

150 Years Celebration

Our story begins with many brave Swedish immigrants who made their homes in the Glenwood and Riverside townships where there was only prairie grass and a few sparse trees. They had little in material possessions or money. As they staked their claims, their homes were made from sod as lumber was scarce. Early on, their faith in God and each other, led them to meet in their homes forming a church group in October of 1874. At that original meeting, some of the founding members were Adrian Isackson, Gustavus Norgren and Lars Peterson.

In 1875, five acres of land were gifted to build a structure for worship services by Anna Marie Anderson. Later she became Mrs. John G. Shoberg. Komstad Church stands on that land today, 150 years later.

In 1875-Rev. John Bodin became the first Pastor at Komstad Covenant Church in addition to pastoring First Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sioux City, Iowa.

The Ladies Aid Sewing Society was organized for the advancement of the church by Mr. & Mrs. Adrian Isackson, Mrs. Hammerquist and Mr. & Mrs. Tuve Hanson. The name "Komstad" was suggested by Mrs. Isackson in memory of a community in Sweden. Both men and women attended the meetings. The focus of the meetings was on prayer, scripture and singing followed by sewing and knitting for mission projects. An annual auction was held with all the proceeds going to missionaries, visiting pastors and church expenses.

The first church building was built in 1876 with the structure made from cottonwood lumber. The additional lumber for sills came as a donation from Hans Quarnberg.

1876-1886, Rev. Henry Hammer, a veteran of the Civil War, and the son of Karin Hammerquist, became the pastor of Komstad. He was ordained at the request of the congregation.

Many ordained pastors followed in the ensuing years leaving a legacy filled with a multitude of sacrifices, deep faith in God and Prayer which came from a dedication to Preaching from the Bible.

There were numerous contributions and sacrifices made from all the various Pastors and Lay People which have given the Legacy we have today. Additional details not listed here can be reviewed in our 150 Anniversary Booklet, available upon request at Komstad Church.