

## Brief Histories Of Merrill Churches

### GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

The beginning of the Grace Methodist Church was in the year of 1882 when pastors from the Town of Blaine came and held services in the homes of its early members. In the year of 1888 the present church was erected. The Rev. August F. Ladwig was the first pastor. During the ministry of the Rev. B. B. Schling, in 1902, the south wing was added to the building.

The Rev. Hubert C. Feldt is the present pastor.

### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

The present St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church had its beginning as a mission attended by Rev. Theodore Richard, Wausau, as early as 1875.

A frame building was erected at the site of the present church in 1882 and Rev. Angelburg Blum was the first resident pastor, installed in 1884.

Other pastors in the order of their succession were Rev. John Hummel, Rev. Edward Van Hooten, Rev. Dr. N. Hunt, Rev. J. B. Scheyer, Father S. A. Langenfelder, D. D., Ph. D., Father John Klop, Rev. Joseph Hoeflinger, Rev. Henry Le Guillou, Rev. John M. Owens, Monsignor Francis J. Nielsen, Rev. Michael A. Prock, and the present pastor, Rev. Peter C. Rice, who arrived in Merrill September 16, 1934.

Throughout the years many improvements have been made and the present brick veneer was added in 1889.

Rev. Phillip Krembs is assistant pastor.

Three lots had been purchased for a school and in 1898 plans were perfected for St. Francis parochial school.

### CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

First services of the Church of the Nazarene were held in July 1942 in a tent located on East Ninth St. Rev. Ernest Corryell conducted the services.

The congregation was organized in August the same year by Rev. C. T. Corbett. Rev. Willard Wolfe was appointed the first pastor. The services were held for a time in the Sixth Ward Chapel.

In June 1943 the congregation moved to its present church building on East Eighth street, and the dedication services for their new church were held on November 25.

Rev. Charles Murray, pastor at the time of the dedication, is the present minister of the church.

### MERRILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church of Jenny was organized on October 19, 1879 by Rev. J. W. Hagaman and Rev. J. S. Wascott, both of Wausau. In 1882 the first church was built on the east side and Rev. Howard A. Talbot was installed as the pastor.

The Presbyterian Church of West Merrill was organized on May 4, 1884. Rev. Walton Pattinson became the first pastor.

The present edifice was erected in the summer of 1922 at the corner of Park and First Streets. Rev. Joseph Davies was the pastor at that time. The present pastor is Rev. Edward A. George.

### BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Organization of the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church was made October 6, 1891 at the Norwegian Lutheran church on Fourth street. Rev. G. Juhlin, a home missionary, conducted the first services. The church was called Svenska Evangeliskt Lutheriska Kyrkan, later it was changed to Bethlehem Lutheran.

In the same year the first church was constructed on the site of the present edifice on Third street, next to the Prairie river. Rev. Hegberg was the first pastor.

The present church was built in 1926. Rev. Charles A. Odahl is the present pastor.

### HOLY CROSS INSTITUTE CHAPELS

First services for the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross were held October 24, 1923, in the Holy Cross chapel in their convent, the old Scott Mansion. The chapel was attended by the pastor of St. Francis Xavier Catholic church, Father, Michael A. Prock.

In 1926 a new chapel was built in the Holy Cross hospital and the first services were held on November 31. In 1936 construction of the Chapel of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was started and the first services in

the new chapel were held on January 26, 1937. Father Leo Kalmer, O.F.M. was the chaplain. The chapel is located next to the hospital.

The Chapel of Our Lady of the Holy Cross is part of the new Holy Cross Institute. His Excellency, Bishop Albert G. Meyer, pontificated at the cornerstone laying ceremony on July 25, 1946. The Holy Cross Institute and the chapel were dedicated on July 3, 1947.

At present, Father Cletus Foltz, C.P.P.S. is chaplain at the Holy Cross Institute.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY

The first services of the Christian Science Society in Merrill were held in 1923, and 1927 in Oddfellow's Hall. The Society later moved to the G. A. R. Hall where services are held at the present time.

In 1946 the Society purchased the Sixth Ward Chapel, which will serve as its church edifice when remodeled and completed.

### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first Lutheran services in Merrill were held in 1872, in private homes and in the public school house on Streiber's Square. Pastor William Rehwinkel conducted the services.

In 1876 St. John's congregation was organized at John A. Boettcher's hall, River and Stuyvesant streets. The first church was located in the 1600 block on East Second street and was dedicated in November 1881.

In 1882 the present edifice was built.

The first resident pastor, Rev. William Luecke, was called in 1883. In 1888 he was succeeded by Pastor H. Dahl. Rev. W. Sievers is the present pastor.

The St. John's School was founded in 1883 and the present school building was erected in 1903.

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Lutheran congregation was organized January 20, 1884 by Rev. William Luecke, pastor of St. John's Lutheran church. In 1886 the first Lutheran church on the west side was erected on the corner of State and Division streets, during the pastorate of Rev. Luecke.

The present church was built in 1908 at the corner of First and State streets.

Rev. Luecke was succeeded by the following pastors: Rev. Kosche, Rev. H. Dahl, Rev. Siebrandt, and Rev. J. G. Schliepsteck. Rev. W. L. Kohn is the present pastor. Rev. Gerard E. Kohn is the assistant pastor.

Trinity Lutheran school was started in 1886 in the remodeled office of the H. W. Wright Lumber Co. In 1891 a school building was erected on Division st., and was replaced by a larger building at the intersection of Grand Ave., Fourth and Liberty streets. It was destroyed by fire on February 15, 1925. The present school building was dedicated in January 1926.

### CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The first services of the Episcopal church were held in Merrill in 1877 and for four years were conducted by the Right Reverend Henry Hobart Brown, assisted by Missionary priests. The services were held in homes of churchmen and various vacant store buildings.

In 1882 the present Church of the Ascension was erected on the corner of Third and Pier streets. The first resident vicar was the Rev. Walter Gardner Blossom.

The present priest-in-charge is the Rev. Malcolm Poehler Brunner.

### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

The first services of the Seventh Day Adventist church were held in 1901 in rented quarters and Ferd Stebbins was the first pastor.

The first church building was at the corner of Eighth and Spruce streets about forty years ago.

This building was used until December, 1942, when the Elks building, corner of Third and Center avenue was purchased. This is the present church of the congregation. C. M. Bae was the pastor at the time of this purchase.

Present pastor is Harold Bohr.

### ST. STEPHEN'S EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's Evangelical congregation was organized August 5, 1881 at the old school house of Merrill and incorporated in 1885. Worship was conducted the first year in John A. Boettcher's Hall, corner of River and Stuyvesant streets. Rev. Karl Freitag was the first pastor.

The first church was erected in 1884 on the site of the present edifice.

This church was razed by fire December 16, 1918.

The cornerstone of the present church was laid August 1, 1920 and dedicated September 11, 1921.

Rev. Freitag was succeeded by the following pastors: Rev. Henning, Rev. Klein, Rev. Ludwig, Rev. Bierbaum, Rev. Gammert, Rev. Schmidt, Rev. Strecke, and the present pastor, W. W. Vogelmann.

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

The first services of the Assembly of God church in Merrill were held in January 1942. The services were held at 403 Grand Avenue and were conducted by Evangelist Robert A. Rueben.

The Assembly moved to its present location, corner of Second and Hendricks streets, in February 1945 when their new church was dedicated.

Rev. Michael Vincelli, the present pastor, took charge of the Assembly in February 1942.

### SCOTT MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Scott Memorial Methodist church was first organized as the Jenny Methodist Episcopal church in 1873 with Rev. Thomas Partridge as its first resident pastor. Until that time the services were conducted by circuit riders.

Until 1882 the services were held in the high school. On January 1, 1882, during the pastorate of Rev. F. L. Warton, the first Methodist Episcopal church was dedicated. It was located on the corner of Park and First streets.

The Scott Memorial Methodist church was erected as a memorial to T. B. Scott, prominent Merrill lumberman and first Mayor of Merrill. It was completed in 1891 and erected on the corner of Mill and Third streets. Rev. T. D. Peake was pastor at that time.

Rev. David Johnson is the present pastor.

### COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Community Presbyterian church was established in Merrill on July 1, 1936. Rev. Arthur F. Perkins served as its first pastor.

At present the church services are held in the American Legion building. The congregation is preparing

This is a funeral procession on upper Blaine street, taken about 1900. Note the old hearse, the hacks used by mourners, and the procession of horse-drawn buggies.

Congratulations To Merrill  
On A Century Of Progress

STATE SENATOR

Clifford W. Krueger

