylaws, and policies of the church were updated and approved by the congregation.
- 2014** Pastor Josh Auchenbach was welcomed as Associate Pastor with an emphasis on youth and family ministry. The Rejoice-Renew capital campaign raised over \$500,000 in cash and pledges to renew the campus. Critical repairs to roofs and AC replacements began. ROOTS, a group for families with young children, originated.
- 2015** An inaugural trip by Pastor Josh and one member was made to Haiti to serve at Village of Hope. Throughout the school year, Weekend Blessings provided food for the weekend to 100 students at Wheeler Elementary School. Twenty-two youth and seven adults attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit.
- 2016** Pastor Gayle Bintliff retired and Pastor Frank Nausin came out of retirement to serve as Lead Interim Pastor. The sanctuary was remodeled over the summer while worship services were held in the NFLC. A fourth worship service was added called "The Gathering @ TVLC." A team of eight returned to serve at Village of Hope in Haiti.
- 2017** A fourth worship service was added called "The Gathering @ TVLC." Pastor Susan Swanson joined the congregation as Lead Pastor in January. She resigned in October. Pastor Josh Auchenbach led the congregation with support from retired pastors in the congregation. The church's web page underwent a redesign.

**We are a thriving, lively community of faith! God's Work. Our Hands. Alleluia!**