

A Brief History . . .

Scandinavian Lutherans in Pope County began worshipping at Lake Johanna in 1865. They were served by several pastors who founded many of the rural congregations around Glenwood, including Indherred in rural Starbuck, and Barsness, rural Glenwood.

Seeing a need for a congregation in the town proper of Glenwood, a group of Norwegian immigrants met on May 5, 1880 to found the Glenwood Lutheran Church. The congregation associated with the Norwegian Synod of the Lutheran Church in the United States. The Rev. Magnus M. Koefod, pastor of Indherred Lutheran near Starbuck, was called to also serve Glenwood Lutheran as temporary pastor.

A 45'x30' church was erected on the site of the present Central Square. The congregation, incorporated under Minnesota law as the "Glenwood Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession" in 1881, used this building until 1920, when the current sanctuary was dedicated.

As the congregation continued to grow over the years, several building projects were undertaken. A Parish House with church offices, Sunday School rooms, and a chapel was added in 1952. A new parsonage was built next to the church in 1956. A modernization of the sanctuary, including adjustments to the chancel, addition of a narthex and reception area, and an elevator was undertaken in 1978 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the congregation in 1980.

The church staff also grew to meet the congregation's needs. A full time parish worker was called in 1947 to assist the pastor. In 1960, this position was changed as the growing congregation called its first assistant pastor. A paid youth director was called for the first time in the mid-1990's.

Formerly a member congregation of the American Lutheran Church, in 1988 Glenwood

Lutheran joined in the merger which formed the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Glenwood Lutheran Church is governed by a constitution that establishes the mode of governance as a council and boards system.

The Congregation Council includes of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer elected by the congregation at its annual meeting. The Council also has representative members from the different boards of the church, as well as from the Glenwood Women of the ELCA.

The pastors are members of the Congregation Council with voice but no vote. The boards of the congregation are where the work of the church is done by many volunteer leaders.

The Larger Church . . .

Glenwood Lutheran is a member of the fifth largest Christian denomination in the United States, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, consisting of 10,500 congregations. Because of its size, the ELCA is divided into 65 geographic entities called synods. We are part of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod (Region 3F of the ELCA), serving 29 counties in the southwest corner of Minnesota.

Our synod is further divided into 10 geographic conferences. Glenwood Lutheran is a member of the Glacial Ridge conference, which encompasses 24 congregations, and the Lutheran Campus Ministry at University of Minnesota-Morris, and the Glenwood Retirement Village.

There are numerous opportunities for involvement at the conference and synodical level. Work is done at both levels by committees, task forces, and work groups. Some positions are elected at either the conference or synodical level, while others are purely volunteer.

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED GLENWOOD LUTHERAN WITH YEARS OF SERVICE

Magnus M. Koefod 1880-1888 (with Indherred, rural Starbuck)

H.O. Koefod 1888-1898 (with Fron, Starbuck)

G. T. Lee 1898-1914

H. P. Ausan 1914-1917

John Linnevold 1917-1944

David J. Quill 1944-1957

John T. Spencer 1957-1967

Leif E. Evans 1960-1961 (assistant)

James L. Kragness 1961-1963 (assistant); 1968-1972

Kenneth W. Kramer 1963-1965 (assistant)

Roger E. Grow 1965-1968 (assistant); 1968-1972

Earl M. Sletten 1972 (interim)

Harold O. Ward 1972-1980 (senior pastor)

Timothy P. Kellgren 1971-1972 (assistant)

Gregory K. Garmer 1972-1975 (assistant)

Harold A. Shudlick 1976-1980 (assistant)

Bennett O. Opdahl 1976-1981 (assistant)

Otto L. Dale 1980-1987 (senior pastor)

William R. Boettner 1981-1992 (assistant)

Gilbert M. Lee 1988-1995 (senior pastor)

Marcus R. Kunz 1992 (interim associate)

Andrew D. Hermodson-Olson 1992-1999 (associate)

Daniel W. Fuelling 1995 (interim)

Marlan M. Johnson 1996 (interim)

Arthur O. Montgomery 1996-2005 (senior pastor)

Kathryn E. Rothman 1999 (interim associate)

Robert J. Lewis 2000-2004 (associate)

Randy Chrissis 2004-2021 (senior pastor)

Katherine Rood 2021 (interim)

Mark Manning 2022-2025 (senior pastor)

Krista Lee 2005 – current (associate pastor)