



Paynesville Lutheran Church

657 Maple Street | Paynesville, MN 56362 | (320) 243-3624

Point Others to Jesus | Love Generously and Gracefully | Cultivate Disciples

CHURCH HISTORY IN YOUR BACKYARD

Trip #3

Thursday October 15th, 2020



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There is information in this booklet about each of the locations. There are also maps from each location to the next just incase you get separated from the group.

When we arrive at Green Lake Bible Camp there will be lunch available and the staff will direct us in what steps they have for us to stay safe as we eat.

Please ask questions at the locations we stop at and keep this booklet incase you would like to venture back this way sometime.

Itinerary

Depart	Paynesville Lutheran Church
Stop #1	Zion Irving Lutheran Church (Pages 5-8)
Stop #2	Nordland Lutheran Church (Pages 9-16)
Stop #3	Lebanon Cemetery (Pages 17-18)
Stop #4 & #5	Green Lake Bible Camp (Pages 19-34) Stave Kirke at GLBC
Something Extra	Spicer Castle (Pages 35-40) Green Lake Mounds (Page 41) First Church in Kandiyohi County (Pages 42-43)
Return	Paynesville Lutheran Church (Page 44)

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PRAYERS FROM OUR JOURNEY'S

TRIP #1

"Traveller's Prayer"

Tefilat HaDerech (Hebrew: תפילת הדרך or the **Traveler's Prayer** or **Wayfarer's Prayer** in English, is a prayer for a safe journey recited by [Jews](#), when they travel, by air, sea, and even on long car trips.^[1] It is recited at the onset of every journey, and preferably done standing but this is not necessary.

"May it be Your will, Lord, our God and the God of our ancestors, that You lead us toward peace, guide our footsteps toward peace, and make us reach our desired destination for life, gladness, and peace. May You rescue us from the hand of every foe and ambush, from robbers and wild beasts on the trip, and from all manner of punishments that assemble to come to earth. May You send blessing in our handiwork, and grant us grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us. May You hear the sound of our humble request because You are God Who hears prayer requests. Blessed are You, Lord, Who hears prayer."

Irish Blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
The rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again.
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
Amen,

TRIP #2

Prayers for Travelers

O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

[Adapted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 331.]
From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Prayer

O God, whose glory fills the whole creation,
 and whose presence we find wherever we go:
 Preserve us who travel:
 surround us with your loving care;
 protect us from every danger;
 and bring us in safety to our journey's end;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

[Adapted from the prayer for travelers in Prayers and Thanksgivings, The Book of Common Prayer (1979 edition).]

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Prayer for Departing GLBC

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills —
 from where will my help come?
²My help comes from the LORD,
 who made heaven and earth.
³He will not let your foot be moved;
 he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴He who keeps Israel
 will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵The LORD is your keeper;
 the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
⁶The sun shall not strike you by day,
 nor the moon by night.
⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil;
 he will keep your life.
⁸The LORD will keep
 your going out and your coming in
 from this time on and forevermore.

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Stop #1

Directions to Zion Irving Lutheran Church:

Paynesville Lutheran Church

657 Maple St, Paynesville, MN 56362

- Take Maple St to MN-4 N/Hwy 55 W
32 s (299 ft)
- Turn right onto MN-4 N/Hwy 55 W
35 s (0.3 mi)
- Follow Business 23 W to Tri County Rd NE in Paynesville Township
4 min (2.6 mi)
- Turn left onto Tri County Rd NE
3 min (2.7 mi)
- Drive to 195th Ave NE
4 min (2.2 mi)

Zion Irving Lutheran Church

17330 195th Ave NE, Paynesville, MN 56362



Stop #1

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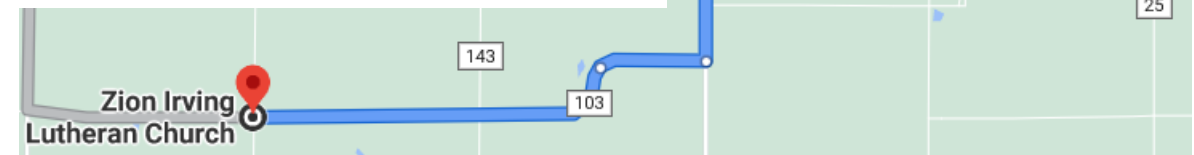
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Zion-Irving Lutheran to celebrate centennial this weekend

By Michael Jacobson

Zion-Irving Lutheran Church will celebrate its centennial this weekend on Saturday night and Sunday morning and afternoon. The church - founded in 1905 - will offer several public events to mark its 100 years of existence.

On Saturday night, the church will hold a songfest (followed by cookies and coffee) for the past and current members and the public starting at 7 p.m.

On Sunday morning, the church will have its regular worship service for past and current members followed by a lunch. The public is invited to come at 12:30 p.m. to hear live music and then to stay for the centennial program at 1:30 p.m. (followed by cake and coffee).



Church members - who have worked for a year in preparation of their centennial - will be selling commemorative plates, ornaments, cookbooks, and history books.

Zion-Irving Lutheran Church was founded in 1905 when a minority from nearby Nordland Lutheran Church decided to leave. That decision was made following a fire at Nordland, but, according to the 200-page church history book prepared for the Zion-Irving centennial by Jay Liedman, the real reason for the split was Nordland's leaving the United Lutheran Church. The minority that founded Zion-Irving did not see themselves as "breaking away" but as "devoted churchmen" returning to the proper church, according to the history.

Zion-Irving Lutheran Church - then known as Zion Norsk Luthersk Menighed - as it appeared in 1905, when the church was founded. The fence in front of the church also served as a rail for tying horses.

The church's original name was Zion Norsk Luthersk Menighed, or Zion Norwegian

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Lutheran Church.

The church building was erected in 1905, with Torger Ditmarsen as the architect, the same job he had once done for Nordland.

Through most of its history, Zion-Irving has shared pastors with various parishes, including a cooperative stint with Nordland in the 1960s and 1970s. Since 1976, Zion-Irving has shared a paster with Harrison Community Presbyterian Church, though it is currently between pastors.

At present, the parish is being served by lay ministers Gordon Pennertz of Litchfield (on the first and third Sundays) and Marlys Pearson of Paynesville (on the second and fourth Sundays).

Other notable events in the church's history include:

*Ladies Aid purchases altar and altar painting for church in 1906. The Busy Bees, a girls' society, furnishes the baptismal font. (An antique quilt from the Busy Bees will be on display at the centennial.)

*First confirmation class in 1906.

*Basement added in 1915. (The basement was dug under the existing church with shovels, using horse teams to remove the dirt.)

*First English church service in 1923. (By 1925, a third of the services were in English with two-thirds still in Norwegian.)

*First American-born pastor (Truman Tysdal) starts serving Zion-Irving in 1929.

*Church purchases an electric organ in 1953.

*Church celebrates 50th anniversary in August 1955.

*Bathrooms/plumbing added to the church in the early 1960s.

*Merger with Nordland rejected by Zion parishioners in 1976; church begins sharing ministers with Harrison Ccommunity Presbyter-ian Church.

*75th anniversary held in 1980.

*Narthex added around 1990.

Zion Centennial

Zion-Irving Lutheran Church is located on 195th Avenue in Irving Township. To get to the church from Paynesville, take Highway 23 two miles west, go south on the Tri-County Road for almost three miles, and go two miles west on 195th Avenue.

Saturday, June 11

7 p.m. Songfest (followed by cookies and coffee)

Sunday, June 12

12:30 p.m. Live Music

1:30 p.m. Centennial Program (followed by coffee and cake)

Lutheran Church.

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"I did feel like family when I walked in the door. It's our church family," said Lorie Gehrt, another committee member who joined Zion-Irving Lutheran four years ago. Zion-Irving is small enough that "you don't get lost in the flock," added Gehrt.

Zion-Irving is small enough that every family has a certain pew where they normally sit. "When I look out and see someone in a different place, it really throws me," said organist Karin Johnson.

Zion-Irving is small enough that the whole parish knows when you are not in church. "If you miss too many Sundays, someone will call to see if you are sick or if you are OK," said Arlene Wisted, another centennial committee member.

Zion-Irving is small enough that it can be hard to get out of a job. "Once you get a job in this church, you never lose it," said Wisted, the church's treasurer since 1989.

Zion-Irving is small enough that any newcomer is a curiosity and greeted with great enthusiasm, the centennial committee agreed, and the church is eager to greet the public for their centennial celebration this weekend.

Other members of the centennial committee are Jane Herem, church secretary Angie Jones, Jay Liedman, Carol Otteson, Cheryl Prentice, Kim Prentice, Bob Salonek, and Hazel Vegdahl.

<http://www.paynesvillearea.com/news/headlinesarticles/archives/060805/0608zion100.html>

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Stop #2

Directions to Nordland Lutheran Church:

A map showing a route from Zion Irving Lutheran Church to Nordland Lutheran Church. The route is highlighted in blue. The starting point is Zion Irving Lutheran Church at 17330 195th Ave NE, Paynesville, MN 56362. The destination is Nordland Lutheran Church at 18510 180th Ave NE, Paynesville, MN 56362. The route involves heading west on 180th Ave NE, turning right onto 175th St NE, and then turning right onto 195th Ave NE. A callout box indicates a 3-minute drive of 1.6 miles.

Zion Irving Lutheran Church
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Nordland Lutheran Church
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0.6 mi
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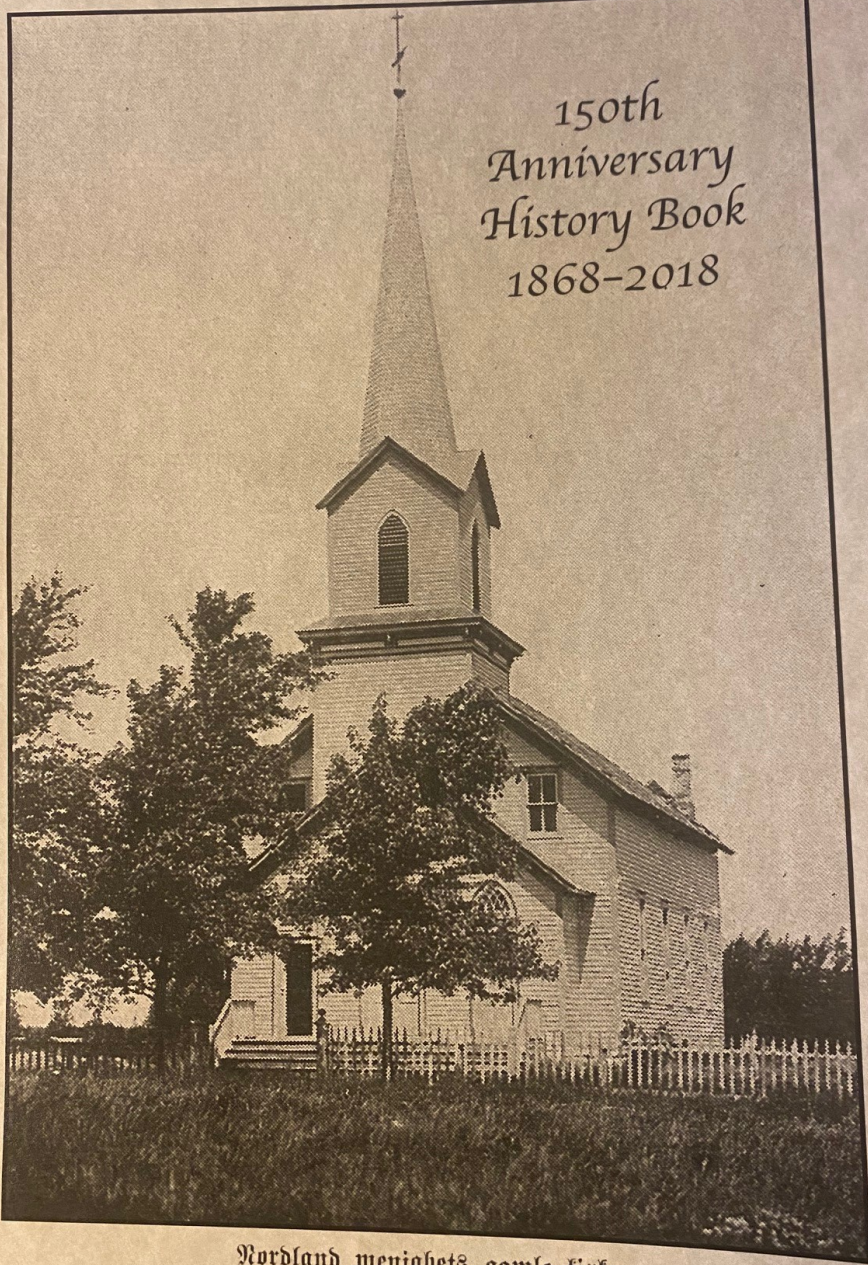
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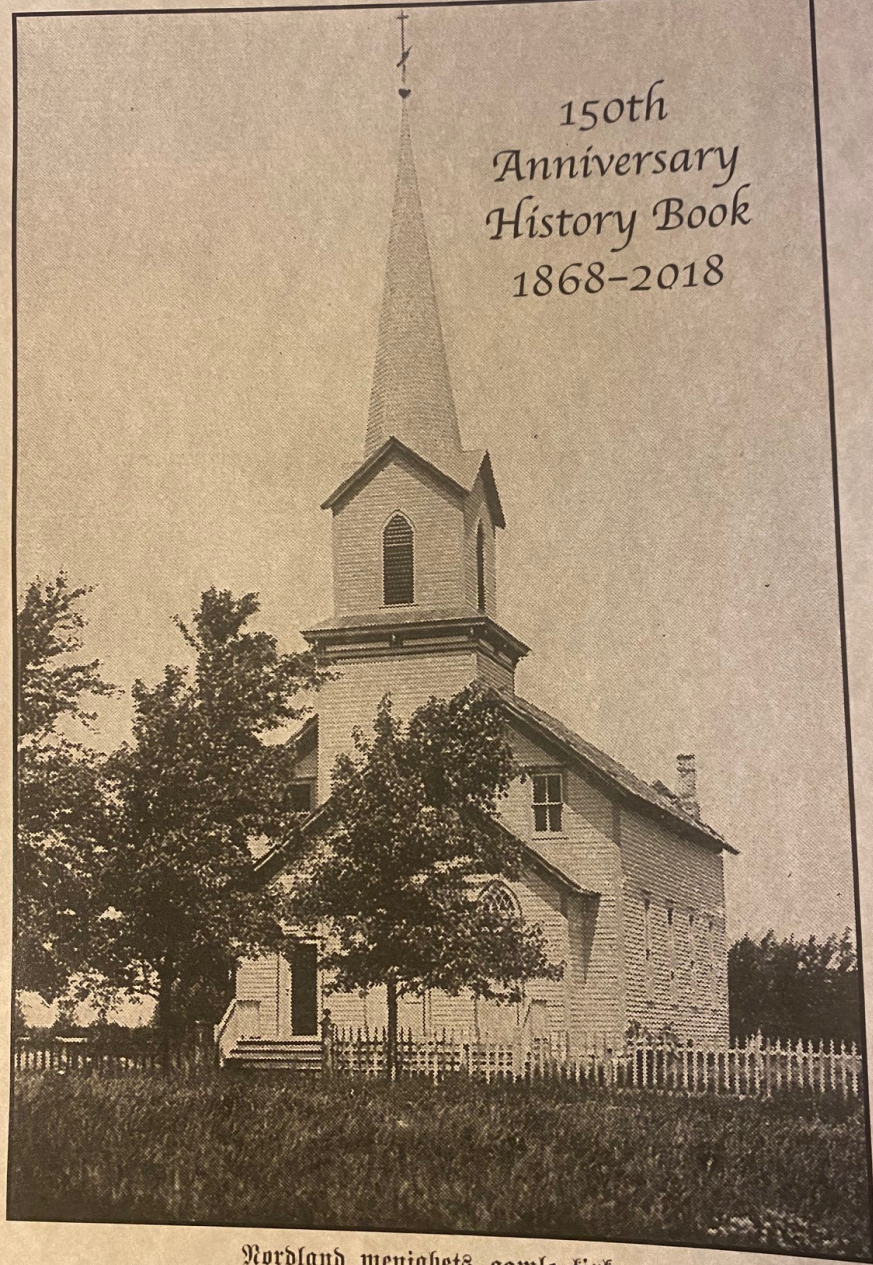
150th
Anniversary
History Book
1868-2018



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Nordland Lutheran Church

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Church History

Our very beginning in Nordland Church came as a result of the early settlers who came mostly from Norway. They brought with them their Bibles, religious instruction books and hymn books. They had no church building so worship in the homes was a necessity. Rev. T.H. Dahl of New London came occasionally to preach and baptize children. Then the people felt a need of an organized congregation; a meeting was held April 20, 1868. Because of the Norwegian ancestry, the church was named Nordland. Rev. T.H. Dahl became the first pastor. A constitution was adopted and signed by seventeen men. A year later, at the congregational meeting, the pastor's salary was set at \$50 a year. In 1871 it was raised to \$65 a year. He served the congregation nine days during the year, six Sundays and three weekdays.

In 1870 the church met in school district twenty-four. On August 25, 1875 they met to consider building a church. It was to be built and the cemetery located on two acres of a ten-acre grant from Great Northern Railroad. The size of the church was to be 30' x 50' x 16' with a 60' steeple. Work began in 1876, and it was ready for use that summer, though incomplete. In 1877 the first confirmation was held in an unfurnished church. In the spring of 1880 a chancel was built, and in 1881 an altar and altar painting were bought for \$70. Finally, the church was dedicated in October of 1882. A church bell was bought in 1883 and the Ladies Aid donated an organ in 1884. At this time the families did not sit together; the men sat on the right and women and children sat on the left. In 1877 they had 12 regular services.

In 1878 Nordland was accepted into the Norwegian-Danish Church body. There were over 100 members at this time. In 1883 Nordland, Ness and Trondhjem congregations joined together to form a parish. The other two churches were from South and East of Atwater.

In 1906, Ida Walen, a daughter of one of the families of Nordland went to China as our first missionary. A group of young girls organized to help support her. They met in the Walen home and sewed articles to be sold at a little "Mission Fest" and the money was sent to her in China.

In 1891 Nordland severed connections with the two Atwater churches and joined with Gausdal. In 1892, Trinity also joined this parish and Rev. Midthun was called to serve them. In 1897 Nordland voted to end its affiliation with the United Church and became a member of the newly formed Lutheran Free Church. For many years they held an annual Lutefisk Supper with the proceeds going to Christian Higher Education (80% to Augsburg College and 20% to Oak Grove Lutheran High School). The annual supper was a lot of work but it was also a lot of fun and fellowship.

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On the night of July 29, 1904, lightning struck the church burning it to

the ground. Eighty-two persons reported willingness to donate to the new building and the task was soon begun. At this time those members who had preferred to remain with the United Church withdrew and organized the Zion Congregation. The sum of \$3026 was pledged, and work began in the spring of 1905. The corner stone was laid on July 16. Iver Lorentzen was the designer and architect. Johan Dahlhaug built the altar, a frame for the painting, communion rails and pulpit. The wood he used was supposed to have been used for furniture for his own home. He died before he had a chance to build a baptismal font, and this was purchased some years later. In June 1907, the church was completed. The oak pews were bought for \$573 by the Ladies Aid. Dedication was held on June 30, 1907. The cost of the church building totaled over \$6000 plus all of the donated labor. By the end of 1909, the entire debt was paid off.

Rev. Carl Norberg began his work here in May 1907. He organized the Covenant Society, of which the annual Confirmation Reunion was an out-growth.

In November of 1914 at the annual meeting, the motion from the previous year was passed to give the women the right to vote.

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In 1975 Nordland began a spiritual emphasis weekend called "Stop at the Well" which is now used by most churches in the Willmar Conference.

At this time we have approximately 500 baptized members.

We can truly Praise God for a unique history in which God has been glorified and we've been blessed!

the ground. Eighty-two persons reported willingness to donate to the new building and the task was soon begun. At this time those members who had preferred to remain with the United Church withdrew and organized the Zion Congregation. The sum of \$3026 was pledged, and work began in the spring of 1905. The corner stone was laid on July 16. Iver Lorentzen was the designer and architect. Johan Dahlhaug built the altar, a frame for the painting, communion rails and pulpit. The wood he used was supposed to have been used for furniture for his own home. He died before he had a chance to build a baptismal font, and this was purchased some years later. In June 1907, the church was completed. The oak pews were bought for \$573 by the Ladies Aid. Dedication was held on June 30, 1907. The cost of the church building totaled over \$6000 plus all of the donated labor. By the end of 1909, the entire debt was paid off.

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+ Nordland Centennial +

EARLY ORGANIZATION OF NORDLAND

This year, 1968, the Nordland congregation has reached the century mark in its history.

How different the country surrounding our church building appeared then. The height of land on which the church has stood these many years was then a wind-blown grassy knoll, a part of the open prairie which continued to the east and south. On the west and north there was much native woodland. Sloughs of water, which during an especially wet season covered an estimated one-third of the countryside, have been drained, leaving usable land. Good roads, following straight lines, have replaced the wagon trails that of necessity followed the higher ground.

In the fall of 1865, two Civil War soldiers came to Irving Township to file Soldiers' Homesteads. They were Benjamin Benson and Reimund Emerson (Amundson). They had come from Norway and in 1864 had joined the Union Army. When they were mustered out they came to this area and were the first Norwegian settlers in Irving Township.

It is remembered that Erick

Ellefson told that when his mother and stepfather, the Stock Larsons, came from Wisconsin by ox-team and wagon, they met Eduard Larson on foot in Harrison Township. His future home was located where his son, Sam Larson and later his grandson, Oliver Larson lived.

More families came directly from Norway. Some of these spent up to thirteen weeks coming, by sailboat across the Atlantic, and then several more weeks traveling from Quebec to the Norwegian settlement in and around Irving Township. As these families arrived, they were welcomed in homes even though the homes were already crowded. Most of the first homes were log cabins, but some were dug-outs in the hillsides.

These settlers, who had grown up under the teachings of the Lutheran Church in their homeland felt the need of an organized congregation and the services of a pastor. A meeting of the settlers was held April 20, 1968 to organize a congregation named "Nordland," since most of these people came from northern Norway. Rev. T. H. Dahle became the first pastor.

The members present were: Johannes Gregorson, Anders

Christopherson, Johan A. Nil sen, Ole Christenson, Stener Sivertson, John M. Hanson Reimund Emerson, Benjamin C. Benson, Johannes Holger son, Johan Hagen, Peter Nilson, Thorald Olsen, Jorgon Olson, Hans Paulson (Jack strand), John (Joe) Mikkelson Christopher Larson and Hans Paulson. A constitution was adopted and signed by the seventeen men.

According to the minutes of this meeting, the decision was made to locate the church and cemetery on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 11, township 121, Range 33 (Irving). The land on which the congregation later built its church was two acres out of a ten-acre grant from the Great Northern Railway. The original grant was not recorded, thus only two acres were retained. This is the present location of the Nordland Church.

A complete history of the church has been compiled and will be published early May. This book contains many pictures of the early days as well as a directory of all present members. Persons interested in obtaining a copy of this history should contact Ivan Anderson.

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NEW ADDITION

Nordland Church's new addition, which was completed in 2004, was approved at the December 15, 2003 Congregational Meeting. A video was shown of the building on the south end of the Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church near Spicer. Because of an expansion of Highway 23, the building was for sale and needed to be moved. A question of cost was discussed and it was noted that the cost of moving an existing building was much less than completing our Phase II building plan. Also discussed was to have a full basement under the new addition at the cost of \$12,500. A motion was made to proceed with the purchase and to place it on a lot over a full basement.

At the January 8, 2004 Council Meeting, President Steve Wright and counsel member Don Powers reported that the plans to move the newly purchased addition were in place. Blair Hagen reported the building would be moved on January 27, 2004. Movers from Thein Movers of Clara City moved the building on a snowy day to the west end of the parking lot of the Church until the weather improved and the basement was ready. Concrete basement work was completed by R and R Masonry of Paynesville. Concrete work and footings and a new septic system were installed by April 18. Many volunteers helped with this project without them the project would have cost more to the Congregation. The actual construction, adding a new kitchen, enlarging the entry and foyer, and even connecting the new unit to the Church proper was in the capable hands of Jerome Nygaard and Nikki Taylor. During the summer, the work progressed with a host of specialist electricians, plumbers, inspectors and even landscapers to finish the project in time for the Dedication on November 14, 2004. It was noted that we had the new addition almost debt free. The Bishop of SW Minnesota came to celebrate at a catered dinner and tour of the new facility.

They say many hands make light work, but all believe God's hand was leading us at Nordland and we Nordland have enjoyed continued usage of a very useful building the Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church built and used for many years, and because Nordland was in need of expansion, God put the two Churches together in such a unique way that only Praise can go to our Lord alone.

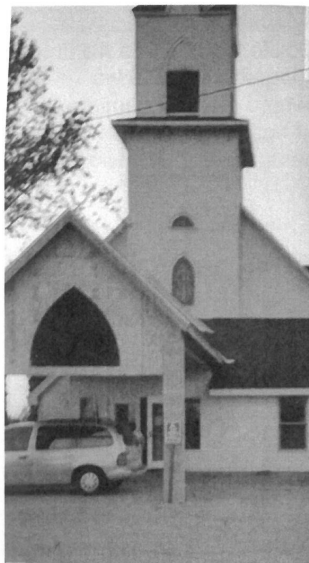
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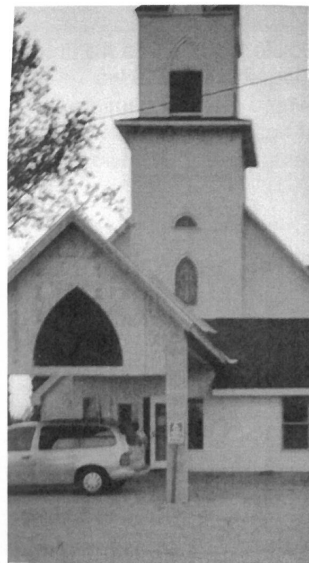
Moving and adding on
Of New addition:
Fellowship hall,
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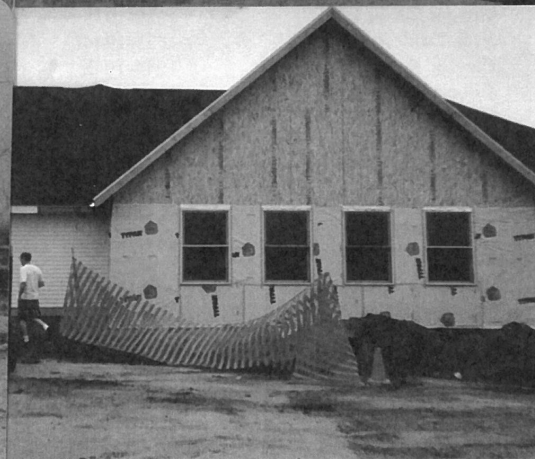
Sunday School addition: 1992



Moving and adding on
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Fellowship hall,
Foyer, Drive Thru.



Sunday School addition: 1992



Stop #3

Directions to Shores of Lebanon Cemetery:

Nordland Lutheran Church

18510 180th Ave NE, Paynesville, MN 56362

- ↑ Head west on 180th Ave NE toward 175th St NE
2 min (1.6 mi)
- Take Co Rd 102 to 172nd Ave NE
3 min (1.7 mi)
- ↷ Turn right onto 172nd Ave NE
1 min (0.8 mi)
- Continue on 180th Ave NE/County Rd 40 NE to New London
6 min (4.3 mi)
- ↷ Turn right onto Oak St S
i Destination will be on the right
34 s (0.1 mi)

Lebanon Cemetery

New London, MN 56273



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LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH

In 1859, Rev. Peter Carlson summoned settlers to a meeting in a cabin on the northwest shores of Eagle Lake for a service and organization of a new congregation. The planning resulted in the formation of New Sweden Church on the northwest shore of Eagle Lake. The congregation grew quickly and in 1861 was divided into three parishes consisting of New Sweden, Nest Lake and Eagle Lake Congregations.

The congregations grew and in 1873, with Rev. J.P. Lundblad



as Pastor, Swedish immigrants built a new church known as Nest Lake Church on a two-acre tract of land overlooking New London's Mill Pond. It was renamed Lebanon Lutheran Church

in 1896. Lebanon ceased being used as church in 1971 when it merged its Swedish heritage with Trinity Lutheran's Norwegian heritage to form Peace Lutheran Church. The white steepled Lebanon Church was demolished in 2014

Where: This marker is located in the town of New London. Turn onto Highway 9 into New London and turn left onto Highway 40. Turn right onto Oak St. Behind Peace Lutheran Church. Turn right onto 3rd Ave SW and the marker will be on the right side of the road in the Lebanon Cemetery.

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Stop #4 & #5

Directions to Green Lake Bible Camp

Lebanon Cemetery
New London, MN 56273

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0.1 mi
- ↶ Turn left onto 180th Ave NE/4th Ave SW/County Hwy 40 NE/County Rd 40 NE
0.1 mi
- ↷ Turn right onto Main St S/State Hwy 9 NE
Continue to follow State Hwy 9 NE
0.4 mi
- ↷ Turn right onto MN-23
4.3 mi
- ↶ Turn left onto Lake Ave S
1.7 mi
- ↶ Turn left
Destination will be on the left
105 ft

Green Lake Bible Camp
9916 Lake Ave S, Spicer, MN 56288

11 min
6.7 miles

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Spicer, Minnesota*

History

Prior to the formation of Green Lake Bible Camp, the property was known as the Crescent Beach Inn and was owned by Harold B. Lidstone. As a resort development, Lidstone had plans to dredge a lagoon but the project met with local resistance that in turn contributed to its economic failure. An ill informed neighbor believed that the

lagoon would lower the water level of beautiful Green Lake. Nonetheless, Lidstone built a number of cabins and repaired the old buildings located on the property, formerly owned by D. N. Tallman as a summer home.

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Sheriff, and presented him with the keys to the Crescent Beach Inn, saying, "You can take the Inn as it stands." He then moved to Michigan but the land remained in dispute. Having secured a promissory note from A.C. Pancoast of San Antonio, TX, Lidstone's interests were given to Pancoast. The problem remained dormant until 1939 when the matter of ownership was settled out of court.

Newspaper reports indicate that a Lutheran Bible Camp was held at Crescent Beach on June 25 to July 1, 1934, using a large tent capable of holding 1200 people. This group moved to Interlachen Hotel on the northern shore of Green Lake the next year. The camp was sponsored by the American Lutheran Conference of West-Central Minnesota. Peter Bonde then purchased the property of the Crescent Beach Inn and invested over \$17,000 in its purchase and repairs.

It may have been Bonde's idea to sell the Inn to the Lutheran Church. Bonde met with the Bible Camp Committee at Augsburg Publishing House, and later with Rev. Melford Knutson of the S. E. Minnesota District. An organizing committee was developed and Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp was incorporated on March 22, 1938. The following people served on the first board of directors: Rev. T. W. Tysdal of Spicer, Rev. Melford Knutson of Red Wing, Rev. H. R. Gregerson of Marshall and Rev.

O. B. Endreson of Fairmont. Congregations from the southern half of Minnesota were invited to join. Some of the congregations were located in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Albert Lea, Austin, Luverne, Wilmar, Windom, and Goodhue.

Following the filing of the Articles of Incorporation, the first official business of the new corporation was to purchase the Crescent Beach Inn from Mr. Peter Bonde of Willmar. The property included a home, a carriage house, maid's quarters, and assorted other buildings that had been repaired. The purchase price was \$10,000. Additional negotiations raised the price to \$12,000 with Peter Bonde offering to pay \$1000 up front and \$1000 at the end of the contract when he would provide a warranty deed for the property. Peter Bonde's involvement with Green Lake Bible Camp spanned a period of eleven years, from 1938 through 1949.

A chapel, patterned after the architectural style of a Norwegian Stave Church, was constructed on the camp property in 1941 at a cost of \$3,000. P. O. 'Peter' Nasvik of Christ Lutheran Church, St. Paul, was the designer of the building and contributed various building materials. He had intended to construct the chapel in Roseau, MN, but at the urging of Rev. A. E. Hanson, Nasvik was encouraged to build the chapel at Green Lake. Mr. Arne Flaten, professor of art at St. Olaf College, did

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The chapel became a central symbol to the focus of Green Lake Bible Camp's ministry and was dedicated in July of 1940. Many church leaders of renown were involved as staff and Bible Study leaders in these early days. Rev. Jacob Tanner, a systematics professor at Luther Seminary (upon retirement, Tanner began teaching at Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa, at age 70) walked up the hill to the chapel to teach Bible study at the tender age of 97. Other regulars to visit the camp and share their illustrious teachings of scripture included Andrew Burgess, Theodore Huggenvik, Carl B. Ylvisaker, and A. E.

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A girl's dormitory was built in 1942. The dorm and attached lodge were named Bonde Lodge in honor of Peter Bonde. In addition to helping establish the Green Lake Bible Camp, Mr. Bonde served as a volunteer caretaker of the grounds for many years. One of the last tasks before his death was to build the steps up to the chapel door.

Rev. Paul A. Hanson, pastor at Vinje Lutheran Church in Wilmar (and son of A. E. Hanson) remembered serving on the Board of Directors in the fifties. At one meeting, he made a motion to spend \$100,000 to clean up the sewage problem, buy some additional land from the Kelsey's and add shoreline to the waterfront. Mr. John Bjorge from Granite Falls said after the meeting, "Are you trying to bankrupt us?" Such debate is an indication of the vision of the early board members who knew that maintaining outdoor ministry programs would require substantial steps in faith.

Hanson's memories about his Green Lake Bible Camp days include:

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Eliassen, of course, was in a class by himself with his wife as camp manager. And then Charles Frost, the architect, supervised a good deal of the remodeling of the lodge. Norm Madsen, the architect now at St. Olaf, also did a great deal."

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Dale Caylor was hired as the first full time director in the early sixties. He was a local business man and part owner of a grocery store. He served Green Lake for approximately twelve years. During his directorship, the camp managed its summer programs by allowing local pastors to lead each week with volunteer counselors. The camp would hire cooks and lifeguards, supporting the program with a small staff. Toward the end of Caylor's tenure, Green Lake began to provide the entire staff, including the camp counselors. There tended to be a loss of support for the program and some clergy expressed reservations about the direction the camp program began to take without clergy present.

Pastor Dean Larsen was called to serve Green Lake Bible Camp in November of 1975. He had served as a pastor in Brookings, SD, specializing in youth ministry. The Board wanted to redirect the theological focus of the

camp program and strengthen its relationship with local congregations. Green Lake was also experiencing some financial challenges and Pastor Dean was asked to take on the challenge of rebuilding.

Larsen expanded the staff by hiring Erling Lundeen as Property Manager in the spring of 1976. Four years later, Dave Eliassen was hired as Program Director, one of the first full time Program Directors serving under an Executive Director in the ALC. Dave had literally grown up at camp since his father, Roy Eliassen, had spent his summers volunteering for many years.

In 1979 the GLBC Corporation composed of 60,000 confirmed members of 159 American Lutheran Church congregations voted to construct a new facility to replace Bonde Lodge and other facilities on the lakeshore. The cost of the project was \$1,350,000. A capital funds appeal was conducted during 1980 and 1981. Approximately 6000 individual and group pledges totaling \$1,500,000 were received. In 1981 ground was broken for the new Chrysalis House and it was completed on January 20, 1982. On April 4, 1982, the Chrysalis House was dedicated to the glory of God. On August 18, 1985, the Chrysalis House mortgage was burned!

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Alison Kennedy, a camper during the 1986 season shared her recollection of the spirit of Green Lake Bible Camp. It serves as an apt description of the power of Green Lake's camping ministry:
I loved Bible Camp at Green Lake. It was a

lot of fun! We met new people from other churches and did activities with them such as swimming, camping outside, playing games and having chapel together. We made new friends and made better relationships with our old friends. But we also had a great relationship with God during our time at camp. We learned and understood how God cares so much for us. Another reason why I liked camp so much was because everyone there was so friendly and cheerful. Everyone looked like they were having a great time. I knew I was."

From: The Camping Movement of The American Lutheran Church Volume 2 "The Collected Histories of Camps Related to the American Lutheran Church" By Ralph Yernberg



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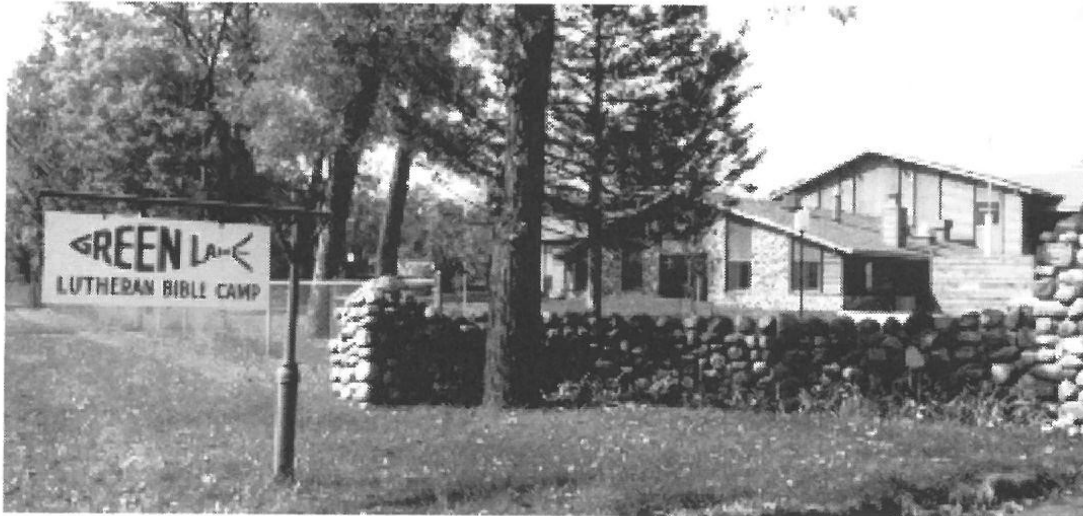
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GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP

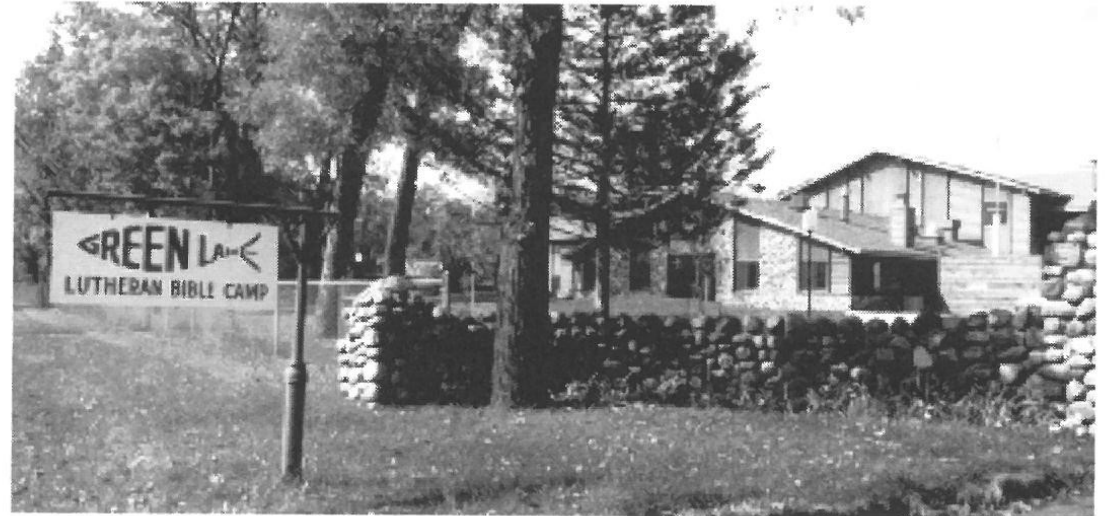
Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp was founded by the old Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1938. Local members of the church prominent in the organization of the Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp were T. W. Tysdal, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Spicer, A. Vaaler, pastor of Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar, and Peter Bonde, a member of the Vinje congregation and owner of the property where the main lodge and chapel now stand.



From: The History Of Spicer On Green Lake

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Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, Spicer, Minnesota.

The property included what originally was the elaborate summer home of D. N. Tallman, a wealthy Willmar businessman. Peter Bonde had purchased the property from Tallman in 1933. He immediately sold it on a contract for deed to H. B. Lidstone, a Willmar developer, who proceeded to convert the summer home into a luxury resort hotel called the Crescent Beach Inn. Lidstone put considerable time and money into the project and was able to open the Inn for business for a short period in 1934 and 1935.

The Reverend Tysdal was associated with a Bible camp sponsored by the American Lutheran Conference of West Central Minnesota that met at Crescent Beach Inn for a week in 1934. This camp was held the following year at Interlachen Hotel on the north side of Green Lake.

The era of the Great Depression proved to be a poor time to open a luxury hotel. Lidstone defaulted on the contract, the Crescent Beach Inn went out of business, and the property, now encumbered with mechanics' liens, reverted to Peter Bonde. The property lay idle during 1936 and 1937.

In an effort to dispose of the property, Peter Bonde, accompanied by Pastors Tysdal and Vaaler, met with the Bible Camp committee of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church early in 1938. As a result, Green Lake Bible Camp Corporation was formed with the Reverend Tysdal elected president of the corporation's board of directors.

One of the first actions of the board was to purchase the Crescent Beach Inn from Peter Bonde on a contract for deed for \$12,000 with Bonde contributing \$1,000 (the down payment) to the camp at the end of the first year of operation and \$1,000 upon fulfillment of the contract. Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp was dedicated on July 17, 1938.

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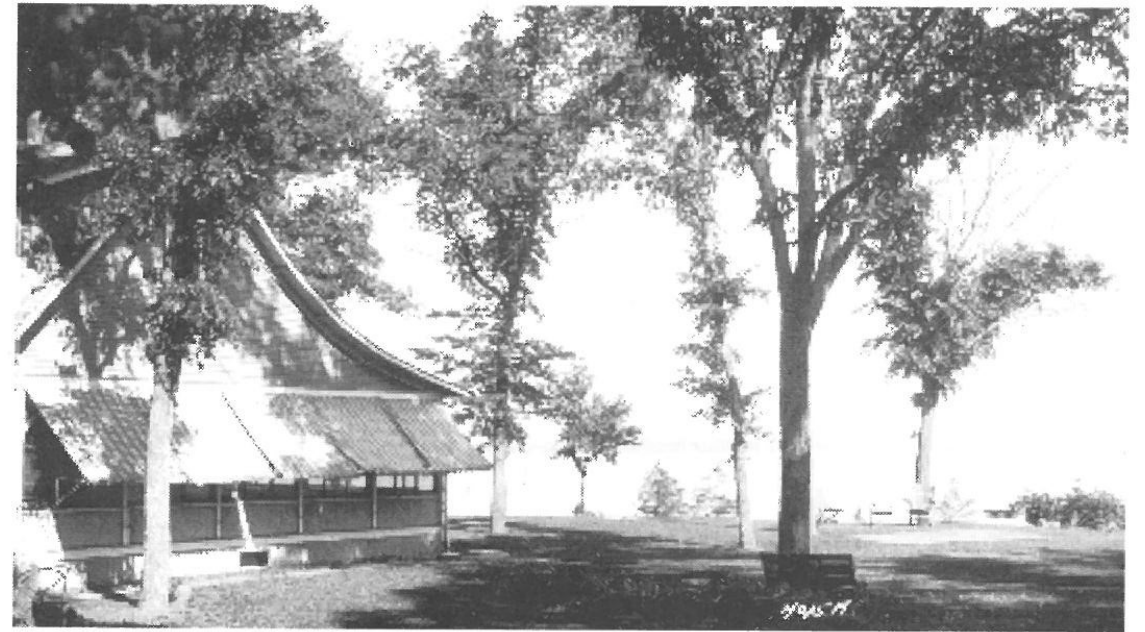
The view of the Green Lake Bible Camp from Green Lake.



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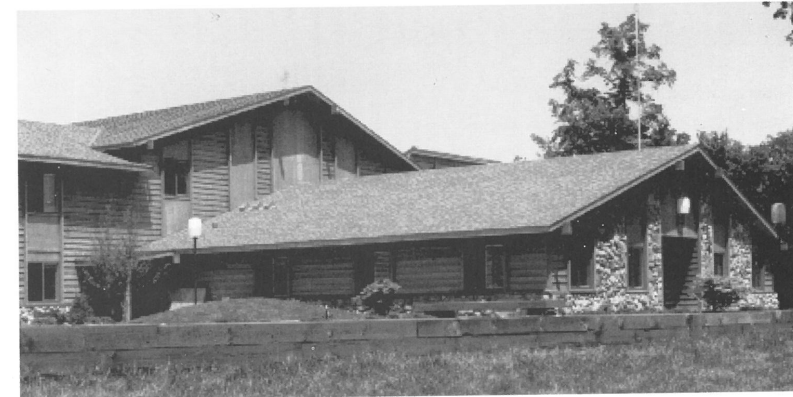


Chrysalis House at Green Lake Bible Camp was completed in 1981 and dedicated in 1982.

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Nasvick procured oak beams, it is said, from the destruction of an old train station in St. Paul and had them transported to the Spicer shop of Ole and Arnold Gronli, who did the oak altar and finish work. Under Nasvick's direction, the Gronli shop made the crosses and other decorative features. Nasvick procured and installed the slate floor. Final work was completed in 1950. Peter Nasvick contributed a considerable amount of time and money to the construction of the chapel.

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Over the years the facilities were expanded and improved. The girls' dormitory was built in 1942. A winterized retreat facility, consisting of Hill Lodge and four cabins, was added to the upper camp in 1959. In 1963 Bonde Lodge, the girls' dormitory, dining hall, and kitchen were remodeled and winterized. Two years later the faculty house and the boys' dorm above the canteen were remodeled. Bonde Lodge recreation room, lounge, and dining room were remodeled in 1970. In 1979 the board decided to replace Bonde Lodge with Chrysalis House, begun in 1981, completed and dedicated in 1982.

In the early years of the camp, authority and direction for the activities came from the Board of Trustees, who hired resident managers for three or so months at a time, or a board member assumed managerial duties for a summer or two. Among these early managers were Pastors T. W. Tysdal, B. L. Opdahl, and M. S. Knutson; Irvin Christianson, Carol Satre, Mr. and Mrs. Erland Anderson, and Mr. and Mrs. Roald Johnson. Beginning in the late 1940s, the following managers served the camp: Roald Johnson through 1954; Roy Eliason, 1955-61; Russell Hanson, 1961-62; Dale Caylor, 1962-75; and Pastor Dean Larsen, 1975-present. During these years, the manager's position gradually became a full-time, year-round appointment, and with Pastor Larsen, the manager assumed full responsibility and authority for camp direction, with the board's consent.

Over the years the summer attendance has remained relatively stable with about 1,400 campers on an average. The big change occurred with expansion of the camp to a year-round retreat facility, with a present annual use by about 8,000 people. The camp currently serves 157 congregations in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and some congregations in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area as well as the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

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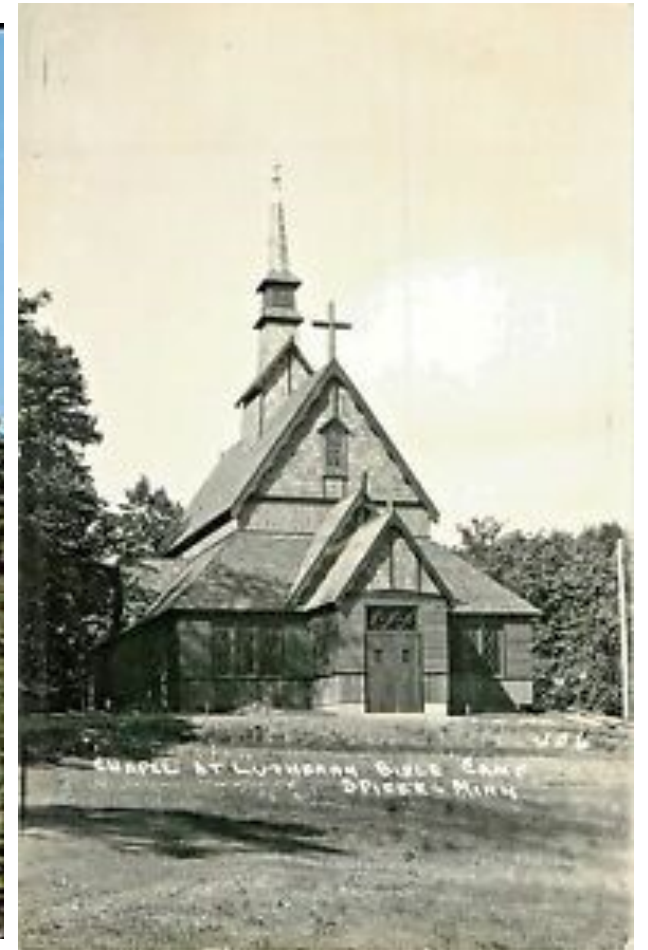
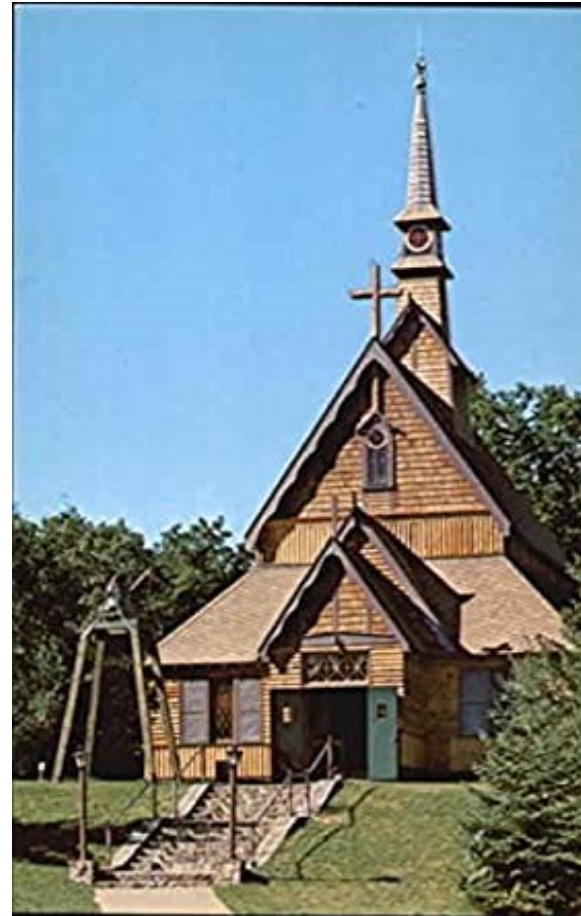
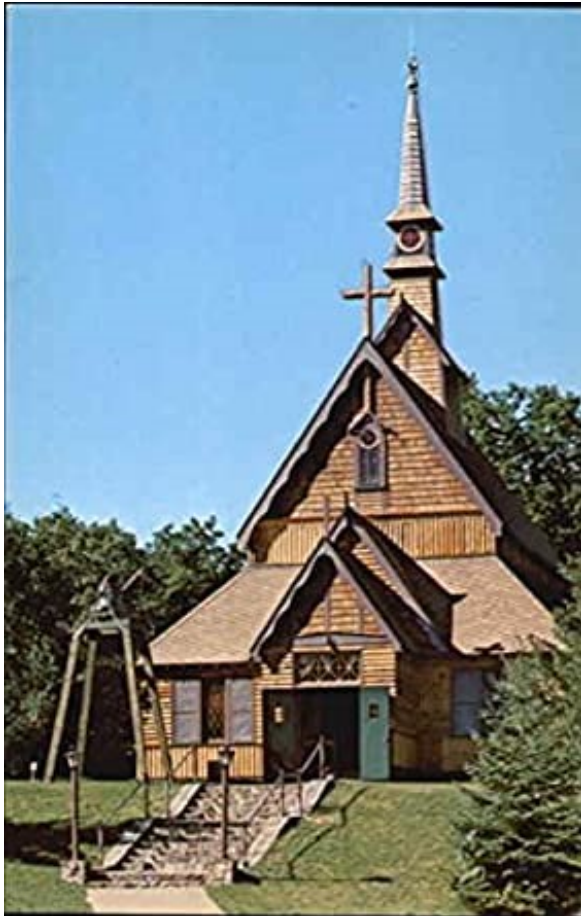
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Something Extra

Green Lake Bible Camp

9916 Lake Ave S, Spicer, MN 56288

↑ Head south toward 105th Ave NE/Lake Ave S

105 ft

↶ Turn left onto 105th Ave NE/Lake Ave S

0.1 mi

↶ Turn left onto Indian Beach Rd

0.6 mi

Spicer Castle Inn & Restaurant

11600 Indian Beach Rd, Spicer, MN 56288

↑ Head east on Indian Beach Rd toward 134th Ave NE

1.8 mi

↷ Turn right onto 134th Ave NE

0.2 mi

↶ Turn left onto County Rd 4 NE

0.5 mi

↷ Turn right onto 138th Ave NE

Destination will be on the right

154 ft

6 min (2.5 mi)

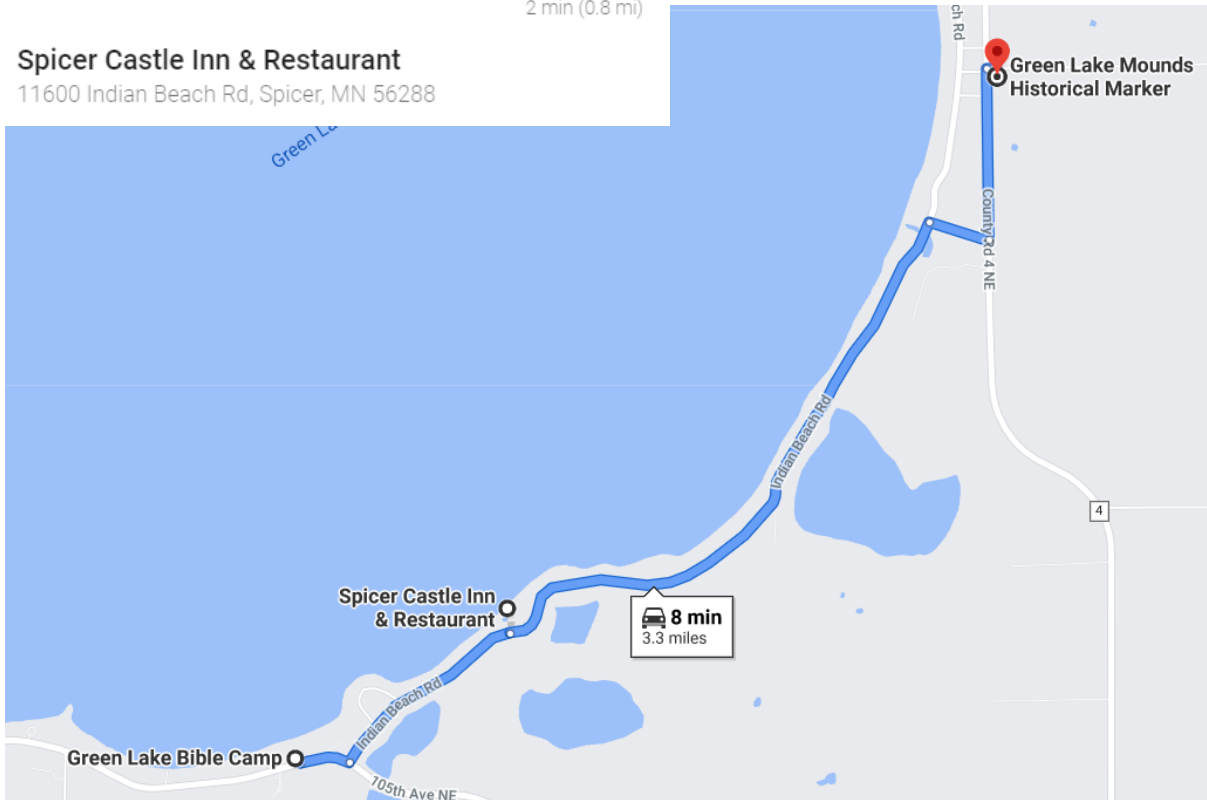
Green Lake Mounds Historical Marker

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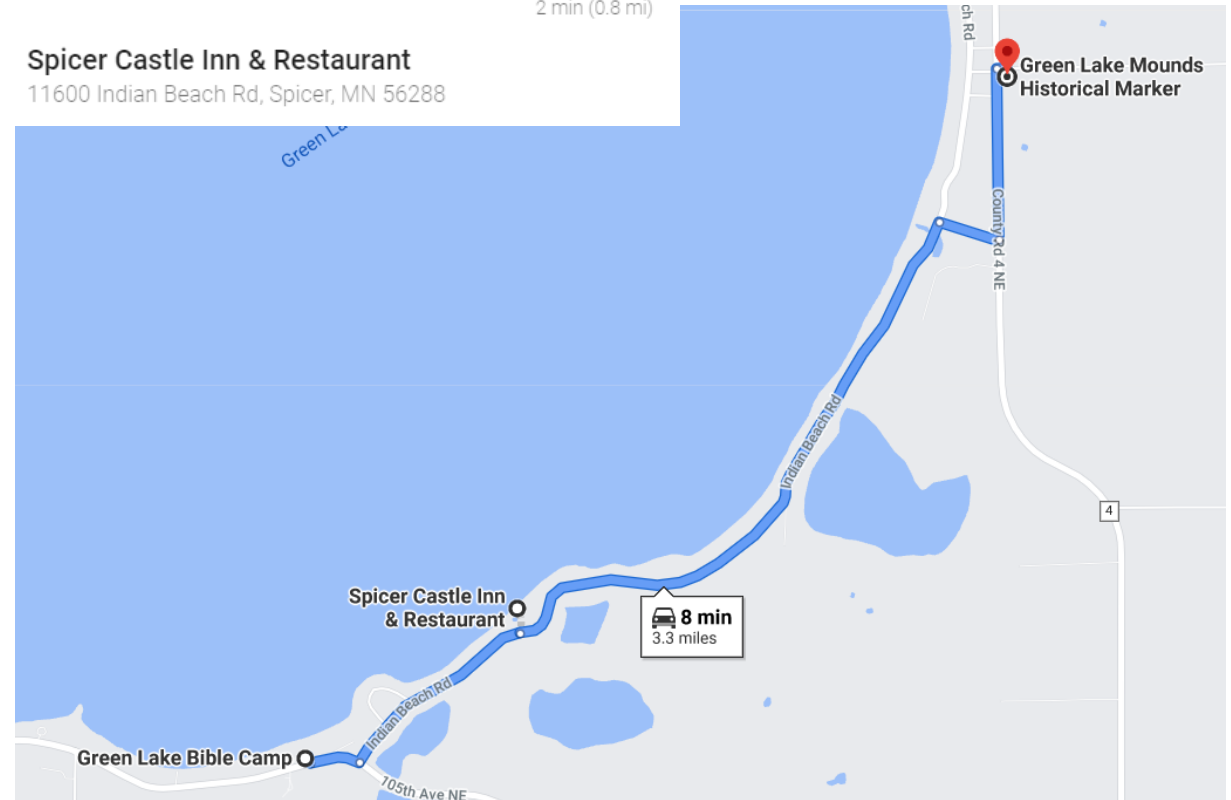
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Medayto Cottage, also known as Spicer Castle



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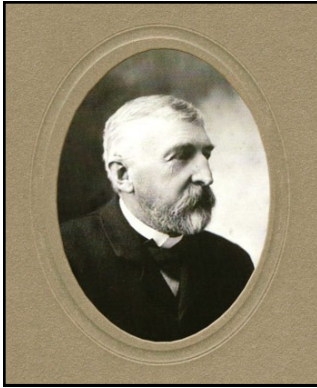
Medayto Cottage, Spicer, MN
Originally named Medayto Cottage, this grand home sitting on Green Lake in Spicer, Minnesota was built in circa 1895 by John M. Spicer. To this day it is still owned by the family and, for the last 20 years, has been run as a Bed and Breakfast by his great-granddaughter under the name Spicer Castle. (in Dakota "Medayto" translates to "Green Lake")



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John Mason Spicer was born 1841 in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, the son of a Swiss father and Irish mother, and the only boy in a household of nine children. In 1852 his family moved to Illinois where he later took a position as a clerk in a general merchandising firm. Eight years later he was transferred to St. Paul, Minnesota, but took up a position soon after with Ingersoll and Company. Looking to expand into Belle Plaine, he was offered a partnership with Ingersoll and became a

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manager of a new store in that area. While in Belle Plaine, he met his future wife, Frances Deming, and in 1871, moved to Willmar, and established a general merchandise and farm implement business with Andrew Larson.

As the local community grew, Spicer furthered his business ventures by organizing the Kandiyohi County Bank in 1879 with other investors (of which he was president of the bank until 1884) and also formed the Central Land Company in 1882. It was in this same year that Spicer helped champion the idea of creating a railroad line through the county, connecting the region with Duluth and southwest

Minnesota. The Lake Superior, Willmar, and Dakota Railroad Company was formed in 1883 with Spicer elected as its president. An astounding \$1.25 Million was raised (\$31 Million in today's dollars) for construction of the new line. With James J. Hill's support, the line from St. Cloud to Willmar was completed in 1886. Another line, from Willmar to Souix Falls was completed in 1888.

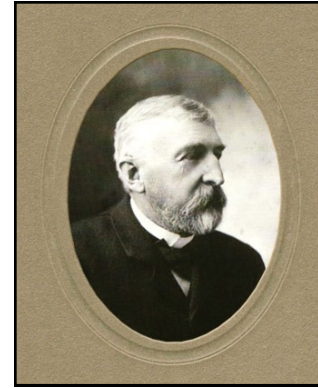
Having become a major land owner and developer in Kandiyohi County, Spicer built Medayto Farm on a large parcel of lakeshore on the south side of Green Lake in 1885. Ten years later he built his summer home Medayto Cottage overlooking the lake.

It was in the 1930's that local fishermen began commonly identifying the home for locating fishing spots as Spicer's Castle, and the name stuck. Now known as Spicer Castle, even though none of his seven children or grandchildren were allowed to call it a "castle", the home was enlarged and



Medayto Cottage as originally built in the Queen Anne Victorian style

redesigned in the Tudor Revival style in 1913 with the help of Minneapolis architect J. E. Mason. It sits on 5 acres of lakeshore and still has the original bee house, greenhouse, barn, and a small log cottage on the property, though all have been turned into private rooms for the bed and breakfast. It is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.



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Minnesota. The Lake Superior, Willmar, and Dakota Railroad Company was formed in 1883 with Spicer elected as its president. An astounding \$1.25 Million was raised (\$31 Million in today's dollars) for construction of the new line. With James J. Hill's support, the line from St. Cloud to Willmar was completed in 1886. Another line, from Willmar to Souix Falls was completed in 1888.

Having become a major land owner and developer in Kandiyohi County, Spicer built Medayto Farm on a large parcel of lakeshore on the south side of Green Lake in 1885. Ten years later he built his summer home Medayto Cottage overlooking the lake.

It was in the 1930's that local fishermen began commonly identifying the home for locating fishing spots as Spicer's Castle, and the name stuck. Now known as Spicer Castle, even though none of his seven children or grandchildren were allowed to call it a "castle", the home was enlarged and



Medayto Cottage as originally built in the Queen Anne Victorian style

redesigned in the Tudor Revival style in 1913 with the help of Minneapolis architect J. E. Mason. It sits on 5 acres of lakeshore and still has the original bee house, greenhouse, barn, and a small log cottage on the property, though all have been turned into private rooms for the bed and breakfast. It is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Spicer Castle crumbles, signaling end of an era

June 13, 2020

With a crunch, a heave and a groan, the hydraulic arms of heavy machinery sank their jaws into the Spicer Castle Tuesday morning. And just like that, 125 years of history toppled in a heap.

Constructed in 1895 by Spicer founder John Spicer and long since operating as a bed and breakfast owned by the Latham family, the structure had fallen into disrepair after it had been put up for sale in 2018.

Although attempts were made by local entities to explore funding options for preserving the Castle, the costs necessary to restore the building ultimately proved impractically steep.

Spicer Mayor Denny Baker said he “hated to see it go,” but after several recent walk-throughs of the building, realized that the site would be far too expensive to restore and refurbish through the grants and tax breaks available to historic sites.

“When I saw what it would take, there’s no way we could come up with the dollars to maintain it, so it became quite certain to me that it would be destroyed,” he said.

Shortly after the Spicer Castle was listed for sale, Baker joined with a group of individuals from the city, county, historical society and Housing Redevelopment Authority, to determine what would be required to retain the landmark as an historical site.

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We had great goals and good inspiration to do something with it, but it just became insurmountable with the costs involved.” Baker said. However, the mayor is optimistic about the future plans for the site. The property was purchased in February by Diane Buzzeo and Debbie Longo, who plan to construct condominiums at a yet-to-be determined date.

A Spicer resident of over three decades, Buzzeo credits the Latham family with inspiring her to take up residence in the community.

“They were the first people I met in 1984 when I came to town,” she said. “Mary and Allen (Latham) were very good friends of ours, and I didn’t want to see (the Castle) go into the hands of outside developers who didn’t know the history of the lake. And since there was no possibility for anything besides demolition, I wanted it to be me that did it.



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While the scope and layout of the condominiums have not yet been drafted. Buzzeo aims to retain the iconic history of the former landmark in her building plans.

“As we start through the development phase, our hope is to call it “Castles on Green,” and we’d like to work a castle theme into it.” She said “We’d like to have underground parking and there’s a whole lot of things we’d like to do, but we can’t really explore that until the building is down and we get a good handle on the land.”

Along with a castle theme, Buzzeo also hopes to keep the concrete steps that once led to the main entrance.

“I’m very excited about our vision for the future,” she said. “When John Spicer built the house, he built it because he had a vision of Spicer becoming a town, and that vision was realized. Without vision, there’s no future. So, we’re hoping we can take that property and legacy of the Spicer family into the next generation.”

Still, Buzzeo described the demolition as “emotional.”

As the site changes hands and a new age dawns, the razing of the house effectively signals the end of an era. Simply put, people aren’t as interested in resorts, inns and bed and breakfasts as they once were.

In the last decade alone, over 50% of the state’s resorts have closed, with recent estimates by the Association of Innkeepers International listing the average lifespan of these businesses at just five to seven years.

In a 2018 interview, shortly after the Castle was put up for sale, owners Mary and Allen Latham lamented the steady decline of inns as tourism destinations.

“When we opened in 1998, there were 17 resorts on Green Lake,” Mary said. “In the last one to two years, we’ve been the only property left on the lake; all others have been sold.”

Allen, who has since passed away, could only speculate as to why these businesses are suffering, but suspected a general shift in tourists’ interests as well as rising property taxes are to blame.

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Green Lake Mounds

A large Indian camp existed on the north shore of Green Lake for well over one hundred years, according to best estimates. The burying ground for that village is located here. It is one of the larger Indian mound complexes in the State of Minnesota.

Natural erosion and agriculture have reduced the mounds until they are now barely visible to the naked eye. Starting at the outlet, they run to the south for over a mile. Starting at the lake shore, they run east for about the same distance. The most visible mounds are located to the east of this marker. No artifacts have been found in the mounds themselves.

Where: This marker is located 4 miles east of Spicer on County Road 10, then 2.25 miles north on County Road 4.



Green Lake Mounds

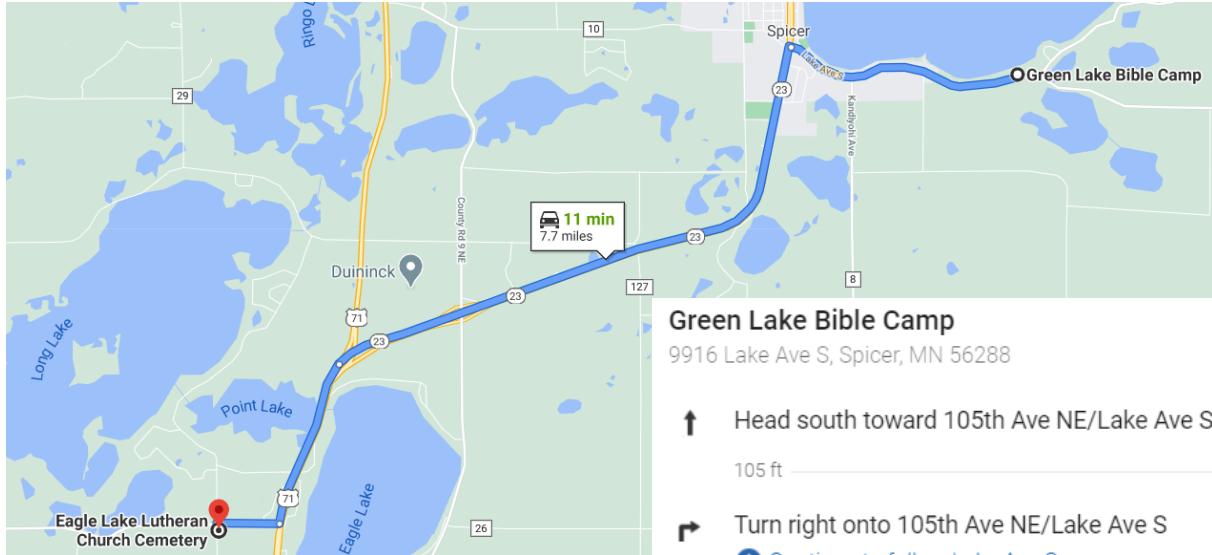
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Something Extra



FIRST CHURCH IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY

New Sweden, the congregation which became Lebanon Lutheran Church and later Peace Lutheran Church of New London, was organized August 22, 1859. The Rev. Peter Carlson, the organizer, served a large frontier area as a circuit-riding pastor. The congregation grew so large and covered such an extensive area that parish units were organized: Nest Lake, Eagle Lake, Norway Lake and Lake Prairie, but all a part of New Sweden.

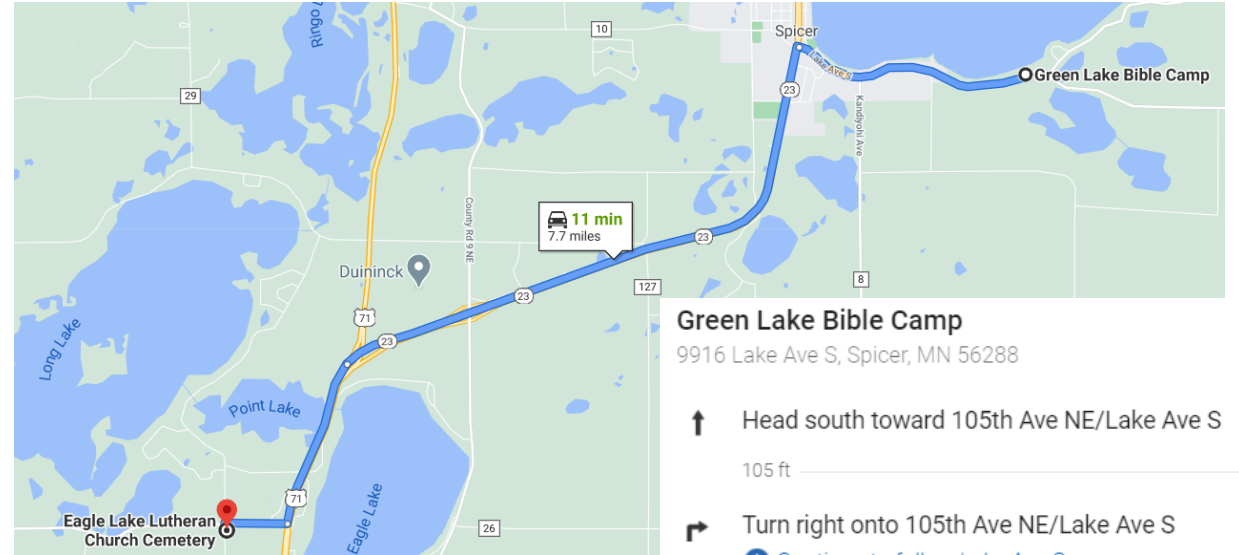
Green Lake Bible Camp

9916 Lake Ave S, Spicer, MN 56288

- ↑ Head south toward 105th Ave NE/Lake Ave S
105 ft
- Turn right onto 105th Ave NE/Lake Ave S
Continue to follow Lake Ave S
1.7 mi
- Turn left onto MN-23 W
4.3 mi
- Use any lane to turn slightly left onto US-71 S
1.2 mi
- Turn right onto 60th Ave NE
0.4 mi
- Turn left onto 15th St NE
Destination will be on the left
249 ft

Eagle Lake Lutheran Church Cemetery
Willmar, MN 56201

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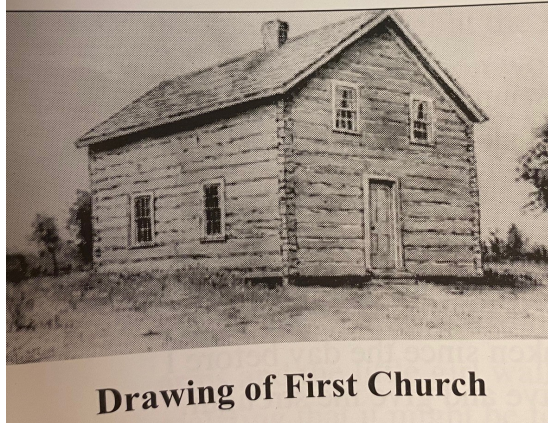
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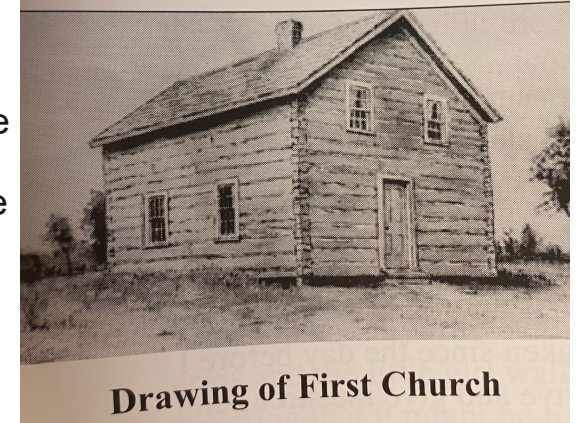
Andrew Jackson, who had come to the Eagle Lake settlements as a teacher, was elected one of the deacons. He served so well that Pastor Carlson persuaded him to go to the seminary for a year. He was ordained a Lutheran pastor at the meeting of the Augustana Synod at Galesburg, Illinois, in 1861. He returned to New Sweden congregation, as its pastor, and served these people for 14 months, when the settlers were dispersed by the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. One of his services was interrupted by the warning of what was to become the West Lake Massacre. Rev. Jackson, disregarding personal safety, rode to warn all of his parishioners of impending attacks. He later led rescue and burial parties into the area.



Eighteen members of Jackson's New Sweden congregation were killed in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. Many left the area during the outbreak and did not return. The congregation was reorganized in 1865 and the cabin of Andrew Holes was purchased and converted into the first church in what is now Kandiyohi County. The congregation used this cabin until 1866 when the congregation decided to build a church and locate a cemetery on a two-acre tract two mile west of New London. A new church was built in New London in 1873. The church was known as Nest Lake and retained that designation until Lebanon was chosen as a congregational name in 1896.

Where: This marker is located at the corner of County Road 25 and 15th St. NE by Eagle Lake Lutheran Cemetery. The marker is 1.3 miles south of the actual site of the First Church.

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Pastor Paul's Cell

320-894-0019

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5 s (105 ft)
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18 min (16.0 mi)
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4 min (2.6 mi)
- Turn right onto MN-4 S/Hwy 55 E
31 s (0.3 mi)
- Continue on Maple St to your destination
27 s (299 ft)

Paynesville Lutheran Church
657 Maple St, Paynesville, MN 56362

Green Lake Bible Camp O

23 min 18.9 miles

Map details: 128, 6, 4, 23, 143, 106, 105, Lake Koronis Regional Park, 143, 102, 3, 2, 9, New

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