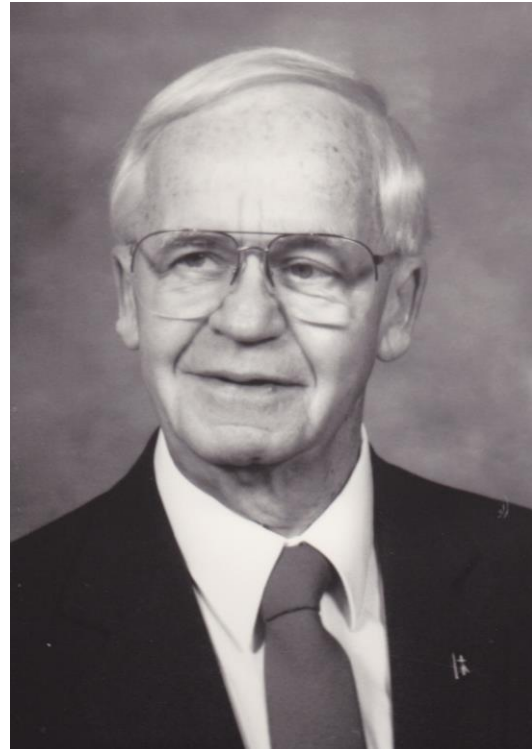


Pastor Alden Salstrom
(July 15, 1952 - November 1, 1980)



The place of Reverend Alden Luther Salstrom's birth, in conformity with his Swedish ancestry, was Minnesota, Nobles County, the little town of Wilmont, where his father was cashier of the First National bank and his mother an elementary school teacher. The date of his birth is December 22, 1913.

Following the death of his mother he moved to Rockford, Illinois to live with his paternal grandparents, attending the elementary and high schools and church his father attended. After four years employment in the industrial field, the Pastor Salstrom enrolled at Carthage College at Carthage, Illinois, a college of the United Lutheran Church, graduating from it second highest in his class in 1939, with the degree Bachelor of Arts and a fellowship to the state University of Iowa.

In 1940, he received his Master of Arts in the fields of philosophy and psychology from Iowa and continued under a graduate assistantship to work for his doctorate. He enrolled at Hama Divinity School, Springfield, Ohio in 1941, and graduated with the degree Bachelor of Divinity in 1944. Upon his ordination he assumed his first pastorate in Chicago, at Belmont Park, where he has been until coming to St. Paul's. He pursued his academic life with further part time studies at the Chicago Lutheran seminary at Maywood.

While student at the State University of Iowa, he married Miss Carolyn Fecht, his Carthage College sweetheart. Mrs. Salstrom is a Smith-Hughes graduate in the field of home economics and has designed and taught that department at the high school of Dallas City, Ill, previous to her marriage.

In May, 1952, the Rev. Alden Luther Salstrom, pastor of Belmont Park Lutheran church, Chicago, accepted a call to become pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church. He came to St. Paul's with his wife and three children, Janet 11, Susan 6, and son Stephen 2. On July 15, 1952, Pastor Salstrom was officially installed as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church at the 8 a.m. service, succeeding the Rev. Wesley Gallup. The service was conducted by the Dr. Armin George Weng, president of the Chicago Lutheran Seminary, Maywood.

At present the Rev. Mr. Salstrom is secretary of the board of the Lutheran Home Finding society, a member of the Synodical Brotherhood committee of the United Lutheran church, treasurer of the Ministerial Alliance of the United Lutheran church of Chicagoland, president of the Carthage College choir alumni club, chaplain at St. Anne's hospital, as a part of the Social Mission program. He is a past president of the Belmont Cragin club of Kiwanis International and an ardent worker in civic affairs.

In his letter read to the congregation of St. Paul's, Pastor Salstrom said, "At Belmont Park we have enjoyed such warmth of love and trust that ties were hard to think of severing. May we ask, therefore, that as we come to you, you will make room for us in the innermost chamber of your hearts, and that we may grow together under God's continued grace and favor." (Mabel Terry's Scrapbook 1952-3)

July 15, 1952 (Photo Rev. Salstrom in Mabel Terry 1952 Scrapbook)

Officially installed as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in services at 8 p.m.

The service will be conducted by the Dr. Armin George Weng, Ph. D., president of the Chicago Lutheran Seminary at Maywood.

The service will be augmented by special music sung by St. Paul's choir, under the direction of Mrs. William Magden, with Miss Dianne Hatfield at the organ.

How are we to reach out into the community around us? " Our goal is the attainment of the resurrection which our Lord has obtained for us. Nothing must obstruct our way to the attainment of this goal."

In May 1954 a worthy item appeared in our church paper, it said, "The present Pastor, the Reverend Alden Salstrom came to St. Paul's in July, 1952 and expects to stick around a while."

On May 25, 1969, Pastor Salstrom was honored on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of ordination to the Christian ministry. In the past 17 years he has seen the membership at St. Paul's grow from 400 confirmed members to 1375. A new parsonage was built in 1953, a new church in 1955, and the educational unit in 1963.

Chief moments in the congregation's life during 1959 were: The Friendship Club, with its Mother-Daughter and its Father-Son Banquets and its other programs; the Lydia Aid with its Cancer Bandage Sewing its Kitchen Band, its Sunshine Circle; the week by week service of the Nursery Mothers Club; the Altar Guild making our church extraordinarily beautiful – not just for Easter and Christmas, every Sunday of the year, and bringing a bit of that beauty to the sick and shut-ins, too; the United Lutheran Church Women, spear-heading the women's work of the church; the Luther leaguers, learning and doing as they grow toward church leadership; the quiet, modest, unending indispensable work all-year-round of the Church Council and the Sunday school Staff; the endurance contest we call our Daily Vacation Bible School" that crowds so much into so little; the inspiring, soul-satisfying work of the Lay Visits Committee and the Every Member Visitation for Stewardship-and the choirs.

Some additional duties of Pastor Salstrom in 1959: reelection to a fifth term as secretary of the Chicago Conference of the Illinois Synod of our ULCA; the completion of the second term of presidency of the Carthage College Alumni Association; and reappointments to Board of Trustees of the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, and appointment by His Honor mayor Robert Sabonjian as chairman of the Decency Board of Waukegan.

The Reverend Alden L. Salstrom retired from the ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Waukegan on November 1, 1980. On this occasion the church council presented him with a plaque naming him as Pastor Emeritus. The title was bestowed for his 28 years of faithful service in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to St. Paul's. During his years at St. Paul's, Pastor Salstrom estimates he has received 3,500 members in the congregation, conducted 1,700 baptisms, more than 1,000 marriages and 850 funerals.

Jan 24, 1965 Annual Report Pastor Salstrom wrote about a dream that he had since the first day he was with us. "It hasn't materialized yet. Sometimes I despair, feeling that only a great triumph of tragedy, such as building or destroying a church, can shake us loose from our complacency. Think for a moment of the consequences of a people such as ours sharing their faith, bringing, encouraging, guiding others into our membership. If we all worked at it, we could outstrip off the congregations in the County, do much more incredible work that we have achieved thus far; but we seem to have "levelled off." Believe me. There is no justifiable reason for it.

Since the time of my arrival in Waukegan – almost thirteen years ago – it has been my dream not so much to see the beautiful modern English gothic structure which provides facility for our Sunday worship and learning, but rather to see the time when on an average Sunday one thousand persons would come for spiritual sustenance to St. Paul's. As you see by the reports, during the first quarter of the year 514 attended church, 417 attended Sunday School – that's a total of 931, pretty close! But all the year through, that number diminishes to a total of 787, leaving us a long way from our goal.