

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DESERT HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 4, 1984 – DHLC's First Worship Service – The service was celebrated by Rev. Willis F. Ericson and was held at Desert Hills Social Center.

November 24, 1985 – Charter Sunday – The charter was signed by 98 Members.

April 1986 – First Congregational Meeting – The annual budget was set at \$58,280.

March 1987 – DHLC leased five acres from the state.

January 1988 – The congregation removed itself from Synod support.

April 1989 – DHLC began construction of a church building with a \$700,000 budget.

January 14, 1990 – The first worship service was held in the new church building.

February 11, 1990 – The new church building was dedicated.

April 1999 – The congregation approved a \$1,350,000 building expansion.

May 2008 – DHLC launched a second site mission church which was shut down in 2009.

March 2012 – DHLC purchased the five acres of land previously leased from the state and dedicated two additional wings to the church, effectively doubling the size of the building at a cost of approximately \$2.6 million.

April 21, 2013 – The congregation approved raising \$215,000 for a new organ. Funds were raised within two months and the organ was installed in December 2013.

Previous Pastors:

Rev. Willis Erickson was the founding Pastor (1984 to 1987).

Rev. Melvin Briere was Interim Pastor (1988).

Rev. Duane Lokken was Pastor (1988 to 2000).

Rev. Dr. Richard Lind was part-time (October-May) Pastor (October 1999 to 2015).

Rev. Kenneth R. Ahlstrand was Interim Pastor (November 2001 to January 2003).

Rev. Dr. Martin Overson was Senior Pastor (February 2003 to May 31, 2021).

Rev. Kenneth Nyhusmoen was Associate Pastor (December 2015 to June 2021).

Rev. Ron Glusenkamp was Interim Pastor (June 2021 to January 2022).

Rev. Roy Christell was Bridge Pastor (January 2022 to March 2022).

Rev. Michael Sager is Senior Pastor (March 2022 to present).