

2022

Jesus Christ, The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever

The Story of Saint Paul Lutheran Church

Based on the 75th Anniversary Edition

Written by Rudy H. Petzold

**With Additions and Editing by St. Paul History Committee for
the 125th Anniversary of St. Paul, Millington**

Published in 2022 for the 125th Anniversary of

The Founding of Saint Paul Lutheran Church of Millington, Michigan

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

The official minutes of St. Paul Lutheran Church from 1897-2021, including translations from the original German manuscripts.

Pastoral biographical material from the Concordia Historical Institute, Department of Archives and History, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, St. Louis, Missouri. Also from Installation Service programs on the occasion of the pastor's installation at St. Paul.

The History of Tuscola and Bay Counties, published in 1881 by H. R. Page & Co., Chicago.

The Silver Jubilee Booklet of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, published by the congregation in 1923.

The official minutes of the Dorcas Society, Walther League, Men's Club and Parent-Teacher League of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Millington, Michigan.

Selected issues of the Tuscola County Advertiser (1915-1921), issued at Caro, Michigan.

Dehrverhandlungen uber Das Wesen des rechtfertigenden Glaubens mit den Pastoren L. Brauer, H. Koster und T. O. Danitschek, auf der Synodalversammlung des Kansas-Districts der Ev. Luth. Synode von Missouri, Ohio u.a. St., versammelt zu Bremen Kans., vom 6. bis zum 12 Oktober 1915, published by Concordia Publishing House of St. Louis, MI., 1915. Koch, John B., Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, XLIV, February, 1971.

Also, "The Controversy Over Justifying Faith" written by Pastor Jason Peterson, as well as phone conversations with Pastor Mark Loest at Immanuel, Frankentrost.

The Annual Reports of St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1937-2021.

The Introduction

The origins of this book come from the dedicated work and writing of a sainted son of our congregation, Rudy Petzold. His concern that the rich history of St. Paul was slowly eroding away with the death of its early pioneers moved him to begin his research and study of the congregation's history. He did this for the 75th anniversary of the congregation.

With the arrival of the congregation's 125th anniversary and the fact that nothing had been written about our history for the last 50 years, the History Committee set about the task of updating the history Rudy had written. Since in the last 50 years many have grown up in the congregation and are new to the congregation, we thought it important to present the entire history from its beginning.

Therefore we are re-publishing what was written by Rudy and making additions for the years 1972-2022 to update events and changes that have taken place.

As Rudy wrote in his original introduction, hundreds of hours of tedious work have been invested, thousands of words have been written and re-written, and still after all these hours and writing of words, this historical work still remains woefully inadequate and incomplete in so many areas.

But, here it is—with its possible errors, with its overlooked incidents, with its incomplete telling and with its inadequate explanations. It is the very best that we could achieve.

In an effort to make it more easily read and its topics more easily followed, we have taken the liberty of occasionally abandoning a strict chronological recounting and have tried instead, to gather subject areas into chapters. Dates found behind the chapter titles in the Table of Contents will help the reader relate the particular chapter to the total story of the congregation.

The story of St. Paul is an amazing story of a desire for God's Word among the faithful, a fulfilling of responsibility to pass the faith on to the next generation, the perseverance of St. Paul members to make things happen when times were tough and there was hardly enough money to feed the family, and the trust that was shown in God to provide despite those difficult times.

Through the years the members of St. Paul always found it important to participate in their congregations activities and projects, to step up when action needed to be taken, placing ordinary people in leadership roles and finding that with God's help things could get done.

This is the legacy from past generations for current generations to follow in order to fulfill St. Paul's mission statement: "We are God's Servants, saved by grace through faith, commissioned to share the Word of Christ to all."

At the writing of this book for the 75th anniversary, Rudy was deeply indebted to many for their assistance in its writing. We would be remiss if we did not mention their work here.

Thanks to Mrs. Anna Ortner, Mrs. Werner List, Mrs. Fred Rodammer, and Mr. Fred List for their hours translating German voters minutes into English.

Thanks to Mr. Frank Koch, Mr. Ewald Ill, and Mr. Edmund Klammer for their help in arranging an outline for the earlier chapters of this book.

Thanks to Pastor and Mrs. Hugo Ferber who spent many days compiling the names of congregation's lay officers for the first 75 years.

Thanks to Pastor Guenther Schoepf of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church of Frankenmuth, Pastor Mark Loest of Frankentrost, and a favorite son Pastor Jason Peterson who assisted with translations and explanations of materials for the chapter involving Justification of Faith controversy.

Thanks to the current members of St. Paul History Committee who researched, wrote, and planned the 50 years since 1972 to update this book. Further thanks go to Lela Higgins, Timothy Keinath, Bill Weber, and Stacey Force for helping to look for and provide materials for the last 50 years. We would also like to remember Mr. Clem Ill, whose love for the history of St. Paul provided the inspiration to update this book.

Finally, thanks to the many parishioners, who so generously loaned the committee their treasured historical pictures and information. We only wish that it would have been possible to include more of these in this booklet.

It is our hope and our prayer that this book will, in some small measure, help preserve the rich heritage of St. Paul Lutheran Church and that it will bring a new appreciation for this heritage to the generations of today and to the generations that will live the history of the years yet to come.

Rudy H. Petzold and the 2021 Historical Committee
(Edward and Lillian Sergent, Kenneth Ill, Arnold
Petzold, Thomas Keinath, Laurel Woodward,
Dale Higgins, Elaine Bickel, and Steven Kern)



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“Remembering the days of old. . .”

These ancient words of Moses, spoken to the Twelve Tribes of Israel as they were about to enter the Promised Land after forty years of wandering, were recalled by the writer of a parish history, published at the time of the congregation’s 25th anniversary year.

This year, as God’s people once again pause to mark a milestone in the history of their parish, these words have even greater meaning—for they have witnessed another fifty years of God’s Love and Presence among them since the publication of the last history at their 75th anniversary.

Worthy remembering is more than just a melancholy recalling of the past.

For the sons and daughters of St. Paul Lutheran Church, remembering should be of a two-fold spirit— a spirit of gratitude and a spirit of commitment.

For twelve and a half decades, God has been richly evident among His People at Millington. Through the poverty of the beginnings, through the joys of the first successes, through the agony of internal conflict, through the days of healing and reunification, and through these days of expansion and growth, God has been evident with His patient and constant love. And because He has been present, today’s generation has been left with a rich legacy of spiritual gifts. This most certainly is reason for deep and abiding gratitude.

With a grateful heart, the sons and daughters of St. Paul should recall the blessed heritage which is theirs: the preaching of the Word, the giving of the Sacraments and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit—present and abiding down through the years to this day.

Consider the hundreds who shall stand at the Right Hand of God on the final Judgment Day because of the Work of Love performed by God among His children at Millington. Consider the precious souls restored to the glorious Kingdom of God at the Font of St. Paul. Consider the comfort and peace brought to countless sinners through the seal of salvation given at the altar’s Holy Supper.

And finally, consider the earthly blessings which have flowed forth from these spiritual blessings bestowed upon the family of God’s Children at Millington. Gratitude first and always to God. . .but also to the dedicated pastors and consecrated laymen, who through adversity and prosperity, stood faithful to the Holy Word and Fellowship of God, preserving it, sharing it and passing it on to the generations which followed them.

Of truth, there can be no God-pleasing remembering unless that remembering is permeated with a spirit of deep gratitude. But it is not enough for God’s children merely to be grateful for the gifts of

Remember The Days of Old

their heritage. There is a second thing which must be an equally living and active part of their remembering—and that is a spirit of commitment.

Down through the centuries, God has worked through men and women to accomplish His Will and achieve His Mission in the world. Through the saints and the men and women that followed them, God accomplished that Will here on earth in the past. But the mission is not fulfilled, the work has an even greater urgency today.

Today, the work which in the past was the work of others, has become the work of this generation of God’s People and the responsibility of His Sons and Daughters of today.

Having remembered the days of old, God’s children are duty-bound to turn their faces to this day which surrounds them and the days which are yet to come. He calls them as He called to their forefathers, to dedicate and commit themselves to His Work so that the Saving Grace of Christ is made know to all men.

This is the commitment which faces today’s St. Paul. This is the task which lies before it. With a grateful and committed heart, its people are to take up the responsibility left to them and to write new chapters of triumph for Christ.

What will some future historian have to say about the years which follow this 125th Anniversary Year? As he takes up his pen, will he have a rich lore of dedicated commitments, endless evidences of self-denying service, rich legends of loving dedication, voluminous stories of love and piety to write about?

God’s Children at Millington will, by their actions in the years ahead, answer that question. Gratitude and Commitment. . .let these two spirits permeate the remembering, the doing and the saying in this 125th Anniversary year.

With the psalmist, may God’s Own at Millington with thankfulness and dedication, recall the ever-constant love of God. As they move forward into the years ahead, let them ground their faith in God’s love, praising Him and proclaiming His name to the final fulfillment of His promises.

To Virgin Forests

To the wilderness of Michigan's Thumb, inhabited for centuries only by the Indians and the animals of the forest, the white man came in the early and mid-1800s—first in a trickle and then in a torrent, as he sought to conquer and inhabit this virgin land.

First came the adventurers and the explorers, followed soon by the trappers and hunters. Then, as word of the area's timber wealth trickled East, the lumber barons followed.

The sound of saws and axes, in the hitherto quiet forest, signaled the start of a gigantic, but short-lived lumber era, which left the beautiful forests stripped of their timber wealth. The way however, had been cleared for the farmers and merchantmen who now followed, bringing with them the beginnings of a stable civilization.

The Settlement of Millington

Early visitors to Millington and Arbela Townships, where Lutherans later would settle, found the area a pleasant and beautiful place; blessed with areas of good soil, fine timber and pleasant mixture of flatlands and rolling countryside.

The first known white man to come to Millington Township was Amos Wolverton. Upon his arrival he found, among other things extensive sugar camps being operated by the Indians. The maple sugar products of their camps were stored for them by Wolverton, who became a trusted friend of the Native American.

Wolverton's house, a log building a mile south of present-day Millington, served as the site of the first township meeting. The state legislature had created the township in 1855 and in April of that year, organization of a skeletal township government took place.

The first white man to settle a parcel of land in the township and establish a permanent home was Edwin Brainerd. He built his home on the left bank of the Millington Creek where he and his family lived alone for four years. In February 1852 his daughter, Elvira, became the first white child to be born in the wilderness of the new township.

The land to which Wolverton and Brainerd had come was rich in timber—beech, maple, basswood, elm and pine. At one time it was estimated that more than 100 million board feet of choice pine stood in the township. This lumber was worth more than \$2,000,000 even at 1880 prices.

The Beginnings of Arbela

The active settlement of Arbela Township—the home of many of the early Lutherans—dates back to 1830, although Milton Whitney had been a resident of the township since 1845.

In November 1849, Simeon Newton and William Allen came from Livingston County on foot to explore the northern wilds of the

Thumb. They returned to Arbela Township the following January and established themselves in the northeast quarter of Section 17. Here they spent two seasons making shingles.

In March 1850, Newton built a log house in Section 16 and to this he brought his family. The Newtons began keeping a hotel which was kept well-filled by the growing number of traveling lumbermen and settlers.

Newton told his friends that a hotel at this point could not help but pay, as by the time a traveler had reached his place he was so exhausted that he could go no farther. In just two miles of the State Road, which was cut through the area in 1849, there were 27 bends in the road.

Gradually, more settlers came and the mail route was opened. About 1872 a post office was established near the center of the township at a place called Elva. This was located at the present-day intersection of Bray and Millington Roads. It since has passed into history.

Earlier, in 1851, a saw mill was built by Hinkley and McLean on Section 32. Another mill followed and for a time, the village of Pine Grove grew to some prominence. A large amount of trade was done, hotel business was lively and the roads were lined with teams, hauling the product of the mills to Saginaw and elsewhere.

But, Arbela Township was destined to remain a rural area for many years, as more and more, the area embraced by Millington and Arbela Townships centered its commercial activities in the emerging community of Millington.

A Village Is Born

The Village of Millington itself originated in the business of Lane & Wolfe, which in 1859 operated a saw mill on the site of what one day was to become the Village of Millington.

In 1860, the village was platted under the name of Lanesville. This plat, however, was abandoned along with the name and in 1872, another survey and platting was made under the name of Millington—a name the town had carried since about 1866. This final platting was made by Samuel Atwood, Joel Beckwith, and D. N. Blocher. These are familiar street names today.

A traveler to Millington in 1879—about the time the first Lutherans of the community were gathering for occasional worship services—made this word sketch of the community:

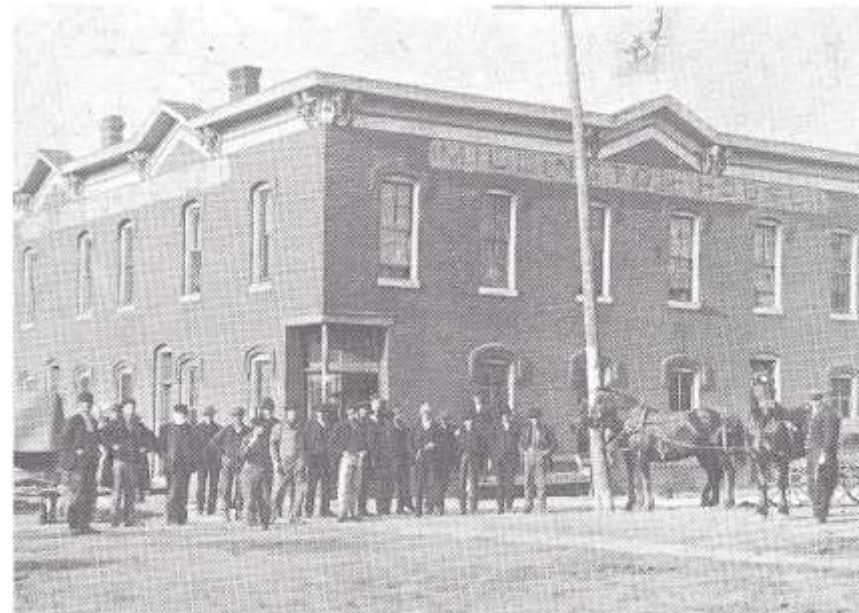
“General store owned by O.P. Gould and Bro., H.A. Beach, L. Hause, R. Rathbun. . .grocers and provisioners, J.H. Hoover and A. DeWitt. . .hardware and cabinetware, I.T. Damon. . .druggists, J.A. Damon and R. Rathbun. . .wagonmakers and blacksmiths, F. Jackson, A. Bostick, J. Titsworth and P. Baker. . .foundry, A. Bostick. . .saw and shingle mill, H. Wolfe. . .grist mill, Rhodes Bros. . .planting, sash, doors and blinds, Phipps & Van Wagner. . .Manufacturers of washing machines, Erb & Son. . .stave and heading mill (capacity 6,000,000 per annum), P. Bach. . .boot and shoemakers, George Shafer and L. DeGreer. . .harness makers, DeWitt and Walterhouse. . .Hotels, Millington House with D. Rogers, proprietor, Chilson House with D. M. Baker, proprietor. . .Saloons, Evarts and Austin. . .jeweler, J. Kennedy. . .dentist, H. Fox. . .millinery, Mrs. J.W. Brown, Mrs. L. House, Mrs. R. Rathbun, Mrs. George Shafer. . .dressmakers, Mrs. Lake, Miss Reed. . .physicians, D. Rogers and H. A. Bishop. . .clergymen, J. H. Cornalia, Methodist Episcopal; H. Mill and J. Bullock, Baptist. . . Millington has a large trade from the surrounding country and its merchants are doing well.”

It was to this setting that the first German Lutheran farmers came in the late 1800s, seeking for themselves new lives and opportunities in a virgin land which for them held a promise for a better and more rewarding life.



Center Street looking east from St. Paul Church in earlier days

The Millington House (corner of M-15 and Main Street)

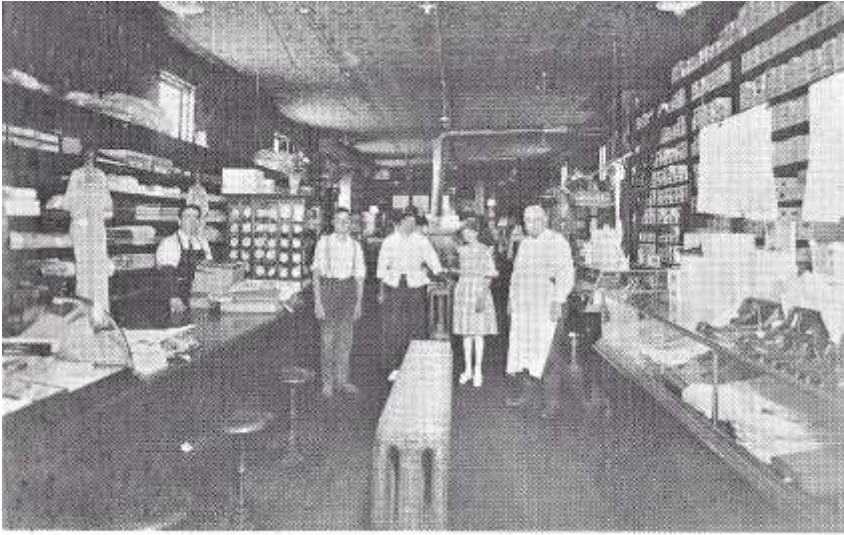


Millington's Main Street looking east from M-15





This old picture shows what Millington's downtown area looked like in earlier days. It was taken from the corner of Center Street and M-15, looking north. The Antique Stores are now located in the buildings shown on the right, which used to be the Farm Bureau store. The building on the near left was a Kroger store. Going north, the next building was the C.A. Valentine and Son Appliance store. The building with the horse and buggy in front eventually became the well known Hahn Bakery, owned and operated by St. Paul members Wally and Alma Hahn. Beyond the bakery building is a stone building that is now the Millington Museum.



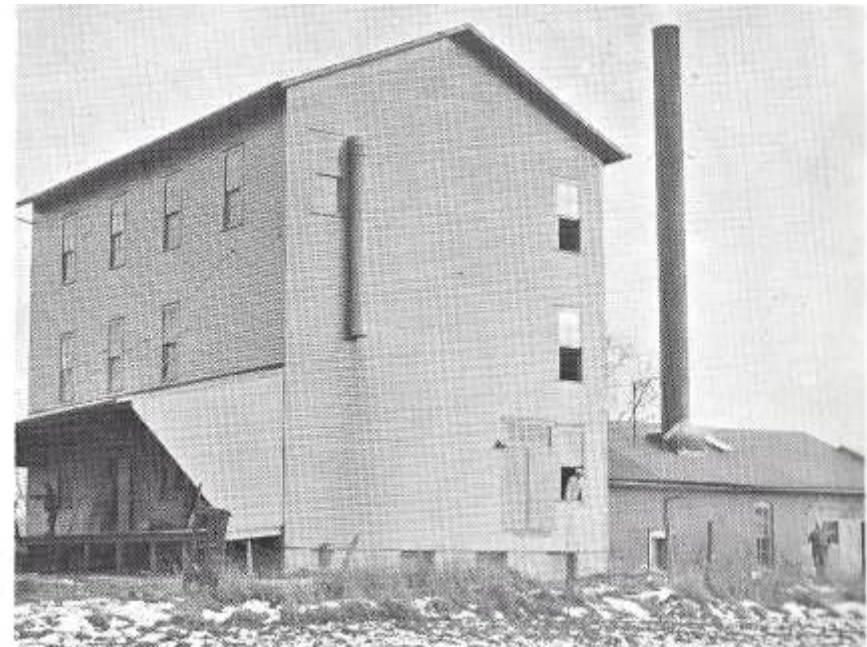
The store is typical of the interiors of stores of the Millington area years ago. From left to right are Max Valentine, Emmanuel Weber Sr., Mrs. Bertha Meyer, her daughter Florence, and Charles Valentine.

At the left and below is the old C. A. Valentine & Son Store of Millington. The store eventually became the location of Weber's IGA, Rosati's Marketplace, and the Millington Pharmacy.



The west side of the Millington Milling Company (1925)

Millington's Main Street looking east toward town.



The German Lutheran Farmers

It was during the twilight of the lumber era that Lutherans first came to the Millington and Arbela Township area. Many were drawn to this part of Michigan by the well-known German Lutheran settlements of the Saginaw Valley.

In search of land, the German farmers came first to such Bavarian farm communities as nearby Frankenmuth. There they were directed to available farm land such as was available around the Millington area.

Farming in the 1880's

When the first Lutheran farmers came to this area, farming was still modest, Millington Township in 1880, for example, had a population of 1,653 and workable farmland totaling about 4,474 acres on 112 farms. Its agricultural output in 1880 included 20,089 bushels of wheat, 35,129 bushels of corn and 768 tons of hay.

Adjoining Arbela Township where many of the German farmers settled in 1874, (the year in which the first recorded Lutheran services were held in the area) had a population of 513 males and 466 females, 213 horses, 90 oxen, 354 cows, 795 sheep, 294 swine and produced that year: 4,591 bushels of wheat, 19,530 bushels of corn, 1,453 bushels of potatoes and 965 tons of hay.

The farms which these early Lutherans purchased in Millington and Arbela Townships were far from the busy cities of that day. . .but as the years passed, transportation and spreading population transformed this once isolated area into a near-suburb of the growing metropolis of Flint.

For many years, most of the German Lutherans of Millington-Arbela area were farmers and it was not until the post-World War II years that farming began to wane as the principal occupation of Millington Lutherans.

In the late 1800s, the newly-arrived German farmers found forests still plentiful. Fields remained to be cleared of stumps and brush land, roads were still little more than dirt trails and life and work was hard.

A Thirst for the Word

For many years—well into the twentieth century—the German farming community remained a close-knit, provincial segment of Millington, kept from the mainstream of the community's activities by the barriers of language and custom.

By 1874, the handful of Lutherans who had settled in the area had grown into a respectable number. Feeling a thirst for the Word of God and the comfort of His Church, they sought each other's companionship and together, sought for themselves and their children, the ministry of God's Love through His Word and

Sacraments.

It was in 1874 that the first formal Lutheran services were held in the Millington area. In that year, Fred Koeltzow, who had set up residence in the Millington area, extended an invitation The Rev. J. Karres of Hadley to visit the small band of Lutherans at Millington, to preach the Word and to administer the Sacraments.

He made the difficult 40-mile trip by horse and buggy in May 1874, holding that memorable first Lutheran service in the home of Christian Hinze.

An early Tuscola County history, published in the early 1880s gives the following additional information about Lutheranism in the early Millington community:

"Evangelical Lutheran Church—This church was organized in 1878. It comprises about 30 families. Services are held every six weeks at the school house two and a half miles west of Millington. Rev. Partenfelder is pastor. Efforts are being made and with good prospect of success, to erect a church edifice."

Although Pastor Partenfelder's name appears as the officiating minister in several functions in early parish records, little else is known of his ministry in the Millington area. It is believed that he was a Bay City clergyman.

The First Lutheran Acts

In the two decades which followed that first recorded church service, some of the first official Lutheran acts were recorded in the Millington area by visiting clergymen.

In 1874, Helena Wilhelmina F. Lang (born January 9, 1871) was baptized on June 23, 1874, becoming the first recorded Lutheran baptism in the Millington area.

That same year, on September 26, 1874, the first recorded Lutheran burial service was conducted for Anna Sophia Elizabeth Henie.

The first recorded Lutheran wedding was that of Frederick Theodore Christoph Gellerman and Maria Anna Mueller by the Rev. J. A. Bohn on June 13, 1884.

Although communion services, no doubt, were held prior to this, the first recorded communion service took place on Invocavit

Sunday, February 18, 1877, when 19 communicants received the Sacrament.

Communion services, like church services, were held infrequently due to the lack of a pastor. Other communion services in 1877 included communions on May 13, 1877, November 11, 1877 and December 23, 1877. No further communion services were recorded until June of the following year.

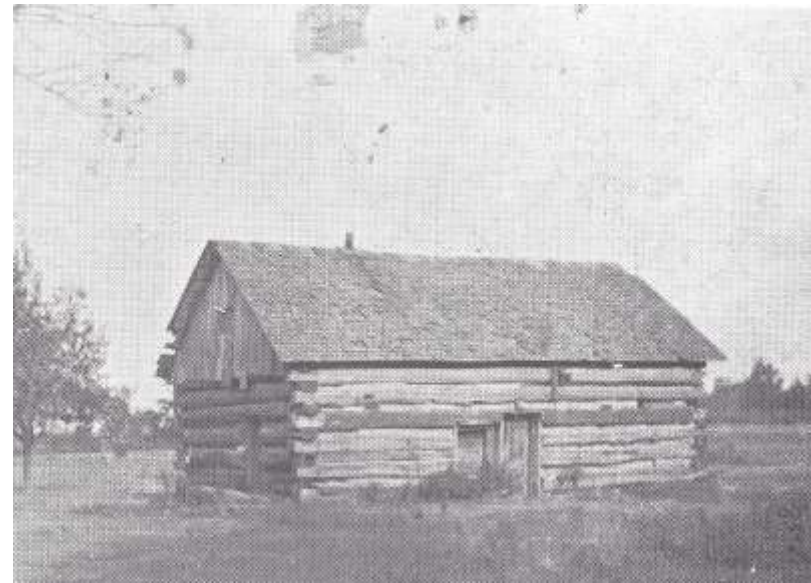
Early Pastors Who Served

For 13 long years, Millington's German Lutherans remained dependent on the kindness of their sister congregations and their pastors.

The following pastors are known to have served Millington Lutherans during the approximate periods indicated: The Rev. J. Karres of Hadley (starting about 1874); The Rev. J. A. Bohn of Frankentrost (about 1882); The Rev. Ludwig Fuerbringer of Frankenmuth (about 1886); The Rev. J. F. Beyer of Unionville (about 1888); The Rev. George Bernthal of Richville (starting about 1890); and the Rev. H. Juengel of Munger (in the 1890s).

Pastor Bernthal and Juengel presided over the meetings which led to the formal organization of a Lutheran parish in the twilight of the 19th century.

As the years passed, one can imagine that the question of forming a Lutheran congregation at Millington remained a topic of frequent discussion. But for more than 20 years after the first recorded Lutheran church service, Lutherans in the Millington area remained without a church of their own and were served by visiting pastors from area congregations.

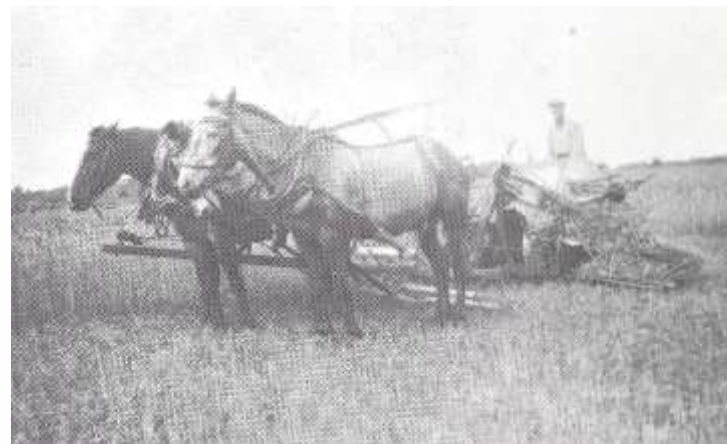


This old log house stood on the Ben Youngs farm. It is typical of the early houses in which pioneers lived in the Millington area after the mid-1800s.

John Keinath and an early grain binder.

Fred and Alphonse Koeltzow home from the fields.



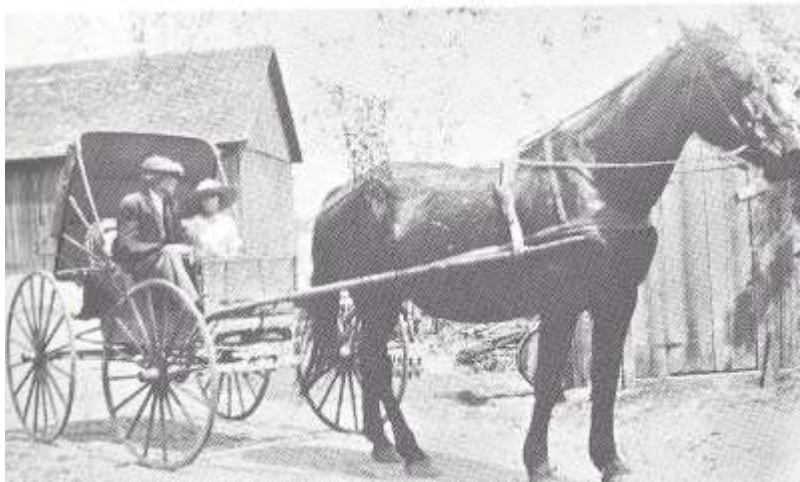


Fred Koeltzow is shown on his grain binder.

Before machinery, grains were hand-cut with cradles.
At left, Will and Bert Dennis cradle oats on a farm
near Millington.

Reinhard and Anton III, Arthur Puppe, Carl,
Arthur, and Ewald III in an Arbela lumber woods.





Fred Koeltzow, who organized the first recorded Lutheran services in Millington and Betty Koeltzow Weiss ride a buggy in 1930.



Typical farm homes of early Arbela Lutherans was this home of Mr. and Mrs. John Keinath. Mrs. Keinath and Hugo Dittmar are shown in the picture.

This early county threshing scene shows the separator, steam engine and water wagon that made up the threshing machinery.



A Parish Is Born

An old, time-worn journal contains the record of the meetings which resulted in the formation of Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. In flowing German script, Christoph Koch, secretary of the organizational meetings, recorded each new event in the birth of a new parish.

After what probably was years of informal discussion, solid moves towards the organization of a formal parish were made in a meeting on Sunday, April 25, 1897.

This meeting was chairmaned by Pastor H. Juengel of Munger. In that meeting, those assembled selected Christian Schumacher, Ludwig Koeltzow, Heinrich Koch and Christoph Koch to serve as the interim officers of the forming congregation.

Land Is Purchased

Two months passed after that first meeting before the band of German Lutheran men met again on May 23, 1897, this time under the chairmanship of The Rev. George Bernthal, pastor of St. Michael's Lutheran Church of Richville.

In the meeting recorded in just eight lines of German script, the men agreed to buy land for the building of a church.

The first step had been taken.

Nearly another month passed before the third of the organizational meetings was held on Sunday, June 20, 1897. In this meeting, again presided over by Pastor Juengel, the assembled men voted to call their new congregation Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation (Unaltered Augsburg Confession).

At this meeting, the men adopted an 18-paragraph constitution which was to serve the parish for more than seven decades.

Signing Of The Constitution

The framework of the formal organization of the parish had thus been completed. In the next few days, the new constitution was written neatly into a booklet in German and on the following Thursday, June 24, 1897, the men gathered once again under the leadership of Pastor Juengel.

In a simple ceremony, the 13 men present signed their names to the newly-adopted constitution and this became the charter members of the new Lutheran congregation.

First to sign was Frederick Koeltzow—the man who nearly a quarter century earlier had organized the first recorded worship service. Quickly adding their names to the page were George Keinath, Christian Schumacher, Ludwig Koeltzow, Johann Sievert, John Keinath, Conrad Keinath, George Veitengruber, Christoph Koch, Ernest Frederick Keinath, Leonhard Keinath, Heinrich Koch, and August Diener.

With this historic formality out of the way, the meeting then opened to an election of the first officers. Elected in the balloting which followed were: Fred Koeltzow and George Keinath, deacons; Christoph Koch, Ludwig Koeltzow and Christian Schumacher, trustees; Christoph Koch, secretary; and George Keinath, treasurer.

A Church and Pastor Sought

The following month, on Sunday, July 18, the newly-formed congregation met once again and began developing plans for a new church. At this same meeting they also elected the first chairman (president) of the congregation. He was Frederick Koeltzow—who 23 years earlier had invited Pastor Karres to conduct the first formal Lutheran church services in the Millington area.

Further meetings on a new church were held on November 14, 1897 and again on November 21 of the same year. At the November 21st meeting, the congregation received its first new member. He was George Veitengruber. Prior to this, Fred Sigelko and Carl Muller also had added their names to the charter members already listed.

At the same meeting, the congregation voted to hold services every four weeks at the Comstock School. George Keinath was elected to serve as a reader of sermons at these services when no pastor was available.

With the initial planning for the new church well underway, the young parish turned its thoughts to the calling of a pastor to serve it. The day after Christmas, Sunday December 26, 1897, the new congregation extended its first pastoral call. The new pastor was asked to serve as minister to the small congregation and a teacher for its children.

Two more meetings were held in January 1898. The first on January 16, saw the election of Fred Koeltzow as a deacon for two years and Johann Sievert as the deacon for three years. Final financing arrangements for the church project were also completed at this meeting.

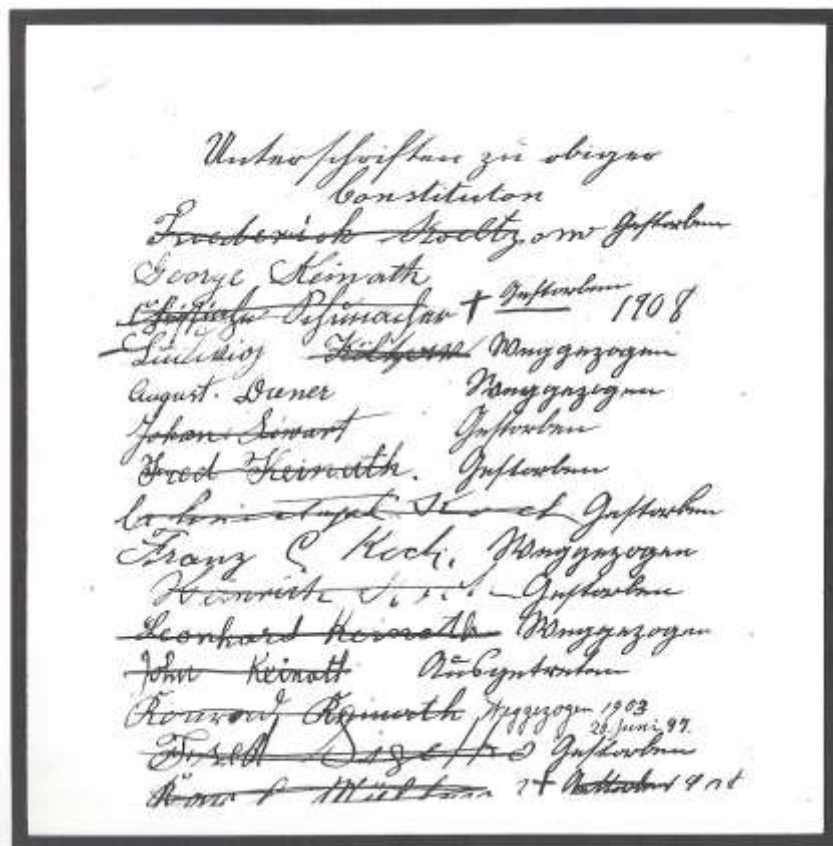
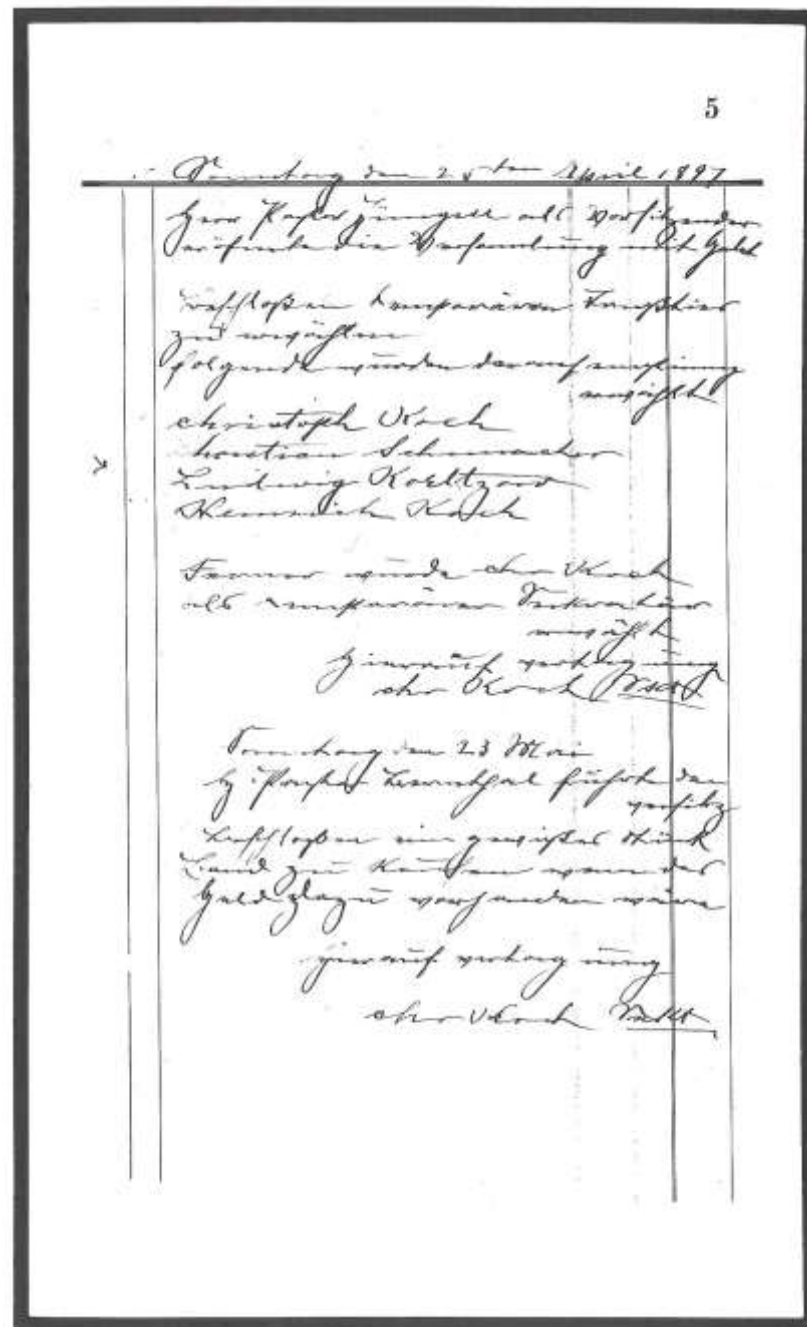
The congregation was overjoyed when at the turn of the year, it's call to The Rev. George M Zucker was accepted. Pastor Zucker had

been living in Frankenmuth and was, at the time of his call, without a congregation. He agreed to begin serving the new parish on an every-other-Sunday basis until a parsonage could be found for him.

Another organizational act took place in a meeting on June 26, 1898 when the voters agreed to associate themselves with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. At the same meeting, officers were again elected and the new church was insured for \$1,000. A sign for the front of the church was also ordered.

On August 21st, 1898, the congregation dedicated its first church. With that dedication ceremony, the organizational period was completed and a new parish had been born.

At the right is a reproduction of the minutes of the first St. Paul Voter's meeting held April 27, 1897. Below are the signatures of the charter members of St. Paul's. In later years, as members died or moved, secretaries drew lines through the names, causing the unfortunate defacing of this early record.



God's House Is Erected

No doubt one of the fondest dreams of the early Lutheran settlers of Millington was the eventual building of a spiritual home for their small, but growing fellowship. But, for nearly a quarter of a century, Millington Lutherans had to be content with worshipping in their homes or in borrowed quarters.

The home of Christian Hinze served as the site of the first recorded Lutheran church service in May 1874. In the years that followed, other services were held in homes and in schools like the Comstock School near Millington. As the number of Lutherans grew, interest in establishing a formal congregation also grew and with it, an increasing interest in building a spiritual home for the small band of Lutherans.

The First Steps Are Taken

The first positive steps towards the building of a church came in a meeting of interested men on Sunday, May 23, 1897—about a month after the first organizational meeting. In that May meeting, the men present agreed to buy land for the building of a church.

A parcel of land was purchased from Amirah P. and Sara Ireland on September 27, 1897. The land, located in the northwest corner of the Millington community, was the start of property acquisitions which later would involve more than a dozen acres at the same site.

The sale of this land was recorded with the Tuscola County Register of Deeds on November 1, 1897. The warranty deed indicates that the land was sold by Ireland to “. . . Christoph H. Koch, Christoph Schumacher and Ludwig Koeltzow, as the trustees of the German Lutheran Saint Paul Church of Millington, Tuscola County, State of Michigan or their successors in office.” The warranty deed shows that \$110 was paid for the church property. It is not known whether this was the actual full amount.

Planning for the new church began and on Sunday, July 18, 1897, the 13 men who a month earlier had become the charter members of the congregation by signing its constitution, started developing plans in earnest.

They agreed that the new church would be 30 feet wide and 50 feet long. More detailed planning continued during the summer months and after the harvest had been completed, the men assembled once again on November 14, 1897 to finalize their planning. At that meeting they arranged for financing of the new project and also gave final approval to the building's dimensions. The men also set a building budget of \$850 for the new church. Then, as frequently today, costs later exceeded this budget.

At the same meeting, the congregation's first building committee was named. George Keinath was named the chairman, with Fred Koeltzow, John Sievert (Sebert), Christoph Koch and Christian

Schumacher as members of the committee.

By January 1898, financing had been arranged with the local bank and the Lutherans looked forward to the building which was to start as soon as the weather allowed.

On Friday, January 28, 1898, the congregation expanded its original plans and added a 65-foot tower. The purchase of a bell was approved and a basement for the building was eliminated from planning. The congregation also voted to install plain glass in the windows and raise the cost limit of the project above the \$850 budget.

On March 20, 1898, the congregation purchased its first bell. The cost of the 660-pound bell was \$67. It measured 38 inches in diameter and served the congregation for 68 years. It was removed from the church tower in July 1966 when the first church was dismantled. During the 75th anniversary festival, on Sunday, May 14, 1972, the bell was enshrined in a permanent monument as a memorial to the founding fathers of the congregation.

As spring gave way to summer, work on the little church progressed. Bricks, which had been purchased for \$5 a thousand, were going up and thought began turning to the interior. On May 8, 1898, the men agreed that the new church should have three aisles, including a five-foot center aisle and two two-foot side aisles.

Evidence that the church was well along towards completion by June of 1898 is found in the congregational meeting minutes of June 26, 1898 when it was insured for \$1,000 and a sign was ordered for its front. The first sign was lettered in German.

The Church Is Dedicated

The building was reaching completion rapidly when on July 24, 1898, the members gathered to discuss plans for dedicating it. George Veitengruber, the first member to be received into fellowship following the original chartering of the congregation, was selected to ring the bell for the first service and Heinrich Koch was named to complete the landscaping around the church.

And so, on August 21, 1898, at ten o'clock in the morning, the new bell called Lutherans to their new house of worship for the first time. The doors were opened, and behind their pastor, The Rev. George Zucker, the little band of Millington Lutherans filed into their church for the first service in a Lutheran church in Millington.

The day was to hold a double joy for the young congregation, for on that afternoon—to the surprise of many—Pastor Zucker married Louise Bierschneider in the first wedding in the new church. The Rev. E. A. Mayer of Frankenmuth performed the ceremony and Carl and Emma Koch and John and Petronella Kern were the attendants.

Two years later, on October 21, 1900, the congregation purchased a pump organ for the church. Mrs. Lizzie Sievert, wife of the first custodian, Johann Sievert, is believed to have been the first organist.

The congregation added to its holdings when on December 11, 1898, it purchased its first parsonage, located at the corner of Center and Church Streets near the church. The parsonage was purchased for \$470.

Another addition to parish property came in 1908. In a meeting of November 3, 1907, the congregation approved the building of horse barns at the rear of the church. Worshippers stored their horses and buggies in these barns while attending services.

The First Changes

The church remained much the same until the summer of 1920. In a meeting held on May 16, 1920, the congregation authorized the construction of a basement under the church and also voted to install a new furnace, eliminating the old stove at the rear of the church with its somewhat unsightly stove pipes, which ran the length of the church's interior.

Despite its low ceiling, the basement was used as a meeting area for many years and later became a Sunday School area, and for a short time, a classroom for the day school.

Some major redecorating of the first church was done in 1924 and at that time chancel furniture was added. An elevated pulpit, with an entrance from the sacristy was constructed at the right of the chancel and the altar was elevated on a raised platform. Religious pictures were hung on the wall behind the altar. Kerosene lanterns along the side walls and suspended from the ceiling provided the light until July 1928 when electricity was installed.

Earlier, at a meeting on July 26, 1913, the congregation authorized new wallpaper for the nave and also the installation of a decorative tin ceiling. The tin ceiling consisted of squares carrying Greek crosses. This remained as the ceiling until the church was torn down in 1966. This ceiling was installed by the firm of Varnum & Wellman at a cost of 65 cents an hour.

The first electric lights used in the church were at Christmastime in 1925, when the church Christmas tree was lighted with electric bulbs powered by a battery. Previously, the tree carried wax candles and this constant fire hazard, kept Christmas services tense and frequently somewhat interesting.



One of the earliest known pictures of the original St. Paul Church, dedicated in 1898. The early church did not have a cross on its tower. Note the wide porch at the entrance of the church with the two benches. The first sign was lettered in German. Note the outhouse at the rear left.

The Church Is Enlarged

As the years passed, the interior of the church again became shabby and so on January 9, 1938, the congregation approved a study of plans for the remodeling of the church interior.

Frank Koch, John Woelzlein, Fred June, Norman Kurpsel and Carl Keinath Sr., were named to a study committee for the project. At a special meeting on February, 13, 1938, three plans were presented by this committee. The first called for redecorating the church only. The second called for adding a new chancel and redecorating the interior. The third plan called for adding 16 feet to the church.

After lengthy debate and discussion, by a vote of 30-5, the congregation approved the addition of a new chancel and the redecorating of the interior of the church. Frank Koch, Norman Kurpsel and Carl Keinath, Sr., were elected to serve as the building committee.

Since the church would not be available for services during the construction period, arrangements were made to hold services at The Gleaners Chapel, located just west of Bray Road on Millington Road. Members worshipped in this country church while renovations continued during the early summer.

On June 12, 1938, the congregation agreed to renovate the tower and balcony area and to make room for the future addition of a pipe organ. The furnace was moved under the chancel area, making more room in the basement areas under the nave.

The newly-decorated and enlarged church was dedicated August 21, 1938, on the 40th anniversary of the building of the first church. A German-English service was held in the morning and afternoon of that day and Gust Heuchert, Dr. William Mossner and Arnold Smith were named to a committee which served dinner and supper in the basement of the church. The Concordia Club, the young people's organization of the congregation, presented the evening service.

In a meeting on July 3, 1938, a special pledge program for the building debt was instituted and in the final four months of 1938, a goodly portion of the debt was erased.

With the new chancel, the use of electric candlesticks was discontinued, using instead, candlesticks which were presented the congregation by Rev. and Mrs. Hugo Ferber. A new communion set was also placed into use, this a gift of the young people of the parish.

The new interior of the church featured a high arch over the entrance to the newly-added chancel. Painted religious symbols were used extensively throughout the church for the first time. The nave walls were finished in a painted building block design and the arch over the chancel entrance carried paintings of vines and branches, topped by a crown of life and cross.

The chancel furnishings and several of the old pews were

removed from the church before it was razed in 1966 and in 1968 were incorporated in the Memorial Chapel of the second church. Bricks from the original church were used to build the entranceway to this chapel.

An Organ Is Purchased

In 1941, the Tellers Organ Company of Erie, Pennsylvania installed a five-rank pipe organ in the church at a cost of \$2,500. The first discussion of a new pipe organ came on October 1, 1939, when voters were asked how much they would donate toward it purchase. A figure of \$240 was given.

Interest in the organ continued and on January 12, 1941, several members urged that it be purchased soon because of rising prices. On April 6, 1941, a committee composed of Dr. William Mossner, Alfred Fischhaber, and Teacher August G. Scheer, visited with members of the parish to discuss the purchase of an organ. This committee reported to the voters in a special meeting on May 6, 1941 that all but two members were enthusiastic about a new pipe organ and that in preliminary visits, \$1,221 had been pledged towards its purchase.

Dr. Mossner, Alfred Fischhaber and Carl C. Keinath were then elected to an organ purchase committee and on May 25, 1941, a budget of \$2,500 for a new organ was approved.

The organ was designed and installed under the supervision of Mr. George Schmidt of the Tellers Organ Company. A quarter of a century later, Mr. Schmidt was to return to supervise the installation of the congregation's second organ—this one for the new church. The organ was dedicated in the summer of 1941 with three special services and a chicken dinner. Mr. Walter Hahn, organist of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church of Frankenmuth presented the first pipe organ music in St. Paul's Church—and in Millington, for that matter.

On January 14, 1945, the renovation of the basement for Sunday School rooms was approved. A committee composed of Fred June, Frank Koch and Donald McLaren supervised this project. Sidewalks were added along the east side of the church by the congregation's first Men's Club in 1953.

For many years, cedar trees stood at both entrances to the church. Another row of trees also stood along the front of the parking lot to the east of the first church. The cedars were removed in July 1952 and replaced with more suitable shrubbery.

The Church Is Torn Down

The first simple, but beautiful little church served Millington Lutherans for 69 years on 3,536 consecutive Sundays before final services were held in it by The Rev. Hugo Ferber on July 10, 1966. On that day services were held at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., and 10:45 a.m. Special four-page souvenirs of the old church were distributed.

In the final service, Scott Andrew Petzold, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Petzold was baptized—the final baptism in the old church. He was the grandson of Oscar Petzold, who, interestingly enough, was the first of many Petzolds to be baptized in the old church on April 21, 1901.

In each of the three services a simple altar closing ceremony was conducted by members of the Board of Elders. Pastor Ferber preached on the text of Genesis 28:10-22 in the final sermon to be heard in the veteran church. The congregational chairman, Rudolf Petzold addressed the congregation in each of the services. As the Elders extinguished the candles, cased the cross and communion ware and removed the liturgical books from the chancel, the church organ, played for the final time by Mr. Chester Platt, played “Abide With Me.” In the final service, Pastor Ferber closed the church door and locked it, symbolically bringing to an end this veteran church’s service to the congregation. The final communion service was held in the church on July 3.

The following week the organ was removed, as were all of the pews and altar furnishings. During the latter week of July, a demolition crew razed the building and removed the debris.

A Memory In Verse

The closing of this first church prompted one of Tuscola County’s well-known poets, Mrs. Marian Benedict Manwell of Mayville to write the following poem—a poem which captures the life and breath of this House of God which served a growing congregation for so many years. . .

For years it stood there, firm and strong
A shelter from the world, it gave;
A harbor where — though troubles throng —
Its people learned the Power to save.

Within its walls the neighbors met
To worship as their hearts decreed
To make the vows they’d not forget
To bow in prayer, as ones in need.
Its altar saw the christenings
It heard the rites of special days;
It saw exchange of wedding rings,

It rang with glorious hymns of praise.

It was the tears of many left
When death removed one from the fold.
It helped to heal the hearts bereft
When words of comfort, there, were told.

Its timbers heard the many prayers;
Each brick denotes a memory
To live within a heart that shares
The blessings of what used to be.

Those days are past—will be no more,
For now the building will be gone.
But still, the closing of its door
Is but a signal to look on.

For from its dust, ‘twill rise again—
Its resurrected beauty share.
The church still lives, in hearts to reign;
The same God will be worshipped there.

And though the building must decay,
It’s soul within the people lies;
So it still lives, day after day.
God’s Church, so sacred, never dies.



Sept 1, 1938, dedication day of the interior renovation of the church. L to R: Ewald III, Teacher Scheer, Pastor Ferber, Pastor Hahn, Teacher Roeckle, John Conrad Keinath, Alfred Fischhaber.



The interior of the first church before it was remodeled in the early 1920s



The interior of the first church after its remodeling in 1923. This picture was taken by J. S. Beckwith in 1924.

The interior of the church during the last Christmas season in 1965 before it was torn down in 1966.





This is the way St. Paul's Church appeared shortly before it was torn down in 1966.

The First Shepherd

For nearly a quarter century, the Lutherans of Millington depended on the generosity of visiting pastors from neighboring Saginaw Valley churches for pastoral services.

During the two decades before the congregation's formal organization, nearly a dozen visiting pastors served the little band of Lutheran farmers on an irregular basis.

The First Pastor Is Called

As the new congregation formulated plans for its new church, it also began thinking about the calling of a resident pastor to serve the new parish.

On December 26, 1897, a month and a half after it had approved church plans, the small congregation extended its first call for a pastor.

The Rev. George Michael Zucker, at the time without a congregation, was extended a call. He was living in Frankenmuth at the time. Pastor Zucker accepted the call on January 16, 1898. Pastor Zucker had served as pastor of Frankenmuth's St. John's Lutheran Church for a few months in 1896-97.

The congregation had not as yet found a parsonage, so Pastor Zucker continued to live in Frankenmuth and agreed to serve the parish with services every other Sunday until such time as a home could be found for him.

Although limited in funds, the new congregation expressed its eagerness to properly provide for its new pastor when on November 7, 1898, it voted to take up a collection to pay the pastor's house rent in Frankenmuth.

The new congregation was not extravagant, as the instructions given to its trustees in late 1898 would indicate. In their instructions, the congregation members told the trustees to "look for a bargain house for the pastor—but if the price is too high, don't buy." Money was found, however, to build an 8x12x6 woodshed for the church in December of that year.

Finally, on December 11, 1898, a home for the new pastor was found and purchased for \$470. The home was located at the corner of Church and Center Streets just east of the church. On January 17, 1899, the pastor took up residence in his house and on that day became Millington's first resident Lutheran pastor.

The Ministry Of Pastor Zucker

Pastor Zucker was 61 years old when he accepted the call to Millington. He had been born January 8, 1837 and attended the seminary at St. Louis, receiving his degree in 1860. He had been ordained at Urbana, Illinois on April 2, 1860 by the Rev. Stubnatzy. He served as pastor at Urbana from April 2, 1860 until he accepted a call to Oswego, Illinois on December 20, 1860. Three years later

he accepted a pastorate at Bristol, Illinois and the following year, on November 6, 1864, began serving as pastor at Yorkville and Proviso, Illinois.

Prior to his pastorate at Millington, Pastor Zucker served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Defiance, Ohio, a post from which he resigned in 1896 before his move to Frankenmuth.

It was Pastor Zucker's privilege to lead the dedication service for St. Paul's first church. On August 21, 1898, Pastor Zucker led his little congregation into the new red brick church and there, together with many visitors from sister congregations, they rejoiced over the beginnings that had been made.

The day held a double joy for the little congregation and its pastor. During the afternoon, to the surprise of many of the members, Pastor Zucker married Louise Bierschneider of Frankenmuth.

Pastor Zucker served St. Paul for some four year. He was a kindly and faithful pastor. Gladly he shared the joys and sorrows, as well as the poverty of the parishioners, and never complained. Under his brief pastorate, the congregation grew in numbers as new members moved into the neighborhood and joined St. Paul Church.

Pastor Zucker, besides serving Millington, also took under his care the small Lutheran Church at Mayville, which had been formed in the 1870s by Richville's Rev. George Bernthal.

The First Years

The Pastor led his congregation in the first Christmas services held in Millington. Early records indicate the first Christmas Eve "program" started at 7:30 p.m. and the collection was used to buy the children gifts and pay for the Christmas tree. The first Christmas Committee of the congregation included Frederick Koeltzow, Christian Schumacher, Frederick Sigelko, Heinrich Koch and George Keinath. They were instructed to "take care of the Christmas tree and lamps."

The business meetings of the congregation during those first days reflected its small size. A notation in the January 8, 1899 minutes stated that each family should give \$1 for stove wood and that Mr. Koeltzow "should dry it before the parish would buy it."

On March 6, 1899, the congregation voted that the altar candles should be lighted at all communion services, as well as during

Services on Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost and at funerals if mourners so desired.

At this same meeting a minor property exchange was made when the congregation voted to trade a parcel of land from the east side of their property for an equal amount on the west side. Mr. Ireland, the former owner of the property, apparently agreed to this land exchange.

The congregation's men met on the first Sunday of every month to handle whatever business matters came up during the first years.

During Pastor Zucker's tenure, the first instruction of young people was begun. On June 14, 1899, the congregation established catechism classes to be held three times a week in two-hour sessions.

Efforts were also made during this time to improve the parsonage. Some \$32 was spent for house repairs in September 1899 and discussions were held on a new parsonage foundation, "the best and cheapest cistern available" and money for paint. At the meeting, the Pastor wondered if "the little building" behind the house could not be moved. It was.

Other parsonage repairs were performed in March, 1900, including a repair of the kitchen and deepening of the well. All of the members helped on these parish projects.

In March of 1900, catechism classes for children were scheduled at 9 o'clock Sunday mornings.

The First Confirmation

It was during Pastor Zucker's tenure that the first children's Confirmation services were held in the congregation. This service was held on April 8, 1900 and included the following class members:

Heinrich Sievert, Wilhelm Sievert, Carl Johan Friederich Sievert, Christian Georg Schroder, Cornelius Martenson, August Johann Heinrich Diener, Theodore Herman Christian Koeltzow, Rudolf August Albert Diener, Ida Friedricka Geise, Maria Elisa Sophia Koeltzow and Carolina Johanna Wilhelmina Karb.

About a year later, on March 31, 1901, another Confirmation service was held and in this class were: Ernestine Wilhelmina Gross, Anna Maria Gross, Louise Walburgis Hedwig Bierschneider and Elizabeth Erna Friedricka Sievert.

These were the only two classes which Pastor Zucker confirmed.

Worship services were enhanced with the purchase of a small reed organ on October 21, 1900. This was played by members who were hired by the congregation for next to no pay. The first organist is believed to have been Lizzie Sievert. Other early organists of this era included Lena Karb and Ina Koch.

A month later, water was finally provided at the church lot with

the drilling of a well.

The first mention of a young people's organization (Yungling und Yungfrau) was made in the March 24, 1901 meeting of the congregation, when the young people's group agreed to raise funds to purchase the first communionware for the little church.

In other activities of the parish during 1901, the parsonage was repainted, 75 cents a year was authorized for the organist and the parsonage was raised onto a foundation. The first janitor, Johann Sievert, was paid \$6 a year to maintain the church and grounds.

The salary of Pastor Zucker was little more, it seems, but despite the small salary, the impoverished parish found it difficult to pay him and the district mission board had to be asked for financial assistance.

Pastor Zucker Called Home

On March 3, 1902, Pastor Zucker had held services at St. Paul Lutheran Church at Mayville and upon his return in the afternoon, left for Frankenmuth to attend the funeral of his mother-in-law.

On the way to Frankenmuth, he was suddenly stricken with apoplexy (a stroke) and died in the buggy.

Extreme sorrow gripped the hearts of the little flock of St. Paul when the sad news that their beloved pastor had been called to rest reached them. In a meeting called the next day, the congregation made arrangements for the funeral and two days later, with befitting ceremonies, he was buried in the St. Lorenz Lutheran Church Cemetery at Frankenmuth on March 6, 1902.

The congregation assumed the burial expenses and ordered that mourning cloths be hung on the chancel area and altar for 30 days.

Thus, the little congregation was orphaned.



The old church before 1937. The German phrase written on the wall says, "Peace Be With You."

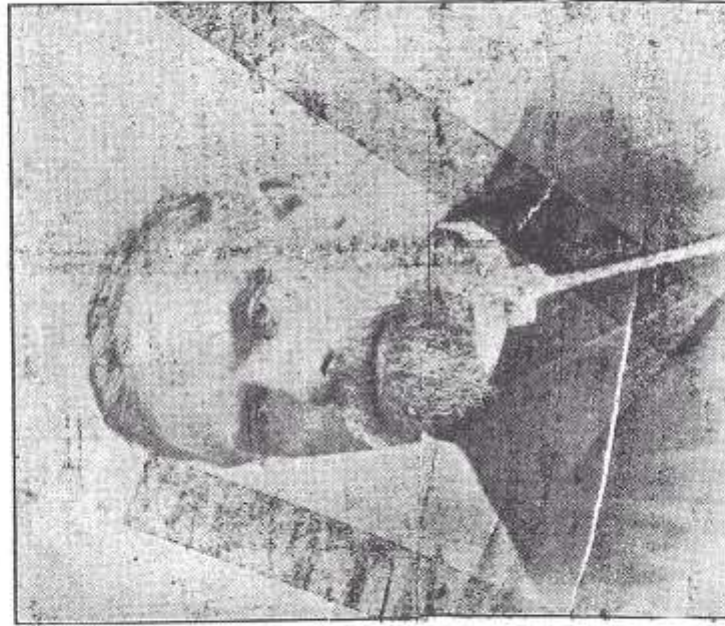
REV. G. M. ZUCKER DIED SUDDENLY

Was Pastor of the German Lutheran Church of Millington for the Past Three Years and was Highly Honored.

It is with deep sorrow that we have to announce the death of Rev. George M. Zucker, pastor of the German Lutheran church of this village, which occurred last Monday morning.

Rev. Zucker held services as usual at Mayville on Sunday, and upon arriving home on the early morning train, he started with his wife and family to drive to Frankenmuth to attend the funeral

of the church at Frankenmuth, where he remained for some years. In 1873 he received a call from St. John's Church at Defiance, Ohio, which he accepted. Twelve years later his wife died. Six children—two of them union, and two daughters—one of them being married to R. Bigel, of Defiance, Ohio, who was present at the funeral—survive him. In 1896 he took charge of



REV. G. M. ZUCKER.

of his mother-in-law. When near Tuscola he got out of the buggy and walked a short distance. After reuniting his seat in the vehicle, he complained of it being hard for him to breathe, and in a few minutes he suddenly expired. The funeral was held from the Church on Thursday morning, and the remains interred in the Frankenmuth cemetery. Mr. Graebner, of Bay City, preached the funeral sermon in English and Rev. A. E. Maier, of Frankenmuth, in German.

George M. Zucker was born in Bavaria, Germany, Jan. 8th, 1837, and moved with his parents to this country in 1847. In the year of 1850 he commenced his studies for the ministry in Fort Wayne, Ind., and completed them in St. Louis, Mo. He was married to Miss Julia H. Krauss in 1863. In 1864 he was appointed

the Frankenmuth church, where he remained for two years. In 1893 he came to Millington and very ably discharged his duties as pastor of the St. John's German Lutheran church of this village. During the dedication services of this church on Aug. 21st, 1898, he was married to Mrs. Francis Bierschneider, whose maiden name was Koch. One child was born to them.

The funeral was one of the largest held in this village for some time. The floral offerings were something beautiful. The deceased was very popular here, and words fail to express the high esteem in which he was held by all who knew him. The afflicted family have the sympathy of the entire community in this, their sudden and sad bereavement.

This is a reproduction of the death notice concerning Pastor G. M. Zucker which appeared in the Millington newspaper. Notice the reference to "the German Church" in the opening paragraph. An error occurs in the second last paragraph: Pastor Zucker was the vacancy pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Frankenmuth for a short period of time and the name of the Millington church was confused with this. The church name should read St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Pastor Zucker apparently was popular in the Millington community, since it was not custom to give such prominence to death notices. The use of the picture was an expensive matter in earlier newspaper days and its use indicates Pastor Zucker apparently was highly thought of in the community.

A Young New Pastor Arrives

With the sad funeral of their first pastor behind them, the handful of members turned to the arduous task of once again finding a pastor.

While they were without a pastor, they asked George Keinath to conduct reading services at the church every two weeks.

The Second Pastor Is Called

On March 30, 1902, Pastor H. Voss of the St. Lorenz congregation at Frankenmuth arrived in Millington to meet with the congregation and to lay the groundwork for calling a new pastor. One of the things which was discussed in that day's long meeting was the salary for a new pastor.

As the meeting ended, it was agreed that Pastor Voss would seek to procure a pastor from that year's graduating class at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. But this effort failed and on May 19, 1902, Pastor Voss had to report this disappointing news to the members. A call was then extended to the Rev. H. W. Theodore Wuggazer of the First Lutheran church at Flint—a new mission congregation there.

He accepted the call and on August 10, 1902, was installed into office at Millington by Pastor Voss. Pastor Wuggazer, unlike the elderly first pastor, was a young, 23-year old pastor, zealous and earnest. He served St. Paul for nearly four years.

Pastor Wuggazer's Ministry

Pastor Wuggazer was born January 31, 1879 at Big Rapids, Michigan, the son of a Lutheran minister, The Rev. Carl Ludwig Wuggazer and Rosina Hierecker. After two years of parochial and three years of public schooling, he attended the seminary at Milwaukee from 1892 until 1898 and then went on to the seminary at St. Louis, Missouri where he received his degree in 1891.

He was ordained in Flint on August 25, 1901 by the Rev. G. Baumgart. After his ordination he served as a missionary in Flint until August 10, 1902 when he began his pastorate in Millington.

When the pastor prepared to move from Flint to Millington, he was instructed to send his belongings from Flint to Otisville and from there members from Millington brought the household goods the rest of the way.

In 1906, he accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church at Reese. He continued his ministry as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Fraser, Michigan, starting there on October 28, 1917. His final post was that of assistant pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bay City until 1944 when he retired in June of that year.

Pastor Wuggazer married Louise Schlecte on January 22, 1902 at Tawas City, Michigan. She died giving birth to his youngest son,

Arthur on April 30, 1913. He was remarried on May 27, 1914 at Monroe to Emma B. Schmidt.

Three of his seven children followed their father into the ministry.

Pastor Wuggazer died on January 30, 1954 at Bay City. He was given Christian burial at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Reese on February 2, 1954.

Classes In A Farmhouse

The most significant event during Pastor Wuggazer's stay at Millington was the establishment of a parochial school on August 31, 1902. Classes were held by the pastor, first in an Arbela Township farmhouse and then later in the rear of the church, before the first school was built and dedicated in 1905. Details of the development of the school are found in the following chapter.

Many of the church meetings during 1902 and 1903 dealt with the problems surrounding the building of the first school. Here are some of the interesting highlights and sidelights to pastor Wuggazer's ministry at Millington as gleaned from early voter meetings during his tenure as pastor.

In the October 5, 1902 meeting, it was voted that each member should have a copy of the church constitution and that each should pay 10 cents for it. However, the minutes made a notation that anyone who wanted his money back could have it. Apparently some early members felt the 10 cent charge was too much.

A Choir Is Formed

Music also became a part of the congregation's program early in its history. In a December 7, 1902 meeting, first mention of a church choir was made. At this meeting, Lorenz Weber asked whether the choir "could use the lights, heat and organ of the church for practicing." The congregation agreed and the first regular choir of St. Paul was officially organized.

There was little money for anything but the most basic of expenses during these days, as is evidenced by a financial report which showed the parish had collected \$2.60 for the Old Folks Home in Monroe, \$4 for the Inner City Mission project of the Michigan District and 45 cents donated by the children for the Children's Friend Society of Michigan.

An item in the January 6, 1903 minutes of the Voters Assembly showed the members had voted to buy 12 cords of hardwood and two cords of softwood for the church and to sell the stones which were left from the building of the new foundation for the parsonage.

During this period of time, Pastor Wuggazer continued to assist in serving St. Paul Lutheran congregation at Mayville as had Pastor Zucker and as the next pastor of St. Paul would also. He officiated at confirmation services in Mayville in April 1903, according to early parish records.

In July 1903, the congregation authorized the first pastoral vacation so young Pastor Wuggazer could visit his parents. The parish also demonstrated its continuing concern for the widowed Mrs. Zucker, by holding a special collection for her.

A highlight of the September 6, 1903 meeting was the purchase of 12 bottles of Reisling Communion wine for a total of \$3.75. In the next meeting on October 4, the trustees were told to buy shingles for the parsonage “so it doesn’t rain in anymore.” At the same meeting, a porcelain bowl was purchased for baptisms and removal of the school benches from the Petzold farmhouse where classes had been held, was also ordered.

The young pastor apparently was a popular guest preacher in the area, since minutes show that he preached at churches in Saginaw, Unionville and other congregations in the area. Apparently some members felt that his guest appearances were getting a little out of hand, since at one of the meetings, the members told the energetic young preacher that he should limit his guest preaching engagements and spend more time at the work at hand in Millington.

In the April 10, 1904 meeting of the congregation, it was resolved to celebrate Holy Communion eight times a year. At the same meeting a new well was authorized for the parsonage, but trustees were told “as soon as you have good water, quit drilling.” Apparently their frugality was ever-present, for in the next bit of business, the congregation instructed its trustees to make further repairs to the parsonage—but “as cheaply as possible.”

On November 6, 1904 the congregation approved its first “travel allowance” for a pastor by buying Pastor Wuggazer a horse and buggy.

The First School Is Dedicated

Pastor Wuggazer and his little congregation rejoiced together at the dedication of their new school in early 1905. Dedication services were held April 19, 1905 with Pastor Voss preaching the morning services in German, followed by an English service in the afternoon. This probably was one of the first—if not the first—English service held by the parish.

Two other business matters relative to the school were discussed on January 29, 1905. Parents of children who were not members were ordered to pay \$1 for school expenses and abide by the rules of the church constitution, and trustees were instructed to build outhouses at the school.

On March 19, 1905, the congregation engaged in a big debate over the purchase of an organ for the school. At the same meeting, the parish was also forced to ask the Mission Board for \$100 towards paying the pastor’s living expenses. They also authorized repairs to the school, as long as these repairs did not go over \$5 and a fence was ordered for the school yard. During this period of time, Pastor Wuggazer continued to preach at Mayville every third week.

The congregation's first excommunication took place in the July 23, 1905 meeting, when a man who hadn’t been in church in two years was removed from the membership roster.

On August 20, 1905, Pastor Wuggazer preached at a mission festival service at Hadley—returning to the community which provided some of the first pastoral service to Millington Lutherans through Pastor Karres.

The curriculum of the school was discussed at the same July 23, 1905 meeting, when the congregation was told that it must use the secular books that the public schools were using for non-religious classes.

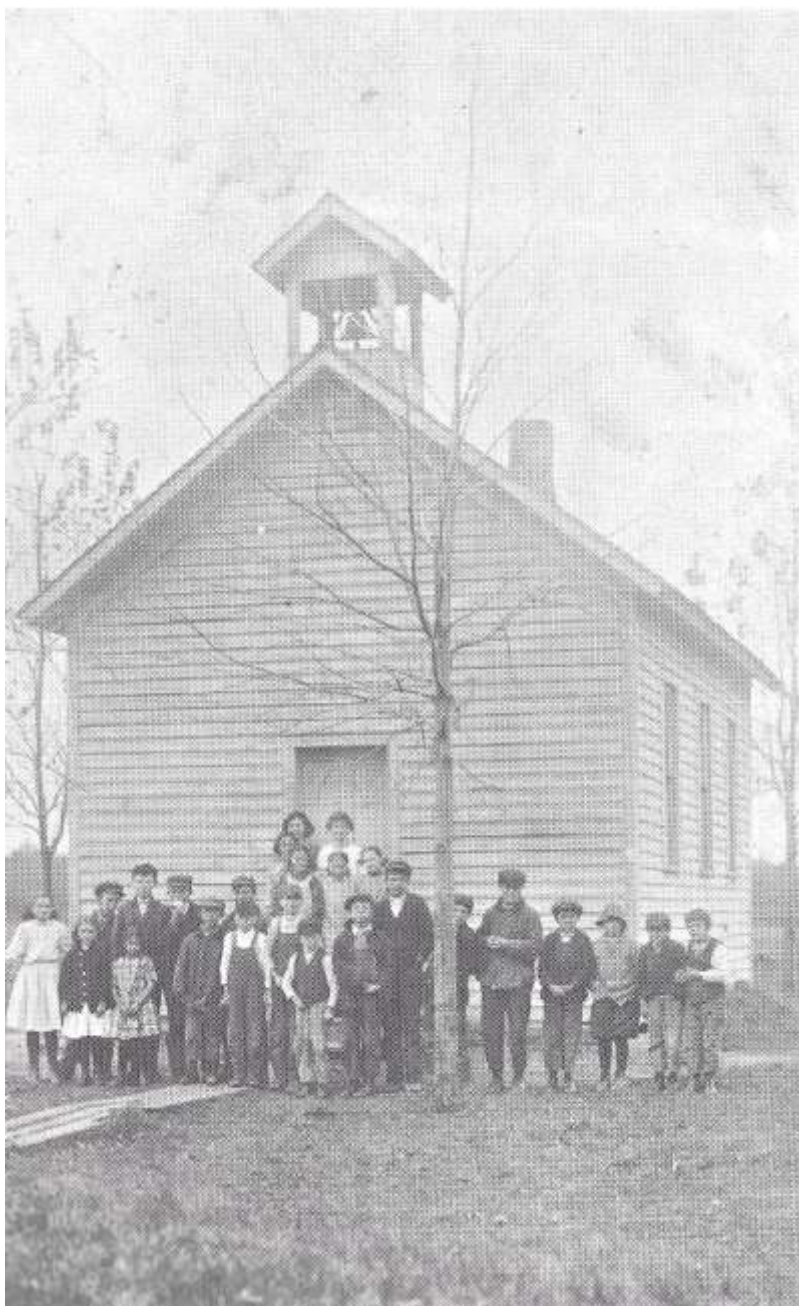
On December 10, 1905, Pastor Wuggazer received and accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church at Reese.

And so, for the second time in four years, the little parish was left without a pastor.

...and this time, a replacement was not to be found so quickly.



This is the Arbela Schoolgrounds at the corner of Buell Lake and Millington Roads. The large school was moved to the site from the Frankenmuth area, the smaller school from its location one-half mile north on the George Keinath farm. The teacherage shown at the right was originally built by Leonard Keinath and later purchased by the parish. Mr. and Mrs. Wymon Reinert owned the property in 1972.



This is a picture of the first St. Paul School as it appeared in the 1920s at the Millington Road and Buell Lake Road location. A larger school building was purchased in 1929 from the Frankenmuth School District and moved next to this building on its west side. This smaller building became the location for confirmation instruction for a number of years.

The Beginnings of Christian Education

Almost from the outset, the first members of St. Paul expressed a keen desire for a parish school—a school which would give their children training not only in God’s Word, but in secular subjects as well.

The first efforts at education came with the start of Saturday instruction classes, on April 10, 1899. This was followed with catechism classes three times a week in June of the same year.

Within five years of the church’s founding, in some turbulent discussions, the question of a school would receive serious consideration.

The First School Classes

The first day school classes were held during the pastorate of The Rev. H. W. Theodore Wuggazer, who arrived in Millington in August of 1902. A few weeks after his arrival, on August 31, 1902, the congregation established a day school program to operate in temporary facilities.

The congregation agreed to hold classes among Lutherans in the Arbela Township area from September 15 to October 31, move the classes to the rear of the church in Millington from November 1 to March 31, and return them to Arbela Township from April 1 to June 30.

The first classes were held in an old farmhouse on what was then the Otto Petzold farm and today is owned by Gustav Petzold and his son, Chester. Chester’s sons, Jeremy and John, now operate the farm (2022). The farm is located 1½ miles north of Millington Road on Buell Lake Road.

This old farmhouse was located on a small knoll along the east banks of the Perry Creek which flows through the farm. In this humble setting, Pastor Wuggazer conducted the first classes on September 15, 1902.

The first classes in the Petzold farmhouse included 10 pupils. These pupils were: Frank Koch, Ina Koch, Edward Petzold, William Petzold, Christian Keinath, Ewald Ill, Anton Ill, Alfred Fischhaber, Hannah Fischhaber, and Frederick Fischhaber.

Most of these first pupils remained active members of the parish for many years. Three of them, Frank Koch, Mrs. Ina (Koch) Keinath, and Ewald Ill, were still active members of the parish at the 75th anniversary of the parish in 1972.

While school was held on the Petzold farm, it is told that the boys, while waiting for the pastor to arrive in his horse and buggy in the morning, would spend their time playing in the nearby Perry creek. With their pantlegs rolled up, they would end up with their feet and legs well-washed—often slightly higher than the pantlegs were rolled.

At noon, Pastor Wuggazer ate dinner with either the Otto Petzold

family in their home across the creek from the old farmhouse or at the Adolf Ill home a short distance from the school.

The children ate their lunch in the woods which adjoined the school, where wild leek or onions were dug up to supplement food brought from home.

In October 1903, the school benches were moved to the rear of the church for the start of “winter-term classes” in town.

Where To Build

From the start, it was evident that temporary facilities would not serve the congregation if it intended to embark upon a serious program of Christian education and so thoughts quite naturally, turned to the building of a school.

Intense discussions on a proposed new school building occupied most of the congregation’s meetings from 1902 until early 1905. The big problem was not the building of a school—but rather, where to build it.

The most logical place was on the church property in town, yet the majority of the members lived so far from town that mere distance would have precluded regular attendance of their children at school.

After the August 30, 1902 meeting in which the school was founded and temporary class schedules were adopted, a special meeting followed on September 16, 1902 to discuss specifically the building of a school.

First, it was suggested that two school houses be built. However, the financial implications of such an undertaking immediately consigned this to defeat.

This then followed with a strong move to build one schoolhouse in Millington next to the church. Support for this apparently was relatively strong for a time.

Minutes of the meeting indicate that plans for a 16x26x8 foot school building, built on blocks, was advanced. The school plan also contained a vestibule four feet wide, three windows on each side, blackboards and a small bell tower.

A building committee of H. Koch, R. Gross, and A. Diener was established to get materials and make a building contract. The same meeting also appointed Christoph Koch and A. Diener as school elders from the “eastern district.”

But, by the October 5, 1902 meeting, plans had become stymied. At that meeting, school building plans were tabled until a later meeting of the congregation and hope for the quick building of a school started to dim.

The school building program received a severe setback on November 2, 1902 when, after a lengthy debate, the entire school building program was cancelled and the offerings which members had made towards the new school were returned.

And so matters stood through the winter months. In March 1903, the congregation elected Adolph Ill as a west district and Christoph Koch as an east district representative to the school board. It also voted to sell the lumber which had been purchased to build the school.

Plan after plan and compromise after compromise were presented in more than two years of meetings, but each was rejected because the question of equal education for all members could not be resolved.

Finally, the only solution which seemed to give any satisfaction whatsoever was decided upon, namely, that the pastor would teach classes one half year in the western district of the congregation and the other half in the eastern district of the congregation.

The West Forces Win

Just before Christmas, on December 22, 1904, a final dramatic meeting on the school site was held. In this meeting, the "west district" members gained control of the school. At this meeting, land was offered by Leonard Keinath and Christoph Fischhaber for the building of a school. Finally, a quarter acre site offered by George Keinath, was accepted and a building completion date of April 1, 1905 was established.

In the months that followed, a frame building, 16x24x12 feet, was built on timber foundations so that later it could be moved. Members of the committee charged with building it included: Mike Rodammer, Adolph Ill, and George Keinath.

It was built on the west side of what is now Buell Lake Road, about half a mile north of Millington Road. It was situated just south of the ditch and bridge which cross Buell Lake Road, on the farm later owned by Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Keinath and their son, Calvin.

The school opened on April 1, 1905 and it was formally dedicated on April 19, 1905.

Pastor Wuggazer taught some 15 children in this first school. Pastors continued to serve as teachers until the practice of employing lady teachers was started during the pastorate of The Rev. George Moehring, who followed Pastor Wuggazer in 1906. During his teaching years, the classes grew to some 24 students.

In succeeding years, the school was served by lady teachers hired on a yearly basis.

Among the first lady teachers who served before the arrival of male called teachers were: Miss Sievers, Miss Martha Zeile, Miss Ina Kempff, Miss Marie Schwartzkopf, Miss Martha Brauer, Miss Helena Brauer, Miss Marie Kionka, Miss Louise Mayer, Miss Adelia Eggerding, Miss Paula Mayer and Miss Louise Mayer.

And so, until about 1930, this small school was to serve as the center of parish education. The location of the school seriously deprived children of the eastern areas of the congregation for many years. . .but after 40 years, this too was to be rectified with the building of a consolidated school at Millington.



These members of the first St. Paul day school classes gathered for a picture at the 60th anniversary of the school in April 1965. At the rear are Ewald Ill, William Petzold Christian Keinath, Anton Ill. In the front, Frank Koch, Ina Keinath, Edward Petzold and Hazel Reed.



The young Pastor Theodore Wuggazer is shown with the first St. Paul Lutheran school class which met for studies in an old farmhouse on the Otto Petzold Sr. farm. Sixty years later, many of the children pictured here gathered for the picture on the previous page.



Pastor Wuggazer is shown in front of the first St. Paul Lutheran School with the children that formed the first classes held in the frame school. It was located half a mile north of Millington Road on the west side of Buell Lake Road in Arbela Township.

The Years Before The Great War

With the departure of young Pastor Wuggazer in late 1905, the congregation again turned to the difficult work of finding a pastor—a task it was called upon to do so often in these early years.

A Long, Agonizing Search

A first calling meeting of the congregation was held on December 18, 1905, when a call was extended to Pastor J. C. Lohman, who had been selected from a list which also included Pastors M. C. Baade and C. L. Wyneken.

The congregation agreed to pay the new pastor \$500 a year—\$400 of which was to come from local offerings and the rest from mission funds of Synod or District.

Assisting the parish during this period of calling was the Rev. Henry Voss of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church of Frankenmuth. Pastor Voss was the father of Dr. Emil Voss, who later served as pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Saginaw, and who participated in the 1968 church dedication services of the Millington congregation.

The first call was returned to the disappointed congregation and so on January 13, 1906, Pastor Voss was present to help the congregation make a second attempt to secure a pastor.

At this meeting, the congregation voted to reduce the pastoral school teaching time from 12 months a year to 10 months in an effort to make their call more attractive.

The names of Pastor Wuggazer, Seboldt, and Kuebeimer were considered and a call was extended to Pastor Wuggazer (no record of the first name of this Pastor Wuggazer is found in the minutes).

A month later the congregation again assembled for another disappointment. Their call had been returned and so once again with Pastor Voss, the parish reviewed the candidates and this time a call was sent to a Pastor Wittfaut. At this meeting, the school week was cut to four days in a further effort to enhance the call.

At this same meeting, George Keinath solved a fence problem, by donating a fence for the Arbela school grounds.

Again on March 25, 1906, the congregation wearily met to consider yet another list of pastoral candidates, since Pastor Wittfaut had returned their call.

At this meeting the congregation called a Pastor Seboldt—but on April 29, 1906, once again the same disappointing news was heard—the pastor had declined Millington's call.

The vacancy period continued to drag on and the congregation voted to pay visiting vacancy pastors \$5 a Sunday for preaching and conducting services.

At the April 29, 1906 meeting, attended by Pastor E. A. Mayer of Frankenmuth, the congregation decided to try to get a pastor from the graduating class of the seminary. But on June 3, 1906, it was the

same old story, as once again the congregation was told no candidate was available.

This time a Pastor Kurke was called—but he, too, declined and on July 1, 1906, apparently desperate, the congregation voted to place the entire matter of finding a pastor into the hands of the pastors of St. Lorenz Church of Frankenmuth, who had for nearly half a year worked so faithfully with Millington Lutherans in the search for a pastor.

Finally, An Answer

Finally, the prayers of the congregation were answered. On August 11, 1906 the congregation extended its seventh call—and this time they were successful.

Accepting a call to Millington was 36-year old Rev. George J. Moehring. He was inducted into office on August 26, 1906 by Pastor Voss.

Pastor Moehring's ministry was a successful ministry. He was a good preacher and faithfully served his congregation. He was an especially efficient teacher and knew how to win the love of the little ones as well as the adults. Under his care the school reached a record enrollment of 24 students.

Pastor Moehring was born on September 19, 1870 at Grossheide, Hanover, Germany and completed his seminary work at Springfield in 1898. He performed his student pastoral work at Easton, Minnesota in 1896 prior to his graduation.

He was ordained at Taylor Center, Michigan on October 30, 1898 and served there until he accepted the post at Millington on August 26, 1906.

On April 3, 1910, he left Millington to accept a call to St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Easton, Minnesota—the parish in which he had performed his student work. He served this parish until February 12, 1922 when he came to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Riley Township, Michigan. He resigned from the ministry in 1920. Synodical records do not contain further information about him.

Years of Tranquility

Pastor Moehring's years at St. Paul were marked with tranquility and peace. Under his dedicated service, the congregation added new

Members and established itself in the community. The congregation had been exclusively German up until Pastor Moehring's arrival, but under his pastorate, the first English services were held on the last Sunday of every month at 2:30 p.m. starting in January 1907.

Here are some of the interesting highlights of parish activity recorded in church records during Pastor Moehring's ministry:

On September 2, 1906 the congregation agreed to pay their pastor on a monthly basis, to pay travel expenses for their synodical conference delegate Lorenz Weber, and to hold a collection for the parish debts which were payable by the first of November.

At the March 3, 1907 congregation meeting, the tuition for non-member students of the day school was raised from \$1 to \$1.50 with the extra 50 cents to be used towards paying the pastor's salary. The meeting also authorized a new blackboard and European wall map for the school and a new well for the parsonage.

At the June 9, 1907 meeting, the members agreed to help pay towards the upkeep of the pastor's horse and buggy and members were assessed 500 pounds of hay, six bushels of oats, and \$2 a year to help keep the horse properly fed.

At the Missionfest in the fall of 1907, Pastor Brueggeman of Mayville was the guest speaker, returning the generosity of the young congregation which had provided Mayville with pastoral service for many years.

The Wonderful Kinderfests

Kinderfests (Children's Picnics) were a major social highlight for the parish's summer from the earliest years until the 1940s.

First official mention of a kinderfest (although picnics may have been held earlier) was made in the June 9, 1907 meeting of the congregation. At that meeting, it was voted to hold the church picnic at the farm home of John Keinath, a short distance east of the Arbela school.

These were gala events, filled with good food, plenty of fun and a pleasant interlude between the long hours of early summer planting and the late hours of harvest which were to come after the July 4th holiday.

At the June 7, 1908 congregation meeting, another picnic was authorized at the home of Mr. Keinath. At the same meeting, it was voted to buy an ice cream freezer—but it was ordered that the freezer not be loaned to anyone. The congregation at this meeting also authorized a 20-foot addition for its outdoor bowling alley.

The Kinderfests were traditionally held on the Fourth of July and in later years, were held each year at the Arbela school property. In the years before the picnics were discontinued, the school children presented patriotic programs in the morning, enjoyed games during the afternoon and watched a young people's play in the evening.

During the later picnics there was always a large refreshment

stand in front of the school. On one side hot dogs and hamburgs were dispensed, while on the other side ice cream, soda, candy and other goodies were for sale. The center post of the refreshment tent was always piled high with colorful cracker jack boxes and the shelves of the tent were filled with an endless variety of items to please both young and old.

During the day, the picnickers entertained themselves with a rifle shooting range along the Buell Lake Road side of the picnic grounds and outdoor bowling was featured at the alley set up along the east side of the little school.

Youngsters vied for the privilege of painting the rifle target or for setting up pins so that they could earn 5 cent coupons which would supplement their "kinderfest gelt" (picnic money). In those days, a quarter went a long way for the careful young spender, although generally by mid-afternoon, youngsters would have to look up dad or mom for a "kinderfest gelt" supplement.

For many years the picnics also featured a "bierstube" (beer room) in the basement of the school, where beer was served at small tables to adults. But problems developed in later years and the beer room was wisely discontinued.

Horsesheds And Other Things

On November 3, 1907, the congregation entered its first building project since the building of the school. The congregation voted to build a shed for horses on the south side of the church along the back fence of the church grounds.

Horses and buggies were stored in the long low building during church services to protect them from inclement weather. For many years, members each year elected a liveryman to care for the horse barns and to supervise financial operation of the barns.

Christmas programs were held in the church almost from the start of parish services. The Christmas Eve program was presented by the children and at the close of the service, they would receive brown bags of candy and gifts from the congregation.

For many years, two large trees flanked the altar in front of which the children presented Christmas songs and recitations. Wax candles were used on the tree with elders of the congregation standing by with buckets of water just in case more than the candles started to burn.

On January 6, 1909, congregation Secretary Otto Petzold recorded that \$75 had been sent to the inner Mission Commission of the

district and that Adolph Ill had been elected to collect delinquent pledges for the pastor's salary from members who had not paid their share of the salary costs.

For many years, members considered church offerings more as dues than as gifts freely given in love. The Back Salary treasurer was the church's "debt collector" who hounded members who had not fulfilled their pledges. This office was finally abolished in the 1930s.

In the March 1, 1908 meeting, the trustees were instructed to look for a new buggy and also to repair the church bell. In October 1908, the voters voted to build a platform around the parsonage pump, to paint the woodwork on the exterior of the church, to repair the school benches for use by the confirmation class, and to hold collections for "outside mission purposes."

On January 6, 1909, the custodian John Sievert (Siebert) finally got a raise when his annual salary was raised from \$15 to \$20 a year. The organist also benefitted from this burst of congregational generosity when she received a similar \$5 a year raise. Organist Ina Koch received \$15 a year.

At the same annual meeting, it was voted to plaster the parsonage and later that year, Leonard Keinath was named as a collector of food for the congregation's "pastoral horse."

Minutes of the meetings carried many little items of this type during these years. During a fall meeting, the congregation purchased ten cords of wood for the church stove and asked for donations to feed the pastor's horse during the winter months.

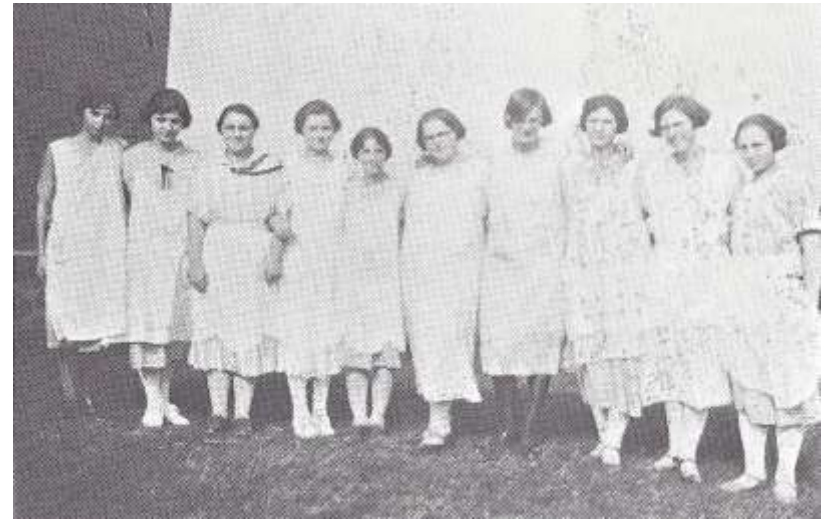
Again Orphaned

The congregation was content. All was going well with small gains being recorded each year as new members arrived. This truly was an era of tranquility and peace.

But suddenly, on February 6, 1910, good times came to an end. Pastor Moehring received a call from the congregation in which he had done his student work and was strongly inclined to accept this call.

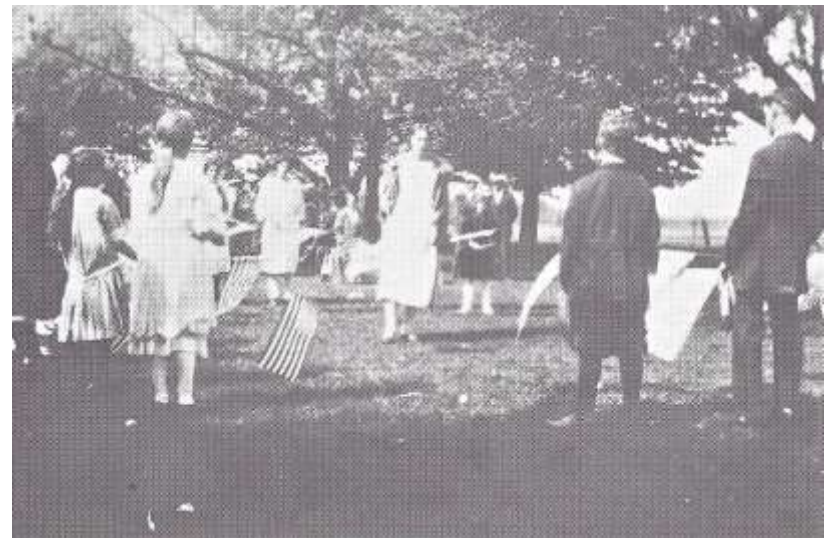
It was readily seen that the calling church was in a greater need of the kindly pastor and so, with reluctance and sadness, Pastor Moehring was given his peaceful release.

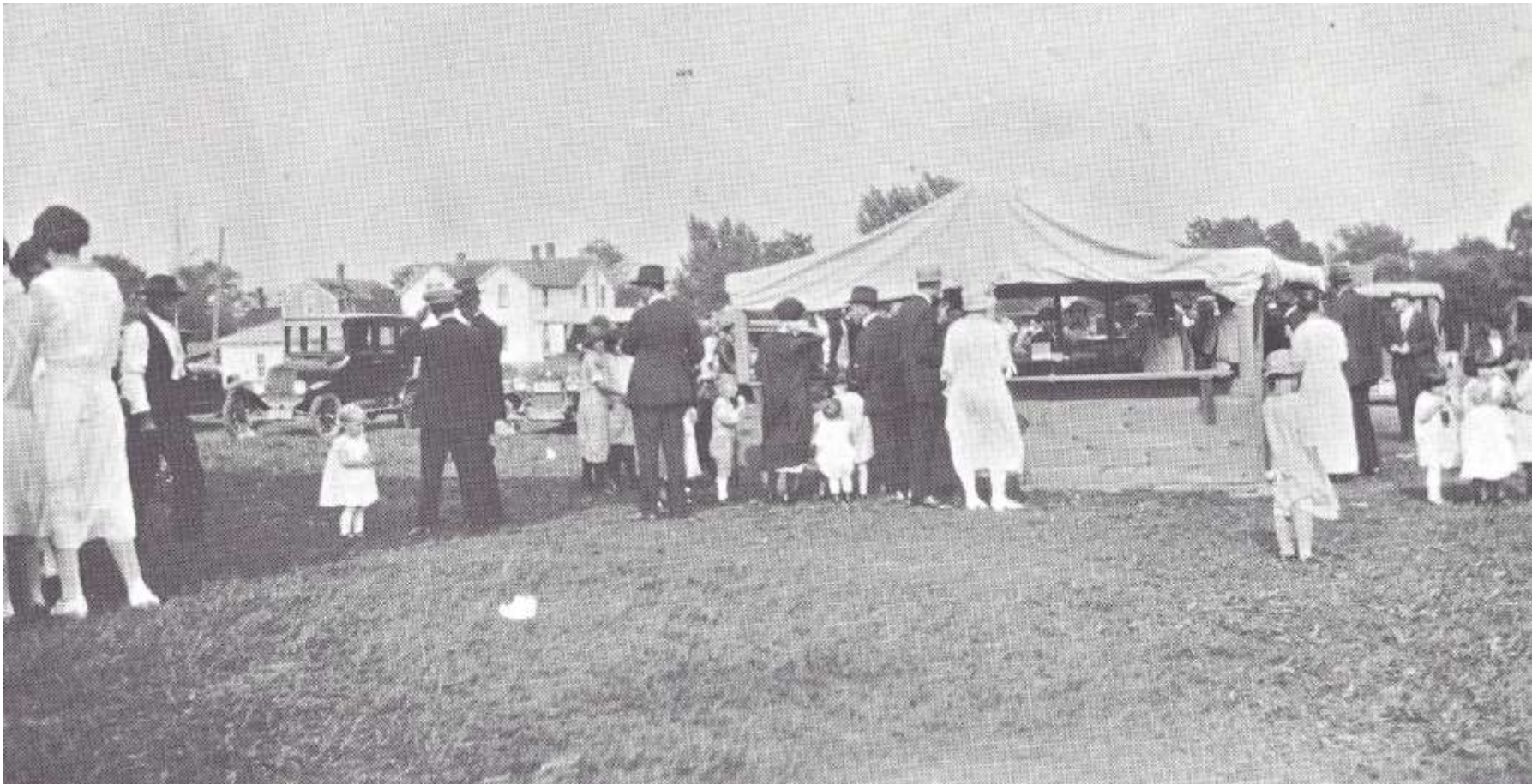
. . .and so for a third time in its first decade and a half, the young parish was left without a pastor. But this time it would not be as difficult to find a successor.



Early Missionfest always included a bountiful dinner and young ladies like these, photographed August 16, 1925 served the delicious meals.

In early days, Kinderfests were the congregation's social highlight of the summer and always included patriotic programs such as this one on July 4, 1924.





Kinderfests, Kirchweihfests (Church Anniversary), and Missionfests often included big dinners and a refreshment stand. Kinderfests were held at the homes of members in early days and later at the Arbela school grounds. This is a picture of the refreshment stand which served the parish for many years, first at the church and later at the Arbela school. This picture was taken on August 16, 1925 and probably pictured either the Kirchweihfest or a Missionfest. The tent is standing about where the present Nave is built. The congregation's first parsonage, located at the corner of Church and Center Streets, can be seen in the background (white house). In the 1960s, long after the congregation had sold it, it was destroyed by a tragic fire which took the life of a young child.

The Agonizing Schism

After Pastor Moehring's departure, the congregation was more fortunate in finding a successor. The same day on which Pastor Moehring was granted his release, the congregation asked the Rev. Albert C. W. Brauer to serve as vacancy pastor until a permanent pastor could be found.

Pastor Brauer was retired at the time and served as vacancy pastor until May 29, 1910, when the congregation extended him a call as resident pastor. Earnest, conscientious, and at times somewhat strong-willed, Pastor Brauer served Millington Lutherans for nine years.

The latter years of Pastor Brauer's ministry were to be sad and trying years for the congregation as it became affected by a doctrinal controversy which developed between Synod and several of its pastors.

The Ministry of Pastor Brauer

Pastor Brauer was the son of a minister, The Rev. Albert Brauer, Sr. He completed his seminary work at Springfield, Illinois in 1887 and was ordained at Bishop, Illinois on September 25, 1887 by the Rev. F. C. Behrens.

He served the Bishop, Illinois congregation for two years following his ordination and then accepted the pastorate of three congregations in South Dakota on October 6, 1889. He served St. Paul Church at Freeman, Trinity Church at Heilbronn, and a third Lutheran Church at Wolf's Creek.

On January 3, 1904, he became pastor of the congregation at Fairfield, Minnesota and then in 1908, the pastor of the Lutheran congregation at Bridgeport, Michigan.

He came to Millington in 1910 and remained until May 5, 1919 when he preached his farewell sermon to the Millington congregation. After his departure from Millington, Synod has no further records on Pastor Brauer.

The Calm First Years

Pastor Brauer's ministry at Millington began calm enough, with little evidence of the agony which was to follow in the final half of his stay at St. Paul.

The congregational meetings from 1910 until 1915, continued to reflect tranquility in the small, but growing little parish.

The painting of the Parsonage was an item in the April 17, 1910 congregational meeting and on April 24, 1910, the hiring of a lady teacher from Bay City school was discussed.

Horse and buggy days were still evident, as on August 7, 1910, the congregation authorized the building of an additional horse shed, stipulating that it be built in the same style as the first.

The same year, the congregation quietly observed its annual

Kirchweihfest (Church Anniversary Festival) on the third Sunday in August, as had become the tradition.

In January 1911, records indicate the congregation honored the "good students of the Sunday School" with the awarding of merit certificates. And on May 28, 1911, the parish petitioned the Millington town council for a sidewalk in front of the church.

In those years, school started on August 21st in the Arbela school and Sunday School was still sort of an on again-off again proposition, although, with each passing year it became a more permanent part of the congregation program.

More Building

Another small building project was embarked upon at the September 24, 1911 congregational meeting, when it was agreed to build a 12x24x16 addition to the Church Street parsonage.

The first floor of this addition was to provide the pastor's wife with a much-needed new kitchen and the second floor was to provide the congregation with an equally much-needed instruction room for confirmands.

In the same project, the roof of the old house was raised to create added bedrooms and was shingled. Members did most of the work on the project and the cost was kept to only \$175, according to a report presented to members at the annual church meeting on January 4, 1912.

Apparently younger members were not taking as great a financial interest in the church as some of the older members felt they should. At the same annual meeting in 1912, some of the "older members" expressed the feeling that 18-year olds ought to start giving more to the operation of the church.

Some of the other "important" items discussed at the same meeting were: the appointment of Mrs. Brauer as organist, approval of new hooks for children's clothing at the Arbela school; and the placing of a \$5 advertisement in the Saginaw News.

Some of the other interesting tidbits gleaned from congregational meetings of this era include these:

On May 5, 1912, the parsonage was insured with a Wisconsin firm in the amount of \$1,200 for three years.

On July 28, 1912, the congregation reaffirmed the fact that non-member students were welcome to attend their school as long as their parents paid a registration fee.

The first use of laymen as teachers was authorized when in the January 6, 1913 meeting of the congregation, the deacons (elders) were instructed to help the pastor teach Sunday School classes.

And that following May, the congregation hired Martha Zeile as a teacher for the Arbela School and also authorized a two-month vacation for Pastor Brauer so that he could visit his children.

A Year of Poverty

The little congregation at Millington was a poor congregation. During its early years it was never blessed with an abundance of money—reflecting the similar plight of most of its members. But of all the years of poverty, 1912 was probably one of the worst financial years for parish members up to that time. Nearly all of them were farmers and they depended on their crops for a living.

The year 1912 was a terrible farming year. The October 13, 1912 meeting of the congregation reflected this. The \$175 bill for the parsonage repairs had not yet been paid and all the members could do was pay the interest on the loan which had been made to cover the remodeling expenses. That year the congregation could come up with only \$40 for the work of mission and the parish minutes record that the congregation could not help support mission work in China because “the poor crops left barely enough money to operate the local congregation.

Finances apparently became somewhat better in 1913, because at the July 26, 1913 meeting, the congregation saw its way clear to do a little bit of fixing up in the church interior. New wallpaper was authorized for the nave of the church and tin panels with a Greek cross design, were approved for the ceiling.

The minutes of the January 8, 1914 meeting of the congregation contains financial reports which indicate the scope of the congregation’s financial activity at this time.

For local purposes, the congregation had two funds. One was the trustee fund, which covered costs of the congregation’s facilities and programs. The other was the salary fund, which covered the expenses of the pastor and teacher. In 1913, the trustee fund had an income of \$306.30 and the salary fund an income of \$526.25. In addition, some \$118 had been collected for mission. A short time later the school treasurer reported that about \$165 had been collected and that of this, \$148.72 had been paid to the teacher for her services.

Although poor, the congregation constantly made efforts to help support the district and synod which so generously helped the congregation during its early years with special grants to help pay the pastor’s salary. During Good Friday services in 1914, for example, the congregation held an extra collection to help rebuild

buildings which had been damaged by fire at the Concordia College at River Forest.

The frequent special collections apparently irked a few members, because in the June 7, 1914 meeting of the voters, some of the members demanded that the parish be more specific when it asked for special offerings of its members.

Finally in October 1914, the congregation was able to pay off the \$175 debt on the parsonage repairs and also authorized a special collection for the American Red Cross because of its needs in war-ravaged Europe.

On November 29, 1914, the congregation’s generosity apparently became over-tested, because it made short work of another special request for funds from the synod president, stating that “the congregation already had held a collection for synod.”

The Setting for Differences

Although on the surface everything appeared to be going well, the first evidences of a disturbance in the congregation were starting to appear. And before entering into a discussion of these matters, it would be wise to place the events which follow into a proper frame of reference.

It should be remembered that during this period of time, many disturbing matters were affecting the church and more particularly the personal lives of its members.

In Europe a war was raging which everyone knew eventually would also involve the United States. It was the first major war in which America would be involved since the bloody Civil War a little over half a century earlier.

Further, the disturbing anti-German feelings which were to reach their bitter peaks during the final days of World War I, were already disturbing the tranquility of German Americans throughout the country and Millington German Lutherans as well.

Also, the nature of the people of this era had a great part in what was to follow in the period of 1915-1919. Hard-working and generally poor, members of the congregation during this period were in an almost constant battle for economic survival. This, and their German tradition, made them tough, at times strong-willed and defensive—quick to defend what they believed was rightfully theirs and quick to take a position against anyone or anything that threatened their property or their beliefs.

The purity of doctrine was a major tradition of early Lutherans. This strong insistence on orthodoxy led to early doctrinal battles

which frequently shook the entire Missouri Synod. One such controversy over the doctrine of Predestination rocked the very foundations of Synod in the 1800s. This controversy was still fresh in the minds of most Lutherans of this era.

The unsettled times, the character of the people of this era and the nature of the church at this period of time all helped create the setting for the difficulties which were to follow.

Background Of The Controversy

The ultimate division which developed in the Millington congregation was not because of a local doctrinal disagreement, but rather was the result of a doctrinal difference which developed between Synod and several pastors of the Kansas District of Synod.

The controversy became known by the German title of “Das Wesen des Rechtfertigenden Glaubens,” which translated means, “The Issue of Justification by Faith.”

As in so many theological controversies, the issue was centered on fine points of doctrine which most laymen, and probably many pastors didn’t understand fully—if at all, and if better explanations would have been made, may have been totally averted.

It began when another Pastor Brauer of the Kansas District took issue with a paper which had appeared in the theological publication, “Lehre und Wehre,” published periodically by the professors of the seminary at St. Louis, Missouri. The article, which appeared in 1910, was written by Professor George Stoeckhardt and received broad distribution within Synod through a February 6, 1912 issue of *Der Lutheraner* (a German-language publication of Synod).

In his article, Prof. Stoeckhardt discussed man’s involvement in justification by faith. Without trying to explain his position in detail, Dr. Stoeckhardt wrote that man, at the time of his conversion, is enlightened by God so that he desires faith and wants to receive it. Thus, through prayer and a desire for salvation, man—as a soul-possessing creature of God, plays an active part in salvation. His finer points which seem not to have been explained thoroughly were that once God, through the Holy Spirit, brings sinful man to faith, then man should speak up for his faith, leading a life that shows the fruits of faith. While God brings sinful man to faith, but sinful man can fall away from faith based on his own lack of faithfulness. Synod and Dr. Stoeckhardt did not stress that sinful man is not done with his trespasses once he possesses faith. While acts of faith do not merit salvation, they certainly should be visible in the life of a Christian as evidence of faith.

Pastor Brauer of the Kansas District disagreed with the original position of Dr. Stoeckhardt, stating that man does absolutely nothing at any point in the salvation process and that faith and justification are totally the acts of God on a spiritually dead and passive creature.

As this argument developed, the entire question of the role of faith, good works, and prayer became involved in the issue. Pastor

Brauer finally accused Synod of allowing the teaching of false doctrine and Synod, of course, strongly refuted this.

As the discussions grew more intense between Pastor Brauer of Kansas and Synod, so did the hair-splitting and nit picking. Words, definitions, terms and shadings of meanings all were laboriously worked over by the theologians who became involved in discussions.

Each side believed that the very foundation of Lutheran doctrine was involved—but they could resolve nothing—for how can man with limited knowledge of God’s great Love and Power seek to explain the mechanics of His Miracles? And certainly salvation is a miracle of His Love.

The Synod, unable to reconcile the differences with Pastor Brauer finally expelled him from Synod. Two other pastors, Pastor H. Koster and Pastor C. O. Danitschek, who had sided with Pastor Brauer, also were expelled.

These three pastors appealed this expulsion from synod and their appeals were heard before a meeting held at Bremen, Kansas from October 2-12, 1915.

As one might well appreciate, the laymen who became involved in the controversy because of their pastor’s stand, could not fathom the deep theological points involved. All they could do was place their trust either in synod’s position or in their pastor’s position.

And this is what most of them did—and as a result, several Kansas congregations and others in Synod became involved in deep internal conflicts as the entire question began to boil down to personality clashes and an airing of secondary issues instead of the issue of Justification by Faith.

And that to a great extent, is what eventually happened in the congregation at Millington.

Although grossly oversimplified and incomplete, for purposes of this historical account, the two sides of the issue were basically this: The faculty of St. Louis and Synod which stood by them, stated that man desires faith once God has enlightened him by conversion and that in this sense, man is active in desiring grace and forgiveness. Pastor Brauer and his followers, on the other hand maintained that man is a totally dead being and that God performs all the acts involved in faith and justification. Synod said man was an active participant—Pastor Brauer said man was a passive participant.

Ultimately Millington’s Pastor Brauer sided with the Kansas Pastor Brauer against Synod, while those who left the Millington

congregation remained with Synod's stand on the issue.

The splitting of the Millington congregation into two congregations from 1915 to 1919 was most unfortunate, unnecessary, and sad from a congregational standpoint. But perhaps from an individual viewpoint, this period was a bright hour of personal faith and conviction.

Although one must lament the inability of these Christians to settle their differences, one must at the same time also give a measure of respect to members on both sides of the issue, for all apparently acted on the basis of honest, personal conviction. Each side of the issue was peopled with Christians willing to forsake friends and family, rather than to deny the Word of God as they believed it and understood it.

From this story of an organizational division, there emerges a greater story of personal conviction and stand-taking which perhaps today's church member might learn from.

The events we shall now recount tell of a dark hour in the life of a parish, but tell a rich story of personal dedication to principles and a commitment to belief which transcended earthly loyalties in the lives of those who were involved. There is no blame to place—there is only a story to tell and to learn from.

The Controversy Touches Millington

The doctrinal dispute raging in Kansas made its first appearances in the Millington parish shortly after 1910. Pastors of the synod had been aware of it since it first developed, but many pastors like Millington's Pastor Brauer, had hoped it would be resolved so that they and their congregations would not become involved in it.

The rumblings of the dispute and Pastor Brauer's unofficial comments about it apparently caused concern to some members of the congregation and so on Pentecost Sunday 1915, the secretary of the congregation was instructed to write to some of Pastor Brauer's former congregations to find out "what kind of a minister he was."

The suspicions were unfounded, for the letters from former congregations termed Pastor Brauer as a dedicated and faithful pastor.

On June 7, 1915, Pastor Brauer unburdened himself about this matter which had apparently caused him deep personal anguish. A strong-willed and at times somewhat obstinate man, the question of doctrine reflected in the controversy disturbed him deeply. He felt that Synod was wrong and that it was allowing a false doctrine to be taught.

At this meeting he told of a conference which he had attended at Monroe in which the issue was discussed. With many Bible verses, he attempted to establish his position on the question.

The controversy was too deep and too involved for the common laymen of St. Paul's. The theological nit-picking and hair-splitting left them confused and disturbed.

And, as a result of this inability to comprehend the scope of the

question, the entire matter at Millington began to involve personalities and side issues rather than pure doctrinal discussion.

After a lengthy discussion at the June 7 congregational meeting, the men agreed to cancel the Sunday sermon on June 10, 1915 and instead, have the pastor explain the issues at stake and his position on them.

At the church service on June 10, 1915, the pastor presented the issues as he saw them and asked the congregation for an expression of its feelings. By a voice vote, the congregation agreed with Pastor Brauer.

The pastor then asked the congregation if it wished to hear a representative of "the other side" discuss the matter. To this the congregation said no. The elders then presented a statement which reviewed their discussions with Pastor Brauer and which expressed support for the position of their pastor.

Millington Leaves Synod

Finally, as the morning meeting continued, Pastor Brauer expressed his desire to leave Synod. The pastor said he personally had no choice but to disassociate himself from Synod.

The congregation voted to remain with their pastor and to leave Synod. And so, after less than two decades of association with the Missouri Synod, the young church sadly left its affiliation with the mother assembly of churches.

The Rev. E. A. Mayer, pastor of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church at Frankenmuth and apparently president of the Michigan District at this time, sent a letter to the congregation about the matter. Conrad Keinath presented this letter to the parish at a meeting in June 1915. Pastor Mayer asked that the Millington congregation allow synodical representatives to appear before the congregation.

When first moves were made to withdraw St. Paul from Synod, several members—disturbed over the move—had gone to Pastor Mayer to express their regret and to receive counsel over what should be done.

When Pastor Brauer learned of this, he was deeply disturbed and at a congregational meeting expressed his feeling that going to another pastor "behind his back" was not proper.

The side issues and personality differences became openly evident as a motion was made and defeated to allow a synodical representative to appear before the congregation and present Synod's side of the dispute. Another member arose and said that if the congregation refused to let a representative of Synod appear, he wanted no further part in the matter. He then walked out of the

congregational meeting in protest and four other members went with him.

The split had developed and become an open issue in the agonized congregation.

This turn of events deeply disturbed those who remained at the meeting and they decided to review the question of allowing a synodical representative to present Synod's side of the matter. They invited the members who had left to return to another meeting on June 13, 1915 to discuss the matter further. They also wrote a letter to Pastor Mayer, asking that he refrain from further meetings with Millington members until the matter could be brought under control within the congregation.

At a meeting on June 20, 1915, Pastor Brauer said he would like to debate Pastor Mayer or other persons from Synod over the issues of the controversy. At the same meeting he publicly begged forgiveness from members who had walked out of the earlier meeting. The members refused to accept his apology, however, even after the pastor, for a second time, asked them to forgive him if he had personally offended them.

Finally, after several weeks of discussion, a public debate on the question of Justification by Faith was set for July 11, 1915 at Millington. But in this debate, as in the discussions held at the synodical level, the very nature of the subject doomed it to failure and nothing was resolved. Involved in the debate were Pastor Brauer, Pastor Mayer, Pastor Schinnerer, and Pastor Dressler, a representative from Synod.

Moment of Agonizing Decision

At another meeting on July 25, 1915, a letter was read from a group of Frankenmuth teachers and elders who had witnessed the debate. They told the Millington congregation that they had not heard anything presented in the debate which would indicate Synod was fostering the teaching of false doctrine.

Pastor Brauer, apparently determined to settle the matter, then demanded that the congregation make a choice: either to follow him or follow Synod and the professors of the St. Louis seminary.

Then followed one of the most dramatic moments in the history of congregational meetings at St. Paul—as each member had to make a decision of conscience.

In the voting which followed, 27 of those present voted to remain with Pastor Brauer and leave Synod, while seven voted against Pastor Brauer's position and chose to remain with Synod.

And so it was done. The congregation had split on a doctrinal issue, clouded with dark personal issues—issues which simply could not be healed under the circumstances which prevailed.

The seven men, firm in their convictions, sadly left the church which some of them had helped found. They became the nucleus of

a second congregation which called itself St. Lawrence Lutheran Church of Millington. This portion of the congregation remained steadfast with the Missouri Synod, while those who remained with Pastor Brauer and the mother church continued in a separation from Synod.

In the weeks and months which followed, the rest of the parish members had to make the same agonizing decision which the 34 members at the congregational meeting had to make. Many found they could not agree with Pastor Brauer and his departure from Synod and left the parish to join the St. Lawrence group.

The St. Lawrence congregation met for services at the Baptist Church, it is believed, although some believe services were held at the Millington Odd Fellows Hall. Unfortunately, there are no records of the activities of this congregation which was served by a Rev. Peters who apparently also served Christ Lutheran Church of Birch Run. This congregation also operated a parochial school for a time on Murphy Lake Road just east of Buell Lake Road in an old house on the farm then known as the Hoover Farm.

Picking Up The Pieces

The members who remained with Pastor Brauer were left to “pick up the pieces,” as it were, and despite the heartache and agony of split families and relationships over the controversy, the mother parish survived.

Just a year after the congregational split, the parish faced another growing problem—the increasing animosity against Germans and the threat that the congregation's school—which taught most of its classes in German—would be forced to close.

The tension and anxiety of these days were made evident in the minutes of the congregational meeting of January 4, 1917, when Pastor Brauer pleaded for the “remainder of the flock” to hold steadfast. At that meeting the aging pastor spoke about the groundless rumors which were making their rounds and urged the members to remain together and to resist the influences “from the outside” which would continue to disturb the congregation in the months ahead. He bemoaned the fact that the parish had lost so many members because of the doctrinal controversy, but told the assembled members that the congregation had learned from this experience and had gained new internal strength.

In German he said: "We have God's promise that He will not leave us nor forsake us. All this is within His Power and His Hands."

Although it was difficult, the congregation sought to return to a more normal parish life. At the annual meeting of 1917, the congregation established a committee to which members might go for counsel and information on questions arising from the doctrinal controversy.

As time passed, the day-to-day business matters of the congregation once again began to dominate the congregational meeting discussions.

On May 13, 1917, the congregation approved a \$16.80 payment for insurance, granted a three-week vacation for the pastor, authorized repairs to the church entrance, and approved a July 4th picnic. At another meeting on January 10, 1918, it approved the singing of hymns at committal services at the cemetery, approved turning a stable (apparently at the parsonage) into a chicken coop, coal shed and wood shed, and approved a plot on the church property as a garden spot for the pastor.

Concern over the congregation's school was expressed at the May 12, 1918 meeting, when the members agreed to keep the Arbela school open as long as the government would allow the teaching of German. On September 8, 1918, the school was closed because of the government's ban on the use of German.

At this same meeting the first moves towards a reconciliation between the mother church and the newly-founded St. Lawrence congregation is recorded. At the meeting, a letter from the new congregation was read, asking for some discussion on the possibility of finding ways to reunite.

Through letters, these efforts at reconciliation were pursued in the final month of 1918 and early 1919.

An English Future

On November 17, 1918, shortly after the end of World War I, Pastor Brauer discussed the future of the parish with his members. Recognizing the slow, but steady movement towards the English language and seeing the need for more evangelism work in the predominately English community, Pastor Brauer asked that the congregation accept his resignation. He said he was not qualified to pursue the Millington ministry because of the need for more English.

No doubt, the aging pastor also considered the fact that no move towards a reconciliation between the two congregations in Millington would be possible until he were removed from the picture.

The congregation declined his offer to resign and make way for a

man more able to handle an English-oriented program. They asked him to remain until after the first of the year "to see how things went."

This question of Pastor Brauer's resignation was discussed at length at the January 1919 meeting of St. Paul. Some members expressed the feeling that if Pastor Brauer left the parish, members from the other congregation would return. Others felt that the position of the congregation would be hurt if Pastor Brauer left.

As a result of the March 14, 1919 meeting of the congregation, a letter was sent to the St. Lawrence church group, asking that the differences between members of the two congregations be settled and that what had taken place in the past be forgotten, forgiven, and buried.

Pastor Brauer continued as pastor until May 25, 1919 when he preached his farewell sermon to the congregation. While the congregation remained without a pastor, a Rev. Bernthal served as vacancy pastor for the congregation.

During the months which followed, one small matter after another stood in the way of real progress towards reunification. But finally on June 9, 1919, preliminary matters were settled and on June 15,, 1919—for the first time since July 25, 1915, all Lutherans of Millington gathered for a joint meeting, to elect new officers, to establish a reunified membership and program and to extend a call to a pastor to serve the reunited parish.

An so, after four years of dark, agonizing events, once again the horizon brightened and Millington Lutherans had reason for optimism. The agony had been endured, lessons had been learned. The time of trial and testing had been survived.



Pastor Brauer's last Confirmation Class (l-r): Winfried Keinath; Otilie Petzold Kurpsel; Ida Petzold Weber; Rev. Brauer; Celia Koeltzow; Marie III; Arthur III Confirmed April 13, 1919

Dark Shadows All Around

As the little parish neared the end of its 20th year, its future never looked darker. Not only was it torn apart internally by the results of doctrinal differences, but now its members faced the cruel effects of a wartime super-patriotism which was venting its hatred on German-American citizens.

America had become embroiled in a World War—the first major war American citizens had faced since Civil War days. As the grim reality of the war's cost began to be felt, Americans reacted with understandable fear and anxiety.

German Hatred Grows

Hatred of the German nation, the Kaiser and his armies grew until in the final stages of the war, it reached almost hysterical levels at times. Anti-war protestors and opponents of the war effort were not tolerated as they were during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts of the later years. These were days of extreme nationalism.

The nature of German-Americans of that era—so recently arrived in the new world and still closely linked with the traditions of their fatherland—helped bring on the hatred of German-Americans. And Millington Germans were no different.

Throughout its early existence, members of St. Paul were a provincial people, who kept apart from the rest of the community. Almost the total membership of the church at the time of World War I was of German ancestry, and so, the German language, customs and heritage of the members dominated their spiritual lives as well as their secular lives.

Although many of them had been residents of the community for many years, still they remained apart from the mainstream of the community, viewing non-Germans with the same sort of suspicion and even occasional contempt in which they were viewed by the rest of the community.

The community's non-Germans could not help but be mistrusting of a people which kept its religion and its heritage to itself. St. Paul Lutheran Church was not referred to as the Lutheran Church—but, rather as The German Church. Both in casual conversation and on public documents, "The German Church" was used to identify the congregation.

In the Millington community, therefore the terms "German" and "Lutheran" became synonymous in the minds of the community. It naturally followed that the hatred directed against the Germans passed itself over to a hatred of the local Lutherans who were Germans.

To appreciate the situation which prevailed during the World War I era, one need only read local newspapers of the time which reported the more obvious and known results of this anti-German

attitude of the area people. One can only imagine what day-to-day life must have been during this time for German-Americans of the community.

In a story in the Tuscola County Advertiser on April 20, 1917, a public notice appeared from Attorney General T.W. Gregory:

"No German alien in this country, who has not hitherto been implicated in plots against the interests of the United States need have any fear of action by The Department of Justice so long as he observes the following warning: Obey The Law—Keep Your Mouth Shut."

As more young men were called into the service and as the pressures of the war effort were felt more keenly back in the United States, the hatred and fear of the Germans grew and began to be directed against American Germans more and more.

Intolerance And Violence

Incidents of intolerance and physical violence became common. Germans across America, and in Millington as well, were intimidated and openly abused. In February 1918, all German aliens were ordered to register and those who did, were listed in local newspaper columns as "term alien enemies."

Those Germans who were more outspoken, reacted to this intolerance and often their reaction was ill-advised in light of the passionate German hatred which was rampant in the community. This further fanned the fears of German subversion and internal German spying which the community directed towards its German-speaking citizens.

On April 5, 1918, The Tuscola County Advertiser reported a mob's action against a German resident of the county who was suspected of acting and talking too "pro-German."

"...barefooted, he was led half a mile, interrogated and given a chance to explain. He (the German) insisted that he did not mean much by his talk, but the crowd required him to kneel in the road, damn the Kaiser, kiss the American flag, and agree to join the Red Cross, Buy a Liberty Bond, and attend all patriotic meetings. ...He was allowed to go home, several of the party firing guns in the air to further stir his blood and indicate their interest in his regenerated Americanism."

Night raiders, carried away with patriotic fervor, ferreted out Germans who they believed were pro-Kaiser and dealt with them harshly. Probably only a few of these incidents “made the newspapers.” Those that did, indicate the frightening times which Germans lived under all across America.

An April 12, 1918 issue of a county newspaper told of a half-clad, barefoot German being beaten near Caro; and at Mayville, two Germans, a bit too outspoken for their own good, were stripped of their clothes, beaten and run out of town.

During this period of time the Ku Klux Klan became very strong throughout this area and across America. It vented its hatred against the Catholics and Negroes and other elements of the American society which it considered un-American. That included the German Lutherans of Millington and their hated parochial school which many white-robed Klansmen considered a training center for German subversion.

The School Is Attacked

Hardly had the effects of the World War I intolerance started to fade when a new hatred was fanned by an all-out attack on the American parochial school.

During World War I the congregation was forced to close its parish school when the U. S. Government imposed a ban on the use of the German language. While the school was closed, children attended public schools and received religious training before morning worship services.

During the post-war years, radical elements in the nation were never more active. Emerging from this period of confusion was a referendum which sought the closing of the parochial schools. The measure was put on the ballot and parochial schools faced a serious test. The measure was denounced by political leaders and educators, but as the summer of 1920 turned into fall and the day of the election approached, it appeared that the parochial schools might well be ordered closed.

The campaign prior to the election was bitter and heated. Mass meetings both for and against the school were held locally and bitterness erupted into physical violence at these meetings. Pastors and parochial educators who sought to present the case for parochial schools were publicly booed, shouted down and abused. The fear which had shadowed the German Lutherans of Millington just a few years earlier had returned once again to darken the future of the little congregation.

Parochial Education Survives

The measure came to a vote on November 5, 1920. Although the school closing measure was soundly defeated by a 2-1 margin across the state, locally the measure was passed—attesting to the bitterness of anti-parochial school sentiment in the immediate area

of St. Paul.

In Tuscola County, the measure received 3,600 yes votes and 2,990 no votes. In Arbela Township, where most of the German-American Lutherans lived on farms and where the parochial school was located, the closing was approved 119-109. In Millington Township, the measure received a wide 326-150 support.

The Ku Klux Klan continued to grow in strength during this period of time, achieving a national membership of more than four million members. It openly challenged established institutions it considered undesirable, including the parochial school. It was also active in this area, using its special brand of terror tactics against the school. But the school survived and so did the congregation.

Warmer Relationships

The stains of this dark period of history remained for many years, tainting the good relationships which should have existed between the rest of the community and the young congregation.

As the years passed, so did the intolerance and bitterness of this era. The German Lutherans became more involved in their community and they opened their doors to the rest of the community in a rebirth of an evangelistic spirit.

The community too, extended a greater respect and appreciation for the parish and today, there no longer is a German Church—but rather a church which is a respected part of a growing community with members deeply involved in the affairs of the community and holding many key positions of leadership.

The Years of Healing And Reunification

The United States had survived a horrible war—a war which had drained away so much of its youth, had plundered its economic wealth, had tried and tested its passions, and had halted its peaceful development.

Now, as it prepared to enter the 1920s, the nation was busy putting together the pieces, restoring a more normal society for its people.

For St. Paul Lutheran Church, the period after the Great World War was the same. Although the future would bring further difficulties, the worst was over. The struggle to become a mature and healthy congregation was being won.

In the final months of 1919, the reunified congregation sought a pastoral leader who would give it the direction it needed during its coming years. On June 15, 1919, the names of Pastor Hagen of Pinconning, Pastor Biernert of Midland, and Pastor Patzger of Montmorency were presented as candidates. Pastor Hagen was extended a call, but he declined.

On July 6, 1919, the parish then extended a call to The Rev. Arthur Adolf Hahn of Posen. He accepted the call.

The Ministry of Pastor Hahn

The important role of guiding the congregation back to full unity and normalcy was given to a young pastor, blessed with a pleasant personality, a patient and compassionate heart, a rich understanding of human nature and a heaven-sent passion for rebuilding what had been disturbed.

Pastor Hahn was the son of Pastor Frederick Hahn and his wife, the former Mary Margaret Muellerweiss. He was born on May 20, 1894. After seven years of parochial school and a year of public schooling, he entered Concordia Seminary at Fort Wayne and in 1916 completed his training at St. Louis Seminary at St. Louis.

He was ordained at Posen, Michigan on August 11, 1916 by the Rev. W. Weinlaender and served St. Paul Lutheran Church there until accepting a call to Millington. He was installed pastor of the Millington parish on September 7, 1919 by The Rev. Heinrich Voss.

In the eight years that followed, the young pastor—with patience and dedication—healed the scars of controversy and set the congregation on a bright new course.

After his ministry at Millington, Pastor Hahn went to St. Peter Lutheran Church at Bach, where he served from November 4, 1927 until August 1943 when he accepted a call to Redeemer Lutheran Church of St. Clair Shores.

After his retirement in October 1960, he served as assistant pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Fraser and Greenfield Peace Lutheran Church in Detroit. He served as a member of the Michigan District Board of Appeals for three years.

Pastor Hahn married Minna Emilie Gaeth on August 7, 1917 at Tawas City and after her death married Anna Champen Magnuson on April 29, 1956 at Detroit. Three of his four children were born during his ministry at Millington.

Pastor Hahn died in Detroit on October 16, 1970 and was buried in the Glenn Eden Cemetery in Farmington on October 20, 1970.

The School Fight

Hardly had Pastor Hahn assumed the duties of his new charge than the parish—together with other congregations who operated parochial schools—faced a bitter fight to keep the parochial school open.

After World War I efforts to close parochial schools gained heavy support and the question was brought to a vote in the elections of November 1920 when a Parochial School Referendum was presented to the voters.

Details of this issue were presented in Chapter Ten. Here are some other sidelights on this issue as gleaned from the minutes of congregational meetings of 1920:

The possibility that parochial schools might be outlawed was first mentioned at the February 28, 1920 meeting in which Pastor Hahn warned members of the parish that they might have to fight to keep the school open.

In April of that year, a rally was held at Reese in which parochial school supporters made plans to battle the closing issue. As a result of that meeting, a special offering was received within the parish on April 25, 1920 to help pay legal costs involved. In addition, members were urged to inform themselves on the issue and to support the purchase of pro-parochial school literature.

On July 25, 1920, the congregation named George Veitengruber, Frank Koch, George Keinath, and Adolf Ill as a committee to make sure that all eligible members of the parish were registered to vote in the November referendum balloting.

Again at an October 20, 1920 meeting, the pastor reminded the members of the urgency of the issue. At this same meeting, discussions were held on possibly moving the school from its Buell Lake Road site in Arbela Township to the church at Millington and restructuring its curriculum to fit public school patterns. Although a committee of Frank Koch, Will Hoffman, Carl Keinath, William

Reinert, and Conrad Keinath were appointed to investigate this possibility, the proposal was dropped early in 1921 and the move was never made.

In the November elections of 1920, the school referendum was defeated and the parochial schools were allowed to remain open. The school continued to be the subject of harassment in the next few years, however, as the Ku Klux Klan flexed its muscles in the Millington area and threatened its future existence. Yet, the school survived and went on to become the largest parochial school in Michigan's Thumb area.

Rebuilding Is Begun

With the arrival of Pastor Hahn, the atmosphere within the parish brightened almost immediately. Young and outgoing, Pastor Hahn was immediately well-liked and he used this popularity to help integrate the two congregational groups into one.

At the first congregational meeting he attended on September 21, 1919, the first major move to greater use of English was made. English church services were scheduled every other Sunday at seven o'clock in the evening. Some two dozen English hymnals were purchased for these services.

At this particular time (September 1919) the congregation's children were apparently still attending public school, since the pastor was instructed to hold Saturday School for religious classes.

In October, the congregation held a special collection for the needy war victims in Germany.

While the parochial school referendum fight was going on, other things were also moving ahead within the parish. At the annual meeting on January 5, 1920, work was authorized on the steeple and lights in the form of lanterns were purchased for the church building. Money apparently was in short supply since \$75 had to be borrowed to cover the cost of the new lanterns.

Another move towards English came in the January 25, 1920 meeting when the congregational minutes were translated into English. Later, however, these reverted back to German.

Phone service came to the congregation when on July 11, 1920, a telephone was approved for the parsonage. At an earlier meeting on May 16, 1920 cost estimates for a new church furnace were listed at \$220 and the installing of a basement under the church at \$575. Cement was not available, however, and so the improvement had to be postponed.

On February 20, 1921, the congregation voted to once again affiliate itself with the Missouri Synod. This request to rejoin synod was "accepted with great pleasure" by the synodical conference, according to a report given by delegate George Veitengruber at the July 10, 1921 congregational meeting.

Church Improvements

The congregation, feeling a need for more room at the church in

Millington, discussed putting a basement under the church building. On February 20, 1921, a poll of the men present was taken and they agreed to pledge \$615 for the project.

This sizeable pledge so enthused the congregation that it decided to excavate the entire area under the church, to build an entrance from the hallway to the basement, have water piped into the church and also to install a new furnace and coal bin.

The interior of the church was renovated during the congregation's 25th anniversary year in 1923, when trustees were instructed to rebuild the altar to include a reredos (rear upright panel) and construct a baptismal font. In addition, the congregation also approved the building of a 12-foot gallery in the north end of the church. The church was also completely repainted on the inside and outside.

A picture of the church interior taken in 1924 shows the results of the remodeling program. The new altar reredos carried a painting of Christ in Gethsemane which was purchased on September 2, 1923. Two side panels on the rear of the altar carried the German phrases, "Das ist mein Leib" (This is my Body) and "Das ist mein Blut" (This is my Blood). The pulpit also was repainted and decorated to match the altar and new baptismal font. Painted on the wall over the altar were the German words, "Friede Sei Mit Euch" (Peace Be With You).

The altar, font, pulpit and hymnboard shown in that picture were made a part of the Memorial Chapel of the church in 1968.

During 1923, nearly all of the parish property received renovation, since records indicate that the Arbela school and the parsonage at Millington also received new paint and repairs.

The Silver Anniversary Year

Under the leadership of Pastor Hahn, the congregation was privileged to observe its 25th anniversary in harmony and accord. Although it is not known on what date this was observed, it probably was celebrated on the third Sunday in August 1923—the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the first church. This was the traditional Kirchweihfest (Church Dedication Festival) of the congregation for many years.

For the event, the congregation published an attractive history of the congregation's first 25 years. The history was written by Pastor Hahn and carried pictures of the congregation's first church and its Pastors, as well as advertisements from Millington business places. Some 500 copies of this book were printed at the offices of the

Sebewaing Blade at a cost of about \$150.

Pastor Hahn beautifully summarized the first 25 years of the parish in the closing paragraphs of his booklet:

“Thus, dear reader, you have been made acquainted with the outstanding points in the history of our little country congregation. Other congregations have perhaps a greater membership, a more illustrious history, a more heroic career, yet our “little church” is as dear to us as can be. We love it because God has made it what it is. You will note nothing here that from the viewpoint of the world is very interesting or even worthy of notice. It is the simple story of the growth of a congregation, a body of men and women, none of whom can nor does lay claim to freedom from error and sin. It is a body that recognizes that it is unworthy of all the blessings and the grace which God has granted it in the past.

The members of St. Paul’s, therefore, with thanks look back upon its history, giving glory and praise to the Lord God for everything that it has to be proud of, especially the unadulterated Word of God, which is the power of God unto salvation for everyone that believeth, and the holy sacraments, peace and unity, faith, hope and charity.

The members of St. Paul’s recognize with repentant heart that all of their failings, all of their missteps, are their own. Nothing have we deserved of the blessings bestowed upon us. With the men of God in the Old Testament, Moses and David, we therefore exclaim: ‘I am not worthy of all the mercies and all of the truth which Thou has shown Thy servant,’ and ‘O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endureth forever.’”

The committee which arranged for the 25th anniversary celebration, elected on April 2, 1922, included Fred Koeltzow, Lorenz Weber, George Keinath, Anton Ill, Alfred Fischhaber and Pastor Hahn.

Tidbits and Trivia

These years in the history of the parish continued as increasingly happy and contented years as the congregation’s activities gradually expanded with the somewhat slow but ever-steady increase in membership.

In the May 7, 1922 meeting of the congregation, the parish asked Synod for \$200 to help pay the teacher’s salary so that a full nine-month school program could be operated at the Arbela School.

Another move towards greater use of English came following a long debate in the October 8, 1922 congregation meeting. At that meeting, the congregation dropped the English evening services and instead, established English church services on the last Sunday of every month.

Just before the 25th anniversary year, on December 3, 1922, the pastor received a call to serve at Sterling. However this call was returned because “the pastor was doing so much good” at Millington, according to minutes of that meeting.

In the March 22, 1923 meeting, worshippers were instructed to park their autos in a more orderly fashion. As more and more members purchased cars, the parking lot (which was located east of the church on the site of the present school) became congested as members apparently had not yet learned the techniques of modern day auto parking.

The congregation’s first ushers were George Veitengruber and Alvin Weber. They were appointed on September 2, 1923 to serve when the congregation had special services. A formal usher’s organization was not formed until the late 1950s.

The men of the congregation apparently gave little thought to women’s rights and abilities during this era. At the same September 2, 1923 meeting, the congregation voted that whenever food was served in the form of dinners or banquets, the project would have to be supervised by a committee of five men who would elect a subcommittee of women “to do the necessary work.” The congregational resolution added “but the men will receive the money and make the arrangements.”

On October 7, 1923, the congregation sent its greetings to former Pastor Moehring, who was marking his 25th year in the ministry. At the same meeting it also purchased a dictionary for the Arbela School.

In the February 3, 1924 meeting of the congregation, a fund-raising program for the needy in Germany was adopted and on March 3, 1924, Lenten services were changed from Wednesday to Friday mornings and evenings.

On April 26, 1924, the church treasurer reported a perplexing \$40 deficit in the treasury, the church was insured for \$3,000 and the congregational car for \$1,000. In other activities, the congregation voted to build a 14x20 foot garage at the church and place screens on the parsonage windows.

The 4th of July picnic was cancelled in 1924 and instead, a kinderfest was held in the Christ Schleier garden on June 10th of that year.

A June 22, 1924 meeting made reference to the activities of the Ku Klux Klan, terming the Klan (which at the time was exceedingly strong throughout the United States) as an enemy of the church and its program. At this time it is apparent that another threat to the school faced the parish, since the minutes recorded a plea from church officials to the members to “do their duty in the school fight—and don’t forget to pray.”

Other activities of the congregation during the final months of 1924 included the buying of a new car for the pastor, increasing the pastoral salary by \$60, building a garage on the pastor's yard, and establishing an extra collection to assist in the "school fight." Records on this are not available. Apparently this was a local problem within the community.

During his years at Millington, Pastor Hahn was frequently called upon to take over teaching duties within the parish because of its inability to find a teacher. This was finally solved, however, when the congregation in 1925 decided to call a full-time teacher to serve the parish.

In 1926, the church received a large number of trees from Carl Hourtienne. These cedar trees, a familiar part of the early church grounds until they were removed to make room for the new school in the late 1940s, were planted along the front and rear of the church lot and at the entrance to the church.

At the annual meeting of the congregation on January 6, 1925, the minutes indicate the pastor's displeasure with the poor attendance at congregation meetings. Apparently an earlier resolution which required voting members to submit written excuses failed to improve attendance. At this same meeting, the "livery treasury" was abolished as automobiles took the place of earlier horses and buggies, making the horse sheds no longer needed.

On April 24, 1927, Pastor Hahn conducted the first English communion service.

And so the final years of Pastor Hahn's tenure went—filled with activity and peaceful growth.

With the congregation reunited and once again on a course of growth and progress, Pastor Hahn on October 9, 1927 accepted a call to St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Bach and on the following day, October 10, 1927 preached his farewell sermon.

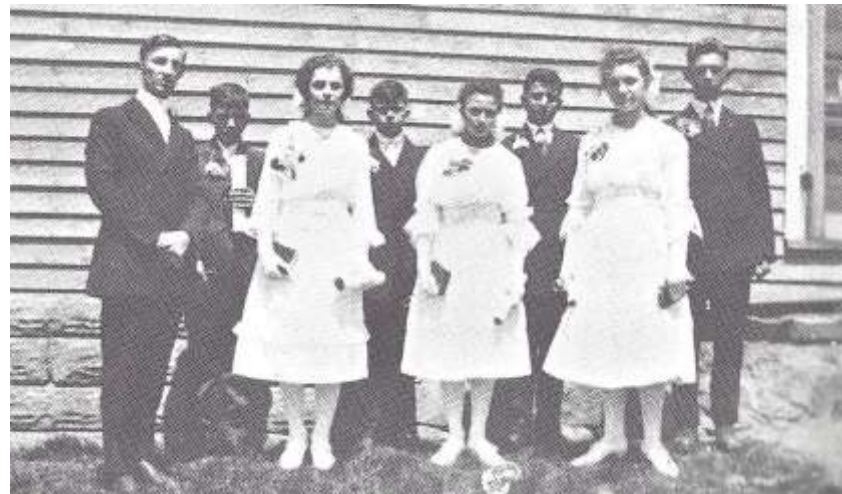
Pastor Hahn continued a close friendship with the parish and returned many times to preach. He was a speaker at the groundbreaking services for the new church and also participated in cornerstone-laying and dedication services for it in the late 1960s.



In the picture above, Pastor and Mrs. Hahn and their family prepare to leave Millington after his successful ministry.

The picture at the lower left shows the St. Paul Lutheran School classes of 1924 during Pastor Hahn's Ministry.

Members of Pastor Hahn's first confirmation class in 1921 included: Theodore Keinath, Marie Pavelka, Gustav Petzold, Ida Keinath (Holland), Reinhardt III, Amalia Petzold (Weber), and Herman Fischhaber.



Forward Into The Thirties

During the early years of the congregation's parochial school, pastors of the parish served as the teachers. As the congregation and the school grew in size, this arrangement no longer was satisfactory and so for a period of about 15 years, lady teachers were engaged to handle the teaching duties.

Finally after some 20 years of this sort of teaching arrangement, the congregation decided it was time to engage a full-time man teacher to handle the congregation's growing day school program.

A 'Man Teacher'

First discussions of calling a teacher were held under the leadership of Pastor Hahn on April 5, 1925 and again on April 8th. At these meetings an annual salary of \$700 was established and the requirement that full-time teachers be certified by the state was adopted.

As discussions about a full-time teacher continued, the question of moving the school to Millington was again brought up. But this once again was turned down as impractical.

Finally, at a meeting on May 31, 1925, the congregation voted to operate only one school program in Arbela township and, at least for the time being, end the continuing discussion over a second school at Millington.

Conrad Keinath offered the congregation a home for the proposed teacher. This home, located at the corner of Buell Lake Road and Millington Road, was purchased in 1925 for \$400 along with an acre and a half of land. The home originally built by Leonard Keinath served as the congregation's teacherage and for a time as its parsonage until it was sold after the Arbela school was closed in 1959.

The First Called Teacher

On May 31, 1925, the name of Mr. G. L. Wyneken was first mentioned as a possible candidate for the new teaching post. The Bay City teacher, the congregation had learned, had resigned earlier from the teaching ministry due to poor health, but was ready to resume teaching.

Mr. Wyneken was offered a contract in 1925 and taught under this contract until April 11, 1926 when a full call was extended to him. He was installed as the congregation's first teaching minister on June 30, 1926 by Pastor Hahn. He served as teacher in the congregation's original school building on Buell Lake Road until May 26, 1929 when he was again forced to resign due to ill health.

A New Pastor

As the nation entered the twilight of the "roaring Twenties" and moved on towards the depression years which were to follow, the congregation was again faced with a task it had faced so many times

before in its first three decades—the calling of a pastor.

The congregation had debated for nearly two weeks before it finally agreed to let Pastor Hahn—the man who had brought unity back to the parish—accept the call to nearby St. Peter's Church at Bach.

During the pastoral vacancy, the congregation was served by Pastor Gehner of Hadley, who was paid \$15 a Sunday for his services.

On November 13, 1927 the congregation sent a call to Pastor Breitzke of Pinconning and in the call offered him a salary of \$1,000 a year, as well as free housing, telephone, and water services. This call was declined as was a second call to a Wisconsin Synod pastor, Pastor Rhodes of Flint.

Their Call Is Answered

A third call was sent on December 4, 1927—this one to The Rev. Albert Frederick Nees. Pastor Nees accepted the call and was installed by Pastor Schinnerer on March 18, 1928.

Pastor Nees was born October 6, 1873 at Fort Wayne, Indiana. He received his pastoral training at the seminaries at Fort Wayne, Indiana and St. Louis, Missouri, graduating from the St. Louis Seminary in 1898.

He was ordained at Elk River, Minnesota on August 7, 1898 by the Rev. Adam Gahl. He served this congregation until July 23, 1899 when he accepted a call to serve at Rapidan and Lake Crystal, Minnesota. On June 21, 1903 he became pastor of the parish at Fredonia, Wisconsin and remained there until accepting a new post at Tocain, Indiana on June 20, 1909.

On March 17, 1918, he was called to serve as pastor at Forrestville, Michigan where he remained until arriving at Millington. He served at Millington until his retirement in 1937.

Pastor Nees was married to Amanda Kohrt on July 18, 1899. This marriage was blessed with eleven children. One of his sons, Martin, followed his father into the Lutheran ministry. A daughter, Esther, remained at Millington where she and her husband, Mr. Herman Daenzer, remained faithful and active members of the parish for many years.

The Pastor died shortly after his retirement on January 21, 1938

and was given Christian burial in the Millington Township Cemetery on January 24, 1938.

Another Vacancy

The congregation had just completed the filling of its pastoral vacancy when a short time later it had to deal with a teaching vacancy. In May 1929, Teacher Wyneken announced he would have to resign because of a recurrence of his poor health. With the departure of Teacher Wyneken, the congregation reviewed its entire school program and pledged to continue its efforts to expand the parochial school program.

In May 1929 the congregation voted to seek a “younger teacher” who might better be able to cope with the rapidly changing educational picture. In that same meeting the congregation set a salary for the new teacher at \$900 and offered him free housing. His duties were to include the teaching of eight grades at the Arbela school, play the church organ, lead the congregation’s choir, and direct the activities of the young people.

The Tall New Teacher

A call was extended to Mr. Edmund Klammer, who accepted and arrived in the summer of 1929. He was installed as the congregation’s second teacher on September 29, 1929. With the arrival of Mr. Klammer, the modernization of the school program was given new impetus. Under his leadership, greater use of English was made in the classroom and more modern approaches to classroom teaching were introduced.

Mr. Klammer was a tall, outgoing teacher, who quickly captured the affection of the congregation. He was a strict disciplinarian in the classroom—but on the playground was a beloved and enthusiastic participant in the games and activities of the children he taught.

Under his leadership, the school prospered and new thrust was given to the congregation’s enthusiasm for parochial education.

Teacher Klammer was born at Westgate, Iowa on July 6, 1907 and attended St. Peter’s Lutheran School in Westgate before entering Concordia College at St. Paul, Minnesota. He completed his teacher training at Concordia College of River Forest, Illinois in 1929.

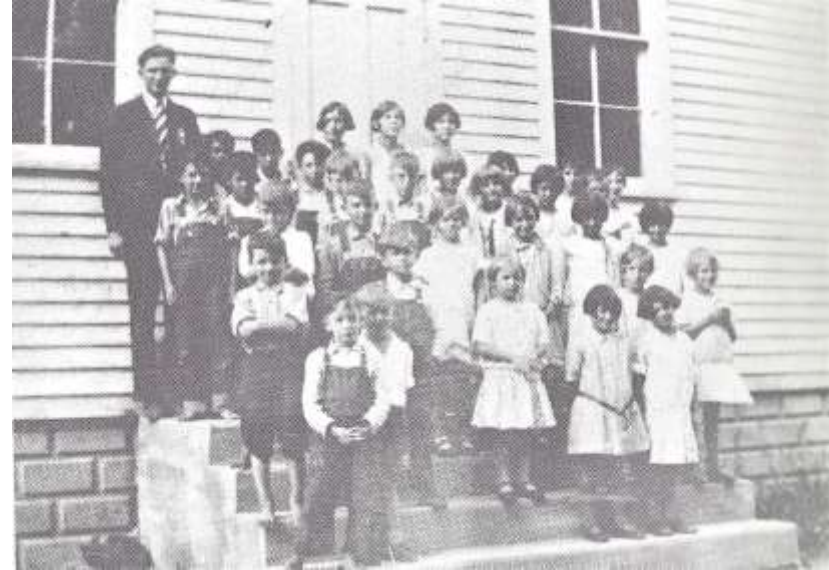
In his first year he served at Albany, Minnesota before accepting Millington’s call in the fall of 1929. In 1935, Teacher Klammer accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost, where he served until 1959 when he returned to the Millington congregation as a teacher. In 1966, he accepted a teaching post with St. Lorenz Lutheran School of Frankenmuth, where for some years he had made his home and where he had become a well-known part-time photographer for Rummel’s Studio. In April 1972 Teacher Klammer was honored on the occasion of his 40th year in the

teaching ministry.

He married Edna Knief on January 1, 1930. Their marriage was blessed with four children.

A Bigger School

The first moves towards providing more adequate educational facilities were made in the first congregational meeting after Pastor



Teacher Klammer and the children who first attended the larger Arbela school in 1930.

Nees’ arrival, when on April 9, 1928, the congregation purchased a quarter acre of land next to the Stone Road Cheese Company at the corner of Buell and Millington Roads in Arbela Township. The land was purchased for \$75. This was to serve as the future site of the congregation’s second school.

On November 10, 1929, the congregation was told that school buildings were being offered for sale by St. Lorenz Lutheran Church of Frankenmuth. About this time St. Lorenz was involved in the process of consolidating its large number of rural school districts into a central school in the Frankenmuth village. This made the rural school building available to purchasers.

At the January 3, 1930 annual meeting of the congregation, details of a proposed purchase of one of the St. Lorenz schools was

unveiled. The trustees reported the school under consideration was 24x40 feet in size.

This idea did not, however, get immediate approval. Several members felt the original Buell Lake Road school should be enlarged and still others felt that the best move would be to build an entirely new school.

But finally it was decided to buy the Frankenmuth school building. In the same meeting they established a three-year payment period for buying the new school and also instructed trustees to arrange for the financing.

At the same meeting they also voted to hold a housewarming for Teacher Klammer who had taken a week off to get married on January 1, 1930. The housewarming—an enthusiastic one—was held on January 9th.

After church services on January 12, 1930 the congregation voted to put a basement under the school and to install a telephone in Teacher Klammer's house. However, they told him that he would have to pay long distance telephone calls himself.

The School Moving

The school which the Millington congregation purchased was St. Lorenz's former Southeast District School which was operated from 1897 to 1929. The school was located about a mile and a half north of Millington Road on Reese Road.

Frankenmuth teachers who taught in this school before it was moved to Millington included: Otto Mueller (1897-1903); C. Bernthal (1903-1919); G. Stephani (1919-1923); and H. F. Sonntag (1923-1929). Interestingly enough, several members of St. Paul attended this school and later sent their children to attend classes in it when it served as the St. Paul school.

The white frame school was purchased for \$400 and the cost of moving it came to \$572.25. Under the direction of the congregation's trustees, Hahn Movers of Sebewaing were engaged to do the work of moving the school, with members of the parish providing labor. The school was raised and placed on giant skids. Round logs were laid in front of the building and greased. The movers then used a truck with a winch to move the school forward over the greased logs. The logs were then passed from the rear of the school back to the front and the operation was repeated.

And so, yard by yard, first across open fields and then finally down West Millington Road, members moved their new school in 16-below-zero temperatures. A fire was kept burning in an old stove in the school so that the dozen and a half men who helped move the school could keep warm.

The school was placed on the property located at the corner of Buell Lake and Millington Road, and then served as the congregation's educational center from 1930 until the school was finally closed and consolidated with a new school at Millington in 1959.

In an April 13, 1930 meeting of the congregation, members discussed a new basement for the school. The question was finally resolved later in the month when a contractor was hired to supervise the basement-building with members donating the labor. Ultimately, the total cost of the new school was \$1,640.

The original school built in 1904 was later moved from its site on the George Keinath farm next to the new school. It served as a confirmation instruction building for many years. The new, larger school was dedicated in services led by Pastor Nees on June 22, 1930.

Three called teachers and one pastor served in this school. They included Teacher Edmund Klammer (1930-1935); Teacher August Scheer (1935-1945); Pastor Hugo Ferber (1945-1946); and Teacher Chester L. Platt (1946-1959). A contract teacher, Waldemar Roeckle taught in the school in 1935.

The beautiful rural school grounds with its familiar "big and little" schools, woodshed, two outdoor toilets and tree-shaded grounds served the congregation for two decades and was the site of the annual picnics for many years.

The Terrible Depression

The members of St. Paul were never rich people and for them finances in their personal and congregational life was a continuing concern. But never was the financial situation worse than during the depression years of the early 1930s.

As early as 1927, reports from Synod were grim. The Synod was in a financially precarious situation—but so were its congregations. And Millington was no exception.

Congregational meetings of this era are filled with pleas for greater financial efforts by members—but for many members there simply was nothing available to give.

On June 19, 1927 members were mildly reprimanded since "many of them put only a penny in the collection bag when they should put in more." As 1928 passed into 1929, the situation grew worse with all of the church treasuries showing deficits and less and less being received in offerings.

New approaches were tried in financing efforts on January 13, 1929 to control the spending.

By February 1929, the congregation was forced to use some of its mission offerings to help pay the pastor and teacher "until things smooth themselves out."

In the fall of 1930, church minutes indicate that the church expenses had far exceeded the church income and firm action was taken through a program of visitation to the homes of members “who had not paid their dues.”

Salary payments were getting behind during this time. In the annual meeting in January 1933, the teacher told the congregation he would give up \$100 of his salary if only the parish would pay him the rest so he could survive financially.

Money sermons became common. In February 1933, as throughout this period, Pastor Nees was forced to plead with members for contributions so that “the pastor and teacher could have a decent income.” Officials of the congregation urged members to “contribute regularly and not just when they felt like it.”

As money matters got worse the pastor and teacher took a cut in pay and gave up their telephones in an effort to help cut expenses. When the congregation asked the janitor to do likewise, he told them he would quit before he would take a cut in his already meager \$60-a-year salary. They agreed with him that he was being paid little enough already and continued his salary.

About this time, the congregation was divided into districts and “collectors” were assigned in an effort to “drum up” the urgently needed money. But despite the hounding tactics of the “collectors” and the “back salary treasurers,” things improved but little. The plain fact of the matter was that there simply was too little money available for church contributions. Members barely had enough to live on themselves.

And so the years of the early thirties went. There was no money for expansion and barely enough for keeping up the program which the congregation was committed to. Parish servants shared the poverty of their members and through special sacrifices helped the congregation survive until better times finally came.

Tidbits and Trivia

Here are some “tidbits and trivia” gleaned from the minutes of the Voter’s Assembly meetings held in the latter 1920s and 1930s. . .

A telephone was authorized for the Arbela teacherage on September 26, 1926.

On March 13, 1927, Pastor Nees returned a call he had received from a congregation in Ontario, Canada and at the same meeting the congregation joined the Frankenmuth Fire Insurance Association.

On March 27, 1927, English communion services were scheduled quarterly. During this period of time English services were apparently poorly attended. Because of this in early 1933 the total English worship program of the parish was nearly cancelled.

At the same March 27th meeting, the last two benches on the “men’s side” of the church were reserved for mothers. During the early years of the parish the men and women sat on separate sides of the church and families did not worship together. It was the

custom—well into the late forties and early 1950s—for men to sit on the left side of the church, women on the right side of the church, school children in the first three pews, and young people of the congregation in the balcony. A woman who dared cross the aisle to the men’s side or a man who “lowered himself” to sit on the woman’s side was viewed with a wry eye by the rest of the members. This seating arrangement—quite common in Lutheran churches of the time—had its problems. Young children at the front of the church frequently caused disturbances which would require the minister to stop in the middle of his sermon to admonish them, or would require a firm nudge on the back of the head from a monitoring vorsteher (elder) - who usually sat a row or so behind them. The young people in the balcony also caused congregational concern occasionally when their worship behavior left something to be desired. Gradually, however families began worshipping together.

On March 27, 1937, the use of English Bibles and Catechisms were introduced in confirmation instruction.

The 1927 Fourth of July picnic was held at the school grounds.

In 1927, the church was insured for \$3,000 and the parsonage for \$2,000.

During this period of time, Emmanuel Weber Sr. was the assistant organist. George Keinath the custodian and Lorenz Weber the congregation’s “Friend of the Poor” making sure poor members in the parish were provided for.

On July 22, 1928, the electrical wiring of the church was authorized. The total cost of wiring the church was \$204. All of the oil and gas lamps were sold, except one was kept in case of power failure.

In October 1928, the congregation’s youth group was given permission to use the church for its meetings. This group became more active about this time after having met for many years in parents’ homes.

On Sunday evening, July 15, 1928 the young people were requested to stay after services for the purpose of organizing a society. That evening they appointed Hulda Keinath, Arthur Ill, Alfred Heuchert, Herman Petzold, and Alphons Koeltzow as a committee to draft a Constitution and the By-laws. They also named the last Sunday in each month as the day for their meetings. At the next meeting, they elected officers for the new society. The first President was Ruth Nees. Gustav Petzold was elected Vice President, Alphons Koeltzow as secretary, and Arthur Ill as treasurer.

The first name of the society was “The Young People’s Society of the St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church at Millington, Mich.” In March 1932 a contest was held to rename the society. The winning name “Concordia Club” was submitted by Otto Nees.

On May 2, 1930, the question of joining the Walther League was

voted on. It was voted down 11-5. They had been discussing the matter of whether or not to join the Walther League for over a year. The Concordia Club has had many Presidents, but Carl Keinath, Jr. holds the record. He held that office for five years in succession. Some of the other Presidents were Carl Reinert, Cleon Kester, Lyle Koch, Walter Reinert, Ray Keinath, Harvey Reinert, and Hilbert Schiefer.

On October 13, 1928, the Missionfest Committee reported a profit of \$72.49—half of which was given to missions and the other half to the local “trustee treasury.” Early Missionfests featured mission-oriented services and also, for a time, featured food and beer concessions much like church picnics of this time.

In the fall of 1930, Teacher Klammer asked whether the congregation would furnish him with a car. However, the members said they wanted him to “wait until after the harvest to see how the farmers make out.” In the November 2, 1930 meeting the car was approved and three men were elected to seek pledges from members for the purchase of the car.

In the February 8, 1931 meeting of the congregation a new service was adopted. On the first Sunday of the month there was to be only German, on the second and third Sundays both German and English services, and on the fourth Sunday of the month only an English service.

In April 1931, the congregation approved a fence for the school yard, changed Sunday worship hours to 9:30 a.m. during the summer months and asked the Millington village council for water service to the church.

At an April 12, 1931 congregational meeting, Pastor Nees strongly admonished parents of the parish to keep a stricter watch over the books that their children were getting hold of. “It can have a grave effect on young people,” said the pastor, “if they read filthy books and materials.”

In a meeting on September 16, 1931, Teacher Klammer was asked to include penmanship, physiology and drawing in the school curriculum. A few months later the congregation asked for a review of the subjects being taught in school to make sure they met state requirements.

In January 1932, the young people of the congregation and the Birch Run Ladies’ Aid presented gifts to the congregation, including a new clock. In February 1933, the congregation voted to hold all holiday services in German and to hold English services on the day after the holiday.

On January 14, 1934, everyone in the parish was assessed 50 cents to help pay for graveling the church driveway. Young men of the congregation were asked to take care of the unloading and spreading.

Mr. Klammer’s fifth anniversary in the teaching ministry was celebrated on July 29, 1934 with a special service in the church and

a dinner at the Arbela school grounds.

A Change In Teachers

In December of 1934, Teacher Klammer was extended a call by Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost. Although the members hoped that Mr. Klammer would stay until the end of the school year, the situation would not allow this and so on January 1, 1935 the congregation agreed to Mr. Klammer’s leaving.

Left without a teacher in the middle of the school year, the congregation asked for a teacher from the college at River Forest, hoping to get a teacher who would be able to complete at least the school year. Arriving to assume teaching duties for the rest of the year was Teacher Waldemar Roeckle of Minnesota. Teacher Roeckle remained only through the end of the school year, at which time the congregation began calling a “full-time teacher.”

At a meeting on May 12, 1935, the congregation considered three candidates: August G. Scheer of Redford, Lorenz Loesel of Chicago, and Walter Zehnder of Missouri.

In its call the congregation agreed to pay him \$800 a year and give him free housing. For this he was expected to teach eight grades, lead the choir, play the church organ, do his own janitor work in the school and teach children music one half day a week during summer vacation.

Teacher Scheer accepted the call and was installed on August 11, 1935 by Pastor Nees. On the afternoon of his installation, the congregation held a special “Ernte Dankfest” (Harvest Thanksgiving Festival) at the Arbela School. The following Sunday, the annual Missionfest of the parish was held.

Mr. Scheer was born July 15, 1910 at Bazile Mills (Knox County), Nebraska to Gottlieb and Alvina Scheer. He attended Christ Lutheran School at Bazile Mills for eight years and graduated from Concordia Lutheran High School in June 1928. He vicared a year at Bethany Lutheran School in Houston, Texas. He graduated from Concordia Teachers’ College in Seward, Nebraska in June 1931 and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana on August 1, 1941.

He served as principal and teacher of the following Lutheran Schools in Michigan: Redford Lutheran School in Detroit from 1931 to 1935; St. Paul’s Lutheran School in Millington from 1935-1945; Immanuel Lutheran School in Alpena from 1945 to 1952; Zion Lutheran School in Harbor Beach from 1952 to 1964; and Trinity Lutheran School in Reed City from 1964 to 1970.



Teacher Roeckle

He married Miss Leona E. Klammer on June 25, 1942. They have two children, both associated with Lutheran education. Their son, Ronald Paul is principal of the Lutheran School at New Haven, Michigan and their daughter, Lana Marie, is the wife of Robert Hoyer, principal of Immanuel Lutheran School in Frankentrost.

Birth of the Sunday School

During the early years of the parish a Sunday School program of sorts was operated periodically within the parish, generally with the pastor handling the instruction activities.

Records indicate that a semblance of a Sunday School program was first formally organized on July 7, 1925, but apparently this program did not last.

On February 3, 1935, at a special meeting called to discuss educational matters of the congregation, a Sunday School Committee was appointed to study the formation of a lasting Sunday School program.

Named to that committee were Fred June, Frank Koch, Dr.



A 1944 receipt for a Bible for use in the classroom, purchased by Irene (Petzold) Smith when she was a student of Teacher Scheer.

William Mossner, Teacher A. G. Scheer, and Pastor Nees.

On April 7, 1935 the committee reported its findings and although efforts were made to launch the Sunday School, the matter was tabled for the time being.

At that same meeting, however, the congregation approved a special collection on Palm Sunday of that year for the purchase of Sunday School literature. Finally, on April 28, 1935, it was voted to hold Sunday School classes in the basement of the church with class sessions at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

On January 12, 1936, at the annual meeting of the congregation, Sunday School financing was made a part of the regular congregational budget—thus giving it full congregational program status.

The Sunday School program was taken over in June 1937 by Mr. Fred June who became its first lay superintendent. Mr. June was a pioneer in developing the program in the 12 years in which he directed it. At the start of the program there were 11 students and at the close of his tenure as superintendent he had built the program to

56 students.

Although this list is incomplete, these were among the teachers who served the early Sunday School of the parish: Mrs. Gust Heuchert, Mrs. Walter Hahn, Mr. A. G. Scheer, Mrs. Herman Daenzer, Mrs. Norman Kurpsel, Miss Cecelia Koeltzow, Mrs. Clarence Palmreuter, Mrs. Henry Kroll, and Pastor Hugo Ferber.

On January 14, 1945 a committee of Fred June, Frank Koch, and Donald McLaren was instructed to remodel the church basement into Sunday School rooms. The Sunday School met here for several years.

Principal Chester Platt began working with the Sunday School in about 1947 and at that time was assisted by Mrs. Gilbert (Armilda Petzold) List and Mrs. Ralph (Edna Kurpsel) Ferber. Joining the staff were Mrs. Donna Weber, Mrs. Eunice Peche, Mrs. Luella Saeger, Mrs. Marilyn Daenzer, Mrs. Lela Higgins, Mrs. Tillie Ill, and Mrs. Lucille Schwab.

In October of 1959, Mr. Donald Peche was named the Sunday School Superintendent and under his dedicated leadership the Sunday School entered the modern era of its development. Mr. Peche served as head of the Sunday School program until 1969 when Teacher John Wagner assumed its supervision.

Pastor Nees Retires

The final years of Pastor Nees' ministry were quiet years of development as the congregation recovered from the severe financial stresses of the depression years and from the interruptions caused by the departure of teachers from its staff.



Its Sunday School students in the late 1950s.

church program grew only slightly over the years from the first congregational budget of \$2,507 established in the January 13, 1929 annual congregational meeting.

As the years passed, some of the familiar members who had for so many years been the backbone of the young congregation, began to withdraw from the center of congregational activity. One such veteran church officer was George Keinath, who for 27 years had served the congregation as its secretary.

As the pioneers began to enter their senior years and withdraw from active management of the parish, a new generation of members began to appear, preparing the congregation for the growth and building which was yet to come.

On November 11, 1936, Pastor Nees presented his resignation to the parish. In the latter years of his ministry at Millington, Pastor Nees was plagued with personal illness and illness in his family. But despite the tribulations of failing health, he nobly carried on the growing work.

After receiving Pastor Nees' request to resign, the congregation asked him to remain on until a new pastor could be found. To this he agreed.

As with the closing of Pastor Nees' ministry in early 1937, the regathering and restrengthening of the once divided congregation had been completed. The parish had moved forward in the years since 1920 and was now prepared to meet the challenge which awaited in the years just ahead—a challenge which would see it grow into one of the major Lutheran churches of the Thumb and Saginaw Valley.



Pastor Nees at his farewell party.



Teacher Waldemar Roeckle and his classes of 1935 at the old school house in Arbela Township.



Teacher Scheer and his Arbela classroom as it appeared in 1937.

(Right) The men who moved the Frankenmuth school to Arbela in 16-below zero temperatures in 1930.

(Below) Early lady teachers, Adelia Eggerding and Paula Meyer.



The 'Ferber Years' of Expansion

It was a bright Sunday morning in late spring when the members of St. Paul's crowded into their little church for another special day in their parish history.

It was May 16, 1937 and they had come to witness an event they had seen six times before in their church, but which they would not witness again in their church for 34 years—the installation of a pastor.

They watched intently as the lean and bespectacled new pastor heard his father, the Rev. George Ferber, urge him to bring a ministry of peace to his new congregation. They watched his every move as he knelt to receive his commission and then rose to pronounce his first benediction upon his new charge.

With the words of his benediction and the sign of the Cross, The Rev. Hugo O.C. Ferber performed his first pastoral act in a parish he was to serve as Head Pastor for 34 years and Assistant Pastor in his retirement years.

Little did either the pastor or the members gathered before him realize that during the next three and one-half decades they would minister together, their congregation would grow by more than a thousand members, their school by several hundred students and their parish holdings by nearly a million dollars worth of new property and facilities.

This man of 35 years, young and energetic, dedicated and principled, long-suffering and outgoing, intent upon detail and eager to maintain love and fellowship among his people, was destined to bring this German Lutheran congregation from its years of semi-isolation into the full current of the community's mainstream.

The Ministry of Pastor Ferber

After the previous pastor had resigned because of deteriorating health, the congregation began the work of finding a new shepherd for the congregation. The name of Pastor Ferber was mentioned along with three other candidates who were presented at a February 21, 1938 meeting of the Voters Assembly. On March 7th, after two week's deliberations, the congregation sent a call to Pastor Ferber. His first salary was set at \$1,000 a year and he and his family were given the teacherage in Arbela Township as their first home.

And so in May of 1937, Pastor Ferber began his long and fruitful ministry at Millington—a ministry which became almost legendary in Saginaw Valley church circles.

Pastor Ferber was born at Belvedere, Minnesota on June 23, 1902, the son of a Lutheran minister. He enrolled in Concordia College at Fort Wayne, Indiana, studying there until 1921 when he entered the seminary at St. Louis, Missouri.

Following his graduation, he accepted a call to St. Paul's Lutheran

Church of Linkville, Michigan, where he was ordained and installed September 5, 1926 by the Rev. Louis List of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Sebewaing. While at Linkville, he also served nearby Christ Lutheran Church at Owendale.

The pastor married Laura Schmidt on January 1, 1928 at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Detroit. Their children included son, Ralph, who later became chairman of St. Paul congregation and a daughter, Dr. Lois Kauffman of Baltimore. The Pastor's three brothers also served as Lutheran ministers and two of his three sisters served as Lutheran school teachers for many years.

Through his many years as pastor, his constant companion and help-mate was Mrs. Ferber, who shared his dedication and concern for the congregation and its growing program. For more than three decades, she served as an unpaid secretary to the pastor and to the congregation, devoting endless hours of labor on behalf of the congregation. The story of Pastor Ferber's ministry at Millington is also the story of a Christian couple, whose life and work were dedicated to serving their Master and His Flock.

A Small Congregation

St. Paul congregation was still small and its program limited when Pastor Ferber arrived from Linkville. But its members were dedicated and loyal, ready to follow committed leadership which they could love and respect. The new pastor provided this leadership.

The congregation's budget of 1938 demonstrates the size of the congregation's activities in the late 1930s when Pastor Ferber began his pastorate:

BUDGET OF 1938

Pastor's Salary	\$1,000
Teacher's Salary	800
Janitor's Salary	60
Church Coal.....	25
School Coal.....	50
Church Lights	13
School Lights.....	6
Telephone	12
Insurance.....	40

Interest	32
School Supplies	30
Teacherage Maintenance	125
Printing Costs	25
General Expenses.....	100

The \$2,318 total budget for the first full year of Pastor Ferber's ministry was less than the collection on a single Sunday during Pastor Ferber's final year as head pastor in 1971.

Representative budgets for local congregation costs during the 34 years of the pastor's ministry give an indication of how rapidly the congregation's program expanded. As can be seen by these figures, the cost of the congregation's program nearly doubled every five years as it sought to keep abreast of the rapidly growing parish and day school program:

1940.....	\$ 2,389
1945.....	3,975
1950.....	7,580
1955.....	13,800
1960.....	24,000
1965.....	43,450
1970.....	87,323

The First Of Many Projects

The new pastor had not been at his new post a year before the first of half a dozen building projects undertaken during his ministry was put into motion.

In October 1937, changes were made to the confirmation instruction building and a new roof was installed on it.

The second major project, discussed in an earlier chapter, followed the next year. At the annual meeting held January 9, 1938, the congregation voted to renovate the church, add a new chancel and redecorate the interior. The day of dedication, August 21, 1938, marked the 40th anniversary of the building of the first church.

New emphasis was given to the work of mission and in 1938, the parish ranked third highest in the circuit with an average of \$24.89 per communicant given for missions.

Further Moves to English

Realizing that unless the congregation became more English-oriented its growth would be stymied, Pastor Ferber greatly encouraged greater use of English in parish activities and worship services. However, respecting the heritage of German in the parish, the Pastor continued to present German services throughout his ministry.

In 1942, a showdown of sorts developed when several members strongly insisted that there would be more worship services in English. The young members of the parish had become more English-oriented and many members believed that church

attendance and participation in parish activities was being hurt because of the language barrier German presented to the growing number of younger members.

On April 5, 1942, the congregation voted to hold the regular German service at 9 a.m. and add an English service at 10 a.m. every Sunday. Prior to this, German and English services had been alternated from Sunday to Sunday.

As attendance at English services continued to climb. German took a more and more diminished position in the congregation's worship structure, until May 1960 when German worship services on Sunday mornings were eliminated entirely.

In its business activities, the congregation began to move to English when in the April 2, 1939 meeting, John Woelzlein asked that future minutes of the congregational meetings, up to this time recorded in German, be transcribed in English. With this resolution, English became the "official language" of the parish and the day of German's predominance began to wane rapidly.

Other Changes Are Made

Although today it is common for a congregation to underwrite a pastor's travel expense, this was not generally the case during the years of Pastor Ferber's early ministry. However, on October 2, 1938, the congregation agreed to pay \$25 a year towards the cost of the pastor's travel expenses.

During the late 1930s the Concordia Club, as the young people's organization then was called, presented the congregation with new communionware and the pastor and his wife presented the congregation with candlesticks to replace the electric altar candles which had been used previously.

During this same period of time, efforts were made to sell the old parsonage at the corner of Church and Center Streets. It was finally sold in mid-1942 for \$1,000, with the proceeds used to help buy the new parsonage next to the church.

Early Meetings Interesting

The meetings of the Voter's Assembly during these early years were often "interesting" to say the least. Unlike today's business-like meetings which generally deal only with matters of policy, earlier meetings covered every little detail of the congregation's activities. These discussions often dragged into the late afternoon and meetings lasting until 5:30 p.m. were not uncommon.

Vigorous debate and intense discussions were common, although after an invigorating discussion on a controversial issue, differences were generally quickly forgotten with the end of the meeting and once outside the church, fellowship and good-natured visiting replaced the intensity of the meetings discussions.

The minutes of the January 8, 1939 meeting of the Assembly carry a humorous incident, typical of the kinds of "problems" which frequently bogged-down the progress of voter's meetings in earlier

years.

Mr. Conrad Keinath, a devoted and dedicated member of the congregation, who, by the way, served the congregation as a deacon for 36 years until his retirement from that post in 1945, had served for many years as one of the offering “kollektors” during church services.

When in later years hearing began to trouble him, he quite naturally chose to sit further to the front of the church. Some members expressed the feeling that all “kollektors” should sit at the rear of the church.

Mr. Keinath told the voters that either he be allowed to sit where he could properly hear the service or the congregation get another “kollektor.” After some discussion, the minutes said in German: “Die Gemeinde hat sich damit zufrieden gegeben, dass Herr Keinath sitzen moege wo er will.” In other words, the voters agreed that Mr. Keinath should continue as a “kollektor” and that he should certainly be allowed to sit wherever he pleased.

The 1940s Begin

English mid-week Lenten services were adopted in the January 14, 1940 meeting of the Assembly. It has been a custom every year since then. For many years German Lenten services were held on Friday mornings, with school children attending services before starting their classes at the school at noon on Fridays.

Another major improvement was made to the church during 1941, when the congregation purchased its first pipe organ at a cost of \$2,500.

Also, during 1941, the congregation discontinued the reading of the wedding banns. The wedding banns involved the announcement of an impending marriage three Sundays prior to the wedding. The purpose of the reading of the banns is to enable anyone to raise any canonical or civil legal impediment to the marriage, so as to prevent marriages that are invalid.

On July 6, 1941, the voters ordered that both American and Christian flags be displayed in the church.

Another War Strikes

The tranquility of the country was suddenly and dramatically broken when the nation was attacked on December 7, 1941 by Japan at Pearl Harbor. Germany quickly also entered the war against the Allies, and for a second time in its history, the congregation together with citizens across the United States, faced an agonizing World War.

But during this war, unlike during the First World War, the Lutherans of Millington were not to suffer the intolerance which the fear and mistrust of that earlier era had thrust against them by a hostile community.

During this war, as in the conflicts which followed in the 1950s and 1960s in Korea and Vietnam, young men of St. Paul served

with honor in the military in many parts of the world. The congregation was spared the sadness of seeing any of its young members lost in the wars.

Members of the congregation as individuals and as parishioners, participated vigorously in the war effort. Dr. William Mossner was chairman of a Red Cross drive which was conducted in the congregation in 1942. On D-Day, when the allied armies invaded Europe at Normandy, members of the parish, knowing that an invasion was coming, stopped whatever they were doing when they heard church bells ringing and prayed for our servicemen. They also gathered for an evening prayer service, asking God’s protection for the nation and for its sons—some of whom were members of the invasion force at Normandy.

A New Parsonage

The marriage in 1942 of the congregation’s teacher, August Scheer to Leona Klammer, sister of a former teacher of the parish, created a housing problem for the parish. Teacher Scheer had made his home with the John Keinath family during his bachelorhood, leaving the teacherage free for the pastor and his family.

But with his marriage, it became quickly evident that a new home for the pastor would have to be found so that the new teacher and his wife could occupy the teacherage next to the school in Arbela Township.

And so on May 3, 1942, the congregation entered into negotiations with Mrs. Minnie Sebert for the purchase of her home located just west of the church. On July 5, 1942, the trustees reported that the purchase had been completed for a total cost of \$3,015.

This home was remodeled in 1943 and in June 1948, the congregation approved a \$2,800 addition to the new parsonage to provide the pastor with a study and additional living space for his family. The parsonage served Pastor Ferber and his family for more than three decades. Upon his retirement, the Pastor was invited to occupy the home for as long as he wished. When the second church was built in mid-1960, plans were made to eventually move the home from its site to allow completion of landscaping and the installation of a driveway along the west side of the church.

The parsonage property contained a small two-story barn which was removed in 1947 and replaced with a 22x24 foot garage for the pastor’s use and for parish storage.

The Years After World War II

During the summer of 1946, the congregation welcomed its servicemen home with a special banquet. Carl Daenzer, Alfred Fischhaber, and Henry Kroll served as a committee for this event.

On July 7, 1946, Conrad Keinath, Ewald Ill and Norman Kurpsel were named as a committee to head the celebration of the congregation’s 50th anniversary. This event was celebrated in

August of that year. Two members of this committee, Norman Kurpsel and Ewald Ill, were named honorary co-chairmen of the congregation's 75th anniversary celebrated in 1972. Mr. Ill was at that time a member of the church during its entire 75 years.

Organizational Changes

As the congregation continued to grow and as its programs changed to meet new challenges, changes in the organizational structure also took place.

On January 14, 1951, the Board of Christian Education was created, taking the place of the former Day School Board and Sunday School Board. At this same meeting the three-man Board of Elders was increased to a five-man board. This then gave the congregation three parish boards plus its chairman and financial officers.

These sort of administrative changes continued to take place and in the September 11, 1960 meeting of the Voters Assembly, two more boards were created, The Board of Evangelism and the Board of Stewardship. Added to the Boards of Elders, Trustees, Education, Stewardship and Evangelism was the Board of Finance in the late 1960s, eliminating the multitude of financial officers which formerly handled the financial affairs of the congregation. These boards remained until the adoption of a new constitution in late 1969.

Quiet Years Of Growth

For nearly a decade after the consolidation of the school (see the next chapter) the congregation continued its quiet growth with no major building programs or special expansion efforts.

As the congregation entered the 1950s, its pastor was being paid a salary of \$2,500 a year and its teacher \$2,400 a year—and the total congregation budget was still only \$7,850 a year.

In 1952, the congregation honored another one of its longtime lay servants when the Voters Meeting honored Anton Ill, who for 27 consecutive years had served as a trustee of the parish.

By 1953, the congregation had grown to 475 members, including 326 communicants. The same year it elected George Nitz as the first chairman of a stewardship committee which seven years later would become a full board of the congregation. During 1953, the Men's Club of the congregation added an attractive sidewalk along the east side of the church.

In 1954, the parish participated in Millington's 100th birthday celebration held on August 12-14, 1954. The congregation entered an attractive float in the parade. The float was built by a committee headed by Cleon Kester, Ralph Koch, and Erwin Reinert.

In 1955, the congregation adopted the use of the new Lutheran Hymnal (blue hymnal), replacing the smaller hymnals which had been used in parish church services for many years. In late 1954, the congregation planted a group of trees at the rear of the church

property for the development of a future grove.

More Tidbits And Trivia

Here are a few other tidbits of information gleaned from the parish records concerning congregational activities during the late 1940s and 1950s. . .

In 1942 the congregation's day school had a student enrollment of 41, according to a report given by Teacher Scheer on October 4, 1942.

Dr. William Mossner, Frank Koch, and Theodore Keinath were asked on January 10, 1943 to arrange an evening of social activities for the congregation's men. This was the birth of the Men's Club.

In 1943 also, the congregation agreed to pay for the minister's car insurance and license plates but did not as yet offer to pay the pastor for his transportation costs. The Millington High School



Baccalaureate service was held in the church for the first time in 1943.

The pastor's salary in 1945 was \$1,600 with the congregation's membership totaling 351 baptized souls, 239 communicants and 70 voting members. Church attendance in 1945 totaled 14,913 with an average Sunday attendance of about 182.

On June 8, 1947 Teacher Platt declined a call to Immanuel Church, Pomeroy, Iowa while on April 4, 1948, Pastor Ferber declined a call to the Lutheran Church at Berrien Springs, Michigan. Mr. Platt declined a second call on June 6, 1948 to Hampton, Nebraska and a third call on June 1, 1958 to Trinity Lutheran School at Reese, Michigan.

On August 21, 1949 the congregation began limited participation in the national Displaced Person (DP) program. This program was designed to provide a new start for Europeans who had been

displaced and suffered a loss of their possessions in the Second World War. Named to the committee for this program were Theodore Keinath, George Nitz, Arthur Ill, Clarence Reinert, and Norman Kurpsel. Several displaced persons were brought to America by this committee and for a short period of time these persons made their home within the congregation.

During this period of time two veteran servants of the congregation were honored. On January 14, 1945, Mr. Conrad Keinath was honored for his 36 years of service as a deacon (elder) of the congregation. At the same meeting Mr. Carl Keinath Sr., who had served as parish chairman for some 24 years was also honored.

The congregation's Committee of Ushers was organized on May 11, 1958 under the chairmanship of Mr. Rudy Petzold.

A Couples Club was organized on May 11, 1958, but this organization later was discontinued because of a lack of interest.

The first outdoor Christmas decorations at the church, including a nativity scene, were erected in 1959 under the supervision of the newly-created Ushers Committee.

A parish newspaper, *The Messenger*, was first issued in February 1960 under the editorship of Mr. Rudy Petzold. This monthly publication continued for several years before it was replaced by regular newsletter mailings.

Concerned with the Christian fellowship among members, Pastor Ferber was instrumental in the formation of several parish societies during his pastorate. On June 19, 1940, the Dorcas Society was organized for parish women. In early 1943, the Men's Club was formed and in 1961 a Parent-Teacher League supporting activities of the day school was formed.

The Interlude Ends

After nearly ten years of relative calm in the parish, the interlude ended as the congregation was faced with the need for new facilities to meet the demands of a growing membership.

And so on January 13, 1957, under the chairmanship of Theodore Keinath, a new planning committee began the task of outlining future building needs. The study took more than two years but in the decade which followed 1957, the studies made by this committee led to the ultimate building of a new teacherage, additions to the parish school and finally a new church.

Lay Leadership

During the four decades from 1921 until 1959, the congregation had been under the lay leadership of only two congregational chairmen.

From 1921 until 1945—for nearly a quarter of a century—the chairman of the congregation was Mr. Carl Keinath Sr. During his many years as chairman, the congregation endured some of its most difficult times and also some of its grandest hours. Under his leadership the parish completed its reunification, expanded its

school program, survived a depression and endured two world wars.

In 1945, this dedicated lay leader was followed by another dedicated chairman who was to guide the congregation's lay activities for nearly 15 years and who would help bring the congregation from its "post-war years" to the threshold of major expansions which followed in the 1960s. He was Frank Koch, a well-known Millington leader. Like his predecessor, he was deeply-rooted in the heritage of the congregation, a firm moderator and reared in the traditions of Lutheranism. Their dedicated service became a tradition within the parish as did the service of many other outstanding and selfless laymen.

As the decade of the 1950s drew to a close a new chairman appeared on the scene who would be given the responsibility of guiding the congregation through one of its most productive decades. Unlike his two predecessors, Rudy Petzold was relatively young, having at the age of 26, returned to the parish from college and military service. During his tenure as chairman, he sought to expand the involvement of laymen and broaden the dimensions of the chairman's responsibilities. As the workload of the congregation grew heavier for the pastor, he assumed many of the administrative activities once thrust upon the pastor and as a result the pastor and this chairman became close associates in the years which followed 1959.

He served for ten years from 1959 to 1970 with the exception of 1964 and 1965 when the chairmanship was assumed by Mr. Richard Saeger. Mr. Saeger was another dedicated and devoted layman who for many years, had served his congregation in many different posts of responsibility. Mr. Saeger, as an elder of the church and as a layman, had been a continuing positive influence for the forward movement of the parish.

During his years as chairman of the congregation, Mr. Petzold also became the first parish member to serve on a state board of his church. He served as a member of the Michigan District Board of Evangelism and later as a member of the Michigan District Board of Social Ministry. In 1972, District President Rev. Richard Schlecht appointed him as the first lay publisher of the Michigan District's official publication, the 70,000-circulation "Michigan Lutheran."

And so this chapter records another segment of parish history—a segment which traces the congregation's move from a small rural congregation with a limited program to a congregation suddenly faced with a major role in serving its growing community's religious and social needs. The congregation under the pastorate of The Rev. Hugo Ferber had come of age—and it was now prepared to meet the demands which would be made upon it in the decade of the 1960s.



This is the way the church looked in the mid-1940s. . . Church, parsonage and garage.

In the late 1940s an addition was put on the parsonage.



The Arbela teacherage –parsonage in the late 1930s.



The Expansion of Education

Following World War II, the congregation flourished and the first evidences of the growth which was to take place in the next two decades became apparent. Most immediately affected by this accelerating growth was the parish school

Concern Over Education

As early as April 16, 1944, the congregation had begun a critical study of its educational program. Some of the parents of parish school children felt their children were not receiving a proper education. After considerable discussion, the congregation agreed to add a second teacher to reduce the heavy classroom load.

In October 1944, Pastor Ferber offered to teach the upper two grades in the small school in Arbela to allow the regular teacher, August G. Scheer, to spend more time with the lower grades.

This additional load on the pastor became even greater when on September 23, 1945, Teacher Scheer accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Alpena.

Unable to find a teacher, Pastor Ferber took over all of the teaching duties in addition to his pastoral work during the 1945-46 school year. In addition, he also directed the choir, served as advisor to the parish societies and performed all of the other duties which previously had been shared by the parish teacher. During this same period, Mrs. Ferber and Emmanuel Weber Sr. assisted in organ playing for church services.

A New Teacher Arrives

The pastor's heavy load was finally relieved with the arrival of Mr. Chester L. Platt, who was called as the new teacher on March 24, 1946.

With the arrival of Mr. Platt, the school program of the parish was to enter an unprecedented period of growth which ultimately would make it the largest parochial school in the Thumb area.

Under his patient, kindly guidance, the school was to grow from the one-room school which he found upon his arrival to a nine-room school with more than 275 students and a staff of nine full-time teachers.

Mr. Platt took the lead in developing expanded education plans. Through his gentle, but steady urging, the congregation moved forward to meet the growing education challenges in the community through an expanded program and a larger complex of facilities.

Mr. Platt came to Millington in June 1946, after teaching in Lutheran schools in Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois, and Iowa. He was born at Liddedale, Iowa and after graduation from Concordia Teachers College at Seward, Nebraska, entered the Lutheran teaching ministry.

He became the congregation's first principal on July 9, 1950 and served in that position for more than 21 years until his retirement

from that post in January 1970. He remained on the staff as a teacher and in late August 1971, he and the congregation which he had so long served, rejoiced together upon the occasion of his 25th year of service to the parish.

He married Lorna Schaefer, who worked at his side for many years as a faithful and dedicated teacher in the St. Paul school. His son, Kenneth, and his family continue to live in the Millington area.

During his years at St. Paul, he also served as the church organist, director of music, secretary of the parish and director of the congregation's Sunday School and Adult Education programs.

An Inadequate Program

For nearly four decades, the congregation's educational program had been centered in the one-room school in Arbela Township. As the membership of the parish continued to spread throughout the Millington-Arbela Township areas, the school no longer equitably served the total congregation.

The school question received continued discussion over the years and time and again, the need for either a second school or more centralized facilities was a topic of discussion.

Finally, on February 23, 1947, the congregation instructed the school board to investigate the possibility of building a second school—this one to be located in Millington.

About this time, local Catholics were considering the building of a church in the Millington area. A committee from the Catholic church asked the Lutheran congregation whether it might be interested in selling the church property since it had heard of the Lutherans' plans to build. This offer was declined on September 7, 1947 and so the die was cast for future development of the congregation's present site.

Land Needs Satisfied

In that same September 7th meeting, some far-reaching actions were taken which were to insure the parish it would always have enough land for future building.

Some eleven acres of land adjoining the church property became available to the congregation. The parish was given the option of either buying the entire 11 acres for \$250 an acre for a total of \$2,750; or of buying the eastern 8.7 acres for \$200 an acre, totaling \$1,750.

Wisely, the parish with a 48-2 vote of the Voters Assembly chose to buy the entire lot and this prepared the way for future growth. It was paid for through a special offering taken during the final three months of that year.

On October 5, 1947, the Day School Board and the Sunday School Board, together with Parish Treasurer Gust Heuchert, were selected to serve as a committee which would promote the building of a second school at Millington.

In the months that followed, this committee laid the groundwork for the future planning and building of a school which would form the first segment of a total church plant to be completed 20 years later with the erection of a new church.

A New School Is Approved

On Sunday, March 14, 1948, the congregation's voters were asked to answer the question, "Do you want a school in town?" Of the 50 who voted, 39 said yes. This question was followed by a second: "Do you prefer a permanent school building so planned that additions can later be added or a temporary building to take care of the present?" Forty-four voters voted for the permanent building—and the project was underway.

Gustav Heuchert, Curtis Henderson, Frank Koch, Emil Higgins and Cleon Kester were named to serve as the building committee and on May 2, 1948 were authorized to hire an architect. At this same voter's meeting, after a 15-minute recess during which the voters looked over the church grounds, the congregation decided to build the new school just east of the existing church.

At first plans called for putting a street through the new church property which had been purchased, but these plans were wisely abandoned. At the same May 2 meeting, the building of a pastor's study and additional living space on the parsonage were also approved.

The school plans were presented to the congregation on June 6, 1948 and on June 20th, final approval to the plans was given. Four different plans were presented at that meeting. The first called for a one-room school and received 17 votes; the second called for a two-room building and received four votes; the third called for three rooms and received 37 votes. A fourth plan, which included the construction of an auditorium, received no votes.

The three-room plan was approved and voters adopted the following resolution:

"As a token of our sincere appreciation for the 50 years of blessings of the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our midst, we herewith dedicate ourselves to the task of erecting a second school, that we might, with the help of God, preserve this precious Gospel in our midst."

Plans were taken to contractor Virgil Smith of Vassar, who agreed to build the school and the parsonage addition for the parish.

Millington Classes Reopened

That fall, the first Lutheran school classes in several decades were again held at Millington—this time in temporary classrooms in the church basement.

Pastor Ferber taught the 29 students who made up the first classes at Millington, this first year, while Mr. Platt, who still lived in the teacherage next to the Arbela School, continued teaching classes there.

The cornerstone for the new school was laid on Sunday, July 18, 1948 in a three o'clock service which was followed by a supper for worshippers. The speaker for the occasion was the Rev. Lawson Knight, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Saginaw and a member of the Board of Christian Education of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church.

Present for the event were building committee members, members of the congregation, and the building designer, Paul Brysselbout of Bay City.

The School is Dedicated

Work on the new school continued into the early winter of 1948 and on Sunday January 30, 1949, the congregation dedicated the 106x57 building, which besides three classrooms, also contained a confirmation room, rest rooms, and furnace and janitor's rooms. Two of the classrooms were utilized as a parish hall by leaving the dividing wall unconstructed.

Speaking at the dedication was The Rev. Andrew Zeile, president of the Michigan District. The dedication service also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the building of the church. Pastor Zeile spoke in the 10:30 a.m. dedication service and in the afternoon at 2:30 p.m., The Rev William Schoenow of Richville's St. Michael's Lutheran Church delivered the message. An 8 p.m. evening program featured remarks by long-time superintendent of Michigan Lutheran Schools, Mr. Samuel J. Roth. Both a dinner and supper were served for visitors to the service and the open house.

Mr. Jake Meachum, well-known Millington agriculture teacher, supervised landscaping of the new school from plans developed by one of his students, Ralph Ferber—the son of the pastor.

The two parish schools continued to operate with the pastor teaching at Millington and Mr. Platt in Arbela Township.

The Consolidation

The burden of teaching grew heavier for the pastor and it became obvious that this arrangement could not continue indefinitely. In a special meeting on September 11, 1949, the matter came to a head as voters were asked to consider a call which had been received by Mr. Platt from St. Paul's Lutheran church of Arlington, Nebraska.

That fall, the enrollment at the Arbela School had dropped to 26 students while at the Millington School the enrollment had climbed to 39 students.

Mr. Platt urged the congregation to correct this growing inequity in classloads and serious discussion was given to consolidating the two schools into one school at Millington.

The Voters clearly saw the growing problem and quickly authorized the pastor, teacher, and school board to develop consolidation and transportation plans.

These plans were approved on October 2, 1949 and so the Arbela School was closed. The closing was sad for Arbela Lutherans, who

had centered so much of their activity around this school, but with the hope of a better total education for the parish, they gladly supported the move.

Parents of the Arbela School children transported their children to the Millington School during the early months of the consolidation, but later the parish operated busses until public transportation of parochial students eliminated the need for busses in the late sixties.

On January 8, 1950, the Building Fund Treasurer, Carl Daenzer, reported that the total cost of the school had been \$37,341.58. Together with the \$4,352.26 which had been spent on the parsonage addition, the Congregation was left with a remaining total debt of \$29,000—and the start of its ultimate parish building complex. Some 1,048 hours of time were donated by members in the building of the school and parsonage additions.

A Second Teacher

To relieve the pastor of the teaching load, the congregation on April 16, 1950, voted to engage a second teacher for \$175 per month. On July 9, 1950, Mrs. Lorna Platt was named as the second teacher.

In the same meeting, the congregation voted to complete the two unfinished classrooms by erecting a wall, thus leaving the parish with no meeting facilities.

During this period of time, the school had an enrollment of 75 children, comprising about 88 percent of the total eligible school-aged children in the parish.

A New Board

Another major move in modernizing the congregation's education program was made on October 1, 1950, when the school board and Sunday School Board were abolished and replaced with a five-man Board of Christian Education. Members of that first consolidated board were Walter Hahn, Walter Keinath, Immanuel Weber Sr., Herbert Ill, and Curtis Henderson.

The question of what to do with the Arbela School property, no longer used as a school, continued to be a discussion topic for many years before it was finally sold, in two segments, to Mr. and Mrs. Wymon Reinert a decade and a half after the closing of the Arbela School.

Growth continued and hardly had three rooms been built before there was a need to discuss further building. The first hint of this came in July 31, 1955 meeting of the voters, when the Board of Trustees was named to study further parish facility needs.

On December 4th of the same year, the Board of Education presented its need for future classroom facilities and the need for hiring an additional teacher for the kindergarten class. This was further discussed on January 8, 1956 and by a vote of 52-23, it was voted to engage a third teacher and to open the final available

classroom.

During this same period, the possibility of erecting a new teacherage in town was also discussed. Discussions were first recorded in the April 9, 1956 voter's assembly meeting.

Indecision And Hesitation

The congregation then entered a period of indecision and hesitancy. The parish was growing rapidly and the school was reflecting this growth. It was faced with a growing number of needs for more facilities, but it was unable to arrive at a clear-cut decision on how to proceed.

A planning committee headed by Theodore Keinath was elected to study the question of future building needs. Other members of that committee included Alfred Heuchert, Norman Petzold, Norman Kurpsel, Carl Daenzer, Harvey Schiefer, and Ralph Ferber.

It presented many alternatives, including classroom, administrative, church and auditorium plans. . .but it was unable to persuade the congregation to get off dead-center and proceed on a course of action.

It was this committee which first urged the ultimate building of a new church.

Finally, after again presenting a list of priorities on March 9, 1958, the planning committee was authorized on May 11, 1958 to engage in discussions with architects. During this same period, action on a new teacherage remained stalled, as time after time, the matter was brought before the voters without receiving action.

In a special meeting on October 26, 1958, the matter of future building was again discussed. The trustees were told to sell the Arbela property and to use the money to build a teacherage in town. At the same meeting, the board of education was authorized to call the congregation's second full-time Called Teacher.

But still things did not move forward until on March 8, 1959 when the trustees were instructed to proceed with the building of a teacherage in town, using building fund money for the project.

Mr. Klammer Returns

On July 19, 1959, the congregation extended a call to former Teacher Edmund Klammer, to return to the parish as its second Called Teacher. He accepted the call and began teaching in the fall of 1959—returning to the parish he had served thirty years earlier.

Indecision on a building program finally came to an end on September 13, 1959 when the congregation approved the hiring of an architect, dismissed the planning committee and elected a five-man building committee to direct the congregation's new school building program.

Named to this committee were Chairman Carl Daenzer, Herbert Ill, Clarence Reinert, Norman Petzold, and Harvey Reinert. The congregation had waited through years of indecision until the matter of more space for classes had become critical. The Building

Committee was forced to embark upon a crash building program.

Building Finally Begins

On February 28, 1960, Architect Neal Eubank presented two alternative plans for a school addition. The first included four classrooms, a kitchen and office facilities for a cost of \$92,000 and the second called for the building of two classrooms, offices a kitchen and parish hall.

On March 11, 1960, by a vote of 81-7, the second plan was chosen. Bids were received on May 25, 1960 and approved by voters on May 29, 1960. Selected to build the additions were General Contractor Aubry Dixon, Davaney Plumbing and Heating, and LeMire Electric all of Flint.

A Joyful Response

It was evident that a project of this size would require more aggressive financial efforts and so, after much discussion, a fund-raising program presented by The Rev. Herman Zehnder of Zion Lutheran Church of Bay City was accepted by the parish.

The fund-raising program was given the title: "Building for Youth" and Gust Heuchert was named it chairman. Ewald Ill and Norman Kurpsel were named the co-chairmen.

Members of the campaign committee included Elmer Rodammer, Herman Daenzer, Harry Kern, Rudy Petzold, Ralph Ferber, Emmanuel Weber Jr., Walter Hahn, Wilmer Keinath, Erwin Reinert, Roy Schmandt, Leon Keinath, Vernon Weber, Clarence Daenzer, Henry Kroll, Carl Keinath, Herbert Ill, Norman Petzold, Walter Keinath, Lorenz Daenzer, and Gustav Petzold.

The results of the program were staggering and set the pattern for a new level of Christian giving in the parish for years to come.

A goal of \$50,000, to be raised in two years, was established by the campaign committee. In a series of pledges, the goal was far surpassed.

The entire campaign was filled with startling happenings. The first surprise came when more than 100 men responded to a call for campaign workers.

The chairmen of the committee made the first pledge for a total of \$3,400. The 20 campaign committee members pledged \$12,600 and the 80 canvassers topped the original \$50,000 goal with their pledge of \$35,900. The remainder of the parish added another \$27,037—topping the \$50,000 goal by more than half again.

A Canvasser's Dinner was held on June 12, 1960 at the local public school. It was attended by some 200 campaign workers and their spouses.

The new school addition was financed with an \$80,000 loan from the Frankenmuth State Bank, with the final cost of the project totaling \$124,538.29.

The School Addition Is Dedicated

The new additions were dedicated on December 11, 1960. More

than a thousand persons attended the event. In the two morning services, The Rev. Philip Janz, then pastor of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church of Frankenmuth was the speaker. The Rev. Lorenz Weber, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church of Saginaw, was the speaker in the evening service. Liturgist at the evening service was The Rev. Walter Zeile of Trinity Lutheran Church of Davison.

An all-day open house and dinner was held with an evening program including such speakers as Mr. Walter Bleke of the Michigan District Board of Education, Millington Superintendent Gordon Helmbold, and Principal Edward Schell, County School Superintendent William Scott and Millington Mayor Orville Kitelinger. Mr. E. N. Eggen of Frankenmuth was the evening's guest organist. Nearly a thousand persons enjoyed the dinner and supper which was chaired by Mrs. Clara Petzold, assisted by Mrs. Alma Ill, Mrs. Arlene Keinath, Mrs. Mabel Prusi, Mrs. Clara Schleier, Mrs. Emma Englehardt, and Mrs. Carolyn Petzold.

The parish hall, which was to serve as a site for parish worship services on many occasions before the new church was completed, was equipped with a natural birch pulpit and altar. These were designed and built by Mr. Hilbert Petzold, a member of the parish. These pieces of chancel furniture were later donated to the new Lutheran mission at DeWitt, Michigan.

As so, with vastly-expanded facilities, the congregation's school moved into the 1960s with new confidence and optimism. Under the leadership of Principal Chester Platt, the school's curriculum and programs were expanded and a deeper involvement of parents was established with the founding of the St. Paul Parent-Teacher League on March 17, 1961.

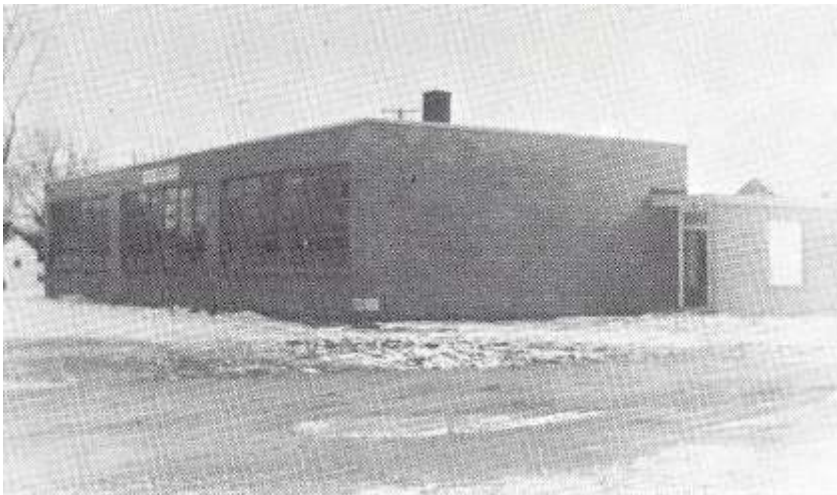
Before a half decade had passed, the congregation would again be involved in a building program for its growing school.

In a little over a dozen years, the congregation had moved its education program from a one-room country school to a modern, consolidated school with five classrooms and modern facilities and the largest parochial school enrollment in Michigan's Thumb.

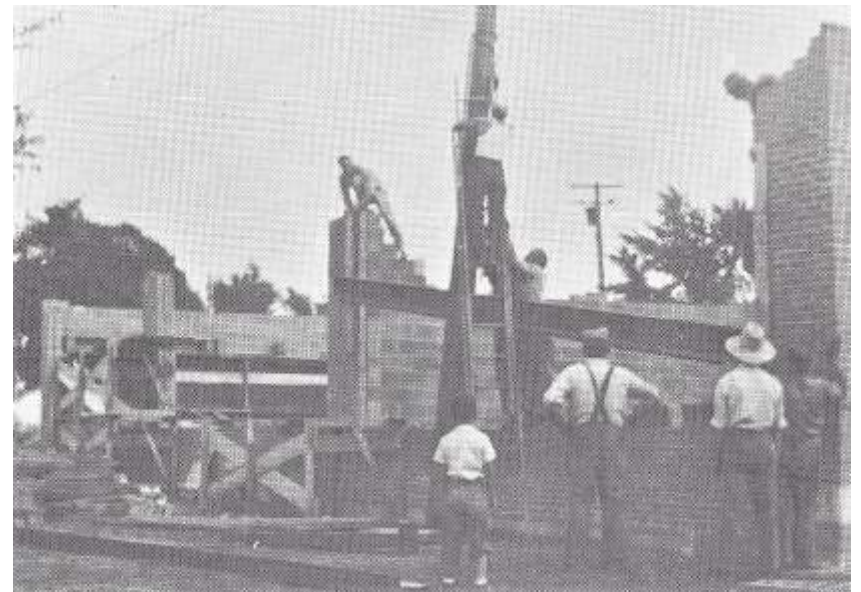


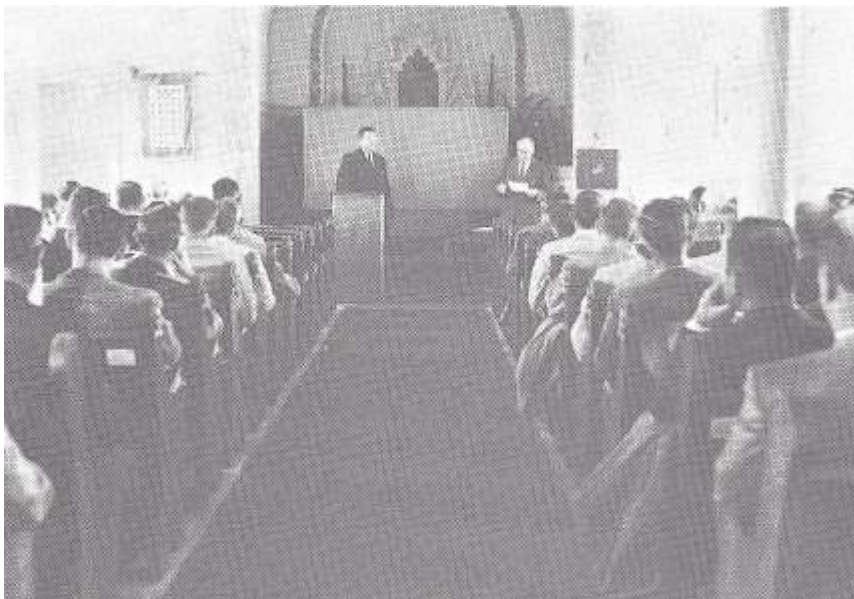
Building Committee members Emil Higgins, Gust Heuchert, Cleon Kester, and Curtis Henderson watch as Pastor Ferber dedicates the cornerstone of the 1948 school which became the first segment of today's St. Paul Church plant.

The first three rooms after completion in 1948, which grew into today's modern church and school plant.



Construction of the 1948 School Project at Millington.





This is the historic voter's meeting in March 1960 which gave approval to the building of the 1960 school addition. Rudy Petzold is presiding as Mr. Chester Platt speaks.

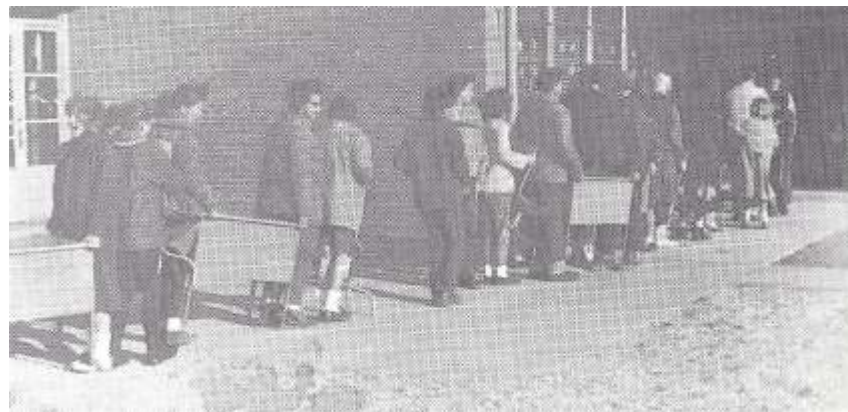


The 1960 School and Parish Hall Building Committee included Architect Neal Eubank, Chairman Carl Daenzer and Secretary Harvey Reinert. Standing are Teachers Platt and Klammer, Herb III, Norman Petzold, Clarence Reinert, and Pastor Ferber.

Construction proceeds on the 1960 school addition.



The children helped move into the new school in late 1960.



As Millington Lutherans entered the twilight of the 1950s, they were caught in a period of indecision. They had finished their previous building program nearly a decade earlier, but had made few moves towards meeting the new parish population growth which was taking place.

Although plans for needed new classrooms and church facilities were discussed repeatedly, there was no movement towards finalizing them. The parish had become unable to proceed and space problems were growing more critical with each passing month.

Perhaps one thing which more than any other helped move the congregation off its stalled position was an event which took place during the summer and fall of 1959—an event which was to have a profound effect on congregational attitude and which was to launch it into the exciting years of the 1960s.

The PTR Program

Early in 1959, Synod unveiled plans for a major synod-wide evangelism thrust. It was called “The Preaching-Teaching-Reaching Mission” or “PTR” for short. The summer-long program included area-wide church surveys for new members, evangelism calls and evangelism education—all culminating in a week of evangelistic services in the fall.

Sensing a need for a program of this type, Pastor Hugo Ferber urged the congregation’s full participation in this unique evangelism program. The Pastor saw great opportunities for local mission work among the dozens of new families which were moving into the Millington area from such cities as Flint. He also knew that his congregation urgently needed a spiritual “shot in the arm” to get it moving again.

And so on March 8, 1959, the congregation agreed to participate in the program. It was a momentous decision for the congregation—a decision which was to bring many blessing in the decade to follow.

The Board of Elders selected Mr. Rudy Petzold as chairman of the PTR effort. Named to serve with him were Richard Reinert, Royce Shamel, Roy Petzold, Herbert Reinert, Raymond Ill, Vernon Weber, and Herbert Ill.

The old school in Arbela Township was turned into an evangelism headquarters by the energetic PTR Committee and from it the committee directed a summer-long program of activities. Before the summer was over, more than a hundred parishioners had canvassed all the homes in the 187-square mile service area of the parish. As part of the late summer program, the first in a series of outdoor Mission Festivals was held on the school grounds.

The entire PTR program culminated in a week-long Lutheran Open House Week at the church in which a visiting pastor

presented nightly evangelism services.

The program had the effect which Pastor Ferber had hoped for. It instilled a new spirit of evangelism in the membership and helped focus the congregation’s attention on the need for an active local mission program. Church attendance jumped sharply and so did the congregation’s interest in growing and expanding its program and its influence.

Things Move Forward

As the congregation entered the fall of 1959, it added its second teacher, had started construction of the long-stalled teacherage, and on September 13, 1959 had disbanded the bogged-down planning committee and replaced it with a building committee empowered to construct a new school addition.

The PTR program also resulted in the addition of two parish boards—The Boards of Stewardship and Evangelism, giving evidence of the congregation’s new interest in Christian service and soul-winning.

The first members of the Board of Evangelism included Vernon Weber, Norman Kurpsel, Herbert Reinert, Richard Reinert, and Clarence Daenzer. The first members of the Board of Evangelism included Roy Petzold, Leon Keinath, Alfred Reinert, Elmer Snover, and Donald Schuler.

And so with a membership of some 723 souls, 449 communicants, and 133 voting members, the congregation with its 142-pupil day school prepared to enter the Decade of the Sixties—a decade which was to hold for it great excitement and achievement.

Its first major action of the new decade was the approval of school building plans on March 11, 1960. In the months that followed the new classroom-parish hall complex quickly took shape. At the same time, the pastor announced a growing interest in the church by adults as a sizeable adult confirmation class was being organized.

During the early part of 1960, the congregation authorized the use of weekly offering envelopes, instructed the elders to draft rules for congregational officers, dropped morning German worship services, established a serviceman’s honor roll, and accepted the new Christian and American flags given to the congregation by the Dorcas Society.

Things seemed to be starting to move when suddenly in mid-June, the congregation was stunned to learn that its pastor had received a call to Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Standish. In the largest congregational meeting in the history of the parish up to that time, the voters unanimously voted to ask the pastor to decline the call. The pastor told the 101 voters present that he would decline the call.

Several important items were discussed and acted upon at the

September 11, 1960 meeting of the congregation. At that meeting three new committees were appointed. Named to the Grounds Committee for the church grounds were Ralph Daenzer, Robert Meinecke, Alfred Heuchert, Norman Nitz, and Robert Petzold. Named to a Park Committee to look after the Arbela School grounds were Willard Petzold, Ray Keinath, Walter Keinath, Harvey Schiefer, and Donald Haines. One of the early first steps in the congregation's efforts to streamline financial operations was also taken with the appointment of an audit committee made up of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Heuchert, Mr. and Mrs. James Rude, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rueger. It was at this meeting also that the Stewardship and Evangelism Boards were created.

Clarence And Leila

Down through the years the parish engaged many different custodians, all of them handling the work of caring for the church and school property on a part-time basis. Johann Sievert (later spelled Siebert), one of the founders of the church, was the very first custodian of the parish and received \$15 a year for his work.

In the years that followed there were many other custodians. Among them (and this list is incomplete because of a lack of records on the subject) were many of the pastors and teachers and members of their families, Christian Fischhaber, Lorenz Weber, George Keinath, Franz Beyerlein, Fred June, and others.

In June 1956, the congregation engaged Mr. Clarence Reinert and his wife, Leila, to take over the work of cleaning the church and the three-room school on a part-time basis.

Mr. and Mrs. Reinert had operated a dairy farm in Arbela Township for 17 years before moving to Millington in March of 1955. In the four years that followed, Mr. Reinert combined his daytime carpenter's job with after-hours cleaning of the church and school. His two daughters and wife worked for many years without pay, helping their father and husband in the growing volume of custodial work.

As the 1960 addition to the school was gradually being completed, it became evident that part-time custodial service no longer would serve the congregation and that instead, a full-time custodian was necessary. And so, on September 11, 1960, Mr. Reinert was hired as the first full-time custodian of the parish.

In the years that followed, the church plant grew from three classrooms and a small church to a nine-room school, parish hall, large office wing and huge new church. As each new addition was added, Mr. and Mrs. Reinert quietly added it to their responsibility without complaint. In addition, for many years, they also took care of the lawns and buildings at the Arbela school grounds.

Probably no one in the parish became more widely known and more deeply loved and respected by children, grown-ups, and visitors of the parish alike than "Clarence." Blessed with a bubbling

sense of humor, and infectious laugh, a deep desire to serve, and unswerving attention to detail and an around-the-clock concern for the proper stewardship and care of the parish properties, he brought a new dimension of meaning to the word "custodian."

To the children of the school, as well as to the older members, he became a close friend, a person to turn to for help, and the first person looked for upon arrival at church Sunday mornings.

Truly, the ministry of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Reinert is a unique and important chapter in the history of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

The School Is Dedicated

Late in the fall of 1960, the new parish hall and new classrooms were completed and on December 11, 1960 (as recounted in fuller detail in the chapter on the Expansion of Education) the new additions were dedicated.

In the meeting of November 14, 1960, a new post was also created—that of Secretary of Memorials. Mr. Worley Mays was named to that post. This post later was made a part of the Board of Finance.

As 1960 ended, the congregation had a membership of 827 souls, of which 501 were communicants. Its church attendance had increased by some 4,407 over the previous year with an average Sunday attendance of about 422 worshippers. The total offerings for 1960 amounted to \$57,811.78 with about half of this amount for the new "Building For Youth" debt retirement program.

Years Of Internal Building

With the excitement of the 1960 building program behind them, the members of St. Paul turned their attention to strengthening the internal program of the church and to the reduction of the debt they had assumed.

In 1961, the congregation established a Junior Bible Class as part of the Sunday School Program, approved the formation of the Parent-Teacher League, approved the start of a hot lunch program in the school, extended appreciation to Mr. Roy Petzold who anonymously had contributed two beautiful M-15 road signs to the parish and increased the size of the Board of Elders from five to nine members.

The congregation also, on September 10, 1961, embarked on a parking lot improvement program with a special collection humorously dubbed "The Mud Fund" because of the quagmire conditions of the parking lot after the slightest rain.

At the end of 1961, the congregation had grown to 871 souls and 514 communicants with an annual church attendance of some 28,061—another increase of 1,622 over the previous year. The day school at this time had a new record enrollment of 189 students—an increase of 17 over the previous year.

In 1961, the congregation ranked as the 27th highest congregation in the state in total per communicant giving. Christmas 1961 also

saw the first of several years of Children's Christmas Services held in the parish hall with some 700 worshippers attending this first one.

It was also in 1961 that the day school began its popular winter basketball program, playing other Lutheran Schools in the Saginaw valley.

The year that followed was a year much like 1961. The parish busied itself with "mopping up" past undertakings and girding for the new challenges which already were starting to appear on the horizon.

The highlight of the year was the celebration of Pastor Hugo Ferber's 25th year of ministry to the congregation. He was honored in an all-day festival on April 29, 1962 attended by over a thousand persons.

Another faithful servant of the parish also was honored that year. On September 9, 1962 Mrs. Lorna Platt was honored for her 12 years of teaching in the congregation's day school.

Growth continued and by the end of 1962, the congregation rolls included 937 members from some 256 families. Church attendance had climbed to nearly 30,000 and school enrollments had risen to 213 students.

In 1962, the congregation completed the first three-year phase of the school building fund collections and a new pledge of some \$43,000 was received as the parish continued to work at reducing its debt.

And so the entrance into the 1960s had been made, filled with confidence, with growing strength, and with increased optimism about the future.



The 1959 PTR Committee: Richard Reinert, Royce Shamel, Roy Petzold, Pastor Ferber, Herbert Reinert, Herbert III, Raymond III, Vernon Weber. . .Below shows the participation of members in an evangelism meeting.





There was always a lot of good food, good fellowship and endless visiting at Missionfests. . .this one was in 1964.



Long lines waited to enter one of the three Sunday services.

Oscar Petzold (left) and Clarence Reinert (right) had fun clowning after a night of preparation for the Father-Son Banquet sponsored by the Men's Club.



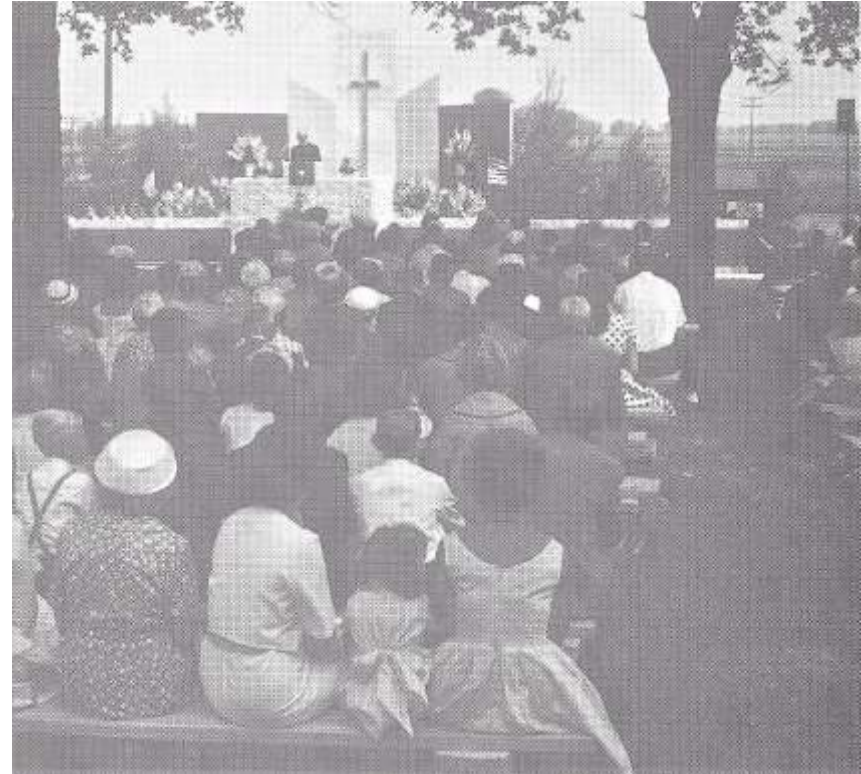
Custodian Clarence Reinert with some of his young friends.

Services were held in The Parish Hall in the 1960s.





The December 11, 1960 Dedication Evening Service.



An outdoor Mission Festival during the early 1960s.

After the 1960 building program the congregation's school plant had grown to this.



Let Us Arise And Build

The first trickle of growth which was evident after World War II gradually turned into a torrent so that by the early 1960s, after two major building programs in less than a decade and a half, the congregation again found itself lacking the facilities to meet the challenges of its mission.

Concern Over Space

As 1963 dawned, the parish began to express increasing concern over space problems. The new school facilities which had been completed just two years earlier were already filled to overflowing and the church was already well beyond capacity on Sunday mornings, even though a three-service schedule had been introduced. More and more frequently, special services had to be held in the parish hall to accommodate the growing number of worshippers.

After several months of discussion, the congregation decided early in 1963 that some planning work was imperative to provide the congregation with larger worship space and to provide the school with needed additional classrooms.

The desire for a new church was general throughout the congregation. The spirit of the members of St. Paul was enthusiastic and excited as a new church became more and more the subject of conversation.

The members had loyally supported the growth of the school in 1948 and 1960 building programs, but it was clear that members now yearned for a new House of Worship and that first consideration would have to be given to building a new church. As the project developed, both the needs of the parish at large and the school in particular were also given consideration. As a result an outstanding overall project finally emerged.

A Building Committee

Early in 1963, the Church Council was instructed to nominate men as candidates for a church building committee. Honored by such nominations were Erwin Weber, Erwin Reinert, Emil Higgins, Hilbert Petzold, Leon Keinath, Clarence Daenzer, Rudy Petzold, Carl Daenzer, Henry Hohman, and Wilmer Keinath.

On July 14, 1963, the following five men were elected by the Assembly of Voters: Chairman Rudy Petzold, Secretary Wilmer Keinath, Erwin Weber, Erwin Reinert, and Hilbert Petzold. Serving as ex-officio members were Pastor Hugo Ferber and Principal Chester L. Platt.

The prayer at the first meeting of the Building Committee on September 4, 1963, set the pattern for the entire project. In the nearly five years that followed, the project was carried out in peace and harmony and with a great spirit of unity among the members.

This was the prayer which Pastor Ferber offered at the first meeting:

“Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, Giver of all that is good, without whose help and grace all is in vane, we come before Thee with a deep sense that we are inadequate in ourselves to perform the work which has been assigned to us—to plan further building operations in our congregation. We therefore, beseech Thee to give us wisdom and strength, Power and ability, earnestness and consecration, so that our planning will redound to the glory of Thy Holy Name. Also give us unity of heart and mind as we consider what needs to be done. Give us to know and to understand that in unity there is strength. Give unto us a good vision that we may the better anticipate the course of our church in the years ahead. And having made our plans, open Thou our lips that we may share our convictions with our fellow members. Be with us now and in all meetings to follow, and let Thy blessing rest upon all that we do and say. In Jesus name do we pray this. Amen.”

Richly did God answer this prayer.

The First Meetings

The first meeting of the Building Committee opened with a reading of I Kings 5:3-6, after which officers of the committee were elected. For the remainder of 1963, the Committee busied itself with an exhausting study of the parish, the surrounding area and the potential growth which might affect the construction of new facilities. In January and February of 1964, the committee visited numerous church projects and on March 8, 1964, a seven-page report was presented to the Assembly of Voters.

Following a meeting with the Board of Trustees and the 1960 School Building Committee, the committee on May 3, 1964 asked permission from the Assembly of Voters to begin interviewing architects, appoint a finance committee and proceed with the development of actual plans. From May through July a total of seven architects were interviewed. Finally on September 13, 1964, the committee cast a unanimous vote for the firm of Merritt, Cole, and McCallum of Farmington as the recommended architect for the project.

In a special voter's meeting on October 18, 1964, approval was given to engage the architects and proceed with preliminary plans. The first meeting with architect Gordon Merritt was held on October 20, 1964 and on December 8, 1964, he presented the first of a series of six possible plans which might be followed with respect to general floor layout and exterior design.

In January 1965, Mr. Chester Platt was named head of an organ study committee, further refinements on the floor plans were made, a list of memorial gifts was established, and plans were made for the 60th anniversary festival marking the building of the first Parish School. The remainder of the year was spent in developing plans for a pledge drive for the new church and further study tours of other

church projects.

In one of the biggest meetings of the Assembly of Voters in recent years, the Building Committee on March 21, 1965 presented its reports and proposals. At a special meeting on April 4, 1965 the congregation accepted the plans, approved a concerted fund-raising program, agreed that work on final plans should begin and agreed that actual building would begin as soon as results of the upcoming fund-raising program were known.

An Exciting Outpouring

During the months which followed that meeting, a building fund campaign committee was organized. Gust Heuchert was named as general chairman of the campaign committee, with Vernon Weber the co-chairman. Named as division leaders were Lyle Koch, Leon Keinath, Norman Kurpsel, and Lorenz Daenzer. Captains who were elected included: Donald Peche, Henry Kroll, Hilbert Petzold, Emmanuel Weber Sr., Arthur Weber, Herbert Ill, William Gardner, Leo Currier, Gustav Petzold, Ewald Ill, Frank Fischhaber, Erwin Weber, Erwin Reinert, Herman Petzold, Ralph Ferber, Wilmer Keinath, Norman Petzold, Otto L. Petzold, Carl Keinath, and Harry Kern.

A goal of \$75,000 to be collected in one year's time was set—a total of \$1,500 per week for the building of the new project. The theme given to the campaign was "Let Us Arise and Build."

Many meetings were held, highlighted by a giant campaign dinner held just before the final canvassing of the congregation. The beautifully-decorated parish hall was filled with canvassers who heard The Rev. Herman Zehnder of Bay City, who directed the 1960 Building Fund drive and whose efforts helped arouse a new spirit of stewardship within the congregation. Many outstanding pledges were made in the weeks which followed with some individual gifts as high as \$30 a week for building purposes. The nucleus of the campaign committee pledged \$7,864, the Captains added another \$14,018 and the Canvassers some \$31, 184. The remainder of the congregation pledged \$24,547—thus surpassing the original goal with a one-year building pledge of \$77, 163. Thus inspired, the building committee again pressed forward in its planning.

The Planning Continues

Attention then turned to financing the project, Mr. Arthur Brandt, bonding consultant of the Heitner Corporation of St. Louis, Missouri was present at a meeting on September 12, 1965 and discussed bonding the parish for a total of \$300,000. The Assembly approved the bonding program and later the bonding figure was raised to \$350,000 to insure enough funds would be available due to the spiraling inflation of costs.

On September 12, 1965, the congregation approved the start of construction for the spring of 1966. The remaining months of the

year were spent in studying organs and other equipment for the new church.

On December 1, 1965, a 20-rank organ was purchased from the Tellers Organ Company of Erie, Pennsylvania for a total of \$22,500. The old church organ had originally been purchased from the same company. Mr. George Schmidt, who had supervised the installation of the old church organ, again was on hand to handle the details of the new organ's purchase and ultimate installation. The total dollar cost of the organ was \$26,500.

Discussion then centered on church furniture, bells and general matters concerning the start of construction. At the March 3, 1966 meeting of the committee, final blueprints were reviewed and a list of alternates was developed. The bid opening was set for April 14, 1966.

Bids were received from five general contractors, three mechanical contractors, and three electrical contractors. The total amount of the base contracts was \$398,393. On April 17, 1966 the bids were presented to the congregation with committee recommendations. By a vote of 87-5, approval was given to the bids and the immediate start of construction.

Groundbreaking Is Held

On May 8, 1966 groundbreaking ceremonies were held during a single service. Ground was broken at the rear of the old church (about the center of the present nave) with the first shovelful of dirt being turned by Pastor Ferber. Principal Chester Platt and Building Chairman Rudy Petzold also then turned shovelfuls of earth. On May 9, 1966 the first excavation was performed. The first work began in the area of the four new classrooms. Later, as this portion of the project neared completion, work began on the administrative wing which would link the church and school and finally on the church itself.

Final services in the old St. Paul Church were held on July 10, 1966.

Bells And Memorials

During August and September 1966, the Committee studied bells and window art glass for the new church. At the September 9, 1966 meeting, Mr. Wilmer Keinath announced that if new bells were approved by the congregation, he would purchase them as a memorial. This most generous first memorial gift to the new church spurred the rest of the congregation to participate in the giving of memorials. By October 20, 1966, \$22,305 in memorial gifts had been given by the parishioners. This ultimately grew to more than \$35,000 in memorial gifts.

By March 14, 1967, the school room additions had already been in use for several months, having been dedicated the previous October. The school and church administrative areas were nearing completion and the foundations of the church were in place.

On May 14, 1967, the cornerstone for the new church was laid with The Rev. Arthur Hahn, former pastor of the congregation, delivering the sermon. Also participating in the service was The Rev. Fred Bickel of Bay City and The Rev. Adolph Klein of Flint. The cornerstone was put in place by the contractor, Mr. Ronald Bronner and his father, Mr. William Bronner.

In addition to the general contractors, William Bronner & Son of Frankenmuth, the mechanical work was being handled by Baughan Plumbing and Heating of Flint and the electrical work by Franklin Electric, also of Flint.

On June 28, 1967 the building committee gave final approval to the chancel design and awarded this contract to the Studios of Potente of Kenosha, Wisconsin. By September, final color schemes for the rooms were being developed and a myriad of smaller problems which always accompany construction were being ironed out by the committee. By December 1967, final agreement had been reached on such items as carpeting, furniture, and office equipment.

It was during this same general period that the building committee experienced a heart-breaking and yet almost providential incident. The marble which was to be used to construct the altar and baptismal font had arrived from the quarries in Italy broken. The project was delayed several weeks while new marble was located. The breakage, however, was providential in that the wrong color of marble had originally been shipped. Finally, after long weeks of waiting, the new marble arrived and work on the chancel area continued.

The Dedication

As the year 1968 dawned, the committee turned its eyes towards planning for the dedication of the new church. The building committee was designated as the dedication committee and in the weeks which followed, plans for the dedication festival were made. The dedication festival was set for April 21, 1968, followed by a week of special services and activities.

More than 6,000 persons visited the church during dedication week. The week opened with dedication services at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 21, 1968, attended by more than 1,400 persons.

After a door-opening ceremony outside of the church, the church doors were opened for the first time by Building Chairman Rudy Petzold. The worshippers then entered the building and a procession of the pastors, building committee, and elders carrying altarware opened the service. At this same service the chancel light was lighted. It has been kept burning continuously since it was lighted for the first time.

Custodian Clarence Reinert rang the bells for the first worship service and Pastor Hugo Ferber delivered the first sermon in the new church. Assisting in the dedication service were Rev. Arthur

Hahn, Rev. Fred Bickel of Bay City, Rev. Adolph Klein of Flint, and Rev. Waldemar Ferber, a brother of the congregation's pastor.

In the afternoon service, the sermon was delivered by District President Edwin Weber, assisted by The Rev. Edward Pankow, counselor of the circuit from Hemlock. The day's activities closed with an organ concert by Rudolph Puhlman of Saginaw. A total of 2,765 persons worshipped in the three dedication day services with more than 3,000 attending the open house.

Monday some 150 community leaders attended a special banquet and then joined other visitors in touring the church. The choir presented a special concert and Burton Castle, a native of Millington and then a teacher at Caro, presented a brief organ recital. Some 461 women attended the Women's Day service on Tuesday in which The Rev. Lorenz Weber spoke and the Treble Choir of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church sang. Wednesday two youth services were attended by 503 young worshippers with The Rev. Ronald Guettler speaking at a morning service for day school children and The Rev. Jerrold Nichols of Saginaw addressing the evening service for teen-agers. One of the unique services of the week was a German Heritage Service attended by 401 persons. The German language service was addressed by The Rev. William Schoenow of Richville, who had given the sermon when the congregation dedicated the first segment of its parish plant in 1948. He was assisted by The Rev. Emil Voss of Saginaw, The Rev. Albert Klammer, pastor of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church of Frankenmuth, and Pastor Ferber. All wore the traditional black cassocks and white collar tabs which had been the familiar garb of pastors during earlier Lutheran days.

On Friday evening, the questioning of confirmands was performed and on Sunday, April 28, 1968, some 883 worshippers were present for the first confirmation service in the new church. On the following Sunday, 475 persons communed in the first communion service in the new church in which Rev. Klein, Rev. Voges and Rev. Bickel assisted the pastor.

In the weeks, months, and years since the Dedication Sunday, hundreds of visitors came to see the church. Many visitors from other states and other nations have entered their names in the well-filled visitor's register.

Truly, this was one of the finest hours in the history of Saint Paul parish—an hour when the years of work and effort of hundreds of pastors and laymen flowered into a visible monument of God's love and blessings.



The 1965 Building Fund Canvasser's Kickoff Dinner.

Pastor Ferber closes the first church a final time in 1966.



At groundbreaking ceremonies for the new church were (l-r) Architect Gordon Merritt, Builder Ronald Bronner, Mr. C.L. Platt, Builder Wm. Bronner, Pastor Ferber, Pastor Hahn.





The Church Building Committee gathers after groundbreaking services. Kneeling are chairman Rudy Petzold and Hilbert Petzold. Standing are Wilmer Keinath, Erwin Weber, Architect Gordon Merritt, Pastor Ferber, and Erwin Reinert

William (Left) and Ronald Bronner lay the cornerstone for the new church as Pastors Hahn and Ferber watch the laying.

The beams for the nave of the new church are shown in place.





Above worshippers wait to enter Dedication Day services . . . below right, Pastor Ferber inspects new bells . . . below left the Dedication crowd.





Parish and Building Committee Chairman Rudy Petzold opens the doors of the new church for the first time on Dedication Day, 1968.



David and Dennis Engelhart are the first to be confirmed in the new church by Pastor Ferber.



With the dedication of the new church and school additions, a church plant started twenty years earlier was brought to a successful completion.

The Busy Years Of the Sixties

While the church building committee busied itself with planning the congregation's most ambitious building program in history, other things were happening in the congregation as well.

Let us now resume the story of these happenings where we left them at the close of Chapter 15—Into The Sixties.

A Change In Circuits

For many years after its founding, St. Paul was part of the Frankenmuth Circuit of the Michigan District. In 1948 it was transferred to the Flint Circuit, which included congregations from the Greater Flint area as well as from the Lansing area.

From 1955 until 1962, Pastor Ferber served as Visitor of the Flint Circuit. The title of Visitor later was changed to Counselor. In eight years in which he served the circuit, six new missions were opened, raising the number of Flint circuit parishes from 16 to 23 congregations. In 1962, the Flint Circuit was divided with Lansing area congregations forming the new Capitol Circuit.

In the summer of 1962, the Millington congregation was transferred to the Saginaw Circuit of the Michigan District. Recently, the Saginaw Circuit was divided into eastern and western circuits. St. Paul became a member of Saginaw East Circuit at that time.

Many of the Flint-area pastors during Pastor Ferber's tenure as counselor were young ministers with new mission congregations. To them, Pastor and Mrs. Ferber became affectionately known as "The Bishop and Mother Superior." They found Pastor Ferber always ready to provide the counsel and advice they needed as they made their way through the difficult first years of their ministry.

Parish Growth Continues

In late 1963, the congregation expanded its two-service Sunday worship schedule to three services, with services at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., and 10:45 a.m. On Sunday mornings it was not unusual to see long lines of worshippers on the sidewalk next to the church, waiting for the previous service to end so they could enter the church.

In the same year, Pastor Ferber returned to the classroom for a time, filling a teaching vacancy which the congregation had not been able to fill. By the fall of 1964, some 244 students were attending classes in the five crowded rooms of the school. And, by the end of the year, more than 33,000 worshippers had thronged through the doors of the little church for worship services. More and more of the festival services had to be held in the parish hall because of a lack of space in the church.

The congregation's growth was also reflected in financial matters and the parish home operating budget had climbed to more than \$40,000 a year by 1964.

During 1964, a second 100-week pledge drive was held to continue retirement of the 1960 school addition debt. This drive

resulted in pledges of \$44,084, as parish leaders urged rapid reduction of the old debt to prepare for the major financial undertakings which lay just ahead.

In 1964, Mr. Richard Saeger became chairman of the congregation, taking over the post from Mr. Rudy Petzold, who had become involved in the building program. The same year the congregation purchased equipment for lawn and yard work and agreed to join other Saginaw Valley congregations in raising half a million dollars to help launch the building of a new Lutheran Home for the Aged at Frankenmuth.

Sixty Years Celebrated

One of the highlights of 1965 was the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the first parish school. The Rev. Edwin Weber of Fraser was the featured speaker in the festival service held at Millington High School's gymnasium in April of that year. During the day a meal was served at the parish hall and special exhibits of old pictures were featured in the classrooms.

In its January 10, 1965 meeting, the congregation established new procedures for receiving members by transfer, hoping to more quickly integrate them into the congregation.

It was also in 1965 that the congregation eliminated the remainder of its bus transportation problems. For some years the parish had operated a large school bus and a smaller carry-all to transport children to the parish day school. When public transportation for parochial school children became available, the busses were no longer necessary.

The Need For More Teachers

As the school continued to grow, the need for a third called teacher became evident. At the annual meeting of the Voters Assembly on January 10, 1965, the Board of Education was given permission to call a male graduate from that year's graduating class of Lutheran teachers.

At the May 2, 1965 meeting of the congregation, the Board was able to report that Teacher Fred Tonn had accepted the congregation's call and would join the teaching staff the following fall. His arrival brought the congregation's teaching staff to three called teachers and three lady contract teachers.

Teacher Tonn, a personable and deeply-dedicated young teacher, was born May 30, 1943 in Manheim, Texas, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Tonn. He attended Ebenezer Lutheran School, Holy Cross Lutheran High School in Giddings, Texas before entering Concordia Junior College of Austin, Texas. He completed his education at Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska in 1965 and was assigned as a called teacher to St. Paul in the summer of 1965.

In his years at St. Paul, Teacher Tonn became very active as

director of the young people's programs in the congregation.

Another Teacher Crisis Faced

Hardly had Teacher Tonn taken up his classroom work when rising enrollments made it obvious that still another teacher would be needed in the upcoming school year of 1966-1967. So, on November 14, 1965, the Assembly of Voters authorized the seventh teaching position in the school.

The growing day school, now the chief program of the parish—both in size and cost—continued to dominate Assembly meetings throughout the final four years of the 1960s.

The teacher situation became serious when Mrs. Louise Palmreuter, for many years a dedicated and beloved teacher in the school, announced that she would not be able to return in the fall of 1966. She had accepted a teaching position in her home congregation of St. Michaels Lutheran Church at Richville.

Mrs. Palmreuter had served the congregation since its faculty was expanded to three teachers in 1956. Faced with this loss of a teacher, the Board of Education revised its recommendations and asked that it be allowed to seek a husband-wife teaching combination to fill the new post as well as the vacancy which would be created by Mrs. Palmreuter's leaving.

The teacher situation became critical on May 1, 1966, when Teacher Edmund Klammer announced his resignation from the staff. In short order, the congregation had moved to a major teacher crisis, being left with a need for three new teachers. The calling of teachers took on a new urgency.

On May 22, 1966 the congregation reluctantly accepted the resignation of Teacher Klammer and sent the first of many calls which were to be returned unaccepted. In the months which followed, the congregation's Assembly of Voters held five special meetings for the calling of teachers—but none of the meetings produced a teacher for the congregation's school.

During this critical teacher shortage, Mrs. Donald Peche, a member of the parish and for many years a Sunday School teacher, graciously agreed to take over kindergarten classes on a temporary basis so that Mrs. Lili Jalbing—the regular kindergarten teacher—could take over first grade teaching duties. Mrs. Jalbing, who joined the staff in 1961 had brought an outstanding program to the school's kindergarten.

And so, with a lay teacher serving the kindergarten and Pastor Ferber assisting in the upper grades, Principal Chester Platt was able to bring the school through this difficult period of teacher shortages.

Relief For A Time

The teacher crisis was temporarily relieved with the arrival of Teacher Fred Krueger and his wife Diane, also a teacher. The young couple filled two of the three teacher vacancies for a year.

Mr. and Mrs. Krueger stayed for only a short time, however.

Early in 1967, Mrs. Krueger left the staff because of the impending arrival of a new baby and in a special meeting on June 18, 1967, the congregation honored Teacher Krueger's request to leave the parish to accept a post as principal of Zion Lutheran School of Storm Lake, Iowa.

Throughout this period of time, the congregation had continued calling teachers in an effort to fill the vacancies created earlier. Finally on March 14, 1967, the congregation was overjoyed when it learned that Mr. Edward Kern, a native of Frankenmuth, had accepted their call. Mr. Kern arrived the following fall (1967) to assume his duty as a teacher and as the congregation's first designated Director of Music and Head Organist.

Teacher Kern was born at Frankenmuth on February 11, 1941, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kern. After attending St. Lorenz Lutheran School at Frankenmuth and Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, he enrolled at Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, Illinois. After his graduation from Concordia in 1964, he taught a year at St. Peter Lutheran School, Reedsburg, Wisconsin and then for three years at Immanuel Lutheran School in Chicago before coming to St. Paul congregation. His wife is the former Viola Reinbold.

A Second Call Answered

The teacher crisis was far from over, however. The departure of Mr. and Mrs. Krueger on June 18, 1967 had reopened vacancies. On that same day the voters extended a call to Teacher Ronald Schnell, a native of Richville and at the time a teacher in Chicago.

He had been sent a call during the previous year, but had at that time found it impossible to accept the call.

However, at the July 9, 1967 meeting, the congregation learned that he had accepted their call and for the first time in more than a year, the congregation's teacher situation had started to right itself.

Teacher Schnell was born August 7, 1939, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schnell of Richville. He attended St. Michael Lutheran School and Vassar High School. While in high school he was a member of the National FFA Choir. He graduated from Concordia Teachers College at River Forest in 1962. While at River Forest he was chairman of the Men's Council and part of the well-known Forester's Quartet.

After his graduation he served five years as a principal and teacher in St. Matthew Lutheran School of Lemont, Illinois before coming to Millington. He resigned from his teaching post in 1970 to enter public education, teaching at Bunche Elementary School in Flint.

The Building Mess

The church and school building program continued over a three-year period from 1966 until the dedication in 1968. These years

were a nightmare of dirt and confusion for the custodian, who fought a losing battle in his effort to keep some semblance of cleanliness and order in the buildings and on the grounds.

In June 1966 a paved driveway was installed on the east side of the school. This was the first phase of a total paving program which was to receive more serious consideration in early 1972.

Perhaps one of the serious mistakes of the church building program was the failure to also complete the parking lot. During the building program and in the years after the project had been completed, the congregation's parking lot was a costly and continuing source of aggravation to the members. During the wet spring and fall seasons, worshippers frequently would get stuck in the quagmire of mud on the perimeters of the parking lot. A good many shoes, suits, and dresses were dirtied by the aggravating mud of the parking lot.

At the congregational meeting on March 12, 1972, first steps towards the construction of a paved parking lot were taken. The parking lot project was made the official thankoffering project of the 75th Anniversary Year. Plans for the new parking lot were developed in a meeting late in March 1972 with Trustee Stanley Bauer handling much of the committee work connected with the new paved parking lot.

A Year Of Curtailment

Since the closing of the old church in July 1966, the congregation had worshipped in the parish hall. During this period, serious limitations and curtailments of the parish's activities were made necessary.

But despite the confusion, the mess and the inconvenience, enthusiasm within the parish continued high as members watched each new segment of the building project fall into place.

The highlight of 1966 was the laying of the cornerstone of the new church on May 14, 1967. The Rev. Arthur Hahn, a former pastor of the parish delivered the sermon for the event which is recounted in greater detail in Chapter 16 (Let Us Arise And Build) of this history.

At the July 9, 1967 meeting of the Voters Assembly pews from the old church were offered for sale to the members for \$10 each.

Another Teacherage Added

Another major addition to the holdings of the parish came in a meeting on July 10, 1967. With the arrival of Teacher and Mrs. Kern, the congregation faced a "housing shortage." About this time the home of a long-time neighbor of the congregation, the late Louis Klam, became available. The home was located directly across the road from the school. Mr. and Mrs. Klam had passed away and their heirs offered the home to the parish at a cost of \$12,000. Purchase of the home was approved by the voters by a vote of 43-11. This house became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kern

until 1971 when they built themselves a new home. In the fall of 1971, the home was converted to a home for single lady teachers of the congregation.

In other activities in 1967, the parsonage was given a new coat of paint by volunteers from the congregation, some \$942 was collected for the synod's Ebenezer program and plans were started for the dedication of the new church.

A New Constitution Is Studied

For many years the congregation had operated under the original constitution which had been adopted on June 24, 1897. During the 1950s and 1960s repeated efforts had been made to rewrite the constitution and to update its contents. Nothing, however, was accomplished.

Early in 1967, Parish Chairman Rudy Petzold undertook the task of rewriting the constitution and his first draft was presented to the Voters Assembly on September 10, 1967. The proposed constitution was referred to a committee for study and remained tabled until November 9, 1969 when a final reading of it was made and approval was given to it.

Under the articles of the new constitution, two boards were given new titles. The Board of Elders became the Board of Christian Life and the Board of Trustees became the Board of Properties. In addition to these two boards, the constitution also provided for four other boards: The Boards of Christian Education, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Finance. The many former financial offices were eliminated and gathered under a single Board of Finance, headed by the Parish Treasurer.

New powers were given to the Parish President, Vice President, and Church Council and membership qualifications and operating procedures were spelled out in greater detail.

The new constitution also provided for a lowering of the voting age within the congregation from 21 years to 18 years. This move was made to allow younger members a greater voice in the operation of the parish and coincided with the state's moves towards lowering of the age of majority from 21 to 18 years about this time.

The Dedication Year

As the congregation entered 1968, it did so with enthusiasm and anticipation. Its new church was moving to rapid completion and plans were well along for the dedication festival scheduled for early in the year.

Growth of the congregation's school continued as well, and on January 14, 1968, the congregation authorized the Board of Education to create a ninth teaching position within the school.

As the winter months moved towards early spring, dedication plans were finalized and Sunday, April 21, 1968 was set as the date

for the church dedication. At its March 10, 1968 meeting, the congregation voted to present the parish hall chancel furniture to a mission congregation. It was later presented to the Lutheran mission at DeWitt, Michigan.

The First Ringing Of The Bells

For many persons the opening of the new church held a special meaning and all were understandably eager to enter it and make use of it. Among these people were Mr. Michael Cobanovich and Miss Velva Meinecke, who had made plans for solemnizing their wedding in the new church as the spring approached. However, when a serious construction delay occurred because of a broken marble shipment, their hopes for a wedding in the new church evaporated.

The Assembly of Voters had voted to allow no services in the new church until it had been dedicated. Their wedding missed the use of the new church by only one day and was held in the parish hall on the evening before the dedication on April 20, 1968. The disappointment of having missed the opportunity of solemnizing their wedding in the new church by so narrow a margin cast a shadow of disappointment on an otherwise happy occasion.

In sympathy with their disappointment, members of the building committee agreed to ring the full peal of church bells officially for the first time at their wedding. And so, as the newly-married young couple left the parish hall after the wedding, the full peal of St. Paul's new church bells were rung for the first time in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cobanovich.

Earlier in the summer of 1967, the bells were used to pay tribute to other long-time members of the parish, whose untimely deaths had kept them from sharing in the joy of the completed church.

Mr. Theodore Keinath, a long-time member and an active parish official for many years, was honored by the tolling of the large bell as his funeral procession left the church grounds. This act was repeated at the funeral of another long-time member, Mr. Arno Eberlein. Members of the building committee climbed the steel structure of the tower and tolled the largest of the bells with a hammer in honor of the departed members.

After The Dedication

With the excitement of the Dedication Week (discussed in an earlier chapter) behind them, the congregation members turned to the other work of the parish.

At the May 5, 1968 meeting, the congregation learned that Miss Bette Bauer, a native of the Reese area, had been assigned to the parish as a teacher. At this same meeting, an Altar Guild was authorized for the Chancel of the new church.

Policies regarding the use of the new church facilities were also passed upon at this meeting and Sunday church service times were set permanently at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

In 1968 the Vacation Bible School was again resumed. Some 245 students took part in the two-week summer program and some 40 lay teachers assisted in the program.

In the fall of the same year, the school re-opened with a record enrollment of 285 students and the Sunday School reopened with some 174 students enrolled.

A record budget was adopted at the November 10, 1968 meeting, totaling \$118,136 for home, mission, and building purposes. At this same meeting a snow-removal machine was purchased, new rules for the use of parish property were discussed and the practice of announcing the vote totals for congregational elections was discontinued.

The End Of A Decade

As the congregation entered the final year of its most exciting and productive decade, its outlook remained optimistic and full of hope. In the years since the dedication of the church, it had retained its enthusiasm as it continued to meet its spiritual and financial challenges with solid growth and advancement. Its membership had grown to 1,196 baptized souls and 717 communicant members. Church attendance had grown to more than 40,000 with an average of some 570 worshipers per Sunday. Its free-will offerings in 1968 reached an all-time high of \$142,535 for all purposes.

Early in the year of 1969, on April 22-23, the Saginaw Valley Pastor's Conference was held in the new church. During this same period of time, the parish organized an Adult Education Committee and a Student Aid Committee to promote greater Christian education among adults and give assistance to young parish members interested in entering the ministry of the church.

On May 4, 1969, the congregation finally agreed to sell the remainder of the Arbela School property which had frequently been discussed but which remained unsettled. The school property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Wymon Reinert for \$2,000. Several years earlier Mr. and Mrs. Reinert had purchased the Arbela teacherage. With this sale, all of the congregation's land holdings became centered at the church in Millington.

On May 18, 1969, the congregation considered a call which had been extended to Teacher Ron Schnell by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lapeer. This call was returned.

At the September 14, 1969 meeting, long-time Sunday School Superintendent Donald Peche resigned and the post was given to Teacher John Wagner, who had joined the staff as a contract teacher in 1969.

With the growth of the parish facilities and the sale of the Arbela property, storage facilities at the church became more critical and so at the September 14, 1969 meeting, approval was given to the construction of a storage facility on the church grounds. This garage and storage building was constructed by the trustees and volunteers in the fall of 1969. On November 9, 1969 the church building

committee was dissolved.

Changes In The School

At the turn of the decade, the parish day school was to undergo some major changes. During 1969 and early 1970, minor difficulties arose in the day school involving differences of opinion in teaching techniques and practices. The matters themselves were not serious, but these matters led to an unsettled period within the parish day school and caused the congregation some concern.

The unsettled situation in the day school helped to bring on some major changes in the faculty of St. Paul's school—changes which in the end strengthened the day school and brought it to the newer level of effectiveness which changing times and methods demanded.

In November 1969, Teacher John Wagner asked that he be released from his teaching responsibilities at the end of the 1969-1970 school year. This request was granted. This move was followed by several others in the month which followed.

On January 11, 1970, Principal Chester L. Platt, who had led the day school program from a one-room country school to a nine-room school, asked that he be relieved of the administrative duties of principal and be allowed to continue serving as a teacher only. This request was also honored by the congregation, accompanied by its thanks for his many years of service as principal.

At the following voters meeting, on February 15, 1970, Teacher Ronald Schnell asked that he be relieved of his teaching duties at the end of the school year. This request was also granted.

And so, in quick succession, the congregation faced the loss of two teachers and a principal. For a second time in less than half a decade, the congregation faced serious decisions in the area of parish education.

The first calls for teacher replacements were extended on February 15, 1970, but as was the case during the "teacher crisis" of the late 1960s, many months were to pass before an answer would be received. One candidate after another declined the calls sent by the congregation and as the new school year approached, the congregation grew understandably anxious.

A New Beginning

On July 5, 1970, the congregation extended a call to Mr. Norman Rehmer to serve as the new principal. The congregation rejoiced when, after many months, its prayers were answered. Mr. Rehmer had accepted the call to Millington.

The new principal was the son of a Lutheran school teacher. He was born on January 30, 1939 at Homestead, Iowa, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland C. Rehmer. He attended parochial schools, St. John's of Homestead, St. Peter's of Watertown, Minnesota, Immanuel of Perryville, Missouri, and St. Paul's of Farmington, Missouri.

After graduating from Farmington High School, he entered Concordia Teachers College at River Forest, Illinois, graduating in 1961. He served as a teacher in Trinity Lutheran School in Long Island, New York for two years and served five of his seven years at Mt. Calvary Lutheran School in Detroit. He and his wife, the former Arlene Lumsden, are the parents of two sons, Brian and Randall.

Mr. Rehmer arrived in August of 1970 and joined the Board of Education in its search for a teacher to fill the remaining vacancy. Miss Carla Prigge had earlier been assigned to the congregation as a lady teacher. She took the teaching position left vacant by the departure of Mrs. Diane Mattlin of Caro, who on two different occasions had served the congregation's school.

Just before the school was to open, the Board of Education announced that it had filled the vacancy. Taking the teaching position was Mr. Rodger Grulke, a gifted young ministerial graduate, who had chosen to enter the teaching ministry instead of the pastoral profession. At the September 13, 1970 meeting of the Voters Assembly, the congregation bestowed the status of minister of religion on Mr. Grulke in lieu of a formal call. The three new teachers as well as the returning members of the staff, were installed and consecrated at services in late August 1970.

And so the school year of 1970 began with a full staff—a staff blessed with mature experience as well as with youthful new approaches, and with enthusiasm and dedication. With these ingredients, the energetic and capable new principal quickly welded together a working staff and directed the energies of this staff towards a revitalization and updating of the day school program.

The days of uncertainty and turbulence had come to an end. The great traditions which had been established by St. Paul's school had been recaptured. The school was launching into the 1970s with confidence and with fresh new purpose.

Shrubs And Robes

On September 13, 1970, the Board of Trustees presented a proposed church landscaping program to the congregation and at that meeting, the first phase of it was approved. In the month that followed, the south entrance to the church was landscaped, thanks in part to a generous gift from the congregation's woman's organization, The Dorcas Society.

On December 13, 1970 the St. Paul Choir appeared for the first time in its new choir robes, which were purchased by the choir through several fund-raising projects. Previous to this time, the choir had appeared in white shirts and blouses. The new blue gowns also were fitted with white and red stoles.

The End Of An Era

As the years passed and the congregation continued to grow, more and more concern was expressed for the health and welfare of

Pastor Ferber, who despite advancing years, was carrying a heavier and heavier pastoral load. For nearly a decade the congregation had discussed “more help for the overworked pastor” but none of these discussions had led to the calling of an assistant pastor to help share the growing burden.

Despite occasional health problems and despite the fact that the pastor had already passed the age when most men find it necessary to devote themselves to more leisure time, Pastor Ferber was devoting more time than ever to the work of the growing parish.

Concerned over his welfare and eager to be prepared for his retirement when he chose to enter it, the Board of Christian Life (Elders) began in 1969 to develop retirement proposals for his consideration.

After assuring him that it wanted him to continue as head pastor as long as he felt able to, the Assembly of Voters approved a retirement program for the pastor in its meeting on September 13, 1970—the program to be placed into effect by Pastor Ferber at such time as he desired. The retirement program provided a small salary, a home for him and Mrs. Ferber as long as they wished it and a request that he remain in the parish as an assistant to the new head pastor.

Throughout the fall of 1970 Pastor Ferber gave the matter of retirement most earnest consideration, finding it understandably difficult to leave a post he had held for more than three decades. But finally, on January 10, 1971, Pastor Ferber announced to the Assembly of Voters that he had decided to accept their retirement offer and that as soon as a new head pastor could be found, desired to assume emeritus status.

And so, for the first time in 34 years, the congregation faced the matter of finding a new pastor. At the same January meeting, the Board of Christian Life was named as a pulpit committee to study the needs of the congregation and to develop a list of pastoral candidates.

Aware of the unique situation which the calling of a new head pastor to the Millington congregation presented, the Board of Christian Life began an earnest and comprehensive study of the parish’s pastoral needs. It spent many hours, seeking to outline the unique problems which would be faced by any new pastor who would follow in the footsteps of the rich and productive 34-year ministry which preceded him.

During the early months of 1971, the Board gathered the names of pastoral candidates, discussed the pastoral needs of the congregation with members and together with The Rev. John Deterding of Frankenmuth, Counselor of the Saginaw East Circuit, developed the elements of a call and prepared the congregation for the transition which would shortly take place.

And so, as the early months of 1971 moved towards spring, an era was coming to an end—an era which certainly stands as one of

the brightest chapters in the history of St. Paul and in Saginaw Valley Lutheranism.

It was an era of progress and achievement. It was an era of close ties between pastor and people—together building God’s Kingdom, together expanding the influence of His Word, together building the respect and dignity of God’s Church in the community.

A rich legacy and great heritage had been built. It was now to be passed into the hands of a new spiritual shepherd. . .and that new shepherd was to prove a worthy successor.



Pastor and Mrs. Ferber admire a cake baked in the form of the old church at Pastor Ferber's 25th Anniversary.



Mission Festival was a huge annual outdoor event, as evidenced by row upon row of cars parked in the fields at Buell and Millington Road.



The Teacherage completed in 1959, was also used as a parsonage in subsequent years.

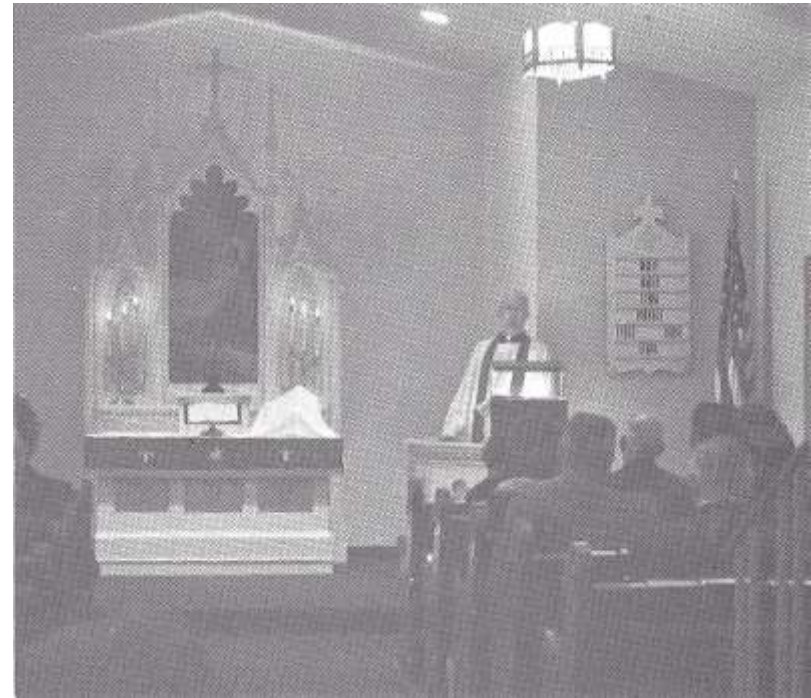
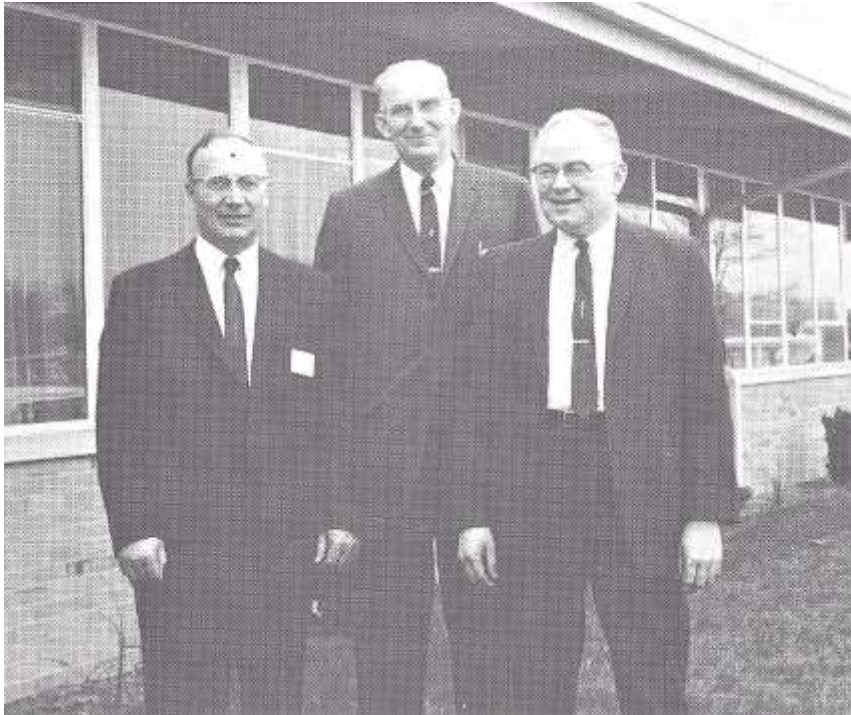
One of the last communion services held in the old church.





Sunday School Staff of early 1960s. (L-R back) Pastor Ferber, ?, Shirley Petzold, Roy Petzold, Donna Weber, Lela Higgins. (front) Luella Saeger, Virginia Reinert, Ruth Mohr, Lola Wendt, Loretta Reinert, Marilyn Schmandt, Don Peche.

Teachers Scheer, Klammer, and Platt at the 60th Anniversary of the school celebrated in April 1965.



Pastor Ferber conducts a German Communion Service in the chapel on Good Friday morning 1969.

Pastor Ferber conducts a Stewardship group meeting.





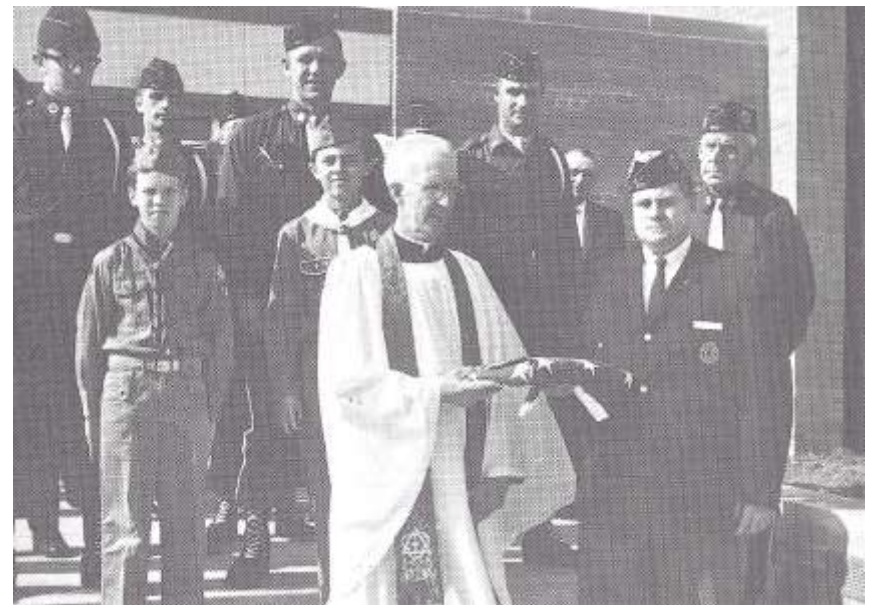
Pastor Ferber officiating in the chancel of the new church.

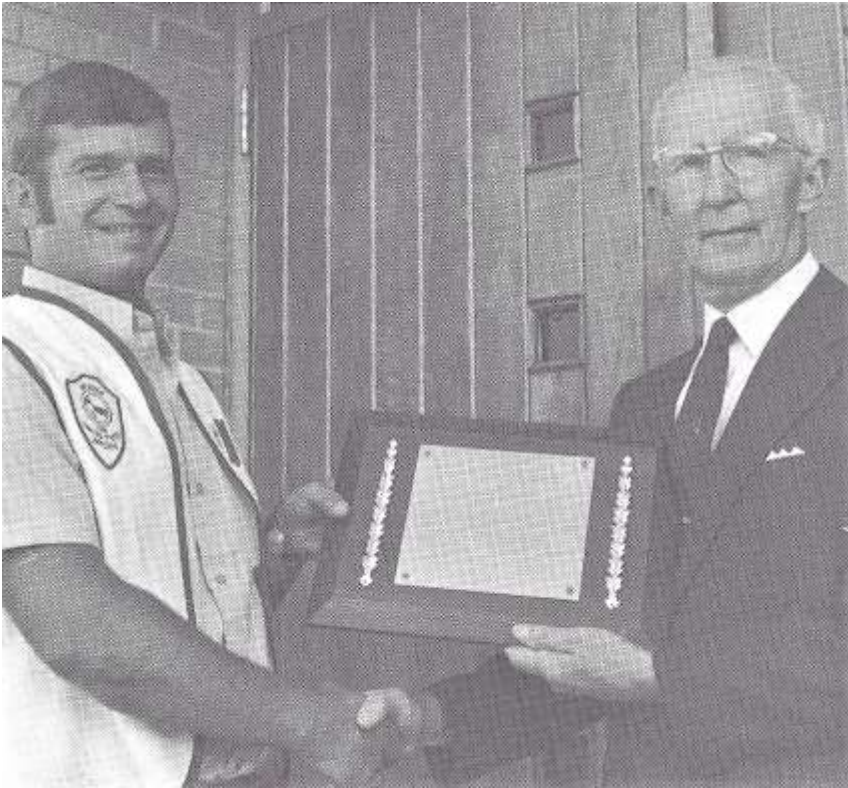
Tellers Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Petzold, Richard Petzold, and Mr. and Mrs. Gust Heuchert shown counting the weekly offering.



Mr. Klammer drove the congregation's school bus in the 60s.

Legion Commander Eugene Yorke presents Pastor Ferber with a flag which flew over the U. S. Capitol Building.

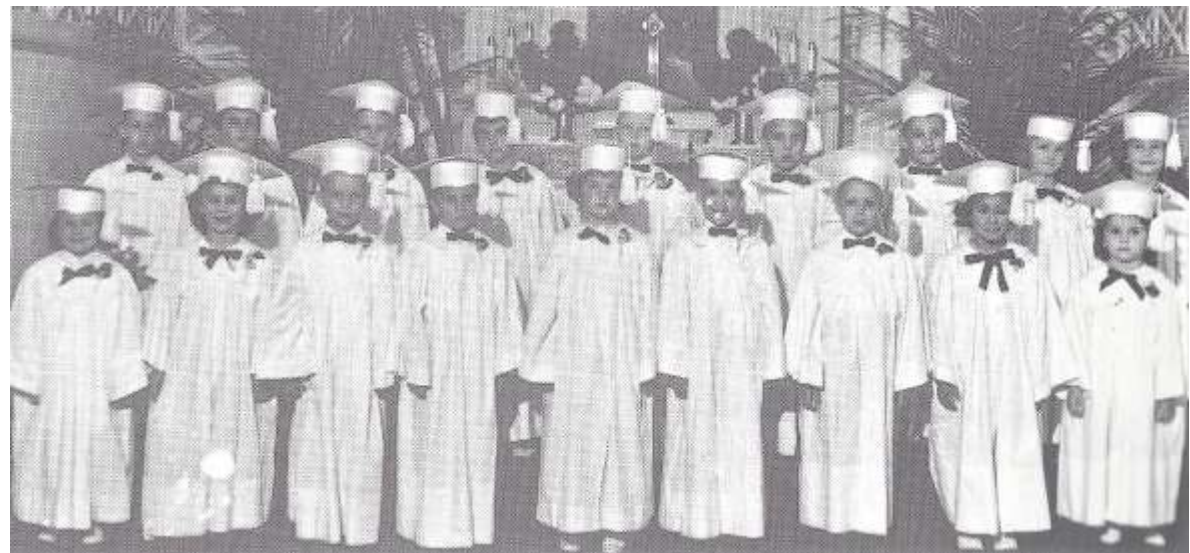




Above, Jaycee Junior Mays gives Pastor Ferber a plaque making him Millington's Most Honored Citizen of 1971.



One of the first baptisms in the new church in 1968 administered by Pastor Ferber.



The 1960 kindergarten graduating class, gathered for a group picture in the old church.

The Shepherd Staff is Passed

The new year of 1971 would be a major turning point in the history of St. Paul Church—this was the mood and the feeling that prevailed as parishioners quickly made the calling of a new head pastor their chief topic of conversation.

For 34 years they had been served by the same pastor—a pastor they had come to know closely and intimately, a pastor whose ways they had learned to be comfortable with, a pastor whose philosophies, whose habits, and whose approach to the ministry had become well-known and predictable.

And Now – A Change

But now, after three and a half decades, all this would possibly change. They would have to become used to the ways and manners of a new spiritual shepherd. What kind of man would he be? How would he react to their traditions—and how would they react to his different ways of doing things? How would the community accept him—and how would he accept the community?

What of the relationship between the new head pastor and the retiring head pastor who would remain in the congregation as an assistant? Would their relationship be friendly or would it create problems—the kind of problems which had caused such agony in other congregations with similar circumstances?

They Gather To Call

These and many other thoughts were in the minds of the congregation members as they gathered in their church on March 14, 1971 to begin the serious and far-reaching task of calling a new pastor.

Present for this historic first calling meeting in three and a half decades was the Saginaw East Circuit Counselor, The Rev. John Deterding of Frankenmuth. The men listened intently as the counselor outlined the procedures which would be followed and waited eagerly to hear the names of the pastoral candidates which would be presented.

Eight names were presented—prepared especially for the congregation by The Rev. Richard Schlecht, president of the Michigan District. Among the names were familiar, comfortable names—well-known to many who sat in the pews that afternoon. And there were also new, unfamiliar names known to none of them.

Prayerfully they considered each name, hoping earnestly that the Holy Spirit would lead them finally to select the man best suited to assume the pastoral mantle of St. Paul Church at this turning point in its history.

And so they talked, debated, and discussed each of the candidates. And when it was finished and done, it was not a familiar, comfortable candidate that they had selected—but rather,

an unknown, unfamiliar name.

And to this name, The Rev. David Shoemaker, they prayerfully sent their unanimous call—sending with it their hope that God had truly led them to the proper shepherd for this period in St. Paul history.

And so the waiting began. But, unlike the calling of earlier years, the waiting this time was not to be for long. For, within a few short weeks, the rumors that Pastor Shoemaker had accepted the call were making the rounds of the parish. On a Sunday morning in April, 1971, Pastor Ferber confirmed the rumors as fact and together, the congregation gave thanks to God for the new shepherd that had been sent them.

In the weeks and months that followed, the name quickly became a person—and that person quickly and completely became the new head pastor of Saint Paul Lutheran Church.

The Ministry Of Pastor Shoemaker

The Rev. David T. Shoemaker was born in Casey, Illinois on February 5, 1938, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John O. Shoemaker. As a child his family moved to California where he completed high school and began studies at Modesto Junior College. The following year he entered the study of the ministry at California Concordia College and after graduation, transferred to Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Illinois.

While a student there, he met his future wife, Patricia Ann Haase of Napoleon, Ohio. They were married August 26, 1962. Their three children include Rachel, Gretchen, and Heidi.

After completing his studies at Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, he served as vicar of St. John Lutheran Church, Chester, Illinois. At the same time, he served part-time as student chaplain in Menard State Prison. Upon graduation from seminary, he was assigned as a missionary for the Minnesota-North District of the Lutheran Church, being ordained on June 15, 1965.

He worked with mission parishes south and west of Bemidji in the northern part of Minnesota. In December 1968, he received a call to Evergreen Lutheran Church in Detroit to serve as assistant pastor, responsible for the parish education program. He served this parish until his call to Millington in 1971.

The New Pastor Begins His Work

Pastor Shoemaker was installed on the afternoon of May 16, 1971 by The Rev. John Deterding, counselor of the Saginaw East Circuit. Delivering the installation sermon was the Rev. Richard Schlecht, president of the Michigan District.

The new pastor was installed on exactly the same day as the previous pastor had been installed 34 years earlier. At this point,

Pastor Ferber became Pastor Emeritus of the congregation.

Pleasant, outgoing and energetic, the new pastor set about his work with enthusiasm and dispatch. With directness and with firmness, he assumed the role of head pastor of his new congregation, bringing to it new direction and movement.

Blessed with a good sense of humor, a seriousness of purpose and a dedication to the traditions of the church, Pastor Shoemaker quickly endeared himself to his new congregation and the community. Though conservative in doctrine, he introduced fresh new approaches to problems and practices. His respect for the heritage of his new congregation and his open respect for the retiring pastor, who had created so much of that heritage, were immediately evident and deeply-appreciated by his new members.

But despite his conservative approach to the theological aspects of his work, his methods were modern and new. Gifted with great preaching ability and blessed with an ability to move things forward, the new pastor was obviously the man the parish needed for this turning point in its history.

The First Year Passes

The congregation in 1971 was approaching its 75th anniversary and early in the year the first broad outlines for its observance were presented by Festival Chairman Rudy Petzold. Named to serve as co-chairmen of the festival were Norman Kurpsel and Ewald Ill. Both of these men had served as members of the 50th anniversary Festival Committee a quarter century earlier.

In the March 1971 meeting, before the arrival of Pastor Shoemaker, it was learned that Teacher Bette Bauer had accepted a position with Redeemer Lutheran School of Flint. The Board of Education was instructed to secure a new lady teacher for the following fall. Miss Linda Wilke, a native of St. Clair Shores and graduate of River Forest, was assigned to the congregation as a first grade teacher for the fall of 1971.

Teacherages And Parsonages

In March 1971 Teacher Edward Kern announced that he would shortly build his own house. This left the congregation with a teacherage available for other use. After considerable discussion, the congregation decided to turn the teacherage into a home for the congregation's single lady teachers.

With the arrival of a new pastor, a major problem facing the congregation was the question of a parsonage. Since Pastor Ferber was living in the existing parsonage, the congregation expressed concern over how it would be able to accomplish this.

This problem was quickly eliminated however, when the new pastor announced that he would prefer to own his own home.

In the weeks before the pastor's installation, the Fulmer Road site of Pastor Shoemaker's new parsonage was the scene of one of

the fastest house construction projects in Millington history. Reinert Brothers Builders of Millington constructed a brand new home for the new pastor and his family in just 30 days. Members of the congregation delighted in friendly jesting with the young builders over whether they would be able to meet their self-imposed and seemingly impossible completion deadline.

A New Worker Added

In the latter years of Pastor Ferber's ministry, the congregation had authorized the hiring of a part-time secretary to help remove some of the clerical work from the pastor. For several years, Mrs. Dorothy Heuchert served as this secretary. A dedicated and concerned worker, Mrs. Heuchert had handled the many office details associated with the growing parish program. However, at the close of Pastor Ferber's head pastorate, she expressed a desire to also retire from her post.

While in Detroit, Pastor Shoemaker had the services of an extremely efficient and dedicated church secretary, Miss Geraldine Kaszynski. Feeling the need for a full-time secretary, Pastor Shoemaker asked the congregation to authorize such a post and to allow him to seek the services of Miss Kaszynski for the parish. This was approved and "Geri"—as she is fondly called by her many parish friends—became the congregation's first full-time parish secretary. With her arrival, the congregation was blessed with a hard-working and dedicated church worker.

Anniversaries Are Celebrated

The two senior called servants of the congregation were honored for their years of service in two special events in the late summer of 1971.

On Saturday evening, August 28, 1971, the congregation honored former Principal Chester L. Platt upon the completion of 25 years of service to the Millington congregation. A long list of public and parochial educators were on hand to pay tribute to the man who had led the congregation's educational program for nearly a quarter of a century. He was honored further in services the following Sunday morning.

On September 5, 1971, the Rev. Hugo Ferber was honored on the occasion of his 45th year in the holy ministry. An interesting sidelight to the celebration was the fact that five of Pastor Ferber's long-time pastoral friends were on hand for the festival service and dinner. Their combined ministry to the Lutheran Church totaled some 300 years.

In July of 1971, Pastor Shoemaker asked the congregation to reinstate the old practice of tolling the bell during the recitation of the Lord's Prayer during church services. This had been a practice within the congregation many years earlier. In earlier years, the tolling of the bell had been referred to as "the potato bell" since

housewives who, for some reason or other could not join the family for church services, found that if they “would put the potatoes on the stove” at the ringing of this bell, they would be ready in time for the family’s arrival home from church for dinner. Whether this story has any foundation or not we leave to the reader’s determination.

The singing of the communion liturgy was also re-introduced by Pastor Shoemaker during 1971.

New innovations and the resurrection of old traditions were evident throughout the parish during Pastor Shoemaker’s first year as head pastor. But all of the changes were made with one eye on preserving the rich heritage and traditions of the parish and the other eye on injecting a new freshness of meaning into what was said and done.

In September and October of 1971, the congregation became involved in a major every-member visitation in which the new pastor conducted an exhaustive cottage meeting program. Through these meetings he was able to “get to know” his new membership and also to inject a new spirit of evangelism and stewardship. The program, operating under the theme, “Money Is Beautiful” was highlighted by a very successful canvasser’s dinner at the parish hall.

The Transitional Year Comes To An End

The year of 1971 had been a transitional year for St. Paul, filled with a torrent of major and minor events which turned the congregation to new horizons and new challenges.

The lay leadership of the parish, in this critical year of change and transition, had been entrusted at the start of the year to Mr. Ralph Ferber. This dedicated and capable layman, who had served his congregation in a variety of roles over the years, was given the difficult and challenging assignment of helping his congregation bridge the gap caused by a change in pastors.

This difficult and challenging time for the parish was more demanding and perilous than the years of the Sixties when enthusiasm was easy to arouse and problems were swallowed up by the enthusiasm of exciting building programs.

But with wisdom, patience, and firmness, he guided the affairs of the parish from the final moments of one era, across the chasm of change, into the dawn of the new era. Difficult enough in itself, the task was made more perilous because he was the son of the retiring pastor.

After one year, this president turned the reins of lay leadership over to Mr. Arno Keinath, another veteran member of the parish and a descendant of the founders of the parish—a fitting president for the congregation’s historic 75th anniversary year.



Pastor Shoemaker and the old church bell which was enshrined during the 75th Anniversary as a memorial to parish founders.

The Body of Christ Moves Forward

With a new pastor leading the congregation in its newly built church building. The congregation set to the task of improving, growing, and preparing for the years ahead.

Voter's took action at the September 12, 1971 meeting to not allow the use of the song "Here Come the Bride" at weddings. This was due to its secular origins from a Richard Wagner opera and the fact that the song had little to do with an actual wedding. Wagner was also known for his incorporation of pagan rituals in his operas.

The Voter's assembly also approved the use of communion cards as a method of communion registration where the communicant hands the usher a card as he goes to communion.

A Mission Church Established

Late in 1971, the Michigan District Lutheran Church Missouri Synod had conducted a study on the feasibility of starting a mission congregation in the Otisville-Columbiaville area. St. Paul Millington had a significant number of members from this area, and Pastor Shoemaker and the Voters felt the harvest was ripe for bringing more sheep into the fold in this geographic location.

St. Paul contacted the District Mission Board to let them know that we supported their study and gave them permission to contact our members from this area to seek their help. This was the humble beginnings of St. Timothy Otisville.

Over the next few years, St. Paul and Pastor Shoemaker helped in the support and development of this small mission congregation. Pastor Shoemaker met with the Mission Board and interested families in Otisville on April 30, 1972 to decide on the starting of the new mission there.

At the October 1, 1972 meeting of the Voter's, Pastor Shoemaker announced that the first service for the new Otisville mission would be on October 15th. The first project for our children at St. Paul school was to purchase 50 hymnals for the Lakeville Mission from their Wednesday Matins collection.

St. Paul transferred nine families from membership at St. Paul to the Lakeville Mission church. It has since become an integral part of the Otisville-Lakeville area.

Seeds of Dissent at Seminary

Pastor Shoemaker invited Dr. W. A. Maier to St. Paul on May 2, 1973 to address concerns about the teaching of Liberalism in our colleges. This was a problem within our synod and was a topic that would cause contention at the 1973 Summer Synodical Convention in New Orleans.

The debate centered on the inerrancy of the Bible. Conservatives

recognized that parts of the Bible were poetic and symbolic, but that for the most part it described factual events that took place. The liberal faction (mostly professors at the seminary in St. Louis) maintained that some of those events were not real, such as the parting of the Red Sea and Jonah in the belly of a whale. Conservatives maintained that denying these biblical truths could later lead to denying the resurrection of Christ.

The Synodical president Rev. J. A. O. Preus made moves to insure that there were more conservative delegates in attendance than liberals. He also appointed conservative delegates to the floor committees. In the end, the conservatives won the day and professors who were defeated at Convention later protested their defeat.

Many were removed from their professorship. The dispute also dragged a number of seminary students into the debate, and they left the St. Louis Seminary with the professors who were let go. They formed their own seminary and called it SeminEx, or Seminary in Exile.

Our congregation lent its full support to Dr. Preus, Dr. Maier, the Seminary Board of Control, et.al. giving our prayers for them and the pressures which are upon them. A letter was signed by our pastors, teachers, church council and all voting members present to indicate our support of their position and actions.

In later years, a group of moderate Lutheran churches who initially did not want to separate from the LCMS formed a group called Evangelical Lutherans in Mission (ELIM) and sought congregational funds for their protest witness. St. Paul did not send funds to this group, and later the group approved a split with the Missouri Synod and became known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Today, this group approves of women pastors and homosexual marriages.

Other Items of Interest

In the fall of 1972, the Elders established a nursery for children 3 years and younger. Teacher Kern started a new band of 10 students.

It was in April of 1974 that discussion began about getting help for Pastor Shoemaker in the form of an assistant pastor. By the August Voters meeting, after the Board of Elders studied the matter, it was recommended that we make application for a vicar for June of 1975. This recommendation was subsequently approved by voters in the October Voter's Meeting. In April of 1975, we were informed by District President Richard Schlecht that our application for a vicar could not be filled. The Michigan District had requested 16 vicars, and only 8 were approved. Our

congregation would need to seek other ways in which pastoral help could be attained.

We again applied for a vicar in 1976 with little hope of having a vicar assigned. But God was gracious and we discovered in early May of 1976 that Vicar Kenneth Klopp had been assigned to us.

His duties would include advising the Walther League, making calls, working with the evangelism board, and instructing 6th grade religion. He would also be under the supervision of Pastor Shoemaker to hone his skills as a parish pastor.

The ice storm of 1976 resulted in the National Guard of Michigan being brought to Millington to assist with power needs. The Guard operated a generator to power our school thus providing heat and keeping pipes from freezing.

In May of 1977, we received word that our second vicar, Arnold Deknatel, was coming to St. Paul. He was installed on August 21, 1977.

Under the direction of Vicar Deknatel, the Walther Leaguers began visiting the elderly in the Frankenmuth Convalescent Home.

In 1978, Sunday school attendance averaged 140 students per Sunday. Mr. Ed Kern and Mr. Carl Straub are cooperatively conducting the teacher training meetings twice a month.

On April 1, 1979 Voter's minutes designate Plate and Lenten envelope collections for Missions and that the Christmas Concert collection be designated by the Board of Finance.

The Question of Questioning

In 1977, questions arose regarding the questioning of confirmands. This has been a long held practice in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It can be quite an emotional ordeal for the young confirmand, and also quite an opportunity to witness (confirm) their faith in the Lord.

The matter was sent to the Elders and Board of Education for further study, and they returned with the following recommendation: "We the Board of Elders and Education recommend the continuation of the special Confirmation Service of the Confirming Class. We maintain that confirmation is the renewal of their Baptismal vows, and also the profession of their faith. Granted that some confirmands may experience some nervousness, but what can be a more fulfilling experience than to stand before your fellow members of St. Paul's church, and to profess your faith in Jesus Christ, your God, Lord and Savior."

The voters approved the recommendation and questioning continued.

Pastor Hugo Ferber Passes to Glory

On July 18, 1978 Pastor Hugo Ferber passed from this life into life immortal. Pastor Ferber had been our beloved pastor for more than 40 years and a Lutheran clergyman for more than half a century. Under his guidance, the Millington congregation grew by

more than a thousand members, developed a parochial school system which at his passing was the 10th largest in Michigan, and constructed more than a million dollars worth of new facilities.

He served as our pastor until 1971 when he announced his retirement and assumed emeritus status. He continued to serve the parish actively with the new head pastor and maintained a busy schedule of preaching in many area congregations. Besides his growing workload while pastor at St. Paul, he also served as the Counselor of the Flint Circuit of Lutheran churches from 1955 to 1962. He led the opening of six new mission churches and saw his circuit grow from 16 to 23 congregations.

On September 5, 1976, his congregation honored him at a day-long celebration, marking his 50th year in the Lutheran ministry. He received personal greetings from President Gerald Ford as well as from many civic and church leaders. The community of Millington, which held him in great respect and affection, honored him by naming him the Community's Citizen Of the Year.

Pastor Ferber's funeral service followed a theme of thanksgiving, and was prepared from an outline which Pastor Ferber had asked be followed. It was his final ministry to this parish and conveys the spirit of joy and hope in which he faced the glorious day of his entry into the presence of Christ. It is a spirit which he would have wished as part of each of his flock's heart and soul.

Moving the Westside Schoolhouse

On October 1, 1978, the voters received that first report from the newly formed Historical Committee. The committee included Ed Sergeant, Rudy Petzold, Ron Schnell, and Jim Saeger. Their first recommendation was to move the old school house from its location on Millington Road and Buell Lake Road to the church grounds. Their desire would be to restore it and make it into a museum for St. Paul. A special fund was established to make this happen.

The History Committee undertook a major project in 1979. Members of St. Paul moved a bit of their past to the churchgrounds in late June. The first parochial school house of St. Paul was moved to parish property, just off the Fulmer Road entrance, from its location on Buell Lake Road. This was the second time the school house was moved. It was originally built in 1904 and owned by St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. In 1930 it was purchased from St. Lorenz and moved to the corner of Millington Road and Buell Lake Road as a companion educational building to the larger school that was already nearby as has been previously documented in this book.

Restoration on the old school was started in 1981, but stopped for a lack of funds. It was put to the congregation for a decision about what to do. Thankfully, the congregation decided to go ahead with the restoration.

In the process of raising the money for restoration, it was decided

that the school would be better located near the current pavilion and in 2005, it was moved to that location.

In 2006, the restoration began with money available from the Historical Committee and a donation of \$5,000 from Viola Hunt. Ken Ill, Ron Johnson, and Clem Ill were put in charge of the restoration that saw many people come together to help. Dale Roth rebuilt the bell tower and Bob and Timm Ames lifted the bell tower in place with their sky tractor. Others involved in the restoration were Wilbert Ill, Dale Blue, Mike Blue, Wanda Johnson, Jason Ide,



The old school coming down Fulmer Road. The hope was that it would not fall apart while being transported.

Jim Henderson, and Larry Henderson.

The larger school building that was located at Millington Road and Buell Lake Road was sold in 1960 to Ron Schnell. He moved it to Murphy Lake Road and Oak Road where in 1970 it was burned down by an unknown person.

The Calling of a Second Pastor

With no guarantees each year of receiving a vicar from the seminary, and with the added responsibility that a vicar places on a supervising pastor, the Board of Elders in August of 1978 came to voters with a recommendation of calling a second pastor.

They included a list of duties and responsibilities that each would perform, and they would operate under the ministry motto, "He must increase, I must decrease." They would genuinely seek each other's advice, yet where clarification or change is needed, it will

be done under the direction of the Administrating Pastor. The voters approved this recommendation.

While in the process of approving the calling of a second pastor, the congregation did receive word that we would be receiving a vicar from the seminary for the 1979-1980 vicarage year. His name



The first location for the old school. Later it was moved to the pavilion site, closer to Heritage Picnic activities and away from a ball diamond, which on occasion caused broken windows.

was Steven Bauer. Vicar Bauer assumed the duties the previous vicars had as their responsibility. Pastor Shoemaker's supervision again assisted this young pastor toward a successful ministry in his future years.

And so, St. Paul moved forward to seek an associate pastor. We were excited when Seminarian Robert Barker was assigned to receive our call from Fort Wayne Seminary. At the June 1, 1980 Voter's Meeting, his letter of acceptance of our call was read to the assembly.

Pastor Barker was born on May 20, 1948 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the fifth child of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Barker. He has three sisters and two brothers.

He attended Mattawan Consolidated Schools in Mattawan, Michigan and graduated from there in 1966. Upon graduation he was enrolled in Western Michigan University for two years before entering the United States Army in March of 1969.

After serving two years on active duty as a medical records

specialist, he re-enrolled at Western Michigan and completed his undergraduate work, graduating in April 1974 with a B.S. degree. During his first returning year at Western, he was baptized and confirmed into the Lutheran Church.

In September of 1974, he was enrolled at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana (then Springfield, Illinois). During the summer of 1976, he received pastoral experience in Dryden, located in Northwest Ontario, Canada. During the summer of 1977, he successfully completed one quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education at Bronzon Methodist Hospital.

From September 1977 until August 1978, he fulfilled his vicarage requirements at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. On May 23 of 1980 he graduated with the degree of Master of Divinity, and was ordained in his home parish in Kalamazoo in early June, 1980.

His installation was set for June 29, 1980 at 2 p.m. At the September 1, 1981 Voter's Meeting, Pastor Barker was promoted to Associate Pastor.

Into the 80s

The Church Council has been asked by a number of members interested in setting up a perpetual trust fund. Voters gave the council the go ahead to investigate this possibility. The Perpetual Trust Fund was given Voter approval at the October 5, 1980 Voters Assembly meeting.

This was the beginning of what we know of today as the Trust and Investment Fund. Since 1991, the Trust and Investment Fund has provided St. Paul with over \$234,427.92 for use on projects and equipment that are not covered by the General Fund. Only interest earned from the fund can be spent.

A great honor came to our congregation when Mr. Erwin Weber became the first Synodical Delegate ever to be selected from this parish. He will attend the World Convention of the Missouri Synod in St. Louis in 1981, representing the circuit in which St. Paul is a member.

In 1986, Vern Weber became the second member of our congregation to be chosen as our circuit's representative to the Synodical World Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Then, in 2018, Steven Kern became the third member of St. Paul to attend the LCMS World Convention in Tampa Bay, Florida.

Pastor Shoemaker was very involved at the District level. He was sent by District to a conference in Cincinnati, OH for Chairman, Directors, and Program Leaders in Social Ministry as well as a conference at Concordia River Forest to present the new hymnal to our District.

It was in April of 1982 that the Board of Elders recommended the congregation have an assistant organist. Mr. Edward Kern who was

already on staff as a teacher was recommended for the position at a salary of \$500 annually.

In an effort to encourage young men to seek the calling of the pastoral office, St. Paul congregation felt that the parish must be ready to assist those who wish to serve the church in this manner.

It therefore, by Voter approval, set up a Seminarian Support Fund. This fund was administered by the Board of Elders who was to promote the fund through the bulletin and parish newspaper. The monies for this fund were deposited with the Memorial Fund Treasurer of St. Paul.

Seminarians were to apply for this money and be ready to show financial need. The student must be a communicant member of St. Paul of Millington and accepted into the ministry program at one of our seminaries. The level of support would be evaluated by the Board of Elders.

At the time of this proposal, a son of the congregation, Michael Roth, was entering Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne, Indiana. St. Paul desired to help in his education, and also encourage other sons of the congregation to enter the ministry.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:7

Imagine knowing you only had 24-48 hours to live. How would you spend that precious time remaining on earth? One man faced that time with joy. He had been financially blessed by God, so in the presence of family and friends he began to write checks. He wanted to have the joy of blessing God's people one last time. It was a surprised principal of St. Paul Lutheran who opened an envelope containing a check for \$5000.00 signed by a man who had arrived in Heaven the day before she received the check. Although his earthly circumstances were challenging, He truly was a cheerful giver.

Throughout St. Paul's history many pennies and nickels dropped from the hands of children, quarters and dollars, checks, automatic withdrawals and even entire estates have all served the same purpose—to further God's kingdom and bring joy to the giver. A steward is a person who seeks to protect and care for something which does not belong to them. The Kingdom is not ours. Every Sunday we proclaim, "For Thine is the Kingdom..." and yet God has asked us to be His stewards.

Preserving and extending our Lord's Kingdom has always been the hope and goal of the many faithful men and women who have

God's Story...God's People...God's Money

served on both our Evangelism and our Stewardship Boards. Stewardship was tasked with reminding their brothers and sisters of the congregation's financial needs and the joy of being a faithful giver. Our Evangelism Board has been charged with leading and guiding St. Paul members with remembering our Lord's final earthly instructions, **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."** Matthew 28:19-20a.

Both these Boards had to work together to keep God's Kingdom moving forward...gathering the funds and gathering the people. This task is far too great for mere humans and so it is that we remember Christ's promise in **Matthew 28:20b, "And behold I am with you always to the end of the age."**

The Stewardship Committee's of the 1970's chose many Christ-centered themes for their yearly challenges:

1975 Let Love Grow

Traditionally members would make their pledges for the Lord's work on Loyalty Sunday in October; however, in 1975 there was a sense of urgency because they needed to avert an almost disastrous deficit situation. Our Stewardship members urged us forward with a program called Bonus for Christ resulting in the largest offering ever received in the history of the congregation to that point. God's faithful people met the need and moved forward to also make their yearly pledge of financial faithfulness.

1976 Anointed to Preach

1977 Living Christ, Giving Christ

This Board was hard at work in the spring to plant the seeds of information regarding the congregation's financial needs with Cottage Meetings attended by many St. Paul members. God's Spirit worked in the hearts of His people resulting in an abundant fall harvest of those seeds with a \$70,000 increase in pledges from the previous year.

1978 He Cares, We Care

It takes some Godly courage to speak with a brother or sister in Christ about their giving. Words were chosen well, people were trained and equipped and about 120 St. Paul members paid in person visits to their fellow members to share the congregation's hopes, dreams and needs. God gave them the courage and blessed their bold efforts.

1979 God Opens Doors

Pledges were once again received on Loyalty Sunday in the fall of the year. A team of 130 bold, empowered members visited and made phone calls to any members who were not able to attend the

Loyalty Sunday services. God blessed their efforts as needs continued to be met.

The congregation owes a debt of love to the faithful Stewardship Committees of the 1970's as they informed the congregation of financial needs and encouraged and thanked members for their faithfulness. A widow with very limited income recalled being thrilled to receive a phone call thanking her for being faithful with her generous \$2.00 per week pledge and offering. It isn't about the size of the gift; it is about the heart of the giver.

During the early 1970's people were still excited about men walking on the moon for the first time in July of 1969. Neil Armstrong announced that walk was one small step for a man and one giant leap for mankind." In Millington many people were beginning to walk into St. Paul Lutheran Church for the first time on a regular basis. As the news of Christ entering our world as a baby, walking among us as a man, dying for our sins and then coming out of the grave to be our resurrected Savior spread among us, our congregation grew by leaps and bounds. Pastor Ferber believed strongly in evangelism, reminding us of the importance of "each one reach one." Coupled with his training was the entry of our enthusiastic new pastor, Rev. David Shoemaker. Under Pastor Shoemaker's bold leadership, the 600 communicants of 1964, swiftly grew to 901 by 1971 with the congregation surpassing the 1,000 mark by 1975 with a communicant membership of 1,081.

God mightily blessed the faithful sharing of Pastors and members, including the St. Paul youth who, under the leadership of Vicar Klopp, visited all those identified as unchurched in the Millington area. What a blessing these young Christians were as they lived out the words of I Timothy 4:12, "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

Walking on the moon was a big deal, but no one will end up in heaven because man walked on the moon. Christ coming to our world and those who excitedly and sincerely share that life changing message will always make an eternal difference.

The 1980's

In the 1980's Post-It Notes were making their debut into America's culture. Dr. Spencer Silver discovered an adhesive that stuck tightly to surfaces but didn't bond tightly to them. He found it interesting but had absolutely no use for this until another scientist, Art Fry became frustrated while practicing with his church choir. Fry used little scraps of paper to mark the hymns they were going to sing in upcoming service. By Sunday, he'd find they had all fallen out of his hymnal. He needed a bookmark that would stick without damaging the pages.

Amazing things happen when people share what they know and join together to put it to use for God's people. That is exactly what was happening at St. Paul in the 1980's as the Stewardship Committee and Board of Evangelism put together another successful decade, helping people find their places in and leave their mark on God's Kingdom, wisely using their talents and God's money to do whatever God challenged them to do.

1980 Dare to Care and Share

The Stewardship Committee successfully trained and motivated dozens of dedicated canvasser's. The campaign culminated with a dinner well attended by the congregation's societies and groups including the school children. God powerfully blessed all that love and unity with pledges that exceeded their goal by more than \$5,000.00. It was the greatest outpouring of pledges in St. Paul history to that point. They did as God directed in I Thessalonians 5:11 **"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up..."**

1981 Muster of the Saints

While we don't often hear the word "muster" when it comes to church events, it was the perfect choice for the 1981 stewardship campaign. Leaders wanted to muster, to gather and ready the body of believers for service in the church.

In addition to gathering pledges on Loyalty Sunday, members were asked to complete a talent survey and express a willingness to use those talents to enthusiastically meet the needs of the congregation. It was a great way to alert members to the needs of the congregation and also to help members realize they were needed in the Lord's work.

1982

In 1982 forty-nine church leaders were asked to bring information regarding the congregation's financial situation to the members at cottage meetings.

1983 Raising Happy Dollars

In October of 1983, the congregation received the good news that the mortgage for all buildings and property had been paid in full. Plans were made to have a mortgage burning to celebrate all God had accomplished in twenty short years as they followed His guidance in establishing a building committee to study the congregation's needs and growth potential.

They had boldly approved \$398,393 in bids, expectantly participated in the groundbreaking, faithfully fundraised and dedicated this valuable room to the glory of God. It took twenty years and a lot of hard work but the structure they built continues to serve God's people as a place to gather for times of celebration, funeral dinners, Bible studies, euchre parties, LWML events and a host of other fellowship opportunities. We have been blessed by

their faithfulness.

Although the mortgage was now paid, 1983 was also the year the congregation faced the sad news of a large financial deficit. Working together, they made it their goal to raise Happy Dollars.

Out of necessity, this pledge drive was held six months earlier than usual and members were asked to make their pledges for 18 months rather than the usual 12 months. They again followed the Kurth-Zehnder plan which had been successfully implemented in some past pledge campaigns.

1985 His Love, Our Response

In this year's initial stewardship effort, pledges fell short of covering the 1985 budget. It was necessary to maintain the budget to allow for the congregation's needs. The Voter's Assembly asked the Stewardship Committee to conduct a re-pledge to see if the necessary funds could be raised.

They did it! God moved the hearts of His people to pledge a record setting amount of \$447,161.02. This outpouring of love and grace once again reminded members that they were the congregation's greatest earthly resource.

In addition to the ongoing budgetary needs, the congregation was challenged to raise \$12,000 for Parish Hall roof repairs. The program was called "Over and Above" and the Spirit driven members gave Over and Above what was needed, making it possible to establish a special fund to cover future roof repairs.

Wanting to continue the congregation's forward thinking and ability to make wise financial decisions, the Board of Stewardship announced plans for an every member visitation program in October. This personal visit gave every member a voice and the opportunity for meaningful feedback.

1986 Alive in Christ

Cottage meetings (small group meetings) were held, and pledges were made to meet the congregation's needs.

1987

The congregation was blessed with a two-month stewardship education program culminating in October with a presentation by Rev. David Estes, the Michigan District Stewardship Counselor, at a congregational dinner. Nourished by God's Word, encouraged to be God's gift to others, our Board of Stewardship presented the December Voter's Assembly with a Godly challenge! Voter's were encouraged to be faithful to our Lord's command to go and make disciples of all nations by sending our dollars to evangelize people we would probably never meet before we enter Heaven with them.

Moved by God's Spirit, the Voter's committed to providing \$3000 per year for the next three years to directly support two missionaries working in foreign missions. This program was

initially known as Personal Mission Support and then later renamed as Together in Mission. This program has been a blessing to our congregation, giving us the opportunity to get to know and specifically pray for the mission and missionaries we support.

When the missionaries return from their place of service, they often come to update us on their challenges and successes. Their zeal reminds us to be missionaries wherever God places us.

It was during the 1980's that our congregation was again reminded of their mission and ministry within our home territory as well as in the foreign mission field. At the beginning of the 1980's the congregation grew concerned about church attendance. While the communicant membership had grown from 811 to 1,234, the average Sunday attendance had declined from 72% of communicants to 54% of communicants.

Clearly the excitement of a new church building, a new pastor and the special 75th anniversary celebrations had worn off. Our wise church leaders were rightly concerned about the spiritual health of members who were not having their faith regularly fed by Word and Sacrament. It was time for action rather than excuses.

All church leaders were asked to make church attendance a personal priority and to encourage programs and methods to help raise overall attendance. In response to this the Board of Evangelism initiated a Greeters Program to give a hearty welcome to all members and visitors as they entered the church for worship.

In 1982 the Board of Evangelism was told approximately 55% of the people in the Millington area did not have a church home. All members were encouraged to attend Witness Workshops to better equip them to carry out our Lord's command to make disciples of all nations. Members were encouraged to make initial contacts with family and friends who might have an interest in learning more about our Lord. After the initial contact, Evangelism teams would make more visits to anyone willing to receive additional information or guidance.

Evangelism fervor continued in 1988 when the Board created a program encouraging members to fill out "green cards" with information about prospective new members. The Board would then make personal visits to share the Gospel with them and answer any questions they might have about Jesus or about St. Paul Lutheran.

The Board also enlisted the help of a Youth Evangelism team from Concordia, Ann Arbor to partner with St. Paul youth to invite people to come and worship at St. Paul. As they continued to highlight St. Paul's desire to serve the people of our community, a new sign was erected in the downtown area. Combined with an Evangelism Workshop, the third Sunday in February was also officially designated as Evangelism Sunday so members would not lose sight of their God given mission to share Christ.

The 1990's

The early 90's were financially challenging for St. Paul. We were borrowing from one fund to pay for the expenses incurred by other funds. We were continually utilizing our line of credit from the bank. At one point the deficit had reached \$34,000 in addition to a \$14,500 loan balance. It was time for some hard decisions to be made.

While the congregation had always faithfully funded the school providing a Christian education for children throughout the decades, after much prayer and discussion, it was decided school families would be asked to contribute a minimum of \$750 per year regardless of how many children they might have attending. Families not meeting that requirement were asked to make up the difference in the form of an assessment prior to enrolling the following school year. Non-member students would automatically be assessed \$1000 per year.

Our grace filled members did not want children denied a Christian education if their parents were not able to meet these requirements so Scholarship Funds were established. This course changing decision was made only after some valiant efforts by our Board of Stewardship Committee. For example, in the fall of 1990, the congregation was invited to a series of dinner programs. Those not attending the dinners were visited by members who had attended.

Members were asked to consider a 10% increase in their giving. One hundred twenty-nine people accepted that challenge. An additional twenty-six members reconfirmed their commitment to their existing pledge.

It was also during this timeframe that our Board of Stewardship faced and very successfully met the challenge of critical leaks in the roof. The Trustees presented the congregation with several options to address those leaks. The congregation believed the best option was to sign a \$34,800 contract with the Centimark Company to fix the roof. A very successful "Kick the Bucket" campaign was initiated to cover these much-needed repairs. The campaign got its name from the Trustees desire to permanently rid us of the necessity to put buckets in various areas to catch the incoming water from roof leaks when it rained.

God stirred the hearts of members to initially collect 50% of the cost and make future pledges exceeding the cost of the repairs. This generosity allowed the establishment of a Roof Fund to meet ongoing needs before reaching a critical stage. These funds and the encouragement of the successful campaign were a great blessing to God's people.

In addition to the successful Kick the Bucket campaign the congregation showed faithful commitment to the Lord's work by continuing and slightly increasing their pledges the following year

under the Michigan District's theme, "Growing in Vision and Mission."

In 1993, the Board of Stewardship decided they would ask the congregation to make a **Faith Promise** rather than making a pledge. This change was well received by the congregation with successful results.

In 1996 people's individual stewardship packets were placed in the narthex to be picked up by members when they attended a regular church service. Those packets not directly picked up were then mailed to members.

In the 1990's, St. Paul was blessed to participate with 79 other congregations in the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, in a pilot program titled "Caring Evangelism."

In 1991a program entitled "Friends in Christ" was held during the first three months of May. The Evangelism Committee again tried making the community more aware of St. Paul's desire to **reach** out in love to Millington and the surrounding areas. Ads were placed in newspapers and signs advertising St. Paul were placed throughout the community.

Under the direction of Pastor Hannemann, the Board of Evangelism also conducted a training program titled "Dialog II." Six members of the congregation participated in this program.

During this era the Board of Evangelism also instituted the Water for the Weary Booth at the Millington Old Fashioned Summer Festival. Over 22,000 cups of cold water were given away as well as numerous copies of God's Word and sometimes people were also able to share their faith and even pray with people who were thirsty for hope and encouragement as well as water.

The 2000's

In the mid 2000's our Board of Stewardship adopted the theme, "Celebrating and Giving."

In the late 2000's members were encouraged to tithe with a "Ten for Ten" challenge. Members were challenged to tithe for ten weeks with the hope and prayer that many would experience the spiritual blessings of tithing and then continue to practice tithing beyond the ten-week period. This challenge blessed St. Paul with a substantial reduction in the General Fund deficit as members recognized the need for operational funds as well as funds for a building program.

It was also during the 2000's that many members were actively engaged in learning how to successfully care for people who were not currently active in the worship life of St. Paul. The program, "Caring for Inactives," helped us grow in our ability to minister to our brothers and sisters. It pointed out the need to stop referring to inactive members as delinquents and helped us open meaningful dialogue with our fellow members by listening to people's hearts without judgment.

Members were encouraged to specifically do this with people they knew and loved and to do this in a friendly way during everyday encounters as well as specifically praying for the Spirit's leading in their lives. God blessed this sincere attempt to care for our brothers and sisters in Christ and a significant number of people again felt comfortable to come and worship.

The Board of Evangelism also participated in the "Kingdom Watch" program. Names of people moving into the Millington area were gathered. These individuals were contacted to let them know St. Paul was ready to receive them with open arms. The Board of Evangelism received 25-40 names per month. God always provides opportunities to share His love and we are blessed to be able to do that.

A billboard on M-15 and professionally printed flyers were also designed to encourage the community to worship with us during the Christmas season.

The 2010's

By 2010, the "Faith for the Journey" contributions for the building program were faithfully being given by many members.

In the first 18 month of the campaign, \$700,000 was collected of the \$1.2 million pledged. In addition to the challenges of building the congregation faced a deficit of \$87,000 in the general fund. This was one of the largest deficits the congregation had ever faced so all Boards were immediately asked to find ways to cut their budget to help realign income and expenses. This was an especially difficult situation for our Board of Stewardship who had hoped to have every member visitation without having to talk about the need to raise money.

In 2012, the Board of Stewardship began a program to promote servanthood and church attendance. The program was called "Heritage in Motion" and was put in motion by asking a group of volunteers to meet at a dessert potluck. At the potluck they were asked to listen to God's Word and respond by making a pledge to faithfully attend worship services and Bible studies.

They were also asked to declare their willingness to serve the congregation as opportunities arose. The volunteers then led cottage meetings asking members to make the same commitments.

The congregation responded well to filling out the opportunities to serve pledges but the response for the pledge to faithfully attend worship was a bit disheartening.

In 2014, finances became an even greater challenge. In August of 2014, the congregation passed a \$92,000 deficit budget. By October, the actual General Fund deficit had grown to \$108,000.

This deficit was nearly double the amount of the deficit at the start of the fiscal year in July. Understandably concerned, the Board of Stewardship began making plans to address this crisis. The congregation's needs were clearly communicated to the

members so everyone could help in any possible way.

A program called "Living the Parable" was also instituted. The parable of the master giving people varying amounts of money with the directive to care for the money was studied and people had the opportunity to receive some seed money and find ways to increase that money so they could be a blessing to the congregation.

Some people used the money to make and sell fudge, sausage and a wide variety of other products and services. God's family did their best to use their unique talents and skills to try and offset the challenging deficit.

Despite all this effort, by the end of January 2015, the General Fund deficit had ballooned to \$160,000. Stewardship challenged the congregation to tithe during the month of April while they continued to make plans for a fall pledge drive.

As the financial challenges continued to swirl about the hearts of minds of God's people at St. Paul Lutheran, they were notified the congregation had been named as a beneficiary in an estate. While God's people are expected to provide for the Lord's work in their midst by being faithful stewards of His blessings, sometimes God intervenes and provides for His people in unexpected ways.

How the estate money should be used prompted much discussion and some controversy; however, ultimately the congregation passed



An early Stewardship Campaign Dinner for Canvassers.



An early Evangelism meeting. The dedication of members to growing the church is obvious by the size of the group in attendance.

a motion to use this money to reduce the debt. By God's grace, by the end of December the General Fund deficit had been reduced to \$34,000.

The congregation also wisely realized they needed to employ other strategies to avoid facing such a crisis in the future.

By the end of 2018, with improved requirements and plans for collecting tuition monies and by renewed Stewardship efforts, coupled with the tightening of the budget belt, the congregation showed a surplus of \$44,290. To God be the glory!

While the Board of Evangelism had started this decade with ideas and plans to use the newly constructed Activity Center as an outreach tool by contracting comedians, musical groups and an illusionist. They also reserved a billboard to promote Easter worship, Vacation Bible School and other congregation activities. At the annual fish fry, the Board of Evangelism also highlighted St. Paul activities and events with a variety of displays.

Often God uses the simplest things to do great things in His Kingdom. In the summer of 2021, Jake and Tina Petzold used their leadership abilities to initiate an outdoor program called “Summer Recess.”

This unstructured fun event allowed people to casually gather and share their honest thoughts and feelings while their children played on the playground. Children were able to safely play and interact with each other while their parents had the opportunity for adult interaction. God mightily blessed this effort. Several families in the area started regularly attending St. Paul worship services and one family chose to enroll their children at St. Paul Lutheran School as a result of these activities.

This activity was a powerful reminder of the way our Lord uses our love and care of each other to lead people to His Word and a stronger relationship with Him. May God continue to guide all St. Paul members to listen and watch for opportunities to share God’s love in meaningful ways. As the signs at the end of our driveway remind us, we are always entering the mission field. If we aren’t a missionary, we need one! As others see God’s love in action, they will come to know and glorify our Father in heaven!

Members of the congregation were shocked in mid-summer when Pastor David Shoemaker received a call to serve as pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in San Jose, California.

It was during his pastorate that he led the parish in the celebration of the 75th anniversary, the introduction of acolytes in the chancel, the reintroduction of chanting of the communion liturgy, the ringing of the bells during praying the Lord’s Prayer, and the introduction of the Christmas Candlelight Service. He was very active in circuit, district, and synodical affairs as well as active in civic and community activities.

The members of St. Paul were richly blessed by the ministry of Pastor Shoemaker. And so on June 1, 1983, a special Voter’s meeting was held to address the call that was received by Pastor Shoemaker. Pastor Shoemaker had been prayerfully deliberating

this call since he received it a month earlier. At the meeting, Pastor Shoemaker read the call and made comments concerning the call. Various members of the Voter’s assembly then gave comments related to Pastor Shoemaker’s call.

After this discussion, Pastor Shoemaker announced that he was accepting the call and made the request to be given his peaceful release at the end of July 30, 1983. He requested that the last three weeks be granted as vacation time.

It was moved by head Elder Erwin Weber, and seconded to grant Pastor Shoemaker this peaceful release. This motion carried.

So once again, the congregation faced a time of having one pastor. However, they were glad that Pastor Barker was with them to lead them through this time of calling another pastor.

The Years of Calling Pastors

A Special Voter’s meeting was called on June 29, 1983 to meet with Dr. Richard Schlecht, President of the Michigan District of the LCMS. The purpose of the meeting was for Dr. Schlecht to give us direction for approaching the calling of an administrative pastor to replace Pastor Shoemaker. Dr. Schlecht spoke to the congregation at length about what to expect on a call list. The most meaningful information he gave was a list of Do’s and Don’ts which should be a pattern for all calls.

What we should do is challenge the man we call, have the District Counselor contact the man, invite the Pastor and his wife to visit the congregation, print the names of the men on the call list in the bulletin, and have a printed list for the Voters. We should also be sure to return all documents related to the men on the call list to the District Counselor after the call meeting, and be sure to have a clear job description.

We should not listen to a particular man on the call list preach a sermon and not call him just because we did not like that particular sermon. We also should not allow the Elders or call committee select a couple of names they like best. Finally, we should not contact anyone on the call list before the call meeting.

Heritage in Motion



...as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

The call committee had prepared an extensive survey of members

Changes in the Pastoral Office

and various bodies within the congregation to ask what they would like in an administrative pastor. These were provided to Dr. Schlecht.

On August 28, 1983 a Special Voter's Meeting sent a call to a Pastor Bass. Pastor Bass subsequently returned our call. At a Regular Voter's Meeting held in October, 1983 a Pastor Koeppen was called to serve at St. Paul. He too, subsequently returned our call. This pattern was followed by a call and return of call by Pastor Hendrickson and Pastor Seitz.

On March 18, 1984, after having had four calls returned, the congregation called Pastor Albert Engler, who was serving as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Pastor Engler accepted our call as administrative pastor.

Pastor Engler was born in St. Louis, Missouri on October 6, 1935. He grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. He attended High School at Concordia, Missouri where he graduated in 1953. He then attended St. Paul Jr. College, there graduating in 1955. He received his B.A. degree in 1957 and graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in 1960. He took other graduate courses from Creighton University and Concordia, River Forest receiving his Masters of Divinity degree in 1963.

For his vicarage, Pastor Engler served St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Miami, Florida and was ordained June 5, 1960 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Pastor Engler's first call was a duo-parish pastorate, as he served Bethany Lutheran Church in Charlevoix, Michigan and St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Mancelona, Michigan from 1960-1963. The next parish he served was St. Paul Lutheran church in Aurora, Illinois from 1963-1970. Since 1970 he had served at Zion.

Pastor Engler married Charlotte Nicely from St. Louis, Missouri on June 7, 1958 and together, they raised four boys; Garlin, David, Thomas, and Jonathan.

He was installed as administrative pastor at St. Paul in Millington on June 17, 1984 by Rev. Dr. Vern Hinz of Trinity Lutheran Church, Reese, Michigan.

The year 1985 marked the end of Pastor Barker's five-year ministry at St. Paul. He received a call from Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church in Dryden, Michigan and announced at a Special Voter's meeting in September that he was accepting that call.

During his ministry at St. Paul he was responsible for all pastoral duties when Pastor Shoemaker was called to another congregation until the arrival of Pastor Engler. He was charged with Evangelism and Stewardship ministries and was also active in the local Rotary Club. At the state level he had a passion for Lutherans For Life.

The parish thanked the Good Lord who called Pastor Barker to

work among us for five years, and wished him well as he continued to serve Him and His church.

With the departure of Pastor Barker, the parish embarked on a search for a new associate pastor. After one call was returned, the Voter's called Pastor David Sherry at a special voter's meeting in February of 1986. Pastor Sherry accepted our call.

Pastor Sherry was born July 29, 1956 in Detroit, Michigan. He received his elementary education at St. Matthew's Lutheran School in Westland, Michigan and afterward attended Lutheran High School West in Detroit, where he graduated in 1974. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan and was a member of that institution's first four year pre-ministerial class. He entered Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the fall of 1978.

As part of his seminary education, Pastor Sherry spent a year of vicarage at Our Savior and First English Lutheran Churches in Northern Minnesota. He graduated from seminary with his Master of Divinity degree in May of 1982. Upon graduation he received and accepted a call to serve as pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Defiance, Ohio, where he has served until his call to Millington.

On August 1, 1980 Pastor Sherry married Beth Weber of Richville, Michigan. Mrs. Sherry was a 1980 graduate of Concordia Teacher's College, River Forest, Illinois. Rev. and Mrs. Sherry have two young children: Andrew and Daniel. They are also expecting their third child at the end of July.

Pastor's installation took place June 1, 1986 at a four o'clock service. He was installed by The Rev. Dr. Vern Hinz, the Frankenmuth Circuit counselor and Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Reese.

Pastor Engler was living in the parsonage attached to church property on Fulmer Road. However, with the calling of Pastor Sherry and his family to St. Paul a need arose for a parsonage in which the Sherry family could live. So, St. Paul was in need of purchasing a second parsonage. Fortunately, the Darrell Rock house just down Fulmer Road became available for sale. The congregation purchased it for \$53,000 as a second parsonage.

A Son Becomes A Pastor

The year 1986 marked a proud year for St. Paul Lutheran as Michael Roth became the first son of the congregation to enter the Holy Ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Michael is the eldest son of Dale and Carol Roth and was born on January 30, 1960. He had lived his whole life in Millington.

Michael attended St. Paul Lutheran School and Millington High School. He attended Michigan State University and graduated in 1982 with a BA degree in Social Work and Psychology. From there

he entered Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. His vicarage year was served at Zion Lutheran Church, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

On December 27, 1980, Michael married Sandra A. Blake, daughter of Robert and Barbara Blake of Millington, and at the time of his ordination, had two children, Rachel and Adam.

Michael has accepted the call to serve as associate pastor of St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Rocky River, Ohio where he was installed on July 6, 1986.

But, prior to that installation, St. Paul Millington was honored to hold Pastor Roth's ordination service. Our congregation represented the whole Church in consecrating her son, Michael, for the Holy Ministry.

A Pastor Hears God's Call

As the year of 1988 was ending, members of St. Paul were shocked and saddened to learn their administrative pastor, The Rev. Albert G. Engler would be leaving to accept a divine call to serve as the administrative pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

While Pastor Engler did not seek the call, he announced at a Special Voter's meeting that he would accept the call and he asked for a peaceful release which was granted by the Voters.

During his four years as the spiritual shepherd of St. Paul, he returned the congregation back to fiscal stability, eliminating a massive debt accumulation which had burdened the parish. He guided the congregation in a revision of its constitution which included women's suffrage. He introduced two new boards, the Board of Fellowship and Youth, and the Board of Social Ministry. He commissioned the first corps of Stephen Ministers and started a second class of eleven candidates in the Stephens program.

Although the congregation was saddened at having to say good-bye to Pastor Engler and his family, it joins in thanking God for the many blessings which his ministry at Millington brought to the parish, and the rich legacy of his gentle, loving leadership which remains.

At a Special Voter's Meeting on May 21, 1989, the congregation considered the calling of an associate pastor. Pastor Sherry had been called to become our Administrative Pastor at a previous Voter's Meeting, and had accepted that call. From a list of seven candidates, the congregation voted to call Pastor Mark Hannemann.

By mid-June we received word that Pastor Hannemann had accepted our call and would be arriving by the end of July. Pastor Hannemann was installed at St. Paul August 6, 1989 by Rev. Dr. Vern Hinz, the Frankenmuth Circuit Counselor and Pastor at Trinity, Reese, Michigan.

Rev. Mark Hannemann was born December 19, 1958 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the youngest of four children of Rev.

Norman and Dorothy Hannemann.

He attended York High School, York, Nebraska and transferred his senior year to St. Paul's College High, Concordia, Missouri, graduating in 1977. He then enrolled at Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska. Pastor Hannemann received his Bachelor of Science in Education degree in 1980 with a concentration in speech and drama.

For his seminary education, he attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, receiving his Master of Divinity degree in May of 1984. He served his vicarage at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bay City, Michigan.

In July of 1984 Pastor Hannemann was ordained and installed as Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Gregory, South Dakota, where he served until 1986. Since then, he served as Dean of Chapel and Instructor of Religion at Minneapolis Lutheran High School, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

At the time he came to Millington, he was a student in the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools Doctor of Ministry Program.

On August 4, 1978, he was married to Sandra Kaiser at Zion Lutheran Church, Hampton Nebraska. Sandra held a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree from Concordia College, Seward. The Hannemanns have three children, Justin (7), Nathan (3), and Aaron (11 months).

When Pastor Engler left in 1988, the Fulmer Road^t parsonage attached to church property became available for Pastor Hannemann and his family.

The Pastoral Vacancy of the Early 90s



It was in December of 1993 that the congregation received word that Pastor Sherry had received a call to Crookston, Minnesota. Pastor Sherry announced his decision to accept the call just after the start of the new year.

The congregation had truly come to love Pastor Sherry and his family in the seven and a half years they were with us at St. Paul. His steady, quiet leadership and sense of humor captured our hearts.

It was only a few short months after Pastor Sherry left that we learned Pastor Hanneman had received a call from Faith Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. Pastor Hanneman announced he would be accepting the call at a meeting of the Voters Assembly in April of 1994.

Pastor Hanneman had just lead the congregation into the beginnings of a huge building project for the school. His leadership in this project would be greatly missed. Pastor Hannemann also had taken a huge roll in the Stephan's ministry which would be hard to fill.

While the congregation understood that God places men in the ministry where He has need of them, we were heartbroken at the loss of two young, families who provided us with love and ministry of the Word and Sacraments.

And so, the congregation was now faced with not just having one pastor, but having no pastor at all. To make matters worse as far as staffing was concerned; Principal Straub announced his retirement as principal of our day school after having served 43 years in Lutheran school ministry.

Various local pastors assisted with services until in June, when the congregation contracted Rev. Ronald Scheer to serve as our vacancy pastor. Pastor Scheer was born May 26, 1943 in Saginaw, Michigan to August and Leona Scheer. At that time, his father was a teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School in Millington and Pastor Scheer was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Millington, Michigan, by Pastor Ferber.

At the August Voter's Meeting, Pastor Alschwede from Frankenmuth and our Circuit Counselor, led the call process for the calling of an administrative pastor. A call was extended to Pastor John Koczman from Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Lakewood, Colorado. Pastor Koczman accepted our call.

Pastor Koczman was the son of Dr. and Mrs. John Koczman, Ann Arbor, Michigan. He graduated from Durand High School, Durand, Michigan in 1970. After high school, he attended the University of Arizona and graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota in 1974.

He taught and coached at the high school level for five years in Minnesota and Michigan before entering the seminary at Fort

Wayne, Indiana. He vicared in Cheyenne, Wyoming and was ordained at Peace Lutheran Church in Alma, Michigan.

His first call was to Zion Lutheran church, Grant Park, Illinois followed by a call three years later to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colorado.

He was installed October 2, 1994 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Millington, Michigan. Pastor Koczman married Catherine Cockerill of Wheat Ridge, Colorado on August 27, 1994. Together they have five children: Patrice and Curtis Cockerill; Jacob, Jason, and Alexa Koczman.

Meanwhile, numerous attempts were made to call an associate pastor for our congregation. Finally, in May of 1996, a call was extended to Pastor Timothy Bickel of All Nations Lutheran Church in Newport, Oregon. During a visitation to St. Paul, Pastor Bickel announced he would accept our call as associate pastor.

Pastor Timothy Bickel was the son of Pastor Elmer and Mrs. Doris Bickel, and was born May 6, 1945 in St. John, Michigan. He graduated from Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw (1963), Concordia Jr. College in Ann Arbor, MI (1965), and Concordia Sr. College, Fort Wayne, IN (1967).

He vicared at Redemmer Lutheran In Elmhurst, IL, before graduating from Concordia seminary in St. Louis, MO in 1971, the same year he was ordained. Pastor Bickel had served parish pastorates in Illinois, Washington, and Oregon as well as pastoral vacancies in Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. He was at All Nations Lutheran Church for nine years before accepting the call to St. Paul.

Pastor Bickel married Julia Mervine of New Haven, IN on August 16, 1969 and they have four children. Pastor Bickel taught English as a second language the summers of 1986 and 1990 in China.

Almost as soon as Pastor Bickel arrived, Pastor Koczman received a call from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in West Des Moines, Iowa. In his short pastorate at St. Paul, Pastor Koczman worked to establish an organization called "Millington Men of Integrity" which was patterned after the Promise Keepers organization. This group was comprised of men from all denominations in the Millington area.

Pastor Koczman accepted the call to West Des Moines and preached his last sermon in Millington on October 27, 1996.

In May of 1997, a call was extended to Pastor James Bruner to be St. Paul's Administrative pastor. Pastor Bruner accepted the call and was installed at St. Paul Lutheran on August 3, 1997.

Pastor Bruner is the son of Barbara Bruner of Charleston, South Carolina and Charles and Lonna Bruner of Okarche, Oklahoma. Born in Rapid City, South Dakota on April 23, 1965, he attended the University of Wyoming from 1983 to 1986 and graduated from

Concordia Lutheran College, Ann Arbor, MI in 1987. He entered Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri the following fall and graduated with a Master of Divinity in 1991.

Pastor Bruner did his vicarage at nearby Messiah, Clio, Michigan, under the Rev. Erwin Kostizen. He was ordained and installed at Peace Lutheran Church of Ludington, Michigan on August 4, 1991 and served there until his call to St. Paul, Millington.

Bible Study was enhanced in the congregation with the implementation of the "Lifelight" Bible Study curriculum. There were 55 members of the congregation participating in this study program at the beginning of the 1990s.

Interesting that just prior to our 100th year, there were 100 requests made on the Giving Tree. The Board of Social Concerns reported that all of the requests from the previous December had been fulfilled.

During the centennial year, the Board of Trustees were able to complete the building of the pavilion, just in time for the 100th anniversary of the congregation.

Voters Activate a Building Committee

In 1994, as the school continued to grow and the need for more storage space was evident, the Voters activated a building committee to look into expansion of the facility. Initially, Tim Keinath was named chairman and fellow members Ken Reinert, Eugene Ziegler, Richard Myers, and Tim Walter joined him on the committee. The Committee was later increased with the addition of Jan Snyder, Tom Keinath, and Dale Higgins.

The Building Committee immediately went to work to determine exactly what was needed. Over the course of a 3-year study, it was determined that the immediate needs involved more classrooms, storage, a remodeled kitchen, and a larger media center. Long term needs also involved a larger gymnasium.

As the building project continued, a three-phase building plan was approved. So now, the task of raising funds to implement the first phase of the building project began. Other congregations recently have had success with the hiring of specialty fund raising organizations that came in and with the help of the congregation, create a fund raising program. One such organization was the Kirby Smith Fund Raising Company. Controversy arose over this hiring since we were to pay a hefty sum to this company for their services. Yet, given the amount of money needed, and the need for an organized approach to obtain pledges, the Voters expressed their support for the leadership of the congregation to move forward.

On March 16, 1996, a Kick-off Dinner for Phase I of the building project was held. It was called, "Building on Yesterday for Tomorrow." The Keynote Speaker was Wally Bronner of

Bronner's Christmas Wonderland. He spoke of perseverance and never thinking something could not be done.

Voters also decided to put a new roof on the existing classrooms and to fill in the window spaces on the west side of the school at a cost of about \$109,720, with members doing the labor.

The Building Committee reported they were questioning general contractors for the construction. Voters gave their final approval for the construction of 5 new classrooms, a media center, restroom facilities for the new construction, and kitchen remodeling at the October 9, 1996 meeting by a vote of 58-22. The estimated cost of the project was \$1,465,000.

The ground breaking for Phase I was held April 6, 1997 for the classroom additions with Architects Wigen, Tincknell, Meyer, and Associates and General Contractor William Bronner.

At the conclusion of the Kirby Smith drive, the Steering Committee reported that 477 of the 581 families visited made commitments in the amount of \$605,600. This commitment was a 3 year commitment pledged toward the building plan. The school children also raised \$280 by bringing returnable pop cans to be turned in for their deposit.

And so the year 1997 will be remembered as a year of immense blessing for St. Paul Lutheran Church. Not just because it was the 100th Anniversary of the congregation, but after years of planning, God gave us the courage and strength to break ground for a 1.4 million dollar expansion on April 6th. The choir led the congregation from the church to the site of the groundbreaking by triumphantly singing, "I know That My Redeemer Lives."

Everyone watched intently as Tim Keinath, chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. John Meyer, the architect, Ron Bronner, contractor, Eugene Weiss, chairman of the congregation, Amy Saeger, an 8th Grade student, and Pastor Timothy Bickel and Principal Elaine Bickel broke ground for the building expansion. The choir sang "The Lord's Prayer" and then led the congregation in the singing of "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."

On April 14, 1997, the students held their own ground breaking



L-R Pastor Koczman, Pastor Bickel, Pastor Hannemann, Sandy Hannemann, Beth Sherry, and Pastor Sherry.

The Campus Grows into the New Century

ceremony. The entire student body went outside for this. Each student was presented with a spoon engraved with their own name and the words "Groundbreaking, April 1997." Two students from each class were selected by a draw of names to represent the class. Those two students, one class at a time, turned a shovel of dirt while their classmates recited a special Bible verse which had to do with building. After the two class representatives turned a shovel of dirt, the entire class was allowed to take their spoons and turn a spoonful of dirt.

The Lord blessed us with good weather, competent workers and many faithful volunteers so we were able to begin school on our targeted date, the 1st Tuesday in September. Even after the structure was complete we would never have been able to move in without the help of volunteer moms, dads, and students who filled little red wagons, and worked tirelessly to dust and move all the furnishings back into the newly remodeled or newly constructed rooms. Since the kitchen remodel was not finished for the start of school, students had to "brown bag" it until the kitchen was fully operational. Truly, we saw God's love and energy in many people.

By November 6th, we were able to join together to dedicate the new addition to the glory of our great God. Special activities such as comments by Matt Denome and Dwight Keinath who represented the volunteers and Tim Keinath who represented the Building Committee as well as Elaine Bickel, Principal were a part of the service as well as the passing of the keys from Ron Bronner, Builder, to Tim Keinath, to Elaine Bickel, to Pastor Bruner. The congregation then proceeded outside where Pastor Bruner led us in a prayer and a brief ceremony revealing the date stone. Again, the ceremony concluded with the singing of "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."

With the structure complete it was time to become innovative to find ways of furnishing the new building. One of the major challenges was the funding and purchasing of computer equipment for the new computer lab.

One way in which this was accomplished was the challenging of students to fill a large light bulb bank with change. Principal Elaine Bickel told students she would kiss a pig if they accomplished this in only six days. They did it!

As a surprise some people arranged for media coverage for this event. So, Mrs. Bickel and Pastor Bruner ended up kissing the 800 pound pig, Sally in front of TV and newspaper cameras. The pig was owned by the Darwin Hecht family, who donated Sally (after being taken to market) toward the purchase of computers.

Many others gave generous donations. Mr. Jim Gross collected thousands of empty beverage cans for the deposit to donate, and

Mrs. Pat O'Dell donated Beanie Babies for a silent auction. All this resulted in the ability to purchase computers before Christmas.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MILLINGTON, MICHIGAN
WIGEN, TINKNELL, MEYER & ASSOC.
ARCHITECTS/PLANNERS
July 31, 1996

Phase I seen in gray.





At Left—Ground Breaking for Phase I with Ron Bronner, General Contactor, Eugene Weiss, Congregational Chairman, Elaine Bickel, Principal, Amy Saeger, Student, Pastor Bickel, Tim Keinath, Building Committee Chairman, and John Meyer, Architect.

Phase II

In early 2000, it was reported to the congregation that the school was experiencing overcrowding. Several options to Phase II building were discussed even though St. Paul owed the Church Extension Fund \$1.1 million from the last building project.

In one of the more inspirational meetings that anyone has seen, Voters decided to set up a Building Fund Debt Free Committee. By the end of the meeting, \$40,000 was pledged toward additional building of classrooms just from those attending the meeting. There was even a half a beef and some hogs pledged to have a fund raising dinner as well. The spirit and enthusiasm was very high. It was decided to build 6 new classrooms and restroom facilities.

The Debt Free Committee went to work, beginning with a rummage sale followed by an auction. Together, the rummage sale and auction raised \$29,410 toward the building project.

In order to add the additional classrooms, the congregation purchased two properties to the east of the current facility, the Devereaux and Yeosting properties. The Voters Assembly

authorized up to \$100,000 “within reason” for the purchase of these properties.

Groundbreaking for Phase II occurred on March 21, 2001 for the building of 4 additional classrooms, a change from the original plan.

Once construction began, the congregation was able to put the existing loan and the new construction loan together. St. Paul saw a monthly increase in payments of only \$576.00. Much of this was due to members volunteering to put on the roof (sheeting and shingles) which costed approximately \$21,000. Members also did all the electrical work and floor waxing and polishing. The children, staff, and parents worked together to move into the new classrooms. The Parish Hall was also moved into the new classrooms.

The Debt Free Committee continued their work by providing volunteers to work the Palace of Auburn Hills and DTE concessions for which St. Paul received money. They sold engraved bricks for the St. Paul courtyard, had a dinner-dance, fish fry during Lent, and Helicopter rides, as well as other fund-raising activities.



1997 Cornerstone unveiled at the Dedication of the School addition.

With the building of Phase I and II from 1997 through 2000, the congregation was looking for ways to help pay the mortgage. Tom and Sharon Keinath stepped forward in 2001 and began organizing and coordinating a take-out Lenten Fish Fry. For 9 years from 2001 to 2010, these fish fries took place with dedicated helpers on every Friday in Lent. This project raised close to \$100,000 for the Building Fund. It is an example of what the Lord can do when a couple members take the initiative to say, “Send me, Send me.”

Phase III

There had been talk for some time about the congregation building a new gym. The Parish Hall which had been used as a gym since it was built, was inappropriate for use as a sports venue.

In 2006, the Voters gave approval for the Building Committee to move forward on researching the costs associated with building a new gym. This was a bold leap forward since at that time, \$867,060 was still owed on the current mortgage from the last building project.

The Building Committee requested that the congregation hire a professional church fundraiser to coordinate raising funds for this project. The Voter's approved the use of RSI, a stewardship Consulting Firm to head up our campaign. The campaign was called “Faith for the Journey.”

The congregation approved a request for a loan of \$1.15 million from the Church Extension Fund of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. This amount was later increased to \$1.75 million. The Building Committee also outlined where members could provide labor to reduce costs, such as removing stone from the roof, installing some of the insulation, and site clean-up.

In 2008, the Voters gave the approval needed for construction to begin. It wasn't long before groundbreaking took place and construction began. Our school even prepared a roast beef dinner for the construction workers and the children gave them notes of encouragement with scripture verses.

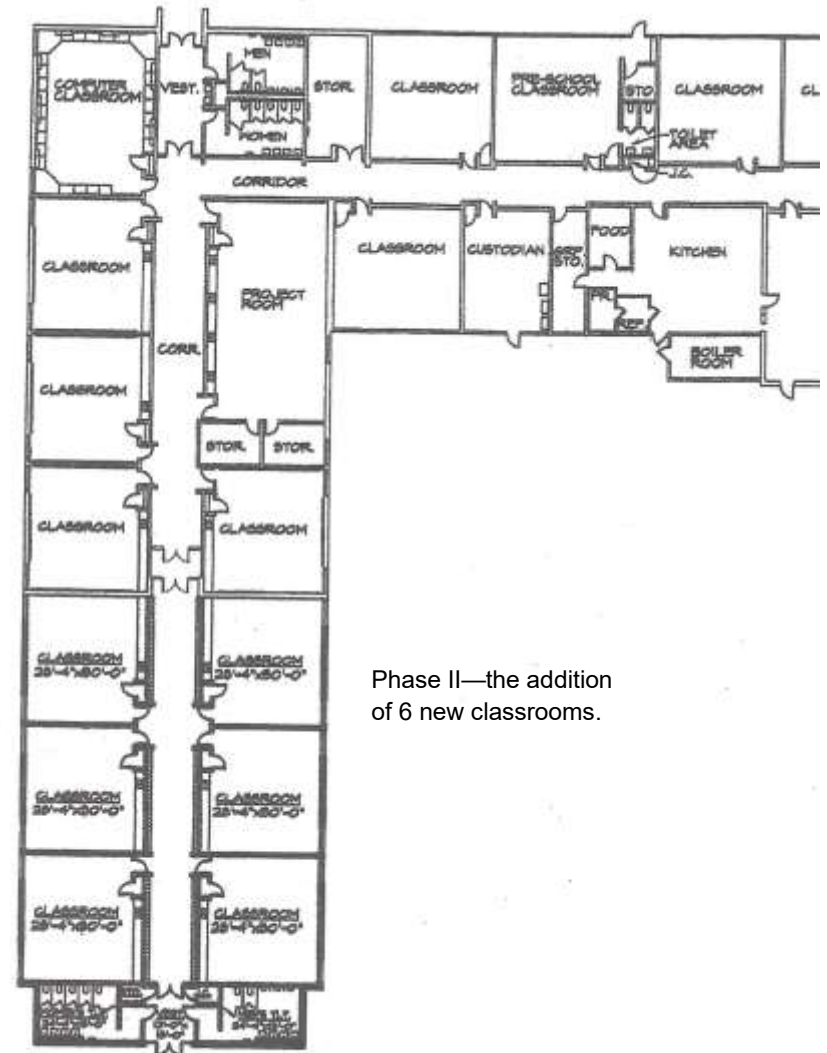
It was important to help every member and student of St. Paul to feel a part of what was happening with the construction. Therefore, everyone was invited during the construction when the gymnasium was fully enclosed, but had not yet had the floor installed, to walk down to the construction area after church services. There they grabbed one of the supplied permanent markers in order to write their favorite Bible verse on the cement floor.

It would serve as a reminder that God is the foundation for everything we do. He is always there with us and under us even when we don't visibly see Him.

It was inspiring to see large groups of people laying on the floor next to their Bibles, carefully writing their selected verses. Some people chose to write their confirmation verses, others chose verses seen directly behind them and anxiously awaiting a big smooch.

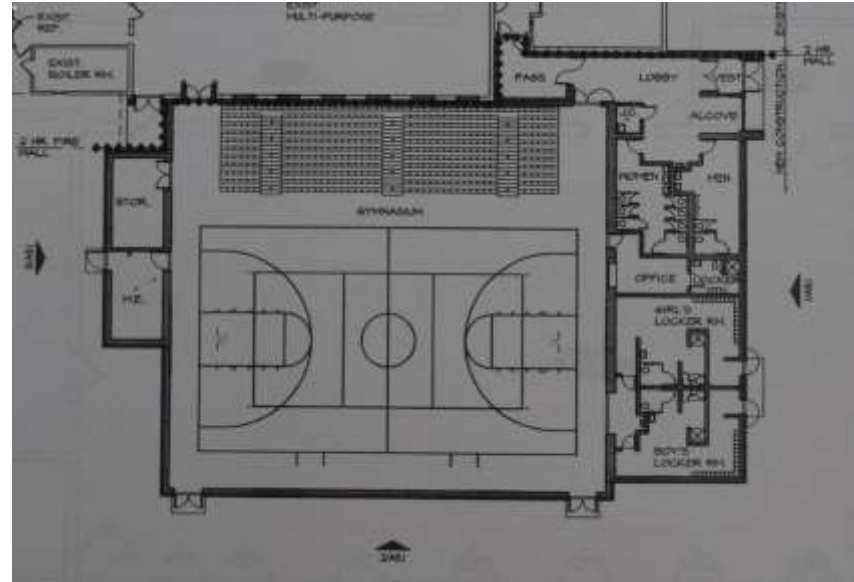
that were especially comforting to them at various times in their life.

Writers were reminded that while most of us will likely not be there when that floor is torn apart, God's Word will endure forever. We also knew God's powerful Word could be a witness to those construction workers who might see it at that time.



Phase II—the addition of 6 new classrooms.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Phase 3 building project. Gymnasium, Locker rooms, and storage



School children Breaking Ground with their special spoons for a St. Paul building project

Growth in Ministry

Sunday School and VBS

Upon the departure of Mr. John Wagner in 1970, the congregation named Mrs. Gloria Rodammer as the Sunday School Superintendent. Mrs. Rodammer thereby became the first woman in congregational history to be named to a major parish administrative post. She continued in this post until 1978 when Sherry Sebert took over the responsibility of Sunday School.

As was mentioned earlier in this book, the first St. Paul Sunday School was organized in July of 1925, it later failed due to a lack of interest. The present Sunday School was organized and placed into operation in the basement of the former church on April 28, 1935. In January 1945 extensive remodeling of the former church basement was done for Sunday School. In the late 1940s with the building of the first three classrooms of the school it was moved to that location. On January 14, 1951 the Sunday School Board was abolished and the Board of Education created to be in charge of all youth education. Later the responsibility for Sunday School was given to the Board of Elders.

Over the recent years, many dedicated members took charge of the leadership of Sunday School. People such as Mrs. Sandra Hines, Mrs. Bonnie Wiacek, Mrs. Cathy Myers, Mrs. Delores Damm, Mrs. Pam Ill, Beverly Baldwin, Les Maxon, and Lori Osborn.

Throughout the 70s and 80s, Sunday School attendance regularly averaged over 100 students each Sunday.

Yet over the last several decades, along with a decline in church attendance there has been less interest in Sunday School. In 2021, the Board of Elders made efforts to bolster the program along with attendance at Sunday morning adult Bible study through a program from Concordia Publishing House called Enduring Faith. Initial response has been encouraging with huge increases in attendance by both youth and adults. Kenny McKee agreed to become Superintendent and usher in this program.

For many years a Vacation Bible School was operated by the Sunday School. The first such summer program was held in 1962 with some 140 students participating.

The Vacation Bible School program was a hit and miss proposition with the program being mentioned in annual reports only during the years 1965, 1969, and 1970.

It wasn't until 1989 when Beth Sherry, wife of Pastor Sherry organized several moms in the congregation to have an annual Vacation Bible School program. It was held the third week in June for 3 year olds to 6th graders for the entire Millington Community.

Over forty volunteers and many generous donors made the program a success. It was attended by 183 children during the week.

The following year, attendance grew to 196 children and over 50 volunteers. In 1991 the program continued to grow and a Junior High class was added. More than 200 children enjoyed the week of learning more about Jesus.

Leadership fell to others such as Dianne Weber, Betty DeOrnellas, Jennifer Koch, Angie Zeck, and Pastor Abatelli once the Sherry family left to answer God's call to Minnesota. Vacation Bible School was very successful in August of 1999. VBS had a daily attendance of 150 students.

Yet the program eventually slowed due to lack of interest, until Tina Petzold, a teacher at St. Paul decided to resurrect VBS in 2020 as a family oriented gathering in the summer evenings. It is hoped the program will once again become a flourishing part of St. Paul ministry.

Inspiration from the Children

The students of St. Paul presented a one-act play called Amerikids for the second time in the last 4 years (1998 and 2001).

This musical involved delegates from all the states in an imaginary, present-day political convention, which included the presentation of historical facts. Musical selections including the National Anthem and In God We Trust as well as a salute to our local veterans, who rose and were applauded by the audience during an armed forces medley. The students received a standing ovation from a full house.

These plays were very reminiscent of the plays conducted in the 1930s by the children of the school.



Plays capturing the history of our country, presented by our students.

In-Home Bible Study

It was in the early years of the 2000s that Pastor Bickel envisioned the congregation meeting in small groups in members homes to study the bible. He set to the task of organizing the small groups, and along with Elaine Bickel and Judy Grulke, wrote bible studies starting with the Old Testament for the leaders of the group to use.

To the surprise of many, the congregation responded with a dozen small groups of 8-12 people each meeting regularly in the home of a host from that group.

The writing of studies continued through the New Testament. It was a time of growth in God's Word enjoyed not only for the strengthening of faith, but also for the fellowship of members gathering together to study.

As years passed by, and the writing of the studies waned, some of the groups gradually stopped meeting while others found studies through Concordia Publishing House and continued. As of late, in 2022, there has been a push to restart these studies as four In-Home groups are currently meeting.

Pastor Bickel also was aware of the need for the men of our congregation to become more active in Bible Study. So, he enlisted David Kaiser, a teacher at the school to start a Saturday morning Men's Bible Study. The study only met once a month, but a group of faithful men came to study God's Word. When Mr. Kaiser accepted a call to be principal at Christ the King in Sebawaing, Ed White agreed to keep the bible study going.

It still regularly meets on the first Saturday of each month. All men are encouraged to attend.

Mission Mindful

The congregation continued its Mission Mindfulness by supporting five LCMS Missionaries through a Synodical program called Together In Mission. Through this program, the congregation provided \$3,000 a year to each missionary.

The missionaries kept in touch with the congregation, reporting what the mission dollars were achieving. They also occasionally visited the congregation while they were on leave from their mission post.

St. Paul also supported Recognized Service Organizations such as Apple of His Eye, Bible and Literacy League, People of the Book Lutheran Outreach, Youth for Christ and St. Paul members who were studying at one of the Concordia Universities.

The membership's financial response to the TIM program allowed for support of all of these mission organizations. The

congregation also supported our own members who went on various mission trips around the world.

Pastor Bruner Marries

On August 10, 2002, Pastor Bruner married Karen Spicuzza at St. Paul. The entire congregation was invited to the wedding ceremony. Pastor Bruner had come to St. Paul as a single man and was introduced to Karen by mutual friends from Messiah Lutheran



in Clio where he had done his vicarage.

The Bruners have two daughters, Lydia and Alexis.

Family Life Director

Many concerns have been expressed throughout the years about retaining our youth in the church and providing help for families. The congregation looked into the possibility of calling a Family Life Director as a full time position at St. Paul.

By the time the 2006-2007 budget was planned, this position was included in the budget. The proposed budget had a \$53,078 deficit, and yet the congregation moved forward and began looking to call a person as a Family Life Director.

Of course, since this was a relatively new area of professional church work, there were not many candidates from which a call could be made. It took some time, but finally in May of 2008, a call was made to Laura Gleim, a new graduate from Concordia Ann Arbor, to become our Family Life Director.

Laura accepted our call and began work primarily with high school youth and also teaching our congregation how to be a more family friendly congregation.

The Family Life Director, Laura Gleim, has involved our youth in many bible studies and events. These events include service projects within the church and community, Sunday morning youth bible studies, Breakfast Club at Millington and Valley Lutheran High Schools, children's messages in services, and attendance at the District Youth Gatherings on Mackinac Island.

This has helped to keep our youth involved at church. Family events have also been used to promote family togetherness and success, such as family movie nights, family devotions, karaoke nights, and speakers related to family life.

Contemporary and youth services began in the 2000s. Typically the youth lead the service whenever there was a month with a 5th Sunday.

Contemporary services with a Praise Team began participating in services one Sunday a month, but soon added a second service each month. The contemporary services were held in the second service on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Another Pastor Retires

In April of 2008, Pastor Bickel announced his retirement from the ministry. His retirement and farewell was held July 13, 2008 at the Four Occasion Hall. Pastor Bickel's ministry at St. Paul as Associate Pastor encompassed 12 years.

In 2008, with the retirement of Pastor Bickel, the Voters Assembly approved the call of Rodger Grulke as an assistant to help Pastor Bruner with the visitation of shut-ins. Rodger continued assisting in this manner until 2015.

Pastoral Help

In the time between calling a new Associate Pastor and Pastor Bickel's retirement, Pastor Koch was approved by the Voters Assembly to be an Interim Associate Pastor. He had been Interim Pastor at Trinity, Reese prior to coming to St. Paul.

In April of 2009, the Voters began the process of calling an Associate Pastor as a replacement for the retired Pastor Bickel. It was not until the June 3, 2009 Special Voter's meeting that a unanimous call was made to Pastor Kirk Abatelli.

After a visit to the congregation in June, Pastor Abatelli accepted our call and was installed as Associate Pastor on August 2, 2009.

Pastor Abatelli was born and raised in Long Island New York. He went to college at York College of Pennsylvania where he spent two years studying criminal justice. He then transferred to Concordia University Ann Arbor to take his pre-seminary requirements where he graduated with a degree in Sociology.

While at Concordia, he met Kathryn Brandt. Katie, formerly of Frankenmuth and a daughter to St. Lorenz Pastor Mark Brandt, graduated with a degree in both Lutheran Elementary Education and Music Education. Kirk and Katie were married on May 31, 2003.

He attended Concordia Seminary St. Louis where he received his Master of Divinity, and served his vicarage at St. Peter Lutheran in Waterford, Wisconsin.

His first call as pastor was to Cedar Crest Lutheran Church in White Lake, Michigan. The Abatelli family includes two children, Jacob and Madelyn.

Social Ministry

Our Board of Social Concerns has been very active in helping young mothers through their Baby Bottle Drives. These drives collect money in baby bottles for young single mothers and various Pregnancy Centers to provide support for their babies.

The "Who is that Crib for, Anyway?" provides a crib filled with supplies needed for the care of a baby. Both of these are aimed at providing for mothers who have chosen life for their babies and to show Christ's love for those in need.

They also are promoting health in the congregation and community through their fall Health Fairs. These health fairs brought in local health care professionals to check blood pressures and provide information to our membership about factors that can affect health.

The Board of Social Concerns also was involved in the preparation of sandwiches for sack lunches at the Saginaw Rescue Mission.

Not long into the 2010s, the congregation approved a proposed Mission Statement. The statement read, "We are God's servants, saved by grace, through faith, commissioned to share the Word of Christ to all." Everything the congregation does should be reflected through this statement. To keep the Mission Statement alive in everyone's thoughts and activities, it is read before each worship service by all in attendance.

A Pastoral Change

The congregation learned in early 2017 that Associate Pastor Kirk Abatelli had received a call to Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Pastor Abatelli accepted the call and planned to close out his ministry at St. Paul June 2, 2017. The congregation granted his peaceful release from the call of St. Paul.

And so St. Paul was once again looking to call a pastor. The Michigan District decided we needed to do a self-study before making any calls. This was led by Regional Facilitator Rev. Gailan Walther and Circuit Counselor Rev. Gary Bender.

During this time of self-study, the congregation was served by an Interim Pastor Robert Smith.

Pastor Robert Smith was born in Rock Island, Illinois in 1941 and baptized at age nine. He graduated from Belvidere High School in Belvidere, Illinois. He is a life-long educator who has served in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for his entire career.

He earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Concordia, St. Paul, Minnesota, and a Bachelor's Degree from Concordia, River Forest, Illinois, a Master's Degree in Education from Central Michigan

University, and a Master's Degree in Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

He was ordained in Nigeria, West Africa in 1986. He has served the ministry in Illinois, Saginaw, MI, Russia, Hong Kong, China, Korea, India, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran.

Once the self-study was completed and presented to the congregation, District Office presented a list of seven candidates for call. Six of the seven indicated by phone that they were not in a position to consider a call at this time. Therefore, the congregation asked the District to present a new list.

From that list the Voters chose Pastor Timothy Martinal of Our Redeemer, Wahoo, Nebraska. Pastor Martinal accepted our call to St. Paul Millington.

Pastor Tim Martinal was born, baptized, and raised in Adrian, MI and grew up as a member of Hope Lutheran Church. Pastor Tim attended St. John's Lutheran School from K – 8th grade. Upon graduating from Adrian High School, he attended and graduated from Michigan State University in May of 2000 earning a bachelor's degree in accounting.

For the next 10 years, Pastor Tim practiced accounting for two firms in the Grand Rapids, MI area. In the fall of 2010, he enrolled at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Graduating in May of 2014,

Pastor Tim was ordained and installed in July of 2014 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wahoo, NE, where he was serving prior to his acceptance of the Divine Call to St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Millington, MI. His installation at St. Paul took place September 9, 2018.

Pastor Tim married Patricia (Patti) Leader on May 20, 2000. In September of 2006, Dylan, Taylor, and Jacob were adopted into their family.

Pastor Tim and Patti have two dogs, Lincoln and Brady. Most importantly, they love Jesus and have a heart for those who are part of the family of God, and those who are still outside. Pastor Tim looks forward to sharing in the joyful work of the Great Commission with you!

Pastor Martinal and his wife Patti immediately got involved in the congregation by leading couples bible studies, making video announcements on the screen prior to church, assuming athletic director duties, as well as becoming a team in ministry with Pastor Bruner.



St. Paul makes its presence known in the community and shares a message of Christ in the Old Fashioned Days Parade.



Past members of the FFA brought forward the Fruits of the Harvest for the Thanksgiving Service.



The Millington Old Fashion Days Festival provides opportunities for our congregation to fund raise. Above, the 7th grade class sells hot dogs to raise money for their annual trip to Washington D.C. Below, the Parent-Teacher League raises money for the school's needs by providing fish dinners.



Phase 3 in use by the 8th grade class as they enjoy a game during their Phys. Ed. Class.

Hundreds of quilts have been made by our LWML ladies. These Quilts have been sent to Lutheran World Relief. This represents just one year of quilting by our ladies.



The Effect of Disease and More For the Record

Pastors Bruner and Bickel led the congregation through a three phase building plan. They gave this little parish the confidence to move forward and build, despite not being in the best of financial condition. By God's grace all aspects of the building projects were fully paid for by 2021.

It was truly remarkable how the finances just seemed to come through to make the payments. And now, with the building complete, the congregation faced one of its most pressing challenges.

The Covid-19 Crisis

The year 2020 brought huge changes to our congregation, as it did to all churches throughout the United States. A disease known as Covid-19 became prevalent. It is a virus that is particularly contagious and can have fatal effects on many. The state ordered lockdowns of churches and businesses in order to stop the spread.

Many of the plans at St. Paul had to be cancelled. The congregation went virtual by streaming services online. Fortunately, we had the technology already in place to do that. Pastors were preaching and organists playing to an empty church.

Even the school was forced to teach children virtually. This put added stress on the teaching staff, and the education of the children suffered. When the children were allowed to return to school in person, they were forced by government mandates to wear a mask at all times.

This disease had a drastic affect on our shut-ins and hospitalized. Pastors were unable to visit them and enter many of the nursing homes they may be in.

Being able to commune the members came to a stop, and we were left to rely on our pastors as called and ordained ministers to forgive us of our sins in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. We praised God for this comfort that we have from Christ's own Word.

But, God in His infinite wisdom was able to work in a mysterious way. We discovered that people from all over the United States were tuning in through their computer to our divine services. Our own membership stepped up to the plate and continued giving their regular contributions so that bills and salaries could still be paid. Many members enrolled in an electronic funds transfer program with their financial institution so the church could still receive their contribution.

However, bible study did suffer with only 2 or 3 people watching the pastor's bible study online.

One of the most difficult things to deal with was the funerals of members. Families frequently were unable to have visitations after the death of a loved one. This made it difficult for other members to show Christ's love to them during their time of grieving.

Weddings also were postponed, or if they were held, they were for immediate family only and no reception was held.

Eventually, the Elders made a decision to resume in-person worship, with restrictions. Members were asked to wear masks, sit in every other pew and only by family groups. Communion was distributed from tables set up in the front of the church with only a few people at a time coming to the front so as to maintain "social distancing" between people.

For those who still chose not to attend in-person, communion was offered early Sunday afternoon from the porch of the church. The church was completely disinfected after each service. Hymnals and Bibles were removed from the pew so they would not be handled by the members.

Special services for confirmation and graduation of kindergarten and 8th graders were held in separate services and only for the families of those children involved just so the sanctuary would not be overcrowded.

Even though the threat of Covid still existed, we learned more about the disease as the threat subsided. Vaccinations became available and the restrictions began to be lifted.

Members longed to approach the Lord's Table and kneel at His altar to receive His body and blood. In the fall of 2021, the congregation returned to its normal three service schedule with bible study between services on Sunday.

Members could commune at the rail while Pastors and Elders wore masks and gloves for distribution. Those who still were concerned about being around people had the availability of the streamed service in order to watch and participate.

Recovery from Covid will take time. Attendance numbers were reduced and the congregation began looking for ways to connect with our membership. It did provide an opportunity to show Christ's love and concern since the Elders took it upon themselves to call all members and ask if there was anything they needed during the lockdown that the congregation could provide.

While not having returned to pre-covid attendance numbers, the congregation is moving forward as members are returning.

The Effort to Increase Bible Study

The Board of Elders seeking to address a lack of interest and attendance in Bible Study and Sunday school decided to institute the new Concordia Publishing House Sunday School Curriculum called Enduring Faith. This began in October of 2021.

The curriculum is created to be multi-generational with the same lesson being taught each Sunday to both young and older children as well as the adults. In this way, parents could extend the lesson during the week to their children.

The program and its promotion resulted in a 600% increase in Sunday school attendance by our youth, and over 185% increase in Bible Study Sunday mornings in our adults. The hope is that this program will grow in future years. Many positive comments have been made regarding the use of Enduring Faith. St. Paul called the program Faith on Fire.

St. Paul Nominates Favorite Son

It was with great pleasure at the December 2021 Voter's meeting that the Elders presented and the Voters unanimously approved the nomination of a favorite son of the congregation Rev. Michael Roth for the office of President of the Michigan District. Rev. Roth was the first son of the congregation to become a pastor.

At that same meeting, Voters also approved the nomination of Jonathan Bakker as our North and East Region Vice President.



Not Just Spiritual Health

The history of St. Paul Lutheran Church would not be complete without speaking about the member's enthusiasm and love of sport and physical activity for enjoyment. This manifested itself in simple pick-up games at church picnics and social events or in organized participation in games with other schools, both public and parochial.

From the beginning of holding classes in the old school on Buell Lake Road in 1905, the young children would take up a stick and ball and play games in the school yard with their classmates, and often their teacher would join in too.

From 1930s – 1940s, St. Paul students played softball with students from the Wilcox School a half mile away.

In 1949, the new school in Millington was completed, so the country school and those attending classes in the church basement in Millington merged. This opened the door in 1950 for the formation of a softball team that played various country schools around Millington as well as the junior high school in Millington.

St. Paul also played teams from the Whitney School in Arbela Township, the public grade school in Tuscola, and the Richville Lutheran School.

Classmates at school played each other in football, soccer, and outdoor basketball at recess. And of course, recess was also filled

with 4-square, red rover, and king of the mountain (snow plowed mounds) in winter.

In the late 1950s, the St. Paul teams were known as the BlueJays.

In 1960, the Parish Hall "gym" was built. This paved the way for formal entry in 1962 in the Lutheran League made up of teams from St. Paul Millington, St. Michael Richville, Redeemer Saginaw, St. Paul Frankenlust, St. Paul Saginaw, and Holy Cross Saginaw.

The St. Paul Millington team was renamed the Spartans, and the schools competed in basketball, softball, track and field, flag football, and cheerleading.

The girls of St. Paul were also included in the competition. In basketball, the girls played with 6 girls playing at a time. However, the girls were split with 3 players on each side of the half court line. Three girls were on defense, and three girls were on offense. The girls were not allowed to cross the half court line while playing. Of course today, we know the girls are more capable than was thought years ago.

This league with a few added schools from Flint and Lapeer continues to this day.

St. Paul had a long standing tradition of chartering a bus and taking members to a Detroit Tiger baseball game on "Lutheran Day." This day was thought to have been started by Tiger baseball



player Mel Ott who was Lutheran.

On one of these trips, one of our young girl members was placed in an odd situation. Vern Weber had purchased her ticket for her just before her departure for Concordia Ann Arbor in order to study to become a Lutheran teacher. The thrill of a Tiger game was even better when the game went into extra innings. In the 12th inning the Tigers won the game because of a home run hit by a Tiger pitcher, Earl Wilson.

So, after the game armed with a box of popcorn and 35 cents in



2003-04 National Tour. A-Team Back Row L-R: Coach Jon Erdman, Jimmy Daniels, Gerry Smith, Josh Matzke, Coaches Mike Griesing, Glen Reinert. Front Row L-R: Ben Weber, Tyler Reinert, Dustin Griesing, James Weber, Jacob Shoenknecht, Corban Stewart.

her pocket she struck out to find the bus for the trip home. Unknown to her, the bus had left without her due to someone telling the bus driver that she had gotten a ride home from a relative who had driven down to the game. Frantic, and in the big city, thinking she was being followed by a criminal element, she saw a police officer in the middle of an intersection, directing traffic. She was told by the officer she could not be there, but she was not about to go back to the sidewalk.

After hearing her story, the police officer asked for her identification. She did not have any. Not believing her story, she was arrested for vagrancy. At the police station, she had to empty her box of popcorn so the police could determine if she had any hidden weapons. She was placed in a cell, and late that night was allowed to make a phone call home.

The next morning, armed with her identification, her mother and brother came to pick her up. Fortunately her “criminal record” was wiped clean and Elaine Bickel never had to worry about her past “catching up” with her.

St. Paul also added an intramural program in school for greater participation as well as Physical Education classes. Many students can remember having their “gym shoes” available at school so the gym tile floor would not get scuffed up.

St. Paul Lutheran School participated in a youth bowling league in the early 1970s.

In 1980, under the direction of teacher Gary Marxhausen, a wrestling team was formed which competed at the Millington Junior High School.

In 1996, the Boys A team was invited to the National Lutheran Tournament at Valparaiso University in Indiana. The St. Paul team won 1 game and lost 2 in that tournament. In 2003-2004, the Boys A Team was once again invited to the National Lutheran



tournament with a regular season record of 25 wins, 4 losses. The 2014-15 Boys A Team also did quite well with a regular season record of 11 wins, 3 losses. They won the CTK Tournament and were invited to the State Lutheran Tournament.

The girls were not to be outdone by the boys and in 2013-14, the A Team had a regular season record of 18 wins 1 loss. They won the Valley Lutheran, CTK tournament, and the league tournament. They too were invited to the State Tournament ranked 4th in the state. They ended up losing 2 games at that tournament.

In 2014-2015, the Girls A Team had a regular season record of 22 wins, 0 losses. This year they won the Valley Lutheran, Peace Lutheran, CTK Lutheran, St. Lorenz Lutheran and League Tournaments. They were ranked #1 in the state as they went to the State Tournament, losing in the championship game. They were invited to the National Tournament in Valparaiso, Indiana and won 1 game while losing 2.



1995-96 National Tournament A Team Front Row L-R: Eric Lince, Greg Hoard, Greg Gilmore, Andy Petzold, Josh Wooldridge. Back Row L-R: Michael Schiefer, Ryan Steepe, Ryan Woodward, Eric Hutchinson, Coach Tim Walter.



2013-2014 State Tournament Girls Team Back L-R: Asst. Coaches Laura Gleim and Bill Weber, Kaitlyn Ill, Elizabeth Selich, Hannah Hall, Coach Mark Jensen. Middle Row L-R: Taylor Wirsing, Leah Denome, Gabby Sergent, Sydney Bishop, Gabbie Sherman, Jenna Smith. Front Row L-R: Katelyn Kaschner, McKenna Slough, Samantha Bishop, Anna Mae Beckman.



2014-15 Girls National Tournament A Team Front L-R: Samantha Bishop, Madi Hahn, Gabbie Sherman, Sam Ayotte, McKenna Slough, Anna Mae Beckman. Back L-R: Coach Bill Weber, Sydney Bishop, Kaitlyn Ill, Leah Denome, Coach Mark Jensen, Manager Nikki Sherman.

Students from St. Paul went on to high school and became integral parts of sport for Millington and Valley Lutheran. Some of those students became all-state athletes, even playing at the college level. Recently some were very instrumental in Millington winning their first state championship in softball.

Many dedicated teachers, fathers, and mothers of students coached and assisted with the sports programs at St. Paul. Without their help countless students would not have experienced the joy of athletic competition.

Organized for Christian Service

Within a Christian congregation there is a great opportunity for special service to the church and the people it serves. Down through the years, several organizations within St. Paul Lutheran Church have dedicated themselves to performing such special service, promoting Christian fellowship, enriching its members in the knowledge of God's Word and mobilizing them for special acts of service to the congregation.

The Dorcas Society/ LWML

One of the most active parish organizations in the congregation's history has been the Dorcas Society—an organization of ladies of the congregation.

Although ladies of the parish had met informally previously, a formal organizational meeting was held on June 19, 1940 with some 24 ladies present. In that meeting the name of the organization was selected and a constitution developed.

At a meeting at the church on July 24, 1940, 21 ladies signed the constitution and thus became the charter members of the organization. The ladies signed the constitution in order of their ages. These ladies were: Mrs. Almina Kurpsel, Mrs. Minnie Keinath, Mrs. Alma Ill, Mrs. Johanna June, Mrs. Clara Ill, Mrs. Clara Schleier, Mrs. Harry Hartley, Mrs. Charlotte Reinert, Mrs. Lydia Dittmar, Mrs. Elizabeth Erickson, Mrs. Alma Petzold, Mrs. Frieda Daenzer, Mrs. Ottilie Kurpsel, Mrs. Laura Ferber, Mrs. Linda Keinath, Mrs. Amalia Weber Sr., Mrs. Esther Daenzer, Mrs. Florence Keinath, Mrs. Dorothy Heuchert, Mrs. Edna Keinath, and Mrs. Alma Hahn.

By the following January, the following additional ladies had signed the constitution: Mrs. Essie Decuyper, Mrs. Agnes Ill, Mrs. Florence Ill, Mrs. Dorothy Thompson, Mrs. Martha Rittmaier, Mrs. Lillian Koeltzow, Mrs. Dorothea Mossner (Torrey), Mrs. Emma Henderson, Mrs. Lorna Fischhaber, Mrs. Helen Petzold, Mrs. Louise Schiefer, and Mrs. Bertha Daenzer.

On July 24, 1940 the first officers were elected. These were: Mrs. Laura Ferber, President; Mrs. Alma Hahn, Vice President; Mrs. Amalia Weber, Treasurer; and Mrs. Dorothy Heuchert, Secretary.

Committee members elected at the meeting included: Mrs. Florence Keinath and Mrs. Esther Daenzer to the membership committee; Mrs. Minnie Keinath and Mrs. Alma Ill to the visiting committee; Mrs. Ottilie Kurpsel and Mrs. Elizabeth Erickson to the entertainment committee, and Mrs. Amalia Weber and Mrs. Clara Schleier to the flower committee.

Meetings of the organization were held in the homes of members until about 1950 when they were regularly held at the new school.

In the years that followed, the membership gradually grew until

by 1960, when it celebrated its 20th anniversary, the organization had grown to some 83 members, and by 1972 when the membership had grown to more than 120 members.

The Society has a long list of special projects to its credit, including helping the needy in the parish, conducting an annual men's night, selling of Christmas cards and household items, mailing of Christmas packages to servicemen, adoption of needy families in Europe, providing chancel materials for the church, and many others.

Through colorful bazaars, subscription parties, bake sales and other fund-raising programs, the ladies of the Dorcas Society have raised thousands of dollars for the work of the congregation.

Their long list of special gifts to the congregation includes: altar paraments used in the old church, candlesticks, the former altar cross, pastoral robes, Christmas decorations, shrubbery for the church grounds, equipment for the school and church, furnishing of the parish hall kitchen, carpeting and landscaping of the church.

They have also repeatedly made sizeable donations to the congregation's operating and building fund. The ladies of the society have also actively supported many charities and have frequently invested in the church Extension Fund.

The organization joined the Associated Ladies Aid in November of 1945, and in the early 1970s became associated with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

The numbers have changed through the years, but the group has remained active through all the years. Later the name was incorporated to include the Lutheran Women in Mission and became part of the Franconian Zone that includes several other area churches. For many years the ladies collected "mites" and donated them to LWML. These mites were added together and distributed to different mission projects in the Michigan District and internationally, last year totaling over \$200,000.

In the last number of years, the Dorcas ladies raised money by doing bake sales and holding an annual Christmas Bazaar, selling crafts and quilts made throughout the year. The money they earned is used for projects around the church, including things like buying altar parchments, pastoral robes and equipment for school, supporting seminarian students by assisting in buying their books, and other special requests from the church as they come up.

The ladies also do projects like being Secret Angels who encourage and pray for the 8th grade confirmands and serve a luncheon to them. Other long term projects of the group are to send cards and visit shut-ins and remember them at Christmas, serving funeral dinners, and making Kathy Kaps to donate for cancer victims.

A main project for many years has been to make and donate hundreds of quilts each year to Lutheran World Relief, to be sent where needed around the world, some have been given to local homeless shelters, and a few are kept on hand to give to local families that lose their home in a fire.

The group also finds time to have fun by taking trips together to places like the Tulip Festival, plays at Turkeyville, tours to places like the Dodge Estate National Landmark, and Murder Mystery dinner trips. They also have had a variety of speakers in to talk at their meetings, covering topics from Right to Life, growing herbs and Leader Dogs.

Dorcas/LWML encourages each woman to use her God-given talents and gifts to support the church and global missions and the ladies here at St Paul willingly and cheerfully do that with their service projects.

The Men's Club



Down through its history, the business affairs of the congregation have been handled primarily by the male members of the congregation. And so, since the founding of the church, there has been the framework of a "men's club" active in the congregation.

In a congregational meeting on January 10, 1943, Dr. William Mossner, Frank Koch, and Theodore Keinath were asked to

arrange for a social evening for the men of the congregation.

In the years that followed, meetings were informal and generally included a brief topic discussion, perhaps a movie, and then a light lunch. The meetings continued in this fashion for several years. The first meeting in which minutes were kept was on February 6, 1947. In that meeting, chaired by Frank Koch, some 28 men were present.

On February 18, 1949, in a meeting chaired by Theodore Keinath and attended by 22 men, it was resolved to organize a Men's Club in the congregation on a formal basis.

Five men were named to write a constitution. They included: Frank Koch, George Nitz, Theodore Keinath, Gust Heuchert, and Arnold Higgins. The next meeting was held on March 4, 1949 and at this meeting the new constitution was approved.

Elected as the first formal officers of the Men's Club of St. Paul's were Theodore Keinath, President; Cleon Kester, Vice President; Arnold Higgins, Secretary-Treasurer, and Gustav Petzold and George Nitz, Directors.

Among its early projects were the planting of a lawn for the new school, support of the Displaced Person (DP) family which was sponsored by a parish member, the purchase of playground equipment, installation of sidewalks, and trees on the church grounds, placing of church signs on M-15 and efforts to procure a Lutheran doctor for Millington.

The club held its first Father-Son Banquet on February 5, 1950. The event was attended by 135 persons. Cleon Kester received the prize for having the youngest son in attendance and Norbert Reinert, present with his 87-year-old grandfather George Daenzer, received the prize for having the oldest father or grandfather present.

In the years that followed, although its membership and attendance was never very large, it held a variety of fund-raising programs, including many fish fries, to help support its parish projects.

The organization became associated with the Lutheran Laymen's League in 1955 and annually has directed membership drives for this international Lutheran lay organization.

In the years since, 1972, the Men's Club's meetings began to wane and meetings did not occur, however, the men of the congregation were regularly called on to hold a winter all you can eat fish fry that was attended by many from within and outside the congregation. At different times, there have been calls to reinstate the social meetings of the Men's Club, but there just does not seem to be enough interest for the men to reorganize.

The Parent-Teacher League

One of the youngest of the congregation's societies is the Parent-Teacher League which was formed in early 1961. It has compiled

an impressive record of accomplishments on behalf of the congregation's day school.

In early years, the parents of the congregation's day school provided the special support and encouragement needed by the day school. This was especially true during the years that the congregation operated a relatively small school in rural Arbela Township.

When things needed doing, parents of the school children got together and made sure they got done. As the school grew, and especially after the consolidation of the Arbela and Millington schools, the intimacy between school and parent which once existed began to wane—just as it had in the public schools.

Sensing a need for mobilizing the interest and concern of parents, Principal Chester Platt laid the groundwork for the formation of a parent's organization with a special interest in the parochial school.

Plans were made for the formation of a Parent-Teacher League for the parish in an organizational meeting held at the school on March 17, 1961. A nominating committee of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Petzold, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Daenzer, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peche was elected to establish a slate of candidates for office. Serving as chairman of this organizational meeting was Mr. Roy Schmandt, then chairman of the Board of Education. Principal Platt served as secretary of the meeting.

At this same meeting the parents present voted to join the National Parent-Teacher League. The evening closed with a movie on the National PTL organization.

The first officers of the new organization were elected in May 1961. Elected as the charter officers were: Ralph Horning, President; Mrs. Willard Petzold, Vice President; Robert Roggentine, Secretary; Mrs. Vernon Weber, Treasurer; Mr. and Mrs. Donald McIntyre and Mr. and Mrs. Delbert McTaggart, Program Committee; and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Rodemsky and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rhode, Social Committee. The constitution was adopted on November 28, 1961.

One of its first actions was the establishment of a hot lunch program in the school. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ill, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Koch, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peche served as the organizing committee for this program.

The Parent-Teacher League has been a vital part of the day school's operation. It has been responsible for many additions to the school's equipment and facilities. At one time it held a much awaited annual smorgasbord event, with proceeds providing funds for purchasing items for the school which normally would not be covered by congregational budgets.

It has actively promoted and supported the school's classroom, sports and extra-curricular activities and is responsible for many

programs which otherwise would not have been possible without its parental support and concern.

With the beginning of the Millington Summer Festival, the PTL created a fish fry booth as a very successful fund raising event for its activities. This booth was extremely well received by the community, and St. Paul became known as the premier fish fryers of the area.

Through the 80s, 90s, and early 2000s, the PTL was actively meeting and holding events, dinners, and silent auctions to raise money to promote and help the school. However, as interest in attending meetings waned, it was left to a handful of planners to keep the PTL a viable organization within St. Paul. Thanks to those planners, there were enough parents who would volunteer to help with events and fundraisers that had been planned and the PTL still is active in raising money for the school's needs.

The PTL has organized Outdoor Movie Nights, Mystery Dinner Theatre, Dads and Donuts, Moms and Muffins, Magic Shows, Carnivals, Academic and Athletic Banquets, Teacher Recognitions, Comedy Shows, an event called Denim and Diamonds, Talent Shows, Family Literacy Nights, Harvest Dinners, and Fall Festivals. They have also run various fundraisers as well as the concession stands at basketball games. Many in the congregation have enjoyed the activities that the PTL has planned.

The Walther League/Lutheran Youth Fellowship

It is apparent from frequent references made in early congregational records that a young people's organization of some type existed within the parish from its earliest days.

As was written earlier in this book, first mention of a young people's organization was made in the minutes of the March 24, 1901 meeting of the congregation. Mentioned was a "Yungling und Yungfrau" (Young Men and Women) club. In the minutes of that meeting, it was disclosed that this group had agreed to raise funds to buy the congregation's first communionware.

Unfortunately, no records of the congregation's earlier youth groups have survived. But, although no official records are available, the memory of those earlier young people's groups remain vivid in the memories of many members who were a part of them.

In earlier years the young people met in the homes of their parents – with the parents on hand to chaperone and supervise their activities. Later the meetings were held on an alternating basis between the Arbela School and the Millington Church.

Yet, apparently, the existence of the youth group did not last. So on Sunday evening, July 15, 1928 the young people were requested to stay after services for the purpose of organizing a society, as written about earlier in this book.

For many years, the Concordia Club presented plays on the

evenings of the annual kinderfest. It also was involved in many smaller parish projects which it was able to support with limited finances and skills.

The youth group in the parish enjoyed their highest level of success in the 1930s and 1940s when a lack of transportation and the more isolated atmosphere of the congregation kept young people closer to the church-oriented social activities.

Box socials, scavenger hunts, hay rides, weiner roasts and annual outings to resort areas were part of their busy yearly program.

In May of 1960, the Concordia Club dropped its name and became the Walther League. The club was invited to attend the Bay Zone Walther League Outing at Frankenlust in July of 1960. The Walther League is an old name that Synod's youth retained for their service-fellowship organization. It was named after C. F. W. Walther, the first president of the Missouri Synod and noted theological scholar.

It was in the annual report of 1979 that we first see the youth group referred to as The Walther League – LYF (Lutheran Youth Fellowship). In 1980, the Walther League portion of their name was dropped completely and they simply became known as LYF.



A Hayride in the 50s.

A combination of teachers and members of the congregation have volunteered to advise the youth throughout their existence.

In 1980, an LYF organization was formed for 7-8th graders. It was called Young LYF. Both groups were active in Bible Study, retreats, and fun activities and outings.

Many of the young people in the older LYF attended the Michigan District Youth Gathering on Mackinaw Island for many years. Some even attended the National Youth Convention for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

At one time, the LYF had their own choir and handbell choir under the direction of Mrs. Donna Weber and Mrs. Bonnie Wiacek.

The youth serviced the congregation each Easter morning with the Easter Breakfast. Members always looked forward to this event immediately after the Sunrise Service.

Through the efforts of many, the youth now have their own meeting room where they can enjoy games, food, fellowship, and bible study.

As the interests of our youth have become more diversified, it gradually became more difficult to maintain a sizeable membership in a parish youth group. But although the percentage of young people active in the youth group of the parish has tended to decrease, the enthusiasm and the energy of those who do participate has not. The organization remains as a rich training ground for future adult laymen of the parish.

Stephen Ministry



Clean up by the youth after another successful Easter Breakfast.

Stephen Ministry is a program where lay persons are trained how to visit and care for both members and non-members who are experiencing a difficult time in their life. It brings distinctively Christian care-giving to those in need. After 50 hours of training, Stephen Ministers are matched on a one-to-one basis by our Leadership Team with someone who has requested a Stephen Minister or who has been referred to the program.

Stephen Ministers are God's representatives, giving care to those who have lost a loved one, have gone through a divorce, are battling an illness, are lonely, or struggling with an addiction, to name a few. Through their dedicated and confidential caregiving, Stephen Ministers bring God's love to those who are hurting.

This program was initiated at St. Paul in the fall of 1987 under the direction of Pastor Albert Engler. He was rewarded with not only a large first class of 18 people, but the program continues at St. Paul still today, 35 years later.

Serving as Stephen Ministry leaders over this time period are Pam Ill, Laurel Woodward, Pastor Hannemann, Judy Snover, Paul Schoenknecht, Dianne Weber and Kathy Tuttle.

In 1996, it became advantageous for St. Paul, Millington and St. Timothy, Otisville to join together for training and/or ministry. Through the years, we have done the same with Trinity, Davison, and United Methodist Church of Millington. This combination has made Stephen Ministry's lay caring ministry better and stronger in our church and community.

People trained over these 35 years from St. Paul include the following:

Diane Ackerman	Pam Ill, *	Linda Rhode
Jeanette Allard	Lilli Jalbing	Paris Rogers
Karen Allen	Jean Jensen	David Russell
Mabel Baldwin	Christine Johnson	Sonja Russell
Carol Bannerman	Carl Keinath	Margie Scannell
Barb Basset	Kay Keinath	Nila Schmandt
Nancy Beagle	Marian Keinath	Paul Schoenknecht *
Diane Blue	Stephanie Keinath	Pamela Schultz
Gale Brown	Lucille Kern	Stephen Schultz
Glenn Brown	Linda Kester	Judy Selle
Pastor Bruner *	Tammy Kowitz	Richard Selle
Marilyn Daenzer	Charles Kroll	Tim Sergeant
Fran Carnet	Carolyn Laplow	Denise Sherman
Becky Dalton	Diane Leach	Jack Shreve
Delores Damm	Sandy Lince	Mary Jane Shreve
Faith Damm	Judy Lincoln	Barb Smith
Pat Davis	Keith Lincoln	Ernie Smith
Linda Dues	Janet Love	Irene Smith
Pastor Engler *	Kathy Matusik	Judy Snover *
Charlotte Engler	Brian Meier	Jan Snyder

Sue Fabbro	Denise Miller	Marlene Straub
Jean Ferguson	Greg Mohr	Kim Torrey
Rachel Foley	Lisa Mohr	Regina Vining
Pam Glynn	Lori Osborn	Joyce Wager
Jill Grignani	Ray Peche	Ted Wager
Judy Grulke	Denise Peplinski	Nancy Warby
Wally Hahn	Jay Peplinski	Dianne Weber *
Pam Hanlin	Cathy Higgins	Donna Weber
Pastor Hannemann*	Cindy Petzold	Vern Weber
Debbie Hazel	Loraine Petzold	Julie Weiss
Cherri Herrick	Shirley A. Petzold	Lola Wendt
Dale Higgins	Roy Petzold	Ed White
Connie Hoard	Wallace Petzold	Nancy Wilson
Steve Holmes	Kirsten Platt	JoAnn Woelzlein
Rosie Horning	Don Rasmussen	Pam Wood
Kendal Humpert	Erna Reinert	Laurel Woodward *
Kathy Ill	Janette Reinert	Angela Zeck

*Denotes Stephen Ministry Leaders

Hot Lunch Program

Oh, Taste and See that the Lord is Good!

Over the years, when students were surveyed about what they most enjoyed about their school, a frequent response was, "The food." Perhaps this is because the children have sensed the love and care that has gone into the preparation of the food. Our cooks have always known they are serving the King's children and therefore have made the food as tasty and healthy as possible. Students have been privileged to enjoy many homemade items in the past including homemade bread and cinnamon rolls and the once immensely popular peanut butter and jelly bread. While regulations have changed over the years, students and staff have been blessed to enjoy the many items not regularly served in some schools.

Our hot lunch program has also been blessed by the donation of many locally grown items such as sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers as well as a wide variety of other vegetables and fruits when in season.

At Thanksgiving, Christmas and for Grandparents Day a full course meal, complete with all the trimmings, is prepared as a special treat. A salad bar half the length of the Parish Hall has also been a student's favorite. Lots of extra effort is required for these, but the thankful smiles make it all worthwhile.

Our cooks have faithfully served our Lord by serving His children heaping helpings of love, kindness and yes, good food. We thank God for those who have been officially employed as cooks and kitchen helpers as well as those many faithful moms and a few dads who volunteered their services to bless our children.

Those faithful cooks include:

Loretta Horning *
Vicki Sims
Bonnie Gross *
Laura Sherman
Sue Howay
Penny Younger
Cherri Herrick
Mary Stiff

Lorraine Petzold *
Sharon (Koch) Webster *
Sandy Fackler
Ellen Reinertson
Maureen Sowden
Patty Petzold
Shelly Cobb

Altar Guild

At the May 5, 1968 meeting of the Voters Assembly, the Altar Guild was authorized for the Chancel of the new church. Charter members of the Altar Guild included: Erna Reinert, the first chairman, Ida Weber, Lela Higgins, Frieda Schluckbier, Dorothy Torrey, Patricia Griswold, Clara Petzold, Marion Reinert, Edna Ferber, Vicki Sims, and Marion Schiefer.

The Altar Guild was organized under the direction of the then Pastor Hugo Ferber and Parish Chairman Rudy Petzold.

The dedicated women of the Guild have many duties to perform to keep the services running smoothly. Some include cleaning the chancel area, caring for the paraments, linens, pastors gowns, setting up and taking down the communionware, running the Bookstore and Glass case, and decorating the chancel and altar for holidays.

In 1970, Marion Schiefer and Ida Weber were in charge of making the Chrismons (Christian Symbols) that were used on the Christmas Trees. The guild has purchased and made many items used for our church services.

Due to the pandemic of 2019-20, the Altar Guild has had to make many adjustments in preparing the communionware for the Lord's Supper. The congregation can be proud of the way the ladies stepped forward and helped to make everything work well.

These behind-the-scenes workers are serving their Lord with gladness.

Sextons

Sextons are responsible for preparing the church for the services. They unlock the church doors, turn the lights on, put up the hymn numbers on the boards, and ring the bells at the beginning of the services. Depending on the weather, sextons may even shovel snow and put down salt on the sidewalks.

They open the doors for Bible studies and Sunday School classes. Sextons are also involved with weddings and funerals. Sextons may also assist with setting up communion, ushering and lighting candles.

One of the most well known sextons was Clarence Reinert assisted by his wife Lela. Clarence served as sexton for many years, even before the building of the new church. He was also the

unofficial "greeter" for the church meeting people with a warm smile and handshake.

Since Clarence, many have served faithfully as sextons, always ready to make the services run as smoothly as possible.

Memorials Committee

When the Memorials and Gifts fund was started many years ago, it was a way for people to make donations in memory of a loved one, a remembrance for a birthday or anniversary, or a gift of thanks. There was a Memorial catalog with a list of items needed for the church or school such as the organ, hymnals, desks, books, just to name a few.

The pastors, teachers, elders or committee members would list the needed items in a Memorials Catalog for people to donate towards. When unbudgeted items were needed for the church or school this was a great way to obtain them.

As time went on, there became many different Memorial funds designated for specific groups, projects, and ministries. As projects were completed, groups ceased to exist and needs of the congregation changed, the funds held money that couldn't be used elsewhere. The Memorial committee saw money in these obsolete funds and felt we were not being good stewards of our congregation's donations. They put together a proposal of a system that made funds more accessible and the ability to accomplish more projects.

In 2017 the proper steps were taken to mainstream the Memorials and make them more accessible to the church and school. The memorial committee took the updated system to the Council, and congregation for approval. The Memorial account went from over 50 separate funds to four fund designations: Church General Fund, School General Fund, Building Fund and Memorial Undesignated.

By restricting donations to one of these four groups, we are able to meet more needs throughout the church and school. Requests for funds are made to the Memorial Committee for particular needs and items. The committee votes on the request and they can supply the needed money from the Memorials undesignated fund to fulfill the request. This process has been very successful since its inception in 2017. We are able to purchase needed items in a timely fashion.

Ushers

The group of men and women who usher serve a vital role in the smooth operation of Divine Service. They serve their Lord by serving others. At times, ushers seat people when the church is full. They also hand out service programs and bulletins, thus often being the first contact members have as they enter the church. Passing the plate and presenting it to the pastor for blessing as well

as inviting people to the rail for communion are part of the usher's job. They often help with any emergencies that may occur during the service as well.

Many people have served as ushers, but there is always a need for more. Ushers are broken into teams and serve one month at a time, generally once every third month. Each team has a captain who makes assignments for the service. It is a great way for new members to enter service to the Lord and get to know their fellow members as family.

Greeters

In an effort to develop a more cordial welcome for worshippers and to make a special effort to reach visitors, the Board of Evangelism established a Greeter Corps. This group has been greeting worshippers since Easter Sunday of 1981. Greeters introduce themselves and welcome visitors to our congregation, as well as offer a hearty handshake and smile to those entering the church. Greeters also introduce visitors to the pastors and Elders as well as other members of the congregation.

Acolytes

Acolytes are young members of the congregation, generally in 6th – 10th grade who serve their Lord by lighting the candles and extinguishing them before and after the Divine Service. They also attend to the Baptism candle whenever there is a baptism. The congregation originated acolyting for the 75th Anniversary celebration of St. Paul, and originally it was limited to boys.

However, girls have become an integral part of this service. In an effort for fathers to witness to their children the faith into which they would have them grow, the congregation has had fathers and their sons or daughters acolyte together. There is always a need for more acolytes and should be considered by parents as an excellent opportunity for having their children publically serve the Lord.

Praise Team

St. Paul's Praise Team leads the music for Contemporary Services. The service follows the format used for the traditional service, but the music is more modern (Contemporary) with the use of drums, acoustic guitars, base guitar, and piano.

The Praise Team started in 1998 and is currently used in the 1st and 3rd Sundays during the 11:00 o'clock service. The Praise Team also provided music for St. Timothy in Otisville from 2013 to 2017.

At one time, a Youth Praise Service was held in the Parish Hall. The music, skits, and readings were done by St. Paul's youth.

Over the years, many have participated in playing and singing with the Praise Team and Youth Team. They are:

Jaime Petzold	Sonja Russell	Kim Reinert
Terri Reinert	Donna Torrey	Laura Schwab

Sandy Lince	Tim Weber	Pastor Bruner
Steve Schmandt	Steve Danials	Matt Denome
Linda Kester	Mike Petzold	Tim Brown
Karen Bruner	Richard Harpst	Grace Brown
Angie Peterson	Connie Rodammer	Alex Morris
Tammie Dreher	Kenny McKee	Woody Wates
Cindy Petzold	Mellissa Wagner	Pam Schultz
Audrey Brown	Stacey Force	Chuck Eilers
Kassandra Mills	Les Maxson	

Handbells

In 1978, St. Paul Lutheran Church started their first handbell choir with 3 octaves of bells, a dozen brave ladies and their director, Barbara Mohr. Eventually, chimes and a 4th octave of bells were added. Diane Mills took over as director after Barbara retired, and Julie Keinath is the current director.

A junior bell choir was started and continues to this day with students from 4th through 8th grades. Directors for the junior bells have included Milo Lombard, Carolyn Petzold and currently Connie Rodammer. To date, there have been multiple generations of ringers within some of our families.

Both choirs play for church services throughout the year, but the adult choir has also played for other activities and festivals outside of church. They have also participated in many bell ringing workshops over the years, in which they learned new music and bell ringing techniques. The junior choir participates in the Lutheran Music Festival every year.



The first handbell choir at St. Paul.

At the Right—Quilters Rosie Horning and Luanne Jaruzel making quilts for the Dorcas Society/LWML to donate.



The Men's Club enjoying game of shuffleboard after their meeting in the early 1960s. From left to right are Earnest Keinath, Theodore Keinath, Elmer Snover, Ed Klammer, Roy Schmandt, Ralph Ferber, Roy Petzold, and Worley Mays.





Brass Ensemble/Instruments

St. Paul Brass Band began meagerly with one or two trumpeters playing for Easter Services and an occasional special service. As more high school students played instruments in their high school bands, additional instrumentation became available for use during services. Adults with musical talent added to the groups strength in playing music for the Lord.

Trumpets were enriched with the sound of French horns, baritones, trombones, tubas, and timpani. Clarinets and flutes are often used to add a special touch to choral arrangements. The talents of the musicians who play instruments are enjoyed by the entire congregation as we glorify God and the gifts He gives us through the talents of others.



Church Choir

Our congregation has had a Senior Choir for decades. This dedicated group of singers lend their voices to the praise of our God. The Choir members prepare for the songs they sing by meeting to practice both during the week and before service times.

Each Christmas season, they are featured at the annual Christmas Concert where along with our children's choirs they present the message of Christ's birth in song.



They Went Forth to Serve

Rev. Nathan Higgins is the son of Dale Higgins and the late



Barbara Maxfield. He attended Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne from 1999-2003 where he graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree. Before taking his first call, he began taking classes in the Master of Sacred Theology program. While not completing the latter program, it gave him the opportunity to focus on the history and theology of Martin Luther.

His first call was to a dual parish in northern Minnesota where he served two Bethlehem congregations, one in Baudette and the other in Warroad, Minnesota (2003-2008).

Subsequently, Pastor Higgins was called (and authorized by the Minnesota North District President) to serve an independent Lutheran congregation in Long Prairie, Minnesota (2008-present). He and his wife Jenny, have two children, Christopher and Emma.

Pastor Jason Peterson

Pastor Jason Peterson is the son of Larna and the late Paul Peterson. He attended Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN.

Pastor Peterson was ordained June 25, 2006 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Millington, Michigan. He was then called and installed at St. John Lutheran Church in Burt, Iowa on July 2, 2006.

Pastor Peterson's current call is to St. Peter Lutheran Church in Rockford, Michigan where he was installed on May 8, 2016. He currently serves at St. Peter as their pastor. Pastor Peterson is the Circuit Visitor of the Grand Rapids North/Central Circuit of the Michigan District.

During his time in Iowa, he was the auto racing chaplain at the Algona Raceway/Kossuth County Speedway and he served as an

The sons and daughters of St. Paul's congregation went forth to minister in the Lutheran Church. Five sons went on to become Lutheran Church Missouri Synod pastors. Others went on to teach or work in the Lutheran church. The congregation is very proud of its former students who were called by God to minister to His people. It is our hope that others will be encouraged to continue this wonderfully fulfilling calling to work in His church.

Pastor Michael Roth



The first son of the congregation to become a pastor was the Rev. Michael Roth. He is the son of the late Carol and Dale Roth.

He received his Masters of Divinity in 1986 from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne and a PhD from that same institution in 2011. He was ordained into the holy ministry in 1986 at St. Paul Millington. He was a vicar in Oregon at two Lutheran churches before finishing his final year of seminary. Pastor Roth's first call was to St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Rocky River, OH as an Associate Pastor. In 1990, he was called to a dual pastorate at St. Thomas Lutheran in Ohio City, OH and Zion Lutheran in Willshire, OH.

He stayed there until a call in 1994 to Peace Lutheran in Saginaw, MI as an Associate Pastor. In 2000, he was called to St. Peters Lutheran in Eastpointe, MI as their Senior Pastor where he served until 2007 when Pastor Roth was called to Trinity, St. Joseph as Sr. Pastor. As of 2022, this is where he still serves. Pastor Roth has held numerous positions at the Synodical, District, and Circuit levels as well as being an Adjunct Professor for Theology around the world. He loves spending time with his wife Amy and their 8 children and 4 grandchildren.

Pastor Nathan Higgins



Adjunct Instructor of World Religions at Iowa Central Community college in Fort Dodge Iowa.

He has also served as a vacancy pastor for numerous Lutheran congregations who were without a pastor in his area.

Pastor Peterson is married to Sarah and together they have 6 children: Lillian, Emalee, Ellanor, Liam, Lydia, and Evalyn.

Pastor Peter Ill

Pastor Peter Ill is the son of Larry and Pamela Ill. He attended Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, MO.



Pastor Ill graduated with a Masters in Divinity and his first call was to St. John Lutheran Church in Chester, IL. He was ordained and installed at that congregation on August 1, 2010.

In October of 2014, he accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Millstadt, IL where he serves to this day. Pastor Ill is involved in several radio programs with KFUE radio, a Lutheran broadcast station. He participates in programs called Sharper Iron, Concord Matters, and provides daily radio devotions on occasion.

Pastor Ill is married to Caroline (nee Camp) of Munster, IN, and they were married on July 1, 2006.

Pastor Timothy Kern

Pastor Kern is the son of Steven and Mary Kern. He graduated from St. Paul Lutheran grade school in 2006 and Valley Lutheran High School in 2010. From there he attended Concordia University



in Chicago, graduating with a degree in History in 2014.

He began his studies for the ministry at Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne in 2016, and studied for a year at the Lutherische Theologische Hochschule in Oberursel, Germany.

He returned to vicar at 1st Trinity Lutheran in Pittsburg and graduated from Fort Wayne in 2021. In that same year, he was called to and ordained at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marlette, Michigan. Pastor Kern is married to Hanna, a seminary degree deaconess, and has two children, Clara and Frederick.

The Teachers from St. Paul

Prior to 1972, the 75th Anniversary of St. Paul, only 3 students from St. Paul Lutheran School went on to become Lutheran School teachers

Since 1972 our school can boast of 17 students who went on to teach in Lutheran Schools, and 2 students who became Lutheran Church workers other than being a pastor or teacher.

Mr. Frederick C. L. Weber

Frederick C. L. Weber was born on September 5, 1901 in Arbela Township, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz Weber. He attended St. Paul Lutheran School and was confirmed by Rev. Albert Brauer. He

entered Concordia Teachers College at River Forest, Illinois and



graduated in 1922. Mr. Weber was extended a call to the Lutheran School at Glenview, Illinois where he served for 25 years.

Shortly after his 25th year in the teaching ministry, he died at his home in Glenview on November 1, 1947.

He was married to Selma Bierlein on August 10, 1924 in Frankenmuth. Their marriage was blessed with five children, including two sons, Walter and Albert, and three daughters, Loretta, Hildegard, and Esther.

Mr. Albert L. Daenzer

Albert L. Daenzer was born in Arbela Township on December 24, 1903 and attended St. Paul Lutheran School.

After his confirmation, he attended Concordia Teacher's College in River Forest, Illinois where he studied for the teaching ministry. He graduated in 1925 and accepted a call to Conroy, Iowa, where he taught for 23 years.



He then accepted a call to St. Peters Lutheran School in Chicago, IL where he remained for three years. After this period of teaching, he accepted a call to Liddedale, Iowa, where he taught in the lower grades of the school. Interestingly enough, the congregation in Liddedale is the home congregation of Mr. Chester Platt, a long time principal of St. Paul.

Mr. Daenzer was married in 1927 to Ada Zuber of Conroy, Iowa. Their marriage was blessed with three children, including Frieda Wenck, Gilbert, and Franklin. Mr. Daenzer had two brothers who remained members of St. Paul until their deaths, Mr. Carl Daenzer and Mr. Herman Daenzer.

Mrs. Elaine (Petzold) Bickel

Mrs. Bickel was the daughter of Oscar and Alma (Bauer) Petzold. She attended St. Paul Lutheran and Millington High School in her youth. After graduation from high school in 1966, she attended and graduated from Concordia Jr. College, Ann Arbor in 1968. From there she finished her undergraduate college at Concordia, River Forest, IL in 1970.

Mrs. Bickel was called to teach 2nd grade and then 6th, 7th, and



8th grade at Redeemer Lutheran School in Flint, MI. In 1978, she was called to St. Paul, Millington as a teacher. When she retired in 2014, she was the principal at St. Paul.

She has been an author of numerous devotional books, and is in demand as a speaker for Lutheran and Christian organizations.

In 2015 she taught part-time for Immanuel Lutheran, Frankentrost. She did this until 2020, and then in 2021, she came back to teach math part-time for one year at St. Paul in Millington.

She is married to Jim and their marriage has been blessed with two children, Carol Laux and Bill Bickel.

Myra (Ill) Gehrke

Mrs. Gehrke is the daughter of Herb and Tillie Ill and graduated from St. Paul in 1966. While in High School at Millington, Myra

was the teacher trainer for Mrs. Jalbing where she helped with 42 kindergartners in one class. She graduated from Concordia, Ann Arbor in 1972. Ann Arbor was a Jr. College then so Mrs. Gehrke went on to Concordia, Seward, Nebraska to finish her degree in 1974.

Her first call was to Walther Memorial Lutheran School in



Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she taught from 1974-1980. After raising her family, she became Director of Preschool at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran in Milwaukee from 1999-2007. She retired from this position in 2015 and continues to reside in Wisconsin.

Shirley (Weiss) Thompson

Mrs. Thompson is the daughter of Norman and Edna Weiss. She graduated from Concordia Jr. College, Ann Arbor in 1973 and finished her degree at Concordia College River Forest, Illinois in 1975. From there she was called to teach 1st-4th grades at St.



Peter's Lutheran School in Vincennes, Indiana.

In 1977 Mrs. Thompson was called to St. John's Lutheran School in North Prairie, Wisconsin where she taught 1st -3rd grades until 1978. She is now retired and living in Tomah, Wisconsin.

Lori (Haines) Buchinger

Mrs. Buchinger is the daughter of Don and Barbara Haines. She graduated from Concordia Jr. College in Ann Arbor in 1974 and went on to finish her degree at Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska in 1976. She received an MA from Saginaw Valley State University in 1987.

Her first call was to Trinity, St. Joseph, Michigan where she taught 4th grade until 1978 when she received and accepted a call to Holy Cross Lutheran School, Saginaw, Michigan. She taught grades K-4 and physical education at Holy Cross. In 1988, she accepted a call to St. Michael , Richville teaching Kindergarten through 6th



grade as well as Physical Education.

In 1998, Mrs. Buchinger accepted a call to teach at St. Paul Lutheran School in Millington, Michigan which brought her full circle back to the school of her youth. She taught 4th-6th grades at St. Paul until 2009, and has substitute taught here and at other Lutheran Schools since.

Mrs. Buchinger married Steven Buchinger in 1976 and together they raised three children: Sarah, Rachel, and Seth.

Sandra (Higgins) Walker

Sandra is the daughter of Emil and Emma Higgins. She graduated from Concordia University Ann Arbor with a BA in Education.

Her first call was to Calvary Lutheran of Lincoln Park, Michigan where she taught Preschool in 1986-1987. She was then called to Holy Ghost Lutheran of Monroe, Michigan for the 1987-1988 school year where she taught 1st and 2nd grade.

Mrs. Walker was called to Trinity Lutheran of Berrien Springs to teach 1st and 2nd grade in 1988. She taught through 1990, and in 1991 she became the Preschool Director. She retired from the Preschool Directorship in 2004.

Julie (Petzold) Miller



Julie Miller is the daughter of Roy and Shirley A. Petzold. She graduated from Concordia Ann Arbor in 1986. Upon graduation, she was called to St. John Nottingham in Cleveland, OH. This was the only year she taught, as Julie decided to raise a family. Her children are: David, Rachel, Daniel, Rebecca, Hannah, and Hope. Julie currently resides in Florida.

Mary (Petzold) Arrick

Mary Arrick is also the daughter of Roy and Shirley A. Petzold. She attended Concordia, Ann Arbor where she graduated in 1988.

Mary has taught in a variety of Lutheran Schools over her career. Her first call was to St. John Lutheran, Defiance, Ohio in 1988. She taught 4th grade and was the Youth Director. From there she was called to Zion Lutheran School, Akron, Ohio where she taught 1st



grade, 7th and 8th grade and was the Athletic Director and Basketball coach until 1996.

She accepted a call to Redeemer Lutheran In Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and Atonement Lutheran in Dearborn, Michigan in 1998. In 2001, she was called to St. John Lutheran where she taught until 2008.

At that time, Mrs. Arrick spent one year in each of the following



schools: Our Savior Lutheran, Hartland, Michigan, Lakewood Lutheran, Lakewood, Ohio, Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran, Brighton, Michigan, and St. Paul Lutheran, Flint, Michigan.

Over her time in Lutheran Schools she taught Kindergarten through 8th grade, was a principal, and a soccer, track, and volleyball coach.

Mary is married to Tim, and they have 3 children: Benjamin, Eric, and Caitlin.

Lisa (Rude) Bach



Mrs. Bach is the daughter of James and Barbara Rude. Lisa Bach attended Concordia University, Ann Arbor for her Bachelor's Degree and finished her Master's Degree in reading from Oakland University.

Her first call was to Zion Lutheran School in Beecher, Illinois in 1989. She taught at Zion until she was called to St. Peter Lutheran School in Macomb, Michigan in 1993.

Starting in 1997, she taught for two years at a charter school in Lapeer, Michigan until accepting a call to St. Paul Lutheran School in Millington. She taught at St. Paul for one year and then decided to stay at home to raise a family and home school her children.

In 2016, she came back to St. Paul in Millington as a reading interventionist and also has been teaching literature and English composition. She has three children: Madeline, Aidan, and Emmet.

Sue (Trinklein) Bliese

Sue Bliese is the daughter of Fred and Marie Trinklein. Susan graduated from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1992. She was called to Zion Lutheran School in Akron, Ohio where she taught from 1992 to 1999.

Sue is married to James and they have 4 children: David, Mary,



Laura, and Michael.

Dr. Julian Petzold

Julian Petzold graduated from St. Paul in 1985 and is the son of Wallace and Shirley L. Petzold. After high school at Valley Lutheran in Saginaw, he attended Concordia River Forest and graduated with a degree in Early Childhood Education in 1993.



His first call in 1993 was to St. John Rochester where he taught 2nd grade for 2 years and Kindergarten for 2 years. It was in 1997 that he received his MA in Educational Leadership from Oakland University.

In 1997, he was called to Living Word Lutheran in Rochester as their Director of School Ministries. He served in that capacity until 2007.

It was at that time that he was called to be principal and ECC Director for Trinity, St. Joseph, Michigan. In 2010 he accepted a call to become the principal at Trinity, Clinton, Township.

In 2020, Julian earned his PhD in Educational Leadership from Concordia, Chicago and was called to be the Executive Director of Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw, Michigan where he serves today.

Julian is married to Jennifer and they have 3 children: Evan, Alaina, and Logan.

Beverly Baldwin

Beverly is the daughter of Dorine and Leonard Baldwin and a graduate of St. Paul Lutheran School. While Ms. Baldwin did not attend a Concordia, she has taught in the Lutheran School System for her entire career.

She received her Bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University in 1990 and her Master's from Michigan State University in 1998.

She began teaching in 1993 at Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw, Michigan and taught there until 2009. In 2011, she moved to Texas and taught at Lutheran High North-Houston.

Her teaching background is in the sciences having taught grades 9 -12 PE, Health, Biology, AP Biology, Anatomy and Physiology,



and Environmental Science. For the past two years at Lutheran High North, she has been the Registrar/Academic Dean of students.

Sheri (Gross) Daniell

Mrs. Daniell is the daughter of Jim and Bonnie Gross, and was in the Class of 1984 at St. Paul Lutheran. After high school in Millington, she attended Concordia University, Ann Arbor,

Michigan, graduating in 1992 with a degree in Elementary Education.

Her first call was to Gethsemane Lutheran School in Northglenn, Colorado. She served that congregation from 1993-2000 as a teacher in grades 2-3.

In 2000, she was called to Emmanuel Lutheran School in Dearborn, Michigan teaching 2-4th grade.

In 2010, Mrs. Daniell accepted a call to Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Lake Orion, Michigan, and taught Young 5s-Kindergarten. Sheri was also the preschool director at this school.

Her current call is to Trinity Lutheran School in Utica, Michigan which she accepted in 2016. Here she is the Early Childhood Director.



Mrs. Daniell is married to Greg and they have a son, John, and a daughter, Melinda, by marriage as well as a son together, Austin. They have been blessed with 6 grandchildren.

William Bickel

Bill is the son of Jim and Elaine Bickel and graduated from Concordia Mequon, Wisconsin in 2001.



He was called to Brookfield Lutheran Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin where he served from 2002-2004 as their Family Life Director.

Bill's second call was to Celebration Lutheran Church in Appleton, Wisconsin. He served there from 2004-2008 also as their Family Life Director.

Bill and his wife Julie have two children: Jacob and Jenna.

Jill (Sherman) Erlenbeck

Jill is the daughter of Russell and Laura Sherman. While not a graduate of St. Paul School, Mrs. Erlenbeck obtained her colloquy from Concordia Ann Arbor online while a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

She worked as a contract teacher at St. Mark Lutheran in Flint in 2003 after getting her undergrad degree from U of M Flint. She



worked at St. Mark until it closed, and was then called to Immanuel Lutheran School in Bay City.

Mrs. Erlenbeck is married to Philip and they have 4 children: Connor, Grace, Blake, and Claire.

Connie (Ziegler) Singer



Connie Singer is the daughter of Eugene and Eileen Ziegler and graduated from St. Paul in 1981. After high school at Valley Lutheran, she graduated from Concordia in River Forest, Illinois in 1989 with a BA in Elementary Education and an Interdisciplinary Study in Social and Behavioral Sciences. She also was trained in Youth Ministry.

Her first call was to teach 3rd grade at Faith Lutheran in Bay City, Michigan where she taught until 1993. In 1994 she was called to teach 5th grade part-time at Zion Lutheran in Bay City.

She was called to St. Paul Lutheran in Millington in 2000 to teach 5th grade. Four years later Mrs. Singer began teaching 3rd grade at St. Paul, which she teaches to this day.

Mrs. Singer married her husband, Kent, in 1991 and together they have three boys: Matthew and twins Timothy and Aaron.

She recalls that God used many faithful servants at St. Paul as well as her two aunts and uncles to be wonderful examples of Lutheran Church workers. This, along with God's nudge through the hymn "Hark the voice of Jesus crying, Who will go and work today?" moved her to become a Lutheran School teacher.

Kim (Snyder) Case

Mrs. Case is the daughter of Jan and Shirley Snyder. She was confirmed and graduated from St. Paul in 1996. After graduation from Valley Lutheran High School, she went on to Concordia University in Ann Arbor. She finished her degree in Elementary Education in 2005.



After several years working in the early childhood field, at public institutions, Kim accepted a call to be an Infant Lead Teacher at Christ Community Lutheran School in St. Louis, Missouri.

Kim is married to Jeffrey Case.

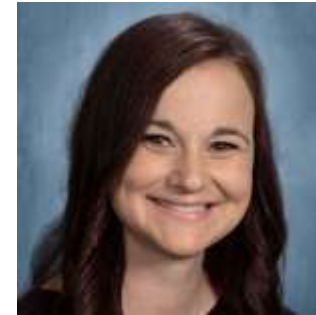
Christina (Schoenknecht) Petzold

Tina Petzold is the daughter of Paul and Penny Schoenknecht, and has been in Lutheran education her entire life. She graduated from St. Paul in Millington in 2002, Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw in 2006, and Concordia University Ann Arbor in 2010 with a BA in LTD.

In 2010, she married Jacob Petzold, whom she met at St. Paul while in grade school. Tina also received her first call in that year to Trinity Lutheran, Merrill, Wisconsin. However, due to the illness of her father-in-law she and her husband returned to Millington so Jake could help on the family farm.

She substitute taught for a year at St. Paul Frankenlust in the first and second grade. Following that, she was called to Immanuel Frankentrost, where she served for 4 years teaching first and second grade.

In 2016, Tina received a call to teach Kindergarten from St. Paul Millington. She is presently still serving here, and hopes to continue



serving for many more years.

Tina praises God for everything St. Paul has been to her. She says, "It shaped my formative years, prepared me for my future, introduced me to my husband, welcomed me home, and continues to encourage my growth in faith, family, and profession."

Tina and Jake have three sons: Max, Jack, and Isaac.

Jacob Petzold

Jake Petzold is the son of Mike and Cindy Petzold. Jake is also the husband of Tina (Schoenknecht) Petzold.

Jake graduated from St. Paul in 2001, Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw in 2005, and Concordia Ann Arbor in 2010.

His first call was to Trinity in Wasau, Wisconsin as the Family Life Director. Later he was called to St. Timothy, Otisville, Michigan to be the Family Life Director there.

Jake began taking over the family farm when his father's health worsened, and he now is a full-time farmer, but still finds time to work in the church where needed at St. Paul.

As was mentioned earlier, he and Tina have three sons: Max, Jack, and Isaac.



St. Paul High School LYF group at a bowling outing.

Michigan District High School Youth Gathering at Mackinaw Island.

L-R Front: Stacey Lince, Kristy Petzold, Joanne Jaruzel, Dawn Pezo.

L-R Back: Michael Bridges, Dean Swenson, Rev Bruner, Craig Swenson, George Baum. (Swen & Dean, Lost & Found)



The Men of St. Paul also fry fish for the annual Fish Fry held in the Parish Hall in the early spring.



Bethany Daenzer



Bethany is the daughter of Tim and Connie Daenzer. She graduated from Concordia, Bronxville, New York in 2020 and was called to St. Michael, Richville, Michigan as the first grade teacher from 2020-2021. She then became the Early Childhood Director at St. Michael in 2021.

Andrea Weiss



Andrea is the daughter of Eugene and Julie Weiss. She graduated from Concordia, Seward, Nebraska in 2012 and was called to St. Paul Lutheran in DesPeres, Missouri as the Kindergarten teacher.

In 2017 she accepted a call to Chapel of the Cross Lutheran School in St. Peter, Missouri as the Preschool Director and Teacher.

Her current call came in 2020 to Immanuel Lutheran, Macomb, Michigan as the Preschool Director.



Those Who Served

1 Corinthians 12:47 (ESV) - Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Pastors of St. Paul

Early parish records indicate that the following pastors served Lutherans in the Millington area in the days before a formal congregation was organized. The dedicated pastors traveled by horse and buggy to provide Divine Service for the faithful in Millington. The approximate years of their service is indicated:

The Rev. J. P. Partenfelder of Bay City (1874-1890)
 The Rev. J. Karres of Hadley (1874)
 The Rev. J. A. Bohn of Frankentrost (1882-1887)
 The Rev. Ludwig Fuerbringer of Frankenmuth (1886)
 The Rev. J. F. G. Beyer of Unionville (1888-1890)
 The Rev. George Bernthal of Richville (1890-1897)
 The Rev. H. Juengel (Merritt Township) of Munger (1890s)

The following pastors served as resident pastors of the congregation during the periods indicated:

The Rev. George Michael Zucker (1897-1902)
 The Rev. H. W. Theodore Wuggazer (1902-1905)
 The Rev. George J. Moehring (1906-1910)
 The Rev. Albert C. W. Brauer (1910-1919)
 The Rev. Arthur A. Hahn (1919-1927)
 The Rev. Albert F. Nees (1928-1937)
 The Rev. Hugo O. C. Ferber (1937-1971)
 The Rev. David Shoemaker (1977-1983)
 The Rev. Robert Barker (1980-1985)
 The Rev. Albert Engler (1984-1989)
 The Rev. David Sherry (1986-1993)
 The Rev. Mark Hannemann (1989-1994)
 The Rev. Ronald Scheer (Interim 1994)
 The Rev. John Koczman (1994-1996)
 The Rev. Timothy Bickel (1996-2008)
 The Rev. James Bruner (1997- Presently Serving)
 The Rev. Karl Koch (Interim 2008-2009)
 The Rev. Kirk Abatelli (2009-2017)
 The Rev. Robert Smith (Interim 2017-2018)
 The Rev. Timothy Martinal (2018 Presently Serving)

The following vicars served St. Paul during their vicarage year:
 Vicar Arnold W. Deknatel (1977-1978)
 Vicar Steven Bauer (1979-1980)

Vicar Charles Smith (1981)
 Vicar Kenneth Klopp

The Teachers of St. Paul

The following served as teachers of the congregation. Of these teachers, Mr. Chester L. Platt served as the first principal from 1950-1970.

Mr. G. L. Wyneken (1925-1929)	Mr. Edmund Klammer (1929-1935 and 1959-1966)
Mr. August G. Scheer (1935-1945)	Mr. Chester L. Platt (1946-1978)*
Mrs. Lorna Platt (1950-1962 and 1964-1978)	Elizabeth Seeman (1957-1958)
Louise Palmreuter (1960-)	Johanna Neuhaus (1958-1959)
Lilli Jalbing (1962-1990)	Elinor Miller (1961-1962)
Sandra Quandt (1963-)	Garnet Arit (1963-1964)
Fred Tonn (1965-1972)	Dianne Gregg (1962-1963)
Frederick Krueger (1966-1967)	Eunice Peche (1966-1968)
	Mrs. Diane Krueger (1966-1967)
Edward Kern (1967-1991)	Garnet Dwyer (1967-)
Ron Schnell (1967-1970)	Bette Bauer (1968-1971)
Patricia Smith (1968-)	Arlene Moody (1969)
John (Jack) Wagner (1969-1970)	Diana Mattlin (1969-1970 and 1992-1993)
Carla Prigge (1970-1973)	Norman Rehmer (1970-1977)*
Linda Wilke Henderson (1971-1979)	Barbara Mohr
Rodger Grulke (1970-2000)	
Fred Krey (1972-1973)	Edith Janetzke (1973-1974)
Arlene Rehmer (1973-1976)	Marna Stohlman (1974-1976)
Dan McVey (1976-1977)	Carl Straub (1976-1994)*
Mary Bahr (1976-1986)	Milo Lombard (1977-1988)
Elaine Bickel (1978-2014)* and (2021-2022)	Gary Marxhausen (1978-1987)
	Dorothy Michelson (1978-1979)
Paul Schoenknecht (1979-2022)*	Anne Burger Hess (1979-1981)
Marge Swearer (1981-1982)	Loretta Daenzer (1982-1983)
Sandra Hines (1983-1985)	Kay Eckstorm (1985-1988)
Carol Weber (1986-Present)	Timothy Walter (1987-2004)
Teresa Walter (1988-Present)	Jon Erdman (1990-2009)
Chris Damaske (1991-1992)	Jeff Bolzman (1991-1999)
Kay Keinath (1998-2014)	Lori Buchinger (1998-2009)
Lisa Bach (1999- and 2021-Present)	Kristie Knudsen (1999-2006)
Connie Singer (2000-Present)	David Kaiser (2000-2014)
Erika Kaiser (2000-2014)	Amy Baldwin (2003-2015)
Traci Morin (2004-2005)	Robin Ebelt (2004-2005)
Julie Hooper Keinath (2006-2016)	Rebecca Kochendorfer (2007-2014)

Craig Stiff (2008-Present)
Jill Erlenbeck
Sarah Kester (2011-2012)
Dawn Deveraux (2015-2021)

Jessica Phillips (2015-2021)

Amy France (2019-Present)

Dianne Weber (1993-2015,
2021-2022)

Patti Martinal
Dianne Stressman
Karen Bruner
Hannah Prill
Shelby Shawl
Mike Wolf
Alberta Guralczyk

Ellen Hobson (2006-)
David Bringer (2009-2012)
Susan Klauer (2012-2015)
Christina Petzold (2016-
Present)

Brenda Hoskey (2017-
Present)

Alyssa Micholski (2019-
Present)

Christy Ostrander
Elaine Germain

April Ellis
Paul Mueller
Nancy Stilson
Chris Damon
Dan Impemba
Mike Gohsman
Terri Jo Keinath

Teacher Aides, High School Teacher Trainers, Childcare

Jean Schmandt, Carolyn Laplow, Dianne Weber, Virginia France,
Terri Jo Keinath

Ruth Ann Olvey, Myra Ill, Laurel Reinert, Dave Kern

Jeannie Burke, Beth Ill, Christina Rosencrants

Officers of St. Paul

The Board of Elders (or Deacons as it was originally called) was
established at the time the church was founded in 1897. These are
the men who served this board generally in order of their service:

Fred Koeltzow
George Keinath
John Siebert
Henry Koch
Lorenz Weber
Leonard Keinath
George Veitengruber
Conrad Keinath
Christian Schleier
August Diener
Henry Kroll
Gust Heuchert
Walter Keinath
Lorenz Daenzer
Victor Schwab, Sr.
Carl C. Keinath

Frank Beyerlein
Emmanuel Weber, Sr.
Ewald Ill
Alfred Fischhaber
Paul Peche
William Petzold
Norman Kurpsel
Alwin Weber
Theodore Keinath
Gustav Petzold
Curtis Henderson
Vernon Weber
William Chamberlain
Richard Saeger
Ernest Petzold
Henry Hohman

Norman Petzold
Herbert Ill
Harold Rueger
Erwin Weber
Leon Keinath
Harry Kern
Erwin Reinert
Leo Currier
Arthur Saeger
Arno Keinath
Willard Petzold
Fred Mohr
Ronald Mieske
Dale Roth
Alan Rohde
Jan Snyder
Rodger Grulke
Charles Kroll
Ed Hunt
Jim Henderson
Wilbert Ill
Gary Horning
Larry Jensen
Jim Kribs
Ed Keinath
Dennis Rodammer
Duane Weber
Tim Brown
Ken McKee
David Kaiser
Jeremy Petzold
Keith Woolwine
Tim Sergeant
Jim Weber
Rod Wilson
Mark Wyman

The Board of Trustees (or Board of Properties as it was renamed
in the constitution) was established at the time the church was
founded in 1897. These are the men who served this board,
generally in order of their service:

Henry Koch
Christian Schumacher
Christoph Koch
Ludwig Koeltzow
John Keinath
Jahn Karb

Walter Mohr
Herman Petzold
Kenneth Reinert
Arthur Weber
Emil Higgins
Roy Petzold
Ron Schnell
Dale Peche
Clarence Daenzer
Edward Sergeant
John Jalbing
Fred Trinklein
Larry Ill
Richard Selle
Glenn Brown
Eugene Weiss
Ray Peche
Robert Keinath
Tom Schiefer
Jon Carnet
Dave Russell
Steve Kern
Rudy Saeger
Don Bierlein
Chet Petzold
Ed White
Tim Weber
Bob Wager
Phil Gordon
Dale Higgins
Stephan Schultz
Armond Carmona
Richard Harpst
Ron Schiefer
Bill Hibner
Matt Ayotte

Gustav Petzold
Edwin Schiefer
Herman Petzold
Ralph Koch
Winfried Woelzlein
Arthur Ill

George Daenzer
 Fred Koeltzow
 Carl Keinath Sr.
 George Veitengruber
 Karl Kurpsel
 William Reinert
 Carl Koeltzow
 Arthur Beyerlein
 Erwin Weber
 Stanley Bauer
 Lloyd Walz
 Dale Roth
 Chester Petzold
 Fred Trinklein
 Wilbert Ill
 Eugene Ziegler
 Kevin Petzold
 Victor Reinert
 Jeff Platt
 John Kowitz
 James Petzold
 Matt Sergent
 Gary Johnson
 Mark Jensen
 Mitch Ill
 John Hergenreder
 Clem Ill
 Bill Weber
 Gary Woelzlein
 Ken Auernhammer
 Raymond Leach
 Richard Harpst
 Tim Brown
 Ken Ill
 Dennis DeOrnellas
 Chuck Eilers
 Ted Burton
 Jon Keinath
 Russ Hayden
 Hans Schmandt
 Mike Blue
 Trevor Gleason
 Nate Burns
 Scott Koch

Wilmer Keinath
 Ray Keinath
 Arthur Weber
 Raymond Reinert
 Clarence Reinert
 Erwin Reinert
 Robert Petzold
 Arnold Higgins
 Anton Ill
 Frank Koch
 Theodore Keinath
 Rudy Petzold
 Norman Montle
 James Trinklein
 Elmer Snover
 Dwight Rodammer
 Dale Higgins
 Tom Schiefer
 Duane Weber
 Dwight Keinath
 Robert Loomis
 Dale Peche
 Bob Ames
 Matt Roth
 Darrell Zeck
 Darwin Reinert
 Jeremy Petzold
 Jay Rodammer
 Tom Howey
 Jeff Ill
 Larry Reinert
 John Petzold
 Jim Henderson
 Ron Johnson
 Tim Daenzer
 Heath Keinath
 Roger Leach
 Ron Petzold
 Robert Johnson
 Dusty Higgins
 Dan Brandle
 David Wiacek
 Dwight Radloff

organized in about 1902 and the Sunday School Board which had been organized about 1935.

The following served on the Sunday School Board before it was consolidated with the Day School Board in 1950:

Dr. William Mossner	Curtis Henderson
Frank Koch	Walter Hahn
Fred June	Emmanuel Weber, Sr.

The following served on the Board of Education:

Adolf Ill	Paul Petzold
Christoph Koch	Charles Kurpsel
August Diener	George Veitengruber
George Keinath	Louis Reinert
Lorenz Weber	Ernest Petzold
Edwin Schiefer	Lyle Koch
Mike Daenzer	Roy Schmandt
John Woelzlein	Arno Keinath
Alwin Weber	Ralph Horning
Oscar Petzold	Otto L. Petzold
Theodore Keinath	Arthur Saeger
Hugo Dittmar	Earl Sergent
Herbert Ill	Harvey Schiefer
Walter Keinath	Donald Haines
Curtis Henderson	Harvey Reinert
Clarence Reinert	Howard Maurer
Lorenz Daenzer	Theodore Woelke
Walter Hahn	Harry Kern
Vern Weber	Robert Ames
Gerald Koeltzow	Eugene Ziegler
Thomas Keinath	Robert Vale
Richard Wiacek	Kenneth Ill
Charles Rosencrants	Roger Wendt
Richard Gladly	Gary Brow
Arden June	Vern Sergent
Larry Jensen	Ken Brownell
Edward Keinath	Fred List
David Kern	Wayne Jaruzel
James Weber	Scott Bassett
Dennis DeOrnellas	Thomas Fritz
Tim Keinath	Lana Gladly
Michael Petzold	Erwin Weber
Bonnie Wiacek	Diane Ackerman
Martin Snover	Jeff Platt
Glen Reinert	Gary Lince
Jack Shreve	Steve Erickson
Dale Hanlin	Darwin Hecht
Dianne Johnston	Julie Weiss
Tim Weber	Angie Zeck

The Board of Christian Education was formed on October 1, 1950, combining the former Day School Board which had been

Gerry Smith
 Kent Singer
 Jason Germain
 Ted Wager
 Ed Meeks
 Beth Ill
 Tricia Slough
 Mike Hoard
 Heather Petzold
 Lori Keinath
 Marci Draper
 Jason Loomis
 Lynnzee Burns
 Rachel Hibner

Mike Derscha
 Bud Zeck
 Rusty Ill
 Marcus Jensen
 Becky Wolfington
 Gary Schreve
 Diane Bishop
 Jay Rodammer
 Amy Yorke
 Erin Schmandt
 Jamie Fackler
 Angie O'Neil
 Beth Skouson
 Katie Sheppard

Scott Bassett
 Alan Petzold
 Wallace Petzold
 James Henderson
 Chuck Eilers
 Janette Keinath
 Curtis Henderson
 Jim Saeger
 Denise Peplinski
 Pauline Keinath
 Sue Bleuer
 Cindy Huber
 Wendy Griesing
 Shirley Stock
 Billie Loper
 Stephan Schmandt
 Audrey Schmidt
 Patty Reyna
 Connie Rodammer
 Denise Sherman
 Rudy Saeger
 Ronald Nims
 Olga Nims
 Kim Brown
 Steve Holmes
 Luanne Jaruzel
 Nicole Brown
 Sheila Peche
 Wayne Jaruzel
 Kenton Gleason
 Kassandra Mills
 Fay Carmona

Dwight Keinath
 Les Maxson
 Guy Hayes
 Mike Petzold
 Jim Kribs
 Sharon Wyman
 Phil Gordon
 Page Roggentine
 Larry Henderson
 Marty Powell
 Kim Blake
 Carol Bickel
 Bill Ackerman
 Julia Bickel
 Ron Edler
 Ellen Reinertson
 Denise Greenan
 Karl Ramsey
 Tim Daenzer
 Debbie Ill
 Carolyn Laplow
 Tracey Anderson
 Cindy Brown
 Gary Johnson
 Elaine Bickel
 Velva Cobanovich
 Laura Schwab
 Heidi Woolwine
 Jan Snyder
 Jeff Yorke
 Kaitlyn Woolwine
 Jamie Blue

The following have served as Sunday School Superintendents:

Fred June	Donald Peche
August Scheer	John Wagner
Chester Platt	Gloria Rodammer
Sherry Sebert	Sandra Hines
Bonnie Wiacek	Cathy Myers
Delores Damm	Pam Ill
Beverly Baldwin	Les Maxon
Lori Osborn	Kenny McKee

The Board of Evangelism was established in 1960. Prior to this, there was an Evangelism committee for a short period of time. In 1982 Evangelism was combined with Fellowship. Then in 1988, Fellowship was combined with Youth (listed separately). These are the men and women who have served on this Board:

Alfred Reinert	William Gardner
Elmer Snover	Emil Higgins
Ralph Ferber	John Clouse
Roy Petzold	Richard Wiacek
Leon Keinath	Gustav Petzold
Ernest Keinath	Fred Trinklein
Donald Schuler	Norman Petzold
Willard Petzold	Richard Gross
Robert Vale	Richard Gladly
Rudy Saeger	Luther Stewart
Mark Weber	Gary Horning
Arnold Petzold	John Clouse
Eugene Weiss	Carl Keinath
Jim Bickel	Robert Keinath
Jon Carnet	Ed Hunt
Charles Rosencrants	James Gross
Gary Woelzlein	David Kern
Ronald Schnell	Martin Damm

The Board of Fellowship and Youth was established to better serve programs for congregational togetherness and youth programs. This was established as a separate board in 1988. The following are the people who served on this board:

Dwight Keinath	Debbie Hazel
Joyce Wager	Larry Kammer
Joel Petzold	Bill Weber
Kirsten Platt	Hazel Briggs
Glen Reinert	Michael Damm
Sandy Fackler	Patricia Saeger
Luann Licavoli	Nancy Brown
Lola Wendt	Robert Opperman
Tim Weber	Rusty Ill
Sheila Peche	Bill Ackerman

Vicky Albert
Dawn Meachum
Connie Singer
Stacey Force
Beverly Baldwin
Laura Schwab
Beth Ill
Lori Hunt
Terrell Bach
Michelle Eilers
Janice Schiefer
Hans Schmandt
Jodi Torrey
Audrey Brown
Rachel Schiefer
Lisa Bentley
Jake Petzold
Josh Cunningham
Meagan Bailey
Pam Hanlin
Matt Singer
Celeste Ketels
Arlene Perrault

Darrell Zeck
Erica Galant
Matt Sergeant
Adam Schmidt
Jessica Mohr
Les Maxson
Amy Keinath
Kipper Keinath
Barb Smith
Bryan Bassett
Michael Schiefer
Cathy Jaruzel
Tim Sergeant
Connie Daenzer
Matt Allen
Heather Selich
Trisha Ferrier
Emmy Albert
Dennis Weiss
Angie Ayotte
Katrina Wager
Jessica Spencer

Joe Mallard
Richard Myers
Jon Carnet
Jay Peplinski
Tim Sergeant
Lana Gladly
Robin Rohn
Jennifer Pocza
Craig Blue
Mark Rude
John Meinecke
Jeff Yorke
Zeke Carlyon
Tim Rueger
Christian Selich
James Petzold
Susan Jensen
Jean Jensen
Luke Platt
Dave Ackerman
Michelle David
Derek Bassett
Kristi Sherman

Russell Ill
Mike Daenzer
James Weber
Ron Schiefer
Tim Daenzer
Raymond T. Leach
Greg Mohr
Bill Bickel
Wayne Jaruzel
Kent Singer
Dan Detgen
Dennis Rodammer
Charles Eilers
Michael Schiefer
Sue Howay
Jeff Platt
Angie Zeck
Corey Harry
Chris Washburn
Dustin Sebert
Gailan Reinert
Denise Sherman
Kyle Koch

The Board of Stewardship was established in 1960. Prior to this, there was a Stewardship Committee for a short period of time. These are the men and women who have served on this board:

Norman Kurpsel
Vernon Weber
Leo Currier
Herbert Reinert
Ralph Ferber
Clarence Daenzer
Kenneth Reinert
Gerald Keinath
Clem Ill
Fred Rodammer
Jan Snyder
Larry Ill
Gary Bonadurer
Ray Peche
Edward Keinath
Luther Stewart
Jack Shreve
Jim Saeger
William Bishop
Gary Woelzlein

Richard Reinert
Roy Petzold
Arden June
Chester Petzold
Victor Reinert
Kenneth Platt
Rudy Saeger
Edward Sergeant
Melvin Petzold
Ronald Keinath
James Trinklein
Kenneth Kennedy
Alan Petzold
Ron Mieske
Walter Hahn III
Jim Henderson
Eugene Weiss
Ed Hunt
Dale Peche
Robert Burnison

The Board of Finance was established in 1969. Prior to this, a variety of financial officers served the parish. The following are the various Chief Financial Officers who have served:

George Keinath
Franz Koch
Leonard Keinath
Paul Petzold
Christian Schumacher
Lorenz Weber
John Keinath
Adolf Ill
Conrad Keinath
Frank Koch
Alwin Weber
Ralph Ferber
Steven Kern
Darwin Reinert
Lana Gladly
Velva Cobanovich
Gloria LaPointe

Edward Petzold
Ewald Ill
Alphons Koeltzow
Alfred Fischhaber
Norman Kurpsel
Herman Petzold
Herman Daenzer
Gustav Petzold
Arthur Ill
Gust Heuchert
Elmer Rodammer
Alan Rohde
Dennis Sammons
Carol Bickel
Amy Keinath
Diane Mills

Many other members have served in various financial offices

of the church. These include Mission Treasurers, Building Treasurers, Financial Secretaries, Memorial Secretaries, Budget Directors, Salary and Personnel Committee, and general members of the Board of Finance. The members who have served here are:

Herman Petzold
 Carl Daenzer
 Cleon Kester
 Emil Higgins
 George Keinath
 Winfried Keinath
 Emmanuel Weber, Jr.
 Ewald Ill
 Harvey Reinert
 Gilbert List
 Lyle Koch
 Worley Mays
 Roy Petzold
 Marvin Schiefer
 Clarence Daenzer
 Vernon Weber
 Vern Sergent
 Robert Vale
 Robert Petzold
 Eugene Ziegler
 William Hohman
 Art Saeger Jr.
 Charles Griganani
 Jim Saeger
 Rudy Petzold
 Marty Snover
 Geri Blue
 Ken Platt
 Edward Hunt
 Evelyn Gregory
 Larry Jensen
 Michael Kern
 Marion Keinath
 Greg Mohr
 Tom Keinath Jr.
 Arno Keinath
 Jan Snyder
 Don Heuchert
 Glenn Reinert
 Angie Zeck
 Carol Saeger
 Dianne Johnston

Arthur Weber
 Leon Keinath
 Glen Rude
 Harold Rueger
 Richard Rohde
 Erwin Weber
 Carlton Ill
 Mike Daenzer
 Clarence Reinert
 Norman Petzold
 William Gardner
 Arnold Higgins
 Willard Petzold
 Roger Wendt
 Harry Kern
 Leon Keinath
 Arden June
 Kenneth Reinert
 David Johnston
 Joyce Wager
 Linda Rohde
 Howard Maurer
 Donald McIntyre
 Donald Peche
 Larry Henderson
 John Trinklein
 Nancy Bonadurer
 Brian Pennington
 Sandy Lince
 Kenneth Ill
 Fred List
 Edward Keinath
 Mark Rude
 David Russell
 Dale Roth
 Sue Eilers
 Charlene Campbell
 Mike Petzold
 Connie Keinath
 Jackie Petzold
 Sharon Keinath
 Sue Fabbro

Colleen Loomis
 Sharon Wyman
 Connie Daenzer
 Lori Keinath
 Dwight Keinath
 Shelley Shollack
 Rachel Foley
 Dawn Devereaux

Michelle Bouck
 Sonja Russell
 Lillian Sergent
 Gale Brown
 Carol Balley
 Barb Radloff
 Lisa Weiss
 Sandy Weber

The following men served as Chairmen of the Congregation. This post was established in 1897 and in 1970 was changed to Parish President.

Fred Koeltzow
 Conrad Keinath
 August Diener
 John Keinath
 Lorenz Weber
 Christian Schleier
 Frank Beyerlein
 Clarence Daenzer
 Jim Saeger
 Earl Sergent
 Jan Snyder
 Eugene Weiss
 Jeff Yorke
 Ed Sergent
 Tim Sergent

George Veitengruber
 Carl Keinath, Sr.
 Frank Koch
 Rudy Petzold
 Richard Saeger
 Ralph Ferber
 Arno Keinath
 Vernard Sergent
 Kenneth Brownell
 Roy Petzold
 Jim Gross
 Jeff Platt
 Jake Petzold
 John Petzold

The following men served as Vice-Chairman of the congregation. This post was established in 1965 and was changed to Parish Vice-President in 1970.

Ignatius Walentovic
 Ernest Keinath
 Arno Keinath
 Ted Woelke
 Kenneth Platt
 Michael Daenzer
 David Kern
 Kevin Petzold
 Jim Weber
 Tim Keinath

Edward Kern
 Herbert Ill
 Vern Sergent
 Harry Kern
 Russell Schmandt
 Michael Platt
 Duane Weber
 Mike Kern
 Ted Wager
 Mike Hoard

The following men and women have served as Parish Secretaries to the Voters Assembly:

Christoph Koch
 August Diener

August Scheer
 Alphonse Koeltzow

George Keinath
Lorenz Weber
Franz Koch
Otto Petzold Sr.
George Veitengruber
G.L. Wyneken
Thomas Schiefer
Ron Schnell
Sandy Weber
Bonnie Wiacek
Tammy Daenzer
Jill Earl
Ed Hunt
Stacey Force

Chester Platt
Harry Kern
Carl C. Keinath
Fred Tonn
Donald Peche
Donald Peche
Jan Snyder
Terri Reinert
Robin Rohn
Nancy Bonadurer
Diane Ackerman
Paris Rogers
Sheila Hebner
Diane Bishop

Erwin Weber
Hilbert Petzold

Erwin Reinert

The 1980 Remodeling of Windows in the Old Part of the School
Arno Keinath
Kenneth Reinert
Eugene Ziegler

Carl Keinath
James Trinklein

The 1994-1997 Building Committee to Expand and Remodel Facilities (Kirby-Smith) This involves 5 classrooms: 1 art/science, 1 computer, 3 regular classrooms; a media center; restrooms facilities; and kitchen remodel.

Ken Reinert
Richard Myers
Tim Keinath
Jan Snyder

Eugene Ziegler
Tim Walter
Dale Higgins
Tom Keinath, Jr.

Building Committees of St. Paul
The 1897 Church Building Committee
Fred Koeltzow
George Keinath
John Siebert

Christoph Koch
Christian Schumacher

The 2000 Building Committee for additional 4 Classrooms, restrooms, and laundry.

Tim Keinath
Tim Walter
Eugene Ziegler
Dale Higgins
Angela Zeck

Jan Snyder
Ken Reinert
Richard Myers
Tom Keinath, Jr.

The 1904 School Building Committee
Michael Rodammer
George Keinath

Adolf Ill

The 1922 Church Remodeling Committee
Fred Koeltzow
George Keinath
Alfred Fischhaber

Lorenz Weber
Anton Ill

The 2008 Building Committee for the Gymnasium, lockers, and restrooms.

Tim Keinath
Ken Reinert
Richard Myers
Tom Keinath Jr.
Jon Keinath

Angie Zeck
Eugene Ziegler
Dale Higgins
Jon Erdman

The 1937 Church Remodeling Committee
Frank Koch
Norman Kurpsel

Carl Keinath Sr.

1948 School Building Committee
Gust Heuchert
Emil Higgins
Cleon Kester

Curtis Henderson
Frank Koch

1941 Organ Purchase Committee
Dr. William Mossner
Alfred Fischhaber

Carl C. Keinath

The Bookkeepers and Tellers were established in 1975 to record and count weekly offerings.

The 1960 School Building Committee
Carl Daenzer
Clarence Reinert
Norman Petzold

Harvey Reinert
Herbert Ill

Bookkeepers
Gust & Dorothy Heuchert
Elmer & Mary Snover
Tom & Ann Cumings
Vera Petzold
Darlene Higgins
Marie Duvernois

Carlton & Judy Ill
Fred & Mona List
Marcia Schiefer
Diane Ackerman
Virginia Reinert
Gladys Fishhaber

1968 Church Building Committee
Rudy Petzold

Wilmer Keinath

Larna Peterson
Marie Ross
Sandy Weber

Luanne Licavoli
Geri Blue

Tellers:

Lyle & Phyllis Koch
Earl & Joyce Koch
James & Barbara Rude
Richard & Judy Selle
Lloyd & Norma Taylor
Miss Marjorie Keinath
Rick & Judy Anderson
Martin & Judith Snover
Larry & Carol Kammer
Bruce & Marcia Shepherd
Dwight & Rose Jensen
Mike & Carol Titsworth
Sharon Koch
Cathy Higgins
Sheila Hebner
Janice Schiefer
Sandy Fackler
Wilmar Keinath
Otto & Lorraine Petzold
Stephen & Nila Schmandt
Clemens & LuRene III
Art & Luella Saeger
Marcia Keinath
Kenneth & Carol Hagan
Denise Greenan
Lana Schultz
Rudy & Carol Saeger
Lance Peterson
Laura Sherman
Marilyn Daenzer
Amy Keinath
Velva Cobanovich
Linda Dues
Barb Smith
Rachel Schiefer
Hannah Sergent
Sharon Gross
Karen Dumler
Bonnie Wittum
Ted & Katrina Wager

Ken & Connie Damm
Norman Jr. & Vera Petzold
Marvin & Marion Schiefer
Jan & Shirley Snyder
Craig & Linda Kottke
Kelvin & Penny Frixen
Larna & Paul Peterson
Darlene Higgins
Marcia Schiefer
Jack & Mary Jane Shreve
Robert & Nancy Beagle
Clark & Cynthia Briggs
Tina White
Kenneth & Terri Brownell
Wallace & Shirley Petzold
Vic & Janette Reinert
Ron & Ruth Mieske
Jim & Elaine Bickel
Mike & Cathy Matusik
Bill & Yvonne Bishop
Walter & Barbara Mohr
Lana Glady
Ruth Sammons
Betty Bleuer
Sue Hecht
Bonnie Gross
Linda Kester
Sue Howay
Kimberly Torrey
Debra Hodge
Roger & Lola Wendt
Sue Fabbro
Brenda Frahm
Cindy Morey
Alex Sergent
Lorie Keinath
Connie Keinath
Sherry Sebert
Matt & Angie Ayotte
Faith Damm

organists or have played the piano for church services:

Leila Keinath Reinert
Emmanuel Weber Sr.
Paula Mayer
Cecelia Koeltzow
Ottillie Petzold Kurpsel
Louise Pietsch
Adolf Zehnder
Milo Lombard
Mrs. Teresa Walter
Audrey Schmidt Brown
Stacey Force

Mrs. Albert Brauer
Mrs. Ina Koch Keinath
Mr. Chester L. Platt
Mr. Edmund Klammer
Mr. Edward Kern
Mrs. Laura Ferber
Mr. August G. Scheer
Mrs. Lisa Anderson
Beth Sherry
Janette Keinath

The following have served as custodians of the church:

John Siebert
Fred Koeltzow
Henry Koch
Mrs. Albert Brauer
Frank Beyerlein
Christ Fischhaber
Lorenz Weber
George Keinath
Rev. Arthur Hahn
Rod Wilson
Riley Vaughn
Bob Williams
Ray Leach
Ken III
Clem III
Melvin Ayotte
Kenton Gleason

Christ Schleier
August Scheer
Mrs. Laura Ferber
Ralph Ferber
Harvey Reinert
Fred June
Clarence Reinert
Mrs. Leila Reinert
Bill Weber
Nancy Wilson
Connie Vaughn
Ruth Ann Reinert
Scott Knudsen
Judy Leach
Kathy III
Roger Leach
Roy Kauer

The following ladies have served as Parish Secretaries. This position was made a full-time position in 1971.

Mrs. Laura Ferber
Mrs. Dorothy Platt
Mrs. Judy Trinklein
Mrs. Terri Reinert
Mrs. Stacey Force

Mrs. Dorothy Heuchert
Mrs. Geri Blue
Mrs. Donna Phillips
Mrs. Terry Jo Keinath

The following have served as church organists and assistant



GEORGE M. ZUCKER



H. W. T. WUGGAZER

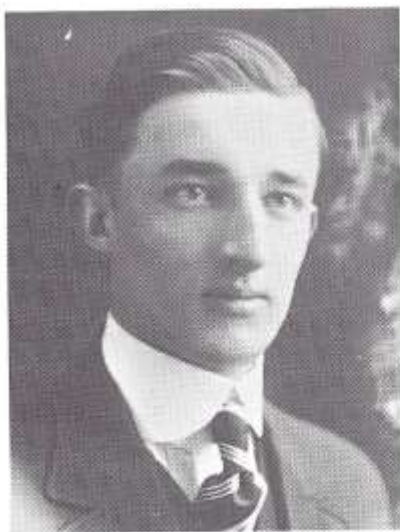


GEORGE J. MOEHRING



ALBERT C. W. BRAUER

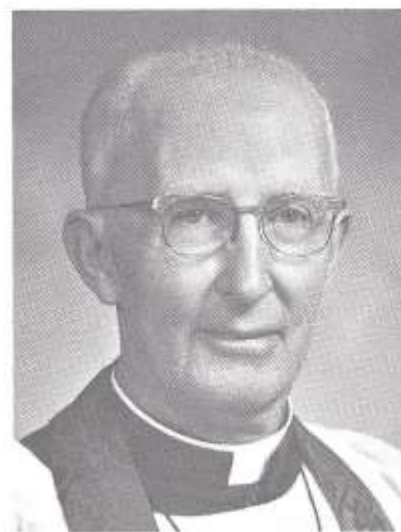
The Resident Pastors of St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1897 - 1972



ARTHUR A. HAHN



ALBERT F. NEES



HUGO O. C. FERBER



DAVID SHOEMAKER



Robert Barker



Albert Engler



David Sherry



Mark Hannemann



Ronald Scheer

The Resident Pastors of St. Paul Lutheran Church 1972-2022



John Koczman



Timothy Bickel



James Bruner



Bob Smith



Kirk Abatelli



Timothy Martinal



God's Love Is Ever Constant

THE ANNIVERSARY HYMN OF SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



God's Love Is Ever Constant

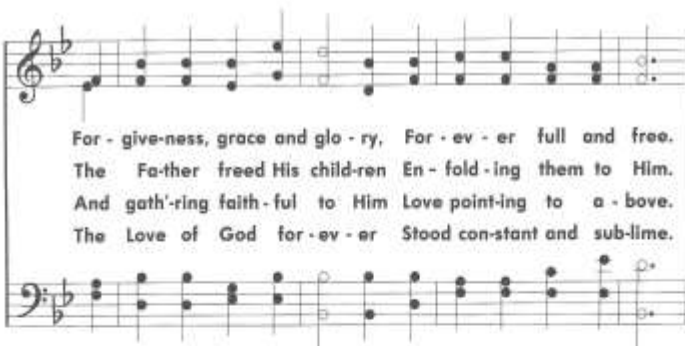
A HYMN OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

1. God's love is ev - er con - stant His grace is ev - er true,
 2. From bonds of Phar' - oh's slav' - ry He set His Child - ren free,
 3. Thro' ag - es dark and fright' - ning In face of storm - y days
 4. When to this land our fa - thers Came lone - ly and a - fraid

Thro' a - ges e - ver - stand - ing With us each day a - new.
 From fa - mine, death and dan - ger, Grim des - ert, roar - ing sea.
 Thro' tur - moil, grief, up - heav - al, Thro' schisms and false ways
 His love pro - tect - ion, prom - ise, With these, His faith - ful stayed.

To Him all praise and glo - ry, To Him all hon - or be,
 From Bab' - lon's chains and fet - ters From sin's en - slave - ment grim,
 The Fa - ther pa - tient stand - ing Pre - serv - ing truth and love,
 Thro' days of dark des - pair - ing Thro' each tri - um - phant time

The 75th Anniversary Hymn that was written by Rudy Petzold and Frank Campbell.



5. In love and grace He led them,
 His Gospel to make known,
 To children, neighbors, strangers
 To all who walked alone.
 Through shepherds true and faithful;
 Through laymen's word and ways,
 He built His church among them,
 His love receive the praise.

6. The grace to build His dwelling
 Of brick and board and stone,
 He granted to His people,
 A place to Him alone.
 Where bread, wine, word and water
 Their blessing rich bestow,
 And where life's each occasion,
 Is blessed by God below.

7. Hands joined and souls united,
 With thanks on every tongue,
 God's grateful people gathered,
 The aged and the young.
 Their hearts in faith rememb'ring
 The love which e'er is their's
 Which bathes them in a glory,
 Which answers all their prayers.

8. To God be all the honor
 To Him the praise this day
 Rememb'ring love e'er given
 The love that lights man's way
 And in the years yet coming
 On it we will rely
 Its beams shall e'er surround us
 In life and when we die.



The hymn, *God's Love Is Ever Constant*, was written on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary Festival of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Millington, Michigan. Its title is drawn from the words of the Festival Motto which recall the endless love of God to His people down through the ages. The general theme is taken from the Psalms, where the psalmist speaks of God's constant and unwavering love again and again.

The words and melody of the hymn were written by Mr. Rudy Petzold, a son of Saint Paul's Church, with editing and collaboration by The Rev. David Shoemaker, pastor of Saint Paul's.

The hymn melody was harmonized by Mr. Frank Campbell, organist of The First Presbyterian Church of Caro, Michigan for more than fifty years. The music was edited for choral and instrumental use by Mr. Edward Kern, Director of Music of Saint Paul's Church.

The hymn was first presented in Festival Services at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 14, 1972.



The words of this hymn may also be used with the following familiar melodies found in the *Lutheran Hymnal*:

Angel's Story (O Savior, Precious Savior - LH 352); *Anthes* (Come Unto Me Ye Weary - LH 276); *Aurelia* (The Church's One Foundation - LH 473); *Bona Patria* (For Thee, O Dear, Dear Country - LH 614); *Eden* (The Voice That Breathed o'er Eden - LH 622); *Ellacombe* (Hosanna, Loud Hosanna - LH 161); *Ewing* (Jerusalem The Golden - 613); *Freut Euch, Ihr Lieben* (Hail To The Lord's Anointed - LH 59); *Geduld, die Sollen Wir Haben* (While Yet The Morn Is Breaking - LH 544); *Ich Dank Dir, Lieber Herr* (Let Me Be Thine Forever - LH 334); *Jeg Vil Mig Herren Love* (I Pray The Dear Lord Jesus - LH 655); *Lancashire* (The Day of Resurrection - LH 205); *Missionary Hymn* (From Greenland's Icy Mountains - LH 495); *Munich* (O Word of God Incarnate - LH 294); *Valet Will Ich Dir Geben* (All Glory, Laud and Honor - LH 160) and *Webb* (Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus - LH 451).

Almighty God, Your Gracious Hand

Lovingly written for the 100th Anniversary
of St. Paul Lutheran Church June 22, 1987

Teresa Walter

♩ = 134

Refrain

Al - migh - ty God, Your gra - cious hand has

blessed us through the years. Ex - tend to us Your

hope - filled hand and bless us in the

years to come.

Fine

1. Found - ed on faith in a
2. Scrip - ture true we
3. Mem - bers here have
4. Fa - ther, Son and
5. On - ly God knows what the

2

God of love, First this church was born.
do be - lieve. On it we stand firm.
been bap - tized and con - firmed in faith,
Spi - rit three holds. we con - fess as One,
fu - ture. He is in con - trol.

Ground - ed in grace and strength and truth -
Op - en our hearts to heed Your Word.
Mar - ried as Christ who loves His church,
Fa - ther's grace and Spi - rit's pow'r,
We will place our trust in Him

D.C. al Fine

walls that can't be torn.
Help us to dis - cern.
bur - ied with His saints.
love of Christ the Son.
and His name ex - tol.

This Festival Hymn was written by Teresa Walter on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church, June 22, 1987. It has been sung many times since by members of St. Paul and is a constant reminder of God at work in our congregation.

God Is With Us

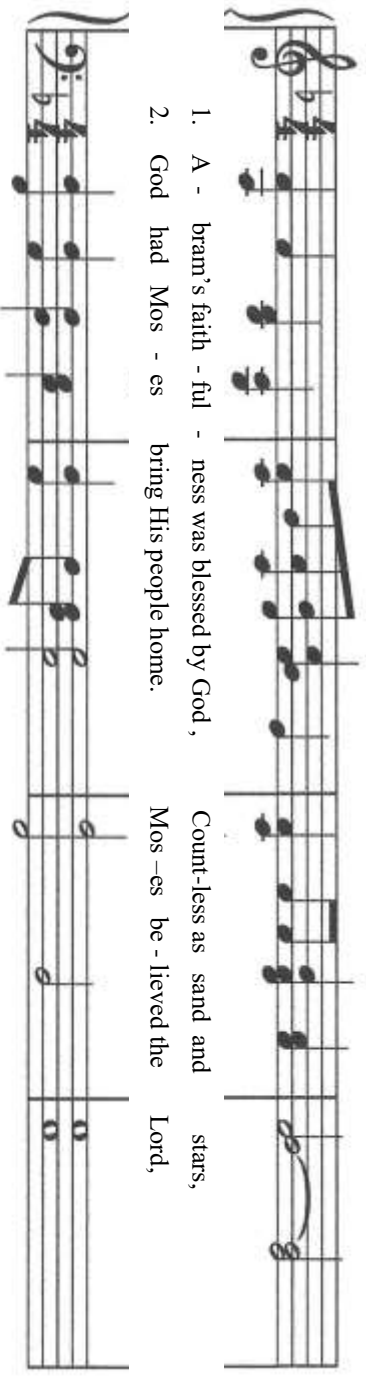


St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Millington. MI

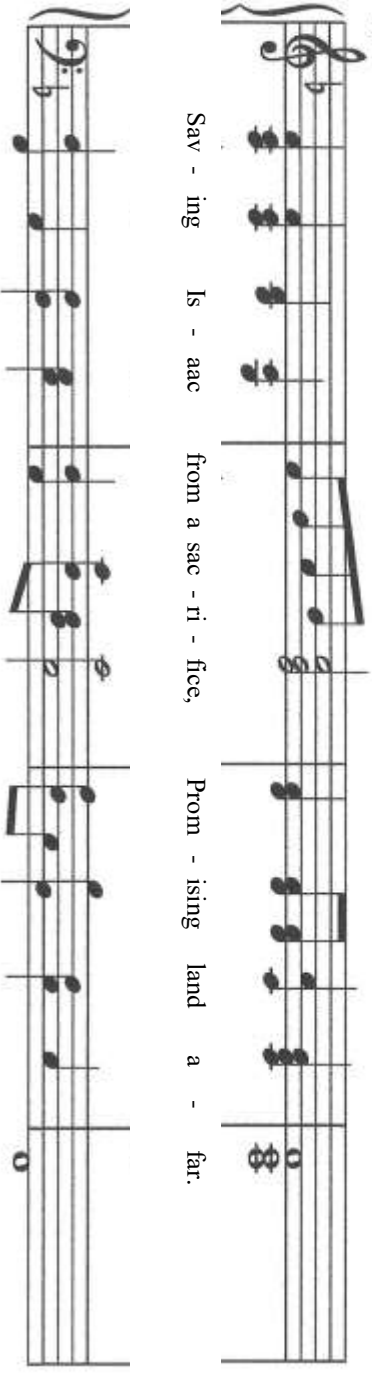
God Is With Us

Written for the 125th Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church
Millington, Michigan

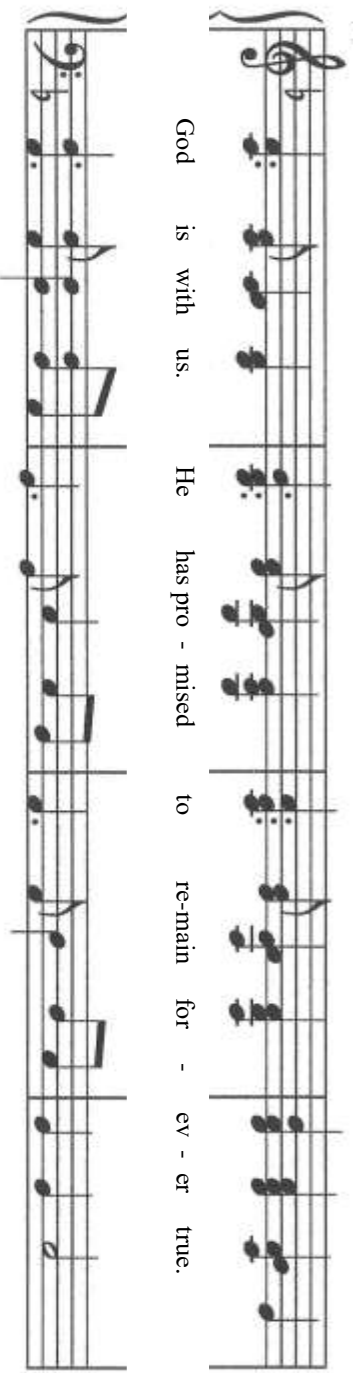
1. A - bram's faith - ful - ness was blessed by God, Count-less as sand and stars,
2. God had Mos - es bring His people home. Mos-es be - lieved the Lord,



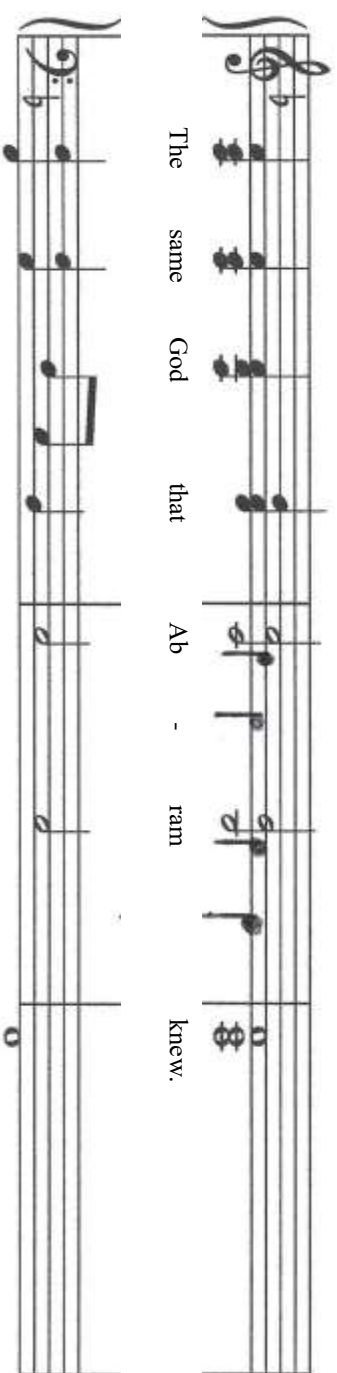
Sav - ing Is - aac from a sac - ri - fice, Prom - ising land a - far.



God is with us. He has pro - mised to re-main for - ev - er true.



The same God that Ab - ram knew.



3. David was a chosen man of God,
God looked upon his heart,
David worshipped God with psalms of praise,
God's love did not depart.

God is with us.
He has promised to remain forever true.
The same God that David knew.

5. St. Paul took God's Word to many lands,
Good News he preached to all,
Reached our father's homelands and abroad
Saving man from the fall.

God is with us.
He has promised to remain forever true.
The same God Paul also knew.

4. Humble Mary, servant meek and mild,
Chosen to bear God's Son,
In God's promise truly she believed-
Salvation had begun.

God is with us.
He has promised to remain forever true.
The same God that Mary knew.

6. Scripture true proclaimed the grace of God.
Luther was free of fear.
He stood strong before the earthly foe,
And to God's Word held dear.

God is with us.
He has promised to remain forever true.
The same God that Luther knew.

7. Seeking peace, peace offered through God's Word,
Our fathers sought new land.
Built a church and school to share God's love,
A faith on which to stand.

God is with us.
He has promised to remain forever true.
The same God our fathers knew.

Jesus Christ is the same Yesterday, Today, and Forever.

And so, that small band of German Lutheran farmers, who came together with a simple desire to be fed with God's Word and Sacraments, never knew that their desire would spread and grow into the church that we have today.

It was not just for their families, but for an entire community in which St. Paul Lutheran Church and School has become an integral part of daily life.

With determination these ancestors took on the willingness to use their time, talents, and treasure to insure that their children, and their children's children would be raised up in the love of Christ.

And while they may not have been able to see the future that God had in store for His church in Millington, we and they as Christians know what our future has in store for those who have faith. For the same Jesus who told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them, has also promised to prepare a place for us.

For those who remain faithful to the Lord will be with that "great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." And we with our ancestors will be "wearing white robes and holding palm branches in our hands."

While we in this book look at our past and remember the sacrifices that many made to have the Word preached in its truth and purity at St. Paul in Millington, Michigan, we also know, even better, what our future holds.

Soli Deo Gloria!

