

You may have noticed the storefront church on Central Ave. between the fitness center and the barber shop. Abundant Life Church moved into this location in August 2012 from Elsie. In Elsie, the services were held in the home of Pastors Lance and Linda Heitman.

Pastor Heitman shared, "While people might think it strange to have a house church, in the years after Jesus' death and resurrection all Christian churches were house churches. But we are very excited to finally have our own church building and have it in Grant."

Lance Heitman is originally from Wallace, and lived in this area for most of his life. He mentored under John Anderson of Love Ministries in North Platte for seven years. It was during this time that he began evangelizing and leading people to the Lord wherever he could, even in truck stops. He continued this until he married Linda in 1996.

Linda is originally from Houston, Texas but was living in Cheyenne, Wyo. when they married. They then lived in Wyoming, northern Nebraska and Kansas.

While they lived in Kansas, Lance and Linda were very active in ministry. Lance drove a transportation bus, driving people to doctor visits, cancer treatments, etc. in Salina.

During the bus trips, he witnessed to the passengers and led many people to salvation through receiving Jesus. During one year in particular, he had the privilege of leading over 200 people to the Lord. Many of those people are now in heaven.

Linda was active in praise and worship at the church they attended in Salina and later Delphos, Kan. It was while they were living near Delphos that they felt called to return to southwest Nebraska to start a church in Lance's home region.

The Heitmans moved to Elsie in 2004 and worked while starting their little house church. In 2005, they were instrumental in orchestrating the county-wide relocation project which moved the Simon family to Madrid in early 2006 after Hurricane Rita destroyed their home in eastern Texas.

The Heitmans continued to minister in Elsie until their church closed in 2008. They then wintered in Yankton, S.D. and then relocated to the Galveston, Texas area to help a pastor friend with his church in Texas City and they also ministered in Galveston.

In June of 2010, they felt called back to Nebraska.

"When we felt the Lord calling us back to Nebraska, we called the people who had bought our house—they had never moved in because he was unable to find work in the area," said Linda.

"We bought back our same house and it was like we never left. We had our house back, the same phone number, PO Box number, and even got back the same bank account numbers!"

They started their church back up again in 2011.

If we had to describe our ministry style and beliefs, said Linda, it would be this: "We are a spirit-filled, pentecostal/word of faith church. We believe the Bible is the literal Word of God and every promise is just as true and relevant today as it was the day it was written. We believe that salvation is only through receiving Jesus as personal Savior by receiving the sacrifice, remission of sins and new life offered through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection."

"We believe that every person has a ministry and it is our job as pastors to share the life-changing grace and never-ending love of Jesus, teach people how to develop a close, personal relationship with Jesus that will change their lives from the inside-out; and teach them how to share that same live-changing love with others. We believe that Christians are Jesus' hands and feet here on the earth and we are called to imitate Him."

The Heitmans invite the public to visit Abundant Life Church where they say real love and real

answers will be found.

Their services are Sunday mornings at 10:30 and Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Linda Heitman teaches a Women's Bible Study on Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. and she performs Spanish services on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Their website is www.abundantlifegrant.com and their phone number is 308-353-1010.