

## Altamont Baptist Church Profile



The Altamont Baptist Church was founded in 1870 by a group of Danish immigrants who were looking for a new life, free of Old World conventions including the state church in Denmark which was Lutheran. For years, services were conducted in Danish. It is a proud church with a long history of serving our Lord.

Altamont is proud to be a country church. We are located in southwest Iowa, 12 miles S.E. of Harlan, 25 miles from Atlantic, 45 miles from Council Bluffs with numerous small communities in between. It not only serves the immediate rural community, but the nearby towns of Harlan, Avoca, Walnut and Elk Horn. It even draws regular participants from as far away as Atlantic and Kimballton. The congregation is made up primarily of those currently or formerly in the agriculture industry with a smattering of various other professions mixed in. We are a blend of several warm and caring families that contain a good dose of rugged individualism that proven many times as we have tackled activities that normally a church of our stature would find daunting.

During the past 151 years, the church has been blessed with many ups as well as survived a few downs. Some of the ups as you would expect a church of longevity to experience would be the telling and bringing people into the saving grace of Jesus, births, weddings, anniversary celebrations of church milestones and construction of a new parsonage and new church buildings.

The downs have included the church burning down in 1946 after having been struck by lightning. The people pulled together and eventually a new brick building was built with the location being moved to the present site. In 1951, a group of 38 members expressed their desire to practice their belief in the way they felt led that was different than the majority. These individuals left Altamont and started a new church in a neighboring community that had no existing Baptist church. In 1980, a hailstorm struck the area resulting with church having all the windows on the North and West sides of the building shattered as well as the organ, hymnals, carpet and pews being ruined by rain. Once again, the church family rallied to board up windows, clean up broken glass and repair all the damage. By 2006, it was determined that the brick structure was beyond repair due to time and past storm damage with water leakage in the walls that causing mold, especially on the basement walls, along with many other problems. Through many fund raisers and generous donations, our current steel structure was built without the church incurring any debt and we moved in 2010. God has certainly been with us every step of the way on our journey as we know he will continue to be.





The parsonage has also recently undergone a complete updating and remodel. Again, the congregation put forth a lot of the labor to do what they were capable of doing with only some of the major items being hired out to professionals. It is a comfortable place, suitable for a family, a couple or single individual.



Today, we are an active congregation in which all work together to serve Christ. We have a traditional worship service which starts at 9:30am and Sunday School classes that follow at 10:30am. Communion is observed on the first Sunday of the month and is prepared and served by the Board of Deacons and the Pastor. We also have a hand bell choir and a few vocalists who provide special music regularly throughout the year.

A strong emphasis is placed on missions, not only through the ABC offerings but also through White Cross and community outreach. One of our biggest community outreaches is our Vacation Bible School/VBS where children near and far are invited to attend. Our Fellowship Hall serves somewhat as a community center as it is open to anyone who wants to use it.

We feel that we are supportive of our ministers. The compensation package we offer contains a cash salary as well as housing in our updated church parsonage, coverage of the MMBB retirement, medical insurance, some utilities along with mileage and continuing education reimbursement. We think that our total package as presented is a solid one.

The Harlan Community School District is highly regarded in the state for both its academic and sports programs. Harlan is home to Myrtue Hospital, a full-service regional facility that is also an outreach location for several specialists that practice here from the Council Bluffs and Omaha areas. Petersen Wellness Center is a state of art fitness center offering several programs to choose from if a candidate's interests include that. While we will never claim to be a bustling hub of nightlife, it does offer a well-rounded variety of cuisines to choose from for dining opportunities. And in the event that the future pastor is married and their spouse is interested in their own job potentials, being centrally located between several communities with the primary one being Harlan, there would be an opportunity if a spouse would want to find work of their own.



Our beliefs include:

- Belief in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and that we are saved by His grace.
- Belief in the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man.
- Belief in Baptism by immersion upon acceptance of Jesus Christ as Personal Savior.
- Belief in in the ordinance of Communion.
- Belief in the support of the American Baptist Missions both here and abroad.



The strengths we feel we are looking for in a potential pastor would be as follows:

- Attended and completed seminary. A minimum of 3-5 years of previous experience is requested.
- Marital status is not a major factor as long as the belief in the family as a traditional unit is encouraged.
- A strong ability for scriptural preaching presented in a personal and engaging style, formatted within what would be primarily a traditional sermon/morning services. While we are a traditional trending church, we are open to the occasionally mixing in a new feel to the music or sermon elements.
- Ability to build strong interpersonal relationships.
- Visitation of shut-ins and hospital patients is expected.
- An emphasis on discipleship and serving others.

We feel that we are a loving, caring church. We have only had four ministers in the past thirty-four years so both the congregation and pastors have benefited from that stability and continuity. We welcome all who come through the doors with open arms and pray that they will find love and warmth when with us. Jesus is our Lord and Savior and we pray that others can see that by our daily actions and the many ways we serve.

