

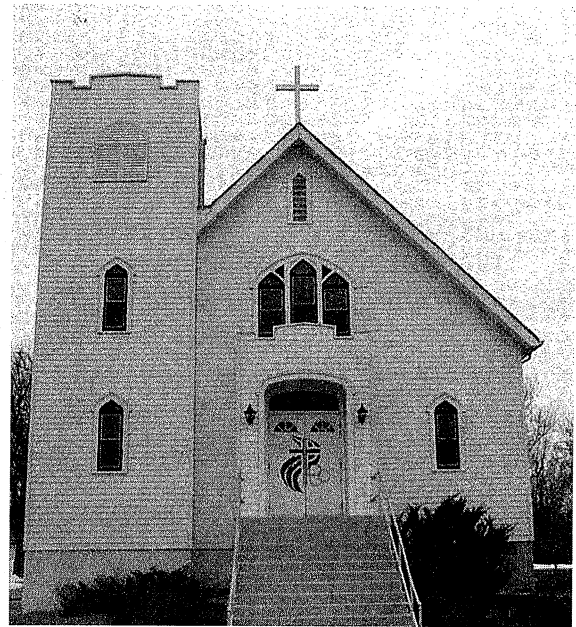


1901-1928

*Hope  
Lutheran  
Church*

Delmont, SD

**A  
Century  
Of  
Hope**

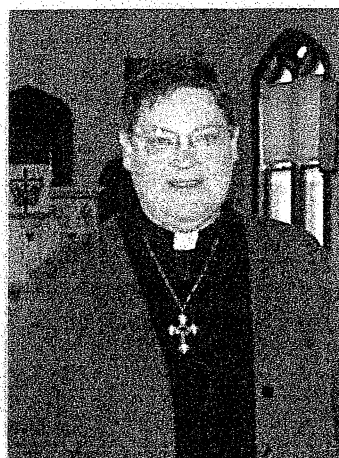


1928-2001

*Centennial Celebration  
April 21 and 22, 2001*

# *Hope Lutheran Church*

**Delmont, S. D.**



Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of all our members, welcome back home to Hope Lutheran Church in Delmont, South Dakota. We hope you'll enjoy the happenings and the feasting and that your spiritual cup will be filled in the Sunday morning worship service. We hope you'll enjoy visiting with the others who are also here because of a faith connection with Hope.

Hope was founded in April of 1901. To nobody's surprise this weekend, that means we're celebrating our centennial. We come together to remember our hundred years of rich history and also to celebrate the beginning of our second century of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. We thank God for the many blessings our congregation has enjoyed over the years, and we pray to continue to be a blessing in our neighborhood and the world through our ministry and mission.

I personally don't know the story of how Hope came to be named "Hope." Nevertheless, I'm certain I know just how precious God's gift of hope would have been to Hope's foreparents for it's just as precious to us today.

As children of God, we live in resurrection hope. We are right with God through our Lord Jesus Christ and what he has lovingly done for us in the mystery of the cross. Christ has promised salvation to all who believe. This promise of the gift of salvation is already here in the new life we have in Christ and will be fulfilled in heaven someday. We can dare to live in resurrection hope because we trust that Christ is keeping his promises.

I, for one, am really looking forward to meeting up with the saints of this congregation who have passed before and who now rest in the glory of the Lord. And if this centennial history/program book doesn't tell me how Hope got it's name, then I'm going to be asking some of Hope's foreparents about it when I get to heaven. I invite you to do the same.

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* (Romans 12:12)

In Christ's Love,  
Rev. Anna M. Peck

## Hope Lutheran Church Centennial Celebration

**Saturday Evening Program**

**April 21, 2001 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Delmont School Gym**

Welcome and Blessing	Pastor Anna Peck
Banquet	catered by Lueken Catering Service
Bishop Robert Mattheis	Son of the Congregation
Sunday School	“He’s Got the Whole World In His Hands”
Children’s Sermon	Pastor Elly Wierschke
Rev. William Fink	Son of the Congregation
The Fink Family	“We Are His Hands”
Elmer Misterek	Long-time Member
Hope Mixed Choir	“Bind Us Together”
Pastor Jon Skaar	Pastor 1983-1998
Pastor Anna Peck	“How Great Thou Art”

(Congregation Joins on Refrain)

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CENTENNIAL

WORSHIP SERVICE

APRIL 22



# Hope Lutheran Church Delmont, South Dakota

## *Second Sunday of Easter* CENTENNIAL WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday, April 22, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

### Preludes

- Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness . . . . . p. 56  
\* Processional Hymn . . . . . *Lift High the Cross* . . . . . #377  
\* Apostolic Greeting . . . . . p. 57  
\* Kyrie . . . . . p. 57  
\* Hymn of Praise *This Is the Feast* . . . . . p. 60  
\* Salutation (p. 62) and Prayer of the Day (unison)

Almighty and Most High God, whom the heavens cannot contain, we give you thanks for the gifts of those who have built this house of prayer to your glory; we praise you for the fellowship of those who by their use have made it holy; and we pray that all who seek you here may find you and be filled with your joy, your peace, and your hope; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Welcome and Announcements . . . . . Russ Dozark  
Greeting from the Bishop's Office of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, by  
Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. David G. Larson  
Hope Sunday School Choir *We Know that God Loves Us*  
Hope Luther League Choir *On Eagle's Wings*

### First Lesson

#### **Acts 5:27-32**

When they had brought [the apostles], they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

*(Sunday Morning Worship, page 1)*

Psalm (read responsively)                      **Psalm 150**

Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple;  
praise him in the firmament of his power.

**Praise him for his mighty acts;  
praise him for his excellent greatness.**

Praise him with the blast of the ram's horn;  
praise him with lyre and harp.

**Praise him with timbrel and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe.**

Praise him with resounding cymbals;  
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!**

Second Lesson                                      **Revelation 1:4-8**

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Hope German Choir    *Gott ist die Liebe*

\* Verse    *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?* ..... p. 66

\* Gospel    **John 20:19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*(Sunday Morning Worship, page 2)*

Sermon .....	Bishop Robert W. Mattheis	
Hymn of the Day .....	<i>O Zion, Haste</i> .....	<b>#397</b>
* Nicene Creed .....		p. 64
* Prayers of the Church		
* Sharing the Peace		
Offering		
First American Men's Group	<i>Step into the Water</i>	
Hope Centennial Choir	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i>	
* Offertory	<i>Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord</i> .....	p. 66
* Great Thanksgiving and Preface .....		p. 68
* Words of Institution .....		p. 69
* Lord's Prayer .....		p. 71
Hymns During Communion		
	<i>Just as I Am, without One Plea</i> .....	<b>#296</b>
	<i>Beautiful Savior</i> .....	<b>#518</b>
	<i>O Master, Let Me Walk with You</i> .....	<b>#492</b>
	<i>Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me</i> .....	<b>#333</b>
* Communion Blessing .....		p. 72
* Post-Communion Canticle . . .	<i>Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise</i> . . . .	p. 72
* Post-Communion Prayer .....		p. 74
* Benediction and Dismissal .....		p. 74
* Recessional Hymn . . . .	<i>Let All Things Now Living</i> .....	<b>#557</b>
Postludes		

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**Welcome to this centennial worship celebration!** The members of Hope Lutheran Church welcome all visitors. We're glad you're here with us to worship and praise God on this special day. We extend a special welcome and thank you to all former pastors and spouses and Sons/Daughters of the congregation and spouses. What a joy it is to gather as people of God, to celebrate and thank God for Hope's 100 years of ministry and mission. Our prayer as we go forth is as expressed in the centennial theme verse:  
***Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*** (Romans 12:12)

**Centennial Sunday Dinner** Everyone is invited to the pork barbecue at the Delmont School Gym following this service. An informal program will accompany the meal. Any and all free-will donations will be greatly appreciated. Come, join us!

*(Sunday Morning Worship, page 3)*

## **CENTENNIAL WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

*Thank you to one and all!*

**Preaching:** Bishop Robert W. Mattheis

**Presiding:** Pastor Anna M. Peck

**Assisting:** Pastor Eugene Boschee, Pastor William W. Fink  
Pastor Marvin Ketterling, Assistant Bishop David G. Larson, Pastor Jon R. Skaar

**Communion Assistants:** Wanda Anderson, Ervin Bietz

David Bitterman, Mary Gunnare

**Crucifer:** Richard Bitterman

**Banner Bearer:** Matthew Gunnare

**Acolytes:** Amber Matson, Sara Lagg

**Organist:** Ruth Fink

**Pianists:** Stephanie Bitterman, Becky Fechner

**Ushers:** Darold Bitterman, Brad Brosz, Russ Dozark

Mike Fechner, Doug Gunnare, Brad Lagg

**Bell Ringer:** Darold Bitterman

**Ministers and Missionaries:** All those gathered to worship today.

**Holy Communion** The Lutheran Church teaches "real presence," that we receive Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine; and that Holy Communion is Christ's gift for life, salvation, and the forgiveness of sins. We invite baptized Christians of other denominations to commune with us who are accepting of our teaching and want to do so. Parents are invited to bring babies and small children for a blessing. We will offer Communion at two stations in the front of the sanctuary and the basement (as needed) in a continuous-flow manner. The ushers will direct you.

**Receiving Line** Weather permitting, the pastors will greet the congregation outdoors following the service. They will also be forming a receiving line at the school gym for those who are staying for the meal.

**Acknowledgment** Thank you to all who gave flowers to beautify the chancel. They are greatly appreciated. We hold in sacred memory Hope members who now rest from their labors and in whose memory flowers have been given.

**Acknowledgment** Aid Association for Lutherans, Branch 1000, has given a gift of \$1,000 towards centennial expenses. "Thank you!"

**Centennial Offering** A portion of today's offering will go towards a mission project to be determined by the Hope Church Council. The remainder will go to Hope's ongoing ministry. If you wish to designate your offering in some other way please indicate it accordingly; there are special offering envelopes available from the ushers for those who wish to use them. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and will be put to good use in carrying out Christ's mission and ministry through Hope Lutheran Church.

**(Sunday Morning Worship, page 4)**

## Gott ist die Liebe

(1) Gott ist die Liebe, lässt mich erlösen;  
Gott ist die Liebe, er liebt auch mich.  
Drum sag ich noch einmal: Gott ist die Liebe,  
Gott ist die Liebe, er liebt auch mich.

*God loves me dearly, grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

(2) Ich lag in Banden, der schnöden Sünde;  
Ich lag in Banden und konnt' nicht los.  
Drum sag ich noch einmal: Gott ist die Liebe,  
Gott ist die Liebe, er liebt auch mich.

*I was in bondage, sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working to make me free.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

(3) Jesus, mein Heiland gab sich zum Opfer;  
Jesus, mein Heiland, büsst meine Schuld.  
Drum sag ich noch einmal: Gott ist die Liebe,  
Gott ist die Liebe, er liebt auch mich.

*Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

BARBECUE

&

PROGRAM

APRIL 22

# Hope Lutheran Centennial Celebration

**Sunday Afternoon Program**

**April 22, 2001**

**Delmont School Gym**

Welcome and Blessing	Pastor Anna Peck
Barbecue dinner	Pork donated by Brad & Marcia Lagg Pork cooked by Hans Beehler Salads catered by Delmont Inn Cakes decorated and donated by Elaine Kurtz
Russell Dozark	present council president
Delbert Bitterman	past council president
David Bitterman	present Sunday school superintendent
Gertrude Brenner	past Sunday school superintendent
Luther League	"Listen, God Is Calling"
Douglas Bitterman	present Luther League advisor
Jay Grosz	past Luther League advisor
Hope Mixed Choir	"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
Ruth Fink	present WELCA president
Norma Bietz	past WELCA president
Albert Fink	past Lutheran Brotherhood officer
Lutheran Brotherhood First American, Tripp	"It's Alright Now"
Rev. William Fink	son of the congregation
Rev. Marvin Ketterling	Pastor 1955-1959
Rev. Eugene Boschee	Pastor 1959-1963
German Choir	"So nimm denn meine Hande"

Open Reminiscing

*Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me  
So nimm denn meine Hände*

(alternating English and German verses)

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;  
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.  
Without your grace and favor I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

*So nimm denn meine Hände und führe mich  
Bis an mein selg' Ende und ewiglich!  
Ich mag allein nicht gehen, nicht einen Schritt:  
Wo du wilst geh'n und stehen, da nimm mich mit.*

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;  
For you, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.  
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,  
For when your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

*In dein Erbarmen hülle mein schwaches Herz  
und mach es gänzlich stille in Freud' und Schmerz:  
lass ruhn zu deinen Füßen dein armes Kind:  
es will die Augen schllessen und glauben blind.*

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,  
I know that you will strengthen My steps toward home,  
And nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!  
So, take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

*Wenn ich auch gletch nichts fühle von deiner Macht.  
Du führst mich doch zum Ziele auch durch die Nacht:  
So nimm denn meine Hände, und führe mich  
Bis an mein selg' Ende und ewiglich.*



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CENTENNIAL

HISTORY

1901-2001

Hiermit erklären wir uns jeder Mann  
 unterschreibt, daß wir uns alle Glied der ev.  
 luth. Hoffnungs-Gemeinde aufgeben. Diese  
 Gemeinde besteht in Delmont South Dakota

Johannes Patzer  
 Jacob Weisz  
 Peter Winkler  
 Daniel Schultz  
 Valentin Hartz  
 Christopher Weisz

This declaration is the first entry in the Protocol (minutes) book. This entry is not dated. The above "declaration" is entered on page one.

The English translation of the above declaration is as follows:

We, the undersigned, do hereby declare that we are members of Evangelical Lutheran Hoffnungs Gemeinde (Hope Lutheran Church). This congregation being located in Delmont, South Dakota.

- Johannes Patzer
- Jacob Weisz
- Peter Winkler
- Daniel Schultz
- Valentin Hartz
- Christopher Weisz

On Sunday, 21 April, 1901, Pastor C. Goeken\* held a worship service in the Delmont Public School. After worship service a meeting was called to organize a self-standing congregation.

Those listed on page one of this minutes book became members of the new congregation.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The real history of Lutheranism must be credited to a few outstanding characters: The Lutheran Pioneer, his faithful wife and the pioneering Lutheran Pastor. There was character and conviction mixed with the determination and grit in the pioneers who pushed America's frontier northwestward through the Dakotas and Montana and as the population of the United States moved westward and immigrants came from the old country, the church was also planted in such areas. A large number of the pioneers who transformed these wild ranges into a great American bread basket were immigrants from South Russia. Our Christian pioneers did not only wish to come to a certain locality and there acquire a farm so they may be able to take care of themselves physically. They had more in their hearts. Religiously they were German Lutherans. The pioneers brought their religion with them. Their hearts were embedded in their Lord and Savior whom they had sworn to serve until He calls them home into eternity. Thus the Bible, Hymn Book, Catechism and the Prayer Book were their greatest treasures. As soon as a few families had settled in one locality, worship services were held, and if possible, a congregation and a house of prayer was erected.

These noble people knew that they were but pilgrims here on earth. Their true, happy and unending home is in heaven. The life here on earth is but a fore-life and life of preparation for greater things to come. Their deep concern was to worship and serve their Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

The congregation was organized with seven charter members. These members were: John Patzer, Jacob Weisz, Peter Winkler, Daniel Schultz, Valentine Hartz, Christoph Weisz and Johann Grosz. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, after worship services, it was decided to build a house of worship. In cooperation and Christian zeal these few went forward so that the cornerstone of the first church could be laid on August 4, 1901, with the prayer that God would let this beloved congregation grow in size and faith. The first deacons of the Hope Lutheran Church were Jacob Weisz and Peter Winckler. These two men served also as a building committee.

\* C. Goeken of the Iowa Synod was pastor at Immanuel Lutheran, five miles north of Delmont. Worship service was evidently held by Pastor Goeken every two weeks on Sunday afternoons.

The "kerchendiener" (janitor) was selected for the new church. A. Neu was elected for one year. It was discussed that maybe said janitor need not pay dues to pay the pastor.

The Hope Lutheran Church had a small beginning. The growth was rather slow and thus the congregation was not able to have its own full-time pastor. Until 1939 the congregation was served by the regular-called pastors of the St. Peter and Immanuel Congregations of rural Delmont and of the First American Congregation of Tripp, S. D.

As Christians, not only must we teach our young people loyalty to their country, but also that their first loyalty is to our Savior who redeemed us from sin on Calvary's hill. In the year 1912 the congregation built a schoolhouse and for a number of years parochial school was conducted. Due to war and other circumstances, this program was discontinued and never resumed. Among the notable teachers in this school we would mention Miss Erma Pempeit, Miss Gertrude Bischoff (later to marry George C. Landgrebe, the president of the Dakota District, A. L. C.), Miss G. Bunge and Miss Erna Suttinger. A session of daily Vacation Bible School now takes its place. Dedicated teachers, with various aids are making available to the children of the congregation the knowledge of the Bible so they may learn of their Lord and His love for them. "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

Luthereishe Hoffnungs Gemeinde (Hope Lutheran Church) incorporated on January 4, 1909.

From the formation of the congregation until 1911, the Pastor conducted the meetings and also recorded the minutes. In 1912, John Lehr began as secretary until 1922, when P. C. Misterek became secretary until 1936. J. Fink was elected secretary and served until 1947.

A committee was instructed to obtain some land for a cemetery in 1907; however, the cemetery committee was not able to obtain any until 1913, when they reported purchasing one acre of land located one mile north of town. Cemetery lots are to be 20x20 and be assigned as needed. Only those of the Lutheran faith may be buried there.

In June of 1917, an agreement was reached between the Delmont congregation and the Tripp congregation that Pastor Hein of Tripp serve our church. The pastor's salary was \$400.00 paid by Delmont and \$600.00 by Tripp with Delmont to pay for travel. Pastor Hein was installed on August 5, 1917 by Pastor Lehner. Pastor to be in Delmont every third Sunday.

It was voted upon and passed in January of 1926, that at the close of service, the men shall leave the church first and the children last.

Already in the last few years it became evident that the little church, for which the cornerstone was laid on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1901, had become too small to hold the congregation at its worship services comfortably. In January of 1928, a committee was named to determine the feasibility of remodeling or building new. The committee reported in May that it would be best to build a new church with the same purpose and determination as those that laid the foundation of the prior house of worship. So with great joy and thanksgiving to God, a new cornerstone was put in place on June 10, 1928, for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Delmont, S. D. in the name of the Triune God with the prayer that He will bless this project. May this congregation, in this house of worship, conduct only such services as bring glory to His name.

By this time Hope Lutheran had 31 families, 37 voting members and 4 widows. A list of names was placed in the cornerstone along with a Bible, translated into the German language by Dr. Martin Luther and a document of the constitution of this congregation. All instruction in school will follow Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism with the explanations of Dr. M. Reu; therefore, such a copy will be placed alongside the Bible. All the material found in the old cornerstone, certain synodical papers, and other papers and such of the day and age were included.

Pastor Richard Taeuber laid the cornerstone. Assisting in the ceremony were: Pastors Otto Brunsch of Menno, S. D.; P. Briest of Kaylor, S. D.; and August Bartels of Immanuel church north of Delmont.

#### DEDICATION

Dedication of the new building was held October 13, 1928 with morning, afternoon and evening services. A tent was put up on the church grounds and services were held in the church and in the tent. It was requested that those who worshiped in the church in the morning please go to the tent in the afternoon so that those who were in the tent in the morning could worship in the church. Pastors Tecklenburg and Bruntsch spoke in the tent and the choir sang at both afternoon services.

The congregation worked in unison on this house of God. The men, as usual, gave of themselves. The women gave the sum of \$239.00 for altar and pulpit cloths, and a carpet. The Ladies Aid gave \$248.50 toward the altar with the "Christus Statue". The young people provided \$168.00 for the stained glass windows, the altar chair, the pulpit lamp, the offering plates and the lectern. The youth group furnished the three-arm lights on the altar, the pulpit Bible and the large cross on the altar in the amount of \$86.00. The Sunday school provided the hymn board fully equipped for \$43.00. Mr. and Mrs. Gottfried Jerke purchased the beautiful pulpit. The lights were furnished by Wm. Mueller and his son, Dr. Emil Mueller of Chicago, in the amount of \$179.00. Other members purchased pews in the amount of \$31.00 each. A gift of a silver plate to place the communion ware on in the amount of \$35.00 was given by several members of the sister congregation at Tripp. By January 1, 1930, only \$148.91 was still owed on the new church building.

Financial support of the church was taken care of by "dues". Each family paid a set amount established by the church council. In January 1934, it was decided to have an offering every Sunday for the church treasury.

Services were mainly conducted in the German language until January 1939 when Pastor Pirner of Immanuel Lutheran Church was asked to find a neighboring pastor to conduct an English service once a month. Prior to that, English worship services were held occasionally on Sunday evenings beginning in January 1930. Both German and English services were held for many years. In July of 1949 it was voted to have 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services from Easter to October and 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. from then on with English services to be held first. On January 6, 1952, it was decided to have German and English combined services every other Sunday. (The time of change from German to English services was a very troublesome time for the congregation).

Pastors from St. Peter and the Immanuel Congregation of rural Delmont and First American Congregation of Tripp served our congregation until 1939 when it was decided to call a pastor to serve Hope Lutheran. Salary would be \$800.00 per year with "free" living quarters. A house was purchased from Mr. Scharpe in the amount of \$700.00. In July it was decided to have every other Sunday German or English services. 1 - German, 2 - English, 3 - English, 4 - German and English. On Sundays with two services, English service was at 9:00 a.m., Sunday school at 10:00 a.m. and German at 11:00 a.m.

The first member to be called from the congregation to serve in WWII in 1942 was R. Albrecht. (He was to lose his life in the war in the South Pacific.)

A house was purchased in March, 1939 to be used as a parsonage. That house was sold in 1944 and a house was purchased from Mr. Lehr to be used as the parsonage in April of 1944.

The council voted on June 14, 1946, to change the name of the congregation from "Hoffnungs Gemeinde" to Hope Lutheran Church. Church meeting reports were all kept in the German language until January 5, 1947, when it was voted that all reports be in the English language.

On August 7, 1959, it was moved and carried to have communion the first Sunday of every month beginning in October.

Offering envelopes were used beginning in January 1960. It was moved and carried that the first Sunday of every month plus Pentecost Sunday offerings be given to benevolence of the American Lutheran Church.

A communion railing made of oak and finished was installed in 1967. At this time the cross on the altar was removed so that the altar could be moved back.

Hope Lutheran Church was again served by pastors of the Tripp congregation from 1966 until March of 1968. The Tripp and Delmont church councils met April 25, 1968 and set up a two-point parish with Pastor Karl Fink to serve as Interim Pastor for both congregations indefinitely (until a permanent pastor could be obtained). The two-point parish agreement was very successful and in August of 1973 the parsonage was sold, since our pastor lives in Tripp, and it was not necessary for our congregation to own a parsonage.

We celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 20, 1976, with a planned 350 dinners at a cost of \$2.35 per plate.

A new outside bulletin board was installed in April 1978 and new hymnals were purchased in 1979.

This congregation has been the home church of several young people who have gone into the ministry or other church work. Pastor William Fink, Jr. who graduated in 1951, is now retired and lives in Wilmington, NC.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Kurtz were privileged to have three sons choose the ministry. Pastor Wilmer Kurtz (now deceased) graduated in June 1952 and was ordained into the ministry at Hope Lutheran and later into missionary work, serving as a missionary in New Guinea for thirteen years. He was on leave and attending college at the University in Vermillion, S. D. when he passed away late in 1969. Pastor Milbert Kurtz was ordained in 1965 and served 22 years in North Dakota (in Crosby, Center, Dickinson, Gackle, Thompson and Grand Forks). From 1986-1993 he served in Winston-Salem, NC and since then has been serving a rural church in Rowan County, NC. Dr. Norman Kurtz was ordained in Iowa, served as pastor in Youngstown, Ohio for a few years, returned to college in Boulder, Colo, and then served as Professor of Social Research at Brandeis University in Boston, Mass. He is retired and lives in Dover, Mass.

Pastor Robert Mattheis, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Mattheis, was pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lodi, California, and is now serving as a Bishop in California and lives in Oakland, CA. Pastor Reuben Pirner graduated from the seminary and was ordained at Hope Lutheran Church in 1956. After serving in Washington State he is now retired and lives in Apple Valley, MN. Jeanette (Baier) Young graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa in 1965 with a degree in social work. She moved to Havre, Montana where she had a position as a social worker with the ALC Church there.

As with all older buildings, it takes a lot of work keeping it in good shape. Therefore, the past twenty years have seen a lot of structural work. The back entryway was replaced during the summer of 1980, the basement floor was replaced in 1987 due to water problems, combination storm windows were put in upstairs, and the entire church was resided in 1999. To help finance these projects, several fund raisers were held and matching funds received from Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans.

Growth in the church has been steady. The first fifty years there were 196 confirmed and in the last fifty years there were 199 confirmed. 174 were baptized during the first fifty years and 173 the past fifty years. At this time there are 121 baptized members and 107 confirmed members.

The mission spirit in the congregation is an indication of spiritual life. Hope Lutheran has a fine record in the support of missions. Our congregation has supported the church at large very well, and the mission work is indeed a blessing. Through teamwork and individual efforts, many unchurched have been contacted through the years and brought into the folds of the congregation. To this end we are called, for our task is to help save souls for Christ.

Pastor Joe Somogao of Papua, New Guinea, spent September through November of 1986 as a guest assistant pastor to Pastor Skaar. He spent a year in the United States (3 months each at four different congregations) as part of an exchange program through the ALC.

### **Sunday School**

Our Sunday School has always been under the watchful eye of the congregation, for a good training in Sunday School today will give us a strong church tomorrow. Registration in Sunday School has dropped drastically through the years. At present there are only eight pupils but perfect attendance on any given Sunday is not uncommon. This excellent attendance record indicates that parents and pupils are concerned about the spiritual needs in our lives. These same young people also attend Vacation Bible School for a week during the summer. From the years 1995 to 1999 there was great difficulty in getting enough teachers for the summer classes so, working together with First American Lutheran Church in Tripp, we had Day Camp conducted by young people from the NeSoDak Bible Camp at Waubay. We were again able to have traditional Bible School the summer of 2000 combined with First American in Tripp. The theme for the session was "Outback Expedition".

### **Music**

Music has been an important part of the worship service throughout the years. Because of the desire to praise the Lord in song, various choirs have been organized—youth, senior and men's choirs. Organists also have contributed much to the worship service. Past organists include: Gottfried Jerke, Helen (Fink) Herrboldt, Anetta (Ruff) Popkin, Gloria (Brosz) Kurtz, Mrs. Adolph Grade, Jeanne (Semmler) Larson, Leona (Bietz) Beehler, Doris (Fink) Lippert, Jeanette (Schmierer) Pilgrim, Mrs. Ben Nepodal, Audrey (Semmler) Wessender, Mrs. Art Lang, Sandra Jerke, Mrs. Erna Brosz, Rosella (Sally Brosz) Fecteau, Mrs. Erwin Groth, Richard Fink, Wanda (Bietz) Weber, Becky Fechner and Stephanie Bitterman. Our present organist is Ruth Fink.



## ORGANIZATIONS

The one purpose of the church is to build the Kingdom of God. Each and every member has been given a special assignment by Jesus Christ in His church. The true follower of Christ is conscious of his Christian obligations and asks, "How can I do this work most effectively?" Best results are obtained by united efforts. For this reason a forward-minded congregation has its organizations in which group work can be accomplished. The societies foster good fellowship and are an aid in our growth in spiritual life. In their sphere they must be handmaidens to the congregation itself. Thus they have functioned in the past, are still functioning today, and will continue to function until the last day. Their task is to carry on the Lord's work in the congregation, and this work will continue until "night cometh when one works no more." The oldest such organization in our congregation is the Ladies' Aid.

### **Hope Lutheran Church Women**

The first ladies' organization was founded on October 22, 1922, when a group of ladies gathered in the home of Mrs. Paul Misterek for the sole purpose of organizing a Ladies' Aid. The name "Bethanian Verein" was chosen. Charter members were: Mrs. John Brost, Mrs. Gottfried Herbst, Miss Beata Jassman, Mrs. Conrad Laib, Mrs. John Lehr, Mrs. Jacob Lindeman, Mrs. Paul Misterek, Mrs. William Mueller, Mrs. John Ruff and Mrs. John Welk. The group elected the following officers: Mrs. John Brost – president; Mrs. Jacob Lindeman – vice president; Mrs. John Ruff – Secretary and treasurer and Mrs. John Lehr, Mrs. Paul Misterek and Mrs. Jacob Lindeman – business committee.

When the present church was built, besides much physical help, the society bought the altar with its statue of Christ at the cost of \$350.00. When the Ladies Aid celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 1947, they presented the congregation with an electrically lighted bulletin board as a gift of remembrance and love. The "old" Ladies' Aid had their last meeting October 6, 1955.

On November 3, 1955, the program of the Women's Missionary Society was adopted with eighteen charter members.

Another change came with the merger of our American Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church of America in 1960. The church at large was known as the American Lutheran Church and we were the Hope Lutheran Church Women.

Another merger with the Lutheran Church in America took place in 1987. The church took the name of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and we became known as the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA). The women's group was no longer something one "joined". Any female member of the church is automatically a member of the women's organization.

Regardless of the name, the purpose of the organization has always been the same as we read in the current Purpose Statement: "As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit; we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

True to that purpose, our main emphasis has always been to study God's word to know His will in our lives. A Bible Study is the focal point of each meeting. Also important is the Christian fellowship as the women gather together to study God's word and to serve. Current officers of the local unit are Ruth Fink – president, Pastor Anna Peck – vice president, Wanda Anderson – secretary, Terri Bitterman – treasurer, and Gertrude Brenner – Missions: Growth.

Early records of the Ladies' Aid tell of "supporting Orphans' Homes and Christian charitable institutions by sending them money, food and clothing donations". That effort continues through contributions of quilts, clothing and kits to Lutheran World Relief; financial support to missionaries abroad and a host of Christian causes both nationally and within our state. We support the elderly through the Cheer Committee responsible for monthly contacts; group visits to local nursing homes and gifts to our own sick and shut-ins during the Christmas holidays. We remember our youth with gifts at baptism and confirmation and support the projects of the Sunday School and Lutheran Youth Group with many of the women involved in the leadership of those groups.

Several of our women have become involved in the conference and synodical (state) organizations of the church women both as attendees at gatherings and as officers and committee members.

With changes in the social climate through the years, women at Hope Lutheran have become more involved in the leadership of the congregation. Several women have served on the church council, been superintendent of the Sunday school, read scripture at worship services and currently a WELCA member is pastor of the congregation.

Reflecting over the past 100 years, we realize that much has changed; but we study the same Bible that women did 100 years ago, looking for guidance from the same God who inspired those scriptures thousands of years ago. He was their "help in ages past" and will be "our Hope for years to come".

### **Luther League**

The young people of Hope Lutheran Church are members of our congregation and are energetic Christians. The word of life has been taught to them in Sunday School and in confirmation class. They kneel at the altar and renew their promise to serve our Lord and Master in His church. This is made possible in League work. The object of a Luther

League is to produce loyal members for the congregation, and to train young people to be faithful and active members, ever striving forward in fostering Christian character and ideals. Thus the Luther League is the stepping-stone from confirmation to active participation in church life and work.

Our young people have always been active in the work of the congregation. During the building of the church in 1928 they stood ready to help and the stained glass windows in the chancel were a gift from them. In 1939 they adopted the Luther League constitution and were going forward as a regular society of the congregation, their purpose being to foster Christian growth and faithful stewardship. Each year two members attended the Leadership Training School, and often times several attend Bible camp.

Luther League meetings were inspirational to our young people, opening with Scripture reading and songs, and closing with a prayer circle, with everyone taking part and doing his share in this, their fellowship meeting. Very seldom did anyone give up his membership due to lack of interest, but rather because their career took them from Delmont or they were settling down to marriage. Everyone was very eager to do his or her share. There was never a lack of volunteers, and new members were always welcome. At one time the young men of the group sold Christmas and greeting cards, changed the bulletin board outside the church, and helped with ushering during church services. They conducted Easter sunrise services for several years.

The Luther League of Hope Lutheran was discontinued in 1968. Those members who wished to continue with a youth group were invited to join the Walther League at Zion Lutheran here in Delmont.

Hope Luther League was reorganized in 1981 under the leadership of Pastor Landgrebe with Jay and Sandy Grosz as advisors. Jerry and Wanda Weber were the advisors from 1986 through 1990 and Doug Bitterman and Charles Fink were appointed in 1991. Charles moved in 1993 and Doug was advisor until Barb Dozark became his assistant in 1995. They are the current advisors.

In the early 1980's they again conducted Easter Sunrise services followed by a pancake/sausage breakfast and have continued this every year. They held a "Hanging of the Greens" service the first Sunday evening in Advent in 1996, and have made it a yearly event since 1998.

Members of the Luther League attended the National Luther League Convention in Denver, Colorado in 1985; San Antonio, Texas in 1988; Dallas, Texas in 1991; Atlanta, Georgia in 1994; New Orleans, Louisiana in 1997 and in St. Louis, Missouri in 2000.

Throughout the years the group has sponsored several suppers, ice cream socials and other events, some as fundraisers and some as "Thank You's" to the congregation for their support.

### **Brotherhood**

The command to labor for the Lord is not only given to the young people and the ladies, but to the men of the congregation as well. Thus a group of twenty men met on November 30, 1947 to organize a Brotherhood. Officers were elected and the four-fold program of Devotion, Education, Brotherhood Service and Christian Fellowship was followed.

Among the notable things done for our congregation was the dismantling of the old barn at the parsonage and building a modern double garage. In 1951, through the International Refugee Organization, the Brotherhood sponsored a Latvian family, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Egle and child to come to America and Delmont to make their future home. They purchased shoe shop equipment and provided a workshop and home for the Egle's.

For several years the men farmed "God's Acres" with the profits being added to their treasury and used for the benefit of the church. Book shelves and a coat rack were installed in the church basement and seventy-five folding chairs and several folding tables were purchased by the Brotherhood and Ladies' Aid. They financed the project of tiling the basement floor, and donated \$200.00 to the Colony of Mercy at Parkston to furnish a single room. Boxes were sent to our servicemen at Easter time. A new time clock for the bulletin board was purchased and installed. A sizeable donation was made toward the purchase of carpeting for the church; for many years they helped pay expenses for our young people to attend Bible camp; "the Lutheran Standard" was sent to all the young men from our congregation who were in the service of our country. Year after year donations were made to Lutheran welfare and children's homes and other institutions supported by the American Lutheran Church, as well as helping with expenses of our own congregation, and local fund drives. A movie projector and record player were purchased for the use of the Sunday school. Subscriptions to "One" magazine were given to newly confirmed members and a cheer committee was appointed to call on the shut-in people of the community.

The Brotherhood was disbanded early in 1969. They are to be commended and given a vote of thanks for the many fine things accomplished through their love for their Lord and Savior.

## CONCLUSION

Thus the pioneers made church history. We, their children, inherit the fruits of their labors. It happens that we will hear words of criticism of the work done by the early settlers. Often we think that our old people could have located their houses of worship in better places and their ways and means to carry on could have been in better forms. However, it is easy for us, in our modern age, to sit back and say many things could have been made different. These old settlers had done their utmost. Would they be living today, they would be the first ones to mention their shortcomings. So, let us not criticize but rather in full accord honor and appreciate the noble and heroic efforts of our forefathers. In the spirit that prevailed in their hearts, let us go forward in rededication and consecration to the unfinished tasks of building the Walls of Zion. Ours is a task to "Publish glad tidings, Tidings of Peace, Tidings of Jesus, Redemption and Release."

So we have reached another milestone in the life of Hope Lutheran Church – our centennial. One hundred years in which notable things have been accomplished. To enumerate them all would give us a long history. Great gifts, time and efforts, were extended by individuals as well as groups. Many memorials have been given to our church, for which we are deeply grateful. We have the people who have served so faithfully as deacons, trustees, Sunday school and Bible school teachers and organists, and we owe a special debt of gratitude to all who serve so faithfully. So we say: "Thanks and praise to God in Heaven for all the blessings and benefits He has bestowed upon us." For it was God, and God alone, who has been kind, gracious and merciful. All Glory be to God!

**Thank you!**

A special posthumous Thank You to Paul Fink for his dedicated work translating all the minutes and other documents that were written in the old-script German language.

### Notes of laying of the cornerstone

Already in the last few years it became evident that the little church, for which the cornerstone was laid on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1901, had become too small to hold the congregation at its worship services comfortably. At that time there were only seven families whose names were on a document found in the cornerstone, which reads as follows –

*“The foundation of this Evangelical Lutheran church, laid by Pastor Christian Goeken, with the help of the congregation on 4 August 1901, with great joy. The congregation carries the name, Evangelical Lutheran Hoffnungs (Hope) Church, and clings to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the sole source for life and faith. The true God that came to us in the name of His beloved Son, will help us to complete this building project and keep it in His Holy Name and to His Glory.*

*He will let this beloved congregation, that on this date has only seven families, grow in size and faith. Trusting in Him, and with His help, let the building begin. He will not let us be put to shame. Christian Goecken, Pastor”.*

Then are listed the following names: *Jacob Weisz, Christopf Weisz, Peter Winkler, Valentin Hartz, Johann Grosz, Daniel Schulz, Johannes Patzer.*

Today, however, Hope Lutheran has 31 families, 37 voting members and 4 widows. A list of names will be included (in the cornerstone).

During a regular congregation meeting on 11 of May 1928 it was decided to build this church with the same purpose and determination as those that laid the foundation of the prior House of Worship. So with great joy and thanksgiving to God, we place the cornerstone on 10 June 1928, for the Evangelical Lutheran Hope Church in Delmont, S. D. in the name of the Triune God with the prayer that He will Bless this project. May this congregation in this house of worship, conduct only such services as bring Glory to His name.

Placed in this cornerstone, a Bible, translated into the German language by Dr. Martin Luther. Also a document of the constitution of this congregation, all instruction in school will follow Dr. Martin Luther's small catechism with the explanations of Dr. M. Reu; therefore, such a copy will be placed alongside the Bible. All the material found in the old cornerstone shall also be placed herein, also certain Synodical papers, along with papers and such of this day and age.

The building committee, that brought the beginnings about, to the wishes of the congregation were: Friedrich Batterman, Johann Brost, Gottfried Jerke, Johann Lehr, Jakob Lindemann, Paul Misterek, and Wilhelm Mueller.

The foundation dimensions are 32 x 58 with bell tower and chancel, with a full basement.

The old church building was dismantled by the congregation and all usable lumber will be used in the construction of the new church. The bell, organ and benches will find a place in the new worship center.

The financing was all done with freewill offering and much freewill labor, which included demolition of the old building and removing the foundation. A list of those will also be included in the cornerstone.

Pastor Richard Taeuber laid the cornerstone. (He has served the congregation since 1918). Assisting in the ceremony were: Pastors Otto Brunsch of Menno, S. D.; P. Briest of Kaylor, S. D.; and August Bartels of Immanuel's church north of Delmont.

The afternoon of  
The 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1928  
Psalm 90. 17! AMEN!

Signed by:  
Richard Taeuber,  
Pastor.

## Notes from Dedication Service

(The following was apparently a "handout" for those in the morning service, as to what will take place in the P.M.)

Dedication 13 October 1928

I – The following services will yet take place this afternoon.

- A. Worship at 2:30 both in the church and the tent. Speaking in the church will be Dr. Fritschel-brief remarks by Pastors Bartels and Zink. We ask those that were in the church this morning, please go to the tent in the afternoon and let those that were in the tent, worship in the church. Speaking in the tent will be Pastors Tecklenburg and Bruntsch. The Choir will sing at both services.
- B. Evening services begin at 7:30 in the church (both English and German). Dist. Pres. Lambertus will preach in English. P. Bunge in German.

II – Immediately following the service, a lunch will be served in the basement.

\*Women with small children may eat at the tables. All others, please take your lunch to the car or to the tent, whichever you wish.

\*This was stricken out and written below it – Eat in the tent.

III – It may be of interest to most of you, the following information.

1. This new church of Hope Lutheran which was built to the Glory of God, and for their Joy and use, cost approx. \$13,000.00. The cost will be borne by free will offering. The total has not yet been gathered. We kindly ask that those here today in the Kingdom of God help us with this load. Immediately after the sermon a collection will be taken. We will be thankful for your help and ask God to Bless the giver.

2. I want to share with you, as to how the congregation has worked in unison on this House of God. The men, as usual, gave of themselves, the women gave the sum of \$239.00 for altar and pulpit cloths, and a carpet, which has not yet arrived. The Ladies Aid gave \$248.50 toward the altar with the "Christus Statue". The young people provided \$168.00 for the stained glass windows, the altar chair, the pulpit lamp and the offering plates (which will be used for today's offerings, not just to look at), and the podium. The youth group furnished the three armed lights on the altar, the pulpit Bible, and the large cross on the altar in the amount of \$86.00. The Sunday school provided the Hymn board fully equipped for \$43.00. A man and wife of the congregation, Mr. and Mrs. Gottfried Jerke, purchased the beautiful pulpit. We are sorry that Mrs. Jerke is in the hospital and could not be here. We wish her a swift recovery. The lights were furnished by Wm. Mueller and his son, Dr. Emil Mueller of Chicago, in the amount of \$179.00. Other members purchased benches in the amount of \$31.00 each. (no names entered here – blank). A gift of a silver plate to place the communion ware on in the amount of \$35.00 was given by several members of the sister congregation at Tripp.

We thank you and God Bless you.

All guests please feel welcome

# Hope Lutheran Church -- Today

## Statement of Mission

Hope Lutheran is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

## 2001 Church Council

Russell Dozark, Deacon ..... President  
Bradley Lagg, Trustee..... Vice President  
Mary Gunnare..... Secretary  
Michael Fechner..... Treasurer  
Wanda Anderson..... Financial Secretary  
Douglas Gunnare..... Deacon  
Bradley Brosz..... Deacon  
Darold Bitterman..... Deacon  
Ervin Bietz..... Trustee  
David Bitterman..... S.S. Superintendent

## 2001 Women of ELCA

Ruth Fink..... President  
Rev. Anna M. Peck..... Vice President  
Wanda Anderson..... Secretary  
Terri Bitterman..... Treasurer  
Gertrude Brenner..... Mission Growth

## Sunday School

Michelle Kurtz..... Asst. Superintendent  
Kaylene Dozark..... Kindergarten  
Michelle Kurtz & Barb Dozark..... 2,4,5  
Raymond Anderson..... 6 & 7

## Luther League

Barb Dozark & Doug Bitterman..... Advisers  
Richard Bitterman..... President  
Audra Matson..... Vice President  
Amber Matson..... Secretary/Treasurer

**Hope Lutheran Church** is a close knit, caring congregation.

## Pastors 1901 to 2001

Rev. Christian Goeken, Founder..1901-1906  
Rev. D. Meyer.....1906-1910  
Rev. Phil Peter.....1910-1917  
Rev. Aug. Hein.....1917-1918  
Rev. Richard Taeuber.....1918-1930  
Rev. A Bunge was part-time Interim during 1929 while Rev. Taeuber was in New Guinea.  
Rev. Zeitsinger.....1931  
Rev. Carl Bartels.....1930-1938  
Rev. Pirner, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, served several short terms during vacancies in the congregation.  
Rev. E. Theilen.....1939-1941  
Rev. L. Westenberger.....1941-1942  
Rev. G. Schnaidt again took care of the congregation until arrangements could be made to have Missionary F. Ed. Pietz serve until such time when he again can return to his mission field in New Guinea. Missionary Pietz served until 1946  
Rev. John Schmierer.....1946-1954  
Rev. Albert Wagner, Interim.....1955  
Rev. Marvin Ketterling.....1955-1959  
Rev. Langholz, Interim.....1959  
Rev. Eugene Boschee.....1959-1963  
Rev. Jerry Albert, Interim.....1963  
Rev. Richard Smith.....1964-1967  
Rev. James Uden, Interim.....1967-1968  
Rev. Carl Fink.....1968  
Rev. Erwin Groth.....1968-1981  
Rev. Gerhardt Landgrebe.....1981-1983  
Rev. Gene Loken, Interim.....1983  
Rev. Jon Skaar.....1983-1998  
Lay Pastor Elly Wierschke, Interim.....1998  
Rev. Anna M. Peck.....1998-



# Current Membership List

Anderson, Niel and Wanda	Brosz, Brad and Joyce Carissa Brandon Adam	Jerke, Lorene
Anderson, Ray and Connie Alexander Katharina	Brosz, Erna	Kurtz, Gloria
Baier, Frieda	Brosz, Gilbert and Mary	Kurtz, Robert and Elaine
Baier, Joel and Sandra Teresa Joel Ryan	Dozark, Russell and Barbara Nicole Kaylene Cody	Kurtz, Robert Jr. and Michelle Devin Drew
Beehler, Eugene & Leona	Drefs, Eltor	Lagg, Rudy
Beehler, Kevin	Drefs, Eugene	Lagg, Brad and Marcia Tonia Sara Nathan
Bietz, Ervin and Judy	Fechner, Michael and Lila Daniel Darren Rebecca	Lengkeek, Susan (Kurtz)
Bietz, Norman and Lenita	Fink, Albert and Ruth Duane	Mace, Shannon (Lagg) Lucas
Bitterman, Dale and Terri Stephanie Richard	Fink, Marlyne	Matson, Loren and Teresa Aaron Audra Amber
Bitterman, Darold and Sara Elizabeth Austin	Gremmert, Calvin	Misterek, Elmer
Bitterman, Delbert and Eilene David Douglas Donna	Grosz, Louise	Peck, Rev. Anna M.
Bitterman, Donald and Clara Steven	Grosz, Rosemary	Rosheim, Rosanne (Fink)
Bitterman, Martha	Grosz, Terry	Schuh, Art and Tillie
Boettcher, John	Gunnare, Douglas and Mary Desiree Matthew	Skinner, Samantha (Anderson) Ian
Boettcher, Martha	Gunnare, Olaf and Irene	Struck, Frieda
Brenner, David and Julie John	Hanson, Richard and Robyn Andrew Angela Alicia	Ulmer, Harold & Leontina
Brenner, Ewald and Gertrude	Harris, Clarence and Leona	Ulmer, Sharon Angela
Brenner, Jim		Wieland, Ella
		Will, Martha
		Will, Michael

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CENTENNIAL

APRIL 21 & 22

MEMORIES

Dear Hope Lutheran Church Members,

I thank you for the invitation to attend your 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Unfortunately, we will not be able to attend. I would like to update you on our lives and share some of the memories we have during our time with you.

I retired in November of 1997, after almost 34 years in parish ministry. My last parish was Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota. We live in Duluth and are still members of that parish. My wife, Shirley, has primary progressive Multiple Sclerosis and has difficulty walking. Our son, Andy, is a pastor at United Lutheran Church in Red Wing, MN. He is married and has three children, ages 7, 6 and 3. Our daughter, Sally, is a pastor at Luck Lutheran Church in Luck, WI. Her husband is also a pastor in Clear Lake, WI. where they reside. They have two children, ages 3 and 10 months. Our youngest daughter, Pam, is a homemaker and mother, living with her husband and three children, ages 7, 5 and 3 in Sartell, MN.

We were with you from 1964-67. You were my first parish and we have many fond memories of our time there. I remember driving out there for the interview. We stopped in Tripp and asked how to get to Delmont. Someone said there was a large, green sign about 10 miles down the road. We were driving along and saw a group of pheasants. We drove right by the "small" green sign. During the interview, I requested that I would like to take a Clinical Pastoral Education time at The Minnesota State Prison for three months before beginning my ministry there. It was granted, but Phil Lindeman was worried I might change my mind and not come. But, it all worked out. Fred and Lucille Fink came to St. Paul in their cattle truck and moved our things out there in June. They were stored in the parsonage until we arrived in September. We had our first child in September. Leona Schuh was our first babysitter. When Shirley started in labor with our second child, Hulda Brosz came and stayed with Andy.

My first experience with death was when Emma Fink called me in the early morning to come, because Bill had passed away. I got there before the doctor, but was mighty nervous. Bill and Emma were such wonderful people, as were all the members of the church. We were treated royally.

Hope Lutheran does have a special place in our hearts. We couldn't have had a better parish to begin our ministry. You helped us grow in many different ways. It was with sadness that we left to begin ministry at Gaylord, MN. Our prayers and congratulations are with you as you continue on in God's service.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Pastor Dick and Shirley Smith

Dear Members of Hope Lutheran Church,

I thank you for the invitation but I regret that I will be unable to attend your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Perhaps some few of your present membership will remember me. I was baptized in Hope Lutheran in 1938 and confirmed in 1952. My grandfather, Jacob Weisz, was a charter member of the congregation. My brother, Wilmer, was ordained to the ministry at Hope Lutheran.

It may be of interest to some to know a little of my personal life. I, and my wife, Janet, have been married for 30 years. We have one son, Mark, who is living in Omaha, Nebraska. I have been ordained for 36 years, serving 22 years in North Dakota (in Crosby, Center, Dickinson, Gackle, Thompson and Grand Forks). In 1986-93 I served in Winston-Salem, and, since then, I have been serving a rural church in Rowan County, North Carolina.

I thank God for the blessings in my own life which came through Hope Lutheran's ministry and I pray He will continue to guide and fulfill your ministry in the years to come.

Yours truly,  
Pastor Milbert E. Kurtz

.....  
May 5, 2000

Dear Friends,

Jean and I were delighted to learn that Hope Lutheran Church will be celebrating its centennial next summer. We hope that the planning and work going into this event will result in a grand celebration for all.

I doubt that Jean or I will be able to be in Delmont on April 21 and 22. Jean, in particular, is dealing with a number of difficult medical problems. Perhaps it's best for me to say, "We'll be there if possible". At the moment we are making plans to sell our home and move this summer. But nothing is definite.

My memories of growing up in a rural parsonage are some of my life's greatest treasures.

In working and planning together for the centennial celebration, may all of you be deeply blessed.

February 24, 2001

My desire to participate in your 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of Hope Lutheran appears ever less probable.

About five weeks ago, soon after moving into an apartment near my oldest son's (John) home here in Apple Valley, I had an accident. Trying to answer the phone while I was making the bed, I stumbled and badly injured my knee. Until my knee is once more able to bear weight, I'm pretty much of an invalid, unable to even drive a car.

I feel privileged to be remembered in your thoughts and prayers. Please do not despair or lose heart. May you all experience the joy of coming together in Christian love and fellowship.

Sincerely,  
Reuben Pirner

Memories from Hope Lutheran

I was confirmed at Hope – wrote everything in German and our memory work was all in German. I still keep in touch with two members of my class – one in Iowa and one in California.

Remember our wedding as well – the church was filled and lots of people standing.

I remember the Cantata when I was a teenager. Walt Pirner was our director.

Also the sad times when I lost four of my brothers, Alvin, Werner, Herbert and Paul and my mother and dad, John and Hulda Fink.

The altar at Hope Lutheran is the most beautiful in all the churches around.

Erna (Fink) Grosz

---

Hope Lutheran Church has a very special place for me – happy memories. The times that come to mind first are the Mission Festivals that were so enjoyable. I remember playing in a park on the northwest corner of the intersection, finding ‘walnuts?’ and playing with children from the congregation and visitor’s children. The meals were the best!

I also remember very fondly the Christmas Eve programs and receiving sacks filled with peanuts, oranges and candy. I was always proud of our church and its wonderful to come home and see how beautifully it has been maintained.

It is the beginning of my walk with Christ in a formal aspect – confirmation classes, Sunday school and summer Bible school.

Best wishes to you in your labor of love.

Vera (Elvira Fink) Van Roy

---

I have an autograph book from 1928-29 with many local signatures. I also have a 3/14/01 postcard sent to the John Welk family from Rev. R. Taeuber sent from the New Guinea Mission field. The stamp and mailing stamp are no longer on the card. I remember selling post card pictures of the new church. I’m looking forward to sharing this occasion with all of you. My first year of public school was in the little school house on the southwest edge of the church lot. Rev. Emil Lange was the Bible school teacher there for several years. Rev. Taeuber sent cards to each of the Sunday school kids. I hope I can locate them.

I was confirmed by Rev. Arnold Bunge in 1931, the year that Rev. Taeuber was in New Guinea. I’ve outlived most of my confirmation class and many others. I remember Emil and Babe Grosz, Rueben Jerke and his wife and Frieda and Emil Baier. Leona Schuh is a first cousin.

My health continues on a fair level, mentally and physically and I hope to attend your centennial celebration.

Alta (Welk) Stoebner

The Hope Lutheran Church in Delmont has a warm spot in my heart. Each time I visit, there are so many familiar faces its like home to me, even though I've moved away from Delmont over 50 years ago.

I remember attending Bible school. It was so hot that our shoes left footprints in the asphalt on the road. We walked three miles to our home. When Dale Lindeman, O'Linda Kurtz and I rode the train to confirmation school in Tripp, our parents took turns to pick us up later in the day. I can't remember the cost, 15 or 25 cents or maybe even free.

I was told my father, Ed Hartman, helped to build the church.

Verna (Hartman) Werkmeister

---

My dad, Andrew Wieland, was an usher for Hope Lutheran. I don't know for how long. The story goes that he was voted into being an usher because he wasn't at the meeting when they voted. Maybe your church records show when or how long he was an usher.

Eldora W. Johnson, daughter

---

This was really an experience for a young teenager at the time.

One spring when we were doing cleaning at the church (Mrs. Schmierer and I were cleaning windows outside) when Pastor came over and said "we have a young couple at the parsonage who wish to be married - I need two witnesses - come quick."

So we attended and signed papers. This couple was from out-of-state. We never heard from them again.

Laverna (Lindeman) Mueller

---

Congratulations and Best Wishes to all members, friends and relatives of Hope Lutheran Church. Will be there with all of you in my prayers and precious memories.

I was baptized on August 17, 1919 by Pastor Taeuber and confirmed on July 9, 1933 by Pastor Bartels.

Have special memories of our Luther League, Sunday School and Christmas Eve programs, but most of all - the church steps - we thought they were the greatest and biggest and most of all---such a great place to meet schoolmates and best friends to have an ice cream cone from Devines Drug or Haisches or cookies, candy and doughnuts from Frashes Grocery.

Prayers for many more years of sharing the Gospel and good news!

Sincerely, Edna Lloyd

---

Dear Pastor,

Just a note to acknowledge your phone call concerning the centennial celebration in April. It was most thoughtful of you! I regret that I will be unable to attend – but will keep the congregation in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Jeanette (Baier) Young

---

Greetings,

I, Myra, was baptized and confirmed at Hope Lutheran Church and Dale was confirmed there. We were also married in the church. I have very fond memories of going to Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, confirmation classes, Luther League and church choir led by Dorothy Lang. I also typed up the bulletin every week for about 3 or 4 years for Pastor Smith and for Pastor Boschee. We will always think of Hope Lutheran as being “our church”. I especially remember going to Mrs. Lindeman’s Sunday School class. She always had a little piece of candy for us if we were good and knew our lesson. I will never forget her.

Sincerely,

Dale and Myra (Fink) Gunnare

---

12/1/99

I was confirmed at Hope Lutheran at Delmont in 1930 and married there on December 25, 1948. I had taught Sunday School several years and German Christian School one summer. I was church organist probably two years, sang in the choir and active in Luther League. I am now 83 years old and my husband died in 1995. Since then, I do not travel alone, therefore I will not be driving to Delmont in 2001.

We are members of Morningside Lutheran Church ELCA in Sioux City, Iowa.

Thank you for inviting me. God’s Blessings to all of you.

Sincerely,

Anetta (Ruff) Popken

---

My father was Bill Boettcher. We lived one mile south of Delmont. My most favorite memory was at Christmas time. All the kids in Sunday School got to come up front by the Christmas tree and we all got a big brown bag of nuts, candy and an apple and orange. It was a beautiful big tree.

I also remember someone getting hit over the head with the song book. He was being very bad in church and his mother lowered the boom!!!

Viva Dell (Boettcher) Arnold

Hope Lutheran Church

Greetings to the members, former members and friends of Hope Lutheran. I pray for the richest blessings on this special day for a very special family of God's great congregation. I regret not being able to be with you in person, but my thoughts and prayers will be with you as you celebrate the centennial. One hundred years of service is a long time and represents many lives touched, influenced and changed by the ministry of the congregation.

My memories of Hope go back to what now must seem like the early years of the church. They are warm memories of the teaching of God's Word, sometimes with more vigor and enthusiasm than some of us were ready for, if my confirmation class memories serve me correctly. However done, it has served me a lifetime and laid a foundation of faith that has been my mainstay through life. Thanks to Hope Lutheran.

May the joy and power of your celebration renew your strength in our Lord and Savior and prepare you for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Norman R. Kurtz, PhD  
Professor Emeritus, Brandeis University  
32 Miller Hill  
Dover, Massachusetts 02030

---

Greetings from California

My name is Larry Lang, son of Art and Dorothy Lang. I grew up in Delmont and was baptized and confirmed at Hope Lutheran. I'm sure many of you remember the Lang family.

My wife, Diana, and I live in Temecula, CA. where I pursue my engineering career and we also constructed and own a 90-room hotel. We attend church at, believe it or not, Hope Lutheran in Temecula.

We have three daughters, Michelle, Sherri and Lisa. God has also blessed us with three grandchildren, Jordan, Jessica and Jacob who arrived on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Michelle is the mother of all three. She lives in Columbus, NE. Sherri and her husband, Dustin, live in the Denver area and Lisa resides in Beaverton, OR.

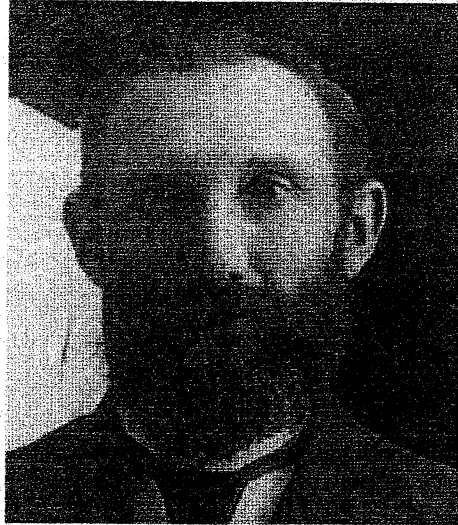
Unfortunately, we cannot attend the celebration but send our love and best wishes to everyone at Hope Lutheran Church. We enclose \$20 for a cookbook.

If any of you are ever in our area, please give us a call.

God Bless,

Larry and Diana Lang  
41919 Skywood Drive  
Temecula, CA 92591-1877

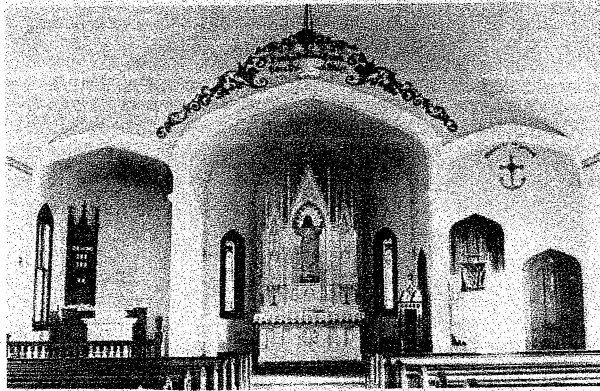




Pastor Christian Goeken – founder



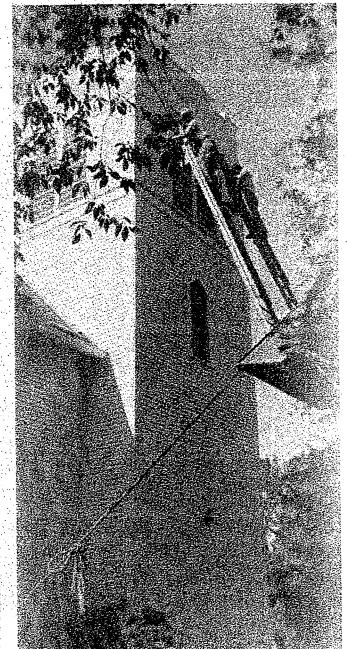
Hope Lutheran German Summer School picnic about 1917. Seminary student/teacher Carl Fink, Emilia Kaldun, Leontina Welk, Gertrude Misterek, Agnes Brost, Elsie Lehr, Hulda Witt, Elda Lindeman & Gertrude Lindeman



Original view of Altar area – 3/15/29



Hope Lutheran Church Choir – 1937  
Some members are: Lillian Lindeman, Esther Misterek, Eugene Baier, Rheinhold Albrecht, Rudolph Mattheis and Emil Baier. Can you help identify more???



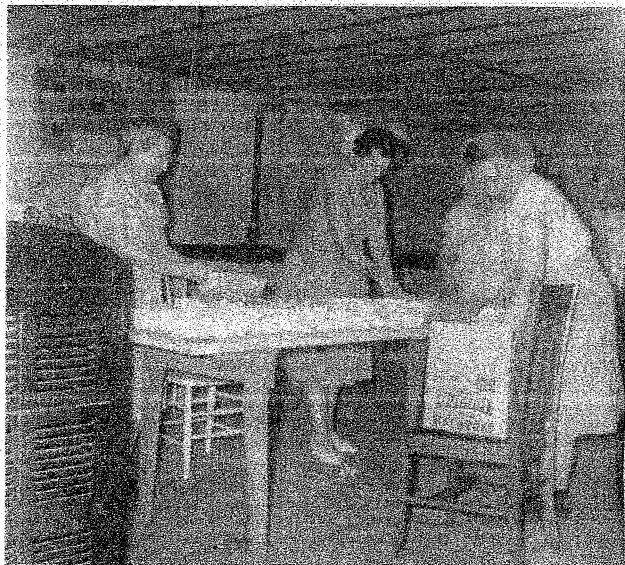
Steeple Painting by AM and Albert Fink



Tug-of-war – Church picnic – 6/14/64



Watching the tug-of-war – 6/14/64



HLCW wrapping soap – 6/22/65



Irene Gjoraas teaching Sunday School 1973



Pastor & Mrs. Erwin Groth

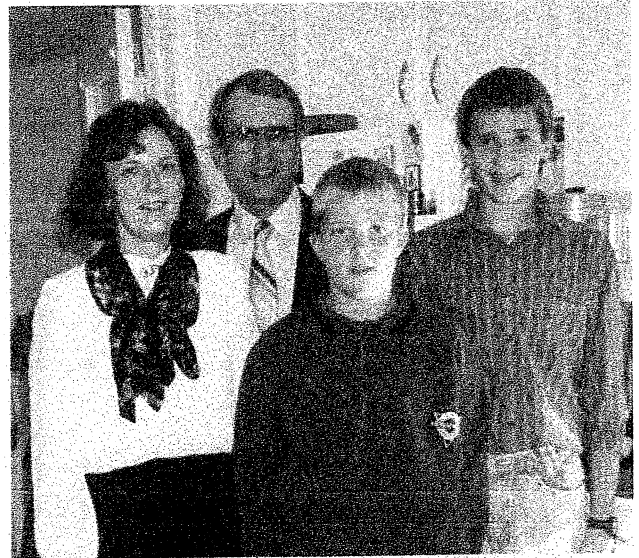


Rosie Fink, Wynelle (Bietz) Murphy, Brad Fink and Bill Bietz

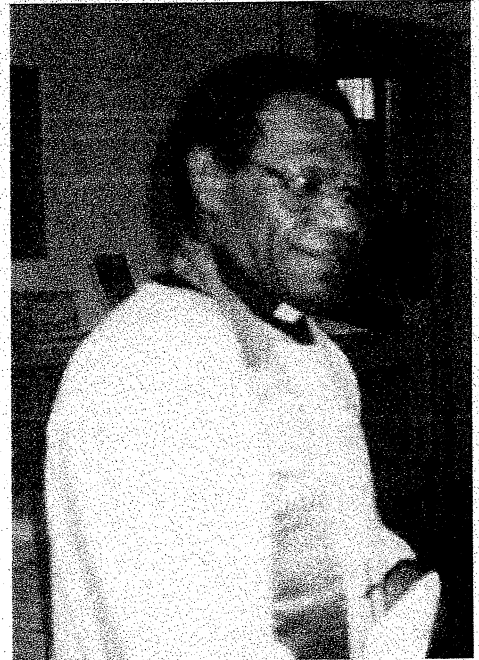




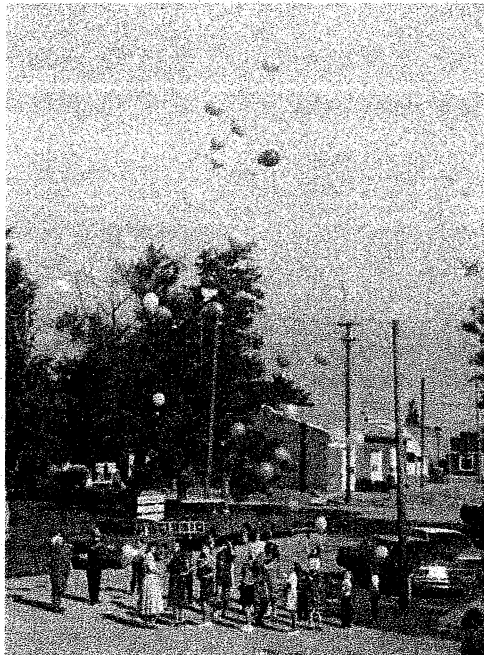
1976 - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Pastor Skaar family, Jane, Jon, Phillip & Kris



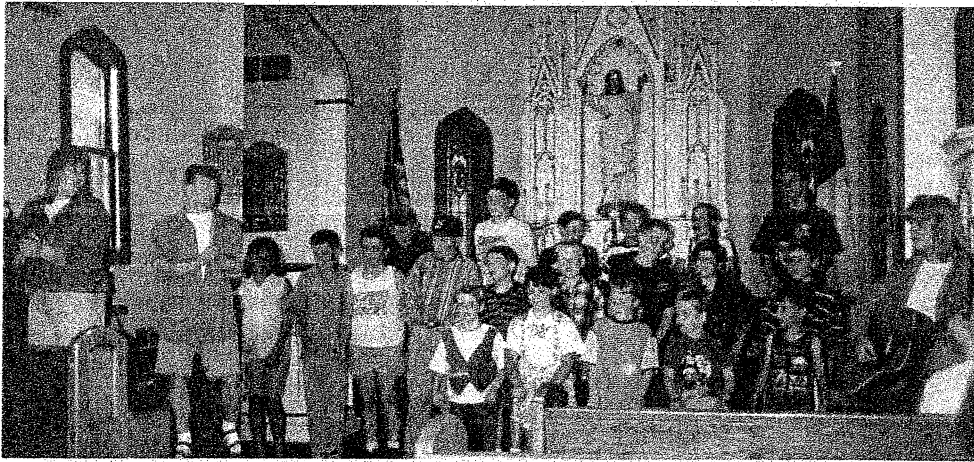
Pastor Joe Somogao



Balloon Rally - 9/13/92



Latest in Women's Hats - Delmont centennial kickoff - 1986



Day Camp Program – 1995



Luther League Advent Service – December 1, 1996

Stephanie Bitterman, Aaron Matson, John Brenner, Ryan Baier, Brandon Brosz, Amy Goehring, Desiree Gunnare, Tonia Lagg, Carisa Brosz, Nicole Dozark & Becky Fechner



Sunday School – March 28, 1999

# Executive Proclamation

## State of South Dakota

### Office of the Governor

WHEREAS, From a small beginning in 1901, prayers were answered and people in and around Delmont, South Dakota, founded the Evangelical Lutheran Hoffnungs Gemeinde of the Iowa Synod; and,

WHEREAS, The congregation began having worship service every two weeks on Sunday afternoon at the Delmont Public School; and,

WHEREAS, In 1909, the congregation incorporated; and,

WHEREAS, In 1928, a new house of worship was built and dedicated to the work of preaching the Word of God; and,

WHEREAS, In 1939, the congregation gradually converted from German worship to English worship; and,

WHEREAS, In 1946, the congregation voted to change the name from Hoffnungs Gemeinde to Hope Lutheran Church; and,

WHEREAS, Hope Lutheran Church members recognize and thank God for the many pastors and lay leaders for their faithful dedication proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ during the past 100 years; and,

WHEREAS, On April 21 and 22, a celebration will take place to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Hope Lutheran Church of Delmont:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 21 and 22, 2001, as

#### HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF DELMONT CENTENNIAL DAYS

in South Dakota, and I join Pastor Anna Peck and today's congregation in commemorating the efforts of their forebears who fashioned a center for their faith community out of prayer, determination, and hard work.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord. Two Thousand and One.