Bethesda Luther Church

The second church founded in Marsh Gove Township, Bethesda was organized on March 16, 1904 and built on section 7 of Marsh Grove Township. Norwegian was the language of the church for several years. In 1964 the members voted to discontinue the services and dissolve. The cemetery and the church bell are all that remain.

Laura Goplin taught Parochial School in Marsh Grove for many years and was a charter member of Bethesda Church

Elias Haarstad was born in 1861 at Svatsem, in Vestre Gausdal Norway. At the age of 17, he left there for America. He was organizer of the township church, and was very interested in community affairs. He was the bell ringer for as long as I can remember in the Bethesda Church. Every Christmas Eve he would ring the bell for one hour between six and seven o'clock. This was a custom he brought with him from Norway.
Submitted by
Orville and Lenora Harstad