

MRS. ELSIE ARNDT -

(Trinity Lutheran Church)

INTERVIEWED:

May 14, 1975

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Mrs. Arndt and her family came to Richmond in 1950. There was no Lutheran Church in Richmond at the time. They continued going into Vancouver. In 1951 Pastor Gebert from Bethlehem Lutheran Church came out to Richmond to meet with about 8 people in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Enders on Moffat Road to discuss starting a church here. They canvassed around the island. A student Pastor came for a year 1953 to 1954 from the Lutheran Seminary. This student, Daniel Johnson, stayed with Mr. & Mrs. Arndt at their home on Alexander Road.

The most available place was in the Brighthouse Clubhouse at the racetrack (approximately where the RCMP building is now).

They met each Sunday with a Sunday School after the service. The group was growing to around 30 or more. The group was of English, Swedish and Norwegian background.

Music was provided on a piano by Mrs. Olafson and Mrs. Hengstler. People brought their own hymn books and some were provided by Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

1954 -First Pastor was Pastor Clarence Eifert. He rented a house on Garden City Road. The group was growing so talks were started on having their own church. A Ladies' Aid group had been meeting in homes. Property was bought at 712 Granville Road. Mr. Arndt was on the committee involved with the building.

Construction

A building was erected to serve as church and hall in 1955. A contractor from Richmond was hired to put up the beams,
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and he did this free of charge. Group now about 75 in number. A parsonage was built about a year later on the same lot. The hall was stucco with a flat roof of tar and gravel.

Group Now Meeting

Youth groups and Ladies' Aid could now meet.

The Ladies' Aid held teas and bazaars, but these were discontinued. An evening meeting was introduced for the Ladies.

Parsonage

Split-level style with a study for the minister in the basement.

New Church

Sanctuary was built under Pastor Eifert in 1964. J. M. Schmidt was the Architect.

It is of A-line with very sloping roof. The cross is illuminated. Pastor Eifert continued using the parsonage until he left in 1967. They celebrated their anniversaries each year with a dinner.

Pastor Lehman came in 1967 and purchased his own home in 1975. Pastor Eifert went to Spokane, Washington.