Experience Alberta's History

CROOKED LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH



Historical Resources Management Branch, Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women

Crooked Lake Church and Cemetery (2025).



Courtesy of Crooked Lake Cemetery Company

Crooked Lake Community Church Sunday School (1940)



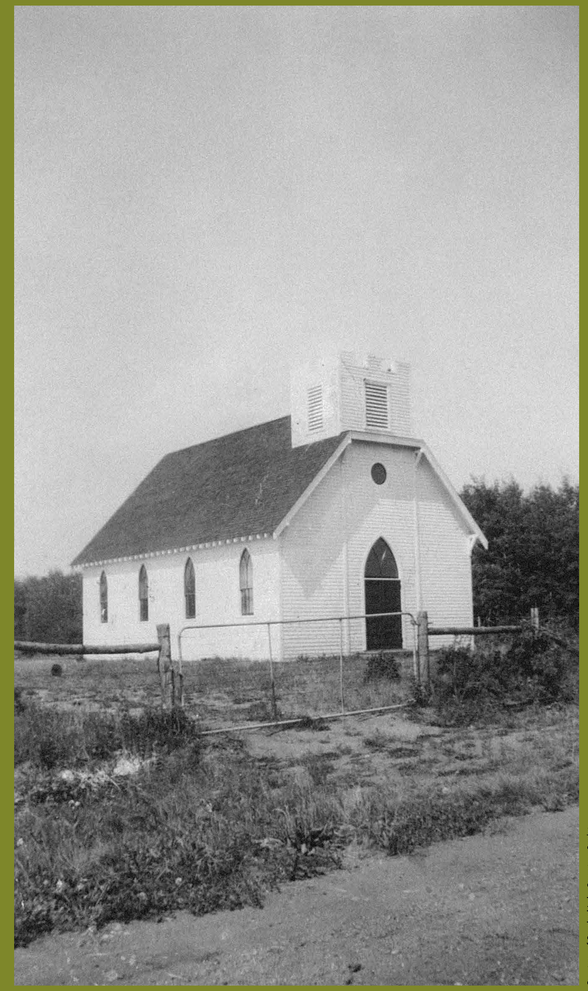
Courtesy of City of Wetaskiwin Archives, 98.37-43-164.n1

Funeral of Jenning A. Carlstad, Crooked Lake Community Church Cemetery (1943)

The population of Alberta soared in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as immigrants from Europe and the United States arrived in search of land and new opportunities. Among those who homesteaded in the Crooked Lake area starting in the 1890s were Swedish and Norwegian settlers, most of whom immigrated to Alberta after farming for a time in the American Midwest. These new settlers brought with them rich traditions that contributed to the growth of a unique religious and cultural landscape in central Alberta.

Settlers of different faiths formed Lutheran, Presbyterian, Swedish Baptist and other congregations throughout the district in the early 1900s. Visiting missionaries delivered religious services in schools, community halls and private homes in the absence of a proper church building. The women of the district took the lead in charitable work, establishing benevolent societies to raise money and support the community. Among these was the Crooked Lake Ladies Aid, which oversaw the maintenance of the community's cemetery and raised money for the construction of a multi-denominational church in the early 1930s. The Crooked Lake Community Church was built in 1932 and was a shared space from the outset, with the Lutheran, United and Swedish Baptist churches all using the church. Services were delivered in Swedish, Norwegian and English, reflecting the cultural and religious diversity of the area.

The architectural design of the Crooked Lake Community Church exemplifies the values and origins of the people it served. It is modest with little ornamentation aside from the gothic-arched front door and side windows. This simple, functional design was typical of many rural Baptist and Lutheran churches from this period in Alberta's history. The church remained open for regular services until 1982, after which time it continued to be used for weddings, funerals and other community functions. The church reflects the religious heritage and community-minded spirit of the people who settled the Crooked Lake area.



Courtesy of Crooked Lake Cemetery Society

Crooked Lake Community Church (1940). The carpenters who built the church were Carl Sherbeck and Kilmer Taje.

Scan the code to learn more.

Alberta Government