



1872 - 1972  
The Moe Lutheran Parish



## **Dedication**

To The

Early Pioneers

Who Endured Hardships

Far Beyond Our Imagination

To The

Faithful And Tireless Workers

Through The Past Hundred Years

“HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE”

We

Humbly And Prayerfully

Dedicate

This Centennial Book

# The American Lutheran Church

422 SOUTH FIFTH STREET • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55415



Office of the PRESIDENT

Dec. 15, 1971

Moe Lutheran Parish  
Hudson, South Dakota

Dear Friends in Christ:

I have learned that you are celebrating your Centennial in May 1972. What a glorious privilege! Please accept my congratulations and the good wishes of The American Lutheran Church as you embark on this significant and memorable event.

You surely must be one of the very first parishes on the Great Plains to celebrate such a Centennial. I am aware of the hardships and sacrifices of our forefathers who came to this virgin land and established here the churches and schools which we today enjoy. May we give thanks to our forefathers for their remembrance of their faith and for their stalwart work for the Lord.

May you indeed continue to "hold forth the Word of Life" as you go into the second century of being the people of God.

Your servant in Christ,

Kent S. Knutson



KSK:mah

enclosure





**"Holding Forth the Word of Life"**





**SOUTH**  
THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**DAKOTA**  
AUGUSTANA COLLEGE • SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57102 • TELEPHONE 336-4011  
**DISTRICT**

PRESIDENT:  
E. O. GILBERTSON, D.D.  
ASSISTANTS:  
MR. O. J. BERKLAND  
REV. E. L. BERSAGEL

*Moe Lutheran Parish  
% Rev. C. Mark Svaren  
Hudson, South Dakota 57034*

*Dear Friends of the Moe Lutheran Parish:*

*As President of the South Dakota District of The American Lutheran Church, I wish to extend personal greetings to you on the occasion of your Centennial Celebration. I would like also to convey the best wishes and congratulations of all the pastors and congregations of the South Dakota District. May God richly bless your anniversary observance.*

*God has indeed blessed the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the congregations of your parish through these 100 years. As you thank God for spiritual blessings of the past, I would urge you to re-evaluate your present and future mission as congregations of The American Lutheran Church. This day calls for our best in individual and corporate commitment to Jesus Christ and His will for the Church. May God help you to see even more clearly your mission to the world in the years that follow.*

*I greet you from Psalm 96:1-3, "O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless His Name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the people!"*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

*E. O. Gilbertson*  
E. O. Gilbertson, Bishop  
South Dakota District, ALC



*EOG/io*



## A Tribute To The Pioneers

*Though they are gone,  
these churches pointing  
heavenward  
speak on.  
They testify of men  
who had a love for God  
and put Him first  
As Viking Abrahams  
they came  
across the prairie-land  
with Sarahs by their sides.  
They left the fjords  
and mountain scenes behind.  
Sodhouses sprouted on the plains  
and from their meager stores  
they sacrificed to build  
a house  
for Him.  
Their dearest treasure  
was His Word.  
Though life was rough  
and hardships fell,  
they knelt and praised the Lord  
they knew so well.  
Today we still can hear their voice:  
"We made our choice.  
For us and for our house,  
we served the Lord."*

*And then we stop and wonder. . . .  
a hundred years yonder  
can history say the same  
for us?*

— Doris Stensland



# Pioneer History

## of the Moe Parish

The Norwegian settlers began to stream into Dakota Territory in the 1860's. Upon reaching America, they moved westward to Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Many of them held temporary jobs here, however their ambition was to move further west and own their own land. A few pushed on into the Dakota Territory, and returned with thrilling reports of endless tracts of land, creeks full of water and grass reaching to their hips. After these descriptions, they were more eager than ever to move westward and own this land themselves.

Early in the summer of 1870 they gathered what little earthly belongings they had; a pair of oxen, an old wagon, a few clothes, their Bible, Lars Linderot's Daily Devotional Book and an optimistic and courageous Spirit. After a handclasp, a few tears and a "Lucky Journey!" from their friends, they left in several small groups, since traveling in one large group was inconvenient.

After several weeks journey they arrived at their destination. The vast expanse of prairie looked beautiful to them, and they chose their land. The next step was a trip to the Land Office where the United States Government Seal was stamped on the proper documents, showing they were now property owners.

The earliest settlers picked farms with creeks or ponds full of water. Later arrivals had to settle for higher land. During a dry season, the farmer would have to find a low spot in the field and spade holes 6 to 8 feet deep, hoping enough water would seep in for his livestock. One of these wells saved a local man's life, as he fled from a prairie fire.

These prairie fires were a constant menace. Very little native sod had been broken up in the earlier years and the dead grass covering the ground, burned readily once it was ignited. Sometimes it would burn for miles destroying whatever was in its path. Many farmers kept a strip of plowed ground around their buildings for protection.



Christ Hetletvedt family Sod House, now the Millard Nelson farm.

The first step had been taken. They had secured their land. But they still lived in covered wagons. More substantial housing was a necessity. They pondered a day or two and then took oxen and plow and began to break sod. They broke the toughest sod

they could find, and called it "Dakota Brick". In a few days one sod house after another dotted the prairie. Some built caves in the side of a hill, and lived in them until they could afford a better dwelling. Now they had "House-room"; "Heart-room" they had in abundance. The settlers began to break land for cultivation. They were anxious to do their best and found that, "As a man soweth so shall he reap". A bountiful harvest rewarded their labor. Their granaries were filled; they had to use some of the sod and log houses for storing their grain. Happiness prevailed in the new settlement. Now they had homes, and an abundance of food for themselves and for their animals. Their diet consisted mostly of bread, butter, milk and mush.

The only fuel the earliest Pioneers had was either "Buffalo Chips", gathered out on the plains, or twisted hay. They cut the tallest grass that grew in the low places, dried it and tied it into tight knots. During the coldest days, twisting hay could be a full time job for one person.



Lars Thormodsgaard Log House , now at Prairie Village, Madison, S.D.

Many of the settler's dreams had been realized, but there was one thing missing. Just to "eat and drink and make merry", was not their ambition. Having come from a Christian country like Norway they could not forget such words as, "Man does not live by bread alone". The church was in their thoughts—Church, the one thing that they were still lacking. The six days of the week passed quickly, but When Sunday came their thoughts flew across the ocean and they dreamed of home, and the church bells "Calling the young and old". In their minds they saw crowds of well dressed men, women and children, carrying their Bibles and Hymnbooks on their way to church. They seemed to hear the old Bishop or Pastor preach the Law and the Gospel. It was good to dream like this, but they were in the settlement on the prairie. They did get together and read from devotional books and that was good as far as it went, but it was not enough to satisfy them spiritually. The settlers were convinced this was their



home for the future. Their confidence in this land was great, and they wanted the church to be the center of their lives; the light to show their way ahead; forward, upward and homeward.

There were problems to be overcome in these dreams too. There was no church and no pastor. The few ordained men that came to America from Norway seldom got as far west as the Dakota Territory. They stayed in the heavier populated east. Norway had a great number of gifted and earnest laymen in those days. Many of these laymen came to the new settlements. They traveled untiringly from place to place and preached the Word of God. Several of these laymen were called to be ministers and were ordained.

Since no pastors from home followed the immigrants the first years, they had to help themselves as best they could. Some could lead devotions and preach a little, but their greatest need was for ordained pastors to administer the Sacraments. They came from a country where the state regulated the church, the congregation and its officers. The Synod depended on orders from the government. Now they had to depend on their own church leadership. They also came from different localities and synods, so naturally many small congregations sprang up. Sometimes they disagreed on local church policies, and had no organization to hold them together.

In 1881 the dreaded diphtheria, swept over the settlement. Many became ill and nearly every home had one or more sick. Often the sick ones had to bury their own dead.

The 12th of January, 1888 the never-to-be-forgotten snowstorm swept down without warning. Many people perished, as well as large numbers of

cattle and other animals. One young man of Romsdal congregation was found the next morning frozen to death.

It is common practice among business men to take an inventory to determine gain and loss. A similar inventory was taken by the people in the settlement. They wanted to find out, after 18 years, if their labors had paid dividends, if all their hard work had been worth while. They arrived at a satisfactory conclusion. In place of the sod houses they now had real houses standing solidly on rock foundations and neatly painted farm buildings of the latest style. Fat cattle were in the stalls and hogs round and fat with lively little pigs were drowsing on the hillside in the warm sunshine. Out in the farm yards hundreds of chickens were chasing grasshoppers and other insects. They also counted their children, some had eight, others ten and still others had fourteen, all hale and hearty. The little ones sometimes had dirty faces, hands and clothes, but when it became too bad, they went in the house to mother and showed themselves. One could hear a howl, a few screams and then, quiet. After a few moments out they came, scrubbed so their little faces shone like the sun. "Children are the most valuable possessions anyway", said one who stood near by. "Yes, absolutely", answered the father.

Everything looked very prosperous. One curious fellow wondered if there was much debt. He found that only a few were in debt, one owed a little on an old wagon and another owed the minister for some catechisms and Bible Histories. He was a father of fourteen children.

(Most of this was written in Norwegian by Edwin Alness in 1932, translated into the English language by Mrs. Clara Kylling in 1947).

## Beginning of the Moe Parish

The early history of the Moe Lutheran Parish stretches back to 1872.

The Bethlehem Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church which was organized in Canton and included all of Sioux and Lyon Counties in Iowa and Lincoln County in Dakota Territory.

### 1872

Lands Church separated from the Canton group and affiliated with Eden congregation of Hudson, So. Dak. under the United Norwegian Lutheran Synod.

Romsdal congregation was affiliated with the Hauge Synod from its beginning. They shared pastors with Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Beresford and Skrefsrud congregation from 1893 until 1915.

### 1880

A group separated from Lands because they wanted the second new church built two miles east of

the present one. They called themselves Grans.

About this time another congregation, South Bethlehem, became independent. They started five miles south of Canton and included part of Norway Township. They changed their name to the Patty Slough congregation. Patty was a United States army Indian Scout. He was ambushed and killed in this area and buried on a high point in Newton Hills.

Eventually Grans and Patty Slough congregations joined and called themselves "Trefoldighed", or Trinity Church, under the Norwegian Lutheran Synod.

### 1902

Trinity joined with Lands and Eden for services only, with an option to use the parsonage as long as the merger lasted.

A windstorm of hurricane proportions swept through a large area, damaging and levelling buildings everywhere. Romsdal and Trinity churches collapsed in its wake.



**1917**

The Hauge Synod joined with two other Synods to form the Norwegian Church of America. That same year Trinity Church bought one third share of the Parsonage property from Lands for \$600.00.

**1919**

Romsdal congregation bought one third share of the parsonage property from Eden congregation of Hudson. This formed the Moe Lutheran Parish. That same year the parsonage was remodeled and modernized. A 32 volt Delco gas generator furnished electric lights, sewer and water pressure.

Rev. G. Isolany served part of the year.

Calling a pastor to fill the duties of the new Parish was not simple. Each church chose a different Pastor. After voting five times, the result was the same; each church favored the one they nominated. A motion was then passed to withdraw the three names and nominate a new man.

**1920**

Rev. C. L. Dalseide was finally chosen and was installed. He served the parish until his resignation in 1929.

Pastor Dalseide was very interested in gardening. He bought a farm one mile west and one mile north of Moe, and made it a show place of flowers and shrubs.

**1924**

Many of the young people growing up were not familiar with the Norwegian language, so it was decided to have English Services every third Sunday. By 1930 every second Sunday was in English and in 1934 one Sunday Service a month was held in Norwegian.

A few years later an occasional Norwegian Service was held in the afternoon but by 1942 the Norwegian Language was dropped entirely.

**1929**

Rev. Calmer Roe, just graduated from seminary, assisted for part of the year.

Pastor Albert Molberg was called and installed in the fall. Soon the era of the "Dirty Thirties", began. For a number of years, the crops dried out. Prices for livestock dropped to \$2.00-\$5.00 per hundred weight for hogs and cattle. It was a difficult time economically, for the farmer.

**1930**

Over the years there had been gradual shift from the Norwegian to the English language. Parish records were written in Norwegian until 1930.

**1935-36**

This was a winter of heavy snowfalls. Daily winds piled the snow into the yards and highways as the bare fields could not halt the drifting. Mailmen did not make deliveries for 5 or 6 weeks, so Moe Parish was isolated, but Pastor Molberg was not to be contained. He had a pair of skis and made trips to Hudson, about 10 miles away, to bring back mail and supplies. Rev. Molberg and family endured hardships with the members of their parish, and he

offered to forego a part of his salary, which was paid back in 1943.

Rev. A. Molberg was a tireless worker in Christian Education in the Parish and at Augustana Academy in Canton, S.D. He was expected to attend all seven of the Parish Ladies' Aids. Two or three groups often met the same day, so he would take Mrs. Molberg to one and he would go on to another.

**1937**

The Lutheran Brotherhood was organized (See story on the Brotherhood).

**1939**

Rev. Frederick Norstad was the Parish Assistant, until he resigned in 1941, and then Rev. Arnold Thompson became the new assistant.

**1944**

Sept. 24th Pastor A. Molberg resigned after fifteen years in the Parish.

**1945**

Rev. R. F. Wilson was interim Pastor until Rev. Alvin A. Snestrud was installed in November. Pastor Snestrud had served congregations in Los Angeles and Chicago prior to coming here.

He was very interested in music, having directed a large choir in the Hollywood Bowl in California. He revived singing groups in the local churches, including a mixed Parish Choir, The Moe Male Chorus and Children's singing groups.

The kitchen in the parsonage was modernized and the partition between the living room and dining room was removed and a fireplace built on the west wall.

Lands invited Trinity to join them. 39 voted against the merger and 2 for it.

The Envelope System of Offering was adopted at the annual meeting.

**1946**

In the early years of our Lutheran Church it was a common practice for the men and boys to sit on the right or Pulpit side, and the women and children occupied the seats to the left side of the Church. This was a custom carried over from Norway, and perhaps it came from the old law that only men had the right to vote. When Women's Suffrage was accepted, this custom was abandoned.

Pastor Snestrud recommended printing a yearly Directory for the Moe Parish.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church dropped the name "Norwegian", so that it would not be a hindrance to other nationalities wishing to join the Church.

The Parish decided to sponsor a Missionary. Pastor Snestrud recommended Rev. & Mrs. Gordon Ruud, who were missionaries in Madagascar. They were members of his church in Los Angeles and he had confirmed them.

**1949**

Rev. A. Snestrud's health began to fail so he was granted a leave of absence. His health did not improve, and on May 26th, he resigned and moved to



Minneapolis where he passed away in November. Mrs. Snedrud and her son Alvin have been connected with the Bethphagee Mission at Axtell, Nebraska since Pastor's death.

A special meeting was held at Romsdal: Lands invited Trinity and Romsdal to merge, forming a single congregation which would select a new name and build a new church. If Trinity and Romsdal did not wish to consolidate, Lands asked to buy enough space on the north side of the highway to build their church.

#### 1950

On April 11th another Parish meeting was held, resulting in Trinity and Romsdal refusing to merge with Lands, and space was given for Lands to build a new church on the north side of the highway.

This was the last Parish meeting. The old records show that Parish meetings were held frequently, and everyone in the three congregations were invited to come, voice their opinions and vote. The records also show that there were often difficulties in settling issues. Now the Executive Board or the Parish Council, discuss Parish business and make decisions.

Rev. Samuel Carlson filled in as interim pastor for about a year, until Rev. Erling Fretheim of Callender, Iowa accepted the call to Moe Parish. On Sept. 3rd, he was installed by Dist. Pres. L. A. Pierson and Rev. Samuel Carlson.

#### 1951

Rev. Emil Erpestad and Mr. Dar Roa of Augustana Academy were hired as part time assistants.

#### 1954

On June 6th, our Parish Missionary, Rev. Gordon Ruud and wife, were with us at our morning worship, and spoke and showed slides at a parish Family Night in Lands Church.

#### 1955

The Parish adopted a unified budget, and the date for the Annual Meeting was changed from December to the middle of January.

#### 1956

Pastor Fretheim resigned August 12th, but agreed to remain with us until December. During this time the call committee contacted Rev. E. J. Haanstad of San Francisco. He accepted and moved here the first of January 1957. He was installed Jan. 20th.

#### 1957

The parish voted to use wine in place of grape juice for Holy Communion.

Vacation Bible School was held in church instead of the schools. Rev. Haanstad personally supervised them, and urged all children to attend. He also extended an invitation to children who were not members of the Moe Parish.

The Parish was saddened by the death of Rev. Emil Erpestad on March 23, 1957. He was a professor of religion at Augustana College while an Assistant Pastor in the Moe Parish.

#### 1958

District Pres. L.A. Pierson died suddenly March 17th. In June, Vice Pres. E.O. Gilbertson was elected President of S.D. District at the General Convention in Minneapolis.

The fireplace in the parsonage was too heavy for the floor and wall so was removed. The chimney and floor was repaired and wall to wall carpeting installed in the living room and dining room.

Rev. LeRoy Iseminger, a teacher of religion at Augustana Academy was called as Assistant Pastor. He accepted and was installed June 5, 1959.

#### 1960

Rev. Haanstad resigned and a call was sent out to our assistant, Rev. Iseminger. He did not accept but agreed to remain as an interim Pastor until the vacancy could be filled.

#### 1961

After a few years of negotiations, the (Norwegian) Evangelical Lutheran Church, the (Danish) United Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the (German) American Lutheran Church united to form the American Lutheran Church, composed of two million members. Along with the merger came several changes, including the Liturgy and Hymnals. Several departments of the church were phased out and others revised.

A call was sent to Rev. Arnold Imbrock of Arlington, S. D. He accepted and was installed March 1st. Rev. Imbrock was of the old A.L.C. American Lutheran Church. There were a few in the Parish who raised their eyebrows when they heard a man of German ancestry was to be the Shepherd in this Norwegian community, but when they met the Pastor and his family their anxiety was relieved.

8 a.m. Sunday morning services were conducted through the summer months in the Newton Hills State Park, so that tourists and campers may hear the word of God while on their vacation. Many of our local people attend these services which are still being conducted.

In November, Rev. Gordon Ruud and family, our Parish Missionary, from Madagascar visited us, sharing their experiences with us during the morning, afternoon and evening services.

Pastor Iseminger resigned.

#### 1962

The Parish celebrated its 90th Anniversary. Pastor Imbrock held a special service. From the bulletin of Oct. 28, 1962, we read: "Bless the Lord, O My Soul and all that is with me, Bless His Holy Name!" "Thus the Psalmist in grateful Praise to God for 90 years of uninterrupted Blessings and Grace. May we each rededicate ourselves to greater service and faithfulness, and may our Christian influence have world wide scope and vision".

#### 1963

The Parish was again in need of an assistant. Rev. Henry Norem accepted the call and was installed April 19th.



## 1964

A delegation from Lands and Romsdal attended the dedication of the Hawarden American Lutheran Church. Our two congregations had assisted their building by guaranteeing a \$10,000.00 Mission Sponsorship Loan.

Rural Life Sunday was celebrated in the Parish with Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Blessings of the Soil.

## 1966

Pastor Henry Norem resigned.

## 1967

Pastor Imbrock resigned in June as he had accepted a call to St. Johns Lutheran Church in LeMars, Iowa.

A call was sent to Rev. Mark Svaren of Sioux Falls. He accepted, and was installed Sept. 5, by Dist. Pres. E. O. Gilbertson.

## 1968

Pastor Svaren resumed his Sunday Morning 8:30 broadcast over K. N. W. C. It is called "GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY", and is supported by gifts and memorials.

Aug. 4th Rev. Luther Simonson, a teacher at Augustana Academy, was installed as Assistant Pastor, and in 1971 he resigned and moved to Madison, Wisconsin.

The Moe Parish has 800 baptized members and 613 confirmed members.

Pastors who have faithfully and untiringly served Moe Parish: Lands, Romsdal and Trinity Congregations are:

C.L. Dalseide.....	1919-1929
A. Molberg.....	1929-1944
A. Snestrud.....	1945-1949
E.H. Fretheim.....	1950-1956
E.J. Haanstad.....	1957-1960
A.F. Imbrock.....	1961-1967
Mark Svaren.....	1967-

Assistant Pastors who have served the Moe Parish

G.N. Isolany.....	1919
K.M. Roe.....	1929
Frederick Norstad.....	1938-1939
Arnold Thompson.....	1941
R.F. Wilson.....	1944-1945
Samuel Carlson.....	1949-1950
Henning Pearson.....	1950
Emil Erpestad.....	1951
A.L. Abrahamson.....	1955
LeRoy Iseminger.....	1959-1961
Henry Norem.....	1963-1966
Luther Simonson.....	1968-1971

## 1972

And now as we celebrate the Centennial of Moe Parish, we are thankful for the many Spiritual and material gifts God has given us, and pray we will always be faithful in "HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE".

# Parish Ladies Aids

In 1919, when Moe Parish was formed there were seven ladies aids in the three churches: three in Lands, two in Romsdal and two in Trinity.

Meetings were held in the homes. The Pastor or his wife were depended upon for Bible Study and Prayer, as well as guidance and advice. They were faithful in trying to attend all of the meetings, so Ladies Aid took much of their time and energy.

A more workable schedule was arranged when the Aids met less frequently. At first money was raised by summer and fall auctions of handwork and baked goods, but Free-Will Offerings gradually took the place of the auction sales and more time was

devoted to inspirational programs.

By the early fifties all three churches had finished basements with modern kitchens adequate for larger group gatherings. The seven Ladies Aids were combined to three, one in each church.

The Womens Auxiliary is called A. L. C. W. (American Lutheran Church Women). The large groups are divided into smaller circles which meet separately for Bible Study. Stewardship groups meet periodically to sew for charity and missions or for visitation in various hospitals and retirement homes. The women have always been a strong arm of the church in the Moe Parish.

# Parish Luther League

In 1946 the Lands, Trinity and Romsdal Luther Leagues joined to become the Moe Parish Luther League.

Each Congregation elects advisors to work with the league officers. It is an active organization that

often uses the facilities of the Parish Park. In the summer there are ball games and youth nights. Fall Festivals, a tradition in this parish, are held every August with the league in charge. This includes an outdoor Sunday morning worship service and an



evening program held at the youth center.

The League contributes towards the Bible Camp expenses of the senior confirmands. Many parish young people have had opportunity to attend Luther League Conventions, Leadership Schools, Bible Camps and rallies.

Junior Lutherans was formerly call L.C.R. (Lutheran Children of the Reformation). It includes boys

and girls of the parish from third through eighth grades. The group elects its own officers who work with advisors from each congregation.

Some of the Junior Lutherans activities are entertaining guests from retirement homes, planning parties for fathers and single men, and caroling.

## Brotherhood History

For many years there had been a desire for a mens organization in Moe Parish. On Nov. 7, 1937, Rev. Roy Olson, Executive Secretary of the National Brotherhood came, to explain the Brotherhood program. As a result of this meeting a committee was established to formulate plans for a Moe Parish Brotherhood. On December 13, 1937 a meeting was held at the Norway Township Hall, and the following officers were elected: Fredrick Norstad, the Parish Intern, President, C.P. Asper, Vice President, Raymond Saugstad Secretary, Herman Johnson, Treasurer. Rev. Molberg was our Pastor at this time. This group voted to accept the National office constitution, which recommended the following committees: Boys Work, Stewardship programs and Congregational projects. Meetings were held every month with fine programs. The attendance was usually very good.

In 1948, when the Moe Parish Park was completed, the Brotherhood felt a Safe and Sane 4th of July celebration was needed, so they decided to sponsor it. They purchased a 16mm film projector with a loud speaker system. Sandwiches, cake, pie, ice cream, coffee and pop were sold. The program began in the afternoon with kitten ball games and field contests for the younger children. The evening program highlighted a speaker, music and movies, culminating with a beautiful fireworks display. The fireworks were made possible by parish contributions. This celebration was a great success and it was decided to make it an annual project.

July 4, 1952 turned out to be not such a Safe and Sane celebration after all. Maurice "Red" Overseth was on the fireworks committee. He used his jeep to

store and transport the fireworks to the park. There were about half a dozen men assisting him ignite the fireworks, and one of the first rockets ignited proved to be defective, spiraling only a few feet in the air and landing in the jeep. All the bombs, torpedoes, rockets and flares were set off in rapid succession, shooting in all directions. Those close by ran behind trees, others ducked into the road ditch. After it was over the jeep looked like a total wreck; seats were blown out, the windshield was found twenty feet away, the gas tank cap was gone and a torch like flame burned in the opening. Someone unaware of what had happened remarked, "It was the best fireworks I have ever seen, only it didn't last very long". "Red" proved to be very handy with welder, hammer and wrenches, and after several repairs, the jeep was in first class condition again. Needless to say the Brotherhood now hires a professional fireworks team, and we can be thankful no one was seriously injured from our amateur attempt. The 4th of July celebration continues to be a major annual event, attracting capacity crowds.

The annual Father-Son Banquet, sponsored by the men of the church, is also recognized as an outstanding event in the Parish.

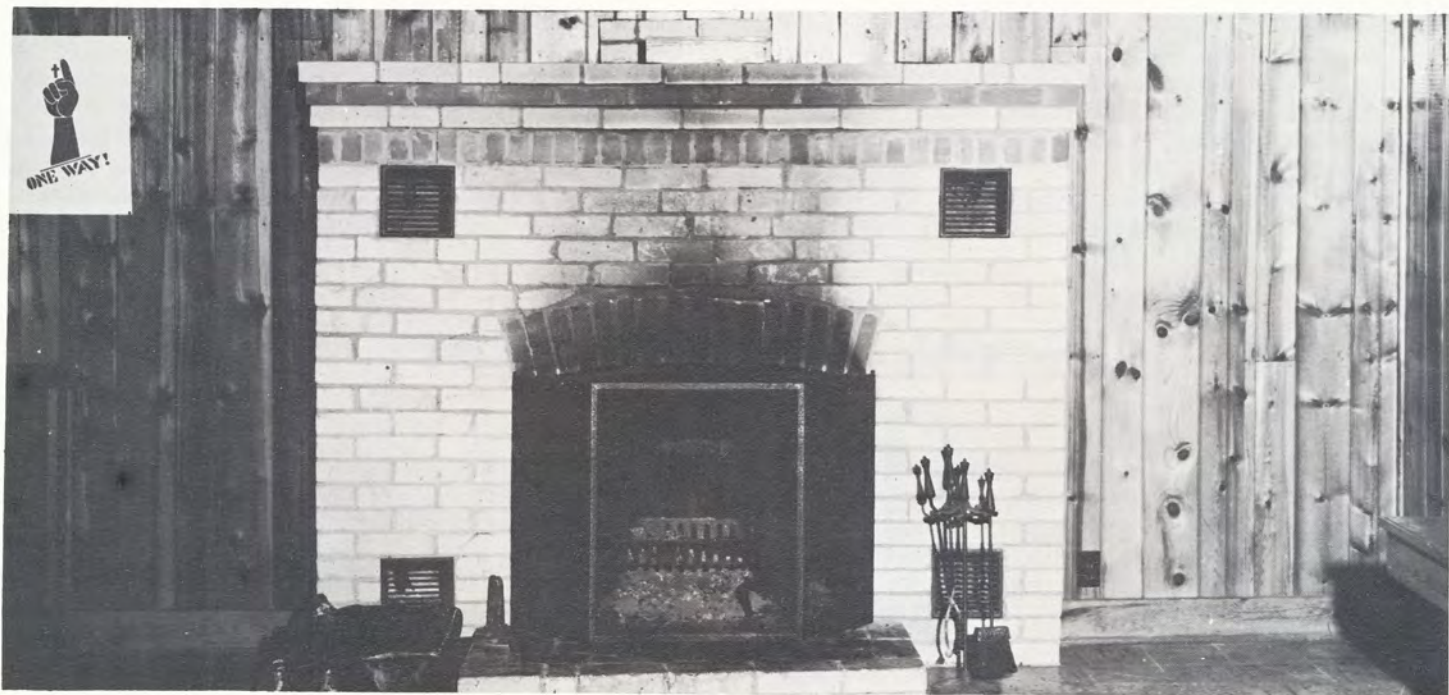
About 20 years ago the Brotherhood sponsored two 4-H Clubs; Moe Hawks and Norway Hustlers. The youngsters had a variety of projects, such as livestock, gardening and crafts. A number of them competed for prizes at the annual Achievement Days fair at Canton. They had a picnic during the summer and held most of their meetings in the Church Basements.

## Parish Park

The Park is one of the most unique achievements of the Moe Parish. When Pastor Snesrud arrived in 1945, he noticed 10 acres of choice church property choked with grass and weeds. Having lived in Los Angeles and Chicago, where free space was at a premium, he was captivated by a beautiful dream

involving the utilization of this pasture. He also noticed an old chicken house and a barn with broken windows and sagging foundation, but Pastor Snesrud was not interested in cows, horses or chickens. He had a much greater dream that would touch the Spiritual needs of eleven hundred of his parishioners.





The Moe Parish Park Fireplace

A short time later Pastor Snedrud shared his dream with us. This property could become a beautiful park, where people could gather for picnics and meetings, and there was ample room for parking, and a ball diamond could be laid out, and play ground equipment purchased for the children. The barn would be moved to the center of the park. It would be placed on a cement foundation with a cement apron in front, wide enough for a balcony overhead. Half of the hay-loft could be removed and a chapel built into the remaining part. A kitchenette could be built and a fireplace of native rocks constructed at the end of the barn. The whole building would be finished inside and out with knotty pine slabs to resemble a log cabin. Pastor thought the chicken house could be remodeled into a doll house for small children.

The "Dream" fell like a bomb that shook Moe Parish to its foundation. Some thought it utterly ridiculous because the local towns had ample parks and country young people got plenty of exercise at home. For conservative Scandinavians it seemed a financial risk also.



THE MOE PARISH PARK COMMITTEE

Left to right—Julius Eneboe, Kenneth Sogn, Joe Rommereim, Frances Lillemoe, Mrs. Oliver Tuntland, Harvey Twedt, Mrs. Almarie Ingebrigtsen, Albert Olson, Mrs. Mineva Anderson, Mrs. Jeanette Ulrickson, Rosen Ingebrigtsen, Pastor Snedrud.

At the annual meeting Pastor Snedrud asked for a committee of two men and two women from each church to study the "Dream", and on December 18, 1945 the committee met for the first time. Pastor Snedrud served as chairman. They met several times during the winter, and in early spring announced there would be several work days at the pasture. They asked the men to bring hammers, saws, spades, shovels, tractors with loaders and a truck with a hoist.



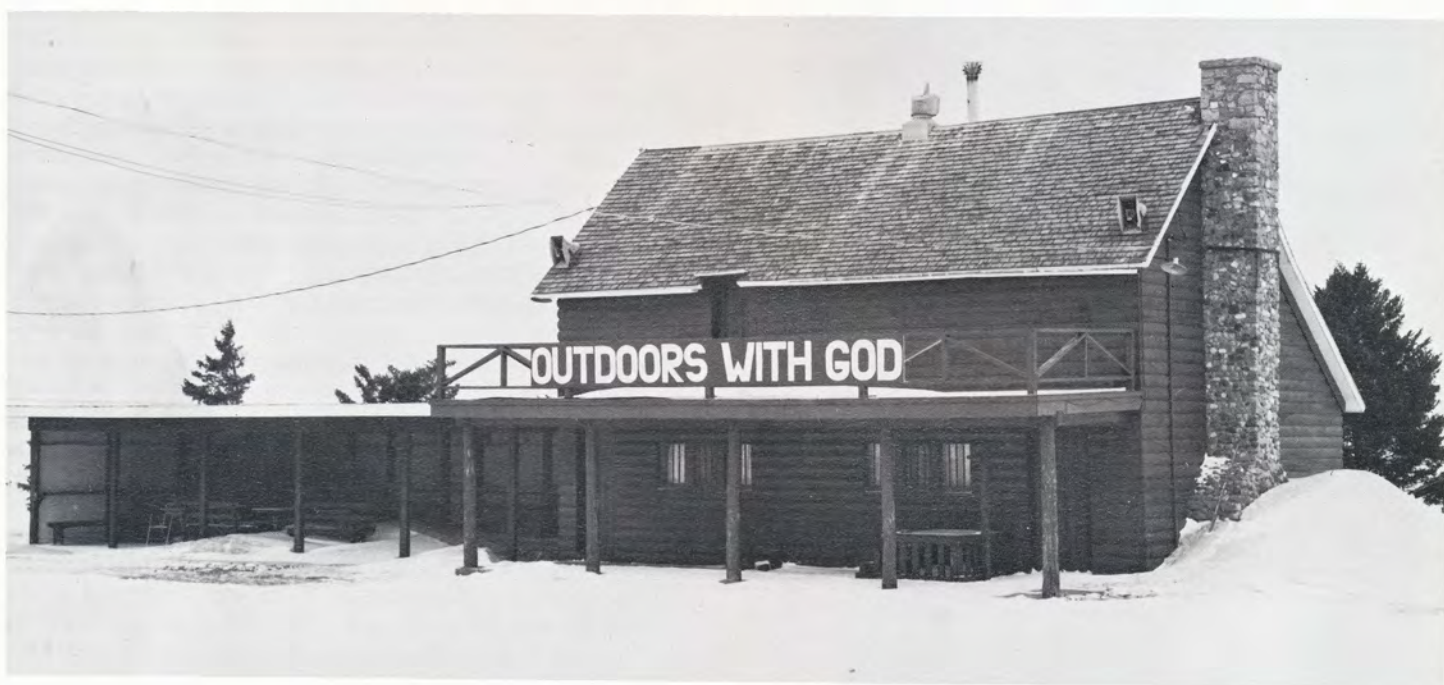
Moe Parish Youth Center Chapel



The ladies were asked to come and serve coffee and lunches, run errands and help paint. The Pastor's "Dream" of a beautiful park was about to become a reality. The Parish Council met in February, and told Pastor Snesrud and the Park Board that they could spend only as much money as was available. This did not slow the project down however, because the money was donated as quickly as it was needed. The value of the whole project became clearer as the plans progressed, and on the first work day many people who had opposed the "Dream" originally came to help. It was not long until the pasture began to look like a beautiful park. It also gained wide recognition. Articles appeared in the local newspapers, the Lutheran Standard, and Cappers Farmer sent photographers and featured articles about the park in their magazine. Four months later, on May 30, 1946 a dedication and memorial service was held. The Chapel had been furnished by the Solem family,

in memory of their son Norman, who was killed in a tractor accident. Dr. L.A. Pierson, Pres. of S.D. District, gave the dedicatory address, and Rev. A. Snesrud the Memorial Service. The Moe Parish Choir and the Youth Choir sang. About a thousand people attended this dedication and a picnic lunch and recreational program followed. In the evening the first colored movies of the development of the park were shown and the crowd was so large two showings were necessary. In 1963 flood lights were added to the ball park. If groups or families want to use the park facilities, reservations must be made. Often these reservations are made a year in advance.

Through the years, the Moe Parish Park has proven to be a real asset to the community, and we are thankful to Pastor Snesrud for his far sighted contribution to the Moe Parish. It has truly been a "God Send".



## Lands Church



The Present Lands Church



Present Lands Church Altar



Lands Lutheran Church was organized in 1872, although residents of the Moe Community had been served by Pastor Emil G. Christiansen for five years. Pastor Christiansen, of Gayville in Yankton County, heard that 25 Norwegian families were on their way to the Sioux River Valley. The settlers came in June. On October 28, 1868, Rev. Christiansen organized the Canton Norwegian Lutheran congregation. It included members in Canton, six miles north, eight miles south and across the river into eastern Iowa. Pastor Christiansen served this congregation the first year. A call was extended to Rev. Ellef Olson, and he was installed November 1, 1869, at the Thron Haldorson Lunder home.



Rev. Ellef Olson

The new congregation was widely scattered; so in 1870, because of distance and mode of travel, walking, it was divided into three districts with services held in each district.

The following is the membership list from District two (the southern district) through 1872.

July 20, 1869: Johannes O. Lybek, Ole S. Halvorsgard and Ole Larsen Saetre.

November 1, 1869: Anders G. Sorlie, Thomas O. Strand, Knut O. Hamre and Osten O. Tuntland.

March 22, 1870: Peder C. Storla, Paul J. Mikkelsbraaten and Hans H. Haagen.

September 4, 1870: Ole P. Orstad, Erik Olsen, Ansten O. Odegard and Ole J. Eneboe.

November 25, 1870: Ole Larson and Peder Gutormson.

March 19, 1871: Christopher C. Jensvold

July 16, 1871: Peder J. Eneboe, Hans H. Lien, Ole J. Storksen, Peder Larsen, Johannes Sorum, Svend Stensland and Johan O. Stensland.,

January 18, 1872: Ingebret Olsen, Paul H. Graestadsmoe, Stener Paulsen, Knut O. Ekle and Johannes O. Odegard.

December 3, 1872: Ole Raassum, Thomas E. Tvedt, Ole E. Tvedt, Reier Wilhelmsen, Hans H. Dompedal, Iver A. Skeyan and Syvert Alness.

In the summer of 1872, due to the influx of many settlers in the Southern district, Lands congregation was formed. The officers were: Secretary John Skorheim, Treasurer Lars Sogn, Sexton and parochial teacher Thore J. Thonstad. Rev. Ellef Olson was the first pastor. He served several other congregations besides Lands and Canton.

At this time church services were held in the homes. From 1869 through 1876 services are recorded as being held in the following District 2 homes:

Johannes Lybek—seven services, Christopher C. Jensvold—two services, Ole P. Orstad—ten services, Ole Eneboe—eight services, Thomas O. Strand—two services, Nils Larsen—six services, Thomas Tveit—four services, Hans H. Dompedal—eight services, Ole Overseth—four services, Stener Paulsen—nine services, Gulik Twedt—one service, Anders Skorheim—eight services, Ansten Odegard—nine services, Alfred Sherman—one service and Gulbrand Mikkelsbrotten—three services. These homes were no doubt the largest and could accommodate the greatest number of people. Most of the houses were built of logs, but a few were frame structures. One hundred and three children were baptized, sixteen of them in the Ole P. Orstad home. Four hundred ninety one people communed; thirty-six during one service in the Stener Paulsen home.

Grammar and Norwegian parochial school were also held in the homes. Two to four months of parochial school were taught each year.

A graveyard was dedicated June 16, 1870 on the Ole Larson Saetre place, between four and five miles north of the present Lands church, with the intention of locating the new church here. Jim Wahl's history relates that twenty people were buried there. This cemetery was later abandoned. Since many settlers located further south, the lot across the road, south of the present church, was chosen. This was on the Knut Ekle homestead. The name Lands does not appear in the records until March 4, 1875. The origin of the name "Lands" remains uncertain. Some people believe that pioneers who emigrated from Land, Norway, were among the organizers of Lands Church. However, no one seems to know who they were. Land in Norway is an area between Gjovik and Fagernes. Others believe that since Lands is an outgrowth of the Canton congregation, it was first referred to as the church "ut paa landet" (out on the land). The term land and later Lands may thus have come into usage. The yearly report of the synod for 1874, placed in the cornerstone of Lands church, records the congregation's membership that year as two hundred and ten souls.

There was talk about building a church so the whole congregation could gather for common worship, but because of crop failure and differing points of view in the congregation, the building plans were put off.

At a congregational meeting at Stener Paulson's, the 18th of May, 1876, a final step was at last taken.



Material was to be purchased and the church building begun. It was decided that the size should be fifty feet long, thirty two feet wide and sixteen feet high. However the pledges that had been given could not accomodate this size building, and the committee found it necessary to change to a forty by thirty by sixteen structure. Pastor Olson wrote: "Although our church building will be both small and plain, we nevertheless have every reason to thank God that we will be permitted to erect a house that will accommodate our services, especially when we see how many hindrances are put in our way in the furtherance of God's Kingdom in our midst." The work was all done by volunteer labor. Men of the community hauled the lumber from Sioux City by team. August 6, 1876, records the first service in Lands church. It is thought to be the first church built in any of the three Canton districts.

A group of pioneer women met in the Joe Skorheim home the year the first church was built to organize the Ladies Aid. The honor roll of those who had the love, courage and vision to work for the extension of the Kingdom in the midst of poverty and handicaps of many kinds follow:

Mrs. Joe Skorheim, Mrs. Nels Larson, Mrs. Ole Overseth, Mrs. Hans Dampen, Mrs. Ole Rossum, Mrs. Thomas Strand, Mrs. Halvor Rogness, Mrs. Haldor Rogness, Mrs. Ole Helvig, Mrs. Ole Ulrickson, Mrs. Bartel Wilson, Mrs. Paul Hanson, Mrs. Anders Lundstrom, Mrs. Gunder Twedt, Mrs. Knute Rise and Mrs. Halvor Strand. Mrs. J. Skorheim was elected president. They met when convenient. A donation of fifty cents each was made by Joe Skorheim, Nels Larson and Ole Overseth in order to give the ladies means to buy material to begin work.

The settlers' joy in their church was short-lived. On March 28, 1879, a terrible prairie fire, driven by an unusually strong wind, burned everything in its path. The first Lands church laid in ashes less than three years after it was built. The congregation had now grown considerably, so the need for a place of worship was greater than at any time before. They began immediately, to discuss the erection of another church, but many difficulties had to be overcome. The congregation was in a difficult economic position because of the spring season. The prospect of a good farm crop was dark, and a dispute arose within the congregation itself as to whether or not the church should be erected on the old location, or a new site.

Finally action was taken at a meeting the 14th of May in the home of Ansten C. Odegard, with the result that forty four voted for and twenty nine against building the church on the same place.

After taking pledges, it was decided to build the second church fifty by thirty-four by eighteen feet high. Nevertheless the building committee was given the liberty to change the size if funds were not sufficient. Since some withdrew their support, the committee reduced the size of the building to forty-five by thirty by sixteen feet high. In spite of this discouragement many took hold of the work with great zeal and sacrifice. The writer of the seventy-fifth anniversary history states those who hauled the lumber for this church were Hans P. Hanson, John Skorheim, Thomas Ulrickson, Knut Ekle, Thomas

Strand, Severt Mjoen, Stener Paulson, Ole Overseth, Andrew Lundstrom and Solomon Mortenson. The carpenters were Lars Sogn, John Skorheim and Solomon Mortenson, however, there may have been others helping also. The lumber was hauled from Hull, Iowa, then called Pattersonville. The cornerstone was laid in 1879, and the church was ready for use the seventh Sunday after Trinity, July 27, 1881. The congregation rejoiced with thankfulness that they again had a beautiful house of worship. This church had a balcony. The steeple was added in 1884 but not finished until 1885 and the final furnishings were not completed until the nineties.



Second Lands Church  
1881

Dissatisfaction in the eastern part of the congregation, because the church was constructed on the same location, did not cease. There was talk of moving the church further east. Although this never materialized, some members did leave to organize a new congregation in 1880, called Gran. A location was provided two miles east of Lands, but a church was never built there. Gran, however, received service from the pastor of Lands until 1895.

Knut Nupen conducted a choir for two years around 1885. Members of that first choir were Emma Lundstrom, Ekle, Martin and John Hovelsrud, Albert Sogn, Randi and Maggie Sorlie, William and Augusta Odegard, Sina Saetre and Lorena Wilson. They had no organ at this time and sang a-capella. They walked to church Sunday afternoons for practice.

Pastor Olson resigned in 1889. He had been the Lands pastor for seventeen years. Many early records of Rev. Ellef Olson, first pastor of Lands church were lost when his home five and one fourth miles north of the church burned down.

Rev. Nels Tosseland, the Canton pastor, served Lands congregation until L. J. Hauge was installed March 8, 1891.

July 10, 1890, Lands, Gran and Eden united to constitute a charter. All three congregations had the same pastor and belonged to the same synodical body, the United Church.





Rev. L. J. Hauge  
1891-1899

The first parsonage was completed in 1892, and that summer Mrs. Hauge entered it as a bride. The church still was without an altar, until Rev. Hauge designed one. Judging from the badges kept by Mrs. P.S. Paulson as souvenirs, the choir and Sunday School must have had big festivals in 1892. It is thought that Jens Bjorlie started the Sunday School that year. One badge reads: "Lands Sondagsskolefest October 1892". On the choir badge we find "Lands Sangkor 1892". Bjorlie also directed the choir at that time. The members were: Gunda, Jacob and Knut Jacobson; Gust, Carl and Julia Hagen; Annie, Lewis, Hans, Aleta, Emma and Adolph Asper; Emma Rossum; Olaf Hegnes, Helmina Overseth, Milda Hanson, Millie Lunder and Ed Rossum. Lands purchased its first organ that year and a platform was built for it. It is told that two young women, Helmina Overseth and Mattie Rossum, traveled around the community in a two-wheeled cart to get donations for the organ. Anna Johnson Rodway and Minnie Sogn Hegnes were the first organists. During these years there was also a male quartette composed of Hans and Lewis Asper, Carl Hagen and Ed Rossum. Landstad's Nye Salmebog (hymnary) was adopted and put into use in April, 1896.

The growth of the Ladies Aid in numbers and the mode of travel made it advisable to divide into three groups. The Aid met in the homes and most of the women walked to the meetings. In early years the hostess served a noon meal. The South Lands continued as the original Aid with the West Lands Ladies organizing in 1891. The first meeting was held at the Ole Rommereim home. Among members present are mentioned Mrs. Nels Rommereim, Mrs. Lars Sogn, Mrs. Bartel Wilson and Mrs. Lars Rommereim. It is said one of the Wilson ladies was elected president. North Lands Ladies Aid organized at the Knute Ulrickson home in the spring of 1894. The following were present: Mrs. Christopher Jensvold, Mrs. Toren Ulrickson, Mrs. Juel Hegge, Mrs. Ole Fossum, Mrs. Even Fossum, Mrs. Gilbert Moen and

Mrs. Lewis Sivesind. Mrs. C. Jensvold and Mrs. Knute Ulrickson were elected President and Vice President.

While Rev. Hauge was here a general store housing the Moe post office was built north of the parsonage. The parsonage and church became known as the Moe parsonage and Moe church. Rural routes were established in 1900.

Pastor Hauge resigned and gave his farewell sermon the 9th Sunday after Trinity, 1899. Ten weeks later, the 19th Sunday after Trinity 1899, Rev. C. C. Stras, interim pastor was installed.

As early as 1893 there had been talk of another church building. By 1900 Pastor Stras wrote, "The congregation's second church, whose corner stone was laid in 1879, has now for several years been in a dilapidated condition, and on certain occasions it has been too small. The question is being asked whether the congregation shall repair the old church and build an addition to it, or whether a new church should be built."

August 29th, 1900, the congregation elected a committee to present three different plans for a new church. At a congregational meeting, January 15, 1901, it was voted to build a new church with the privilege of using material from the old one. The sum of \$2,575.00 had been subscribed for the building program and more was added later. Three plans for a church were presented; one for a long church, one for a cross-shaped building and one for a four-cornered or square church. A building committee of five men was elected. They were: Nels Thormodsgaard, Emil Rogness, Arne Ekle, Tom Ulrickson and Sivert Alness. At the next meeting January 29th, 1901, the building committee presented a new plan, an eight sided church, worked out by John Ulberg of Canton.



Lands Lutheran Church  
1901-1952

The deciding vote was twenty-nine for this plan and five against. At a congregational meeting March 4th the lowest bid was accepted, which was from contractor John Berggren, of Hawarden, Iowa. His offer was for \$3,010.00, with \$400.00 subtracted for the old church. Mr. Berggren also promised a



personal subscription of \$50.00. The main church was to be twenty feet high from the foundation to the roof. The plan called for a sacristy on the west side to be eighteen by twenty feet and twelve feet high. The steeple would cost an additional \$300.00. The distance from the ground to the tip of the rod on the spire was ninety-eight feet. The rod was twelve feet high and near its top were a crown and a cross. Other specifications, costing over \$200.00 were added. The church was built on approximately the same location as the preceding ones. The cornerstone for the third Lands church was laid August 4, 1901. Pastor Stras wrote on August 3, "The church building has hitherto met with more than hoped for good will and liberal support from many. But an important work still remains, to raise the money to finish the interior with necessary furnishings. The whole will at least amount to \$1,500.00. The Ladies' Aids expect to contribute a considerable amount, but the largest contribution will have to be made by the Congregation as such. This, also, can easily be done when every one shares." The altar, designed by L.J. Hauge for the



Altar used in second and third Lands Church

former church, was used again. The cost of the building amounted to about \$6,000.00 when it was completed. In June, 1902, a tornado swept the community, leveling both Trinity and Romsdal churches. It blew down the steeple of the new Lands church, damaged windows and weakened the whole structure.

Rev. O. C. Stras served until S. J. Nummedal was installed in 1903. Shortly after the arrival of the Nummedal family, the congregation voted to build a sixteen by twenty eight foot addition to the parsonage. Later the same year it was decided to buy a new bell for the church. The bell was to weigh not less than one thousands pounds. The sum of \$135.00 had already been raised for this purchase and the remaining cost was to be levied among the members. In 1905 Lands voted to undertake a new enterprise. Mr. G. Moen was elected delegate, and Mr. Syvert



Rev. S. J. Nummedal  
1903-1918

Alness alternate to go to Minneapolis to purchase a horse drawn hearse, if a bargain could be found. They were successful in finding one but the hearse was



Hearse owned by Lands Congregation

used only a few times due to a difficulty in getting a driver. The Evergreen trees that were planted north and east of the church were given by Knut Ulrickson in 1909. They were planted by Knut Ulrickson and Ingebrighth Holsather. In 1913 a new organ was purchased. The old organ was given to the Beloit Children's Home.

Rev. S. J. Nummedal was instrumental in organizing the Luther League, or "Ungdomsforening", as it was then called. Meetings were conducted in Norwegian. In 1904 the Luther League had a membership of fifty, which increased steadily. In those days families came, and everyone took part in the programs. "Harpen" was the song book used and when gospel hymn books were purchased, the singing became more lively. In 1913 the Lands and Trinity Luther League combined.

Many remember the ice cream socials that were held at the homes. A program was given and sometimes the piano was carried out on the porch or lawn where the young people played singing games



on the grass. The next day the grass would be almost worn away where they circled. These were great times, and many romances began at the League ice cream socials. Offerings were taken at the socials for the work of the church.

Mention should be made of the Fall Festival, which began in 1910 under the auspices of the Luther League. Prior to this, it had sponsored Fourth of July picnics in the various groves near the church. A standard joke was that many trees withered because of the hot political speeches. The Fall Festivals were also held in the groves. They began in the afternoon with a program, ball-game, band concert and races. A big chicken supper was served by the women, from a large tent. The money for the supper went to the Luther League. The largest offering on record was \$787.30.

Pastor Nummedal had great zeal for the outreach of the gospel through foreign missions and a strong missionary spirit has remained with us until this day. In 1907 Lands voted to take two offerings each year to be sent to missions. The Ladies Aids have contributed much to the cause of missions down through the years. Several young people who grew up in Lands congregation became missionaries. Rev. Oluf Asper, missionary to China, was the son of pioneers in the community. His parents, August and Laura Asper, settled here in 1874. Rev. and Mrs. Elmer Dahle were missionaries to Alaska. Elmer Dahle was the son of Knute Dahle, who was the storekeeper at Moe for many years. Mrs. Dahle, nee Ingeborg Hanson, was a descendant of early settlers here. Her grandfathers were Paul Grasdalmoe and Ansten Odegard. Three of Pastor Nummedal's daughters became wives of missionaries to China. They are Esther (wife of Rev. Thomas Lee), Stella (wife of Rev. Herman Bly), and Elsie (wife of Dr. Gustav Gulseth).

At the annual business meeting on December 3, 1917, it was decided to have a committee of three evaluate the parsonage and give the Board of Trustees authority to negotiate with Trinity Church. A motion was passed to sell one-third interest in the parsonage to Trinity for \$600.00, with the property reverting to Lands if the agreement was dissolved. At this time the parish consisted of Eden, Lands and Trinity.

On September 11, 1918, Rev. Nummedal resigned as our pastor, and on October 12, 1918, the parish consisting of Lands, Trinity and Eden was dissolved. Shortly thereafter Lands, Trinity and Romsdal combined to form Moe Parish. Romsdal bought Eden's share in the parsonage. For two years the newly formed parish was served by interim pastors. In 1919 the parsonage was remodeled and modernized. In the fall of 1920, Rev. C. L. Dalseide of Sioux City, Iowa, was installed as pastor. It was during these years that the transition from Norwegian worship services to American took place. It was necessary for the pastor to preach in each language. Parochial school was held for a month or more each summer in the country school houses. Families who desired could also have their children taught reading from a Norwegian lasebog to help preserve the native tongue of their forefathers. Until 1930 all church records were kept in Norse. The

congregation's annual business meetings, attended by men only, lasted all day. Sack lunches were taken along for the noon meal. In 1936 these meetings were shortened to afternoons only.

Many years ago there was an organization for girls in this community known as Pigeforening (Girls' Society). They met at various homes and learned to sew and hem stitch. The articles they made were sold at an auction. On March 24, 1928, at Norway Township Hall Mrs. C. B. Asper organized the Lands Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation. Girls were eligible to join at the age of six. In 1931 they divided into two groups. The North group was known as the North Lands L. D. R. and the South group as Mission Stars. They held their separate meetings but worked together on sales and socials. Monthly meetings were held in the homes with devotions, program and offering. Some needlework was done and a sale of articles was held around Thanksgiving time. The gold altar cross was presented to Lands Church by the L.D.R. members at a tenth anniversary observance in 1938. Later the two groups united to form the Lands-Trinity L.D.R. and met in the Lands church parlors. In 1961 the organization was dissolved when our church became part of the American Lutheran synod.

The Lands Mission Band and charities group, active in auxiliaries of the Women's Missionary Society, were also discontinued when the American Lutheran Church Women was organized.

Rev. Dalseide resigned in 1929 and Rev. A. Molberg arrived that fall. By December, 1929, there was discussion about another building program. A motion was passed to start a fund. The economic depression of the early thirties intervened and the building plans had to be postponed.

The sixtieth anniversary of Lands congregation was observed May 26-29, 1932, with a full three day program. The weather was ideal. A noon lunch was served each day in the Moe community hall by the three Ladies Aids. In 1939 the tall steeple of the church had to be torn down and a bell tower was built in its place. In the early forties the building fund drive was reactivated. Much cash was raised through several large auction sales and dinners held in the Norway township hall. The people of the church gave willingly and bid generously. The Second World War further delayed actual building of a new church.

The Molbergs contributed much to the up-dating of the Sunday School and ladies aids. They shared the dust storms, drought and hard times of the depression years with us. After fifteen years Pastor Molberg resigned and gave his farewell sermon in Lands September 24, 1944. In 1945 Rev. Alvin Snedrud came from Chicago.

Lands church celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary May 16-18, 1947. Interesting programs were planned for every session with reminiscing, visiting pastors and choirs. The 17th of May festival service was held in the Norwegian language, and perhaps this was the last one held. Noon meals were served in the parish park, which was a worthy new project inspired by the Snedruds.

Trinity and Lands voted in 1947 to help support a missionary to Madagascar. The Gordon Ruuds were chosen as our special representatives of the mission



field. In 1948 Romsdal joined in supporting the Mission project. We continued to sponsor the Ruuds until 1968 when ill health prevented Pastor Ruud from returning to the field after furlough. Rev. and Mrs. Merl Metcalf, our current parish missionaries, are stationed in Taiwan.

On May 26, 1949, Rev. Snedrud resigned because of ill health and Pastor Erling Fretheim arrived September 3, 1950.

The need for a more adequate church structure at Lands continued to be strongly felt. The fund raising program, began more than twenty years before, was intensified, and resulted in several successful drives for the building project. Romsdal and Trinity gave permission to choose a building site on parish property across the highway north of the old church. Early in July, 1950, a contract was let to the John Schilt Construction Company of Sioux Falls. Mr. Schilt was the father of Mrs. Maurice Gilbertson. On Sunday afternoon, November 5, 1950, the cornerstone of the fourth Lands church was laid with an impressive ceremony. One and one half years later, May 4, 1952, the new brick building was dedicated. This was a festive day, with forenoon worship service, dedicatory rites in the afternoon with Dr. L.A. Pierson officiating and a benedictory service in the evening. The newly finished church parlors supplied a convenient place for serving a noon meal and evening lunch to the large crowd. The new church provided many advantages, including much needed Sunday school rooms and a central place where the women of the church would meet together. The three ladies aids combined immediately into one group of about seventy members. The fifty year old bell from the octagonal church was moved to the bell tower in the new building and continues to call its people to worship.

The farewell sermon at the old church was delivered by Rev. Erling Fretheim the day the cornerstone was laid. The final service was held the last Sunday in April, 1952. After the congregation moved to the new church across the road, the old house of worship was dismantled with care by the men of the church. Its lumber and furnishings were sold at an auction which netted \$2,393.12. The proceeds were applied to the debt on the new church. Overall cost of the new building (including the Haygren organ) was \$156,000.00. The debt, which was \$5,000.00 the day of dedication, was retired shortly. Many furnishings and accessories have since been added through special gifts and loving memorials. A blacktop parking area was laid where the long-gone church stables had sheltered the horses of the pioneers. The cemetery was enlarged and new Evergreens planted along its south and west borders. Stained glass windows were added in 1969.

A voluntary mission program, called Lands Missionary Endeavor, was launched in 1954. Its purpose is to help support a foreign missionary through individual gifts apart from the church budget. The uniqueness of the plan lies in the fact that since 1963 it has been financed largely through a beef sponsorship project. Each fall the money to purchase the feeder cattle is loaned from a local bank. Farmers volunteer to take an extra head of beef into their lots to feed for gratis along with their own cattle.

When the cattle are sold the check is given to the Missionary Endeavor which benefits from the free gain. So far, one hundred twenty four head of beef cattle have been placed, and not an animal has been lost. Fifteen stockers are out on feed this year. Cash donations and memorials supplement the income. Our missionary, since the beginning of this project, has been Harriet Stovner, teacher in the Cameroun, Africa.

Pastor Fretheim resigned in 1956, and the Rev. E. J. Haanstad, who came from California in 1957, served until August, 1960. 1961 was the Jubilee year when the American Lutheran Church, United Evangelical Lutheran Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church bodies merged. There were many changes. Moe parish formerly belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Prior to that, since 1917 it had belonged to the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. In pioneer days Lands was first affiliated with the anti-Missouri Brotherhood, 1888-1890, then the United Synod 1890-1917.

Rev. Arnold Imbrock was installed in 1961.

In 1964 Lands and Romsdal signed a \$10,000.00 note to guarantee a Mission Sponsorship loan. The beneficiary was the young American Lutheran Church of Hawarden, Iowa.

Many from Lands congregation have sought and been elected to public office. In November, 1960, a life-long member, Archie Gubbrud, was elected to be the twenty-second Governor of the State of South Dakota. He had served five terms in the legislature and as Speaker of the House of Representatives. He served as Governor from 1961-1963, then was re-elected for a second term, 1963-1965. On the Gubbrud's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, August 15, 1964, a tribute to Archie and his wife, Florence, was held at the church. U. S. Congressman Ben Reifel was the speaker. Following this the flag pole and flag at Lands were dedicated in honor of Governor Archie.

Pastor Imbrock accepted a call to Le Mars, Iowa, in 1967, and Rev. Markus Svaren, present pastor of Moe Parish, was installed the same year.

Our congregation pays tribute to the young men of our church who have served in the Armed Forces of our country. All had returned safely until March 4, 1971, when the words "Killed in Action" were applied to one of our own. Lt. Arvid Thormadsgaard was fatally wounded while he was leading his men in battle in Viet Nam. The whole community was shocked and grieved. Lt. Thormadsgaard was buried with military honors on March 16, 1971. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Thormadsgaard.

Lands is proud of its pastor sons. They are Olaf Asper, Elmer Dahle, Charles Paulson, Wallace Asper and Armand Asper.

There have been many choirs down through the years. The Lands Mandskor was predecessor to the Moe Male Chorus. The mixed choirs, ladies choruses, young people's and junior choirs and parish choirs have been an inspiring part of our worship services.

Sunday school has played an important role in the training of the children given to us. It has always been supplemented with summer Bible school. The



Lutheran Children of the Reformation organization is now part of the parish Junior Lutherans and the Lands-Trinity Luther League has since 1946 been part of the parish Luther League. The picture of the Snestruds over the fireplace in the youth center of the park was a gift of the L.D.R. It bears testimony of benefits reaped by our young people from Pastor Snestrud's "dream".

Lands congregation has been served by a number of dedicated, capable interim and assistant pastors including Nels Tosseland, G. N. Isolany, K. M. Roe, Frederick Norstad, A. L. Abrahamson, Arnold Thompson, R. F. Wilson, Samuel Carlson, Emil Erpestad, Dar Roa, Henning Pearson, Leroy Iseminger, Henry Morum and Luther Simonson.

The hundred year history of our church causes us to ponder over the heritage passed on by sacrificing pioneers. May we continue to hold forth the Word of Life with truth and faithfulness.



Aerial View of 3rd and 4th Lands Churches

# Romsdal Church History



Romsdal Lutheran Church

On April 26th, 1872, the first meeting to organize a Lutheran Church was held at the Peder Eneboe home. Following are the names of the men who signed as charter members: J. Indregaard, H. Nigstad, Ole Bleksrud, Iver Alness, Mikal N. Grane, Johannes Hagali, Peder J. Eneboe, Holger O. Halsne, Ingebregt H. Lien, Ole T. Borgen, Lars Kylling and Ole Tuntland. Peder Eneboe was unanimously elected "Elder" of the congregation for one year.

At a later meeting, July 4, 1872, Peder Eneboe deeded an acre of land in the southwest corner of his



Romsdal Altar

farm, three miles north and one mile east of the church to be used as a cemetery. This cemetery was discontinued in 1882.

Gunder L. Graven, an ordained layman, became the congregation's first pastor in 1873. Through his ministry a great number of people joined the church. The officers elected were: G. L. Graven, President; Bernt Johnson, Vice President and Trustee and Iver Alness, Deacon.

Times were difficult for the settlers, with severe financial problems. The congregation needed a



secretary's book but no funds were available, none could be purchased. Cash was to be paid in those days; if no cash, no purchase.



Rev. G. L. Graven was the first Pastor of Romsdahl Congregation serving a period of years from 1873-1900. During this time several others assisted but the great credit is due Rev. Graven for his constant efforts in spreading the gospel "Near and Far."

Pastor Graven's parish covered several counties. Because of the distance involved, services were infrequently held. When the Pastor stopped at a parishioner's house the young boys were sent throughout the community with news that a service would be held. The sod house was filled to overflowing with a reverent and appreciative audience. Mrs. Graven occasionally accompanied her husband and every one enjoyed the beauty that her lovely voice added to the worship service.

During the eighties, people began talking about building a church, but after some deliberation they came to the conclusion that it was not possible at this time. Pastor Graven's health was failing, and he attempted to resign from the congregation, but his resignation was not accepted unless he promised to assist in securing another pastor.

A call letter was sent to student C. C. Holter in



Rev. C. C. Holter  
Served one year during  
Rev. Graven's stay here

1884. He accepted and began his ministry in 1884. Pastor Holter was a very able minister but within a year the congregation was again without a shepherd. At this time an older pastor, H. Hendrickson, from Eagle Grove, Iowa came. He promised to serve temporarily, until a new minister was found and he served the congregation one year.

On Feb. 21st, 1890 a special meeting was held to discuss the possibility of building a church. The

writer of this history believes that many came praying, "God, give us a blessed meeting". A motion to build was unanimous, and after a lengthy debate as to location, an offer from Lars Kylling to give two



Lars Kylling, who donated the grounds where the Romsdal Church now stands.

acres of land and \$50.00 in cash if they would call the church Romsdal, after his home in Norway, was accepted. Contributions were taken, and J. E. Johnson and Iver Alness were appointed solicitors for the building fund.

On the 24th of April the congregation met and incorporated under the laws of South Dakota. The size of the church building was decided to be 46 feet



Romsdal Lutheran Church  
1890-1902

long, 28 feet wide, 16 feet high and the tower 10 feet square at the base. The foundation was to be 2 feet high. The building committee was composed of : Henry Thompson, Lars Kylling and Iver Alness. The carpenters were Carl Evjen and Peder Erickson. The church was ready at Christmas of that same year, 1890. It was painted in the spring of 1891 and dedicated July 10, 1892 by the president of the Hauge Synod, A. O. Utheim. The church was now completed and paid for, costing \$3,000.00 and their longings and dreams for a church in their midst were realized.

About this time Rev. Graven moved to Beresford. In spite of advanced years and poor health he continued to serve Romsdal Church until 1898. In August 1900, Pastor Graven preached his last sermon in Romsdal, after 30 years of faithful service. He and Mrs. Graven moved to Santa Rosa, California



that same fall, hoping the climate would be beneficial to his health, but he lived only three years. Mrs. Graven died in 1922.



Rev. T. T. Carlson  
1898-1903

In 1898 a call was sent to Pastor T. T. Carlson, who accepted and served until 1903.

Around this time young peoples programs were started. The attendance was good, and both old and young came to these meetings and the membership increased. The church was growing and in the spring of 1902 a meeting was held to discuss the enlargement of the building.



The remains of the first Romsdal Church after the Tornado in June, 1902.

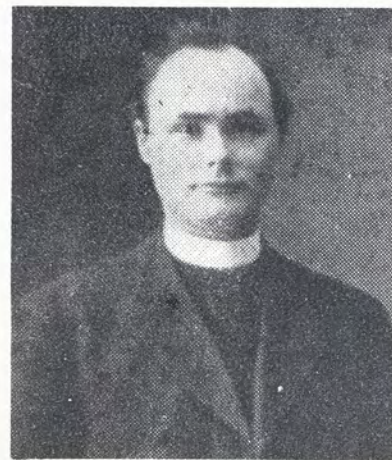
Before any definite action could take place the church was destroyed by a tornado on the 23rd of June 1902. Lands congregation offered the use of their church, and the Romsdal people worshipped there until the summer of 1903, when Romsdal church was completed at a cost of \$5,000.00. On July 2nd, 1905 it was dedicated by the president of the Hauge Synod.

(Most of the preceeding history was written in Norwegian by Edwin Alness 1932. Translated to the English language by Mrs. Clara Kylling).

The question of installing lightening rods on the church was discussed by the congregation. A bitter argument followed as a few contended that, "If the Members of this Church had enough Faith, God would never let Lightening strike His Temple". A vote was taken, the rods were installed much to the dismay of a few.

#### 1903-1905

Romsdal had no regular Pastor during this time.



Rev. G. O. Mona  
1905-1906

#### 1905—

Rev. G. A. Mona was called and he served Romsdal congregation for two years.

#### 1907—

Romsdal Church and Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Beresford joined in calling Rev. J. A. Quello. He also served Skrefsrud Lutheran Church, and Bethesda Children's Home until 1915.



Rev. S. A. Quello  
1907-1915

Pastor Quello was an ardent prohibitionist. Beresford was a dry town, there were no saloons. Individuals ordered liquor shipped in by railroad. Pastor Quello sometimes checked the names on these shipments. Because of this, someone threw a rock through a window in his home narrowly missing one of the family.

#### 1910—

The Ladies Aid bought the Romsdal Church bell at the cost of \$40.00.

#### 1915—

The last Confirmation Class was held in the Norwegian language, on Aug. 12th. It was also the day of Rev. J. A. Quello's farewell sermon.



Rev. Skarpness

Romsdal church shared the ministry of J.J. Skarpness with Centerville Lutheran Church until 1919.



#### 1919—

Romsdal Church bought one third share of the Moe Parsonage property from the Eden (Hudson) congregation, forming the Moe Lutheran Parish with Land and Trinity. That same year, the parsonage was modernized with electric lights, water and sewer.

Rev. G. Isolany filled the pulpit part of this year.

#### 1920—

Rev. Dalseide became the first parish pastor and stayed until 1929.

At this time Romsdal church had 55 families, 76 voting members and 255 confirmed.

The following pastors served Romsdal congregation before the parish was formed:

G. L. Graven	1873-1898 (except 1884-1885)
C. C. Holter	1884
T. T. Carlson	1898-1903
G. O. Mona	1905-1906
J. A. Quello	1907-1915
J. J. Skarpness	1915-1919

#### 1921—

In the early days Parochial classes were held in the country school houses. These classes lasted two or three months a year.

About 1900 there was some disagreement in the Pleasant Valley School District, so the Lutherans in that area constructed their own Parochial School House on the west side of Andrew J. Rommereim's grove. Confirmation classes and other small church gatherings were held there. The Ladies Aid held an auction in 1921, and this building was included on the sale. Mr. Rommereim bought it, and moved it home to be used as a utility house. Curtis Rommereim a grandson of Andrew, now lives on the home place, where the old Parochial school building stands.

#### 1922—

A 32 volt Delco electric generator was installed, replacing the carbide gas lights used in the church prior to this time.

#### 1926—

The church was raised and a full basement was added.

#### 1929—

The 44' x 88' horse barn, built south of the cemetery before 1900, was sold to Melvin and Bernhard Tuntland. They divided it and moved it to their farms. Bernhard's half was demolished in the tornado of 1949.

Rev. Dalseide resigned and Rev. Calmer Roe, who had just graduated from the Seminary, filled the pulpit for six months.

Rev. Albert Molberg was called and accepted. He was installed in November.

#### 1932—

Aug. 19-20-21, was Romsdal's 60th Anniversary celebration. Speakers for the event were: Dist. Pres. H. E. Solem, Pastors J. A. Quello, J. J. Skarpness and K. N. Roe an interim pastor in 1929. Closing remarks were made by our current Pastor A. Molberg.

#### 1933—

Up to this time members were assessed by a financial committee. Families were assigned amounts between \$5.00 and \$35.00 a year. Some members disagreed with the practice of assessments and the publishing of the lists. In 1933 the envelope system of free will offering was introduced, but voted down until 1946.

The 1930's are remembered as the "Dry Dirty Thirties".

#### 1935-36—

During this severe winter Ole Tuntland Jr., father of Stanley Tuntland, passed away and every time a date for the funeral was set, the roads were blocked. An appeal to the So. Dak. Highway Dept. resulted in getting their snow removal equipment routed to Romsdal Church, but wind drifted the snow and the road was immediately closed.

Several days later after the weather settled, another attempt was made. The snow plow reached Osmund Tuntland's place at dark (a mile and a half from Romsdal Church). The drifts had become deeper and harder and it could not go any farther. Telephone calls were made asking neighbors to come and scoop snow ahead of the tractor. A dozen men showed up and at 10 o'clock they started and worked all night reaching Romsdal Church about daylight. Soon after the funeral was held the wind drifted the roads full of snow again.

#### 1944—

Pastor A. Molberg resigned and moved to Jackson, Minn.

Pastor A. Snestrud of Chicago accepted the call and was installed in November.

#### 1945—

Romsdal had followed the customs of the old Hauge Synod in the past, but now they joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Pastor donned robes and the liturgy was adopted.

#### 1946—

The envelope system of free will giving was introduced and adopted Dec. 3rd.

The women were given the right to vote in the church.

#### 1947—

The 75th Anniversary was celebrated June 20-21-22. The speakers were Dist. Pres. Lester A. Pierson, Pastors, J. A. Quello, J. J. Skarpness, A. Molberg, and Emil Erpestad, and closing remarks by our Pastor A. Snestrud.

#### 1948—

A committee was organized to replace the old windows and frames with stained glass windows. Serving were: Mrs. Arne Rommereim, Mons Grottveit, Elmer Olbertson, Robert Thompson and Oliver Anderson. The windows were donated by decedents of Romsdal's pioneer families.

#### 1949—

Pastor Snestrud resigned due to ill health.



Rev. Samuel Carlson filled the pulpit until Rev. E. Fretheim was installed in 1950.

**1950—**

The North and South Ladies Aid -merged forming one organization call Womens Missionary Federation (W.M.F.).

A Hammond Electric Organ was installed, and Rev. Erling Fretheim had an installation service.

**1952—**

A building project added a 20' x 20' addition to the north side of the church, a sacristy upstairs and a kitchen in the basement. Prior to this a small kitchen, next to the furnace room had been used.

May 25th, a Festive Day was celebrated when J. Elvern Rommereim, son of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Rommereim, was ordained into the Holy ministry. He was the first son of Romsdal to be ordained. Pastors Albert Molberg, F.M. Erickson, A.L. Abrahamson, and our own Pastor E.H. Fretheim conducted the service.

**1953—**

A new piano was purchased.

**1954—**

May 30th, another Festive Day for Romsdal with the congregations second son, LeeRoy Eikanger, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Eikanger ordained in the Holy Ministry. Dist. Pres. L. A. Pierson was Ordinator, Pastor E. H. Fretheim was Liturgist; Reverends Albert Molberg, Emil Erpestad and Rev. Vernon Keszler, a friend of LeeRoy assisted in the service.

**1956—**

Rev. Erling Fretheim resigned and left in December. Rev. E. J. Haanstad accepted our call and was installed in January.

**1957—**

Jan. 15th, the congregation voted to use wine in place of grape juice for Holy Communion.

Romsdal adopted the Perpetual Care plan for its cemetery. An endowment fund was established allowing only the use of the interest from it's capital fund for maintenance of the cemetery.

**1960—**

New pews and a pulpit were installed and dedicated, and the church road was black topped.

In June Pastor Haanstad resigned. A farewell gathering was held at Romsdal. A short program was given and a monetary gift was presented by J. W. Yttreness, chairman of the congregation.

**1961—**

This was the Jubilee year for our church. The E.L.C., the U.E.L.C., and the A.L.C. were the three church bodies which united to form the American Lutheran Church (A.L.C.).

Pastor Arnold Imbrock accepted a call to our parish. He was installed at Lands in a parish service, and a welcome reception was held in Romsdal on March 2nd.

Pastor LeRoy Iseminger resigned on May 28th,

he was with us as an assistant pastor since June 1959.

**1962—**

On October 28th, we celebrated the 90th Anniversary of Romsdal. Pastor Imbrock preached the festal sermon. After the service a dinner was served by the A.L.C.W. and a program was given in the afternoon.

**1963—**

Rev. Henry Norem was installed by Rev. A. F. Imbrock April 28th, as Assistant Pastor.

**1964—**

The Hawarden A. L.C. of Hawarden, Iowa was dedicated. It was sponsored by a Mission Sponsorship Loan of \$10,000.00 from Lands and Romsdal churches.

**1966—**

After 3 years in our midst, Rev. Henry Norem resigned to accept a call in Lanesboro, Minn.

**1967—**

June 11th, Rev. Arnold Imbrock resigned to go to St. John's Lutheran Church at LeMars, Iowa.

Rev. Mark Svaren and family arrived August 31st, and he was installed Sept. 10th by Dist. Pres. E. O. Gilbertson.

**1970—**

The congregation voted to celebrate Holy Communion the first Sunday of every month.

**1972—**

Romsdal formed an independent Cemetery Corporation and leased the property on which the church stands back to the congregation for \$1.00 per year.

May 19, 20, 21 mark the Centennial celebration of Moe Lutheran Parish.

This is the history of the first century of Romsdal Church. With God's help it will continue if we all work together "Holding Forth The Word of Life".



Aerial View of Romsdal Church



## Romsdal Church Choirs

In 1890, a young school teacher from Norway, Jens Bjorlie, organized a choir. The members were interested and met faithfully for rehearsals. After a while they could sing very well. One of the older members of the congregation suggested that the choir sing in church at the Easter Sunday Service. They were glad to do so and came to church that morning. After the sermon the pastor announced that the choir was going to sing. A stir was noticed in the pews. Some became restless, left their seats and walked out before the choir had finished the song. The pastor thanked the choir for their song and asked them to come again and sing, if they could not sing, to come anyway. He encouraged them to continue with the choir. Outside the church a short but sharp discussion took place. Have you heard anything so awful! Ungodly people stand by the altar and sing praises to the Lord and on Easter Sunday! Some of them are the worst drunkards you can find! Who knows, maybe they were drunk now as they stood there and sang! IS THIS LUTHERAN? Is this "Haugiansk"? We call it blasphemy! An elderly man stood quietly by, listening seriously. Finally he remarked, "If anyone of these is a drunkard, it should make us all happy to see him in church. Were it not for the fact he was singing today, he may not have been in church at all. The Lord Himself invited the blind, the halt, the lame and crippled to come in order that the house might be full. What they sang was Christian, it was right, it was the truth. And we are told that we shall believe the truth even if it comes from the mouth of an ass! The irate church members excused themselves and asked forgiveness. This was granted and peace and good-will was restored. Choir members were: Gilbert and Ole Satrum, Dr. Ed Eneboe, M. T. Eneboe, Edna Alness Opland, Sophia Alness Glover, M. P. Eneboe, Emma Kylling Linde,

Louise Kylling, Ole Eneboe, Lawrence Fundingsland and Carl Ensrud. Josephine Eneboe Olson was accompanist. From this time on, the following served as directors for the Romsdal Choir: Haverberg and son Alfred, Agatha Moen, Elizabeth Rommereim, H. P. Hertsgaard, Agnes Rommereim, Mabel Monson, Jack Buis, Frederick Norstad and Mrs. Arnold Thompson.

A Ladies Chorus was organized during the war, singing for services and other functions, with Mrs. C. B. Asper as director.

A Parish Choir was organized November 16, 1945, with Mrs. C.B. Asper as director and Mrs. Erwin Syverud pianist. This choir sang for worship services in the three Churches and gave several concerts. They also sang at district and Circuit Lutheran Conventions.

It is also interesting to note who the pianists have been during the previous years: Josephine Eneboe Olson, Louise Kylling, Agatha Moen, Evanson, Ellen Alness Grane, Clara Linde Kylling, Hazel Yttreiness Hybertson, Bernice Olbertson Thissell, Clarinda Rommereim Bovill, Beatrice Andeberg Eide, Helen Yttreiness Johnson, Ione Alness Syverud. Much honor goes to Mrs. Clarinda R. Bovill and Mrs. Ione A. Syverud for their many years of service as Organists.

The Youth Choir of Romsdal has been active. Some of the directors were: Mrs. John Yttreiness, Mrs. Reynold Eneboe, Mrs. Art Rodway and Mr. Loyal Saugstad.

Romsdal has also been blessed with a number of soloists and instrumental players, and the Romsdal Ladies Chorus, directed by Mrs. Erwin Syverud, sings for worship service and other occasions.

## Romsdal Ladies Aid

No definite record is left to show the first attempts made by the pioneer women to further the cause of the kingdom outside of their own sphere.

Ten women are known to have been members of a Mission Society: Mrs. Beret Alness, Mrs. Elene Borgen, Mrs. Rebecca Bleksrud, Mrs. Ragnhild Eneboe, Mrs. Gurine Halsne, Mrs. Thora Hagalie, Mrs. Jda Haugen, Mrs. Mari Kylling, Mrs. Ane Lien and Mrs. Jda Lien. In 1877, twelve new members joined the group: Mrs. Inger Fundingsland, Misses Kristie and Ingeborg Femreit, Mrs. Rebecca Storkson, Mrs. Rachel Sundy, Mrs. Marie Thompson, Mrs. Tommie Torgerson, Miss Salmine Torgerson

and Mrs. Britta Yttreiness. Rev. G. L. Graven wrote the first constitution and Mrs. Andrew Haugen was elected the first president. This group was named the Romsdal Ladies Aid.

The Aid meetings were held in the members homes. Some women walked a distance of ten miles, knitting as they walked; their balls of yarn fastened to their belts to keep from tangling. Some ladies could knit half a mitten or a stocking on the way to the meeting. Noon dinner was served and a program of Scripture reading, prayer, a discussion, and singing was followed by afternoon lunch before the ladies began the long walk home.



**1908—**

The Ladies Aid divided into two groups, twenty-two members joined the South, and twelve the North, and Rev. J. A. Quello rewrote the Constitution.

Auction Sales were held in various homes until 1911 when a tent was purchased by the North Aid for sales, socials and weddings. Most of the money from the sales went to Mission work. The aid purchased the Church Bell which cost \$40.00.

**1916—**

Members donated articles for Mission work and gave five cents per week or \$2.60 a year for the purchase of material, rather than have the Aid buy it.

**1920—**

The yearly dues were increased to \$3.00 per year.

**1932—**

The dues were reduced to \$2.00 per year in order not to burden anyone beyond their means, during difficult financial times.

**1935—**

A new Constitution was written and adopted.

**1941—**

The Ladies Aids got a new name under the new E.L. C. that was then formed, Women's Missionary Federation (W. M. F.) and with this came several new departments: Self Denial, Mission Box, Life Membership and In Memoriam, Christian Nurture and Higher Education.

**1948—**

The two Romsdal Aids (North and South) merged into one calling it "Womens Missionary Society" (W.M.S.).

**1956—**

In May, Mrs. Fretheim, our pastor's wife, organized a "Mission Circle" to sew for Missions. There were about a dozen active members that met once a month, making wearing apparell, hospital gowns, layettes etc. for the Mission fields. The last half hour was devoted to Mission Study and prayer

by a member of the group.

The group disbanded in 1965, and the funds and materials left over were given to the Stewardship Department of Romsdal A.L.C.W. Many members of the Aid continue to sew for Missions.

**1961—**

Since the merger of the three synods, the Ladies Auxiliary is now called A.L.C.W. (American Lutheran Church Women). At this time some of the departments were dropped, and others revised.

**1968—**

During this year the members made Chrismons of white styrofoam trimmed in gold for the church Christmas tree. These symbols depict the life of Christ and make the celebration of the Lord's birth more meaningful.

Over the years the Ladies Aids have done a great deal to spread the gospel. Through hard work they raised money for missions and helped finance improvements in the church. Some of the activities were: Serving for weddings, funerals, banquets and farm sales. Favorite occasions were the dinners that featured Norwegian foods, such as Lutefisk, meatballs, flatbread and lefse.

For several years we have had fellowship dinners for members of our own congregation.

The A.L.C.W. published a cookbook which is still being sold. Up to the present time about 2400 copies have been sold.

During the year A.L.C.W. members visit the State Hospital at Yankton, S.D., and Bethesda Home at Beresford. A program is given and a light lunch served. Christmas gifts are also sent to Yankton and Bethesda.

In December all the members bring Norwegian "Goodies" for a Smorgaardsbord. Christmas gifts are given to the Pastor and his family.

**1972—**

The A.L.C.W. meets every second month, and the three Circles on alternating months. The Bible studies are taken from material in the "Scope Magazine".

## Romsdal Sunday School

During Pioneer Days, Christian Education was carried on more or less intermittently, in the homes and school houses. Peder Eneboe and Ole Tuntland were leaders for the north group and John Johnson for the south.

November 1892, second meeting of the congregation, Mr. Indregaard was hired as teacher with a salary of \$10.00 per month. Since then we find among the many teachers of the early days the following names: Eilert Vangsvik, B.B. Holter, Anna Minde, John Johnson, Jens Nordseth, Knut Lokken, Lena Eneboe, Marie Christenson and Jens Bjorlie.

1900, A small school house was built on the A. J.

Rommereim farm, by a group of neighbors, to be used for Christian Education.

1903, Sunday School was organized, to meet in Church every Sunday there was to be services. A few years later Sunday School met every Sunday, except for the vacation period from Christmas until spring.

1903-1920, John Yttreiness was Superintendent, with exception of two years when Andrew Saugstad served. Others who served since are: Mrs. Clara Kylling, Mrs. Rudolph Eneboe, Joseph Rommereim, Mrs. Raymond Saugstad and Mrs. Mona Grottveit.

December 1930, Parochial School teachers to be Education consisting of three members met together



with the Pastor and Sunday School Superintendent and in the spring of 1931, the graded system was started.

December 1933, Parochial School teachers to be paid out of Church Treasury. Previously to this, they had been paid by the parents of children in school.

September 1946, Four Year High School course started. Eleven members enrolled.

1947, Mrs. Mons Grottveit reported 13 classes consisting of 115 enrolled from kindergarten to Bible classes inclusive. Rev. A. Snestrud gave a 15 minute Bible study for the whole Sunday School every third Sunday on books of the Bible.

In the past twenty-five years the Romsdal Church School has continued to teach the Word of God in Sunday classes and Vacation Bible School. Besides the instruction, several projects have been

promoted. The Christmas offering each year has been given to various mission projects also. Support for an Indian child in foster homes was undertaken for sometime. One year the Sunday School pupils dressed in costumes portrayed the Christmas story in natural settings. Pictures taken on slides were shown as the children sang for the Christmas program.

Those who have served as Sunday School Superintendents include: Mrs. Neal Anderson, Mrs. John Yttreness, Mrs. Reynold Eneboe, Robert Saugstad, Larry Anderson, and Ernest Ekanger.

The enrollment in 1959 was 87 in the Sunday School and 45 in the Vacation Bible School. The present enrollment is 23 in the Sunday School and there were 16 enrolled in Vacation Bible School in 1971.

## Historical Record

# Trinity Lutheran Church

The westward march of the pioneer became the westward march of the church. Knowing something of the early history, we come to realize that every foot of ground was hallowed by the toil and the tears of the pioneers. The pioneers had settled in the western part of Iowa and Eastern Dakota. The Norwegian Augustana Synod in 1869 decided to send evangelists into this new settlement and gather the people around the Word of God.

A layman, John Bragstad, from Sioux County Iowa was sent by the mission committee to preach the Word in the settler's dug outs, sod shanties or log cabins.

Simon Scheie, also a layman, often accompanied Bragstad. The first meetings were held four miles north of Canton in the C. M. Juel home. As the meetings continued the attendance increased; therefore, a big log house on the Anders Johnson place near Canton was generally used for thier meetings.

In November, 1870 a Congregation was organized under the name of Bethlehem Norwegian



Trinity Lutheran Church Altar



The present Trinity Lutheran Church



Lutheran Congregation of Sioux and Lyon County Iowa and Lincoln County Dakota. Here was a large field for Christain work. John Bragstad went to Rev. J. Nesse's charge, St. Paul Congregation near Elk Point, known as Brule, where there were several laymen who preached the Word of God.

Ole E. Hofstad a very consecrated and talented young layman, who lived on his homestead near the church, was selected to help conduct meetings in this newly organized congregation.

It was not easy for Hofstad to leave his home and family. The people insisted he should go and his wife, too, was willing for him to go if it would be to the up building of God's kingdom. He visited the settlements in Iowa, Eastern Dakota, and the Patty Slough District. In the fall and winter of 1872-1873 he was in the Dell Rapids area.

A great revival took place because of Hofstad's many visits and many people were brought to sincere repentance and faith.

Rev. Lysness was sent by the Norwegian Augustana Synod to observe the revival in the new settlement. He was glad to report the work was carried on in the name of Jesus and that the people were deeply convicted of sin and had come to the faith in Christ as their Savior.

So many had now joined the one congregation and because of the rapid growth Rev. Lysness organized congregations in the districts, one south of Canton, one north and one in Iowa.

At this time Rev. John Nesse was the only Augustana Synod pastor this far west to travel and visit these settlements. As early as 1870 and on request of the settlers he preached the Word in their homes and conducted ministerial duties.

Records show Ole N. Thormodsgaard was the first child in the congregation baptized by Rev. Nesse, Dec. 18, 1871. Rev. Nesse also conducted the first confirmation service when Lovise Juel, Laura Larson and Sam Bragstad were confirmed. On Jan. 1, 1874 he performed the first wedding that of Ole Jacobsen and Bertha Jorgensen.

The three districts of Sioux-Lyon Counties Iowa, Patty Slough and Canton Dists. met on June 1, 1872 and decided to form one charge under the name The Bethlehem Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, organized by Rev. J. Nesse. The Charge accepted Auguatana Synod's Congregational Constitution, and in June joined that Synod. There were ten families on the membership list in 1872. During the following year more members were added.

Following are names of the Patty Slough members in 1872 when they belonged to Bethlehem Congregation: Svend Wemblom, Ole Olson Thormodsgaard, Engebret O. Thormodsgaard, Lars O. Thormodsgaard and wife, Nils Anderson and wife, Andreas Anderson, John Ingebrigtson, Jacob Johnson and wife. In 1873: August Johnson, Magnus Bergstrom, Iver Hanson, Knud Johnson, Knud O. Thormodsgaard, Erick Olson Rikansrud, Peder Nilson Hole, Ole Pederson, Peter Hagen, Peder Nyberg, Ingeborg Pederson and Martin Andeberg. The following were added to the church roll in 1874: Ole Plomasson and wife, Johannan Wemblom, Ellen Larson, Anna Nilson Hole, Mary Anderson Johnson,

and Christianna Marken.

A full time pastor was needed as so many had joined the congregation. Because of his outstanding work among the settlers the people were united in



Ole E. Hofstad  
1872-1895

calling Hofstad as their pastor. He was ordained June 15, 1873 in Milwaukee, Wisc., but only after some controversy about the interpretation of the millenium. He accepted the call to the North Bethlehem district by Canton. Subscription for the pastor's salary in Patty Slough district was \$57 in 1873. A few cents amounted to a goodly sum in those days!

In 1874 there were 139 services, 35 baptized, 12 confirmed and 174 communicants. According to Rev. Hofstad records Patty Slough had their first church as early as 1875 but continued as a congregation with North Bethlehem (Canton) until 1895.

The first meetings were held in the homes. Long distances the settlers, dressed in their "best", would come to the "meetings"—fifteen, twenty miles by lumber wagon or bob sleigh drawn by horses. People, also, walked to get there, bringing their babies to be baptized. Some of the babies being quite old if there had not been a visiting pastor there for some time. Laymen very often conducted these meetings. Together, they read the scripture, prayed and sang hymns and it was always much enjoyed and appreciated. They went home cheered and strenghtened.

Rev. Ellef Olson (Norwegian Synod) was the first resident pastor in Sioux Valley. His records show he officiated at many marriages of Patty Slough early settlers and conducted services in many homes with baptisms and communion.

In March 1875, Hofstad conducted services at Paul Gubrud's in their log house which had a dirt floor and no upstairs. Prayer meetings and services were often held in the August Johnson home, too, before the church was built. Seating was provided by using wagon seats, boxes or wooden logs.

The Patty Slough district built their first church in 1875 on a tract of land given by Paul Gubrud. Trinity Church now stands on the same site. Because it can be seen for miles, this church has served as a landmark for many throughout the years.

Rev. Hofstad served Patty Slough district as part of Bethlehem from 1872-1895. When serving this charge Hofstad lived five miles northeast of Canton on forty acres which had been given him. He had



built a house and made this his home. As not to be a hindrance for union of the Norwegian Synod and the Bethlehem (Augustana Synod) in Canton, Rev. Hofstad resigned. He preached his last sermon on April 15, 1895. He served this district for 29 years. He was fond of the saying that his parish was forty miles long.

The Patty Slough Church was a very small frame building built by Svend Wemblom, and a five member building committee: Ole O. Thormodsgaard, Nils Anderson, John Engebriktson, August Johnson, and Martin Andeberg. The church was built facing west as this was an old custom. It was finished inside with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch ceiling instead of plaster. The furnishings were exceedingly few and simple. Homemade benches were used and later chairs. The first stove was bought in the fall of 1877. The first income for the church was collected in 1876 and amounted to \$231.97. Expenses were \$234.42.

The building committee had charge of fencing around the church and cemetery place.

Two members were appointed to see that the pastor's family always had plenty to burn.

Records show that services were held on Sept. 12, 1876 in the Patty Slough church. Because of poor roads, severe cold and stormy weather services were yet held in the homes and often postponed. Many Swedes were members of Patty Slough district and as the years went by more and more immigrants homesteaded in the community. Consequently, in the year 1886, most of the Swede members of the Patty Slough church withdrew or discontinued attending services and joined with the new settlers neighboring them. They built themselves a new church known as the North Nathaniel or Swede church. (Alcester area)



Trinity Lutheran Church  
(1893-1902)

A group known as the Grans left Lands church because of a building site disagreement. Some joined Patty Slough and some joined Eden. The Grans planned to build where North Trinity cemetery now is located. Membership in Patty Slough church increased considerably, and to accommodate the growing congregation, a new and larger church was built in 1893 on the same site as the first church.

In 1890 when the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America was organized both the Norwegian and the Augustana Synods of Canton

joined this Synod. The Patty Slough district withdrew completely from the Canton district to become an independent congregation in 1895. The property was divided satisfactorily. These were some of the members who withdrew at this time: John Ingebriktson, A.A. Marken, John Miner and Edwin Sorum, John Hegness, Nils O., Lars O., Erik O. and Knud O. Thormodsgaard, Theodore and Thomas Hove, Knud Komhal, Peder Hagen, August Johnson, John, Palmer, and Edvine Evanson, Carl, Agnes and Olga Paulson, Mical Ingebriktson, Gustav, Carl, Julia, Alma and Clara Hagen, Engebret E., Ole E. and Haakon E. Thormodsgaard, Claus, Albert, and Olof Hegness, Nils Hole and family and Jacob, Jens and Johannes Jensen families.

The new congregation's name was to be The Norwegian Lutheran Trinity Congregation. A constitution was written and accepted; officers were elected. Included in this slate were collectors and a klokker.

The collectors were chosen according to the direction they lived from the church. Money was scarce, but once a year the collectors called on the people in their area and collected money for the church treasury. The klokker assisted the Pastor with the opening and closing prayer. This was gratis service.

A letter of call was sent by the congregation to Rev. O.A. Berge of Inwood, Iowa. His salary was to be



Pastor Berge  
1895-1899

\$250 for at least thirty services. He accepted and served until 1899 when he resigned. Pastor Berge of Inwood either rode a bicycle or drove a top buggy with a team of spotted ponies while serving Trinity.

Pastor Berge purchased the first ministerial book for use in the congregation. The Landstad's hymn book was used. There was no Sunday school when services were held but parochial school was held in homes throughout the district.

Gifts of food and clothing were gathered for the Beloit Children's Home.

Pastor Berge presented Trinity the baptismal font which is still used. The church bell that is still calling us to worship, cost \$213.50 in 1898. The Pigeforeningen (L.D.R.) paid \$128.77 of this cost. The janitor was to ring the bell at 10 o'clock, and when the pastor arrived, also at 11 o'clock and at the close of the services. The altar picture was "Behold I Stand at the Door and Knock".

An organ was purchased for \$300.62 in 1899. Anna Johnson Rodway was the organist. She



received \$10 for her services.

The church was wainscotted, wallpapered and painted as funds were available. Part of the first church was used as a sacristy for the second church.



The church bell was bought in 1898 by the Trinity Lutheran Church Pigeforeningen (L.D.R) who are as follows: Front row, Betsy Sorlie Larsgaard, Clara Gubbrud Dahl, Mary Gilbertson Nelson, Anna Johnson. Second row: Kristiana Sorlie Christopherson, Minnie Christopherson Nelson, Lena Haga Ingebretson, Anna Marken Aasen, Kristiana Sorum Lavik. Third row: Anna Christopherson Thompson, Maggie Sorlie, Hannah Gilbertson Loe.

Records show the dedication took place in Dec., 1898 with a three day spiritual meeting. This was the church built in 1893. It was known as Trinity or Trefoldighed Kirke.

After Pastor Berge's resignation in 1899 Rev. E.O. Thormodsgaard of Trinity was called and served until 1902.



Rev. E. O. Thormodsgaard  
1900-1902

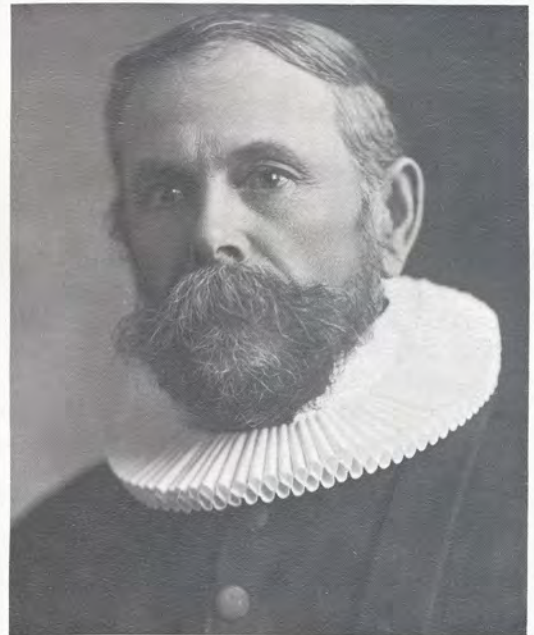
Three brothers, Engebret, Ole and Halvor Thormodsgaard, of the Patty Slough district were

ordained to the ministry in 1878, 1885, and 1886.

Mission Festivals were a yearly adventure of Trinity as early as 1898. It was a red letter day of fellowship and fun. Children from the Children's Home at Beloit were often invited to attend. The offering was given to Missions or the Home. These festivals were held in the Gubrud grove near the church.

On the night of June 24-25, 1902 a tornado swept over the entire community causing great damage. Trefoldighed, that these pioneers had sacrificed and struggled so hard to build, was leveled to the ground. Through the kindness of Lands congregation, Trinity was permitted to use Lands Church for worship at this time.

Trinity, Lands and Eden (Hudson) united as one parish in 1902. Each was given equal rights to the parsonage. The three congregations agreed to send a letter of call to Rev. S.J. Nummedal of Jasper, Minn. He accepted the call and began his duties March 1, 1903.



Rev. S. J. Nummedal  
1903-1918

The congregation decided at a special meeting Jan. 15, 1903 to rebuild Trinity Church on the same site.

The building contract was given to a Mr. Sather at a cost of \$4,715. Funds had to be raised even though there was much voluntary labor.

The bell, the baptismal font and the organ were salvaged from the destroyed church. A new oak altar ring, pulpit and benches were purchased. Benches for the church cost \$517.96. It was not until 1914 that the ceiling and the walls were covered with decorative tin plates. The grounds were fenced and hitching posts were added.

The big, wide, long barn with stalls for fourteen teams of horses was built to the north of the church in 1903. The stall on the southeast corner was reserved for the pastor's horse or team. A church member took charge of the pastor's horse when he arrived and for



departure. The barn was sold and taken down in the early 40's and trees were planted on the site.

On May 1, 1904 the church was ready for use and Rev. Nummedal held his first confirmation service in Trinity. Oscar Sogn and Marie Evanson were the first couple married in the beautiful new sanctuary on June 28, 1905.

Dedication services were held on May 20, 1906, by Prof. E.Ch. Johnson. Assisted by Rev. Berge and other pastors in the area.

Nummedal served this community as pastor for 16 years. During his pastorate the Lands and Trinity Luther League was organized.

Romsdal congregation combined with Lands and Trinity in 1919 and the three churches became one parish. Equal services were held in each church and each church was to share in the parsonage upkeep. Eden's share in the parsonage was bought by Romsdal, and at this time the parsonage was remodeled.

When the Patty Slough Aid was organized cannot be ascertained exactly, but aid gatherings were held as early as 1876. The women of this aid were of Norwegian and Swedish descent and were members of the Patty Slough church. Mrs. John Ingebrigtsen (Dorthea) was elected president and Mrs. C. Jensvold vice-president in 1886. They served for six years.

For many years the women met in the forenoons for an all day meeting. The pioneer women often walked great distances to aid meetings. They knited as they walked. Mrs. Jacob Johnson and Mrs. Lars Thormodsgaard told of walking to Thomas Hove a distance of eleven miles for an all day meeting. A simple noon meal was served and after four o'clock coffee and devotions they would be on their homeward way. The day had been spent in fellowship and busy-ness. Mittens, caps, stockings, aprons, quilts, and fancy articles were made for the annual sale. The first sale recorded was held Dec. 14, 1878. One hundred and ninety home-made articles were sold to thirty-nine persons. It is recorded that the two first sales brought \$124.17. John Ingebrigtsen was the auctioneer.

Only men served as secretary and treasurer for the aid until 1913 when Maggie Sorlie was elected as secretary.

Records show that during the period 1877-1934 the kvindeforening (aid) contributed \$12,692.95 for various causes but mainly missions.

In 1895 the aid met at the Abraham Anderson home with Rev. Berge present. At this time the Swedish ladies withdrew from Patty Slough Aid and the North Trinity and South Trinity aids were organized. This change was a congenial move and very acceptable. Both aids could meet easier and more regularly every second week since it lessened the distance between the homes of the members. Charter aid members were of the Patty Slough church membership. The spiritual part of the meetings have always been stressed with hymn singing, devotion and scripture study. After the aids were federated in 1920 the various W.M.F. departments took over the program series with Bible study.

Only by reading detailed accounts of various organizations could one have a grasp of the scope of

work that has been done in the aid down through the years.

They have always financially aided Home and Foreign Mission; they have helped filled congregation quotas in the budget; other worthy causes and projects have received donations.

Methods of raising funds besides sales and donations have been serving banquets, serving lunches at farm auctions, bake sales, free will offerings to the aid, mission boxes and card sales. During the depression years South Trinity aid members donated proceeds from ten chickens.

The two aids of Trinity again joined as one aid in 1951 after the basement was completed. The A.L.C.W. meets once a month in the church parlors.

Our Christian pioneer women laid the foundation of Christian living and giving upon which we built. Gradually, the work has expanded until we see it as it is today.

In pioneer homes Christian education began in early childhood. Often a teacher was hired and school was conducted in the homes under trying conditions.

Church records show E.O. Thormodsgaard as teaching three months of school in 1876 in the Bethlehem congregation.

In 1877 four months of school were held. Parochial school was held for twenty weeks in various school districts as early as 1903. Even before 1895 a parochial and Sunday School committee has been elected every year. Many have served as teachers and given years of service in Christian education.

E.O. Thormodsgaard, A.A. Marken, Carrie Eliason, Andrew Nelson, Joseph Marken, Berthine Thormodsgaard, Kenneth Johnson and Mrs. Elmer Peterson have held the position of Sunday School superintendents from 1895-1972.

There was a record attendance of 102 children and young adults in Trinity Sunday School in 1929. Sunday School would begin on or about March 1.

The annual Christmas program always was the exciting, inspiring closing event of the Sunday School year.

The Sunday School children were packed into the sacristy (no basement) waiting to give their beautiful songs and recitations for the Christmas program. They kept warm and happy by the big pot-belly stove in the south sacristy. People came from miles around; the church was over-flowing. They stood packed in the halls and everyone enjoyed the singing, beautiful drills, and messages.

Sunday School is now held about thirty-seven Sundays a year. A two week term of Bible School is conducted in the church basement yearly.

The first Sunday of each month is set aside as Foreign Mission Sunday. Missions are stressed and a special offering is taken for the mission project — contributing to the support of Missionary and Mrs. Merle Metcalf in Taiwan.

Active organizations within the church such as Junior Lutherans, Luther League, and the Junior Bible Camps are other channels through which God's salvation is being made known.

The Lands and Trinity league was organized in 1913. Early presidents were: John Lavik, Berthine



Rogness, Andrew Quien, Charlie Asper, and Oscar Fladmark.

The first Fall Festival was in 1910 and festivals have been held ever since.

At the meetings devotional programs with topic discussions and various musical numbers are given. Activities of the group are many and varied.

The league festivals were most always held in a near by grove. Much preparation was necessary. Programs were presented both in the afternoon and evening. Following the afternoon program sports and games were enjoyed by everyone. As usual a big feature of the evening was the chicken supper served by the ladies aid. As the following list of donated food will show this was quite an undertaking: (1943) 100 chickens, 30 lbs. meat balls, 100 gals. escalloped potatoes, 1400 sandwiches, 22 gals. shredded cabbage, 11 qts. pineapple, 5 qts. homemade salad dressing, 5 qts. Miracle Whip, tomatoes, celery, bananas, grapes, 20 qts. heavy cream, 100 fruit pies, 15 qts. pickles, 11 lbs. coffee and purchased ice-cream. Supper was 50 cents a plate. Hannah Loe was the coffeemaker.

A huge tent was erected in which to serve and prepare some of the food. Seating was provided by planks. About 500 people were served supper.

In 1946 Romsdal joined the Lands and Trinity League making it the Moe Parish League.

The yearly Easter sunrise service and breakfast is league sponsored. A number of young people of Trinity are serving in various aspects of church work.

The choir of Trinity church was organized about 1893. Jens Bjorlie was the director. Several members of the following families made up this first choir: Eliason, Ingebrigton, Bransgaard, Sorum, Hagen, Dokken, Groth, and Swenson. Mr. Bjorlie accompanied the choir with his violin.

Trinity had a good active choir of some 35 members for many years. This choir was organized when Rev. Dalseide served the parish. Melvin Juel from Canton, S. Dak. came on Sunday P.M.'s and the members paid him \$4 each time for directing. The Concordia, Norwegian and English book, was used.

An Adult Parish choir was organized in 1945. This choir gave concerts, sang at conventions and at services in the parish under the leadership of Mrs. C.B. Asper, Mrs. E. Syverud, accompanist.

There was a parish Youth Choir and later Junior Choir and mixed chorus groups.

During the years there have been several male quartets. Helmer Eliason, James Lavik, James Sorum, and Roy Larsgaard made up the first quartet.

The piano was used as a rule for choir, solos, and the Christmas program. The Reed pump organ was used for services.

Many have served faithfully as choir directors and organists throughout the years.

Rev. Isalomy served as pastor temporarily in 1919-1920. A call was sent to Rev. C.L. Dalseide, of Sioux City, Iowa. He accepted and served until 1929.

Emma Hovelsrud was elected organist in 1920 and was organist for many, many years. Berthine Thormodsgaard began serving as Sunday School Superintendent in 1923.

"Lindeman's Koralbog" was used for Norsk

services. There were no bulletins; hymns and verses used for services were put on the oaken bulletin board. Some pastors chanted the Lord's Prayer in Norwegian or English. John Lavik was the klokker for many years.

There were seven ladies aids in the parish and Pastor Dalseide attended them faithfully, always giving the Bible study.

In 1923 it was decided to have English services every third Sunday and fifty new Lutheran hymnals were purchased.

The church had carbide lighting and in 1928 a deep cave was dug on the west side of the church for the Delco plant which was installed. R.E.A. (electricity) was installed in 1949.

Upon Dalseide's resignation a call was sent to Rev. A. Molberg who accepted the call and served the parish for fifteen years.

All services were conducted in English by 1935.

During Molberg's pastorate an L.D.R. was started in North Trinity, Emma Hovelsrud was the advisor. Parish workers conferences were held at Lands where aid work was discussed and new plans made for the purpose of simplifying the work of the pastor. Mrs. Molberg was very active and helpful with the aids.

Fredrick Norstad, a student pastor, assisted Pastor Molberg from 1937-1938 and later Arnold Thompson was his assistant. (1938-1939) Pastor Molberg resigned in 1944.

In 1945 Rev. A.A. Snesrud was installed as pastor. The Moe Parish Park and Youth Center, an outstanding project under the leadership of Pastor Snesrud, was completed. Dedication services of the Moe Parish Park were held May 30, 1946.

Pastor Snesrud stressed the spirit of Parish organization rather than individual congregations. The Workers Conference was combined with a Missionary Rally and became an annual all day event.

Parish Sunday School teachers and officers met annually at the parsonage. Plans materialized and worked out satisfactorily. Sunday School Rallies and joint parish services were held.

Interest in mission steadily increased through the year resulting in the Parish taking over the responsibility of supporting Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Ruud in 1948 as representatives in the mission field of Madagascar.

Previous to our anniversary in the fall of 1948 various committees busily refurbished the entire church with new carpets, new altar appointments, painting and cleaning details.

Trinity's 76th Anniversary was commemorated with a three day festival Sept. 24, 25, 26, 1948. The festival opened on the evening of the 24th with an inspirational organ recital played by Emma Hovelsrud. The Hammond organ was dedicated by Pastor Alvin A. Snesrud, and given to Trinity Church in memory of Martin and Julia Hovelsrud by their children Emma, Mary, and Ole Hovelsrud.

The 76th Anniversary theme was based on Micah 6:8 and messages in word and song challenged us to self examination, gratefulness, and reconsecration.

Through the years many gifts have been given to



the church as memoriams by relatives and others have been given by organizations.

Though the Snestruds served us only four years they accomplished much. Pastor S. Carlson served the parish from Feb. until Aug. in 1949 followed by Rev. Pearson both of Augustana Academy. Pearson served until Sept. 1950.

Pastor Erling Fretheim was installed Sept. 3, 1950. In 1951 the church activities included a series of Bible studies on the book of Joel and another on the book of Jonah.

The Family Night as a new feature, drew large crowds to the Parish Park.

A big project in 1951 was the construction of the church basement. The committee elected by Trinity Congregation at the annual meeting in 1951 for the basement construction was: Ole Hovelsrud, Oscar Sorlie, Oliver Roti, Henry Christopherson, and Martin Loe. The Finance Board was: Adolph Gubrud, Morris Christopherson, Mrs. Oliver Roti and Oli Hovelsrud. The approximate cost of the basement was \$9,735.45.

After the church had been lifted the digging was begun in Sept. by the Nelson Bros. who dug the basement for one-half the cost. Much hard work was donated and many gifts were given. In November the first serving and meeting took place. Generous donations were given for the furnishings of the basement such as: electric stoves, coffee pots and dining room tables. Improvements were made. Cabinets were built, cistern and sewer and water system installed. Dedication took place June 27, 1954.

In 1953 Ed Linde drew plans for both the cemeteries. Nels Larson gave the land for the North Trinity Cemetery, and Paul and Annette Gubrud gave land for the South Trinity Cemetery. The perpetual care plan was initiated.

The Trinity Missionary Endeavor was started in 1955 with the faith that Trinity members could sponsor their own missionary through a voluntary mission fund. Trinity church took up sponsorship of Missionary Dr. Mandsager at this time.

A Commissioning service for Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Thormodsgaard and family was held in Trinity Sept. 11, 1966, preparatory to their going to Madagascar. Curtis was to teach, show and help the Malagasy learn the printing business. This is a Trinity Missionary Endeavor project.

A Mission Society was organized by Mrs. Fretheim in March 1956. Receipts for the first year were \$126.08 besides all the clothing made and sent to the Mission Dispensaries. A mission festival was also held.

On August 22, 1956 Berthine Thormodsgaard, a devout and conscientious member, passed away. Faithfully she had served at Trinity for 29 years as Sunday School Superintendent and 32 years as teacher of the adult Bible class.

Pastor Haanstad accepted the call to Moe Parish after Rev. Fretheims resignation in Aug. 1956.

The church grounds were beautified by planting evergreens and cedars. A new side walk has been laid. New light-fixtures have been installed and the new hymnals are being used.

1961 was the Jubilee Year of the church. The

name American Lutheran Church was adopted, and the new constitution used.

Pastor LeRoy Isminger served as the assistant and also as pastor of the parish after Haanstads left in August 1960.

In March, 1961 Rev. Arnold Imbrock was installed as pastor of the Parish. A special series of annual mission meetings were held.

During Imbrock's pastorate the outdoor services in the Newton Hill State Park were begun.

Missionary Ruud and family from Madagascar visited the Parish July 12, 1961 and were special guests at Family Night.

On April 28, 1963 Pastor Henry Norem was installed as assistant pastor. Housing was provided by rental of the house north of parsonage.

Mrs. Norem was very active in the parish aids and also with Jr. Lutherans.

A sound system was installed in Trinity October 4, 1965.

Layman's Sunday is observed in the Parish with the men of the church conducting the service. Rural Life Sunday and Soil Stewardship Week are observed too. On Good Friday, a three hour service from 12 until 3 o'clock is held at Lands church. Special messages are given by invited pastors and special music is provided by the Parish.

August 20, 1967 Parish Farewell services were held for the Arnold Imbrock family after 6½ years in the Parish. Rev. Mark Svaren was installed as pastor of Moe Parish on Sept. 10, 1967. Dr. E. O. Gilbertson preached the sermon and officiated.

God's Word for Today, a radio broadcast (K.N.W.C.) with Pastor Svaren as speaker is given each Sunday morning at 8:30. It is sponsored by individuals and various organizations of the parish.

The Gospel Mission in Sioux Falls is visited monthly by Pastor Svaren. The A.L.C.W. sends a delegate to the Mission each month with a designed love gift.



An aerial view of Trinity Lutheran Church



Chrismons, Christmas tree decorations, have been made by the ladies. Each Chrismon portrays a spiritual message.

An A.L.C.W. retreat was held at Swan Lake July 31, 1971.

Dr. Kent Knutson was elected President of the American Lutheran Church at the convention held in Texas. Erick Thormodsgaard was our delegate.

Many devoted workers deserve recognition. Some have contributed as officers; some through literary abilities. Many should be mentioned for their devotion and consecration: church organists without whose service our worship would lose much

of its beauty; parochial and Sunday school teachers who give of their time to obey Christ's command to feed His lambs; choir members and directors who use their God-given talents in rendering praise; advisors and leaders in various organizations who assist in molding, training, and instructing; quiet and unassuming women and men who willingly do the many lowly tasks so necessary for functions of church work.

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus Our Lord as we continue "Holding Forth the Word of Life".

*"We Thank Thee, God!"*

*For pioneers who valiant came  
By oxen teams to western zone,  
To plant Thy kingdom, build their homes,  
And lay the church's cornerstone;  
For steeples raised on prairie sod—  
We thank Thee, God,  
We thank Thee, God!*

*For church bells pealing forth today  
The call to worship and to praise,  
For invitation to repent  
And humbly trusting, seek Thy face;  
For comfort sweet or chastening rod—  
We thank Thee, God,  
We thank Thee, God!*

*For Thy Great Word, our heritage, For strength and  
gladness in the strife,  
For precious memories, joy and tears,  
For song and sacraments and life;  
For Heaven waiting as we plod—  
We thank Thee, God,  
We thank Thee, God!*

*Ruth Lavik*



# Greetings. . .

## Parish Pastors



Rev. C. L. Dalseide  
1920-1929



Rev. Albert Molberg  
1929-1944

Dear Friends in Christ,

In I John: 1-7 the Apostle writes, "If we walk in the Light as He walks in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the Blood of Jesus. His Son, cleanses us from all sin."

In the word "Fellowship" we find one of the best descriptions of the Christian church. This is the mission as a Christian Congregation to serve human souls in Christ's great name. It is not an easy task nor is it ever completed. Therefore while we may be happy over some accomplishments, we are conscious of many failures. We must continually seek to know and to pursue God's will for us. We are thankful there is both forgiveness and power in Christ who leads us. Things are happening today in the religious life of our country. I'm sure if Pastor Dalseide were here he would find it both fulfilling and alarming. There appears to be a more realistic and resonsible attitude on the part of the Christian church towards it mission in the world.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the Moe Parish Centennial celebration. God bless you all.

Mrs. Tillie (C. L.) Dalseide

Rev. Carl Dalseide was born near Bergen, Norway September 29, 1877. He came to America in his early twenties. He attended an academy at Scandinavia, Wisc. Graduated from the United Lutheran seminary at Minneapolis, 1908.

He served as a mission pastor in Western S. Dak. He served parishes in several Iowa towns: Callender, Rolfe, Moreland, Paullina and Sioux City before he came to the Moe Marish 1920-29. His next pastorate was at Parkside, Saskatewan, Canada. In 1942 he served at Ambrose, North Dakota. Retired in 1946 and moved to Canton, South Dakota. He married Tillie Iverson in 1914. The Dalseides have two daughters and six sons.

Pastor Dalseide died of a heart attack in 1956.

Greetings,

Having served fifty-two years as a pastor I now find that "Grace Alone" is a fitting thought for my anniversary greeting.

Lamentation 3:22-23 tells us "God's mercies never end and are new every morning," so we are astounded at His faithfulness. However when at the age of eighty three, He allows me to share His wonderful grace in visiting the hospital and Good Samaritan Home every day beside the many individuals in private homes then we agree in what He told Paul of old, "My Grace is sufficient for thee." To live and abide in Christ and serve our fellowmen to His glory is indeed a most marvelous privilege. Our fifteen years as your pastor was a very good training course which has made possible for me the clearer meaning of "living by grace". Hence the next twenty eight years have brought us a fuller grasp of what Paul says in II Corinthians 9:8 that God's abundant blessings, in a frugal contentment and committed service bring a genuine peace and joy which is not found in any other way.

So, friends, if you want **real** fun, place everything on God's altar and trust Him implicitly. He cannot fail. The Saviour gave all and we find all in Him. Please let Him in completely on this your anniversary day. The proof you will find in Revelations 3:20.

Rev. Albert Molberg

Albert Molberg was born October 4, 1888, in Osnabrock, North Dakota to Arne and Oline Molberg. He married Constance Larson in 1917 (Died, 1919): He married Anna O. Nordsletten in 1920. Prep-schooling; Redwing Seminary, 1916 and Luther Seminary, 1920. He served parishes in Dalton, Minnesota 1920-1923, Mouunt Vernon, South Dakota 1923-1929, Hudson, South Dakota (rural) 1929-1944, Windom, Minnesota (rural) 1944-1954, Chaplain, Madison Lutheran Home 1954-1958, Visitation pastor and chaplain, Our Saviours, Jackson 1958-1972.





Rev. Alvin Snesrud

My Son and I count it a real privilege to greet you on this auspicious occasion . . . the Centennial of Moe Parish. We congratulate you and rejoice with you. God Has blessed your efforts mightily, as you have faithfully sought to glorify His Name in "spirit and in truth."

We remember with thanksgiving and praise to God, the joys and happiness we experienced while living in your midst. Together we shared in the work of our beloved church as servants of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, "Holding Forth the Word of Life".

We greet you with the words of Paul as they are found in the third chapter of Colossians verse sixteen . . . "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and amonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts, to God."

Mrs. Alvin A. Snesrud and Alvin R.

Pastor Snesrud was born and raised on the Snesrud home place, near Rochester, Minnesota, September 14, 1895. He attended the Red Wing Seminary, Minnesota College, the University of Minnesota and was graduated from St. Olaf College. He did his seminary work at The Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota.

He served congregations in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Los Angeles, California, Chicago, Ill. and the Moe Parish. His work with the Choral Union as a part of the Luther League Program gave him added inspiration and pleasure. Pastor Snesrud was organizer and secretary of the International Choral Union in 1930. He spent one year, under the direction of F. M. Christenson of the St. Olaf Choir fame, building an adult choir of five thousand voices and a children's choir of one thousand voices for the great Luther League convention of 1931, in Chicago. His choral union work was a source of great inspiration and joy.

His brief ministry at Moe Parish was very stimulating and rewarding. His dream of the Moe Parish Park became a reality, much to his joy and pleasure.

Pastor Snesrud passed away November 20, 1949 after one year of illness.

May God bless the memory of His humble servant.



Pastor Erling Fretheim

In behalf of Mrs. Fretheim and myself we wish to extend to Moe Lutheran Parish our sincere and heartiest congratulations on this your centennial! May God's richest blessings continue to give you love, zeal and concern in extending God's Kingdom here and everywhere.

Pastor Erling Fretheim

Pastor Erling Fretheim was born in Hayward, Minn. graduated from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa and Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota 1941. His first call was to Dennison, Minnesota. Served for seven years at Callender, Iowa. Pastor of Moe Lutheran Parish 1950-1957. Luther Valley, Beloit, Wisconsin. 1957-1967. Charities Department at Bethel Home, Madison 1968-1969. Presently serving East Side Lutheran, Sioux Falls. (Senior Pastor).

Married Marie Langseth, of Glyndon, Minnesota 1935. Four sons: Terence, Gary, Mark, and Stephen.



Pastor E. J. Haanstad

Our best wishes to members and friends of the Moe Parish as you celebrate your 100th anniversary. We have the fondest memories of our years in your midst. May God's abundant blessings continue to be granted to all of you as you continue to "Hold forth the Word of Life".

In Christ's Name,  
Pastor & Mrs. E. J. Haanstad

Engval John Haanstad, born April 10, 1916 at



Florence, South Dakota. Parents: Rev. & Mrs. J. J. Haanstad. Graduated from High School 1932 at Gettysburg, South Dakota; attended Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; graduated from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota 1943; served parishes as follows: Cogswell, North Dakota; Cando, North Dakota; Arlington, South Dakota; South San Francisco, California; Moe Parish, Hudson, South Dakota; Webster, South Dakota; Chaplain-Administrator at Mendota Lutheran Home, Mendota, Illinois.

Married Christine Brodahl, Van Hook, North Dakota 1937. Six children: Morris, Dorcas, Paul, Martin, Jeanette, Elizabeth.



Pastor A. F.  
Imbrock  
1961-1967

Greetings, Dear Brethren in Christ

Your Centennial Theme, which has been your Motto for many years, has its own assurance as well as challenge inherent in it. The King James Bible says, "Holding forth the word of life . . .", while the Revised Standard Version says "Holding fast the word of life . . .". Having served as your pastor for 6½ years, and my family living and growing up in your midst, we have seen that motto at work—no matter which version you choose. By "holding fast", that is, by securing that Word and promise of God within the souls of many generations, it has borne fruit in "holding forth" that Word around the world.

May God grant you joy and blessedness as you enter the second century of service to God by serving fellowman.

Pastor A. F. Imbrock, Helen & Family

Arnold Imbrock

Born: September 30, 1923 at Deshler, Ohio. Graduated from Hamler High School, Hamler, Ohio in 1941. U. S. Army 1945-1946; Married Helen Maassel December 26, 1947 at Hamler, Ohio. Graduated from Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa,

1950; Graduated from Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa 1953. Six children: James D., Timothy P., Stephen A., Daniel C., Ruth M., and Rachel H. Served Parishes in: Gordon, Nebraska 1953 to 1957. Arlington-Badger, South Dakota 1957 to 1961, Moe Parish, Hudson, South Dakota 1961 to 1967, Le Mars, Iowa 1967 to present.



Pastor Mark Svaren  
1967—

#### Members and Friends of Moe Parish

It has been a privilege to share with you in a small part of your history. We are grateful to Christ who according to His promise has been building His Church. We are grateful for the many members of Moe Parish who have been "holding forth the Word of life" throughout the past century in this community. We know that the light of the gospel has shown forth from this parish to many places in the world.

May our Centennial Anniversary be a time of rededication to Christ. May we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to fulfill our mission in the world.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Mark Svaren

C. Markus Svaren

Born January 27, 1921, McVille, North Dakota. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Peder M. Svaren. Augustana College 1949, Luther Seminary 1952. Sherman Lutheran Parish 1951-1957. Renner and Messiah, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 1957-1967; Moe Lutheran Parish 1967. Married Helen J. Cody 1951. Children: Kristin, Paul, Mari, Miriam, Faith and John.



# Parsonage Experiences

By The Pastors' Wives



Moe Parsonage, 1903



Moe Parish Parsonage, 1954

## 1920-1929



C. L. Dalseide Family

We came to the Moe Parish in October 1920 from Morningside, Sioux City, Iowa.

When we came, the parsonage was being re-modeled. The old kitchen was moved away from the house over among the trees, it had only three walls, but the fourth was re-placed and the kitchen range was set up. I cooked the meals and we ate here, the first weeks. Beds were set up in the Lands church secristy with my husbands book cases as room dividers and this was also his study. This went on a few weeks until real cold weather set in and the workers had completed enough in the house so we moved into the two north rooms of the parsonage.

We had carpenters, painters, plumbers and mason workers, working to hurry the house along. I served dinners to several of the men.

Time went on and I remember well we hung our lace window curtains on Christmas eve.

The house was beautiful; with shiny new floors and the tiffany walls of many colors. Many came to see the "made new house".

We furnished it as nicely as we could and I had linoleum rugs on the living room floor. I do not remember many of the remarks but one lady said, "Now this is sensible" and from her it made me feel

good.

The out buildings consisted of the barn, garage and a good shed where the never used hearse was kept. The barn was used at various times for horses, cows, calves, sheep, pigs, and also a few chickens. The land was worked by friends. It included; pasture, corn and alfalfa, (its now the park). We needed cows to supply our large family with milk and butter, our boys were given small pigs for pets, which grew and later supplied us with meat.

We spent nine years of joy, gladness and sorrows with our parishioners, through prosperity, depression and bank failures, but God always gave strength in need. We had no gravel or hardsurfaced roads. We used horses the first year, then we got our first Ford Coupe. My husband was often stuck in the mud or snow and would leave the car and walk the last mile.

In later years as we drove thru the country, these roads were made up to date. We were happy and Thank God for the progress on the land, the farms, the homes, and best of all the church and parsonage which has been remodeled and improved from time to time, God Bless your efforts.

Mrs. C. L. Dalseide



## 1929-1944



**ALBERT MOLBERG FAMILY**

It was a great experience for our family of four children and two grown-ups, to take possession of the large parsonage on the spacious grounds surrounding it. The children were: Margaret, Luther, Constance and Beatrice. They were thrilled and excited . . . now they could have almost a bedroom a piece!

The windows impressed me, as the housekeeper: there were so many and we had so few pair of curtains, but we managed to get enough. We had ruffled curtains here, and ruffled curtains there, and I vowed I would never again have ruffled curtains!

A bossy we had to get, with four husky youngsters to feed, with that most perfect and nourishing food, milk. A bossy we did get and after a while we had two. We tried having goats for lawn mowers, but they moved the bark off the orchard trees.

Here at the Moe Parsonage and in this Parish, our children spent most of their childhood days, days that were impressionable and which have left lasting memories with them. It was a thrill to live in the country.

There were many wonderful Christian experiences which took place, too. The members of the various ladies aids, there were seven of them then, the years we were there, were richly blessed by their Christ centered programs with Bible Study and the departmental work. Many learned to be real leaders thru participation in the programs and attending conventions.

We always felt the Luther Leaguers did a wonderful work, they had so many opportunities for developing talents which were put to work. I believe, there were more young people in the community at that time.

The Sunday Schools, Brotherhoods, L.D.R.'s all contributed much to the advancement of the kingdom at home and abroad.

Thru all the experiences, when we could share the Word of God in both sadness and gladness, we

could say, "It is good to serve the Lord". We are thankful today for the 15 good years we were permitted to live among you, if fruit has been forth coming, it is the Lord's work.

It has been like visiting with you writing this.  
Mrs. Albert Molberg

## 1945-1949



**SNESRUD FAMILY**

And so we moved to Moe Parish, ten miles from a town! The thrill of getting settled, hanging pictures, unpacking the dishes, placing the furniture . . . suddenly all was in order. We were all set for work.

As I sit here by my desk and see our Bethphage folks out enjoying the February Sunday afternoon, another picture comes to my minds eye. We are standing on the parsonage front porch and waving to school children swinging their lunch pails as they run and play on their way to "Moe School." We see the mailman coming, and hurry to see if he had good mail for us today . . . We see a tug of war between two tractors, the Farmall and the John Deere. . . Neighbor folk working in their gardens or preparing brooder houses for the baby chicks . . . and on and on . . .

One day we see work men coming to remodel the kitchen. What a joy the kitchen was! The dinette with its pretty picture window . . . then the very lovely fireplace was finished . . . I see cozy fire and hear the laughter of friends and family as we gather to relax and be refreshed . . . I hear Pastor Alvin's typewriter going at top speed and know he has had an inspiration . . . I hear Allie Dear talking as he builds his block houses and villages . . . when down they fall, I hear him say "Build them up again and build them higher." I see couples coming to make arrangements for their wedding . . . I see parents coming to plan a



christening . . . Yes and some to make funeral plans . . . And a house full of happy healthy confirmands . . . preparing for their first big step alone . . . again we say as Allie boy prayed "God bless every member of our Parish."

The fulfillment of the Moe Parish Park dream was, and is, an unforgettable joy. The planning; the planting; the ladies serving and the crowds and groups who even then, were enjoying its facilities remain very treasured memories.

Then came the day the first picture to be hung, was taken down, never to be hung again. "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform." The day Allie dear moved to Bethphage, Pastor's illness . . . to all come days of tears and days of joy. The memory of your generous kindnesses and concern will ever be memories of comfort and hope.

We stood often in the stair-way window, the three of us, and watched the glorious sunsets . . . and saw the neighbor's lights come on, when darkness came . . .

We are still looking! "Faith, Hope and Love and the greatest of these is Love."

Congratulations and God Bless you all, every day.

Mrs. Alvin A. Snesrud

## 1950-1957 FRETHEIM FAMILY



Erling Fretheim Family

When I think back at those years spent in the Moe parsonage my heart is warmed with the many pleasant memories.

The friendly greetings of the committee as they welcomed us and settled us in the newly painted interior of that large parsonage. They wondered if we were pleased with their color scheme. . . we enjoyed every room!

We loved the large parsonage lawn for the children to play in, the beauties of the park as we looked across it and enjoyed later the family nights, the youth nights and other activities started there. There was a peace and quiet that one never felt in the city or village.

Then the Christmases which could have been lonely, were so filled with friendliness with the repeated ringing of door bell giving us not only Christmas dainties, but gifts, the mails bringing its cards and gifts.

Perhaps the most precious times of all was as we gathered our family for family devotions behind those parsonage walls as we took hands with God and claimed His promises that His plan might be accomplished through us while there. We had felt the definite call to come to Moe Parish and we did not want to fail Him in our Ministry. We humbly pray that He used us to fulfill His plan.

The question so often is asked, "Why did you leave Moe Parish!" All we can say is that the Lord would not let us do otherwise even tho' we could have so easily remained so comfortably and happily there. The privilege of being near the Academy with its Christian staff and Christian fellowship for our children. . . Could we leave that? How well I remember how we struggled in prayer for Gods guidance in leaving Moe. Pastor Fretheim told God. . . "I can't leave these people during this drought, I must stick with them until it is over", in a short time the first nice shower came as if God said, "I will take care of them".

Today, I'm reminded again of watching the erection of the beautiful temple at lands as it was completed, we felt so close to our God as we trekked across the lawn to kneel for the first time, as we often did late, at the new altar to seek guidance for each new day.

Then, the remodeling of the parsonage in 1954. The large East porch was removed and in it's place a new enclosed entrance and a lovely picture window replaced the old living room ones. The back porch too, was rebuilt and enclosed, all this was done without our asking for it.

The guest speakers for our Bible Conferences in the parishes were such a spiritual treat for the parsonage family. We treasure the memory of each week with such guests as Dr. George Aus, Dr. Oscar Hanson, Pastor E. Klawitter, and we'll never forget the first week Missionary Gordon Ruud, (Parish Missionary) and family were with us. There were six of them and our six made a houseful. Since they had just returned from Madagascar things were so different for their children. To just turn on a faucet and get water (never was there a boy that washed so often!) To just press a button and lights would go on (and how often they went on!) To see foods and didn't even look edible such as dry cereal. It was such a privilege, too, to have Lands Missionary, Harriet Stovner, from Sudan with us as she so interestingly told of her experiences . . . Yes, life became richer as Ingara Nakling from Medagascar shared with us, too, those things that were dearer than life itself to her. When, in faith, Trinity Church took up sponsorship of Missionary Dr. Mandsager we looked forward to the day when he and his family too could be with us.

Then there were those hallowed moments when folks would come to the parsonage for spiritual guidance, comfort and need—I'll never forget the joy bathed in tears as one said upon departure "I've never felt so close to Jesus as I do now."

Finally: Our book of memories is so full, I can only skim the surface, but a part of us has been left at Moe Parish, perhaps the best active part of our lives, and with it our youth, as again we left with heavy hearts, our parish, souls that had been in our care



during our sojourn there. We left with tears, yes, but still rejoicing to know that God was leading us and we must never let go of His hand.

This chapter, then, of our lives closes with a big thank you for making our stay a real, real treasured memory as we continue on with the words still engraved in our wedding ring. "For each other, both for God".

Mrs. E. H. Fretheim

## 1957-1960

### HAANSTAD FAMILY



It was Friday, January 11, 1957. Thermometers registered a cold 20 degrees below zero as the station wagon with the California license plate stopped in the snow by the big white Moe parsonage. But that chill could not penetrate the spirits of the Haanstad horde as they stepped into the clean, warm house that was to be home for more than 3½ years. The furniture had not yet arrived, but that was no problem to a family who enjoyed camping and carried camping equipment along in their trailer. The 6 children, parents and grandmother Haanstad were thrilled by the beautiful yard and the park outside as well as the large comfortable rooms inside. The van with the furniture didn't come before Tuesday. We marvelled at the willingness and the patience of the local men who came to help unload and had to wait and wait on Monday and then again on Tuesday. The longer we lived among farmers, the more we saw of traits like that to admire and appreciate.

The telephone is a wonderful invention. But there was room for argument when the three phones (Alcester, Beresford, Canton) sitting side by side on the shelf in the back stairway began ringing at the same time in 3 different tones (not in harmony!) and each a different ring. Many funny as well as frustrating and exasperating incidents can be recalled in that connection. One such happened when the pastor's brother-in-law, Rev. A. R. Gornitzka was visiting with us and got an important call from Minneapolis on the Beresford phone. The connection was poor so he asked the operator to place the call through the Alcester number. When she asked how long it would take him to get there and he said he was there, she was confused. That line was noisy too, so he asked again to have the call put through the

Canton number. "How long will it take you to get to that number?" When he answered "I am here." it took some time to explain and complete the call. When the Alcester and Beresford phones were taken out in April, it almost seemed that the Canton phone didn't ring as loudly as it had when there was competition.

That fall Rusco windows were installed on the downstairs windows, no more storm windows to put on and take off! (Spoiled people)

Histories are mostly facts and figures, but to a family living among wonderful people in a wonderful place those facts are cherished memories that become more dear as time goes by. The times saddened by bereavement become remembrances of a God who comforts and sustains. There were anxious moments, times of stress and strain, but all were overshadowed by the abundance of joy and happiness.

If walls could talk they would tell of inspiration received through visitors from the mission fields . .

Pastor Makhaathini, Professor Andrianarijoana, Dr. and Mrs. Mandsager, the Rev. R. Vickstrom from our own L.B.I. as well as those callers from our own area, Dr. Pierson, Dr. Gilbertson and others. They would tell of the fun and laughter when the Jule Boks silently filed in one Christmas; the excitement of opening generous gifts brought home from the W.M.F. Christmas meetings.

In looking back it is impossible to separate the parsonage from the park. From early spring to late fall it was in constant use for parish activities, youth nights, family nights, ball games, the big 4th of July celebrations; family reunions, picnics, and showers. Who will forget the thrill of worshipping God outdoors on fall Festival Sundays in August? Of being in His presence at so many inspirational family night programs?; the laughter when Pastor Makhaathini told us that the mosquitos were much healthier and many more where he came from as every one was very busy slapping at them that night?; the family fellowship on ball nights after the lights were installed and the refreshment stand put up? Many were the prayers offered by the parsonage family for God's continued blessings, spiritual and material to be poured out upon the parishioners and the many visitors to the park.

The days flew by and all at once God called the pastor to leave all this that had become such a big part of his and his family's lives to go work in another part of His vineyard. Roots were deep and it was hard to acknowledge God's Will in a decision that would mean saying good-bye. God does guide and direct if we but let Him and then gives peace when we follow in that way. So on August 25th a moving van took the furniture to a new home and the Haanstads ended their stay in the Moe parsonage as they had began it—camping. It was raining outside and tears were flowing inside our hearts as we bade farewell Sunday, Aug. 28 but there is joy in knowing that "Friends of Jesus in their parting only part to meet again!"

May God continue to bless each member of the Moe Parish for their many kindnesses to the Haanstad family and that all may be to His glory and honor.

Mrs. E. J. Haanstad



## 1961-1967



### IMBROCK FAMILY

Dear Friends:

Greetings to all.

The first we heard anything of Moe Parish was in 1959 when Walter Sogn, Secretary of the call committee called and asked if they could come to see us in Arlington. This wish was granted and soon they came and the people of St. John's asked "Could we ask them to leave?", as they knew why they were there.

The call came the day after our church in Arlington was destroyed by fire, on a freezing windy winter morning. My husband had said he wouldn't leave until a definite future of St. John's had been determined, because of the coming merger which would have 2 Lutheran churches in a small town.

So after several meetings and Christmas, the children and Mother having the mumps, we left our 6 children in Arlington and Badger for a few days and we moved south of Canton the middle of Feb. 1960. Pastor and I arrived with the van to find the kitchen all remodeled and the whole house clean and ready from top to bottom. We enjoyed the help and getting to know some of you on that first day.

Pastor Imbrock was the first pastor in S.D. to go from a former A.L.C. parish to a former E.L.C. one, so we all learned together what the new A.L.C. policies were. To me as a pastor's wife the greatest change was that in the old A.L.C. the wife's goal first of all was to be a wife, mother, and homemaker and at times help in the A.L.C.W. but now all at once there was Bible Study etc., but with your understanding and encouragement I was able to share. I really appreciated the ease of free prayer that you have and found myself being able now to do this. Teaching really isn't my line but I was happy to fill in for vacation Bible School and Sunday School, and it was always a joy to have devotions at the bridal showers.

I had never thought too much of being a German, or that I was German, until we got to live among all of you Norwegians. Lutefisk we never did learn to like

but the lefse and cookies we really enjoyed.

There are so many memories, times when you remembered our family at Christmas, birthdays, when we came and when we left. I look around our home here and so many things have a story to tell of our friends in Moe Parish. We look back at some of the groups we had in our home and some year I must get some more mistle toe for a Christmas party.

Our son Jim has graduated from Wartburg and is a first year med-student, studying to be a baby doctor, Tim is a Junior at Wartburg and may go into the ministry. Steve, a high school senior goes to Wartburg this fall also into pre-med. Dan, a junior is thinking of the ministry, Ruth is a 9th grader and enjoys Candy Striping at Brentwood nursing home and Rachel our littlest is in the 6th grade.

I suppose it is hard to say just why we left the parish but the hand of God rules our lives and we seem to know when to follow and when our work seems ready to be passed on to different hands.

The years fly by and our lives are like a book, some parts and places we stop longer than others but our lives and those of others are never quite the same as before we met.

May you continue to hold forth the Word of God to all.

Mrs. Arnold (Helen) Imbrock.

## 1967-



### SVAREN FAMILY

Clear the way! Here we come! . . . The Svaren family moved into the Moe Parish parsonage during the last week of August in 1967. The ladies of the Parish spent long and busy days in painting and tidying the parsonage and were on hand to serve dinner and to help us get settled. The men brought truckloads of household goods from the Messiah



Lutheran parsonage in North Sioux Falls, where we had previously lived.

There were graduations, confirmations, 4-H meetings, choir practice, music lessons, hikes, picnics and late hours of studying. We raised a big garden each year, except in 1970 when the hail destroyed our feeble efforts and also most of the farm crops of the area. That hail storm broke most of the windows on the North and West sides of the parsonage and also broke many windows in Lands Church. Three different storms broke the tops of many evergreens at the park and broke off numerous branches from the trees near the parsonage. The hail also damaged the shingles. New shingles were put on in 1971.

The "Snow Winter" of 1968-69 brought drifts ten

feet in the garden area and also near the Youth Center.

New drapes were added to the living room shortly after we moved in. Later carpet was laid in the upstairs hall and on the stairway leading to the kitchen.

By the school year 1971-72, three of the Svaren children are college students. The others are enrolled in the Canton school system. Moe Rural School closed at the end of the 1970-71 school year.

We give thanks to God for the privilege of serving in this community and for the cooperation and spirit of Christian love of our people.

Mrs. Mark Svaren

## Sons Of The Parish



**Rev. Oluf Asper**

Pastor Oluf Asper was born February 1, 1885 in Alcester, South Dakota, and he spent his childhood there. He attended Augustana College at Canton, South Dakota, 1906-1910; St. Olaf College, 1910-1913 (A. B. 1914); Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1913-1916 (University of Minnesota, 1913). He married Phoebe L. Cartford in June, 1916. He served as missionary in China, 1916-1923, emissary 1924-1926, pastor at Sylvan Lake, Alberta, Canada 1926-1929, Wetaskiwin, Alberta 1929-1933. In 1933 he moved to Parkland, Washington, and served as interim pastor several months at First Norwegian Lutheran church in Tacoma and at Mt. View. During this time he filled in at various pulpits in the vicinity. In 1937 he accepted a pastorate at Woodburn and Monitor, Oregon, where he remained until 1948. He served in Chinook, Washington, from May 1948 until January 1949. He passed away on January 31, 1949, one day before his sixty-fourth birthday. His wife Phoebe died on January 11, 1940. Pastor and Mrs. Asper had seven children, six of whom survive: Orlando and Priscilla live in Seattle, Luther in Toledo, Washington, Paul and Thelma in Woodburn and Elnora in Milwaukee.



**Rev. Elmer H. Dahle**

Elmer H. Dahle was born July 18, 1892 in Sioux City, Iowa. He was baptized by Rev. Lars Harrisville and confirmed by Rev. Edward Johnson. He attended St. Olaf College and Luther Seminary; and was ordained at Lands Lutheran church in 1919. The same year he married Ingeborg Hanson.

In 1921 he was called to be a missionary to the Eskimos in northern Alaska and spent most of his ministry in this mission field. The places he served were Brevig Mission, Igloo, and Shishmaref. In 1930 he was instrumental in getting the mission buildings erected at Shishmaref. He was editor of the publication "Eskimo Land". The Dahles had also served parishes at Bryant, South Dakota and Chester, Iowa.

Pastor Dahle died suddenly in the parsonage at Shishmaref, Alaska on February 20, 1960. Following memorial services at Shishmaref, Teller, and Nome, the funeral service was held at Lands Lutheran church. The honorary pallbearers were all the pastors in attendance.

He is survived by his wife, a son, Dr. Ben Maurice Dahle and a daughter, Kiatcha Lie.





**Rev. Charles T. Paulson**

Charles T. Paulson was born in Hudson, South Dakota July 17, 1906, to Paul and Clara Paulson. He attended local schools until graduation from high school. He was a graduate of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, where he received his B. A. degree in 1928 and Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, where he received his Bachelor of Theology degree in 1931.

He was ordained into the ministry June, 1931, at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His pastorates include Frederick, South Dakota, 1931-1937; Rolette, North Dakota 1937-1942; West Salem, Wisconsin, 1942-1945; Calmar, Iowa, 1945-1949; Norway Muskego, Waterford, Wisconsin, September, 1949, until a fatal heart attack on Friday, January 11, 1963.

He married Irene Marion Olsen of Frederick, South Dakota. Their four children are Pastor Charles Theodore Jr., San Luis Obispo, California; Naomi Mallory, Gunnison, Colorado; Philip, a physical therapist, Canoga Park, California and Lieutenant Lael James, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



**Rev. Wallace Asper**

Dear friends,

**Ecclesia Plantanda**—"The Church must be planted!" This was the motto of a great Lutheran leader, H. M. Muhlenberg, in eastern U.S.A. over a century before the Dakota Territory was opened for

homesteading. Now, at the century mark of the Moe Parish, we remember with gratitude that this was also the spirit and determination there. The planting of field and family, livestock and schools, townships and stores were all inseparably linked with the planting of churches. One great loyalty to God among all other loyalties; one over-arching concern for His Church among all concerns . . . these have shaped our rich heritage. With love and thanks for what so many there have meant to me, I join you in wanting to be a responsible heir of this heritage in our day.

With congratulations in Christ,  
Wallace J. Asper

### **Wallace Jerome Asper**

Born May 10, 1922, in Minneapolis to Charles B. and Laura (Nummedal) Asper. Married Hjordis S. Gornitzka in 1947. Augustana Academy, Class of 1941; Augustana College, 1941-42; St. Olaf College 1942-45, B. A. cum laude; Luther Theological Seminary 1945-48, B. Th.; New York Theological Seminary and New York University 1950-52, M. A.; New York University, School of Education, 1952-57, Ed. D. Pastor of three-congregation parish, Long Prairie, Minn., 1948-50; Associate Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., 1950-52; Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1953-57. Professor, Religion Department, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., 1957-60. Curriculum Coordinator, Department of Parish Education. The ALC, Minneapolis, 1960-63. Professor, California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks, Calif., 1963- present; Religion Department Chairman, 1966 to present. Children: Philip Car (b. 1949), Mark Trygve (b. 1950), Gloria Kristine (b. 1952), David Leif (b. 1954), and Daniel Jerome (b. 1957). Home Address: 76 W. Avenida de Las Flores, Thousand Oaks, Calif. 91360..



**J. Elvern Rommereim**

### **Greetings for Centennial**

It is good to celebrate what God has done for a congregation and Parish. I join with all of you in reflecting in a meaningful way on our 100 years of



Christian history. This may seem to be a rather lengthy segment of time and from our point of view it is, but it has its beginnings really far back in the heart of God. We are tied in a wonderful way to these yesterdays and we are grateful for the gift of memory. Here at Romsdahl my own Christian life first took shape thru the Sacrament of Baptism, and thru the Word, the Holy Spirit captured me with the wonderful story of God's love revealed in Christ. Here was my first encounter with the Body of Christ, the Church. From the memory vault of my mind come images and pictures of parents, first of all, and pastors and teachers and neighbors, and they all weave a very rich pattern, and tell so much about the story of my life. I was privileged to live in this community and to feel the strength of it in my early life. "The child," says the poet, "is still father of the man," and I'm grateful the child in me has its roots in the soil of this congregation and community of people.

While we express gratitude to our Savior for the past century, our Lord said something about plowing that we should be able to understand. He said we should "not look back, but keep our eyes fixed to the end of the line". I suppose the glance backwards reveals both the straight and the crooked, failures and successes, sin and grace. We have little reason for pride. But let us look to the future and the ministry yet to accomplish here in this place. And then, glory be! let us look far enough down the line to see the end which is really the beginning, the new age which ushers in the perfect Church and perfect world! In the meanwhile, I presume the present is the most important. Continue to "hold forth the word of life."

Pastor Rommereim

J. ELVERN ROMMEREIM was born on a farm near Beresford, South Dakota, in 1923. He attended Augustana Academy at Canton, South Dakota for his High School Education, one year at Augustana College, and transferred to St. Olaf college, where he graduated with a B.A. degree in 1948. His college was interrupted for three years while serving in the military service during World War II. He entered Postgraduate work at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado. It was while he was a student here that he accepted the call of challenge to the ministry, and matriculated at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, in the Fall of 1949, and graduated in the Spring of 1952.

In 1948 Pastor Rommereim was united in marriage to Miss Helen Jane Reitmann, Red Wing, Minnesota, who was also a graduate of St. Olaf College. He served his first Parish in Walnut Grove, Minnesota, and in 1955 came with his family to California to establish a new mission congregation in Garden Grove, California. In 1960 he left to establish a second new mission in Canoga Park, California, which he served until his present call at Our Savior's Lutheran, Lafayette, California, which began in 1965.

Pastor and Helen Jane Rommereim have six children: Douglas, Connie, David, Mary, John and Ann. They also have a foster son, Jim, who is John's age.



**Armand L. Asper**

Dear Friends in Christ,

The occasion of your Centennial is a fitting moment for many things. To express all that I feel is impossible. Certainly, first in my thinking is the deep gratitude I have for my "home parish". There is a special love in me for all of you and for the churches and the country-side, and, of course, for all that you taught me to believe in Sunday School, Confirmation, and worship. It cannot be said often enough that we rejoice most deeply as we share genuine Christian fellowship. That was my privilege as I grew up in my home and "our" Moe Parish. How fortunate!

Much has happened in the last 100 years and prospects are that the rate of change which we experience is going to accelerate. As we move with this stream of humanity, how wonderful to be "holding forth the Word of Life!" God is behind, in, and watching over every word of the Bible. Centuries ago He did the same with Israel because "not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass." (Joshua 21:45)

God is present with us in His Word through the Holy Spirit. When God is on the scene, there is power to save and deliver in a mighty way. First, faith must be worked in our hearts. This comes from hearing the mighty Word and promises of God. Then when faith arises the promises of God are received and acted upon by God's people. Then God moves to back up His Word and we participate in a ministry of great power through the Holy Spirit.

Over the centuries, this has not changed. How good and wonderful it is to have had from you such a goodly heritage and how glorious to know that we share a graciously present Savior, who is Lord of all! Praise God from whom all blessings flow as you "hold forth the Word of Life!"

Love in Christ,  
Armand L. Asper, Pastor

### **ARMAND L. ASPER**

Born July 1, 1925, to Charley B. and Laura (Nummedal) Asper. Home: raised on a farm near Canton, South Dakota. Member of the Lands Lutheran Congregation (Moe Parish) 12 miles south of Canton.

High School: Augustana Academy, Canton, South Dakota (1943).



United States Naval Reserve (1943-46). Wabash College (1943-45) Crawfordsville, Indiana. USNR Midshipman School, Columbia University, New York City. (Active duty as line officer through 1946—Reserves until January 1955).

St. Olaf College 1948-B.A. Summer Sessions and courses: University of Oslo, Norway, 1948-49, Biblical Seminary, New York City, 1955, University of Colorado 1959, 1960.

Graduated from Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. B. Th. 1953.

Parishes: Rock Valle and Hawk Creek Lutheran Churches, Granite Falls, Minnesota, 1953-1957. Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church (Mission), Colorado Springs, Colorado, 1957-65. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska, 1965-.

Married: Myrtle L. Midtdahl, Minneapolis, Minnesota, who is a graduate of the Fairview Hospital School of Nursing. There are five children: Timothy, Waldorf College and Jean (Central High School), Deborah (Norris Jr. High), also at Norris Jr. High Steven and Kristilee at Washington Elementary School.



**Rev. LeeRoy Eikanger**

Greetings,

In writing a greeting, I do so with a sense of gratefulness to the persons who in the generation ahead of me were not ashamed nor too timid to "Hold forth the Word of Life" to me and others of my generation. I commend you who now are the ones who carry the 'torch of the Word of Life'. As you look forward may I remind you, in the words of St. Paul, Romans 12:11 "Never flag in zeal", or as the Phillips translation puts it, "Let us not allow slackness to spoil our work." Blessings to you on your Centennial Celebration.

Your friend,  
LeeRoy Eikanger

J. LEEROY EIKANGER was born in Lincoln

County, near Beresford, South Dakota on December 8, 1927 to Mr. and Mrs. John Eikanger. At an early age he moved with his parents to a farm near Romsdal Church. In 1942 he was confirmed at Romsdal Church, having received his Confirmation instructions under the leadership of Pastor Albert Molberg.

Upon graduation from Augustana Academy in 1945, he enrolled at Augustana College, Sioux Falls and graduated with a B.A. Degree in 1949. He graduated from Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul in May 1954 and on May 31, 1954 was ordained into the Lutheran Ministry at Romsdal Church.

Since ordination he has served parishes at New Effington, South Dakota; Madison, Minnesota; Omaha, Nebraska; and for the past four years at S. John's Lutheran Church, Webster, South Dakota.

LeeRoy is married to the former Marilyn Lunning. They have four children: John, 16; Ruth, 15; Marl 13; and David, 11.



**Rev. Leroy Iseminger**

I greet you, my friends of the Moe Parish, with the words of I John 4:7ff. "Let us love one another; for love is of God and he who loves is born of God and knows God . . . if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another . . . and this is the commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God should love his brother also."

I trust that the Moe parish will continue as it has in the past, the task of caring for others. For when that happens, when human beings accept the task of caring for others, of being willing to bear the burdens they set upon each other, they will come to know some of the deepest joys and satisfactions that life offers. And in the midst of their caring, they will come to know One who cares for them, the God whose presence is known in the ordinary commerce between human beings. The nearer we come to our neighbor and the more deeply we learn to care, the closer we will be to the God who cares for all of us. He is revealed to those people who have learned to care!

Sincerely yours,  
Leroy Iseminger



Rev. Leroy Iseminger was born at Carthage, South Dakota June 1, 1931. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Almer Iseminger, Canton, South Dakota. Graduate of Augustana Academy 1949. Attended Lutheran Bible Institute one year. Graduate of Augustana College in 1954 and of Luther Seminary, St. Paul Minnesota in 1959. Served as assistant pastor in Moe Parish and also, taught part time at Augustana Academy. He was Campus Pastor at Augustana Academy for several years. In 1963 he was residence chaplain at Lutheran General Hospital. Later he served as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Chicago, Illinois. Received a Master of Theology degree while in Chicago.

Presently, Pastor Iseminger, in addition to his parish duties at Lake Preston Lutheran Church, works part time for Lutheran Social Services and also, lectures at the Riverview Alcoholic Treatment Center in Pierre.

He is married to Orpha Hushagen, Gonvick, Minnesota. They have six children; Camilla, Leslie, Mark, Daniel, Kristin and Stephen.



**Verne Lavik**

Please accept my most hearty congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the one-hundredth anniversary of the Moe Parish. May God be permitted to continue in you all his work and witness throughout whatever future years are yet to come until Jesus returns in his Great power and Glory. In the Moe Parish I learned, and heeded, The Words of Our Savior when He said: "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and All These Things Shall be Yours as Well." By His grace and redeeming power, I have personally discovered that to heed this directive is to also experience that this promise is wholly trustworthy and true.

I am deeply thankful to God for the rich measure of truth, and love, and living witness shown to me in the lives of so many in the Moe Parish, during the early and formative years of my life. Let the world say what it will, there is a kingdom built into the lives of God's people which is the most attractive thing in this world. It is eternal and flows like a spring of fresh thirst quenching water touching others, young and old, who are near its flow.

It has always been the role of the Christian church to be . . . "An Aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are

perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance of life to life"—II Cor. 2:15-16 to me it has meant life eternal.

Verne Lavik

VERNE LAVIK was born on a farm near Fairview, South Dakota and grew up there. My education was begun in the local grade school, continued at Fairview High School, and at the Augustana Academy. Following graduation from high school I spent four years on the farm with my parents and brother James. Then I attended the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis for a few months. During that time God fastened his call upon me and I proceeded to attend Augustana College in Minneapolis for four years. I took a pre-seminary course, but found my steps directed towards work with the world Mission prayer league instead of into the work of the parish ministry.

For many years I have served on the Mission's home staff as a regional secretary in the Pacific Northwest. In this capacity I have travelled widely and preached in many churches in the USA and in Canada. I have also had occasion to visit a number of Mission fields in South America and in Asia. God has blessed me with a good, godly wife. We have five children, two boys and three girls, all of whom have been a joy and blessing to us.



**Lowell Grottveit**

LOWELL GROTTVEIT, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mons Grottveit, grew up in the Moe Parish. He was baptized and confirmed at Romsdal Lutheran church. Since graduating from St. Olaf College and University of Iowa, (1957) with a Master's degree in social services he has worked under the auspices of the Lutheran church in the Wisconsin territory. He is currently Area Director for Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and upper Michigan. His area provides services through eight offices employing sixty five people. It is an agency of the Lutheran church serving the community.





**Curtis Thormodsgaard**

Greetings,

Our special greetings to all on your 100th anniversary, from Madagascar. Our thoughts are with you and our thanks to God for your work these many years. You have been willing to be His servants and He has certainly blessed you greatly for this. There is much joy in His service. Great is the work that lies ahead and great and great are the fruits that are to come. We thank God for you all.

Curtis Thormodsgaard

CURTIS LEIF THORMODSGAARD, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric H. Thormodsgaard, was born at Alcester, South Dakota March 4, 1929.

He was baptized by Rev. David Edwards who was pastor of the Nathaniel Lutheran Church, Alcester, at that time.

He received his elementary education in Lincoln County, South Dakota; was confirmed by Rev. Albert Molberg in 1944; entered Augustana Academy the same year, graduating in 1947. The following two years were spent at the Lutheran Bible Institute, Minneapolis, graduating in 1949.

He was united in marriage to Glennys Knudsen of Viborg, South Dakota September 16, 1950.

During his school years and through influence of mission minded teachers, Curtis always had foreign missions in mind. After being employed in the field of lithography for sixteen years, he was led to being instructor and supervisor at the Malagasy Lutheran Church Publishing House in Tananarive, Madagascar, was commissioned by Rev. Lowell Hesterman of the Division of World Missions, ALC September 11, 1966 at Trinity church.

After a short furlough the summer of 1971, he is now serving his second term in Tananarive.

Thormodsgaards have four children, David, Julie, Joyce and Danniell.

## Missionaries



**Rev. & Mrs. Merle Metcalf -  
Taiwan**

The Rev. Merle Metcalf was born August 17, 1934 at Gonvick, Minnesota. He received his education at Clearbrook High School, Pacific Lutheran University and Luther Theological Seminary. He was married July 17, 1953 to Joan L. Farley of Duquesne, Pennsylvania. They are the parents of four children: Mark (6/30/55), Gregory (2/1/58), Kenneth (7/7/59) and Tammy (9/28/61). The Metcalfs are members of First Lutheran Church, Clearbrook, Minnesota. Presently, Pastor Metcalf teaches and works with students at the National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan. In 1962 he entered mission service.

We arrived in Taiwan in 1968. Prior to this we had taught at the Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong. My work is teaching Classical Languages and Literature at the National Taiwan University. I also do work with youth, mainly outdoor activities and the like. I also work as a counselor in the area of mixed marriages (National and U.S. service men). I have a commission in the reserve section of the Navy Chaplaincy so occasionally I help out with preaching etc . . . My wife teaches at the Taipei American School. She works with those who have reading problems. We have four children in our family, Mark, a senior, Greg, a freshman, Ken, 6th grade, and Tammy 5th grade.

God's best to you.

Sincerely,  
Merle, Joan & family





**Harriet S. Stovner**  
**Cameroun**

Miss Harriet S. Stovner was born December 20, 1912 at Mooreton, North Dakota. Her education was received at the Lutheran Bible High School, Fergus Falls, Minnesota and Fergus Falls Bible and Seminary. In 1949 she entered mission service in the Cameroun. She is a member of Lands Lutheran Church, Hudson, South Dakota. She is presently serving as a teacher.



**Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Ruud**

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all on this joyful and memorable occasion—your 100th Anniversary. You have a very special place in our hearts, and we share in your thanksgiving to the Lord.

"May God bless you all. Yes, I pray that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will give each of you His fullest blessings, and His peace in your hearts and your lives. All my prayers for you are full of praise to God." Philippians 1:2-4.

This is a time for remembering! In 1946, as young and eager new missionaries with a 10 month old daughter, we arrived in Madagascar, the far-away and unknown (to us) island, where we knew the Lord

had called us. After 6 months study in both French and Malagasy, we were placed in the Ambovombe district. As station manager, my husband traveled long distances to visit all the small villages and outstations. Besides this, he planned and supervised the building of two stone churches and a missionary residence, organized a choir and quartet, worked on the revision of the Malagasy hymnbook, and wrote new tunes for some of the hymns. While in Ambovombe, we received a letter from Pastor Snedrud, telling of your concern for missions and your willingness to help sponsor our family. We soon felt a strong bond of friendship and a oneness in the Lord with you all, as we received letters and gifts both for us and our work. 1952 was an exciting year, as delegates (Malagasy and missionary) came to Ft. Dauphin from all over the Island—to form the Malagasy Lutheran Church.

In 1953, after seven years, we were "home" with family and friends for a year and a half. We'll never forget our visits with you and Pastor and Mrs. Fretheim and family—your warm hospitality, in your churches and homes. And also, our visits with you during our 1960-61 furlough, which came after studying 4 months in Paris, 2 years in Ambovombe again, and 3 years in Ft. Dauphin as Superintendent of our Mission.

In spite of health problems, my husband was ok'd for another term of service—this time with an exciting and challenging call from The Malagasy Lutheran Church to be director of a new work—a radio recording studio to be affiliated with the Lutheran World Federation's Radio Voice of the Gospel." In July, 1961, we and our 6 children (ages 3-16 years) set out again for the land we loved. The first year was spent in preparation—gathering building materials, recording equipment, staff (technicians and secretaries) and Government authorizations. Programs (all in Malagasy) were taped and sent to L.W.F. broadcasting studio in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, together with manuscripts in English (typed by Pastor Ruud). These were then broadcast and beamed to Madagascar, where people all over the Island could tune it in on their little short-wave transistor radios! A new and powerful arm of the church was born! There are now two programs a day—one-half hour in the morning and one-half hour in the evening. Programs consist of music, news, educational and developmental, and religious—with various formats, and they are produced by a staff of ten people—producers, translators, technicians and secretaries. The Bible Correspondence Courses are offered to listeners. The three people who staff this department are busy answering letters asking for free materials offered, and for spiritual guidance and help. There are at present over 6,000 enrolled in these courses.

Pastor Ruud was used by the Lord in a special way for this work. His life and many talents were dedicated to His service. He arranged and translated over 200 hymns for the Radio Male quartet, in which he sang first tenor. The Lord has blessed the Radio Voice of the Gospel in a wonderful way. As Pastor Ruud often said, quoting Emperor Haili Selasi of Ethiopia, "Victory belongs to God".

Thank you for your share in the Gospel in



Madagascar! Continue to pray and give as the Lord leads. The Malagasy Lutheran Church is not yet able to take on the financial responsibility for the Radio work. But God is able, and trust Him to lead the way.

Home again in 1966, having been granted a 2 year furlough for graduate study, Pastor Ruud enrolled at Claremont School of Theology in California, and received a Dr. of Theology degree in 1968. Being advised not to return to Madagascar, he accepted a call to be Minister of Christian Services at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in North Hollywood, where he worked until his sudden death in November 1970—just one month before his 50th birthday. That year he had been asked to write a special anniversary hymn for the congregation. I will send a copy along with this greeting—as a last message from him for your anniversary year.

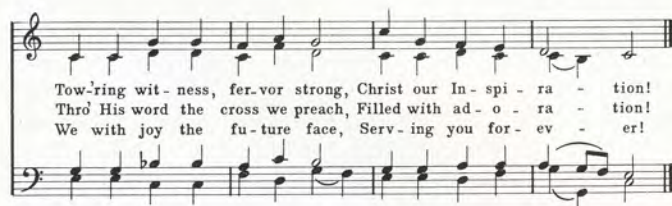
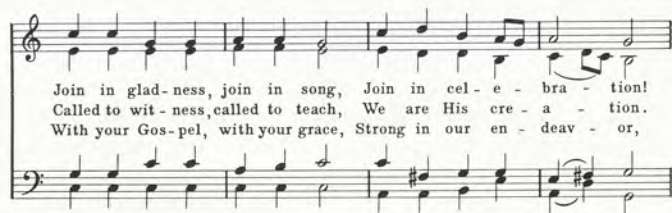
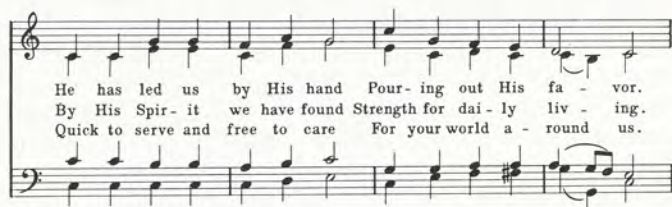
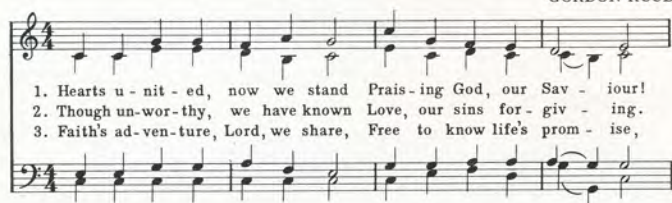
Phil. 4:4-6

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ruud, Karen, Margaret, Sonia,  
Lee Gordon, Marilyn and Jan Arthur

### Hearts United, Now We Stand!

GORDON RUUD



### Leonard M. Akland, M. D.

From 1959 to 1969 my family and I were sent out to Madagascar by the Board of World Missions of the American Lutheran Church so that I could work as a medical Missionary.

As I look back on this decade of my life, I am very thankful to God for giving me the opportunity to serve him in this very important branch of Christian

work.

The Moe Lutheran Parish is one of the groups that responded so magnificently when they heard of our great need, and today because of their love and concern, the Manambaro Hospital has a new \$12,000 X-Ray machine. Thank you so much from those of us that worked there and from the Malagasy themselves for this gift of love of His work. (Leonard Akland M.D.)



### Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Mandsager

Dr. Mandsager, from Hardy, Iowa, graduate of: Renwick High School, Renwick, Iowa. Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. University of Iowa Medical School, Iowa City, Iowa.

They entered missionary service of the former Evangelical Lutheran Church in August, 1954. They spent one year in French language study, in Paris, France. On October 1, 1955, they arrived in French Cameroun, West Africa. During the first term, of 3 years on the field, Dr. Mandsager did medical work at Garoua-Boulai and N'gaoundere. Work at Garoua-Boulai was carried on in a 2-room dispensary. At N'gaoundere, we have a larger hospital (225 bed) where work is carried on together with the Norwegian Lutheran Mission.

During a year's furlough time, plans for a new hospital at GarouaBoulai materialized and construction of it was begun. This hospital Steffanson Memorial Hospital—was completed and dedicated in 1960.

Dr. and Mrs. Mandsager have 5 children, Richard, Conrad, Neil, Ronald, and Maran. Neil and Ronald were born in Cameroun.

The Mandsagers are now living in Marshalltown, Iowa, where Dr. Mandsager has a surgical practice.

We do wish to thank you at Trinity for the support you gave us while we were with the Mission of our church. Both your financial and prayer support were greatly appreciated.

Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of your church! May the Lord continue to bless you as a witness in your community. May you continue to hold forth the Word of Life!

Sincerely,

Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Mandsager



# Reminiscing

Mr. Solomon Mortenson homesteaded the land across the corner from Moe. At first he lived in a cave and during the winter a severe snow storm came up. He had a few chickens and two pigs, but no shelter, so he took them into the cave and covered the entrance with a blanket. Thomas Twedt who homesteaded where his grandson Harvey Twedt lives, decided to visit Mr. Mortenson the following day. The ground was covered with new snow, and the only evidence of the cave was located a spot where smoke was coming out. Walking around this vent, he accidentally stepped on the snow covered blanket and fell into Mortenson's home, surprising both him and his livestock. Solomon exclaimed "Er der de vey du kom?" (Is this the way you come?) (

Twedt Family History Book

On March 28, 1879 a fire which started near Hawarden, Iowa, swept through this area. Two sisters, Christine and Ingeborg Femreit, homesteaded one mile west and one mile south of Romsdal Church. Christine was caught in this fire and she ran, her clothes ablaze to the Mrs. Dorothea Johnson home. Mrs. Johnson, who had just delivered Molena, at the Henry Thompson home, grabbed some sacks and wrapped around Christine to put out the flames. In spite of the loving care Mrs. Johnson gave her, Christine died of burns, two weeks later. (Related by Mrs. Johnson in 1942).

"John Benson homesteaded one mile south of Romsdal Church where Archie Sundvold lives. His brother Andrew Nupen homesteaded one mile west and two miles south of him. They had been to town and brought back a load of lumber and piled it on the ground. A short time later Andrew saw smoke of a prairie fire coming. He hastily covered the lumber with dirt when the fire caught up with him. Andrew ran, his clothing aflame, and jumped into a shallow hand dug well. He was badly burned, and tried to take care of himself, but his brother took him to a friends home near Canton, where he was cared for, and he recovered, although his health was never good after that."

(Related by Albert Nupen) 1971

Ole Rossum and his wife lived in a dugout on their homestead two miles south of Trinity Church. Indians would come single file and at a distance it looked like there was only one, but they always traveled in large bands.

In order to keep friendly with the Indians, Mr. Rossum traded tobacco for their "Jerky meat," which he never ate, because it was of questionable origin.

The Indians camped on a hill close by, and in the evening they built a huge bonfire, around which they whooped and danced.

The Rossums were afraid of the Indians, although they were never threatened by them.

A piece of land that could be Homesteaded for a Tree Claim, came up for "Grabs". Southeast of Trinity Church both August Johnson and his neighbor Paul Larson wanted it. The first person to file a Claim at the Dakota Territorial Capital at Yankton would be the owner. They both started out cross-country without telling each other. Larson drove a team of horses; Johnson rode horseback. Johnson saw his neighbor in the distance, watering his horses in the James River, so he made an extra effort with his horse to reach Yankton first. He filed the claim in the Court House before Paul Larson arrived.

During the 1880's and 1890's the Rural Post Offices were located in farm homes. One of these, called Nurey, South Dakota, was located in the Sivert Rommereim home, a mile south of Romsdal Church. Agatha's father, Sivert Rommerim, was Postmaster. A few years later it was moved two miles east to Postmaster Lars Sogn, where Darrel Sogn lives now.

Ole J. Rommereim, who lived near Romsdal Church, served as a mailman. Every few days, he drove a two wheel horse cart to Hudson (Eden) and picked up the letters and packages, delivering them to the country Post Offices. Agatha still has the Postmaster's Secretary, with drawers for stamps and pigeon holes for letters.

## Moe, South Dakota

Paul H. Hanson started an early post-office at his farm home. It had been named Moe by Mr. Hanson, since his name in Norway was Grastadmoe. Together with his son, Hans, he operated it until 1892 when a general store was built north of the parish parsonage by two business partners, Bottum and Olson. The post office was then moved to the new store which became known as the Moe Store. Rural



The Moe Store



routes were established in 1900 but the name Moe remained. The country store filled a great need in the community as housewives had to go to Canton for supplies, usually walking to town and carrying the groceries back. After a couple of years the store was sold to Knut Ekle and Solomon Mortenson.

A creamery owned by local stock-holders was also built at Moe in 1892. Cream was bought and churned into butter which was either sold locally or shipped out. The buttermilk was divided among the stock-holders.



The Moe Warehouse after the 1902 storm. Mr. & Mrs. Weberg lived upstairs and with no stairway inside. They dared not try to go down by the outside stairway because they might break away. Knut Jacobson lived upstairs with Mr. & Mrs. Claus Hegness above the store which they then owned. Knut Jacobson tried to go down the stairway and he was blown across the road and landed in a field.

The next storekeepers were Claus Hegness and Knute Jacobson. After a few years the creamery closed. The creamery building became a blacksmith shop run by John Titland.



Blacksmith Shop at Moe

Others who owned and operated the Moe Store were Knute Rise, Carl Vindal, Ed Linde, Adolph Gubrud, Tony Fedderson and Knute Dahle. For many years Moe store was a community center. It sold groceries, produce, hardware, dry goods and other necessities of life. A cream station and warehouse were built nearby. The storekeepers lived in an apartment above the store. As automobiles came into use a mechanic also set up business in the blacksmith shop and the store added a gas station.

Knute Dahle was the sole owner of Moe store for many years. In 1918 he built a modern residence west of the store. When Dahle retired in 1920 he sold out to Oscar Fladmark who had clerked in the store for some time. Fladmark built the Moe community hall in 1927. It was used for both church and neighborhood social gatherings. Mr. Fladmark ran a thriving business for many years.

As time went on the Moe store and its adjacent buildings, with the exception of the storekeeper's dwelling, lapsed into disuse. The old buildings were torn down, and lawn and trees took their place. The Moe hall was bought by Maurice Overseth and converted into a machine shed on his farm.

Moe parish still bears the name of the little business enterprise that contributed so much to the early life of the community.

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In 1888 a terrific blizzard swept across the country. Edwin Kylling drove a team and wagon half mile southwest of Romsdal Church for a load of hay when the storm struck. He was found frozen to death the next morning eighty rods from home in a straw stack. The roads were only trails and there were no fences to follow. Edwin's parents, Lars and Mari Kylling, hammered on pans and kettles throughout the night, hoping Edwin would hear them and find his way home.

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Due to the rugged life in the Pioneer days, consumption (tuberculosis) was very prevalent. Many families had loved ones who contacted this dreaded malady and most of them died from it.

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Following the first world war, in 1918 the Influenza Epidemic swept the country. Thousands of people died from it.

The Romsdal Community was saddened by the death of two brothers and the father of Nels, Theodore, and Tillman Nelson, also Mr. and Mrs. Jens Wilson, leaving two small children: Evelyn, Mrs. DeLee Dann of rural Beresford and Sanford, deceased.

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"Gunder and his wife, Marit A. Olstad-Graven, left Lac Qui Parle County in early 1870 and journeyed further west to Dakota Territory near Vermillion, South Dakota. They stayed in a sod-hut with the Gorem Norbecks until they built one themselves.



Rev. Graven's first baptism was Peter Norbeck, who later became S. D. Governor 1917-21 and a U.S. Senator in 1921-36.

Shoemaker-trained and lay preacher Gunder Graven became an ordained minister in the Eielsen Synod in 1871 and later in Hauge Synods of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. He served as first pastor for 12 congregations from 1872-1900 in an 8-county area— Vermillion, Hudson, Centerville, Dell Rapids, Beresford, S. D. and Sioux City, Iowa. He was a founder of the Bethesda Children's Home, Beresford, S. D. on September 27, 1896. Rev. A. O. Oppegaard of Madison, Minn., became president in 1897 of the Children's Home's Board of Directors and presided at the dedication services that year with Rev. Graven giving the keynote Dedicatory Address. Rev. Oppegaard was elected president of the Hauge Synod in 1898.

In 1900, Rev. and Mrs. Graven moved to Santa Rosa, California to retire but they continued in church work and were founders of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in downtown Santa Rosa. His demise was June 6, 1903. Marit died March 27, 1922.

Pastor Gunder Graven's will showed that he gave one fourth of his estate to the Chinese Missions of the Hauge Evangelical Lutheran Synod Church of America. One fourth to the Bethesda Orphans Home (later called Children's Home) at Beresford, S.D.

(Taken from the Madison, Minn. Independent Press, Lac Qui Parle County's Centennial Year 1872-1972) Sent by Mrs. Anne Graven Aws.

## Norway Center Store

The inland stores are almost a memory today. Many have dissolved because of the competition and accessibility of supermarkets in nearby towns. In 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Paulson bought two acres of land from Ole Knutson. They built a store here, and it became known as the Norway Center Store, because it was situated in the center of Norway Township. Business involved trading eggs, cream, butter and poultry for groceries. Paulsons also owned a trucking business. Stephen died in 1929 but Hilda continued alone until 1934, when she married Lawrence Johnson. They operated the store until 1952, when their son, Allen, and his wife Joyce bought the store and operated it for several years. It was sold again, and is vacant at the present time.

During the winter of 1913, Rev. Quello, Rev. H. W. Jamison of the Congregational Church, and Ray Schoemaker of the Methodist Church were instrumental in getting Evangelist Bromley and his Choir Director Myers to come to Beresford and hold meetings for a month.

The community built a "Tabernacle" of tar paper, covering one fourth of a city square block, west of the Corner Drug Store.

These meetings involved the whole Beresford

community, and a number of people from Romsdal were either in the hundred voice choir or attended the meetings. Wooden planks were used for seats, and a thick layer of straw on the ground kept the worshipers feet warm. About a dozen pot bellied coal burning stoves which were often red hot were used. What a fire hazard!

Hundreds of people came for every service. Some came by railroad and returned to their homes on the midnight train. It was a powerful spiritual event and many were converted to Christ.

On July 31, 1949 after a brief thunder shower, the sky was almost clear when one cloud spewed out several tornado tails. The storm started one mile west of Romsdal Church, causing major damage on the following farms: Joe Rommereim (Melvin Northdurft), Bernhard Tuntland, Osmund Tuntland, Robert Thompson (Henry Thompson), Matt Speich (Lester Voegeli), Elmer Olbertson (John Olbertson), Julian Eide and on in a south-southwest direction for many miles. The men of the Moe Parish turned out one hundred fifteen strong and helped clean up the debris.

In the winter of 1935, after a period of severe winter weather, Ed Linde, Conrad Narum and Oliver Anderson decided to take their produce to Moe Store, three miles away. They collected the eggs and cream and started out at daylight with a team of horses on a bob sleigh. The roads were impassible, so they went across fields, letting down fences and angling back and forth to miss the larger snow drifts. They made fairly good progress the first mile and a half, but could not find a route past Bastian Fylling's place. Bastian had a bob sled on the other side of the huge drifts, so they unhooked the horses and led them single file through Bastian's barn, and hitched them to the other sled. The produce was carried from one sleigh to the other. Bastian joined the group adding more eggs and cream to the load. They started out again but could not get any closer to the Moe Store than south of Lands cemetery. Carrying their produce once more, the men finally arrived at the store. They bought crackers and cheese for their noon lunch, traded their eggs and cream for groceries and started out again, arriving home after dark.

Coal was the main source of fuel for heating and sometimes for cooking. The farmers were getting short after several weeks of blocked roads. About the only source of fuel other than coal was cobs picked from the hog pen after the pigs had cleaned the kernels of corn. The dirtier the cobs, the longer they burned, and the more heat they gave. There was one draw back however. The odor was not pleasant. Some farmers burned ear corn also.

Endless stories could be told about the hardships



endured during the "Dirty Thirties", but these conditions were mild compared to those of the early Pioneers.

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1969 was a winter of record snowfalls. Beresford recorded 104 inches and Sioux Falls 95 inches. The previous record for this area was 75 inches. There was not much wind all winter so the snow laid where it fell.

Through the years, the highways have been built higher. Snow removal equipment has been greatly improved so there was only brief periods of time when travel was at a stand still.

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In 1970 the worst hailstorm in the history struck in this area. The first one passed through July 1st, and another July 14th. The hail stones were mostly small, but a 50 mile per hour wind accompanied them, completely destroying the crops and doing much damage to buildings.

Moe Parish was in the center of these storms. They covered a wide area and some damage was done all the way from Beresford to Canton.

A tornado accompanied the hail. It followed a path a mile and a half south of Romsdal Church traveling east to Hawarden, Iowa. Major damage was done to buildings and groves in its path.

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The past hundred years have produced miracles

Beginning with pioneers, trudging two miles an hour westward across the plains behind their oxen drawn wagons, and ending with astronauts landing on the moon in three days.

In 1972 Lands, Romsdal and Trinity Congregations reached the Century Mark. The History of Moe Parish has been written.

Thoughts turn back to the immigrants who came here to find homes, form small congregations and build churches. They have made this history possible. We think of the Pastors and their wives who have been a blessing to our community through the years.

We join together in giving thanks to God for the many blessings.

Our hope and trust for those who follow us is, "HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE".

History is being made today and we hope our descendants will keep a good record of it. If they do as well as their Pioneer Fathers, then their aims must be set high.

No one but God knows what the future holds for Moe Parish. Due to the agricultural economy, most of the younger people are moving to the cities. Farms are getting larger, so fewer people are in the community. If the church is to remain part of the rural scene, those who stay will have to make additional efforts to prevail.

We are thankful for the early records. They were written in Norwegian, but we still have a few who can read and translate them into the English Language.

The sources of History for this book were taken from the 60th Anniversary books of 1932, the Diamond Jubilee books of 1947, and for this Centennial Book more research has been made.

## Thank You

For the greetings from former Pastors and their wives.

For the greetings from the Pastor Sons of the Parish.

For the letters from our Missionaries.

For the stories related by older folks and former members of the Parish.

For the sketches by Mrs. Grant (Dorothy) Bjorneberg.

For "A Tribute to the Pioneers" by Mrs. Hans (Doris) Stensland.

For "We Thank Thee God" by Miss Ruth Lavik.

For "About Face" by Mrs. Larry (Jone) Anderson.

To the Centennial History Committees. To the First National Bank, Beresford, for the monetary gift.

A special "Thank You" to our Pastor and Mrs. Svaren.

Thanks to others who have in anyway contributed to this Centennial Book.

The Book Committee does not claim to be infallible. Sometimes the old records were vague and incomplete. Omissions and mistakes are bound to occur. For this we hope the readers will be forgiving as none of the mistakes were intentional, but give God the Glory and Honor in "Holding Forth The Word Of Life".

Centennial Book Committee  
Oliver G. Anderson  
Mrs. Osmund (Olive) Tuntland  
Mrs. Nels (Gladys) Roskeland



## About Face

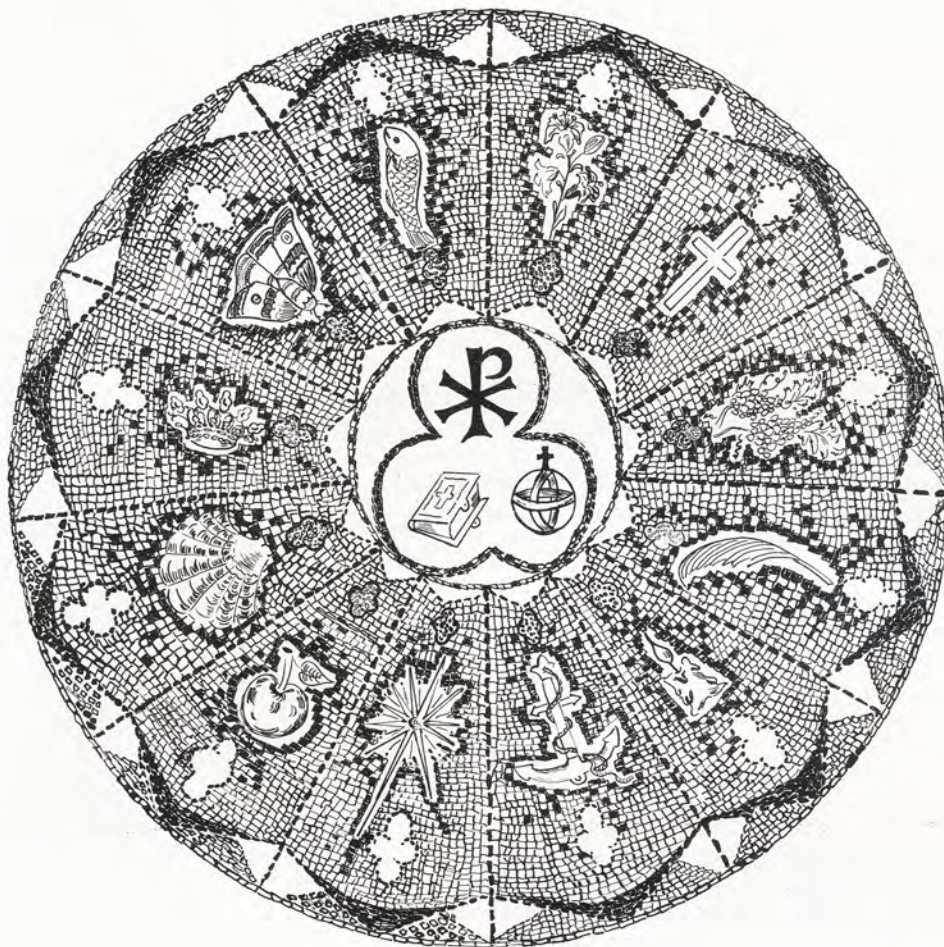
*It takes courage to face the future.  
These parents and grandparents of ours had it.  
They were poor  
Hungry  
Harassed,  
so they crossed a cold ocean  
in creaky ships,  
wagoned their way West  
and settled in Dakota.*

*Their dreams included the church.  
Taking what was best of the old  
they built the new,  
making it adaptable to this land,  
this American way of life.  
Now the church is threatened;  
caught in a puzzling present,  
facing an uncertain future.  
If we,  
as the church,  
continue to look backward  
we are doomed,  
for the past—  
however splendid,  
will not satisfy the clamoring needs  
of the now.  
Our grandparents answers  
will not solve the complexities of todays problems.*

*The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the same,  
yesterday  
today  
and forever.  
It does not make that claim about the church.  
We face foreward,  
and move in that direction,  
or we stagnate  
and die. It takes courage to face the future.*

*Jone Anderson*





## An Explanation of the Cover

**Christ (Monogram)** The first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. Therefore it is the Monogram or abbreviation for the word, Christ.

**Bible**—The Scripture.

**Globe**—Symbol of power-often shown as an attribute of God the Father.

**Trefoil**—Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Lily**—Symbol of purity, chastity, saintliness.

**Cross**—Faith, perfect symbol of Christ because of His Sacrifice upon the cross.

**Grapes**—Symbolize the wine of Holy Communion, the blood of Christ.

**Palm Leaf**—Symbol of Victory-martyr's triumph over death.

**Burning Candle**—Faith.

**Anchor**—Hope, Steadfastness.

**Star**—Symbol of divine guidance or favor.

**Apple**—The apple is symbolic of Christ, the new Adam, who took upon himself the burden of man's sin-the fruit of salvation. Solomon 2:3 "As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste". This passage has been interpreted as an allusion to Christ.

**Scallop Shell**—Signifies pilgrimage-safe Travel.

**Crown**—Victory or distinction.

**Butterfly**—Symbol of resurrection of Christ-in general sense-resurrection of all men.

**Fish**—Symbol of Christ-The five Greek letters forming the word "fish" are the initial letters of the five words, "Jesus Christ God's Son Savior". The Fish is also used as a symbol of baptism, for, just as the fish can not live except in water, the true Christian can not live save through the waters of baptism.

**Circle**-symbolizes eternity. There is no end.