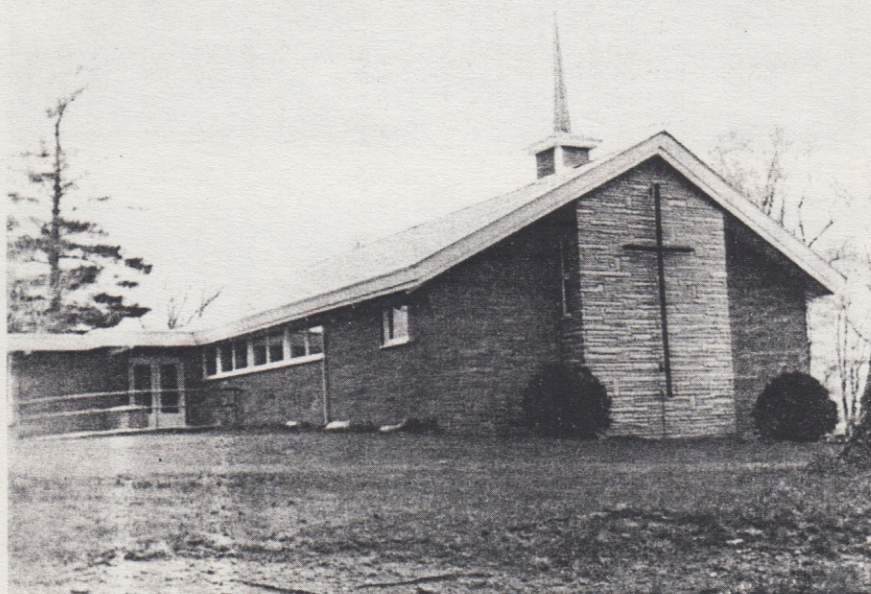


Seventy-fifth
Anniversary
1906 - 1981



Pine City
Evangelical Free Church

Pine City, Minnesota





Pastor and Mrs. Robert Jacobson

Dear Friends:

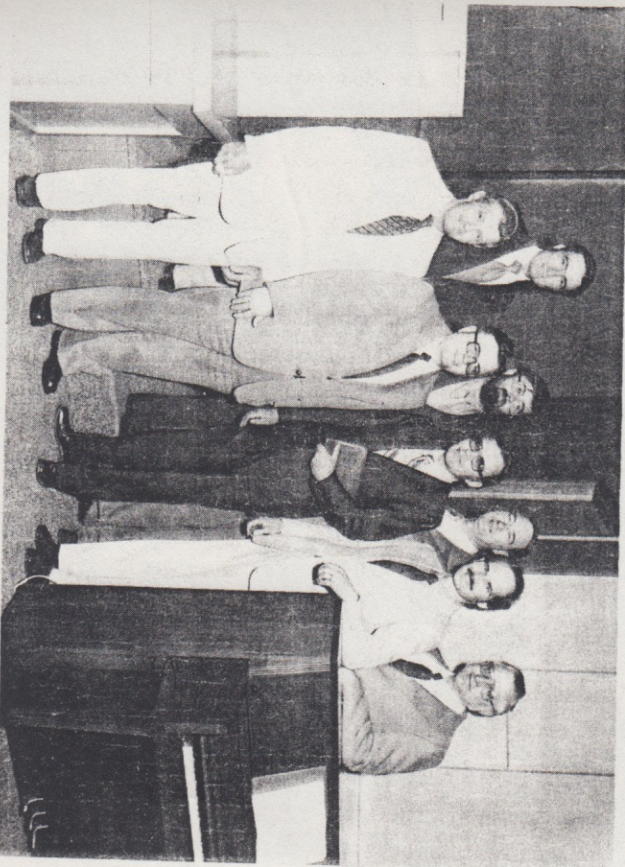
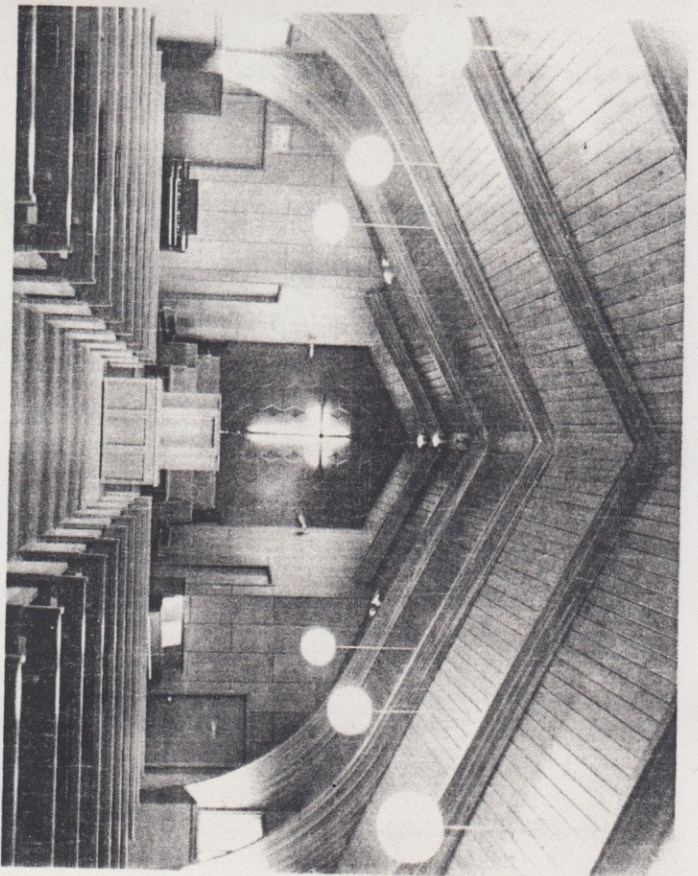
Thank you for coming to our celebration. Together, we can use this time to publicly acknowledge and thank God for His faithfulness, His mercy, and His love to His church here in Pine City for the past 75 years. The fact that you have taken the time to be here with us makes the weekend a little more special.

The Bible records many times how God's people came together on special days to publicly celebrate. They would engage in confession, worship, and especially praise. And you know, as they remembered God's care and thanked Him for His blessings, other good things automatically happened. These times of ingathering were not only a source of joy to God's people but the celebration became a visible and audible witness to the surrounding communities. It is recorded in Nehemiah that "the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off". I trust that our praise gathering will be heard in all of Pine City and even "afar off".

Not only is this a time to remember to rejoice, but also it is a time to reflect. Reflection is defined as thinking seriously and carefully. President Reagan said, "Since God spared my life, the rest of it is His". I believe I can say on behalf of the church, that "the rest of the year" God gives us will be His.

Dear friends, we covet your prayers that we can continue to be a lighthouse here in the community. To our people at Pine City Free, I would offer this word. The past faithfulness of God is always a good place to go for courage and faith to live today. Jesus Christ - the same yesterday, today and forever. He never fails!

We are indeed grateful to God.
Pastor Robert Jacobson



Board of Elders

[l. to r.] Robert Shuey, Gaylon Marty, Dean Madison, John Nelson, Paul Johnson, Marvin France, Glenn Larsen, and Kenneth Sprunk

The Seventy-fifth Anniversary Activities

May 30 = 31, 1981

Program

Saturday, May 30

7:00 - 10:00 P.M. Open House

Sunday, May 31

9:45 A.M. Panel Discussion - Former Pastors

11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service

Speaker - Dr. Gordon Addington

Music - Ross and Jane McAfee

Young Redeemed (past and present)

Mixed Quartet

Dinner Following The Service

1:45 P.M. Anniversary Service

Speaker - Dr. Thomas McDill

Music - Ladies' Sextet

Men's Quartet

Don and Phil Johnson

8:00 P.M. Closing Service

Speaker - Rev. Mervin Seashore

Music - Glenn Larsen



Dr. Thomas McDill
President
Evangelical Free Church
of America



Rev. Mervin Seashore
District Superintendent
North Central District



Dr. Gordon Addington
Medical Doctor
St. Paul, Minnesota
Former Pastor



History

A brief history of the Pine City Evangelical Free Church

In the early and middle 1890's and early 1900's a number of Scandinavian folks from various places in Minnesota and Wisconsin settled in the area east of Pine City known as the Milburn district. They were all pioneers as this was an entirely new settlement, and naturally there was no church building. This settlement was situated about five to seven miles from Pine City. With poor roads and slow transportation it was difficult to attend a church in town. Several of these new settlers were fundamental Christian people. Motivated by a desire for the things of God and a love for souls, they soon started to hold services in various homes. From time to time an itinerant preacher would stop by to encourage them and bring a message from God's Word. They soon felt the need for a central place of worship in order to reach out and attract others to come and worship.

There was a nucleus of eight or nine families in this group of Christians. They discussed the subject from time to time and so it was that on March 31, 1906 this fine group of believers met at the Swan Nelson home to officially organize a church. A constitution was then drawn up and offers were elected as follows: Chairman - August Ekberg, Secretary - Rudolph Sundgaard, Treasurer - Swan Nelson.

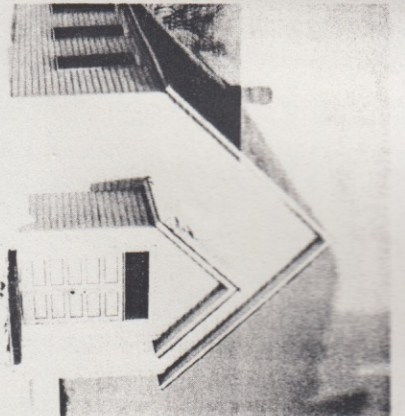
Original records were written in the Swedish language and we find the official name recorded as "Den Skandinaviska Evangeliska Mission" (The Scandinavian Evangelical Mission). Charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Sundgaard, Mr. and Mrs. August Ekberg, Mr. and Mrs. Swan Nelson and Sam Charnley. They were firm believers in proper organization and in the admonition "Let all things be done decently and in order". So Rudolph Sundgaard and August Ekberg proceeded to Pine City immediately after the first business meeting and had the church incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

A piece of land was donated by Eric Lindquist for a building site. This was located 5 1/2 miles east of Pine City along the St. Croix Road.

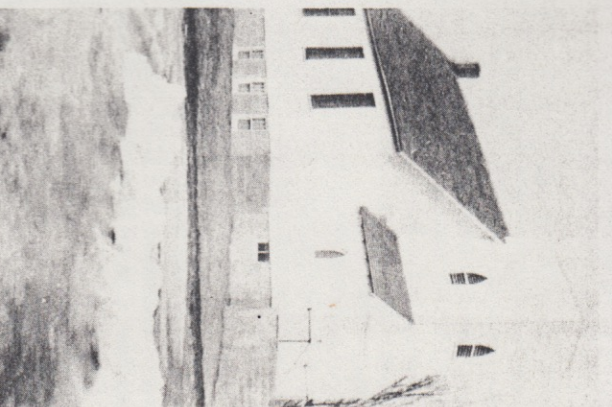
Logs were cut and sawed into lumber and early in 1907 work was begun on the church building. Carefully and diligently these people planned and worked, consecrating their service to the Lord. In a relatively short time the building was erected and then gratefully dedicated to the Lord. Several local business people donated building material and the simple furnishings were purchased in Pine City. Mr. Sundgaard built the first pulpit which is still in use in our lower auditorium. Looking through the records, we note with interest the names of some of the itinerant preachers. Some of the better known preachers of the times included Anton Olson, Alfred Stone, Fritiof Sundstrom, John Kjenner, Al Nelson, and C. E. Peterson. The first full time pastor was John Kjenner followed by Alfred Stone. Then C. E. Peterson served the church from 1920 until February, 1928. He was followed by I. J. Sunde, Carl Nicholson, Walter Steen and Alfred Amundson.

The church soon felt the need of reaching the children so the first Sunday School was begun around 1912 with Rudolph Sundgaard, Knute Sandberg, and Pete Carlson in charge. Other prominent Sunday School leaders included Mrs. Jonas Lindquist, Mrs. O. H. Moen, Joe Sundgaard and Arvid Johnson.

Rev. Alfred Amundson was instrumental in starting a young people's society which has continued to the present time and has been very useful and successful in encouraging our young people. Many fine Christian young people from our church can be found in many places in our country and even abroad.



Original Milburn Church



Remodeled Milburn Church

The Ladies Aid which was known as "Siforenigen" or sewing society was organized early in our church's history, and helped in many ways to promote the work of the church. We certainly congratulate them for their efforts. As the years went by this group became known as the W.M.S. (Women's Missionary Society) and became affiliated with the National W.M.S.

In the beginning the church was not affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America, but as time went on it was thought best to join with the E.F.C.A. In 1939 the name of the church was changed to "The Milburn Evangelical Free Church" and in 1940 Rev. Ambrose Collins became the pastor and served for seven years. During this time considerable progress was made in both spiritual and physical aspects. New people were added to the congregation and souls were saved. A basement was built and the building moved on to it with remodeling both inside and out. About that time electricity was installed which made for more convenient and better lighting. New pews and other improvements were made.

In 1947 Rev. Roy Brown became our bachelor pastor but before he left some three or four years later, he had been bitten by the love bug and he married one of our attractive girls in the person of Vernice Engh. He was followed by Erwin Carlson, Gordon Addington, and Marlin Jones. This takes us up to January, 1956 when Albert Taxdahl became interim pastor. 1956 was a highlight as it was the church's 50th Anniversary. Services were held by the Rev. A. J. Thorwall May 22 through the 25th and then on Sunday, May 27, a full day of activities took place. Dr. A. T. Olson, President of the E.F.C.A., Rev. A. J. Thorwall, Director of Evangelism, E.F.C.A. and Rev. H. E. Sodergren, District Superintendent of the North Central District, were present and took part in the program. Music was furnished by soloist Lawrence Alfson, St. Paul, by the church choir and the ladies sextet.

As the church grew and became better known and roads and transportation became better, people from a larger area were attending. As time went on it became the feeling of the congregation that the church could serve a larger area to a better advantage by relocating to a place in Pine City. So after much discussion and many business meetings, property was acquired in south Pine City and building was begun in the fall of 1961. Pastor William Levin served the church three years during this planning stage, 1958-1960.

In March of 1962 Rev. Harold Vander Ploeg became the new pastor. Work on the building progressed through the winter and spring of 1962 and the building was completed by May 1962. The first service was held May 27, 1962. It was during this transition period that the name of the church was again changed, this time to "The Pine City Evangelical Free Church."

On July 8, 1962 a dedication service was held which included three services during the day. Rev. Vander Ploeg had the morning message, Dr. Olson, President, E.F.C.A., had the message of dedication in the afternoon and Rev. Darrell Pearson gave the message in the evening.

So the work in the Milburn area had now come to a close at its old location but the same work was to be taken up in a new location with the same purposes in mind. The old church building was sold to Merlin Madison and was moved to their farm. The corner where the church stood is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Plessel and family and they have built a very attractive farmstead there.

Pastors which have served since 1962 include Pastor Vander Ploeg, Rev. Wendell Baxter, Rev. James Scobbie and Rev. Thomas Sahlstrom. Nineteen years have now passed since the dedication of this building and seventy-five years since those early pioneers felt a need for a Bible believing church in this area. All of the first generation charter members are gone and as far as is known there are only two second generation people living today in this area. They are Mrs. Esther Lindquist Hanson and Mrs. Edith Carlson Herrud. There are several third, fourth and fifth generation direct descendents living here and attending this church.

Now we have come to another great milestone in the history of that early church which is the Diamond Jubilee. We have seen many tremendous changes during the past 75 years which were not even dreamed of at that time. From the very basic means of communication and transportation, and hardly any conveniences to radio, television, cars, planes, space craft and thousands of other modern inventions, but still the basic need of all people remains the same, and that is a right relationship with God through faith in Christ. May this church always proclaim the good news of salvation and give direction for Christian living based only on God's Word, "The Holy Bible". May we look forward to serving the Lord in this place until His return for His own bride, the born again believers.

by Clarence Nordstrom

original copy given to

Pine County Historical Society

Donated by Jim Cordes