

*Mona
Lutheran Church
History*

100 Years
1876 - 1976

Mona, Iowa

A Century of Christian Witness



WE HUMBLY DEDICATE THIS BOOKLET TO THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD, FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT FOR HIS SUSTAINING GRACE AND GOODNESS THROUGH THESE 100 YEARS.

TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS — WITH A PRAYER THAT THEY TOO MAY HEED AND OBEY GOD'S COMMAND UNTO THEM TO "GO FORTH AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL NATIONS."

CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE AUGUST 14 and 15, 1976



For one hundred years our Mona Lutheran Congregation has been part of the kingdom of God working to do His will and to proclaim His gospel in our community as well as to the ends of the earth.

To our God we give thanks for the blessings He has given us through these years. Let us thank Him for the ministry of Word and Sacrament which we participate in through our congregation.

To our forefathers who came to this community and established the Mona Congregation.

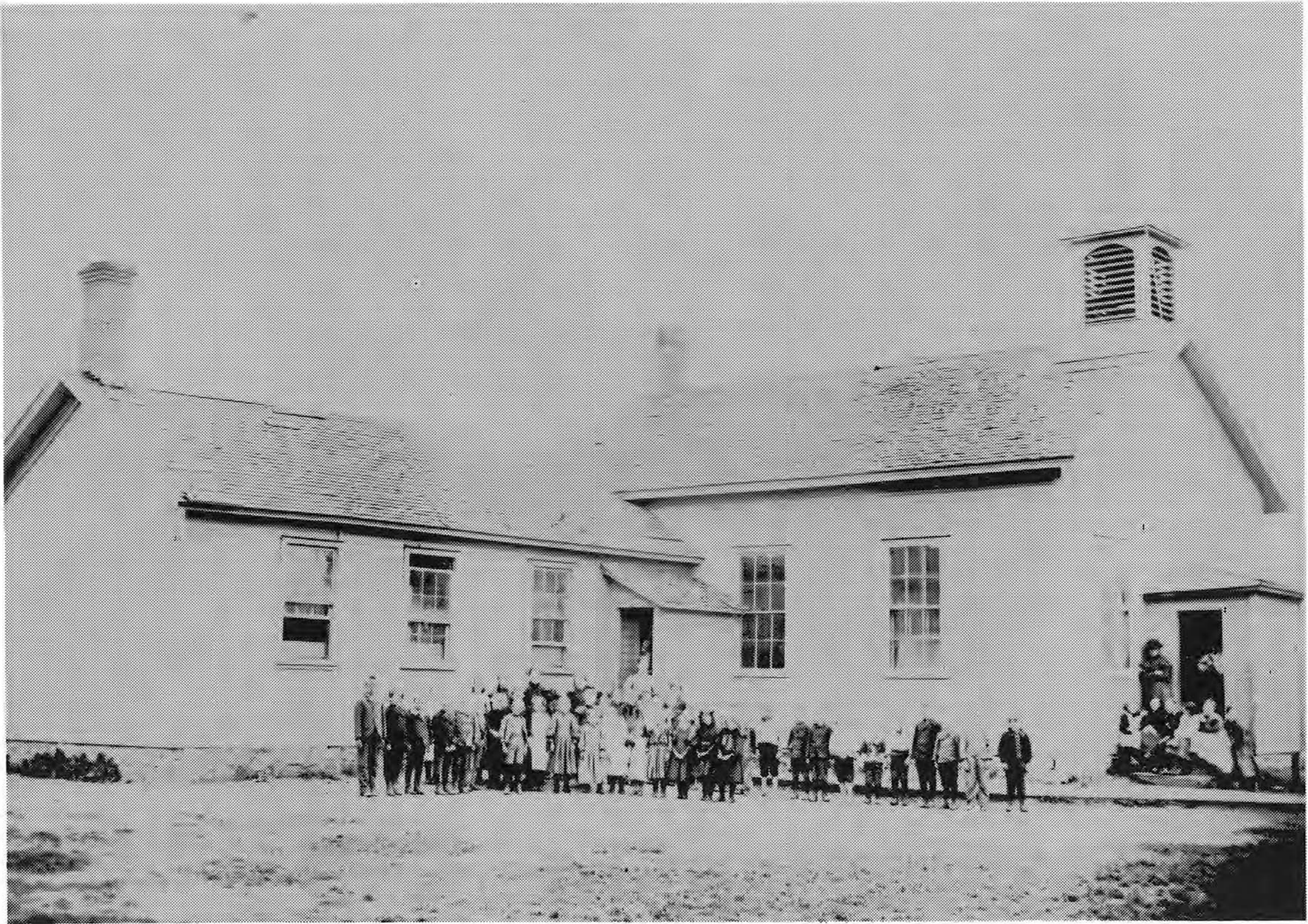
To those who have labored down through the years to build God's kingdom and who have laid the foundations from which we have reaped so many blessings.

To the pastors who have served their Lord faithfully by their service to people of our congregation, we give thanks.

May this booklet be a reminder of God's concern for His people as well as a history of the concerned Christians of the past years. As we dedicate this booklet to the glory of God, may it ever be a reminder that God's care and concern go with us in future years. May we be reminded of the hymn verse, "Oh, God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home."

Let us dedicate ourselves to continue to serve our Lord through Christian lives lived for Him and through Christian congregations dedicated to proclaim His gospel to all people.

The Centennial Committee



*First Mona School House
Site of Organization of the Lutheran Congregation, 1876*

HISTORY OF MONA LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Mona, Iowa, was organized on September 29, 1876, at the old Mona Schoolhouse. Prior to its organization as an independent congregation, it was part of the St. Ansgar Norwegian Lutheran Church from 1853 to 1859 and from 1859 to 1875 a part of the Six Mile Grove Congregation.

Its first pastors were Rev. C. L. Clausen, who was responsible for bringing Lutheranism to this area, Rev. J. Olson, and Rev. B. B. Gzeldaker.

Among its first organizers were the following: Peter Knutson, Ole Peterson, Martin Hanson, Knute Strand, O. Hofland, B. Bottum, P. K. Emerson, I. K. Emerson, T. Reiersen, H. Lysaker, and Gustav Carlson.

Seven years later in 1883, the first important transaction was the purchasing of land for a church building. This was transacted by the trustees: P. K. Emerson, M. Peterson, and M. O. Wilson.

A copy of the original deed is reproduced as follows in its original form as recorded in the court house at Osage, Iowa, on December 2, 1884, at 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ A.M.

J. P. Farley and Mary L. Farley

Filed December 3rd 1884 at 11/1/84

Frank Meinger

Recorder

Trustees of Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation.

Now all men by these Presents That J. P. Farley & Mary L. Farley his wife of Dubuque County and State of Iowa in consideration of the sum of One Dollar in hand paid by the Norwegian Evangelical Congregation of Mona Iowa and Lyle Minnesota of Mitchell County and State of Iowa do hereby sell and convey unto the said Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Mona Ia & Lyle Minn the following described premises situated in Mitchell County Iowa Viz Lots Number One (1) Two (2) Three (3) Four (4) and Five (5) in Block Twenty five (25) in the Town of Mona Mitchell County Iowa as per Recorded Plat of said Town This deed is made to convey the above described property to the Trustees of said congregation P. M. Everson M. Peterson and M. C. Wilson and to their successors in office and we do hereby covenant with the said Trustees of said congregation that we are lawfully seized of said premises that they are free from incumbrance that we have good right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same and we do hereby covenant to warrant and defend the said premises and appurtenances thereto belonging against the claims of all persons whomsoever and the said Mary L. Farley hereby relinquishes all her right of dower in and to the above described premises.

Signed the 14th day of April A.D. 1883.

In Presence of E. B. Farley

State of Iowa }
so

J. P. Farley

Mary L. Farley

Dubuque County } On this 14th day of April A.D. 1883 before me Edwin B. Farley
a Notary Public in and for said County personally came J. P. Farley and Mary
L. Farley his wife to me personally known to be the identical persons whose names
are affixed to the foregoing instrument as grantors and acknowledged the execution
of the same to be their voluntary act and deed.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal the day and year above written.

Edwin B. Farley

Notary Public In & for Dubuque County

Iowa.

Articles of Incorporation of
The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran
Congregation Mona Ia

Filed for Record the 18th day of
March A.D. 1887 at 3 o'clock P.M.
C. Larson Recorder.

Mona Mitchell County Iowa

Incorporation

Be it remembered that we Torsten Petersen Knud Straud and
Bottolf Botthun being each of us a citizen of the United States
and of the State of Iowa, do hereby constitute ourselves a body
Corporate under and by virtue of Chapter (53) Fifty Three Revisi-
ons of 1860 of the laws of the State of Iowa under the name and
Style of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Mona
and Lyle

1st The object of this Corporation shall be to purchase or receive by gift bequest or otherwise, and hold any property real or personal or mixed and to dispose of the same for the purpose of maintaining and propagating the Evangelical Lutheran doctrine Church Government, and Discipline, and to that end support Ministers and the Religious Teachers, Erect Church Edifices, Parsonages and Schools for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Monka and Lyke, at Winn Mitchell's County Iowa, and to do any other thing not inconsistent with Law calculated to promote the Welfare of our said Congregation

2nd The business affairs of this Congregation shall be conducted by three Trustees who are to be Elected at the annual Meeting thereof on the last Friday of November of each year and who is to hold office for three years, the term of Office commencing on the first day of January succeeding their election The first Board of Trustees are Martin J. Hansen K. Straud and A. W. Anderson who hold Office as follows, Martin J. Hansen for three years Knud Straud for two years and A. W. Anderson for one year.

3rd At the annual Meeting of said Congregation By laws may be adapted not inconsistent with these articles or with the Doctrine and discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Trustees of this Corporation shall in all their official acts be strictly guided by the by laws and resolutions regularly adapted by said Congregation

4th The principal Place of business of said Corporation shall be within bounds of said Congregation as from time to time designated by resolutions or the By Laws.

5th Private property shall not be liable for the indebtedness of this Corporation. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this date

P. Polloff B. Pottem
Josteu Reimsen
Knud. O. Strand

State of Iowa } ss.
Mitchell County } On this the 29th day of November A. D.
1884 personally appeared P. Polloff B. Pottem Josteu Reimsen Knud. Strand to me personally known to be the identical Persons whose names are affixed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged their signatures to be their Voluntary Act and Deed



P. H. Everson
Notary Public

The present church building was erected in 1882, at a cost of \$5,000 at the beginning of Rev. Muller Eggen's pastorate. Pastor Eggen spent 23 fruitful years as the congregation's pastor (1882-1905). Pastors Thorseth and Dietrickson served as associates during the later years of Rev. Eggen's ministry in the Mona congregation. The Rev. N. N. Esser served as pastor from 1906 to 1911.

In 1910 thirty-eight families withdrew from the congregation and organized Our Savior's Lutheran Church at Lyle, Minnesota. Professor Olav Lee was called as temporary pastor from 1912 to 1913. Rev. A. Elmer Moe served as pastor from 1913 to 1922. Rev. Moe was an outstanding speaker and will be remembered for his speaking ability. Rev. G. Storaasli was pastor from 1919 to 1920; Rev. C. S. Vang 1923-1925; Rev. O. M. Langehough succeeded Rev. Vang as pastor in June 1925.

Pastor Langehough was with us for 19 years and will be remembered for his inspiring messages in word and song. Members still reminisce about his social calls, the ice cream socials, bazaars, and suppers that were held in Mona Church. It was during this time that the furnace room was completed and the interior of the church redecorated.

Odean Tieman, a son of the congregation, was ordained June 15, 1941, in the Mona Lutheran Church. Pastor Tieman served parishes in Calumet, Michigan, and Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Then he was chaplain in the service of his Country. Later he served in Ispeming, Michigan, and Trempealeau, Wisconsin. He is now a Pastor at Menomonie, Wisconsin. In 1971 he celebrated his thirtieth year in the ministry. Throughout his years in the ministry he has remained faithful to God in his word and his teachings.

Rev. M. L. Hostager was here during 1945 to 1946. Rev. T. G. Torvik was pastor of the congregation from 1946 to 1949.

Rev. Boe served temporarily for three months until Rev. S. V. Gjervik came in December of 1949. He did much to inspire us to greater things. We appreciated his kindness, his unfailing helpfulness, and loyalty to Mona Lutheran.

In 1951 a new constitution was adopted jointly by the three congregations of the parish. Mona, Our Savior's and Six Mile Grove were known as Trinity Lutheran Parish.

Rev. Stanford Stenson served us from 1954 to 1958. It was at this time that Bible Study groups were organized. The church was redecorated and a new carpet was installed. He also directed the choir and will be remembered for his pleasing personality.

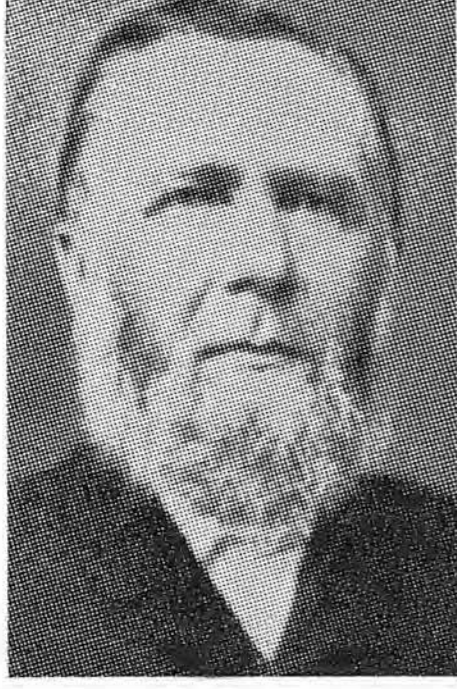
Rev. Klemesrud served us from 1960 to 1969. He will be remembered for his faith and love for his Savior. When Rev. Klemesrud was here, the new Parish Hall dining room and kitchen was built and dedicated. This was the beginning of Sunrise Services and Easter breakfast. He will also be remembered for his music. During this time, we decided to sponsor a missionary, Rev. Delbert Rumme, who is serving in Japan. We are still sponsoring him at the present time. Rev. Klemesrud's kindness and thoughtfulness will always be a part of us.

The Rev. Einar Unseth was here for six years, 1969 to 1975. His faith and belief in the power of prayer will always be held in high esteem by the members of Mona Lutheran. It was during this time that the Drive-In was built and services were held every Sunday evening from June 1 until September 1 for four years. The message for each service was provided by various local and area pastors with a variety of musical talent also a part of the program. An average of about one hundred cars attended each service with the attendance in one evening being one hundred sixty-five cars. Through these services an average of three hundred twenty-five people were reached for each service. People from many different states were represented.

During these six years new windows were installed and the church was redecorated. A new organ for the church was also purchased. Since Rev. Unseth was a nature lover, it was through his efforts that the church yard was beautified with evergreens. Rev. Unseth was a witness to the community.

Dorothy Bonnallie, daughter of this congregation, was commissioned as missionary of the A. L. C. by Dr. Oscar Hanson in July, 1955.

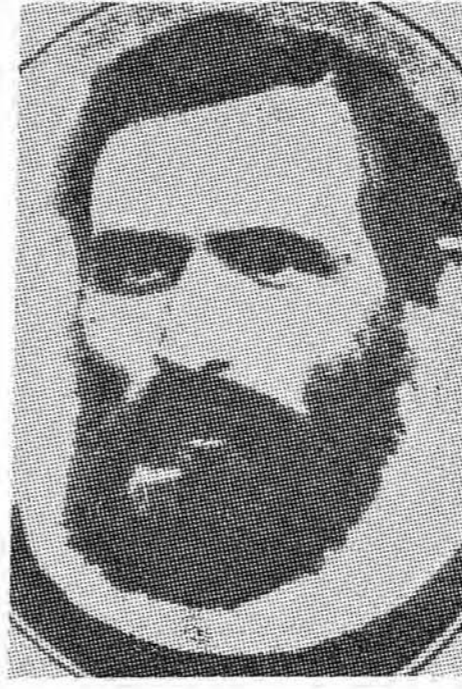
PASTORS



Rev. C. L. Clausen
1859-1871



Rev. Johan Olson
1871-1878



Rev. B. B. Gjeldaker
1878-1881



Rev. J. Muller Eggen
1882-1905



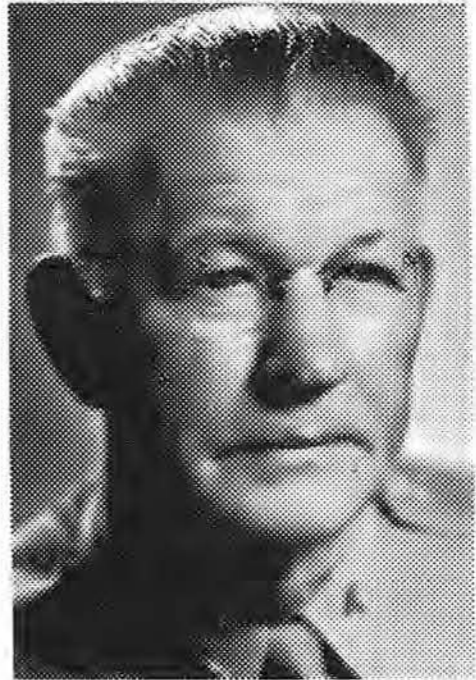
Rev. P. A. Dietrichson
1905-1906



Rev. N. N. Esser
1906-1912



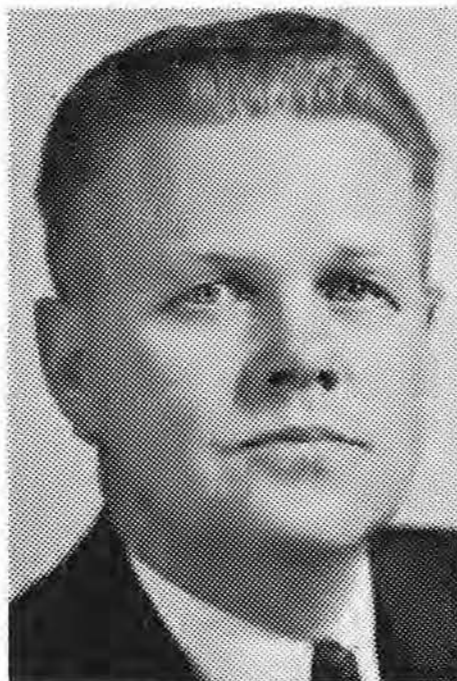
Rev. A. Elmer Moe
1913-1922



Rev. G. Storosli
1919-1920



Rev. C. S. Vang
1923-1925



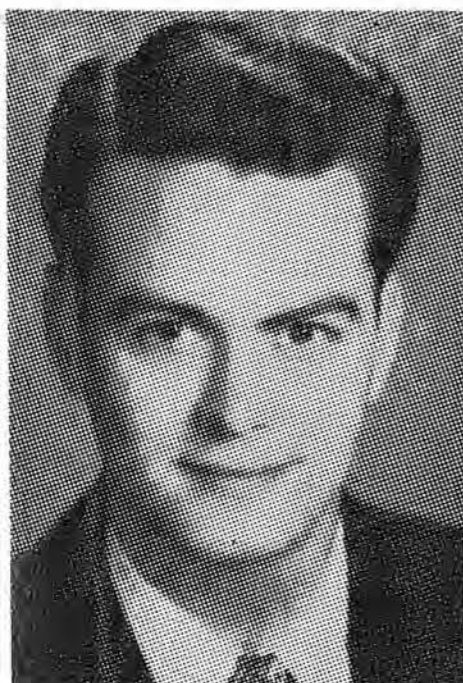
Rev. O. M. Langehough
1925-1944



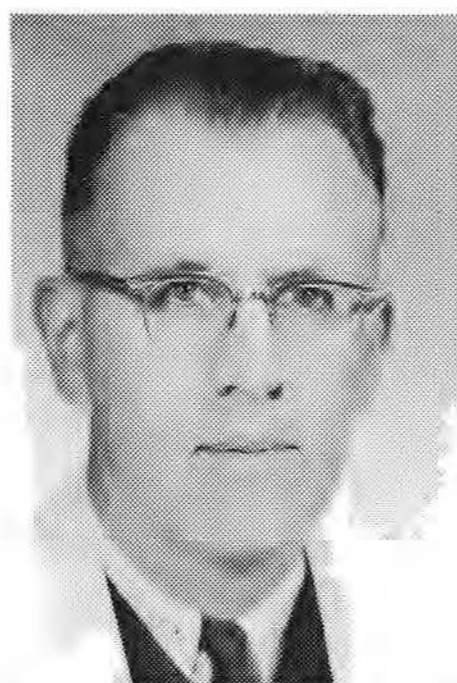
Rev. T. G. Torvik
1946-1949



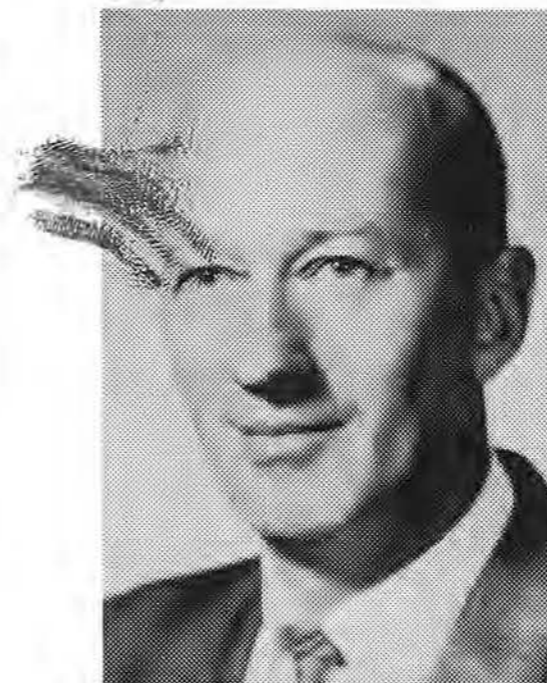
Rev. S. V. Gjervik
1949-1954



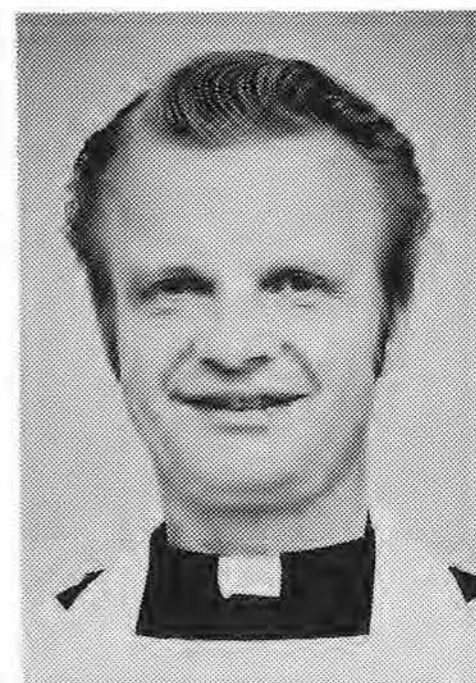
Rev. S. O. Stenson
1954-1958



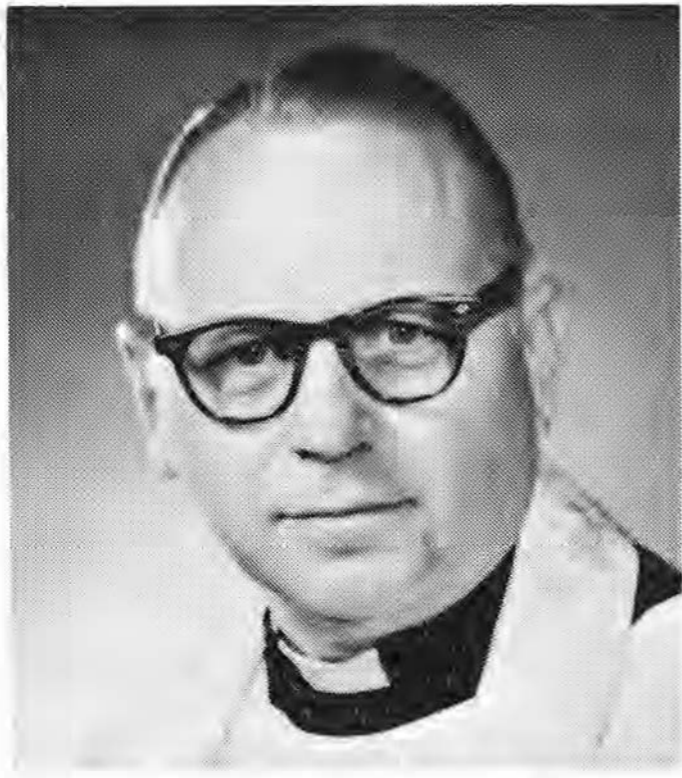
Rev. Stanley Klemesrud
1960-1969



Rev. Einar Unseth
1969-1975



Rev. Gaylord Grant
1975-



Rev. Odean Tieman
Son of Congregation



Dorothy Bonnalie
Missionary to Japan

LADIES AID HISTORY

(Kvindeforening)

The Mona and Lyle Ladies Mission Society was organized at the home of Mrs. Jacob Jensen of Lyle, Minnesota, on October 1, 1871.

The first meeting opened with the singing of the hymn, "Herre Jeg Hjertelig Onsker at Fremme Din Are."

Emmisary F. M. Anderson led in scripture and prayer. He chose as his text Romans 10:1, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved."

Steps were taken for the organization of the society. Five women were chosen as charter members. Election of officers were: President, Mrs. Maria M. Hanson; Secretary, Mrs. Stena Myhre; Treasurer, Mrs. Caroline Osmunson, known as Mrs. B. Hanson.

The purpose of the society shall be to labor together in Christian love with God's word and prayer, to contribute free will gifts in the form of money or articles of value for the support and promotion of foreign missions.

Each member was to pay ten cents for dues at the meetings. The hostesses served lunch to the guests seated at the table in their homes. A white table cloth was used. Some of the things they served were bread and butter, sauces, head cheese, rollapulsa, cake, and cookies.

In 1884 the Society decided to have two funds namely the mission fund and the church fund. Mrs. Thorson was elected treasurer for the church fund.

The same year they began to work for the church bell. A dinner was served to raise money. The following committee was elected to solicit: Mrs. B. Hanson, Mrs. Mads Peterson, Mrs. Anna Stordahl Larson, Mrs. Annie Everson, Mrs. M. Wilson, Mrs. Gustav Carlson. Those who sold tickets were: Theodore Stordahl, Louis Stordahl, and Sever Severson. There was a number of articles of clothing which were sold at auction. B. Hanson acted as auctioneer and M. Wilson as secretary.

In 1879 the society sent thirty dollars to Madagascar to buy a slave child and set him free. He was baptized and called Samuel.

In 1898 the whole year's collection for the church fund was given towards St. Olaf Hospital at Austin, Minnesota. The Aid also furnished one room later.

The fiftieth anniversary of the society was celebrated in 1927, the sixtieth in 1937. September 30, 1937, marked the 60th anniversary of the Ladies Aid. It was decided to have a chicken and lefse supper and program. Fifteen and twenty-five cents was charged for the supper. The proceeds of the supper was \$51.30.

Since its organization, the society has given approximately \$22,000 for the advancement of God's Kingdom. Today we have a membership of forty-four. Meetings are held the last Thursday in the month, which has been the custom since its beginning. The following officers are serving in 1976: President; Mrs. Raymond Carlson; Vice President, Mrs. Rhoda Schroeder; Secretary, Mrs. Laverne Roberts; Church Treasurer, Mrs. Almo Jahr; Mission Treasurer, Mrs. Leland Haugen; Stewardship, Mrs. LeRoy Johnson; Education Secretary, Mrs. Wayne Hanson.



LADIES AID OFFICERS

Back Row: Left to right, Mrs. Leland Haugen, Mrs. Wayne Hanson, Mrs. Almo Jahr, and Mrs. LeRoy Johnson. Front Row: Left to right, Mrs. Raymond Carlson, Mrs. Rhoda Schroeder, Mrs. Luverne Roberts

The main concern of the A.L.C.W. is its work for missions. For the past five years a group of ladies have been faithful in coming every Monday afternoon, except for three summer months, to make quilts for the needy. In this period they have made over five hundred quilts.

The Ladies Aid also help in the upkeep of the church building.

Each meeting is opened with scripture reading and prayer. The Ladies Aid motto is, "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9. This motto was adopted by the Ladies Aid on September 28, 1933.

We have two active circles who meet once a month for the purpose of studying God's Word.



Quilting Group

Margaret Meyer, Gerd Haugen, Hattie Haugen, Rhoda Schroeder, Eva Carlson, Lila Rustad (standing). Verdie Carlson, Helen Nelson, Mina Johnson, Bertha Lunde, Ruth Anderson (seated).

These quilting ladies meet every Monday afternoon, except for the summer months. They have made over five hundred quilts which they have given to Lutheran Welfare and other causes. Hazel Golberg is also a member but was not present for the picture.



Work Committee of 50th Anniversary

Back Row: Left to right, Ruth Christianson Anderson, Mrs. Fred Nelson, Mrs. Peter Nelson, Mrs. Gunder Berg, Mrs. Newton Dennis, Mrs. Jake Myhre, Mrs. Oliver Larson, Mrs. Nils Anderson. Front Row: Left to right, Blanche Berg Sola, Norris Anderson, Mrs. Larden Halvvorson.

DORCAS SEWING CIRCLE

(Pikeforening)

On November 7, 1914, the Dorcas Sewing Circle was organized by Mrs. Tillie McKee, who held the first meeting at her home. The first officers were: President, Mrs. McKee; Vice President, Alma Rasmussen; Secretary, Ella Hanson; Treasurer, Amanda Holt. The meetings were held the first Saturday of each month and later changed to the first Wednesday. Their motto was: "She hath done what she could." (Mark 14:8)

The Dorcas Sewing Circle dues were ten cents for each meeting. Refreshments were to be sandwiches, one kind of cake, cookies, pickles, and fruit salad.

Many articles of clothing, quilts, and other things were made. Sums of money were sent to various children's homes and missions. Bazaars and ice cream socials were held in the summer. Proceeds were used for mission work and helping to purchase equipment for the church. The Delco Plant, which was used to generate electricity, was installed in the church in 1919 with the work being done by Ed Gould. Prior to that they used lamps. The furnace was also one of the projects that they helped to sponsor. R.E.A. was installed in the Church in 1939.

The Dorcas Sewing Circle planned the Christmas programs, the decorating of the church tree which almost reached the ceiling, and the soliciting of treats for the children; sacks of candy, nuts and apples. Planning for the Christmas festivities was turned over to the Sunday School in 1940.

Mission work was their main concern. In 1944 they joined the A.L.C.W.

YOUNG PEOPLES SOCIETY AND LUTHER LEAGUE

(Ungdomsforening)

The exact time that the Young Peoples Society was organized is not known but was in form of a church service for the young people of the congregation. The program which always opened with Scripture Reading and Prayer, consisted of Readings, songs, solos and duets by the young people, also outside talent from other churches. The Pastor always had the sermonette. After some of the meetings which were held once a month on Sunday evening, games were played in the church yard in the summer time.

In 1946 the Trinity Parish Luther League was organized under the leadership of Rev. Torvik and in 1947, Rev. Torvik took a group of Leaguers to Milwaukee to a Luther League Convention: Dorothy Bonnallie, Marlys Jahr and Norma Fossey of this Parish. Others known to have gone to conventions are: Rebecca Johnson, Kurtis Meyer, David Johnson, Richard Nelson, Sandy (Johnson) Anderson, Mary Nelson, Kenneth Anderson, Norman Anderson, and Sharon Olsen.

The league meets twice a month with one Devotional and one activity meeting.

In 1961 Rev. Klemesrud started having Early Sunrise Service and the Luther League served breakfast to the public which has been continued since it was started.

The Luther League also host Singing Groups from other Churches and Colleges.

Softball has also been another activity with other church leagues participating.

They also have a PTL Banquet each fall with a special speaker and music. The League Mothers serve the banquet.

From 1967 until 1972 the League sponsored an Orphan Child in Taiwan. In 1971 a gift of several hundred dollars was sent for a car for Pastor Tota in Japan. On October 28, 1973 a gift of \$500.00 was sent to Latin American Lutheran Mission. On October 6, 1974 a slave Auction was held and proceeds were sent to Monterey, Mexico for a Chapel. In 1975 and 1976 they are sponsoring an 11 year old boy through the Christians Childrens Fund, who is Ismael Catilo, of the Philippines. This is a Luther League Parish project.

The present officers from Mona for 1976 are: President: Marilyn Jahr, Vice President: Monica Johnson and the sponsors are: Mr. and Mrs. Loren Meyer.



Mona Sunday School about 1915



Mona Sunday School about 1928



Present Sunday School Teachers

Back row; left to right, Mrs. Raymond Carlson, Mrs. Wayne Fossey, Mrs. Wayne Hanson, and Mrs. Loren Meyer. Front row: Helen Nelson and Mrs. Beverly Monnier.

The Sunday School has always been an important part of the Mona Church for nearly ninety years.

Ole Peterson was the first Superintendent when the Sunday School was organized in 1887. B. J. Hanson and Ole Holt and perhaps others followed as Superintendents during the early years. Gladys Steene took over the task in 1921, and served diligently and well until the 1930's, when she was needed at home to care for her aging and ailing parents. Odean Tieman and Helen Nelson, served several years during this time. Then about 1940, Gladys again accepted the position and served until 1960. She was a very faithful and able leader for about 30 years. During this time she made costumes for all the children who took part in the Manger Scene for the Christmas Programs. The costumes have been used every Christmas since then. In the early years, Sunday School was only held during the summer months, from May 1 to the last of September. Then in later years Sunday School was held from the Sunday after Easter until after Christmas. When Gladys resigned, Helen Nelson became Superintendent and has served since that time. Beginning in January 1960, Sunday School has been held from September 1 to the end of May, and there has been vacation during June, July and August.

Two other people who served long years in Sunday School were Mrs. Lena Arneson, and Mrs. Melia Willinger, both as Bible Class teachers. Throughout the ninety years there have been many faithful teachers who have done much to instill the love of God in the hearts of the young.

For a number of years one of the highlights of the summer was the annual Sunday School Picnic held at the Carlson picnic grounds, one mile south of Mona. A big stage was erected, the church organ was hauled down and a program was given by the Sunday School pupils. All the ladies brought well filled baskets, and ice cream and lemonade were furnished by the Church. Needless to say these two things were a great treat as they were served only on very special occasions.

For a great many years, Christmas Programs have been presented by the Sunday School pupils during the Christmas Season. Large trees with the top reaching to the ceiling used to be set up inside the altar. In later years we have been satisfied with much smaller trees. But whatever the size of the tree the Christmas Program has always been a very festive and Joyous occasion. May God continue to bless our Sunday School in the future as He has in the past, as we continue to learn more about Him.



Picture of Parochial School 1903

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL (Menighetsskolen)

In the early days, Parochial School was held six weeks from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M., then four weeks. Later it was held just in the forenoons.

O. S. Holt, B. J. Hanson, Ole Daehlen and Rev. O. H. Langehough were some of the teachers. Seminary students taught for many years and later local people. Pastor and Mrs. Stanley Klemesrud and Pastor and Mrs. Einar Unseth also taught Bible School.

The seventy fifth anniversary of the church was celebrated September 11, 1952. The anniversary sermon was given by former Pastor A. Elmer Moe of Aberdeen, South Dakota.

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

CROSS — In memory of Joy Larson by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Larson and family

OFFERING PLATES — In memory of Anna Muldown by her children.

COMMUNION TRAY — In memory of Mrs. Adolph Jahr by Adolph Jahr and family.

TABLES — In memory of Mrs. Adolph Jahr, Mrs. Rudolph Haugland and Willis Nelson by Adolph Jahr family, Rudolph Haugland and Lorna and Mrs. Mina Nelson and Helen.

SANCTUARY LAMP — In memory of Mrs. Olven Nelson by Olven Nelson.

ALTAR BOOK — In memory of Mrs. Tillie McKee by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Larson, Idore and Joy.

AMERICAN FLAG — Given by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Sola.

CANDLEABRA (three candles) — Given by Ella Hanson.

LECTERN — Made and given by Oscar Thompson.

TWO BANNERS — In memory of Clifford Schroeder by Mrs. Rhoda Schroeder and family.

WRITING DESK AND MIRRORS — Given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Nelson by Mr. and Mrs. John Bergie.

SPEAKER SYSTEM — In memory of Mrs. Rudolph Haugland and Mrs. Alfred Larson by Rudolph Haugland family and Idore Larson family.

OUTSIDE BULLETIN BOARD — In memory of Mrs. Melia Willinger by Emily Hargon and Jeanie Fisher and in memory of Mrs. Carrie Nelson by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Harlis Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Nelson, Mrs. Joy Nelson and in memory of Mrs. Minnie Watkinson by Mrs. Joy Nelson.

GIFT OF \$100.00 — Given for organ in memory of Mrs. Mina Nelson by Helen.

GIFT OF \$100.00 — Given by Mrs. Ester Sorose.

GIFT OF \$15.00 — Given for organ in memory of Bert Steene by Arnold Tieman and sisters.

GIFT OF \$21.00 — Given for organ in memory of Mrs. Petra Wamstad by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wamstad.

GIFT OF \$100.00 — Given for organ in memory of their parents, brothers and sisters by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Carlson.

GIFT OF \$100.00 — Given for organ in memory of Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Hanson by Mr. Albert Hanson.

GIFT OF \$50.00 — Given for organ in memory of J. B. Meling by Larry Meling family.

GIFT OF \$25.00 — Given for organ in memory of Victor Anderson by Mrs. Minnie Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. Russel Anderson and family.

GIFT OF \$100.00 — Given for organ in memory of Mrs. Carrie Nelson by her family.

GIFT OF \$150.00 — Given for organ in memory of Mrs. Tillie Halverson by her sisters.

GIFT OF \$150.00 — Given for organ in memory of Mrs. Magnus Hanson by Mr. and Mrs. Leland Haugon and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Eggen.

GIFT OF \$150.00 — Given for organ in memory of Mr. Magnus Hanson by Mr. and Mrs. Leland Haugon and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Eggen.

GIFT OF \$100.00 — Given for Building Fund in memory of Alfred Larson by Mrs. Alfred Larson.

GIFT OF \$100.00 — Given for Building Fund in memory of Edwin Carlson by Mrs. Eva Carlson.

GIFT OF \$41.00 — Given for Building Fund in memory of Lewis Thompson by his sisters.

GIFT OF \$50.00 — In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Dock by Mr. and Mrs. John Bergie.

MICROPHONE — Given in memory of Mr. Allen Anderson, Mr. Clifford Schroeder, Mr. Arthur Anderson, and Erma Baumgartel by their families.

CHAIRS — In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Haugon by Mr. and Mrs. Odell Haugon and family.

LECTERN BIBLE — In memory of Wesley Johnson by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson and family.

CANDELABRA (5 candle) — In memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Hanson and Mrs. Julius Hanson by the John Hanson families.

PICTURE OF LORD'S SUPPER — In memory of Edwin Carlson by Mrs. Eva Carlson and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Carlson

PALM PLANT — In memory of Delbert Monier by Mrs. Monier and family.

PALM PLANT — In memory of Raymond Nelson by Mrs. Nelson and family.

GIFT OF \$16.05 — Given for organ in memory of Henry Lunde by Mrs. Henry Lunde and family.

CLOCK FOR CHURCH — In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Carlson by Mr. and Mrs. Olven Nelson and Mr. and Mrs. Galen Carlson and family.

BABY BED — In memory of Scott Walke given by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Richard Walke.

MULTIPLEX PICTURE HOLDER — In memory of Mr. Harlen Nelson by Mrs. Joy Nelson and family.

WHITE ALTAR AND PULPIT PARAMENTS — In memory of Larden Halverson given by Mrs. Larden Halverson and sisters.

PURPLE ALTAR AND PULPIT PARAMENTS — In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Nils Anderson by Mr. and Mrs. Harlis Anderson, and Mr. and Mrs. Norris Anderson and family.

GREEN ALTAR AND PULPIT PARAMENTS — Given by Alma, Ernest and Henry Bruggeman.

GIFT OF \$25.00 — Given for organ by Mr. and Mrs. Harlis Anderson.

GIFT OF \$50.00 — Given for Building Fund in memory of Galen Carlson by his family.

HYMNALS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Nelson by Mr. and Mrs. Almo Jahr and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Carlson, Brothers and Sisters by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Carlson.

Mrs. Ellen Cardes by family and friends.

Edwin Carlson by Mrs. Eva Carlson.

Gilbert Carlson by Mrs. Millie Carlson and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hanson.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Hilde by Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Schroeder and family.

Adolph Thompson by Mrs. Adolph Thompson.

Mrs. Mina Kilgore by Mrs. Adeline Geffert.

Joy Larson by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Larson.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Thompson by Mrs. Tillie Halverson and Mrs. Helga Bolinder.

Rueben Geffert by Mrs. Adeline Geffert.

Larden Halverson by Mrs. Tillie Halverson.



Present organist Liana Jahr and Linda Haugen, Kurtis Meyer former organists

ORGANISTS

The first was B. Hanson. He served as "klokker", who led the congregational singing with a tuning fork.

The first organist was Millie Tufton, followed by Laura Eggen, Ida Dahl Fedson, Tillie Dock McKee, Clara Larson, Irene Christianson Lee, Grace Nelson Anderson, Mrs. Henry Stromley, Mrs. Blanche Berg Sola, Dorothy Duenow, Mrs. Leland Haugen, Mrs. Alfred Larson, Linda Haugen, Kurtis Meyer, and Liana Jahr.

Choir of 1938

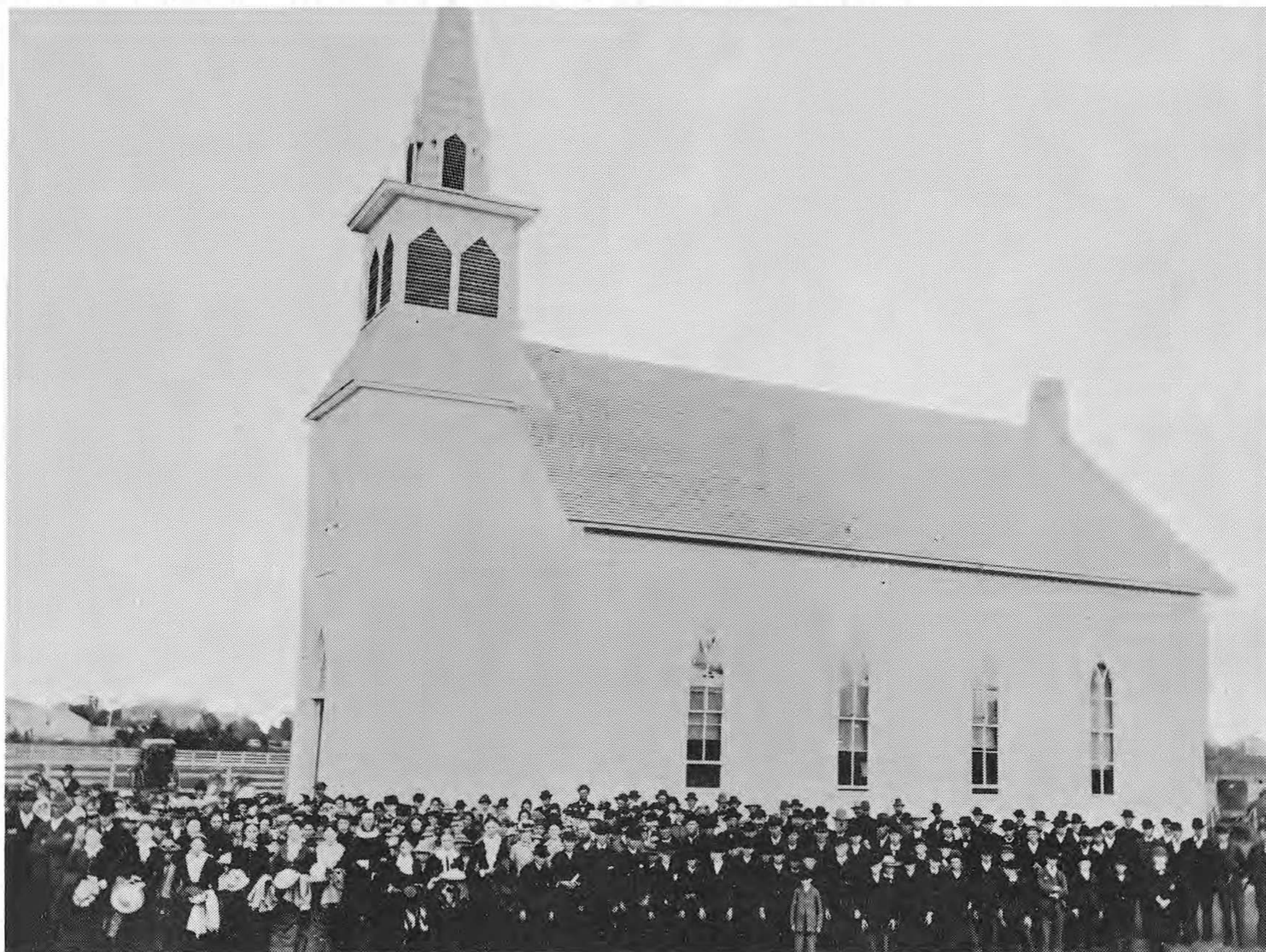
Front row, left to right, Mrs. Henry Stromley, Mrs. Raymond Nelson, Mrs. Chester Reistad, Mrs. Raymond Carlson, Mrs. Clifford Nelson. Second row, Mrs. Eva Carlson, Mrs. Leland Haugen, Mrs. Blanch Sola, Miss Dorothy Duenow. Back row, Mrs. Ruth Anderson, Mrs. Harlis Anderson.



Choir of 1976

Front row, left to right, Gloria Hanson, Mrs. Loren Meyer, Linda Johnson, Nancy Jahr, Mrs. Raymond Carlson. Second row, Paul Hanson, Scott Meyer, Mrs. Wayne Hanson, Marlyn Jahr, Mrs. Gaylord Grant, Mrs. Algie Slinde. Back row, Tom Grant, Lowell Meyer, Tim Grant, Almo Jahr and Loren Meyer.

There have been approximately 750 people confirmed in Morna Lutheran Church. Norwegian services were held entirely at first, later being part time Norwegian and English. In 1938 they were discontinued with English being used since.



First Confirmation Class — 1884



1976 Confirmation Class

Paul Hanson, Lowell Meyer, Patty Anderson

FIRST CONFIRMATION CLASS — 1884

BOYS

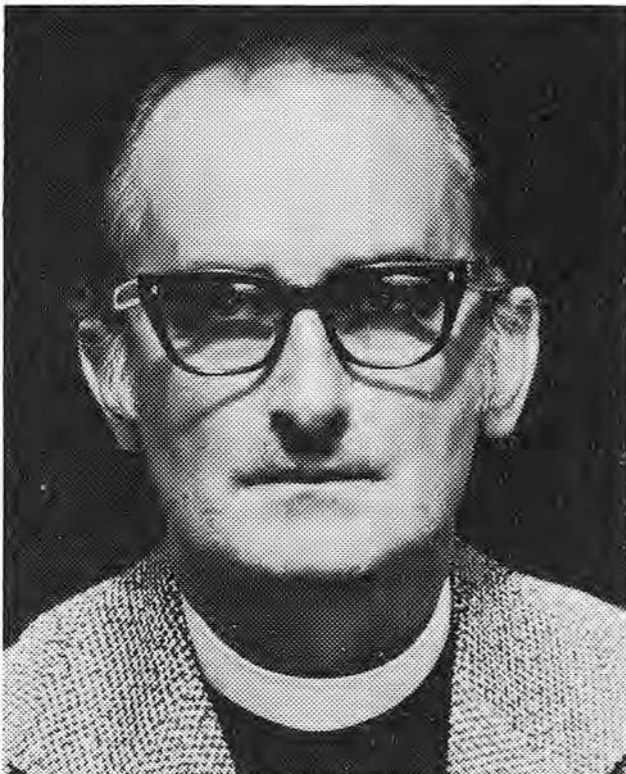
Bennie Larson
Peter Berg
Barnhard Jensen
Olaf Dahl
John Johnson

J. Muller Eggen, Pastor

GIRLS

Mina Blakestad
Emma Thorstad
Emelia Johnson
Otilie Everson
Martha Erickson
Christina Knutson
Betsy Rierson
Mina Anderson
Maria Aakern
Gesilia Amundson

We also have an active Brotherhood in our Parish who meet once each month. They have served many Mother-Daughter Banquets and sponsor the annual outdoor church service and picnic which is held in the Lyle park. An annual oyster stew supper is held with the ladies as guests and also active dart ball team. They also help sponsor young people to Bible Camps.



Delbert Rumme, Missionary

In 1960 after Pastor Klemesrud accepted the call to Trinity Parish we voted to help sponsor a Missionary who is Rev. Delbert Rumme. He is a Missionary to Japan and has served there for 15 years. We are still sponsoring him. In 1974 Mona Church members were co-host to the Latin American Lutheran Mission. Over \$10,000.00 was taken in at this convention. Trinity Parish also voted to help support this Mission.

In January of 1951 the three churches Mona, Six Mile Grove, and Lyle that had always been a part of the same Parish and served by the same Pastors, adopted a Parish Constitution which united their membership even though they still had the three places of worship, known as Trinity Lutheran Parish. They purchased a building that was then a furniture store which had previously been a garage and on September 13, 1953 the Trinity Lutheran Parish Center was dedicated. It became a meeting place of Parish organizations. Joint Luther Leagues, Brotherhood, Gold Band Club, L.C.R., Ladies Aid Board and Committee Meetings used the Parish Center. It was also used as a recreation and community center. In 1959 Lyle Church withdrew from the Parish.

In thinking back over 100 years, we have treasured memories of the past. We remember the old time Mission feasts, when the church was crowded with neighbors and friends from nearby churches. Following the Message and Mission Song, the offering plates were filled with gifts for a Mission program that reached far beyond our congregation. And then do you remember the bountiful "Feast".

Our number is small now, but we have a fine fellowship and feeling of closeness to each other that would be hard to achieve in larger groups. We feel as Paul said in the letter to the Corinthians 12:26 "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it: or one member be honoured, all members rejoice with it."

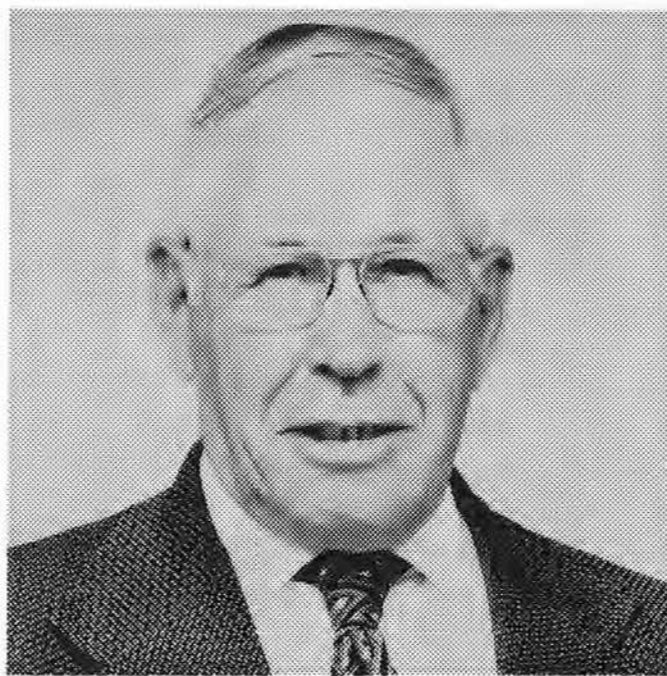
This church brings back many a fond memory, some sad but most of them happy. It was in this church that your parents brought you to Holy Baptism, thereby expressing their faith in the redemptive and the salvation, preparing for Confirmation. The work that has been done by faithful teachers and Pastors will only be revealed in its entirety in Eternity. Here you confessed your Lord and Master, promising faithfulness, hearing His promise of "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life." It is in this house you were married, received the Lord's Supper, and here also many of you have said farewell to some loved one, praying that someday you might be reunited with them in Eternity. May God bless all these memories and give the honor and the glory for His everlasting truth which shall be taught in its truth and purity until the end of time.

On this our 100th Anniversary, our prayer is that we may never lose this fellowship and that Mona Church may grow for good in the community.

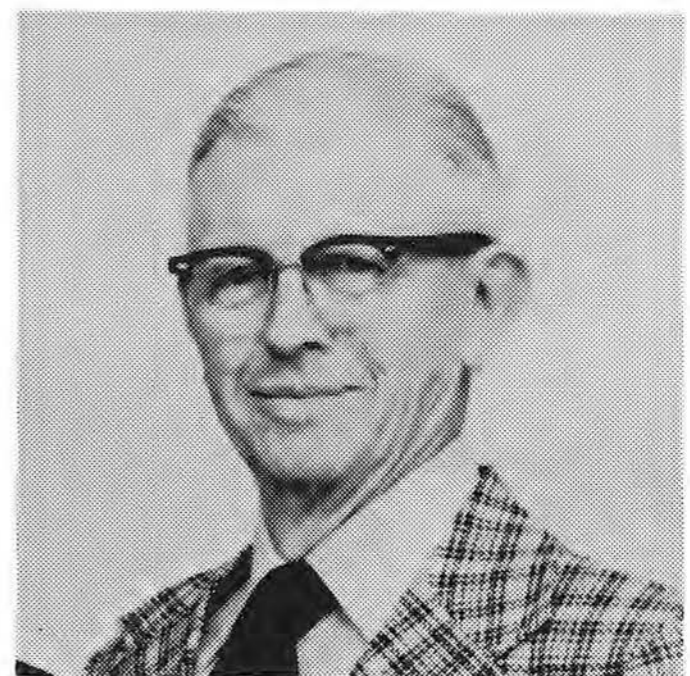
The present officers of the congregation are: Chairman, Almo Jahr; Financial Secretary, Rudolph Haugland; Trustees, LeRoy Johnson, John Hougen; Deacons, Norris Anderson, Odell Haugen; Organist, Liana Jahr; Assistant Organist, Nancey Jahr.



Almo Jahr



Rudolph Haugland



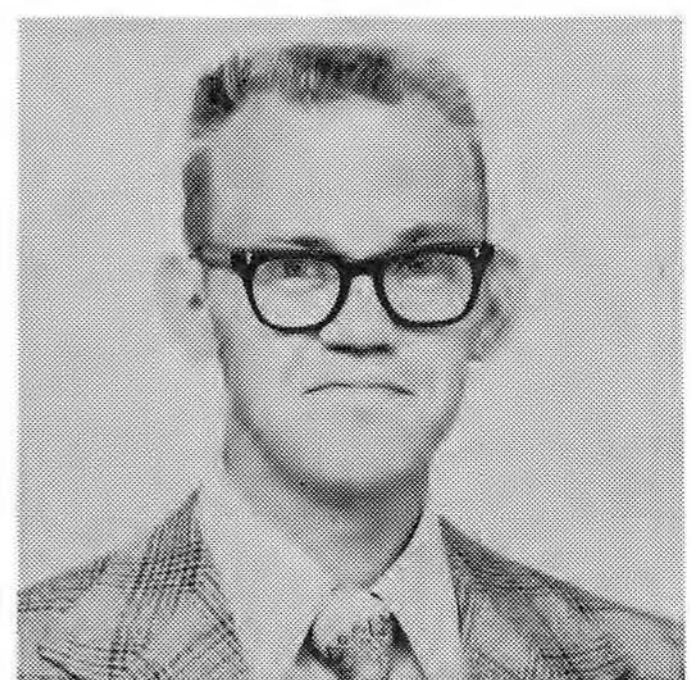
Odell Haugen



Norris Anderson



LeRoy Johnson



John Hougen

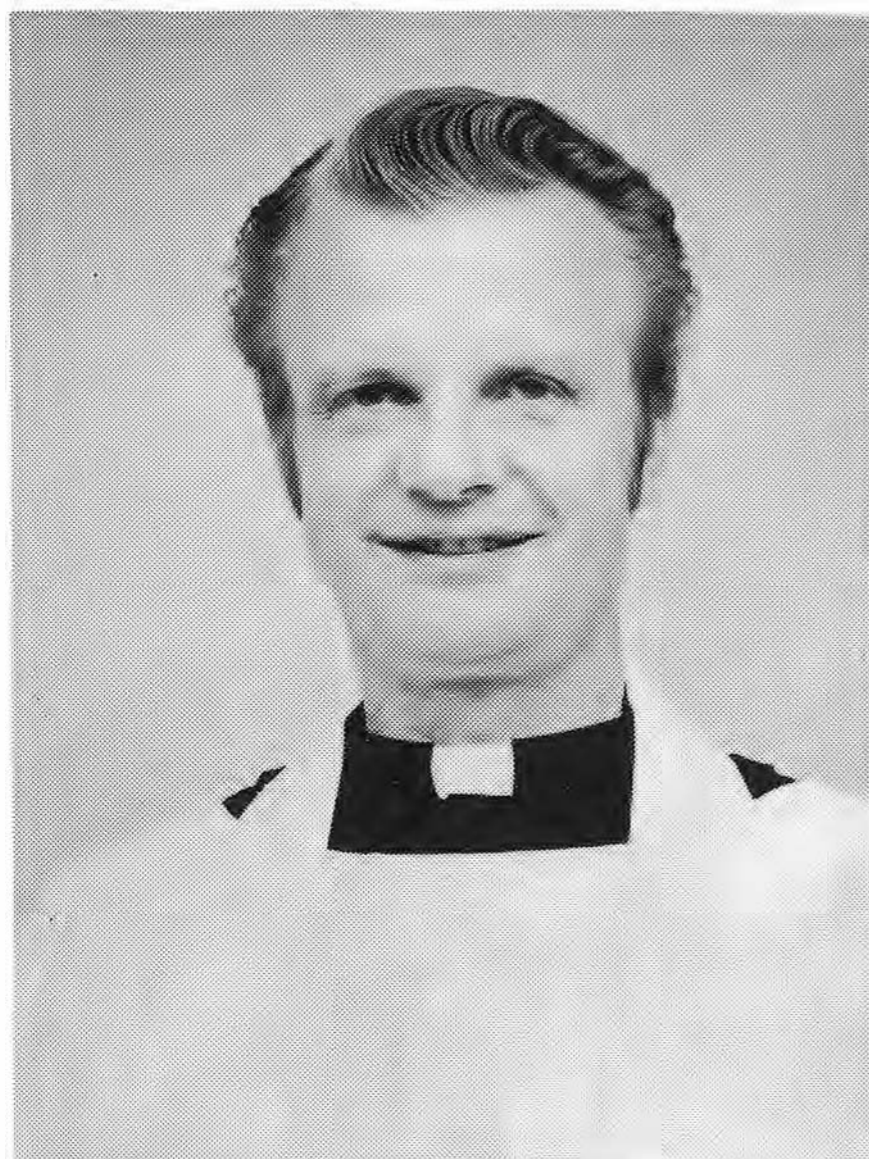
Together with the Psalmist we would say: "This is the day which the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." PS. 118:24:

I love Thy kingdom, Lord;
The house of Thine abode;
The Church our Blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.
O ne'r may I forget
Her welfare nor her woe
Lest every joy my heart forsake
And very grief o'er flow.



Our Beautiful Altar

*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28*



Dear Friends,

*"Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!
For great is His steadfast love toward us; and the faithfulness
of the Lord endures for ever. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 117)*

*As your present pastor it is a joy to greet you on this Cen-
tennial anniversary of our congregation. We give thanks and
praise to our great God for the many ways He has blessed us.
He has wonderfully manifested His changeless love to us. He
has been faithful to sustain His Church in our midst.*

*We thank Him for the opportunities to be involved in
the mission program of His Church. Christ is the only hope
for the world, for our nation and for our own individual
lives. May we always be His faithful witnesses.*

*May we continue to be steadfast in prayer always giving
thanks and praise to Him and seeking His guidance.*

Sincerely in Him,

Pastor Gaylord Grant

The Mona Lutheran Church acquired the land for a cemetery. The land for the south cemetery was purchased from Jurgine Rustad for \$1.00, love and affection on January 18, 1889.

The Pleasant Hill Cemetery was purchased from William Caine for \$400.00 and was plotted in 1894. The cemetery was to be maintained from money taken in from sale of lots. Early day prices were from \$5.00 to \$15.00 per lot. Certain lots were set aside on the south side of the cemetery, called Potter's Field, for people who could not afford to buy a lot. Gustav Carlson was the first supervisor and with the trustees were to decide who was eligible to be buried there.

On December 1, 1932, they invested part of their money in Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, but most of it was lost because the church filed bankruptcy. Because of the increase in labor, it is now maintained from sale of graves at the price of \$50.00 and donations of interested relatives and friends.

In the early years the graves were dug by family and friends. A grave could be hired dug for \$3.00 by hand and today the price can go as high as \$75.00 with machinery. In 1926 the Cemetery Association was incorporated which includes Lyle Congregation.

The present officers are: Chairman, Norris Anderson; Secretary, Almo Jahr; Treasurer, Odell Haugen; Directors, Luverne Falk, Raymond Carlson, Mense Fossey, and Wayne Hanson.

FROM

William Caine

TO

Trustees of Mona Luth. Ch. Cong.

Filed for Record the 4th day of May A. D. 1894
at 4¹⁵ o'clock P. M.
Garden

By _____

Know all Men by these Presents, That William Caine (Bachelor)
of the County of Mitchell and State of Iowa in consideration of the sum
Two Hundred Dollars DOLLAR
The following named persons as Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Mona
in hand paid by W. C. Stahler, W. C. Stahler, W. C. Stahler & their heirs and assigns of Mitchell County
and State of Iowa do hereby SELL AND CONVEY unto the said Trustees of their Successors
hereafter the following described premises
situate in Mitchell County, Iowa:

To wit: A piece of land in the South east corner of the North-east fourth (N E 1/4) of the South-east quarter (S E 1/4) of Section fifteen (15) all in Township one hundred (100) Range eighteen (18) West of the Fifth P. M. described as follows: Commencing at the South-east corner of the North-east fourth (N E 1/4) of the South-east quarter (S E 1/4) of Section fifteen (15) Township one hundred (100) Range eighteen (18) West of the Fifth P. M.; thence North sixteen rods; thence West twenty rods; thence South sixteen rods; thence East twenty rods to the place of beginning; containing two Acres.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the premises above described, with all the appurtenances, unto the said Trustees of their Successors hereafter and heirs and assigns forever; and I do hereby covenant with said Trustees of their Successors I lawfully seized of said premises; that they are free from incumbrance; that I have good right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same; and I do hereby covenant to Warrant and Defend said premises, and appurtenances thereto belonging, against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever. And I hereby relinquishes all right of dower, and all right under the Homestead Laws of the State of Iowa, in and to the above described premises.

Signed the twenty fifth day of April A. D. 1894
William Caine

STATE OF IOWA, Mitchell County, ss.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the 25th day of April A. D. 1894, before the undersigned, A. A. Tenney a Justice of the Peace, in and for said County, personally appeared William Caine

to me personally known to be the identical person whose name is affixed to the foregoing deed as grantor, and acknowledged the instrument to be his voluntary act and deed.

WITNESS my hand and seal the day and year above written.
A. A. Tenney
Justice of the Peace

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Did you know the men sat on the right side of the church and the women on the left?
That C. J. Carlson was custodian of the church for 25 years.

That some of the early day ministers salary was a sack of potatoes or a slab of beef or other produce donated by members in lieu of cash, which was mighty scarce.

That a spittoon had to be furnished for an old pioneer, in his favorite corner in the balcony.

That a child cried when he forgot his recitation.

That one of the boys in the confirmation class was caught chewing tobacco and had to swallow it when the Preacher came in.

That two boys could not be on the confirmation picture because they shaved their heads, Palmer Christianson and Thomas Thompson.

That Nils Anderson broke his arm cranking his 1909 Ford after services on Christmas morning.

That a three year old boy, who is a present officer of the congregation, threatened to throw a pig's tail at the Minister who happened to come by on butchering day.

That a boy hid in the barn because he didn't want to be an attendant for his sister's wedding.

That Gunder Larson stood on the top step of the Mona Church with his flowing beard reaching three steps below the one he was standing on.

That in the early days the Christmas tree was trimmed with lighted candles.

That Gustav Carlson walked to the Lyle City Hall to hear Rev. A. Elmer Moe. When he came home he remarked, "Han var en god talare." (He was a good talker).

That Karen Klemsrud practiced her song over the telephone with her teacher.

That there was a heater on each side of the aisle, with long stove pipes that reached to the church sacristy.

That on November 23, 1945 a motion was made and carried to give the women a right to vote at the congregational meeting.

That in 1916 the congregation voted that Pastor Moe was to be given one Sunday free as a vacation.

That Lena Arneson left her property to the Mona Church in 1938, and Lloyd Berg bought the house for \$450.00.

That one lady of the congregation cut off the end of her finger at Pastor Stenson's farewell party.

That Rev. Storaasli rode horse back and called on the sick during the winter and spring months.

That Genevieve Hanson Nelson sang "Heavenly Father Send Thy Blessing On Thy Children Gathered Here," in the Carlson Woods, for the Sunday School Picnic, and Amanda Holt played the organ for her.

That Pastor Hostager announced that he came to church with one brown and one blue sock on.

That Grace Moe filled her plate with every kind of cake that was served, and her father Rev. Moe made her put them all back but one.

That Rev. Storaasli had played major league baseball.

That one man in the congregation brought his scale to weigh the sack of Christmas candy and nuts that were distributed to the congregation, and in 1947 a motion was made and seconded at the annual meeting to limit the treats just to the children.

That the first Confirmation class walked to St. Ansgar for their instructions.

That Mamie Everson Anderson as a young girl went around and collected money for the first organ of the church which is still in the church today.

That on November 23, 1945 John Christianson was made an honorary Deacon for life because he had served as a Deacon for so many years.

That one little boy, Norris Anderson, strolled away from his mother and father and went up and stood in the pulpit.

That when Gilbert Carlson was janitor he sometimes had to walk to church early in the morning to fire the furnace for the services.

That Raymond Carlson is the only living member of the Mona Church who is a direct descendant of one of the original organizers of the church. His father was Gustav Carlson.

Did you know that O. A. Hofland, B. Bothun, J. A. Thorstad and J. C. Myhre served as secretaries of the church and that Nils Anderson and Rudolph Haugland have both served over 25 years each.

That fancy long Baptism dresses were used for both boys as well as girls.

That there was a tip over now and then when the roads were drifted when they came to church on Sunday morning with horse and sleigh.

That a one goblet Communion cup was used.

That the George Rhode children hid their shoes so they wouldn't have to go to Sunday School and Mrs. Mina Kilgore who was their babysitter made them go barefoot.

That Mrs. Mina Kilgore and Mrs. Olven Nelson were sponsors for seven of the George Rhode children who were all baptized the same day.



Celebration for Return of World War One Soldier Boys

That there were 29 soldier boys from Mona congregation in service for their country in the First World War. Mrs. Olina Carlson, mother of three of the boys, hosted a party for them at her home to welcome the boys back. Well filled baskets of food were brought by neighbors and friends for dinner and supper. There was a program and games and a joyous occasion was had by all.

The names of the boys were: Alvin Myhre, Victor Anderson, Gilbert Carlson, Edwin Carlson, Rudolph Carlson, Julius Hanson, Edward Hanson, Henry Hanson, Martin Hanson, Johnny Johnson, Edwin Johnson, George Johnson, Sylvan Dock, Bert Hofland, Elmer Hofland, Clifford Hofland, Edwin Christianson, Palmer Christianson, Ole Lunde, Henry Lunde, Bert Larson, Oscar Larson, Thomas Thompson, Thomas Holt, Adolph Jahr, Andrew Steene, Johnny Erickson, Larden Halvorson, and Grover Halvorson. Of these 29 soldiers all returned except Elmer Hofland.

Mrs. Alfred Larson who was serving on the Centennial Committee, passed away July 18, 1975. She was very active in church work, her church, being her first concern. She had been organist of the church for twenty-seven years. Her memory will be cherished.





Pastor and Mrs. Unseth and Family

The Unseth family was with us in the beginning years of the planning of our centennial. We appreciate all the work Pastor Unseth did when he served on this committee.



Centennial Committee

Back row, left to right — Raymond Carlson, Chairman; Odell Haugen, Treasurer; Harvey Golberg, Pastor Gaylord Grant. Front row, left to right, Mrs. Raymond Carlson, Secretary, Mrs. Odell Haugen, Mrs. Harvey Golberg.

Thank You

A special thank you to all who gave so much of their time and effort in working on the various committees.

PROGRAM: Pastor Grant, Almo Jahr, Loren Meyer, and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Golberg.

HISTORY: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Carlson, Mrs. Eva Carlson, Mrs. Ruth Anderson, and Mrs. Rhoda Schroeder.

PUBLICITY: Mrs. Wayne Hanson, Mrs. Joy Nelson, and Mrs. LeRoy Johnson.

DECORATING: Mr. and Mrs. Milford Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. Norris Anderson.

BUTTONS AND SOUVENIRS: Raymond Carlson and Norris Anderson.

INVITATIONS: Mrs. Ruth Anderson, Mrs. Eva Carlson and Helen Nelson.

USHERS: Rudolph Haugland, Odell Haugen, Wayne Johnson, and Wayne Hanson.

Also a special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Harlis Anderson, Photography; Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Golberg, Wood Carving, and all of you who came to help our congregation celebrate its 100th Anniversary.

Centennial Committee

CENTENNIAL FESTIVITIES

1876 - 1976

The Centennial festivities celebrated August 14 and 15, started at 4:00 Saturday afternoon with a Beef Barbecue served from 4:00 until 7:00 followed at 8:00 with a historical slide presentation by Harlis Anderson. Pastor Odean Tieman, son of the congregation, the guest speaker, also musical numbers.

Sunday morning Centennial worship communion service at 10:00. The speaker Rev. Stanley Klemesrud. Lunch served at noon by the ladies of the church.

The afternoon festivities at 2:30 with musical number by Mona Choir and the main speaker J. Elmo Agrimson. Also greetings from visiting pastors followed by social lunch.

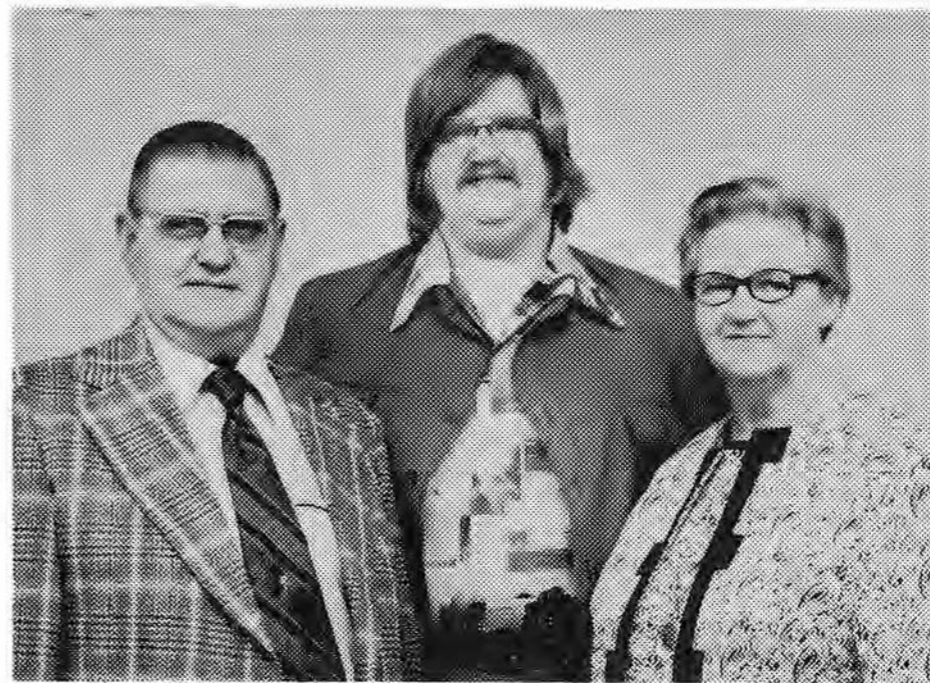
The Evening Drive-in Service. Pastor Einar Unseth the speaker, with special music.

“This booklet dedicated in love”

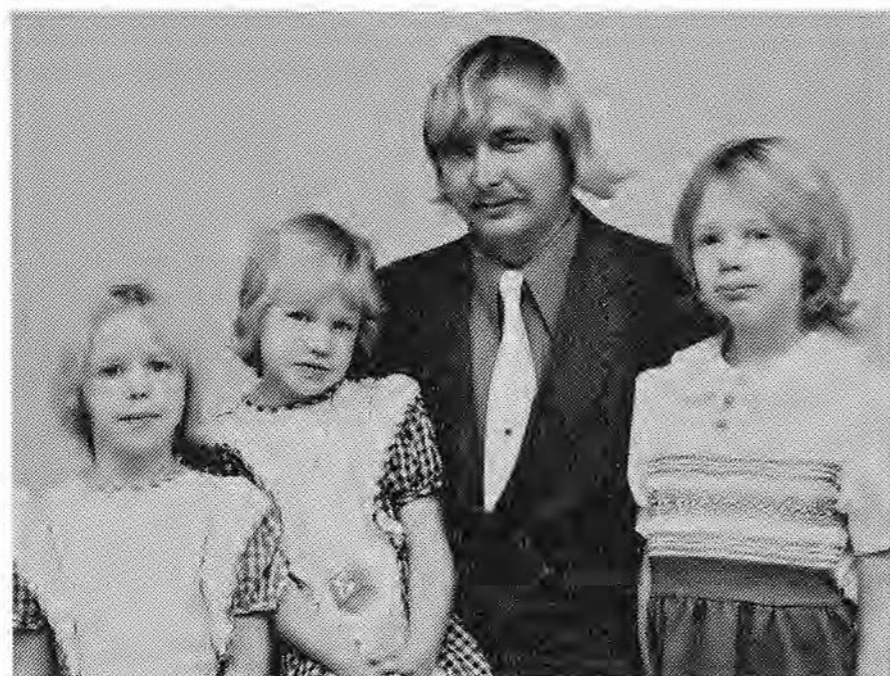
Church Directory 1976



Milford Anderson Family



Mr. and Mrs. Norris Anderson, Kenneth



Norman Anderson Family



Mrs. Victor (Minnie) Anderson



Mrs. Peter (Ruth) Anderson



Mrs. Bessie Bodsberg



Mrs. Ethel Bonnallie



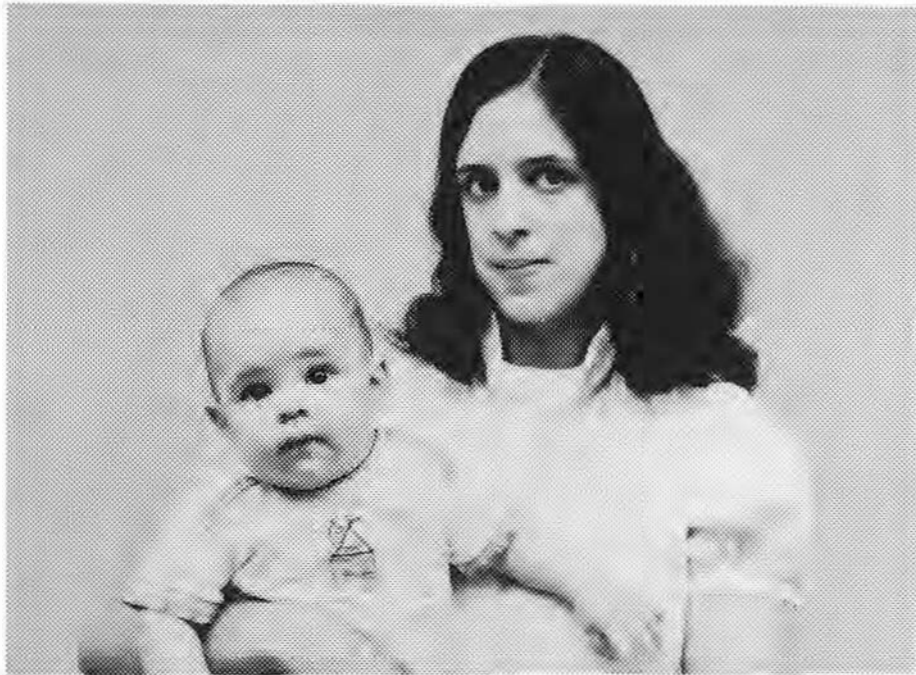
Mrs. Edwin (Eva) Carlson



Mrs. Gilbert (Millie) Carlson



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Carlson



Mrs. Roger Dahle and Thomas



Wayne Fossey Family



Pastor Grant Family



Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Golberg



Mrs. Edward Grove



Mrs. Richard Hagelund Family



Wayne Hanson Family



Melvin Hattlestad



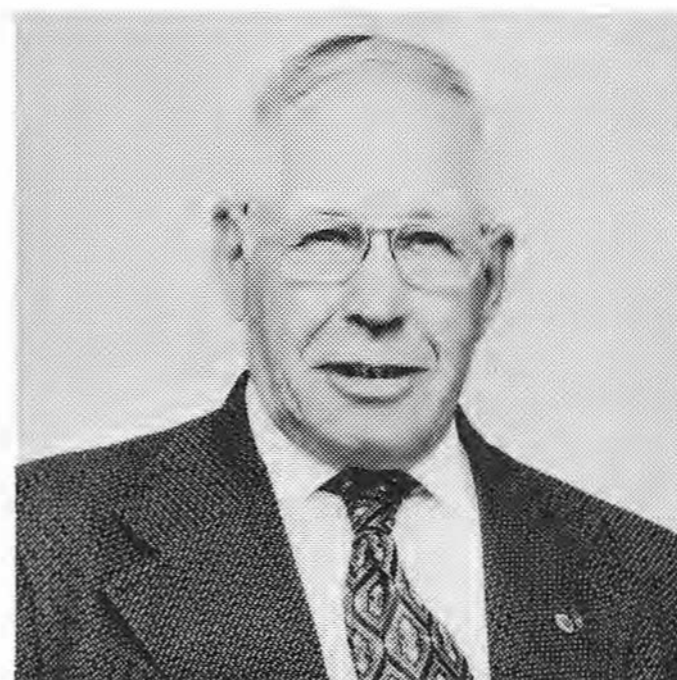
Alfred Hagen and John



Mr. and Mrs. Leland Hagen



Odell Hagen Family



Rudolph Haugland



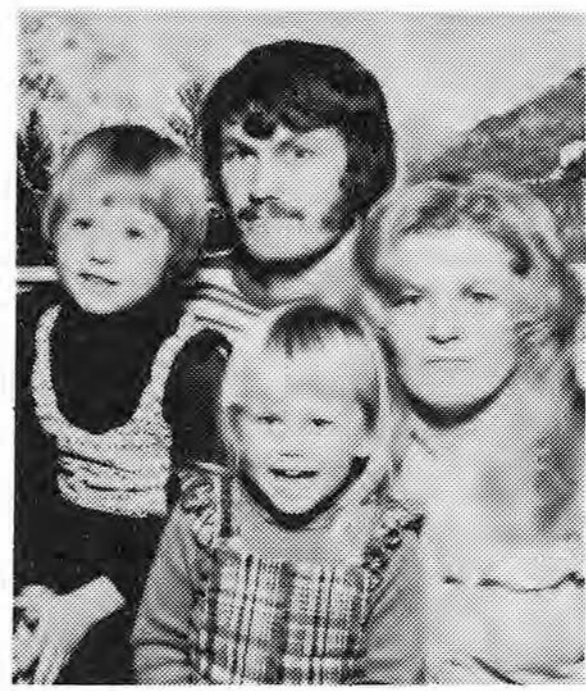
Almo Jahr Family



Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Johnson, Monica



Linda Johnson and Jennifer



Lynn Johnson Family



Wayne Johnson Family



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kohnke, Sr.



Bertha Lunde



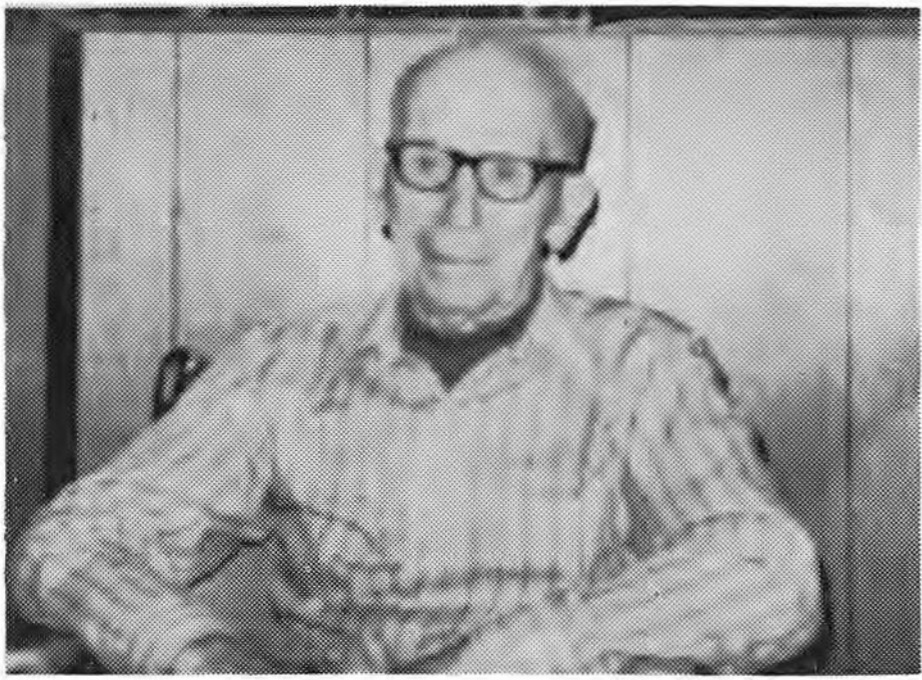
Loren Meyer Family



Mrs. Harlan (Joy) Nelson and Mary



Helen Nelson



Olven Nelson



Richard Olson Family



Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Roberts



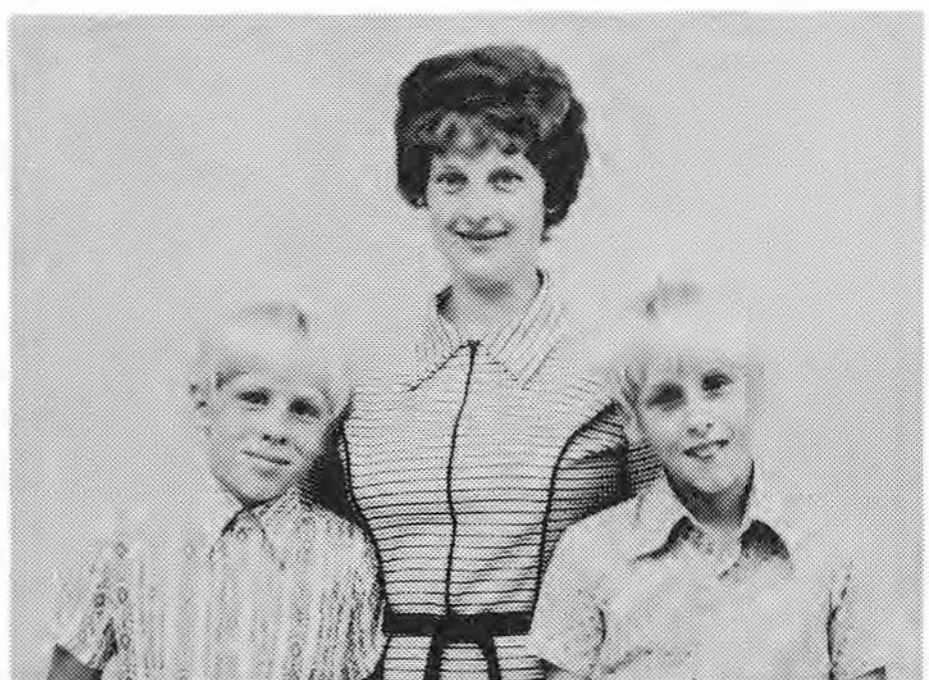
Merlin and Morris Roberts



George Rohde Family



Rita and Olven Rohde



Mrs. Merle Rhode Family



**Mrs. Carroll (Lila) Rustad and
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kolpin**



Mrs. Clifford (Rhoda) Schroeder



Algie Slindee Family



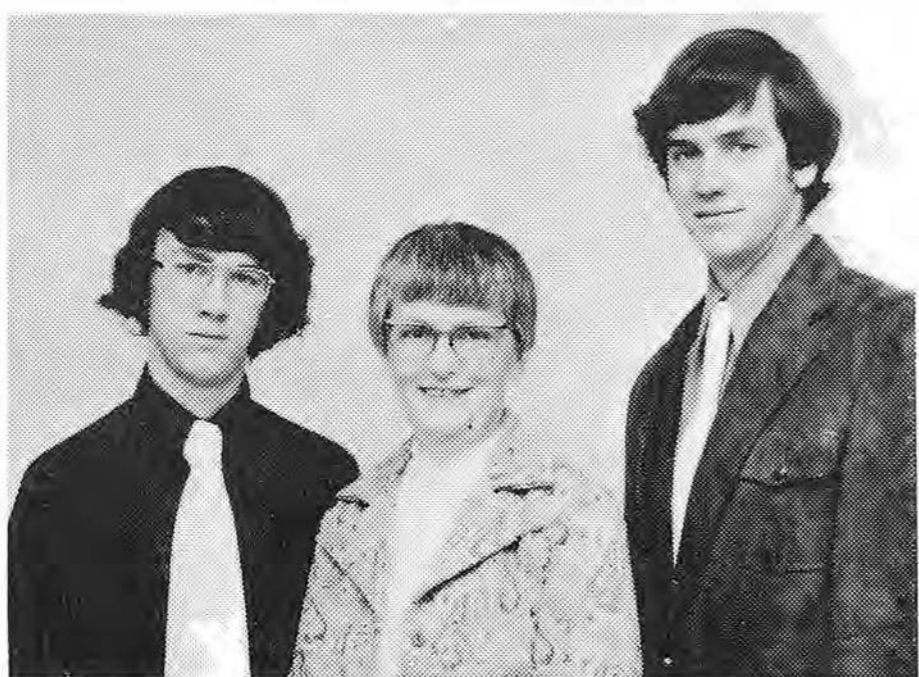
Gladys Steene



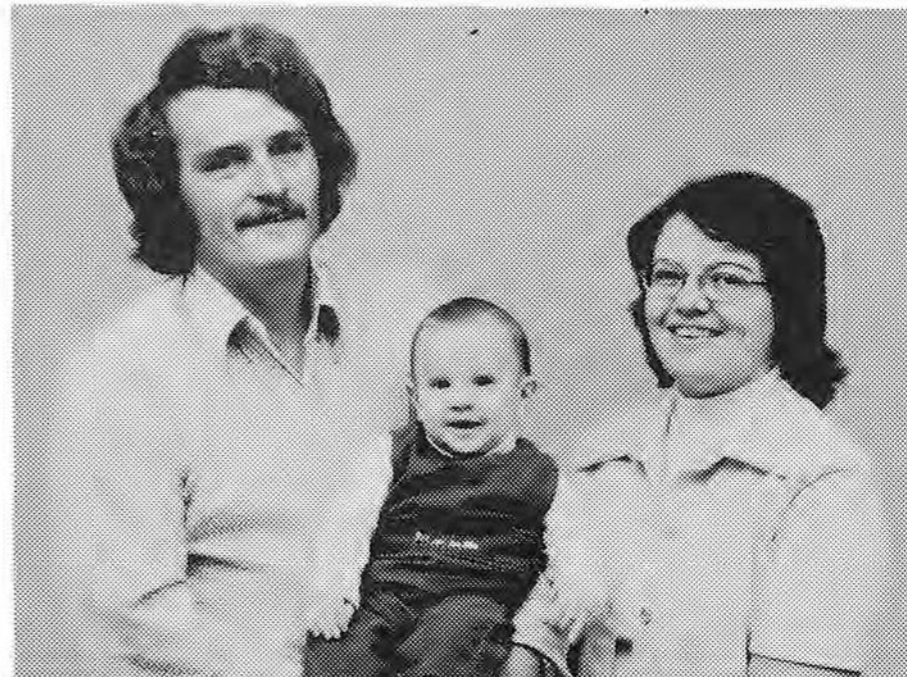
Faye Strouf



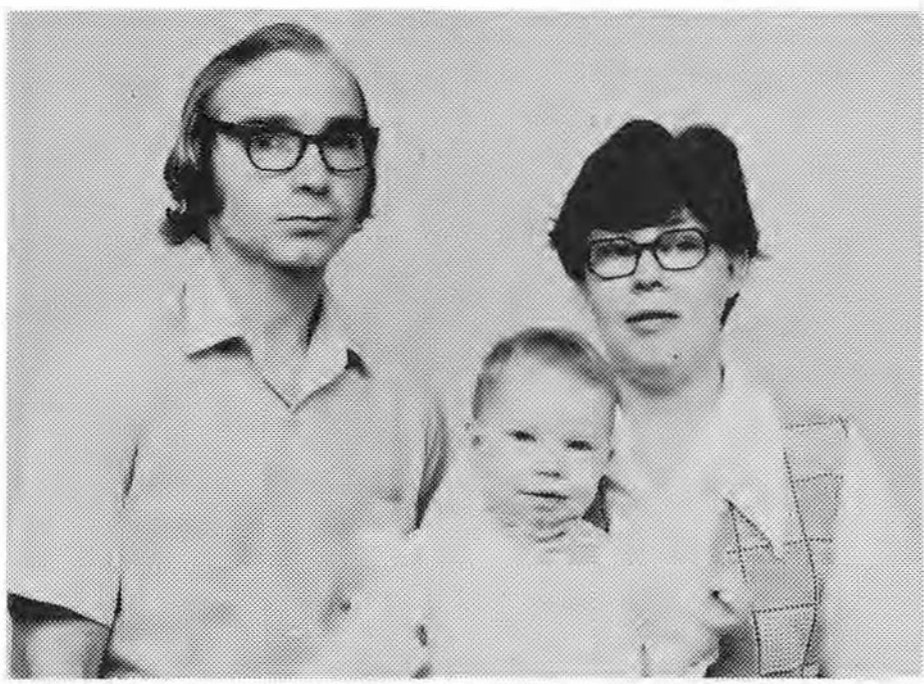
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wamstad



Mrs. Calvin Williams Family



Paul Wynia Family



Richard Wodke Family

Additional Members Not Photographed:

Mrs. Dora Carlson
Larry Meling Family
Mrs. Beverly Monnier Family
Miss Jurine Myhre
Miss Patty Nelson
Harlen Rohne Family
Mrs. Mildred Rucker
Mrs. Dennis Loots
Arlen Strouf
Richard Hagelund
Dale Roberts

