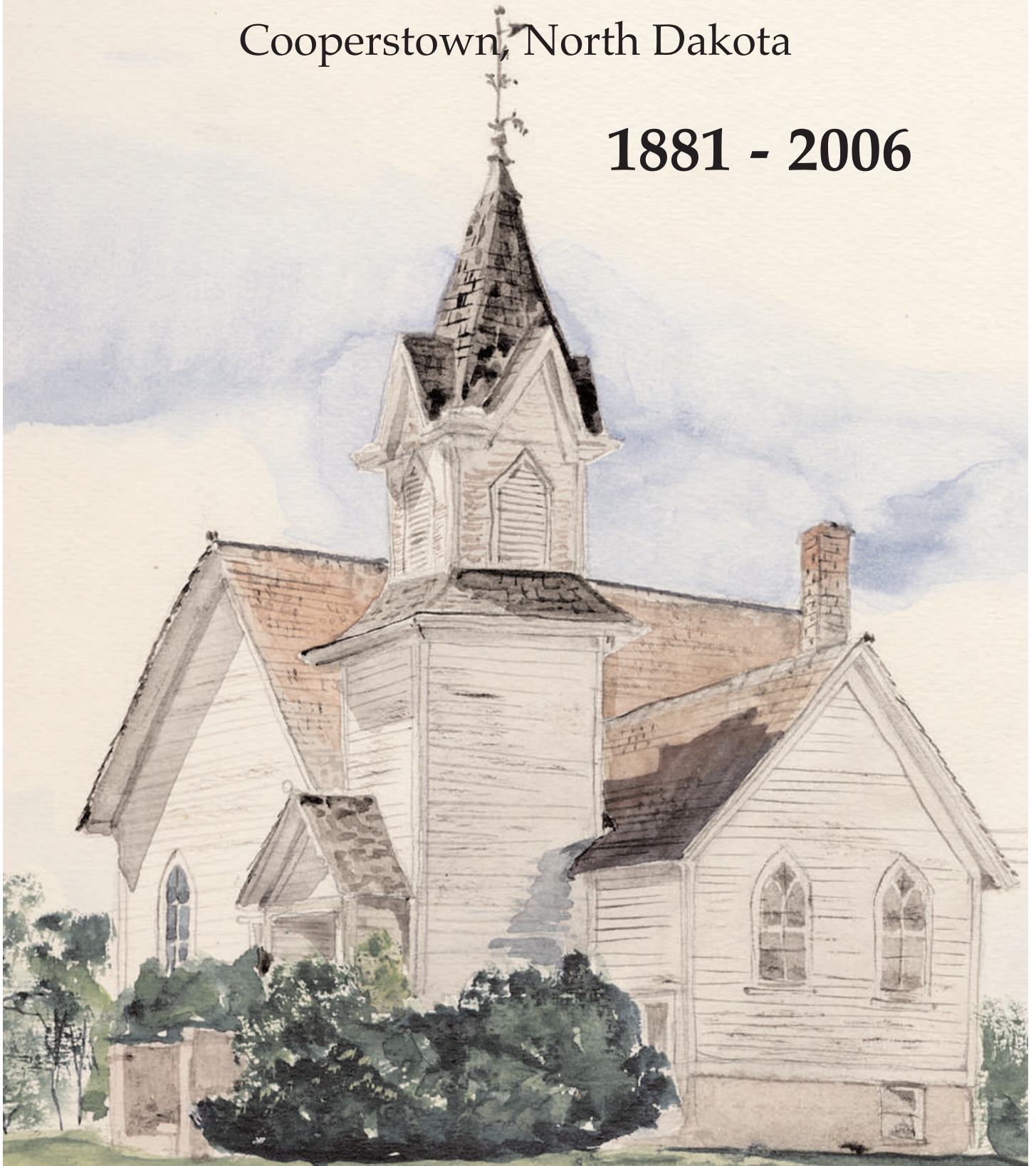


Zion Lutheran Church

Cooperstown, North Dakota

1881 - 2006



"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

G.W.

Zion Lutheran Church 125th Anniversary

October 14 -15, 2006
Cooperstown, North Dakota



Zion Lutheran Church - 2006



Zion Lutheran Congregation - 2006

Cover: Adapted from painting of the Old North Church by C. Wold

Glossary

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Flatland Publishing Inc.

Flatland Publishing Inc. of Finley and Cooperstown is proud to have designed, produced and printed this book marking the 125th anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church. Congratulations to the Zion Lutheran Congregation on this joyous occasion!

Jon E. Flatland
President

Office of the President

1020 Alcott Avenue West—PO Box 655
Fergus Falls MN 56538



October 2006

Zion Lutheran Brethren Church
Cooperstown, ND

Dear Pastor John Olson, Members and Friends:

*Praise the Lord, all you nations,
extol Him, all you peoples.
For great is His love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*
Praise the Lord **Psalm 117**

We bless the Lord Who, in grace, has blessed you with life through His Word these one hundred twenty five years of Christian living and ministry. We join you in praising Him for His faithfulness.

Whether worshipping in sod buildings or tall sanctuaries, you praise the Lord because of His love. Whether in depression years or years of bumper harvests and profits, you bless the Lord because He is true to you, to His promises, to Himself.

Your praise to the Lord has been heard by the nations. You sent many of your own congregation, plus others from other fellowships, to many peoples with the news that the God of the nations loves and promises them life forever in Jesus, the Savior.

You have many spiritual children, many more than you realize, for God is also faithful to His promise that His Word will produce a harvest. It will accomplish His purpose in sending it.

Your sister congregations rejoice in Jesus' blessing on you and your ministry this century and a quarter. Grateful for past mercies, I call you to live in the future God has designed for you until He gathers you home with all who are already at His banquet table.

God's rich blessings,

Joel Egge
President





“Great is thy faithfulness”

Greetings!

I want to welcome all of you to share with us the celebration of 125 years of continuing God’s service at the Zion Lutheran Church.

It is a very special time for the members of Zion Lutheran of Cooperstown.

It makes it even more wonderful that you are here to celebrate with us. Many of you have been part of Zion Lutheran in the past, as members, close friends and pastors of this congregation. I want to extend to you a very special greeting.

We, as a congregation, want to thank God for bringing us to this point in time when we can celebrate 125 years of faithfulness and blessings from God in keeping us together and in the work of Godly service in the community of Cooperstown.

This is a good time to reflect on the forefathers of our congregation. Those people who walked with God and modeled a Christian example for us to follow, and who gave their time, possessions and prayers to build up Zion Lutheran Church. We want to celebrate their lives as well.

There have been many changes in our congregation over the past 125 years. Buildings, members and pastors have come and gone, but God has remained the same. God and His Word does not change.

Zion Lutheran Church is a testament of God’s faithfulness! This is what we want to celebrate most of all. “*Great is Thy Faithfulness O God!*” from Lamentations: 3:22-24.

My prayer is that God would bless our time of sharing and celebration and to continue to bestow upon Zion Lutheran His rich blessings and His Holy Spirit as we go forward into the future.

I pray this in Jesus name, Amen.

Sincerely Yours,

Norman Tafelmeyer
Chairman

Pastoral Greetings

Greetings from Psalm 122:1, *"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let's go to the house of the Lord.'"*

Your 125th anniversary celebration is a day of gladness. It is a day of gladness that the Lord's faithfulness has made possible.

You, with the Psalmist, have made it a day of invitation. *"Let's go to the house of the Lord."* This has made it possible for many to be glad and rejoice together.

A congregation that has lived in three centuries and has entered a new millennium is a witness to the faithfulness of the Lord in Psalm 126:3. The Psalmist exclaims, *"The Lord has done spectacular things for us. We are overjoyed."*

On this, your 125th anniversary, you awaken to a new dawn; a new day; a new open door; a new sunrise.

The need to minister the Word of eternal life is the same. It is the gladness of heart that the Gospel brings that will be your vital strength and your calm confidence as you continue in the Lord's calling.

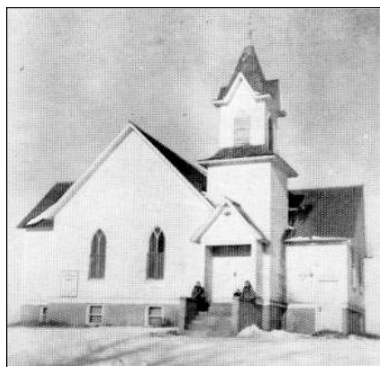
In 1 Cor: 16:13, Paul gives encouragement for your future ministry. *"Be alert, be firm in the Christian faith. Be courageous and strong. Do everything with love."*

May God's richest blessings be yours.



Gordon and Jeanive Solheim

**Pastor Gordon and
Jeanive Solheim & Family**



Zion Lutheran Church - 1957

On behalf of my departed husband, Sanford Soma, and myself, I would like to greet you with this verse from Romans 5:8, *"But God commended His love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Yes, for even me, and even you ... how wonderful!

Pastor Soma was ordained in the country church with Pastor Strom and Pastor Sletta from Fergus Falls officiating. Pastor Strom shared the message and I still remember it! He used the image of Soma at the large wheel steering the ship, but directly behind him was the Lord telling him how to maneuver the ship. What a beautiful picture, and what a great comfort to know that Christ is always near to guide.

We remember the times when the church was still in the country. Also, every week we would meet in one of the homes for Bible Study, choir practice, and of course, a time for coffee and fellowship.

Most of your older ones are gone since we were there, but they have left a great legacy. The children at that time have become the church of today, and that is a good testimony for the Lord.

May His church continue to grow and new souls be added to His kingdom.

Have a blessed 125th anniversary celebration honoring our Lord and Savior.

Evelyn Soma

Pastoral Greetings

Loving greetings in Jesus' name!

Earlier this year, I had the occasion to look through this congregation's records from over 100 years of its history, pulling out the data you will read elsewhere in this book concerning pastors and elders at Zion, the baptisms, confirmation classes, weddings and funerals.

It was a potent reminder that God's Church is not the building, it's the people - His people: people who know God and who are children of God, people who rejoice in the life He gives us, and all the blessings of family and friends.

We have rejoiced at baptisms and weddings and sighed with relief upon completing confirmation. We have also grieved over deaths and divorces which have marred our lives.

Every line of information in that record book is a story of God's work in our lives.

I thank God for the opportunity to have had a part in your history - to serve together in God's harvest in Cooperstown and the surrounding area.

Not very many congregations survive for 125 years, especially in a rural area. But you are not just surviving, you are doing well. And I hope and pray that you will continue to serve God and pass on the joy of the Lord to your children and your children's children for many years to come.

Pastor Mark Erickson

The Making of a Community

To these early settlers, religion held a prominent position. From the very beginning, people had gathered for Sunday meetings in the various houses. A definite rule was followed as to place, and an itinerary was laid out which was adhered to, as far as possible, whatever the weather might be; as a rule, they turned out in full strength.

They had a wonderful time. They were all in the same circumstances and had endless things to tell each other and to discuss - out in the yard, that is, before and after the meetings.

They were visited by a minister a few times during the year, otherwise the Sunday meetings were conducted in the same manner as the devotional meetings in Norway. Andreas

Vatne and Ola Westley were those who usually spoke. There were hymns sung, and prayers spoken. Tonnes Vatne was gifted in prayer and testimony, and frequently things were quite serious.

The conclusion of one settler was that these meetings were what contributed, perhaps more than anything else, toward the holding together and persevering in the serious encounters of pioneer life.

It was a matter of creating a future for oneself and one's own, but that was not all. One's relationship to God, the weal or woe of one's soul - this stood above everything else.

Serving as their minister for a time was the Rev. and Mrs. Jakob Nesheim and family, who lived on SW1/4 of Section 26, a short distance from the Loge and Klubben farms.



These are some of the people who immigrated to America in the early 1880's ... the church leaders of that time. The photo was taken in 1894. (Back row, l-r) Karl Lende, Arnt Njaa, T.T. Fuglestad, Andrew Vatne, and Betuel Herigstad. (Front row, l-r) Olina Westley, Ole Westley, Nils Herigstad, Rev. and Mrs. Jakob Nesheim and daughter.

History of Zion Lutheran Congregation

The Zion Lutheran Church had its beginning in 1881, shortly after a group of immigrants from Norway traveled to America. This group included several families from the Thime and Hoiland communities who were Christian people, the fruit of Pastor Lars Oftedal's work in that area.

After an uncomfortable voyage, which included a delay on the Atlantic Ocean when the propeller on the ship broke, they reached the Dakota Territory and took homesteads approximately 40 miles north of Valley City in Griggs County along the Sheyenne River and on the prairie in what is now Sverdrup and Bald Hill townships.

The colonists were sorely tried in their new experiences in pioneer living. They were, almost without exception, poor people. The family provider often had to leave his wife and children in the sod house and walk to Valley City to earn money to provide for his family.

But the settlers had taken God and His Word along to their new home, so they were indeed rich.

On Sundays they met in a sod or log house to consider God's Word. Leading this early congregation were two men from the group who understood the Christian work, Ola Westley and Andreas Vatne.

In the summer of 1881, Pastor P. Nykreim of the Norwegian Lutheran Conference visited the newcomers. With his encouragement, the settlers, along with other immigrants who had recently arrived from Minnesota, organized the Thime Norsk Evangeliske Luterske Menighed on October 16, 1881. Fourteen settlers were enrolled as members and Pastor Nykreim was elected chairman.

Charter members were the families of Betuel Herigstad, Ole Stokka, Nils Herigstad, Karl Herigstad, Ola Westley, Andreas Vatne, Martin Lunde, Sven Lunde, Ole Lima, Peder Wuflestad, Jens Bull, Torkel Fuglestad, Helge Larson, Krisian Aarestad, F. Gronland, Endre Aarestad, Betuel Lunde, Andreas Benson, Torkel Vigesaa, Elling Froiland, Tonnes Vatne, Karl Lende, Arnt Njaa, Hans Braasten, Christoffer Ashland, Ingeborg Soma, Swen Loge and Waldemar Klubben.

Pastor Lunde from the Goose River area served the congregation in 1883 and the next year it divided when 13 of the members reorganized into the Elim Norwegian Evangelical Congregation and became associated with Hauge Synod. Pastor Jakob Nesheim from Norway served as minister.

On June 23, 1886 land was acquired through a donation by Ola Westley for a cemetery and a building site for a church.

Ten years later, in 1896, Elim joined with the Hoiland congregation and took the name Ebenezer Norwegian Lutheran Church. The congregation remained an independent Lutheran church and was served by pastors from the Hauge Synod and the Lutheran Free Church.



Zion Lutheran Church - Date Unknown

History of Zion Lutheran Congregation

On December 19, 1896 Pastor O.J. Edwards arrived from Red Wing, MN and services were held in the schoolhouse near the Jorgen Soma farm home. In February 1897 the congregation numbered more than 30 voting male members over the age of 18. Later that same year the congregation purchased 40 acres of land on which they erected buildings for the pastor and his family.



Zion Lutheran Congregation - 1928

Within just a few years the schoolhouse had become too small to house the increased attendance and plans began for construction of a church.

On December 20, 1901 the congregation voted to build a church capable of seating 115 people at an estimated cost of \$1,000 or less.

With \$600 from the Ladies Aid and another \$300 from the congregation, work began in the spring of 1902 on a church located seven miles southeast of Cooperstown. It was completed later that year and consisted of a main auditorium and a smaller side room parti-

tioned off by wooden folding doors. This room included a cookstove in one corner and was used as a kitchen and place for serving food when afternoon services were held in addition to forenoon services.

On Sundays mornings the room was used for adult Bible classes and provided extra seating to accommodate overflow crowds.

Sunday School classes met in various areas of the main auditorium and the first funeral service conducted in the new church was in December 1902 when a most promising young man, Baard Nilsen Herigstad, passed away unexpectedly.

According to church records, the congregation was served by several pastors until 1914, including Pastor Lundebj 1883, Pastor Jakob Nesheim 1885, Pastor M. Njust 1892, H. Hjertaas 1896 (salary of \$200 per year), O.J. Edwards 1897-1898 (a student), H. Quanbeck 1900, O. Svendsen 1901-1907, E. Aas 1900, L.N. Haugland 1911-1914.

The time between 1914-1919 marked several years of inactivity in the church, however the congregation re-organized again in 1919, this time as Zion Lutheran being served by pastors from the Lutheran Brethren Synod, including M.E. Sletta, who served until 1926.

About this time was when services were no longer conducted in the Norwegian language and the English language was adopted.

In 1928 the church underwent significant improvements, including the installation of a full basement with furnace as well as an addition that extended to the west of the chancel allowing for more seating capacity in the main auditorium. Pews were also installed to take the place of individual chairs.



Zion Lutheran Congregation - 1957

History of Zion Lutheran Congregation

By the 1960's the church was in need of extensive repairs. Church officials decided it was not economically feasible to invest a large amount of money into the aging structure, nor did it seem advisable to build a new church in the country.

After prayer and deliberation, the decision was made to construct a new church building in the community of Cooperstown. Work began in 1968 and in January 1969 the new sanctuary was



Zion Lutheran Congregation - 1981

complete, with the first service held on January 19.

The congregation dedicated its new home in June with several former pastors participating in the services and the program.

It celebrated with a mortgage-burning ceremony in January 1976 and, also that year, added a new parsonage, which was dedicated in November.

Serving as pastors since 1926 were Elmer O. Hagen, Andreas Vatne, Gilbert Stenoien , E. H. Gunhus , Oscar Monson, Olaf Monson, Ole Vettrus, Andrew Monson, Joel Lunde, Sanford Soma, LeRoy Njaa, and Gordon

Solheim.

Silas Bergstad and Irving Standley served as interim pastors for short periods of time and Professor C. Christianson was interim pastor during one summer. Roy Johnson served during portions of two years and Glenn Larsen also assumed the pulpit.

Rev. Elwin Walvatne served the congregation, followed by Willmore Gunderson, Michael Burke, Mark Erickson, and the current pastor is Rev. John Olson.

(Compiled by Shirley Erickson, Casper Aarestad and Ragnhild Lima Johnson)

Pastors Who Have Served

Pastor P. Nykreim - 1881
Pastor Jakob Nesheim - 1882-1889
Pastor Modal - 1890-1893
Pastor Njust - 1895
Pastor Hjertaas - 1896-1897
Student O.J. Edwards - 1897-?
Pastor Ole Swenson - 1900-1908
Pastor Elias Aas - 1908-1909
Pastor H.S. Quanbeck - 1909-1911
Pastor L.N. Hoagland - 1911-1914
Pastor P. Eidsaa - 1915-1918
Pastor Magnus E. Sletta - 1919-1926
Pastor O. Elmer Hagen - 1926-1927
Pastor Andrew Vatne - 1927-1928
Pastor Gilbert Stenoien - 1928 - 1933

Pastor E.H. Gunhus - 1934-1935
Pastor Oscar Monson - 1936-1937
Pastor Olav Monson - 1938-1940
Pastor Ole Vettrus - 1940-1942
Pastor O.A. Monson - 1942-1950
Pastor J.S. Lunde - 1951
Pastor Sanford Soma - 1952-1958
Rev. Gordon Solheim - 1960-1966
Rev. Glenn P. Larsen - 1968-1971
Rev. Elwin Walvatne - 1971-1981
Rev. Willmore Gunderson - 1981-1990
Rev. Michael Burke - 1990-1994
Rev. Mark Erickson - 1994-2006
Rev. John Olson - 2006-Present

Zion Lutheran: A Church With a Mission Heart

“Rescue the perishing ...” begins a familiar and often sung hymn.

Concern for the lost motivated believers at Zion Lutheran Church to take seriously Jesus’ command in Acts 1:8, *“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.”*

They prayed faithfully for the life-changing message to reach those who hadn’t heard, joyfully sent out those of their own parish whom God called as missionaries, and supported them generously.

Wilhelm Vatne - Born in 1890 to Tonnes and Bertha Vatne, he was only 20 when he felt God calling him. Willing to go where God could use him, Wilhelm traveled to China where he taught missionary children through the Alliance Mission.

It was a time of great political unrest in China with strong sentiments against foreigners. When angry nationals began setting homes on fire, he sought refuge with a missionary family. Sadly, their home was completely burned. Wilhelm and one of his daughters tried to escape and were temporarily hidden by a Chinese family. However, they were found by the insurgents and stoned to death.

Wilhelm was only 21 when he died a martyr’s death, but his family did not learn his fate until six months later.

Ralph Fuglestad - The son of Torkel and Abigail Fuglestad, Ralph was an intelligent and young Christian. He attended Bible School and seminary in Grand Forks. While there he was involved with a group that prayed regularly for the new mission work in the Sudan, Africa, and met 19-year-old Esther Huss, who also had a heart for missions.

Feeling God calling him as a missionary to Africa, Ralph proposed to Esther. Just a few days later on June 23, 1927, they were married and left North Dakota for Africa on July 2.

They boarded a ship in New York City and sailed to Liverpool, England. From there they boarded the *Biafra* for the long trip along the coast of Africa to present day Nigeria, arriving August 26.

A third boat ride, this time up the Niger and Benoue rivers, took them to the area where pioneer Lutheran Brethren missionaries had started their ministry. The final three days of the journey was on horseback for Ralph and in a litter for Esther, accompanied by 60 African porters.

At Lere, they were soon on their own, after saying good-bye to the Kaardals returning to America. They began learning the Moundang language, running the mission station and adjusting to tropical life. Ralph, gifted in languages, made good progress and had begun teaching and preaching in Moundang when he fell seriously ill with a high fever. He died August 28, 1928 of blackwater fever, a fatal form of malaria.

Esther, grief-stricken and alone, buried him at the mission station where a simple memorial still stands today. When asked if she wanted to return to America, Esther responded, “Why should I? I know God has led me out here and I have no reason for leaving the work He has called me to do.”

She moved to Yagoua near the Revnes and spent eight years in Africa, working in literacy and evangelization. During World War II she served at General Eisenhower’s headquarters in London, using her knowledge of French to help the intelligence department.



Ralph Fuglestad

Zion Lutheran: A Church With a Mission Heart

Lester and Mildred Erickson - In 1937, the Erickson's set sail for Africa to begin their missionary work. Mildred was the daughter of Torkel and Lovisa Vigesaa and a graduate of the LBS high school where she met Lester, a seminary graduate from Conrad, Montana.



The Ericksons

They served among the Moundang people in the Lere area, tirelessly evangelizing, preaching and teaching and planting churches. Lester particularly dedicated himself to a printing ministry to provide the Moundang believers with Christian literature. It is said that he literally spent thousands of hours cranking our piece after piece of Gospel literature on the stencil copier for eager nationals to read.

Lester became seriously ill in 1946 and was diagnosed with tuberculosis. The couple returned to the U.S. where Lester eventually regained his health after treatment in a sanitarium. Lester and Mildred served in pastoral ministry in many parishes after his recovery.

Ragnhild Lima - The daughter of Arne and Karoline Lima, Ragnhild was a committed Christian who attended Prairie Bible Institute in Canada, taught Sunday School and was very active in parish ministry. She and Bertha Klubben spent several years as missionaries to the mountain people of Kentucky. They taught children, evangelized and cared for the needs of people who lived in extreme poverty. When Ragnhild returned to Cooperstown, she was again involved in local ministry and missions and married later in life.

Nathan Lunde - Having recently graduated from nursing studies, Nathan Lunde felt God calling him to overseas missionary work in 1984. After a summer missionary experience on an Indian reservation in Canada, he left in December 1984 to spend the next seven months in France learning language before flying to Africa.

In Africa, the Chadian synodical leaders asked him to inaugurate a health education by extension program to teach basic health concepts to lay people in all areas of the synod. Nathan met Marybeth Larson, who was teaching in Cameroun, in December 1985 and they were married in the U.S. the following June.

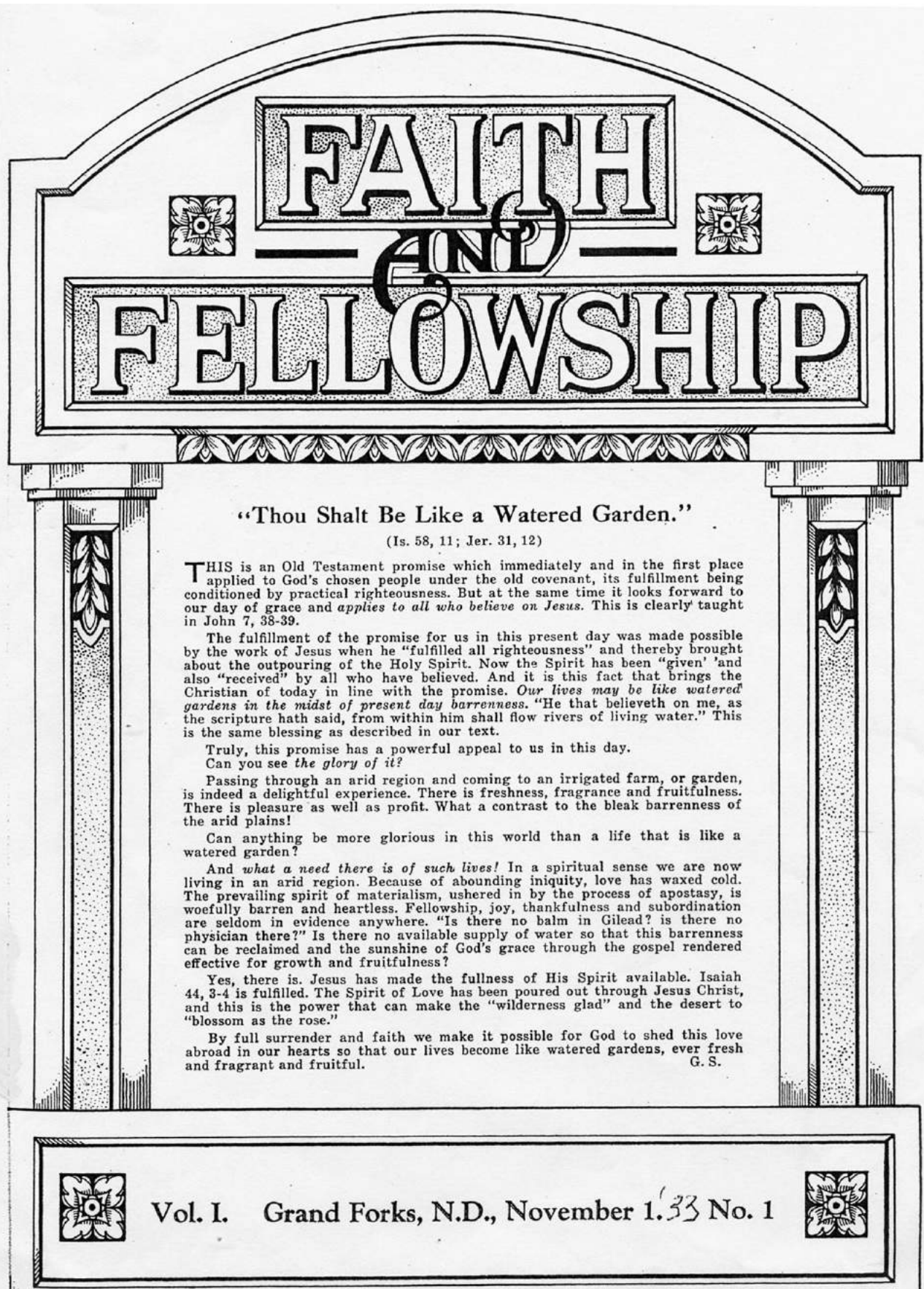


The Lunde Family

After several months in a village to learn the Musseye language, they moved to Gounou Gaya and began working with translation teams to develop health literature. As the books were published in vernacular languages, health discussion leaders who would teach classes on malaria, diarrhea and sore care were trained in each language area. Eventually the program included both teaching and a medicine distribution program.

In 1994, after church leaders named two nationals to take over the program, Nathan began to work closely with these men preparing them to assume full leadership. In the final year, a health education office and guest house were constructed in Gounou Gaya to house the program and an independent evaluation of the project was completed.

Marybeth, in addition to home-schooling their children, taught at the seminary, worked with seminary wives and a weekly Bible club for local girls. The Lunde family returned to the U.S. in 1996 and settled in Cooperstown where they were warmly received by the Zion fellowship which had prayed and supported their work generously over the years.



The cover of the first issue of *Faith and Fellowship*, published November 1933. Gilbert Stenoien was its first editor. The cover was designed by J. Wibeto.

A pastor's daughter remembers ...

(Reprinted from the April 5, 1991 issue of Faith and Fellowship)

Do you ever wonder how something came to be?

Perhaps you've thought about that in relation to our synodical paper, *Faith and Fellowship*. Often when I pick up a copy, a childhood memory flashes before me, a remembrance I have of its very beginning.

The memory focuses on my father, Gilbert Stenoien, who had a vision: As the Church of the Lutheran Brethren increased in membership, with more and more of its constituents unfamiliar with the Norwegian language, he saws the need for an English synodical communication that would do for the younger generation what the *Broderbaandet* did for its readers.

It was in the early 30s - Depression time. My father was serving the Lutheran Brethren Church in rural Cooperstown, North Dakota. A small farm was the parsonage, home for our big family, and situated several country-road miles from the church.

For a study, Dad had to make do with a corner in our small living room not easily shut off from family activity. A simple oak desk, swivel chair, typewriter, bookcase and Aladdin lamp comprised his office. From here - I remember because I was just old enough to help - he prepared and mailed penny postcards (yes, just one-cents) to members throughout the synod asking for a vote between two titles for the proposed English periodical, one of which was *Faith and Fellowship*. Obviously, the name our paper still bears was believed to best state its purpose; namely, to increase our faith and strengthen our fellowship in the Gospel.

In planning for the cover design, Dad made a trip by train to Minneapolis to consult with an engraver friend, Joseph Wibeto, and early issues show the result of their combined effort. Subsequently, my father became the first editor of *Faith and Fellowship*.

I also remember the deep concern father had for the youth and for the church's ministry to them. This led to his persistence in bringing about a change in the Sunday worship service in which the English language would be used instead of the Norwegian.

He also introduced the *Concordia* hymnal in an effort to foster an appreciation for our Lutheran heritage of sacred hymnody.

However, today we especially remember my father for the living legacy he left us in the birthing of *Faith and Fellowship*, and each time it comes to my home I recall its beginnings and thank God for my father's vision.

By Gudrun Stenoien

(Note: Rev. Gilbert Stenoien was among the first officers of the Young People's Mission League in June, 1921. He died in 1934, one year after beginning Faith and Fellowship.)

Memories ...

In the North Church

I remember the tradition of women and children sitting on the north side of the church while men and the older boys sat on the south side.

Visitors were allowed to break the rule because they were guests.

I remember Gudrie Hetland walking to the south side and sitting down next to Carl. There was much whispering and looking, but Gudrie didn't move. The tradition was broken!

Women sometimes wore sparkling hairnets in those days and I remember when Bjorn Fuglestad was heard to say my mother, Caspara, had chaff in her hair!

I also remember the men dipping water from the cistern for afternoon coffee. There were dead frogs floating in the water and Lars Loge said it gave the coffee better flavor!

Finally, I remember how cool it was in the north church basement during Sunday School.

Cas Aarestad

Recollections from my early years at Zion Lutheran

My dad, Gilbert Stenoien, loved to sing and I remember lots of music and singing in our church.

We had some fine young singers in our congregation who shared their musical talents. Alf Wesley and Ruth Spinnanger are two that I recall.

Sometimes my sisters and I would go with our dad to Ladies Aid in one of the homes. We would be asked to sing a song or chorus we knew. I think we enjoyed singing and the good lunch that followed.

At Christmas-time when the snow was deep, we would ride in a sleigh to the program at church. The children spoke their "pieces" in the flow of the candle-lit tree. Afterward, we all received a bag of candy and an apple.

A sleigh ride home in the moon light over the sparking snow remains a picture in my memory still.

Borghild Stenoien Gisselquist

Voluntary Testimonies

When I was a young girl I worked for Abigael Fuglestad. I attended the country church with Mr. and Mrs. Fuglestad and was very impressed. The order of service started with some voluntary testimonies from some members of the congregation. That was different.

Gudrid Hetland was the pianist, but if she was absent, I was asked to play the piano. That was a good experience.

My late husband, Homer, and I became members of Zion Lutheran Church in 1984. Pastor Willmore Gunderson was the pastor at that time. Homer passed away in 1999. We served in several church offices and I was president of the WMF. Homer had been a trustee.

Homer and I had over 50 years together. I taught in the Cooperstown School for 19 years and Homer was mail carrier and farmer.

Helen Benson

Memories ...

Sunday School Picnics and Bible Camp

I have some good memories of my years at Zion Lutheran.

I can see the corner in the basement where my Sunday School class was held. Mildred (Vigesaa) Erickson was the teacher for many years.

Our Christmas program was special, the tree quite a good-sized one on the platform. Those pre-electric candles were a joy. My dad was one of those that worried about the fire and he was on the alert. The Sunday School kids, our teachers and some parents walked around the tree and sang Christmas carols, singing some in Norwegian. Gladelig Jul was one of them. When that was over we each got an apple. That was a good part of the evening and I remember it well.

Sunday School picnics were one of the summer events. We met at the Bible Camp and everyone brought food for the dinner. The men lined up first to get their food, the ladies second and the kids last. I don't think we cared since we were busy playing and had a good time.

Mrs. Casper Aarestad said once, "This is a Sunday School picnic and the children had to be last." I don't know if the tradition ever changed. It was a big day for us kids and I expect for our parents, too.

I went to the Wathne School, where the Stenoien young ones went. We became good friends. I visited them in Mayville once in a while. After all these years - about 70 - Gudren and I have renewed our friendship via mail. I have many good memories of the Stenoien family.

Yes, I have many good things for me to think about. I would like to be at your "fest" and look forward to a report.

Greetings to anyone who might remember me.

Arleen Thomson Hanna

Confirmation Day

I remember my Confirmation Day at Westley Lutheran Brethren Church near Cooperstown on September 7, 1930. It was the church that my parents, D.A. and Marie Goplen, and family attended.

I was a member of the Griggs County Juvenile Band, which consisted of 55 members from the Binford, Cooperstown and Hannaford Juvenile Bands. These bands had combined and were directed by Ernest C. Meyer of Valley City. He made trips to the towns each week for rehearsal.

Early Friday morning, September 5, 1930, the Griggs County Juvenile Band traveled to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where they performed several concerts at the Hudson Bay Co. Store at the St. Regis Hotel and also in Selkirk, Manitoba. This event was surely a big adventure for these young people at that time in 1930.

The band members drove through the night and returned to their homes early Sunday morning. I arrived home near Binford at 5 AM and a few hours later I was confirmed at Westley Lutheran Brethren Church by Rev. Gilbert Stenoien.

There were six confirmants in the class and they studied the Catechism in English. I drove myself from Binford to the Westley Church for classes which met weekly on Saturdays when the weather permitted.

Catechization took place during the church service on Confirmation Day. It was a very special day for the confirmants and their families.

The weekend was a highlight for me in the year 1930, ending with the most important event, my Confirmation Day.

Joel Goplen

Memories ...

Boys will be boys

My first recollection of a Sunday morning worship service was that it was all in the Norwegian language. The Sunday School classes were in English. The pastor spoke in a different dialect than the Stavanger we were used to, so many of us didn't understand the sermons.

Things started changing and a little English was added at the end of the service. Later it was mostly English with a little Norwegian at the end. Those who spoke only Norwegian started staying home, but it soon was all in English.

I remember T.T. Fuglestad standing up in the middle of the Norwegian service. The pastor stopped to ask what he wanted. Mr. Fuglestad said he had a song he would like to sing and proceeded to do that. He then sat down and the pastor continued the service.

The ladies and girls would sit on the north side of the church, men and boys on the south. I remember my grandmother, Lovisa Vigasaa and her sister, Abigael Fuglestad, sitting over the big furnace soaking up the heat while the guys on the south side were cold.

There was a time when my younger brother and Ronnie Berge would sit in the front row and whisper quite loud. Elias Berge got up and walked to the front and sat between the boys. Another time the pastor said, "Ronnie, you better go sit with your daddy!"

There were times when we would have a special speaker at church. Everyone would stay for dinner and then go to an afternoon meeting and maybe an evening service too. Some of us boys would try to skip the afternoon service. I remember one time that Abigael Fuglestad came out and rounded us up and sent us back into church.

One time nearly everyone got sick. Evidently some food should have been refrigerated and had become spoiled.

Ted Vigasaa

Learning to lean on Jesus

In 1954, there was an emptiness and longing in my heart and concern for my three children, ages 7, 6 and 5. My aunt, Caspara Aarestad, knew my predicament and invited me to take my children to the Westley Church and Sunday School.

Sanford Soma was the pastor and Caspara told him about us. He came to visit and he went into the fields with my husband, Pete. The Somas were very influential in turning our lives to God.

As time went on, we began to attend Westley Church on Sunday mornings and evenings and mid-week services. There was a week of meetings with an Evangelist, Clifford Anderson, preaching each evening. When he asked us at the door if we needed help, Pete said, "Yes, we do!" We found we needed Jesus as our Savior and Lord and we began a new life in Christ.

The pastors: Sanford Soma, Leroy Njaa, Gordon Solheim, Roy Johnson, Glenn Larsen and Elwin Walvatne preached Jesus Christ, the only way to God.

We found a fellowship with believers in the Westley/Zion Church that helped us to turn more to God, reading and studying the Bible and learning to lean on Jesus.

Pete died in 1975. Our children grew up and had families. In 1983, Pastor Willmore Gunderson married Allen Osmundson and me in Zion Lutheran Church in Cooperstown. We are both 80-years-old and I'm still learning to lean on Jesus.

Phyllis Larson Ronningen Osmundson

Memories ...

A frightening experience

I have a memory - for a very young girl, a frightening one.

Dad had brought me with him to the church where he was to have the devotions at a Ladies' Aid meeting. Following that, he would use the occasion to drive on farther into the valley to visit the elderly Vigesaas while I stayed on at the church for lunch and to await my dad's return.

Alas, the ladies had finished the clean-up and one by one left for home; there I was, all alone in the church as evening shadows fell, and my father hadn't returned for me! A scary situation.

Bracing myself I decided to face my fears by walking throughout the church. Hearing a noise downstairs, I was determined to know the cause. It seemed to be coming from the furnace room. Cautiously entering that small place I saw, to my horror, a man backing through a small, high-up window and beginning to lower himself to the floor below!

Terrified, I turned and ran, having one thing in mind - escape without his seeing me!

The floor across the room to the stairs and those stairs to the escape door creaked so loudly he'd surely be after me! But I made it to the door and out into the open, then literally flew as with wings across the yard, the road, and down a lengthy lane to the farmhouse directly across from the church. I knew nothing about the people who lived there, but to me they spelled safety.

From this vantage I watched for dad's return. When his car finally came into view, I ran to meet it, never telling dad about my terrifying encounter in the church, fearing he would investigate for himself and maybe get hurt.

Then that night I worried: What if the stranger burns down the church and I could have prevented it?! I've wondered what was the intruder's intent - to find leftover food? Money? Or a place to sleep?

I'll never know!

Gudrun Stenoien

Cemetery reflections

It was the years 1929-31 and I was a young girl of elementary school age.

On Sunday mornings my dad left home at an early hour taking family members with him. It was necessary for him to be sufficiently ahead of the worship time because he had janitorial duties. We younger children had at least an hour of free time to ourselves. In nice weather I remember mornings when a couple of us walked in the cemetery that was adjacent to the church lot.

Most vividly I recall the singing of the meadowlarks - such a beautiful musical song!

Sometimes the morning dew in the sunshine was a special delight.

This cemetery held no "spookiness" for us ... instead it was a respectful walk, reading names on the grave stones and enjoying the quiet beauty accompanied by the bird songs and chirping of the ground critters.

Rebecca Stenoien

Memories ...

Influenced by Zion Lutheran Church

As I think back on my early life and the times at Zion Lutheran Brethren Church, it stirs a lot of memories, all of them pleasant. There is a whole kaleidoscope of images that come to mind.

I remember the picture of heaven that was painted for us in Sunday School. I believe it was Gudrun A. who amazed us with stories of streets of gold and gates of pearl. Many other pictures come to mind. Of course, men sat mostly on the left side and women on the right. On cold winter days, my Grandma Lovisa would come in and plunk herself immediately right over the big furnace register.

*Who can
forget the
marvelous
singing voice of
Olaf Monson
and how he
strummed that
harp?*

Emil Herigsted often came just a little late and sat at the very end of the third row from the front. There was that memorable day when Alf Haaland and Elias Berge had that unfortunate encounter. It was Alf's custom when reaching for his billfold at the time of the offering to stretch back. On the other hand, Elias would lean forward. The day Alf sat directly in front of Elias, it was bound to happen. I was an eyewitness as their heads collided.

The church was a family and provided loving, if occasionally stern discipline. If some of us younger members tarried outside in our cars before service and appeared as if we might just skip it, Elias Berge would tap on the windows and strongly urge us to get our little butts in the pew.

Well, he didn't say it in those words, but that was the effect.

I still see David Vigesaa as a child at our Christmas program. Church was filled to capacity. Connie was seated far in the back. As David came walking up the aisle to "speak his piece," terror seized him and he turned about halfway up and called to his mother, "Help me mommy!" I think he came through in fine style.

I recall the Sunday when the Aaserud family arrived at church having walked the entire distance from home. Martha lodged a complaint against her husband with some of the ladies. She had gotten a pebble in her shoe but hubby didn't want to take time to stop and remove it.

My mind also recalls the image of Arne Lima by the cemetery before service, harvesting some of the fruit from the "regnbaer?" tree. That's the mountain ash and the fruit wasn't particularly tasty. It must have been an acquired taste.

I wouldn't be where I am today nor would I have gone into the ministry and enjoyed the preaching and power of the Gospel had it not been for the early days of Zion Lutheran Church (the North Church) and its preachers and Sunday School teachers. Their names are too many to mention. I believe it was Rev. Stenoien who baptized me and then there were several Pastor Monsons in succession.

Who can forget the marvelous singing voice of Olaf Monson and how he strummed that harp? Legend has it that he, in his exuberance, once lost his upper plate while singing at a service.

Then came Sanford Soma and his personal powerful preaching, even though he had no formal seminary training. He had been a carpenter though and, as I recall, another important Christian figure came from that background.

Pastor Glenn and Janel Hetland

Baptisms

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:14-15

1896

Paul Njaa
Thorval Fuglestad
Elmer Arthur Aarestad
Gunhild Mathilde Lima
Clara Sofie Holland

1897

Oscar Jorgen Soma
Magnus Boe
Edel Margrete Brosten
Sigurd Skjelseth
Melvin Clarence Njust
Gudrid Leonora Vigesaa
Josef Clarence Benson
William Henry Reynolds
Torger Boe
Edith Ruth Lima
George Njaa

1898

Josef William Herigstad
Curt Danielsen
Lydia Herigstad
Oscar William Westley

1899

Ralph Fuglestad
Trygve Vigesaa
Gunda Boe

1900

Ingmar Elliston Hagen
Ofrida Westley
Ingvald Johan Vatne

1901

Ingwald Herbert Lee
Randi Florence Braasten
Albert Kornelius Stromme
Kristine Marie Swanson
Agnes Vigesaa
Ida Lydia Overby
Tharalf Twedt
Anna Bernardino Johanson
Herman Clarence Haaland
R. Edwin Fuglestad
George Torreseu
Rebekka Braasten
Alma Sylvia Aarestad
Clara Lenora Ulledahl
Ruth Lilian Herigstad
Glennie Walter Herigstad
Kristiane Amalius Jacobsen

Hulda Skjelseth

1902

Oscar Jalmar Erickson
Elvin Clarence Haaland
Halvor Marselius Njaa
Hilma Regine Helland
Sigvald Njaa
Henry Oliver Tharaldson
Sigvald Njaa
Henry Oliver Tharaldson
Herman Bertin Haugen
Clarence Johnson
Felix Osgood Westley
Sylvia Herigstad
Elsie Marie Lima
Morris Carleton Brassten
Dina Hausine Swenson

1903

Agnes Regina Watne
Clarence Arthur Breudingen
Jennie Lydia Ulledal
Maris Pauline Miller
Julie Isabel Gilbertson
Alice Constance Haaland
Elvin Palmer Aarestad
Jennie Geneva Olson
Ada Martha Sicaftstad
Lawrence Theodore Vigesaa
Paul Lunde

1904

Arthur Ingolf Vogle
Arthur Clarence Njaa
Josef Walter Watne
Sylvia Herigstad
Lisa Soma

1905

Christian Leonard Brekke
Ester Skjelseth
Thelma Sofia Fuglestad
Lilly Adina Aarestad
Krag Rudolf Lunde
Anna Thime

1906

Emma Johanna Watne
Ernest Johan Watne
Ella Maria Brosten
Torger Georg Soma
Harold Herman Njaa
Ruth Lenora Vigesaa

1907

Palmer Brekke
Agnes Lillian Brosten
Gurina Soma

1908

Julius Maynard Watne
Alf Nevland

1909

Alice Mildred Vigesaa
Rollin Brosten
Stella Arlien Loge
Ingvald Oliver Soma

1910

Sivert Otto Watne
Martin Johnson
Pearl Adelia Njaa
Serina Krag
Arthur Henry Palmer Krag

1911

Arvil Oliver
Alf Westley
Telma Alvilde Westley
Jens Nevland
Sheila Thelma Loge

1912

Leo Stanley Lunde
Ruth Mildred Soma
Norman Ronnie Boe
Yearl Norman Palm
Elmer Andreas Aarestad
Carsten Reinert Berge
Trygve Raugvald Nevland
Arthur Theodore Johnson
Herluf Oliver Vigesaa
Jeanette Constance Njaa

1913

Inga Theodore Njaa
Ruby Beatrice Overby
Arthur Roy Vatne
Jeanette Doris Strom
Inga Kristine Olson
Genevieve Maxil
Pearl Eleanor Maxil

1914

Otto Sigurd Amundson
Ely Mary Anderson
Kathryn Hazel Ibsen

Baptisms

Lenard August Ibsen
Arthur Molbjor
Leonard Elsworth Olson
Ella Amanda Gilbertson
Elmer Mikkelson
Carl Norman Larson
Leonard Norman Overby
Esther Constance Njaa
Fergus Clifford Loge
Edwin Arnt Johnson
Hans Adolph Halverson
Edward Rubin Berge
Mervil Ernest Ueland
Borgny Oliva Westly
Ovidia Martha Johnson
Dorothy Helen Blegew
Inga Amanda Swanson
Anna Maril Redmoen
Peder Gustav Paulson
Clarence Tilman Wang

1915

Olgar Lyle Bang
Audelyn Dolores Urdahl
Ingrid Maril Flaten
Herbert Fredrick Olson
Ruth Mildred Soma
Ragnhild Lima
Lenora Marie Lunde

1916

Eunice Lenora Ueland
Ruth Mathilde Berge
Wely Loberg
Bjarne Johnson

1917

Alf Vatne
Glades Jeanette Lunde

1918

William Ingart Berge
Annie Lilli Hetland
Lyle Fredrik Sornsen
Judith Agnette Soma

1921

Thelford Raymond Fuglestad

1927

Gene Orion Wuflestad
Vernon Milo Fuglestad
Martin Lyman Aaserud
Eva Lenora Lura
Mavis Lorraine Hetland
Edson Vercel Fuglestad

1928

Joan Leora Herigstad
Ralph Elvern Fuglestad
Theodore Bronson Vigesaa
Theodore Severin Sanvik

1929

Agnes Lenora Aaserud
Gordon Ellsworth Stenoien
Monroe LaVern Wuflestad
Marlys Christine Helmer
Norma Jean Taxdahl
Leona Vilma Feske

1930

George Winston Vigesaa
Ira Ardell Fuglestad
Delores Illien Vigesaa
Marilyn Gay Loge
Glenn Clayton Hetland
Ruth Beverly Nyjordet
Charles Duaine Feske
Milo Earl Taxdahl
Bertran LeRoy Shanfel
Gladys Verna Aaserud

1931

Jergen Donovan Soma
Vernon Sylvester Stenoien
June Avis Lura
David Lowell Vigesaa
Ronald Althon Berge
Marie Louise Wuflestad
James Thomas Newman
Milton Eugene Winger
Ensach Leen
Alda Adar Berg

1932

John Marvin Taxdahl
James Ingvald Lura
Oswald Kenneth Aaserud
LeRoy Everett Williams
Wallis Morris Domeir
Marilyn Gay Endrud

1933

Gladys Bernice Thompson

1936

Myron Luther Nevland
Ellen Marie Berge
Alvin Bruce Haaland
Janice Caspara Haaland
Edward Irwin Froiland
Robert Dale Lura

1937

Lawrence William Vigesaa

1938

Torkel Milton Vigesaa
Hurluf Everett Vigesaa

1939

Richard Dean Nevland

1940

Kathryn Anna Louise Vigesaa

1941

Kenneth John Froiland
Paul Edwin Haaland
Karen Ann Vigesaa
Casper Roy Aarestad
Raymond Arthur Haaland

1942

Roald Elliot Vigesaa
Melvin Arden Stokka

1943

Torkel Loren Vigesaa

1944

Marjean Patricia Haaland
John Daniel Vigesaa
Judy Renee Fuglestad

1945

Peter Bryan Vigesaa
Patricia Elaine Stokka
Callen Wayne Nevland
Karen Elizabeth Soma
Barbara Ann Tompkins
Gary Lee Knutson

1946

Betty Ann Haaland
Rodney Harlan Strand
Harald Marvin Vigesaa

1947

Jean Marie Vigesaa
Bennet Walter Michaelis
Milton Eugene Stokka
Carol Jean Knutson

1948

Carol Eileen Langford
Ingrid Louise Erickson
William Paul Hammer
Ronald Vernell Loge

1949

Patricia Kay Haaland
Beverly Gay Loge
Cheryl Marie Thompson

Baptisms

Theresa Louise Loge
 Sylvia Ann Erickson

1950

Loren Clifford Knutson
 Elaine Ruth Unruh
 David Gregory Sand
 Eilene Marie Loge
 Susan Jo Hammer
 Bernette Theresa Thompson

1951

Rayna Lou Knutson

1952

Neal Edwin Johnson
 Nancy Diane Thompson
 Bonnie Jean Thompson
 Colleen Joan Haaland
 Darlene Renee Loge
 Dorinne Alyce Loge

1953

Donald Wayne Vigasaa
 Bert Russell Herigstad
 Joan Elizabeth Aarestad
 Nolan Andrew Johnson
 Patricia Ann Loge

1954

Timphanet Adair Loge
 Carl Jon Hammer

1955

Keven Jon Lunde
 Keith Miles Fuglestad
 Shereen Beth Vigasaa
 Rebecca Marie Vigasaa

1956

Ruth Rosanne Loge
 Charlene Kay Thompson

1957

Ivan Elroy Fuglestad
 Debra Elaine Berge
 David Nathan Lunde
 Jerry Clifford Johnson
 Denise Joy Maurer
 Joy Dorinda Soma

1958

Jeffrey Alan Vigasaa
 Gretchen Marie Vigasaa
 Clayton Endre Vigasaa
 Denise Kay Fuglestad
 Brenda Sue Lillard
 Lawrence Erik Vigasaa

Jeffrey Lynn Johnson
 Penny Kay Strand
 Jon Steven Reise

1959

Laurie Lee Johnson
 Louanna Berge
 Nadine Louise Fuglestad
 Rhonda Joan Berge
 Ronald Jerome Berge

1960

Randal Jay Vigasaa
 Gena Louise Reise

1961

LaVon Janelle Thompson
 Wayne Bryan Vigasaa
 Joseph James Helmer
 Charles Lee Carlson
 Scott Randall Wuflestad

1962

Gail Marie Berge
 Steven Rene Moothart
 Lauri Ann Vigasaa
 Paul Dean Reise

1963

Scott Anthony Helmer
 Kevin Clinton Solberg

1965

Bjarne Jay Johnson

1966

Ronald Arthur Faust

1967

Sally Jo Vigasaa
 Barbara Kay Lunde
 Ryan Blaine Johnson
 Shannon Kay McCardle

1969

Betsy Dell Berge
 Greg Peder Larsen
 Rhonda Jean Ronningen

1970

Aaron John Aarestad

1971

Marcella Louise Vigasaa

1972

Endre Hans Aarestad
 Martin Eric Vigasaa

Lisa Marie Wood
 Annette Christine Wood
 Tami Mari Ronningen

1973

David James Carlson
 Tanya Lee Lunde

1974

Sally Louise Berge
 Annette Lee Ronningen
 Stephani Kay Rislov

1975

Aaron Loge Edland
 Sharon Michelle Vigasaa
 Daniel Lee Carlson

1977

Sara Lue Aarestad
 Jeremiah John Malmberg

1978

Nicholas Frank Benson
 Joy Elizabeth Benson
 Michael Thomas Wood
 Scott Laurence Loge
 Christin Frances Edland

1979

Joel Peter Ronningen

1980

Marit Rene Vigasaa
 Anita Louise Aarestad

1981

John Paul Ronningen
 DeeAnn Marie Nevland
 Jennifer Constance Vigasaa
 Joshua Abraham
 April Abraham

1982

Christine Olga Gundersen
 Heather Jo Johnson
 Homer Benson
 Katie Marie Cushman
 Timothy Michael Edland

1983

Kate Johanna Wold
 Ayrin Chelsey Wold
 Melissa Joy Stokka
 Ashley Laura Vigasaa
 Jared Philip Ronningen
 Carrie Ann Koosmann

Baptisms

1984

*Christopher Elliot Vigesaa
Julie Ann Gundersen
Jane Rachel Gundersen
Kari Danielle Lunde*

1985

*Adam Roy Aarestad
Lindsey Marie Twedt
Joshua Arnt Stokka
Grant Ryan Vigesaa
Thomas Braden Vigesaa
Phillip Charles Wilkins*

1986

*Brandon Kent Dick
Dana Leigh VenHuizen
Heidi Louise Stokka
Brady Kent VenHuizen
Jared Neal Johnson
Erin Kristina Lunde*

1988

*James Emerson Baldwin
Samuel Torkel Vigesaa
Hillary Jo Starke
Amanda Kaye Dick*

1989

*Maurice Jerome Wathne
Dorcas Emma Wathne
Enoch Conrad Wuflestad
Lee Edward Tafelmeyer
Alexandra Kay Wilkins
Allison Emily Vigesaa*

1990

*Danielle Louise Vigesaa
Audra Lee Starke*

1991

*Melissa Elizabeth Burke
Wyatt Frederic Krabbenhoft
Emilee Kay Johnson
Josie Lynn Tafelmeyer*

1992

David Lawrence Lunde

1993

*Daniel Erik Lunde
Jacob Randal Vigesaa*

1994

*Michael Matthew Schumacher
Dylan James Krabbenhoft
Bjorn Olaf Johnson
Oswald William Johnson
Roman Shane Luke Norheim*

1995

Jessica Lynn Ronningen

1996

*Brady John Solmon
Cienna Jo Solmon
Carter Jay Aarestad*

1997

Jordan Lee Johnson

1998

Emmee Marie Hoffmann

1999

Emma Elaine Aarestad

2000

*Noah Andrew Wilder
Grace Marie Weisman*

2001

Hunter Mason Gronneberg

2002

*Sophie Mae Schaumann
Carissa Faye Johnson*

2003

*Drew Bronson Vigesaa
Jonah Michael Ringstad
Tyson Scott Loge
Jaxon Dominic Gronneberg*

2004

Molly Ann Johnson

2005

*Cole Robert Hebl
Mia Caspara Aarestad
Anika Jayne Aarestad
Mia Lynne Engel
Peter Alexander Ronningen*

Confirmation Classes

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be
ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” **2 Timothy 2:15**

1891

*Martin Westley
Edgar Haaland
Ole O. Westley*

1893

Anna Maria Haaland

1895

Sven Haaland

1897

*Martha Westley
Anna Westley
Karen Herigstad*

Margrethe Herigstad

*Hans Aarestad
Torkel Aarestad*

1898

Ola Westley

1901

*Christian Haaland
Carl Haaland
Ingvald Aarestad
Inga Fuglestad
Lauritz Skjelseth*

1904

Agnette Soma

*Gudrun Fuglestad
Emma Haaland
Johannes Aarestad*

1907

*Lisa Fuglestad
Ragna Skjelseth
Hanna Njaa
Orgine Haaland
Johannes Vatne*

1909

*Anbjorn Fuglestad
Norman Edland
Dagney Edland*

Confirmation Classes

Anna Lee
Casper Lee
Gudrun Skjelseth

1910

Paul Njaa
Thorvald Fuglestad
Bessie Vigasaa

1913

Gudrid Vigasaa
Asborg Njaa
Sigurd Shelseh
Arthur Edland

1915

Gudri Njaa
Ingeborg Nevland
Ingeborg Ellingson
Halvor Nordheim
Rakel Holland

1918

Sigvald Njaa
Arthur Njaa

1928

Arnold Sola
Edward Berge
Edwin Johnson
Ragnhild Lima
Mildred Soma
Alf Westley
Ovedia Froiland
Marvin Ourem

1930

Joel Goplen
Richard Loge
Bjarne Johnson
Joseph Stenoien
Myrtle Bjornlie
Ruth Helmer

1931

Mae Winnifred Lien
Gunhild Lima
Gudrun Stenoien
Ansgar Lima
Trygve Thompson

1932

Lloyd Froiland
Raymond Loge
Arlien Thompson
Evelyn Berge
Borghild Johnson
Ardie Berg

1936

Thelford Fuglestad
Lloyd Fuglestad
Marvin Fuglestad
Jacob Lima
Torrey Berge
Eleanor Elvig
Ruth Elvig
Laurence Loge
Rosella Loge
Lorraine Aarestad
Clarence Johnson
Esther Thompson

1938

Clifford Johnson
Phillip Hetland
Robert Berge
Swanie Aalgaard
Reynold Fuglestad

1941

Dennis Loge
Leonard Johnson
Dorothy Loge
Mavis Hetland
Ted Vigasaa
Marlys Helmer
Ralph Fuglestad
Vernon Fuglestad

1943

Arla Mae Larson
Audree Aarestad
Rosella Aarestad
George Vigasaa

1944

Marilyn Loge
David Vigasaa
Everett Aarestad
Glen Hetland
Ronald Berge

1948

Janice Helmer
Carolyn Vigasaa

1950

Ruth Erickson
Janice Aarestad
Lawrence Vigasaa

1951

James Helmer
Joel Erickson
Dean Nevland
Myron Nevland

Everett Vigasaa
Kathryn Vigasaa
Torkel Vigasaa

1955

Paul Haaland
Karen Vigasaa
Casper Aarestad, Jr.
Roald Vigasaa

1956

Daniel Vigasaa
Loren Vigasaa
Marjean Haaland
Marlene Soma

1958

Frohne Soma
Peter Vigasaa
Rodney Strand
Larry Carlson

1961

Barry Ronningen
Judy Ronningen
Harold Vigasaa
Marlene Carlson
Jeanne Vigasaa
Jean Loge

1963

Leslie Ronningen
Steven Vigasaa
Cheryl Thompson
Beverly Loge

1965

Eileen Loge
Bernette Thompson

1966

Neal Johnson
Bonnie Thompson
Darlene Loge
Dorinne Loge
John Solheim

1969

Patricia Loge
Darrel Carlson
Nolan Johnson
Donald Vigasaa

1970

Ruth Loge
Keven Lunde
Charlene Thompson
Brenda Vigasaa

Confirmation Classes

Rebecca Vigesaa
Shereen Vigesaa

1973

Amber Kirkeby
Gretchen Vigesaa
Jeff Johnson
Jeff Vigesaa
Nathan Lunde

1975

Louanna Berge
Sandra Loge
Randy Vigesaa

1976

Gail Berge
Karen Cushman
Lori Haugen
Mindy Kirkeby
LaVon Thompson
Lauri Vigesaa
Richard Hatlevoll
Wayne Vigesaa

1980

Bjarne Johnson
David Christopherson
Steven Hatlevoll

1983

Sharon Vigesaa
Sally Jo Vigesaa
Kevin Haugen
Barbara Lunde
Betsy Berge

1985

Rhonda Ronningen
Aaron Aarestad

1987

Marcella Vigesaa

Nicholas Benson
Endre Aarestad
Kelly VenHuizen

1988

Tami Ronningen
Lisa Gundersen

1989

Jeff Chaput
Brandon Carroll
Kevin Olson
Sally Berge
Betty Gundersen
Annette Ronningen
Tanya Lunde

1991

Sara Aarestad
Joy Benson
Jill Dramstad

1992

Barbara Erdahl

1993

Owen Dramstad
Joshua Starke
Michael Wood

1994

Scott Loge

1995

Anita Aarestad
Joel Ronningen
John Ronningen
Greg Vigesaa

1998

Heather Johnson
Sarah Johnson

Jessie Koosmann
Megan Starke
Melissa Stokka
Nathan Tafelmeyer
Ashley Vigesaa
Daniel Vigesaa
Lisa Vigesaa

1999

Garret Gjesdal
Carrie Koosmann
Kari Lunde
Jared Ronningen
Joshua Stokka
Lewis Tafelmeyer
Elizabeth Ueland
Christopher Vigesaa

2002

Adam Aarestad
Joshua Erickson
Erika Gjesdal
Alyssa Starke
Heidi Stokka
Emily Ueland
Dana VenHuizen
Thomas Vigesaa

2004

Tim Erickson
Jared Johnson
Aura Lee Lunde
Hillary Starke
Lee Tafelmeyer
Samuel Vigesaa

2006

Tesla Christenson
Cameron Ott

Marriages

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh." **Genesis 2:24**

1886

Ommund Westley ~ Malene Jenssen

1887

Knud Haaland ~ Serina Aasland
Arnt Njaa ~ Karen Herigstad
John Johnson ~ Malene Thime

Sven Edland ~ Martha Caroline Lee

1893

Ole Lima ~ Martha Lima

1897

Baard Herigstad ~ Anna Njaa
Hans Westley ~ Gurine Njaa

1902

Abraham Thime ~ Elisabeth Loge

1903

O.A. Brekke ~ Olava Herigstad
Johan Watne ~ Maria Haaland
Jorgen Soma ~ Gina Kydland

Marriages

1905 <i>Ole B. Westley ~ Karen Herigstad</i>	1954 <i>Ralph Tweed ~ Marna Larson</i>	<i>Kent Dick ~ Kimberly Johnson</i>
1906 <i>Ole Madland ~ Lena Herigstad</i> <i>Ole T. Westley ~ Bertha Olsen</i>	1955 <i>Clarence Reise ~ Ellen Berge</i> <i>David Vigesaa ~ Janice Aarestad</i>	1985 <i>Kevin VenHuizen ~ Sally Jo Vigesaa</i>
1907 <i>Edvard Haaland ~ Elen Stannangeland</i>	1956 <i>Howard Brown ~ Barbara Heyerdahl</i> <i>Ronald Berge ~ Ruth Benson</i>	1988 <i>Blake Krabbenhoft ~ Annette Helmer</i> <i>Kim Page ~ Lori Haugen</i>
1909 <i>Egert Haaland ~ Hanna Herigstad</i>	1958 <i>Donald Kirkeby ~ Beverly Anton</i>	1991 <i>Cory Hoyt ~ Rhonda Ronningen</i> <i>Michael Schumacher ~ Barbara Lunde</i>
1910 <i>Arnt Njaa ~ Christine Bokkevold</i>	1962 <i>Roger McCardle ~ Kathryn Vigesaa</i>	1992 <i>Ed Folden ~ Dorcas Wathne</i>
1911 <i>Torkel Aarestad ~ Serena Feugesdal</i>	1969 <i>Jacob DeVries ~ Jean Loge</i>	1993 <i>David Zorn ~ Darla Needham</i>
1912 <i>Elias Bergsagel ~ Ingeborg Aspoi</i>	1971 <i>Lawrence Edland ~ Eileen Marie Loge</i> <i>Robert Berge - Adeline Kirkeby</i>	1994 <i>Gary Kolden ~ Betsy Berge</i>
1913 <i>Thorvald Hagland ~ Tomine Sola</i> <i>John Hayes ~ Jennie Jager</i>	1972 <i>Gilbert Johnson ~ Ragnhild Lima</i> <i>Darrell Carlson ~ Sherry Herberg</i>	1995 <i>Peter Mains ~ Jill Dramstad</i> <i>Endre Aarestad ~ Stacey Ramsey</i>
1914 <i>Obert Nilson ~ Carie Trench</i>	1974 <i>Dave Rislov ~ Shereen Vigesaa</i>	1997 <i>Christopher Lunde ~ Annette Ronningen</i> <i>Jeffrey Schaumann ~ Tanya Lunde</i> <i>Wayne Johnson ~ Marcella Vigesaa</i>
1917 <i>Einar Howe ~ Hilda Smestad</i> <i>Fanuel Ellingson ~ Marie Stangeland</i>	1976 <i>Eric Cannon ~ Brenda Vigesaa</i>	1999 <i>Todd Zaun ~ Sara Aarestad</i>
1921 <i>Ingvald Olson ~ Anna Arno</i>	1977 <i>Bryan Hedstrom ~ Amber Kirkeby</i>	2001 <i>Jayson Gronneberg ~ Cia Hoffmann</i> <i>Owen Dramstad ~ Collette Ramsey</i> <i>Jon Turner ~ Susan Liljenquist</i>
1944 <i>Walter Michaelis ~ Borghild Johnson</i>	1980 <i>Jeff Fognier ~ Sandra Loge</i>	2002 <i>Scott Loge ~ Jodi Johnson</i>
1949 <i>Gordan Moothart ~ Dorothy Loge</i> <i>Don Sand ~ Marilyn Loge</i> <i>James Thompson ~ Rosella Aarestad</i>	1981 <i>David Stokka ~ Lauri Vigesaa</i> <i>Jerry Johnson ~ Karen Cushman</i>	2003 <i>Aaron Aarestad ~ Nicole Christiansen</i>
1950 <i>Jack Barner ~ Mavis Hetland</i>	1982 <i>Randy Vigesaa ~ Holly Wold</i>	2005 <i>Kyle MacCullum ~ Anita Aarestad</i>
1953 <i>David Lunde ~ Carolyn Vigesaa</i>	1983 <i>Allen Osmundson ~ Phyllis Ronningen</i> <i>Jeffrey Miller ~ Gail Berge</i>	

Funerals

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25

1897
Melvin Clarence Njust
Torger Boe

1899
Gurina Soma

1900
Martha Trina

1901
Theodor Vigesaa

1902
Bertine Ramsfjeld
Inga Voglie
Baard Herigstad

1903
Ethel Margarethe Bransteu
Sylvia Herigstad
Theodor Boe
Lena Soma

1904
Sefanias Aarestad
Ole Boe
Mrs. Boe
Andreas Vatne
Sefanias Fuglestad

1905
Constance Edland

1906
Rakel Vatne

1907
Johanna Haaland

1908
Selmer Meier

1910
Rikard Brostei
Thea Njaa

1911
Christian Aarestad
Ingeborg Soma

1912
Alf Herman
Thordore Herigstad

Ole Stokka
Elmer Andreas
Hans Stokka

1913
Carl Olson

1914
Ruth Mildred Soma
Ole Edland

1916
George Njaa
Kristine Njaa
Claus Fuglestad

1917
Marthine Njaa
Ole T. Westby
Alf Vatne
Torkel Vigesaa

1918
Andrew Aarestad
Ole Westly

1927
Anna Aarestad
Harry Olgoord
Arnt Togstal

1928
Fred Tailor

1929
Mrs. O.H. Westley

1931
Sven Edland
Ole Lima

1932
Alda Berg
Mrs. Sven Olgaard
Henry Lien

1936
Trygve Ravndal
Ralph Nevland

1937
Torkel Vigesaa

1939

Serina Benson

1945
Edward Berge

1946
Cynthia Rae

1949
Bertha Thomaspon
Barbara Barr

1952
Colleen Joan Haaland

1953
Axiliana Ashland

1954
Arne Lima
Torkel Fuglestad
Ingvald Aarestad

1955
John Helmer
Halvor Njaa

1956
Abigael Fuglestad
Serina Holland
Arthur Thompson
Gena Lilen

1958
Elizabeth Thime

1959
Louise Vigesaa
Albert Berge

1963
Connie Vigesaa

1964
Bjorn Fuglestad

1969
Karoline Lima

1971
Elias Berge

1974
Otto Njaa

Funerals

Margaret Carlson
Ruth Loge

1975

Francis (Pete) Ronningen
Torkel Vigesaa

1976

Ebert Carlson

1977

Ida Aarestad

1979

Taletta Johnson

1980

Trygve Vigesaa

1981

Milton Stokka

1982

Conrad Herigstad
Kent VenHuizen
Lawrence Vigesaa

1983

Oliver Larson
Carl Hetland

1984

Inga Loge
Irwin Froiland

1985

Dora (Ashland) Leir
Bill Cushman
Christ Helm

1987

Viley Christopherson

Gudrid Hetland
Laurence Loge
Arthur Johnson

1988

Lillian Radford
Caspara Aarestad
Herluf Vigesaa
Dale Hagen
Raymond Loge
Marie Larson
Richard Loge

1990

Maurice Wathne

1991

Roald Vigesaa
Evelyn Zoll

1992

Bernice Michaelis
Telmer Lykken
Rhonda (Ronningen) Hoyt
Cory Hoyt
Betsy Berge
Fergus Loge

1993

Esther Froiland
Sheila Nevland
Janet Berge

1994

Donald Dalman

1995

Lester Erickson

1996

Ragnhild Lima Johnson
Hjordis Loge

1997

Martin Johnson
Aldo Iverson

1998

Harold Wiseman

1999

Homer Benson
Henry Knutson

2000

Hilma Volstad

2001

Esther Lundeen
Raymond Michaelis
Elsie Berge

2002

Edwin Johnson
Borghild Iverson
Ruth Vigesaa
Beulah Sharpe-Baird

2003

Kenneth Johnson
James Wold
Janet VenHuizen

2004

Truman Loge

2005

Alice Loge
Enoch Wuflestad
Jared Johnson

2006

Dorcas Wathne Folden
Elsie Rebecca Vigesaa

*The Zion Lutheran Church 125th Anniversary Committee thanks
those members, past and present, who contributed to this book.*

*Information for this book was compiled from available church records.
Every effort was made to avoid errors and omissions, however, it is possible
that some may have occurred. The Zion Lutheran Church 125th Anniversary
Book Committee apologizes for any such instances.*

~ *Notes* ~