

REV. JOHN TORELL, PASTOR
Author of This Book

MOTTO:

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord, and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: Whether we live therefore, or we die, we are the Lord's. Rom. 14:8.

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**Swedish Evangelical Lutheran
Bethlehem Church**

In

Word and Picture

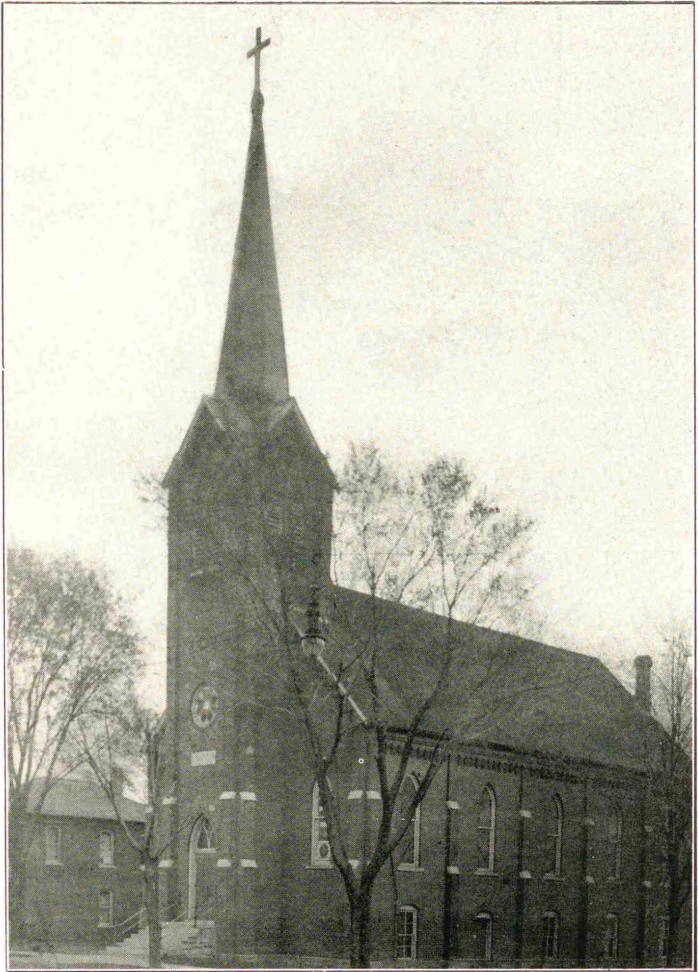


Chesterton, Indiana

1879 - - 1920

THE TRIBUNE PRESS
Chesterton, Indiana.

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THE CHURCH



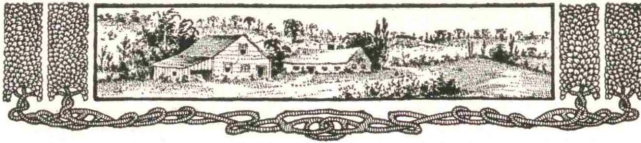
WE hope that the simple mentioning of a few facts, names and figures may, at least, in some measure, serve for the time being, the purpose of this pamphlet. We regret that the present high cost of material and workmanship has compelled us to abandon our first plan of a more complete sketch of the first forty-one years in the history of our church. For that reason, we have been compelled to omit the mentioning of many names of faithful workers and their splendid work. The church itself stands today as the monument of their efforts.

A few picture groups made by J. W. Hisgin of Valparaiso and the greater number of them by Arvid Anderson, a member of our church, are found herein. The Indiana Engraving Company of South Bend has made all the cuts, with the exception of a few borrowed from the Augustana Book Concern. We are indebted to Arvid Anderson, for the pictures, nearly free of charge, and to Carl and Elizabeth Nelson for help rendered, in editing this pamphlet.

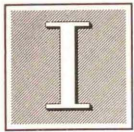


TRUSTEES AND DEACONS.

FIRST ROW—Carl Nelson, Clarence Holm, Alfred Olson, Richard Anderson,
SECOND ROW—Charles Lawrence, Rev. J. Torell, Lars Carlsson, Chas. A. Anderson, Gust Johnson.



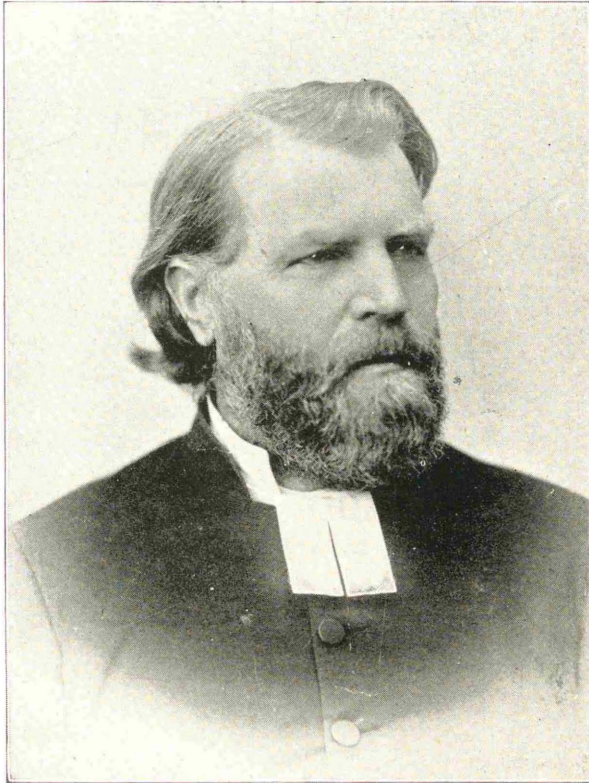
In The Beginning



IN 1822, the first man settled in this vicinity, about two or three miles north of Porter and married an Indian woman. His name was Bailey. Irish lumbermen came later, procuring deed to the greater part of the timber land, and erected a saw mill near this Bailey. Baileytown was named after him.

The Michigan Central and the Lake Shore Roads were both built in 1852, connecting the different rivers for navigation purposes. The Swedes, obtaining work at the sawmill and in the construction of these two railroads, settled in this vicinity in 1852. Some came from Chicago, but later the majority of the old settlers immigrated directly from Sweden. The Irish lumbermen, having taken the timber, sold the stump-land, swamps, and worthless shrubs to the Swedes for \$6 to \$12 per acre. This transaction was for our people a loss rather than a gain, since the cost of the clearing of the land was greater than the value of it. Being accustomed to hard work and to poor circumstances, both men and women, with a determination to make a home for themselves and children, worked early and late, clearing the land. Their homes were built of logs and notched together in the corners. The openings between the logs were filled with clay. They made the floors and the roofs of split boards and slab boards, (the first ones were made of split logs). The doors, being made of the same material, were even hung on wooden hinges and closed with a wooden latch. No lock was necessary, as everyone in the settlement considered himself of the common family. When they could be fortunate with such small means, why should we not be satisfied without having everything of the latest fashion. Such satisfaction would be beneficial for the common welfare even today.

Living in this peaceful and sympathetic community, they had heard of the unfortunate slaves, who were sold at auction. These slaves were stationed in single file, examined by prospective buyers and sold like chattel property. Mothers and fathers were weeping in anguish, when their children were sold to the highest bidder. A father of the immigrants said, when he had suffered the loss of a cow: "Noth-



REV. ERLAND CARLSON.

ing can befall us as disastrous as a slave sale. Within a year we may be able to purchase another cow, we ought to be thankful." Upon such a loss as the death of a cow, all sympathized with their unfortunate neighbor. And it has been said, that strong men even wept with sympathy at such occasions. Their poor circumstances combined them in mutual love and helpfulness.

In their home furnishings the big immigrant trunk served as both table and chairs. Benches and temporary beds were made of rough boards and were generally fastened to the walls. It was indeed very difficult for a mother to keep all cracks in the wall and the beds free from disturbing insects.

The sun in their life commenced to brighten, when they had cleared a little patch of ground with their ax, pick and spade, so that they might plant corn, wheat, potatoes, beans, cabbage and tobacco for their own use. Pathways served as roads and the Swedes were great walkers. The ox was the first draft animal.

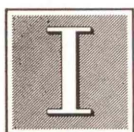
For decades this region was very unhealthful, due to swamps, with no draining facilities. How could we forget these sturdy men, who were able, under such circumstances, to convert this wild and swampy country into the paradise which it is now, compared to its condition sixty years ago!

At that time the home was a busy scene of manual work. The housewife and her daughters sheared the sheep, washed and carded and spun the wool, weaved the cloth and sewed the garments. Nothing in her sphere, which led to the welfare of her family and for the community was unbecoming to her. Their dwelling-houses consisted of one or two small rooms, but here, in their humble dwelling—may we not forget it—she gave life to and nurtured from four to eight strong and healthy children, teaching them to become a Christian people.

Gladly have we stated these facts in recognition of the first settlers of this community and in appreciation of their praiseworthy efforts! We surely have something to learn from them, and with respect we are hereby reminded to honor their memory.



The Early Church Work



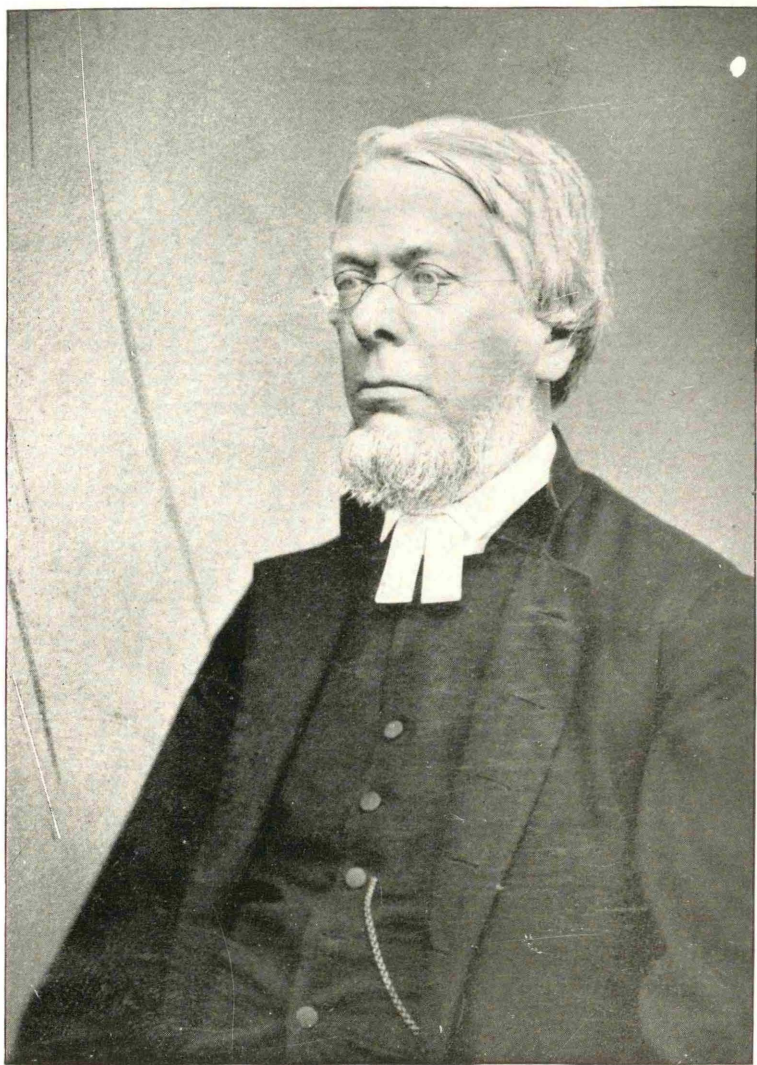
IN order to give a complete history of our Bethlehem Church it will necessitate a few facts, concerning the Augusburg congregation of Porter, since, for over twenty years, the two congregations were combined. These people, busy with their daily cares, were not forgetful of their spiritual wants. When they left their homes in dear old Sweden, the Bible, postils, psalmbooks and other books of worship were packed in their immigrant trunks. On the voyage to this country, they had seen the necessity of a captain for the ship and its cargo, in order to be safely brought to its destination. They also felt the need of a spiritual captain to administer to them the spiritual gifts, and to lead and guide them to their heavenly destination. For that purpose they made use of their books, and longed for a minister of their religion and for a little church, in which they might meet for worship.

Rev. Erland Carlson of Chicago, and his assistant, Rev. A. Andreen, preached the first sermons in this settlement in the year 1855, while Rev. T. N. Hasselquist preached in the fall of 1856. The Augusburg congregation was organized in 1858, after which time Rev. C. O. Lindell made visits to the congregation as often as possible. Rev. A. Andreen was the first resident pastor, serving during the years of 1860-66. After him the following pastors served the congregation and were located here: Rev. P. Sjoblom, 1866-69; J. P. Nyquist, 1869-71; C. H. Sodergren, 1871-74; and A. Challman, 1874-76. During Pastor Challman's time, the pastorate was divided into two congregations, the one in Bailleytown, and the other, the Bethlehem Church of Chesterton.

The first meetings were held in the private homes. The first church of the Augusburg congregation was the old store in Bailleytown, which was arranged for a church, even before the congregation was organized.

Before they had a resident pastor, and during vacancies, Eric Samuelson, Fredrik Bjurstrom, Andrew Chellberg, Adolf Johnson and others served in reading sermons, and Mrs. Peterson, Daniel Lindahl and Swan Anderson assisted with the singing. The beautiful church site at Bailleytown was donated by C. G. Johnson. The present parsonage of Bailleytown was built in 1862, and the first

church at that location built in 1864. Being faithful in their church attendance, the fathers, with their entire family, attended the services regularly, even though some lived six to ten miles away from the church. Not only Sundays, but also



REV. DR. HASSELQUIST

the Christian holidays, such as Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost and others were strictly observed. In contrast to our horses and automobiles the slow oxen pulled the wagon on the low-wheeled log trucks and conveyed the whole family to the church. No spring seats were found at that time, only crossboards and chairs. But in this way eight to ten members to a load were riding to the services every Sunday. Here and there an incline was made to the river, so that the drivers might cross, while for the walkers a log was laid across. They

felt that they must go to church even though the roads were rugged, or the weather rainy or sunshine, hot or cold. Thus they thought: If I can go to work on Monday, I should exert myself to go to services on Sunday. Personally, I fear that when the devil has overpowered people to stay away from the services one Sunday for one reason and the next Sunday for another

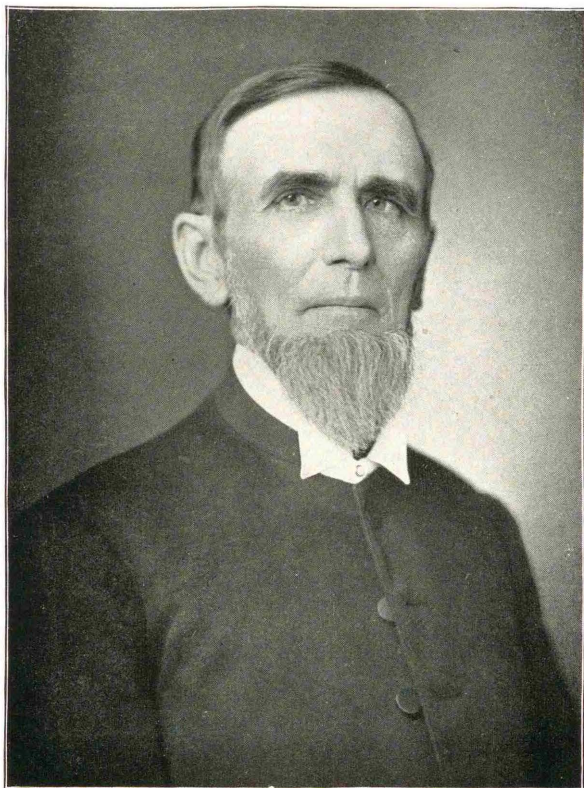


REV. A. ANDREEN.

reason, that he has nearly gained his purpose. Otherwise when a person, through the grace of the Lord, has courage to overcome all these temptations and obstacles, he will gain more than we can comprehend. We come out victorious only by constant fight against impending circumstances.

Our old people at that time also had their faults. Perhaps the most common was the use of intoxicating drinks. But although under

the influence of liquor, they would not endure unbelief in their community. This fact is illustrated by an incident, occurring during the ministry of Rev. Andreen. At a social meeting some were intoxicated, and one even denied his faith in God. This was more than the others could endure, and they thrashed him, as he deserved, until he prom-



REV. P. SJÖBLÖM.

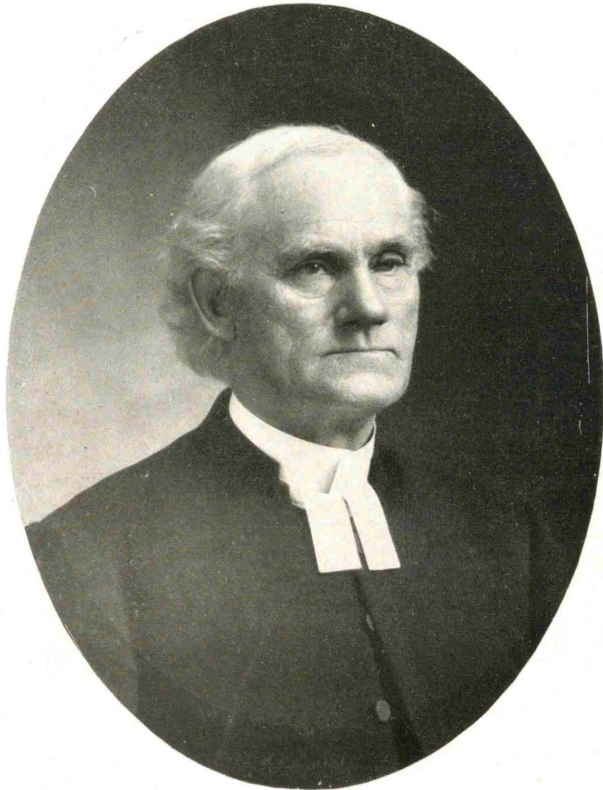
ised that he would never again be so foolish. They thought that it is surely just as dangerous to have a free-thinker in the community as a horsethief. It is gratifying to note that the use of alcoholic liquors was on the decrease, as the congregation increased, and now it has been prohibited by constitutional amendment.

As a proof of the very fact that religion permeated their daily

life, the woods re-echoed with religious hymns, which the people had memorized and sung, both in the evening and in the morning.

For an example let us quote this psalm:

“Nu denna dag förliden är,
Jag dig, O Gud, mitt lof hembär
För all den nåd jag njutit har.
Så denna dag, som alla dar.”

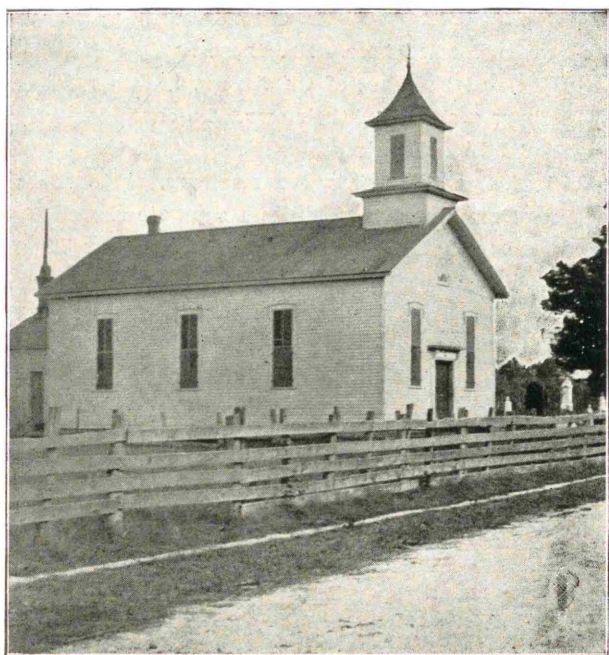


REV. C. H. SÖDERGREN.

Surely the angels must have played on their harps, when they saw the sanctuary filled with people on Christmas morning, and at other

times, and heard them sing:

“Var hälsad sköna morgunstund.
Som af profeters helga mun,
Ar oss bebådad vorden.
Du, stora dag, du sälla dag,
På hvilkens himlens vällebehag
Annu besöker jorden.”



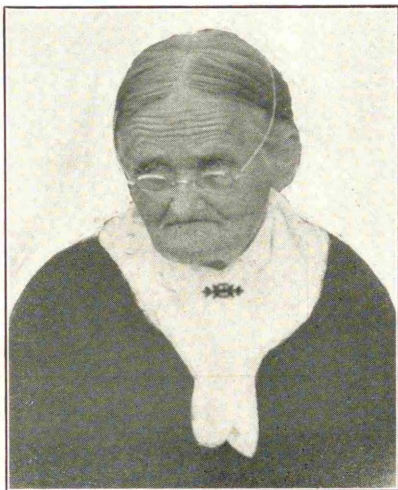
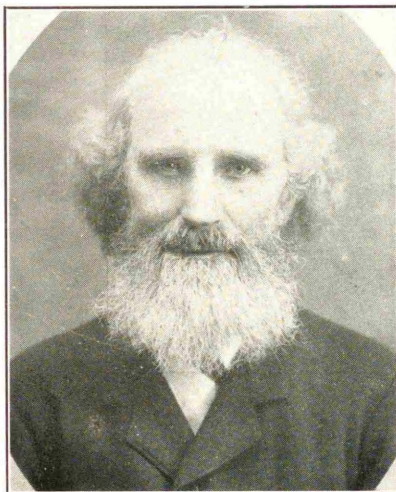
THE OLD CHURCH AT PORTER.

Then the winged melody lifted every soul toward heaven and many tears trickled down their cheeks. The audience tried to grasp every word from the minister's lips, as God's words to them. Such is a picture of the Christian element of the first settlers and their services, during the old times in this community.



Organization Of
Bethlehem Church of Chesterton

AS the town of Chesterton commenced to grow rapidly, more Swedes located here. For those living on farms at Flint Lake and also east of Chesterton, it was more convenient to have a church of their own. To organize a church here, Daniel Lindahl, a prominent man, took the most energetic part. A petition, signed by sixty-five members, asking to withdraw from the mother church, and to organize a separate church at Chesterton, was presented to the Augustburg Church on January 3th, 1879, and



DANIEL AND KAJSA LINDAHL.

it was granted. Preceded by the necessary preliminaries, a meeting was held for that purpose at Mr. Young's Hall on February 12th, 1879. There and at that time the Bethlehem Church of Chesterton was duly

organized, with Rev. A. Challman as president and J. G. Lovgren as secretary. The constitution, proposed by the Swedish Lutheran Augustana Synod was unanimously adopted as the constitution of the church. Rev. A. Challman was elected pastor and served both congregations alike for a period of seven years. The salary for serving this



REV. A. CHALLMAN.

congregation half of his time was two hundred dollars and Christmas offering for the first year. The following members were elected deacons: Swan Anderson for four years, Daniel Lindahl for three years, Victor Johnson for two years, and Frank Bergstrom for one year. The following were elected trustees: Swan Anderson for four years, Samuel

A. Anderson for three years, Peter Lindell for two years and Jonas Johnson and Charles Lindstrom for one year respectively. Even at this meeting the congregation decided to have a few months of Christian school. Mrs. J. G. Lovgren was chosen teacher, but no school was held on account of lack of money for that purpose. The plan at that time seemed to be that all the work should be done as cheaply as possible. No communicant fee, but a free subscription should be asked for and there were no collections at the services except at special occasions. Later a little communicant fee was agreed upon, but this was so meager that the necessary expenses could not be met. I think that starting out in that way has been a detriment to our church work ever since, even if we must admit that money was not so plentiful then as it is nowadays.

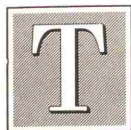
Rev. Challman and the trustees were elected as a committee to get the congregation incorporated and adopted by the Augustana Synod. They fulfilled their duty and our church has been a member of said synod ever since.

Charter members and those who joined the first year are

Swan Anderson and wife, Brita Sophia, and son, Richard Anderson; Samuel Anderson and his wife; Ulrika; Anna Sofia Anderson; Kajsa Anderson; Mr. Strom; Mr. and Mrs. John Broberg; Frithiof Bergstrom and his wife, Anna; Frank Bergstrom; Lars Carlson and his wife, Johanna Christina; E. Carlson; Adolf Carlson; Philip Carlson; John Gustafson; Anton Gustafson; Adolph Gustafson and his wife, Clara; Carl Aaron Grans; Mrs. Anna Grans; Alexander Hogstrom and his wife, Christina; Jonas Johnson and his wife, Lisa; Carl August Johnson and his wife, Nilla; Carl S. Johnson and his wife, Betzie; Otto Alfred Johnson and his wife, Johanna Sophia; Victor Johnson; Anders Peter Johnson and his wife, Johanna Fredricka, Adolf Johnson and his wife, Catherine; Augusta Johnson; John Peter Holm and his wife, Hilda Gustava; Daniel Lindahl and his wife, Kajsa, Anders Lindahl; Erland Lindahl; Peter John Lindall and his wife, Anna Christina; John D. Lindstrom and his wife, Hedda Josephine; Jonas Lindstrom and his wife, Maria; John Lot Lonneberg and his wife; Magdalena; Johanna C. Lonneberg; A. Lindvall and his wife, Charlotta Josephine; P. Munson and his wife, Anna; Nils Nelson and his wife; Hedda Maria; A. M. Nelson; John Nyquist and his wife, Christina; Peter Olson and his wife, Karin; Charles Rapp and his wife, Louisa; Greta Maria Peterson; Johan August Wiedman and his wife, Emma Regina; Jonas Wiedman and his wife, Sarah; Johannes Emil Wiedman; Carl August Sundeen and his wife, Lisa Stina; Peter Johan Swenson and his wife, Maria Elizabeth; John Swenson and his wife, Anna,

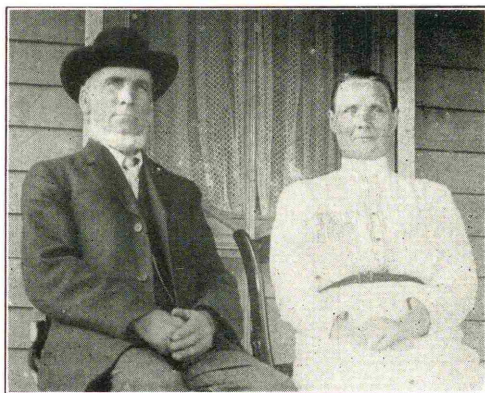
The Church Edifice

And The Parsonage



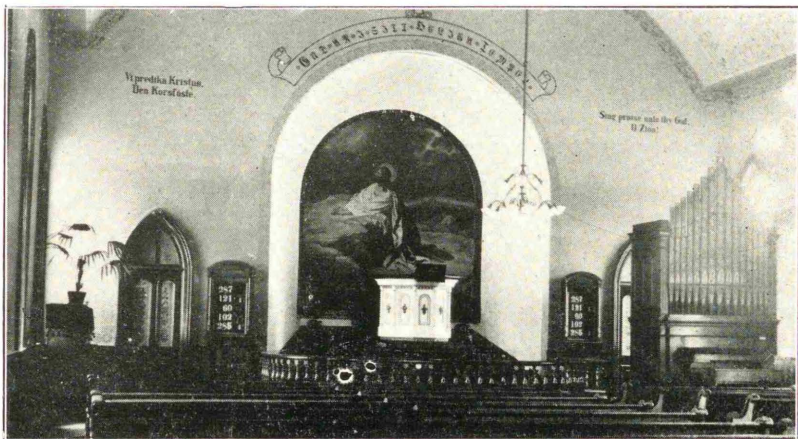
HE services were first held at Mrs. Johnson's Hall and later in the town school house. Even at the organization meeting the trustees were ordered to find suitable lots for a church site. They were to report at an extra meeting, as soon as they were ready to do so. This meeting was held August 26th, 1879, when the congregation decided to purchase the three lots, where the church and parsonage are now located. At the same time a building committee was elected to prepare and present plans for a church at an extra meeting, to be held as soon as possible. This meeting was held February 18th, 1880, when it was decided to build the church thirty-eight feet wide, seventy-two feet long and twenty feet high. The

members of the building and subscription committee were: Rev. A. Challman, Daniel Lindahl, Swan Anderson, Carl P. Sundeen, A. P. Johnson, H. Christenson, Jonas Wiedman, Fritof Berstrom, Samuel A. Anderson, Olof Kron, Jonas Johnson, Peter Lindall, John Swanson,



E. Carlson, Carl Lind- CARL A. JOHNSON AND NILLA, HIS WIFE
strom, A. P. Strom and A. Gustafson. The work was to commence as soon as nine hundred and fifty dollars could be subscribed. And the price for the material, for the church enclosed, should not exceed eighteen hundred dollars. The building committee served by soliciting in their various districts. One member, Daniel Lindahl, was an exception to the rule, he was appointed to solicit money in general. With his energy and with a heart wholly consecrated to this work, he did more than any one else in giving of his own funds, in soliciting more

and in devoting nearly all of his time for this purpose. Therefore this church shall always be an honor to his memory and a monument to his Christian zeal. Every male member was to work in the erection of the church, free of charge, until it was enclosed. Only two men, Fritiof Bergstrom and H. Christenson were fully paid for their work. As soon as the work had progressed, so that the church was enclosed, the meetings were held there, even before it was plastered. A common grocery box served as altar, and planks took the place of benches. After the church had been enclosed, the greater part of the remaining work was done by the day or let to the lowest bidder. The basement



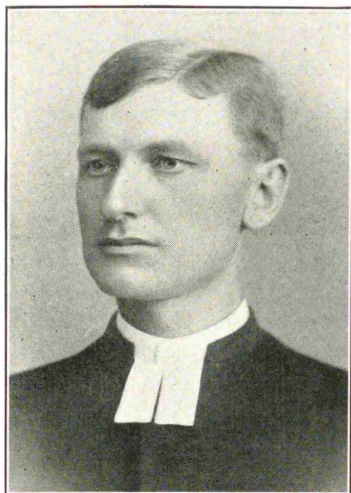
THE FRONT VIEW OF THE CHURCH

could not be prepared for use until many years later. The auditorium, artistically decorated in water colors twenty-one years ago, was re-decorated in 1918, at a cost of \$509.00. Other improvements were also made for about \$200.00. The church is now in first class condition. The last debt was paid by the Ladies' Aid on July 5th of this year.

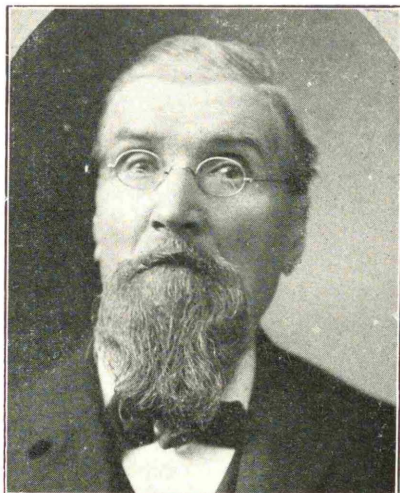
Even though we have heretofore mentioned the name of Daniel Lindahl with grateful memory and appreciation, yet we are mindful of the fact, that this church stands as a fitting and lasting monument to all the founders, who, by their praiseworthy efforts, have erected such a temple!

The Parsonage

At an extra meeting September 28th. 1888. the congregation decided to build the present brick veneered parsonage, dimensions: 24x30.



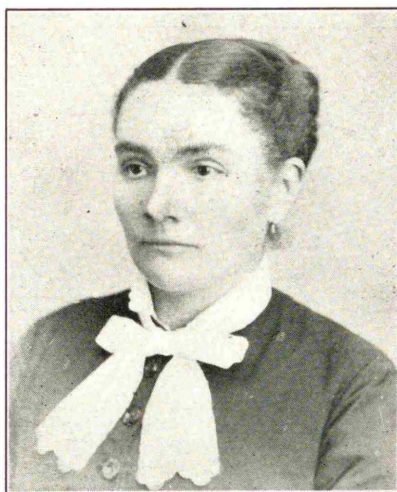
REV. AUGUSTUS OLSON



SWAN ANDERSON

two stories high and in addition, a kitchen 14x16x10, at a cost not to exceed one thousand dollars. All hauling and digging was done free by the members. The contract was let to Andrew Lundquist. The building committee consisted of Rev. Augustus Olson, Messrs. Lars Carlson, Daniel Lindahl and Swan Anderson.

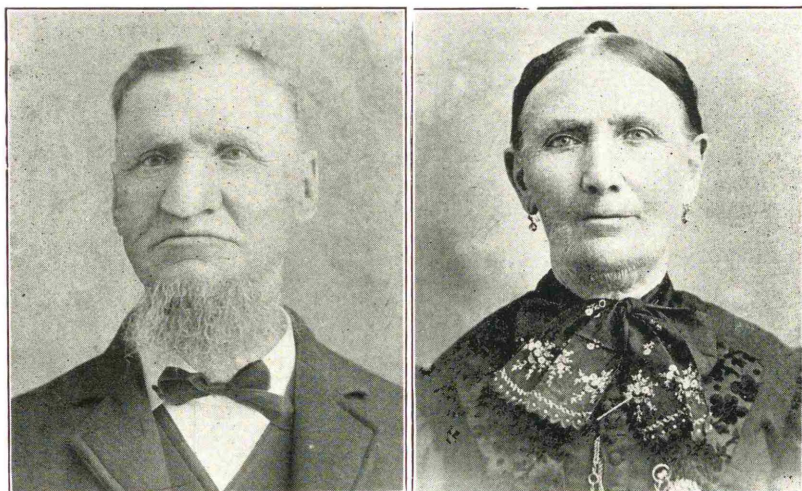
Neither the church nor the parsonage could be built at the stipulated amounts, and the yearly accumulated shortage rested upon the congregation for many years in the future, even though the different pastors



MRS. ANNA STINA LINDALL

made effort at soliciting to pay the debt. Finally Rev. Geo. A. Johnson undertook to pay the debt, and during the year 1901 he fully succeeded.

The parsonage was remodeled and two porches added, in the summer of 1917, at a cost of \$1,400.00, which was fully paid by subscription. The committee for that work consisted of J. Torell, treasurer; Richard Anderson, Gust Lindvall, Peter Holst, Gust Sederberg and Vern Vedell.



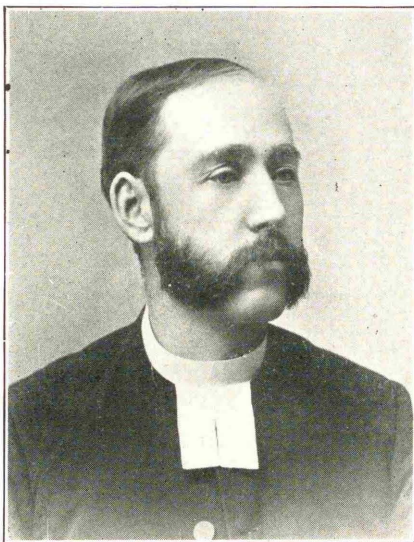
SAMUEL A. ANDERSON AND ULRIKA ANDERSON

The Pastors and the Church Officers

The following pastors have served the Bethlehem Church: A. Challman from the time of the organization to 1886; Augustus Olson, 1887-89; J. B. Bennett, 1889-1894, and 1910-14; Rev. Douren, 1895; O. V. Holmgren, 1896-1900; Geo. A. Johnson, 1900-1904; V. Setterdahl, 1905-1909; C. E. Gustafson 1914-1917; J. Torell, 1917 to the present time.

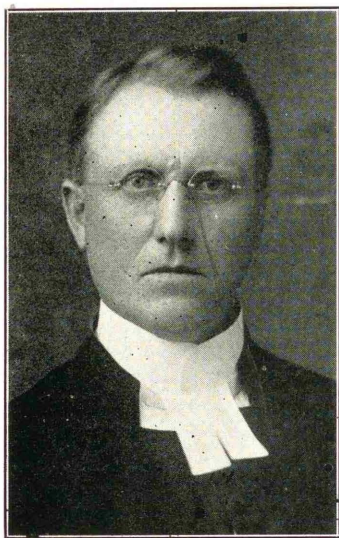
We should like to call to memory a little sketch of the work of each pastor, but we feel ourselves incapable for this great task. Their feelings have often been in harmony with those of Isaiah 49:4, where he says: "I have said, I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for naught, yet surely my judgment is with the Lord and my work is my God's." Often in their pastoral reports these pastors have complained about the prevailing sins, such as drunkenness and indifference

among the members toward church work. Yet, they have received encouragement in their work and have seen their efforts appreciated, bringing blessings to both young and old. The words of appreciation which our people use, in mentioning their pastors, are as beautiful flowers to their memory. The Revs. A. Challman, Douren, J. B. Bennett and V. Setterdahl have already gone to receive their reward. We know that they continued to the end in their prayers for this congregation. And in the name of the congregation, we hereby express a well deserved thanks for

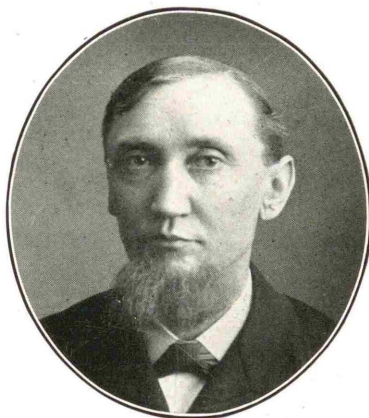


REV. J. B. BENNETT

their faithful work. It is a time for sowing, but there is also a time when faithful servants will reap.



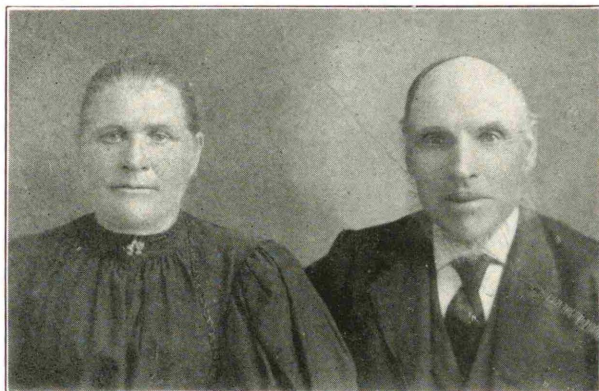
REV. G. A. JOHNSON



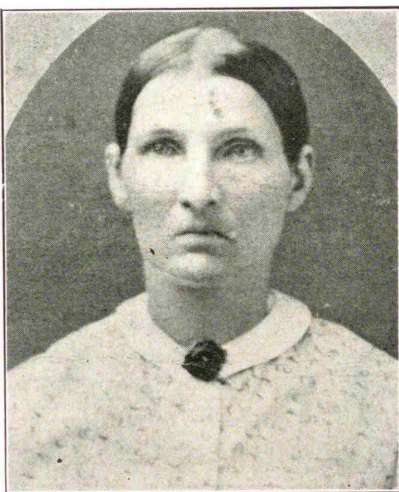
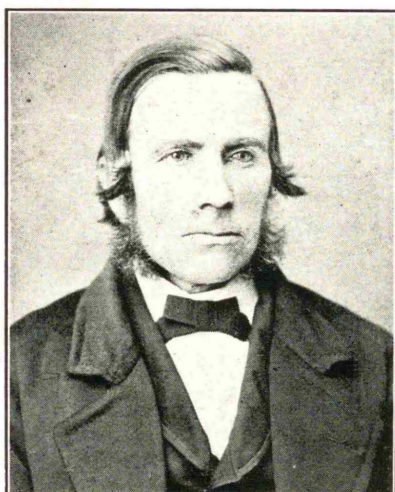
REV. O. V. HOLMGREN

The Deacons

The following have served as deacons: Swan Anderson, for 25 years, Daniel Lindahl 3, Peter Johnson 2, Fred Bergstrom 5, Johan Svenson 4, A. F. Gustafson 3, A. Lindvall 3, C. Rapp 6, A. Chellberg 7, August Hillstrom 9, John E. Carlson 4, Frank J. Johnson 3, Frank Sundeen 2, Carl Kjol 6, Chas. Johnson 8, Fred Nelson 14, Chas. Brunell



PETER ANDERSON AND KARIN ANDERSON

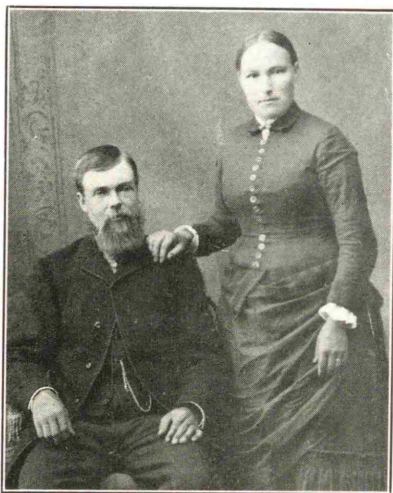


A. P. JOHNSON AND JOHANNA JOHNSON

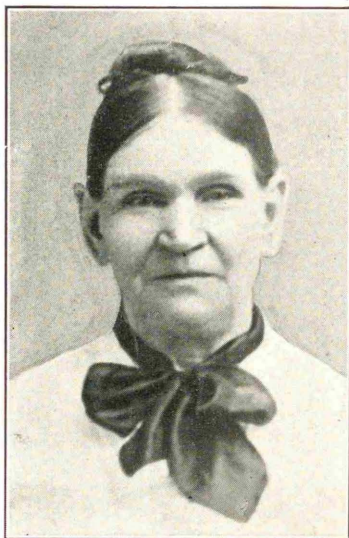
9, Pete Nelson 6, J. A. Wiedman 3, Lars Carlson 8, P. J. Lindall 3, Frank Anderson 10, John Nelson 15, Peter Anderson 3, S. P. Johnson 7, C. A. Johnson 1, L. J. Grondahl 3, Edward Danielson 4, Chas. A. Lawrence 3, August Lindvall 3, Jonas Johnson 2, Richard Anderson 5, Chas. Anderson 5, Gustav Lindvall 4, Anton Bodin 4, and E. W. Nelson 2. The deacons now serving are: Richard Anderson, Gust Lindvall, Chas. Anderson, Lars Carlson, Anton Bodin, and Martin Chellberg.

The Trustees

The following have served as trustees: Swan Anderson 8 years, Samuel Anderson 4, P. J. Lindall 5, Jonas Johnson 9, Carl Lindstrom 1, Fritof Bergstrom

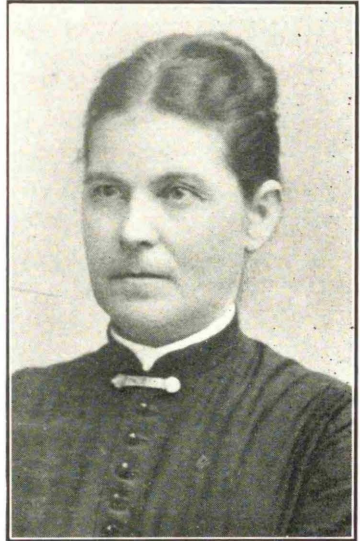
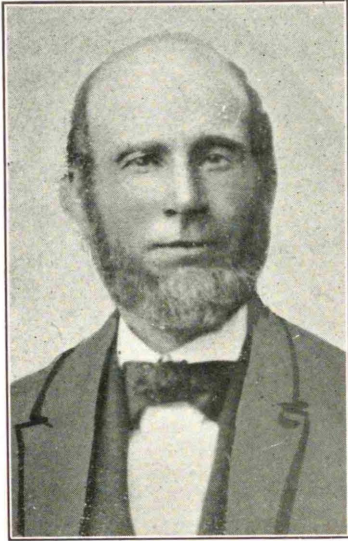


JOHN AND MATHILDA NELSON

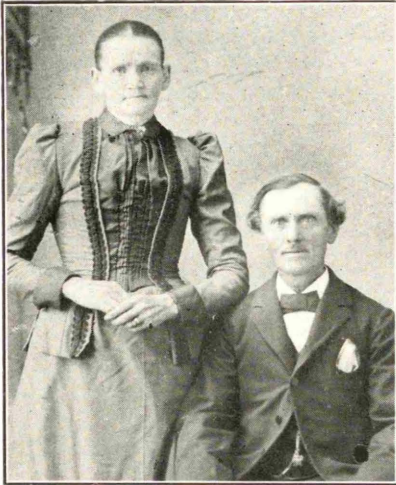


AUGUST ALFRED GUSTAFSON AND ANNA GUSTAFSON

7, August Blom 3, Andrew Lindahl 12, Carl Johnson 3, J. E. Nyquist 3, G. A. Gustafson 1, A. F. Gustafson 1, J. A. Wiedman 3, Chas. S. Johnson

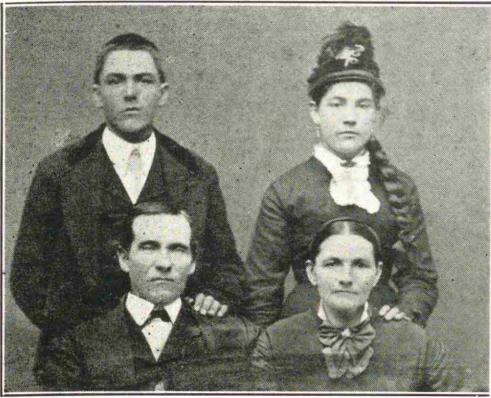


NELS NELSON AND HEDDA MARIE NELSON



PETER AND HILDA G. HOLM

3, Frank Anderson 6, P. A. Johnson 10, Gustaf Lindvall 4, Anders Anderson 3, Albert Nelson 1, Erland Lindahl 12, N. P. Eliason 3, C. A. Peterson 2, C. E. Hillstrom 7, Adolf Vedell 3, Gust Lindstrom 6, Chas. Johnson 3, Adolf Eliason 3, John Grondahl 3, C. Pearson 4, Frank Johnson 3, C. E. Holm 9, August Olson 3, E. W. Nelson 9, Louis Isbey 6, Carl J. E. Lindell 3, C. A. Anderson 8, Chas. F. Soderberg 6, John Lindstrom 3, A. Forsberg 1, Richard Anderson 3, Walter Johnson 3, Fred Lindvall 3, Joseph Isaacson 2, Lars Carlson 3, A. T. Johnson 4, Nels Olson 2, Chas. Gustafson 1,



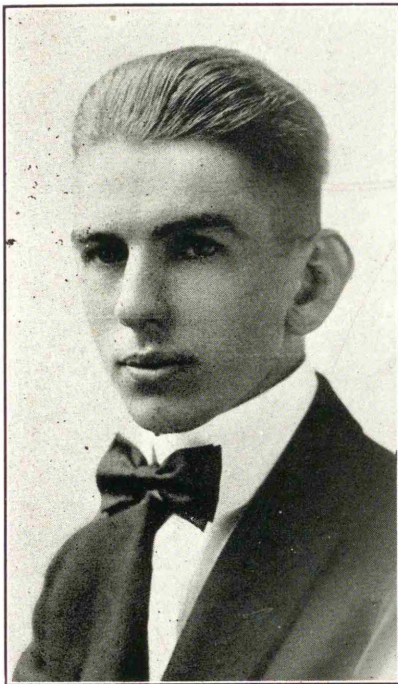
CHARLES AND JOHANA C. LAWRENCE
AND WILLIAM AND JENNIE LAWRENCE

J. F. Johnson 1, Elmer Pearson 1, Elmer Vedell 1, Alfred Olson 3, Peter Holst 2, Gust Sederburg 2, Chas. Lawrence 3, Andrew Holmgren 3, Clarence Holm 3, Carl Nelson 2. The trustees, serving at the present time are: Chas. Lawrence, A. T. Johnson, Carl Nelson, Clarence

Holm, Gust Johnson and Mrs. Walter Johnson.

Organists

The following have served as organists: Mrs. P. Olson 1 year, E. Newlander 2, August Hillstrom 2 years, August Gustafson 6, Emma Swanson 8, Mrs. O. V. Holmgren 4, Miss Alma Johnson 4, Miss Hazel Hillstrom 2, Miss Etta Setterdahl 2, Miss Naomi Setterdahl 1, Mrs. J. Lindell 2, Elizabeth Nelson 1, Hjalmar Vedell 5½. The present organist is Mary Hjelm.



HJALMAR VEDELL.

Secretaries

The following have served as secretaries: J. P. Lofgren, P. J. Lindall, E. Nylander, A. F. Gustafson, S. Nelson, Charles Hillstrom, S. Swenson, Alfred Hilgrain, Axel Johnson, C. G. Rydman, J. G. Lundquist, Adolf Eliason, August Olson, Carl Pearson, C. A. Anderson, S. P. Johnson, Gust Lindstrom, Carl Nelson and Nels Olson. The present secretary is Carl Pearson. P. J. Lindall, Charles Hillstrom and Carl Pearson have each served for many years.

Janitors



ADOLPH VEDELL AND SON,
LAWRENCE

The following have served as janitors: C. G. Sundeen 1 year, S. Grans 4, Adolph Vedell 7, Chas. S. Johnson 5, Pete Nelson 2, Alexander Hogstrom 2, J. E. Nyquist 3, David Johnson 1, August Gustafson 1, Verne Vedell 2, S. P. Johnson 1, Elmer Vedell 2, Clarence Holm 2, August Hillstrom 4, and Richard Anderson about 2 years without salary, when no other had been at hand.

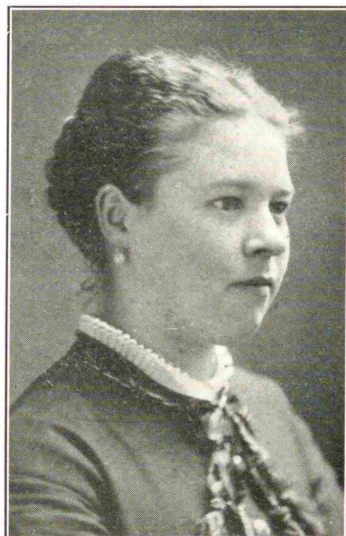
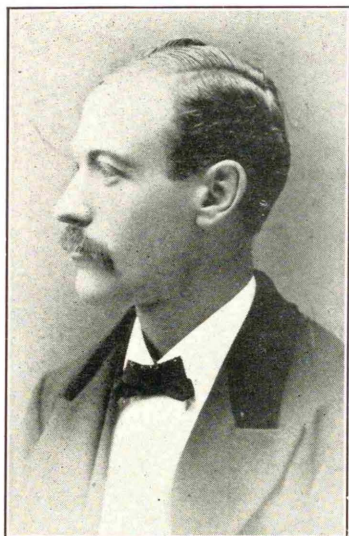


The Schools

THE parochial school has been kept up during a period of one to three months a year until 1917. The reason why we have no school at this time is, that we have not a sufficient number of children of school age. The pastors have usually acted as teachers, but at various times lady teachers have assisted with this work. In this connection we are glad to mention one name, Mr. S. A. Nordstrom of Miller, who has lent a great help in this community for the Christian education of our children, and for many years he



MR AND MRS. S. A. NORDSTROM



AUGUST HILLSTROM AND JOSEPHINE HILLSTROM



MEMBERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

FIRST ROW—Rev. Torell, Harold Sederberg, Hjelmer Vedell, Ruben Sederberg, Edwin Pearson, Lawrence Johnson, Carl Nelson, Verne Kryger, Raymond Anderson, Oliver Isbey, Lawrence Vedell, Martin Chellberg, Everett Isaacson, Arvid Johnson.

SECOND ROW—Jennie Vedell, Olga Pearson, Adeline Johnson, Astrid Johnson, Ruth Johnson, Myrtle Isbey, Elvina Lindell, Dorothy Joy Nelson, Mrs. E. W. Nelson, Sylvén Bodin, Irene Lindell, Siverd Bodin, Marie Hjelm, Maude Lindell.

made pleasant calls in the homes of our people.

From the beginning a Sunday School has carried out its work with more or less success, not only in the church, but, also at times, in the various districts, and is still a part of our congregational work. The different pastors and for some years, August Chellberg and August Hillstrom have been superintendents. The present superintendent is Carl Nelson.

The Societies

Ladies' Aid

Among the various societies within the church, the Ladies' Aid seems to be most successful. At first the ladies met in the different homes and made articles, which were later sold at auction, at least once a year, and the proceeds were donated to some form of local work and for missionary purposes. Lately that method has been abandoned, and every member pays a fee of twenty-five cents a month for the same purposes. At these meetings, after a short sermon has been preached by the pastor, refreshments are served and the remainder of the time is spent in a social way. It is with great pleasure that we think of what these women have done for the congregation. The reports of every pas-



MRS. CAROLINA NELSON



MRS. LOUISE C. GUSTAFSON



FIRST LADIES' AID

FIRST ROW—Mrs. C. E. Hillstrom, SECOND ROW—Mrs. Richard Anderson, Arvin Anderson, Mrs. Mathilda Wilson, Mrs. Oscar Anderson, Mrs. John Wiedman, Mrs. Lena Anderson, Mrs. Lars Norling, Mrs. Claus Isaacson, Mrs. Peter Lindall, Mrs. August Hillstrom, Swan Anderson, Mrs. Swan Anderson, Mrs. C. O. Hillstrom, Mrs. Peter Nelson, Mrs. John Greaudahl and Lillian. THIRD ROW—Mrs. Hildegard Highway, Jonas Weidman, Mrs. Holmgren, Rev. Holmgren, Mrs. Ida Bankson, Esther Lindall, John aBnkson, Golden Hillstrom. FOURTH ROW—Earl Sherwood, Elmer Holmgren.

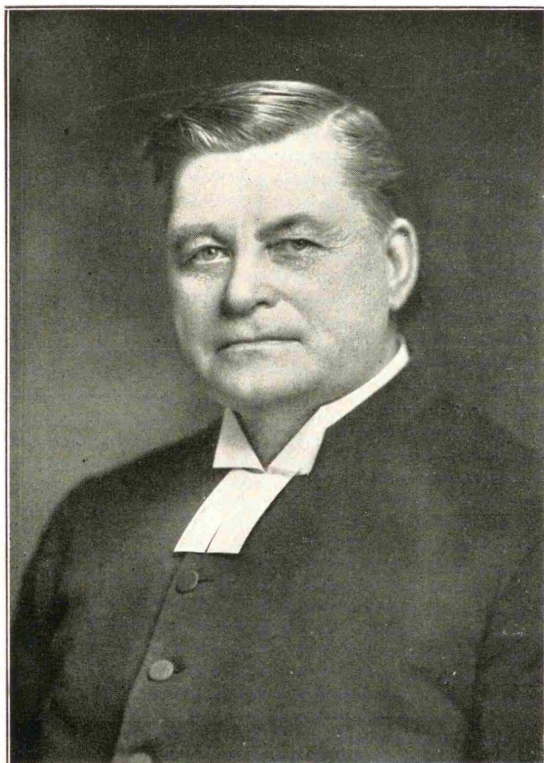
tor and the annual treasurer's reports gives credit to their work. Their social meetings are inspiring and their contributions have always brought the greatest help to the congregational work.

At present the following are members of the society:

Mrs. Richard Anderson, Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. Charles Anderson, Mrs. C. F. Anderson, Mrs. A. Christopherson, Mrs. Martin Chellberg, Mrs. Edward Danielson, Mrs. C. A. Forsberg, Mrs. John Greandahl, Mrs. August Hillstrom, Mrs. Chas. Holm, Mrs. C. Isaacson, Mrs. J. Isaacson, Mrs. Lewis Isbey, Mrs. Ed Isbey, Mrs. Peter Holst, Mrs. John F. Johnson, Mrs. W. T. Johnson, Mrs. A. T. Johnson, Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Mrs. John Lindstrom, Mrs. J. B. Lindstrom, Mrs. J. B. Lindell, Mrs. Andrew Larson, Mrs. Chas. Lawrence, Miss Anna Lunnerberg, Miss Jennie Lawrence, Mrs. Gust Lindstrom, Mrs. E. W. Nelson, Mrs. Fred Nelson, Mrs. A. Bodine, Mrs. Charles Pearson, Mrs. Richard Peterson, Mrs. John Swanson, Mrs. J. Torell, Mrs. Anna Vedell, Mrs. Verne L. Vedell, Mrs. Christina Spurgeon, and Mrs. Anna Wallin.

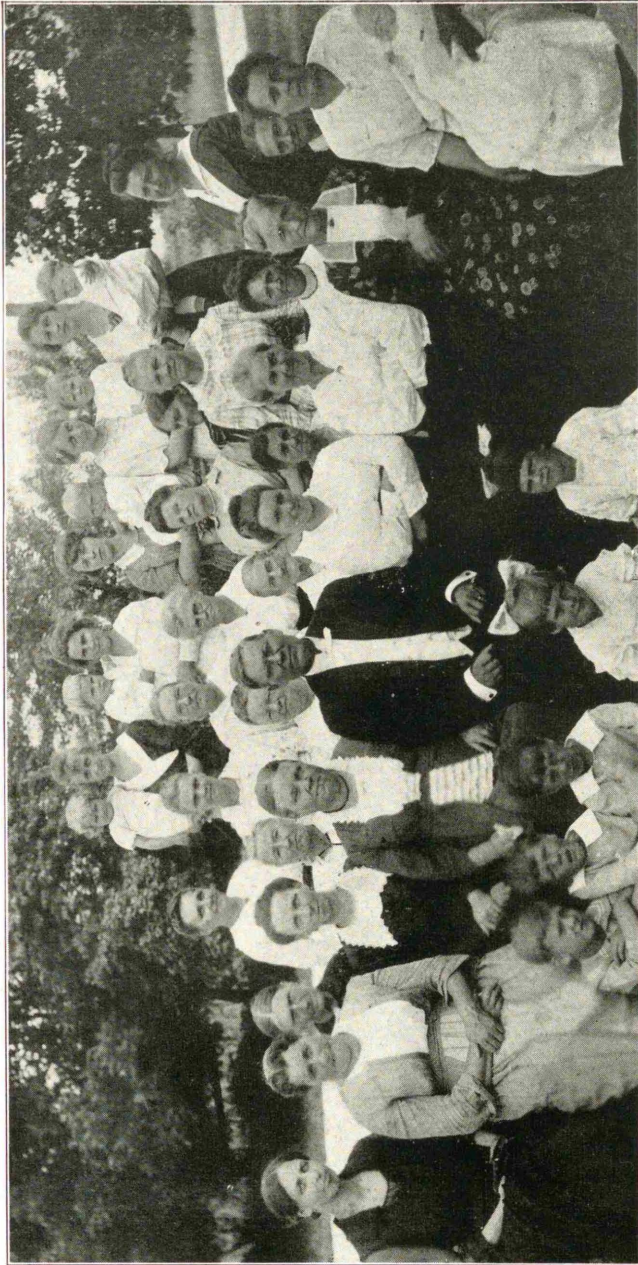
Flint Lake Members

Mrs. C. A. Bowman, Mrs. C. J. Gustafson, Mrs. A. Holmgren, Mrs. Frank Johnson, Mrs. Walter Johnson, Mrs. Gustaf Lindvall, Mrs. Charlotta Lindvall, Mrs. Amanda Casterson, Mrs. Hilma Atto, Mrs. J. A. Wiedman.



REV. V. SETTERDAHL





THE PRESENT LADIES' AID SOCIETY

FIRST ROW—Mrs. C. Anderson, Irene Anderson, Mrs. Mollie Sundeen and Daughter, Mrs. V. Vedell, Howard Vedell, Mrs. J. Isaacson, Ruth Isaacson, Mrs. M. Chelberg. SECOND ROW—Mrs. Ed. Danielson, Mrs. L. Isbey, Mrs. F. Anderson, Mrs. L. J. Greendahl, Mrs. J. Spurgeon, Mrs. C. A. Forsberg, Mrs. Otto Peterson, Mrs. Chas. Holm, THIRD ROW—Mrs. W. Johnson, Mrs. R. Anderson, Mrs. F. Magnuson, Mrs. F. Hollis, Mrs. Christina Hogstrom, Mrs. J. Torell, Rev. J. Torell, Mrs. A. Hillstrom, Mrs. Hattie Lindstrom, Mrs. J. F. Johnson, Mrs. Gust Sederberg, Mrs. C. A. Lawrence, Miss Hannah Lonnerberg, Mrs. F. Nelson, Mrs. Anna Wallin, Mrs. A. Bodin, Sigfrid Bodin. FOURTH ROW—Mr. Sundeen, Sylvan Bodin, Sivert Bodin.

Luther League

The Luther League was first known as the Young People's Society, a name which it kept until recently. The object has remained the same: To be upbuilding and instructive for our young people, to keep them from bad influences, and also inducing them to helpfulness in all branches of our congregational work. The condensed report from the different treasurers, which are found on another page of this pamphlet, covering the last two years, will, in some measure, demonstrate in short the pecuniary value of the Ladies' Aid and the Luther League. Had it not been for these two societies, the congregation would at many times have been at a loss, where to find the necessary funds for support. But the financial part, although very important, plays a minor part in comparison with the spiritual benefits, derived from the work of these associations. The Luther League has presented the church with the beautiful altar painting, the organ, and also partly paid for the electric lights. In the year 1894, the League installed the melodious bell at the price of \$346.95, to call us together to our services in the church.

The present members of the Luther League are:

Harry Anderson, Marie Anderson, Arvid Anderson, Raymond Anderson, Albert Forsberg, Lillian Greandahl, Clarence Holm, Stella Holm, Marie Hjelm, Irene Isaacson, Theodore Bowman, Myrtle Finstrom, Clarence Finstrom, Stanley Carlson, Julietta Holm, Walter Gnielott, Walter Isaacson, Ethel Isaacson, Joseph Isaacson, Frank Johnson, Arthur T. Johnson, Mrs. Arthur Johnson, Arvid Johnson, Mildred Johnson, Clarence Johnson, Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Oliver Johnson, Florence Johnson, Gordon Kimball, Mr. and Mrs. Kemerer, Irene Lindell, eKenneth Lindall, Maude Lindell, Stella Larson, Alvin Larson, Arthur Larson, Rudolph Lawrence, Dorothy Lawrence, Marie Lawrence, Elmer Lindstrom, Amelia Lindstrom, Russell Lee, Julia Newberg, Carl Nelson, Elizabeth Nelson, Ellen Olson, Edward Olson, Astrid Olson, Emil Olson, George Olson, Anna Olson, Edwin Pearson, Daisy Peterson, Lambert Rapp, Levy Rapp, Ruby Rosenquist, Elmer Samuelson, Elnor Strand, Ruth Sederberg, Harold Sederberg, Verne Vedell, Mrs. Verne Vedell, Lawrence Vedell, Elmer Vedell, Jennie Vedell, Hjelmar Vedell, Geneva Wiedman, Melvin Wiedman, Walter Wiedman, Edna Wallin, Herman Wallin, Oscar Wallin. The three last confirmation classes have been received as a class.

The Choir

Without doubt the Choir has spent more time in preparing themselves for their work within the congregation, than they have sometimes received credit for. The first choir was organized and conducted by the Rev. Augustus Olson. Ever since the choir has carried out its part of the church work, whenever they have been called upon at



THE CHOIR

FIRST ROW—Clarence Holm, Edwin Pearson, Mrs. F. W. Nelson, Carl Nelson, Elmer Vedell, Stella Larson,
Melvin Christopherson, Hjalmer Vedell

SECOND ROW—Maud Lindell, Lillian Greandahl, Marie Lawrence, Mrs. Verne Vedell, Rev. J. Torell, Jenny
Vedell, Elizabeth Nelson, Mrs. A. T. Johnson, Irene Lindell. Other members of the choir not appearing
here are: Arvin Anderson, Raymond Anderson, Albert Forsberg, Marie Hjelm, A. T. Johnson, Dorothy
Lawrence, Vern Vedell.

various occasions. The appreciation of their work has increased in the church at large, as an integral part of the services, and thus it has gained the recognition of being one of the foremost in the Laporte District, a fact which we are glad to mention.

The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society

About twenty years ago a separate mission society, working exclusively for that purpose, was organized to use its efforts for the foreign mission. But the fee of ten cents a month proved entirely insufficient. Consequently, it was assumed by the Ladies' Aid. Twenty-five years ago the Christian zeal of the women of our synod brought them together for a more enthusiastic mission work both at home and in foreign fields. Our ladies have taken part in this great endeavor, in past years, without being organized, and indirectly affiliated with this movement. About two years ago, the need of an organization was felt, and co-operation with said branch of mission work in our synod was considered as our personal duty. Of late Mrs. August Hillstrom deserves recognition for being the most enthusiastic instigator and promoter of this commendable work. She has succeeded in procuring members for the Woman's Home and Foreign Mission until we have a flourishing beginning of this society among our ladies. The fee is fifty cents a year with assessments, when called for. The following are the present members:

Mrs. August Hillstrom, Mrs. Anna Vedell, Mrs. Jos. Isaacson, Mrs. E. W. Nelson, Mrs. Edw. Danielson, Mrs. Verne Vedell, Mrs. Hilda Johnson, Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Mrs. Martin Chellberg, Mrs. Peter Holst, Mrs. Fred Nelson, Mrs. Wm. T. Johnson, Mrs. Gust Sederberg, Mrs. Chas. Pearson, Mrs. John Lindstrom, Mrs. J. Torell, Mrs. Chas. Holm, Mrs. Andrew Larson, Mrs. Alec Carlson, Mrs. Chas. Anderson, Mrs. Arthur Johnson, Mrs. Frank Johnson, Mrs. Claus Isaacson, Mrs. John Swanson, Mrs. A. Anderson, Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. Ida Bankson, Mrs. Hanna Forsberg, Mrs. Peter Wallin, Mrs. Chas. Bowman, Mrs. August Lindwall, Mrs. Gustaf Lindwall, Mrs. John F. Johnson, Mrs. John Spurgeon, Misses Johanna Luneberg, Delora Gullstrom and Jennie Lawrence. Junior members are:

Sievard Bodin, Sylvan Bodin, Dorothy Joy Nelson, Alvina Lindell, Ruth Isaacson.

The Church Economy

In reading the church records, one gets the impression, that the church economy has not received the support from the communicant fee from every member, which it has deserved. That fee has been absolutely too meager to support the work at home and to pay the synod what it requires for the common work of our synod. In the beginning it could not be otherwise. But to continue this way for years, was not to the best interest for those concerned, even if the necessary amount of money could be obtained from other sources. The common experience is that too meager giving undermines the Christian life and permits the worldly interest to gain the upper hand. It is also a natural law, that you appreciate that for which you sacrifice most, and you become careless with that which is most easily obtained. Such practice tends to make many leave the congregation for lack of appreciation or take as little interest in the congregation as their church fee indicates. This has in some degree been the case even here. It is true, that our members have not been rich, but one needs not be rich to lend ample support to the church—your spiritual mother. Your fire will keep you and your family warm according to the fuel which you put into it. Another drawback has been a lack of work for the young people at home. For that reason many good church members have been compelled to move away and the vacancies have been a great loss to the congregation. Notwithstanding such difficulties, the blessed work has been kept alive by those remaining, and today we can truthfully state, that our affairs are now in good condition, as the following accounts for the last two years will show. The credit for the present situation may be mostly ascribed to the subscription-card system, in which every one has taken part, and to the worthy assistance of the Ladies' Aid and the Luther League.

The monthly fee in the Luther League was only ten cents until two and a half years ago, when it was raised to the same as in the Ladies' Aid, twenty-five cents. In addition to the card system and these two stipulated fees, two or three subscriptions for benevolent purposes are generally circulated each year, and the two above named societies always find means of raising a considerable amount above their fees.

The deacons' receipts for benevolent purposes for last year amounted to \$636.88. Taking everything into consideration, the congregation has done well and today owns its property free from debt.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS IN THE CONGREGATION

RECEIPTS DURING 1918 AND 1919.

Cash on hand from 1917 to 1918:

In general treasury	\$142.13	\$244.99
Ladies' Aid	92.22	74.19
Luther League	42.50	24.15
Sunday School	55.21	82.60
Choir12
Deacons' reasurer for Missions		6.63
Total	\$332.06	\$432.68

Receipts 1918 and 1919:

General Treasury	\$2,354.17	\$2,102.46
Parsonage Repair	604.70	
Bethlehem Messenger	43.00	
Lutheran Commission	94.75	
Ladies' Aid	147.47	318.06
Luther League	110.74	241.06
Sunday School	100.28	134.50
Deacon's Treasury for Missions	126.61	630.25
Choir	130.79	57.83
Grand Total	\$4,044.57	\$3,917.68

DISBURSEMENTS DURING 1918-1919

Treasurers

General Treasury	\$2,251.31	\$1,800.40	A. T. Johnson
Parsonage	516.21		J. Torell
Bethlehem Messenger ...	32.00		J. Torell
Lutheran Commission .	94.75		J. Torell
Ladies' Aid	165.50	307.80	Mrs. R. Anderson
Luther League	129.09		Lillian Greandahl
Luther League		157.10	A. Forsberg
Sunday School	72.89	125.38	Raymond Anderson
Deacons' Treasury	119.98	636.88	Emil Nelson
Choir	130.67	1.82	Maud Lindell
Total	\$3,512.40	\$3,029.38	

Cash on hand Jan. 1, 1919, and Jan. 1, 1920:

General Treasury	\$244.99	\$547.05
Ladies' Aid	74.19	85.29
Luther League	24.15	108.11
Sunday School	82.60	91.72
Deacons' Treasury	6.63	
Choir12	56.13
Total	\$432.68	\$888.30

Accounted twice by transfer

from one treasury to

another\$ 99.49

Grand Total\$4,044.57 \$3,917.68

Cash on hand Jan. 1, 1920\$ 888.30

Church and Parsonage 45,836.70

Library, etc. 275.00

Total Resources\$47,000.00

A. T. JOHNSON, General Treasurer.

Auditing Committee for 1918

Auditing Committee for 1919

Verne Vedell

Verne Vedell

E. W. Nelson

Chas. Holm

Carl Pearson

Clarence Johnson



The Church

The term church is Biblical, named by Jesus and his apostles. The church is located, where God's word is taught rightly and in its purity and the sacraments are rightly administered, because there is not only an institution to salvation, but also the presence of God, efficacious in regenerating and sanctifying the members. The duty of the church is to teach the Gospel and to administer the sacraments. If it faithfully does that it will be preserved by the Almighty God until the end of time; but wherever it fails in this, it ceases to be a church. Its nature is to be saving souls by educational, benevolent and missionary work. We are permitted to some glimpses only of the future glory, but the goal of the church is fully reached in the heavenly kingdom above.

Jesus says to his church: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

The Spiritual Condition

Y

OU have told me time and again of true Christians in this church, of their Christian zeal, of their work and of their endurance in the faith until the end. Such are indeed blessed memories and beneficial to the congregation. We can not expect to find a Christian without any faults, but even his



REV. C. E. GUSTAFSON AND FAMILY

faults can not dim the cluster of Christian faithfulness to God in a sinful world, as his glory is not in his faultlessness, but in Jesus Christ, upon whom he built his hope. Even our church history reveals that the church has had to combat with many transgressions of God's law, prevailing sins in the community, ignorance and indifference, as the "natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they

are foolishness unto him and he can not know them because they must be spiritually judged." 1 Cor. 2:15. This has caused many sad experiences, but the proof of God's presence in his church, and the memory of faithful standbysers thereby shine so much brighter, as soldiers of the cross, keepers of the faith and followers of the Lamb. It has been the greatest blessing of true Christianity that they kept the family worship in their homes brought their children with them every Sunday to the church services and saturated their minds with Christian instruction and Christian principles. Such Christianity overcomes the world both



REV. AND MRS. JOHN TORELL

within and without. That the church has survived all difficulties and hardships, perilous circumstances, trying scenes, faintings within and fears without, sorrows that rend the heart, and troubles that threaten to crush the most devout Christian minister and church member, speaks louder than words, the praise of Christian parents, the sacred office of the ministry and the great blessings of the church membership, the Christian valor and the power of the tongue of faith. That the church here has been in a more critical condition than elsewhere is not what I mean, but even we have been in conditions and hard experiences com-

mon to all Christian work. This spirit of overcoming the evils of this world may still be needed in a double measure in times to come, but be thou faithful, let the history of the past encourage you to go on, to go on. Let not your heart be overpowered by worldliness, but face the time ahead of you in faith, like Joshua and Caleb in the Old Testament, with the life mark of the Lord. "I am the Lord; They shall not be ashamed that wait for me." Isa. 49:23.



The Pastor's Comment

OUR Swedish community has not produced many widely known men, but it is great in itself to be a Swedish American Lutheran, to know and confess his relation to God. Our people have done this. Only that which we have from God is faultless, but since the congregation consists of human beings it has its imperfections. Harmony and brotherly love have not always prevailed. How can we expect that in such a big family for a period over forty-one years, with so many great problems to be solved, and with very much important work to be performed, as our reports for the past forty years show. Think of how many times money has been needed, and we have been in doubt how to raise the necessary amounts. Neither can we deny that some of God's good seed has fallen by the wayside, upon stony places and among thorns. Nevertheless, the sowing of the good seed has been the main object of our church work, and of our church people. It has received God's richest blessing and many hearts have been converted into good ground. This church work has brought forth fruit to salvation, the greatness of which can not be judged by the visible result only. I am sure that many in eternity will tell the story, that they have been saved through the blessed work in our congregation, from the pulpit, from the efforts of the Sunday school, from Christian conversation, from the Christian home, and at the meetings of the different organizations of our church. God's spirit has been at work in your hearts for personal salvation and to prepare the ground for the good



MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

FIRST ROW—Earl Johnson, Lillian Greandahl, Irene Lindell, Hjalmar Vedell, Elmer Samuelson, Mrs. Carl E. Johnson, Mrs. Verne Vedell, Mande Lindell, Mrs. E. W. Nelson, Jenny Vedell, Marie Anderson, Elizabeth Nelson, Elmer Vedell, Edwin Pearson. SECOND ROW—Victoria Newburg, Mrs. A. Christopherson, Julia Newburg, Mrs. J. Newburg, Miss Jennie Lawrence, Mrs. Hilda Johnson, Mrs. L. J. Greandahl, Fred Nelson, Mrs. C. A. Lawrence, L. J. Greandahl, C. A. Lawrence, P. Lindell, Mrs. and Mr. G. Bowman, Lilly Bowman, Carl Bowman, Lilly Bowman, Lawrence Vedell. THIRD ROW—Mrs. Aug. Hillstrom, Mrs. Gust Sederburg, Mrs. Fred Nelson, Mrs. Helen Johnson, Mrs. Chas. Lindell, Mrs. Anna Olsson and Walfrid Olsson, Mrs. Anna Vedell, Mrs. Amanda Lindell, Raymond Holm, Martha Bowman, Alton Bowman, Elvira Lindell, Carl Olsson, Robert Olsson, Glen Olsson, Roy Holm.

seed, which shall bring forth fruit thirty fold, sixty fold and hundred fold.

As a rule, the members of this congregation have not been and are not rich, but have been seemingly satisfied with their lot. They have earned their bread with honor. Many of them are no longer here, but their homes, our church and their children remain to speak for them, when their tongues are silenced in death. It is our duty to learn what they speak to us in that language. Concerning those, who have gone beyond, and concerning their teachings, we say with Theophilus:

“Konsten att lefva ligger ej i tilar börd,
Men i modet att sjunga sin trossång och bjuda
Sin egen barm mot våldet och bruka sin egen arm,
Att vända torfvan till skörd.”

Such has been their honor. But that work is not finished, only begun. Thinking of the founders of our church and of our community, let us agree upon the following:

“Sa ha vi väl lärt oss något också af konsten att i
Guds frukstan grubba, harva och så,
Den lexan vi stafvat på,
Och ha vi väl mycket af konsten igen
Så, ha ve ej tänkt att sluta än,
När som bäst det börjat att gå.”

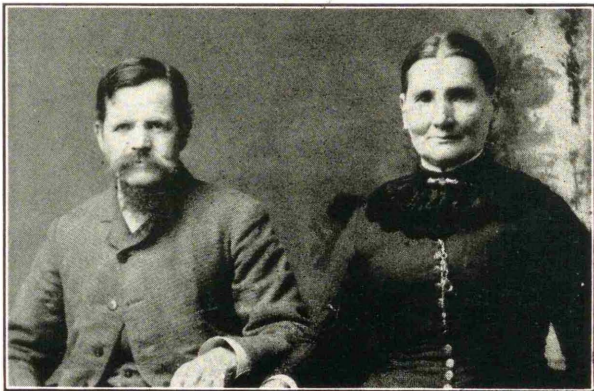
Our aim is to take the same route our forefathers have traveled, even though we are living in the customs of our country, of which we are glad to be a part, and we desire to be truly Americans in the good sense of the word. We believe the Swedish Lutherans in this section to be equal in loyalty to the best citizens, whom Uncle Sam has, and that he gains by urging them to remain faithfully to their best inheritance from their Christian ancestors. Our value depends not only upon a smart tongue, but upon her heart and our religious integrity. Only upon a Christian tree, can we expect Christian fruits. Christian education in home and church is the foundation for Christian community and Christian state.

The name Sweden, Swedes and Swedish must always be as dear to us as our mother. The small but very important country of Sweden has, mostly by the fruits of the Thirty Years War, given even to

America, in the establishment of her liberty, Christian principles and courage of thought to carry them out.

North America, a country of religious life, of education and of progress, has received its impetus mostly from Northern Protestant Europe; while South America, a country of superstition, of ignorance and of undevelopment, reflects the influence of Southern Catholic Europe.

Martin Luther, the greatest hero in church history, brought to the common people the Bible, the freedom of conscience and of religion, which established the true Christian faith, and due respect to the God-given endowment of men. And, as a result thereof, the government of the people and for the people was established. Martin



SVEN GRANS AND MARIA GRANS

Luther fought the most remarkable war with God and His Word on his side, not having the support of any army, and still be conquered, in a time when Catholicism had destroyed the most important Christian principles. As a river finds its origin from the melting snow of the mountain tops and spreads its waters into the desert, converting it into a fertile valley of productiveness; so the Lutheran doctrine, which has its origin from the Reformation, has lent its influence to the upbuilding of Northern Europe and even to our own country.

But a hundred years after the Reformation, the Catholic Church organized a league of nations against this constructive work. The Pope and the Emperor Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary and Bohemia, together with the other countries of Southern Europe and Poland were put to

wage war against the Protestants. Thus the Thirty Years War was started.

The Catholics were victorious in their devastating warfare, marching triumphantly as far north as the Baltic Sea. This was the most critical moment for Christian liberty in the entire world history. At first Sweden had to meet and subdue this league in Poland. When this had been accomplished, it was necessary to leave the greater part of the Swedish army in that country to preserve peace. Christian IV, the King of Denmark, tried to gather around him the Protestant forces against this



DR. GERHARD TORELL
Medical Officer of A. E. F.



EDWARD A. LINDSTROM
At the Front 15 Months; In 5 Great Battles
MRS. JOHN LINDSTROM, His Mother

league, but was defeated, and was compelled to enter into the agreement to take no further part in this war. Then, at the most critical moment, Gustav Adolf, the King of Sweden, hurried home and induced his people to mobilize a new army to meet the forces of this league in Germany. England and Holland gave some financial aid, but the whole burden rested upon Sweden. Gustav Adolf pleaded with his people to take up arms against the oppressors and save Europe. To this cause



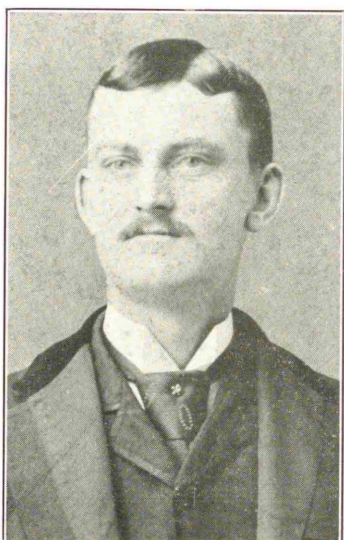
MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

FIRST ROW—Marie Anderson, Harry Anderson, Herman Wallin, Oscar Wallin, Hjalmer Vedell, Elmer Vedell, Carl Nelson, Fred Nelson Clarence Bowman, Gust Bowman, Charles Bowman,

SECOND ROW—Charles Anderson, Mrs. Charles Anderson, Mrs. Anna Wallin, Mrs. Anna Vedell, Rev. J. Torell, Mrs. J. Torell, Mrs. Fred Nelson, Mrs. Hilda Johnson, Mrs. Hattie Lindstrom, Mrs. Gust Bowman.

the small country of Sweden gave all its men and possessions to the king's command to protect their faith. Because of the above named circumstances in Poland, he could immediately only mobilize an army of thirty thousand, but in a few weeks this number increased to forty thousand. With this army he won the remarkable battle of Breightenfeldt and revived the courage of northern Germany to again take up arms against the foe.

In memory of this victory, which turned the tide in favor of the Protestant cause, several cities of Germany have placed monuments of Gustav Adolf, showing him standing on the globe, with his right



HILMAR HOLM
Member of First Confirmation Class



ANNA HOLM

hand raised heavenward, holding the emblem of liberty, to lighten the whole world. On the front of said monument, you find these words inscribed: "Peace and liberty to the world."

So we place the pages of this little pamphlet in the hands of God, in recognition of the blessings upon the Swedish people in former years, upon us in this land, and upon our country. When true Christianity in the world was doomed to destruction, it was the Swedish people of the Lutheran church, who proved themselves a people of faith and action. May they always be worthy keepers of their faith, wherever they may find their dwelling place!

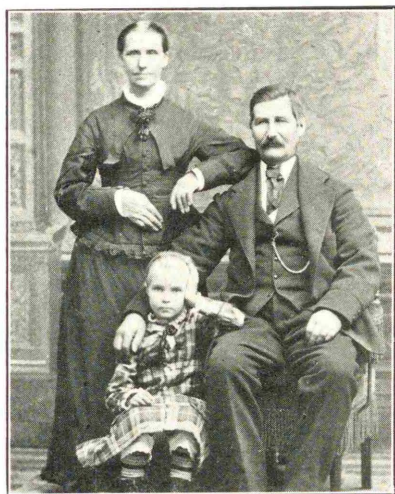


CONFIRMATION CLASS, 1920

FIRST ROW—Theodore Bowman, Walter Guilotte, Kenneth Lindell, Emil Olson
 SECOND ROW—Anna Olson, Marie Lawrence, George Olson, Rev. J. Torell, Julietta Holm, Astrid Olson

Considering these facts which history tells us, I can not understand how it is possible for any one, with Swedish blood in his veins, to become lukewarm or careless of his own church. If we faithfully keep together in our church work and in sacrificing for our faith, as our forefathers did, we, by the grace of God, will surely save ourselves. But not only that, the time may be near at hand, when even we may need to be called upon to defend true Christian principles, as in the Reformation and in the Thirty Years War. May the time never come, when we falter in our faith or lose courage in our Christian action. It is always our duty to build bulwarks against the kingdom of the devil

and against every destructive principal of this world. At any event it is our greatest privilege to rest upon the foundation to salvation, which is Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.



MR. AND MRS. PETER OLSON
Mrs. Olson was our first organist

The church has passed through many crises, coming out victorious, because, if she had not, it would have spelled destruction everywhere. Even our country would not be fit to live in, if all kinds of crime, manslaughter, theft, the breaking of family ties, and distrust should overpower the influence of the church.

The most important business is by all means our eternal salvation. But the church fellowship has also its necessity for the time being. There is only one way to build respect for life, morals and safety in our country, and that is to flock to the church services, to bring God praise, and to restore into your soul the wisdom and the power of God's holy word and also to give your children a thorough Christian education, before it is too late. Some hesitate to join and others withdraw from the church, because the necessary work involves some pecuniary sacrifices. But think what our sacrifices would be without the influence of the church. The state has its enemies which poison many minds, but the church has

manifold more enemies, because her functions are both moral and spiritual, and she must condemn sin in any form, even such sins which the state tolerates. For that purpose every thoughtful man ought to be an ardent supporter of the church principles, of the church work and of the church itself. Furthermore you can see the necessity of the state easier than you can see the necessity of the church, because her work is spiritual. But the church work ought not for that reason be neglected. By all means, the spiritual power is the foundation of all well being. The church is called the militant church against every form of destructive thought. We celebrate her victories.



FLINT LAKE GROUP

First row—Charles Bowman and Alton Bowman (Gust Lindwall, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Nelson and children.
 Second row—Andrew Holmgren, Mrs. Chas. Bowman, Mrs. Gust Lindwall, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Holmgren.
 Third row—Rev. J. Torell, Cordelia Anderson, Olga Holmgren, Mrs. Walter Johnson, Mrs. Richard Anderson.

but we can never be allowed to rest upon the victory, which has been won previously. That would be simply to go over to the enemy. What would you think of a soldier in battle, if he allowed a representative of the enemy to induce him not to eat his own food, or to throw away his gun and his gas mask as unnecessary as long as the war is still raging? But this is what many a Christian has permitted the enemy to persuade him to do. We bless the memory of our forefathers, and even the past forty-one years of the history of our congregation. To induce us to activity and to a greater Christian zeal in our Master's



MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

FIRST ROW—J. Johnson, Mrs. J. Johnson, Mrs. A. Hogstrom, Hanna Carlsson, Mrs. S. Siebert, Mrs. Hattie Lindstrom,
 SECOND ROW—A. Bodin, Mrs. J. Isaacson, Ruth Isaacson, Laura Carlsson, THIRD ROW—C. Finnstrom, C.
 Pearson, S. Pearson, Mrs. C. Pearson, Irene Isaacson, Mrs. C. Isaacson, Ethel Isaacson, O. Johnson, V. Vedell,
 H. Vedell, FIFTH ROW—A. Isbey, C. Anderson, Mrs. C. Anderson, Mrs. W. Johnson, Myrtle Finnstrom, Ruby Rosenquist.

service, is the lesson we should learn from them. The Christian spirit of the organizers of our church has built this temple and has kept up the work in this congregation. A more worthy monument of their faith they could not have built.

We said that the pecuniary value of our church was about \$47,000.00, but the most valuable heritage is your training in the evangelical Lutheran doctrine, and that, at this altar, you have vowed to faithfully hold that doctrine and the privileges and duties connected therewith. And you older members are not yet free from responsibility to the younger generation. We have reason to require of you, to be worthy examples for the young people as long as you live.

Think of what it has meant in the past, that Christ's work has been carried out according to his way of salvation. We have no account of how many sermons have been preached, nor any complete account of the number of ministerial acts, because the records of the first ten years are said to have been lost in a fire. But the records for the last thirty years state, that 518 children have been baptized, 366 confirmed, 108 couples married, 179 members and 131 non-members buried. During the last thirty years 262 communicants have been received by letter or on confession, which number, together with those confirmed, is 628. Our present membership is 274 and 214 communicants.

It is gratifying to admit with the Apostle Paul: "Bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that, which is to come." 1 Tim. 4:8. That is the profit we have been offered, and which we have had and still have in the same proportion, in which we have been faithful. That this surely profited everyone more or less, by its sacred influence over our mind, faith, thought and actions.

Parents! You have given the most valuable legacy to your children, an undying memory of both your own allegiance to God and an encouragement to remain steadfastly in the Christian faith.

At a period of our churchlife like this, it behooves us to examine ourselves, our personal Christian life and also to give thanks to God, that the great work of the Swedish Lutheran Church has been interwoven into our moral stability and into our reasoning power of right and wrong. May we never surrender our church inheritance to any destructive powers, or at any time be careless about the saving



MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

FIRST ROW—Nels Olson, Mrs. Nels Olson, Raymond Holm, Miss Hannah Lommerburg, Mrs. Alma Olson, Mrs. Emil Samtelson, Randolph Lawrence, Clarence Holm, William Olson.
 SECOND ROW—Rev. J. Torell, Mrs. Amanda Christopherson, Miss Stella Holm, Mildred Holm, Mrs. Charles Holm, Charles Holm.

faith. Our highest achievements ought to be first our own personal salvation and next our effective work for the benefit of our fellowmen. In closing let me quote, what God's servant, Joshua, says in Chapter 23: 6, 8: "Be ye faithful therefor very courageous to keep and to do all that, which is written in the book of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right or to the left; but cleave unto the Lord your God, as ye have done this day."

What a wonderful comfort for our soul to have God as our refuge!

"O, give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the people." Ps. 105:1.

It has been with pleasure indeed that I have recalled to your memory the constructive work of our fathers and forefathers and the importance of membership in the Christian church, and more so for us in our Lutheran Church, who is called the Mother of all Protestant churches. It ought to lend us proper enjoyment to know, that we are descendants from a people, who deemed it worthy to give their all for the Christian faith, when the Christian church was in the greatest need of help.

We love our church, because it is the church of Grace to Salvation. We love our church, because it is the first church which spread the Bible and the true doctrine to Salvation and the Christian freedom to the world. We love our church, because it is the mother of all the Protestant churches. We love our church, because it has done more for the uplift of mankind than any other church in the world. We love our church, because it is our church, in which we have been born, and in which we have been fostered to be a Christian people. We love our church, because she has the means to lead us safely from this world to our God-given destiny in the new heavens and the new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness, according to God's promises in 2 Peter 3:13.





MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

FIRST ROW—Ed. Olson, F. Anderson, O. Anderson, SECOND ROW—Mrs. Louis Isbey, Mrs. J. Torell, Mrs. Anna Wallin, O. Wallin, A. Forsberg, C. Johnson, M. Gjellberg, C. Forsberg, THIRD ROW—Olga Olson, A. Isbey, Mrs. A. Isbey, L. Isbey, Louis Isbey, Mrs. A. Larson, A. Larson, Mrs. F. Anderson, F. Anderson, W. Johnson, C. Johnson, L. Johnson, FOURTH ROW—Irene Otto, Orin Isbey, R. Sederberg, O. Isbey, M. Smedman, Emmet Olund.

COMMUNICANTS IN THE CONGREGATION 1920.

BURDICK ROUTE

Carl Anderson	Albert Walin
Mrs. Paulina Anderson	Mrs. Jennie Marie Wiedman
Clarence O. Anderson	Paul Walter Wiedman
Harry L. Anderson	Wilhelm Wiedman
Marie Elizabeth Anderson	Geneva Wiedman
Frank Anderson	Lars Johan Greandahl
Mrs. Emma Christina Anderson	Mrs. Anna Stina Greandahl
Alma Josefina Anderson	Lillian Victoria Greandahl
Johan Peter Anderson	Elmer Fredrik Samuelson
Mrs. Ida Elizabeth Bankson	Rubie Rosenquist
Mrs. Emelia Christina Johnson	Roger Stanley Carlson
Gustaf Lindstrom	Anna Mathilda Olson
Mrs. Hilda Marie Lindstrom	Ostrid Marie Victoria Olson
Elmer Lindstrom	Emil Albin Olson
Erland Lindahl	Nels Olson
Harold Lindahl	Mrs. Selma Josefina Olson
Carl Lawrence	Nels Leonard Olson
Mrs. Melinda Lawrence	Alfred Theodore Olson
Rudolph Lawrence	George Herbert Olson
Dorothy Lawrence	Anna Sophia Christina Olson
	Carl Edward Olson

TOWN ROUTE

Richard Anderson	Irene Isaacson
Mrs. Anna Anderson	Ethel Mathilda Isaacson
Chester Anderson	Joseph Isaacson
Arvin Anderson	Mrs. Ellen Oliva Isaacson
Raymond Anderson	Clarence Westelius Johnson
Amanda Christopherson	Mrs. Theodore Augusta Johnson
Melvin Christopherson	Arthur T. Johnson
Clarence Finstrom	Mrs. Martha Johnson
Myrtle Finstrom	Peter Lindell
Edwin Gustafson	Amanda Lindell
Esther Gustafson	Maude Lindell
August Hillstrom	Clifford Lindell
Mrs. Josefina Hillstrom	Irene Lindell
Cecelia Hillstrom	Charles Kenneth Lindell
Clara Hillstrom	Hädda Josefina Lindstrom
Peter Holst	Axel Edward Lindstrom
Mrs. Emma Holst	Jennie Lawrence
Russell Lee	Marie Elizabeth Lawrence
Marie Hjelm	Johanna Lonneberg
Christina Hogstrom	Fredrik Nelson
George Hogstrom	Mrs. Emma Mathilda Nelson
John Louis Isbey	Carl Clarence Lawrentius Nelson
Mrs. Mathilda Isbey	Anna Mathilda Elizabeth Nelson
Hilda Johnson	William T. Johnson
Earl Johnson	Mrs. Ida Christina Johnson
Carl Aron Johnson	Emil W. Nelson
Carl S. Johnson	Mrs. Sarah Regina Dorothea Nelson
Delora Charlotta Gullstrom	Mrs. Ada Emelia Rapp
Claus Isaacson	Leve Loretta Louis Rapp
Mrs. Hilma Josefina Isaacson	Lambert Rapp
Walter Isaacson	Mrs. Emma Viola Creamer



MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

FIRST ROW—Mrs. Martin Chellburg, Cecelia Hillstrom, Mrs. John Spurgeon, Mrs. James Casterson, James Casterson, Mrs. Richard Peterson, Daisy Peterson, Peter Holst, E. W. Nelson.

SECOND ROW—Arvin Anderson, Mrs. Otto Peterson, Mrs. Jenny Wiedman, Reuben Sederberg, Gustaf Sederberg, Anton Johnson, Mrs. Anton Johnsen, Jonas Johnson, Mrs. Andrew Gustafson, Walter Isaason.

Christina Spurgeon	John Swanson
Frank Elmer Sandberg	Mrs. Mathilda Swanson
John Torell	Ellen Siebert
Mrs. Anna Torell	Anna Carolina Wallin
Gerhard Torell	Herman Wallin
Anna Vedell	Oscar Wallin
Jennie Vedell	Edna Wallin
Elmer Vedell	Carl Johan Wallin
Hjelmer Vedell	Richard Peterson
Lawrence Vedell	Mrs. Anna Sophia Peterson
Anna Julia Aitkinson	Daisey Peterson
Verne L. Vedell	Martin Chellberg
Mrs. Lillie Emelia Christina Vedell	Mrs. Agnes Emelia Chellberg
	Walter Guilotta

NORTH ROUTE

Mrs. Emma Christine Anderson	Mrs. Hulda Carolina Larson
Mrs. Jennie K. E. Anderson Sewell	Sigrid Olivia Larson
Ruth Emma Christina Anderson	Stella Violet Victoria Larson
Anton Bodin	John Alvin Larson
Mrs. Carolina Sophia Bodin	Mrs. Agnes Augusta Brown.
Alec Carlson	Mrs. Minnie Klinkman
Mrs. Esther Hulda Marie Carlson	Victoria Louise Newberg
Edward Danielson	Julia Newberg
Mrs. Marie Danielson	Carl Pearson
Carl Emil Holm	Mrs. Mathilda Pearson
Mrs. Christina Mathilda Holm	Carl Elmer Pearson
Clarence Holm	Frank Edward Pearson
Estella Holm	Gustaf Sederberg
Evelyn Julietta Holm	Mrs. Ella Christine Sederberg
Arthur L. Isbey	Ruth Marie Sederberg
Mrs. Anna Welhelmina Isbey	Harold Sederberg
Andrew John Larson	Mrs. J. P. Swanson
	Johanna Samuelson

FLINT LAKE

C. A. Bowman	Arthur Leonard Johnson
Mrs. Mathilda Bowman	Harry Gilbert Johnson
Nina Bowman	Carl Elmer Johnson
Carl Ninus Norton Bowman	Mrs. Augusta Johnson
Lillian May Bowman	Ida Josephine Johnson
Theodore Roosevelt Bowman	Gustaf Lindvall
Carl Johan Gustafson	Mrs. Mathilda A. Lindvall
Mrs. Ida Charlotta Gustafson	Robert Levine Lindvall
Ida Victoria Gustafson	John Sigfrid Linvall
Albert William Gustafson	Gustaf George Lindvall
Harry George Gustafson	Mrs. Amanda Casterson
Andrew Holmgrain	Mrs. Hilma Otto
Mrs. Alfrida Holmgrain	Mrs. Charlotta Linvall
Olga Holmgrain	Carl Edward Lindell
Frank Johnson	Mrs. Agnes Ingleborg Lindell
Mrs. Charlotta Johnson	Gorden Andrew Lindell
Frank Oscar Johnson	Eugene McLeland Lindell
Walter Johnson	Oscar Levi Lindell
Mrs. Jennie Johnson	Anna Hulda Esther Lindell
Frank Albert Johnson	William Sexton Lindell
Gustaf Alfred Johnson	John August Wiedman

Mrs. Emma Regina Wiedman	Edward Wiedman
Carl Albert Enoch Wiedman	Selma Louise Stoner

SOUTH-WEST ROUTE

Brita Lisa Anderson	Arvid Forsberg
Frank Emil Anderson	Gustaf Algot Johnson
Mrs. Ida Emelia Anderson	Florence Elvira Johnson
Mrs. August Anderson	J. Fredrik Johnson
Mrs. Louise Katherine Anderson	Mrs. Lydia Sophia Johnson
Carl Oscar Anderson	Oliver Hjalmer Fredrik Johnson
Victor Anderson	Carl Emil Johnson
Lars Carlson	Mrs. Hanna Mathilda Johnson
Hannah Carlson	John Edward Lonneberg
Laura Carlson	Mildred Johnson
Emma Carlson	Arvid Johnson
Carl Anders Forsberg	Alfred Olson
Mrs. Johanna Forsberg	Mrs. Carolina Olson
	Edward Olson



My Church! My Church

My church! my church! my dear old church!
 My fathers' and my own!
 On Phophets and Apostles built,
 And Christ the corner stone!
 All else beside, by storm or tide,
 May yet be overthrown;
 But not my church, my dear old church,
 My fathers' and my own!

My church! my church! my dear old church!
 I love her ancient name;
 And God forbid, a child of hers
 Should ever do her shame!
 Her mother-care, I'll ever share:
 Her child I am alone,
 Till He who gave me to her arms
 Shall call me to His own. Amen.





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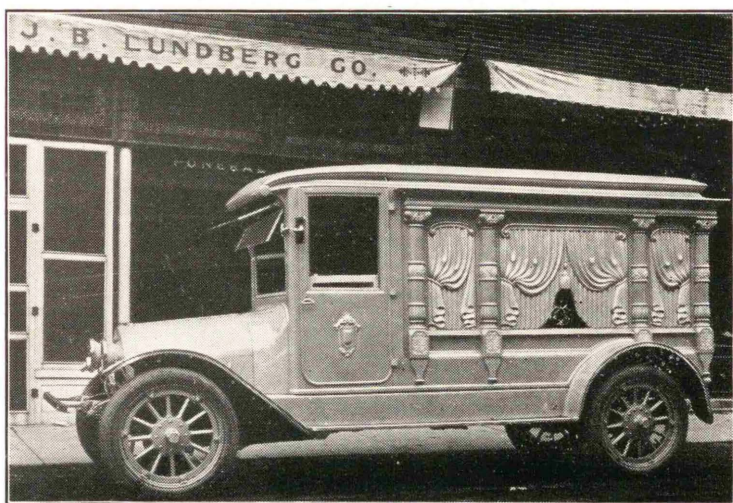
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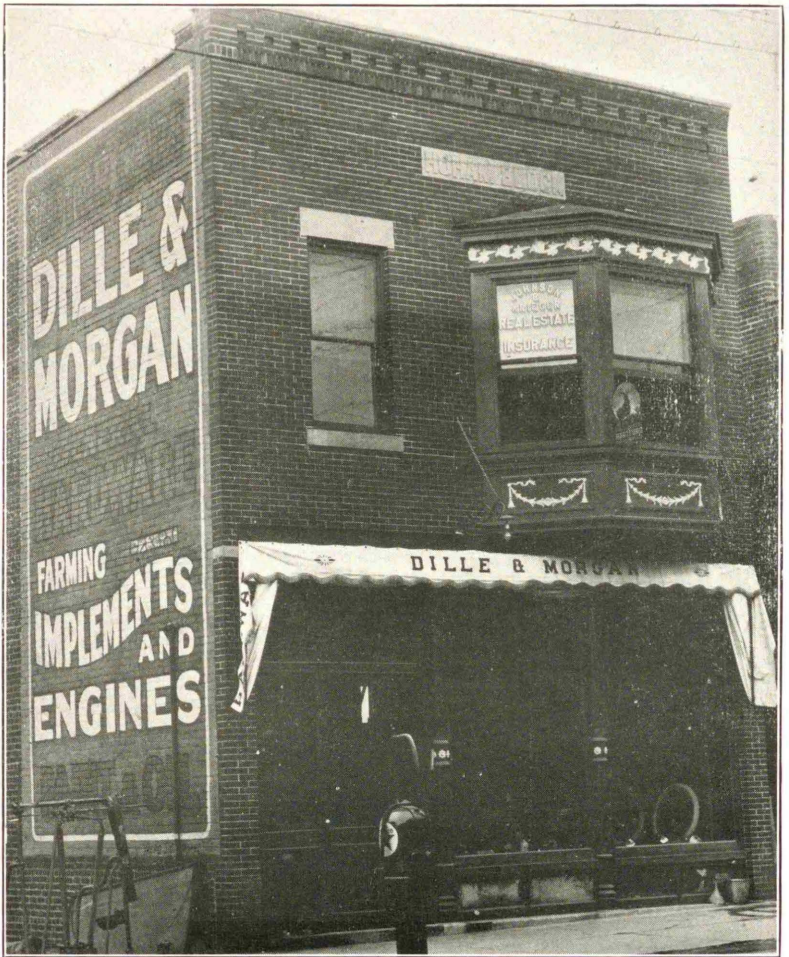
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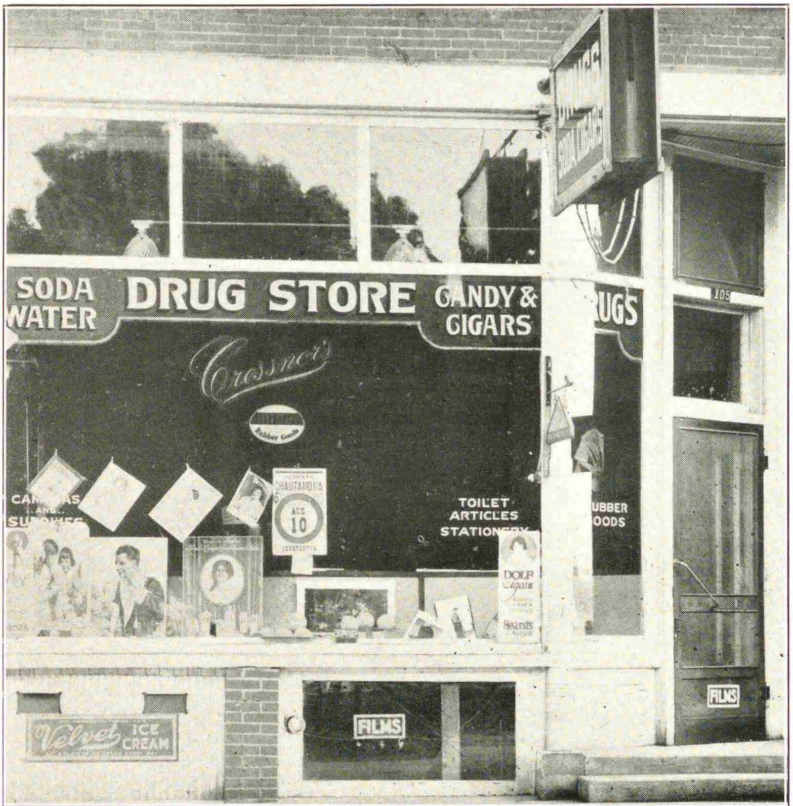
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Southwest Route: Mrs. Anna Johnson.

Some names may be missing in the groups' lists which we ask the reader to correct.

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