



STANDARD, ALBERTA

1946



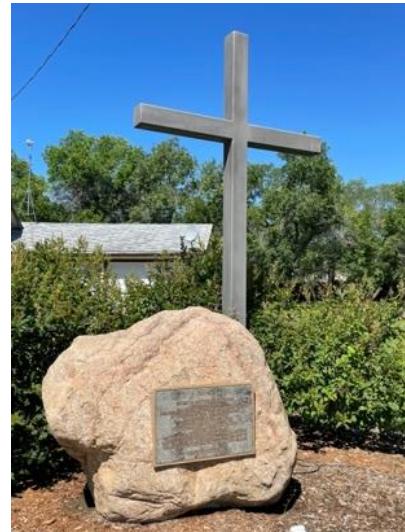
2022

First Street

1020 First Street

Nazareth Lutheran Church

The church played a key role in the formation of Standard. In 1908 three layman and a pastor were elected to travel north to find a suitable tract of land to form a Danish settlement. Jens Rasmussen, Jens Myrthu and O.P. Larsen, together with Pastor Kildsig, contacted the C.P.R. and found 21,000 acres could be had for this pioneer settlement. Jens Myrthu oversaw the land office and sold land to Danes from Iowa, North Dakota, Colorado and Wisconsin. The Jens Jensen family, together with the Niels Jensen family, came to Standard on May 24th, 1910. Some families had already settled and many more were to come. On May 14th, 1911, the Nazareth Danish Lutheran Church of Standard was organized with 51 members. The first Sunday services were in their homes, but later in the one room schoolhouse, until the church was built in 1917. On October 29th, 1911, the decision was made to buy two lots, one for the church and one for the parsonage, for the cost of \$225. In 1917 the church was completed after much struggle to secure and find the funding to do so. December 1913 Sunday School was initiated, all in Danish of course, as were the sermons - in 1919 it was decided to start English Sunday School. December 1920 the 'biggest and best' church bell was purchased and has continued to ring every Sunday since being installed, even all through the pandemic. In 1927 it was voted to install electric lights. On December 9th, 1930, it was decided to hold an English service in the morning of the third Sunday of each month, as well as the Danish service in the afternoon. On September 8th, 1933, it was unanimously voted to bring lunch once a month, to be eaten after the morning service, followed by an afternoon service. This is called Faellesbespisning and was a great success! In 1935 there were 473 adults and children involved in the church. In 1936 there were 112 children in Sunday School and 14 teachers. By November 1945 one morning and one afternoon service in Danish per week was decided upon. In December of 1946 a kitchen was constructed on the west end of the church basement and a coal room to the south. In 1953 there was a vote to redecorate the interior of the church, the tin walls were replaced with plaster. On June 30, 1954, the name changed to Nazareth Lutheran Church of Standard. In 1960 the addition on the front of the church was completed. A small ship, that had been sent from Denmark, was dedicated and hung in the middle of the church in 1972. This is an old Danish tradition that remind everyone in attendance that the church is like a ship sailing through rough seas. In 2004 a large stained-glass window was installed on the east wall, above the entrance, with donations from the Memorial Fund. In 2011 a large cross and plaque was installed outside to commemorate 100 years since the congregation of this church was organized.



7th Avenue

Coal Mines

The first mine was opened just north of town in 1911. The coal was poor in that location. Deep seam mines were opened at the east end of 7th Avenue. In 1912 the Standard Coal and Development Company formed, of which Henry Larsen was a founding member, and worked out of the same building, on the southeast corner of 9th and East Road, as International Machine Agency. In 1917 the company sold out to Hans Castella and his brother Axel. When the mine shut down Hans Castella built a chicken house on the old site. Three hundred laying hens were housed in the original building. In 1946 Louie and Esther Sundgaard bought the place and continued in the chicken business. The business thrived over the years. In 1971 Louie retired and Donald Sundgaard, with his wife Valerie, took over. Their son Trent has carried on with the business.



1924 Looking north from Sundgaard's place, notice the school in the background.