

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

1888--1938



North Viking Lutheran Church

Maddock, North Dakota

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Outline of Program

June 17-19, 1938

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

6:30 P. M. **Confirmand Reunion and Homecoming.**

Informal talks by Rev. I. Havneros, Rev. Mikkel Lono.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

11:00 A. M. **Norwegian Service.** Sermon by Rev. T. J. Lund.

8:00 P. M. **Ladies' Aid Program.**

Talk—"A Tribute To The Older Ladies' Aid Members"—Mrs. Wm. Omlid.

Address—"Faithful Building in Fifty Years"—Mrs. E. H. Gilbertson, President of W. M. F. of the North Dakota District.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

10:30 A. M. **English Service.**

Festival Sermon—Rev. I. Havneros

Anniversary Offering.

2:30 P. M. **Anniversary Program.**

Addresses by former pastors: I. Havneros, Mikkel Lono, and H. A. Blegen,

"Venite Adoremus"—Combined Choruses.

8:00 P. M. **Luther League Program.**

Address and Dedication of the new organ—Rev. Mikkel Lono.

North Viking Lutheran Church

Maddock, North Dakota

Introduction

Quered Micah, the prophet of old, "What does God require of thee except to do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with thy God?" As if in answer to the implications of this question, a group of people in this community, fifty years ago, organized a Christian congregation that they might lend strength and courage to one another so that they might better do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

The children of these path finders have gone forth and have done likewise. It is well, too, that today, they think of these things to the extent that they wish to make a record thereof. This booklet is the record, then, not, by any means complete, of the efforts of these people and their children to walk with God. Appointed to perform this service were the following.

HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION—A. T. Felland.

HISTORY OF THE LADIES' AID—Mrs. Jens B. Dyrud, assisted by Mrs. Odin Cleveland, Mrs. Carl Gilbertson, and Miss Emma Larson.

HISTORY OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL—H. J. Hugelen.

HISTORY OF THE CHOIR—Ruby Christianson.

HISTORY OF THE LUTHER LEAGUE—Ruby Christianson.

HISTORY OF THE MEN'S CLUB—A. J. Spidahl.

HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD—Mrs. F. L. Graber.

Why do we need churches? What is their work? How do they help the community? The answers to these questions will enable us to understand why most people do not care to live in a neighborhood that has no church.

Built on a Rock, the Church doth stand,
Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in every land,
Bells still are chiming and calling;
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.

Historically Speaking

1888-1938

"On the 27th of March, 1888, a meeting was held by the undersigned dwellers of Benson Co., Dakota, to form a congregation. The discussions were led by Lars O. Larson, who was elected chairman of the meeting. Ole Holdal was elected secretary. The following resolution was adopted: Undersigned dwellers of Benson Co., Dakota, hereby unite to form a congregation in order that the word of God may dwell among us through public preaching together with the administering of the Sacraments. We wish further to be a free congregation with ministerial service provided by the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

(Signed) Lars O. Larson, Ole Holdal, Hans T. Olson, Thore Halvorson, Ole H. Bratvold, Chr. O. Westbye, Bernt C. Westbye, Ole H. Myhre, Ole K. Bondeli."

The only other business at this meeting was pledging money for the support of the infant just created. The meeting took place in the home of Ole H. Myhre. This home was located near the coulee on the present E. C.

Olson farm, two miles south and one mile east of Maddock. This home burned to the ground not so very long ago. The building used as a store and postoffice (Waterloo) was also Myhre's. A blacksmith shop was nearby. The Myhre store was later moved to Maddock where it eventually became known as the Dakota Hotel, which burned to the ground Sept. 7th, 1931. Ole H. Myhre, a brother of Mrs. L. O. Larson, died Dec. 26, 1892. Two years later his widow married Mr. Haaken Moen. She and Mr. Ole K. Bondeli are the only surviving charter members. It was Mrs. Haaken Moen's purpose to be present at the 50th anniversary of this congregation, although a very old lady now, but that purpose may have been defeated by the death of her husband at Seattle, Washington, a couple of days before this was being written. Rev. Blegen spoke to the writer in the highest terms of Mrs. Moen as a devout, earnest worker for the Church. Mr. Bondeli, now nearing 79 in years, still lives on his original farm.

Equally interesting and informative are the minutes of the next meeting



HANS T. OLSON
Charter Member



OLE H. MYHRE
Charter Member

held on the 29th of April: Pastor O. T. Lee, chairman. Ole Holdal elected secretary for the meeting. The following resolutions were adopted: The



CHR. T. WESTBY
Charter Member

name of the Congregation shall be the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Antelope Valley. The constitution was adopted after which the following officers were duly elected: Trustees—Ole H. Myhre, Hans T. Olson, and O. K. Bondeli. Ole Holdal, Secretary; Thore Halvorson, Treasurer. The following were elected a find a suitable place for the cemetery: Ole H. Bratvold, Bernt Westbye, and Thore Halvorson." Bratvold was also known as Halvorson.

The first annual meeting was held December 1st. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved. The constitution was again read and accepted. Each member was assessed 10 cents for the new minute book. Svend S. Sabbe was accepted as a member. Trustees elected: Syvert Westbye, Svend S. Sabbe, and Hans T. Olson. Ole Holdal, Secretary, and Ole H. Myhre, Treasurer.

A special meeting was held December 26 to accept as members Sever T. Varberg and Hans Legreid.

The first confirmation was held in the Bondeli school house July 7th, 1889, and conducted by Rev. O. T.

Lee. Confirmed were Olaf Halvorson, now dead, Hanna Randine Halvorson, who in 1895 became Mrs. Ole K. Bondeli, and Regine Halvorson, who in the same year, 1895, became Mrs. Ole Holdal.

The first marriage performed was in 1892 when Sever T. Varberg and Hannah Norheim were joined by Rev. Blegen at the home of Iver Dahl. Witnesses were Rasmus Norheim and Lars T. Varberg. Mr. and Mrs. Varberg still reside in Maddock. The first services were conducted in the O. H. Myhre home on Nov. 28 by Rev. O. T. Lee. The text was based on John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." The first child to be baptized after the congregation was organized was Bernt Oscar Anderson on Oct. 12, 1888, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Anderson. He lives on a farm near the old Anderson home. However, Hanna Marie Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hans T. Olson, was baptized by Rev. Aaberg, Oct. 23, 1887, in Viking congregation. She was the first child baptized in the original Viking congregation. She has passed on beyond the still waters. Carl Edward Myhre was baptized by Rev. O. T. Lee in his parents' home, Mr. and Mrs. Ole H. Myhre, Nov. 28th, 1887. He lives in Seattle.

Only one meeting was held in 1889 (December 4th) and it was concerned with obtaining a new pastor. Rev. O. T. Lee, a mission pastor, residing at Church's Ferry, had served faithfully and, in spite of his large territory of several congregation, had had 30 regular services here. After two years of service here, Rev. Lee went to Northwood, Iowa, where he served most of his time until God called him to his eternal reward. In the interim Rev. J. R. Wisness of Hickson and Rev. O. H. Aaberg of Devils Lake served.

Rev. H. A. Blegen, having been duly called both by the congregation and the Home Mission Board, preached his installation sermon Sept. 14, 1890. It so happened that at about this time the Revs. T. Tonneson, T. S. Reishus, M. Shirley and S. Svennungson all left



THE NORTH VIKING LUTHERAN CHURCH



REV. O. H. AABERG
1888



REV. O. T. LEE
1888-1898



REV. H. A. BLEGEN
1890-1893

North Dakota for calls elsewhere. This left only two pastors to serve all the congregations between Larimore and Minot—Blegen and Aaberg. Officially Blegen's call included South Viking, Antelope Valley, St. Olaf, and Lake Ihsen (Leeds). But he also served Big Coulee and Norway in Ramsey county and, together with Aaberg, all the rest from Larimore to Minot until new men arrived. Rev. Blegen relates that the Home Mission Board refused to send more men to the North Dakota mission field and so he and Aaberg did the unexpected and the unusual thing—they called, on their own initiative, Theol. Cand. Ivar L. Oksendahl to serve as their personal assistant pastor. Rev. Oksendahl continued in this capacity until 1893.

At the annual meeting held Dec. 26, 1892, the congregation decided that Mr. Christian Olsen, a brother of Mrs. Haaken Moen, should act as song leader for the congregation. On the 28th of January it was further decided that the same Mr. Olsen should take charge of the teaching of Christianity to the young and in this dual capacity Mr. Olsen officiated for several years thereafter. He later moved to the state of Washington.

It was during this period that a cemetery was acquired, thanks to the liberality of Bernt Westby who donated the land for a building site for the proposed church building but with the railroad and Maddock coming in 1901 it was agreed to use it for a cemetery. This cemetery was dedicated to its purpose Sept. 7th, 1893, by the Revs.

Lee and Blegen. A child, Edward, less than two months old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Myhre, was the first to find a resting place in this cemetery. The burial took place August 13, 1890. At the present time an effort is being made to enlarge the cemetery.

On March 4th, 1893, a meeting was held composed of delegates from three congregations, St. Olaf, Antelope Valley, and Viking for the purpose of calling a resident pastor. Sixteen pages of the minute book are devoted to this meeting. The Antelope Valley representatives were the three trustees, Thore Halvorson, Gullick Gullickson, Sever T. Varberg, and three delegates, I. O. Larson, Bernt Westby, and Haas T. Olson. C. K. Helgeson acted as temporary chairman. Paul J. Moen and Timan L. Quive were elected as chairman and secretary respec-



REV. I. O. OKSEND AHL
1893-1909



CHARTER MEMBERS OF CONGREGATION

**Left to Right, Standing—Thore Halvorson, Ole K. Bondeli.
Seated—Ole Holdahl, Bernt Westby, L. O. Larson, Syver Westby**

tively. The final outcome of this and subsequent sessions was that a call was issued to Rev. I. L. Oksendahl, who accepted. Rev. Blegen, now 79 years old, has retired to his home in Leeda. His activities in Antelope Valley spanned three years.

At the annual meeting held Dec. 5, 1893, it was decided to change the name of the congregation to the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of North Viking.

Presently Rev. Oksendahl took a homestead—the present Mrs. Emma Spriggs farm—and here he made his home, the first parsonage. Later this building was moved to Christ Westby's farm in Maddock and still later he moved it further into town and it is now occupied by the Martin Mathieson family.

Up to the time in 1903 services were held in the Bondeli school house and in the home of O. H. Myhre, Hans T. Olson, Peter Anderson, L. O. Larson, Ole H. Bratvold (Halvorson), Timan Quarve, and the north school house. The Hans T. Olson house was moved and is now the home of Henry Wisness and family, and the Bratvold house was later occupied by his son, Nels O. Halvorson and family, and burned some years ago.

In 1902 the congregation decided to seek admission to membership in the Synod of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. This was effected later. In the same year it was also determined to build a suitable church edifice the following spring. The following building committee was elected: Rev. Oksendahl, Ole Holdal, L. O. Larson and Bernt Westby. At this time it was found advisable to incorporate the congregation under the laws of North Dakota. The Maddock Townsite Co. agreed to donate two lots for the proposed church and an additional two lots were purchased from the same company. The church was built the following spring. Much labor was donated. As reported by Rev. Oksendahl in the annual meeting held Nov. 13, 1903, its cost was \$4,976.49 for the

building alone. Olof Skram was the contractor.

In 1906 it was reported that the debt on the church had been paid in full. A committee was also appointed to arrange with the other two sister congregations on plans for building a parsonage. Already this same summer it was built at a cost of \$3,262, North Viking sharing one-half of the cost, Viking one-third and St. Olaf one-sixth. It was also practically paid for. When the church was built in 1903 the trustees were S. Westby, Hans Ronning and John Clifton. Secretary—Ole Holdal, Treasurer—L. O. Larson. When the parsonage was built in 1906 the trustees were O. J. Cleveland, Edv. Westby, and H. B. Haagenstad. Secretary—Ole Holdal, Treasurer—Ole K. Bondeli.

On the 15th of March a meeting together with S. Viking was held (St. Olaf had been added to the Esmond charge in 1909) to consider the resignation of Rev. Oksendahl due to ill health. Both unanimously offered him thanks for his 16 years of faithful and conscientious service in the mission of the Lord.

His health was gone, due undoubtedly to the strenuous pioneering of his service. It can be truly said of him that he gave himself as a living sacrifice to this community and to the church.

Rev. Ivar Havneros, another theological candidate, was called and accepted. One of his first tasks was to



REV. IVAR HAVNEROS
1909-1918

serve as "pastor loci" for the South Viking congregation during the an-



BONDELI SCHOOL HOUSE—WHERE FIRST SERVICES WERE HELD

nual session of the Northwest District in June, 1909. The writer was present and from his observations he knew that a fortunate selection had been made.

Another faithful servant of the congregation, Ole Holdal, secretary for 22 years, is worthy of mention. This is truly a great service for which the congregation is deeply indebted. He was succeeded in 1911 by Adolph O. Johnson as secretary, who served for ten years to 1921.

In 1912 Flora congregation was made part of the charge in conformity with the wishes of all congregations concerned. This connection was later dropped and still later reestablished. Flora congregation had been part of the charge since its organization in March 20th, 1912.

In 1913 a satisfactory settlement was made with St. Olaf as to ownership in the parsonage. As it now stands Viking and North Viking each own a half interest with the understanding that if one withdraws it will be reimbursed by the other up to 75 percent of the value of its half interest.

Rev. Havneros, after ten years of fruitful service, resigned in 1919 to accept a letter of call from the charge at Mabel, Minnesota, where he still remains. He has been invited back nearly every year to take part in church festivities either here or in Viking. Following him came Rev. S. M. Orvold in 1920 and he served un-

til his death in 1925. He was instrumental in introducing the "envelope system" which has been successfully used ever since. Rev. Bernt M. Høirrenning then served temporarily until Rev. Mikkel Lono accepted a call from the four congregations. Rev. Lono served until 1928 when he went



REV. MIKKEL LONO
1925-1928

to Tacoma, Washington, to continue in a similar capacity. At present he is located in Portland, Washington, as vice-president of the Pacific Lutheran College.

It was in 1928 that it became evident to all that the church must be enlarged to take care of the needs of the ever growing congregation. A building committee, composed of Oscar R. Larson, a son of the church veteran, Lars O. Larson, as chairman, J. I. Hegge, Albert Hesia, and the



REV. S. M. ORVOLD
1920-1925



OSCAR R. LARSON
Chairman, Building Committee, 1928

trustees Tom Sabbe, B. B. Benson, and Hartvig Westby were empowered to go ahead and supervise the enlargement of the church building. The secretary was A. C. Idsvog and the

at the side of the man in order that the Church might really become triumphant. All honor to the good women of the congregation for their noble efforts in helping to make the



J. I. HEGGE
Treasurer, Building Committee, 1928

treasurer, J. I. Hegge. G. A. Meland of Wellsburg was secured both as architect and contractor with the results such as we behold them today.

In the same year that the church was enlarged a new pastor came to live among us, to carry on where many noble men had toiled, the Rev. G. R. Estrem of Cooperstown. He and his family, happily, are still with us. In 1924 a fund was begun for a pipe organ. Soon after the Luther League took up the matter and, as a result of their untiring efforts a Hammond Electric Organ was installed about two months ago.

In writing this story of the North Viking congregation no attempt has been made at embellishment. It is but a plain, simple narrative of facts and events. In reading it one might, at first blush, get the idea that only men make history here. But quite the contrary is true. Behind nearly every man whose name appears in these pages there is a wife, sister, mother, or daughter who has fought valiantly



REV. G. R. ESTREM
1928 to Present Time

Church a living Church among us!

At the annual meeting held Jan. 2nd, 1922, the congregation made the following resolution and this could have been done every year. We close by recording this resolution:

To the North Viking Ladies' Aid:

At our annual meeting held today a vote of thanks to the North Viking Ladies' Aid was recorded and we take great pleasure in extending to you this vote of thanks for the good work and liberal financial support given the congregation by your organization. Your past efforts are highly appreciated and may God give you the will and the strength to carry on!

North Viking Ladies' Aid

This Ladies' Aid history is designed primarily for the purpose of setting forth in all brevity the major historical facts relating to the North Viking Ladies' Aid during the forty-five years of its existence. In so doing we have found it extremely difficult to sift out from the records those events which we deem to be of the greatest importance. Space will not permit us to give special mention to all the women who have labored so faithfully through these many years, but we do want to pay tribute to the pioneer women who were the nucleus of this organization.

The Antelope Valley Ladies' Aid was organized in 1893 at the farm home of Mrs. Myhre Moen, with the following women in attendance: Mrs. Myhre, Miss Randine Halvorsen (Mrs. R. Nelson), Mrs. Sven Sabbe, Karen Westby, Mrs. Hans T. Olson, Mrs. Marthe Halvorsen, Mrs. Seena Gullickson, Mrs. E. G. Anderson, Mrs. Syver Warberg, and Mrs. Kristian Olson.

Mrs. Myhre Moen became the first president and Deena Halvorsen (Mrs. R. Nelson), was appointed secretary, and the treasurer chosen was Mrs. Sven Sabbe.

The purpose of the Ladies' Aid was



MRS. ELLA MYHRE MOEN
First Pres. Antelope Valley L. A.

to secure religious instruction for their children and this was accomplished by means of a boarding school at the home of Mrs. Myhre Moen, for which the small fee of 25 cents per child was charged. The teacher was Mrs. Moen's father, Kristian "Klokker" Olson, a "skole-larer" from Norway.

The children were early taught to do missionary work as here they were given mission boxes to help towards the building fund of the Norwegian Synod Theological Seminary at St. Paul.

Distance or transportation did not keep the pioneer women from attending Ladies' Aid, as one instance is cited where two women, each carrying a small child walked eight miles to attend a meeting. The pastor had no traveled road or even a trail to follow, but had to mark out his own by piling up mounds of earth in summer, and putting sticks in the snow in winter.

The women, then as now, made aprons, quilts, etc., to be sold at the annual sale, the material for these was purchased with the "kaffi-penger" from the meeting. "And thus," (in the words of the first president) "in our humble way we began to work."

In 1903 the Antelope Valley Ladies' Aid was reorganized under the name of the North Viking Ladies' Aid. The first member on the list was Mrs. Ole Holdahl to whose home Mrs. Lars Gullickson walked to receive her signature.

The following women attended the first meeting at the home of Mrs. Lars Gullickson: Mrs. Ole Holdahl, Ella Halvorsen, now Mrs. P. Dalbak, Mrs. I. H. Oksendahl, Mrs. Hans Bakke, Miss Carrie Westby, Mesdames Henry Halvorsen, Sam Savold, Ed Westby, Ole Hellesvig, Andrew Lee, Ole Westby, Hans Olson, H. Moen, O. C. Olson, E. C. Olson, Sven Sabbe, Gust Nelson, Misses Ethel and Helga Westby, Ida

Gullickson, and Mrs. A. W. Swenson, who was elected president, Mrs. Sigvart Grondahl, secretary, and Mrs. Lars Gullickson, treasurer.



MRS. A. W. SWENSON
First Pres. North Viking L. A.

The women continued to work by making garments and fancy-work for the annual sales, serving lunches and dinners, putting on basket socials, ice cream socials, food and rummage sales, etc., to raise money for the work in the local congregation and the various departments of our church.

We have used the mission boxes, penny-a-meal boxes, thank offering envelopes and self denial cards, and have 60 children enrolled in the Cradle Roll department.

Several books have been purchased for our mission library by means of a ten cent per capita tax.

We have contributed to the Seamen's Missions, Orphanages, Sunset Homes, House of Mercy, Concordia College Fund, Alaska Mission, Indian Mission, and Missionary's Rest Home. Memorials are given for departed members.

Contributions to the church by the Aid have been many and varied such as the pews, carpet, lights and fixtures, part payment on furnaces at both the church and parsonage, ceme-

tery fence, garden plot at the parsonage, painting church, communion silver, altar cloth, folding chairs and other basement equipment, and substantial sums to the parsonage and church debt. We also pay the Pension Fund annual levy.

In 1921 we joined the Women's Missionary Federation and have sent delegates to the annual conventions. We have enjoyed entertaining the circuit Women's Missionary Federation several times and feel that great blessings have been derived from these meetings. We are very grateful to the Women's Missionary Federation for inspiration and information received from literature used for our Ladies' Aid programs. One outstanding feature in this line was the Pageant, "Missions of Many Lands," presented by Ladies' Aid members at the Women's Missionary Federation state convention held at Devils Lake in June, 1933.

Receptions have been given for the pastors and their wives on different occasions. Our membership has increased steadily and the work has gone forth for the furtherance of God's Kingdom on earth. May we continue to reap the blessings of the good seed sown by our pioneer mothers, and may future generations hereby find their place in the Lord's vineyard and help carry the Gospel to all nations as we are commanded to do in Matt. 28:19, "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all people."

As a loving tribute to the pioneer women who founded this aid let us say:

They sowed that we might reap;
They built that we might keep
Our heritage, they toiled that we
From too hard toiling, might be free,
They lived in homes of sod,
That we might worship God,
They lived a life divinely taught,
They hoped and prayed and mur-
mured not.

Present Officers of Organizations

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

C. T. MADSEN, Chairman
EMIL VINCENT, Secretary
T. T. SABBE
LEONARD HOLJE
C. I. ERSTAD
A. T. FELLAND
H. J. HUGELÉN
SVERRE OLSON
ALBERT HESLA
WILHELM ESTREM
MRS. CARL GILBERTSON
MRS. K. B. ERICKSON
ETHEL WICK
RUBY CHRISTIANSON

PRESENT OFFICERS OF CONGREGATION

C. T. MADSEN, Chairman, Trustees
T. T. SABBE, Trustee
LEONARD HOLJE, Trustee
EMIL VINCENT, Secretary
C. I. ERSTAD, Treasurer
CARL SOLHEIM, Finance Secretary
MRS. G. R. ESTREM, Organist
GILMA HOVLAND, Organist
S. SIMONSON, Janitor

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

MRS. T. MARKESTAD, President
MRS. GILBERT WICK, Vice-Pres.
MRS. EDWIN GULLERUD, Secretary
MRS. SIMON SCHMID, Treasurer
MRS. HANS LYSNE, Mission Box
Secretary
MRS. B. G. KOLSRUD, Cradle Roll
Secretary

WOMEN'S GUILD

MRS. F. L. GRABER, President
MRS. REUBEN LIUDAHL, Vice-
President
MRS. VERNOR JOHNSON, Secretary
MRS. NORMAN LIUDAHL, Treas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Senior Department:

H. J. HUGELÉN, Superintendent
NORMAN ESTREM, Secretary-
Treasurer
JARL DYRUD, Pianist

Primary Department:

MRS. WM. OMLID, Superintendent
FRANCES LALUM, Secretary,
Treasurer
ESTHER ESTREM, Pianist

LUTHER LEAGUE

ETHEL WICK, President
NORMAN ESTREM, Vice-President
LEONARD WICK, Treasurer
FRANCES LALUM, Secretary
DORIS CLEVELAND, Pianist
ESTHER ESTREM, Librarian
REV. G. R. ESTREM, and MARION
EVENSEN, Advisors.

CHOIR

MARY HOBERG, President
OLIVER ROWE, Treasurer.
MARION EVENSEN, Accompanist
GORDON NELSON, Director

MEN'S CLUB

A. T. FELLAND, President
SVERRE OLSON, Vice-President
BERGER JOHNSON, Treasurer
A. J. SPIDAHL, Secretary

JUNIOR LUTHER LEAGUE

SHERMAN MADSEN, President
MERCEDES OLSON, Secretary
DENNIS LYSNE, Treasurer
MRS. WM. OMLID and FRANCES
LALUM, Advisors

JUNIOR CHOIR

LILY CHRISTIANSON, Director
ESTHER ESTREM, Accompanist

The Sunday School

The history of the religious instruction of the youth of our congregation dates back to the nineties, even before the building of the church, when instruction was given in the homes of the parishioners who heeded this teaching of the Scripture: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

The first church building in our congregation was completed in 1902 and



S. H. GRONDAHL
First Superintendent

the following year our first Sunday School was organized with S. H. Grondahl as superintendent. Many individuals have served as teachers and superintendents these years, but possibly special mention should be given O. J. Kleveland and Albert Hesa for their pioneer work as superintendents of the Sunday School. The present officers are: Primary Department; Mrs. Wm. Omlid, Superintendent; Frances Lalum, secretary-treasurer; Esther Estrem, pianist. Senior Department; H. J. Hugslen, superintendent; Norman Estrem, secretary-treasurer; Jarl Dyrud, pianist.

The present Sunday School provided instruction for the youngest beginner to the members of the Bible classes. The Graded System is used in

both departments with a faculty of 18 teachers and officers.

In addition to Sunday School parochial school is also conducted each summer with an enrollment of around 100 pupils.



O. J. KLEVELAND

The Sunday School is the church's nursery. In this school lies the future and hope of our church. In the words of Martin Luther, that great teacher



ALBERT HESLA

of old, who said, "My dear father taught me in my childhood the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Christian faith," so let us press on and continue the good work that others have begun.

The Sunday School was organized in 1903 with S. H. Grondahl as superintendent.

Ole Kleveland elected superintendent in 1911.

Albert Hesla elected in 1913.

Prof. Hanson elected in 1914.

Prof. A. S. Peterson elected in 1915.

Albert Hesla elected in 1918.

A. H. Paulson elected in 1926, followed by L. B. Ness, E. S. Killie, Hilda Wisnes, and H. J. Hugelien.

MADDOCK LUTHER LEAGUE

Handicapped by the loss of the early records we have had to draw upon the reminiscences of the members of that time for our information. Consequently we are unable to state the exact time and place our Young Peoples' Society was first organized but one member reported that to the best of her knowledge the first meeting was held in 1900 at the home of Ella Havorson, now Mrs. Peter Dalbak. We have been unable to find out who the first officers elected were.

For some time meetings were held irregularly in the homes because the families were few and scattered and weather made travel extremely difficult. The meetings were much the same as ours are now. They had short programs and served bounteous lunches for 10 cents.

Later as the community grew, so grew the Young Peoples' Society. Meetings, instead of being held in the homes, were held in the school house and church—devotional meetings in church and social meetings in the school.

During the time that Rev. Orvoll was our minister the name was changed from the Young Peoples' Society to the Maddock Luther League. The aim of the League seems to have been that of furnishing the church with musical instruments. About 1926, when Rev. Lono was with us, we bought the grand piano. We raised a good share of the money for it by giving a play called "The Dream of

Queen Esther," in which the whole community took part and by two money-making projects held at the hall.

From then on money has been raised from year to year for an organ. This project represents many years of diligent work. Money was obtained from numerous sources: collections, programs by musical groups, a play, lunches and lunch stands, memorials, pledges and donations. Just before Easter this year our Hammond Electric Organ was installed to be dedicated at this festival. We are very proud of it and believe it adds a great deal to our worship.

Aside from the major projects of the piano and organ the League has kept busy with other functions: purchasing hymn books for the church, contributing to the international project each year, sending delegates to circuit, state, and national conventions, and contributing to community relief funds.

Space does not permit us to name all those officers who made these achievements possible. Those in office now are the following:

Ethel Wick, president.

Norman Estrem, vice-president.

Leonard Wick, treasurer.

Francis Lalum, secretary.

Doris Cleveland, pianist.

Esther Estrem, librarian.

Rev. Estrem and Marion Evensen, advisors.

THE MEN'S CLUB

In scanning the pages of this booklet, it is readily seen that the congregation is well organized in its various activities. However, in one department no organization had been effected until in 1934 when, on December 12th, a meeting was called of all men of the congregation to bring about the cooperative power of the men into one organization. A constitution was adopted January 14th, 1935, the name "The Lutheran Men's Club" was accepted, the organization to be affiliated with the Lutheran Brotherhood of the general church body, and the following officers elected: A. T. Felland, president; Leonard Holje, vice-presi-

dent; A. J. Spidahl, secretary and Ole Albertson, treasurer. This group was also to serve as the Executive Committee. It was provided that the president could not succeed himself in office.

The Men's Club has met every third Monday of each month since and has gradually worked out a program of unusual interest to the local church as well as to the general church body. Every meeting has been well attended by from 15 to 50 men and solid foundations have been laid for the future. One of the first projects to be carried out was the grading and graveling of a road leading to the cemetery at a cost of considerable volunteer labor and money. The Club has also undertaken the management of the cemetery as a permanent project with the consent of the congregation.

On April 5, 1937, the first Father and Sons banquet was held. One member, A. J. Spidahl, is vice president of the Lutheran Brotherhood of the North Dakota district. The Men's club is a member of the Lake Region Circuit district and its first annual rally was held last fall at Devils Lake with a large number attending from here. Rev. Roy Olson of Minneapolis, National secretary, was the main speaker. The next meeting of a similar kind will be held in Maddock on Reformation Day this coming fall.

At the present time the Club is busily engaged in erasing the debt of the local church. Later or it will undoubtedly act in the same capacity in favor of the Centennial of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Recently the Club took over the sponsoring of the Boy Scouts.

During the past year the work of the Club was definitely organized under the head of four committees:

Com. No. 1. Congregational relations.

Com. No. 2. Boys' Work.

Com. No. 3. Community Relations.

Com. No. 4. Synodical Brotherhood and Inter-Club Relations.

Just as the executive committee meets monthly to lay out the work

ahead, so do these four major standing committees meet to consider the problems of the church. Each committee meet separately and, at times, jointly with the executive committee.

The trustees of the church are nearly always in attendance at the monthly meetings.

There is nothing like an active Men's Club to make the men of the congregation church conscious. The entire membership of the club joins the writer in recommending this type of activity to other congregations as the best way yet achieved to put the man power of the church into action. The church must learn to use its men. This is fundamental. Men, too, are divinely called.

THE WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild is the newest organization of the North Viking congregation.

The object of this society is to work in unison with the Ladies' Aid for the missions, charities and schools of our church. With minor changes they accepted the Women's Missionary Federation constitution.

First officers are Mrs. F. L. Graber, president; Mrs. Reuben Liudahl, vice-president; Mrs. Vernon Johnson, secretary, and Mrs. Norman Liudahl, treasurer.

Charter members organizing this society March 24, 1938, are:

Mrs. H. T. Anderson.
Miss Ruby Christianson.
Mrs. I. Ellefson.
Mrs. F. L. Graber.
Mrs. Oscar Halvorson.
Mrs. G. S. Hillestad.
Mrs. Vernon Johnson.
Mrs. Olaf Krogh.
Mrs. Norman Liudahl.
Mrs. Reuben Liudahl.
Mrs. G. W. Moore.
Mrs. George Nygaard.
Mrs. Eric Olson.
Miss Emma Peterson.
Mrs. E. Spidahl.
Mrs. Walter Staub.
Mrs. Leo Spriggs.
Mrs. Carl Solheim.

The Luther League

Our earliest choir was organized and directed by Rev. Oksendahl. This choir did not meet regularly or sing for every service but was called together before a coming church festival to practice so that there might be some extra music besides the hymns. They would meet to practice in the school house. The choir sang in Norwegian and "Klokke Toner" was the name of the book from which they picked their songs.

Rev. Havneros, who succeeded Rev. Oksendahl, was also interested in maintaining a church choir and worked diligently to that end.

It was not, however, until the time of Rev. Orvoll that a regular church choir was organized. Professor Bamford, from our Benson County Agricultural and Training school, was the director. When he moved to Minnewaukan Mrs. A. T. Felland undertook to lead the choir. Under her direction the choir gave several special programs. Our next director was Professor Donald Boyd, who was here during the time Rev. Lono was our pastor. It was at this time that our choir decided to purchase vestments.

After Mr. Boyd came Professor Quamme, also a teacher at our high school. When Quamme left we were faced with the problem of finding some one to take his place as our director. Mrs. Felland again came to our rescue, as she always has. She led our choir until Professor Sigurd Ode came.

On December 18, 1932, under his inspired direction our choir gave its initial rendition of Handel's Oratorio, "The Messiah." For this occasion we secured Gladys Hill Mackenzie, soprano of Grand Forks, and Harold J. Reed, bass, of Jamestown, as our guest soloists, while our own Gilma Hovland sang the alto solos, and Director Ode sang the tenor solos. Mrs.

G. R. Estrem and Mrs. A. T. Felland were our accompanists.

Prof. R. Klein succeeded Mr. Ode. He directed our choir the next four years. Under his direction many new and beautiful songs were learned. Each year he directed the choir in their rendition of Handel's "The Messiah."

In 1936 "The Messiah" was rendered by the combined Lutheran church choirs of Leeds and Maddock under Prof. Klein's direction. In 1937 Prof. Gordon Nelson accepted the post of director, and has served very capably these last two years.

The congregation owes a great deal to these people, the directors and also the accompanists, who have given so generously of their time and effort that we might enjoy the beautiful music of our church.

Rev. and Mrs. Estrem have worked unceasingly for our choir and we owe them a great deal for it.

About five years ago a Junior choir was organized under the direction of Lilly Christinson. This choir functioned for special occasions and has been much appreciated.

NOTE—Rev. Mikkel Lono's address is Parkland, Washington, instead of as given in the history of the congregation.

THE PIONEER PASTOR

(By Rev. I. Havneros)

The pioneer pastors in this section of North Dakota served a very extensive field covering three counties, namely, Ramsey, Benson, and Wells. Many were the difficulties encountered in serving the scattered congregations. Traveling was a problem at all seasons of the year; the trails followed in the summer were deceiving, leading in every direction, and often far away from the goal. However, the real problems of transportation was met with during the long winter months when continuous storms piled the snows into huge drifts, covering every landmark and even the settler's homes. Skis were drafted into service and many pairs of these were seen outside the settler's homes while divine services were conducted within.

The pioneer pastor was indeed an itinerant preacher, pastor and evangelist. He was faithful to his trust, uncomplaining about his hardships, and willing to share the trials of frontier life with the people whom he served. In season and out of season he ventured forth to break the bread of life to the sick and dying, and bring comfort to the bereaved and the broken hearted. His work was not surrounded by the halo of glory and seldom were his efforts recognized by the applause of approval. Still He who trod the rocky road of Galilee and Who even went beyond the border of His own land to relieve the oppressed and comfort the sorrowing will put the right valuation upon every work done in His name, and will graciously reward every hardship and privation with a crown of eternal life.



TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS OF N. V. CONGREGATION:

3 T. T. Sabbe, 4 Carl Solheim, Back Row—E. J. Vincent, 2 L. Holje,
Front Row—C. I. Erstad, C. T. Madsen.

“TE DEUM”

Thee God we praise, thy name we bless,
Thee Lord of all we do confess;
The whole creation worships Thee,
The Father of eternity.

Through fifteen centuries the Christian Church has sung this Te Deum. Today we join our hearts and voices in this ancient hymn:

“THEE GOD WE PRAISE”

- For the fifty years of blessings, which Thou hast poured forth through this congregation
For the Sacrament of Baptism, the gracious water of life, through which Thou hast adopted 587 souls into Thy Church
For the Word of Life, which has been preached from this pulpit, and which has been taught unto our children and catecumens so that 545 have been confirmed in the faith of their Baptism
For the Communion table, at which Thou hast refreshed thousands of hungering souls
For the sacred rites of marriage, through which 131 couples have been joined with the blessing of Thy church
For the comfort of the Christian burial service, with which 221 of our dear ones have been laid to rest in God's Acre
For the faithful ministers of the Word and Sacraments
For those sturdy pioneer men and women, who gave so generously of their labor and means, of their faith and love, to build and support this church
For all the members of the congregation today and for every sacrifice of love and service.

Soli Deo Gloria

Grant us O Lord to appreciate more and more Thy church, and to reconsecrate ourselves in humble service and faith. Amen.

G. R. ESTREM.

