

The history of

Christ Lutheran School

Interest in the Christian education and training of the youth is clearly evident throughout the history of the congregation. It has always been a priority of our members to educate both our young children and our older “children.” At the very beginning, when the first parsonage was built east of town, the pastor's home served not only as a church but also as a school. Pastor Rupprecht opened the school the first year when the congregation was organized. It has been in existence (except for the spring of 1880) without interruption up to the present time.

When the congregation moved to town in 1876, an annex was added to the parsonage which served as the schoolroom. That first parsonage in town was located on the southeast corner of Braasch and Second Street. This lean-to served as a school until 1880. The school was then conducted in the church which stood where the former Sitel Corporation (the old DeLay Bank) stood. In 1883, when the church was moved from Norfolk Avenue to the Fifth Street location, a school was also erected next to the church. When the new church was built in 1893, the old church building was used as the second schoolroom. These two buildings served as the school until the south part of the present school building was erected in 1924.

The school was taught by the pastors who served the congregation until the year 1884. The first teacher was Mr. August Kirchhoff, who taught until 1888. When Mr. Kirchhoff left in that year, Mr. Arthur Horn taught for about six months. Then Mr. C.H. Cutkowsky accepted the call as teacher to the congregation and taught until 1892. Mr. M.B. Singer followed and taught the school alone until 1894.

In the fall of 1894, the congregation engaged a second teacher. The school had two teachers from 1894 until 1926. In 1926 the third teacher was added. The upper grade teachers during that time were: Theo. F.H. Schmidt, 1926-1944; M.H. Wunderlich, 1944; Robert Harms, 1944-1945. Mr. Gerhard F. Bode was an upper grade teacher and also served as the principal.



The original 1924 school building.

The Christian Day School continued to grow. In 1950, an annex to the school added three classrooms and was dedicated at a cost of \$50,000.00.

An addition consisting of several classrooms and a gymnasium was completed in 1964. The school saw tremendous growth which necessitated the next school addition. Nine new classrooms with a new office were completed in 1985 and in use for the 1985-86 school term.



The 1985-86 school term also marked the beginning of the Preschool program, with Mrs. Cindy Rockwell and Mrs. Jan Smith as the first teachers. At that time, classes were held only in the afternoon. In 1987, Mrs. Suzanne Riedel succeeded Mrs. Rockwell as the main teacher and remains in this position today as does Mrs. Smith. Both preschool and nursery now have morning and afternoon classes.

Mr. Donald Weber accepted the Call as Principal and was installed in August of 1993.



In 1992, a new playground was built just north of the school.

Christ Lutheran has also seen the development of a Christ-centered Day Care program. This was begun in 1989 after the property on the corner of Fourth and Pasewalk Avenue was purchased. The center is under the direction of Mrs. Gail Schulenburg and reaches out to countless community children.

The addition of a ninth grade class in the school year 1996-1997 saw 21 students enrolled. Since Christ Lutheran is a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Northeast Nebraska, this ninth grade was absorbed into the new Lutheran High North East school (northwest corner of Norfolk), whose first class began in the fall of 1997.



The voters meeting on October 28, 2001 authorized the beginning of a capital campaign to raise funds to tear down the old 1924 and 1950 school sections in order to build a modern, up-to-date structure for our children. The large old parsonage that stood on the east side of the property was purchased and moved a few blocks north on Fourth Street in order to relocate the school's playground. On January 18, 2004 the newest wing of the school was dedicated. This

new north wing has become home to grades five through eight, the preschool and kindergarten, a new art room, library and computer lab. The old 1924 building remains standing, the upper rooms currently used for storage and meeting rooms, while the lower level retains the cafeteria and the former library-computer lab now houses the music room.



Click [here](#) to go to the Lutheran High Northeast website.