Forks is known as the "Potato Capital" of the world. Thousands of tons of sugar beets are processed each year at the American Crystal Sugar Plant. A 40-million dollar addition to the plant in 1975 makes it one of the largest sugar beet plants in America.

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Shortly after World War I a few families of Christian Reformed background bought land in Grand Forks County in North Dakota. In the early 1920's meetings were held in Hon-eyford. When services were discontinued in the rural church, a few families associated with the Christian Reformed Church in Crookston.

In the 1950's several families interested in the Christian Reformed Church moved into Grand Forks. In 1957 services were conducted on Sunday evening by Reverend Keuning of the Crookston Church. The group met in the YMCA during the winter of 1957-58. The attendance at these meetings was approximately 25-35, including relatives of some of the settlers of the early 20's. In 1959 services were held in the Mission Covenant Church. Later the group moved to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. After it was decided to locate in the point area of East Grand Forks, the Lincoln School was used for Vacation Bible School and services during the summer of 1961. That fall saw the beginning of the construction of the Chapel. Nearly all the work was done by members and friends who came from as far as Frinburg, Minnesota. In the early summer of 1962, the chapel was completed on Tenth Street and Rhinehart Drive.

The Reverend M. Keuning of Crookston gave freely of his time and energy to all the activities of the church. Largely due to his recommendation, the Home Mission Board agreed to support the East Grand Forks work by providing a full time pastor. Reverend Peter Lagerwey came in August of 1963, a few months after services were first held in the chapel, which later became the parsonage.

It was on July 23, 1968 that ground breaking ceremonies were held for the new church building. The cornerstone was placed in the building in October of 1968. The first service was held in the new building on February 9, 1969.

The congregation was formally organized on March 5, 1971. Three years later on March 24, 1974 Pastor Lagerwey left. After a year's vacancy, Reverend Larry Slings became the congregation's second pastor.

The Christian Reformed denomination has its roots in the Protestant Reformation, whose followers of John Calvin formed both the Reformed and the Presbyterian Churches in Europe. The Christian Reformed Church had its origin in the United States in 1857 when the members of the Reformed Church immigrated and settled in Michigan and Iowa.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

On January 18, 1944, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Forks agreed to formulate a plan for a release of members who lived in East Grand Forks so that they might form a congregation. In the summer of 1944, the old Sullivan house was purchased to serve as a "Mission House." Sunday School was started on October 15, 1944 with Student Robert Otto in charge.

The Mission House was dedicated on November 12, 1944 by Reverend Theodore Dorpat of Grand Forks and Student Otto. Mr. Willard Zimbrick was appointed the first Sunday School superintendent.

Early in 1945, Student Otto was replaced by Student Wilton Fluegge. On June 25, 1945, the congregation was officially organized and the name First Lutheran Church was adopted. Twenty families affixed their names to the articles of the organization.

On the first Sunday in July of 1945, the first morning worship was held at the Mission House and on July 12, 1945 a call was extended to the Reverend M. T. Wolfram of Marble, Minnesota. Pastor Wolfram was installed on September 2, 1945.

The congregation soon outgrew the Mission House and services were transferred to the Central school auditorium. The Mission House was sold and moved off and on September 15, 1947 excavation for the basement unit began. It was completed and dedication services were held on August 28, 1948.

On April 22, 1949, Reverend Wolfram accepted a call to Tucson, Arizona. Reverend E. W. Borchert of Dodge Center, Minnesota was installed on July 17, 1949. On April 16, 1952 work was started on the super-structure by the Johnson-Gilander Company of Grand Forks. The Church proper was completed and dedicated on March 22, 1953.

In 1954, a new parsonage was built at 1309 North 5th Street, the present home of the pastor.

June, 1963 property at 224 S. 4th Street was purchased for additional Sunday School classroom space. November 28, 1965 Reverend Borchert accepted a call to Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Reverend Heintzen of the Wittenburg Chapel at the University of North Dakota served as our vacancy pastor.

Reverend E. F. Behling, our present pastor, was installed on March 27, 1966.

February, 1967 the property at 213 and 215 S. 5th St. along side of the church was purchased for expansion purposes.

The new educational unit was completed in 1971.

MENDENHALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In May, 1888 about fifty interested persons attended a meeting to organize a church in East Grand Forks. The meeting was held in a building on DeMers Avenue rented by Messrs. McNicol and McAdam. Seats were planks placed on bundles of shingles. The Reverend Harlan G. Mendenhall of Grand Forks presided. Elder W. E. Parsons of Grand Forks was appointed the first Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Cameron Anderson and Alexander Patterson were ordained the first Elders. Building lots at South Third Street and Second Avenue South were donated by the Reverend Mendenhall and William Budge. Lots for the first church site came from George Coulter.

At the cornerstone laying of the church, on September 16, 1890, the trowel was accidentally dropped into a trench, and so Elder Cameron Anderson lowered Nelly Barlow Praether (Harold Sullivan's aunt) down into the trench to retrieve the trowel.

In 1892 the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavors was formed and they purchased a piano in 1900. The pastor's salary was $1,000 a year in 1893.

The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized in 1896. In July 1897, the Ladies Aid turned in $43.60 to the Trustees and with it some debts were paid. The following year, 1897, a janitor was hired at one dollar per week.