

Dakota Dispatch

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



Dakota Conference Celebrating 145 Years, 1874 - 2019

Leola Adventist Church Gone, Cemetery Survives



It was in the Spring of 1885 when our grandparents homesteaded in McPherson County. One day about two years after they had built their sod shanties, a man came walking up the Ipswich Trail. He was selling a German book, "Der Grosse Kampg". Some people bought this book and one day one of the young pioneers drove over to his neighbors with ox team and wagon, and the first thing he said to him was, "Hast dir auch ein Kampt kopft?" (Did you buy yourself a Controversy too?) The one who had bought the Controversy was very likely Elder John Roth's father, Adam Roth. These two young men did not realize how big a controversy they had bought, because after they began reading it and comparing it with their German Bible, they soon realized that they were keeping the wrong day. Soon after this, two ministers came to the area and held meetings with the people in their sod shanties and a number of churches were organized. Valentine Lehr and Conrad Reiswig were the ministers who organized these churches. The Leola Church was organized on April 6, 1891.

The first church building was constructed of homemade bricks of clay and straw. In 1907, the clay brick building was abandoned and a new farm building was erected on the same site. Later it was necessary to enlarge this building to accommodate the increased membership. This church was occupied until 1925, when it was decided to build another new church. This frame building, 26 x 60 feet, was erected one-half mile east and one-half mile south of the first sight and was dedicated on October 25, 1925. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Elder Julius Boettcher and prayer was offered by Emil Oswald. Some of the ministers who served our churches in this area were Elders Lehr, Reiswig, Wall, Oswald, Schwindt, Reiley, Renschler and many others. The Leola Church has produced two of the finest ministers this denomination has - Elder Clarence Renschler of Kingman, Arizona and Elder Myron Voegle of Keen, Texas. We are very proud of these two men. We wish they could come home more often.

In 1956, the church was moved into Leola. The full basement provided several accommodations, some of which were the room for Dorcas work and children's class rooms.

The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Andreas Tetz, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Binder, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Reiling, Mr and Mrs. Henry Renschler, Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Tobert, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kindobb, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Meisch, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Haman.

Leola Church celebrated its 50th anniversary December 6, 1975. Elder L. J. Leiske was with us on December 6. He spoke to us in the morning and again in the afternoon which we appreciated very much. Elder Clarence Renschler and Mrs. Helen K. Oswald wrote letters of congratulations to us. Both letters brought back memories of by-gone days. Special music was provided by the North Dakota quartet and our own talents here in Leola. The Leola Church has been a light house in this area for 85 years and I am sure when we get to heaven many will be there because of this church. Let us all strive to be ready when Jesus comes to claim His own.

Above article provided by J. H. Brenneise for the church's 50th anniversary, December 6, 1975.

June 24, 1988, Dee Feickert wrote in the American News, Aberdeen, SD:

The Leola Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized April 6, 1891, on the Michael Binder farm located 13 miles west of Leola. As the congregation grew, a building was constructed of homemade clay bricks, located 12 1/2 miles west of Leola on old Highway 10. In 1907, that building was abandoned and a new frame building was erected at the same site. The cemetery was located there also. A new church was built in 1925. It was located a half-mile east and a half-mile south of the frame church. On November 1, 1956, the country church was moved into Leola. At this time the entry was added and remodeling was done. The relocated church was rededicated on November 29, 1958.

Information and photo from archives



Renaissance Scholarship Scholar Awarded



Several years ago the National Honor Society (NHS) at Dakota Adventist Academy developed a scholarship aimed at recognizing a member of this society who could be deemed a true Renaissance scholar. A Renaissance scholar is someone who excels in a wide range of disciplines such as academics (science, math and humanities), the arts (music and visual arts), practical arts (computers, construction and auto technology), athletics (intramurals, basketball, volleyball, or Acrosports), leadership (offices in classes, clubs, sports, etc.), spiritual activities (S.S. teacher, worships, etc.), and work. Members involved in all these areas are nominated by the NHS sponsors, presented to Academic Council, and then encouraged to apply. After the applications are reviewed by both faculty and other NHS members, the remaining members of NHS vote as to whether the applicant reaches the level of a Renaissance Scholar. This scholar is then awarded a five hundred dollar scholarship and recognized at an assembly. This year's recipient was Jadyn Anderson. She received high ratings in each area through the evaluation process. Congratulations to Jadyn.

To raise money for this scholarship and dues, NHS has traditionally held a baked goods auction at the close of Talent Show. This year this annual event did not take place and as a result NHS has a need for another means of raising money. If anyone has an idea as to how to raise money, feel free to contact the NHS sponsors Gary Way or Pam Castillo.



Reminiscing at Rapid City School

The year was 1890. We were a class of twelve students ready for school. The big school bell in the tower rang and we all lined up and filed into the classroom, got our slates out and got ready to begin school. There wasn't much heat in the room yet on that snowy day, so we all stayed bundled up in our coats hoping that the room would warm up quickly so that we wouldn't freeze. This is how the lower grades class at Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist School began their morning one day in May.

On May 8, 2019, the lower grades classroom students embarked on a field trip to the Keystone Historical Society Museum in Keystone, South Dakota. The museum is housed in an old two-story schoolhouse that was opened in 1890. They have left the second story set up pretty much how it was during that time period with two classrooms and two cloak rooms. Each spring the museum opens these classrooms for field trips. They even have bonnets and pinnyfors for the girls to wear and newsboys' caps and suspenders for the boys to wear. Since the weather has been crazy here in the Rapid City area, we had snow and cold weather that day. They have kept the authenticity of the time period at the museum and have not installed central heat, so we only had space heaters to warm the classroom, it was still pretty cold when we entered the room so we all put our costumes on over our winter coats. It was funny to see the students wearing their bonnets, hats, and suspenders over their winter coats and hoods. We had two "teachers" for the morning, and they ran the classroom just like the teacher would have back in 1890. We had lessons in spelling, math, reading, history and art.

While we were going along, the teachers told about how a multi-grade classroom works. I had to chuckle to myself because the teachers didn't know that a multi-grade classroom is the only school experience that some of my students have. Once we were done with our lessons, the teachers took us around to the other parts of the museum. We got to see all different kinds of artifacts from the late 1800s and early 1900s. They have a small corner where we learned about Carrie Ingalls Swanzey and her time that she spent in Keystone. They also have the original one-room schoolhouse from Keystone on the museum grounds there. We took some time to crowd in and see how it would be to have to squeeze about twenty people into that small space. It made me thankful for my nice big, bright classroom at our school.

I think the students really enjoyed this experience. They all seemed to learn about a lot of things and even asked if we could go back again next year.





Article and photos by Jamie Howell

Volunteering Continues



Connie Aman of the Lehr Adventist Church tells of volunteering at the Wishek Food Pantry every month for over three years and of taking different people to chemotherapy or radiation treatments as necessary.

Eva Rettig (from ND Living magazine)

With eight young children, living in rural North Dakota, I did not have a great deal of free time. However, from a young age, my siblings and I were taught to do what we could for others, and for the church. My husband, Tom, and I wanted to instill the same value in our children, so I volunteered for the position to clean the church. At least once a month, I would gather the buckets, mops, cleaning supplies, and the kids, and we would drive to the church for a day of cleaning.

One year, it rained for three straight days and nights, right before one of the most important Sundays of the year, Easter Sunday. I knew there was no possible way to drive the dirt roads leading to the church without getting stuck in the mud. With mops and buckets in hand, my oldest daughters and I struck out on foot for a three-mile trek to clean the church. We polished the altar and pews, and scrubbed and waxed the floors. The church was spotless.

The next morning, the rain let up and the sun made a grand appearance. We were eager to get to the church on time. It was worth the blisters on my knees, for the thrill of seeing the surprised looks on the parishioners' faces when they walked through the front door of the country church and saw that they would worship, that Easter Sunday, in a shiny, clean church. It was a glorious day.

Beaver Lake Services



Members of the Edgeley, Kulm and Lehr Adventist churches, along with friends, met at Beaver Lake for the annual district outdoor church service. The day was forecast for unseasonably hot weather, so many dressed accordingly. Dakotans are nothing if not prepared and their preparation was tested Sabbath, June 29, 2019. Although not the 102 degrees of 1980 or the 56 degrees of 1943, the warm beginning of the service was interrupted by high winds, a major temperature drop and tornado warnings by the end of the day.

Mindy Shumaucher led the morning song service, accompanied by her aunt Jolene Engelhart. Connie Teske read the mission story and the Sabbath School lesson was taught by Pastor Bob Forbes II. In the midst of all this the weather took a drastic change for the worse. Jackets and blankets were gathered from cars and as the rain blew in from the open side of the shelter, people moved from their camp chairs to under the shelter. James Cook read the scriptures for church and

Pastor Neil Biloff had a shortened sermon as the wind whipped the pages of his Bible and notes making them hard to contain. After a wonderful meal, the afternoon program was cancelled as people scattered towards home.



Article and photos by Jacquie Biloff

Spearfish Church Has Baptisms

Today, perhaps as never before in Christian history, people are talking and writing about "end times" and "the second coming of Jesus Christ." Spearfish Seventh-day Adventist Church wanted to reach out to their community to help them understand why this is such an important time in this world's history. The church invited Donovan Kack, Dakota Conference evangelist, to have an evangelistic series to help answer the community's questions and to spread the gospel message.

Pastor Kack's *Revelation's Call* series started April 26, 2019 with meetings held nightly Friday through Tuesday until May 25. Many were blessed by attending this seminar and the Spearfish church had eight baptisms as a result of the series. Revelation is a difficult book to understand, but attendees were able to learn a little bit more about the end times and the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Article by Theresa Curren; Photo by Charles O'Hare



Music Program and Teacher Dedication

The Turtle Lake-Mandan District would like to invite you to an outdoor worship service August 10, 2019 at Fort Mandan, Fahlgren Park, Washburn, ND. It is located two miles west of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center on McLean Country Highway 17. Watch for signs. Sabbath School starts at 10 a.m., Worship Service at 11:05 followed by a fellowship dinner. Paper plates, cups, napkins and plastic ware will be provided. Bring your own chairs. Music program and teacher dedication



will begin at 1:45 p.m.

Questions? Roger Boyko - 701.448.2884 or Leslie Soules - 701.319.8628

July 11 Dispatch Photo

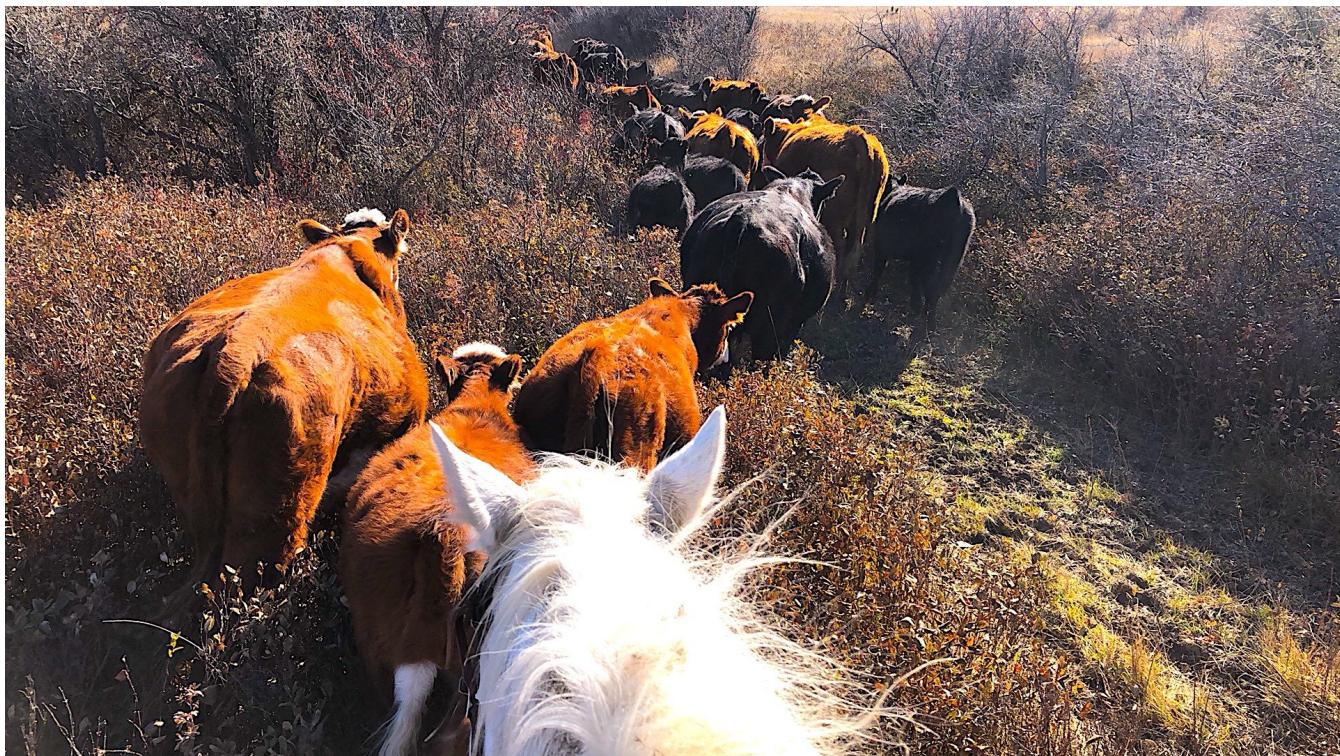


Photo by Colton Roffler of Grassy Butte, ND

Dispatch Mission: To build a climate of encouragement and blessing through the sharing of witnessing and evangelism activities. If you have news to share or would like to be added to the **Dakota Dispatch** mailing list, please email Jacquie Biloff at jbiloff@icloud.com. Bison Georgia

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