

functioned for several years until about 1965 and a group of men sang on several occasions. Walter Wogsland, a New Hope member until 1981, furnished violin music at many services and special occasions.

Since 1963 each family has received daily devotional booklets by mail, paid for through the local budget fund. These booklets are called "Portals of Prayer." The Lutheran Standard has been sent to all the members by the ALCW since 1973.

The ALCW has continued active throughout these years, but other organizations including the Brotherhood, the choir, and the Priscilla circle begun in 1962, have been discontinued.

The church basement was used in a strange way in June 1970. The sheriff's department was allowed quarters there for deputies needed to supervise and control traffic and other matters relating to a 3 day rock music festival held a few miles from the church.

In 1972, the night after a father-son banquet, burglars entered the church by breaking the glass in the back door. The thieves were never caught, and the church was burglarized several more times. Among the articles stolen were candlesticks, candelabra, the perpetual light, a tape player, the American flag, the cover of the communion set, table flatware, altar vases, and the church speaker system (which was stolen twice). Following the first burglary three young men kept a night watch for several nights. A heavy cabinet was provided and now valuable articles are kept locked up when not in use.

The Hao Tran family, relatives of Mai Clark, refugees from Viet Nam, were welcomed with a dinner following morning services in October 1979 and a shower of gifts. They first lived in Peru, and then in Stevens Point. At present the Trans live in California.

For years the speaker on Mission Sunday was a foreign missionary who brought slides or a film to show following a fellowship dinner. On Mission Sunday in 1971, the new Allen organ purchased with funds from the Lewis and Hilma Maxwell estate was dedicated with an organ concert in the afternoon.

The congregation's land bordering on Sunset Lake has been leased to the Portage County Park Commission since 1965. The county provides a caretaker and maintains a very popular park. The rest of the congregation's land north of County Road MM is used by the Central Wisconsin Environmental Center, providing an opportunity for thousands of young people to learn the wonders of God's Creation. The site of the parsonage and the nearby fields have been reforested.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

North New Hope congregation celebrated its one hundredth anniversary on October 12 and 13, 1957. A reunion of about 200 confirmands was held Saturday afternoon, with a program and social hour. District President Myron Austinson brought the message at the Sunday morning worship. Pastors E. M. Berg, L. L. Masted, Phillip Hiller, and missionary Belva Nerlien spoke at the afternoon and evening services. A historical booklet and a commemorative plate were prepared for this anniversary.

Instead of a Memorial Day program in 1962, a three session observance of our Norwegian pioneer heritage was planned by Pastor Holtan and a committee for Sunday, May 27. The afternoon speaker at the New Hope Founders' Day observance was Dr. E. I. Haugen of the Department of Scandinavian Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison. He spoke on the "Saga of the Norwegian Pioneer." A film "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes" and Norwegian folk music were featured at the evening program.

On October 12, 1975, New Hope celebrated the 50th anniversary of its present church building. Former pastors Monson and Dockter conducted the worship service. The soloist was former Pastor Olsen's niece Ruth Moore Dahm. Messages from Pastor E. M. Berg and others were read at the afternoon session. Several local people contributed remembrances of events of the past 50 years - the destruction of the church by lightning, the building of the present church, how much the church cost, and who did the work on it.

On Sunday, August 10, 1975, a pictorial history of the congregation was received and dedicated. Compiled by Inez Aanrud Hanson in memory of her husband, it was funded by memorials for Nels Hanson and Ella Hiller Floistad. It is continued as a memorial also to Inez, who died on the date it was presented, and to Ella's husband Harvey, who died in 1979. The pictorial history stands in the back of our sanctuary.

From August 5, 1971, to February 24, 1972, The Iola Herald published a 27 installment history of the New Hope Church. This was part of Malcolm Rosholt's series in the Herald entitled "From the Indian Land." Included in the New Hope history was a list of the membership from 1890, including dates of birth and immigration. Also included in this history was a translation by Malcolm Rosholt of a document, published by the congregation in 1889, outlining the doctrinal struggle and split that had taken place in the church. This 80 page booklet was entitled "A Report on the Missourian Struggle in New Hope Congregation Before and After the Congregation's Withdrawal from the Norwegian Synod."

In 1982 the Leonard Wogsland family translated the official minutes of the congregation from Norwegian into English, for the years 1908-1945.

October 17, 1982, is the date selected for the celebration of New Hope's 125th anniversary. Belva Nerlien is speaking at the morning worship service, with special music from the Sunday School and a choir organized for the occasion. The offering is being used for missions and Walter Wogsland is playing the violin for the offertory. A dinner is being served. The afternoon program is including solos by Ruth Dahm and Carl Torkelson, as well as greetings from former pastors, sons of the congregation in the ministry, and neighboring pastors. This history of the congregation is being prepared for distribution. A pictorial directory is being made, which will also include a history. Anniversary plates have been prepared with sketches of both the old and the new church buildings.

THE CONGREGATION'S PASTORS

Olaus Fredrik Duus	1857-1858
Nils Olsen Brandt	1861-1863
Amund Mikkelsen	1863-1871
Nils Bryngelsen Berge	1871-1883
Kittil Olson Eidahl	1883-1904
Olaus Martinus Christiansen Farseth	1904-1910
Ludvig Larson Masted	1910-1917
Nils Folkesson Kile	1917-1920
Olaus Olson Sovde	Interim Pastor, 1920-1924
Johan Fredrik Swenson	1925-1940
Elmer Melchoir Berg	1940-1945
Olaf L. Olsen	1947-1958
Vern Holtan	1959-1962
Alden Lerohl	1962-1965
Paul Monson	1966-1971
Emil Dockter	1971-1977
Howard Stendahl	1977-1981
Tim Peterson	1981-

MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION ENTERING THE MINISTRY

Harald Farseth	Ordained 1912
Arthur Leonard Swenson	Ordained 1926
Leonard C. Masted	Ordained 1927
Julius F. Masted	Ordained 1939
Phillip C. Hiller	Ordained 1944
Belva Nerlien	Commissioned 1946, Missionary to Columbia
Paul Berg	
R. David Berg	

SYNODICAL AFFILIATION

One of New Hope's early pastors, N. O. Brandt, was one of the seven founders of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod in America.

In the 1880's a doctrinal controversy developed in the Norwegian Synod. Since it was such a large congregation, New Hope and its pastor K. O. Eidahl played a prominent role in the dispute. On June 25, 1887, the congregation voted 60 to 7, with 14 abstentions to "discontinue its association with the Synod." In September of that year the Synod's District President, J. B. Frich, came to New Hope to oppose the congregation's decision. On January 21, 1888, a declaration signed by 21 members of the congregation was delivered to a church meeting. This declaration accused Pastor Eidahl of false teaching, declared that the signers would no longer be associated with his followers, and that the signers themselves were the "rightful and original New Hope Evangelical Lutheran Congregation." Several documents were written expressing each side's view, which were later gathered and published in a report by Pastor Eidahl's congregation.

There were many other congregations also split by this "Missourian controversy," which took its name from the close relationship between the leadership of the Norwegian Synod and the Missouri Synod. New Hope joined together with other congregations leaving the Synod in a loose organization called the "Anti-Missourian Brotherhood." Later, a formal structure was established, and these congregations formed a new synod called the United Lutheran Church. In 1917 the Norwegian Synod and the United Church agreed that both viewpoints in the 1880's dispute were acceptable Lutheran positions. This opened the way for the 1917 merger of these two churches and the Haugean Synod to form the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Some congregations of the Norwegian Synod refused to accept this doctrinal compromise and merger, and organized themselves to continue the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Some members of South New Hope, together with members of other congregations, formed a new congregation, Our Saviours Lutheran, at Benson Corners, to be a member of this Synod. Since that time, the word "Norwegian" has been dropped, so that this body is now known as the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

The organization to which North and South New Hope belonged also omitted "Norwegian" from its name, and became known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC). In 1960 the ELC merged with a church of German background (the "old" ALC) and a church of Danish background (the UELC) to form the American Lutheran Church (ALC). Now our church has agreed to merge with the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and the Association of Evangelical Churches (AELC). When this merger is completed, probably in 1988, this new Lutheran church will have approximately five and a half million members, just under two-thirds of all Lutherans in the United States.

ALCW HISTORY

The first Ladies Aid Society was organized in January 1886 and Mrs. K. O. Eidahl became its first president. Mrs. Oline Johnson, the first treasurer, served in that capacity for thirty years. The seventeen charter members were: Mrs. Beret Baardson, Mrs. Ingeborg Berge, Mrs. Karen Eilhovde, Mrs. Herborg Eidahl, Mrs. Frederikke Hanson, Mrs. Tharan Howen, Mrs. Sofie Huglen, Mrs. Oline Johnson, Mrs. Berthe Loberg, Mrs. Julia Loberg, Mrs. Emma Roe, Mrs. Karen Roe, Mrs. Marie Saerkeland, Mrs. Karen Saerkeland, Mrs. Kirsten Waller and Mathilde Wolding.

Although the following members were added during the Reverend Eidahl's pastorate: Mrs. Bergitte Branstad, Dorteia Hiller, Karine Hanson, Synve Johnson, Anne Severson and Mrs. Isaak Olson, the membership did not increase that much as a number withdrew when the Norwegian Synod was divided.

Efforts in behalf of charities were the chief material aims of this society. More than \$700.00 was raised for this purpose by the group.

The North Ladies Aid Society was organized at the parsonage in May 1905. O. C. Farseth was the pastor. The first regular meeting was held at the Christ Larson home. Although only seven ladies were present at the meeting of organization, before the year was over the membership increased to twenty-four. They were: Christine Knutson, Bertha Hagemoen, Maren Ellingson, Olianna Olson, Karine Larson, Maren Brubakken, Louise Hanson, Berthe Hole, Berthe Kankrud, Maren Wrolstad, Caroline Reistad, Johanne Larsen, Maria Aanrud, Eva Hole, Ida Melum, Clara Kankrud, Anna Peterson, Clara Krogvold, Netta Olson, Mathea Lee, Juliet Hole, Berthe Nerlien, Ida Wrolstad. The first president was Maren Ellingson and the first Secretary-treasurer was Berthe Kankrud.

The chief aim of the society was to promote God's Kingdom on earth, mainly by helping missions and two-thirds of all money was used for that cause. The remaining third was to be used as the members decided and a great deal of it was used for charity and some was used for local purposes, especially after the great calamity when the church was destroyed by lightning. In 1919 the society furnished a room at the Homme Home for the Aged at Wittenberg.

The East Ladies Aid was organized at about the same time as the North Aid but was discontinued after a decade's time and at the invitation of the North Aid a number of the East members joined the North Aid. The North and South Aids were united on Epiphany Day, 1943, and Mrs. R. J. Hiller was its first president.

The Ladies Aid modernized the church kitchen, re-decorated and did extensive work in the church parlors. The first 'In Memoriam' was given by the South Ladies Aid in 1937 in memory of its first president, Mrs. K. O. Eidahl. Fifty-two "Life Memberships" and "In Memoriam" gifts were given, before these were discontinued.

After 1960 our organization was called the American Lutheran Church Women. All the women of the congregations are members of this organization.

The new program emphasized Bible Study. With some help from pastors, the women have carried on these studies. Other program material from the national office is used whenever possible. Many subscribe to Scope, the new name of the former W.M.F. magazine.

In addition to offerings from the twelve meetings held each year, our funds come from serving at weddings and at a few auctions. Silent auctions are held, usually twice a year. For the last few years, three have been held in order to qualify for the \$250.00 Lutheran Brotherhood challenge fund.

No fall suppers have been served since 1961. Fellowship dinners have been held on Mission Sundays, for pastor's receptions and for farewells. On June 21, 1960, a party was held in honor of Mrs. J. E. (Mabel) Hotvedt, for her many years as organist of New Hope.

Besides contributions to the ALCW national, district, and conference funds, and the Thanksgiving offering projects, our ALCW has contributed funds to World Hunger and quilts and blankets to Lutheran World Relief. A gift of money was given to Faith Lutheran Church at its dedication and another gift was given toward furnishing the pastor's study at Faith. Other projects receiving funds have been Imago Dei Bible Camp, Bible Camp assistance for confirmands, Lutheran Social Service, Ephphatha, Lutheran Vespers, and New Hope Sunday School.

Some of the improvements funded by the ALCW in the past 25 years have been: church carpet, a Gulbransen piano, tiling of the basement floor, kitchen paneling, electric stoves, and new dishes.

Our congregation is a member of the corporation operating Bethany Home in Waunaca. Each year the ALCW contributes something, usually bread and cookies, for events at the Bethany Home. Also we have served once a year at the Iola Nursing Home.

Christmas gifts are given to New Hope shut-ins each year. An Operation Christmas donation is sent to the Winnebago Mental Health Center.

In 1978 a major project was the Refugee Fund to help the Hao Tran family from Viet Nam.

An Altar Guild was begun in 1960's, and is now headed by Berniece Krogwold. Flower arrangements are usually taken care of by Myrtle Ellingson and her family.

The present officers of the ALCW are:

Leila Aanrud, President	Audrey Hotvedt, Vice-President
Virginia Krogwold, Secretary	Ethel Rosholt, Stewardship Secretary
Berniece Krogwold, Treasurer	Frieda Isaacson, Education Secretary
Evelyn Bolstad, Flower and Gift Fund	