



A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

When a number of Swedish people first came to the community of Carlton (formerly N.P. Junction) and Thompson their innermost desires was to have a place of worship.

In 1886, under the urging of Rev. C.J. Collin of Duluth, they formed a congregation with 50 charter members. They adopted the name The Swedish Evangelistic Lutheran Bethesda Church of N.P. Junction, Carlton County, MN.

In 1888 the first church was built. Rev. J.B. Bennett came to serve as the first permanent pastor. A parsonage was built in 1908. Over the years many improvements were made. By the 50th anniversary in 1936, electricity was installed along with our beautiful memorial stain-glass windows, which still exist in our sanctuary today.

In 1952 Bethesda membership had grown to 200 members. The church was linked with Elim in Blackhoof Township, MN and shared pastoral services together for 37 years.

As the congregation continued to grow, the need for more worship space was apparent, so the fellowship hall was built. It was completed in 1967 and used for worship until the new church was built and dedicated in 1986. The dedication marked our 100th year anniversary.

1987 Bethesda and Elim had grown to where it was best for each congregation to be on their own. Today, Bethesda Lutheran Church continues to grow each year with a congregation of over 500 confirmed members.

