

ever, been Ladies' Aid meetings before this time. The very first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Serine Benson at 4215 Blaisdell Ave.

During the winter of 1910-1911 the church services were conducted by professors and students of Augsburg Seminary. Mr. H. O. Lee, then a theological student, had charge of the work.

In May 1911 Rev. A. O. Kolden entered into the field, but remained only three months. During his short pastorate, however, an organization was effected. A meeting for that purpose was called June 4th 1911. A constitution was adopted and signed by the following charter members: A. O. Kolden, J. U. Pederson, T. K. Ellefson, A. E. Anderson, E. J. Bjerkeseeth, S. Davidsen and Mrs. J. S. Johnson. At the same meeting adjourned to June 11th the following new members were accepted: Mrs. T. Erickson, John Thornton, Harald Benson, Karl Karlson, John Christiansen, Haakon Kvenild, Robert Myers, Louis Kinzel, Wm. Moen, Ernest Johnson, and Tom Erland. The first board of trustees was: J. U. Pederson, T. K. Ellefson, E. J. Bjerkeseeth, A. E. Anderson and A. Aune. The first Sunday School Superintendent elected by the congregation was Mrs. J. S. Johnson.

After Rev. Kolden resigned the work was temporarily taken care of by Rev. A. M. Arntzen until Dec. 1911, when the congregation made arrangements with Prof. Harbo, who then was president of the Board of Home Missions, to have Mr. A. C. Nesheim, then a theological student serve them as pastor. Mr. Nesheim took charge of the work and served the church as a student until he was ordained in June 1912 and afterwards served as its pastor two years until June 1914.

During Rev. Nesheim's pastorate, 1912-1914, the congregation took the first step towards building the present church edifice. Two lots were purchased on the corner of 44 St. and Pillsbury Avenue in April 1912, and the work of building a basement, 44x84 feet, was begun in August 1912, but was not completed before in May the next year. Mr. C. O. Olson, superintended the work. The first services in the basement was conducted June 4th 1913. The first confirmation class consisted of Alpha Olson, Charles and Arthur Sonnenberg. The approximate cost of the lots and basements was \$5,000.

In building the basement the congregation incurred a large debt, which became a heavy burden to carry, and which for some time hampered the progress of the church.

After Rev. Nesheim left, Albert Rykken, then a theological student and an assistant in St. Olaf church conducted services while Rev. Sletten took care of the ministerial work. During the winter months 1914-1915 Rev. Theo. Jensen together with Mr. Rykken had charge of the work in the congregation. When the school year closed they both discontinued their work and from the summer of 1915 to the spring of 1916 the work was in charge of the board of deacons, which consisted of Rev. C. S. Vang, N. P. Johnson and Rev. J. U. Pederson. Services were conducted by the deacons, professors and students from Augs-

burg Seminary and others. One of the students, Mr. J. A. Houkom, conducted the evening services regularly and led the church choir.

The present pastor, Rev. C. E. Nordberg, accepted the joint call from the congregation and the Board of Home Missions and entered into the work in May 1916. He preached his first sermon as pastor of the church May 21, 1916.

Since that time the work of the church in a material way has been a struggle with debts and new building projects. The debts of \$1,800, which rested on the property at New Year 1916 threatened to discourage the members and the property was in such shape that no money could be loaned on it. The only recourse left was to appeal to the sister churches for help. An appeal was made in Folkbladet by Prof. Harbo, president of the Board of Home Missions, and also by Rev. C. S. Vang, superintendent. The pastor has also visited several churches in person and received much encouragement and liberal donations. The following churches have given: Nordland congregation, Paynesville, Minn.; New London congregation, New London; Gausdal congregation, Georgeville; Aspelund, Emmaus and Gulberg congregations, Vang, N. D.; Ebenezer congregation, Northwood, N. D.; Zoar and Bethel congregations, Hatton, N. D.; Zion congregation, Luverne, Minn.; Camp Release, St. Petri and Trinity congregations, Montevideo, Minn. and Ransom congregation, Rushmore, Minn. Besides these several congregations have sent in offerings; and individuals have sent us donations. The old debt of \$1,800 has in this way been reduced to about \$200.00.

The congregation now realizing that a church over the whole basement would be too large, decided to build a parsonage over part of the basement. A loan of \$3,000 for this purpose was procured on condition that the pastor pay the interest on the loan as house rent. The parsonage was built in the style of a flat, 44x24 feet on the back part of the basement. The building committee was A. E. Anderson, T. K. Ellefson and J. U. Pederson. Mr. Oscar Levin was the builder. The work was done during the spring of 1916 and completed in June the same year.

The next project was completing the church basement on the inside. A new entrance to the basement was built, casings and doors put in and the interior of the basement painted and calstomined during the winter of 1916-1917. In the fall of 1916 a contest and fall festival was inaugurated, which gave the church the neat sum of about \$1000.00.

In the spring of 1917 the outside of the church basement was brick veneered, which gave it a very much better appearance than the gray cement block walls on which the sun had been shining for several summers.

Much improved as the property was the congregation now became very ambitious and began contemplating building the superstructure for the church. A subscription list was started, headed by the Ladies' Aid Society, which promised \$300.00 and the Y. P. S. which promised \$200.00. The subscription continued until last May, when the subscription list reached the