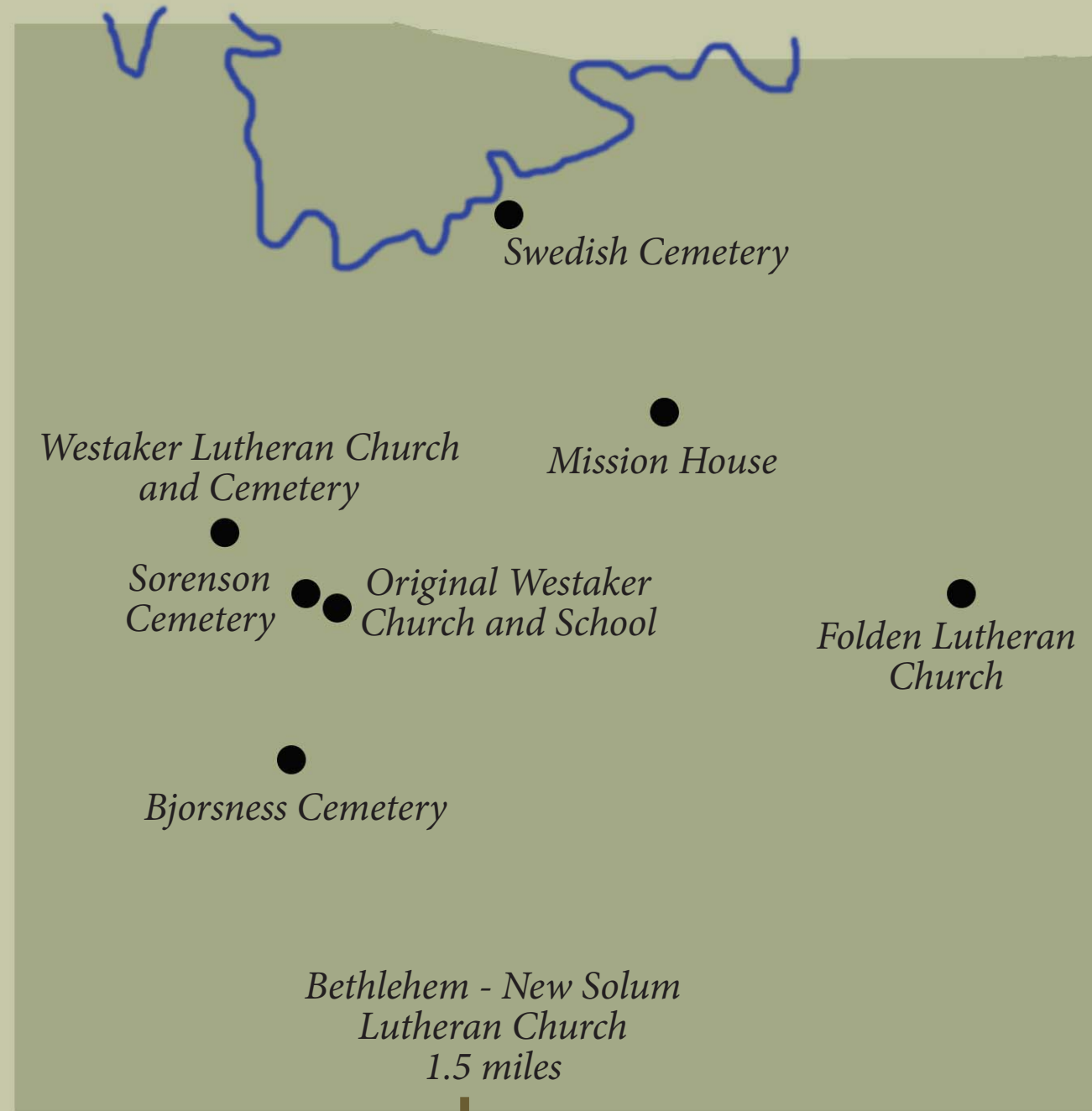


# Church in Early New Folden

Church Locations New Folden Township



## The Importance of Faith

Religion was an integral part of the connection that helped the settlers build a thriving community. Early settlers first held services once a month in homes; later primitive log churches were built. As congregations grew, larger framed church structures were constructed.

In 1884 the first church congregation, *Folden*, was organized in New Folden Township. The congregation met in homes and schoolhouses. The minister was paid \$10 a service and would receive proceeds from the offering if there was not enough money to pay his wages. Because of the remoteness of the area, the minister traveled from community to community and served several congregations.

In 1887, three Lutheran congregations were organized in the Newfolden area, Folden, Bethania, and Westaker.

*Faith, the strong belief in God, in one another, and in oneself, has been the foundation that has stood fast in the perseverance of the community of Newfolden.*

*The early Norwegian and Swedish settlers came to this area ambitious and imaginative. With a common goal, they worked diligently to transform the prairie into a thriving agricultural area. As it was when Europeans arrived in the Newfolden area, churches continue to be an important thread that binds the community together.*

The Swedish Lutheran Augustana Church was organized in 1896, but was not formally established until 1905 when a church was built in Newfolden. The congregation dissolved in the 1930s. The church building was moved to Strandquist where it was annexed to Bethesda Lutheran Church.



## The Swedish Mission House

A Swedish mission house, southeast of Newfolden, was the first meeting place for fellowship for those of the Newfolden Mission Society. The church would be fully organized in January 1906 when the construction of the church was completed. On November 3, 1945 the congregation voted to change the name to the Norwegian Evangelical Church of America. As the church building began to deteriorate and the congregation grew, a new structure was built which is the current Evangelical Lutheran Church. It was built between 1971-1972.



*Swedish Church built in 1906 on the northwest corner of the lumberyard block. The church of the Newfolden Mission Society in 1905. Above Left: Newfolden Mission Society Church in 1905.*