

A VENTURE OF FAITH:  
THE FOUNDING OF



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For Professor Edward Fredrich  
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THE FOUNDING OF SHORELAND LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL  
by Robert Knippel

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and been convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:14-17

It is with these immortal words that our God instructed men and women on the earth to train our children in the Lord. Certainly as Christians labored over the plans and commitments of the high school idea in the Southeastern Wisconsin District, God's Word was an intricate part of their strategy. In fact, it was a must. As is often the case in the establishment of parochial facilities, struggle is as common place as the diversity of ideas with which the plant is assembled. In surveying how Shoreland Lutheran High School grew to what it is today, we can but thank our God for giving us dedicated lay men and women. With a vision for Ministry, these able and willing tools together with the support and guidance of the called workers have molded the high school into a most rewarding instrument in the process of making disciples.

It all began with the Kenosha congregation named Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church. Founded in 1856, Friedens was the first in the area to promote teaching

the truth and inerrancy of the Scriptures. The building in which the initial high school would find its beginning was located on the property that was surrounded by 19th and 20th Avenues, 50th and 51st Streets. This six room building, 69'x 83' cost the congregation twenty-two thousand dollars and was dedicated to the Lord's service on January 17th, 1909. Although there is no information about the school prior to 1875, it is known that an addition was built on the church in 1864 for the purpose of educating the children.

Friedens began to expand in the area, opening new mission congregations in Kenosha. The year 1914 brought about the beginning of St. Luke's congregation and the calling of Pastor Reim. The year 1921 saw the creation of Bethany congregation and in 1945, Pastor Elton Huebner was called to Mount Zion congregation to begin serving in that neighborhood. With an increasing number of school age children in the area, elementary education flourished. Soon this led to a need for secondary education. W.H.A. Manthey served as principal from the years 1920-1930. In 1921, the ninth grade was introduced to the Frieden's school. They made use of the school hall as a classroom in 1922. Another grade was added each year until they had a full four year high school course. The year 1924 showed eight teachers and three hundred and eighty-two pupils

involved in education at Friedens. At that time a portable facility was built to accommodate overfilled classrooms and in 1927, after the completion of the community hall, the school hall was divided into two classrooms. An addition to the east side of the community hall was planned, but never materialized because of the depression. In 1928 the school had four men and five lady teachers and three hundred and fifty-eight pupils. Still another classroom had to be arranged, this time in the basement of the school.

From here on in, there was a steady decline in enrollment until on June 1, 1930, the high school course was discontinued by resolution of the congregation. When school opened in September of 1930, Friedens school had only three male and four female teachers and two hundred and fifty six pupils. Certainly Friedens Church with its Pastor Carl H. Buenger had been instrumental in filling a need for Christian secondary education. The depression dampened the spirits as more students needed to stay home and work, rather than attend school. The day school continued to remain rather constant and provide for the Lutheran families in the Kenosha area. The school was recognized in the community as being instrumental in providing a sound moral and spiritual education. From the beginning of the school up to the present day, several thousand children have received part of their

school training in the Friedens school. In the Centennial Edition of the Kenosha Evening News on June 15, 1935 the following article was run.

"PARISH SCHOOLS ARE AID TO CITY--One-fifth of Educational Burden Carried By The Church Groups Here. A valuable asset to the community which is sometimes overlooked by Kenosha's is the educational system established in the parochial schools of the city. In addition to furnishing education based on state requirements, these schools offer training in the religious creeds which they represent, placing stress on the tenet that the citizen who is faithful to his creed will be faithful also to his community and to his country. These schools represent genuine sacrifice on the part of the parishes which support them."

After the dissolution of the first high school plan in 1930, Friedens continued to see a need for Christian secondary education. They took a part in the formation of the Racine Lutheran High School. When the split between the WELS and the LC-MS occurred on August 22, 1961, fraternal relations that existed for almost ninety years were severed. Consequently, fellowship could no longer be maintained in regard to the school. It took about ten years to make the switch because the WELS churches had made commitments to Racine Lutheran High School and they felt they should honor them. For quite a while, First Evangelical Lutheran Church and Epiphany of Racine continued to send students there and pay on their commitments, while Trinity of Caledonia excommunicated anyone who sent students to Racine Lutheran.

This break between synods prompted two area congregations, Trinity of Caledonia and St. John's of

Burlington to attempt the start of another high school. But they could never see eye to eye. Pastor Greve, retired principal of Shoreland Lutheran High School recalls, "There is always a bug in the soup somewhere. The four congregations could never get together. At one of these meetings someone brought up the thing about the high school. Instead of working on a unified grade school, someone should start working on a high school. It got so confusing and heated, in fact, that Pastor Hein of Caledonia got angry with the whole thing and turned to Wisconsin Lutheran High School. The congregation bought two busses and bussed their students off to WISCO."

Not long after, however, a committee established a high school federation of the four Kenosha congregations. Mr. Fritz Perlwitz of Friedens congregation was elected chairman of the Board of Directors. They gave the new school the name "SHORELAND." A resolution was adopted by the congregation to add a tenth grade class to Friedens Lutheran School in 1971, with an eleventh and twelfth grade to be established in successive years. The costs would be shared by the four congregations in Kenosha as they began the enterprise of an area Lutheran high school. A sixteen man committee was appointed from the four Kenosha congregations to facilitate the development of Shoreland. Pastor Ed Greve was called

as Principal and Mr. Gerald Mallman was called to head the science department. Both of these men came to Shoreland Lutheran from Fox Valley Lutheran High School in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Promotions for the new high school could be found in church bulletins, with messages like this:

"A CORDIAL INVITATION: TO PARENTS TO ENROLL THEIR 9TH AND 10TH GRADE STUDENTS IN OUR NEWLY ESTABLISHED SHORELAND LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL. IN THIS SCHOOL MIND, "SOUL," AND BODY WILL BE TRAINED IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST. EVERLASTING VALUES FORM THE BASIS OF THIS TYPE OF EDUCATION." (Friedens Messenger, July-Sept 1971 vol 28, #3)

The Christ centered purpose for which the school was opened aided in the robust spirit with which Shoreland Lutheran High School still exists. There were indeed many thankful parents who witnessed an answer to their prayers. In 1971, Pastor Adolf C. Buenger expressed his thoughts in these words: "We are indeed thankful that our gracious God has led these men to join us in this venture of faith, the beginning of a new high school. While other systems of education are faltering and parochial schools are being closed, the Lord has made it possible that our Christ-centered schools are flourishing, are supplying that one thing needful among an apostate generation, and permitting us to open more schools. We earnestly beseech his

continual guidance and blessings." (FM, July-Sept., 1971)

In order to get the new high school started, the following men from the teaching staff [Friedens] were asked to join Principal Greve and Mr. Mallman. They were: Fred Biedenbender, Robert Hill, Edmund Schafer, Richard Waldschmidt and William Zeiger. Tuition costs were reasonable for the kind of quality education being offered. The cost for the ninth and tenth grades was \$200.00 a year for students belonging to one of the Federation congregations. \$400.00 was charged per student for non-federation members.

Recruitment, although thought to be an invention of the recent past, was a consideration in the early development of the high school. Pastor Greve: "We realize that this (enrolling in our new Lutheran high school) entails making a choice between the opportunity to continue to sit at the feet of Jesus beyond confirmation classes and the many attractive frills offered by the public school systems. Nevertheless, the youth of our Lutheran congregations are invited to join us in this venture of faith which will not only be a blessing for them, but is also able to make them a blessing unto others." He sought lists of the Confirmation classes from the area pastors and concentrated his efforts on these key individuals. A personal letter to each student encouraged them to



consider making Shoreland Lutheran High School their teenage oasis. Pastor Greve felt that if a forty percent success rate could be achieved, he would be satisfied.

But no administrator at Shoreland ever felt they could keep this school running by themselves. It has been evident over the past twenty years that under God, the lay leadership has been a key factor in its enjoyed success. In the first year, Pastor Greve looked to a group of parents who had students in the tenth grade as a major thrust in getting the school into smooth operation.

Fritz Perlwitz was a driving force in the organization of the high school. While holding full-time employment at American Motors, he still spent considerable time in the plans and programs of Christian education. Greg Vigansky was chairman of Project "S", a building fund started soon after the opening of the school in 1971. Elmer Ungemach was the resident lawyer, helping out not only with the legal aspects of the school, but also in lending the much need support necessary to guide the newborn corporation. Ed Ungemach Jr. served as Treasurer for the Shoreland Lutheran High School Federation. Allen McClure is a name known to all who were connected to the high school in its early years. While serving as Project "S" Treasurer, he collected all the funds, and

paid all the bills. Never having married, he donated long hours to the benefit of Shoreland, including spending time as volunteer librarian in the school. His picture is on display in the library. In the interview such names as John Schwartz, Marvin Kohlstedt, Richard Wade are fondly mentioned as key individuals in the project. Certainly there were many lay leaders who participated in the school.

Pastors such as Adolf Buenger and Friedel Schultz were instrumental in seeing to it that God's Word was central in all planning and preparations. It would be impossible to mention everyone involved, but their work and dedication was vital to the program's success. Havey Corporation was called in to do the initial organized fund raising of the Federation school. They established committees and divvied out the various responsibilities.

The first years of existence were exciting. After spending eleven years at Fox Valley Lutheran, Pastor Greve felt that the Lord had sent him to Shoreland Lutheran High School so that they wouldn't make the same mistakes that were made at FVL. "I live under the assumption of learning from other peoples' mistakes. You don't have time to make them all yourself. As a result, I feel that a lot of the early [mistakes] were avoided," said Pastor Greve. On a small piece of paper he produced from his desk were written these

words: "Basic education concerns itself with these matters, which once learned, enable the student to learn all the other matters that are trivial or complex that cannot properly be the subjects of elementary and secondary education schooling." He felt that you don't spend time, four years in high school, with "piddling" things you can pick up by yourself. Teach the student the basics and they can apply these as life principles.

The year 1972 also brought the adoption of the Article of Incorporation by the Shoreland Lutheran High School Board of Directors. For the 1972-73 school year, as a result of increasing enrollment, Shoreland was moved to the educational wing at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, now having the ninth through eleventh grades. Mount Zion had four classrooms including space in the basement of the school. The church basement was used as the physical education room. The challenge at that time was to dream up phy-ed activities you can play with a low ceiling and restricted space. At one time, some generous members from the congregation donated the use of some land a few blocks away. It wasn't big enough for a soccer field, but they did the best they could. Showers and lockers simply didn't exist!

Doris Bauer recalls: "Pastor Friedel Schultz allowed us to use the Sacristy for the school office. She recalls having two file cabinets, a table and a

desk. Everything was a lot easier back in those days. Our system of bells consisted in a watch and a handbell. If you missed the time to ring the bell, you set off the whole day. They bought milk by the gallon from the Super America across the street. At that time a very strict dress code was in place. Boys could not wear jeans--only dress pants. Shirts and ties were even required at one point. All girls wore stockings and dresses." Pastor Greve recalls why this was so important. "First impressions are very hard to erase. And any time a stranger would step into our school, the biggest complement we got was 'I like the way your students look.'" At that time dancing was not thought of in the high school setting. "We say there is nothing wrong with dancing *per se*," says Pastor Greve. "But what the old Adam does with it is another thing--that is completely overlooked. You go in there now and see them dancing--how do they dance? Arms around each other close up . . . what we used to call a navel battle without the loss of semen. You can't tell me that anything good is going to come out of that. We are talking about a Christian school, and yet we are looking over our shoulder at the public school and imitating it."

In 1972 Friedens and First Lutheran of Racine, Wisconsin conveyed ten acres of land held in trust to Lutheran Church of the Abiding Word in Somers,

Wisconsin to allow the mission congregation to proceed with the building of their church. This land located on Highway 31, just south of Highway E in the town of Somers was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Kirchner. An additional twenty five acres was donated by the Kirchners, for the purpose of some day building a high school. When soil samples were taken, however, the land wouldn't "perk", which meant that a holding tank would be needed in the high school were to be built there. Shoreland Lutheran High School still holds the deed to this land.

The first graduating class in 1974 consisted of only ten girls. In 1975, Shoreland Lutheran High School, having outgrown its facilities at Mount Zion, was offered the use of six classrooms not being used at Friedens due to declining enrollment in the elementary school. There was also at this time a consideration on the part of the Board to rent classrooms from St. Joseph's school in Kenosha, but the rent was too high.

In 1978, the congregation of Friedens authorized a gift of \$70,000.00 to Shoreland Lutheran High School to enable it to proceed with construction of its high school in the town of Somers, located just north of Highway E and west of Highway H. The congregation borrowed the money needed (in order to give the gift) from the First National Bank of Kenosha, to be repaid over the next three years. Other finances were sought

through personal loans from members of the Federation congregations. This has proven to be a way in which the members of the Federation have been able to take part in the support of their school. Recently, the Board of Directors has reinstated the use of personal loans in order to keep up with current expenses.

When you talk about finances at Shoreland, it is rare that the name of Larry Marquardt doesn't come up. Pastor Greve characterized him in this way. "He is the kind of guy that doesn't take "no" for an answer. He has got a plan all figured out and when it come up on the floor and is voted down, he just nonchalantly brings it up the next time. And he will bring it up until it goes through." At one time, the congregation to which Mr. Marquardt belongs, left the Shoreland Federation. After the Synod split of 1961, part of the congregation went FAL [Federation of Authentic Lutherans]. This, too, Larry Marquardt took in stride. Today he is Chairman of the Board of Directors, a seat he has held off and on for more that ten years.

Friedens congregation, along with other members of the Shoreland Lutheran High School Federation joined in guaranteeing the loan needed by Shoreland to complete the financing of the school building. Prior to the completion, the first Graduation was held at the new school in May for the Class of 1979. As there was no finish work done in the gym, a stack of drywall served

as the stage. Palms and fresh Lilacs beautified the simple unfinished interior. The completion of the school was marked by a dedication service and open house at the new plant on August 19, 1979. Doris Bauer recalls that in the sermon Pastor Robert Voss, St. John's, Libertyville, began to talk about the Flood. He just opened his mouth and the rain came down in buckets outside, pounding loudly on the metal roof. Because the doors were open to cool off the inside, the rain formed rivers in the gym, driving home the point that God does control all.

In the summer of 1979 Pastor Greve along with his secretary Doris Bauer and the rest of the faculty, moved the High School to its new home. Dick Oechler, who worked in the transport division of American Motors, helped secure the vehicles to move the contents of the school. With the help of Mr. Oechler and other dedicated men, the school was able to endure the transition and continue its work of training disciples for Christ.

Money has always been a challenge for Shoreland Lutheran High School. But Pastor Greve says it is not all bad. "I always thought that in a way it was a good thing, so we wouldn't get too proud. If we were to get to a point where we had more money than we wanted to spend in our budget, we would be on the wrong track some place. We get too proud, we lose sight!" As far

as supporting the Federation school, he sees a direct correlation between those who are active in the high school and those who support it. If the school is to continue, the people who built the school must continue to hold it as a top priority. This is the responsibility of all Federation congregations.

If you spend any time around Shoreland, it is glaringly evident that sports, both boys and girls, are a vital part of their education and growth as Christians. Over the years, the various teams in Basketball, Track, Soccer, and Baseball/Softball have finished their seasons with high honors.

In 1985, Doctor Dusseau was called to be the Principal at Shoreland Lutheran. Though the work has been challenging, his ability to look to the future, with the help of the Lord, has been a positive asset to Christian education. If we are permitted to dream, there are some additions that would help to make the facility one which can continue to compete as a quality education facility. Library expansion and the construction of a chapel/auditorium are slated for future discussion. Teaching of some classes, especially in the Foreign languages, may soon be available via interactive video. Certainly the places and the faces continue to change, but the goal and purpose are still the same. "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from



it." (Proverbs 22:6) To God Alone Be the Glory!

### Bibliography

One Hundred Years by Pastor Carl H. Buenger, Friedens,  
Kenosha, 1956 Seminary Archives

125 Years of Friedens, 1981 Seminary Archives

Friedens Messenger July-Sept., 1971 Vol 28, #3

Pastor Greve Interview April 7, 1990

Doris Bauer Interview April 19, 1990

Doctor Ray Dusseau Interview, many occasions.

(SLHS.DOC)

Faculty and Federation of Shoreland Lutheran High School  
(FACSLHS.DOC)

		*****
Pastor Ed Greve	1971-85	* <u>Office Staff</u> *
Gerald Mallman	1971-86	* Doris Bauer *
William Zeiger	1971-76	* Edith Vigansky *
Robert Hill	1971-80	* Yvonne Jeske *
Fred Biedenbender	1971-72	* Joan Clauer *
Ridhard Waldschmidt	1971-76	* Jamie Herman *
Nadine Harris	1972-73	* *
Elda Leisten	1972-Present	* <u>Janitor Staff</u> *
David Shumacher	1972-75	* Robert Huntoon *
Bonnie Schramm	1972-73	* Duane Corso *
Ellen Schlomer	1973-74	* Chuck Rowntree *
Judy Kiesow	1974-77	* Craig Krewal *
Mr. Huebner	1975-76	*****
Pastor Nolte	1975-76 (81)	
Mr. Stuebs	1975-76	
Deborah Adascheck	1976-77 (Emergency Instructor)	
Keith Lauber	1976-81	
Jeanie Miller	1976-77	
Conrad Miller	1976-87	
Pastor Martin Hahm	1976 (1 Sem. Fill in)	
Pastor Bob Otto	1976-90	
Pastor Friedel Schultz	1976 (1 Sem. Fill in)	
Ralph Wood	1976-79	
Judith Albert	1977-80	
Margo Kross	1977-78	
Kenneth Jeske	1978-86	
Pastor Steve Hintz	1979-Present	
David Roehl	1979-Present	
Edith Vigansky	1979-89	
Robert Dretske	1980-88	
Louis Hellermann	1980-85	
Louise Malchow	1980-81	
Pastor Oehlke	1980-81	
Pastor Turriff	1980 (2nd Sem Fill in)	
Bruce Heckman	1981-Present	
Rachel Kaesmeyer	1981-84	
Dale Stelter	1981-Present	
Anne Demsien	1983-84	
Dr. Ray Dusseau	1984-Present	
Paul Shumacher	1984-Present	
Jeanne Lehninger	1984-90	
Judy Shumacher	1984-85, 87-88	
Leslie Kohn	1985-86	
Merlin Meitner	1985-86	
Joel Zank	1985-86 (Emergency Instructor)	
George Povich	1986-Present	
Kathy Proeber	1986-Present	
Neil Sriver	1986-Present	
Pastor Kobleske	1986-88	
Laurie Gauger	1987-Present	
Craig Krewal	1987-Present	
Sandy Nommensen	1987-89	
Ron Buelow	1988-Present	
Del Draeger	1988-Present	
Bob Knippel	1988-89 (Emergency Instructor)	
Richard Pinski	1989-Present	
Pastor Roger Schultz	1989-Present	

Federation Congregations of Shoreland Lutheran High School

1971-1972

Friedens; Bethany; St. Luke; Mount Zion  
(all of Kenosha)

1972-1973

The Church of the Abiding Word, Somers

1975-1976

First Evangelical, Racine; Immanuel, Waukegan, IL;  
Our Saviors, Zion, IL; St. John, Libertyville, IL

1977-1978

Epiphany, Racine; St. John, Oak Creek

1978-1979

Faith, Antioch, IL; St. John, Burlington;  
Trinity, Caledonia

St. John's, Libertyville left the Federation

1979-1980

New Hope, Racine

1980-1981

St. John, Libertyville, IL

1988-1989

Peace, Wilmot

1989-1990

Zion, Bristol

Presently Requesting Information

Trinity, Union Grove; St. John, Slades Corners