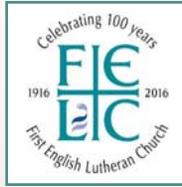


THIS DATE IN FELC HISTORY - 1980-1989: A Time to Commit & Renovate

1982

- The '80s brought many changes to First English. In 1982, we participated in a self-study program guided by ALC staff members John Dewey and Dale Trautman. The outcome of this study led to several important changes in the congregational structure, mainly the adoption of a council/committee form of governance to encourage greater member participation.



1983

- In March of 1983, Pastor Leonard Ziemer retired after 22 years of pastoral care at FELC. A retirement party was held and special gifts included a signature quilt prepared by the women of the church.
- A committee, chaired by Gene Wulf, was formed to call a new pastor. This resulted in the congregation voting to extend a call to Pastor Chris Quello of St. Paul, Minnesota. Pastor Quello accepted the call and he was installed at FELC on Nov. 20.



Pastor Chris Quello

1984

- Major commitments occurred over the next three years, challenging FELC members as never before. One of the first projects addressed under the leadership of Pastors Quello and Bloedow occurred in spring of 1984 when 40 church members participated in a full scale planning process.
- After several months of planning, recommendations were implemented which included adding several part-time staff positions, participating in the intern program, and moving forward with major renovations to the Sanctuary.
- On May 20, the first Heritage Sunday was held. For many years thereafter, the third Sunday in May was designated as Heritage Sunday - a special day for First English members to recall and offer thanks for important pieces of our past history as a congregation.
- In June, the first Hunger Auction was held to raise money for local, national and international agencies, the SEARCH Bible Study program was launched, and "From First English Kitchens to Yours" cookbook was published.

1985

- The "Share the Vision" task force was established in 1985 to oversee a 3-year church renovation project and a commitment to mission support. By the end of the three years, FELC members had contributed nearly \$500,000 for the projects.

- *Missions*: "A Commitment to Missions" called for designating 15 percent of all funds raised to create a \$75,000 mission gift by the time of FELC's 75th anniversary in 1991.
- *Renovation Project - Three Phases*:
 - **Phase One**: New roof, copper gutters, copper steeple, and restoring all stain glass windows. Repairing the front stain glass would cost \$10,000 and thus the "Penny Project" fund raising strategy was launched. Pastor Quello proposed mailing an envelope with a penny inside to each member. They were asked to double the penny each day for as many days as they could. When all envelopes were returned, the total amount given exceeded the \$10,000 amount!
 - **Phase Two**: New nave ceiling, wiring, sound system, and lighting in the altar area.
 - **Phase Three**: New boilers, heating units, and a tile floor in the sanctuary.
- On Oct. 23, 1988, a celebration and service of rededication for the building renovations was held.



1989

- Closing out the decade, the congregation established a sabbatical program for its pastors. It was indeed a decade of commitment to the glory of God and the mission of First English Lutheran Church.