

BETHLEHEM'S 60th ANNIVERSARY

The Church's one foundation, Is Jesus Christ her Lord,
-Oh, happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace, that
we, like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee

At the time of our 50th Anniversary which was held in 1959, Pastor M. Haakenstad was serving us and he was succeeded by Pastor Roste in 1962; and in 1967, Pastor Bue began his ministry here. There have been many changes in our congregation these last 10 years. Death has claimed many of our dear people, yes people of all ages, from the aged to the middle-aged and to the very young. Fifteen of the recorded 21 deaths have been older members.

There have been many joyous events as well. Approximately 48 baptisms have been performed and an estimated 15 weddings. Some of these have remained in our district while others have gone to where their work has called them and established their homes. There have been 7 Confirmation Classes with 54 confirmants.

As the years have gone by, the work of the church has carried on. The attendance has seemed to be on the decrease which is largely due to the extent that the younger folks must go away for their education. And during the winter months we find many homes vacant. And here, as elsewhere, farms have become larger with fewer people living in the rural areas. But the Sunday School, Ladies Aid, Junior Choir are still active and the Bible Camp is a real highlight during the summer.

So the years come and the years go, but we are so thankful for the assurance that Jesus Christ is the same today as He was both 10 years ago, and will be the same forever. It might be interesting for you to reminisce with us on the preceding 60 years of our Congregation. Figures will not be accurate as all records may not be complete, but we are thankful for the promise 'That no-one can lay any other foundation than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.'

We have been served by 12 Pastors, 5 of which have now been called to their eternal rest. We have also had several student pastors as well as faithful laymen. Two of the sons of our Congregation are serving as Pastors elsewhere, and several have answered the call to the Mission field.

As we look back over our church records, approximately 75 of our faithful people of all ages have been laid to rest. About 236 Confirmants, and 365 Baptisms, and 75 Weddings have been performed. We have also been fortunate to have celebrated about 30 Silver Wedding Anniversaries, and four Golden Weddings.

We felt it might be of interest to you to learn of the various vocations that many of the members of our church have followed. These figures may not be as accurate as we'd like them to be. But 14 young men were called to serve their country where two paid the supreme sacrifice. Twenty-one have gone out as teachers, 15 as nurses, 15 as secretaries. And within the last years, quite a number have realized the need of higher education and have received University degrees with good positions. Last, but not --

least, a few have become Pastor's wives. Then there are the faithful farmers, and the many ladies that are farmers wives, and faithful homebuilders. --The members of the community were very active. They spared not themselves, but were faithful in their various activities. On August 22nd 1909 the five ladies of the church gathered at the home of Mrs John Carlson to organize a Ladies Aid, and we are so thankful that the one remaining Charter member is living today, Mrs Hannah Tastad^{ns} with us to celebrate our 60th Anniversary. Besides the Ladies Aid, they had Sunday School, Choirs, church picnics and suppers and socials, with much time to visit and enjoy good fellowship amongst neighbors and friends.

There have been many Memorial gifts given to our church over this period of years. These include the communion set, electric organ, 2 large chairs, stacking chairs, candle holders and vases, pictures and Bible, hymn plaque, service men's honor roll, baptismal font, hymn books, fluorescent light, vacuum cleaner besides large gifts of money. The church stands much as it did, but a vestibule was built within the last years. These gifts are all to remind us that even though many are taken away, the work of our Lord needs to be carried on

Across the rolling plain they came
Not to a mansion grand,
On virgin soil, they staked claim
With labors hard, they built this glorious land
These men who tilled the prairie
And turned the teeming sod,
Knew, as they turned each furrow
They walked and worked with God,
With Faith in God, they hoped and prayed,
A firm foundation soon was laid,
A church was built, with spire tall,
Pointing to Heaven, and Father above
To passers by, of His saving love,
So many now are laid to rest,
Their labors here are done,
With cherished memories of the past,
May they forever last.
Let us together, side by side
Onward in Christian service true
With strength renewed,
And Faith that's firm
Go forth, until the victory's won.
O, God our help in ages past,
You are the same today, as when
Our Fathers broke the sod
And built this house of God

Committee that formed this:
Mrs Chester Pederson
Mrs Charlie McRae

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, HAWARDEN, ORDER OF WORSHIP

PASTOR WELLUNSCHEG

75TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

July 29, 1984

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Processional Hymn #40 - Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
Opening Prayer

WE PRAISE GOD

Hymn #3 - Praise To The Lord The Almighty
Prayer for the Day
Duet - Lloyd and Carolyn Olson

GOD SPEAKS TO US

Old Testament Lesson - Psalm 91
Olson Trio - Marj, Roy and Audrey
Epistle Lesson - I Peter 2: 4 - 12
Solo - Opal Haaland

Gospel Lesson - Matthew 16: 13 - 19
Confession of Faith - "The Apostolic Creed"

Hymn #81 - Built On The Rock The Church Doth Stand

Sermon - Pastor Roste

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering - "We Give Thee But Thine Own" #404

Male Quartet

Lord's Prayer
Benediction
Doxology

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday - Dinner following the service

Afternoon Service 2:30p.m.

AFTERNOON SERVICE - 2:30 p.m.

Processional Hymn #30 - Crown Him With Many Crowns

Scripture and Prayer - Harley Johnson

Recognition of our only living Charter Member
- Mrs. Hanna Tasted

Roste Family Music

Greetings

Ladies Trio - Linda, Katie & Nancy

Written Greetings

Duet - John and Nancy Kilpatrick

Mass Choir - Onward Christian Soldiers

Sermon - Pastor Berstad

Solo - Audrey Olson "To God Be The Glory"

Dedication of New Addition and Renovations

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A special thanks from the Bethlehem congregation
to all the guests who have come and shared in our
75th Anniversary Celebration.

Also thanks to those who have shared in word
and song. It has all meant so much.

On July 28-29, 1979, we celebrated our 70th anniversary. The festivities began the 28th with an outdoor picnic at the home of Clarence and Mary Olson. Members and friends from near and far met in this beautiful setting. Approximately 250 shared a hearty meal prepared by the L.C.W. Dr. Iver Olson brought a greeting.

The theme for the anniversary was: "Rejoice and Give Thanks", based on Psalm 100. Pastor V. Roste spoke at the Sunday morning worship, and Pastor Oscar Johnson, son of the congregation brought a greeting. There were about 300 in attendance at the morning worship and for the noon meal. At the afternoon service, Pastor Oscar Johnson and Pastor Palmer Ringdal officiated at the dedication of new church additions and several memorial gifts. Greetings were given by: Pastor P. Ringdal, son of the congregation, President Harry Johnson, Hanley Lutheran President, Gordon Rott, Bob Kerney, and Mrs. Merle Erickson, wife of a former Pastor now deceased. Several written greetings were read by secretary Josie Overlid. The sermon was preached by former Pastor John Lokken. Musical numbers by choirs, groups, and individuals, added much to the spirit of rejoicing during the day. The celebrations ended as it began, on a very high note of joy. Truly it was a celebration of joy and thanksgiving! Praise God for a congregation of christian workers.

Now, five years later, we add a few more highlights to our church history. The Word of God continues to be proclaimed, and He gives the increase. (1 Cor. 3:6-7)

We were privileged on May 24, 1981 to have a son of the congregation, namely Harley Johnson, ordained. The ordination service was held at Bethlehem Lutheran church. It was a very meaningful and impressive service.

In 1983, Pastor and Mrs. Berstad retired after thirty five years of service in the parish ministry. A special retirement service program was given in their honor Sunday, June 12th in the Hanley Centennial Hall arranged by the Bethlehem - Hanley congregations. Many friends from town and surrounding communities, as well as relatives and former parishioners from a distance were also present. It was a very festive occasion with an interesting program, gifts, and a sumptuous lunch.

Since Pastor Berstad's retirement, we have been served by several laymen, Pastors and Seminary students, mainly Seminarian Paul Knudtson. Pastor Berstad conducted communion services and taught the confirmation classes. We are thankful for these willing servants, and now rejoice that Michael Wellunscheg of Minneapolis, Minn. has accepted the call to become our new Pastor. He was ordained in Emmaus Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minn., May 6, 1984 and arrived in mid June.

Changes and improvements have been made to the church edifice during the years, to better accommodate our growing Congregation and Sunday School. The "Mothers' Room" or "Babies' Cry Room" was added in 1981-82. An extensive building project was begun in the Fall of 1983, with an active committee and church members giving voluntary labor, under the supervision of carpenter, Bill Voigt. Renovations have been made to the nave, and

additions include new entrances, Sunday School rooms, Pastors' Study, bathrooms and fixtures, serviceable kitchen area and new cupboards. We pray that these new facilities will enhance and further Christ's Kingdom, in extending our Gospel outreach.

The L.C.W. continues to be an active arm of the church, with Bible Study being our main monthly emphasis. Support is given to Lutheran World Relief, Missions, Bible Camp and other church related projects, and we sponsor such programs as Thank Offering and special Pentecost events, World Day of Prayer service and annual picnics.

As we look back over five brief years from our last anniversary celebrations, and remember dearly loved relatives and friends who were with us then, and have since departed, the truth of the words of a hymn remind us:

"Time like an ever-rolling stream

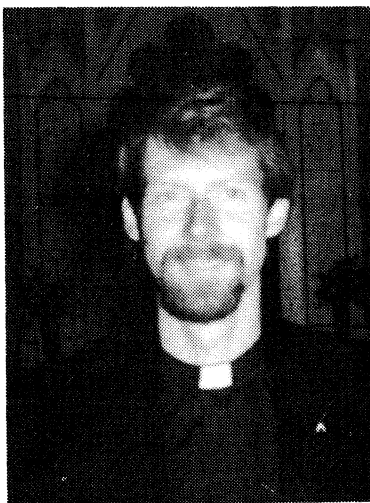
Bears all its sons away"

The theme verse for this our 75th anniversary is from Matthew 16:18, "Upon this Rock I will build my Church." Generations come and go, but God keeps building His Kingdom through each passing scene. May we allow His Gracious work and will to be done in and through us, remembering the words of our theme hymn, that, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

Submitted by
Mrs. Adela Berstad
Mrs. Shirley Opdahl



Bethlehem Lutheran Church — 1984



Pastor Michael Wellunscheg

From the Church Records . . .

BAPTISMS 1979-1984

1980 Marla Selene Haaland
Evan Brent Bloomfield
David Scott Olson
Jeremy Brett Haaland

1981 Grant Rein Lee
Jocelyn Rae Bloomfield
Rodney James Olson
Jeffrey Kenneth Patrick
Lee

1982 Kevin Lee Follick
Lael Michelle Olson
Rhonda Marie Lee

1983 Dena Evangeline
Haaland
Travis Derek Jess

1984 Kyle Richard Lee

CONFIRMATIONS 1979-1984

1980 Gary Owen Cooper
Trenton Dean Opdahl
Burton Arnold Ringdal

1981 Kimberly Laurel Olson
Sherry Ann Opdahl
Norma Hazel Ringdal
Katherine Mary Sivertson
Gerald Maurice Follick

1982 April Renee Sivertson
Sharon Maureen Cooper

1983 Gloria Jan Hunter
Geoffrey Robert Sundby

WEDDINGS 1979-1984

1979 Ronald Orvin Haaland
Heather Leanne Sundby

1981 Sheila Jeanette Wick
Neil Arthur Shepherdson

1982 Carolyn Joy Olson
David Paul Albrecht

1980 Garth Evan Brown
Barbara Viola Ringdal

Ruth Elede Sather
Robert John Murray

Lori Darlene Cooper
John Frederick Giles

Douglas Elwood Jess
Marlene Jo-Ann Carlson

Evert Johanness Ryland
Judy Mae Knock

1983 Richard Alfred Carlson
Darice Lynn Snustead

1984 Carren Ingrid Sundby
Stephen Raymond Blosky

FUNERALS 1979-1984

1979 Jarle Vemundvik
(George Wick)

1982 Theodore (Ted) Pederson
Bruce Norman Sather

1983 Bertha Karine Ringdal
Clara Johnson
Alfred Anderson

1980 Pastor Palmer Wilhelm
Ringdal
Kathleen (Kay) Johnson

"On This Rock, I Will Build My Church"

Theme: Matthew 16:18

Built On The Rock The Church Doth Stand

Theme Hymn

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

Surely in temples made with hands,
God, the Most High, is not dwelling,
High above earth His temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling;
Yet He whom heav'ns cannot contain
Chose to abide on earth with men,
Built in our bodies His temple.

We are God's house of living stones,
Builded for His habitation,
He thro' 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.

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.

Here stands the font before our eyes
Telling how God did receive us;
Th' altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His table doth give us;
Here sounds the word that doth proclaim
Christ yesterday, today the same,
Yea, and for aye our Redeemer.