

Great is Thy



Faithfulness



Dell Lutheran Church
1861 - 2011

Great is Thy Faithfulness

"Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever"

Hebrews 13:8

Forward

It is with gratitude and deep appreciation we celebrate 150 years of being Dell Lutheran Church in this rural community. There have been three churches that have stood on this land, dedicated to the Lord. The present building was built in 1977 and has gone through renovations making space for much needed Sunday School rooms and a larger Fellowship Hall. But, it is with humble hearts we come before the Lord and thank Him for the fellowship we have within this earthly building. It is here, in the hearts of His people, we find "church".

Yes, we are thankful for this building and what the Lord has provided for us, but we also realize and are thankful for the body of believers that make up Dell Lutheran Church, a part of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

The veins of Dell flow out among the community into many families homes. Just walk the cemetery and view all the Norwegian names. It is here, many folks come and look for their relatives that came across the ocean to start new lives.

With-in the pages of this program, we have included excerpts from the authentic history of the growth of this congregation during its first 100 years, taken from "Thanks Be To God" Anniversary booklet, 1961.

We thank you for coming and for sharing in this day. May the Lord richly bless you.

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Pastor's Greeting

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever."
Hebrews 13:8



Our theme this whole anniversary year has been, *"The Faithfulness of God."* His character does not change. His Word and His promises do not change. His faithfulness to His children is inspiring our awe as we look back over 150 years of ministry in the name of Jesus. We are so glad to welcome you to our Celebration Weekend, and we are humbled to have the opportunity to add our testimony to Dellites who have gone before us. We testify to this, our God is an awesome God, and it is His faithfulness that has brought us to this marking point in time...a living and vibrant family in Christ Jesus.

Pastor H.W. Melby wrote in his Centennial Greetings, fifty years ago, *"Will you also join us in fervent prayer that His Blessed Will may be accomplished through us in years that are to come in a century, which, though full of foreboding, still is bright and new with opportunity for extending His Kingdom."* Pastor Melby could not have known that fifteen years later lightning would strike the church building and burn it to the ground. In times when the rural "exodus" was in high gear, the loss of the building was a serious blow. Would the congregation, should the congregation endeavor to rebuild and go forward? Many believed the Lord was not yet done with His work in and through the people of Dell. And so, out of the ashes and upon the Rock, a new building

arose. Behold, what the Lord has done, far beyond a new building!

I will unashamedly borrow from Pastor Melby's thoughts and ask you to join our fervent prayers that God will continue to empower His Word by His Spirit in the life of this congregation. To also borrow from our mission statement, *"Our mission is to Seek the lost, Sharpen the saved, and Stand firm on the Rock until He comes."* The 1960's were foreboding. Our day is full of shaking around the world. May the Lord find us faithful, even as He has been faithful to us. 150 years and counting, Glory to His name!

Pastor Joe S. Ocker



Dedication of the second church built at Dell on May 28, 1893

A Year Long Anniversary

The 150th Anniversary Committee would like to thank the entire congregation of Dell Lutheran Church for seeing this year through in a climactic way through the Anniversary Celebration October 1 and 2, 2011. You were giving and willing to volunteer your time and much effort in the following events we held though-out our anniversary year. Please read below to see what this congregation accomplished for the kingdom in honor of our 150th Anniversary.

December, 2010 - "Country Christmas Tour of Homes" featuring the homes of Barb Twedt, Ardell Frandle, Lesa Ocker, Jolyn Olson, Vicky Nelson. All money made from this event was given back to the community of Frost.

February - Gifts given to Lutefisk Supper attendees in honor of our Anniversary.

March - Coffee and Cookies at Cafes in; Bricelyn, Kiester, Wells and Frost

April - Community Easter Egg Hunt, organized by Mary Lou Alphs (David) at the Frost Community Center. The Frost Community Club sponsored this event and provided and served snacks. The Sr. High Youth of Dell shared their Easter Human Video to a packed crowd. Kids from area towns searched for eggs and prizes were given out.

May - May Day Baskets to St. Luke's Nursing Home. Our Sr. and Jr. High Youth prepared gift baskets and treats for health care workers at St. Lukes under the direction of Youth Director, Nick Tofteland. They were well received.

June- "Kids Are Precious In His Sight" Banquet held at Dell with guest speaker, Ray Howell of Kicking Bear Min. Parker Oaks catered the meal. We filled the Fellowship Hall with 100 guests. This event was a precursor to Kicking Bear which was held in July. Ray shared his testimony and all kids received gifts from Ray as well as Dell Church.

July - Kicking Bear took place at Prairie River Camp, Bricelyn, MN which acted as a co-sponsor of the event with Ray Howell. Ray's ministry is to

share Christ to those kids who need mentors through archery and outdoor games. I think all of the 150th Anniversary Committee will rank the marshmallow fight as one that will be remembered for quite sometime. Some of us hadn't laughed that hard in years. Many volunteers were needed for this event from within the congregation and from outside. After a dousing of rain on Friday night during registration, the weekend went well. The Lord's presence was there and ministry took place. We offered Kicking Bear as a free event.

This month held three parades for us in: Kiester, Blue Earth and Briceyn where we gave out pamphlets about our upcoming events at Dell. We used two banners, a pickup and walkers along side.

Dell also had a fair booth at the Faribault County Fair with Ken Wessels as the organizer. Gerhald Maass and volunteers made 151 small loaves of bread to give away. As Ken Wessels writes "our booth was very popular in many different ways. We had many giveaway items"... including trinkets for the kids and certificates for the adults for a free meal at Christine Purvis's trailer. The Sr. High Youth used the booth as a gathering place as they walked around the fairgrounds wearing orange t-shirts and would stop and pray for those asking for it. The heat was unbearable at times but the inclusion of 3 fans and happy volunteers made the days tolerable, if not enjoyable.

August - Our final parade was in Wells this month and it was by far the most fun. We tossed out "Smile Jesus Loves You" balls and people, young and old, loved them. Thank you to Wayne Olson for the use of his truck and to: Gary and Janet Jacobs, Betty Schaper, Ken Wessels, Glen and Sharon Perrine, Carter and Vonnice Leland, Chris Ratelle, Gina Frandle, Wes and Irene Nelson, Joshua and Maria Twedt, Lexi Skogen, Morgan Frandle, Ashlen Frandle and Pastor Joe.

September - Planning and making ready the 150th Anniversary Event held on October 1 and 2, 2011.

October - 150th Anniversary Celebration. This is the event we have

built up to for all these months. Our celebration didn't start on Saturday, October 1, at 2:00 pm at Dell. It began months ago with our first "giving back to the community" event.

The two day celebration starts on Saturday with a Youth Carnival, Pie and Ice Cream Social, Hymn Sing with Pianist Timothy Schmidt, Hope For Kids Missionary Tom Eggum, Music by the Agape' Messengers and a catered supper. Sunday's schedule; Ray Anderson and puppets for kids through 5th grade, 6th-12th grades with former Youth Director Dan Norman, Adult Sunday School with former pastors Paul Taintor and Myrwood Bagne. Worship Service includes Association of Free Lutheran Churches President Elden Nelson and Hope For Kids Missionary Tom Eggum. 12 noon catered lunch and open mic for memories to share. To end the day, there will be a 2 pm walk-through of the historical church parsonage with Pastor Joe and Lesa.

In Closing

The 150th Anniversary Committee would like to share these words taken from a journal entry by Gina Frandle; *"I would really like to step out in faith and see if some of these activities would be possible. We'd be working for the Lord for a whole year in celebration of 150 years...maybe we could be the example to 'get them where they live'. Go to them, not just expect them to sit in our pew to find Jesus. The year of years ahead can and will be tough for some of us at Dell...I think that that's when the Lord tells us to stand up and make room for Him so He can do some mighty work through those who have been taught how to love and reach out. It's not Dell's year, but rather, the year of our Lord. Amen."*

Dell's 150th Anniversary Committee

Wayne and Jolyn Olson	Carter Leland, Director
Glen and Sharon Perrine	Pastor Joe Ocker
Wesley and Irene Nelson	Mike Schonborn, Emeritus
Nick Tofteland	Gina Frandle

History of The Blue Earth Evangelical Lutheran Church (Dell)

As taken from "Thanks Be To God" 100th Anniversary booklet

In the summer of 1857, the first Norwegian settlers came to Faribault County. They were Ole Nelson Hauge, Ole Nelson Humdrey, Knut Johnson Skernes, Gjest Anderson Flaten, Jens La, Henrik Larson, Jens Tue, Henry Ronnei. The next year (1858) came: Eric Amundson Husebo, Ole Legried, Hans Urness. All originated from Sogn County, Norway. They came the long way from southern Wisconsin. These sturdy men and women settled along the Blue Earth river, where they found building material, firewood, water for livestock and protection from the wintery blasts. The first years were trying and difficult. The Indian massacre at Spirit Lake, a days journey from the new settlement, spread fear among the settlers and some gathered their meager possessions and retreated to a safer distance from the frontier.

The nearest marketplace at the time was St. Paul, a distance of 150 miles; Red Wing, McGregor, Hastings were others of approximately the same distance. Here, they journeyed with oxen to dispose of their wheat and meat and buy the necessities of life. The majority of the settlers had come from Norway empty handed and none came here expecting that everything should be in readiness for them upon their arrival. On the other hand, they looked forward to hard labor and many difficulties. They were young and strong, possessed rugged constitutions, ambitious and hopeful. All entertained hope of having a home of their own.

Under all these trials, tribulations and toils laid a keen desire to have the word of God preached in their midst. They were accustomed to congregation and the means of grace from Norway and they soon felt that life without God's Word was empty and unprofitable. It is told that the first

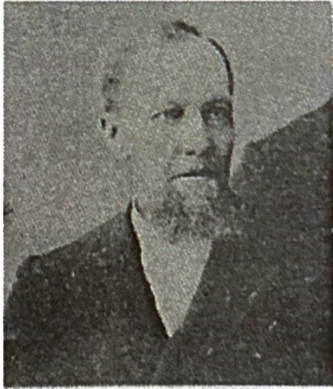


Rev. C.L. Clausen
1861-1864

minister who visited the settlement was a pastor, Frederickson. Later they were visited by the well known layman, Arne Boyum, who under took to ride horseback long stretches among settlers. No organization of a congregation got underway until the Rev. C. L. Clausen had paid the settlement several visits. He organized the congregation, October 2, 1861. The first members of the congregation were:

Henrik Erickson Grov	Ole Nelson Sr, Hauge
Erik Amundson Husbo	Jens Pederson
Lars Peterson Christianson	Rognald Pederson
Peter Olson Hovland	Lars Erickson
Christoffer Christofferson Hamre	Gutlov Johnsdatter
Christoffer Knut Hamre	Christoffer Anderson
Amund Johan Husbo	Anna Maria Johnsdatter
Hans Johnson Urness	Ole Nelson Jr, Hundrey
Ole Gulbrandsen Legried	Gullick Ulrickson
Evan Anderson	Ole Christianson
Gullick Pederson	Signe Alexanders Datter

The books show that Clausen was the congregations minister from 1861 - 1864. Those baptized during this period were:

Jorgen Knudson		Ole Pederson
Ludvig Ludvigson		Martha Johnson
Ole Erickson		Eli Iverson
Lars Erickson		Hermund Iverson
Christie Johnson		Peder Pederson
Guttov Christofferson		Stena Pederson
Kisten Nilson		Christofferson Hamre
Hans Johnson		Adeline Benson
Emma Ulrickson		Helga Olson
Nels Nelson		Betsy Emerson
Karen Maria Nelson		Karl Johan Knudson
Maria Lovis Nelson		Nels Martinus Pederson
	Rev. T.H. Dahl	
	1867-1885	

The first two interments in the Dell cemetery were two children of Albert Knutson: Marianne Kristine and Karen. They were interred by Pastor Clausen on October 4, 1863.

On October 15, 1864 Rev. Thomas Johnson conducted the first confirmation service for the following:

Enger Karine Evensdatter

Lars Larson

Ole Stenersen

Nickoline Kristhofersdatter

Sigri Hansdatter

Antonie Marie Gulliksdatter

All these new settlers were of meager means and could not see their way clear to support a full time pastor. They turned to Jackson Lake congregation (near Amboy) in hope of procuring the part-time service of their pastor. The next year, 1865, these two congregations agreed to issue a call jointly, with the understand that Jackson Lake should have the parsonage and 80 acres were purchased near that place for a minister's home. The Blue Earth congregation was served occasionally by Pastor Johnson and several times by Pastor T.A. Torgerson, who had the distinction of performing the first marriage, that of Edward Larson to Inger Karine Evansdatter, on September 21, 1866.

In 1867, a call was extended to candidate, T.H. Dahl, who became the congregation's first established pastor. He delivered his installation sermon December 10, 1867 at the Lars Olson home (the Arnold Amundson home). The established salary was \$350, and prorated according to the membership of the congregation. Pastor Dahl lived in Jackson Lake the first two years. The congregation seemed to gain little headway and the Blue Earth group deemed it best to locate the parsonage here. In 1869, the congregation bought 12 acres of land from Selmer Mikkelson for \$220, 2 acres of which was to be used for a cemetery. It was decided to build a frame house 22 ' x 18 ' (which is now the kitchen and back entry), and a log stable 16 ' x 20 ' . These buildings were built at a cost of \$416.50. It was also decided at the congregational meeting on March 15, 1869 that the congregation would donate to the pastor 100 bushels of wheat and 300 bushels of oats and corn combined, this being in addition to his salary and acreage for his use.

When Pastor Dahl came to Jackson Lake and Blue Earth the country round about was not as we see it today; there were no roads to be relied upon, but much swamp land and many sloughs to wade through from one congregation to another. This congregation had now grown to such proportions (about 700 members) and covered such a vast territory, stretching from a few miles north of the Blue Earth river to a considerable distance over what was then called "South Prairie", and into Winnebago County, Iowa. At the beginning of Pastor Dahl's service here there were two organized congregations in this part of Minnesota, the two served by him.



Rev. Thomas Johnson
1864-1867 (left)



Rev. T.A. Torgerson
1864-1867 (right)

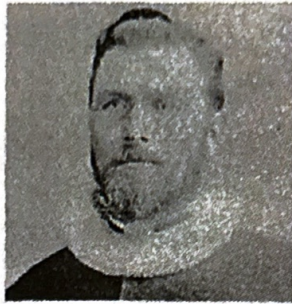
He was effective in organizing and serving congregations at Delavan, Medo, Wells, Jackson, Heron Lake, Long Lake, Blue Earth City and Estherville, Iowa. In the immediate section served by Pastor Dahl, there are now nine churches of the original Norwegian synod: one here by the Blue Earth river, North Blue Earth, South Blue Earth, Wells, Bricelyn, Trinity, Liberty at Rake, Frost, Blue Earth City and Bethany. So, as we give thanks to God for 100 years of His Word and means of grace in our midst, we rejoice for the inheritance that has been shared. Most of the other churches and communities of the whole Norwegian settlement in southern Faribault County and northern Winnebago County, Iowa can trace their origin here. This whole settlement at one time had it's church service here at the Blue Earth (Dell) church.

Services up to this time had been held in various places in the congregation; in private homes, school houses, under the open heavens. Confirmation services, at which time people streamed to Blue Earth (Dell) from far and near, were held in the woods on the banks of the river, where the river banks served as pews and an oak stump as a pulpit. On May 10, 1869, the synod President, Rev. H.A. Preus, visited the congregation and strongly urged the members to build a church. This was done in 1871 on December 10 of the same year the edifice was put to use.



*The first church at
Dell. Rev. T.H. Dahl
1867-1888.*

*This picture was
taken at Rev. Dahl's
farewell service.*



Rev. A.L. Underthun 1885-1889



Rev. Even Strand 1896-1897

The congregation had become so wide spread that it became necessary to divide it into two sections, North and South Sogn.

The records show that Parochial schools had been discussed at nearly every meeting of the congregation since its establishment. Parochial schools were held from time to time, although they were conducted by teachers who stayed here for only the duration of the school. In 1879 the congregation bought 10 acres of land for resident parochial school teachers. From that time some of the resident teachers were: D.L. Melby (father of the present pastor), Ole Underdahl, Mr. Gubbrud, Miss Elise Kittleson, Mr. Halvorson, Hans Osness, Mr. Christianson.

Of the many trials and tribulations that go to make up the pages of this congregations history the diphtheria epidemic of 1879 and 1880 can perhaps be named as the greatest. It claimed a toll of 85 children's lives.

The strife which went through out the Norwegian synod regarding pre-destination also reached here. As shown in the records, it made itself manifest as early as 1881 and grew in intensity until in 1884 it reached serious proportions. In South Sogn, a number withdrew membership from the synod and joined Bethania congregation of the Hauge's synod or Liberty (Rake) congregation, but North Sogn became divided into two congregations: North Blue Earth and Blue Earth at Dell. A lengthy and bitter controversy followed as to the ownership of the church property, until the fall of 1890, when an agreement was finally reach, whereby the anti-Missourians (Dell) gained possession of the church parsonage by paying \$2,700.00.

Through these years of strife, 1885 - 1890, each faction had it's pastor. Those who left the Blue Earth congregation retained Pastor Dahl until 1888. The Blue Earth congregation served by Rev. Andres Larsen Underthun from 1885 - 1889, when he was forced to resign because of ill-health. Later this congregation was served by Pastors: N. Ofstedahl, Fuglebak and O.C. Anderson. When peace again regained following the doctrinal controversy, candidate E.H. Sandvik was called. He was installed June 26, 1890.

Liberty Congregation in Winnebago County, Iowa which had recently been organized, joined this congregation in extending the call to Pastor E.J. Sandvig. In addition to these two parishes, he served the congregation in Blue Earth for ten years. When Pastor and Mr. Sandvig visited Norway from the summer of 1896 - 1897, these congregations were served by Pastor Evanstrand from 1896 - 1897.

Rev. E.J. Sandvig
1890-1903



On January 5, 1892, the Blue Earth congregation met and made plans to raise \$3,640.00 for a new church, apparently feeling they had outgrown the old structure. The new structure was to be 56 feet long and 36 feet wide and complete with a furnace, sacristy, balcony and provisions for a choir. On February 26, John Engum and John Njoes (members of the congregation who had been chosen as contractors) presented three plans drawn by Erickson of St. Paul. The voting members chose the plan for the building which was constructed a few feet south of the original edifice. The secretary's record shows that the church was completed and the first business meeting was held in it on December 14, 1892, Just over eleven months after the first business meeting held to plan for it. The congregation went on record then as thanking God for the beautiful edifice; as accepting the church from Engum and Njoes through the building committee and as

thanking them for their business-like manner of handling the construction. The church was dedicated May 28, 1893. Today we worship in this church, which has retained it's original architectural plan and rural setting among the fields and trees near the Blue Earth river.

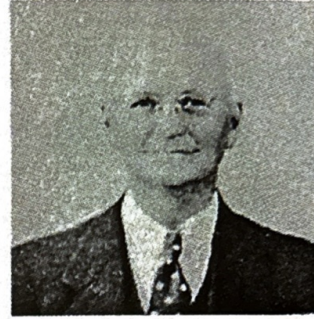
On October 4, 1903 Pastor Sandvig delivered his farewell sermon, Pastor N.C. Brun of Lake Mills, Iowa served the congregation until July, 1904 when Pastor J. J. Akre was called to fill the pulpit. In the spring of 1906 Pastor Akre resigned and a call was extended to Pastor P.B. Trelstad, who took up his work here in August of that year.



Rev. N.C. Brun
1903-1904



Rev. J.J. Akre
1904-1906



Rev. P.B. Trelstad
1906-1917

At a congregational meeting November 26, 1901 it was decided that a church be built in Frost providing the necessary funds were forthcoming without incurring any indebtedness and on the condition that the church be owned and controlled by the Blue Earth (Dell) church. Several of this congregation's members lived in Frost and the church was built there in 1902. Services were held there from time to time, usually Sunday evenings when the local minister was en route to Dell after having preached at Liberty Church at Rake, Iowa.



Rev. C.S. Halvorson
1917-1920

In the summer of 1917, Pastor Trelstad resigned. His resignation was accepted September 12 of that year and on that day, Liberty congregation became separate parishes. While here, Pastor Trelstad also served Bethlehem Evangelical Church at Buffalo Center, Iowa.

Pastor C.S. Halvorson of Thompson was then called (1917) and he served the Blue Earth (Dell) and Frost congregations until 1920. At this time the congregation was organized in Frost and at a meeting of the Blue Earth congregation, March 23, 1920, the church edifice at Frost as given to the newly organized congregation there.

The Blue Earth congregation then extended a call to Pastor Jorgen Danielson Swalestuen of Jasper, Minnesota in 1920, who served here until his resignation in 1924. It was in the same year that the congregation decided to build and equip a modern basement beneath the church structure.

Pastor H.O. Mosby took over his duties here in the fall of 1925, which marked the beginning of a 27 year ministry. When the congregation in Bricelyn was without a pastor for a time in 1930 Pastor Mosby was called to serve there also.

On October 4 and 5 of 1931, the Seventieth Anniversary Celebration proved a festive occasion for both young and old. The older generation was moved back to the day of its teens in the earlier days of the church's history, while the younger folks were permitted a glimpse into the stern realities of pioneer life. Able speakers related the joys and sorrows of the pioneers who toiled for the establishment of the church. They forcibly brought to the attention of all the price with which the privilege of worship has been purchased.



Rev. J.D. Swalestuen
1920-1924

A highlight of the program was Mr. Nels Henjum's reading in the Norwegian language, the history of the Blue Earth congregation compiled by Mr. I.G. Peterson and Mr. Henjum. It was later translated and put into booklet form by Mr. Stanley Johnson. Other speakers were Pastors: P.B. Trelstad, Strand, Gerhard Peterson, Halvorsen and Torger T. Thompson.

Pastors Trelstad and Thompson returned ten years later on October 5, 1941, to address the congregation and friends gathered to commemorate eighty years of Christian progress and to give thanks to Him who makes all things possible.



Rev. H.O. Mosby
1925-1952



Rev. Richard Peterson
1953-1956

The depression of the '30's was felt keenly in this area. It was Pastor Mosby who brought the congregation through this difficult time with a sense of spiritual enrichment in spite of great financial stress. It is worthy of note also, that the church, during the depression, by the grace of God was able to meet it's synodical obligations.

July 22, 1951, was a proud day for Pastor and Mrs. Mosby and the Blue Earth congregation when Carola, the Mosby's eldest, was commissioned as a full time missionary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church after which she departed for her field of service in Japan.

Feeling for sometime the physical burden of his ministry, Pastor Mosby tendered his resignation in December, 1951 and preached his farewell sermon in April, 1952.

In the interim between Pastor Mosby's resignation and Pastor Peterson's ministry, the pulpit was filled by neighboring pastors and young men from the seminary, including Richard L. Peterson. Pastor Peterson was installed at Blue Earth church on November 8, 1953 to 1956. A forward step during Pastor Peterson's pastorate was the adoption of voluntary stewardship with a unified budget, replacing the assessment system of church finance. Robert Maland, son of Mr. and



Rev. Myrwood Bagne
1956-1960

Mrs. Henry Maland, was ordained into the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Blue Earth Church on June 7, 1953.

Pastor Melvin Kaatrud served his parish for several months in 1960 while the congregation was without a regular pastor.

Pastor Myrwood Bagne was ordained into the Christian ministry on a call from this parish and he began his duties here when he was installed, August 12, 1956.

On October 15, 1956 Pastor Bagne conducted the funeral service for Pastor H.O. Mosby who died following a stroke at his home in Mason City, Iowa, where he had been ministering to the aged at Good Samaritan Home. Doctor C.M. Weswig preached the funeral sermon. Pastor Mosby was buried in the cemetery of the Blue Earth Church, being the only pastor whose final resting place is there. *(Take note that Pastor William Ostroot, who served at Dell from 1967-1974 is also buried in the Dell cemetery).*



Rev. Melvin Kaatrud
Summer, 1960

There's always been a strong mission interest in the congregation and auxiliaries, with a generous support of the synodical budget. However, in 1955 the congregation undertook a more personal effort, and support of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest

Johnson, missionaries to the Sudan in the French Cameroun of West Africa, at an annual cost of \$2,300.00 for the sponsorship. His wife, Helen, a nurse in charge of the medical dispensary, died suddenly, March 27, 1958 and was laid to rest beside the new stone chapel her husband had built.

Ernest, an industrial school teacher, was married to Evelyn Jolson in June, 1961.

Funds for the missionary sponsorship have been raised by the annual corn drive, harvest of the acreage of the congregation owned land and voluntary gifts.

Lowell Erdahl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christ Erdahl was ordained into the holy ministry of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church at his home church in Dell on June 27, 1958.

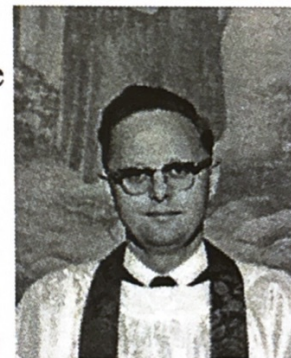


Rev. Harold Melby
1960-1966

After Pastor Bagne's resignation to accept a home mission call, Pastor H.W. Melby moved to the parsonage at Dell, August 31, 1960, to serve this parish. A parsonage in Frost was completed by the United Lutheran Church and was dedicated in May, 1961. Pastor Melby and his family became the first occupants, leaving the Dell parsonage without a pastor's family for the first time in 92 years.

Great response was experienced to a series of Bible studies led by the men of the church in spiritual preparation for the Centennial; group meetings were held in the homes in the spring of 1961.

1967 to 1974 brought the beloved pastor, William Ostroot and his wife Judy along with their four girls to Dell. During these years a revival of youth took place and many teens were brought to the Lord through the singing group The Agape' Messengers. He introduced the gifts of the Spirit and much growth occurred under his pastoralship. Ostroot is buried in the cemetery at Dell. 19



Rev. William Ostroot
1967-1974

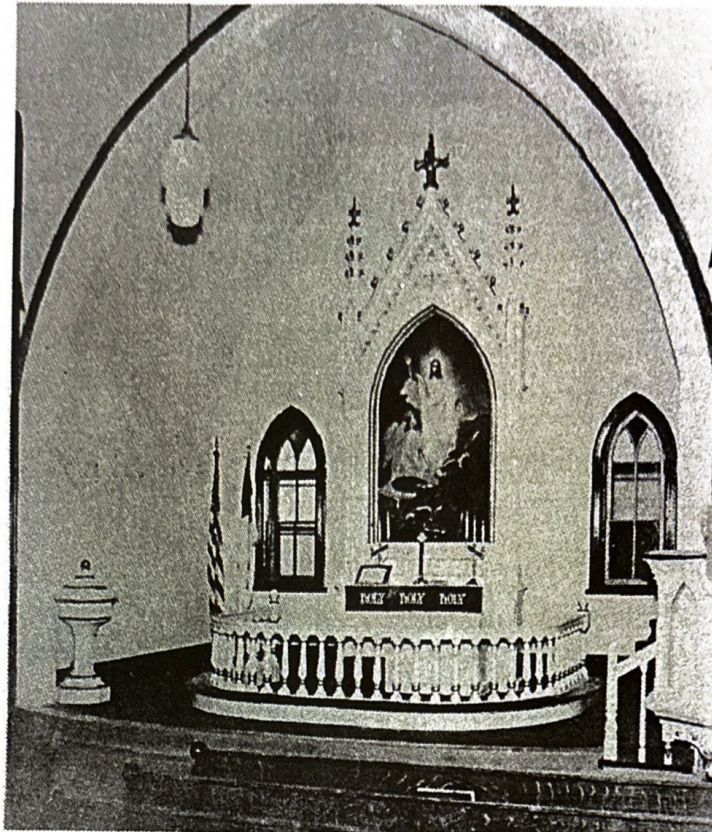


*The glow in the sky brought many to watch, helplessly standing by,
as the church burned in the early morning hours in the summer of 1976*



*Glen Perrine, Harlan Johnson,
Mike Schonborn, Larry Steinhauer*





The altar in the second church building

The altar painting, chancel chair, baptismal font, brass candelabra, flags, brass cross and brass Bible stand, were saved from the fire by quick thinking parishioners, Phillip and Andy Monson and Dale Erdahl.

Andy tells the story that he, Phillip and Dale ripped the altar painting out of the frame while the fire was raging around them. The three-some tried unsuccessfully to bring the piano out, but couldn't budge it through the door. They escaped using the back door located to the left in the picture above. Most objects saved can be found in the current Dell Church.

Another special item found in the rubble of the basement after the fire was our ceramic Sunday School bank. Though burnt and discolored, it was found under the heavy bell that had fallen from the steeple through three floors to its resting place covering the bank. Today, the bell can be found by the parking lot to the west of the church in a memorial built by the Johnson family of Frost, MN.

Pastor Donald Pederson came to Dell's parish in 1975 and stayed one year. A highlight for many of the church parishioners was our July 4th celebration where we road horse and drove wagons to church in honor of our nations 200th birthday. During Pederson's time at Dell, the second church structure was hit by lightening and burned to the the ground in the early morning hours of the summer of 1976.



Rev. Donald Pederson
1975-1976

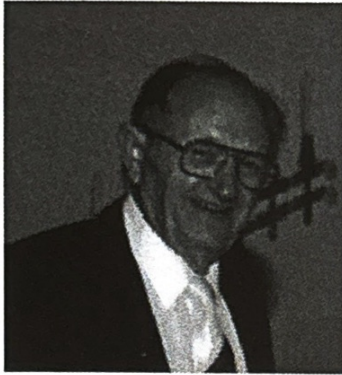
With the church building gone the vote came to rebuild a church on the same site. Pastor Pederson chose to stay as pastor of United Lutheran Church of Frost (our sister church at the time), leaving Dell.



Rev. Irving Tweeten
1976-1978

In 1977 the new church building you see today was built. The bell tower that sits next to the front entrance of the church was built a few years later. Dell had called Pastor Irving Tweeten, along with wife Marion, to shepherd us after Pastor Pederson's departure. Pastor Tweeten held our first church services as a congregation after the fire, under the canopy of the oak trees at Dell and in the Frost high school gym. He held us together and under took the oversight along with the Church Council, the building of the new structure. Much of the inside finishing work, plumbing and electricity was done by talented congregants. Our Altar was a gift from God. While tilling his father's land in 1972, Marty Monson ran into a large rock. After removal of the rock, it laid broken in two parts in the ditch near the Bob Volz farm for a few years. Rebuilding the church in 1977, Marty suggested Dell use one half of the rock as an altar. The stone had three stripes and was broken completely against the grain issuing a thought that the rock would make a beautiful remembrance that God is faithful to continue to give Himself to us through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Pastor Roy Mumm and wife Florence came to us from Bricelyn Lutheran Church as he was interim pastor there. He answered the call to be pastor, since Dell was looking for a pastor due to Irving Tweeten tendering his resignation and entering retirement in 1978. Pastor Mumm chose to continue residing in Albert Lea while serving as Dell's pastor and didn't use the church parsonage. In the many years he shepherded Dell the congregation grew and



Rev. Roy Mumm
1978-1986

heavenly rewards were felt.

In 1986, Pastor Roy Mumm gave his final sermon to those at Dell and retired, living in Albert Lea, MN. Needing an interim Pastor, Dell congregants heard that former Missionary to Cameroun, Pastor Ernie Johnson and wife Evelyn were back in the United States living near Austin, MN. Pastor Johnson, who was fluent in Swahili, would often find himself slipping in and out of other languages while preaching,

making for entertaining sermons. We felt we had come full circle having sponsored Pastor Ernie Johnson for many years, then to have him come back to Dell as our interim pastor. We enjoyed his teaching until 1987, when the call to Pastor Paul Taintor was placed.

Pastor Paul Taintor with wife MaryJo and three vibrant young boys came to Dell in 1986 and were here through 1989, when their fourth boy was born.

In 1986, Dell celebrated our 125th Anniversary while we installed Pastor Taintor.

These were pivotal years in the life of our congregation. Dell was a member of the ALC (American Lutheran Church). Around the time Pastor Taintor was with us, the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) was formed and we needed to make a decision whether to go with the ELCA or a different Lutheran body. Dell decided to go with the AALC (Association of American



Rev. Paul Taintor
1986-1989

Lutheran Churches). At that time, Pastor Taintor chose to be a part of the ELCA and took a call to northern Minnesota.

In the short years they were here, many friendships were made and remain close to our hearts.



Rev. Paul Wiekert

1990-1997

and pass away on Easter Sunday, 1997. Our former "sister" church, United Lutheran Church of Frost helped with the lunch and the serving thereof for his funeral.

Having lived through a season of sadness and growth, Dell looked for another pastor willing to share our pulpit. On an interim basis, we found Pastor Roy Hendrickson of Albert Lea, MN. He shared sermons filled with healing and wholeness as we mended from the loss of Pastor Paul Wiekert. His time at Dell was a short year, but a beneficial year for us. We learned that through patience and endurance, the Lord answers prayers and gives to those who wait patiently.

Pastor Paul Wiekert and wife Karen along with one daughter, Kristine were the next pastoral family to inhabit the church parsonage. Pastor Wiekert was known through out our neighboring towns as being an evangelist. He would go to cafes and shops and was always willing to talk about Jesus with any one. His ministry seemed to be the pulpit and friendship evangelism. As a church body, we watched Pastor Wiekert succumb to a brain tumor



Rev. Roy Hendrickson

1997-1998

This brings us to our most recent gift from God in Pastor Joseph S. Ocker and his wife Lesa along with their two children, Amanda and Aaron. Pastor Joe Ocker grew up in Sioux City, Iowa. The parish he was pastoring at the time he came to Dell was in Neola, Iowa.

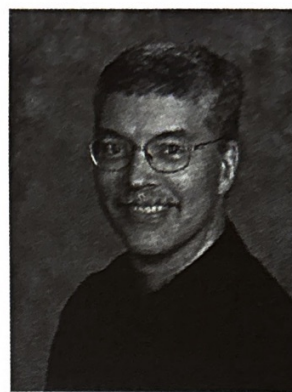
During Pastor Joe's tenure, we found a new church synod and became members of the Association of Free Lutheran Churches, Plymouth, MN.

It was a fit that seemed inevitable as we look at our church laws and by-laws and in keeping with the belief that God's Word is inerrant.

He brings with him the gift of passionately teaching the Word of God and knowing it will change lives, counseling, organization and preaching from the heart and friendship. He appreciates the group of men we call the Elders as a source of blessing. He is continually grateful for the love and support given to him by the congregation. Pastor Joe has a gifting in encouraging congregants in pursuing new ministries that has resulted in: Sr. and Jr. High Youth Ministry, Pioneer Club, expanded Confirmation ministry, Vacation Bible School in a myriad of formats, Christmas programs at Frost Viking Community Center, parade outreaches and mission trips.

Pastor Joe participates in the Blue Earth Ministerial Association, Devotions at Parker Oaks and KBEW, Faribault County Jail Bible Study, Pastor's Prayer Group, AFLC Home Missions Committee and Lutheran Mission Societies' Alaska Mission.

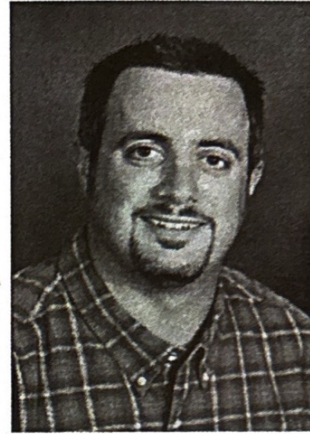
Pastor Joe has the distinction of being Dell's shepherd during our 150th year of being a church. Thank you for the years of service to the Lord. May He be praised as you continue to lead this flock by the river, Dell Lutheran Church, Dell, Minnesota.



Rev. Joseph S. Ocker
1998-Present

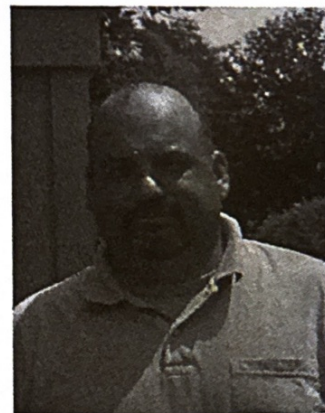
Dell's Youth Ministry

Dell's first Youth Director was Dan Norman, along with his wife, Rachel. He called Dell home from 2003-2008. In those years he started PyrosinC., our Senior High Ministry as well as B.L.A.S.T. (Believers Living A Strong Testimony) our Junior High Ministry. With his help, we received from the Frost Community Club, the B.L.A.S.T. Junior High room in the basement area of the Viking Gym. He, along with the kids, painted and furnished the room. It is still used today by the confirmation class, which meets there Wednesdays as well as both B.L.A.S.T. and PyrosinC. groups. His giftings were friendship with the kids, mentoring and organizing activities. The youth program took strides under his seasoned Youth Ministry hand.

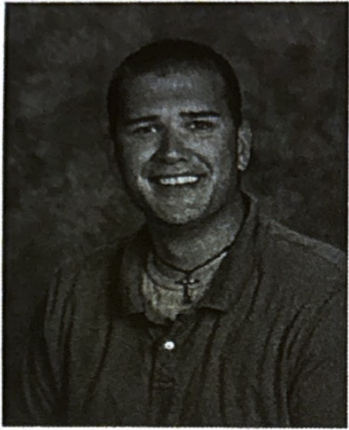


Dan Norman
2003-2008

It was in 2008 we hired Darrell Nichols as our Youth Director at Dell. He came along with his wife, Melanie and their two sons; Cotey and Tyler. His giftings were in friendship with children and the love of video gaming with the boys. Melanie suffered from an illness that often-times kept her home, but she remained a loving and supportive wife to Darrell and his ministry here.



Darrell Nichols
2008-2009



Nick Tofteland
2010-2011

2010 brought a Youth ministry change to Dell in the hiring of Nick Tofteland who came from Blaine, MN. His wife, Jen and bouncy puppy Tobey were a joy to all. His energy and capacity for doing many things at one time made him a popular Youth Director. His giftings were; energy, evangelism, giving to others and sharing Christ to all. Nick tendered his resignation in the spring of 2011 and we are currently looking to the Lord to fill the position.

With Gratefulness

This excerpt was taken from "Thanks Be To God" booklet in honor of our 100th Anniversary.

We felt it fit the occasion and the words still ring true today.

The congregation is grateful to God for the many consecrated pastors who have served them. God has called men of great ability and devotion to serve us, men who have had a vital concern for the souls in their charge. They have given of their talents and leadership unselfishly. They have preached the Word, both Law and Gospel, with great zeal.

Their wives have been true helpmates taking active leadership in the church community. They have endeared themselves to the people by their faithfulness, generous response to need and cooperation in the work of the kingdom.

Together these men and women of God have helped to bear the burden of sickness and sorrow, they have shared the joy of their parishioners and have always been diligent in pointing the sinner to the grace of Christ.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Lord Unto Thee.

The History of The Women's Missionary Federation of Dell

Taken from the "Thanks Be To God" booklet, 1861-1961

A few ladies gathered the latter part of November, 1886 at the church in Dell to organize a Ladies' Aid to promote the work in the church at home and abroad.

Eight ladies signed their names in the treasurer's book at this meeting, namely: Mrs. Ingeborg Erdahl, president; Miss Lean Erickson, treasurer; Mrs. Martha Dahle; Mrs. Marit Urness; Mrs. Martha Hanson; Mrs. Anna Brujeld; Mrs. Kristi Sabin; Mrs. Synneva Helseth. There were a few more ladies present but they refused to sign their names before they saw how this worked out. The first regular meeting was held at the home of Rev. Underthun.

Homes were far apart, approximately three or four miles in every direction from Dell. Meetings were held in the homes. As the distance to go to meetings was often great, the ladies who could get horses and wagon would drive and take their neighbor along. Sometimes they walked even six or eight miles and were present at the meeting at ten o'clock in the morning. Upon arrival they were served lemonade and cookies or homemade grape wine and cakes.

After Scripture reading and prayer these diligent pioneer women began their work. Some would bring sheep wool to the meeting and spin yarn, which was knitted into mittens, men's socks and children's dresses, aprons, etc. The left-over materials were made into quilts. Beautiful knitted and candlewick spreads were also made. All the articles which were made during the year were gathered together and a day was set for a festival. A big dinner was served and then the articles were auctioned. The group felt God's blessings over their work, which gave them courage to continue and increase their work in the Lord's vineyard. Year by year they increased their membership and income.

When Mrs. Sandvig took charge of the Aid and led devotions at each meeting, she was opposed to so much eating at the meetings and often said "We must eat less and work more for the missions." Thus dinner alone was served and it consisted of two kinds of meat with vegetables or "Lutefisk" and "Flatbread". They also served "Lefsa", "Molsa", "Flotegrod", cakes, cookies, pie, etc. Because of the amount of food served, it finally became hard to find hostesses. It was decided to meet in the afternoon and serve a lunch before going home.

Soon after the "new" church was built, it was decided that all the ladies who belonged to the congregation should also be members of the Aid. In 1904, the Aid sent the first church bell ever sent to the Madagascar mission field.

After Rev. Trelstad came to serve this congregation he urged the men to come to the Aid and made each meeting exceedingly interesting by reading books of continued stories about mission work. The interest was so stimulated that large crowds gathered and they decided to divide the Aid into East and West districts. As membership increased and crowds grew larger

it was decided to set aside \$200.00 each year until they could build a basement. During the stay of Rev. J.D. Swalestuen the basement was completed. Both Aids meet together every two weeks and hear the pastor preach the mission gospel.

Big events for the entire community were the Ladies Aid sponsored 4th of July Celebrations on the church grounds complete with it's early cook shanty and later it's pop stand and the more recent Lutefisk Suppers held in the church basement.

The Blue Earth Evangelical Lutheran Church at Dell joined the Women's Missionary Federation in 1931. Mrs. Mosby worked hard to get the interest and enthusiasm necessary to get the Federation established in our parish. In all departments the W.M.F. has worked according to the program outlined by the W.M.F. office.

The Dell Women's Missionary Federation have been hosts to the Circuit Women's Missionary Federation Conventions on many occasions.

In 1940 the Aid began to meet as circles during January and February. The Bible Study was led by a member of the circle. Under Pastors Peterson and Bagne the regular W.M.F. Bible Study series was led by the pastor at our meetings and Bible courses from Lutheran Bible Institute were studied at our circle meetings after the leaders were given instruction by the pastor.

Dell's Women's Missionary Federation 2011

We thank the Lord for establishing the "Aid" that began in 1886. As it moved through the years you may have read the changes that occurred: lutefisk for dinner at Aid meetings, wine and cake being served for snack time, pastors sharing the Bible reading and missionary stories, and adding men to the gathering. All movements in the direction of who we are today as women of Dell. We still are the W.M.F.

Our records don't say how many ladies were present at the meetings back in the 1800's, but, we do know they came from near and far, on horse back, wagon and walking. We also know there were many women in attendance as they needed to break the group up into East and West "Aids".

Dell's WMF (Women's Missionary Federation) of 2011 is part of the American Free Lutheran Church. Dell WMF is part of the AFLC Central Tri-State District National Meeting Day for the WMFs. Dell WMF is part of the annual Central Tri-State District AFLC Spring and Fall Rallies of which we have enjoyed being the hostess on a rotating basis. WMF is still 'mission minded' as were our predecessors. You will find that the Dell WMF includes events for ladies of all ages. Dell WMF annual events include the bake sale for Dell's Lutefisk Supper held on the first Sunday of February from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM with attendance around 575 people.



W.M.F. Ladies - front row, L to R: Sue Dundas, Betty Schaper, Beth Erdman, Jolyn Olson, Thelma Watkins, Vonnie Leland, Angie Tunland, 2nd row: Nancy Sitzman, Ardell Frandle, Diana Skogen, Kathryn Johnson, Sharon Perrine, Darla Walton 3rd row: Jean Wessels, Lynn Frandle, Christine Ratelle, Lesa Ocker, Gina Frandle 4th row; Jen Tofteland, Suzanne Olson, Kim Olson, Anita Beckman, Karen Borghlum 5th row: Beth Satre, Susie Monson

Dell WMF presents gifts to our confirmands and graduates. Harvest Supper is now held after church in November. Christmas Caroling comes to a finale with a soup supper. Every other year, a Woman's Day Retreat brings in Dell ladies and their guests, that makes for a spectacular day. In 2009, this occasion included 90 ladies. Other events that take place during the year are: preparing the communion supplies for Communion, Cradle Roll Enrollment and Cradle Roll Graduation to Sunday School Enrollment, snacks for Wednesday Pioneer Club, home Bible Studies, serving noon meals or lunch for Dell member's funerals, Casserole Ministry Team to prepare/deliver to the Dell member's returning home from the hospital, Pot-Blessing Dinners after church for special events such as semi-annual meetings.

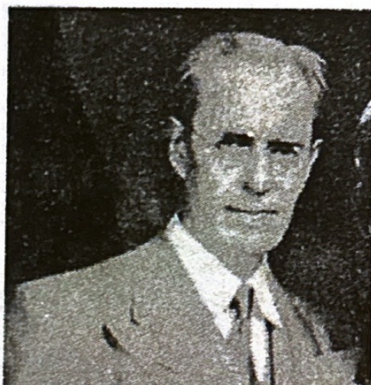
We have enjoyed the special theme programs of scrapbooking attended by ladies of all ages including the young school age girls. Presenting a Bridal-Wedding Shower to a son or daughter from our congregation is a joy. Besides the showering of gifts from Dell WMF members, Dell WMF presents a quilt sewn by the WMF and gives it to the honored guest. The first baby of a Dell couple is presented with a baby shower. Fellowship with others during these Dell WMF events is a wonderful attribute.

In honor of our 150th Anniversary, the W.M.F. made a new cookbook featuring recipes from our first and second cookbook along with new recipes. Also pictures, memories and much of the history in this program you're reading now. We also sponsored a Country Christmas Tour of Homes featuring the houses of: Barb Twedt (Larry), Ardell Frandle (Glen), Lesa Ocker (Pastor Joe), Jolyn Olson (Wayne) and Vicky Nelson (Tim). All proceeds from this wonderfully attended event went back to the community of Frost as a "Thank you".

In 2011 our records show that we have sixty one ladies in the W.M.F. from all walks of life and all ages. It is our great and honorable privilege to be active and still honoring our heavenly Father, the maker of all.

Pastors and Missionaries of Dell Lutheran Church

We put the following information in print with hesitation, because we are very aware that membership is a much more fluid concept now than it was 150 years ago. Because of the mobility of our culture, the varying faithfulness of our record keepers, etc., we just know that we are going to miss some names of wonderful Christian workers. We do not want to offend or hurt in any way by omission of names. We humbly admit that this is our best effort at the time of printing. The Lord knows who has served Him and we will all lay our crowns at His feet one day, forgetting the past and our feeble attempts to do good. We pray that this section is a blessing to all, and that omissions will be graciously forgiven.



Sivert Erdahl (left)
Ordained - 1914
Florida



Ole K. Knudson (right)
Ordained - 1920
Washington



Lowell Erdahl (left)
Farmington, Minnesota



Rev. Robert Maland
(right)
Sao Paulo, Brazil



Missionary
Mrs. O.K. Stenberg
San Paulo, Brazil



Pastor
John Nelson
Brooklyn Park, MN



Youth Director
Brandon Sahr
Minnesota



Missionary
Noel Johnson
Youth With A Mission



Youth Director/Chaplain
Dwight Aalgaard
Arizona



Missionary
Esther Dundas
Ukraine



Missionary
Judi Nordaas
New Tribes Minsitries



Pastor
Randy Johnson
Missionary Baptist

Not Pictured

Missionary
Arnold Nordaas
Japan

Youth Ministry
Duane Tweeten

Pastor's Wives

The congregation has provided these women as Pastor's Wives

Clara Peterson (Mrs. T. T. Thompson), Dora Peterson (Mrs. J.C. Jerdee), Marion Gudahl (Mrs. Irving Tweeten), Carola Mosby (Mrs. O.K. Stenberg) Esther Mosby (Mrs. Bob Bingae), Jean Gudahl (Mrs. Norman Heidorn), Diane Erdahl Pabst, Lynnette Volz Messer, Julianne Perrine (Mrs. David L. Meyer), Janeen Olson (Mrs. Marque Jensen), Jill Olson (Mrs. Brett Miller)



This rendering was designed and painted by artist and congregant, Jan Johnson, 1977



The altar in 2011

Our altar comes from a large granite rock which was found 30 yards east of the Dell Church acres by Marty Monson in 1972. The story is told that Marty was plowing the ground and hit the rock. Phillip, Andy and Marty Monson, along with Bob Volz tried digging it out by hand. After a futile effort, they drug it out of the ground with a long chain and a tractor. The rock was pulled out whole, but split once they drug it to its resting place in the ditch near the Bob Volz farm where it laid for a few years in two pieces. It was surprising how it came apart as it broke against the grain in a perfectly flat fashion.

In 1976 after the old Dell church burned and a new church edifice was being built, it was suggested that the rock be used as our new altar. In preparation, the stone was polished with a sand blaster. At that time the three stripes became visible, with the thought "By His stripes we have been healed". They remind us of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which is evident in our worship.

Agape' Messengers

Revival Comes to the Youth

This text was taken from "Song of My Soul" by The Agape' Messengers

The Agape' Messengers were organized in 1969 one late night after a Billy Graham Crusade in Minneapolis. The kids there were really turned on, and came back to tell the Pastor about their fantastic discovery. That was only the beginning of their desire to share this discovery with everyone they came in contact with.



In this photo (those we recognize):

Sonja Ostroot, Lynnette Volz, Diane Erdahl, Peter Urberg, Randy Johnson, Andy Monson, David Erdahl, Jeff Nodland, Sue Nelson, Carla Monson, Melanie Loge

A few days later, they started their own "team". They named the team The Agape' Messengers. They invited anyone who wanted to, to join them in Bible Study, prayer and singing. Soon the group obtained

invitations to sing for different religious activities. The Lord chose to move through their team.

As summer approached, the team felt lead to bring their bus and lots of love to the fair.

*"Tell the people I love them
Tell the people I care
When they feel far away from me
Tell the people I'm there"*

As the song says, we are here at the fair to tell the people that God is still here, and loves us enough to die for us. Our purpose here is to convey this message.

Meet Marybelle

Marybelle, which the team christened the bus, was given to us by Dave Schaefer of Sherburn, MN. He gave the title of Marybelle to the churches of United of Frost and Dell on the conditions



that the team could use it as long as they stayed together. Marybelle was notoriously known for breaking down and had several different engine failures. The Agape' Messengers continued to use her faithfully through the years.

In this picture: *Melanie Loge, Don Schaefer, Andy Monson, Bruce Hanson, Tammy Bartels, Terry Bartels, Steve Nelson, Renee Amundson*

This deeply committed group of kids from 7th through 12th grades were held together by their adult advisors, Richard Johnson of Frost and Wayne Olson of Blue Earth under the direction of then Pastor William Ostroot.

The text below was taken from The Blue Earth Post from 1970

"Singing out to declare their own spiritual rebirth and help spread God's love, some forty Frost area teens make up a unique vocal group. The Agape' Messengers have spent the past 17 months performing locally at church gatherings as well as traveling to near-by communities of Mountain Lake and Mason City. To date, the group has put on about 55 performances."

The following is taken from the Congregational Report as given by Pastor William Ostroot, 1971

"The youth awakening has spilled over into the third year. Lives continue to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a thrilling experience to attend the weekly Bible Studies and prayer sessions. Again and again Satan has tried to torpedo turned on youth. But always at the critical moment deliverance comes!"



This picture is from the Blue Earth Post article shared above.

Dell Lutheran Church

2011

Pastor.....Joe Ocker
Youth Director.....

Church Officers

President.....Gary Jacobs
Vice President.....Wayne Olson
Secretary.....Wayne Johnson
Treasurer.....Mark Frandle

Women's Missionary Federation

President.....Ardell Frandle
Treasurer.....Karen Borglum
Secretary.....Elizabeth Jacobson
Devotional Leaders.....Beth Satre, Sharon Perrine
Cradle Roll Secretary.....Lynn Frandle

Elders

Gary Jacobs
Wayne Kalenberg
Tim Nelson
Wesley Nelson
Wayne Olson
Glen Perrine
Gerhald Maass

Youth Board

David Frandle
Mark Frandle
Wayne Kalenberg
Lesa Ocker
Sue Wiersma