Preface

The early history of Norway (also known as Old Muskego) congregation, is well-known. The later years, however, are more sketchy, as the original parish records were burned in the parsonage fire of 1916. A more comprehensive history became possible when it was discovered that two books of the early minutes of the Board of Trustees exist on microfilm in the archives of the ELCA. I discovered the original of Book 2 among church records and proceeded to translate the minutes, working directly from the original.

The original of Book 1, containing records dating from 1849, which was filmed by Ernest Sihler in 1970, has not been found. Our hope is to discover its location so that these earliest records can be properly preserved. In the meanwhile, the Rev. Don Berg of Kenyon, Minnesota performed the arduous task of deciphering, transliterating and translating the whole of Book 1, from the microfilm, a sometimes frustrating task given the uneven quality of the film.

Many people helped to make this book a reality. Thanks to the 150th Anniversary Committee at Norway church, which helped gather pictures, newspaper clippings and parish publications, offered support and guidance, and provided the financial resources for this printing. Special thanks to Donna Hanson who supported this project at every step.

Thanks, too, to Paul Daniels of the ELCA Region 3 Archives, the LNTS Library staff, Jill Raschein of Copies & Ink, and Paul Boehnke, who designed the cover, for their expertise and assistance. Special thanks to Kathleen Fjelstul, my editor, for her support and encouragement throughout the whole process of researching, writing and publication.

This work was done in honor of my family, and in memory of my forebears in the Christian faith who lived and died as part of the Norway congregation: grandparents Johnalbert and Esther Johnson Malchine, Howard and Mary Skarie Hanson; great grandparents Albert and Hilda Johnson Malchine, Ludwig and Gunda Olson Johnson, Thomas and Louisa Larson Hanson, and Hans and Oleanna Olsdatter Skarie of North Cape; as well as their parents of the pioneer generation.

I dedicate this book to the children of Norway Lutheran Church, especially my nephew, Alex Hanson, baptized February 23, 1992—"may you ever grow in God's grace and may all your work be done in Jesus' name."

Pastor Karen R. Hanson
All Saint's Day, 1992