

## From the Spirit Lake Centennial – 1879 – 1979

Provided by Cathie Vermeys

### ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1892

In May 1892, Rev. T.F. Bowen was appointed Missionary at Estherville and Spirit Lake, giving one Sunday each month to the Spirit Lake Episcopal Church. Services were held in various buildings.

On August 7, 1894 the cornerstone was laid for the church. The Church of the Good Shepherd was consecrated June 30, 1895 and set apart for public worship by Bishop Perry. It occupied the lot on the corner of 16th Street and Hill Avenue, the site of the present Postoffice.

Due to families moving away and several deaths occurring, the church was closed in 1914. This building was moved across the street and now stands on the corner of 15th and Hill Avenue.

Episcopal Services were again held in Spirit Lake in the Spring of 1949. At a congressional meeting of 19 it was decided to accept the offer of Fred and Louise Cole for land located on 9th Street, one-half block west of Hill Avenue. Also to purchase one country schoolhouse and combine it with other resources thus a new Episcopal Church was built and consecrated July 9, 1950 and called St. Alban's.

Much credit should be given to the following who helped to get St. Alban's in operation: David Ainsworths, Fred Coles, Edward Coles, Ted Barbees, Ben Sanders, Chick Nabers, and Al Kleins plus many others.

As St. Alban's continued to grow another addition, a chancel and sancristy were added in 1954. A Parish Hall was added in 1964 for Sunday School and other activities.

By 1970 St. Alban's was debt free. Continued growth has now prompted a new major construction project in 1978 located at the corner of 23rd and Zenith Avenue. The larger seating capacity and the parking area will accommodate many more worshipers.

Rev. Roy Welke is the pastor who also serves the Spencer Church. Bishop's Committee in charge of this project includes the following: Cameron Arnold, Arnold Buckingham, Dr. Larry Edson, Dr. Al Klein, Jim Jackson, Mrs. Jess Heckett, Mary Robinson and Velma Cole.