

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

Translated from Swedish, this is the Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church secretary's book for the dates 1887-1892. The translation was done by Malcolm Peterson, Monument, Kansas, in September 1974.

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**Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book,
1887-1892**

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BETHESDA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Page City, Kansas

SECRETARY'S BOOK, 1887 - 1892

Translated from the Swedish by
Malcolm Peterson, Monument, Kansas
September 1974

Notes by
John M. Peterson, Lawrence, Kansas

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

Minutes of the actions taken at a meeting of Swedish people at Boaz,⁽¹⁾
Logan County, Kansas, the 19th of August, 1887

As chairman of the meeting Pastor J. Seleen was elected. As chairman and secretary for a year Gustaf Falk and Aleck Lawson were elected. A. M. Swanson⁽²⁾ from Stanton, Iowa was elected as advice-giver member at this meeting. By unanimous consent it was agreed that in the Triune God's name we now will prepare measures and steps for the forming of a congregation, namely, Swedish Evangelical Lutheran. The following persons gave in their names to become members:⁽³⁾

- 3 Johan Gustaf Falk, wife and daughter
- 2 C. J. Falk and wife
- 6 Children
- 1 Anders G. Falk
- 1 Leander Falk

(1) In the early records three names - Boaz, Page, and Page City - are used for the location of the church. Boaz was the original name for the siding or stop on the Union Pacific Railroad, dating back several years before there was any settlement. When the Post Office was established on February 27, 1887, it was named Page, in honor of Page County, Iowa, which had been the previous home of a number of settlers in the community. Later in the year the Southwestern Swedish Townsite Company (see Note 15 below) began to use the name Page City, which became the generally used name from then on. The Post Office was not officially changed to Page City until April 16, 1928.

(2) A. M. Swanson, lumber dealer and U. P. Agent of Stanton, Iowa, was one of the organizers of the Townsite Company and was very active in bringing Swedish settlers from Iowa and Illinois to the Page City area. He purchased land in the area and initially was the Company's chief representative there. He established a lumber and hardware business, built a house south of town and moved his family there in May 1889.

(3) Of the charter members only one, Anton Samuelson, Oakley, Kansas, a son of John Samuelson, was still living in 1974. The translator, Malcolm Peterson, was born in 1883 but did not become a member of the Page City Church until 1897 when his parents moved to that community from Greeley County where they had been members of the Stockholm church.

Note on Translation: An effort has been made to retain the wording and "flavor" of the original as much as possible. In only a few instances has it been necessary to edit or rearrange a paragraph to clear up the meaning.

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2 Anders G. Lawson and wife
5 Children
1 Alexander A. Lawson
1 John A. Samuelson
1 Pete Lawson
2 Olof Hedman and wife
1 Child
2 John Samuelson and wife
3 Children
1 Ellen Peterson
1 S. S. Lundstedt
2 L. B. Odin⁽⁴⁾
3 Children
2 C. J. Petterson and wife
1 Child
2 A. Nilson and wife
1 Child
1 Henry P. Kronwall
1 Louis Johnson
26 communicants and 46 members

A committee composed of Gustus Lawson, C. J. Falk, H. P. Kronwall, Gustaf Falk and Olof Hedman had been empowered to locate a place for the parsonage and church and to report at this meeting. The meeting adjourned to accompany the committee to the city land. The committee reported that they looked at a place for the parsonage and church on the railroad land north of the track in Boaz.⁽⁵⁾ Decided that Mr. Victor Rylander and A. M. Swanson were to ask the Union Pacific Railroad Company to give as a gift to the congregation enough land for both the parsonage and church buildings.

(4) This name may be recorded erroneously and probably should have been Moden.

(5) This and the next sentence indicate that the settlers recognized the Townsite Company as being sponsored by the U. P. Railroad. (See Note 15 below)

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Resolved, that the parsonage be built of frame, either 16 x 26, 14 ft. high or 14 x 24, 12 ft. high.

That a well should be dug as quickly as possible north of the house.

That A. M. Swanson draw plans and get the lumber bill⁽⁶⁾ of the house and later send said bill to H. P. Kronwall.

That the lumber dealers in neighboring towns make him informed of the lowest price they can sell this lumber for and that he later send the bill, also the price, to A. M. Swanson, Stanton, Iowa.

Meeting adjourned to gather together again upon call of the chairman.

* * * * *

Minutes of proceedings at a meeting at C. J. Falk's house on the 4th of September, 1887.

Pastor J. Seleem, President of the Kansas Conference, called the members of the above-named meeting to action.

Resolved, that the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethesda Congregation in Boaz, Logan Co., Kansas, is now organized.

That motions adopted by the Augustana Synod at the Synod meeting for the year 1870 and revised motions adopted at other Synod meetings be accepted as the Congregation's constitution.⁽⁷⁾

That the Congregation ask at the next meeting of the Kansas Conference that they be accepted in the Kansas Conference and the Augustana Synod organizations.

(6) English words and phrases occasionally were used in the original. For example, "lumber" and "bill." In this case, "bill" is used to mean a list of requirements, not a statement of cost or amount owed.

(7) Later called the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Augustana Synod was the Swedish branch of the Lutherans and now is part of The Lutheran Church in America. The Kansas Conference was one of several Conferences making up the Augustana Synod.

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The following officers were elected. For a year, Chairman G. Falk,
Secretary, Aleck Lawson.

Deacons: C. J. Falk for 3 years
Gustaf Falk for 2 years
Gustus Lawson for 1 year

Trustees: Olof Headman for 3 years
John Samuelson for 2 years
Aleck Lawson for 2 years
C. J. Falk for 2 years
L. B. Odin (Moden) for 1 year

This meeting adjourned to meet when called by the chairman.

Bethesda Congregation, Boaz, Logan County, Kansas the 5th of Sept. 1887.

Chairman, J. Seleen

A. L. Lawson, Secretary

* * * * *

Page, Logan County, Kansas, the 1st of Sept. 1887

Gustaf Osjan (Ossian) was accepted as advisory member.

Resolved, that the parsonage be built 28 ft. long, 18 ft. wide and 14 ft. high. Closet in the same 6 ft. long, 5 ft. wide and 7 ft. high. A simple porch over the east door. A "platform" 4 ft. wide on the north end. Stone base 2 ft. high, 18 inches wide. Tar paper on the roof. The cellar to be dug 18 ft. long, 12 ft. wide and 8 ft. deep with two windows, also a door on the north end. Chimney accepted as per written plans. Motion passed that A. M. Swanson plans be accepted and that the committee can make changes for the better.

Mr. Kronwall has taken on the building of above-named house for \$70.00, \$35 in 6 mos. and \$35 in a year; if not paid when due, interest at 10% from date.⁽⁸⁾ H. P. Kronwall has been given the chore to make out a hardware bill and Olof Hedman is to go to Monument and C. J. Falk to Winona to ask about prices. The following committee has as a chore to take up a subscription: Louis Johnson in Russell Springs; Gust. Lawson, Monument and Logansport; C. J. Falk, Winona; F. C. Wagner⁽⁹⁾, Boaz. House to be painted twice and for this H. P. Kronwall will donate the labor.

(8) The whole clause concerning penalty interest is in English in the original.

(9) This name should be F. C. Wegener, who was the first permanent resident of Boaz, became the first postmaster and opened a farm implement business.

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Without being asked, A. M. Swanson from Stanton, Iowa offered 20 acres for fall wheat with the profit going to the Congregation as a gift, with the understanding that A. M. Swanson furnish seed and the Church members do the work of sowing and harvesting.⁽¹⁰⁾

Meeting adjourned.

Secretary, A. L. Lawson

* * * * *

Page, Logan County, Kansas, the 24th of Sept. 1887

Mr. Brodin was elected Chairman. Meeting was opened with reading and prayer. The following committee reported that they had measured the southern line on the southeast 1/4 of Section 13; from the southwest corner to the place where the church and parsonage shall be located is 101 rods.

The committee reported that the church and parsonage will be put on the place that was decided. The well was put off till next meeting.⁽¹¹⁾

H. P. Kronwall has inquired in both neighboring towns on the lumber bills and they have been rejected and A. M. Swanson will send for the lumber. The hardware bill of Monument has been accepted.

A gift that was promised by Victor Rylander, namely \$300.00, has been received for which the Congregation thanks him very much.⁽¹²⁾

A. L. Lawson was proposed as Treasurer and he was given the chore to buy a ledger.

Secretary, A. L. Lawson

* * * * *

(10) This is the beginning of the communal wheat farming that was a major source of income for the Church in the early years.

(11) At this time the parsonage was under construction but had not yet been moved onto its foundation, which was done in November. The church building was not constructed until 1888. In 1889 both were standing on land donated by the Townsite Co., according to a contemporary newspaper article.

(12) Victor Rylander of Chicago, Illinois was Special Land Agent for the Union Pacific Railroad and an organizer and General Manager of the Southwestern Swedish Colonization Company and Treasurer of the Southwestern Swedish Townsite Company. So far as is known he was never a member of the Congregation and it seems most likely that this large contribution, for the time and place, was made from Company funds.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

Minutes of the actions at the yearly meeting of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethesda Congregation in Boaz, Kansas, the 4th of January, 1888.

The meeting was opened with song and Bible reading and prayer by Pastor J. A. Stamline in legal time.⁽¹³⁾ Thereupon action was begun on the work of the meeting.

- 1/ Pastor J. A. Stamline⁽¹⁴⁾ was elected chairman.
- 2/ Mr. S. S. Lundstedt was elected secretary for a year.
- 3/ Resolved, that the Congregation's Deacons and Trustees time of service be lengthened by 4 months.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was received and accepted and an auditing committee of three persons was elected to audit his figures and report on Jan. 8, 1888. This committee consists of Gustaf Lawson, Andrew Falk, and S. S. Lundstedt.

- 4/ Resolved, that a churchbook, a secretary's book, and a treasurer's book be bought for the sum of \$5.10.
- 5/ Resolved, that a billbook be bought for the Congregation's treasurer.
- 6/ Resolved, that the Congregation expresses its thankfulness to the S. W. Sw. Colony Town.Co.⁽¹⁵⁾ for the four lots that were received as a gift and that a deed for it be given to the Church as quickly as possible.

(13) This phrase is presumed to mean that the meeting was being held in accordance with the requirements of the Church's constitution.

(14) The capacity in which Pastor Stamline served at Page City is not clear. Local newspapers record that he left Texas on Nov. 13, 1887, moved into the Page City parsonage on Christmas Eve of 1887, and became a member of the Townsite Company, but had returned to New Sweden, Texas, by June 1889. He presided at meetings of the Page City Congregation in Jan. 1888 and Jan. 1889 and was asked to help in soliciting contributions and obtaining a loan. He may have been a visiting or "mission" pastor sent out by the Kansas Conference.

(15) This apparently refers to the Southwestern Swedish Townsite Company, organized in Chicago, Ill., in June 1887, or to the Southwestern Swedish Colonization Company, organized in Lindsborg, Kansas on July 11, 1887. Among the organizers of both companies were Victor Rylander and John Peterson of Chicago, Ill., Special Land Agents for the Union Pacific Railroad; Rev. J. Seleen, President of the Kansas Conference; Rev. C. A. Swenson, President of Bethany College; Rev. P. M. Sannquist, McPherson, Kansas; J. M. Ericson, Salina, Kansas; C. J. Stromquist, Smoky Hill, Kansas; and J. A. Anderson, Meade, Nebraska. The Colonization Company had exclusive sales rights for land, presumably Union Pacific land, in six townships of Wallace, Logan, and Greeley Counties. The Townsite Company bought the townsites of Page City in Logan County and Vega and Sharon Springs in Wallace County. It appears that both companies were sponsored by the Union Pacific, or its land salesmen, jointly with leaders of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Kansas, to bring Swedish settlers to Western Kansas. The Page City Messenger for June 29, 1889, credits the Townsite Company with donating Block 10 to the Page City Lutheran Church as a church site and four lots in Block 41 as a site for a parsonage. The plat for Page City used in Townsite Company ads shows 49 blocks with 24 lots in each block.

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- 7/ Resolved, that we proceed with a petition to S. S. W. Coll. Co. with the asking for one block as a gift to the Sw. Luth. Church in the town of Kalmar.
- 8/ Resolved, that the Congregation get busy with the church building in the oncoming year.
- 9/ Resolved, that Pastor J. A. Stamline gets the chore to collect money by subscription for the church building accomplishment if so needed.
- 10/ Resolved, that the Congregation's trustees be empowered to get a loan to finish the church building, if it should be necessary.
- 11/ Resolved, that the Congregation acquire a churchyard or cemetery in a convenient place of at least 2 acres, and that a committee of three men will be asked to look after this chore. This committee consists of C. J. Falk, Gustaf Lawson, and John Samuelson.
- 12/ Resolved to adjourn.

Meeting was closed by prayer and song by Pastor J. A. Stamline.

J. A. Stamline, Chairman

S. S. Lundstedt, Secretary

* * * * *

Boaz, Logan County, Kansas, January the 5th, 1888

We the undersigned have found the Treasurer's accounts not only correct, but kept in a masterly and very satisfactory manner, as follows:

Income by cash	\$394.85
Outgo	\$394.07
Cash in Treasury	.38 (Correct amount would be .78)
Debts up to the 31st of December, 1887	\$199.54
Property value the 31st of December, 1887	\$900.00

Signed: Andrew Falk
S. S. Lundstedt
Gustaf Lawson
Oversight Committee

* * * * *

(16) Late in 1887 and during 1888 there was a move to change the name of Page or Page City to Kalmar in honor of the port and province in Sweden of that name. The Winona paper during that period occasionally carried items from Calmer or Calmar and, in one instance, stated that the name of Page had been changed to Calmer. However, the effort was not successful and appears to have died out by 1889.

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Page City, Kansas Jan. 3 - 1889

Minutes of actions at the yearly official meeting of the Swedish Ev.
Luth. Bethesda Congregation in Page City, Kans., Jan. 3 - 1889

The meeting was opened by Rev. J. A. Stamline at 11 o'clock with Bible reading and prayer.

- 1/ As Secretary for one year O. T. Gustus⁽¹⁷⁾ was elected.
- 2/ As Deacon for 3 years C. G. Erickson was elected.
- 3/ As Trustee for 3 years D. Moden⁽¹⁸⁾ was elected.
- 4/ Resolved, that the Congregation ask Mr. Chas. Peterson to be the organist for one year and that the Congregation by vote expresses a hearty "thank you" for the past work.
- 5/ Resolved, that Mr. Gustaf Falk be elected to act as church janitor for a year and also by vote expresses a hearty "thank you" for past work.
- 6/ Resolved, that as Superintendent for the Sunday School C. J. Falk be elected and as Vice-Superintendent Mr. Gustus Lawson be elected.
- 7/ Resolved, that the Congregation take up over the year at convenient times two offerings for the organist and two offerings for the church janitor.
- 8/ Resolved, that the Congregation pledges itself to gather \$100.00 for the Home Mission and that communicant offering be set at \$3.00 for men and \$2.00 for women and that this money be paid quarterly. And that a subscription be taken for what will be lacking of the pledged sum for the Congregation and for the Pastor in the field out here.
- 9/ Resolved, that the Congregation offers the Pastor free houseroom.
- 10/ Resolved, that the Congregation's women begin and keep going a sewing society as soon as possible in the present year and that their goals be to pay for the Organ and work for the Home Mission.
- 11/ Resolved, that the society meet at the church on weekdays to receive and turn in their work and that no big sewing society coffee parties be held.
- 12/ Resolved, that for the auditing committee the following be elected: O. T. Gustus, C. G. Erickson and D. Moden.
- 13/ Resolved, that Pastor Stamline get as a chore writing to C. V. Almquist in Stanton, Iowa with a request for a loan of \$35.00 for a time of 9 months and that a note endorsed by the Trustees should follow.
- 14/ Resolved, that the Congregation's church and parsonage be insured for a period of 5 years.

(17) O. T. Gustus took over as editor and publisher of the Page City Messenger on May 4, 1889. He also had a real estate and insurance business and was a Notary Public.

(18) D. Moden managed the hotel built by the Townsite Company and also had a livery stable.

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- 15/ Resolved, that in the coming spring, trees be planted around the church and that preparations be made for planting trees around the parsonage.
- 16/ Resolved, that the Congregation by vote expresses their thankfulness to Mr. J. Samuelson for the gift of two acres for a cemetery.
- 17/ Resolved, that the Congregation's Trustees take over the cemetery, secure deeds, lay out the grave lots, etc., etc.
- 18/ Resolved, that the cemetery should be fenced in as quickly as possible.
- 19/ Resolved, that the official meeting be adjourned.

With greatest honor

J. A. Stamline, Chairman

O. T. Gustus, Secretary

Trustees:

John Samuelson
C. G. Erickson
C. J. Falk
Gustus Lawson

* * * * *

Page City, Kansas Jan. 19, 1889

Your auditing committee herewith asks to release the following report:

The Treasurer's accounting figures are found to be correct and fully satisfactory and read as follows:

Cash received for parsonage	42.84	
" " " Home Mission	15.00	
" " " wheat	116.25	
" " " subscriptions	505.91	
" " " wine	2.71	
" " " unexplained	1.59	
Outlay for parsonage		185.50
" " Home Mission		15.00
" " church		452.51
Wheat expense for threshing		25.25
Cash in Treasury		6.04
	<u>634.30</u>	<u>634.30</u>

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Debts:

F. C. Wegener	.30
H. P. Kronwall	35.00
A. M. Swanson	226.09
C. W. Swanson	12.90
Moline Cab.Org. Co.	<u>65.00</u>
	339.23
	(29)

The Church's property is:

Real estate at the church and parsonage	\$1000
Church and parsonage	<u>\$2000</u>
Total	\$3000
Therefore property above debts	\$2660.77

Respectfully

Committee { O. T. Gustus
 { D. Moden
 { C. G. Erickson

By election of the Congregation on Sunday the 3rd of February
O. T. Gustus was unanimously elected as delegate to the Conference meeting
in Topeka from the 6th to the 10th of Feb.

O. T. Gustus
Secretary

* * * * *

Page City, Kansas Sept. 16 - 1889

Minutes for an extra official meeting held by the Swedish Evangelical
Lutheran Bethesda Congregation in Page City Sept. 16, 1889

- 1/ Mr. C. J. Falk was unanimously elected as Chairman.
- 2/ Resolved, that the Church, its furniture, also the parsonage be insured for a period of 5 years and half of the premium be paid in cash and the other half in one year.
- 3/ Resolved, that the policies be written \$500 on the Church, \$100 on the Church's furniture, and \$400 on the parsonage.
- 4/ Resolved, that one dollar per communicant be paid to the treasurer and that this sum be deducted from the assessed communicant payment.
- 5/ Resolved, that the members burn the grass in the streets around the church and parsonage.

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- 6/ Resolved, that the prices on the lots in the graveyard be \$2.00 per lot and that all lots have the same price.
- 7/ Resolved, that the Secretary will write to Pastor E. M. Erickson and have him find out if Pastor Sanden will live in the Congregation's parsonage or in some other place in the mission field.
- 8/ Resolved, that Mr. J. A. Samuelson become the "lookafter man" for the cemetery and that he collect the money for the lots and anything else regarding the lots.
- 9/ Resolved, that the Trustees are requested to repair whatsoever is needed at the parsonage.
- 10/ Resolved, that if Pastor Sanden will reside here, Mr. Sampson⁽¹⁹⁾ will be given a move notice in good time and that if the pastor will live here, he has full power to rent it out if he so desires.
Resolved, that C. J. Falk will be asked to write Pastor Forsander⁽²¹⁾ about land for sowing of Congregational wheat.

Resolved to adjourn.

O. T. Gustus, Secretary

* * * * *

Minutes written for the Official Meeting held by the Swedish Ev. Luth. Bethesda Congregation in Page City, Logan Co., Kansas the 5th of Feb. 1890

After a solemn explanation of Ephesians, Chapt. 2, and prayer, the meeting was opened at 11:15 by the Chairman, Pastor L. J. Sanden. For recording Secretary Charles J. Peterson was elected. Next, the Chairman's yearly report was read.

1/ Resolved to accept the same.

2/ Election of Officers.

For Deacon for 3 years C. J. Falk.

For Trustee for 3 years Andrew Nilson.

For Trustee for 3 years Gust. Samuelson.

For Organist for 1 year Charles J. Peterson.

For Church janitor for 1 year Gustaf Falk.

For Sunday School Superintendent for 1 year C. J. Falk.

For Sunday School Vice-Superintendent for 1 year Gust. Lawson.

(19) The Congregation must have been informed that the Kansas Conference was sending out Pastor Sanden as a "mission" pastor. These were pastors with regular congregations who were sent to Western Kansas to minister for a time to the small, new congregations there which did not have a regular pastor. Rev. C. G. Olson was Mission Pastor in 1892.

(20) The parsonage was completed late in 1887 and first occupied by Rev. J. A. Stamline on Christmas Eve of that year. It appears that after he left Page City the parsonage was rented to Wm. Sampson, the local blacksmith.

(21) The Page City Messenger for Aug. 31, 1889 reports that the Lutheran congregation sowed 16 acres of wheat on land owned by Rev. N. Forsander of Hepburn, Iowa, from which they harvested 300 bushels of wheat. Apparently Rev. Forsander did not make his land available in 1890, as the communal wheat farming was done on Gust. Samuelson's land.

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- 3/ Treasurer's report was read.
- 4/ Resolved to accept the same.
- 5/ Resolved, that the Auditors report be accepted. For auditors for the coming year: O. T. Gustus, August Swanson, Alleck Lawson were elected.
- 6/ Resolved, that the communicant assessment be the same as last year.
- 7/ Resolved to give the Organist \$20.00 for the year.
- 8/ Resolved to give the Church janitor \$20.00 for the year.
- 9/ Resolved, that the Congregation asks for \$25.00 deduction from the assessed help to inner missions for the past year.
- 10/ Resolved, that the Congregation give the missions half of the income from the communally sowed Church wheat.⁽²²⁾
- 11/ Resolved, that \$25.00 of this year's communicant receipts go to the Missions.
- 12/ Resolved, that the Congregation wishes that the sewing society be held this year.
- 13/a Resolved, that the Congregation thankfully accept the proposition of Gust Samuelson that on the south side of his land they may break as much as they wish for three years.
- 13/b Resolved, that on this land 40 acres be broken this spring.
- 13/c Resolved, that Gustaf Lawson and C. J. Falk oversee all the affairs regarding the breaking and wheat farming this year.
- 14/ Resolved, that the Congregation asks to be pardoned for not sending a delegate to the Synodical and Conference meetings this year.
- 15/ Resolved, that every man in the Congregation this spring somehow offer a day's breaking on Pastor L. J. Sanden's land.
- 16/ Resolved, that the Congregation's Trustees ask for help from Mr. Gustus to contact the State's Secretary to obtain a charter for the cemetery.
- 17/ Resolved, that a public church school be held this year, even an English class.
- 18/ Resolved to continue with the subscription to pay the debt of the Children's festival. If not enough is subscribed, take out of the treasury; if oversubscribed, the money goes into the treasury.
- 19/ Resolved to adjourn.

L. J. Sanden, Chairman

Charles J. Peterson, Secretary

(22) The communal sowing of wheat had been a success in 1888 and 1889 and in September of that year the Congregation agreed to continue the practice in 1890. In Resolutions 13a, 13b and 13c it is revealed that one of the members of the Congregation will provide land for this purpose, if the Congregation will break the sod. In 1888 A. M. Swanson and in 1889 Rev. Forsander provided land, but it is not clear whether the Congregation had to break the sod or if the land was already broken.

**Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book,
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As understood in the yearly meeting, officers for the year 1890
are as follows:

	(C. J. Falk for 3 years
Deacons	(C. G. Erickson for 2 years
	(Gustaf Falk " 1 "
	(Gust Samuelson for 3 years
	(Andrew Nilson " 3 "
Trustees	(D. Moden " 2 "
	(C. J. Falk " 1 "
	(Olof Hedman " 1 "
	C. J. Falk
	A. G. Falk

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Swedish Ev. Luth. Bethesda Congregation in Page City, Logan Co.,
Kansas, Treasurer's Report the 5th of Feb. 1890

Cash received for the parsonage	17.00	
" " " a collection	5.16	
" " " Mission	6.55	
" " " wheat for 273 ³⁰ bu. @ 53¢	144.95	
" " " the Church	93.88	
" " " cemetery	4.00	
" " " Communicants assessments	35.00	
" " " Organist C. J. Peterson	3.90	
Outlays for the parsonage		36.45
Paid Out		5.16
" "		6.55
Outlays for the Church		197.34
" " cemetery		27.45
Cash in Treasury		33.59
Outlay to the Organist C. J. Peterson		3.90
	<u>310.44</u>	<u>310.44</u>
Debt to Moline Cab. Organ Co.		65.00
" " C. V. Almquist		35.00
" " A. M. Swanson		100.00
" " Missions fund		100.00
		<u>300.00</u>
Overdue balance Wm. Sampson house rent		7.50
" for Communicant dues Charles J. Peterson		3.00
" " " " Andrew Nilson		3.00
" " " " O. Hedman		3.00
" " " " Anna Rood		1.00
" " " " C. J. Falk		3.00
" " " " D. Moden		3.00
" " " " Gust Falk		3.00
" " " " Andrew Falk		2.00
" " " " Emma Falk		1.00
" " " " John Samuelson		3.00
" " " " S. S. Lundstedt		2.00
" " " " O. T. Gustus		2.00
		<u>36.50</u>

Alleck Lawson, Treasurer

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

Page City, Logan Co., Kansas Feb. 4, 1890

The undersigned have this day examined the Treasurer's accounts and found them correct and in correlation with the now given report.

J. L. Swanson
J. A. Samuelson
A. G. Falk
Auditors

* * * * *

Minutes held by the Swedish Ev. Luth. Bethesda Congregation in Page City, Logan Co., Kansas the 6th of Jan. 1891

First came the election of a chairman and for this Erik Glad⁽²³⁾ was unanimously elected. The Chairman opened the yearly official meeting with Bible reading, prayer and a song.

- 1/ For Secretary for the year C. J. Peterson was elected.
- 2/ For Deacon Albert Petterson was elected for 3 years and O. T. Gustus for one year.
- 3/ Resolved to elect a fourth Deacon, and for this Alleck Lawson was elected for 3 years.
- 4/ For Trustee for 3 years August Swanson and Andrew Johnson were elected.
- 5/ For Church-janitor for the year Gustaf Falk was elected and will receive the same pay as the past year.
- 6/ For organist for the year C. J. Peterson was elected.
- 7/ Resolved, that C. J. Peterson be freed from communicant dues for the chore at the organ.
- 8/ Albert Petterson was elected as Sunday School Superintendent and Alleck Lawson elected as Sunday School Vice-Superintendent.
- 9/ Unanimously resolved, that the Church be open to Protestant Preachers, but only for divine services, and in connection herewith give an invitation to the Americans,⁽²⁴⁾ but that they must take up a collection for the coal and oil they use.

(23) A divinity student, serving as mission pastor, who later became the first permanent pastor of the three-congregation (Page City, Sharon Springs, and Stockholm) pastorate.

(24) This is the first mention in these records of what had been, and continued to be, the controversial question of allowing the Lutheran Church building to be used for services by other congregations, primarily the local Methodist Episcopal congregation. The Page City Messenger for May 4, 1889 reports that the Trustees of the Lutheran Church had passed a resolution not to open the Church to their M. E. brethren, but on July 20 there was an announcement that Rev. Glick of the M. E. church would hold services in the Lutheran church on alternate Sundays at 3 p.m. and that Rev. Bowman (also M.E.?) would hold Sunday evening services on intervening Sundays.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

- 10/ As Gustaf Falk refused to act as janitor for the Americans' services, it was solved by electing an extra janitor for the year. Gust Lawson was elected to open the Church and see to it that everything was orderly.
- 11/ Treasurer's report was read and accepted, if the auditors find everything satisfactory.
- 12/ As auditors to examine the Treasurer's figures and to report, August Swanson, Alleck Lawson and Andrew Rood were elected.
- 13/ Resolved, that the Congregation send to the Conference a request that they have a pastor in the field and that the Congregation promise for the Mission Treasury a figure of \$25.00 cash and half of the income of 40 acres of wheat, if we have a pastor in the field for 6 months and get our share of the visits. And if we don't get that, we will give half of the wheat and not the \$25.00.
- 14/ Resolved, that the communicants' dues be the same as last year, \$3 per man and \$2 per woman.
- 15/ Resolved, that a committee of two be appointed to handle and care for the Congregation's wheat farming for the year, and as such committee were elected Olof Hedman and Andrew Nilson.
- 16/ Resolved, that August Samuelson be freed from the communicant's dues.⁽²⁵⁾
- 17/ Unanimously resolved that Gust Lawson become the cemetery caretaker and that he gets the chore of breaking or seeing that 4 furrows will be broken inside the fence if he can do so, and, if not, break outside, and that he otherwise follows the Trustees' decisions.
- 18/ Resolved, that the time for paying communicant's dues be done in two parts, so that one-half falls due in June and the other half in Sept.
- 19/ As Treasurer for the Sunday School C. J. Falk was elected. Also resolved, that he has the chore to send for copies of the Sunday School papers for the year. Also both copies of Jewelshrine, so that the Sunday School will have a so-called library for the children.
- 20/ Resolved, that the Congregation take up a collection every time a Pastor visits, to support the Missions treasury.
- 21/ The Sunday School's Treasurer read his report which was also accepted.
- 22/ Resolved, that the Trustees be asked to put better hangers on the lamps.
- 23/ Resolved to adjourn, and it was done by prayer and song by Student Erick Glad, "Chairman."

Charlie J. Peterson Secretary

C. J. Falk
A. G. Falk
Olof Hedman

* * * * *

(25) Mr. Samuelson undoubtedly was exempted from Communicant dues because he was providing the land being used for the communal wheat farming.

**Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book,
1887-1892**

Page City, Kansas Jan. 6th, 1891

"Treasurer's Report"

Outlays for the Church	43.32	
" to the Mission	123.77	
" to the cemetery	<u>1.50</u>	
Sum of Outlays	168.59	
Communicants' Payments		121.34
Collections		6.07
Cash for wheat		51.20
Collection for Mission		8.52
Cash in Treasury	<u>18.54</u>	
Totals	<u>187.13</u>	<u>187.13</u>
Debts, A. M. Swanson note and interest to Jan. 10, 1891		148.28
" C. J. Almquist		38.50
" for Organ		72.00
" to Gustaf Falk		13.50
" Mission		<u>23.55</u>
Total		<u>295.83</u>

Your auditors committee has found the Treasurer's report satisfactory.

A. L. Lawson

August C. Swanson Committee

Andrew Rood

The Church's property is:

Real estate at the church and parsonage	\$1,000
Church and parsonage	\$2,000
Therefore, the property above debts	\$2,704.17

C. J. Peterson, Secretary

* * * * *

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

Extra Official Meeting held the 3rd of Feb. 1891 by the Sw. Ev. Lutheran Bethesda Congregation in Page City

- 1/ First item was the election of a chairman; therefore, Albert Petterson was unanimously elected. Thereafter the Official Meeting was opened by the Chairman by reading from Collosians 3:1-17; also prayer and song.
- 2/ Then action was taken on paragraph 9 of the foregoing minutes of Jan. 6, 1891, voting by closed ballot that were either "for" or "against" and by unanimous consent "against" (#9) and therefore the aforesaid was disapproved.⁽²⁶⁾
- 3/ Resolved, that the Congregation instruct their Trustees to take action to see to it that the note for the organ is paid when it falls due.
- 4/ Resolved to adjourn.

Albert Peterson, Chairman
Charlie J. Peterson, Secretary
C. J. Falk
A.G. Falk
Olof Hedman

* * * * *

An Extra Official Meeting called by Sw. Ev. Lutheran Bethesda Congregation
Page City, Kansas the 23rd of Dec. 1891

Therewith the meeting was opened by C. E. A. Peterson with Bible reading, prayer and song, whereupon they voted for Chairman and resolved that:

- 1/ C. E. A. Peterson was elected Chairman.
- 2/ A. C. Swanson was elected Secretary.
- 3/ was resolved that the Sw. Ev. Lutheran Bethesda Congregation in Page City, Kans. shall be united with Stockholm and Sharon Springs around one Pastor.
- 4/ was resolved that if the Congregation gets a pastor here in Page, and with the other congregations, that she shall help out with a salary of \$250.00. Also, with the rest of the usable property here in Page City.
- 5/ was resolved that a delegate should be elected, wherewith C. E. A. Peterson was chosen, to, in the Congregation's name, confer with the other congregations about a Pastor and on the best manner for so doing, etc., and it was ordered that Peterson should have the necessary expenses during the time he spends in the Church's business.
- 6/ was resolved to adjourn by prayer and song of the Chairman, C.E.A.Peterson.

A. C. Swanson, Secretary

* * * * *

(26) This resolution appears to reverse the decision taken only a month earlier to open the church building for services of other denominations (Protestant). However, item 22 of the minutes of the meeting held on Jan. 5, 1892 resolves to continue the practice of the past year (1891) of allowing other congregations to use the church for the services. It may be that the vote of Feb. 3, 1891 was "for" or "against" changing the previous decision, so that an "against" vote was a vote to continue the practice of opening the church building to other services. The minutes are not clear on this point.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

Minutes of actions by the Sw. Ev. Lutheran Bethesda Congregation
Page City, Logan Co., Kans. the 5th Jan. 1892

Wherewith the meeting was opened by Pastor C. G. Olson with Bible reading,
prayer and song, etc.

- 1/ Yes, Pastor C. G. Olson was elected Chairman.
- 2/ As Secretary for the year, A. C. Swanson was elected.
- 3/ As Deacon for 3 years Herman Anderson was elected.
- 4/ As Trustee for 3 years Gustus Lawson was elected.
- 5/ As Organist Mrs. A. C. Swanson was elected and as a stipend she will receive \$20.00.
- 6/ Resolved, that the janitor chore should be done out of goodness, free, of love and for nothing. It will be done by turns, as follows:
 Here, A. L. Lawson, Jan-Feb
 " O. T. Gustus, Mar-April
 " Gustus Lawson, May-June
 " Otto Gustafson, July-Aug.
 " Andrew Rood, Sept.-Oct.
 " C. J. Falk, Nov-Dec.
- 7/ was resolved that the Treasurer's Report be received and accepted, and O. T. Gustus, A. L. Lawson, Otto Gustafson become an examining committee to examine the figures.
- 8/ was resolved that C. E. A. Peterson, John A. Samuelson compose a committee to handle the Congregation's wheat farming in the year 1892 and sell the wheat and later give the moneys to the Treasurer.
- 9/ Yes, this committee has power to bring to pass the work; if the appointed persons don't do it when the weather is right and called by the committee to do it, such as cutting, etc.
- 10/ that A. M. Swanson, Stanton, Ia. was asked to be delegate to the Synodical Meeting in Lindsborg, Kans. and that O. T. Gustus be alternate for the same.
- 11/ that C. E. A. Peterson was elected as delegate to the Conference meeting in Marquette, Kans. in Feb. or Mar. and gets half of the traveling expense from the Congregation.
- 12/ was resolved, that Swedish School be held 3 months in the year if it is possible to find a man teacher or a woman teacher, and every child shall pay \$1.00 per month or \$3.00 for the term. Yes, the rest of the pay is to be taken out of the Congregation's treasury. Yes, even the Church Board has power to hire and set the wages, etc. and that the school shall be held in April, May, June, if it is possible to do so.
- 13/ Yes, it was resolved that Gustus Lawson should be the caretaker of the churchyard, etc.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

- 14/ Even so, resolved that C. E. A. Peterson be the Sunday School principal and C. J. Falk, Vice therefor.
- 15/ Yes, it was resolved that the moneys that were left over from the Children's program at New Year's Eve shall be put in the Sunday School treasury.
- 16/ That two collections be taken up every month; to the Mission the first Sunday and the second Sunday to the Sunday School's treasury.
- 17/ Yes, it was decided that the Sunday School Treasurer's report be received and accepted.
- 18/ Yes, it was resolved that the Church Board's report be received and accepted.
- 19/ Yes, it was resolved that Communicant dues be the same as for the past year, \$3.00 for men and \$2.00 for women.
- 20/ Yes, it was resolved to send for 25 copies of Barntidnengen and 25 copies of Olivelev.⁽²⁷⁾
- 21/ Yes, it was resolved that the Congregation hereafter, as before, help out for the Mission Treasury in proportion to the time it is served by a Mission Pastor here in Page, etc.
- 22/ A resolution was accepted, yes, since the relations between our congregation members and the Americans⁽²⁸⁾ during the past year have been agreeable to a large portion of the congregation, with friendship and door-opening to their services, and because it lends to the congregation's well-being and pleasantness to be of help to our friends as Christian brothers, and because the congregation's property loses nothing nor suffers damage through this wellwishing; Therefore, it is resolved that the congregation act towards these, our friends, as we did in the past year, namely to open the Church for these services.
- 23/ That to adjourn was done by prayer and song.

Pastor Charles G. Olson, Chairman
August C. Swanson, Secretary
C. J. Falk
August Samuelson

* * * * *

(27) These are children's Sunday School leaflets, Children's Tidings and Olive Leaf.

(28) Reference to the non-Swedish members of the community, specifically, the Methodist Episcopal congregation. (See Notes 24 and 26 above).

**Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book,
1887-1892**

Page City, Logan County, Kansas the 5th of Jan. 1892⁽²⁹⁾

Accounts for the Year 1891	Cr.	Dr.
Sundry receipts	149.90	
For wheat	368.12	
Communicants Fee	100.00	
" " for 1890	<u>36.50</u>	
Total	<u>654.52</u>	
Sundry expenses for year 1891		95.23
Note to C. V. Almquist		46.55
Note and interest to A. M. Swanson		185.12
" " " for Organ		75.20
From church wheat to Mission fund		180.10
Cash on hand		<u>72.32</u>
Total		<u>654.52</u>

Your Committee does respectfully report that we have found the Treasurer's figures correct with the exception that the wheat crop brought in \$368.12 and that the Treasurer has paid to the Mission out of this sum \$180.10 which leaves a balance to the Congregation of \$3.96⁽³⁰⁾ which the Congregation owes to the Mission Treasury according to the figures.

O. T. Gustus
A. L. Lawson
Otto Gustafson

5 Jan. year 1892

Congregation's property \$3,000.00

Aug. C. Swanson, Secretary

(29) This entire Treasurer's report was recorded in English, except for the word "total." A successful wheat crop had enabled the Congregation to pay all its debts, even the bill owed for the organ since 1888.

(30) The Auditing Committee apparently is referring to resolution 13 of the meeting of Jan. 6, 1891 whereby it was agreed that half of the proceeds of the Congregation's 1891 wheat crop would be contributed to the Mission fund.



Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

Extract from minutes taken at the extra meeting the 29th of March 1892.

The meeting was called in Legal Time and order and was called for the election of a Pastor. The gathering was held by the Sw. Ev. Luth. Bethesda Congregation in Page City, Logan Co., Kansas church on Tuesday the 29th of March 1892.

- 1/ After a short sermon Pastor C. G. Olson called the meeting to order.
- 2/ The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. C. E. A. Peterson.
- 3/ Mr. Falk read thereafter a report from the Committee that was instructed to designate a candidate and from this it was revealed that Pastor J. A. Frost of Atwater, Minn. had been selected.
- 4/ As the list of names was read (16) sixteen votes were recorded for and none against the named candidate and on this basis ⁽³¹⁾the Chairman, Pastor C. G. Olson, declared that Pastor J. A. Frost was unanimously elected as the Congregation's preacher.
- 5/ Resolved, that the Congregation helps out by paying \$250.00 and free living quarters for the pastor's pay.
- 6/ That the preceding minutes are a correct extract from the above-named minutes, Done here in Page City, Logan Co., Kans. the 29th of March 1892.

Carl G. Olson, Chairman
Aug. C. Swanson, Secretary

Deacons (Chas. E. A. Peterson
(C. J. Falk
(A. L. Lawson

At an extra meeting, Resolved that C. J. Falk will be reimbursed for his expenses as a delegate to Sharon Springs, Kansas.

The 29th of March, 1892

(31) Rev. Frost did not accept this call.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

Reference:

From the meeting between the delegates from Sw. Ev. Lutheran congregations in Page City, Logan Co., Stockholm and Sharon Springs, Wallace Co., Kans. held at John Holcomb's in Sharon Springs at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon the 22nd day of Jan. 1892

- 1/ The meeting opened by prayer by Pastor C. G. Olson.
- 2/ Present were Chas. E. A. Peterson from Page City, R. F. Miller from Stockholm, and John Holcomb from Sharon Springs.
- 3/ Since Pastor Olson, the Conference Mission Pastor for this field, was present he was considered the rightful Chairman of this meeting.
- 4/ C. E. A. Peterson was elected Secretary for the meeting.
- 5/ Thereafter, time was left for the different delegates to report what had been done in the respective congregations.
 - A. C.E.A. Peterson presented an extract from the minutes kept at the meeting at Page City the 23rd of Dec. 1891 which recorded that the Sw. Ev. Luth. Bethesda congregation in Page City, Kansas unanimously resolved:
 - (a) To request Stockholm and Sharon Springs congregations to unite themselves with her to form one Pastorate to collectively call a pastor.
 - (b) And if such a union is formed she would help out to pay the pastor with the sum of \$250.00 and free use of the Parsonage in Page City.
 - (c) That a delegate should be chosen from this congregation to meet with like delegates from Stockholm and Sharon Springs to consult about such a union.
 - (d) That C. E. A. Peterson was elected and empowered to act for our congregation. Further Mr. Peterson was instructed that the congregation in Page City does not require that the Pastor should live in Page City if it seems more convenient that he should live in some other place. So they want to leave out of their share to the pastor whatever their living quarters in Page City could possibly bring in if rented out - to be⁽³²⁾ subtracted from the \$250.00 that has already been approved.

(32) The minutes of the meeting of the Page City congregation on Dec. 23, 1891, as recorded in this book, do not include the modification to their proposed contribution that is contained in the last part of this paragraph. This seems to be an afterthought to the effect that, if the Pastor lives in the Page City parsonage, they should be allowed to deduct from their cash pledge the amount they otherwise could obtain by renting the parsonage. It appears to have been dropped during discussions among the three delegates.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

- B. Then R. F. Miller, delegate from Stockholm, brought in from the Congregation in Stockholm an extract from the yearly meeting of the Sw. Ev. Luth. congregation in Stockholm the 15th of Jan. 1892 and had the following content:
- a. With the information in a written communication from the Page City congregation, the Church Board herewith asks if this congregation would be willing to unite with Page City and Sharon Springs into one Pastorate for the calling of a Pastor. On this basis we herewith resolved (unanimously):
 - (a) That this congregation join this union in the nearest future and call immediately a Pastor.
 - (b) That this congregation contributes \$250 for the Pastor's salary the first year.
 - (c) That the above amount be paid to the Pastor one-fourth every quarter, Jan., April, May, Oct.
 - (d) That the division of time of the Pastor's activity in the different places will be worked out by agreement later.
 - (e) That R. F. Miller was elected as a delegate to this meeting.
 - C. John Holcomb, delegate from Sharon Springs, informed the following:
 - a. That the Sw. Ev. Lutheran congregation in Sharon Springs unanimously resolved (at their yearly meeting) that they wished to join in a union with the congregations in Page City and Stockholm to organize a Pastorate to call a preacher.
 - b. That the congregation will help out with \$50.00 for the first year for the preacher, (and they hope that they can increase this sum later on).⁽³³⁾
 - c. That John Holcomb was chosen as delegate to this meeting.
 - 6/ R. F. Miller now proposed the following: On the ground of the foregoing information we hereby declare this union in existence. This proposal was accepted thereafter unanimously.
 - 7/ From this information we went forward to the fact that the Pastorate now promises to pay 550 (five hundred and fifty) dollars to help out on the pay to the preacher for the first year, but this was considered insufficient as a Pastor's salary in this widespread and hard field.

(33) The parenthetical comment seems to have been added by C. G. Olson.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

- 8/ Thereafter J. Holcomb proposed that the Pastor's salary be set at \$850.00 (eight hundred and fifty) dollars for the first year, seconded by R. F. Miller and accepted unanimously.
- 9/ C. E. A. Peterson made the following proposal: Resolved that we go to the Conference with a request for \$300.00 (three hundred) help for the Pastor's salary in this Pastorate. The proposal was seconded and approved unanimously.
- 10/ R. F. Miller proposed that the Pastor's activity be so divided that the congregation in Page City get 2/5, the congregation in Stockholm 2/5, and the congregation in Sharon Springs get 1/5 of the year's high-mass God services⁽³⁴⁾ and that the year's Church holidays be so far as possible divided like the above. The proposal was seconded and accepted unanimously.
- 11/ R. F. Miller proposed that the following petition be sent to the Kansas Conference at their next yearly meeting that will be held at Marquette, Kansas, the 2nd of March 1892.

To the Honored Kansas Conference of the Augustana Synod.
Grace and Peace:

We the undersigned, empowered as delegates from Sw. Ev.Luth. congregations in Page City, Logan Co., Stockholm and Sharon Springs, Wallace Co., are, at the request of our various congregations, on this day gathered in Sharon Springs for a meeting to arrange necessary give-and-take measures for said congregations so that we can call a joint pastor. These congregations have in their respective yearly meetings passed resolutions regarding this union. Also we allocated the following sums to help out on the Pastor's salary for this first year.

Page City	\$250.00 and free parsonage
Stockholm	\$250.00 and
Sharon Springs	\$ 50.00 or together
	\$550.00 (five hundred and fifty)

But since we consider this sum altogether insufficient for a pastor's keep in this widespread field (also it could fall to his lot to visit Mission places hereabout), we want, in the Lord's name, to turn to the Conference and on the most obedient mercy ask for \$300.00 (three hundred)

(34) Refers to Communion Services, which could only be conducted by a minister.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

help on the pastor's salary in our pastorate and we hope and pray to God that this our request will be given to us because otherwise we don't have any means. We are like scattered sheep, and need a shepherd and leader to gather us around the Cross and lead us to greener pastures and to still waters. In hopes for a generous answer, we remain in the Lord together.

C. E. A. Peterson
R. F. Miller
John Holcomb

- 12/ Resolved, that the preacher selection be done in the following way:
- a. A candidate is selected in the following manner: that a committee of one member from each of the church boards meet in Sharon Springs, on call from the chairman of the church board in Page City, and put up a candidate (since beforehand they have consulted the different church councils).
 - b. Thereafter the three different congregations are informed and the constitution is followed thereafter.
 - c. As soon as the elections are held in Page City and Sharon Springs, the secretaries of these congregations at once shall send the results in a copy of the minutes, signed by the church board members, to the chairman of the Stockholm church board.
 - d. If the candidate gets two-thirds of all three congregations' votes, the candidate is considered elected.
 - e. When the result of the election is known, the Secretary of the church board in Stockholm will make up the call letter, which will be signed by the church board members and sent at once to the chosen candidate, including the extracts from the minister's call meetings of the three congregations.
 - f. If the candidate is not elected or if he refuses to accept if elected, proceedings will be repeated.
- 13/ Resolved, that copies of these minutes will be read in the different congregations.
- 14/ Resolved, that we with pleasure accept the offer from the congregation in Page City of the pastor's use of the parsonage.
- 15/ Resolved that we ask Pastor C. G. Olson to make copies of these minutes for every congregation.....(Four additional words not clear).
- 16/ Hereafter decided to adjourn, whereupon we all knelt and R. F. Miller led us in prayer and the meeting closed by singing a psalm verse.

Carl G. Olson, Chairman
Chas. E. A. Peterson, Secretary
Aug. C. Swanson, (35)
Congregation Secretary

* * * * *

(35) This additional signature seems to be the Secretary of the Page City congregation signing the copy he has made in the Secretary's book of the minutes prepared by the actual secretary of the meeting, Mr. Peterson.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

Reference to the actions taken at the extra meeting of the members having voting rights in the Bethesda congregation of Page City, Ks. the 14th of June, year 1892

- 1/ First, O. T. Gustus, Chairman, and C. E. A. Peterson opened by Bible reading and prayer.
- 2/ Then we went to work - first came the farming question, whether the congregation should have any farming or not. As the congregation had Mr. Aug. Samuelson's land, yes, for this favor to the congregation, it wants to express great thankfulness to Mr. Samuelson for the same.
- 3/ Yes, now the question came up how should the congregation raise the money to pay the minister, as they didn't have any farming to get some income from. Yes, as the discussion drifted, we came to the conclusion that the members should or would have to give freely, as they had love for the same, namely the congregation.
- 4/ So it was concluded that they should give as many acres of wheat, each one as they felt they could, or in money that would equal so many acres.
- 5/ That no particular piece of land be set aside but that some portion of their wheat harvest, more or less, thereafter should be given, in acres, as decided by themselves, and that it should be hauled to Page City without any deductions such as ⁽³⁶⁾threshing, etc. and there will be received by one of the committee.
- 6/ Yes, here are the names that have given a certain amount of acres:

No. 1	Gustus Lawson	5 acres	No. 8	Otto Gustafson	4 acres
" 2	C. E. A. Peterson	5 "	" 9	C. S. Johnson	3 "
" 3	A. L. Lawson	3 "	" 10	Aug. Samuelson	3 "
" 4	C. J. Falk	4 "	" 11	A. G. Falk	3 "
" 5	Herman Anderson	5 "	" 12	Swan Sandberg	4 "
" 6	A. Nelson	3 "	" 13	O. T. Gustus	3 "
" 7	A. C. Swanson	4 "		Total	49 acres
			" 14	Dan Moden	15.00 dollars

(36) After five years of communal farming for the church on land provided by members of the congregation or others interested in its welfare, the decision is made to change to dedicating a portion of the individual farmer's wheat land to the church. The reason for the change may have been that no member had land available which he wanted to have broken in exchange for the first year's crop, or it may have been because of difficulty in getting the farming done on the church land at the proper time. The latter is understandable, particularly since the farms of the members were spread over a considerable area. The communal wheat farming was a financial mainstay in the early years. In the four years, 1888 through 1891, it provided a net income of \$660, which was considerably more than Communicant dues collected over the same period.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

- 7/ Resolved, that as soon as the congregation gets a "yes" answer from the called Pastor, it shall go to work and build a kitchen on the north end of the old house. The dimensions should be 12 x 16 and 9 ft on the highest and 7 on the low side. Yes, the stone foundation to be the same height as in the old building with a 12 inch width at the bottom and 8 inches at the top. Yes, the walls should be D. M. (double-mortise?) boards and 2 x 4's, 16 inches apart, even so the ceiling, so that it can be plastered when it becomes necessary later. Joists 2 x 6 and hard pine flooring 3 inches wide. Also an entryway 4 x 4 with a door on the southwest corner of the addition. Yes, a pantry on the northwest corner, 4 x 8, a window on the near end of the same with 2 panes, also a window on the north of the kitchen, 12 x 28, also on the east, same size, also one door.
- 8/ That all hauling of stone and sand is to be done free, also the lumber, by the congregation.
- 9/ That Mr. Gustafson has promised to do all the mortaring free, on the condition that he will have help thereto, such as sawing rock and mortar.
- 10/ That all the congregation's members will do all woodwork and paint the house when it is ready for it, including the inside.
- 11/ That it shall be plastered with 2 coats and hard finished.
- 12/ That the house shall be painted a coat inside and primed with yellow ochre and the last coat light white with green trim, also the Trustees got the chore to see after the painting.
- 13/ That a committee is appointed to receive moneys for the wheat next year, 1893. This was tabled until the yearly meeting in Jan., also the hanging of the lamps around the church was tabled.
- 14/ Yes, that A. M. Swanson was asked to execute this for the congregation, namely, to get the lamps repaired if it can be done.
- 15/ To adjourn, Herman Anderson closed with prayer and a song, "Oh, Jesus, be near us" etc.

Aug. C. Swanson

Secretary

* * * * *

Minutes kept at an extra meeting on 17 July 1892, which was in legal time "noticed" for the minister election, held by the Sw. Ev. Luth. Bethesda congregation in Page City, Logan Co., Kansas church on Sunday afternoon, 17 July 1892.

2/ As Chairman, C. E. A. Peterson was elected. Mr. Peterson opened with a prayer to the Almighty that He would send us a shepherd of Godmindedness, etc.,etc. Also a verse from the Psalms.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

- 3/ At the reading of the list of names, 14 (fourteen) were given for and none against. And on the basis of this, the Chairman declared that Pastor Aug. Johnson of Monmouth, Ill. ³⁷ was unanimously called as the congregation's minister.
- 4/ That this congregation will help out by a wage of \$250.00 and free living quarters.
- 5/ And that the above is a correct copy of above-named minutes hereby asserts,

Page City, Logan Co., Kans., 7/17/92

C. E. A. Peterson, Chairman

Aug. C. Swanson, Secretary

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Reference to a delegates meeting held in Sharon Springs, Wallace Co., the 14th of Sept. 1892. At this meeting at 2 p.m. were J. O. Linn from Sharon Springs, C. J. Larson from Stockholm, Aug. C. Swanson from Page City. It was decided to nominate theology student E. Glad as preacher candidate for all three congregations, and that's what happened.

Wherewith we adjourned.

J. O. Linn, Chairman

Aug. C. Swanson, Secretary

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Minutes kept at the extra church meeting that was in legal time called for the Preacher election held by the Sw. Ev. Bethesda congregation in Page City, Logan Co., Kans., the 27th of Sept. 1892.

- 1/ As Pastor J. Wikstrand became Chairman for the evening, it opened with a sermon and song.
- 2/ When the name list was read there were ⁽³⁸⁾ 19 for and none against the nominated candidate, namely E. Glad, and so by this he was unanimously elected. That the wages for the pastor be \$250.00 and the use of the Parsonage in Page City.

Aug. C. Swanson

Secretary

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(37) Rev. Johnson did not accept this call.

(38) Rev. Glad accepted the call and served the three-congregation pastorate for several years.

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Secretary's book, 1887-1892

Sources of Notes

Newspapers(In Kansas State Historical Society Library):

Gopher Scout, Dec. 1886 - April 1887

Winona Messenger, Aug. 1887 - Sept. 1888

Page City Messenger, May - Aug. 1889

Smoky Valley News(later Lindsborg News) May 1887 - April 1888

Other:

Baughman, Robert, Kansas Post Offices, Kansas Postal History Society, 1961.

History of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Page City, Kansas. Oct. 1953

Bergin, Rev. Alfred, Swedish Settlements in Central Kansas, Kansas Historical Collections, Vol. XI, p.33.

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