

Westaker and Bethania churches, after buying out Hegland's share of the parsonage, became full and equal owners. The Bethania and Westaker congregations agreed to build an addition and remodel the parsonage. In August the congregations decided to call Reverend Larry Haagenson. In November there was a farewell party for Lay Pastor William Goodman and family. Reverend Larry Haagenson started his duties as pastor in December of 1981. There was installation services for Pastor Larry Haagenson March 14th of 1982 with Reverend Richard Snipstad, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations officiating. The patio deck, the sidewalk was made and most of the parsonage lawn was sodded. A utility building was built at Bethania for housing the lawn mowers. It was also decided that Bethania congregation have their 100th anniversary celebration in 1984. A committee of three namely Nora Rokke, Ruby Engelsrud and William Waterworth are to make plans for the celebration.

1983. The parsonage and garage were painted.

During this centennial era many memorial gifts have been given; there have been 398 baptisms recorded; there is no doubt but that there have been 400 and possible more. Also there have been Evangelistic and other spiritual emphasis meetings in the congregation and in cooperation with other churches in the parish. There have been laymen's and district meetings in which pastors in the District have taken part. Some years ago tent meetings were held in Newfolden involving the parish. Lent services presently are held; with pastors in the Northwestern Minnesota District exchanging pulpits. This is sometimes referred to as round robin. Weekly Bible studies and prayer services are held jointly with the Westaker congregation.



Galilee Bible Camp at Lake Bronson is owned and operated by our Northwestern Minnesota District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and Bethania congregation is actively involved in the work. There Pre-teens and Teen-agers gather for Christian fellowship, recreation and instruction around the Word of God. Many young people have found salvation at these camp meetings. The Bible Camp also has family camps and is also rented out to

other groups for religious purposes. Parochial schools, lasting one or two months, were common during the summer months in the early years. Now Sunday School and a week of Vacation Bible School are held.

Our congregation, a charter member of our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, actively supports the work of the Association with its Bible School, Seminary, Home and World missions and other endeavors. Several young people have attended the Bible School; some have attended the Seminary and are now serving the Lord as pastors. Sons of the congregation who have entered the ministry are Clemmence Dyrud, Amos Dyrud, David Rokke, Ralph Rokke and Philip Rokke. Others from our congregation are serving the Lord's vineyard in other ways.

The Lord has been with us and blessed our congregation during these past one hundred years; there have been struggles, hardships and also joyful occasions. We must admit that we have sometimes failed Him but He has not forsaken nor forgotten us. The challenge is before us to daily seek His grace, guidance and forgiveness and to carry on until the Lord Jesus Christ returns again for His own.

"For of Him, and through Him and to Him are all things; to Whom be the glory forever." Romans 11:36.

### *PRESENT CHURCH OFFICERS*

Chairman, Olger Rokke  
 Secretary, Mrs. Rodney Liedberg  
 Treasurer, Mrs. Gilman Stennes  
 Trustees, Donald Bjorgaard  
 Gerald Hanson  
 Stephen Waterworth  
 Deacons, Rodney Liedberg  
 Gilbert Olson  
 William Waterworth  
 Deaconesses, Mrs. Ruby Engelsrud  
 Mrs. Ingvald Rokke  
 Organist, Mrs. Arnold Rokke  
 Sexton, Edgar Rokke  
 Bellringer, Gordon Bring  
 Janitor, Rodney Liedberg  
 Head Ushers, Gilman Stennes  
 Milo Windahl



## LADIES AID

According to records the Ladies Aid must have organized soon after the Congregation was started. Records show that they donated \$10.00 to the congregation in 1893 for Bible School and also helped pay for altar and altar railing. For several years the Ladies Aid was divided into two groups - The North and the South. The meetings were held in the homes of members. After a devotional program the ladies made articles for auction sales and lunch was served. The South sales were held in homes until in 1905 but the North sales continued a few more years in the members homes. The first record of an annual sale was in 1895. Money received for certain designated articles was given to Missions and the remainder into the Ladies Aid Treasury.

In 1915 eighteen church pews were purchased for \$150.00.

After the church was moved to the present location in 1940, the Ladies Aids have been held in the church the second Friday evening of each month except November, December, January and February. Inspirational programs are given and lunch is served.

17th of May Smorgasboards were held in 1943 and 1944. Thirty Concordia song books were bought in 1943. Dinner was served at the rededication of the church in 1944. Auction sales were discontinued in 1945 and instead a Harvest Festival is held in November each year. For several years the men have been serving the aid in the spring.

Since 1947 lunch has been served each year on Memorial Day.

In 1952 kitchen cupboards were installed in the basement and tables and steel folding chairs were purchased for the dining room.

Variety sale at each Ladies Aid was started in 1953 but discontinued in 1955 when Bake and Craft sales were begun in Newfolden. Had Ice Cream Social for benefit of Galilee Bible Camp.

Purchased piano in 1958. Served dinners and lunches at 75th Anniversary celebration in 1959. Gave Honorary Membership Pins. In 1961 sewed Altar and Pulpit Cloths of white, green and purple.

In 1970 Alvin Nelson installed new ceiling in basement. Served banquet for the District Luther League Rally. Purchased and installed carpet in church in 1971. Served dinner at Annual Shipping Association Meeting in Newfolden.

In 1974 the 90th Anniversary of our church was celebrated and dinner was served.

An electric organ was purchased in 1975 to replace the organ that was bought new in 1910 for \$72.00. Hosted the Women's Missionary Federation Spring Rally at the Westaker Church in Newfolden in 1979. In the fall we had a bake sale and bazaar at the Country Market Day in Newfolden and this is being continued.

In 1981 Women's Missionary Federation Honorary Pins were given to Alice Rokke, Clara Bakke, Adeline Olson, Agnes Klopp, Hilda Forland, Selma Brekkestran and Nora Rokke. Church basement was paneled in 1982.

1984 Purchased special anniversary plates to be sold as a remembrance of our 100th Anniversary. Several memorial gifts and other gifts have been received throughout the years. During the years the Ladies Aid has helped pay for tape recorder, mimeograph machine and other expenses of the congregation and parish.

Donations are made to many belevolences: Missions, General Fund, Praise Program, Christian Eduction, Galilee Bible Camp, Redby Lutheran Mission, Women's Missionary Federation projects, etc.

The Ladies Aid has also served for Silver and Golden Weddings and other anniversaries, Auction Sales, Ice Cream Socials and funerals.

Present Officers: President Mrs. John Rokke; Vice-President Mrs. Wesley Bring; Secretary Mrs. Milo Windahl; Treasurer Mrs. Gerald Hanson.

"And whatsoever ye do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Col 3:17

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

At Bethania's Annual Meeting, in 1886, Jens Webjomson and E. O. Hjelle were appointed Sunday School teachers. This, possibly, was the beginning of Sunday School in the congregation. However, a Children's Christmas Program, under the direction of Anders Anderson, was given in 1884 at the Gulick Wedme home.

For many years, beginning in the early 1900's and ending in 1957, the Bethesda - Bethania Sunday School was held jointly with up to 48 students enrolled. Summer Vacation Bible School was also held during these years and has continued to the present time. Bible School is now held for one week each summer, jointly, with the Westaker congregation.

Throughout the almost 100 years of Sunday School, donations have been made to various missions. Another practice of Bethania Sunday School is to present a Bible to students as they enter 3rd grade.

Sunday School continues to be held regularly from the 2nd Sunday in September, thru May. Our 1984 fall enrollment is expected to be 16 students. The officers and teachers the past year were: Mrs. William Waterworth, Mrs. Arnold Rokke, Mrs. Rodney Leidberg and Mrs. Ruby Engelsrud.