

1928. Special services by Reverend Halvorson; the Augsburg quartet was also here. The young peoples' organization which later became the Luther League was recorded as first held this year.

1929. The painting, "The Good Shepherd" was completed by William Windahl. Erna Tandberg was appointed organist. It was decided to invite the district meeting. There were 3 days of Northern Minnesota Laymens' meetings. Five Luther League meetings were held.

1930. It was decided to paint the floor and repair the bell tower.

1931. Ole Sund resigned as secretary after serving 34 years. Special services were held by Pastor Michaelson and laymen Johan Mattson and Vasvig. Erna Tandberg resigned as organist.

1932. To invite Reverend J. M. Halvorson to have meetings. Mrs. Otto Hjelle appointed organist.

1933. It was decided to have half of services in Norwegian and half in English.

1934. Mrs. Otto Hjelle, Mrs. Ingvald Rokke and Julia Westlin were the organists. It was decided to have the 50th anniversary celebration in 1935.

1935. On June 2nd and 3rd the 50th anniversary was held. It was planned to celebrate the 4th of July in 1936 with Bethesda.

1936. A committee composed of E. O. Rokke, A. S. Rokke and Rolf Tandberg was appointed to build a new fence for the cemetery. Ole Sund passed away; he had been a member of Bethania for 40 years.

1937. There was a Mission Sunday with speaker Missionary Reverend Ditmanson.

1938. Envelope system for offering introduction.



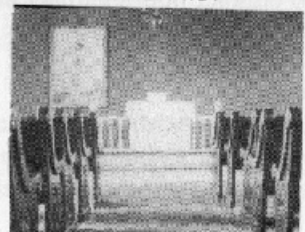
ORGANIST

1939. Mrs. Arnold Rokke appointed organist and continues to be our organist. A committee of nine was selected to promote church improvement.

1940. First reports written in English; also there was the first list of ushers. Church basement built and church moved back to where the cemetery is located by Elmer Johnson of Warren, Minnesota.

1941. New wood for the walls and outside railing was installed. The pulpit, pastor's chair, altar and altar railing were built by Ludvig Lofgren of Strandquist.

1942. Evangelist Vasvig held special meetings.



CHURCH INTERIOR, 1940

1943. Pastor's salary raised to \$250.00. A price was set on cemetery lots: one grave \$5.00; two or three \$10.00; \$15.00 for a whole lot from non members.

1944. One mission service; three day district meeting. Church rededicated with Reverend Olaf Rogne officiating at Sunday services. It was also decided to use order of service number 2 in Concordia.

1945. Memorial service Augst 12th for Orville Strandberg and Harlen Engelsrud. Orville Strandberg was killed in the battle of the Bulge in France January 15, 1945 and Harlen Engelsrud was killed in action on Okinawa April 28, 1945. Reverend Ronholm resigned and resignation was accepted. After Reverend Raaum's trial sermon it was decided to call him. He accepted and was installed by Reverend Walter Peterson of Thief River Falls. A committee was selected to secure an altar picture. A committee was also appointed to supervise the cleaning of the cemetery and church for Memorial Day. Mrs. Arnold Rokke was organist with Verna Engelsrud as assistant.

1946. Road graveled north from church. Term of deacons changed from one year to three years as of next year.

1947. There was a sum of \$100.00 given to Reverend Raaum as a bonus. Altar painting was unveiled and dedicated in memory of Orville Strandberg and Harlan Engelsrud. The church bell given in memory of the pioneers by Ole Hjelle and the communion set given by the Westlin family were also dedicated. Reverend Ronholm speaker at Thief River Falls district meeting. Special meetings by Reverend Hjelmeland. Ole Bjornrud named bell ringer.

1948. Bible Camp at Grace Lake. Tilmer Lausness to be the first to mow and care for the church and cemetery yard. There was also a golden wedding for the August Carlsons.

1949. Electricity arrived; Lenten boxes also appeared.

1950. Pastor's salary was \$500.00. There were joint tent meetings in Newfolden.

1951. Radio work was added when Reverend Raaum agreed to share with O. K. Ose the Sunday Morning Devotional Hour on alternate Sundays. Reverend Raaum was a leader in organizing the Galilee Bible Camp and Youth Night.

1952. Reverend Raaum resigned and August 24th there was a farewell for the Raaum family.

1953. Student Gordon Bertson of the Augsburg Seminary was called to preach a trial sermon in December of 1952. He was sent a letter of call in January and he accepted and began his work in July. His salary was to be \$500.00 a year.

1954. Oil furnace was installed and the chimney which had blown down was rebuilt.

1955. There was a special meeting called November 14th relative to the merger of several Lutheran church bodies. 29 votes were cast; yes votes 1 and no votes 28. On the basis of this election Bethania congregation has voted no to the merger resolution.

1956. The pastor's salary was raised \$50.00 per month with driving expense. Church reshingled with lock on asphalt shingles.

1957. Church painted on the outside. Committee appointed to plan the 75th anniversary in 1959.

1958. There was an election which was the second in relation to merge with several Lutheran church bodies. The vote was: yes 4 and no 20. On the basis of the results of the election Bethania congregation has voted no to the merger resolution. Reverend Berntson resigned as pastor of the congregation. Reverend Elder Oscarson of Everest, Kansas had a trial sermon in May and shortly afterwards he was called as pastor. He was installed in November by Dr. Walter Pederson of Thief River Falls. Serving the congregation for over four years, Reverend Oscarson resigned in December of 1962.

1959. The 75th Anniversary of the congregation was held on the 19th, 20th and 21st of June.

1961. In October of the year there was a special meeting of the congregation to hold an election on whether to merge with other Lutheran church bodies. The vote was Yes 7 - No 33. On the results of the election the Bethania congregation voted no to the merger.

1962. At a special meeting on December 7th the Bethania Congregation voted to become independent. A committee was appointed to rewrite the Bethania constitution to the American language.

1963. Andrew Lindgren, Herbert Larson, Pastor Carl Berg and student pastor, Robert Lee each served the congregation for short periods of time.

In the summer of this year the Bethania and Westaker congregations purchased the residence from Zak and Melvida Hamburg for a parsonage. At a later date the Helgland congregation purchased $\frac{1}{3}$ interest in the parsonage. On September 29th Gene Sunby was called as pastor. Bethania Congregation joined the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations as a charter member.

1965. Mrs. Gene Sundby passed away December 8th, 1965 at the age of 26 years.



REVEREND RICHARD SNIPSTEAD

1967. A settlement was made with the churches Bethlehem and Alma about the parsonage. The radio program "Trumpet of Truth" over KTRF was organized. A congregational letter was sent to the board of administration of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations insisting that the word free be inserted in the title name of both the seminary and the bible school.

1969. Pastor Sundby resigned. It was decided to call Rodney Stueland and he assumed charge in 1970. However, Layman Ed Mathison served for about six months after Sundby resigned. During Pastor Stueland's ministry many evangelistic services were held. He resigned in September of 1973. The church was carpeted and the altar ring and pastor's chair were upholstered.

1974. Reverend Hubert DeBoer of Thief River Falls served as interim pastor until March, 1975. During his ministry Bethania congregation celebrated their 90th anniversary on July 21st, 1974 and he had an important part in the anniversary. In the afternoon Reverend John Strand, President of the Association of Free Lutheran Churches was the main speaker. Pastor Ed Mathison spoke at the forenoon service. Greetings were also given by former pastors and others.

1975. Reverend Merle Knutson assumed his duties as pastor.

1976. The Bethania congregation purchased approximately one acre of land adjoining the church yard and cemetery on the north, west and south sides.



CHURCH INTERIOR, 1984

1980. A large gift of money was received which had been willed to the Bethania Congregation by Ida Johnson. Ida Johnson was a life long member of the congregation. It was decided that the total amount should be used for church improvements. A riding lawn mower was purchased; a well was drilled; an addition was built including bathrooms, enlarged entry, a lowered ceiling with insulation; and new storm windows installed. An outside entry directly to the basement was made. At a later date the outside of the church was painted. Reverend Knutson resigned September 8th. In December Lay Pastor William Goodman was hired as interim pastor. Rows of shrubs and trees were planted on the south, west and northwest of the church and cemetery yard.

1981. Hegland Lutheran Church decided to withdraw from the Newfolden Lutheran Parish but would continue with the Trumpet of Truth radio ministry.