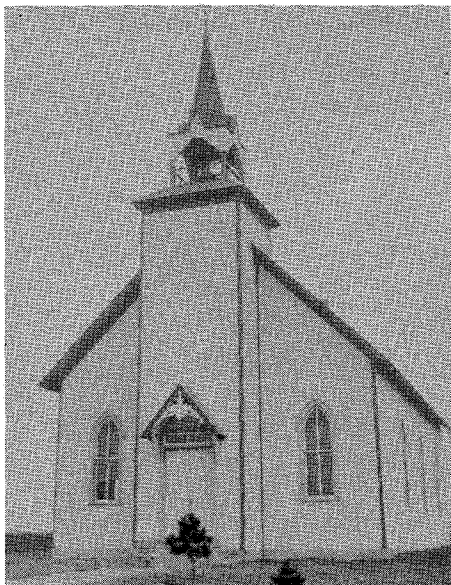


PIONEER HISTORY



**Stordahl Church
in Country
Built in 1886**

HISTORY OF STORDAHL CONGREGATION

Rev. O. L. Graven and Rev. Elling Eielsen, Home Missionaries of the Lutheran Church, visited the Dell Rapids community, ministering to the spiritual needs of the early pioneers, before 1874. From among those to whom they ministered was organized Stordahl Lutheran Church. September 27, 1874, a group met at the home of Ole H. Tofte, in Highland Township, Minnehaha County, Dakota Territory, for the purpose of organizing a congregation. They passed the following resolution, "Inasmuch as a group of friends interested in the organization of a Lutheran congregation are now assembled at the Ole H. Tofte home in Minnehaha County, on this 27th day of September, 1874, for the purpose of organizing a congregation, therefore be it resolved that we do accept the Constitution suggested by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which Constitution was adopted by that body April 14th, 1845." Rev. Elling Eielsen presided as chairman and A. O. Utheim as secretary.

The following were present: Mr. and Mrs. Ole H. Tofte, son Ole and daughter Ingeborg; Mr. and Mrs. Arent L. Grant and sons, Gustav, Lauritz, Helmer and Anton; Mr. and Mrs. Gunder G. Thompson and children Grethe, Peter, Marenana and Anna Gustava; Chr. A. Berg and children, Berith, Andrew and John; Berith J. Onsoeien; Mr. and Mrs. Guttorm Gunderson (Thompson) and sons, Peter, Mangnus, and Gunnerius; Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson and children, Albert, Iver, Olai and Ida; Mr. and Mrs. Ole T. Thompson and children, Olaus, Marenana and Juliana; Mr. and Mrs. Rolluf Anderson and daughters, Ida and Annie, also mother-in-law Anna O. Fortun; Mr. and Mrs. Esten Estensen and children, Emma, Hannah, Christine and Alfred; Mr. and Mrs. Ole H. Bratsberg and children, Halder and Marie; Iver Shjegstad. These were charter members. No pastor was called at this meeting. Pastors Graven, Eielsen and Utheim conducted services for them.

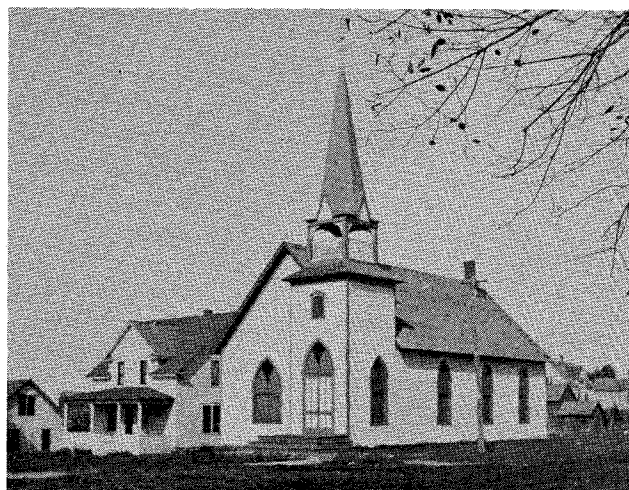
At a meeting held May 22, 1876, in a schoolhouse at Dell Rapids, the organization was completed; application was filed with the Hauge Synod asking for admission to that body.



Rev. Utheim presided and Rolluf Anderson served as secretary. They adopted the name, Rosendahl Norwegian Evangelical Congregation. They elected as officers, President Ole Bratsberg, Secretary and Treasurer Rolluf Anderson; Trustees Ole H. Tofte and John Anderson. Efforts to secure an ordained pastor failed, so a letter of call was extended to a layman, B. J. Eide of Chicago; he accepted and was ordained that fall. Services were now held regularly until 1883. Rev. C. C. Holter then served the congregation from Canton, South Dakota. His ministry was short, due to removal from Canton to Roland, Iowa. In April, 1884, Rev. C. C. Moe of Sioux City, Iowa, was called; he accepted, giving services once a month with residence in Davidson County.

The congregation now having regular services created more interest and decided, at a meeting held January 16, 1886, to build a church. Esten Estensen donated two acres of land for church lot and cemetery, two miles south of Dell Rapids, and Gunder Thompson gave land for a road to the church lot. The church was built at a cost of \$1500 and dedicated October 14, 1888, by the Vice President of Hauge's Synod, Rev. A. O. Utheim, assisted by Rev. O. L. Graven and Rev. F. H. Carlson. July 4th, 1891, Rev. C. C. Moe resigned. Rev. A. O. Mortvedt of Pierre, South Dakota, was then called; he accepted and moved to Dell Rapids. This appears to be the first resident pastor. During six years of his ministry he also served St. Peter's Congregation at Dell Rapids. May 1st, 1900, he severed his connections with the parish.

Rev. M. O. Wee was called; he accepted and moved to Dell Rapids January 4, 1901. The congregation included a large area reaching east to the state line and also northeast, hence it was decided to divide into three congregations: Stordahl, Highland and Sherman. Stordahl also began active

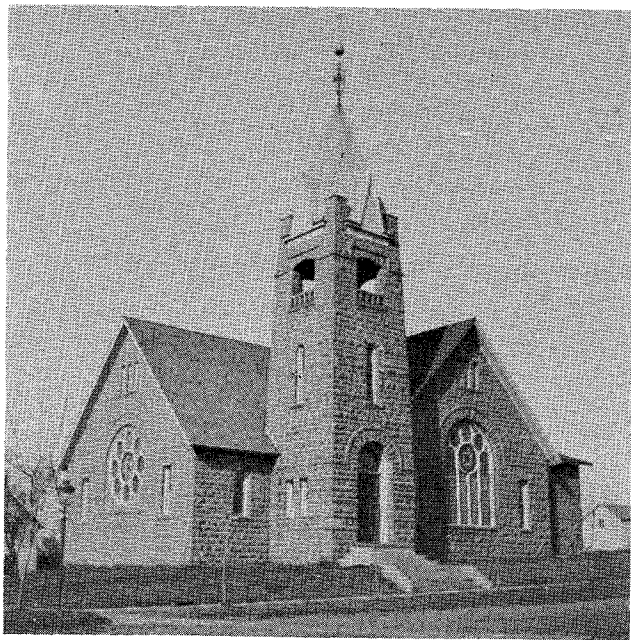


work in Dell Rapids and efforts were made to unite with St. Peter's congregation, but these failed, so they built a church which was dedicated June, 1902 by the president of the Hauge Synod, Rev. Carlson. Rev. Wee resigned and left the parish in the spring of 1903. Candidate O. A. Anderson of the Red Wing Seminary was called; he accepted, was ordained the same summer, and installed July 1, 1904. His service was short, due to his untimely death December 12, 1906. Just previous to his death he had accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church at Yankton, South Dakota. He was a son of Stordahl Congregation.

On January 2, 1907, a letter of call was extended to Rev. G. M. Bruce, then a student at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion, South Dakota. He accepted and began work at once; however, he continued his studies at the University until June, when he moved here. January 1, 1911, he severed his connections with Stordahl. Rev. O. F. Johnson of Crookston, Minn., was called, the call was accepted, and he entered upon his work here April 1, 1911. During his ministry here a parsonage was built next to the church in Dell Rapids. March 29, 1918, when Stordahl united with St. Peter's congregation, Rev. Johnson resigned and moved to Sinai, South Dakota. The new organization took the name Dell Rapids Lutheran Church.

All the charter members of Stordahl Congregation have passed on to their reward.

HISTORY OF ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



The St. Peter's Lutheran Congregation was organized in the fall of 1887 by Rev. E. H. Midtboe, who had been serving as mission pastor since 1881. The congregation joined the United Lutheran Church at their meeting held in the fall of 1887. The congregation had no church, and for some time services were held in the homes of members. Later on they rented the Episcopal hall (basement of the Episcopal church). Soon they needed more room so moved to the Presbyterian church and finally found a home in the Danish Baptist Church which stood where the Chevrolet garage now

stands. In 1891 Rev. Midtboe moved, and Rev. O. A. Mortvedt who was serving Stordahl Church was called for one year. He continued to serve for six years until 1898.

In 1892 St. Peter's congregation was reorganized. Mr. C. J. Johnson was elected as chairman; a Constitution and by-laws were adopted and a full set of officers elected. The



following officers were elected besides Mr. Johnson: Trustees M. A. Dieson, C. J. Johnson and H. O. Rime; Secretary, O. Tufteland, and Treasurer, A. Nelson. It was decided to have three services a month, one of which should be in the English language. Rev. Mortvedt was called as permanent pastor. The following are listed as those who accepted the Constitution January 21, 1892: C. J. Johnson, H. O. Rime, B. R. Bentson, M. A. Dieson, Chris Paulson, A. Nielson, O. Tufteland, A. Erickson, Andrew Anderson, Engebrigt Paulson, Gunder Olson, John Hess, Halvor T. Osterkil, Peder T. Sorkilmo, Hans Ronholm, Ole Larson and H. Halvorson. As early as January 4, 1893, it was decided to buy a lot, but building operations were delayed several years. Rev. Mortvedt resigned in the summer of 1898.

Articles of Incorporation were filed May 29, 1893, bearing names M. A. Dieson, C. J. Johnson and B. R. Bentson as directors or trustees of said corporation. The charter was granted September 7, 1893.

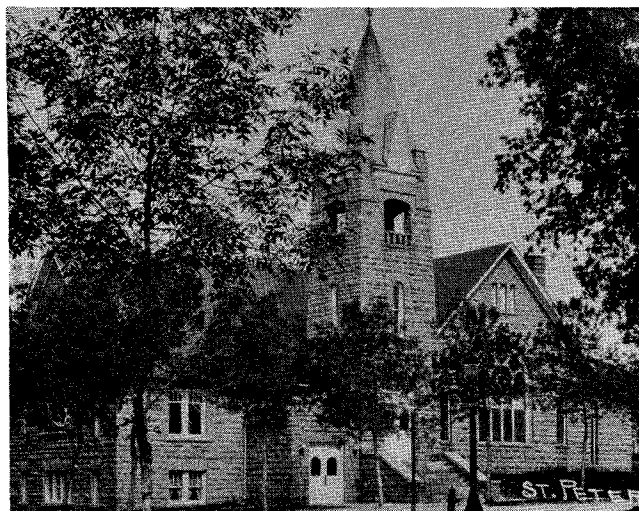
A temporary call was extended to Rev. C. C. Moe March 26, 1898, which he accepted and he took up the work in the fall of 1898. On December 28, 1900 definite action was taken and building operations soon followed. The church was completed sufficiently so worship services were held by Pastor Moe in the new church August 24, 1902. Cost of the building was about \$9,800. We still use this house of worship, with additions which have been made since. Rev. Moe served as pastor until his untimely passing January 31, 1910. Rev. Moe had served for 12 years, from 1898 to 1910.

Early in the year 1911 Rev. A. J. Bergsaker was called; he accepted and moved to Dell Rapids during the summer. For some reason the dedication of the church had not been carried out, so on July 14, 1912 the dedication service was held, conducted by the President of the United Lutheran Church, Dr. T. H. Dahl of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Those assisting were pastors J. D. Svaltestuen, Jasper; P. H. Tetlie, Canton; G. O. Wigdahl, Colton; P. E. Moe, Howard; H. M. Solem, Garretson; Martin Anderson, Madison; C. J. Moen, Flandreau; S. J. Numedahl, Hudson; O. A. Berge, Inwood, Iowa, and H. O. Bjorlie, Sioux Falls. The congregation seemed to take on new life and grew in strength, and its indebtedness was removed at this time.

On December 27, 1917, at a meeting of the congregation a union committee was elected to meet with a like committee from the Stordahl church for the purpose of seeking a consolidation of the two congregations. A month later the joint committees reported and on March 29, 1918 the consolidation took place. The last charter member of St. Peter's congregation, Mrs. Chris Paulson, passed away February 15, 1974.

Rev. A. J. Bergsaker resigned and moved to Elk Point December 15, 1918. He was pastor for seven years, from 1911 to 1918.

DELL RAPIDS LUTHERAN CHURCH



March 29, 1918 marks the consolidation of Stordahl and St. Peter's Lutheran congregations in Dell Rapids. It was decided that the St. Peter's Church should be used for divine worship and that Stordahl's parsonage be used as the parsonage. The Stordahl church was sold to the Danish Baptists. At the meeting held March 29, 1918 it was decided to enlarge the present church building and dig a basement under the new addition and a part of the old structure. The Ladies Aid promised their assistance.

At this time Rev. B. J. Rothnem was called as pastor, entering upon his work in December 1918. He also served Willow Creek Church. On October 20, 1920 Pastor Rothnem called the men of the church together and organized a Lutheran Brotherhood.

In 1921 the "Pige Forening," a young ladies organization, later called Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation, was organized, and their first major project was to place a bell in the church tower. The new addition to the church was completed during the year 1923 at a cost of about \$4,000.

Rev. Rothnem resigned on July 1, 1927, having accepted the presidency of the Normal School at Canton, South Dakota, which at that time was a part of Augustana College and Normal School, under one Association, the college being at Sioux Falls.

During the intervening time before a permanent pastor could be secured, Dr. Iver Iverson of Augustana College at Sioux Falls served temporarily. Rev. A. J. Bringle of Eureka, Kansas, was called September 12, 1927. He accepted the call and was installed as pastor November 20, 1927. Rev. Bringle served for nine years, from 1927 to 1936. At this time until a permanent pastor could be called, Dr. C. M. Granskou, president of Augustana College at Sioux Falls, served as pastor.

On July 24, 1936 a call was extended to Rev. Ole M. Odland at Yankton, South Dakota. This call was accepted and he took up his work here at Dell Rapids January 1, 1937. He was installed on January 17 by Rev. H. E. Solem,

President of the South Dakota District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (then N.L.C.A.). Dr. C. M. Granskou, President of Augustana College, Sioux Falls, performed the installation service at Willow Creek church February 21st, as severe winter and deep snow prevented the installation earlier in the year.

At the annual meeting of the congregation held December 17, 1936 a resolution was passed at the request of the Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation asking that we begin the installation of art windows in the church. The two windows back of the altar were installed early the following summer by the L.D.R. and Ladies Aid, and from that time on art windows were installed until the job had been completed in time for the 75th anniversary. This accomplishment added much to the worshipful spirit we enjoy as we enter this beautiful house of worship.

In the fall of 1941 extensive improvements were made in the church basement, especially the older part. A new furnace was installed after the excavation of the balance of the earth remaining under the old part, and other improvements made, providing rooms for a growing Sunday School. In July, 1943 a house directly north of the church was purchased for a parsonage from the Chris Gloe family. The old parsonage was sold.

No doubt the most extensive improvement made in the church since the construction was in the fall of 1947, when the pipe organ was installed, chancel rebuilt, choir stall extended, and new rugs laid by the Ladies Aid. April 19, 1943, marked the first contribution to the organ fund when the choir gave an Easter Cantata. The organ was dedicated November 9, 1947, by the pastor, debt-free. The organ cost \$6,500. Dr. Carl R. Youngdahl of Augustana College played the dedication concert.

The Diamond Jubilee was celebrated September 22-25, 1949. The anniversary committee consisted of heads of the organizations of the church. The anniversary reunion was held on September 22, with Rev. Arndt Halvorson and Rev. Dale Simons, sons of the congregation, as speakers. The Festival Worship on Sunday A.M. was held with Rev. B. J. Rothnem as 9:30 speaker and Dr. A. J. Bergsaker as speaker for the 11:00 o'clock service. The historical session was held at 3:00 P.M., at which time Dr. O. A. Mortvedt and Dr. G. M. Bruce, former pastors, were speakers. At the evening session Rev. A. J. Bringle spoke and Dr. L. A. Pierson, President of the South Dakota District, brought greetings. The art windows were dedicated during this anniversary.

Pastor O. M. Odland resigned in September, 1954, because of failing health. He had served the congregation for 17 years. John Bjorge as Interne served the congregation during the summer of 1954 and on through the year to September, 1955, when he returned to the seminary. Rev. Odland passed away in August 1955.

During intervals after Rev. Odland's passing, several pastors served short terms, the first being Rev. A. Elmer Moe of Aberdeen in 1955. Rev. Bernard Habel of Canton came in 1956 to conduct the early service for Pastor Moe. Rev. Harry R. Gregerson also helped out. Rev. Edwin Bersagel of Aberdeen came in July 1957. He took courses for special training in Texas each summer and Dr. Orvis Hanson of Augustana College served in his absence.

The congregation purchased the present parsonage at 407 Sixth Street in 1957 and the old parsonage north of the church became the custodian's home.

Dell Rapids and Willow Creek became two separate congregations in 1958, after having shared the same pastor since the Stordahl-St. Peter's merger in 1918.

Rev. Bersagel resigned as pastor in the spring of 1960, and Rev. E. S. Skaar began his pastorate in August 1960.

The Ray Wood property was purchased in 1959, and the construction of the Education Unit was begun on this site in 1960, with ground breaking on September 16. The Unit was

completed in 1961, and dedicated January 25, 1962, at a cost of \$172,000. This facility provided eight large and five small classrooms for the much needed Sunday School space. In 1967 an air conditioning system was installed in the social hall and kitchen of the Education Building at a cost of \$6,500, the cost to be expended from debt retirement.

Spiritual growth of the congregation was evidenced by the large number of members who began the study of the Bethel Series Program in 1966, after two years preparation by the pastor and instructors. These courses continued to be offered during 1967 and 1968. New confirmation courses were introduced in 1967 for seventh, eighth and ninth graders.

Rev. John Meling was called to become Visitation Pastor in April, 1964. He accepted and continues to minister to the congregation in this capacity. Robert Mortvedt was ordained into the Holy Ministry May 27, 1964, in the Angelica Church in Los Angeles by the President of the Synod.

The congregation voted to sponsor Pastor and Mrs. Robert Jamieson, Missionaries to New Guinea, in 1966, which sponsorship continues.

A decision was made to purchase the Al Zeig property in 1968 and the Huss property in 1970 for \$13,000. The house and garage on Huss property was sold to Gay Brown for \$400 in 1972.

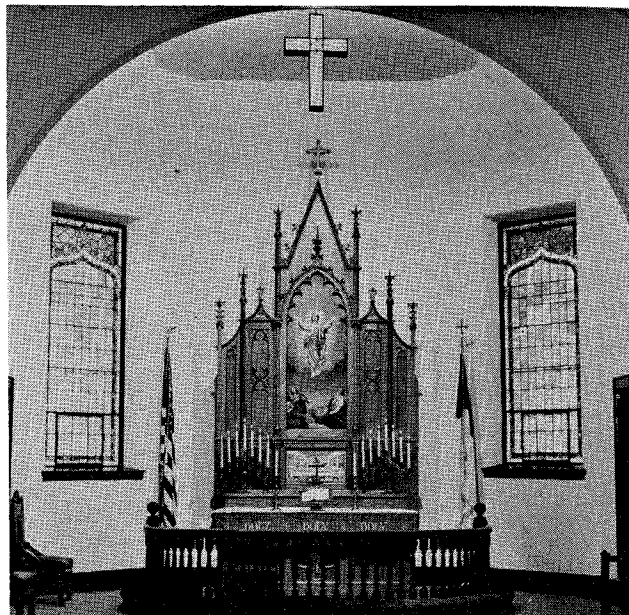
Ron Dybvig was ordained into Holy Ministry, September 6, 1970.

Rev. E. S. Skaar resigned in 1971 after having served as pastor in the parish for 11 years. Rev. Martin Haase was installed in July 1971.

A decision was made by the church council in December 1971 to hold a centennial celebration of the church in June 1974.

The parsonage was sold to Pastor Haase in 1972 for the sum of \$20,000. Pictures were taken and a pictorial directory of the congregation was published in 1972.

A very impressive Good Friday evening service was observed with the veiling of the altar and divesting of the



altar, and at sunrise service on Easter morning the unveiling of the altar and return of paraments to the altar. The large display of Easter lilies added much to the festive day.

Charles Christensen was ordained into the Holy Ministry on June 24, 1973. Charles makes the third son of our congregation to be ordained within the last ten years.

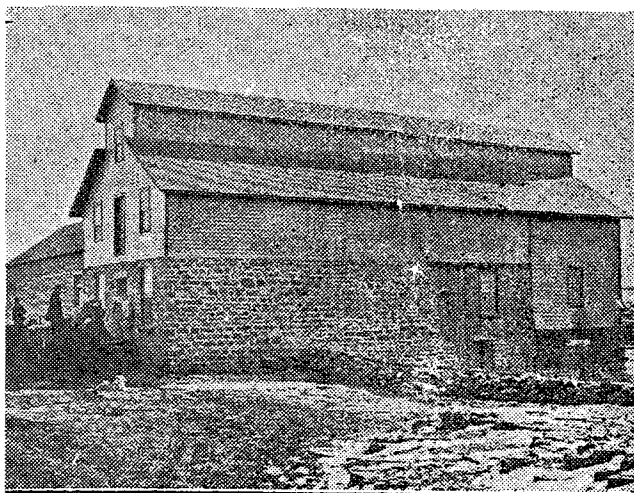
The Education Unit is now debt free. The burning of the mortgage will be a part of the Centennial Celebration.

We look forward with anticipation to the celebration of the One Hundredth Birthday of Dell Rapids Lutheran Church.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

First Flouring Mill in Minnehaha County

Built by Rice Brothers on the Big Sioux River at Dell Rapids in 1874. Carried Away by the Flood of '81



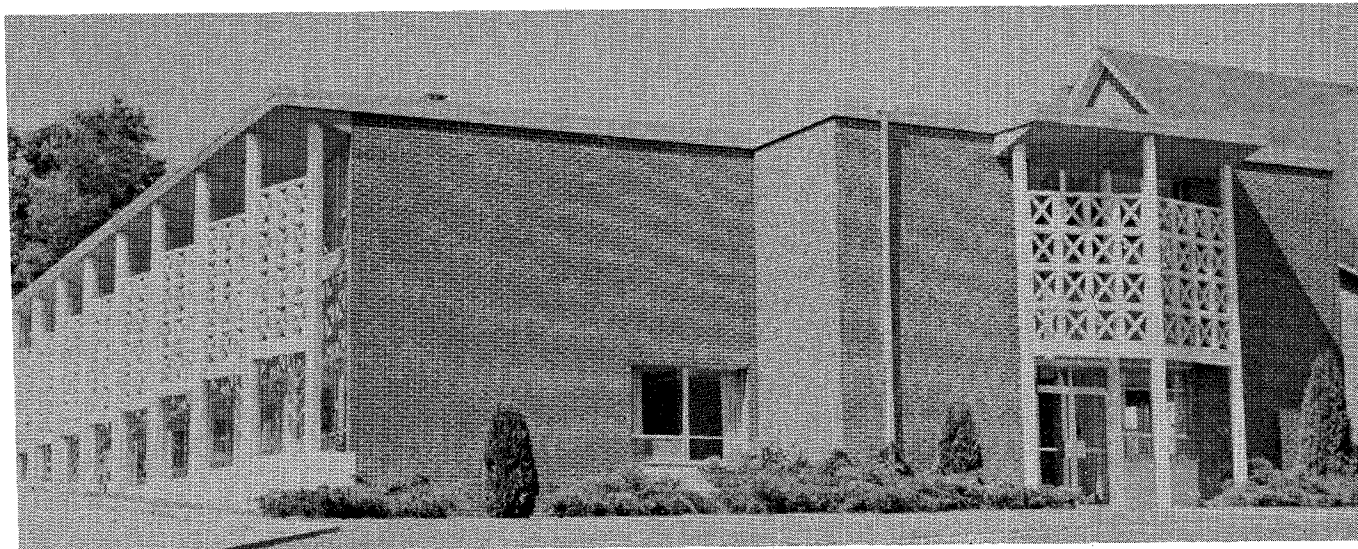
(By Courtesy of the Angus-Leader)

- 1869 Thompson Brothers - Gunder, Ole, Peter M. and Gu-nerius, and Rolluf Anderson were among the new set-tlers who were instrumental in establishing the Stor-dahl Church.
- 1871 Dell Rapids was founded by the Rice brothers. On Christmas Day all the inhabitants of Dell, as the place was called, had dinner together at Thorne's. Albin Thorne, a native of Maine, an attorney at law, took an active part in early history of the town.
- 1872 On New Year's Day a post office was established and the name Dell Rapids given the settlement.
- 1874 L. A. Vadheim was a parochial school teacher.
- 1876 School house was built.
- 1881 Since it was necessary to print the legal notices regu-larly, publishers used their ingenuity in finding mater-ials upon which to print their papers. The Dell Rapids Exponent for March 20, 1881 appeared on a 9 x 12 inch book paper. The number two issue for April 2 was printed on the back of fancy wall paper.
- 1886 Guttorm Ekoe Thompson, father of the Thompson brothers, was the first person buried in the Stordahl cemetery.

- 1886-1888 Oluf Lyng supervised the building of the country Stordahl church, and later the little chapel built in its place.
- 1889 Jacob Johnson was a parochial school teacher in the school house, and Hans Monson was a Sunday School teacher.
- 1902 Chris, Ole, Ingebrigt and Gunder Paulson, Halvor Osterkil, Tom and T. P. Sorkilmo and Halvor Halvorson were builders of the St. Peter's stone church. Stordahl's church in Dell Rapids (Hauges Synod) was dedicated in June.
- 1904 The first confirmation class in the new stone church. Harry Dieson was a member of the class.
- 1918 March 29, 1918 marks the merger of the Stordahl and St. Peter's congregations.
- 1919 Stordahl church in Dell Rapids sold to Danish Baptists for \$2,500.
- 1919 Rev. B. J. Rothnem served as interim pastor of the Norway congregation from September, 1919 through 1920, at which time Rev. T. A. Mason was called and installed as their new pastor on January 9, 1921.
- 1922-1923 P. L. Peterson was lay-out man and supervised the work for the enlargement of the church. The new addition was 30 feet wide, 50 feet long and 12 feet high. The basement was 15 feet wide and 25 feet long at a cost of \$6,500. Water, sewer and lights to be included.
- 1927 Dr. Iverson served as interim pastor between Rev. Rothnem and Rev. Bringle. The Willow Creek was to pay an additional \$150.00 per year for the pastor's salary and be released from contributing to the upkeep of the parsonage. The pastor's salary was to be \$1,600 plus three special offerings during the year, and free house. Willow Creek paid \$550 toward the salary, and was to have the third Sunday morning service. Dell Rapids paid \$1,050 and had two Sunday morning services.
- 1928 The church budget was set at \$3,000, to meet all obligations. The second Sunday in January was set aside for the every member visitation for pledge solicitation.
- 1929 After January 1st the organist's salary was to be \$75 per year, and the janitor's salary was increased to \$200 per year, the \$55 increase to go on the six winter months.
- In the early years of our Lutheran Church it was a common practice for the men and boys to sit on the right or pulpit side and the women and children occupied the seats to the left side of the church. This was a custom carried over from Norway, and perhaps this came from the old law that only men had the right to vote.
- 1931 Because of the poor condition of the barn on the parsonage lot it was torn down and a garage built in its place at a cost of \$175.
- 1936 Rev. A. J. Bringle resigned as pastor of the parish and Rev. Ole M. Odland was called.
- 1937 Rev. Ole M. Odland was installed on Sunday, January 3. Ten Fireside Hour meetings were conducted by the Ladies Aid and the L.D.R.
- 1938 Five art windows were added to the church sanctuary. The 50th anniversary of the St. Peter's congregation was held. The W.M.F. of the Madison Circuit was held in the Dell Rapids church. Eight Fireside meetings were held.
- 1941 Excavation of earth from the basement of the church was done, giving more room. Electric wiring, cement floor and a new furnace were installed.
- 1942 The church basement project was completed. A Flower Festival was put on by the choir and L.D.R. The L.D.R. organizations entertained the Madison Circuit L.D.R. convention.
- 1943 The congregation voted to purchase the Gloe residence for a parsonage and to sell the present parsonage. The Gloe property was purchased for \$2,200. The organ fund was started.
- 1944 All art windows were ordered except the round one in the back of the church. This included two large windows and eight small ones.
- 1945 The Service Honor Roll with 103 names on the roll was presented.
- 1946 This is the first time since the union of the two churches that the congregation has been out of debt. L.C.R. was organized.
- 1947 The pipe organ was installed at a total cost of \$6,273.96. The congregation entertained two Madison Circuit gatherings -- L.D.R. and Sunday School Institute.
- 1948 Ladies Aid and the congregation entertained W.M.F. in April.
- 1949 The Diamond Jubilee anniversary was celebrated September 22-25. The church officers and heads of organizations were the anniversary committee. Speakers at the anniversary were Rev. Dale J. Simons, Philip, South Dakota; Rev. Arndt L. Halvorson, Forest City, Iowa; Rev. B. J. Rothnem, Rushford, Minnesota; Dr. A. J. Bergsaker, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dr. A. O. Mortvedt, Chicago, Illinois; Dr. G. M. Bruce, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Rev. A. J. Bringle, Randall, Iowa. Art windows had all been installed and were dedicated during the anniversary. The roof of the church was taken care of at a cost of \$1,200.00. There was much donated labor in various areas.
- 1950 A junior confirmation class was begun in February. The amplifying - chime system was installed.
- 1951 Projector and sound projector were purchased by the Ladies Aid and Brotherhood and with the balance of the art window fund.
- 1954 Pastor Odland resigned. Interne John Bjorge of Windom, Minnesota, was called and started in June.
- 1955 Rev. Odland passed away in August. Rev. E. Elmer Moe, of Aberdeen, South Dakota was called and came to be an interim pastor. Every Member Visitation (E.M.V.) instituted in the congregation.
- 1956 Rev. Bernhard Habel of Canton came in 1956, when it was decided to have two services on Sunday. Pastor Habel conducted the 8:30 a.m. service as an interim pastor. Work was started on the revision of the Constitution of the congregation. Members 18 years of age were recognized as voting members. It was voted to support the erection of the Retirement Home to be built at Madison.

- 1957 Rev. Edwin Bersagel came in July. The congregation purchased the present parsonage at 407 East Sixth Street. The number of deacons was increased to nine instead of three to six, and trustees increased to five instead of three to six. The deacons and trustees cannot immediately succeed themselves in office. The public school was permitted to use the church basement for class rooms.
- 1958 Dell Rapids and Willow Creek became two separate congregations. 250 new Service Books and Hymnals were purchased at a cost of \$3.85 each. It was also decided to follow the common order of service as printed in the new Hymnals. Step plan used for stewardship.
- 1959 Rev. Orvis Hanson served the parish during Pastor Bersagel's three month summer absence. The Ray Wood property was purchased.
- 1960 Rev. Bersagel resigned, effective May 31. It was voted to begin construction of the Education Unit according to the Master Plan as presented by the building committee. Ground breaking ceremony was held September 16, 1960. Rev. Skaar began pastorate in August.
- 1961 New carpet was laid in the church. Church basement was rented to the public school. The Education Unit was completed at a total cost of \$172,000.

- 1961-1964 Carol Mortvedt was teaching in a girls' school in Ashira near Arusha, Africa, under the auspices of the World Council of Churches.
- 1962 The Education Unit was dedicated January 25.
- 1963 It was decided that all offerings received at the Lenten, Thanksgiving and Christmas services be designated specifically for Benevolences.
- 1964 Bethel Series Bible Study started. Pastor Skaar attended a two-week training session at Madison, Wisconsin. Rev. John Meling was called to become Visitation Pastor April 16. Robert Mortvedt was ordained.
- 1965 It was voted that the Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids pay the \$200.00 annual tuition fee for all sons of the congregation attending any Lutheran Theological Seminary.
- 1966 The Bethel Series began in October for members of the congregation after two years of preparation. There were three classes which began the study of Unit A, with 90 students enrolled. An amendment to the By-Laws was accepted by a vote, thus amending the By-laws of the Dell Rapids Lutheran Church to conform with the proposed By-laws of the American Lutheran Church. This amendment increased the number of deacons to 15 and trustees to 9.
- 1967 A marked step of progression of the congregation is noted in the sponsorship of Missionary Jamieson. An air conditioning system was installed in the Social



Hall and kitchen of the Education Building at a cost of \$6,500. The cost was expended from the debt retirement fund.

A continuation of the Bethel Series with a new class which began in January with an enrollment of 100. An increase of interest on the part of youth was noted with Junior Lutherans average attendance of 35; Junior Luther League about 30 and Senior Luther League about 60 in attendance.

New confirmation courses were begun for grades 7, 8 and 9 with a total of 69 students enrolled.

The Senior High course continued to be well received. A new drive sponsored by the Lutheran Church of America called "Life," which stands for Lutheran Ingathering for Education.

- 1968 A decision was made to purchase the Al Zeig property.

- 1970 Huss property purchased at a cost of \$13,000. The sanctuary was redecorated and completed before the ALCW convention was held in April. Ron Dybvig ordained September 6.

- 1971 The congregation aided the Luther League in their project to help buy a carload of wheat for Taiwan

through a free will offering; \$65 was turned over to the Luther League from the Brotherhood.

Pastor E. S. Skaar resigned.

Pastor Martin Haase installed in July.

On December 2, a decision was made to hold a centennial of the church in June, 1974.

- 1972 Pictorial Directory published.

Voted to sell house and garage off Huss property.

Veiling of cross on Good Friday and unveiling on Easter morning.

- 1973 Congregation sold parsonage to Rev. Haase.

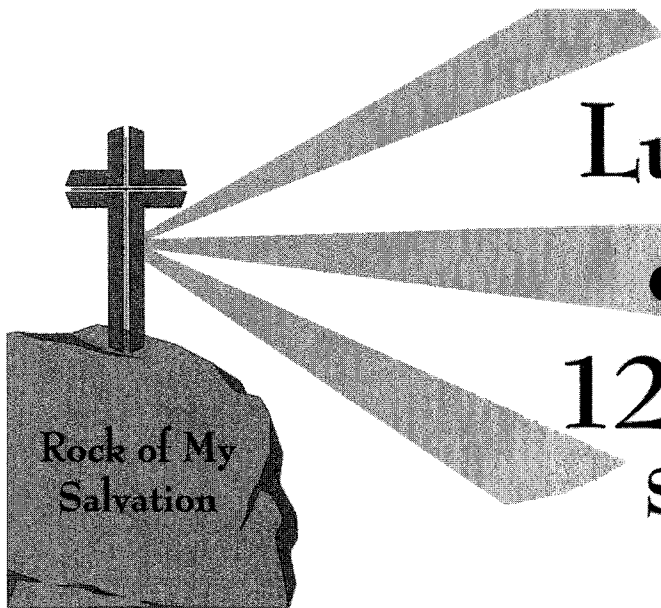
Kevin Karlson was employed as youth counselor for 10 weeks starting June 1.

Charles Christensen ordained June 24.

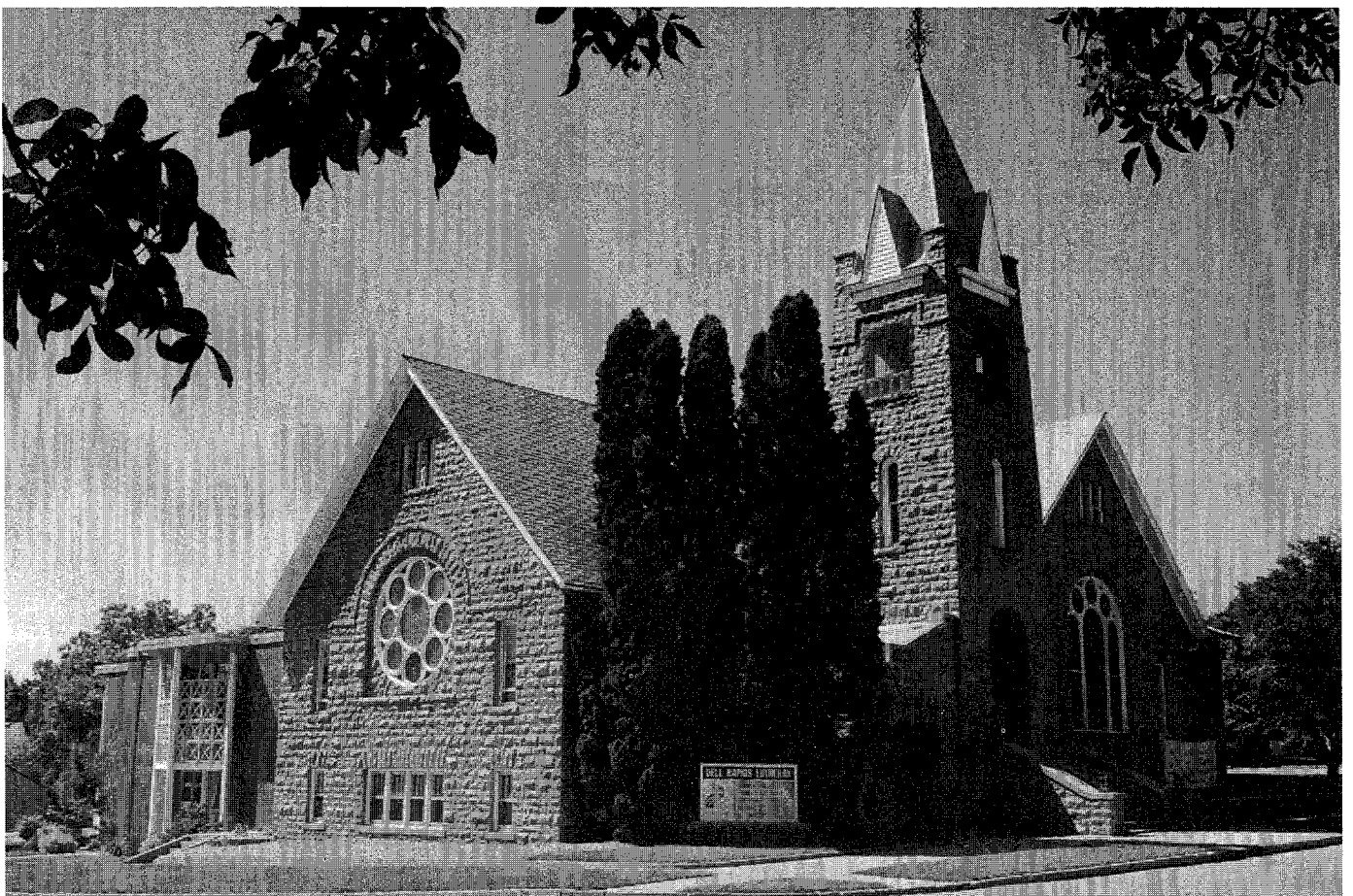
Advent family night.

September 16, Merrill Morse gave the message at both services. He is leaving for Japan where he will be teaching a class in conversational English in a private boys' school in Fukushima, and also an adult class in night school. This is a mission program of one year's duration.

- 1974 Mortgage covering Educational Unit paid in full.



Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids 125th Celebration September 11-12, 1999



GENERAL HISTORY

1974-1980

Pastors Martin Haase and Al Goldhammer served as Pastor and Associate Pastor, respectively. Pastor John Meling was called to be Visitation Pastor. The congregation voted to sponsor a Vietnamese family. In addition, it was decided to sponsor Missionaries Rev. Jonathon and Jeanne Berg in Cameroon, Africa (partial sponsorship \$3,000/year). A bus was purchased for trips to Two Strike, and for transporting the elderly and disabled to church services. Two canoes were donated for the Lutheran Canoe Ministry. Church home improvements included construction of a skyway between the main building and the educational unit, a new roof for the church, new wiring for the church, sloping of the floor in the rear part of the sanctuary, installation of a ramp and railing at the left front from the main floor to the altar, installed new sanctuary carpet, and new furnaces.

1980-1990

A pictorial directory was assembled. A call was extended to Pastor John Watne, which he accepted. Intern David Mann and family served a year in our congregation. The Yang family (Vietnamese) arrived. Two hundred copies of the LBW hymn books were purchased. Members will donate, or purchase a book in which the name of the donor or "in memory of" will appear.

Intern Bob Quaintance succeeded David Mann. Jonathon and Jeanne Berg returned from Cameroon. A decision was made to sponsor a new missionary in 1980, providing \$3,000. Plans for a new organ were finalized, with a goal of having it installed in 1980.

Intern Craig Bock followed Bob Quaintance. Pastor John Watne accepted his call. A security light was mounted on the south end of the unit. Trees were planted around the north end of the parking lot.

Intern Joyce Heintz arrived, along with Pastor Watne. Our new missionaries to Cameroon are David and Pam Mann. We support them with \$3,000/year.

With the arrival of Earl Johnson, we now have two fulltime pastors again. Pastor Haase is pastor, and Johnson is associate. The pictorial directory was finished and distributed. There was a special congregational meeting to vote on capital improvements to the church property: new roof on educational unit (to be done immediately), interior sliding glass storm windows for the unit, and new exterior church doors. A special fund drive was held.

Pastor Haase accepted a call to St. John in Mitchell. Pastor Johnson became pastor, and Pastor Doug Olson was called to be associate. The food pantry, with items being stored in the unit, was

expanded to include other churches in Dell Rapids. Funds are matched by AAL.

The church basement was remodeled to provide new space for Sunday school classes.. Pastor Olson left in 1988, and Pastor Dana Schroeder was called late that year, and served until 1990.

1990-1999

A new pictorial directory was made, pews were refinished, and air conditioning was installed in the social hall and church offices in the unit. Another van was purchased. A double garage was constructed northwest of the unit in about 1992. A full-time person was hired for the position of financial and office secretary. New pew pads were purchased. Two Strike trips continued, giving both material and spiritual support to the community, carrying out the Lord's command that when you do unto the least of these, you do unto me.

Pastor Johnson resigned for reasons of health, and was succeeded by Pastor David Lechelt as administrative pastor. Pastor Gene Peterson served part time for two months, then full time. Pastor Mark Docken was called, and was installed in September of 1992 as pastor.



The Myrtle Krogstad property northwest of the unit was purchased for a total cost of \$22,800. A fund drive was held to raise the money.

A personal interview stewardship program was adopted for 1993-94. Every member was to be involved. Twenty-five people were trained to lead the campaign.

Two surveys were conducted by the Long Range Planning Committee to determine the direction of the congregation in future years. The surveys were well received, and the results were used by the committee to develop the long range plan.

The parking lot was resurfaced, and a dishwasher was installed in the kitchen.

Members attending seminary have been given financial support by the congregation over the years. Thomas Opoien was ordained into the ministry on June 2, 1996.

Pastor Sanders served as an interim assistant to Pastor Docken after Pastor Lechelt left. Pastor Mark Jensen was called as associate pastor. He and his

family joined us in 1996.

The Stephen Ministry was adopted in LCDR in 1996. Seven lay members have been trained to give support to members who are experiencing stress due to grief, family problems, sickness, and other reasons.

Forty youth attended the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

A faith chest was presented to each baptized child in 1998. Chests were made by church members, and will provide places for faith remembrances received during the children's lives.

Three services are held each week to accommodate the growing membership: Saturday at 5:00 pm, and Sunday at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. The Sunday services are contemporary and traditional services alternating early and late bimonthly.

As we finish another 25 years, we thank God that we have a very active, caring and growing congregation. We thank Pastors Mark Docken and Mark Jensen for their leadership. We go in faith to serve our Lord.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

1974 Celebrated 100 years.

1975 Pastor Martin Haase and Pastor John Meling (visitation) served the congregation. Carpeted the church steps. Voted to sponsor a Vietnamese family.

1976 Established the church library. Policies and rates for use of the Educational Unit were recommended. Sponsored Rev. Jonathon and Jeanne Berg in Cameroon, Africa. (Partial sponsorship at \$3,000/year.)

1977 A bus was purchased (\$3,500) to meet transportation needs of the congregation. Purchased two canoes for Lutheran Canoe Ministry. Improvements to the church property included a skyway between the church and unit, new roof on the church, new wiring in the church, a sloped floor in the rear of the sanctuary, a ramp and railing from the main floor to the altar at the left front of the sanctuary, new carpeting, and two new furnaces.

1978 A pictorial directory was assembled. Extended a call to Pastor John Watne (accepted, and started in June). Intern David Mann came September 1. Refugee family from Viet Nam, the Yangs, arrived November 1. A gift of \$34,927 was received from the Henry Dybvig estate. Two hundred copies of the new hymn

book were purchased.

1979 Intern Bob Quaintance and his wife arrived. Landscaping and a decorative rock garden/retaining wall on the north side of the unit was done.

1980 Craig Bock is our new intern. Pastor John Watne accepted his call. A security light was mounted on the south end of the unit. Trees were planted around the north end of the parking lot.

1981 New carpet on front steps of church. Handrail on pulpit side of altar installed. New organ installed. Pastor David and Pam Mann sponsored as missionaries in Cameroon (\$3,000). Intern Joyce Heintz joined us.

1982 Pastors Haase and Watne welcomed Intern Dave Klawiter. LCDR will invest \$10,000 in the Investment and Loan Fund of the ALC for three years at an annual rate of 8-1/2%.

1983 Pastor Haase appointed as head pastor. Earl Johnson assistant pastor. Pictorial directory done. Ed Unit roof replaced. Haase accepted call to St. John in Mitchell.

1984 Pastors Earl Johnson and Doug Olson were head and assistant pastors, respectively. Office equipment updated.

- 1985 The food pantry, previously operated exclusively by LCDR, was changed to become a community effort. Funds matched by AAL. One member from each church, two from LCDR, on committee. Food is stored in the unit.
- 1986 Church basement remodeling was done to provide Sunday school classroom space. Pie auction fundraiser for Gloria Dei congregation in Sioux Falls (mission church). David Wildermuth was ordained to the ministry in August.
- 1987 Significant repair work done on church. Done with donated labor and money.
- 1988 Church pews refinished by state penitentiary inmates. Church and offices air conditioned. New carpet on front steps.
- 1989 Donald McKee was ordained into the ministry on August 13, 1989.
- 1990 Another van was purchased. New pads for the pews were installed. A full time person was hired for the position of financial and office secretary. Trips to Rosebud (Two Strike) continued.
- 1991 Pastor Johnson resigned due to health problems after 8-1/2 years of ministry. Pastor David Lechelt appointed to be administrative pastor. Plans are to call an associate pastor as soon as possible.
- 1992 Pastor Gene Peterson was hired on an interim part time basis for February and March, going to full time in April. Pastor Mark Docken was called and was installed in September as administrative pastor. The Myrtle Krogstad property northwest of the unit was purchased at a price of \$22,800. A fund drive was started.
- 1993 Fund drive for money to pay for Krogstad property was held. \$7,350 was raised.
- Lutheran Men in Mission visited the St. Dysmas congregation at the state penitentiary.
- 1994 Extensive repairs to the organ. Personal interviews conducted as part of the stewardship campaign by interviewers trained for "Commitment to Mission." Four new banners were made.
- 1995 A new congregation in Sioux Falls, Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church, was supported with a gift of \$1,000. The parking lot was resurfaced. A new dishwasher was installed.
- 1996 Thomas Opoien was ordained into the ministry on June 2, 1996. Friends at Two Strike were visited again. We welcomed Pastor Mark Jensen as assistant pastor. A gift of vertical blinds were installed in the social hall of the educational unit. The Gannon property west of the church on Seventh St. was purchased for \$61,000.
- 1997 The Stephen Ministry was started. Seven lay members were trained to bring God's healing love to people who are grieving, hurting, or experiencing other stresses in their lives. Stephen Ministers also bring communion, after receiving it at a service in church, to shut ins. Forty youth went to New Orleans to the ELCA National Youth Gathering. There were over 35,000 young people in attendance. Solveig Hendrickson was ordained into the ministry on May 4, 1997.
- 1998 Faith chests, made by members of the congregation, were presented to each baptized child. These chests provide a place for pieces of faith received by the child during his life.
- 1999 We are helping with world hunger, through drives and events. Money going to world hunger. We continue to provide services to Willow Creek Lutheran Church.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

- April 10, 1999:** Spaghetti supper and pie auction with 32 volunteers and Marty Gulbranson serving 278 attendees as a fund raising project held in the church social hall.
- July 18, 1999:** A "Brunch with History" on that Sunday morning brought along friends from the past who explained the church history with various items of memorabilia to church members and our community. Worship services that morning also reflected upon the history of the church.
- September 11, 1999:** Saturday evening banquet for all ages at Acoustic Hall in Dell Rapids. Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl is to be the speaker. Music will be provided by the Ninepatch Christian Band of First Lutheran in Sioux Falls. Our church choir will also participate. Our youth groups and Sunday School classes will provide singing and banners.
- September 12, 1999:** Rally Day will feature Sunday festive worship services with special music and banners. Sunday school begins.