

THE HISTORY OF

*Sheridan
Lutheran
Church*

1953 - 2014

1951 For a number of years it was the hope of the Central District Mission Committee that another American Lutheran Church be started in Lincoln. Some of the members of our sister congregation in north Lincoln, "American Lutheran Church" had expressed their interest in starting a new congregation in southeast Lincoln. In the fall of 1951, Miss Marie Pohlman, District Parish Worker at the time, made a survey of the area. As a result, the Mission Committee authorized our mission congregation.

Aug 1952 Rev. E. W. Philippi of Seattle, Washington, was called as Pastor, and arrived on October 20, 1952.

Nov 9, 1952 First worship service was held in the afternoon at the Educational Building of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in College View, with 150 people present.

Nov 16, 1952 Sunday worship with 46 attending, and 23 in Sunday School.

Dec 7, 1952 Six lay-calling teams did their first calling.

Dec 14, 1952 89 baptized souls were received by transfer from American Lutheran Church, then at 24th and "U" Streets. This included 26 families, 62 confirmed members and 27 baptized children.

Jan 25, 1953 Official organization of the congregation at an afternoon service. Dr. E. G. Fritschel, District President preached. Pastors L. C. Pretty, E. J. Beckman, and C. E. Schaff also participated in the service. Rev. Philippi was officially installed, along with the first duly elected Church Council.

Mar 14, 1953 Pastor Philippi and his family moved into the newly purchased parsonage at 3601 Smith Street.

May 3, 1953 The Charter membership was closed, with 146 baptized souls, of which 101 were confirmed members.

June 28, 1953 Dedication of parsonage after regular church services.

Spring 1953 A Women's Group, Brotherhood, Luther League, and Choir were organized. Later an Evangelism and Parish Education Committee were organized.

Oct 18, 1953 Ground was broken for the first building, at the corner of 37th and Sheridan Boulevard.

Jan 1, 1954 Membership totaled 175 baptized with 121 confirmed.

June 13, 1954 First worship service was held in the new building, although it was not entirely completed. The first unit seated approximately 200 for worship and had 7 Sunday School rooms. Cost of the building was \$34,148.29.

August 1954 An electric Baldwin organ, made possible by contributions from Luther Leagues in this area, was installed and dedicated.

Dec 1, 1954 The congregation became self-supporting.

Jan 1, 1955 Membership totaled 263 baptized with 168 confirmed.

Easter 1955 Double services were held for the first time.

Jan 1, 1956 Membership totaled 372 baptized with 216 confirmed.

Apr 1956 At the quarterly meeting, a planning and study committee was appointed to study the congregation's needs for additional space, as well as additional assistance for Pastor Philippi.

Aug 1, 1956 The congregation approved the hiring of the first secretary, Shirley Nelson, for 20 hours per week.

Aug 19, 1956 At a special meeting of the congregation, approval of an addition of 39 feet to the east was made, along with air-conditioning, and an office for the pastor and secretary.

Oct 1956 Double Sunday School sessions began.

Jan 13, 1957 First worship service in the expanded building, now seating 350.

Mar 3, 1957 Seven additional Sunday School rooms were used for the first time.

Jan 1958 Congregation approved hiring a Parish Worker, beginning July 1. Her name was Janice Rapp. At the annual meeting, approval was given to purchase three additional lots to the north, for future parking needs.

Jan 17, 1960 A call was issued to Rev. Samuel Herforth, Millard, Nebraska, to serve as additional Pastoral Staff.

Mar 6, 1960 Rev. Samuel Herforth was installed as Associate Pastor.

Nov 1, 1961 Pastor Philippi was called by the Board of American Missions, to form a mission congregation in Boulder, Colorado. During the vacancy, Rev. Erwin Duerschner, then retired, and Chaplain Loren Pretty, both members of Sheridan, served as Pastors.

Feb 1, 1962 Pastor Herforth accepted a call to the Davey-Ithaca congregation.

May 6, 1962 Rev. Robert O. Berthelsen, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was installed as Senior Pastor.

Mar 31, 1963 The Herrington property, adjacent to our east property line, was purchased for \$26,500, to provide for additional ground to build a larger worship center. The home was used for Sunday School space, youth center, ice cream socials, and other functions until removed in 1965.

May 2, 1965 A mortgage burning ceremony, for the loan on the original structure, the addition, and the parsonage was held.

Aug 29, 1965 A building committee had been appointed to plan for a new worship center and additional educational facilities, within a budget figure of \$250,000. Ground breaking ceremonies were held and construction began.

Jan 15, 1967 Dedication of our new Worship Center, including library, two additional offices, and additional Sunday School space.

1967 The parsonage at 3415 South 29th Street was purchased.

June 30, 1968 Rev. Jack Horner was installed as Assistant Pastor.

Nov 16, 1972 The Weaver property at 3818 Sheridan Blvd. was purchased at a cost of \$62,500 and was known as "Sheridan East".

June 1, 1975 Pastor Bob Berthelsen accepted a call to Broomfield, Colorado. Pastors Horner and Ed Keller served as Interim Pastors.

June 4, 1975 Pastor Ed Keller was appointed Visitation Pastor.

Aug 1975 Pastor Jack Horner accepted a call to establish a new mission congregation at Fruitport, Michigan.

Sep 7, 1975 Rev. Edwin S. Roleder was installed as Senior Pastor. The Roleder family lived in the parsonage at 3415 S. 29th Street until they moved into their own home.

Dec 1975 Parsonage on 29th Street was sold for \$49,500.

Apr 23, 1976 Rev. James C. Leistikow was installed as Associate Pastor.

July 1, 1976 Pastor Leistikow and family lived in the parsonage at 3601 Smith until they moved into their own home. The parsonage was sold in November for \$31,125.

Sep 1976 Donna Zabel was hired as secretary.

Apr 23, 1978 Dedication of new Van Daalen pipe organ.

1977 First worship service was interpreted for the deaf. It was into balcony so it would not be distracting to the congregation.

1978 Largest confirmation class in the first 50 years with 40 young adults being confirmed.

1980 Pastors Roleder and Leistikow left Sheridan.

Jan 6, 1981 Installation of Rev. Donn L. Rosenauer as Senior Pastor.

Mar 1981 Lana Novak began as Secretary.

1982	Barb Sukovaty was hired as Interpreter for the Deaf.
Jan 17, 1982	Installation of Rev. David W. Anderson as Associate Pastor.
Oct 1984	The Special Ministries committee began. Willa Foster Jones hired as Music Director.
Oct 20, 1985	The "Sign Choir" sang for the first time at a worship service.
Apr 1986	Lois Jacobson was commissioned as an Associate in Ministry.
Mar 27, 1987	Dedication of new Christian Education unit, offices, library and music room.
July 1987	Pastor Rosenauer and Pastor Anderson left Sheridan. Ole and Marian Nore honored with a plaque in appreciation for being the "Parents" of our Deaf Ministry at Sheridan.
Feb 21, 1988	Installation of Rev. M. L. (Bud) Christenson as Senior Pastor.
Aug 28, 1988	Installation of Rev. Douglas Olson as Associate Pastor.
Sep 1988	Children's Music Club (CMC) began, offering Kindergarten through 6 th grade children not only the ministry of music, but also crafts, games, sign class, drama, aerobics, etc. Mealtimes also were a part of CMC on Wednesday evenings.
Feb 1989	Vivian Whipp began as part-time afternoon receptionist and secretary.
Spring 1990	CMC presented three performances of the well-known children's cantata "The Rainbow Express." Over 70 children participated in CMC during 1989-1990.
Apr 1990	Pastor Doug Olson left Sheridan.
May 26, 1990	Open house of newly remodeled Sheridan East, now known as Sheridan Place.
June 1990	Genny Straube hired as morning receptionist and secretary.
Nov 1990	Memorial gifts purchased a two-octave set of handbells.
Nov 4, 1990	Installation of Rev. Deborah Nesheim as Associate Pastor.
Feb 28, 1991	Installation of Rev. Brian A. Black as third Pastor.
Apr 1991	Pastor Deb Nesheim left Sheridan.
Apr 1991	A Saturday evening worship service was initiated in the Fellowship Hall. The Worship Committee recommended it be held at 5:30 p.m.
Summer 1991	Theresa Kotwitz was hired as Interpreter.
Aug 1991	Klaus Kring began as pastoral intern.
Fall 1991	Pizza, Pop & Parent Night begins on the first Wednesday of each month for the confirmation students and their families. These are very well attended. Pastor's Classes for Parents and children were started.
Aug 1992	Kathy Ahrendt was hired as the Interpreter for the Deaf.
June 13, 1993	A formal celebration of 40 th Anniversary of Sheridan Lutheran Church, 39 years to the day after we dedicated our first unit was held at the 7 th Day Adventist Church with dinner following. Membership totals are now 2280 baptized members and 1688 confirmed members.
1994	First Youth Director, Loel Schettler was hired. The start-up of the Sheridan Child Development Center was a significant development. Glatha Rathjen served as our Intern Pastor for one year. Patty Forsberg hired as Business Manager.
Jan 1995	First youth ski trip to Colorado filled a bus with youth and sponsors. The worship schedule was revised to accommodate two Sunday School sessions. Ruth Boettcher completed her seminary work and two other Sheridan young people began their seminary work, Neil Anthony and Sue Yelkin.
Feb 1995	A Long Range Planning Task Force was organized to assess needs of the congregation.

April 1995	Kathy Paisley was hired in April as the half-time Director of Children's Ministry. Pastor Bud reorganized office staff. Genny Straube became Office Manager.
Dec 1995	First "Advent Event" was held. This event integrated two Sunday School Christmas Programs with a family craft festival, and soup supper.
1996	Offered several worship styles including the informal style on Saturday evening, traditional worship, folk mass and added a contemporary worship service once a month. Growing Sunday School classes required use of Sheridan Place for meeting spaces.
Fall 1996	Sheridan Music Company was formed for the special purpose of providing contemporary Christian music for the opening of confirmation workshops.
June 1997	Pastor Christenson resigned as Senior Pastor to begin Followers of Christ, a mission church at the State Penitentiary. In May, Pastor Alton W. Schwandt became Sheridan's Interim Pastor. A Call Committee was formed in search of a Senior Pastor.
Aug 1997	Kathy Paisley became full-time Director of Education to help work with confirmation and adult education in addition to children's ministry. Stepping Stones classes for elementary grades were organized.
Dec 31, 1997	Membership totals are 2290 baptized members and 1692 confirmed members. The average weekend attendance was 499. Pastor Brian Black resigned to pastor a church in Minnesota.
May 1998	Dianna May joined the office staff.
Nov 1, 1998	Larry Arganbright installed as Senior Pastor – Director of Ministries. A combined Sunday School program for young people 2 years through 9 th grade was implemented during the 9:45 education hour.
Mar 1, 1999	Pastor Greg Bouvier was installed as Director of Spiritual Life.
Spring 1999	Sheridan adopted a new Mission Statement – "Sheridan Lutheran Church is a community of Christ's faithful followers, who have been called together by God to love deeply, grow spiritually, and share abundantly!"
Aug 1999	A new midweek program, SHARE 5, was started which included a family meal and education for all ages ending with worship. Drama began at Sheridan with the hiring of the first Drama Director, Deanna Mumgaard. Mark Ferri was hired as Youth Director, Ken Hoppmann as Music Director.
Sep 1999	Went from two to three worship services on Sunday morning – 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00; continued the 5:30 p.m. Saturday service. The 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services are contemporary style.
Jan 2000	The Sheridan Church Council gave final approval to establish a Vision 2000 Facility Team to thoroughly review Sheridan Lutheran's present property and facilities, and to make recommendations for future property and facility needs.
Holy Week 2000	The drama team performed the first reenactment of the Lord's Supper and Crucifixion on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
Apr 2000	First annual Women's Retreat was held at the Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City.
June 2000	Kids got to star in blockbuster Bible adventures as The Great Hall was converted to the set of Holy Word Studios. Captive Free provided music leadership for VBS for the first time.
July 2000	Thirteen high school members and three adults attended the National Youth Gathering in St. Louis, Missouri.
Aug 2000	Many new ministries began - Sojourner's Bible Study groups, Sheridan's Prayer and Care Ministries, Babies in Christ Mentors, Hospitality Teams, to mention a few. We had an increase of 35% over pledges for 2000. Lenora Hanna was hired as Volunteer Coordinator. Mark Ferri became the Music Director, Stu Stofferan hired as Youth Director.

June 2001 Church staff moved their offices to Sheridan Place to free up space for a Prayer Chapel and larger space for the church nursery. Karan Wittig, volunteer with record keeping of the church since 1984, joined the staff as a paid administrative assistant.

June 2001 A large igloo and penguins greeted children coming to Polar Expedition VBS.

July 14 & 15, 2001 A special vote was taken on the resolution to purchase property at 70th and Old Cheney. The resolution included three parts: 1) purchase of the property; b) provisions for fund raising; c) provisions for borrowing funds. Vote results were: 372 For and 142 Reject – nearly a 73% approval.

July 2001 Twelve youth and Kathy Paisley joined 650 others from around the state for the first NE Synod Youth Mission trip to Thunder Bay, Canada.

Aug 2001 Sunday School began a workshop rotation format. Julie Hestermann was hired as part-time Children’s Ministry Assistant. Dianna May joined the office staff.

Sep 2001 A special vote was held regarding the sale of the property at 3700 Sheridan Blvd. It was to be purchased by the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln for a price of \$3,725,000. Sheridan would continue to have full use of the facilities for 30 months from the date of closing, October 15, 2001, except for rooms 202-212 and shared use of the Library. The results were: 626 For and 70 Against – a 90% approval.

Oct 2001 A Building Team was formed to start plans for the new facility to be built at 70th and Old Cheney.

Oct 2001 First annual Men’s Retreat was held at Carol Joy Holling Camp at Ashland. Ben Marxhausen designed pomegranate logo for Burst Forth capital campaign.

Nov 2001 The Building Committee selected three architects to interview out of 17 architecture sources. Station 19 of Minneapolis was chosen.

Feb 2001 First Marriage Retreat was held at the Benedict Center in Schuyler.

May 2002 “Burst Forth” capital campaign began to raise funds for the new facility. Campaign gifts/pledges totaled \$2,704,282. The first “Dinner Theater” was held with Sheridan members presenting the play “The Butler Did It...Again.” Cindy Cox became Youth Director.

June 2002 Children caught the buzz about God’s love at Bug Safari VBS.

Aug 2002 Hawkins Construction Co. was chosen as builder and Sheridan borrowed the sum of \$4,034,820 from the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA.

Aug 25, 2002 Ground-breaking service was held followed with a lunch provided by the Special Ministries Team. Over 500 were in attendance.

Sep 2002 Share Care Coordinator position was started to help with the coordination of the growing prayer and care ministries as well as health and older adult ministries. This position was filled by Cheri Peterson. “Hand in Hand” Conference was held with former Sheridan Pastor David Anderson as the facilitator. Staff and leaders learned how to assist parents and grandparents in passing on their faith to the next generations. A Hand in Hand task Force was organized to keep this focus in front of our congregation.

Oct 2002 First annual Trunk or Treat celebration was held on the parking lot.

Dec 2002 Began Food Pantry Sunday with members being asked to bring food items on the first Sunday of each month.

Dec 31, 2002 Membership totals were 2503 baptized members and 1865 confirmed members. The average weekend attendance was 751; an increase of 252 from 1997.

Jan 2003 A record number of new members – 65 – joined our Sheridan family.

Mar 2003 First Business Directory was published to connect people within the congregation.

Apr 2003 Saturday morning Men’s Bible Study group along with the Council and several Sojourners’ groups began meeting at Sheridan Retreat Center.

Easter 2003	There was a record attendance of 608 at the 9:45 a.m. worship service on Easter. The total attendance for the weekend was 1601, which was also a record.
June 2003	Kids had a wonderful week of diving deep into God's love at S.C.U.B.A. VBS.
Aug 2003	JoHanna Madsen left for a year-long mission in Thailand as part of the ELCA's Young Adults Global Mission Program.
Sep 2003	All Stars began at Sheridan, a 10-week program for 6th grade families to encourage youth to adopt a lifestyle free from high-risk behaviors.
Dec 24, 2003	First worship at our new home at 70th and Old Cheney Road. First open house for members was November 16, 2003. Total of 70 infants were baptized in 2003.
Feb 22, 2004	Dedication of the new building at 6955 Old Cheney Road.
Apr 2004	Thirty-five 9 th graders confirmed the largest confirmation class since 1978. Brenda Carpenter and Susie Powell joined the office staff.
June 2004	Ordination Anniversaries – 55 years for Pastor Bob Berthelsen and 30 years for Pastor Larry Arganbright.
June 2004	A giant purple volcano greeted kids as they came to Lava Lava Island VBS, where God's love flowed freely.
Aug 2004	Julie Hestermann increased to full-time working with preschool and elementary children.
Sep 2004	JoHanna Madsen joined the staff as Youth Director.
Sep 2004	Pastors Larry and Greg along with Brent Toalson, Craig Frederick and JoHanna Madsen attend the FTE Congregational Fellows Program in Dallas to enhance Sheridan's commitment to identify and nurture youth and young adults who have the gifts for ordained ministry.
Oct 2004	Sheridan hosted Operation Idea, a NE Synod event designed to inform youth of opportunities in full-time rostered service in the church.
Nov 2004	Drama Ministry presents "Godspell."
Jan 2005	Angelia Crandon hired as Youth Director, JoHanna Madsen became the first Director of Missions.
Apr 2005	Kathy Paisley was commissioned as an Associate in Ministry. Congregation voted to call her as Director of Ministries and Discipleship.
June 2005	A record number of children and youth were wild about God at our VBS Serengeti Trek.
Summer 2005	Pastor Larry takes first Sabbatical.
Aug 2005	First Evening family VBS, Jerusalem Marketplace, is held outdoors with 150 people in attendance.
Aug 26, 2005	10th Anniversary of Ordination for Pastor Greg Bouvier was celebrated with a card shower and cake served during the Ministry and Mission Fair.
Sep 2005	First Annual Men's Golf Outing. Tournament winner was Evert Olson.
Oct 2005	On October 14, four members, Gene and Mary Osborn and Ryan and Lori Gerdts, were the first from Sheridan to personally meet members of our new sister parish, Mudio Lutheran Parish, located in Mudio Village in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania, in East Africa.
Nov 2005	First annual leadership conference: "Beyond Survival: Thriving Through Spiritual Leadership". Thanks to grants from Thrivent, Wittig, Hi-Mark and Yankee Hill. Nationally known keynote speakers included Pastor Michael Foss, author and Senior Pastor of Prince of Peace in Burnsville, MN, Kennon Callahan, Ph.D., and Dr. Dennis "The Swan" Swanberg, America's Minister of Encouragement. Workshops were conducted by these keynote speakers along with some of Sheridan staff.

Nov 2005 Clint McDonald, Sheridan member and retired ELCA pastor, joined staff in the area of Pastoral Care Ministries to assist with visitation of all members, working with senior ministries, and performing weddings and funerals.

Nov 2005 Drama ministry presents "Joseph" Dinner Theatre.

Mar 2006 Mission and Ministry Celebration featured three mission teams (Mudio/Tanzania, El Salvador and Mississippi/Katrina Relief). 45 youth with sponsors attend Youth Quake in Omaha.

April 2006 Sheridan Worship Service was broadcast beginning Easter Sunday, April 16, at 10:30 a.m., on UPN-Nebraska, channel 110, on Time Warner cable in our quest to "Go Light Our World."

May 2006 First annual Father/Son Retreat was held at the Carol Joy Holling Camp. Learn and Work Scholarship program began.

May 2006 Construction of the Columbarium/Outdoor Worship Center Project began. The Columbarium wall formed the outline for an Outdoor Worship Center in the form of a grassy hillside amphitheater with a stage in front, available to use for outdoor worship services, music concerts, classes, weddings, memorial services, etc. The total cost of the project was approximately \$290,000. The cost of the project was funded by approximately \$55,000 generated from prior sales of columbarium niches, direct contributions, and a bank loan of \$180,000 by a group of Sheridan members who formed a Limited Liability Company.

Summer 2006 Pastor Greg takes first Sabbatical.

June 2006 Kids were fired up about Jesus at Fiesta VBS.

August 2006 The Great Hall and Children's Ministry Wing were transformed into Bethlehem Village for Family VBS.

Sep 2006 Wednesdays @ The Well reorganized with new name, schedule, and worship experience. New schedule offers a buffet meal at 5:00 p.m., multi-sensory worship for all beginning at 6:00 p.m. and classes and activities for all ages from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Oct 2006 Beyond Survival conference held at Sheridan.

Nov 2006 Dinner Theatre presents "Fiddler on the Roof."

Dec 2006 Sheridan's first annual Festival of Trees. The money received through the silent auction went towards camp scholarships for children and families to attend a Lutheran camp.

Jan 2007 Kathy Ahrendt retired and Trisha Knoell was hired as the Director of Special Ministries. Jean Poppert became the Director of Business and Finance. Women's Ministry Team was organized and held their first summit.

Feb 2007 Amy Serflaten was hired as Director of Youth Ministries. Pastor Larry and Sharon along with Rocky and Judy Sorenson, Kathy Paisley and Julie Frederick traveled with the NE Synod Vision Trip, including visits to our sister parish at Mudio, Tanzania, ministry sites of the Northern Diocese as well as a safari to the Serengeti and Ngoronogoro Crater. The parish at Karansi welcomed them with open arms and dialog began to form a second sister parish in Tanzania. Another team of 12 from Sheridan under the leadership of Mission Director, JoHanna Madsen, joined them a few days later and worked primarily at Mudio.

Apr 2007 Dedication of the Columbarium/Outdoor Worship Area. First Easter Egg Hunt held on Saturday before Easter.

May 2007 Lord of Life Lutheran, the ELCA mission church at 70th and Highway 2 disbanded. Ownership of the property was transferred to the Nebraska Synod with Sheridan maintaining the property.

June 2007 John Eggen joined the staff working in the area of Pastoral Care and Mission. John was working with the Nebraska Synod Candidacy Committee to fulfill the requirements for ordination in the ELCA.

June 2007 Kids were encouraged to dive deep into God's Word at Great Bible Reef VBS. Kathy Paisley was on Sabbatical.

- July 2007 Julie Anderson was hired to coordinate Children's Church during the summer and assist with both children's music and Vacation Bible School as Children's Music Director.
- July 2007 By a vote of 553 for and 28 against, the Call was extended to both Rhonda Bostrom and Jeremy Freye as Associate Pastors at Sheridan Lutheran Church. They were installed on August 12, 2007.
- Aug 2007 Families enjoyed the living history experience of Galilee by the Sea during evening VBS.
- Aug 2007 First Women's Bizarre was held as a fall ministry fair and evening of workshops. Sheridan Men graciously served the dinner.
- Aug 2007 Kevin Wissink hired as Interim Director of Worship Arts. First Backpack Blessing with backpack tags distributed to students.
- Sep 2007 Another milestone is celebrated in the reduction of our indebtedness on our new facility and campus reducing the property loan from the original amount of just over \$4 million to under \$1.5 million.
- Sep 2007 Sheridan's Executive Committee established a Building Committee to begin the process of visioning and exploring the possibility of adding on to our present church facility. Areas of projected need for a Phase 2 addition were identified in the education, administration, and fellowship areas of our ministry. The Building Committee was: James Anderson, Julie Hestermann, Matt Metcalf, Jay Peters, Jean Poppert, Dick Rimel, Pastor Greg, and Pastor Larry. This Building Committee, staff, leaders and members of Sheridan met with Darrel LeBarron from Station 19 over the next few months.
- Nov 2007 3rd Beyond Survival Conference held. Dinner Theatre presents "Music Man."
- Dec 2007 Tanzanian Partner Church Dedication at Karansi, for newly constructed churches. Karansi Parish is comprised of four congregations scattered across the countryside. Sheridan's Church Council designated \$18,000 in mission funds to be sent to Karansi parish to aid them in completing construction on their four churches. Our Church Council members personally financed the training of two evangelists from the Karansi Parish to attend Bible College.
- Dec 2007 Exaud and Victoria Kimaro, members from our sister parish at Mudio Lutheran Parish, visited Sheridan. Victoria was a teacher at Kishare Primary School, where many people from Sheridan visited and a leader of the women's ministries at Mudio Lutheran Parish. Exaud was instrumental in hosting and guiding the grounds keeping projects the Sheridan team helped with in February 2007.
- Jan 2008 Chris and Deb Caudill and Pastor Rhonda Bostrom traveled to Haiti traveled with other Christians from around the USA through the Haitian Timoun (Children's) Foundation, a non-profit based out of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church in Littleton, Colorado supporting children throughout Haiti who are the poorest of the poor.
- Mar 2008 Dinner Theatre presents "Children of Eden."
- April 2008 The El Salvador Mission Team worked with our partner congregation, Cristo Rey, on various projects at the church and in the community.
- April 2008 Sheridan joined with other Lincoln churches to sponsor a free clinic called Clinic with a Heart. Sheridan volunteers provide medical care on the second Tuesday of the month.
- May 2008 Tanzania AIDS Orphan Scholarship Project began as the Women of Sheridan Lutheran Church sponsored Ombeni at the Masama Girls High School.
- May 2008 Construction began on the first Thrivent/Habitat house on our parking lot as a visible witness to this community effort. The house was moved to its' permanent location in September.
- June 2008 Children discovered what is meant to be a steward of God's creation at Rainforest Adventure VBS.
- July 2008 Confirmation Ministry changes were made with students starting Confirmation in 6th grade. 9th graders confirmed on the last Sunday in September with the Confirmation Banquet on the Sunday before.
- Aug 2008 John Eggen traveled with a team to La Paz, Bolivia to work with The Bolivian Street Children Project. One of the main focuses of the street outreach was medical attention.

- Aug 2008 Began Ride the Waves capital campaign with worship celebration and outdoor festival. Safeguarding God's Children training was held for staff, Council, parents and volunteers working with children and youth; 105 people were trained to help keep our children safe.
- Aug 23, 2008 John Eggen ordained and installed as Associate Pastor of Missions.
- Sep 2008 Prince of Peace Lutheran in Belmont voted overwhelmingly (91% approval) to accept our invitation to join Sheridan in starting a new mission congregation in northwest Lincoln. Our leadership had extended this offer to Prince of Peace after the Nebraska Synod asked us to consider starting a new mission congregation and we felt ourselves being led to northwest Lincoln. When this new congregation is launched, Prince of Peace will disband.
- Sep 2008 SLC member Ryan Stegall, as his Eagle Scout project, created a prayer area in the south portion of the property. The goal was to have a place where anyone seeking solitude can go. Benches and a fire pit were installed with the hopes that small groups and youth will gather there for Bible study, prayer and reflection. As part of the project the Cross that adorned the south yard of our former facility was also installed.
- Sep 2008 Sheridan began partnering with members from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and the People's City Mission in a new venture called the Barnabas Program. The ministry was named after Barnabas, who was Paul's partner on his first missionary journey.
- Fall 2008 First of many retreats for Spiritual Formation held. First Sheridan web site was launched.
- Sept 2008 Sheridan joins the Foodbank/LPS Backpack Program. Tami Ocken joined the staff as Children's Ministry Assistant.
- April 2009 Ordination Ceremony for SLC member Rebecca Craig was held at Sheridan. Rebecca Craig was called as an Associate Pastor to First Lutheran Church in Kearney, NE.
- April 2009 The Northwest Mission Partnership Team (comprised of representatives from Sheridan and Prince of Peace) and the Sheridan Church Council approved a proposal to have Sheridan's five pastors and Pastor Mary Jensen from Prince of Peace provide pastoral leadership for the new congregation.
- April 2009 Wednesdays @ the Well ended as the church was transformed into the streets of Rome during Paul in Rome family VBS.
- May 2009 Sheridan began partnering with the Lutheran Student Center/UNL in the pastoral internship program through Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA. Bryan Simmons has been assigned to Sheridan/LSC as the pastoral intern. Funding for this ministry was provided by our Seminary Scholarship Fund.
- May 2009 Construction began on a second Thrivent Habitat home in our parking lot.
- June 2009 A giant canyon wall intrigued the children at Discovery Canyon VBS.
- Sep 2009 Sheridan and Prince of Peace partnered to start Spirit of Hope, a new mission congregation at 5801 NW 1st Street.
- Sep 2009 Station 19 Architects completed the Construction Documents for the proposed new Education/Youth Center Addition.
- July 2009 Stations of the Cross were installed on the walkway around the Columbarium. Through original Haitian artwork, the 15 stations tell the story of Jesus' last hours inviting the observer to pray while remembering Jesus' great sacrifice. The stations were dedicated in August and guided tours were held.
- Nov 2009 Dinner Theater presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."
- Mar 2010 Resurrection Dance Theater from Haiti presented concert for the Sheridan community.
- June 2010 Our kids went on a vast voyage through God's Word at the High Seas Expedition VBS.
- Sep 2010 Dedication of New Education Wing on Rally Sunday, September 12. The "Rooms to Grow," featured Bible verses on the walls of each room, with verse numbers used for room names and numbers

Sep 2010 Spirit of Hope called coordinating pastor, Lance Ferguson.

Sep 2010 Lori Kitzing, Lutheran Student Center/Sheridan Intern began.

Oct 2010 A spiritual retreat on the Stations of the Cross was held on Sunday afternoon, October 11. Remembering Our Babies Candlelight service for the community was held on October 15. Connections Café opened selling specialty coffee and drinks.

Nov 2010 Pastor Larry Arganbright accepted a call to become the Senior Pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, Nebraska. Annual Sheridan Dinner Theatre, "Godspell" runs for two weekends with great attendance.

Jan 2011 Began offering 1st Steps for Baptism, a class for parents prior to the baptism of their child.

Feb 2011 Pastor Paul Svingen began as Interim pastor.

Feb 2011 Completed our goal of raising \$48,000 for the construction of the Karansi Elementary School.

Mar 2011 Gabriel's Ministry began as prayer and support ministry connecting families with special needs. A Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed helped raise funds to support this ministry.

Apr 2011 Sheridan hosts Anita Gutschiek from "Women of the Bible" for Women's Retreat and Worship.

May 2011 Sheridan hosted Salieli Munisi as a part of the Nebraska Synod Tanzania Summit. Salieli was the retired deputy secretary of the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and is the chairperson of the partnership team at Mudio Lutheran Parish.

May 2011 iWORSHIP - Sheridan's first youth led worship was held.

May 2011 Spirit of Hope was recognized as a congregation of the ELCA at the NE Synod Assembly.

May 2011 Pastor John Eggen accepted a call to Bethany Lutheran in Elkhorn.

June 2011 At PandaMania VBS, kids discovered that God has a purpose and a plan for them. Kathy Paisley received the ELCA Lutheran Association of Christian Educators Educator of the Year Award.

Aug 2011 Jaymie Freye joined the staff as Children's Ministry Associate.

Sep 2011 Jordan Muller began a year of service in South Africa through ELCA's Young Adults Global Mission Program. Pastor Paul Svingen left.

Sep 2011 A community of Sudanese immigrants began worship in their native Nuer language at Sheridan on Sunday afternoon. This community numbered 45-55 led by Pastor John Kaek.

Sep 2011 Tanzania Orphan Project sponsored 124 orphans.

Nov 2011 "Suessical" Dinner Theatre runs for two weekends.

Dec 2011 More than 1100 people participated in a congregational meeting to vote to call Pastor Greg Bouvier as Senior Pastor of Sheridan Lutheran Church.

Feb 26, 2012 Pastor Greg was installed as Senior Pastor at Sheridan Lutheran Church by Bishop David deFreese.

April 2012 Women's Ministry offers monthly series called "Becoming a Woman of Joy".

May 2012 Community Gardens began as space by the pond was tilled for vegetable garden plots.

June 2012 First WAM Camp held for elementary students. Under the clouds and hot air balloons kids learned that everything is possible with God at SKY VBS.

Aug 2012 Pastor Eric Bostrom was installed as Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care & Adult Education.

Aug 2012 Sheridan member, Cameron McDaniel, was hired as Coordinator of Youth Ministries. Amy (Serflaten) Wagner became Communications Coordinator.

Sep 2012 Barnabas Ministry moved to new location at 931 Saunders Ave due to tremendous growth in first 3 years. The new location includes community center in addition to the free store.

- Sep 2012 A Labyrinth was installed on the South side of the campus near the Outdoor Prayer and Reflection Center.
- Oct 2012 Wednesdays @ Well community adopted the Martha House at Tabitha. The Martha House, part of Tabitha's Green House Project, provides long-term care in small, neighborhood homes.
- Nov 2012 Molly Schmit was hired as Director of Worship Arts.
- Feb 2013 Marriage Retreat held at Lied Lodge in NE City. Special Congregational Meeting held regarding the city's purchase of some property for the widening of Old Cheney Road.
- Mar 2013 Midland University Chamber Choir sings at all Sunday worship services.
- April 2013 Guest Musician Heatherlyn led music for Women's Retreat and weekend worship. Sheridan partnered with UNL's The Big Event for Spring Work Day on the property. 1st Faith Builders Class presented their Plans for Ministry at concluding retreat. Patty Forsberg joined the staff as Special Events Coordinator with first task a new photo directory.
- May 2013 Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent build began construction of home for Andrew and Anna Kessler and their children on the Sheridan Parking Lot. Alex Henning left to serve 3 months in Haiti.
- June 2013 A huge castle in the Great Hall reminded kids to stand strong for God at Kingdom Rock VBS. Pastor Rhonda, Julie Hestermann, Cam McDaniel and 3 youth help lead Fet Bondye VBS in Haiti. Devotion writing team is organized and began sending weekly email devotions sent to Sheridan community. Beth Jessen joined staff as Administrative Assistant.
- July 2013 First School of Rock Worship Arts Camp held for middle and high school students. OneSent Market opened on weekly basis.
- Summer 2013 Thrivent honored Carol Petersen and Cheryl Stubbendieck as Volunteers of the Year for 2013 for their work with the Barnabas community.
- Sep 2013 Landscaping was completed on the Labyrinth project. Sheridan's Memorial Labyrinth is open to the public. Cake is served between services as the ELCA celebrates 25 years! Music and Family Fun Night kicked off the Sheridan Music Series. Pam Magdanz began as Drama Coordinator.
- Oct 2013 Musician James Hersch returned to Sheridan to release CD singing with Pastor Rhonda. Barnabas Community celebrated 5 years of ministry. A team of 7 including Pastor Eric, Todd Pfeil, Emily Estes, Cami Moran and Chad Roof travel to Haiti for Optometry Clinics.
- Nov 2013 Sheridan hosts the Nebraska Wesleyan University Chamber Singers presenting an Elizabethan Feast. Pastor Greg and Rose were Lord and Lady.
- Dec 2013 Pastor Jeremy Freye accepts call to congregation in Katy, Texas. Valerie Adams joins staff as Children's Ministry Associate.
- Jan 2014 Sheridan celebrates 60 years of ministry and 10 years at 6955 Old Cheney Road facility and completion of 5 years of the Capital Campaign for the Education wing.

THANKS BE TO GOD!