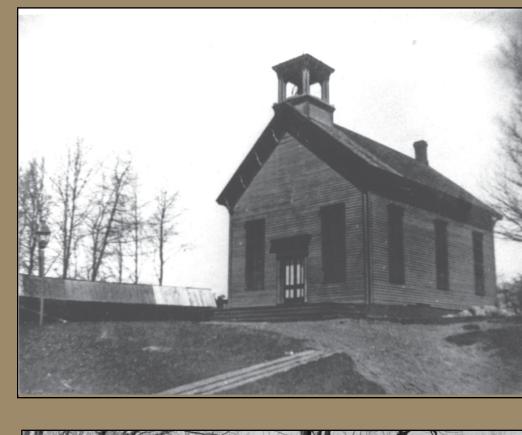
Did the settlers really have to wait 30 years for a church?

Saugatuck and Douglas mirror an assortment of ethnic, religious, and even architectural interests—and tell how they engaged in community and even national events.

These developments seem slow when compared to the Dutch settlers to the north congregations already organized and accompanied by their pastors. Saugatuck and Douglas mirror an assortment of ethnic, religious, and even architectural interests—and tell how they engaged in community and even national events. These developments seem slow when compared to the Dutch settlers to the north who arrived as entire congregations already organized. For 30 years there were not enough people of any denomination to found a church, although itinerant preachers often held services in the school house or private homes. Nevertheless, it was not until 1860 that the Congregationalists in Saugatuck organized, hired a pastor, and built a church.

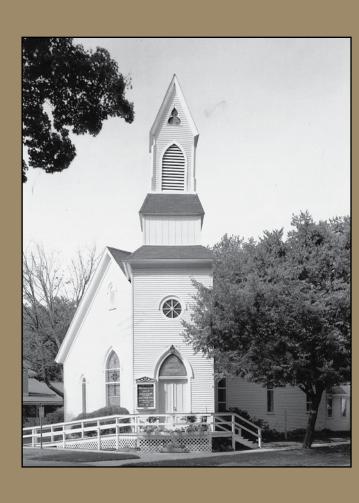
Saugatuck Congregational 1861 / Saugatuck German Reformed 1868
Douglas Methodist 1871 / Douglas Congregational 1872
Saugatuck Episcopal 1874 / Douglas Seventh Day Adventist 1874
Saugatuck Methodist 1883 / Douglas Catholic 1894
Saugatuck Christian Science 1925 / Saugatuck Christian Reformed 1964
Douglas Community 1965 / Douglas Unity



Saugatuck Congregational School and town meetings were held at the church and in 1861 Saugatuck's first Civil War meeting took place there."



All Saints Episcopal
The unusually fine stained glass windows, which
are believed to have been purchased by Rev. Taylor on a trip to Belgium in the 1870's, and which
were shipped to this country and assembled in
the east, and installed in ...February of 1880."



Douglas Congregational Church
At a business meeting on November 5, 1885,
the congregation voted to buy a bell. They
borrowed the money from J. W. Dickey giving
him a note. Later they had a series of lectures
to help raise money to pay for the bell with
tickets, 25 cents each."



German Reformed Church and St. Peters Catholic Church Both built for local mill workers.

