

St. Ansgar's plans 125th anniversary

by Mike Dalton

St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary in September and October with a varied array of activities and speakers.

The theme for the celebration is Know the Past, Live the Future.

Beginning September 11, members will have an opportunity to share their thoughts and memories of St. Ansgar's with a ribbon of memories.

A wide ribbon will extend from Pastor Chuck Jacobson's office to the church library, with Post-It notes issued to members to write special memories.

Bishop Nycklemoe will preach September 11 as a prelude to the coming Sundays.

The 125 year history will be explored and celebrated in five 25-year

segments. At each service a short skit written and directed by Linda Henderson will relate to a specific era.

September 18 will honor the period from 1869-1894. Members will worship as the first members did, with men on one side and women and children on the other. Ken Althoff will reminisce about his teen-age memories of St. Ansgar's.

The period from 1894-1919 will be explored on September 25, with former member Pastor Clifford Swanson preaching as well as presenting the forum.

In the 1919-1944 era the English language was introduced in the church service. Following the October 2 service two long-time members, Chuck Scofield and Ken Althoff, will reminisce.

The October 9 service introduces

the 1944-1969 era. Former Pastor Dan Pearson will return and preach. Reider Dittman will lead the forum, detailing St. Ansgar, the man for whom the church is named.

The last of the five segments will be on October 16. This is also the 25th anniversary of the ordination of women in the church, and Pastor Joanne Sorenson will preach. The forum, led by Ken Althoff, will project thoughts for the future.

A catered banquet will be held Saturday, October 15, with two settings, at 5 and 6 p.m. At 7 p.m. Pastor and Mrs. Gary Olson will present a skit highlighting the history of St. Ansgar's.

Pastor Olson is Lyla Davis' son, and grew up a member of St. Ansgar's. This year also marks the 25th anniversary of his ordination.

Banquet is Saturday

Church wraps up 125th anniversary

Members of St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church are wrapping up a 5-week celebration of the congregation's 125th anniversary. Several special events are being held this weekend.

On Saturday night, a banquet will be held for members, former members and friends of the congregation. A catered meal of Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables and salads, lefse, Swedish rye bread, and topped off with Swedish cream cake, will be served in 2 settings, at 5 and 6 p.m. Tickets are on sale for \$7.50 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

Entertainment will be provided during serving times, and there will be special displays of photos and other historical items. One item displayed will be the baptism dress worn by the grandfather of 7th generation congregational member Marvin Rapp, whose Swedish ancestor immigrated to

America in 1867.

Following the banquet, at 7 p.m., Pastor and Mrs. Gary Olson will present a skit highlighting the congregation's history. The Swedish Singers from Red Wing will open and close the program. Additional music will be provided by a flute trio and the band, "Rhubarb Grai." Willie Grimm, who portrayed Tevye in a Cannon Falls High School production of "Fiddler on the Roof" a number of years ago, will portray that character at the program.

Pastor Olson, a son of the congregation, grew up in Cannon Falls, and is the son of Lyla Davis. He was ordained 25 years ago, and has served congregations in South Dakota and Minnesota. He has been pastor of Lakeview Lutheran Church in Maplewood since 1984, and also serves on the synod council and executive committee of the St. Paul area synod of the Evangelical Luth-

eran Church of America.

Olson and wife Jean raised two sons, Jonathan who died in 1988, and David, a medical student at the University of Minnesota.

On Sunday, Oct. 16, Pastor Joanne Sorenson, the congregation's first woman minister, will preach at the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Activities on Sunday will focus on the era from 1969, and will particularly note the 25th anniversary of the ordination of women. This service will also look to the future of the congregation. Member Ken Althoff will lead the Sunday morning forum between services.

The theme of this year's anniversary celebration has been "Know the Past - Live the Future," taken from a statement by Lutheran philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, who wrote: "Life must be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards."