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**Thingvalla Church**  
Iylford, North Dakota

**A memorial to a church  
lost in fire June 3, 2003**

Thingvalla Lutheran Church was located at Iylford, North Dakota. The community was settled in 1887 largely by Icelanders coming from Manitoba, with a few arriving from Minnesota and Wisconsin. The congregation was organized in 1899 as "North Cavalier" but the name was later changed to Thingvalla Lutheran Church. It was one of eight churches built by Icelandic immigrants in the Pembina Hills area of Cavalier and Pembina counties.

Construction of this building began 1892 and was completed the next year. In 1984 the congregation merged with others in the district to form the Pembina Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church. While being refurbished in 2003 it was completely destroyed by accidental fire. A monument to the beloved historic folk poet Kristján N. Jónsson (known as Káinn) stands in the churchyard.

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