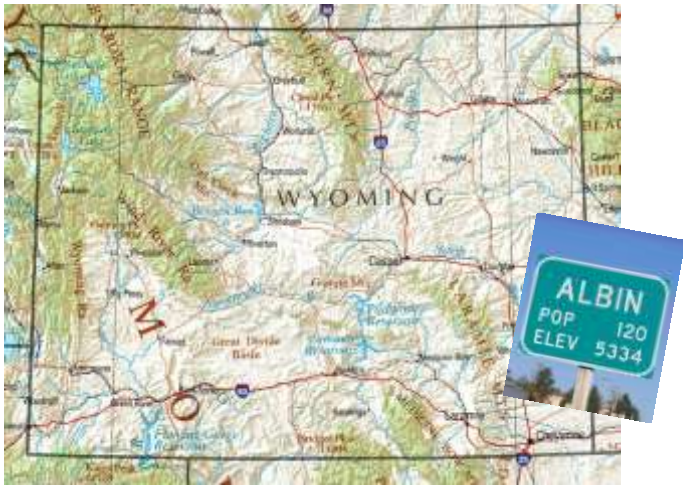


ALBIN BAPTIST CHURCH

ALBIN, WYOMING



Nestled in the small, agrarian town of Albin in southeastern Wyoming is a church that God has used and blessed for over one hundred years. While many churches of this vintage have either gone by the wayside or have retooled under a different name or ministry, Albin Baptist Church continues to seek God's will for its small community and for the world.

In the late 1800's Swedish immigrants settled into a community a dozen miles north of the Union Pacific Railroad stop of Pine Bluffs, WY. The settler's homesteads straddled the Wyoming/Nebraska border and the area was referred to as Gary, NE. Seeking to worship God in their own community, the hardy pioneers formed an officially chartered church and built a modest building on donated land.



Then, in 1928, a railroad spur was constructed two and half miles west of Gary where the new town of Albin was born. The church was moved to Albin and a building was constructed in 1930 on lots donated by a member, Axel Soderquist, where it has remained to this day. Axel also donated land for the northern half of town with the stipulation that there would not be any bars built on that side of town. His wishes are still met today.



Albin grew, as did many frontier towns, due to the size of farms in the area and the need for farm labor. However, increased mechanization and specialization in the farm sector has decreased the population of the town to a modest 120. Yet, the Albin Baptist Church roles show a membership of 80 and a Sunday attendance of 75-100.

Agriculture is still the dominant industry in the area but there is currently a Niobrara oil shale play anticipated in the area which could bring in new workers and industry. Albin has an elementary school with attendance of about 50 students which is one of four schools in our district of 950 students. You can access information concerning the school district at www.laramie2.org. Also, as is typical of many small Wyoming communities, the town has a spacious community center with gymnasium, lap pool, meeting rooms and kitchen facilities. Senior citizens meet at the Center for lunch and local community functions are held there.



However, the closest real “shopping” is in Cheyenne—about an hour’s drive from our small town. Also, the nearest hospitals are also an hour away but Albin has well-trained EMTs, an ambulance and volunteer fire department. Eighteen miles down the road in Pine Bluffs is a medical clinic, local grocery store, access to I-80 and limited fast food. And, of course, Denver and the Colorado Rockies are just a few hours away.

Albin Baptist Church has always been a “missions minded” church and we have sent many of our own to the mission field. Our goal in our financial giving has always been spend half and send half. While we have not met this goal in many years, it is still sought. All of the funds received from our church-owned farm ground is given each year to a list of missionaries both in the U.S. and abroad.



Our children's ministries include a week-long Vacation Bible School usually held in June. We have been using the theme of the Jerusalem marketplace but will be doing a soccer camp this summer. We also continue to offer Sunday school for all ages on Sunday morning, Children's Church during the worship service and during the school year we have an after-school program called SpyKidz.

A new ministry for our church has been reaching out to a growing population of Hispanics in the area. Local members Miguel Chavez and his wife Patricia have a passion for the Spanish speaking population that through many years of home Bible studies a Spanish church has been born. The congregation meets in the church building on Sunday nights and on Wednesday nights for Bible Study. Miguel's has a congregation of about sixty. Attempting to cross the cultural barrier, church members also teach an English class to those who are interested in developing their English speaking abilities.



Our Pastor and his family enjoy living in a spacious parsonage located just one mile from town (1/2 mile as the crow flies across a potato field). The ranch style house includes sprawling front and back yards, a two-car garage and a full basement. Opportunities for gardening and country- style living abound.



From humble beginnings at the Gary Church, Albin Baptist Church has continued to be used by God for His purpose in our little corner of the world. We encourage you to prayerfully consider if God might be leading you to shepherd a flock in a place where you can't see the air or taste the water—Albin, Wyoming.