

Churches – McIntosh 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. Ashley – Baptist Church

- Location: 208 Center Ave S
- Church Records, as of 08 September 2007, kept at the church. Information provided by Oswald H. Weisser 612 Center Ave N #110 Ashley, ND 58413
- See Ashley – First Baptist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Baptist Church-1 \[3656\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Baptist Church-2 \[3676\]](#)
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee 1888-1938 – 50 Years of Progress*, p. 51. The first organization of this church took place at Long Lake, South Dakota, on July 25, 1896; at that time 85 members separated themselves from the Berlin Church and founded a new church in their vicinity. It was named then "The Jewell Baptist Church." At Ashley the first church was built in the year 1902. At that time it belonged to the Danzig Church, now called Wishek Church. On February 21, 1912, the church of Jewell in connection with Venturia, Wishek and Eureka, reorganized themselves. The property at Ashley was bought by the Jewell Church. Since that time this organization has existed under the name of "The Ashley Baptist Church." In the year of 1917 a stately church building was erected at a cost of \$8,000.00 on the present site of the Baptist Church. In 1919 the present parsonage was built which has cost approximately \$8,000.00. The church now has 321 members and consists of three churches, Ashley, Johannesthal and Jewell combining. The pastors who served the Jewell and Ashley churches were the following: Rev. A. Kludt (1896-01), Rev. A. Guenther (1902-03), Rev. G. Burgdorff (1905-10), Rev. Chr. Bischoff (1903-10), Rev. A. Heringer (1911-12). Rev. Heringer stayed with the Danzig Church and the reorganized Ashley Church was left without a pastor for one year. There upon the Ashley Church extended a call to the Following pastors successively: Rev. C.M. Knapp (1913-15), Rev. A. Guenther (1916-18), Rev. F. Dobrovolny (1919-25), Rev. W.H. Buenning (1926-31). The present pastor, W. Luebeck has served since 1932. The Ashley Baptist Church has three Sunday Schools with an enrollment at Ashley of 165 pupils, Johannesthal 148 and Jewell 110. The Ashley Sunday School is conducted in the American language with the exception of the older people's bible class. Under the banner of the church are also working three Ladies Aids with a membership of 53. The Ladies Aid at Ashley celebrated its 25th anniversary, December 5, 1937, and the Johannesthal Ladies Aid celebrated its 25th anniversary in the spring of 1938. The church also cultivates three B.Y.P.U. (Baptist Young People Unions) with a total membership of 80. The church also has a "Dorcas" Society consisting of young ladies with a membership of 12.

- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1888-1963 – 75 Years of Progress*, p.73-74. The early beginnings of the Ashley Baptist Church grew out of a somewhat involved development. It began with an organizational meeting at the Long Lake, South Dakota, school building on July 25, 1896, when 85 members separated themselves from the Berlin Church to found a new church in their immediate vicinity, known then as the Jewell Baptist Church. At Ashley, the First Baptist Church was built in the year 1902 and became affiliated as a station with the Danzig Church, now known as the First Baptist Church, Wishek, N. Dak. However, on February 21, 1912 the Church of Jewell, together with Venturia, Wishek, and Eureka, reorganized themselves since the fields were too large for the necessary pastoral service. As a result Ashley became a self-sustaining Church with Jewell as its station. After a time the Jewell station purchased the original church building from Ashley who then built a stately church edifice in 1917 at a cost of \$6,100.00, and the present parsonage in 1919 at an approximate cost of \$8,000.00. From the time of the reorganization in 1912, the Ashley church grew and gradually came to be the main center of our Baptist work in this area. For a good many years the Ashley church shared its interest and concern with her two stations, Jewell and Johannestal. However, with the decline of population in the rural communities of recent years the congregation at the stations became so weak numerically that it was necessary to consolidate the work. With this merger came the need for larger and better facilities. Thus plans for a new church building were formulated and on May 30, 1960 the last service was conducted in the old church. The following day dismantling was begun and four days later it was completed. On June 10, the National Building Company of Fargo, N. Dak. who contracted the job began excavation. By the good providence of God, the capable supervision of the contractors and the full support of the people, the present structure was ready for dedication on November 13, 1960, only five months after construction began. This impressive edifice with a beautiful sanctuary seating 380 people and a functional educational unit providing facilities for at least 150 people was erected at a cost of approximately \$122,000.00. While the church had always been very active, yet, in the last 25 years it became more conscious of its stewardship responsibilities. The Sunday School has been reorganized into closely graded classes similar to those of our public schools. The Commissioned Baptist Youth Fellowship is functioning on a weekly basis, rather than monthly. The Mixed Choir serves regularly at the Sunday Morning Worship services and the Men's Choir began only recently to provide the music for the Sunday evening services. The Tabitha Society, the Men's Brotherhood and the Junior Commissioned Baptist Youth Fellowship are recent additions to the organizational structure of the church and are rendering an appreciated ministry. The Ashley Baptist Church looks back over the years from 1938-1963 with a deep sense of gratitude to God for the opportunities and blessings which have been ours. It was our privilege for some time to be, numerically, the largest church of our Dakota Conference; to be host to the Dakota Conference in 1958 at the occasion of its 50th Anniversary; to see nine of its young people enter into the Gospel Ministry: Helen (Fischer) Ehman, Alvin Fischer, LaVerne (Fischer) Haas, Esther (Fischer) Hoffman, Raymond Hoffman, Herbert Schauer, Stanley Schauer, Leota (Weisser) Stading, and Iver Walker; have approximately 58 young men from its families serve in the armed services; and contribute in money approximately \$158,500.00. Nearly \$55,000.00 of this was given for missions and about \$130,500.00 was spent locally. Five pastors served the church: Rev. W.J. Luebeck (1932-1945); Rev. Walter Stein (1945-1950); Rev. J.J. Renz (1951-1953); Rev. A.W. Bibleheimer (1954-1962); Rev. Isador Faszer (1962-). Presently our church has a Sunday School enrollment of 300, with 30 teachers. The church membership stands at 318.

Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.58-60. The early beginnings of the Ashley Baptist Church grew out of a somewhat involved development. It began with an organizational meeting at the Long Lake, South Dakota, school building on July 25, 1896, when eighty-five members separated themselves from the Berlin Church near Fredonia, North Dakota, to found a new church in their vicinity, known then as the German Baptist Church of Jewell. The church was located on the SW ¼ of Section 33 in the Jewell Township, southeast of Ashley, North Dakota. The first pastor to serve the church was Rev. A. Kludt who served them from the time of the organization until 1901. The next pastor, Rev. A. Guenther, began his ministry in 1902. It was during his ministry, in 1903, that another station was organized, this one southwest of Ashley in South Dakota. This station was located on the SW ¼ of Section 6 in Petersburg Township, McPherson County, South Dakota. They named this station Johannestal and it became a station of the Jewell Church. They continued their work throughout the next few years until 1912 when the Ashley station became a part of the organization. At Ashley, the first Baptist Church was organized in the year 1902 and became affiliated with the Danzig church now known as the First Baptist Church of Wishek, North Dakota. However, on February 21, 1912, the church of Jewell,

together with Venturia, Wishek and Eureka, reorganized since the fields were too large for the necessary pastoral services. As a result, Ashley became a self sustaining church with Jewell as a station. In the year 1912 the Jewell station purchased the original church and parsonage from Ashley. Shortly after this the name of the organization was changed to the First German Baptist Church of Ashley, McIntosh County, North Dakota, dated February 13, 1912. From the time of the reorganization in 1912, the Ashley church grew and gradually came to be the main center of our Baptist work in this area. In 1917 a new church building was built followed by a new parsonage in 1919. For a good many years the Ashley church shared its interest and concern with her two stations, Jewell and Johannesthal. However, due to the dwindling rural population, the Jewell station was discontinued on Dec. 21, 1958, when all the members of the station began attending the services at the Ashley station. With this merger came the need for larger and better facilities. Thus plans for a new church building were formulated and on May 20, 1960 the last service was held in the old building. The following day dismantling was begun and on June 10th the contractor began excavating. By the good providence of God, the capable supervision of the contractor and the full support of the people, the present structure was ready for dedication on November 13, 1960, only five months after construction began. This impressive edifice with a beautiful sanctuary seating 380 people and a functional educational unit providing facilities for at least 150 people was erected at a cost of approximately \$122,000. One week following dedication of the building, the Johannesthal station held its last service and all members began attending the services at the Ashley station. In 1960 the name of the organization was changed to The Ashley Baptist Church. Early in 1984 plans for a new parsonage were formulated and by late summer the new structure was dedicated. The old parsonage was sold and moved just north of Ashley. It now houses a family who have set up a beauty shop, The Hair Shoppe, in the basement. The Ashley Baptist Church looks back over the years with a deep sense of gratitude to God for its opportunities and blessings. Functioning within the life of the church are the following organizations: A Sunday School with 10 classes, 21 teachers, and an enrollment of 150 students; a Women's Missionary Fellowship; a Tabitha Society; a Men's Brotherhood; a Youth Fellowship; a mixed choir serving regularly at the Sunday morning services; and a Men's Chorus which provides music for the Sunday evening services. The church believes strongly in missions and helps support five missionaries on foreign fields. It has an annual mission budget of \$25,000 and a church budget of \$69,000 for the year of 1987. The present membership totals 247. It has been the church's privilege for some time to be, numerically, the largest church in the Dakota Conference; to be host to the Dakota Conference in 1958 on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and to see 12 of our young people enter into the gospel ministry: Helen (Fischer) Ehman; Alvin Fischer; LaVerne Fischer (Haas); Esther (Fischer) Hoffman; Raymond Hoffman; Herbert Schauer; Standley Schauer; Leota (Weisser) Stading; Iver Walker; Carol (Bertsch) Mehlhaff; Gary Vossler and Steven Opp. Approximately 60 young people from its families served in the armed services. Pastors who have served this organization are Rev. A. Kludt 1896-1901; Rev. A. Guenther 1902-1903; Rev. G. Burgdorf 1905-1911; Rev. C.M. Knapp 1912-1915; Rev. F. Dobrovolny 1919-1925; Rev. W.H. Buenning 1926-1931; Rev. W.J. Luebeck 1932-1945; Rev. W. Stein 1945-1950; Rev. J.J. Renz 1951-1953; Rev. A.W. Bibelheimer 1954-1961; Rev. I.F. Faszler 1962-1967; Rev. E. Pelzer 1968-1977; Rev. A Gerber 1977 to date.

2. Ashley – Bethel Assembly of God Church

- Location: Town of Ashley
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Bethel Assembly of God Church \[3915\]](#)
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1888-1963 – 75 Years of Progress*, p.72. In 1939 Rev. and Mrs. Peter Heinisch and family came from St. Louis, Missouri, to serve a church in Wishek, North Dakota, and the Ebenezer church was located 17 miles south of Ashley. They settled in Ashley in order to be more centrally located. There was no meeting place in Ashley at the time, so a small building was purchased and moved to town, and a church was organized the following year, 1940. After 5 years, the Rev. and Mrs. Heinisch moved to Fontana, California. During their absence of 9 years, the following pastors served: Rev. C.S. Stoudt, 1944-49; Rev. Daniel Wagner, 1949-52; Missionary Emil Schneiders, 6 months. Rev. P. Heinisch returned to Ashley, December 6, 1953. The local congregation desired a larger place of worship, so the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Danzig was purchased in 1954. A full basement was excavated. Rev. Heinisch, adept at construction work, did most of the masonry work himself. The church was moved to its present location, two blocks east of the Zion Lutheran church, and was dedicated October 4, 1954. Next to it, the residence of the late Edward Layer was purchased to serve as parsonage. Rev. Heinisch served as pastor until his death in February, 1955. The church extended a call to Rev. and

Mrs. George Rueb of Medina, North Dakota, who accepted the call on September 4, 1955. During their 7 years of Ministry, two churches were founded. The Ashley Assembly of God served as a mother church, through whose activity the congregations were organized such as Herreid and Java, South Dakota. They also served Ellendale as an outstation. November 25, 1956 Rev. Rueb started a German Redio Program over K.A.B.R. which has proven to be a great blessing to the German-speaking people. The program is still in progress at present over K.S.D.N. Aberdeen....As successor to the Ashley and Wishek Assembly of God Churches, Rev. Reinhold Mueller from Calgary, Alberta, Canada accepted the call February 14, 1963.

- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.62-63. In 1939 Rev. and Mrs. Peter Heinisch and family came from St. Louis, Missouri, to serve a church in Wishek, North Dakota, and the Ebenezer church was located 17 miles south of Ashley. They settled in Ashley in order to be more centrally located. There was no meeting place in Ashley at the time, so a small building was purchased and moved to town, and a church was organized the following year, 1940. In 1944, the Rev. and Mrs. Heinisch moved to Fontana, California. During their absence of 9 years, the following pastors served: Rev. C.S. Stoudt, 1944-49; Rev. Daniel Wagner, 1949-52; Missionary Emil Schneiders, 6 months. Rev. P. Heinisch returned to Ashley, December 6, 1953. The local congregation desired a larger place of worship, so the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Danzig was purchased in 1954. A full basement was excavated. Rev. Heinisch, adept at construction work, did most of the masonry work himself. The church was moved to its present location, two blocks east of the Zion Lutheran church, and was dedicated October 4, 1954. Next to it, the residence of the late Edward Layer was purchased to serve as parsonage. Rev. Heinisch served as pastor until his death in February, 1955. The church extended a call to Rev. and Mrs. George Rueb of Medina, North Dakota, who accepted the call on September 4, 1955. During their seven years of ministry, two churches were founded. The Ashley Assembly of God served as a mother church through whose activity the congregation was organized at Herreid, South Dakota. They also served Ellendale as an outstation. Rev. George Rueb served the church until 1962. Ministers in succeeding years were: Reinhold Mueller, February 1963-65; Rev. David D. Rueb, July 1965-70; Rev. George Rueb, March 1970-73; Rev. Harvey Pratt, August 1974-79; Rev. Larry Metz, August 1979-82; Rev. Mike Franklin, September 1982-86; and Rev. Dwayne Goodale, 1986-87; Interim Pastor, Rev. Loren Beans, 1987.

3. Ashley – Catholic Church Mission

- Location: Town of Ashley
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee Book 1888-1938*. There is no established Mission in Ashley. Pastors from St. Andrews in Zeeland, St. Johns north of Zeeland and from Napoleon have at different times held Divine Services at either one or the other of their homes, until the last three years a pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration of Edgeley has been holding Divine Services in the large room of the Home Hotel once a month, giving the few Catholics an opportunity to receive their Lord in Holy Communion. During the late days of July, 1937, one of the forlorn and wearisome years of the Great Depression, when one naturally entertained much reflective contemplation as to the why and wherefore of conditions and situations, the first Catholic Mission for Ashley was faithfully and devoutly attended. The place of worship was the large room of the Home Hotel belonging to Attorney Franz Shubeck and operated by Miss Anna Kautt and her parents, Nicklaus and Maria Kautt. The Mission, which began on Tuesday evening, July 13, was conducted by the Reverend Father Thomas Jundt, O. S. B., of Richardton Abbey. He was assisted by Sister Louis Phillipe of St. Joseph's Academy of St. Paul and Sister Angela of St. John's Academy at Jamestown, North Dakota. Every morning at seven o'clock during the entire mission week Holy Mass was celebrated at which participants received Holy Communion. Father Thomas, the celebrant, also preached an appropriate and effective sermon every morning. At two o'clock the Sisters gave the children religious instruction. Evening devotions were held at seven thirty and consisted of prayers followed by a sermon. The Mission, which closed on Saturday morning, July 17, was a rare religious opportunity for Ashley's Catholic population; and, coming as it did, in most trying and discouraging period, it tended to stimulate one's faith and trust in God's wisdom, mercy and justice.

4. Ashley – Church of the Nazarene

- Location: Town of Ashley
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee Book 1888-1938*. The first pastor for the Church of the Nazarene was Rev. V. H. Cooke who reached Ashley on July 15, 1923. At that time church services were

held in the printing office. Rev. Cooke faithfully served as pastor for four years. In the fall of 1927 he moved to Nampa, Idaho. During the past years the following pastors, who made their home at Ellendale, North Dakota, have had charge of the work: Rev. E. E. Kinzler, Rev. N. A. Malmberg, Rev. H. Lintz and Rev. M. Jensen. Rev. and Mrs. Chas. Prine, residing in Velva, N. D., had charge of the church during the past summer. Special revival services were held by the following: Rev. Ira Hammer, Rev. E. E. Kinzler, Rev. R. L. Hobza, Rev. and Mrs. D. C. Stout, Rev. M. Jensen, Rev. T. H. Ova and Rev. E. A. Lacour. Rev. M. Jansen put forth special efforts towards getting a place of worship. A lot was donated to the church by the owners of the townsite. The church building was purchased from the Ashley School Board and on August 4, 1937, it was moved to its present location. District Superintendent, S. C. Taylor, Jamestown, N. D., preached the first sermon in the church on Wednesday evening, August 11, 1937. On October 10, 1937, Rev. A. T. Hanson and family established their home in Ashley and has charge of the work at the present time.

5. Ashley – Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church

- Location: Town of Ashley
- See Ashley – Emmanuel United Methodist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Evangelical Church \[3656\]](#)
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee Book 1888-1938*. One of the oldest church organizations in this locality is the Evangelical Church. In 1887 Rev. H. Loewen visiting in the southeastern part of the county became acquainted with the following pioneer Evangelical families, Friedrich and Elizabeth Nies and Heinrich and Juliana Klein. He preached in the house of the former and in 1888 organized the Bethesda congregation, consisting of thirteen members, namely: Gottlieb and Katharina Grueneich, John Schilling, Christ Meier, Jacob, Fred and Gottlieb Dobler, Conrad Beths, Andreas Schlabsz, Jacob Bendewald and Christoph Grueneich. During the pastorate of Rev. Loewen, the congregation grew and a church was built beside the parsonage. However, in 1905, upon organization of the Emanuel congregation in Ashley by Rev. G. C. Thiele, the parsonage was moved to Ashley on its present location. The charter members of this thriving congregation consisted of Joseph and Julia Schulz, John F. and Carolina George, George and Christina Hummel, F. J. And Margaretha Meier. By 1907, at which time the local church was built, the membership under the pastorate of Rev. Loris Wacker included these additional names: W. and Regina Wahl, Jacob and Margaretha Jenner, Christ and Christina Breitmeier, Christ and Christina Wolf, Jacob and Carolina Grueneich, J. H. And Katharina Schaeffer and Friedrich Feil. During the ensuing years, the Emanuel congregation served as a mother church through whose activity other congregations were organized, such as: Ebenezer church, eleven miles southwest of Wishek, the Venturia Zoar church and the Wittenberg church of the Kulm mission. Under the pastorate of Rev. F. Loewen, a congregation was organized near Danzig which included the members: Gottlieb and Emma Walz, Edward and Mathilda Wetzel, Solamon and Karolina Eslinger, John and Karolina Dobler and John and Johanna Nies. In 1923 during the pastorate of Rev. H. C. Lehner, the congregation obtained the Wittenberg church formerly belonging to the Kulm mission. Other names added since include: John F., Gottlieb, Fred, Jacob, and John Salzer families, the Philip Meier and Emanuel Straub families. At present the Ashley Mission consists of two Sunday schools, numbering an enrollment of about one hundred fifty-five pupils, one Women's Missionary Society with eighteen members, and a Ladies' Aid consisting of twenty-four members. The church membership advanced with the last few years from sixty to one hundred thirty members. Rev. F. J. Knuth enjoys his eighth year as pastor of this growing Mission and is most optimistic in the outlook.
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1888-1963 – 75 Years of Progress*, p.77-78. For 76 years, Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church has served the spiritual needs of people in the Ashley vicinity. In 1887, Rev. H. Loewen visiting in the southeastern part of the county became acquainted with the families of Friederick Nies and Heinrich Klein. In 1888 the Bethesda congregation was organized with 13 charter members. It was under the ministry of Rev. G.C. Thiele that the Emmanuel congregation was organized in the town of Ashley. Charter members included Joseph Schulz, John F. George, F.J. Meier and their wives. The first Evangelical church in Ashley was built in 1907 under the pastorate of Rev. F.J. Wacker. During the ensuing years, this church served as a "mother church" bringing about the formation of other churches in the surrounding area including: Ebenezer Church, 11 miles southwest of Wishek; the Venturia Zoar Church and the Wittenberg Church of the Kulm mission. Rev.

J.B. Happel was assigned to Ashley in 1908, followed by Rev. E.P. Zunkel in 1912, H. Etzelmueller in 1913, F. Loewen in 1916, K. Hirning in 1917 and John Fischer in 1920. Under the ministry of F. Loewen, a congregation was organized near Danzig which became known as the "Salem Church" including the families of Gottlieb Walz, Edward Wetzell, Solomon Eszlinger, John Dobler and John Nies. In 1923, under the ministry of H.C. Lehner, the membership of the Wittenberg Church was transferred to the Ashley Evangelical Church. Ministers in succeeding years were: A.J. Knuth (1929-1940), Karl Hochradel (1940-1941), Leon Kuch (1941-1945), C.E. Bach (1945-1951), E.A. Sprunk (1951-1961) and the present pastor, C. Knoepfle. In 1946, through the merger of the Evangelical and United Brethren denominations, the name of the church became the "Evangelical United Brethren Church". Under the ministry of Rev. C.E. Bach, a new parsonage was built on a lot adjoining the church. In 1950 the old church was taken down and work was begun on a new structure. The following year, Rev. Elmer Sprunk was assigned to Ashley. During the early years of his ministry the Bethesda membership was transferred to Emmanuel Church and the present church building was completed and dedicated. For the first time, all of the worship services were conducted in the English language. The ten years of his pastorate were very fruitful with increased interest and attendances eventually taxing the facilities of the new church to the utmost. A house and lot adjoining the church to the north were purchased to provide rooms for Sunday School classes and space for future expansion. At this time, the Ashley field was still a "two-point charge" with the pastor serving the Emmanuel Church and also the Salem country church. However, in 1961 the members of the Salem congregation voted to close their church and united with the town church. Presently the congregation is laying preliminary plans for an enlarged church structure which will provide adequate facilities for the congregation's needs. Functioning within the life of the church are the following organizations: a Sunday School with 10 classes and an enrollment of 176, a Youth Fellowship, a Boys and Girls Fellowship, a Men's Organization and the Women's Society of World Service. The ladies' missionary society is the oldest organization within the church. Its origin can be traced back to 1908 when, under the leadership of Mrs. A.J. Happel, the minister's wife, a women's prayer group was organized into a "Women's Missionary Society". Through the years the organization has been active in the promotion of the missionary cause. Recently the Society was organized into the Faith and Hope Circles with a total of 34 members. The membership of Emmanuel Church at the present time totals 143. C. Knoepfle, the present pastor, is completing the second year of service in this church.

6. Ashley – Emmanuel United Methodist Church

- Location: 110 1st St SW
- See Hoskins – Methodist Church; Salem Evangelical United Church; Ashley – Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Emmanuel United Methodist Church \[3656\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Evangelical Church \[3654\]](#)
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee 1888-1938 – 50 Years of Progress*, p. 52-53. The Methodist Church was organized at Hoskins in 1887, by Rev. H.G. Bilby, the presiding elder. Rev. A.J. Garry was the preacher. In the spring of 1888, the County seat was moved to Ashley and with other buildings, the church was also moved. The church owned no property at that time and had held their services in the Hoskins school house. At Ashley as there was then neither church nor school building, services were held, first in the Erbele store, and next in the Stark and Nelson store, until at last in the summer of 1889, a church was erected, in which a school was also held. The lots were donated by Wishek & Lilly, and the building was 24 by 40 feet in dimensions. The work was done by the members and the minister, Rev. J.L. Sizer. It was a plain building, ship-lap sides covered with tar paper and cost \$310. In 1903, the present Methodist church was built under the supervision of Rev. F.A. Gossman, the resident pastor. The old church building was then remodelled by Rev. W.J. Mahin, the next preacher for a parsonage. This building, nearly half century old, still stands today next to the Methodist church in Ashley. May all who view it recognize it as an old pioneer landmark, built with sacrificing love and toil for the uplift of the community, and the good of the christian membership. The Methodist church has been the only English church in Ashley until the year 1937, and it has carried on a fine work through those many years. The church has seen times of great growth followed by lean hard years, owing to a constant moving out of settlers, and in 1938 has reached its lowest ebb. It was during the pastorate of Rev. Sizer that an Epworth League was organized, and was carried on for many years. It was perhaps at its best under Rev. E.J. Ried, who is kindly remembered by old Ashley residents. To give the present generation an idea of

one department of the church work, the following list of Epworth League officials is given. The period was 1909-1912. The Epworth League, Chapter No. 3374. Cabinet: President, John A. Linn; 1st Vice President, Eugenia Hammond; 2nd Vice President, Amanda Nelson; 3rd Vice President, Edith Worthy; 4th Vice President, Elizabeth Mensing; Secretary, Arthur Ried; Treasurer, Emma Linn; Ass't. Treasurer, John Greigerowitz; Organist, Lorraine Drews. No history of this church would be complete without a brief mention the organists who have so long and faithfully pumped the pedals of the many different organs that have been installed and used. The first organist was Mrs. C.C. Hammond, followed by Miss Nina Farley, Miss Marion Farley, Mrs. Florence Beveridge, Mrs. L.P. Johnson, Mrs. E.H. Maercklein, Lorraine Drews, Mrs. Theo. Heinrich, Mrs. Guy Lewis. This list might be supplemented by the names of others who substituted in emergencies. Those who served the longest and most faithfully were Mrs. Maercklein, Mrs. Florence Beveridge, and Mrs. Guy Lewis. Following is a list of the pastors of the Methodist church since its establishment:--Rev. A.J. Garry, 1886; Prof. John Ogden, 1887; Rev. McSkimming, 1888; Rev. C.F. Gilbert, 1889; Rev. Wm. Winters, recalled; Rev. J.L. Sizer, 1889; Rev. Grant Sholty, 1890; Rev. John E. Roe, 1892; Rev. P.A. Scott, 1892; Rev. M.D. Reed, 1894; Rev. W.A. Maddock, 1895; Rev. H.G. Hardenbrook, 1896; Rev. W.J. Stowers, 1897; Rev. W.C. Strohmayer, 1898; Rev. F.H. Farrand, 1900; Rev. F.A. Gossman, 1903; Rev. W.J. Mahin, 1906; Rev. E.J.G. Ried, 1909; Rev. Gust Book, 1912; Rev. W.R. Morrison, 1914; Rev. A.M. Wiley, 1916; Rev. Guy A. Lewis, 1919; Rev. L.G. Green, 1920; Rev. A.J. Gamble, 1923; Rev. Eva Penner, 1924; Rev. R.H. Reep, 1924; Rev. S. Harrington, 1926; Rev. Edolphe Lidke, 1927; Rev. Maxwell Brown, 1929; Rev. W.H. Farthing, 1929; Rev. Theo. Torgerson, 1931; Rev. Watkins, 1937; Rev. Moore, 1938. Following this chronology of pastors, is given a list of those who were members or attended and who have moved away: Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Lilly, Portland, Oregon; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Zimmerman, Portland, Oregon; Mrs. Clare Johnson Kruse, Oakland, Oregon; John Linn, Oakland, Oregon; Mrs. Helen Lawrence, Oakland, Oregon; Mrs. Sid Collins, Montana; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Linn, Kennewick, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Amburn, Kennewick, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Fay, Oakes, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Amburn, Kennewick, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. R.R. Hedke, Santa Barbara, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. G.O. Gulack, Pasadena, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. G.M. Gannon, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Johnson, San Francisco, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Alex Johnstone, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Graham, Hollywood, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Bert Harrison, Palms, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Railson, Bell, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Heinrich, Whittier, Calif.; Mrs. Anna W. Benson, Whittier, Calif.; Mrs. Nellie Wright, Huntinton Park, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Murray Hammond, Zillah, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Johnstone, Zillah, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Miles, Canada; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Beveridge, Sylvania, Ohio; Mrs. Marion Beveridge, Sylvania, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Guy Lewis, Nampa, Idaho; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fullerton, Florida; Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Clyde, Carson City, Nevada; Mr. and Mrs. John Gregory, Washinton; Ruth Linn Smith, Nebraska; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Moore, Linton, N. Dak.; Mrs. Margaret Larimer, Racine, Wis.; Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Piper, New Rockford, N.D.; Mr. and Mrs. H.P. Remington, Lisbon, N. Dak.; Mr. and Mrs. Warren Sharratt, Canada; Mr. Geo. Sharratt, Canada; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Worthy, Canada; Mrs. Klauss, California.

- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.64-66. In the beginning the first mission work to be carried on by this church in the vicinity of Ashley was at Hoskins Lake where the first town in McIntosh County was located. This was in 1887. The mission was referred to as the Hoskins Mission in the conference records; the records also show that Rev. H. Loewen served as minister. In 1888 the Bethesda church, which was eight miles east and one-half mile south of Ashley, had its origin. In the late fall of that year friends and neighbors in the vicinity felt a deep need for religious services in their community. Upon the invitation of brother Friederich Nies, they gathered in his home for meetings under the leadership of Rev. H. Loewen. In the winter of 1888 a meeting was called to organize a congregation. The organization was effected with six charter members: Friederich Nies, Elizabeth Nies, Heinrich Klein, Sr., Juliana Klein, Heinrich Klein, Jr., and Mathilda Klein. Later others joined this small band of Christians and the congregation grew so that it could be said of this church, "They that gladly received His Word were baptized...and the Lord added to the church such as should be saved." In 1889 the name of the mission was changed to Ashley Mission, and Rev. Loewen was again appointed to the field, but Rev. Phil Laux (Lang) served from 1890-1892. Again in 1893 Rev. Loewen served as pastor and the members of the Bethesda church voted to construct a church building. The structure was to be built of sun dried clay bricks but the following year, 1894, it was decided to secure wood from Ellendale and build a frame structure, insulating it with sun-dried clay bricks. In that same year the church was built. Bishop Bowman dedicated the Sanctuary debt free to the triune God. At the conference session in 1894, which

met at Aberdeen, South Dakota, the name of the mission was changed to Ellendale Mission as a result of change in boundaries. The report of the committee on boundaries in that conference session read in part, "The Ashley Mission shall be divided as follows: The appointments Kulm, Lowenthal, Bogners, Trautmans and Schwartzes shall constitute the Kulm Mission. All the remaining appointments of the Ashley Mission together with Ellendale and Achans of the Britton Mission shall constitute the Ellendale Mission and be supplied with two preachers." Reverends A. Berreth and H. Michaelis were assigned that year to the mission. In 1895 the name of the mission was again changed back to Ashley Mission and Rev. A. Berreth was assigned as minister. It was in the year of 1895, during the pastorate of Rev. F. Loewen, that a parsonage was built beside the church. In 1898 Rev. B.H. Fischer was assigned to the field. The Kulm and Ashley Mission was combined in 1899 and served by two ministers, Rev. R.E. Strutz and Wm. Krueger. In 1900 Rev. F.J. Brockmueller and Rev. R. Bloedau served the field, and in 1901 Rev. F. Brockmueller and Rev. John Fischer served the appointment. Rev. G.C. Thiele and Rev. F.J. Walker followed. In 1905 the Emmanuel congregation in Ashley was organized. The charter members consisted of Joseph and Julia Schulz, John F. and Carolina George, George and Christina Hummel and F.J. and Margaretha Meier. The highlight of the Ashley Mission in 1907 was the building of a new church. The membership under the pastorate of Rev. Lori Wacker included these additional names: W. and Regina Wahl, Jacob and Margaretha Jenner, Christ and Christina Breigmeier, Christ and Christina Wolf, Jacob and Carolina Grueneich, J.H. and Katherina Schaeffer and Friedrich Feil. During the ensuing years, with Reverends J.B. Happel (1908-1912), E.P. Zunkel (1912-1913), H. Etzelmuller (1913-1916), F. Loewen (1916-1917), K. Hurning (1917-1920), John Fischer (1920-1923), the Emmanuel congregation served as mother church through whose activities other congregations were organized, such as Ebenezer church eleven miles southwest of Wishek, the Ventura Zoar church and Wittenberg of the Kulm mission. The Salem congregation was organized near Danzig which included the following members: Gottlieb and Emma Walz, Edward and Mathilda Wetzel, Solamon and Karolina Eszlinger, John and Karolina Dobler and John and Johanna Nies. In 1923 during the pastorate of rev. J.C. Lehner, the congregation obtained the Wittenberg church formerly belonging to the Kulm mission. In 1930 the Ladies Aid was organized. The church moved on with Reverends F.H. Knuth (1920-1940), Karl Hochradel (1940-1941), and Leon I. Kuch (1941-1945). Rev. C.A. Bach was assigned to the charge in 1945. It was during his ministry that the old parsonage and lots were sold and a new parsonage was built on the lot adjoining the church. The parsonage was completed and open house and dedication services were held on September 26, 1948. Plans were made by the missionary minded members of the Emmanuel church how they could best serve the needs of this growing congregation for the present church was very inadequate. In 1946 the Emmanuel church became the Evangelical United Brethren Church due to the merger of the evangelical and the United Brethren Churches. In September of 1950 a building committee was assigned to inspect the property and bring their findings to the congregation. It was voted to dismantle the old church and build a new one. Work was begun immediately and by Christmas a 28 x 64 basement and the upper frame was done. The congregation worshipped in the basement for some time using the parsonage for additional Sunday school rooms. The 1951 Annual Conference Session gave direction as to how the church was to be completed and provided aid of \$1000 from the Kingdom Advance Fund. Rev. E.A. Sprunk was assigned to the field in 1951. Work was begun in September to complete the structure. Mr. L.M. Leonard of Bismarck was the architect. Mr. J.F. Grueneich was the head carpenter and with help of many helping hands brought the church to completion. A cornerstone laying service under the direction of Conference Superintendent Rev. J.W. Schindler was held May 11, 1952, at 2 p.m. At the Annual Conference Session held at Aberdeen, South Dakota, on May 21-25, 1952, the Ashley Mission requested that they be lifted from the mission list and go on record as self supporting. The story continues as God covered the earth with a soft white mantle of snow the Sunday morning in 1962 when ground was broken for the new Christian Education Unit. The wet snow was a sign to the people of His favor and blessing upon their vision and faith. The sight of the black earth against the white snow marked the beginning of a fulfillment. It was the fulfillment of many months of prayerful dreaming and planning. In a local conference held on January 13, 1962, under the leadership of the Rev. Clarence Knoepfle and Conference Superintendent L.A. Kruckenberg, a temporary building study committee was named. The most urgent needs were more and better Sunday school facilities and more seating room in the sanctuary. On October 8, 1962, a permanent building committee was elected. Final plans were submitted to the congregation on February 12, 1964. The members of the congregation gave a hearty endorsement to the plans and instructed the committee to proceed with building as soon as possible. A week late, Mr. Marvin Lehr, a local builder, was contracted for the labor on the new unit, and J.F. Gruenich was designated as chief carpenter in charge of remodeling the old structure. On

April 3rd the old Mensing house, which had been used for a number of years for Sunday school was moved off the lot north of the church to make room for the new building. Ground breaking ceremonies were observed the Sunday after Easter, April 5th, 1964, and soon after, excavation began. The new 59 x 50 foot brick veneer Christian Education building provides the following facilities: nine class rooms, a nursery with rest room, multi-purpose room, Pastor study, a large foyer, a 12 x 43 nave addition, rest rooms and janitor's room. Remodeling on the old unit has provided additional seating in the nave and a larger and more adequate kitchen. The completion of this building was an important milestone in the life of this church. It was with a sense of deep humility that we praised Him for this achievement and with a heartfelt prayer that we face the future with a concern that now we might be more effective in reaching the lost for Christ and building them in precious faith "once delivered to the saints." To God we ascribe all the glory. "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me bless his holy name." (Psalm 103:1) In 1968 remodeling the parsonage took place. This project made the parsonage a very comfortable home for the pastor L.E. Sackmann and family. We do appreciate the many hours of work and the fine spirit of the congregation that was given during this project. The Emmanuel Church stands as a spiritual memorial at 110 Southwest First. Rev. W.J. Janetzki (1876-1979) and Rev. Richard Stokey (1979-1985) served Emmanuel until the present pastor, Ross Reinhiller came in 1985. At the present time, 1987, the Emmanuel United Methodist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Ross Reinhiller, has Sunday school classes for the whole family, a United Methodist Women's organization, a Youth Fellowship and regular services of preaching and teaching of the Word. In the 100 years of ministry the Emmanuel congregation has rendered spiritual services to the community. For many years it has given support to "Advance Special Missionary Projects" around the world. At present it supports work at Red Bird Mission, Beverly, Kentucky; Rev. and Mrs. George Parrott, Japsn, Rev. and Shirley Wu, Singapore; McCurdy Mission School, New Mexico; Tindai Ruwodo, Africa, and Costa Rica Evangelism Project.

7. Ashely – First Baptist Church

- Location: Town of Ashley
- See Ashley – Baptist Church
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1888-1963 – 75 Years of Progress*, p.85. The First Baptist Church is the result of the third reorganization of what was organized on July 25, 1896 as the German Baptist Church of Jewell, McIntosh County, N. Dak. This was reorganized on January 30, 1912 as the First German Baptist Church of Ashley. On Sept. 25, 1953 it was officially incorporated as the First Baptist Church of Ashley. Incorporators were: Walter Bauer, Isadore Lang and Gotthilf K. Zimmerman. Full and complete reorganization was consummated on February 12, 1954. The Rev. E.R. Petersen served the church from September, 1954 to September of 1955. It was during his ministry that the property was obtained for the church and the building erected. The Rev. David M. Schwartz served for two years during which time the parsonage was purchased. The present pastor, Rev. Paul Lemke, arrived on the field in July of 1959. All during the history of the church it has held all of its services in English, and has been affiliated with the Dakota Conference and the Baptist General Conference.
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.67-68. The First Baptist Church is the result of the third reorganization of what was organized on July 25, 1896 as the German Baptist Church of Jewell, McIntosh County, North Dakota. The German Baptist Church was reorganized on Jan. 30, 1912, as the First German Baptist Church of Ashley. On September 25, 1953, it was officially incorporated as the First Baptist Church of Ashley. Full and complete reorganization was consummated on Feb. 12, 1954, with a membership of 85. The Nazarene Church building was secured, remodeled and enlarged. The lot was a gift from the Wishek Investment Company. At the outset, the church was an independent Baptist work but soon became affiliated with the Baptist General Conference. Dedication services were held Nov. 11, 1956, with the dedicatory message given by the Rev. Neis Sjernstrom of Bethel College and Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. The Rev. E. Robert Petersen served the church as first pastor from September 1954 to December 31, 1955. It was during his ministry that the property was obtained and the building completed. Following this the church purchased a parsonage which was first occupied by the Rev. David M. Schwartz and family from January, 1956, to Oct. 26, 1958. Other pastors were the Rev. Paul Lemke from July, 1959, to Sept. 27, 1964; interim pastor Rev. J.C. Kranzler from May, 1965, to June, 1967; the Rev. R. Daniel Olson from July, 1968, to March, 1971. Rev. Paul van Gorkom served the church from May, 1971, to October, 1967, along with his full-time pastorate of Kulm

Baptist Church, Kulm, North Dakota. Pastor John Reimer served intermittently from 1980 to Sept. 7, 1986 along with his full-time pastorate of the Berlin Baptist Church, Fredonia, North Dakota. Rev. Arnold Friez, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Leola, South Dakota, is presently serving as supply pastor. The Women's Ministries, Men's Brotherhood and Adult Bible Class meet regularly and support the activities of the church.

8. Ashley – Jewish Congregation of Beth Itzchock

- Location: North of Ashley
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Jewish Synagogue \[3658\]](#)
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee 1888-1938 – 50 Years of Progress*, p. 54-55. There were Jewish settlers in and near Ashley as early as 1900, though the exact date cannot be determined from records now available. It probably cannot be said that a congregation, as the word is commonly used, existed before 1911. Before then the Jewish people living in the vicinity of Ashley, many of whom were farmers, met at the farm homes of some of their number for worship; and in time certain of these homes came to receive recognition as established meeting places for religious purposes, as well as for those purposes more social, as distinguished from religious. In 1914 and 1915 there were two such accepted places of worship, both within a comparatively few miles of the town, and not far from each other; there was at the time a sufficiently large Jewish community to provide at least the ten worshippers required for service at any one place. Before 1911, when a rabbi's services were needed, a man was brought from a city to the east; he officiated during the holidays, for weddings, and other occasions requiring his services. In the spring of 1911 the Jewish Chautauqua Society of America sent Rabbi J. Hess from Chicago, to serve the community and minister to its religious requirements. He served from two headquarters, at Ashley and at Wing, headquartering during the first two or three years at a farm home north of Ashley. The first services at his home in the town were held in the year 1914. The first and only synagogue was bought by the congregation in 1917. The synagogue is still maintained at this time, though there are now fewer Jews residing in and around Ashley than formerly; the tendency in more recent years being to centralize such meetings and services in the larger centers near Ashley, such as Aberdeen, S.D., and Bismarck, N.D. Formal organization under State law was had in 1923, the certificate of the Secretary of State bearing date of July 20, 1923, under the name of The Ashley Jewish Congregation of Beth Itzchock. The congregation also maintains one of the two Jewish cemeteries in the State, on land located some two miles from Ashley, and donated for the purpose by Louis Rubin. The first burial was that of Louis Blum, on May 14, 1913.
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.68. Although Jewish settlers lived in the Ashley area around 1900 there is no record telling of a formal congregation until about 1911 at which time they met at farm homes for worship. A rabbi would be brought from an eastern city to officiate during holidays or other occasions requiring a rabbi's services. In the spring of 1911 the Jewish Chautauqua Society sent Rabbi J. Hess from Chicago to serve at Ashley. He held services at a farm home north of Ashley for several years and in 1914 he held services in his home in Ashley. A synagogue was bought in 1917 from the Baptists who built it in 1902. On July 20, 1923, they received a formal organization certificate from the state bearing the name the Ashley Jewish Congregation of Beth Itzchock. In 1924 the edifice was moved to its present site where it was the Jewish synagogue until 1945. At this time, since there were few Jewish families left in the area, it was sold to a private individual who then remodeled it for a home. It is presently (1987) the residence of Lyle and Carol Fey. As of 1938, records show that there were only two Jewish cemeteries in the state and one is located only two miles north of Ashley.

9. Ashley – Methodist Church

- See Ashley – Emmanuel United Methodist Church

10. Ashley – Reformed Church

- Location: Town of Ashley
- See Ashley – Salem Reformed Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Reformed Church-1 \[3658\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Reformed Church-2 \[3920\]](#)

- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee 1888-1938 – 50 Years of Progress*, p. 54. The Reformed Church is according to statements of some of the pioneers of Ashley, one of the first churches to be built in this town. The date of its erection is given as 1894. As was the custom the owners of the unsold lots of the town donated the ground upon which the Reformed Church was built. Some of the founders and organizers of the church in Ashley were C. Weber, J.H. Schaeffer, Philip, George and Jacob Mayer, J. Mindt and Gottlieb Metz. Rev. H.W. Steinecker was the first minister called to serve as pastor of this church. Rev. G.E. Wolf is the present pastor. The same church building erected in 1894 is still standing and serving its purposes after 44 years of service.
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1888-1963 – 75 Years of Progress*, p.81. In the Spring of 1892 the Reformed Church in the United States sent the Rev. H.W. Steinecker to settle in Ashley and to serve the various groups of Reformed people in the area. Exactly when the Ashley Reformed Church was started is not known as it was already in existence when he arrived. With the coming of the Rev. Mr. Steinecker Ashley became the center of a charge from which he served at least eleven known congregations. These included Ashley (town), Sarons (NE of Long Lake), Bergdorf (S of Ashley), Friends (SW of Zeeland), Rohrbach (SE of Zeeland), Kassel (NE of Zeeland), Neu Kassel (N of Zeeland), Hoffnungstal (NE of Venturia), Neudorf (SW of Wishek), Johannestal (NW of Wishek), and Ebsenfeld (near Streeter). When the congregations did not get around to building him a parsonage, he built himself a house. He also took up farming to partly sustain his temporal life. Considering the mode of transportation and the roads of those days, it is amazing the amount of work accomplished by this pioneer pastor. He was laid to rest in the Ashley Cemetery on December 22, 1929. During the history of the Ashley Charge some of these congregations dissolved or left the charge to form new charges. Thus, Ashley became the mother of the Zeeland and Wishek Charges, and contributed in part to the Artas, S.D., and the Streeter Charges. Other churches at one time associated with the Ashley Charge were Kulm, Danzig, and Leola. From 1937 to 1954 the charge consisted of four congregations: Ashley, Hoffnungstal (moved into the town of Venturia), Sarons, and Leola. In 1954 the Sarons Church dissolved with its members joining the Ashley and Leola Churches. At the same time Leola became joined to the mission work in Aberdeen, S.D. to form another charge. The Ashley Charge presently consists only of the Ashley and Hoffnungstal Churches. Thus, the Ashley Church forms the center from which its pastors took the Word over a considerable territory to those desiring a Reformed Church. Throughout its history the Ashley Reformed Church has been a member of the Reformed Church in the United States. When in 1940 the majority of that denomination joined the Evangelical and Reformed union (now the United Church of Christ), the Ashley congregation was counted among the minority that desired to maintain a distinctive Reformed witness as the continuing body of the Reformed Church in the United States. The Rev. Mr. Steinecker served two terms as pastor of the Ashley Charge from 1892-1904 and 1912-1922. In between there were two pastors, Rev. William Landsiedel (1905-1909) and Rev. Peter DeBKuhr (1910-1912). Following Rev. Mr. Steinecker's second term, the pastors have been the Rev. F.W. Herzog (1922-1935), Rev. George Wolfe (1937-1942), Rev. K.Krueger (1944-1949), Rev. Fred Herzog, Jr. (1950-1953), Rev. John Cooper (1956-1959), and since Feb. 1960, the Rev. Thomas A. Beech. The Rev. Fred Herzog, Jr. was the son of the Rev. F.W. Herzog and was born here in Ashley during his father's pastorate. The Ashley Church was begun with eight families: Conrad Mayer, George Mayer, Jakob Mayer, Philip Mayer, Gottlieb Metz, Jakob Mindt, Johann Schaeffer, and Christian Weber. The congregation built its first building in 1894 at the cost of \$399.95. In 1945 the original building was made longer, an alcove was added to the rear, and a basement put underneath. Since that time various minor improvements have been made from time to time. The church has also organized a choir of about 15 voices. A youth fellowship group has been organized in recent years. The present officers of the congregation in addition to the pastor are: Elders: Henry Huber and Leonard Wagemann. Deacons: Calvin Weber and Walter Helfenstein.

11. Ashley – Saint David's Catholic Church

- Location: 2nd Ave. NE
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Saint David's Catholic Church \[3681\]](#)
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1888-1963*, p.90. Until 1944 the few Catholic families that lived in Ashley attended divine services on Sundays in the surrounding parishes, particularly St. Andrew's in Zeeland, St. John's, five miles north of Zeeland, St. Mary's of Hague, and St. Patrick's of Wishek. So far as can be determined the first Sacrifice of the Mass was offered in Ashley around Easter

time of 1920, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Ruemmele. From 1920 until 1930 pastors from St. Andrew's, St. John's or St. Philip's Church of Napoleon held services in the various homes of the parishioners. During this period the Catholic families were few: The Martin Ruemmeles, Frank Ruemmeles, Nickalaus Kautts, Steve Fischers and H.L. Wolls. From 1935 until 1944 the Rev. Victor Long, pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration in Edgeley, offered Mass once a month on weekdays in the large room of the Home Hotel, then owned by Attorney Franz Shubeck, and operated by Miss Anna Kautt and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nickalaus Kautt. It was during this period that the first Catholic mission was given July 13-17, 1937 by Rev. Thomas Jundt, O.S.B., then assistant pastor at Edgeley. Holy Mass was celebrated each morning with the participants receiving Holy Communion. Sermons were preached both in the morning and at the evening prayer services. In the afternoons the children were given religious instructions by Sisters Louis Phillippe of St. Joseph's Academy, St. Paul, Minn., and Sister Angela of St. John's Academy of Jamestown, North Dakota. In 1944 the Rev. Charles Veach of St. Helena's Church of Ellendale began having Mass regularly every Sunday for the small group in Ashley. This continued until 1951, when the Rev. Anton Anzic, pastor of St. John's replaced Father Veach and Ashley became a station of the St. John's parish. In 1958 Father Anzic was forced to retire because of ill health and was succeeded by the Rev. Alois Zdolsek. It must be noted here that the Catholic congregation through all these years was most fortunate in being able to use the room in the Home Hotel for its religious services. Mrs. Louise Marek and Miss Anna Kautt reserved this large room and faithfully maintained it as a chapel. In addition to the routine cleaning these ladies cared for the vestments and altar linens and provided fresh flowers and plants for the altar. In these and other works they gave freely of their time and energy. This chapel in the hotel served very well and was quite adequate until about 1955. As a few more Catholic families moved into the community and with the children growing up, the chapel at times was quite crowded. Periodically, the idea of securing a church building was discussed. It was always abandoned, as being too ambitious a project for so few to undertake. In the early spring of 1959, during the administration of Father Zdolsek, the St. James Lutheran Church was advertized for sale by sealed bids. This church, located about seven and one-half miles southeast of Ashley, was admirably suited to the needs of St. Mary's Mission, as the chapel was then known. On March 16, the members voted unanimously to submit a bid of \$3100.00 for the church and its contents. This bid was duly submitted on March 19, 1959 by Peter Goettle and Andrew Bosch, acting as parish directors. With permission and upon advice from the Bishop of the diocese, the transaction was finally completed on April 16, 1959. In the purchase of the church, the congregation received financial aid from the Catholic Extension Society of Chicago, Illinois, the Home Mission Fund of the diocese of Fargo, and the David Walter family and Miss B.M. Devancy family of Chicago, Illinois. Through the generosity of the late J.H. and Nina Farley Wishek heirs, three lots in the northeastern part of town were donated as a site for the church. A basement was prepared and the church was brought to town in July. Under the direction and with the assistance of the present pastor, Father Victor Schill, the men and women of the parish spent many weeks in remodeling and redecorating the church. With grateful hearts the small parish at last saw the fulfillment of its dream of so many years. On March 9, 1960, St. David's, the first Catholic Church of Ashley was dedicated by the Most Reverend Leo F. Dworschak, Bishop of Fargo. Though the Catholic congregation is small, it is gratifying to see what such a small group can accomplish in a relatively short time. Much of the credit for this has been due to the unselfish efforts of the pastor. In addition to ministering to the spiritual needs of his flock, Father Schill has given unstintingly of his time and labor in repairing and remodeling the church building. During the past two summers Father Schill has lowered the church belfry and has built an attractive entranceway as a protection against wind and rain. More improvements have been planned for the church and grounds, which no doubt will soon be realized.

- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.71-72. Until 1944 the few Catholic families that lived in Ashley attended divine services on Sundays in the surrounding parishes, particularly St. Andrew's in Zeeland, St. John's five miles north of Zeeland, St. Mary's at Hague, and St. Patrick's of Wishek. So far as can be determined, the first Sacrifice of the Mass was offered in Ashley around Easter time in 1920, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Ruemmele. From 1920 to 1930, pastors from St. Andrew's, St. John's, or St. Philips, Church of Napoleon occasionally held services (mostly on week days) in the various homes of the parishioners. During this time, the Catholic families were few: the Martin Ruemmeles, Frank Ruemmeles, Nickalaus Kautts, Steve Fischers, and H.L. Wolls. From 1935 until 1944, the Rev. Victor Long, pastor of the Transfiguration Church in Edgeley, offered Mass once a month on Weekdays in the large room of the Home Hotel, then owned by Attorney Franz Shubeck, and

operated by Miss Anna Kautt and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nickalaus Kautt. It was during this period that the first Catholic mission was given July 13-17, 1937, by the Rev. Thomas Jundt, O.S.B., then assistant pastor at Edgeley. Mass was celebrated each morning with the participants receiving Holy Communion. Sermons were preached both in the morning and at the evening services. In the afternoons the children were given religious instructions by Sisters Louis Phillipe of St. Joseph's Academy, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Sister Angela of St. John's Academy of Jamestown, North Dakota. In 1944, the Rev. Charles Veach of St. Helena's Church of Ellendale began having Mass regularly every Sunday for the small group in Ashley. This continued until 1951, when the Rev. Anton Anzic, pastor of St. John's Church replaced Father Veach, and Ashley became a station of the St. John's parish. In 1958, Father Anzic was forced to retire because of ill health and was succeeded by the Rev. Alois Zdolsek. It must be noted here that the Catholic congregation through all these years was most fortunate in being able to use the room in the Home Hotel for its religious services. Mrs. Louise Marek and her sister Miss Anna Kautt reserved this large room and faithfully maintained it as a chapel. In addition to the routine cleaning, these ladies cared for the vestments and altar linens and provided fresh flowers and plants for the altar. In these and other works, they gave freely of their time and energy. The chapel in the hotel served very well and was quite adequate until about 1955. As a few more Catholic families moved into the community and with the children growing up, the chapel at times was quite crowded. Periodically, the idea of securing a church building was discussed. It was always abandoned as being too ambitious a project for so few to undertake. In the early spring of 1959, during the administration of Father Zdolsek, the St. James Lutheran Church was advertised for sale by sealed bids. This church, located about seven and one-half miles southeast of Ashley, was admirably suited to the needs of St. Mary's Mission, as the chapel was then known. On March 16, the members voted unanimously to submit a bid of \$3,100.00 for the church and its contents. This bid was duly submitted on March 19, 1959, by Peter Goettle and Andrew Bosch, acting as parish directors. With permission and upon advice from Bishop Leo F. Dworschak of Fargo, the transaction was completed on April 16, 1959. In the purchase of the church, the congregation received financial aid from the Catholic Extension Society of Chicago, Illinois, the Home Mission Fund of the diocese of Fargo, and the David Walter family and the Miss B.M. Devaney family of Chicago, Illinois. Then through the generosity of heirs of J.J. and Nina Farley Wishek, three lots in the northeastern part of town were donated as a site for the church. By the time the new pastor of St. John's Church, Fr. Victor Schill, arrived in early July, the basement was already over half finished, and the church was moved to town the same month. Under the direction and with the assistance of Father Schill, the men and women of the parish spent that fall and winter in remodeling and redecorating the church including painting a ceiling mural in the seating area of the church. With grateful hearts, the small parish at last saw the fulfillment of its dream of so many years. On March 9, 1960, St. David's, the first Catholic Church of Ashley was dedicated by the Most Rev. Leo F. Dworschak, Bishop of Fargo. However, it was soon discovered that the high winds tended to shift the high steeple, so in the fall of 1961 the steeple was lowered by fourteen feet and in the fall of 1962 an open entry way was added to shelter the front door, and the streets by the church were blacktopped. A new organ was also purchased. In 1963, the interior of the Church basement was finished and a small kitchen installed, and the exterior of the church was painted. The following year the basement was divided into temporary class rooms for religious instructions for the growing number of children. In 1971, St. John's parish merged with St. Andrew's, and St. David's became a mission of St. Andrew's, served successively by Fathers Joseph Mentel, Valentine Gross, and Gregory Patejko, until the fall of 1979, when Fr. Victor Schill became the present pastor of St. Andrew's and St. David's.

12. Ashley – Saint Mary's Mission

- See Ashley – Saint David's Catholic Church

13. Ashley – Salem Reformed Church

- Location: Town of Ashley
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Salem Reformed Church \[3678\]](#)
- See Emmanuel United Methodist Church of Ashley; Salem Congregational Church
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.69-71. The members of this parish all originated from those German people who about one and one-half centuries ago left their respective homes in Wurttemberg, Alsace-Lorraine, Baden and Hesse upon the call of the Russian Czarina Katherina II to come to Russia and to settle uninhabited soil. During their stay in Russia they had

become a deeply moved religious people. Due to political turmoil, one after another left for America. After briefly locating in the Yankton, Freeman, Menno, Scotland and Lesterville, South Dakota areas, they moved to McIntosh County in North Dakota where land was more abundant. By 1882 the Reformed Church felt the need of sending another missionary into this area. The Board of Missions chose Rev. H.W. Stienacker who arrived in this vicinity the same year. The first meeting of the consistory of the Ashley parish took place on March 18, 1892, at which meeting the congregations of the Kassel parish (since 1897 called Ashley Parish) agreed to call Rev. Stienacker to be their permanent minister. It is rather difficult to ascertain the exact number of those congregations which at that time belonged to the charge, since they were not recorded in the first minutes. From later minutes it seems however, that the charge consisted of the following congregations. 1. Ashley (town) 2. Sarons (northeast of Long Lake [McPherson County, SD]) 3. Bergdorf (south of Ashley) 4. Friedens (southwest of Zeeland) 5. Rohrbach (southeast of Zeeland) 6. Hoffnungstal (northeast of Venturia) 7. Kassel (northeast of Zeeland) 8. Neu Kassel (north of Zeeland) 9. Neudorf (12 miles southwest of Wishek) 10. Johannesthal (six miles northwest of Wishek) 11. Ebenfeld (near Streeter). On July 6, 1897, the Ebenfeld congregation left the Ashley Parish, and on the same day the congregation by the name of Klein was dissolved. This congregation, however, had probably existed only for a short time. It is obvious that these congregations scattered over an area of more than fifty miles in diameter and united to one charge, could not beneficially be served by one minister. Where congregations were close together the minister was able to serve two of them on one Sunday. Every seventh Sunday Rev. Stienecker was able to serve each congregation if the weather permitted. Reading services were held by the elders when the minister was not present. Soon the congregation became dissatisfied with this arrangement. This also proved to be quite a burden for the minister. Therefore the consistory decided on August 28, 1898, to divide into two charges. Kassel, Neu Kassel, Neudorf and Johannesthal farthest northwest became a separate charge. Rev. Niehaus was the first to serve this charge for about two years. Rev. Feige was his successor. From 1892, the time of the organization of the parish, until 1922 when Rev. Stienecker left Ashley after serving his second term in the charge, the minutes of the meetings of the consistory truly reflect the actual situation of the churches during the pioneer days. During these thirty years we see people move in and out and church members come and go. We also see members changing to other denominations and sometimes coming back again. This instability was of particular concern to the pioneering ministers. Thus we hear of Rev. Stienecker lecturing in Ashley to an audience of various creeds on the theme "What is Truth?" In 1902 these lectures were printed by the Reformed Publishing House in Cleveland, Ohio. Under the supervision of Rev. Stienecker, the Reformed at Ashley erected its first church building in 1894 at the cost of \$399.95. The Hoffnungstal congregation erected its first church building in 1897, one and one-half miles north and east of Venturia, four years before the town came into existence. It was, however, not until 1916 that Sarons congregation built its church building. Traveling with the buggy in the summertime and with sled during winter months, Rev. Stienecker faithfully served all congregations under his care. His parishioners praised him for his great patience and endurance. His teaching and preaching was strongly centered around the basic doctrines of the Heidelberg Catechism which were justification by faith, the imputation of the righteousness of Christ, and perfect satisfaction of Christ. When the congregation did not get around to building him a parsonage, he built himself a house. He also took up farming to partly sustain his temporal life. He was laid to rest in the Ashley cemetery on Dec. 22, 1929. Rev. Steinecker was succeeded by Rev. Landsiedel. In 1905 he accepted a call from the Ashley charge, which he served for hour years. It was during this time that the first parsonage was built. The building committee consisted of Christian Eisenbeis, Friedrich Dockter and Gottlieb Dockter. Rev. Landsiedel is remembered as a staunch reformer , setting forth the gospel, that we, body and soul, life and in death, belong to our faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. In the meantime the Ashley charge had outgrown its missionary stage. When Rev. F.W. Herzog arrived during the summer of 1922 it consisted of 50 families and four congregations. He held the pastorate at Ashley for thirteen years, after which time he returned to his home country, Germany. During his time of service the present parsonage was built. The Reformed Congregation at Danzig was organized. He also served at Leola, Fullerton and Tenvik at a time when those congregations were without a minister. When he left Ashley in 1935, sixty-five families belonged to the Ashley charge. From 1937 to 1954 the Ashley charge consisted of four congregations: Ashley, Hoffnungstal (Venturia), Sarons (Long Lake) and Leola. It is noteworthy at this time to mention that the Ashley congregation rebuilt its church building and dedicated it on July 22, 1951. The Ashley Reformed Church held its sixtieth anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 31, and Monday evening, Sept. 1, 1952. Special guest speakers at the English services were Rev. Odenbach, Rev. Bosma, Rev. Klaudt and Rev. Reineking; speaking at the German services were Rev. Klaudt, Rev. Odenbach, Rev. Kriener and Rev. Lierhaus. The

Ashley Church Quartet and the Venturia Church Choir furnished special music at all of the services. The Venturia congregation abandoned its country church, purchased the Rohrbach Church, and moved it into Venturia during the summer of 1950, the same year the Rohrbach Congregation dissolved. Dedication of this church building took place on Sunday, Oct. 15, 1950. Leola and Long Lake still use their first church edifices. In 1954 Sarons dissolved. Its members joined Ashley and Leola Churches. At the same time Leola joined the mission work of Aberdeen to form another charge. This then left the Ashley charge with only two congregations, Ashley and Hoffnungstal,. In 1972 Hoffnungstal transferred all its members to Ashley. They joined under a new charter as Salem Reformed Church. The State of North Dakota issued a Certificate of Incorporation to Salem Reformed Church Dec. 26, 1972. Articles of Incorporation were signed by James Huber, Arthur Schlepp and August F. Dockter. Hoffnungstal held its last service on Sept. 3, 1972, as did Ashley. Salem Reformed Church held its first service Sept. 10, 1972. The church building was remodeled in 1973. The inside walls were paneled, floors carpeted and an entrance built on the west side. The newly remodeled building was dedicated as Salem Reformed Church on April 28, 1974. Guest speaker was Rev. Paul H. Treick from Napoleon, Ohio. The Ashley Congregation Charter was dated Jan. 29, 1902, and signed by Friedrich Dockter, Gottlieb Mertz and Theodore landman. Some of the founders of the Ashley Church were Conrad Mayer, Philipp Mayer, Gottlieb Mertz, George Mayer, Jakob Mayer, Jacob Mindt, Johann Schaeffer and Christian Weber. The Hoffnungstal Congregation Charter was dated June 23, 1910. Some of the founders were Gottlieb and Magdalena Dockter, Jacob and Margaretha Dockter, John and Elisabeth Dockter, Gottlieb, Jr. and Christina Dockter, Friedrich and Louise Dockter, Jacob and Magdalene Schlepp, Friedrich and Eva Herbold and Philipp and Sophia Dockter. The Sarons Congregation Charter was dated June 6, 1919. George Ehresmann, Konrad Ehresmann, Christian Rau, Karl Wacker, Jakob Wacker, Philipp Ehresmann, Jakob Rau and Jakob Ehresmann were some of the founders. The list of founders from the Leola congregation is missing. The following ministers served the Ashley Charge and those associated with it: Rev. H.W. Steinecker, 1892-1904; Rev. William Landsiedel 1905-1909; Rev. Peter DeBuhr, 1910-1912; Rev. H.W. Steinecker, 1912-1922 (second term); Rev. F.W. Herzog, 1922-1935; Rev. George Wolfe, 1937-11942; Rev. Kasper Kruer, 1944-1949; Rev. Fred Herzog, a son of rev. F.W. Herzog, 1950-1953. In between 1953 and 1956, Ashley Church was served from Wishek by Rev. Alfred Reineking, and Hoffnungstal from Artas, by Rev. Fritz Leirhaus. The Ashley charge was then served by Rev. John Cooper, 1956-1959; Rev. Thomas Beech, February, 1960-September, 1963; Rev. Samuel Allison, Feb. 1, 1964-Nov. 11, 1967; Rev. Jefferson Duckett, Sept. 1, 1968-July 27, 1969; Rev. Paul H. Trieck, July 5, 1970-Sept 26, 1973; Rev. Dennis White, Oct. 7, 1973-Dec. 31, 1978; Rev. Barry Bostrom, June 24, 1979-Jan. 31, 1981; Licentiate George Bancroft, Oct. 31, 1982-June, 1983; Rev. William Haddock, Jan. 29, 1984-July 27, 1986. The Salem Reformed Church is now being served by Pastor David Dawn since September 21, 1986. The present membership of Salem is 83 baptized, 76 confirmed. Throughout its history, the Ashley Reformed and the Hoffnungstal Churches have been members of the Reformed Church in the United States. This denomination has a background reaching to the Calvinistic {sic} reformation in Germany in the 16th Century. The object of this congregation has always been to edify its members by proclaiming the whole Council of God, Old and New Testament, Law and Gospel, and the faith that was once delivered unto the Saints. The Heidelberg Catechism is received as an authoritative expression of the truth taught in the Holy Scriptures and is acknowledged to be the standard of doctrine in the Reformed Church in the United States.

14. Ashley – Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)

- Location: 112 1st St. SE
- Parsonage: 708 2nd Ave SE
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Zion Lutheran Church-1 1903 \[6512\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Zion Lutheran Church-2 1922 \[3659\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Zion Lutheran Church-3 1966 \[3681\]](#)
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee 1888-1938 – 50 Years of Progress*, p. 55. The beginning of the above mentioned congregation are ascribed to the work of Rev. Brunn, who about 1890, was serving the extended field of the so-called Jewell parish east of Ashley. In the year 1896 he started a preaching place in Ashley, conducting his services first in private homes, then in the schoolhouse and finally when they were pressed for more room in the courthouse. It is said that a preliminary organization of the small group was effected in 1901, however, no records can be found. The real organization took

place on the 25th of September, 1903. Charter members of the congregation, as far as can be learned, were: Friedrich Rau, Paulus Wohl, Gottlieb Becker, Christian Fischer, John C. Schaeffer, Johann Schulz, Fred Brosz, Gottlieb Glaesmann, Gottlieb Balliet, Gottlieb Stepper and Friedrich Maier. The first Trustees were Gottlieb Stepper, Gottlieb Becker and John C. Schaeffer. The first deacons were Gottlieb Balliet and Bottlieb Becker; and the first treasurer was John C. Schaeffer. At this meeting it was decided to build a church and the following members were appointed as building committee: Gottlieb Stepper, Gottlieb Backer and John C. Schaeffer. By next spring a building was completed at a cost of \$2200.00. Dedicatory services were conducted in May, 1904, by Rev. Reinhardt and Rev. O. Brunsch. A call was extended to Mr. Wenninger, who was assisting Rev. Reinhardt of Eureka and he arrived in August, 1904. It was during his pastorate that the first parsonage was erected at a cost of \$1200.00. He served the parish, which consisted of four congregations until the fall of 1907, to be succeeded by Rev. Schulz, who was pastor until 1917. Rev. Baetke served from 1917 to 1919, and was succeeded by Rev. Briest from 1919 to 1922. The growth of congregation made it imperative to provide for more room in their house of worship and after many a meeting it was finally decided to erect a brick building. A building committee consisting of Fred Brosz, Adolf Moench, Jacob Muehlbeier, Gottlieb Kessel, John Rau, Gottlieb Roeszler and Fred Wahl, Sr., were appointed, and work on the new church was commenced in the fall of 1921, and finished in the spring of 1922 at a cost of \$26,863.00. Dedication of the new house of worship was held in May, 1922. A fact of which the congregation can always be proud of is, that after every bill had been paid there was still a balance of \$802.00 in the building fund. In 1922 Rev. Sprattler succeeded Rev. Briest and served the congregation until March, 1933, and it was during his pastorate that a new parsonage was erected in 1926, at a total cost of \$9000.00. The present pastor Rev. J.C. Jung has served the congregation since July 15, 1933. The present membership of the congregation, which has had a steady growth, is 190 voting and paying members, 462 confirmed members and 605 baptized members. Officers elected at the last annual meeting are Gottlieb Becker, Enoch Wahl and Jakob Maier as deacons. Gottlieb Kessel, treasurer; secretary, Ed. Rau, and trustees E.W. Schock, George Gender and Fred Wahl, Sr. Within the congregation there are a number of very active organizations.

- Church History: *Golden Jubilee 1903-1953 – Zion Lutheran Church, Ashley, North Dakota*, p.7-11. Historical Sketch—Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church – The beginning of the above mentioned congregation is ascribed to the work of Rev. Brunn, who about 1892 was serving the extended field of the so-called Jewell parish east, southeast of Ashley. But considerable mission work had already been done before. In June 1885 Rev. Friedrich Preu of Aberdeen, S. Dak. Made an extensive trip in McIntosh county. On that trip he found a group of Lutherans who were lowering the remains of a child of Mr. Christoph Nitschke and his wife Rosina, nee Maerz, into the grave. We can imagine how happy they were when a Lutheran minister stopped and conducted the service and comforted the sorrowing. They could not have been more grateful if an angel from heaven had appeared. In the autumn of 1885 Rev. Geissendoerfer arrived and spent the winter looking up Lutheran people in McIntosh county and laid the foundation for quite a number of congregations. In the spring of 1886 a meeting was conducted under the open sky in the southeast corner of section 9, township 129, range 68. A large number of people attended and the Jewell parish was organized which consisted of a number of congregations. At this meeting it was decided to build a parsonage and it was built that same spring 1886 and was dedicated in June 1886. That was the first Lutheran parsonage. That parsonage is today the home of Mr. Christian Hildenbrand on the farm. Rev. Groenlund followed in the autumn of 1886 and was the first Lutheran pastor in McIntosh county and labored until the beginning of 1888. In June 1888 Rev. O. Pett came and in the spring of 1889 Rev. Geo. Zapf began work. Rev. Pett moved to Griswald (Litchville), N. Dak. and Rev. Reischauer took his place. And in 1891 Rev. Hummel came. In 1892 Rev. Zapf moved to Watson (Leonard), N. Dak. and Reischauer to Leola, S. Dak. and Hummel to Webster, S. Dak. McIntosh county again had no pastor. Rev. Koepfel in Eureka, S. Dak. had to make many a trip to McIntosh county to serve people. Then came Rev. Brunn in 1892. In 1896 he started a preaching place in Ashley conducting his services first in private homes, then in the schoolhouse and finally when they needed more room, in the courthouse. It is said that a preliminary organization of the small group was effected in 1901, however no record of it can be found. The real organization took place on the 25th of September, 1903. Charter members of the congregation as near as can be learned were: Friedrich Rau, Gottlieb Becker, John C. Schaeffer, Johann Schulz, Fred Brosz, Gottlieb Glaesmann, Gottlieb Balliet, Gottlieb Stepper and Friedrich Maier. The only charter member still alive is Johann Schulz, Sr. The first trustees were: Gottlieb Stepper, Gottlieb Becker and John C. Schaeffer. The first deacons were Gottlieb Balliet and Gottlieb Becker; and the first treasurer was John C.

Schaeffer. At this meeting it was decided to build a church and the following members were appointed to a building committee: Gottlieb Stepper, Gottlieb Becker and John C. Schaeffer. By next spring a building was completed at a cost of \$2,220.00. Dedicatory services were conducted in May 1904 by Rev. H. Reinhardt and Rev. O. Brunsch. A call was extended to Rev. Wenninger, who was assisting Rev. Reinhardt at Eureka, S. Dak. and he arrived in August 1904. It was during his pastorate that the first parsonage was erected at a cost of \$1,200.00. The year 1903 also saw the formation of the Ashley Lutheran parish consisting of the following congregations: Zion in Ashley, St. James, Marienberg and Trinity. Rev. Wenninger served the parish until the fall of 1908 to be succeeded by Rev. C. Schulz, who was pastor until 1917. Rev. C. Baetke followed and served from 1917- to 1919 and was succeeded by Rev. P. Briest who was pastor from 1919 to 1922. The growth of the congregation made it imperative to provide more room in the house of worship and after many a meeting it was finally decided to erect a brick building. A building committee consisting of Adolph Moench, Jacob Muehlbeier, Gottlieb Kessel, John Rau, Gottlieb Becker, Gottlieb Roeszler and Fred Wahl, Sr. were appointed, and work on the new church was started in the fall of 1921 and finished in the spring of 1922 at a cost of \$26,863.00. Dedication of the new house of worship was held in May 1922. A fact of which the congregation can always be proud is that after every bill had been paid, there was still a balance of \$802.00 in the building fund. [*photo of parsonage erected in 1926 at bottom of page 8*] In 1922 Rev. Geo. L. Sprattler succeeded Rev. P. Briest and served the congregation until March 1933 and it was during his pastorate that the beautiful new parsonage was erected in 1926 at a total cost of \$9,000.00. During his time of office 53 families were added. [*photo of front interior of present day church at top of page 9*] In July 1933 Rev. J. Jung succeeded Rev. Sprattler and served the congregation until March 1943 when he entered the army as chaplain. During his time of office 85 families were added. The membership at that time was 190 voting and paying members, 462 confirmed members and 605 baptized members. June 15th, 1943 Rev. John Drewelow succeeded Rev. Jung and served the congregation until April 1945. The present pastor, H.L. Lechner, has served the congregation since October 1945. The congregation has enjoyed a steady growth. During the present pastor's time of office, 189 families have been added. The membership at present is 289 voting and paying members, 920 confirmed members and 1,242 baptized members. The congregation is now numbered among the largest of the Dakota District of the American Lutheran Church. The exceptionally rapid growth is due to some extent to the fact that St. John's (Dewald) congregation, and Marienberg congregation and Trinity (Pfeifle) congregation, and Christ Lutheran congregation in Danzig and Emmaus congregations, and Bethany (Kramer) congregation and Hope (Schmidts) congregation were dissolved and nearly all of them, about 65 families, have joined our Zion church in Ashley. Another factor that added new members to the congregation is that quite a few families moved to Ashley in the last eight or ten years. To a considerable extent the steady growth is also due to the faithful officers, some of whom have held their office for many years. For instance Mr. Gottlieb Becker was deacon for 36 years and Sunday School teacher for about 25 years. Mr. Johann Schulz was deacon and Sunday School teacher for 18 years. Of the present officers Mr. Gottlieb Kessel has been treasurer of the congregation for 20 years. Mr. F.F. Bender has been treasurer of the parish for 20 years. Mr. Adolph Moench has been trustee for the parsonage for 12 years. Mr. Edward Rau has been secretary of the congregation for 15 years and also for the parish for 15 years, and Mr. Adolph Thurn has been Sunday School teacher and superintendent for 20 years. All of the other officers of the congregation and Sunday School teachers and officers of the organizations in the congregation who served the congregation for a shorter period of time, are just as faithful and have done much for the congregation. Of course God is the giver of all good gifts, but next to God the pastors have done much for the congregation, especially those who stayed a long time, as for instance Rev. Sprattler and Rev. Jung each of whom served 10 years; especially Rev. Sprattler who guided the congregation when the beautiful parsonage was being built and Rev. Briest who counseled the people when the very fine church was being built. When expensive buildings are being erected there is usually much tension, and dissatisfaction so easily creeps in. In the last eight years considerable improvements have been made. In 1945 the church was painted inside and the roof was repaired and the basement was painted. Two oil furnaces were installed in 1947 and windows and doors were repaired in 1949, also the Sunday School got curtains and arranged rooms for all of the Sunday School classes at a considerable expense. Water and modern plumbing was installed in the church basement and in the parsonage. The kitchen in the church basement was also moved to the west end of the basement and modernized. The bulletin board was donated by the John Geiszler children as a memorial to their parents. The parsonage roof was shingled and the parsonage was painted outside. An electric water heater was installed, and a fan for the furnace was installed and a new kitchen sink was installed, also a motor to pump the cistern water. In 1952 the

parsonage was renovated and painted inside. And 1953 the church was completely renovated inside: walls, floors, pews, altar and pulpit received a thorough renovation. And new carpets in the chancel and the center and both side aisles and a new altar superfrontal and pulpit antependium were bought. This year, in 1953, the church roof was again reshingled, at a cost of approximately \$2,500.00. These and other minor improvements during the past eight years amounted to a total cost of \$15,301.40. Of this amount \$12,509.37 was spent on the church and \$2,793.03 on the parsonage. [photo on page 11 shows the First Church—The original Zion Lutheran Church, built in 1903. Picture was taken while workmen were excavating the basement for the new church in the autumn of 1921]

- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1888-1963*, p.91. The beginning of the Zion Lutheran seems to have been a slow process, as most beginnings are. Zion is no exception. Of record is the work of a Rev. Brunn, about the year 1890. He served a large area in and around Ashley. In 1896 a preaching place was established in Ashley, services being conducted in homes, schoolhouse, courthouse and wherever convenient. The congregation was not organized until September, 1903, with eleven families. In the spring of 1904 the building of a church was undertaken. In 1904, Rev. Wenninger served the parish which consisted of four congregations. He served until 1907. Rev. Schulz succeeded him and served until 1917, Rev. Boetke from 1917 to 1919, and Rev. Briest from 1919 to 1922. The growth of the congregation made it necessary to provide more rooms for worship. The present church was started in 1921 and dedicated in May, 1922. In 1926 a new parsonage was built. In 1922, Rev. Sprattler succeeded Rev. Briest and served until March, 1933. In July, 1933 Rev. Jung came and served the congregation until 1943, when he entered the chaplaincy service. Pastor Drewelow served the congregation from June, 1943 to April, 1945. Pastor Lechner served from October, 1945 to August, 1954. It was during his ministry that three of the country congregations and two of the Danzig parish closed and joined the Zion Lutheran. This partly explains the phenomenal growth of Zion during his ministry. Rev. F. Heupel served the congregation from fall of 1954 to the fall of 1957. During his time, plans were made for possible enlargement and educational unit. Pastor E. Groth succeeded Rev. Heupel, serving the congregation from June, 1958 to August, 1961. The present pastor, J. Kammerer, has served the congregation since September 1, 1961. The present membership is 1190 baptized, 890 confirmed members and 363 enrolled in Sunday School.
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.72-76. The beginning of this congregation is ascribed to the work of Rev. Brunn, who about 1892 was serving the extended field of the so-called Jewell parish east, southeast of Ashley, but considerable mission work had already been done before. In June, 1885, Rev. Friederich Preu of Aberdeen, South Dakota, made an extensive trip in McIntosh County. On that trip he found a group of Lutherans who were lowering the remains of a child of Mr. and Mrs. Christoph (Rosina) Nitschke into a grave. Rev. Preu stopped and conducted the service and comforted the sorrowing. In the autumn of 1885 Rev. Geissendoerfer arrived and spent the winter looking up Lutheran people in McIntosh County and laid the foundation for quite a number of congregations. In the spring of 1886 a meeting was conducted under the open sky in the southeast corner of section 9, township 129, range 68. A large number of people attended and the Jewell parish (St. James) was organized which consisted of a number of congregations. At this meeting it was decided to build a parsonage and it was built that same spring, 1886, and was dedicated in June. That was the first Lutheran parsonage. Rev. Groenlund followed in the autumn of 1886 and was the first Lutheran pastor in McIntosh County until the beginning of 1888. In June, 1888, Rev. O. Pett came and in the spring of 1889 Rev. George Zapf began work. Rev. Pett moved to Litchville and Rev. Reischauer took his place. And in 1891 Rev. Hummel came. In 1892 Rev. Zapf moved to Leonard and Reischauer to Leola, South Dakota. Rev. Hummel also moved to Webster, South Dakota. McIntosh County had no pastor at that time. Rev. Koepfel in Eureka had to make many a trip to McIntosh County to serve people. Then came Rev. Brunn in 1892. In 1896 he started a preaching place in Ashley, conducting his services in private homes and later in the schoolhouse. When they needed more room, services later were held in the courthouse. It is said that a preliminary organization of the small group was effected in 1901; however, no record of it can be found. The real organization took place on the 25th of September, 1903. Charter members of the congregation as near as can be found were Friederich Rau, Gottlieb Becker, John C. Schaeffer, Johann Schulz, Fred Brosz, Gottlieb Glaesmann, Gottlieb Balliet, Gottlieb Stepper, and Friederich Maier. At that meeting it was decided to build a church and in the spring of 1904 a building was completed at a cost of \$2,200. Dedicatory services were conducted in May, 1904, by Rev. H. Reinhart and Rev. O. Bruntsch. A

call was extended to Rev. Wenninger, who was assisting Rev. Reinhart at Eureka, and he arrived in August of 1904. It was during his pastorate that the first parsonage was erected at a cost of \$1,200. The year 1903 also saw the formation of the Ashley Lutheran parish consisting of the following congregations: Zion in Ashley, St. James, Marienberg and Trinity. Rev. Wenninger served the parish until the fall of 1908 to be followed by Rev. C. Schulz, who was pastor until 1917. Rev. C. Baetke served from 1917 to 1919 and was followed by Rev. P. Briest who was pastor from 1919 to 1922. The growth of the congregation made it imperative to provide more room in the house of worship and it was finally decided to erect a brick building. The new church was started in the fall of 1921 and finished in the spring of 1922 at a cost of \$26,863. After every bill had been paid, there was still a balance of \$802 in the building fund. The new building was furnished with an oak altar backed by a retable with nine spires. On the altar stood a replica of the sculpture "Kristus" by the Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen. The altar and statue are still in use today, standing in the chapel of the present Zion church. In 1922 Rev. George L. Sprattler succeeded Rev. Briest and served the congregation until March, 1933, and it was during his pastorate that the new parsonage was erected in 1926 at a total cost of \$9000. In July, 1933, Rev. J. Jung succeeded Rev. Sprattler and served the congregation until March, 1943, when he entered the army as chaplain. During his time of office 85 families were added. The membership at that time was 190 voting and paying members, 462 confirmed and 605 baptized members. On June 15, 1943, Rev. John Drewelow followed Rev. Jung and served the congregation until April, 1945. The next pastor was Herman L. Lechner, who served from October, 1945, to August, 1954. It was during his ministry that three of the country congregations and two of the Danzig parishes closed and joined Zion Lutheran. This partly explains the large growth of Zion during his ministry. Pastor Fred Heupel served the congregation from the fall of 1954 to the fall of 1957. During this time plans were made for possible enlargement and the building of an educational unit. Pastor Erwin E. Groth came in June, 1958, and served until August of 1961. Pastor John Kammerer followed in September, 1961, and during his ministry and {sic} congregation voted to build a new church and on June 26, 1966, dedicatory services for the new church were held. A 60' by 93' structure was built with a two floor educational unit, 178' by 42', facing toward the east, costing \$300,000.00. In 1968 the parsonage was moved from the location where it stood for 42 years to its present location in the southeast corner of the city, so that landscaping for the new church could be completed. Pastor Kammerer served Zion for twelve years and during this time the congregation numbered 1200 baptized, 900 confirmed and 363 Sunday school members. Pastor Kammerer left in 1973 and Pastor Marvin J. Schumacher arrived from Beulah, North Dakota, in 1974. During Pastor Schumacher's ministry an assistant pastor was called in 1975. Pastor Timothy G. Johnson served as the assistant pastor until 1979. Two congregations, Zion Lutheran of Venturia, in 1974, and Zion II, in 1977, merged with Zion Lutheran in Ashley. In June, 1978, Zion Lutheran celebrated its 75th anniversary as a congregation with Pastor Dr. David W. Preus, president of the American Lutheran Church attending. Pastor Schumacher was honored by Zion in June, 1982, for twenty-five years of ordained ministry in the Lutheran Church. In 1980, Pastor Bruce Adamson was called to serve Zion as assistant pastor. At this time Pastor Schumacher took a sabbatical leave to Wartburg Seminary in 1981. After leaving Zion in 1983, Pastor Schumacher was elected to a six-year term as bishop of the American Lutheran Church's western North Dakota district, his term beginning in January, 1984. The number of members preferring German-language services had gradually dwindled, and after Pastor Schumacher left, English became the only language used in worship. Pastor Adamson again served as sole pastor until 1984 when Pastor Martin J. Simmons arrived in April, 1984. Pastor Ladd Bjerneby has been serving as assistant pastor since July, 1985. In 1930, the Iowa Synod merged with two others, then Zion became a congregation of the American Lutheran Church. In 1960, another merger created the American Lutheran Church. In January, 1987, Zion Lutheran voted to approve the merger forming a new church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Through the years, rural congregations around Ashley began to close, and their members strengthened Zion. The following is a list of the congregations and their last year as a congregation: St. Paul (Coldwater) 1938, Emmaus 1938, Marienberg 1944, Bethanien (Bethany) 1945, Johannes (St. John's) 1948, Dreieinigkeit (Trinity) 1949, Hoffnungs (Hope) 1950, Christus (Christ of Danzig) 1951, Zion I 1956, Jakobus (St. James) 1959, Friedens (Peace) 1965, Zion of Venturia 1974, and Zion II 1977. In the last 84 years, there have been many changes in the life of the Zion congregation. One tradition that has endured is the fall mission festival. That festival has helped to keep the congregation interested in the work of God's Church outside the community of Ashley, supporting causes from world hunger relief to mission congregations in our own state. The heart of the life of Zion Church is, as it always has been, the gathering together around God's word and sacraments. God's blessing is asked at weddings. God's promises are remembered at funerals. God's story is taught to the young. From the

beginnings in 1885 to the present, through changes in language and buildings and pastors, those things have not changed. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, with 960 confirmed members and 1,115 baptized members at present, continues in that tradition.

15. Beaver Creek Baptist Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Rosenfield Township, **Sec 04-T131-R72**
- See First Baptist Church – Wishek
- Closed in 1949

16. Bensville – Rosenthal Baptist Church

- Location: Village of Bensville, SW ¼ **Sec 07-T131-R68** (Rosenthal Township)
- See Rosenthal Baptist Church

17. Berlin Baptist Church

- Location: 18 miles NE of Ashley, McIntosh County, Rosenthal Township **Sec 24-T131-R68**
- See Ashley – Baptist Church; Lehr – Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Closed in 2009
- [Photo Available: Mc-Berlin Baptist Church-1 \[4125\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Berlin Baptist Church-2&3 \[4126\]](#)
- Community History: *Kulm, ND – Centennial 1892-1992*, p.122
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee 1888-1938 – 50 Years of Progress*, p.83. In the territorial days of 1884, the immigrants and settlers came pouring into this region to take up homesteads and to try to better themselves materially. They also felt a concern for their spiritual well-being. Gatherings for worship were held in various homes and were at first non-denominational in character. In 1888, a group of some thirty persons requested the rite of baptism by immersion and organized themselves under the direction of the Rev. Reichle as the Berlin Baptist Church. This was in the vicinity of Antelope Valley. Among those early members were: The Adam Meidingers, Gottlieb Meidingers, Jacob Meidingers, Mrs. Johann Meidinger, Johann Rotts, George Rott, Christoph Rott, H.G. Rott, Johann Koths, Adam Muellers, Johann Koenigs, Gottlieb Lautts, Johann Bosart, Christian Bentz, A. Bentz, J. Hildenbrand, W. Hieb, Adam Kieser, the Sauers, Keckles, Breitlings, Staedings and Renschlers. Adam Meidinger was the first deacon and treasurer, and Johann Rott the first clerk and Sunday School superintendent. Rev. B. Matzke was called to serve as the first minister. Under his leadership a small church was erected on the present church site at a cost of \$911.00. During the ministry of the Rev. Reichert a parsonage was built at the Jewell branch of the church. The mission work kept expanding so that stations were established at Hoffnungstal, Friedensfeld, and Monango. At this time Jewell became independent. A church and parsonage were constructed at Kulm. Another branch, Blumenfeld came into being and spread out to Hoffnungsfeld and Lehr. A parsonage was built at Lehr and they organized a church of their own, the Ebenezer Baptist Church, made up of Rosenfeld, George, and Lehr. During the ministry of Rev. Bens, the original Berlin church became inadequate, and was replaced by a larger building. Rev. S.J. Fuxa served the various churches from 1916-21. It was during this time that the Ebenezer Church was organized and was later able to secure their own pastor. Rev. Fuxa continued his services with the Berlin, Fredonia, and Hoffnungsfeld groups. He lived in Fredonia, where a parsonage had been built in 1918. This parsonage is still in use, and the pastor drives out to the country church every Sunday. Rev. Huber served from 1923-25. From then until 1930 the church was without a pastor until the coming of Rev. A. Krombein. His years of service (1930-38) were marked by self-sacrifice and hardships brought on by the drought and consequent harvest failure. The church was compelled to draw support from the Mission Board. Hoffnungsfeld station joined the main body during the service of Rev. William Jaster. During Rev. Paul T. Hunsicker's ministry (1943-50), the church recovered from the effects of the depression and again became self-supporting. In 1949 the present church building was erected. While Rev. J.C. Kraenzler was pastor (1950-52), the debt on the new church was paid off. During the next few years, led by Rev. V.H. Prendinger, many necessary improvements were made to the parsonage at Fredonia. The church thereafter had no pressing financial

problems and has continued to enjoy a fruitful period of peace and growth. The present pastor is the Rev. David Littke.

- Community History: *Fredonia, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*. The Berlin Baptist Church south of Fredonia was organized in 1888 under the leadership of Rev. Reichle, and recognized by council that consisted of Rev. F. Muller, B. Matke, W.H. Mueller and the brethren, J. Broedel, E. Bentz and Timm.
- Community History: *Fredonia, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979 – 75 Years of Prosperity*, p.273. Jesus said: "I will build my Church. Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." We wish to dedicate this historical sketch to Our Forefathers and to those who were determined to accept God's cause and exercised a Christian stewardship of time and talent, means and concern, love and devotion. They took their marching orders of their Lord seriously. We are known as a church on a hill, letting its light so shine that others can be drawn unto Him. More than four generations have come and gone from 1888-1978. As we cast our reflections over the years we see where two acres of land were purchased from Mr. Jacob Meidinger, and in 1889, the first Berlin Baptist Church edifice was erected. This place has been held by the Berlin Baptist Church throughout its history of 90 years and holds the honor of being the Mother Church of the area Baptist churches. Jacob Rott, son of George and Katherine Rott and "Son of the Church," entered the seminary in 1919, graduating in 1926. He served several churches in our denomination until he died in 1953. Pastors who served the first 66 years of our church are in the first Fredonia Jubilee book. "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." This is the Lord's doing and to Him belongs all glory. He is the Great Shepherd of the Flock and the Head of the Church. Many loyal men and women have been affiliated with the church throughout the last 25 years: Rev. and Mrs. Victor Prendinger, 1953-1960; Rev. and Mrs. David Littke, 1960-1967; Rev. and Mrs. Kurt Brenner, 1967-1970; Rev. and Mrs. Arthur J. Fischer, 1970-1977; Rev. and Mrs. John Reimer, 1977- .The church edifice is always kept in good condition by the people of the church. They also take care of the church's parsonage at Fredonia. Financially speaking the church has had its best years during the 1970's. The Berlin Baptist Church has always had a very active youth group. During the ministry of Rev. Kurt Brenner in our church, this activeness of the youth was demonstrated once again. In the summer of 1969, we had a large group of our young people work in the Spanish-American mission field for two weeks in the community of Del Norte, Colorado. Rev. Arthur Fischer was serving as the church's pastor during the church's recognition of its eighty-fifth anniversary. The Berlin Baptist Church has had an active choir and at the present it is under the leadership of Pastor John Reimer. Our Women's Missionary Society meets regularly and has done outstanding work in a number of areas in home and foreign missions. When the church was organized in 1888 there were only eight to ten families. The congregation grew and was large and influential in the 1920's when there were 150 members. Today our membership is less than 60 resident dwellers. Many families have moved away, young people have gone to college and have found new church homes and have become extinct household names. Yet those names that are on the church-roll are almost all of the original families and background. We are few in number but Praise the Lord for being so good to us and for giving us joy to serve Him. May this church always be a blessed witness and be able to go forth to proclaim His word. Pastor: John Reimer; Deacons: Fred Hoffman, Herbert Buerkley; Trustees: Adam Harr, Darwin Rudolph, Karl Grenz; Treasurer: Archie Hoffman; Financial Secretary: Sharon Hoffman; Secretary: John Reich
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.61-62. The Berlin Baptist Church of Fredonia, North Dakota, located 18 miles northeast of Ashley, was organized in 1888 under the leadership of the Rev. Reichle. Two stations, Jewell and Zion, came into being at this time. The new organization grew rapidly so that before the end of the year, the Rev. Matzke was called to serve as first minister. Under his leadership a chapel was erected the following year, 1889. Rev. Matzke was succeeded by Rev. M. Domke and Rev. J. Golling. Followed by Rev. J. Reichert, under whose ministry, the work spread to other fields necessitating establishment of three more stations: Hoffnungsfeld [German spelling: Hoffnungsfeld], Friendsfeld [German spelling: Friedensfeld], and Monango. It soon became apparent that the minister could hardly serve such a far flung field especially since all traveling had to be done by horse and buggy. In 1896, all members of the Jewell Church severed their relationship with the Berlin fellowship, declaring themselves independent; in 1902 this group was yoked together with the Ashley Baptist Church. In 1907, Rev. H.G. Bentz became the pastor of the church and the second church

was built. The Zion station was dissolved and the little church building transferred to Rosenfeld. Rev. A.L. Tilgner accepted the charge. The church grew spiritually and many were added to the fellowship. Rev. Tilgner was succeeded by Rev. S. Fuxa. Due to the ever expanding field, there was need for further separation. In 1918, Rosenfeld, George and Lehr organized as the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Lehr, leaving Berlin with Hoffnungsfeld [Hoffnungsfeld] and Fredonia as one unit. Pastors not mentioned above that served this congregation are as follows (*deceased): Rev. Emil Huber*, Rev. Albert Krombein*, Rev. Wm. Jaster*, Rev. Paul Hunsicker, Rev. J.C. Kranzler*, Rev. Victor Prendinger*, Rev. David Littke, Rev. Kurt Brenner, Rev. Arthur Fischer, Rev. John Riemer, and Rev. Arthur Fischer. Under the leadership of Rev. Paul Hunsicker, the present edifice was built in 1949. This place has been held by the Berlin Baptist Church throughout the history of the organization. Jesus Christ, the same—Yesterday, Today and Forever. Praise God for our fore-fathers who by the Grace of God and the fortitude had a vision for the generations that followed. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

- Community History: *Kulm, ND – Centennial 1892-1992*, p.122-123. The Berlin Baptist Church of Fredonia, ND, located 18 miles northeast of Ashley, ND, was organized in 1888 under the leadership of the Rev. Reichle. Two stations, Jewel and Zion, came into being at this time. The new organization grew rapidly so that, before the end of the year, the Rev. Matzke was called to serve as first minister. Under his leadership, a chapel was erected the following year in 1889. Rev. Matzke was succeeded by Rev. M. Domke and Rev. J. Golling, followed by Rev. J. Reichert, under whose ministry the work spread to other fields necessitating the creation of three more stations, Hoffnungsfeld, Friendsfeld, and Monango. It soon became apparent that the minister could hardly serve such a far-flung field, especially since all traveling had to be done by horse and buggy. In 1896, all members of the Jewel church severed their relationships with Berlin fellowship, declaring themselves independent, when in 1902 this group was yoked together with the Ashley Baptist Church. In 1906, under the ministry of Rev. J. Burgdorff, the work in Monango was dissolved and the station Blumenfeld came into being. The church grew rapidly so that, not long after its founding, permission was given to become independent of the mother church. In 1907, Rev. H.G. Bentz became the pastor of the church and the second church was built. The Zion station was dissolved and the little church building transferred to Rosenfeld. Rev. A.L. Tilgner accepted the charge; the church grew spiritually and many were added to the fellowship. Rev. Tilgner was succeeded by Rev. S. Fuxa. Due to the ever-expanding field, there was need for further separation. In 1918, Rosenfeld, George and Lehr organized as the Ebernezer Baptist Church of Lehr, leaving Berlin, Hoffnungsfeld and Fredonia as one unit. Pastors not mentioned above that served this congregation are as follows: Rev. Emil Huber*, Rev. Albert Krombein*, Rev. Wm. Jaster*, Rev. Paul Hunsicker, Rev. J.C. Kranzler*, Rev. Victor Prendinger*, Rev. David Littke, Rev. Kurt Brenner, Rev. Arthur J. Fischer, Rev. John Reimer, Rev. Arthur J. Fischer (*deceased). Under the leadership of Rev. Paul Hunsicker, the present edifice was built in 1949. This place has been held by the Berlin Baptist Church throughout the history of the organization. "Jesus Christ the same Yesterday, Today, and forever." Praise God for our forefathers who, by the Grace of God and fortitude, had a vision for the generations that follow. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."
- Community History: *Fredonia, ND – Centennial 1904-2004 – Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.40. The Berlin Baptist Church, the oldest church in McIntosh County, has served the Lord for 115 years. In spite of the fact that our forebears were poor and had to struggle, there was another necessity of first priority. It was to have a place to worship the Lord. Many of these folk had held membership in a Baptist Church in Russia, so they knew what a blessing a church edifice would be. In the meantime they met regularly in the Adam Meidinger, Jr. home for Christian fellowship and worship. According to records, Berlin Baptist Church was organized in 1888 under the leadership of Rev. Reichle of Scotland, SD. In the spring of 1888, Rev. B. Matzke began to come about every other month and stay for several days. He came as far as Hoskins Lake with a lumber freight and from there he walked. The following names were listed as charter members of the church: John Bossert, Sr., Johann Koenig, John Koth, Gottlieb Lauth, Adam Meidinger, Gottlieb Meidinger, Adam Miller, John Rott, Mrs. Adam Goehring, Jacob Meidinger, Christian Bentz, Adam Gieser, J. Hildebrandt, George Rott, and H.G. Rott. The following list of pastors who have served the Berlin Baptist Church: Berthold Matzke (1889-91); M. Domke (1891-93); J. Golling (1894); John Reichert (1895-1901); John Burgdorff (1902-05); Henry Bens (1906-10); Albert Tilmer (1912-15); E.S. Fuxa (1916-20); Emil Huber (1922-25); Alabert Krombein (1930-38); William Jaster (1939-42); Paul

Hunsicker (1943-50); Jacob Kranzler (1950-52); Victor Prendinger (1953-60); David Littke (1960-67); Kurt Brenner (1967-70); Arthur J. Fisher (1970-77); John Reimer (1977-86); Arthur J. Fisher (1986-93); Don Blatchley (1993-94); Joe Noe (1995-96); Arthur Fisher (1996); Ray Kapp (1997 to present). Berlin had three chapels erected in its 115 years. The first was built in 1889 at the price of \$911.00 to which the Mission board gave \$200.00. It was 30 by 40 with four windows on each side. Jacob Meidinger donated the land. The lumber for the church was hauled from Ellendale. The congregation had no carpenter; they did all the work themselves. Chairs and a cast iron stove were bought. The second church was built in 1908, by adding a new part to the old building plus a tower. This building served the church for 40 years. In 1948 construction began on the third building and it was finished in the summer of 1949. Dr. Martin Leushner was the guest speaker for the dedication service as well as former pastors Albert Krambein and E.S. Fuxa. The new sanctuary cost \$28,000.00. The impressive building is still sitting on a hill sixteen miles SW of Fredonia serving as a lighthouse directing our attention heavenward. Throughout the years the church has been noted for its musical programs, picnics, Sunday and Bible schools, church potlucks and hours of fellowship. The church sent one young man into the gospel ministry. In 1919, Jacob Rott, a son of the congregation was sent to the seminary at Rochester, NY, graduated in 1926 and served until he died in 1957. The Women's Missionary Fellowship was organized in 1934 and worked faithfully until it was disbanded in 1997.

18. Bertsch Congregational Church

- Location:
- See Salem Congregational Church, McIntosh County, Beresina Township

19. Bergdorf Reformed Church

- Location: S of Ashley
- See Ashley – Salem Reformed Church

20. Bethany (Bethanien) Lutheran Church

- Location:
- See Ashley – Zion Lutheran Church
- Closed 1945
- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Evangelical Lutheran Bethany Congregation 1907-1945*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2003—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota. Taken from Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin – April 27, 2003: Records of the organization of Bethanien Gemeinde located 10 miles east of Danzig, ND are not available. (As noted in the *Zion Centennial Book 1903-2003*) After the publishing of this book, a book of information was donated which included minutes of a meeting held on May 18, 1919 where Christus congregation of Danzig and Bethany agreed to become one parish. According to deed dated January 15, 1921 a tract of land lying in the NE ¼ of Section 22-131-69 was conveyed to the Bethany Gemeinde of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ashley, ND by George and Christina Kramer for the sum of \$1.00 and other good and valuable consideration. (Additional information in the records indicated the participation and providing of money to purchase property in Danzig for the parsonage by Bethany Congregation) Confirmation students of Bethany attended classes at Danzig and were confirmed in that church. Family register information at the beginning of this church in 1907 were: Michael & Maria (Scheifele) Flaig, Johann & Elizabeth (Forchere) Dahlke, Matthias & wife (Walz) kSchab, Fried. & Maria (Leno) Harsch, Geo. & Christine (Schmiedt) Kramer, Peter J. & Christine (Schaffer) Becker, Gottlieb & Dora (Scharf) Rattei, Joseph & Elizabeth (Goehring) Pleinis, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Krenzler, Jacob & Eva (Liebig) Pleinis, Adam & Mathilda (Schneider) Helm, Johann Kramer, Simon & Gertrude (Oster) Hauck, Andrews & Karolina (Becker) Frey, Christoff & Karlina (Haag) Krenzler, Martin & Maria (Schwab) Hauff, Jakob & Alwine (Frey) Aman, Johann & Elisabeth (Knipfle) Aman, Johann & Anne Marie (Huft) Becker. Statistical records have information available up to 1932. According to former members of this congregation, the church closed in about 1945. Therefore records from 1932-1945 are not available. The church building was sold and moved to Ashley where it was remodeled and used for a home.

21. Bethesda Evangelical Church

- Location: 8 miles E and one-half mile S of Ashley
- See Emmanuel United Methodist Church
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee 1888-1938 – 50 Years of Progress*, p. 49-50. One of the oldest church organizations in this locality is the Evangelical Church. In 1887 Rev. H. Loewen visiting in the southeastern part of the county became acquainted with the following pioneer Evangelical families, Friedrich and Elizabeth Nies and Heinrich and Juliana Klein. He preached in the house of the former and in 1888 organized the Bethesda congregation, consisting of thirteen members, namely: Gottlieb and Katharina Grueneich, John Schilling, Christ Meier, Jacob, Fred and Gottlieb Dobler, Conrad Beths, Andreas Schlabsz, Jacob Bendewald and Christoph Grueneich. During the pastorate of Rev. Loewen, the congregation grew and a church was built beside the parsonage. However, in 1905, upon organization of the Emanuel congregation in Ashley by Rev. G.C. Thiele, the parsonage was moved to Ashley on its present location. The charter members of this thriving congregation consisted of Joseph and Julia Schulz, John F. and Carolina George, George and Christina Hummel, F.J. and Margaretha Meier. By 1907, at which time the local church was built, the membership under the pastorate of Rev. Loris Wacker included these additional names: W. and Regina Wahl, Jacob and Margaretha Jenner, Christ and Christina Breitmeier, Christ and Christina Wolf, Jacob and Carolina Grueneich, J.H. and Katharina Schaeffer and Friedrich Feil. During the ensuing years, the Emanuel congregation served as a mother church through whose activity other congregations were organized, such as: Ebenezer church, eleven miles southwest of Wishek, the Venturia Zoar church and the Wittenberg church of the Kulm mission. Under the pastorate of Rev. F. Loewen, a congregation was organized near Danzig which included the members: Gottlieb and Emma Walz, Edward and Mathilda Wetzel, Solamon and Karolina Eslinger, John and Karolina Dobler and John and Johanna Nies. In 1923 during the pastorate of Rev. H.C. Lehner, the congregation obtained the Wittenberg church formerly belonging to the Kulm mission. Other names added since include: John F., Gottlieb, Fred, Jacob, and John Salzer families, the Philip Meier and Emanuel Straub families. At present the Ashley Mission consists of two Sunday schools, numbering an enrollment of about one hundred fifty-five pupils, one Women's Missionary Society with eighteen members, and a Ladies' Aid consisting of twenty-four members. The church membership advanced with the last few years from sixty to one hundred thirty members. Rev. F. J. Knuth enjoys his eighth year as pastor of this growing Mission and is most optimistic in the outlook.
- Source: Historical Report from a loose-leaf collection by Rev. Kunth, Ashley Mission, Dakota Conference – Bethesda Church Records pages 184-188; translated from German by Rev. Allen E. Konrad – Sep 2010. Reporting in 1887, Brother H. Loewen visited McIntosh County and found the following families 9 miles east of Ashley (Ashley was not yet built up): Friedrich Nies, Heinrich and Juliana Klein, the parents of Heinrich and Mathilda Klein, and preached in the home of Friedrich and Elizabeth Nies, where he then, in 1888 [inserted: 12 April], organized the Bethesda Congregation with 13 families: Gottlieb and Katharina Greeneich, John Schieling, Christian Meier, Jacob Dobler, Friedrich Dobler, Gottlieb Dobler, Conrad Beath, Andreas Schleps, Grandfather Greeneich and Jacob Benderwald. Through the efforts of Brother Loewen, after some years (1892), the Bethesda church was built (dedicated by Bishop B. in 1896). In 1897, a tent meeting (*Zeltversammlung*) was held here (Bishop R. Bawman preached) and there was a joyful awakening, where many souls were led to the Wonderful Light. In 1892, the pastor's residence was built (under Brother Berreth), which later (about 14 years) was brought to Ashley through the efforts of Brother G. Thiele, where around 1905 a small group organized "Emanuel Congregation" with the following membership: Joseph and Julia Schulz, John F. and Caroline George, Christine Hummel, F.J. and Margaretha Meier. And afterwards, in 1907, the number of members grew through the efforts of Brother Louis Wacker, namely, W. & Regina Wöhl, Jacob and Margaretha Jenner, Christ and Christina Breitmeier, Christ and Christina Wolf, Jacob and Caroline Greeneich, Friedrich Feil, J.H. and Katherina Schaeffer. Then, in 1907, the church of Emanuel was constructed in Ashley, where until now many souls were softened by the Lord, and carried out of the surrounding evil to Light and Life, Classes were organized, congregations founded, churches built (as for example, the Gruebele Congregation) in the Wishek area, the Venturia Loar [Zoar] Congregation toward Eureka was dedicated, and the Wuerttemberg Congregation going to the Kulm Mission, and furthermore, in 1923, the church, under the leadership of Brother H.C. Lehner, also came to an area not far from Danzig, and receiving a new name, namely Salem. Under his leadership, Brother F. Loewen found several families: Gottlieb and Emma Walz, Edward and MathildeWetzel, Salomon and Karoline Eszlinger, and John and Karolina Dobler. In recent years, 5 Salzer

families are listed, attending the worship services and Gottlieb and his married sons: Fred, Jacob and John, joining the church during the closing meeting of February, 1934. John F. Salzer, along with his wife, had already joined the congregation earlier. The Ashley Mission is made up of 3 appointments, 2 blossoming Sunday Schools, where on 29 April, 1934, 155 souls were present. The Women's Mission Society numbers 18 members, the Ladies Aid has 24, and the Mission Band has 24. All membership numbers have grown in the last 3 years from 60 to 108. In 1933, we had 32 inquirers and 26 members, and in 1934 there were 16 inquirers and 24 members received. There is a big mission field here, and, if we exert all effort and keep focused, a large number of people can be gathered here. As can be expected, the enemy of this biblical flock desired to destroy the precious plants, but the Shepherd of Israel wonderfully watched over this Mission, and as Zion's Refuge and Fortification drove off the enemy. Beginning in 1887, H. Loewen worked for 7 years. Brother Lenx worked from out of Lehr for a year. Brothers Berreth and Michael worked for 2 years and built the pastor's residence (1892). Then F. Loewen for 2 years, followed by brothers B. H. Fischer for 1 year, R.E. Strutz out of Lehr for a year, W. Gruegers for 1 year, F. Brockmueller for one year and R. Bloeden for a year; Gustav Thiele for 4 years, John Fischer for 2 years; then Gustav Thiele again from 1904 to 1907, during which time the pastor's residence was brought to Ashley. F.J. Wacker who built the church in Ashley in 1907, after that Brother J.B. Happel worked 4 years, H. Ezelmueller one year and G. Enzminger 2 years, then Brother F. Loewen was here again for a year, during which time it can be said it was a glorious time for the Mission. The Mission was entrusted to Brother Karl Hirning in 1917, which during his three years of service observed a glorious victory in the salvation of precious souls. In 1920, Brother John Fischer took over the leadership of the Mission until 1923 and then Brother H.C. Lehner. During the first year of his service he experienced a wonderful time of refreshment in the Lord when many souls, some 50-60, actively turned themselves over to God, but out of the harvest of this work only 12 members were gained. Over a period of 7 years, some 70 souls were saved, 25 became members and 29 fell by the way. In 1930, F.J. Kunth was sent to Ashley, where he was allowed to experience that the scattered seed falls on hard soil and the soil becomes responsive first after many tears and prayer and leadership. During his first 2 years of service he experienced only limited success. It was only in the third year that 32 souls actively converted to God and 26 were received into church membership. In the fourth year, 16 experienced conversion and 24 were received into membership and there are a number of prospects who are considering taking the step of joining up with the people of God. Leon Kuch served as minister of the Ashley Mission from 1941-45. During the four years of service there were 40 conversions and 21 new members added to the church. Because of the war, high wages and demand for labor in industrial areas many of the members of this field left for these areas during these years; consequently, a small decline in the total membership of the churches. The years 1941-45 were years of prosperity and each year the church had made up every financial obligation. Besides this, the field paid in 1942-43, \$1,635.00 toward the Conf. debt liquidation. In May, 1945, the Salem Church voted to move the Zion country church of the Wishek field on their church grounds, repair and remodel it. This was done because the present church was too small and inadequate. In Nov. 1944, the Bethesda Church celebrated its 50th Anniversary with appropriate services, former ministers, the Dist. Supt., and charter members taking part in the services.

The list of ministers, and their years in service [found on page 186], are as follows:

01. Brother H. Loewen - (1887-1894)
02. Brother Lenx – served the field for 1 year out of Lehr
03. Brother Berreth – served for 2 years and built the pastor's residence in 1892
04. Brother Michaelis – same entry as Berreth
06. Brother F. Loewen – served 2 years
07. Brother B. H. Fischer – served 1 year
08. Brother R.E. Strutz – from out of Lehr for 1 year
09. Brother Grueger – 1 year
10. Brother F. Bruckmueller – 1 year
11. Brother R. Bloeden – 1 year
12. Brother Gustav Thiele – served 4 years
13. Brother John Fischer – served 2 years
14. Brother Gustav Thiele – served 3 years (1904-1907), during which time the pastor's residence was moved to Ashley.
15. Brother F.J. Walker, built the church in Ashley in 1907

16. Brother J.B. Happel – served 4 years (1908-1912)
17. Brother H. Etzelmueller – served 1 year (1912-1913)
- . Brother B.H. Fischer – (1913-1914)
18. Brother G. Enzminger – served 2 years (1914-1916)
19. Brother F. Loewen – served 8 months (1916-1917)
20. Brother Karl Hirning – served 3 years (1917-1920)
21. Brother John Fischer – served 3 years (1920-1923)
22. Brother J.C. Lehner – served 7 years (1923-1930)
23. Brother F.J. Knuth – served 10 years (1930-1940)
24. Brother Karl Hichendel – served 1 year (1940-1941)
25. Brother Leon Kuch – served (1941-1945)

22. Danzig Baptist Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Moscow Township, NE ¼ of SE ¼ **Sec 28-T131-R71**
- See Ashley – Baptist Church; Venturia – Baptist Church; Wishek – First Baptist Church
- Closed in 1940

23. Danzig – Baptist Church

- Location: Village of Danzig
- See Wishek – First Baptist Church; Danzig German Baptist Church
- Existed from 1922 to 1924

24. Danzig – Christ Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Danzig Township, **Sec 17-T131-R70**
- See Ashley – Zion Lutheran Church
- Closed 1951
- [Photo Available: Mc-Danzig Christ Lutheran Church \[3788\]](#)
- Community History: *Danzig, ND – 1906-2000 – Gone But Not Forgotten*, p.122-128. Christus Gemeinde of Danzig, North Dakota was organized September 3, 1916 according to the minutes recorded by Pastor J. Willms. Lots 1 and 2 of Block 7 in Danzig were conveyed by deed from George Gackle, Peter and Christina Billigmeier and John H. and Nina Wishek to German Evangelical Lutheran Christus Church of the Synod of Iowa and other states at Danzig, North Dakota for the sum of \$1.00 and other good and valuable consideration. Financial report dated December 6, 1918 indicated total expenditures were \$290.44. \$190.44 was paid and balance of \$1,000.00 debt owed (\$700.00 to the synod and \$300.00 to Farmers State Bank, Danzig, North Dakota.) Included in these expenditures were items that were not for the church building and furnishings. Food for dedication: \$159.82 (\$81.00 for 1 hog and 1 heifer); \$23.00 (400# flour); \$53.26 (coffee, sugar, salt, pepper, raisings, oilcloth for tables); \$2.56 (800 paper plates from Sears); \$38.50 (House rent to Nick Humann for 11 months); \$10.50 (Insurance); \$32.04 (Gasoline and Coal). Thus the total of the church building and furnishings was \$2,663.58. Included in the total cost was: \$500.00 (G. Deiz, Builder); \$52.60 (John Rott for labor); \$20.00 (Walter Rumpel for painting); \$104.00 (Nickish and Wacker for 9 dozen chairs); \$82.37 (for the furnace); \$57.19 (for the bell). McIntosh County Register of Deeds records indicate that the parsonage was obtained by deed dated October 2, 1919 conveying Lot 1, Block 11 in the Village of Danzig, North Dakota from Walter H. Leiser and Nora Leiser to Danzig Evangelical Lutheran Parish for the sum of \$1,550.00. Members signatures recorded at the beginning of this congregation were: Bietz, A.D.; Bietz, John; Brinkman, H.; Delzer, G.; Dockter, F.; Eisenbeisz, D.O.; Frankfurth, A.; Groszhans, Jacob; Gieser, F.F.; Hellerud, J.M.; Helmer, Anton; Hoirup, C.P.; Joachim, Gottlieb, Jr.; Joachim, Elmer; Joachim, Andrew; Kapp, J.; Ley, Gottlieb; Ley, John; Merkel, John; Martz, Thomas; Neu, John; Oster, Mathies; Pfeifle, John; Pfeifle, Julius; Rothfusz, Martin; Schulz, John; Schilling, Christoff; Schwenk, John; Stroh, John J.; Wolf, Gottlieb; Wolf, Johannes F. The pastors that served in the Christus Church of Danzig included: (1916) J. Willms; (1917-1922) W. Burrack; (1922-1923) A. Badersneider; (1924-1927) C.H. Laemmle; (1927-1938) T.N. Deguisne; (1939-1940) John Kammerer; (1941-1945) F.T. Kern, Goering, A. Doering; (1945-1948) No Pastor; (1949) L.G. Sailer; (1951) P. Mall...[List of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, deaths pages 124-127]...In 1939, the women

of the church organized a Ladies Aid. While the women held their meeting, the men would visit in the churchyard or in their cars. The children would play and after the meeting a lunch was served for everyone. Mission Fest Sunday was a big day. Church Services were held in the morning, afternoon and evening. Confirmation was a great celebration with examination at the Sunday morning service and the Affirmation of Baptism in the afternoon. Church services were in the German language and in the 1940's, occasionally an English service was held on Sunday evening. Pastor T.F. Doyen of Wishek, ND served part time in 1946-1947 and would preach a sermon once a month on Sunday afternoon. Due to the declining population of Danzig, it was no longer feasible to continue this parish and most members transferred to Zion Church in Ashley and some to St. Lukes in Wishek. The last services were held sometime in 1951 and the church was sold and moved to Ashley in 1954 where it now is the Bethel Assembly of God Church. Some changes were made, however, remaining are the interior walls and ceiling with metal embossed décor and the original light fixtures that were installed when REA provided electricity to Danzig in 1950.

25. Danzig German Baptist Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Moscow Township, NE ¼ of SE ¼ **Sec 28-T131-R71**
- See Wishek – First Baptist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Danzig German Baptist Church \[3786\]](#)
- Community History: *Danzig, ND – 1906-2000 – Gone But Not Forgotten*, p.119-120. Rev. Berthold Matzke came to the community with some flour and clothing which he stated was sent by the Baptist churches in the Southern part of the Dakota Territory. It seemed he saw the people were in need of spiritual help, so he started visiting these people and held services in their homes. This labor was not in vain for in a short time a station was organized which became the first station of the Danzig German Baptist Church. On August 15, 1886, they built a wooden structure 20 feet by 40 feet on a plot of 3 acres of land donated by John J. Giedt. The cost of the church was \$800 of which \$550 was raised among the members and a loan of \$250 obtained from the Baptist Home Mission Society, New York City. It was dedicated on June 25, 1893. Soon, a fifteen acre tract was acquired one quarter mile south of the church, which became the location of the first parsonage. Here was build {sic} the first parsonage, barn, and other small buildings. This provided a pasture for horses, since they were the only means of travel in those days. The Danzig Church affiliated with the Northwestern Baptist Conference in 1886. In 1900, this church along with all the other German Baptist churches was transferred to the Dakota Conference. The congregation grew until it had 133 members. There were 6 stations connected with this organization. At a meeting in the Danzig church on March 20, 1908, it was decided to accept Wishek as a new Mission Field. On A[ro]; 8. 1912, a meeting was held at the Danzig Station to decide what to do because the Danzig church with its 6 Stations: Danzig, Kassel, Venturia, Beaver Creek, Wishek and Ashley was too large a field for one minister. They decided to split the field into 3 churches and the stations Kassel and Venturia should organize as one church. At a regular business meeting on May 20, 1930, the name was changed from the Danzig German Baptist Church to the German Baptist Church in Wishek. The pastors who served in the Danzig German Baptist Church included: (1892) Rev. Berthold Matzke; (1892-1894) Rev. J. Marks; (1895-1896) Rev. George Burgdorf; (1897-1899) Rev. Jacob Herman; (1899-1901) Rev. Edward Wolff; (1902-1903) Rev. H. Helzinger; (1903-1909) Rev. Christian Bischet; (1910-1927) Rev. August Herringer; (1928-1940) Rev. C.M. Knapp. There were 15 members who organized the Danzig Baptist Church. These records were found in the Wishek Star and the Wishek Baptist Church Records. (1) Brokofsky, John; (2) Bucholz, John; (3) Donner, Theodore; (4) Giedt, John; (5) Heindrickson; (6) Herr, Jacob, Sr.; (7) Huber; (8) Koth, William; (9) Mattis, William; (10) Micaelson, Andrew; (11) Priskau, John; (12) Pudwill, Benjamin; (13) Pudwill, Gottlieb; (14) Quatier, William; (15) Stading, Karl

26. Danzig Reformed Church

- Location:
- See Ashley – Salem Reformed Church
- Closed in 1944
- Community History: *Danzig, ND – 1906-2000 – Gone But Not Forgotten*, p.129. The first services were unusual. In 1917, services were held in the schoolhouse. Due to the lack of members, they combined with the German Baptist group. They each had their own Sunday school. In 1922, the Reformed Church was

organized by Rev. F.W. Herzog. The Baptist group had their own services in the Danzig school from 1922 until 1924, when they went to the German Baptist group 4 miles West of Danzig. Services for the Reformed church were also held in the Schoolhouse until 1931, at which time they built the Danzig Reformed Church. In March of 1931, the foundation was started and by August, the interior of the church and the benches were completed. The church was dedicated October 18, 1931 with a large crowd of people present both forenoon and evening. Rev. H. Treick of Eureka preached both forenoon and afternoon and evening. Rev. Bilder of Hosmer also preached in the afternoon and Rev. F.A. Ritterhaus preached in the evening. Dinner and supper was served in the schoolhouse by the women of the congregation. About 300 people were fed at dinner and supper. The three Charter Members were: John Weber, Edward Weber and Fred Dockter. Baptisms, confirmation and funerals performed in the Danzig Reformed Church were recorded with the records of the Ashley Reformed Church as they were done by the same pastor. It is impossible to be certain which were members of Ashley or Danzig Church. The first wedding was held in November, 1932, when Esther Weber married Sam Eszlinger. The last funeral in the church was in 1943 for Mr. John Weber, one of the Charter Members. The Danzig Reformed Church closed in 1944 and was sold and moved to Wishek in 1945.

27. Ebenezer Evangelical Church

- Location:
- See Wishek – United Methodist Church

28. Elim Church

- Location: 16 miles SW of Wishek
- See Salem Evangelical Church
- Might also be spelled Elem

29. Emmanuel Lutheran Church

- Location: S of Zeeland
- See Zeeland – Zion Lutheran Church (WELS)

30. Emmaus Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Kisselberry Township SW ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 15-T130-R69**
- See Ashley – Zion Lutheran Church
- Closed 1938
- History of Congregation: *Kirchen Buch (Church Book) of Evangelical Lutheran Emmaus Gemeinde Synod of Missouri 1908-1943*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2003—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota, as recorded in *Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin May 11, 2003*. A small group of Lutherans gathered every Sunday for reading services in the home of Wilhelm Ley located 4 miles North of Ashley. The early 1900's saw the beginning of a cemetery near the lake 2 miles East of Wilhelm Ley farm started by the Ley Families and became known as the "LEY CEMETERY." (*At the time of this writing, this little cemetery is totally under water*). On March 9, 1908 Henry & Magdalena Schmidt deeded land located 4 miles Northeast of Ashley in Section 15, Township 130, Range 69 to the Evangelical Lutheran Emmaus Gemeinde Synod of Missouri. The first trustees of the church were Wilhelm Ley, Johann Bendewald Sr. & David Klein Sr. German reading services were conducted every Sunday with the primary reader being Jakob Eszlinger. On one Sunday a month pastors from the surrounding area – Pastors C. H. W. Schulz, Jung, Wirt, Hoetmayer and Fred Meyres – conducted worship services. Congregation members were families consisted of: Wilhelm Ley, Jacob Ley, David Ley, John Glaesmann, Julius Herman, Henry Oberlander, Mike Ehley, John Schumacher, Enoch Gehring, Christian Gehring, Jakob Eszlinger, Jakob Gieszler, John Gehring, John Schweigert, Fred Hinsz, Henry Ehley, Konrad Kapp, John Bender, Gottfried Kempf, John Tschetter, Fred Marzolf, Rudolf Frankfurth, John Harter, Heinrich Quast, Edwin Ehley, David Klein, Gottlieb Strobel, Lui Schweigert, Fred Herman, Ruben Wagner, Christ Klein, Harold Mensing, Christ Henke & Albert Frankfurth. Confirmations were combined and alternated yearly with St. Lucas Church. The Emmaus Church remained active with the last Christmas program held in December 1941. The Church dissolved in 1943 and the remaining members joined Zion in Ashley. In the spring of 1947

Emmanuel Church building was sold for \$2300.00 to Grace Lutheran Church in Lehr, North Dakota. The church building was later sold and remodeled for a home and is presently (May, 2003) the residence of Ervin and Lucille Glaesmann in Lehr, North Dakota.

31. Evangelical Church

- Location:
- See Ashley – Emmanuel United Methodist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Ashley Evangelical Church \[3654\]](#)

32. Evangelical Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Danzig Township, **Sec 17-T131-R70**
- Community History: *Venturia, ND – Golden Jubilee 1901-1951*, p.16

33. Evangelical Zion Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Beresina Township **Sec 05 T130-R67**
- See Zion II Lutheran Church

34. First German Baptist Church of Ashley

- Location: Town of Ashley
- See Ashley – First Baptist Church

35. Friedens Lutheran Church

- Location: 10 miles E of Ashley; McIntosh County, Iowa Township, NE ¼ of SE ¼ Sec 34-T130-R68
- See Peace Lutheran Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Friedens Lutheran Church \[3686\]](#)
- Also known as Sackmanns Gemeinde – Information from Orion A. Rudolph of Ashley, ND
- Also known as Schumacher Church – Information from Orion A. Rudolph of Ashley, ND
- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Gemeinde (Peace Lutheran) – 1894-1965*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2002—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota, as taken from *Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin June 1, 2003* at Zion Lutheran Church-Ashley, ND. Peace (Friedens) Lutheran Church was located on Highway 11, ten miles East of Ashley, ND in Section 34, Township 130, and Range 68. The church was organized with the assistance of their first pastor, Rev. A. Meyres, on May 13, 1897. They built a church of sod in 1898 that served the congregation for 18 years. Membership grew and needs for a more modern structure resulted in the building of a new church in 1916. H. L. Lechner was serving the congregation at this time. Peace Church was the headquarters for the Five-Point Parish including congregations: Hope (*Hoffnungs*), St. Luke (*Lukas*), Zion I and Zion II. On Sunday May 23, 1948, the congregation observed their 50th Anniversary. Three former pastors were guest speakers: Rev. D. Bergstedt, Rev. F. Lehner and Rev. H. L. Lechner. A new organ was also dedicated at this celebration. According to records available the charter members of Peace Lutheran Congregation were: Johannes Sackmann Sr., Johannes Sackmann Jr., Andrew Sackmann, Michael Kessel, Christoph Grueneich, Jacob Maier, Daniel Roehl, Johannes Rothfusz, Gottlieb Strobel, Jacob Schlabsz, Daniel Schultz, Mattheis Dobler and Heinrich Mueller. During the history of the congregation 280 children were baptized, 635 were confirmed, 127 couples were married, 4,419 communed and 67 funerals were conducted. When Peace Church closed in 1965 members were: Art C. Nitschke, Ted Maier, Alvin E. Nitschke, Richard Heinrich, Gottfried Maier, Gottfried Bertsch, G. C. Nitschke, Christ Erlenbusch, Marvin Erlenbusch, John Quaschnick, August Schumacher, Gus Bauder, Herbert Nitschke, Joe Daschendorf, Melvin Fregein, Mrs. Gottfried Strobel, G.L. Sackmann, Reinie Hochhalter, Gottfried Bendewald, Gottfried Kessel, August Heil, Christ Rothfusz and Rudolph Ulrich.

36. Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church – Frieda Township

- Location: McIntosh County, Frieda Township, NW ¼ **Sec 10-T131-R73**
- Closed 1965

- See Wishek-Saint Luke's Lutheran Church
37. Friedensfeld Baptist Church
- Location: (not sure if in McIntosh County)
 - Organized 1918 or 1924
 - See Berlin Baptist Church, McIntosh County, Rosenthal Township
38. George Baptist Church
- Location: McIntosh County, Lowenthal Twp **Sec 22** T132-R69
 - See Berlin Baptist Church, McIntosh County, Rosenthal Township; Lehr – Ebenezer Baptist Church
39. German Baptist Church of Jewell
- Location: McIntosh County, Jewell Twp **Sec 33**-T129-R68
 - Organized 1888 or 1896
 - Closed 1958
 - See Ashley Baptist Church; Venturia – Baptist Church; Berlin Baptist Church; Ashley – First Baptist Church
40. German Baptist Church of Wishek
- Location:
 - See Wishek – First Baptist Church; Danzig – German Baptist Church
41. German Evangelical Lutheran Christus Church
- Location: Village of Danzig
 - See Danzig – Christ Lutheran Church
 - History of Congregation: *Church Book of Christus Lutheran Church – Danzig, North Dakota 1916-1951*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2003—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota under article *Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin May 4, 2003*. Christus Gemeinde of Danzig, ND was organized September 3, 1916 according to minutes recorded by Pastor J. Willms. The church was located on Lots 1 and 2 of Block 7 in the village of Danzig, McIntosh County, North Dakota. According to financial report dated December 6, 1918 the total cost of the church included furnishings was \$2,663.58. \$1000.00 was borrowed (\$700.00 from the Synod and \$300.00 from Farmers State Bank, Danzig, ND) to pay for the church. Members at the time of the organization were D.D. Eisenbeisz, Christof Schilling, John Merkel, Jakob Groshans, John Ley, Gottlieb Ley, Gottlieb Delzer, Anton Helmer, Fred Dockter, Johannes F. Wolf, Gottlieb Wolf, John Pfeifle, John Neu, Albert Frankfurth, Gottlieb Joachim Jr., Mathies Oster, John Bentz, John J. Stroh, John Schulz, John Schwenk, Kacob Kapp, Andrew Joachim, Julius Pfeifle, Fred F. Gieser, Thomas Martz, Martin Rothfusz, Elmer Joachim, Jacob J. Groszhans, Claus P. Hoirup, Henry J. Brinkman, J.M. Hellerud and A.E. Bietz. The women organized a Ladies Aid at the time Pastor John Kammerer served in 1939. Monthly meetings were held in the church basement and refreshments served following meetings, which were enjoyed by husbands and children which was a social event for families. Food was also served for noon meal at Mission Festival Sunday. Confirmation was a great celebration with examination at the Sunday morning service and Affirmation of Baptism at the afternoon service. Former members recall that Pastor Deguisne's wife cooked and served the noon meal for the confirmation class. Church services were in the German language. In the late 1940's an occasional English service was held on Sunday evening. Due to declining population of Danzig and the rural area, the church closed in 1951 and members transferred to Zion Lutheran at Ashley and St. Luke Lutheran in Wishek. In 1954 the building was sold and moved to Ashley, ND where it now is Bethel Assembly of God Church.
42. Gnadenfeld Congregational Church
- Location: 9 miles SE of Fredonia; McIntosh County, Roloff Township, NW ¼ of **Sec 26**-T132-R67
 - [Photo Available: Mc-Gnadenfeld Congregational Church \[4114\]](#)

- Community History: *Kulm, ND – 1982-1957*, p.16. Gnadenfeld was the oldest Congregation of the German Congregational Churches in North Dakota. It was organized in 1886 under the leadership of Supt. George Albrecht and Pastor C. Jose with 18 members. It was organized in the home of Mr. And Mrs. Gottlieb Schneider with the following members: Mr. And Mrs. August Miller, Mr. And Mrs. John Miller, Mr. And Mrs. John Kroll, Mr. And Mrs. Louis Billigmeier, Mr. And Mrs. Karl Hillius, Mr. And Mrs. Daniel Foloff, Mr. And Mrs. Daniel Grosz and Mr. And Mrs. Andrew Blume. During the first two years the services were held in the sod house of Mr. And Mrs. John Miller. In ten years this congregation grew to 34 members, so they were pressed for more space in which to hold services. In 1896 the members with their Pastor Paul Burkhard came to an agreement to build a new church building 10 miles southwest of Kulm. This structure was built 24 by 36 feet and after being completed it was dedicated to the Lord with Rev. D. Neuenschwander as guest speaker. In 1911 revival meetings were held and over forty souls were saved. In 1936 the Gnadenfeld Church celebrated their 50th Anniversary with Rev. Paul Burkhardt as guest speaker. During the life of the church it had been served by the following clergymen: H. Heltzer, Rev. H. Vogler, Rev. J. Sattler, Rev. P. Hirt, Rev. H. Baumann, Rev. P. Burkhardt, Rev. M. Treiber, Rev. A Vogel, Rev. E. Wagner, Rev. J. Ament, Rev. H. Nuetzmenn, Rev. C.A. Lippenberger, Rev. H. Wuerth, Rev. P. Ruder, Rev. B. Moos, Rev. E. Ketterling, Rev. K. Roemmich and Rev. C. Martin. In 1953 the Gnadenfeld Church Congregation decided to quit having services in their Church and disposed of their building and properties. Thereafter they became united as members with the First Congregational Church in Kulm. The Gnadenfeld Church building is still located on its original site.
- Community History: *Fredonia, ND - Centennial 1904-2004 - Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.46. In 1886 eighteen members organized the Gnadenfeld Church under the leadership of Supt. George Albrecht and Pastor E. Jose in the home of Gottlieb Schneiders. In the beginning services were held in the sod house of August Millers. For eight years following that services were held at John Miller's home. By this time the congregation had grown to 34 members. In 1896 the members agreed to build a new church 9 miles southeast of Fredonia under the leadership of Pastor Paul Burkhardt. Samuel and Karolina Fregien donated the ground for the church, cemetery, and barn. With lumber they purchased from Ellendale, ND, for \$600.00 the members donated their time to build a church building 24 by 36 feet. Gnadenfeld Church was dedicated to the Lord in 1896 as the first German Congregational Chkurch in North Dakota. The Gnadenfeld Church celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1936 with Pastor Paul Burkhardt as a guest speaker. Due to the small enrollment in the church, the members decided to disband services in 1953. The church and supplies were sold at a public auction. The building was moved to the Lee and Alice Hollan farm in 1982.

43. Hoffnungs (Hope) Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Iowa Township SE ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 17-T130-R68**
- See Zion Lutheran Church – Ashley
- Closed 1950
- Also known as **Schmidt Congregation (Schmidt Gemeinde)**. Source: *Church Book of Evangelical Lutheran Hoffnungs Gemeinde (Hope Congregation) – 1904-1944*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2002—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota, p. 1 of 1904-1930 Records.
- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Evangelical Lutheran Hoffnungs Gemeinde (Hope Congregation) – 1904-1944*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2002—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota as recorded in *Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin May 18, 2003*. The Evangelical Lutherische Hoffnungs Gemeinde Church located about 10 miles Northeast of Ashley held their first meeting of the congregation on April 3, 1904. The records show six members present – Heinrich Ehley, Johann Bindewald, Wilhelm Stolz, Friedrich Merkel, Friedrich Hermann and David Klein and also Pastor N. Brun under whose guidance the official organization came about. At the December 29, 1905 meeting of the congregation, an offer was made by Johannes Schmidt to donate 2 acres of land for a church site. The exact location being the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 130, Range 68. At the February 24, 1907 meeting the congregation went on record to plan and build a new church as soon as possible. At their meeting in February 25, 1912 it was agreed that the size of the church should be 20 feet wide, 36 feet long, 12 feet high. On October 20, 1912 the cost of the church building was estimated at

\$550.00 and later revised to \$915.00. The new church was built and dedicated to the Glory of God and it served God and the congregation. Like many rural churches it met and endured changes, but in time its journey ended and the last worship service was held. Not all of the records are available. The last minutes were February 28, 1926. The last recorded baptism – 1942, marriage – 1938, burial – 1944. The pastoral services for Hoffnungs Gemeinde were provided from 1904 to 1942 as follows: N. Brun, 1904, Heinrich Timmcke, 1906, A. Kelpe, 1909, H. L. Lechner, 1915, C. Baethke, 1918, P. L. Lehner, 1919, Aug. Romonson, 1920, D. Bergstedt, 1921, E. J. Voss, 1942. Present Ashley Zion Members (May 2003) that were baptized at Hope Church are: Maria (Hoffmann) Schaeffer, Emma Friederika (Bendewald) Fischer, Emilie (Bindewald) (Klipfel) Pfeifle, Violet Viola (Hoffmann) Bendewald, Lillian Loraine (Hoffmann) Stugelmayer, Edwin Ulrich, Darlein Frances (Ulrich) Glaesmann, Marvin Hoffmann and DeLores May (Hoffmann) Rudolph.

- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Evangelical Lutheran Hoffnungs Gemeinde (Hope Congregation) – 1904-1944, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2002—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota* under section 1904-1930 – *Chronik*, p.139. On Easter Sunday the 3rd of April 1904, the undersigned preached the first time in this congregation. After the service, the members that were present agreed to call me as their Pastor or Shepherd. There were 6 members present—namely, 1) Heinrich Ehley, 2) Johann Bindewald, 3) Wilhelm Stoltz, 4) Friederich Merkel, 5) Friederich Hermann, 6) David Klein. So then the church was organized right away and then also got the name of “Hoffnungs” Church. The undersigned stated that every 4th Sunday they would be served either forenoon or afternoon and have Sunday school. May 1, 1904 right after the service, Johann Bindewald and Johannes Schmidt were elected as deacons and were installed by the undersigned. Also the salary was then discussed. It was decided that \$5.00 per family would be the salary the pastor would receive. N. Brun. Ev-Luth. Pastor

44. Hoffnungstal Congregation (Gemeinde) – Venturia

- Location: McIntosh County, Johnstown Township, **Sec 02-T129-R71**
- See Venturia – Reformed Church; Ashley – Salem Reformed Church; Ashley – Reformed Church

45. Hoskins – Methodist Church (1887-1938)

- Location:
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.68-69/ Meeting in the Hoskins school house, the Methodist church was organized in 1887, at Hoskins by Rev. H.G. Bilby with Rev. A.J. Garry serving as the pastor. When the county seat was moved to Ashley a year later, the Methodist church was moved also. Services in Ashley were held in the Erbele store and the Stark/Nelson store until 1889 when a church was built. This structure was used until the summer of 1903 when another church was built and the former church was then used for the parsonage. The Methodist church was the only English church in Ashley until the mid-thirties. The ladies aid society, the Thimble Bee, was organized in October, 1897, and was the first of its kind in McIntosh County. They gave socials, suppers and programs which were well attended as there were few social gatherings. The church was closed in 1938 and its structure became the Ashley Public Library in 1940 after being deeded to the Women's Club by the Methodist Conference. A chronological list of pastors who served the Methodist Church is as follows: Rev. A.J. Garry, 1886; Prof. John Ogden, 1887; Rev. McSkimming, 1888; Rev. C.F. Gilbert, 1889; Rev. Wm. Winters, Recalled; Rev. J.L. Sizer, 1889; Rev. Grant Sholty, 1890; Rev. John E. Roe, 1892; Rev. P.A. Scott, 1892; Rev. M.D. Reed, 1894; Rev. W.A. Maddock, 1895; Rev. H.G. Hardenbrook, 1896; Rev. W.J. Stowers, 1897; Rev. W.C. Strohmayer, 1898; Rev. F.J. Farrand, 1900; Rev. F.A. Gossman, 1903; Rev. W.J. Mahin, 1906; Rev. E.J.G. Ried, 1909; Rev. Gust Book, 1912; Rev. W.R. Morrison, 1914; Rev. A.M. Wiley, 1916; Rev. Guy A. Lewis, 1919; Rev. L.F. Green, 1920; Rev. A.H. Gamble, 1923; Rev. Eva Penner, 1924; Rev. R.H. Reep, 1924; Rev. S. Harrington, 1926; Rev. Adolphe Lidke, 1927; Rev. Maxwell Brown, 1929; Rev. W.H. Farthing, 1929; Rev. Theo. Torgerson, 1931; Rev. Watkins, 1937; and Rev. Moore, 19338.

46. Immanuel Lutheran Church

- Location: 3 miles SW of Zeeland and probably in Campbell County, South Dakota
- See Zeeland – Zion Lutheran Church (WELS)

47. Johannesthal Baptist Church

- Location: McPherson County, SD, Petersburg Twp SW¼ **Sec 06-T128-R69**
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.58-60
- See Ashley – Baptist Church

48. Johannesthal Congregational Church

- Location: Logan County, ND, Johannesdale Township, SW ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 33-T133-R71**
- Church Records: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death, Cemetery 1890-1932 kept in safe at Wishek – United Church of Christ (McIntosh County) & also filed with Germans from Russia Heritage Society in Bismarck, ND [Information provided by Tammy Toepke-Floyd, P.O. Box 245 Wishek, ND 58495 June 2007]

49. Johannesthal Reformed Church

- Location: 6 miles NW of Wishek
- See Wishek – Reformed Church

50. Kassel Baptist Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Berlin Township, **Sec 03-T129-R72**
- See Ventura – Baptist Church

51. Kassel Reformed Church

- Location: NE of Zeeland
- See Old Kassel Reformed Church
- See Ashley – Salem Reformed Church; Wishek – Grace Evangelical & Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ; Wishek – United Church of Christ
- A relocation of Old Kassel Reformed Church
- Also known as the Wiest Church
- Closed in 1952
- Church Records: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death, Cemetery 1892-1953. Kept in the safe of Wishek – United Church of Christ & also filed with Germans from Russia Heritage Society in Bismarck, ND [Information provided by Tammy Toepke-Floyd, P.O. Box 245 Wishek, ND 58495 June 2007]
- Source: Mr. Herbert Wiest, 2890 89th St. SE, Zeeland, ND 58581 (submitted to Allen Konrad Dec 2009). The Zeeland Charge from nearly its beginning consisted of four churches: The New Kassel Church, 11 miles north of Zeeland; The Kassel Church, northeast of Zeeland; The Rohrbach Church, at Greenway and the St. John's Church, in Zeeland, North Dakota. The Rev. H.W. Stienecker is credited with the organizing of the three first mentioned churches—Kassel, New Kassel and Rohrbach. These three churches were organized in the late 1800's. The Rev. Peter Bauer is credited with the organizing of the St. John's Church in Zeeland within the year of 1905. In the early years of existence the Zeeland Charge was served only on special occasions. Pastors traveling through the area preached once or twice at each church, baptized whoever was to be baptized, distributed the Lord's Supper and went on doing the same in another settlement. Such was the case with pastors Michel Nuss and Ulich Zogg. The Charge had resident pastors from November of 1909 till October 1, 1943. The Pastors serving in that period of time were Rev. C.G. Zipf, C.T. Nuss, Peter Bauer, William Schmidt and Kasper Krueger. The Charge was vacant and pastors Herman A. Hartmann and H.T. Vriesen served during the summer months of 1944 and 1945 respectively. Rev. John Bodenmann served the vacancy from May 1, 1946 till June 1, 1950 when Rev. Emil Roth became resident pastor of the Charge. Rev. Roth was pastor in the Charge till May of 1954 and Rev. A.J. Neuhaus from June 24, 1955 till the present time. The Kassel Church, which was commonly known as the "Wiest Church," continued in its existence till 1952, when most of its members having transferred their membership to the Wishek Church, the congregation was dissolved.

52. Klein Reformed Church

- Location:
- See Ashley – Salem Reformed Church

53. Lehr – Baptist Church

- See Lehr – Ebenezer Baptist Church

54. Lehr – Ebenezer Baptist Church

- Location: Town of Lehr
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Ebenezer Baptist-1 Church \[3851\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Ebenezer Baptist-2 Church \[3845\]](#)
- Source: *Kulm, ND – Centennial 1892-1992*, p.123. A merger in 1918 of Rosenfeld, George & Lehr Baptist
- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948*, p.12. The present Ebenezer Baptist Church had its beginning about as early as the city of Lehr, namely about the year 1898. Among the early immigrants from South Russia were several devout families who felt the need of worship services. For lack of a suitable building they began to meet in each other's homes. This group consisted of about six or seven families. One of these early members, Mr. Fred Hildenbrand, is still living at Lehr at the time of this writing. At that time the Berlin Baptist Church, about twenty miles southeast of Lehr, had Rev. Burgdorf as its minister. Upon hearing about this small group at Lehr, he came at regular intervals to minister to them, and Lehr became a station of the Berlin Baptist Church. Gradually the group increased, so around the year 1900 they began to hold their services in a schoolhouse in town. It occupied the site of the present Standard Service Station, owned and operated by Ferdinand Vossler. The present church building was erected in 1906. By that time the group had increased to about twenty families. At first, the back part of the present building was used as a parsonage, but some time after the present parsonage was built. Some of the rooms were altered so as to be included in the main auditorium, while the remaining rooms are still being utilized as class rooms. For many years Lehr was only one of eight preaching stations, all belonging to the Berlin Baptist Church. But in 1918, during the ministry of Rev. S. Fuxa, the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Lehr was organized with four preaching stations. Of these four, two have united with the town church, so the church today consists of Lehr and Rosenfeld stations, the latter being located about twelve miles southeast of Lehr. The organizations functioning today are as follows: 2 Sunday schools, 2 Ladies Aids, a King's Daughters Society, a Senior B.Y.P.U., a Junior B.Y.P.U. and a mixed choir. The following ministers have served during the last fifty years: Rev. Burgdorf, Rev. H.G. Bens, Rev. Tilgner, Rev. S. Fuxa (1914-18), Rev. S. Groza (1918-24), Rev. A. Guenther (1924-30), Rev. J.J. Abel (1931-37), Rev. E. Broeckel (1937-42), Rev. M. DeBoer (1943-44), and Rev. H.J. Waltereit since 1945.
- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.10-11. The present Lehr Baptist Church had its beginning about as early as the City of Lehr, namely the year of 1898. Among the early immigrants from South Russia were several devout families who felt the need of worship services. For lack of a suitable building they began to meet in each other's homes. This group consisted of about six or seven families. At that time the Berlin Baptist Church, about 20 miles southwest of Lehr, had Rev. Burgdorf as its pastor. Upon hearing about this small group at Lehr, he came at regular intervals to minister to them, and Lehr became a station of the Berlin Baptist Church. Gradually the group increased, so around the year 1900 they began to hold their services in a schoolhouse in town. It occupied the site of the present Sperling Standard Service Station. The church building was erected in 1906 with the back section being used as the parsonage. By this time there were approximately 20 families that comprised the entire congregation. In 1918 the present parsonage was built which has been completely remodeled and modernized in the past several years. For many years Lehr was only one of eight preaching stations, all belonging to the Berlin Baptist Church, but in 1918, during the ministry of Rev. S.J. Fuxa, the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Lehr was organized with five preaching stations, namely: Rosenfeld, George, Ruff, Sukut and Lehr. Later these stations were dismissed from the Berlin Baptist Church and organized independently, but as better roads and means of transportation became available the stations discontinued, one by one, and are now part of the present Lehr congregation. In August 19, 1951, the church decided to build a new sanctuary and the following January 1955 the plans were drawn up by Rev. George Breitkreuz, pastor, and accepted by the

church. In March 1955 the old church was dismantled following a ground-breaking ceremony with Dr. George A. Lang, president of the North American Baptist Seminary, of Sioux Falls, S. Dak. as guest speaker. The organizations functioning today are a Sunday School with a total enrollment of 96, Ladies' Missionary Society, Senior and Junior B.Y.F. and a Ladies' Chorus. The following ministers have served during the past 75 years: Rev. Burgdorf, Rev. H.G. Benz, Rev. Tilgner, Rev. S.J. Fuxa (1914-1918); Rev. S. Grosza (1918-1924); Rev. A. Guenther (1924-1930); Rev. J.J. Abel (1931-1937); Rev. E. Broeckel (1937-1942); Rev. M. DeBoer (1943-1944); Rev. H.J. Waltereit (1945-1951); Rev. John Heer (1951-1954); Rev. George Breitzkreuz (1954-1958); Rev. E.S. Fenske (1958-1964); Rev. Daniel Herringer (1964-1968); Rev. L. Strelau 1968 who came with his wife and daughter, Carmen, are serving the church at the present time.

- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.27. The Lehr Ebenezer Baptist Church had its beginning as early as the city of Lehr namely, 1898. Its purpose was to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Fostering Christian fellowship, promoting spiritual, social, educational interests in the community, furthering missionary work at home and abroad. Among the early immigrants from South Russia were several devoted families who felt the need of worship services. For lack of an available building they began to meet in each others homes. This group consisted of about six or seven families. At that time the Berlin Baptist Church, about 20 miles southwest of Lehr, had Rev. Burgdorf as its pastor. Upon hearing about the small group at Lehr, he came at regular intervals to minister to them, and Lehr became a regular station of the Berlin Baptist Church. Gradually, the group increased, so about the year 1900, they began to have their services in a school house. The church building was erected in 1906 with the back section to be used as a parsonage. By this time, there were approximately 20 families that composed the entire congregation. For many years, Lehr was only one of eight preaching stations and all belonging to the Berlin Baptist Church. In 1918, during the ministry of Rev. S.J. Fuxa, the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Lehr was organized and five preaching stations: Rosenfield, George, Ruff, Sukut and Lehr. Later these stations were dismissed from the Berlin Baptist Church and organized independently but as better roads and means of transportation became available, the stations dismissed one by one and became part of the present Ebenezer Baptist Church. After a few years the people saw the need for a new parsonage. The back of the church was used for Sunday school rooms. A building committee was appointed and plans were formulated. The new parsonage was completed in 1926. After a number of years these four stations were discontinued and joined the "big" church in Lehr, but it wasn't big for long for with the addition of the rural families plus the growth of the Lehr church it became evident that a new building was needed. Plans were drawn up by the pastor, Rev. George Breitzkreuz, presented to the church and accepted and on January 1955 the last service was held in the church. A ground-breaking ceremony took place on Sunday, March 27, 1955. Church services were held in the local Lehr Legion Hall while the church was being erected on the original site. The new church was completed and dedicated October 10, 1955, with Dr. George Lang of the Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD as guest speaker, and former pastor, Rev. H.J. Waltereit, who had the dedicatory prayer. The 75th Anniversary of the church took place in June of 1993 when Rev. Arnold Friez was pastor. A banquet took place on Saturday evening, with guest speaker Dr. Gideon Zimmerman and the guest speaker for the morning Sunday worship service was Rev. Jacob Ehman. The following pastors who served in the past were: Rev. John Burgdorf (1902-1905); Rev. H.G. Benz (1906-1910); Rev. Albert Tilgner (1912-1914); Rev. S.J. Fuxa (1914-1918); Rev. S. Groza (1918-1924); Rev. A. Guenther (1924-1930); Rev. J.J. Abel (1930-1937); Rev. E. Broeckel (1937-1942); Rev. Martin DeBoer (1943-1944); Rev. H.J. Waltereit (1944-1951); Rev. John Heer (1951-1954); Rev. George Breitzkreuz (1954-1958); Rev. E.S. Fenske (1958-1964); Rev. Daniel Herringer (1964-1968); Rev. Len Strelau (1968-1973); Rev. Hugo Zepik (interim-1974); Rev. Peter Wiens (1974-1975); Rev. Richard Uhler (1975-1978); Rev. Ben Lutt (1979-1986); Rev. Arthur Fischer (1986-1989); Rev. Arnold Friez (1989-1994); and our present pastor Rev. Harold Mindeman (1995). Rev. Harold Mindeman and his wife Karen are presently serving the Lehr and Napoleon churches and reside in Napoleon. In writing the history of our church we also want to reflect back in thought to the many departed members who labored diligently to establish this church. They nurtured it throughout the years with their love, prayers, talents and support. They were once a vital part of the on-going cause for God. They have gone on ahead to their reward, but their names are surely recorded in God's Book of Life.

55. Lehr – Evangelical United Brethren Church

- See Lehr – United Methodist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Evangelical United Brethren Church \[3847\]](#)

56. Lehr – Friedens Evangelical Church

- Location: Town of Lehr
- See Lehr – Zion United Methodist Church

57. Lehr – Friedens Evangelical United Brethren Church

- Location:
- See Lehr – United Methodist Church; Lehr – Zion United Methodist Church
- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948*, p.15-16. Evangelical Pioneer preachers entered the settlements, visiting the settlers in their primitive sod huts, cheering their lonely lives and bringing them the message of salvation. Among the first of these ministers to preach in McIntosh County and near the present site of Lehr was Rev. Henry Loewen, a man of stately, dignified bearing, impressive personality and godly life. Rev. Geo. W. Hielscher was the Presiding Elder and cooperated with the pastor and people in the building of the first Evangelical Church in McIntosh County, a sod structure with wooden roof, 20 ft. by 34 feet by 10 ft. which was built at a cost of \$190 and dedicated free of debt on Sunday, November 13, 1887. Rev. Loewen lived at Hoskins, near the present site of Ashley, during this time. He continued to serve this first church near Lehr, known as Zion Church, until May 1890. During this time he rejoiced over the conversion of 119 souls and the healthy growth of the churches in his large field. The following ministers besides Rev. Loewen, served the Zion Church before the Lehr Church was founded: Rev. Philip Laux, Rev. H. Michaelis (supply), Rev. August Herzberg, and Rev. George Hoff. After the town of Lehr was begun in 1898, people from different localities soon settled here and the need for a place of worship was soon felt. Those who had come {sic} from the Loewenthal Valley continued to go to the Zion Church for the most part. The first services in Lehr were held in a public schoolhouse located on the south side of the present Baptist Church. This was in about 1900 under the ministry of Rev. Robert E. Strutz. The village of Lehr made rapid growth and soon the schoolhouse was too small to take care of those who came to worship. The Evangelical Church continued to be the only denomination represented here. The early church fathers took a long look into the future and it looked bright for continued progress of the Evangelical Church. So in the spring of 1904 a church was built. It was a frame structure 26 ft. by 36 ft. with a 26 ft. by 16 ft. addition on the south side. The church was erected at a cost of between \$3300 and \$3400 and was dedicated debt free in the fall of the year with Bishop Bauman present. (This church is still in use today with very little remodeling having been done). The bell for the church was donated by Fred Ziegenhagel and Adam Nagel, Sr. In 1905 the annual Dakota Conference of the Evangelical Church was held at Lehr with Bishop Bauman presiding. Some of the Charter members of the church were: Lot Lachenmaier, Andreas Lehr, Sr., Fred Ziegenhagel, Jacob Mack Sr., and Adam Nagel, Sr. Many other friends contributed money and helped with the construction. It is said that Frank Carolson and Grace Kenagy was the first couple to be married in the new church, the ceremony being performed by Rev. E.C. Oeder, under whose ministry the church was built. In 1928 the 9th annual session of the North Dakota Conference was held at Lehr on May 10 to 15 with Bishop S.P. Spreng presiding. The 21st annual conference was also held at Lehr on May 15 to 19, 1940 with Bishop E.W. Praetorius presiding. Under the ministry of Rev. A.H. Ermel the church was remodeled in 1933. It was raised and moved 10 feet east onto a new full basement. An alcove was added to the church and a new heating system installed. The basement is well arranged with good pews for prayer meetings, Sunday School classes, organization meetings and social gatherings. There is also a fully equipped kitchen in the basement. That the church has made steady progress in by gone years is seen in the fact that there are seven active organizations at present. A write up of each follows this article. The church membership is 112 at the present time. The following ministers have served the Lehr Friedens Church: R.E. Strutz, F.H. Brockmueller, E.C. Oeder, Henry Loewen, H. Neutzman, Paul Krumbein, J.J. Schroeder, D. Bittner, Wm. Butschat, John Fischer, G.C. Thiele, A.H. Ermel, A. Gehring, E.A. Gruneich, A.H. Marzolf, J.M. Burkhard, Oliver Ketterling and at present M.G. Gruneich. The present church officers are: Class leader, Wm. Koeplin; Ass't class leader, Jacob Weisz; Church trustees, Edwin Magel, Ted Nagel, and Wm. Kranzler; registered steward, J.J. Mack; local steward G.G. Scherbenske; pianist, Mrs. Wm. Kranzler; ushers, Wm. Kranzler, Edwin Nagel, Walter Nagel and R.F. Ruff; janitor, John Elhard. The first dwelling built in the town of Lehr was the Evangelical

parsonage in 1899. The cost was \$1000. This is the present residence of Christ Diede, Sr. In 1927 a new parsonage was purchased one and one-half blocks south of the church building. This was a new home built by Wm. Koepplin, Sr., just a few years ago. The present parsonage trustees are: R.F. Ruff, Albert Fuchs, Edwin Mueller, Andreas Erbele Jr. and Fred Ruff.

58. Lehr – Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)

- Location: 221 East St S
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Grace Lutheran Church 1948 \[6318\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Grace Lutheran Church 1959 \[3853\]](#)
- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948*, p.14. The Lutheran Church was organized in 1903 by Rev. Nagel with a membership of ten families, services being held in a schoolhouse. He served the church for two years, after which Rev. Williams from Wishek served for a few years. Some of the church families moved to Canada, and services were discontinued for several years. Rev. Freyman reorganized the church and it was later served by Rev. Landgrebe, and Rev. Schultz. The services are still held in a school house. The membership has grown considerably and a church building has been bought. It will be moved to the City of Lehr and will be located north of the Post Office building. The church at present is being served by Rev. Kuring from Kulm. The officers of the church at present are: Jacob Dalke, Deacon; Jacob Kautz, Assistant Deacon; John Bauer Sr., Secretary and Treasurer. A Ladies Aid was organized in 1946 with seven members. The following were the officers at that time: Mrs. H. Kuring, President; Mrs. Adam Kranzler, Secretary; Mrs. John J. Bauer, Treasurer. There are thirteen members in this organization and the present officers are: Mrs. Roy Bittner, President; Mrs. John J. Bauer, Treasurer; Mrs. Adam Kranzler, Secretary.
- Church History: *Lehr, ND – History of Grace Lutheran Church, 1959*, p.1-8. Pages 1-3 missing, continue p.4[o—o] entire building, furnished was \$3,700. The Ladies Aid paid for the wiring, lighting and painting of the interior. During the first winter an adult confirmation class met at the church and on Palm Sunday of the next year a class of sixteen was received into membership. At the next meeting ten men applied for membership. Thus the Grace Lutheran Church which four years previous to the dedication was the smallest in the parish now had grown to be the largest, numbering 32 voters and 96 communicants. During the month of June a successful Bible School was held, and the regular confirmation class also met. On the 26th of June, 1949 a class of ten children were confirmed. The Lord continued to bless Grace Lutheran in Lehr. Rev. Von Gemmingen served Grace until 1943, when he accepted a call and left Kulm. Rev. Kuring accepted the call to Kulm and thus became the second pastor to serve Grace Lutheran. Rev. Kuring also conducted services for King Lutheran Church, north of Lehr. The records show that the first officers to serve Grace, after its founding in 1942, were Jacob Dalke and Jacob Becker, who served as Elders. Mr. Dalke also served as treasurer. Pastor's salary in 1942 was assessed at one dollar per month per member. There were twelve members at that time. Rev. H. Kuring served as pastor for Grace Lutheran from 1943 until accepting a call to Wisconsin in November of 1950. Two student ministers also served the congregation. They were student Wilbert Winkler of Plymouth, Wisconsin who conducted services from August 1943 until Rev. H. Kuring came to accept his call. Student James Urinak served in the summer of 1950. After Rev. Kuring left to take over his new charge in Wisconsin, Rev. E. Zapf of Edgeley, N. Dak. Conducted services for the congregation. Rev. Zapf also assisted in securing the services of another student minister, Mr. Wm. Rempfer, of Monango, N. Dak. Mr. Rempfer began reading services here in December of 1950. It was at this time that Lehr, Napoleon and King congregations were joined under one pastor. Mr. Rempfer served Grace until the summer of 1952 when he returned to school. Rev. E. Zapf again assisted the congregation and helped in placing a call for a candidate. Several calls were sent out and the Rev. E. Pankow of Detroit, Mich. Accepted the call to Grace Lutheran and was installed as pastor of Grace on August 3, 1952. Under the guidance and leadership of Rev. Pankow, Grace Lutheran again began to grow very rapidly and now found that the church dedicated in 1948 was too small to accommodate all who came to worship. The Sunday School was growing with more than fifty in the five classes attending regularly. In December of 1955 Rev. Pankow asked the congregation to begin thinking about plans for a larger building. It was agreed to hold a meeting of all the members for the purpose of discussing ways and means of financing a building program. In July of 1956 the congregation voted to set up a building fund. A special drive would begin with Thanksgiving Day services and all money collected would go into the building fund for the new church. In January of 1957 a total of \$703.15 was in the fund. In January of

1957 Rev. Pankow again discussed the growing Sunday School and the overcrowded conditions. There was a need for more space, both for church and Sunday School. Mr. Ed. Schlueter moved that the congregation ask someone from district to meet with the members in trying to work out some plan whereby Grace Lutheran could build or purchase a larger building. Rev. Pankow agreed to contact someone in district to meet with Grace. In March of 1957 Rev. Pankow received, among others, a call to Hemlock, Michigan and after consideration and much thought, decided to accept the call to Hemlock if they would let him continue his work with Grace Lutheran until July. The congregation was saddened at the thought of losing Rev. Pankow, as he had done so much to bring all members of Grace and King into one large family, for the King congregation had decided to merge with Grace, making it easier for the pastor, who had to serve three separate congregations. The King Church had celebrated its 48th year as a separate church when it voted to join with Grace in 1957. The merger of King with Grace gave strength to Grace and a better opportunity for the King members to obtain the services they looked for. A brief mention of King's history will be incorporated in this history of Grace, that they might be honored along with Grace Lutheran in the building of the new Grace Lutheran Church to be dedicated in 1959. [King history bypassed] Paving the way for Grace Lutheran to become a full member of the Missouri Synod was the translation of the church constitution from the German into English. This was done in February of 1953 with the help of Rev. Pankow, Fred Roesler, Milbert Berreth, Art Johnson and the trustees. After the translation and three readings before the congregation, the congregation voted to join the Synod. Grace then became a member of the Missouri Synod in the summer of 1953. In March of 1957, after Rev. Pankow had decided to accept the call to Hemlock, Mich., a call was placed with Synod for a candidate to take the place of Rev. Pankow. Grace Lutheran was very fortunate in having a candidate accept the call placed with Synod, in the person of Rev. Victor Hellman of Lake Charles, La. Rev. Pankow left for his new charge the latter part of July and the Rev. and Mrs. Victor Hellman arrived in August of 1957. Rev. Hellman was installed as pastor of Grace Lutheran on August 11, 1957. Rev. Hellman wasted no time in going forward with plans for a new church building. On October 15, 1957 a resolution was introduced before the voters assembly, recommending that action be taken on the plans to obtain a larger church, because of the existing crowded conditions. The resolution was passed by the members and it was finally decided to build a new church. On October 24, 1957 a council meeting was held to select the necessary committees. The following men were chosen. Building committee: Emil Roesler, chairman; Jacob Iszler, Ed. Schlueter, Ralph Fiechtner, Harold Bruschein and Arthur Johnson. Members of the finance committee: H. Bruschein, chairman; Leroy Boschee, Gideon Boschee and Roland Essig. Roland Essig also was elected as treasurer of the building fund. Members of the planning committee: Ed. Schlueter, chairman; Otto Noehre, Peter Becker and Alvin Retzer. Members of the location committee: Jacob Iszler, chairman; Fred Thurn, Karl Gebhardt and Ted Kauk. The committees made many trips to other cities and towns to look at the recently constructed churches and to talk with the committees of these churches. The location committee began searching for a more suitable location. The finance committee began the job of finding ways and means to finance the building and securing the necessary pledges. Mr. Heuther of Ashley, a contractor, was asked to help with plans and building estimates. Rev. Ruppert of Fargo, a member of N.D. District, came to Lehr to assist the congregation. The first committee to reach its goal was the location committee when the congregation voted to purchase the Roy Bittner lots in the southeastern part of town. The finance committee reported a total of \$2,436.02 in the building fund on December 31, 1957, and the pledges for 1958 amounted to more than \$3,000.00. [o—o] The new church was constructed by National Builders, Inc. Of Moorhead, Minnesota, at an approximate cost of \$55,000, which is complete with the exception of church pews, altar, pulpit, and a few other furnishings. Tables were purchased by the Ladies Aid and Sunday School, and the kitchen stove and refrigerator were purchased by the Ladies Aid. The altar rail, the large inside cross, the 18-ft. Outside cross, the case for the bulletin board, and the outside railings all were made and donated by Ed. and Dennis Schlueter. The sidewalks were constructed by members of the congregation with the help and assistance of Mr. Merick and the building foreman. Brick work on the bulletin board was donated by Dick Wells of Fargo, N. Dak. Karl Gebhardt donated his time and labor and use of his truck and tractor. Elmer Bender donated use of his tractor and furnished sand for the walks.

- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.13. Grace Lutheran Church had its beginning when a small group of Lutherans gathered together in the Logan County School to hold meetings. This was in the year of 1941—Rev. Von Gemmingen of Kulm conducting services. The need for a regular congregation was felt—and July 19, 1942 the congregation was organized and Grace Lutheran was chosen as its name. Eight members made up the first congregation, but by 1947 Grace was a well-

established church with the Logan County School still serving as the House of Worship. In the spring of 1948, a country church near Ashley was purchased and moved into Lehr and located on the north side of what is now the Central Dakota Bank. This Church was dedicated on July 18, 1948. The Church continued to grow from the smallest in the parish in 1944, to the largest by 1949. The Lord continued to bless Grace Lutheran in Lehr. Pastors serving the congregation until 1952 were—Rev. Von Gemmingen (1942-1943) and Rev. H. Kuring (1943-1950). Students were: Wilbert Winkler of Plymouth, Wis., James Urinak of Pennsylvania and William Rempfer of Monango. Rev. Zaph of Edgeley acted as Vacancy Pastor. On August 3, 1952, Rev. Ed Pankow was installed as Pastor, and under his guidance the congregation again began to grow very rapidly. In 1957, King Congregation voted to join with Grace, thus making it easier for the Pastor who had to serve three congregations. The King Church had celebrated its 48th year as a separate church when it voted to merge with Grace. In July of 1957 Rev. Pankow accepted a call to Hemlock, Mich. On August 11, 1957, Rev. Victor Hellman was installed as Pastor of Grace. In October of that year, a new resolution was passed by the members that we build a new Church. After months of planning, the new church building was begun, with formal dedication services being held on Sunday, May 10, 1959. Pastors serving the congregation from 1960 to date: Rev. Earl Elowsky, Rev. Quentin Quade and Rev. Mervyn Bauer. At the present time, the congregation is again calling a candidate to fill the vacancy left by Rev. M. Bauer, with Rev. Lueker of Edgeley acting as Vacancy Pastor, assisted by Rev. Maier of Monango. Present officers of the Church are the following: Marvin Fiechtner, president; Alvin Roesler, vice-president; Art Johnson, secretary; Eugene Roesler, treasurer; Walter E. Goebel, building fund treasurer; Ralph Fiechtner, Elmer Widmer and Ed. Ziegenhagel, trustees; Gideon Boschee and Gust Werre are the elders.

- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.28-29. The Lehr Lutheran church was organized in 1903 by Rev. Nagel, with a membership of ten families. The services were held in the Logan County schoolhouse in Lehr, ND. Rev. Nagel served the church for two years. After that time Rev. John Williams from Wishek, ND served as pastor for a few years. Some of the families moved away to Canada and services were discontinued for several years. Rev. A.F. Freymann reorganized the church and it was later served by Rev. G.C. Landgrebe and Rev. L.R. Schultz. Rev. Von Gemmingen from Kulm, ND came to serve in 1941. The need was felt to organize a congregation in Lehr, ND so finally on July 19, 1942 the congregation was organized and Grace Lutheran was chosen as its name. Eight members made up the first congregation. Rev. Von Gemmingen served until 1943. Then Rev. Henry Kuring, also from Kulm, ND came to serve in 1943. The church continued to grow. The church officers at that time were: Jacob Dalke, Deacon; Jacob Kautz, assistant Deacon; John Bauer, Sr., secretary-treasurer. A ladies aid was organized in 1946 with seven members. Officers were: Mrs. Henry Kuring, president; Mrs. Adam Kranzler, secretary and Mrs. John Bauer, treasurer. By 1947, the membership grew to thirteen members. Officers then were: Mrs. Roy Bittner, president; Mrs. John J. Bauer, treasurer; and Mrs. Adam Kranzler, secretary. In 1947, Grace Church was well established, with the Logan County schoolhouse still serving as the house of worship. In the spring of 1948, a country church near Ashley, ND was purchased and moved into Lehr and located on the north side of what was then the old post office, and is presently Ruff's Heating and Air Conditioning. This church was dedicated on July 18, 1948. The church continued to grow from the smallest in the zone in 1944 to the largest by 1949. The Lord continued to bless Grace Lutheran in Lehr. Rev. Henry Kuring served until 1950. Then there were students of the ministry. Wilbert Winkler of Plymouth, WI; James Urinak of Pennsylvania and William Rempfer of Monango, ND and Rev. Zapf of Edgeley, ND acted as vacancy pastor. On August 3, 1952, Rev. Ed Pankow was installed as pastor, and under his guidance the congregation again began to grow rapidly. In 1957 King congregation voted to join with Grace, thus making it easier for the pastor who had to serve three congregations. The King Church had celebrated its 49th year as a separate church when it voted to merge with Grace. In July of 1957, Rev. Ed Pankow accepted a call to Hemlock, MI. On August 11, 1957, Rev. Victor Hellman was installed at Grace. In October, 1957, a new resolution was passed by the members that we build a new church. After months of planning the new church building was begun. Upon completion, the formal dedication services were held on Sunday, May 10, 1959. Pastors serving the congregation from 1960 to 1973 were: Rev. Earl Elowsky, Rev. Quentin Quade, Rev. Mervyn Bauer, Rev. Lueker, Vacancy pastor, assisted by Rev. Maier, Rev. Terril Bramstad, 1973-1975, Rev. Bunkowski, Vacancy pastor, 1975-1977. Rev. Ronald Youngman, 1977-1979; Rev. Bunkowski, Vacancy pastor 1979-1980, Rev. Dale Grimm, 1980-1983, Rev. Ronald Wagner, 1984-1990, Rev. Toby Heller, vacancy pastor, 1990-1991, Rev. Robert Rowan, 1991-1995, Rev. Lyle Klemz, 1996-present. Sunday school superintendent: Cindy Essig, L.Y.F. advistors: Cindy Essig and

Barbara Nitschke. Present council members are: president, Carmen Essign, vice president, Emil Roesler, secretary, Elmer Widmer, Treasurer-Eugene Roesler, Trustees: Ted Kauk, Elmer Sperling and Clinton Essig. Elders: Elmer Bender, Marvin Fiechtner and Alvin Roesler. Parish secretary: Roger Nitschke.

59. Lehr – Methodist Church

- See Lehr – United Methodist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Methodist Church-1 \[3722\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Methodist Church-2 \[3722\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Methodist Church-3 \[3722\]](#)

60. Lehr – Seventh-Day Adventist Church

- Location: S. Main St
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Seventh-Day Adventist Church-1 \[3721\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Seventh-Day Adventist Church-2 \[3721\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr Seventh-Day Adventist Church-3 \[3854\]](#)
- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948*, p.11. Building was erected in 1914. It is still standing, serving its purpose. John Entzminger was the carpenter and the cost of the building was \$2500. The church was organized under the leadership of Rev. John Seibel and Rev. Carl Lehr. The first officers of the church were: William Werth Sr., Elder; Jacob Goebel Sr., Deacon. The membership consisted of twelve families. Several of them are still active church members at this time. The church has grown considerably with twenty-eight families now on the roll. There are six Bible school classes in the church and the teachers are as follows: Class No. 1. Mrs. Jacob Flemmer; Class No. 2. Mr. Clarence Schlenker; Class No. 3. Mrs. John Goebel; Class No. 4. Mrs. Willie Werth; Class No. 5, Mrs. John Goebel; Class No. 6, Mr. John B. Miller. The officers of the church at present are: John Werth Sr. Elder; Jacob J. Goebel, Deacon; Jacob Flemmer, Assistant Deacon; Rev. Hochstaeder from Ellendale, North Dakota is the pastor
- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.13-14. [Written in verse style] In 1910 Frederick Reile came as a colporteur he won himself fame. Selling religious books and literature day after day he would endure. He came to us in the best of style prepared to travel mile after mile. Bringing horse and buggy to meet the need to sell his books for the people to read. However, many of the people here thought that this newcomer was queer. They were afraid to have him stay get out of here—be on your way. Nevertheless, he must not quit in 1911 the first Adventist came Adam Leno was the man's name. It was he who encouraged two ministers to come and soon after this tent meetings were begun. Elders John Siebel and Carl Lehr as well worked long and hard the message to tell. For the next several years they continued to preach hoping each person in Lehr to reach. This new message was so strange to all so some debates were held in a hall. They were the most talked of thing of the year as many as thousand came to hear. The conference president came one day and soon Elder Jackson was on his way. To pay a visit to each new soul to bring them encouragement was his goal. He held some meetings in a country school using the Word of God as his only tool. His transportation was most up to date his 1912 donkey he left tired at the gate. In 1914 Elder Haffner came in for the purpose of a new church to begin. The three ministers worked hard and late and then came their reward on March 28. The first Sabbath School and church as well were organized in Lehr, the message to tell. The older members as well as the new labored, studied and remained true. For over fifty years the church has continued to lead helping out wherever there is a need. The Werth story is one that will interest us all they became Adventist because of a tract so small. Mr. John Werth found the paper while cutting a slough about the Sabbath, which to him was new. He became convinced as he studied and read "I must keep the Sabbath from now on," he said. His mother was very much opposed but little could be done she supposed. "My boy will be lost," his mother said all because of this pamphlet he read. Bible Readings to him was then sold the book was worth its weight in gold. He showed this book to brother Will and it was not very long until both of them their Bibles took to prove the Sabbath from the book. Into an argument the brothers flew trying to determine just what was true. Finally William had to give in not to accept would be a sin. Almost immediately plans were laid for a new church soon to be made. John Insminger was the hired one to work on the church until it was done. The church was built on our present lot it was an ideal place, the members thought. The total cost came to twenty-five

hundred in a few months was dedicated with a debt of five hundred. The church's first elder was William Werth, Sr. The father of our late William and John Werth, Sr. To our first leaders much credit is due Elders Siebel, Lehr and Reiswig to mention a few. In 1921 Conrad Hein came he worked hard but not in vain. In the 1920's some colporteurs came Harry Hein, Eichman, Troutman and Haffner by name. The ministers have changed throughout the years a total of twenty-four have served us here. Elder Dirkson was the next to come in a short two years his work was done. Elders Schwind and Sam Reile were a good team working together they were sure on the beam. Elders Beitz and Loewen were the next to serve to them goes the credit that they deserve. Next came Elders Goethe, Koehne, Theis and Bauer they were the men who had much power. Elders Brown, Kungel and Necker came next to the Lehr church they gave of their best. Elders Hochstetter and Ditmar were the next to lead. The hungry souls of the members to fee. Elders Doss and Laurence were the next to come but in a few years their work was done. Later Elders Fischer and Eslinger were here their years of leadership we remember and hold dear. Very grateful are we to you, too, for our new church is a credit to you. In 1958 plans were discussed for a bigger church seemed a must. The old church had gotten too small very inadequate to accommodate us all. In 1959 pledges started to come in with this as a start we must begin. In 1960 on the thirtieth of May construction began to get underway. Every member worked hard 'til it was done to see it's progress was the best of fun. The church was completed in the month of November with debts all paid, was dedicated in December. Twenty-four thousand was the final figure except for free labor it would have been bigger. Haffner, Kanna and now Garnes at present have led the church in a way most pleasant. Our present membership is sixty-seven they are the ones looking forward to heaven. Soon we hope to be in the land above Worshipping Jesus, the Savior of love.

- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.30-31. The first Seventh-Day Adventist Church building was erected in 1914 on the lot where the present church stands. It served the congregation until 1960 when the present building was erected. Many were the hardships of the early pioneers, since they had no regular place to worship they would meet in various homes. In 1914, under the leadership of pastor John Siebel and Carl Lehr, a church was organized. The new church was constructed by John Entzminger, at a cost of \$2,500.00. In 1960, construction began on the present church. The church was completed in November of that year and dedicated, debt free, on December 5, 1960. Total cost was \$25,000.00, including pews. The present pastor is Gerald Dearth. Head Elder is Kimber Flemmer and other Elders are Alta Krause and Albert Schumacher. Deacon is LeRoy Schweigert.

61. Lehr – United Methodist Church

- Location: Town of Lehr
- See Lehr – Friedens Evangelical United Brethren Church; Lehr – Zion United Methodist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr United Methodist Church-1 \[3853\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Lehr United Methodist Church-2 \[3852\]](#)
- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.11-12. Evangelical pioneer preachers entered the settlements, visiting the settlers in their primitive sod huts, cheering their lonely lives and bringing them the message of salvation. Among the first of these ministers to preach in McIntosh County and near the present site of Lehr was Rev. Henry Loewen, a man of stately, dignified bearing, impressive personality and godly life. Rev. Geo. W. Heilscher was the presiding elder and cooperated with the pastor and people in the building of the first Evangelical Church in McIntosh County, a sod structure with wooden roof, 20 ft. by 34 ft. by 10 ft. which was built at a cost of \$190.00 and dedicated free of debt on Sunday, November 13, 1887. After the town of Lehr was begun in 1898, people from different localities soon settled here and the need for a place of worship was soon felt. Those who came from the Loewenthal Valley continued to go to the Zion Church for the most part. The first services in Lehr were held in a public schoolhouse located on the south side of the present Baptist Church. This was in about 1900 under the ministry of Rev. Robert E. Strutz. The village of Lehr made rapid growth and soon the schoolhouse was too small to take care of those who came to worship. The Evangelical Church continued to be the only denomination represented here. The early church fathers took a long look into the future and it looked bright for continued progress of the Evangelical Church. So in the spring of 1904 a church was built. It was a frame structure 26 ft. by 36 ft. with a 26 ft. by 16 ft. addition on the south side. The church was erected at a cost of between \$3,300 and \$3,400 and was dedicated debt free in the fall of the year with

Bishop Bauman present. The bell for the church was donated by Fred Ziegenhagel and Adam Nagel, Sr. Many other friends contributed money and helped with the construction. It is said that Frank Carlson and Grace Kenagy were the first couple to be married in the new church, the ceremony being performed by Rev. E.C. Oeder, under whose ministry the church was built. Under the ministry of Rev. A.H. Ermel the church was remodeled in 1933. It was raised and moved ten feet east onto a full basement. An alcove was added to the church and a new heating system installed. The basement was well arranged with good pews for prayer meetings, Sunday School classes, organization meetings and social gathering. There was also a fully equipped kitchen in the basement. The United Brethren Church merged with the Evangelical Church in 1946 and the church was then known as the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Under the ministry of Rev. Peter Ackerman, it was decided to construct a new church building due to the inadequacy of the old building. Some of the persons who served on the Building Committee and gave many hours of dedicated service and employed their specialized knowledge and abilities very effectively were: R.F. Ruff, Herbert Bittner, Vernon Scherbenske, Peter G. Ackerman, Mrs. Dan Billigmeier, Christ Christman, Herbert Klein, John Kauk, Edward Lepp, Mrs. J.J. Mack, Walter Nagel, Theodore Nagel and G.G. Scherbenske. Lots on which to construct the new church building were donated by the August Bittner Estate (Mrs. August Bittner and sons Herbert and Allen Bittner), these lots being located on the southeast edge of the City of Lehr. On September 21, 1958, ground breaking ceremonies were held with Dr. J.W. Schindler presiding. Soon the new church was started and it was completed in August 1959 at a total cost of approximately \$70,000. The church was dedicated unto Almighty God and to Christian Worship in services that began on Thursday evening, September 3, 1959 and concluded on Sunday, September 6, 1959 when morning, afternoon and evening services were held with the dedication ceremony taking place in the Sunday afternoon service. Among those participating in the dedication services were Bishop H.R. Heininger, Dr. J.W. Schindler, Dr. A.G. Martin, Rev. Martin Gruneich, Rev. C.F. Strutz, Rev. C.W. Ketterling, Rev. Walter D. Elmer, and Rev. Peter G. Ackerman who was pastor of the church at the time. A cornerstone ceremony was held on the same Sunday as the dedication prior to the morning service. The Hope Church, located northwest of Lehr, was served by the same pastor as the Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church in Lehr. In the summer of 1967 the Hope Church was closed and beginning July 9, 1967 they became part of the town church. In 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist Church and became the United Methodist Church. The Uniting Conference was held January 6-7, 1969 at Jamestown, North Dakota with Bishop Armstrong. The first session of the North Dakota Conference of the United Methodist Church was held in Bismarck, North Dakota, May 14-17, 1969. April 25, 1971 was a great day in the history of the church. On that day our district superintendent, Rev. William Morrison, led in the mortgage burning service. The indebtedness on the church building had been paid. Rev. Henry Vix and Rev. Peter Ackerman, former pastors who served during the time of planning, construction and years following, shared in the services, along with the pastor, Rev. Edward B. Parker. The following ministers have served the church: R.E. Strutz, F.H. Brockmueller, E.C. Oeder, Henry Loewen, H. nuetzman, Paul Krumbein, J.J. Schroeder, D. Bittner, Wm. Butschat, John Fischer, G.C. Thiele, A.H. Ermel, A. Gehring, E.A. Gruneich, A.H. Marzolf, J.M. Burkhard, Oliver Ketterling, M.F. Gruneich, Walter Elmer, Peter Ackerman, Henry J. Vix, Clifford Bergland, Floyd Breaw, W.E. Janetzki and at present Edward B. Parker. Some of the officers of the church at the present time are: Herbert Bittner, lay leader; Paul Derheim, assistant lay leader; Mrs. Edward Kautz, church treasurer; Harvey Eberle, finance committee chairman and Mrs. G.G. Scherbenske, communion steward. The Board of Trustees includes Elmer Erbele, Bert Miller, Herbert Klein, Herbert Bittner, Clarence Klein, Melvin Fiechtner and Marlow Scherbenske. Mrs. Edward Kautz is the pianist and Miss Linda Derheim is the organist. Rev. Edward B. Parker is the pastor. The first dwelling built in the town of Lehr was the Evangelical parsonage in 1899. The cost was \$1,000. In 1927 a new parsonage was purchased one and one-half blocks south of the church building. This was a new home built by Wm. Koepplin, Sr., just a few years prior to 1927. It is still the church parsonage. No church is complete without a Sunday School. Here young and old alike can get a religious education. The Sunday School has always played an important part in the church as a whole. Its beginning dates back to the beginning of the church itself. At the present time the average attendance in the Sunday School of the United Methodist Church is 60. The Sunday School Superintendent is Marlow Scherbenske with Edward Kautz and Paul Derheim as assistants. There are seven classes with the following teachers: German class, Martin H. Erbele; adult class, alternate teachers; young adults, Mrs. Edward Kautz and Dave McCormack; young people, Marlow Scherbenske and Helen McCormack; juniors, Elmer Erbele, Mrs. Bert Miller and Mrs. Luther Buchholz; intermediates, Mrs. Elmer Hochhalter, Mrs. Marvin Lepp, Mrs. Elmer Erbele and Mrs. Alvin Erbele; beginners, Mrs. Russell Fiechtner, Mrs. Marlow Scherbenske and Mrs. Darrell Buchholz. A

week of Bible School is held each year. The annual Christmas program put on by the Sunday School has always been a highlight in the church. Offering taken at the Christmas program is given to the orphanages.

62. Lehr – Zion United Methodist Church

- Location: 403 East St S
- Community History: *Lehr, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.31-32. The United Methodist Church in Lehr had its beginnings in the area 15 years prior to the founding of Lehr. Evangelical pioneer preachers began visiting settlers in their primitive sod houses as early as 1884. Among the first of these pioneer ministers to preach in McIntosh county near the present site of Lehr was Rev. Henry Lowen, a man of stately, dignified bearing, impressive personality and Godly life. His name still has associations in the community such as Lowenthal township, and Lowenthal School District, a name which is on the old brick high school building. The literal translation of Lowenthal is Lowen's Valley. Rev. George W. Hielscher was the presiding Elder and cooperated with Rev. Lowen and the people in the building of the first Evangelical Church in McIntosh county. It was a sod structure with a wooden roof, 20 ft. by 34 ft. by 10 ft. which was built at a cost of \$190 and dedicated free of debt on Sunday, November 13, 1887. Rev. Lowen lived at Hoskins, near the present site of Ashley during this time. He served the first church near Lehr, known as Zion church until May 1890. During this time he rejoiced in the conversion of many souls and expanded his ministry to other settlement. The Emmanuel Evangelical Church was founded in 1888 in what was known as the King Settlement, 12 miles north of the present city of Lehr. The church met in homes until a church building was built in 1898, 11 miles north and two miles west of Lehr. The Ebenezer Evangelical church began in 1890, six miles north and four miles west of Lehr and at about the same time Tabor Evangelical was founded 12 miles northeast of Lehr. The Tabor Church was known in the area as the "blech kirche" (Tin Church) because of the tin sheeting used as siding. The following ministers besides Rev. Lowen served the Evangelical circuit before the Lehr Church was founded: Rev. Philip Laux, Rev. H. Michaelis, Rev. August Herzberg and Rev. George Hoff. After the town of Lehr was begun in 1898, people from different localities soon settled here and the need for a place of worship was soon felt. Those who came from the Lowenthal Valley continued to go to the Zion Church for the most part. The first services in Lehr were held in a public schoolhouse located on the south side of the present Baptist Church. This was in about 1900 under the ministry of Rev. Robert E. Strutz. The village of Lehr made rapid growth and soon the schoolhouse was too small to take care of those who came to worship. The Evangelical Church continued to be the only denomination represented here. The early church fathers took a long look into the future and it looked bright for continued progress of the Evangelical Church. So in the spring of 1904, a church was built. It was a frame structure 26' by 36' with a 26' by 26' addition on the south side. The church was erected at a cost of between \$3,300 and \$3,400 and was dedicated debt free in the fall of the year with Bishop Bauman present. The bell for the church was donated by Fred Ziegenhagel and Adam Nagel, Sr. Many other friends contributed money and helped with the construction. It is said that Frank Carlson and Grace Kenagy were the first couple to be married in the new church, the ceremony being performed by Rev. E.C. Oeder, under whose ministry the church was built. In 1905, the annual Dakota Conference of the Evangelical Church was held at Lehr with Bishop Bauman presiding. Some of the charter members of the church were: Lot Lachenmaier, Andreas Lehr, Sr., Fred Ziegenhagel, Jacob Mack, Sr. and Adam Nagel, Sr. In 1928 the ninth annual session of the North Dakota Conference was held at Lehr on May 10-15 with Bishop S.P. Spreng presiding. The 21st annual conference was also held at Lehr on May 15-19, 1940, with Bishop E.W. Praetorius presiding. Under the minister of Rev. A.H. Ermal, the church was remodeled in 1933. It was raised and moved 10' east onto a new full basement. An alcove was added to the church and a new heating system installed. The basement was well arranged with good pews for prayer meetings, Sunday school classes, organizational meetings and social gatherings. There was also a fully equipped kitchen in the basement. The United Brethren Church merged with the Evangelical Church in 1946 and the church was then known as the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Zion Church closed in 1947 and the congregation became a part of the Lehr Freidens [Friedens-?] Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Freidens Church changed its name to Zion to honor the fact that Zion was the parent church. The rural Zion Church was moved to the Lehr Campgrounds where it is still in use as a chapel for the United Methodist camping program. The Emmanuel and Ebenezer Churches merged in 1949 and became known as Hope Evangelical United Brethren. The Ebenezer Church was moved eight miles north and three miles west of Lehr and served the Hope congregation until 1967 when it closed and became a part of the Zion Church in Lehr. The Emmanuel Church was sold to the Assembly of God Church and moved to a location

11 miles north of Lehr beside highway 30. The Tabor Church also closed in 1949 and the congregation became part of the Lehr Zion Church. Under the ministry of rev. Peter Ackerman, it was decided to construct a new church building due to the inadequacy of the old building. The various organizations of the church went to work on fund-raising projects and a building committee was selected. The Men's Brotherhood had a sausage supper, the Y.P.A. sold commemorative plates, other groups had food sales and other fund-raising activities. The Y.P.A., with the help of the entire church, sponsored a German Smorgasbord with tickets selling at \$1.50 for adults. This was a huge success and netted a good sum for the building fund. Some of the persons who served on the building committee and gave many hours of dedicated service and employed their specialized knowledge and abilities very effectively were: R.J. Ruff, Herbert Bittner, Vernon Scherbenske, Peter G. Ackerman, Mrs. Dan Billigmeier, Christ Christman, Herbert Klein, John Kauk, Edward Lepp, Mrs. J.J. Mack, Walter Nagel, Theodore Nagel and G.G. Scherbenske. Lots on which to construct the new church building were donated by the August Bittner Estate (Mrs. August Bittner and sons Herbert and Allen Bittner), these lots being located on the southeast edge of the city of Lehr. On September 21, 1958, ground breaking ceremonies were held with Dr. J.W. Schinder presiding. Soon the new church was started and it was completed in August 1959, at a total cost of approximately \$70,000. The church was dedicated unto Almighty God and to Christian worship in services that began on Thursday evening, September 3, 1959, and concluded on Sunday, September 6, 1959, when morning, afternoon and evening services were held with the dedication ceremony taking place in the Sunday afternoon service. In 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist Church and became the United Methodist Church. The Uniting Conference was held January 6-7, 1969, at Jamestown, North Dakota, with Bishop Armstrong presiding. The first session of the North Dakota Conference of the United Methodist Church was held in Bismarck, North Dakota, May 14-17, 1969. April 25, 1971, was a great day in the history of the church. On that day our district superintendent, Rev. William Morrison, led in the mortgage burning service. The indebtedness on the church building had been paid. Rev. Henry Vix and Rev. Peter Ackerman, former pastors who served during the time of planning, construction and years following, shared in the services, along with the pastor, Rev. Edward B. Parker. The first dwelling built in the town of Lehr was the Evangelical parsonage in 1899. The cost was \$1,000. (It is presently the home of Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Krause.) In 1927, a new parsonage was purchased one and one half blocks south of the Freidens building. This was a new home built by Wm. Koeplin Sr., in 1925. It remained the resident of the pastors until 1966 when the conference joined the Lehr and Wishek churches into one charge and the pastors resided in Wishek. In 1995, Napoleon was added to the charge and the pastor now has his residence in Napoleon. The following ministers have served the church: R.E. strutz, F.H. Brockmueller, E.C. Oeder, Henry Lowen, H. Neutzman, Paul Krumbein, J.J. Schroeder, D. Bittner, Wm. Butschat, John Fischer, G.G. Thiele, A.H. Ermel, A. Gehring, E.A. Gruneich, A.H. Marzolf, J.M. Burckhard, Oliver Ketterling, M.F. Gruneich, Walter Elmer, Peter Ackerman, Henry J. Vix, Clifford Bergland, Floyd Breaw, W.E. Janetski, Edward B. Parker, Chet Cataldo, Dale Hargraves and Keith Rice. The present membership of the Zion United Methodist Church in Lehr is 109. Active organizations are Sunday school classes for all ages, Youth Fellowship, United Methodist Women and an active Ladies chorus. A week of bible school is held each year and the Sunday school department has an annual Christmas program which has always been a highlight in the church.

63. Marienberg Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Lowell Township SW ¼ of SW ¼ Sec 25-T129-R70
- See Ashley – Zion Lutheran
- Sometimes written as Marienburg
- Closed in 1944
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee Book 1888-1938*. The property of this congregation is located 7 miles southwest of Ashley. Its beginnings go back to the year 1893. Formal organization however took place in 1909. The church was built in 1910 at a cost of \$1100.00. Present membership is 28 families, 95 communicant members and 130 souls. The officers are Christ Retzer, Jr., and Christ Rall deacons; Christ Grosz, Secretary-Treasurer.
- History of Congregation: *Kirchen Buch (Church Book) of Marienberg Lutheran Congregation – 1921-1944*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2003—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota, information

from *Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin May 25, 2003* of Zion Lutheran – Ashley, ND. Marienberg Lutheran Church had its beginning as early as 1893 when church services were held in homes. Later services were held in a schoolhouse six miles Southwest of Ashley, which quickly became too small and sometimes services were conducted outdoors on the prairie. The decision to build a new church was made on June 7, 1908 on land donated by Gottlieb and Friedricka Schock. The cornerstone was laid only one week later, June 14th. The church was 22x36x12 feet at a total cost of \$1100.00. In the absence of other records, communion attendance records are being used here to establish some of the earliest members – John K. Fink, John Funk, Otto Funk, Richard Funk, Wilhelm Funk, Fred Gehring, Joh. Gehring, Gottlieb Glaesmann, Sr., Erna Gohl, Wilhelm Gohl, Christian Gross, Jacob Grosz, John Gross Sr., Edward Haerter, Edward Hertel, John Haller, Peter Haller, Carl Hoffmann, Friederich Hoffmann, Katherina Hoffmann, John Hoffmann, Peter Humann, Joh. Jerke, Fred Jenner, Jacob Jenner, Johann Jenner, John J. Jenner, Wilhelm Jenner Sr., Wilhelm Jenner Jr., Adam Kappes, Geo. Kaul, John Lippert Sr., Christian Rall, David Rau, John Rau, C. J. Retzer Jr., Christian J. Retzer, John J. Retzer, Ludwig Retzer, John C. Schauer, Christian C. Schauer, Fred Schock, Gottlieb Schock, Joh. Schock, Jacob Stern, Joh. Trefz - Treftz. Some of the pastors serving this church were Otto Bruntsch, Carl Schultz, Paul A. Briest, Henry Timmcke, Geo. Sprattler, J. F. Drewelow and J. C. Jung. The church building was moved to Long Lake, SD in the late 1930's and the congregation dissolved in January of 1941, and joined Zion Lutheran in Ashley, ND.

64. Neudorf Reformed Church

- Location: 12 miles SE of Wishek in Logan County, ND
- See Ashley – Salem Reformed Church; Grace Evangelical & Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ; United Church of Christ – Wishek; Wishek Reformed Church
- Church Records: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death, Cemetery 1874-1936. Kept in the safe of Wishek – United Church of Christ & also filed with Germans from Russia Heritage Society in Bismarck, ND [Information provided by Tammy Toepke-Floyd, P.O. Box 245 Wishek, ND 58495 June 2007]
- Closed in 1944

65. Neu Kassel Reformed Church

- Location: 10 miles N of Zeeland; NE ¼ of NE ¼ **Sec 32-T131-R73** (Frieda Township)
- See New Kassel United Church of Christ; Ashley – Salem Reformed Church; Wishek – Grace Evangelical & Reformed United Church of Christ; Wishek – United Church of Christ; New Kassel United Church of Christ
- [Photo Available: Mc-Neu Kassel Reformed Church \[3897\]](#)
- Closed in 1979 and merged with Wishek – United Church of Christ
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Centennial 1902-2002*, p.6. The New Kassel Reformed Church traces its history back to meetings in the homes of its members before 1900. In 1905, a church building was constructed, located in the Frieda township ten miles north of Zeeland. The first structure burned down in March of 1938. Another church was built that summer and dedicated in the fall. The congregation was affiliated with Saint John's Reformed Church of Zeeland until 1966. In 1968 the church became associated with the Grace Reformed Church in Wishek. The New Kassel building was sold and dismantled when the congregation merged with Grace Reformed Church and Saint John's Congregational Church to create the United Church of Christ in Wishek in 1979.
- Source: Mr. Herbert Wiest, 2890 89th St. SE, Zeeland, ND 58581 (submitted to Allen Konrad Dec 2009). The Zeeland Charge from nearly its beginning consisted of four churches: The New Kassel Church, 11 miles north of Zeeland; The Kassel Church, northeast of Zeeland; The Rohrbach Church, at Greenway and the St. John's Church, in Zeeland, North Dakota. The Rev. H.W. Stienecker is credited with the organizing of the three first mentioned churches—Kassel, New Kassel and Rohrbach. These three churches were organized in the late 1800's. The Rev. Peter Bauer is credited with the organizing of the St. John's Church in Zeeland within the year of 1905. In the early years of existence the Zeeland Charge was served only on special occasions. Pastors traveling through the area preached once or twice at each church, baptized whoever was to be baptized, distributed the Lord's Supper and went on doing the same in another settlement. Such was the case with pastors Michel Nuss and Ulich Zogg. The Charge had resident pastors

from November of 1909 till October 1, 1943. The Pastors serving in that period of time were Rev. C.G. Zipf, C.T. Nuss, Peter Bauer, William Schmidt and Kasper Krueger. The Charge was vacant and pastors Herman A. Hartmann and H.T. Vriesen served during the summer months of 1944 and 1945 respectively. Rev. John Bodenmann served the vacancy from May 1, 1946 till June 1, 1950 when Rev. Emil Roth became resident pastor of the Charge. Rev. Roth was pastor in the Charge till May of 1954 and Rev. A.J. Neuhaus from June 24, 1955 till the present time. The Kassel Church, which was commonly known as the "Wiest Church," continued in its existence till 1952, when most of its members having transferred their membership to the Wishek Church, the congregation was dissolved.

66. New Kassel United Church of Christ

- Location: McIntosh County, Frieda Township, NE ¼ of NE ¼ **Sec 32-T131-R73**
- See Neu Kassel Reformed Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Neu Kassel Reformed Church \[3897\]](#)
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1902-1977*, p.18. The New Kassel United Church of Christ is located ten miles north of Zeeland. Formerly the New Kassel Reformed Church, built in 1905 and incorporated in 1911, the people who applied for the incorporation were Andreas Perman, Wilhelm Hieb and Jacob Perman. The charter members were: John Perman, Andreas Perman, Wilhelm Hieb, August Hieb, Christian Meidinger, Simon Schwindt, and Johann Meidinger. The first structure burned in March 1938. Another church was built that summer and dedicated that fall. It is the present church serving the present congregation. This congregation was affiliated with the St. John's Church of Zeeland until 1966, when Rev. Alvin J. Houoe, Wishek, North Dakota, started serving them. He is the present pastor. The former pastors serving this church are the same as those serving the Zeeland charge, until 1966.

67. Old Kassel Reformed Church

- Location: NW ¼ of NW ¼ of **Sec 32-T 131-R72** (Rosenfield Township)
- See Kassel Reformed Church
- Source: Mr. Herbert Wiest, 2890 89th St. SE, Zeeland, ND 58581 (submitted Dec 2009). Around 1911 or 1912, Heinrich Wiest and his sons Peter and Karl moved the church building to SE ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec 05-T130-R72 (Blumenthal Township)

68. Peace Lutheran Church

- Location: 10 miles E of Ashley; McIntosh County, Iowa Township, NE ¼ of SE ¼ **Sec 34-T130-R68**
- See Friedens Lutheran Church – Iowa Township
- [Photo Available: Mc-Peace Lutheran Church Iowa Township \[3924\]](#)
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1888-1963 – 75 Years of Progress*, p.89. Peace Lutheran Church is located on highway 11, ten miles east of Ashley. About 24 farm families make up the membership. The congregation maintains an active program in all phases of church work. The pioneers and early settlers of this rural community organized the congregation on May 13, 1897. After much serious deliberation they decided to build a church that would serve their needs temporarily. Out of these plans and hard work there arose on the prairie in 1898 a sod church which served the congregation for a period of 18 years. Rev. A. Meyers was the first pastor. He also had assisted with the church's organization. When the church became too small and the desire grew for a more modern structure, new plans were made, culminating in the erection of the present church, which was built in 1916. Rev. H.L. Lechner served Peace church at that time. From available information these were the charter members of Peace Lutheran congregation: Johannes Sackmann Sr.; Johannes Sackmann Jr.; Andrew Sackmann; Michael Kessel; Christof Grueneich; Jacob Maier; Daniel Roehl; Johannes Rothfusz; Gottlieb Strobel; Jacob Schlabsz; Daniel Schultz; Mattheis Dobler; and Heinrich Mueller. The following pastors served the congregation since its founding in 1897: Rev. A. Meyres, 1897-1904; Rev. H. Timke, 1906-1908; Rev. P.W. Siefkes, 1909-1910; Rev. A. Kelpel, 1911-1914; Rev. H.L. Lechner, 1914-1918; Rev. F. Lechner, 1919-1921; Rev. D. Bergstedt, 1922-1933; Rev. J. Huetmeyer, 1934-1939; Rev. A.G. Doering, 1939; Rev. E.J. Voss, 1940-1942; Rev. E.H. Vetter, 1943-1947; Rev. J. Huetmeyer, 1947-1950; Rev. H.L. Lechner, 1950-1952; Rev. W. Gevers, 1952-1955; Rev. R. Heupel, 1955-1957; Rev. John Hoyer and Rev. H. Vorrath served as supply pastors from 1957-1959; and since that time the congregation has been served by Rev. E. Theilen. During

the history of the congregation 278 children were baptized, 631 were confirmed, 126 couples were married, and 67 funerals were conducted. The present church council consists of the following officers: Theodore Maier, first deacon; Gottfried Maier, second deacon; trustees, Art C. Nitschke, Richard Heinrich, and Alvin Nitschke; Secretary, Art C. Nitschke; Treasurer, Gottlieb L. Sackmann; organist, Miss Bette M. Nitschke. The Sunday School staff consists of the following: Allen A. Nitschke, superintendent; teachers: Mrs. R. Hochhalter, and Garry Schumacher; organist, Clair Sackmann.

- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.77. Peace Lutheran Church (Friedensgemeinde), 1897-1965 was organized by early settlers in 1897. The following year, a sod building was constructed. That building served as the congregation's house of worship for 18 years. 1916 saw the building of a new wooden church that would serve as the congregation's home until 1965. The building was then sold to the Ebenezer Reformed congregation at Forbes. The congregation dissolved, and members joined Zion of Ashley. The following pastors served the congregation since its founding in 1897: Rev. A. Meyers, 1897-1904; Rev. H. Timke, 1906-1908; Rev. P.W. Siefkes, 1909-1910; Rev. A. Kelpe, 1911-1914; Rev. H.L. Lechner, 1914-1918; Rev. F. Lechner, 1919-1921; Rev. D. Bergstedt, 1922-1933; Rev. J. Huemeyer, 1934-1939; Rev. A.G. Doering, 1939; Rev. E.J. Voss, 1940-1942; Rev. E.H. Vetter, 1943-1947; Rev. J. Huemeyer, 1947-1950; Rev. H.L. Lechner, 1950-1952 (supply – pastor); Rev. W. Gevers, 1952-1955; Rev. R. Heupel, 1955-1957.

69. Rohrbach Reformed Church

- Location:
- See Ashley – Salem Reformed Church
- Source: Mr. Herbert Wiest, 2890 89th St. SE, Zeeland, ND 58581 (submitted to Allen Konrad Dec 2009). The Zeeland Charge from nearly its beginning consisted of four churches: The New Kassel Church, 11 miles north of Zeeland; The Kassel Church, northeast of Zeeland; The Rohrbach Church, at Greenway and the St. John's Church, in Zeeland, North Dakota. The Rev. H.W. Stienecker is credited with the organizing of the three first mentioned churches—Kassel, New Kassel and Rohrbach. These three churches were organized in the late 1800's. The Rev. Peter Bauer is credited with the organizing of the St. John's Church in Zeeland within the year of 1905. In the early years of existence the Zeeland Charge was served only on special occasions. Pastors traveling through the area preached once or twice at each church, baptized whoever was to be baptized, distributed the Lord's Supper and went on doing the same in another settlement. Such was the case with pastors Michel Nuss and Ulich Zogg. The Charge had resident pastors from November of 1909 till October 1, 1943. The Pastors serving in that period of time were Rev. C.G. Zipf, C.T. Nuss, Peter Bauer, William Schmidt and Kasper Krueger. The Charge was vacant and pastors Herman A. Hartmann and H.T. Vriesen served during the summer months of 1944 and 1945 respectively. Rev. John Bodenmann served the vacancy from May 1, 1946 till June 1, 1950 when Rev. Emil Roth became resident pastor of the Charge. Rev. Roth was pastor in the Charge till May of 1954 and Rev. A.J. Neuhaus from June 24, 1955 till the present time. The Kassel Chkurch, which was commonly known as the "Wiest Church," continued in its existence till 1952, when most of its members having transferred their membership to the Wishek Church, the congregation was dissolved.

70. Rosenthal Baptist Church

- Location: About 12 miles SE of Lehr or SW of Fredonia in what was once known as village of Bensville; SW ¼ of Sec 07-T131-R68 (Rosenthal Township)
- See Berlin Baptist Church, McIntosh County, Rosenthal Township; Lehr – Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Might be referred to at times as Rosenfeld Baptist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Rosenthal Baptist Church \[4130\]](#)
- Community History: *Fredonia, ND - Centennial 1904-2004 - Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.52-53. This was located where the village of Bensville was established. Christian men and women living SW of Fredonia began the Rosenfeld church in the early 1900's. Most of the folk were from German-Russian descendants who had a strong desire to worship the Lord, whose providence had protected them and brought them into the new country where they were now making a home and hopefully a better living than they had experienced in the homes they left behind in Europe. At first they gathered in homes, but then decided to build a church where they could worship each Sunday. With this in mind they located

some land and started to build a church, complete with a balcony, outhouse, and a plot for a cemetery. For cold weather they installed a centrally located wood and coal-burning stove. Since rural electricity was not available in those early years, they used mantel lamps when they had evening services. These lamps used white gas and were hung from the ceiling, and hissed gently during the worship services. They located a pump organ to furnish music to accompany the singing of hymns. People came from the surrounding areas by horse-drawn buggies, wagons or sleds and later on by cars. Sunday School was first. Sunday School lessons were conducted by dividing into four groups—men, women, young people, and children. The men were on one side of the back of the church, the women on the other side and the young people and children were to the front. Here teachers taught the Sunday school lessons. When Sunday school classes were over, the worship service was begun. If a pastor was available the people rejoiced, but since pastors were scarce and had to be shared by other little churches, many times one of the "brothers", who had been appointed previously, took over the service. The service consisted of hymn singing, the reading of a portion of the Bible, remarks, a time of testimony and sharing, a prayer session and then a closing song. At times there were Sunday evening services held, if a pastor was available. They also had special events such as Christmas programs by the children and young people, and by the Ladies Mission Society, or often referred to as the "Ladies Aid". There were also evangelistic services held at times. In 1942 there was one such series of meetings when the Rev. Emanuel Broeckel conducted meetings that were intended to last for one week, the stretched into two weeks and then into three weeks. Many from the surrounding areas attended and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into their life, and more than 30 of these born-again folks were baptized and joined the church in Rosenfeld or the church in Lehr. In 1918, during the ministry of Rev. S.J. Fuxa, the little church of Rosenfeld became a station of Lehr Baptist Church. During the next years the following pastors would minister to Rosenfeld: S.J. Fuxa (1914-18); S. Groza (1918-24); A. Guenther (1924-1930); J.J. Abel (1931-37); E. Broeckel (1937-42); Martin Deboer (1943-44); H.J. Waltreit (1945-51); John Heer (1951-54). Some family names that were associated with the establishment and success of Rosenfeld were: Aman, Bollinger, Fazer, Haar, Hildenbrand, Knoblich, Olsen, Koth, Frey, Miller and many other members. The little church continued until the 1950's when better roads and transportation became available and the members joined the "big" church in Lehr. The last Christmas program was held in 1953 and soon after that the doors of this little church closed. In the years to come it was dismantled and the lumber used by someone for a home in Lehr. But the little country church had fulfilled the need of the folks surrounding it to worship and pray and it stood well as a beacon to teach and preach God's Word to open ears and open hearts. May God's will be done and His name glorified now as it was then in the little church of Rosenfeld.

71. Ruff Baptist Church

- Location:
- See Lehr – Ebenezer Baptist Church

72. Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Strassburg Township, NW ¼ of NW ¼ Sec 01-T130-R73
- [Photo Available: Mc-Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church-1 \[3727\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church-2 \[3953\]](#)
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Golden Jubilee 1902-1952*, p.16. Many of the early German settlers in the Zeeland territory were desirous of carrying their religious faith from the old country into this new home of theirs. Consequently in 1885 the St. Andrew's Church was organized by Rev. J. Koepfel. From 1885 to 1893 services were held in the homes of the members of the church. On October 18th in 1893 a meeting was called at which time the members decided to build a church ten miles north and three miles east of Zeeland. The following were members of the church at that time: Adam Meidinger, Sr., Christian Meier, John Thurn, Fredrich Meidinger, George Ketterling, Sr., Daniel Aipperspach, Fredrick Vossler, Sr., Christian Meier, Sr., John Thurn, Fredrick Thurn, Jacob Gaub, Adam Ketterling, Christof Just, George Just, Ludwig Rudolf and John Ketterling, Sr. In 1906 the members decided to build a larger church. With the help and cooperation of the members the church was completed in a very short period of time in the same year. The dedication sermon was delivered by Rev. J. Koepfel on June 2nd, 1907. The following is a list of the members of the church at the present time: Ferdinand and Eugene Aipperspach, Jacob, Constant, Matt, Reinhold and Mrs. Elizabeth Brandner, Alvin and Richard Brandner, Gottlieb, Edwin, Henry, Otto, Albert, Fredrich, Calvin, Theophil and Mrs. Margaret Ketterling, Henry Dockter, Walter, Gottfried A. and Paul

Meidinger, Emmanuel, Vernon and Fredrick Rieger, Ferdinand and Gottfried Schnabel, Jacob and Marvin Speidel, Emil, Andrew, Albert and Benny Thurn, Jacob, Julius, Herbert, Hermann and Gottlieb Wiest, Christian Wolff, Edwin, Ruben, Elmer and Gotthilf Woehlhoff. The pastors from 1893 to the present time were in the following order: Rev. KJ. Koepfel, Rev. O. Bruntsch, Rev. E. Moeckel, Rev. J. Melchert, Rev. A. Schormann, Rev. H. Riecke, Rev. A. Freymann, Rev. J. Graepp, Rev. A. Doering and Rev. A. Freymann, who came in 1936 and is still with us at the present time.

- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.194. St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, a rural congregation, is located twenty miles southwest of Wishek, N. Dak. This congregation was at one time a member of a five-point parish in this area and is the only one still in existence at the present time. Belonging to this parish were Peace, St. James', St. Paul's, St. John's, and St. Andrew's Lutheran Churches. The beginnings of St. Andrew's go back about eighty-seven years. Many of the early settlers in the Zeeland territory wished to carry their religious faith from the old territory into their new home. From 1885 to 1893, services were held in the homes. On October 18, 1892, a meeting was called at which time the members decided to build a sandstone church. Over the years this church became too small, although it is still standing to this day. It is primarily used for vacation Bible School. The following were the charter members of the church: Daniel Aipperspach, Jacob Gaub, Chkristof Just, George Just, Adam Ketterling, George Ketterling, Sr., John Ketterling, Sr., Adam Meidinger, Sr., Fredrick Meidinger, Sr., Christian Meier, Sr., John Peitz, Fredrick Thurn, John Thurn, Fredrick Vossler, Sr., and John Vossler. In 1906 the members decided to build a larger church. The new church was completed in the same year. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. J. Koepfel on June 2, 1907. In October of 1956, St. Andrew's was privileged to celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary. Present for the occasion were Dr. George Landgrebe, Rev. John Mertz, Rev. Rudolf Heupel, and Rev. Martin Bieber. Rev. J. Hoyer was pastor of the congregation at the time. In 1959, St. Andrew's congregation again became part of a parish. A meeting was held with Zion Lutheran Church of Venturia, N. Dak. The two churches decided to join forces and work together as a parish. This parish was dissolved early in 1969 when Rev. J. Schmierer became pastor of St. Andrew's. The pastors who have served this congregation from 1893 to the present time are as follows: Rev. J. Koepfel, Rev. O. Bruntsch, Rev. E. Moeckel, Rev. J. Melchert, Rev. A. Schormann, Rev. H. Riecke, Rev. A. Freymann, Rev. K. Graepp, Rev. A. Doering, Rev. A. Freymann, Rev. J. Hoyer, Rev. H. Weber, Rev. M.A. Lapp, and the present pastor, Rev. John Schmierer, who came in February of 1969. As of January 1, 1973, the following are still members: Jacob Brandner, Henry, Melvin, and Alfred Dockter, Christof Just, Otto, Theophil, Leah, Arndt, Art E., and Walter Ketterling; Albert, Paul, Aaron, and Milbert Meidinger, Isadore Nitschke, John F. and Vernon Reiger, Albert H. Sayler, Ferdinand Schnabel, Ben and German Thurn, Fred and Larry Walth, and Christ Wolf. For eighty years, this church has been a real witness to the people of the countryside. The Cross of Jesus Christ is still proclaiming hope and eternal security in a world of change and uncertainty. St. Andrew's will be celebrating its Eightieth Anniversary in the summer of 1973.
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1902-1977*, p.19-20. St. Andrew's American Lutheran Church, a rural congregation, is located ten miles north and three east of Zeeland, North Dakota. This congregation was at one time part of a five point parish in this area, and is the only one still in existence at the present time. The beginnings of St. Andrew's go back to the early 1880's, when the territory, which is now rural Zeeland, was being settled, mostly by people who were Germans from Russia. Many of the people wished to worship their God in their traditional manner. Since there was no church in this newly settled area, the people gathered in the homes for worship services from the time of organization of St. Andrew's Lutheran Congregation in 1885 until 1893. St. Andrew's Church was organized in 1885 by the Reverend J. Koepfel. At a meeting held on October 18, 1892, the members of St. Andrew's Lutheran, inspired by the Holy Spirit, decided to build a church. As far as we can determine from the records those first families that built the church were: Adam Meidinger, Friedrich Meidinger, Johann Thurn, friedrich Thurn, George Just, Christoph Just, Friedrich Vossler, Johannes Vossler, Jacob Gaub, Daniel Aipperspach, Johann Pietz, Christian Maier, George Ketterling, Johann Kettering, and Adam Ketterling. The sum of \$385.00 was gathered from these families and it was agreed that each member donated fifteen days labor to build the new church. The building materials consisted of sandstone, which was brought from a hill about ten miles northwest of the church building site, and clay mixed with straw and water served as mortar between the stones. The stone walls were built about two feet in thickness and were then sealed with clay

and whitewashed. The roof was built from lumber. On March 21, 1893, the new church was dedicated to the Glory of God by Pastors Koeppel and Raun. This first church is still standing and is occasionally used for Bible school classes. The original church was soon too small to accommodate the members of the congregation so a new church, our present house of worship, was built in 1906 and dedicated on June 2, 1907. The dedication sermon was preached by the Reverend J. Koeppel. On October 21, 1956, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church was privileged to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary of the building of the present church. Present for the occasion were Dr. George Langrebe, Reverend John Mertz, Reverend Rudolf Heupel, and Reverend Martin Bieber. The Reverend John Hoyer was pastor of the congregation at this time. In 1959, St. Andrew's congregation again became part of a parish. A meeting was held with Zion Lutheran Church of Venturia, North Dakota. The two churches decided to join forces, and work together as a parish. This was the expedient thing to do since the membership of both churches was small. The Parsonage was located at St. Andrew's of Zeeland, North Dakota. It is owned and maintained by this congregation. In the summer of 1973, the 80th anniversary of the congregation and the building of the original church was celebrated. On September 26, 1976 a heritage celebration was held including a reading of the history of the organization and building of the original St. Andrew's Church. A Bicentennial Plaque, which was presented to the congregation by the Zeeland community Bicentennial Committee in recognition of the fact that St. Andrew's Lutheran is one of the first congregations organized in this area, was unveiled by Mr. John F. Rieger and Mr. Otto Ketterling, they being the two oldest members of St. Andrew's Church. This plaque has been mounted on the original church building. Pastors who have served St. Andrew's Lutheran congregation over the years are: J. Koeppel, O. Bruntsch, E. Moechel, J. Melchert, A. Schormann, H. Riecke, A. Freymann, J. Graepp, A. Doering, A. Freymann, J. Hoyer, H. Weber, M.D. Lapp, John Schmierer and Otto Staehling. The St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Women, served by Pastor Otto Staehling, was organized on December 2, 1975, and has ten active members. Officers elected were: Mrs. Vernon Gerber, President; Mrs. Ferdinand Schnabel, Vice-President; Mrs. Larry Walth, Treasurer; Mrs. Alfred Dockter, Secretary; Mrs. Arndt Ketterling, Stewardship secretary; and Mrs. Walter Ketterling, Secretary of Education. One circle was formed and they are know[n] as the Ruth Circle. The purpose of this organization is to study and better understand the Word of God, to support the church and community with time, talents and treasures, and also to promote in the spreading of the gospel to the unchurched and unconverted in this country and throughout the world. St. Andrew's Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop. They were chartered as Troop 90 on May of 1975. The Troop exists of ten boys: Joel Dickter, Jeffrey Dockter, Henry Dockter, Neil Dockter, David Ketterling, Steven Ketterling, Terry Ketterling, Curtis Meidinger, Neil Meidinger, Steven Meidinger, Larry Walth, Asst. Scoutmaster, and Vernon Gerber, Scoutmaster.

- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.115. St. Andrews Lutheran ELCA Church is a rural congregation located twenty miles southwest of Wishek, ND. This congregation was at one time a member of a five-point parish in this area and is the only one still in existence at this present time. Belonging to this parish were Peace, St. James, St. Paul's, St. John's, and St. Andrews Lutheran churches. The beginnings of St. Andrews goes back to the late 1800's when the territory, which is now rural Zeeland, was being settled by Germans from Russia. Wishing to carry their religious faith from the old country with them, from the time of their organization in 1885 until 1893, they gathered in their homes to worship. St. Andrews was organized by Pastor J. Koeppel on October 18, 1892. A meeting was called, at which time the members decided to build a sandstone church. This church was dedicated March 21, 1893. Over the years this church building became too small, although it is still standing today. In 1906 the congregation met once again and decided to build a larger house of worship, this time of wood. It bears the classical form of eastern United States churches built during the colonial period. A dedication was held June 2, 1907. Charter members were: Adam Meidinger, Sr.; Friedrich Meidinger, Sr.; Johann Thurn; Friedrich Thurn; George Just; Christof Just; Friedrich Vossler, Sr.; Johannes Vossler; Jakob Gaub; Daniel Aipperspach; Johann Pietz; Christian Maier, Sr.; George Ketterling, Sr.; and Adam Ketterling. In 1959 St. Andrews congregation again became part of a parish when they joined forces with Zion Lutheran of Venturia, ND. This was the expedient thing to do since the memberships of both churches was small. This arrangement lasted until 1975, when St. Andrews was left as the lone survivor. In 1975 an opportunity arose for St. Andrews to link up with Trinity Lutheran of Kintyre, ND. This arrangement lasted until 1991. In 1982 an innovation came to St. Andrews when a husband and wife team, Pastors Allan Saugstad & Cheryl Matthews, accepted a call to serve the congregation. In 1987, another husband and wife team, Pastor Gary and Cathy Connors-Nelson accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran of Kintyre and St. Andrews of

rural Zeeland. In 1975 St. Andrews sponsored a Boy Scout Troop chartered as Troop #90. This Troop has since disbanded. The Ruth Circle was organized in 1975 with the help of Pastor O. Staehling. In conjunction with the nation's Bicentennial in 1976, St. Andrews was presented with a bronze plaque by the Zeeland Bicentennial Committee in recognition of its being one of the first churches in the area. This plaque was mounted on the northwest corner of the original stone church. (On July 12, 1990, St. Andrews was named to the National Register of Historic Places.) This prestigious honor was made possible due to the hard work of its members. This includes the entire unit of both Churches, parsonage and cemetery. St. Andrews was privileged to celebrate several anniversaries; a 50th, an 80th, and in 1993 its Centennial. Pastors who have served over the years are: J. Koepfel (1885-1901); O. Bruntsch (1901-1904); E. Moeckel (1904-1905); J. Melchert (1906-1908); A. Schorman (1908-1911); H. Rieke (1911-1912); A. Freymann (1912-1918); J. Grapp (1919-1921); A. Doering (1921-1936); A. Freymann (1936-1953); J. Hoyer (1954-1958); H. Weber (1958); M. Lapp (1959-1968); J. Schmierer (1969-1972); O. Staehling (1975-1978); R. Berg (1979-1982); A. Saugstad & Cheryl Matthew (1982-1986); G. Conners-Nelson & Cathy Conners-Nelson (1987-1991); and presently Pastor R. Spiedel.

- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Centennial 1902-2002*, p.8. [Information same as *Wishek, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.115 above, with this addition] Pastor R. Spiedel served as Vice Pastor for several years and presently Allan Wagner is serving as Vice Pastor. "To God be the glory forever and ever."

73. Saint James (Jakobus) Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Jewell Township, **Sec18-T129-R8**
- See Ashley – Saint David's Catholic Church; Ashley – Zion Lutheran Church; Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church
- Closed 1959
- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Evangelical Lutheran St. Jakobus (St. James) – 1886-1955*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2004—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota, 2nd *Book 1921-1954*, p.148-149. Short History of the St. Jakobus Congregation of rural Ashley, N. D. In June of 1885 the first Evang. Luth. Pastor, Friedrich Preu, as traveling Pastor came into this area. It was a wonderful inspiration led by God that he would arrive at that hour as needed. A group of Lutherans were just beginning the process of a funeral service for the child of Christof Nitschke and his wife Rosina nee Maerz to be buried. As a messenger send by the Lord, Pastor Preu was welcomed. He immediately took over the burial service. This was the first burial to take place on the Cemetery of the St. James Congregation. Pastor Preu served the Lutherans several times in the next few months from Leola, So.Dak. In the years 1885 / 1886 Pastor Geiszendoerfer arrived. He then organized the St. Johns Congregation at that time in the S. Dakota area. In the spring of 1886, under the blue skies in the Southeast corner of Section 9, Township 129, Range 68 a large meeting was held at which time the Jewel Parish was founded, and was one of several congregations which at that time was put together in the Dakota Territory. At this meeting it was agreed upon to build a parsonage, which in the coming spring was fulfilled to build. So then in June of 1886 the first Lutheran Parsonage was dedicated. The Parsonage at this time is the home of Christian Hildenbrand. The successor of Pastor Geiszendoerfer was Pastor Gröenlünde. He then began his services in the fall of 1886, and stayed till the beginning of the year in 1888. After his leaving, this parish was then served from Leola by Pastor A Hahn. In June of 1888, Pastor O. Pett took over serving this parish. Under his leadership, in the spring of 1889, it was agreed to build a church. The church was built on the Northwest corner of Section 17, Township 129, and Range 68. Christian Mayer Sr. owned the land at that time. Also a cemetery was added. But at this time is no more to be known, as the plow has pulled its furrows over that area. The present owner of this acreage is Ludwig Thurn. Pastor Zapf came as a helper from Pastor Pett in the spring of 1889. Disagreements and dissatisfaction over the selected place for the church, led to the greater number of members leaving the St. Johannes (St. Johns) Congregation. This group now founded the St. Jakobus (St. James) Congregation and was served by Pastor Zapf while the St. Johns Congregation was served by Pastor Pett. Both pastors lived together in the same parsonage. Now the St. James Congregation also decided to build a new church on Section 13, Township 129, Range 69 on which the new church is now located. The cornerstone stone was laid by Pastor Zapf. What the contents were, was unknown. After opening the cornerstone it was with huge regret to observe that all the papers from 36 years ago, were all molded and rotted. Due to unusual circumstances, the first church was then dedicated in the following year. In the meantime when Pastor Zapf served the St. Jakobus (St. James) Congregation, then the Jewell

parish built their own parsonage. The St. Jakobus (St. James) Congregation bought the old parsonage and transported it next to the church. The founders and members of the old St. Jakobus (St. James) congregation were: 1. Christian Becker Sr., 2. Christian Becker Jr., 3. Christof Nitschke, 4. Gottlieb Nitschke, 5. Wilhelm Nitschke, 6. Gottlieb Stepper, Gottfried Herman, 8. Johann Haerter Sr., 9. Friedrich Wahl, 10. Thomas Maerz, 11. Samuel Zahn, 12. Jacob Kempf Sr., 13. Johann Wolf Sr., 14. Jakob Mayer, 15. Daniel Roehl, 16. Johann Nagel Sr., 17. Mattheis Nitschke, 18. Ludwig Schlag, 19. Jakob Walz, 20. Christian Sperle. Today at the dedication of the new church, these are still living: 1. Christian Becker, 2. Gottfried Herman, 3. Johann Haerter, 4. Friedrich Wahl, 5. Jacob Kempf, 6. Mattheis Nitschke, 7. Jakob Walz, 8. Gottlieb Stepper, Ludwig Schlag. The first deacon of the St. Jakobus (St. James) Congregation that served were Christian Becker Jr. and Gottlieb Stepper. The expenses for the material of the old church came to about the amount per member between 12 and 13 dollars. Besides another \$300.00 were collected. The builder – architect of the old church was Friedrich Bossert. The church to this very day is standing unharmed. Withstanding through all storms, rains and weather. Divine services were held with-in, and many blessings were received and spread out. Pastor Zapf served the congregation till the year of 1892. Then came Pastor Brun till the year 1894, whose follower was Pastor Meyries. After him was Pastor Georg Zink in the year of 1898. Hereon the parish called Pastor Brun the second time who then served till Pastor Wenninger came in 1904. Pastor Wenninger did not live in the country, but put up his residence in Ashley at which time then the today's Ev. Luth. Ashley Parish was founded and the St. James Congregation joined them. After Pastor Wenniger's leaving, the following pastors served the St. James Congregation. C.H. W. Schulz, C. Baethke, P. Briest. And since November 1, 1922 Pastor Geo. L. Sprattler. The latter served till 1 April 1933. The old church, built 36 years ago was sold at an open auction, and sold to Christian Hildenbrand for the sum of \$270.00. The today's membership (at the dedication of the new church) of St. Jakobus (St. James) Congregation are the following: 1. Christof Retzer, 2. Geo. G. Klipfel, 3. Gottlieb G. Nitschke, 4. Jacob Kirschmann, 5. John Wahl, 6. Jacob Klipfel, 7. John Maerz, 8. Johannes Kempf, 9. Gottlieb J. Nitschke, 10. Ludwig L. Thurn, 11. Mattheis Kempf, 12. Christian Hildenbrand, 13. Christian Sperle, 14. Otto J. Walz, 15. Gottlieb Haerter, 16. Fred Wahl Jr., 17. Gottfried F. Herman, 18. Gottfried Roeszler, 19. John Walz, 20. Gottlieb Walz, 21. Gottlieb Kempf, 22. Gottlob Sperle, 23. Johann Taschendorf, 24. Christof Nitschke, 25. John J. Haerter, 26. August Thurn, 27. Fred J. Klipfel, 28. Heinrich Babitzke, 29. Salomon Wahl, 30. Eduard Nitschke, 31. John J. Herman, 32. Thomas Maerz. The council of the congregation in this year 1926 consists of John Kempf, 1st Deacon, Gottfried Herman, 2nd Deacon, Heinrich Babitzke, as scripture reader. Our faithful Sunday school teachers are: Gottlieb Walz Superintendent: Heinrich Babitzke, Ludwig Thurn Jr. and Gottlieb Haerter. Treasurer of Sunday school is Fred Wahl Jr. The Sunday school is attended by 58 children. Already for the past few years we know that the little old church does not accommodate our needs. "We must built," "the church is too small," was always the complaint. So at the annual meeting 2 January 1925 it was agreed to build a new church. The building committee was elected as follows: Geo. G. Klipfel Chairman, Pastor Geo. L. Sprattler Secretary, Fred Wahl Treasurer, Gottlieb Walz and John Kempf. It was agreed upon that the church be enlarged when built. Main building 28 x 54, steeple hall 12 x 12, Alter area 8 feet built on. The building plan was presented by Charles Moore of Venturia, N.D. The contract for the building (without painting) was given to the builder, Fred Brosz of Ashley for the sum of \$6245.50 without pews. Pulpit, baptismal font, reading pulpit, bell and organ were all bought new. Alter with alter chairs, candelabra and cross were given by the Zions Congregation of Ashley as a gift. The decorations of the church were done by the young architect, Barton. On May 4th 1925 began the digging of the basement by the members with much zeal, the work was begun. On Sunday Exaude the 24th of May 1925 we already with thanks to God, laid the cornerstone to the Glory of God. The Church is valued at the amount of \$9527.00. In this amount is also the work which several members of the congregation delivered included. The best of all was at the dedication we could say 'The church is paid.' We have no debts! Our thanks to the Zion's Congregation, the building committee, the builder—carpenter, the guests and our dear ladies as also the Pastors that today have so richly shared the Word of the Lord with us. But foremost we want to thank the Lord that let us have all going so well. The day we laid the corner stone, I closed my report with the words, let us give the All Mighty God in heaven to which honor and glory this house of the Lord shall be erected. Give his blessings that in peace and oneness this building can be finished and with rejoicing can enjoy the dedication. That the Lord has let us attain this day. To Him be all the Glory! May our new church be a blessing to us and all that comes in the days to come. Amen. Written the 29th of May 1926, the evening before the dedication. Geo. L. Sprattler, Evang. Luth. Pastor

- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Evangelical Lutheran St. Jakobus (St. James) – 1886-1955*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2004—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota as recorded in *Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin June 8, 2003* of Zion Lutheran Church in Ashley, ND. In the spring of 1886 a group of people gathered on the open prairie on Section 9, Township 129, Range 68 – there St. James Church and the Jewell Parish of the Lutheran Church was organized, which also became one of the Dakota Territory Congregations. St. James located their church in Myrtle District, Section 13-129-69. At that time about 21 families belonged to St. James. They were proud to have a place to worship God. After many years, they needed more room. On Jan. 2, 1925 at a meeting it was decided to build a larger church. In the spring they began digging the basement. On May 30, 1926 the new church was dedicated – that morning people gathered outside around the church. On the front steps of the church Pastor Sprattler and a few others opened the service with devotions, then the doors were opened and the congregation started singing “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty, Zion Let Me Enter There” as they entered the church. At this time all bills were paid and the church was “Debt Free”. There were no kitchen facilities at St. James Church. Only two meals were ever served at this church – one at time of dedication and one at their 50th Anniversary. Kerosene stoves, dishes and whatever was needed were brought from home; tables were made of boards and set up in the basement to serve the meal to the people. Members when the church was dedicated in 1926 were: Christof Retzer, George G. Klipfel, Gottlieb C. Nitschke, Jacob Kirschmann, John Wahl, Jacob Klipfel, John Maertz, John Kempf, Gottlieb J. Nitschke, Ludwig Thurn, Mattheis Kempf, Christian Hildenbrand, Christian Sperle, Otto J. Walz, Gottlieb Haerter, Fred Wahl Jr., Gottfried Herman, Gottfried Roeszler, John Walz, Gottlieb Walz, Gottlieb Kempf, Gottlob Sperle, John Taschendorf, Christof Nitschke, John Haerter, August Thurn, Fred J. Klipfel, Heinrich Babitzke, Solomon Wahl, Edward Nitschke, John Herman and Thomas Maertz. “TO GOD BE THE GLORY” for all the beautiful worship services St. James Church provided. On January 1955 Annual Meeting formal closure of St. James Church was made. Lectern and baptismal font are in the chapel of Ashley Zion Church today. The church building was sold to St. David’s Catholic Church and moved to Ashley, ND where it is at today.
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee 1888-1938 – 50 Years of Progress*, p. 55. The church of this congregation is located about 11 miles southeast of Ashley. It is the oldest of the parish. The congregation was organized in March, 1889, by Rev. Zopf. A preaching place had been established in 1884. The following ministers served the congregation until it was merged with the Ashley parish in 1903, namely: Preu, Geissendoerfer, Groenlund, Pett, Zopf, Meyries, Zink and Brunn. The first church was erected in 1889 at a cost of \$650.00. This building served the congregation until 1926, in which year a new church was erected at a cost of \$9500.00 The present officers are Fred Klipfel and John Wahl, deacons; Gottfried Herman, Secretary, and John Wahl, Treasurer.

74. Saint Johannes (John's) Congregational Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Antelope Township, SW ¼ of Sec 13-T131-R67
- Church Records: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death, Cemetery 1907-1979. Kept in the safe of Wishek – United Church of Christ & also filed with Germans from Russia Heritage Society in Bismarck, ND [Information provided by Tammy Toepke-Floyd, P.O. Box 245 Wishek, ND 58495 June 2007]
- See Wishek – United Church of Christ
- Closed in the 1920s
- Community History: *Fredonia, ND – Centennial 1904-2004*, p.53
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.190-191
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948 – Spirit of Wishek*, p.18-19. The St. John's Congregational Church was organized February 27, 1912, under the leadership of Rev. Herman Seil, Pastor-at-Large, and Rev. Louis Ebertz, who acted as secretary at the meeting. Thirteen members met and organized the church. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Philip G. Mueller, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hilscher, Miss Mathilda Hilscher, Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Sayler, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Hochhalter, Mr. and Mrs. John Junkert, Sr. Of these charter members three remain on the active membership list and nonor roll, namely, Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Sayler and Mrs. Jacob Hochhalter, Jr. The church was served from the Fredonia Parish, except from 1925 to 1931 when Rev. F.J. Wacker resided here. From 1932 to 1936 our church was again served from the Fredonia Parish, Rev. H. Hoersch being the pastor. Ministers who served this church are as

follow: Rev. L. Ebertz, Rev. Zissler, Rev. T.H. Pfenning, Rev. P. Hedinger, Rev. H.E. Wilske, Rev. Edward Schmidt, and Rev. John Hoersch. Since the fall of 1937 the church has had its own pastor. During these years 300 children were christened, 219 received religious instruction and were confirmed, 38 weddings and 54 deaths were recorded. The church membership grew from 13 members to 169 members. Two ministers, Rev. Edward Sayler and Rev. Elmer Bettenhausen call this their home church, because they received their inspiration to enter the high calling here. These are some of the visible records, the invisible service cannot be calculated by mortal man. At the present time there are 157 members enrolled in Sunday School, a Ladies Aid of 23 members, 36 Christian Endeavor members, and an active choir. The church building which was erected in 1912, is still standing and serving its purpose after 36 years of service.

- Community History: *Fredonia, ND – Centennial 1904-2004 – Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.53. The church existed in the early 1900's. The land for Saint Johannes Gemeinde was sold to the members for a church plot by Andreas and Helena Schadler on March 16, 1909 for the sum of one dollar. As much information as can be found, it was closed in the 1920's. The church building was moved down near highway #11. What happened to it after that is not known for sure. There are conflicting stories about whether it burned down with all of the church records in it or it was moved to Forbes.

75. Saint John (Johannes) Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Jewell Township, SE ¼ of SW ¼ Sec 22-T129-R68
- See Ashely – Zion Lutheran Church; Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church
- Closed 1948
- [Photo Available: Mc-Saint John Lutheran Church \[3811\]](#)
- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Saint Johannes (Saint John) Evangelical Lutheran – 1914-1948*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2002—Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, North Dakota, as noted in *Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin June 15, 2003* at Zion Lutheran Church in Ashley, ND. St. John Lutheran Church was always a part of a parish with other churches and was the first one organized, although the exact date of organization is not known. Pastor Appel Geisendorfer began his ministry at Hillside, Dakota Territory (Now South Dakota). The mission committee of the fledgling Dakota District of the Iowa Lutheran Synod asked him to make a mission trip for the church. In the early part of 1885, he temporarily left his parish – a letter was sent ahead to announce that he would be coming and his salary was set at \$10.00 a month. The first Sunday a large number of children were baptized and a meeting was held regarding organization of the church and building a parsonage. Pastor Geisendorfer organized three other churches that first week in McIntosh County and continued to Eureka, SD area to help organized other churches before returning to his parish. The original papers from the cornerstone written in German script (sealed in plastic) are on the table in the East narthex. The date when the cornerstone was laid is given as March 31, 1889. Names of the members at that time are not available. Jacob and Margaretha Dewald gave the land on which the church building and later the cemetery are located. The signature of Pastor Otto Pett can also be seen on the sheet. Some other items are on the table – pictures, German hymnal, one of the soil-clay and straw bricks that were placed between the wall studs as an old form of insulation and other items. It will be fifty-six (56) years this fall since the church closed. Some of the family names of people in the congregation at the time the church closed are: Dewald, Drefs, Geiszler, Kempf, Klipfel, Kramer, Mayer, Merkel, Nill, Rall, Rohrbach, Schaeffer, Scheuffele, Schock, Speidel, Stugelmayer, Thurn, Walz and Wolff. The verse Pastor Otto Pett used in 1889 is as true now as was then – “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:115 [In the front cover of the Church Book, this information is found: Pastor: H. L. Woelber recorded on the 28th July 1912 – The records and minutes of 1893 were found in a common church packet for the Jewell congregation but are now in use at the Lukas Gemeinde. (Congregation)] (Mr. Rudolph adds this Note: The original book has no church record activity listed up to the year 1914. There is a copy of the original document at the back of this book showing a starting year of 1886. This document was poorly preserved in the corner stone of the church, and was retrieved when the church was sold in 1948. A period of 62 years. As of the date of this writing, Dec. 5, 2002 this document is 116 years old and is located in the Zion Lutheran Church vault along with the original church book at Ashley, ND.) [Another note in the Church Book, at the end of the listing of baptisms on page 35, reads: Last Baptism. Congregation closed on 30 June 1948. (signed) F.J. Doyen, Pastor] [On page 70 of the Church Book, this comment: The St. Johannes congregation decided on Maunday Thursday 1948, without

the Pastor's knowledge, they were planning and deciding to disband the church by June 30th 1948. Then, on June 14th 1948, with the pastor present, to sell the church and all the furnishings on July 6th 1948 at 1:30 P.M. at public auction after having been on notice in the Ashley Tribune 2 times. (signed) F.J. Doyen, Pastor] [Pastors listed in the Church Book under title *History of the Congregation*, p.213-215: H.L. Woelber-(1914); O. Erpenstein-(1917); T.M. Haag-(1921); Wm. Siefkes-(?); P.J. Meyer (????-1937); F.J. Doyen-(1938-1948).] [Cornerstone document dated 31 Mar 1889 has this information: "The present Lutheran of the present St. Johns Congregation were served by the honorable deserving Pastor Geiszendorfer Ev. Luth. Synod of Iowa who was sought for badly by the Pastor G. Groenlund 1887 who supplied all with the Word and Sacraments who lived among these people. Who was an honorable Ev. Luth. Pastor of the worthy Iowa synod and a master, but due to other outer circumstances, had to give up his vocation, so then the congregation was without a Pastor. In the year 1888 a worthy honorable Ev. Luth. Pastor, Hahn (?) from the Iowa Synod was sent to inspect or viewed as part-time until a full-time ministry took over..." On the reverse side of this document this: "The Lord God so directed that we would have help from out-lying areas, to have a congregation to build a church and worship at this church. May the Lord give His blessings for growth and continuance. With the undersigned organization of this congregation and taking the name Ev. Luth. St. John Congregation the Lord be with us all forever...(signed) Otto Pett, Ev. Luth. Pastor of the Iowa Synod in the United States."

76. Saint John's Catholic Church

- Location: 5 miles N of Zeeland; NW ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 33-T130-R73** (Strassburg Township)
- See Saint David's Catholic Church; Zeeland – Saint Andrew's Catholic Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Saint John's Catholic Church \[3784\]](#)
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Golden Jubilee 1902-1952*, p.15. Rev. Claudius O.S.B., Rev. Beda O.S.B., and Father Bernard O.S.B. all figured in the early history of St. John's Catholic Church five miles north of Zeeland, a Russian-German settlement dating back to 1885 when a small church was built there by Bernard Strassmeier O.S.B. Others to serve this parish when it was established as such in 1893 were Fathers Schmitz, Joachim Widmer O.S.B., Fresenburg, Claudius Ebner, Stephan Stenger, Stephan Landolt, Herman Decker, M.V. Mueller, E.J. Steinbach, N. Fox, J.P. Zimmerman, J.B. Greiner, Heil, Leo Kaufman, Conrad Ludwig, Richard Fuetscher, and the present pastor Anton Anzic. The present church was built by Father Stenger for \$8,000.00 in 1906. The parish did not have a school until 1926 when M.M. Braun was organist there. The parish boasts of three ovations of religion which are Sister Mary Edgar Feist O.S.B., Sister Emanuel Feist O.S.B., and Sister Jamella Meier.
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1902-1977*, p.21-22. The Rev. Claudius O.S.B., Rev. Beda O.S.B., and Father Bernard O.S.B., all figured in the early history of St. John's Catholic Church five miles north of Zeeland, a Russian-German settlement dating back to 1885 when a small church was built there by Bernard Strassmeier O.S.B. Others to serve this parish when it was established as such in 1893 were: Fathers Schmitz, Joachim Widmer O.S.B., Fresenburg, Claudius Ebner, Stephan Stenger, Stephan Landolt, Herman Decker, M.V. Mueller, E.J. Steinbach, N. Fox, J.P. Zimmerman, J.B. Greiner, Heil, Leo Kaufman, Conrad Ludwig, Richard Fuetscher, Anton Anzic, Rev. Juljcike, and Rev. Victor Schill, the last resident pastor. Rev. Va. Gross served St. John's Church as a mission pastor until the year 1971, when St. John's congregation merged with St. Andrew's congregation of Zeeland. The church and church yard are being kept up for visitation purposes for the former parishioners as well as the local people, to keep alive memories of a beautiful church in the South Central part of North Dakota. This church was the first Catholic Church of this vicinity. There is a service conducted in St. John's Church several times a year.

77. Saint Lukas (Luke) Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Coldwater Township NE ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 21-T129-R67**
- In existence 1897-1954
- History of Congregation: *Saint Luke's (Lukas) Lutheran Church – Coldwater, ND 1897-1954*, 1st Edition Copyright 2005, Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, ND as recorded in *Short History of St. Luke's (Lukas) Church* in the Zion Centennial book page 55: On Christmas Day 1897, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Coldwater, North Dakota was organized. During this time Rev. Elster served the congregation. In its early years that

congregation was affiliated with the Iowa Synod. On March 8, 1898 a warranty deed for a tract of land, Section 21-129-67, was given to St. Luke Evangelical German Lutheran Church by Karl and Katherina Retzer, for the sum of \$1.00, witnessed by George C. Wiles and Phillip Merkel. The land was used to build the church and provide cemetery plots. The year following its organization, the congregation built a structure measuring about 30x40 feet at a cost of \$603.00. The congregation continued its affiliation with the Iowa Synod until 1933. On August 20, 1933 the congregation was reorganized to the Missouri Synod. Rev. A.F. Vomhof, who was serving congregations in Ellendale, Albion and Forbes, also served the newly organized St. Luke Lutheran Church from 1933-1939. In 1939 the large parish arrangement was split. Ellendale and Albion formed one parish and Forbes and Coldwater formed another parish. The ministers that served the congregation are as follows: Rev. Elser (1898-1901); Rev. Otto Bruntsch (1901-1909); 1909-1912 it (is) unknown who served; Rev. H.L. Woelber (1912-1916); Rev. Oscar Erpenstien (1917-1919); Rev. Ernst Holtz (1919-1920); Rev. Theo. M. Haag (1921-1926); Rev. C.H.W. Schultz (1926-1930); Rev. A.F. Vomhof (1913-1939); Rev. Harold Brown [Braun] (1939-1942); Rev. Henry Fry (1943-1948); Rev. William Busse (1949-1953). St. Luke doors were closed in the spring of 1954. The closing service was held in June of 1954 by Rev. Mall from Ellendale. The church was sold in 1954 to John Heinrich and Albert Bertsch and dismantled. Today we recall with thanksgiving the word and Sacrament ministry of this little parish and how it touched the lives of the people in that corner of God's vineyard.

78. Saint Luke's Lutheran Church (Frey Schoolhouse)

- Location: Northeast of Wishek
- See Wishek – Saint Luke's Lutheran Church (ELCA)

79. Saint Paul Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Coldwater Township NE ¼ Sec 12-T129-R67
- See Ashley – Zion Lutheran Church; Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church
- Closed 1938
- Source: Microfilm by Kermit B. Karns for State Historical Society of North Dakota – 27 June 1977 as noted in *Church Book of St. Paul (Paulus) Lutheran Church – Coldwater, ND – 1898-1939*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2004, Orion A. Rudolph of Ashley, ND. Also known as Boradin Gemeinde (Boradin Congregation)

80. Saint Paul (Paulus) Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Albrights Valley Township NE ¼ of **Sec 08-T130-R71**
- Other: 9 miles northwest of Ventura
- History of Congregation: *Saint Paul (Paulus) Lutheran Church – Rural Ventura, ND 1880's-1959*, 1st Edition Copyright 2003, Orion A. Rudolph, Ashley, ND as recorded in *Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin July 6, 2003* of Zion Lutheran Church in Ashley, ND: St. Paul (Paulus) Lutheran Church was located 9 miles NW of Ventura in the Northeast Quarter of Section 8-130-71. The church was built during the 1880's by Mary Kretschmar's father, Paul Kretschmar, his brothers, and John Giedt. On October 3, 1931 the land where the church was built was obtained from B. B. Kaseman and Emma Kaseman. In this area was a settlement named "Giedt" and a store was operated by a man named Hochstetter. Mary Kretschmar was born March 27, 1899 and she was told by her parents that she was baptized in this church, since there was no church in Ashley at that time. The first recorded baptism was Wilhelm Kemmet, son of Jakob & Rosina (Schilling) Kemmet (Born May 20, 1913, Baptized July 20, 1913). St. Paul was part of a five point parish served by one pastor for many years. There were many services with a deacon reading a sermon. Pastors serving this church were Reverends J. Koepfel, O. Bruntsch, E. Moechel, J. Melchert, A. Schormann, Riecke, Albert F. Freymann from 1912-1918 and 1936-1953 J. Graepp, A. Doering, J. Hoyer and H. Weber. The first family members recorded were John Aipperspach family and their seven children. Some other family names were Kasemann, Golz, Kemmet, Zimmerman, Thurn, Janke and Schwenk. The last church services at St. Paul was held March 19, 1959. Members transferred to St. Luke, Wishek, Zion Ventura and Zion in Ashley. The church building was sold to August Kasemann and moved to the farmstead where it was converted to a grain storage building.

81. Salem Congregational Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Beresina Township **Sec 36-T130-R67**
- See Ashley – Emmanuel United Methodist Church; Ashley – Salem Reformed Church
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.63-64. Salem Congregational church was located 18 miles east of Ashley on highway 11 having been moved to this location in 1927. The small churches united and started the Salem Congregational church. One of the churches was located north of the Art Bertsch farm and the other near the John Wirch farm or better known as the Wirch Post Office in Dickey County. The Wirch church, being a fairly new building, was then moved to the McIntosh-Dickey County line. John Wagner still remembers how the church was moved with horse drawn wagons instead of with modern equipment. Everyone pitched in and helped. It was a good location for there were no other churches in the area. Due to declining farm families and trend for people to worship in the nearby towns, the church closed its doors in 1968. Many of Ashley's citizens were members of the congregation and have very fond memories of it.

82. Salem Evangelical Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Rolff Township **Sec 25-T132-R67**
- Historical Information: The church was originally located in McIntosh County, 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]

83. Salem Evangelical Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Moscow Township. 4 miles E & 1 mile N of the Village of Danzig
- See Ashley – Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church 1945 \[3796\]](#)
- Community History: *Danzig, ND – 1906-2000 – Gone But Not Forgotten*, p.130-131. The Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church was located about 4 miles East and 1 mile North of the Village of Danzig. [Photo] This was the new church and was dedicated in 1945 and closed in 1960. November 23, 1945 Salem Evangelical Church Dedicated: Generous Offerings Free Debt. An event of unusual religious interest took place in this community Sunday, November 11, when the renovated, remodeled and enlarged Salem Evangelical Church, southeast of Danzig, was dedicated to the worship of the tribune {sic} of God. The building had formerly been known as the Elem [Elim-?] Church and was located about 16 miles southwest of Wishek. When nearly all the members moved out of that community, services were discontinued, and the building turned over to the Salem Evangelical congregation of the Ashley charge, whose little house of worship was wholly inadequate to house the growing congregation and Sunday School. The Elem Church, which was considerably larger, was moved to a lot near the Salem Church, placed on a full basement, remodeled, enlarged with a modern heating system and electric light plant. Several hundred persons crowded the attractive sanctuary for the services on dedication day, which began with an instructive and interesting explanation of the Sunday School lesson on "Worshipping in the Church" by the pastor, Rev. C.E. Bach. After several fine quartet and choir numbers by singers from the Ashley and Salem congregations, Rev. C.F. Struts of Bismarck, delivered the dedicatory sermon on the subject, "The Defenses, Blessings and Triumphs of the Church." After the sermon it was announced that about \$2,400.00 would be required in addition to the amounts already raised to clear the church of all indebtedness. The great audience responded enthusiastically and liberally to the appeal and raised about \$1,800.00 in a few minutes. Following the service, those present were invited to the basement and the nearby old church building to enjoy a dinner prepared for them by the ladies of the congregation. At two o'clock another service was held which was enriched by several special musical numbers and an address by Rev. A.J. Eirnel, pastor of the Wishek charge, who spoke in an interesting manner comparing the church to a ship on a storm tossed sea, but under the watchful care of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Rev. C.F. Struts spoke on "Building the Walls," and after another offering, it was announced that sufficient funds were on hand and in sight to insure the dedication of the church free of debt. Whereupon the dedication

service took place during which the great audiences reverently stood and participated in the prayer of dedication. Again the friends and visitors were welcomed to another delicious meal served by the ladies. While some of the visitors who had come a long distance left after the evening meal, many remained for the closing service which was held at 7:30. While there was much special singing at the other services, the evening meeting was especially rich in music and singing. There was a pleasing variety of duets, quartets and chorus numbers to delight the audience. Rev. C.W. Bach, the pastor gave a very fine address in which he expressed the hope and prayer that this church should become a place of spiritual births and a home and refuge for men's souls. Rev. C.F. Struts spoke of the conflict in which the church of Christ is engaged at the present time. In closing, the pastor thanked all who had labored so faithfully and contributed so liberally to make this great day possible. After a final lunch after the close of the services, the crowd dispersed and returned to their homes, feeling that they had spent a happy day of worship and fellowship with the people of God in the new Salem Evangelical Church.

84. Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church

- Location: 4 miles East and 1 mile North of the Village of Danzig
- See Salem Evangelical Church

85. Salem Evangelical United Church

- Location: 4 miles East and 1 mile North of the Village of Danzig
- See Ashley – Emmanuel United Methodist Church
- Community History: *Danzig, ND – 1906-2000 – Gone But Not Forgotten*, p.135. The church was organized in 1918 and closed in 1960. The following pastors served this congregation: Rev. Karl Hirling (1918-1919); Rev. John Fischer (1920-1922); Rev. H.C. Lehner (1923-1929); Rev. Knuth (1930-1938); Rev. Hochlater (1938-1941); Rev. Leon Bach (1941-1951); Rev. Elmer Sprunk (1951-1960). The December 30 meeting, 1960 at 7:45, was opened by Chairman, Rev. Sprunk. He read for our devotion Hebrew 1:1-44 and also led us in prayer. Chairman, Rev. Sprunk brought to light the requests and statements made by the Salem Congregation in regards to closing the Salem Church and joining with the Ashley Congregation being our group has become so small. It is rather hard for us to carry on. There was discussion from the floor by all present. It was voted by ballot that we try it for three months with all going to Ashley. If this is not satisfactory, at that time, we would hold our election and continue as before. There were 12 votes to go to Ashley and 3 to stay. This is only a trial basis. Meeting was adjourned. Secretary, Edwin Walz.

86. Salem Lutheran Church

- Location:
- See Wishek – Saint Luke's Lutheran Church
- Merged with Wishek – Saint Luke's Lutheran Church in 1950

87. Trinity (Dreieinigkeit) Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County - **Sec 18-T130-R70** (Hoskins Township)
- See Zion Lutheran-Ashley
- Closed 1949
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Golden Jubilee Book 1888-1938*
 In 1901 the foundation of this congregation was laid. Rev. Brunn started to conduct services in the farm home of Jakob Spitzer. It was organized in 1902, and for five years services were held in private homes or in nearby schoolhouses. In 1907 the congregation decided to build a church at a total expense of \$700.00. The present membership is 15 families, 50 communicant members and 75 souls. Its officers are John Pfeifle and Karl E. Baumann, deacons; and G. G. Pfeifle, Treasurer.
- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church by Ashley, McIntosh County, North Dakota – 1901-1945*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2002—Orion A. Rudolph of Ashley, ND. Trinity Lutheran Church was located 7 miles Northwest of Ashley, ND. The beginning of this congregation was in 1901 – Rev. N. Brunn conducted services in the farm home of Jacob Spitzer.

Formal organization took place in 1902, and for 5 years, services were held in private homes or a nearby schoolhouse. In 1907 the church was built at a cost of \$700.00 on the SE corner of SE Quarter of Section 18-130-70. 2 acres of land offered by Wilhelm & Pauline (Schenk) Spitzer. On October 8, 1931 this same land was deeded to Trinity Congregation for the continued use of the church and cemetery by Gottlieb and Katharina Pfeifle. Charter members at the time the church was built were: Johann Stroh, Christian Denning, Andreas Pfeifle, Gottlieb Iszler, Philip Fischer, Gottlieb Pfeifle, Konrad Pfeifle, Johann Spitzer and Karl Baumann. The congregation was a member of the Iowa Synod. Pastors serving Trinity Congregation were the Reverends: N. Brun, 1904; Otto Bruntsch, 1904; No pastor listed, 1904-1908; C. Schulz, 1908-1917; C. Baethke, 1917-1919; P. P. Briest, 1919-1922; George L. Sprattler, 1922-1933; J. K. Jung, 1934-1943; J. F. Drewelow, 1943-1945; H. L. Lechner, 1945-1946. After 1946 the church closed and members joined Zion in Ashley. The church building was sold at auction in the early 1950s and purchased by Reinhold and Lena Spitzer. It was moved to the farm in Section 21-130-70 and was converted to a grain storage building. The Alter {sic} from Trinity Church was purchased by a member of the Schumacher Family and is now in the home of Dennis and Leona (Schumacher) Schock.

- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church by Ashley, McIntosh County, North Dakota – 1901-1945*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2002—Orion A. Rudolph of Ashley, ND, taken from *Minutes Record Book*. [Meeting of January 23, 1907]—Congregational meeting held...after the services at the schoolhouse. After a lengthy discussion, the members present of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and other states to which the congregation formerly belonged to stay true to it. Since the congregation earlier had decided to build a church, Mr. Wilhelm Spitzer offered to donate 2 acres for the church to be built on, and a cemetery that the congregation thankfully accepted. This acreage is as follows: Township 130, Range 70, Section 18 of the Southeast corner from the Southeast quarter of the section 18 as given. Immediately the members decided to undersign that the below given sums (or totals) for the building of the church which belongs to the Iowa Synod congregation that would pay. Should it not get to the building of the church, it was decided that the monies be held for the church building fund of the Ev. Luth. Iowa Synod.

88. Venturia – Baptist Church

- Location: 215 Main St
- [Photo Available: Mc-Venturia Baptist Church 1966 \[5843\]](#)
- Community History: *Venturia, ND – Golden Jubilee 1901-1951*, p.6-8. History reveals that in any pioneering country or community, hardships are encountered in every walk of life, and in every enterprise undertaken. This is also true in the work of a church. First there is the hindrance of not enough people of one faith to organize and establish a church. Secondly, there are not always enough workers to undertake and care for such Missions. Thirdly, the pioneers themselves are not financially able to undergo such work as keeping a pastor in the field. Therefore, out of situations such as these, there has come this arrangement, that one pastor would have to serve a large number of "stations", visiting them perhaps once every two or even three months. For such a small beginning the present Venturia Baptist church had its beginning. Venturia, before the year 1912, was a station church of the then organized Danzig church. After being served by the pastor of the Danzig church for some time, it became imperative that more churches should be organized, if the work was to expand. The Mother church at Danzig agreed that the Venturia and Kassell stations should organize as a church. Into this union, the Bertsch station [McPherson County, SD], a station of the Jewell Baptist church came, making it a large field in itself for one man to serve. The Rev. August Herringer was called to meet with these three stations on June 10, 1912, for the purpose of being organized as a church. A council of delegates from neighboring duly organized churches met, to hear the reasons for organizing, their testimony of faith and doctrines, and the desire for joining other Baptist churches of like faith. Since that time the Kassell church has been closed, and its members uniting with the church at Venturia. This church was organized with a total of one hundred and twenty-nine charter members. From the time of its inception to the present date, over five hundred people have held membership in this church. Many have passed away, while others have moved to other parts of the country, taking their membership with them to join other Baptist churches. The present membership of the Venturia Baptist church is 236. During the thirty-nine years of its existence, six pastors have served this church. The present pastor is the seventh. These men were: the Rev. J. Rummel who came in 1913-1917, and was the first pastor of this church. Rev. J. Reichert came in 1918-1924, Rev. G.A. Alf 1924-1925,

Rev. A. Herringer 1927-1934, Rev. A. Guenther 1935-1944, Rev. C. Rempel 1946-1949, Rev. A.F. Dickau 1949--. This church has had its hardships as well as its untold blessings. In these thirty-nine years it has built three different church edifices, each time building larger buildings to take care of its growing needs. The present beautiful structure was completed and dedicated in October 1949. The congregation looks forward, with the help of God, to ever expand its work and influence in this community in which it serves. Its doors are always open, and a welcome awaits every one who wishes to worship in its sanctuary. –R.F. Dickau, Pastor

- Community History: *Venturia, ND – 1901-2001 - "Almost Gone But Not Forgotten"* p.5. The Venturia Baptist Church was officially organized on June 10, 1912, when members from three station churches (Kassel, Venturia and Bertsch) joined together to become the First German Baptist Church of Venturia. Worship services were conducted in the German language until the late 1950s. With 129 charter members, the Venturia Baptist Church was ready to begin its task of witness and ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. Since that time, over 500 people have held membership in this church. Pastors, pastors' wives, missionaries and members of God's Volunteers/New Day teams have gone from here to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people in many parts of the world. Faithful pastors, teachers, youth leaders and lay workers have served diligently here at home in proclaiming the message of Christ and in ministering to the needs of people in this community. There can be no doubt that God has faithfully blessed the ministry of this church. Twelve pastors have served the church since its beginning: Rev. J. Rummel (1913-1917), the first pastor of this church; Rev. J. Reichert (1918-1924); Rev. G.A. Alf (1924-1925); Rev. A. Herringer (1927-1934); Rev. A. Guenther (1935-1944); Rev. C. Rempel (1946-1949); Rev. A.F. Dickau (1949-1956); Rev. Orville Meth (1957-1962); Rev. Milton Falkenberg (1963-1969); Rev. L.D. Potratz (1969-1972); Rev. Vernon Schneider (1973-1977); Rev. Randall C. Tschetter (1978-present). This church has had hardships as well as blessings. Over the years, it has built three different church buildings, each time building larger buildings to take care of its growing needs. The present structure was completed and dedicated in May 1966. A new parsonage was completed in 1959. The congregation looks forward, with the help of God, to continue its work and influence in this community which it serves. A welcome awaits everyone who wishes to worship with us.

89. Venturia – Reformed Church

- Location: originally Johnstown Township, **Sec 02-T129-R71**; then to Village of Venturia
- Community History: *Venturia, ND – Golden Jubilee 1901-1951*, p.18-19. The Venturia Reformed church, better known as the Hoffnungstal Gemeinde, was organized in 1893 at the same time as the Reformed congregations at Ashley, Greenway [McPherson County, SD] and Wishek. Eight families founded the church near Venturia. The church record lists these following: Gottlieb and Magdalena Dockter; Jacob and Margaretha Dockter; John and Elisabeth Dockter; Gottlieb Jr. and Christina Dockter; Friedrich and Louise Dockter; Jacob and Magdalene Schlepp; Friedrich and Eva Herbold; and Philipp and Sophia Dockter. Mr. Jacob Schlepp who passed away on October 17, 1950, was the last surviving charter member of the Hoffnungstal congregation. It will be of interest to mention that the last service Mr. Schlepp attended was also the last to take place in the old church building, a church he helped organize and build and in which he served as deacon from 1907 to 1910. In the very beginning the first members of the church gathered for services on their farms as they had done previous to their organization when they had been under pastoral care of Rev. U. Reue of Leola, S. Dak. Four years following their organization, their first church was built which served them for 53 years. Rev. Steinecker was the first minister serving the Venturia church. Since he had thirteen congregations in his charge, serving two of them each Sunday, he came to Venturia each seventh Sunday. Venturia's Reformed Church was first located two miles north and one-half mile east of town and as it proved itself too small for the growing membership the congregation decided upon a new church. Since many of the members who previously resided on the farm have moved to town, it seemed logical to locate the church in town. Work on this church was begun last June and on October 15, 1950 it was dedicated. Rev. Steinecker served the Venturia church from 1893 to 1904. Rev. Wm. Landsiedel followed with four years of service: 1905-1909. The next minister was Rev. Peter DeBuhr. He stayed for two years, from 1910 to 1912. At this time Rev. Steinecker returned to his old charge serving it for ten more years until 1922. He was succeeded by Rev. F.W. Herzog. This minister returned to his home country, Germany, after thirteen years of service in 1935. Rev. George E. Wolfe held the pastorate from 1937 to 1942. Rev. K. Krueger being his successor served the Venturia Reformed

Church until 1949. All ministers, except the Revs. Wolfe and Krueger, have passed away. The present minister is Rev. Fred Herzog, the son of Rev. F.W. Herzog. As the congregations organized more and more into parishes, the Ashley Reformed Church charge emerged with four congregations, Venturia belonging to this charge. Up until 1944, worship services with the pastor took place each fourth Sunday. Today as traveling conditions have improved, the congregation gathers for regular worship services each alternate Sunday. The Venturia Reformed Church belongs to a group of Reformed churches which did not participate in the merger of the Reformed and Evangelical churches in 1934. In spite of many hardships which emerged out of an attitude of resistance towards merger, it has always faithfully adhered to the belief that the church of the Reformation should not be a conglomeration of denominational emphases of Christian faith, but should be simply "church" always standing in the necessity of being reformed.

90. Venturia – Zion Lutheran Church

- Location: Village of Venturia
- See Ashley – Zion Lutheran Church; Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church
- Closed 1974
- Community History: *Venturia, ND – Golden Jubilee 1901-1951*, p.16-17. In the fall of 1908, at the wish of three families of the Lutheran Faith, Rev. C.H.W. Schulz of Ashley came to Venturia one Sunday afternoon and preached a sermon in the home of Mr. Andrew A. Sayler. Rev. Schulz then very willingly agreed to come to Venturia every second Sunday in the afternoon for services through the coming winter months providing the weather was at all seasonable. By spring a few more families came to the services and the home of Mr. Sayler was considered too small for services and so the little group met in the school house. In the year of 1910 Rev. Schulz asked the Lutheran congregation to be served by Rev. H. Timmecke then of Eureka, S. Dak. and later of Linton, N. Dak. The congregation agreed to this arrangement and on the fifth of May, 1912, under the leadership of Rev. Timmecke the Venturia Zion Lutheran Church was organized and became affiliated with the Iowa Synod. Officers were elected and Mr. Michael Delzer and Mr. Andrew A. Sayler were the first deacons of the church and Mr. August Haupt, Sr., the first Sunday school teacher. On November 2, 1913 the newly organized congregation voted to build a church the following spring and with the able help of Rev. Timmecke, as to the drawing of the plans, the few members build the Venturia Lutheran Church. In the late summer of 1914 the church was dedicated and Rev. Timmecke continued to come to Venturia from Linton twice a month to serve the congregation until the fall of 1917. At this time Rev. C.H.W. Schulz took over the pastorate together with two rural churches near Ashley and served until January 1931. In 1931 the Venturia parish joined with the Danzig parish and together they were served by Rev. T.N. DeGuisne until the fall of 1938. Rev. DeGuisne resided in Danzig. It was during Rev. DeGuisne's pastorate that the Venturia Zion Church became a member of the American Lutheran. The next ten years the congregation was served by the following pastors: Rev. John Kammerer; Rev. G.T. Kern; Rev. John Goeringer and Rev. John Doering. At the death of Rev. Doering the church experienced the shortage of pastors and Rev. P.A. Hinrichs and Rev. Fred Meier of Eureka and student Herbert G. Schuler acted as supply pastors. The summer of 1948 was a busy one for the congregation as it was that summer that the parsonage was built and a call for a pastor was voiced. Rev. Lawrence Sailer, of Wartbury Seminary accepted the pastorate and was installed on July 4, 1948 and served the congregations of Venturia and Danzig for sixteen months. During Rev. Sailer's pastorate services in both languages, the German and the English became a regular part of the church. The Sunday school was also revised. Heretofore Sunday school was led by one or two men of the congregation but since, the Sunday school is conducted in four different classes. This year, after 37 years of services, the interior of the church is being remodeled. In 1946 the basement was enlarged, a kitchen equipped and a dining hall. The heating system was also altered at this time. The work of these projects was done by the members and the financial support given by the Ladies Aid. Rev. Paul Mall is the pastor at the present time and the officers include: Mr. Andrew A. Sayler and Mr. John J. Ritter, deacons. Mr. Sayler has been a deacon of the church since its organization. Mr. Arthur Sayler, secretary and Sunday school superintendent. Mr. Andrew Dockter, treasurer. Mr. Henry Bader, Mr. Edward Golz and Mr. Rudolph Haupt, trustees. Zion Lutheran Church has enjoyed a steady growth until now. May the good Lord, who has guided her in the past, continue to bless her that she may bring forth much fruit.
- Church History: *Venturia, ND – Golden Jubilee 1912-1962 – Zion Lutheran Church*. In the fall of 1908 on the invitation of three Lutheran families of Venturia, Rev. C.H.W. Schulz of Ashley, came to Venturia

and conducted services in the home of Andrew A. Saylor. After about one year services were held in the school because the membership had increased and more room was needed. In the year 1910 the Ashley congregation forbade their pastor to serve Venturia any longer. Thereafter services were obtained from Rev. H. Timmcke of Eureka. When he later moved to Linton, he continued serving the Venturia church until the Linton congregation refused to let him serve Venturia any longer. During the time that Rev. Timmcke served here, the congregation was officially organized on May 5, 1912. Rev. Timmcke was actually the architect and builder of the church. The dedication services were held on June 14, 1914. Pastors present were Rev. Timmcke, Rev. Schulz, Rev. Nagel and Rev. Lechner. From 1914 to 1931 Pastor Schulz again served the congregation. In 1931 the Rev. T. Deguisne of Danzig began his work here and labored until 1938. In 1939 Rev. John Kammerer of Danzig served Zion Church. He organized the Zion Ladies' Aid on July 15, 1939. From 1940 to 1948 the following pastors served the church: Rev. G.T. Kern, Rev. Goeringer, Rev. A. Doering and Rev. P.A. Hinrichs. In June of 1948 Zion Church called Rev. L.G. Sailer, who labored here until October of 1949. In the summer of 1950, Rev. P. Mall was called. In 1952 Rev. Gevers served the congregation until his death in 1955. From 1955 until July of 1958 the following pastors served: Rev. F. Heupel, Rev. R. Heupel, and Rev. F.J. Doyen. From May until October of 1958 Rev. Henry Weber of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church of Zeeland served. Then Rev. L.G. Sailer served Zion Church until June, 1959. In the spring of 1959, Zion Lutheran Church entered a new experience. At that time it met with the St. Andrew's Church of Zeeland. The two churches decided to join forces, and work together as a parish. This parish then called its present pastor, Rev. Marvin D. Lapp. Today Zion Lutheran Church consists of fifteen families. Mr. George Ritter is the only living charter member. On January 20, 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Ritter had the privilege of celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. **Original Minutes of the Zion Congregation** The following is a word for word account of the original minutes of the Evangelical Lutheran Zion Congregation of Venturia, North Dakota, held on the fifth day of May, 1912. It is interesting to observe the contrast between things as they were then and are now in this anniversary year, 1962. Immediately after the new congregation was organized, the first election of officers took place. The following were elected: First Deacon—Michael Delzer; Second Deacon—Andrew A. Saylor; Sunday School Superintendent—August Haupt. All of the above officers were elected for a term of one year. The membership at this time was eleven families. The congregation agreed to set the yearly church dues at ten dollars per member. The minister's salary was set at one hundred dollars per year and was to be paid semi-annually. The congregation further agreed that new members could be accepted after any church service. It was also decided to have regular Sunday School sessions. Our congregation accepted the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa. Thereby it became a member of the Iowa Synod. The meeting was concluded with prayer and the benediction. Signed: Rev. H. Timmcke, Pastor and Chairman. In the year 1913 the congregation had its first official call meeting. The meeting was conducted by Rev. C.H.W. Schulz of Ashley. The call was extended to Rev. Timmcke. He was present at the meeting and accepted the call. At this same meeting the congregation voted to build a church.

- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Evangelical Lutheran Church Zions Congregation – Venturia, North Dakota – 1908-1974*, 1st Edition Transcribing Copyright 2003—Orion A. Rudolph of Ashley, ND, as noted in *Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin August 10, 2003* of Zion Lutheran Church in Ashley, ND. In the fall of 1908 Rev. C. H. W. Schulz of Ashley came to Venturia and conducted services in the home of Andrew A. Saylor. In 1910 Rev. H. Timmcke of Eureka served the congregation. On May 5, 1912 the congregation was organized. On November 2, 1913 the congregation voted to build a new church - dedication services were held June 14, 1914 with Reverends Timmcke, Schulz, Nagel and Lechner present. Rev. Timmcke of Linton served this church twice a month until fall of 1917 - then Rev. C. H. W. Schulz served them along with two rural churches near Ashley until January 1931. At this time Rev. T. N. Deguisne of Danzig served the church until 1938. In 1939 Rev. John Kammerer of Danzig served here and on July 15, 1939 helped organize the Zion Ladies Aid. From 1940-1948 serving Zion were Rev. G. T. Kern, Rev. Goeringer, Rev. A. Doering and Rev. P.A. Hinrichs. In 1948 the parsonage was built and a call was placed for a pastor. Pastors serving Venturia and Danzig were Rev. L. G. Sailer from June 1948 to October 1949, and Rev. P. Mall from 1950 to 1952. Rev. Gevers served from 1952 until his death in 1955. Pastors serving from 1955 to July 1958 were Rev. F. Heupel, Rev. R. Heupel and Rev. F. J. Doyen. From May to October 1958 Rev. Henry Weber of St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Zeeland served. Then Rev. L. G. Sailer served Venturia Zion until June 1959. In 1959 Venturia Zion Lutheran joined with St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Zeeland as a parish and were served by Rev. Marvin D. Lapp. The last services were

held in May 1974. Most members joined Zion Lutheran Church in Ashley. In 1975 the church building was sold and moved to Linton, ND where it now is the Bible Baptist Church. Some of the family names of members of this church were: Blumhardt, Bogner, Delzer, Denning, Diede, Dockter, Dobler, Doerheim, Ernst, Golz, Haupt, Heinricksohn, Herbold, Hochstetter, Hoffman, Iszler, Jenner, Joachim, Krause, Kretschmar, Maethner, Maier, Meidinger, Merkel, Opp, Oster, Pfahl, Pfeifle, Ritter, Sayler, Schnabel, Stroh, Walth, Weisser, Weisenburger and Zimmerman.

91. Wishek – Baptist Church

- See Wishek – First Baptist Church

92. Wishek – Evangelical Church

- See Wishek – Evangelical United Brethren Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Evangelical Church \[3842\]](#)

93. Wishek – Evangelical United Brethren Church

- Location: Town of Wishek
- See Wishek – United Methodist Church
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948 – Spirit of Wishek*, p.24-25. The early settlers were, as a rule, people who sought religious services, but due to the lack of churches in that era many homes were opened to the people of the various communities for religious services. Among the many homes was the Martin Miller home where the first services of the Evangelical Church were held. During those days traveling ministers came to these homes and rendered their services to those people who had no regular pastor. Many of these people did not have a church of their own or did not as yet belong to a church body at that time. The Evangelical church of Wishek had its birthplace in the Miller home in 1915, under the capable leadership of the visiting pastor of Lehr, Rev. E.C. Oeder, and Rev. William Suchow. Services were held in these premises for two years, with nine potential families attending, and finally organized as a church in February, 1916, under the leadership of rev. C.A. Bremer. There were many questions and plans in the minds of the people where to build and how to meet the cost, but these problems soon vanished when the present location was chosen and donated by Wishek and Co. The financial problems vanished when the conference extension board gave a \$1,000.00 loan and another party a loan of \$3,000.00. The first minister to be assigned to this church was Rev. W.L. Martin in 1918, who remained here until after the dedication of the church in May of that year. The charter members of the church were the following: John Becker, Jacob Gable, Christ Goll, Regina Gust, Jacob Holwagner, Bernard Kranzler, John Kurle, Martin Miller, and John Stoller. Due to many difficulties and hardships Rev. Martin left Wishek and this church was without a minister until the fall of 1919 when Rev. Alex Gehring came here to be their pastor. During his pastorate the local parsonage was the first building project to be undertaken with considerable difficulty. The membership of the church in 1919 was 45, and 1921 it was 84, and by 1931 the membership of the charge had grown to 163, that, however, included Napoleon. A decline in membership came when the annual conference partitioned Wishek and Napoleon as two station. The pastors that have served this church in the past 33 years are the following: Rev. W.L. Martin (1918-1919); Rev. A. Gehring (1919-1923); Rev. R. Bloedau (1923-1924); Rev. William Storkman (1924-1927); Rev. C.E. Bach (1927-1929); Rev. E.K. Heimer (1929-1933); Rev. Karl Hirning (1933-1938); Rev. A.H. Ermel (1938-1947); and Rev. G. Eberhart (1947 to date).

94. Wishek – First Baptist Church

- Location: 101 8th St S
- See Ashley – Baptist Church; Danzig – German Baptist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek First Baptist Church-1 \[3837\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek First Baptist Church-2 \[3741\]](#)
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948 – Spirit of Wishek*, p.20-21. In the year 1885 John Brokofsky left Russia with his family and he landed in McIntosh County on the 7th day of September of the same year. Other families arrived the following year and settled in this same territory. In October, 1886, with 15 charter members, the church, which is now the Wishek Baptist Church, was

organized. At this meeting Mr. Johann Brokofsky was elected chairman and Mr. Wm. Koth deacon. The church was built four miles west of Danzig, N.D., and was then known as the Danzig German Baptist Church. This group conducted their own worship services until 1888 when on the 19th day of July the Rev. E. Matzke, of Spring Creek, S.D., paid them a visit. He was extended a call to become their pastor which he accepted. He became the minister of the congregation on the 28th day of July and served until the 30th of May, 1892. During his ministry the church grew rapidly in membership. Many were brought to the saving knowledge of Christ and were baptized into the fellowship of the Church. This group then reached out into the regions round about and soon had a mission station and a membership of 195 baptized members. Not always was the going so smooth. Through moving away as well as through the interpretation of Scripture, disruptions shook the very foundations of the group until a membership of 80 was left. Undaunted, with missionary zeal, they worked on and soon had a membership again of 133 souls. There was an ever increasing effort put forth until 6 stations were connected with this same organization. Some families moved into Wishek and in the year 1906 they began gathering in homes and in the school for worship. Then at a meeting in the Danzig church, held on March 20, 1908, it was decided to accept Wishek as a new Mission field. This same meeting authorized a building committee to construct a frame structure, 24 x 32 ft., with steeple entrance and a choir loft addition, at an approximate cost of \$2,000.00. The land for this church was donated by John H. Wishek, Sr. The building committee composed of: Jacob Herr, Jr., Konrad Kogler, Jacob Roeszler, and William Koth, took steps immediately for the erection of this building so that it was possible to hold the dedication service on October 18, 1908. The speakers for this occasion were Rev. H.G. Bens and Rev. George Burgdorf. The charter members of the church were: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Roeszler; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Herr, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Herr, Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. John Herr; Mr. and Mrs. August W. Herr, and Konrad Kogler. This membership, along with friends and followers, raised the sum of \$890.00. The mother church at Danzig gave a grant of \$305.00; an offering at Eureka, S.D., netted \$40.00 and a dedicatory offering at the dedication service netted another sum of \$265.00. A small loan was obtained from Denominational Headquarters. This loan and the balance due were paid in full a short time later. In 1912 the church of Danzig undertook a division of its stations. Their property at Ashley was assigned to the present Ashley church; their property near Venturia, namely the Kassel church to the present Venturia church. The stations Wishek and Beaver Creek were retained. At this division the Rev. August Herringer accepted the extended call to become the minister with residence in Wishek. That same year the present parsonage was built. At a regular business meeting on May 20th, 1930, the name of the church was changed from the Danzig German Baptist church to German Baptist Church of Wishek. The name has again been changed to Wishek Baptist Church. As the attendance and membership grew, it was on several occasions proposed to erect a new building. The motion finally carried in 1935. Notwithstanding the drought and depression of the time, the membership strongly felt the need of a new building so that in 1934 a building committee was named and they laid plans for a new building. The committee, composed of Rev. B.W. Krentz, manager and chairman; Ernest W. Herr, treasurer; Edward Herr, secretary; Wm. Stading, E.W. Bonnet, W.H. Mehlhaff and Christian J. Herr, laid plans for the present basement. This structure measures 44 ft x 64 ft. with an addition for a furnace room, and was erected at a cost of \$6,500.00. This building was dedicated in October, 1935, with the Rev. August Herringer and Rev. Willie Luebeck as the guest speakers. Plans are getting well under way for the building of the church proper on the present basement. The following pastors served the Wishek church from the time of its organization at Danzig: Rev. E. Matzke from 1888 until 1892; Rev. Marks (1892-1894); Rev. Hermann (1897-1899); Rev. Edward Wolf, (1900-1901); Rev. Christian Bischof (1903-1909); Rev. August Herringer (1910-1927); Rev. C.M. Knapp (1928-1932); Rev. B.W. Krentz (1932-1935); Rev. Albert Itterman (1936-1941); Rev. J.C. Gunst (1942-1944); Rev. Arthur R. Weisser (1944-). This Church today has a membership of 229 baptized members. In 1941 the station at Napoleon was set aside as a church be itself. The present leaders of the Wishek Baptist Church are: J.J. Meidinger and J.J. Kramer, deacons; Mrs. Edward Herr and Mrs. J.J. Meidinger, deaconesses; Edward Herr, treasurer; William Stading, secretary; and Arthur R. Weisser, minister. In the sixty-two years of existence this Church has contributed \$44,547.38 to Missions and \$111,999.46 for local work and expenses; a grand total of \$156,546.84. Besides this the Ladies Mission Society has contributed liberally, the figures of which are not available at this time. A report of this kind could not be complete without paying tribute to Rev. August Herringer, who ministered to this church for 17 years. Much credit is due him for the prospering of this Church for he labored untiringly and under his leadership the church grew. He was a man with a vision for Christ and His cause, and upon this field he spent the best years of his life. In 1912 when the division of the Danzig field came, he accepted the call to serve the new field at Wishek. It was during this time that the present parsonage was built. Through

his ardent zeal a mission work was begun in Burnstad, N.D., and also in Napoleon, N.D. On March 25, 1941, Napoleon became a self-supporting church. During the 15th year of his services here, a special occasion was celebrated at the church. It was the 15th year of his pastorate, the 25th year of his services as a pastor and the 40th year of the existence of the Wishek Baptist Church. Rev. Herringer went to his eternal home in 1942. He was laid to rest in Salem, Oregon. He was loved and honored as a good pastor and a true man of God by all who knew him.

- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.106-107. Early in 1875, when the settling of McIntosh County was in its beginning, people from the village of Danzig, Russia, settled near Tyndall, South Dakota. This created a desire for others from their homeland to follow, but finding the free land all taken they were advised by the federal land agents to go further north into Dakota Territory. They were not happy at having to move further north, but nevertheless about 15 families did settle about nine miles south of the present city of Wishek. Here they missed the church fellowship to which they had been accustomed in their homeland. They were a devout and faithful people. By God's leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit, they organized their own congregation in 1886. Fifteen families joined themselves together in this fellowship, naming John Brokofsky as chairman and William Koth as secretary. They named the church "Danzig Baptist Church," after their home town. These early settlers had a dialect of their own, commonly known as "Platt Deutsch," but they used the German Bible and language in their services. The Danzig Church affiliated with the Northwestern Baptist Conference in 1888. In 1900 this church with all other German Baptist churches was transferred to the Dakota Conference. The fellowship made progress, spiritually as well as financially. By 1903 it became self-supporting and was relinquished by the mission as a free church. Meetings were held in homes for six years, and they gained members from as far west as the Beaver Creek area. For the membership, the desire to build a house for worship became foremost. In 1892 they built a wooden structure 20 feet by 40 feet on a plat of 3 acres of land donated by John J. Giedt. This was 9 miles south of Wishek. The cost of the church was \$800.00, of which \$550.00 was raised among the members and a loan of \$250.00 obtained from the Baptist Home Mission Society, New York City. Soon thereafter a fifteen acre tract was acquired one-quarter mile south of the church, which became the location of the first parsonage. Here were erected a house, barn, and other small buildings. There was a pasture for horses, since they were the only means of travel in those days. Records do not reveal how this 15 acre tract was purchased or how the buildings were financed. In 1908, several dedicated and devout believers, living in the newly organized village of Wishek, expressed their desire to build their own house of worship. Jacob Herr, Sr., was the leader of this group. Two lots, which are now the present site, were donated by John H. Wishek, Sr. On these was erected a wooden structure 24 feet by 40 feet, at a cost of \$2,162.00. A sum of \$300.00 was borrowed from the Baptist Home Mission Society, and the rest financed from donations. This church in Wishek was officially the Wishek station of the Danzig church. However, in 1930, the name of the church was officially changed by vote of the entire membership from Danzig Baptist Church to German Baptist Church of Wishek. This church then operated branches at Danzig and Beaver Creek. By 1935 the members became very conscious of the fact that the wooden church structure in Wishek was inadequate. It was decided to remove the old building and replace it with a larger basement building on the original site at a cost of \$6,000.00. Better automobiles and roads made traveling easier; therefore the Danzig station was discontinued in 1940 and the Beaver Creek station in 1949. In 1949, the name of the church was again changed from German Baptist Church to First Baptist Church of Wishek. Also in the same year the church decided to erect a new church, incorporating the basement structure as a part thereof. This was financed by donations from a faithful membership; the cost was \$78,520.00. On July 2, 1950, the new building was dedicated to Christ as Lord, and for the service to mankind as a spiritual haven. In 1955, the old parsonage was replaced by a new modern ranch type dwelling. The cost of the new parsonage was \$31,181.00. Sixteen pastors have served the church. Rev. Berthold Matzke served from 1888-1892 as the first pastor and Rev. Gordon Husinga is the present pastor. Eight young men and one young woman enlisted in fulltime Christian service. The first one was Emanuel Giedt—a 1909 missionary to China. He now lives in Van Nuys, California, and is retired. Another, Gideon Zimmerman, is General Secretary of our North American Baptist Conference with headquarters in Forest Park, Ill. First Baptist Church of Wishek has a well organized Sunday School, with classes for all age groups. It has a well established library, with good Christian literature. It has several subsidiary organizations which will be placing their own report in this Jubilee Book. Carl Weisser, a former pastor of First Baptist Church of Wishek, once said: "The influence that has flowed forth from this church will only be told in the record of the 'Book of Life'." We give God the glory for His continued goodness for these many years. We praise

Him for what He permitted us to do. We thank Him for that which He will permit us to do, "until He comes."

- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.113-114. Early in 1875, when the settling of McIntosh County was in its beginning, people from the village of Danzig, Russia, settled near Tyndall, South Dakota. This created a desire for others from their homeland to follow, but finding the free land all taken they were advised by the federal land agents to go further north into Dakota Territory. They were not happy at having to move further north, but nevertheless about 15 families did settle about nine miles south of the present city of Wishek. Here they missed the church fellowship to which they had been accustomed in their homeland. They were a devout and faithful people. By God's leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit, they organized their own congregation in 1886. Fifteen families joined themselves together in this fellowship, naming John Brokofsky as chairman and William Koth as secretary. They named the church "Danzig Baptist Church," after their home town. These early settlers had a dialect of their own, commonly known as "Platt Deutsch," but they used the German Bible and language in their services. Meetings were held in homes for six year. For the membership, the desire to build a house for worship became foremost, so in 1892 they built a wooden structure 20 feet by 40 feet. This was built 9 miles south of Wishek, and cost \$800. Soon thereafter a fifteen acre tract was acquired one-quarter mile south of the church, which became the location of the first parsonage; a house, barn and other small buildings were erected. There was a pasture for horses, since they were the only means of travel in those days. In 1898 mention is also made of a station called Johannasstadt. Nothing is said of a house of worship, but later when the Village of Venturia came into existence, there appeared to be a church building one mile away, and in 1910, it was moved into the town-site proper. In 1898 mention is also made that the Beaver Creek area was accepted as a station. In 1900 a group which had settled about six or seven miles west of the Village of Venturia had also been led to build a place of worship uniting with Danzig, naming their station Kassel after their home town in Russia. Soon it was found that a small group in Ashley was willing to join themselves with Danzig. Pastors did not like living in rural areas so it was that in the merger with Ashley that the parsonage built in 1898 near the Danzig church was moved to Ashley (it was thought that it would bring better living conditions for the pastor and family.) This moving also gave access by rail to Danzig and Venturia, which was an advantage. The parsonage was moved by twenty teams of horses (the first moving of a house seen by people of this area.) The merger with Ashley fared well until 1911 and 1912 when it was dissolved. Early in 1908 the Wishek station affiliated itself with Danzig and a place of worship was built. A wooden structure 24 feet by 40 feet was erected at the present site on two lots, at a cost of \$2,162. The Beaver Creek Station had struggled since 1898, going up and down in membership, and when things stabilized they were determined and succeeded in building their house of worship in 1912. Also in 1912 the Kassel and Johannasstadt stations (which had been part of the 1903 Ashley-Danzig merger) withdrew. This brought about the creation of three different churches amalgamating as follows: The Ashley station with Jewel and Johannasstad, now is know {sic} as the German Baptist Church of Ashley. Johannasstadt and Kassel are now the First Baptist Church of Venturia. The German Baptist of Danzig was made up of Beaver Creek, Danzig and Wishek. After this division, Danzig, finding themselves without a place for the pastor to live, decided to build a parsonage in Wishek. The parsonage was built for around \$2000. Rev. August Heringer, who had been pastor of the Ashley-Danzig union from 1910 to 1912, when they dissolved, elected to remain with the Danzig Church and therefore became the first pastor to live in the Wishek parsonage, moving there from Ashley. Again in 1912, they found themselves taking on other territory when they accepted the Burnstad Station. A church was purchased in Burnstad and twenty-three years later, in 1935, it was dissolved. In 1918, not desiring more stations (nevertheless yielding to a group of Baptists who had settled in and around Napoleon), a building was bought and remodeled to fit their requirements and became a station of Danzig. On July 1, 1941, they withdrew to become an organization of their own known as the Baptist Church of Napoleon. In 1922, several years after the Village of Danzig (located four miles east of the church) came into existence and a town was named after their church. They were determined that a station of the church be opened there, using the school house as a place of worship. It was only of short duration, from 1922 to 1924, and was then dissolved. The church in Wishek was officially the Wishek station of the Danzig church. However, in 1930, the name of the church was officially changed, by vote of the entire membership, from Danzig Baptist Church to German Baptist Church of Wishek. This church then operated branches at Danzig and Beaver Creek. By 1935, the members became very conscious of the fact that the wooden church structure in Wishek was inadequate. It was decided to remove the old building and replace it with a larger basement building on the original site at

a cost of \$6,000. Better automobiles and roads made traveling easier, therefore, the Danzig station was discontinued in 1940 and the Beaver Creek station in 1949. In 1949, the name of the church was again changed from German Baptist Church to First Baptist Church of Wishek. Also in the same year, the church decided to erect a new church, incorporating the basement structure as part thereof. This was financed by donations from a faithful membership; the cost was \$78,520. On July 2, 1950, the new building was dedicated to Christ as Lord, and for the service to mankind as a spiritual haven. In 1955, the old parsonage was replaced by a new modern ranch type dwelling. The cost of the new parsonage was \$31,181. In 1960, the Church debt was retired with a note burning ceremony and Rev. E.J. Faul (who was the pastor at the time the church was built) was the guest speaker. In 1961, the church celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with a week long celebration. In 1985-86 a complete renovation of the church building was done both outside and inside. It was a major undertaking, costing about \$35,100. Work was also done on both the parsonage and parsonage grounds. On July 5 & 6 of 1986, the congregation celebrated our Centennial. It was attended by; 500 members, former members and friends coming from 24 States and one Canadian Province. 1994-95 saw the addition of a pastor's study, an enlarged stairway, new restrooms and a "Power Lift" making the sanctuary and basement accessible for the handicapped. Organizations include a well equipped Sunday School for all ages; Youth Group, Men's Brotherhood, Women's Missionary Fellowship and Dorcas Society. The beginning of this church reaches back into the last century, when our fathers settled the North Dakota frontier. Their lot was one of hardship, poverty, toil and sacrifice. In their desperation, they appealed for Divine guidance over the uncharted terrain. In their loneliness, they sought the fellowship of kindred soul and mind. No duty was so demanding, no family tie so enduring, no pleasure so alluring, as to keep them from the congregation of the saints. Their tears mingled freely; their prayers ascended imploringly. God saw and heard. Their evangelistic zeal at home and their missionary endeavor abroad had not been in vain. Nineteen pastors have served this church and are listed below: Rev. Berthold Matzke (1888-1892); Rev. J. Marks (1892-1894); Rev. George Burgdorf (1895-1896) Occasional Visits; Rev. Jacob Herman (1897-1899) Ordained by the church following his arrival; Rev. Edward Wolf (1899-1901); Rev. H. Hilzinger (1902-1903) 5th Sunday from Eureka; Rev. Christian Bischof (1903-1909); Rev. August Heringer (1910-1927); Rev. C.M. Knapp (1928-1932); Rev. B.W. Krentz (1933-1937); Rev. Albert Itterman (1937-1942); Rev. J.C. Gunst (1942-1944); Rev. Arthur Weisser (1944-1948); Rev. Ervin J. Faul (1949-1951); Rev. Loran O. Wahl (1952-1960); Rev. Carl R. Weisser (1961-1968); Rev. Clemence Auch (1968-1971); Rev. Gordon Huisinga (1972-1995); Rev. Allen Finger (1995-

95. Wishek – Grace Evangelical Church

- Location: Town of Wishek
- See Wishek – Grace Evangelical & Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ

96. Wishek – Grace Evangelical & Reformed Church

- Location: Town of Wishek
- See Wishek – Grace Evangelical & Reformed Church of the United Christ of Christ
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Grace Reformed Church \[3734\]](#)

97. Wishek – Grace Evangelical & Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ

- Location: Town of Wishek
- See Wishek – United Church of Christ; Wishek – Reformed Church
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.207-208. On November 5th, 1916, The Grace Church of Wishek, North Dakota was organized with a charter membership of seven families: the Christian Krein, Sr., the Christian F. Krein, the Jacob C. Krein, the John Ackerman, the Henry Becker, the Fred Sprenger and the Karl Wacker families. In 1917 the Grace Church was built, being dedicated October 21st of that year. Three rural churches: Neudorf, Johannesthal and Kassel, which organized between 1890 and through 1905, followed by the Grace Church of Wishek in 1916 – were the "Reformed Churches" of this Wishek area until 1934. "The Evangelical and Reformed Church" denomination was the result of a union established at Cleveland, Ohio in 1934 between "The Evangelical Synod of North America" and "The Reformed Church in the United States." Until 1920 the three congregations of Neudorf, Johannesthal and Wishek were served from Eureka, Ashley, Kassel and Artas. The following pastors were involved in the organizational work and the ministerial duties which followed in that period from 1890 until 1920:

Frank Grether, U. Reue, W. Feige, H.W. Stienecker, H.W. Knierim, H. Niehaus, W. Landsiedel, Peter Bauer, Peter DeBuhr, F. Aigner and M. Nuss. The first resident pastor of Grace Church was Rev. John Klundt, 1920-1925. He was followed by Rev. A.A. Depping from 1926-29, and then from 1930-1939 Grace Church was served from Fullerton by Rev. Erich Kaempchen. It was during his ministry that the "Grace Reformed Church" name was changed to "The Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church." On October 1st, 1939, Rev. John Bodenmann began his ministry at the Grace Church which extended to 1951. During this period the two rural Churches, Johannesthal and Neudorf, merged with "The Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church" here in Wishek, the merger being completed in 1944. A Church basement was built and improvements were made in the parsonage. In the year of 1940, the "Ladies' Aid Society" was organized with 22 charter members, meeting the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. Rev. Bodenmann retired and with his wife moved to Aberdeen, in 1951. Rev. Alfred Reineking became the next pastor and began in August of 1952. It was during his ministry that the Women's Guild was organized on December 27th, 1955 with 7 charter members. Their membership increased later and they have met the third Tuesday of the month. Rev. Reineking resigned in 1957, and accepted a call to Shaler, Iowa. From August '57 to May '58, Grace E. & R. Church was served by the Revs. Krampe from Fullerton, Werneche from Streeter and Hecht of Zeeland. Rev. Paul Otte was installed as pastor May '58. It was during his service to Grace that the present parsonage was built, being dedicated February 8, 1959. Rev. Otte resigned December of 1959, and was followed by Rev. Roemer. For the second time we must digress to the national scene. At Oberlin, Ohio on July 8, 1959 the representatives of "The Evangelical and Reformed Church" and the Congregational Christian Churches adopted a "Statement of Faith" for "The United Church of Christ" into which they were merging. So, it was in the beginning of Rev. Roemer's ministry at Wishek Grace Church, that this Church became officially – "The Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church of The United Churches of Christ." In this union—"the autonomy of the local church is inherent and each has the right to continue to operate in the way customary to it." It was during Rev. Roemer's Ministry from '60 – '68 that all debts on the Church property were liquidated, the formation of several committees with their respective duties spelled out, was accomplished. Perhaps the highlight of his ministry was in his supervision of the "Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration" – 1916—1966 on November 6, 1966. At this celebration of Anniversary, the Dr. R.H. Huenemann, President of the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities was the special speaker of the morning service, and the Rev. Walter Odenbach – then of Menno, S.D. was the afternoon speaker. Rev. Odenbach attended grade school in Wishek 1919-24. His father was an elder at the time of their residence here. In 1968, the Consistories of Grace E. & R. U.C.C. and New Kassel E. & R. U.C.C. of rural Zeeland voted to operate together as a yoked parish. Rev. Roemer resigned in 1968, accepting a call to a Church in Wisconsin. In March of 1969, Rev. Alvin J. House, pastor then of the First Reformed Church of Strassburg, and serving New Kassel as an outcharge, accepted a call to serve Grace and New Kassel Churches, and moved to Wishek. During his ministry, the Grace Church voted in their January meeting of 1971 to Remodel and Modernize the Church building including the basement. Klein Construction received the contract, the general contract. This work on the Grace Church was completed and all the financial obligations met. The Dedication of the Remodeled and Modernized Church was held May 7th, 1972. At the close of the last Annual Reports—the yoked parish of Grace and New Kassel had 137 members and their Church Schools a total enrollment of 57.

98. Wishek – Grace Presbyterian Church

- Location: Town of Wishek
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Grace Presbyterian Church \[3841\]](#)
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948 – Spirit of Wishek*, p.23-24. The organization of Grace Presbyterian Church was effected on Jan. 10, 1904, by Rev. A.W. Wright, Pastor-at-Large for the Bismarck Presbytery. Its organization was largely due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Guy. Mrs. Guy had organized and conducted a Sunday School previous to the above date and it was later incorporated as an adjunct of the church. The first members of the congregation were Mrs. E.F. McCargar, Mrs. A.P. Guy, Mrs. M.E. Pratt, Henry P. Baker, Alexander Thompson, Mrs. Emma Thompson, Christina Weixel and Charles St. John, with Mrs. St. John as ruling Elder and Mrs. E.F. McCargar, H.P. Baker and Alex. Thompson as Trustees. In March, 1905, Mr. S.C. Benson came to the congregation as a student Pastor, and served until about September 1st of that year. During his period of service, plans were made and funds were raised for the construction of a church building. On August 4, 1905, the contract was let to the Linton Construction Co. for the erection of a concrete block structure and the building was erected in

September and October of 1905. Dedication services were conducted by Rev. W.H. Hunter on January 28th, 1906. The church has functioned continuously since its organization. Its activities have been sporadic at times, due to the scarcity of ministers. The following is a list of pastors who have served the local church at various periods during its history: Rev. S.C. Benson, Rev. MacEchern, Rev. Palmer, Rev. N. Wood, Rev. Joseph Gaston, Rev. F.G. Westfall, Rev. Robert Johnson, Rev. C.E. Curtis, Rev. L.M.F. Jordan, Rev. H.C. Knock, Rev. J.W. Van Dyke, Rev. M.R. DeForest and Rev. J.H.K. Moffett. Rev. J. Way Huey, Pastor-at-Large, also called frequently and did much to keep the church functioning. A tribute is due to Mr. James T. Lowers who was elected as ruling Elder in 1910. He continued as such for thirty years until he moved to Illinois in 1940. The church is now being served by student Pastors from the Jamestown College. The Sunday School of this Church, organized by Mrs. A.P. Guy several years before the erection of the church building in 1905, was discontinued in 1943. In that year the congregation lost many of its families, who moved to other places and went into defense factories for war work. The Presbyterian Ladies Aid of the Grace Presbyterian Church was organized soon after the church was organized. The only one charter member living today is Mrs. Clara Bell Grant. It has continued through the years as a helpful auxiliary of the church and is still functioning, with a membership of nine.

99. Wishek – Methodist Church

- See Wishek – United Methodist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Methodist Church \[3732\]](#)

100. Wishek – Reformed Church

- Location: Town of Wishek
- See Wishek – Grace Evangelical & Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ; Wishek – United Church of Christ
- Church Records: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death, Cemetery 1902-1920. Kept in the safe of Wishek – United Church of Christ & also filed with Germans from Russia Heritage Society in Bismarck, ND [Information provided by Tammy Toepke-Floyd, P.O. Box 245 Wishek, ND 58495 June 2007]
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Reformed Church \[3839\]](#)
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948 – Spirit of Wishek*, p.22-23. For many years the Reformed Wishek Parish consisted of three congregations, Neudorf, Johannesthal and Wishek. The Neudorf congregation 12 miles southwest of Wishek, was organized in 1890. Most members came from the Kassel congregation near Zeeland where a rural parsonage was located until 1908. The Johannesthal congregation, 6 miles northwest of Wishek, was organized in 1905. The congregations first accepted a Constitution and started to build a church. On November 5th, 1916, the Wishek congregation was organized with seven families: Christian Krein, Sr., Christian F. Krein, Jacob C. Krein, John Ackermann, Henry Becker, Fred Sprenger and Karl Wacker. In 1917 the Wishek Church was built and dedicated on October 21 of that year. Until 1920 the three congregations were served from Eureka, Ashley, Kassel and Artas. The following pastors fulfilled organizing the work and clerical duties and preached the Gospel from 1890 until 1920: Frank Grether, U. Reue, W. Feige, H.W. Stienecker, W.H. Knierim, H. Niehaus, W. Landsiedel, Peter Bauer, Peter DeBuhr, F. Aigner and M. Nuss. The first resident pastor of the Wishek Parish was Rev. John Klundt, 1920-25. In 1940 began the merger proceedings of the two rural congregations Johannesthal and Neudorf with the Wishek congregation. These were completed in 1944. In Wishek the Ladies Aid Society was organized March 25, 1940. A church basement was built and improvements made in the parsonage. The Wishek congregation now has 138 confirmed and 35 unconfirmed members in 41 families, 60 children in the Sunday School. A Youth Fellowship Society has also been organized. When Rev. John Klundt terminated his pastoral services in 1925, Rev. A.A. Depping became his successor from 1926 until 1929. From 1930-39 the parish was served by Rev. Erich Kaempchen from Fullerton, N.D. Rev. John Bodenman began his services on October 1, 1939, and is still serving the congregation at this time.

101. Wishek – Saint John Congregational Church

- Location:
- See Wishek – United Church of Christ

- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Saint John Congregational Church \[3836\]](#)
- Community History – *Wishek, ND – Golden Jubilee Book 1898-1948*. The St. John's Congregational Church was organized February 27, 1912, under the leadership of Rev. Herman Seil, Pastor-at-Large, and Rev. Louis Ebertz, who acted as secretary at the meeting. Thirteen members met and organized the church. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Philip G. Mueller, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hilscher, Miss Mathilda Hilscher, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Sayler, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Hochhalter, Mr. and Mrs. John Junkert, Sr. Of these charter members three remain on the active membership list and honor roll, namely, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Sayler and Mrs. Jacob Hochhalter, Jr. The church was served from the Fredonia Parish, except from 1925 to 1931 when Rev. F. J. Wacker resided here. From 1932 to 1936 our church was again served from the Fredonia Parish, Rev. H. Hoersch being the pastor. Ministers who served this church are as follows: Rev. L. Ebertz, Rev. Zissler, Rev. T. H. Pfenning, Rev. P. Hedinger, Rev. John Meer, Rev. F. J. Wacker, Rev. H. Hoersch, Rev. H. E. Wilske, Rev. Edward Schmidt, and Rev. John Hoersch. Since the fall of 1937 the church has had its own pastor. During these years 700 children were christened, 219 received religious instruction and were confirmed, 38 weddings and 54 deaths were recorded. The church membership grew from 13 members to 169 members. Two ministers, Rev. Edward Sayler and Rev. Elmer Bettenhausen call this their home church, because they received their inspiration to enter the high calling here. These are some of the visible records, the invisible service cannot be calculated by mortal man. At the present time there are 157 members enrolled in Sunday School, a Ladies Aid of 23 members, 36 Christian Endeavor members, and an active choir. The church building which was erected in 1912, is still standing and serving its purpose after 36 years of service.

102. Wishek – Saint Luke's Lutheran Church (ELCA)

- Location: 107 Centennial St S
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Saint Luke's Lutheran-1 Church \[3833\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Saint Luke's Lutheran-2 Church \[3729\]](#)
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948 – Spirit of Wishek*, p.16-18. With the coming of the railroad to Wishek, many new families arrived to seek a new home. Among them were several families of the Lutheran faith. Because the number was small at first, these pioneers had to be content to practice their faith by themselves. This they did by diligent use of the Bible, their old German Hymnals, and occasionally a book of printed sermons which they had brought from their old homes in South Russia. Later several families began gathering in private homes on Sundays for a "Lese Gottesdienst," in other words a service, conducted by one of the men, in which hymns were sung, prayers spoken, and a sermon read from a prized sermon book. It wasn't long until itinerant Lutheran pastors, sent out by the Iowa Synod to look up such small isolated groups, found these people and began to give them an occasional service. In 1904 we find that Pastor A. Wenninger came from Ashley to conduct several services in private homes near Wishek. The early history of the congregation takes place northeast of Wishek. Services were held, alternately, in the school near the John S. Wolff farm and the school near the Jacob M. Frey farm. On January 1, 1905, St. Luke's congregation was organized. Pastor E. Moeckel, who had been serving the Zeeland parish, approximately 20 miles southwest of Wishek, was called as the first pastor. It is interesting to note, that his salary was set at \$125 per year. Because the parish was small, and because he had a family to support, we find that he took up a homestead north of Wishek and also taught one of the country schools. The first members were: Peter Pfeifle, John S. Wolff, George Wolff, Andreas Pfeifle and Philip P. Mueller. More families moved into the region, and hence the congregation assembled on September 1, 1907, to discuss the building of a church. The committee, which was to investigate the possibilities consisted of John S. Wolff, chairman, George Ziegenhagel, Jakob Helm and Jakob Perman. They were instructed to find a central location for the church building, as well as determine the costs and plans for such an undertaking. On May 15, 1908, the group reached the conclusion that services should be held in Frey's school house, and somewhere in the town of Wishek. Two months later eight families who lived in the vicinity of Frey's school house decided that it would be too far to come to Wishek for services, so the group divided into two congregations. The one group formed the Jakobus Church, and the other group concentrated their efforts on Wishek. From then on St. Lukes' carried on its work in Wishek. On January 3, 1909, Pastor Moeckel presented his resignation to the congregation, which was accepted. For several months the congregation had the services of Pastor w. Schroeder. He was succeeded by Pastor John Mayer. Under his guidance, the congregation continued its building plans, for they voted to build a church

at a cost that was not to exceed \$2,000.00. At this meeting, we find that 7 individuals pledged a sum of \$475.00 toward the building of the church. In September, the congregation was incorporated under the laws of the State of North Dakota. Pastor Mayer remained until 1911. Pastor John Willms was then called from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, to be the next pastor. During his time the first parsonage was acquired. By 1913 thirty-five families belonged to the congregation. The following summer, the group had grown to such an extent, that a new addition was added to the original church building. The original building was moved 6 feet south and 10 feet east before the addition was begun. The new addition measured 32 feet by 26 feet and cost the group \$3,081.00. The first electric lights were installed in 1917. During this same year, we find the group who had established a congregation near the Frey school disbanded and returned to the Wishek group. Pastor Willms, too, was the first pastor of the group to conduct an English service in St. Luke's church. This occurred on March 10, 1918. When Pastor Willms accepted a call to Monticello, Iowa, in the fall of 1918 the congregation had grown to 60 families. The longest period of ministry by any one Pastor begins in January of 1919 when Pastor A.F. Freymann was installed as pastor. Under his guidance, many of the old difficulties were ironed out. In 1926, it was found necessary to add still another addition to the church, this time a wing on the south side. This was done after original plans to erect a Sunday School building had been revoked by the congregation. In this same year, too, the parish made plans to build a new parsonage. This was done during the absence of Rev. Freymann, who was spending some time visiting his relatives in Germany. This house still serves as the parsonage today. On the building committee for the parsonage we find such names as: Peter Pfeifle, John S. Wolff, Gottlieb Nickisch, Jacob Frank, Adam Kuebler, Daniel Schnabel and Jacob Eichhorn. 1921 seems to have been a very active year for the group. On October 27 of this year the first organization had its beginning. It was the Ladies Aid. After 17 years of service, Pastor Freymann left the congregation to return to the Zeeland Parish, which he had served before coming to Wishek. This occurred on January 1, 1936. The congregation now had a membership of 100 families. Pastor Freymann was succeeded by Pastor G.C. Landgrebe in the spring of 1936. During his stay, regular English services were begun, and the Sunday School, too, introduced the English language into its program. An organization for young people, bearing the name "Luther League" was organized. When Pastor Landgrebe left the congregation in 1938 to become the full-time President of the Dakota District of the American Lutheran Church, the group had grown to 131 families. Several months later, Pastor L.R. Schulz arrived from Belle Fourche, S. Dak., to become the new shepherd of St. Luke's Congregation. Under his guidance, we find the group growing to the number of 165 families. When he accepted the call to Regent, N. Dak., the congregation experienced the shortage of pastors then existent. One year passed before another Pastor was secured. During this year of vacancy, credit must be given to the congregation and its church council for the manner in which they continued to work together. On June 11, 1944, Pastor T.F. Doyen of Wartburg Seminary was installed as the new Pastor. Since his coming regular Sunday Services have been conducted in both languages. The English Service is conducted at 9:00 a.m. and the German Service begins at 11:00 a.m. In 1947 two new organizations were begun, namely the Women's Missionary Society and the Brotherhood. At this writing the congregation has a membership of 835 baptized members, of which 600 are communicant members. There are 238 family units in the group. Present members of the Church Council are: D.D. Aipperspach, Henry A. Mueller, Philip Bender, Jacob Just, Fred Frank, M.G. Frank, Ferdinand Ketterling, Edwin Wolff, and Fred Thurn.. A new building program for the church has begun. A planning committee, consisting of George Wolff, Fred Thurn, August Eckman, C.P. Ritter, Philip Bender, and the pastor, has been working on a building plan to present to the congregation. As soon as conditions warrant, work will be begun on this project. St. Luke's congregation has enjoyed a steady growth until now. May the good Lord, who has guided her in the past, continue to bless her that she may bring forth much fruit.

- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.195-197. Neither time nor circumstances allowed for detailed chronologies as our pioneer fathers stood at the anvils and forges of history. The true story of St. Luke Lutheran must be related in terms of people. It includes the early settlers who arrived in the Wishek area and found good soil and unlimited opportunities. Occasional worship services were conducted by Pastor A. Wenninger of Ashley and traveling Lutheran missionaries. For the greater part, their spiritual needs were met at the lay-services held in the homes. With the arrival of more immigrants, regular services were held in school buildings near the John S. Wolf and Jacob Frey farms. Their personal convictions and their concern for the spiritual well-being of their children and the community came to focus on January 1, 1905. It can be regarded as the birth date of St. Luke Lutheran congregation. Messrs. Peter Pfeifle, John S. Wolf, George Wolf, Andreas Pfeifle and Philip P. Mueller are

recorded as founding fathers. The Rev. E. Moeckel, convener of the organizational meeting, was called as the first resident pastor. The stipulated salary was \$135 per annum. He supplemented his income by taking up a homestead three miles north of Wishek. By 1907 the possibility of building a church was considered. At the meeting, the congregation divided into two groups. A group of eight families residing northeast of Wishek organized as the St. James congregation. The larger group retained the original name, St. Luke, and relocated at Wishek. Worship services were conducted in the Wishek School for the next two years. Pastor W. Schroeder served as interim pastor following the resignation of the Rev. Moeckel in January, 1909. Under the guidance of Pastor John Mayer, the first church was built. Seven members pledged the sum of \$475 toward the church building which measured 24 feet by 36 feet in size. Pastor Mayer served the congregation until 1911. A graduate of Wartburg Seminary, the Rev. John Willms arrived on July 11, 1911. Soon after his arrival, the first parsonage was purchased. By 1913 the congregation had grown to 35 families. The church was enlarged in 1914 at a cost of \$3,081. Electric lights were installed in the church in 1917. Pastor Willms conducted the first English Service on March 10, 1918. During his pastorate the congregation became self-supporting. The congregation had grown to 60 families when Pastor Willms accepted another call in the fall of 1918. The Rev. A. Freymann has the distinction of serving the longest pastorate in the history of the congregation. He began his duties as pastor in January, 1919. By 1926, the church building had to be enlarged and a south wing was added. In the same year the parish built a new parsonage. When he tendered his resignation in January, 1936, the congregation numbered a hundred families. Pastor George C. Landgrebe became the next shepherd of the flock. In addition to his parish duties, Dr. Landgrebe also served as President of the Dakota District of the American Lutheran Church. English services were reintroduced and the English language was used in the Parish Education program. The pastor was instrumental in organizing the Luther League, a youth organization that is still functional. The congregation numbered 131 families in 1938 when Dr. Landgrebe resigned to become the first full-time President of the Dakota District, ALC. Later, in the year, Pastor L.R. Schulz assumed leadership of the congregation. During his five-year pastorate the congregation was able to increase its membership to 165 families. Following his resignation in 1943 the congregation remained vacant for almost a year. The Rev. T.F. Doyen, a graduate of Wartburg Seminary, was installed as pastor on June 11, 1944. The "language issue" was resolved by this time and regular worship services were held in both languages. The Women's Missionary Society and the Brotherhood were organized in 1947. The apparent need for bigger and better facilities resulted in the appointment of a Planning and Building Committee. Messrs. George Wolf, Fred Thurn, August Eckman, C.P. Ritter and Philip Bender were elected as members of the committee. A Church Building Fund was established. Pastor Doyen was given his release to accept another call on October 24, 1950. The membership roster listed 286 families. The figure includes the membership of the Salem congregation which merged with St. Luke in 1950. The Rev. John F. Mertz was called and installed as the next pastor. He assumed his duties on January 24, 1951. During the course of his ministry the congregation was able to construct a new church edifice with ample room for worship services and fine educational facilities. Completed at a cost of \$165,000, the building was dedicated on July 10, 1955. Pastor Mertz served the congregation until the summer of 1958. He was succeeded by the Rev. L.G. Sailer who arrived in September of 1958. A mortgage burning ceremony was held in 1960. It was a time of amalgamation and further growth. Aside from Salem congregation, mentioned heretofore, the Jehovah, St. James, Peace, St. Paul and St. John congregations merged with St. Luke. The congregation now consisted of over 380 families with a baptized membership of over 1,200 souls. A new parsonage was dedicated late in the fall of 1964. Pastor Sailer concluded his ministry shortly after Christmas of the same year. Eight native sons and a son of a former pastor have been ordained and are presently on the clergy roster of The American Lutheran Church. Candidate of Theology, D. Aipperspach, is presently serving his internship in preparation for the ministry. The clergymen are as follows: Dr. G. Unruh, F. Mueller, E. Ketterling, G. Mertz, C. Ottmar, M. Ketterling, A. Schmitt, E. Boschee, R. Rudolf and Candidate D. Aipperspach. The Rev. G.G. Neuberger has served as pastor of the congregation since April 1, 1965. He was assisted by the Rev. W. Borchardt, who served as visitation pastor from May, 1967, until July, 1970. During the past two years, Intern D. Wissmann and Intern M. Zamzow, students at Wartburg Theological Seminary, have been part of the ministerial staff of the congregation. At the note-burning ceremony on April 15, 1972, the congregation was able to liquidate the parsonage debt. The congregation finds itself in a sound financial condition. A budget in the amount of \$55, 625 was adopted at the last annual meeting. Due to economic and sociological factors the membership of the congregation has remained virtually static for the last decade. The membership roster currently lists 1,101 baptized, 822 confirmed and 365 families as members of the congregation. The congregation's pastor commented: "The life and history of St. Luke

Lutheran can be summed up in two words, GRACE and GROWTH. God's grace has been mighty upon us as a community and as a church. Gratefully we rededicate ourselves to the major purpose and function of St. Luke Lutheran: To broadcast God's Good News and Living Grace in Jesus Christ; to nourish, train and equip His Saints with Word and Sacrament that they might be alive to God's Glory."

- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.115-117. (The report is basically the same as the Diamond Jubilee report up to this point) The Rev. John F. Mertz was called and installed as the next pastor. He assumed his duties on January 24, 1951. During the course of his ministry, the congregation built a new church. Plans were made and adopted by the congregation May 25, 1952. The ground breaking service was held May 2, with the corner stone being laid September 12. The fiftieth anniversary and the dedication of the new church was held July 10, 1955. Hokum and Skaret of Fargo were the architects, with the builder being Henry Huether of Ashley, ND. Completed cost of the building was \$165,000. Pastor Mertz served the congregation until the summer of 1958. (Duplication continues up to this point) St. Luke called pastor Herman Heupel to serve as assistant pastor. He was installed in April of 1975 and served until November 20, 1977. Rev. Neuberger continued serving St. Luke until April 1979. The Rev. Richard Kraiger started his pastorate July 1, 1979. The year 1980 was the 75th anniversary year of St. Luke. Pastor Kraiger and the Jubilee committee spent much time and effort in making the anniversary an inspiring year for all. Pastor Kraiger concluded his ministry in 1983. The roster listed 740 confirmed, 868 baptized and 397 families. Pastor Gunter Kern came to St. Luke in 1983. The ramp on the north side of the church was completed making entry into the church more simple for those with physical disabilities. Intern David Wildermuth served the congregation in 1985. Rev. Kern resigned in 1986. The roster listed 705 confirmed, 883 baptized, and 385 families. Pastor Fred Scherle came to St. Luke in 1986. We understood at the outset that his stay would be a short one. Pastor Fred and his wife had spent thirty years or more in the New Guinea mission field. St. Luke members learned much about their experiences. Through their experiences we were able to appreciate and evaluate ourselves, and plan well for St. Luke's future. We gained much from them in their short stay and were happy for them as they moved on to their retirement in a nice little home in Iowa. The roster listed 700 confirmed, 842 baptized and 388 families. Pastor Richard Speidel came to St. Luke in 1988 and is still serving the congregation. During his pastorate the congregation has grown and changed. There have been additions—some budgeted and some donated. The church has a carillon which plays before Sunday services and week days at 7:00 P.M. The window replacement project was quite an accomplishment and appreciated by all. St. Luke also has a stained glass scene located above the altar. The church has an elevator system in the budget, but completion time is indefinite. The roster in 1997 lists 625 confirmed, 833 baptized and 405 families. Eight native sons and a daughter are ordained and presently listed on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The clergy are as follows: Dr. George Unruh, Fred Mueller, Eugene Ketterling, Christ Ottmar, Marvin Ketterling, Arthur Schmitt, Eugene Boschee, Russel Rudolf and Pamela Burlack Morolla. Two former pastor's sons are also on the roster: Gerald Mertz and Gerhardt Landgrebe. The writer quotes Pastor Speidel in our church directory: "We at St. Luke are the Communion of Saints whom God has called to harvest in His fields. God has given each of us talents and abilities. Please use the gifts God has given you and realize your need to proclaim the Gospel in Wishek and in the world."

103. Wishek – Saint Patrick's Catholic Church

- Location: 318 Centennial St. S
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Saint Patrick's CatholicChurch-1 \[3833\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Saint Patrick's CatholicChurch-2 \[3728\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek Saint Patrick's CatholicChurch-3 \[3745\]](#)
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Golden Jubilee 1898-1948 – Spirit of Wishek*, p.16. St. Patrick's Catholic Church's present structure was Wishek's first school house. The late John J. Doyle is credited with the purchase of this building. Through his efforts the building was remodeled and given to the congregation for a church. Credit is also given to Mr. John H. Wishek, Sr., who kindly donated two lots for this purpose. The church was dedicated in 1925. Previous to this, services were held in the school house, city hall or in the private homes of the members. Donations were made and collections obtained for the purpose of purchasing the pews, altar, linens and books needed for the services. Some of the earlier members of this mission were Mr. and Mrs. John J. Doyle and family, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Steil, Mrs.

Derrick, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Scheller and family, Mrs. H.E. Kusler and Children, Mrs. J.W. Ackerman, Frank Koehler, the Griffin Family and Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Nippolt. The mission's first priest was Rev. Father George Fritz of Napoleon, and the present priest is Rev. Father Vincent Wiederholt of St. Anthony's Parish, Napoleon, No. Dak. The present membership numbers 65.

- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.195. The present structure used as the church by St. Patrick's Catholic congregation was Wishek's first school house. Mr. John J. Doyle is credited with the purchase of the building. After remodeling, it was given to the congregation for use as a church. Mr. John H. Wishek, Sr. donated the two lots on which the church is presently located. St. Patrick's was dedicated in 1925. At the time, it was a mission to Napoleon. Father George Fritz was the first pastor. From 1937-41 the congregation was a mission to St. Boniface, Kintyre. Father Lawrence served as parish pastor. As a mission to St. Anthon's of Napoleon from 1941 until 1950, the congregation was served by Father Vincent Wiederholt and Father George Bolte. In 1950 it again became a mission to Napoleon with Father L. Veit as pastor. Since 1959, the congregation has been a mission to St. Boniface of Kintyre. Father John Bacevicius is the present pastor.
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.117. St. Patrick's Catholic Church's first structure was Wishek's first school house. John H. Wishek donated two lots and John J. Doyle bought the building that was moved and remodeled. Before this, Mass was held in the school house, city hall, or homes of church members. St. Patrick's Church was dedicated in 1925, at which time it was a mission of St. Philip's, Napoleon. Father George Fritz was the first pastor. From 1937 to 1941 the congregation was a mission of St. Boniface, Kintyre, with Father Lawrence Wiedmann, pastor. As a mission to St. Anthony's rural Napoleon from 1941 to 1950, the church was served by Father Vincent Weiderholt and Father George Bolte. In 1950 it again became a mission to St. Boniface, Kintyre, with Father John Bacevicius as pastor. The parish continued to grow and more room was needed. A new frame church was built over the expanded basement in 1973. The new church was dedicated in 1974. Father John faithfully served as pastor from 1959 until July 1990, when St. Patrick's became a mission of St. Andrew's, Zeeland, with Father Robert Skarohlid as pastor until 1992, when Father Frank Miller became pastor. Father John Lewandowski became pastor in July 1997. In December of 1990 the property adjacent to the church was purchased. The house is being used for CCD classrooms to accommodate the growing number of young people. The women of the church comprise the Altar Society, which takes care of buying the things needed for the church. The Youth Group has been very active with retreats, collecting food for the local food pantry and baking cookies for the elderly. They also had the privilege of seeing Pope John Paul II in Denver in 1993. In 1948 there were 65 members in our parish; we have grown to 240 members.

104. Wishek – United Church of Christ

- Location: 320 4th St S
- Parsonage: 308 4th St S
- See Wishek – Grace Evangelical & Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ
- Church Records: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death 1979-2007 kept in Church Safe [Information provided by Tammy Toepke-Floyd, P.O. Box 245 Wishek, ND 58495 June 2007]
- [Photo Available: Mc-Wishek United Church of Christ \[3745\]](#)
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.117-118. The United Church of Christ, a united and uniting church, was born in 1957 with the union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The United Church of Christ of Wishek follows the tradition of the united and uniting church with seven congregations in its history: the Kassel Reformed Church (begun in 1884), Neudorf Reformed Church (1890), Johannesthal Reformed Church (1898), New Kassel Reformed Church (1900), Worms Congregational Church (1908), St. John Congregational Church (1912), and Grace Reformed Church (1916). These churches have merged along the way to add to the rich faith traditions of this congregation. The final merger came in 1979 when the Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church, the New Kassel Reformed Church, and St. John Congregational Church joined to become the United Church of Christ in Wishek. In 1984, a Centennial celebration was held in honor of this united congregation's one hundred year history. The congregation of 214 members gathers each Sunday in the beautiful steeple-roofed sanctuary of the former St. John Congregational Church, which was dedicated in May 1958. The

bell from the Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church calls them to worship. A parsonage is located next door to the church and was completed in 1973. The congregation maintains six cemeteries of the predecessor churches. These cemeteries located southwest of Wishek are the New Kassel (located in the Frieda District), the Old Kassel (Rosenfield District), the Neudorf (Rosenfield District), and the Kassel Reformed (Blumenthal District) cemeteries. The cemeteries north of Wishek are the Worms (Salem District) and the Johannesthal (Johannesthal District) cemeteries. In the Johannesthal District is a cemetery containing unmarked grave. Church members erected a cross and named it the Pioneer Cemetery so that those buried there might not be forgotten. The following people from this congregation have been called to serve in the Christian ministry: the late Rev. Dr. Edward Saylor, Rev. Elmer Bettenhausen, Rev. Reinhold Klein, and Lorraine (Bauman) Schaffer. Pastors who have served the United Chkurch of Christ congregation are: Rev. Walter E. Odenbach (1979-80); Rev. William C. Moser (1981-86); Rev. Herbert Zimmerman (1986-1989); seminary student David Bahr (summer 1989); Rev. Tammy Toepke-Floyd and Rev. Marty Toepke-Floyd (1995 to present). The ministry of the church includes a Sunday School with an enrollment of 32; Vacation Bible School; Confirmation; a Youth Group of 18 members; Children's Youth and Adult Choirs. We have two women's groups: the Martha Aid (begun in 1936) with 11 active members, and the Friendship Circle (begun in 1992) with 17 members. Another women's group, the Lydia Society, was active in the congregation from 1948-1992. Throughout the year, our worship includes choir cantatas, Christian dramas, children's programs and youth-led services. Our congregation participates with the other churches in our community in ecumenical worship services, community choir, women's services and youth events as we continue to be a united and uniting church.

105. Wishek – United Methodist Church

- See Wishek – Zion United Methodist Church

106. Wishek – Zion Evangelical Church

- Location: Village of Wishek
- See Wishek – United Methodist Church

107. Wishek – Zion United Methodist Church

- Location: 305 Centennial St S
- Church Records as of 08 September 2007: Information provided by Pastor Marty. Copy of Records in German donated to Germans from Russia Heritage Society in Bismarck, ND
- See Wishek – Evangelical United Brethren Church
- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.204-205. The name, "United Methodist Church," is relatively new for us. Prior to 1968 the life and history of "The Evangelical Church." Mission work in the Wishek community dates back to 1905. At the time, Zion Congregation (Rural) and the Ebenezer Congregation were founded. After 1912, the Ebenezer congregation was commonly referred to as the "Gruebele Appointment." Pastors from Linton and Ashley ministered to the spiritual needs of the founding forefathers. Within the first decade several families settled near and in the growing town of Wishek. Worship services were held in the individual homes. As the interest grew and the numbers increased, worship services were held for some time in the public school. The need for another congregation became apparent to all concerned. A memo to the 1917 Annual Conference reported (in part): "We have nine families living in Wishek. This town is a growing freight division point on the Soo Railroad and serves as something of an Evangelical Center. More of our people will move there in time to come due to facilities offered and excellent water. A church is needed!" In response to the petition, another Zion congregation was organized at Wishek. The first church building was erected and dedicated in May, 1918. Mrs. & Mrs. John Becker, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Gabel, Mr. & Mrs. Christ Gohl, Miss Regina Gust, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Holwagner, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Kranzler, Mr. & Mrs. John Kurle, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Miller and Mr. & Mrs. John Stoller are listed as charter members of the congregation. The Rev. W.L. Martin served as the first resident pastor. Pastor Martin tendered his resignation due to health reasons in the fall of 1918. The Conference appointed a student pastor, the Rev. Alex Gehring, Melville, Sask., to minister to the needs of the group. The rural churches, Zion and Ebenezer, were detached from Ashley and added to the Wishek charge. The newly established preaching place at Napoleon was also added to the Wishek charge. A parsonage was built in 1919. Cost of construction at the Quarterly Conference in

January of 1920 was reported at \$3,002. Renovations in the amount of \$1,117 were made in 1949. The sanctuary and the basement were enlarged in 1950 at a cost of \$10,631. Dedication services were conducted on November 29, 1950 by Supt. J.W. Schindler. Further improvements were made in the autumn months of 1968 with the addition of a 20x24 foyer. With the help of donated labor the cost of the greatly needed improvement was kept at a modest \$6,500 exclusive of the \$1,550 expended on other items in the church and parsonage. Further improvements were made in 1972 when the church basement was remodeled at a cost of \$3,465, exclusive of donated labor. We are grateful to these men for proclaiming the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ and for the guidance and spiritual assistance given us over the years. We rejoice in and are grateful for the gospel ministry in our midst that has provided guidance in the Sunday School teaching, Confirmation Classes, Youth Organizations and Women's Organizations. Only eternity can relate the real success of this mission. We pause in gratitude to Almighty God for the rich heritage provided and left by our Pioneers. The following ministerial appointments were made by the Conference through the years: 1917—W.L. Martin; 1919—Alex. Gehring; 1923—R. Bloedau; 1924—Wm. Storkman; 1926—C.E. Bach; 1929—E.K. Heimer; 1933—Karl Hirning; 1938—A.H. Ermel; 1947—Gideon Eberhardt; 1949—E.K. Heimer; 1959—C.W. Ketterling; 1962—W.E. Janetzki; 1970—Edward Parker

- Community History: *Wishek, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.118-119. The United Methodist church is the result of a number of reorganizations. It's only since 1968 that the church functions as the United Methodist Church. Prior to that it was known as the Evangelical United Brethren Church due to the merger of the Evangelical and the United Brethren Churches. The Evangelical Churches mission began in 1905 Zion the Zion (rural) and Ebenezer congregations were founded south of Wishek, as an extension of the Ashley Mission. At that time pastors from Linton and Ashley ministered to the spiritual needs of the founding father. As more families settled in the Wishek area, worship services were held in individual homes as friends and neighbors felt a deep need for religious gatherings, under the leadership of Rev. E.C. Oeder and Rev. Dan Bittner. When it became apparent that homes could no longer accommodate the growing number of parishioners, worship services were then held in the public school. A preaching place was established in 1916 under the leadership of Rev. C.A. Bremer, presiding elder of the ND Evangelical Conference. In 1917 the Conference established the Wishek Mission and authorized building a church. The property was donated by Wishek and Co. A church building was erected and dedicated in May 1918, also know(n) as Zion (city) congregation. Charter members of this congregation were Mr. and Mrs. John Becker, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gabel, Mr. and Mrs. Christ Gohl, Miss Regina Gust, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Halwagner, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kranzler, Mr. and Mrs. John Kurle, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Miller and Mr. and Mrs. John Stoller. The Rev. W.L. Martin served as the first resident pastor. Ill health caused him to resign in the fall of 1918 and Rev. Alex Gehring, a student pastor, from Melville, Saskatchewan, Canada was appointed as minister. The Zion Country Church was built in 1913 west of Wishek with Rev. A.J. Ermel of Linton, ND serving as minister. The parcel of land (the NE quarter of the NE quarter 15-131-73) on which the church was built was purchased from Gottlieb and Christina Voegle. Upon dissolution, the building was sold to Ashley Salem Congregation in 1946. It was during Rev. Gerhring's ministry (1921) that the Ebenezer church was built eleven miles southwest of Wishek on land donated by Christian and Rosina Gruebele. The Ebenezer Church was discontinued by action of the Annual Conference in May, 1964. In December 1964 the five resident families disbanded without responsibility and transferred to the Zion Church in Wishek. When Zion Church in Wishek was built in 1918, the rural church, Zion, referred to as the "Vossler" appointment, and Ebenezer, referred to as the "Gruebele" appointment, were detached from Ashley and added to the Wishek charge. The newly established preaching place at Napoleon was also added to the Wishek Charge during Rev. Martin's pastorate. In 1933, Napoleon and Wishek were petitioned as two stations. It was in the year of 1919 during Rev. Alex Gehring's pastorate that a 28' x 28' parsonage with full basement was built next to the church. Cost of construction, as reported to the Conference in 1920 was \$3002. Renovations were made in 1949 amounting to \$1117, including an electric kitchen range. The sanctuary and the basement were enlarged in 1950 at a cost of \$10,631. Dedication services were conducted on November 29, 1950 by Supt. J.W. Schindler. Eighteen years later a 20' x 24' foyer was added to the church. With the help of donated labor, the cost was kept at a modest \$6500. Further improvements were made in 1972 when the church basement was remodeled at a cost of \$3465, exclusive of donated labor. Other improvements at the church and parsonage were \$1550. In 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist Church and became the United Methodist Church. The uniting conference was held June 6 and 7, 1969, at Jamestown, ND with Bishop Armstrong.

The first session of the ND Conference of the United Methodist Church was held in Bismarck, ND May 14-17, 1969. In 1975 the parsonage was sold for \$1100.00 and moved to another location to allow for the construction of a new parsonage. This parsonage was completed the following year at a cost of \$50,000 and occupied in May 1976 by the parsonage family, Rev. Edward and Agnes Parker, David, Timothy and Mark. The contractor was Schatzie Construction of Napoleon. The parsonage consecration service and open house was held on May 23, 1976 with Rev. Walter Elmer, District Superintendent, present. The building committee consisted of Wilbur O. Nies, chairman; R.E. Bader; Ronald Gall; Ben Herr; Art Kautz; Irene Kautz; Mildred Nies; Christina Wagner Boschee; Agnes Parker and Rev. Edward Parker. The congregation was pleased to be able to pay the mortgage on the parsonage in full on April 17, 1980, and praised God at the Mortgage Burning Service on September 28, 1980 with District Superintendent, James Pomeroy, present. In August 1988 a Cemetery fund was established to maintain the two rural cemeteries, Zion and Ebenezer. Serving on the committee were Rubin V. Boschee, Rosina Herr and Edwin Bauer. Each cemetery was enclosed by fencing donated by Rubin V. Boschee at Ebenezer and Gideon Rueb at the Zion Cemetery. In more recent years the congregation has continued to maintain and improve their house of worship by adding pew cushions in 1982; a copier in 1983, replaced in 1994; an Allen organ in 1992; choir robes in 1994 and air conditioning at the parsonage in 1988. Lehr and Wishek became a charge during the pastorate of Rev. W.E. Janetski in June 1966 and continued as a two-point charge until 1995 when the Salem United Methodist Church of Napoleon, ND joined the parish under the pastorate of Keith A. Rice. Rev. Penny Eberhardt is serving as the Central District Superintendent of the Dakotas United Methodist Conference since 1995. The North Dakota and South Dakota United Methodist conferences merged in 1994, renaming themselves as Dakota United Methodist Conference. The first annual conference was held at Ramkota Inn, Aberdeen, SD on June 1-5, 1994 with Bishop William Lewis presiding. Approximately 700 clergy, delegates and visitors were in attendance. Having served eight years, Bishop Lewis was replaced on September 1, 1996 by Rev. Michael Coyner to serve as Bishop of the Dakotas Conference. Some of the officers of the church in 1996 are: Lay Leader-Melvin Fetzer; Administrative Board Chairman-Clyde Kramer; Administrative Board Vice Chairman-Robert Zimmerman; Financial Secretary-Loretta Gall; Treasurer-Verna Zimmerman; Finance Committee Chairman-Melvin Fetzer; Recording Secretary-Mildred Kautz; Pastor-Parish Relations Chairman-Pat Auch; Children's Coordinator-Laverna Nies and Loretta Gall. The trustees are Art Bader, Ray Bader and Ferdinand Wiest. Communion Stewards are Luella Woehl and Amanda Fetzer. Church pianists and organists are Miriam Fetzer, Cindy Kramer, Cheryl Dewald and Viola Kautz. Serving as ushers are Brian Nies, Gary Goebel, Ross Kramer, Justin Kramer, Roland Rasch, Don Woehl, Lee Auch, Lisa Auch, Beau Mundt and Kris Mundt. Present janitors are Ferdinand and Edna Wiest. The current membership is 107. The following ministerial appointments were made by the Conference through the years: 1917-W.L. Martin; 1919-Alex Gehring; 1923-R. Bloedua; 1924-Wm. Storkman; 1926-C.E. Bach; 1929-E.K. Heimer; 1933-Karl Hirning; 1938-A.J. Ermel; 1947-Gideon Eberhardt; 1949-E.K. Heimer; 1959-C.W. Ketterling; 1962-W.E. Janetzki; 1970-Edward B. Parker; 1990-Chet Cataldo; 1993-Dale Hughes-Hargraves; 1994-Keith A. Rice. Today we pause to remember, rejoice and look boldly into the future.

108. Wittenberg Congregation

- Location: [unsure whether Dickey or McIntosh County]
- See Ashley – Emmanuel United Methodist Church

109. Worms Reformed Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Salem Township, NE ¼ of NW ¼ Sec 10-T132-R72
- See Wishek – United Church of Christ

110. Zeeland – German Reformed Church

- See Zeeland – Saint John's Reformed Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Zeeland German Reformed Church \[3900\]](#)

111. Zeeland – Saint Andrew's Catholic Church

- Location: 305 1st Ave SE Zeeland, ND
- See Saint David's Catholic Church

- [Photo Available: Mc-Zeeland Saint Andrew's Catholic Church-1 \[3954\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Zeeland Saint Andrew's Catholic Church-2 \[3898\]](#)
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Golden Jubilee 1902-1952*, p.17. The vicinity of Zeeland received visits from pioneer Benedictine Missionaries in the eighties, Holy Mass being celebrated in private Catholic homes. Most of the time the German Russian people who settled the village of Zeeland attended Mass at St. John's parish five miles north of Zeeland. There had been a small church at St. John's as early as 1885. The first church was erected at St. Andrew's in Zeeland in 1905 by Father Stephan Stenger O.S.B. In 1908 Father Lanbolt was sent by Bishop Shanley as the first priest in Zeeland proper. He was succeeded by Fathers Junker and Decker, the latter finally moving out to St. John's parish. This meant that St. Andrew's resumed its former status as a mission to St. John's but only for a short time. The resident pastors in St. Andrew's at Zeeland since the year 1920 have been Fathers Smoley, Schmitt, Greiner, who was here for sixteen years, and Fuetscher, the present pastor, who came here in 1939. There have been several vocations to religion from St. Andrew's parish: Sisters Michaline Schatz O.S.B., Mary Rosa Schatz O.S.F., and Sisters Antoinette and Jeaneane Klein. In the summer of 1949 this church was remodeled at a cost of approximately \$17,000.00, most of the work donated by the men of the parish. The church is today a modest edifice and large enough to accommodate the growing congregation. In 1906 the rectory was built and was at that time the most imposing and modern house in town. This building has been kept in good repair and is still one of the more modern homes.
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1902-1977*, p.20-21. The Benedictine Missionaries visited the Zeeland area in the Eighties, celebrating Holy Mass in private Catholic homes. There being a small church at St. John's, five miles north of Zeeland, as early as 1885, many of the German-Russian people who had settled in Zeeland worshiped at St. John's. Father Stephan Stenger O.S.B. erected the first church at St. Andrew's in Zeeland in 1905 Bishop Shanley sent Father Lanbolt in 1908 to be the first priest in Zeeland proper, followed by Fathers Junker and Decker. Father Decker moved to St. John's parish later, making St. Andrew's a mission to St. John's parish again for a short time. Since 1920, the resident pastors in St. Andrew's were: Fathers Smoley, Schmitt, Greiner, who served St. Andrew's for sixteen yours, and Father Fuetscher, who served from 1939 until his death in 1953. Then followed Father Mental, who served the parish until 1970, and Father Gross, 1970 to 1972. St. John's merged with St. Andrew's July 1, 1971. Father Patijho, the present pastor, also served St. David's parish, Ashley. The Christian Mothers Society was organized when Father Greiner was pastor. The present officers are: Mrs. David Salwei, President; Mrs. John B. Engelhart, Vice-President; Mrs. Peter Weigel, Secretary; and Mrs. Syl Meier, Treasurer. This organization is divided into four groups. The leaders of each group are Mrs. John Salwei, Mrs. Don Salwei, Mrs. Wm. Aberle, and Mrs. Eugene Schatz. The K.C.'s organized in 1943, and belong to Council 5298 of St. Mary's, Hague, North Dakota. A parish hall was built in 1955. It was moved to a new location between the church and the parish house. In July, 1976, an 18 foot cross was erected three miles north of Zeeland as a Bicentennial project. Between the two parishes there are several vocations to religion: Sisters Michaline Schatz, Mary Rose Schatz, Edgar Feist, Emanuel Feist, Jamella Meier, Doretta Meier, Richarda Nolz and Father Cyprian, son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Meier. In 1949, the church was remodeled. Most of the work was donated by the people of the parish. The cost was around \$17,000.00. It is now large enough to accommodate the present congregation. The rectory was built in 1906 and has been kept in good repair and is still one of the most imposing and modern houses in town.
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Centennial 1902-2002*, p.7. The Benedictine Missionaries visited the Zeeland area in the 1880's, celebrating Holy Mass in private homes. There was a small church at St. John's, five miles north of Zeeland, as early as 1885. Many of the German-Russians, who had settled in Zeeland, worshiped there. Father Stephan Stenger O.S.B. erected the first church at St. Andrew's in Zeeland in 1905. Bishop Shanley sent Father Lanbolt in 1908, to be the first priest in Zeeland, followed by Fathers Junker and Decker. Father Decker moved to St. John's parish later, making St. Andrew's a mission of St. John's parish again, for a short time. Since 1920, the resident pastors in St. Andrew's were Fathers Smoley, Schmitt, Greiner and Father Fuetscher, who served from 1939 until his death in 1953. Father Mental then served until 1970, and Father Gross from 1970 to 1972. St. John's merged with St. Andrew's on July 1, 1971. Father Patejko, who came 1972-1979, also served St. David's Catholic Church in Ashley. Father Schill served from 1979 to 1990, followed by Father Skarohlid. During Father Skarohlid's pastorate, a new church was constructed and completed in 1992. Beginning in 1990, St. Patrick's Catholic Church in

Wishek, also became a mission of St. Andrew's. Father Miller served St. Andrew's in 1992-1997, during which time the Bell Tower project was started; it was completed in 1998. Father John Lewindowski, the present pastor of St. Andrew's, came to serve in 1997. He was born in Trenton, New Jersey on December 24, 1941. Father John studied at Holy Apostle Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut; he was ordained on July 1, 1996 in Fargo, ND by Bishop James Sullivan. On July 1, 2000, St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Wishek discontinued being a mission of St. Andrew's. The Knights of Columbus organized in 1943, and belong to Council 5298 of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Hague, ND. The Christian Mothers Society was organized when Father Greiner was pastor. The object of the Christian Mothers Society, is the Christian home education of children by truly Christian mothers. The present Christian Mothers officers are: President Brenda Weigel, Vice President Donna Aberle, Secretary Joyce Scherr and Treasurer Brenda Nolz. St. Andrew's Catholic Church parish board members are Tony Schaffner Jr., Frank Meier, Eugene Nolz, Jr., and Tom Scherr.

112. Zeeland – Saint John's Reformed Church

- Location: Village of Zeeland
- See Zeeland – German Reformed Church
- [Photo Available: Mc-Zeeland Saint John's Reformed Church-1 \[3950\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Zeeland Saint John's Reformed Church-2 \[3781\]](#)
- Source: Mr. Herbert Wiest, 2890 89th St. SE, Zeeland, ND 58581 (submitted Dec 2009). The Zeeland Charge from nearly its beginning consisted of four churches: The New Kassel Church, 11 miles north of Zeeland; The Kassel Church, northeast of Zeeland; The Rohrbach Church, at Greenway and the St. John's Church, in Zeeland, North Dakota. The Rev. H.W. Stienecker is credited with the organizing of the three first mentioned churches—Kassel, New Kassel and Rohrbach. These three churches were organized in the late 1800's. The Rev. Peter Bauer is credited with the organizing of the St. John's Church in Zeeland within the year of 1905. In the early years of existence the Zeeland Charge was served only on special occasions. Pastors traveling through the area preached once or twice at each church, baptized whoever was to be baptized, distributed the Lord's Supper and went on doing the same in another settlement. Such was the case with pastors Michel Nuss and Ulich Zogg. The Charge had resident pastors from November of 1909 till October 1, 1943. The Pastors serving in that period of time were Rev. C.G. Zipf, C.T. Nuss, Peter Bauer, William Schmidt and Kasper Krueger. The Charge was vacant and pastors Herman A. Hartmann and H.T. Vriesen served during the summer months of 1944 and 1945 respectively. Rev. John Bodenmann served the vacancy from May 1, 1946 till June 1, 1950 when Rev. Emil Roth became resident pastor of the Charge. Rev. Roth was pastor in the Charge till May of 1954 and Rev. A.J. Neuhaus from June 24, 1955 till the present time. The Kassel Church, which was commonly known as the "Wiest Church," continued in its existence till 1952, when most of its members having transferred their membership to the Wishek Church, the congregation was dissolved.
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Golden Jubilee 1902-1952*, p.12-13. No town is complete without churches. So we are one of these. The real history of any church group is closely woven about three outstanding characters: the pioneer, his faithful wife, and the pioneering pastor. Hardly had any of our pioneers settled in a new location when the church also began to take shape. These pioneers brought their religion with them. The Bible was their most cherished possession. No amount of hardship and suffering could discourage the pioneers nor the pastors in their labors of love in building the kingdom of God. Those early pioneers made church history. We, their children, having inherited the fruits of their labor, should give full honor and appreciation to their noble efforts under most trying circumstances. It is in this spirit we dedicate this brief history of our congregation to the memory of those generations who have gone before us, and any present as well as future generations will find in their history a source of inspiration to carry forward the great task of building the walls of their church organization in the community to the glory of God. This congregation was founded in 1905 when a group of families organized a congregation known as the St. John's Reformed Church of Zeeland. According to available records the following list of names contributed money toward the building of the present church: Michael Berreth, Peter Schott, Philip Berreth, Adolph Boschee, Gottlieb Link, Johann Weber, George Berreth, Andrew Munsch, Jacob Beck, Peter Berreth, Adam Berreth, Michael Henne, Jacob Kranzler, Jacob Trautmann, Christian G. Link, Gottlieb Berreth, Heinrich Haffner, Wendolin Deibert, Christian Link, Johannes Pfeifer, Bernhardt Kauk,

Rudolph Schott, Gottlieb Krauz, and the North Star Lumber Company. In 1906 the church building was built at an approximate cost of \$900.00. Lots 5-6, Block 9 on which the church is located were obtained from the Milwaukee Land Company's first addition in the town of Zeeland for \$67.50, on July 7th, 1906. A certificate of corporate existence from the state of North Dakota, was issued the congregation on February 10th, 1910, under the hand and seal of Alfred Blaisdell, Secretary of State. Trustees at that time were: Gottlieb Link, Christian Link, and John P. Schott who filed declaration of Articles of Incorporation to Evangelical Reformed St. John's Congregation of Zeeland. In 1908 when the need for a parsonage was felt, plans were made and the structure was erected the same year through the cooperation of the members of the congregation. How, or by whom, this congregation had been served up until 1909 cannot here be stated as the records do not seem to contain any details as to this part of its history. From 1909 until the present, the following pastors served: Rev. C.G. Zipf, 1909-1910; Rev. C.F. Nuss, 1911-1915; Rev. Peter Bauer, 1915-1926; Rev. Wilhelm Schmidt, 1926-1934; Rev. K. Krueger, 1936-1943, when there was a vacancy until 1950. During the summer of 1944, Student H.A. Hartmann served, and the summer and fall of 1945, Rev. H.T. Vriesen. From May, 1946, until June, 1950, Rev. John Bodenmann of Wishek served as supply pastor. Since June, 1950, the congregation again has a regular pastor in the person of Rev. Emil Roth, who came here from Iowa. Affiliated with this charge is also the New Kassel Reformed Congregation, north of Zeeland. We have only touched upon the past and present history of this congregation. What about the future? God has richly blest in the past. This year of Jubilee is a gift of His boundless love. His abiding presence and never failing help will bless our talents and efforts, and help us to faithfully build Christ's Kingdom.

- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1902-1977*, p.18. No town is complete without churches. We are one of these. The real history of any church group is closely woven around three outstanding characters: the pioneer, his faithful wife, and the pioneering pastor. Hardly had any of our pioneers settled in a new location, when the church also began to take shape. These pioneers brought their religion with them. The Bible was their most cherished possession. No amount of hardship and suffering could discourage the pioneers nor the pastor in their labors of love in building the Kingdom of God. Those early pioneers made church history. We, their children having inherited the fruits of their labor, should give full honor and appreciation to their noble efforts under most trying circumstances. It is in this spirit we dedicate this brief history of our congregation to the memory of those generations who have gone before us. Any present, as well as future generations, will find in their history a source of inspiration to carry forward the great task of building the walls of their church organization in the community to the glory of God. St. John's Reformed Church was founded in 1905, when a group of pioneer families organized a congregation. The following people contributed money toward the building of the present structure: Michael Berreth, Peter Schott, Philip Berreth, Adolph Boschee, Gottlieb Link, Johann Weber, George Berreth, Andrew Munsch, Jacob Beck, Peter Berreth, Adam Berreth, Michael Henne, Jacob Kranzler, Jacob Trautmann, Christian G. Link, Gottlieb Berreth, Heinrich Haffner, Wendolin Deibert, Christian Link, Johannes Pfeifer, Bernhardt Kauk, Rudolph Schott, Gottlieb Krauz, and the North Star Lumber Company. In 1906, the church building was built at an approximate cost of \$900.00. Lots 5-6, Block 9, on which the church is located, were obtained from the Milwaukee Land Company's first addition to the town of Zeeland for \$67.50, on July 7th, 1906. Trustees at the time were Gottlieb Link, Christian Link and John P. Schott. In 1908, a parsonage was built which served as living quarters for the ministering pastors until 1959, when the building was dismantled and a new parsonage was built. The Rev. H.W. Stienacher organized the Reformed churches in this area in the late 1800's. The Rev. Peter Bauer organized St. John's Reformed church in 1905. In the early years of existence of the Zeeland charge, pastors traveling through the area preached once or twice at each church, baptized, distributed the Lord's Supper, and went on doing the same in another settlement. Such was the case with Pastors Nuss and Ulich Zogg. From November of 1909 until October 1, 1943, the charge had resident pastors. The pastors serving during that time were: Rev. G.G. Zipf, C.T. Nuss, Peter Bauer, William Schmidt, and Kaspar Krueger. During the summer of 1944, Herman A. Hartman served, and in the summer and fall of 1945, Rev. H.T. Vriesen was pastor. Rev. John Bodeman served from 1946-1950, when Rev. Emil Roth became resident pastor (1950-1954). He was followed by: Rev. A.H. Neuhaus, 1955-1957; Rev. Bryce Hecht, 1958-1962; Rev. Armin Roemer, supply pastor, 1962-1964; and Rev. Frank Raef, 1964-1966. The membership of this congregation, having been reduced due to death and moving away, voted to join the Odessa Charge of the Reformed Church in the U.S., Artas, South Dakota, in 1969. Rev. Robert Grossman served the St. John's Reformed Church from 1969 to 1975. Since then Steven Work has served the charge.

113. Zeeland – Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

- Location: two miles west and one mile south of Zeeland
- [Photo Available: Mc-Zeeland Zion Lutheran Church 1910 \[6146\]](#)
- See Zeeland – Zion Lutheran Church (WELS)

114. Zeeland – Zion Lutheran Church (WELS)

- Location: W 4th St & County Road 55
- [Photo Available: Mc-Zeeland Zion Lutheran Church 1910 \[6146\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Zeeland Zion Lutheran Church 1915 \[6147\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Zeeland Zion Lutheran Church 1967 \[3947\]](#)
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Golden Jubilee 1902-1952*, p.14-15. Over seventy years ago a Lutheran missionary, Pastor C. Boettcher, of Marshall, Minnesota, began canvassing the area in South Dakota from Elkton northward to Watertown and beyond. He traveled these many miles by horse and buggy, and in the sod huts of the settlers on the vast prairies, Pastor Boettcher conducted the first Lutheran services in the Dakotas. Many of the congregations thus organized are still in existence today; others have merged with neighboring congregations. The rapid expansion of the work in these territory made necessary the calling of more missionaries. Expansion to the west began very soon. At first the home of the pastors had been in Germantown, but soon a man by the name of Lahme, also a missionary, had moved seventy miles westward to Redfield. By 1890 he had already been active in the neighborhood of what is today the city of Zeeland, North Dakota. From the 1880's until the beginning of the first World War great numbers of immigrants were moving into the Dakotas from South Russia and the Balkans. The missionaries of the Lutheran Church followed these groups westward in order to serve them with the Gospel of Christ. Pastor Lehme, who was the first to do mission work for the Lutheran Church in the vicinity of Zeeland, organized a large parish which covered three counties in the present North and South Dakota. Pastors who lived in Mound City, South Dakota, served the Zeeland congregation and the other congregations in this parish for a number of years. At the present time, and for many years past, Zion Lutheran Church has been located in the city of Zeeland, but it was not always in town. Originally this congregation gathered to worship in a church building about two miles west and one mile south of Zeeland. Before long two congregations were formed. One of these congregations, Friedens (Peace Lutheran Church, now holds services in their church building eight miles west of Zeeland. The other congregation of this parish is Zion Lutheran. For several years this congregation gathered to worship in what is now used as a school building. The pastors resided in the present Henry Pfeifer residence. The need for a new church building became apparent, however, and in 1915 the present structure was erected. A large number of people were present for the dedication of the new church. The old building was moved to its present position behind the new church and is now used as a school building. In the late 1920's the present parsonage was built. It stands in the approximate location of the original church. Some of the first pastors to serve this parish were pastors Engel, Pieper, and Adaschek. The latter was here at the turn of the century and then pastors Abelmann, Louis, and Keturakat followed in the succeeding years. Pastor Keturakat was here in the years following 1910. He was succeeded by pastors Neumann, Kolander, Baer, Bade, and Hermann. The present parsonage was built during the time that Pastor Baer was serving the parish (1925 to 1938). After Pastor Hermann received a call to another congregation, Pastor Paul Albrecht of Bowdle, South Dakota, served the Zion-Friedens parish for some months until the present pastor, P. Janke, was called. He has served the parish since August, 1950.
- Community History: *Zeeland, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1902-1977*, p.19. The roots of Zion Congregation of Zeeland, North Dakota, go back to the 1880's when Pastor Christian Boettcher of Marshall, Minn., began canvassing the area from Elkton and Menno, South Dakota, northward to Watertown and westward to Rapid City, South Dakota. The rapid expansion of the work in this territory made necessary the calling of more missionaries. Their means of travel was on horse back and by horse and buggy, and in the sod huts of the settlers on the vast prairies, the first Lutheran services in the Dakota's were conducted. Pastor Lahme, from Redfield, South Dakota, established the Emmanuel Lutheran Church north of the South Dakota border from Artas, South Dakota, and the Friedens church seven miles west of Zeeland. In 1915, When the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church was built in Zeeland, it was served by pastors in the following order: Engel,

Pieper and Adaschek. In succeeding years were: Abelmann, Louis and Keturaket, Neumann, Kolander, Baer, Bade and Herrmann. The present parsonage was built during the time that Pastor Samuel Baer was serving the parish (1925-1938). Pastors after Herrmann were Philip Janke, Ernest Klaszus, Waldemar Loescher, Arnold Lemke, Donald Forss, and Robert Weimer, who has served since February, 1972. The 1915 church was sold and dismantled after a new brick building was erected in 1967, when Rev. Arnold Lemke was pastor. The saddest tragedy in Zeeland was the death of Wade Zick, the organist and choir director, and his wife Ellen, July 11, 1976. There is an active Sunday School with five regular teachers, Ladies Aid, Young People's Groups, and a choir that sing every Sunday.

- Church History: *Zeeland, ND – Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church – 75th Anniversary 1910-1985.*
Congregational Developments: On October 16, 1910, the following persons: Andrew Ellwein, Fred Ellwein, Henry Frecking, Henry Hafner, Jacob Huber, Jacob Mindt, John R. Pfeifer, and Jacob Schiermeister, together with the Rev. W.F. Sauer of Mound City, met at the Fred Ellwein home in Zeeland to consider the establishment of a Lutheran congregation. At this meeting it was proposed to take steps to organize a congregation, obtain property on the south side of the city of Zeeland, and erect a school house to serve as a place of worship and as a Lutheran school. On October 24, 1910, the above group met again and officially organized and incorporated as a congregation. The congregation received the name – Die Ev. Lutherische Zions-Gemeinde zu Zeeland, McIntosh County, North Dakota (Zion Ev. Lutheran Church of Zeeland, McIntosh County, North Dakota.) Pastor W.F. Sauer of Mound City served this new congregation which was incorporated with Fred Ellwein, Henry Hafner and Jacob Schiermeister as trustees. The newly organized Zion congregation formed a parish with Immanuel Lutheran Church, located three miles southwest of Zeeland; and Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church of Hague, located eight miles southwest of Zeeland. This tri-parish was served until 1912 by Rev. W.F. Sauer. Due to the rapid growth of the congregations, Rev. Martin Keturakat was called and served as the first resident pastor. Many changes have taken place during the seventy-five years of Zion's history. For several years the congregation gathered to worship in the Sunday School building. As the congregation grew so did the need for a new place of worship. On April 5, 1915, under the leadership of Rev. Martin Keturakat, the congregation resolved to build a new church building. A new church building was dedicated on December 15, 1915. This church building was later refurnished and redecorated in 1960 for the 50th anniversary of the congregation. In 1965 a study committee was established to consider the need for new facilities. Its recommendation to build a new church and Christian education – fellowship unit was voted on and overwhelmingly approved by the members of Zion on January 9, 1966. On April 9, 1967, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new structure. In the same year, on October 22, the present church building was dedicated to the glory of God. In 1916 the congregation became a member of the Minnesota Synod. In 1917, when the Minnesota Synod became a part of the Wisconsin Synod, Zion congregation was also accepted into the membership of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. In 1961, due to the manpower shortage of the Wisconsin Synod, Zion Ev. Lutheran Church joined together with St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church of Mound City, South Dakota, to form a dual parish served by one pastor. In the year 1919, Immanuel Lutheran Church merged with Zion congregation. In 1958, after having discontinued services for several years, Friedens Lutheran Church of Hague dissolved and joined Zion congregation in forming a one congregation parish. A new constitution for the one congregation parish was adopted in 1958. This constitution was later revised and brought up to date in 1979. During the past seventy-five years, the following pastors also served Zion congregation as vacancy pastors during the times that the congregation was without a resident pastor: Rev. A. Blauert of Mound City, SD; Prof. K.G. Sievert of Mobridge, SD; Rev. P.G. Albrecht of Bowdle, SD; Rev. E.O. Schulz, Rev. Daniel M. Buske, Rev. Nathan J. Engel, and Rev. Arthur P.C. Kell, all from Hazelton, ND. The present congregation numbers: 189 baptized members, 157 communicant members and 76 voting members. Zion Ladies Aid was organized in 1958. The present officers include: Mrs. Duane (Joyce) Kilber, president; Mrs. Elmer (Alice) Woehlhoff, vice president; Mrs. Edmond (Lorraine) Reiner, secretary; and Mrs. Elmer (Lillian) Rutschke, treasurer. For many years Zion congregation has enjoyed the talents of those who sing in the choir. The present choir director is Mrs. Timm (Denise) Meyer. Mrs. Meyer also serves as church organist with assistance from Miss Bonnie Huber and Mrs. Jerry (Cindy) Levi. o—o **Pastors of Zion Congregation:** Rev. W.F. Sauer (1910-1912); Rev. Martin Keturakat (1912-1921); Rev. E. Neumann (1922-1923); Rev. E. Kolander (1924-1925); Rev. Samuel Baer (1925-1937); Rev. J.E. Bade (1937-1942); Rev. Walter Herrmann (1942-1949); Rev. Philip Janke (1950-1954); Rev. Ernest Klaszus (1955-1959); Rev. Waldemar Loescher (1961-1964);

Rev. Arnold E. Lemke (1965-1970); Rev. Donald N. Forss (1971); Rev. Robert L. Weimer (1972-1980); Rev. Timm O. Meyer (1980-present).

- Community History: *Zeeland, ND -- Centennial 1902-2002*, p.24-25. The year of 1901 brought the Zeeland a Lutheran missionary, Rev. Georg Adascheck. The Minnesota Synod sent him to pursue mission opportunities in McIntosh and Emmons counties. During his five-year ministry here, he built up the congregations already established and founded several others. Sadly, his departure began a series of long vacancies and brief pastorates. Seeking more reliable care, many of these churches turned to the Iowa Synod, now a part of the E.L.C.A. Only three small missions remained with the Minnesota Synod: Immanuel Lutheran Church of McIntosh County, Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church of Hague, and Trinity Lutheran Church of Hartford township near Hazelton. On October 16, 1910, the following people met with the Rev. W.F. Sauer of Mound City, SD at the home of Fred Ellwein in Zeeland to consider the establishment of a Lutheran Congregation in town: Andrew Ellwein, Fred Ellwein, Henry Frechling, Henry Hofner, Jacob Huber, Jacob Mindt, John R. Pfeifer, and Jacob Schiermeister. They obtained land on the south side of town and built a school house for worship and Christian education. On October 24 of the same year, the above group met again to organize and incorporate as a congregation. The congregation received the name as Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. The newly organized Zion congregation formed a parish with Immanuel Lutheran Church, located three miles southwest of Zeeland. This tri-parish was served until 1912 by Rev. W.F. Sauer. Due to the rapid growth of the congregation, Rev. Marin Keturahat was called and served as the first resident pastor. The congregation resolved to build a new church building on April 15, 1915, which was dedicated on December 15 of that same year. In 1917 the church became a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Immanuel Lutheran Church merged with Zion in 1919. After having discontinued services for several years, Friedens Lutheran Church of Hague dissolved in 1958 and joined Zion. The church building was refurnished and redecorated in 1960 for the 50th anniversary of the congregation. During these years, the following pastors served Zion: Neuman, Kolander, Baer, Bade, Herrmann, Philip Janke, Ernest Klaszus, and Waldemar Loescher. Due to manpower shortages of the Wisconsin Synod, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church joined with St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mound City, SD in 1961 to form a dual parish served by one pastor. German services were discontinued in 1965. Also in 1965, a study committee was established to consider the need for a new facility. It was overwhelmingly approved by the members of Zion of January 9, 1966. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held on April 9, 1967. The present church building was dedicated to the glory of God on October 22 of 1967. Pastors serving from 1965 onward were: Arnold Lemke, Donald Forss, Robert Weimer, Timm O. Meyer, Gary Koschnitzke, and Paul Vander Galien. On June 4, 1978, a community carillon player was dedicated. With praises and thanksgiving, seventy-five years of God's rich blessing upon the Zion congregation was observed on December 1, 1985. In 1986, Zion Cemetery was improved by the erection of new fencing. Both Friedens' and Zion's cemeteries are being kept up by Zion. The 1990s brought a realignment for several multiple parishes east of the Missouri River in the central Dakotas. Among them were Zion and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hazelton (the daughter congregation of Trinity in Hartford township). Zion and St. Paul's established a dual parish in 1995 and were served by Pastor Steven Nowicki until his resignation of that same year. Pastor Eugene Roecker, a missionary in Africa, accepted the call and was installed on April 13, 1997. In the long interim, both congregations were served by Rev. Wm. Russou of Tappen, ND. The Zion parsonage was sold after the dual parish with St. Paul's was established. The present congregation numbers 61 communicant members and five baptized children. There is an active choir that sings every Sunday. The Zion Ladies Aid Organization was established in 1958. The purpose of this organization is to gain in Christian knowledge, Christian fellowship, and Christian service.

115.Zion Baptist Church

- Location:
- Community History: *Kulm, ND – Centennial 1892-1992*, p.122
- Organized 1888
- See Article under Berlin Baptist Church

116.Zion Evangelical Church – (Rural)

- Location: speculate NW ¼ of SW ¼ **Sec 14-T132-R69** (Lowenthal Township) where an Evangelical Cemetery is located
- See Wishek – United Methodist Church; Lehr – Friedens Evangelical United Brethren Church; Lehr – United Methodist Church
- [Photo Available: Mc- Zion Evangelical Church \(Rural\) 1887 \[6577\]](#)

117. Zion I Lutheran Church

- Location: McIntosh County, Beresina Township, SE ¼ of SE ¼ **Sec 30-T130-R67**
- Ashley – See Zion Lutheran Church
- Closed 1956
- History of Congregation: *Church Book of Zion I Evangelical Lutheran Church (Bertsch Gemeinde) – Coldwater, ND 26 Nov 1901 – 27 May 1962*, 1st Edition Copyright 2003, Orion A. Rudolph of Ashley, ND as noted in *Centennial Celebration Sunday Service Bulletin July 27, 2003* of Zion Lutheran Church in Ashley, ND. Zion I Lutheran Church was organized in the late 1800's. Traveling preachers conducted services and later pastors from the Jewell Station served the congregation. The first church was built (*year unknown*) one-fourth mile East of the Jacob Woeszner farm home. Minutes of a meeting in 1901 indicate two deacons were elected and served as Trustees and Sunday School Teachers. They read the sermons and conducted worship service in the absence of the pastor who came only once a month. The cemetery was near by on the churchyard. By this time the congregation was part of a five-point parish. In 1916 it was decided to relocate and build a larger church in Section 30-130-67 on land donated by Jakob Woeszner. A balcony added more seating needed for Mission Festivals and other special services. A barn (shelter for the horses) and coal shed was also built [from the lumber of the old church building. See *Minutes of Congregation Meetings 27 Jun 1915*, p.23-24]. In 1920 the members were: Fredrich Bertsch, Fredrich Schneider, Jacob Fregien Sr., Christian Klipfel, Emanuel Reule, Jacob Fregien Jr., Johannes Bertsch Jr., Gottlieb Wahl, Jacob Bertsch, Samuel Otterstetter, Konrad Otterstetter, Gustav Skaley, Emanuel George, Wilhelm Gebhart, Jacob Woeszner and Edward Schwartz. The Quaschnick families joined later. The congregation flourished until the 1950's when the parish was no longer having a pastor in residence, but was served by pastors from neighboring parishes. After a meeting with Rev. Agrimson, District President, the congregation disbanded. The church held its last service on May 27, 1962 and the building with its contents was sold the next day at auction. The church building was moved to Ellendale, ND and later to Aberdeen, SD. The few remaining members joined other congregations, with most of them joining Peace, Zion II and Zion at Ashley.

118. Zion II Lutheran Church

- Location: SE ¼ of **Sec 05-T130-R67** (Beresina Township)
- See Ashley – Zion Lutheran Church
- Community History: *Fredonia, ND – Centennial 1904-2004*, p.55
- Closed in 1977
- [Photo Available: Mc-Zion II Lutheran Church-1 \[3687\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Mc-Zion II Lutheran Church-2 \[3688\]](#)
- Community History: *Ashley, ND – Centennial 1888-1988 – A Century of Pulling Together*, p.78-79. The church had its beginning in 1894. First services were held in the homes. As more families settled in the area a permanent place was needed. The people joined together and built a sod church located not far away from the village of Hellwig, now no longer in existence. In 1902 the Evangelical Zion Church was officially formed with the following 17 families as members: George Beidersteadt, Art Mammel, Fred Stickel, Martin Sackmann, Adam Kalmbach, Christian Maier, Frederick Maier, Carl Reuther, Gottlieb Schaeffer, Jacob Schlabsz, Jacob Weszner, John Henke, Jacob Quaschnick, Christ Mund, August Pahl, Katharina Lux and John Mund. The sod church stood until 1929. In the spring of 1929 work was begun on a new church with Henry and Carl Huether of Ashley as the carpenters. The basement was dug out with hand dirt scrapers pulled by horses. The lumber was hauled with horses and wagons from the Fredonia Lumberyard. The cornerstone was laid on June 9, and on September 19, dedication services were held with Rev. D. Bergstedt officiating. Women served lunch in the old sod church. The women of the church had saved their egg money to buy the cross which stood high on the steeple. Members of the church in 1929

were Jacob Steinwandt, Christ Schock, Fred Schlenker, Albert Bertsch, Philip Schock, John Steinwandt, Fred Schneider, Jacob Reuther, Fred Henke, Fred Weszner, Jacob Woeszner, Robert Woeszner, Jacob Ulrich, Gottfried Schlabsz, John Maier, and David Maier. Art Henke, son of Fred Henke, was the first baby to be baptized in the new church on November 13, 1929. At one time, there were several churches in a 20-mile radius served by one pastor. Reading services were every Sunday and the pastor came every fifth Sunday. Their services were in German. Transportation was by horse and buggy. One of the important duties at a rural church was the janitor's. In early days it was a major job to fire up the old wood and coal stove to get the church warm for Sunday services. For many years, Fred Woeszner served as janitor without pay. On April 12, 1959, the Evangelical Zion Church merged with the American Lutheran Church and then became Zion II. At this time, Zion II joined with Martin Luther Church in Fredonia, North Dakota in hiring pastors. For 49 years, Zion II stood to serve the people in the area. In the fall of 1977, the church was closed when the congregation merged with Zion Lutheran. On June 22, 1978, an auction sale was held and everything sold except the bell which was set on a permanent spot on the cemetery grounds as a monument. Another monument, an exact replica of Zion II, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schneider. The little church was built at McCleary Lumber by Cyrus Pfeifle and Julius Rath under Fred Schneider's supervision. After the church closed, the Zion II Cemetery Association was organized for the purpose of keeping up the cemetery grounds and the monuments. Members of Zion II in 1978 were Clifford Bertsch, Hugo Nitschke, Enoch Nitschke, Delbert Nitschke, Fred Schneider, Marvin Schneider, Christ Schlabsz, Charles Schlabsz, Matt Schock, Calvin Rothfusz, Kenneth Weszner, J.F. Weszner and Hugo Kruger. A total of 286 baptisms, 41 marriages and 77 burials were performed at Zion II. The last couple to be married at Zion II were Leona Reuther and J.F. Weszner on November 25, 1951. Pastors who served at Zion II were A. Meyries 1897-1905; H. Timmke 1905-1908; W. Siefkes 1909-1910; A. Kelppe 1910-1914; H.L. Lechner 1914-1918; F. Lechner 1919-1921; D. Bergstedt 1922-1933; J. Huetmeyer 1934-1939; A.G. Doering 1939; E.J. Voss 1940-42; E.H. Vetter 1943-1947; J. Huetmeyer 1947-1950; H.L. Lechner 1950-1952; W. Gevers 1952-1955; R. Heupel 1955-1957; H. Vorrath 1957-1959; E. Theilen 1959-1960; R. Heidtke 1960-1963; R.J. Hunter 1963-1966; L.R. Mentink 1966-1968; M. Lapp 1968-1970; L. Vigen 1971-1974; and J.K. Olson 1974-1978. Rev. E. Theilen was the last pastor to conduct services in the German language. The Zion II Church was moved into Ashley in the fall of 1982 to its present site at the Heritage Center.

- Source: *Church Book of Evangelical Lutheran Zion II Church (Biederstedt) – 1897-1978 – by Hellwig, No. Dak.*, 1st Edition Copyright 2002, Orion A. Rudolph of Ashley, ND. **COUNTRY CHURCH HAS LAST SERVICE**—Zion II Lutheran Church, located northeast of Ashley, had its closing service Sunday afternoon. Speaker was Dr. Nelson Preus, bishop of the Eastern North Dakota District. The country church had a long history. It was organized in 1894, and in those days the congregation worshipped in a sod church. The church was known as the Biederstaedt Church. Not too far away was the village of Hellwig, no longer in existence; the little town had a grocery store, elevator, post office and several homes. The present church building was built in 1929 by Henry and Carl Heuther of Ashley. At that time, membership consisted of 26 families. At the time of closing, the congregation consisted of 13 families. Pastors at the church were (some of the men's first names are not recalled) MaYRESS, Demke, Henry Brunch, Sifke, Kalbe, Henry Bergstaedt, Henry Lechner, Gevers, Henry Vorrath, Thielen, Rudolf Heupel, Heidke, Marvin Lapp, Larry Vigen and John K. Olson.

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