

A Century of Opening Doors

07/28/1914 – World War I begins.



02/19/1913 – With incredible faith and \$54 raised from people who gave \$1 each, The Rev. K. G. William Dahl founds the Bethphage Inner Mission Association in Axtell, Nebraska.

“Retrogression or even a standstill must never be heard of at the Mission.”

The Rev. K. G. William Dahl, Bethphage Founder

10/29/1929 – U.S. stock market crashes, ushering in the “Great Depression.”



10/20/1925 – In the library of the vacant Martin Luther Academy in Sterling, Nebraska, Martin Luther Home is founded as a school for children with developmental and physical disabilities.



1930-1939 – Severe drought and Dust Bowl storms wreck havoc in the Midwest.



12/07/1941 – Pearl Harbor is bombed and the U.S. becomes actively involved in World War II.



05/20/1931 – Zion Chapel, located at the heart of Bethphage’s Axtell, Nebraska Campus, is dedicated.

“We must never forget the debt Bethphage owes to the Sisters for their sacrificial dedication. They were the stick-to-it-ive people who would never say die.”

Robert A. Tumquist, Bethphage Director 1975-1980

02/06/1951 – The Association for Retarded Citizens, now The Arc, is founded by parents of children with disabilities.



Sisters of the Bethphage Disciples were especially appreciated during the war years when there was a critical shortage of staff.

12/19/1949 – The Bethphage Board of Trustees accepts bids for the building of Home Bethesda – at over \$185,000 it was the most expensive capital outlay in Bethphage’s history to date.

10/05/57 – Artificial satellite Sputnik is launched.



06/05/1956 – Martin Luther Home moves from Sterling, Nebraska, to a site overlooking the Blue River at the edge of Beatrice, Nebraska, the location chosen for its new campus.



07/20/1969 – Neil Armstrong is the first person to walk on the moon, making the famous “giant leap for mankind.”



08/23/1963 – Several hundred people pull a walking plow to break ground for Martin Luther Home’s Sheltered Workshop, reported to be the first such program in the nation operating in conjunction with a residential facility.

“This facility will open a door that up to now has been closed to countless numbers of people with disabilities. ... it is a milestone in the history of our Christian society. You, by your prayers and gifts, have opened this door.”

Julius Moehl, MLH staff member who became Superintendent in 1969.

07/04/1976 – America celebrates 200 years of independence.



05/01/1979 – Martin Luther Home Society expands beyond Nebraska with the opening of its first home in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

11/15/1982 – Bethphage expands beyond Nebraska with the groundbreaking of three new homes in Des Moines, Iowa.

11/09/1989 – The fall of the Berlin Wall paves the way for German unification.



07/26/1990 – President George H.W. Bush signs The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) into law.



10/15/1995 – Martin Luther Homes breaks ground for its first independent living venture, the Evergreen Retirement Center in Osage, Iowa.

05/10/1999 – Bethphage partners with the Bethel Institute of Bielefeld, Germany, to initiate the development of an international alliance to support the work Bethphage started in Latvia in 1994.

07/01/2003 – Building on common strengths and shared roots, Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes consolidate to form Mosaic.

09/11/2001 – Terrorists hijack two planes, flying them into the World Trade Center in New York City, destroying both towers.



“My initial response to the plan of consolidation was, ‘This would be a great gift to the Church!’ The creation of a dynamic organization that will continue the rich tradition of Martin Luther Homes and Bethphage is a faithful fulfillment of the vision shared by the founders.”

Sally Clark Almich, Chair, Martin Luther Home Society Board of Directors

As we carry forth the mission of Mosaic, let us embrace the motto of Martin Luther Home co-founder The Rev. August Hoeger,

“Always Forward!”



MOSAICSM

Opening Doors to Extraordinary Lives