

The History of the North Valley Church 1879-1979

by Olva Johnson

It is our Centennial Year and it is well for us to think of some of our many changes and countless blessings God has given us over the years. It was in the late 60's and 70's of the 1800's that the first pioneers found their way into this community which was then a wilderness with miles and miles of unbroken forest with lakes, marshes, and brush wood.

The first settlers who came here built small one-room houses of logs and often two or more families lived together while they cut logs and families built homes for the other families. A small clearing was soon opened up around each little home and the first spring they spaded around and between the stones and stumps and planted potatoes. With the abundance of wild game in the woods and fish in the streams and lakes, they found food to sustain themselves.

These new homes were often a couple miles apart with roads and trails cut through the big woods. Roads were all but impassible, filled with ruts and mud holes, or huge stumps, roots, and stones. The trails were so narrow that it was hard to get through with their ox teams and lumber wagons. The hubs of the wheels and the whipple trees rubbed the bark off the trees along the way. One must carry an ax along for it could be necessary to cut down a tree or two or a stump in order to pass another wagon or sleigh they might meet. It was not the beautiful type of highway we now have.

Everyone suffered difficult times. Often the men were obliged to leave home and their families during the harvest season and go to areas around Hudson, New Richmond, and other older communities to supplement their income and earn money to buy supplies-flour, sugar, kerosene, clothes and shoes. Some went to the pineries during the winter months. We can imagine the pioneer mothers left alone to care for the work and the small children. It was certainly lonely for them and life was difficult and discouraging. The most frequent visitors they had were Indians, and to be sure, there were many of them in the community. There was no school, no church, and neighbors were few and far between. The nearest village was St. Croix Falls, a day's journey away.

The first two families who came into this community were Mr. and Mrs. Ole Larson and their family and Mr. and Mrs. Tosten Johnson and their four little boys. This was in the early fall of 1869. A few more settlers arrived each year, everyone toiling and working diligently to clear their land of timber, to make a home and fields on which to make a living.

These were God-fearing people and it was not long before these sturdy pioneers sought spiritual guidance. A group of five men and two

women met at Tosten Johnson's home. They were Carl Hedlund, Carl Anderson, Einar Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Larson, and Mr. and Mrs. Tosten Johnson. The decision was made to call Pastor Ole Olson who was then a pastor in the Scandinavian settlement near Grantsburg to come and serve them too. He accepted their call and came to hold services once a month when roads and weather permitted. Services were held in the various homes until the first log schoolhouse was built in the northwest part of Section 10, Eureka. A few years later, this building was moved to the quarter-road and placed nearly in the middle of section 11. It was later replaced by a large frame building where services were also held. Pastor Olson attended to their spiritual needs until 1877.

Following Pastor Olson was Pastor M.C. Hanson Rohe, who also served at Grantsburg and came here to officiate at North Valley and for a group at Laketown. He also held services for a group at Milltown in the old Brick School House built in 1875. By January 1879, the number of settlers had grown and they then felt there were enough to organize a congregation. A meeting was held. Pastor Rohe was the chairperson and the North Valley Congregation was organized. This January 18, 1879.

The charter members and their families were Carl Christopherson, Einar Olson, Tosten Johnson, Mrs. Gunild Twetten, Andrew Larson, Ole Clausen, Carl Anderson, Louis Wallin, Anders Hauge, Mons Johnson, Andrew Lander, Rasmus Rasmussen, Even Hanson, Carsten Peterson, Peter Lund, Arne Sveum, Lars Christenson, and Charley Peterson. Today, 10 of these original 22 families are represented in our membership. We also have in our membership one member who was a little girl of one year when this organization took place. She is Mrs. Anna Tretsven of Owatonna, Minnesota.

The first members of the church board elected were as Deacons: Tosten Johnson, Louis Wallin, and Andrew Larson, as Secretary: Hans Hauge, as treasure: Andrew Larson, as trustees: Carl Anderson, Rasmus Rasmussen, Lars Christenson, Carl Christopherson, Ole Larson, and Mons Johnson. The first confirmation class was held by Pastor Rohe on April 27, 1879. The members of this class were John Arnt Hauge, Ole Larson, Aslaug Larson, Gustave Johnson, Peter Christenson, Oline Torkelson, Karen Gudmumson, Ellie Larson, and Anto Olson. Pastor Rohe continued to serve as their pastor until June 22, 1882 when he preached his last sermon and held baptism and communion.

The Rev. O.O. Risvold was then called as the next pastor. His services began in May 1882 and continued for 37 years. The first year he was here, he made his home with the Tosten Johnson's. The congregation then purchased forty acres of land together with a two-room log house, which was to be the first parsonage. On October 10th 1883 Pastor Risvold and Miss Sophia Sannes of Sacred Heart, Minnesota were married at the Carsten Peterson home. Mrs. Risvold was loved and revered by all who knew her. She continued to be helpful and interested in our church all of the years of her life-long after they moved to their

latter home in Minneapolis and were retired. The little log house was later replaced by a new frame structure and was the home of the Risvold's and their nine children. It continued to be occupied by the ministers and their families for many years.

Services continued to be held in the new schoolhouse on the Quarter-Road for about eleven years after Rev. Risvold came here. In the winter and spring of 1893, plans were begun for building a church. Many willing helpers donated money, materials, and labor and the church was soon ready for worship. Mrs. Jerome Patterson solicited the women of the church, asking for two dollars from each toward the purchase of a bell for the church. Knowing that the bell is a gift of our mothers to the church, may it serve the purpose for which it was intended, that is, to call us to worship in God's House. All of those dear mothers who donated it have gone to their eternity and it was their wish to us, our children, and to our friends that the ringing of the bell may remind us – "It is Sunday-the Lord's Day. It is worship; there is a message for us. It is calling us to come to church."

Our church at that time was a crude, plain-looking building with no basement and heated by a large box stove, which was placed in the center of the floor. On the west side of the room were home rough benches, which were used by the men, while the women occupied the east side, using some more rough homemade benches. Carl Christopherson, one of our charter members was a carpenter and cabinet maker. He had made many spinning wheels for the women of the neighborhood and he became very busy fashioning furniture for the church. He, together with the help of a man from Grantsburg made our church altar from native woods of our area. He too, together with the help of his children turned out and made the pins for the altar rail, gallery and stair rail. He also made the first pews; some are still in use in our gallery. Christ Johnson, another one of our charter members, also made the first pulpit.

Think how different it is today from what it was in the days of our ancestors in getting to church. In a letter written by one of the daughters of Rasmus Rasmussen on early days, she told of coming by ox team. Others of that day might have used the same mode of transportation, or lumber wagons drawn by a team of workhorses. How strange it would seem to us today!

It was a bright sunny, the family, Father, Mother, and her sisters drove to church in a lumber wagon drawn by their team of oxen. Father must walk most of the long way urging "Buck" and Bright" to keep going. Oxen have little interest in getting to church and being on time. Their minds are on the nice green leaves on the over hanging tree branches and often need to be prodded on.

Soon in the distance, they hear the church bell calling all to services this day. They must hurry. The belfry of the church soon appears in sight and they will be there in time, but the oxen must be

unhitched and tied in the church barn with other member's oxen or horses until services are over. If it is a cold day or in the winter, they must blanket their teams before they go in to join the other members.

Yes, how different from today! So easy coming in our high-powered cars, parking only a few steps from the church doors, and joining other members for Sunday services.

Then we see one of our early confirmation classes. They have met Saturdays for over a year to "read for the minister before being confirmed." The way was long for most everyone and all coming by foot through the storm and sleet, cold and snows of winter, heat, and dust of summer. All had studied hard and memorized the many lessons and passages.

The great day of confirmation was soon here. How they remembered the white things mother was busy making for them, the long full skirts and frilly dresses. For many maybe, it was their first completely new outfit-new shoes and stockings and white silk gloves. The boys too, must have new shirts and many were wearing their first pair of long pants.

All gathered in the little outer hallway where one of the mothers pins a sprig of green myrtle on each one's shoulder. It was Kirstine Diset who had a myrtle plant and always saw to furnishing a bouquet for the young folks for this day. When all are ready, they walk to the front two pews reserved for them, the boys on the right, and the girls on the east side.

How closely they follow Rev. Risvold's sermon and all his advice to them. They wonder how they will be able to answer the questions he will ask each one of them in turn. However, he is kind and helpful and knows how difficult it is for them. Soon they are kneeling at the altar, they have given their vows and each received their blessings. A New Testament has been presented to each as a token of the day. They are now members of the church and members of God's Great Kingdom. The services are closed with a prayer and admonition for them and for each of us today. "Remember your Confirmation promises and keep them."

The late Rev. T. M. Bakke, who, with his family came here from Canada on September 28, 1919 serving until September 28, 1924, succeeded Pastor Risvold. They then left to serve a parish in the state of Alabama. He was followed by Rev. O. J. Wagnild who came June 14, 1925 and was with us until January 1, 1928.

Due to the disturbance of the war in China in approximately 1927-1928, the Rev. S. S. Klyve, who was then a missionary there, had to take his family and flee for safety back to America. We were fortunate again to secure him as our pastor. The Klyve's and their four children came here in March 1928. The project of building a basement under the church was begun during the years they were here. The L. D. R.'s were organized and they held regular meetings and worked diligently for the church for several years, making many worthwhile contributions. Pastor Klyve

remained here until August 1936, when he decided to go to Teller, Alaska for missionary work among the Eskimos. A petition was circulated urging Pastor Klyve to remain with us, but he felt he must answer the call to the Mission Field. After 8 years of faithful service in Alaska, the news of his sudden death came as a great shock to his many friends here. Mrs. Klyve, with the help of a few Eskimos had to care for the burial. With no Pastoral help available, she had to read the burial rites for her husband herself.

After Pastor Klyve's departure, several Pastors and student pastors served the congregation. The Rev. George C. Strum, who was then a student, was called, and began his work here as our minister on July 1, in 1937. Pastor Strum remained here for three years and it was with regret that the parishes accepted his resignation. During this time, there were four churches in our parish, The Zion Church in Bone Lake, The Clam Falls Lutheran Church, the Laketown Church and North Valley necessitating extra work for a Pastor. Pastor Strum was suffering from a throat ailment and to relieve that he moved to serve a one-congregation parish.

At this time, the project of wiring the old parsonage and church was considered. Credit is due to the Luther League for sponsoring this. At the same time, the walls and ceiling of the church were covered with Celotex, which made it warmer and decorated it beautifully. In 1939, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the congregation. Before Pastor Strum left, plans for the disposal of the old parsonage and adjoining land was made. At the annual meeting on January 5, 1940, the trustees were empowered to sell the property, reserving an acre and a half for the church and a new parsonage. A building committee was selected at this meeting to make plans for the building of a new and modern parsonage. This was the beginning of a very busy summer for the congregation.

The Rev. Elmer N. Okland came after his graduation from the Seminary in the summer of 1940 to be our next pastor. The old parsonage had been sold and the new one was not yet finished for occupancy, so the pastor and his family were obliged to live in Milltown during the summer months. They moved into the new parsonage in September 1940 and on September 29, it was dedicated. Pastor and Mrs. Okland held Open House on that same day.

Even though the parsonage was now nearly completed, there was still indebtedness on it. Much work went into reducing that debt. The next three years we had rounds for collecting; there were dinners, coffee parties, and food sales as well as memorial gifts toward this indebtedness. The debt grew smaller and at the New Year's service 1943, we burned the note. All were happy we were again out of debt, but now our attention was turned to doing some work on the basement and building the sacristy room with a room under it as a room for an oil furnace. Our colored Memorial Windows were another project while Pastor Okland was here. They were all given as Memorial gifts to the church. It was now

1945 and there were urgent calls for Chaplains for the Service. Pastor Okland resigned his pastorate here to enter the Navy Chaplainry.

For a year, we were without a minister being served by students from the Seminary. The Rev. Hans Nelson was called and arrived in August 1946 as our next pastor. Our church constitution had been printed in 1899 and was in the Norwegian Language. It was decided to rewrite it into English. Pastor Hans Nelson, Lorain Pedersen, and J.M. Hammer formed a committee to take care of this and presented it to the congregation for ratification. It was accepted for our use.

Another issue had been in the minds of some of our members. It was the realignment of our four-congregation parish. The Clam Falls and the Bone Lake Congregations were the first to go on record to merge and asked to have a release from the four-congregation parish. After some discussion on this the Laketown and North Valley Congregations agreed to merge and form n=another parish. Pastor Nelson gave his resignation from all four churches, which was accepted, and he and his family left June 1, 1949 for Walhalla, North Dakota to serve a new parish.

Thomas S. Johnson, then a student at Luther Seminary in his senior year, was contacted and agreed to move his family here and to serve our new parish every Sunday while he was finishing his education at the Seminary. He and his family moved into the parsonage one month after Pastor Nelson left.

An attempt had been made some time previously to dig a well on the church property but it had proved to be a failure. It was decided to make a second attempt and this was successful, at least for sometime. We had a good well and a water system now for both the church and parsonage. They did not have to depend upon a cistern. This was done at the cost of \$800.00. The L.D.R.'s had been dissolved for a number of years but they had designated that a hundred dollars which was left in the bank be used for a well project and also another hundred for a new floor in the church. While Pastor Johnson was here, a beautiful new hard wood floor was laid in the church sanctuary. A new electric organ was purchased and paid for with memorial gifts in memory of many of our dear members who had passed away.

After Pastor Johnson finished his senior year at the Seminary he remained our Pastor until nearly Christmas of the second year (1951) then, he too felt the call to the Chaplainry and resigned to make the Army Chaplainry his career. After his retirement he and his family located in Golden Valley, Minnesota. He was an assistant pastor there until his sudden death October 25th 1977.

We were again without a resident pastor until June 1952 when the rev. John E. Midtling arrived as our new minister. During his stay here a complete set of altar parments were purchased as memorial gifts. The Ladies Aid had purchased a beautiful super frontal and pulpit antependium as a 75th anniversary gift to the congregation. A fine altar cross, a missal stand, altar hymnal, and additional communion ware was given as

memorial gifts and was dedicated at this time. The Altar Statue was redecorated and elevated. It was necessary to install a new oil furnace in the church. The Church floor was sanded and waxed. Some other unexpected work became necessary also, because of a fire in the parsonage on November 23, 1953. A new furnace was installed and much carpenter work, plastering and painting had to be done to make the parsonage livable again.

During the early part of May 1954, a three-day celebration was held at the church commemorating our 75th anniversary. More new pews had been given and they were then dedicated. Pastor Midtling remained with us until the fall of 1955 when he received a call to come to Mt. Sterling, Wisconsin, a parish of three congregations near Praire cu Chien. Again, students served us from the St. Paul Seminary.

In June 1956, Pastor and Mrs. Donald Sneen came. Pastor Sneen was installed as our minister at that time. During that time, our church was repainted, and the parsonage received a new roof. Modern improvements had become standard for most of our homes by now. With our cold winters, our people wished to have the church modern also and more convenient for their children and themselves. They wanted to add two bathrooms and a better entrance to the back of the basement. After much planning and thought, it was decided to add them beside the furnace room. This was built in 1959. eight more new pews had also been given.

In 1960, our congregation became a member of the American Lutheran Church: The American Evangelical Churches and the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches united to form that body. Our American Lutheran Church Women formed and adopted its constitution and became one of the 7,000 A.L.C. Women's groups, which had a membership of 320,940 at the end of the first year. Also at the end of the first year, the A.L.C. reported a membership of 2,336,780 members served by 4,307 active pastors. With this large membership, there were not enough pastors to care for all the churches.

A survey was taken of the membership and the locality where each of the members in our churches lived. Plans were then made to realign the parishes. It was planned that North Valley and Milltown form one parish. This was passed with their approval in 1960. Our sister church, Laketown joined with the Cushing Lutheran Church. This made it more convenient for the Pastors as they were closer to one another thus requiring less driving. Pastor Sneen was asked to become the minister of the North Valley-Milltown parish but he declined. Instead, he had decided at the time to further his education at Princeton University in New Jersey. This was early in the fall of 1960.

In the spring of 1961, Pastor James Olson came to serve our new Parish, at Milltown and North Valley. He, his wife and five children occupied the parsonage in Milltown. The North Valley parsonage was rented to the Roger Anderson Family. Many new problems arose which

had to be solved in this new alignment with a larger parish, more office work, a secretary, and more equipment was required.

For a long time we had felt the need of a change on the outside north entrance steps because of the cold north winds and the freezing of ice on them in the winter. Pastor Olson had some plans drawn but the congregation did not accept them. Plans however were made to begin the financing of this project. An auction was decided on and Stanley Peterson and Chester Esmund were asked to solicit the members for donations to this. When the final sale day arrived what a variety of articles we had lined up in the church yard and in the basement! There were calves, chickens, pigs, and geese as well as puppy dogs, machinery, furniture, tools of all kinds, a bake sale and lunches served. Articles were donated by many friends of the church as well as by all the members. It was a day of joy for us. This proved so successful that two later auctions have been held.

It was at this time that a movement was on to eliminate and close many of our smaller churches. Rev. Olson was on a committee working on this and hoped to succeed in closing the North Valley Church. This was much to the dissatisfaction of our people and it was voted down.

With the large number of members in our two churches, a student, Pastor Brown, from the Seminary was hired during the summer months to assist Pastor Olson. Early in the spring of 1964, Pastor Olson resigned and left for Eau Claire where he became one of their assistant pastors. The district President, Pastor Olrouge, from Oshkosh, Wisconsin came here twice to help us in calling a new Pastor. Until one was secured, students again served us from the St. Paul Seminary and the help of neighboring Pastors.

Plans for an 85th Anniversary were made during the spring of 1964. It was to be held June 14th. By that time, Pastor Olson had resigned and left so we were without a minister. We were very happy and thankful to have Pastor George Strum, a former minister come to be one of the speakers that day and serve as our Master of Ceremonies for the occasion. Pastor Sneen was also with us to add to our program. Special invitations had been sent to all the former confirmed members who were living and could be contacted. Many of those who could not attend sent wonderful letters of tribute to the old church of their childhood.

A large number found it possible to attend and enjoyed the day. Included among them were the four daughters of Rev. Risvold of Minneapolis, Clarice, Martha, Helen, and Cordelia. Mrs. Tilla Johnson, a charter member, then living in Anchorage, Alaska flew here alone to join us. She was 90 years of age. Mrs. Nels Simonson, of St. Croix, our oldest confirmed member was with us also. Everyone helped to make it a very happy day for us all and brought us many memories of the early days in North Valley.

In the fall of 1964 Pastor Arlan Hermodson and his family came. They remained with us for eight years. During these years, a new piano

was donated to the church and a memorial library was built in the overflow room. Then too, Virgil Chappelear presented plans he had made for an addition to the front of the church that would enclose the steps to the north, add a nice vestibule, better steps to the downstairs, and give us the overflow room and place for another oil furnace, which was also needed. We were all happy this was possible and were glad to accept these plans. Work was soon started and again there was much donated labor by our willing workers thus minimizing the cost. Oscar Johnson and Virgil Chappelear donated much time and labor. Our women often brought coffee and lunch to the workers to help the cause too. Colored windows were soon spoken for a memorial donations from some for the new addition.

In 1969, when Pastor Hermodson was with us, a 90th Anniversary Celebration was held. At that time, several of our former ministers were with us. They were: Pastors Strum, Sneen, Hans Nelson, and the Tom Johnson's joined the group in the afternoon. Again, four Risvold sisters were able to be with us along with their brother George who came from Arlington, Washington. We were happy to have these old members here too, Mrs. Tilla Johnson, and Mrs. Anna Tretsven of Owatonna, Minnesota.

The Rev. Hermodson family left us in the fall of 1972 for Superior, Wisconsin where he would serve in a one-church parish. We were again dependent upon students from the Seminary. One of these was Robert Lubben. In the spring of 1973, Pastor Lubben accepted our call to serve the Milltown Church and us.

While Pastor Lubben was our minister, we were very busy with improvements in our church as well as in the parsonage. The parsonage underwent a complete renovation, many needed repairs being taken care of. New cupboards were installed in the kitchen, new siding on the parsonage, a new roof, glass blocks in the basement windows, new windows and window frames, and the bathrooms also taken care of. The church kitchen received new cupboards, stoves, a refrigerator, paneling, and a lighted ceiling. The outside of the church was repainted; new wainscoting in the church, new stairs to the balcony, and the restoration of the balcony for use was accomplished. The Tom Kelly's donated new lighting for the church. A new pipe organ was installed. A much needed well was drilled, another dream fulfilled, as water again had been a problem. Indeed, many dreams came true! It was a busy time however. The Chappelear's donated a large sum toward the well, which was a big help.

Early in the spring of 1978, Pastor Lubben received a call to become an assistant pastor at the large Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. He made his farewell sermon on April 9, 1978 and again we were served by students and visiting pastors. In June, we were very fortunate to obtain the promise of a young graduate from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Columbus, Ohio to serve as our

minister. Pastor Paul Stork and his wife Sharon came July 1st to live in the North Valley Parsonage.

During March, discussions and meetings were held as to the possibility of becoming a one-parish church. After much thoughtful prayer, it was put to a vote on Sunday, April 16, 1978 and it was carried by a large majority. We became a one-parish church.

At the beginning of our church one century ago, it included a territory from Grantsburg to Dresser Junction, later, the four churches of Bone Lake, Clam Falls, Laketown, and North Valley; after that, Milltown and North Valley, and now, North Valley. Now that we are alone, we pray that the Lord will lead us and help us to grow and continue to be richly blessed as we have been in the past, so our new venture will succeed.

Religious instruction of our children has been given a prominent place in our church activities. A week or more of Bible School in the instruction of our children during the summer months has been taught by a few of our church women or at times by students from the L.B.I. Sunday school was taught occasionally in the Norwegian language in early days. In 1925, it was organized and taught in the English language by Mrs. William Rohrer. She remained active and continued to serve as the Superintendent until her death in 1933. Mrs. Allie Twetten, her daughter, promised her mother on her death bed that she would continue the Sunday school work. She did this until 1940 when she moved from our community. Since then, it has been kept in session regularly. A memorial Library was started in Mrs. Rohrer's name at the time of her death and has been added to during the succeeding years. For a short time during Rev. Klyve's service here, Sunday school classes were taught in the Pleasant Valley School for the children in that area.

Since the first confirmation class held here in 1879, instructions have continued throughout the years for our young people and there have been 509 persons confirmed. Pastor Midtling is given the credit for having had the largest class of adult members confirmed. Our records show that 131 marriages have taken place in the church. The first couple to be married here were Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Johnson. There have been 1184 baptisms and 264 funerals.

Our Ladies Aid, as it was called originally, was organized in 1889. IN 1960, it became know as the A.L.C.W. and continues to be the strong arm of the church. With its projects and Bible Study in the Circles, it carries out its purpose as expressed in its preamble—"Mindful that our Lord Jesus Christ, the divine head of the church, made use of the services and devotion of women during the days of His earthly ministry and desiring in our day likewise to follow and serve Him, we now with untied effort dedicate ourselves to the furtherance of His kingdom by a stewardship of life and services to the glory of the Triune God".

We have had several of our members serve faithfully throughout the years as organists of our church. It is interesting to note that our present organist in our church, Mrs. Helen Hellerud, is the daughter of

one of the first ones to help with the playing of the organ for services in pioneer days, Mrs. William (Lava) Williamson.

We are very thankful today for all our members and friends who have been so free and willing in giving of themselves, their talents, and their help financially during this past century. Besides the individual members we are thankful to the many groups within the church that have been organized and functioned at various times and assisted with the many projects and activities; we remember the L.D.R.'s; the Men's Club, the Couples Club, the Luther League, The Young Peoples Society, our Choir, the Hi-League, and the People's Club. We pray that this same spirit will continue in the years to come.

Thinking of the future of our church, a group of members met and decided to begin an organization know as the North Valley Benevolent Association. This was February 4, 1974. They consulted with Lawyer Earl Nelton in Balsam Lake, WI. A set of By-Laws for the Association were drawn up and approved by the group. They were recorded with the Register of Deeds at the Court House. Its purpose was to insure the future of our Congregation. The members each contributed a cash sum, which was deposited in the Northwest Federal Savings and Loan Association at compound interest in Amery, WI. The principal is to be permanently invested as a government-insured fund or loan association as decided by the trustees. When the fund reaches \$40,000.00, the interest may be used every year for the work of the congregation. This is quite a new organization and we hope that the fund will grow so at to become of use to our church.

Today as we begin a new century and think of how conditions have changed. we can truthfully say we live in a changing world. We find that: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow." Heb. 13:8. Yes, for our needs remain the same-food, clothing, and spiritual guidance.

As we look back, we note that our blessings have been countless for our North Valley Church. Let us pray that in the coming century we may continue to nurture the fruits started through the faith and labors of our forefathers this one hundred years ago. May we strive and work for the accomplishments as put forth so well in our History for the 75th Anniversary, which follows:

In looking to the future let, us pray that a true Christian spirit may be instilled in the younger generations. The real future of the church depends on the young folks of today. Let us keep in mind, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6.

It is fitting and proper that we of today think back of the early pioneers, fixing in our mind's eye a picture of conditions of the time. We think of the struggles they had, the hard work and times, the loneliness and all privations of pioneers. Then, today we note what they accomplished: the clearing of the woods, the buildings, the splendid

roads and schools, and our beloved church. Yes in all this work, we cannot but feel we owe them a tribute and a grateful thanks to God for leaving us the fruits of the work they nobly and willingly did. It would please them now if they knew that we continued well what they began for us. With Lincoln we say, "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here but it can never forget what they did". To God alone be the glory!