



I will pour out
my spirit...
Joel 2:28

NINETY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY

OF

GOD
AND HIS
PEOPLE
TOGETHER

Things
Impossible with men
are
Possible with
GOD...

1833 SWEDISH CHURCH OF GOD

1927 SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION CHURCH

1945 EVANGELICAL MISSION CHURCH

1969 EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

1978 THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

"THE BRIDGE BUILDER", A TRIBUTE TO THE PAST

An old man going a lone highway
Came at the evening, cold and gray
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your time with building here;
You never again will pass this way,
Your journey will end with the closing day,
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build you this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head,
"Good friend, in the way that I've come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.
This stream that has been naught to me,
To the fair haired youth might a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim,
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

"REASON FOR LIFE", STRENGTH FOR TODAY

I don't know how to say it, but somehow it seems to me
That maybe we are stationed where God wants us to be;
That the little niche I'm filling is the reason for my birth,
And just to do the work I do He sent me down to earth.

If God had wanted otherwise, I reckon He'd have made
Me just a little different, of a worse or better grade.
And since God knows and understands all things on land and sea,
I fancy that He placed me here just where He wanted me.

Sometimes I get to thinking, as my labors I review
That I should like a higher place, with greater tasks to do.
But I come to the conclusion, when the envying is stilled,
That the post to which God sent me is the post He wanted filled.

So I plod along and struggle in the hope when day is through,
That I am really necessary to the things God wants to do.
And there isn't any service I can give which I should scorn,
For it may be just the reason God allowed me to be born.

"THREE SIMPLE WORDS", HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

There are three simple words that begin with an S.
They are wise with wisdom the world cannot guess.
But those who employ them their beauty confess.
Keep Silent, keep Sweet, and keep Stepping.

Keep Silent when rumor against you is stirred
And friendship is hurt like a broken-winged bird;
And when clamors the heart for a right to be heard,
Keep Silent, keep Sweet, and keep Stepping.

Keep Sweet when provoked by some petty affair,
And by those whom you love, and your loyalty wear.
When the milk of your spirit is curdled with care,
Keep Silent, keep Sweet, and keep Stepping.

Keep Stepping when other folk hinder your way.
And when tired and weary you finish the day
Too footsore to walk, too breathless to pray,
Keep Silent, keep Sweet, and keep Stepping.

Keep Silent and save yourself needless regret.
Keep Sweet and the whole world will be in your debt.
Keep Stepping with Christ, the truest friend yet.
Keep Silent, keep Sweet, and keep Stepping.

The following information compiled for the 95th information comes from the Fiftieth Anniversary Booklet, the Seventieth Anniversary Booklet, the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Booklet, Church Record Books, Church Annual Meeting Reports and from the wonderful memories of many of our longstanding members of the Covenant Church.

Church History

"Call to remembrance the former days" (Hebrew 10:32)
"And thou shalt remember all the way Jehovah thy God hath
led thee" (Deut. 8:2)

The organization of what is now the Swedish Mission Church of St. Cloud took place in Sauk Rapids on the 23rd of June, 1883 with the following seven charter members: A. B. Anderson, Andrew Peterson, Louis Olson, Nels Larson, L.J. Hagquist, John Skoglund, and A. Johnson. The organization was incorporated under the name "Guds Forsamling i Sauk Rapids, Minnesota." (The church of God in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota). John Skoglund was elected chairman and Andrew Peterson secretary. A.B. Anderson, L. J. Hagquist and Andrew Peterson were elected both as deacons and trustees. Rev. F. G. Hagquist of Minneapolis acted as chairman and led the proceedings. It was a very small and unpretentious beginning, but the little group went to work with the determination to succeed, and at a meeting only three weeks later it was decided to build a church. A building committee consisting of Louis Olson, A. B. Anderson and John Skoglund was appointed, and a subscription started to get the necessary funds. A lot on the top of the so called "Swedish Hill" was donated by some friendly party, and on this lot was built a little church 26x36 feet. Louis Olson was given the job of building the church and was paid \$2.00 a day, and he was permitted to hire another man to assist him with the same pay. The building was completed in a few weeks, except for the plastering, and could be used for the services. But as there was a debt of \$150.00 on the property, it was decided to use the building without plastering through the winter, and to buy the lot next to it instead. The inside of the church was finished the following year.

The activities of the little group were not confined to Sauk Rapids only. As some of the members and others interested and in sympathy with the work lived in St. Cloud, work was started there also. At Bring's stone quarry about two miles S.E. of the city a little chapel was built in 1886, where Sunday School and preaching services were conducted for a number of years. That work ceased and the building was sold in 1911. In St. Cloud proper, preaching services were conducted in an old saloon building, but in 1888 plans were laid and work started to build a church here also. The building was finished the following year and dedicated June 14-16, 1889. It was cheap to build in those days. Four members are mentioned who worked on this building and were paid 15 cents per hour, and besides they donated six working days each. The debt on the church when finished was \$106.95.

For a number of years the congregation had no resident pastor but depended on visiting pastors for the preaching of the word. Rev. Matias Peterson visited the little group and conducted services once a month for about a year. The traveling ministers of the Northwest Mission Association also gave occasional visits. At a business meeting July 2, 1887 a call was extended to Rev. A. G. Nelson of Anoka. He had for about a month previous to this visited the little group once a month and conducted services. He accepted the call and took up the work the same summer. During his ministry many were saved and joined the church. At the close of 1889 the membership was 47. It seems that the years 1888 and 89 must have been very busy years for the little congregation, because from January to June inclusive during 1888 besides the six monthly business meetings, no less than eight extra meetings were held. Several extra meetings were held during 1889 also. In 1888 the congregation joined the American Congregational denomination and received from them financial help for a number of years for the minister's salary and also a loan of \$500 from their Church Building Society.

Rev. A. G. Nelson resigned and left in the spring of 1889. His successor, Rev. B. Finstrom, from Vermland, Sweden, was called. He arrived in June 1889 and served the congregation for about two years or until the spring of 1891. During his time the parsonage was built. Addition to that was made later, and a hot water heating plant was installed in the fall of 1920. At an extra business meeting held May 4th, 1891 it is stated that the congregation was without a pastor. Rev. Finstrom had then left. In the fall of that year a minister, P. J. Lofven, had arrived from Sweden, and he was called to serve the congregation from October 1891 to May 1st 1892. At a business meeting February 27, 1892 the call to Lofven was extended to a year from the following 1st of May. But he declined and after some time went back to Sweden.

Rev. John Rood from Lake City was now called. He accepted and served the congregation for about seven years, from July 1892 to March 1899. The economic conditions were good during these years. Work was plentiful, and many Swedes moved into St. Cloud, and the work of the Lord prospered also, until working conditions became poor and many moved away from the city.

Rood's successor was Rev. K. E. Peterson. He had been a member of the church since 1889. He served the congregation from the spring of 1899 to the spring of 1903. Besides serving the church he studied at the Teachers College and received his Teachers Certificate. Then he taught school for two years and served the church at the same time.

As Peterson's successor, Rev. E. V. Bjorklund from Phelps Centers, Nebraska was called. He took up the work during the summer of 1903 and served the congregation for twelve years or until 1915. Bjorklund was gifted as a singer and musician and was very active in these lines. During his ministry or to be exact Nov. 25-26, 1905 the congregation celebrated its 22nd anniversary. Five of the charter members, A. B. Anderson, Andrew Peterson, Louis Olson, L. J. Hagquist and Nels Larson, were then present and took part. During Bjorklund's ministry a little better system seems to have been introduced. The minutes of the business meetings were more complete and after being adopted are signed by both the chairman and the secretary. The treasurer's report to the annual meeting is copied in the minutes, etc. At the annual meeting Jan. 1, 1904 it was decided to get a regular Church Record. Then too, the pastor reported the membership to at least some of the annual meetings. So we find that the 31 of December, 1910 the congregation numbered 84 members, Jan. 1, 1912, 94, and Jan. 1, 1914, 91 members. At a business meeting Aug. 31, 1907 it was decided not to ask for financial help any more from the Americans.

When Bjorklund resigned in the spring of 1915, Rev. Carl Olson of Winnipeg, Canada was called. While waiting for him to come, Rev. E. Dahljelm, editor of "Veckobladet," Minneapolis supplied the pulpit on Sundays. During Carl Olson's term the connection with the Congregational denomination was severed. At a business meeting in February, 1917 it was reported that the debt of \$500 owed them was paid, and in March, 1918 it was decided to sever all connections with that body. The 36th anniversary of the congregation was celebrated June 23rd, 1919.

Carl Olson resigned and left in the fall of 1919, and the congregation was again without a pastor. Calls were extended to several men but without result. Finally Prof. Wedell of Minnehaha Academy was called temporarily, until a permanent pastor could be secured. At an extra business meeting May 10, 1920 Rev. A. E. Olson was called. He accepted and served the church until the spring of 1925. During his term the new Church was built. That was quite an undertaking, and the question was discussed at several meetings for a number of years. Some of the families had moved from Sauk Rapids to St. Cloud, and the work had become more and more centralized there. Consequently the old church had become inadequate and impracticable, besides being in need of repairs. Already in May 1916 it was decided to build a new church "as soon as we can venture the undertaking." Nothing more is said about it until at the annual meeting Jan. 1st, 1920. Then a committee was appointed to prepare plans and also get an estimation of what a new church would cost. Again nothing is said until the next annual meeting in Jan. 1921. Then it was decided to get "a better church this year." At a meeting three months later (march 29) it was decided to "repair the old church." But at a special business meeting only two weeks later (April 14, 1921) it was decided to "tear down the old church and build a new one." From May to September that year there is no record of any business meetings. Evidently all were busy with the building and had no time for meetings. Elmer Youngberg, as carpenter with the help of other men, built the second church at the location of 13 3rd Ave. N.E. St. Cloud. At a meeting Sept. 14 it was decided to "dedicate the new church Nove. 17 if possible." And so it was. The church in Sauk Rapids was sold and services there discontinued except for occasional prayer meetings in the homes.

Rev. A. E. Olson resigned and left in the spring of 1925. He was to return again and serve as pastor from Jan. 1, 1936 - Sept. 1, 1943. It was during this term he married. When Olson resigned 1925, Rev. Dahlhjelm was again called to serve until a permanent pastor could be secured. Rev. I. Hoyem of Cadillac, Michigan was now called and took up the work Nov. 19, 1925. What has taken place since then is well known. The following might be mentioned: At the annual meeting Jan. 1, 1927 a new constitution was adopted, and the name of the church changed to the Swedish Evangelical Mission Church of St. Cloud. Feb. 28, 1927 it was decided on to join "The Northwest Mission Association." This later became known as the NW Conference of the Covenant Church. The last of the church debt was paid in March 1930, and the occasion was celebrated with a festival April 15, when the paid notes were burnt with great rejoicing. January 1933 the membership was 91.

After A. E. Olson resigned from his second term on Sept. 1, 1943, a call was extended to L. Jackson Derbe. He responded to the call and served the church from June 3, 1944 through March 1, 1947. Rev. Derbe came from the east. He was married and had two daughters. He might have been called the traveling pastor as he served churches from the East to the West coast. During his service, a name change again took place. January 5, 1945 the name was changed to Evangelical Mission Church, dropping the word, "Swedish". In the fall of 1945 an oil burning furnace was installed in the church and an oil burner installed in the furnace of the parsonage. In 1946 six hearing aids were installed in the church.

Upon the resignation of Rev. Derbe, a short time was to elapse before the arrival of Rev. Daniel Bloomdahl. During that time Rev. Payne was the interim pastor. Rev. Bloomdahl's ministry extended over five years from Sept. 5, 1947 - Oct. 1, 1952. Membership during his ministry was 116 - 1948, 107 - 1949, 118 - 1951, and 116 - 1952. In 1949 a group of men and boys under the leadership of Elmer Youngberg (who built the scaffolding) washed the church from ceiling to basement. A group of workers tore down the front porch. In its place a smaller entry and closet were built. Inside, the colonnades were removed and the doorway widened between the front and dining rooms, and the side door toward the church sealed up. The entire building was also insulated. This made the house easier to heat and much more comfortable. 1950 brought changes to the parsonage. Parsonage remodeling and improvements included stuccoing and painting, a new bath tub, closet and hallway partitions upstairs, and some necessary redecorating. The cost of this work was covered by Thanksgiving

offering and other gifts or donations. Still more improvements came in 1951. They included: an electric clock for the auditorium, new entrance lights for the front doors, and a retaining wall built along the alley and a part of the front. The first two were donated, and the labor on the wall was also without cost to the church by Archie Johnson and Fred Freeburg. The church rest rooms were finally modernized and the garage painted to match the color of the parsonage. A thermostat control in the church study made that more usable. Improvements in 1952 included: painting on the outside woodwork and installation in the parsonage of an automatic gas tank to replace the worn-out range boiler. The ladies Aid and the Brotherhood each purchased a dozen steel folding chairs for use in the church. The Aid also paid for the installation of a hot water tank donated by one of the members. Jan. 27, 1952 the church was rocked by an explosion of the furnace. Needless to say, the church was due for some improvements following this event: a new ceiling and redecoration of the whole interior, as well as repairs to the furnace. Summer of 1952 storm windows were added to the church at the cost of \$811.00 Daniel Bloomdahl had been in the armed forces and taught at Minnehaha Academy. His wife Valberg had been a nurse while living in the Twin Cities area. They came to this church from Stambough, Michigan. They had 2 children. Because he was so fluent in Swedish they had Swedish services on Sunday Afternoons for those who spoke Swedish even tho services had been in English since March 27, 1940. His wife was such a whirlwind - busy all the time with few hours of sleep. Besides working parttime at the hospital she gave her nursing skills to amny in their homes. Daniel, was just the opposite of her. He lived a slow, calm, gentle life meeting people where they were. Rev. Bloomdahl resigned Oct. 1, 1952.

Of importance was the event of June 8, 1953. It was that day that the church voted to join the Covenant and its application was accepted at the annual conference of the Covenant in Minneapolis, June 18, 1953.

There was a period of time without a pastor until Rev. Donald Thomas's arrival in 1955. However, the needs were supplied by many men sent by God. Donald Thomas stayed until March 1958. During that time a name change once again took place January 9, 1956, a new constitution was adopted and the name was changed to Mission Covenant Church. In 1955 the Mission Covenant Campaign (over Radio WJON) began August 21. These broadcasts continued until after Rev. Thomas left. These broadcasts totalled 19. During the year 1957 the brick work of the church building was repointed, granite stone fixtures were reset, a tile floor replaced the wooden floor in the basement, and a new sidewalk was laid in front of the entire church property. The old coal bin, which had been standing empty since the oil furnace was installed, was made into a comfortable Sunday School room. Aluminum storm windows and screens were donated and installed on the second-story windows of the parsonage.

June 30, 1958 membership was 95. It didn't take long for a pastor to respond to our need. Albin E. Nelson became the pastor on July 1, 1958. Albin had a heart for people and the membership showed it. In 1960 the church membership was 161. Building improvements included the furnace being cleaned and changed over to natural gas. The pastor's study was repaired and installation of an outside bulletin board. And with joy a new mimeograph machine was purchased. Albin Nelson came to us from Phoenix, Arizona. He and his "once missionary" wife, Faye, now live in Faribault, Minnesota. Faye taught at the institution for handicapped people. Albin Nelson retired from the ministry in 1977. He still comes northward when he visits relative in Swanville, Minnesota. Albin Nelson resigned from this church March 1, 1961.

Chester Johnson, Rev. Franklin, Rev. Soderholm, Rev. Grundy all served the church between Albin Nelson and Rev. Ray Anderson. July 16, 1962 brought Rev. Raymond Anderson to us from Clear Lake, Wisconsin. He served this church for 3 yrs. During that time he was actively involved in christian work at the V.A., Reformatory, College, and with Boy Scouts. He and his wife Deloris now serve the community through the Granite Book and Bible Store along with two other area pastors. His ministry still keeps him involved with the Presbyterian churches in Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud as well as with the college students. Rev. Anderson resigned Aug. 31, 1965.

Helge Hamilton served until the coming of Rev. Satterblom. Rev. Clarence Satterblom came with the phrase "Come expecting and you will receive" on Sept. 1, 1966. He came to us from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada. He was a native of Chicago, and a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, North Park College, Chicago, and North Park Seminary, Chicago. Satterblom's children are Mrs. Wilber Anderson, at Bessemer, Pa. and son Paul. 1968, the church purchased a Baldwin Organ. An offering was received to defray the expenses the evening it was dedicated, and with money s which came in through the Memorial Fund and the sale of the old organ, most of the cost had been realized. 1969, December, brought another name change to become The Evangelical Covenant Church of St. Cloud. Membership was 58 - 1966, 62 - 1967, 62 - 1968 and slightly down in 1970. Clarence Satterblom moved on to another church on Nove. 30, 1970 when he resigned.

While waiting for the arrival of Rev. David Erickson on Dec. 12, 1971, three men served the church. Richard Haferman Dec. 70 - June 71. David Erickson preceded his permanent pastoral position by serving July - August 1971, and Rev. Stewart Dale (deceased June 1978) served Sept. - Nov. 1971. Rev. Erickson's arrival brought a great concern for people and stress for the Body Ministry. Rev. Erickson was blessed with administrative skills. The biggest event to occur during his ministry was the decision to sell the church located at 18 3rd Ave. N.E. St. Cloud. Rev. Erickson was actively involved in seeing this move take place. He held the ground-breaking ceremonies for the church, on Maine Prairie Rd., during the morning Worship Service November 9, 1975. He came to us from North Park Seminary. Led by the Lord, Rev. Erickson resigned Dec. 25, 1975 to take a new church in Eugene, Oregon where he and his wife and three children still live. Pastor David Erickson, wife and son starting in April of 1972 lived in the parsonage home at 836 24th Ave. N. St. Cloud, Minnesota. 1973 saw some improvements. New sidewalks were laid along the north side of the church to the street and from the church to the old parsonage. The roof of the church, together with a part of the front wall of the church, were repaired. The old parsonage was cleaned, painted, papered and made more livable for the Gordon Johnson family, missionaries on leave from Japan. December 1, 1972 til Nov. 30, 1973 brought much activity which included extensive remodeling of the nursery, complete overhaul of the furnace, general repair of the organ and public address system, installation of a new down spout, alleviating a problem with water in the nursery.

Rev. John Klopsch and Rev. Roger Shantz filled the vacancy between Rev. David Erickson and the coming of Rev. Paul Mann. Rev. Mann came to our Church from Seattle, Wash. He was raised in the Methodist Episcopal Church, found the Lord in the Salvation Army and ordained into the same in 1957. Paul came into the Covenant Church 1964 when he was installed in New Sweden, Maine. He was there for 5 and one half years. From there he went to North Park Seminary where he was ordained in 1970. He was called to serve the Covenant Church in Thief River Falls, Mn. in 1970. From there he was called to serve the Home Missions Board in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Later he was called to be an associate pastor at Midway Covenant Church in Des Moines, Washington for 3 years til coming here Sept. of 1976. Rev. Mann's ability to really "Preach the Word" is his greatest ministerial skill. He came with his wife Shirley, children: Dori, Debbie, Kim and Steve Mann. Paul Mann worshipped twice in the Covenant Church 81 3rd Ave. N.E. in St. Cloud before temporarily relocating at several other locations til the New church at Maine Prairie Rd. was completed. After two weeks he also had his first funeral that of our loved Brother in Christ, Mr. George Paul. The parsonage is now at St. Cloud, Cloud Park Route 7 about one mile from the present church. Rev. Mann serves the community as the St. Cloud Police Department Chaplin. His title in the department is that of Chaplin, Lieutenant Paul Mann. He was actively responsible for the development of the Protestant Clergy Bible Study held weekly at 1st Presbyterian Church.

These are the past pastors and present pastor as of our 95th Anniversary, July 9, 1978.

LANGUAGE...

From the time the church was organized in 1883, the Swedish language was used in all services and other activities as well as in recording the minutes of the business meetings. The Sunday School not only conducted its religious instruction in Swedish, but taught the children to read and write the language.

As time progressed, more and more of the young people were unfamiliar with the Swedish language. This presented a problem. The Sunday School and the Young People's Society discontinued the use of the Swedish language in their activities in the earlier years of the church. The church services continued in the Swedish language. Attempts were made to combine the two languages at special meetings and to set aside certain Sundays for service in English. This presented difficulties because the older people failed to get full benefit from the services in English and the young people could not understand the services in Swedish. Church-goers became confused as to which Sunday service would be in English and which in Swedish.

At a meeting held January 14, 1936, the secretary was authorized to write the minutes of the business meetings in English. Gradually, English became the language most used, and at a business meeting held March 27, 1940, the decision was made to have all Sunday services in the English language.

SUNDAY SCHOOL...

The first mention of a Sunday School is found in the minutes of a meeting, held Dec. 8, 1883. There we read, "agreed that the Sunday School in Sauk Rapids should take part in the Sunday School festival in St. Cloud, the expenses to be paid by the congregation." Consequently Sunday Schools must have been conducted in both places already then. 1888 - 1893 there were five Sunday schools: Sauk Rapids, St. Cloud, Bring's Quarry, Waite Park, and one in the country north of Sauk Rapids, where pupils and teachers met in homes. It has been related that some teachers taught in more than one school, besides attending services each Sunday. Transportation was by foot or by horse and buggy. This meant sacrificial time and effort. The Sunday Schools in the outlying districts were discontinued and centralized in one school. The chapel at Bring's Quarry was sold in 1911. The last school to be discontinued was in Sauk Rapids in 1921, when the new church was built in St. Cloud. Since then, it has been one church and one school. It is our hope, that the good seed sown in the minds and hearts of children and young people during these ninety five years has been a means of salvation to many.

MISSIONARIES...

Missionaries sent out by this church include Rev. Herbert Sodergren and wife (Viola McCrea) pastor to a church, Mrs. Paul Ferree (Svea Gustafson), Miss Marilyn Larson (parish worker at the First Covenant Church, Moline, Ill. Gus Johnson, (graduated from seminary here and went back to Sweden.)

Missionaries receiving support from us include: 1905 Reverend T. J. Bach (Venezuela, South America), 1946 Miss Mabel Cox (missionary nurse in Africa, now living in Kentucky), 1958 Miss Linda Sveiven (Venezuela, South America)

Missionary friends of this church include: Gordon and Lucille Johnson and family and Mrs. Alan (Priscilla) Mohrenweiser. Gordon and Lucille are presently in Japan. Mrs. Mohrenweiser has been in Brazil and may possibly be going to Indonesia. This past year she has been teaching at Bethany Fellowship in Minneapolis Minnesota.

Naome Elizabeth Larson

Born: October 25, 1893 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Baptized: March 17, 1894

Received into the church:

Married: Sam Ostlund

Died: Sam: 1964 Naome: August 21, 1976

Adolph Ephraim Larson

Born: December 13, 1895 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Baptized: March 8, 1896 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Received into the church: Sept. 30, 1918

He didn't marry and was an active farmer in the area.

Died: July 31, 1975

Ernest Daniel Larson

Born: Nov. 23, 1898 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Baptized: March 19, 1899 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Received into the church: Sept. 30, 1918

Married: Esther (Eliason) Larson He was a buttermaker at Freedom Mn. He died in a hunting accident 1936.

Esther Larson remarried and now lives in Owatonna as Mrs. Grunz.

Esther Eleanor Larson

Born: Feb. 2, 1901 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Baptized: Sept. 28, 1901 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Received into the church: Sept. 30, 1918

Esther never married, but worked the farm with her brother Adolph on what was once Naome and Sam Ostlund's farm

Lives: St. Cloud

Axel and Emelia Larson came from Sweden. Records don't indicate their name or dates. The following were their children:

May Larson

Gunnard Axel Larson

Ellen Larson (died: 1962)

Hilda Larson (died: 1953)

George Larson

Born: Dec. 10, 1894 Sauk Rapids

Baptized: Oct. 10, 1895 Sauk Rapids

Received into the church: Oct. 2, 1922

Married: Ruth Evan (Lafstram) Larson. She was born: May 20, 1903 Sandstone, Mn. Baptized: June 1907 Sandstone, Mn. Received into the church: April 15, 1927. They were married Sept. 30, 1929 St. Cloud, Mn.

George died: Sept. 1976

Ruth lives: St. Cloud, Mn.

George and Ruth's Children:

George Axel Larson

Born: Sept. 18, 1930 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: April 5, 1931 St. Cloud, Mn.

Received into the church: Jan. 8, 1950

Married:

Lives: Duluth, Mn.

Genevieve Ruth Larson

Born: March 31, 1932 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: Oct. 27, 1932 St. Cloud, Mn.

Received into the church: Jan. 8, 1950

Married: Dwight Cater June 26, 1954

Lives: Kansas

Howard Larson

Born: Jan. 20, 1937 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized:

Received into the church: April 4, 1956

Married: Joyce Anderson (Joyce is the daughter of George and Ina Anderson also members of our Church. Joyce's brother David married Joy Ann Miller Oct. 27, 1968)

Lives: Fridley, Mn.

Stanley Erving Larson

Born: April 19, 1942 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: Nov. 12, 1942 St. Cloud, Mn.

Married: Diane Brinkhaus

Lives: South Haven, Mn.

Mabel Larson (died: 1955)

Walter Ephraim Larson

Born: Feb. 28, 1896 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Baptized: Nov. 11, 1897 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Received into the church: Oct. 2, 1922

Married: Helen Anna (Ahlgren) Larson August 2, 1928 Minneapolis, Mn.

Helen was born: April 8, 1896 Mankato, Mn. Baptized::

Received into the church: Sept. 30, 1918

Walter died: Oct. 1974

Helen Lives: with her daughter Minnetonka, Mn.

Walter and Helen's Children:

Joan Eve Larson

Born; April 14, 1930 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: Sept. 28, 1930 St. Cloud, Mn.

Received into the church: Jan. 1948

Married: Ken Novak _____

Live: Minnetonka, Mn.

Donald Walter Larson

Born: April 16, 1933 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: Nov. 26, 1933 St. Cloud, Mn.

Married: Jacqueline Tarvestad June 17, 1960

Live: Minnetonka

Gary Ahlgren Larson

Born: St. Cloud

Married: Laureen Kasid June 24, 1961

Live: Litchfield, Mn.

Albert Larson (died: 1954 never married)

Florence Larson (died: 1968)

Harry W. and Agnes Eunice Larson

Born: Harry: March 3, 1893 Waite Park, Mn.

Agnes: July 31, 1895 Paxton, Ill.

Baptized: Agnes: August 25, 1859

Received into the church: Harry: August 28, 1911 Agnes: March 27, 1935

Married: June 25, 1919 Galesburg, Ill.

Agnes died:

Harry Lives: Waite Park Nursing Home, Waite Park, Mn.

Harry and Agnes's Children:

Robert Merwin Larson

Born: Jan. 29, 1927 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: July 29, 1927 St. Cloud, Mn.

Received into the church: Sept. 30, 1942

Married:

Lives:

Eugene Meril Larson

Born: May 30, 1920

Baptized: August 29, 1920 St. Cloud, Mn.

Received into the church: Oct. 25, 1939

Married: Lorraine Peterson

Lives: Monticello, Mn.

Allan Richard

Born: July 26, 1929 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: Jan. 21, 1931 St. Cloud, Mn.

Not married

Lives: St. Cloud

Alice Llewellen Larson

Born: July 26, 1929 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: Jan. 1, 1931

Married: Mr. Marsch

Lives: Elk River

James Harry Larson

Born: Sept. 17, 1930 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: Jan. 21, 1931 St. Cloud, Mn.

Married:

Lives: Anoka

Johan Gustaf Youngberg and Selma Josefina (Fridlund) Youngberg

Born: Johan: Oct. 9, 1859 Stockholm, Sweden

Selma: Oct. 6, 1866 Elfsbonslan, Sweden

Arrived in America: Johan and Selma: 1882 from Sweden

Married: Dec. 1, 1885 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Received into the church: Johan: Jan. 1, 1886 Selma: Jan. 1, 1886

Died: Johan: Feb. 1, 1938 Selma: March 5, 1927

Johan and Selma's Children:

Esther Josefina Youngberg

Born: Oct. 13, 1887 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Baptized: Dec. 29, 1887 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Never married

Died: 1919

Elmer Vitalius Youngberg

Born: July 27, 1899 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Baptized: Dec. 28, 1889 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Received into the church: June 27, 1908

Married: Ida Mathilda Swenson June 30, 1920. Born: April 29, 1893 in Sweden Baptized: May 2, 1893 Seden Arrived here June 31, 1920. Received into the church: April 19, 1935

Elmer and Ida's Children:

Ellard Vincent Youngberg

Born: Sept. 14, 1921 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Baptized: Jan. 1, 1922 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Married: Elizabeth McCormick Their daughter Carol married Arthur Wertheim. And from them comes the only greatgrandchild Jason.

Lives: California

Dora Josephine Youngberg

Born: Nov. 11, 1923 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Baptized: May 30, 1924 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Received into the church: Oct. 25, 1939

Married: Berkley Halstead August 14, 1948

Lives: Fresno, California

Ila June Youngberg

Born: June 8, 1925 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Baptized: Jan. 3, 1926 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Received into the church: Sept. 30, 1942
Married: Lester Nelson June 24, 1951
Lives: Grove City, Mn.

Melvin Holger Youngberg

Born: Feb. 18, 1927 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Baptized: Nov. 27, 1927 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Received: Sept. 30, 1942
Married: Mildred Caldwell
Lives: Rye, New York

Jeanette Alice Youngberg

Born: Sept. 9, 1929 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Baptized: May 11, 1930 St. Cloud, Mn.
Married: Norman Anthony, Jr. March 15, 1952
Lives: Garrison, New York

Alice Emelia Youngberg

Born: Sept. 27, 1891 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Baptized: April 24, 1892 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Married: Harry Johnson They have a son Richard in Mankato
Died: Harry: 1973 Alice: 197?

Arthur Emmanuel Youngberg

Born: August 20, 1894
Married: Anna Leiser Their son Robert Haaf lives in Clearwater.
Arthur died: 196?
Anna lives: Good Shepherd Nursing Home, St. Cloud

Ruth Caroline Youngberg

Born: April 22, 1901 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Baptized: Nov. 17, 1901 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Received into the church: Sept. 30, 1918
Married: Bernard Fagerman Dec. 1, 1923 Sauk Rapids, mn.
Bernard was born Oct. 21, 1899 Upsala, Mn. He was
received into the church Jan. 8, 1933. He arrived in
Upsala spring of 1924.

Live: St. Cloud

Ruth and Bernard's children:

Bernice Caroline Fagerman

Born: Oct. 21, 1924 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Baptized: April 12, 1925 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Received into the church: Oct. 25, 1939
Married: Ronald Olson Sept. 3, 1948 St. Cloud
Live:

Hazel Loretta Sophia Youngberg

Born: May 29, 1904 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Baptized: Oct. 16, 1904 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Married: Malfred Mead
Hazel died: about 15 yrs ago
Malfred lives: Sioux Falls, S.D.

Holger Otto Leonard Youngberg

Born: Dec. 31, 1906 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Baptized: June 2, 1907 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Died: Jan. 20, 1927

Oscar and Anna Christina (Erickson) Bostrom

Born: Oscar: June 22, 1867 Vermland, Sweden

Anna: Sept. 28, 1866 Vermland, Sweden

Baptized: Oscar: June 1867 Anna: Oct. 1866

Arrived in America: Oscar: April 28, 1887 from Sweden

Anna: June 9, 1885 from Sweden

Married: March 10, 1888 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Died: Oscar: June 1933 Anna:

Oscar and Anna's Children:

Agnes Maria Bostrom

Born: Jan. 6, 1889 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Married: Emmanuel Bloomdahl 1915

Emmanuel died: 1952

Agnes died: 1955

George Nathanael Bostrom

Born: July 18, 1891 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Didn't Marry

Died: June 12, 1920

Olga Rebecka Bostrom

Born: March 25, 1901 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Received: Sept. 30, 1918

Married Melvin Johnson Oct. 8 1936

Died: Melvin: Jan. 1972

Olga lives: Kerkhoven, Mn.

Dagmar Hilder Annette Bostrom

Born: May 16, 1908 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Received into the church: 192?

Lives: Sauk Rapids, Mn. Dagmar taught country school in Rice
2 yrs, Rosoe 6yrs, and Grand Rapids 33 yrs. Came back
to St. Cloud 1973.

Ernest and Frida Augusta (Anderson) Bostrom

Born: Ernest: Nov. 19, 1870 Vermland, Sweden Frida: Sept. 7, 1877

Arrived in America: Ernest: June 28, 1893 Frida: 1880

Married: Dec. 24, 1898 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Received into the church: Both on August 30, 1902

Died:

Ernest and Frida's Children:

Ernest HAROLD Bostrom

Born: April 30, 1900 Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Baptized: Sauk Rapids, Mn.

Married: Florence Naome Erickson

Florence born: April 14, 1892 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: Nov. 17, 1894 Received into the church:

Harold died: Oct. 1957

Florence lives: Bethany Covenant Home, Minneapolis

Ernest HAROLD and Florence's Son

Curtis Bostrom

Born: August 19, 1932

Received into the church: April 1956

Married: Pat Walker?

Lives: Fridley, Mn.

Frida Mildred Bostrom
Born: May 11, 1902 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Baptized:
Married: Orville G. Winjum June 30, 1936
Mildred died:
Orville lives: Albert Lea

Donald Nathanael Bostrom
Born: May 28, 1904 Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Baptized: Sauk Rapids, Mn.
Married: Cleo English May 1936
Died: Clea; July 1957 Donald: ?

Gladys Dorothy Katherine Bostrom
Born: April 24, 1908 St. Cloud Mn.
Baptized: St. Cloud, Mn.
Didn't Marry
Lives: Albert Lea

John Peter and Hannah M Holmgren
Born: John: July 19, 1876 Kransberg, Sweden
Hannah: Sept. 2, 1874 Sodernaulan, Sweden
Baptized: John: July 1876 Hannah: Sept. 2, 1872
Arrived in America: Both May 17, 1904 from Sweden
Married: June 24, 1901 Asheda, Sweden
Died: John: May 23, 1940 Hannah: Nov. 21, 1963
John and Hannah's Children:

Olga Holmgren
Born: May 7, 1902 Asheda, Sweden
Baptized: Asheda, Sweden
Married: Victor Cross
Lives: Foley

Alma Holmgren
Born: Oct. 6, 1903 Stockhom, Sweden
Baptized: Oct. 9, 1903 Stockholm, Sweden
Married: Karl Swanson
Died:

Hilda Holmgren
Born: Jan. 5, 1905 Swift Falls, Mn.
Baptized: Jan. 15, 1905 Swift Falls, Mn.
Received: Sept. 14, 1970
Lives: St. Cloud, Mn.
1914 Hilda's parents and family came to the Covenant Church in St. Cloud. 1919 her confirmation class was the last to take it in Swedish from Rev. Carl Olson. 1927 she became a member of the church. 1930 due to depression she went to St. Paul worked and attended Covenant Church there. 1940 came back for a year. 1942-1970 LPN at Evanston, Ill. 1970 rejoined this church.

Karl Holmgren
Born: Dec. 13, 1907 Sandstone, Mn.
Baptized: Jan. 1, 1908 Sandstone, Mn.
Married: Edna Crettlow
Live: Zimmerman

Ruth Holmgren
Born: Jan. 31, 1909 Sandstone, Mn.
Baptized: August 8, 1909 Sandstone, Mn.
Married: Albert Streit
Lives: Dennison

COMMENTS FROM OUR PRESENT PASTOR, PAUL W. MANN...

Upon reviewing the two years of my ministry with the Covenant Church in St. Cloud, I must say that paramount over any other happening has been the availability of our new facility. Selling our old building was a traumatic move for our people; however, the Roman Catholic St. Cloud Childrens Home allowed us the use of their classrooms and chapel, gratis for several months in the interim period. On Sunday, October 2 at 3:00 in the year 1977, we dedicated our new facility to the glory of God. To celebrate with us, we were privileged to have Rev. C. Reuben Anderson, the assistant Conference Superintendent. Rev. Anderson spoke at our morning worship service as well as the afternoon dedication. The 'New Song Singers' under the direction of Dave Hepburn brought special music for the afternoon festivities as well as a full concert in the evening. The day was even more meaningful as we received thirty new members into our fellowship.

Strong ministries, apart from Sunday Morning Worship, from my perspective, have been Covenant Women, special musical groups, Sunday evening singspirations, and Wednesday evening prayer and praise. New programs started that hold potential for possibility are the Children's Choir, the college/career fellowship, video tape teaching ministries, and teacher training through I.C.L. clinics.

May God continue to bless our ministries in the Church as well as in our community. God is here, and God is sure to bless us in our obedience to Him now and in the future.

In His Service,
Rev. Paul W. Mann

(HOLMGREN FAMILY CONTINUED)

Oskar W. Holmgren

Born: Sept. 23, 1911 Elida, N.D.

Baptized: Nov. 1911

Married: Edith Crettlow

Lives: St. Cloud, Mn.

Gunnard Holmgren

Born: Feb. 2, 1915 St. Cloud, Mn.

Baptized: Sept. 5, 1915 St. Cloud, Mn.

Married: Gladys Volk

Lives: Backus, Mn.

THE PROGRESS OF A CHURCH IS NOT ALWAYS JUDGED BY THE
NUMBER OF MEMBERS, OR THE NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS,
BUT BY WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED ACCORDING TO THE
WILL OF GOD.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION COMES FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORTS OF 1975, 1976 and 1977. THIS IS INCLUDED TO HELP NEW MEMBERS UNDERSTAND WHAT STEPS HAVE TAKEN PLACE THAT HAVE BROUGHT US TO OUR PRESENT CHURCH. ALL THREE REPORTS WERE WRITTEN BY KEN JOHNSON, BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.

1975

You're building a new church? Why do that when you have such a beautiful sanctuary? The increased costs of construction and financing and the uncertainty of our economy are poor indicators - have you taken these factors into consideration? Other questions have been posed, and other reactions have been shared.

Our own logic and wisdom have provided answers to some questions as well as explanations to some reactions. That same logic and wisdom is inadequate to "field" other questions and reactions. The only adequate explanation is that our congregation has sensed God's leading in the sale of our existing building and the construction of a new facility.

However, there seems to be more involved in this building program than the mere (?) designing and construction of a new worship/fellowship and Christian education facility. God has some spiritual lessons for us to learn through this experience - this might even be one of His primary reasons for relocating us. While some lessons have already been learned, there seem to be additional opportunities to benefit from God's teaching before we actually occupy God's new building.

Moses and the Israelites were being led toward the promised land, and were needlessly detained when they focus on the giants that occupied it rather than on the promise that God would provide the necessary victories. We have already had confrontations with several giants, and there are others in our future.

Praise the Lord! Following His leading has not brought serious or needless delays or detours. Instead, we experienced a number of spiritual victories in the process of proceeding with the building program.

The following "milestones" have been identified so that we might reflect (now and in the future) on the Lord's leading and His faithfulness in completing the work He has called us to do.

Jerry Kosloske (Carl's Supermarket) initiated action relative to the sale of our church building, old parsonage, and five lots.

Two minor furnace explosions created limited physical damage, but extensive soot problems.

An unrelated (?) firedepartment inspection resulted in the permanent closing of two Sunday School rooms, orders for temporary fire safety improvements, and orders for permanent repairs to electrical wiring if relocation did not occur.

Conquered giants --- 1) Approval to sell the church, parsonage, five lots (\$90,000); 2) Approval to purchase 7.7 acres - reasonably priced (\$35,000), good visibility and accessibility; 3) Selection of a Christian contractor/architect; 4) Functional floor plan to accommodate current and future needs; 5) 2/75 and 8/75 extensions of closing date of contract with Jerry Kosloske; 6) Determine realistic salvage items and sell balance (\$3,500); 7) Approval of exterior design and location of building on site; 8) Approval of indebtedness (\$221,730); 9) Approve commencement of construction beginning fall, 1975; 10) Approval of partial building permit - footings and block work; 11) Numerical growth: (a) highest membership (6) since before 1965; (b) 72 new members since 1966; (c) largest attendance at morning worship (158) since before 1967; 12) Financial growth: (a) increased annual income; (b) periodic gifts to building fund; (c) Frontier Friends appeal gift, (\$13,272)

Giants to be conquered --- 1) City water and sewer services when needed or approval of adequate alternatives; 2) Interim or long term financing: (a) National Covenant Properties took no action on 8/75 application; (b) funds not available for 18 to 24 months if application approved; (c) local savings and loan association does not have money currently available; 3) Proposed budget deficits total \$16,614 for years 1976 to 1979; denominational aid probably not available until 1977; conference aid probably not available until 1977; 4) Delay in excavating and initial concrete/block work due to inches of snow and degrees below freezing (some substantially below 0degrees F); 5) Need for third extension of closing date of contract (4/76)

with Jerry Kosloske, or temporary Sunday School and worship facilities.

For quite some time, it has become increasingly apparent that we have been participating in an experience very similar to that of Gideon and the Israelites as they anticipated and fought the battle of Jericho. God did not ask us to reduce the number of factors that would guarantee at the outset that a new building program was on a sound economic basis. Instead, He reduced the factors for us to the extent that building by sight was and is impossible. The successful completion of His new facility will not be accomplished by us, and we will not be in a position to accept the credit for it. God will work through us, but the glory will be His when we occupy the finished product at the corner of Maine Prairie and Quarry Raods.

Praise God for what He is doing, and thank Him for the opportunity to benefit from this unique faith-building experience.

1976

A year ago, we approached the East Bank of the Jordan River and gazed into the promised land with feelings of excitement and eager anticipation. The Land of Milk and Honey was just close enough to be within our grasp. Perhaps a glimpse of the activities comprising this past year will help us to reflect on where we've come from, where we are, and where we're going.

In early December, 1975, the initial excavation for our new facility was completed and the footings were poured for the worship fellowship and Christian education areas. Steel beams and paneling arrived on the first and were erected in February and March. Most of the concrete block work was completed by early April. Final building plans and the building permit were available in July. The block work, rough plumbing, concrete floors, windows, most exterior doors, mansard, and gypsum board "exterior" walls is ready for the interior ceilings and insulation. The final excavation was finished in November.

The city has already installed the water main along Quarry Road, and the sanitary sewer is due to be completed early this winter. Underground electricity, gas and telephone service is available to the exterior of the building.

In January, the Northwest Conference Board approved our application for aid and has been providing as with monthly assistance since then. The board, at special August meeting, approved our request that they co-sign for a loan if a lending institution required. In return the board has required that ownership of the property be transferred to them during the period of the loan.

In October, the First American National Bank gave their written commitment to provide financing (not to exceed \$170,000) - short term by them and long term by a private investor. A required appraisal was completed, and our new facility (including all land) will have a current market value of \$363,000 when completed as compared with an investment of \$273,000. The final papers are being completed and will soon be ready for trustee action.

As we sit on the East Bank of the Jordan River, it is obvious that a fair amount of work needs to be completed before we enter the Promised Land. Perhaps, the promised Land is more than a completed new facility, and perhaps our occupation activities need be more than using that facility. Perhaps the Lord will expect commitment from us - commitment to strengthen our Christian ministry to each other, commitment to extend our Christian ministry to others through our benevolences, and commitment to be open to new opportunities for ministry via our new facility.

The Lord said to Joshua (and to us?) - "This is my command; be strong, be resolute, do not be fearful or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

1977

We have often compared ourselves to the Israelites enroute from Egypt to the Promised Land. That comparison has provided us with both reassurance and encouragement as we have faced a variety of obstacles. Like the Israelites of old, we have experienced God's blessings along the way and His faithfulness as we have completed the "journey" and arrived at "His" destination.