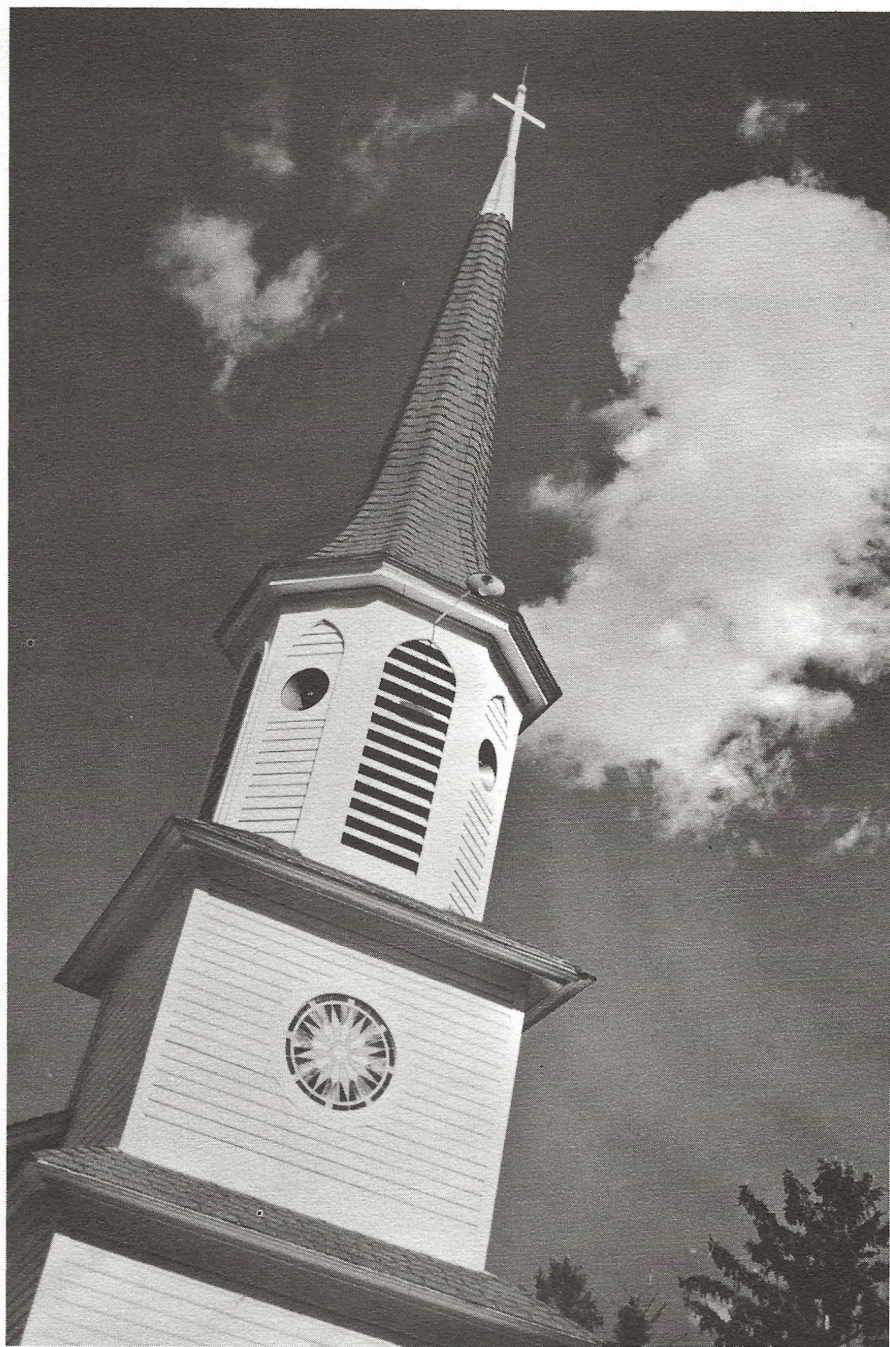
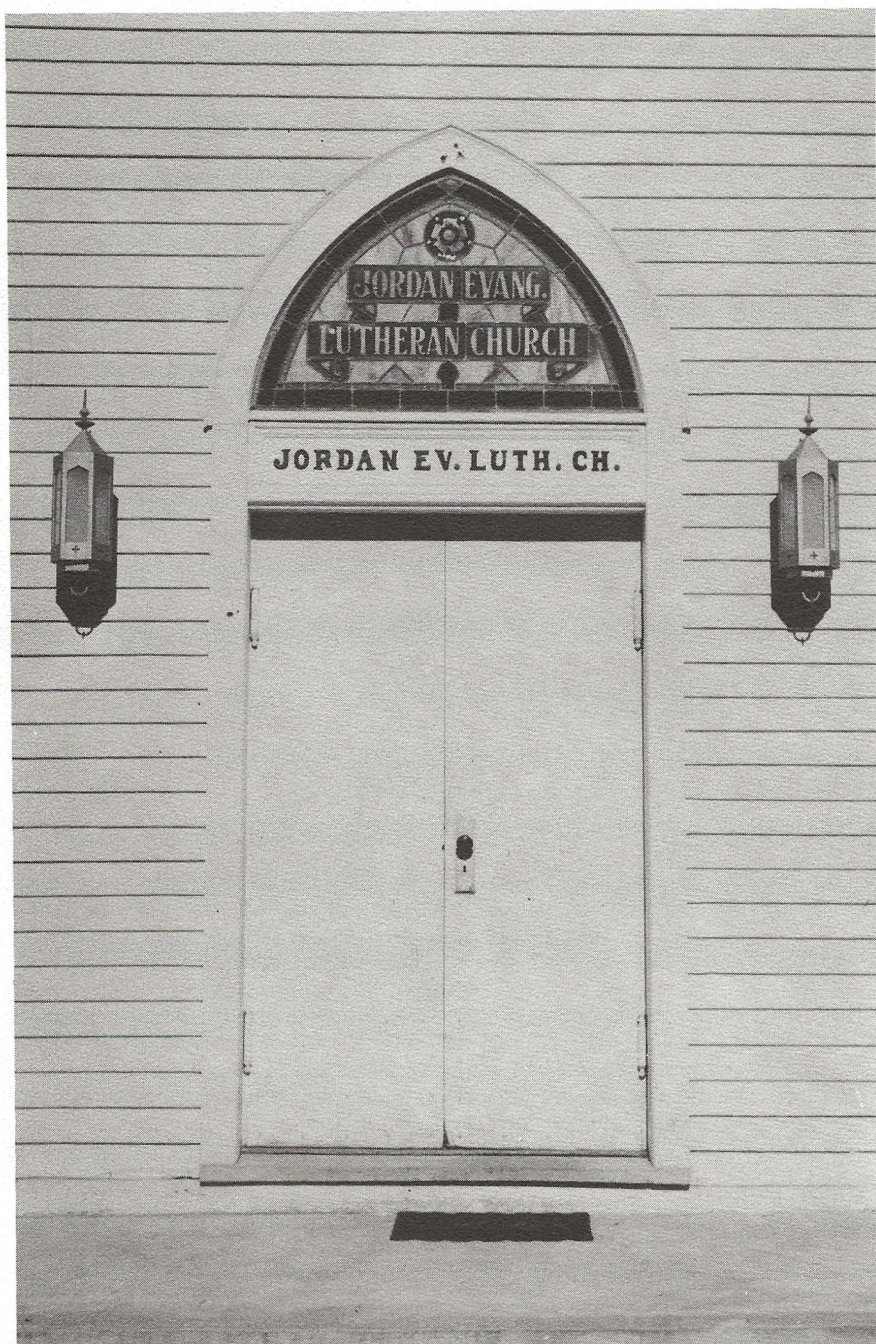




*Jordan Lutheran Church
Centennial*



"Glory to God"
Luke 2:14



"I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME,
LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD."

Psalm 122:1

JORDAN CONGREGATION HISTORY

Jordan Lutheran Church, which this year is celebrating its 100th anniversary, has its roots in the early immigration of Norwegian settlers to the United States. Early settlers in the vicinity of Jordan were among those in the 1840's and 1850's who came to Muskego, Rock Prairie and Koshkonong and then streamed westward.

Of interest is the fact that in a list of 211 immigrants from Norway in 1840 and in 1843, 70 per cent were less than 30 years of age. Between 1840 and 1847 ten to 12 thousand came from Norway and by 1860, 55,000 Norwegians were in America.

No time was lost by those immigrants in planning for churches and for the spiritual welfare of their people. As the Wiota congregation was organized in 1844, early settlers in the Jordan vicinity attended services there. One of the charter members of the Wiota Lutheran Church was Lasse Lassesson Boynton, who was the first permanent Norwegian settler in Jordan. He lived on the Boynton farm and is buried in the Jordan cemetery.

Many made the trip to worship services by ox cart and on horseback. For confirmation instruction the young people walked to the Wiota church on Saturday, crossing the Pecatonica river at Bruavald's, near where Simon Anderson now lives. The confirmands would stay overnight and their families would join them at Wiota for Sunday worship.

With the arrival of more families and with the distances involved in travelling to church, services were begun in the Jordan community at the barn on the Christopher Jackson farm now occupied by Lloyd Lincicum, about 1½ miles southwest of the present church. Christopher Jackson had come from Norway in 1843, on a trip of 15 weeks across the Atlantic Ocean.

This love of God and His Church prompted a group of men to gather at the home of Stener Evenson on December 17, 1859 and organize the Norwegian Lutheran Congregation of Jordan. Elected as trustees were Ole Herbrandsen, Anders Hanson and Lars Gulbrandson. This document of incorporation was recorded December 21, 1859 in Green County, Wisconsin. Following is the text of the document:

We, the undersigned, two voters present, nominated by a majority of the voters present, of the congregation hereafter mentioned, Do hereby certify, that on the seventeenth day of December instant, the male persons of full age, belonging to a Congregation in which divine worship is celebrated, according to the rites of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, and not already incorporated, met at the Home of Stener Evenson in the Town of Jordan in said County for the purpose of incorporating themselves and did then and there elect by plurality of voices Ole Herbrandsen, Anders Hanson and Lars Gulbrandson as trustees of said Congregation and the said persons did then and there also determine by the like plurality of voices that the said Trustees and their successors should forever hereafter be called and known by the name or title of The Trustees of the Norwegian Lutheran Congregation of Jordan.

Witness our hands and seal this 17th day of December AD 1859.

A. Tortensen
Ole Herbrandsen

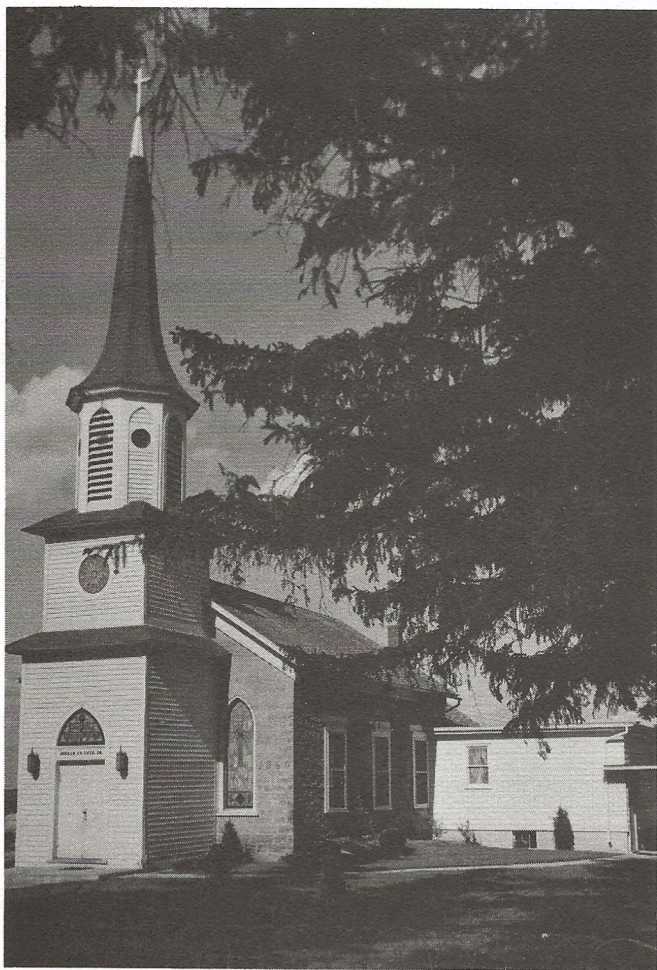
Twenty-one families were on the charter list. Following are the names of the charter members and a few other early leaders:

Lars Boynton Lassesson, Ole Iverson Unde, Andreas Fryslie, Ole Evenson Glesne, Peder Iverson Unde, Arne Anderson Vinge, Knut Thorson Bergo, Botolf Tollefson Haugen, Anders Johnson, Ollavaus Benjamanson, Iver Bendickson, Ole Herbrandsen, Lars Gulbrandson, Anders Hanson Haugrud, A. Tortenson, Ole K. Gordee Jorde, Thore Erickson, Thore Severson Strande, Golick Ellingson, Christopher Jackson, Ole Gollickson, Rollin Olson and Stener Evenson.

In 1860 work was begun on the present church. Land was donated by Knudt Thorson. Stone was hauled by oxcart by Ole K. Gordee from the old Jake Iverson farm, the first farm east of South Wayne on highway #11 and now occupied by Wesley Larson. It is believed Peter Davidson was the builder. Services were held in the church before it was roofed and while it still had a sod floor. Stone slabs were used for seats. Our forefathers considered that the heavens formed the roof and the earth the floor of God's house.

Michal Olson was the carpenter who made the pews, altar, altar railing and pulpit, all of which are still in use. At that time, with only the stone church, the pulpit stood over the altar and the pastor climbed a stairway to get to the pulpit. A large stove stood in the rear of the church and the benches formed a circle around it. It was worthwhile to come early on a cold winter day and get a place near the stove. The church cost \$1,000.

Later the women sat on one side of the church and the men on the other. The "klokker" led the congregation in the opening and closing prayer as well as in the hymn singing. During the time of the parochial school the school teacher would serve as the klokker.



"THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE,
LET ALL THE EARTH KEEP SILENCE BEFORE HIM."

Habakkuk 2:20

When the Wiota parish was incorporated in 1851, the overtrustee, Ole Knutson, wrote the following paragraph in the first book of records: "This congregation's boundary shall be or stretch as far north, south, east and west as there are Norwegian settlers who will accept these by-laws and belong to this church synod, namely the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Wiota." Thus the Wiota congregation became the parent of many congregations, namely Jordan, Yellowstone, Adams, York and Apple Grove.

Serving the Wiota congregation when Jordan was organized was the Rev. A. C. Preus, 1859-1863, a pastor from Norway. The Rev. Claus Clausen, the first man ordained among the Norwegian Lutherans in this country, ministered in the Jordan community too.

The first wedding in the new church in Jordan, when the church was still without a floor or roof, was that of Ingebor Helgeson and James Jackson. They were married on July 24, 1861, just 99 years to the day of our centennial services. The first recorded burial is that of John S. Johnson in 1859.

Some of the early settlers took an active part in their community and state. One of the charter members, Jacob Iverson Unde was a State Senator as was William Olson, a later member of the congregation. While Wiota was still the center of worship, there was often mention of names from Jordan — Andrew Anderson Glasne, Ole Frieslid and Lasse Lasseson Boynton.

The Rev. P. M. Brodahl served as pastor from 1863-66 and the Rev. K. K. Helland, 1867-1876. Both were trained in Norway but all later pastors received their ministerial education in America. The Reverends C. C. Aas, 1876-83; P. Isberg, 1883-84; O. M. Saevig, 1884-1902; J. A. Wang, 1903-11; W. O. Wilhelmson, 1911-32; G. M. Gunderson, 1932-51; J. A. Flak, 1952-55; and R. J. Vevle, 1955-60 have served the congregation.

The first organists of the congregation were Lena Anderson and Amelia Olson.

Parochial school was early held in the Mills School and Grove School. Community teachers, students from the church colleges and the seminary have staffed the schools. Records indicate that English hymnbooks were purchased in March 1918 and the first confirmation class in English was in 1919. As English became the language of the community, the number of Norwegian services decreased. In the middle 1940's, an occasional holy communion service was conducted in the Norwegian language.

The church and surrounding grounds have been enlarged and beautified as the years have gone by. The grove west of the church was donated by Thomas A. Thompson. Often a platform was erected and mission festival services were held in the grove.

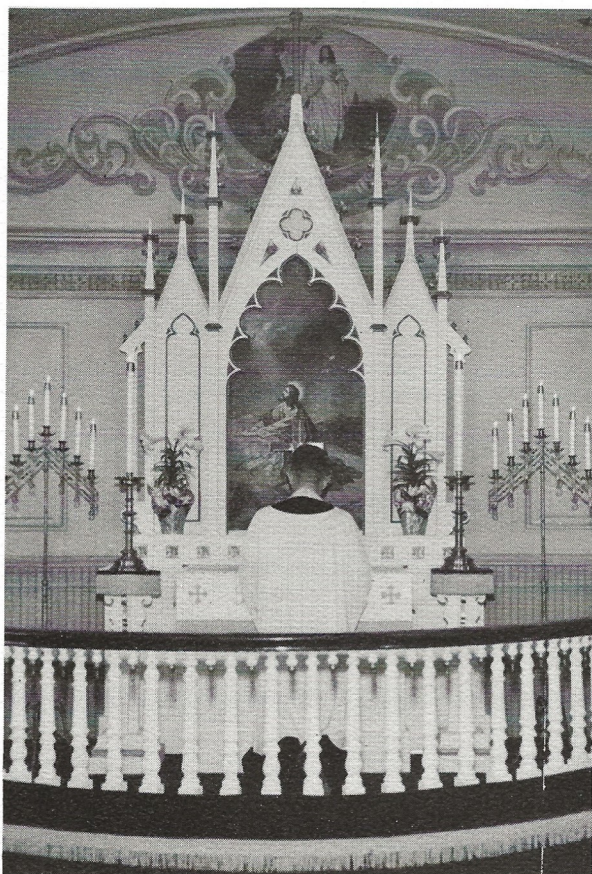
In 1890 the narthex and steeple were added. The carpenter was Andreas Peterson and Iver Ellingson was his helper. Inscribed on the bell hung in the steeple in 1890 is this inscription:

"To the Church the living call,
Death to the grave will summon all."

The bell was cast at the McShane Bell Foundry, Baltimore, Maryland. It was purchased by the pigeforming.

In 1910 the chancel of the church was added. Ben Fryslie, Iver Ellingson and Henry Johnson were on the remodeling committee. Work was done by volunteer labor and the basement was enlarged. Religious symbols and pictorial views from the Bible are part of the interior painting which was done in 1911 by Brager Brothers of Blanchardville.

Church records of 1915 indicate a gift of a new organ by the "pigeforming" (young ladies' society). New stained glass windows were installed in 1946. The Luther League, Sunday School, Ladies' Aid and congregational members contributed towards a new carpet in 1950. Miss Marion Boynton presented a piano to the congregation in 1950. Installed in 1950 was an electric organ, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Berg.



“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED ‘THE HOUSE OF PRAYER.’”

Matthew 21:13

The present parsonage of the Wiota congregation was built in 1877. After Jordan congregation purchased its share of the parsonage from Yellowstone, Jordan shared in the upkeep of that parsonage.

In 1951 a realignment of the Wiota parish resulted in Jordan congregation and Our Savior's Lutheran Church in South Wayne forming a new parish. A constitution committee of Oscar Evenson, Clarence Berg, Henry Wieman, Walter Meier and Oscar Nybrotten worked on a new constitution adopted by the congregation in 1953.

In December 1952 a parsonage was acquired from the Jay Chapman estate, South Wayne. Jordan sold its share in the Wiota parsonage for \$4,000. On January 25, 1953 Dr. Martin Anderson, Eastern District President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, dedicated the parsonage.

Seminarian Morris Sorenson, Jr. conducted services in the parish June 1—August 30, 1951 and the Rev. A. P. Anderson, Argyle, was interim pastor from September 1951 to June 30, 1952. Pastors of the new parish have been the Rev. Justin Flak, installed by Dr. Martin Anderson on July 13, 1952 and the Rev. Robert J. Vevele, installed by Rev. Waldo Wold on September 18, 1955. Both men were newly ordained into the ministry of the ELC.

Plans for a Sunday School addition and kitchen modernization in 1954 were directed by the committee of Clarence Berg, Oscar N ybroten and Morgan Johnson. A dedication service on December 5, 1954 was conducted by the Rev. J. O. Jorgenson, president of the Mt. Horeb Circuit. At that time a lecturn in memory of Mrs. Clara Ellingson, hymnboard and vases in memory of Mrs. Jonna Golackson, lights, chimes and numerous chancel appointments given by Marion Boynton were dedicated. Other organizational gifts and memorial gifts have been used to beautify the church from time to time.

It was not the custom for women to take any part in the work of the church in the early days but on December 6, 1884 during the pastorate of the Rev. Saevig, a Ladies Aid was organized at the home of Mrs. Andrew Fryslie. The members were Mmes. Chris Evenson, Nellie Benjaminson, Ole Evenson, Botolf Tollefson, Knute Thorson, Ole Ellingson, James Jackson, Rollin Olson, Iver Iverson, Thore Erickson, Nic Anderson, Lars Grove, Finger Anderson, Brynhilde Helland, Nels Anderson, William Parmer, Kristi Golackson, Iver Fenne and Paul Phillipson. Its purpose was entirely toward the support of missions. The first president was Mrs. Olaus Benjaminson. Later Mrs. Oscar Evenson became the first secretary. In 1950 a special Aid program was held for the 66th anniversary. Life Membership pins have been given to 22 ladies since 1950. Present membership of the Aid is 41 and Mrs. Morgan Johnson is the president.

Some years after the Aid was organized the pigoeforening was formed consisting of young girls who would eventually be members of the Aid. The charter members were Inger and Carrie Fryslie, Clara and Emma Boynton, Rene Gordee, Amely Jackson, Tillie Johnson, Caroline Anderson, Rachel and Carrie Thorson, Anna and Lena Tollefson, and Nettie Johnson. After a few years the pigoeforening joined with the Ladies Aid.

The Cemetery Association recently adopted a perpetual care plan for the cemetery. There is now a fixed perpetual care fee for all future burials. Friends and relatives of loved ones now buried in the Jordan Cemetery are encouraged to contribute to the perpetual care fund. Among those buried in the cemetery are six Civil War veterans, Nels Gollickson, Isaac Isaacson, Andrew Johnson, Rollin Olson, Christopher L. Syverson and Thomas A. Thompson, all of whom were volunteer infantrymen. Two World War I graves are those of Charles N. Anderson and Nellie Mae Moe. Present president of the Association is Freeman Berg and treasurer is Harold Johnson. In 1943 three-fourths of an acre of land for the cemetery was purchased from the Fred Gruenberg estate.

A young people's league was organized in 1926 and met the last Thursday evening of the month. One of its first projects was arrangements for the Christmas tree and program.

Of interest is the fact that Sever Hanson served as janitor of the church for 34 years. Special thanks were extended to him in 1926.

A 75th year festival was held in the Jordan church in 1935. Confirmed members at that time totalled 98.

Now in 1960 the congregation has a confirmed membership of 149 and a baptized list of 234. Present officers include: Overtrustee, Freeman Berg; Deacons, Charles Olson, Lawrence Buetzer, Henry Anderson; Trustees, R. Sandley, Henry Wieman, Harold Johnson; Secretary, Mrs. Lawrence Buetzer; Treasurer, Harry Berg; and Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. L. Buetzer. Custodian is Mr. Will Hexom and the organist, Patty Sandley.

Through the first hundred years the congregation has belonged to numerous synods, joining the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America in 1917 which later changed its name to the Evangelical Lutheran Church. As Jordan congregation enters its second century of witnessing to God, it is a part of the new merged church, The American Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Jeanette Wieman Madsen



JORDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, ABOUT 1890

Note the platform and steps for getting out of the buggies, the rail fence, the road and the pine trees





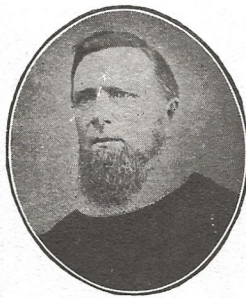
PASTORAL CONFERENCE AT EAST WIOTA 1909
 Rev. J. A. Wang, Pastor of Jordan



ANNIVERSARY



REV. J. W. DIETRICHSON
1844-1845



REV. CLAUS L. CLAUSEN
1845-1851



REV. J. S. MUNSH
1853-1859



REV. A. C. PREUSS
1859-1863



Rev. P. M. BRODAHL
1863-1866



REV. K. K. HELLAND
1867-1876



REV. DR. C. C. AAS
1876-1883



REV. P. ISBERG
1883-1884



REV. O. M. SAEVIG
1884-1902



REV. J. A. WANG
1903-1911



REV. W. O. WILHELMSON
1911-1932

EARLY PASTORS



REV. and MRS. GERHARD GUNDERSON and FAMILY 1932-51



REV. and MRS. JUSTIN FLAK and FAMILY 1952-55



REV. and MRS. ROBERT J. VEVLE , JAN and JOAN



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Mrs. Fred Probst, Mrs. Ivan Ellingson, Mrs. Freeman Berg,
Mrs. Lawrence Buetzer, Supt., Mrs. Roy Kubly, Mrs. Leonard Boynton
Not pictured: Mrs. Oscar Samson and Mrs. Robert Gollickson



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



W.M.F. OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARIES



W.M.F. 1960



YOUTH CHOIR



OVERTRUSTEE FREEMAN BERG and CUSTODIAN BILL HEXOM



CHURCH COUNCIL

Harry Berg, Henry Wieman, Freeman Berg, Lawrence Buetzer, Pastor Vevele,
 Russell Sandley, Mrs. Florence Buetzer
 Not pictured: Mr. Henry Anderson, Mr. Harold Johnson, Mr. Charles Olson



JORDAN CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Pastor Vevele,
 Mr. Oscar Nybrotten, Mrs. Mabel Probst, Mrs. Cora Hanson, Mr. Lawrence Berg

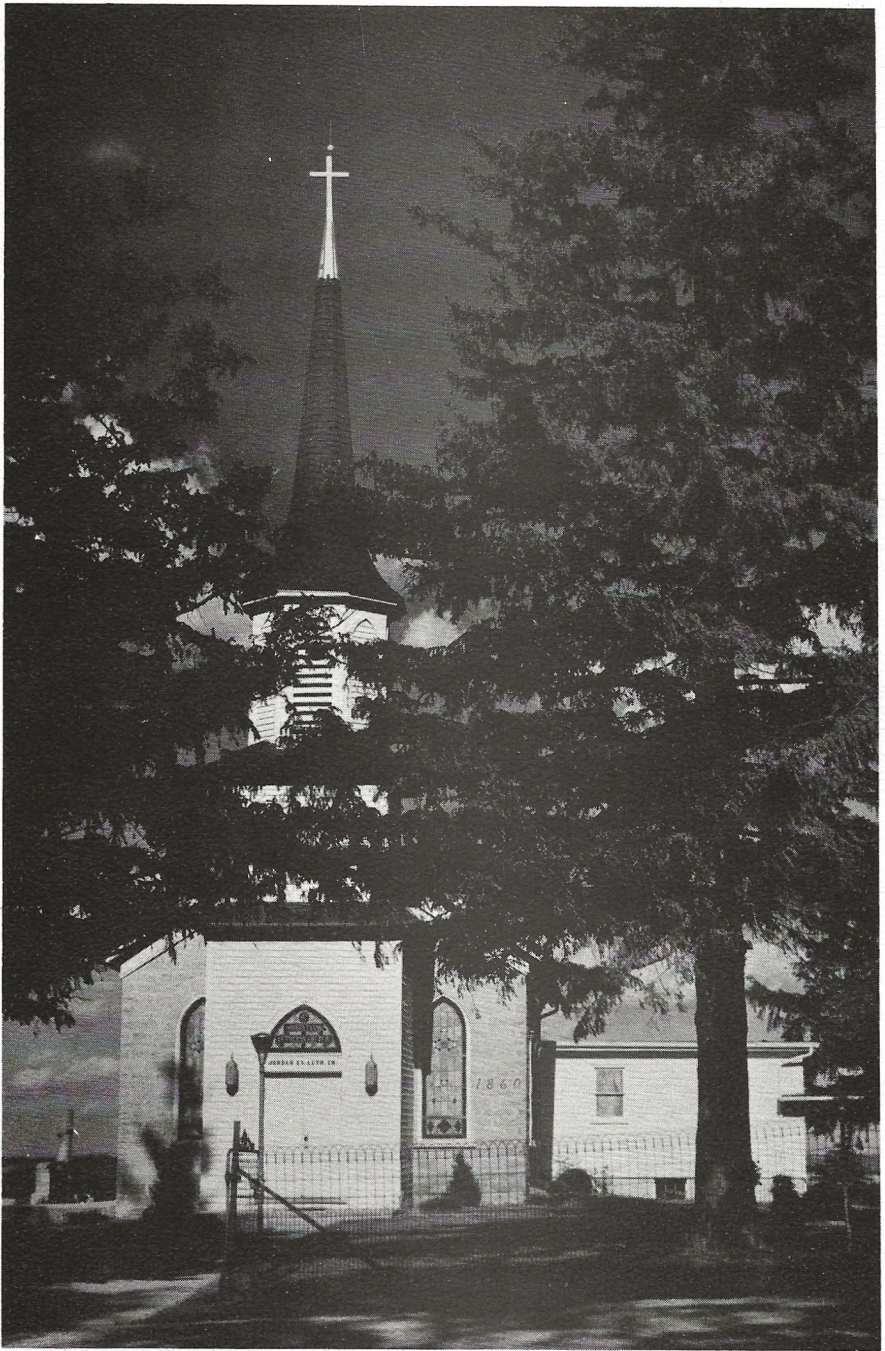


CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 1960

Ralph Ellefson, Diane Berg, Gerald Ellefson, Pastor Vevele, Terry Kubly



EASTER 1960



"THANKS BE UNTO GOD"
II Cor. 9:15

IN HERBERT COUNTY, WISCONSIN, the County and State of the People of Wisconsin, 1908.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this _____ day of _____, 1908, personally appeared _____, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this _____ day of _____, 1908.

Notary Public for Wisconsin

Together with all and singular the hereunto in anywise appertaining, unto the premises above described, in and to the above bargained premises and their improvements and appurtenances. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises, above described, unto _____ heirs and assigns forever.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,)
County of _____)
I, _____, Clerk of said County, do hereby certify that the above instrument, as and that the same was free and clear from all incumbrances whatsoever and that the above bargained premises, at the quiet and peaceful possession of the hereunto coming second part of the above instrument, together with all and singular the hereunto in anywise appertaining, unto the premises above described, in and to the above bargained premises and their improvements and appurtenances.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this _____ day of _____, 1908.

Witness my hand and seal this 17th day of _____, 1908.

Notary Public for Wisconsin

Notary Public for Wisconsin

Notary Public for Wisconsin

Notary Public for Wisconsin

Notary Public for Wisconsin

Notary Public for Wisconsin

THE ORIGINAL PAPER OF INCORPORATION

THE ORIGINAL DEED

