

## PRESBYTERIAN WAS EARLIEST CHURCH OTHERS SOON FOLLOWED

The earliest church to be built in Pine City was the Presbyterian. The Presbyterians first came to the Pokegama Mission and later in 1870, aided by a missionary from St. Paul ~~the church was~~ the petition of three Pine City women was honored and the church was established on November 25, 1870.

The First Presbyterian Church was erected in 1878 and when the congregation celebrated their 75th anniversary on Nov. 25, 1945, Mrs. Georga A. Robinson who was received into the church in 1882 was able to attend the celebration and honored as the oldest living member.

The first services for Catholics were conducted in the ~~the~~ <sup>the Immaculate Conception</sup> new Section House and in private homes until a church was built in 1879 on the corner of Eighth Street and Sixth Avenue.

In pioneer settlements such as Pine City was in 1870, Catholics usually had to get along without the sacraments and formal religious services unless they could get to a church in a nearby more established community.

When their numbers increased the bishop of the territory arranged to have a priest from an existing parish visit them occasionally. Those visits were usually few and far between because of difficult transportation.

In 1879 a frame church was constructed. The present church was built in 1910 for a cost of \$35,000. according to the late Christine Skluzacek. The present rectory was erected in 1919.

A group of German immigrants felt the need for a Lutheran church in Pine City. Some missionary work was done here before 1882. Under the leadership of Pastor W. Braunworth, the first

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Churches #2.

business meeting of Zion Lutheran was held August 10, 1884. A building committee was appointed and three lots were donated by Miss Jennie McLean.

Articles of incorporation of the Evengelical Lutheran Zion Society were filed in Pine county on January 25, 1885 and the first church was built in July, 1887. The parsonage was built in 1891 and the members joined the Missouri Synod in April, 1895.

Most of the early records of Zion Lutheran are written in German and the congregation is presently having them translated. The first English service was held in November 5, 1899.

The new church was dedicated in 1955 and the addition in September, 1979.

A committee is presently planning the 100th anniversary celebration to be held August 19, 1984. The theme of the celebration is "Planting and Harvesting. A Century for Christ".

The church has grown from 14 original families in 1884 to 630 communicant members today.

Harold Kick who is on the anniversary committee said,

"If anyone reading this is capable of translating the old German records to English we would surely appreciate hearing from them. The minutes of those early meetings are brief but it would be nice to know what went on at them."

The Methodist Episcopal Society of Pine City was organized by Richard N. Avison in February, 1887. At that time there were only four members, Walter P. Gottry, Mrs. M. Warner, Mrs. Jennie Chubb and Miss Lille Stephen.

Rev. Avison was acting minister in charge until the following

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October conference when the charge was left unsupplied. On April 1, 1888, Rev. S. W. Simonds was appointed.

On July 17, 1888, the foundation of the new church building was begun and was dedicated by Dr. Robert Forbes. The total expense of the building was \$1,550.00.

This building, with some repairs and alterations was used as a place of worship for 39 years until April 15, 1927. The old building was wrecked to make room for the present church which was built in the same spot.

The Ladies Aid Society and Young Peoples Group of the church always worked hard to raise funds. An advertisement in a 1907 issue of the local newspaper read:

"Ladies Aid Society of M.E. Church will serve a 25¢ supper. After supper a 10¢ social will be given and a short program of music.

Maps in the Vach collection indicate that a Seven Day Adventist Church was located on 2nd Avenue and 2nd Street East in 1899.

In 1947 the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer was established. The old building was moved in from the country and remodeled and the parish was established by the members without the help of a resident pastor and through a great deal of volunteer work.

The congregation of Our Redeemer church grew so rapidly that the old church was sold and they moved into their beautiful new church on Golf Course Road last year.

The Evangelical Free Church and <sup>First</sup> Assembly of God built fine churches during the 60's and 70's and the Victory Baptist church is presently under construction.

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