

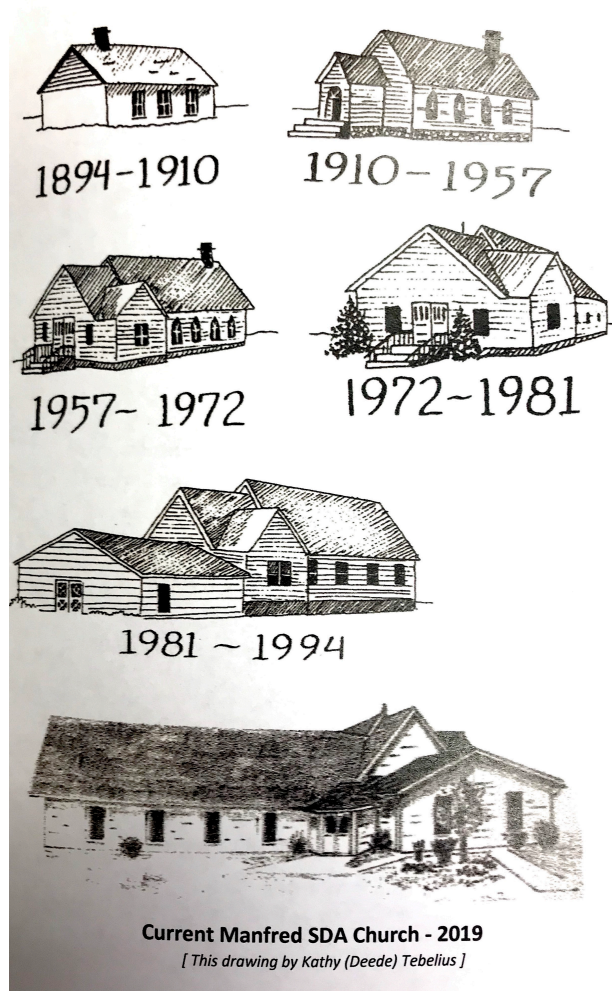
# Dakota Dispatch

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



## Dakota Conference Celebrating 145 Years, 1874 - 2019

### The Manfred Seventh-day Adventist Church Survives, Part 1



Henry Miller was falling asleep on his mother's lap when he noticed a sack of seeds. "Mama, what is the sack of seeds for?" he asked. Henry's mother explained that when they arrived in the United States, the seed would be for a garden. David and Amalie Kuntz Miller were emigrating to the United States with their young children. The boat trip had been long and arduous and it seemed like the group would never get there. The Millers were like many others who had chosen to leave Russia and start a new life in the United States. Many of the immigrants were Germans who had lived for several years in Russia but the new Czar of Russia was making it tough on them and they decided to risk life and limb and seek a better life. It was in 1894 when many of the immigrants had found their way to North Dakota.

Most of the new arrivals were farmers in Russia and they made up their minds to take advantage of the rich soil in North Dakota. A good many of them would end up raising wheat. North Dakota was only five years old at the time, becoming a state in 1889. The German settlers joined a host of others who were looking for a better life; they mixed well with the Scandinavians who also left their homes in Europe. Grover Cleveland was the president of the United States at the time and the country was about to enter a brand new century. The gasoline engine had not even been invented yet and there was no income tax. There were no Hershey bars and no Coca Cola sold in bottles. Despite all of that, those early pioneers had an undying desire to carve out a better life.

The Millers , along with many of their friends, decided to settle on the prairie lands about thirty miles west of Sykeston, the only town in the area at the time. They wanted a place where they and their family could speak the German language, send their kids to German schools and worship in a church where the singing was in German as well as the preaching. They were good people who feared the Lord and sought His blessings. A few of the new settlers had heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and they wanted to learn more. They wrote to the conference headquarters and asked that a Bible worker be sent to teach them about the Adventist doctrines. A

gentleman by the name of H. Graffe responded to the call.

When Mr. Graffe arrived, he immediately set out to arrange home Bible studies. Not long after that about twenty people were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and this group became the pioneers of the Manfred church. The first meetings were held in members'e homes. These members of the Manfred church were zealous about sharing their faith and soon, there were so many coming to the studies, that they began to think about building some sort of church. There was just not enough room in the homes to hold everyone.

A location was chosen about five miles from the tiny rural community of Manfred, North Dakota where the group would build a sanctuary. Using construction methods that were common on the high plains at the time, the group decided on a sod church made of mud bricks and white-washed to make it more presentable to the Lord. The flooring was 2 by 6 planks and kerosene lamps were hung on the walls to provide light for the services. The members in those early days, made their way to church in wagons pulled by a team of horses. Often there was a wood stove inside where members would huddle for warmth. The horses were kept during the Sabbath services in a barn behind the church, each family supplying its own food for the animals. The sod church burned down and the pastor was seriously injured as a result. It was decided to move the location and rebuild.

Information from archives. Art by Kathy Tebelius.



## Drops in a Bucket Can Eventually Fill the Bucket



During the school year Sabbath School at Dakota Adventist Academy is alive, and along with a student led sing-spiration and special feature, usually provided by a faculty member, three Bible study classes meet. The math teacher, Mr. Peter Hutaaruk leads in a discussion based on the Cornerstone Quarterly, Mrs. Shannon Brown - Spanish, Bible, and psychology teacher - along with two students lead out in a discussion based on the adult quarterly, as does Gary way, English and art teacher.

The highlight of the students who join this class is the expectation to bring some loose change that might be batting around in their dorm rooms to put in a jar for a special project for ADRA. The class began doing this about mid-year at Mr. Way's request when he noted that anyone who has loose coins in their possession is in the world's top ten percent of wealth. The class raised \$130 dollars, enough to support two goats and one bee keeper's training. It's a drop in the bucket. But with many drops in the bucket, the bucket can get filled.

Article by Gary Way; Photo by iStock Photos.

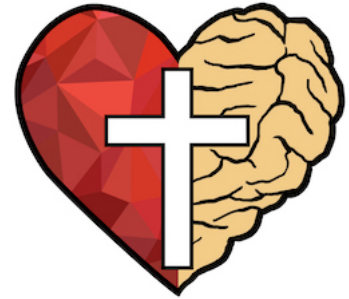
## Prairie Bible Camp Hosts Adventist Youth Camp

Prairie Bible Camp is located one-mile east of Lehr, North Dakota. The campground is locally known for its large, Russian-designed tabernacle. This campsite and tabernacle was built in the early 1900s as a meeting place for religious camp meetings and gatherings. Over the last 90-plus years this



place has been where many lives have been changed, where people have accepted Christ as their personal Savior, and today the spiritual revival continues at this special location.

This year an Adventist youth camp was held here and blessed with 72 little smiling faces! The theme was *To Know Him Better*. The week of camp focused on teaching the campers how to seek, find, and know God with their hearts and minds. The campers learned how to find Him in everyday life and know His faithfulness and goodness as well as learn to trust Him and surrender their hearts to Him.



TO KNOW HIM BETTER

Prairie Bible Camp 2019 - Lehr, North Dakota

The week was filled with memory verses, songs, object lessons, crafts, skill building, learning to pray, team activities, Bible studies, skits, yummy food, field games, sports and more. Useful skills were taught as well as fun games and activities enjoyed.

The boys did breakout sessions where they learned knot tying, fire starting, and talked about what the Bible has to tell them about being Godly men. During the girls' breakout sessions, they helped sew a quilt that was auctioned off to help with worthy camper funds for kids who could not contribute to their camp expenses; the quilt sold for \$1,500. The girls also made themselves neck warmers and learned about true internal beauty.

Evening meetings were held for the parents of the campers. Pastor Donavon Kack was the camp pastor and evening speaker. His family joined in to help with camp activities as well.

Each night Kack led the campers and their families, who joined for the meeting, into a deeper understanding of God's character and their relationship with Him.

Those who lead at Prairie Bible Camp believe the youth and young people are the most important gift with which God blesses families. The leaders' goal is to shape lives for eternity.



Article and photos by Mindy Schumacher

## Manfred Church Celebrates 125 Years

It is a privilege to be part of a church that has a lineage that dates back to 1894 and which is one of the first churches in the state of North Dakota, especially in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. In celebrating this remarkable achievement, Manfred Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Wells County of North Dakota had a celebration program that was tailor made for the occasion and invited all congregation members, old members, friends and those interested in the mission of the Manfred Adventist Church.



Verna Briggs spearheaded the planning and the programming for the church and masterfully executed her task. The program was blessed to have two previous pastors, Ps Wayne Easley and Ps Bill Edwards, together with the present pastor, Ps Sarel Smit, conducting the program facilitating each category of the program at the church.

The celebration began the Friday evening, June 21, 2019 at 7:00pm, under the heading of "Fireside Chat", with songs of praise and a short message with prayer by Ps Smit. Then Ps Easley, who is now residing in Costa Rica, facilitated Manfred's presentations, expressing the loyal support in three main missions they were and are involved as a church. The missions was presented by the coordinators as follows:

***Africa Mission – MAASI Development Project (MDP)***

***By Jan Latsha***

***Haiti Mission – Feed My Lambs Ministry***

***By Karla McKinven***

***Belize Mission – Perry Karges***



Then it was Ps Bill's turn to facilitate the well respected and big ministry that Manfred is known for, the prison ministries. He beautifully executed the panel discussion that was held regarding the prison ministries and the questions that followed. These prison ministries are supported by the Manfred Adventist Congregation and is spread between the Federal Penitentiary in Rugby, Devils Lakes State Penitentiary and Bismarck State Penitentiary, spearheaded by Tom Deede and Randy Suckut.

We then closed with song and prayer until the Sabbath morning where we started with song of praise and a well conducted lesson study for all that attended.

Our Sabbath worship service was a special service presented by the three pastors, specifically giving the audience a glimpse of the humble beginnings of the rural church and its achievements in the mission fields and reaching out to the community its vested in, to the future labors until Jesus comes and we may lay down the tools for evangelism through service to His children. Pastor Easley gave an applauding read of the history, which he researched, of the local church, whereas Pastor Bill gave the principle of what lies in the mission heart through Jesus Christ and Pastor Smit brought the worship service to and end with the future charge of what Manfred SDA will be engaged in, letting the rural church's light shine brightly until that light is replaced by

the light of Christ.



We had a wonderful fellowship meal and visited with family and friends to round off the celebrations.

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## Music Program and Teacher Dedication

The Turtle Lake-Mandan District would like to invite you to an outdoor worship service August 10, 2019 at Fort Mandan, Fahlgren Park, Washburn, ND. It is located two miles west of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center on McLean Country Highway 17. Watch for signs. Sabbath School starts at 10 a.m., Worship Service at 11:05 followed by a fellowship dinner. Paper plates, cups, napkins and plastic ware will be provided. Bring your own chairs. Music program and teacher dedication will begin at 1:45 p.m.



Questions? Roger Boyko - 701.448.2884 or Leslie Soules - 701.319.8628

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## Unacceptable Late Excuses Presented Anyway

Although there are seldom excuses for being late, this excuse is equivalent to "the dog ate my homework."

I was visiting family in Alaska and did not get all my work projects done in a timely manner upon return. However, I thought you might enjoy a few pictures I found interesting. I had not seen a Socks, Gloves, Hats & More vending machine before. Great idea!



Nor do I remember seeing furs for sale at other airports. The fox pelt to the right had a sale tag of \$225.



Article and photos by Jacquie Biloff

## July 25 Dispatch Photo







Photo by Pastor Wayne Easley, taken at Harvey, ND


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Dispatch Mission: To build a climate of encouragement and blessing through the sharing of witnessing and evangelism activities. If you have news to share or would like to be added to the **Dakota Dispatch** mailing list, please email Jacquie Biloff at [jbiloff@icloud.com](mailto:jbiloff@icloud.com). Bison Copyright


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