

The New

MANFRED NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 2

June 2006

A 35-Year Legacy of Ministry

Pastor John M. Langseth

Serving Four Congregations 1908–1943

Bethania Lutheran Church, Wellsburg
East Vang Lutheran Church, North of Fessenden
Stavanger Lutheran Church, Northeast of Cathay
Vang Lutheran Church, Manfred

A Celebration in Manfred

Sunday, July 2, 2006

9:45 a.m. Choir practice for all who wish to participate.
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
12:00 Noon Catered lunch.
1:30 p.m. Program. Followed by fellowship in the Vang Church basement and open house of the Manfred Heritage Museum.

Worship Service and Program will be held at Vang Lutheran Church

Warm Greetings

Warm greetings to this issue of the Manfred News featuring the history and ministry of Pastor J. M. Langseth and family. On July 2, 2006, one of the churches in Pastor Langseth parish Vang Lutheran Church building will celebrate 100 years since this edifice was constructed.

To My Father

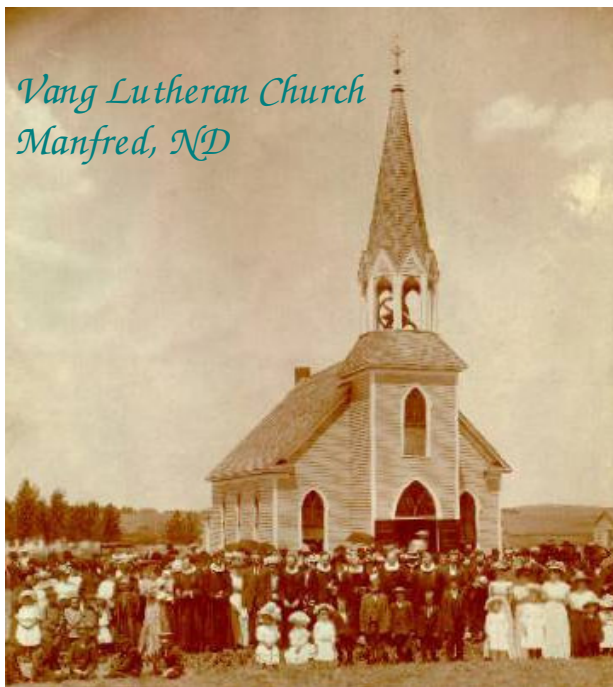
Over the span of time I've seen,
As the years go rolling by,
I think of you Dad and all you've done,
For that boy of yours called I.

When you sit and think as I do now,
Of the trials and times you had,
It's been hard to realize and think,
Of the patience you've carried it's said.

I'm happy to have the chance to say,
That I'm proud of you Dad that's true,
The best of wishes for every day,
As the Captain of the crew.

I hope I can carry my head as high,
And stay in your footsteps too,
For it the end it's nice to know,
That I've followed a man like you.

*Written by Joel Langseth for his father
Pastor John M. Langseth*



*Vang Lutheran Church
Manfred, ND*

← The Vang Lutheran Church edifice was dedicated on June 26, 1910
J. M. Langseth, pastor

↓ Confirmation Class of 1909
Photo below taken inside Vang Lutheran
Left back: Gerhard Gullickson, Ernest Braaten, Conrad Hedahl, Pastor Langseth, Emil Gilbertson, Rudolph Shefveld, Carl Hovey
Left front: Martha Shefveld, Esther Clauson, Alma Haugen, Clara Ranum, Jennie Nordtorp

Photo at bottom taken in front of Vang
Confirmands pictured on each side of Pastor Langseth, together with congregation



← Confirmation Class of 1940

Back left:

Richard Rogness, Peter O. Anderson, Pastor Langseth, Ordean Gladheim, Morris Ravnaas, Florence Bendickson, Marian Flick

Front left:

Lowell Peterson, Wilbur Peterson, Frank Mattis, Jr., Duane Ongstad



J. M. Langseth



The New Manfred News

Join Hands Day Work Day in Manfred
Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. was awarded a \$250 grant from Thrivent Financial to help with a Join Hands Day event held May 6. This is the first time for the Wells County area that a Join Hands Day event was held on Join Hands Day, designated as May 6. Join Hands Day is a national volunteer day bringing youths and adults together to improve communities, build lasting relationships and have some fun. Join Hands Day in Manfred served as a clean-up day, thus making a visible improvement to this village. Participants included: Jake Anderson, Wesley and Esther Boese, Pam Norstedt, Peter and Rose Anderson, Betty Melby, Larry Johnson, Verna Bowers, Herbert Ongstad, Reiner and Ruth Widiger, Janine Schmitz, Monica and Maria Schmitz and Wanda Melchert.

In Tribute of Myrtle Rogness
Myrtle Rogness taught school for 40 years, 26 of which were with the Manfred School. She was an excellent teacher, having a profound influence on her students and co-workers and held in high regard by them, as well as the church and community. The Manfred Heritage Museum is blessed to have her Manfred School albums which she gave to the museum. It is also a great honor that her home in Manfred has become the headquarters of the Manfred Heritage Museum. When she married Sam Rogness in 1948, they settled in this home and she remained there until 1981 when she moved to Harvey. In 2000, MHP, Inc. began restoring her home. Myrtle had great interest in watching the progress of its transformation, having opportunity to participate in its dedication into the Manfred Heritage Museum in 2003. Now restoration is nearly completed, and Myrtle's home has a bright future in greeting visitors and helping to share Manfred's interesting historic story.

With the continuing help of supporters, Manfred is growing to ward its exciting mission to help tell the story of rural North Dakota. In grateful thanks!

General Fund

Contributions to the General Fund are vital for the current work of MHP, Inc. The projects are advancing with this help!

Clifford and Diane Alvshere
in memory of Clarence Alvshere
Donald A. Anderson
Verna Bowers in memory of Clifton Albrecht
Lowell and Muriel Boyum
Gary and Junell Erickson
Derald and Ruth Hoover
Al and Norma Holwegner in memory of Myrtle
Ongstad Solberg, Bertha Ostrem Satterlee,
Myrtle Melby Sailer, and Myrtle Rogness
John and Mary Hovey
Fred Lindbo
Ed and Marlys Piatz
Phillip and Sharon Reberge
Willajean Rogelstad
Given in memory of Myrtle Rogness
Pete and Rose Anderson
Verna Bowers
Laverne Johnson
Lone Tree Retired Teachers
Elsie Martinson and family
Ed and Marlys Piatz
Karen Ravnaas

Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Ruth and Reiner Widiger
in memory of Clifton Albrecht
Lucille Wiese in memory of Marvin Hirsch

Designated Gifts

*Current ideas for designated gifts
could be for the Vang Church Exhibit*

Donna Comeliusen in memory of
Adolph Shirley for the Vang Church Exhibit

Endowment Fund

An everlasting fund providing for the future

Given in memory of Myrtle Rogness
Elsie Martinson and family
Richard and Wanda Melchert
Audrey Solheim

Grant

State Historical Society Matching Grant of
\$5,000 through funding from the ND Legislature
to help with MHP, Inc.'s first museum exhibit

In Memory

Irene Frovig Koenig
March 8, 1920 – September 16, 2005

Myrtle Rogness
May 30, 1911 - February 28, 2006

Clifton Albrecht
April 8, 1930 – April 5, 2006

Manfred Newsletter Subscriptions

Thank you for your newsletter subscriptions!
34 new or renewing subscriptions
have been received since the last issue!
You may wish to give gift subscriptions.

The New Manfred News

A quarterly newsletter published by
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P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341.

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News and history items are most welcome!

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Historian: Audrey Solheim, administrator@manfrednd.org

Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)

'A Settler's Village Celebrating Rural America'
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded
July 25, 2000. Its mission is to compile and share
the history of Manfred, North Dakota and its
traditional trade area, and to encourage community
pride and restoration of its historic structures.
Website: www.manfrednd.org

Manfred Heritage Museum

An educational entity of MHP, Inc. and
of the Manfred community founded July 26, 2003.
Its purpose is to provide present and future
generations the opportunity to learn about important
contributions that rural places such as Manfred
have given to North Dakota and to America.

Museum Hours

May through September: Wed-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-6
Summer 701-547-2564
Winter 701-547-3123, 701-324-2091

The success of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. is made possible through:

1. Volunteers

Four Divisions have been established where people
are invited to volunteer in their areas of interest:

- *CORPORATE – Compiling the history, Grant writing
- *MUSEUM – Cataloging the collections
- *BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – Care of Manfred
- *EDUCATION – Developing exhibits and programs

2. Financial Contributions

Financial contributions are vital to the work of
MHP, Inc. Ideas for giving include -

- *GENERAL FUND for current expenses
 - *DESIGNATED GIFT
 - *ENDOWMENT FUND for Manfred's future
- Federal Tax ID#45-0458460
State of ND Solicitation #4111

3. Historical Contributions

At the core of the projects is the history of Manfred
and its traditional trade area. Historical materials are
welcome to help tell Manfred's story such as:

- *ARTIFACTS – Historical items
- *ARCHIVAL MATERIALS – Histories, Documents
- *GENEALOGIES – and other historic materials

Board of Directors

Audrey Solheim, President
Laverne Johnson, Vice President
Esther Boese, Secretary
Ruth Widiger, Treasurer
Wanda Melchert, Museum Director
Rose Anderson, Pete Anderson,
Verna Bowers, Herbert Ongstad

MHP, Inc. is a member of the Harvey Chamber of
Commerce and Preservation North Dakota;
partners with the Wells County Historical Society,
State Historical Society of North Dakota and other
historical groups; and devoted to education and the
well being of rural America.

*Parents of John M. Langseth
Mikkell M and Lovise Langseth*



Born in Espå, Hedemarken, Norway, John's father, Mikkell Mikkelson Langseth, was born March 4, 1828, the fifth of seven children, and his mother, Lovise Larsdatter Råvngen, born Feb. 28, 1836.

Mikkell and Lovise farmed a little, but did not own their own farm. Mikkell obtained most of his income from work as an itinerant shoemaker. The family went from farm to farm staying there while Mikkell made shoes for everyone, and then they moved onto the next farm. He also worked on harnesses.

The last place they lived before coming to the USA was on the Torve farm in Espå overlooking Lake Mjøsa. It was here that Mikkell took the name Langseth, (other variations Longset or Langset) for a long, narrow, slanted hill located on this farm, known as "Langseth" meaning a long piece of land.

Mikkell and Lovise's nine children were all born at Espå:

1. **Lina** 1858-1906. Buried at Grove Lake Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN.
2. **Anton Martin** 1859-1950. Married in 1891 to Martha Skofstad 1865-1964. 7 children. Buried at Manre Cemetery, Fosston, MN.
3. **Peter Ludvig** 1862-1935. Married in 1888 to Marie Tansem 1869-1948. 6 children. Buried at Grove Lake Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN.
4. **Pauline** 1865-1946. Married Theodore Elton 1855-1936. 5 children. Buried at North Immanuel Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN.
5. **John** 1867-1870 Buried at Tangen Church Cemetery, Hedemarken, Norway.
6. **Johan (John)** 1871-1955. Married Anna Clauson 1875-1941. 5 children. Buried at Grove Lake Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN.
7. **Mikkell (Mike)** 1873-1939. Purchased parent's farm in Tansem Twp, Clay Cty, MN. Buried at Grove Lake Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN.
8. **Martinus** 1876-1912. Buried at Grove Lake Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN
9. **Lars** 1879-1943. Married Elisa Lønnbakken 1887-1980. 1 child. Buried at Grove Lake Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN.

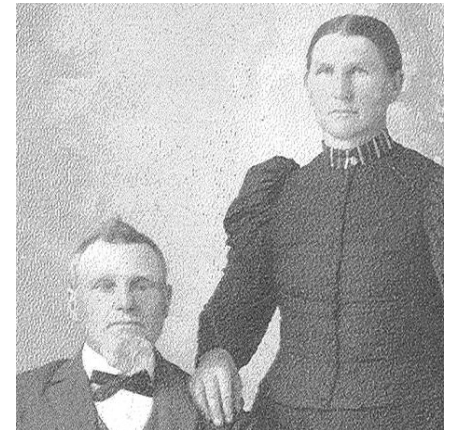
*John M. and Anna Langseth
Family History*



John M. and Anna Langseth

This history is in honor of the ministry of
Pastor J. M. and Anna Langseth

*Parents of Anna Clauson Langseth
Ole and Maren Clauson*



Born in Høland, Akershus, Norway, Anna's father, Ole Klauson (spelled Clauson in America), was born April 9, 1842, third of nine children, and her mother, Maren Gunhild Anderson, was born June 19, 1855.

Ole's father Klaus Anderson and Maren's father Andreas Anderson were brothers, the sons of Anders. Ole and Maren were, therefore, first cousins. Ole used Clauson (for Klaus' son) as his surname, Maren used Anderson (adapted from Andreas' datter meaning daughter.)

Thirteen children were born to Ole and Maren in the USA. Only three of the thirteen reached adulthood. The children of Ole and Maren were:

1. Stillborn.
2. **Ida** Bom 1874. Died young.
3. **Anna** 1875-1941 Married Johan (John) Langseth 1871-1955. 5 children. Buried at Grove Lake Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN.
The 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th children all miscarried or stillborn.
9. **Morgan** 1885-1983. Married Marie Olava (Olive) Swenson. 14 children.
10. **Olava** 1888-1985. Married Liner H. Lyngholm. 4 children. Died in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.
11. **Call (Karl)** 1891-1891. Died in infancy.
12. **Tyler (Taylor)** 1892-1910. Died at age 18.
13. **Esther** 1894-1909. Died at age 15.

Birth places in Norway

John, his parents and siblings were born at Espå, Hedemarken Norway →

Anna's parents were born at Høland, Akershus, Norway ←



Map detail of
Espå, Hedemarken



Map detail of
Høland, Akershus

The Langseths

Settling in America

Economic conditions were not favorable in Norway. Mikkell and Lovise had a large family to feed and little money. In 1878, two of their sons, Anton Martin and Peter Ludvig, decided to go and take a look at the USA and “seek their fortune.” Known as Martin and Ludvig respectively in the USA, they initially stayed with their aunt, Berte Mellum, in Center Grove, Otter Tail County, MN and discovered that land was available and things looked better for the family in Minnesota than back in Norway. Center Grove is no longer on the map, but was located between Pelican Rapids and Rothsay, MN. Martin and Ludvig found jobs, worked hard, saved their money, and in 1882 went back to Norway and brought over the entire family.

Coming with Martin and Ludvig to the USA in 1882 were their parents Mikkell and Lovise Langseth and their six siblings Lina, Pauline, Johan (John), Mikkell (Mike), Martinus, and Lars. At first, the family stayed with Mikkell’s sister, Berte, at Center Grove. However, the family was interested in obtaining land available through homesteading. Mikkell and Lovise actually bought land from the railroad. At that time, the U.S. government had given large grants of land to the railroads to encourage them to build railroads to “open up” the western United States. The railroads turned around and sold this land inexpensively to new immigrants. Mikkell and Lovise’s farm was on the eastern edge of Tansem Township, Clay County, MN. Sometimes their address is given as Barnesville, MN, but most often as Pelican Rapids, MN.

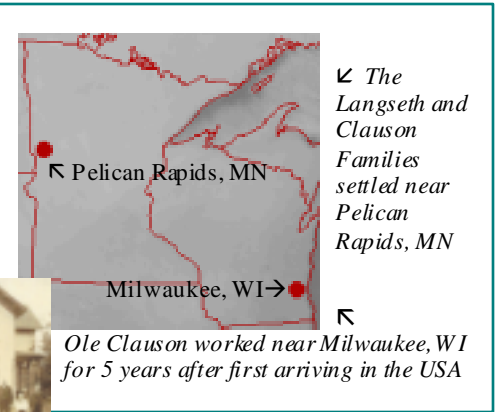
Over time, several of Mikkell and Lovise’s children settled on land as well: Ludvig settled on the western edge of Scambler Township, Otter Tail County, MN about one mile from Mikkell and Lovise’s farm. Much of the family activity centered on these two farms. Martin settled in Polk County, near Fosston, MN. Pauline settled in Norwegian Grove Township, Otter Tail County, MN. Mike homesteaded near Balfour, ND and later purchased the farm of his parents in Tansem Township, Clay County, MN. Lars lived at Climax, Saskatchewan, Canada for nine years and eventually settled on the home farm in Tansem Township, Clay County, MN, taking it over from his brother Mike. Their son, John, went into the ministry. Mikkell died December 10, 1910 in Pelican Rapids and Lovise died July 13, 1907, and both are buried at Grove Lake Lutheran Cemetery.



From left: Ole and Maren Clauson Family in front of their home 1898
Olava, Anna, Maren’s mother Ingeborg Anderson, Esther, Maren, Ole, Tyler, and Morgan



Full view of Clauson home



The Clausons

Ole Clauson came to the USA in 1866, when he was 24 years old. He went first to Wisconsin, where he worked for a time on a farm near Milwaukee. In 1871, Ole decided to “seek his fortune.” His first stop was St. Cloud, MN, where he bought an ox cart and some staple supplies. He drove northwest from St. Cloud on the Red River Trail to Scambler Township, north and west of what is now Pelican Rapids, MN. There he found forests of oak, maples, birch, elm, and pine to the north and east, and to the west was high prairie land. Ole had done timberwork in Norway, so this region appealed to him.

Ole built a simple cabin on the top of a hill, where the South Grove Lake Cemetery is now located. Besides building a cabin, Ole cut trees, cleared some land, planted some crops and qualified to claim a quarter section (160 acres) of land according to the Homestead Act of 1862. In addition, he bought more land for 50 cents per acre. Ole lived in this cabin until his brother, Anton, came from Norway, and then gave it to Anton and his wife Helene. Ole built a second cabin just southwest of where Grove Lake Church now stands, about ½ mile northwest of his first cabin. When Ole and Maren Anderson married on June 12, 1873, they settled in the third cabin he built. In addition to some land and a cabin, Ole also owned a team of oxen, a wagon, and had 50 cents in his pocket. Besides farming, Ole earned extra money by hauling supplies for the builders of the Great Northern Railroad tracks.

Maren came to the USA in 1867 at age 12 with her parents, Andreas Kalveness Anderson and his wife Ingeborg Nielsdatter Anderson, her sister Anna, and three brothers, Anton, Ole, and Theodore. Another child died on the voyage and was buried at sea. After staying in the Red Wing, MN area 1867-1871, the family moved to Scambler Township when Maren was 16 years old. In 1873 at the age of 18, she married, Ole Clauson. By 1888, Ole and Maren had saved enough money to build a large, brick house on the farm. Ole died on Valentine’s Day, February 14, 1901, at the age of 58. Maren died on September 4, 1930, at the age of 75. Both are buried at the Grove Lake Lutheran Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN.

John M. and Anna Langseth



John and Anna Langseth with their daughter Agnes



John and Anna Langseth home in Manfred which served as the Vang Lutheran Church parsonage



From left: John and Anna Langseth Family c1923
Ernest, John, Agnes, Morris, Anna, Joel, Alvin



← John with
Grandson David, 1941

John and Anna Langseth
↓ 1938



Pastor J. M. Langseth and family occupy an integral place in Manfred's history, having shared in the community's many joys and sorrows and having shared God's Word for 35 years which radiates through to present generations.

Johan (John) Mikkelsen Langseth was born May 18, 1871 in Espå, Hedemarken, Norway, the sixth of nine children, to Mikkell Mikkelsen Langseth and Lovise Lardatter Råvengen. Anna Clauson was born November 13, 1875 near Pelican Rapids, MN, the third of thirteen children, to Ole Clauson (Klauson) and Maren Gunhild Anderson. She was confirmed on December 21, 1890 at Grove Lake Lutheran Church, Pelican Rapids, MN.

In 1882 when he was eleven years old, John moved with his family from Norway to the U.S.A. settling in Tansem Township, Clay County, MN near Pelican Rapids, MN. He had received his first year of Confirmation study at Tangen Church in Norway before the family moved. The second year of Confirmation study took place in the USA at the Grove Lake Lutheran Church, and in 1883, he was confirmed there. His grandson, David Langseth, relates of John, "On his Confirmation Day, the family got dressed up, the horses were harnessed, the wagon was ready, and they were waiting for John to get into the wagon. He then told his father Mikkell, 'Today, I'm going to walk to church. I'd like to think things over.'"

And indeed, he was thinking things over. In 1897, John began his study in higher education at Concordia Academy, Moorhead, MN and continued until 1900. In 1900, he served as a school teacher in Winger Township, Polk County, MN. That fall, he began classes at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN finishing in 1902. He then attended the United Norwegian Lutheran Church Seminary, St. Paul, MN (now Luther Theological Seminary) for seminary training. One year later on September 13, 1903, he married Anna Clauson. He graduated from seminary in 1905, with a Certificate of Theology.

His first pastorate included two rural congregations near Fosston, MN, serving there 1905-1907. John and Anna's first child, Agnes, was born January 19, 1906. To that point, all of John's training had been in the Norwegian language, but he found that in his pastoral work, he needed to be more fluent in English. So, during 1907-1908 he studied English at the Lutheran School of Theology, in Maywood, Illinois near Chicago. John and Anna's second child, Joel, was born May 1, 1908 at Pelican Rapids, MN.

After the many moves during their early years of marriage, John and Anna were finally able to settle down in Manfred, ND with their young children of 2½ years old and a new baby in the Vang Church parsonage, which had been built only five years earlier. So it was on July 19, 1908, Pastor J.M. Langseth began serving the four congregations of Vang, East Vang, Stavanger, and Bethania.

A son Ernest was born December 15, 1911, and a son Alvin on July 31, 1913. Anna then suffered a miscarriage. The family had received a load of grain for their livestock. Anna was working quite hard to unload the grain and in the process suffered the miscarriage. The baby was buried near a tree north of the house. Their last child Morris was born on October 30, 1917. Sadly, Morris died in 1924 when he was only 6 years old, and Agnes died in 1938 soon after her marriage. Anna died February 28, 1941.

In 1943, John retired from full time ministry and moved to Pelican Rapids. During 1945, he served temporary calls at Klamath Falls, OR and Mitchell, SD. In 1947, John retired permanently, and on April 19, 1955 at age 83 he died at the farm home of Ernest and Sigrid Langseth in Minnesota. John and Anna are both buried at Grove Lake Church Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN.

Children of John M. and Anna Langseth

Upon arriving in Manfred in 1908, the Langseths easily embraced Manfred as their hometown fully active in the church, community, and school, and where their children Agnes, Joel, Ernest, and Alvin grew up. Sadly, their youngest son, Morris, died January 5, 1924 at age 6 from sarcosis of the jaw. He is buried at Grove Lake Cemetery, Pelican Rapids, MN.



John and Anna Langseth Family at the Vang Church parsonage Early 1930s

From left: John, Joel, Agnes, Alvin, Anna, Ernest

The children of
John and Anna
Langseth

1. Agnes 1906-1938
2. Joel 1908-1997
3. Ernest 1911-1993
4. Alvin 1913-1994
5. Morris 1917-1924



From left: Ernest, Alvin, Agnes, Joel

Family Stories

Two Broken Wrists

The Manfred Elementary School was right next to Vang Church. After 8th Grade, the family members attended high school in Fessenden. During the school year, John and Anna rented an apartment in Fessenden and moved some furniture for the boys. One time when bringing the furniture and boys back to Manfred after the school year, John used a flat bed truck. Joel and Ernest were sitting on chairs in the back of the truck. John started up the truck, let out the clutch to which the truck lurched forward. Joel and Ernest went sailing out the back, and each suffered a broken wrist to start out the summer.

Swimming in the James River

All the children learned to swim in the river, which they affectionately called "The Jim." These were great times with lots of games and fun. It was a great place to cool off during the hot summer weather. Ernest told of running on top of the bridge railing and diving in. John Langseth was a good swimmer, and even in his 70s would swim in Pelican Lake in Minnesota with his grandchildren.

As told to David Langseth

1. Agnes Langseth



Agnes Langseth

Agnes Louise Margaret Langseth was born January 19, 1906 at Fosston, MN. She moved with her family in 1908 to Manfred. Manfred friends who enjoyed gathering together included Winnifred Johnson, Annie Onstad, Mildred Ongstad, Bertha Ostrem, Norma Renden, Walter Nelson, and Ed Hedahl. After graduating from Fessenden, High School in 1926, she attended Concordia College, Moorhead, MN and Valley City State Teachers College. She taught in the Manfred School for two years as noted in the Sept. 10, 1931 issue of the Wells County Free Press, the Manfred News "School started Monday with Mr. Nettleton as principal and Miss Johnson and Miss Langseth in the same rooms as last year." Agnes moved to Fargo where she was employed by Herbst Department Store. She suffered from heart trouble, so when she was unable to work she would return to rest at Manfred. If she was able, she would substitute at the Manfred School, "Miss Agnes Langseth is substituting for Miss Mildred Ongstad this week." May 21, 1936 Free Press



Elmer and Agnes Vargason on their wedding day April 17, 1938 together with her parents Pastor J. M. and Anna Langseth

What a joyous day it was for Agnes when, on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1938, she married Elmer Vargason, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Vargason of Willmar, MN. The ceremony was performed by her father at Vang Lutheran in Manfred. They took their wedding trip to the west coast and afterward settled at Fargo.

On July 4th, Agnes and Elmer were in Detroit Lakes, MN to celebrate the 4th when someone carelessly threw a lighted firecracker through the window of their car, going off right near her leg. The wound would not heal and then developed gangrene. Sadly, she died October 18th at age 32. She is buried at Grove Lake Cemetery, about a mile east of where she was born. Elmer later married Marie Nelson, daughter of Albert and Rose Nelson of Manfred.



2. *Joel Langseth*

Joel Oliver Langseth, born May 1, 1908, was only a few months old when he moved with his family to Manfred. He went the first eight years of school at Manfred, graduated from Fessenden High School in 1929 and then attended Mankato Business College. Joel managed several grain elevators in North Dakota including Underwood, Dickey, Grand Forks and Barlow. He was employed with the Gamble Company in Nebraska until entering active Federal Service in the Army on February 17, 1941 as a supply clerk at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas. On October 20, 1941, he was transferred to Enlisted Reserve and then worked at Boeing in Seattle as a receiving clerk until January 21, 1942 when he was recalled to active duty and served during WW II until September 16, 1945. (See WW II article)

After WW II, Joel started working for the Gamble Company in Park River, ND. In time, he received acceptance to work for the Postal Service. Until he was assigned a post, he owned and operated a gas station in Fertile, MN for two years. Joel married Borghild (Borgie) Charlotte Samson of Park River on June 29, 1950. She was born April 23, 1908 in Hoople, ND, where she grew up, attended high school in Park River and then Mayville State Teacher's College. She taught in rural schools for eleven years in the Hoople and Park River area.

Joel and Borgie moved to St. Paul, where he worked for the U. S. Postal Service and she worked as a clerk at a hardware store. In 1954, they moved to Jamestown, ND where Borgie was a clerk at Woolworths and Joel worked as a mail clerk with the Railway Post Office (RPO) on the Northern Pacific Railroad between Jamestown, ND and Miles City, MT. On May 1, 1958, Joel and Borgie adopted Barbara Joyce Glover, who was nearly ten years old at the time. Barbara graduated from high school in 1966, and in 1968 graduated from Lutheran Bible Institute, Golden Valley, MN.



Joel and Borghild Langseth
June 29, 1950



Joel and Borghild Langseth

* As reprinted from a WW II news article *
With the 35th Infantry Division, Assembly Area Command, France, Sgt. Joel O. Langseth is enroute home from Europe with the 5-star "Santa Fe" Division, which in ten months battled across the Elbe River to within 42 miles from Berlin.

The 35th ended its occupational duties in Germany during the second week of July and moved to Camp Norfolk, one of the Assembly Area Command's 17 redeployment camps near Reims. Elements of the Division served as honor guard for President Truman when he arrived at Antwerp.

Hitting Omaha Beach, July 7th, 1944, the 35th fought the Germans from St. Lo, broke the counter-offensive at Mortain, swept across France, cracked into Germany's Saar Valley on December 12, and then whipped into Belgium and Luxembourg to wither Von Rundstedt's Ardennes bulge. Following a shift to the Vosges Mountains, the Division dashed 300 miles north through Holland to jump the Roer and Rhine Rivers, crushed the Siegfried Line defenses, and scooped up more than 30,000 PW's by V-E Day, to mark the end of more than 1600 combat miles in the ETO.

Sgt. Langseth is the son of Rev. J. M. Langseth, of Pelican Rapids, MN. He holds the following decorations: ETO Service Ribbon, Five Battle Stars, American Defense Ribbon, and a good Conduct Ribbon.



Floyd, Rachel, Joel, Borgie, Jonathan, Barbara



Floyd and Barbara Simmons Family Thanksgiving 2005

In 1968, Joel and Borgie moved to Fargo where he worked at the Fargo Post Office until retiring May 25, 1973, at which time he received an award for 27 year of service. Borgie worked as an Avon representative. Wherever they lived, Joel and Borgie were active in the church in many ways. A plaque on the library door of Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Fargo honors Borgie for her work in starting and maintaining the church's library until her death. Joel was treasurer of the Men's Club at the time of his death. Borgie died February 29, 1988 at age 79. Joel continued to live in Fargo and frequently visited friends and family in Jamestown, Manfred, Park River and Pelican Rapids. On Monday, August 4, 1997, he was hit by a car and died at age 89 from the resulting injuries. Joel and Borgie are both buried at Grove Lake Lutheran Cemetery in rural Pelican Rapids, MN.

Barbara married Floyd Simmons, Jr. in 1968. Barbara is a homemaker and Floyd is the Director of Home Office Operations for the international missions agency of the Presbyterian Church in America. They have two children, Jonathan and Rachel. Jonathan is a Critical Care Doctor at the University of Iowa Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa, with other medical responsibilities. His wife, Sheri, is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. Jonathan and Sheri have three children: Madison, McKenzie, and Matthew. Rachel is a homemaker, and home schools the children. Her husband Clark works in the family business MetaTech. Rachel and Clark have four children: Hunter, Ariana, Kailah, and Cole.

Standing from left: Clark & Rachel Stout holding Cole, Floyd and Barbara Simmons, Sheri holding Matthew and Jonathan Simmons
Sitting: Hunter, Ariana and Kailah Stout, McKenzie and Madison Simmons

3. Ernest Langseth

Ernest (Ernie) Taylor Langseth was born December 15, 1911 in Manfred, ND. He attended grade school in Manfred and high school in Fessenden graduating in 1930. He attended Concordia College, Moorhead, MN 1930-1934, earning a Bachelor's Degree with a major in history and minor in education. During college, he lettered four years on the football team, playing right guard. He was part of the Championship Teams of 1932 and 1933.

Ernest started his teaching career in September 1934, teaching high school for thirteen years in Watford City, Fessenden, Sheyenne and Kindred, ND. He taught history and other subjects as needed, coached football and other sports as needed, and served as Assistant Principal and Principal. In Kindred, he was Superintendent of Schools. While teaching in Watford City, the school board was having trouble paying its bills, including salaries. One year, the faculty received no paychecks until January.

On June 22, 1938, he married Sigrid Jevne, of Russell (now Newburg), ND. His brother, Alvin, was one of his attendants and also sang a solo. At that time, Ernest was serving as high school principal at Watford City. His wife, Sigrid, was born February 22, 1913 in Russell, the daughter of Peter (Per) and Brith Jevne. Per and Brith emigrated from Øyer, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, Per in 1890 and Brith in 1910. They were married in 1910 and homesteaded at Russell in 1910.

In 1947, the original Andreas and Ingeborg Anderson homestead in Pelican Rapids, MN was inherited by Joel, Ernest, and Alvin. Ernest bought out his brothers and farmed from 1947, until he retired in 1992. During 1947-1950 in Pelican Rapids, Ernest taught G. I. classes (also called Veterans' Agriculture, V.A.), a program for veterans returning from WW II. He also substitute taught in the high school for several years. He was active in Grove Lake Lutheran Church serving for many years on the Cemetery Board. He was active in the community in serving as president of the Otter Tail County Farm Bureau, and also headed the Scambler Township One Appeal (similar to United Way) raising funds for 23 years to benefit many organizations.

In March of 1993, his health began to decline with curious symptoms difficult to diagnose. Finally, in late August, he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease (A.L.S.), a complex neurological and muscular disorder. He died October 28, 1993 at age 81 in Pelican Rapids, Sigrid died October 3, 2003. Both are buried at Grove Lake Cemetery in rural Pelican Rapids, MN.



Ernest and Sigrid Langseth
June 22, 1938



Ernie's
first car
was a 1936
blue Ford
coupe



Ernest and Sigrid Langseth
1983



Ernie and Sigrid's children in 2003
Susan, Tom, Roberta, David



Ernest and Sigrid Langseth, together with their family,
upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Taken June 26, 1988

Front from left: Rayna Langseth, Christian Knudson, Jason Luthy, Sarah Luthy
Middle: Todd Langseth, Julie Langseth holding Michael Langseth, Roberta Knudson, Sigrid Langseth, Susan Luthy, Carol Langseth, Lizbet Langseth
Back: Tom Langseth, Luther Knudson, Anja Knudson, Paul Knudson, Mari Knudson, Ernest Langseth, Anna-Kari Langseth, David Langseth, Aili Langseth

The Children of Ernest and Sigrid Langseth

1. David is married to Carol Martinson. David retired in 2006 as a pastor serving most recently in Schaumburg, IL. Carol retired as receptionist of a retirement community in Schaumburg, IL. They have three children: Anna-Kari married Kristian Johnson, both are pastors, live in Inglewood, CA and have a daughter Hope; Lizbet married Kristian Ronning, Lizbet is a doctor and Kristian is an accountant in Chicago, IL and they have a daughter Julia; Aili recently completed a master's degree from Brandeis University in Massachusetts.

2. Roberta is married to Paul Knudson. Roberta is a registered nurse at Brookings, SD and Paul is a pastor at Watertown, SD. They have four children. Mari married David Daniels, Mari is a pediatric doctor in Edina, MN, David teaches junior high school in Forest Lake, MN and they have two children: Annika and Ella; Luther is a carpenter at St. Cloud, MN and has a daughter Kelsey; Anja married Tony Nauth, Anja works in accounting and Tony is an electrical engineer both in Bloomington, MN; Christian is a manager and sales person for Pottery Barn.

3. Thomas is married to Julie Schon. Tom farms near Pelican Rapids, MN and works in a hardware store. Julie is a teacher and school administrator in Fergus Falls, MN. They have three children: Todd is a journeyman electrician and farms near Pelican Rapids, MN; Rayna attends NDSU at Fargo, ND; Michael is a student at Universal Technical Institute at Glendale Heights, IL.

4. Susan is a junior high teacher at Eau Claire, WI. Susan has two children: Sarah has a BS degree from Amherst College in MA and is attending Bryn Mawr College in PA; Jason recently graduated from Northland College, Ashland, WI.



Alvin and Evelyn Langseth
June 6, 1939



↑ 1950
Al and Evie Langseth
and their children
Dorothy, Judy, and John.



← 1989
Al and Evie Langseth
upon the occasion of their
50th Wedding Anniversary



From left: Al and Evie's 40th Wedding Anniversary 1979
Stacey Langseth, John Langseth, Al Langseth, Cindy (John) Langseth, Evie Langseth, Archie and Julia Stephens (Evie's sister and brother-in-law), Jerry Stansberry, Judy Abbey holding Jenna, Jim Abbey holding Josh, Sydney in front of Jim, Dorothy Stansberry with son Matthew in front.



Joel and Borgie, Ernie and Sigrid, Al and Evie 1983



Together
at Manfred
1941
From left:
Joel, Alvin,
John, Ernie

Alvin (Al) Langseth was born in Manfred, ND July 31, 1913 where he grew up. He attended Manfred School for his first eight years, graduating from Fessenden High School in the Class of 1931. On the high school track team, Alvin pole vaulted and threw the javelin. For 40 years, he held the North Dakota State High School javelin record.

In 1935, Alvin graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN majoring in biology. He sang in the Concordia Concert Choir there, and had opportunity to develop his love for singing and directing choral music. The June 11, 1936 issue of the Wells County Free Press included this entry: "Alvin Langseth will offer two selections at a free concert here June 13th. Alvin Langseth of Manfred, former Fessenden High School and Concordia College tenor soloist, will appear in Fessenden on Saturday night with the Fessenden Band. He will add to the already interesting band program by presenting two vocal solos 'Take Me Back to my Boots and Saddle,' and 'Sylvia,' accompanied by the band."

Following college, Alvin moved to Dahlen, ND. In addition to teaching school, he was also appointed principal and the superintendent, and volunteered for the custodial position. Jens Quam, the school board president, had not only found Alvin a job and a place to stay, but also Alvin's future wife - his daughter. On June 6, 1939, Alvin married Evelyn (Evie) Quam who was born June 18, 1912 in Dahlen, ND.

In 1941, Al and Evie moved to the Seattle area where Al worked as a teacher, salesman, milkman, truck driver, and church choir director. Al and Evie were active church members wherever they lived, for Al in directing choirs and Evie as a choir member, Sunday school teacher and the women's organizations. During the war, Al worked in the shipyards. In 1947, he was afflicted with polio and couldn't work and at this same time Evie was expecting their third child. In time he was cured, retaining slight limitations in the use of muscles in his left arm and leg.

Even as a young child, Al was known for his beautiful, refined and powerful tenor voice, singing for many church and community functions. He won many-a music contest, and was a winner in the hearts of all who knew him with his friendly ways. His son-in-law Jim Abbey recounts: "Once in Winthrop, WA where we stopped for lunch, there was a stage not being used and before we know it Al had the entire place - bikers, locals, campers and us - singing songs like 'She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain.'"

The family gatherings, dinners, picnics, and cook outs, were always great events. David Langseth recalls of Al: "He would always lead us in singing the table grace in four-part harmony with an extended 'Amen,' where he would direct us with the imperious conducting gestures of a trained and talented musician."

In 1985, Al and Evie took a memorable trip to Norway. In the fall of 1992, Al fell and broke his hip while attending a high school football game where his grandson, Matthew Stansberry, was playing. During the long recovery, he also incurred several strokes. He died May 28, 1994 at the age of 80. Evelyn died April 1, 1999. Alvin and Evelyn are both buried at Floral Hills Cemetery, Lynnwood, WA.

The Children of Alvin and Evelyn Langseth

1. Dorothy is married to Jerry Stansberry and they live at Woodinville, WA. Dorothy and Jerry are retired teachers and have two children: Sydney is a police officer at Lynwood, WA and has a son, Tyler. Matthew lives in Seattle, WA and owns, Rain City Stone, a granite and marble business.

2. John died in 2000. He has one daughter Stacey of Monroe, WA. Stacey is a cosmetologist and has three children: Jordan, Taylor, and Kody.

3. Judy is married to Jim Abbey and they live at Brier, WA. Judy is an elementary school librarian and Jim is a signal manager for BNSF Railroad. They have two children: Joshua works for SignTech company and Jenna is currently a server and works for Brighton Sauna in Bellingham, WA. Judy, Jim, Josh, and Jenna all have the same first two initials J. M., the same initials as Judy's grandfather Johan Mikkelsen Langseth.

From the Wells County Free Press
Manfred News - Church Activities
1930

Sunday, Aug 17 Services as follows:
Bethania at 11 a.m. English.
Vang at 3 p.m. Norwegian.

The Y.P.L. of East Vang at 8 p.m.
A cordial invitation is extended.
J. M. Langseth, pastor

1932

Sunday, Ma 13, services as follows:
Bethania at 11 a.m., English.
East Vang at 3 p.m., English.
Sunday school at Vang, 10 a.m.
Y.P.L. Vang at 8 p.m.

The Ladies Aid of Vang will meet
March 15. Mrs. Olaf Anderson,
Mrs. Ingvald Ravnaas, Mrs. Albert
Nelson and Mrs. Clarence Nelson,
hostesses. A cordial invitation is
extended. J.M. Langseth, pastor

October 1936

Next Sunday services as follows:
East Vang at 11 a.m. English.
Stavanger at 3 p.m. English.
Sunday school, Vang at 10 a.m.

The Ladies Aid of Bethania will
meet on Oct. 28. The annual
business meeting of East Vang will
be held Nov. 12 in the afternoon.
A cordial invitation is extended.
J. M. Langseth, pastor

January 1937

Next Sunday services as follows:
East Vang at 11 a.m., Norwegian.
Stavanger at 2 p.m., English.
Sunday school, Bethania at 10 a.m.

The Ladies Aid of Stavanger
will meet Jan 21 with Mr. and Mrs.
Thomas Gedrose. A cordial invitation
is extended. J. M. Langseth, pastor

May 1937

Next Sunday services as follows:
Stavanger at 11 a.m., English.
East Vang at 2 p.m., English.

Ladies Aid will meet following
this service. All members serve.
Sunday school, Vang at 10 a.m.
The Y.P.L. of Vang at 8 p.m.
The Y.P.L. of Bethania at 8 p.m.

The Harvey Circuit of the
Norwegian Lutheran church will
hold its spring meeting at Vang
Church, Manfred, June 1 and 2
Opening sermon by Rev. Lund of
New Rockford. Rev. Lunde of
Fessenden will introduce the theme.
President of ND District, Rev. D.
Stoeve will be the guest speaker.
The first day, Norwegian language
will be used, the second day the
English language.

The Ladies Aid of Bethania will
meet on June 9, Mrs. E. Sannan
and Mrs. S. Hovland, hostesses.
A cordial invitation is extended.
J. M. Langseth, pastor

The Ministry of Pastor J. M. Langseth

With Pastor J. M. Langseth's coming to Wells County in 1908 at age 37, he began serving a long and faithful ministry. Sennev Whipple described in her writing, that Pastor Langseth arrived at Manfred "in a boxcar, loaded with three black buggy horses, a second hand buggy and a cord of wood for fuel. His wife and their two children, Agnes and Joel, came by coach." With the aid of his three horses and his second-hand buggy, Pastor Langseth served four congregations, namely: Vang Lutheran Church of Manfred founded only fourteen years prior in 1894; Bethania Lutheran of Wellsburg founded in 1901; Stavanger Lutheran north of Cathay in Fairville Township chartered in 1888 as Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church and changed to the name Stavanger in 1904; and East Vang Lutheran north of Fessenden which came into existence in 1902 when Vang was divided into two congregations because of the distance.

He was installed as pastor of Bethania, Vang, Stavanger and East Vang on July 19, 1908. The region he was called to serve was a busy place, exploding with tremendous energy in the building up of this newly settled region. In May just prior to the Langseth's arrival, the poles and lines of the Manfred-Fram Telephone Company had been installed, and then in August 1909 as reported in the Manfred News of the Wells County Free Press, "The Ladies Aid met at the hospitable home of Gullik Dahle. The good ladies decided to place a phone in the parsonage which will be a great convenience for both Rev. Langseth and the people.

Various changes came to the church and community over the span of Pastor Langseth's 35 years of ministry, a significant one being in language. When Pastor Langseth arrived, Norwegian was still the primary language. His son Ernest wrote, "The main language spoken was Norwegian. I recall church services were all Norse – Sunday school, Confirmation, and the whole bit. Christmas carols were even sung in Norse. I thought Bethlehem was a city in Norway." English gradually came to be used more and more, as parents were exposed to English by way of their children who were learning it in school. At a special meeting at Vang in 1918, it was determined to start using English in worship services. Of 29 worship services held in 1919, 26 were in Norwegian, 3 in English. Of 31 services in 1920, 26 were in Norwegian, 5 in English. Of 44 services, in 1921, 28 were in Norwegian and the number of English services had increased to 16. Vang member Herbert Ongstad shared that his Confirmation Class of 1926 was one of the last classes to be confirmed in Norwegian. He recalls that Pastor Langseth was very nice and sociable and gave very good sermons. Pete Anderson, in the Confirmation Class of 1940, recalls that Pastor Langseth was easy going never wanting to embarrass anyone if they had trouble answering a question. It is interesting to note that Pete's sister LoAnn and Ernest Langseth's son David were baptized in the same baptismal waters on June 22, 1940.

In 1917, Pastor Langseth bought his first Model T Ford. The roads were, however, undeveloped and he used it very little. He wore out about three teams of horses, and had Jens Renden, the blacksmith, put many new runners under his cutter sled! When he came for services at Stavanger Lutheran, he would stay with the Gedrose family and then on Monday made the drive back to Manfred with his team. If the weather was poor, he would take the train. In addition to traveling to conduct worship services, he and Mrs. Langseth would attend the very active Ladies Aid organizations for each church.

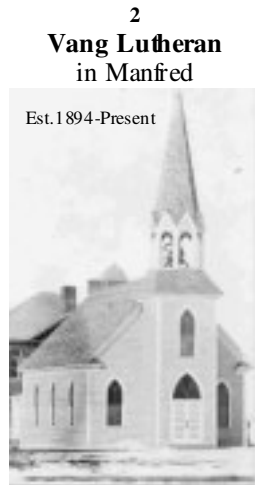
In the fall of 1928, Reverend and Mrs. Langseth were honored on their Silver Wedding Anniversary. Besides this, there were many other occasions when the respect was shown to this consecrated couple. On October 30, 1930, Rev. J. M. Langseth was honored upon the 25th anniversary of his ordination. He was so very well liked and highly respected by the parish. His wife, Anna, was also admired by all. Sennev Whipple wrote that Anna was a guiding light in the Ladies Aid serving several times as President and was superintendent of Vang Sunday School for fourteen years. She was endowed with a kindly and pleasing personality and human heartedness. The parish was saddened with her passing on February 28, 1941.

Pastor Langseth continued faithfully in the Lord's work until June 20, 1943, when he resigned because he felt that he was "getting along in years," as he said. Reluctantly his resignation was accepted. What Rev. and Mrs. Langseth did, during their long ministry for the congregations of Bethania, East Vang, Stavanger and Vang remains forever as a monument to them. Thanks be to God for the lives of John and Anna Langseth!

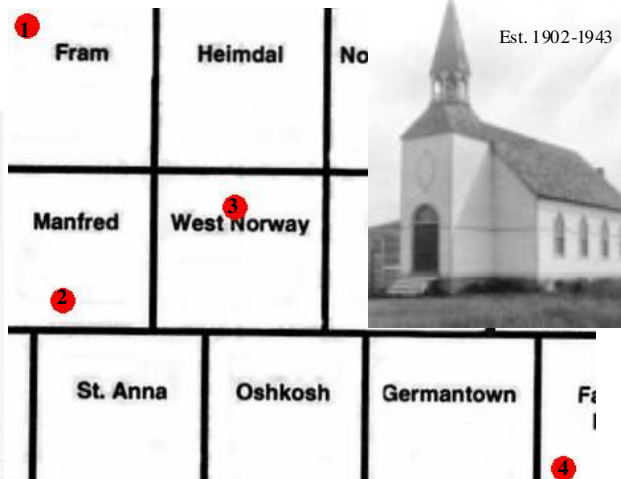
Congregations served by Pastor J. M. Langseth for 35 years, 1908-1943



1
Bethania Lutheran
in Wellsburg



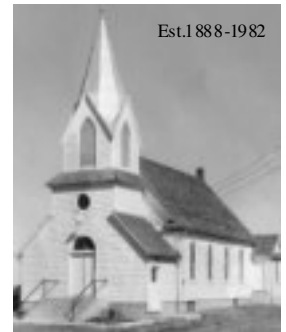
2
Vang Lutheran
in Manfred



The large region served by Pastor Langseth

3
East Vang Lutheran
6 miles north
← of Fessenden

4
Stavanger Lutheran
7 northeast of Cathay



History of East Vang Lutheran Church

This is a welcome opportunity to feature the history of one of the churches served by Pastor Langseth.

A meeting was held in the Bergrud School on March 9, 1900 to discuss the possibility of organizing and building a rural church in West Norway Township, six miles north of Fessenden. Several of the group were members of the Vang congregation at Manfred, but long distances of members to the east made it inconvenient to attend services in Manfred. After more meetings, a letter was sent to the Vang congregation at Manfred on Feb. 4, 1901 stating that they were forming a new congregation and that they wished to affiliate with Vang church and be served by Vang's pastor. On July 17, 1902 Vang congregation divided so the east part could form their own congregation but continue to be served by Vang's pastor.

That same year, the East Vang Church was built. The charter members of this congregation were: John Flatlien, Peter Larson, Emil Nelson, Ole S. Hovey, Ole Saue, G. T. Lindbo, Ole Anderson, Ole Dovre, George Georgeson, John Dahl, Hans Tangen, T. H. Olstad, Lars Olson, Nels Kjos, Tom Obeson, H. H. Haavig and John Hovland. A Ladies Aid was organized at the time the church was organized, and met in homes. These ladies helped to finance the building of the church. Later a larger basement was dug under the church for use by the Ladies Aid. This church was in danger of being burned down by prairie fires several times.

Muriel Rogelstad Delzer, a former member of East Vang, indicates that, "The last confirmation class was in 1943 when Betty Rogelstad, Russell Anderson and Leland Larson were confirmed. That same day a baby was baptized, believed to be Gordon Dovre. The church discontinued holding services in 1943, when Rev. Langseth left the Vang Church in Manfred. The last activity in the church was for the funeral of John S. Hovland in November 1947." This church was served by only three ministers: Rev. A. O. Fonkalsrud who served for a short time, followed by Rev. E. S. Eidesvik from 1902 to 1908 and Rev. John Langseth 1908-1943.

The building was sold at public auction on June 17, 1966 and moved off the site. In 1979 John Rogelstad of Heimdal and Norman Anderson of Fessenden built the foundation for the East Vang Cemetery posts. Lester Kramer of Heimdal built the corner stone at the gate of East Vang Cemetery. Although the church is gone, the cemetery across the road still stands as a reminder of a church home that had served its people on the prairies.

History Acknowledgments

Historical research of the Langseth family led by David Langseth assisted by Barbara Simmons, Judy Abbey, Dorothy Stansberry, Tom Langseth, Mike Langseth, and Kristian Ronning. The memories of Olava Clauson Lyngholm recorded through interviews by her granddaughter Margie Deutsch. Vang Church Anniversary Books. Writings of Sennev N. Whipple. *The Wells County Free Press* – Old Manfred News. Bilkart over Norge (Norway Road Map), Rand McNally Road Atlas, Wells County Atlas, *Wells County, ND 1884-1984, A Centennial Souvenir*. East Vang Lutheran Church information from Muriel Delzer. *Growing With Pride Harvey History Book*, Technical assistance by John Hovey. Additional assistance by Pete Anderson, Herbert Ongstad, Marilyn Gedrose, Donna Corneliusen, Ron Volk, Orvin Ongstad and Duane Ongstad. Audrey Solheim historian, Wanda Melchert editor.