small school and fight to keep it alive and growing.

History of the Climax Lutheran Church

With the first influx of pioneers in the Red River Valley, a settlement grew up along both sides of the Red River. Very few ventured far out on the prairie when they sought a place to build a home. The reasons were obvious. In the first place, the river with a ready supply of water and an abundance of fine timber offered conveniences that could not be had out on the prairie. Also, the Hudson’s Bay Company had set up a trading post on what was then known as Frog Point. This offered a place where the pioneers could dispose of whatever they had to sell and in return, buy most of the things they needed.

However, with the ever increasing number of people who entered the Valley they were forced to go farther out from the Red River. The early pioneers had begun congregations and built churches along the Red River. As distances were long and transportation slow, they felt the need of a congregation where they could assemble more conveniently; where they might worship even though roads might not be too good and the weather not always favorable for a longer journey. The first effort along this line was the organization of a Ladies Aid. A group of ladies met on November 6, 1890, and organized the Skatvold Ladies Aid. It was due to their work and activity that a congregation was later organized on January 25, 1894, by Rev. J. H. Villesvik.

Due to a lack of records, the exact date of organizing the Climax Congregation is somewhat uncertain. Records show that the church was built in 1898. The Skatvold Congregation continued until December 6, 1923, when they united with the congregation at Climax, during the ministry of Rev. Ludvig Pederson. On May 21, 1944, the Climax Lutheran Free Church celebrated its 50th anniversary. The parish was enlarged to four churches during the ministry of Pastor Carl Carsen in 1956. This then included the Sand Hill congregation and Ring-saker and Gruh congregation in North Dakota. Pastor L. B. Sateren served the parish for seven months after the departure of Pastor Carsen and before the arrival of Rev. N. C. Anderson in 1960.

As early as 1955, a fund was started for the purpose of building an addition to the old church or the construction of a new building. In 1966, the decision was made for a new building and the ground breaking ceremonies for a new church took place in July 1967.

The dedication of the New Climax Lutheran Church was held on June 23, 1968, with several former pastors in attendance.

Besides the building project the most significant event during that time was the decision in 1961 to join The American Lutheran Church. The actual merger was consummated in 1963, and the parish is now part of the Crookston Conference, as well as the Northern Minnesota District of the A.L.C.

Rev. Ralph Okland, present pastor, came in March of 1969, following the resignation of Rev. N. C. Anderson in the fall of 1968.

The following pastors have served the congregation: Rev. H. J. Villesvik from January 1894 to March 1900; Rev. B. L. Sundal, April 1900 to April 1901; Rev. H. Ostgulen, May 1901 to April 1903; Rev. J. O. Brano, May 1903 to June 1905; Rev. O. N. Bergh, July 1905 to June 1917; Rev. H. A. B. Winther, June 1917 to November 1921; Rev. N. Halvorson, November 1921 to June 1922; Rev. Ludwig Pederson, June 1922 to July 1927; Rev. C. J. Christenson, July 1927 to June 1936; Rev. Louis Olson, November 1926 to August 1951; Rev. Carl Carsen, December 1951 to October 1959; Rev. N. C. Anderson, April 1960 to September 1968; Rev. Ralph Okland, March 1969 to January 1976.

ARNO LD AMUNDSON

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Amundson are both life-long residents of the Climax area. Mrs. Amundson, nee Alyce Jevning, was born in Fisher, Minnesota, to Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jevning. She has two sisters, Mrs. Morris Marsten (Verna) and Mrs. Lawrence Carrell (Ruth); also two brothers, Orland and Ronald. Ronald passed away in Lovelock, Nevada in 1972.

Arnold Amundson was born July 10, 1912, on a farm near Climax. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Amundson, were both natives of the Climax and Nielsville areas. They operated the farm where the children were born until the death of Sigrid Amundson in 1946. They had three children: Arnold, Orvella and Forrest. Forrest passed away in 1927.

Alyce Jevning and Arnold Amundson both graduated from the Climax High School. They were married May 15, 1936. They lived on a farm until they moved into their present home in Climax, which was built in 1950. Arnold was engaged in farming until 1969. He was employed as a produce inspector by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in 1937, and still continues working at this job. Arnold and Alyce Amundson had three sons, Bruce, Brent, and Brian.

Bruce, born October 23, 1938, graduated from Climax High School, Augsburg College and University of Minnesota Medical School. He and his family reside in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where he founded the Yampa Valley Family Health Clinic, where he practices medicine. He married Joann Eliason of Wilmar, Minnesota. She attended Augsburg College and has a degree in Medical Technology from Swedish Hospital of Minneapolis, Minnesota. They have two sons, Gary and Dean.

Brent, born November 25, 1940, graduated from Climax High School and Moorhead State College and received his Master’s degree from Bemidji State College. He and his family reside in Mahnomen, Minnesota, where he teaches and coaches. He married Judy Lindell of Crookston, Minnesota, who is a graduate of Moorhead State College, and also teaches kindergarten at the Mahnomen school. They have two children, Kristine and Matthew.

Brian, born September 12, 1949, graduated from Climax High School and Moorhead State College. He and his family reside in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. He is employed by the Becker County Record. He married Pamela Baggerud of Shelly, Minnesota, who graduated from Climax High School and Moorhead State College. She teaches special education in the Detroit Lakes school. They have one daughter, Randi Jo.

LEONARD AND ROSE DAVIS ANDERSON

How many people of today can trace their ancestry back to the pioneers of America during the early 1600’s and to those who lived during the Revolutionary War days?

In this Bicentennial Year of 1776, it is interesting to note that Mrs. Leonard Anderson of Climax can do just that. The former Rose Davis is a niece of John and Anna Davis Shelly, the first permanent white settlers in Norman County, in 1870, and for whom the village of Shelly, Minnesota was named.

Mrs. Anderson has coats of arms from both sides of her family, being a descendant of the Royce family, who arrived in the New World in 1631 and who fought in Indian wars and the Revolutionary War, and of the Prescotts of Bunker Hill fame.

Rose Davis was born December 1, 1894, to parents, Fred Lorenzo Davis and Nellie E. Jorgenson Davis. Of the six children born to the Davis, Rose Anderson is the only living member of the family today. She was raised in Andover Township on a farm now occupied by the Ralph Finkenbinders.

Rose Davis finished school at Crookston and after graduation, traveled to Goldendale, Washington, with her father and returned to Crookston in 1916.

Rose Davis married Leonard Anderson on February 14, 1917. They settled in the rural Climax area where he was engaged in farming. Rose remembers that they always had a lot of hired help on the farm and that she did a lot of cooking