

August 3, 1922

Rev. Frank Wilke

Services for the Rev. Frank E. Wilke, 76, a former Groton resident, were held Monday July 31 at 10:30 a.m. in St. John's Lutheran Church. The Rev. Russell Peterson and the Rev. Paul Wendling of Rapid City officiated. Burial was in the Groton Union Cemetery.

Rev. Wilke died July 25 at the Dakota Midland Hospital.

Mrs. Eugene Neuman, organist, accompanied the congregation who sang "Hallelujah, Jesus Lives," and "Let Me Be Thine Forever."

Pallbearers were Irvin Fiehs, Marvin Gengerke, Verne McCullough, Arthur Olson, Howard Schornack and Lyle Thurston.

He was born March 24, 1895 at Chicago, Ill. He graduated from Concordia College in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1915 and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., in 1918. He was ordained and installed in the ministry on Aug. 25, 1918. He married Helen Hofert Aug. 10, 1918, at Chicago. She died in 1950. His second marriage was to Effie Young in Jan. 1952, at Rapid City. She died in 1965.

Rev. Wilke began his ministry in the Trinity Lutheran Church at James in 1918. He served with the St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ferney until 1942, the First English Lutheran Church in Parker and the Zion Lutheran Church in Rapid City. He then retired as a pastor of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

He managed the first junior Legion baseball team in Groton and organized the little league team in Parker. He was appointed to the South Dakota Athletic Commission in 1955 by former Gov. Joe Foss and held that position until 1960. He served as secretary of the South Dakota District Lutheran Church Missouri Synod board of support and pension from 1952 until 1965. He also served on the Black Hills Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Since May, 1970, until he suffered a stroke in October, 1970, he had made his home with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Lehman, rural Groton. From October 1970 until his death he was intermittently a patient at the Dakota Midland Hospital and the Americana Nursing Center in Aberdeen.

He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Reuben (Laverna) Lehman, Groton; one step-son, David Young, Aberdeen; one sister-in-law, Mrs. Lillian Wilke, Chicago, Ill.; four grandchildren; three step-grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one sister, two brothers, both wives and one daughter, Ruth Larson of Valley Springs.