

1986 - 1996

Rev. Arnold Punt came in June, 1986. A committee was formed to draw up plans for remodeling the church. Children & Worship was started in 1987 and Pioneer Club in 1989.

Groundbreaking for the remodeling was held in April, 1989. Some of the projects included were turning the auditorium around to face north thus increasing the seating capacity by 126, adding 52 feet to the south end to increase the size of the narthex, repositioning the cross to the south wall of the balcony, adding padded pews and new Pastor and Secretary's offices. The organ was completely updated. A new sound system, air conditioning, new boilers and a hot water heating system were installed. Four classrooms, storage rooms, an additional coat room, a handicap lift, a handicapped restroom and new restrooms in the basement were added. A blacktop area of 165" x 120" was added for more parking. Rev. Punt retired on June 28, 1992 and moved back to Sioux Center, Iowa.

Pastor Dewey Thompson was installed on October 8, 1992. The continuation of the Pioneer Program, Children & Worship, and doing our own Vacation Bible School each summer and becoming involved with Kids' Hope at North Holland Elementary School have made our church a beacon for neighborhood influence. The Parish Group system to help take care of congregational needs was begun. The mortgage from the remodeling was retired in April, 1997.

The hiring of Wayne Ondersma as youth pastor in 1996 got the young people involved in many new ways. The RIOT (Junior High) group was moved to Wednesday evening, so

that there would be something offered for children from preschool through 8th grade. The children are very visible in the community helping with many mission projects.