

Our congregation was organized in 1848 by the Rev. C. Frinke, pastor of the White Creek congregation, one year after the founding of the Missouri Synod at Chicago, Ill. Divine services had been held in the community even before that year in the homes of Lutheran families, in a Baptist church, and in a school house, which was located about 2 miles north and $\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the present location. On March 14, 1852 the congregation dedicated its first church, a log structure, at the present site, and this building served until the congregation dedicated a spacious frame church on May 30, 1858. The present church building was erected in 1887 under the pastorate of Rev. M. Mertz. According to the records the first congregational meeting was held on Feb. 17, 1856 in the home of Mr. Wehmeier and at that meeting it was resolved to change paragraph 10 of the constitution that in the future meeting a President and Secretary should be chosen. Henry Nolting was elected President and Henry Fischer the Secretary. At this meeting it was resolved that a school house should be built. It should be 25 ft. long and 19 ft. wide and have 4 windows. Mr. Fred Meyer was taken up as a voting member. The next meeting was held on Nov. 7, 1856 at the Schoolhouse. Mr. Nolting was to pay Henry Fischer \$2.00 for his work done on the school house and Fred Fischer was to make a table and bench for the school. At this meeting it was resolved that the first Sunday in the new year the congregational meeting should be held. At the meeting Jan. 4, 1857, Richard Kollmeier, Chas. Wehmeier, and Henry Nolting were to measure the plot of land bought from Richard Kollmeier and draw up a bill of sale, also that a stranger who wishes to have their dead buried on the cemetery should pay \$1.00 for the grave and the Lenten services were to be held on Sunday. On June 21, 1857 it was resolved that the congregation join the Ev. Luth Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states. Rev. A. Zagel was pastor at that time. On Jan. 10, 1858 it was resolved that the old church should be sold and a new frame church should be built. At a meeting held on Sept. 25, 1859 the log house of Mr. Clark should be bought for a stable. The following members were taken up at the Jan. 8, 1860 meeting: Herman Tiemann, John Herman Linnenschmidt, Henry Schulz, Gottlieb Butte, Henry Held, Henry Baurichter, Henry Laag, Will Eickmeier, Chas. Rasche, and Henry Linnenschmidt. On Nov. 17, 1861, after the close of the services, a congregational meeting was held at that time was resolved that services would be held on Christmas eve and at the same time delight the school children with a Christmas tree. Henry Fischer declared he was ready to inquire for a suitable tree. (Must have been the first Christmas program). Rev. E. Rolf informed the congregation that he had received a call to St. Paul, Minnesota. At the Oct. 4, 1863 meeting,

he was granted a peaceful release. On Oct. 9, 1863 a call was sent to Rev. E.A. Schurmann. At the July 3, 1864 meeting the Pastor and teachers salary was discussed. The Pastor's salary to be \$500 and the teachers \$300. In the year 1866, it was resolved to build a new parsonage. Several were of the opinion that it would be just as cheap to build a house of brick as one of frame. The dwelling should be 36 ft. long, 18 ft. wide and about 13 ft. high. Also a kitchen size 15 x 12. They decided to dig the cellar themselves. Rev. Schumman was pastor at this time.

On August 27, 1920, the Rev. Karl Fienhaber resigned and went to Portland, Oregon. It was agreed to pay Rev. Fienhaber \$750.00 and also his salary to Sept. 30. At the Sept. 7 meeting, the following candidates for ministers were discussed: Rev. Stolzenberg, Rev. K. Trautman, Rev. G. Ziegler, Rev. H. Dannenfeldt, and Rev. F. Wambsgauss. On Sept. 12, 1920, Rev. F. Wambsgauss was called. Three men were appointed to see about the cost of repairs on the house. The men were Geo. Forster, Dan Reinking, and Chas. Scheidt, and they were to see about changing the altar and lower the pulpit, also to improve the walls. The following committee for buying the carpet and statue were Mrs. F. Wambsgauss, Mrs. Robert Urbahns, Mrs. Marting Scheidt, Mrs. Wehmeier, Mrs. Linsmith and Mrs. Zurbrugg. The committee for the window back of the altar were Flora Linsmith, Dora Fischer, Clara Schulz, Josepine Armuth, Clara Nolting and Flora Zurbrugg. In 1922 a furnace was bought for the church. On Feb. 1923, Rev. Wambsgauss died. On the ninth of March 1923, the congregation met for the purpose of calling a pastor. The following were nominated: Rev. George Baumgart, Rev. Jans, Rev. Zucker, Rev. Stuhm. A little later 2 more were added: Rev. Marquart, Rev. Kowert, Pastor R. Goetz was called, but not accept. On June 17, 1923, Rev. Bennhoft was called but didn't accept. Those on the list of July 27, 1923 were Rev. P.G. Nau, Rev. Albert Hasslers, Rev. P. Schwagmeier. Rev. Nau was called and accepted the call and was installed on Sept. 16, 1923. On July 13, 1924 it was resolved to revise and translate the constitution of the congregation. The following were to serve on the committee: Rev. Nau, Teacher Urbahns, Ben Wehmeier, Martin Schiedt, and Fred Schulz. On Jan. 11, 1925 meeting the congregation granted Rev. Nau permission to take over mission at North Vernon. On Jan. 1, 1926 the congregation thanked the Ladies Aid for the altar and pulpit cover. On April 10, 1926 Rev. Nau urged to arrange for a Sunday School. The first S.S. class was held on Sept. 26, 1926.

On Oct. 9, 1927 John Legan, John Ahlbrand were given a release. At the Oct. 7, 1928 meeting the congregation expressed thanks to Frank Flannigan for the present of \$25.00 given the congregation on the 80th anniversary. On Apr. 7, 1929 meeting Henry Forster, Ben Wehmeier, Rev. Nau and Martin Scheidt were on the committee to talk to the Interstate regarding electric lights. Oct. 6, 1929, Fred Schulz reported that a Trust Fund of \$1000.00 had been left the congregation for the upkeep of the cemetery by Mrs. Wm. Lowe.

On April 6, 1930, Reverend Nau reported that Rev. George Fischer had died and the congregation decided to send \$10.00 for memorial wreath and on July 6, 1930, Rev. Theodore Dannerseldt thanked the congregation for the memorial wreath sent in memory of Rev. Fischer. On April 7, 1934 a vote of thanks was extended Hege and Flannigan for the chairs given the congregation. On January 11, 1936 the congregation received \$50.00 from Mary Baurichter for Cemetery fund. On July 6, 1936 a vote of thanks was extended to Howard Siegel for the book racks. At the November 8th, 1936 meeting permission was given for a demonstration of a Hammond Electric organ.

On January 1, 1937 it was agreed to buy this organ at a cost of \$1200. with two years to pay for it. At the October 4, 1942 meeting, it was resolved to buy a plaque or plaques for the names of the boys in U. S. service including the first and second world War Veterans and servicemen. On November 15, 1942, Frederick Finke was called as he wished to enter the service as a Captain and to do so he would have to be ordained. On January 1, 1945 the following committee was appointed for building Parish Hall to be completed by 1948. Ben Wehmeier, Marcus Nolting, August Arnholt, Ben Meier, Ben Forester. The April 8, 1945 meeting was held to consider Rev. Nau's resignation which was given congregation 4-3-45. On April 22, 1945, Rev. Nau sent his thanks to the congregation for the additional months salary. On May 8, 1945 the slate of candidates were Rev. Albert Schlegel, H. Behning, G.R. Klein, U.A. Mack, Brommer, A. Gerken, O. Schedler, W.R. Vandia. On July 1, 1945 meeting was held to call another pastor as Rev. Schlegel didn't accept call. At this meeting Rev. Victor

On January 1, 1867 Rev. Schumm received a call to the state of New York. The congregation decided it was not a divine call as the pastor had been here for such a short time. In April 1873 the church was re-roofed and the church painted on the inside. In October 1873 it was resolved that boards be nailed around the foundation of the church and filled with gravel. (The time when the hogs wallowed under the church.) Thomas Kobbe and John Frederick William Bretthauer were taken in as new members.

In 1875 another room was added to the parsonage and the building was given over to Wm. Vogelsang. In 1876 the old school house was sold to Wm. Whipker for \$12.00 and the wall slate was sold to Henry Schulz for 85 cents and the stove to Wm. Arnholt for \$2.05. In October 1876 a new cemetery in the south corner of the church lot should be laid out and a board fence built around it. Each member should pay \$1.50. In the spring of 1877 a cistern was built at the parsonage. In October 1876 it was resolved that an organ should be bought for \$125.00. In 1879 Chas. Vetter was to make more benches and they should be made before Palm Sunday. Also at this meeting which was held Jan. 1, it was decided to buy a piece of land from the Widow Laag (or Lowe) a place where the members could tie their horses. At this time they had collected \$126.50 for the organ and the cost was only \$124.50 so \$2.25 was left for an organ stool.

In March 1880 a new altar, Bible and church book should be bought at a cost of \$8.00. In July 1880 our congregation received an invitation to the church dedication at Waymansville. In the year 1881 a new dwelling should be built for the teacher and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land be bought from Henry Held to build the house. The house should have 2 rooms, a cellar and foundation.

The building should be done by William Lowe. In July 1881, the parsonage should be insured for \$500 and the teachers house for \$300. On March 26, 1882 it was decided the confirmation children should go according to the age—the oldest first, the youngest last. In the January 1884 meeting, it was decided they were in need of a new communion set. Also the Pastor was badly in need of a new stable the size should be 18 x 20 x 14 ft. high. Herman Tiemann said he would buy the old stable for \$10.00, but because of lack of funds no stable was built. In the Oct. meeting, it was decided to repair the old stable and make a place for a horse and a cow, also a place for the hay.

On Dec. 7, 1884 a special meeting was called to consider a call that Teacher Spuhler had received of Immanuel's Luth. Congregation at Seymour. On Oct. 4, 1885, dancing was discussed in the meeting. Rev. Heltmueller who had been sick was given a 3 month rest. On Jan. 1, 1886, Pastor Trautman was chosen to serve this congregation. In April 1886 meeting, 2 pastors were nominated - Pastor Kirchner of Mattison, Cook County, Illinois and Pastor Guebel of California, Mo. Pastor Buebel was called. ~~The~~ salary was \$450. In April 1886 Teacher Spuhler received a call to Akron, Ohio and was given a peaceful release. In Sept. 1886 Teacher H. Mensendieck was called. Rev. Mertz also brought up at this meeting that the congregation needed a new church. At the February meeting 1887, it was decided to build a new church of brick at a cost of \$4,000. and the church should have 2 aisles. At the August 1887 meeting, it was decided after a long discussion that at the time of a funeral note to bring the body into the church, but after the burial have the funeral sermon in church. In 1888 the old church should be used for the instruction room. Teacher Urbahns was called in the year 1906

In the year 1907 John Acton was to build 2 rooms to the teachers house at a cost of \$355.00. In 1908 another stove was to be bought. It should match the one on the womans side. So in 1912, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land was to be bought for Teacher Urbahns and in 1914 the Pastor's salary was raised \$150.00 and the Teacher's \$100.00 At the January meeting in 1920, it was agreed to pay Rev. Fuinhabers railroad fare and the other expenses to see a Specialist and Jesse Fischer agreed to build a coal shed for \$12.00.

Mack of Seymour was called and he also declined the call. Rev. Behring of Indianapolis was called and also declined the call. Then on Sept. 23, 1945 Rev. E. Heuer was called. He too declined the call. Then Rev. J. Kutz of Louisville was called and he also declined the call. Then Rev. Klein was called and he declined the call. Rev. Ripke was called and he also declined the call. On Jan. 14, 1946 the Rev. E.O. Metzdorf of Illinois was called and he accepted the call. Rev. Metzdorf was installed on March 3, 1946.