The Lutheran Congregation had services in the homes of the members from 1884 to 1898 when the church was built and dedicated.

As a Bicentennial project the community has planned to place a historic marker on the site where the first post office stood, one mile south from the Lutheran Church.

The John Kluzek family together with Joseph Machal came here from Cleveland, Ohio. Kluzak settled on northwest quarter of section 19 and Machal settled on southwest quarter of section 20 in 1879.


From 1935 to 1940, Danial Walder operated a dance hall in the Novacek store building. For a time previous to this time Ben and Milan Piker had a grocery store in that building.

Joe Novak also had a store in the village about 1915, later taken over by Dave Grossman, who also had a dance hall behind the store. Both buildings burned about 1930.

The Frank Wavra family came from New Prague about 1880 and operated the first threshing rig in the community.

Many of the early settlers worked off the farm to earn living expenses. The nearest and only places of employment were the Keystone Farms and the railroad from Angus north to Stephen.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

The village of Tabor, in western Polk County, took its name from Tabor, about 70 miles south of the capitol city of Prague, in western Czechoslovakia. The Minnesota Taborites and parishioners of Holy Trinity have been mostly of Czech and Slovak origins. The earliest settlers in the area included Frank Kvor (1880), Joseph Trefny (1881), Jacob Gust (1884) and Jacob Novak, mentioned as early as 1882 with no specific date of arrival.

In its people, then, the beginnings of the parish may be traced to the early 1880's. In February 1881 Father Pribyl came from Chicago to serve settlements of Bohemian Catholics in Minnesota. He made his first visit north in March of this year, and continued the missionary trips to Tabor until about 1888. He was based in the Montgomery-New Prague area in southern Minnesota. During his visits Father Pribyl offered mass and administered the sacraments at the homes of Frank Kvor, Jacob Novak and the school house near which the church was later built. These were temporary, missionary arrangements.

Even though the pioneers disagreed about the location for their first house of worship, they began to build a chapel in 1886 on the Eidelbes pasture land about a mile south of the present Tabor village. When still in the rafter stage of construction, a tornado destroyed this green-wood structure.

At about the same time Vaclav Novotny donated $200 which was used for the purchase of 40 acres of land from the St. Paul, Minneapolis, Manitoba Railway Company. This determined the present site of the parish. The land was soon parceled out to the people for cultivation, and the proceeds were to go into a building fund. This proved too slow. A loan of $400 was made, and Jacob Novak mortgaged his farm to help raise the funds necessary for the second attempt in building a church. Inspired by this action, and under the leadership of Father Slatinsky of Vesselville, North Dakota, the settlers met in 1889 and agreed to donate $50 each and came up with the sum of $600.00.

On Wednesday, November 13, 1889, the decision to build was made. This date has since been accepted as the date of the beginning of the parish. The men mentioned in this connection were Vaclav Novotny, Thomas Trefny, Frank Svoboda, Frank Kvor, Thomas Ovsak, Martin Dvorak, Frank Judovsky, Martin Kotrbta, Jan Straka, Vaclav Dudrek, Jan Gust, Frank Wavra, Jacob Novak, Frank Zedjlik, Vaclav Holub, Frank Gust, Matej Judovsky, Joseph Eidelbes and Vaclav Bisek.

Work, as well as finances, became an essential need. Each pioneer donated six days of work and those who worked longer were paid $1.59 a day in "overtime" — overtime in those days. The church was completed in 1890 and dedicated to St. Wenceslaus. (One report says that the dedication took place in 1893.)

Missionaries came and went in rapid succession. These priests are mentioned for the period of 1893-1899: Ignatius Lager, Patrick Henrick, M. Sengis, C. J. Augustinsky, M. Miklaszewski, T. L. Rabsteinek and L. Naturski. In 1900 Father John Rech became the first resident pastor. He rented the house which later became the property of Frank Holub, Sr.; he planned and supervised the construction of the first parish rectory.

On May 17, 1900, Father Rech had the parish incorporated under the title, "The Holy Trinity Congregation of Tabor." Bishop James McElroy of Duluth, the Vicar General Father Joseph Buh, Father John Rech and the two parish trustees, Joseph Stengl and Frank Zedjlik, signed the document. The parish received its present title at a later date.

Beginning in 1902, Father Joseph Gaydousek served as pastor until 1905. After his departure three priests followed one another in quick order. They were Joseph Gregor, John Marшalek, John Vanicek. Father F. Simonik arrived on March 23, 1909. He remained a little less than three years. (When he left, he donated the small bell which still hangs in the steeple and bears his name.) In 1911 Father W. Kornel took over and was followed a year later by Father F. J. Just. On May 26, 1913, Father John Berger came directly from Bohemia to be pastor of Holy Trinity. His pastorate covered a record period of 16 years.

During Father Berger's time the church was enlarged, a greenhouse built, improvements made in the rectory. He liked the outdoors and loved to hunt; keeping bees, however, proved his principal hobby.

During the years 1929-1933, Father Carrell Gross, a native of Moravia like Father Berg, served as pastor. He came to Tabor by way of South Dakota and Canada; reportedly he preferred to be in the United States. During a vacation time to his homeland Father William Klinkhammer of East Grand Forks took his place, and is said to have gotten to know the people of Tabor as well as better than any of the three who had been in the parish. Father Gross returned, and Father F. B. Tomanek, 1933-1940, succeeded him. Father Tomanek gained the reputation as a man of action and a builder. His "dream," the Parish Hall, was completed in 1934 at an estimated cost of $6,000. Father August L. Zellekens, who offered his first Mass in Tabor on Ash Wednesday, 1940, became the next pastor of Holy Trinity. A native of Frankfurt, Germany, he had been an assistant at St. Bernard's, Thief River Falls, and pastor of St. Vincent's Church, Plummer. At first reluctant to come to Tabor, he swung into action immediately with strong parish support.

The initial steps toward the replacement of the old church had already been taken. There were other needs as well. The parish still carried a debt of $2,300; a loan of $4,000 helped to pay for the new rectory, completed in 1940. The old debt was liquidated within a few years and a building fund started for