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**TRINITY DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH PAPERS
GAYVILLE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

PAPERS, ca. 1880-1980

Quantity 1 linear ft

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PROCESSED BY: Wendy Nilson, April 2006

ACCESSION #: RC96-0088

History

The Trinity Danish Lutheran Church in Gayville, South Dakota, was founded in September 1880 and led by Rev. Mortensen. The first church was erected south of Gayville in 1894 and subsequently destroyed by a tornado that same year. Miraculously, the altar survived unscathed, so it was moved to a new church the following year. In 1940, the church was moved across the road and, a new altar was dedicated in 1950. They celebrated their centennial September 21, 1980.

Scope and Content Note

The Trinity Danish Lutheran Church papers contain materials from its inception in September 1880 to their centennial celebration in 1980. The papers are divided into five series: **Parish Registers, Notes, Correspondence, Printed Material, and Ephemera.**

The **Parish Registers** series consists of handwritten log books listing the dates of congregant births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths. There are also lists of membership rolls. These log books are written exclusively in Danish until 1920. Photocopies were made of the 1892-1945 book for preservation purposes.

The **Notes** series is made up of handwritten minutes which are divided into four sections: Annual Church Meetings, the Gayville Study Club, the Ladies Aid; and the Sunday School. The minutes of the annual meetings are written in Danish until 1921. The Sunday School section contains related enrollment lists and financial records.

The **Correspondence** series consists of three letters of resignation from Pastors H.M. Andersen, Thorvald Hansen, and Paul Petersen. There is also a letter from the Growth In Ministry program questioning the church's decision to discontinue their affiliation with said program.

The **Printed Materials** series is made up of pamphlets and programs for anniversary celebrations; newspaper articles describing the dedication of the new altar in 1950; the church constitution, the synod constitution and bylaws, and two issues of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota's "Smoke Signals" newsletter with a photo of a child. On the back of the photo is "Lanse, bd 2-28-66".

The **Ephemera** series consists of two citations of achievement for the Gayville Woman's Club from 1968-1970 and 1970-1972. These awards were made on behalf of The Community Improvement Program.

Related Subjects

Clay County (S.D.)--History

Gayville (S.D.) --History

Lutheran, Danish—South Dakota—Gayville

Lutheran Church—South Dakota—Gayville--History

Additional Resources

Sneen, Donald J. *Prairie Faith, Pioneering People: A History of the Lutheran Church in South Dakota*. Sioux Falls?: South Dakota District, American Lutheran Church, 1981.

Miller, Margaret. *Hay County History: A Story of the Pioneers of Gayville and Meckling*. s.l.: s.n., 1972.

Box No. Description**Box 1**

PARISH REGISTERS

1880-1891 (written in Danish)
 1892-1945 (written in Danish until 1919)
 1892-1945 – Birth Records (Photocopies)
 1892-1945 – Communicant Records (Photocopies)
 1892-1945 – Baptism Records (Photocopies)
 1892-1945 – Confirmation Records (Photocopies)
 1892-1945 – Marriage Records (Photocopies)
 1892-1945 – Death and Burial Records (Photocopies)
 1892-1945 – Information Unknown (Photocopies)
 1935
 1945–1978

NOTES

Annual Meetings
 1880-1948
 1880-1948 (Photocopies of pages 1-5 due to tape damage)
 1949-1977
 Gayville Study Club
 1943-1972
 Ladies Aid
 1922-1928
 1938-1943
 1944-1949
 1950-1956
 1957-1966
 1967-1972
 Sunday School
 1945-1976
 1960-1969

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters of Resignation
 8 January 1946, from H.M. Andersen
 1 May 1965, from Thorvald Hansen
 9 July 1972, from Paul R. Petersen
 Growth In Ministry
 20 August 1974, from Joseph Wagner

PRINTED MATERIAL

Celebrations, Pamphlets and Programs
 75th Anniversary Program
 14 September 1969
 “Give God the Glory” Centennial Celebration
 21 September 1980
 Newspaper Articles
 September 1950, “New Altar Is Dedicated At Danish Church
 Sunday”
 30 October 1951, “Gayville Church Is Host to District Danish
 Meeting”
 No date, Photocopy of photo of church
 Trinity Lutheran Church Constitution
 Red River Valley Synod Constitution and Bylaws

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
	Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota "Smoke Signals" January 1971 April 1971
	EPHEMERA Citation of Achievement 1968-1970 Citation of Achievement 1970-1972