

## Shawano County's 314<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt Has Religious Theme

Shawano County's 314<sup>th</sup> barn quilt is now on display on a barn at N1731 County Road S, Pulaski. It sits adjacent to Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Lessor. Named Our Savior's Martin Luther Seal, the quilt was sponsored by the Ainsworth and Kolaske families who are members of the church.

The focal point in the center of the quilt is the Martin Luther Seal. The chief symbols in the seal are the cross and the heart. The white rose represents the joy, comfort and peace which Christ brings. The sky blue field behind the rose suggests hope of a heavenly future filled with joy. And the golden ring is symbolic of Christ's gift of life which never ends.

Pastor Mike Dismer said "The silhouette of our church was included in the quilt pattern because it tells us, and all who see it, that this is God's house, a meeting place for God's people."

On December 26, 1872, 17 settlers from the Elm Dale, Welhaven and Landstad areas met to formally organize Our Savior Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Lessor. They met in members' homes until 1882 when the church was built on the site of the current cemetery. The church was moved, using a single horse, to its present location so a basement and parking lot could be added.

The parsonage and barn were built in 1913 and in 1914 the congregation was no longer served by a pastor from Green Bay. The barn on which the barn quilt is displayed faces the church and was used by the pastor for his horses, a cow and several chickens.

The barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by Brad and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.