

OVERISEL REFORMED CHURCH CHRISTIAN SERVICE FLAG

The Christian Service Flag is a flag that hangs on the wall in our sanctuary. It is white, trimmed in yellow containing a field of blue. Arranged in the field of blue are a series of gold and white stars. This flag acknowledges those from our congregation who have given their lives to Christian service, mostly as ministers or missionaries. Although there is no direct correlation between any particular star and a specific person, there is a star representing each of these individuals. Those who are no longer living are represented by gold stars.

It is not known when the first Christian Service Flag was created for display or how many stars were on it. By the centennial year of 1948, 38 sons and daughters of the church had entered some type of Christian service.

The earliest known photograph showing the flag was taken shortly before the interior of the church was remodeled in 1947-48. It shows the flag hanging on the south wall of the sanctuary above the door to the right of the platform. This photograph may be found in the 1966 "Centennial of the Church Edifice" book on page 28. Another photograph on page 30 of the same book shows the interior after remodeling was complete. The service flag with its 38 stars now hung in its new location on the south wall to the left of the platform. In later years it was moved to the east wall.

By 1953 there were 40 stars contained on the flag. With the bottom row incomplete, young people were challenged with the question, "Who will be the one to complete the row?" After 10 years, Roger Kleinheksel's star finished the row.

Over time it was recognized that the people of the church could not easily identify the names of those honored on the flag. Therefore, it was proposed that there be a plaque listing the names. In 1991, the church had a plaque created containing the names, dates, and areas of service of each individual represented by a star. It was placed on the east wall of the fellowship hall.

When the new church building was completed in 1997, the Service Flag was relocated on the west wall of the new sanctuary. At that time the plaque of names was joined with the flag and now hangs below it.

As of September 2005, there were 56 stars on the service flag representing 38 ministers, 29 of whom were deceased, and 18 missionaries, 10 of whom were deceased.

The Christian Service Flag is maintained and updated as necessary by the Service Flag Committee.

