

Covenant churches will celebrate together

By MARY LOU OLSON
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The three area Evangelical Covenant churches will hold a combined anniversary celebration on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 25 and 26, in Oberlin.

The events will begin with a catered dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by a worship service, on Saturday at The Gateway. Morning worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday will be followed by a potluck dinner, also at The Gateway. Reservations for the meal on Saturday should be made by this Sunday at the churches.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Herndon Covenant Church, the 120th for Lund Covenant Church and 60 years for the Oberlin Covenant Church, making more than 300 combined years of ministry in northwest Kansas.

Gary Walter, president of the Evangelical Covenant Church; Midwest Conference Superintendent Tammy Swanson-Draheim; and Associate Superintendent Rick Mylander plan to attend.

Pastor Keith Reuther serves the Herndon congregation; Roy Matthewson, Lund; and Chris and Sharon Nelson, Oberlin. The Herndon church will also hold a weekend celebration on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 20 and 21.

LUND CHURCH

Pioneer immigrants from Sweden began homesteading the virgin prairies of Kansas in the Lund area southwest of Oberlin as early as 1880. As they moved to establish homesteads, cottage prayer meetings and informal worship services were held in homes.

The Lund Post Office was started across the road, west of the church, in 1892 and operated until 1907. The man who started the post office named the area Lund because many of the settlers came from that area of Sweden.

The first prayer meeting recorded was in 1885 and was held in the "Per" Noren home. Among those present were the O.P. Forsman and Wallin families. The Swedish language was spoken in church until 1927 or 1928. Since then, all services have been in English.

On Nov. 12, 1892, the Swedish Mission Friends Church was organized in the Lund area. On April 12, 1900, the congregation voted to join the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant Church of America. During the pastorate of the Rev. J.O. Lonnquist (1945-49), the name was changed to Lund Covenant Church.

The first sod church was built in 1880 by volunteer labor. The first frame structure was constructed in 1898-99 and enlarged in 1907. The present building was started in September 1941 and two months later, the 50th anniversary of the church was observed in the basement.

Charter members were Sustava Noren, and the following couples:



A LARGE CONGREGATION gathered outside the Lund Covenant Church at the 90th anniversary celebration in 1982.

the Olaf Forsmans, John Salls, Anton Lundquists, John A. Johnsons, Nels Wicklunds, Erlan Rydquists, Svante V. Marcusons, Peter Thorens, Otto Magnusons, Carl Nelsons, Peter Nelsons, Erick Westvalls, Lars Johnsons and Nelson Andersons.

Pastors who have served Lund include J.P. Pohlhammar, Christian Nygren, A. Miller, Elof Carlson, Oscar Wilner, Fred Eastburg, F.O. Abraham, August Peterson, Wilbert Helberg, Arvid Nygren, Gunnar Magnuson, Theodore Kronberg, John Lonnquist, Algot Sporrang, Carl Isaacson, William Fredrickson, James Carmon, Monty Newton, Mark Mosher, Scott Stinson, Kenneth Busse, Michael Cheek, Tom Smith, Doug Mason and Mr. Matthewson.

Brad Marcuson is chairman of the church.

OBERLIN CHURCH

The Oberlin Covenant Church was organized on Oct. 28, 1952, when a group met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Wenger in Oberlin with the conference superintendent, the Rev. Gottfred Anderson. A total of 29 people became charter members.

The group met in homes, then later in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, with Missionary Matilda Erikson serving as minister. The Rev. Clarence Swanson became the first permanent pastor on June 1, 1954. The group decided to build a church at 810 W. Cedar in Oberlin and a groundbreaking service was held Sept. 5, 1954. The church was dedicated on Sunday, Feb. 5, 1956. The church was expanded in 1992, adding classroom space, and a new kitchen, fellowship hall and pastor's study.

Other pastors have included Fred Lawson, Jerome Ahlstedt, Oscar Molinder (interim), Robert Huse, Wayne Cook, Tom Garretson (in-

terim), Jim Stewart, Earl Johnson, Rick Johnson, Tom Smith (interim), Craig Larson, Heidi Wiebe and the Nelsons.

Esther (Olson) Carlson, 93, and her daughter, Joyce (Carlson) Hartzog, are the only living charter members, and both plan to attend the anniversary observance.

Other charter members, most of whom formerly attended the Lund or Herndon Covenant Churches, included: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Anderson, Mabel Anderson, Edith Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Elder Carlson, Ray Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lofdahl, Vergie Nygren, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Evald Rydquist, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Wenger, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene

Rydquist, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rydquist, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Waldo, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Wenger, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Wenger and Eulala Lofdahl Anderson.

Tina Perrin is the chairman of the Oberlin church.

HERNDON COVENANT

In the fall of 1887, 18 Christian friends met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O.A. Sandberg in Rawlins County southwest of Herndon for the purpose of organizing a church.

Charter members, besides the Sandbergs, were Emma and Olaf Erickson, Axel (Harry) Larson, Victor Larson, Mr. and Mrs. August Hedin, Mr. and Mrs. Jon Monson, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Ericson,

Amanda Clintberg, Leonard Holmdahl, Hedda Gustafson, Mrs. Sophia Lundberg, Daniel Forsgren and Mons Johnson. The group chose the name, "Bethlehem Mission Church."

The group continued to meet in homes for two years, and during that time pastors from the eastern part of Kansas visited occasionally.

In 1889, the congregation decided to build a sod church west of the present Herndon Covenant Cemetery. The address was Thornton, a post office that was later abandoned.

A.M. Hoaglund was the first chairman of the church, O.W. Erickson the first secretary and L.V. Larson, treasurer. In 1901, a new



K. Reuther



Matthewson



Chris Nelson



S. Nelson

frame structure was built at the present location, two miles south and one-half west of the original site, at a cost of \$568. This building is still being used, but was remodeled and enlarged several times before the former Laing School building was purchased in 1987 and added to the church.

Pastors who have served the church include Mons Johnson, Rev. Almblad, Elof Carlson, Knute Carlson, Adolph Gandin, C.O.L. Nelson, Fred Eastburg, Rev. Abraham, Rev. Veery, August Peterson, Sheldon Anderson, Rev. Swenson, Roddy North, W. Carpenter, Henry Hoffman, Hjalmer Swanson, Fred Granstrom, Loren Carlson, Walter Nelson, Eugene Layne, Tom Garretson, Noel Cisneros and Mr. Reuther.

Chris Schmidt is the present chairman.

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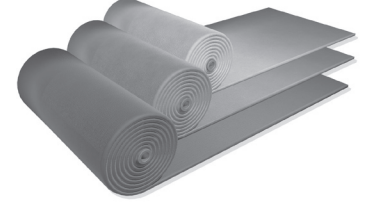
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2. Employees of sponsoring firms are not eligible at their place of business. Employees of *The Oberlin Herald* and their immediate family are not eligible.

3. The prize awarded during \$1,000 Shopping Spree promotion will be in the form of scrip. Scrip will be good for merchandise only, **no cash**, at participating sponsors.

4. The deadline for entries is 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012. Boxes will be withdrawn at that time.

5. The \$1,000 Shopping Spree prize drawing will be held on **Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012, at the Back to School Social in the Oberlin City Park about 6:30 p.m.**

Must be present to win. Date of drawing is subject to change without notice. In case of bad weather, the drawing may be held in the high school cafeteria or an alternate location. One Grand Prize \$1,000 Shopping Spree Winner will be awarded.

6. Winner will have from Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012, through Friday, Aug. 31, 2012, to spend the \$1,000 in scrip at participating businesses.

The winner will notify *The Oberlin Herald* when spending the Grand Prize money and allow a photographer to accompany them when making their purchases. Winner agrees that photos of winner and winner's family and a description of the shopping spree may be used for promotional purposes without limit.

Winner agrees to release *The Oberlin Herald*, sponsoring merchants and others associated with this promotion from any and all liability.

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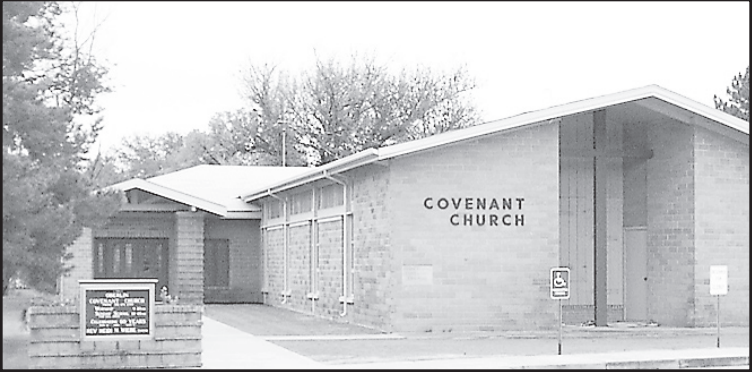


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