

## **Sunburst Cross of Hope is Shawano County's 118<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt**

Fred and Ann Opperman say they are honored to have been asked by the seventh grade class at St. James Lutheran School in Shawano to sponsor a barn quilt as part of Shawano County's barn quilt project. The quilt pattern the Oppermans worked with the school children to design is called "Sunburst Cross of Hope" and is the second quilt the class has completed under the supervision of teacher Danny Fosheim. It is Shawano County's 118<sup>th</sup> barn quilt and is mounted on the Opperman barn at N6070 Maple Avenue just northwest of Shawano.

The Opperman heritage on the farm dates back to the 1800s when Fred and Mary Opperman started logging and clearing the land. One of Fred and Mary's eight children, Henry, watched as the barn was being built in 1906. He and his wife Alma took over operation of the farm in 1922. Henry was a forward-thinking farmer, being one of the first to adopt artificial insemination, soil testing and the utilization of hybrid corn.

In 1963, one of Henry and Alma's five children, Fred, along with his wife Anna May, purchased the farm, which at the time had a milking herd of 33 cows and some young stock. Fred, as forward thinking as his dad, built one of Shawano County's first free stall milking parlors in 1971. When Fred and Anna May auctioned off the milking cows and closed the dairy portion of their farm in 1998, the herd had grown to 150 milk cows. Today the farm is just used for crops.

"Ann and I have admired the barn quilts since they began popping up all over Shawano County," Fred said, "and are pleased to be part of the project. And as far as the pattern for our farm, St. James is a fine Christian school that represents the design chosen for our barn, a cross that reflects hope."