

EMMONS COUNTY



RECORD

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Beacon of the Prairie

St. Andrew celebrates its 125th anniversary with June 10 services

St. Andrew Lutheran Church will have two special services on Sun., June 10, 2018 to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the day of fellowship with services at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The special services will include:

- Songs (Centennial Choir and congregational songs).
- Recognition of founding fathers (lighting of a candle by family members and ringing of church bell).

The founding fathers include Adam Meidinger, Fredrich Meidinger, Johann Thurn, Jacob Gaub, Daniel Aipperspach, George Just, Christof Just, Freidrich Vossler, Johannes Vossler, Christian Maier, Johann Pietz, Frederich Thurn, Georg Ketterling, Johann Ketterling and Adam Ketterling. Descendants are urged to attend.

- Sharing of memories by pastors and congregation.
- Brief history and origin of old church.
- Entertainment by St. Andrew Centennial Choir, Sunny-Land Notes and Cassidy Walth.

The St. Andrew Preservation Committee has maintained the two churches on the property. The 1893 church

was constructed of sandstone and held together by mortar of clay, straw and water. As the first church became too small to accommodate the families of St. Andrew, a new wood structure was built next to the original church in 1906 and dedicated in 1907. The 1893 sandstone church brought the unit into the National Register of Historic Places on July 12, 1990.

Another unique trademark of the Germans from Russia is a wrought iron gate on the north side of the fence surrounding the cemetery.

This church building has not had an official closing, so the bell continues to ring to celebrate various events throughout the year. Annual celebrations include a Christmas service or concert showcasing local talent, small weddings as a reflection of the days when this church truly was the "Beacon on the Prairie" and the center of so many lives.

Much of this historical richness can still be experienced today in visits to both church buildings and walking through the cemetery.

The church is located in McIntosh County, rural Zeeland, 90th Street and 29th Ave. S.E.



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