

Bethesda Fun Fact

Within a few years, the Orphanage in Lamberton, MN had outgrown its facility. It was desired to have a farm in connection with the Home to provide food for the family, and give opportunity for the older boys to share in the work on the farm.

In 1905, 163 acres of land were purchased five miles north of Willmar. A new Home was erected that would accomodate 50 children. The name was changed to Bethesda Home and it was dedicated at the Eagle Lake Church on Sunday, November 12, 1905.

T F A M I L Y G Z Y F Z M S F C F L U D U X Z Q G
O O M O Y K Y N R W U W E V U G W A U I U F T V B
Z T Z R T R K N O C C H I L D R E N F J P H F T T
M X X X V U L F O O D M Q K E W P I N W F C O T Z
V C M B R W D P B F Y Q A E D Q L R J H Z R H G V
V O F E G D S W X N A H R M I Z U A R S F E O E C
H K L I H V H I W V W R O D C G R U N R G Q M O H
S L O A M Y E L R N E Z M C A T G Y K D Q O E L U
D K H D M E Z L A C V K V F T R Z M F I I M G H R
R I N E V B L M J Z S W D T E W E S X Y C A E S C
B G M O O M E A J Q K R C B D A S Q O X J V V Q H
P R I S X K U R L O R P H A N A G E J S F X H A W
A P N H N F K O T Z C U R X B U B M J C G N U L W
C O C X E N C V Y O Y F T B F K M M D G F W F S O
T E U S J G P D N M N M Z Q A S G J O S R I U M Y

Orphanage

Lamberton

Dedicated

Children

Willmar

Church

Farm

Food

Family

Land

Home

Bethesda Fun Fact

In 1905, eight years after the orphanage was formed, Bethesda welcomed two senior men as residents. During the annual meeting in 1906 it was decided to build a home to serve the senior community, however due to considerable debt on the Children's Home building (\$12,879.63) the building was delayed.

At the 1909 annual meeting the matter was revisited and approved with the stipulation that the cost not exceed \$6,000. The new building was ready for occupancy in 1910.

After a few more years more room was needed to accommodate the many applicants. The Board of Directors decided on March 25th of 1915 to build an addition. The new addition was completed in 1916 at a total cost of \$8,230.

Bethesda Country Home
Willmar, MN
1905-1979

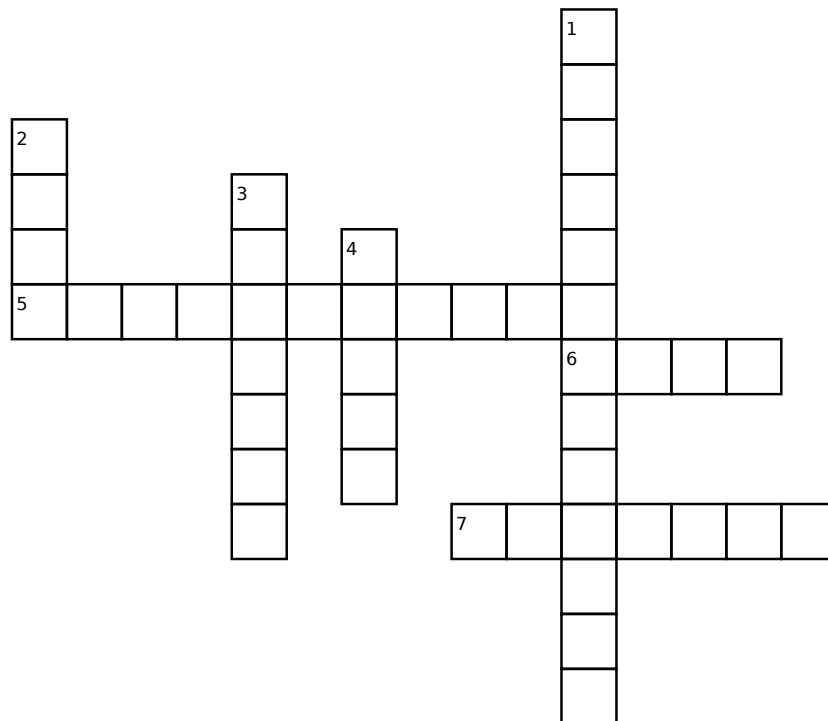


Bethesda Fun Fact

On October 29th, 1929, the stock market crashed and would send the world into a tailspin. The 1930s brought in one of the longest and hardest droughts on record. The crops at Bethesda began to fail, so feed would need to be purchased for the stock on the farm. At one time, the debt amounted to \$24,000 (which would be approximately \$487,000 today).

To try and keep the mission at the Children's Home afloat, the pastor and the matron, along with a group of children, visited congregations and gave programs of song and music.

Over time, stricter laws for operating children's homes were enacted, and it was favored to place children in private homes instead of institutional homes. On June 27th of 1939, the difficult decision to discontinue the Children's Home was made. The building was then used as a residence for seniors in good health and some of the workers.



Down:

- Where did the pastor matron along with a group of children visit?
- After the drought what needed to be purchased for livestock?
- What did the 1930s bring in that made growing crops difficult?
- What market crashed on October 29th, 1929?

Across:

- On June 27th, 1939 the decision to _____ the Children's Home was made.
- After the Children's Home was closed the building was used for seniors in _____ health and workers.
- What type of homes were favored to place children instead of institutional homes?

Bethesda Fun Fact

During the difficult years of the Great Depression and that drought that accompanied it, Bethesda had a heavy debt of \$23,000. By 1949 the debt had been paid off, and a surplus of approximately \$90,000 had been accumulated. Many improvements had been made on the institution's buildings and on the farm. The favorable turn in finances had partly come about by the sale of farms and other property held by the Homes.

Occasionally, whether it would be advantageous to move Bethesda Homes to Willmar had been asked. A committee was elected to consider the matter, and upon recommendation, the committee decided to buy a site in Willmar. The Bethesda Homes committee presented the idea to the Annual Conference of the Lutheran Free Church held in Morris, MN, on June 8-12 of 1949 and received unanimous approval.

—Word Scramble—

ESDHBATE

ETGRA EDSSPOINRE

PSURUSL

BTDE

FMRA

NVADAGAEOTUS

OEHSM

IRAWLLM

CEITEMTMO

RECTNMAEIMOOND

IDAE

LPAARPVO

HFITA

CAER

INOSSIM
