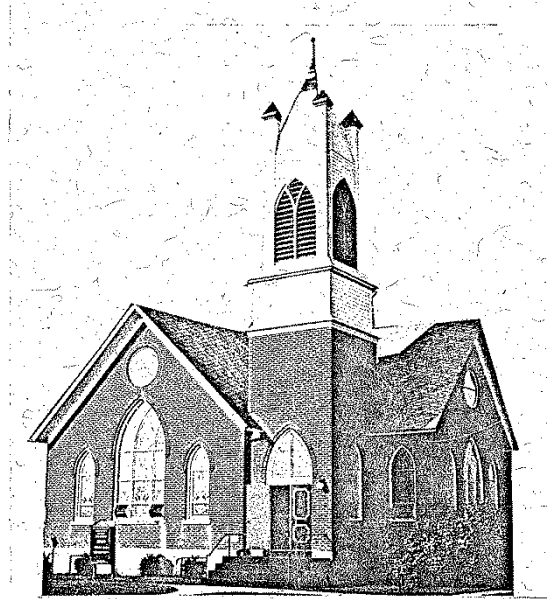


North American Baptist Heritage Commission

# Church Histories



From 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book cover

## Minnetrista, St. Bonifacius, Minnesota

The year of 1958 was the Jubilee year for this church, which is now 150 years old! We have the following account of the church's beginnings from the 1958 *Annual*, written by D. S. Wipf:

"It was in the year 1858 that several German families came to St. Bonifacius, Minnesota from Dayton, Ohio. With a faith in God and a hope to succeed, they at once set out to build their new homes, the lumber for which had to be hewn from the trees of the forest.

"Even before their crude log cabins were completed, they arranged for religious services. The first service was held in September 1857, in the home of John Wendt, with seven people present regular meetings were held from then on.

"Then came the year 1858 when, encouraged by visiting brethren, the small band of eight Baptists decided to organize themselves as a German Baptist Church. They chose the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1858 as the date for organization . . . For the first nine years the group met in the home of Rev. John Wendt, who was the first pastor. . . The erection of the first church building was begun in the spring of 1868. The entire work from the felling of trees to the final completion of the building was all done by the group. . . Throughout the 100 years there were 451 baptisms with many others joining the group by letter. The church (building) was remodeled and rebuilt four times and relocated once."

In G.A. Schulte's book, *Memories*, editor Lois Glewwe has noted that "Today the church continues to worship in the charming historic building that has served generations of believers through the years. The church, its property and cemetery are now located within the city limits of



## 1858

St. Bonifacius. The congregation is the oldest NAB Church west of the Mississippi and the 7<sup>th</sup> oldest church in the entire NAB Conference.”

Adapted from *Heritage Horizons* Vol 16, No 2, p 2, Summer, 2008

-----  
**Bibliographical sources:**

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet 1858-1933

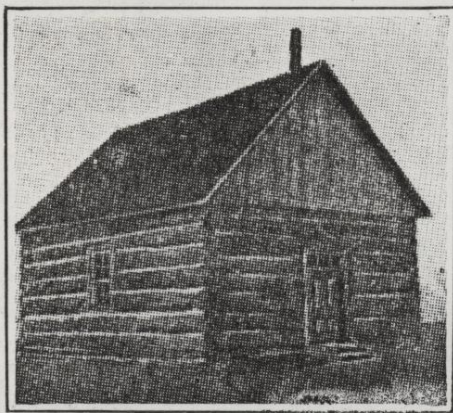
90<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet 1858-1948

Centennial program 1858-1958

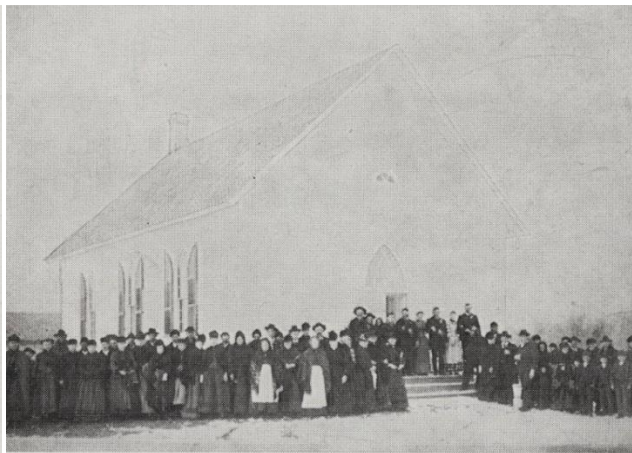
125<sup>th</sup> anniversary bulletin 1983

150 anniversary celebration 2008

**Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:**



First Church — Built 1868



Second Church — Built 1883

Both pictures from Centennial booklet 1858-1958.