

View from the Pew

By Bruce Lindquist

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Finding gems in the church's genealogy -- I was thumbing through a few of the older **First Lutheran** and **Ascension** church directories and special publications the other day, and came across some interesting facts and quotes that you may find of interest, too.

In commemoration of First Lutheran's 75th anniversary, a wonderful history booklet of the church was published in 1999, which featured a lively combination of facts, photos and quotes, presented in a very readable format. Research, writing and layout of "*Roots and Wings, The History of First Lutheran Church of St. Louis Park, 1924-1999*," was conducted by **Mary Anne Murray**.

One of the featured quote boxes stated, "During the late 1970s, Sunday School classes at First Lutheran were large -- some team-taught with two teachers for a class. During the 1977-78 year, I taught a class of about 11 sixth graders with Paul Martig. Three teachers taught the preschool class. The number of students diminished in the 1980s, and First Lutheran began to combine several grade levels in one Sunday School class." -- **Mary Anne Murray**.

A second highlighted statement came from another one of our prominent SOC members: "People just assumed we (younger members) would be active in the church. And so we were." -- **Eileen Soderberg**.

And still a third remark typed in boldface in that brief history came from one of our longest-tenured members: "I can't imagine going to any other church. I really feel at home here." -- **Bev Disrud**.

Two highly-recognizable names listed among First Lutheran's 1924 charter members are **Mr. and Mrs. Albert Flatten**. Longtime members **Vivian, Greg, Karen, Katie, Chris** and **Steve** faithfully carry on the legacy **Flatten** surname, now into 2018.

One remarkable photo, taken in 1960, shows current SOC members **Bev Fystrom, Bev Disrud** and **Vivian Flatten** back then as FLCW officers.

Funds from Fair food -- I wonder how many members are aware that First Lutheran once had a very popular food stand at the State Fair from 1947-62? I wasn't. Seemingly, the church did quite well with this annual endeavor, selling the stand in 1962, using a chunk of the proceeds to purchase property for our current building, and to retire a substantial amount of debt.

Next week: Paging through **Ascension's** history.

Keeping it together -- "Man is born broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is glue." -- **Eugene O'Neill**

