

Excelsior Covenant Church

Connecting people to Jesus and one another.

The acts of the people of God include both glimpses into the past and views toward the future. In recalling memories, we see those acts of grace that have brought us safe thus far.

Even before we came together formally as a congregation we met in friend's homes, in the company of brothers and sisters in the faith, worshiping together and observing the sacraments. The first communion service in our fellowship was held early in **1946**.

Seventy-five years ago, on May 6, **1948**, twenty-eight pilgrims came together and officially organized themselves as Excelsior Covenant Church.

Three years before the church was formed families met, under the leadership of Rev. Jacob Elving, the Superintendent of the Northwest Mission Association (now the Northwest Conference of the Covenant Church), for Wednesday evening Bible studies and prayer meetings. Bible study groups formed within the congregation soon after it was organized.



Even before this local church had its own building the congregation was reaching out to the community, gathering with friends from other Covenant churches, meeting in homes to worship, and inviting friends and neighbors into this fellowship.

In **1954**, as ministries grew, the congregation moved into its first building, just west of Christmas Lake Road in Excelsior (to make the purchase, several members secured the church loan with mortgages on their own homes).



In the ninth year of the congregation (**1957**) additional classroom space was added to the new church building; Sunday school enrollment had reached 160 students.

By the twelfth year (**1960**) church membership passed 100 members. A year after that (**1961**) congregational growth necessitated two worship services.

In its sixteenth year (**1964**) the congregation purchased land to the east, the present site of our church facilities. An existing house on the site was immediately used for Sunday School classes and youth activities.

History of Excelsior Covenant Church

By the twenty-fourth year (**1972**) the original church building was sold and the congregation met in the old Excelsior Elementary school.

Twenty-five years after the congregation was organized (**1973**) it moved into the first building on the present site.



Forty-three years from its founding (**1991**), the congregation added new space to accommodate Sunday school, youth programs, and a Preschool. One of the two traditional worship services was later replaced with a contemporary worship service.



In its sixtieth year (**2008**) new space in the form of a multi-purpose activity center (full size gymnasium), expanded narthex, classrooms, and offices was added.



In **2010** ECC came alongside the Mainstreet Covenant church plant in Mound, assisting them with finances, volunteers and mentoring.



In **2018** Excelsior sent our associate pastor, and a core group of members (and our financial assistance), into the community in Chanhassen to establish our daughter church-plant, Lakeside Covenant Church.



Our 75th anniversary celebration, “Rooted and Growing in Christ”, was held on Sunday, November 12, **2023**. We continue to celebrate God’s faithfulness since 1948.

History of Excelsior Covenant Church