

## **Partners in Worship, Shell Lake**

### **Big is Better?**

In communities where the population is larger there is little or no need to think ecumenically. There are adequate numbers of people to populate the churches for each denomination. There are adequate parishioners to pay for a pastor.

However, in small communities things are different. There may be churches but they are small and the number of parishioners is also small. With low numbers, often music ministry suffers . Organists, choir membership, and special concerts are in short supply.

### **Small is Better?**

Shell Lake is a small village of 150 year round residents. Prior to the establishment there has only been one residential pastor who lived the community. He was Pentecostal. The Pentecostal Church closed in the 1970s.

Shell Lake Lutheran was the second point of a two point parish partnered with Parkside. Grace United was the third point of a three point Pastoral Charge with Spiritwood and Glaslyn. Because they were second or third points, both congregations had to make concessions on a number of fronts: worship times, worship date during the high seasons, and reduced pastoral care.

When one of the pastors could not come for Sunday services...the members of the congregation were always welcome to worship with the other congregation. There was and still is an Anglican component in Shell Lake. However there was no Anglican church building. So for decades the Anglican members worshiped with the United Church.

## **How Ecumenism worked in Shell Lake (history)**

**Friendship**

**Intermarriage**

**Community Choir/Nursing Home**

**Bible Study**

**Hey Days/ Ecumenical Service at Scandia** (country church)

**Community Funerals**

## **What Shared Ministry Accomplished in Shell Lake**

**Full Time Ministry and Manse**

Formerly Shell Lake church were either Second or Third Point in Two or Three Point Parish/Pastoral Charge

**Working to Maintain a Viable Congregation**

**Ecumenical Congregations invite other People**

In addition to Lutheran and United members we are home to Anglican, Mennonite, Roman Catholic (winter), and various other denominational members (summer).

**Summer Vacation Bible School**

**Retirement Destination**