



Our Pastors



Pastor Olaus Fredrik Duus

Served in Waupaca County, (Scandinavia) 1854 to 1857. Then he served at White-water, Wisconsin 1857 to 1859. See "Who's Who among Pastors in all the norwegian Lutheran Synods of America 1843-1927" page 120. "Norsk Lutherske Menigheter i Amerika" Vol. I, page 197 states twice that he served New Hope from 1854 to 1857 and that Pastor N. O. Brandt served New Hope from 1858 to 1863.

Pastor Duus was born February 29, 1824 at Kragero, Norway. He attended the Latin School of his home town and the University at Christiania where he received his C.T. and other degrees in 1851. He taught at Nissen Latin School, Christiania, 1851-54. Came to Waupaca County in 1854 and returned to Norway in 1859 where he died in 1893 after many years of service as a pastor.





Nils Olsen Brandt

Was pastor at Rock River, near Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, from 1861 to 1865. He did much home mission work, organizing congregations. It was during his time at Rock River that he came to New Hope occasionally. His visits were rare events, but people walked for miles to be present at his meetings. His own mode of traveling in those days was mostly on foot. He was one of seven pastors to organize the Norwegian Synod. He was a teacher at Luther College from 1865 to 1881. Born at Slidre, Valdres, Norway, January 29, 1824. Immigrated 1851. He died 1921.



Amund Mikkelsen

was pastor of New Hope and Scandinavia from 1863 to 1874 when he moved to a parish in Chicago, Illinois. He was born March 25, 1835 at Leikanger, Sogn, Norway. Studied at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and was ordained in 1863. He also studied at other schools. Immigrated 1853. Died October 11, 1930.



Nils Bryngelsen Berge

Became the first resident pastor of New Hope which formed a new parish together with the Alban Church. Born at Voss, Norway, 1842, immigrated 1857. Attended many schools and received his C.T. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1870 when he also was ordained, then served one year as assistant to Mikkelsen at Scandinavia before he became pastor of New Hope and Alban where he served from 1871 to 1883. He died May 5, 1883. His grave is in the North New Hope Cemetery.

Kittil Olson Eidahl

Was pastor in New Hope from 1883 to 1904. During his time the Nelsonville congregation was organized in 1888 and it remained in the parish with New Hope and Alban until 1904. Pastor Eidahl was born at Jefferson Prairie, Illinois, September 3, 1850. He attended Luther College and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he received his C.T. in 1873 when he was ordained on call from the Mt. Morris parish in Wisconsin. He died June 20, 1914 and his grave is in the North New Hope Cemetery. The congregation placed beautiful tombstones on the graves of Pastors Berge and Eidahl.



Olaus Martinus Christiansen Farseth

Served New Hope and Alban from 1904 to 1910. He wrote several books dealing with Devotion in the home and the teaching of religion. He was born March 5, 1852, at Vega, Helgeland, Norway, immigrated 1882 and attended Northfield Seminary from which he received his C.T. in 1887 and was ordained that year on call from Huxley, Iowa. He died October 18, 1913.

Ludvig Larson Masted

Came here in 1910 and remained until 1917. He was born March 12, 1875 at Nordbotten, Fosen, Norway, immigrated 1881 and attended several schools from 1890 to 1900 when he received his C.T. from U.C. Seminary and was ordained on a call from a parish in New York, N.Y. Four of his sons became pastors in our church. Our Sunday School and Luther League were begun during his pastorate.





Nils Folkesson Kile

Was pastor of the New Hope-Alban parish from 1917 to 1920. He was born at Aamli, Nedenaes, Norway, September 4, 1869.

Immigrated 1887, attended several higher schools here and received his C.T. from U.C. Seminary 1899 when he was ordained on Letter of Call from a church in St. Paul, Minnesota. He died December 29, 1949, at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota and was buried there January 3, 1950.



Olaus Olson Sovde

Worked as interim pastor from 1920 to 1924. He was pastor at Scandinavia from 1920 to 1941. Born at Sovde, Ryfylke, Norway, September 27, 1873, he immigrated in 1889 and attended several higher schools. He received his C.T. from the U.C. Seminary in 1904 when he was ordained on a Letter of Call from Fennimore, Wisconsin. He died May 1, 1947 and was buried May 7, at the Scandinavia Cemetery.



Johan Fredrik Swenson

Began his work as pastor of New Hope in 1925. He served until 1940. He also served as interim pastor during most of 1946. He was born at Vadso, Norway, September 23, 1864 and immigrated in 1884. He attended higher schools both in Norway and in America. He received his C.T. from Augsburg Seminary in 1891 when he was ordained on Letter of Call from Soldier, Iowa. He died April 3, 1951, in Northfield, Minnesota and was buried near Nelson, Wisconsin.



Elmer Melchoir Berg

Was born near Kenyon, Minnesota, January 17, 1900. He was graduated from St. Olaf College as B.A. in 1921 and received his C.T. from Luther Seminary in 1924 when he was ordained on Call from Casper, Wyoming. He was pastor at New Hope from 1940 to 1945. He has two sons. Both will most likely be ordained as pastors next year. From here Pastor Berg moved to Gonvick, Minnesota, where he is serving at the present time.



Olaf L. Olsen

Our present pastor began work here in January, 1947, serving the North and South New Hope churches.

He was born May 8, 1888, at Bergen Norway, where he attended the common school and two higher schools, immigrated in 1906. Received his B.A. degree from Concordia College, and the C.T.; B.Th. and Master of Theology degrees from Luther Seminary.

