

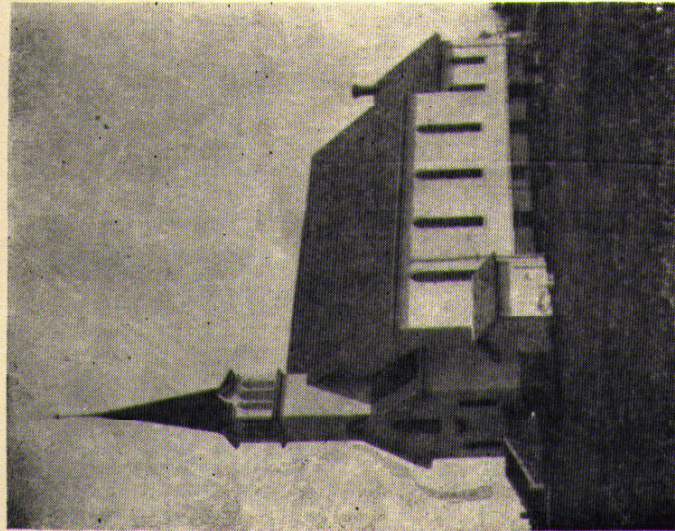
Concordia Lutheran Church

1874 - 1949



GLYNDON, MINNESOTA

July 17, 1949

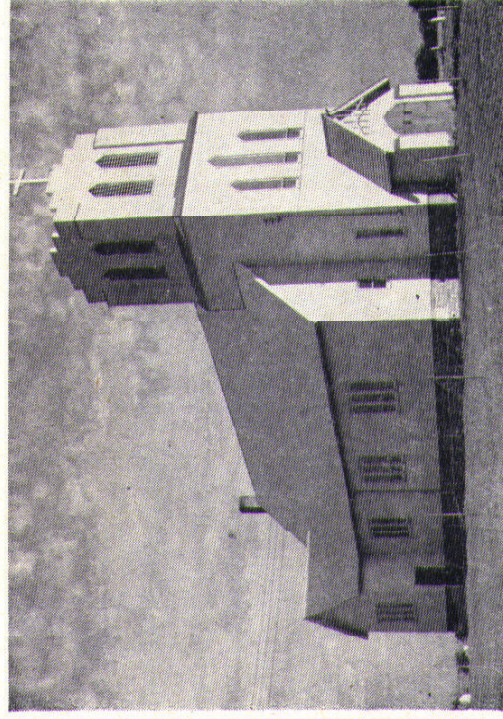


ORIGINAL CHURCH
1884 - 1931

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 life everlasting.

(Grundtvig)

75th Anniversary - of - Concordia Congregation



PRESENT CHURCH
Dedicated in 1938

CONCORDIA CHURCH

75th Anniversary Program

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 1949

10:30 A. M.

Prelude
Opening Prayer
Hymn No. 1, 1-3
Collect and Epistle
Anthem
Hymn No. 132, 1-3
Festival Sermon
Anthem
Anniversary Offering
Collect and Benediction
Hymn No. 31
Closing Prayer and Lords Prayer

Mrs. Obert Grover

Thee God We Praise

Concordia Choir
Built On the Rock
Dr. R. M. Fjelstad
Concordia Choir

Now Thank We All Our God

2 P. M.

Hymn No. 78
Devotion and Greetings
Solo
Anniversary Greeting (Norse)
Anthem
Greetings
Solo
Greetings
Anthem
Other Greetings
Hymn No. 137

The Church's One Foundation
Rev. L. M. Skines
Arnold Horpedahl
Rev. S. G. Hauge
Concordia Choir
Rev. C. B. Runsvold
Arnold Horpedahl
Rev. M. G. Hagen
Concordia Choir

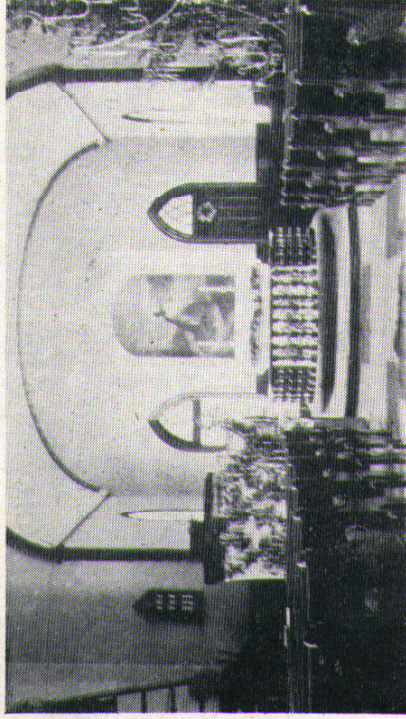
Gods Word Is Our Great Heritage

8 P. M.

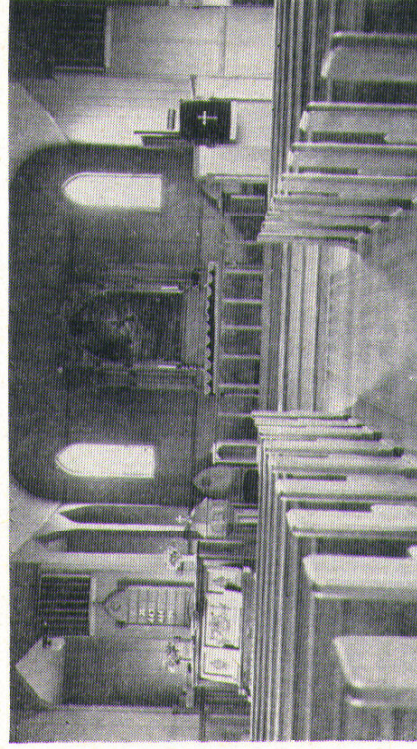
LUTHER LEAGUE PROGRAM

Hymn No. 573
Devotion
Anthem
Talk
Anthem
Greetings
Song

How Shall The Young
Glyndon Lutheran Choir
Rev. A. L. Stenberg
Glyndon Lutheran Choir
Concordia Glee Club



CHRISTMAS IN THE OLD CHURCH



INTERIOR OF PRESENT CHURCH

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CONCORDIA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

"Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations . . . And a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday." Psalm 90:1-4.

A thousand years in the eyes of God, are but as yesterday, but measured in human terms even seventy-five years is a long time.

It is, therefore, no easy task for us who live at the present time to pen an adequate narrative of the Concordia Lutheran Congregation which, under God, celebrates its Diamond Jubilee July 17, 1949.

Among the earliest homesteaders in Moland Township in Clay County, Minnesota, on the banks of the Buffalo River were three families who came from Houston County, Minnesota where they had made their homes for about ten years after emigrating from Telemark in Norway. The movements and experiences of this group will have to suffice as an example of the many others who followed in their footsteps to this new settlement as both information and space forbid a fuller description in this brief history.

The first family in this venturesome caravan of "Covered Wagoners" was Ole Gunderson Thortvedt, his wife, Thone, and four children: Jorand 16, Thone 13, Signe 7, and Levi, who was ten years of age. The second family was Aamund Gunderson Gedestad (a brother of Ole G. Thortvedt), his wife, Thone, and four sons: Gunder 11, Gustav 7, John 5, and Andrew 3. The third family consisted of Tarje and Gunhild Skrei and their only daughter, Signe.

Among the single men in the group were Halvor Salveson Findalstvedt, Ola Midgarden, Ola Anderson, and Tarje Muhle—all potential homeseekers in the "Bread Basket of the World"—the Red River Valley. "The Westward Ho" started on May 18, 1870. Of the numerous camping places on the way may be mentioned: Rushford, Chatfield, Rochester, Pine Island, Cannon Falls, Vermillion River, St. Paul, Anoka, St. Cloud, Sauk Center, Alexandria (where the land office was located), Evansville, Pelican Lake, Stony Brook, near Breckenridge, near Comstock and Moorhead. From there some reconnoitering was carried out on both sides of the Red River until the group finally decided on taking homesteads along the Buffalo River about seven or eight miles northeast of Moorhead. Here the first home, a log cabin, which still stands as an emblem of their courage and fortitude, was built by these sturdy pioneers.



OLAF G. THORTVEDT



MRS. OLAF G. THORTVEDT



MR. AND MRS. VETLE LISLAND

Here is a brief description by one of the company of how the country side appeared to them at that time: "You never would believe that Minnesota could produce such a brilliant sight as the Red River did in 1870 and a little later. Here we were moving slowly northwards. The sky was clear blue, the woods on one side and the prairie on the other, as level as a lake shining brilliantly of yellow and dark violet mixed. It made a fine sight of lively oceans as far as the eye could see."

Some of the many things found in their new environments were hay for their stock, honey for sweetness, ducks and prairie chickens and fish for food, logs for homes, and an abundance of wild flowers for beauty. And so they said: "Her vil vi bygge og her vil vi bo (here we will build, and here we will dwell). And so they did, for themselves, for their children, and for their children's children until this day."

As our Savior said, "Man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God," so also here; and as a pioneer pastor has aptly put it:

"Bygde vi hjem i et fremmed land,
Kirken vi med os dog have,
Lad os da holde vel ist and,
Fedrenes kostbare grund
For vaare barn til sidste stund,
Kirken, som aldrig skal rygges."

The above families and others who came here about the same time and shortly after were therefore here but a short time before they felt the pressing need of a house of worship.

The mighty mountains and the grandeur of the nature in their former homeland in Telemark had, together with their venerable pastors, preached for centuries to them and their forbears of the power of God, yet also of His infinite love to man in Christ. Then there were also the memories of the old church "on a high knoll." Beneath its shadow rested from their labors parents, grandparents, sisters and brothers, even perhaps little children. Here they had been baptized, here confirmed in their faith, here also some had led their brides to the altar of God to join hands and hearts in mutual love for life. "Skjonne og lyse minder"—Wonderful and beautiful memories of bygone days.

Now they were in a strange land after a long and tiresome journey, a strange language and strange customs and environments. Yet amid all these new and unfamiliar things they had after all the same God and Savior "who is mighty to save," the same means of grace, the same promises from on high.

They had received a valuable heritage, not so much in dollars and cents, but in a catechism, a Pontoppidan's Explanation, a Bible, a book of lofty yet devout hymns, and perhaps for good measure, a book of sermons. "Dei ga os en arv til aa gjenme den er storre en mangle vil tru."

And with this heritage they laid the foundation of a Christian Congregation in Vesterheimen (the home in the west) in which to rear spiritual temples in the hearts of men.

Where their first plans were promulgated or where the organization meeting was held is not known, nor do we know where the first services were conducted. Two congregations were organized in this community at about the same time: Our Savior's and Moland. These two continued independently of each other until 1892 when they united into one congregation under the present name of Concordia and at which time a new constitution also was adopted.

Very little is known about Moland as the records are lacking. About the only information we have is that it was organized in 1871 by pastor B. L. Hagboe and later served by P. A. T. Nykreim, C. I. Wold and J. H. Brono. In 1873 it had sixty souls and in 1892 the year of the union, with Our Savior's 138 souls. Of Our Savior's Congregation, on the other hand, we have the secretary's records since 1874, the first meeting being held at the home of Tarje Grover on November 12 of that year. At that time it was called Glyndon Congregation, evidently adopted as the name when organized. But already at the next business meeting held at the same place on June 8, 1875, the name was changed to Our Savior's and the first constitution was read and accepted. At first Our Savior's was affiliated with the Norwegian Synod until 1884. From 1884 to 1891 with Anti-

Missourians, and from 1891 with the United Lutheran Church until 1917 and since that time with the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, now called the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

According to what we have been able to glean from the scanty records available the following seem to have been the charter members:

Tarje A. Grover	Aadne Halvorson
Ole Storaaslie	Tarje Torgerson
Halvor S. Findalstvedt	Bendik Gunderson
G. G. Storaaslie	Gunder Svenkeson
Anund Kragnes	Asher O. Lee
Gunnar Veum	Ole J. Juve
Ole G. Muhle	Michael Larson
Vetle A. Lisland	Tarje Johnson
Tarje J. Holte	Knute Halvorson
Andreas G. Kassenborg	Torgum Morken
T. G. Muhle	Halvor Olson
G. Gilbertson	Eilev Olson
A. O. Christianson	Aadne Breland
Asmund J. Homme	Ole Thortvedt
G. O. Storaaslie	Ole A. Midgarden
T. G. Storaaslie	M. G. Storaaslie
Anund Gunderson	Tarje Skrei
Ola Anderson	

Most of these men had families. But it is known that some of them were single men at the time the Moland and Our Saviors Congregations were organized. It is also very likely that we have missed many of the charter members of Moland, as we have no secretary records of that church. Nothing would have pleased us more than to have had a complete list of them all.



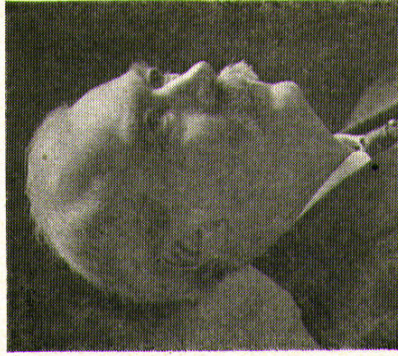
REV. KNUTE BJORGO

The pastor who organized Our Saviors Lutheran Congregation was Knute K. Bjorgo. He was born at Voss, Norway in

1847, and immigrated to America, at the age of one. He was educated at Luther College, Decorah, Ia. and the Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Mo., and ordained to the ministry in 1873. The same year he accepted a call to Lake Park, Minnesota, and served also Our Saviors at the same time.

Bjorgo was a very able pastor and served the congregation conscientiously until 1884 when he resigned due in part to the strife concerning the doctrine of "election".

Of things taking place during his stay may be mentioned the procuring of a site for the church and cemetery from Vetle Lisland in 1876. The cemetery was dedicated in 1878, and the first church built in 1884 at a cost of \$3100.00. Prior to this time the congregation had met at the various school houses already in existence.



REV. J. O. J. HOUGEN

Due to the large field of labor, an assistant, pastor K. L. Guttebo, was called in 1879 and served concurrently with Bjorgo until 1884. In that year the congregation left the Norwegian Synod and joined the Anti-Missourians. The pastor to continue the work was J. O. J. Hougen who was pastor in Fargo. He served from 1884 to 1892. It was during his tenure of office that Moland joined Our Saviors on the 30th of December in 1891. It was also while he was pastor that the united congregation adopted the name of Concordia and accepted a new constitution that was in force until 1923 when the congregation was incorporated.



REV. A. A. OEFSTEDAL



H. B. KILDAHL

In 1892 Concordia together with Trinity in Moorhead called pastor A. A. Oefstedal who accepted and was installed Nov. 20th in 1892.

The main part of the church was built in 1884; but seemingly not finished before in 1895. We therefore find that pastor Hougén dedicated it on Oct. 26, 1894.

The following year the Young People Society bought and installed the Church Bell at a cost of \$210.86.

By this time many of the members had spread Northward so the distance to church had become rather great. As a result a request came from this group to organize their own congregation to be known as North Buffalo. This was granted on December 10, 1895 with the following stipulations: First that they would be allowed one fourth of the services allotted to Concordia. Secondly, that North Buffalo assumes one fourth of Concordia's salary to the pastor, and thirdly, that they be permitted to collect funds in Concordia for the new church.

North Buffalo Congregation organized in 1897 while Oefstedal was pastor is therefore a daughter of Concordia and has always remained in the same parish. After pastor Oefstedal left in 1897 the congregation was served for a while by pastor G. A. Larson and prof. R. Bogstad of Moorhead.

So far the congregation had shared in the parsonages with Lake Park, Fargo and Moorhead. But before the next pastor was called it was demanded and unanimously agreed that the minister was to live in their midst.

So the next task was to build a parsonage. The lot for this purpose, approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ acre, was procured from Jorgen Jensen, and the parsonage built in 1898 and 1899.

Pastor H. B. Kildahl succeeded Oefstedal in 1898 and was the first pastor to live in the new parsonage. He served but a short time, as he already in 1900 accepted a call to Chicago.



L. M. SKUNES

The next pastor called was L. M. Skunes. He, like his predecessors, served faithfully but less than three years.

In his steps followed B. G. Bondal in 1904. He ministered to the congregation for about four years. Towards the end of that period he was forced to resign on account of illness and died shortly after. He is resting from his labors in Concordia's cemetery.

To succeed him pastor N. F. Kile was called. He kept good records of his work and was an able preacher. But due to laxity and carelessness in other matters the congregation became impatient and desired his resignation. Upon his departure



B. G. BONDAHL



N. F. KILE



H. J. WICKRE

in 1916 H. J. Wickre was called in 1917. The same year as he took office the congregation decided to build a basement under the church. The records are not clear as to when the basement was somewhat completed, but presumably in 1921.

In 1920 the Young Peoples Society was instrumental in providing electric lights and other repair work around the cemetery.



M. G. HAGEN



C. B. RUNSVOLD

Pastor Wickre resigned in 1923, and M. G. Hagen took up the work in 1924. His ministerial records are very complete in every detail, and it appears that his work otherwise was accordingly. He was and is a diligent Bible student, a well prepared preacher, and has a friendly attitude in all his dealings. According to an excerpt from "Normanden" it was about this time that the Concordia Congregation observed its Golden Jubilee either in 1923 or 1924 with pastor J. O. J. Hougén as the festival speaker. Pastor C. B. Runsvold followed Hagen in 1930. During his pastorate several things occurred in the congregation.

The church the pioneers had built and cherished for themselves and their children was destroyed by a tornado on the 27th of May in 1931.

Now the congregation was without a meeting place, a depression period had set in, and means with which to build a new church were hard to obtain. The records are replete with these and other unfavorable circumstances to the erection of a house of worship.

Pastor Runsvold was however, by this time an experienced man in the ministry. He had learned to take the bad with the good, as had many of his parishioners.

Undaunted by poor farm prices, overcoming some pessimism, and trusting that "God still leads on," the congregation and her pastor labored prayerfully and hopefully on. It took some time, but in 1938 the church was ready for the laying of the cornerstone and dedication. On the 9th of October the same year Pres. I. T. Aastad performed both of these rites. And to-day, at the Diamond Jubilee, it stands in our midst as a monument to the "Glory of God," and as an achievement to the "willing workers" of the thirties.

After a strenuous ministry of serving five congregations for sixteen years pastor Runsvold resigned to accept a call to Elk Point, S. D.

Since he took leave in the fall of 1946 the congregation has been served by two pastors on a temporary basis. First by Dr. J. Walter Johnshoy, dean of philosophy at Concordia College, who labored efficiently and faithfully until his unexpected demise in the fall of 1947. Since October in 1947 the parish has been ministered to by Rev. Thos. Anderson formerly of Perley, Minn.

The main project of late, recently completed has been the modernization of the basement.



DR. J. WALTER JOHNSHOY



THOS. ANDERSON

As we are drawing to a close we are mindful of the many men and women of the congregation, who have rendered valuable services during these seventy-five years. Many are now resting beneath the sod, others are carrying on. Their names and work deserve to be mentioned, but we must of necessity limit them to two: Tarje J. Holte and B. J. Gunderson, whose services added together, as secretaries and other positions of trust and confidence practically spans the entire existence of Concordia.

As we have read the records we have also noticed the pioneers' devotion to the house of God; their enforcement of church discipline, and their kindness towards the unfortunate. Scrutiny was used in accepting new members, and religious instruction for the children has been paramount in their planning for the future generations.

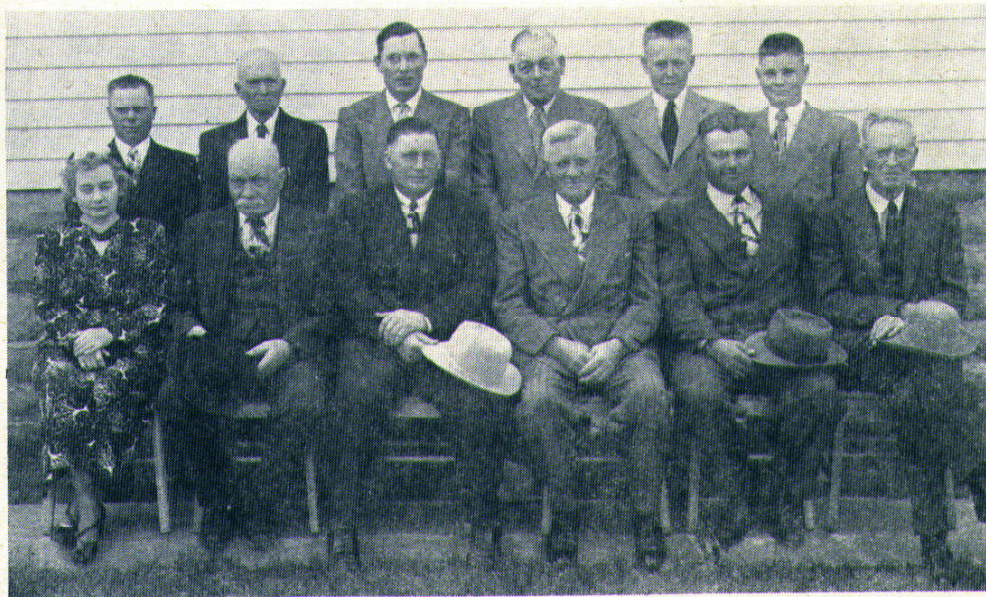
May the Lord, in the future as in the past, hold his protecting and guiding hand over Concordia Congregation!



FIRST WEDDING IN CHURCH
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Grover



FIRST CONFIRMATION CLASS
Thone Thortved, Guro Lisland
Jorund Gunderson (not pictured)
Kjæstef Muhle, Aanund Lisland



OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH — 1949



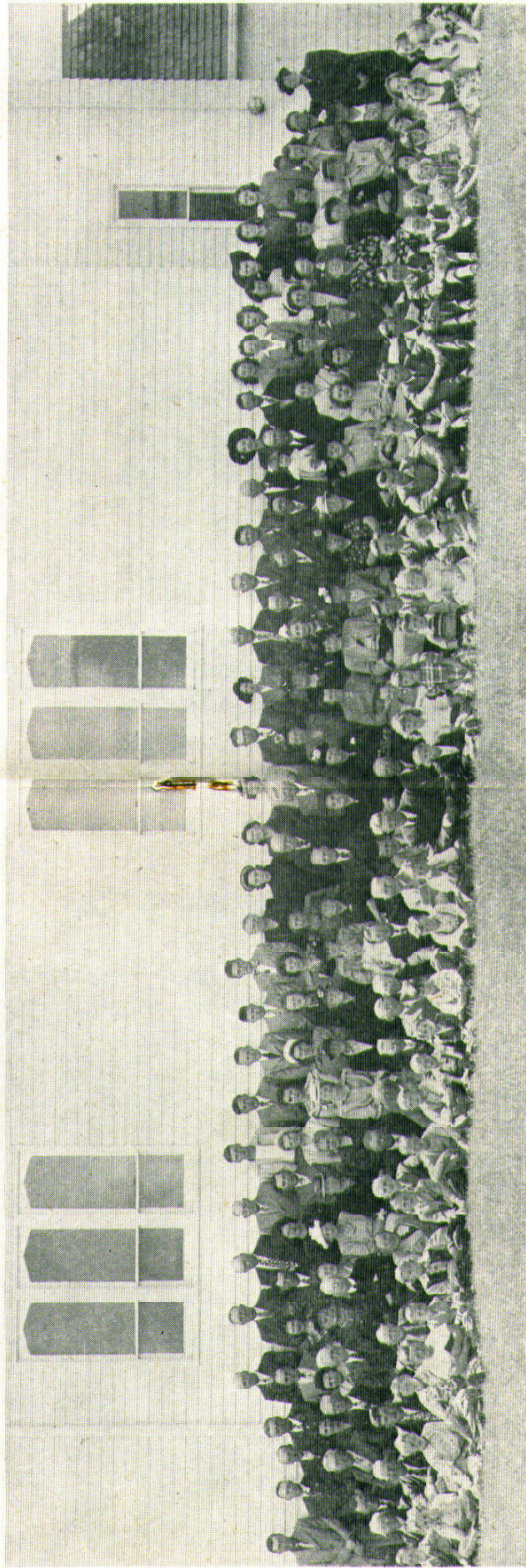
B. J. GUNDERSON



MRS. B. J. GUNDERSON



MRS. SERINE RICE
MRS. SIGNE SVENKESON



PRESENT CONGREGATION — 1949

LADIES' AID HISTORY

In 1884 after the first church was built, an effort was made to organize a ladies' aid in Concordia Congregation. This organization was neither large nor active but it did succeed in raising ninety dollars which was used as a first payment on church pews. Rev. J. O. Hougren was the pastor and Mrs. Tosten Rice served as president. Evidently the organization remained dormant until 1897 when it was reorganized by Mrs. Signe Svenkeson and Mrs. Tosten Rice. For two days these two ladies drove around to their neighbors, using a team of horses, to find out how many women were interested in the reorganization of this aid. The general sentiment was against Ladies' Aids as these were often termed "sladderforeninger." However a day was set at the home of Mrs. Svenkeson to which many came.

The opening hymn sung at this first meeting was number one in the Norse hymnary. "In Jesus name must all our work be done." Mrs. Signe Svenkeson was chosen president, Mrs. Tosten Rice vice president, and Mrs. Jorgen Jensen treasurer.

Meetings were held in the afternoon conducted in the Norse language, devotion was conducted by the pastor or, in his absence, by a member of the aid. Everyone was made to feel welcome and true Norse hospitality was shown. The last portion of the meetings was the serving of a sumptuous lunch, tables were set, a practice which after a time was discontinued.



NORTH SIDE LADIES AID

18

Handwork kept the women busy. Material was bought which was made into various articles and sold at auction sales held at certain times of the year. The first sale took place in Svenkeson's new barn which was decorated for this occasion. With returns from this sale, an organ for the church was installed.

Funds were raised by having picnics and socials; home made ice cream and other confections, not to forget the lemonade and fish ponds, were big attractions for the children. Profits were used for the church, parsonage, missions, orphans' homes, and local parochial school.

It has always been the aim of the Ladies' Aid to further the kingdom of God at home and abroad.

The only records kept were those pertaining to income and expense, which makes writing of the history rather difficult.

The Concordia Church is situated near the center of the congregation which extends ten to thirteen miles along the Bufalo River. Because of the methods of travel in early days, it was decided to divide the Ladies' Aid into two groups, the North and South Side Ladies' Aids. Handwork at meetings was discontinued in favor of dues except for a short period during World War I when the Aid was active in Red Cross work under the leadership of Mrs. A. T. Grover and Mrs. Jorgen Jensen. In 1919 a basement was constructed under the church and furnished by the two Ladies' Aids at the cost of \$1187. This provided a central meeting place so the two Aids united in 1920, and for a time, both Norse and English were used at the meetings. Mrs. B. J. Gunderson was elected first president af-



SOUTH SIDE LADIES AID — 1900

19

ter the union of the aids. A constitution was adopted twenty-three years after the first meeting. In 1922 the Ladies' Aid joined the W. M. F.

At a gathering in church honoring the older members, a fire broke out in the front of the church; however it was soon extinguished by chopping the floor and by the use of a bucket brigade.

In the spring of 1924 the Aid redecorated the parsonage in anticipation of receiving a new pastor, Rev. M. G. Hagen.

Early secretarial records were destroyed on July 4, 1925, when the home of Mrs. Elmer Grover, aid secretary, was destroyed by fire.

The church was redecorated in 1930 by the Aid, but May 27, 1931, a tornado destroyed the church completely.

From 1931 to 1935 half of the aid income was given to a building fund for the erection of a new church, a sum amounting to \$1378. During the years 1936 and 1937, the aid again worked to provide pews for the new church erected in 1936.

These were depression years and the Ladies Aid under the leadership of Mrs. Gilbert Cosen and Mrs. B. J. Gunderson accomplished one of its greatest undertakings—that of raising \$1152 in two years and one month.

An incident worth mentioning is the fact that Mrs. Sigen Svenkeson, a charter member and organizer, died the evening before the church dedication, October 9, 1938.

The Concordia Aid has consistently donated to missions, charity, Christian Education, the Concordia College Scholarship, and has responded generously to the various drives put on by the church. A portion of the funds has been used to help complete the church basement. This was done in 1947.



LADIES AID 1949

For a number of years the program outline of the W. M. F. has been followed, supplemented by musical numbers. For the past ten years Life Memberships have been presented to members attaining the age of sixty-five and in Memoriams have been presented since that time. Officers serving at the present time are: Mrs. B. J. Gunderson, president; Mrs. Lars Horpedahl, Vice president; Mrs. Clarence Jones, Secretary; and Mrs. B. Tommerdahl, Treasurer.

These women, as well as all the rest who have served the Concordia Aid in some capacity or other, would, no doubt, voice the same sentiment as that expressed to the aid in a talk by the first president, Mrs. Svenkeson, when she prayed that these words from the Bible might be applicable to the Concordia Aid members: "See how they love one another."

OUR PIONEER WOMEN

They left the towering mountains, sparkling streams
And jeweled fiords to build a cabin home
Within a Wilderness; staunch were the dreams
That raised the spires on our fertile loam.
They caught the spirit of which homes are made:
They transformed barren walls in huts of sod
Into an altar where a family prayed
In child-like trust that reached the throne of God.
They built the Kingdom in their little sphere
Of influence outside the home, as well;
In consecrated service spread their cheer
And faith in God that trials could not dispel.
They laid the groundwork well; may we be true
To our great heritage, the faith they knew.

—Selected

CONCORDIA GIRLS' SOCIETY

Not only the women but also the girls of Concordia Congregation were eager to help extend God's kingdom and so they organized a "pigeonfencing" or girls' society during the pastorate of H. B. Kildahl in 1898. The first meeting took place in the parsonage and Miss Ella Olson, Mrs. Kildahl's sister, assisted in organizing the group. The second meeting was held at the home of Signe Skrei.

The first leaders chosen were Sigre Skrei and Sina Gunderson, and these women served for several years. Monthly dues of five cents were decided upon. This group had as its main project the aiding of the Children's Home at Lake Park, but they also gave financial assistance to the local church.

These girls made good use of their time; they were shown how to hemstitch handkerchiefs, cross stitch gingham aprons, how to make toy balloons, doilies and scarfs. At one time they sold ten cent chances on a quilt which they made from white muslin with the names embroidered in red. This was won by one of the girls, Theckla Midgarden.



CONCORDIA GIRLS' SOCIETY

22

To raise funds they conducted sales of the handwork they had made as well as sponsoring picnics, ice cream socials, strawberry and raspberry socials. A part of these was usually a stand where candy, peanuts, pop, etc., were sold as well as the fish ponds which afforded much amusement.

Two home talent plays were given which netted the girls about forty-eight dollars and an cyster supper brought in more than twenty dollars.

One of the more important projects of this group was the placing of a fence around the cemetery. All those who could be present were there when this was erected and they aided by helping to put the scroll trim on the top of the fence. It was a hot muggy day and the mosquitoes were very active. In the afternoon the pastor's wife, Mrs. L. M. Skunes, brought the workers a lunch of sandwiches, cookies, and lemonade.

One winter Sina Gunderson sewed and remodelled donated clothing for several weeks in the Children's Home at Lake Park, and Pearl Christianson, who was sixteen years old, spent a week at the same institution mending stockings. These projects were much appreciated.

From time to time this organization aided the Ladies' Aid in furnishing the church and in 1910 they became a part of the aid.

Perhaps the thought expressed in this little prayer pictures the aim of these girls who so faithfully helped promote the work of the Kingdom in this place:

"Use me, O Lord, use even me,
Just as thou wilt, and when and where,
Until thy blessed face I see,
Thy joy, Thy rest, Thy glory share."

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

PERIOD I 1874-1899

Rev. K. B. Bjorgo spoke at the annual meeting of the congregation held in District 6 (Glover school house) November 2, 1877, reminding the congregation and the parents of their duty and obligation. According to God's word, they were to bring up their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. He admonished them for the sin they were committing by neglecting this. As a result the group agreed to take up a subscription for religious instruction. (Translated from church records).

Andreas Solvold was the first teacher elected from 1878 to 1883. He taught in Districts 1, 6, and 8.

Olaf O. Brevick taught in Districts 1, 3, 6, and 8 from 1883 to 1886. He agreed to teach Sunday school from 1 to 4 p. m. for \$1.25 a Sunday. After Sunday school he instructed group singing.

October 24, 1887 Knut Sjaasheim Wetleson was elected and he resigned in 1892.

Tollef G. Kleven began teaching in 1892 and resigned in 1898.

Ole Bekkerus taught one term in District 1, but no date is recorded. The teachers wages were \$25.00 a month.

PERIOD II 1899-1924

Paul and Bergit Tvete, Ole Tweten, Joraand Breiland, Brekke, Fjeldseth, were parochial teachers but no dates are available. E. B. Brien taught in 1905 and A. Aasen in 1907.



SUNDAY SCHOOL — 1949

A call letter was sent to H. A. P. Ronhovde, Bergen, Norway. He consented to be precentor for \$75.00 a year plus offerings, and teacher for \$40.00 a month.

Other teachers in this period were Hilida, Fred, and Selma Kile, Lydia Mandrud and Clara Strand.

PERIOD III 1924-1949

Nora Gryde and Ruth Lien were parochial teachers at the beginning of this period.

Several attempts had been made to conduct a Sunday school but none succeeded until 1924. Fifty pupils were enrolled in the spring of that year with Mrs. B. J. Gunderson as superintendent. Much credit is due Mrs. Gunderson and Rev. M. G. Hagen, who became pastor of the congregation in August 1924, for the success of the Sunday school.

The following have been superintendents:

Mrs. B. J. Gunderson	1924-1925
Mrs. A. J. Midgarden	1925-1926
Mrs. M. G. Hagen	1926-1927
Mrs. B. J. Gunderson	1927-1934
Mrs. Obert Olson	1934-1940
Mrs. B. J. Gunderson	1940-1941
Mrs. Elinor Kassenborg	1941-1944
Obert Grover	1944-1946
Mrs. Lawrence Olson	1946-1947
Mrs. Olaf Wik	1947-1949

Sunday school teachers included the superintendents listed above and according to records the following people: Justin Astrup, Mrs. Clarence Grover, Elvina and Marion Grover, Mrs. Almer Gunderson, Orvis Gunderson, Mrs. M. G. Hagen, Mrs. Erick Hagene, Beatrice Hite, Mrs. Jacob Holte, Arnold Horpedal, Mrs. Martina Jensen, Mrs. Sophus Jensen, Lillian Jesness, Mrs. Gordon Juve, Dorothy Kassenborg, Mrs. Gilbert Kassenborg, Mrs. Kenneth Koester, Mrs. Alvin Kragnes, Mrs. Goodwin Kragnes, Mrs. Fred Lee, Selma Lee, Mrs. Elmer Mecham, Alice Nestevold, Eileen Olson, LeRoy Olson, Mrs. Thomas Olson, Mrs. Tarje Skrei, Mrs. Sigfred Swanson, Agnes Wik and Harold Wik. Mrs. A. J. Midgarden has taught a class every year since Sunday school was organized.

Sunday school secretaries have been Selma Snartland 1924-1936, Mrs. Marie Bekkerus 1936-1940, and the present one, Mrs. Erick Hagene 1940-1949.

Sunday school was originally organized into a fall and a spring quarter with thirteen Sundays each. Two weeks of parochial school have been held for several summers to supplement Sunday school. The Sunday school teachers, aided by Marie Nelson, Agnes Wik, Alice Midgarden, and Raymond Huss taught before 1943.

Since 1943 the congregation has hired two teachers for this phase of religious education. Individuals who have taught are:

Esther and Agnes Wik	1943
Mrs. Elinor Kassenborg and Doris Gunderson	1944 and 1945
Mrs. B. J. Gunderson and Doris Gunderson	1946
Lois Johnshoy and Doris Gunderson	1947
Florence Grover and Valborg Wik	1948
Esther Wik and Doris Gunderson	1949



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, PAST AND PRESENT

MUSIC

During the early years, hymn singing in Concordia congregation was led by precentors (church singers). The first of these was Andreas Solvold elected in 1878. Each voting member was to be taxed \$1.00 for this service.

A. Hagerdahl was in charge from September to November, 1883. He was paid \$10.00.

Olaf O. Brevick was elected in November. Each farmer was to donate \$1.00 toward his salary. In addition Mr. Brevick was to be given special offerings to increase his salary.

Knut Sjaasheim Wetleson served from October 24, 1887 to December 6, 1892. After his resignation, Tollef J. Kleven was elected for the wage of \$8.25 and offerings. His brother, Olaf J. Kleven was elected in 1898.

John Lindal, Glyndon, Minnesota, was song leader in 1901 for \$50.00 and offerings.

Christian Brandvick was elected in 1902 and served two years for the same salary schedule as Mr. Lindal.

E. B. Brien began his leadership in 1904.

A. Aasen, precentor, served from 1907 to 1909, after which Oscar Christianson had charge until 1911.

The last church-singer, P. Ronhovde, Bergen, Norway, arrived in 1912. He received \$75.00 and offerings.

The ladies aid purchased the first organ for the church. Mrs. K. B. Kildahl, organist, assisted by her sister, Miss Olson, organized the first choir which practiced in homes possessing organs. The song book, "Fryde-Toner" was used.

Maline Kassenborg and Mrs. L. M. Skunes played in 1900. Mrs. Jorgen Jensen became organist in 1901 and assisted faithfully for years when no one else was available. Thea Svenkeson played from 1902 to 1903. A. Aasen was organist from 1907 to 1909. From 1913 to 1915, Joseph Kile was organist, after which Marie Oberg presided at the organ. At this time a new organ was obtained.

Mrs. H. J. Wickre was elected organist in 1917 and served five years for \$60.00 annually.

During the years 1922 to 1929 Selma Lee, Alice Midgardsen, Elvina Grover, and Lillian Jesness accompanied the singing.

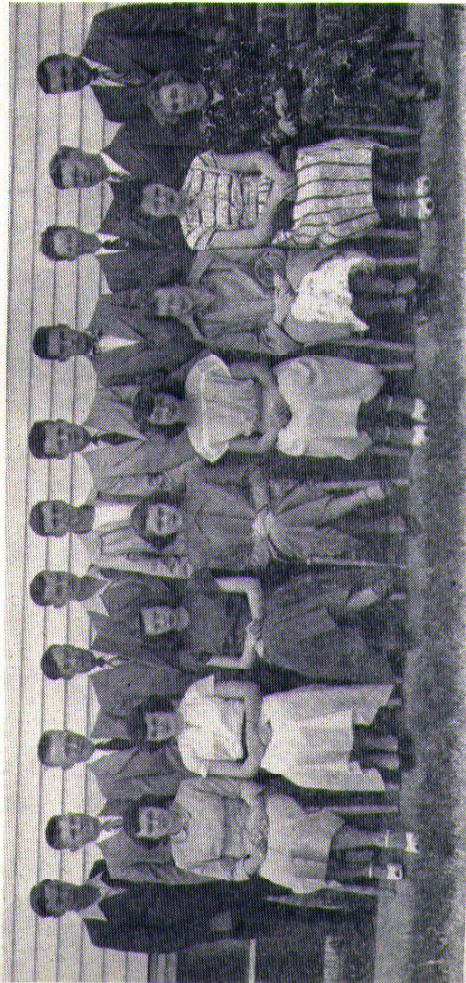
November 18, 1929, Elvina Grover was elected organist at the annual meeting of the congregation. Selma Lee was elected in 1931 and served until 1932. Miss Lee was elected in 1933 and played until 1937. During the summer of 1935 Raymond Huss, seminary student, directed a choir and Alice Midgarden was accompanist. Mrs. George Lee was elected choir leader in the fall of 1935.

Mrs. Tarje Skrei was organist from 1938 to 1942. Mrs. Obert Grover, present accompanist, was elected in 1943.

The late Rev. J. Walter Johnshoy directed the choir while he served as pastor of the congregation. Kenneth Sorvick, Moorhead, Minnesota, is the present choir director.

The pianos were purchased by the Young People's Society and the Ladies Aid.

In April this year the electric organ was purchased from funds solicited by Selma Lee, Andrew Gunderson, Goodwin Oberg, Clifford Horpedal and LeRoy Olson, committee.



CHOIR — 1949

HISTORY OF THE CONCORDIA LUTHER LEAGUE

Midwinter of 1900 marks the beginning of the Buffalo River Luther League, the forerunner of the Concordia Luther League.

This energetic group of 24 charter members led and motivated by the Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Kildahl met weekly and regularly the year around at the Kassenborg School, the school of District Number 8 (Riverside) and in the homes of many of the members.

They had religious, literary and social meetings in rotation with religious meetings predominant. They voted on the steady flow of applications for membership, had roll call, held open forums on Scripture lessons, maintained contact with the Red River Valley Central League, and sent many delegates to its conventions.

Particularly outstanding was the use to which they put the reading course of the Red River Valley Central League. This included in part: **The Way of Salvation in the Lutheran Church, Praying and Working, and Chronicles of the Schenberg - Cotta Family.** The last named book, a story of Luther's life, has become a rare publication.

They did not omit devotions at literary meetings.

Included in their socials were: an oyster stew supper, a lawn social, (The gentlemen were charged admission) and a basket social.

Honesty prevails in their records. A secretary records an apology from the whole group for the disorder in which a school was left.

Hymnbooks were their first project. At Christmastime, 1900, they financed kerosine lamps for the church and decorated, tree included, for the season. Every cent left in the fund after expenses had been paid they gave to charity.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

And in 1902 still meeting weekly they celebrated their second anniversary.

Records are scant from then until 1917 when the league was reorganized under a new name, the Concordia Luther League.

Systematic records begin again in 1925. Program strength in spiritual food rose to the forefront and continued steadily for several years. This marked growth developed from leadership, from participation within the league, and from guest programs. An increased membership followed.

Home projects were: the upkeep and improvement of the cemetery grounds, white crosses for unmarked graves, linoleum and upholstery for the church building, and a piano.

Younger members have been in the majority in recent years. Meetings have been held mainly during the summer months.

Programs prepared by the International Young Peoples Luther League have been used. A library has again been started.

Contributions have been given to the project of the International Young Peoples' Luther League, to In Memoriams, and to Lutheran World Action.

Home projects have been lights for the new church, the pulpit fall and altar cloth, and most recent, the organ.

Present officers are: President, Richard Skrei; Vice president, Effie Johnson; Secretary - Treasurer, Ruth Horpedal.

Esther I. Wik

Bekkerus, Alfred
 Bekkerus, Mrs.
 Bekkerus, Donald
 Bekkerus, Jean
 Bekkerus, Allen
 Bekkerus, Edward
 Bekkerus, Theodore
 Bekkerus, Mrs. Sophia
 Bekkerus, Mrs. Marie
 Bekkerus, Merle
 Bekkerus, Howard
 Bekkerus, Mrs. Emma
 Bjonfald, Mrs. Gina
 Bjonfald, Olaf
 Brantner, Paul
 Brantner, Mrs. Olive
 Brantner, Perry
 Brantner, Jerry
 Cosen, Gilbert
 Cosen, Mrs. Nettie
 Engesather, Arthur
 Engesather, Mrs. Vera
 Engesather, Walter
 Ekstam, Henry
 Grover, Elmer
 Grover, Raymond
 Grover, Gerald
 Grover, Mrs. Lenore
 Grover, Albert
 Grover, Florence
 Grover, Overt R.
 Grover, Lydia
 Grover, Burton
 Grover, Willfred
 Grover, Mrs. Willfred
 Grover, Patricia
 Grover, Thomas
 Grover, Susan
 Gunderson, Almer
 Gunderson, Mrs. Amanda
 Gunderson, Lloyd
 Gunderson, Andrew
 Gunderson, Robert
 Gunderson, Mary
 Gunderson, Mrs. Anna
 Gunderson, Bennie J.
 Gunderson, Mrs. Rena
 Gunderson, Emmett
 Gunderson, Doris
 Gunderson, Olga
 Horpedahl, Lars
 Horpedahl, Mrs. Lars
 Horpedahl, Clifford
 Horpedahl, Harold
 Horpedahl, Ruth
 Hagene, Erick
 Hagene, Mrs. Veula
 Hagene, Waldemar
 Hagene, Myron
 Hite, Everett
 Hite, Irene
 Hanson, Mrs. Laura
 Hanson, Arthur
 Hanson, Walter
 Hanson, Norman
 Hanson, Mrs. Regna
 Holte, Jacob
 Holte, Mrs. Ingeborg
 Holte, Jean
 Jones, Joyce
 Jones, Maris
 Jensen, Mrs. Martina
 Johnson, J. B.
 Johnson, Mrs. J. B.
 Johnson, Donald
 Johnson, Effie
 Juve, Alden
 Juve, Mrs. Edna
 Juve, Gordon
 Juve, Mrs. Gordon
 Juve, Genelle
 Juve, Diane
 Juve, James
 Juve, Mrs.
 Juve, LeRoy
 Johnk, Albert
 Johnk, Mrs. Alpha
 Johnk, Robert
 Johnk, Ralph
 Kassenberg, Mrs. Lena
 Kassenberg, Allen
 Kassenberg, Dorothy
 Kassenberg, Edwir
 Kassenberg, Helen
 Kassenberg, Alvina
 Kassenberg, Glen
 Kassenberg, Edward
 Kassenberg, Mrs. Christene
 Kassenberg, Selvina
 Kassenberg, Ernest
 Kassenberg, Gilbert
 Kassenberg, Mrs. Esther
 Kassenberg, Mrs. Gordon
 Kassenberg, Elner
 Kassenberg, Mrs. Rachel
 Kassenberg, Margarie

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Kasserborg, Betty	Morken, Alexander	Skrei, Karen
Koester, Kenneth	Morken, Mrs. Julia	Skrei, Rebecca
Koester, Mrs. May	Morken, Sidney	Skrei, Robert
Koester, Rebecca	Morken, Irene	Skrei, David
Koester, James	Morken, Selma	Skrei, Joan
Kragnes, Alvin	Muhle, Mrs. Guro	Skrei, Lynn
Kragnes, Mrs. Adeline	Midgarden, Andrew J.	Skrei, Milo R.
Kragnes, Burton C.	Midgarden, Mrs. Sophia	Sorenson, C. O.
Kragnes, Lorna	Midgarden, Richard	Sorenson, Mrs. C. O.
Kragnes, Orpha	Oberg, Gudmund	Sorenson, Curtiss
Kragnes, Eugene	Oberg, Mrs. Gudmund	Swanson, Sigfred
Kragnes, Gilbert	Oberg, Marlene	Swanson, Mrs. Sigfred
Kragnes, Mrs. Elsie	Oberg, Mildred	Swanson, Gordon
Kragnes, Goodwin	Oberg, John	Swanson, Leonard
Kragnes, Mrs. Esther	Oberg, Joan	Swanson, Mrs. Thea
Kragnes, Margaret	Oberg, Vernon	Swanson, Carl
Kragnes, Melvin	Oberg, Martin	Swanson, C. A.
Kragnes, Mrs.	Olson, Thomas	Swanson, Mrs. Emma
Kragnes, Myron	Olson, Mrs. Mabel	Swanson, Gunter
Kragnes, Bernhard	Olson, Eilene	Swanson, Mrs. Alice
Kragnes, Mrs. Emmanuel	Olson, Grace	Swanson, Bonita
Kragnes, Alvin J.	Olson, Lawrence	Svenkeson, Otto
Kragnes, Mrs. Cora	Olson, Mrs. Julia	Svenkeson, Mrs. Ingeborg
Kragnes, Russell	Olson, Leroy	Svenkeson, Ida
Kragnes, Mrs. Margaret	Olson, Auden	Svenkeson, Andrew
Kragnes, Lloyd	Olson, Marilyn	Svenkeson, Elsie
Kragnes, Mrs. Janice	Olson, Henry	Svenkeson, William
Kragnes, Bertha	Olson, Delia	Thortvedt, Ole
Kragnes, Janet	Ostrem, Oscar M.	Thortvedt, Mrs. Hilma
Kragnes, Joan	Ostrem, Erling	Thortvedt, Dorothy
Kragnes, Lydia	Ostrem, Mrs. Edna	Thortvedt, Goodwin
Kragnes, Arthur	Ostrem, Mary	Thortvedt, Norman
Kragnes, Oberlin	Polikowsky, Mrs. Alice	Thortvedt, Stella
Kragnes, Allard	Ramstad, Mrs. Annie	Thortvedt, Eva
Kragnes, Aletta	Rice, R. A.	Thortvedt, Orabel
Langlie, Thomas	Rice, Almer	Tommardahl, Bennie
Langlie, Herman	Rice, Mrs. Lena	Tommardahl, Mrs. Elsie
Lee, Fred	Sem, Mrs. Wanda	Tommardahl, Richard
Lee, Mrs. Floreice	Snartland, Mrs. Guro	Tommardahl, Robert
Lee, Signe	Snartland, Gerhard	Tommardahl, Lois
Lee, Selma	Snartland, Sidney	Tommardahl, Westcott
Morken, Obe	Snartland, Thorance	Tommardahl, Dennis
Morken, Mrs. Lillian	Skrei, Mrs. Tilda	Wik, Olaf
Morken, Larry	Skrei, Tarje	Wik, Mrs. Karina
Morken, Rhoda	Skrei, Mrs. Tarje	Wik, Harold
Morken, Elaine	Skrei, Janice	Wik, Esther
Morken, Henry	Skrei, Dorothy	Wik, Valborg
Morken, Obert	Skrei, William	Wik, Verne
Morken, Trina	Skrei, Obert	Wilson, Arthur
Morken, Tilda	Skrei, Mrs. Evelyn	Wilson, Julius
Morken, Martin	Skrei, Richard	Wilson, Oliver
Morken, Mrs. Martin	Skrei, Barbara	Wilson, Eddie