

1907

1957

Fiftieth Anniversary Service

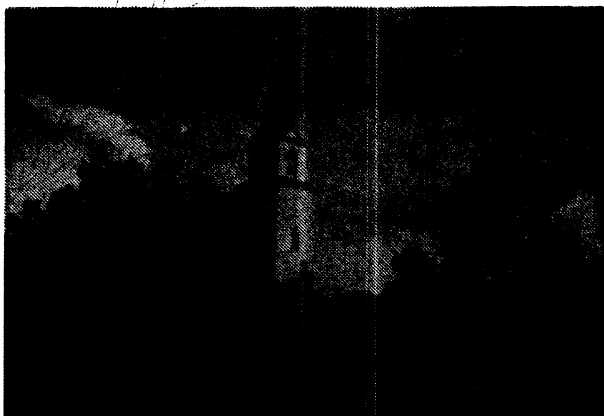
Bethel Lutheran Church

Elbow - Sask.

JULY 3rd 1957

Pastor
Alfred Sandness

Organist - Mrs. M. Langeger
Pianst - Mrs. J. Wankel



"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever".

Heb. 13:8

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Chairman Pastor F. T. Dahle

10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Opening Hymn "The Church's One Foundation"

Welcome Gordon Joel

Reading History

Music—Vocal Duet— Pastors L. Sogge and G. Hope

Greetings Pastor I. Hustvedt

Music—Vocal Duet— Pastor and Mrs. R. Snipstead

Anniversary Message Dr. Kristofer Hagen

Music—Solo— Edwin Joel

Greetings Pastor L. Sogge

Music—Solo— Mrs. E. Tysdal

Greetings Pastor G. Hope

Closing Hymn "Lord, Bestow On Us Thy Blessing"

Noon Luncheon

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Fellowship Hour

Chairman Miss Mildred Joel

3:30 p.m.

Join Skudesness Congregation at Bible Camp site
for evening lunch and service.

HISTORY

More than fifty golden years have passed down the avenue of time since the first Scandinavian Lutheran Church services were held in Elbow and vicinity, known at that time as River View, Saskatchewan.

These services were begun by Rev. I. Hustvedt in August, 1904, at the request of Miss Anna Martinson who, with her family, settled in this part of the West in the year 1903.

Rev. Hustvedt, who was sent out by the Lutheran Free Church of America to conduct Christian teachings in a new country, resided at Hanley, Sask. But his field of labor widened to encircle a large area which he traversed by horse and buggy via meandering trails over the vast prairie to follow. He continued his work until in the year 1906 when he returned to the States after accepting a call from there. For a time there was no worker or minister in the district.

In April of the year 1907, Rev. W. M. Hagen also sent by the L.F.C. came to Canada and took up residence at Craik, Sask. Towards the fall of the same year he moved to Elbow.

Meanwhile the little group boasting Norse ancestry had grown to about a dozen strong. Sod houses were more the rule than the exception and in one of these Rev. and Mrs. Hagen made their home. Meetings were held in these homes and in the new River View school house. With the passing of time attempts were made to organize the present Bethel Church but the organization did not become official until the 15th of February, 1908.

This historic and momentous meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nils Bunes. Rev. Hagen was elected to the office of president and Martin Nelson as secretary.

Thus in a little homesteader's shack so many years ago, the constitution of the Bethel Lutheran Church was carefully written down in the Norwegian language. There the first stones were built into a spiritual temple and like a candle

burning bright, faith in God glimmered in the hearts of those early pioneers whose faces were steadfastly set toward a beckoning future.

It was a time of crude beginnings, holding but little promise of the greatness of later years. In the year 1912 the Lutheran Church was built in Elbow. The years have wrought many changes but the little white church set on a village corner lot is still the heart of the thriving Lutheran Congregation.

Today the confirmed members of the church number some over 70 souls. Societies actively engaged in the work of the church are the Bethel Ladies' Aid, the Bethel Mission Circle, the Luther League, Sunday School and Mission Band.

List of Pastors who have served the Congregation:

- Rev. I. Hustvedt
- Rev. W. M. Hagen
- Rev. H. G. Storebo
- Rev. I. O. Reitan
- Rev. H. S. Quambeck
- Rev. K. Gjestfjeld
- Rev. P. Overlid
- Rev. S. Rue
- Rev. C. I. Ostby
- Rev. J. Loken
- Rev. F. T. Dahle