

"Led By The Shepherd...Leading The Sheep"

Forty-Five Years Of Grace In

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

by

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Senior Church History Paper

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In John chapter ten Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-just as the Father knows me and I know the Father-and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd". Later on in the chapter he continues, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand" (John 14:14-16, 27-29).

You will find a summary of these verses painted across the west wall of Good Shepherd's gymnasium wall in bold, blue lettering. It reads, "**LED BY THE SHEPHERD...LEADING THE SHEEP**", and it serves as the motto for Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church and School. Notice the two aspects of the motto which serve as a reminder for every Christian. "Led by the Shepherd" tells us that Jesus Christ is our Good Shepherd who cares for every one of our needs. Since he looks out for our best interests we listen to his voice and follow him throughout life as instructs us, using his holy Word and Sacraments, on the one way to heaven. "Leading the sheep" emphasizes how we, when we have heard the joyous gospel message, will

want to preach and teach it to others, to those who already know it as well as to those who need to hear it. For forty-five years the people of Good Shepherd have been listening to Christ's Word and proclaiming it to those around them.

Laying the Foundations

The story of Good Shepherd's founding began in 1951. Rev. T.N. Teigen was the pastor of Bethel Lutheran, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The members of Bethel were planning to build a new chapel and Pastor Teigen, a man with a heart for spreading the gospel abroad, felt that their old building could be used to serve a new mission in another part of the city. After extensive canvass work, Mr. Harry Munce was contacted about a six and a half lot piece of property in Spicer's Addition. The congregation bought the plot of land and began excavation for the church basement in 1951. Soon afterwards, Bethel's old chapel was loaded onto a semi trailer and given a new resting place.

During the summer of 1951, a graduate from Bethany Lutheran Seminary in Mankato, Minnesota, Pastor Neil Jordahl, was called by the members to organize Good Shepherd. Pastor Jordahl was also a former vicar of Bethel and served under Pastor Teigen. The first service of the new

mission was held on February 24, 1952 with 42 people attending. This is how

Pastor Jordahl's diary reads,

First service: Feb. 24, 1952

Text: John 10:11

Lesson: Psalm 23

Hymns: 246, 375, 50

Ushers: Homer Stensrud, Harvey Swenson

Pianist: Mrs. Stensrud

Attendance: (42) 30 from Bethel, 12 from the neighborhood

Offering: \$20¹

What follows is a listing of some of the first members of Good Shepherd.

Mr. And Mrs. George Schickendanz, Harvey and Kathleen Brothen and children Elizabeth and Jeffery, Russell and Johnnie Peterson and son Stanley, Janice Dunford, Cecil and Darlene Walters and children Dale and Gwen, Leland and Marian Johnson, Mr. And Mrs. Harry Munce, Vern and Gladys Allington, Mrs. Hulda Nagel, Mr. And Mrs. R. Beardsley, Clinton and Mae Steed, Mr. And Mrs. Edmund Liske, Ernest and Mavis Peterson, Mrs. M. Adair, and Martin and Pearl Helgeson²

Sunday School was also started on February 24, 1952. Seven children attended and Pastor Jordahl and Mrs. Harvey Brothen served as teachers.

As mentioned earlier, Good Shepherd began as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, also known as "The Little Norwegian Synod". Because of the small size of this synod it soon became evident that the ELS would not be able to support the Good Shepherd mission financially.

¹ A Short History of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, Ten Years of Grace p.1

² Good Shepherd Statistical Record Book

Reluctantly, it asked its two sister synods Missouri and Wisconsin if they would be interested in supporting Good Shepherd. The Missouri Synod was not interested at that particular time but Wisconsin was. A copy of the minutes of an ELS meeting at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis on May 19, 1952 reads this way:

*Resolved that the Home Mission Board, after having studied the situation prevailing in the mission field at Sioux Falls, came to the conclusion that it is best for us to withdraw from the field and turn it over to the sister synod of Wisconsin and accept the offer from them to take over the field. We have the following amounts tied up in the mission: Lots \$3,900.00; Building \$3,700.00; Expenses and supplies \$4,073.05; Subsidy \$1,386.00. Total - 13,059.05

*Resolved that we accept the offer of \$15,000 from the Wisconsin Synod. This means that we stand the cost of operation up to July 1st with the understanding that the Wisconsin Synod pay the cost of curb and gutter facilities.

*Resolved that we request the Board of Trustees of the Synod to take care of all legal action necessary to complete the transaction. This is to be ready July 1st. It was reported that the Wisconsin Synod would like to have Jordahl continue there under their calling.³

So when July 1, 1952 rolled around Good Shepherd saw itself being supported by another synod. But it did not officially become a member of the WELS until 1957.

The week after the Good Shepherd congregation was transferred, the Ladies Guild was organized. Eight ladies were present at the meeting along

with Pastor Jordahl. The ladies also organized the Priscilla and Ruth Circles, the only difference being that one group met in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Later on, because of small membership in both Circles, they merged into one group in September of 1953. Their purpose was to serve Christ's Kingdom in whatever way possible. Some of their duties were making baptismal napkins, visiting the South Dakota Children's Home and the Southmore Nursing Home, and sending clothing to the East Fork Nursery. A highlight for one of the original members was the ladies getting together and cooking pancakes in the park.

The summer of 1952 saw church attendance remain in the twenties. By fall it had jumped into the thirties. The church was very young but, by the grace of God, beginning to grow. On October 17, 1952 the foundation was strengthened further when the church constitution was written and adopted. On December 7th six men and Pastor Jordahl met to elect Good Shepherd's first officers. Cecil Walters was elected President, Harvey Brothen Vice-President and Pastor Jordahl as Secretary and Treasurer. The Trustees were Russell Peterson, Clinton Steed and George Schickendanz.

In September of 1953 Pastor Jordahl was forced to resign for health reasons. The frustrations of starting a new mission and carefully building it

³ Information given by Pastor S.E. Lee of Hawley, Minnesota on March 29, 1960

were probably to blame. The vacancy lasted around eight months with Pastor Teigen serving as the vacancy pastor.

Years of Slow Growth

In January 1954, Good Shepherd called Rev. Herbert Birner, a 1941 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, from Estelline, South Dakota to serve as their second pastor. Pastor Birner eventually accepted the call but not until after a strange sequence of events had transpired. Mission Board chairman Bast knew that Pastor Birner had been extended a call to serve as missionary to Japan and decided to hold Good Shepherd's call until Pastor Birner had made a decision about Japan. Finally, three months later the call to South Dakota was sent and Pastor Birner accepted.⁴

Pastor Birner was installed on May 16, 1954 with his father preaching and conducting the installation along with Pastor Teigen. The work over the next year proved to be slow and frustrating. One of the issues Pastor Birner and many other WELS pastors had to deal with at the time was that of lodges and the Boy Scouts. Pastor Birner puts it this way,

So the slow work of building a congregation along confessional lines continued. As we know, most people do not take kindly to the admonition of God's Word to keep themselves clean from anti-Christian organizations. The work was very unglamorous and slow.⁵

⁴ A Short History of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, Ten Years of Grace p.2

⁵ A Short History of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, Ten Years of Grace p.2

At the same time, the Lord promises when we remain faithful to his Word he will bless us. He did keep his promise and blessed Good Shepherd with an increase of eighteen communicants at the close of 1956.

When the Birner's moved to Sioux Falls they moved into an apartment at 1004 South Second Avenue but the Wisconsin Synod promised it would not be more than a couple of months before a new parsonage was built. Why then did it take more than two years for Good Shepherd to receive the money? The answer is money. The synod was still financially strapped from the Great Depression and just did not have enough money to cover all the requests for church buildings and parsonages. At the Synod convention of 1955 the parsonage fund was finally established and Good Shepherd received a loan of \$15,000 which they used to build a one and a half story house complete with a study and garage. Ground-breaking took place on April 2, 1956 and four months later the new parsonage was dedicated on September 16.

Mr. Munce, one of our own members was contractor for the house. His interest and advice were invaluable when it came to building the house. He insisted that all the materials be the best. He saw to it that those parts of the house which do not show, but which mean so much to its structural strength, were more than adequate. He would permit no cost-cutting in joists, studs or sub-floors. To make this possible he took no

contractors fee, to which he was entitled, on any of the materials. He himself worked for what amounts to common carpenter's wages.⁶

Once again Mr. Munce showed his willingness to give to his congregation and to the Lord, as did many of the other members who helped with painting, laying floors, and landscaping.

1956 was a year that, along with all its joys and blessings, also brought on another problem. Back when Good Shepherd opened its doors, the American Lutheran Church felt it an imposition on Bethel's part to start a new mission in its Sioux Falls stronghold. Immediately they bought the whole block of property adjacent to Good Shepherd and began to build a brand new church which was completed just about the time when Good Shepherd's parsonage went up. Of course all the neighborhood children wanted to go to the new church. Consequently, Good Shepherd saw a sizable decline in its Sunday School and Bible School enrollment. The "old" church on the block began to see that they needed a new church, so in 1957 Good Shepherd requested another loan to begin building. This is how Pastor Birner records what happened next.

Things looked very favorable then for us. Both our District Mission Board and Synod's General Mission Board recognized the need in Sioux Falls. In fact, our application for a church had almost reached the top of a pile of many applications. Then something happened. Ill winds

⁶ Parsonage Dedication Pamphlet-Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

were blowing in our Dakota-Montana District. A movement was afoot in the administration of our District to sever relations with our Synod. To be most charitable we shall simply say that Good Shepherd's application for a church got lost.⁷

Four years after the first request was made, the Synod approved a church loan for Good Shepherd. On Easter Sunday of 1962 ground was broken for the new chapel. On August 26, 1962 the members of Good Shepherd were privileged to dedicate their worship/fellowship facility to the glory of God.

On the other side of the state, Zion Lutheran Church in Mobridge, South Dakota had a pastoral vacancy and some other congregational problems. Soon after the dedication of Good Shepherd's chapel, Zion called Pastor Birner to serve as their pastor. With the Lord's help and the urging of his District President, Pastor Birner accepted the call to Mobridge. On January 26, 1963 Pastor Birner preached his farewell sermon. After nearly nine years of faithful service he left behind a congregation which the Lord had richly blessed with 171 baptized and 108 communicant members.

Preach The Word Faithfully

⁷ A Short History of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, Ten Years of Grace pp. 3,4

The ensuing vacancy only lasted for two and a half months because Pastor David Krenke of Isabel, South Dakota accepted the call to serve at Good Shepherd in April of 1963. He was installed on April 21 by Pastor Theiste of Bethel, assisted by five other area pastors. Even though not much has been written on these years in Good Shepherd's history, this does not mean the Lord's work was not being carried out. Pastor and people were busy doing what Christ commanded us to do. They were sharing the Gospel.

The evangelism efforts were mostly door-to-door visits because, as Pastor Krenke puts it, "telephone surveys were not really known at that time". So the canvassing proceeded on foot. As they talked to people in their homes, what they found was that the city was dominated by ALC Lutherans, something that had caused Good Shepherd problems in the past. In fact, one of the ALC's major colleges, Augustana, was located in Sioux Falls. Pastor Krenke observed that Augustana sort of took over the town. It was a struggle to show these people that not all Lutherans were the same. Only when many of them attended Good Shepherd's services and some enrolled in Bible information classes did they realize that there were differences between the two church bodies.

As was done in the past, the Word of God was preached in its truth and purity and, as he had done in the past, the Lord blessed the congregation's efforts so that it became self-supporting in 1969.

Instead of going their own way as they became self-supporting the members remembered the Wisconsin Synod in their thoughts, prayers and offerings. What follows is taken from the minutes of a 1968 congregational meeting.

This is our only item of new business, but it is a weighty one. We will be a self-supporting congregation as of January 1, 1969. Our receipts for this year show that we can do it too. But the Synod is in dire need of financial help from our congregations, and we must seriously consider raising our Mission Budget figure at the same time we go self-supporting. They have a new program for our congregations by the name of "Called To Serve". As we set our 1969 budget, we have to be thinking of that program too.⁸

Pastor Krenke was busy during his time in Sioux Falls, visiting the colleges, hospitals and prison in town. The District Mission Board also asked him to conduct services for our WELS members at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Good Shepherd was willing to share their pastor and thus spread the Word to many individuals.

After six and a half years at Good Shepherd, Pastor Krenke was called to follow Pastor Birner at Zion Lutheran Church and School in Mobridge and

⁸ Good Shepherd Congregational Meeting Agenda October 20, 1968

also at St. Jacobi Lutheran Church in Glenham. He preached his farewell sermon on September 14, 1969. The vacancy lasted almost a year.

Meanwhile, Good Shepherd was served by Pastor Ron Heins of Brookings, South Dakota and Professors from Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota.

Years Of Controversy

Pastor James Babler accepted the call to be the next pastor at Good Shepherd and was installed on October 17, 1970. Professor Wayne Borgwardt delivered the sermon and pastor Heins took the installation. "The next two years at Good Shepherd were filled with many difficulties. However the Lord proved that he was present by continuing to give encouragement to the congregation".⁹ Since this is all that is written about the years 1970-1972 it is easy to see that they were trying times for the congregation. Apparently conflict arose in the congregation over the issue of Christian education. Some of the members thought it was time for Good Shepherd to start a Christian Day School of its own while others did not agree. The disagreements reached the boiling point when those who wanted a school left Good Shepherd to form another WELS church (St. Paul's) on the other side of Sioux Falls. To

⁹ Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church. 25 Years of Grace p.2

this day those years bring up memories that are best forgotten for many people.

Even though we are the redeemed people of Jesus Christ, we are not perfect people. This means we still sin every day. Yet all praise and thanks belong to our Lord and Savior when we hear his message of forgiveness for all sins, whether they be sins of thought, speech or action. Christians then forgive one another as a fruit of faith, following the pattern which our Savior set for us when he died to pay for our sin. This was also the case between the members of Good Shepherd and those of St. Paul's.

Looking back on those years, it is possible to see how God kept his promise recorded by the Apostle Paul, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). This is how many view the education conflict today.

Our Lord's ability to work through his Word to extend his kingdom (sometimes in spite of us sinner-saints) is evident today as God our Good Shepherd has led two closely situated, somewhat 'competitive' congregations into two larger 'cooperative and complementary' congregations on opposite sides of Sioux Falls who will be better able to minister Christ's message of eternal life to souls throughout our entire metropolitan area.¹⁰

¹⁰ Dakota-Montana District. 1920-1995 Seventy-Five Years Of God's Blessings pp. 73,74

In the fall of 1972 Pastor Heins of Brookings was again serving as Good Shepherd's vacancy pastor.

Years of Opportunity

Good Shepherd extended its next pastoral call to Pastor Dennis Hayes of Morrystown, South Dakota in February of 1973. He accepted and was installed on May 31. The next year proved to be one that would heal old wounds of recent years. How were they healed? The 1974 annual report says healing occurred in various ways.

The relationship between Good Shepherd and St. Paul's improved and in 1974 the ladies groups took turns entertaining one another and we are having joint meetings of both Boy and Girl Pioneers. It was a joy to see members of Good Shepherd attend the installation of Pastor Thomas Schmidt as Pastor of St. Paul's and also to see our members in attendance at the dedication of St. Paul's new church. We pray God that in 1975 the old wounds will be healed even further.¹¹

In 1974, just a few years after the controversy over education at Good Shepherd, the Board of Education and Pastor Hayes began studying the feasibility of a Christian Day School. The second Sunday of May 1976 was Christian Education Sunday and cottage meetings were held during the week to make the members aware of the Board's findings and their conclusions. These meetings were divided according to age groups, with Board members

speaking to the different groups while Pastor Hayes talked with those who were opposed to the idea of a school. On September 12, 1976 a special voter's meeting was called to vote on whether to open a school or not. The motion to start a school passed with 19 votes for, 5 against, and 1 abstention.¹²

After several calls were extended for a teacher, Miss Kim Kenyon was called through the Assignment Committee to be the first teacher of Good Shepherd Lutheran School. She arrived in town on July 16 and was inducted the next day in a special service.

As far as facilities for the school were concerned, the Board of Education checked with the City Building Inspector who saw no reason for Good Shepherd not to use the fellowship hall of its existing facility. So school opened on August 29, 1976 with 25 children in grades 1-8.

With the new school already started, the Building Committee began investigating numerous sites on which to build a new school and worship center. The voters finally decided to purchase a six acre plot of land for \$12,500 per acre on the northeast corner of E. 57th Street and Highway 11. They chose this site over the rest for the following reasons: a) It was close to

¹¹ 1974 Good Shepherd Annual Report

¹² Good Shepherd Special Voter's Meeting Minutes September 12, 1976

the developing part of the city b) Utilities would be available c) They would know what kind of development would be around since it was already planned and d) It was in a growing part of the city.¹³ *aren't a + d the same?*

On October 16, 1977 Good Shepherd celebrated 25 years of their gracious God showering them with his blessings. Pastor Krenke, who was still in Mobridge, preached for the morning service. He reminded the members that the abundant blessings which they had experienced over the years were a gift from God and a gift of his mercy and grace. Pastor Birner, now the pastor in Burton, Michigan, preached for the afternoon service with the theme of Good Shepherd being built upon the Rock, Jesus Christ. A catered dinner for approximately 155 people was held at the conclusion of the afternoon service.

After the anniversary, thoughts refocused on the building project. The original plan called for the new church and school to be ready in 1982 but a large school enrollment for the second school year moved ground-breaking all the way up to 1978.

With the school enrollment at 35, the Board of Education recommended that Good Shepherd call a part-time teacher who would also

¹³ 1977 Good Shepherd Building Committee Report

help out with the lower grades. Mrs. Susan Warner accepted the call and began to assist Mrs. Zaporski (Miss Kenyon was married in 1978).

With the building plans already in mind and the architect (The Spitznagel Partners) contracted, the congregation intensively looked for ways to finance their building project. The only trouble was that human logic said the job was too big for a church with only 278 souls and 200 communicant members. As a last resort, Pastor Hayes approached Mr. Marvin Schwan, a member of the congregation, to see if some sort of finance arrangement could be worked out through his company. Graciously, Schwan Sales Enterprises Inc. consented to finance \$700,000 of the operation which was to be paid back to the Wisconsin Synod over a number of years.

When we look at what has been accomplished in the past year we certainly do not stand around and pat ourselves on the back, we rather give thanks to our gracious God. Humanly speaking we should not be this far in our project. Humanly speaking the project is one that is too large for a congregation of our size. But the Lord is the one who is in charge of what goes on in the church. He is the one who has seen to it that all things have fallen together in the manner that they have. We give thanks unto him for granting us this modern day miracle.¹⁴

With enrollment for the 1979-1980 school year projected at 50 students, the members decided to call a second full-time teacher who would also serve as principal. Mr. Fred Luehring accepted the call to be the school's

first principal and was installed August 12, 1979. While preparing for the school year which started in 23 days, Mr. Luehring and Mrs. Zaporski were also preparing to move everything from the old location to the new one.

After numerous delays caused by a fire at the project site and bad winter and spring weather, Good Shepherd's worship/education/parsonage complex was finally dedicated on October 28, 1979. By God's grace their dream had become a reality.

During the 1979 school year Mrs. Zaporski informed the congregation that it would be her last year as a teacher at Good Shepherd. With thanksgiving the members of Good Shepherd bid farewell to their teacher who had done so much to get their brand new school up and running well. The Board of Education printed this thank you for her years of service.

Mrs. Zaporski has been a blessing to our school. She did what many skeptics thought could not be done. She gave our school the stability it needed when it was beginning and she helped to prepare it for the future. We thank the Lord for sending her to us.¹⁵

Combined with the loss of Mrs. Zaporski, 1979 also gave Good Shepherd plans to begin a ninth grade, mainly because the Sioux Falls high school system went from tenth grade through twelfth. This meant that another

¹⁴ 1979 Good Shepherd Building Committee Report

¹⁵ 1979 Good Shepherd Board Of Education Report

full-time teacher would be needed. On August 3, 1980 Mr. Daniel Whitney was installed and Mrs. Warner was inducted, bringing the staff to three full-time teachers.

1983 was the last year that Pastor Hayes served as Good Shepherd's pastor. Instead, the Lord led him to become the Dean Of Students at Martin Luther Preparatory School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Again the members of Good Shepherd praised the Lord for sending them such a capable, faithful servant who led them through some challenging yet richly opportunistic years.

Years Of Continued Growth

After Pastor Hayes left, Pastor Douglas Free of St. Paul's was called to be the vacancy pastor. At a special call meeting held October 20, 1983 the motion was made and unanimously approved to call Pastor Norman Seeger of Birmingham, Alabama to serve as Good Shepherd's sixth pastor. Pastor Seeger and family arrived in Sioux Falls and he was installed in December. On his installation day Pastor Seeger, who had spent a number of years in the southeastern part of the country, was greeted by something he probably hadn't seen in quite some time. Snow! But the snowstorm actually turned out to be to his benefit. He recalls that Pastor Habermann of Watertown, South

Dakota called and said he would not be able to make the trip to Sioux Falls because of the weather. So the only two pastors who could attend the service were Pastor Free who preached, and Pastor Jensen from Brookings. The Seeger's had planned to invite all the pastors to the parsonage for snacks after the service. Since the weather was so bad, both pastors headed for home fairly soon after the service. There sat the Seeger's with all this food for guests and no pastors to eat it. So after the service Pastor Seeger extended an invitation to his new congregation to come to the parsonage. Pastor Seeger remembers the day as a very good way to become quickly acquainted with all sorts of new faces.

Over the past thirteen years many changes have taken place in different areas of Good Shepherd Lutheran School. In 1984 the school began a pre-school program for four-year-olds. The first pre-school teacher was Mrs. Cheryl Moss who taught for a year and then followed her husband to Nebraska where he had accepted a new position at a hospital in Omaha. On March 20, 1985 the members called her replacement Mrs. Suzanne Erlenbusch who is currently serving as the pre-school teacher.

In 1984 Miss Brenda Richmond was called to serve as the 3-5 grade teacher, replacing Mr. Whitney who was led by the Lord to serve elsewhere. She served Good Shepherd for three years. After she accepted a call, Miss

Tamara Speidel (now Mrs. Lindwurm) was assigned to Sioux Falls as the middle grades teacher. In 1992 the school's principal position became vacant when Mr. Luehring was led to accept a call. Mr. Kevin Neuman was assigned from DMLC to be the new principal. Through the years the Lord has richly blessed the children of Good Shepherd with these faithful servants as well as with the continuing service of Mrs. ^{Tamara?} Susan Lindwurm (Mrs. Warner). *why in Mrs Warner in parentheses?*

In the last decade Good Shepherd has become increasingly involved in the area of evangelism, taking part in district seminars such as "Locating the Lost" and "Reclaiming the Straying", and in synod-wide outreach programs such as "Gospel Outreach" in 1990 and 1991, and most recently, the 1997 "Share the Promise" campaign. Why was there such a "new" outlook? Pastor Seeger attributes it to the mission-mindedness of the congregation and to what happened to him during his first year in the Dakota-Montana District. Remember that Pastor Seeger came to Sioux Falls from the South Atlantic District of the WELS, which at the time was seen as one of bigger outreach districts. When the Dakota-Montana pastors heard of this young pastor from the district with many new mission congregations, they assumed he must know everything about evangelism and appointed him to be the District Evangelism Coordinator for the Dakota-Montana District. Pastor Seeger says

that opportunity gave him a chance to see all the wonderful things that could be done in the area of evangelism.

1995 saw Good Shepherd begin to reach the “awkward” stage of a larger church, which means more work for its pastor. The fact that Pastor Seeger was serving as the Dakota-Montana Mission Board Chairman also took more of his time away from the congregation. The congregation decided to solve its own problem and take part in training the Synod’s future pastors by calling a vicar. The vicar was to be funded by a generous \$1,000 per month gift and \$500 from the mission board since Pastor Seeger’s position took a significant portion of time. In May 1995 Mr. Timothy Bode of Sussex, Wisconsin was assigned as Good Shepherd’s first vicar. He was followed the next year by Mr. Jason Jobs of Saukville, Wisconsin. God-willing, May of 1997 will see Good Shepherd plan to welcome its third vicar.

Throughout the congregation’s forty-five year history, it has become extremely evident that our gracious, merciful Lord is the one who blesses his church and causes it to grow in spite of us sinful human beings. He is the one who took a small mission church and transformed it into a church of 349 communicant members and 479 souls. He is the one who continues to act as our Good Shepherd, the one who continues to nourish and strengthen us through the richness of his Word. He is the one who promises to lead his

flock here on earth until he brings us to our home in heaven. May God give us the wisdom and will to hear his Word so that we may always be doing his will. To Him alone be the glory!

Sources

Good Shepherd Parsonage Dedication Bulletin Insert, Sept. 16, 1956

A Short History of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls,
Ten Years Of Grace

A Brief History of Good Shepherd And Its Building Program, August 26,
1962 Bulletin

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, 25 Years Of Grace

Dakota-Montana District: Seventy-Five Years Of God's Blessings

Good Shepherd Statistical Records

Good Shepherd Quarterly Congregational Meeting Agendas

Good Shepherd Quarterly Voter's Meeting Minutes

Good Shepherd Annual Reports

Good Shepherd Building Committee Reports

Good Shepherd Board Of Education Reports

The following is a list of people interviewed in March and April of 1997:

Pastor Herbert Birner, Indian River, Michigan

Pastor Dennis Hayes, Watertown, South Dakota

Pastor David Krenke, Leesburg, Florida

Pastor Norman Seeger, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Mr. and Mrs. Russell (Johnnie) Petersen, Sioux Falls, South Dakota