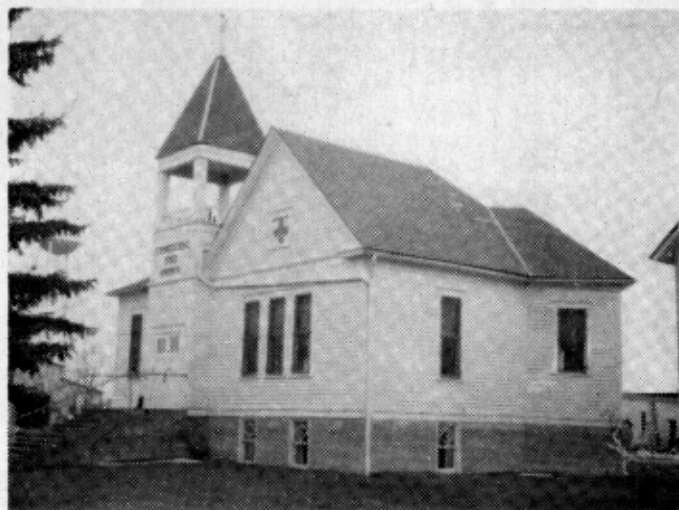


50TH
ANNIVERSARY

THE EVANGELICAL
FREE CHURCH
1905 - 1955

NEWFOLDEN, MINNESOTA



BUILT IN 1905

The Evangelical Free Church

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us
go into the house of the Lord.

Psalm 122:1

Forward

It was the unanimous decision at a Special Business Meeting October 26, 1955 to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the church November 27, 1955.

It was decided to publish an anniversary booklet for the purpose of furnishing a brief history of the church and activities thereof.

Valuable information was obtained from the following: Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Folden, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Haugen and Louis Ekman.

It is the hope of the committee that this booklet will inspire all who read it to carry on the work that has been established.

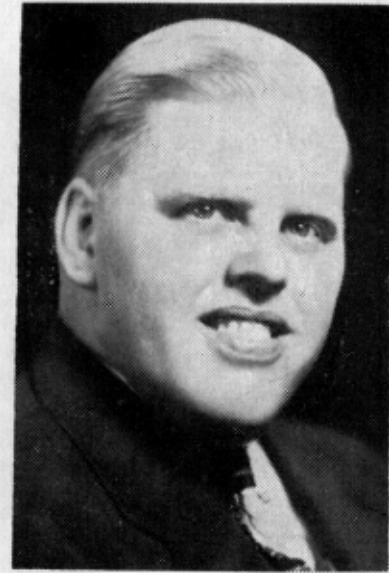
Julius Hoseth
Elmer Johnson
Bergman Folden
Edwin Bjorsness
Gordon Elseth



SAMUEL TUNHEIM
1914—1917



DEDRICK KILEN
1919



JULIUS C. HOSETH
September 1, 1955 —



THV. MYHRER
1919—1945



ERNEST J. VICK
1946—1955



The Parsonage
BUILT IN 1953

The History

The history of the Evangelical Free Church of Newfolden dates back to the early part of the 20th Century.

One of the first public meeting places in which many of the early pioneers held services was the Mission House erected by the Swedish Mission South and East of Newfolden.

Many Evangelists and Christian Workers conducted meetings in this place namely - Fredrick Franson, Nils Carlson, Emil Simonson, Carrey Norgaard, and several others. This building still stands and in recent years has been used as a Town Hall for the Newfolden Township.

As time went on, the need was felt that a church building should be built in the village of Newfolden. A building committee was appointed in 1905 and they proceeded to make plans for erecting a church. The Building Committee consisted of the following: John Lokstad, Lars Bjorsness, Olaus Larson, Lars Mattison, M. J. Shei and Ole Kleppe. The contract for constructing the building was given to John Kringen.

Other pioneer families who were active in the work at this time were: Pete Mortrud, Hans Bjorsness, Herman Hanson, Iver Ophus, Hans Korgen, Christ Shefveland, Louie Brant, Eric Johnson, Rasmus Olson Neis, Lewis Ekman, Gustave Ekman and Andrew Ekman. Other friends who took part in the work later on were Adolph Elseth, Arno Folden and E. O. Hjelle.

January 2, 1906, "The Newfolden Mission Society" was organized. Articles of Incorporation of this organization were filed in the County Courthouse in Warren, Minnesota on September 16, 1907.

The early years of the church was supplied by Christian Layman, and Werner Drotts. Rev. Samuel Tunheim served as pastor from 1914-1917. Missionary Dedrick Kilen of China served as pastor from 1918-1919. Rev. Thv. Myhrer was called in March 1919, and pastored the church until 1946. Rev. Ernest J. Vick was called July 1947 and served the church until June 1955. The present pastor, Julius C. Hoseth took up his duties as pastor September 1, 1955.

The original church building was erected without a basement, however in 1930, under the sponsorship of the Ladies Aid, the church was raised and a fine basement was constructed.

In the Fall of 1948 plans were made to start a Building Fund to raise funds to redecorate the auditorium and install a new heating system. The first service held after the remodeling, was on Christmas day 1948. Asphalt shingles were put on the roof in 1949.

November 3, 1945 a special meeting of the congregation was held where it was decided to affiliate the work with the Norwegian Evangelical Free Church Association of North America. June 1950 this Association merged with the Swedish Free Church of America and is now called The Evangelical Free Church of America. This organization is in turn divided into many Districts across our nation. The Newfolden Church is located in the North Central District which is composed of Minnesota, and North Dakota.

The Newfolden Church has a vision for the lost, both in the home land as well as the Foreign Field. The Church has pledged to give partial support to the Harvey Andersons of South America, and also to the Dennis Andersons of the Phillipine Islands. It is the desire of the Church that in All Things Christ may have the pre-eminence, Col. 1:18.

Sunday School

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6.)

The first Sunday School in the Evangelical Free Church in Newfolden was started by Mrs. Anna Ahlberg, shortly after the turn of the century. There were no cars or even horses to drive at that time and she walked several miles each Sunday to carry out her work. She used the American Sunday School Leaflet as her basic teaching material. She also started a Sunday School Library. Later Miss Ahlberg attended Moody Bible Institute and went from there to the Kentucky Mountains as a missionary.

Mrs. John Johnson continued with the Sunday School work with the aid of Mrs. Henning Peterson and later Mrs. D. Kilen assisted them until she left for China. The following years others helped with this worthy work, namely: Mrs. Thv. Myhrer, Mrs. Gordon Elseth, Mrs. David Sunde, Mrs. C. E. Hanson, Mrs. Kore Myhrer and Emma Hjelle.

The work of the Sunday School has continued and grown until today we have 92 enrolled. The Missionary project of the Sunday School is to support an African student through the School at Sweetwaters, Africa. This enables him to go out to tell the Good News of Salvation to his own people.

The present Sunday School Officers are: Mrs. Elmer Johnson Superintendent; Mrs. Clarence Hanson, Vice-president; Larry Bjorsness, Secretary and Miss Emma Hjelle, Treasurer.

The Pioneer Musicians

The early settlers were blessed many times as they listened to the well organized String Band that brought man, instrumental numbers in song. The Band consisted of the following: Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Folden, Mrs. Effe Sunde, Mrs. Ruth Anderson, Mrs. Alf Elseth, Mr. Arne Folden and Mrs. Thv. Myhrer.

The Ladies Aid

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him."
(Colossians 3:17.)

The Ladies Aid of the Evangelical Free Church of Newfolden had its beginning before the church was built. Its origin dates back to 1899. The meetings were held in the various homes. Their work consisted of sewing different things, making fancy work, and also at the close of each gathering lunch was served. Each fall the Aid had a date set where all their sewing articles were auctioned off. Later on a Sewing Circle was organized, and they called themselves "The Willing Workers." Mrs. D. Kilen led this group and the work continued to grow under her leadership. Some of the pioneer women who attended this organization were: Mrs. Lars Bjorsness, Mrs. Herman Hanson, Mrs. Pete Mortrud, Mrs. Christain Hanson, Mrs. Rasmus Ness, Mrs. Mattias Hanson, Mrs. Lewis Ekman, Mrs. Nils Ekman, Mrs. Christ Shefveld, Mrs. Hans Korgen, Mrs. Louis Brandt, Mrs. Andrew Schey, Mrs. John Lokstad and Mrs. Henning Peterson. Mrs. Herman Hanson was president for some time and later Mrs. Henning Peterson became its leader for a number of years.

The Ladies Aid help support the following missionaries: Mr. and Mrs. Gust Jacobson and Marie of Africa, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Torgeson of Formosa. Also some support is given to the Trinity Seminary and Bible College of Chicago, Illinois.

The present officers are: Chairman, Mrs. Elmer Johnson; Vice-president, Mrs. Ruth Anderson; Secretary, Mrs. George Gunderson; Treasurer, Miss Emma Hjelle.

The Young People

The Young Peoples Society was organized September 24, 1932. Its first meeting was held at the Axel Anderson home in Newfolden. The first original officers who were elected at this meeting were: President, Arvid Folden; Vice President, Ruth Shefveld; Secretary, Dorinda Johnson; Treasurer, Casper Shefveld.

This organization has grown in the past years and it is their desire to please the Lord in all that they set out to do. The group have and are contributing some of their funds to The Trinity Seminary and Bible College as well as to the Scandinavian Alliance Mission.

Into The Work

Several have gone from our ranks through the years to serve the Lord in Christian work. They are the following: Mrs. Elfie Myhrer Sunde, Rev. Dennis Anderson, Charlotte Anderson Hauser, Mrs. Harvey Anderson as a missionary, Rev. and Mrs. Albin Folden and Rev. Arne Folden.

Church Officers

Chairman Elmer Johnson
Vice Chairman Clarence Hanson
Secretary Bergman Folder
Treasurer Gordon Elseth
Trustees - Kittle Sollom, Miss Korgen, Bergman Foiden.
Deacons - Earl Hanson, Clarence Hanson, Kittle Sollom.
Ushers - Merle Bjornrud, Floyd Hanson, Larry Bjorsness, and Donald Swenson.

Members

Mrs. Ruth Anderson	Rev. and Mrs. Thv. Myhrer
Mr. and Mrs. Mat Matson	Mrs. Christian Hanson
Mrs. John Lockstad	Mr. and Mrs. Bergman Folden
Mrs. Henning Peterson	Mrs. Zacarias Hamberg
Mr. Lewis Ekman	Mrs. Arnold Olsen
Mrs. Bergetta Elseth	Mrs. Tena Hanson
Miss Emma Hjelle	Mr. Clarence Hanson
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Elseth	Mrs. Merle Bjornrud
Miss Emelié Korgen	Mrs. George Gunderson
Mrs. Lars Bjorsness	Rev. Dennis Anderson
Mrs. Knute Haugen	Mrs. Bob Swanson
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Johnson	Mrs. Ernest Vick
Mr. and Mrs. Victor Ekman	Mr. Earl Hanson