

50th Anniversary

1893 – 1943 Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bayfield WI

Bethesda Lutheran Church Pastors 1893 – 1943

1893 – 1902 – Henning Yderstad

1902 – 1904 – Julius I. Fadum

1905 – 1913 – Jacob Samuelsen

1914 – 1917 – Conrad J. Christensen

1918 – 1920 – Jacob M. Mikaelsen

1921 – 1931 – Lars R. Lund

1931 – 1939 – Torgney Kleven

1939 – John A. Houkom

CHAPTER I.

Early Days in Bayfield

The Chequamegon Region in Northern Wisconsin and the Apostle Islands have had a long and romantic history and are justly famed in poetry and adventure. A fairly reliable tradition of the region will take us as far back as 1492, at which time the Chippewa Indians are supposed to have come here and occupied Madeline Island. But because they believed the island to have become inhabited by evil spirits, they deserted these parts around 1600 and took up their abode at the St. Mary's River, or the "Soo," in Upper Michigan. There they remained until around 1671 when they returned here. Since then, their history is pretty well interwoven with that of the whites and is quite well known.

The first white men to erect some kind of habitation on Chequamegon Bay were the adventurous French fur-traders, Radisson and Groseilliers, in the fall of 1659. This was somewhere between Fish and Whittelsey Creeks near Ashland. These were soon followed by the Jesuit priests Allouez and Marquette, who each in turn conducted missions in the vicinity there. Finally, LaSueur was commissioned by the King of France to establish a fort and government post at LaPointe on Madeline Island. This became the seat of French sovereignty here for seventy years, followed by British rule until the War of Independence had been won. Hence, we should be aware of the fact that known history was made here, or at least three miles from here, for almost a century before the United States was a free and self-governing nation. In other words, we can look down upon a total of 250 years of fairly reliable history right here at Bayfield.

How early a settlement was undertaken on the site of present-day Bayfield is not at all certain. One source of information (Burnham, p.446) claims that there was a settlement here shortly after the American Revolution.

Bayfield's history, strange to say, is not very easily ascertained. It is about as elusive as anything this writer has undertaken to pursue for a long time. However, we might agree that local history begins with the parceling out of land in the locality. We find that a Mr. Henry M. Rice of Ramsey County, Minnesota, filed for a portion of the land here on October 9, 1854, obtaining the patent for the same on March 21, 1855, signed by president Franklin Pierce. On April 3, 1855, Mr. Rice gives William McAboy power of attorney "in his name and stead, to survey, lay out and apply into blocks,

squares, avenues, streets and alleys,” that part of Bayfield in which our church has been located for over fifty years. (“Abstract of Title, Items 1-6). Another source (Chapple’s “Ashland Daily Press Annual Edition 1893, p. 141) states that “the first giant pine was felled on the present site of Bayfield on March 24, 1856.” Still another source in the Bayfield Public Library (“Ashland and its Environs”) states that the city was laid out that same year. Chapple’s book already mentioned also states, “the county board set out the town of Bayfield Oct. 25, 1858, and the first town election was held in April 1859.” Presumably, these are the dates which might well mark the beginnings of Bayfield’s recorded history. They are all which this writer had been able to ferret out to date.

B.

How early Scandinavian people came here and who they were are likewise difficult to determine. One of the eldest of these yet living, if not indeed the only one, is Hans Austad, now 84 years and in the Ashland General Hospital. He states that upon his arrival here from Eau Claire in 1880, there were but few Norwegians here. It seems probable that a certain John Olson had come in 1875 or before. It also seems probably that Marcus Corneliusen, Peter Mikkelsen and Carl Christiansen arrived before 1890. Not so few Swedish folk, however, seem to have gotten here earlier than these. At any rate, the first official “RECORD OF BIRTHS” for Bayfield County seems to reflect this. The births of at least five children of Swedish parentage were properly recorded before that of any Norwegian child so recorded. They were:

- 1 – Boy – born to Mathias Olson and Ida Hokenson on August 24, 1883;
- 2 – Henry John – born to Theodore Nelson and Nellie Anderson on April 17, 1884;
- 3 – Boy – born to John Lindberg and Fredrikke Johnson on June 28, 1884;
- 4 – Girl – born to William Johnson and Augusta Swanson on December 9, 1884;
- 5 – John Ulbert – born to Nels August Olson and Mary Johnston on April 22, 1885.

The first three Norwegian births recorded were:

- 1 – Boy – born to John Berger and Caroline Hansen on August 11, 1885;
- 2 – Alma Antonie – born to Erik Andersen and Anna Danielsen on September 8, 1885;
- 3 – Boy – to Anton Møller and Agna Brynildsen on September 11, 1886.

Suffice these. No doubt there were other births. These were reported by the doctors, while it is very likely that midwives made no reports.

Another revealing sidelight in other official records of Bayfield County is in regard to business and property transactions:

1. April 8, 1884 – A. L. Arneson sold to M. E. Church Lot 1 Block 93;
2. May 6, 1885 – Peter Hokenson gives mortgage on Lot 12 Block 90;
3. Sept. 21, 1886 – M. Corneliusen gives to Hans Austad mortgage on Lot 4 Block 94 for \$90;
4. Nov. 10, 1886 – Carl Christiansen gives to Hans Austad a mortgage on Lot 13 Block 94;
5. Sept 1, 1884 – Joseph and Maria Arkinson gives deed to Andrew Peterson on Lot 18 Block 108 upon payment of \$90.

Norwegians who arrived here in the early eighties aside from those mentioned above are: Tom Hadland and Gust Svannes in 1883; Anton Møller 1885; Peter Møller 1886; Anders Evenstad 1887; Gotfred Peterson 1884; Ole Hadland 1888; August Lohman 1889.

The coming of the railroad to Bayfield in 1883 was the event which accelerated both the arrival of settlers in Bayfield and the expansion of business to give employment to all who came.

D.

Church work among the Swedish people was taken up by the Rev. J. D. Nelsenius from Ashland, and on June 7, 1886, a congregation was organized at the home of Olaf Bergland. The first trustees and incorporators were Capt. N. Larson, J. E. Swenson and Olaf Olson. The first deacons were Petter Nelson, John Lindbom, and C. P. Larson. Twenty-two souls comprised the congregation: namely, Mr. & Mrs. Olaf Bergland and daughter Anna; Capt. & Mrs. N. Larson; Mr. & Mrs. John Lindbom and children Robert and Tilda; Mr. & Mrs. Petter Nelson; Mr & Mrs. J. E. Swenson; Mr. & Mrs. Olaf Olson; Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Kerseberg; Mr. & Mrs. P. Larson; Nils Johanson; Fredrikke Lindberg; and Anders Antonson.

The young congregation erected its church which is still standing in October and November 1889. The first service in the completed edifice was held on September 28, 1890. A year later, September 29, 1891, it was dedicated.

E.

By this time there were some stirrings also among the Norwegians to organize for Christian work. It was the Scandinavian Congregationalists, however, who were the first to gather the Norwegians for this purpose. Their mission seems to have been of a rather aggressive sort and highly critical of Lutheranism in an effort to break down the hold which this doctrine had among Norwegians, as well as to justify their own existence in the eyes of all. Pastor Nelsenius complains of their tactics in his annual messages to his church in the years 1891, 1892 and 1893. That they were not successful in their war on Lutheranism we shall see presently.

From official records at the county seat we have gleaned, the information that the congregation of this group was incorporated on April 4, 1891 by Peter Mikkelsen, Marcus Corneliussen and Charles Christiansen. Also, that on Nov. 10, 1891 Mr. Corneliussen bought Lot 10 Block 110 from the Pennsylvania Insurance Co. for \$50, which he on March 18 following conveyed to the Scandinavian Evangelical Free Church of Bayfield. Thereupon the congregation issued a mortgage on this lot in favor of the Congregational Church Building Society, a New York Corporation, evidently as security for a loan of \$500 with which, no doubt, to build the church. Rev. H. Pedersen, a Dane, was the pastor of the church, and its church card was carried regularly in the columns of the "Bayfield County Press."

But this mission effort of the Scandinavian Congregationalists was destined not to be long-lived. Lutheranism was after all too deeply rooted in the hearts of Norwegians in Bayfield, so that on the one hand the church did not prosper as it had hoped. On the other hand, it might be regarded almost as an act of God, that on March 17, 1896 the church burned down. Fire broke out, due to a defective stove-pipe, in the home of a neighbor on the lot adjoining the church. The flames leaped the 20 feet intervening and quickly the church was afire. Although help to save the church came soon, the "Bayfield Press" relates on March 21st that because of low pressure at the power house, the church could not be saved. They succeeded, however, to save the pews and other furnishings, The "damage amounted to \$800, all covered by insurance." Further states the "Press," while it at the same time gives the city fathers a sound drubbing for negligence of duty in not maintaining an adequate pressure at the power house so as to make fire-fighting successful.

This reversal of fortune was evidently what broke the heart of this Congregationalist mission effort. For we shall see that the congregation decided very soon thereafter to disband and to offer to the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Bayfield, which had been organized in the meantime, what remained of the property and its good will. Several of the members of this church forthwith joined forces with the Lutheran church which took over, and on May 29, 1896 the property was legally transferred to the new owners. And so we have caught up with the story of how the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bayfield was organized and its subsequent history.

CHAPTER II. The Church Is Organized

With regard to the manner in which the Norwegian people in Bayfield were organized for Lutheran Church work, the following account written in the "Ministerial Book #1" by the Rev. H. Yderstad and here translated into American, speaks eloquently itself.

"The first Norwegian Lutheran pastor to make an attempt to gather the Norwegian people about the Word of God was Pastor J. H. Grøtheim from Washburn, WI. The Congregationalists, however, had arrived ahead of him and had entered upon a very aggressive mission work among the Norwegian Lutherans in the city, and for this reason he did not visit the city again.

"Thereupon an attempt was made by Pastor H. Yderstad of Ashland, WI. He came over to Bayfield and conducted a service in the Swedish Lutheran Church on May 5, 1892. He came over here a couple of times more, but also he had to cease without success for the same reason as Pastor Grøtheim.

"Early in the fall of 1893, however, a written request came to Pastor Yderstad from some in Bayfield to visit them as soon as possible. A more active desire had been awakened among the greater number of Norwegians to have the Word of God preached

and the sacraments administered in accordance with Lutheran doctrine and the rules of the Mother Church.

“Pastor Yderstad complied without delay to the request and held a service in the Swedish Lutheran Church, which the Swedish Lutheran brethren at all times offered the Norwegian Lutherans for use. At this time three children were baptized. This was on August 29th, 1893. Services were then held regularly on a weekday evening every two weeks until several became serious about organizing a Norwegian Lutheran congregation.

“On Wednesday evening, December 6, 1893, after a service had been held, a congregation was organized with the name, “Bayfield Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church,” and a constitution was adopted based on the model used in the former Norwegian Lutheran Conference. Thereupon Pastor Yderstad was unanimously called as the pastor of the church, and to conduct services on a weekday evening every other week.

“Those who founded this church have their names recorded on P. 91 of this “Ministerial Record.”

“During the years 1894 to 1897, Pastor Yderstad served this church from Ashland according to the original plan and performed other ministerial acts which are recorded in their proper places in this “Record.”

“The first Sunday School was organized in December 1896 with John Nygaard as superintendent. The Ladies’ Aid Society was organized during the summer of 1896.

“God’s leadings are wonderful! The church of Scandinavian Congregationalists burned early in 1896, but the furnishings and the foundation were saved. Then the few left of the Scandinavian Free Church offered to turn over all the personal property remaining after the fire together with the real estate and a sum of money left after all debts had been paid. Our congregation accepted this offer with joy, became incorporated, and all the aforementioned property was conveyed to it. A Building Committee was elected, and later a committee to solicit contributions, which together with the Ladies’ Aid Society did a splendid work, so that the church was rebuilt and taken into use in October 1896. The debt was then \$175.

“Following three days of evangelistic services the church was dedicated on Sunday, March 28, 1897, in the Name of the Triune God by Pastor P. Nilsen, the official evangelist of the Lutheran Free Church, assisted by the following pastors: N. B. Olson of Washburn, WI., Catechist A. Cramborg of the Swedish Church in Washburn WI; Pastor A. J. Løgeland, Cumberland WI, and the undersigned pastor of the church.

“In June 1896, the undersigned made a missionary trip into a new settlement outside Bayfield. A service, the first by any Lutheran Pastor in that section, was conducted in Peter Møller’s home on July 11, 1896, with infant baptism.

“On Dec. 13, 1897, a business meeting of the congregation decided to become a part of the Mason parish, together with the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran churches at Mason and Hibridge, WI, with the undersigned, who had resigned from Nidaros and Oslo churches in Ashland, as the pastor. He was to reside in the town of Mason.

“Twenty-six services had been conducted during the year 1897. The Lord be praised. He has helped to this day. – At the close of 1897.

H. Yderstad”

CHAPTER III Charter Members and First Officers

Pastor Yderstad referred to the baptism of three infants at the service conducted on August 29, 1893. They were Olga Agnette, daughter of Jens Henrik and Emma Kristine Olsen; Oswald Martin, son of the above mentioned; John Emil, son of Peder Olaus and Kristine Emilie Johnson.

The Charter Members of the church organized on December 6, 1893 were:

Jens H. Olson, wife and three children;
Peder Johnson, wife and one child;
Elias Moe;
Louis Moe;
Mikael Evenstad;
Anne Moe;
Lars Mikkelsen;
Hansine Hansen;
Torkel Hadland, wife and one child;
Andreas Evenstad, wife and three children;
John Nygaard, wife and five children;
Carl Danielsen and wife;
Sivert Johnsen, wife and one child;
Aksel Evenstad

Total 35 souls

The only adult charter members now living are: Elias Moe, Bayfield; Mrs. Olava Evenstad Olson, Iron River, WI; and Torkel Hadland, Washington. But other well-known and highly respected old members still with us are: Mr. & Mrs. Ole Hadland, who joined in December 1894; and Mrs. Fredrikke Bernsten, who joined with her husband, the late Charley Berntsen, in December 1897.

The following were elected as the first officers of the newly-organized church: Secretary, J. Olson, Treasurer, Andreas Evenstad, Trustees, Sivert Johnsen and Carl Danielsen; Deacons, John Nygaard and Peder Johnson.

Pastor Yderstad was promptly called, as stated in his account, as pastor of the church with a salary of \$50 per year, to be paid on a quarterly basis. He continued to serve the church from his farm home near Mason, WI., for about seven and a half years. New members were added from time to time. Yet some severed their connections with the church as a result of the aggressive agitation carried on by another little Lutheran synod which had come into being, teaching that congregations should consist of converted Christians only, and that such Christians in this church should step out and organize a new and pure congregation. Despite all such problems and trials, however, definite progress was made during this pioneer pastorate, and despite the cumbersome arrangement of the far-flung parish served by this devoted pioneer pastor.

On December 4, 1900, the first pastor of this church tendered his resignation, which took effect on March 4, 1901. We are indeed happy that this aged brother and servant of God was given strength to be with us here during this Golden Anniversary.

CHAPTER IV Going it Alone

With the resignation of Pastor Yderstad, the church entered upon a new phase of its existence. Undoubtedly, it was planned that with the possibility of organizing new congregations in the settlements at Sand Bay and Raspberry, which Pastor Yderstad had visited several times, a new parish could soon be arranged. And with some financial assistance from the Board of Home Missions of the Lutheran Free Church, this new parish should soon be able to support the work of a pastor to be located at Bayfield. But times were discouraging, and the settlers in the aforementioned communities evidently feared to undertake organizing new churches in their midst. So the main burden fell to this church to support their pastor. And it was a heavy burden.

Pastor J. I. Fadum 1902 – 1904

Over a year elapsed before the second pastor of the church arrived. Fruitless negotiations were carried on for a year for a certain pastor, but ultimately the church turned to Augsburg Seminary to provide it a pastor. Pastor J. I. Fadum, newly graduated and ordained, arrived to hold his first service on June 15, 1902. He served until November 24, 1904 – not quite two years and a half – indication, without doubt, that “going it alone” was hard.

There are two items of interest to be noted from this brief pastorate. First, women of age of 21 years were granted the right of voice and vote in the affairs of the church. This progressive step was taken on December 23, 1903. The other, that electric lights were installed in the church, on May 4, 1904, this reported to have been completed at a cost of \$34, of which the pastor himself paid \$7.

Pastor J. Samelson 1905 – 1913

Pastor Fadum’s resignation caused another prolonged vacancy in the pulpit. Again fruitless efforts to secure a pastor were carried on over a year. But in the fall of 1905, help came in the person of Pastor Jacob Samelson. It seems that he came here

ostensibly to visit friends who had moved here from his parish at Pine River, MN. Finding the pulpit here vacant, he evidently offered to move here and to serve the church for whatever the members could raise for his support.

In a brief resume of his activities found in “Ministerial Book II.” Pastor Samuelson states that his services commenced here on September 23, 1905. He continued here a little more than eight years, and records disclose that he was a diligent worker and an aggressive leader of the church. The following should be noted to substantiate this estimate:

1. At his first annual business meeting on Jan. 6, 1906, fourteen families were presented by him for membership of the church. At this meeting he was formally elected as the pastor of the church.
2. At the annual meeting on Jan. 4, 1908, the rules with regard to membership were altered to allow unconfirmed adult persons to become members.
3. Most likely because of the aggressive efforts of the aforementioned new little Lutheran synod among the members of the church and otherwise, as a measure to forestall any attempt in the future by whatever group to secure control of the church property, the congregation went through the process of re-incorporation. Its name was changed to be henceforth, “Bethesda Norwegian Lutheran Free Church of Bayfield, Wis.” The constitution was extensively altered and by-laws enacted. These were then published in a little pamphlet. This took place on December 30, 1909.
4. The necessity of improving the church property was also considered. Although it was decided on October 19, 1908 to buy a lot adjoining the church from John Wilson, nothing came of the deal then. But more will be said of this later.

Pastor Samuelson’s pastorate was not an untroubled one, however, Aside from the harassing activities of a group outside, which caused both the pastor and the church some concern, the question of the Pastor’s ordination was also brought under attack. A couple of men from the Pastor’s former parish came here in 1910 with the charge that it was spurious and invalid, and that consequently all his ministerial acts could be brought under a cloud. The congregation, however, stood loyally by the pastor, and in a resolution passed, it stated that it had been aware of the circumstances of his ordination at the time of his election and that his services as pastor had been eminently satisfactory.

The circumstances alluded to are as follows: In the early days of the Lutheran Free Church, while pioneering was still going on apace, a couple of small churches at Pine River, MN., had called Mr. Samuelson, who had been a traveling lay preacher, to become their pastor. Instead of securing his ordination by the official ordainer of the Lutheran Free Church, he persuaded another pastor to officiate. While this act was theoretically valid, it was nevertheless a breach of ecclesiastical usage and churchly procedure. We find that Mr. Samuelson was listed thereafter as a pastor on the official roster of the Lutheran Free Church as early as 1907. However, after the disturbance stirred up by the two men who came here, the Lutheran Free Church reviewed the circumstances of his ordination, and in 1912, the Annual Conference decided to recognize Pastor Samuelson’s ordination, but it censured the manner in which it had been brought

about. Since then no pastor in our synod has been ordained except by the official ordainer, or another pastor authorized by him to officiate in his place.

Pastor Samuelson's pastorate here ended March 30, 1913. After this he served in West Duluth and later on Puget Island, Oregon, where he died and is buried. His labors were not in vain.

Pastor C. J. Christensen 1914 – 1917

Again the church was without a pastor for over a year, this time until July 3, 1914. On this date Pastor Conrad J. Christensen, newly graduated from Augsburg Seminary and newly ordained, preached his inaugural sermon. He was full of enthusiasm for the work and of a practical bent of mind and especially aggressive in business affairs. It was not long before he had brought about the purchase of Lots 1 & 2 of Block 62 (the so-called "Court House Lots") for the sum of \$255. The plan was to move the church to this property. However, it now developed that the Wilson Lot adjacent to the church, aforementioned, was for sale. So it was decided on February 23, 1915 to buy this parcel of land for \$175. After the consummation of this deal on April 15, 1916, the congregation undertook its biggest project since its beginning; namely, to build a basement on the newly acquired site and move the church building thereonto. It turned out to be a very satisfactory job done, and a pleasant basement the church acquired for its social meetings. The total cost was \$1,310.81. Incidentally, the church still owns the aforementioned "Court House Lots".

However, it was not all paid for. It seems that the church was indebted over \$1,000 at this time. It was a keen disappointment, therefore that the pastor resigned in July 1917, before he had fully helped the congregation to unload the debt which had been incurred.

Pastor J. Mikaelson 1918-1920

After almost a year of vacancy in the pulpit, the new pastor, the Rev. Jacob Mikaelson Preached his first sermon on May 19, 1918. This fine and able man of God stayed only two years, however. But during his brief pastorate, the indebtedness was successfully wiped out, whereupon the congregation celebrated by observing its 25th Anniversary in an appropriate and joyous manner.

CHAPTER VI

New Parish Arrangements

After the departure of Pastor Mikaelson, the church entered upon a long period of waiting and uncertainty without a pastor. However, Pastor Christensen, who was serving the Nidaros Lutheran Church in Ashland, visited the church and conducted services during the vacancy. This temporary arrangement is undoubtedly what led directly to the agreement between these two churches henceforth to constitute a joint parish to be served by the same pastor. This agreement consummated on February 14, 1921, brought about greater stability in service and has served the church well.

Pastor L. R. Lund 1921-1931

On July 3, 1921, Pastor Lars R. Lund preached his inaugural sermon and was formally installed by the Rev. O. J. Flagstad, Duluth, who was the president of the Superior District of our synod.

While the agreement with the Nidaros church in Ashland provided for only one forenoon service in Norwegian and one evening service in American each month, besides the Pastor's attendance at meetings of the organizations, the Pastor succeeded in the task of rendering to the church most satisfactory service, and the work became materially stabilized. During this pastorate, the altar and painting were acquired, thru the industry of the Young People's Society especially. And by 1925 all indebtedness was paid. Pastor Lund continued to serve the church ten years almost to the day, leaving June 28, 1931.

Pastor T. Kleven 1931-1939

In the vacancy during the summer of 1931, Mr. Clement Leesland, a theological student at Augsburg Seminary, conducted services in the Ashland-Bayfield Parish.

The new pastor installed by the Rev. Johan Mattson on October 18, 1931, was the Rev. Torgney Kleven. The eight years and five months of his pastorate were, as we know, the difficult and discouraging years of the depression. The pastor's activity and the congregation's work continued diligently despite the discouragements of this period. What perplexed the minds of both perhaps more than anything else was the solution of the language question. The pastor finally offered, to make possible more frequent and regular services in American language to hold services every Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, except on the first Sunday in the month, when the service would be in Norwegian. After trying this plan for a year or more, the congregation decided that the arrangement was not convenient. In 1937 the constitution of the church was translated into the American language and mimeographed for distribution. On January 29, 1939, Pastor Kleven preached his farewell sermon. During the vacancy following, Mr. Hans C. Tollefson, student from Augsburg Seminary, served the parish.

CHAPTER VII

New Opportunities and Expansions

The present pastor was installed on June 18, 1939, by the Rev. Olaf Rogne, Duluth, then secretary of the Lutheran Free Church. During the period since my induction, the congregation has enjoyed opportunities for expansion and greater success. This principally because of two significant factors: 1) Better times came eventually. National economic improvement followed by wartime prosperity have induced not a little the advances which have been made. Prosperity does give churches chances they may otherwise have been missing. 2) shortly after my arrival, Dr. N. A. Nelson, pastor in the Augustana Synod located in Ashland, informed me that his synod was inclined to discontinue support to the little group remaining of the Swedish Lutheran Church in this city. If I should be able to bring about increased services in this church, particularly in

the American language, he was certain that the Swedish folk here would eventually be disposed to join this church. Accordingly, I set about to accomplish this in a quiet way. It was soon evident that this policy met with favor, and at last at New Year's time 1942, several Finnish and Swedish friends were prepared to apply for membership in the church. Whereupon, the officials of the Augustana Synod, true to their plan, immediately took steps to liquidate the synod's interests here and withdrew from the field. To date 66 souls of several national backgrounds have joined the church, doubling its size in a short time. Both attendance and the financial aspects of the work have improved immeasurably.

Aside from this, the church has also improved in a physical sense. The interior was tastefully renovated almost three years ago, friends in the community assisting to make this possible. New hymn books have been acquired, and the kitchen in the basement has been improved. The latest achievement is the installation of the new opalescent windows in the church, another accomplishment of the Young People's Society. The by-laws have also been translated, and together with the constitution mimeographed in convenient pamphlet form. Services are now being held normally every Sunday evening in the American language. One vesper service a month is conducted in the Norwegian language, and our Swedish members come to these as loyally as any. The church's standing in the community is very excellent, and the forward look is full of cheer.

CHAPTER VIII The Organizations

The first organization to come into being in the church was the LADIES' AID SOCIETY. Pastor Yderstad recorded, as you will recall, that this took place in the summer of 1896. Newly organized, it did a valiant work at the time of this church was rebuilt on the ruins of the former Scandinavian Free Church, and it has remained a bulwark of strength in the congregation ever since. Its chief endeavor has been to replenish the church treasury whenever it was low. The good women have worked hard doing fancy work, cooking and serving, putting on semi-annual sales, suppers of various types, making money whichever way. It has not been in vain. Blessings have attended the work and the fruits thereof are not being enjoyed. At this time of festive observance, the church must surely be mindful of the perseverance and devotion abundantly shown by the ladies of this oldest organization so as to acknowledge with thanks to God its long and splendid accomplishments. Suffice this now, three years hence the Ladies' Aid Society can observe its own golden anniversary, at which a more detailed story of its life and activities can be prepared. The present officers of the Ladies' Aid Society are: President, Mrs. Milton C. Beck; Vice-President, Mrs. Ida Wargelin; Secretary, Mrs. R. W. Watt; Treasurer, Mrs. Iver Haugen.

The SUNDAY SCHOOL was organized in December 1896 to provide instruction of the children in Christian truth. John Nygaard was the first superintendent, a position to which he was re-elected three times. When not superintendent he usually was the assistant. While the Sunday School may have ceased to operate temporarily from time to

time, it has always had its organization. Others who have served as superintendents are Knut Olsen 1919-1922, Mrs. Tony Larsen four years between 1923 and 1930; Mrs. Ole Hadland alternated with her between 1925 and 1928; Mrs. Iver Haugen except one year, has served continuously from 1933 to 1943. Pastor Fadum served as such during his pastorate here. Others who have served one year each are Louis Solberg, Mrs. Ole Holm, Mrs. Ragnhild Birkeland and Mrs. Irving Hadland. Surely, many who have grown up in this community remember with deep appreciation what these and their helpers did for them in childhood to impart to them Christian knowledge.

The YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY seems to be the third organization successfully founded. Pastor Fadum was evidently the first pastor to attempt the formation of such a society. His first mention of it is under date of Sept 27, 1903: "Ungdomsmøte i kirken" on a Sunday evening. This must have been just the preliminary step looking toward an organization. Regular meetings followed on Nov. 8, 12, & 26; Dec 17 & 21; January 21, 1904; February 4 & 18. After this – silence.

The next attempt to organize a Young People's Society was evidently made by Pastor Mikaelson. He records meetings to have been held on March 20 and April 25, 1920. Again silence, until Pastor Lund records regular monthly meetings, sometimes semi-monthly, throughout his pastorate. This is also true of Pastor Kleven's ministry and to the present time. The officers at present are: Mrs. Irving Hadland, President; Mrs. M. C. Beck, Secretary; Mrs. Iver Haugen, Treasurer.

Also this organization has rendered valiant support to the church, giving liberal sums to the church treasury, besides buying piano, the altar and altar painting and most recently, with support from the Ladies; Aid Society and several friends, the new opalescent windows. It has served fine social and cultural purposes, which are of inestimable significance in the life of the entire church and community.

An attempt to make a MEN'S SOCIETY a going concern was also made during Pastor Mikaelson's ministry. There is record of five meetings having been held; Namely, February 10 & 25; March 11 & 25; and December 30, 1919. Evidently it did not catch on successfully enough to last, for it is never mentioned again.

A little GIRL'S SOCIETY was also tried out by Pastor and Mrs. Mikaelson. He records a meeting of a "Pigeforening" on May 9, 1919 with Mrs. Mikaelson. Another reference to this organization is the minutes of the church secretary gives it the name, "The Busy Bees." Ten meetings are definitely mentioned in the Pastor's records. The last on February 5, 1920, at Mrs. John Nelson's. In other words, it's course of life was of only one year's duration.

The MISSION SOCIETY was organized during Pastor Kleven's ministry, on March 1, 1933, by four interested persons present. This is not a big society, but the devotion of its few members to the cause of Christian missions has made up for the lack of bigness. It has accomplished surprisingly much during its ten years of existence to raise the sums allocated to the church for both home and foreign missions. Its meetings

are carried on principally in the Norwegian language, and meets in the homes of members and friends. Its present officers are: Mrs. Carl Ludvigsen, President: Mrs. Susie Dyrness, Secretary-Treasurer.

The LUTHER LEAGUE is the youngest organization in the church, having come into being just a year ago. It has about 20 members. However, all its boys are all away in the service of the armed forces of the land, or in the merchant marine. This is not a money-making organization, altho it seeks in a quiet way to raise enough for its own work and expenses. Its aim is mainly to provide a religious and social opportunity and outlet for young people after confirmation, although a few unconfirmed are also members. Its officers are: President, Lloyd Hargrave; Vice-President, Esther Sandstrom; Secretary, Mildred Kallerud; Treasurer, Charlotte Watt; and Pocket Testament Secretary, Janet Hargrave. Mrs. Wilfred Boutin is advisor to the group.

CHAPTER IX Officers of the Church

The first officers of the church were listed in Chapter III of this History. Just a very brief summary of those who has served in the various places of trust in the congregation since the beginning will be given, just by way of thankful acknowledgement of the services they have rendered in their day in the church of Christ on earth.

SECRETARY – J. H. Olsen 1893; Carl Danielsen 1894-1899; Sivert Johnsen 1896; John Nygaard 1900–1905; Tony Larsen 1906–1908; John Nelson 1908; 1913-1920; 1927-1936; Mrs. Chris Nelson 1909; John Anderson 1910 & 1911; Carl Berntsen 1913; Knut Olsen 1920-1926; Iver Haugen 1936 to the present.

TREASURER – Andreas Evenstad 1893-1894; John Nygaard 1895; Sivert Johnsen 1896 & 1914; Tom Hadland 1897; Louis Solberg 1898; Carl Berntsen 1899 & 1903; Tony Larsen 1900, 1902 & 1903; Jacob Johnson 1906; John Anderson 1907; Mrs. John Thompson 1908; Mrs. Gust Berntsen 1909; August Lohman 1910 & 1911; Christ Nelson 1912; Thomas Dyrness 1913; Mrs. Ole Holm 1915 & 1916; Knut Olsen 1917-1920; Hans Clare 1920; Mrs. Carl Berntsen 1921-1932; Mrs. John Nelson 1933-1939; Mrs. Irving Hadland 1940 to the present.

DEACONS – Sivert Johnson 1893; 1899 & 1902; Carl Danielsen 1893; Andreas Evenstad 1895; John Nygaard 1896, 1902; Carl Berntsen 1897; Gust Berntsen 1898; Tony Larsen 1903; Jacob Hadland 1906 & 1908; Gust Svaness 1906; Jacob Johnson 1908; Carl Ludvigsen 1909; Mrs. Carl Ludvigsen 1911, 1935 to present; Ole Thompson 1913; Christ Hadland 1914; Mrs. Carl Berntsen 1916; Mrs. John Thompson 1917-1933; John Nelson 1918; Ole Hadland 1919-1935; Mrs. Gust Anderson 1921-1927; Mrs. Henry Johnson 1930; Mrs. Ole Hadland 1933 to the present; Mrs. Lenus Jacobson 1939 to the present.

TRUSTEES – Peder Johnson 1893; Tom Hadland 1896; Tony Larsen 1897, 1908, 1913, 1916, 1920-1928; T. Gundersen 1898; John Nygaard 1899 & 1902; Carl Berntsen 1900-1909, 1913, 1919, 1922-1925, 1933-1939; Ole Hadland 1900, 1903, 1908 & 1911; Halvor Lien 1902; Gust Berntsen 1903; Sivert Johnson 1906; Jacob Johnson 1906; Christ Nelson 1906; John Thompson 1910 & 1914; Carl Ludvigsen 1913, 1917, 1928; Bernhard Johnson 1915; Knut Olsen 1917-1918; John Nelson 1921, 1924, 1937, 1940; Hans Christensen 1927, 1930 & 1933; Iver Haugen 1928, 1929, 1931 & 1935; Irving Hadland 1935 to present; Mrs. Wilfred Boutin 1942; Britton Burtness 1943.

KLOKKER – John Nygaard 1894 & 1897; T. Gundersen 1896; Louis Solberg 1898. The office was discontinued after December 1900.

ORGANIST – Naida Bjørge 1898-1903; Helma Dufva 1906; Lydia Anderson 1911-1915; Mrs. C. J. Christensen 1916; Ragnhild Nelson Birkeland 1919-1922; 1927-1932; Ruth Thompson Beck 1922-1926; Edith Larsen 1926; Helen Benson 1927; Mrs. M. M. Dunkel 1933-1934; Helen Hagberg 1936-1942; Thelma Peterson 1939; Mrs. Hanna Hargrave 1942 to present.

All dates referred to in the above paragraphs normally represent the years in which they were elected. Deacons and trustees are elected for a term of three years at a time.

JANITOR – Usually throughout the life of the church the members have taken their turns for a month at a time to serve as janitors. Of late years, however, Iver Haugen has rendered unusually splendid service by assuming the responsibility for the summer months for several years. The Irving Hadland family also deserve much credit for services given during winter months.

CHAPTER X
Statistical Summary

See Addendum 1

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP 1943

Bakke, Ole
Bakke, Mrs. Helga
Beck, Milton C.
Beck, Mrs. Ruth
Bergstrom, Mrs. Irene
Berntsen, Mrs. Fredrikke
Berntsen, Mildred C.
Boutin, Wilfred
Boutin, Mrs. Aino
Burtness, Britton
Burtness, Mrs. Edith
Burtness, Waldo C.

Callen, Mrs. Lena
Carlson, Carl E.
Carlson, Mrs. Beulah
Carlson, J. Ewald
Carlson, Mrs. Almeda
Carlson, Laurie E.
Christiansen, Mrs. Mildred
Christiansen, Evonne M.

Dyrness, Mrs. Susie
Dyrness, Tony

Englund, Mrs. Emma

Frostman, John A.
Frostman, Ole H.
Frostman, Helga
Frostman, James H.

Hadland, Irving
Hadland, Mrs. Rodna
Hadland, Robert I.
Hadland, Garner A.
Hadland, Ole
Hadland, Mrs. Ingeborg
Hagberg, John
Hagberg, Helen C.
Halvorson, Vernon
Hargrave, Mrs. Hanna
Hargrave, Lloyd C.
Hargrave, Arthur D.

Hargrave, Janet L.
Haugen, Iver
Haugen, Mrs. Agnes
Hendrickson, Eliel
Hendrickson, Mrs. Judith
Hendrickson, Joyce E.
Hendrickson, Esther J.
Hendrickson, Frederick
Hokenson, Elaine B.
Holm, Lawrence
Holm, Mrs. Grace E.
Holm, Patricia G.
Holm, Mary H.

Johnson, Betty L
Johnson, Henry
Johnson, Mrs. Marjorie
Johnson, Mrs. Ruth

Kallerud, Mildred J.

Lohman, August L.
Lindberg
Lindquist, Madeline R.
Ludwigsen, Carl
Ludwigsen, Mrs. Lovise

Miller, Mrs. Elenore
Moe, Mrs. Jacobia
Moe, Carl H.
Moe, Pearl E.
Moe, Elvis
Molden, Mrs. Gudborg
McQuade, Betty J.

Nelson, John
Nelson, Mrs. Andrea
Nelson, Julian B.
Nelson, John A.
Nelson, Mrs. J. A.
Nelson, Russel R.
Nelson, Mrs. Taimi
Nelson, Nancy Lou
Nelson, John R.
Nelson, Oscar P.
Nelson, Mrs. Ella
Nelson, Omer O.

Nordin, Arthur W.
Nordin, Mrs. Esther

Olson, Emma Mae
Olson, Mrs. Jeannie
Olson, Janet O.
Olson, Roberta
Olson, Mrs. Jennie O.
Olson, Deloris E.

Peterson, Fritjof N.
Peterson, Mrs. Elsie
Peterson, Margaret L.
Peterson, Wayne M. F.

Okerstrom, Roy H.
Okerstrom, Mrs. Bernice
Okerstrom, R. Theodore
Okerstrom, John A.

Sandstrom, Esther
Scharlau, Walter
Scharlau, Mrs. Ruth
Scharlau, Ronald G.
Schelvan, Louis
Schelvan, Lulu M.
Schelvan, Norman M.
Schelvan, James K.
Schelvan, Woodrow E.

Schelvan, Rupert M.

Thompson, Mrs. Bertine
Thompson, Harold E.
Thompson, Mrs. Leah
Thompson, Harold E.
Thompson, Marlys J.
Thompson, Mrs. Julia
Thompson, Dorothy M.
Thompson, Tony
Thompson, Mrs. Selma C.

Wargelin, Mrs. Ida
Watt, Ralph Waldo
Watt, Mrs. Myrtle M.
Watt, Ralph Lowell
Watt, Rayburn E.
Watt, Charlotte E.
Wiezorek, Mrs. Mary
Wilson, Mrs. Elna
Wollan, Marvin O.
Wollan, Mrs. Ila Mae
Wollan, Jo Ann Mae
Wollan, Melvin I.
Wollan, Ole A.
Wollan Mrs. Johanne B.
Wollan, Bernice J.