



Church Profile

Meet our church

Garrison Alliance Church of Garrison MN is in the small town of Garrison in central MN. Garrison Alliance Church is actively seeking to call a pastor who can lead, shepherd, and be the guide in empowering our members and community to the Kingdom life.

History

We began providing God's work in 1935 as three Sunday Schools with Anna Hanson and Anna Person who were alliance missionaries to the Indian community at Vineland, now part of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe a neighbor to the City of Garrison. Sunday school began in Garrison for its young children in 1935. At about the same time two Sunday schools were started at a schools known at the time of Esden school (Bay Lake) and Echo school (five miles west of Garrison. In 1937 Rev. Hubert Rupp came to Garrison, preaching 3-services each Sunday at Garrison and two additional area locations. He worked with very little help to build a church and parsonage in Garrison. In 1949 a second Rev. was acquired, Rev. Norman Werner. He provided services in Garrison and Esden location until Garrison Alliance Church was organized. It was at this time the Esden location still having about fourteen members who continued to seek God's word was still active. In 1951 Rev. Melvin Stombaugh began his ministry and with volunteer labor from the congregation a new church building and parsonage were built. It was at this time a youth group was formed. Rev. Palmer came as a fourth pastor and the church began another expansion project of adding a vestibule and full basement to provide Sunday school rooms and restrooms. There were two morning services during the summer to accommodate tourism visitors. The church continued to grow under Rev. Jackson Stutler and Rev. Garfield Powell. Membership in 1975 reached a high of 87 members. It was at this time the church constructed a new sanctuary with a full basement and the purchasing of two adjoining lots. The church invested indebtedness of \$30,000 and was debt free in 1977. The church continued under faithful direction from four reverends and a new parsonage was then moved to the adjoining lot and a full basement and entry were added. The church and parsonage sit on four lots and the sanctuary can seat up to 150+people. In 1971 the Northwest District Conference was held at the Garrison Alliance Church. Our church fellowship over the years and current fellowship has benefitted from the love and labor of many. And, although our brief history of our church deals mainly with facilities and numbers we continue to strive to impact our community and know it is important for our church to remain the "Light on the Corner" doing God's work.

Congregational Profile

Our church body at Garrison Alliance Church consists of committed individuals who work to keep our church from non-existence and to be salvation strong through preaching, teaching, and living of God's word. Our data profile is of an older generation composite with approximately 33-members. Our community size is great because we are in a versatile population environment meaning our Sunday services during the peak tourism months can reach close to 50-in attendance. Most members and attendees have either moved to the central MN area or are temporary visitors to the area.

Our church has very few children who attend on regular basis and it is the desire to continue to reach the younger generation population to introduce them to Jesus and our God.

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Our members profession component is made up of private business owners, healthcare professionals, pastoral retirees, and lay based workers. Our members and regular attendees are active in praying and supporting each other when called upon.

We do not view our small community as small due to being surrounded by multiple neighboring cities all within a short distance away. We are a welcoming congregation, and it is important that we invite all people to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and experience his grace, mercy, and goodness. We continue to strive to have more presence and visibility in our community.

Current Ministries

Garrison Alliance Church is an active ministry supported by 3-elders and a 7-member Governance Board who help and support our current interim-pastor during this pastoral transition. We actively promote our ministries through community outreach activities and missions which are led by our Fellowship and Education committee. These activities are supported by member and attendee volunteers. The church currently has an active website which lists general information and upcoming events. We are also actively working towards live streaming of our services via our You Tube page. Our church is debt free.

Internal:

- Regular Sunday morning service.
- Adult Bible Study
- Special Holiday services.

Community Outreach:

- Ladies Fellowship events
- Men's Fellowship events
- Adopt-A-Highway clean-up
- Venue for weekly Alcohol Anonymous meetings
- Garrison Play Days annual participant location.
- Support our areas local food shelf.

Missions:

- Support Great Commission fund
- Support through gift giving of Alliance missionaries
- Support area Adult & Teen Challenge
- Operation Christmas Child initiative campaign