



## Our Heritage

Sacred Heart Hospital first opened its doors on Nov. 4, 1897. The hospital had no electricity and kerosene lamps were used for lighting. Instruments were sterilized on the kitchen stove, dressings were “baked” in the oven and a coal-burning stove heated each room. The first transportation to and from the hospital was by horse (Old Dobbin) and buggy, which also served as the ambulance.

Sacred Heart quickly outgrew its 30-bed building and broke ground in 1912 for an 80-bed facility that was dedicated in 1915.

Construction on today’s 144-bed building started in 1979, and opened in 1981. The Avera name was created when the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters joined their health care ministries in 1998.

In 1999 hospital officials announced the purchase of land overlooking the Missouri River valley for a senior living complex. Majestic Bluffs boasts Avera Sister James Care Center, Adult Day Center, Assisted Living and Senior Living Apartments and Bluff Townhouses.

The Avera Surgery Center opened in 2003. The Same Day Surgery Center is the only outpatient surgical facility in the Yankton region with physician anesthesiologists and immediate access to the full resources of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital.

In 2006, the new Emergency Department was completed, which doubled the number of patient rooms and gave ambulance patients a separate entrance from walk-in patients.

The Avera Professional Office Pavilion was established in 2007 to house physician offices, a medical library, an amphitheater and meeting rooms.

Earlier this year the newly renovated Surgery Department introduced a new era of surgical care to our region. New, larger operating suites are fully integrated with high definition video imaging and visualization. State-of-the-art equipment, combined with first-rate surgical care is now offered in the region’s only full-service medical center.

## Our Future

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital continues to invest in the future of our community. This summer, ground was broken for the Northern Lights Project. During the next two years, the north face of the hospital will be transformed. This \$17.1 million three story addition will include a new kitchen and cafeteria, new pharmacy and laboratory facilities, as well as expanding and enhancing many other services.

**Nearly 115 years after it’s humble beginnings, today’s Avera Sacred Heart Hospital leads the way in providing world-class health care to more than 120,000 people in a 15 county region.**

**Avera**   
**Sacred Heart Hospital**