

FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY

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1950



BLOOMFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH
UPHAM, NORTH DAKOTA

NORTH DAKOTA
BOOK OR AUTHOR



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A Brief History Of

BLOOMFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH

PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ORGANIZATION



PUBLISHED BY
BLOOMFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH
JULY 23, 1950

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DEDICATION

To the memory of the pioneer men and women and their pastor, Rev. T. E. Thomesen, who, with faith in God, established Bloomfield Congregation in order that the Word of God might be preached in their midst and the Sacraments rightly administered to the Glory of God and the Salvation of immortal Souls, this booklet is reverently dedicated.

PREFACE

At this Fiftieth Anniversary of Bloomfield Lutheran Church, we desire to acknowledge with gratitude the many undeserved blessings that Almighty God has bestowed upon us.

We are also grateful for the consecrated work that was done by the Pioneer Pastor, Rev. T. E. Thomesen, who was given grace to proclaim the Gospel to the early settlers and sturdy pioneers, who came to this community a half century ago. We are also thankful because of the spiritual vision and understanding which the early pioneers had of eternal values in that they saw the necessity of organizing a congregation, calling a pastor, and building and maintaining a church.

May the younger generation who read these pages get a deeper appreciation of the work and sacrifices of the pioneers and of the blessings of God. We have tried to make this record as accurate as possible, but if errors and omissions have been made, we hope that they will be overlooked.

It is not possible to record on a few pages all of the most important events over a period of fifty years. Nor is it possible to place on the printed page the most important part of any congregation's history. What the congregation and others have, by the grace of God, received of spiritual guidance, forgiveness of sins, comfort in sorrow, joy in the Lord, only the Divine Historian can record.

R. T. Wanberg

"When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for the present delight, nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for. Let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that they will say, as they look upon the labor and the wrought substance of them, 'See, this our fathers did for us.' "

— John Ruskin

A Message From The District President of Our Church

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

North Dakota District President

Rev. David Stoeve, D. D.

316 Eddy Court — Fargo, North Dakota

To The Bloomfield Congregation:

Grace and Peace in Christ Jesus!

The information has come to me that on Sunday, July 23rd, you are celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the congregation. I, therefore, extend to you my sincere felicitations.

It is an occasion for rejoicing and thanksgiving. During these fifty years God has made it possible for this congregation to have faithful pastors and teachers, who have preached the Word in truth and purity and administered the Sacraments according to their institution. This is the most important thing in the life of any human being, for it is through the Word and the Sacraments that the Holy Ghost is doing His work. No one can be brought to Jesus Christ and be saved unless the Holy Ghost can do His work through the means of grace. Let your hearts, therefore, be grateful to the Triune God for all who, during these years, have been saved. This is due to God's wonderful grace and compassion. Thank Him and praise His holy name! Thank Him also for the faithful pastors who have served you so well and zealously!

May I personally express my deep appreciation to you and your pastor for your interest and co-operation in the work of the church at large, and for the three men who have entered the ministry from your congregation. May God bless your pastor and his family, and may He bless each one of you, and grant you eternal life!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

David Stoeve



BLOOMFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH UPHAM, NORTH DAKOTA

My Church! my Church! my dear My Church! my Church! my dear
old Church!

My father's and my own!
On Prophets and Apostles built,
And Christ the corner-stone!
All else beside, by storm or tide,
May yet be overthrown;
But not my Church, my dear old
Church,
My father's and my own!

I love her ancient name;
And God forbid, a child of hers
Should ever do her shame!
Her mother-care I'll ever share;
Her child I am alone.
Till He who gave me to her arms
Shall call me to His own.



Rev. T. E. Thomesen
1900—1917
Organizer - Builder - First Pastor



Rev. E. T. Wanberg
1919—
Present Pastor



Ole Jacobson
Secretary of Congregation from
1900—1931
31 years



A. G. Kirkeby
Secretary of Congregation from
1933—
17 years



Ordination Day of Vernon Holte

June 4, 1950

Rev. Carlyle Holte, Mr. Henry Holte, Rev. Vernon Holte, Mrs. Henry Holte,
Rev. Lowell Holte.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BLOOMFIELD CONGREGATION

"The Lord hath done great things for us;
whereof we are glad." (Ps. 126:3)

One of the many interesting and varied phases of church work is to watch the history of a Christian congregation develop through the years. Its fluctuations, its gains, its "depressions", its years of progress, the increase in membership, its faithful workers going to their rest after a long day, the hardy men and women pioneers, as they toiled to make new homes for their children on the virgin soil of these North Dakota prairies — such is the making of North Dakota history when religion and a new state march forward hand in hand.

A missionary pastor, Rev. T. E. Thomesen of the United Lutheran church, in the year 1900 took up his work at Willow City—his field of endeavor being the Turtle Mountain territory as far as the village of St. John, and east from Willow City about 30 miles, embracing the settlement of Ox Creek. Rev. Martinus Silseth at that time was serving as pastor in Rugby and surrounding territory. He mentioned to Rev. Thomesen the fact that many Norwegian Lutherans were settling about 20 miles west of Willow City. Rev. Silseth had received a letter from one of these settlers, Andrew Lunseth by name, asking Rev. Silseth to visit their settlement. As it was impossible for him to come, he requested Rev. Thomesen to go there in his place, and make a survey of the field, after which he would take charge.

With that understanding, Rev. Thomesen wrote to Mr. Lunseth and said he would try to come, and a meeting was arranged for Oct. 31, 1900. Bloomfield Congregation was organized on that date at the home of John Johnson. It is said that Augustin Lundervold made the motion to name the new organization BLOOMFIELD CONGREGATION, after the congregation by that name in Ostrander, Minn., from which place many of the settlers had come. The motion was carried unanimously.

As it was impossible for Rev. Silseth to accept the call, the call was extended to Rev. T. E. Thomesen, who became Bloomfield Congregation's first pastor.

The officers of the newly organized congregation were:

Trustees:

Lars Lundervold, John Meland, Tjostel Kongsli.

Deacons:

Iver Austin, Andrew Jurgenson, Andrew Lunseth.

Secretary:

Ole Jacobson

Treasurer:

Jacob Jurgenson

First to be baptized:

Marta Karine Vatsvog and Klarine Oline Meland — both baptized November 18, 1900.

First class to be confirmed:

Johanna Erikson (non members) Augusta Austin and Kristian Kongsle — October 13, 1901.

First to be married:

Jacob R. Jurgenson and Sina Braaten, July 22, 1904.

First one to be called from the flock:

John Birkeland, a young family man, who passed away January 30, 1901, and was buried at Bloomfield church, Ostrander, Minn.

First one to be laid to rest:

Jacob Jurgenson, Sr., died April 22, 1902 at the age of 71 years.

First communion:

September 15, 1901, with Jacob Jurgenson, Sr., Andrew Jurgenson and wife Jorund, Andrew Lunseth and wife Malene, Tjostel Kongsle and wife Ronnaug, attending.

17 people attended the three communions in 1901.

The work progressed faithfully, and at the beginning of 1901, the congregation consisted of 68 souls, 33 confirmed, 18 voting members. The year 1901 also saw the organization of a Young People's Society, the forerunner of our present Luther League.

The charter members of Bloomfield Congregation are Andrew Lunseth, wife Malene and 8 children, Andrew Jurgenson, wife Jorund and four children, Jacob Jurgenson Sr., Iver Austin, wife Karen and 8 children, Even Haraldson, wife Jennie and 2 children, Ole Jacobson, wife Marit and 4 children, Ole J. Reno, John Meland and wife Johanna and baby daughter Klarine, John Birkeland and wife Bertina and little daughter Juanita, Augustin Lundervold and Abraham Tvedten.

Other early pioneer members were Jacob R. Jurgenson and Lars Lundervold who joined the congregation November 17, 1900, Tjostel Kongsle and Henry Jurgenson, January 26, 1901, Anton P. Hagen, C. J. Molstad, John J. Molstad in November 18, 1901, John Johnson, February 23, 1902 and Jens Braaten in November 12, 1906.

Ladies Aid was organized December 14, 1901, at the home of Mrs. Even Haraldson. As early as July 2, 1902, we find the Ladies Aid discussing plans for building a church.

In November, 1903, Iver Austin was chosen to see about stone for a basement. Then plans were dropped for the time being, except for the order that each voting member was to furnish two loads of stone placed at the chosen site by April 1, 1905.

In the fall of 1904, we have record of the first religious school. 1904 will be remembered as a tragic year for the settlement, when a typhoid epidemic raged, and a little later, a severe siege of influenza. There were now many new graves on the hillside overlooking Upham.

At the time of 1904, Rev. T. E. Thomesen was serving at a salary of \$100 per year.

January 27, 1905, a committee was selected to gather church funds, and \$1000 was subscribed for the purpose of building a church. The building committee was Lars Lundervold, John Johnson, Andrew Jurgenson.

son, Even Haraldson, Ole Jacobson and Rev. Thomesen. Iver Austin, superintended the stone work. Tom Hermanson was head carpenter and contracted to build the church—with all carpenter work included, for \$400.

1906 was a year of great rejoicing and satisfaction to the members in seeing their hopes fulfilled. The new church building stood in their midst, not entirely completed, but in use. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain." (Ps. 127:1)

We must place the credit to Rev. Thomesen and the committee for the carefully planned and well built church and its beautiful furnishings.

It is said that when the venerable old Jacob Jurgenson found that the cemetery, his donation, was accepted by the congregation, and that the church would be visible from his homestead on the hill, he wept for joy as he said: "Now the church spire will at last be visible to all my children."

The first service was held in the new church June 10, 1906; and the first marriage in the new church took place August 5, 1906, when Tina Braaten became the bride of Oscar Anderson.

In March, 1908, we find an interesting report showing that \$1,139.00 had been turned in on subscriptions, the Ladies Aid furnished \$729.00 and a loan of \$525.00 had been made, making the total cost of Bloomfield church \$2,393.00

In 1909, the Circuit meeting was conducted in Bloomfield Congregation for the first time, and the cornerstone laying of the new church took place October 7, 1909, with Rev. E. T. Quam presiding.

March 25, 1910, a committee was selected, Carl Smette, Hans Gulbranson, and Ole Jacobson, together with Rev. Thomesen, to choose church furniture which the Ladies Aid purchased. The Ladies Aid also purchased the bell and had it placed in the church to "ring in Christmas."

The church bell committee chosen was Carl Smette, Ingeman Smette Lars Lundervold, Jens Braaten and Andrew Burlog.

November 18, 1917, at the annual meeting, Rev. T. E. Thomesen, after a most faithful shepherding of seventeen years, resigned as pastor of Bloomfield Congregation, preaching his farewell sermon January 6, 1918. Arrangements were then made to affiliate the congregations of Bloomfield at Upham, Zion at Towner, and Trinity at Berwick, into one pastorate, and extend the call to Rev. R. T. Wanberg, who was installed at Bloomfield church by District President I. D. Ylvisaker, August 24, 1919.

With Rev. Wanberg's pastorate, English was introduced. Services in Norwegian and English were carried on for some years, but it became necessary for many reasons to conduct the work more and more in the English language. Today all the work is carried on in English except for two or three Norwegian services during the year, with communion.

October 5, 1919, the Sunday School was organized with H. M. Holte as superintendent. Since 1929 adult confirmation classes have been carried on yearly.

1931 saw the organization of a Lutheran Brotherhood, that has been active in assisting with various church projects and needs, as for instance, beautifying church property, improving and taking care of the cemetery, and in promoting Boy Scout work.

Bloomfield Congregation has had many festive days, among which can be mentioned in 1922, the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Jens Braaten, in 1925 the 25th Anniversary of Bloomfield church, in 1929 the silver weddings of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Jurgenson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Burlog, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Knudsvig, Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Anderson, in 1930 Mr. and Mrs. Lars Lunde, in 1931 Mr. and Mrs. George Swenson, in 1937 Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Holte, in 1938 a fiftieth birthday party for Rev. R. T. Wanberg, in 1939 another milestone marking twenty years of service for Rev. Wanberg in the ministry of the Upham-Towner call, in 1944 the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jacobson and the silver wedding of Rev. and Mrs. R. T. Wanberg, in 1945 the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. John Becker, in 1949 the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brandt and the 45th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Smette. Bloomfield Congregation has also been the scene of many beautiful church weddings, where the congregation could join in the happiness of wishing God's blessings upon their young people.

June 7, 1942 was a day set apart and a day never to be forgotten by the congregation when it could with pride and joy send out two young sons into the service of the Holy Ministry, ordaining Lowell and Carlyle Holte, sons of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Holte. This is the only instance known in the history of our church body where two brothers became pastors together. The Holte family gave a Pulpit Bible to Congregation in honor of the day. June 4, 1950 Vernon Holte, the third and last son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Holte was ordained into the Holy Ministry. Thus, our faithful workers throughout the years, Mr. and Mrs. Holte have given their all to their beloved church, their time, their talents, and their sons. The Holte family gave on that occasion a gift of a liturgical book, an altar service book, and a hymn book, all red leather, for the altar.

June 23 and 24, 1940 the fortieth anniversary of Bloomfield Congregation was observed with Festival Services in both English and Norwegian, a Ladies Aid program, a Pioneer program and a Mission service. The impressive Confirmand reunion service will never be forgotten, as the confirmands marched in processional, filling the auditorium of the church. They were touching moments when roll was called, many responding, many others but a memory. At the social hour held in the Ladies Aid Hall after the service, the confirmands organized a Confirmand Alumni Association, deciding to send gifts of money back to their home church to be used for improvements from time to time. They presented funds with which to purchase chancel carpeting as their 1940 gift.

1940 saw the Upham community emerging from the depression years of 1930-40 and saw our congregation trying to pay back salary of the depression years to their pastor.

December 1941 to August 1945 marked World War Two, when our country was seething with the transportation of men and war materials. War plants called for workers, and home communities suffered. They were years of anxiety, sorrow, and earnest prayer. A war service flag was dedicated May 30, 1943. A son of the congregation was called to make the supreme sacrifice, when Ernest Burlog, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Burlog gave his life on the battle field in Italy, January 11, 1944. One gold star on the war service flag! A memorial service for Ernest Burlog was held in April 1944.

In spite of the war, Rev. Wanberg's annual report of 1941 showed that our congregation had had the most successful year of its history, if we may speak of church work in that light.

The year 1941 was marked by another interesting and unusual service, when 23 children were baptized at the one service. It also observed 25 years of service in the Holy Ministry for Rev. Wanberg, when Dr. Stoeve, N. D. District President, gave the address at the festive service.

A system of ushering was established in 1942, and church officers have been publicly installed in church services since 1944.

The year 1944 also gave tribute to Lars Lunde for 26 years of faithful service and helpful advice as an officer of the congregation. In failing health, Lars Lunde passed away, and his son, Oliver, received the office of trustee, and he is today carrying on his father's work in the congregation. In 1944 the Lunde family presented a beautiful altar electric candelabra in memory of Lars Lunde, who had 26 years of service as an officer of the church. In 1946, a pulpit light, was given by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holte and Vernon after his return from the service.

The Individual Communion set was purchased with confirmation class money, as was also the pamphlet rack in the church.

In 1945, Mrs. Jennie Haraldson, wife of Even Haraldson, charter member of Bloomfield Congregation died at her home in Minneapolis. Augustin Lundervold, Ole Jacobson and wife have all gone to rest since the Fortieth Anniversary, and today sees but one charter member remaining, Mrs. George Swenson of Hibbing, Minn.

In July 1947 Rev. R. T. Wanberg was seriously ill after an operation in the Bismarck Evangelical Hospital. The Wanberg family will be ever grateful to Bloomfield Congregation for the manifold ways in which the individual members and congregation alike stood by in the crisis. This wonderful attitude of a congregation towards its pastor reached a climax when Bloomfield Congregation was instrumental in the Upham-Towner parish in securing a new car in which to bring Rev. Wanberg home again.

For years, Bloomfield Congregation has done its part faithfully in upholding the work of the church and answering the call for aid in many varied fields—the Golden Jubilee of Concordia College, Pacific Lutheran College, The Luther College Emergency Appeal when their Administration Building was lost by fire, the Centennial Appeal, Lutheran World Action and United Mission Advance. They also responded nobly to solicitations in building the Lutheran Old People's Home at Minot, the Dakota Lutheran High School, The Nurses' Home and new additions to the Good

Samaritan Hospital at Rugby. Monthly sums of money have been set aside to further the work of the Lutheran Morning Devotional Radio hours and the Norse Radio hour. Since the depression of 1930-40, Bloomfield Congregation has always met, and often exceeded its quota to the General Church.

Bloomfield Congregation is indeed grateful for its many faithful, sincere workers throughout the years—but for the many willing hands and hearts, Bloomfield Congregation could have not carried on in times of stress. It acknowledges and recognizes the loving and guiding hand of the Lord, who has watched over the Lutherans of this territory throughout these many years. With penitent hearts we return thanks to God, realizing that to the Lord belongs all the glory for whatever progress has been made. Fifty years of faithful service has Bloomfield Congregation had—may it have a blessed future in bringing many souls safely through their pilgrimage to the Home-land.

“For we are labourers together with God; ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

— 1 Corinthians 3:9-11



Jens Braaten and family going to church on Sunday morning

LONGTIME OFFICERS OF BLOOMFIELD CONGREGATION

**Lars Lunde**

13 years Trustee 8 years Deacon

**Chris Smette**

20 years caretaker of cemetery

**Carl Smette**

17 years Trustee 8 years Deacon

**Ingeman Smette**
12 years Trustee**Andrew Burlog**

17 years Trustee 1 year Treasurer



Mrs. Holte

20 years
Church Treasurer

30 years
Sunday School Primary Teacher
Ladies Aid Treasurer

Mr. Holte

31 years
Superintendent of Sunday School

27 years
Choir Director
Church Secretary



Mrs. George Swenson

Only living charter member
of Congregation



Mrs. Anton Hagen

Only living charter member
Ladies Aid

(Picture not available)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LADIES AID

Ladies Aid work acts as a barometer, registering the difference of the years—prosperous and poor years in a community—and at the same time acts as a thermometer, registering the degree of interest at times, heat and cold in spiritual matters, the pulsating of the individual lives of its members.

It has ever been found that no church thrives well without the ever-ready, capable, willing hand of the women of the church reaching out to assist in its problems, and creating a spirit of friendliness in the immediate surroundings of a congregation.

We vision, therefore, the pioneer women of the Bloomfield Congregation gathering together December 14th, 1901, at the home of Mrs. Even Haraldson, the daughter of the beloved and venerable Jacob Jurgenson, sr., for the purpose of organizing a Ladies Aid.

As their "Bestyrerinde," Mrs. Johanna Meland was chosen; Mrs. Malene Lunseth, secretary, and Mr. Even Haraldson, treasurer. The day did not arrive for many years when they selected a treasurer from their own Ladies Aid membership, but for many years, a man from the congregation served in the capacity of treasurer for Bloomfield Ladies Aid.

Eight women signed as charter members that day, namely: Mrs. Ole Jacobson, Mrs. John Johnson, Mrs. Johanna Meland, Mrs. Malene Lunseth, Mrs. Even Haraldson, Mrs. A. Hagen, Mrs. Iver Austin, and Mrs. Andrew Jurgenson.

We find the ladies at the organization meeting taking up a subscription for the purchase of sewing materials, so it is evident that they lost no time in taking up the work allotted to them. From the very first, the meetings seemed to be carried on in a systematic way, and we note that each meeting was opened with devotion by Rev. Thomesen, and closed with prayer and hymn singing. At the second meeting the sewing materials were given out to the different women, and three pairs of mittens were donated by a non-member. The first finished article came from the hand of Mrs. Louise Vatsvog, mother of Mrs. Selmer Braaten and Mrs. Julian Johnson. From then on, mention is made at the different meetings of donations of yarn, money, finished aprons, quilts given by members and non-members alike, revealing the growing interest in the new organization. We note especially, regardless of her large family of thirteen children, that Mrs. Jens Braaten was very diligent in donating yarns, aprons, and money at the different meetings.

Rev. T. E. Thomesen, in a reminiscent mood, states in a letter (translated from the original Norwegian): "The Ladies Aid met in the early days on the Saturday before the Sunday when service was scheduled, so that the pastor could be present. I arrived on Saturday as early as possible, and was guest at the home where the Ladies Aid was to be entertained. The rule seemed to be that whoever invited the Ladies Aid must also accept the pastor. Once in awhile it was hinted that another day of the week would be more convenient for the ladies to have Ladies Aid, but this suggestion was always cast aside with the remark: 'We do our Sat-

urday work on Friday, then we have vacation days both Saturday and Sunday.' They always met up well for Ladies Aid meetings. The mothers came with their babies in their blanket rolls, and placed the precious rolls of humanity here, there and everywhere—it has always been a marvel to me that each mother eventually recovered her very own bundle, and that no exchanges ever took place."

As early as July 2, 1902, we find the Ladies Aid meeting at the home of Mrs. Ole Jacobson and discussing plans for building a church.

They drew up a constitution in which they state as their reason for organizing an Aid—to help the Congregation with funds to build a church.

Their membership consisted of all Lutheran women who were willing to abide by the constitution, and who led a Christian life in their new surroundings. Their officers consisted of Bestyrerinde, Sekretar, and Kasserer or President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The duties of their Bestyrerinde were to call the meetings together as leader, and to buy materials and give them out to members for completion for at least one, and sometimes two annual auctions.

We do not find that the spiritual side was neglected at their meetings. From the very first meeting, the meetings opened and closed with devotion and prayer by their pastor, and hymn singing. In this way, Ladies Aid day became an inspiration, a day of joy and happiness in the somewhat drab lives of these pioneer women, struggling against odds and new modes of living conditions. So the year of 1902—the first year of Ladies Aid work—passed by. How glad they were every time a finished article was donated, or a bit of extra money found its way into their treasury. In those days it was the little things in life that counted so much—a friendly spirit, a wee bit of a lift here and there—how much it all meant!

October 27, 1902, the Ladies Aid met at the home of Mrs. Lunseth for their first auction sale of articles. Such an encouragement when they discovered that their first efforts had netted them \$140.00. How much nearer was the building of their church!

Two things point to the scarcity of funds in this new country at that time: 1. The outstanding accounts to the society for articles purchased at the auction, the society waiting until fall for payment. 2. The Ladies Aid loaned out the money in their treasury as far as possible to church members with good security at 10%.

At the meeting under date of June 20, 1903, the Ladies Aid made a decision that held its place in their annals for many a year—that of having a fourth of July festival. At this festival, an auction sale of articles made by Ladies Aid members was also held.

The second year (1903) showed progress in the newly organized Aid. Their annual report shows that eleven meetings had been held and seven new memberships had been added, making a total membership of twenty-three members.

December 5, 1903, at the home of Mrs. Anton Hagen, the Ladies Aid decided to purchase a silver communion set for \$15.00.

In 1905 it was decided that every member pay ten cents per meeting to increase the income of the Ladies Aid. December 4, 1905, at the home of

Mrs. J. R. Jurgenson, at the annual meeting, the Ladies Aid turned over their receipts on hand—\$500.00 to the Congregation to begin the building of the church.

December 30, 1905, at the home of Mrs. Ole Jacobson we note the first record of lunch proceeds, \$1.25.

We find throughout 1908 and 1909 the lunch receipts gaining steadily, from the original \$1.25 to \$6.00 and \$7.00 a meeting. This shows the ever increasing interest and attendance at Aid affairs, and also proves that new settlers were continuing to come to this country.

In the same way, we may trace through the Fourth of July festivals that still held their own important place in these annals. In 1908, at the John Johnson home, receipts were \$150.00—in 1909, at the Ingeman Smette home, receipts were \$259.00. In one way, these things may be explained by the greater influx of settlers, and in another way, it may be given as proof of the need and blessing of church organizations in any locality, and the interest and friendly spirit and support given the Lutheran church on our far-reaching prairies—that kindly, friendly spirit of the West.

During the year of 1909, the first mention is made of Assistance given by the Aid to charity, when Bloomfield Aid furnished a room (\$30.00) at Sheyenne Kreds Hospital, (now the Good Samaritan hospital at Rugby, North Dakota.)

In 1911, the Aid, at the suggestion of Rev. Thomeson, decided to join the W. M. F. of the United Church.

In 1912, the Aid, possibly influenced by the W. M. F. movement, laid more stress on their devotional meetings, deciding to open each meeting with a hymn and half hour devotion. This was not a new movement, however, as devotion had been conducted at all meetings from the very beginning of the Aid, but it simply shows that this part of their program—the spiritual side—received special attention in 1912.

In 1913 the Aid donated the gas lighting for the church. We also find them growing more responsive to outside requests for assistance.

February 14, 1915, a mention is made for the first time of mission boxes of the United Church W.M.F., the forerunner of our present W.M.F.

In the melting pot of America's languages, it is an interesting diversion to discover this notation under date of 1915 in otherwise strictly Norwegian notes and records of meetings.

"Den some vil have lefse, kan have hvis de vil, — de some har lefse har bare en slags smorbrod. Den some ikke har lefse, har lov til at have to slags smorbrod (hvis de vil) et slags kage og 'doughnuts' eller 'cookies' og 'pickles' eller 'salad'. Dem some overtrader denne lov maa betale 50c (we refrain from translating, as we fear some of the flavor would be lost on the reader.)

November, 1917, Rev. Thomesen resigned as pastor of Bloomfield Congregation. The Ladies Aid continued to have their meetings—seventeen in all—throughout 1918 and 1919 up to the arrival of a new pastor. In spite of not having any regular pastor, they continued on with their serving, but they did not have any yearly meeting or activities.

On August 24, 1919, Rev. R. T. Wanberg was installed as the new pastor. The Aid work continued to prosper and there was an added increase in lunch receipts to now over \$20.00 a meeting.

In October, 1920, Bloomfield Aid joined the W.M.F. at the Circuit meeting at Towner, North Dakota.

Honorary memberships in the Aid were first introduced in 1922.

As the church building was not arranged conveniently for serving Aids, the Community Hall was secured for meeting for a time. This meant constant outlay, so the Ladies Aid finally secured the building near the telephone office and made that into a Ladies Aid Parlor.

In 1925 we find the Mission boxes, as now used, appearing on our program.

At the 1927 yearly meeting of December 5, the Aid took another step, that of deciding to have their meetings all conducted in the English language. This was done partly because many members were being added who do not understand the Norwegian language, and cannot converse or carry on with Secretary's reports, partly to the increase of mixed marriages with other nationalities, and partly as an incentive to younger ladies to join the group. Hereafter, the minutes of the meetings are recorded in the English language only.

Then came hard times, bank closings, and depression. One can readily see what the term "depression" meant to the income of the church as elsewhere. The same suppers netting \$150.00 three years ago, now netted \$25.00, and the lunch receipts at Aid meetings a few years ago, \$23.00, now sometimes netted as low as \$5.00. Utter failure of crops for the last ten years, a great scarcity of feed, hay and pasture, Upham now faced an unprecedented problem. Cattle, sheep and horses had to be disposed of; little could be turned into cash. Still the people tried to keep up their good cheer. It was a constant problem to puzzle out just how to meet expenses. Meet them we could not, but try we did. The year 1933 seemed to be the lowest ebb. The nine Aid servings of the year netted only \$83.00. There were only nine servings because so many were on relief and it was a problem to know just who could furnish food. In 1934 things began to brighten up a bit, and Bloomfield Aid, having more to give, gave generously.

Bloomfield Aid in 1937 took another forward step that proved decidedly interesting. The Aid, besides its regular Aid meetings, was divided into three Circles. These Circles meet at the homes of Circle members, pay a dime for lunch, have their regular business meetings, each circle takes up different projects for the year to make money for various needs, and it is in the Circles that Box work is carried on for our different Homes and as the need may arise. The Aid realizes that the Circles have come to stay. In the Circles, we get more in the common touch with one another, having smaller groups. We can easily there keep in touch with illness, sorrow, and instances that need our special care and help.

One great highlight for the year 1939 was seeing a dream realized by the Ladies Aid. A great need had arisen for the Aid that had become steadily through the years a handicap, and that was the cramped quarters of the Ladies Aid parlors. At this time, the Aid made the final break and bought the Icelandic Hall for \$180.00. This hall was on the other side of

the Mouse river. It had formerly served as church and community center for our Icelandic neighbors, before they secured their church. The men of our congregation and many non-members and friends assisted and worked for days moving the hall to its place beside Bloomfield church, amidst many trials and tribulations. They relate with a smile how the hall went through the ice on the river and had to be pulled out with great effort.

June 23 and 24, 1940, the fortieth anniversary of Bloomfield Congregation was observed with festival services in both English and Norwegian, a Pioneer program, a Ladies Aid program, a Mission service, and a beautiful, impressive Confirmand Reunion Service. At the Ladies Aid program, June 24th, the Ladies Aid History was read by Mrs. R. T. Wanberg, and the Ladies Aid Chorus gave two musical numbers. The Ladies Aid served meals these two days to the entire assemblage.

To overcome the difficulties in finances from the depression years of 1930-40, the Ladies Aid decided to pay monthly to the church treasury towards the pastor's salary, and this continued for several years, until no longer necessary.

Silent Roll Call of members and visitors was instituted in the Ladies Aid secretary records, and this has become a valuable as well as interesting record.

With the splendid program material issued by the Women's Missionary Federation, the Ladies Aid programs at each meeting have become more interesting and instructive in developing the spiritual life of the members.

The Ladies Aid hall had by this time been painted, redecorated, and a modern kitchen and equipment added. The ladies did a great deal of the work themselves and take great pride in their accomplishment. May 18, 1940 was a festive day in the Ladies Aid hall! Invitations had been issued to the Icelandic Ladies Aid to come and spend the afternoon with their Bloomfield neighbors. A very interesting program had been planned. The Icelandic Aid was overjoyed to see their hall used for church purposes, as many are the memories they have of that hall as a community gathering place and early church home.

October 1940 Bloomfield Aid was hostess to the Minot Circuit Women's Missionary Federation. The church auditorium was filled to capacity, and a very interesting and instructive day was spent in Christian fellowship.

In the fortieth anniversary year, it may be interesting to readers to have a glimpse of the activities and interests of the Ladies Aid members. Ladies Aid monthly servings amounted to \$191.64 for the year, averaging \$15 per meeting. Circles turned in \$130.84 for their first year's work. Mission boxes and Thank offerings were sent in to the Mission Department and Education Department of our church. Gifts of money were sent to Centennial Appeal, Finnish and Norse Relief, European Missions, Pension Fund, Seamen's Mission, House of Mercy, Lutheran Welfare, and the Circuit WMF Library Fund. Memorial wreaths (money sent to different branches of work in our church) is given by the Aid at funerals instead of flowers.

The year 1941 was a tragic one, when our country was drawn into the European war, and World War Two held our attention, our sorrow, and anxieties until 1945. To make it still more difficult, Bloomfield Congregation was struggling to emerge from the financial problems brought on by the depression years of 1930-40. We find the Aid giving Bloomfield Congregation larger sums of money to be applied to back salary for their pastor.

Through the years, Bloomfield Aid members have been very faithful in attending WMF conventions. In 1941 they received a gift book award at the Circuit WMF Convention at Minot for having the largest number in attendance from one aid.

June 27, 1941 Rev. T. E. Thomsen, the pastor who organized Bloomfield Congregation and was its faithful shepherd for seventeen years, died at his home at Barton, N. D. An In Memoriam gift was sent by the Aid in his memory to the Pension Fund.

At the annual meeting for 1941 we find this paragraph in the secretary's records:

"Rev. Wanberg conducted devotion, reading the 89th Psalm. He spoke briefly on the war, stating that we, as Lutherans, should pledge ourselves one hundred percent in the support of country and President. We need to constantly pray, and establish a family altar. We should keep in mind that we are God's servants."

In 1942 we find Rev. Wanberg suggesting that the Aid purchase Defense Bonds. Another appeal came that brought the seriousness of the war closer to us, when we were informed of the serious condition of the "Orphan Missions". Our Madagascar Mission was cut off from all help and income except through one channel, that of the business offices of the Standard Oil Company in foreign lands. We find the Aid responding to that appeal for help. Cards and letters were sent to our boys in service, gifts of money, woolen quilts, and clothing abroad, CARE Food Relief packages and money donations to European Missions, Finnish relief, Norwegian relief and the Red Cross.

The year 1942 is a highlight year in Bloomfield Congregation when an Ordination Service took place June 7, 1942, Lowell and Carlyle Holte, sons of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Holte being ordained to the Holy Ministry. Here, too, the Aid rose to the occasion and served the entire assemblage with both dinner and supper. Never in its history was such a throng assembled at Bloomfield Church. All available parking space everywhere was taken, and a public address system was used for the overflow crowd that could not find room in the church, and also for the Ladies Aid Hall. It is a day that will never be forgotten, one of the crowning events of Bloomfield history.

As had been the custom for years, a Mission Day was held July 26, 1942 with Missionary John Skepstad as speaker. The Ladies Aid served dinner at this festival.

Another new phase of Ladies Aid work was introduced in 1942, that of the Cradle Roll, enrolling the babies of the congregation, and thereby supporting the Alaska Mission. How wonderful that our babies do their

share to carry the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the world. We recall here a beautiful Cradle Roll Program given later by Mrs. Julian Simmons, Cradle Roll chairman. The Aid sponsors Cradle Roll enrollments.

Rev. Wanberg urged to make the meetings more spiritual by having Bible study introduced, and this was done. The Ladies Aid programs continued to be used, with one member in charge at each meeting.

May 16, 1943 was planned as a Congregation Fellowship Day. A morning service was held after which the congregation was served lunch in the Ladies Aid parlors. The lunch free will offering was given to Missions. In the afternoon, reports were given from every department of the local church so as to familiarize every one with what our church is doing. The afternoon was then spent in a social way, and at the close of afternoon coffee, devotion was held before departing for home. It was felt that during the anxieties of war time, the bonds of Congregation Fellowship would in this way be strengthened.

August 21, 1943 Rev. Wanberg was given a Life Membership certificate, inaugurating a new gift of honor department, that of presenting charter members and long time members of the Aid with Life Membership certificates, the income of which is used by the WMF to advance their various projects in Missions and other fields. Life memberships have to date been given to nine members. Two In Memoriam certificates have been given. As the Life membership certificates have recently been discontinued, two members have received the new, beautiful gold WMF pins.

The Luther League of Bloomfield church, Oct. 14, 1944 was host to the Minot Circuit Luther League. The Ladies Aid served the Pocket Testament Banquet for the Luther League in the Ladies Aid parlors. The beautiful and impressive candlelight ceremony and program of the Pocket Testament League will be long remembered.

In 1946 there was another clothing drive for war-torn countries and the Aid sent many boxes of clothing there.

June 25, 1946 the Minot Circuit meeting had a two-day session at Bloomfield church. The Aid was divided into two groups, each group serving one day.

Visual education was stressed when a slide projector was purchased by the congregation, the Aid paying one half of the cost.

The Turtle Mountain Circuit WMF invited the ladies of Minot Circuit WMF to join them in a one-week Women's Retreat at Metigoshe State Park Lodge. A group from Bloomfield Ladies Aid attended.

In 1948 three Circles were working. They decided not to work so much for extra money making for the Aid, but to do more boxwork and charity work.

The work of Bloomfield Aid has increased greatly throughout the years. In 1948 we find the following committees: Flower, Auditing, Advertising, Town membership, Country membership, Town visiting, Country visiting, Hostess, Decorating, one Historian, two Organists, one Librarian, and the following departmental chairmen: Cradle Roll, Missions, Education, Charities, Life Membership, In Memoriam, Promotion, and Christian Nurture.

Rev. Wanberg conducted a study each Aid meeting from the book, "More People are Asking" by Milton. This encouraged discussions on many problems.

In 1949 the Minot Circuit WMF decided to support a missionary. To this missionary project, the Bloomfield Aid was among the very first to send in a generous donation.

The Aid has assisted Bloomfield Congregation with donations to the many appeals — Golden Jubilee of both Concordia College and Pacific Lutheran College, the Luther College Emergency Appeal, World Action, Centennial appeal, United Mission Advance, and Christian Education Appeal. Donations have been given to the new Svee Memorial Home at Devils Lake, and the new Dakota Lutheran High School at Minot. Rooms have been furnished at the Nurses' Home, Good Samaritan Hospital, at Rugby, and the Lutheran Old People's Home at Minot. Lutheran Morning Devotions and the WMF Hour over KLPM, Minot, have both received generous donations. The Aid also responded to the appeal of Rev. Lovaas for funds for a loud speaker system for San Haven so that devotionals and music could reach the many patients. The box work department of Ladies Aid work has also given to the Indian Mission, Lutheran Welfare, House of Mercy, Seamens Mission, San Haven, money for linens for the Old People's Home, and money for the pantry shower for Dakota Lutheran High School. In gratitude, Bloomfield Aid wishes to thank all those who have donated money or gifts to the Aid to help carry on this work.

We know that Ladies Aid work is far from having, as its goal, the hoarding of money - we hope that time will never come! We also know that in this phase of income—the times, the number of individual members, the generosity and diligence shown—all are brought to bear on the year's work. It would perhaps be of interest to cast a brief glance at the increase accomplished by the Ladies Aid throughout these fifty years. We note the very first record of an auction sale of articles was October 27, 1902, ten months after organization, amounting to \$140. The very first lunch proceeds is mentioned under date of December 30, 1905, amounting to \$1.25. Now let us take the highest amount in the different endeavors from 1940-50:

Lunch proceeds for one year	1940 - 167.14	1949 - 435.20
Lunch proceeds per meeting	1940 - low 11.70	high 20.00
	1949 - low 23.75	high 60.00
Annual suppers	1940 - 71.10	1949 - 217.00
Fancywork sale and lunch	1940 - 31.45	1948 - 102.55
Circles	1940 - 130.84	1945 - 281.15
(The circles do not stress money making projects these last years)		
Missions	1940 - 11.75	1949 - 37.14
Thank offering	1940 - 8.64	1949 - 37.90
Self Denial	1945 - 17.75	1949 - 33.59

For the past ten years, Silent Roll Call has been kept at the Ladies Aid meetings. This roll call reveals the following:

Mrs. H. M. Holte has perfect attendance for eight years and in 1944 attended 9 meetings out of ten, missing but one meeting. Honorable mention is given Mrs. O. M. Anderson, Mrs. Selmer Braaten, Mrs. Andrew

Burlog, Mrs. John Becker, Mrs. Reuben Kongsle, Mrs. Lester Gulbranson, Mrs. Ingeborg Smette, and Mrs. Julian Simmons for a splendid record of attendance.

The year 1950, our Anniversary year, is not yet over, but it has already had one crowning event, that of Vernon Holte's Ordination to the Holy Ministry June 4, 1950. Vernon is the third and last son of Mr. and Mrs. Holte to enter the Holy Ministry. It was a touching moment for everyone present when Mr. Henry Holte placed the third cross on the church service flag—he has given all he had to his beloved church. We cannot help but wonder, as we try to pierce the future—who will add the next cross?

The Ladies Aid parlors now present a very attractive appearance, having been re-decorated, and new modern kitchen equipment added. A new oil burner makes the parlors comfortable in wintry weather. The kitchen has had numerous kitchen showers to complete this equipment. A large electric stove, combination range, a set of dishes, and silverware have been lately added.

A happy, willing spirit pervades Bloomfield Aid. Their church holds a large place in their lives, and they are happy to work for it. The spiritual life of its members has been developed in Christian fellowship and reading and studying the Word of God together. So do lives unfold in their willing service for the Master who has given them life.

"O happy church, where each one serves Thee, lowly,
Whatever his appointed task may be,
Till every common task seems great and holy,
When it is done, O Lord, as unto Thee!"



Back row: Mrs. Lena Kitzman, Mrs. Lars Lunde, Mrs. O. M. Anderson, Mrs. Sena Jurgenson, Mrs. Ingeborg Smette, Mrs. Henry Holte, Mrs. John Green, Mrs. Julian Simmons, Mrs. Arthur Shroyer, Mrs. Reuben Kongsle, Mrs. Lester Gulbranson, Mrs. Chas. Gilmore, Mrs. Ingeman Smette, Mrs. Ben Bertsch, Mrs. Melvin Smette, Mrs. George Jurgenson, Mrs. John Becker. **Front row:** Mrs. A. G. Kirkeby, Mrs. Carl Smette, Mrs. Morgan Erickson, Mrs. Andrew Burlog.

LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD

The year 1931 saw the organization of a Lutheran Brotherhood, that has been active in assisting with various church projects and needs, as for instance, beautifying the church property, improving and taking care of the cemetery, and in promotion of Boy Scout work.

The Lutheran Brotherhood of Bloomfield Congregation sponsored the Boy Scout group of the community, with Arnold Kirkeby and John Becker in charge. Donald Dixon, Dale Kongsli and James Moen attended the Boy Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in July 1950. Several boys of Bloomfield Congregation are working to attain the Pro Deo Patria award (the religious award) in Boy Scouting at the present time.

The Lutheran Brotherhood furnished the paint and labor in painting the outside of the church, and also did the shingling.

A Father's and Son's Banquet was sponsored by the men of the church. The banquet was served in the Parish Hall by the Ladies Aid. Rev. E. L. Rude of Devils Lake was the speaker of the evening.

The men of the church also gathered funds during the past two years of 1948-50 to remodel and install Nuwood walls and ceiling in the church auditorium. A new heating system was installed and numerous improvements added. The men donated their time and efforts faithfully, under the supervision of Mr. H. V. Kirkeby, who gave all his time generously to this work. At this time, we wish to give a special commendation to John Becker for his many years of faithful service as officer, and beautifying and caring for the church.

Today, Bloomfield Church is a church of beauty, grateful for the efforts of its faithful men and diligent women.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The early congregational records of December 1, 1902 show that Andrew Lunseth was chosen as Sunday School Superintendent. Where the schoolhouse was built near the John Johnson farm was the location of the Lunseth farm at that time.

In the fall of 1904, we have record of the first religious school to be held in the summer, with the provision "if a teacher could be secured". This evidently could not be accomplished, as the first record of two months of Norwegian religious school being held was in the secretary's records of the congregation under the date of November 6, 1905.

The only mention of early Norwegian religious school teachers is Ole Belsaas in 1910, having received \$65 for teaching two months of religious school. A later teacher was Kari Thomesen, daughter of Rev. T. E. Thomesen, and later the wife of Rev. E. A. Stousland, Barton, N. Dak. A still later teacher in the 1920's was Professor Esser, who was Superintendent of Upham Public Schools.

October 5, 1919, with the pastorate of Rev. R. T. Wanberg, the Sunday School was organized with H. M. Holte as Superintendent. There are no records of Sunday School work being done before the year 1919. Children had been giving Christmas programs for a number of years prior to 1919, mostly in the Norwegian language. From the fall of 1919 to the present day, regular classes have been conducted during the Public School months. For a short time only, Norwegian classes were held, then all in the English language. "Barnevennen" and "Children's Friend" were the first Sunday School papers used. Since then, "Our Young People", "Little Folks" and "Lutheran Teacher" have been used.

The Sunday School has had its own treasurer, and has taken care of its own finances with a little extra help from others during times of stress. The Sunday School has continued to train up organists throughout the years, and this is very helpful to the congregation.

The teacher staff has consisted mostly of mothers in the congregation, and these have been very faithful and earnest in their teaching. The growth in numbers has been normal and gradual. Present enrollment is near the one hundred mark.

Adult Confirmation classes have been carried on yearly since 1929, besides the regular confirmation classes.

Since 1919, with the exception of the "depression" years, we have carried on with Vacation Bible School.

In the Parish Hall hangs a beautiful picture, given the congregation in 1948 in memory of Tom Guggedahl. This picture was given with the younger Sunday School children in mind. They love it for its beautiful setting of a garden, in which Christ sits with the children, telling them about the nail-print in His hand.

For several years, the church and parish hall have both been used for the present eleven classes. The 1950 staff of teachers is as follows: Superintendent, Mr. H. M. Holte, Mrs. John Becker, Mrs. Selmer Braaten, Mrs. H. M. Holte, Mrs. Arnold Kirkeby, Mrs. Reuben Kongsli, Mrs. Eugene O'Brien, Mrs. Harry Rice, Mrs. Julian Simmons, Mrs. Henry Smette, and Rev. R. T. Wanberg.

For the last several years, the Sunday School has been conducted on Saturday afternoons. This has been very successful with a larger school, and more time available for class work. Here the confirmation classes have two hour sessions.

Mr. Henry Holte has served as Sunday School Superintendent for 31 years, and Mrs. Holte as Kindergarten and Primary teacher for 30 years.

Sunday School Teachers - 1948



Back row: Henry Holte, Mrs. Holte, Mrs. Selmer Braaten, Mrs. A. G. Kirkeby, Mrs. Jullan Simmons, Miss Lona Olson, Mrs. Eugene O'Brien.
Front row: Rev. R. T. Wanberg, Mrs. Henry Smette, Mrs. John Tonneson, Mrs. John Becker.

Children's Baptismal Service May 25, 1941



(23 children were baptized. Picture shows children and their sponsors)

LUTHER LEAGUE

The year 1901 saw the organization of a Young People's Society, the forerunner of our present Luther League. Records are unavailable for this period of work. A library of books owned by the Young People's Society shows that they had a Norwegian society at that time. It proved a blessing to the young people in pioneer days, providing a bond of Christian fellowship and an interest in church work.

September 18, 1920, the young people of Bloomfield Congregation met to organize a Young People's Society, with Rev. R. T. Wanberg presiding. The officers elected were: President, Myrtle Jacobson, Vice President, Julia Lundervold, Secretary, Ruth Peterson, Treasurer, Emma Jacobson.

Meetings were held in the Community Hall instead of the church, providing more room for larger groups. Their second meeting was an open meeting, and the Community Hall was filled with both young and older people. The evening was planned as a social one.

In 1920 the Young People's Society held a reception for the confirmands of that year, and this became an established custom. Outdoor meetings were held during the summer, and later the summer meetings were held at various farm homes.

In 1922, Lutheran Herald subscriptions were presented officers, so as to have more material for programs and to observe better the work of our church.

The society sponsored an Easter program on the Life of Christ with beautiful colored slides. Mrs. Wanberg provided the musical setting to the program, and D. J. Shepard of Towner was the tenor soloist.

In May 1922 the Young People's Society applied for membership in the Luther League of our church body. They also worked for funds to send a delegate to the Luther League convention. They planned a basket social to obtain funds, and also several ice cream socials.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holte were chosen chaperons at Luther League meetings. Mrs. O. M. Anderson also chaperoned.

The society planned meetings where either the parents or the entire congregation were invited.

A "movie" program was held when educational films were presented, and they requested more programs of this kind. This was then, the forerunner of our visual education program of today in the Lutheran Church. A lecture, "History of the Bible" with slides was later presented.

In June 1922 the Young People's Society took a pleasure trip to McKinney Park, near Mohall to attend the singing festival given by the Lutheran choirs of the Turtle Mountain Circuit.

The programs given at the meetings of the Luther League at that time consisted of Devotion, readings, music, debates, and topics discussed. The Luther League has today a number of fine books in their library.

In these later years, the Luther League bought the Church Service flag, and on it today are three crosses, representing three former Luther Leaguers, Lowell, Carlyle and Vernon Holte, who have all entered the Holy Ministry. Who will be our next Luther Leaguer to have their cross placed

on our church service flag for full time service in church work as pastor, missionary, or parish worker?

A highlight in Luther League history was the Luther League convention with Upham Luther Leaguers as hosts. The Pocket Testament Banquet was held in the new Parish Hall with the Ladies Aid serving the banquet. The beautiful, impressive candlelight ceremony of the Pocket Testament League will not soon be forgotten.

Groups have attended the Metigoshe Lutheran Bible Camp every year.

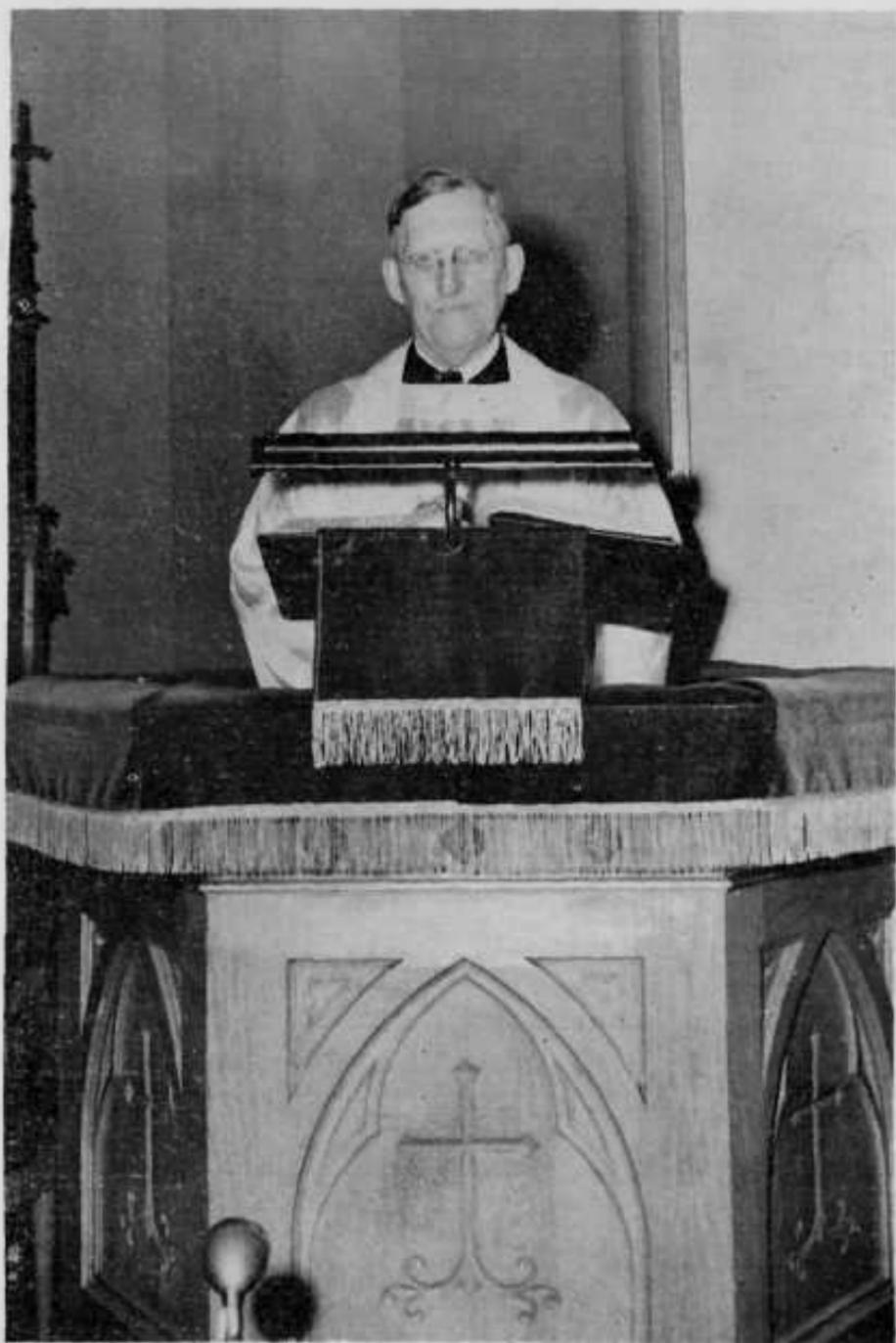
Luther League has continued throughout the years as an active, interested organization. Today we have two fine, interested Luther League advisors, Mrs. Selmer Braaten, and Mrs. Julian Simmons, who help the young people plan their programs and carry on their work.

STATISTICS

BLOOMFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH

to July 23, 1950

BAPTISMS	Rev. T. E. Thomesen 1900—1917	—	—	182
	Rev. R. T. Wanberg 1919—1950	—	—	318
				500
CONFIRMED	Rev. T. E. Thomesen 1900—1917	—	—	60
	Rev. R. T. Wanberg 1900—1950	—	—	350
				410
WEDDINGS	Rev. T. E. Thomesen 1900—1917	—	—	11
	Rev. R. T. Wanberg 1919—1950	—	—	78
				89
FUNERALS	Rev. T. E. Thomesen 1900—1917	—	—	28
	Rev. R. T. Wanberg 1919—1950	—	—	124
				152
Honor Roll - World War II	—	1 gold (Ernest Burlog)	—	28 blue



Rev. R. T. Wanberg
1950



Mrs. R. T. Wanberg

The History of Bloomfield Congregation and its various organizations, has been compiled and written by Mrs. R. T. Wanberg. She has searched the congregational records and has interviewed many of the older members through the years, in the hope of providing as accurate an account as possible.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr. Henry Holte, Mr. John Becker, Mr. Oliver Lunde, Mr. Clayton Kitzman
Mr. Arnold Kirkeby

Serving Committee

Mrs. Reuben Kongsle, Mrs. J. A. Wik, Mrs. Julian Simmons,
Mrs. Henry Holte

Confirmand Reunion Contact Committee

Mrs. A. G. Kirkeby, Chairman, Mrs. Selmer Braaten, Mrs. Eugene O'Brien

Confirmand Alumni Association

President - John Becker Vice President - Bennie Jacobson
Secretary - Alma Lunde Treasurer - Ruth Varty

Officers of Congregation

Treasurer of Congregation - Mrs. H. M. Holte
Secretary of Congregation - Mr. A. G. Kirkeby

Trustees

Mr. Oliver Lunde, Mr. Clayton Kitzman, Mr. John Becker

Deacons

Mr. Selmer Braaten, Mr. Julian Simmons, Mr. H. M. Holte

Ushers

Mr. John Becker, Chairman, Donald Dixon, Jackie Green

Christian Education

Mr. H. M. Holte, Mr. John Becker, Mr. Selmer Braaten

Auditing

Mr. C. A. Gilmore, Mr. Ole Johnson

Cemetery Caretaker

Mr. Andrew Burlog

Organist - Mrs. J. A. Slatta

Assistant Organist - Mrs. Ben Bertsch Choir Director - Mrs. J. A. Slatta

Ladies Aid

President - Mrs. Reuben Kongsle Vice President - Mrs. Joe Wik
Secretary - Mrs. Julian Simmons Treasurer - Mrs. Henry Holte
Librarian - Mrs. John Green Historian - Mrs. George Jurgenson

Circle Chairmen:

I - Mrs. Reuben Kongsle, II - Mrs. A. G. Kirkeby, III - Mrs. Geo. Jurgenson

Lutheran Brotherhood

President - Mr. Morgan Erickson Vice President - Mr. Oliver Lunde
Secretary - Mr. Julian Simmons Treasurer - Mr. Floyd Kitzman

Luther League

President - Jeanette Jurgenson Vice President - Donald Dixon
Secretary - Carol Kitzman Treasurer - Jerry Slatta
Pocket Testament Secretary - Harriet Burlog

Sunday School

Superintendent - Mr. Henry Holte Secretary - Harriet Burlog
Treasurer - Carol Kitzman

FESTIVAL SERVICE

July 23, 1950

10:30 a. m.

Processional — — Holy, Holy, Holy No. 72 L. H. — — —Choir

Organ and Piano Prelude — Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring — Bach

Opening Prayer — — — — — Rev. R. T. Wanberg

Hymn No. 270 1-2 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Choir — Jesus Calls Me O'er The Tumult — Lorenz

Liturgy

Vocal Solo — — The Lord Is My Light — — Allitsen
Mrs. J. A. Slatta

Gospel

Confession of Faith

Hymn No. 443 1-4-6 O Would My God That I Could Praise Thee

Festival Sermon — Dr. A. J. Bergsaker, General Secretary ELC

Hymn No. 132 1-3-5-7 Built on a Rock the Church Doth Stand

Presentation of Memorial Gifts — — Rev. R. T. Wanberg

Dedication of Memorial Gifts — — Dr. A. J. Bergsaker

Acceptance of Memorial Gifts — — — Mr. A. G. Kirkeby
Secretary of Congregation

Choir — Break Thou The Bread of Life — Sherwin

Collect

Benediction

Hymn No. 52 — O Happy Day When We Shall Stand

Closing Prayer — — — — — Rev. R. T. Wanberg

Announcements

Festival Offertory — Chanson Joyeuse — Broadhead

Postlude — — A Mighty Fortress — — Weiss

Liturgist — — — — Rev. Carlyle Holte

Choir Director and Pianist — Mrs. J. A. Slatta

Accompanist and Organist — Mrs. R. T. Wanberg

HISTORICAL PROGRAM

Sponsored by Ladies Aid

2:30 p. m.

Organ and Piano Prelude	—	In Festive Mood	—	Scarmolin
Organ - Mrs. Chas. Varty		Piano - Mrs. Chas. Gilmore		
Hymn No. 78	—	The Church's One Foundation		
Devotion	—	—	—	Mr. Henry Holte
Ladies Aid Chorus	—	How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings		Cain-Liddle
Welcome	—	—	—	Mrs. Reuben Kongsle, Ladies Aid President
Reading of Greetings to Ladies Aid	—	—	—	Mrs. Reuben Kongsle
Reading of Greetings to Congregation	—	—	—	Rev. R. T. Wanberg
Hymn No. 254	—	How Blessed From The Bonds Of Sin		
History of Ladies Aid	—	Mrs. Julian Simmons, Ladies Aid Secretary		
Presentation of In Memoriam and Life Membership	—	Mrs. Ben Bertsch, Department Chairman		
Vocal Duet	—	—	—	Mr. Henry Holte and Mr. Arnold Kirkeby
History of Congregation	—	—	—	Mr. Arnold Kirkeby, Secretary of Congregation
Gift Presentation	—	—	—	Rev. R. T. Wanberg
Song	—	Living for Jesus	—	Luther League
Reminiscences	—	Mrs. E. A. Stousland, daughter of first pastor		
Hymn No. 135	—	Father of Mercies		
Address	—	—	—	Dr. A. J. Bergsaker
Benediction	—	—	—	Rev. R. T. Wanberg
Organ and Piano Postlude	—	Coronation March	—	Wilson
Organ - Mrs. Chas. Varty		Piano - Mrs. Chas. Gilmore		

CONFIRMAND REUNION SERVICE

8:00 p. m.

Registration of Confirmands at the church after the close of Morning and Afternoon services and at 7:30 p. m.

Processional of Confirmand Classes	—	Processional	—	Baugh
Organ and Piano Prelude	—	The Lord's Prayer	—	Malotte
Confirmation Hymn No. 106 1 and 4	—	O Lord and God, O Bless This Day	—	
Devotion	—		—	Rev. Vernon Holte
Welcome	—		—	Rev. R. T. Wanberg
Vocal Solo	—		—	Rev. Carlyle Holte
Roll Call by Classes				

THEME: "What Has Confirmation Meant To Me"

1900—1917—Roll Call	—	—	—	—	Mrs. Chris Knopfle
Talk	—	—	—	—	Mrs. E. Haas

Confirmand Men's Chorus	—	The Lord Is My Shepherd	—	Koschat
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1919—1929—Roll Call	—	—	—	—	Mrs. A. G. Kirkeby
Talk	—	—	—	—	Mr. Oliver Lunde

Vocal Solo	—	—	—	—	Miss Nordis Wanberg
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1930—1940—Roll Call	—	—	—	—	Mrs. Joe Knudsvig
Talk	—	—	—	—	Mrs. Oscar Brodehl

1940—1950—Roll Call	—	—	—	—	Miss LaVonne Johnson
Talk	—	—	—	—	Miss Mae Private

Confirmand Women's Trio	—	On My Heart Imprint Thy Image	—	Bourgeois-Hegge
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Mrs. Lawrence Halvorson, Harriet Burlog, Mrs. Chas. Varty

Adult Confirmand Classes—Roll Call	—	—	—	—	Mrs. John Becker
Talk	—	—	—	—	Mr. John Becker

Address	—	—	—	—	Rev. Lowell Holte
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Greetings	—	—	—	—	Dr. A. J. Bergsaker
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Hymn No. 425	—	O That The Lord Would Guide My Ways
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Confirmand Group	—	Savior Again To Thy Dear Name - L. H. No. 54
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The Lord's Prayer in Unison

Postlude	—	God Be With You and Benediction	—	Altman
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Organist - Mrs. R. T. Wanberg

Pianist - Mrs. J. A. Slatta

Confirmand Reception and Social Hour—Parish Hall

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