



**Rev. S. Pongannis, pastor of St. Mary's,
Gaylord, around 1905.**

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Records of the Seventh Day Adventist Church show it in existence in Vanderbilt in 1884, with R. C. Horton its first pastor. Meetings were held weekly in various homes and quarterly regional meetings in school-houses. Davis school in Elmira was one such schoolhouse used for this purpose.

In 1894, J. M. McQueen, C.P. Corless and Joseph Jessup were instrumental in the establishment of a Church on North Illinois Street. In 1944 this building was moved to Onaway and meetings were again held in various homes.

In 1954, the Church on Fifth Street was built. The pastor at present is Rev. Jess Nephew.

REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints appears in recorded histories in 1890's. Four Hartnell brothers and their families formed the nucleus of the Church. Meetings were held in the Elliott Building on the corner of Main and North Center, where the Alpine Flower shop is now. It was a grocery store with the Hall upstairs. Later, meetings were held in the Bagley Township Hall at the corner of First and South Otsego, until Gaylord became a city.

The Church building on South Center at Second was built in 1940. Extensive remodeling was done in 1973 in the Alpine style.

Elder Harry Richmond is acting as Branch president, following 15 years of service by Elder Ted Engel in this capacity.

ST. THOMAS ACQUINAS CHURCH

Elmira was settled in the late 1800's by Polish Catholics who constructed a small frame church. Sunday services were provided by Franciscan Fathers from Petoskey. Rev. Bruno Torka traveled to Elmira on Saturdays for religious instruction of the children and visitation.

In 1946, Father Jerome Szydlowski became the first resident priest, and plans were begun to construct the present brick church and parsonage on land donated by Darius and Charlotte Buell.

Rev. David Gemund is the acting parish priest at present.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

In 1933, the Lutherans began holding services in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, with Pastor Harold Ott, of Cheboygan. Services were held weekly until 1941. After a four year break, services were resumed in the VFW Hall. The Church formed a Parish with the Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Lewiston, after the constitution was adopted in 1946.

Property was purchased in 1946 on South US-27 at the present location. This home later became the parsonage and services were held in nearby buildings. In 1947-48, the Church building recently vacated was built. During 1971 Lewiston and Gaylord separated as a parish and each Church had its own pastor.

In 1970 the building committee was activated and in 1973 the beautiful new Church in the Alpine style was built.

Rev. Ivan Schalla is the present pastor.

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

In 1938, Mr. Clinton Hill purchased a former dance hall from the Otsego County Fair Board and converted it into a church and parsonage which was known as the Gaylord Gospel Center. Rev. J.W. Frisbey was the pastor.

In 1943 it was reorganized as the Evangelical Free Church with eight charter members, three of which survive: Mrs. Nels Jensen, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Johnson.

In December, 1944, the buildings burned and the following spring the lot on the corner of Fifth and South Court was purchased and a basement church was built. The upper structure was built in 1949. Remodeling and an addition were accomplished in 1972 while Rev. Chester Franzke was pastor.

Rev. Charlex Warren arrived to pastor this Church in April, 1975.