

Gloria Dei
Lutheran Church
1963 — 2023

60th Anniversary Timeline and Photo Collage

June 25, 2023

**God shows his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Romans 5:8

[Jesus prayed,] “Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth.... May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one: I in them, and you in me. May they become completely one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am so that they may see my glory—the glory you gave me because you loved me before the world’s foundation.”

John 17:17, 21–24

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN JOINT SYNOD OF WISCONSIN AND OTHER STATES

ARIZONA-CALIFORNIA DISTRICT
BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

REV. PAUL HEYN, SECRETARY
141 E. MOHAVE ST., TUSCON, ARIZONA
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830 N. FIRST AVE., TUSCON, ARIZONA

REV. WALTER A. DIEHL, CHAIRMAN
650 W. 9TH ST., TEMPE, ARIZONA
728 W. 9th St.,
July 19, 1957

MR. MYRON NELSON
ORACLE STAR ROUTE, TUSCON, ARIZONA
MR. LOUIS KARPE
6816 N. 27TH AVE., PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Jeffers
415 Nadina Ave.
Millbrae, California

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for your letter and the bulletins and especially the clippings concerning the San Francisco Bay area population growth. We are well aware of the need. It has been presented and authorized by the Wisconsin Synod, as men and money become available. However, many in the Midwest are not aware of the tremendous growth in the Los Angeles and San Francisco region. Your letter will help impress them.

Unfortunately, there is little of hope of immediate action. It took us 3½ years to get a man for the Pomona area. We called over a dozen times before the Lord gave us a man. Now he is hampered by lack of funds for buildings. We wanted a fourth man for Orange County just a few miles South of Los Angeles and that was not permitted. We want to have two men start in the San Francisco Bay area, for it is not good to set one pastor far away and alone. Your prayers added to those of the Mission Board will be our greatest hope at present. Presenting the facts as you have outlined them will mean a great deal in showing that missionaries are needed in the large population centers there rather than in many smaller villages. All souls are precious, but we must plan wisely and try to work there, where the greatest opportunity lies.

Thanking you for your interest and zeal and praying that the Lord will bring about our start sooner than it looks possible now, I am

Yours in Christ,

Walter A. Diehl Chairman
Walter A. Diehl

April, 1959
Pastor Robert Hochmuth Installed
as Bay Area Missionary



July 19, 1957
First Letter from WELS responding to the Jeffers
Family request for WELS churches in Bay Area

October 27, 1957
First WELS Communion Service in Bay Area held
in home of Majorie Jeffers, led by Pastor Paul Heyn
of Pomona, CA

May 26, 1958

Dear Friends in Christ,

I just received the good word from Chairman Diehl that a missionary was allowed by the General Board for the San Francisco area. He writes: "We got one man, an experienced missionary, to work the San Francisco Bay area. We shall have to call him June 10th." That is the day we have our next meeting in Tempe.

Today I had planned to write to you about our service on June 8th. Now I think that it would be better to postpone our service until June 15. Then I would be able to give you more information about the man called and what you could expect. However, I will leave it up to you. I am sending this to all four families. Will you all please write to the Jeffers and let them know your preference. She can then contact me.

If I come up on the 8th, I will probably have to leave that night, or early the next morning. On Monday I will have to drive over to Tempe. If we made it the 15th I could stay over to the next day. Either way will be all right with me.

The only other area in the U.S. allowed a missionary was Rochester, Minn., Toledo, Ohio, and Tempe, Florida each got a vicar. I guess we were fortunate to get one man! Will see you soon.

Yours, in the Savior's work,

Pastor Paul Heyn

Built-In Sunday School?

New Lutheran Church Opens in San Carlos

By PHYLLIS MACKALL
Times Church Editor

BELMONT—The first church of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to be established in the Bay Area will hold its first service tomorrow in San Carlos.

The Rev. Robert Waldschmidt, pastor of the new work, will preach on "The Day I Met Jesus the Christ" at the service, to be held at 10 a.m. in Arroyo Hall, 1150 Arroyo Ave. Sunday school will be at 11 a.m.

The new church has been named Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Rev. Mr. Waldschmidt has been in the area two months looking for a suitable meeting place, parsonage, and possible building sites.

Persons belonging to the Wisconsin synod have petitioned the synod for 10 years to establish a church in the Bay Area. Pastor



THE REV. ROBERT WALDSCHMIDT
... Likes to pioneer visiting homes in the San Carlos-Belmont area since property near the San Carlos-Belmont border "as soon as the suitable location presents itself".

He is being supported by his synod "to the fullest extent." The denomination, through its Church Extension Fund, will purchase property and pay all construction costs of the new church. His salary and rent and the hall rent also are being paid for by the denomination.

"I don't have to get persons' interest and their financial support; just their interest," Pastor Waldschmidt laughed.

Pastor Waldschmidt came here after the Mission Board of his district issued a "divine call" to him. Four other ministers had declined the call. "I am told they didn't possess a degree of pioneering spirit," Pastor Waldschmidt commented. He enjoys pioneering new work and likes the area

Redwood City Tribune, November 5, 1960

Pastor Waldschmidt mentioned an available property site on Ralston Ave consisting of 2.8 acres including a house, at the price of \$110,000.00

Voters' Meeting Minutes, September 22, 1963



Church Groundbreaking, December 20, 1964

December 20, 1964
Church Building Groundbreaking

January 2, 1964
Ralston Ave Property Purchased for \$95,000

September 22, 1963
First mention of Ralston Avenue Property in Special Voters' Meeting

September 25, 1960
Pastor Robert Waldschmidt Installed as San Mateo County Missionary



November 6, 1960
First Service Held in San Carlos

March 5, 1961
First Public Communion Service Held in San Carlos

March 19, 1961
First Baptisms Performed

May 27, 1962
First Officers Elected and Constitution Work Begins

June 9, 1963
Church Constitution Signed

June 1, 1964
Officially Received as WELS Member Congregation

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, The history of the Christian Church of all times proves that certain rules and regulations are necessary to properly attain the purposes and fulfill the obligations of congregations; and

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul sets forth in I Cor. 14:40 that all things in the Church should be done "decently and in order"; Be it

RESOLVED, That we, a congregation of Lutheran of the County of San Mateo, California, do herewith, in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and subscribing our names hereto, adopt the following CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this congregation shall be GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

ARTICLE II - Affiliation

This congregation shall be affiliated with a Synod of the true faith, if and as long as such synod exists. At present, it is affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



Confirmation, May 5, 1963

Opening of Gloria Dei's Constitution as Revised August 30, 1964



Church Building Dedication, October 17, 1965



Church 5th Anniversary Celebration, October, 1968

Congregation Activities in Parsonage Prior to Completion of Church Building, 1964-1965

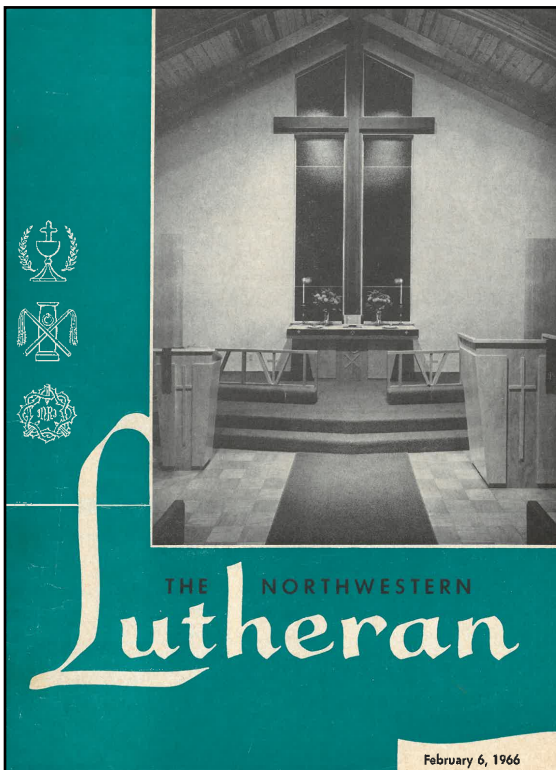
October 17, 1965
Church Building Dedication



August 1, 1965
First Service Held in Church Building

March 29, 1967
Northwestern College Choir Concert

October, 1968
Church 5th Anniversary Celebration



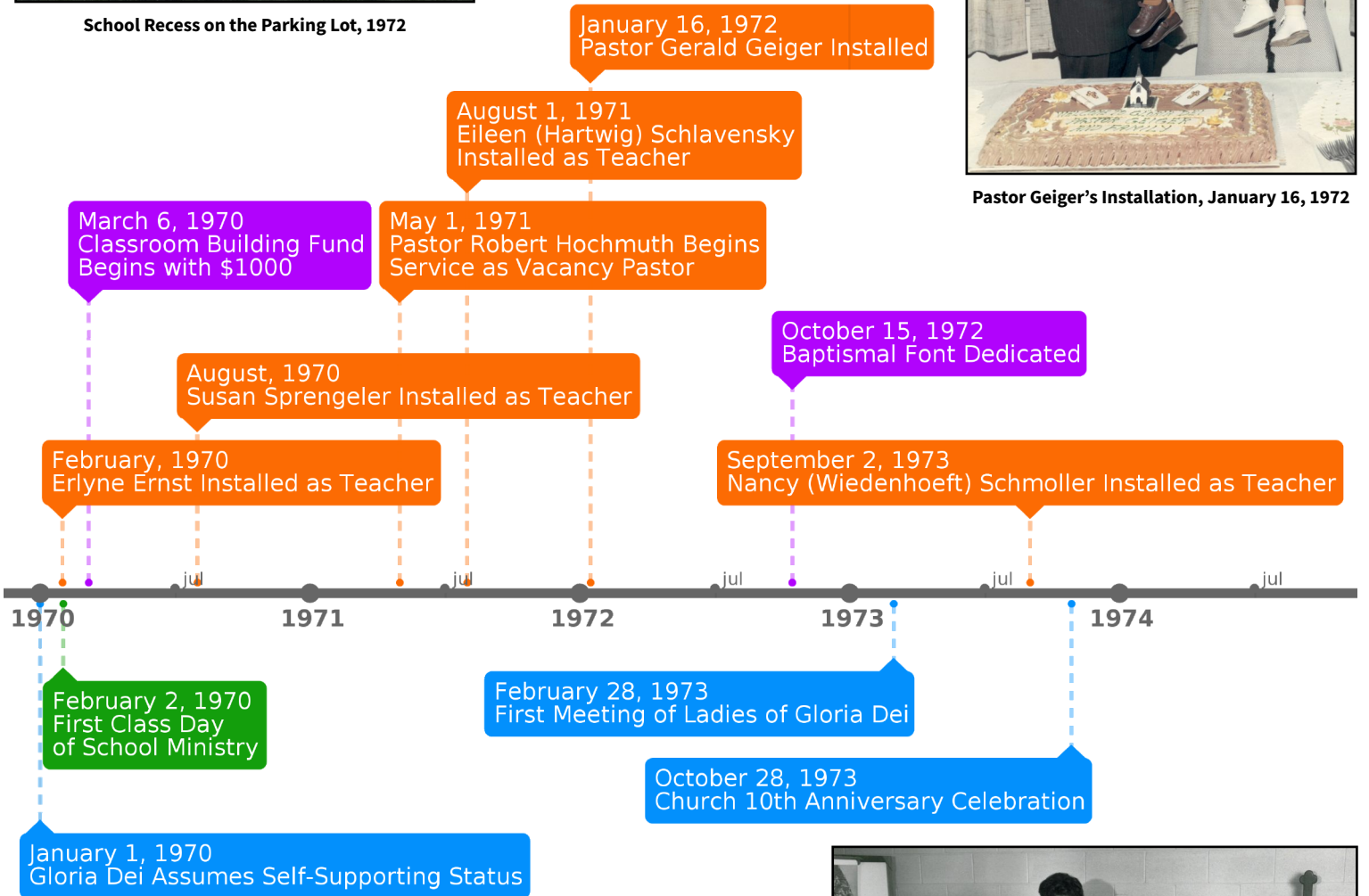
Worship Service, 1960s



School Recess on the Parking Lot, 1972



Pastor Geiger's Installation, January 16, 1972



Photos from the First Day of Class at Gloria Dei Lutheran School, February 2, 1970

HIGHLIGHTS OF GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN SCHOOL'S HISTORY	
- July 31, 1969	Public meeting to discuss opening of Elementary School
- Nov. 20, 1969	Decision made to open school.
- Feb. 2, 1970	School opened with 8 students in grades 1-5. Teachers: Mrs. W. Ernst and Rev. R. Waldschmidt
- Sept. 1970	14 students were enrolled in grades 1-6. Mrs. M. Sprengher of San Jose and Mrs. W. Ernst served as teachers.
- May-Nov. 1971	Tea house remodelled for use as teacher's home.
- Sept. 1971	Eileen Hartwig became the first resident, fulltime teacher. She began the school year with 13 pupils in grades 1-7.
- July 1972	Storage cabinets and counter plus permanent separation added to the lower level.
- Sept. 1972	School opened with 13 students in grades 1-6. A kindergarten was opened and subsequently closed for lack of students.
- April 1973	Eileen Hartwig was granted a peaceful release to teach at First Luth. of Prescott, Arizona.
- May 1973	Nancy Wiedenhoft, a 1973 graduate of DMIC was assigned to Gloria Dei.
- June 1973	School closed with 15 students
- Sept. 1973	20 students were enrolled including 12 member children in grades 1-7. Pastor designated as principal.
- April 1974	Decision to eliminate tuition payments for member children beginning with the 1974-1975 school year.
- May 1974	Hosted No. Calif. WEIS Track Meet and placed second in competition.
- Sept. 1974	The opening enrollment numbered 18. First time all 8 grades represented.
- Feb. 2, 1975	Celebration of 5th Anniversary with special emphasis on Christian Education in the worship service.

"TO GOD ALONE BE ALL GLORY!"
SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

**Timeline from School Ministry
5th Anniversary Bulletin**



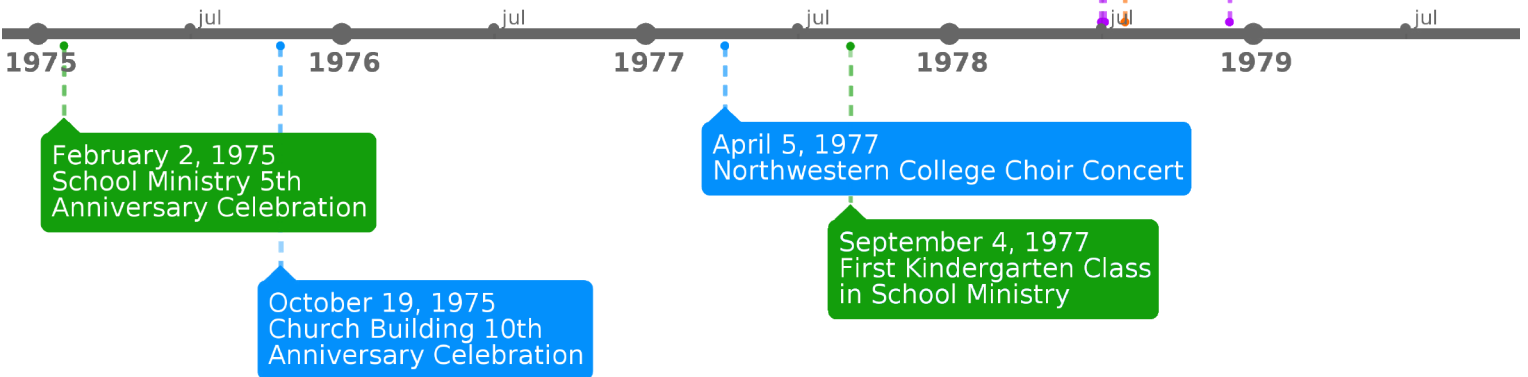
Classroom Building Groundbreaking, July 5, 1978

December 3, 1978
Classroom Building Dedication

July 5, 1978
Classroom Building Groundbreaking

July 1, 1978
Ramp From Parking Lot to Lower Level Installed

July 30, 1978
Michael Thompson Installed as
Principal and Teacher



Classroom Building Construction, 1978

PRAYER Listen, O Lord God, to the prayers of those who earnestly call to you. Teach us always to ask for what pleases you, that our prayers may always be granted. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

INSTALLATION OF MR. RONALD ZIMMER as Principal and Upper Grade Teacher of Gloria Dei Lutheran School.

CHOIR "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS - See insert (back side)

THE APOSTLES' CREED - Page 12 of the Hymnal

HYMN 409 "Let us Ever Walk With Jesus"

THE SERMON based on John 6:1-15
 Theme: Useful to God
 I. You may not think so
 II. God knows better
 III. Expect God to bless

--We Respond to the Lord's Blessings
 "Create in Me" - Pg. 12 - Gifts of Honey - Prayers

HYMN 651 "Be Still, My Soul"

--We Depart with the Lord's Blessing
 Prayer Blessing CLOSING HYMN 489

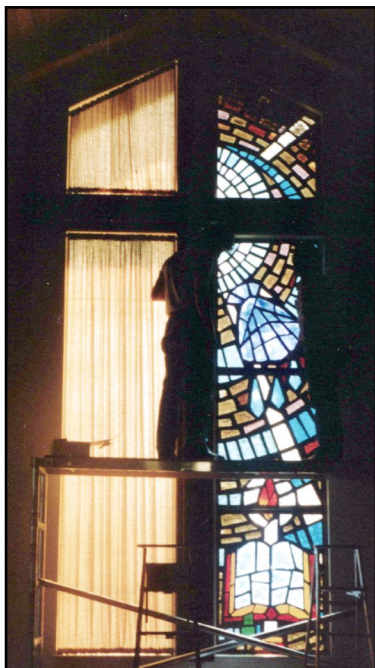
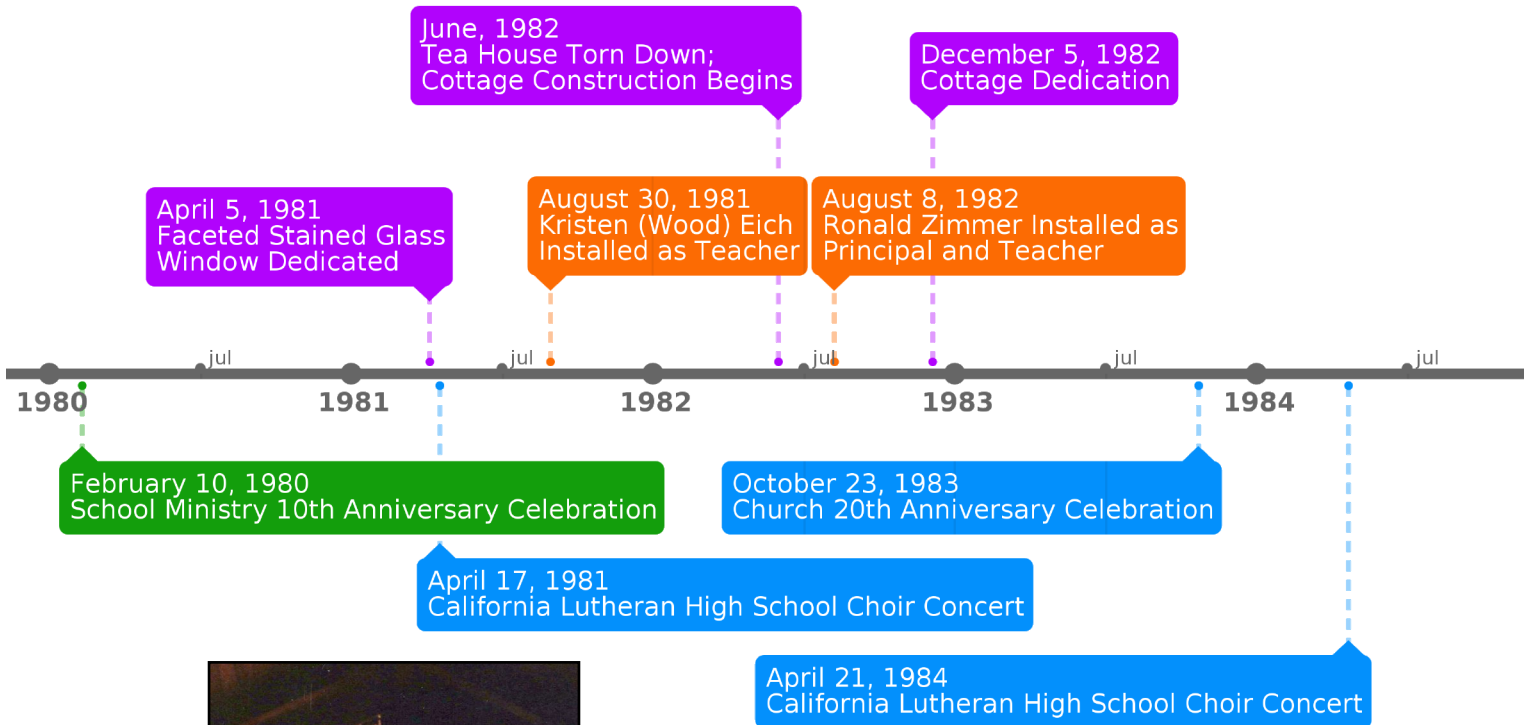
 WE RESPOND TO THE LORD'S GIFTS DURING THE WEEK...
 Today 5:00PM Welcome Fellowship for
 Mr. Zimmer

Mon. 9:30AM VBS
 7:30PM Voters' Assembly - Agenda in mail-bo

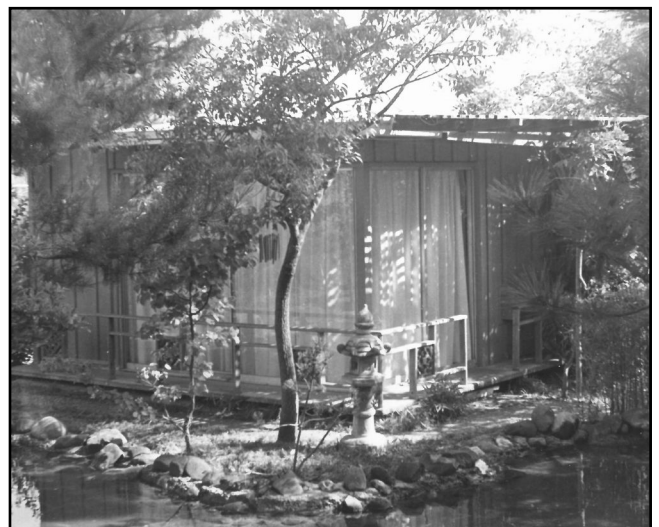
Bulletin from Ronald Zimmer's Installation,
 August 8, 1982



Miss Wood and Children in School



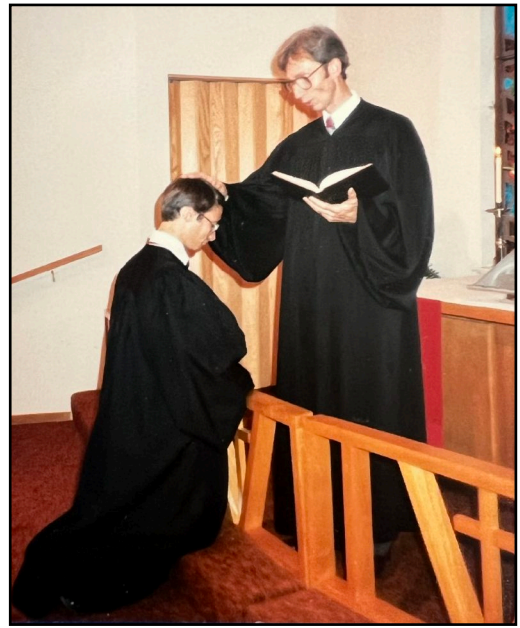
Faceted Window Installation, 1981



Tea House Prior to Cottage Construction



**Kathy (Woidke) Lee's Installation,
August 3, 1986**



**Pastor Mammel's Ordination and Installation,
September 13, 1987**

September 13, 1987
Pastor Mark Mammel
Ordained and Installed

August 3, 1986
Kathy (Woidke) Lee
Installed as Teacher

August 16, 1987
Jeanne (Jensen) Fricke
Installed as Teacher

August 14, 1988
Carol (Mann) Heyn
Installed as Teacher



October 16, 1988
Church 25th Anniversary Celebration

March 5, 1989
California Lutheran High School
Choir and Handbell Choir Concert



School Track Meet in Vallejo, May 4, 1985



Board of Education, 1990



Farewell for Pastor Mammel, November 7, 1993

October 21, 1990
25th Anniversary of Building Dedication
and Dedication of Updated Sanctuary

November 28, 1993
Christian Worship: A Lutheran
Hymnal Dedication

July 31, 1994
Nathan Bitter Installed as Principal and Teacher
and Amy (Meyer) Raymond Installed as Teacher

August 3, 1991
Vicki Jensen and Margaret (Thomas) Cleveland
Installed as Teachers

October 10, 1993
Allen Organ Dedicated and
Church 30th Anniversary Celebration



January 20, 1990
School Ministry 20th Anniversary Celebration

December 2, 1990
California Lutheran High School Choir Concert

March 14, 1993
Northwestern College Touring Chorus Concert



Adult Confirmations, January 28, 1990



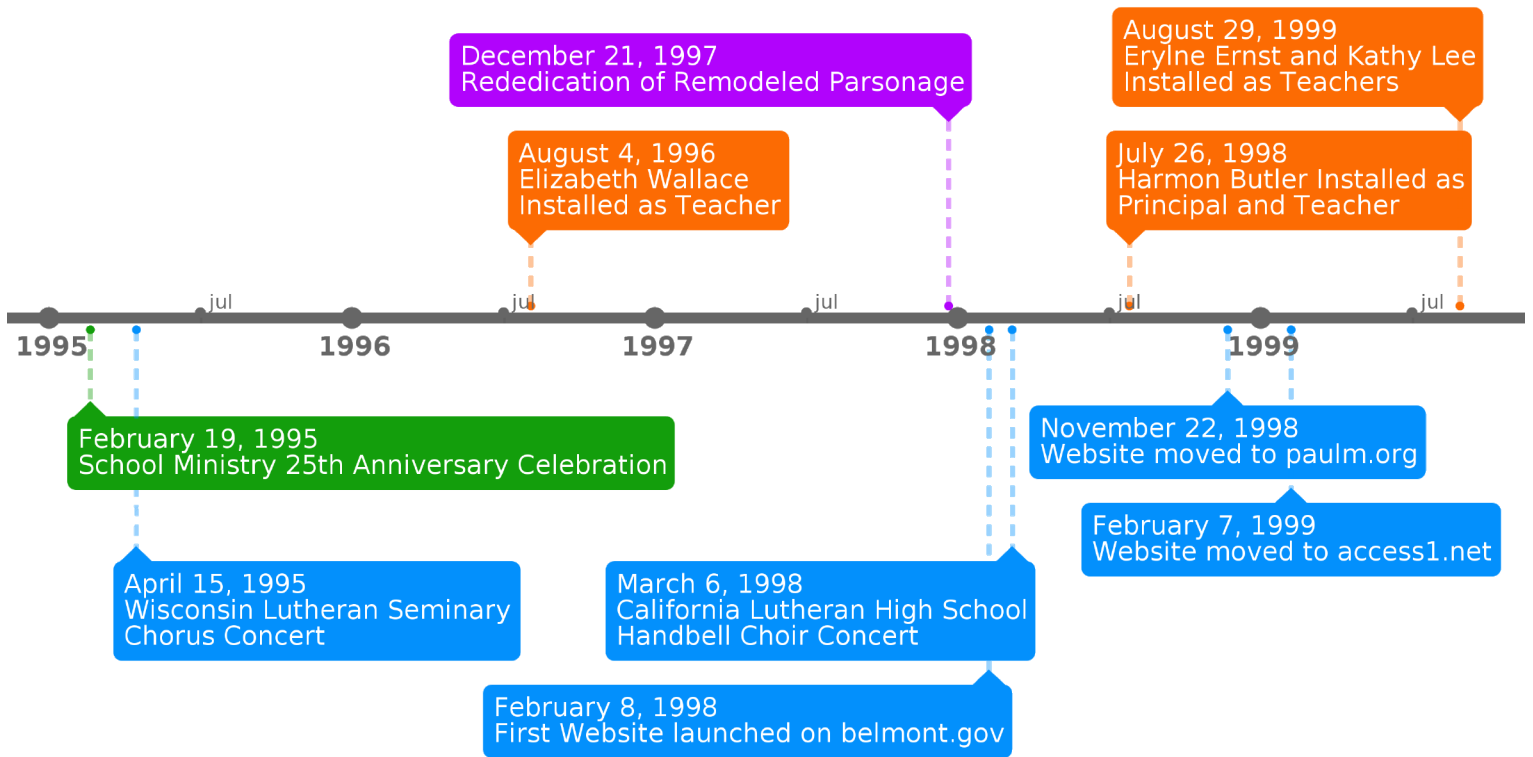
Church Choir Practice, Early 1990s



Elizabeth Wallace's Installation, August 4, 1996



CLHS Handbell Choir Concert, March 6, 1998



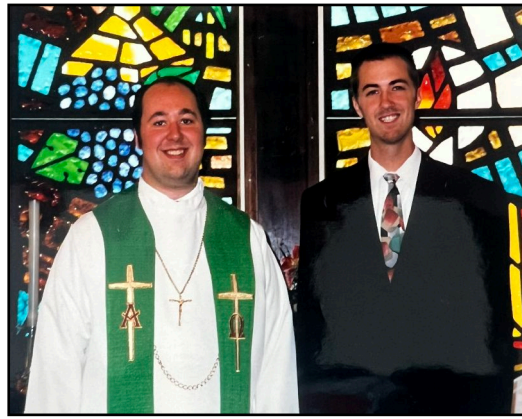
Harmon Butler's Installation and Ryan Butler's Baptism, July 26, 1998



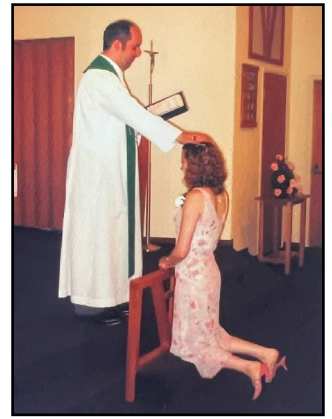
Harold and Geraldine Wartenbee's 50th Anniversary Celebration, August 15, 1998



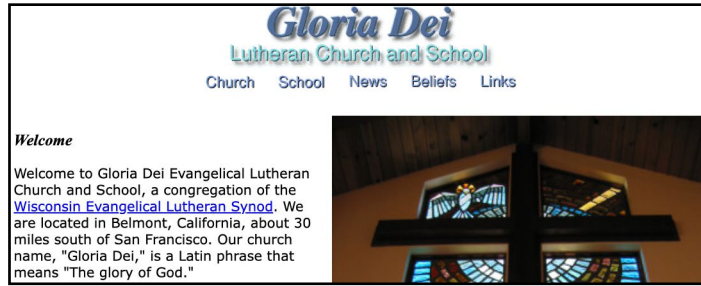
Pastor Strey's Ordination and Installation, July 15, 2001



Adam Mateske's Installation, August 19, 2001



Khrista Petrie's Installation, July 7, 2004



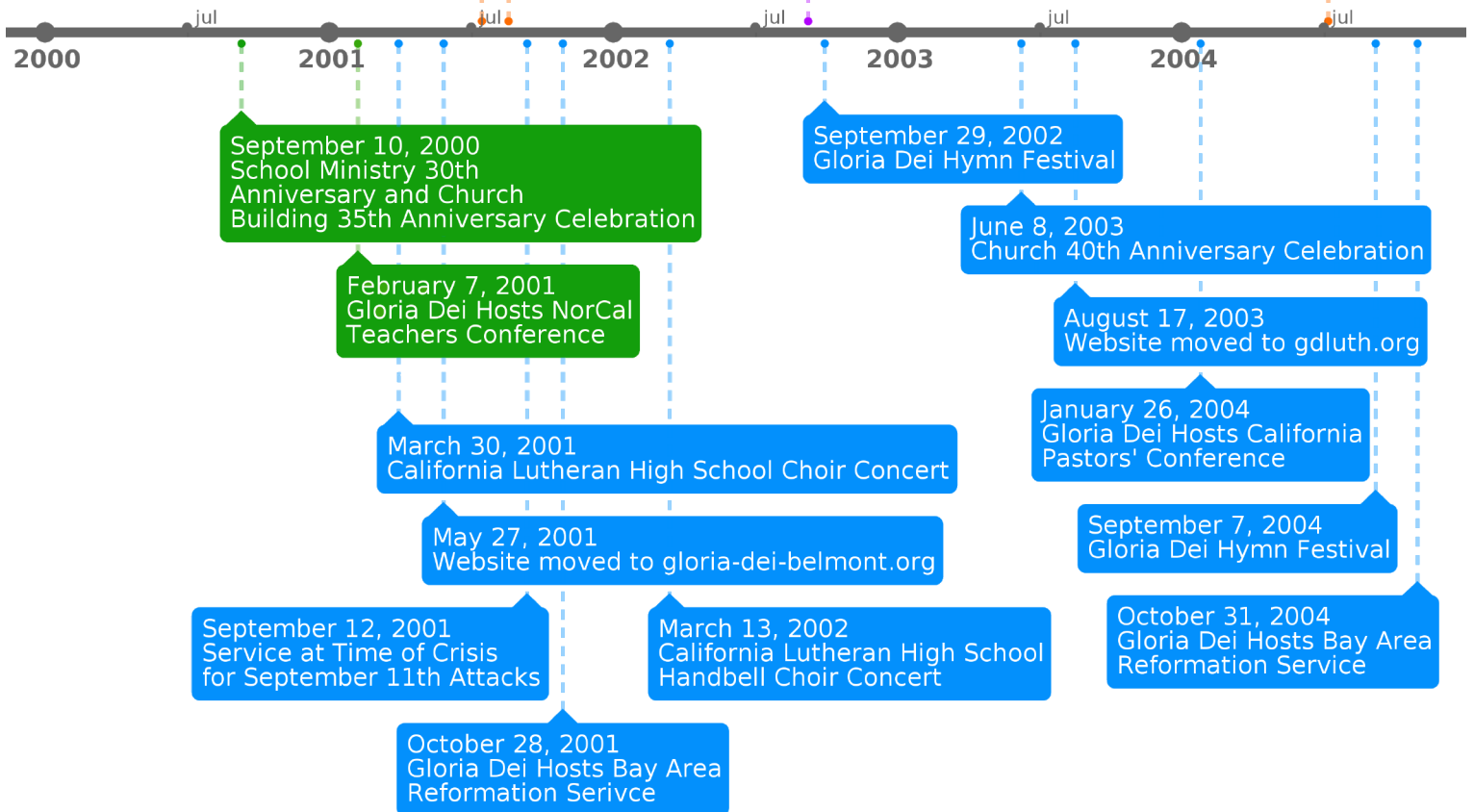
Gloria Dei's Website, 2004

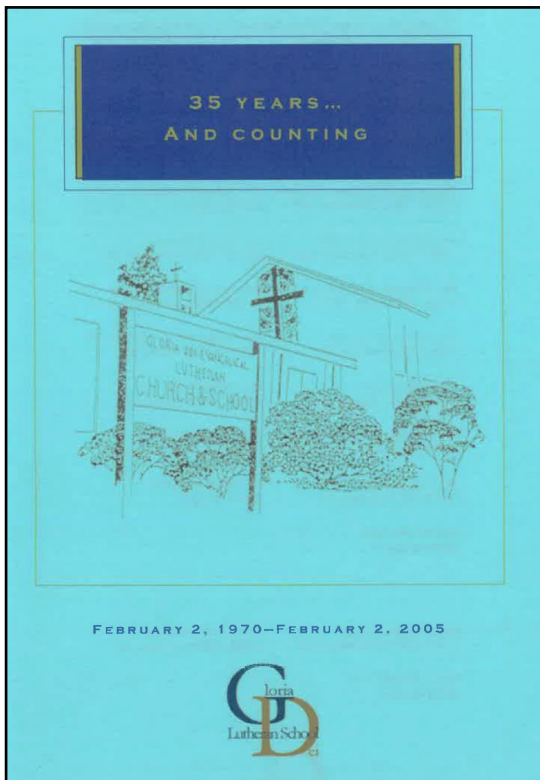
August 19, 2001
Adam Mateske Installed as
Principal and Teacher

July 15, 2001
Pastor Johnhold Strey
Ordained and Installed

September 8, 2002
Rededication of Refreshed
Fellowship Hall and Classrooms

July 7, 2004
Khrista Petrie
Installed as Teacher

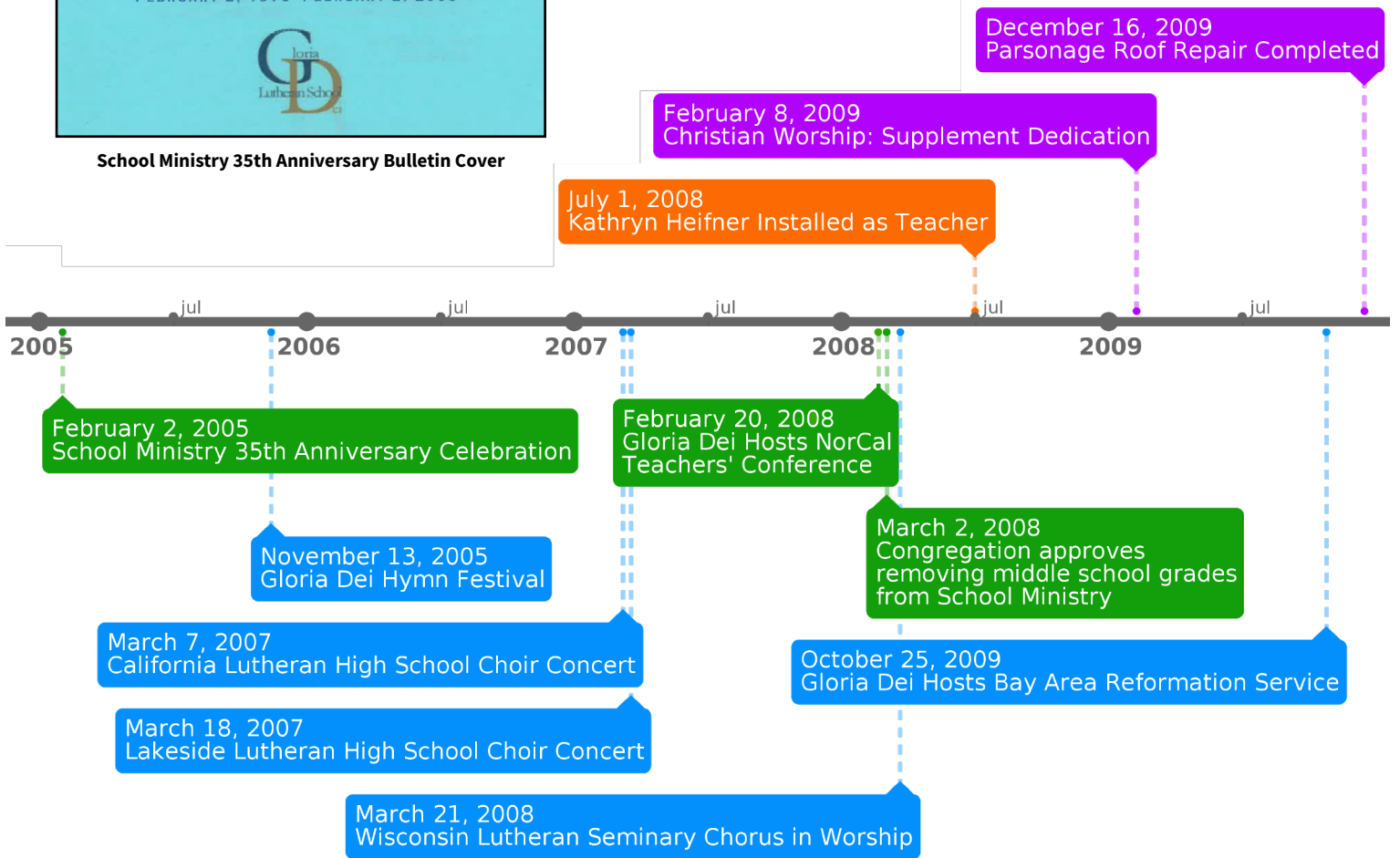




School Ministry 35th Anniversary Bulletin Cover



GDLS Graduation, June 5, 2008





**Anne Marquardt's Installation,
August 1, 2010**



Christmas for Kids, December 14, 2013



**Pastor Shrimpton's Installation,
April 29, 2012**

June 22, 2013
New Sound System Installed in Sanctuary

July 17, 2012
New Roof on Classroom
Building Completed

June 15, 2013
Tile Flooring Installed in
Classrooms and Fellowship Hall

August 26, 2012
Kathy Lee Installed as Teacher

June 26, 2011
Pastor Silas Krueger Begins
Service as Vacancy Pastor

May 4, 2014
Richard DeFrain Installed
as Principal and Teacher

August 1, 2010
Anne Marquardt Installed as Teacher

April 29, 2012
Pastor Timothy Shrimpton Installed



March 3, 2011
California Lutheran High School
Choir Concert for School

February 19, 2014
Gloria Dei Hosts NorCal
Teachers' Conference

October 3, 2010
Gloria Dei Hymn Festival

May 5, 2013
Church 50th Anniversary
Christian Education Worship

June 25, 2014
New Website Launched

November 2, 2014
Gloria Dei Hosts Bay Area
Reformation Service

June 24, 2013
Branches Band Concert

July 21, 2013
Church 50th Anniversary Celebration

September 22, 2013
Word4Word Gospel Presentation



Richard DeFrain's Installation, May 4, 2014



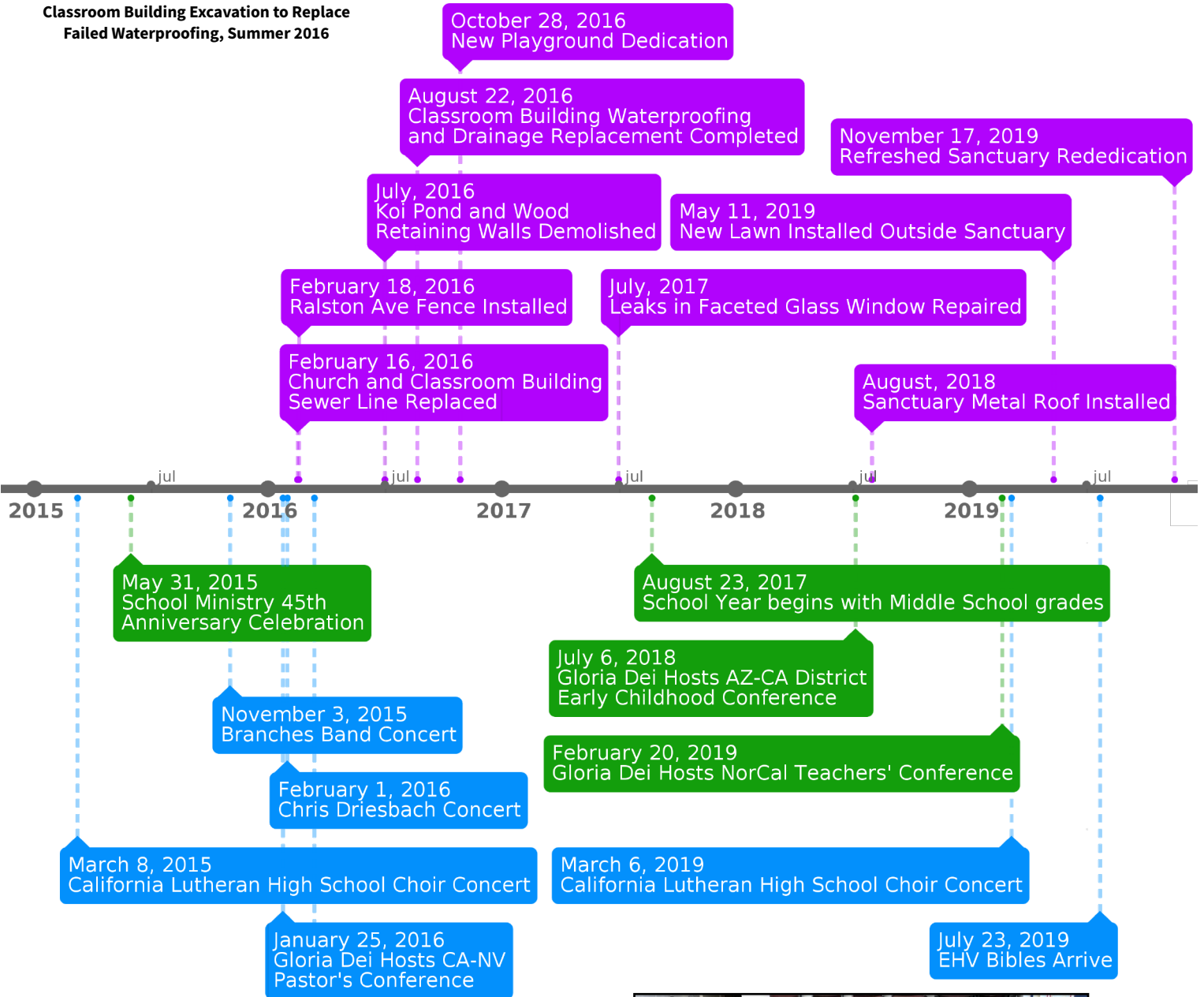
Church 50th Anniversary Celebration, July 21, 2013



Classroom Building Excavation to Replace Failed Waterproofing, Summer 2016



Prepping to Install New Lawn, May 11, 2019



Pews Removed for Refurbishment, October 28, 2019



Easter for Kids, March 24, 2018



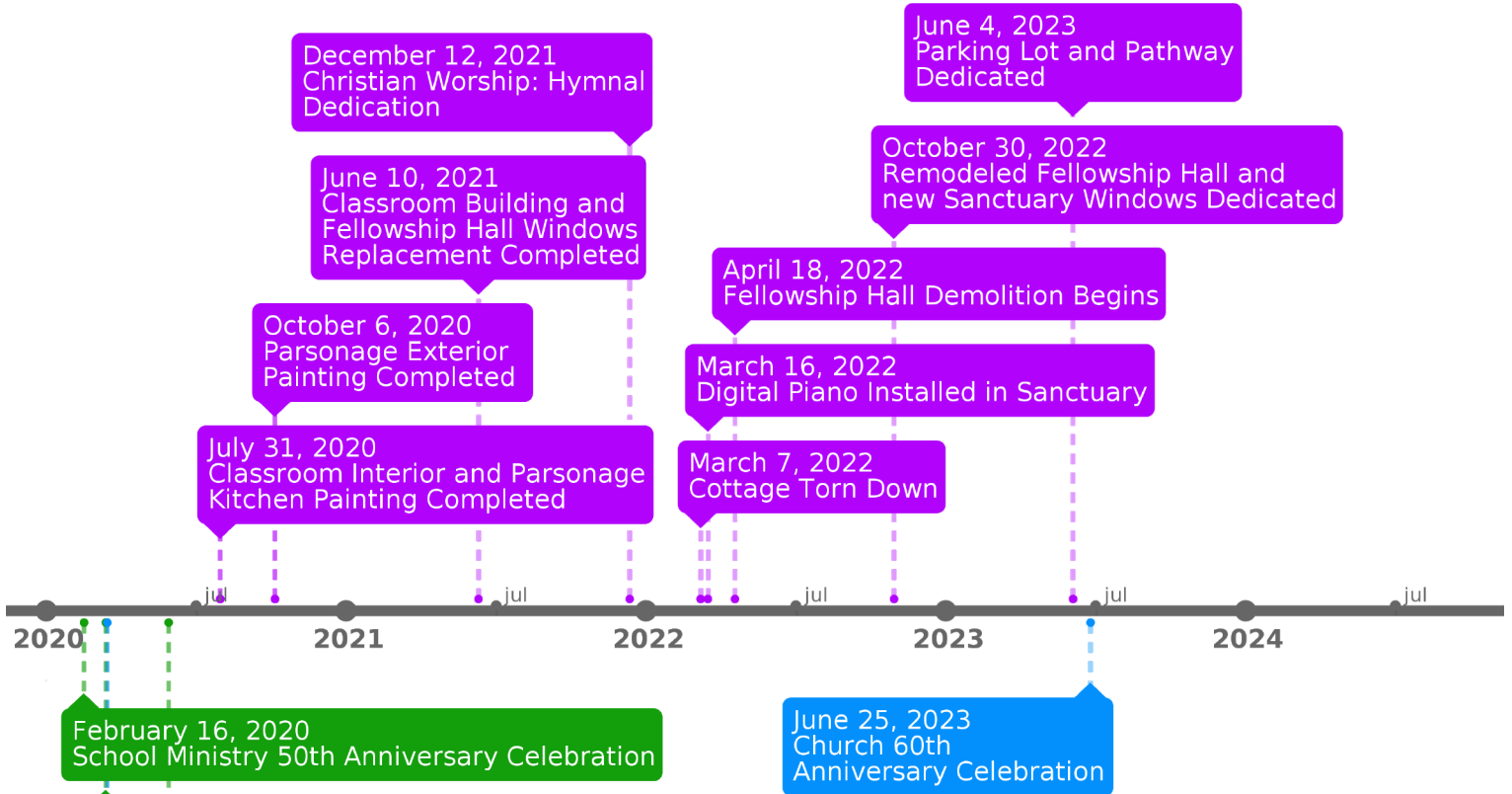
**School Ministry 50th Anniversary,
February 16, 2020**



**Fellowship Hall Remodel in Progress,
June 3, 2022**



**Remodeled Fellowship Hall Dedication,
October 30, 2022**



Group Photo the Day Before Cottage Demolition, March 6, 2022



Confirmation, June 7, 1964



School Group Photo, November 16, 2011



Church Biking Group, 1980s



Summer Bible Camp, June 22, 2012



First GDLS Graduation, June 15, 1975



School Children Singing in Church, 1970



First Day of School, September 2, 1975



GDLS Graduation, June 5, 2010