

Churches – Dickey County, North Dakota

[Compiled by Allen E. Konrad – October 2007; Revised January, 2015]
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[Note to the Researcher: My research on the churches in this county comes in two parts. This document contains the denominational names of churches, their locations and historical information. This is an alphabetical listing of churches. If the church is a rural church, use the name by which it was known to locate it on these pages. If it is a church in a town, go alphabetically to the town and then find the denomination listed in alphabetical order within that town. I have also put together a file of photos. If my research came across a picture of a specific church, you will find that information listed as Photo Available within the information of that church. The reference will be a two letter code for the county, the name of the church, followed by a number in parenthesis which was my photo identifier. Click on the photo album link to see these photos. The bold capital letter within a history article is used to indicate a new paragraph in the original document that has been transcribed. The symbol [o—o] is used to indicate that a portion of an article in the original was not transcribed. Sometimes there is more than one history listed under a church. Although some duplication of information may be present, the articles were entered because some provided information that others may not have had. If you know of other churches not listed in this document, have access to the histories of those churches, or discover errors in this document, please feel free to contact and share that information with Allen Konrad.]

1. Andrus School House Methodist Congregation

- Location: about 10 miles northeast of Oakes (Divide Township-?)
- See Oakes – First Methodist Church
- See Glover – Methodist Episcopal Church

2. Apostolic (Finnish) Lutheran Church

- Location: Dickey County, Ada Township, SW ¼ of SW ¼ **Sec 35-T129-R61**
- GPS: La: N45° 56.181 : Lo: W98° 17.903
- [Photo Available: Di-Apostolic Lutheran Church-1 \[3820\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Apostolic Lutheran Church-2 \[3820\]](#)
- Source: *History of the Finnish Settlement in Brown and Dickey Counties in South and North Dakota 1181-1955*, p.7
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.325. The first Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church was built June 1884 in Savo Township, Brown County, SD. The land (10 acres) was donated by Matt Hanhela. The first officers were Carl Daniels, chairman; August Tuomas, secretary; Henry Nikkila, treasurer; Board of Trustees: N.P. Starkka, Solomon West, William Isaacson, John Martinson, Pete Wetelainen and Abram Peldo. The first service was held on St. John's Day, June 24, 1884. The clergyman was John Takkinen. The first confirmation class consisted of 13 confirmants. The church was in service 78 years. In 1973 the church was restored as a memorial to the pioneers by a group of concerned descendents of pioneers. A sister church was built in 1887 at James River County, Portage Township, Dickey County. That church was moved later from Portage Township to land donated by William Wattula and located in Lovell Township. That church was sold to William Scott in Hecla. Both churches were served by Rev. Carl Daniels and Rev. N.P. Starkka. A new church was constructed in Ada Township and was dedicated April 25, 1954. The two acres of land was donated by Allen and Helmi Weitala. Being that there was no resident pastor at the time, Julius Johnson, a church member, conducted the services whenever there was no clergyman available. The clergyman who came from other areas to preach were George Wilson, John Paana, Carl Niemitalo, Ralph Davidson, and Wayne Juntunen. There were also other clergymen from the mission field who held services. Werner Visto started holding services in the early '60's and he was ordained May 5, 1964. Rev. Visto has held services regularly up to the present time. Reino Maunu is his assistant. The present membership is about 25 members and their families.

- Community History: *Guelph, ND – Centennial 1883-1983 – Grainery of the Plains*, p.132. The Stateline Apostolic Lutheran Church was built in 1953 on 2 acres of land (southwest corner of S.W. ¼ section 35-129-61) given by Mr. and Mrs. Allen Weitala, Sept. 16, 1952. This church is 5 miles south and 3 miles west of Guelph along the state line between North Dakota and South Dakota. The building was dedicated April 25, 1954. Reverend Werner Visto serves as the pastor of the church. Frequently traveling ministers come and have services. The early pioneer Finnish families who had come in 1882-83 felt the need for Divine guidance so held worship services in their homes, many of these being simple sod shanties. Scarcity of space in the homes led them in a mutual agreement that a church building was needed. Matt Hanhella volunteered to give 10 acres of his land to be used for church and cemetery with the agreement that in return the members would plow 50 acres of his land. Forty men with oxen or horses hitched to plows responded and plowed the 50 acres in one day. The foundation for the church was laid June 3, 1884. The necessary material and labor were by contribution and by June 7, 1884, this Finnish Lutheran Church was in sufficient form to enable the people to hold a worship service. The congregation was legally organized in 1887. This church was located in Savo township in South Dakota. On Sunday people traveled great distances to attend worship services, some coming on foot, others by horse and wagon. Some made 2-wheeled carts and hitched oxen to them and even a hay rake was sometimes used for transportation. This church was used for 70 years and was disbanded when the Stateline Church was built. With the passage of time the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church was in need of repair. A group of Finnish people organized as the Pioneer Church Restoration Association with the purpose of restoring the church as a Memorial to the Finnish Christian Pioneers who built it in 1884. Work was begun Oct. 1972 and completed in 1973.
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.98-99. The pioneers of Dakota Territory who had settled here within the years 1882-83, feeling the need of Divine guidance, held worship services in their homes. Scarcity of space led them to mutual agreement that a church building was needed. Matt Hanhella volunteered to relinquish ten acres of his land in the 1/4 of S.S. 1/4 of Section 3 in Savo Township for church and cemetery in exchange for the breaking of fifty acres of his land. This offer met with approval and forty men with oxen or horses hitched to plows arrived at Hanhella's home and in one day broke the fifty acres of ground for him. He in turn deeded the promised ten acres to the Apostolic Lutheran congregation. By united effort the foundation for the church was laid June 3, 1884. The necessary materials and the labor for building the church was by contribution. On June 7, 1884, the first Finnish Lutheran Church structure was in sufficient concrete form to enable the people to hold services in it. Rev. John Takkinen, who had made one visit in 1883 to preach in the homes, arrived from Calumet, MI for the St. John's Day service June 24, 1884. He was the first clergyman in the new church. Carl Daniels of Ludden-Hecla community performed the duties of layman. The congregation was legally organized in 1887 and officers were elected as follows: Chairman, Carl Daniels; Secretary, August Tuomas and Treasurer, Henry Nikkila. Board of Trustees: N.P. Starkka, Solomon West, William Isaacson, John Martinson, Peter Wetelainen and Abram Peldo. A constitution and bylaws were adopted and William Patron Gabrielson was chosen minister. The cemetery was to be located west of the church. Walbur Hanhela, wife of Mart Hanhela, Joshua Walter, the young son of Carl Daniels, were the first deceased to be buried there. Mrs. Hanhela died June of 1883 and the burial service was conducted by Rev. John Takkinen. The Daniels child died in July, 1883. The committal service was performed by Abram Peldo. On Sunday the people traveled great distances to go to church, some on foot, others by horse and wagon. Some had made two wheeled carts and hitched oxen to them. Confirmation instruction began in March, 1887. The first confirmation class to receive Holy Communion were: Carl Jacob Peldo, Peter Herman Wantraja, Paul Alexander Ritola, Henry William Poykko, August Ritola, Albert Koskiniemi, John Jacob Merta-Buro, Maria Karolina Yrjon-Heikki, Hilma Himanga, Emelia Pietila, Aatofina Merta-Buro, Ida Alexandra Poykko and Brita Lisa Laho. Instructors were Rev. N.P. Starkka, Rev. Carl Daniels and Henry Nikkila. Members of the congregation who lived in the James River locality and considered the distance too great to travel to the Savo Church decided in 1887 to construct a church building for themselves. This was built on Fred Holmstrom's land in Portage Township. Committee members included William Wattula, John Korpua, Henry and Sakari Wanttaja, F. Holmstrom, S. Wuolu, Jere Erickson and Matti Merta-Buro. This congregation was also under the authority of the same Board of Trustees as the Savo Church. Sunday School was held in the homes, the children being taught the fundamentals of Christianity by their parents.

Later the Sunday School was held in the church and taught by Henry Kuoppala. When he left the locality, the parents, taking turns, again undertook the task also teaching the children religious songs and hymns. In the James River Church Henry Kytonen taught the Sunday School. Records of the church were arranged and kept by William Patron Gabrielson in 1883. Names with the dates and places of birth of the members of the congregations and births and baptisms were recorded by him. The records were later kept by the Rev. Nels P. Starkka. This pioneer's record book has proven to be a priceless possession. The Savo Church building was in use for seventy years. In 1900 a metal siding was put on. Peter Pasanen, with the help of John Leonard Laho, remodeled the interior by rounding the ceiling. In 1935 Nestor Halonen, Edward Iljana and William Jacobson re-shingled the roof. Both churches were under the guidance of Rev. Starkka and Rev. Carl Daniels. Upon their demise, Gideon Daniels, Emil Liimatta and Henry Kytonen performed this service. After Emil Liimatta and Henry Kytonen moved to another locality and Gideon Daniels died, there was no resident minister for a time. Rev. George Wilson of New York Mills, MN, held services once a month as well as Frans Parakka, Isak Niku, John Raattama, Samuel Juvonen, Kalle Koistinen, Matt Uskoski, Ole Matoniemi, Matt Kinnunen, Axel Uskoski, Dr. E.A. Gillette, John H. Lumijarvi, Israel Hagel, Johan Mursu, Johan Kusta Ylen, Salmo Johnson, John Humola, Johan Puuri, William Koppala, August Simonson, Emil Kallinen, William Humola, Arthur Niska, Torsten Estenson, Israel Peteri, John Erick Paana, Andrew Mickelson, Mattie Rivinoja, and William Prouty. For several years the singing was led by "Lukkari's" including August Tuoma, John Martinson, Joseph Raisanen, William Wattula, Albert Jujala, Matti Hanhela, Ludwig Maunu, and Emil Hokana. For several years Sunday School classes were held regularly every Sunday. The Superintendent of the Sunday School was Mrs. Delbert Maunu. Julius Johnson, layman of the church, instructed the Bible Class. On May 14, 1944, members of the congregation and other interested people of the community met at the Savo Church for the purpose of selecting a soliciting committee and to decide whether to repair the old church building or to build a new one. At this meeting it was decided to begin a building fund and for this purpose a soliciting committee was appointed. The soliciting was continued for several years, after which it was decided that a new building would be built in Ada Township on a plot of ground bordering the North and South Dakota State Line. This land was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Allen Wiitala. The congregation felt it was a more central location and would permit members of the congregations from both areas to attend worship services here. Since a substantial sum had been accumulated in the building fund from local and outside community contributions, work was started Sept. 11, 1952. Ben Naatus was engaged to supervise and construct the building. Much of the labor was contributed by members of the congregation. The present structure is 29x52 feet with a full basement in which there is a kitchen and dining area. This is the third Apostolic Lutheran Church built in this area by the Finnish people. The first annual congregation meeting at the new church was held June 12, 1954. The officers were: Chairman Delbert Maunu; Secretary, Werner Visto; and Treasurer, Axel Maunu. Board of Trustees: Mrs. Ed West, Walter Sammuli, Allen Wiitala, Eddie Maunu, Mrs. Hilda Salstrom and Julius Johnson. Dedication services for the new church in Ada Township were held on April 15, 1954. Officiants at this dedication were: President of the Apostolic Church council Rev. Andrew Mickelson of Hancock, MI; Rev. David Romberg of Houghton, MI; and Rev. George Wilson of New York Mills, MN. A communion service was held in the forenoon and the regular service in the evening. Several carloads of people from Frederick and Lake Norden, SD, New York Mills, MN, Esko, MN and Minneapolis, MN, Gacle, Oakes, Ludden and Ellendale, ND and adjacent areas arrived to attend the services. Rev. Werner Visto served the congregation for many years until his death in 1995, with Reino Maunu assisting. At the present time Reino Maunu serves the congregation

3. Aurdal Lutheran Church

- Location: Dickey County, Elm Township, SE ¼ of SW ¼ Sec 33-T129-R64
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.75
- Closed in 1963 and merged with Ellendale-Christ the King Lutheran
- [Photo Available: Di-Aurdal Lutheran Church \(Elm Twp\) \[5001\]](#)
- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1905-1980*, p.21-22. [Most information in the Forbes Centennial Book is drawn from the Forbes Diamond Jubilee Book, with some of the following information not quoted there] At present time the church and cemetery are registered as a cemetery association. The church being used as a funeral chapel and each year a memorial service is held. The association maintains the church and cemetery and the officers are: Alfred Kabrud, Chairman; Sigurd Flakoll, Co-Chairman; and Edna Kabrud, Secretary-Treasurer.

- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Centennial Book 1905-2005 – Blessings of the Land*, p.24-25. The first service of Aurdal Lutheran Church was held on November 4, 1883 in Ellendale. On December 21, 1883 a meeting was held in the schoolhouse in Ellendale for the purpose of organizing a Norwegian Lutheran congregation. The name Aurdal was chosen after the name of the church in Norway. Before a building was erected, the congregation met for services in various homes around the countryside. In 1885, the Aurdal congregation of Ellendale divided in order to better serve the people forming Immanuel church in Ellendale and Aurdal Church near Forbes. On August 16, 1885, the first service was held. The following were charter members: Ole A. Dolven, John Jorgenson, Thomas A. Pederson, Iver E. Strand, Syvert E. Strand, Johannes K. Flatekval, Ole Wilson, Johannes K. Omstvedt, Ole Jacobson, Peder Henoen, Martin Jacobson, E.K. Strand, A.A. Ofstedal, A.S. Kirkeberg, Martin O. Jacobson, Ole Sukke, Knut A. Flatekval, Karl Martinson, Hans Hanson, Halvor Flatekval, Thorrald Martinson, and Peder A. Pederson. In 1886, three acres of land (SW ¼ Section 33-128-64) was donated, upon which the present church is located and built in that year. Due to lack of funds, the church building exterior came up first, but was not completed on the inside until later. It took sacrifice to put up a building of that kind when the people did not have fine homes of their own, but they wanted a house of God worthy of Him and His honor. There were times of hardship and hesitation, but their faith carried them through. In 1907, the Ladies Aid bought the altar and the altar painting. The church was redecorated in 1945 and wired for electricity in 1954. A narthex addition and heating plant was added in 1955-1956. The organ was bought in 1905 and the organists were Minnie Strand (Mrs. Marshall Fleming), Mrs. Tom Jacobson, Mrs. T.E. Moen, Mrs. T.B. Thorsson, Lena Berheim, Mrs. Alfred (Margaret) Kabrud, and Mrs. Anton (Minnie) Flakoll. It is highly significant that God has so woven the strands of history that Aurdal Church and Christ the King Church merged in 1963. Over the years Aurdal was served by the following pastors: E.T. Rogne, J.D. Swalstuen, N.A. Giere, O.E. Selsve, A.F. Flakoll, J.H. Lindeland, K.G. Hotlen, T.B. Thoreson, H.E. Houghland, L.T. Larson, T.E. Moen, H.N. Christianson, C.T. Paulson, L.J. Odland, B.L. Schroder, T.B. Thoreson, J.A. Hjelmeseth, Wilbert Ruohomake, Gerhard Lingen and Harold Vold. God has carried on His work through Aurdal when we see the spiritual impact that it has made, as 351 people were brought into the Kingdom of God by Holy Baptism and 223 were confirmed over its long years of history. Two have gone into the ministry, Rev. Donald Berheim and Dr. David Flakoll. Hundreds have received courage and strength through the ministries of the church in other areas. There was Sunday School instruction, Bible class, informal discussions, and a number of weddings held over the years. Countless members received forgiveness at the communion rail for strength to live the Christian life. The word of God was preached by the servants of God, all different, but which nourished the faith of the people. Sick and shut-ins were visited by the pastors in time of need. Many a farewell tear was shed as the church gave Christian burial to its departed member, whose mortal remains lie in the Aurdal Cemetery. There were times of joy as well as sadness, of holy mirth, and of the laughter of children. Singing was dear to the hearts of the Aurdal people, and they once had a choir of some thirty voices. Changing times took many of their people out of the community, but Aurdal Church served a large constituency at one time, and we need to rejoice over the work God permitted Aurdal congregation to do over the years. At the present time the church and cemetery are registered under The Aurdal Cemetery Association. The church is being used as a chapel for funerals and weddings, and each year a memorial service is held on the second Sunday in September.
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.325. The first service of Aurdal Lutheran Church was held on November 4, 1883 in Ellendale. On December 21, 1883 a meeting was held in the schoolhouse in Ellendale for the purpose of organizing a Norwegian Lutheran congregation. The name Aurdal was chosen after the name of the church in Norway. Before a building was erected, the congregation met for services in various homes around the countryside. In 1885, the Aurdal congregation of Ellendale divided in order to better serve the people forming Immanuel church in Ellendale and Aurdal Church near Forbes. Three acres of land was donated, located nine miles west of 281 on the state line, where the church was built. The first pastor of Aurdal, Rev. E.T. Rogne, lived in Ellendale and served the entire territory surrounding Ellendale within 50 miles radius. At that time the call included seven congregations and several preaching places. Because of lack of funds Rev. Rogne rented a unheated room and at times wrote his sermons while wearing gloves, overcoat and overshoes. There were times he walked to various congregations as far as 35 miles. Charter members were Ole A. Dolven, John Jorgenson, Thomas A. Pederson, Iver E. Strand, Syvert E. Strand, Johannes K. Flatekval, Ole Wilson,

Johannes K. Omstvedt, Ole Jacobson, Peder Henoen, Martin Jacobson, E.K. Strand, A.A. Ofstedal, A.S. Kirkeberg, Martin O. Jacobson, Ole Sukke, Knut A. Flatekval, Karl Martinson, Hans Hanson, Halvor Flatekval, Thorrald Martinson, and Peder A. Pederson. There were times of hardship and hestiation but their faith carried them through. In 1907 the ladies aid bought the Altar and the Altar painting. The church was re-decorated in 1945 and wired for electricity in 1954. A narthex addition and heating plant was added in 1955-56. The organ was bought in 1905 and the organists were Minnie Strand (Mrs. Marshall Fleming), Mrs. Tom Jacobson, Mrs. T.E. Moen, Mrs. T.B. Thorson, Lena Berheim, Mrs. Alfred (Margaret) Kabrud, and Mrs. Anton (Minnie) Flakoll. A mighty Spiritual impact was made as 351 people were brought into the Kingdom of God by holy baptism, 223 young people were instructed in the Christian faith, two going into full time ministry. These were Rev. Donald Berheim and Dr. David A. Flakoll. Countless received courage and strength through the ministrations of the church and so Aurdal church stands in tribute to the faith of the many people it has served over the years. It is highly significant that God has so woven the strands of history that Aurdal and Christ the King churches merged in 1963. At the present time the church and cemetery are registered as a Cemetery Association. The church is being used as a funeral chapel and each year a Memorial service is held. The Cemetery Association maintains the church and cemetery and officers are: Alfred Kabrud, Chairman; Sigurd Flakoll, Co-Chairman; and Edna Kabrud, Secretary-Treasurer. Over the years Aurdal was served by the following pastors: E.T. Rogne, J.D. Swalstuen, N.A. Gierl, O.E. Selsve, A.K. Flakoll, J.H. Lindeland, K.G. Hatlen, T.B. Thoreson, H.E. Haughland, L.T. Larson, T.E. Moen, H.N. Christianson, C.T. Paulson, L.J. Odland, B.L. Schroder, T.B. Thoreson, J.A. Hjelmseth, Wilbert Ruohomaki, Gerhard Lingen, and Harold Vold. Members of Aurdal thank God for our heritage and look forward to celebrating Aurdal's 100th anniversary in 1983.

- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.88-89. The first service of Aurdal Lutheran Church was held on November 4, 1883 in Ellendale. On December 21, 1883 a meeting was held in the schoolhouse in Ellendale for the purpose of organizing a Norwegian Lutheran congregation. The name Aurdal was chosen after the name of the church in Norway. Before a building was erected, the congregation met for services in various homes around the countryside. In 1885, the Aurdal congregation of Ellendale divided in order to better serve the people, forming Immanuel church in Ellendale and Aurdal Church near Forbes. On August 16, 1885, the first service was held. The following were charter members: Ole A. Dolven, John Jorgenson, Thomas A. Pederson, Iver E. Strand, Skyvert E. Strand, Johannes K. Flatekval, Ole Wilson, Johannes K. Omstvedt, Ole Joacobson, Peder Henoen, Martin Jacobson, E.K. Strand, A.A. Ofstedal, A.S. Kirkeberg, Martin O. Jacobson, Ole Sukke, Knut A. Flatekval, Karl Martinson, Hans Hanson, Halvor Flatekval, Thorrald Martinson, and Peder A. Pederson. In 1886 three acres of land (SW ¼ section 33-128-64) was donated, upon which the present church is located and built in that year. Due to lack of funds, the church building exterior came up first, but was not completed on the inside until later. It took sacrifice to put up a building of that kind when the people did not have fine homes of their own, but they wanted a house of God worthy of Him and His honor. There were times of hardship and hesitation, but their faith carried them through. In 1907 the Ladies Aid bought the altar and the altar painting. The church was re-decorated in 1945 and wired for electricity in 1954. A narthex addition and heating plant was added in 1955-1956. The organ was bought in 1905 and the organists were Minnie Strand (Mrs. Marshall Fleming), Mrs. Tom Jacobson, Mrs. T.E. Moen, Mrs. T.B. Thorsson, Lena Berheim, Mrs. Alfred (Margaret) Kabrud, and Mrs. Anton (Minnie) Flakoll. It is highly significant that God has so woven the strands of history that Aurdal Church and Christ the King Church merged in 1963. God has carried on His work through Aurdal when we see the spiritual impact that it has made, as 351 people were brought into the Kingdom of God by Holy Baptism and 223 were confirmed over its long years of history. Two have gone into the ministry, Rev. Donald Berheim and Dr. David Flakoll. Hundreds have received courage and strength through the ministries of the church in other areas. There was Sunday School instruction, Bible class, informal discussions, and a number of weddings held over the years. Countless members received forgiveness at the communion rail for strength to live the Christian life. The word of God was preached by the servants of God, all different, but which nourished the faith of the people. Sick and shutins were visited by the pastors in time of need. Many a farewell tear was shed as the church gave Christian burial to its departed member, whose mortal remains lie in the Aurdal Cemetery. There were times of joy as well as sadness, holy mirth, and the laughter of children. Singing was dear to the hearts of the Aurdal people, and they once had a choir of some thirty voices. Changing times took many of their people out of the community, but the Aurdal Church served a large constituency at one time, and we need to rejoice over the work God permitted Aurdal

congregation to do over the years. At the present time the church and cemetery are registered under The Aurdal Cemetery Association. The church is being used as a funeral chapel and each year a memorial service is held on the second Sunday in September.

4. Christ Lutheran Church (Albion Township)

- Church Records as of 05 September 2007
 - Information provided by church secretary Carol Kosel P.O. Box 793 Ellendale, ND 58436
 - Baptism Register 1900-1971
 - Confirmation Register 1901-1969
 - Marriage Register 1901-1962
 - Death Register 1900-1973
 - Kept at office of Zion Lutheran Church P.O. Box 793 Ellendale, ND 58436
 - Disbanded in 1975
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.67
- See Ellendale – Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS)
- [Photo Available: Di-Christ Lutheran Church \(Albion Twp\) \[5810\]](#)
- Church History: *88 Years of Grace—We Praise Thee O Lord*, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – Albion Township, Ellendale, North Dakota, 1887-1975, page 2. The seventeenth day of October 1909, was a day of great joy and rejoicing for the Christ Church of Albion Township. On that day, the congregation dedicated its first church to the worship and service of the Triune God. Pastor T. Hink, the founding pastor, delivered the sermon in German. For 29 years, that building served as a house of worship and prayer. For 29 years, God came to His people with His grace through Baptism, through the preaching of the Word, and through His Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Altar. Then, on January 30, 1938, that church was burned to the ground. Little was saved, except some pews, the organ, and the altar we see before us. **But** the first did not deaden the hearts of God’s people in this place. Immediately, they began making plans for the building of a new church. On October 23, 1938, another day of joy and rejoicing occurred for this congregation. For on that day, their new church was dedicated to the glory and service of Almighty God. For the past 35 years, God has again continued to come to His people with His grace through Word and Sacraments. Today, March 9, 1975, marks another momentous occasion in the history of Christ Ev. Lutheran congregation of Albion Township, Dickey County, North Dakota. But, today is not nearly so joyous. In fact, it is a day of sadness. For, today, this congregation is holding its closing service and will then disband as a congregation. Yet, it is also a day of subdued joy; and definitely a day of Thanksgiving. Reflecting upon the past, this congregation takes one last opportunity to say: “FOR 88 YEARS OF GRACE, WE PRAISE THEE, O LORD!” And why? Because for all these years, each successive generation has been: “LIVING IN A PROMISE!”
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.91-92. **1882**—A small group of Lutheran emigrants from Germany settled in Dakota Territory in Albion Township. They wanted to form a congregation to worship in their new country of America. So with the help of Pastor T. Hinck, a Dakota Territory mission pastor who served 19 congregations and traveled by horse and buggy, the process was started. **1883**—A mission station was established in Albion Township, with services two times a month at the Carl Heine Sr. Homestead one-half mile east of where the church later was built. **Spring of 1887**—Congregation organized with 11 charter members, Carl Heine, Sr., Gustave Heine, Henry Hoermann, Friedrich Kalbus, Friedrich Mehring, August Noess, Ed Retzlaff, Emil Retzlaff, William Retzlaff, Gustave Stephen, and Fred Zinter. **Fall of 1887**—First resident Pastor A.F. Mundt. He served 13 congregations in Brown, Dickey, LaMoure, Campbell, and Edmunds counties. Since no parsonage was available, pastors lived with members of the congregations. **April 23, 1889**—Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church was incorporated. **July 24, 1889**—Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Heine donated 5 acres of land for the church and cemetery. **September 30, 1889**—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Heine Sr. Deeded 5 acres north of the church for a parsonage to be built. The pastor lived in the parsonage and services were held there as well. **1891-1899**—Pastor C.E. Bode served the congregation during this time. **1900-1903**—Pastor M.H. Bohsen. Mission festival was held in the parsonage and confirmation service held at the school one mile west and one mile south of the present cemetery. **1903-1907**—Pastor George Lahme was serving at this time. **1908-1923**—Pastor Paul L.

Kluender. On January 1, 1909 a meeting was held to discuss building a house of worship. Plans were approved and the church was erected and dedicated on October 17, 1909. The Walther League was organized by Pastor Kluender who took an interest in the young people of the church. Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church holds the title of Mother church of the Missouri Synod in this area thanks to Pastor Kluender's assistance. The congregations that branched out from the Mother church were Monango, Forbes, Edgeley, Ellendale, Leola, Kulm, Long Lake and Oakes. **1923-1927**—Pastor John Brandt served the congregation. **1927-1930**—A vacancy Pastor Rohe served Albion. **1930-1936**—Pastor H.E. Wians was our shepherd. **1936-1941**—Pastor A.F. Vomhof served during this time as Christ Lutheran, Albion and Zion, Ellendale formed a dual parish. On January 30, 1938, the original church burned to the ground. Possibly a spark from the chimney started the fire in the basement. Members of the congregation salvaged the altar and pews, which were used again in the new church. A new church was built and dedicated on October 23, 1938. **1941-1950**—Pastor Edwin Jording. During Pastor Jording's days at Albion, the new Lutheran Hymnals were dedicated. The church was wired for electricity, so a power plant was purchased in 1943 and light fixtures were donated. The church was painted in 1945 and the basement was remodeled and included a kitchen. A new organ was purchased in 1947. **1950-1957**—Pastor Clemens Mehl. The basement remodeling was completed. Pastor Mehl added several adults by baptism and confirmation. **1957-1963**—Rev. John F. Bollmann. Pastor Bollmann held regular Wednesday worship and visitation programs at the nursing homes. **1964-1965**—Pastor D.J. Dominkowski. During this time a new parish alignment was established between Bethlehem, Forbes and Christ, Albion; thus a "Multiple Parish Agreement" was established. This agreement remained until January 16, 1975 at which time the disbanding of the Christ Lutheran congregation process had begun. Again the church tried to close and dispose of the property, but a few members couldn't see this happening and reorganized the congregation. They issued a call for a candidate from the seminary. **1966-1969**—Pastor R.J. Peterson was ordained on August 8, 1966 and served until November 1969. **1970-1972**—Pastor William M. Werner served the dual parish until he left in 1972. **1973-1975**—Rev. Jerald C. Jeskewitz. He was installed as pastor. During his service the remaining members decided to disband, thus the following procedures were established: (1) A Cemetery Association was established Dec. 2, 1974; (2) Transmit church property to it January 31, 1975; (3) Enact and adopt by-laws for the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery Association (adopted Feb. 20, 1975); (4) Secretary of State legally dissolved Christ congregation on February 20, 1975; (5) Established a legal "Trust Fund" for the cemetery association with 1st National Bank, Ellendale, ND on Feb. 28, 1975; (6) Remaining members transferred to other congregations as were the records, and historical materials. Since the cemetery and church grounds are under perpetual care and are limited to the funds in the "Trust Fund", we are accepting donations to continue to see that this small cemetery and church grounds, which are a part of our heritage, remain for years to come as a place to visit. Donations may be mailed to Mr. Calvin Dathe, 8558 94th St. S.E., Ellendale, ND 58436. So with your help let's continue to see this trust grow, so that improvements can be made.

5. Clement - Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA)

- Location: 8630 104th Ave SE, NW ¼ of **Sec16-T131-R60** (Clement Township)
- [Photo Available: Di-Clement Our Savior's Lutheran Church \[4047\]](#)
- Church Records as of 09 September 2007
 - Information provided by Juli Becker 10585 85th St SE Oakes, ND 58474-9472
 - Baptism Register 1884-2007
 - Confirmation Register 1884-2006
 - Marriage Register 1884-2005
 - Death Register 1884-2007
 - Kept in the church & at the home of the church secretary
- Information Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.66
- See Oakes – First Lutheran Church
- Church History: *Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1884-1984 – Clement Township, Oakes, North Dakota*, (pp.9-18 – History of the Congregation – One Hundred Years) The Clement (Our Savior's Lutheran) Church, Dickey County, North Dakota, was organized by Rev. N.A. Ofstedal in July, 1884. No records outside of the first year's minutes are available. The facts are that some Scandinavians gathered to write up

a proposed constitution for the purpose of organizing a Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The name should be the "VOR FRELSERS LUTHERISKE KIRKE". The following were the first officers: Secretary, Christian Gorder; Treasurer, A. Markusen; Trustees, Herman Pedersen two years, C.L. Berger one year, and Iver Olsen three years. They were to subscribe to the Confessions of the Lutheran Church. Those who signed the constitution were: Andrew Markusen, Christian Gorder, Iver Olsen, C.C. Berger, H.A. Nevermoen, Herman Pedersen, Christ Olsen, Ole L. Haaen, Christian Frojen, Gilbert Hove, P.O. Hoffass, Lars Leberg, O.K. Hanson, Ole Noer, Martin Noer, Anton Bjur, Andrew Holm, and Peder A. Johnson. Services for 14 years were held in school houses and homes. In 1886 Arne Pedersens, Nicolai Edwardson, and Hans Gronbecks became members of the congregation. To Mr. And Mrs. Arne Pedersen (Mr. Pedersen going to his reward in 1935) goes the credit of being the first wedding in Norway Township (now Clement). Peter Pedersen was the first child born in that township. These events took place in 1885. Settlers came to this section around the years of 1882-1883. And in coming to this new dreamland for settlers, their golden chariots were the "Kubberule", ox carts, and lumber wagons at best. But they knew their old Hymns, and had along their Bibles and Sermon books, and the children were expected to know their Catechism. In 1885 Rev. Rogne was sent by the "Norwegian Synod" to Ellendale, North Dakota. From here Rev. Rogne was to do Home Mission work in Wright and Norway townships. Money was scarce and even if one of the officers went around with the subscription list, it did not swell the preacher's pocketbook very much. The people had no "Mission Fund" to fall back upon. So it meant that permanent pastoral work was almost impossible for ten years or even longer. Services were few and far between – but people came to church. It meant getting out to see their neighbors. It was their get-together besides being their devotional services. The services lasted at least two hours, and a preacher would be considered of "no account" if his voice didn't last out the required time. In the annual minutes of 1886, which covers four hand written pages, one can get an idea of the hard time the early pioneers had to scratch up a living wage for their pastor. And when he was not able to make a go of it the talk switched to the calling of a pastor. Some people wanted a man from the Old Synod, others from the Conference. Nothing further was done about a call, but at their annual meeting in 1887 the delegates on the call committee were instructed not to call a pastor with Missourian leanings on the question of Predestination. And the Trustees were to circulate a "Subscriptions-listen" to bring to the fall meeting to see how much could be given to the preacher's salary. At their November 10, 1886 meeting the congregation voted to use the "Synodens Salmebog" in the service. Due to a storm in which Swan Anderson's brother, Isaac, froze to death January 12, 1888, the time was thought of when the congregation should have a cemetery. After much discussion, Swan Johnson gave a plot of three acres east of Stanley Johnson's farm – what some people today call the Clement Cemetery, Section 17-131-60, Clement Township. On February 24th Swan Johnson gave this land, and on February 25th the plot was decided upon. The Congregation agreed to build a fence around the graveyard and if a Church was to be built, they agreed that the Church should be built at the station (meaning Clement). This was the condition on which the Congregation could have the land for a cemetery. The Congregation built the fence – the other part of the bargain was never carried out. Rev. Rogne resigned in June, 1888, and Rev. Swalestuen came in September, 1888, and stayed until April 27, 1890. He was to receive 100 dollars a year and come twelve times a year (four Sundays and eight week days). A committee was chosen to see that someone bring Rev. Swalestuen to and from the services. It was the wish of the Congregation that the young pastor remain as the pastor, but because he felt a call to a more organized field and still at heart felt that the Lord had called him out elsewhere, he left. For a couple of years the folks, had no regular pastor, but Rev. Lindland and Rev. Thuland filled in during the vacancies. Rev. Stensaas came for exactly one year, July 10, 1892-93. These early pastors were all real men of God. Men who endured hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. If it had not been for those men, the church would not have been what it is today. But still the one real need of the Congregation was to get pastors willing to work year in and year out. And it was not until in 1893 that things began to show signs of a new awakening. The Hauge Synod organized a congregation in 1893 called the Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church. Sixty souls became members at its organization. The following members became the first officers: H. Nevermoen (who was always a spiritual bulwark and assisted the pastor in many ways), Ed. Rasmussen, N. Johnson, and Iver Olsen. Rev. Moe and Rev. Kleveland were the only pastors that really served the Haugeaner group. They held their services at the Iver Olsen, Ed. Rasmussen, and Enger school houses. Here they also held their confirmation classes. Services were also held in the Anderson school three miles south of Glover. Rev. Moe organized this congregation and was a man of real self-control and poise. He was a man who never was rattled. He worked among the old and young with equal ease. Rev. Kleveland accepted a call to serve in St. Ansgar, Grue, and Norway congregations, and also to serve as mission pastor around the various

school houses. In 1898 the St. Ansgar, Norway, and Oakes congregations built the parsonage in Oakes, so Rev. Kleveland lived in Oakes. These pastors received around \$60 plus the three offerings a year. Rev. Kleveland kept very concise records and was an industrious personality. He took real interest in visitation among the sick and stressed evangelical preaching and parochial schools. The Grue Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clement, was organized by the Rev. Moe on February 5, 1898 with fifty souls. Officers in 1898 were J.J. Johnson, B.S. Nelson, and C. Nelson. Preacher's salary was \$50 per year. A Ladies Aid was organized in 1898. The Treasurer of the congregation was chosen, August Vernlund. Trustees were Andrew Johnson, Ole Erickson, and Ole Enger. The following men signed the constitution: B.L. Nelson, Ole Enger, Andre Johnson, Louis Anderson, Osvel Kveset, Christian Kveset, August Vernlund, Ole Erickson, Jim P. Johnson, Erick C. Holm, John Benson, Karl Nelson, John Johnson, Soren Holm, Arne Hagensen, Ole Nelson, Julius Hogenson, John Tollefson, Jorge Pederson, Nels Carlson. Kleveland stayed as pastor between the years December 1900-1907. Rev. Moe worked around Oakes and St. Ansgar, and Clement congregations from 1893-1900. Both Kleveland and Moe held parochial school for 15 days to one month every year in their congregations. If they did not teach, they engaged competent lay help. C.P. Olsen, father of Iver Olsen, was the congregation's precentor for many years. It was in 1897 that Rev. Lindland came to serve the Clement Congregation of "Our Savior's". Here the congregation was reorganized January 16, 1898 by Rev. Lindland at the John Morgan home. A constitution was passed upon and they retained the old name for the congregation. The following men signed this constitution: Christian Gorder, Gilbert Hove, Nick Edwardson, Herman Pedersen, John Nilson, Iver C. Jacobson, Arnt Jacobson, Dithlef Johanson, Inggolf Hanson, Martin J. Morgan, John Morgan, Jorgen Morgan, Arne Pedersen, John Atlo, Hans Johnson, Magnus Anderson, August Larson, and John Hove. They chose the following men as officers: Herman Pedersen, secretary; Arne Pedersen, Christian Gorder, and John Morgan, Trustees; and John Nilson, treasurer. Herman Pedersen served as the secretary of the Congregation about 25 years. They then began to discuss plans for the building of the church. It was decided that they begin to build as early as possible. It was later agreed to build the church on the Northwest quarter of Section 16, Clement Township, where a site was secured from the School Land Department. John Nilson proved to be the bill collector, and at the meeting held March 20, 1898, he received a rising vote of thanks for his untiring work in gathering in the funds for the building of the church. The church was completed in 1900 and the first service was held there September 2, 1900. The first confirmation service was October 21, 1900. The church measurement was 40 feet long, 28 feet wide, sacristy eight feet by fourteen feet and entrance eight feet by eight feet. Gilbert Hove was chosen to put up the foundation underneath the church. The building committee who were to work in cooperation with the trustees consisted of Nick Edwardson, Arnt Jacobson, and Herman Pedersen. O. Frojen was chosen as the foreman for the building of the church and the congregation voted to pay Mr. Frojen \$2.50 per day provided he would take it. As the congregation ran short of funds John Nilson, as treasurer, was called upon and authorized by the congregation to see what the Ladies Aid could do for the church's fund. At the annual meeting November 25, 1902, the treasury of the church was first talked of as being in good order. (The Ladies Aid must have helped them out some.) Rev. Lindland received in the neighborhood of \$100 from the congregation, per year. It was not until December, 1898 that Lindland received the official call from the congregation although he had then served the congregation for almost two years, 1897-1898. Rev. Lindland was a man of Faith. He thought of Missions all the time. He saved and got along with little or nothing. He was hardy and strong even down to declining years. There is no one who would want to take any credit away from him. His work was one of persistence. His was also a life of Prayer and even after he discontinued as the pastor, he helped to see that the "Mission" was taken care of and that the parochial school was conducted. This work was started in Our Savior's Congregation in 1899. With the work of Rev. Lindland the spiritual life in the congregation also awakened, but as Norwegian faded away from the speech and thinking, his work as pastor was completed in 1921. New men came. The first was Rev. Torgerson, 1921-23; the next was that of a fine singer, a good speaker, and a great organizer, Rev. E.S. Estrem, but he too remained for but three years, 1924-27. Then the congregation was served by Rev. Mithun 1927-29, and then Rev. Ronsberg came to stay for almost nine years, 1930-38. When Rev. Torgerson was pastor here the following congregations made up the parish: Pomona Valley, Kulm; Oakes First Lutheran and Clement. From the time of Estrem the call consisted of four congregations: Clement (Our Savior's, First Lutheran, Oakes, Nazareth in Cogswell, and Brampton at Brampton. We are very grateful to Rev. Ronsberg, who stayed by us in those years of drought, and whose work it was to begin new ways of working within the congregation life. Services were oftener since 1920 and the training of the young people was bearing fruit. He also was very interested in choir work, and it was during his stay here that the Sunday School work, L.D.R., Brotherhood

work and so forth began. In 1940 Rev. J.M. Rasmussen came to Oakes and became the pastor at American Lutheran and Our Savior's churches. He was a man of great organizing ability, a man of varied talents, and busied himself with the improvement of the church and church property. The Saturday school, which continued until gas rationing, was a new part of the church program. He was also a man deeply interested in choir work. The common Order of Service was adopted for use. He never could rest unless something was said or done. He preached his farewell sermon October 25, 1942. During the vacancy of half a year in 1943, the Missionary Tverberg of Madagascar filled in temporarily. He was a man of tested faith who could say "the Lord is with you even unto the end of the world." In May, 1943, Rev. C.O. Hanson came to serve the Clement congregation and continued as pastor until November, 1947, when he resigned and joined the staff of the United Temperance Movement at Fargo. He worked faithfully, and during the year 1944 did much to plan and carry out the special observance of the 60th anniversary of Our Savior's congregation. Three services were held on July 9 of 1944 with Allen Lee, the crippled evangelist as main speaker. A beautiful day, inspiring programs and a large crowd all helped to make this a very memorable day for the congregation. In December, 1947, Rev. R.C. Cartford, a former missionary to Madagascar, was called for temporary service in the Oakes-Clement parish. This was later changed to a permanent call and he became the pastor in the spring of 1948. He continued as pastor until the close of 1956 when he retired from the active ministry and with his wife moved to Northfield, Minn. Through his nine years of splendid work he endeared himself to all his people with his pleasant disposition and willingness to be of real service to all. In September, 1949, a basement was dug, new foundation built, and the church moved onto it and new entries were built. With the help of the Ladies Aid the kitchen was built and furnished and a furnace installed. The interior of the church was redecorated and new windows installed in the spring of 1955. Later a sidewalk was poured on the south side of the church. August Gulke was in charge of this project. Rev. C.M. Rasmussen was installed as pastor in January, 1957, and continued to serve this congregation until 1967. The James Solveson Estate left a gift of money to the church which was used to purchase the electric organ. Vacation Bible School was held during the summer for many years, with either our own Sunday School teachers or some from Oakes in charge. The red Service Book and Hymnal replaced the Concordia Hymnal in 1958. PTR meetings were held while Rev. Rasmussen was here. In 1959 Rev. Rasmussen led the 75th Anniversary observance of our congregation. Two former pastors, R.C. Cartford and Clarence Hanson were here along with Dr. L.E. Tallakson, Eastern North Dakota District President. The proposed model constitution of the American Lutheran Church was adopted in 1962, thus changing our church governing body from the former trustees and deacons to the nine member Council. A farming project in 1964 grossed nearly \$3,000. Labor, equipment, seed and money were donated. The ladies prepared the food. Some of the proceeds were used for redecorating the sanctuary, narthex, and sacristy, also for room dividers for the Sunday School. A portion was also given for Missions and benevolent programs of the church. In 1965 the farming project was done on a smaller scale, and the proceeds amounted to \$1,384. A severe windstorm struck the area in July of 1966, causing much damage to the church and walls of the basement. Repairs were begun in September. The church was raised and the old foundation removed. A new basement was poured, extending the east end twelve feet. A new furnace and heating system, rest room, and water system were installed. Kitchen facilities were built and repaired. Rev. Rasmussen's 25 years in ministry were observed in 1967. During his years at Our Savior's a period of spiritual growth was experienced through the teaching of the Bethel Bible Series. Rev. Gerrit Van Hunnik was installed as pastor of Grace and Our Savior's in January, 1968. He served until May, 1970. During his short stay he was in touch with the young people and led an active life with his parishioners. Rev. E.C. Person came in July, 1970, and served until December, 1982. In 1974 he helped plan the observance of our 90th anniversary. During this time the economy and the movement of people brought our membership to an all time low, causing us to close for three months during the winter of 1979. A new spirit was kindled and brought about a doubling of our membership in the following years. On September 10, 1978, a pit "Bar-B-Q" and threshing bee was held as a fund raising project. Today Our Savior's has 57 confirmed members which reflect four generations of families.

- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.333-334. In 1883 and 1884 homesteaders came from Norway, Sweden, Wisconsin and Minnesota and filed claims on land located between Fullerton and Oakes. After "claiming" their land, they built homes of sod, planted trees and sowed their crops which were mostly wheat. The Milwaukee Railroad had been built as far north as Ellendale and when money was available, they secured their supply from there and hauled them by oxen and horses. Having been raised in Christian homes, they brought their Bibles and hymnals with them. Small group

services were held in their homes and schools. Money was scarce and home mission ministers would travel many miles to reach these groups. The first organization of Our Savior's Lutheran Church was in July 1884. It included persons from the area north and east of Norway (now Clement). Those present were: Chr. Gorder, A. Markuson, Herman Pedersen, C.C. Bergan, Iver Olson, H.A. Nevramon, Chr. Olson, Ole T. Hansen, Chris Hansen Frojen, P.O. Hofaas, Lars Siberg, Ole K. Hansen, Ole Noerr, Martin Noerr, Anton Bjur, Andrew Holm, Peder A. Johnson and Gilbert Hove. The first annual meeting was held at Hudson, which was located five miles southwest of the present site of Oakes. During a severe blizzard on January 12, 1888 when a member Isaac Anderson lost his life the congregation needed a cemetery. Sven Johnson donated a three-acre tract for this purpose hoping a church would be built there. On January 16, 1898 the congregation reorganized as the United Synod of Clement. They adopted the Constitution and built the church which stands today to glorify God on the NW ¼ of Section 16 in Clement Township. The records note Ole Frojen was head carpenter (grandfather of Lloyd Frojen of Oakes). The pastor was paid \$100 per year. During this time a transition was being made from the old ways to the new, which meant the Norwegian and Swedish languages plus others were fading away. There was a continual growth and change in the church synods. Throughout the years improvements have been made to the church. A cemetery fund was started in 1965. Frank Johnson donated land to enlarge the cemetery. A large redwood cross was placed at the cemetery's entrance and dedicated May 23, 1971 in memory of pioneers Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Sanders by their children. On July 31, 1966 a severe storm devastated the area and damaged the church extensively. Once again, congregation and friends rallied together to make repairs and additional improvements. Records note a community Sunday School was held in the Clement School for the children. Later they met in Clement Hall. In the 1930's the Sunday School became an organized part of Our Savior's Congregation and continued to bring spiritual education to the children. The middle years of the 1900's saw the disappearance of many country churches and schools as well as the businesses of the small rural communities. One such business was the little café where the news and sorrows of the neighborhood were shared. The members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church have joined together and still hold regular services in their edifice built on the prairie more than eighty years ago.

- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.103-104 [same information as above]
- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986*, p.102-103. In the early years around 1883 to 1884, homesteaders came from northern Europe (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany, etc.) and the eastern states such as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa to file claims on land located between Fullerton and Oakes, towns that were later organized with the coming of the railroad. After "claiming" their land, they built homes and shelters of sod, planted trees and sowed crops which were mostly wheat and oats. The Milwaukee Railroad had been built as far north as Ellendale, and the homesteaders hauled their coal, lumber and other supplies from there by oxen and horses. Ellendale was also the point from which many traveling ministers began their lengthy routes. When word was received that a pastor was coming to conduct a meeting, the people were happy to gather together for this was a rare opportunity to see friends and neighbors! Small groups would meet in the larger homes; many times the pastor stood in the doorway so that those inside and out could hear him. In the early 1800's Rev. N.A. Ofstedal, whose address was given as Brown County, Dakota Territory, served the territory from Aberdeen and Frederick, SD west to Forbes, ND and to the northeast beyond the Norway (Clement) Township area. He officially organized the "VOR FRELSERS LUTHERISKE KIRKE" (Our Savior's Lutheran Church) in July of 1884. Not having a church building, they held their first annual meeting at Hudson, the town located five miles southwest of the present site of Oakes. In 1885, the Norwegian Synod sent Rev. E.T. Rogne to Ellendale to serve the homesteaders living within a 50 mile radius of Ellendale. He traveled much of this distance on foot. It is noted in the Aurdal Lutheran Church History (rural Forbes) that because of lack of funds, Rev. Rogne's rented room was unheated and many times he wore his gloves, overcoat and overshoes to keep warm as he wrote his sermons. It is also noted that the first wedding in Norway Township was that of Mr. and Mrs. Arne Pedersen. Peter Pedersen was the first child born in that township. Worship services led by the traveling pastors were few and far between. Money was scarce and it was some 14 years before a permanent church building could be built and a permanent pastor could be called. During a severe blizzard on January 12, 1888, Issac Anderson froze to death. The congregation faced the need for a cemetery. Issac's brother, Swan Anderson donated a plot of three acres, located in Section 17, Township 131, Range

60, and it is what some call the Clement Cemetery. It was hoped that a church would be built at this site, also. Rev. Rogne left in June of 1888 and Rev. Swalestuen came in September, staying until April, 1890. Rev. Stensaas then came for one year. He received a salary of \$100, serving four Sundays and eight week days, presumably the only times they could gather because of weather and difficult roads. During the vacancies of a "regular" pastor, Rev. Thuland served the needs of the congregation. More settlers came to the surrounding areas and other small congregations were organized; St. Ansgar's in Wright Township, another in Yorktown, the Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church (Hauge Synod), the Grue Evangelical Church, and a congregation in the James Valley Township area. Rev. Haktor Moe and Rev. Kleveland served the Haugener group. Services were held in the Iver Olsen, Ed Rasmussen and Enger Schoolhouses. At this time, confirmation services were also held. Rev. Moe organized a congregation that held services in the Anderson school, three miles south of Glover. Rev. Kleveland accepted a call to serve the St. Ansgar, Grue and Norway congregations and also to serve as mission pastor at various schoolhouses. In 1898 the St. Ansgar, Norway and Oakes congregations built a parsonage in the now organized town of Oakes, and Rev. Kleveland then made this his home. During this time, Rev. Moe organized the Grue Evangelical Lutheran Church near Clement on February 5, 1898. Rev. Moe served the area from 1893 to 1900. Rev. Kleveland stayed as pastor until 1907. Eventually these congregations were restructured. Some members found it closer to organize in Oakes. Under the guidance of Rev. J.H. Lindland who served from Ellendale, the people in the Clement area met at the John Morgan home on January 16, 1898 and voted upon a new constitution. They retained the old name of "Our Savior's". The dream of building a church was beginning to materialize. A site was secured from the School Land Department, on the northwest quarter of Section 16, Township 131, Range 60 of Clement Township, where the church stands today. It is recorded that John Nilson was given a rising vote of thanks at the March 20, 1898 meeting for his untiring work of fathering funds for the building of the church. The first service in the new church was held on September 2, 1900 and the first confirmation service was on October 21, 1900. The building was 40 feet long, 28 feet wide, the sacristy eight by 14 feet and the entrance eight by eight feet. Gilbert Hove built the foundation. The congregation voted to pay Ole Frojen \$2.50 per day as foreman, if he would accept it. The church ran short of funds and Mr. Nilson, as treasurer, again went to work gathering funds. This time he asked the Ladies Aid to help. At the annual meeting on November 25, 1902, the treasury of the church was first recorded as being in good order. We assume the ladies and their tireless projects helped out! There are memories recalling Rev. Lindland's wife sewing aprons and selling them for the benefit of the church. Rev. Lindland continued to serve the church, receiving \$100 per year, but it was not until December, 1898 that he received the official call. With the faithful and diligent work of Lindland, the spiritual life of the congregation was awakened. During this time a transition was being made from the old ways to the new, which meant the "old country" language and customs were fading away. His work as Our Savior's pastor was completed in 1921, but he continued to serve as pastor of the Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Oakes, which he had also organized. Then a succession of new pastors came: Rev. Torgerson (1921 to 1923); Rev. E.S. Estrem (1924 to 1927); Rev. Mithun (1927 to 1929); then Rev. Ronsberg for almost nine years (1930 to 1938). He served through the discouraging times of depression and drought. The work of the little country church was growing, as were the Lutheran churches throughout the nation. Not only were synods joining together, but the people of differing nationalities were joining together and becoming Americans. First steps were taken for the Norwegian and Swedish Lutherans to become one. Rev. J.M. Rasmussen came to Oakes in 1940 to serve the American Lutheran Church and also Our Savior's Congregation; serving until 1942. Missionary Tverberg, who served in Madagascar, filled in until Rev. C.O. Hansen was called in 1943. During his service, the 60th anniversary of the church was celebrated on July 9, 1944. Hansen left in 1947 and Rev. R.C. Cartford, another missionary to Madagascar, served until he retired in 1956. During these years, improvements were being made to the church. A cemetery fund was started in 1965. Frank Johnson donated land to enlarge the cemetery that was adjacent to the church. A large redwood cross was placed at the cemetery's entrance and dedicated on May 23, 1971 in memory of pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Sanders. The cross was given by their children and families. A basement was put under the church and a new foundation was built in September, 1949. New entries were built, a kitchen added, and a furnace installed. In 1955 new windows were installed and the interior redecorated. August Gulke was in charge of pouring the new sidewalk on the south side of the church. Rev. C.M. Rasmussen was installed as pastor in January, 1957 and served until 1967. The James Solveson Estate left a gift of money to the church which was used to purchase the electric organ. It is not recorded, but historians tell that the pump organ that still provides beautiful music at the church was the result of the Lindlands' efforts. He or his wife bought or brought it from some source in the east. It may have been a "used" organ then and may now be close to 100 years

old. The blue Concordia Hymnal was replaced by the red Service Book and Hymnal in 1958. The 75th anniversary of the church was observed in 1959. The proposed model Constitution of the America Lutheran Church was adopted in 1962, thus changing the governing body from the former trustees and deacons to the present nine member council. A farming project held in 1964 raised \$3000 for the work of the church and needs of the building. A small scale project in 1965 netted \$1,384, again for missions and benevolences. A severe windstorm devastated the area in July, 1966, causing extensive damage to the church building. Once more the congregation and friends rallied together and used this as an opportunity to make modern improvements to the building. Rev. Gerrit Van Hunnik served from January, 1968 to May, 1970. Rev. Eldon Person came in July, 1970 and served until December, 1982. The congregation celebrated their 90th year in 1974. Rev. Charles (Budd) Johnson was installed as the present pastor on March 6, 1983, and assisted with the 100th anniversary of the church on June 16 and 17, 1984. It was a joy to observe "living family trees" envelop one another in reunion. The festival services were held outdoors beneath God's beautiful blue skies, just as the pioneers had worshipped so long ago! The assembly overlooked the cemetery of the early pioneers. There was a feeling of life among the graves with the blooming peonies that had lovingly been planted over the years. Rev. Van Hunnik presented the festival message Sunday morning and seminary student Tom Johnson related to his ancestors in his afternoon message. Tom Johnson's family heritage goes back to the early pioneers, the Swan Johnsons! Since the church has always been in close contact to the mission work in Madagascar, it was very special to have Marianne Rasoavololona of Mahajanga, Madagascar, present to bring greetings and news of the work of the church there. The disappearance of many country churches and country schools has been noted in the later part of this century, but the little country church of Our Savior's still stands today with its steeple as a beacon on the prairie. It extends a welcome to all who seek comfort and peace. The painted picture above the altar in the church is of our Savior, smiling down on his flock. The congregation worships the same God who guided the pioneers in ages past, and is now our hope for years to come. Live on, little country church and bring faith, love and hope to all who enter. Portions of history condensed from the centennial book of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, printed in 1984.

- Church History: *History of The American Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oakes, ND – 1883-1951.* (pp.5-6) The following is a brief history of the first organized congregation in the area west of Oakes which included all of Norway (now Clement), part of Yorktown, Wright, James River Valley and Bear Creek Townships, as gathered from the records of the Secretary. (Reference also made from the reorganized Clement Our Savior's Lutheran congregation 60th anniversary in 1944.) The first organization of Our Savior's Lutheran Church was, according to the Secretary's record, by Rev. N.A. Ofstedal in July, 1884. The following were the first officers: Chr. Gorder, Secretary; A. Markuson, Treasurer; Herman Pedersen, C.C. Bergan and Iver Olson, Trustees. The following charter members signed the Constitution: (1) Andrew Markuson, (2) Chris Gorder, (3) Iver Olson, (4) H.A. Nevramon, (5) Herman Pedersen, (6) Chr. Olson, (7) Ole T. Hanson, (8) Chris Hansen Frojen, (9) C.C. Bergan, (10) P.O. Hofaas, (11) Lars Siberg, (12) Ole K. Hanson, (13) Ole Noerr, (14) Martin Noerr, (15) Anton Bjur, (16) Andrew Holm, (17) Peder A. Johnson, (18) Gilbert Hove. The first annual meeting was held Nov. 30, 1885 at the then town of hudson (2 miles west and 3 miles south of Oakes). Rev. Rogne, succeeding Rev. Ofstehal, was chairman. Chr. Gorder was Secretary. (It may be noted here that Oakes was not in existence and there were no railroads or towns nearer than Ellendale, and Columbia, S.D.) At this meeting the question of which hymn book to use was raised and it was decided that final decision be made by Easter, 1885. The following year annual meeting was held Nov. 10, 1886 at the home of Mary Bergan. New members were Arne Pedersen, Nikolay Edwardson, Hans Gronbeck and families. H. Nevramon was elected Trustee and also song leader. At this meeting it was decided to use the "Synode Hymn Book." The next annual meeting was held May 7, 1887 at the school house by John Morgan. B. Nelson and wife became members. A special meeting was held Sept. 4, 1887 to decide whether this congregation should continue to be served by a Pastor from Ellendale or should join with the James River Valley congregation at Glover, include the area south of LaMoure, and call a new Pastor for this area so enlarged. A joint meeting of delegates selected from each area to meet at the H. Gronbeck school house. Most of the settlers and "homesteaders" came here during the years 1883 and 1884. They were young and optimistic, most of them having immigrated from Norway or Sweden, or coming from the adjoining states of Minnesota and Wisconsin, seeking a home and a farm. They came here with empty hands and very little money, so their first task was to complete the filing on the land they chose and then to build a sod house and break up the sod to seed a few acres of grain, mostly wheat. Lumber had to be gotten from Ellendale or LaMoure and the means of transportation was with

oxen, although horses became more in use as time went on. They had faith in the future. Most of them left homes in the countries they came from where their parents were devoted church-going people. Most were thus reared and confirmed there, accordingly it became an important matter for these newcomers to become interested in church work though the means were not available. Homes and school houses (some were sod houses) were small, so the services were mostly in the summer time. Perhaps once a month services were held. Rev. E.T. Rogne, affiliated with the "Norske Synode," was sent by the Home Mission to Ellendale, and from there served this area as much as he could. Money was scarce and with no "Mission Fund" for a reserve, the work of the pastor became hard and services were few and far between. Most of the members had their "Huspostile" or sermon-book they brought with them along with their Bibles, usually the parting gift from their parents. Winters were extremely hard and there were no section line roads or fences but just the prairie with here and there a sod house. Under these settings and circumstances, in the winter of 1888 a brother of Swan Anderson, Isaac, went to Oakes for mail. A severe blizzard came up and he got lost and froze to death. (The body was found later not very far from the sod house.) A cemetery or burial place became necessary. A congregational meeting was held Feb. 24, 1888 at the Arnt Jacobson home. The matter of establishing or locating a cemetery was to be considered. Swan Johnson offered to donate three acres for this purpose east of his home and north of the Soo Railroad right of way, on condition that the congregation fence around it and later a church to be located there. A committee was chosen to measure out and locate the plot. Thus, Isaac Anderson, the victim of the terrible Jan. 12, 1888 blizzard became the first to be buried there and in Norway (now Clement) township. It maybe said here, too, that Peder T. Pedersen was the first baby born and that Arne and Mrs. Pedersen were the first to be married. At this meeting of the congregation, Rev. Rogne told the congregation it would be hard for him to continue serving the congregation from Ellendale and that they should look forward to calling another pastor. Accordingly, and in compliance with the proceedings of Sept. 4, 1887 meeting, the next congregational meeting was held at the John Morgan school house May 5, 1888, when a joint meeting of the delegates from James River Valley congregation (Glover) and Our Savior's congregation was held. The following delegates came: from Our Savior's, Lewis Nelson, Andrew Markusson and Herman Pedersen; Theodore Johnson from LaMoure Valley settlers, and Hans Eliason, Abel Johnson and Andrew Mork from James River Valley (Glover.) The question was the calling of another pastor and from which school, Northfield or Augsburg. Apparently no decision was made at this meeting. The following year, March 20, 1889 the following new members were accepted: Lewis Nelson, John Nelson, Andrew Johnson, Mrs. Ellen Holt, John Johnson, John Morgan, Adolph Lee, August Larson, Nickolai Gronbeck, Henry Gronbeck and their families. At this meeting the congregation unanimously called Pastor J.D. Swalestuen for a salary of \$100 per year. The next meeting was held in the Morgan school house Nov. 3, 1889, (School No. 1) after the service, Rev. J.D. Swalestuen, chairman, regarding joining or uniting with James River Valley and St. Ansgar (Wright) congregations. Four committees were appointed. Serving on the first committee were Arne Pedersen, Herman Pedersen, John Nilson, Swan Johnson, Louis Nilson and John Morgan. This committee was to work the James River Valley congregation. Second committee: Andrew Markuson, Adolph Lee and Nickolai Edwardson to work in St. Ansgar's. Third committee: Christian Gorder and Guldbbrand Hove to work around Oakes, and the fourth committee, Bernt Nilson and Ole Hanson to work in Yorktown. The committees to meet at Glover Dec. 4, 1889. The reason for getting these newly organized areas together was to have a local pastor residing in the community rather than being served from Ellendale and only once a month service. Many favored the "Norske Synode," some United or Northfield, some the Free Church or Augsburg, and others the Hauges Synod and Redwing (Seminary.) Perhaps the majority coming from Norway were the followers and admirers of Hans Nilson Hauge, the missionary reformer and evangelist. It was with this background that the meeting scheduled for Glover Dec. 4, 1889 was rescheduled and postponed to Dec. 13, 1889 at Oakes. At this meeting there were delegates from Our Savior's, St. Ansgar's, James River Valley and Oakes delegates. E.O. Ulness was elected chairman, O.A. Olson, vice chairman, and Chris Gorder, secretary. There were 15 delegates. There was considerable discussion as to which one of the three church branches or Synods (some thought of as Northfield, Augsburg and Hauge's Red Wing.) Two candidates were voted on: Rev. J.D. Swalestuen and Rev. G. Westerlund. The former received 12 votes and the latter 3, of the delegates present. Accordingly, Rev. J.D. Swalestuen was called to be the pastor of the enlarged area. He served until July, 1892 when Rev. P.T. Stensaas was called and served Our Savior's congregation, James River Valley at Glover and St. Ansgar's (Wright.) The years 1892 and 1893 were dry and it became hard to get money for support of the church. Rev. Stansaas left in 1893 and was succeeded by Rev. Thueland who continued for a while, but these were strenuous times, many moved away and those that continued found it hard to make the necessary contributions for the work of the church.

(pp.7-8) REORGANIZED OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (United Synod) of Clement—The Our Savior's Lutheran congregation of Clement (rural) being a sister congregation of the Oakes parish (6 miles west and 2 miles north of Oakes) having its past history much in common with the early history of our former congregations, the following excerpts from the 60th anniversary history is inserted as of interest mutually and to complete the history of the area. Rev. J.H. Lindland while residing at Ellendale and serving the local congregations there, took up the work of serving the Clement congregation in 1897, and on Jan. 16, 1898, at the John Morgan home he reorganized the congregation. A constitution was passed upon, retaining the name of the old congregation. The following men signed the constitution: Christian Gorder, Gilbert Hove, Nick Edwardson, Herman Pedersen, John Nilson, Iver C. Jacobson, Arnt Jacobson, Dithlef Johnson, Ingolf Hanson, Martin J. Morgan, John Morgan, Jorgen Morgan, Arne Pedersen, John Atlo, Hans Johnson, Magnus Anderson, August Larson and John Hove. They chose the following men for officers: Herman Pedersen, secretary; Arne Pedersen, Christian Gorder and John Morgan, trustees; John Nilson, treasurer. Herman Pedersen served as secretary of the congregation for about 25 years. They decided to build a church, locating on the NW ¼ of Sec. 16, where a site was secured from the School Land Department. O.H. Forjen was engaged to assist. The plans provided for a building 28 ft. X 40 ft. X 14 ft. The building committee consisted of Nick Edwardson, Arnt Jacobson and Herman Pedersen. O.H. Frojen was chosen as foreman for the building of the church at \$2.50 per day. Rev. Lindland received in the neighborhood of \$100 per year for his salary. He received the official call from the congregation in 1899. In 1904 he moved from Ellendale to Oakes, and organized the Ebenezer congregation in Oakes in 1906. Rev. Lindland was a man of Faith. He thought of Missions all the time. He saved and got along with little. He was hardy and strong even down to declining years. There is no one who would want to take any credit away from him. His work was one of persistence. His was also a life of prayer and even after he discontinued as the pastor, he helped to see that the "Mission" was taken care of and that the parochial school was conducted. With the work of Rev. Lindland the spiritual life of the congregation also awakened, but as Norwegian faded away from the speech and thinking, his work as pastor was completed in 1921, when the Ebenezer congregation in Oakes joined with others to unite in the First Lutheran congregation, the Synods having united in 1917. (The above from page 21 of 60th anniversary history.) Also on page 19 the following: On the records of Our Savior's congregation which Rev. Lindland and others served so many years, there are, since 1892, a total of 226 baptisms, 27 weddings, 126 confirmed and 77 burials.

(pp.9-11) NORWAY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (Hauge Synod—Norway Township): In the brief history of Our Savior's Lutheran church congregation during the years 1883 to 1893 as related in the previous chapter, an attempt was made to get together into one church organization, with a resident pastor, instead of being served from Ellendale, as was being done with services approximately once a month, and perhaps not that often during the winter months. It was about this time in 1893 that there were in Wright (St. Ansgar) and Norway township a group who were members of Our Savior's congregation, and most of whom were admirers of the great missionary-reformer Hans Nilson Hauge of Norway. It therefore became natural for this group to gather and organize the Norway Evangelical Lutheran church congregation, and to call its pastor from the Hagues Synod and its Seminary at Red Wing, Minn. In the minutes of the secretary's record, it states that the organizational meeting was held April 13, 1893, at School No. 2 (called the Gronbeck school house). The following officers were elected: Chairman, Hans Nevramon; secretary, Iver Olson; treasurer, Alex Swanson. Deacons or Elders, Olai Frojen and H. Nevramon; Trustees, Ed Rasmussen, C.H. Frojen and Iver Olson. Invitation was made to Wright and Glover. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and those signing as charter members were Olai Frojen, Kristen Frojen, Hans Nevramon, Alexander Swanson, Edward Rasmussen, Iver Olson and Haktor Moe. The first annual congregational meeting was held at the Olai Frojen home (no date) and later in the C.H. Frojen home Jan. 24, 1894, when the constitution was approved. Rev. Moe who had first served as student pastor was now called as the pastor, later also for that of the St. Ansgar (Wright Twp.) and for the James River Valley congregation at Glover. A parsonage was built at Oakes jointly by the Norway, St. Ansgar's and (newly organized) Grue congregation (Yorktown) for the pastor. In about 1894-5 the membership numbered 67 souls in the Norway congregation, being the following families: Edward Rasmussen, Alex Swanson, Hans Nevramon, Kristen Frojen, Olai Frojen, Iver Olson, Peter C. Pedersen, Abel Johnson, Chris Monson, Anders Olderness, Nils Hustad, Hans Gronbeck, Henry Gronbeck and Johan Erickson. The Grue Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Yorktown Twp., was also organized about this time and was also

affiliated with the Hauges Synod and joined in calling Rev. Moe as pastor. Services in these congregations were held in the homes and in school houses. In the spring or summer parochial school was also held in the school houses and sometimes in homes. Because of distances and the mode of transportation, either walking or by horses and buggy which yet many farmers did not have, the area became small accordingly as compared with the automobile transportation of today. In the year 1900 Rev. Moe moved to Canada and Rev. K.L. Kleveland was called as pastor for these congregations. According to the record of the secretary, the salary Rev. Kleveland received was \$50 for the year. He served the three local congregations and one at Kulm and one at Rutland. Like Rev. Moe had been, Rev. Kleveland was a true and faithful worker in God's Kingdom and his church, the congregations. At the annual meeting of the congregation of Jan. 3, 1902, H. Nevramon was named president; Ed Rasmussen, secretary, and Nils Johnson, treasurer; trustees, J. Uglestad, Anders Olderness and Chris Monson. At the next annual meeting, Soren Lindseth and Klaus Storvig were named trustees. At a congregational meeting March 17, 1896 at the Edward Rasmussen home, Hans Nevramon was delegated to contact Gust Hample concerning arrangements for use of the Oakes church. (This church building was owned by the Free Mission Friends; Gustav Hample being one of the trustees). At a special congregational meeting Aug. 10, 1907, Rev. Kleveland having moved, Rev. H. Moe was called as pastor. On May 10, 1908 a building committee consisting of Rev. H. Moe, Soren Lindseth and Iver Olson met with a committee from the Ebenezer congregation and agreed to jointly build or buy a church building, that a fund of \$300 be raised and that there should be no debt. In October, 1903, the Norway Evangelical Lutheran congregation and the Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran congregation jointly purchased the former Methodist church building located on and including Lot 6, Block 13, O.P. of Oakes, for the sum of \$2,650.00 and this church building was used alternate Sundays or weeks by the two congregations. At the April 2, 1910 congregational meeting it was decided to insure the half interest in the church building for \$1,000 and the parsonage for \$1,500. The congregation continued with increased membership. In 1917 the Norwegian Synod, United Synod and Hauges Synod united into the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. After this union of the Synods, in those communities and cities where there were two or more congregations of the former Synods, it became the order of the day for those congregations to unite. As the English language became more in use by the pastors, union became almost automatic and it was easy to consolidate. Accordingly a special meeting of the congregation was held March 1, 1921 and also on March 11, 1921. Three delegates were named to represent this congregation, namely, Ed Rasmussen, P.J. Aasen and Hjalmer Anderson. These delegates met on March 16, with delegates from the three other congregations as follows: From Ebenezer congregation, O. Olafson, Ole Sanders and Albert Romstad; from Our Savior's congregation (Clement), Henry Gronbeck, Martin Morgan and Swan Johnson; from Grue congregation, John Benson and John Johnson. G.A. Larson was elected chairman. The chairman announced that the purpose of the meeting was for the congregations to unite and that both Rev. Lindland and Rev. Moe resign and a new pastor be called, to which both pastors agreed. Thus the Grue, Norway, and Ebenezer groups united and a new congregation organized with the name of First Lutheran Church of Oakes. Our Savior's Lutheran church congregation of Clement did not join, but agreed to continue to call pastor jointly. The English language was used regularly; for a time Norwegian services were held once a month.

6. Crinnion School House Methodist Congregation

- Location: about 7 miles south of Oakes in Riverdale Township
- See Oakes – First Methodist Church

7. Eaton – Wesleyan Church

- Community History: *Guelph, ND – Centennial 1883-1983 – Grainery of the Plains*, p.112-113. The founder of Eaton was H.F. Eaton, who was born at Trenton, Maine, August 12, 1838. He was educated in district schools and the Maine Wesleyan Seminary...He purchased 160 acres along the James River (SE1/4 27-129-60) in Port Emma township. Out of the 160 acres, he plotted a 40 acres script at the cost of \$1200.00 to \$1500.00 for a townsite and sold lots to the many settlers that were moving west. A ship's carpenter from New Castle, Maine; a dentist from New York; and a railroad conductor who had worked the western roads were just to name a few. His little town consisted of a store with a large variety of canned and cured meats and fish. He says trades come from miles around, also a blacksmith shop, that is kept quite busy. Mr. Scruntion's motel, Eaton and Winters Law Office where, for a time, Sabbath school was held...Rev. Mr. Wells of Andover, Mass. was secured as pastor of Eaton in 1884. Mr. Wells was a recent

graduate and came highly recommended as a very talented young man and would doubtless prove to be an ardent worker in his field of labor. Prof. Eaton informed everyone that services would be held each Sabbath at 3 p.m. in the school house.

8. Ellendale – Abundant Life Assembly of God Church

- See Ellendale – New Life Assembly of God Church

9. Ellendale – Assembly of God Church

- See Ellendale – New Life Assembly of God Church

10. Ellendale – Christ the King Lutheran Church (ELCA)

- Location: 713 3rd Ave N
- See Aurdal Lutheran Church (Elm Twp)
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale Christ the King Lutheran Church-1 \[5812\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale Christ the King Lutheran Church-2 \[5812\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.327. The earliest organized ELC church in Ellendale was Immanuel Lutheran, which served largely Norwegian followers from 1907 until 1942. Several members of these early families are now members of Christ the King congregation. Among these are Oscar Anderson, Severt Vasvick, Leonard and Harvey Vasvick, Mrs. Ray (Doris) Hill, Mrs. James (Lila) White, Clara (Ingvalson) Gray and descendents of the Dave Jenkins, Einar Strand and Thor Sand families. In 1955 the Home Mission Board sent Pastor Ralph Rusley to organize new congregations in Ellendale and Edgeley, and a new parsonage was purchased. Services were held in the opera house and later at the Seventh Day Adventist Church until sufficient funds had been raised to begin construction on the first church unit on lots purchased near the parsonage. Much of the finishing work was done by men of the congregation, and the church was completed for services by January 19, 1958. The merger with the American Lutheran Church was completed in 1960, and we became a part of that church body. The congregation grew significantly when it was joined by Aurdal Church of rural Forbes in 1963, and by 1972 ground was broken for a fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms. Pastors who have served the congregation following Ralph Rusley are: Harold Vold, Roger Schlaefer, Darrell Olson, interim pastors Ole Rolfson and Martin Bieber, and presently, Daniel Knudsen. David Flakoll, son of Anton and Minnie (Flakoll) Tysver, was ordained in the ministry in 1969. The congregation marked its tenth Anniversary in May of 1967, and its twenty-fifth in May, 1981. Charter members remaining are Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lamatta, son Daryl, Mrs. Theresa Kempf, Mrs. Lorraine Jenkins and son Keith.
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.92-93. Christ the King Lutheran Church was established with the assistance of the Home Mission Board of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Rev. Ralph Rusley served as pastor for both Christ the King and Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Edgeley, ND. The first service in Ellendale was held November 6, 1955, in the Opera House. Soon thereafter, services were held in the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Main Street. Christ the King was organized May 1, 1956, with 29 charter members transferring on May 6. Albert Schmidt of Ellendale was the contractor for the church building. The finishing work, done mainly by church members, was completed in 1958. The original church was comprised of a sanctuary, a small kitchen and two small Sunday School rooms with the entryway serving as a third Sunday School room. Folding chairs were used in the sanctuary until they were replaced with pews in time for the 25th anniversary celebration. In 1963 Aurdal Lutheran Church of rural Forbes merged with Christ the King. In 1973 an addition of a fellowship hall, Sunday School rooms and kitchen was completed on the north of the original church. The most recent building project was dedicated in February of 2005. It included remodeling of the kitchen, office and bathroom areas and the addition of a large narthex, pastor's study, storage areas and a parlor. In addition to Rusley, pastors who served Christ the King were the Revs. Ole Rolfson (interim pastor), Harold Vold, Roger Schlaefer, Darrel Olson, Martin Bieber (interim pastor), Daniel Knudsen, Dennis Ellingsen, Douglas Grant, Ellen Arthur and Nels Lillejord (interim pastor). The Rev. Galen Sylvester currently serves a three-point parish – Christ the King Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran in Frederick and rural congregation, Savo Lutheran. The church's mission statement is "Led by the Spirit to Grow and Serve." The church has grown from its original 29 members to

more than 225. Throughout the 50 years, there have been 332 baptisms, 218 youth confirmations and more than 800 people listed as members. The church reaches out in mission to serve local needs through fundraisers, donates toward the support of many charities within the state of North Dakota, gives aid to disaster areas in the United States and contributes to a multitude of programs and projects world-wide through Lutheran World Relief.

11. Ellendale – Church of the Nazarene

- Location: 112 5th St. N
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.327-328. The earliest beginning of the Ellendale Church of the Nazarene reaches back to 1915. At about that time, several families began feeling the need for a church that emphasized the doctrine of holiness as described in Hebrews 12:14, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:". They started having prayer meetings in the homes, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Heimke and girls were among this group. Rev. William Griffith, uncle to Mrs. John Wetzler, moved his family to Ellendale and encouraged Mr. Heimke to buy an old deserted M.E. church building which was being used as a warehouse. This church stood on the corner of what is now Snyder Ford's car lot. In 1917 the local group joined with the Laymen's Holiness Association lead by Dr. J.G. Morrison of Jamestown. In 1922 the Ellendale church along with many other L.H.A. groups joined with the church of the Nazarene. On May 26, sixteen people gave their names as charter members. Those who united that day in forming the Ellendale Church of the Nazarene were: Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Griffith; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Griffith; Mrs. Nora Jones; Miss Mabel Savey (later Lentz); Mrs. F.J. Harm; Mrs. Roy Harm; Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Heimke and daughters Gladys (Mrs. R.E. Evans) and Helen (Mrs. Merwin Morehead); Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Jay Green. On July 26 of that year, the names of Pearl and Lillian Harm, and Vester Griffith were added as charter members. None are still living. The missionary society was organized October 8, 1925, and the Young Peoples Society in 1926. We continued to worship in the old building with such improvements as moving the furnace into the basement and adding "new" used pews (school recitation bench type). In 1939 a balcony was added. On December 31, 1944, the church caught fire from an overheated chimney, and burned to the ground! Only a few items were saved from the fire: the piano was raised to a window and pulled out by a car; some books and seats were handed out through a window (One seat with a charred end). That Sunday morning service was the only one we missed. The evening service was held in Ben Hall's big house one mile south of town. By the following Sunday the "Little Brown Church" (Episcopal) located east of the courthouse had been rented. This building served us very well except for one Sunday when we had the Warren Rogers Black quartet and 206 people came! Since the Episcopal Church building could not be purchased, we sold the old lots and the present site of two and one half lots was purchased. By the fall of 1947, the basement was dug with donated labor. On a June day in 1948, men from Oakes and LaMoure as well as Ellendale poured the foundation. Even though it rained, we completed the pouring in one day. "So built we the wall...for the people had mind to work." (Nehemiah 4:6) The ladies served dinner across the street and the men ate in shifts. We dedicated our new building on October 24, 1950, and within five more years all indebtedness was paid, thanks in part to the help of donations by townspeople. In September of 1958 a new parsonage was begun with much labor again donated, and in the spring the parsonage family moved in. During these last ten years, the auditorium and basement of the church have been remodeled and refurnished. As well as physical building we have seen the building of God's Kingdom. Many members have come into our fellowship and then moved on; some to be preachers, some to be preacher's wives, others to be good laymen wherever they have gone; and many during these sixty years have gone on to heaven. It is great to be a part of "the family of God!" We have had only four pastors in the last 45 years. Rev. Harry F. Taplin (1937-1943), later elected North Dakota District Superintendent for twenty years. Rev. John Kern (1943-57). Pastoring when fire destroyed the old frame building, he led the congregation in construction of the present building. He designed and cast all the cement trim. Rev. Kern died in 1969. Rev. Herbert Ketterling (1957-66) led the Church during the construction of the present parsonage. He is now pastoring in North Platte, NE. Rev. George B. Johnson (1967--) is the only one of the four ministers who is not a native Dakotan. He served in Colorado and Oklahoma before coming to Ellendale. He is now beginning his sixteenth year as pastor here.
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.94-95 [Much the same as article above with these additions]. In the

early 90's, as attendance climbed to over 100, our facilities became increasingly crowded. It became apparent that no matter what we did to enlarge our building, we would still not have needed space for parking. Bob Winter, a church builder, was doing some work at Trinity Bible College. He had plans for a functional building at a fraction of the cost of most comparable structures. A block of land on the old railroad right-of-way on Hwy 281 at 5th St. N. was for sale. We had our ground-breaking on October 11, 1992. Because we got a late start, there were some delays during the cold weather; but the work progressed through the winter, spring and summer. There were many hours of donated labor from our members. We were able to continue to worship in our old building until April 11, 1993, when the new owner took possession. We rented the basement of the Catholic Church and their education center for worship services and Sunday School until October 17 when we had our first services in our new building. Our dedication service was on November 21, 1993. We borrowed \$220,000 from the local bank and the District Church. The balance of the cost of \$392,500.00, which included furnishings, was raised by the congregation and the sale of the other building. We made the final payment on the mortgage on January 10, 2005. Not all the building activity has taken place on the physical plant, however, for we have seen the building of God's kingdom as well. We have seen many members come into our fellowship and then move on to other places; some to be preachers and preachers' wives, and others to be good laymen wherever they have gone. Many during these 85 years have gone on to heaven. We have had only six pastors in the past 70 years. Rev. Harry F. Taplin (1937-1943) later elected North Dakota District Superintendent for 20 years. Rev. John Kern (1943-1957) was pastor when fire destroyed the old frame building. He led the congregation in construction of the building on 2nd Street South. He designed and cast all the cement trim. Rev. Herbert Ketterling (1957-1966) led the church during the construction of the present parsonage. Rev. George B. Johnson (1967-1983) was the first pastor who was not a native Dakotan. He served in Colorado and Oklahoma before coming to Ellendale. He led the church in the remodeling and refurnishing project. Rev. Dale Paulus (1983-1985) came to Ellendale from Missouri. Rev. W. Tim Brown (1985-) came from Wyoming via Kansas City, MO where he graduated from Nazarene Theological Seminary. He has led the congregation through the construction of the present building, paying off our indebtedness and ministering in our community for more than 20 years so far.

12. Ellendale – Community Assembly of Ellendale

- See Ellendale – New Life Assembly of God Church

13. Ellendale – Episcopal Church

- See Ellendale – Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

14. Ellendale – Evangelical Church

- See Ellendale – Evangelical United Brethren Church

15. Ellendale – Evangelical United Brethren Church

- Location: Town of Ellendale
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale Evangelical United Brethren Church \[3824\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.329-330. The Evangelical United Brethren Church came into being by the uniting of the Evangelical Church and United Brethren Church in November 1946. The first records of the organization of the Evangelical Church in Ellendale was on April 30, 1899 when William Blumhardt, Daniel Wagner and Adam Schock were elected as trustees. A church building was erected that year at a cost of \$425.00 besides the donated labor by the members. It was dedicated on May 18, 1899 by Bishop Thomas Bauman and was named Immanuel's Congregation of the Evangelical Church of North Dakota. This church was located about directly across the street from the present High School, on the south side of the street. There was no resident pastor at the time of dedication. Some of the early resident pastors were: the Revs. A. Berreth, H. Michaelis, E. Helmer, C.A. Bremer, John Booth, F.F. Schaeffer, G.E. Bohner, A.H. Sodner, John Fischer, Charles Zech, Brookmueller, H. Ritter and R.W. Teichman. Early members included the families of William Blumhardt, Daniel Wagner, Adam Schock, Jacob Schmidt, John Hillius, Ferdinand Gerling, Albert Bauder, Michael Schmierer, Simon Vix and Mrs. Fred Rithmiller. The church had many struggles in its infancy. It was closed for a short time but was re-opened in 1911. A two week revival was conducted by Rev. A.K.

Happel, at which time many souls accepted Christ as their Savior and joined the church. From that time the church continued to make a steady growth. There was a well organized Sunday School with dedicated teachers, a Women's Missionary Society, Men's Brotherhood, Evangelical League, Mission Band and Little Heralds. Out of the church and League the following entered Christian Service: Pastors A.G. Martin, District Superintendent; Henry Vix, Oliver Ketterling and Herbert Erbele. In November 1946 the Evangelical Church and United Brethren Church merged, becoming the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and a larger place of worship was needed. The N.D. Conference of the Evangelical Church had purchased an unused church at Adrian, ND and it was moved to Ellendale and located at the corner of First Street and Fifth Avenue North. After remodeling it was dedicated by Bishop E.E. Praetorius on October 29, 1944. Rev. R.H. Strutz was pastor at this time and they experienced much growth under his ministry. By 1961 the membership numbered one hundred thirty-seven. The highest Sunday School membership of one hundred was reached in 1949. Other pastors, after Rev. Strutz, were pastors C.H. Bergland, Gideon Eberhart, James McQuiston and E.J. Berreth. In the first part of June, 1964 Rev. E.J. Berreth became pastor. On the night of June 23, 1964 the church was completely destroyed by fire. A member later said "I will always remember that when Rev. Berreth was our pastor, the church was really on fire." On June 19 Orlin Hartman and Ruth Eckroth were the last couple to be married in this church. After the fire, the congregation held their church services and Sunday School classes in the Seventh Day, Episcopal and Methodist Churches. It soon became the general feeling of the members that the Methodist Church would be the best place to worship as the United Evangelical and Methodist Churches were already in the process of merging. Rev. O.A. Gehring was appointed by the respective conferences to the two churches in October, 1964 to serve the congregation who had agreed to worship as one body, and a coordinating committee was elected to integrate the total program. Each church would keep its separate identity. Under the able direction of Rev. Gehring, there was good cooperation from the beginning. A new spirit of Christian fellowship, dedication and enthusiasm was experienced, giving new life to the two churches.

- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.97-98 [Article identical to the one above]

16. Ellendale – First Baptist Church

- Location: 208 1st St S
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale First Baptist Church-1 \[3825\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale First Baptist Church-2 \[3825\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.330-331. Because of the loss of all church records in the great Ellendale fire on May 9, 1916 when the Baptist Church and parsonage were destroyed, it is impossible to prepare a complete history of the church. There are no records prior to that date. Most of the information we have was obtained from the files of the Dickey County Leader. The Rev. Loren Wade, as far as is known, held the first Baptist service in Ellendale on April 22, 1883 in the Bergendahl Hall. Efforts were made to organize a church, but because of Rev. Wade's ill health, which necessitated his departure, nothing came of this endeavor. Numbered among the charter members were: Dr. and Mrs. David Hull Long, son, Fred, and daughters, Anna and Lillian; Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson and daughters, Emma and Della; Mr. and Mrs. George D. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. P. Brown; Edgar Leighton; Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Sperry and son, Allen H.; Mrs. Cynthia Randall and George H. Putnam. All but the last two mentioned came to Ellendale from Eaton Rapids, MI. Four of these were still living in 1949. They were: Mrs. B.R. Crabtree, nee Anna Long, of Ellendale; Mrs. Lillian (Long) Mendell of Eaton Rapids, MI; Mrs. Brainard Scott, nee Emma Thompson, of Fargo, ND and Mrs. Della Thompson Hyde whose present name and address were unavailable. The Baptist Society organized in 1884 in the hall over Bjornstad's old store. Services were held there until 1885 when a small church was built. This was replaced by a neat and substantial building in 1888, which was located on the present site but was destroyed in the 1916 fire. The parsonage was also destroyed at this time. H.H. Sperry was appointed clerk at the first organization and continued as such for 22 years. Mrs. Blanche Higgs succeeded him and served until 1910 when she was replaced by Miss Winifred Tousley. The first minister was Rev. Van Winkle, who organized the church. He was followed by Rev. A.H. Carmen, who was instrumental in building the structure which was burned. In October, 1887, Rev. A.H. Carman of St. Charles, MN became the pastor, serving until 1891. Under his able leadership a new house of worship was erected at a cost of about \$3,500. It was dedicated November 11, 1888 with Rev. L.M. Shanafelt preaching

the sermon. In the spring of 1917, the pastor called a special meeting to get the voice of the people in regard to building a new church. Dr. C.E. Tingley, Baptist Superintendent of Mission in North Dakota, was present. The members felt they should have a new church. In the course of time, "the present edifice rose above the ashes of the former building" at a cost of about \$11,000. It was dedicated December 1, 1918 with Dr. Tingley preaching the dedicatory sermon. Under the leadership of Rev. O.H. Hallgrimson, the church was said to be in perhaps better condition, financially, spiritually and otherwise that it had been for many years. Its 50th Anniversary was observed in May, 1934. The church had been receiving aid from the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the North Dakota Baptist State Convention. During the tenure of Rev. Rothery it became self-supporting, a status which it still maintains. The debt on the parsonage, which was purchased in 1940, was also paid in full. Early in the fall of 1948 work was begun on the church edifice, making much needed improvements. It was remodeled and redecorated in readiness for its 65th birthday. Most of the work was done by church members who volunteered their services, and in many cases, furnished the necessary materials. The old furnace was removed and the basement floors and partitions taken out. New concrete floors were laid and a new furnace was installed. The kitchen was made smaller but more convenient. A small room was partitioned off for the Beginners' Class and arrangements made to separate the other classrooms with curtains. The ceilings and walls in the basement were painted and curtains bought for the windows. A dozen fine collapsible tables were presented to the church by two families. A new electric range and sink were also gifts from members. The auditorium was also redecorated, floors sanded and varnished, pews and woodwork varnished, new carpeting was purchased for the aisles and rostrum and fluorescent lights installed. The result was that the church was much more convenient, comfortable and beautiful than when it was new in 1918. In 1952 the church's first organ was purchased with memorial funds. In 1959 the 75th anniversary was observed. The congregation also voted to adopt the present constitution on January 1st of that year. In 1964 Adolf Schmidt and William Sukut were made honorary deacons for life in the First Baptist Church of Ellendale. The present organ was purchased and dedicated in August 1973. During Rev. Carnegie's ministry here the parish relationship with Fullerton churches was initiated. The church was again redecorated and completely carpeted during the ministry of Rev. McCown. There are four persons presently living in the community who have been members of the church for fifty years or longer. They are: Milton Pierce (1910); Edith (Mrs. Tracy) Mouw (1919); Carl Klein (1925); and Evelyn Klein (Mrs. Erroll) Lilleboe (1925). The pastors who have served the church since 1891 were the following: H.H. Hewitt (1892-1898); J.R. Hall (1899-1902); A.H. Carman returned for one year (1902-1903); S.W. Hoover (1903-1904); C.C. Williams (1905-1908); A.F. Green (1909-1910); W.H. Rogers (1910-1913); E.A. Kelford (1913-1916); J.W. Gillespie (1917-1919); J.R. Spiller (1919-1924); Paul E. Johnson (1924-1925); E.J. Sprong, Pastor pro-tem (November 1, 1925 to May 1, 1926); O.H. Hallgrimson (1926-1934); Charles W. Stull (1935-1936); J.J. Janansek (1936-1939); Henry S. Rahn (1940-1941); Charles Brown, Supply Pastor (January 17 to February 22, 1942); Clifford J. Young (1942-1945); George W. Rothery (1947); A.J. Kleinsasser (1948-1951); Howard Amstutz (1951-1955); C.L. Christian (1956-1959); Bob Stein (1960-1964); John Carnegie (1964-1974); Robert McCown (1974-1980); Gordon Barret, Supply Pastor (August 1980-July 1981); Bill Keenan (1981-to present time).

- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.89-90. The great Ellendale fire of May 9, 1916 destroyed all church records when the Baptist Church and parsonage were destroyed, making it impossible to prepare a complete history of the church. Most of the information was obtained from the files of the Dickey County Leader. The Rev. Loren Wade, as far as is known, held the first Baptist service in Ellendale on April 22, 1883 in the Bergendahl Hall. Efforts were made to organize a church but because of Rev. Wade's ill health, which necessitated his departure, nothing came of this endeavor. The Baptist Society organized in 1884 in the hall over Bjornstad's old store. The first minister was Rev. Van Winkle, who helped organize the church. Services were held there until 1885 when a small church was built. Numbered among the charter members were: Dr. and Mrs. David Hull Long, son, Fred and daughters, Anna and Lillian; Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson and daughters, Emma and Della; Mr. and Mrs. George D. Scott; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. P. Brown; Edgar Leighton; Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Sperry and son, Allen H.; Mrs. Cynthia Randall and George H. Putnam. All but the last two mentioned came to Ellendale from Eaton Rapids, MI. H.H. Sperry was appointed clerk at the first organizational meeting and continued in that capacity for 22 years. In October, 1887 Rev. A.J. Carman of St. Charles, MN became the pastor, serving until 1891. Under his able leadership a new house of worship located on the present site at 208 First Street South was erected at a cost of about \$3,500. It was dedicated November 11, 1888 with Rev. L.M. Shanafelt preaching the sermon. It

was destroyed in the 1916 fire along with the church's parsonage. Following the great fire, in the spring of 1917, the pastor called a special meeting to get the voice of the people with regard to rebuilding the church. Dr. C.E. Tingley, Baptist Superintendent of Mission in North Dakota, was present for the meeting and the members felt they should have a new church. In the course of time the present edifice rose above the ashes of the former building at a cost of about \$11,000. It was dedicated in December of 1918 with Dr. Tingley preaching the dedicatory sermon. In May, 1934 the church celebrated its 50th anniversary. Under the leadership of Rev. O.H. Hallgrimson the church was said to be in perhaps better condition, financially, spiritually and otherwise than it had been for many years. The church had been receiving aid from the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the North Dakota Baptist State Convention. During the tenure of Rev. Rothery (1947) the church became self-supporting, a status which it still maintains. That year the debt on the parsonage, which was purchased in 1940, was also paid in full. Early in the fall of 1948 work was begun on the church edifice making much needed improvements. It was remodeled and redecorated in readiness for its 65th anniversary celebration. Most of the work was done by church members who volunteered their services and in many cases furnished the necessary materials. The old furnace was removed and the basement floors and partitions taken out. New concrete floors were laid and a new furnace was installed. The kitchen was made smaller but more convenient. A small room was partitioned off for the Beginner's Class and arrangements made to separate the other classrooms with curtains. The ceilings and walls in the basement were painted and curtains were purchased for the windows. A dozen fine collapsible tables were presented to the church by two families. A new electric range and sink were also gifts from members. The church sanctuary was also redecorated, floors sanded and varnished and pews and woodwork varnished. New carpeting was purchased for the aisle and rostrum and fluorescent lights installed. The result was that the church was much more convenient, comfortable and beautiful than when it was new in 1918. Four of the charter members were still living in 1949 when the church celebrated its 65th anniversary. They were: Mrs. B.R. Crabtree, Anna Long of Ellendale; Mrs. Lillian (Long) Mendell of Eaton Rapids, MI; Mrs. Brainard Scott, nee Emma Thompson, of Fargo, ND; and Mrs. Della Thompson Hyde whose present name and address were unavailable. In 1952 the church's first organ was purchased with memorial funds. In 1959 the 75th anniversary was observed. The congregation also voted to adopt the present constitution on January 1st of that year. In 1964 Adolf Schmidt and William Sukut were made honorary deacons for life in the First Baptist Church of Ellendale. The present organ was purchased and dedicated in August 1973. During Rev. Carnegie's ministry the parish relationship with Fullerton churches was initiated. The church was again redecorated and completely carpeted during the ministry of Rev. McCown in 1974. The members of the church have continued making updates to the church building both inside and out. The exterior was tuck pointed in 1980. A new piano was purchased in 1982. In 1988 central air conditioning was installed along with new carpeting. At the same time the original stained glass windows were releaded and the basement was renovated once again. Over the years the congregation of First Baptist has taken great pains to preserve the building as a useful facility for worship and the presentation of the gospel in the community of Ellendale. The church parsonage was sold in 1992. The church sponsored two individuals into licensed ministry with the American Baptist Church: Patrick McBride in 1994 and Jim Cieszynski in 1999. In 2009 the First Baptist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary of ministry to residents of Ellendale and the surrounding communities. God has been good and Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) The pastors who have served the church since 1891 were the following: H.H. Hewitt (1892-1898); J.R. Hall (1899-1902); A.H. Carman returned for one year (1902-1903); S.E. Hoover (1903-1904); C.C. Williams (1905-1908); A.F. Green (1909-1910); W.H. Rogers (1910-1913); E.A. Kelford (1913-1916); J.W. Gillespie (1917-1919); J.R. Spiller (1919-1924); Paul E. Johnson (1924-1925); E.J. Sprong, Pastor pro-tem (1925-1926); O.H. Hallgrimson (1926-1934); Charles W. Stull (1935-1936); J.J. Janansek (1936-1939); Henry S. Rahn (1940-1941); Charles Brown, Supply Pastor (1942); Clifford J. Young (1942-1945); George W. Rothery (1947); A.J. Kleinsasser (1948-1951); Howard Amstutz (1951-1955); C.L. Christian (1956-1959); Bob Stein (1960-1964); John Carnegie (1964-1974); Robert McCown (1974-1980); Gordon Barret, Supply Pastor (1980-1981); Abill Keenan (1981-1984); Scott Englehart (1984-1990); Patrick McBride (1991-1994); Dennis Fledderjohann (1996-2000); Jim Cieszynski (2000-2001); Steve Tvedt (2001-present).

17. Ellendale – First Presbyterian Church

- Location: Town of Ellendale

- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.68
- Joined Methodist Church in 1973
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.331-332. On October 6, 1882, Rev. Walter S. Peterson of Huron, Dakota, missionary for southern Dakota, visited Ellendale and met with six residents to investigate the feasibility of founding a Presbyterian church in the pioneer community. The church existed only on paper until the following May when Rev. James H. Clark, a home missionary from Lake View, NJ, actually organized the congregation. Jackson Strane, of Dubuque, IA, was the first elder, the trustees were W.H. Becker, chairman, Frank B. Gannon, James A. Schott, John McCarthy, Dr. S.R. Wilkins, Hugh Martin, and Guy R. Lindersmith. In July 1883 the new church board authorized a building to be constructed at the corner of what is now 2nd St. N. and 3rd Ave. The new church was open for worship in November and dedicated "To the Triune God," on December 2, 1883, free from debt. That building, after housing the Zion Lutheran congregation, is now an apartment house owned by Sherry Filbert. The manse, built just south of the church in 1886, is presently the Bud Woodward residence. Vacant lots running for two blocks west of the church were used as a corral, holding cattle for shipping and for rodeos on Sunday. The loud noise from these activities interfered with Sunday worship services so a compromise was negotiated; the pastor offered to attend the rodeo if it were held after church; the cowboys agreed if the pastor would also discontinue spooking their horses by ringing a loud hand bell close to the fence to announce worship services. In 1927 the Presbyterian congregation decided to sell the building to the Evangelical Lutheran Society, who had been sharing the building's use. Plans had been made to build a new church on the old court house lots purchased 10 years earlier. Memorial Hospital now occupies those lots. The need to repay mission grants delayed the building plans. Meanwhile, the Dr. L.M. Coleman residence, at the corner of 1st St. S. and 3rd Ave., was purchased as a manse and used for that purpose until 1973. The Odd Fellows Hall was rented for a place of worship and eventually purchased in 1934. The depression of the 1930's, together with World War II, precluded ambitious new building plans. Consequently, the Odd Fellows Hall, just west of the present medical clinic, was remodeled and used for Presbyterian worship until it and the manse were sold in 1973. Two other congregations joined the Ellendale church when their own churches closed, Monango in 1962 and Forbes in 1970. Another union was planned after several years of discussion. The Sunday Schools of the Presbyterian Church and the Trinity United Methodist Church of Ellendale were combined in 1970; joint worship services began in 1971, and in 1972 both churches approved Articles of Agreement linking the two churches. The united congregations worshipped in the Methodist building until May, 1908, when they dedicated a new church building known as the Presbyterian-United Methodist Church, at the corner of 5th St. N. and 5th Ave. Pastors since the church was established are: James H. Clark (1883-85); W.E. Voss (1885-87); Joseph W. Winder (1888-90); John McCoy (1890-93); Robert Brady (1893-94); N.C. Shirey (1895-98); David H. Devor (1898-99); M.E. McGillivory (1889-1900); Harry J.T. Stirling (1901-04); Edward P. Fisher (1905-06); E.M. North (1906-11); J.W. Hall (1911-15); Alexander R. Evans (1915-18); J.B. Koehne (1919-20); Henry Lewis (1920-23); F.L. Shoemaker (1923-27); George R. Hull (1928-32); B.M. Southgate (1932); Frank L. Tiffany (1932-37); John H.K. Moffett (1937-41); H.R. Senecal (1941-47); J.A. Depew (1948-50); Harvey A. Senecal (summer 1950); Charles C. Converse (1951-57); George R. MacDonald (1957-58); M.J. Scherbenske (1959-65); Harry Houser (1965-69); Richard Jones (1970-73); Henry Gemhardt (1973); Harold Stepanek (1974-78); David Glahn (1978-81).

18. Ellendale – Guelph United Methodist Church

- Location: 421 5th Ave N
- See Guelph – United Methodist Church

19. Ellendale – Immanuel (Norwegian) Lutheran Church (ELC)

- Location: Town of Ellendale
- See Aurdal Lutheran Church
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.327
- In existence 1907-1942

20. Ellendale – Methodist Church

- Location: Town of Ellendale
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.332-333. The Methodist church in Ellendale had its beginning in April, 1883. Miss Eliza Taylor, who later became Mrs. E.J. Herbert, made inquiries of Rev. Haire of Sioux Falls, Dakota Territory, telling him of the new settlement and asking that a minister be sent. Rev. Hartsough came and held services in the new Milwaukee depot. The church was first known as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Ellendale, Dakota Territory. Rev. J.S. Akers was its first regular minister and served from 1882 to 1884. Services were held in the Bergendahl Building. The tiny flock utilized an upstairs meeting hall in this building, which was located on the present site of Crabtree Insurance Agency. This building burned before the big fire of 1916. In a short time the leaders of the group realized they must have their own building and in 1888 a large frame structure was erected two blocks south of Main Street, on Highway 281. The Dickey County Leader of April 7, 1888, said "The Van Meter brothers have a contract for the Methodist Church at Ellendale, work to begin in about a week." This building was used until 1916, at which time the membership was so large it was decided to build a red brick and tile church, for which N.E. Davis contributed the lots. The church was designed by Professor W.G. Bowers, superintendent of the Sunday School and a member of the N.I. faculty. He built the pulpit in one day, getting ready for the first Thanksgiving service in the new church. Many people helped by donating labor, including the pastor, G.W. Cooper, and O.B. Combellick, who assembled all the window frames and supervised laying of the cornerstone. Within that stone went a complete description, a Bible, a Dickey County Leader of that week, and a list of those who had contributed toward the building of the church. The pipe organ, purchased and installed in 1917, was dedicated in October of that year. Mrs. Jesse H. Dunphy, head of the music department of the N.I., was the first regular organist. She was assisted by Harriet Caldwell (later Mrs. F.E. Randall) and Miss Ruth Hill. About 1920 Mrs. Lucille Coleman became chief organist. Others who have played were Harriet Crabtree, Marian Carson Trautmann, Nora Ulmer, Kim Hoffman and Eileen Zimmerman. Mrs. Jay Kendall, Jr. is the pianist. Choir directors through the years have been Mrs. Randall, Mrs. D.W. Crabtree, Mrs. Wayne Hill, Kathy Crandall, Mrs. Ambert Babcock and Mrs. Lester Hehr. The organ was paid for by popular subscription and cost \$1600.00, which was quite a sum at that time. A short time later, Miss Ava Randall paid an additional \$200.00 to have a Vox Humana installed, which made it one of the outstanding organs of the state in tone. During the summer of 1980 the original pipe organ, with new electric system, was installed in the new church building. The following have served the Methodist Church since its inception: J.S. Akers (1882-1884), J.W. Bell (1884-1885), A.R. Boggs (1885-1886), G.D. Cleworth (1886-1889), W.P. Pearce (1889-1890), E.O. Bullock (1890-1891), John A. Ellis (1891-1892), W.H. Corey (1892-1893), W.O. Gram (1893-1894), F.H. Callahan (1894-1895), Jas. Anderson (1895-1897), James Asher (1897), S.M. Roadhouse (1898-1900), B.M. Smith (1901-1902), W.R. Brown (1902-1903), F.W. Gress (1903-1905), H.P. Ide (1905-1906), H.E. McLeod (1906-1907), E.M. Isaac (1907-1908), F.N. Farrand (1908-1911), W.R. Morrison (1911-1914), Geo. W. Cooper (1915-1918), A. Lincoln Shute (1919-1920), Red James (1920-1921), John Morange (1920-1921), Elmer Duden (1921-1924), O.P. Green (1924-1929), A.R. Jones (1929-1930), Geo. Parris (1930-1933), John D. Cawthron (1933-1937), Thos. H. Smith (1937-1939), K. Orlando Lee (1939-1946), D.W. Ashley (1947-1950), J. Kemp Tunis (1950-1952), Eric Wehrli (1952-1956), D.W. Nankivel (1956-1962), Walter F. Larson (1962-1965), O.A. Gehring (1965-1967), James Pomeroy (1967-1968), Henry J. Gernhardt (1968-1973), Harold E. Stepanek (1973-1978), David A. Glahn (1978-1981), Rev. Ralph Walty, Interim Pastor (1981 to present). In June 1964, the Evangelical United Brethren Church was destroyed by fire. The congregation was invited to join the Methodists for worship services. The official merger of the Methodist and EUB churches took place in Dallas, Texas in 1968. In January, 1972 members of the First Presbyterian Church and United Methodist Church voted to worship together in a common facility, which was the Methodist Church, as it was the larger of the two churches. In April, 1979 the two congregations voted to build a new church, which was begun immediately. The first service was held in the new facility May 4, 1980. In an inspiring message delivered by Rev. David Glahn at the consecration service that day he said, "It is my hope that the Presbyterian United Methodist Church of Ellendale might someday find unity throughout their organizational and spiritual bodies. I can see the possibility of a Community Church which emphasizes its oneness, not separateness, utilizing the strengths of the two denominations, to give direction and purpose for their future."

21. Ellendale – Methodist Episcopal Church

- See Ellendale – Methodist Church

22. Ellendale – New Life Assembly of God Church

- Location: 400 Main St
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale New Life Assembly of God-1 \[5820\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale New Life Assembly of God-2 \[5820\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.101-102. New Life Assembly of God, birthed in a revival among the region's German-speaking residents in the 1940s, has served Ellendale and the surrounding communities for 50 years. The origin of the congregation can be traced to Christ J. Staudt who, when pastor of the Ashley Assembly of God in the 1940s, held German-language services in the German Baptist Church in Ellendale. As a result, a number of people became interested in the Pentecostal experience. However, Staudt's responsibilities at churches in Ashley, Wishek, and Long Lake precluded him from starting a new church in Ellendale. He continued to hold occasional services in Ellendale. After Staudt left Ashley in 1949, Edmund Heit and Edward Mauch (German District Assemblies of God pastors from Medina and Wishek, respectively) conducted services in Ellendale, but no Pentecostal Church was established. In 1957 Ellendale residents asked George Rueb of Ashley to nurture the fledgling flock. On December 27, 1957, Rueb began preaching in the Emanuel Vossler home, where as many as 20 to 30 people congregated each Friday evening to hear the gospel in song and word. The growing congregation desired to purchase a building and hold regular services. Rueb located a former Lutheran church in the Coldwater Lake area, about 35 miles west of Ellendale. The congregation purchased the church and moved it to the southeast corner of the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Third Street South in Ellendale. The structure was dedicated on November 11, 1963. Seven people attended the first Sunday morning service in the new church on November 18, 1963. Vergil Moos served as the first resident pastor. In the fall of 1972 Trinity Bible Institute (renamed Trinity Bible College in 1983) relocated from Jamestown to the former UND-Ellendale campus. The school formed campus church groups for its married students and a separate assembly for single students, first holding services in September, 1972. Many staff and faculty members were involved in the campus church and in the Ellendale Assembly of God. Attendance at the Ellendale Assembly of God increased dramatically. On January 1, 1973, the congregation transferred from the ethnically-defined German District Council to the geographically-defined North Dakota District Council, reflecting the congregation's changing membership. In need of more space, the congregation purchased the former Presbyterian Church at 220 Main Street in 1973. In November, 1981 members purchased the former Presbyterian-United Methodist Church at 400 Main Street. Sunday School continued to be held at 220 Main Street until July, 1982. After extensive remodeling, the new building was dedicated on April 28, 1985. The church changed its name in 1995 to Community Assembly of Ellendale, and again in 1997 the name was changed to First Assembly of God. At the campus church various college personnel filled pastoral duties over the years. In 1982 the various church meeting groups were combined to form Trinity Christian Center under President Ronald W. Hastie. In 1985 Darwin Heuser arrived to serve as the congregation's first full-time pastor, and the congregation became known as Trinity Campus Church. The congregation was renamed Abundant Life Assembly of God in 1997 and on December 17 of that year was organized as a congregation recognized by the North Dakota District Council of the Assemblies of God. On January 30, 2002, members of Abundant Life Assembly voted to merge with First Assembly of God to form New Life Assembly of God. Today New Life Assembly of God serves the Ellendale community and surrounding area with the life changing message of Jesus Christ. The congregation currently rents the Block Memorial Chapel on the TBC campus for Sunday and Wednesday services and holds youth meetings, after school activities and community events in the Main Street ministry center. Plans are currently under way to construct a new worship center in the Ellendale community to house New Life Assembly of God. **Ellendale Church Names:** Ellendale AG (1957-1995); Community Assembly of Ellendale (1995-1997); First AD (1997-2002); New Life AD (2002). **Pastors:** Christ J. Staudt (1940s); Edmund Heit (1951); Edward Mauch (1950s); George H. Rueb (1957-1963); Vergil Moos (1963-1966); Don Skyberg (1967); William Busch (1967-1969); Michael Van Wagner (1969-1970); Carl Malz (1970-1973); David Nissley (1973-1975); Nolan Harmon (1976-1979); David D. Rueb (1979-1980); LeRoy Bartel (1980-1982); James Hetler (1982-1987); Morris Conklin (1987-1993); Clyde Harvey (1993-1995); Donald F. Brown (1996-2002); John Brady (2002-present). **Campus Church Names:** Trinity Christian Center (1982-1985); Trinity Campus Church (1985-1997); Abundant Life AD (1997-2002). **Pastors:**

Roland W. Hastie (1982-1983); Carl Malz (1983-1985); Darwin Heuser (1985-1987); S. Robert Maddox (1987-1988); David Jones (1988-1994); Kerry McRoberts (1994-1995); Dennis Niles (1995-1999); Carl Hedman (1999-2000); John Brady (2001-2002).

23. Ellendale – Presbyterian United Methodist Church

- Location: 421 5th Ave N
- See Ellendale – First Presbyterian Church
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.105-107. The Presbyterian United Methodist Church (PUMC) began its existence in January of 1972, when members of the First Presbyterian Church and the United Methodist Church voted to worship together in a common facility, which was the Methodist Church, as it was the larger of the two churches. In April, 1979 the two congregations voted to build a new church, which was begun immediately. The first church service was held in the new facility May 4, 1908. In an inspiring message delivered by Rev. David Glahn at the consecration service that day he said, "It is my hope that the Presbyterian United Methodist Church of Ellendale might someday find unity throughout their organizational and spiritual bodies. I can see the possibility of a Community Church which emphasizes its oneness, not separateness, utilizing the strengths of the two denominations, to give direction and purpose for their future." In July of 2005 the Presbyterian United Methodist Church celebrated the 25th anniversary of the building with Rev. David Glahn returning for the two-day celebration. The pastors serving this united church since Rev. Glahn were: Gerald Oliver (1982-1991); Mary Ann Bernard (1992-1995); Mary Ann Sheldon (1995-2002); and Joe Manja, (2002-to the present). The First Presbyterian Church of Ellendale began on October 6, 1882, when Rev. Walter S. Peterson of Huron, Dakota, Dakota Missionary for southern Dakota, visited Ellendale and met with six residents to investigate the feasibility of founding a Presbyterian church in the pioneer community. The church existed only on paper until the following May when Rev. James H. Clark, a home missionary from Lake View, NJ, actually organized the congregation. Jackson Strane, of Dubuque, IA, was the first elder; trustees were W.H. Becker, chairman, Frank B. Gannon, James A. Schott, John McCarthy, Dr. S.R. Wilkins, Hugh Martin, and Guy R. Lindersmith. In July 1883 the new church board authorized a building to be constructed at the corner of what is now 2nd St. N. and 3rd Ave. The new church was open for worship in November and dedicated "To the Triune God," on December 2, 1883, free from debt. That building was sold in 1927 to the Evangelical Lutheran Society and plans were made to build on previously purchased lots where Evergreen (Memorial Hospital) now exists. The need to repay mission grants delayed the building plans. The residence of Dr. L.M. Coleman located at the corner of 1st St. S. and 3rd Ave was used until the Odd Fellows Hall was purchased in 1934. The Depression and WW II precluded ambitious new building plans. The Odd Fellows Hall, which was just west of the present Avera Clinic of Ellendale, was remodeled and used prior to the joining with the United Methodist Church in 1972. Pastors since the church was established are: James H. Clark (1883-85); W.E. Voss (1885-87); Joseph W. Winder (1888-90); John McCoy (1890-93); Robert Brady (1893-94); N.C. Shirey (1895-98); David H. Devor (1898-99); M.E. McGillivory (1889-1900); Harry J.T. Stirling (1901-04); Edward P. Fisher (1905-06); E.M. North (1906-11); J.W. Hall (1911-15); Alexander R. Evans (1915-18); J.B. Koehne (1919-20); Henry Lewis (1920-23); F.L. Shoemaker (1923-27); George R. Hull (1928-32); B.M. Southgate (1932); Frank L. Tiffany (1932-37); John H.K. Moffett (1937-41); H.R. Senecal (1941-47); J.A. Depew (1948-50); Harvey A. Senecal (summer 1950); Charles C. Converse (1951-57); George R. MacDonald (1957-58); M.J. Scherbenske (1959-65); Harry Houser (1965-69); Richard Jones (1970-73); Henry Gemhardt (1973); Harold Stepanek (1974-78); David Glahn (1978-81). The Methodist church in Ellendale had its beginning in April, 1883. Miss Eliza Taylor, who later became Mrs. E.J. Herbert, made inquiries of Rev. Haire of Sioux Falls, Dakota Territory, telling him of the new settlement and asking that a minister be sent. Rev. Hartsough came and held services in the new Milwaukee depot. The church was first known as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Ellendale, Dakota Territory. Rev. J.S. Akers was its first regular minister and served from 1882 to 1884. Services were held in the Bergendahl Building. The tiny flock utilized an upstairs meeting hall in this building, which was located on the present site of Crabtree Insurance Agency. This building burned before the big fire of 1916. In a short time the leaders of the group realized they must have their own building and in 1888 a large frame structure was erected two blocks south of Main Street, on Highway 281. The Dickey County Leader of April 7, 1888, said "The Van Meter brothers have a contract for the Methodist Church at Ellendale, work to begin in about a week." This building was used until 1916, at which time the

membership was so large it was decided to build a red brick and tile church, for which N.E. Davis contributed the lots. The church was designed by Professor W.G. Bowers, superintendent of the Sunday School and a member of the N.I. faculty. He built the pulpit in one day, getting ready for the first Thanksgiving service in the new church. Many people helped by donating labor, including the pastor, G.W. Cooper, and O.B. Combellick, who assembled all the window frames and supervised laying of the cornerstone. Within that stone went a complete description, a Bible, a Dickey County Leader of that week, and a list of those who had contributed toward the building of the church. The pipe organ, purchased and installed in 1917, was dedicated in October of that year. Mrs. Jesse H. Dunphy, head of the music department of the N.I., was the first regular organist. She was assisted by Harriet Caldwell (later Mrs. F.E. Randall) and Miss Ruth Hill. About 1920 Mrs. Lucille Coleman became chief organist. Others who have played were Harriet Crabtree, Marian Carson Trautmann, Nora Ulmer, Kim Hoffman and Eileen Zimmerman. Mrs. Jay Kendall, Jr. is the pianist. Choir directors through the years have been Mrs. Randall, Mrs. D.W. Crabtree, Mrs. Wayne Hill, Kathy Crandall, Mrs. Ambert Babcock and Mrs. Lester Hehr. The organ was paid for by popular subscription and cost \$1600.00, which was quite a sum at that time. A short time later, Miss Ava Randall paid an additional \$200.00 to have a Vox Humana installed, which made it one of the outstanding organs of the state in tone. During the summer of 1980 the original pipe organ, with new electric system, was installed in the new church building. The following have served the Methodist Church since its inception: J.S. Akers (1882-1884), J.W. Bell (1884-1885), A.R. Boggs (1885-1886), G.D. Cleworth (1886-1889), W.P. Pearce (1889-1890), E.O. Bullock (1890-1891), John A. Ellis (1891-1892), W.H. Corey (1892-1893), W.O. Gram (1893-1894), F.H. Callahan (1894-1895), Jas. Anderson (1895-1897), James Asher (1897), S.M. Roadhouse (1898-1900), B.M. Smith (1901-1902), W.R. Brown (1902-1903), F.W. Gress (1903-1905), H.P. Ide (1905-1906), H.E. McLeod (1906-1907), E.M. Isaac (1907-1908), F.N. Farrand (1908-1911), W.R. Morrison (1911-1914), Geo. W. Cooper (1915-1918), A. Lincoln Shute (1919-1920), Red James (1920-1921), John Morange (1920-1921), Elmer Duden (1921-1924), O.P. Green (1924-1929), A.R. Jones (1929-1930), Geo. Parris (1930-1933), John D. Cawthorne (1933-1937), Thos. H. Smith (1937-1939), K. Orlando Lee (1939-1946), D.W. Ashley (1947-1950), J. Kemp Tunis (1950-1952), Eric Wehrli (1952-1956), D.W. Nankivel (1956-1962), Walter F. Larson (1962-1965), O.A. Gehring (1965-1967), James Pomeroy (1967-1968), Henry J. Gernhardt (1968-1973), Harold E. Stepanek (1973-1978), David A. Glahn (1978-1981), Rev. Ralph Walty, Interim Pastor (1981 to present).

24. Ellendale – Saint Helena's Catholic Church

- Location: 421 - 2nd St N
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.73
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale Saint Helena's Catholic Church-1 \[3829\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale Saint Helena's Catholic Church-2 \[3829\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale Saint Helena's Catholic Church-3 \[3830\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.334-335. St. Helena's will be observing their 100th anniversary on June 10, 1982 with Bishop Justin Driscoll as the main celebrant at the mass. While the original church was built during the years of 1886 to 1900, it is known that a Father Robert W. Haire, a mission priest, celebrated Mass in homes of Ellendale residents as early as 1880. The first Mass was held in the Patrick King home. Father Haire, with a colony of Catholics, had come from Flint, MI in the spring of 1880 and settled at the junction of the James and Elm Rivers in Brown County, Dakota Territory. He served a vast parish from Springfield, MN to Oakes and Jamestown, west to the Missouri River and south to Redfield and Huron. The early priests endured many hardships as they traveled by oxen teams and wagons to serve their missions. Plans for the erection of a Catholic Church here were formulated on September 23, 1886. Patrick King and L. Van Hecke, two trustees, purchased Lot 12 in Block 22, First Addition to Ellendale. The lot was purchased for \$75.00. It is reported \$1,000.00 was borrowed with \$800.00 used for the church and \$200.00 for the furnishings. Mr. King supervised the erection of the building, which had a seating capacity of 125, as neither an architect or a contractor was engaged. Labor was supplied by the grateful pioneer Catholics who had come from remote places to make Ellendale their home and they gave generously of their time so they would have a place to worship. Money was always scarce and the perseverance of its members prevailed. When the coal collection failed to bring in enough funds for the heating, parishioners would bring a scuttle of coal to heat the church during Mass.

The ladies, banded together as the Altar Society, raised funds for improvements. The first furnace was installed in 1922. This meant digging a basement to put it in as well as a chimney and concrete walls. Other improvements were a choir loft, sacristy, confessional, sanctuary carpeting and rubber matting laid in the aisle. Up to that time, these comforts were unknown to St. Helena's. Father D.J. O'Callaghan was assigned as the first resident priest in 1896 and he remained here until 1905. Prior to his arrival here, Ellendale had been a Station and later a Mission, being served by priests from other communities. Some of these priests were Fr. Dillon of Lidgerwood, Fr. Zumbush of Oakes and Frs. Henz and Hanley whose location was unknown. Following O'Callaghan's arrival here, a parsonage was established back of the church. A building from across the street was purchased from D.A. White and moved on the back of the church lot. Here he made a home for several boys who were attending college. Among them was the late Father Long who later served this parish as a mission priest. Father J.F. Baker succeeded Father O'Callaghan, but after a brief time he was called to Oakes. Father John Duffy was a resident priest here until 1912. He is credited for starting the first written records of St. Helena's now available. (Previous records were destroyed by fire, it is said). Father Jas J. McCool, who followed Father Duffy, served the parish one year. Father Joseph Berne was next stationed here until 1920. Then for a number of years Ellendale was without a resident priest. The parish was served by Father Victor Long of Edgeley and his assistants from 1921 until 1940. Father Long's parish at Edgeley, considered the poorest in the Fargo Diocese, covered an area of 5000 square miles. In addition to Edgeley, it included the towns of Ellendale, Ashley, Forbes, Fullerton, Monango, Jud, Nortonville and Gackle. He was instrumental in building church in Forbes and Fullerton. He traveled over the bare territory, first on foot or horseback, later by car, and lastly by plane which he himself piloted, administering to the common daily needs of his people in all kinds of weather. He died at Edgeley in April, 1949. Land for a cemetery was purchased from Sam Meachem in the early years. It was not until 1925 when any improvements were made. Under Father Long's supervision the land was surveyed, trees planted and a fence built. Father John L. McHugh was appointed the resident priest here in July, 1940 and he served until August, 1943. He was then commissioned chaplain in the U.S. Army, serving in that capacity until 1954. Father McHugh died in Ireland on May 28, 1979. The next priest, Father Charles F. Veach, offered his first Mass here August 15, 1943. He served Ellendale and the Fullerton mission for almost 36 years. At one time he also served Ashley, traveling 120 miles to offer three masses each Sunday. Upon his arrival Father Veach soon became aware that the old church was inadequate for the increasing congregation and commenced plans for the erection of a new church building. Lots west of the old church were purchased. As soon as it was financially possible, work was started. Much of the initial work was done by Father Veach and his parishioners. Mass was celebrated in November 1948 in the shell of the new office. The old church was purchased by St. Patrick's at Fullerton where it now serves that congregation. It took several years to complete the building and it was not unusual for parishioners to attend Mass with the scaffolding standing among the pews. Everyone participated in raising funds for the new church. The men provided the labor and machinery for "farming bees"; the Altar Society served dinners, food sales, and held bazaars and raffles. The youth started a second Sunday collection for the purchase of a new organ. Proceeds from lenten folders were used to purchase some of the furnishings. There also was need for a new rectory. When J.R. Crowley, a long-time trustee, retired to California he sold his home and furniture to St. Helena's. Later this was sold and the Marvin Brown home, just west of the church was purchased and used as a temporary parsonage. In 1966 a new rectory was built east of the church on the site of the original rectory. Other improvements followed. The John Callan family donated the bell tower in 1968. A Social Center with class rooms for religious education was built in 1973 at a cost of \$120,000.00. The Episcopal Church property on the west end of the block was bought and leveled for a parking lot. The Social Center was connected to the church by a ramp and the rectory was also connected to the church. The pastor no longer needs to go outside to go between buildings. Father Veach engaged an architect to design eighteen stained glass windows for the church. It took two years before they were ready to be installed and the work was completed in 1976. Father Veach became known as the "Farming Priest". During the week he was tilling "God's Acres". Much of the debt on St. Helena's complex was paid through his farming endeavors, which was greatly appreciated by his parishioners. On January 14, 1979 the parish honored him on his retirement with an open house. When he retired, St. Helena's had one of the nicest sets of buildings in the Fargo Diocese; and best of all, the parish was debt free. Father Richard J. Gross became the present spiritual leader on February 1, 1979, continuing to serve as pastor of St. Helena's and the mission at Fullerton. Among the early members of the congregation were the families of Patrick King, John Crowley, Martin Mangold, Michael Bolen, John Leffek, Phillip Randall, John Rehberg, James Hunt, Ed McEntee, Henry and James

McConville, Patrick Whelan, John McGinnis, Patrick McShane, James and Thomas Wallace, Jacob and Peter Smith, James Coyle, Patrick Bowler, John Early, Phillip Dawson, John Keough, Hugh William, Fannie and Grace Helferty and Theresa Maier. Several descendants of these families are present members of St. Helena's. They include Walter A. Smith, son of Peter Smith; Theresa McConville Begin, daughter of Henry McConville; Mae Brotherton Smith, Marion Newton Dunphy, and Dennis Whelan, grandchildren of Patrick Whelan. Several great-grandchildren are also present members.

25. Ellendale – Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

- Location: Town of Ellendale
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale Saint Luke's Episcopal Church \[3823\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.328-329. Ellendale was a mission church throughout its relative brief history. The first reference about the Episcopal Church in Ellendale described the time period between 1903 and 1905, when the Reverend William Watson, who was operating from his base at Wahpeton, included Ellendale on a rather regular basis in his visits. Watson's successor, the Reverend Mr. Edgar Jones, visited Ellendale among sixteen other towns from his base at Wahpeton. The establishment of St. Mary's Mission at Guelph was the direct result of the efforts of Dan Cowley, who had a land claim in Dickey County. In the early years, Dan indicated that his children had not been baptized because an Episcopal priest had never visited the community. When this information was made known to the Reverend William Watson, who was the vicar at Wahpeton, he then traveled to Ludden and walked over to the Cowley farm. In 1904, all of the Cowley's eight children were baptized. The Cowley home was the scene of services for a number of years while the Reverend Mr. Jones and the Reverend Mr. F.A. Shore, who followed him, served the Episcopal groups in the Ellendale and Guelph area. During the early years, the congregations in the towns of Ellendale, Guelph, and Oakes were served in a somewhat hit or miss fashion, and there were periods of time when there was no vicar to serve these missions. Lay Readers were responsible for maintaining some regularity in services in early days, as has been the case in the last decade or two; it has been increasingly difficult to have priests settle in these areas with the small numbers that preclude adequate monetary support. In 1957, for example, Oakes, Ellendale, and Guelph, three missions, had a total of 104 communicants in the three churches. If one were to look at the history of these missions, we recognize that they were served so irregularly that one wonders how they persisted. Moreover, one can only surmise what might have occurred had these small places been able to enjoy the regularity of services of a full-time priest. Eric Severeid has written of the small towns of North Dakota in *Collier's Magazine* in 1956 and suggested that "These are not stagnant plants, but seedbeds, ceaselessly renewing themselves, their seed constantly renewing the nation." So while this was said of small towns, it certainly was true of the little Episcopal missions located in these towns as well. At the time of Severeid's statement, eight of the twelve North Dakotans who had been ordained to the priesthood, including one bishop, came from villages and towns where the Episcopal congregations have never, or have only from time to time, been self-supporting. Financial support was never adequate. The records indicate that in 1915, Archdeacon A.E.H. Martyr was snowbound in Monango for twelve days. There was only one Episcopal church family in Monango, but the delay gave him a great deal of opportunity for visitation. Martyr was considered to be the most able missionary priest that Bishop Tyler had in the field. He had come to take charge of St. Mark's, Oakes, in September, 1915, and in addition, he regularly held services at Ludden, Guelph, Forman, Fullerton, Ellendale, Ashley, and Monango on a regular schedule. After he was appointed to the role of archdeacon of North Dakota in 1918, he served as many as 36 places in the eastern one-third of the missionary district of North Dakota. The statement and the figures of services held and places visited and miles traveled demonstrate clearly the value of the itinerant work that was going on to cover these broad areas. The difficulties of maintaining active involvement of these people reminds one of the old Russian proverb: "Our greatest enemy is space." This proverb was applicable to the work of the Episcopal Church, because any extensive development was almost stymied by the miles that had to be traveled in order to serve remote missions in places like Ellendale and Guelph. The writer examined the first register of St. Luke's Mission, Ellendale, and found entries beginning with June 1, 1903. On that day, Sunday of the Ascension, the Reverend Mr. G.B. Macnamara presided at services, and it was noted that six communicants attended services that day at 3:00 in the afternoon. The offering was taken in the amount of \$4.75. There is a notation also that indicated that during the month of July in 1930, services were suspended because the vicar was absent. Services were resumed once again on August 17, again indicating some of the irregularity of services during early days.

Only two services were conducted in October of that year; two in November; apparently none in December; then again in January, the register gives indication of three services, although the Christmas service was cancelled because there was a mistake in the date of arrangement. Mrs. Herbert willed to the church at Ellendale a piece of land and a small house to serve as a rectory. Bishop Bartlett built, in 1932-1933, what he termed a "chapel." This building served the small St. Luke's mission throughout the years until the congregation dwindled to the point where services were suspended. Subsequent to its closing, the building was sold to Dr. Eugene Byron of Ellendale, who then moved the structure to a site on Pheasant Lake to serve as a lake home. A sizable number of clergy served the small mission, and some of them went on to other clerical roles of some significance. It seemed that the three mission churches of Ellendale, Guelph, and Oakes served as a kind of proving ground for some of the youthful priests who had completed their endeavors at various seminaries. In that tradition, we noted the coming to the Ellendale mission field of Elliott Sorge, who was later to become the Right Reverend Elliot Sorge, Bishop of South Brazil. The Reverend William Freeman left the mission field at Ellendale to move to Massachusetts, and subsequently back to a position of considerable responsibility in northern Minnesota. Following Elliott Sorge's departure in 1957, M.W. Andresen served as a Lay Reader for the three churches of the mission field. Some years after this Lay Reader work under the direction of the Right Reverend Richard Emory, Bishop of the missionary district of North Dakota, Andresen went on to studies for Holy Orders and was ordained a Priest in Jamestown, North Dakota, where he currently served as Rector of Grace Episcopal Church.

- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.96-97 [Article identical to the one above]

26. Ellendale – Seventh-Day Adventist Church

- Location: Town of Ellendale
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale Seventh-Day Adventist Church-1 \[4052\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale Seventh-Day Adventist Church-2 \[4052\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.337-338. The Ellendale Seventh-day Adventist church was organized on December 28, 1941 by Pastor Joseph Braun in the Scandinavian Lutheran church building here in Ellendale. Their church building served as the place of worship for this newly organized church in this community for some time. In 1942 the Adventist people purchased a church building from the Christian Church Society, located on Main St. in Ellendale. Pastor Braun served this congregation until June 16, 1945. Pastor Edwin E. Kungel then served this church from July 28, 1945 to October 4, 1947. After him, Pastor Gideon Hochstetter was asked to be the pastor, and he arrived October 11, 1947. It was during his leadership that the old church building was dismantled, and the present church building erected in the heart of the city. During the time of construction, the organization leased the Evangelical United Brethren church in which to worship. In May 1949 this congregation moved into its new church building on Main St. Pastor Hochstetter served until March 18, 1950. On March 25, 1950, Pastor F.J. Dittmar became the pastor of the church and ministered here until September 15, 1951. Next, Pastor N.L. Doss arrived in Ellendale October 15, 1951. It was during his ministry that the new church structure was dedicated, on May 9, 1953. On July 15 of that year Pastor Doss accepted a call to the Wahpeton church. On August 1, 1953 Pastor W.P. Lawrence came to the Ellendale field; he remained until August 17, 1955 when he was transferred to the Sheyenne River Academy at Harvey, ND, where he became the Bible Instructor for the Christian school. During the early part of September 1956, Pastor Theo. Fischer of Minot, ND, came to Ellendale to assume the leadership the Seventh-day Adventist work in the south-central part of the state. He gave his first sermon in the Ellendale church September 15, 1956. He was also pastor of the churches at Oakes, Kulm and Lehr. Pastor Herbert Eslinger came from Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada in July of 1959 and left in November 1963 to redwood City, California. It was during Eslinger's tenure that a new church building was planned. The present location on Ellendale's north side was chosen. Lots were purchased from Doctor Oster on January 10, 1961. Ground was broken on May 6, 1962 and construction the same year. The church was dedicated, debt free, in November 1966. Pastor Clifford Haffner came from Plentywood, MT in May of 1964 and was transferred to Minot, ND in November, 1968. Pastor Robert Thoms came from New Shrewsbury, New Jersey in November of 1968 and was transferred to Minot, ND in December, 1970. Pastor Dale Kongorski came from New Market, Virginia in March of 1971 and was transferred to Harvey, ND in August of 1973. Pastor Joe Fiahlo came from Haywood, CA in September, 1973 and transferred to Valley City in April, 1975. Pastor Mike Coe

came from Wayzata, MN in April of 1975 and left early in 1977 for Kansas City, Missouri. Pastor Dave Devnich, the present pastor, arrived in September of 1977 from Dickinson, ND where he pastored the Dickinson and Hebron, ND Seventh-Day Adventist Churches. Pastor and Mrs. Devnich have 4 children— 2 girls, Colleen, attending Dakota Adventist Academy at Bismarck; Kim, at home; and 2 boys, Kirk, 7, and Kendall, 6 yrs. There are still three of the fourteen charter members living in the area. They are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mattheis and Miss Mathilda Geier.

27. Ellendale – Trinity Campus Church

- See Ellendale – New Life Assembly of God Church

28. Ellendale – Trinity United Methodist Church

- See Ellendale – First Presbyterian Church

29. Ellendale – United Methodist Presbyterian Church

- Location: 421 – 5th Ave N
- See Ellendale – Presbyterian United Methodist Church

30. Ellendale – Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS)

- Location: 121 – 2nd St S
- Church Records as of 05 September 2007
 - Information provided by Carol Kosel (church secretary)
 - Baptism Register 1925-present
 - Confirmation Register 1927-present
 - Marriage Register 1929-2006
 - Death Register 1925-present
 - Kept in the church office
- [Photo Available: Di-Ellendale Zion Lutheran Church \[3831\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.338-339. In the early 1920's a group of Lutherans in the Ellendale community desired to organize a Lutheran Church. They made a formal request to Rev. Paul Kluender of Christ Lutheran Church, Albion Township, to help them organize. Pastor Kluender consented and conducted the first Lutheran service on November 18, 1922, in the rented Presbyterian Church (located at 115 3rd Avenue North). Thereafter services were conducted regularly, but on weekdays since Pastor Kluender's Sunday schedule was already full. These services were held in the rented Norwegian Lutheran Church in the south part of the city. Rev. Theodore Klatt of Forbes, ND, continued to serve the small group of Lutherans in Ellendale. He assisted in organizing the congregation May 20, 1923. He was installed as the pastor of the new congregation. Charter members of the congregation were: George Banse, R.H. Trosin, Adolph Hiepler, Sr., Fred Kirschner, Ed Jeske, Christian Nishek, August Schultz, August Fetzer, John Fetzer, and Henry Grubb, Julius Olek, Jacob Schneck, and John Kosel. The congregation was incorporated on June 30, 1924, as the "Deutsche Ev. Lutherische Zionsgemeinde." At first the services were conducted in the German language exclusively. But already in 1924 a few services were conducted in the English language. The arrangement called for one English and three German services a month, all of them in the afternoon. Offerings at the English services paid the \$2.00 a month rent for the use of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. All congregational minutes were recorded in the German language until 1936. Zion Lutheran Church became a member of the Missouri Synod in June, 1927. On October 6, 1927, the congregation decided to buy the Presbyterian church building and parsonage for \$2,750 with about \$250 worth of repairs planned. Since there were no funds in its treasury, the congregation borrowed \$3,000 from the District Church extension Fund. That debt was paid off in the year 1945. Rev. W.E. Rohe, installed December 4, 1927, as Zion's pastor, was the first Lutheran pastor to live in the parsonage at Ellendale. During 1929 church and parsonage improvements included cement sidewalks and painting. The church building was dedicated on November 17, 1929, with both German and English services. The offering envelope system was introduced in the congregation in 1930. From 1927 to 1932 two German and two English services a month were held. The German services were held in the morning and the English in the evening. By 1938 English services were

held every Sunday morning with a second morning service in German twice a month. Perhaps one of the most challenging ministries for the resident Zion pastor was from 1936 to 1940. Rev. Vomhof served four congregations during those years—Ellendale, Forbes, Coldwater, and Albion. Several pastoral candidates assisted Pastor Vomhof during those years. Rev. Dietemeyer is presently serving as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church. In 1941 the parsonage had been remodeled with a full basement added. In 1942 a fire started in the parsonage requiring the rebuilding of the back porch and pantry and redecorating the entire house. In 1943 the church building was remodeled, redecorated, and painted for \$900. In 1946 the congregation dug a basement under the church and installed a new furnace. The congregation was growing—actually outgrowing its facilities! On October 2, 1949, it was resolved to start a building fund for a new church. During 1951 and 1952 an "Acres for Christ" farming project was implemented to add money to the building fund. In March, 1953, a contract was drawn with Architect Gerald Buetow of St. Paul, MN. The father of the architect, Max Buetow, was one of the designers of the present Dickey County Court House. That same spring two lots were purchased from Harry Bjornstad for \$2,500 (present church location). On June 7, 1953, ground was broken for the new church edifice. On September 27, 1953, the cornerstone was laid. The church building was dedicated on November 14, 1954. Much of the construction work was done by the members resulting in a substantial savings to the congregation. The leadership for this great undertaking was the congregation's pastor, Rev. C.H. Mehl. It was during 1967 that an effort was made to retire the building debt. Efforts were successful and on January 28, 1968 a mortgage burning service was held. Zion congregation gained a significant increase in membership during the mid 1960's. A number of families from our sister congregation, Christ Lutheran Church, Albion Township, affiliated with Zion as they closed the doors of this country church. In 1973 the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary. Over the years various programs and organizations have been added to enhance the congregation's ministry. Among these are the: Sunday School—organized on January 3, 1926; Vacation Bible School—organized in 1947; Walther League (now Lutheran Youth Fellowship)—organized in 1943; Ladies Aid—organized on April 15, 1926. In 1952 the Ladies Aid became a member of the North Dakota District International Lutheran Women's Missionary League. In 1953 the LWML organized into a Parent Aid with four (now five) Circles; Lutheran Laymen's League—organized on March 16, 1951; Christian Fellowship-Bowling League—organized on September 20, 1951; Senior Choir; mid-week religion classes. Those who served as pastors of Zion Congregation include: Rev. Paul L. Kluender (1922-1923), Rev. Theodore Klatt (1923-1924), Rev. Herbert Teske (1927).

31. Enterprise – Methodist Church

- Location: Village of Enterprise
- See Edgeley – Wesley United Methodist Church – (LaMoure County, ND)

32. Forbes – Bethlehem Lutheran Church (LCMS)

- Location: Village of Forbes
- [Photo Available: Di-Forbes Bethlehem Lutheran Church \[3817\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.326-327
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.91
- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1905-1980*, p.22-23 [A compilation of Forbes Diamond & Ellendale Centennial], Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Forbes, North Dakota was organized on February 4, 1923 under the leadership and guidance of Pastor Paul L. Kluender, who at that time was pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Albion Township, of rural Ellendale. Bethlehem was organized with nine charter members. These are: Mr. George Kempf, Mr. Christian Rall Sr., Mr. August Pahl, Mr. John Wolff Jr., Mr. Gottlieb Gebhardt, Mr. John E. Merkel, Mr. Gottlieb Hoffman, Mr. Michael Hoffman and Mr. Joseph Bundaschuh. Pastor Theodore Klatt was the first pastor to serve Bethlehem and live in Forbes. He came to Forbes from Kulm, North Dakota. After Pastor Klatt left, the Rev. A.J. Merckens of Leola, South Dakota served as vacancy pastor from 1924-1926. It was during this time that the church was built. In 1923 St. Luke's Congregation, Coldwater Township, McIntosh County, became a part of the parish until 1948. In 1943 the first parsonage was purchased. In 1948 the electric candelabra set and Altar chimes were purchased. Our first electric organ was purchased in 1952. A new parsonage was built in 1959. In

1966 an addition was made to the church which consisted of Sunday School rooms and an office. At the present time Bethlehem has 164 baptized members. The Pastors and Vacancy Pastors who have served Bethlehem are: Rev. Paul Kluender (1922-1923); Rev. T. Klatt (1923-1924); A.J. Merkens, vacancy pastor (1824-1926); Rev. H.J. Teske (1926-1927); Rev. W.E. Rohe (1928-1930); Rev. A.F. Vomhof (1930-1939); Rev. Harold Braun (1939-1942); Rev. E.M.F. Jording, vacancy pastor (1942-1943); Rev. Henry Fry (1943-1948); Rev. W. Busse (1949-1953); [Rev. Clem Mehl, vacancy pastor (1953-1954)]; Rev. David T. Ernst (1954-1957); Rev. D[onald] Gesterling, vacancy pastor (1957); Rev. Walter Eifert, vacancy pastor (1957-1959); Rev. Franklin Wesselius (1959-1963); Vicar Daniel Bell, vacancy pastor (1963-1964); Rev. D. Dominkowski (1964-1965); Rev. W. Nordquist, vacancy pastor (1965-1966); Rev. Russell Peterson (1966-1969); Rev. T.H. Vogel, vacancy pastor (1969-1970); Rev. W. Werner (1970-1972); [Rev. T.H. Vogel, vacancy pastor (1972-1973); Rev. Jerald C. Jeskewitz (1973-1975)]; Rev. T.H. Vogel, vacancy pastor (1975-1976); Rev. T. Voll, vacancy pastor (1976-1977); Rev. Orville Horn (1977-1979); Rev. Leo Deitemeyer, vacancy pastor (1979-present). Bethlehem Lutheran church is a member of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod and brings Christ to the Nations through The Lutheran Hour and the TV program, This Is The Life. Pastors and pioneer men and women—our founders, our builders, our laborers, who through the years of our congregation's history have lived with us, worked with us, worshipped with us, and who through faith in Jesus Christ have finished their course here on earth and entered the Church Triumphant. We thank God for all His faithful followers, the consecrated Christians and dedicated, gifted leaders who founded this congregation and gave unstintingly of themselves that under His guidance and blessing it has flourished to the praise of His Name and the spiritual welfare of many. As we look to the future, we do so with a sense of our own inadequacy, but with confident reliance upon the great, good and gracious guidance of God to give us wisdom, vision, determination and strength that we might SEE, KNOW, WILL and DO, according to His good pleasure.

33. Forbes – Community Church

- Location: Village of Forbes
- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1905-1980*, p.22. In 1908 the Community Church was the only protestant church in Forbes. Its location is Block Lot 12 of original platt of Forbes on Main Street and Third Ave. The following appeared in the Forbes Republican on December 10, 1908. The Editor was J.H. Nagel: Sunday was a day of unusual activity in Forbes. Many farmers drove in from a considerable distance. The thermometer registered below zero, a piercing wind blew across the plains. The ladies of the church made it possible to attend both the afternoon and evening services by arranging dinner parties. Not a cent of indebtedness remained after \$965.00 was raised on dedication Sunday. Work had started on the Presbyterian church in June of 1908 and the cornerstone was laid on July 5, 1908, by J.H. Hamblen, who was the pastor at the time. This beautiful church is modern in every respect. It had a gas plant which gives excellent light and a furnace had been installed. The building and fixtures cost approximately \$2,700.00 and the lot is valued at \$100.00. The elders are: G.H. Ladd and L.J. Johnson, who are also the Trustees together with O.L. Schulstad and E. Mayhew. The first resident pastor of the new church was Ralph L. Fulton. Pioneers of the village of Forbes, the first winter of 1905, held services in the waiting room of the Great Northern Depot. In the spring of 1906 the meeting place was changed to the hall above R.G. Sagers store. This room was also used as a schoolroom for the upper grades. An organ had been installed, which was an added attraction for both church and school use. During this period ministers from various denominations came to conduct services, usually coming out from Ellendale in the evening by train, returning the next morning. Services were generally held every two weeks both morning and evening. Sunday School was held every Sunday. The attendance for Sunday School was between 80 and 100 people. The Presbyterian Church closed on June 14, 1970 due to lack of members attending services. Its life span was 62 years. Roy Siewert purchased the building. It housed the Youth Center from 1972-1975. Mr. & Mrs. Lester Holmes operated the Youth Center from 1972-1974. Deanne and Brenda Martin operated the youth center in 1975. The Forbes Presbyterian Church was made into a Museum in memory of T.R. Shimmin and Lewis Tveit. T.R. Shimmin's three daughters, Mary Wilson, Mabel Marshall, and Alice Kessel and his son George Shimmin divided equally the cost of the property with Lewis Tveit's wife, Agnes Tveit. The cost of the property was \$1,000.00. T.R. Shimmin and Lewis Tveit were largely responsible for collecting and preserving the artifacts and other historical information concerning the history of the Coteau Hills. Besides the Shimmin-Tveit collections there is a variety of other valuable collections from many area families.

- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.93-94 [Article almost the same as above]

34. Forbes – Ebenezer Protestant Reformed Church

- Location: Village of Forbes
- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1905-1980*, p.24 [same as below]
- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Centennial Book 1905-2005 – Blessings of the Land*, p.28. The Ebenezer Reformed Church had its beginning in December of 1956 when seven families separated from the German Reformed Church in Leola, South Dakota. They were seeking a purer teaching and manifestation of Reformed Doctrine. This small group existed as an independent body for a time under the leadership of Rev. H. Mensch. They met first in the parsonage basement in Leola and then in a small schoolhouse located three miles south of Forbes. When the Rev. Mensch deserted the group in the summer of 1957, they continued their meetings with the help of Rev. G. Lubbers, Missionary in the Protestant Reformed Churches of America. During much of this time, they met in a schoolhouse located about seven miles west of Frederick, South Dakota. In June of 1960, this group was admitted into the protestant Reformed Fellowship and became the Ebenezer Protestant Reformed Church. This group, along with a sister church in Isabel, South Dakota, tried without success to obtain a minister. In October of 1965, they obtained the church building from the Lutheran congregation of the Free Lutheran Church near Ashley, North Dakota and moved it to Block 2, Lot 9 and 10 in Forbes. At this time there were eight families and several individuals in the congregation. In July of 1966, disaster struck in the form of a tornado which moved the church off its foundation and damaged it extensively. The members of the congregation met temporarily in the Forbes gym while repairing the damage to their building. By the end of August, they were back in their church, though the steeple was never replaced. For many years, the congregation continued to meet, although they were without a pastor of their own. They received occasional visiting pastors as well as summer seminary students. The membership of the congregation dwindled slowly until it reached three families and a few individuals. Finally in October of 1973, their call for help was answered, and in February of 1974 Rev. Mark Hocksema became their first pastor. He remained in Forbes until July 1976.
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.94 [Article the same as above]

35. Forbes – Emanuel Evangelical Church

- Location: Village of Forbes
- See Forbes – Saint Joseph's Catholic Church; Forbes – Saint Mark's United Methodist Church

36. Forbes – Presbyterian Church

- See Forbes – Community Church; Ellendale – First Presbyterian Church
- Closed in 1970

37. Forbes – Saint Joseph's Catholic Church

- Location: Village of Forbes
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.335-336. The early priests who visited the Forbes vicinity were the various pastors of Ellendale. There is no record of when the first Mass was celebrated. Pat Whelan was one of the first Catholic Settlers in this area. St. Joseph's became a Station shortly after the starting of the town. The nationality of the Catholic population was Irish so it was quite fitting to have Father O'Callaghan and Father Duffy as their pastors. St. Joseph's became a Mission about 1916 with 100 persons served by Father Berne from Ellendale. It is he who built the first church in 1922. The first church was built at a cost of \$4,000 but there was a debt on it for \$1500.00. Then the Irish Catholics started to move out of the territory and the German Russians (Protestant) came in from the hills. Father Long managed to pay \$500.00 of the indebtedness, but when the total Catholic population was reduced to one Catholic family and a few nominal ones, it was imperative that something be done to pay the remaining debt. At the advice of the Bishop, the building was sold to the

Emanuel Evangelical Congregation in 1928. The debt was paid and a small chapel, which was a remodeled schoolhouse, was purchased for about \$15000.00. This served as their place of worship until Father Long, the priest from Edgeley who was conducting services, became ill. The Catholics then attended services at Ellendale.

- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1905-1980* [same as below]
- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Centennial Book 1905-2005 – Blessings of the Land*, p.28. St. Joseph's Catholic Church was built in 1922. It was located on Block 10, lots 5 and 6, which was the present site of St. Marks Methodist Church. The congregation sold their church and became a corporation. They sold the property to the Emanuel Evangelical Congregation in 1928. The Catholic congregation continued to hold services in Forbes. They met in a small schoolhouse located on lot 4, 5, and 6. Father Long, a Priest from Edgeley, directed the services until the time of his illness. The congregation was then served from Ellendale. Many of the members then transferred their membership to St. Helena's Catholic Church in Ellendale. Shortly after it was purchased by the Evangelicals, the church burned down, but was rebuilt on the same location. The corner date reads 1946.

38. Forbes – Saint Mark's Evangelical United Brethren Church

- Location: Village of Forbes
- See Forbes – Saint Mark's United Methodist Church

39. Forbes – Saint Mark's United Methodist Church

- Location: Village of Forbes
- See Forbes – Immanuel Evangelical Church
- [Photo Available: Di-Forbes Saint Mark's United Methodist Church \[3818\]](#)
- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1905-1980*, p.23. St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Forbes began as a Mission church in 1925. Rev. Gehring of Kulm held services which were held in the Presbyterian church. In 1926 the meeting room above the old "People Store" was rented and services were held there until 1929. In 1929 St. Joseph Catholic congregation offered to sell their church structure. The small congregation consisting of charter members, David C. Wolff, Fred Wolff, Christ Schlenker and Mike Martin was known as the Immanuel [Emmanuel] Evangelical Church and purchased from St. Joseph for the amount of \$2,500.00. In 1944 that structure was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Services were then held for a short time in the school gym and then in 1946 the smaller catholic church located one block north of the burned church was rented and services were held there. As soon as material became available a new church structure was built. It was completed and dedicated as St. Marks Evangelical church in 1946. In 1966 an addition and remodeling project was completed. The kitchen was up-dated, the balcony was converted to three Sunday School classrooms and the addition was used mostly for rest rooms. In 1975 the Altar of the church was remodeled and folding doors were placed between the Sanctuary and the fellowship hall. The church was built by Jake and Art Fey. The work in 1966 was done by Norman Kolasch and other remodeling was done by members of the congregation. In 1946 the Evangelical church and the United Brethren Church were united and the congregation elected to change their name to St. Marks Evangelical United Brethren Church. In 1968 the EUB church and the Methodist church united to become the United Methodist church and the congregation followed to become St. Marks Methodist Church. The church in Forbes has been "yoked" to Ellendale, Leola, Kulm and presently with Ashley. For a short time we had a resident minister and our own parsonage which was later sold. Ministers who have served the church besides Rev. Gehring were – Rev. Fisher, Rev. Felberg, Rev. Schinaller, Rev. Thiele, Rev. W. Elmer, Rev. Kuch, Rev. D. Groff, Rev. Strutz, Rev. C.M. Bergland, Rev. G. Eberhart, Rev. Giesler, Rev. R. Voegeli, Rev. V. Haas, Rev. Knoepfle, Rev. Sachman, Rev. W. Panetzke, and our present minister, R. Stokey. Members of St. Marks who went into full time christian service were Rev. Orville Wolff and Dr. August Martin. Each person affiliated with our church past and present thank God for our heritage in this country and community and look to the future with challenge to continue His work.
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.103 [Article same as above]

- Community History: Forbes, ND, *Centennial 1905-2005 – Blessings of the Land*, p27

40. Friedenfeld Congregational Church

- Location:
- See Merricourt- First Congregational Church
- Community History: *Merricourt, ND 1891-1991 – Small Town, Big Memories*, p25
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.99-100 [First Congregational Church]

41. Friedens Congregational Church

- Location:
- See Merricourt- First Congregational Church
- Community History: *Merricourt, ND 1891-1991 – Small Town, Big Memories*, p25
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.99-100 [First Congregational Church]

42. Fullerton – Emmanuel Reformed Church

- Location: Village of Fullerton
- See Fullerton – Emmanuel United Church of Christ

43. Fullerton – Emmanuel United Church of Christ

- Location: 3 miles NE of Fullerton
- Moved to Fullerton in 1929
- [Photo Available: Di-Fullerton Emmanuel United Church of Christ \[4043\]](#)
- Community History: *Fullerton, ND – Centennial 1887-1987 – A Century of Community*, p.125-126. During the years 1904-1906, German Reformed people, originally from South Russia, moved from Sutton, Nebraska, to Fullerton. There was no Reformed Church in their new community, so they immediately sought means to worship Almighty God in their accustomed manner. During these years, they held services in their homes as often as they could obtain a supply pastor. The first service was conducted by Rev. Stieniger of Ashley on the second Christmas Day in 1906. This service was conducted in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter F. Gemar and Mr. and Mrs. G.G. Ulmer, located on the north edge of Fullerton. Eight families were present at this first service, during which the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed. In the year 1907, Rev. Edward Scheidt of Baxter, Iowa, visited a Reformed congregation in Kulm. There he heard of the Fullerton people and paid them a visit. On July 27, 1907, he organized a German Reformed Congregation in the home of Mr. G.G. Ulmer. Rev. Scheidt accepted the call of the combined Kulm-Fullerton parish and began his ministry to them on October 29, 1907. This new congregation at Fullerton held services in private homes or in schoolhouses. However, in 1912 they erected a church three miles northeast of Fullerton. This new church held dedication services on September 23, 1913, with Rev. G.J. Zenk, stated clerk of the Eureka Classis, delivering sermons in both German and English. In the fall of 1929 the church was moved to the town of Fullerton. The church was moved again in the fall of 1953. This time the move was from the old foundation onto its present modern basement foundation. During this move the church structure was lengthened ten feet. Over the years the members of the congregation have contributed and worked hard toward the improvement and upkeep of the church property. In 1934 the Evangelical and Reformed Church was formed by the merger of the Reformed Church in the U.S. and Evangelical Synod of North America. On August 11, 1957, the 50th anniversary of Emmanuel and Evangelical and Reformed Church was celebrated, with Rev. John Bodeman and Dr. Arthur M. Krueger, President of Lakeland College and Mission House Seminary, Plymouth, Wisconsin, as guest speakers. Rev. Dale Krampe was pastor at this time. On July 4, 1961, the United Church of Christ was officially formed when the Congregational Christian Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church merged and declared a constitution in force. The United Church of Christ has a general synod which directs business affairs, nominates church officials, and performs other duties related to church operations; but, individual congregations have the right to govern themselves. Still keeping separate identity, in 1972 the U.C.C.

joined with the Union Church of Fullerton, using both churches for services and alternating every other Sunday. The pastor served the Ellendale Baptist Church, the Union Church, and the United Church of Christ. The strong emphasis on Christian education resulted in Jerome Ulmer being ordained to the ministry on June 11, 1961. Christian education has always been very important to the church. Strong emphasis is placed on Sunday School and confirmation instruction. Individual Sunday School classes are held regularly along with daily Vacation Bible School each summer. Interesting Facts in our Church Records: Total membership in 75 years – 315. Total number of baptisms – 219. Total number of confirmands – 190. Total number of funerals – 73. Total number of weddings – 38. Present church membership – 28. The year 1982 marked 75 years of faithful service to God and community. During this time the Word of God was faithfully preached, the sacraments rightfully administered, and the children properly instructed in the truth of Scripture. In the face of the many difficulties that beset the people, it is indeed evident that Almighty God has richly blessed this congregation with the faith and the will to continue in His service. The pastors who have faithfully served this congregation since 1907 are: Rev. Scheidt (1907-1914); Rev. Zipf – Supply (1914-1916); Rev. P.B. Wittenberg (1916-1925); Rev. F.W. Herzog – Supply (1925-1929); Rev. E. Kaempchen (1929-1939); Rev. John Bodeman (1939-1946); Rev. John Bodeman – Supply (1946-1947); Rev. Martin Peper (1947-1954); Supplied – Rev. R. DeDobay and Student Gene Krueger, Student Dean Miller and Rev. A. Reineking (1954-1956); Rev. Dale Krampe (1956-1961); Supplied – Rev. Warnecke and Rev. Martin, Students Dan Jonas and Ken Dix, and other students from the Seminary (1961-1963); Rev. Erwin Warber (1963-1971); Rev. Gackle – Supply (1971-1972); United with Union Church (March, 1972); Rev. Carnegie (1972-1974); Rev. Bob McCown – Assistants: Rod Long, Don Sappington, Don Tucker and Dave Striker (1974-1980); Dave Striker (1980-1981); Rev. W.F. Keenan (1981-1984); Rev. Scott Engelhart (1984-present).

44. Fullerton – First Evangelical Lutheran Church

- See Fullerton – Swedish Lutheran Church

45. Fullerton – German Reformed Church

- Location: Village of Fullerton
- See Fullerton – Emmanuel United Church of Christ

46. Fullerton – Saint Patrick Catholic Church

- Location: 237 Monroe St
- [Photo Available: Di-Fullerton Saint Patrick's Catholic Church-1 \[4027\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Fullerton Saint Patrick's Catholic Church-2 \[4029\]](#)
- Community History: *Fullerton, ND – Centennial 1887-1987 – A Century of Community*, p.118-120. St. Patrick's Church emerged from very humble beginnings, when prior to the 1920's, a priest from Ellendale came every other Saturday and celebrated Mass on an improvised altar in Kingsley Hall located on the west side of Main Street in Fullerton. In the twenties, a small mission church was constructed on the present B.C. Simek property. This was a bungalow style, with the thought of conversion to a residence when a larger church was built. Father Long was then coming from Edgeley every other Sunday and, soon, every Sunday (1921-1940). The depression of the thirties, however, found the church filled, but pocketbooks rather empty. An extension was thought necessary, though, and it was built to the south of the structure. From 1940-1943 Ellendale again had a resident priest, Fr. McHugh, who also served the Fullerton parish. It was at this time that the name of St. Patrick was given to the little mission. During this time, an influx of Catholic families once more brought thoughts of enlargement. With the erection of the present St. Helena's in Ellendale came the opportunity to purchase the old structure. The splendid enthusiasm and cooperation of the parishioners and the revenue from "God's Acres" brought the building to Fullerton and placed it on a full basement, and the project was accomplished. St. Patrick's former church building was sold as a residence. In 1943, Fr. Veach began his service as our pastor out of Ellendale and remained so until he retired in 1979. Fr. Gross served our parish until 1984. Fr. Carey is now serving the St. Helena and St. Patrick parishes. Soon after the church building was put on its foundation, new pews were put in. Over the years other renovations were made, including carpeting. In 1963, the parish purchased Henry Sommer's hall (located just to the south of the church) to use as a parish center, which when remodeled, included a modern kitchen. The St. Patrick's Ladies' Catholic Circle was organized in the spring of 1934. Presently,

its 31 members meet the third Thursday of each month. The Circle has its own chapter of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. After Mass on the second Sunday of each month, a communion breakfast is served in the hall with Altar Society members taking turns as hostesses. The parish conducts its own catechism classes with lay teachers presiding, the superintendent being an elected office. During the school year the classes meet on Wednesday evening. The Sunday before Christmas marks the annual Christmas program and potluck dinner, usually followed by caroling in town. Each year on St. Patrick's Day, the Altar Society enjoys entertaining at the St. Joseph Manor in Edgeley with lunch and games or music. In 1974 and 1979, Bishop Driscoll confirmed our young confirmants in Ellendale and, in 1984, they were confirmed in St. Patrick's at Fullerton. First communicants and graduating seniors are honored at a special Mother's Day breakfast at the hall in May of each year. In 1983 the parish undertook a building project consisting of an addition to the front of our church. For nearly sixty-five years now, parishioners have come to our little church for Mass and the Sacraments and the enjoyment of community spirit. May we always keep St. Patrick's alive in Christ.

47. Fullerton – Swedish Lutheran Church

- Location: Village of Fullerton
- Community History: *Fullerton, ND – Centennial 1887-1987 – A Century of Community*, p.120-121. The Swedish Lutheran Church of Fullerton, a member of the Augustana Lutheran Synod, functioned for many years. This Synod was organized by Lutheran immigrants from Sweden. The church was served by students from the seminary at Rock Island, Illinois, or by ministers who served and lived in Oakes. Some of the ministers were Rev. Eder Larson, Rev. Chilgren, and Rev. Zedren. Some of the students were Carl W. Samuelson, Anton Chell, Leonard Nelson, Arvid Vikman, and Paul Swenson. After Carl W. Samuelson was ordained, he lived in Gwinner and served Swinner, Oakes, and Fullerton. At first, services were held in members' homes in connection with the Ladies Aid meetings, and lunch was served. Later services were held in the Fullerton Union Church on Sunday afternoons. Sunday School was held after services; or for many years, the Sunday School met in the Youngquist School in the country (Algrove #4). The Ladies Aid was a very active organization, having as its primary function paying the minister's salary. They held a bazaar and a big supper every year in the late fall in a Fullerton hall. Another very active organization was the Luther League. They met once a month in the evening. This provided a chance for young people to put on Christian programs, participate in Bible study, etc. Being a small congregation, the Luther League meetings were attended by old and young alike. Once a year, District Luther League meetings were held, delegates were chosen, and young people had a chance to meet young people from around North Dakota. The Luther League used most of its money to defray church expenses, paying the pastor's or student's salary. They held many May basket socials. The women made and decorated small May baskets, which the men bought, and lunch was served by the League. When student Paul Swensson served the congregation in 1929, he coached a play, {"Joseph" or "Love Conquers All", which was presented in the M.W.A. Hall. In 1930 the Luther League allowed 75¢ each to help defray expenses for two delegates to the Luther League Convention in Bismarck. Excerpt from the *Oakes Times*: Student Pastor Is Honored – Farewell Party for Paul Swensson Held at Geo. P. Johnson Home – "Paul Swensson delivered his farewell sermon last Sunday evening and the church was filled to capacity. After services the members of the church invited Mr. Swensson and the entire congregation out to Geo. P. Johnson's to a farewell party for the student, and most of the congregation went. The community of Fullerton was sad to think of Mr. Swensson's leaving because of the wonderful work he has done in the past summer months, but was inspired by the fact that there is a possibility of having him with us again next summer. To express its gratitude, the whole community presented Mr. Swensson with a purse consisting of a little over eighty dollars, besides the catechumens presenting him with five dollars each. Those who took part in the pageant also wanted to express their appreciation for his kind direction and patience and, therefore, presented him a very beautiful briefcase. A short program was rendered. John Almquist gave an interesting original poem in Swedish. An original poem was given by Margaurite Newman; Henning Youngquist gave a short speech and read a psalm. Mr. Swensson gave a short speech and the doxology was sung. A delicious lunch was served by the members of the Luther League."....Some of the families who belonged to this church and these organizations were the R.N. Youngquists, the F.O. Alins, the Albin Andersons, the Chris Jacobsons, the George P. Johnsons, the E.R. Schiefelbeins, the John P. Nelsons, the Harry Pearsons, the Nordahl Ericksons, the Alexandersons, the Paulsons, the Beethes, the Joe Andersons, the William Newmans, the Gus Browns, the Harry Browns, the Henning Youngquists, the Bernard Youngquists, the Frank Johnsons,

the Radas, the Stepinas, the Axel Johnsons, the R. Krooks, and Blisses, and the Chas. Clancys. During the drought and depression years of the 1930's, many of these families moved away, and the young people went away to school or to work; so the church was no longer able to function and was disbanded in 1937. The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fullerton had made plans to build on a lot they owned, which is north of Vern Glynn's present home. When the Farmers State Bank closed in 1930, the Ladies Aid lost \$351.00; and they lost \$17.00 in the Bank of North Dakota. The church also lost some of its money with bank foreclosures. The Luther League lost \$68.55 in the Farmers State Bank. After this loss of funds, together with drought and depression and the moving out of the community of several of the members, the church soon disbanded and no building was ever erected.

48. Fullerton – Union Church

- Location: Washburn & 2nd Ave
- [Photo Available: Di-Fullerton Union Church-1 \[4030\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Fullerton Union Church-2 \[4032\]](#)
- Community History: *Fullerton, ND – Centennial 1887-1987 – A Century of Community*, p.121-124. Early in 1906, Bishop Mann of the Episcopal Church of Fargo instigated the movement for the erection of a church in Fullerton. Mrs. E.F. Sweet, owner of the townsite, donated lots one and two of block two for the church. A building committee for soliciting funds was chosen in 1906; they were: Messrs. G.M. Gamber, Thomas Parke, B.S. Kingsley, E.S. Thomas, Benjamin Porter, J.A. Dawe and E.J.M. Wippich. Gladys (Dawe) Wolf and Ella (Gamber) Carlson, daughters of two of the above, are still living in 1986. People of all denominations contributed, and the church was to be used by any religious organization, each paying a small sum for the upkeep. On October 18, 1906, the board awarded a contract for the erection of the foundation to O.B. Smith and for the superstructure to Gus Johnson. The foundation, laid between November 1st and 15th, had to be rebuilt in the spring of 1907 because it crumbled through the winter. Work on the building started on May 10, 1907, in the name of "The Peoples Church". Among the speakers were Bishop Cameron Mann; Rev. Cowan, Episcopal Rector here at that time; Rev. C.M. Haas, Presbyterian Church at Monango; and Rev. C.W. Samuelson of Oakes. On December 25, 1907, the first Christmas Program was given. Gladys (Lawler) Wilk was in the program. The new bell, weighing 570 pounds and costing \$70.00, was first rung on January 5, 1908, when the middle elevator burned. Hitching post accommodations were placed along the north side of the property. The first lighting system was three chandelier-type carbide gas lanterns with fancy globes. There were also two wall-mounted kerosene lamps with reflectors placed near the front of the sanctuary. In 1922 Speed Lemon installed 32-volt lights in his garage and ran wires up the alley to his residence (the old Van Garven house). From this line a branch was run across the street to the church and there were three drop cord lights with 50 watt bulbs in each. In 1926, MDU starting furnishing the power; 1941 saw the installation of our present fluorescent lights. Mr. Frank Alin planted the trees in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sheppard gave lots three and four to the property on September 6, 1952. In November, 1952, a beautiful Wurlitzer organ was installed. A Story and Clark piano was added in 1956. The organ was replaced in 1976 with a Baldwin organ. When Rev. Corbett was here, the congregation decided to have a membership drive. On April 5, many members joined the Union Church at a Mass Church Meeting. Bobby Johnson was the first member on the church roll. He was home on leave from the Air Force and could not be there April 5th, so Rev. Corbett went to the house and Bobby became a member through baptism and acclamation of faith. On August 4, 1957, when Rev. Raymond Olstad was minister, the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary. Some ministers who took part in the program were: Rev. LeRoy Gross; Rev. Dale Krampe from the U.C.C. Church; Rev. Olstad, who preached the morning sermon; and Rev. J. Arthur DePew, who gave the afternoon sermon. In 1963 new pews were purchased with pledges and donations given by the congregation. On March 27, 1960, Earl Nelson made and donated the pulpit in memory of Affie Nelson. He also made the altar table. John and Maybelle Koester restored the pulpit chair on February 28, 1963. The chimes were donated on November 1, 1965, by Charlie Alcorn in memory of his wife, Edith. In 1979 the new addition was added to the north side of the entry and restrooms were installed...A few facts about the Sunday School: Mrs. Wippich was first superintendent of the "Evergreen" Sunday School during the teen years and always had a dream of a basement for the Sunday School students. It was called "Evergreen" because it was ever green and growing. There was a membership of 100 or more in the Sunday School at that time. During the summer of 1948, this dream was realized when a basement was made along the south side of the old site, and the church moved over onto it. Part of the basement was made into a kitchen. Mr. And Mrs. W.E. Lubien

played an important role in our church and Sunday School. Mrs. Lubiens' musical career started in the church in 1911, and Hallie was honored in 1964 for her years as organist and choir director and given a plaque for 53 years of service, including her Sunday School teaching. One of her first classes on January 1, 1913 was Class 5. Mr. W.E. Lubiens was also a teacher and this was one of his classes in 1913: (1) John Koester, (2) John Thomas, (3) Peter Johnson, (4) Leslie Johnson, (5) Chester Larson, (6) Milo Knudson, (7) Arthur Paulson. Some credit should also go to Frank Alin and Laurence Kretchman for their many years of free janitor work for the Fullerton Union Sunday School. If there wasn't any wood, they would furnish it....A series of revival meetings was held in December, 1925 and January, 1926. At this time Mrs. Lubiens organized a choir, which consisted of Roy and Vern Beecher, Gladys, Grace and Roy Sheppard, Laurence and Ena Kretchman, Nyla, Neola, and Ardith Brown, Lyle and Loren Lubiens, and Cora and Nora Laurence. Loren has been a member of the choir ever since and is the only one living in this community now...."The Christian Crusaders" held their first meeting on July 4, 1937. Rev. Cawthorne presided over the meeting....The Union Guild has played an important part in the church. On August 13, 1937, a group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. Frank Van to organize a Guild....The object of the Guild was to work for the local parish, which they have done all these years. They send money to missions and help wherever needed in the church. Those who are not Guild members are divided into circles, so everyone shares in the work. During its history over 90 ministers have served the Union Church. On March 4, 1972, the U.C.C. and Union Churches decided to share a minister due to declining membership in both churches. Expenses are also shared. Everyone is always welcome, regardless of denomination....Ceiling fans were given in memory of Mike Bakkegard by his family. The lighted cross in the church was given by the Schiefelbein family. Church History of Ministers – Rev. Sangree, Presbyterian – first minister and served most of the time until the fall of 1890. (1890) – Rev. Sangree served until fall, when J.B. Hobart, Presbyterian, started to give half time every other Sunday. Rev. Isaac and I.E. Memory served alternate Sundays. (1891-1892) Rev. Hobart and I.E. Memory; (1893) Rev. Monroe and I.E. Memory, Methodist; (1894-1895) Rev. G.S. White of Yorktown and I.E. Memory; (1896) Rev. E.M. Smith of Ellendale and I.E. Memory; (1897) Rev. Yeoman and Memory; (1898) Rev. I.E. Memory; (1899) Rev. Memory most of the year with Rev. Finch, Baptist of Ellendale, in the summer; (1900) Rev. E.M. Smith of Ellendale every two weeks and Memory otherwise; (1901) Rev. Smith and Memory; (1902) Rev. Hardenbrook until June 16; (1903) Rev. Yeoman; (1904-1905) Rev. Yeoman; (1906) Rev. William Watson, Episcopalian, served until June; Rev. Edgar, Episcopalian, from July on; Rev. Jones of Lisbon came now and then through the summer; (1907) Rev. Jones served some during the winter; Rev. Wellington, Methodist, served winter and spring. New church building dedicated August 4, 1907. Rev. Von Hoff, German Lutheran; then Rev. Lindsey of Oakes; Rev. Stolper; (1908-1909) Rev. D.W. Thompson, Episcopal, and Rev. Stolper; (1910) Rev. Thompson some and Rev. Stolper; (1911) Rev. Thompson served, but not regular; (1912) Rev. O.B. Peters, Presbyterian, was the first resident minister to serve the Union congregation. He served from June 1 and lived at the Ernest Reynold's house, which served as a parsonage at the time; (1913-1914) Rev. Peters and Rev. Erkman, student; (1915) Rev. W.F. Caldwell served through 1916; (1917) Rev. W. Rothwell served through 1918; (1918) Rev. Rothwell and Rev. Edwards; (1919) Rev. Edwards and other Presbyterian ministers; Rev. Ira McFarland, Glover; (1919) New congregation organized. Evangelical Lutheran (Swedish) on January 20, 1919 with membership of 18. Rev. J. Edgar Halvorson. Sometimes this congregation held services in their homes; (1920) No meetings by the Methodists this past winter. Rev. J.E. Larson, Oakes Methodist, congregation organized on May 9th with 14 members. Stewards: C.E. Persinger, S.H. Darby, W.E. Lubiens and F.O. Alin; Rev. Fred Jones-Ellendale, Rev. Geo. Jeffrey-Verona, Rev. Duden, Methodist-Ellendale; (1921) Rev. Duden; Rev. John Morange, Methodist-Ellendale; Rev. J. Smith, Methodist-Ellendale; Rev. Paul Mattson, Swedish Lutheran student; (1922) Paul Mattson and Leonard Nelson-Swedish Lutheran student; (1923) Rev. Martys-Oakes; A. Vickman-student; Rev. S.H. Chilgren, Swedish Lutheran-Oakes; (1924) Rev. Martyr, Episcopal; Rev. Dierenfield, Presbyterian; Rev. S.H. Chilgren; (1925) Rev. Martyr; Rev. Chilgren; Revival meetings-Griffin and Williams; Linz and Green, Methodist-Ellendale; (1926) Rev. Chilgren; Martyr; Whitewell of Glover, and Rev. Lewis; Community Church congregation organized by Rev. B.W. Crandall and Rev. Harrington of Ellendale; (1927) Rev. Chilgren; Rev. Harrington; Rev. P.T. Soderholm, Methodist. German Lutheran congregation-Rev. Zabel, minister; (1928) Rev. Crandall; Rev. Soderholm, Methodist; Rev. Zabel, German Lutheran; Rev. Green-Ellendale; Anton Chell, Swedish Lutheran student; August Westlund, student; (1929) Greene of Ellendale; Rev. A.R. Jones-Ellendale; Paul Swenson, Swedish Lutheran-Fullerton; Rev. P.A. Zedren-Oakes; (1930) Rev. Jones, Methodist-Ellendale; Rev. Parish, Methodist-Ellendale; Rev. A.R. Jones-LaMoure; Rev. P.A. Zedren-Oakes; Rev. Zabel, German Lutheran-Oakes; (1931) Rev. James-LaMoure; Rev. Fairham, Community Congregation; Rev.

Timian, German Lutheran-Monango; Rev. Landgraf, German Lutheran-Oakes; (1932) Rev. Babylon-Oakes; Rev. Agte-Ellendale; Rev. Landgraf-Oakes; Rev. Zedren-Oakes; (1933) Rev. Agte; (1934) Rev. Pattie of LaMoure started a Nazarene organization with noon meetings; (1935-1936) Rev. Pattie; (1937) Rev. Kern-LaMoure; (1938) Rev. Kern-noon meetings; Rev. Smith of Ellendale-evening meetings; (1939) Rev. Kern; Rev. Moffett; (1940) Rev. H. Vix; Rev. Tromburg; (1940-1946) Rev. Ko Lee, Methodist-Ellendale; (1946) Rev. Rothery, Baptist; (1947) Rev. Rothery; Rev. Odom for two months; (1948) Rev. Ashley until June 13; Gerald Hill, student-Ellendale; (1949) Rev. J. Arthur DePew, Presbyterian-Edgeley; (1950-1951) Rev. J.K. Tunis, Methodist-Ellendale; Mrs. Meier, Methodist-Edgeley; (1952) Mrs. Meier; (1953) Rev. Corbitt, Presbyterian-Oakes; (1954-1955) Ray Olstad, student-Aberdeen; (1955) Rev. Hall, Nazarene-Oakes; (1956) Rev. Otteson, Child Evangelism Fellowship-Jamestown; (1957-1959) Rev. Gross, Baptist-Oakes; (1959-1960) Rev. Eberhart, Evangelical United Brethren-Ellendale; (1960-1964) Rev. McQuiston, E.U.B.-Ellendale; (1964) Rev. Berreth, E.U.B.-Ellendale. Here only a short time as E.U.B. church in Ellendale burned and then they united with the Methodists; (1965-1974) Rev. Carnegie, Baptist-Ellendale; (1975-1980) Rev. McCown, teacher at TBI and pastor of Baptist Church-Ellendale. Assistant pastors under Rev. McCown all from TBI were: Don and Susan Sappington; Rod and Larae Long; Don and Karen Tucker; Dave and Debe Striker; (1980-1981) Rev. David Striker-TBI; (1984-present) Rev. Scott Englehart, Baptist-Ellendale.

49. Glover – James River Valley Lutheran Church

- See Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Clement Township)
- Church History: *History of The American Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oakes, ND – 1883-1951*, p.13. The above named congregation was organized in 1895 by Rev. H. Moe (the secretary record appears to have been lost) with the following membership: O.A. Olson, Abel Johnson, Chris Monson, Elling Jensen, Nils Hustad, John Frojen, John Larson, Tom Ulness, Frederick Olson, Klaus Storvik, Ole Amundson, Anders Olderness, Andreas Mork Anderson, Ed Iverson, A. Fladager, Andrew Howe, Lars Olson, P. Bergstrom, John Larson. Services were usually held in the Glover school house. During the summer months, Rev. Moe conducted parochial school.

50. Glover – Methodist Church

- Location: Village of Glover
- [Photo Available: Di-Glover Methodist Church \[4077\]](#)
- Closed in 1957
- *Our Towns – North Dakota Communities – Our Story*, Sweetgrass Communications, Bismarck, ND, 1992, p.77
- Community History: *Glover, ND – Centennial 1887-1987*, p.3-7. The Glover Church, organized under the Methodist Episcopal Church, was built in 1914 and served the people of the community until 1952 when the parishioners decided to go into Oakes. The early church services were held in the first school house in 1888 which was located on top of the hill east of the Edwin Olson farm (presently Bob Olson). The pastors would come from Verona to Glover. Some of the pastors were Bishop, Ballard, Wyley, Taylor, Jeffery, and Dickensen, all from Verona. Pastor Delong, Scarborough, Smith, Babcock, Gernhardt, and Empie from Oakes....The Glover Church was built in 1914, and services were discontinued in 1952. This building was moved out to what is the Rich Masse farm...In the year of 1888 the first preaching service was held in the Glover Schoolhouse. Rev. Mr. Lane was minister. The services were discontinued in Glover School 1899 because there were so few people. Preaching services have been held since. Rev. Bishop preached in 1899. The Epworth League was organized in August 1910...[Information by Lillian M. Stevens as taken from the box in cornerstone of Glover Methodist Episcopal Church. Cornerstone lain in 1914]: Members of the Official Board. Pastor, F.F. Boothby, Dist. Supt. C.A. Moenamass. Trustees: C.B. Andrus, J. Oscar Olson, Frank Elliot, Jacob Huber, J.W. Payton, G.F. Grosshans. Stewards: Mrs. J. Oscar Olson, Mrs. C.B. Andrus, J.W. Payton, Mrs. Bert Stevens, Nile Payton is Recording Steward. Superintendent of Sunday School: Mrs. B.H. Stevens. Class Leader: Mrs. E.G. Stevens. President of Epworth League: Willie Whitfield. List of Members of Glover M.E. Church: Andrus, Martha Rose; Beistle, Viola; Elliott, Frank; Elliott, Hattie; Guiott, Anna; Guiott, Sarah; Guiott, Clara; Guiott, Arthur; Guiott, Ruth; Guiott, John; Guiott, Mamie; Grosshans, Henry; Grosshans, G.F.; Grosshans, Joanna; Huber, Jacob; Hartz, E.M.; Hartz, Mrs. E.M.; Huber, Tillie; House, Mabel; Lancaster, Everett; Nelson, David;

Olson, Tillie; Olson, Alice; Payton, Mils; Payton, Joseph; Payton, Bessie; Payton, Harold; Payton, J.W.; Payton, Mrs. J.W.; Stevens, Anna; Stevens, Addie; Stevens, Lillian; Stevens, Blanche; Stevens, Freddie; Stevens, Edward; Whitfield, Wilbert; Whitfield, Wm.; Rangham, Anna. Probationers: C.B. Andrus, Geo. Schaub, Robert Grosshans. [Then follows a list of names of people who attend preaching and Epworth League service in Glover, North Dakota]

51. Glover – Methodist Episcopal Church

- See Oakes – First Methodist Church
- See Oakes – United Methodist Church
- Closed in 1952
- Community History: *Glover, ND – Centennial 1887-1987*, p.3
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.332

52. Grue Evangelical Lutheran Church (Yorktown Township)

- See Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Clement Township)
- Ceased to exist by merger in 1921 with Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church (Norway Township) to form Oakes – First Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Church History: *History of The American Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oakes, ND – 1883-1951*, p.12. The following residents living in the western part of Clement and in Yorktown townships, met Feb 6, 1898 for the purpose of organizing the above named congregation and adopting a constitution. Rev. Hakktor Moe was called as pastor of the congregation and the following were elected officers: President and chairman, Ben Nelson; secretary, John Johnson; treasurer, August Vernlund, and for trustees, Andrew Johnson, Ole H. Enger and Ole Erickson. The names of the charter members were: B.L. Nelson, Ole H. Enger, Andrew Johnson, Louis Anderson, Osvat Kveset, Kristian Kveset, August Vernlund, Ole Erickson, Jim P. Johnson, Erik C. Holm, John Benson, Karl Nelson, John Johnson, Soren Holm, Arne Hogenson, Ole Nelson, Julius Hogenson, John Tollefson, Jorgen Pedersen and Nels Karlson, numbering twenty members. The pastor's salary was to be \$60 per year and the pastor to conduct twelve services during the year. Services were held in the Enger and Lee school houses and occasionally in the homes of the members. At the annual meeting of the congregation Nov. 9, 1900, Rev. Moe having moved away, the congregation called, jointly with the Norway congregation, Rev. K.L. Kleveland for pastor at a salary of \$50 per year. At the annual meeting of the congregation Dec. 2, 1902, the treasurer showed \$64.64 received by the congregation, the pastor's salary was \$50 leaving a balance of \$16.64 in the treasury. For chairman or president was chosen John Johnson; secretary, B.L. Nelson; treasurer, August Vernlund; for trustee, Carl Nelson; for Sunday school teachers, B.L. Nelson and John Johnson were appointed. At the eighth annual congregational meeting Dec. 13, 1905 the following new members were accepted: Jorgen Pedersen, Nels Karlson and John Tollefson and their families. The following officers were elected: Trustee, Nils Karlson; president, John Johnson; secretary, B.L. Nelson; treasurer, Karl Nelson; deacon or elder, John Johnson; and for school committee, Karl Nelson, Ole Erickson and John Tollefson. That one month parochial school be held. For Sunday school teachers, Karl Nelson, Mrs. Karl Nelson, Mabel Nelson, Ben Johnson and Nils Karlson were appointed. At the congregational meeting Dec. 10, 1907, B.L. Nelson, Karl Nelson and Julius Hogenson resigned from the congregation because they had moved to Wright township and found it inconvenient to continue in the Grue congregation. Rev. K.L. Kleveland having resigned and left, Rev. Moe was called jointly with the Norway congregation (Clement) for pastor. At the twenty-first annual congregational meeting October 10, 1908, for president and treasurer, John Johnson; for secretary, Mrs. Enger; for trustee, Clarence Enger, and for deacon or elder, J. Benson. Thus continued until joining with the First Lutheran congregation of Oakes in 1921.

53. Guelph – Holiness Methodist Church

- Location: Village of Guelph
- [Photo Available: Di-Guelph Holiness Methodist Church \[4068\]](#)
- Community History: *Guelph, ND – Centennial 1883-1983 – Grainery of the Plains*, p.47. This church was begun in 1912 or 1913 and was known as the Chapel Church. It was located across the road south of the elevator dwelling. Some members of this church were the Wm. Hauser family, John Yuhl family, Henry

Beck family, Christ Olthoff family, Marcus Oliason family, Hans Hove family, and Tom Dennis family. They bought one of the Hudson school houses (the old Guelph school) and moved it to the North west part of Guelph. Members of the congregation made it into a two-story dwelling and added to it to become the parsonage. Because of a dwindling membership the church was closed in the 40's. It was sold and moved out of Guelph to South Dakota where it was to continue to be used as a church. Pastors who served the church were: Wm. Rice, A.K. Irwin, F.E. Whitney, Herbert Rue, Thomas Hacker, Andrew Peterson, Wesley Hardin, Martin Bast, Louis Larson, and Alfred Freitag.

54. Guelph – Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

- Location: Village of Guelph
- [Photo Available: Di-Guelph Saint Mary's Episcopal Church \[4063\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.328
- Community History: *Guelph, ND – Centennial 1883-1983 – Grainery of the Plains*, p.141-142. The history of St. Mary's congregation dates back to 1904. St. Mary's Mission owes its establishment to Daniel T. Cowley who filed a claim on land in Dickey County. On a trip to Wisconsin he met Mary Burleson who learned that he was Anglican but that his children had not been baptized because an Episcopal priest had never visited their community. This was passed on to the Reverend William Watson, then priest at Wahpeton. He traveled via the Chicago and Northwestern Railway to Ludden and walked the last seven miles to the Cowley farm. There on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, 1904, he baptized eight Cowley children. Later the Reverend Edgar Jones held services at the Cowley farm and in the town of Guelph, as did the Reverend F.A. Shore who followed him. Later services were held by Rev. Thompson who prepared the Cowley children for confirmation. These services were held in the school near the Cowley farm. In 1913, Albert H. Martyr, a seminary student held services. In June 1919, it was agreed that a church building should be built. Those signing the agreement were Nicholas Burkhardt, D.T. Cowley and Reverend Martyr, with Robert Ashley as contractor. Of the cost of more than \$7000, the congregation supplied \$4000. Among its furnishings were the font and lectern from the Cathedral Car which was a railroad car used as a place for worship services. The opening service in this building was held on September 21, 1919. By 1920 under the leadership of Reverend Martyr and his regular visits, the mission had grown from ten to seventy-five communicants. This building was consecrated by Bishop Tyler in June 1923 and by 1927 at least three Sunday services were held monthly. Sunday School was held every Sunday at 11 o'clock the year around. An Altar Guild was organized a short time after the church was built with Mrs. Earl Courtney as president and Mrs. D.H. Cowley as Secretary. Other members were Allie and Lela Cowley, Mae Stolle, Katie and Mary Burkhardt. The first chicken pie supper was held the first week in December, 1919. All the dishes and utensils, as well as the water were brought from home. The chicken pie supper became an annual affair along with the sale of fancy work. A Girls Friendly Society was organized in 1923 consisting of young girls in the community. Members were Nellie Zearley Robertson, Margaret and Florence Bostrup, Nora and Florence Pederson, Frances and Phyllis McCoy, Johanna, Ella and Alma Hansen. In the twenties one of the social events of the church was the Ice Cream Social featuring home made ice cream and cake, plus dancing to George Cowley's accordion music. There was also an annual picnic held at Cowley's Grove followed by an afternoon of baseball. After the ball game everyone hurried home to milk their cows so they could get back for an evening of dancing. A choir was organized in 1932 directed by Rev. McNamara. The group grew to sixteen members of whom two were baptized members of the church. The choir continued to be active under the leadership of Rev. Creighton. In 1933 the Girls Friendly Society was reorganized. Some of the members were: Martha, Mamie, Marie and Hazel Boss; and Dorothy, Frances and LaVerna Pagenkopf. One of the interesting activities was the presentation of a home talent play entitled, "The Singing School". Family Christmas parties have always been a tradition of St. Mary's. In earlier years it was a large community affair with a filled church on Christmas Eve and popcorn balls and a bag of treats were traditionally handed out to everyone that came. Summer Vacation Bible School has been a yearly affair. Rev. Elliot Sorge and Miss Alice Sweet, a Deaconess, were the leaders of the Bible School in the mid 1950's. In 1967, St. Mary's joined with the Methodist Church in Guelph for Vacation Bible School and in later years the children have been going to Oakes for Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. In the 1960's the Sunday School met with the Presbyterian Church in Oakes and the Vacation Bible School has been a cooperative effort between St. Mark's Episcopal, the First Presbyterian and the United Methodist churches in Oakes. Rev. Wm. Freeman came in 1962. During his stay he organized a girl's choir, consisting of: Susan, Barbara and

Elaine Holmes, Denise, Debra, and Dawn Waite and Jackie Telin. He also helped St. Mary's get a Lowry organ with the help of a concerned group from Massachusetts. Rev. Larry Bradner who came in 1967 introduced the Tribal Services. In 1973 with the Rev. James Martin, St. Mary's co-hosted the Diocesan Convention held in Oakes. Home services during the winter were held. Annual reports are published and our church became a member of Coalition V. Records show the following "firsts" for St. Mary's Church: On December 4, 1908, the Rev. D.T. Thompson presented Louise (Mrs. Daniel T.) Cowley for confirmation. On August 3, 1915, the baptism of Darcy Clayton Bostrup by the Rev. Albert Martyr took place. On November 30, 1918, the Burial Office for Agnes Burkhardt was read by Rev. Albert Martyr, and on October 18, 1921, the marriage of Allie Cowley and Alvin Astradson was performed by the Rev. Albert Martyr. The following is a list of the priests and lay readers who served St. Mary's: The Rev. George McNamara in 1930. The Rev. Wm. F. Creighton from June 1934 to January, 1937. He later became Bishop of Washington. Rev. Chas. Scovil from October, 1941 to 1945. Rev. G. Armstrong in 1946. Rev. Lionell Harrison, January 1947. Rev. Fred Pckett, from 1948 to 1951. Rev. George Gillespie in 1952. Rev. Sidney Smith in 1953. Rev. Elliot Sorge from June, 1954 to August, 1960. He later became Bishop of Brazil. Mr. M.W. Andresen from 1960, with the Rev. T.J. McElligott providing Eucharist. Rev. Wm. Freeman from July, 1962 to November, 1966. Rev. Harold Jones in 1967. Rev. Larry Bradner from August, 1967 to January, 1971. Rev. Charles Henley, January to June, 1971. Rev. James Martin from June, 1971 to December 31, 1975. Rev. Stephen Sedgwick from April, 1977 to August, 1980. Present lay readers are Doyle Burkhardt and Garth Holmes. We give thanks to the early pioneers who saw the need for a place of worship for their families and others in the community. They kept their Faith through good times and bad times. Our hope is that we and future generations can move onward with such strong Faith.

55. Guelph – United Methodist Church

- Location: Village of Guelph
- GPS: La: N46° 01.366 : W98° 13.816
- [Photo Available: Di-Guelph United Methodist Church-1 \[4065\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Guelph United Methodist Church-2 \[4065\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Guelph United Methodist Church-3 \[4066\]](#)
- Community History: *Guelph, ND – Centennial 1883-1983 – Grainery of the Plains*, p.44-46. It is certain that there was a worshipping community in the area before the church building was erected. These pioneers had brought their Bibles and faith with them, and with the ruggedness of their new life realized how much they had to rely on God to care for them. It is reported that "N.D. Witham who with his son, Joe, had come from Maine and built a frame house, sod barn and stable 2 miles south east of Guelph (SE ¼ Sec. 8-129-60) had announced in the fall of 1883 that if his neighbors would meet at his house a certain Sunday, he would preach to them. He was a preacher. About 50 people turned out. He took his place in the door of his house and preached so those inside and outside could hear. He preached a powerful sermon on the text from II Kings 20:1: 'Set thy house in order!' He served several communities in the early days before settled pastors were available. No names are given as to who attended, but it is evident the ones from Guelph attended. Worship services continued to be held in the homes until school houses were built. Then these became places of worship. In Guelph Puffer's Hall was used. The records show that in 1884 Reverend C.B. Gilbert, the pastor from Port Emma came to preach to a congregation in Guelph. The Guelph congregation continued to be yoked with Ludden until about 1912. March 15, 1889, a Methodist society was formed. The pastors who had served were Presbyterian, Methodist or Baptist. It had been thought that Mrs. Frank Courtney and Carl Grady were charter members of the Guelph Church but the records indicate that Mr. and Mrs. John Jones became members in 1902, and Mrs. Courtney, her daughter Gena, and Carl Grady joined Sept. 30, 1906. In 1907 the Methodist Church was built at an estimated cost of \$1600. Mrs. Frank Courtney gave the first \$50 toward the cost of the building. M.J. Puffer gave the land. Amos Waite, Harry Ferrel and Ray Woodard did the building with help of volunteers. This is still the main sanctuary. The first pastor to hold services in the building was Reverend Wm Wellington who lived in Ludden and was pastor there and was to serve the Guelph congregation with Ludden that year. From the *Oakes Times* of March 3, 1910, we get this information. "H. Ferral has put in a railing around the rostrum in the M.E. Church at Guelph and a new carpet, which is an improvement to the interior of the church." In that same issue was this item. "Rev. Brown drove from Ludden to the Baker place and walked the rest of the way on Sunday to hold services." In 1913 the single men of the church took it upon themselves to raise money for

a bell to be put in the steeple. The bell which cost \$39.35 was received in December, 1913. The Guelph column for Jan. 8, 1914, carried this item. "The bell has arrived and it will soon be hung in the belfry. At present the little folk are having a merry time ringing it in the depot freight room." In 1912 a parsonage was built which was to be the residence of the following pastors: Rev. Virgil Merchant, L.E. Watson, Ira McFarland, Omer Idso and Alfred Boalch over a period of 10 years. The Guelph charge was the only one they had. Prior to that they were linked with Ludden Methodist Church. After there was no pastor in residence, the parsonage was rented. Reverend and Mrs. H. Gernhardt and the Don Sprouses lived there. It was sold to the Guelph Farmers Elevator in 1948 to be the dwelling for their elevator manager. It is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brown who purchased it in 1966. The congregation continued to grow and by 1948 there were 6 Sunday School classes trying to meet in the one room. It was decided to build an annex to the west and put in a full basement. This building project was completed by 1949 and the church was rededicated July 30, 1950. We were again in a building project in 1970 to enlarge the annex entry making it possible to have indoor restrooms and a better stairway to the basement. The steeple was removed as there were problems with the roof leaking around the steeple. The church has had an active Sunday School from its beginning until 1980 when it was discontinued because there were no children in the congregation. The earliest record shows the following in the youth class taught by Nellie Puffer: Waldon Waite, Clendon Waite, Maylon Waite, Mary Waite, Ruth Fitzgerald, Anna Dennison, Rex Bliss, Max Bliss, Rudolph Robie, Wilford Waite, May Edwards, Ruth Edwards, and Edith Hodge. This was in 1907. At present there is provision for kindergarten and primary classes. The Bible Study and prayer group which meet Wednesday afternoon use the Adult Sunday School quarterly for their study. This prayer group has been a vital group to the spiritual life of the church and has met faithfully through the years. When there was a resident pastor, he was responsible for leading the group. After that a member of the laity was held responsible. Records indicate there was a youth group in 1918 called the Epworth League and in later years was called Methodist Youth Fellowship. They had their special studies and have been an asset to the worship service in providing music. For a number of years they gave the sunrise Easter service and participated in the Christmas programs. April 3, 1968 the name was changed to United Methodist Church as the Evangelical United Bretheran {sic} had united on the National basis with the Methodist Church. It had been known as the Methodist Episcopal Church. Through the years itinerant evangelists and missionaries have held special services in the church. In the summer time of the 20's and 30's tent meetings were held in Puffer's grove. Many of the congregation attended these. Feb. 1932 from *Dickey County Leader*. Reverend Parish came out on the train and held a service Wednesday evening as he couldn't come on Sunday. All roads were blocked....This is a community church and all faiths are welcome to worship and take part. At present it has 55 members listed on its roll. Through the years 159 baptisms have been performed with most having been in the church. In the early days several adults were baptized in Lake Genevieve. This was called immersion baptism. The names of pastors who have served and the approximate dates follow: C.B. Gilbert (1884-1887); C.W. Riches M.D. (1887-1888); F.A. Thompson (1888); E. Vaughan (1888-1889); G.F. Bieber (1889-1891); G.E. Blackford (1892); J.E. Pike (1892-1893); P.A. Scott (1893-1895); F.E. Johnstone (1895-1896); W.A.E. Maddock (1896-1898); L.C. Yeoman (1898-1901); G. Hardenbrook (1901-1902); L.C. Yeoman (1902-1906); W. Wellington (1906-1908); Thomas Dyer (1909); Oral C. Brown (1909-1910); Wm. J. Rice (1910-1911); Claude C. Kinder (1911-1913); James H. Brown (1913-1915); Virgil L. Merchant (1915--); L.E. Watson (1917-1919); Ira J. McFarland (1919-1921); Omer Idso (1922-1923); J.D. Smith (1922-1925); L.F. Green (1925-1930); Geo. Parish (1930-1933); John D. Cawthorne (1933-1937); Thomas Smith (1937-1939); Orlando Lee (1939-1946); James Odom (1946-1947); Donald Ashley (1947-1950); J. Kemp Tunis (1950-1952); Eric Wehrill (1952-1956); D.W. Nankivel (1956-1961); W.F. Larson (1961-1964); O.A. Gehring (1964-1967); James Pomeroy (1967-1968); H.J. Gernhardt (1968-1973); H. Stepanek (Presbyterian 1974-1978); David Glahn (1978-1982); Gerald Oliver (Presbyterian 1982-present pastor). Beginning with Geo. Parish the Guelph charge had been yoked with the Ellendale Methodist Church. Under the ministry of J.D. Smith they were yoked with Oakes Methodist Church. Those who have been members of the church for 50 years have been presented a praying hands plaque. The first ones to receive this recognition were Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Maddock. Others to date who have received this recognition are: Hanna Swanson, Essie Schwarting, Mae Anderson, Winnie Norton, Mrs. Palmer Vie and Kathryn Howard.

56. Hample Swedish Lutheran Church

- Location: S of Oakes

- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986*, p.106
Picture only. Building torn down.
- [Photo Available: Di-Hample Swedish Lutheran Church \[4050\]](#)

57. Hoffnungsfeld (Baptist) Church

- Location: Dickey County, German Township **Sec 13-T132-R66**
- See Berlin Baptist Church, Rosenthal Township, McIntosh County, ND

58. Hoffnungsfeld Congregational Church

- Location: Dickey County, German Township, NW ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 13-T132-R66**
- See Merricourt – First Congregational Church
- [Photo Available: Di-Hoffnungsfeld Congregational Church \[4113\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.99-100 [First Congregational Church]

59. Holiness Methodist Church

- See Guelph – Holiness Methodist Church

60. Hudson – Methodist/Presbyterian Church

- Community History: *Guelph, ND – Centennial 1883-1983 – Grainery of the Plains*, p.115. A good school house was built in Hudson in 1885. This was built large enough to serve as a community rallying place and for church services. When the town was abandoned, this school house remained at its old location for many years and was moved in 1923 two miles west...Most of the people who located at Hudson were Americans and were a very good class of people. They made no disturbances and were supporters of the school and churches. Church services were held first in Ladd's hotel, but when the school house was completed, the services were held there. Reverend Witham of Guelph was the first Minister. He held services in the school house for some time. Later Reverend R.H. Hook, a Presbyterian, was the minister, and as the people were pretty well divided between Methodist and Presbyterian, the Methodists had Rev. Mr. Giddings one Sunday, and the Presbyterians had Rev. Mr. Hook the next, all uniting as one church...The first wedding in Hudson was Arne Pederson and Hanna Elsie Gronbeck who were married April 15, 1885...As the Dakota Midland Railroad never materialized, the new town had no railroad. When the Northwestern came up the east side of the river, it was thought that a new town would be located over on the east side and thus made Hudson a town with a railroad, but the Northwestern went about three miles farther north and a town located there. Many of the people and the buildings of Hudson went to Oakes, and within a few years nothing was left of Hudson but a few cellar holes to mark the location of an interesting and aspiring city.

61. Immanuel's Congregation of the Evangelical Church of North Dakota

- See Ellendale – Evangelical United Brethren Church

62. Keystone – Methodist Church

- Location: Village of Keystone
- See Wesley United Methodist Church – Edgeley, LaMoure County, ND

63. Keystone – Presbyterian Church

- See Monango – First Presbyterian Church
- Community History: *Monango, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – The Banner City*, p.86. The earliest settlers of Hamburg Township were of the Presbyterian and Methodist faiths. Together with residents of Albion, Whitestone and Grand Valley Townships, they were served by itinerant preachers. These preachers travelled widely among the new settlers and brought church services to the pioneer communities. The first itinerant to reach the residents of Hamburg Township was William Campbell, who originated in Canada; he held services in the homes of his members. In 1889, following construction of Shelby schoolhouse #2, a

Presbyterian preacher names Clark held services in that building. A Presbyterian congregation had been organized in Keystone, and Cora Lane Kellogg recalled going to church in Keystone on a fine spring day in May 1883: "Mr. Kellogg, west of us, would start Sunday mornings with his wagon and oxen, or Father with his horses, and stop at the shanties along the way. People would come out with a chair apiece and, by the time we reached Keystone, there would be quite a respectable load. The church was called the Old Tabernacle, and people sat on planks and enjoyed the services and fellowship, often taking their lunches and staying all day. One Sunday morning we went to church with Mrs. Wood, the wife of the Presbyterian minister, whom we had met coming out (to Dakota). The two mothers sat behind the young Mr. Wood (age 12) and myself. In getting up to sing, my hair caught in a fish hook he carried in his pocket, and the two mothers had a hard time to release me, but the minister didn't see anything funny about it. Later in the day my father came for us with the team and wagon. It was a beautiful day, about the middle of May, and the prairie was blue with corcuses. My father would stop and let us fill our dresses with the blossoms and we made wreaths." Later, in 1883, a new Presbyterian church was built in Keystone and it was moved to Monango in 1886. Many residents of Hamburg Township eventually became member of that congregation."

64. Ludden – Methodist Episcopal Church

- Location: Village of Ludden
- [Photo Available: Di-Ludden Methodist Episcopal Church \[4069\]](#)
- Community History: *Guelph, ND – Centennial 1883-1983 – Grainery of the Plains*, p.90. In June, 1886, the Methodist Society of Ludden was presented with a lot on which to erect a church. There was a bee to have the stones which were donated by those who had stones on their land to be used for the foundation; and those who had none, hauled them from the Bateman Brothers farm. The contractor was Mr. W.H. Caldwell and the draftsmen were Joseph Leach and Bert Cook. The foundation was laid by Bert Cook. After the building was finished, the dedication took place October 9, 1886. The church was erected at the cost of \$1,900.00. Rev. C.B. Gilbert was the first Methodist minister in Port Emma, also the first one at Ludden after the town moved. He did a great deal for the welfare of his people and they felt sorry to listen to his farewell remarks, delivered November 13, 1887. He was such a hard worker that his health began to suffer. He was in Ludden and Port Emma two years. He had organized the community into religious societies, established regular places of worship at four points on his circuit and built a church at Ludden. Many will remember seeing him walking over the prairie many miles from circuit to circuit, and when he could afford to keep a horse, the heat of summer or storms of winters were never severe enough to keep him from his appointments. Rev. C.B. Gilbert died at his home in Toronto, Canada, July, 1889. The next few years, Ludden saw many ministers come and go, some of them were Rev. Bieber, Rev. Dennison and Rev. R.T. Tyrell. The Methodist Church went down in a severe cyclone storm in July 1921 and was never rebuilt.

65. Maple River Colony Hutterite Church

- Location: Dickey County, Kentner Township, NE ¼ of SW ¼ Sec 15-T130-R62

66. Merricourt – First Congregational Church

- Location: Town of Merricourt
- [Photo Available: Di-Merricourt First Congregational Church \[4136\]](#)
- Closed in 1972
- Community History: *Monango, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – The Banner City*, p.70
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.330-332. The First Congregational Church of Merricourt, ND was organized on February 24, 1925 in the home of Paul Jenner, Merricourt, with Rev. Lippenberger of Kulm a moderator. The first minister was the Rev. Theodore Strobel. Rev. Strobel had three churches to serve. At Merricourt the first member families were: Julius Bertel family, Christ Biederstedt family, Herman Gehrke family, Matthious Goehner family, Martin Haase family, Paul Jenner family, Alexander Konrad family, Michael Richter family, and the Frederick Werdin family. The church was built during the summer of 1925 by Jacob Fey, a carpenter, with the help of the congregation. It was built on the south edge of Merricourt and was dedicated on September 13, 1925. Pastors serving the church were: Theodore Strobel, Fred W. Grosz, Fred Burkhardt, Emil Klein,

Edward Schmidt, Herman Olich, student pastor Robert Strobel, student pastor Ted Bader, Helmut Maedche, John Hoersch, Bernard Moos, and Ervin Warber. Because a replacement pastor was not found and the membership was low, the church was closed. The final church service was held on January 16, 1972. That spring the church and its property were sold at auction.

- Community History: *Merricourt, ND 1891-1991 – Small Town, Big Memories*, p.25-28. At a meeting of the Kulm Church parish held Jan. 2, 1924; it was decided that the four southern congregation form their own parish. A meeting was set for Jan. 9, 1924 in the St. Johannes church led by Pastor H. Neutzmann. The four churches included were: Hoffnungsfeld, St. Johannes, Friedenfeld, and Friedens. The name for this new parish was called "Kulm South." The following officers were elected: Treasurer, Johan Miller; Secretary Johan Wirch; Vernwalter (administrator or manager) 3 years Christian Rath, 2 years Christian Brauer, and 1 year Daniel Krause. The officers sent a call to Pastor Theodore Strobel of Linder, Canada. Each family was to be assessed \$20.00 per person for the pastor's salary. Pastor Strobel arrived April 11, 1924. The annual meeting was held July 18, 1924 at Wirch, ND and with a show of hands, it was voted unanimously to serve the Merricourt Church until the spring of 1924, provided they share all duties with the parish. The Merricourt First Congregational Church was organized February 24, 1925 at the home of Paul Jenner. Rev. Theodore Strobel was the first minister. Rev. Strobel, Sec.; Mrs. Herman Gehrke, Sunday school superintendent; Julius Bartel, Matthious Goehner, and Paul Jenner, Trustees. Some of the first families to become members were Julius Bartel, Christ Biederstedt, Herman Gehrke, Matthious Goehner, Martin Haase, Paul Jenner, Alexander Konrad, Michael Richter, Frederick Werdin, Daniel Bartel, and John Walz. The church was built on the south edge of town in the summer of 1925 by Jacob Fey with the help of the congregation. The total cost of the church was \$3,600.00. This church was dedicated on September 13, 1925. On July 6, 1925 a meeting of the Kulm South parish was held at Friedensfeld. It was stated in the minutes, "If the Merricourt prospect seems favorable in 1926, the consensus was to build the parsonage in Merricourt". A meeting was held on March 22, 1926. The purpose of the meeting was the building of the parsonage. After much discussion, it was decided to buy a house from Jacob Fey which was still under construction. The house upon completion would cost \$4,100.00. A down payment of \$2,100.00 would have to be paid immediately. The remaining \$2,000.00 would be paid on November 1 without interest. The house was to be completed June 1, 1926 (This house is still being used by the Lyonel Flegel family, Kulm, ND). The first Ladies Aid was organized June 30, 1927 by Rev. Klein. Charter members were Mrs. C. Biederstedt, Mrs. J. Walz, Mrs. L. Brandenburger, Mrs. G. Haase, Mrs. M. Haase, Mrs. J. Fey, Mrs. C. Rath and Mrs. E.G. Klein. The Guiding Star Ladies Aid was organized in 1947. During the 48 years of service to the community, there were 19 young people's confirmations and one adult. The last youth class in 1970 was Sharon Middlestead, and Max and Tom Brandenburger. One class had as many as 24 confirmed. It was not unusual to confirm 15 or 16 in one class. Some of the students came from other churches in the parish. Several weddings were performed, the first being Theo Nill and Emma Rath in 1928. This took place after services one Sunday morning. The last wedding to take place was Garry Olson and Bernice Bartel. One after another, churches of the Kulm South Parish closed their doors. The last was Merricourt, the last service was held on Jan. 16, 1972 at 2:00 p.m. It was decided to auction the church and its contents on March 29, 1972. The contents brought \$1525.50 and the building brought \$250.00 + \$100.00 deposit to fill in the basement. A majority of the members joined the First Congregational Church of Kulm. At the last meeting of the board on Jan. 12, 1973, a check for \$1000 was given to the Kulm church to be put into a fund for perpetual care of the cemetery for the life of the Kulm church. The interest on the fund (approx. \$60.00) shall be used to pay a local person to mow the lots etc. After the last order of business, the board of Merricourt Congregational Church dissolved and closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. Ervin Richter, sec. Pastor who served: 1925-1926 – Theodore Strobel; 1926-1928 –Fred W. Grosz; 1929-1934—Fred Burkhardt; 1935-1941—Emil Klein; 1942-1945—Edward Schmidt; 1945-1948—Herman Olich; 1949—Robert Strobel (student); 1950—Ted Bader (student); 1951-1954—Helmut Maedche; 1955-1957—John Hoersch; 1957-1962—Bernhard Moos; 1963-Closing—Ervin Warber. The cemetery is located one half mile south and one half mile east of Merricourt. This two acre square plot was bought for one dollar on September 16, 1929 from B.R. Crabtree of Ellendale, ND. The cemetery is still in use.

67. Merricourt – Peace Lutheran Church

- Location: NW ¼ of Sec 27, Potsdam Township and then moved to Village of Merricourt

- See Monango – Saint Paul Lutheran Church
- [Photo Available: Di-Merricourt Peace Lutheran Church \[4135\]](#)
- Closed in August, 1965
- Community History: *Monango, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – The Banner City*, p.67-69
- Community History: *Merricourt, ND 1891-1991 – Small Town, Big Memories*, p29-30. The first service of Peace Lutheran Church was held on Rogate Sunday, 1907 at the Potsdam Township schoolhouse. There is no record of actual founders, except for the roll of members from 1907 to 1912, during the period before the actual church was built. It includes: Frederick Stahlecker, Arndt Mammel, Christian Scheuffele, Johann Bollinger, Ludwig Bollinger, Christoph Biederstedt, George Steinwand, Michael Raugutt, Johannes Mintz, Georg Biederstedt, Johanna Biederstedt, Gottlieb Dockter, Johannes Steinwand, Johann Bollinger, Ludwig Dieterle, August Herberg, Philipp Gall, Gottlieb Bollinger and Samuel Mammel. Pastor H. Rimmke of the Iowa Synod had been requested to conduct that service by Mr. Arndt Mammel. During the next few months, services were conducted by Pastors H. Timmke and O. Bruntsch. On Sunday, September 1, 1907 the congregation organized as a free church and took the name Peace Evangelical Lutheran Free Church. The congregation was then served by Pastor F. Hanselmann from Fredonia until September 30, 1909. He was succeeded by Pastor A. Herferth from Verona, who was called on October 1, 1909. During this time, services were held regularly at the schoolhouse; and eventually it became too small. The congregation decided to build a house of worship. The building, whose main section measured 24 by 42 feet, was erected on the northwest quarter of section 27 in Potsdam Township. A free will offering of \$3,400 paid for most of the building, leaving a debt of \$1,300. The church building was dedicated on October 12, 1913. Some notable firsts for the new building were: first baptism, Albert Bollinger, first confirmation class, Friedericka Mammel, Friedericka Biederstedt, Eva Bollinger, Maria Biederstedt, and Anna Steinwand, first marriage, Ludwig Steinwand and Otilia Mammel, first funeral, George Steinwand. Pastor Herforth served the congregation until Ascension Day in 1915, when he conducted his last service. Pastor Theo. M. Haag from Verona accepted the call to serve the congregation on July 1, 1915. He served until November, 1918, when the Verona congregation decided to become self-supporting. Pastor C. Stadler from Fredonia was called and he served until June, 1919, when Peace congregation separated from Fredonia. At the request of Arndt Mammel and John Steinwand, Pastor Theo. Haag was again called to serve the congregation. He served through June, 1923, and, as nearly as can be determined, Pastor Haag was the only pastor of Peace Lutheran Church who resided in the community. Pastor H. Elster from Enderlin, ND was then called and served the congregation until January, 1931. The long distance involved during the ministry of Pastor Elster, and the inconvenience arising from it, made it advisable to seek the services of a minister who lived closer. Pastor Elster would come once every three weeks from Enderlin to conduct services; then it was not unusual to have a three hour service. There was some disagreement as to whom should be called. After a time, Pastor J. Schmidt from Fredonia was called to serve the congregation. He did so, temporarily. There was also some controversy in 1933 regarding the cemetery. As a result, another cemetery was plotted alongside the original tract. However, the new cemetery was never used, and the tract of land was eventually sold. In November, 1934, Pastor Philip Peters, also from Fredonia, began a brief ministry at Merricourt. For some time during this period, the congregation was without the services of a pastor and services were read by Arndt Mammel and John Steinwand. In May, 1938, Peace congregation requested that Pastor H. Von Gemmingen of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Kulm hold services. He agreed to attempt to serve, and his first service was on June 12, 1938. On July 31, 1938, Peace congregation was accepted as a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod by Rev. J.P. Klausler, President of the North Dakota-Montana District. A parish was then formed with St. Paul's of Monango. On September 11, 1938 Peace congregation celebrated the 25th anniversary of their church building in a joint anniversary-mission festival service, conducted by Pastor A.F. Vomhof of Ellendale. On October 9, 1938 a new constitution was adopted. A joint call was extended to candidate J.W. Meyer to serve the new parish in January, 1939. During the spring of 1942, the church building was moved from its Potsdam Township location into the town of Merricourt. In July, 1942 Pastor Meyer accepted a call to New Germany, MN. Pastor H. Fry from Forbes served as vacancy pastor. A call was extended to Rev. F.E. Brauer of Minot, ND and on November 15, 1942, he assumed his duties as pastor. During services, in the early days of the church, the men sat on one side of the church aisle, while the women sat on the other side. The children were to sit in the front pews of the church. It was not until the 1940's that families began to sit together. During the ministry of Pastor Brauer, there was a gradual change to the English language. In 1948, German services were held on the first and third Sundays of the month. The other

services were English. As late as 1952, there was still a German and an English Mission Festival. An electric organ was purchased in 1950. About this time, there was a changeover from the "dues" system to the envelope system. Having a "dues" system simply meant that every member was assessed an equal amount of money per year. Some of the men were given the assignment to go around and collect these dues if they were not paid. This was a difficult task during the 30's, when finances were very slim. In September, 1953 Pastor Brauer accepted a call; and, after a ministry of 11 years, he preached his farewell sermon on November 29, 1953. After a 20 month vacancy, during which the congregation was served by Pastor E. Schomberg of Kulm, candidate Walter T. Eifert accepted the call to the Monango-Merricourt parish and was ordained and installed on July 31, 1955. During the years 1956-1958, extensive repair and refurbishing work was done on the church building, including painting the outside, installing acoustical tile on the inside, new lights and new front steps. Most of the cost of these improvements was met from the proceeds of a cooperative farming project in which the members jointly farmed rented land as Acres for Christ. In the fall of 1957, the congregation also purchased an individual communion service. After serving the parish for almost six years, Pastor Eifert preached his farewell sermon on Easter Sunday, April 2, 1961. After a three month vacancy, during which time the congregation was served by Pastor F. Wesselius of Forbes, candidate Gordon Giese accepted the call to the Monango-Merricourt parish. He was installed on July 16, 1961. The first recorded meeting of a Ladies Aid was on December 7, 1938. The ladies decided in the spring of 1941 to join the newly created international organization known as the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. This was the only service club in the congregation and was often able to serve as a true "hand-maiden" of the church. It is notable that almost every woman in the congregation was a member of this organization. In August, 1965 Peace Lutheran Church came to an end because the members decided to disband. It was also about at that time that Pastor Giese accepted a call to Amery, WI. The church building was sold to Jacob Schlecht and moved onto his farm south of Kulm, where it was used to store antiques. Peace Lutheran Church Cemetery is a three-fourths acre plot located on a portion of the northwest quarter of Section 27, in Potsdam Township. This land, purchased by Friedens Gemeinde (Peace Congregation) from D.S.B. Johnston Land Company for the sum of \$20.00 in November, 1907, was surveyed and plotted in 1932. Arndt Mammel was president and August Herberg was secretary at this time. Since the dissolution of the congregation, this cemetery is no longer used for burials. It is maintained by relatives, friends and neighbors of the former congregation.

- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.102-103. The first service of Peace Lutheran was held on Rogate Sunday 1907 at the Potsdam Township schoolhouse conducted by Pastor H. Timmke affiliated with the Iowa Synod. On September 1, 1907, the congregation organized and continued worshipping in the schoolhouse. Family names in its early years were Stahlecker, Mammel, Scheuffele, Bollinger, Biederstedt, Steinwand, Raugutt, Mintz, Dockter, Dieterle, Herberg and Gall. A new church building measuring 24 x 42 feet was erected on the northwest quarter of Section 27, Potsdam Township and was dedicated on October 12, 1913 along with a cemetery alongside of the church. From its beginning Peace Lutheran was served mostly by pastors who were also serving other congregations. Only one, Pastor Theo Haag, was a resident of the community in the early 1920's. In 1938 Peace Congregation became a congregation of The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod and formed a dual parish with St. Paul's Monango. In the spring of 1942 the church building was moved from Potsdam Township to the town of Merricourt. Also in 1942 Rev. F.E. Brauer accepted a call to St. Paul's Monango and Peace Merricourt and became its longest serving pastor until 1953. During this time the gradual change from German to English services occurred. The tradition of having men seated on one side, women on the other and children in front changed to family seating. The financial change from a "dues" system to a voluntary contribution also was implemented. Electricity enabled lights and the organ to operate at the flick of a switch. A cooperative farming project in which the members jointly farmed rented land under a program called Acres for Christ enabled the congregation to renovate the church building in the middle 1950's. The congregation voted to disband in August of 1965 and sold the church building, which was moved to a farm south of Kulm. The cemetery at its Potsdam location has approximately 40 graves.

68. Methodist Church

- Location: Andrus School House, 7 miles SE of Oakes
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.70

69. Methodist Church

- Location: Crinnion School House, 7 miles S of Oakes
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.70
- Crinnion School House Methodist Congregation

70. Methodist Church

- Location: Hudson School House, 6 miles SW of Oakes
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.70
- See Hudson – Methodist/Presbyterian Church

71. Methodist Church

- Location: Verner School House, 10 miles NE of Oakes
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.70
- See Verner Methodist Congregation

72. Monango – Baptist Church

- Location:
- Source: *Kulm, ND – Centennial 1892-1992*, p.123
- Dissolved in 1906

73. Monango – First Presbyterian Church

- See Keystone – Presbyterian Church; Ellendale – First Presbyterian Church
- [Photo Available: Di-Monango First Presbyterian Church \[4132\]](#)
- Community History: *Monango, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – The Banner City*, p.61-62. The First Presbyterian Church was organized on September 3, 1882 by rev. W.L. Peterson, Presbyterial Missionary of the Presbytery of Southern Dakota. The following members were present and entered into covenant: William A. Caldwell, Benjamin Porter, John L. Stephenson, Fred Ingersoll, Mrs. H.D. Ingersoll, Mrs. Ella B. Hamilton, Mrs. Jason Fenton, Mrs. J.J. Davis, Miss Viola Knox, Miss Louisa Stewart, Miss Ida Ingersoll, Miss Caddie Fenton, Miss S. Crabtree and Miss Mary Hutchinson. Previous to organization, services were held on alternate Sabbaths for three months by H.H. Sangree, a student from Union Theological Seminary in New York. The first church at Keystone, around 1882, was two claim shanties put together, with planks used for seats, the congregation sitting back to back. Church services were held in the hotel dining room for the fall and winter of 1883 by rev. S.P. Brackett. On July 1, 1883 Rev. Brackett was succeeded by Mr. W.S. Barnes of New York. Mr. Barnes preached every Sabbath for ten weeks at Keystone and at Yorktown, which was ten miles east. On July 12, 1883 a meeting was held in Keystone. It was determined to proceed with building a church. The five trustees were on the building committee: W.S. Barnes, Miss Viola Knox and Miss Ida Ingersoll were appointed to solicit subscriptions. On August 19, 1883 W.A. Caldwell and Benjamin Porter were elected to be elders for an indefinite term of service. By August 27, 1883 a sufficient amount of money was raised for building a church. Van Meter Brothers of Ellendale bid \$1,699.42 to build the church, less furniture. On August 30, 1883, the church elected the following as trustees: W.A. Caldwell, J.E. Brown, John Stephenson, F.M. Ingersoll and Jason Fenton. The first regular minister was Rev. Dickey. He had a claim some distance north of town. When the congregation was behind with the salary due to him, a "bee" was organized and about 30 teams did a lot of sod breaking for him. In the fall of 1886, the church of Keystone moved to Monango, it had been damaged in a storm and had to be rebuilt, some of the lumber was usable. The manse in Monango, next to the church building, was built around 1905. In 1898 the Presbyterian church also held services at Whitestone School. This continued for many years, with pastors using horses and buggy to travel. On July 1, 1886 Rev. L.E. Vance was pastor in the Keystone church, he left in September. Rev. F.M. Wood was pastor in 1888 at Monango; around 1889, William Sangree was minister. Subsequent pastors were: (1890-1895) Rev. John B. Hobart; (September, 1895) Rev. Wood; (1898) Rev. N.C. Shirey served as pastor for Monango and at Whitestone School (Shelby #1 School House); (June, 1903) Rev. J.P. Davis alternated

with Mr. Edgar C. Lucas to preach at Edgeley, Monango and Whitestone on different Sundays, alternating between churches. (January, 1905) Rev. J.C. Guy served pastorate (John Morrow was elder); (1905) Rev. C.M. Haas; (June, 1908-1912) Rev. J.C. Engel; (Nov. 1912-August, 1914) Rev. W.W. Merrell; (January, 1915-June, 1921) Rev. Peter Edwards; (May, 1922-October, 1922) Rev. J. MacWilliams; (March, 1924-April 1925) Rev. and Mrs. Doty; (May, 1925-August, 1925) Rev. Raymond Krisinski; (May, 1926-August, 1926) Rev. F.L. Shoemaker; (July, 1932) Rev. F.L. Tiffany served Ellendale and Monango; (September, 1937-1941) Rev. John H.K. Moffett; (1941-1947) Rev. H.R. Senecal (also Ellendale and Forbes); (1948-1950) Rev. J.A. Depew; (Summer, 1950) Harvey A. Senecal; (1951-1957) Rev. Charles C. Converse; (1957-1958) Rev. George R. MacDonald; (1959-1962) Rev. Marvin J. Scherbenske. Mrs. W.A. Caldwell was the first organist, beginning in 1884 and retiring in 1909. Elders that served for many years were William Fleming, who died in 1925, and J.B. Morrow, who passed away in 1927. A faithful church member and elder for many years was Ebenezer Magoffin, who passed away in 1953. The church closed about 1962. Albert Fuchs purchased the building and moved it near Ellendale.

74. Monango – Saint John's Catholic Church

- Location: Village of Monango
- [Photo Available: Di-Monango Saint John's Catholic Church \[4133\]](#)
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.335. Father John C. Duffy was in charge of the Catholic Mission at Monango. He served the church from his Ellendale pastorate. Church records reveal that two 50' by 140' lots were purchased for \$50.00. A church building was erected and completed in 1908 at a cost of \$2400.00. Father Duffy was the pastor at this time. Money was raised by subscription. It is noted that George B. Hall, W.A. Caldwell and J.F. Hagerty, all non-Catholics, contributed substantial amounts towards the building of the church which was located one block north of the school in the northeast part of town. With the decreasing number of parishioners in the area the church was closed. Dan Rithmiller purchased the building in 1948 and it was used for numerous purposes until 1960 when it was razed and Albert Gebhardt used the lumber in his carpenter work. There was also a parsonage at Monango and this house is now located on the Bill Peterson farm. Catholics in the Monango area now attend services at Edgeley, Fullerton or Ellendale.
- Community History: *Monango, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – The Banner City*, p.62. In July, 1907 plans were begun for the formation of a Roman Catholic church in Monango. Father John C. Duffy of St. Helena's Catholic Church in Ellendale agreed to assist in the endeavor, so a subscription was circulated among the Monango people to raise money for the construction of a building. W.A. Caldwell, J.F. Hagerty and George B. Hall (all non-Catholics), contributed substantial amounts, hoping to make Monango a "complete" town. Two 50 foot by 140 foot lots were purchased one block north of the school for a total of \$50. The carpenters laid the foundation for the new church in November of 1907. The project was completed in June of 1908, at a total cost of \$2,400. St. John's Catholic Church was dedicated in a special service, conducted by Bishop John Shanley of the Diocese of Fargo, on September 3, 1908. According to the Official Catholic Directory of Fargo, the church was a mission of Ellendale from 1908 to 1938. Then from 1938 to 1940, it was a station of Edgeley; finally, in 1941, it was a mission of Edgeley. It is not known if this church was actively conducting services during this entire time or not. With the declining number of parishioners the church was closed. The building was sold in 1948 to Dan Rithmiller and used for various purposes until 1960. A local carpenter, Albert Gebhardt, purchased the building and dismantled it for the lumber. A parsonage was also associated with the church; it was later moved to a farm one and one-half miles west and one and one-half miles south of Monango, on the Bill Petersen farm. Roman Catholics in the Monango neighborhood now attend services in Ellendale, Edgeley or Fullerton.

75. Monango – Saint John's Methodist Episcopal Church

- Location: Village of Monango
- Community History: *Monango, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – The Banner City*, p.62. In 1888 a group of Monango neighborhood people claiming the Methodist Episcopal faith, organized. They met wherever possible to conduct their services. In 1890 they incorporated. In 1892 a church was erected on Lots 17 and 18 of Block 7 in Monango. The building was dedicated on August 28 and was used until 1902, when the congregation disbanded. Little is known of the congregation's history, although it is known a Reverend

Stitt served the church in 1896. In 1903 rumors circulated that the building was to be moved to Merricourt, where a growing congregation was forming. However, the church building remained in Monango until 1915, when the Ellendale congregation moved the building to Ellendale and used the Monango structure to enlarge their own.

76. Monango – Saint Paul Lutheran Church

- Location: Town of Monango
- [Photo Available: Di-Monango Saint Paul Lutheran Church-1 \[4134\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Monango Saint Paul Lutheran Church-2 \[4134\]](#)
- Closing service held 25 September, 2005
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.336

- Community History: *Monango, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – The Banner City*, p.64-66. [Excerpts] Many changes have come to our world since the founding of St. Paul's congregation. Would charter members believe that men have walked on the moon, or that a person can live with another's heart beating within him: The size and complexity of the congregation has changed; the congregation is smaller and the budget is larger. As a congregation, they have adjusted quite well to the changing times. But, amid all this change, something has remained the same. The same God who protected pioneer people, who brought their children to faith, who guided them through life, pardoning their sins when they strayed, and who gave them hope when they died, is still their God today. He was their help in ages past, their hope for years to come. The following is a list of all who served St. Paul's Lutheran Church from 1892 to the present: (1892-1899) Pastor C.E. Bode, Albion; Assisting Bode-Student W. Roering, Assisting Bode-Student Bierwagen; (1899-1902) Reverend W. Bohsen; (1902-1907) Pastor George Lahme; (1907-1908) Pastor H.E. Vomhof, Edgeley, Assisting Vomhof-Student Albert Gierke; (1908-1923) Pastor Paul Kluender; (1923-1927) Pastor John Brandt; (1927-1929) Pastor Hans von Gemmingen, Kulm; (1929-1932) Pastor J.E. Timian (first resident pastor); (1932-1939) Pastor Hans von Gemmingen, Kulm, Assisting von Gemmingen-Candidate R.R. Schulz, Assisting von Gemmingen-Candidate John W. Meyer; (1939-1942) Pastor J.W. Meyer; (July-November, 1942) Pastor M.J. Haerther, Edgeley; (1942-1953) Reverend F.F. Brauer; (1953-1955) Pastor N.F. Spomer, Edgeley; (1955-1961) Pastor Walter T. Eifert; (April-July, 1961) Pastor Franklin Wesselius, Forbes; (1961-1965) Pastor Gordon Giese; (1965-1967) Pastor Ron Seitz, Ellendale; (1967-1968) Pastor Theo. Allwardt, Oakes, Assisting Seitz & Allwardt (1966-1967)-Vicar John Rische, Assisting Allwardt (1967-1968)-Vicar David Caspersen; (1968-1975) Pastor Edgar Baumann; (1972-1975) Pastor Lueker, Edgeley and Pastor Koehler, LaMoure. (Serving as Vicars under the leadership of Pastors Leuker and Koehler: (1972-1973) Vicar Victor Meyr; (1973-1974) Vicar Maynard Spitzack; (1974-1975) Vicar Sam Christensen. (1972-1973) Pastor Theodore Voll; (1979-1981) Pastor Bob Tasler, Oakes, Assisting Tasler (1980-1981) Vicar Larry Jost; (1981-1982) Pastor William Hegg; (1982-1983) Pastor Theo Knepper, Forbes; (1983-1984) Pastor Larry Sieferth; (1984 to present) Pastor Leo Deitemeyer, Ellendale.

- Church History: *Monango, ND – 100th Anniversary of the Organization of the Congregation – 1894-1994*. The beginnings of St. Paul's Lutheran Church take us back to the early nineties of the past century when the first Lutherans from Southern Russia settled in the Monango territory. Some of the first settlers in the Monango area named approximately in the order in which they established homes were: Ferdinand and Johanna Biederstedt Mintz; John A. and Maria Biederstedt Gebhardt; Jacob F. and Frederika Schock Gebhardt; William and Magdalena Gebhardt Fiechtner; Gustave and Maria Gebhardt Fiechtner; Gottlieb and Johanna Frigen Oster; Philip and Karolina Fandrich Gebhardt; and Joseph and Karolina Bender Frigen. According to St. Paul's Lutheran Church record book, the above named families are assumed to be the founders of St. Paul's congregation in 1894. After 1894 the following established homeowners in this area were: Christian and Eva Oster Bollinger; Frederick and Karolina Oster Stahlecker; George and Elizabeth Mantai Speidel; Christian and Christina Kirsch Scheuffele; Christian and Katherina Gebhardt Rempfer; Gottlieb and Karoline Speidel Gebhardt; Christoph and Regina Steinwand Biederstedt; Matthias and Karolina Gumke Roeszler; Christian and Elizabeth Nitschke Fey; John and Elizabeth Bollinger Wiederrich; Christoph and Frederika Speidel Gebhardt; and Gottlieb and Louise Wutzke Speidel. All the above mentioned came from the Black Sea area of South Russia, where their forefathers settled in the early 1800's. They were promised free land, religious freedom, and exemption from military service. When

there was no more free land to be had and military exemption was abolished, these settlers decided to move to the United States for the same reasons: religious freedom, free land and no military service. With one exception, all the above mentioned settlers settled in Hamburg and Potsdam townships. They all established new farms. They did not build sod houses, but used sun-dried clay blocks. The first service was held in the Johann A. Gebhardt home on the outskirts of Monango in the year 1892. It was then that the first child, Johanna Gebhardt, daughter of pioneers, Johann and Maria Gebhardt, was baptized. Pastor C. Bode of nearby Albion Township had been asked to conduct this service. From then on, he served these early settlers regularly. Services were held in the different members' homes. Due to lack of seating, the worshippers often brought their own chairs and homemade benches. The first marriage ceremony was performed in October of 1892. William Fiechtner and Magdalena Gebhardt were united in holy wedlock by Pastor C.E. Bode, the officiating clergyman. The first class to be received into the church by the rite of confirmation was in 1899; members were: Gottlieb Oster, Jr.; Otilie Roessler, Adam Oster, Clara Noess and Christina Speidel. This solemn ceremony took place in the George Speidel home. The first burials in this settlement were between the house of John Gebhardt and the railroad tracks on the north edge of Monango. Most of those buried there were later moved to the cemetery west of Monango. One or two bodies are still buried there in unmarked graves. It is possible that their graves are now under U.S. Highway 281. The first burials in the new cemetery west of town were in 1899. The first adult buried in St. Paul's cemetery was Matthias Steinwand in 1907. The first charter member, Ferdinand Mintz was born in 1852, died and was buried there in 1910. The last charter member, Gustave Fiechtner, born in 1872, died in 1958. All eight of the charter members are buried in this cemetery. The earliest born person buried at the cemetery is Magdalena Frigen, born in 1833, died 1923. **Student Assistants** Pastor Bode served a far-flung mission field and required students to assist him. Among these were Pastor W. Roering and Pastor Bierwagen. These men faithfully attended to the spiritual needs of this constantly growing band of immigrants from Russia. Shortly before Christmas of 1899, Pastor Bode was compelled to resign on account of his advanced age. In March of 1900 the Rev. W. Bohsen accepted the call to this parish. By this time about 20 families attended the services. In the summer of 1902 another vacancy occurred. Dr. F. Pfothenauer, then President of the Minnesota-Dakota District of the Synod, induced a certain Pastor George Lahme of the Minnesota Synod to come to teach school and to preach. The Parish extended a call to him which he accepted. The first church building was erected in 1903, dedicated in October. The size was 22 by 36 feet. During the long vacancy, occasioned by the resignation of Pastor Lahme in May, 1907, some of the members were attracted to the Peace Lutheran Church which had been organized near Merricourt (this was originally an Iowa Synod Congregation. Later, they applied for and were granted membership in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.) Pastor H.E. Vomhof of Edgeley, and Student Albert Gierke served the Parish for over a year. On the 30th of August, 1908, the long and blessed ministry of Pastor Paul L. Kluender began. He was installed by Pastor John Meyer of Columbia, South Dakota. For fifteen years he faithfully served this parish. Soon the membership grew from 12 to 35 families. This necessitated the enlargement of the church. This enlarging was completed in August, 1913 and dedicated to the glory of God on August 24. It was believed this church would serve for many years to come. "Man proposes, God disposes." During the night after Ascension Day, May 15, 1915, it was struck by lightning and burned completely. On the following Sunday, a special humiliation and prayer service was held, after which the congregation courageously decided to rebuild. The cornerstone was laid on August 15, 1915, and the structure was completed in the summer of the following year. The estimated cost for the building was \$4,400.00. The cost of the altar was \$120, the pews cost \$381. The pulpit cost \$90 and the Baptismal font \$18. These facilities are still in use today. Dedication services took place on July 16, 1919. The celebration of the 75th anniversary in 1978 will mark to a day the 62nd anniversary of the dedication of the present Church building. Guest speakers for the dedication were Pastors T. Hinck, A. Junz, F. Wessler, and H.E. Vomhof. During the interim, while their house of worship was in the process of construction, the members living in the western part of the parish met for services in a school house, while the others congregated in the Presbyterian Church at Monango which had so graciously been offered them. It was during this time, in 1915, that the Congregation joined the Synod of the Lutheran Church of Missouri, Ohio, and other states. Saint Paul's regretted to see their beloved Pastor leave when he followed the Call to a large Parish at Melrose Park, Illinois. Pastor Kluender preached his farewell Sermon on Easter Monday (April 2), 1923. Pastor Kluender continued as Shepherd of the Congregation in Melrose Park until his retirement. Pastor Kluender is still an active member of the Congregation. The Rev. Brandt of Wilton, North Dakota, became the next Pastor. He served the Albion-Monango Parish from Rogate Sunday, 1923, until August 1927 when he accepted a call to Dorchester, Wisconsin. After his departure the parish was

divided. The ties binding the two Congregations for so many years were severed. Albion, together with Ellendale and Forbes, formed a new parish under the leadership of Pastor Walter Rohe. St. Paul's asked Pastor Hans von Gemmingen of Kulm to serve them. This latter was to be a temporary arrangement, but it continued until the summer of 1929. **Twenty-fifth Anniversary** The 8th of July, 1928, was a day of praise and thanksgiving for St. Paul's. It was the day of the Silver Anniversary of the dedication of the first Church building! God had showered them with the rich treasure of His Grace and Mercy! A quarter century of pure Gospel preaching! This must be fittingly observed. The Church was redecorated and many improvements made. To accommodate all the guests, a large tent was erected on the grounds. Festival speakers were: President J.P. Klaussler, Pastors Rohe and Kluender. Since it had rained hard the night before, and since the wind blew strongly the day of the services, some men had a difficult task. During the services, they had to walk around the outside of the tent and drive the stakes in, since the wind kept pulling them out. **First Resident Pastor** The Congregation was flourishing, but the work in his large mission field became too strenuous for Pastor von Gemmingen. As a result, Monango decided to call its own Pastor. The selection fell on Pastor J.E. Timian of Crystal, North Dakota. His installation took place on May 5, 1929, and he thus became the first resident Pastor. During his Pastorate, the present commodious parsonage was purchased. **A Long Vacancy** In April 1932 another vacancy occurred and for a time Monango was served by Pastor Vomhof and again, until 1939, by Pastor von Gemmingen. Owing to his advanced age Pastor von Gemmingen could no longer endure the hardships of long drives his extended charges demanded during the trying depression years. Candidates R.R. Schulz & John W. Meyer came to his assistance and served the Congregation. **A New Merger** The year 1939 brought forth a new parish. This time it was Saint Paul's with Peace Congregation of Merricourt. This newly formed parish elected Candidate J.W. Meyer as its Pastor, and on February 19, 1939 he was ordained and installed. In July 1942 the Rev. Mr. Meyer accepted a call to New Germany, Minnesota. The Rev. M.J. Haerther served as vacancy Pastor. A Call was extended to the Rev. F.E. brauer of Minot, N.D., and on November 15, 1942, he officially assumed his duties as Pastor, being installed by Pastor Haerther. Pastor von Gemmingen and Candidate Winkler assisted in the installation. **Language Question** In some congregations, the transition from the German language to English caused bitter controversy. This was not so for St. Paul's, the change was gradual. For a number of years the confirmation classes, as well as the Sunday school, were conducted in English. Some services had to be conducted in English, also. At first only one service per month was in English. In February, 1943 a second service per month in English was added, alternating with the German. The last class to have some students confirmed in German was in 1941. During the past several years all services are conducted in the language of the land. The faith of our fathers in the language of the children. **New Finance System** After thorough study and discussion the old collecting system together with the "Klingenbeutel" were discarded by the Congregation and a modern finance system was adopted which provided weekly duplex envelopes for every communicant in accordance with God's exhortation, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him (1 Corinthians 16:2)". This system was introduced in January, 1944, and has proved a stride forward in the right direction. As one member so aptly put it: "Never again back to the old horse and buggy system". **An Anniversary** The fortieth anniversary of the dedication of the first Church building was observed July 4, 1943. Two former Pastors, the Rev. von Gemmingen and Rev. P.E. Kluender, and the Rev. A.H. Grumm, President of the District, were the guest speakers on this happy occasion. The afternoon and evening services were held in the school gymnasium. The ladies of the Congregation served a hot dinner to over 600 guests. **A Revolutionizing Resolution** The decision to move the Church from the former site to the present one in the village of Monango was preceded by much discussion, opposition, and fervent prayer. It has proved to be in the best interests of the Kingdom. The corner stone laying of the present Church building at the new site was held August 10, 1947. Dr. A.J. Grumm was the speaker at this service which was held on the lawn. A basement with complete kitchen was built and the old building entirely renovated, rewired, and painted at a total cost of \$12,000. Much of the work was done by the members. The following year a two-manual Wurlitzer electric organ was installed. This was largely given as a memorial for Henry Fiechtner by the family members. When the work was completed, all the bills were already paid. **Improvements** Love for the Lord and a keen interest in His Church have always characterized the members of St. Paul's. In humble gratitude they brought the generous sum of \$2,328 as a Peace-Thank offering in April, 1945. In 1952 nearly \$4,000 was gathered for Synod's ten million dollar expansion program. The local Church and parsonage have not been forgotten. In the fall of 1944 a cistern was built and later a cement floor laid in the parsonage basement. Labor was furnished by the members. The parsonage was insulated. A modern sewage system was installed and a hot water heater purchased. The kitchen was remodeled. **A Few**

Observations Made By Pastor Brauer in 1953 The size and complexion of St. Paul's Congregation has been influenced by several factors. The recent trend away from the farm to the city has affected it. Farms are becoming larger, farmers fewer, as bigger and more machines replace manpower, forcing the young men to seek a livelihood elsewhere. The economy of the nation and of the farmer in particular has induced travel, encouraged better education, and thus opened a wider field of employment for both young man and women. To this has been added the influence of the war with its forced travel. Mixed marriages have become more and more common. The faith of our fathers has become the faith of the children by use of the language of the children. Use of the pure Word of God through the years; two world wars; the depression; all helped to retain a high regard for the ministry, to deepen the spirituality of a large percentage of the members, to broaden their conception of Synod and their obligations to it. The fervent desire to please God and walk in His ways is here, too. May God's love and mercy abide with each member of St. Paul's. May He help them to grow in grace, knowledge, faith, love by continuing the diligent use of His pure Word and Sacraments in their midst....**Celebration of the 50th Anniversary, 1953** For the anniversary celebration elaborate preparations were made. Memorials for the occasion were: Carpeting of the center aisles of the Church, bronze altar vases, bronze missal stands, altar service books, deluxe pulpit Bible, landscaping of the Church grounds, and additions to kitchen equipment. Former Pastors Kluender, Meyer, and Brandt were invited as guest preachers. Seven hundred attended the July 5 services, and eight hundred on July 12. Four different choirs, under the leadership of Mrs. F.E. Brauer, enhanced the beauty of the services and were massed to conclude the final service, singing Bach's immortal chorale, "Wake, Awake!" Greetings from District President Cordts and also from Mr. Gus Fiechtner of Fargo – the only living charter member at that time – were read. Frank Fischer, from the sister Congregation at Edgeley, brought greetings personally. On Wednesday evening, July 8, a fellowship banquet was held in the local school gymnasium with Victor Fiechtner as master of ceremonies. Former Pastors, sons of the Congregation, Pastors G.J. Fiechtner of Hazen and William Rempfer of Pettibone, and Mr. Fred Fiechtner were the speakers interspersed with home entertainment talent and community singing led by Frank Gebhardt. Reinhold Fiechtner, as president of the Congregation, gave the address of welcome. In May and June of 1953 sidewalks were built around the Church and the outside walls and roof were painted. This was under the continuing Pastorate of Rev. Brauer, who had faithfully served the Congregation for many years. **After The Anniversary** The Lord led Pastor Friedrich Brauer to accept a Call to Scotland, South Dakota, and he preached his farewell Sermon on November 29, 1953. Following his departure the Rev. N.F. Spomer of Zion, Edgeley served as Interim Pastor. The Congregation endured a Pastoral Vacancy for almost two years until Sunday, July 31, 1955 when Candidate Walter T. Eifert was installed as Pastor by Rev. Mehl of Ellendale. Under Pastor Eifert's consecrated leadership a number of improvements were made in the Church and parsonage. In December of 1956 chimes and a loudspeaker system were installed in the Church steeple. In 1957 a half-bath was built in the parsonage and the garage was shingled. At the quarterly voters' meeting on August 30, 1959 it was decided to construct an addition to the main Church to consist of four Sunday school rooms, a Pastor's study, a new kitchen, and rest rooms. Work was begun that fall and was nearly completed by the Voters' meeting in March, 1960. The addition was dedicated to the glory of God on June 19, 1960. Pastor Felix Rubbert, Executive Secretary of the District, and Pastor H. Huber, our Circuit Counselor, were the guest speakers. The addition was proved very helpful and is used frequently for meetings and Sunday School. Communion cards were introduced to the Congregation on April 5, 1959. On July 7, 1959 a special offering was taken for Immanuel Lutheran Church of Fargo, North Dakota, whose Church building was badly damaged by a tornado. Pastor Eifert served the Congregation until Easter Sunday, April 2, 1961, when he preached his farewell Sermon. He left to organize a new Congregation in Lee's Summit, MO. Rev. Franklin Wesselius of Bethelhem, Forbes, served as interim Pastor following his departure. The Congregation was again blessed with a Pastor when on July 16, 1961 Candidate Gordon Giese was installed. The blessing of God continued upon the Congregation through his shepherding. But in one instance the blessing was mixed with a little hardship. Everyone who was in Church on September 7, 1964 will probably remember it. A storm came up and it hailed so hard that the rattling against the roof made the Pastor stop his Sermon because he couldn't be heard. Almost everyone who drove to Church that Sunday had proof that they were there – their cars were full of dents from the hail. On April 19, 1964 the Church and parsonage were painted. Pastor Giese served until August, 1965, when he accepted a Call to Amery, Wisconsin. In August, 1965, the dual parish agreement with Peace Lutheran Church, Merricourt, came to an end. This was because the Merricourt Congregation closed. This agreement had been initiated in 1939 and worked well for both Congregations. Pastor Giese's departure initiated a Pastoral Vacancy of over three years. During this time

the Congregation was served by two interim Pastors, Pastor Seitz of Ellendale until he accepted a Call on May 21, 1967; and Rev. Theo. Allwardt, of St. John's, Oakes, who served ad interim Pastor until November 17, 1968. On July 10, 1966 individual Communion cups were introduced to the Congregation and approved for use in services. Under the supervision of these Pastors the Congregation was served by two Vicars. Vicar John Rische was installed on July 31, 1966. This was a happy day for the Congregation, but one which they will long remember for another reason also. On that evening what had been the driest July that anyone could remember became the wettest when over six inches of rain fell throughout the area. The lights went out, the basement began to flood, but everyone came out safe and sound, if not dry. On October 23, 1966, a new furnace was installed in the Parsonage. Vicar Rische left to return to the Seminary on August 13, 1967. Under his leadership a thorough community and area canvass was completed. In December 1967 Vicar David Caspersen was installed. He served the Congregation until July 28, 1968. At this time Services were again conducted by Pastor Allwardt. On November 17, 1968 the Congregation was again blessed with a resident Pastor when Rev. Edgar T. Baumann was installed. He served faithfully until his retirement on June 25, 1972. During his Pastorate the steeple was painted and the cross at the top was straightened, and the sedalia was made. After Pastor Baumann's departure Pastor Lueker of Edgeley assumed duties as Vacancy Pastor, followed shortly thereafter by Pastor Luther Koehler of Lamoure. Under their leadership the Congregation was served faithfully by three consecutive Vicars: Vicar Victor Meyr, from September 3, 1972, to August 12, 1973; Vicar Maynard Spitzack from August 19, 1973 to August 11, 1974; and Vicar Sam Christensen from August 18, 1974 to July 13, 1975. The Congregation enjoyed a time of spiritual growth and happy Christian fellowship while it was served by these Vicars. On February 2, 1975 a dual parish agreement was signed with Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Kulm, North Dakota. The two Congregations had never been formally affiliated before, although Pastor von Gemmingen of Kulm had served St. Paul's as Interim Pastor in the 30's. The dual parish submitted a Call to the Board of Placement of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and was assigned a graduate. Candidate Theodore Voll was installed as Pastor of the Parish on July 20, 1975. Since his installation the Congregation has been busily preparing for its 75th Anniversary celebration. The Church and Parsonage exteriors were painted. In 1978 the Church pews were stained and varnished, the floor tiled, and a sanctuary lamp installed. In 1976 our nation celebrated its 200th birthday, and the Congregation gave glory to God for the great country in which we live, work and worship. They celebrated God's blessing in a very special way. The entire Congregation was invited to participate in a bicentennial pageant held at Ellendale entitled "Dickey County in Review". The pageant was an historical sketch of significant events in the communities of Dickey County. Since St. Paul's has played a long and influential role in the development of the Monango community, the Congregation was invited to participate. Our portion consisted of Congregational singing, both in German and in English, and in relating how God is with us at birth, throughout life, and even in death. The 75th Anniversary of the Congregation was observed with festival services on January 1, 1978, and, God willing, will be again observed on July 16, 1978, when our guest speakers will be present. Pastor Walter T. Eifert will be the speaker for the morning service, Pastor Alwin Reimnitz, President of the North Dakota District, will speak for the afternoon services. A banquet will be held on Monday evening, July 17. To God alone be the glory. **History from 1978-1994** Under Pastor Voll's guidance St. Paul's Lutheran of Monango did indeed celebrate an anniversary on July 16th and 17th in 1978. The church overflowed with worshippers for the 2 services conducted by Pastor Walter T. Eifert, former pastor, and De. Alwin Reimnitz, President of the North Dakota District. Pastor Reimnitz began his service with, "It's hot. You know it, I know it and the Lord knows it!" Voices were raised in glorious song by both the choir and congregation and Christian fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended. A banner was made for this joyous occasion praising God for His love, now and always. The banquet was held in the school gymnasium because of the number attending, and a large choir made up of past and present choir members raised their voices in jubilant song following the banquet. In 1979 it was decided that the congregation purchase a new organ with the special fund that was established with designated offerings and memorials. At about that same time Pastor Voll received and accepted a call to Michigan. In November, shortly after Pastor Voll's departure, with the Reverend Robert Tasler, from Oakes as our vacancy pastor, the new Allen Organ was dedicated; the purchase price being \$5250.00. Pastor Tasler served our congregation from October 1979 to November 1980 and it was during this time that lay members Steve and Cindy Fiechtner assumed leadership of the youth group call[ed] Active Christian Teens. A special "Living Nativity" was presented every Christmas by this organization for many years in the Fiechtner's barn, complete with cow and calf, sheep, chickens, dog and cats. By lantern light the audience found their cozy and comfortable seating on the straw-bale bleachers. Following the

performance a hot lunch, caroling and fellowship were enjoyed in the church basement. Pastor Tasler supervised the vicarage of Vicar Larry Jost who served our congregation from December 1980 to November 1981, at which time he accepted a call to Milwaukee, WI. A call was extended, and Candidate William Hegg arrived in December of 1981. After Pastor Hegg's departure in January of 1982, Pastor Theo Knepper of Forbes served as our vacancy pastor until January 1983 at which time Candidate Larry Seiferth was installed. During his pastorate here the ceiling fans, new outside doors, and a ramp for the handicapped were installed. He served us until September of 1984 at which time he accepted a call to Hampshire, Illinois. After Pastor Seiferth's departure a pastoral vacancy existed for only a short time. Pastor Leo Deitemeyer of Ellendale served us from September 1984 to July of 1985 when Candidate Stephen Juergensen was installed. In all probability Pastor Juergensen had not even finished unloading his furniture before he realized his community was in a flurry of activity preparing for the centennial celebration of the "city" of Monango. In a community the size of Monango, everyone gets involved including the church and the pastor. A float for the parade was constructed with the message "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." a cross, a model of the earth, and a replica of our church (built some time earlier by Theo Frigen) were the main components of the float. Pastor Juergensen himself become involved in the centennial activities. When a drummer was needed for the Community German Band, it seemed he was the only member in this community with this particular talent, so he very ably became the German Band drummer. A special service of thanksgiving and praise was held in our church on June 29th, 1986 for all members and visitors here for this happy celebration. While Pastor Juergensen was serving our congregation, extensive remodeling and redecorating was done in the pastor's study, the educational rooms, and the kitchen in the church. In the fall of that same year, 1988, a new 12' by 17' parsonage entry-utility room addition was built at the cost of \$6517.00. In the fall of 1989 it was deemed necessary to install a new church heating system, fueled by propane. In 1990 Pastor Juergensen accepted a call to Bethel Lutheran at Bismarck, North Dakota. He bade us farewell in November at which time we once again were served by Pastor Deitemeyer as our vacancy pastor. We extended our call for a candidate, and our prayers were answered. In July of 1991 Candidate Kevin Ader arrived to shepherd this little flock. He was installed on July 14, 1991, during a special evening service by Rev. N.C. Sincebaugh, North Dakota District President. As the farming community dwindles and loses population, so does our congregation lose numbers. But as we have been blessed in so many ways for so many years, we always remember the words, "Our God our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come." Our theme for this 100th anniversary of the organization of our congregation states, "O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples!" (Psalm 105:1)

77. Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church (Hauge Synod – Norway Township)

- See Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Clement Township)
- [Photo Available: Di-Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church-Hauge Synod \[4050\]](#)
- Ceased to exist by merger in 1921 with Grue Evangelical Lutheran Church (Yorktown Township) to form Oakes—First Evangelical Lutheran Church

78. Oakes – Church of the Nazarene

- Location: 1019 Ivy Ave
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Church of the Nazarene-1 \[4042\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Church of the Nazarene-2 \[4042\]](#)
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.70
- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – From Prairie to Prosperity*, p.97-98. The beginning of the Church of the Nazarene was in 1908 at Pilot Point, TX. In 1922 a lady known in our church as "Mother Andrews" felt there should be a Holiness Church in Oakes, ND. She talked with Dr. J.G. Morrison, District Superintendent, about the possibility of organizing a Church of the Nazarene in Oakes. He informed her that, if she could gather eight or nine people who believed in Holiness, they could organize a church. When Dr. Morrison came later to Mother Andrews and asked how many members were ready to join, she said that there were three adults and one child. Rev. Morrison said there are nine offices to be filled and you really should have eight or nine members to fill them. "But," says Mother Andrews, "couldn't we each take three offices?" Thus was organized the Church of the Nazarene in the parlor of Mrs. J.B. Andrews. Mrs. V.E. Peterson also took the vows at this time. That evening Victor Peterson and

Florence Kreiger joined the ranks. Services were held in the homes at first, then in the city hall and from there to the Gnauch Building on Second Street. When Rev. Hobza came as the evangelist, he conducted revival services in a consolidated schoolhouse south of Oakes and in the Hample School. It was later decided to go just to the Hample School for services. A short time later, he was called to be pastor of the church. He arrived on October 12, 1923 as the first resident pastor of the church in Oakes. They soon outgrew the little mission and decided it was time to build a larger house of worship. They erected a church on what is now 202 North Sixth Street (Bob Burley's residence) and later purchased a church that sat on the corner of 103 South Seventh. That church building is now located at the Oakes Historical Site. During Rev. Hobza's second term of ministry, they began having camp meetings. The first one was held at Anderson's Grove, south of Oakes, and later moving to Eleventh and Ivy with services being held in a tent every spring. Finally, they built the tabernacle from lumber that was given to them when the Hample Church was torn down. It only took the men eleven days to build the tabernacle. Many years later the tabernacle was torn down and the grounds cleared for construction of our new church. They moved into the new church home in the summer of 1976. Out of the membership of the Church of the Nazarene in Oakes has come four ministers: Rev. Nehard Malmberg, Rev. Perm Gustafson, Rev. David Ehrlin, and Rev. Roger Leibing. The following have been pastors of our church: Rev. J.M. Butchart (visiting), Rev. R.L. Hobza, Rev. C.A. Miller, Rev. D.J. Seevers, Rev. C.S. Driscoll, Rev. George Mowry, Rev. L.E. Teare, Rev. F.J. Cannon, Rev. H.H. Tromburg, Rev. Duane S. Springer, Rev. Karl Coil, Rev. Wesley Hall, Rev. Mark Vandine, Rev. C. Don Reynolds, Rev. Benjamin Ketterling, Rev. Victor McIntire, and Rev. Eugene Bucklin. Our present parsonage family is Rev. Delroy and Sharon Bender, Steve, Dave and Gracia.

79. Oakes – Community Church

- Location: 1019 Ivy Ave
- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – From Prairie to Prosperity*, p.98. Oakes Community Church is a non-denominational Christian church affiliated with Gospel Crusade, Inc. of Brandenton, FL. The church started meeting regularly in 1980. They are currently meeting in the Masonic Temple on South Fifth Street, Oakes Community Church's statement of belief is as follows: **WE BELIEVE:** (1). The Bible to be the Inspired and Infallible, Authoritative Word of God. (2). There is one God eternally manifested in the Persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (3). In the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, in His vicarious and atoning sacrifice through his shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension, and in His Personal return in power and glory upon the earth. (4). Regeneration and conversion through faith in Jesus Christ is absolutely essential for the salvation of lost and sinful humanity. (5). The gospel includes holiness of heart and life, healing of the body, and a definite personal experience with the Holy Spirit whereby the gifts of the Spirit become active in the life of the believer. (6). A life awareness of the presence of God's Kingdom here on earth today and faith in the complete restoration of the Kingdom of God upon the earth. (7). In the bodily resurrection of believers at the end-time; the just unto eternal life and the unjust unto eternal damnation. (8). In the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. The pastor of Oakes Community Church is Rodney Hall. Oakes Community Church believes in the 4-fold ministry of Christ: Saviour, Healer, Baptizer and Deliverer.

80. Oakes – Ebenezer Lutheran Church

- See Oakes – Grace Lutheran Church
- See Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Clement Township)
- Church History: *History of The American Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oakes, ND – 1883-1951*. p.8-9. EBENEZER LUTHERAN CONGREGATION (United Synod) of Oakes The Ebenezer Lutheran congregation was organized by Rev. J.H. Lindland March 15, 1904 with thirteen members. The first officers were O.C. Berger, secretary; Carl Bjerklin, treasurer; Einar Kjersem, Krist Woltz, T.M. Thompson, trustees. (The secretary's record for this congregation appears to have been lost, therefore records are not available.) The following is contributed by Mrs. Jennie Sanders, one of the charter members of the congregation: "Rev. J.H. Lindland moved to Oakes from Ellendale in the spring of 1904 with his wife and two small girls so he could be closer to his work for Our Savior's church in Clement. He used to make the trip on bicycle at times and later by horse and buggy. The Swedish Lutheran church was rented for 50 cents a Sunday. That fall Mrs. Lindland died leaving him with the two small girls. He took the body to Menomonie, Wisconsin. That winter we did not have a minister as he stayed in Wisconsin with his two little girls. In March he came back and took up his work where he left off. The summer of 1906 he

married Jensine Erickson, superintendent of an orphanage in Beloit, Iowa. She became and was superintendent of Sunday school for fifteen years in succession. She also got Ladies Aid started. In the winter of 1908 Rev. Lindland got the congregation interested jointly with the Hauges (Rev. Moe's) congregation in buying the old Methodist church building and he personally, with a salary less than \$600, gave \$100 towards buying it. We gave \$25 and probably had to borrow that. Everyone gave, if only a little. At the start and for quite a while he was fireman, janitor, and minister. The congregations shared the use of the church on alternate Sundays. This arrangement continued until in 1921 when the two congregations joined to form the First Lutheran Church." (The following is contributed by Mrs. Agnes Locken and Lydia Lindland): "The Ebenezer congregation was organized in Carl Bjerklin's home with only a dozen families joining. They were all intent on forming a congregation and met at the various homes at first for services. After we built our house we had services in our front room which seemed like a large place in those days. Then we rented the Swedish church as we became more in number and finally the Hauges and we bought the old Methodist church jointly, and how happy we all were to have a big house to worship in."

81. Oakes – Episcopal Church

- See Ellendale – Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

82. Oakes – Faith Baptist Church

- Location: 408 S 7th St
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Faith Baptist Church \[4041\]](#)
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.68
- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – From Prairie to Prosperity*, p.97. On July 7, 1957 on a Sunday afternoon at 2:30, a group of believers met at the Seventh Day Adventist Church building to organize what is known as the Faith Baptist Church. Rev. LeRoy Gross founded the work and did the initial organizational work. Rev. Ervin B. Butler was present on that day to hold the organizational service. The name of the church was chosen to be the Faith Baptist Church of Oakes, ND. The charter members were: Rev. and Mrs. LeRoy Gross, Lynn Ptacek, Mr. and Mrs. Art Ketterling, Christine Beglau, Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Skjefte, Frank White, Sherry Skjefte, Larry Albrecht and Donny Albrecht. The church rented the Seventh Day Adventist Church for \$2.00 a meeting. On July 20, 1957 the Zion Lutheran Church of Gwinner was purchased for a sum of \$400. The church building was moved to the present site after the completion of the basement later that year. Rev. and Mrs. Gross purchased the Washburn Addition lots #11, #12 and #13 in August of that same year, with the agreement that the church would buy them with the parsonage in the coming years. In December of the same year, twelve pews were purchased from the Lutheran Church of Hastings for \$240. In the spring of the following year, the church was dedicated to the Lord on May 25. This was followed by a two week revival meeting. The church has been served by eight different pastors during its history: Pastor LeRoy Gross, 1957 to 1960; Pastor Harris Melin, 1960 to 1966; Pastor Neil Kemp, 1966 to 1968; Pastor Ernest Schwenke, 1968 to 1975; Pastor Wesley White, 1975 to 1977; Pastor Phil Markel, 1977 to 1980; Pastor Terry Conroy, 1980 to 1982; and Pastor Jonathan Melin, 1982 to the present time. In 1971 the church acquired lots #1 and #2 in the Washburn Addition which was due east of the existing church and parsonage site. In 1975 it was decided to build a new parsonage on the new lots. In the fall of that year the house was erected on the corner of Eighth Street and Lilac Avenue. A garage was later added in the summer of 1984. In January of 1982 Pastor Jon Melin was called to be the pastor of the church. Soon after this the church began an extensive remodeling project. The exterior was insulated and resided, with new doors and beautiful stonework to complete the look. In the interior the basement was completely redone, including a new kitchen area. The work was completed in the spring of 1983 in time for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the church. The 25th anniversary of the church was celebrated on July 3, 1983 with an afternoon service at 4:00. Former Pastor Harris Melin from Madelia, MN and father of Pastor Jon Melin, was the guest speaker for the day. The special music was provided by the entire returning Melin family. Pastor Jon Melin was a boy living with his parents in Oakes at the 75th anniversary celebration of the city, in the summer of 1961. He and the members of the Faith Baptist Church are proud to be a part of the community of Oakes, and extend their congratulations upon reaching their centennial anniversary.

83. Oakes – First Evangelical Lutheran Church

- See Oakes – Grace Lutheran Church
- See Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Clement Township)
- Church History: *History of The American Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oakes, ND – 1883-1951.* (p.14-21) The first meeting called for the purpose of organizing the new congregation was held April 1, 1921. The proceedings preliminary to the organization are quite fully stated in the previous chapter of the Norway Evangelical Lutheran church. Rev. H. Moe acted as chairman. The name First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oakes was adopted, and the first board of trustees were P.J. Aasen, Albert Romstad and Clarence Salvesson, with C.H. Frojen, Ole Olafson and C.J. Anderson for deacons; Ingvald Simmons, treasurer; Thore Bjerklin, secretary, and Mrs. J.H. Lindland, Sunday school superintendent. A call committee was named, and it proposed that the salary of the minister be \$800 per year. Rev. O.K. Torgerson was called as pastor for the congregation. The matter of completing the organization and transfer of properties to the new congregation was completed. The matter of the use of English language was discussed and it was decided that Norwegian be used in the morning service and English in the evening and vice-versa the following Sunday. Rev. Torgerson resigned in the summer of 1923. Nov. 8, 1923, a joint meeting of the First Lutheran Church of Oakes, the English Lutheran Church of Brampton, and Nazareth Lutheran Church of Cogswell represented by delegates was held at Oakes for the purpose of jointly calling a pastor to serve these congregations. It was decided to pay a salary of \$1,500. That of the two congregations where the pastor chooses to reside, pay the amount of \$675.00, and where he does not reside \$475.00, the Brampton congregation \$350.00, the balance, and that if Clement joins the amount they contributed added to the \$2,500. Rev. E.S. Estrem was called as pastor, residing in the Oakes parsonage. While he was pastor, the need for a place to have gatherings was felt, so it was decided to build a hall or bungalow back of the church building, which was done. This was used by the Ladies Aid for their usual gatherings. Rev. Estrem received a call to a larger field in southwestern Minnesota, so resigned in Feb. 1927 after serving three years. Rev. Mithun was called and served for two years, resigning June 26, 1929. In October, 1929 a call was extended by four congregations (Oakes First Lutheran, Cogswell, Brampton and Clement congregations) to Rev. J.O. Ronsberg, of Perley, Minn., which was accepted. Rev. Ronsberg organized a men's club or Lutheran Brotherhood. Supt. E.A. Quam was also active in the Brotherhood and church work and activities. Rev. Ronsberg also was active in getting Evangelist workers to visit the congregation. The church activities increased, also the membership, so that in 1938 there were over fifty families having membership. It might be proper here to comment on the trend of the economic depression which was one factor, but worse was the severe droughts of 1934, 1935 and 1936 which became so severe that farmers were unable to pay taxes, debts, and many had to get help for necessities. Some of the farmers not being able to raise feed for their livestock had to sacrifice by selling to the government cattle purchase program as the market could not buy the thin cattle. Some farmers therefore were not able to make the contributions and pledges to the church work. Many lost their farms eventually. This continued through the thirties. Most of the people who lived through this period will never forget it. Thus it seemed hard to get the funds necessary for the annual budget so a deficit developed in 1938. Rev. Ronsberg resigned Sept. 1, 1938. It was in the winter of 1939 that a movement developed to amalgamate or unite with Salem congregation in Oakes. A general survey amongst the Lutherans of the community was made, so with the survey encouraging towards such a move, a general meeting of the First Lutheran church congregation was held March 8, 1939, when the following resolution was passed: "Whereas the First Lutheran Church has no pastor to serve it at the present time, and Whereas the Salem Lutheran Church of Oakes is also without spiritual leadership, Be it therefore resolved that the First Lutheran congregation of Oakes favors amalgamation with the Salem Lutheran congregation of Oakes. That we instruct our congregational officers to notify the church officials of the foregoing resolution and request their guidance." Dr. F.E. Wolfe, chairman of the board of trustees presided. He made a talk on the survey of the church and also on the proposition of amalgamation. On June 9, 1939 a general meeting of the congregation was held at the church with W.M. Anderson, president of the congregation presiding....Again on July 6, 1939, there was a joint meeting of the trustees of the First Lutheran Church of Oakes and of the Salem Lutheran Church of Oakes, and the Clement, Our Savior's Lutheran church. J. Fred Nelson was appointed to act as secretary. Rev. Jensen, at the request of Dr. Stoeve, gave the qualifications of Rev. Daniels and it was suggested by Dr. Stoeve that a letter of call be sent Rev. Daniels by the three congregations. Dr. Stoeve led the discussion as to the amount of salary: Salem Lutheran to give \$600, Clement \$200, and Oakes First Lutheran \$1,000. That Salem would raise \$500 and \$100 from the Mission Board; First Lutheran, Oakes, raise \$900 and \$100 be given by the Mission Board, which was agreed and accepted. Rev. Jensen

suggested that the services of Rev. Bostrom of Gwinner be secured until a pastor was secured....**A** congregational meeting of the First Lutheran Church of Oakes was called by the trustees for Sept. 28, 1939. This was a joint meeting with the congregation of the Salem Lutheran church and the Clement congregation. The two congregations met separately in the church. The following resolution was read by Dr. Stoeve from the call committee of both congregations: "A.B. Carlson made a motion that we recommend to our respective congregations that Rev. T.J. Stolee of Puposky, Minn., be called to be pastor....**O**n Feb. 18, 1940 a general meeting of the congregation of the First Lutheran church was held at the church, W.M. Anderson presiding. At this meeting it was decided that the call committee send a call to Rev. Rasmussen of LeRoy, Minn. Upon arrival of Rev. J.M. Rasmussen and subsequently on May 8, 1940 a meeting of the congregation was held as a recessed meeting of Feb. 18. The various matters of reorganization were considered....**A** general meeting of the First Lutheran church congregation of Oakes (this became the final meeting) was held Aug. 16, 1940. The purpose of the meeting was to vote on the amalgamation with the Salem Lutheran church, and the acceptance of the recommendations and resolutions of the church councils. On roll call vote, 26 were in favor and 11 against, 2 not voting. **R**ev. Rasmussen then declared the Salem Lutheran church and the First Lutheran church duly amalgamated, and called a meeting of these two congregations to be held at the Salem Lutheran church Aug. 23, 1940 for the purpose of adopting a new constitution and electing officers to serve the new congregation. Upon suggestion of Henry Frojen, the names of the 57 families which had constituted the members of the First Lutheran church were read by the secretary....**R**ev. O.K. Torgerson (1921-1923); Rev. E.S. Estrem (1924-1926); Rev. O.J. Mithun (1927-1929); Rev. J.O. Ronsberg (1930-1938).

(p.33-36) **O**n September 2, 1940, the Board of Trustees met and instructed the secretary to write the secretary of state for Articles of Incorporation and to ask the auditing committee for an audit of all the books of the different organizations of the former Salem and First Lutheran congregations. In the fall the installation of a furnace at the cost of \$274.65 for the church was approved. It was decided at a congregational meeting to dispose of the former First Lutheran church property....**A**t a special meeting in January, 1941, it was reported that the First Lutheran church had been sold for the sum of \$500.00 and a motion was made that the Ladies Hall be sold for not less than \$750.00....**A**t a special meeting in March, 1941, it was reported that the Ladies Hall had been sold for the sum of \$750.00 as authorized by the congregation and it was recommended that we use the money to remodel the church structure.. Estimates on Stalite for church with labor for putting it on amounted to \$540.90 and the wiring was \$119.00....**L**ist of improvements on church in 1940 and 1941 amounted to \$2,688.94: new wood (Stalite) walls and ceiling, colored windows, new light fixtures, and balcony. In April, 1942, the congregation decided to build a rest room and Sacristy for the sum of \$1,692.02. This included doing over the kitchen also, and a back stairway leading out of the basement and Sacristy. Thus our building project was finished under Pastor J.M. Rasmussen's supervision....**H**e (Pastor Rasmussen) preached his farewell sermon Sunday, October 25, 1942. Dr. David Stoeve of Fargo met with us, as did Pastor C.G. Anderson during the fall of 1942. We had as our Vice Pastor Rev. K.L. Engstrom of Gwinner. At Christmas time we had Student Allan Johnson from Rock Island, Illinois, and in January, 1943, Rev. S. Tverberg came to serve us as a supply pastor....**A**t a congregational meeting in April, 1943, the congregation extended a call to Rev. C.O. Hanson of Outlook, Montana. He arrived the last week of May, 1943....**C**hurch mortgage was paid November, 1943, and mortgaged burned February 6, 1944, but Clifford Sanders and Emil Dethlefsen....**I**n August, 1945, the congregation celebrated the fifth anniversary of the congregation. Rev. Hansen compiled a booklet of history, much of which is used in this history....**R**ev. Hansen resigned and left in November, 1948 to work with the United Temperance Union at Fargo, North Dakota. **R**ev. Kenneth Engstrom of Gwinner was asked to serve as our Vice Pastor until we could get a Resident Pastor. Because of weather and road conditions he was only able to come three time. At Christmas time Maynard Hanson, a senior at Augustana Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois was called, and the latter part of January we called Pastor R.C. Cartford, Missionary from Madagascar to be our temporary pastor until in May, when a pastor who had accepted the call was to come. In April, Pastor A.H. Gjevre declined the call and at a congregational meeting April 18, 1948, a call was extended Pastor Cartford by a unanimous vote of the congregation....**A**t a special congregational meeting March 20, 1950, a discussion of the proposed plan for enlarging our present church structure was voted on by ballot; 73 accepted the plan and 3 rejected the plan. Slides were shown of the blueprints. It was decided to raise as much money toward the Building Fund as possible before starting to build, and borrow the rest. The ground breaking services were held after service on Sunday, July 3, 1950. The building project was not started in 1950 because it became too late in the fall

before everything was ready. Sunday, April 29, 1951, the last services were held in the old church. We thank God indeed for that church which served us so well during a decade. On Monday, April 30, with Ben Osterberg, contractor, work began by tearing down part of the old church in preparation for building new....For five Sundays we had services in the high school auditorium, and from June 10 until November 10 we held services in the Episcopal church....On November 11, 1951 we held our first service in the new church parlors in the basement....The church fixtures came the first part of December and the varnishing was done. Tile and carpeting were laid. The auditorium was used for the first time for the children's Christmas program December 23, 1951....We held our first service on Christmas day with praise and thanksgiving....The kitchen was finished in February, 1952, and the tile was laid in the church parlors.

84. Oakes – First Methodist Church

- See Oakes – United Methodist Church
- Church History: *75th Anniversary 1887-1962 – First Methodist Church – Oakes, North Dakota*. Pastors of the Oakes Methodist Church – 1887-1962: Charles S. Lane (1887); Fred J. Giddings (1889); J.B. Monroe (1890); A.F. Nichols (1891); W.A. Robins (1892); J.C. Pike (1893); George Bailey (1894); J.M. Taylor (1896); A.T. Bishop (1898); J. Scarboro and E. Duden (1900); J.N. Loach (1901); J.S. DeLong (1905); James Opie (1907); B.A. Burns (1910); Benj. H. Morse (1913); James Opie (1915); F.S. Hollett (1916); O.L. Anthony (1919); J.D. Smith (1921); Silas Fairham (1928); Benjamin Babcock (1931); Wilson Johnstone (1933); H.J. Gernhardt, Sr. (1935); H.J. Gernhardt, Jr. (1944); Sherman Bushendorf (1948); J.J. Empie (1951); Edward B. Parker (1961). As we look back into the past seventy-five years and try to reconstruct the history of the Methodist Church in Oakes, North Dakota, we can do so only because of the 'benefits of the Lord.' In searching through church history, we find that Methodism first came to the North Dakota Territory when Rev. James Gurley was assigned as missionary to the Northern Pacific Mission in 1871 by the Upper Iowa Conference. He was responsible for the area of the Red River Valley, extending from 60 to 75 miles on the Minnesota side and on the Dakota side to the Canadian border and west to parts unknown. The Rev. Gurley conducted the first formal service held by the Methodists in North Dakota at Fargo in the year 1871. From the Northern Pacific Mission, the work grew to six churches, reaching from Grand Forks to Bismarck, and in 1877 became the Red River District, a part of the Minnesota Conference. By the year 1883 the General Conference of Minnesota organized the North Dakota Mission Conference, which by that time included 29 points of Methodism within the borders of North Dakota. The first North Dakota Mission Conference was held at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Fargo, October 2, 1884. Growth of Methodism was so rapid that in just two years this group was organized into the Annual Conference of North Dakota at Grand Forks on October 15, 1886. Bishop William L. Harris was the presiding officer. It was from this group that Methodism came to our community of Oakes. Down through the centuries people have met in the home for religious services. Even so it was in our community. Then, as one room school houses were built, they were used as places of worship on the Lord's Day. Sunday schools were organized for children and adults, and local or mission preachers preached in various places as often as possible. The Oakes Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed from five of these groups known in the early days as Hudson, Verner, Andrus school house, Crinnion school house, and Oakes. At Hudson, six miles southwest, there was a Union Sunday school which was held each Sunday. There was preaching every Sunday, a Presbyterian minister and a Methodist minister alternating services. These services began about the year 1884 and continued for about twenty years. The pioneers in the vicinity of Andrus school house, ten miles northeast, feeling the necessity of religious teaching, organized a Sunday school about the year 1885. E.F. Stevens was the first superintendent. The Rev. Stevens, a Baptist minister of New York state and father of E.F. and B.J. Stevens of Glover, was the first pastor, he and Mrs. Stevens having come here to visit their sons. He preached through the summer of 1887. The people of the vicinity were very much pleased when Andrus school was placed in the Oakes Circuit, insuring them of a regular pastor through the summer months. Preaching continued by the various pastors of Oakes, until Oakes was made a pastorate, when Andrus school house group was placed in the Glover charge and services continued at the school house until Glover church was built. Mrs. E.F. Stevens and Mrs. S.B. Andrus were the first stewards. This settlement was composed of people of different denominations, all working and uniting for the good of the community. Services for the early residents of Verner neighborhood, seven miles southeast, who were affiliated with our church and Sunday School, were usually held in the school house, though many times in the homes of George Dill and George Phifer. Services were usually held nine months out of a year, thus avoiding the long, cold drives in the winter. We were blessed

with fine Bible students to carry on our work, and religious education for children and young people was well cared for. The Sunday School was always a Union Sunday school and there was a fine Christian Endeavor Society. Later, an Epworth League was organized in the Methodist Church, with Junior and Senior divisions. The work was carried on until nearly all the old settlers were no longer there. Crinnion school house was located south from Oakes about seven miles. It was sort of half way between Oakes and Ludden and was included in the Oakes Circuit. It was served by the preacher from Oakes in the afternoon, alternating with Verner every two weeks. Riverdale school house is in that community. In the year 1886 Oakes was founded and was included in the pioneer circuit of preaching points. The Methodist Conference meeting at Fargo in October of 1887 appointed The Rev. Charles S. Lane as first minister to the Oakes Circuit, with these four preaching points: Oakes, Hudson, Verner, and Andrus school house. As Oakes grew, the services were more and more centered in the town, until there were two points instead of four, Oakes and Glover. Many of those who went to the Andrus school house took their allegiance to Glover, but the Methodists of Verner, Hudson, and Crinnion added their names and influence with Oakes. From 1887 to 1891 services were held in various places in Oakes. When the first Presbyterian Church was built and ready to use, services were held there by several denominations, including the Methodist. The Methodists built their first church building, the present Nazarene Church, during the ministry of Mr. J.B. Monroe in 1891, and it was dedicated in 1893. A local news item at that time read, "George Dill hauled the first load of stone for the church foundation." In 1907, twenty years after the organization, Bishop Goodsell, at the Minot Conference, decided the Oakes Church should be elevated from a circuit to a pastorate. This was because of the development of the town and the growth of the church. The congregation and Sunday School had outgrown their first church building, under the pastorate of The Rev. James Opie. In July, 1908, the former church, built in 1891, was sold to the Norwegian and Hague Lutheran congregation. The present church building was built during the ministry of Mr. James Opie at the cost of \$12,500. Three lots were purchased and ground was broken for a new edifice on August 5, 1908. Downs and Eads were engaged as architects, and the general contract was let to A. Ritterbush and Son, our pioneer contractors, grandfather and father of our state architect, R.A. Ritterbush, who resides in Bismarck and is active in the Methodist Church there. The material was all on the site in less than 30 days. A news account of that time reads, "The cornerstone of the new Methodist Church edifice will be laid on Saturday, September 19, 1908, at three o'clock in the afternoon, with the impressive ritual service of the Methodist Discipline. Dr. S.A. Danford, Superintendent of the Fargo District, and several ministers, will participate in the service." A copy of the church history was deposited in the cornerstone. The inscription on the stone reads 1891 A.D. 1908. The building was completed by the date of contract, December 1, 1908. Dedicatory services of the House of Worship of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Oakes were December 13, 1908, The Rev. James Opie, minister. The dedication was at the morning service, by Dr. James S. Montgomery, of Minneapolis, He also preached morning and evening and gave a lecture Monday night. (Dr. Montgomery was Chaplain of our U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C., in 1956, attending the same church as members of the J.H. Denning family who lived there.) Services were held throughout the day. Assisting were Dr. S.A. Danford, District Superintendent, The Rev. J.N. Loach, former pastor, The Rev. C.M. Ramsey, Cogswell pastor, and The Rev. Ralph T. Fulton, pastor of Oakes Presbyterian Church. Anthems were sung by the choir and solos by Miss Helen Fink, choir director, Mrs. Ernest Bishop (Ernest was a son of A.T. Bishop, former pastor) and Ralph T. Fulton. Organist was Miss Pearle Fenton (Mrs. J.F. Nichols). Four children were baptized at the afternoon service—Martha Fern Opie and Merlin Loach, by Dr. Danford, and Eber Havelock Meadows and Richard Lawrence Fordyce by The Rev. James Opie—and this was followed by an evangelistic sermon by Dr. Danford. The Methodist Church has had two parsonages. The first was bought about 1893 and was moved from near Ludden to Oakes. It is the small house now located just south of the Nazarene Church. The Methodist people owned this building until 1930. On April 23, 1906, the second parsonage was purchased for \$2,000 from Sadie A.M. Hunter, and Mils O. Hunter. The present parsonage was mostly paid for from the rent of the first. The total Methodist membership on the Oakes Circuit during the two years the first pastor, Charles S. Lane, served was 40. At the time the fiftieth anniversary was celebrated, the membership was 264, with familiar names still on the roll, such as Dill, Denning, Andrus, Hutsinpillar, Kennedy, Nichols, Phifer, and Stevens. At the time Mrs. Caroline Phifer had the record for the longest continuous membership, having joined by certificate under the ministry of The Rev. N.D. Witham at Verner before the Oakes Circuit was organized. Next was Mrs. Mary E. Denning, who had been a member of the church since 1887, having joined by certificate under The Rev. Charles S. Lane. Mrs. E.F. Stevens of Glover has been a member of the first official board in 1887. Others honored were Mrs. J.W. Hutsinpillar, Mrs. Nina Fordyce, and Miss Lillie Denning, who were among the

first to be taken into the church. Mrs. Augusta Slocum was the first child received by preparatory membership and Glenn V. Dill was the first infant baptized at the church. At this point it might be well to mention something about three of the "firsts" mentioned above. Miss Lillie Denning has been a Sunday School teacher for most of her life, for she says she cannot remember a time since she was twelve years old when she was ever in a class and was not the teacher. She has also served as Sunday School Superintendent, a member of the Official Board of the Church and was its Secretary for many years. She was President of the Pastor's Aid from 1924 to 1939, 15 years of devoted service. She is always willing to help with any task assigned her and she is an inspiration to all who work with her. Mrs. Augusta Slocum was President of the Women's Home Missionary Society at the time of unification and also served as President of the Ladies' Aid. She is now a member of the Methodist Church in Havre, Montana. Although she has had to learn to read Braille and uses a hearing aid, her life is radiant with Christian living and she is a wonderful Christian influence. Mr. Glenn V. Dill has been active in the church all his life and has taken a place of leadership in its progress through the years. He was Treasurer of the Sunday School, first president of Methodist Men, and a long time member of the Official Board and served as its Chairman. He has also served as Lay Leader....Inspired by fifty years of dedicated services, the Oakes Methodist Church has carried on under the leadership of ministers, district superintendents and bishops for another twenty-five years. There are five pastors who served during the 1937-1962 period. Some of the highlights and accomplishments of those years are as follows: **1937-1944** The Rev. H.J. Gernhardt, Sr., was reappointed by Bishop Cushman to the Oakes-Glover charge. The Rev. L.S. Burgum was the District Superintendent. These were days of change and adjustment. In 1939 there took place the unification of the three branches of Methodism: The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church. The trustees were authorized to make necessary changes in the Articles of Incorporation to conform with Conference action. Instead of being the Oakes Methodist Episcopal Church, we became the Oakes Methodist Church. The General Conference gave final authorization to unite September, 1940. In 1940, The Rev. George Parish was appointed District Superintendent and Cosgwell was added to the Oakes-Glover charge. In 1941-42 the laymen's work was emphasized, with E.W. Lee, Lay Leader. Mrs. T.H. Ferber and Mrs. Nina Fordyce were lay delegates during these years. This was the time of World War II and there were many from our church who were in the armed forces. A Service Flag was ordered and Mrs. T.H. Ferber, Mrs. Frank Gorder and Miss Lillie Denning were a committee to place the stars on the flag. On July 4, 1943, our service flag was dedicated. Mrs. L.J. Parker, W.S.C.S. President, presented the flag, and Mr. E.W. Lee, Lay Leader, read the roll call of service personnel and placed the flag. In April, 1944, a scroll with names of service personnel was hung in the church. There were two gold star names—Raymond Stout and Thomas Kilchenman. **1944-1948** The Rev. H.J. Gernhardt, Jr., succeeded his father as our pastor. He was appointed by Bishop Cushman, with The Rev. F.G. Norris, District Superintendent. The Conference year was changed so that it would start in June instead of October. The Bishop's Crusade for Christ was launched in 1943 nationally when a campaign was undertaken to raise \$25,000,000. In 1944 the North Dakota Conference undertook a campaign to raise \$65,000. With this crusade campaign, the North Dakota Conference combined the raising of \$100,000 for Conference Claimants. Each church in the conference was assigned an amount to raise for these funds and in the local church we also had a fund for church improvement. These three funds were called the "Church of Tomorrow" and had a special treasurer, Mr. Eugene Ankeny. Some of the church improvements brought about by this campaign were a new roof for the church and a new furnace. Bonds were cashed and the balance of the Crusade money placed in the building fund. An oil burning stove was purchased for the basement rooms by the W.S.C.S., Builders' Class and the Sunday School. Miss Cecile Gensrich was our parish worker for a time and her report showed over 500 calls made and over 800 miles travelled. In June, 1948, Mr. Gernhardt's successful ministry came to an end in Oakes. **1948-1951** The Rev. Sherman Bushendorf was appointed to the Oakes-Glover-Cosgwell charge by Bishop Cushman in July, 1948. The Rev. F.G. Norris was District Superintendent. The Church Board voted to raise funds for remodeling and repairing the parsonage, completing church improvements and installing an electric organ. The estimated man hours of labor donated for parsonage work was \$1,000. In January, 1949, building, repair and organ disbursements were over \$6,000. Included was a stove and refrigerator, permanent parsonage equipment. In 1949, Mr. J.F. Nichols, our Church Treasurer for over twenty years, passed away. We lost a loyal and faithful friend of the church. In June, 1951, there was a farewell to one pastor and a welcome to another. Mr. Bushendorf was transferred to the Minnesota Conference. **1951-1961** The Rev. H.J. Empie was appointed by Bishop Cushman. The Rev. J. Ralph McNeil was District Superintendent, having served since 1949. Mr. Empie believed that the teaching, preaching and practice of stewardship of possessions has

such spiritual potential that a special place of emphasis should be included in the annual program of each church. Christian Stewardship—the giving of Self, Service and Substance was stressed. We heard these words from our pulpit, "What hast thou that thou didst not receive?" and "Freely ye have received, freely give." As a result, the next ten years marked a decided increase in missionary giving. In 1951 the Conference Evangelistic Advance program was supported. Studies from the Advance chart were given and in March, 1952, a Week of Dedication was observed, followed by a week of lay visitation. In 1953 the General Conference established four Commissions as follows: Membership and evangelism, Education, Missions, Finance. In 1960 a new commission, Christian Social Concerns, was added. Many improvements were made to both church and parsonage during these years. The Church sidewalk was built, trees removed, and the church lawn seeded. There were also improvements made inside the church. Property improvement for the years 1953 and 1954, including labor, were listed as over \$8,000 and \$6,000 respectively. Parsonage improvements included a new roof, furnace, sidewalk, and the exterior was painted. The W.S.C.S. helped with the sidewalk project and also with new parsonage draperies, paper, paint and a deep freezer. New windows and exterior paint were furnished by the church. New church equipment such as a duplicator, chairs, chair truck and tables were added at different times, with the W.S.C.S. contributing \$200. In November, 1960, the men of the church painted both the inside and the outside of the church. In November, 1959, a surprise reception was given for Mr. Empie in celebration of 35 years in the ministry. Activities of importance during these years included attendance crusades from January to Easter and a religious survey with eight churches participating. Under the direction of The Rev. Frank Rumer, District Superintendent, we joined 1,300 church in a 24 hour prayer vigil, observed Prayer Vigil Week, organizations have charge of services, visitation, Week of Dedication. In November, 1960, Oakes joined Cogswell, Lisbon, and Milnor charges each Sunday, at 8:30 a.m., in a 15 minute KEYD radio program. In June, 1957, the Glover church closed. We were made richer by having the Baska, Dawkins, Grosshans, Olson, and Whitfield families transfer to the Oakes church. We now belong to the Oakes-Cogswell Charge. The Glover church piano was given to us and is now in the parsonage. We also have their hymn books. It was with regret that we learned of Mr. Empie's plans to retire in 1961. The church had grown spiritually during the years of his ministry and we all felt very close to our parsonage family, for Mrs. Empie had served us so faithfully as choir director, substitute pastor when Mr. Empie was away, and in all other departments of the church. We wished them health and happiness in their new home at the time of a farewell reception and program at the church. **1961-1962** The Rev. Edward B. Parker was appointed to the Oakes-Cogswell Charge by Bishop Edwin R. Garrison, with The Rev. CF. Miller, District Superintendent. Mr. Parker came to us from Sterling, a four point charge that he served for nine years. We welcome Mr. And Mrs. Parker and their sons, David, Timothy, and Mark. We are confident that our church will go forward under the ministry of this dedicated family. This year our church bulletins carry this slogan—"Read the Bible Through in 1962." Bible reading calendars are used and our Pastor's sermons and Bible study follow along with the weekly readings. There is a new interest in God's Word. Our World Service and North Dakota projects apportionment of \$1,445 was paid and we accepted an Advance project of building a church at Kanaji, South India, for \$1,100. This goal was reached before Conference. A letter of appreciation came, signed by the Christians in Kanarese, and with thumb prints. The church is spiritually enriched by many special services throughout the years and this year Dr. William Arnett of Wilmore, Ky., was with us. In 1961 a parsonage garage was built, labor donated, and other parsonage repairs were made. Pews and woodwork of the church were varnished and the church cleaned in time for Easter. Parsonage woodwork was painted and a garage walk built. When Oakes celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, many friends joined us in worship and for our Sunday Fellowship dinner. Our present membership is 256 and 18 are on the preparatory membership list. Upper Rooms are mailed to 109 families.

85. Oakes – First Presbyterian Church

- Location: 6th & Ivy
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes First Presbyterian Church – 1st church \[4851\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes First Presbyterian Church – 2nd church \[4044\]](#)
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.71
- Church History: *1887-1962 "First Presbyterian Church—History of the First 75 Years" pp.2-15. [p. 2-5]* "A History of the First Presbyterian Church of Oakes," by Alex. R. Wright, 1937: To get a proper perspective of the founding of the First Presbyterian Church of Oakes, I want you to visualize conditions in this territory of fifty—yes, fifty-five years ago, and even beyond. The Indians were being driven westward.

On September 2, 1863, in our own Dickey County, was fought the battle of Whitestone Hill. In 1876 the battle of the Little Big Horn on Yellowstone River was fought with the wiping out of General Custer and his brave hand. The land was thrown open to settlement as the red men were being pushed back. The Milwaukee road had reached Ellendale, 30 miles away, in 1886; the Northern Pacific railroad from Jamestown had reached Grand Rapids, 32 miles away; the Southern branch of the same railroad had reached Lisbon, 40 miles away; while the North-Western had reached Columbia, 40 miles away. Here was the great Jim River Valley. Some men had seen the possibilities of this wonderful valley. Their shacks and sod shanties were already seen in 1882. Among those who had come to this rich valley was a young Irishman from Pennsylvania by the name of William Mills. The first pages of the session book of this church tell the story better than I can tell it. Quote: "I filed on some land and when I went to see it on April 13, 1882, I found it to be good land but far from any habitation—SE ¼ 20-131-59—but in order to comply with the law I commenced to build a shanty (a sod shanty) on it, and when I had laid a few rows of sod forming the foundation for the wall I stopped work and looking around I beheld a beautiful country but not a human being within miles of where I stood. Feeling the loneliness of my situation I looked up and thought of Him who is everywhere present. I fell on my knees, thanking Him for all His mercies in the past, and prayed earnestly that He would hasten the time when His children would come and live near so that I might meet with them and worship God as I used to do. I arose from the ground feeling refreshed and believing that God had heard my prayer and all that I had to do was to await the answer." It was four years before the North-Western road had pushed up from Columbia and the same year the Northern Pacific came to meet its rails right on the quarter section where this young man had his sod shanty. In the fall of 1886 a young merchant from St. Paul was putting up a store building on what is now the corner of Union and Second Streets. If you would dig deep into the walls of the east part of the Klein & Sutmar block you would find parts of that same building. Before the doors and windows were in, services were held by Rev. R.H. Hooke, a Presbyterian minister who had been doing missionary work in Hudson. It is related that the weather was so cold that the minister asked the men to keep on their hats to protect their heads from the cold. There were 28 persons present. Church services were held at different places in the village, even in Jim Austin's law office. Until November 21 the Rev. Mr. Hooke was the only minister who had preached in the town. It might be said here that Rev. Hooke belonged to Hudson, a town that had sprung up across the river, and had some very fine Presbyterians who had come out from New York state. Among these were T.W. Millham, who afterwards became our County Treasurer and was Postmaster of Ellendale; the Geo. H. Ladd family, the W.A. Cross family, and that of Mr. Mallory. When Forbes jumped into life in 1915, Mr. Ladd became its first Postmaster and was afterwards in the real estate business. Mr. Cross became Sheriff of the county and Mr. Mallory was best known for his Sabbath School work, being for many years in charge of the Dickey County Sunday School Assn. These folks over in Hudson and even in Port Emma had build up communities and they were reaching out for the coming railroads to stop there, but Oakes put a quietus on their dreams and even ran away with their minister. The First Presbyterian Church of Oakes was organized on August 28, 1887, by Rev. R.H. Hooke, assisted by Rev. F.M. Wood of Fargo Presbytery. Eleven people joined the church. The charter members were: Joseph Davidson, Mrs. Dorcas A. Davidson, Mrs. May M. Ritterbush, Mrs. Irene M. McLeod, Alfred Brownson, Mrs. Adelaide M. Brownson, Mrs. Sophia Kelly, Mrs. Nancy B. Roberts, William Mills, Henry O. Walter, and Mrs. Kate H. Walter. Arrangements were begun in 1887 looking forward to erection of a church building. The building did not come, however, until 1888. The records do not show when the bell was put in this church, but would say fairly accurately that the bell used in the old church was saved and is the bell that now hangs in this new church, pealing out the message every Sabbath to come and join in the worship of God. It is of record that the church was no sooner ready for use than the Baptist and Methodist societies were holding services therein, and the Roman Catholics were looking for a foothold and were allowed use of the building, with the proviso that it did not infringe on conflict with either of the services of the other societies. The new frame building was dedicated on January 27, 1889, Rev. H.P. Carson of the Presbytery of Southern Dakota preaching the sermon, and the congregation joined in a responsive dedicatory service, led by Rev. R.H. Hooke, the accepted pastor. This church building served the congregation until this new building was erected in 1919-1921, under the ministry of Dr. W.M. Grafton. I was treasurer of the building committee, and it is estimated that this fine edifice cost in round numbers about \$37,000. And I have noticed in the minutes that the cost of building the manse was \$2,500. So you see we have a property here that at the time of dedication in 1921 ran around \$40,000. The manse was built during the ministry of Rev. E.P. Lawrence. I remember Mr. Lawrence well. He was in charge when your humble servant came in 1903, and one thing I never could understand was why he visioned for his successors a seven room house.

It is a harder job to fill than even a church that was built to seat 250. Seventeen regular ministers have supplied the pulpit of this church since first organized: Rev. Robert H. Hooke, (1887-1891); Rev. John C. Linton, (1893-1894); Rev. C.S. Vincent (1895); Rev. C.W. Irwin, (1898); Rev. Carver, (1898-1899); Rev. J.C. Cheeseman, (1901-1902); Rev. E.P. Lawrence, (1902-1905); Rev. Ralph T. Fulton, (1908-1909); Rev. Bertram G. Jackson, (1910-1913); Rev. Frederick C. Oliver, (1914-1916); Rev. Aaron Wolfe, (1917-1918); Rev. W.M. Grafton, (1919-1921); Rev. H.E. Dierenfield, (1921-1926); Rev. S.C. Williams, (1927-1929); Rev. R.C. Babylon, (1930-1934); Rev. Adam Hunter, (1935); Rev. H.R. Shirley, (1936). The First Presbyterian Church has performed a distinct benefit to the community. Rev. Hooke with the help of the pioneers put up the first building, which was moved to the site held by St. John's Lutheran Church three blocks east, and in it is still conducted services in the work of the Kingdom. Rev. Lawrence did a good thing for the big families of the coming ministers by providing a seven room mansion. Rev. Grafton did a good job in pushing the building of the new church, and Rev. Dierenfield, who was-is-with us today, in preaching the anniversary sermon, held the top round of all our ministers in the work of this church. He has a happy feeling for the Oakes folks, as they have for him, for did he not run away with one of our fairest daughters, and were not his two fine sons born here? Another thing: When our church was badly in need of pews did Mr. Dierenfield not go out and get the funds for the beautiful pews you are sitting in tonight? Rev. Williams had highlights in his ministry, too. He mopped the floor with a young upstart of a Seventh Day Adventist that had challenged our ministers with wrong teachings of the Bible. It was he, too, that started the ball rolling for the beautiful pipe organ you see here, and which was presented in the name of Rev. and Mrs. Samuel B. Doty, sincere workers with the Lord in the Oakes Presbytery for upwards of 20 years. Rev. Doty has passed on but Mrs. Doty, now an elder of this church, we still have with us. In Rev. H.R. Shirley, the present minister, we have a hard-working laborer in God's vineyard. He is beloved of his people and we wish for him many years of usefulness. In closing, let me again call attention to William Mills, the grand old man of this church. It was he who had prayed so earnestly in the early days to have people come and settle about him. It was he who led in the building of the First Presbyterian Church—he was its first elder. As a small token of his worth as a Christian gentleman and as a worker in the church and a heavy giver in the building of the old as well as the new church, the congregation placed his name on our west window, under which he could always be found during church services. It is of record in the session book of this church that during the winter of 1890-91, while leading the Christian Endeavor he recited his early experiences and testified that surely God had answered his prayer. Who knows but Mr. Mills' early prayers for this church have had much to do with the work the church has done for this community? [Excerpts pp. 8-9]: Mr. Wright wrote in 1937 about the first half century of our church. Now in 1962 your anniversary committee will again review those same years. Ritterbush and Son built our little wooden church and also our manse. These two men were the grandfather and father respectively of our state architect, R.A. Ritterbush, who resides in Bismarck. The men of our congregation who were able to do so gave gladly of their free time to help the builders. Besides his part in the organization of our church, Mr. Mills was also the first elder, the first Sunday School superintendent and the first Christian Endeavor leader. He was also the first lay man from this church to be a delegate to General Assembly in the East. Robert Mitchell in later years was a delegate when the meeting was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Dr. B.E. Ryder, well-known physician, was clerk of the session early in the century. He married Helen Harris. Mr. James Scott also served as clerk. Mr. Wm. Ladd, son of George Ladd of early Hudson, became an elder and his wife was a teacher of a large class of girls. Mr. Ladd and Mrs. F.C. Root were sister and brother. Mrs. Root was the former Della Ladd. She was a forceful worker both as a Ladies' Aid member and then as president. She also was a trustee. A number of ministers testified through the years as to her help to them when they worked with Boy Scout groups. Hans Lee who was with Klein & Sutmar's store during the early days was a long time treasurer of this church. He was a quiet and understanding man and more than one minister revealed that he had been able to buy postage stamps only because Mr. Lee advanced him money out of his own pocket. Mrs. E. Christensen eased the situation for the ministers and other officers after she became a trustee. At first, the men on the board asked her to solicit benevolences only. Next, they prevailed upon her to do a large part of the soliciting of the minister's salary. All this time, and many years besides, she was superintendent of the primary department of our Sunday School. This situation was a far cry from the envelope system that we use today. R. E.A. Moe was for many years a trustee of our church. He and Mrs. Moe were always found backing every effort of the church not only with their substance but with their presence. Prof. E.W. Ackert, principal of our high school, was a valuable young elder and a fine helper of our minister. Rev. Fulton as a singer was a "natural." He stood before the reed organ. One foot was on the floor and one was at an angle to contact both pedals. Then he

would sing a beautiful gospel hymn as a special number. His was a low and melodious voice and all who heard him were truly uplifted. In case anyone should wonder—he preferred to play his own accompaniment. Rev. B.G. Jackson was a great worker among boys and young people, not only of our church, but of all others. Dr. Harold Solem was an energetic worker that few years he was with us. He acted as clerk of the session for a time. As our officers were planning for our new church, war beset our nation. Materials were hard to get and often impossible to procure. At that time Dr. Grafton was our capable pastor and if he were here today he would be the first to say that Mr. F.A. Espeland who was superintendent of building, was the one who worked the most closely with Mr. Levi Harris, a trustee and the builder of our church. Mr. H.J. Johnson was trustee for many years and a member of the building committee. Next to Mr. Mills, he was the heaviest contributor to our new church....Rev. Babylon was with us from 1930 to 1934. These were years of "dust bowl" for North Dakota. A sensitive person, the situation of poverty-stricken *{sic}* people affected him deeply. After leaving here, it became known that he had practiced the social justice taught by Christ; much of the time he kept barely enough of his income for the necessities of life. Mr. Babylon came to Oakes a young bachelor; he left as one and in poor health. He told a friend before leaving that some of his happiest hours and days here had been spent in companionship with Mr. And Mrs. H.L. Jenny and their four sons. Mr. Babylon's whereabouts are not known as of now. *{Excerpts p. 10}*: The first organ is now in the O.E. Elner home, repaired and supplied with an electric motor. Miss Florence O'Neill, now Mrs. Florence Berg of Minneapolis was a faithful organist as a young girl. In those days the organist supplied the music for two services each Sunday. *{Excerpts p. 11}*: As has been stated in a former chapter, Rev. Shirley was with us in 1937, and continued on until the spring of 1940. During those years Mr. Willey, elder, was clerk of the session. Mrs. Willey faithfully served in preparing the elements for communion. She also taught the adult class in Sunday School. Besides our own church, Rev. Shirley was pastor for the Crete and Stirum churches. He resigned early in 1940 and in August of that year Rev. E.W. Corbit was installed. He came to us from western South Dakota. Mr. Corbit worked, and was responsible for, a debt adjustment which was offered by the Board of National Missions....It was revealed by Rev. Corbit at the last congregational meeting of 1946 that the Seiberg Estate was to make a gift to us of the lots north of our church.. *{Excerpts p. 12}*: Rev. Corbit resigned in 1946. During the next several years our people were served by Rev. John Paul Baker, Jr., who came to us from LaMoure for evening services, and by Rev. Given Kutz. These two ministers gave us excellent sermons but we needed an installed minister of our own. For a time there was difficulty heating the church. However, by co-operation of all concerned, we now have complete comfort with our furnace. Early in the year of 1952 Rev. Corbit returned to Oakes. In 1954 he reported that he had taken in 34 members and had performed 13 baptisms....The Crete church had been closed and it was with a warm welcome that the Oakes church received these fine folks that came to us. With us today because of that union are Mr. And Mrs. August Widmer, Mr. And Mrs. Summerland, son Lee and his wife, and Mrs. Summerland's mother, Mrs. Liebli. Mr. And Mrs. Alvin Kraft also transferred but Mr. Kraft passed on soon after coming to Oakes to live....Rev. Ralph Walty became our minister in 1957....In the latter part of 1958, Rev. Walty asked to be released to serve the larger field at Larimore, North Dakota. Mr. Walty was a learned as well as a deeply religious man and we wished him well in his new field of endeavor. Again we were reduced to having a one-hour a week minister. He was the Rev. Kenneth Abel of Lisbon....It was this same Mr. Abel who helped Elder Klein to give us our present minister, the Rev. Harry A. Houser. Stirum concurred in the call. Mr. Klein was chairman of our pulpit committee that brought Mr. Houser to us on July 1, 1959. *{Excerpts p. 15}*: In early summer of this year an abrupt sale of our temporary manse brought consternation to all concerned. The outcome was a decision to restore the old manse....The 75th Anniversary of our church will be duly celebrated on September 30, 1962. Morning and Evening services are planned and dignitaries will be with us as guest speakers....Rev. Harry A. Houser, resident minister of our church and his wife Gay have two children. We are happy to say that Lorah Lee and Reed Allen were both born while their father was our minister. Rev. Houser came here from Bloomfield Seminary, Bloomfield, N.J., as a newly ordained minister.

- Church History: *The Centennial Celebration of the First Presbyterian Church – Oakes, ND 1887-1987*, p.8-13. Beginnings: Built on a Firm Foundation. The First Presbyterian Church was organized on August 28, 1887. The organization had no building in which to worship, but to the area settlers that was of no importance. Records show that Rev. R.H. Hooks, a missionary at the Hudson townsite came to Oakes and held the first service in a store not as yet completed. It was located on a corner of Main Street where the Klein-Sutmer building would be build later. Rev. Hooks remained in Oakes until 1891. Plans were in the

making by the membership of that first congregation for the erection of a church building which was built by Mr. Ritterbush and Son. It was completed in 1888, as was the Manse. It is felt that the church bell on the present church is the one installed on that first wooden structure. After the bell was in place on the church, the 'city fathers' made arrangements to have the bell rung fast and furious to alarm the townspeople of a fire. A glass was fixed in the outer wall just where a hand could get hold of the rope and the first person to discover a fire was to run to the church, break the glass and ring the bell. It was used many times until a better system was installed. The wooden frame church was dedicated January 27, 1889. and remained the focal point of the community in that the congregation permitted several other denominations to hold their services in the building. In the years of 1919 and 1920, the Presbyterian Family planned a new brick building and soon the present lovely building was being erected. It is estimated to have cost, in round figures, \$37,000. Mr. Levi Harris, assisted by Mr. F.A. Espeland, built the building of which we are all proud of today. Mr. Harris was a faithful servant of the Lord, trustee of the congregation, and always willing to offer a helping hand where needed. Mr. William Mills, known as the 'grand old man' of the church, was the first Elder and highly respected by his fellow members—so much that his name was placed on the west stained glass window, just above where he sat. Another of the stained glass windows was dedicated to Mr. E.A. Moe, a trustee and a generous man both in time and talents. Mrs. J.M. Libby was also honored for her many faithful hours of labor for her Lord by the presence of her name on the third stained glass window. These members and many more were deeply dedicated leaders during the first twenty-five years of our congregation's life. Their service and faith built the firm foundation upon which we continue to build with the same deep convictions of faith and love to God. On August 26, 1937, the Presbyterians observed their 50th Anniversary. Taken from the Oakes Times of that date was the following: "The public is invited to attend the 50th Anniversary Services at 11:00 A.M. and 7:45 P.M. next Sunday at the Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Herbert E. Dierenfield, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Minot will be the guest speaker." PRESBYTERIANS MARK 75 YEARS BY THE GRACE OF GOD The twenty five years from 1938 to 1962 proved to be busy, constructive years for our congregation. Many members were active during these years to continue building on the firm foundation that our forefathers began so long ago. The church was blessed with numerous very capable and dedicated people in the 1938 to 1962 era. Forence Hofsommer and Mrs. Earl Robinson were some of the first women to be elected trustees after Mrs. F.C. Root and Mrs. Stella Christensen. During one of those years Mr. O.M. Bakken was elected to be a delegate to General Assembly, but was unable to attend. Mr. L.C. Mueller was elected to attend General Assembly in 1963. He served his church faithfully on Presbytery levels as well as locally. Let us also remember with thanks others who served during this time---Don Moore, Frank McLaughlin, Arnie and Alma Henquist, W.T. Wiig, Mr. & Mrs. C.D. Prentice, R.B. McGhie, A. Walby, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hample, Vi Gaspar, Mr. & Mrs. August Widmer, Dorothy Mueller, Henry Klein, R.L. Hubbard, Pete Schmitz, and many, many more who served the church faithfully and well. In 1940 Rev. Corbit came to fill the pulpit. He was an able leader of our congregation, loved and respected by all who knew him. He resigned in 1946, and at the last congregational meeting of 1946, it was revealed by him that the Seiberg Estate was to make a gift to the congregation of the lots north of our church building. Rev. Corbit returned to Oakes in 1952, and served until 1956. During that time, the Crete Presbyterian Church closed and it was with a warm welcome that the Oakes church received the following to our congregation: Mr. & Mrs. August Widmer, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Sommerland, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Sommerland, Mrs. Sommerland's mother, Mrs. Lieble, and Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Kraft. Rev. Ralph Walty became our minister in 1957, but left in 1958 to serve at Larimore. For a short time Rev. Kenneth Able from Lisbon conducted our Sunday services. He was instrumental in helping Elder Henry Klein bring us Rev. Houser on July 1, 1959. Rev. Houser was minister when we celebrated our 75th Anniversary in 1962. The first observance of that anniversary was held on Palm Sunday. The choir presented "Love Triumphant", a story of the first Eastertide. A second observance was celebrated on September 30th with morning and evening services. Rev. House wrote, "In 75 years this church has stood as part of its community—the first of its churches. It has been joined by others of the family of God. Members have been as common laborers in the vineyard working without regard to prominence or prestige, that the will of God be done in this area and in the world." THE LAST 25 YEARS With Rev. Harry A. Houser and his wife Gay settled in the newly remodeled manse, we began the last quarter of our 100 years. During this time Rev. Houser also served the Stirum church. In 1963, we adopted an unicameral system of government. The Board of Trustees was dissolved and the Session was increased from 3 to 5 members. L.C. Mueller continued to serve as treasurer and O.M. Bakken was Clerk of the Session. Rev. Houser was elected Vice-Moderator of the Fargo-Oakes Presbytery in 1967 and became Moderator in 1968. Helene Hample became Clerk of the Session in 1965,

when O.M. Bakken and his family moved to Bismarck. During this time the Stirum church was dissolved and the Oakes church yoked with Ellendale and Robes to be known as the Ellendale-Forbes-Oakes Parish. We shared expenses pro-rated as to the number of members of each congregation. In 1966, Rev. Houser and his family moved to Ellendale and our manse was then rented for many years and later sold. In 1967, L.C. Mueller retired after many years as treasurer and Elwood Gulsvig was elected and served for the next two years, after which Rachel Zimbelman was elected. She resigned in 1979, and Bill Weispenning was then elected and still serves. Jean Gulsvig resigned as Clerk of the Session in 1979, after many years, and Meva Gottschalk was then elected and is the present clerk. In June, 1969, Rev. Houser asked to be released and Terry Bobzien of Ellendale, a seminary student, served as the summer pulpit supply. Rev. Charles Spencer of Lisbon served as our Moderator. Our pulpit was supplied by the Aberdeen Area Ministerial Service and Jamestown until July, 1970, when Rev. Richard Jones accepted our call. The Forbes church dropped out of the Ellendale-Forbes-Oakes Parish in May, 1970, and we became the Ellendale-Oakes Parish. Rev. Jones and his family lived in Ellendale and served us until 1973, when he asked to be released. Rev. Charles Spencer of Lisbon became our minister. After Rev. Spencer's death in 1974, supply pastors filled our pulpit until the arrival of our present pastor, Rev. Robert Maharry in 1976. During these years many improvements have been made to our church. The two church school rooms upstairs were paneled and carpeted; carpet was laid upstairs and downstairs; the basement windows were covered with wood inside and outside with insulation in between; moveable dividers were built to make individual church school rooms on the west side of the basement; the south church school room was paneled; new modern light fixtures were installed in the basement; and pew cushions on the pews in the sanctuary were purchased. There was a bad hail and wind storm in August, 1977, which did a lot of damage to the stained glass windows on the west side of the church. These were repaired and a few years later plexiglass was installed over all the stained glass windows for protection and insulation. Helene Hample was our organist for many years. She retired in 1978, and moved to California. Judy Maharry, our pastor's wife, now serves as our organist. During 1980, Rev. Maharry started a children's sermon as part of the regular worship service, and this has continued. Our church takes an active part in the Oakes Area Food Pantry. The Pantry is located in the Grace Lutheran Church and is kept well supplied through the support of the churches and the organizations in the community. Rev. Maharry, Bill Weispenning, Jean Gulsvig, and Meva Gottschalk serve on the Board of Directors. Many from our congregation have taken part in the past three CROP Hunger Walks, with Diane Weispenning serving as Walk Coordinator in 1984, and Lawrence Edland serving as Walk Coordinator in 1986. Elders new serving on the session are Lana Berger, Rachel Zimbelman, Bill Weispenning, Meva Gottschalk, and Lawrence Edland. Other living ordained elders are Dorothy Mueller, Hilda Widmer, O.M. Bakken, Tim Gibson, Grant Schmitz, Helene Hample, Frosty Gottschalk, Henry Klein, Glenn Schlenvogt, Elwood Gulsvig, Warren Synder, Patsy Sommerland, Virginia Schmitz, Harold Beaver, Myron Lenning, Jean Gulsvig, David Rodenborg and Ira Long. Even with our rather small congregation, the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Oakes, under the leadership of Rev. Maharry are carrying out the mission of the church in our community and the world. We look to a future that will be as meaningful as our heritage, and as faithful as our predecessors. Pastors who have led us through the years: Robert H. Hooke (1887-1891); John C. Linton (1893-1894); C.S. Vincent (1895); C.W. Irwin (1898); Rev. Carver (1898-1899); J.C. Cheesman (1901-1902); E.P. Lawrence (1902-1905); Ralph T. Fulton (1908-1909); Bertram G. Jackson (1910-1913); Frederick C. Oliver (1914-1916); Aaron Wolfe (1917-1918); W.M. Grafton (1919-1921); H.E. Dierenfield (1921-1926); S.C. Williams (1927-1929); R.C. Babylon (1930-1934); Adam Hunter (1935); H.R. Shirley (1936-1940); E.W. Corbit (1940-1946; 1952-1956); Ralph W. Walty (1957-1958); Harry A. Houser (1959-1969); Richard Jones (1970-1973); Charles Spencer (1973-1974); Robert A. Maharry (1976-to present).

- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – From Prairie to Prosperity*, p.100-101. The First Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1987. William Mills led in the building of the First Presbyterian Church and was its first elder. It would be impossible to mention all who were faithful and diligent workers in the early years of the church, but it will be of interest to include a few such as Mrs. William Ladd, Mrs. Della Root, Mrs. E. Christensen, Mr. E.A. Moe and Mr. Levi Harris. The 50th anniversary celebration in 1937 was observed with Rev. Dierenfield as guest speaker and Mrs. Gladys Dady and Mrs. Helene Hample as organists. Alexander Wright, editor of the *Oakes Times*, presented the history of the church. There was a large attendance at the two services that day, as well as at the luncheon at noon. Rev. Harry Houser was the minister when the 75th anniversary was celebrated in 1962. He wrote *"In 75 years this church has stood as part of its community—the first of its churches. It has been joined by*

others of the family of God. Members have been as common laborers in the vineyard working without regard to prominence or prestige that the will of God may be done in this area and in the world." An important part of the life of any church is the organizations that are a part of it. Our first church was hardly finished before the Ladies Aid was organized. In those days the ladies were a power in the finances of the church with their ice cream socials, chicken dinners, rummage sales, etc. Women's groups have since changed their functions from money raising to learning, fellowship and service. We participate in ecumenical activities such as World Day of Prayer and Fellowship of the Least Coin. Now we have become the United Presbyterian Women—a different title but the same purpose—seeking to be obedient to God's call. Church school teachers and vacation Bible school workers have witnessed to their faith through the years. Our church school is now held jointly with St. Marks Episcopal Church. Mrs. Charles Brown was our earliest organist. The present church has a large pipe organ which was dedicated in the name of Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Doty, workers in the Oakes Presbytery. Mrs. Gladys O'Neil Dady was organist when this was installed. She, as well as several other young girls throughout the years, learned to play the organ from Mrs. Helene Hample, organist for many years before moving to California in 1978. Our church became a joint parish with the Lisbon church in June, 1973, with the minister living in Lisbon. Our manse was rented for several years, and then sold. Our present pastor is Rev. Robert Maharry, who has led us faithfully since 1976 in carrying out the mission of our church. Other ministers who have led us through the years are: Rev. Robert H. Hooke (1887-1891); Rev. John C. Linton (1893-1894); Rev. C.S. Vincent (1895-); Rev. C.W. Irwin (1898-); Rev. Carver (1898-1899); Rev. J.C. Cheesman (1901-1902); Rev. E.P. Lawrence (1902-1905); Rev. Ralph T. Fulton (1980-1909); Rev. Bertram G. Jackson (1910-1913); Rev. Frederick C. Oliver (1914-1916); Rev. Aaron Wolfe (1917-1918); Rev. W.M. Grafton (1919-1921); Rev. H.E. Dierenfield (1921-1926); Rev. S.C. Williams (1927-1929); Rev. R.C. Babylon (1930-1934); Rev. Adam Hunter (1935-); Rev. H.R. Shirley (1936-1940); Rev. E.W. Corbit (1940-1946) (1950-1956); Rev. Ralph W. Walty (1957-1958); Rev. Harry A. Houser (1959-1969); Rev. Richard Jones (1970-1973); Rev. Charles Spencer (1973-1974); Rev. Robert Maharry (1976-). Elders who are currently serving on the session are: Ira Long, Lana Berger, Jean Gulsvig, Dave Rodenborg and Meva Gottschalk. Other living ordained elders are: Helene Hample, Dorothy Mueller, Hilda Widmer, Tim Gibson, Henry Klein, Frosty Gottschalk, Glenn Schlenvogt, Elwood Gulsvig, Patsy Sommerland, Virginia Schmitz, Grant Schmitz, Myron Lenning, Harold Beaver and Warren Snyder. The First Presbyterian Church is continuing in carrying out the mission of the church in their community and in the world.

86. Oakes – Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

- Location: 821 Hickory Ave
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Grace Lutheran Church \[4043\]](#)
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.69
- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – From Prairie to Prosperity*, p.98-99. In the year 1900 Pastor A.G. Olson, who resided in Milnor, ND, began preaching in Oakes using the Swedish Mission Church building which was rented for 50 cents a Sunday. In 1902 Pastor Olson confirmed the following: Minnie Jensen, Hilda Anderson, Selma Johnson, Edna Christenson, Julia Dahlbeck, Albert Johnson, Andrew Swanson and Hilma Nelson. In 1904 under the leadership of Rev. Kallberg, the Swedish Lutheran families decided to call a student to hold Christmas services. C.W. Samuelson was the student called. In January of 1905 the people decided to call Mr. Samuelson back for the Easter season and summer months to help organize a congregation. His salary was \$150 for the three months plus board and room. In August of 1905 under the leadership of Pastor A.P. Montin of Wheaton, MN, a congregation was officially organized. Meetings and church services were held in the Swedish Mission Church. The charter was as follows: Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Salem Church of Oakes, Dickey County, ND. The first trustees were John Nelson, Ben Bowman, and Nels J. Nelson. Charter members were Jens Nelson and family, Ben Bowman and family, N.J. Nelson and family, Nels A. Anderson and family, John Gustafson and family, John Nelson and family, Mons Nelson and family, O.K. Hanson and family, Pete Nelson and family, Henning Bergren and family, Ben Swanson and family, J.P. Dahlbeck and family, Fritz Swanson, Lars Hellstrom and Ole Rorenquist. The Salem congregation accepted the Constitution of the Augustana Synod. The following were in the first confirmation class in 1905: Eddie Christianson, Clara Swanson, Albert Swanson, Geo. Nelson, H. Hansen, Marie Nelson, Anna Nelson, George Hanson, Emil Hanson, J. Gustafson Jr., Herman Iverson and Minnie Nelson. In February of 1906 it was decided to build a church for a sum not to exceed \$2500. The church would be 40 feet long and 28 feet wide, with a 14 by 16 foot

chancel on the north side. Pete Nelson was the contractor. Hitching posts were also installed on the east and north of the church, along with a fence around the church. Rev. C.W. Samuelson was the first pastor of the Salem Congregation. Carl Bowman was the first baby baptized in the new church in 1906. In 1907 the first confirmation class in the new church consisted of Axel Gustafson, Jennie Dahlbeck, Hilma Orn and Adolph Dahlbeck. Pastor Samuelson served until February 1911. The following is a list of the pastors that served this congregation: Pastor J. Edar Larson, S.A. Erling, Student Pastor J.A. Mattson, Pastor H.S. Chilgren, Pastor S.N. Elvin, Pastor P.A. Zendren, Paul Sewnson-Student Pastor and Pastor E.E. Bostrom. The parsonage was built in 1918 and the first resident was Pastor Larson. The Ladies Aid and League were active during this time. The Aid was organized with four members and grew until it had reached such a size that it was necessary to divide it into several groups called circles. The First Norwegian Lutheran Congregation in Oakes was known as Ebenezer Lutheran. It was organized by Rev. J.H. Lindland in 1904 with 13 members. The first officers were: O.C. Berger, Carl Bjerklin, Einer Kjerse, Krist Wollt and T.M. Thompson. The early records were lost so information has been passed on by word of mouth. The Ebenezer congregation was organized in the Carl Bjerklin home. The Swedish Church building was rented for services for 50 cents per Sunday. The church grew and the aid was organized. A church building was purchased from the Methodists. The pastor's salary in the beginning was \$50 a month. In April of 1921 a new congregation was organized with Rev. Moe as pastor. The church then became the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oakes. The first board members were: P.J. Aasen, Albert Romstad and Clarence Salverson. Deacons were C.H. Frojen, Ole Olafson and C.J. Anderson. Other officers were I. Simmons, Thore Bjerklin and Mrs. J.H. Lindland. The first pastor to serve the new church was O.K. Torgerson. Pastor Moe had served the church since before 1900. In 1923, Pastor E.S. Estrem was called as Pastor and lived in the Oakes parsonage, but, also served the outlying congregations. During his ministry, a hall was built for members and Aid to hold meetings. Following him were Rev. Mithum and Rev. Ronsberg. The church increased in size and by 1938, 50 families held memberships. The first confirmation class of the First Lutheran in 1923 were: Irving Colby, Helen Erickson, Bernice Hartman, Hazel Henjum, Bernice Laugsjon, Marie Lindseth, Sigurd Lindseth and Annette Sanders. In 1934, 1935 and 1936 the severe droughts came and there were not enough funds, so the church ran a deficit. In 1939 a movement was made to unite with the Salem Lutheran Congregation of Oakes. In June 1939 A.M. Dahlbeck and E.P. Dethlefsen from Salem and A.B. Carlson, Dr. Wolfe, Clarence Enger and Mrs. Christ Karpen from First Lutheran were asked to serve on a call committee. Much credit was given to the board, who met often to consider the welfare of the churches. Student Everett Bexell was called to serve at Christmas and Easter. On February 14, 1940 a call was extended to J.M. Rasmussen to come and unite the two churches. Pastor Bostrum and Pastor Rasmussen worked hard and accomplished this in May, 1940. The new Inter-Church Board consisted of Adolph Dahlbeck, Fred Sletvold, W.M. Anderson and Dr. Wolfe, members from both congregations. After the churches were amalgamated, the new board consisted of Emil Dethlefsen, W.M. Anderson, Dr. Wolfe, A. Dethlefsen, A. Dahlbeck, Fred Sletvold, J.F. Nelson, B.M. Njornstad, Otto Nelson, Lane Rasmussen, H.C. Hagen, Thor Bjerklin, Rev. J.H. Lindland, Mrs. Henry Frojen and Berger Frojen. A new constitution was adopted. Salem Lutheran became the new church home and the First Lutheran Church building was sold. The church was given a major repair and remodeling job both upstairs and also in the basement. Pastor Rasmussen confirmed four adults and 27 juniors in 1942, as no confirmation classes were held for several years because of the uniting. Following Pastor Rasmussen came Pastor Tverberg as supply pastor and student pastor, Allen Johnson. Rev. C.O. Hanson accepted the next call in 1943, followed by R.C. Cartford in 1948. In 1951 the church structure was enlarged and redecorated. Pastor Cartford's resignation was filled by Pastor C.M. Rasmussen, followed by Pastor G. Van Hunnik and Pastor Eldon Person, who came in 1970. In 1964 First Lutheran reorganized to become part of the newly formed American Lutheran Church Synod. The name was also changed to Grace Lutheran at this time. In 1966 a new parsonage was built at 121 North Ninth Street. The old parsonage was sold and moved south of town near the Oakes Pumping Plant site. In 1977 a new parish education building was completed. It included a Fireside Room for small group meetings, classrooms for all ages, a library, and offices for the pastor and church secretary. In December, 1982 Pastor Person accepted a position with Golden Valley Lutheran College at Golden Valley, MN. Pastor Charles Johnson accepted the call to be our pastor. He and his wife, Claudia, and children, Jeremy, Jennifer and Justin, moved into the parsonage in March of 1983. The American Lutheran Church will merge with two other Lutheran bodies by 1988. They are the (LCA) Lutheran Church of America and (AELC) American Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 1984 we have 450 confirmed members and 520 baptized members. Grace Lutheran will

celebrate its 25th anniversary in 1985. We look forward to a new century of bringing God's Word to the people of this community.

87. Oakes – Jehovah's Witnesses

- Location: 204 Kola Ave

88. Oakes – Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

- Location: 410 N 7th St
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church-1 1896 \[4853\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church-2 1901 \[4048\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church-3 \[4048\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church-4 1950 \[4048\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church-5 \[4048\]](#)
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.71
- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – From Prairie to Prosperity*, p.104
- Church History: *Oakes, ND – Prairie Parish—Church of Saint Charles Borromeo – 1905-1980*
- Church History: *Oakes, ND – St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church Centennial Book – 1905-2005*, pp.9-40 (Excerpts with [o—o] indicating material bypassed): We are celebrating this year the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the parish of St. Charles Borromeo of Oakes. A parish is born when, after proper authorization has been obtained from the Most Reverend Bishop of the diocese, a pastor permanently takes up residence in the place. That memorable date for St. Charles parish was Nov. 26, 1905, when Father John Baker came over from Ellendale to make his home and the center of his pastoral work permanently in Oakes in a recently erected house built by Dr. H.P. Boardman and purchased from him by St. Charles parish that same year at a cost of \$1,500. Since, however, a parish does not just fall suddenly from heaven or materialize out of thin, air, there is a good deal of interesting preparatory history antecedent to 1905 worth recounting. "The first settler on what is now the site of Oakes was William Mills, a native of Ireland. He filed on a quarter which is now the heart of Oakes. In 1881, the Northwestern Railroad built its line from Aberdeen and the N.P. from Jamestown south. They met at what is now Oakes. The original plat of the town was surveyed on September 14 and filed on September 15." The first missionary priest to visit this territory was Father Hepperle of Big Stone, SD, during the years 1882 to 1884. He was followed by Father M.M. Tierney, who apparently resided in Lisbon. Their visits may even have been contemporary as one would gather from the following quotation from a letter of Father Tierney's: "I celebrated Mass at John Sheridan's house, two and one-half miles north of Oakes, before Oakes had any known existence. I used to visit LaMoure once a month and then often drove to Sheridan's from there on Sundays, then on Monday read Mass there. I cannot say where I said the first Mass in Oakes. I read Mass in the new depot in Oakes after it was built. My altar was the little board for the delivery of tickets. I had five at Mass and I know Sheridan was there, as I never knew him to miss Mass, and used to serve me at Mass." A note of Father Baker's says: "The first mass in the town of Oakes was said in a boxcar on the Northwestern by Father Tierney. J. Sheridan served, year 1886." Father Tierney's correspondence contains a list of Oakes parishioners of that year: J.J. Sheridan, D. Lynch, D.B. Kelly, Charley Mosher, Joseph Mosher, P. Mulholland, John Mosher, Andrew Mosher, Anton Schler, Roland McGill, Dan Hagan, M. Purcell, B. Gilleran, J.F. McCarthy. In November 1886, Oakes became a "station", that is: a place which some kind of regular church service, but without a church. It was attended by Father Tierney of Lisbon until he left in 1888. He was followed by Father Kahall of Lisbon for ten months; Father Barrette of Lisbon for 18 months, and by Father Dillon of Ellendale from 1891 to 1899. The community then was made up of about 50 people of Irish and German descent, among whom the following are mentioned as prominent: John McCarthy, John Schill, John Sheridan, Lynch and Moger. In 1896, Father Dillon bought a claim shanty for \$100, had it moved to town, and used it for a church for a few years, after which it was sold for \$65. It appears that for a brief time in 1899 Father Dillon made Oakes his headquarters. The Catholic Directory of that year lists Oakes as a parish with missions at Ellendale, Geneseo and Lidgerwood and stations at Claremont (Brown County), Harlem (Sargent County), Havana and Ludden. However, subsequent

Catholic Directories again list Oakes as a mission served from Ellendale. Father Dillon was succeeded in 1899 by Father Zumbusch of Lidgerwood for one year. Later, in 1909, Father Zumbusch painted from memory his recollection of the first church in Oakes. Next, Father D.J. O'Callaghan of Ellendale took over and administered the affairs of the Oakes community from 1900 to 1905. In Father Zumbusch's time the Northwestern Townsite Co. Donated a 50-foot lot to the church. On this property Father O'Callaghan built a church in the fall of 1900, finishing the following spring. The contract amounted to \$2,500, with furnishings amounting to \$400. The building had a seating capacity of 180. By this time, there were about 35 Catholic families of whom ten were contributing to the support of the church. Following the building of the church, the community was elevated to the status of a "Mission" in 1903 attached to Ellendale, Father O'Callaghan in charge. This arrangement prevailed until 1905 when Father John Baker replaced Father O'Callaghan at Ellendale. Although the local baptismal register has its first entry dated April 1906, there is a page preceding its regular records transferred by Father Zimmerman "from an old book", he says, and recording nine baptisms over Father O'Callaghan's signature. They are Althea Straub, 1900; Elinor Porter, 1900; Julia Hanley, 1901; Urban Dan Sheridan (no date); Alice Mary Mosher, 1902; Mary Ishmael, 1901; Anna Margaret Ress, 1901; Joseph Bean, 1904; and L.A. Donovan (no given name recorded), 1901. During Father O'Callaghan's time, the Oakes mission was called "Our Lady of Good Counsel". On Aug. 22, 1905, Father O'Callaghan was replaced at Ellendale by Father John Baker, who then had Oakes and Edgeley as missions. After becoming acquainted with his territory and having purchased four more 50-foot lots adjoining the church on the north, Father Baker took up permanent residence in Oakes on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, 1905. He then had Edgeley and Ellendale as missions, but there was apparently a reshuffle very soon and we find him with LaMoure, Berlin and Dickey as missions instead. Chiefly of interest to us, however, Oakes had become a parish; and the date: Nov. 26, 1905, Thanksgiving Day! Contemporaneously with these events, the following items culled from *The Oakes Times* may be of interest: the funeral of Mrs. Peter Rancour, a sister of Henry Boethling, who died Oct. 12, 1905, at the age of 32. The Oct 12, 1905 issue notes that "Rev. Father Baker will give an address under the auspices of the Academy of Music on next Sunday evening. Good music and everybody is cordially invited to attend. A collection will be taken." William A. Ogden and Miss Ella Meszaros were joined in marriage at the Catholic church Monday morning by Rev. Father Baker, Oct. 16, 1905. Incidentally, we understand this was the first wedding in the new church. The first funeral seems to have been that of Mrs. Phillip Barnes, who died early in November 1904 and was buried the following Sunday afternoon by Rev. Father O'Callaghan. [o—o] Under date of June 14 we learn that "Frank A. Meyer will soon be home from Richardton, where he is attending college studying for the priesthood." [o—o] Now here in the August 23 issue we find the first mention of plans for a school: "Father Baker has purchased three lots on the northeast corner of block 6 from Dr. Boardman and intends to put a Catholic school and dormitory there in another year. He says three thousand of the five thousand dollars he wants to begin is in sight and he thinks it will be an easy job to get a couple thousand more by another spring. He has also secured the lot just north of his rectory. Father Baker is a builder and a school of this kind will be of inestimable value to the upbuilding of Oakes." [o—o] All this time Father Baker was not sleeping. On April 11 *The Oakes Times* says: "The Catholic Church is having an addition built to the east end of the building which will be used as a sanctuary" and the April 25 issue reports the setting out of trees and the painting of the exterior of the church white. An undated clipping reads as follows: "Father Baker had some decorating done at the Catholic Church which is well worth anyone's time to go see. The sanctuary of the church received a new coating of paint and on the ceiling to the left a cross just emerging from the clouds and the same is duplicated on the right. On the left appears the monogram BVM – Blessed Virgin Mary, and on the right is SHJ – Sacred Heart of Jesus. Also to each side and on the angles of the ceiling appear two angels representing the two cherubim. In the center at the back is the dove, the emblem of the Holy Ghost. [o—o] All this activity was not without an immediate purpose, for the Aug. 27, 1907 number of *The Times* tells us that "A great celebration is to take place in the Catholic Church next Thursday, Sept. 5. No less a personage than Bishop Shanley is to give Confirmation and bless the church." [o—o] "Bishop Shanley said first mass at 8:30 assisted by Father Ridder of Wahpeton, during which about 52 parishioners went to holy communion. The main services took place at 10:30 and were inaugurated by the blessing of the church buildings." [o—o] George Baldwin of Appleton, WI, donated a quarter section of land worth \$4,500 to be used for the building of a school. [o—o] The school was built in the spring and summer of 1908 at a cost of \$10,000, raised principally thus by subscription. The parish now numbered 46 families, 161 souls, and the church property was valued at \$18,500, with a debt of \$1,500. The contract for the building was let Feb. 19, 1908, with Westergard Hohlen & Co. Of Oakes the successful bidder at \$7,694.

The plans provided for a building 38x65 feet at the foundation, three stories above ground and full basement, constructed of white limestone brick with Kasota red sandstone trim. The basement was to house dining room, kitchen, laundry, and heating plant. The ground floor was to have two class rooms divided by a hallway, each room seating 50 students. The second floor was eventually to be class rooms also, but would temporarily be the Sisters' Convent. The "attic" was to be used for dormitory purposes. The school would teach all eight grades and was to be ready for opening in September of the same year. Faithful to promise, Baldwin Memorial St. Charles School, staffed by the Benedictine Sisters of Yankton, SD, opened its doors Monday, Sept. 7, 1908, enrolling pupils for all eight grades and offering in addition lessons in piano, violin, mandolin, and guitar at 50 cents for an hour's lesson and a systematic course in sewing and plain and fancy embroidering three hours a week at one dollar a month. The building was pronounced complete in every way: water, sewer system, ventilation, and heating, at a total cost of \$11,000, of which only about \$900 had not been paid. [o—o] A most imposing religious ceremony took place in St. Charles Church on Tuesday, June 19, 1909, when the Rt. Rev. John Shanley, Bishop of Fargo, conferred the order of holy priesthood on three young men of the state: Rev. Francis Meyer of Oakes, Rev. Otto Wolpers of Harvey, and Rev. Aloysius Gaydusec of Wahpeton. [o—o] It was with the deepest regret that St. Charles parish and the city of Oakes as well resigned itself to the leaving of Father Baker. He can truly be called the father of this parish. In November 1915, after ten most fruitful years in Oakes, he accepted the pastorate of St. Catherine's parish in Valley City. [o—o] Father Joseph G. Sailer, the new pastor, arrived Saturday, Nov. 28, 1915 from Valley City, where he also enjoyed the reputation of a builder, having brought into being the beautiful St. Catherine's Church free of debt the day it was completed. He had been pastor of Valley City for over 15 years. The young people of the parish presented the church with a beautiful gold-plated chalice, used for the first time at the Christmas Masses in 1915. Early in 1916, Father Sailer introduced the "Question Box" at Sunday evening services "to enhance the people's knowledge of their faith." Father Sailer's pastorate was, however, a short one, since he left Oakes late that same summer. He was succeeded by Father J.P. Zimmerman, who arrived on Aug. 22, 1916. Father Zimmerman records in his "Parish Journal" the opening of school for the 1916-17 term on September 7 with a faculty of two. Sisters Ignatius and Rosina, and 88 students enrolled. In the same "Parish Journal" we also find the platting of the St. Charles Cemetery and the setting out of threes thereon in May 1917. [o—o] **Father** John O'Dwyer, a quiet and lovable man, who has been assistant since that last months of Father Baker's administration is now, Sept. 3, 1917, leaving for another appointment in view of the fact that the missions of Dickey and Berlin have been elevated to the status of a parish and Oakes is left with only LaMoure, a situation regarded as not requiring an assistant. The 1918 parish census gives the parish 289 souls. In the course of that year a debt of \$3,000 of long standing was paid off by special assessment. [o—o] Father Zimmerman also records the "Spanish influenza" epidemic of that fall with its accompanying closing of the church and school in an effort to arrest its spread. With a fervent "God be praised" he mentions the fact that not one member of St. Charles parish died of the dread disease during that frightful year. [o—o] Although we have found no mention of the matter heretofore, now in 1925 it turns out that St. Charles School has been closed for the past two years and now, Sept. 7, 1925, is happily reopening again under new management: this time the Benedictine Sisters of Garrison, ND. [o—o] The last registry in the Baptismal Record over Father Zimmerman's signature is dated Apr. 22, 1929. The new pastor needed no introduction to Oakes, being a home town boy. Rev. Father Frank Meyer, who arrived from Reynolds, his previous appointment, on Apr. 25, 1929. The Sisters for the 1929-30 school year, we are told, arrived from Arborg, Manitoba, which apparently meant another change in personnel. Still another change took place in September of 1933, when the Sisters of St. Mary of the Presentation of Valley City began to staff St. Charles' School. The new St. Anthony's Hospital, formerly the private home of W.T. Noonan, was purchased from him by the Benedictine Sisters of Arborg, Manitoba, and dedicated to its new purpose by Monsignor Baker on Sept. 7, 1930. [o—o] Father Meyer's pastorate in Oakes was a short one, ending in October 1931. He had been appointed to the pastorate of St. John's Parish in Wahpeton. Father Meyer was succeed in Oakes by the Rev. Father Roman Dworschak, who came here from Wimbledon. [o—o] Late in 1937 St. Anthony's changed hands, the Mercy Sisters from Valley City taking over the institution from the Benedictine Sisters of Arborg, Manitoba. Sister Gertrude, O.S.B., who had been superior since the hospital opened its doors seven years earlier, and her staff bid goodbye to the people of Oakes in mid-December and returned to Canada. Two Mercy Sisters, Sisters Anastasia and Romanus, had already arrived, the former to be new superior of Mercy Hospital, as the establishment would be called hereafter. [o—o] Once more Oakes was saying farewell to a pastor. Father Roman Dworschak, who had successfully withstood the onslaughts of the drought and depression years, keeping the parish's collective

head above water (perhaps we should say "dust", there was no water) at a good deal of personal sacrifice on his own part, announced to his people here on Sept. 10, 1939, that he was leaving Oakes, having been chosen to succeed the late Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Baker as pastor at Valley City. [o—o] To him in very large measure is due the external beauty of the church property such as landscaping and concrete walks and driveway, adornments which made the church property one of the beauty spots of Oakes. Father Dworschak was succeeded by the Rev. Father Patrick Vincent Reddin, who arrived from Sanborn on Sept. 17, 1939. [o—o] During the summer of 1941, under the direction of Father Reddin, a remodeling of the church was undertaken. The ceiling was covered with block design insulation board broken at intervals by a heavy boxed beam effect in stained wood. From the "beams" were hung eight large wrought iron fixtures. Walls were covered also with insulation board in plank design of two-tone brown color with a masonite wainscoting. The sanctuary arch and ceiling were white block insulation board. The altar backdrop was of wrought iron framework with the center dorsal a conventional moccasin flower design on red flanked by red velvet borders and side panels. This altar setting was donated by the members of the Holy Name Society. The altar furnishings consisted of a large myrtlewood crucifix given by St. Charles Study Club and the six candlesticks, also in myrtlewood, given by Father Frank Meyer of Wahpeton. The second World War descended in fury on America, and men of Saint Charles joined those of distant states to fight on even more distant shores. Back home, the farms produced food for an embattled world; and the men of the parish banded together in a "Holy Name Society" served dinners to keep the parish and the school operating. Father Patrick Reddin was pastor then. He came in 1939, but his zealous tenure was short-lived. He died in Oakes in 1944. He was 49 years old. [o—o] Father Edward McDonald of St. Edward's Parish in Drayton was appointed pastor of St. Charles and assumed his duties here Sept. 14, 1944. Father McDonald was installed as pastor on Sunday, October 8 at ceremonies in St. Charles Church presided over by the Very Rev. R. Victor Long, pastor of Edgeley and Dean of Oakes Deanery. [o—o] Following months of planning, a general improvement program was undertaken on the church property on Aug. 2, 1948. The program was completed only shortly before Christmas and included a new and much larger sacristy for the church, a new sanctuary floor, altar table and predella, slight enlargement of the sanctuary into the church, remodeling of the chapel altars, bracing of the church's understructure, strengthening of the gallery supports, partial remodeling of interior of the rectory and there was also revision of the entire basement of the school, including provisions for dining, auditorium, and kitchen facilities and entirely new toilet facilities, and, finally, installation of new heating plants into church, rectory and school. The school portion of this project was not completed until 1950. An assistant pastor in the person of Rev. Father Lawrence Ryan, formerly of Wimbledon was appointed on Nov. 28, 1948. Father Ryan remained in that capacity until the middle of the following summer. [o—o] In April 1950, the Most Rev. Bishop Dworschak appointed Father McDonald of Oakes as Dean to replace Father Long of Edgeley, who had died. In the fall of 1950, Miss Margaret Pfeifer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Pfeifer of this parish, entered the convent of the Sisters of St. Mary of the Presentation as Sister Barbara Marie. It became more and more apparent as time elapsed that the Congregation of the Religious Sisters of Mercy simply did not have the personnel at their disposal to staff the local Mercy Hospital, and unless some other religious community could be persuaded to take it over, it would be necessary to close the institution. Father McDonald persuaded the Venerable Mother M. Irmtrudis of the Sisters of St. Francis at Hankinson to visit the local hospital and talk things over. A transfer was eventually agreed upon and the Sisters of St. Francis took over operation of the hospital on Sept 22, 1950, as St. Joseph's Hospital with a staff of six sisters with the Ven. Sister M. Agnes, O.S.F., as Superior and Administrator. [o—o] The year 1952 marks the beginning of the publication of our "Parish Sunday Bulletin". It gave the Mass Ordo with Missal pagings, the feasts and Mass intentions of the week, the announcements, and an occasional instruction or quotation worth meditating. [o—o] On May 1, 1952, Father John Bacevicius, a refugee priest from religious persecution in his native Lithuania, and formerly assistant at Verona-LaMoure, became assistant to Father McDonald here. "Father John", as he soon came to be called by everyone, earned a spot in the hearts of all with his pleasant, easy-going ways and remained in Oakes until September 1953. [o—o] In the spring of 1954, the Quigg property adjoining the church property on the north was purchased by the parish for the sum of \$3,000; the house thereon was sold and removed. [o—o] Saint Charles parish had had its own "liturgical movement" in progress for some years, begun, in fact, by Father Reddin with his spreading of the use of the Sunday missal. Father McDonald took up where Father Reddin left off and introduced *St. Andrew's Daily Missal*. The program was so well received that it was only the rare parishioner or tourist who could be seen in St. Charles Church without missal in hand. The "dialogue Mass" was introduced and, though gasping for breath, had its faithful followers. Plain chant was

assiduously cultivated by the parish choir, and proper parts of the Mass were sung as well as the ordinary parts. The acolytes organization consisted of about 50 young men, doing their work in conformity with the rubrics. Congregational singing was introduced with somewhat hesitant success, but gave promise for the future. The recitation of the Tenebrae Offices of Holy Week brought packed churches, as the lamentations were sung in English, and the *Benedictus* and *Christus Factus Est* in Latin. So, what was called "the indispensable source of the true Christian spirit" (the liturgy) received due attention in St. Charles Church and school. On Sept. 4, 1955, ground was broken for the new Oakes Community Hospital. [o—o] As the day of the 50th Jubilee approached, the parishioners were busy doing major repairs on Saint Charles School – replastering walls, sanding and refinishing floors, repairing the brick and woodwork of the exterior and installing a new convent chapel altar. And so the day to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Saint Charles Parish arrived – Oct. 16, 1955. [o—o] And so, the third quarter century of Saint Charles history began auspiciously. Father McDonald was in the 11th year of what was to be a pastorate of 30 years, the school, newly refurbished, had an enrollment of 94, and the new hospital was a-building. The following May, Saint Charles School graduated the largest class in its history. [o—o] In the fall of 1956, the Sisters of Saint Francis of Hankinson took charge of Saint Charles School, replacing the Sisters of Saint Mary of the Presentation of Valley City. The school enrolled 91 pupils that year. [o—o] On Oct. 14, 1956, 800 people gathered at the Oakes Armory for the dedicatory program of the new Oakes Community Hospital. [o—o] The sisters who were on the hospital staff occupied quarters on the second floor of the new building. The ground floor included a chapel and also a chaplain's suite. Father Arthur Nestor was appointed chaplain (and also assistant to Father McDonald) in June, and thus began a 14 year period of St. Charles' history when the parish had two resident priests. Father Nestor came to Oakes from the chaplaincy of St. Anne's Guest Home in Grand Forks. In October of 1957, Father Nestor was appointed administrator of St. Mary's Parish in Munich, ND. A Benedictine priest from St. John's Abbey at Collegeville, MN, replaced him. He was Father Othmar Hohmann. The stationing of an assistant pastor in Oakes was occasioned in part by the poor health of Father McDonald. He suffered a severe heart attack in February of 1956. He was hospitalized for a month, and severely restricted for an additional five months at that time. The following Good Friday he suffered a recurrence. [o—o] In August of 1958, Father Neal Kapaun was appointed assistant pastor and chaplain of Oakes Community Hospital. He came here from St. Phillip's Church at Hankinson, where he had been assistant, and he remained at St. Charles for five years, until his appointment to the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church of Westhope. [o—o] As the decade of the 1960s began – a decade to be marked by rapid change both within the church and in American society – it became apparent that the physical plant was no longer adequate to serve the needs of Saint Charles Parish. In the fall of 1961, therefore, a drive for funds for a new building, as well as for an increase in regular parish support, was launched. Cathos, Incorporated, a professional fund-raiser, was engaged to guide the campaign. The building fund goal was \$100,000. In November it was reported that \$96,830 had been collected or pledged. The 1960s witnessed the gradual decline in enrollment at Saint Charles School. Various factors contributed to this phenomenon; increasing costs, decline in the number of Sisters available to teach, denial of public bus transportation to Saint Charles Students, and shifting attitudes that were a part of the climate of "the turbulent sixties". The school closed in May of 1966. [o—o] St. Charles School – now a memory – is a precious heritage and a challenge to the parish that for so long supported it. Thy physical plant, after its closing as a school, housed CCD [Confraternity of Christian Doctrine] classes for a short period of time and then stood empty. It yielded to the wreckers in 1977. [o—o] Meanwhile, the parish experienced a change in the personnel of its assistant pastors and hospital chaplains. Father John Graven came to Oakes from St. Michael's Parish in Grand Forks in June of 1963. Three years later, he was transferred to St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo and Father Eugene Schwartzenberger came to Oakes from Harvey where he had been an assistant. In July of 1969, Father Schwartzenberger was appointed pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Karlsruhe, and was replaced by Father Hilary Bitz. He came to Oakes from the assistantship at Jamestown. After a year at St. Charles, he was appointed pastor of St. Mathias Church, Windsor. For intervals during these years, the assistant priest at St. Charles took care of nearby parishes at Verona and Cogswell. Formal dedication of the new structures was held June 20, 1968. [o—o] Even as the church construction was proceeding, other significant events in the parish took place. On June 2, 1968, a beautiful central cross was dedicated at St. Charles Cemetery. And earlier in that same year, the first parish council was formed. The formation of this new body was also a result of the Second Vatican Council which had called for wider involvement of the laity in the affairs of the church. [o—o] The Altar Society had equipped the rectory downstairs with a kitchen and a very pleasant social hall. This space was now put to use also for CCD purposes by dividing it into several instructional areas with moveable

plywood partitions. Other classes met in the facilities of Grace Lutheran Church. Speculation about the possibility of building a parish social and educational center began. [o—o] The dream of a new church persisted. The increased revenues resulting from the 1961 fund drive enabled the church to establish a monetary reserve. In 1965, the discussion of where to locate the new church dominated meetings of parish leaders. After weighing all the alternatives, it was decided to purchase a 28-acre tract of land immediately north of the city for \$15,000. A primary concern to deciding not to build on the same tract of land that was occupied by the old church-rectory-school complex was the provision of adequate parking space. A large block of this 28-acre tract was set aside for the parish, and the rest was surveyed and plotted so that it could be developed as a residential area to be known as "St. Charles Court". The future location of the Catholic Church of Oakes would be at "6th and Elm" rather than at "5th and Hickory". Some parishioners were understandably unhappy that their church would no longer be located near the heart of town. [o—o] What emerged was a plan for a church of contemporary design, a square brick structure 80 x 80 feet, with a free-standing campanile to house a peal of three bells and a rectory 40 x 90 feet, containing offices, counseling rooms and living quarters for a pastor, assistant pastor and house-keeper. Anderson Bros. Construction Co. Of Fergus Falls, MN, was the general contractor. Ground was broken Apr. 17, 1967 and construction began. [o—o] Mar. 10, 1968 was a very special day for Father McDonald and the congregation. The March 7 edition of *The Oakes Times* stated: "A dream of almost 25 years will become a reality on Sunday, Mar. 10, 1968, when the Very Reverend Edward McDonald, pastor of Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, will proceed from the sacristy to the altar of the newly-completed church to intone the offering of his first Mass in the new church." Furnishings had been moved from the old rectory to the new the previous Tuesday, and the Allen Organ, purchased in 1957 at a cost of \$4,000, was moved to the new church on Thursday. The new church had a seating capacity of 400, and the principal furnishings (the altar, preaching stand, tabernacle stand and baptistry) were of white Italian travertine marble. The windows were of rich-colored facet glass. The windows nearest the baptistry depict the incarnation (birth of Christ) and the sacrament of Baptism. The windows in the sanctuary area depict the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Those in the rear of the church represent the Church (the ship upon the changing seas) and the Kingship of Christ. Two windows in the sacristy depict Christ, Redeemer and Good Shepherd. The cost of the entire complex – land, church, rectory and bell tower – was approximately \$400,000. [o—o] Meanwhile, Oakes Community Hospital, too, underwent changes. An addition was constructed in 1972 and further major remodeling was done in 1974. [o—o] In the fall of 1977, the sisters purchased a home across the street from the hospital to serve as a convent. A chapel was installed on the second floor. The space thus vacated in the hospital was converted for use by the medical records department. [o—o] A happy event occurred June 24, 1973, when Father Joseph Weigel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rokus Weigel, was ordained to the priesthood here at Oakes by Bishop Discoll. Father Weigel made his studies at Cardinal Muench Seminary, Fargo, and at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, MN. After his ordination he was assigned to St. Mary's Cathedral Parish in Fargo, where he served as associate pastor and later as principal of St. Mary's Grade School. In May of 1974, Father McDonald announced his impending retirement. [o—o] Appointed to succeed Father McDonald was Father Albert H. Binder. A native of Wisconsin, he was ordained for the Diocese of Fargo in 1951....He served two years as co-pastor back at Grafton before coming to Oakes in August of 1974. In order to get acquainted with his new parish, Father Binder took a thorough census of the parish. The resulting statistical report showed a parish of 776 people. A surprisingly young parish it was, with an average age of just under 30! One hundred sixty-six children were in attendance at the public grade school and 89 at the public high school. There were 70 pre-school children. [o—o] At the end of 1974, the parish debt stood at \$31,000, but the Council saw a great need for better CCD facilities. Classes were meeting in the overcrowded downstairs, in the church and sacristy and in the rectory. A building committee, headed by Jerry Sullivan, was formed and rough plans were devised for a parish hall surrounded by classrooms. [o—o] City water and sewer were extended to St. Charles Court in 1976. Thereafter, residential lots in St. Charles Court sold more rapidly, and the income helped defray the expense of connecting the parish plant to municipal water and sewer services, as well as to reduce the parish debt. [o—o] On Sunday, May 1, 1977, Bishop Driscoll came for the official dedication of the new Parish Center. It consisted of a large hall (40x77 feet) adequate for basketball or volleyball, as well as for dinners and social events, surrounded by ten CCD classrooms of varying size, CCD office, storage space and a fully equipped kitchen. [o—o] A hail storm of near tornadic force battered Oakes on Aug. 26, 1977. It necessitated reshingling the roofs of the entire parish plant. [o—o] On July 1, 1980, St. Raphael's Parish of Verona was assigned as a mission to St. Charles. The move reflected the shortage of clergy in the Diocese. Henceforth, St. Charles would have to share the services of its pastor with its

neighboring parish to the north. Lay directors of the two parishes met with the pastor to work out in an amicable way the adjustments this realignment would necessitate. [o—o] In January of 1986, Bishop Sullivan announced that Father Albert Binder of St. Charles would be assuming the pastorates of St. Anthony's Church, Mooreton; Saints Peter and Paul Church, Mantador; and St. Anthony's Church in Fairmont. Father Binder came to Oakes in 1974, upon the retirement of Father Edward McDonald. He assumed his new duties on February 14th. Father Adam Hasey was appointed by Bishop Sullivan to serve the parishes of Oakes and Verona. He is a native of the Langon area and was ordained to the priesthood in 1950. He has pastored parishes in Tolna, Cooperstown and Sykston, ND. [o—o] The parish continued to grow as the next decade continued. The 1990s recorded 137 baptisms, 55 marriages, and 86 funerals. There were 116 students who received the Holy Eucharist for the first time and 154 people who were confirmed. [o—o] On July 1, 1998, Father Adam Hasey retired from the priesthood. Father Hasey was ordained in 1950 and has served the parishes of St. Charles in Oakes and St. Raphael's in Verona for eleven and one-half years. Father Kevin Willis was appointed as pastor of St. Charles upon Father Hasey's retirement. Father Kevin is a native of Oklahoma. He was ordained in 1993 and has most recently served in Oriska. [o—o] The new millennium dawned for St. Charles. In the first three years, there were 48 baptisms, 13 marriages, and 28 funerals. Sixty people were confirmed and 52 students received the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. There are 244 registered households in the parish. [o—o] In November 2000, Father Johnson Kottaram, a native of Karala, India, was appointed as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo. He replaces Father Kevin Willis, who moved to Wishek to assume pastoral duties there. Father Johnson is a member of a Salesians of Don Bosco community and was instrumental in the founding and development of Don Bosco Degree College. [o—o] In January 2002, Father Julian Kupisz became temporary administrator upon the departure of Father Johnson Kottaram. In July of 2002, Father Matthew Pamplaniyil was appointed to serve the parishes of St. Charles Borromeo and St. Raphael's in Verona. Bishop Samuel Aquila made the appointment for a period of six years. Father is a native of Paika, Kerala, India, and has been in the United States since 1966. He was ordained in 1976 and has served in the Sykeston area parishes.

89. Oakes – Saint John Lutheran (LCMS)

- Location: 120 S 9th St
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Saint John Lutheran Church-1 \[4050\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Saint John Lutheran Church-2 \[4049\]](#)
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.68
- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – From Prairie to Prosperity*, p.105-106. The congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church traces its roots back to 1883, when the Gus Strutz family moved to Oakes from Cleveland, three years before Oakes was incorporated as a city. A year later, John Kunrath arrived from Holstein, Germany. All these people were of the Lutheran faith. When Miss Bertha Gripp arrived in 1889 and accepted a proposal of marriage from John Kunrath, they desired to be married by a Lutheran minister. Rev. A.F. Mundt was the closest one. He had been conducting services seven miles west of Ludden in a schoolhouse, and he agreed to perform the ceremony. Shortly thereafter, services were held at the home of August Wedel, Sr., two and one-half miles west of Ludden. This marked the real beginning of St. John's Lutheran Church, although the congregation was not to be organized until 16 years later. In 1905 Rev. Karl Linse came to serve Immanuel, Stirum and the Lutheran in Oakes. On October 1, 1905 the Lutherans of Oakes met and organized St. John's Lutheran Church. There were five members, with their families, present at the meeting: August Wedell Sr., George Kunrath, Gus Strutz, Carl Wagner and William Zieman; a Sunday school was organized as well. Rev. Walter Stolper was installed as the first resident pastor on August 11, 1907. The members continued to meet in the building called the Swedish Lutheran Church, now presently Grace Lutheran Church. A parsonage was purchased at the corner of Ninth Street and Ivy, which was used until 1964. In 1908 the first confirmation class numbered eight young Lutherans which included, Arthur G. Strutz, who is still a member today. Harold Zieman was confirmed in 1909. All the worship services were conducted in the German language. The next pastor to serve was Rev. K.J. Wulff. He stayed less than a year and the congregation became a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and was legally incorporated in the state of North Dakota. Rev. Karl Strasburg was installed as the next pastor and after only 19 months he was forced to resign, due to illness. Rev. Hartwig Dierks served from 1915 to 1921. During this time the Ladies Aid was organized and became a member of the L.W.M.L. The congregation saw a need for having its own worship building and

so the members voted to purchase the old Presbyterian Church building. The parsonage was moved to the south and the church was moved onto the site of the parsonage. This building was dedicated on November 21, 1920. It was completely remodeled. Rev. R.C. Jahn served from 1921 to 1922. When he left, there was a long vacancy until August, 1925 when Rev. William Zabel was installed. He stayed six years. On August 30, 1931 Rev. Walter Landgraf was installed and served as a pastor from 1931 to 1943. One of the problems of the times was the transition from German to English in worship services. First there was two English and two German services each month. Later Rev. Landgraf preached in both English and German each Sunday; then came English most of the time with German on holidays. It is not known exactly which date is acknowledged as the final German service. This was the time of the great drought, and almost everyone suffered, including the pastor, who never did receive all his salary during those years. Rev. Allen Schuldheiss came from Murray, UT and served from 1943 to 1952. The Lord blessed the people of St. John's with bountiful crops during those war years and the people's response to the Lord was to build and dedicate a new house of worship to Him. The result was the present brick structure which was dedicated on November 26, 1950. After a vacancy of several months, Rev. Harold Huber took office on May 24, 1954. During this time a new parsonage was built to replace the badly worn old parsonage, which had served for nearly 60 years as our pastor's residence. A Preaching-Teaching-Reaching evangelism program resulted in many new members. The present organ was purchased in memory of Zane and Kay Ziemann in 1959. Pastor Huber served as supervisor for several vicars, which included: Rev. Lowell Boettcher, Rev. Rex Longshore and Rev. Daniel Bell. Rev. Theo. Allwardt was installed in 1965 to 1973. He accomplished spring and fall Bible classes, Active Christian Teens and a constitutional revision to let women vote and hold offices in the church. A building committee was formed as more Sunday school space was needed. A vacancy occurred but did not stop the members from carrying out their plans for a new educational facility. The members broke ground in 1974 and completed it in 1975. On November 23, 1975 Rev. Robert Tasler of McClusky was installed. One of his first tasks was to carry out the dedication of the new north wing, educational building on May 23, 1976. Rev. Allwardt was the speaker. Memorials from members produced two new pianos, a carillon system, a woodburning by Cuyler Thompson of DaVinci's "Last Supper" and many other gifts. A family of Lao refugees was sponsored, the LyKeohavong family of nine. The old parsonage was removed and parking facilities were expanded. Adult's and children's choirs were started and many other changes took place. Pastor Tasler and family left to take a pastorate in Riverside, CA. Rev. Patrick O'Brien came to Oakes to serve St. John's on September 19, 1982. A Shepherding Evangelism program has been organized since his arrival. We lost two, Sandy Tasler, the wife of Pastor Tasler, in a car accident and Pastor Huber with a heart attack, this past year.

90. Oakes – Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

- Location: Town of Oakes
- Source: *A History of Dickey County*, Vol. 1, p.68
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – Centennial 1882-1982 – A Century of Memories*, p.328
- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – From Prairie to Prosperity*, p.106. When Oakes was a small railroad town, Rev. William Watson held the first Episcopal service on May 11, 1904. As the population of the town grew, communicant strength increased slightly. Disregarding the fact that collections at services regularly yielded less than Watson's expense in visiting from Wahpeton, Bishop Mann organized St. Mark's Mission in 1912. Difficulties also plagued the holding of services. Oftentimes the announcement of the missionary's intended appearance in the town was not received or published. Two churches were erected in the southeastern field by the Bishop, both of them the result of Archdeacon Albert Martyr's work. At Oakes, a town of 2,000 people, fourteen communicants had started a building fund. In April of 1914 St. Mark's Church became a reality through money received from the Nation-wide campaign. By 1925 it had grown from 31 to 48 communicants, but by 1931, membership had dropped to 30. In 1957 Oakes, Ellendale and Guelph had 104 communicants. Ellendale closed their church and sold the building in 1964 for \$5,000. This money was given to St. Mary's of Guelph and St. Mark's of Oakes by the Diocese. St. Mark's used their share to remodel the undercroft. We have had 13 vicars who served the Oakes field since its inception. Of these, three are now Bishops. They are: Rt. Rev. William F. Creighton of Washington, D.C.; the Rt. Rev. Elliott Sorge of Easton, MD; and the Rt. Rev. Harold Jones of Arizona. At the present, time, 1985, we have five active lay-readers. Eric Sevaried wrote in *Colliers*, May 11, 1956, "The small towns of North Dakota are not stagnant plants...but seedbeds ceaselessly renewing themselves, their seed constantly renewing the nations." This certainly applies to Oakes—this too is how we feel with

our active women's group, E.C.W., and the entire dedication of all the members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

91. Oakes – Salem Lutheran Church

- See Oakes – Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Salem Church
- See Oakes – Grace Lutheran Church
- See Oakes – First Lutheran Church

92. Oakes – Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Salem Church

- See Oakes – Grace Lutheran Church
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes Swedish Ev. Lutheran Salem Church \[4050\]](#)
- Church History: *History of The American Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oakes, ND – 1883-1951*, p.22-24. [Swedish Free Mission Church – by Julia Dahlbeck] The earliest recollections of the ministerial work of the Lutheran faith that I recall were held by ministers who passed through, sometimes in the Norwegian and sometimes in the Swedish language. The two earliest resident ministers were Rev. Sjoblom and Rev. Kallberg, each staying a few months. Owing to the very hard times and the early struggles which our fine pioneers experienced, no definite organization was formed other than a Ladies Aid. The services were few and far between and were usually held in the old Presbyterian church. This, I believe, was the first church built. All denominations held services there. As far back as I can remember, we children were enrolled in the Presbyterian Sunday school. After a few years the Mission Friends, a fine group living around Hample station acquired a church building which I believe was earlier built by the Baptists. They asked the Swedish Lutherans to attend their services and help defray expenses. Two ministers, Mission Friends, a Rev. Johnson and a Rev. Blomberg, served respectively, lived and worked as laborers among the Mission Friends and held services Sundays. This combination lasted about three or four seasons and proved successful, and why not? For didn't both factions use the same beautiful Swedish language? The services and Sunday school were well attended—the church was always full. There were no services during the winter months. I well remember this church, it was located on the lot where Ed Larson now has his residence. The church was painted a dull brown and never saw another coat of paint and was just a shell. My father, because he lived so near had the honor of building the fires. He went early Sunday morning, to heat the church, but no matter how much was put into the heater, it was always uncomfortably cold. There were hitching posts on both sides of the church. Some people came in wagons, some in buggies and usually had some hay for the horses to munch on to keep them contented. We always walked. The sermons were fine and there were a number of fine singers, strumming their guitars with their singing. The late P.E. Peterson was generally the organist until some of us youngsters, after taking some music lessons, could relieve him. Miss Hannah Hample was the superintendent as well as the teacher of the class I was in. I was always very fond of her. As children we always attended the Presbyterian church Sunday school. We still did just that. We first went to the Presbyterian Sunday school in the forenoon, skip home for dinner, then back to the other church as their services were held in the afternoon. One incident stands out quite vividly. Always after each class had finished their lessons they were reassembled for a few general questions covering the subject. Rev. Johnson asked what three disciples seem to be favored by Jesus. He had mentioned Petrus and Johannes. Nobody seemed to know. My sister, not more than two or three, raised her hand. I tried to put her hand down, for surely she wouldn't know. He asked her. She answered promptly, "Jacob." The minister was so thrilled, he picked her up and went down the men's side of the church and asked whose little girl she was. Of course we were all puffed up. When we came home, I asked her how she knew. "Well," she said, "You know we have an uncle by the name of Peter, and one uncle by the name of Johannes. Since he didn't mention Jacob, another uncle, it must have been Jacob." We looked forward for weeks to the annual picnic which was usually held either at the Hample's or Johnson's grove, bringing plenty to eat and all were served from the long tables. People from far and near came whether they went to that church or not. After dinner, a program was given by the Sunday school with much singing. There the pioneers greeted people that they hadn't seen for so long. Another outstanding event was the auction sale, the fall auctioning off of all the beautiful articles the ladies had made at their "Kvinne forening" meetings during the year. At their Aid meetings they really served. The money was taken out of the treasury to pay for the goods used and food served at the meetings. Some cut out dresses, others served—everyone was busy. A lot of work was accordingly accomplished. Those were

precious memories. After Rev. Blomberg left there were no more ministers of their faith. The church was vacant for some time. Because of the need for confirmation and the wish to have their own Lutheran service, an arrangement was made with the Gwinner and Milnor congregations to have services every other Sunday. Rev. A.G. Olson was the first pastor, living in Gwinner or Milnor. He held services twice a month, met with the confirmation class and performed other ministerial duties. This was about 1900. This combination lasted for several years until under Rev. Edor Larson, this group became an independent congregation. The services were held in the Mission church for many years until the Swedish Lutheran church was built in 1906 under the direction of C.W. Samuelson who served the congregation for several vacations while a student at Gustavus Adolphus and Theological Seminary at Rock Island. The congregation was formally incorporated by Rev. Monten in 1905. In quest for a suitable name Rev. Monten suggested Salem which means reverence, submission and obeisance to a Higher Power. This was adopted. During the interim, the Nazarenes became active among the Mission Friends. Some became Nazarenes. The old Mission church was moved to Hample and became known as the Nazarene church. Later the Nazarenes built a church in Oakes. The old Hample church was moved back to Oakes and became the nucleus of the Nazarene tabernacle where the Nazarene's camp meetings are held each summer. Lastly I wish to pay homage to our pioneers who builded better than they knew. They came here with empty hands. Most of them lived in a dug-out in the side of the hill. There was no Oakes. With oxen and plow they turned the sod. Drought and grasshoppers were common. Where they succeeded in having a crop, perhaps they were visited by hail or grain stacks burned, which happened twice here. Had there been federal aid lavished upon them then as now, I believe they would have spurned it, for they were proud. Many who could, left; those who remained were too poor to do so. They were God fearing, courageous and thrifty and finally little by little they were crowned with success. Surely the germ of the Eternal must have been strong or they could not have accomplished what they did. Today as individuals and members of the American Lutheran church, we must push back our horizons.

(p.24) [-by Henry C. Frojen] Along in the late nineties or as late as 1900 the Norway Lutheran congregation west of Oakes, of which Rev. Moe was pastor, made arrangements with the Free Mission congregation, of which Gus Hample was a trustee, for renting of the church building for a few services during the summer months (usually once a month). Besides people in and near Oakes, the Olai Frojen, Hans Nevramon, Alex Swanson, P.C. Peterson, Ed Rasmussen, Iver Olson families, besides my parents, Mr. And Mrs. Chris H. Frojen and my brothers and sisters usually attended. My folks did not have driving horses but used work horses for the wagon. It has a single box with usually some hay in it and spring seat with boards across for seats for us children. Services usually lasted nearly two hours. Some summers my uncle, Rev. L.H. Frojen who was a student at Augsburg Theological Seminary at Minneapolis, would preach several times during the summer. Miss Dahlbeck has described the church building correctly. One summer I do remember especially there was guilt or golden lettering on the west wall, "Fraelsningen aer Fri," in place of the usual altar. "Salvation is Free" was quite impressive. Men sat on the north side of the center aisle and women on the south side, facing west. Sometimes when there were services in the evenings Father and I would walk the railroad track to town. This was with the exception of the Presbyterian church, the first church I can remember attending until the Clement church was built, where I was confirmed, in 1903. Yes, these are precious memories.

(pp.24-29) [History of Salem Lutheran Church, 1900-1940, by Esther Hazel] In the years of 1900 until 1903, Pastor A.G. Olson, who resided in Milnor, preached in Oakes to the Swedish people. Services were held in the Swedish Mission church which was rented for the sum of 50 cents a Sunday. In 1902 Pastor Olson confirmed the following: Minnie Jensen, Hilda Anderson, Selma Johnson, Edna Christensen, Julia Dahlbeck, Albert Johnson, Andrew Swanson and Hilma Nelson. In the year of 1904 under the leadership of Rev. Kallberg, the Swedish Lutheran families decided to call a student from Gustavus Adolphus college, St. Peter, Minnesota, to hold services for Christmas. C.W. Samuelson was called. In January, 1905, at a business meeting of the congregation it was decided to call Mr. Samuelson back for the Easter season and the summer months and to help organize a congregation. He was to be paid \$150.00 for the three months with board and room. In August, 1905, under the leadership of Pastor A.P. Montin of Wheaton, Minnesota, a congregation was organized. Meetings were held in the Swedish Mission church for 50 cents a Sunday rent. A charter was drawn up by Notary Public Stephen Cady, whose services were free....Charter members were Jens Nelson and family, N.J. Nelson and family, Ben Bowman and family, Nils A. Anderson and family, John Gustafson and family, Anton Christenson and family, John Nelson and family,

Mons Nelson and family, O.K. Hanson and family, Nels Hanson and family, Pete Nelson and family, Henning Bergren and family, Ben Swanson and family, J.P. Dahlbeck and family, Olaf Anderson and family, Alfred Johnson and family, Fritz Swanson, Lars Hillstrom, and Ole Rosenquist. The Salme congregation accepted the constitution of the Augustana Synod. The congregation asked for admittance into the Minnesota Conference of the Augustana Synod....In January, 1906, the annual business meeting of the congregation was held. Deacons elected were John Gustafson, Henning Bergren, Jens Nelson. Trustees elected were N.J. Nelson, John Nelson, Ben Bowman, with John Nelson as church treasurer. The janitor was Martin Nelson. It was decided to pay Pastor Montin the sum of \$10.00 for each time he came to hold services, and to call C.W. Samuelson for the Easter season and summer months for the same salary as the previous summer. Fritz Swanson was elected Sunday school superintendent, and it was decided that Sunday school be held four months of the year. There were 25 children enrolled. Auditors were Henning Bergren, Fritz Swanson, and Otto Nelson. The treasurer's report for the year January 1905 to January 1906: Income for the year \$265.86. Disbursements \$253.63. Leaving a total of \$12.23. Ben Bowman reported that nearly \$2,000.00 had been subscribed for the building fund for the church with \$140.00 paid in cash. It was decided to instruct the trustees to collect the rest of the money. It was also decided that if the Swedish Mission church could be bought for \$1,200.00 the trustees were to buy it; if not, they were to buy lots for building a new church. Lots were purchased, Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block of McCarthy Addition owned by Harrison and Bessie Nichols for the sum of \$400.00 on January 29, 1906. In February, 1906, a special meeting was held and it was decided to build a church for the sum not to exceed \$2,500.00. The church should be 40 feet long, 28 feet wide, walls 14 feet high, steeple 12x12x58 feet high; a chancel on the north end 14x16 feet; foundation of stone 2 feet, and a 14x14 foot basement, 6 feet deep. Pete Nelson, contractor. Ben Bowman, Henning Bergren, John P. Dahlbeck, Nils A. Anderson, members of the building committee. Pete Nelson to draw up plans and furnish material for \$2,150.00, \$500.00 in bonds and \$800.00 when material was on the lot. He was to get the rest when the building was completed, on August 1, 1906. At a special business meeting in June, 1906, it was decided that the building committee could spend an additional sum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for improvements or changes. It was decided that Pete Nelson was to be paid the whole sum of \$2,247.00 for the building of the church, and that the trustees borrow what they could not raise. It was also decided not to call an ordained pastor at present. A Motion was made to put hitching posts on the east and north sides of the church and a fence around the church property. The next special meeting was held September 8, 1906; John Nelson, chairman. Meeting opened with prayer of thanksgiving. Jens Nelson offered to loan the congregation any money needed to pay the contractor. The congregation decided to let the German Lutheran congregation use the church every other week for the sum of 50 cents per Sunday, and they furnish their own lights and fuel. It was also decided to call C.W. Samuelson for one year, October 1, 1906 to October 1, 1907, for the sum of \$50.00 a month with board and room. Mrs. N.J. Nelson and Mrs. Nils A. Anderson were confirmed in private confirmation in 1905 and 1906. On September 12, 1906, Carl Bowman was the first baby baptized in the new church....He (C.W. Samuelson) became the first pastor in 1909....Pastor Samuelson served until February, 1911. In June, 1912, Pastor J. Edor Larson moved to Gwinner and became pastor of the Gwinner, White Stone Hill, Oakes and Fullerton congregations....On May 7, 1913, Pastor Larson was married to Miss Alma Larson of Madrid, Iowa. They took a three months leave of absence and went to Sweden to visit Pastor Larsons' parents, and S.A. Erling served as student pastor in his absence. In the year 1918 at the congregational meeting in January, it was decided to build a parsonage and call a resident pastor. Pastor Larson resigned from all parishes and moved to Oakes in the fall of 1918....On September 19, 1920, the congregation celebrated its 15th year. The debt on the parsonage was paid up by the Ladies Aid in 1920, making the church debt free. Services were held in the Swedish language at the morning services and in the English language on Sunday evenings. Pastor Larson moved to Parkers Prairie, Minnesota, in September, 1921, and Pastor J.A. Mattson of Gwinner served as Vice Pastor until Pastor H.S. Chilgren came in 1923....Pastor Children became ill and had to resign in 1927, moving to Minneapolis. Pastor S.N. Elvin of Gwinner served as Vice Pastor until Pastor P.A. Zedren came in Octogber, 1929. Paul Swenson served as student pastor from January until October, 1929....On September 11, 1938, Pastor Zedren called a special congregational meeting, handing in a letter of resignation because of ill health. He had already gone to Minneapolis to seek medical aid. Pastor E.E. Bostrom of Gwinner presided at the meeting. The congregation accepted Pastor Zedren's resignation and asked Pastor Bostrom to serve as Vice Pastor until we got a resident pastor. Pastor Zedren passed away Nov. 3, 1938. Pastor Bostrom served us until the Salem Lutheran congregation and the First Lutheran congregation called Rev. J.M. Rasmussen in 1940....Departed Pastors who have served this church: Rev. A.P. Montin, born in Sweden, November 8,

1844. Came to America in 1866; was ordained at Vassa, Minnesota, in 1875. He retired from the ministry in 1921. He died December 23, 1928, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He served Oakes from 1905 until 1909....**Rev. A.G. Olson**, born in Sweden March 10, 1864. Came to America in 1869. Was ordained at St. Peter, Minnesota, June 10, 1894. Served the Salem congregation from 1900 to 1903. Retired from the ministry in 1929. Passed away in Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 14, 1943. **Rev. H.S. Children**, born September 15, 1868, at Scandia Grove, Minnesota. Was ordained at Moline, Illinois, June 6, 1897. Served the Salem congregation from 1923 until 1927. Passed away May 21, 1934, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. **Rev. S.N. Elvin**, born in Sweden, August 27, 1868. Came to America in 1886. Was ordained in Jamestown, New York, in 1901. Became ill in July, 1932. Retired and passed away in October, 1932. He served the Oakes parish as Vice Pastor from 1928 to 1929. **Rev. J.A. Mattson**, born in Sweden, April 30, 1862. Came to America in 1870. Was ordained at St. Peter, Minnesota, June, 1894. Retired in 1938. Passed away at Rock Island, Illinois, July 20, 1943. Was Vice Pastor from September, 1921, until 1923. **Rev. Carl G. Anderson**, born April 21, 1885, at Antrin, Pennsylvania. Was ordained June 13, 1913, at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Was Regional Director for the Minnesota and Red River Valley Conferences from 1936 until 1948. Served us before the during the amalgamation. Passed away October 5, 1948, one month after moving to Hoquiam, Washington. **Rev. E.J. Lilydahl** of Valley City, North Dakota, served as Vice Pastor from 1911 until 1912.

93. Oakes – United Methodist Church

- Location: 602 Juniper Ave
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes United Methodist Church-1 \[4050\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Oakes United Methodist Church-2 \[4045\]](#)
- See Oakes – First Methodist Church
- Church History: *Centennial History, 1887-1987 – United Methodist Church Oakes, N.D. – with Up-date to 1996.* (p.1 - Heritage of Ministry – The Pastors 1887-1987): Charles S. Lane (1887); Fred J. Giddings (1889); J.B. Monroe (1890); A.F. Nichols (1891); W.A. Robins (1892); J.C. Pike (1893); George Bailey (1894); J.M. Taylor (1896); A.T. Bishop (1898); J. Scarboro and E. Duden (1900); J.N. Loach (1901); J.S. Delong (1905), James Opie (1907); B.A. Burns (1909); Benj. H. Morse (1911); F.S. Hollett (1912); James Opie (1915); O.L. Anthony (1919); J.D. Smith (1921); Silar Fairham (1928); Benjamin Babcock (1931); Wilson Johnstone (1933); H.J. Gernhardt Sr. (1935); M.J. Gernhardt Jr. (1944); Sherman Bushendorf (1948); Harold J. Empie (1951); Edward B. Parker (1961); Clarence Ketterling (1970); Harold Eastburn [death from heart attack] (1974); Otto Lehner (1976; Phil Lint (1980); Nancy Scarff (1985); J. Ronald Gough (1986).

(pp.2-11) In the 1880's as Dakota Territory opened to settlers, pioneers streamed in from eastern states and from Europe, eager for land and a better livelihood. Some came by rail with few possessions. Others came in wagons, often pulled by oxen. They filed on tree claims and homesteads, put up living quarters, and began farming the land. Soon they started schools, churches and towns. So...let us look back to this era for the beginnings of our church, which now in this year of 1987 is 100 years old. A group of families had arrived in 1883 from Chautauqua County in New York state led by George Dill, G.B. Phifer, and L.V. Babcock, settling in Verner Valley, S.D. of what would become the town of Oakes. These were joined a little later by other friends from the east...Youngs, McPhails, Michels, Hamples, and Fentons, to name a few. All settled with their families in nearby areas. Each had special skills needed in this pioneer kind of living. For instance, George Dill was a blacksmith to the group, along with his farming. Since Christian worship was a priority with these families, they meet regularly for worship and Sunday School in homes and schoolhouses at the point of Hudson, Verner, Andrus Schoolhouse, Crinnion Schoolhouse, and then in the new town of Oakes. Circuit preachers on horseback.. some Methodists, some Presbyterian, and some Baptist...alternated at these gathering. In October of 1887, the Methodist Conference of North Dakota in Fargo appointed Rev. Charles S. Lane as the first minister to the growing group of about 40 members of the Oakes Methodist Episcopal Church, just a year after this town was founded. According to Miss Lillie Denning, historian of the first 50 years, the first members as of December 10, 1887, were: Wm. Campbell, local preacher; James Fawcett, local preacher; Dr. M.H.V. Russuel, exhorter and steward; W.A. Cross, steward and trustee; Miss Jenni Nichols, steward; R.H. Busted, trustee; J.H. Denning, steward and trustee; George Dill, steward and trustee; and Mrs. E.F. Stevens, steward. The first baby baptized in this

congregation was Glenn Verner Dill, son of George and Eliza Phifer Dill. Gusta Phifer (later Slocum) was the first child taken in by preparatory membership. For four years, various places in Oakes were used for worship, including the original First Presbyterian Church. By 1891 the congregation was able to build its own little church on the highway (now 7th and Ivy Ave. S.W.) By 1907 the Oakes Church was elevated to full status in the Conference, and already, the first church building was outgrown. Sold to Swedish Lutherans, who later sold it to an Assembly of God congregation, finally sold it to the Nazarenes, this original Methodist building was placed on the historic site in the Oakes in 1976, designated a Heritage Building. During the 1986 Oakes Centennial an ecumenical service was held in the old church, led by Rev. Ronald Gough, pastor. Having decided to build a larger accommodation, the Methodists had purchased three lots a short distance away (now 6th and Juniper Ave.) Architects Down & Eads drew up plans, A. Ritterbush & Son were given the building contract, and ground was broken on Aug. 5, 1908. George Dill hauled the first load of stone for the foundation. Six weeks later, much of the framework was in place, and the laying of the cornerstone by Levi Harris drew a large crowd. This was now Sept. 19. At 3 P.M. Methodist Pastor James Opie, joined by several other ministers of note, began the impressive ritual service of the church, depositing a copy of the church history to that date in the cornerstone. The building was completed by the specified date of Dec. 1, 1908...four months from groundbreaking...at a cost of \$12,500. Outstanding points of interest in the new church were the stained glass windows. The larger ones featured Jesus at Gethsemane and Jesus, the Good Shepherd. 22 other stained glass windows of smaller size beautified other areas, and all of these are an irreplaceable treasure to this day. (In 1964 the two large windows were assessed at \$3,150.90 each, and the smaller ones at \$1,860 each. Floodlights were installed to focus on the large ones after dark in 1957. In 1977 the Hauser Company of Winona removed the windows for cleaning, re-cementing, and placing Lexan plastic covering on the outside for protection at a cost of \$10,550 donated by members. It was money well spent, for several weeks later, a devastating storm with large hail broke nearly all the windows in Oakes...but left our cherished stained glass windows intact). Dedication services for the 1908 church were on Dec. 13, 1908, the principal speaker being Dr. J.S. Montgomery of Minneapolis (later a U.S. Senate Chaplain). The District Superintendent, Dr. S.A. Danford, and other pastors assisted Rev. Opie. At the afternoon service four children were baptized...Martha Opie, Merlin Loach, Eber Meadows, and Richard L. Fordyce. At this time the ladies of the congregation were at the forefront of progress, and Mrs. Opie suggested a Ladies Aid goal of a mile of pennies (\$844.80) to pay for seating in the new church. The Ladies not only paid for seating, but also for pulpit furniture and for coal. There have been three parsonages in the 100 years. The first one, moved from Ludden in 1893, was set next to the original church on the highway. The second one currently in use is at 210 S. 7th St. (also highway) was purchased in 1906 for \$2,000. And mostly paid for from the renting of the first one. Many, many times that amount has been spent since then to maintain, remodel, and furnish this home for our pastors. It is still not up to standard, so a new parsonage has been purchased at 1005 Lilac Ave. We find no records of a special 25th anniversary in 1912, except that Rev. Hollett gave a public lecture for which the Epworth League sold tickets at 25 cents, and the ladies served one of their 35 cents a plate public suppers. In this period, some of the pastors regularly attended Ladies Aid meetings every two weeks and mentioned as bringing Devotions to the group. The 1930's are remembered as the terrible dust-bowl depression years. Money was so short that T.H. Ferber and A.L. Ditch volunteered to clean the church and make the fires regularly, without pay. The pastor's salary was reduced for \$2,400. A year to \$1,600. But even so, Rev. Babcock received only \$810. Of his pay in the first eleven months. The 40th anniversary of the church in 1927 was marked by the return of Dr. F.S. Hollett (former pastor) to speak at the dedication of the new church basement at a service that included music and readings. This was a Thursday, with the atmosphere of a fair. The young people had a candy booth, a fish pond, and a baby show. The ladies, of course, served their 35 cents suppers. On Sunday evening, a slide of the dedication ceremony of the church was shown. The 50th anniversary on Oct. 31, 1937, led by Pastor Henry J. Gernhardt and wife Roxanne, featured sermons by District Superintendent Rev. Wilson Johnstone. Mrs. Arne (Eleanore) Melby was the organist and there were musical selections by the choir, by Dr. R.W. Van Houten, Mrs. Stanley Shafer, and Mrs. D. Mueller, with Mrs. W.H. Bush at the piano. Miss Lillian Denning read the 50 year history that she had written of the church. Honored for longest membership were Mrs. Caroline Phifer, Mrs. Mary Denning, Mrs. E.F. Steven, Mrs. Nina Fordyce, Mrs. J.W. Hutsinpillar, and Miss Lillie Denning. By 1940 the three branches of Methodism were unified...the Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Episcopal Church South, and Methodist Protestant Church. Our Church name became the Oakes Methodist Church. At this time, the Cogswell Methodist Church was added to the Oakes-Glover Charge. During World War II many of our young men and women were in the armed services, and a

framed scroll of honor of their names was hung in the church in 1943. There are two gold stars for those who died in the service of their country...Raymond Stout and Thomas Kilcheman. Monthly letters to service persons were written by Evelyn Van Houten and Grace Dill. In the 1940's, Miss Cecile Gensrich came as a pastoral assistant for the youth work and visitation, making over 500 visits. She worked for four years before leaving to be married and was greatly missed. A full time secretary is yet to be a reality. Rev. Harold Empie and wife Winifred had the longest tenure in our 100 years. They served from 1951 to 1961, when they retired from full time ministry. This dynamic couple saw many commitments by members, as well as seeing many improvements in the buildings. Mrs. Empie, as choir director, made music an important part of worship. She often filled in as preacher, and was also an artist of note. Their daughter Marion has been a missionary with her husband, Gene Lewton, for many yours in Kenye, and several Empies grandchildren are missionaries also. The Christmas parties given by the Empies for the Official Board and Committees featured hilarious games and festive refreshments, so they were a "hard act to follow". They returned on 1967 for a 50th Wedding anniversary reception in our Church. Of the 34 pastors and their wives who have ministered here, someone said, "They were as varied as the people they served, and from all of them, the members took spiritual sustenance." At the time of the 75th anniversary in 1962 Rev. Edward Parker and his wife were into the second year of their nine years of service. On Nov. 4, 1962 there were both morning and afternoon services, Bishop E.R. Garrison and District Skuperintendent C.F. Miller speaking. Organist Stenstavold, Choir Director Eleanore Melby, and Soloist Dr. Van Houten provided music in the morning. The afternoon service featured greetings from Mayor Ivan Shafer, a member, and Rev. Harry Houser of the Ministereum, with Susan Parker at the organ, Jeanne Olson at the piano, and Wayne Neilsen as soloist. Re-dedication of the church was by Rev. C.F. Miller. On Saturday evening a pageant was performed at the High School, written and directed by Mrs. Alert Klein, which included scenes past, present, and future, of the church. Our church has been fortunate in June, 1957, to welcome some Methodist members from Glover after they had decided to close their church...the Olsons, Baskas, Whitfields, Grosshans, and Dawkins. They have enriched the Oakes congregation in many ways. Mementos from the Glover Methodist Church are hymnals and 1908 communion cups. With 115 Sunday School students in 1965, an educational unit was being considered for more space. A vote was taken at a congregational meeting on Nov. 19, 1965. 40 persons voted to proceed, 14 voted no, 1 abstained. The plans being approved by the District Superintendent as conforming to the Methodist Church of Discipline of 1964, a committee headed by Lloyd Parker swung into action. The architect contacted was Wm. A. Schaeffer Associates of St. Paul, and Schoenrock Sons of Hazen N.D. received the building contract...A finance committee set to work on pledges, co-chaired by Gene Laske and Paul Klinger. The initial amount pledged was \$21,995. After groundbreaking in October of 1966, the building was enclosed by January, and much was accomplished by volunteer labor of our members in addition to men from the building firm. There had to be a reconstruction of the side of the church where the addition was to be added, so the eventual cost was about \$45,000. The committee had to borrow \$15,000. From various members at 6% interest to pay the final indebtedness. Dr. William Morrison, District Superintendent, came for a consecration service on Nov. 19, 1967. A month previous to this, the new chapel had been used for the meeting of the 4th quarterly conference. The official Dedication service was not until six years later...Oct. 28, 1973. According to the Church Discipline of the United Methodist Church, a church school building cannot be dedicated until it is free of debt. (Since 1970 we had been the United Methodist Church since the union with the Evangelical United Brethren). The service of dedication was at 2 P.M. led by District Superintendent Cecil Miller and Rev. Parker. Rev. Miller's provocative sermon title was "You Have a New Building...So What?" The response was that we were ready to embark on new ventures to demonstrate our faith in the work of the living God. Students of Dakota Wesleyan College contributed with music, Lloyd Parker presented the key to the new building, and a Dedication Offering was received. A fellowship dinner was served by the Cogswell ladies. The new chapel was furnished with altar, table, lectern, and chair as a memorial to Raymond Medd, recently deceased after a lifetime of service to the church. These were custom-made by a local craftsman. The painting of Sallman's Head of Christ, hanging above the altar, is also a memorial to Ray. Many memorial gifts have enhanced our church, as listed in the Memorial Books. In 1978 many memorials helped with installation of new carpeting and padded pews in the sanctuary. Our present hymnals were a gift in 1970 in memory of Arne Melby. Memorials helped to buy last year's chair lift. In the church's spiritual ministry, evangelistic meetings were held regularly, as well as Wednesday evening prayer meetings, until Rev. Parker's ministry. Methods and programs have changed in format, such as evangelism through music, drama, youth caravans, Bible studies, and mutually enriching co-operation with other Oakes churches in Thanksgiving and Lenten services, sacred concerts involving

representative member and World Day of Prayer participation. The inner core of faith remains, dispensed in different ways. There has always been a strong mission emphasis, both "home" and "foreign". In addition to conference apportionments being paid to help keep connectional ministries going, our members have prayerfully given generously, that others might have food, housing, education, medical service, disaster relief, and spiritual help. We made it possible for Rev. Parker to go to the Philippines in 1968 when he was selected by the conference to have a mission ministry there for several weeks. In 1981, Rev. Lint joined a conference group for a work session in Tampa, FL. Scores of missionaries and mission interpreters have come to acquaint us with the needs of every continent and islands of the world, as well as those needs in the U.S. On-going support shares are helping David and Shirley Wu at Singapore's Trinity Theological College, and Mary Ann Lewis, a missionary with W.G.M. in Kenya. Mary Ann is a member of our church. We usually have a good number at the Eastern District Mission Dinners in the spring, and we took a turn at hosting this on a snowy evening this past February. The speaker was John Stumbo, Vice Pres. Of the World Division of the Global Ministries Board...knowledgeable about the problems of South Africa. From the beginning, Oakes United Methodist Church has been blessed with "can-do" members, whose labor and enthusiasm spanned the gaps when funds are low. Pastors have been supportive in each endeavor through the years. Lest the reader mistakenly infer that "these people called Methodists" are fitted with halos, we admit to being human with faults, often stumbling, but always striving toward the goal of the high calling in Jesus Christ. For this 19887 Centennial, we're celebrating during the whole year. There are Singspiration Evenings, fellowship dinners with fun programs, exhibits old and new, bi-monthly Evangelion Newsletters, visits of former members in person or by letter, services to mark the Oct. 11 special day and a pageant of "Scenes Through the Century." The end of the momentous year is to be marked by a visit from Bishop Edwin C. Boulton in December. All of this points to our motto of "Remembering the Past...Challenging the Future." As a part of the Centennial celebration the Church decided to purchase a new parsonage. The Parsonage Committee recommended that the church engage in a capital-funds drive to determine if the project was feasible. After a five-week campaign the Campaign Committee reported that we have raised \$35,100 toward the goal of \$55,000. After other gifts were received, a total of \$45,300 was promised. These monies were promised over a three-year period. After examining several houses for purchase, the parsonage committee recommended that the church purchase the present house at 1005 Lilac Avenue for \$66,000. The old parsonage is being sold for \$18,000. After receipt of these funds the church will own only about \$14,000. The total price of the parsonage is only under-pledged by about \$3,000. This is truly a blessing for which thanks to God is appropriate.

- Community History: *Oakes, ND – Centennial 1886-1986 – From Prairie to Prosperity*, p.101-102. The Oakes United Methodist Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1987. Although there were Methodists meeting in homes and schools earlier, it was in 1887 that Oakes received circuit status as an official part of the North Dakota Methodist Conference. The first church building was begun in 1891 on the southwest corner of the present Seventh and Ivy Avenue. The initial membership was 40. Names of early members included: Andrus, Denning, Dill, Fordyce, Hutsinpillar, Kennedy, Nichols, Phifer, Slocum and Stevens, as well as others. The first pastor was Charles Lane. Before long, they began to outgrow this building, and it was subsequently used by three other denominations: Norwegian and Hauge Lutherans, Church of Christ and The Church of the Nazarene. The present church building at Sixth and Juniper was begun with groundbreaking on August 5, 1908 and completed on December 1, 1908 (an incredible four months), A. Ritterbush and Son being contractors. The cornerstone contains church history to that time, and the total cost was \$12,500. Considered irreplaceable treasures are the 21 stained glass windows in sanctuary, side rooms and hall. The sanctuary remains essentially the same as when built and seats about 250. The pastor then was Rev. James Opie, and organist was Miss Pearle Fenton (Mrs. J.F. Nichols). On the 50th anniversary in 1937 the pastor was H.J. Gernhardt, Sr. The organist then was Mrs. Arne Melby. The program was interesting, with reminiscences by many of the pioneers. The 75th anniversary came in 1962, with a pageant at the high school and a band and large choir. Bishop Garrison came to speak, as did former pastors and friends. Rev. Edward Parker was then the pastor. The Glover church had joined with Oakes in 1957. The pastor with the longest tenure was Rev. Harold Empie, who stayed ten years until his retirement. An educational unit was begun on the south end of the church in 1966. This included a Chapel, grade school Sunday school rooms, two offices, small kitchen and large entrance space, at a cost of \$40,000. The merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church with the Methodist Church in 1968 created the United Methodist Church of today. Present membership of the Oakes United Methodist Church is 250 (end of 1984). The present organist and choir director is Linda Roney, and her sister, Bev Nielsen, is

at the piano. In 1983 a handbell choir was started, with Linda and Bev as directors. From a prairie circuit beginning in 1887, our church has prospered through the changes of the times, while keeping its heritage of bringing people to Jesus Christ. Pastors have been: Charles S. Lane (1887); Fred J. Giddings (1889); J.B. Monroe (1890); A.F. Nichols (1891); W.A. Robins (1892); J.C. Pike (1893); George Bailey (1894); J.M. Taylor (1896); A.T. Bishop (1898); J. Scarboro and E. Duden (1900); J.N. Loach (1901); J.S. DeLong (1905); James Opie (1907); R.A. Burns (1909); B.J. Morse (1911); F.S. Hollett (1912); James Opie (1915); O.L. Anthony (1919); J.D. Smith (1921); Silas Fairham (1928); Benjamin Babcock (1931); Wilson Johnstone (1933); H.J. Gernhardt, Sr. (1937); H.J. Gernhardt, Jr. (1944); Sherman Buschendorf (1948); Harold J. Empie (1951); Edward H. Parker (1961); Clarence Ketterling (1970); Harold Eastburn (1974); Otto Lehner (1976); Phil Lint (1980); Nancy Scarff (1985).

94. Peace Evangelical Lutheran Free Church

- Location: Dickey County, Potsdam Township, NE ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 13-T132-R64**
- See Merricourt – Peace Lutheran Church

95. Port Emma – Methodist Church

- Community History: *Guelph, ND – Centennial 1883-1983 – Grainery of the Plains*, p.118. The people of Port Emma, through the influence of Rev. Fawcett obtained \$500.00 from the conference towards a Methodist church fund. The Port Emmaites subscribed \$515.00 with promises of more, making in all \$1300.00, a sum sufficient to construct a very fine edifice; but that is as far as the effort went and the people held religious services in the hall until the schoolhouse was built. There was no church building until after the settlement of the present Ludden...Port Emma, at one time was quite a flourishing village. Had the railroad passed through this place, it would have made it the principle town in the east end of the country, but the railroad came up the opposite side of the river, the town of Ludden was started by the railroad company and Port Emma was a thing of the past.

96. River Country Church

- Location: Lovell Township, SW ¼ of **Sec. 25-T129-R60**
- [Photo Available: Di-River Country Church \[4064\]](#)
- Community History: *Guelph, ND – Centennial 1883-1983 – Grainery of the Plains*, p.142. Members of the Congregation who lived in James River locality and considered the distance too great to go to the Savo church decided in 1887 to construct a church building for themselves. This was built on Fred Holmstrom's land in Portage township. Committee members included William Wattula, John Korpua, Henry Wattaja, Sakari Wanttaja, Fred Holstrom, Simon Wuolu, Jeremiah Erickson and Matt Merta-Buro. This Congregation was also under the authority of the same Board of Trustees as the Savo Church. The James River Church was later moved from Portage township to land deeded to the congregation by William Wattula and located in Lovell Township, SW 40 of Section 25-129-60. Henry Kytönen taught the Sunday School in the River Country Church. William Wattula led the singing there for many years. Through the years some of the confirmation classes were held at the James River Church, whichever area being the most convenient for the majority of the prospective confirmands. The River Country Church was disbanded and sold to William Scott in 1954. In the early years, Rev. N.P. Starkka and Rev. Charles Daniels were the ministers. Later Gideon Daniels performed the services for many years. They had no resident minister after he died. (Excerpts from the History of the Finnish Settlement in Brown and Dickey Counties of North and South Dakota, 1881-1955, pages 7 and 8).

97. Saint Ansgar Lutheran Church (ALC)

- Location: Dickey County, Wright Township – 5 miles south & 1 mile east of LaMoure
- See LaMoure County, ND, Marion – Lutheran Church (ELCA)
- Church Records as of 25 Jun 2007:
 - Kept by Jannene Janssen, 7927 101st Ave SE, Fullerton, ND 58441 (Phone: 701-883-4402)
 - Baptism 1901-2005
 - Confirmation 1902-2006
 - Marriage 1905-2006

- Death 1995-2006
- [Photo Available: Saint Ansgar Lutheran Church-1 \[4026\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Saint Ansgar Lutheran Church-2 \[4084\]](#)
- Community History: *Fullerton, ND – Centennial 1887-1987 – A Century of Community*, p.117-118. "Norske Homesteaders" brought their Bibles and "huspostils" (sermon book) with them to Wright Township in 1883. In the sod homes of Lars Holm and Peder Jorgensen, friends began to gather to thank God in song and prayer. How happy they were to have the opportunity to worship with others again. The nearest post office and trading place was Grand Rapids, eighteen miles away. In the spring of 1884, Rev. Hill came to the scattered settlements from Lisbon. The first baptisms in Wright Township were for Tilda Jorgenson, Ida Thompson and Gilbert Holm. That was the beginning of St. Ansgar congregation. The sod homes were crowded, the pews were grocery boxes or nail kegs, but the word of God has a special attraction. Some families traveled five miles with ox team to attend services. The "Norske Synode" sent Rev. Rogne to Dakota in 1885. He lived at Ellendale, thirty-five miles southwest. Often times he would go on foot or skis to keep pastoral appointments on the Dakota Prairies. Services were held in Wright School #1 in 1885. Christmas brought the first program. A small cottonwood served as the Christmas tree. Decorations were colored paper, silver stars (the silver was bright tea lead), candy bags, and colored candles – all lighted. A mission society of New York State sent the decorations. Most Norwegians had never heard the old Christmas carols or the Christmas Story in the American language before. But, if they didn't understand the words, the message was the same: Christ was born for all! The first cemetery was located one mile north of the Dickey-LaMoure county line. On January 12, 1888, Aamen Olson perished in a terrible blizzard while looking for her school-bound daughter. Her daughter was safe at the Holm residence. Mrs. Olson's body was found on the James River a few days later, and she was the first to be buried in the cemetery. On January 20, 1889, several interested neighbors met at the Lars Holm farm to discuss the need of organizing a congregation. This was accomplished under the leadership of Rev. Heiberg, who also suggested the name St. Ansgar. Rev. Kleveland served St. Ansgar in 1900, gave ten services a year and his salary was \$40.00. He served the congregation until 1904. Rev. J.H. Lindeland served from 1904-1906. Rev. Nesheim served from 1906-1920. It was Pastor Nesheim who, being an accomplished musician, organized a large choir. The year 1913 was a time of improved conditions for the farmers; crops were more certain and many new active members were joining the church. Attendance was very good at the regular services as well as prayer meetings. The vision of the church became uppermost in their minds. In 1914 the church in the James River Valley became a reality. A special meeting was held on January 12 to select a location for a new church. J.G. Mattson donated two acres of land on the NW ¼ of Section 1 in Wright Township. In March construction began on the building, which measured 30 feet by 62 feet with a full basement. Those serving on the building and finance committee were: O.O. Elison, B.L. Nelson Sr., Karl Nelson, Mrs. J.E. Juberg, and M.G. Mattson. The total cost of the structure was \$4,401.71. The altar painting was done by Klagstad. Elmer Orness and Pearl Beethe were the first to be baptized in the church on June 27, 1915. First to be confirmed were: LeRoy Olson, Ina Jacobson, Sella Nelson, and Amanda Mattson. The first funeral was for Laurence Juberg. First burial in the church cemetery was Miss Bertha Nelson in 1916. Hazel Welander and Alfred Willardson were the first couple married in St. Ansgar on September 20, 1940. Furnishings, such as a bell, iron gate, three large leather-upholstered chairs, the pulpit, baptismal font, and the organ were donated by members of the congregation. During the depression and drought years, St. Ansgar's congregation was without a pastor. Neighboring pastors came at times from 1933 until 1936 to preach the gospel and to hold funeral services. We appreciate the efforts of our pioneer pastors and forebearers, who worked and struggled against great odds to found and develop our church. The 1986 membership is 75 baptized, active members. With each new baptism, our congregation is encouraged of another generation. We look forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary in 1989. Pastors who have served from 1920 until 1986 are as follows: (1921) Rev. Bratlie; (1923) Rev. Eggen; (1929) Rev. Nolstad; (1934) Rev. Egertson; (1938) Rev. Haakonson; (1943) Rev. Englestad; (1948) Student Pastor Harold Olson; (1949) Rev. Solberg; (1953) Rev. Lund; (1956) Rev. Carlson; (1961) Rev. Holm; (1964) Rev. Alger; (1965) Rev. Gunderson; (1975) Rev. Rude; (1985) Rev. Estrem.
- Community History: *LaMoure, ND – A History of LaMoure 1882-1982*, p.196-197. Spring 1883—two years after the first homestead stakes were driven in Wright Township there was a church service and three baptisms at the home of Peder Jorgenson, conducted by Rev. Hill of Lisbon. The starting point of a

congregation, the dream even than of a church. Services continued, often six weeks apart, by Rev. Rogne of the Norske Synod from Ellendale. Many times he was paid only with a cup of coffee. On January 20, 1889, at the home of Lars Holm, nine men held a meeting. Nels Knutson, S.S. Thompson, Peder Jorgenson, I.O. Tvete, K.L. Tangen, Lars Holm and Thedor Johnson agreed to form a congregation. Pastor Lars Heiberg suggested that it be named St. Ansgar. The early history of the church is sketchy as the records which were kept in the old Wright Township School were destroyed by fire in 1919. The first Sunday School started in the fall of 1889 followed by a Ladies Aid. The first burial was Mrs. Aamen Olson who perished in the blizzard of 1888. The first wedding in the new congregation was at the home of S.S. Thompson when his daughter Dora married John Jacobson on Thanksgiving Day, 1898. Services continued to be held in homes or at times in the Wright schoolhouse. From 1898-1904 St. Ansgar joined with Clement and Oakes congregations, building a parsonage in Oakes. Pastor Moe's salary was \$35.00 a year. In 1906 it was decided at the annual meeting to begin a fund for building a church. St. Ansgar now joined with Berlin and Lisbon congregations to call Pastor O.J. Nesheim. In January of 1908 the Ladies Aid, which was dormant for many years, was reorganized. The congregation was larger now and times were better. The vision of a church arose again. In January of 1914, J.G. Mattson offered two acres of land for the church and cemetery located south of the county line and west of Cottonwood Creek and was accepted. It was also decided to join the Hauge Synod. The finance and building committee was M.G. Mattson, O.O. Ellison, B.L. Nelson, Sr., Karl Nelson, and Mrs. J.E. Juberg. On November 21, 1914, St. Ansgar Congregation had a church at a cost of \$4,401.71. The church grew and flourished between 1907-1920. Pastor Nesheim directed the 20 members of St. Ansgar choir. In the following years St. Ansgar was united with Rogate of Berlin, Englevale, and Zoar of LaMoure (1921), Rogate and Zoar (1923), Rogate, Zoar and Kulm (1928). From 1933-1936 there was no pastor but the church was provided with necessary services by neighboring churches. In 1936 the congregation reorganized and became part of a three-point parish, St. Ansgar, Zoar and Marion. The Sunday School and St. Ansgar Mission (Ladies Aid) again became active, adding a Brotherhood and youth Luther League. St. Ansgar celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1939. Pastor R.P. Haakonson had regular services, Bible study, W.M.F. (Ladies Aid), Brotherhood and Sunday School. The first church wedding took place in 1940 when Alfred Willardsen and Hazel Welander were married. Karl Nelson presented them with the \$25.00 gift he had promised to the first couple married in the church. Electricity and lights were installed in 1947. Pastor Bennert Solberg (1948-1952) promoted fellowship by having the first of many church services and parish picnics held at Memorial Park, Grand Rapids. Rev. Arnold Lund (1952-1956) was instrumental in having the two stained glass windows installed. Arne Carlson was pastor from 1956-1961. The parish, now consisting of St. Ansgar and Zoar, built a new parsonage in LaMoure. A new electric organ was purchased. Pastor Erwin Holm served us from 1961-1964. In September of 1964, St. Ansgar celebrated its 75th anniversary with Pastor James Algers. The new liturgy from the new red hymnal was introduced in October of that year. Pastor Algers (1964-1967) wrote a play for the St. Ansgar Sunday School Christmas program. Pastor Allen Gunderson (1967-1976) helped to establish the LaMoure County Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The youth groups were very active. The Luther League organization attended the National Convention in New York in 1970. The Bethel Bible Study was begun that same year. A telephone was installed in the church in 1976. Pastor Lee Ruud accepted a call to St. Ansgar and Zoar in 1977. The Lutheran Book of Worship was accepted and the new liturgy begun. In 1980 St. Ansgar and Zoar sponsored the Lith Sainourat family, bringing the Laotian refuge family to LaMoure. Today St. Ansgar consists of about 75 persons.

- Community History: *LaMoure, ND – Celebrating 125 Years! 1882-2007*, p.87. On March 18, 1882, two men drove two stakes into the frozen ground on section twelve which was later Wright Township, not yet surveyed. The place looked good for future homes. They ate their lunch of frozen bread and pork, took a good look around, and went back to their camp five miles up the river, where they had left their oxen in a sod stable built by a homesteader in 1881. There they waited for a real spring to be able to prepare some dwellings for their families who were coming that spring from Wisconsin. The nearest railroad was Jamestown so mother earth furnished most of the material for houses and shelter for the stock. The two men were Lars Holm and Peder Jorgensen. On May 7 the sod houses on section twelve, a quarter of a mile apart, were occupied by two women and five children, the only ones in the township. Karen and Engeborg sang their old hymns accompanied by birds and thanked God for all His blessings. They had brought their Bibles and "huspostils" (sermon book) with them, also Catechisms for the children. The nearest post office was Grand Rapids, eighteen miles away, also the nearest trading place. Once a band of friendly Indians came by, showed their passports and went on. Some prospectors also came by, stopped, and cooked their

dinner. They were looking for gold in the hills. The spring of 1883 brought more neighbors. Two "Norske" families came. One, a sister of Mrs. Jorgensen, Mrs. Thompson, with her four children, were very welcome. In June word came there was to be services five miles north on the following Sunday. How happy they were for the opportunity to go and worship with others again. A little boy was also to be baptized and was given the name of Clarence Herbert. Rev. Hill had come from Lisbon to preach and gospel in scattered settlements. After services a fellowship lunch was served, and was greatly appreciated especially by the children before starting back on their five mile drive with ox team. One and all were happier and more hopeful that sometime they would have a congregation. By fall two little girls and a little boy came and wanted to stay. Now they had to get a minister to come to their corner too, but snow came early, so not until spring 1884 could Rev. Hill come. The services were at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peder Jorgensen, and the three little ones were baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and given the names of Tilda Jorgensen, Ida Thompson and Gilbert Holm. This was the first baptism and service in the township – the starting point of St. Ansgar Congregation. As Rev. Hill was doing duty in the Conference Synod as Missionary Pastor he would stop here when going through. The little houses were crowded, be they of lumber or sod. The pews were mostly of grocery boxes or nail kegs. If you did not have enough your neighbor would bring some chairs or a long bench, as the services were at the different homes. The Word of God seemed to have a special attraction. In 1885 the "Norske Synode" sent Rev. Rogne to Dakota. He lived in Ellendale, thirty miles southwest. Agreement was made that he should give the people of this place part time service, as by now more had located here and also to the north. Those that agreed to that were: Aamen Olson, Lars Holm, Andrew How, S.S. Thompson, Erick Jacobson, Ole Ellison, Reier Thurston, Jake Mattson, Peter Peterson, Peder Jorgensen, Thedor Johnson, K.L. Tangen, Peter Berg and Nels Knutson. The 1st four were not married. Peder Jorgensen was elected to gather money for the pastor's salary and it was not an enviable job at any time. They circulated a paper on which each one put his name and contribution, and then the treasurer would collect. All the people were poor, and sometimes all he got after walking many miles was a cup of coffee. That was nice, but it did not swell the pastor's salary. It was a credit to the people of this community that when Rev. Rogne left in 1887, they had paid him every cent of what they promised and had given him three offerings a year. Pastor Rogne was a sincere, earnest Christian. He did all in his power to win souls for Christ, and surely God blessed his efforts and hard work which he did on the Dakota prairies. Often times in the winter he had to go on foot or skis to keep his pastoral appointments. At that time there was no mission fund to draw from. Even the best was not too good for their pastor. It was a hard life for Rev. Rogne, but through it all he was always pleasant and cheerful. "We thank God for Pastor Rogne" –that was the verdict of Mrs. Jorgensen. The St. Ansgar congregation is 118 years old. The church was built in 1914. St. Ansgar Church is a place where God's word is preached and the sacraments administered. Where God meets us and is present with His love and grace. St. Ansgar is located 6 miles south of LaMoure and services are at 9 a.m.

98. Saint Johannes Congregational Church

- Location:
- See Merricourt- First Congregational Church
- Community History: *Merricourt, ND 1891-1991 – Small Town, Big Memories*, p25
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.99-100 [First Congregational Church]

99. Saint Paul Lutheran Church

- Location: Dickey County, Spring Valley Township, **Sec 30-T130-R66**
- Source: Notes from E-mail 04 Aug 2009 from Orion Rudolph – Ashley, ND. The original location listed in the Lutheran Church Centennial book of 2003 for St. Paul Lutheran shows it as Section 12-T129-R 67 in McIntosh County and there are burials at this site. It is very difficult to get to this site. The building at this site was sold to a John Hoffman and he used the lumber to build a house for his son, John R. Hoffman. Another building was purchased and moved to a new location in Dickey Co. Sec 30-T130-R66. Marvin Schneider said it was not very far north of Highway 11 and was in Dickey Co. I have been told that they never did any burials at this 2nd site, rather they did continue burials at their first site. The article reads that this new site was for better road access to the new church. Marvin Schneider also said he does not know if the new site had a different name.

100.Saint Peter Lutheran Church

- Location: Dickey County, Albertha Township, SW ¼ of SE ¼ **Sec 30-T129-R66**
- [Photo Available: Di-Saint Peter Lutheran Church \(Albertha Twp\) \[5823\]](#)
- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1905-1980*, p.21-22. St. Peter Lutheran Church was organized on May 20, 1902 with Pastor Otto Bruntsch. The construction of the church building was begun in 1906. On April 15, 1906 the cornerstone was put in the southeast corner of the foundation of the church by Pastor Bruntsch. On July 22, 1906, the church was dedicated. St. Peter was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa. Because of road conditions and distances separating these congregations, it was difficult to maintain a routine service schedule, so much credit is given to faithful members of this congregation for being so diligent in His Service. Their House of God was always to be viewed as a token of their pride. On June 14, 1953, they celebrated their fiftieth Anniversary. It was also in 1953 that electric lights were installed in the church. They were used for the first time for their Christmas program. With more members moving out of the area and requesting transfers, at a special meeting of the congregation on September 20, 1959 the following resolution was passed: "That the congregation known as St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church of Forbes, North Dakota dissolve its organization and the resolution effective upon disposition of property," Nine members were at this meeting. The farewell service was held by Dr. George Landgrebe, Fargo, North Dakota, former president of the North Dakota District of the A.L.C., on September 20, 1959. The church and other properties were sold at public auction on October 9, 1959. Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Meyer, now both deceased, were officially taken up as members of the congregation on February 9, 1919 according to the records, but had been lifelong members through their parents, were eyewitnesses to both the construction and destruction of the sanctuary. The church was located in Albertha Township, Dickey County, North Dakota, one mile north of the North and South Dakota state line and ¼ mile east of the McIntosh County line. It was built on three acres of land donated by Mr. George Kempf, who had homesteaded there in 1901 and with his family moved to McPherson County, South Dakota in 1906
- Community History: *Forbes, ND – Centennial Book 1905-2005 – Blessings of the Land*, p.25-26 [same information as above]
- Community History: *Ellendale, ND – A Time to Celebrate the Past – Celebrate the Present – and Contemplate the Future, 1882-2007*, p.103-104 [same information as above]

101.Salem Evangelical Church

- Location: Dickey County, Northwest Township, NE ¼ of NE ¼ **Sec 28-T132-R66**
- Historical Information: The church was originally located in McIntosh County, Rolff Twp, but moved three miles further east with teams of horses and wagons to rest in Dickey County, at the corner of Hwy 56 and 82nd St. SE, so as to be closer to the homes of its members. It was frequently referred to as “the Gruneich church” because Sol Gruneich and four of his brothers’ families attended that church, along with six other families and the Gottlieb Schlenker, Jr. family, which donated the land. Sol Gruneich became the minister and held his first church service there at the age of 17. The church closed in the early 1940s and the building was purchased by a Hildebrand who lived about 1 mile to the east. (Source: Margo Erick, daughter of Sol Gruneich, e-mail sent 31 Oct 2014 from mgerick1028@gmail.com) [Added 17 Nov 2014]

102.Seventh-Day Adventist – Church of God

- Location: 11 miles S and 1 mile W of Kulm; Dickey County, German Township, NW ¼ of NE ¼ **Sec 29-T132-R66**
- [Photo Available: Di-Seventh-Day Adventist Church-1 \[4110\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Di-Seventh-Day Adventist Church-2 \[4118\]](#)
- Community History: *Kulm, ND – 1882-1957*, p.23-24. In the late '80's a group of believers, living about twenty miles south of Kulm, commenced to keep the seventh day Sabbath as a day of rest and worship and they went by the Bible designation of "The Church of God". There were about twelve or fourteen families in this Way at one time, and originally they came together in different homes for fellowship and worship. Later they had a church building of their own to meet in for a while. As the years went by, some of the old

settlers died, some moved away, and some made other changes until there were only a few left. In more recent years a few new ones have been added to the group, some of whom moved into town, and a church building was erected in Kulm in the summer of 1941, and dedicated in November of that year. Elder Christ Kiesz of Eureka, South Dakota has consistently looked after the spiritual welfare of this assembly for many years. Others that have assisted from time to time were Elder Ivan Harlan and Elder Harvey Otto. At the present time Elder John Kiesz of Alfred is also ministering here. "The Church of God" came through a line of Sabbath-keepers, dating back to pre-Protestant Reformation days in Europe. At the time of the Puritan migration to America, some of these people settled in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and New Jersey between the years of 1664 and 1800. Many drifted West and South after the Revolution, and a formal organization of these scattered churches was effected in Michigan in 1865. This church is one of the few in America with more members abroad than at home. The total foreign membership is estimated at 45,000, with eighty foreign workers, not including Canada and Mexico. In Mexico City alone there are about 3,000 members, and about 130 churches scattered throughout the Republic. National headquarters are located at 1510 Cook Street in Denver, Colorado; and the publishing house is at Stanberry, Missouri. The official church organ is the *Bible Advocate*, now in its 90th year. Fundamentalist doctrines and practices prevail here. The church believes in the infallibility of the Scriptures, the fall of man through sin, complete atonement and redemption for sin through the shed blood of the Messiah on the cross, Jesus in the tomb, after His death, for three full days and three full nights, repentance and conversion for forgiveness of sins, water baptism, holiness, the Lord's Supper annually, observance of the Moral Law, the return of the Jews to Palestine in the last days in fulfillment of prophecy, the literal coming of Jesus a second time to establish the millennial reign with the saints on the earth, the resurrection of the dead, and the annihilation of the wicked after the final judgment.

- Community History: *Kulm, ND – Centennial 1892-1992*, p.129. The Kulm SDA Church was organized December 15, 1908. Services were held in the homes of members until a church building was erected in German Twp., three miles northwest of the present location. The first baptism was held at Coldwater Lake on June 7, 1908. Some of the earliest pastors were C.J. Kunkel, D.D. Jurtz, J.J. Reiswig, John Seibold, Frederick Schwindt, and E.H. Oswald. By 1926, membership had grown and a larger church was needed. On May 13, 1926, two acres of land was purchased from Mike Hilcher. The present structure was built on these premises, 11 miles south and one mile west of Kulm. Mike Miller was then head elder. By 1932, membership had grown to 166. The Kulm church now had the distinction of having the largest membership in the North Dakota Conference. The German language was used in the worship services until January 1, 1939, when the transition was made to English. A German Sabbath School class continued until 1972. The Golden Jubilee was celebrated July 3-6, 1958. Elder Theo Fischer was pastor at this time. On July 3-5, 1980, the church celebrated a Homecoming. Honored guests were 18 former members who were then in denominational work. Many more have since joined this rank. The 75th Anniversary was celebrated July 6-7, 1984. Elder John Bahr was pastor at that time. Steve Wohlberg is the present pastor of the church. The Kulm SDA church is the only country church still holding services in the Kulm community. Some former elders have been: Mike Miller, John Brost, Reinhold Widmer, Grant Montaney, Herbert Reinke, Adam Kungel, Ron Dodds. Present elders are Lenhardt Kungel, Ron Lange, and Bruce Reinke.

103.Swedish Lutheran Church (ALC)

- See Fullerton – Swedish Lutheran Church

104.United Synod of Clement

- See Clement – Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA)

105.Verner Methodist Congregation

- Location: 7 miles southeast of Oakes – Riverdale Township
- See Oakes – First Methodist Church

106.Wirch Congregational Church

- Location: Dickey County, Spring Valley Township, **Sec 16-T130-R66**

- See Salem Congregational Church (McIntosh County, ND, Beresina Township)
- [Photo Available: Di-Wirch Congregational Church \[4115\]](#)