

Chapter 6

The Church of Your Choice

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Melstone Congregational Church was built in 1912 and was built by the Protestants of the community under the auspices of the Montana Congregational Union Church. There were not enough people of any one denomination to build and sustain a church in the little western railroad town of Melstone, Montana. So they united to build. They borrowed \$1,000.00 from the Congregational Home Missionary Board in Boston, Massachusetts. This loan required no interest and did not need to be paid back as long as the building was used for a church. The Board also helped the struggling little Church with money for minister's wages for many years.



The original church built in 1912, that no longer is in use.

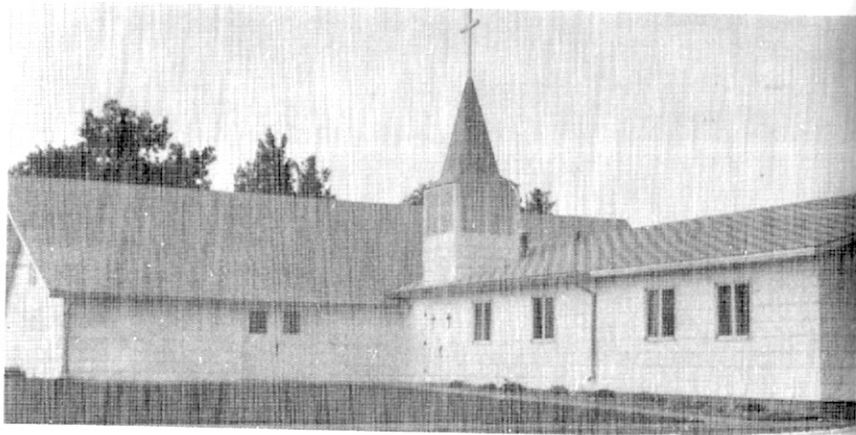
During the last fifty-seven years the Congregational Church as had fifteen ministers. Some stayed for only a few months, and a few stayed for as long as ten years.

Ministers:

1916-1918	Rev. Hurst
1918-1928	Rev. Pollard
1928-1930	Rev. Waldorn
1930-1937	Rev. Cosand
1937-1941	Rev. McCall

- 1942-1943 Rev. Lottie
- 1944-1947 Rev. Anderson
- 1947-1947 Rev. Glick
- 1947-1949 No regular minister. Occasional Sunday service with a visiting minister from Billings, Rev. Conner, Confederate minister; Rev. Gustafson, a summer student; Miss Foster, a world traveler and missionary, are just a few.
- 1949-1955 Rev. Walter Spencer
- 1956-1962 Rev. Forrest Byers
- 1963-1964 Rev. John Eichorn
- 1964-1966 Rev. Charles Hanko
- 1966-1971 Rev. Edward Horst
- 1971 Rev. Lewis Coon

In 1962 the new Congregational Church was built at its present location. In 1971 it was incorporated and the name was changed to the "Melstone Congregational Bible Church".



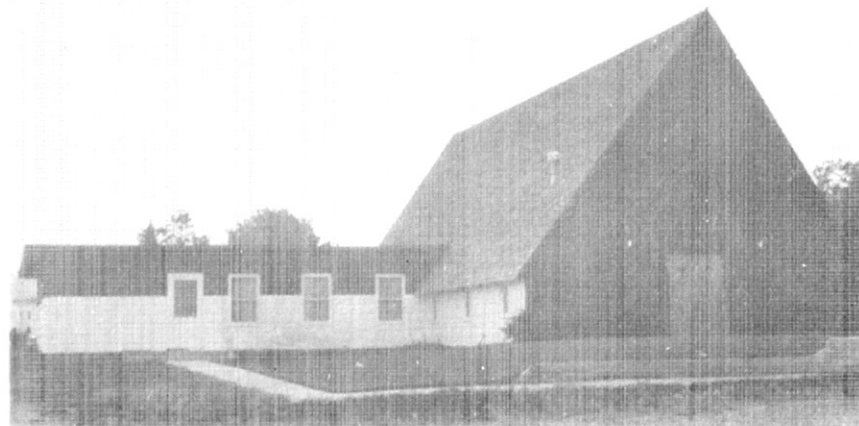
The new Congregational Church that was built in 1962.

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first Lutheran service was in 1914. Pastor Leege, then living in Roundup, held services at Ragged Point which is 10 miles northwest of Melstone. He also conducted service monthly on a weekday at Melstone, Bascom, Rattlesnake School, Little Chicago and Geneva for two years. In 1916 a community church was built in Melstone. Pastor Leege served this congregation on bicycle until 1917, when he obtained an automobile. He continued as pastor until 1952 when he and his family moved to Winnett.

When Pastor Leege was stricken with a prolonged illness in 1956, the congregations (Melstone, Sand Springs, and Winnett) were served by two vicars supplied by the seminary. The two who assisted Pastor Leege were Vicar Norbet Meier and Vicar Victor Thierfelder.



The Lutheran Church that was built in 1962.

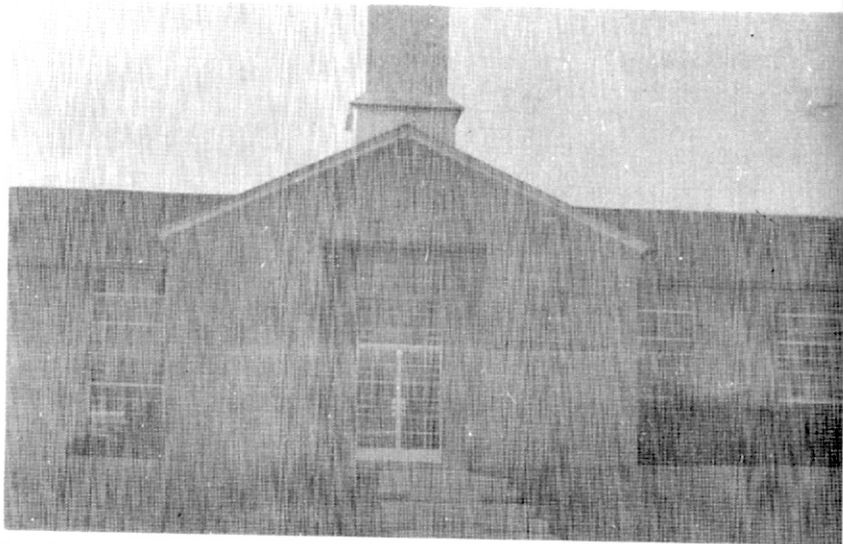
In 1957 Pastor Leege resigned his duties. In 1957 Pastor Norbert Meier of Faith Lutheran Church of Billings served temporarily in the congregations of Melstone, Winnett, and Sand Springs. In the spring of 1958 they called a graduate pastor from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Thiensville, Wisconsin. On July 20, 1958, Rev. David D. Zietlow served until November of 1967, when he accepted a call to Anchorage, Alaska. Pastor Roland Zimmerman of Mountain View Lutheran Church of Great Falls served as vacancy pastor. On July 28, 1968 Rev. Joel Frank was ordained and installed. This time the Pastor no longer traveled to Sand Springs, but Lavina. Pastor Frank accepted a call to Plymouth, Nebraska in 1973. Pastor Putz served as vacancy Pastor until July 22, 1973 when Rev. Kenneth Wenzel was ordained. In 1962 the present church was built. Then in 1969 an addition was added which contains a kitchen and a Sunday school room.

LDS CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER DAY SAINTS

The LDS church building was started on September 3, 1953. The lots were donated to the church by Mr. and Mrs. R.J. West, former residents of Melstone. The church was built by members of the church and one supervisor, Dave Brinkerhoff. Some of the labor was donated by some of the people that did not belong to the church. On October 1, 1954, the church

was completed. The church consisted of a recreation room, chapel, office, stage, kitchen, class rooms and a library. The first baptism was held soon after the church was completed in 1954. From 1954-1959 Herbert Savage was in charge of the church. In 1959 Keith Hendrix was the Branch President and has been since. Darrell Lear and Warren Maart served as counselors for Keith Hendrix. On September 17, 1959, the church was dedicated. The Melstone Branch is that of the Billings Stake.

The LDS Church is the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints commonly known as Mormons. Church is held on Sunday and about forty four attend.



The Mormon Church built in 1953.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

In 1916, The Lady of Mercy Mission was started in Melstone with nine Catholic families.

In 1917, the Catholic Church was built in Melstone.

Pastors:

1914-1929	Father Thoma Hennessey
1929-1930	Rev. John Regan
1931-1932	Rev. Timothy's O'Shea
1933-1935	Rev. Ambrose-assistant, E.G. Caisse
1935-1936	Rev. F.R. Robert
1936-1939	two Franciscan Fathers
1939-1950	Father Joseph Freibert
1950	Father Moran
1950	Father Dorthier
1950	Father Sorger
1971	Father David Dwyer