

*Skudesnes
Evangelical Lutheran
Church*

Loreburn, Sask.

*75th Anniversary
1906 - 1981*



The History of the Church

"The Chapel by the Road"

"There's a little Country Church by the road-side,
And its steeple rises upward to the sky;
O, it almost seems to say to the ones who walk this way,
"Come to Jesus! O, ye weary passer-by!"

Many saints have left this dear familiar Chapel,
And have gone to Worship with the angels fair;
What a day of days for me when my Saviour I shall see,
And I'll worship with His children over there!

How I love this little Church by the road-side,
For within it's humble walls I learned to pray;
I accepted Jesus at its tear-stained altar,
Now His presence lingers with me day by day."

—Dolores Henderson Nash

The History of the Skudesnes Evangelical Lutheran Congregation — 1906-1981

Once again, through God's Grace, Skudesnes has occasion to celebrate. This year the congregation has reached its 75th birthday anniversary — a significant milestone in the passage of time.

As we celebrate these anniversaries we become keenly aware of the years speeding by. Too, they provide an occasion where we can look back and cherish the good things of those years; and, perhaps, overlooking or minimizing the not-so-good occasions.

There have been many significant changes: in the world, in our own lives, and at Skudesnes — only God's Word remains constant.

This Anniversary celebration provides an opportunity to again pay tribute to the men and women who began and nurtured Skudesnes in its infancy.

These early pioneers came with little in material possessions, but rich in their strong Lutheran faith, long-rooted in the land of their birth, and faith in God and His Holy Word. They came too, with faith in this new frontier and in themselves, putting their trust in God, and believing they would flourish in their adopted land.

It was through their efforts, prayers, and sacrifices that Skudesnes congregation was born, so that today, we can celebrate and enjoy our rich heritage — a heritage we covet even more with new cults and false doctrines rapidly increasing in the world today.

The early pastors, too, were true pioneers, who ministered to the spiritual needs of his people through all kinds of weather, and travelling (by whatever available means) great distances.

Rev. Ingvald Hustvedt, ordained in 1904, in the Free Church, was the first pastor to serve Skudesnes. He made his home in Hanley, and travelled from there to preaching places as far west as the Broderick district, south to Elbow, and east beyond Craik. His first visit to the Skudesnes area was in 1904. He preached his first sermon at the home of Odin Jacobson in the summer of 1905. This was the beginning of many services to follow. (Pastor Rasmus Wareberg, of the United Lutheran Church, who was the pastor at Hanley in 1905-1907, travelled and preached at these Lutheran settlements as well. He held services in the homes in the Bethlehem area, and both

Strongfield and Elbow had a "preaching point" in 1905 and 1906. Rev. Wareberg preached at both places and they were affiliated with the United Lutheran Church. It appears that with the arrival of Pastor W. M. Hagen, these three seem to have been dissolved by him and the affiliation with the Lutheran Free Church begun or continued.)

The first couple to be married by Pastor Hustvedt was that of Bernhart Berg and Tolline Sather at Olaf Berg's home.

With the arrival of many new settlers in 1906, there was a need for a larger place to meet for worship than what the sod houses and shacks could provide. Besides, there were no shady groves where they could escape the summer sun. The men decided to build a large bower beside Olaf Berg's house. Green trees and branches were brought 15 miles from the banks of the Saskatchewan River. Here, the future congregation held its first official meeting on August 1, 1906, and services were held regularly all summer in this shady shelter.

The first members were: Jacob Haugen (deceased), Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Akre (deceased), Olaf Syhre, Lydia Syhre (Halvorson), Mr. and Mrs. Nils E. Aadland and children: Tillie (Mostad), Clara (Olson), Laura (Beck), Elmer, Christine (Helde), Jacob and Bennie; all are alive today except Elmer and his parents.

Others who joined later in 1906 were: Mandius and Brita Olson; Ole and Iver Olson; Christiana and Jacob Olson; Adolph Olson; Mons Langager; Ole Aadland; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Aadland; Louis Aadland; Nils B. Aadland; Lars L. Akre. More joined in February, 1907: Ludvig Akre; Osmund Aadland; Bernhard Meier; Olava Meier; Agda Meyer; Olaf Meyer; Peter Jacobson; Christine Jacobson; Kristian Jacobson; Gudrun Jacobson; Signe Jacobson; Adel, Otto and Arne Jacobson; Adolph Clarence Aadland; Minnie Aadland; Clifford Olson; Ole Kaldor; Ragna and Christine Kaldor.

At the first official meeting of the congregation, August 1, 1906, Myrtle Christine Aadland was baptized by Pastor Hustvedt. Here too, the first confirmation was held — that of Hagbert Syhre.

On December 4, 1906, a committee was appointed — Jacob Haugen, O. M. Akre and Mandius Olson — to draw up a constitution. The constitution was adopted February 13, 1907. The first officers were: Secretary: Mandius Olson; Treasurer: Lars Akre; Trustees: Ludvig Akre, Jacob Haugen and Nils Aadland; Deacons: Mandius Olson, O. M. Akre and Bernhard Meier.

At a meeting of the congregation on February 27, 1907, a motion was made that on behalf of the congregation, Ole Kaldor ask Andrew Diemert if he would donate two acres of his land for the site of the proposed church and graveyard.

At a meeting on June 26, 1908, a committee of Ludvig Akre, Nils E. Aadland and Ole Kaldor was nominated to choose the site for the church and graveyard on the land donated by Andrew and Johanna Diemert. The location of the site was chosen because it was more central for the Odin Jacobson family. The congregation called its first pastor, and Pastor W. M. Hagen accepted the call and arrived early in 1907. A sod house was erected at Elbow and here he and his family resided for three years. Pastor Hagen served twelve preaching points that covered a large area. He travelled north to Hanley and the Broderick area, south as far as Beechy, and east to Craik and Penzance. His work was lightened when Pastor C. O. Brandlee took over part of the field. Among Pastor Hagen's first ministerial acts was the baptism of Olaf K. Meier on May 26, 1907. He united in marriage Kristian Arneson and Ingeborg Lagerud on June 25, 1907, at the home of Tom Arneson.

The first confirmation was held at Bright School on May 17, 1908, with seven pupils.

At the September 5, 1908 meeting, plans for the church edifice were discussed. They decided the size of the church would be 28 feet by 30 feet, with 12 foot walls. Obtaining the funds to start the church wasn't easy. The large part of the building fund was raised by canvassing a large area where settlements of other Lutherans existed. This was quite an undertaking when all the miles covered were with horses and most of the distances were great. Since all these men put such great efforts into raising funds for the building of the Church, perhaps their names should be included: Pastor Hagen canvassed from Craik to west of Hanley; Mandius Olson, Strongfield and Bladworth; O. M. Akre, the English speaking in the district; Odin Jacobson from the Skudesnes Congregation; Harold Bugge, Davidson; and Jacob Haugen, Hanley. We can see the extent these early Christians were prepared to go in order that a church would be erected for worship as soon as was possible. \$276.00 was the amount raised by donations; Alpha Ladies' Aid donated \$100; the Ladies' Aid, \$50, and \$50 was raised from members, with a total of \$476 dollars. This was a real help in their efforts to start the church. The building committee was: Odin Jacobson, O. M. Akre, Mandius Olson, Sverre

Jacobson and Nils Aadland. The committee to supervise the planning of the graveyard was: Ole Kaldor, Odin Jacobson and Jacob Haugen. The foundation was laid for the Church in 1908, and the year following, the Church was built. The lumber was hauled from Davidson. The Church had neither spire nor basement, but on March 17, 1912, it was decided to add a spire and entrance to the Church. Tom Arneson was elected to draw up the plans, and the expected cost of the project was approximately \$275. The metal spire on the steeple was placed there by Jetmund Kaardal. (The basement and chancel were added in 1929.)

Pastor Hagen returned to the States in 1910, and he was succeeded by Pastor H. G. Storebo, who served until 1915. The pastors that followed were: J. O. Reitan, 1917-1920; Pastor H. S. Quanbeck, 1921-1923; P. M. Fosse and O. B. Sanders, interim pastors through the summer of 1917 and 1920; Pastor K. J. Gjesfjeld, 1924-1931; Pastor S. Rue, 1934-1941; Pastor P. Overlid served between these two periods, serving both Hawarden and Elbow parishes. Pastor C. O. Ostby followed Pastor Rue, and between calls student Pastor L. A. Rasmussen and Pastor Overlid served the Congregation.

In the 1940's, Skudesnes again became self-supporting after being a Home Mission charge during the depression. In 1945, the first Bible Camp week was held at Skudesnes Church grounds with a tent serving as the girls' dormitory. The boys slept in the barn, and the Church was used for classes and meals. The following year it was moved to the Elbow Camp site, and in 1965, the Bible Camp was moved to its present site further east.

Pastor Ostby left in 1947, and Amos Dyrud served during the summer. Pastor J. Lokken came in 1948, and remained until 1951. Student Pastor Oscar Johnson served that summer. Pastor T. F. Dahle arrived in October 1951, and he returned to the States in 1956. A layman, Mr. O. K. Ose served during the winter months. The next pastor was Pastor A. Sandness who came in 1957 and left in 1962. Student Pastors Marvin Haave and Arne Jensen had services until Pastor Lars Knudson arrived in 1963 and he remained until 1968. The next pastor was Pastor J. Hesje, coming that same year and leaving in 1975. Pastor E. J. Nord served the parish from 1976-1980. At present we are in the process of calling a new pastor. We are very grateful to Mr. Gene Sundby of Outlook who has capably filled in at Sunday Services in the absence of a pastor.

Since the last history was written in 1966, there have been 76 baptisms; 24 marriages; 25 burials; and 113 have been confirmed.

Organizations of Skudesnes Church — Past and Present Sunday School

Perhaps the first concern of these early Lutheran settlers was that their children be instructed in the Word of God. Early Sunday School classes were held in the homes and continued even after the congregation was organized. After Pleasant Ridge and Bright Schools were built the Sunday Schools met there. Because the congregation extended over a large area, two Sunday Schools were organized. Mandius Olson and O. M. Akre were the leaders at Pleasant Ridge, and Aadel Jacobson was the leader at Bright. Later on, in the early 1920's another Sunday School was organized at Willdon School, with J. Tjosvold as the leader.

Of course they were assisted by many others in the district, faithfully giving of their time and talents and sharing their Christian faith. This has continued through the years, and the Sunday School has indeed been blessed by the service these faithful teachers have rendered.

In 1939, Pastor Rue helped organize a joint Sunday School to be held in the Church. Over the years the Sunday School has shared in the Mission work of the Church and in 1954 purchased the front doors of the Church and donated towards new pews and other furnishings. The Sunday School still plays an integral part in Skudesnes: at present, there are 40 pupils enrolled, with a high average attending the eight classes each Sunday. The last Sunday of each month is "Mission Sunday", and the offering has gone to support the Harold Engens in their work. The Sunday School has also donated to "Tele miracle". They are supporting, by special offering, the Home Office E.L.C.C. Library, Saskatoon. This year, due to the lack of a pastor, Mrs. Gayleen Vollmer instructed the confirmands, Dean Vollmer and Calvin Wankel. The confirmation service was conducted on May 31, 1981, by Pastor Arne Berstad, Hanley.

We thank God for the Christian influence and faithfulness of

the Sunday School teachers and leaders through the years.

Dovre Society

The Dovre Society was a young peoples group in the early years and very active. In 1910 they gave \$48 to start a fund to purchase an organ for the Church.

Skudesnes Luther League

The Luther League at Skudesnes began on September 20, 1925 when a group of young people gathered at the Church to organize a Christian Young People's Society. The Constitution was drawn up by Pastor Gjesfjeld and Mandius Olson. On September 27, 1925, the following officers were elected: President, Pastor Gjesfjeld; Vice-President, Iver Olson; Secretary, Cora Quanbeck; Treasurer, Evelyn Tastad. The name chosen for the Society was "Nordstjaernen" (North Star) and meetings were conducted in Norwegian until 1933. Then on August 3, 1941, the Young People's Society changed its name to Skudesnes Luther League, and the name was sent in to the Luther League Federation. Their motto was "Young People for Christ and His Church" — their goal — to bring young people to Christ; to promote and foster a true Christian spirit and fellowship so that those who are Christ's may grow in His grace and knowledge; to help young people find their places in the Kingdom of God; to work for the spreading of God's Kingdom, and to support the Christian activities of the Luther League Federation.

At present there is a Youth Group that continues with the same ideals. They meet once a month and have a Youth Retreat in the Spring or Fall. This year the Youth Retreat was held at the Bible Camp in April with a special speaker and the L.E.M. team. Their project is support of a needy boy in India, Freddie Ocson. The advisors of the Youth Group are Ross and Geraldine Vollmer and Henry and Sharon Urlacher. The officers are: President, Nyla Akre; Secretary, Brenda Vollmer; Treasurer, Leanne Vollmer.

The Sunshine Club

The first recorded meeting of the Sunshine Club was held on August 6, 1921, at Mrs. Ludvig Aadland's. There had been earlier meetings, but this was the Annual meeting. The following officers were elected: President, Ellen Aadland; Vice-President, Gunda Aadland; Secretary-Treasurer, Mabel Tjosvold.

The Sunshine Club met on the first Saturday of every month in the homes. The Norwegian language was used in earlier meetings, but from August 26, 1922, to February 10, 1925, the meetings were conducted alternately in Norwegian and English. At the February 10 meeting the Club decided to use only the English language, that they should have a roll call, and to use "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" as their theme song. Marriage terminated the girls' membership and they received a gift from the club on their marriage.

The Club enjoyed doing needlework throughout the year, in preparation for a sale of their articles held at their June picnic. There were other activities during the year such as teas to raise money for their projects: contributions to the Church, and Church furnishings (such as the Baptismal Font) and to Home and Foreign Missions; support of native workers and students in the mission fields; and contributions to Christian Schools and the Elbow Bible Camp.

Their aim at the formation of the Club was to spread sunshine at home and abroad and to cheer and comfort the sick with a gift or card. Their goals were achieved through faithfulness in spirit and labour. Many happy memories were shared by the members on July 27, 1946, when the 25th Anniversary was celebrated at Lena Akre's picnic grounds. The Club disbanded some time ago.

The Hope Mission Society

The first Ladies' Aid was organized on May 3, 1906, when four ladies met at Olaf Berg's home. These ladies were: Mrs. B. Berg, Mrs. O.M. Akre, Mrs. Olaf Berg and Mrs. Nils Aadland. The president was Mrs. B. Berg, the secretary-treasurer, Mrs. O. M. Akre. At the next meeting Mrs. Ludvig Aadland joined the Ladies Aid.

They did needlework and made a quilt and so they decided to hold a picnic on July 4 at which these articles would be sold. The picnic and sale were held in the bower constructed beside the Berg's house. The Ladies Aid realized a profit of \$46 after selling the articles and from the picnic.

By 1910 there were 11 members, but at the June meeting in 1910 the Ladies Aid was dissolved as there was some dissension as to where the money should go — to the church or for missions.

Some of the families met later, on July 17, 1910, at Ludvig Aadland's to plan for another Ladies' Aid. The men were also

interested in joining so the name was changed from "Haabet's Kvindeforening" to "Haabet's Mission Forening".

Mrs. O. M. Akre and Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Olson were the committee elected to prepare the constitution which was adopted at the July 24 meeting with a few changes.

The officers were: Devotional Chairman, Mandius Olson; President, Mrs. O. M. Akre; Secretary-Treasurer, Adolph Olson. The meetings were held once a month until 1953. It was the custom to gather for dinner, then hold the meeting, and lunch was served before they left for home. The membership reached 65. The Society contributed to Foreign and Home Missions and to Christian schools. The meetings were of a highly spiritual nature, with preaching by pastors or laymen, studying God's Word and singing hymns — all in the Norwegian language. The last meeting was held at Mons Langagers on January 14, 1953.

The Busy Bees Girl's Club

The Busy Bees Girls' Club was another early organization, and it was organized by Aadel Jacobson. The Club met regularly in the various homes, once a month.

With the proceeds of their many projects they purchased the pulpit and helped pay for the Altar rail. No records were kept, so no statistics can be given, but needless to say Skudesnes is thankful for their various contributions.

The Alpha Ladies' Aid

The first meeting of this organization was held in the early 1900's in the sod home of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Kaldor. The charter members were: Grandma Jacobson (who organized the Ladies' Aid), Mrs. Ingebretson, Mrs. O. Kaldor, Hilda Bugge, Mrs. Melling, Minnie Joel, and Freda Arneson. Mrs. Kaldor was their first president.

They met (the men as well as the women) once a month on a Sunday. There was devotion led by the pastor or a layman and lunch was served. Each summer this Ladies' Aid held a sale of fancy work and served supper, with an ice cream stand, sports, etc. The proceeds were used for Missions.

Then came the drought and depression of the 'Thirties and many sought greener pastures. With the reduced membership the Alpha Ladies' Aid was dissolved.

We look back with wonder, and with gratefulness to God for the accomplishments of these organizations in the early years

of Skudesnes. They provided a firm foundation and a challenge to the present and future.

Skudesnes Lutheran Ladies' Circle

On August 27, 1941, several ladies met with Rev. and Mrs. Rue. The purpose was to organize a Ladies' Circle whose object would be to awaken interest in the Kingdom of God through Bible study; to aid financially the Lutheran Free Church and the Sunday School, and to help where they could. The charter members were: Miss Marie Aadland; Mrs. Melvin Johnson; Miss Margaret Olson; Mrs. L. Kerney; Mrs. P. Tastad; Mrs. J. Ferkingstad; Miss Gudrun Tastad; Mrs. Aksel Christensen; and Mrs. M. Vollmer.

Women's Missionary Federation

In 1945, the Ladies' Circle joined the Women's Missionary Federation, with Mrs. Mearl Vollmer the first president. Offerings were received twice a year for the W.M.F. projects. Their motto was "Work For the Night is Coming".

Lutheran Church Women (L.C.W.)

After the merger the W.M.F. disbanded to become the L.C.W. (Lutheran Church Women) with the same aims and interests as before: Missions, local work of the church, Christ-centered Bible studies, and the Elbow Bible Camp. There is now a General L.C.W. which meets four times a year at the Church, and carries on the main business of the L.C.W. There is an afternoon Circle (Dorcas) and two evening Circles, Faith and Hope. The Circles have added much to the social life of the congregation as well. Over the years there have been many teas, bazaars, bake sales and picnics — the proceeds used for many worthwhile projects. Many quilts have been made from old material that was warm and serviceable and sent to help the needy through Lutheran World relief.

At present there are 43 members in the General L.C.W.

Comparisons From the Records

Baptisms — 1906-1907: Myrtle Aadland, Olaf Meier, Clarence Aadland, Minnie Aadland, Clifford Olson, Gerhard Kvinge, Signe Arneson, and Lillian Akre.

— **1980-1981:** Jennifer Lorraine Dolan; Marcus Palmer Pederson; Becky Elizabeth Follick (at birth); and Jay Cory

Langager.

First Confirmands — 1906, 1907, 1908: Hagbert Syhre, Lewis Aadland, Tillie Aadland, Edwin Bernt, Conrad Ingebretson, Otto Jacobson, Marie Jacobson, and Olaf Sather.

Last Confirmands — 1980-1981: Chris Alan Akre, Ian Merriam Hagen, Ida Aline Haugen, Dwayne Garth Kerney, Joel Wilfred Perry, Randy Joseph Urlacher, Brenda Elaine Vollmer. **1981:** Dean Michael Vollmer and Calvin Grant Wankel.

First Church Wedding, June 30, 1928: Alf Anderson and Mabel Tjosvold.

Last Church Wedding, December 27, 1980: Janice Evelyn Pederson and Raymond Lloyd Carrick.

First Funerals: Julius Nygaard, September 10, 1908, age 5 months; Margaret Sather, December 4, 1908, age 6 days.

Last Funerals: Petra Helene Akre, January 4, 1980, age 95; Orin Nielson Sather, August 2, 1980, age 46; Anna Edith Haugen, August 27, 1980, age 60.

Sons of the Congregation Who Have Entered the Ministry

Dr. Iver Olson

Dr. S. T. Jacobson

Pastor Ole E. Aadland

Pastor Adolph K. Odland

Pastor George Strand

Pastor Ole K. Olson

Pastor Gordon Olson

Pastor Marlin Aadland

Daryl Olson (intern)

The only Ordination held at Skudesnes was that of Marlin B. Aadland. The service was held on June 12, 1966, with Pastors Lars Knudson and Leonard Sogge taking part. Pastor C. Kopperud delivered the message and Pastor C. Satre performed the Ordination. Now, 15 years later, he received a Doctor of Theology degree from the School of Theology of Boston University on May 17, at Grace Lutheran Church, Burnaby, B.C.



Skudesnes Lutheran Church — July 8, 1911
Inset shows church as it looked between 1912 and 1929

A Review of the Years

It is interesting to note that the Norwegian language was used in Skudesnes well into the 'Forties. In 1943, during Rev. Ostby's tenure, the Christmas service was held in Norwegian; in 1944 Joe Hovedstad spoke at a Norwegian service; and at the May 17 festival, Dr. Burntvedt spoke in Norwegian. For a while it was Norwegian on alternate Sundays, until gradually becoming strictly English. The ministerial records were kept in Norwegian until 1942, and the minutes were recorded in Norwegian until November 8, 1945, at the 39th Annual Meeting.

Parochial schools began early in the life of Skudesnes. The first one was held at Lars Akre's on June 10 - July, 1907, with Lars Tysseland as teacher. The pupils were: Louis Aadland, Albin Johnson, Olaf Syhre, Elmer Aadland, John Ham, Christine Aadland, Tillie Aadland, Lydia Syhre, Clara Aadland, Laura Aadland and Esther Johnson.

Some years these Norwegian or "religious schools" as they were called then, were held at the Church and students came

from all directions — Willdon, Bright, Pleasant Ridge, Strongfield and others. In the early years instruction lasted six weeks in the summer, later on it was usually two weeks, and they held an important place in the life of the congregation.

The minutes record the first annual meeting was held on December 9, 1907. No minutes were recorded of the first meeting held.

The congregation began planning for a parsonage very early in the life of the church. On November 7, 1910, O. M. Akre and Odin Jacobson (who were elected as delegates from Skudesnes) attended a meeting in Loreburn to see if a parsonage could be obtained. There they met with delegates from Zion (Elbow), Bethlehem (Hawarden) and Bethel (Elbow). It wasn't until 1917 that the parish purchased the parsonage at Elbow.

On the 1st of March, 1912, the Alpha Ladies Aid gave \$130 towards building an entry and steeple and a small "babies room" on the north side; also the small room on the south side which was used in earlier years as a place where the food could be kept when they ate at church.

In the early years annual meetings were held in November, then, as now. With long distances to travel with horses, usually over snow, and the days becoming short, the meetings began in the morning. They stabled their horses in the barn, where above each stall had been written with lead pencil the name of the person whose right it was to stable his horse there.

Inside the church, the decor was very simple. Serving as both Altar and pulpit was a large box covered with a red cloth, in the front of the church. On either side were chairs and benches. It was a custom at Skudesnes that the men be seated to the right of the aisle, and the women to the left. On the ladies' side a heater stood at the back of the room, while on the men's side a heater stood at the front. At some of these meetings there was a recess for dinner or lunch, and the women served the food they had brought with them. A time of fellowship was enjoyed, then it was back to business and an early start for home.

The Church was lighted by three gas lamps, from about 1919 to 1929. These lights were bracket lamps, and one was placed at the front of the church, while the two others were placed one on each side. They were fuelled by piped-in gas from a storage tank on the east side. The tank was protected by a wooden box. The tank was pressurized with a pump in order to get the gas to flow to the lamps. The lamps were lit by an alcohol torch. In

later years ordinary gas lamps (or lanterns) were used until the power was connected.

As the membership grew, so too did the Church edifice, with the basement and Chancel added in 1929 and the first pews purchased.

The Church celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 1932, with Pastor W. M. Hagen as the guest speaker. At this time Jacob Haugen read the history of those years that he had compiled.

World War II affected Skudesnes congregation as well, when several young men left to join the armed forces. Two of these lost their lives in defense of their country: Airforce Sergeants Audfinn Veraas and Willard Haugen.

Then in 1945 the first Bible Camp Week was held on the Church grounds.

In 1957 additional pews were added to complete the seating. They were purchased with memorial gifts donated by members of the community. Previous to this a new Altar was dedicated and the Church re-decorated.

The next 10 years Skudesness saw many changes. Perhaps the most important was the transition from the Lutheran Free Church of fifty years to the newly merged Church and Skudesnes became a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada in 1963. Church improvements continued over the years and a new furnace was installed; an electric organ took the place of the original one; Chancel and Aisle rugs, floor coverings, new chimney, Chancel lights, storm windows throughout, re-decorating the interior, as well as cement floor and wallboard walls and ceiling in the basement, were among the improvements. The old kitchen range was replaced by an electric stove, new folding tables made for the basement, and every family donated towards new chairs. Twelve additional pews were added, the Church roof shingled and painted, and the old choir loft and railing were removed. The old parsonage was sold and a new parsonage and garage were built at Elbow.

Probably the highlight of the years before the merger were the three-day meetings held once a year. Bethel, Skudesnes and Bethlehem took turns at hosting this event. There were some from other places and Norland Church at Beaver Flats was usually well represented. These churches had a close affiliation as there were no other Lutheran Free Churches nearby. It was a time of uplifting, of good fellowship, good food and good messages from the Word of God brought by a special speaker, and a time when these congregations grew closer

together in their faith.

The Last 15 Years —

The last fifteen years at Skudesnes has seen some growth in the congregation and some changes. The Church edifice has grown and there have been many improvements. In 1970 a new Altar rail was installed, and in 1973 an addition of approximately 200 square feet was added to the west entry. The stone facing enclosing a coloured window beautified the entry of the Church. Symbolically, the light shines through the Cross in the window. The basement was carpeted, and in 1976 a new Conn organ was purchased. The same year panelling was installed in the basement; carpet was laid on the back stairs and baseboards attached. Railings for the stairs and coat and hat racks were added. The constitution was revised and accepted on June 7, 1977. The official name of the Church was to be "Skudesnes Evangelical Lutheran Church".

The next improvements included insulation in the ceiling and a cupboard for Sunday School supplies. Then in November, 1977, an addition to the south side of the church was begun. This included water, sewer, washrooms and a large new Sunday School room, finished with panelling and carpet. Some work was done in the kitchen also. The cupboards were painted and a sink installed, with new arborite. The roof was repaired and considerable work was done on the steeple which had been hit by lightning. In November 1979, 100 new Lutheran Books of Worship were ordered and are now being used each Sunday.

Skudesnes co-sponsored a refugee Laosian family who now live in Elbow. There have been many blessings on both sides as a result. In 1980 the church was painted and this year the inside of the Church was painted and the Chancel remodelled somewhat. A new carpet has been laid and a central vacuum and a public address system is to be added shortly.

Two large fans have been placed in the ceiling of the church and a cement sidewalk laid from door to door.

So, the work of the Church goes on. There is good attendance at worship and Sunday School, and the ladies faithfully carry on in their Circles. Some of the youth have stayed in the Community as farmers and farmers' wives, while others have left for higher education and employment elsewhere.

Let us give thanks for the marvelous grace of God through

As we celebrate this anniversary may we resolve to carry on the work of those faithful men and women, who throughout the years, diligently and unselfishly gave of themselves, building a firm foundation for us — *'and no one can ever lay any other real foundation than that one we already have — Jesus Christ'*.

Vice President.....David Olson
Deacons.....David Olson, Mearl Aadland, Arthur Vollmer,
Nils Langager, George Tastad, Palmer Svaren
Trustees.....Walter Jess, Owen Akre, Leslie Langager
Secretary.....Judy Reed
Treasurer.....Aksel Chrestensen
Organist.....Doris Akre

Superintendent.....Helen Kerney
Assistant Superintendent.....Judy Reed
Secretary-Treasurer.....Jan Keen

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| President..... | Alice Tastad |
| Vice President..... | Jan Keen |
| Secretary..... | Stella Jess |
| Treasurer..... | Vivian Brown |
| Education Secretary..... | Elaine Vollmer |
| Cheer Convener..... | Judy Svaren |

Chairwoman.....Muriel Akre
Secretary and Education Secretary.....Jan Keen
Treasurer and Stewardship Secretary.....Ruby Christensen

Chairwoman..... Lee Cole
Secretary and Education Secretary..... Ruth Tastad
Treasurer and Stewardship Secretary..... Muriel Aadland

"Hope" Officers

Chairwoman.....Elaine Vollmer
Secretary.....Leone Tastad
Treasurer and Stewardship Secretary.....Sharon Wankel

— Written by Edna Akre

Points of Interest of the Early Lutheran Church in Saskatchewan

There have been 324 "units" — congregations and preaching places among Norwegians in Saskatchewan, all of them in this century. They must have carried on an intensive Home Mission activity in the early days. These have been as small as three members each and up to large congregations. It shows that as soon as Norwegian settlers came in they started a church — or at least church activity. Many of them disbanded because they were so few. Others disbanded to join other nearby units to make larger and more viable congregations. Others again just disappeared, and some of them existed for only a year or two.

The 324 congregational units were all Norwegian Lutheran units: Lutheran Free Church, Lutheran Brethern, Hauge Synod, Norwegian Synod, and United Norwegian Lutheran Church; the last named became Norwegian Lutheran Church when three (Hauge, United and part of the Norwegian Synod) merged in 1917. In 1946 this merged group took the name of Evangelical Lutheran Church (E.L.C.).

(Thanks to Dr. Iver Olson for this information)

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

—Martin Luther

