

The Center Piece

Summer 2026

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Chippewa Lutheran Church, 1871-2026

Chippewa Lutheran Church will be celebrating 155 years of worship, this year. The Norwegian Free Church held its first service in 1871. It was founded by Norwegian immigrants who had developed a mistrust of the state-run church in Norway and were determined to be a free congregation.

In 1875, Ole Thompson offered land for a building site. It was decided to hold off construction, however, until the railroad route was determined. Therefore, the cemetery is located a few miles south of the church.

The structure was completed in 1885. Various improvements included the addition of a bell, refinish the interior and installing a gas light plant in 1906. New pews and electric lights were added in 1919 and a full basement was added in 1927.

Originally known as Chippewa Free Church, the church was joined with the Danish conference until 1887. In 1890, the church adopted the constitution of the United Lutheran Church. This was severed in 1897 and the church adopted the principles of the Lutheran Free Church in 1899. In 1963, the Lutheran Free Church merged with the American Lutheran Church. A new constitution was adopted in 1965, followed by the joining of Chippewa and Grace in 1966 as a joint parish. The pair split in 1978 when Chippewa again became associated with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

In 1980, an office was built onto the church, the church was re-sided and new storm windows were purchased to protect the stained glass windows. Padded pews were added in 1996.

Recently, a new fellowship hall and bathrooms were added. A lift was added for handicapped access.



2026

Undated
photo



Interior 2026



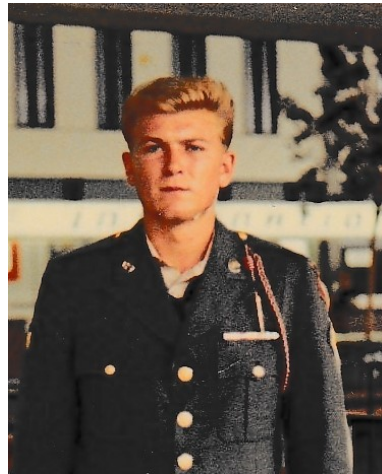
Veteran's Corner



Ralph Eugene Fynboh
United States Army
Vietnam Era

Ralph Eugene Fynboh was drafted into the United States Army February 1964. He served actively at Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Lewis Washington and Cameron Bay Vietnam. Soon after arriving Ralph caught Malaria and was sent to Fitzsimons Hospital in Denver Colorado for treatment. Ralph was honorably discharged January 1, 1970.

Ralph Eugene Fynboh passed away July 15, 2025.



Robert Leo
Hinderscheid
United States
Army
Vietnam Conflict

Robert was drafted into the United States Army September 12, 1966 at Fort Hood Texas. Troop A, 1st Squadron. 4th Cavalry-1st Infantry Division. Served one month with the 1st US Airpac and C.Troop 2 Armored CAV "Black Hawks". Hell on Wheels, 1st Regiment of "Dragoons".

Upon reactivation of the 2nd Armored Division and was sent to Vietnam on a troop ship and spent two years with the same guys.

Since then the 2nd Division has been taken out of service.

Robert received the:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Certificate of Achievement
- Vietnam Medal
- Army Commendation Medal

Robert received an Honorable Discharge on September 11, 1968.

My uncle Ray Hinderscheid was killed in World War II

Robert passed away June 10, 2026

He Rests at Peace in the

Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Evansville MN



Paul Strom
Vietnam Era

Paul entered the U.S. Army at Fort Leonard Wood in 1972. Paul was a medic near Stuttgart Germany. His primary duties were working in a clinic for military and civilian personnel. He received his honorable discharge from the military in 1975.

Paul passed away January 19, 2026

Paul Rests In Peace at

Chippewa Cemetery, Brandon Minnesota

In Memory of Mike Cleary

Apr 10, 1946—Jan 17, 2026



Mike Cleary served as president of the Brandon History Center from 2019–2025 and also on the board in 2019. He was instrumental in making the BrandonHistory.org website and the Brandon Auditorium video. He had an interest in the history of the Stowe Lake area and Brandon Township. His leadership and enthusiasm will be missed.

Thank you!

To everyone who requested research on family members, Brandon/Millerville research, or other items, we are glad to help. Thank you to all who have donated money, items for our history collections, and information about people of the area for our family files.

- Kathy Brethorst—Brandon T-Shirt
- Dennis & Chris Korkowski—Chippewa Park Celebration Knife and Holder
- Judi Korkowski—Brandon School books
- John & Roxanne Romnes—Charlie Guenther Info
- Karen Severson—Various Brandon and Brandon School memorabilia
- Leslie Sumstad—Viking piggy bank
- Donovan Roers—Greyhound Bus Depot
- Evansville Historical Foundation—Sadia Peterson painting “Farm Auction” and other various memorabilia
- Dick & Linda Wagner—Millerville Speed Limit Sign
- Duane Johnson Family—Various Records and Echopress newspapers
- Nora Goodburn—items for the new History Center display
- Cash Donations in memory of Mike Cleary
- Cash Donation in memory of Frank Goering
- John & Karen Lund family membership
- Mary Jo & Roland Pfender donation

Board Update

Cheryl Johnson was appointed to fill out the remainder of Mike Cleary’s term.

Membership Information

Annual Memberships are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for family. Life time memberships are \$150 for individuals and \$200 for family.

In addition to renewing your membership, you may want to consider a tax deductible charitable contribution of \$100 or more to the History Center. The Brandon History center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

With a \$100 donation, the donation is remembered on the wall plaque with either your own name or in memory of a family member or friend.

History Center Hours

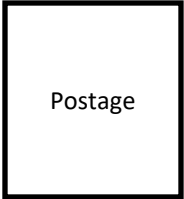
The History Center is usually open on Friday from 9-12, please e-mail to verify, or by appointment. It is open for research or to donate items of historical value such as family pictures and stories. Email brandonhistory@gctel.net to arrange a time for a visit.

Our Mission Statement

To collect and preserve the history of Brandon, Millerville, and the surrounding area for future generations.

To assist in the preservation of the Historic Brandon Auditorium and other local historic sites

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- BOARD MEMBERS:**
- Florence Bitzan
 - Carol Ramler
 - Cheryl Johnson
 - Ruth Plaster
 - Maynard Peterson
 - Karen Thoennes
 - Dennis Korkowski

Brandon and Brandon-Evansville Yearbooks Needed

The Brandon History Center does not have a copy of the Brandon and Brandon-Evansville Yearbooks for the following years: 1950, 1951, 1953, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2015, and 2018. If you are willing to donate, please contact the History Center.

Auditorium Updates



More maintenance has been done to preserve the auditorium. The front doors and the signage have been painted and the auditorium floor has been refinished.