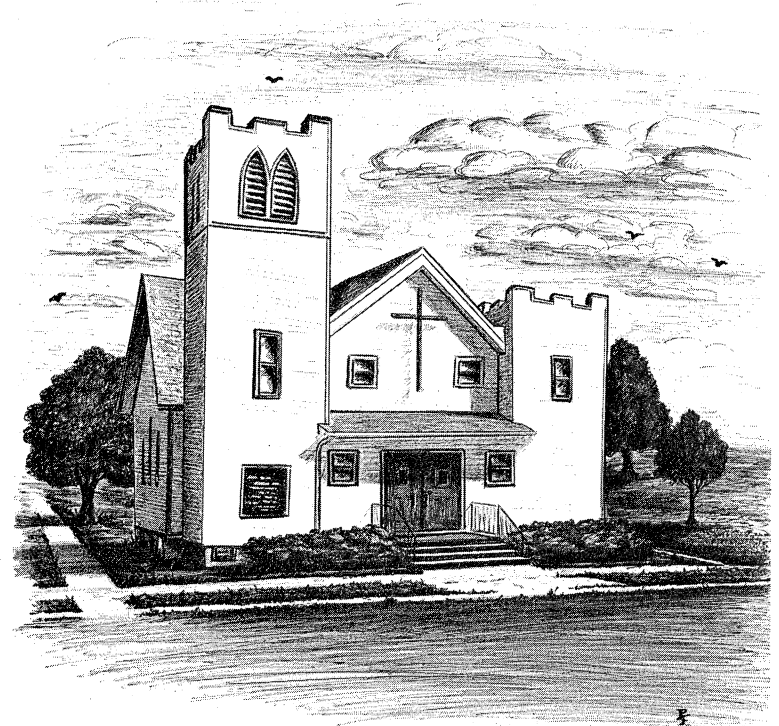




A History Of
First American Lutheran Church
 Tripp, South Dakota

1886 - 1986

**Not For Just 100 Years
 But For Eternity**



First American Lutheran Church
 Tripp, South Dakota

1886 - 1986

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anniversaries are a time that bring families together. We have shared in that feeling of unity as we compiled this history and have marveled at the determination and sacrificial efforts made by the founding fathers.

The past came to life as we read minutes of congregational meetings many of which had to be translated from the German. Each Pastor serving during the 100 years left a summary of the highlights of his ministry in the Parish and organizations gave evidence of their activities in their recorded minutes. Through interviews with members we gained first-hand knowledge of more recent events.

We are most grateful to all who responded to requests for pictures and helped assemble this book.

The History Committee

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

Co-Chairmen	Willmer Herr Julius Vetter
Advisor	Pastor Jon Skaar
Program	Pastor Jon Skaar Carol Bietz, Elmer Bietz Elda Vetter, Julius Vetter
Correspondence.....	Ann Vetter Rose Prien, Henry Prien Roland Vetter
Dinner and Coffee Hours	ALCW Glendora Zeitner, Helen Mueller Rose Prien, Myra Weber
Memorabilia	Wilma Herr Helen Mueller, Marvin Mueller
Art Work.....	Peggy Friederich Viola Mach, Norma Mogck
History Book.....	Margaret Schult Carol Hieb, Gary Jerke, Elda Schaal

Acknowledgment goes also to all who took care of the many details on Centennial Sunday.

*This Book Has Been Prepared
As A Memorial
To Our 100 Years Of
Christian Service
And Also
As A Memorial
To The Following Individuals*

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kern
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Weber
Dr. and Mrs. Gustave Mueller
Rev. and Mrs. August Hein
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mueller
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Reiman
Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Mogck
Gustave Schaal
Elmer Mach
Ray Vetter
Emma Friederich

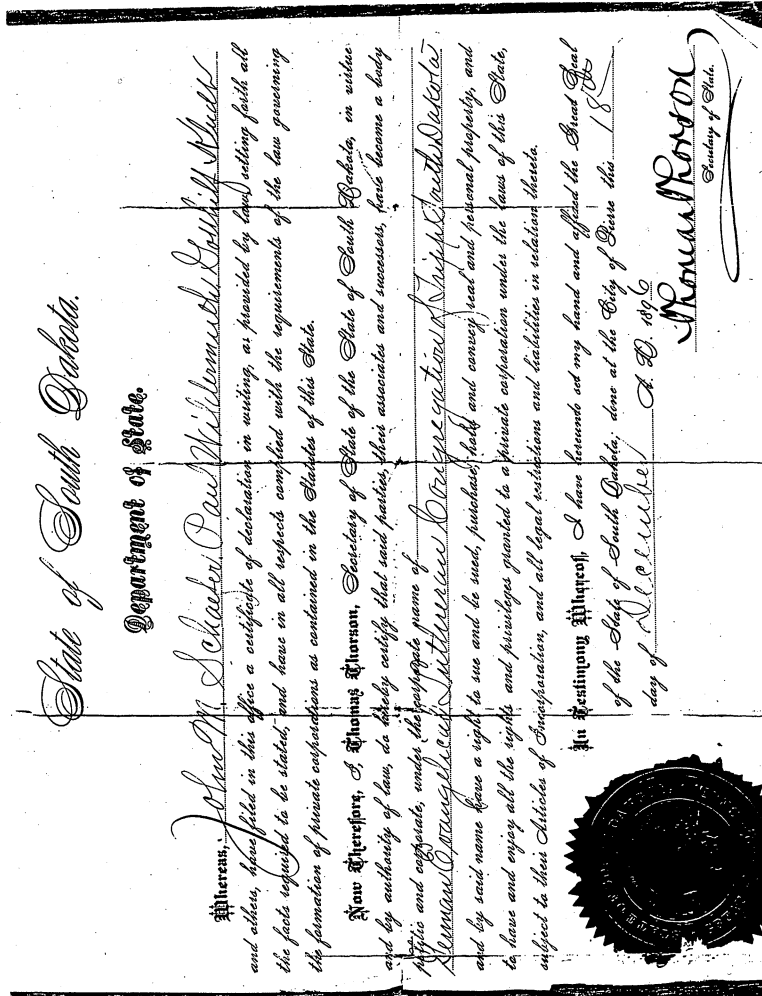
INTRODUCTION

"Not for Just a Hundred Years, but for Eternity". This is the theme that has been chosen for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of First American Lutheran Church in Tripp, South Dakota. The Centennial Celebration causes us to look back upon the 100 years of First American's history. We recall names and organizations, places and buildings, events and happenings—all of which have been instrumental in the development, growth, and endurance of First American Lutheran. A great debt of gratitude is owed to those men and women, who a hundred years ago had such concern for their Christian faith that they believed it necessary to organize a congregation. Today we think back and we remember all those who have given of themselves, their time, talents, and energy—their money and possessions. If this history book and the Centennial Celebration is to be dedicated to anyone, it must be dedicated to those who worked to create and maintain this congregation.

As we look back into the history of First American, it is also necessary for us to be reminded of our good and gracious God who has also been active during the last 100 years. Certainly, we must not overlook those blessings and talents which God has provided that are an integral part of the history of the church. First of all, God stirred the hearts and minds of people making them aware of a need for a place of worship and a body of people with whom to worship. God provided the courage and daring to go ahead and begin—to organize, to build, to call leaders. God gave the ability to sacrifice for the sake of His church—for people to give of themselves that the church might grow and mature. God has also provided the Pastors who have served in this congregation for the past 100 years. We are grateful to such a gracious God for His involvement in First American and for His servants who have faithfully carried out His will through His church.

As our Centennial theme states, this celebration is a time for thinking about these hundred years that First American has existed. It is a time for recalling people and events from the past. But this is only half of the Centennial theme; it goes on to look at the future. On the occasion of our 100th Anniversary, we must also be looking ahead. Certainly the blessing and guidance of our God is not going to come to an end with the closing worship service on Centennial Sunday. Through the certainty of our faith we know that God will remain with us to bless and keep us, as He has in the past and on to eternity. In such knowledge we greatly rejoice now on this festive occasion and we hope and pray that as God continues to bless us, we might also prove to be faithful servants of His kingdom from now until eternity.

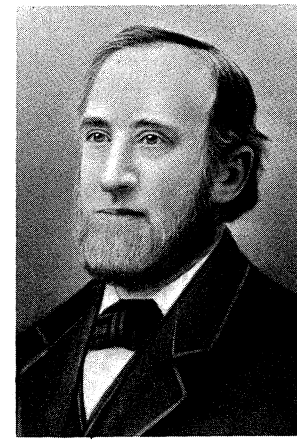
May the Lord bless us and keep us,
Make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us.
May the Lord look upon us with favor,
And give us His peace. Amen.



After ten years the first church of the community was incorporated.

EARLY FOUNDING

The time is 1886. The place is Tripp in Dakota Territory. With the settling of German peoples in Dakota Territory and calling their new home Tripp, came the desire to worship and to nurture their spiritual needs. Pastor G.A. Bischoff supplied the needed help in 1886 and with fourteen families founded the German Evangelical Lutheran Church. These founding fathers were Jacob Klein, Fritz Schamber, Phil. Hirsch, C.P. Hirsch, Christ Klein, Gottlieb Geisler, Johann Schmidt, Gotthilf Doering, Simon Wittmeyer, W. Bahlke, J.W. Schaefer, and Adam Joachim. The latter soon withdrew from the congregation.



Pastor G. A. Bischoff

When a congregation is formed, one of the first needs is a place to worship. A man by the name of Joseph Martin had on December 7, 1885, purchased a tract of 160 A. from the U.S. Local Land Office of Yankton. On May 31, 1886, the second owner, A.M. Bowdle, sold the original tract and more, making a total of 600 A. to Joseph Lawler who had great foresight and, having the area surveyed, laid out the streets and alleys of Tripp, the lots and blocks, and dedicated it all to the public. So it was possible for Lawler on June 21, 1887, to sell to Johann Dahlke and Gottlieb Geisler, trustees of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church, lots No. 10, No. 11, No. 12 of Block 10. That is the same lot No. 12 on which the present church was built. In 1887, the infant congregation built its first church which served them well for 23 years.

As Pastor Bischoff had nine congregations to serve, and self evidently could be in only one place on a given Sunday, it follows that he could very seldom be in the congregation. So the worship service was left in the hands of the deacons. In those early years, as is still the case, the congregation was blessed with conscientious men who provided Sunday School instruction and other instruction of the youth through summer school. The status quo was maintained for ten years with its share of storms from within and without.

Not surprising that with such freedoms, steps were taken to drop the liturgy from the service. Other Lutheran practices were dropped so that Pastor Bischoff felt compelled to protest the actions. Naturally dissatisfaction followed with such divisions, that Pastor Bischoff felt compelled to resign; this was in 1896, a year which brought even greater changes. On the poor advice of those dissatisfied, they refused to agree and desired to extend a call to Pastor Bischoff to serve them along with one other congregation. The Posttal congregation promised to go along but when it came to carrying out the plans, the promise was forgotten and the Pastor felt compelled to leave the vicinity.

Bitter over the poor treatment of their former Pastor, the congregation broke relationship with Immanuel's parish and requested its independence. After lengthy negotiations, a friendly release from the parish was granted and the congregation called her own pastor, Rev. Hermann Koepp, who served faithfully for two years.

Also, with the new independence came the desire to incorporate the new church. On December, 1896, the following officers were elected: John Schaefer, President; Gotthilf Kludt, Treasurer; Paul Wildermuth, Secretary; these men would also act as trustees. The name chosen for the new church was the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tripp; the church was often referred to as the German Evangelical Lutheran Church. Wishing to get off on a good start, these early fathers drew up a constitution in agreement with the rules of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa. Services of a pastor were to be reimbursed by free-will offerings. So Pastor Koepp served for a salary of \$300 a year. Because of untoward circumstances, he resigned and the congregation was again without a pastor.

In April, 1899, a call was extended to their long time friend, Pastor Bischoff, at a salary of \$400. Members committed themselves to what they would pay, varying from \$3 to \$20, and also to furnish him with housing. Also, in 1899, the observance of festival days was stressed. Not only were the regularly established days to be observed, but also 2nd Christmas, 2nd Easter, and 2nd Pentecost services were added. Pastor Bischoff was kind enough to serve them once a month for a year. Sermon readers were in charge of services on the other Sundays.

July 7, 1900, brought a new pastor in the form of a newly graduated seminary student, Pastor August Hein, who faithfully served the congregation for eighteen years bringing growth and accompanying changes. He restored, as had his predecessor, Pastor Koepp, the liturgy as well as the singing of "All Praise to God Most High." This period also saw the innovation of ringing in the Sunday on Saturday evening, a custom still observed today.

As with most organizations and churches, the problem of collecting money was present then, too. The plan devised divided members into four classes according to the amount each could pay with amounts ranging from \$5 to \$20. Class I was to pay \$15 but all in that group decided to pay \$5 more. Each year for many years to come saw the use of this list arranged or revised at the yearly meetings.

Funds were always in tight supply, but somehow expenses were always met. The ensuing years brought a time of slow but solid growth and although there were storms and troubles, God's rich blessings was evident in this growth.



Pastor August Hein

A PLACE TO WORSHIP

As we've noted before, fourteen families under the guidance of Pastor G.A. Bischoff, founded the church in 1886 and quickly took steps to take care of its physical needs.

Since Joseph Lawler had made available lots and blocks to be bought by the public, the trustees of the new Evangelical Lutheran Church bought lots No. 10, No. 11, and No. 12 of Block 10 on June 21, 1887. Johann Dahlke and Gottlieb Geisler were in charge of the transaction. Within that same year a church was erected on Lot No. 12 but sad to say, there are no records available of plans, cost or even a picture of the structure.



Volunteer workers taking time out from their work, 1910.

Little by little, improvements, additions and changes were made to this place of worship. Since music was a fundamental feature of the service, an organ was purchased at a reasonable price from the congregation in Scotland. Ever alert and practical in their operations, even fire insurance policies were bought. As membership increased by 1903, the fourteen original families had grown to thirty-three members—the need for more space became apparent. 1906 brought instructions to the deacons to check on the cost of an enlargement through the addition of a rotunda and building a new tower and entry. Even then came stray thoughts of building an entirely new church. Keeping up with the times was evident in the replacement of the front steps of the church with cement ones; the job was given to Mr. Manuel Boepple who agreed to do the work and furnish all the materials for \$30! How zealous those members were for the beauty of their sanctuary!

The seed for a new church had taken root and by January 4, 1910, the

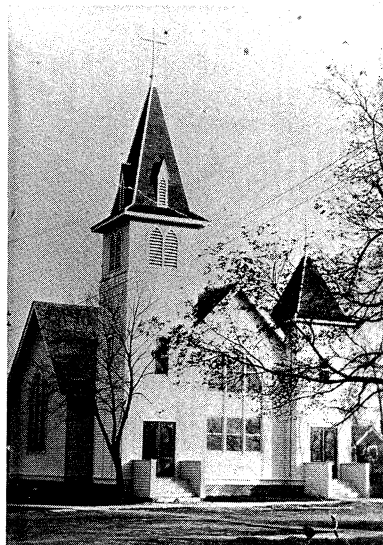
secretary was instructed to circulate a list for free will contributions to build a new church. A committee consisting of C. Zeitner, F. Lange, G. Schaal, J. Schafer, G. Doring, and P. Wildermuth, was instructed to make plans and figure the cost for a new church.

Three months saw a lot of activity on the part of the committee. They reported to the congregation that a church according to old style could be built for \$5,000.

Since pledges taken in January were too low, another drive was made. The die was cast! A new church would be built with costs not to exceed \$5000. The size was 28 ft. x 60 ft. and 16 ft. high; rounded part was 12 ft. x 14 ft.; the tower was 16 ft. x 16 ft. and 60 ft. high. Carl Schnepel, F.H. Hirsch, Fritz Lange, Paul Wildermuth, Christoph Zeitner, John Schaefer, and Gottlieb Schaal were instructed to collect more detailed figures on the cost. This committee was to have a free hand in proceeding with the building. It became readily apparent that the church could not be built for the stated amount so permission was granted to go over the \$5000. The first plan was recalled and replaced by a plan presented by Carl Schnepel; work began after the May 16, 1910, meeting.

They were faced with that age old problem: how to raise the money!!

The cost for the new building came to \$6,500. The cost of about \$5,000 was covered through free-will donations. From the congregation itself came \$4000. How those people worked together is an amazing story: the city donated \$333; from the Scotland Parsish came \$101.10; Parkston gave \$109; from the Delmont parish came \$151; and collection on dedication Sunday brought \$381, less \$26 for travel expenses. In Christian love people reached out a helping hand so a venture could succeed. Added to the above sums came another total of \$660; the old building was sold to F.H. Hirsch for \$630 and the pulpit and altar were sold to the Rosenfeld congregation for \$30. When we look at the edifice erected between May 16 and November 6, 1910, we admiringly laud their courage, foresight, and the evidence of God's blessings. As Pastor Hein expressed it in his Brief History of the Congregation of Tripp,



Church completed in November 1910. The entrance on the left was used by the men, the right one was reserved for the women.

"May this house be more loved the longer we use it." In looking back over the intervening years, we see evidence of the increase of love for the sanctuary.

With songs by the congregation and choirs, with sermons, with greetings from neighboring pastors, and a full day of services, the new church was dedicated on November 6, 1910, the cornerstone having been laid on June 24, 1910. We've noted before the importance of music in this church and in support of that note we read that the young people donated the new organ. At one time the organ was on the balcony but later was moved downstairs. The pulpit, altar paraments and carpet in the aisles and altar area were donated by the women of the congregation.

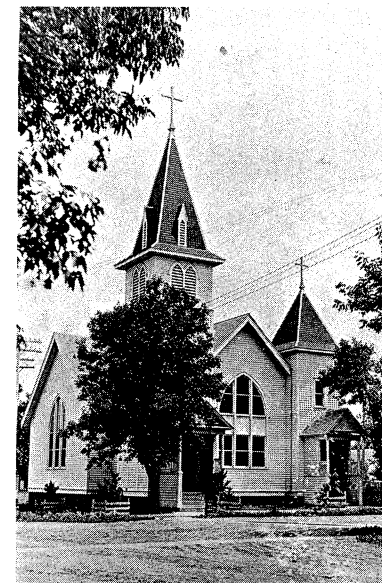
But all buildings need constant care and the sanctuary was no exception. Keeping the church clean was done on a voluntary basis: One example of that is the year the Wildermuth daughters agreed to clean the church for \$25 a year with \$2 extra each time the floor was scrubbed. If anyone would do it cheaper, the job would be his. The care of the furnace also was done on a voluntary basis often in lieu of paying church dues. One year, Emmanuel Boepple, Jr. offered to clean and heat the church for \$75 for the year.

1914 brought the suggestion of a statue for the altar - the statue of Christ with arms raised in blessing; it was to be bought as soon as funds were available. Five years passed with no statue, but talk of a picture had replaced the statue talk. In 1919 the statue was finally bought. Position of the statue on the altar was often discussed - too far forward, too far back; it must be just so.

After only one year's use of the church it seem advisable to build a portico over each of the two front entrances, a practical addition which certainly added to the beauty of the building.

The spirit of sharing, so evident when the church was built, continued as years went by. The Reformed Church needed a place for their confirmation service so the church was released to them. The old baptismal basin and flowers were given as a gift to the congregation in Garden City, Kansas.

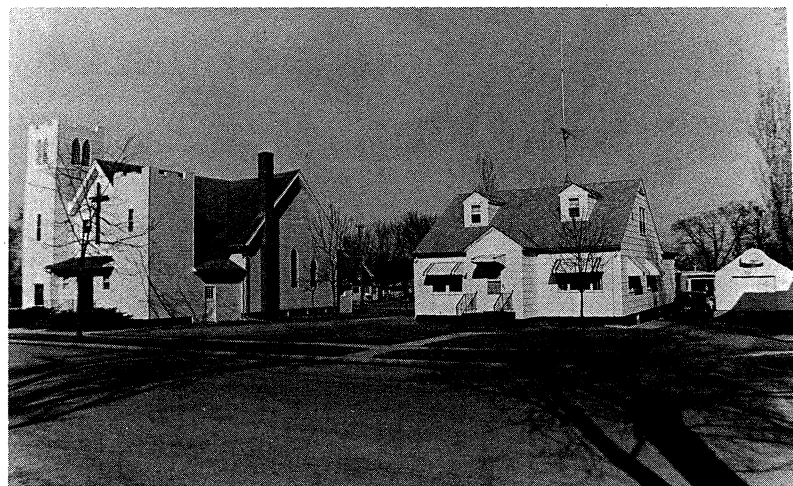
Really big plans for changes came in 1927 when the Council recommended digging out the basement and turning the fur-



Church with porticoes added over each of the entrances.

nace but to delay cementing until one could see if the walls would hold. Nothing materialized then but the idea was far from being shelved. More room was needed and plans surfaced in 1935 to purchase the old hatchery (on old Highway 18) for \$1750 or even get the old Reformed Church very reasonably. In 1937 the issue took definite form with Mr. Albert Hoellworth presenting a plan at a cost of \$2485. This plan was declined by the congregation and other offers sought. Finally in 1939, work was begun to dig a basement with labor to be furnished by church members. The committee, Rev. Gamb-chairman; Christ Geigle-general overseer; Fred Mueller-sec./treasurer, agreed to have every voting man work forty hours on the basement. Whoever couldn't work would pay into the fund at the rate of 25¢ per hour. But more hours of labor were needed so each laborer was asked for another 32 hours. With the addition of a new oil burner, the "new" basement was ready for dedication on April 7, 1940. In the course of all the digging of the basement, fifty feet of sidewalk were ruined. This came to be called the Hirsch sidewalk as Ray Hirsch furnished the cement and the congregation furnished the gravel and labor.

The history of our property gives evidence of pride in ownership and loving care. Yes, we came through troubled waters but there was always light at the end of the tunnel. God has truly blessed us.

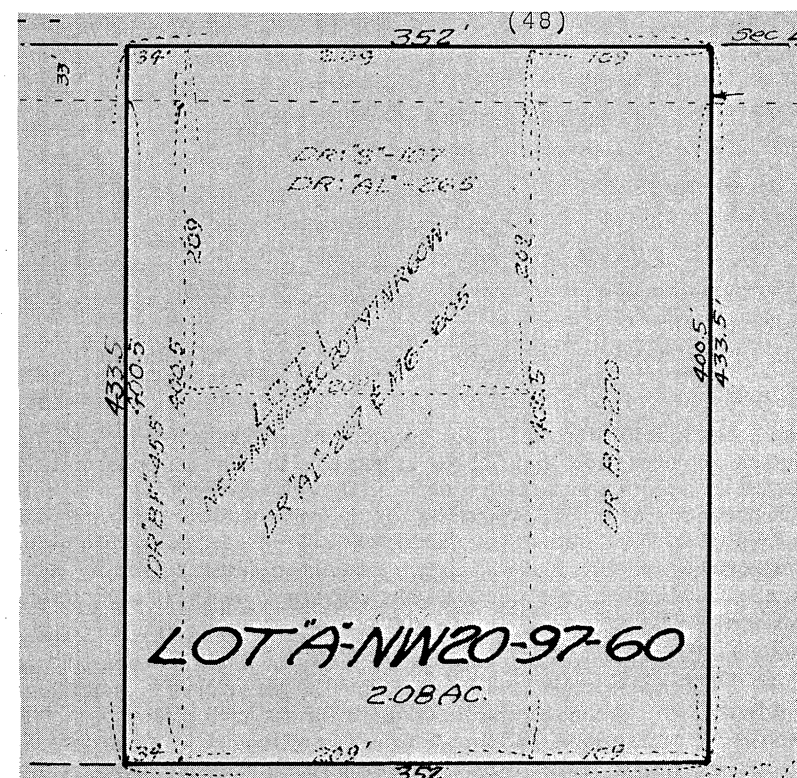


1986 photo of church property.

THE CEMETERY

The Evangelical Lutheran Church owned the first cemetery in Tripp. Friederich and Maria Vetter sold to the congregation a plot of land containing one acre, more or less, on March 16, 1892, for \$15. The land description is NE¼ of NW¼ of Sec. 20, Township 97 North, Range 60 West. This was a square of 209 feet and was divided into lots. Each owner of a lot was responsible for keeping his lot mowed and presentable. Unsold lots were the responsibility of the congregation. (The Vettters sold almost an equal amount of land west of this plot to Frieden's Reformed Church on Feb. 4, 1907, for \$115.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church sold their land to the Union Cemetery Association of Tripp on July 28, 1911, for \$1.00. The cemetery then became known as Gracehill Cemetery of Tripp.



The above copy shows the 209 foot square area which is on either side of the main entrance of the cemetery.

HOME FOR THE PASTOR

When a resident Pastor was called, the need for housing became apparent. At a congregational meeting held on May 6, 1900, the decision was made to buy a house from Mr. F. Klaudt with money for the building to be collected from the four classes of membership previously mentioned.



The parsonage c. 1902 with Pastor and Mrs. Hein and family.

The house was located on Lot No. 10 with Lot No. 11 between it and the church. Records show that Lot No. 11 was sold to a Dr. Sprecher in 1904 but the arrangement was not recorded in the church minutes so a resolution was adopted in 1920 regarding the delivery of a warranty deed of Lot No. 11 to Dr. Samuel Sprecher in 1904. The copy of this resolution was placed in the book of the congregational minutes, signed by Rev. Taeuber and Fritz Lange, clerk. Records further show the lots being sold to Christian Boepple in 1912.

But we need to back up several years! Long before the property was sold to Mr. Boepple, it became apparent that the parsonage, an antiquated building when purchased and inadequate for a growing family, would need to be replaced. A building committee of four: C. Friederich, C. Zeitner, F. Klaudt, and G. Doering, was instructed to check on plans and costs of a new building and report to the congregation as soon as possible.

However, at the April 13, 1903, meeting the congregation decided to

shelve Mr. Geigle's plans for a new house and purchase the "elegant and modern" house which had been built by Mr. Brenner in the fall of 1902. Because of unavoidable circumstances Mr. Brenner was leaving Tripp



Another view of the parsonage showing the boardwalk often replaced.

and he sold the house to Christian Friederich who in turn offered it to the congregation for \$2500. The offer was joyfully accepted. The property is still here, two blocks east of the present church building and is now the residence of Mrs. Elda Schaal.

The old house was sold to Mr. Geigle for \$400 with the provision that the pastor could remain there until the "new" house was vacated. After many transfers of ownership, in 1948, Lot No. 10 with the house and part of No. 11 again became the property of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Let's get back to the "new" property. Included in the price of \$2500 were four lots valued at \$75 each. Pastor Hein took over two lots and the other two lots were taken by Christoph Zeitner bringing the cost of the house to \$2200 which was paid through voluntary contributions. Later the congregation bought back one lot from the pastor for \$100. Now the state of the property was as follows: the parsonage was located on two lots, another lot was bought making a total of three lots. Where the house of Adam Meyer now stands, was once the garden area of the third lot—sold in 1944.

Even new houses need watchful eyes to maintain their livability and beauty and the parsonage was no exception. After eight years, necessary steps were taken to repair the cellar and do needed painting both interior and exterior. Pride of ownership is so evident in the care given to the

property as, in an age of wooden sidewalks, we see provision often made for their replacement. 1913 brought an addition to the north side of the house. With the arrival of Pastor Taeuber in 1918, came his request for permission to build a small house for his mother near the parsonage. The understanding was that he could move it if it came time that he would leave.

Of course, improvements in keeping with these times brought installa-



Early parsonage as it looks in more recent years.

tion of bathroom facilities, once considered a luxury; a new furnace in 1923 was proudly examined by the ladies of the Tabitha Aid who paid \$1025 for installation of the hot water furnace. Yes, costs were an item then too, and \$2.00 was collected from each member of the church to cover the improvements. Even the barn, no longer needed for horses and storage of feed, succumbed to the times and became a garage. This building was to be sold in 1936 if a reasonable sum was offered.

So those walls preserve the memory of joys and sorrows, of laughter and tears. They have absorbed the murmur of pastoral advice and cries of children who grew up within those walls which for forty plus years were known as the Lutheran Parsonage.

THE TRANSITION PERIOD

For many years after the establishment of our congregation, the German language played an important role. During those years it was the only language heard in our church, but with time it gave way to the language of our country, English. Pastor Hein wrote in 1910 that the congregational school was under the supervision of the pastor with German instruction being given in the morning and English in the afternoon. The English instruction became necessary when many parents, fearing their children would not keep up with those in the public school, would not send their children. When Rev. Taeuber preached his first sermon on August 11, 1918, English was used as the Department of Defense had forbidden the use of German for the duration of the war. Another change occurred on September 29, 1918, when it was decided that Sunday School would be conducted in English and necessary books would be purchased. Instruction for confirmation was still conducted in German in the church school house. This was held in the summer for two and one half months. After World War I was over the Sunday School instruction went back to German and continued so until 1922 when Rev. Taeuber requested a change.

The tie to Germany as our source of heritage was strong enough that in 1925 a collection for needy churches in Germany was held.

On February 29, 1920, the church voted to include one English worship service each month, but it was to be held in the evening. English services in the day time began in 1938. Every second Sunday of the month the worship service held in conjunction with Sunday School was in the English language. This would be in addition to the usual German worship, and was done on a trial basis for six months. At that time the transition took place to conduct both German and English services every Sunday. It was easy to see that German now became secondary in importance to English as the German worship time was less convenient for the people to hear the word of God in their ethnic tongue. With the coming of daylight savings time the German service became the later service beginning at 11:00 a.m.; prior to daylight savings time the German service was held first, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Besides the late hour, the people attending the German service had to bring their own song books!

Missionfest, long a cultural tradition of our German Lutheran heritage, also began to change around this time with the annual festival service being held on the third Sunday in September with a German service in the morning and English and German in the afternoon with the main service in English.

Another vestige of the cultural heritage went by the wayside in January of 1925 when the church changed its name from German Evangelical Lutheran Church to Evangelical Lutheran and finally on January 4, 1944, the name was changed to First American Lutheran. This change (unofficially) began in January 1940 due to a need to keep the name in line with the merger. Although the church council maintained separate deacons for the German and English services, German was gradually given less and less attention. Newsletters from 1957 and 1958 show German services

being conducted at 1:30 p.m. or in the evening, a concession to many of the elderly who found English difficult to understand. Pastor Hein, who had retired in Tripp in 1950, consented to conduct these German services.

- Zweite halbjährige Versammlung von*
28 May 1917
- I Die Versammlung wurde von Herrn Pastor
 Hein, mit Gebet und Gebetsstunde mit
 24 Gliedern eröffnet.
 - II Das Protokoll der letzten halbjährigen
 Versammlung wurde vorgelesen, und
 angenommen wie vorgelassen.
 - III Aufgenommen wurden als Glieder in die
 Gemeinde Herr Pastor Joeszowsky und
 Herr W. J. Krieger.
 - IV Die Pfaffen für den Juni soll der Pastor
 vorkommen für die Arbeit.
 - V Das Vorkommen des Pastors wegen der
 Krankheit soll gut geschehen werden.
 - VI Die Vorleser sollen eine Bibel lesen,
 meist eine von 12 Kapiteln lesen,
 und sollen für ihre Aufbesserung
 Aufschreiben sorgen.
 - VII Das Missionstest soll am 2ten Sonntag
 im August gehalten werden, dieses
 soll eine sehr gute Regel bleiben.
 - VIII Die Leitung der Vorleser der Gemeinde
 soll fallen gelassen werden.
 - IX Es wurde von der Gemeinde beschlossen
 dass der Herr Pastor die Predigten
 in der Gemeinde leiten soll.
 - X Die Freie soll eine neue Kirche gut
 sein, die Kirche aufbauen lassen.

Minutes were kept in the German script until 1937.

THE PRESENT PARSONAGE

In 1944 it was decided that extensive improvements needed to be made on the parsonage. Pastor Schnaidt presented the suggestion to raise \$3000 to completely repair all the property. Several years later it was reported



Picture of the Treick house which stood where the present parsonage is.
 Note the church towers in the background.

that not all the money pledged had been collected. A building committee consisting of Henry Weisz, Gottfried Jerke, and Thomas Mikuska was appointed to see what could be done to repair the parsonage. Minor repairs were then completed.

In 1946 it was decided that the parsonage should be repaired so it would be in good condition; also, to make a new sidewalk around the parsonage. More repairs were made such as sanding and varnishing, an oil burner unit was put into the furnace, and carpet was laid in an upstairs bedroom.

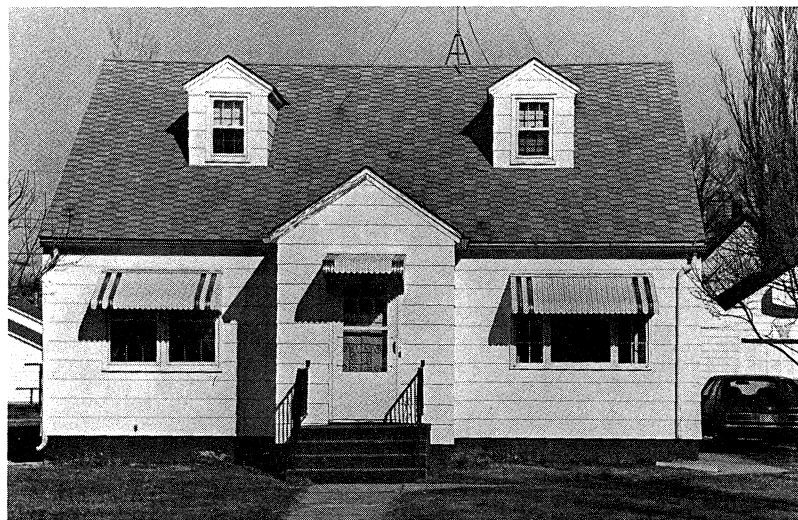
In 1948, the parsonage seemed to many to be inadequate and in need of replacement. A committee was appointed to gather information about the possibility of selling the old parsonage and building a new one. A vote was taken on January 29, 1948, resulting in a decisive refusal. The trustees were then asked to examine the parsonage and they came to the conclusion that it was unwise to spend more money on repairs. In the vote taken in April, with a vote of twenty yes, three no, and two blank, a change in views to build was indicated.

The ideal spot for the new parsonage was seen to be one of the lots next to the church. Mr. Arthur Treick owned the house and Lot No. 10 next to the church property and the trustees were authorized to make a trade of lots with Mr. Treick and he would pay the difference of \$2750. A building committee of five men was appointed to review plans and specifications with a contractor. The building committee consisted of five men: Ray Hirsch, Ted Jerke, Walter Isaak, Julius Vetter and Erwin Vetter.

On May 10, 1948, the duly appointed committee met in the church basement with Rev. Kammerer. They studied the proposed plan, blue prints, specification, etc. for the erection of a new parsonage and garage to be constructed on the lot recently acquired from Mr. Treick. After these plans were thoroughly discussed, it was unanimously decided to make a few changes. The Hattendorf Construction Co. submitted an estimated cost of construction of the dwelling and garage in its entirety ready for occupation and Mr. Hattendorf was chosen as contractor.

May 14, 1948, the members of the building committee, Pete Hattendorf, and Rev. Kammerer met at the church parsonage and agreed upon the contract. Pete was to do all the excavating, concrete work, furnish all material and labor, including wiring, heating, plumbing, and insulation for a cash consideration not to exceed a total amount of \$12,000. All the hours of planning and hard work saw fulfillment in the erection of a beautiful new parsonage which was dedicated on December 12, 1948.

In 1949 the church budget was raised to \$4500 and a loan for three years was made to pay the parsonage debt. In the course of the next two years this debt was reduced to \$2200 plus interest, but two more years still show-

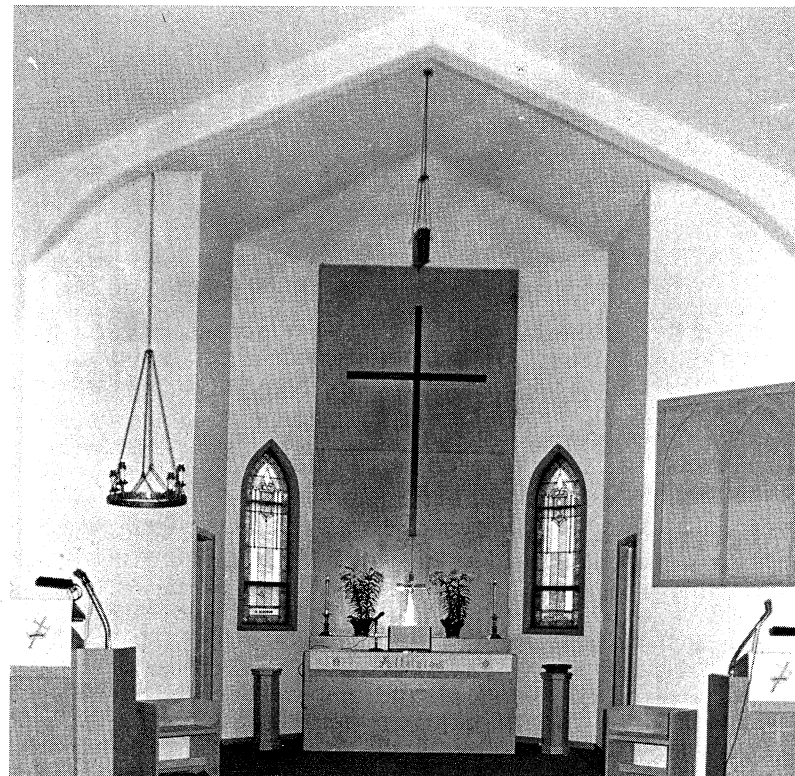


The present parsonage.

ed a debt of \$2000. Definite steps were taken to retire this debt by sending to each member envelopes which were included with the monthly bulletin. The results were positive and a \$1500 payment could be made.

To preserve the new building the men gave the parsonage a new coat of paint. A partition was also built in the basement to make a room for one of the Sunday School classes. The basement floor and ceiling were repaired and painted. Other minor improvements were also completed.

The 70's brought needed improvements such as replacing sidewalks, installing a new Lennox furnace, remodeling the back porch and, of course, supplying that ever-needed extra coat of paint. The garage was seen to be too small for use as a storage place, too, so a tool shed was built back of the garage. The 80's have seen the parsonage being improved inside with the acquisition of a new refrigerator and stove; also baseboard heaters. The latest improvement centered on insulating to ward off South Dakota's wintery blasts.



Full view of the chancel area in 1986.

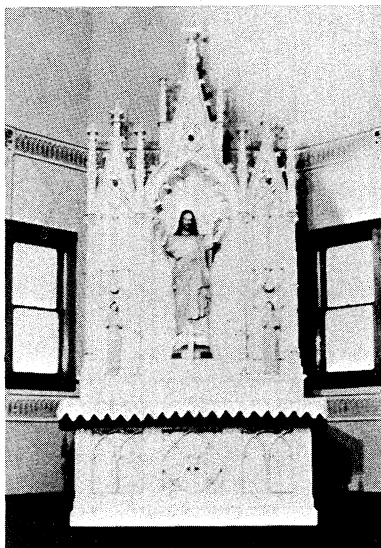
REMODELING THE CHURCH

In 1939 the women's group voted to give money for building the church basement if the men would supply the labor. The first committee for this venture consisted of Chris Geigle, Richard Herr, John Lang, Gottfried Jerke, and Fred Mueller. The job was completed and in the same year an oil burner was purchased to heat the church. This was used until 1954 when a dual furnace system was installed.

Major renovations took place in 1947 when the floors were refinished, the church interior was painted and new light fixtures were installed. The windows by the altar were replaced with ones of stained glass given as memorials.

The kitchen took on a modern appearance with the purchase of a Monarch electric range in 1952. In 1955 the exterior changed its appearance as windows were lowered. A major improvement was made in July 1956 when curbing was put in on the west side of the church and parsonage and the street was oiled to the curb. 1957 brought much serious thought and planning for remodeling the church to make more space available. The May 1957 meeting presented a detailed plan of the possible building of an addition to the southeast part of the church. Four rooms would be added for use as Sunday School rooms, two of which would double as church office and choir loft, and two rooms would be in the basement. Approximate cost would be \$7,358.55.

A building committee was selected to examine the possibilities and advisability of the remodeling. Members of the committee were: Ben Weber, chairman; Ed Zeitner, secretary/treasurer; Pete Hattendorf, advisor; Pastor Wagner, advisor; Jake Adam, Art Bietz, Walt Isaak, Marvin Mueller, Bob Schelske, Don Schneider and Julius Vetter. This committee ably served and after many months of planning, the Council in March, 1958, decided to cut down the towers. The two front entrances would be removed and one entry made with a double door in the space containing the large arched window which was between the two towers. In 1957 a vote had been taken whether to put the steps inside or outside the entry with a unanimous vote cast for keeping them outside. Other changes to be made



The altar in the chancel area prior to remodeling. Note the statue of Christ with angels on either side.

included adding an extra wall at the west end under the balcony to form a narthex; the south end of this area was to be made into a mother's room. Also windows in the north and south walls of the nave were to be replaced with three Gothic windows on each side; the center one was to be nine feet high and the two smaller ones six feet high with opalescent glass in all of them; fluorescent lights were placed between the windows on



This 1947 wedding picture of Esther Schaal shows details of the chancel area before remodeling. Note the pulpit on the left and the beaded hangings in opening on the right; also the ornate altar.

both sides. Another change was made to the slanting balcony floor which was to be stepped. The chancel also was to be repaired with the south area enclosed and made into a sound chamber with Gothic arches placed in the sound opening.

From early spring to August the church was a beehive of activity: Chancel furniture, the altar, lectern pulpit, baptismal font and hymn boards were built and finished in light oak by Leonard Brunken; the cross was stained dark oak. Since all chancel furniture was light colored, refinishing the pews and blinding them seemed appropriate. Mr. Erv Wightman, father of Wyant, supervised the project. The pews were moved to the 4-H building at the Fair Grounds and men and women pitching in, the task was accomplished. Plans for a communion rail were shelved. All these changes were made at a cost of \$10,000 plus 3,500 hours donated labor. Rededication Sunday was set for August 24, 1958, with Pastors Hein and Taeuber the main speakers for the occasion.

Work continuing in the last twenty-five years included the usual paint-

ing and shingling tasks; insulating the church ceiling and installing the sound system in 1966. At a later date dividing curtains were installed in the basement for Sunday School rooms. Major changes in recent years include installing a Lennox furnace in 1975; carpeting the main floor, balcony and steps in 1977; replacing the entry doors in 1981, a memorial gift for Mrs. Elsa Mueller. 1983 brought the replacement of the basement floor and applying new steel siding.

During the last twenty-five years the church also acquired its office building. Ed Zeitner, Jr. and his sister, Mrs. Hoy Grubb (Luverne) gave their office to the church as a gift in 1973. That winter, with installation of carpet, it was ready for use.



Chancel area as it looks today after the remodeling.

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The stained glass windows in the auditorium of the church follow the trinitarian pattern. The windows on the south side symbolize the three persons of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The center window contains the symbol of the Father, the hand of love and providence of the Creator reaching out of heaven. "Thou openest Thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing." Psalm 145:16. The window to the left of the center contains the symbol of the Son, the lamb slain for the sins of mankind who rules over the church universal. "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the World." Jn. 1:29 and "Blessing and honor and glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." The window to the right of the center on the south contains the symbol of the Holy Ghost, the dove. "And lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon him."

On the north side are three windows which identify this as a Lutheran Church built upon the Means of Grace. On the center window is the Luther Rose. This is Luther's emblem and tells the world that we are indebted to him under God for this our great heritage. In the window to the left of center is the symbol of the Word of God, the Holy Bible with the cross. Jesus Christ, the Word become flesh, was crucified for our sins. On the window to the right of center on the north is the symbol of the Font. Baptism is the sacrament by which we became a child of God. Luther emphasized very strongly that where the Word of God is taught in all its truth and purity, and the sacraments are administered according to the institution of Christ, there is the church! And an old German proverb says, "Gottes Wort und Luther's Lehr, vergehet nun und nimmermehr."

The stained glass windows in the chancel were memorial windows installed previous to the remodeling. The one to the left shows the cross - the symbol of man's salvation from sin, and the one to the right shows the wafer and chalice, the symbol of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GIFTS, MEMORIALS, AND DONATIONS

Where no dates are given - no dates are known.

1931 - New church bell, Mr. Freiderich Lange (Donation); Outdoor bulletin board, Mrs. George Vetter (Memorial); Outdoor cross, Mrs. Sophia Geisler (M); Altar Cross, Mr. Jacob Vetter (M); Front Step Railings, Henry Prien family (Gift); Altar, pulpit, lectern, Rev. Albert Wagner (G); Baptismal Font, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Weber and family (G); Hymn Board, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Weber and family (G); Hammond Organ, Tabitha Ladies Aid (M); First American Lutheran Choir (M), Mrs. Meta Hein (M), Rev. I.A. and Mrs. Mueller (M), Mr. and Mrs. Christian Vetter, Sr. (M), Margaretha Meisenholder (M), Julius, Albert, Roland Vetter (M), Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wildermuth (M), Williams Piano Company (M), Dr. G.B. Mueller (M), Whitmore Mikuska (M), F.H. Hirsch (M), Christ Vetter, Jr. (M), Gotthilf Doering (M), Mr. and Mrs. Christoph

Zeitner (M), Art H. Bietz family (M), Members of 1st American Lutheran Church (M).

1948 - Stain glass windows, Mr. Vogel (G); Chancel chairs, Men's Brotherhood organization (G); Chancel flags, Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Schaal (G); Upstairs aisle rug, Tabitha Aid; Corner Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Schmiedt (G); Leatherbound guestbook, Jacob Adam family (D),

1952 - 35mm projector, slides, Luther League (G).

1953 - choir hymnals, Women's Missionary Society.

1955 - Altar paraments, Altar Guild (G); linens, Altar Guild (G); Jr. choir gowns, Altar Guild (G); Altar candlesticks, Tabitha Aid (G); 16mm Bell & Howell, Men's Brotherhood (G); Projection Screen, Women's Missionary Society (G).

1956 - RSVB Lectern Bible, Altar Guild (G); Electric water heater, Women's Missionary Society, (G); Cash, Pastor Fink (G); Church office heat and paneling, Elsa and Margean Mueller (G); Church office, Mr. Ed Zeitner, Jr. and Mrs. H. Grubb (G); Hymnboard, Bietz memorial; Cash - highway signs, Sieler memorial (M); Cash - chancel flower stands, Laib family (M); Cash - vases and hymnals, Gottlieb Schaal (M); organ tone cabinets, Fred and Marvin Mueller (G); Communion trays and glasses, Breitreutz family (M); Black Altar hangings, Mrs. Esther Magstadt (M); Cash - Fred Fechner family (M); Sanctuary light, Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Zeitner (M); Cash - Mrs. Geishert (M); Cash - Robert Wildermuth (M); Cash - Rev. August Hein (M); Basement lighting, Mr. Gust Kurtz (M); Altar prayer book and organist book, memorial fund cash.

1975 - Clothes Racks, Mr. Otto E. Bietz (M); Air conditioning, Elsa & Marjean Mueller (G); Hymnals, Rev. August Hein (M).

1976 - Church construction, Emelie Weisz (M); Steel file cabinet, Mr. Robert Schelske (D).

1978 - Hymnals, Mr. Gust Schaal (M).

1980 - Advent wreath - Mr. Robert Schelske (M); new flags, Mr. Robert Schelske (M); front step carpet, Roland Vetter family (D); basement landing extension, Memorial fund cash; landing carpet, Ray Hansen (D).

1981 - church front door, Mrs. Elsie Mueller (M); hydraulic door closer, memorial fund cash.

1983 - parsonage carpeting, memorial fund cash.

Altar hangings - Meta Mikuska memorial.

Although we are aware that other memorials may have been given, these are the only ones of which we are sure.

EDUCATION

Learning, a process which enables us to better serve, has always been an integral part of the mission of this congregation. Because of this integral nature, changes in educational practice were often omitted from the written records. Apparently everyone was aware of the importance and little thought was given to recording.

In 1898 parochial school was held in the church on Nov. 1 and continued as long as the students were sent. This school calendar complied with the needs of an agricultural community for help with planting and harvesting.

In 1901 Christopher Zeitner built a school house for the congregation. The minutes record that he earned the gratitude of the congregation as he erected the building almost alone and had to neglect his own farm work to do so. This building was replaced in 1913 by a new structure that stood behind the present church and faced towards the north. This building was sold in 1940, and the receipts added to the basement fund.



The second school house built to the east of the church in 1913.

The first parochial school began November 1, 1901, and was concluded with Palm Sunday confirmation. The school was under the Pastor's supervision with instruction given in German in the fore-noon and English in the afternoon. This arrangement was made as many parents feared their children would be held back without English instruction, too.

A committee from the congregation met with the public school board regarding the parochial school in 1910. Unfortunately, the records do not indicate how many years the day school operated beyond this. Respected

opinions believe the last day of school was in the 1920's.

Early records would seem to indicate that a Sunday School was part of the educational structure from the beginning of the parish.



Pastor Skaar instructing the young people during the Children's Sermon.

In 1911 the congregation decided to delegate some of the education to a Sunday School superintendent and elected Karl Schnepel to that office. This also marked the beginning of conducting Sunday School in the school house.

In 1947 the office of Sunday School superintendent was added to the Church Council.

During World War I concern was voiced regarding the teaching of church school in German. In 1918 it was decided that Sunday School would be taught in English and that Wartburg materials would be used. Following the war, instruction resumed in German. (For more information on the change from German to English, see the section entitled "The Transition Period.")

Early confirmation training began, after heated debate, as a minimum of two years. Through the years, catechism instruction varied with the wishes of the pastor but remained on a two to three year schedule. Age also altered. In 1942, the congregation decided young people must be fourteen on or before the day of confirmation. In 1957 the age was moved to fifteen; later it conformed again with 8th grade graduation.

A public questioning was utilized to finalize instruction to confirmation. In 1955 it was decided that the results of the pastor's testing program would replace the public questioning.

Summer school was an important part of the confirmation training. The first record of the summer school program is in 1911 when the congregation decided to hire a seminary student to teach a two-month program. These records imply that the summer school was on-going at this time. It continued as a two-month session until 1939 when the congregation decided on four weeks of summer school which were held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.



Sunday School in 1986.

Later, the session length was changed to all-day sessions for two weeks, then all day for one week, with most of the catechism instruction being given at mid-week classes after school, Vacation Bible School is presently held with other churches in town from 8:30 - 11:30.

Facilities for education have been a long-time problem. The following locations for classes have been used: the church proper, the parlors, the balcony, kitchen, furnace room, belltower, and cry room, all within the church; the parsonage study and basement; the bank basement; and the public school.

Scheduling and locating of sessions and language are not the only changes in instruction. Early confirmands speak of an intense strictness that today's young people do not feel. This history also marks an evolving awareness of grace. Less emphasis is now being placed on what the individual does; more emphasis is on what has been accomplished by the Trinity.

Former and Present Members Who Were Confirmed At Our Altar

1898: Andrew Eissinger, George Friederick, Maria Herrmann, Anna Knodel, Caroline Kurtz, Henry Kurtz, Henry Zeitner.



1901 confirmation class with Pastor Hein.

1901: Rudolph Eissinger, Edward Friederich, John Geisler, John Haerber, Christine Hirsch, Gottlieb Klautt, Jacob Knodel, Regina Klein, Daniel Krause, Edward Vetter, Rosina Wildermuth, Maria Zeitner.

1902: Edward Kludt, Elizabeth Boepple, Jacobine Ensminger, Amalia Freier, Immanuel Hermann, Margaret Hirsch, Gotthilf Isaak, Edward Schmiedt, Friederich Weiss.

1903: Magdalene Andert, Andrew Blum, Lydia Haerter, Martin Hermann, Louise Heth, Gottlieb Juengling, Rosina Klein, Edward Knodel, Katharine Lange, Christian Roessler, Dorothea Schlenker, Ida Sieler, Christian Vetter, Magdalene Wildermuth, Emilie Zeitner.

1904: Gotthilf Doering, Konrad Dietz, Gustav Hoerter, Elizabeth Schmiedt, Emma Ensminger.

1905: Richard Vetter, Emil Knodel, Helena Sprecher, Magdalena Hirsch, Louise Sieler, Louise Dietz, Anna Lange.

1906: Otto Friederich, Julius Doering, Richard Wildermuth, Robert Wildermuth, John Hirsch, Immanuel Boepple, Albert Schaefer, Pauline Kludt, Mathilda Kludt, Pauline Geigle, Bertha Wildermuth, Emma Roessler.

1907: Otto Kleine, Emil Mueller, Michael Lange, Wilhelm Geigle, Robert Kludt.

1908: Julius Vetter, Herbert Boepple, Emil Wildermuth, Richard Sieler, Alfred Doering, Arthur Hirsch, John Lange, Emma Hirsch, Wilhelmina Lagge, Frieda Galster.

1909: Maria Klein, Gustav Knodel, Christoph Zeitner, Edward Allmendinger.

1910: Sophie Johannsen, Hulda Schaefer, Margaretha Lange, John Boepple, Nathalia Dieta, Anna Juergensen, Christina Bujer, Emma Doering, Samuel Kindsdatter; John Hauf, Joseph Burchard, Wilhelm Juergensen, Henry Johannsen, Edward Bujer, Gustav Mueller.

1911: Raymond Hirsch, Otto Wildermuth, Harry Burchard, Rudolph Mueller, Wilhelm Boepple, Carl Lagge, Bertha Boepple, Mathilda Schaefer, Mathilda Boettcher, Anna Bujer, Edna Sieler, Theresa Brenner, Emil Will.

1912: Amanda Schaefer, Eva Boepple, Eva Lagge, Herbert Mueller, Cuno Vetter, Friederich Keller, Alexander Schelske.

1913: Wilhelm Wildermuth, John Juergensen, Wilhelm Hirsch, Hans Johannsen, Martha Lange, Edward Zeitner, Emma Wittig.



Pastor Hein with 1914 confirmation class. Back row: Pauline Wildermuth, Annette Doering, Leonore Bujer, Hulda Friederich.
Front row: Ernest Mueller, Otto Sailer, Gustave Schaefer.

1914: Otto Sailer, Gustav Schaefer, Ernest Mueller, Hulda Friederich, Pauline Wildermuth, Annette Doering, Leonore Bujer.



The congregation at worship.

1915: Alvin Hirsch, Herbert Wildermuth, John Weitzenkamp, John Schelske, Edwin Schaefer, Melinda Hezel, Else Maas, Lina Lange, Louisa Boepple.

1916: Elisabeth Hein, Helena Sailer, Amalia Boepple, Anna Burchard, Wilhelm Boepple, Edwin Mueller, Harold Mueller, Friederich Bujer.

1917: Aug. D. Hein, Alfred Zeitner, Theophilus Hirsch, Arthur Doering, Elthur Doering, Louis Weitzenkamp, Ernestina Dietz, Anna Lagge, Walter Schelske, Otto Bertsch, Solomon Weisz, Clara Klein, Olivia Hirsch.



1918 confirmation class.

1918: Marie Schaal, Amanda Krueger, Meta Dietz, Anna Goehring, Lydia Boepple, Herald Krebs, Ruben Reich, Paul Schelske.

1919: Oscar Sprecher, Raymond Mikuska, Julius Sieler, Victor Hildebrandt, Theodor Boepple, John Wildermuth, Mathilda Rueb.

1920: Arthur Hirsch, Gottlieb Fischer, Conrad Taeuber, John Karlin, Wilhelm Doering, Herbert Sommerfeld, Edgar Mikuska, John Schaal, Walter Henke, Meta Boepple, Katharine Neumann, Helen Dietz, Edna Maas, Hilda Sailer.

1921: Ruben Sieler, Wilhelm Zeitner, Wilhelm Rueb, Wilhelm Karlin, Albert Roessler, Theodore Roessler, Elda Reich, Lillie Sommerfeld, Elsie Hirsch, Elsie Hildebrandt, Anna Doering.

1922: Emil Hirsch, Alfred Wildermuth, Rudolph Schaal, Albert Doering, Minnie Reiner, Esther Taeuber, Meta Zeitner, Elma Sailer, Ruben Mikuska, Rudolph Galster, Adolph Galster, Edgar Freier, Herbert Freier, Linda Freier.

1923: Alvina Neumann.

1924: Robert Rueb, Jakob Bujer, Gustav Schaal, Arthur Reiner, Gertrude Taeuber, Frieda Zeitner, Leontine Karlin.

1925: Emil Roessler.

1926: Albert Reiner, Pauline Schaal.

1927: Leonard Sommerfeld, Francis Christensen, Louise Galster, Helen Mikuska, Bernhard Tiede, Emmanuel Winter, Otto Reiner, Gertrude Doering, Erma Taeuber, Regina Neu, Leonore Vetter.

1928: Ruben Vetter, Eugenia Dobler, Agnes Schaal.

1929: Hermann Zeitner, Edgar Vetter, Elmer Grosz, Clara Vetter, Lillian Sieler, Esther Vetter, Gertrud Schaal, Viola Schmiedt, Emmy Taeuber, Irene Pietz.



1930 confirmation class with Rev. Taeuber.

1930: Leona Zeitner, Rueben Dobler, Wilhelm Friederich, Hugo Dobler, Gertrude Wildermuth, Wilmer Zeitner, Viola Geigle, Mrs. Katharin Kludt.

1931: Velda Pietz, Irene Reiner, Elta Vetter, Helen Schaal, Ella Schaal, Olinda Grosz, Robert Schelske, Roland Vetter, Raymond Vetter.

1933: Mrs. John Wildermuth, Mrs. Theo. Boepple, Mrs. Alvin Hirsch, Gertrude Dobler, Esther Reiner, Esther Schaal, Esther Wildermuth, Waldemar Zeitner, Walter Meisenhoelder, Emil Meisenhoelder, Otto Schaal, Maynard Mikuska, Emily Sopoci, Elsie Sopoci, Frances Sopoci.

1934: Ammon Lippert, Arthur Brosz, Mrs. Edyth Bauder, Edward Warnke.

1935: Elmer Friederich, Leonard Konstanz, Leo Konstanz, Carl Bartels, Bernice Schelske, Evelyn Sopoci, Alvin Hirsch, James Schelske, Frank Sopoci, Phyllis Knappe, Phyllis Weller, Frieda Konstanz, Ernest Fechner, Max Gehring, Hilda Miller, Iona Geigle, Irene Wildermuth, Elnore Schelske, Agnes Schelske, Laura Gehring, Loretta Lange, La Vonne Vetter, Emma Schaal, Clara Schelske.

1937: Werner Hieb, Allen Schelske, Elmer Geigle, Arnold Wildermuth, Rudolph Schelske, Rose Schaal, Annette Reiner, Alma Fuerst, Lorentina Fechner, Clara Meisenhoelder, Leatta Schelske.

1938: Helen Dobler, Luverne Zeitner, Viola Bartels, Reinhold Vogel, Marvin Mueller, Norris Fechner, Ervin Vetter.

1939: Mrs. John Keller, Dr. Roland Hubner, Mrs. Laverne Hubner, Mrs. Lois Stern, Abbie Stern.

1940: Reinhold Miller, Ruben Fuerst, Rodolf Fuerst, Raymond Dobler, Arnold Friederich, Gerhardt Schaal, Edward Zeitner, Alvin Gehring, Norman Vogel, Viola Uttecht, Laverne Reiner, Lois Emme, Jack Hirsch, Constance Hirsch, Tod Konstanz, Annie Konstanz.

1941: Henry Miller, Ray Heth, Harold Emme, Leontina Schelske, Theodore Schelske.

1942: Leona Fuerst, Ida Miller, Selene Vetter, Ruth Vogel, Eldora Schelske, Leola Schelske, Eldon Gehring, Donald Sopoci, Marvin Sopoci, Roger Eastman.

1943: Howard Emme, Esther Fechner, Margean Mueller, Luella Schelske, Elmer Weisz.

1944: Doris Isaak, Viola Weisz.

1945: Delores Baumiller, Audrey Mueller, Hattie Schelske, Robert Sopoci, Leona Vogel, Harold Wildermuth.

1946: LeRoy Isaak, Zona Zeitner, Mary Ann Dobler, Pearl Weber, Rose Schelske, Delores Lindemann, Melvin Placek.

1947: Violet Gehring, Laurina Schelske, Doris Mueller, Alice Friederich, Maynard Friederich, James Sopoci, Paul Vogel.

1948: Oliver Isaak, Beverly Geigle, Phyllis Friederich.

1949: Wm. F. Gilbert, Lee Williams.

1950: Elaine Vetter, Helen Lagge, Sandra Ondalin, Allen Lagge, Clarence Schelske, Wilmer Baumiller, Wallace Friederich.

1951: Ray Anderson, Leonard Brunken, Helen Ray Mueller, Shirley Bietz, Ruth Hieb, Darrell Albrecht, Gilbert Weber, Leonard Weisz.

1952: Willard Friederich, Norma Huether, Joyce Kamback, Maedora Krueger, Alice Schelske.

1954: Mrs. Ernestine Fechner, Mrs. Ernestine Konstanz, Marlene Albrecht, Velda Friederich, Bruce Mikuska, Richard Mikuska, Lawrence Schelske, Joyce Winter.

1955: Barbara Magstadt, Judith Mikuska, James Mikuska.

1956: Darwin Albrecht, Glenn Hartman, Lois Hieb, Joel Mikuska, Donald Tiede, James Weber.

1957: Roland Batterman, James Baumiller, Kenneth Bietz, Larry Gruenewald, Charles Vetter, Marsha Wightman, Mrs. Maynard Friederich.

1958: Helen Adam, Marjory Freier, Tommy Magstadt, Sandra Hart-

man, Willmer Herr.

1959: Carol Bietz, Lois Langholz.

1960: Marjory Friederich, Larry Hartman, Roger Tiede, Jean Vetter.

1962: Mrs. Dennis Kurtz, Jerry Gale Albrecht, Mildred Bueber, Sandra Krueger, Cheryl Prien, Sharon Vetter, Daniel Weber.

1963: Sandra Mueller, Myra Vetter, Mrs. Larry Bietz, Mrs. James Weber.

1964: Charles Hoenke, Richard Prien, Joan Vetter, Gary Konstanz.

1965: Diane Bueber, Maurice Bueber, Larry Jerke.

1966: Richard Brunken, Linda Freier, Scott Schelske, Joel Vetter.

1968: Duane Bueber, Marlys Bueber, Rita Bueber, Michael Fechner, Connie Mueller, Karen Prien, Kathleen Schelske, Larry Schuh, Linda Westlund.

1969: Marlys Bietz, Marlyn Bietz, Terry Brunken, Shari Dietz, Linda Ellsworth, James Friman, Karin Mueller, Karyl Mueller, Mary Weber.

1970: Barbara Bietz, James Bietz, Rose Bueber, Betty Buhmann, Glen Batterman, Carol Fuerst, Donna Konstanz, Paul Mehrer, David Mogck.

1971: Jerry Bietz, Dennis Fuerst, Brian Kludt, Daniel Brunken, Debra Brunken, Susan Mogck, Yvonne Prien, Cynthia Bietz, Charmain Schuh.

1972: Deborah Breitreutz, James Mach.

1973: Timothy Breitreutz, Louise Mach, Nancy Herr, Joan Bietz, Henry Prien.

1974: Joyce Fuerst, Janelle Kludt, Wayne Bietz.

1975: Janet Herr, Debra Kludt.

1976: Todd Bietz, Alan Bueber, Connie Friederich, Robert Friederich, Douglas Fuerst, Brian Mogck, Glen Wudel.

1977: Robert Bietz, Marc Mueller, Angela Roth.

1978: Robert Fuerst, Michael Weber, Kevin Friederich, Richard Bietz, Lori Brunken, Julie Anderson.

1979: Glenn Bueber, John Herr, Lynn Mueller.

1980: Lisa Weber, Jeffrey Breitreutz, Larry Friederich, Monte Bietz, Jon Bietz.

1981: Gail Mogck, Karen (Maag) Bietz.

1982: Leandra Bietz, Dawn Friederich, David Brunken, Jay Hieb, Rodney Schneller.

1983: Amy Herr, Jennifer Mueller, John Friman.

1984: Bobbi Jo Albrecht, Kristi Hieb, Angela Weber.

1985: Linda Bietz.

1986: Jennifer Vetter.

ORGANIZATIONS

The purpose of the organizations of the church changed as the needs of the congregation changed. Early organizations supplied physical needs of the church; for example, the young people bought the organ for the new church in 1910. That same year the women of the church acquired the pulpit, altar, paraments, and carpet in the aisles and altar area. The reading of the minutes of the early Tabitha Society gives one the sense of the love, commitment, and dedication for the church as expressed with the "countless" hours of labor.

Today's American Lutheran Church Women, the largest organization, finds a different role. Many more women working outside the home make it necessary to be able to count the hours spent away from family and job. The ALCW now focuses on a monthly Bible study. Enforced by the insights stemming from the Biblical messages, there comes continued commitment to serve others.

Likewise, the other organization - Luther League, has changed. It now focuses on a Sunday morning Bible study and a monthly fellowship gathering.

Unfortunately, many of the organizations' minutes have been lost and the history is dependent upon sketches of what was. We believe that the Tabitha Society was begun in 1911 by Pastor Hein. The minutes we have depict a very special feeling.

TABITHA LADIES AID

January 1924

Met in mid-December in parsonage and saw the newly installed furnace.

If a member failed to attend meetings or to meet obligations, she will be taken off the roll after a year.

Committee should buy a cloth for the table in the sacristy.

March 1924

Filled a Christmas box of 30 yards of material and a box of thread for New Guinea.

April 1924

Resolved to supply a door to the cellar in the parsonage. Also to buy the grass seed to sow on the educational plot on the west side of the house.

September 1924

Planned a bazaar with the Luther League.

October 1924

Made plans to have bazaar on Nov. 13, 1924.

February 1925

Discussed buying a sewing machine which is turned by hand to send to New Guinea. On investigation, it was found that New Guinea was supplied with enough sewing machines. Decided to send \$10 for Christmas boxes instead.

May 1925

Voted to contribute \$10 worth of books to the City Library.

July 1925

Voted to supply a new cloth to cover communion ware.

August 1925

Instructed to get pattern from "Abendschule" (Evening School Magazine) for making communion ware cover as a ready made one was too expensive.

October 1925

Voted to have bazaar on Nov. 12 with a chicken supper and bake sale. Non-members were not to be approached for contributions. Food was to consist of chicken, potatoes, pigs-in-blanket, cake and ice cream. Committees of two appointed to be in charge of the hand work and the bake sale.

December 1925

Report on bazaar showed \$188.40 proceeds; \$40.14 expenses leaving a profit of \$148.26. \$100 was to be placed on interest, \$25 was to go to a missionary's wife for their trip to Germany, \$15 to Crippled Children's home to buy pillow cases and blankets, \$10 to apply to mission debt.

March 1926

Voted to send \$10 to the orphanage for use by one of the confirmands.

At request of trustees, two members were chosen to decide which rooms in the parsonage needed to be papered.

April 1926

Voted to give \$10 for Christmas boxes. Agreed to serve a meal after Easter for the Community Club.

October 1926

Have a bazaar on Nov. 18 with a chicken and pigs-in-blanket supper and a candy sale and have a bake sale on 24th of Nov. Bazaar is to be in the City Hall. Secretary is to make sure it is advertised in Parkston, Delmont, Menno, and Armour.

November 1926

Laid plans for bazaar. There is a problem of place for the bake sale. Tried to get space in Sister-Schaeffer business.

December 1926

Report of \$25.10 proceeds from bake sale. Voted to spend \$5 for electric lights for the church's Christmas tree. Voted to send \$10 to Crippled Children's Home in North Dakota, and also to a Children's Home in Sterling, Neb. for Christmas. Voted to pay Pastor Taeuber for comb and brush in the sacristy and for the bulbs for the Christmas tree. Mrs. Gottlieb Schaal was to be paid for a brush used in church.

March 1927

Send Christmas boxes to New Guinea and include some Biblical pictures.

May 1927

Decided to re-do the kitchen in the parsonage. Plans were discussed to knock off old plaster and to paint with enamel-base paint. Plans will be presented to trustees, and husbands of women in the Aid will be asked to help the women.

June 1927

Decided to have a bake sale in Warnke Butcher Shop.

July 1927

Decided to collect \$1 from each member to pay the debt from renewing the kitchen in parsonage because bake sale did not materialize. Decided to withdraw the \$50 deposit made in January to pay debts.

August 1927

Thanked Mrs. Sprecher for the quilt frame she donated.

October 1927

This meeting marks the beginning of the evening meetings for the winter months. Decided to invite convention to Tripp for next year. Made plans for November bazaar. Also planned chicken dinner. Hand bills to be printed to advertise. Hand work to be priced at November meeting.

November 1927

Decided to use table cloths, dishes and silverware available at City Hall for upcoming chicken dinner. Notice was placed in paper and Mrs. Mikuska distributed hand bills. Serving will begin at 5:30 p.m. Decided not to have bake sale but to have candy sale instead. Ladies from Delmont, Menno and Parkston are to be invited.

December 1927

Gave report on receipts from bazaar: supper \$70.25, candy \$18.95, milk 40¢, fancy work \$53.90, extra gift \$4.25, - total \$147.75, expenses \$35.92.

February 1928

Decided to give up working for bazaar in March, but would continue the support of the institutions in Arthur, N.D., and Waverly, IA. Secretary instructed to write for suggestions as to what is needed.

April 1928

Voted to give \$15 for New Guinea Christmas boxes. Decided to sew night shirts and pillow cases for the orphanage in Waverly and curtains for Arthur, N.D.

August 1928

Decided to have a stand at the Hutchinson County Fair. Serve borscht, chili, three kinds of sandwiches, pickles, pies, ice cream, pop, lemonade, and coffee. The spot has already been chosen.

September 1928

Discussion of stand for Fair. 105 gallons of soup had been served.

October 1928

Decided to buy a stove for Mrs. Burchardt but it will be considered property of the Ladies Aid. Mrs. Burchardt may use it as long as she likes.

November 1928

Voted to send Mrs. (Rev.) Clara Jundt \$15 because she was in need. Voted to take \$200 from their funds and place it on interest. Voted to have a bake sale and candy sale on November 28 and give proceeds to Crippled Children's Home in Arthur, N.D. All ladies are to be involved. It will be in Mueller's Hatchery.

January 1929

Decided to charge \$1 per spool (100 yds.) for quilting. Records showed receipts of \$801.74 and expenses and dispensing of \$698.32. Balance of \$103.42.

February 1929

Voted to contribute \$20 for a phonograph Pastor Taeuber planned to

take along to New Guinea.

March 1929

Voted to use certificate of deposit of \$114.65 for needy in Bessarabia, Russia. \$25 was added to sum giving a total of \$139.65.

April 1929

Voted to contribute \$15 for New Guinea Christmas boxes.

May 1929

Pastor Bunge presided and gave a talk (usually, this was not done).

October 1929

Decided to have bake sale on November 27 in Tietze's Garage. Decided each member would pay \$1 into treasury instead of preparing a meal for the Commercial Club. Pay \$5 to Miss Deguissnes for travel expense to convention in Delmont.

December 1929

Report of receipts from bake sale showed \$49.90, a member added 10¢ to make it \$50. Voted to send \$15 each to orphanage in Waverly and Crippled Children's Home in Arthur, N.D., along with the Martin Lutheran Home in Sterling, Neb.

January 1930

Report of receipts of 1929

\$292.51

On Hand 1-1-29

103.42

\$395.93

Expenses Allowed

300.00

On Hand

\$95.93

February 1930

Decided to have a stand at Fair in September.

March 1930

Decided to give a Bible picture for New Guinea Christmas boxes.

June 1930

Request for housing of members of Wartburg Orchestra when they present their concert.

July 1930

Each member pledged a chicken and noodles for soup for the Fair; also the Aid would serve chili and each member was to help according to the strength she had been given.

September 1930

Discussed success of the Fair and reported receipt of \$711.90 but expenses were not yet paid. Since Wm. Rieb had rendered services, he would be paid \$10 and given an added \$5. This was to aid his studying to be a missionary doctor.

October 1930

Voted to lend \$125 at 6% interest to Gottlieb Schaal on understanding that he would repay it on demand.

November 1930

Voted in a new secretary as Mrs. Taeuber was moving. Mrs. Jake Hieb replaced her. Voted to work for coffee pot which was to be given away in Buche's Store by votes.

December 1930

Voted to again contribute \$15 to the orphanage in Waverly, the Crippled Children's Home in Arthur and Martin Luther Children's Home in Sterling.

January 1931

Decided to send flowers if parishioner is sick one week. Made a list of those to clean church on Saturdays. Mrs. Hieb would display the burial wreath when there is a funeral. Also, in case of sudden death, flowers would be sent.

February 1931

Discussed plans for a party when the new pastor comes.

March 1931

Planned lunch and reception for Pastor and family at City Hall. Planned work in kitchen of parsonage. Delmont would also be asked to help.

May 1931

Moved by Pastor Seitzinger that every member bring a guest to the next meeting.

June 1931

Voted not to have stand at Hutchinson Co. Fair as times were very tight.

September 1931

Discussed whether a meal would be served in the City Hall for Missionfest. Decided it was to be brought to attention of all women of congregation.

October 1931

Discussed request for help from Christian Home in Minneapolis. Voted to send \$5.

November 1931

Voted to have a bake sale in City Meat Market the day before Thanksgiving.

December 1931

Voted to send \$8 each to Waverly, Sterling and Arthur. \$5 was contributed toward the church building and \$10 for the missions in New Guinea.

April 1932

Voted to buy the curtain rods in the parsonage from Mrs. Seitzinger.

May 1932

Voted to buy new linen and velvet for the pulpit and the altar coverings.

August 1932

Pastor Schult led devotions. Voted to buy three yards of velvet for the pulpit.

October 1932

With the coming of Rev. Bartels, came the practice of his reading articles from various church magazines. He also explained the catechism or conducted a Bible study.

November 1932

Voted to meet in winter months only once a month instead of twice a month and to meet in the afternoons. Voted to start making a quilt, and hand out pieces at next meeting.

December 1932

Voted not to contribute to organizations this year as money was so scarce.

January 1933

Appointed two ladies who were to visit the sick for January. Quilt blocks were handed out.

February 1933

Voted to make 250 quilt tickets to sell at 10¢ each. Money is to be used for the floor in the church. Supper will be served in mid February for the same purpose.

March 1933

Report that the quilt brought in \$30.80. After expenses, cleared \$23.85. Supper cleared \$30.21. Made plans to assemble to clean the floor of the church so the ladies can varnish it. Voted to supply black bands for the reserved benches at funerals. The flower wreath on the door is still being used.

May 1933

Voted to send \$5 to Comptar, CA to help rebuild the church destroyed in earthquake.

June 1933

Voted to buy some dishes and silverware. Agreed to have a stand at the Fair in the fall.

July 1933

Voted to have a telephone placed in the parsonage. Appointed committee to check into the cost.

August 1933

Voted to have no stand at the fair because of tight money. Handed out things to make for Red Cross.

September 1933

Voted to serve the Missionfest dinner in City Hall. Voted to buy dishes. Voted to support, once again, the orphanage and the Crippled Children's Home.

October 1933

Dishes were brought and the committee was instructed to buy what the Methodists had to sell. Voted to make a quilt and later serve a meal and raffle a quilt. Voted again to meet in the evening at 7:15.

November 1933

Discussed buying a new linen cloth for the altar. Handed out material to make bloomers for the orphanage, also material for the quilt.

December 1933

Reported on distribution of the finished bloomers to three institutions and pillow cases to Crippled Children's Home. Met request to pay for Sunday School programs as their treasury was bare.

March 1934

Voted to purchase six English songbooks.

April 1934

Sent \$5 to Mrs. Taeuber for New Guinea Christmas boxes.

July 1934

Voted to contribute paying for phone in parsonage.

December 1934

Decided members could use dishes purchased except if occasion was to make money.

January 1935

Decided silver and dishes in City Hall should be marked so we would know which are ours. The wares were not to be taken from the City Hall and if outsiders used them a charge would be made. Voted to order 12 Foster's Vanilla extracts.

February 1935

Voted to put on certificate deposit \$50 from congregation and \$50 in the treasury. Appointed Mrs Wildermuth and Mrs. Sailer to buy material for quilt to be sewn Feb. 9 at the parsonage.

March 1935

Next meeting will be in afternoon - for summer months.

May 1935

Mrs. Craig suggested the ladies might like to plant flowers in southwest corner of City Park. Voted to send quilt to Old People's Home in Eureka.

June 1935

Reported that more dishes had been bought from Ed Schmidt. Decided to make another quilt.

July 1935

Celebrated Pastor's wedding anniversary. Voted \$10 to buy a sewing machine for Irma Taeuber to take to New Guinea. Voted to pay parsonage phone for another year. Questioned having a stand at Fair.

August 1935

Reported receipts of \$25.50 for sewing machine for Irma Taeuber.

October 1935

Reported receipts from Fair and voted to buy a Certificate of Deposit for \$350. Discussed advisability of building a Parish hall rather than a basement. Report given that owners wanted \$1750 for the hatchery building but old Reformed Church could be bought cheaply.

December 1935

Mrs. Gottlieb Schaal reported offer to Reformed Church for \$350. Decided to present offer to Council. Decided to make quilts for various charities. Decided to lend money to congregation for doing work on basement.

February 1936

Reported that Reformed ladies want to borrow Aid's dishes and take them from the basement. Agreed, for a fee of \$1.50 and payment for all broken dishes.

May 1936

Decided to buy a new cloth for communion ware.

June 1936

Cleared \$106.49 from stand at Jubilee.

August 1936

Decided to have stand at Fair.

October 1936

Reported profit of \$145 from Fair stand. Voted to contribute \$650 towards basement.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

On Monday evening, Nov. 6, 1933, several women met at the home of Rev. Bartels with the intention of forming a Women's Missionary Society.

The following signed as charter members:

Pauline Bartels
Elsie Mueller (Mrs. G.B.)
Magdalena Mikuska (Mrs. Thomas)
Mrs. C. Bartels
Meta E. Zeitner
Alyce Doering
Helen Mikuska
Mary Zeitner (Mrs. Christ)
Mrs. E.J. Sommerfield
Lillie Sommerfield
Emma Doering
Julia Boepple (Mrs. Theo)
Mrs. R. Sieler
Mrs. John Wildermuth
Mrs. Paul Knappe
Mrs. Fred Emme

The society was called "The Women's Missionary Society of the American Lutheran Church of Tripp, South Dakota." Their stated purpose was to further interest within the congregation in the Mission of the Church. They decided to meet in the homes (in alphabetical order) and to collect 10¢ a month as dues. The meeting format included a hymn and devotion, the business meeting, a social hour, and a song and benediction.

Many benefited from the support of the WMS. Some who received monetary donations are the following:

The Cancer Drive
Red Cross
Lutheran Welfare Society at Sioux Falls
The March of Dimes
Infantile Paralysis
The Sister Kenny Foundation
Flood Relief
The Missions of New Guinea
India Lace
Band Boosters
Local youth attending church camps
The Crippled Children's Home in Jamestown, North Dakota
The Crippled Children's Home in Sioux Falls

Not all the donations were monetary. The women made quilts for the crippled children in the Martin Luther Home in Sterling, Nebraska, and the Children's Home in Muscatine, Iowa. They also made layettes for refugee babies, gave gift-wrapped articles to patients of the State Hospital at Yankton, gave canned goods to the Colony of Mercy at Milltown and sent Christmas boxes to the orphanage in Waverly, Iowa.

The Mission field of New Guinea was of special concern. Boxes, sent yearly, included bandages sewn from old sheets. They also helped buy

a sewing machine for Pastor Taeuber's daughter who was a teacher in New Guinea.

The WMS also contributed to the needs of the church buildings. They made a donation toward the Tower Sound System, bought a piano for the church basement, purchased light fixtures for the basement, bought hymnals, tables and an electric stove as well as contributed to the basement fund. Other purchases included a water heater, refrigerator, choir books, devotional booklets for all members, and a film screen. The women also acquired a plaque for the memorial organ and gave toward the Stained Glass Window Fund.

The WMS helped refurbish the parsonage, too. They purchased blinds, contributed toward the cost of paint, helped paint, and in 1950, raised money for the inlaid linoleum.

Sometimes the women chose to serve a particular individual. The minutes record that a white dress and slip were sewn for a girl unable to get them. Duane Meyer, a five year old orphan from the Children's Home at Waverly, Iowa, was adopted to be remembered on special days, e.g. Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, his birthday, etc.

Many banquets, teas, dinners, and lunches were served to raise money for the projects. Some that were served were Firemen, Commercial Club, Pastor's Conference, Women's Missionary Federation, Study Club, Athletic Banquet, Father-Son Banquet, Legion Banquet, Lutheran Welfare Workshop, Parsonage Dedication, Fechner 50th Anniversary dinner, Brotherhood Convention, Luther League Rally, Loyalty Dinners, Sunday School Convention, Lutheran Welfare Board Meeting and Mother-Daughter Banquet and Teas.

Money was also raised by having bake sales, ice cream and cake socials, selling Watkins vanilla and cinnamon, and Christmas cards. The members paid dues of 10¢ a month and a penny for each year old. Later this was changed to free-will offering and paying 1¢ for each pound of weight. They served for funerals and occasionally an estate sale. A continuous bake sale proved quite profitable as it was used to purchase the electric water heater. Novelties were often sold at the bazaar when serving a supper. A traveling basket also proved quite profitable.

In accordance with being a Missionary Society, many reports were given on various missions: Negro, Mexico, China, India, New Guinea, etc. "Outlook" magazine was usually used for the program.

In 1947, the Women's Missionary Society decided to meet on the same night as the Brotherhood who would join them for lunch. Names were drawn for Christmas and Valentines. Members were to bring a gift for their Secret Sister and a man's gift for the Brotherhood. Easter breakfast was also started.

The WMS helped the Brotherhood serve a chicken supper to raise money to help pay for the Tower Sound System at the church. They set a price of \$1.00 for adults and 60¢ for children.

The WMS joined other churches for "World Day of Prayer." The entire congregation and other neighboring churches were often invited to the Thankoffering service with a special program.

They were reminded that December 14, 1960, would be the last meeting of the Women's Missionary Society. The group voted it was ready to join the new and larger organization, the American Lutheran Church Women.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild was established by Pastor Wagner. The following were members:

Lydia Adam	Christina Zeitner
Laura Isaak	Emma Jerke
Irene Weber	Glendora Schelske
Rose Prien	Mirney Wagner
Delores Brunken	Helen Mueller
Marion Wightman	Gail Isaak

The women were instructed in the proper care of the brass altar appointments, the paraments, floral arrangements, and communion wares. They purchased the altar hangings and spent many hours hand stitching the fair linens, corporals and baptismal napkins.

A meeting was held open to all church women who wished to participate and be instructed in the proper care and usage of the appointments pertaining to the altar.

The members voted to have monthly offerings in order to purchase altar hangings and linen for the altar. Many hours were spent hemming with numerous tiny stitches as a labor of love. Members would meet in each other's homes, not only for the meeting nights, but also other days and evenings to work on the sewing of the various linens required for the altar.

Pastor Langholz asked The Altar guild to amalgamate with the WMS and have all women share the duties that were being performed by the Altar Guild.

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The American Lutheran Church Women officially met for the first time in January of 1961. The new group was an organizational part of the structure of the newly merged church body--The American Lutheran Church.

The purpose had been established: To know and to do. The monthly Bible Study was to serve as a catalyst for the continued mission of the women of the church.

Outreach varies in form. The most extensive dispersion of mission monies is directed by the national ALCW and to directly help meet worldwide need. One-half of each monthly offering and the annual Thankoffering is dispersed in this manner. The local women also use Lutheran World Relief to channel a large share of their special offerings for the needy of the world: mission around the world, Vietnamese Relief, Alaskan Earthquake aid, etc. Homemade gifts of quilts, soap, bandages, Klenli-kits, sewing kits, lap robes, layettes, as well as used clothing aided the disadvantaged world wide. Annual treks still carry hundreds of pounds of assistance to LWR headquarters in Minneapolis. Most of the assistance is now in the form of soap and quilts.

Sometimes the outreach touches in personal manner. The women have enjoyed personal contact with Connie and Olin Sletto in Africa and Marlys Schroeder in New Guinea. Annual trips were made throughout the sixties and early seventies to the Yankton State Hospital. The Beresford

Children's Home has also been a recipient of numerous visits and quilts.

The ALCW has been very supportive of the young people of the church. Monetary donations have provided camping scholarships, quilts, utensils, and financial aid has also been given to the camps. The ALCW pro-



1986 American Lutheran Church Women.

vided support for the young people to attend national conventions in 1964, 1967, and 1985. They've cooked for bikers, cooked for rallies, supported fund raising efforts such as the Bike Ride for the Hungry in 1977 and generally have given the young people a feeling of warmth, nurturing, and sustenance that comes with being part of this family. A partial list of others who were helped by the women's caring are the following institutions and organizations: The Crippled Children's Home in Jamestown, N.D., Valley View Children's Home in Pierre, Mutterdienst in Germany, Bethesda Home for the Aged, Ephitha Mission of Sioux Falls, the Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, The Ambulance Service, and *A Touch of Tripp*. The ALCW also has close ties with the Good Samaritan Home. They served at the Open House when the Home began serving Tripp and gave continued support with monthly visitations, bi-monthly entertainment, and annual Christmas gifts for the residents.

Fellowship is important to any family and it has been the ALCW in recent years that has planned the times together for 1st American Lutheran. The following activities have provided fellowship: All-congregation Christmas parties, annual family picnics, annual suppers that precede the Candlelight Service, annual Easter Breakfasts, coffees after Lenten Services, Mother-Daughter Teas, appreciation dinners for Sunday and Vacation Bible School and Vacation Bible School staffs, welcoming dinners for new pastors and visiting missionaries, and farewell dinners for pastors.

The ALCW has joined its sister church women in fellowship, too. Numerous invitations have been extended and accepted to hear special speakers and programs. They have united in World Day of Prayer, the Bicentennial celebrations (the ALCW served Kuchen), conferences, retreats, and prayer groups. Even a "Koffee Klatch" was hosted in the school gym in 1967 for a special reformation celebration.

Historically, women have supplied needs for the church and the ALCW is no exception. The women have contributed toward remodeling funds, and purchased appliances, the kitchen tile, tables, chairs, blackboards, cry room furniture, baptismal towels, divider and window draperies, dishes and silverware for the church, as well as rugs and linoleum for the parsonage.

Most of the money necessary for the completion of projects has come from the maintenance of one-half of monthly meeting offerings, bake sales, and special offerings. As has been historically true with all the organizations, these projects, too, represent labors of love.

LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD

The history of the men's organization, known as the Brotherhood, began in November of 1954 and lived through the change to the new church known as ALC. The men's organization was then known as the Men of the Church. The last recorded minutes of this group was February, 1964. During this period of nearly ten years, many things were accomplished.

The first of these projects was re-setting the pews in the church so they would be evenly spaced. Ceiling tile was installed in the parsonage basement so that a Sunday School class could meet in that room. A Father-Son Banquet was held in 1955 and also in 1956 but never repeated. A film projector that was available for use in the church was purchased and used often at the meetings of the Brotherhood. Films from many sources were shown. Curbing around the church property was put there during two different years, through organization and hard work of its membership. A dehumidifier for the basement was another project completed. The Sunday School helped make this purchase with surplus funds they had available at that time.

A common goal of the membership was to encourage a doctor and a dentist to locate in Tripp. Ads were placed in the Lutheran Standard and in the Minneapolis Tribune, but all was to no avail. The first sound system was purchased with money raised by a sausage supper. Brotherhood members waited tables, washed dishes and cheerfully saw that the project was completed successfully. New sod was laid in the curb areas by the group one night; another night was spent refinishing church pews. Probably the final completed project of this organization was the acquisition of the table in the church entry which holds our guest book and provides some drawer space. All in all, not a bad track record for just a few men who were willing to see things which needed to be done and did them, and at the same time sharing the knowledge gained from the topics and discussions which took place. Incidentally, Walter Isaak was the first President of the Dakota District Brotherhood.

LUTHER LEAGUE

Most of the official Luther League records have been lost, but much information has been gleaned from experienced opinions and the few remaining records.

The Luther League was started by Rev. Gamb about 1939. The charter members were these Leaguers:

Elmer Geigle	Werner Hieb
Norman Vogel	Phyllis Knappe
Reinhold Vogel	Marvin Mueller
Luverne Zeitner	Helen Dobler
Ed Zeitner	Laverne Reiner

A male quartet from the league provided special music at the Dakota District Luther League Convention in Jamestown, N.D., in 1940. All meetings generally consisted of topic presentation and discussion.



1986 Luther League. Back row, from left to right: Angie Weber, Kristi Hieb, Linda Bietz, Amy Herr, Jennifer Mueller, Jáy Hieb. Front row, left to right: John Friman and David Brunken.

Table Tennis was often played following the early meetings and no meeting has been complete without lunch. Fellowship with other Leaguers has been important to the young people.

Conference and district conventions were usually attended by some of the Leaguers. National meetings provide a sense of excitement and commitment that's hard to match.

In 1949, Audrey, Doris, and Helen Rae Mueller attended the National Convention in Pullman, Washington. Helen Rae Mueller attended a National Convention on the campus of Texas A&M at Bryan, Texas, in 1955. In 1958, she was honored by being chosen as the organist and pianist of the national convention in Ithica, NY. These two conventions were also attended by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mueller.

In 1964, the national convention in Detroit, Michigan, was attended by Mildred Bueber, Lois Langholz, and Joan Vetter. Joan Vetter also attended the convention in Seattle, Washington, with Diane Bueber. Kathy Schelske attended the national gathering in New York in 1970.

In June of 1977 League fellowship found a different form. Nancy Herr joined about a dozen other bikers including Rev. James Oines of St. Peter's (rural Armour and Corsica parish) on a week long bike trip from St. Peter's (rural Armour), Pickstown, through Springfield, Yankton, Menno, Tripp, and rural Armour.

The Luther League meets monthly from Sept.-May. Meetings generally consist of business meeting, Bible study, discussion topics, and often films. The pastors have usually met with the young people except for a period of about ten years when adult supervision was provided by Willmer Herr. For the past four years, Stan Hieb and Joel Vetter have assisted pastors with supervision.

The League has participated in a variety of projects and activities through the years.

Although many fund-raising activities have been held, an annual soup and sandwich luncheon has become part of First American tradition. Other activities include car washes, selling Christmas cards and Bake Sales.

Some of the funds were used to sponsor a child through Lutheran Social Services annually.

The Luther League has held a Candlelight Service each Christmas season. The service is done entirely by the young people. The offerings from these services have been given to The Martin Luther Children's Home at Beatrice, NB.

Christmas caroling at the homes of congregation members as well as the Good Samaritan Center is also one of the activities held annually.

Youth rallies are held each year with Luther Leagues of other area churches. The rallies consist of recreation, worship, Bible study, special speakers, camp fires and fellowship. Each league is responsible for one part of the rally.

The League also conducts some of the church services when pastors are on vacation.

In 1984, a Sunday morning discussion group was started using material from Augsburg Publishing House.

Some of the social functions include hay rides, roller skating, volleyball, Halloween parties, fishing trips, picnics, campouts, sledding, Augustana days, bowling, and a fun time at the YMCA. These activities are usually held in conjunction with other church youth groups from the community.

The last large project of the Leaguers was planning for and attending the National Youth Gathering in Denver, Colorado in 1985. In the fall of 1984 the group started raising funds. Soup and Sandwich luncheons, pie auctions, Seder Feast, serving of coffee and bars after Lenten services, car washes, paper and aluminum can drives, and bake sales all helped raise money for the expenses. The ten members attending included: Bobbi Jo Albrecht, Linda Bietz, Dave Brunken, John Friman, Amy Herr, Jay Hieb, Kristi Hieb, Gail Mogck, Jennifer Mueller, and Angie Weber. They were accompanied by Pastor Skaar and Stan and Carol Hieb.



Pastor Jon Skaar at a Sunday morning worship service in 1986.



Choir on Easter Sunday 1986.



Members of the choir in 1944, from right to left are: Back row, Fred Mueller, Archie Schmidt, Roger Eastman, Marvin Mueller, Gerhardt Schaal, Rev. Schnaidt, Norman Vogel, Paul Knappe, Edward Zeitner; Middle row, Gertrude Dobler, Elsa Mueller, Adena Tschetter, Mary Zeitner, Fern Rembold, Mrs. Schnaidt, Margaret Schult, Selma Emme, Adelle Johnson; Front row, Ruth Vogel, Margaret Lilly, Esther Schaal, Elestine Tiede, Ella Schaal, Helen Eastman, Lois Emme, Viola Mikuska.

TRIPP/DELMONT PARISH

The strong ties between Hope Lutheran of Delmont and First American Lutheran of Tripp are long-standing.

In 1911, Pastor Hein was granted permission by the congregation to serve Delmont every third Sunday and Mt. Vernon every sixth Sunday. In June the plan was altered giving Mt. Vernon Pastor Hein's service every fourth Sunday. Sermon readers were used when the pastor was not in attendance.

In 1917, the Delmont and Tripp parishes decided upon another agreement. Rev. Hein began serving Tripp two Sundays and Delmont the third. Tripp paid \$800 salary; Delmont paid \$400 plus the travel expense.

In 1918, the two congregations formed a committee to determine the feasibility of a joint parish. Through 1924 various plans of permanent relationships were offered by one congregation to be rejected by the other. In 1919, Pastor Taeuber began having services in Tripp in the mornings and in Delmont in the afternoons; the salary was equally shared. In 1924, Delmont began paying \$100 toward parsonage upkeep.

1928 brought another change, Delmont being served every other Sunday. Hope continued paying one-half of the salary but no longer made a contribution toward the parsonage.

Discussion again centered on the forming of a two-point parish in 1930. The two congregations decided to call a pastor and share the costs and salary according to the number of communicants. The parsonage was to belong to both churches but would be Tripp's if the two-point parish dissolved.

Calls were sent to Rev. Baumgartner, Rev. Bradow, Rev. Taubert, Rev. Weidendorfer, and Rev. Seitzinger.

In 1932, Tripp presented another plan to Delmont. The plan dissolved the parish and returned to a plan of shared salary. Confirmation instruction was to be in Delmont for the first half of the year and in Tripp for the second half. The confirmation service was to be in Tripp.

In 1938, Tripp decided to call a pastor alone.

Hope Lutheran and First American Lutheran again became a two-point parish in 1968, a relationship which continues today. Expenses are again shared on the basis of the number of baptized membership. Each directs its own programs with an annual joint-council meeting.

The two congregations, separately and together an extension of Christ's ministry, continue to share a minister. Hopefully, this relationship will continue to flourish for many years into the future.

YEARS WITH THE PASTORS

Rev. G.A. Bischoff (1886-1896)

In 1886, soon after the founding of the City of Tripp, our congregation was organized by the Rev. G.A. Bischoff and 14 families. Our first church was built in 1887 and in 1896 became an independent congregation separating from the Immanuel Parish.

Rev. Herman Koepp (1897-1898)

Rev. G.A. Bischoff (1899-1900)

Rev. August Hein (1900-1918)

Having passed through storms and disturbances, the church was now experiencing years of growth. In 1901 a school building was erected and in 1903 a parsonage was bought. At a cost of \$6500 the present church building was constructed in 1910, with the dedication occurring Nov. 6th of that year. A major policy decision occurring during Rev. Hein's ministry was that he was to baptize and preside at funerals and weddings of members only. A vote of 13 to 9 in favor of continuing to observe 2nd festival days such as Christmas and Easter was also taken. This observance was to be strictly enforced. On June 4, 1906, the policy of ringing the church bell to announce the death of church members was also begun with the number of tolls being used to distinguish between young and old members. First and second sermon readers continued to be used. Wedding marches played in the church were allowed beginning in 1911 and on May 27, 1912, the bell was rung during the Lord's Prayer.

Other policy changes were that a resolution was passed in 1916 that no lodge members would be given church membership, debts would be paid off by dues assessment and Missionfest Sunday changed to 2nd Sunday in August. The free-will offering concept began during these years.

Rev. Richard Taeuber (1918-1930)

These were years of major emphasis on missions which followed with the selection of Rev. Taeuber as Executive Secretary of Foreign Missions in New Guinea following his service to our congregation. Major policy changes were: All young men 21 years old were considered voting members; agreement with a state legislative bill allowing absence from school for church instruction; a request of the young people to step aside and let elders leave the church first; the name of the congregation changed on January 6, 1925, to First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tripp.



Pastor Taeuber was given permission in 1925 to supply a substitute for himself when he needed to be gone for mission work. Rev. Arnold Bunge would be interim pastor for 6 months in 1929 to further allow for this. The six month service was extended to a year that July.

Rev. J.L. Seitzinger (1931)

During the eight months of service for Rev. Seitzinger the church bell was dedicated and a decision was made to once again have the coffin at funerals to the front of the church on the north side.



Rev. C. Bartels (1932-1938)

The primary highlight of Rev. Bartel's service was the congregation celebrating its Golden Jubilee. Speakers for the occasion included Rev. R. Taeuber, Rev. L.C. Weitzenkamp and Rev. August Hein.

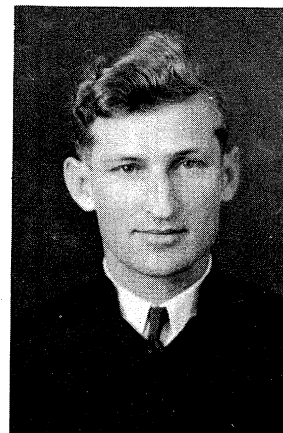
Rev. W. Gamb (1938-1942)

Pastor Gamb was called primarily to assist in holding on to and activating the young of the congregation. To show his interest in doing this, part of the installation service conducted by his father-in-law, Rev. Hein, was in English. During Rev. Gamb's stay the new basement was built and a Hammond organ installed. Policy changes during Rev. Gamb's years were the implementation of a new financial system of duplex envelopes; women agreeing to clean the church alternating in pairs; the acceptance of the new constitution of the A.L.C. in 1939. The new name of First American Lutheran was adopted on January 2, 1940. Congregation members could use the new basement for a fee.



Rev. Gustav V. Schnaidt (1942-1946)

The major remembrance during Rev. Schnaidt's term was the purchasing of the stained glass windows to honor the congregation's war losses. It was also in 1944 that the new church name was incorporated in the county and state.

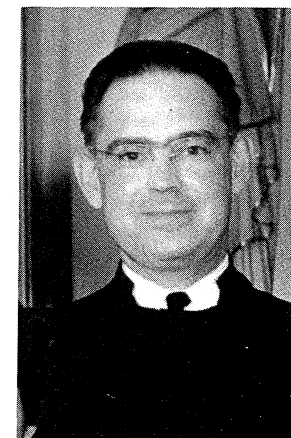


Rev. John Kammerer (1946-1949)

Major renovations occurred during these years, especially to the interior of the church such as the stained glass windows by the altar. It was also in 1948 that our new parsonage was built at a cost of \$13,200 and dedicated on December 12.

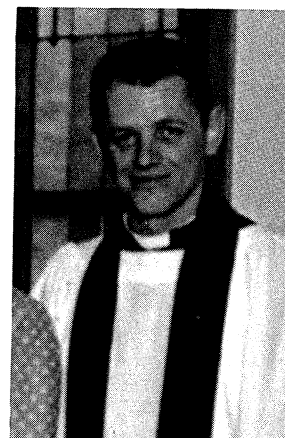
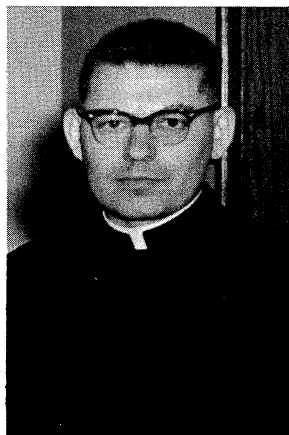
Rev. Walter Hummel (1950-1953)

These were relatively quiet years with major renovation taking place in the church's kitchen.



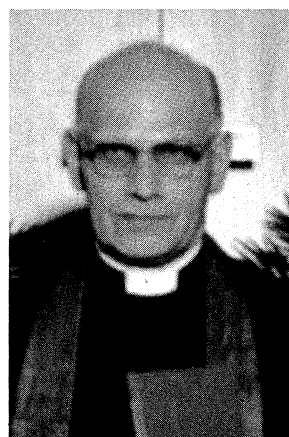
Rev. Albert Wagner (1953-1958)

Rev. Wagner, having come to us out of Warburg seminary, brought a new era to our church as services now were only in English and the youth of the church received more attention. An example of this was the junior choir taking a tour of area congregations. Pew racks were installed, a version of the monthly newsletter was begun, a great deal of work was completed in various areas of church property upkeep. It was also during this time that heated debates took place on whether or not a new church building should be built or improvements made to our existing structure with the latter choice being followed. A major policy change was to go to a three-year confirmation instruction program with confirmation taking place at age fifteen. Perhaps the most noticeable change that began during Rev. Wagner's years was the change of the face of the church as the towers came down and other exterior renovations were made.



Rev. James Uden (1965-1968)

Wartburg seminary once more provided a graduating seminarian for our congregation. The years of ecumenism began with our efforts on joint Halloween fund drives and the celebration of the Reformation. The thrust of Pastor Uden's ministry was to help the people accept the changing patterns of living in our rural society. In 1967 the printing of all names and their personal church contributions took place.

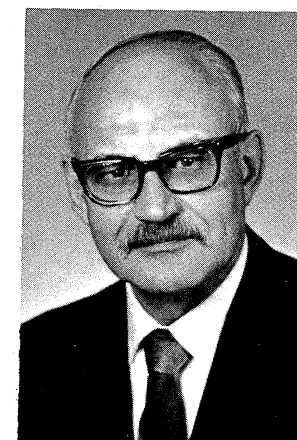


Rev. W.O. Langholz (1959-1964)

Major events during these years were the 75th anniversary of the founding of our congregation and the years 1959-1962 when many new members were taken in as members primarily from the Dennewitz congregation. Those quarterly financial statements we are accustomed to receiving were begun in 1963.

Rev. Erwin Groth (1968-1981)

These were the years of the formation of a joint parish with Hope Lutheran in Delmont. The focus of the ALC on Preaching, Teaching and Reaching (a philosophy established in 1963) continued during this time. Major changes were not to occur but some new items were the reactivating of a senior choir in 1968; the beginning of our annual candlelight service in 1969; the opening of a church office building downtown; and the purchase of our current hymnals and instruction necessary for their proper use. A policy statement in 1972 allowed clergymen of different faiths in our church under special situations such as mixed marriages. In 1972 the printing of contributions in our annual report by name was also discontinued, and in 1974 it was mentioned that ladies be considered for position as conference delegates and to serve on the church council. The pledge system was reinstated for a period of time in 1975.



PASTORS AND THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE...1886-1986

Rev. Gerhard Landgrebe (1981-1983)

The years of Rev. Landgrebe were cut short by his illness of the lymph system. The congregation fondly remembers the heroic effort and dedication of this learned man of God.



Rev. A.E. (Gene) Loken (1983)

Pastor A. E. (Gene) Loken, the Interim Pastor of the South Dakota District of the ALC, served this congregation from March through June of 1983. This was following the untimely death of Pastor Landgrebe. During this ministry lay assistants were used during distribution of the Elements at Communion, and children assembled in front during the worship for a message prepared for them. Pastor Jon Skaar accepted the call to serve as pastor, coming from the Moe Parish, to which the Interim Pastor went and served.

Rev. Jon Skaar (1983-)

Since Rev. Skaar became pastor, our Communion celebration has become more family oriented. In 1984 the whole family was invited to come forward with non-communicants receiving a blessing. In 1985 First American Lutheran followed the recommendation of the ALC that ten-year olds could receive the Sacrament and First Communion Classes were begun.



Rev. G. August Bischoff.....	1886-1896
Rev. Herman Koeppel	1897-1898
Rev. G. August Bischoff.....	1899-1900
Rev. August Hein	1900-1918
Rev. Richard Taeuber	1918-1930
Rev. John L. Seitzinger.....	1931-1932
Rev. Carl Bartels	1932-1938
Rev. Werner Gamb.....	1938-1942
Rev. Gustav Schnaidt	1942-1946
Rev. John Kammerer	1946-1949
Rev. Walter Hummel.....	1950-1953
Rev. Albert Wagner.....	1953-1958
Rev. Walter O. Langholz.....	1959-1964
Rev. James Uden	1965-1968
Rev. Erwin Groth	1968-1981
Rev. Gerhardt Landgrebe	1981-1983
Rev. A.E. (Gene) Loken (Interim Pastor)	1983
Rev. Rev. Jon Skaar.....	1983-

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1886....Fourteen families organized the Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- 1887....A church was built on Lot 12 of Block 10 in Tripp, SD.
- 1896....The church was officially incorporated.
- 1900....The first resident pastor, Rev. A. Hein, was called.
- 1901....First school house was built.
- 1903....A new parsonage was bought.
- 1910....A new church was built.
- 1911....Tabitha Ladies Aid was organized.
- 1913....Second school house was built east of the church.
- 1918....First worship service was conducted in English.
- 1925....Name was changed to First Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- 1939....The church basement was dug to add needed S.S. space.
- 1940....Name was changed to First American Lutheran Church.
- 1948....Present parsonage was built.
- 1958....Church towers were cut down and interior of church remodeled.
- 1959-
- 1962....Many members were received from the Dennewitz Parish.
- 1968....A two-point parish was established with Delmont.
- 1985....Pre-confirmation Communion was made available to Fifth Graders.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Albrecht, Jerry and Kayleen
 Bobbi Jo
 Roger
 Linda
 Albrecht, Mrs. Edna
 Albrecht, John
 Batterman, Albert and Erma
 Batterman, Glen and Cindy
 Carrie
 Nicole
 Stephanie
 Batterman, Helmuth and Metha
 Bietz, Arthur A.
 Bietz, Arthur H. and Rose
 Bietz, Elmer and Carol
 Todd
 Linda
 Bietz, Jerry and Karen
 Chad
 Bietz, Wayne and Tammy
 Bietz, Larry and Connie
 Robert
 Monte
 LeAndra
 Bietz, Jon and Leigh Anne
 Bietz, Maynard and La Verne
 Marlyn
 James
 Richard
 Bietz, Mrs. Martha
 Bietz, Raymond G. and Idella
 Jason
 Breitzkreutz, Mrs. Ruth
 Timothy
 Breitzkreutz, Arthur
 Brunken, Leonard and Delores
 David
 Bueber, Alvin and Loretta
 Bueber, Bernhard and Regina
 Bueber, Duane and Bonnie
 Andrew
 Bueber, Maurice and Deborah
 Jonathon
 James
 Bueber, Oscar and Gertrude
 Bueber, Raymond and Darlene
 Alan
 Glenn

Buehner, Mrs. Yvonne
 Buhmann, Robert and Beverly
 Drier, Clint
 Fechner, Mrs. Margaret
 Fechner, Ms. Lorentina
 Fechner, Ernest and Ernestine
 Freier, John and Viola
 Friederich, Arnold and Florein
 Robert
 Larry
 Friederich, Mrs. Bertha
 Friederich, Eugene
 Friederich, Howard and Jeannie
 Dawn
 Debra
 Dean
 Friederich, Leonard and Peggy
 Kevin
 Friederich, Maynard
 and Charlotte
 Susan
 Friederich, Raymond and Alvera
 Friederich, Mrs. Hulda
 Friederich, Willard and Arlene
 Judy
 Friman, Kenneth and Dorothy
 John
 Fuerst, Clinton and Olinda
 Dennis
 Douglas
 Robert
 Rachel
 Geigle, Mrs. Pauline
 Groth, Rev. Erwin and Marion
 Hansen, Raymond and Sherry
 Traci
 Kelly
 Shane
 Shelly
 Hartman, Eugene and Rosemary
 Breitzkreutz, Jeff
 Hegler, Mrs. Erna
 Herman, Dale and Lori
 Herr, Willmer and Wilma
 John
 Amy
 Herr, Nancy
 Ashley

Hieb, Mrs. Anna
 Hieb, Stanley and Carol
 Jay
 Kristi
 Huether, Roger and Karen
 Rebecca
 Tammy
 Teresa
 Brenda
 Isaak, Walter and Laura
 Jerke, Gary and Jan
 Kristopher
 Heidi
 Jerke, Mrs. Emma
 Kludt, Arthur and Joan
 Kludt, Melvin and Darlene
 Konstanz, Leo and Ernestine
 Krueger, Mrs. Lenora
 Kurtz, Mrs. Emma
 Lippert, Mrs. Tina
 Mach, Mrs. Viola
 James
 Louise
 Mehlhaff, Roger and Gail
 Kimberly
 Corey
 Jill
 Mikuska, E.E.
 Mikuska, Ray and Lillie
 Mikuska, Mrs. Viola
 Mogck, David and Candyce
 Damon
 Justin
 Mogck, Oliver and Norma
 Susan (Mrs. J. Abbott)
 Brian
 Gail
 Mueller, Mrs. Anna
 Mueller, Ms. Margean
 Mueller, Larry and Connie
 Derek
 Mueller, Marvin and Helen
 Marc
 Lynn
 Jennifer
 Permann, Steve and Joyce
 Ryan
 Prien, Henry and Rose
 Roth, Marvin and Hilda

Roth, Alvin M.
 Brian
 Schaal, Mrs. Elda
 Schaal, Otto
 Schaefer, Mrs. Irene
 Schelske, Scott and Judy
 Robert
 Paul
 Thomas
 Michael
 Schuh, Gideon and Agatha
 Larry
 Charmaine
 Schult, Ms. Margaret
 Skaar, Rev. Jon and Jane
 Chris
 Philip
 Tiede, Ernest and Emma
 Tjornehoj, Mrs. Hulda
 Vetter, Ervin and Olive
 Myra
 Vetter, Joel and Pam
 Jennifer
 Jason
 Vetter, Julius and Elda
 Vetter, Mrs. Julie
 Vetter, Roland and Ann
 Weber, Mrs. Ruth
 Weber, Ben and Irene
 Weber, Dan and Karen
 Angela
 Chad
 Susan
 Weber, James and Myra
 Michael
 Lisa
 Weisz, Mrs. Hattie
 Whitlock, Debra
 Ryan
 Wormsbecher, Mrs. Viola
 Zeitner, Mrs. Mary
 Zeitner, Edward and Glendora

NOT FOR JUST 100 YEARS, BUT FOR ETERNITY

Not for one hundred years
But for eternity
We thank You, Lord and Father
Of this church today.
Be with us now,
We pray your blessing on this church forevermore.

Be with us on this day.
O, Jesus, Lord and King.
Instill in us the patience
Of our founding folk
Through sweat and tears,
Hearts full of faith
With Trust in Thee
They built this church.

They came from distant lands
A New World to behold
Excitement flowed within their
Hearts, as well as fear.
Yet they found peace, among
the hardships, Lord, they
Put their trust in Thee.

Not for one hundred years,
But for eternity.
Your spirit rests upon this
Church and in our hearts,
And on this day
We pledge allegiance to You, Lord forevermore.

.....Willmer Herr

This may be sung to the tune of hymn 401 in *Lutheran Book of Worship*.