

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Serving Our Savior Jesus Christ since 1890

History of the Church

The early history of Our Saviour's in South Bellingham, formerly Fairhaven, Washington, is the story of two pioneer congregations whose roots and growth were of the same Norwegian stock - from the same soil of the "old country" and the Midwestern states.

On August 17, 1890 the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fairhaven was formed, with the assistance of Rev. Ole Amundson.



19th & Mill

On April 2, 1891, with the help of Rev. L. C. Foss, another group was organized. It was Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fairhaven.

The Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church built its first house of worship in 1891 at 19th and Knox. In 1908, it was moved to 19th and Mill Street, where it served the congregation until the union with Our Saviour's in 1917.



The Box

Our Saviour's began its work in a school house on McKenzie and 17th. From 1894 to 1900, worship was held in a church that was built on Donovan, between 18th and 19th. This church was a converted store building, and was popularly called "The Box". In 1900, a church was built at Donovan and 19th. This church served the people until 1913 when a new church was built on the present site - 17th and McKenzie. These two congregations merged in 1917 and adopted the name of Our Saviour's.



19th & Donovan

In the early years, Our Saviour's shared its pastors with other new congregations which were being organized. Survival was not easy; times were hard and money scarce.



17th & McKenzie

The parsonage was built in 1920 and moved to its present location in 1961. The education unit was built in 1950. There was a great need for this building as the basement was too small for the expanding activities and Sunday School.



18th & McKenzie

Our present sanctuary was under construction from 1961 to 1962, with the Dedication Service being held on Easter Sunday, April 22, 1962.