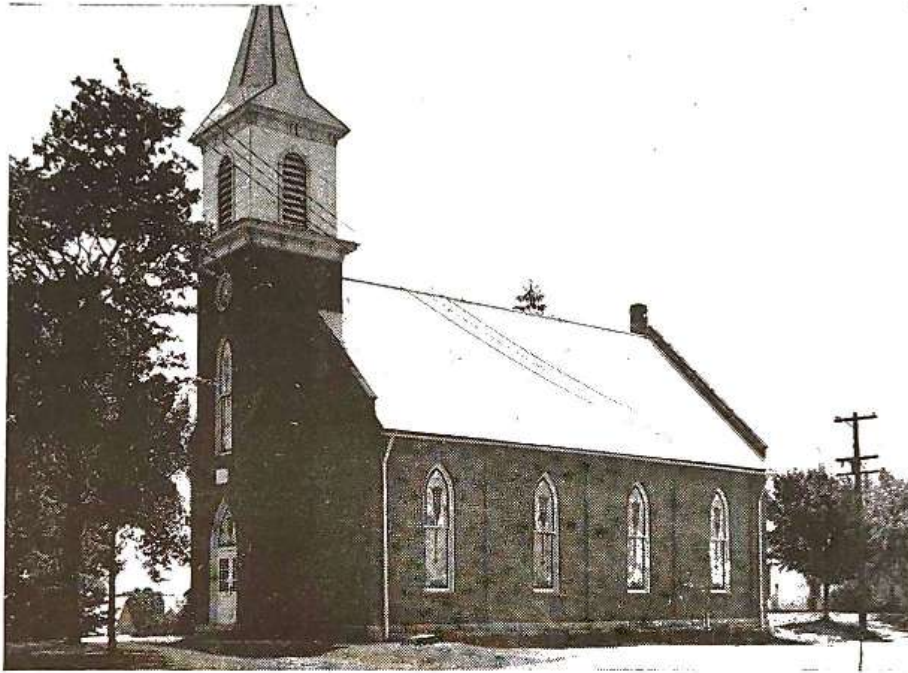

Centennial
Anniversary

1848 St. Paul's 1948
 Lutheran
 Church

Columbus, Indiana





For many years, O God of grace,
This church has been Thy dwelling-place
And we Thy congregation.

Upon the precious Corner-stone
Our faith is built, and Christ alone
Is still our one Foundation.

Today we pray:

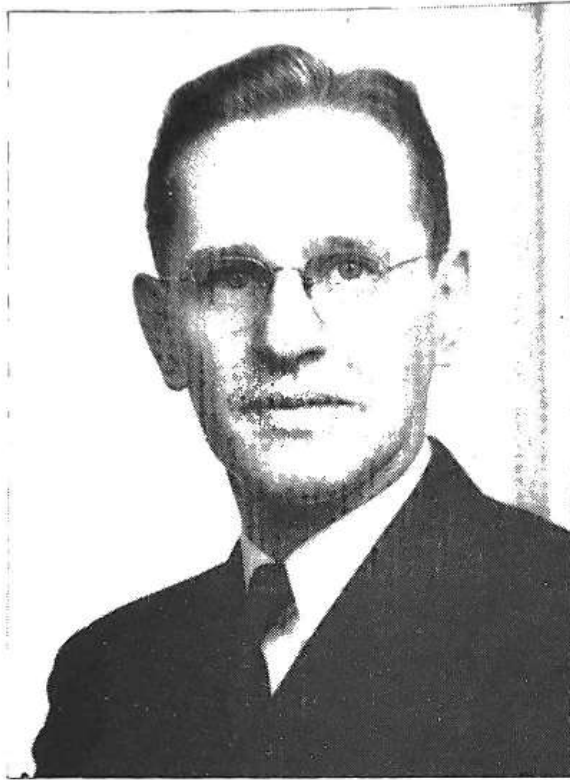
“Let us greet Thee, Lord, and meet Thee
Here with singing,
All our praises to Thee bringing.”

—Lutheran Hymnal.

1848 *A Century* 1948
 of Grace

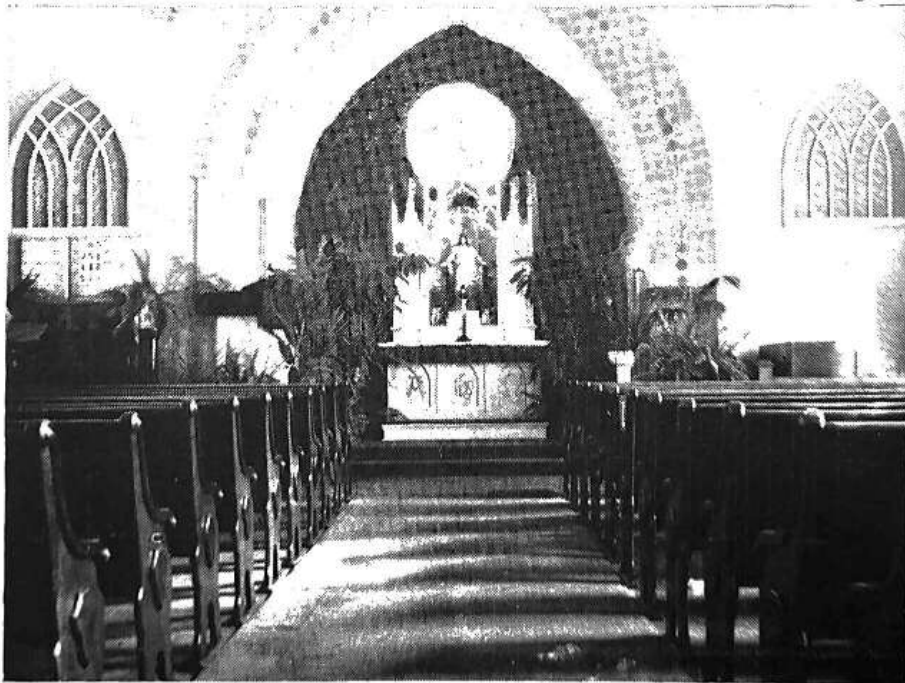
Dedication—

To the Glory of the Triune God by Whose Mercy St. Paul's Church was Founded and Preserved and to the Memory of the Courageous Men and Women, their Pastors, and their Teachers whose Faith and Devotion Established and Maintained St. Paul's Church and to Both the Former Members who have Labored Faithfully and the Members who Today Diligently Carry on the Work of St. Paul's Church—This Centennial Anniversary Booklet is Dedicated in Grateful Appreciation.



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Celebrates Its
CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY
1848 - 1948

REV. ERIC O. METZDORF, The Present Pastor



"How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longeth, yea,
even fainteth for the courts of the Lord."—Psalm 84:1, 2.

PREFACE

SOLI DEO GLORIA

With this sentiment the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana, publish this Centennial Anniversary booklet, fully realizing that what the church is today, it is by the grace of God whose love and unmerited blessings rested upon it throughout these one hundred years.

The history contained herein is but an account of the action and deeds: no one can record the spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice and the fervent prayers with which the various problems were met; no one can estimate the rich streams of spiritual blessings which have been poured out on one generation after another in all these years by public preaching and private admonition and through the administration of the Sacraments. The very fact that our congregation has been privileged to enjoy Word and Sacrament in the past calls for heartfelt gratitude on the part of our membership and for the determination to pray and work ever more diligently for the Kingdom of God in our community.

For the preparation of this brief historical sketch of St. Paul's Church the Pastor is indebted to the historical material found in the 80th Anniversary Booklet, prepared by the then pastor, the Rev. Peter G. Nau, to Miss Flora Zurbrugg, Teacher Robert Urbahns, Mrs. Harry Day, Miss Helen Zurbrugg, Mrs. August Arnholt, and Mrs. Lydia Forster who supplied some of the material found in this booklet.

The reason why the pictures of some of the pastors and of some of the teachers are not in this booklet is because they were not available.

May the account of the courageous struggles and valient deeds of those who have gone before us kindle in us humble gratitude to God, unswerving loyalty to our church, and a constant determination to emulate the spirit of prayer, devotion, and self-sacrifice of the founding fathers!

ERIC O. METZDORF, Pastor

A SHORT HISTORICAL SKETCH

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF GOD'S BLESSINGS UPON ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

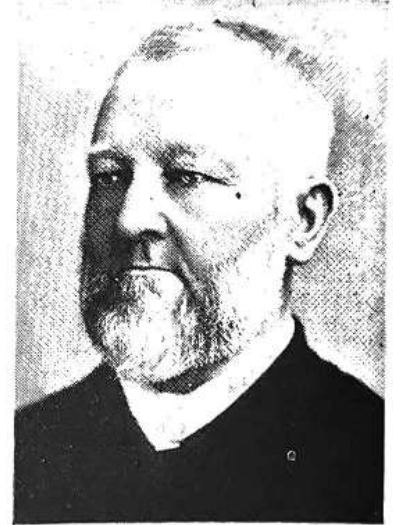
The first half of the 19th century was of the greatest significance in the settlement of Bartholomew County. When news of the treaty by which the Delaware Indians ceded the title of their lands, October 3, 1818, reached the older parts of the state and other states, men immediately set out for the newly-opened district and began to pour in from the Carolinas, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and some who had pushed further north at first came back again and located within the boundaries of this county. The first sale of lands within the former Delaware territory was made January 6, 1820. The ever-increasing stream of settlers rapidly occupied the new lands of Indiana, and the fertile soil of this region greatly attracted the newcomers. The completion of a railroad from Madison to Indianapolis, reputedly the first railroad built in Indiana, in 1843 made it possible for many emigrants from Europe to settle in these parts. Among them were many Lutherans from Prussia and Hannover, who had left the Old World because of political and religious oppression, seeking the peace and freedom which had long been denied them.

The settlers of Bartholomew County were hardy men and not afraid of the privations and dangers of life in the forests of Indiana. With determined will and brawny arms they cleared the forested lands and planted for themselves and their children homes in the almost unbroken wilderness. Many were the obstacles they had to overcome, but they did not shrink from exposure and hardships, nor were they deterred by the dreaded climatic fevers, which at times prostrated entire families and carried many to an early grave.

In the early Forties a number of German Lutherans settled in what is now known as the Clifty neighborhood. These Germans were pious, intelligent, and energetic people. The leaders of these emigrants were men of moral worth, such as John Dietrich Kollmeier and John Henry Fischer, who gave every possible assistance to the newcomers, housing them in their log-cabins and financing them until they were able to establish themselves in these parts. These men came in touch with the Lutherans at White Creek, where a congregation had been founded in 1840 by the Rev. C. Frinke, a charter member of the Missouri Synod. Soon thereafter we find this faithful missionary laboring among the settlers in the Clifty neighborhood, baptizing the children, ministering to the sick, burying the dead, and preaching in the cabins and in a Baptist church, located, as it is said, on what is now the William Bick farm.

As a direct result of the missionary activities of the Rev. C. Frinke, St. Paul's Lutheran Church was founded in the year 1848 (one year after the founding of the Missouri Synod at Chicago, Ill.), and divine services were held in a public school-house located about two miles north and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the present location of the church. The Rev. C. Frinke continued to minister to this flock until the end of the year 1851 when his successor at White Creek, the Rev. R. Klinkenberg, took charge of the struggling congregation.

Subsequent emigrations from Germany greatly strengthened the congregation and in 1852 St. Paul's Church called its own pastor in the person of the Rev. J. Rauschert. The first purchase of land was made. On Dec. 11, 1852 John Richard Kollmeier and his wife Mary decided to the congregation for the consideration of \$100.00 a tract of 14 acres of ground, "to have and to hold said lot of land forever or as long as three members may be attached thereto and of the same belief, that is to say, of the Evangelical Lutheran persuasion or belief." A log cabin for the pastor's dwelling and a log church were erected at the present location. On March 14, 1852 the congregation dedicated its first church.



PASTOR C. FRINKE

The Rev. J. Rauschert remained with the congregation until the year 1855. Due to a scarcity of ministerial candidates the congregation was without a pastor for some time, and reading services were held by A. Zagel, the teacher of the parochial school. Being an able and pious man the congregation finally called Teacher Zagel as pastor. He was successful in passing the examination necessary for entrance into the ministry of the Lutheran Church and he was ordained and installed.

In 1856 a log school-house was erected (25x19 ft. with 4 windows) and for some time services were conducted in this building, the old church being no longer safe for a large gathering of people.

In 1857 the congregation acquired 3 acres of ground from John Richard Kollmeier for the sum of \$25.00, thus completing the triangle of land owned by the congregation at the present time, and a spacious frame church was erected. The dedication of this church took place on May 30, 1858, the Revs. Sauer and Schuermann delivering the sermons on this festive occasion. The building was erected by Francis Pfeiffer.



PASTOR A. ZAGEL

In the same year a number of members, connected with St. Paul's Church, but residing at Columbus, organized St. Peter's Church, because they found the crossing of the Clifty at "Fatal Ford" too dangerous. The current of the stream at that place was swift, its bed deceptive and treacherous, and after a heavy rain the entire lowland to the west was inundated. Every assistance was given to these brethren and a substantial collection was raised to enable them to build their first house of worship.

On June 21, 1857 the congregation resolved to affiliate with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, and this resolution was repeated in a meeting held September 25, 1859, and Henry Nolting was elected as the congregation's first delegate Synod.



PASTOR G. KUECHLE

In the year 1860 the Rev. A. Zagel was succeeded by the Rev. E. Rolf. In October 1863 the Rev. E. Rolf accepted a call to St. Paul, Minn.

An agreement was now made with St. Peter's Church, and the Rev. G. Kuechle was called as pastor of both congregations. This agreement, however, was of short duration, and in 1865 St. Paul's Church called the Rev. G. Schumm as its pastor, the Rev. G. Kuechle continuing as pastor at Columbus.

In 1866 a new dwelling replaced the old log parsonage. Many additions have been made to this building, and it stands to this day.

The Rev. G. Schumm resigned his pastorate at St. Paul's Church because of throat trouble, and was succeeded in 1870 by the Rev. August Heitmueller.



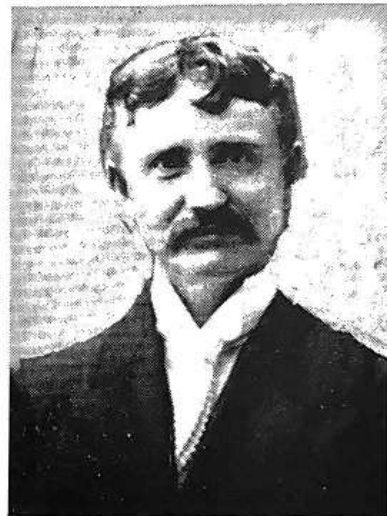
REV. AUGUST HEITMUELLER

The Franco-Prussian War caused many German Lutherans to come to America, and again the congregation received many members. In October 1876 a new cemetery was laid out on the south corner of the church land. The Rev. August Heitmueller remained with the congregation until his death in March 1886. He was a faithful servant of God and his parishioners were greatly attached to him.

The Rev. Martin Mertz became successor of the Rev. August Heitmueller. The old frame church had become too small for the needs of the congregation, and extensive repairs were urgently necessary. After some consideration it was thought advisable to build a new church. And so in February 1887 it was decided to build a new church of brick. The building committee consisted of Henry Schulz, Sr., C. Schulz, Henry Nolting, Henry Obermark, Carl Vetter, and August Linsmith. A contract was given to Brokmann and Keller of Columbus, and the present house of worship was erected at a cost of above \$4,000.00. The dedicatory sermons were delivered by the Rev. A. C. Trautmann of Columbus and the Rev. Richard Eirich of Jonesville. The old frame church was converted into a classroom for the preparation of children for confirmation.



PASTOR G. FISCHER



PASTOR K. FIRNHABER

A season of quiet development followed. During the pastorate of the Rev. G. Fischer (1893-1905), and that of the Rev. K. Firnhaber (1905-1920) additions to the congregation through emigration from Germany had practically come to an end. A number of families moved to Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. However the congregation enjoyed a normal growth from within and was able to maintain itself.



PASTOR F. WAMBSGANSS

After a vacancy of six months the congregation was again supplied with a pastor. The Rev. Peter G. Nau accepted the extended call, and was installed on September 16, 1923. In the spring of 1924 a Ladies' Aid Society was organized, which has given valuable aid to the congregation and to charitable institutions of Synod. On September 26, 1926 a regular Sunday school was established. In 1928 the congregation celebrated its 80th anniversary. The sermons were delivered by the Revs. G. Fischer, A. E. Brauer, and William Acker. In 1937 the present Hammond Electric Organ was purchased. In 1943 St. Paul's Women's Missionary Society was organized. On April 8, 1945 the Rev. P. G. Nau's resignation was accepted. During the vacancy the parsonage was modernized.

After a vacancy of eleven months the congregation was again supplied with a pastor, when the Rev. Eric Metzdorf accepted the call, and was installed on March 3, 1946. During the period of time that Pastor Metzdorf has served St. Paul's Church, a cradle roll department, Men's Bible Class, and Men's Club were organized in 1946, through the donation of a strip of land by Mr. Henry Zurbrugg the parking space west of the church was enlarged, a Board of Christian Education was inaugurated, an oil furnace was installed in the church, a missal stand and one set of altar, pulpit, and lectern paraments in the traditional liturgical colors were given in memory of Ellen Lowe, and another set of altar, pulpit, and lectern paraments was purchased by the Ladies' Aid in 1947, an illuminated bulletin board was given by the Sunday School (built by Howard Seigel, assisted by Ben Forster), and Memorial Hall was built in 1948. It replaces the old frame church which had been converted into a class-room for the preparation of children for confirmation in 1887.

In September 1920 the Rev. F. Wambsganss, for many year pastor of St. Peter's Church at Columbus was called to succeed the Rev. K. Firnhaber who resigned on August 27, 1920 because of ill health. Pastor Wambsganss was very successful in his labors at St. Paul's Church. During his pastorate the entire church was remodeled and decorated, and a basement with furnace provided. The congregation was in the midst of activity when this faithful servant was called to his reward on February 26, 1923.



PASTOR PETER G. NAU



MEMORIAL HALL

Memorial Hall was built in memory of the founding fathers of the congregation and in memory of the congregation's veterans of both World Wars. This building was dedicated August 8, 1948 at 2:30 p. m. The Rev. George Steinkamp of Dudleytown preached the sermon on this festive occasion. Memorial Hall is a 2-story structure. The auditorium includes a stage at one end, with a kitchen and class room on either side. A new electric stove, double sink, cabinets and dining service have been purchased to go with the new building. New metal folding chairs also have been purchased for the auditorium. The lower floor consists of a large recreation room and rest rooms, room for the oil furnace, and a large cistern. Memorial Hall will serve for Sunday school, church organizations' meetings, and recreation. The firm of Repp and Mundt of Columbus was contractor on the construction.

EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

According to God's Word, Christian parents have the first and foremost duty and privilege to give their children Christian teaching and training, to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." But the Church also has a definite duty which it dare not neglect. By the Great Commission it is charged to make disciples of all nations, and therefore also of the children, and to "teach them to observe all things whatsoever Christ has commanded" the Church.

A school has been connected with the congregation from the beginning. The first teacher was A. Zagel. After the Rev. J. Rauschert left in 1855 and the congregation was without a pastor for some time, due to a scarcity of ministerial candidates, Teacher Zagel held reading services. Being an able and pious man the congregation finally called Teacher Zagel as pastor.

In 1856 a log school-house was erected (25x19 ft. with four windows). In 1876 this building was sold to William Whipker for the sum of \$12.00. In 1870 the present school was built.



THOMAS KOBBE



JOHN FISCHER

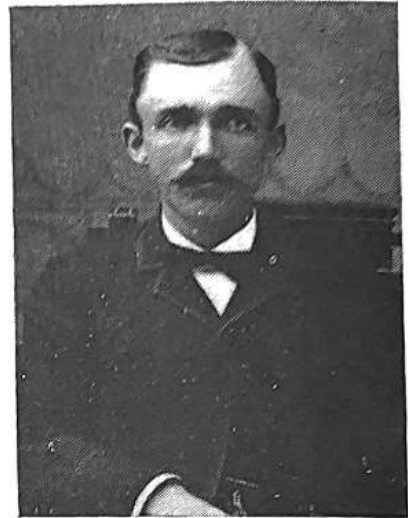
It seems that Pastor Zagel continued to teach school. Apparently Pastors Rolf and Kuechle also taught school. Pastor Schumm taught school from 1865 to 1869. Mr. Henke taught school from 1869 to 1870. From 1870 to 1878 the school was taught by public school teachers—Thomas Kobbe from 1870 to 1873; John Fischer from 1873 to 1876; Messrs. Wallace and Bolinger from 1876 to 1878. In 1878 Teacher William M. Spuhler was called to take charge of the parochial school.



WILLIAM M. SPUHLER

A parcel of ground ($\frac{1}{2}$ acre) was bought from Henry Held, Sr., and in the year 1881 a teacher's dwelling was built. The contract for the construction of this house was let to William Lowe.

In the year 1880 Teacher Spuhler taught the public school, receiving his salary from the county, but continued to teach the children of the congregation in religious subjects. This arrangement has been continued to this present day.



HENRY M. MENSENDIEK

In April 1886 Teacher Spuhler accepted a call to Akron, Ohio, and Teacher Henry M. Mensendiek took charge of the school in September 1886. In the brief interval between Teachers Spuhler and Mensendiek Mr. Luther Glick taught school. After serving St. Paul's Church faithfully as teacher and organist 20 years Teacher Mensendiek entered into his eternal rest on June 26, 1906, and Teacher Robert Urbahns was called to succeed him.

In 1912 another $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land was bought for the teacher.

Teacher Urbahns holds the fine record of teaching, directing the choir, and laboring among the members of St. Paul's Church for 40 years. He was a faithful and patient worker. A very large number of the present members of the congregation have been taught by him, and he is held in high esteem by all. He also served as church organist for 40 years. After teaching 3 weeks of his 41st year, his health failed and he resigned. He and his faithful wife are now living in East Columbus, and we are happy to say they are still members of St. Paul's Church. They are the parents of 11 children. One son, Ernest, became a min-

ister of the Gospel. Mrs. E. O. Metzdorf finished teaching the school term after the resignation of Teacher Urbahns.

In June 1947 Teacher Lester Rush was installed and taught here one year.



ROBERT URBAHNS

Teacher C. F. Daberkow was then called and was installed on August 22, 1948. Teacher Daberkow comes to us with enthusiasm and zeal to work in the Lord's Kingdom. He and Mrs. Daberkow have 4 children. May the Lord bless his labors among us.



C. F. DABERKOW

ST. PAUL'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

St. Paul's Church maintains a Sunday school and seeks to make it as efficient as the limitations of such an institution will permit.

The Sunday school of our congregation was organized on September 26, 1926 by Pastor Peter G. Nau. The first superintendent of our Sunday school was Mr. Martin Scheidt, who served for 10 years. Following him as superintendent was Mr. Earl Nolting, who served for 1 year. When Mr. Nolting moved away, Mr. Howard Siegel became superintendent. He was serving in his 11th year, when he moved to San Antonio, Texas, on account of ill health. We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to these three men and also to the many consecrated teachers who have in these past twenty-two years labored zealously and faithfully to bring our children to the Lord Jesus and to teach them the One Thing Needful. Our new superintendent is Mr. Carl Arnholt. In this connection it should also be noted that one of our members, Miss Flora Zurbrugg, has taught a class since the Sunday school was organized. Also deserving of special mention and commendation is Mrs. Lydia Forster, who has taught a class for twenty-one years; and Teacher Urbahns, who taught a class for twenty years.

In September 1946 a new department—the cradle roll department—was organized with Miss Helen Forster in charge. At present the cradle roll numbers 26 members.

In October 1946 the present system of having four Bible classes was adopted: The Men's, Ladies', Young Men's, and Young Ladies' Classes.



ST. PAUL'S ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

The total enrollment of the Sunday school at present is 107.

At present the officers of St. Paul's Sunday school are the following: Mr. Carl Arnholt, superintendent and Miss Mary Runge, secretary and treasurer. The following are the teachers: Miss Barbara Foerster, Mrs. Charles Forster, Mrs. Lydia Forster, Miss Helen Zurbrugg, Miss Flora Zurbrugg, Mrs. Earl Nolting, Mr. Kenneth Schroer, Mr. C. F. Daberkow, Mr. Earl Nolting, and Pastor Metzdorf.

The Sunday school is under the control and supervision of the congregation through its Board of Christian Education, consisting of the pastor, the teacher, the superintendent, and three members chosen by the voters. At present the elected members are Messrs. Harry Scheidt, Henry Schulz, and Henry Hoevener.

In the summer of 1948 our Sunday school presented the congregation an illuminated bulletin board. It was built by Howard Siegel, assisted by Ben Forster.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL PUPILS AND TEACHERS
(Not including the Adult Bible Classes)

By the grace of God, the work of our Sunday school has been carried on without interruption for the past twenty-two years. To Him and Him alone, therefore, be all praise, glory, and honor. Looking into the future, let us pray that our Sunday school may continue to flourish and be cherished by all.

“God of our fathers, make us see
The duty we our children owe;
By word and walk to teach them so
That, as they live, they live to Thee.”
—Dr. J. T. Mueller.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN LADIES' AID SOCIETY



ST. PAUL'S LADIES' AID SOCIETY

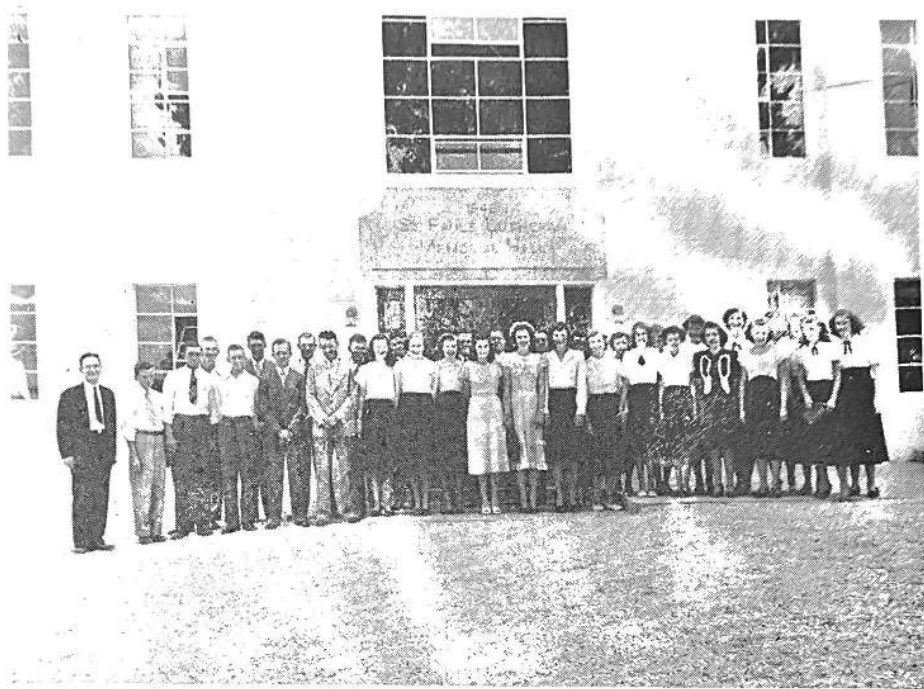
Under the guidance of the Pastor, the Rev. Peter G. Nau, ten women met on Feb. 28, 1924 and organized the St. Paul's Ladies' Aid Society. The following were chosen to be the first officers: Mrs. P. G. Nau, president; Mrs. William Nolting, vice president; Miss Lena Wehmeier, secretary; and Mrs. Jesse Fischer treasurer.

Throughout its history our Ladies' Aid Society has always endeavored to act as an organization which aids and assists the congregation in its work. It has repeatedly contributed larger and smaller amounts of money to various purposes and projects in our congregation, as for instance the communion service, carpet for the church, a window in the church, altar candelabra, altar paraments, electric sweeper for the church, helping install electric lights in the church, contributing to the building of Memorial Hall, etc., and also to outside purposes, such as the Lutheran Orphans Home in Indianapolis, the Deaf-mute Institute in Detroit, Negro Mission, Indian Mission, Mission in China, Riley Hospital in Indianapolis, Martha Society in Ft. Wayne, European Relief, Mission Federation, Lutheran Old People's Home in Kendallville, Indiana.

Since its organization, St. Paul's Ladies' Aid Society has always endeavored to assist the local congregation in its work, to take an active interest in the many charitable institutions of the church, and by furthering the cause of Christian missions at home and abroad.

At present our Ladies' Aid Society numbers 48 members, of whom four are charter members. The officers are: Mrs. Harry Scheidt, president; Mrs. Clarence Nolting, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Davis, secretary; Mrs. Earl Nolting, treasurer; and Mrs. Ben Meier, reporter.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN WALTHER LEAGUE SOCIETY



THE WALTHER LEAGUE SOCIETY

"He that has the youth has the future." The importance of special, systematic work among and for the young people was recognized by Pastor P. G. Nau and he therefore organized the St. Paul's Walther League on February 29, 1932.

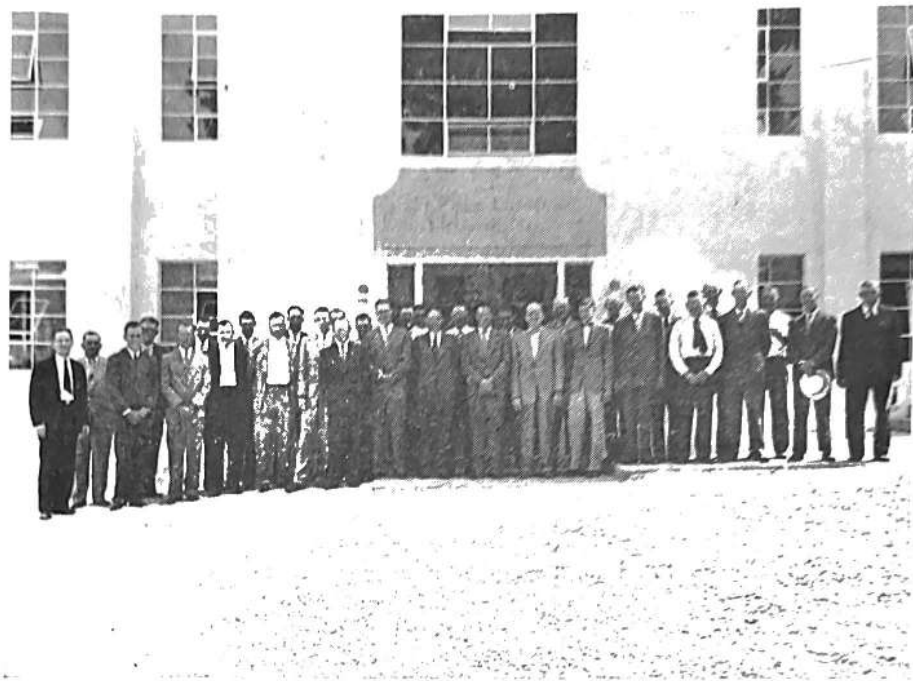
The following were the first officers elected by the new society: Carl Urbahns, president; and Eldo Nolting, secretary-treasurer. Twenty-two signed the constitution and thus became charter members..

On May 21, 1932 the society joined the International Walther League.

The local society has been consistently active in the work of the League at large. It has fostered the numerous projects of the International among which are various mission endeavors and the Wheatridge Sanitarium. District projects, such as the Talent Quest, have also had the society's support. An active force for good on the home front, the society has published a League paper, publicized Lenten and Easter services, and has also provided wholesome recreation.

At present our Walther League Society number 32 members. The officers are: Louis Fischvogt, president; Barbara Foerster, vice president; Helen Zurbrugg, secretary; Max Nolting, treasurer; and Edward Rediker, chairman of Christian growth.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MEN'S CLUB



THE MEN'S CLUB

The youngest society within our church is the Men's Club. Mindful of the fact that an organization of men in a church, apart from the voters' assembly, can achieve a great amount of good, the present pastor organized the Men's Club of St. Paul's Lutheran Church on August 16, 1946. A constitution was adopted, setting forth as the objectives of the new society "to further church publicity, to assist in the missionary and charitable endeavors of the church, to foster Christian fellowship and sociability among the male members of the church, and to provide wholesome entertainment." 15 men were present and signed the constitution and thus became charter members.

On October 17, 1946 the Men's Club passed the important resolution to join the Lutheran Laymen's League. This is an organization of laymen within our Synod, the original purpose of which was to collect enough money to pay a deficit of \$100,000.00 in the treasuries of our Synod. After the deficit was wiped out the League increased its membership and assumed new objectives. For many years it has sponsored the well-known International Lutheran Hour and contributes greatly toward the support of Radio Station KFUE. Our Men's Club, which is a local chapter of the L.L.L., seeks to realize its objectives and those of the L.L.L. by using the L.L.L. topic studies, becoming better acquainted with the work of our church at large, promoting Christian fellowship among the members of our congregation, and providing suitable entertainment. The social period following each meeting is topped off with refreshments. There is one main social event each year—a family night. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month.

At present our Men's Club numbers 39 members. The first and also the present officers of St. Paul's Men's Club are the following: Ben Wehmeier, president; Henry Hoevener, vice president; Ben Forster, secretary; and Ben Meier, treasurer.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

St. Paul's Women's Missionary Society affiliated with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League on January 14, 1943. The first meeting was held March 21, 1943 with 23 persons attending. The following were chosen to be the first officers: Mrs. Henry Schulz, president; Mrs. P. G. Nau, vice president; Miss Emma Arnholt, secretary; and Mrs. Marcus Nolting, treasurer.

As the name of this society suggests, the society studies the part women have had and still have in missions.

At present the society, in common with the other societies in the zone, has adopted a four-year old French war orphan.

All ladies of the congregation are members of this society. The present officers are: Mrs. Walter Arnholt, president; Mrs. Earl Nolting, vice president; Mrs. E. O. Metzdorf, secretary; and Mrs. Woodrow Newkirk, treasurer.

Our Choirs and Our Organists

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our Salvation."—Psalm 95:1.

Christianity is the religion with the joyful message of salvation. It creates joy in the hearts of the believers, joy which is made manifest by the outpouring of song. The children of God have, therefore, from time immemorial expressed their religious emotions through music.

Hymns and chorals are the heritage of a singing church and herein St. Paul's has been blessed in a special measure. Though choirs were not always available, music nevertheless has a prominent place in the church services even in the early history. Later, choir music was cultivated, not to take the place of congregational singing, but to supplement and aid in beautifying the services.

In addition to the mixed choir there is a men's choir and ladies' choir.

The present choir members, directed by Mrs. Henry Schulz, continue to meet for practice and to sing, not for their own honor and glory, but to the praise and glory of the Triune God, who created, redeemed, and sanctified them.

The choirs of our church do not sing regularly, but only on the main festivals of the church year, in the Lenten services, and at special occasions. The number of members in the choir fluctuates so much that it is impossible to give a fair picture of the group.

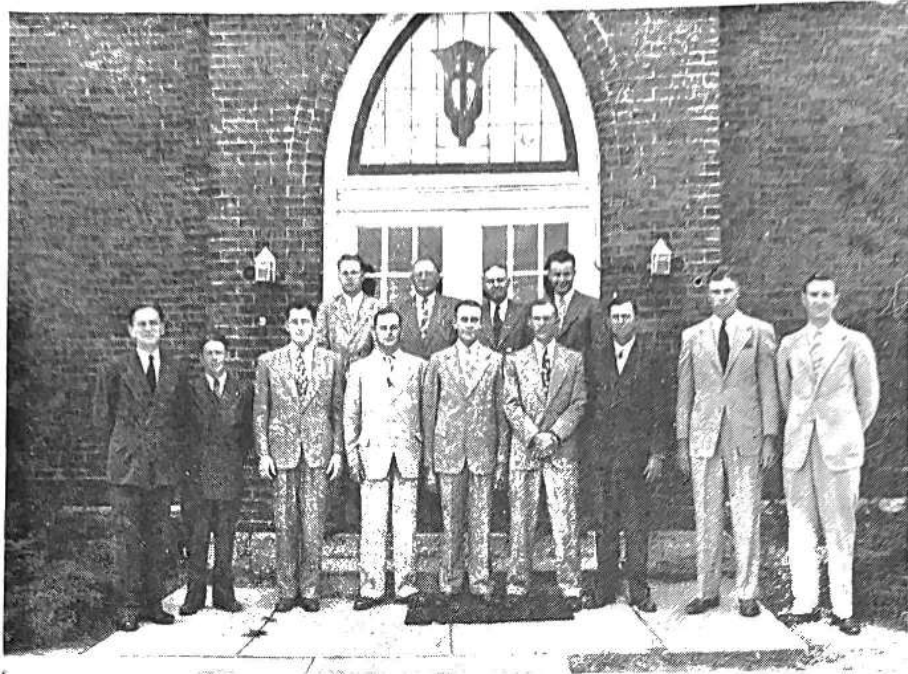
In thanking God for the gift of sacred music and song, St. Paul's is also truly grateful to its choirs and directors for their assistance in developing appreciation of the heritage that is ours in the gift of Christian hymnody.

The following serve as organists for the choir and also for the regular Sunday services: Mr. C. F. Daberkow and Mrs. E. O. Metzdorf. Mrs. Merrill Burbrink, now of Jonesville, has also served as organist, and still assists occasionally.

St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery

Shortly after the organization of the congregation, the members considered the propriety of having their own cemetery. When the cemetery next to the church became too small, a new cemetery was laid out on the south corner of the church land in October 1876.

During the past hundred years many members of St. Paul's Church have finished their earthly course and their bodies have been laid to rest in our cemetery, there to await the Resurrection Morn. Cemetery—a beautiful word, for it means a place of sleep, of those who are "asleep in Jesus." May also our cemetery remind us that we are but strangers and pilgrims here, who are on their way to the heavenly City, prepared for them by God. The present trustees of the cemetery are: Henry Forster, Henry Schulz, and Henry Zurbrugg.



CHURCH BOARD

The following "firsts" in our congregational history may interest you:

The earliest baptism on record is that of Christine Caroline Engel Fischer, a daughter of John Henry Fischer and his wife Wilhelmine, nee Busch. She was born June 8, 1843 and baptized in 1843 by Pastor Frinke.

The first baptism in the log church was that of Anna Marie Reinking, daughter of Henry Reinking and his wife Marie, nee Scheidt. She was born June 20, 1852 and baptized on June 27, 1852.

The first recorded death is that of Kaspar Henry Gielker, born May 15, 1809 at Gehfeld, Germany. He died of "Winterfieber" Dec. 20, 1852 and was buried on the congregation's cemetery.

The first recorded communion was attended by 20 guests and was held on March 14, 1852, the day of the dedication of the first church.

The first recorded minutes of a congregational meeting date from February 17, 1856 and give the proceedings of a meeting held at the home of Mr. (Carl Henry) Wehmeier.

The first name under the old constitution of 1852 is that of the Rev. J. Rauschert, and is followed by that of John Dietrich Kollmeierer, John Henry Fischer, and Carl Henry Wehmeier.

Our Oldest Members



MRS. MINNIE LOWE
Age 97 Years



MRS. CAROLINE FISCHER
Age 93 Years

Figures and statistics often do not tell the full story of a congregation; however, they may be interesting, instructive, and stimulating. In the hundred years since the organization of the congregation (1848-1947, the following ministerial acts were performed by the regular pastors of St. Paul's Church and those in charge only temporarily: 807 were baptized; 553 were confirmed; 246 couples were married; 342 persons were given Christian burial; and 30,929 communed. The statistics of the congregation at this writing (August 1948) stand as follows: 340 souls, 253 communicants, and 88 voting members.

We leave the future with God. We are confident that He will continue to bestow upon us His grace in Christ, our Savior, and grant us all the other blessings, spiritual and temporal, that we need as a church and as individuals. He will surely keep His many precious promises, if we but remain faithful to Him, earnestly striving to perform the tasks He has assigned to us. Let us, then, ever be "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord." And to that end let us often pray:

Abide, O dearest Jesus
Among us with Thy **grace**,
That Satan may not harm us
Nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer,
Among us with Thy **Word**,
And thus now and hereafter
True peace and joy afford.

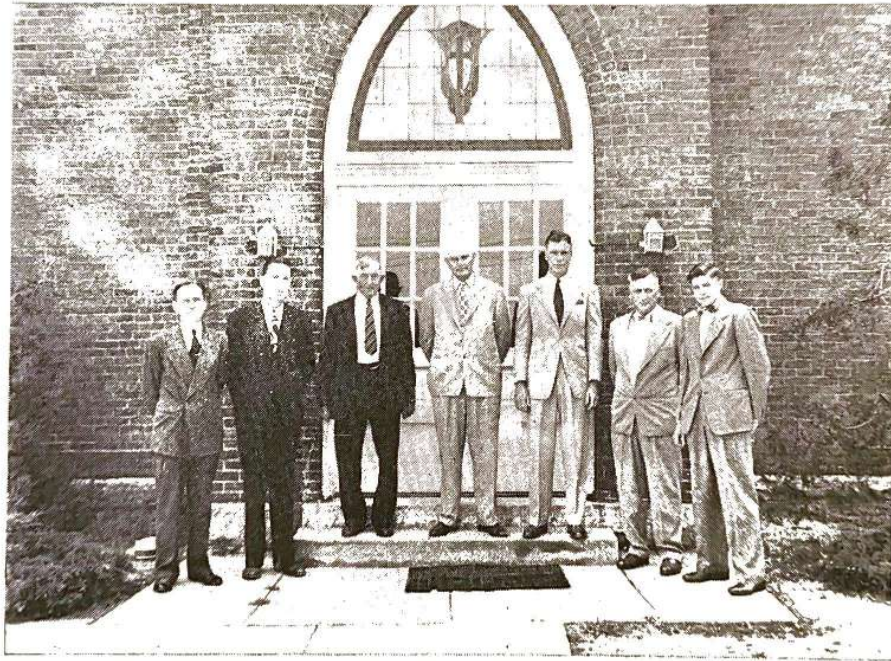
Abide with richest **blessings**
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us, in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Thy Word.

Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Thy **love**;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above. Amen.

Our Anniversary Guest Speakers

The Rev. Louis Wambsganss of Five Points, Indianapolis, Sunday, September 26, at 10:15 a.m.
The Rev. Robert Schulz of Farmers Retreat, Sunday, September 26, at 2:30 p. m.
The Rev. Ernest Urbahns of Wegan, Wednesday, September 29, at 7:30 p. m.
The Rev. Arthur Scheidt of Vincennes, Sunday, October 3, at 10:15 a. m.

The Centennial and Building Committee



THE CENTENNIAL AND BUILDING COMMITTEE

Ben Wehmeier, Chairman
John Foerster, Treasurer
August Arnholt
Ben Forster

Frank Forster
Ben Meier
Marcus Nolting
Pastor E. O. Metzdorf

THE FINANCE BOARD
John Foerster
Henry Forster
Carl Schnur

Our Members Who Served In Both World Wars

World War I

EDWARD ARNHOLT
ELMER ARNHOLT
HENRY ARNHOLT
OTTO ARNHOLT
GEORGE FISCHER
JESSE FISCHER
CARL NOLTING
MARCUS NOLTING
CLARENCE SCHEIDT
CLIFFORD SCHEIDT
EDWARD SCHEIDT
MARTIN SCHULZ
WILLIAM SIEKMANN
ALFRED STEINCAMP
ALFRED WEHMEIER
CARL WEHMEIER
ELMER WEHMEIER
CARL WICHMAN
WILLIAM WICHMAN

World War II

CARL ARNHOLT
EDWIN ARNHOLT
LOUIS ARNHOLT
PAUL ARNHOLT
WALTER ARNHOLT
GERALD DAVIS
MIRKO DRNJEVIC
ALVIN FISCHER
HENRY FISCHER
KARL FORSTER
PAUL FORSTER
DON HEIWIG
GLENN KRIEG
RAY MILLER
ROBERT NAU
EARL NOLTING
MARCUS F. NOLTING
MORRIS NOLTING
HERSCHEL SCHEIDT
MORRIS SCHEIDT
EDWIN SCHUETTE
LEONARD URBAHNS
ROBERT ZURBRUGG



