

***CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL***

JUNE 16, 1991



1891 - 1991

**Ringsaker Evangelical Lutheran Church
Buxton, North Dakota**



**Ringsaker Lutheran Kirke
Built 1892 - Destroyed by tornado in 1902**

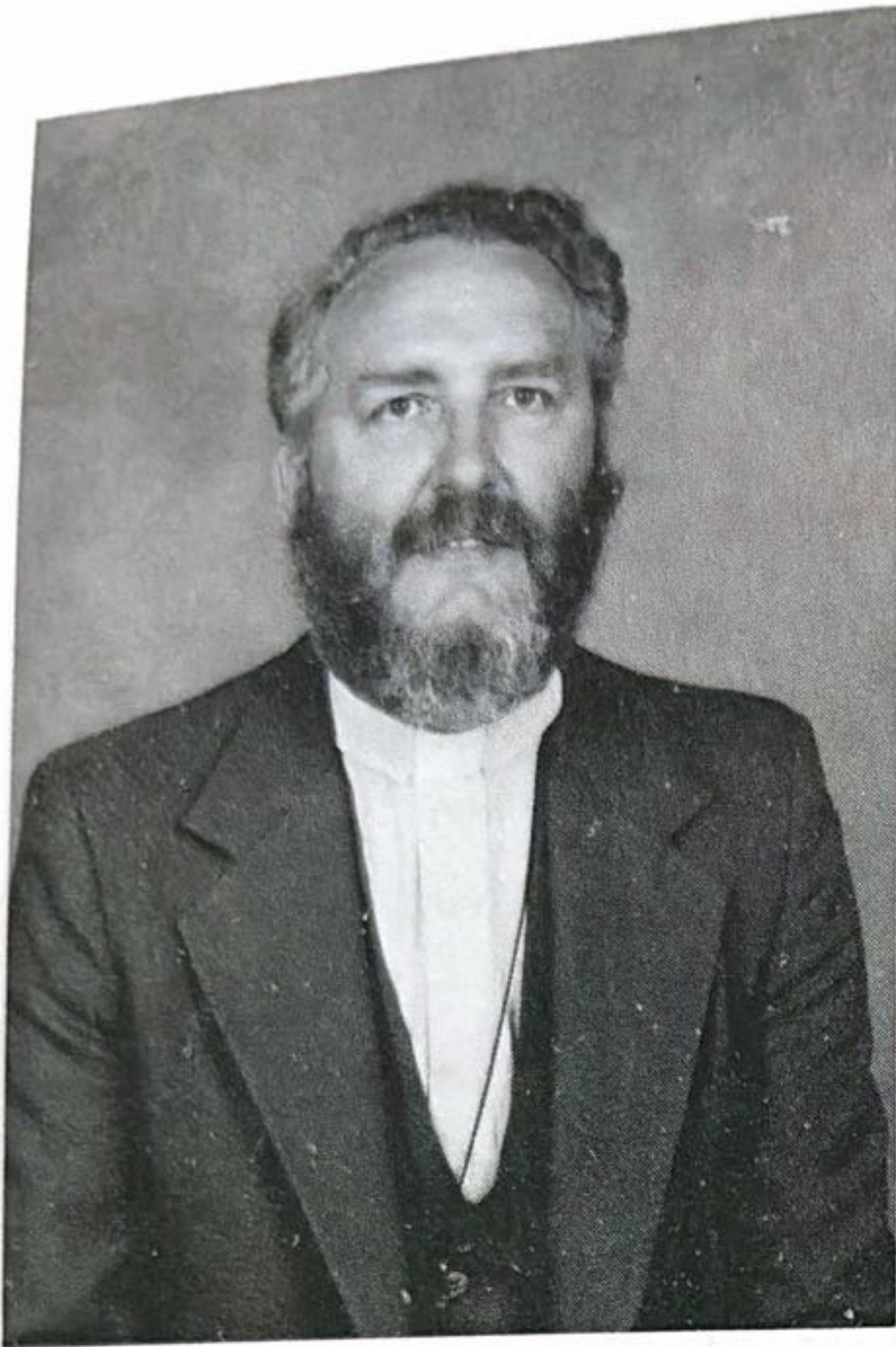
Dedication . . . A HERITAGE TO SHARE

We dedicate this booklet to the memory of the pioneer laymen and pastors who braved the hardships of that time, and sacrificed to found Ringsaker Congregation . . . and to all the faithful workers of the following generations who have passed on. They kept the faith and preserved the heritage to be recalled and passed on to this and future generations.

As we reflect on these past hundred years and all its changes, we are reminded "the word of our Lord will stand forever."

Guds ord, det er vort arvegods,
Det skal vor afkoms vaere;
Gud giv os i vor grav den ros,
Vi holdt det høit i aere!
Det er vor hjaelp i nød,
Vor trøst i liv og død;
O Gud, ihvor det gaar,
Lad dog, mens verden staar
Det i vor aet nedarves.

The above hymn was frequently sung by our pioneers. English translation is "God's Word is Our Great Heritage."



Rev. Aage Carlsen

An anniversary is a time for remembering with Thanksgiving who and what has gone before, rejoicing over what is now, and looking to the future in hope and confidence.

But when celebrating the anniversary of a congregation, those things are even more true because of what is included in each of these statements.

1. **WE REMEMBER:** the struggles of our pioneer ancestors and their faithfulness to the God who was faithful to them through it all.
2. **WE REJOICE OVER:** the blessings of the rich heritage we have received from these ancestors, the blessings of the Christian faith and fellowship we now have, and the challenge to be God's people in this place and time.
3. **WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE:** hoping that we will experience the empowerment and guidance of the Holy Spirit to take up gladly the tasks and crosses God has for us and to serve God and the people whom He would love through us.

This is our memory, our joy, and our hope as we live as the people of God's Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ of whom the scriptures say: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

So let us, as members and friends of the Ringsaker Lutheran Church, join in celebration, with happy hearts and deep faith, knowing that we are secure and safe in the presence of Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all!

Have a Blessed Anniversary!
Pastor Carlsen

The Ringsaker Congregation was organized in 1891 under the leadership of Pastor C. Saugstad.

The first church was destroyed by a tornado in 1902, on July 15th.

The present church was built in 1918.

MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED

1880-1893	Rev. Christian Saugstad
1893-1900	Rev. H.J. Villesvik
1903-1905	Rev. J.H. Brono
1905-1917	Rev. O. Bergh
1917-1922	Rev. H.A. Winther
1922-1927	Rev. Ludvig Peterson
1927-1936	Rev. Conrad J. Christenson
1936-1951	Rev. Karl Stromme
1951-1959	Rev. Carl J. Carlsen
1959-1960	Rev. L.B. Sateren
1960-1968	Rev. Norman C. Anderson
1969-1975	Rev. Ralph Okland
1975-1980	Rev. Russell A. Peterson
1980-	Rev. Aage Carlsen

ASSISTANT PASTORS SINCE 1975

Rev. Theodore Weltzin
Rev. Clayton Engan
Rev. Ralph Hofrenning
Intern: Andrea Bringsjord
Rev. Arvild Jacobson, presently serving

PRESENT RINGSAKER OFFICERS

President	Lloyd Sondreal
Secretary	Irene Sondreal
Treasurer	Agnes Peterson
Financial Secretary	Eunice Sondrol
Sexton	Willis Sondreal
Assistant	Marlo Sondrol
Advisor	Stanley Erickson
Sunday School Superintendent	Lenore Bjorge
Deacons	Ronald Peterson, Gary Peterson and Darrell Larson
Trustees	Marlo Sondrol, David Bjorge, and Willis Sondreal
Organist	Mrs. Aage Carlsen

**Excerpts from the book "NORSK LUTHERESKE MENIGHED I AMERIKA" 1843-1916*
(Augsburg Publishing House, c. 1916)

*Pre-organization fellowship was established within a large territory on both sides of the river and referred to as "Frog Point Luthereske Menighed." Ringsaker was listed as being organized in 1882 and dissolved in 1885 (membership - 40 souls). Travel at that time was by foot, horse and buggy or wagon. That meant 10 or more miles for some to go, and disagreement as to the locations of the church resulted in the re-organization of Ringsaker in 1891 (March 13th) with 110 souls (3 Danes). The church was affiliated with the Forenede kirke from 1891-93. From 1893, Ringsaker became part of the Lutheran Free Church until that body merged with The American Lutheran Church in 1963. In January 1988, they became a part of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**Taken from the pastor's records from 1891-1893. Spelling is as recorded there.*

The organizers were: Arne Arneson, Jens Knudsen Brathen, Ole Engen, Hakun Gunderson, Svend Knudsen, Anthon Koppervik, Karl Larsen, Kittel Lillegard, Even Olsen Myrland, T.T. Risteigen, Ole O. Rust, Knut O. Rauk, Knut Rust, Torger Thompson, Ole Veteren and T.H. Thompson, and Martin Thompson.

The first baptism after organization was Melvin Larsen, born December 1, 1891, and baptized on April 15, 1892. He was the son of Lauritz and Bergit Larsen. (Bergit was Margit Veteren's sister.)

The fifth baptism was Blanche (Knudsen) Amundson (someone most of us remember). She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Svend Knudsen. Born July 28, 1892, and was baptized on December 10, 1892.

The first funeral was Ellen Soffie Severtson (one year and six months) on May 7, 1893, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sever Severtson.

The first service in the church was on July 9, 1893. This building was constructed at a cost of \$4,240.

The first baptism in the church was July 9, 1893, for Olava Kobbervig. She was the daughter of Anton and Inger Kobbervig.

On July 4, 1896, the church was "indviet" by Professor Georg Sverdrup, then president of Augsburg Seminary, and who has been called the "Father" of the Lutheran Free Church.

Following the destruction of the church in July of 1902, services were held at the Belmont School until the new church was built in 1918. Confirmation classes met at the parent's homes and the church parsonage.

In 1904, the former parsonage was purchased from Charley Nelson (contract for deed) payable in five years. The cost was divided between Sand Hill, Ringsaker, Climax and Skatvold. Shares were divided as follows: Sand Hill (9/15), Ringsaker (4/15), Climax and Skatvold (2/15). The Sand Hill Church received the warranty deed and the contract for deed went to the other three congregations. This is now the home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Johnson in Climax, Minnesota.

December 14, 1917 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The matter of building a church was discussed. In his report to the congregation, Pastor H.A.B. Winther recommended it was now timely and necessary to have a church building in which to assemble, if at all possible. Some of the women of the "Kvindeforening" were present and announced they had \$1,817.65 in "Kassebeholdning" put away for this purpose, and the "Pigeforening" had \$300, for a total of \$2,117.65 ... and expressed their enthusiasm for building the new church the next summer. This was brought to a vote . . . 16 "for" and "2" against. A building committee was appointed and the Trustees were to conduct a fund drive.

The church was completed and dedicated on July 6, 1919. This building was constructed at a cost of \$5,600.

The first confirmation in the new church was on August 3, 1919.

The first English baptism was on August 10, 1919, being Margaret Ann Belle Larson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Knute (Mamie Carson) Larson.

The first wedding at the church was on December 20, 1920, uniting Marie Bredeson and Herbert Pearson.

The Confirmation class of 1920 purchased the Baptismal font. Nine members each contributed \$5. The Ladies Aid paid the balance of \$7.70, plus the freight of \$6.20.

Changing Conditions and Changing Needs

One of the problems of the early church was the change of language from Norwegian to English. The transition was slow and difficult -- the younger generation wanting to turn elsewhere where only English was preached and taught. By 1920, nine of the 28 services in Ringsaker were in English. In 1924, half of the class was confirmed in English and the other half in Norwegian. In 1928, 22 services were in Norwegian and 17 in English.

It was not until the late 1930s, that transition to all-English services was made.

Since the minister lived in town, farmers would see to it that he had hay and feed for the horses he drove -- money was scarce, and with slow transportation and churches spread apart, it could be several Sundays between services. Afternoon services were common.

Though the horse and buggy era seems remote to the younger generation, Philip Peterson remarked, "time has gone by so quickly, it seems like only yesterday that I saw Pastor Bergh with his shetland ponies go by."

In 1891, the pastor's salary was \$150 per year. In 1917, Ringsaker's share of the pastor's salary was \$18.75 per month.

In 1940, the Ladies Aid donated \$100 to help pay the minister's salary of \$200.

RINGSAKER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF BELMONT

The Ringsaker Congregation's annual meeting on November 10, 1983, authorized the formation of a Ringsaker Cemetery Association for the perpetual care of the two Ringsaker Cemeteries.

The Congregation's Council and the sextons were instructed to be in charge.

At a meeting following services on Sunday, January 15, 1984, the following members were named as directors of the Association: Marlo Sondrol, Stanley Erickson, Ronald Peterson, Gary Peterson, Lloyd Sondreal, Willis Sondreal and Irene Sondreal.

Incorporation papers were then duly filed with the State of North Dakota and the Ringsaker Cemetery Association of Belmont became a reality. Funds for the Association were solicited from members and other interested people.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The religious training of the Ringsaker youth has been nourished throughout the years by an active Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Confirmation classes.

Presently, the Ringsaker Sunday School works jointly with the Grue Sunday School. Confirmation classes are conducted on a Parish basis.

Some previous years, Parochial School was held for six weeks during the summer. The parents paid \$45 to the teacher per session.

In 1917-18, the public school had to close for a while during the winter months due to a contagious disease so school had to continue into summer. Therefore, there was no Parochial School that year.

FROM THE RECORDS:

Baptisms:	357
Confirmands:	353
Marriages:	45
Funerals:	176

The oldest living baptized member of the Ringsaker Church is Alvin Erickson and the most recent baptism is Holly Nadeau.

ANGELS IN APRONS

Who can evaluate the far-reaching influence of the faithful and resourceful "Women of the Church"??? From the organization of the first "Kvindeforening" -- then "Ladies Aid," to the "Women's Missionary Federation," "Women of the American Lutheran Church," and now, "WELCA," their work has continued much the same.

The proceeds from their humble service have helped Home and Foreign Missions, as well as local needs to be met.

It had been tradition since 1892 to serve a fall dinner and bazaar in Ringsaker . . . originally and for several years, this was held on Thanksgiving Day. The first ludfisk dinner was served in 1926 . . . that year, 85 pounds of fish was purchased at 10 cents a pound; some years nearly 600 people have been served. In 1969, 500 pounds of ludfisk was purchased. Income from auctions of handmade items of clothing has played an important link with Ringsaker's past. For many years, the women met as North and South Sewing Circles. No scrap of material was wasted, but pieced together and, thus, many "crazy" quilts have been sold or sent to LWR.

Here are examples of prices for handmade articles in 1898: dresses from 25 to 75 cents; shirts from 30 to 80 cents; doily, \$1.35; quilt, \$2.10. Lunches were served for 10 cents.

PRESENT WELCA OFFICERS

President, Ruby Nesvig; Vice President, Julia Thompson; Secretary, Ethel Sondreal; Treasurer, Eunice Sondrol; Stewardship Secretary, Bernice Lorentzson; and Education Secretary, Lee Peterson.

The picture on the following page is typical of gatherings at the homes during the 1902-1918 era, when we had no church building.

This particular Ladies Aid was at the Knute Peterson home, approximately 1912.

Among this group are members of the families of K.T. Peterson, Nute Brokke, Ole Vettern, Tobias Thompson and K.O. Brokke. Others we recognize are Mr. and Mrs. Christian Rauk, Blanche Amundson, Bella Rauk, Gertie and Ella Arneson. WHO DO YOU RECOGNIZE???



CONFIRMANDS

1893

Helga Svendson
Eli Arneson
Agate Jorgine Myrland
Gina Mathilde Brathen
Stina Thompson

1895

Olaf Engen
Kristian Brathen
Olaus Vettern
Albert Knudsen
Tom Knutson
Ida Rauk
Liv Olson
Alfred Engen
George Broderson
Bertha Kobbervig
Ella Knudson
Laura Torgerson
Anne Myrland
Olga Lillegard

1896

Christ Larsen
Lars Olson
Betsy Bjaland
Knute Vettern
Mina Larson
Astrid Haugen

1897

Henry Rauk
Clarence Knutson
Margit Sondreal
Astrid Haugen
Anne Haugstad
Andrina Renslen
Alice Nilsen
Bergitte Berg
Kjersti Berg
Karoline Knudsen
Anne Knudson
Anne Kobbervig

1898

Edward Olson
Ole Arneson
Olaus Myrland
Knut Haugen
Knut O. Haugen
Brede Bredeson
Betsy Brokke
Anne Vettern
Randine Olson

1899

Henry Kobbervig
Halvor Brathen
Ingebret Sondrol
Olaus Haugstad
Marie Larson
Anne Haugen
Gustav Brathen

1901

John Myrland
Joseph Olson
Henry Thompson
Lars Haugen
Helga Haugen
Betsy Gunlickson
Gurine Renslen
Henry Olson
Edith Knutson
Julia Larson
Anna Sondreal
Julia Vettern

1903

Edwin Myrland
Olaus Rust
Ingebret Sondrol
Clara Severson
Olive Vettern

1904

Adolph Ronning
Albert Olson

Knut Haugen
Karoline Haugen
Selma Iverson
Gunhilde Haugen
Stella Knutson
Mina Sondrol
Emma Brokke
Hilda Thompson
Marie Bredeson
Mina Kobbervig
Clara Amundson
Elen Olson

1905

Lewis Myrland
Orian Brokke
Halvor Olson
Karine Arneson
Anne Bredeson
Clara Vettern
Clara renslen
Oline Haugen
Kristine Haugen

1906

Ole Brokke
Ingvald Ingvaldson
Gilbert Kobbervig
Arne Arneson
Arthur Thompson
Emma Gjestrum
Blanche Knudsen

1908 (January)

Oscar Nesvig
Oline Sondreal
Bessie Brokke
Olava Kobbervig
Alma Amundson

1908 (November)

Edwin Vettern
Albert Knudson
Jorgen Brokke

Gertie Arneson
Hanna Thompson
Offelia Thompson
Ella Severson
Alma Haugen

1909

Amanda Thompson
Anne Friholt
Hanna Ingvaldson
Maria Gjestrum
Helene Sondreal
Johnny Brokke
Jakob Nesvig

1910

Ida Kobbervig
Alfred Amundson

1911

Clarence Brokke
Sigurd Thompson
Carl Brokke
Magda Thompson
Henry Severson
Victoria Nesvig
Louis Vettern

1913

Lenora Brokke
Myrtle Severson
Ovidia Sondrol
Gina Amundson
John Bredeson
Emil Severson
Milford Vettern
Berto Nesvig
Ole Sondrol

1914

Rodella Brokke
Beatha Nesvig
Thelma Brokke
Alma Kobbervig

Tracy Thompson
Edwin Arneson

1915

Olga Nesvig
Ida Thompson
Selma Thompson
Selma Amundson
Emma Erickson
Edwin Severson

1916

Jenny Hovet
Nettie Kobbervig

1918

Clarence Thompson
Arnt Brokke
Agnes Nesvig
Josie Brokke
Lillian Severson

1919

Emma Borsvold
Albert Thompson
Guy Brokke
Alvin Erickson
Theodore Peterson
John Borsvold
Emma Amundson
Oliver Johnsgaard

1920

Stella Jordahl
Sigurd Johnsgaard
Hilda Borsvold
Stanley Erickson
Alice Brokke
Ruth Severson
Grace Broderson
Gertrude Peterson
Leonard Ramsfield

1921

Evelyn Nesvig
Willard Thompson

1922

Grace Brokke
Minnie Erickson
Clarice Olson
Adeline Kongsle
Gladys Brokke
Philip Peterson
Milford Kongsle
Arthur Borsvold
George Nesvig
Myrtice Erickson

1923

Mabel Thompson
Gilmore Severson
Ervin Broderson

1924

Lilah Thompson
Agnes Peterson
Irvin Nesvig
Jerome Nesvig
Orland Rauk
Floyd Paulson
Norman Erickson
Palmer Larson
Lloyd Erickson

1926

Bernice Paulson
Luella Peterson
Rudolph Thompson
Norman Severson
Evelyn Nelson

1928

Gladys Hawkins
Adelaide Ingvaldson
Ardell Bjorge
Olaf Erickson

Roy Peterson
Nanian Thompson
Clifton Cooper
Bernette Severson
Flora Christopherson

1929

Clifton Lorentzson
Mildred Lorentzson
Marvin Lorentzson
Adeline Thompson
LeRoy Amundson
Marcella Amundson

1930

Norval Ingvaldson
Rodella Leen
Rita Nesvig
Barbara Nesvig
Irene Nesvig
Helen Peterson
Lyndon Paulson
Lynn Nettum

1931

Alvina Bjorge

1932

Vivian Rauk
Tilman Thompson
Vernon Amundson
Eunice Amundson
Randal Rauk

1933

Valborg Erickson

1934

Orris Rensland
Jay Cooper
Marian Ingvaldson
George Keller

1935

Donald Cooper
Sylvia Meland

Geraldine Keller
Ethel Thompson
Inez Kobbervig
Norman Kobbervig
Alvin Ruud

1937

Shirley Amundson
Roger D. Renslen

1938

Florence Bjorge
Ruby Cooper
Charlotte Sondrol
Kenneth Sondrol
Robert Gunlickson
Abner Amundson
Therron Amundson
Herman Paulson

1939

Arlene Renslen
Lois Kobbervig

1940

Earl Thorson

1941

Verna Kobbervig
Betty Jean Renslen
Kathleen Bjorge
Leatrice Amundson
Burton Amundson
Yvonne Sondrol
Berland Rauk

1943

Audrey Rauk
Marilyn Amundson
Marlo Sondrol
Virginia Vetter

1944

Patricia Keller
Harlin Sondrol

1945

Jean Vetter
Wendell Renslen

1947

Joan Keller
Barbara Amundson

1948

Roger Sondrol
Roger Cooper
Maynard Sondrol
Wendlen Severson

1949

Diane Vetter

1950

Rodney Cooper
Joan Cooper
Margaret Vetter
Samson Nesvig
Winnifred Nesvig

1954

Marlys Bjorge
Audrey Bjorge
Ralph Peterson
Maxine Vetter
Leslie Nesvig

1956

Ronald Nesvig

1957

Marshall Cooper
Sandra Severson

1958

Kent Peterson
David Sondreal
Ronald Peterson
Karlyn Bjorge

1959

Stanford Erickson
Allan Peterson
Janice Thompson

1960
Alden Bjorge
Victoria Erickson
Jeffrey Nesvig
Robert Peterson
Marlys Rotvold
Leon Vettern

1962
Gary Peterson
Chyril Bjorge
Steven Nesvig

1963
Doyle Heden

1964
Galen Thompson
Michael Sondrol
Merlin Sondrol
Patrick Peterson
Michael Nesvig

1965
Sandra Bjorge

1966
Brenda Whitwer

1967
Kimberly Nesvig
Kendall Nesvig
David Bjorge
Brent Whitwer

1968
Connie Sondrol
Rodney Sondrol
Pamela Sondreal

1969
Karen Gohdes

1970
Danny Bjorge
Bruce Sondrol
Kathy Joy Sondreal

1971
Sharon Nesvig

1972
Kristi Gohdes
Dale Sondreal

1974
Ginelle Sondrol

1975
Kevin Sondreal

1976
Kayann Gohdes

1978
Karrie Sondreal

1980
Sherri Sondrol

1984
Doyle Heden, Jr.
Tim Pierson
Alyson Nesvig

1986
LaRissa Peterson
Jeffrey Pierson

1987
Derek Heden

1988
Nichelle Larson

1989
Heidi Heden

1991
Jeremie Larson
Travis Larson
Lisa Naastad

Adults Confirmed:
Lloyd Sondreal (1949)
Mrs. Norval Ingvalson
(1950)
Mrs. Ingolf Rotvold
(1956)
Mrs. Orris Renslen
(1956)
Peggy Peterson (1972)
Judy Cooper (1972)
Ronald Haller (1974)
Susan Haller (1974)

The oldest living confirmand is Emma Estenson who was born August 26, 1889. She is a resident at Riverview Nursing Home, Crookston, Minn.

Our Heavenly Father, we ask Thy special guidance as we honor our veterans who once sacrificed their time and their lives in defense of peace and freedom. Again, we come to ask Thy mercy on the disturbed and war-torn world beyond our borders.

Lord God, as we remember those who served and those who gave their lives, let us also remember those who are once again called to service for our country and Thee. Create in us the strength to withstand all the pain and suffering that war causes and thank You for bringing peace to the world. We pray in Thy name.
Amen.



Ringsaker members who have been in the active military or the National Guard since the founding of the church:

Ole Brokke
Johnny Brokke
Roy Cooper
Luella Peterson
Roy Peterson
Randall Rauk
Milford Kongsli
Charles Cooper
Tilman Thompson
Orris Renslen
Vernon Amundson
Abner Amundson
Floyd Paulson
Marvin Lorentzson
Alvin Erickson
Olaf Erickson

Robert Gunlickson
Norval Ingwalson
Norman Severson
Nanian Thompson
Charles Brokke
Therrin Amundson
Burton Amundson
Robert Amundson
Kenneth Sondrol
George Keller Jr.
Harlin Sondrol
Maynard Sondrol
Roger Renslen
Roger Cooper
Rodney Cooper

Wendlin Severson
Wendell Renslen
Ronald Nesvig
Donald Nesvig
Marshall Cooper
Ralph Peterson
Ronald Peterson
Kent Peterson
Alden Bjorge
Allan Peterson
Patrick Peterson
Michael Nesvig
Steven Nesvig
Merlin Sondrol
Michael Sondrol
Kendall Nesvig
Kimberly Nesvig
Presently serving is Commander Patrick B. Peterson, United States Naval Reserve.

BITS AND PIECES

Ladies Aid at Belmont School, Nov. 5, 1892

Income:	Sale of handmade articles	\$122.50
	Dinner served	43.20
	Basket Social	63.35
		<u>\$229.05</u>

An interesting note from the Ladies Aid treasurer's book in November 1933:

Income for year	\$269.25
Expenses	245.26
Balance	\$23.99

(I added 1 cent to make it \$24.00)

October 7, 1937 - wood for ludfisk supper \$1.50

Present cemetery plotted out in 1917 by S.K. Knutson and K.O. Brokke . . . approximately one acre at a cost of \$100, and adjacent land approximately four acres, for a total cost of \$500. Cemetery lots could be sold then to non-members for \$5 or \$1 per grave. Jorgen Brokke's was the first burial in this cemetery in 1919.

1921 . . . The committees of Sand Hill, Ringsaker, Grue, Skatvold and Climax churches requested the Climax Council to pass an ordinance to close the motion picture shows on the Lord's Day. Also, to close the dance hall from midnight Saturday to midnight Monday each week, and to enforce the state law against minors attending dance halls and pool halls without being accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Anti-saloon League meetings held at 2:30 Sundays in 1922.

1922 . . . 24 families and seven single persons listed as members of Ringsaker.

THE COUNTRY CHURCH
Helen J. Cody

*The country church by the side of the road,
Cool and white it stands,
A symbol of faith and purity
And strength for all the lands.
This structure is built of honest oak
And pure, though weathered pine;
It has deep roots in American soil
'Tis clean and simple of line.
Though it's neither large nor fanciful
It serves as a house of God.
And holds the morning worship
And workers of the sod.
Free men come to worship
In a manner which they choose
And meet their friends and neighbors
And hear about what's news.
It's a dearly beloved institution
and as old as America can boast
It's a center of life for her people
A servant and a host.*