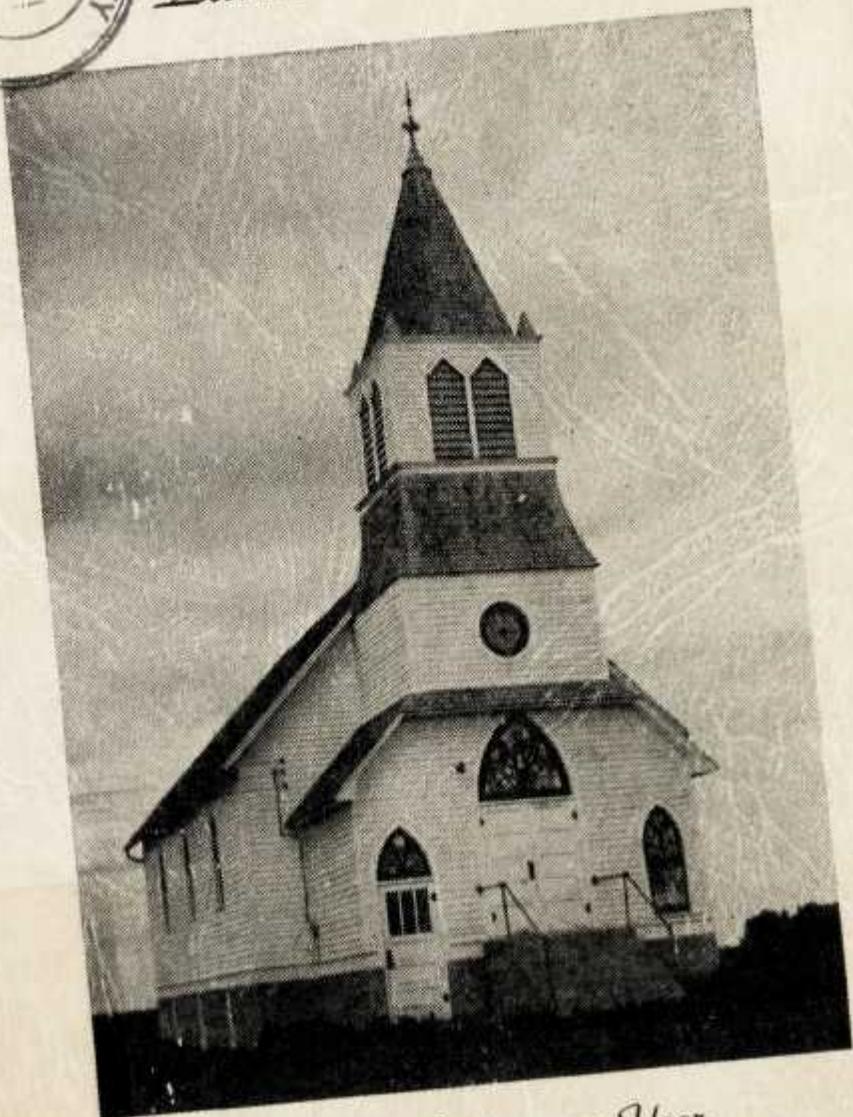


North Prairie - North Prairie - 27th Street - Chicago



North Prairie Lutheran Church



Fiftieth Anniversary Year

1901

1951

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**A Brief History of
The North Prairie Church
Through Fifty Years**



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Nineteen hundred and fifty-one**

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Interior of North Prairie Church — 1949

NORTH PRAIRIE CONGREGATION AND THE GOOD SOIL

Farmers organized the North Prairie Congregation. While they built the Church they proved up their homesteads and planted and harvested their crops. There were very few conveniences, if any, as we know them today. There was little the farmer could do to protect his investment from the destroying forces of nature or the manipulations of unfriendly interests.

Farmers still make up almost 100% of the Congregations membership. There are many more conveniences now. All of the farm homes have electricity and modern facilities. There are powerful means at the disposal of the farmer whereby he can protect his farm and investment from drouth, grasshoppers and other hazards. The farmers have united to protect their God-given heritage from destruction and abuse.

Among the many blessings enjoyed by the members of North Prairie is the good land. As the farmer recognizes God as the true owner of the land and himself as steward, as there is a recognition of this so there is faith and joy and peace.

May 1962
Dakota Centennial Com. G

DEDICATION

To the Kingdom building pioneer of the past, both laymen and Pastors, who by prayer and personal sacrifice planted the Church to the Glory of God. Also to the spirit filled planners of tomorrow who would establish the Church to the end of the world till Christ comes again.



Rev. and Mrs. E. C. Astrup - David, Mariann, Rachel

PREFACE

It is with deep humility that I participate in this fiftieth anniversary of North Prairie Congregation. It is as though I were privileged to sit in those sod shacks on the prairie made holy by prayer and the singing of hymns.

We are deeply indebted to those first pioneers who dared to invest their precious time and their few dollars to erect a Church and organize a Congregation. Theirs was an act of faith. They dreamed of their sons and daughters living on the land beside the Church and of their children's children being reared in the faith of the gospel of Christ Jesus.

We pay them deep tribute when we lift up our hearts in praise to God, when we care for the land as good stewards of the manifold grace of God, and when we rear our children to believe on the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

May the words of this book be held in deep reverence by all, — it is an account of a most sacred enterprise of our God-fearing forebearers.

Rev. E. C. Astrup



Charter Members of Church

L. to R.—Mr. and Mrs. Jens Watne, Mrs. Karen Thrana, Mr. Andrew Loftesnes, Mr. Mons Hystad.

HISTORY OF THE NORTH PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Many of the early pioneers who settled in this area, carried with them very deep religious convictions. They saw to it that the Church was planted where they built their homes. They felt a need for a Church home and a center where they might assemble for the preaching of the Word and the reception of the Sacraments. Their first meeting for the purpose of organization was at the home of Andrew Thrana on February 6, 1901. This first meeting was opened with the singing of hymns and devotions. Rev. H. Hjertaas was elected chairman pro tem and Mr. M. P. Chrislock Secretary pro tem.

At this meeting it was decided to organize a congregation and that it should be called the North Prairie Congregation (Nord Prairie Menighed). Article 2 pgf. 1,2,3, of the Mayville Menghedsordning was adopted.

Officers elected at this meeting were: President, Mr. T. Welo; Vice President, Rev. H. Hjertaas; Secretary, Mrs. Jens Watne. The Deacons were: Ole Hestekind and M. P. Chrislock. A group of three men, Rev. H. Hjertaas, Mr. Andrew Thrana and Mr. Andrew Loftesnes were elected a committee to find a suitable location for the Church building and cemetery.

A committee to organize the Ladies' Aid was also elected. They were Mrs. Karen Austad and Mrs. Jens Watne, both of whom are still with us in the congregation at the time of this writing.

The following were present at this first meeting: Rev. H. Hjertaas, M. P. Chrislock, Mons Hystad, Jens Watne, Andrew Thrana, Mrs. Karen Austad, Mrs. S. Sanderson, and Mrs. H. Hammer and Hans Hjertaas.



First Pastor
Rev. S. C. Simonson

On the 18th day of August of this same year (1901) another meeting was held at the H. Hammer home. Devotions were conducted by Rev. H. Hjertaas, Rev. S. C. Simonson was seated as advisory member in the meeting. The constitution was accepted as presented by the committee, excepting Article 10, pgf. 1 which was altered to read, "The annual meeting shall be held in the latter part of December or the first part of January."

Rev. S. C. Simonson was requested to serve the congregation until arrangements for a regular call could be completed. It was also decided to request the Hauge Mission Board that Rev. Simonson be retained in this territory for a while. Rev. Simonson and Rev. Hjertaas were delegated to communicate this request to the Church officials.

Another meeting was held at the H. Hammer home on the fifth of December. Rev. Simonson led in devotions, following which he was elected chairman pro tem. All non-members present were seated as advisory members at this meeting.

A church building was an important matter under consideration at this time. The majority present expressed the opinion that the Church should not be built then, but that when sufficient funds could be raised, a Church 42 by 26 by 12 should be erected. Miss Louise Skarison, now Mrs. Pete Chrislock, donated 3 acres for Church and cemetery. The Church now stands on this plot of ground. Mr. M. P. Chrislock, Mr. T. Welo and Mr. A. Thrana were elected to serve as building committee.

At a meeting held on May 7th, 1902 the Church was presented to the congregation by the building committee complete and without debt.

The first annual meeting of the North Prairie Congregation was held at the home of M. Skarison on December 28,



Rev. and Mrs. O. L. Ness

Here plans were laid for a complete program of Church activity. After devotions led by Rev. Simonson, the following officers were elected: Pres. Rev. S. C. Simonson; Vice Pres. T. Welo; Secretary, Jens Watne; Trustees: A. Thrana for three years, M. P. Chrislock for two years and Odin Syverson for one year; Deacons: M. P. Chrislock for three years, H. Hjertaas for two years and Jens Watne for one year; School committee: A. Loftesnes, S. Sanderson and H.

Hjertaas. The deacons were requested to conduct devotional services in conjunction with the Sunday School. This is one of the early indications of the Congregations stand on lay activity.

M. P. Chrislock and Jens Watne were elected to meet at Velva on Monday, December 6 with committees from South Prairie, Skotvold and Norwich Congregations for the purpose of establishing a parish.

When the committee for Parish organization met it was so decided to unite as a parish. Rev. S. C. Simonson was called to serve as Parish Pastor. The work of the Church was now established with Rev. S. C. Simonson serving as the first regularly called pastor. The Pastors salary was \$450 of which the Hauges Synod paid \$200. Now with the work established and the Church built and debt free, the North Prairie Congregation was thankful to God.

The original charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Loftesnes, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Chrislock, Mr. and Mrs. Mons Hystad, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sanderson, Andrew Thrana, T. Welo, Mrs. Karen Austad (Mrs. Thrana), Mrs. H. Hammer and Mr. and Mrs. Hans Hjertaas. Of these first members the following are still with us in the Congregation: Mr. A. J. Loftesnes, Mr. and Mrs. Jens Watne, Mrs. Thrana and Mons Hystad.

The following pastors have served the North Prairie congregation during the past 50 years:

Rev. H. Hjertaas	1901
Rev. S. C. Simonson	1901 - 1902
Rev. O. L. Ness	1902 - 1906
Rev. A. H. Trygstad	1906 - 1908
Rev. A. H. Melom	1908 - 1915
Rev. R. A. Hanson	1916 - 1920
Rev. O. L. Ness	1920 - 1930
Rev. K. A. Bodin	1930 - 1936
Rev. C. J. Carlson	1937 - 1938
Rev. O. J. Nesheim	1939 - 1946
Rev. E. C. Astrup	1948 -

Present Pastor

Rev. O. L. Ness, Emeritus, has the distinction of the longest pastorate. It was during his ministry that the Church was dedicated as a house of worship by the President of the Hauges Synod, Rev. C. J. Eastvold. The Synodical Unions of Lutherans of Norwegian descent, which took place in June 1917, of which the Hauges Synod was a part, effected the local congregation. The original parish of which North Prairie congregation was a part was broken up at this time, and the North Prairie congregation became independent. Rev. Ness served the congregation under these conditions until 1930, when it joined a parish made up of Norwich, Rising and Minot.



Mr. Jens Hystad



Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Brekke

Rev. K. A. Bodin and Rev. C. J. Carlson served the independent North Prairie congregation through the dry depression years of the 30's.

During this time a Lutheran congregation had been organized in Granville and Norwich and Rising became a part of the Granville parish.

The North Prairie Congregation, though it refused to give up its independent status, was served as a preaching place by Rev. O. J. Nesheim, Pastor of the Granville Parish. This ministry continued until his death in 1946.



Congregation — Easter, 1950

In May, 1946, the North Prairie congregation officially joined the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, now the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and in 1947 it officially became a part of the Velva Lutheran Parish. The Congregation has been active and fruitful in Kingdom building in its new relationship within the Evangelical Lutheran Church and in the Velva Lutheran Parish.

The work of the congregation has progressed steadily in the spirit of love and cooperation by both young and old alike. Many have been drawn to Christ through the years because of the spiritual emphasis of the work done by this congregation. A strong emphasis has always been placed upon the training of the youth to carry on the Churches work in the next generation. This has proven to be a real blessing within the congregation itself.

The faithful work done by the Ladies Aid, the Young Peoples Society, and the Sunday School and the Mission Band are reported in a separate section of this book.



Present Officers of Congregation

Front Row: L to R—Isak Hystad, Paul Overvold Jr., Olav Overvold, Martin Sather.

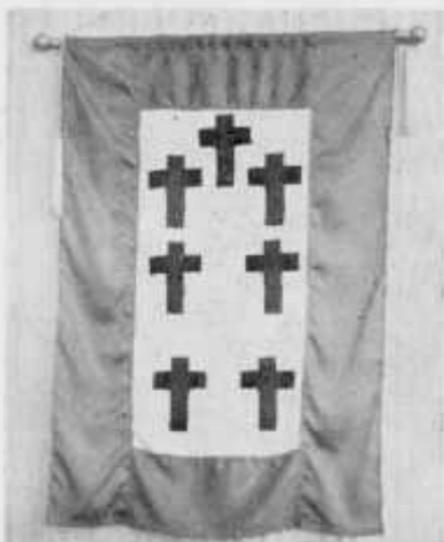
Second Row: L to R—Dorence Olson, Norman Gjellstad, Oscar Watne.

The present officers of the Congregation are: President, Isak Hystad; Secretary, Olav Overvold; Treas., Martin Sather; Deacons, A. J. Loftesnes, Dorence Olson and Paul Overvold Jr. Trustees: Oscar Watne, Norman Gjellstad and Martin Sather. Board of Education: Mrs. Oscar Watne, Mrs. Laurence Linrud and Mrs. Norman Gjellstad. John Austad has served faithfully as caretaker of the Church and property since the death of his stepfather who served in the capacity since the Congregation was organized.



Organist and Pianist
Mrs. Isak Hystad and Mrs.
Ole Harness

OUR Christian Service Flag



The Christian Service flag of the Congregation bears seven crosses.



Rev. and Mrs. O. L. Ness

The first cross is for Rev. O. L. Ness, who is now retired from the active ministry and lives near the Church. He is one of the congregation and has served it as a regularly called pastor at two separate times, from 1902 to 1906 and from 1920 to 1930. In his quiet unassuming way he has never ceased to labor in prayer for the congregation, and has been a source of great joy to the present pastor. He is a real son and servant of the congregation and is so here recognized.

The second cross is for Mrs. Olive Hanson, nee Olive Brekke, who is a daughter of the congregation and a wife of the pastor who served the North Prairie Congregation from 1916 to 1920. Since her husband passed away she has been a servant of the Lord in institutional work. She now serves Bethel Home for the Aged in Everett, Washington.



Rev. and Mrs. R. A. Hanson
and Ruth



Rev. and Mrs. Roy Malde
Mark, Carolyn, Mary

The third cross is for Mrs. Roy Malde, nee Selma Overvold, who is the wife of former missionary, Rev. Roy Malde. She was baptized and confirmed at North Prairie Church and was with her husband in the mission fields of Columbia, South America, through trying days of bitter Roman Catholic persecution. Rev. Roy Malde was ordained into the holy Ministry in The North Prairie Congregation on June 15, 1943. He is now Pastor at Souris, North Dakota.



Rev. and Mrs. John Watne
Janet, Joel, Sylvia

The Fourth and Fifth Crosses are for Rev. and Mrs. John Watne. They were both members of the Church by Transfer. Their mission work in Sudan, French Cameroun, West Africa, has been a prayer burden for many in the congregation. They are recognized and accepted as in the service of the Lord from this congregation.



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Overvold
and Judith



Commissioning Service for
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Overvold

The sixth and seventh crosses are for Mr. and Mrs. Alex Overvold, agricultural missionaries to Zululand, South Africa. Mr. Overvold was baptized and confirmed in the North Prairie Church. He prepared for His missionary work at the North Dakota Agricultural College and at the Lutheran Bible Institute of Minneapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Overvold were commissioned into this great work at a special commissioning service held in the North Prairie Church on September 11, 1949. Mrs. Overvold was born on the Madagascar Mission Field. She holds membership in the North Prairie Congregation. Her father, Rev. David Lovaas, assisted in the Commissioning service.



Rev. and Mrs. Carl Overvold
and family

The eighth cross will be for Rev. Carl Overvold, both baptized and confirmed in the North Prairie congregation. He was ordained into the Holy Ministry of the Lutheran Free Church at Seattle, Washington, on June 17th, 1951. He is married to Marie Johnson of Racine, Wisconsin, and they have three children, Mark, Peter and Paul.

Miss Ruth Overvold has declared her intentions to go into full time ministry. We await the day when a cross can be placed upon the flag for her.

May this flag soon be replaced by one much larger to hold many more crosses.



Mrs. M. Skarison and
granddaughter



Mrs. Jens Watne and Mrs. Karen
Thrana—1950

Organization Committee of the
North Prairie Ladies Aid

HISTORY OF NORTH PRAIRIE LADIES AID SOCIETY

The history of the Ladies Aid runs parallel to that of the Congregation. Over a period of 50 years its activities have been many and varied.

On February 6, 1901 at a meeting at the Andrew Thrana home, Mrs. Jens Watne and Mrs. Karen Austad Thrana were appointed to organize a Ladies Aid Society. In due time, in the month of June, 1901, the Aid Society was organized at the Rev. Hjertaas homestead shack. Mrs. M. Skarison was elected first president. She served in this capacity for many years. Others who have served as Presidents are: Mrs. Andrew Thrana, Mrs. H. O. Brekke, Mrs. Ole Sather, Sr., Mrs. Karl Grindberg, Mrs. Mons Hystad, Mrs. Ole Erickson, Mrs. Jens Hystad, Mrs. Lars Wold, Mrs. Paul Overvold, Mrs. Ole Harness, Jr., Mrs. Conrad Grindberg, Mrs. Isak Hystad, Mrs. Chauncey Spilde, Mrs. Sam Brekke, Miss Agnes Overvold, Mrs. Olav Overvold, and Mrs. Oscar Watne.

Some of the Secretary and Treasurer combinations were: Mrs. H. Hammer, Mrs. H. O. Brekke, Mrs. John Austad, Mrs. Jens Watne, Olive Brekke and Mrs. Jens Hystad.

Meetings were held when convenient in the pioneer homes, many of which contained only one room. They enjoyed gathering for devotional programs and spent several hours at needlework which the president brought and distributed. Lunch cost each member ten cents each meeting whether they attended or not, but this was later abandoned in favor of free will giving.



Group of Old Faithful Ladies Aid Members

Bottom Row: L to R—Mrs. Paul Overvold, Mrs. Jens Hystad,
Mrs. Herman Munson, Mrs. Olai Lindrud.

Top Row: L to R—Mrs. H. O. Brekke, Mrs. Karen Thrana, Mrs.
Barbara Hage, Mrs. Andrew Loftesnes, Mrs.
Jens Watne.

The earliest members of the aid included mesdames M. Skarison, K. Grindberg, S. Sanderson, O. Norberg, Springer, Baisner, M. Chrislock, H. O. Brekke, H. Hjertaas, A. Thrana, Mons Hystad, H. Hammer, M. Austad, Jens Watne, Ole Erickson, A. J. Loftesness and Thom Hystad.

In the year 1906 the Ladies Aid served an oyster dinner and had a fancy work sale which brought them \$143. As there was no basement in the Church the serving for many years, took place in the Church proper. Many Thanksgiving dinners have been served in the Church and at the Hall in Simcoe.

The Ladies Aid received a large sum of money from the Odin Syverson estate in 1928. This was used to construct the basement of the Church where many of our meetings have been held in recent years.

The Aid has contributed generously to the funds of the Congregation and it has sent gifts to various missions and charitable institutions. It has for several years paid a teacher to conduct a summer term of parochial school.

In 1948 the Aid became members of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Since this time the Aid has used the suggested program materials and Bible Studies of that organization.

God has richly blessed our efforts. To Him be the praise and the thanks. Let us not neglect to pray for His continued guidance and blessings that our organization may prosper, not only in material things, but also spiritually. It desires to be God's agency for good within the congregation and in the homes and in the community, that His name may be glorified and that His Kingdom may come.



Present Officers of Ladies Aid

L. to R.—Mrs. Norman Gjellstad, Treas.; Mrs. Lawrence Linrud, Sec'y.; Mrs. Oscar Watne, President.



Mrs. Harry Fry
Ladies Aid Pianist



Mrs. Vernon Shipman
Vice-Pres.



Board of Education

L to R—Mrs. Norman Gjellstad, Mrs. Lawrence Linrud, Mrs. Oscar Watne.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AT NORTH PRAIRIE

When the pioneers were settling on the prairies, they also saw the need for Christian training of their children.

As early as the summer of 1901, a Bible School was held just north of the Andrew Thrana home. Adelaide Hjertaas was the teacher. On December 28, 1901, the members of the newly organized congregation decided to start a Sunday School. A Committee of three was chosen to act as School Committee. They were: A. J. Loftesnes, Hans Hjertaas and Sam Sanderson. It was decided to put the Summer Bible School (Religionskole) on a permanent basis.

Karl Grindberg was one of the faithful superintendants of the Sunday School, who, in recognition for his services received a watch. The first year the Sunday School met in the homes. After the Church was built it gradually became the place for these Sunday School classes. Each pupil received Sunday School Papers as early as 1905.

In those early days they had from four to twelve weeks of Summer Bible School. Some of the children had to walk several miles and others came on horseback. Prominent then as now in their curriculum was Luthers Small Catechism. The school term usually closed with a picnic (Skolefest).

It is interesting to note those who have been teachers down through these fifty years. They are: Adelaide Hjertaas, Albert Aune, John Carlson, Simon Sorenson, Torkel Torkelson, Bernhardine Johnson (Mrs. Iver Lunder), Olav Austad, Elsie Berg, M. C. Vaagenes, Henry Johnson, Olive Brekke Hanson, Emma Randgaard, Jonas Jonason, Anna Austad,

Kristine Strand, Inez Grindberg, Alta Oien, Olav, Ruth, Pauline Overvold, Jean Fry, Dorothy Hystad, Jean Wang, Ingeborg Meon and Lois Hammer.



Summer Bible School—1913, Henry Johnson, teacher

There was a period, prior to 1931 when there was no Sunday School for sixteen years. Then Mrs. Herman Munson organized a new Sunday School which met every Sunday in her home, since that was more centrally located than the Church for most of the children. In 1938 the Sunday School was moved to the Church where it has continued ever since.



Summer Bible School—1918, Olive Brekke, teacher

Since 1948 and 1949 the Sunday Schools of North Prairie and Stenkjaer congregations have joined forces. Summer Bible School has been a cooperative venture since the summer of 1949. Both congregations have contributed generously to the teaching staff, supervision and support of this cooperative venture. This fellowship together has been a blessing for the children as well as to the general membership of both congregations.



Luther League Officers

L to R—Carl Loftesnes, Treas.; Avis Olson, Secy.; Jo Ann Brekke, Pres.; Lillian Spilde, Pianist and Vice Pres.

YOUTH WORK

The Young Peoples Society of the North Prairie Congregation was first organized on July 24, 1910. It was called the Aurora Young Peoples Society. Its purpose was to provide for the spiritual up building of the members of the Church. Aurora, according to the dictionary means, "The rising light of the Morning, (The Dawn) or Dayspring." It was with this spirit in view of the message of the gospel, that the Society placed strong stress on the program of missions.

The charter members of this society were: Sanna Grindberg, Anna Hjertaas, Olive Brekke, Martha Austad, Cora Stenhjem, Ole Grindberg, Charlie Grindberg, Daniel Brekke, Olav Austad, Bernhardine Johnson, Rev. A. H. Melom, Martin and Anton Hjertaas.

Pastor Melom was the first president. At first the meetings were held in the Church and then for 15 years in the homes and now for the last 15 years meetings have been held in the Church.

The Young Peoples Society or the Luther League as it is called today is really a family league. Both parents and young people attend and participate in the program.

In 1935 the twenty fifth anniversary program was held at the Thom Hystad farm. Pastor Melom was the speaker for the occasion. Olive Brekke read the history and the choir members and former members of the choir sang two selections, "Den Hemmelske Lovsang" and "God Be With You Till We Meet Again".

During the pastorate of Rev. O. L. Ness from 1920 to 1930 the Young Peoples Society could boast a large choir and a string band. In 1927 they gave a concert in the Simcoe Hall and in the Churches at Bergen and Balfour.

The Christmas Program (Jule Tre Fest) has been one of the steady jobs of the Young Peoples Society. They seem to be filled with new zeal each year for the decoration of the tree and packing candy and nuts for the children.

In recent years, especially since the North Prairie Lutheran Church became a member of the Velva Parish, the Luther Leaguers attending High School in Velva have participated actively in the Parish Luther League, centering its activities in the Oak Valley Lutheran Church of Velva. This organization is for High School students only and for the entire parish. It has cooperated in the Youth in Action program of the Church at large and served faithfully as an arm of the congregations of the Parish. Cooperating with the emphasis and program of the Luther League movement. A good delegation from the North Prairie attended both the Saskatoon and Seattle International Luther League Conventions.

It is interesting to note that running through all of the minutes down through the years is Scripture Reading and Prayer (Skrift Læsning og Bøn) so the Faith has been kept. God has richly blessed. May there be a continuence of these things as long as there is a NorthPrairie Young Peoples Society. Then will the blessings of the future be even greater than those of the past.



27257



String Band at Lake Metigoshe, 1937

THE MISSION BAND GROUP

Mrs. Herman Munson and several other members of the congregation saw a need for a mission organization among the children and young people of the Church.

A meeting to discuss this matter was held at the Herman Munson home. Two weeks later, November 2, 1935, the organizational meeting of the Mission Band was held at the Paul Overvold home. Theresa Gran, Ellen Hystad, Selma, Clara, Ruth and Pauline Overvold, Ethel Linrud, Wanda Nelson and Alta Oien joined the organization at this time.

The officers elected were: President - Theresa Gran, Vice President - Clara Overvold, Secretary - Ellen Hystad, Treasurer - Ruth Overvold.

The Mission Band held meetings every other week during the first years. The minutes disclose that a baby quilt for the House of Mercy had been completed and a candy and popcorn sale had been held during the first month of the organization.

The projects of the Mission Band have been many and far spread. The presenting of the Alter and Baptismal Font to the Congregation gave them the joy of sharing with the other members of the Church.

Other projects of the Mission Band have been the sponsoring of missionaries for Mission Day, writing Christmas letters to missionaries, Easter morning services, box work, and the "Adoption" of Burl Mosquito from Igloo, Alaska.



Mission Band Parade at Velva, July 4, 1939

The string band was organized by Mrs. Ole Harness. They were soon invited to give programs outside the Parish. They went to Minot, Rising, Norwich, Hartland, Granville, Velva, Benedict, Voltaire, Butte, Harvey and the County Home to present programs. For several years they went as a group to the Lake Metigoshe Bible Camp.

In the Lutheran Herald of February 7, 1939, an article about the Mission Band and the String band appeared under the title, "And Ye shall Be My Witnesses."

This organization has undergone some changes as the group of young people changed, and their number varied. At the present time it is known as the Torchbearers, an L. C. R. group, which meets regularly for devotional programs with a strong emphasis on Missions and games and handwork.



Torch Bearers

Sharon Olson, Sylvia Brekke, Marie Ann Gjellstad, Marion Sullivan

The present officers are: Marion Sullivan, President, Marie Anne Gjellstad, Vice President, Sharon Olson, Secretary, and Sylvia Brekke, Treasurer.



Present Torch Bearers

IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

The North Prairie Congregation has served the country through two world wars and is making its contribution under God in the present emergency and state of war.

In honor of the boys of the parish serving in the present conflict, there is a service honor roll in the Velva Church, listing the names of all of the boys serving in the armed forces of our country. Those whose names appear there who are from North Prairie are:

Pvt. Marvin Shipman

—

Sgt. Charles Hystad



A frame including the names and pictures of those who served in World War II appears in the North Prairie Church. They are:

George Hystad

Lorentz Hystad

Elvin Hystad

Lawrence Lindrud

Arthur Lindrud

Lawrence Wold

Amos Pretzer

Carl Overvold

Alex Overvold

Thorman Hage

Clarence Sanderson

The Church makes its contribution to the true welfare of our land, first of all by being true to the gospel of Jesus Christ in its influence and its preaching and teaching, and in the second place by providing her armies with Christian manhood.

PARISH PARTICIPATION
of the North Prairie Congregation

The North Prairie Congregation has been liberal in its support of the total parish program. Besides the support of the pastor and parish worker, the men are active in the Parish Brotherhood and the young people participate actively in the Velva Parish Luther League. The latest parish-wide project is that of the Ladies Chorus made up of Ladies of all the congregations. In these three organizations, the members of the North Prairie Congregation have taken a very active part.

Since September, 1949, the congregation has contributed to the support of a parish worker located in Velva. Serving as parish workers have been:

Miss Jean Wang 1949 — 1951

Miss Clarice Ulberg 1951 —

NORTH PRAIRIE CONGREGATION STATISTICALLY

1901.....	1951
In these fifty years:	
Baptisms	206
Confirmations	153
Marriages	33
Funerals	50
Present membership-Baptized	65
Communicant	56

(These are according to the record books which are not complete in every instance.)

PRESENT ACTIVE MEMBERS
of the North Prairie Lutheran Church

Mrs. Dale Anderson; Mr. John Austad; Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Brekke; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Brekke and children: Clayton, Joanne, Severin, Duane, Sylvia, David, Nell Marie; Mrs. Harry Fry; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gjellstad and children: Harvey, Marie Anne, Markell, Crystal, Clifford; Mrs. Barbara Hage; Mr. and Mrs. Ole Harness and daughter Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hystad and children: Dorothy, Eunice, Edna; Mr. and Mrs. Isak Hystad and daughter Iona; Mr. and Mrs. Jens Hystad; Mr. Lorentz Hystad; Mr. Mons Hystad; Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Hystad and children: Mr. Merle Hystad, Mr. Charles Hystad, Mr. Glenn Hystad; Mrs. Martin Lee; Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Lindrud and children: Larry Roy, Lyle Orlin.

Mr. Olai Lindrud; Mr. Andrew Loftesnes; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Loftesnes and children: Corinne, Carl, Robert, Everett, Howard, Richard; Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Loftesnes and son Andrew; Rev. and Mrs. O. L. Ness; Miss Beda Ness; Mr. Rudolph Ness; Miss Alta Oien; Mr. and Mrs. Dorene Olson and children: Avis, Sharon; Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Overvold and children: Judith, David; Rev. Carl Overvold and children: Mark, Peter, Paul; Mr. and Mrs. Olav Overvold and children: Verdell Hage, Helen Hage, Phil, Solveig; Mr. Paul Overvold Jr.; Miss Agnes Overvold; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Overvold Sr.; Miss Clara Marie Overvold; Miss Ruth A. Overvold; Mr. and Mrs. Martin Sather and children: Marlin, Alan.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Sather Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Shipman and children: Wayne, Marvin, Beverly, Jeanette. Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Spilde and children: Lillian, Warren, Larry; Mrs. H. L. Spilde; Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Stenberg; Mrs. Archie Sullivan and children: Marion, Jerry, Richard; Mrs. Karen Thrana; Mr. Albert Thrana; Mr. and Mrs. Jens Watne; Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Watne and son Gene; Mrs. George Wilson.

(Others not here named may technically be members of the congregation, but are not actively connected with the Church at the present time.)

THE PAST STILL LIVES

Some memories gathered from those who lived through the years covered by the History of the North Prairie Congregation.

The time is not quite definite, but along about 1901 or 02, Miss Adelaide Hjertaas taught summer Bible school at the M. Skarison home.

One of the Sanderson boys became ill, and there being no horse or buggy to be had, she took the only thing at hand, a wheelbarrow. She put the boy in it and proceeded to wheel him home, a distance of about three miles.

One day years ago, the Ladies Aid met at the Skarison home. As each lady arrived for the meeting, Mrs. Skarison would meet them at the door and ask them if they had seen her boiler rolling around the prairie. One of our North Dakota winds had taken it.

The summer of 1916, while going to Parochial School, the Grindberg, Norberg and Sather children often would wait along the road for Paul Overvold. Paul always picked them up and took them to school in his brand new Model T. Lina says, "That was a real treat in those days." In showing their appreciation, they would pick the rocks out of the road so he wouldn't blow any tires.

1918 — Olive Brekke, teacher. One day at noon she said, "This is a Norwegian school, you should talk Norwegian at play as well as work," but Isak spoke up and said, "We can't understand each other then." Too many dialects.

FESTIVAL SERVICE

Sunday, August 26, 1951 - 10:30 A. M.

Prelude, Organ & Piano...Mrs. Isak Hystad, Mrs. Ole Harness

Processional — Hymn 72, Holy, Holy, Holy.

1
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall
rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2
Holy, holy, holy, all the saints adore
Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down
before Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore
shalt be.

3
Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness
hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy
glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none be-
side Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

4
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy
name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Opening Prayer.....Rev. E. C. Astrup

Choir

Confession of Sins

Kyrie - *O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us.

*O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy
upon us.

*O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy
upon us.

Absolution

The Gloria - *And on earth peace, good will toward men.

The Collect - *And with thy spirit.....*Amen.

The Epistle

Hymn 137

God's word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours for ever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor;
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay;
Lord grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure,
Thoroughout all generations.

*These portions are for congregational response

The Gospel - *God be praised for His glad tidings.

The Confession of Faith *Amen

Quartet

Festival Sermon.....Dr. David Stoeve

Hymn 132

1
Built on the Rock the Church doth stand,
Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in every land,
Bells still are chiming and calling;
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.

3
We are God's house of living stones,
Bullded for His habitation;
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation;
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell,
With all His grace and His favor.

5
Still we our earthly temples rear,
That we may herald His praises;
They are the homes where He draws near
And little children embraces;
Beautiful things in them are said,
God there with us His cov'nant made,
Making us heirs of His kingdom.

7
Grant then, O God, wher'er men roam,
That when the church bells are ringing,
Many in Jesus' faith may come
Where He His message is bringing:
I know mine own, mine own know me,
Ye, not the world, my face shall see:
My peace I leave with you, Amen.

Announcements & Festival Acts

Choir

Collect *And with thy spirit.....*Amen

Benediction *Amen

Hymn 52

1
O happy day when we shall stand
Amid the heavenly throng,
And sing with hosts from every land
||: The new celestial song :||

2
O blessed day! From far and near
The servants of the Lord
Shall meet the ransomed millions there
||: Who heard God's saving word. :||

3
O what a mighty, rushing flood
Of love without surcease,
Shall roll about the throne of God
||: In joy and endless peace! :||

4
God, may Thy bounteous grace inspire
Our hearts so that we may
All join the heavenly, whiterobed
choir
||: Upon that glorious day. :||

Closing Prayer.....Rev. E. C. Astrup

Recessional, Piano & Organ.

*These portions are for congregational response

Liturgist.....Rev. Roy Malde

HISTORICAL PROGRAM

Sponsored by Ladies Aid - 2:30 P. M.

Prelude, Organ & Piano.....Mrs. Isak Hystad, Mrs. Ole Harness
Hymn 78 - The Churches One Foundation

1
The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word;
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

2
Eleet from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Devotions.....Mrs. Oscar Watne
Musical Selection.....North Prairie String Band
Reading of Greetings.....Mrs. Vernon Shipman
Hymn 254 - How Blessed from the Bonds of Sin

1
How blessed from the bonds of sin
And earthly fetters free,
In singleness of heart and aim
Thy servant, Lord, to be!
The hardest toil to undertake
With joy at Thy command,
The meanest office to receive
With meekness at Thy hand!

2
With willing heart and longing eyes
To watch before Thy gate,
Ready to run the weary race,
To bear the heavy weight;
No voice of thunder to expect,
But follow calm and still,
For love can easily divine
The One Beloved's will.

History of the Ladies Aid.....Mrs. Lawrence Linrud
Presentation of In Memorium and Life Membership.....Alta Oien
Musical Selection.....North Prairie Ladies Aid Chorus
History of Congregation.....Isak Hystad
Choir - Reunion Group
Reminiscences.....Rev. O. L. Ness
Hymn 492 - Behold a Host Arrayed in White

1
Behold a host arrayed in white,
Like thousand snow-clad mountains
bright,
With palms they stand—who are this
band
Before the throne of Light?
Lo, these are they, of glorious fame,
Who from the great affliction came
And in the flood of Jesus' blood
Are cleansed from guilt and blame;
Now gathered in the holy place
Their voices they in worship raise,
Their anthems swell where God doth
dwell,
'Mid angels' songs of praise.

2
Despised and scorned they sojourned
here,
But now, how glorious they appear!
Those martyrs stand, a priestly band,
God's throne forever near.
So oft, in troubled days gone by,
In anguish they would weep and sigh:
At home above the God of love
For aye their tears shall dry.
They now enjoy their Sabbath rest,
The paschal banquet of the blest;
The Lamb, their Lord, at festal board
Himself is host and guest.

Address.....Dr. David Stoeve
Vocal Duet.....Mrs. Clifford Skarstad, Mr. Einar Sather
Benediction.....Rev. E. C. Astrup

CONFIRMATION REUNION SERVICE

8:00 P. M.

Prelude, Organ & Piano.....Mrs. Isak Hystad, Mrs. Ole Harness
Confirmation Hymn 106 - O Lord and God, O Bless This Day.

Our Lord and God, O bless this day,
And hear us, we implore Thee:
None of our dear ones turn away
Who now are here before Thee.
We come before Thy face
And pray: Let Thy rich grace
Descend from heaven above
In all Thy mighty love,
And keep us by Thy Spirit!

O bless Thy word to all the young,
Let each, Thy truth possessing,
Bear witness true with heart and
tongue,
Thy faith and ours confessing:
From mother's arms Thy grace
With love did them embrace;
Baptized into Thy name
As Thine Thou didst them claim,
O Lord, as Thine now own them!

3
When they their vows today renew,
Accept them with Thy favor;
And when they speak the great "I do,"
May they forget it never!
But they are weak and frail,
When Satan's hosts assail;
O arm them with Thy might,
And grant that in the fight
They unto death be faithful.

4
And when they leave their childhood
home,
And Satan would undo them,
May their baptismal grace become
A shield and buckler to them!
Bless he who then can say:
God's covenant stands for aye;
He ne'er shall be undone
Who trusts in God alone—
God is his mighty Father!

Devotions.....Miss Joanne Brekke
Welcome.....Rev. E. C. Astrup
Vocal Solo.....Miss Lillian Spilde
Reading of the names of all the former confirmands who have
registered during the day.....Olav Overvold
Talk on the Privilege of Church Membership. Mr. Isak Hystad
Vocal Duet.....Ruth and Clara Overvold
Address.....Rev. Carl Overvold

(Pastor at Mason, Wisconsin, Lutheran Free Church)

Hymn 425 - O That The Lord Would Guide My Ways

1
O that the Lord would guide my ways,
To keep His statutes still!
O that my God would grant me grace,
To know and do His will!

2
Order my footsteps by Thy word,
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

3
Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wandering sheep.

4
Make me to walk in Thy commands;
'Tis a delightful road:
Nor let my head, or heart, or hands,
Offend against my God.

Greetings.....Dr. David Stoeve
Duet.....Carl and Robert Loftesnes
Benediction.....Rev. E. C. Astrup
Closing Prayer and Lord's Prayer
Hymn 81 - Christ Alone Is Our Salvation

1
Christ alone is our salvation,
Christ the rock on which we stand;
Other than this sure foundation
Will be found but stinking sand.
Christ, His cross and resurrection,
Is alone the sinner's plea;
At the throne of God's perfection
Nothing else can set him free.

2
We have all things, Christ possessing:
Life eternal, second birth;
Present pardon, peace, and blessing,
While we tarry here on earth;
And by faith's anticipation,
Foretaste of the joy above,
Freely given us with salvation,
By the Father in His love.

North Dakota State Library
604 E. Boulevard Avenue
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 6, 1901 - The meeting at which the North Prairie Lutheran Church was organized.
- June, 1901 - Ladies Aid Society organized.
- December 28, 1901 - Sunday School organized.
- May 7, 1902 - The Church building was presented to the congregation by the building committee complete and without debt.
- December 6, 1902 - North Prairie congregation united with South Prairie, Skotvold and Norwich to form a parish.
- July 24, 1910 - Young Peoples Society organized.
- 1917 - North Prairie Lutheran Church became an independent congregation without synodical affiliation.
- 1930 - Church basement and steeple added to present Church structure.
- November 2, 1935 - Organization of the Mission Band.
- June 15, 1943 - Ordination of Rev. Roy Malde into the Holy Ministry.
- May, 1946 - The North Prairie Lutheran congregation joined the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.
- September 11, 1949 - Mr. and Mrs. Alex Overvold, Agricultural Missionaries to Zululand, South Africa, commissioned.
- June 17, 1951 - Rev. Carl Overvold ordained into the Holy Ministry at Seattle, Washington. (At the convention of the Lutheran Free Church).

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