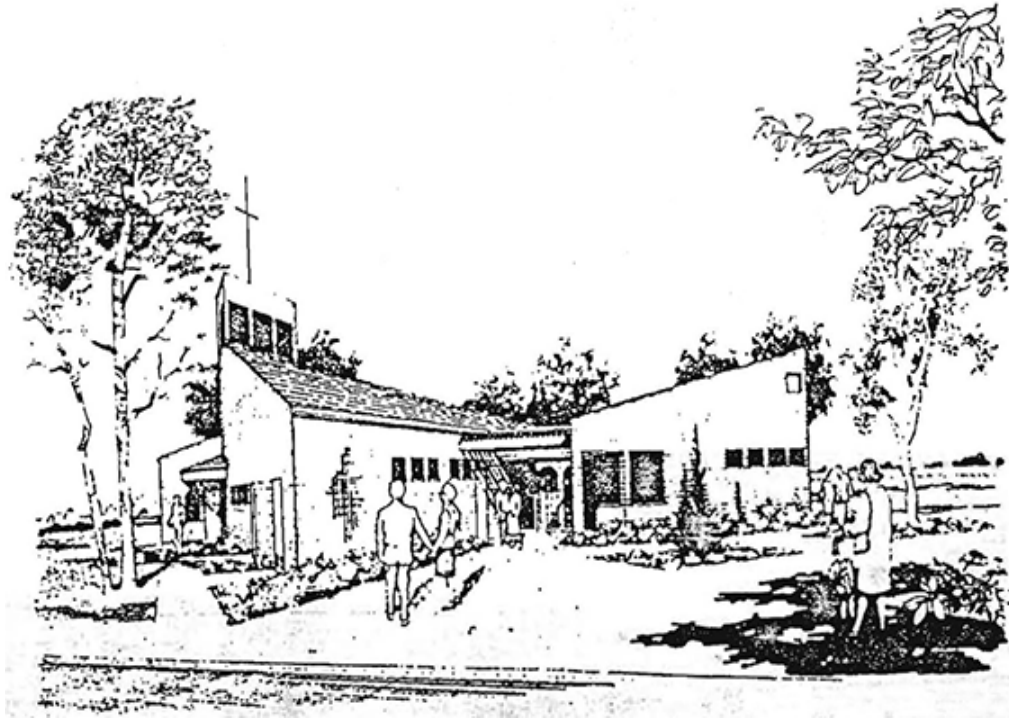
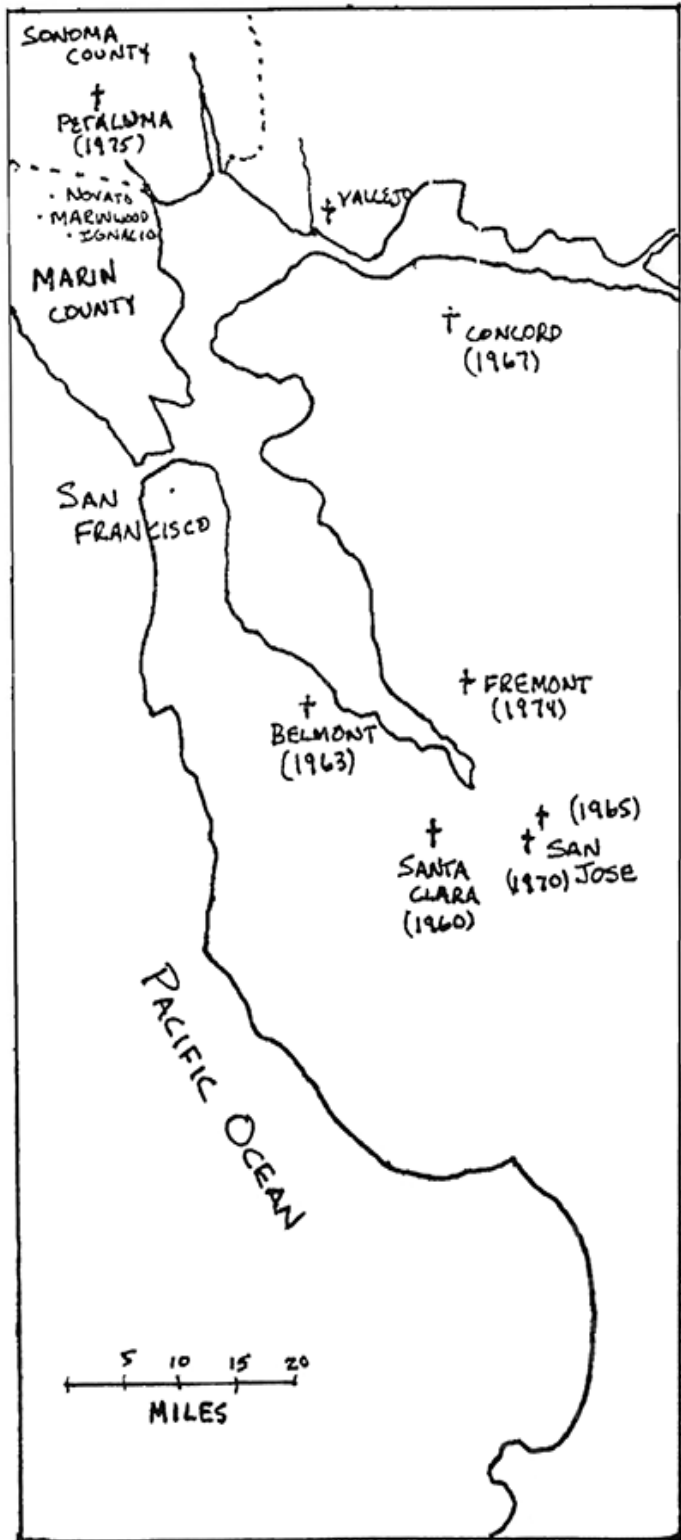


THE HISTORY OF
LIVING WORD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF
PETALUMA CALIFORNIA



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The History of LIVING WORD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Petaluma, California

Kitty Hawk, North Carolina -- December 17, 1903. Orville Wright climbs into his bi-plane, "*The Flyer*," and if the words are not actually spoken, a few spectators are no doubt thinking, "It will never get off the ground." Despite the skepticism "*The Flyer*" lived up to its name and the rest is history.

During the early history of what is now Living Word Evangelical Lutheran Church there were those of us who thought to ourselves, and a few who actually stated, that our little mission in the Marin/Sonoma counties of northern California would never "get off the ground." And for good reason. For several years the growth of the mission was minimal while the set backs were plentiful. But our Lord, "who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine," did indeed have plans for his Gospel in the Marin/Sonoma area. Our Old Adams may not have always agreed with our Lord's "when" and "how," but our New Man never doubted his promise: "My word that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." The following is the history of how our Lord fulfilled that promise to a group of Christians in northern California.

For the sake of convenience let's divide the history into three segments. I. THE BEGINNING; we will cover the time period between August 1969 to October 1970 during which Living Word operated as an "arm" of Gloria Del Lutheran Church of Belmont, California. II. THE YEARS OF STRUGGLE; we will cover the time period between November of 1970 to March of 1975, during which Living Word operated as a ward of the California Mission Board in an exploratory status. And finally, III. FORMAL ORGANIZATION AND SUBSEQUENT HISTORY; we will cover the time period between March 1975 to October of 1981, during which Living Word was granted mission status, called her first pastor and built her chapel.

I. THE BEGINNING: August, 1969 - October 1970

. . . coming soon

II. THE YEARS OF STRUGGLE: November, 1970 - March, 1975

. . . coming soon

III. FORMAL ORGANIZATION AND SUBSEQUENT HISTORY:
March, 1975 - October, 1981