

120 years celebrated at St. Ansgar's Church

A Lighthearted Look at a Dozen Decades was the theme of a day-long 120th anniversary celebration at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church last Sunday.

The day began with a worship service at 10:30. Pastor Duane Enerson of Northfield, Cannon River Conference Dean, preached to a full church.

Following the morning worship, the entire congregation assembled outdoors for a congregational photograph. McGoon Studio used the bucket of DuBar Tree Service to get the right height for the large photo. The last such photograph was taken on the 100th anniversary.

Dinner was served at noon followed by a program of remembrances through a slide presentation and a decade by decade series of vignettes in costume highlighting the changes over the years.

Edythe Beckman and Gert Goudy

spent many weeks researching people and events to make the history come alive. The senior choir resumed a custom beloved by many as a Christmas custom, for the afternoon program. They processed singing *Hosianna*. Many former members joined the choir to form the reunion choir under the direction of Myron Johnson.

A quartet that formerly sang at many special occasions, Dan and Lois Pearson, Charlotte Althoff and Myron Johnson sang one selection. Pastor Dan Pearson served the congregation from 1958 to 1972.

Former and present pastors Dan Pearson, Charles Jacobson and Guy Redfield reminisced about their years of pastoral service.

Following the afternoon program, a time of visiting and sharing was held. St. Ansgar's began in 1879 as a

Swedish congregation. Today, there are over 12 ethnic groups worshipping at St. Ansgar's.

The first church building was completed in 1873 when women and girls were seated on one side, the men on the other.

A new pipe organ was installed in 1982. The original organ was one that used 'man-ual' labor - the custodian pumped a handle behind the organ to fill the bellows before and during the service.

Parsonages were the acceptable home for pastors in previous years. The two present pastors, Charles Jacobson and Guy Redfield, are the first to own their own homes.

Nineteen pastors have served St. Ansgar's since it was organized by Pastor Eric Norelius Aug. 19, 1869.