



ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIFTH
1848 ANNIVERSARY 1973
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COLUMBUS, INDIANA
September 30, 1973



LOOKING BACKWARD — MOVING FORWARD

(The Blessings of The Past — The Challenges of The Future)

Anniversaries are always occasions for looking into the past to reflect on God's mercies to us. When we celebrate the anniversary of congregation, we look for things which have been great for God's people, and for our congregation it means 125 years. We must think chiefly of God's mercy in Jesus Christ, his forgiveness, and the special life that God gives us. In addition to that, our remembrance of the past includes the many hours and days of worship and praise, work and service that God's people have rendered to him. For all of it, to God alone be glory!

But milestone anniversaries must also move us to look into the future to consider what challenges God constantly lays before his people. God's people must never rest on the accomplishments of the past, for our todays and tomorrows eventually make up the yesterdays. Instead, each new day must challenge us to serve our God anew, with more dedication and more zeal than we have served him before. In one way or another, we must be God's people in the world.

It is with this in mind that, I hope and pray, our 125th anniversary celebrations will be joyous and meaningful.

Pastor William Stache

In the early 1840's, a number of German Lutherans settled in what is now known as the Clifty Neighborhood. Two of their leaders were John Dietrich Kollmeier and John Henry Fischer. These Lutherans came in touch with fellow Lutherans at Whitecreek, where a congregation had been founded by The Rev. C. Frinke. He started laboring among the Clifty settlers, baptizing children, visiting the sick, burying the dead, preaching in log cabins and in a Baptist church located, as it is said, on what is now the Wm. Bick farm. As a result of his missionary work, St. Paul Lutheran Church was founded in 1848. At that time worship services were held in a public school building 2 miles north and ½ mile east of the present church.

German emigrants continued to strengthen the congregation until in 1852 they were able to call their first pastor, The Rev. J. Rauschert. Their first purchase of land was made on December 11, 1852. John and Mary Kollmeier deeded to the congregation "a tract of 14 acres for \$100 to have and to hold said lot of land forever or as long as 3 members may be attached thereto and of the same belief, that is, to say of the Evangelical Lutheran persuasion or belief".

On June 21, 1857, the congregation resolved to affiliate with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States.

In 1858, a number of members that lived in Columbus organized the St. Peter Lutheran Church. They found crossing of Clifty Creek and "Fatal Ford" too dangerous. A substantial collection was raised and every assistance was given to enable them to build their first house of worship.



PASTOR J. RAUSCHERT

In October of 1876 a new cemetery was laid out on the South corner of the church property. Ten years thereafter in 1886 the congregation started talking about building a new church of brick, and the present church was built in 1887 for a cost of \$4,000.00. The old frame church was converted into a classroom for confirmation classes.

Our congregation celebrated its 100th Anniversary during a week of special services. On Sunday, September 26, 1948, Rev. Louis Wambsganss spoke at a 10:15 a.m. service. A lunch was served and in the afternoon Rev. Robert Schulz held the 2:30 p.m. service. Later in the week, Rev. Ernest Urbahns of Wegan held services on Wednesday evening. Special guest speaker for the final service of the celebration held October 3, was Rev. Arthur Scheidt of Vincennes.

The Married Couples Club was organized in late 1948.

Increasing operating difficulties resulted in the closing of the St. Paul's School in the spring of 1950. In the July voters meeting a motion was made and carried to add the words "If possible" to Article XIII of the constitution to read "It shall be the duty of the congregation to maintain a elementary school, if possible". C.F. Daberkow served as the last teacher of this congregation's school.

In September of 1952 Pastor Metzdorf received and accepted a call to St. Paul's at Oswego, Kansas. Rev. Roy Guelzow was named vacancy pastor. In planning for a new pastor, it was decided to offer a salary of \$2700 with a \$300 car allowance. The total proposed budget for 1953 was \$9,941.

Our congregation was going through a difficult period partially due to the loss of the school. Calls were extended to and returned by two pastors, as a 3rd choice, Chaplain Carl Geist of Panama City, Florida was called. In retrospect it had to be evidence of God's grace that Rev. Geist accepted our call. He arrived in February with his wife Flora and their two children, Carl and Andrea. He was installed Feb. 22, 1953. During the three short years that he was with our congregation this enthusiastic hard-working servant of God, accomplished a great deal.

Rev. Geist requested permission to cut the period of instruction for children being confirmed to two years and to waive the required age in order to arrange classes so one child will not have to be confirmed alone.

In October 1953, it was decided that for the first time members should be allowed to give according to their abilities and encouraged to do so on a proportionate basis of their income. This would be done by sealed pledges, and envelopes were made available to those desiring them.

A Redecorating committee was appointed in January, 1954. Serving on this committee were Frank Forster, Earl Nolting, Leonard Urbahns, Herschel Scheidt, Mary Scheidt and Lydia Miller. The redecorating, which included new pews and a new entrance with a cloakroom was completed at a cost of \$16,892.59. The rededication service was held November 5, 1954.

Our Board of Education met with the School Board of St. Peter's and reported that St. Peter's School would accept any child from our congregation at a tuition cost of \$133.00 per child. This arrangement began in September, 1954. The Sunday School period was lengthened and Pastor Geist started monthly Sunday School staff meetings, and training sessions. The constitution of the Tri-W Women's organization was approved in 1954. Our congregation started celebrating communion on a monthly basis in January of 1955. A vacation Bible school held in June 1955 exceeded all expectation with 100 pupils enrolled.

The Walther League requested that a married couple be appointed each year to assist them in the youth program. Rev. Geist was not only active in our congregation, but served at least three other congregations in this area as vacancy pastor while here - Jonesville, St. Peter's and Grace.



PASTOR CARL GEIST

After receiving and returning several calls, The Florida-Georgia District extended a call to Rev. Geist to accept a position in Southwestern Miami. It would be his duty to survey the area and help organize new congregations. Pastor Geist asked for and was given a peaceful release. On April 22, 1956 a farewell supper was held in honor of The Geist family, which included four children. The 2 additions to their family while here were David and Stephen.

The Rev. Stratford Eynon was asked to serve as our vacancy pastor.

In January, 1957 a call was extended to and accepted by The Rev. Paul J. Frisch.

He was installed in March of 1957.

It was decided in April to enter a blanket subscription for the Lutheran Witness so that each home would have a copy. Rev. Frisch asked that all be encouraged to remain through the Lord's Supper instead of leaving after taking the offering.

In October, St. Peter's School Board asked if our congregation intended to continue sending its children to their school and if they would cooperate with their plan to expand the school facilities. The congregation agreed to do this.

It was decided to hold Christmas Day and New Year's Day Services at 3:00 p.m. that year.

In February of 1960 special services were held to begin a Preaching-Teaching-Reaching program. Its aim was to revive and increase church membership. The card system of announcing for communion was started in the Spring of 1960. These cards were signed and placed in the offering plates by those desiring communion.

In January, 1961, it was voted that children to be confirmed be examined by the pastor on the chief parts of the Catechism prior to Palm Sunday before the parents, elders, and any other interested persons.

In October, 1962, Rev. Frisch requested that he be granted a peaceful release to accept a call to Immanuel Lutheran at Avilla, Indiana. This was granted. A farewell party was given honor Rev. and Mrs. Frisch and their children, Paula and Jon. Rev. Heine of St. Peter's was chosen to serve as vacancy pastor at this time.



PASTOR PAUL FRISCH

The church wasn't long in their need for a pastor. After only 2 months of vacancy, Rev. Karl Lepper of Fort Wayne, Indiana was called. He accepted and was installed March 24th. With him came his wife, Doris, and their children, Rebecca and Steven. Pastor Lepper accomplished much during his 5 years of labor. Many changes took place. For the first time, confirmands had written exams instead of oral. On May 1, 1963, communion was celebrated using the common and individual cup on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Ushering the congregation out of church after services began and was carried out for 1 year.

Young boys began to serve as acolytes and ushers. Much work was carried on with and by the Walther League Youth group. They accomplished many tasks through hard work and service. Pastor Lepper did much to help the young people be aware that it was also their church. His salary was \$5,830 and retirement was \$580.

The proposed budget for 1963 was \$27,830. Membership of the church was 361.

While serving our church Pastor Lepper studied at Indiana University and completed his Master Degree.

Radio Broadcasting of services began and tapes were made to be taken to shut-ins. In December of 1964 the Tri-W Society made Chrismons, all hand made symbols for the Christmas tree. A special service called "Pilgrimage to Bethlehem" was held. It was not a formal service but families were asked to hold their own private worship service. An organ for the church and a piano for Memorial Hall was purchased.

A master plan for future plans of the church was begun and topographical maps of the church property were made. Fire extinguishers and exit signs were placed in all the buildings, a sign of changing times. Pastor Lepper put much effort into the church's working plan. The constitution was revised and up-dated after much help from Victor Nolting, Frank Runge, and Kenneth Christopher. For the first time women were allowed to attend voters meetings and also to hold certain offices. Pastor Lepper also had a salaried secretary who helped him with many duties. There was World Relief, the church extension fund, the 1967 Year of Ebenezer, and a 4-H fair display booth in conjunction with the other Lutheran churches. Two worship services also began on May 2, 1965.

The 450th Anniversary of the Reformation of Martin Luther was celebrated with local Lutheran churches participating in joint worship services.

Pastor Lepper spent a week attending a school for church leadership at the Christian Theological Seminary. He also served as vacancy pastor at the St. Peter's church when Rev. Heine accepted a call.

A Boy Scout charter began at our church with 7 members. It has grown to 12 members. Kenneth Christopher and Don Nolting worked with the boys. The Board of Evangelism spent many hours canvassing and new members were gained.

In February of 1968, Pastor Lepper resigned, and Rev. Richard Tremain served as vacancy pastor.

During the vacancy an architect presented plans and needs of the church. Don Schwartzkopf served as chairman of the Planning Committee.



PASTOR KARL LEPPER

In May of 1968 the congregation called the Rev. William Stache of Armour, South Dakota. He accepted the call and was installed July 21st, 1968. He, his wife, Doreen, and their two sons, Tim and Mark, made their home in Columbus. He is the first pastor not to live in the parsonage. It was made into Sunday School rooms and is also used for small meetings. The Pastor's office remains there. The parsonage garage was rented out for storage.

Pastor Stache came at a time when many changes were beginning to take place. The Evangelism Committee had brochures made about our church and were aiming for new members. For the first time there was no Sunday School classes during August. Pastor Stache was given permission to take advantage of an AAL Scholarship at St. Louis in 1970. Soon after he came, he began "Little Sermons" which became a part of the Sunday services for the small children of the congregation.

In October of 1969 Pastor and Mrs. Stache were blessed with a daughter, Jill Suzanne.

Miss Flora Zurbrugg spent many hours in translating the church's minutes of 1885 to 1921 from German into English, taking it from the original copy.

The Planning Committee continued its work. Questionnaires were sent out to the congregation, as a result it was decided to redecorate and repair the present church. Renovations in the church included making the altar and cross the center focus of the chancel; the altar was moved forward to make it more important and more visible to the congregation. The organ was moved from the front to the back of the

church, and the baptismal font is now on the right side of the chancel. A triumphant lamb symbol has been placed behind the baptismal font and a communion symbol has been added behind the pulpit. Red carpet was installed and all the pews refinished. The entire church has been repainted and redecorated. Total cost of the redecorating was \$18,617.41. The former lectern and baptismal font were given to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Franklin. On December 5, 1971, Redecorating services were held. Open house to view the newly redecorated church was held on January 30, 1972. Elders and their wives served as hosts and hostesses.

Pastor Stache, using his hobby of carpentry, gave hours of assistance helping with some projects in redecorating. Among these were working on the west and east sacristies, helping to panel and paint it, working together on a cabinet for hanging paraments and storing communion wares, and hanging the symbol on the back nave wall.

Don Schwartzkopf, Bruce Nolting and Mrs. Stache serve as our organists.

The young people have continued to be an important part of the church. There is youth Sunday, which with the pastor's guidance, young people prepare and then conduct the entire Sunday Service. 8th and 9th graders serve as acolytes and Jrs. and Srs. serve as ushers. During the Christmas season there is student recognition Sunday when the students home from the colleges and universities help to conduct Sunday Service. When the young people return to school, Pastor Stache and the Tri-W Society prepare and send them newsletters.

Confirmation classes have been taught to students from the congregations of Faith, Grace, and St. Paul. Rev. Richard Tremain and Pastor Stache share in the teaching. Pastor Stache also teaches Saturday confirmation classes for students, adult instructions and a Sunday School class for the adults.

In September, 1971, women gained the right to vote and to become active members at the age of 21. The congregation is one of the first to do so in the district.

The Silver Beaver Award, the highest award in the local 9 county Boy Scout Council, was awarded to Kenneth Christopher. The award is given for appreciation of exceptional service to his community and his church.

Pastor Stache has now served the St. Paul congregation faithfully for five years. In those five years he has used variety in the order of worship services. This has been done through a new worship supplement book, the aid of young people of the congregation on youth Sunday, and other times, the "Little Sermons", chancel dramas, film strips used in sermonettes, the Tenebrae services on Good Friday, communion bread made by members, banners, art, and much, much more.

The budget for 1973 is \$42,862.00. At present there are 31 students from our congregation enrolled at the St. Peter's Lutheran School, tuition cost for each student is \$435.00. Membership in our church is now 407.

New changes continue to take place, and this has been a busy year for the Pastor and the congregation. Plans began early in the year for our 125th Anniversary, and many hours have gone into preparing for its success.



PASTOR WILLIAM STACHE



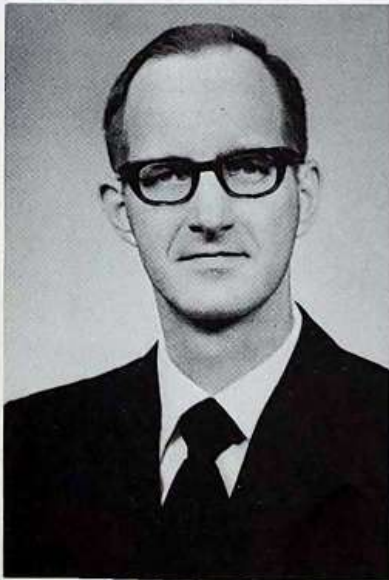
ERNEST F. URBAHNS
Graduated 1933



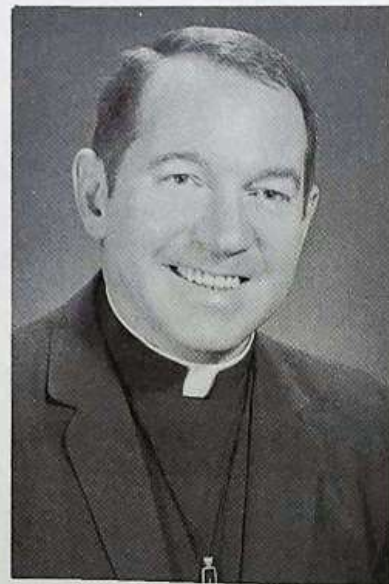
ROBERT C. SCHULZ
Graduated 1935

SONS OF THE CONGREGATION IN THE MINISTRY

One of the best gifts that a congregation can give to the Christian Church is its sons for the ministry. In this way they multiply their own efforts. Parents will do well to speak to their children about entering the preaching, teaching, or other related ministries of the church. Shown on this page are the men who have entered the ministry from our congregation in the past years.



KENNETH H. SCHROER
Graduated 1952



LOUIS Y. NAU
Graduated 1954



SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

The Sunday School was organized September 26, 1926 by Pastor Peter G. Nau with the aim to have the best Sunday School possible. The first Superintendent was Mr. Martin Scheidt. He served for 10 years. Earl Nolting then served for 1 year. He was followed by Mr. Howard Siegel for 11 years. And then Carl Arnhoft served for 18 years. Mr. William Trimpe is our present superintendent. Beginning in 1948, the Sunday School increased to 125 students with as many as 12 classes all housed in Memorial Hall. By the late 1960's the parsonage began serving as Sunday School rooms. Record players, filmstrip projectors, and other visual aids were added for better teaching.

St. Paul had many dedicated teachers, too numerous to mention, some teaching for 20 years and more, faithfully attending Sunday School teachers meetings, completing training courses, and serving for Sunday after Sunday in their classrooms. Sunday School picnics were held at the closing of the Sunday School year. The Sunday School has played an important part in the Christian Education of our children.



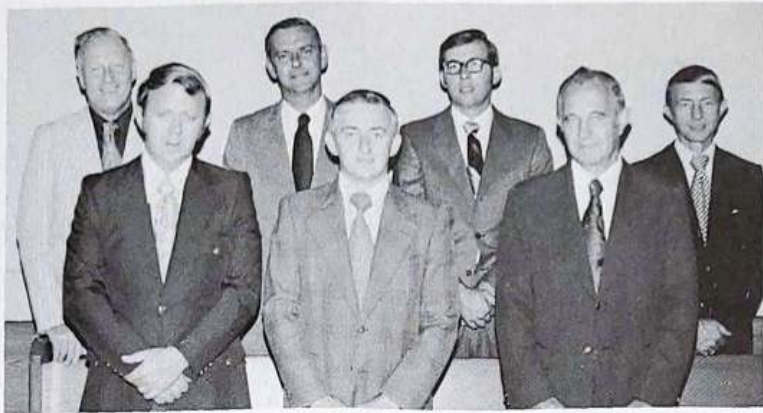
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Back: Don Schwartzkopf,
Glen Schurman, Dave
Dave Meyer, Ed Rediker

Front: Gary Brown
Pastor Stache
Harry Peters

Missing: Wilbur England
John Schnur, Wayne Coy



BOARD OF ELDERS

Glen Schurman
Carl Arnholt
Walter Arnholt



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Victor Nolting,
Wilbur England

Missing:
Rus Hollinger



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gary Brown
Becky Barnett
Richard Wilcox



THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Mr. and Mrs. John Schnur



THE STEWARDSHIP CHAIRMAN

Harry Peters



THE CEMETERY BOARD

Marcus Nolting
Jerry Linke
Edwin Arnholt



THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Richard Arnholt
Wes Barnett
Jeff Schroer
Dolores Schurman

Missing:
Betty Hollinger
Mary Hackman





THE LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid Society of St. Paul Lutheran Church was organized February 24, 1924. A brief history from this date to August 1948 is included in the Centennial brochure of 1948. The year closed with 48 members.

During its entire history, the AID has fulfilled the purpose it's name implies - they have aided the congregation, both in service and financially and also by contributing to outside charities of the Church; towards World Relief, Community and other institutions.

On February 27, 1949 they celebrated their 25th anniversary. Regular monthly meetings opened with singing of hymns in unison, Scripture readings and prayers by the pastor. Then followed a business meeting and social hour. At this time members were quite active, so much income was derived from auction sales and public dinners. Much of this income went out again in donations.

In 1963 the constitution and bylaws were revised and dues increased to \$6.00. In 1964 the Aid celebrated their 40th anniversary with a meeting held in St. Peter's School cafeteria. Pastor Lepper read a poem, "Oh, Leave it to the Ladies Aid" and talked about the future for the Ladies Aid. Charter members Mrs. Henry Franke and Mrs. Jesse Fischer received corsages.

At present there are 30 members with 18 active and 12 inactive. Officers are: Mrs. John Foerster - President; Mrs. Elmer Schroer - Vice President; Mrs. Ernest Tucker - Secretary; Mrs. Ed Scheidt - Treasurer. Mrs. William Stache serves as pianist.



THE TRI-W SOCIETY

The Tri-W Society was organized in 1954 to serve as a working organization within the congregation. Tri-W was the name given to this group to be short for Willing Women Workers. The group is divided into 5 working committees. The Christian Knowledge Committee is concerned about Christian education and growth in the group. The Altar Guild Committee takes care of linens, paraments, communion ware, and flowers for the church. The Project committee arranges items of service that can be performed by the entire group at some of their meetings. The Congregational service committee is in charge of serving different meals in the congregation. And the fellowship committee arranges some of the recreational and fun times for the group.

The Society sponsors a girl from India for the Christian Children's Fund. They have visited our shut-ins on a number of occasions. They have called on new members, among a host of other activities.



ST. PAUL YOUTH (SPY)

Once called the Walther League, our young people's organization is now called, St. Paul Youth. Items of fellowship, discussion, and fund raising make up the most of their activity.

Counselors are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schroer.



THE COUPLES CLUB

The couples club was organized in 1948 to be a fellowship group. They meet once a month and spend of their time playing Euchre.



THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

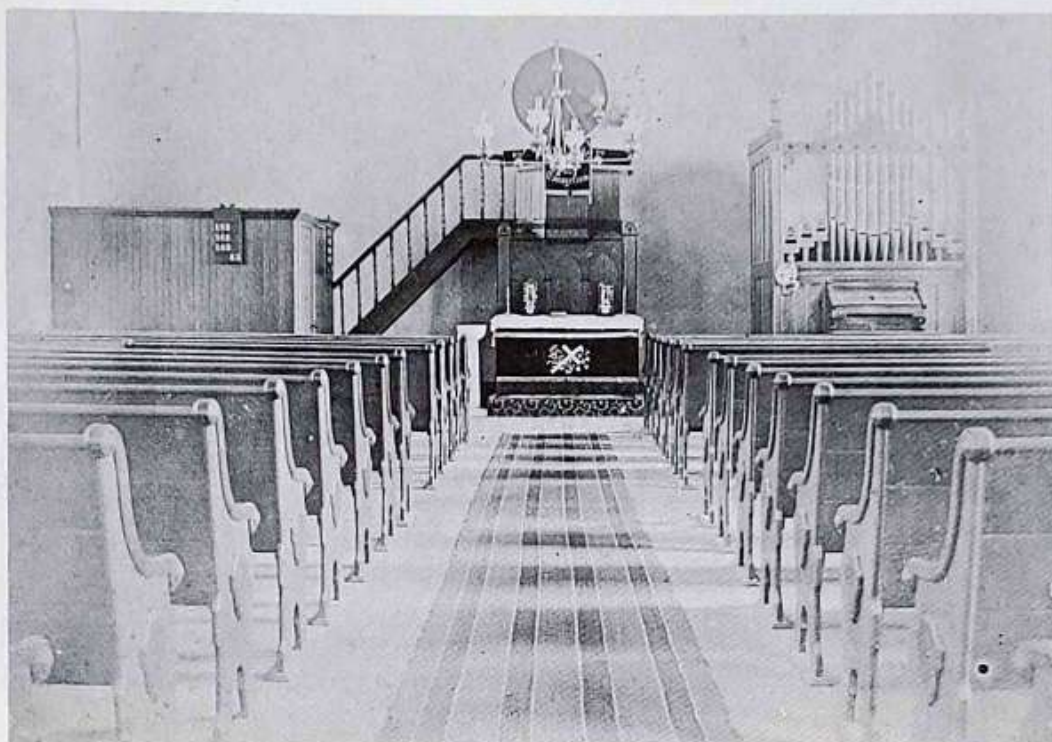
The LWML is an organization within the Church that has as its specific purpose that of missions. Through the collection of mission mites, our group participates in world-wide mission endeavors. This organization also sponsors a Tuesday morning Bible class.



OUR ORGANISTS

Bruce Nolting, Don Schwartzkopf, Doreen Stache

OUR CHURCH THROUGH THE AGES



AS IT WAS IN 1924



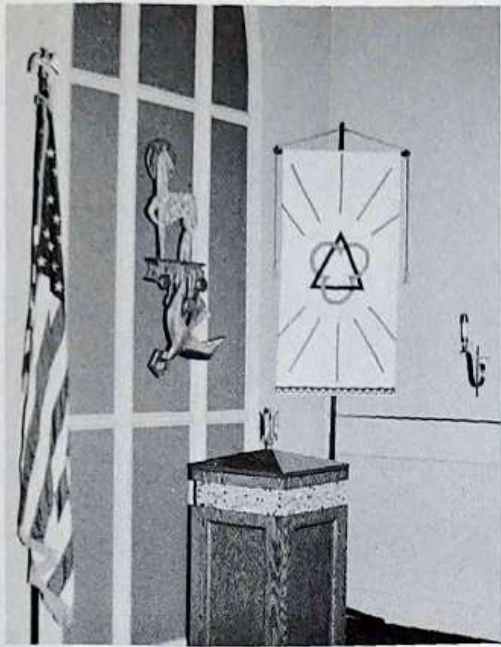
REDECORATED IN 1937



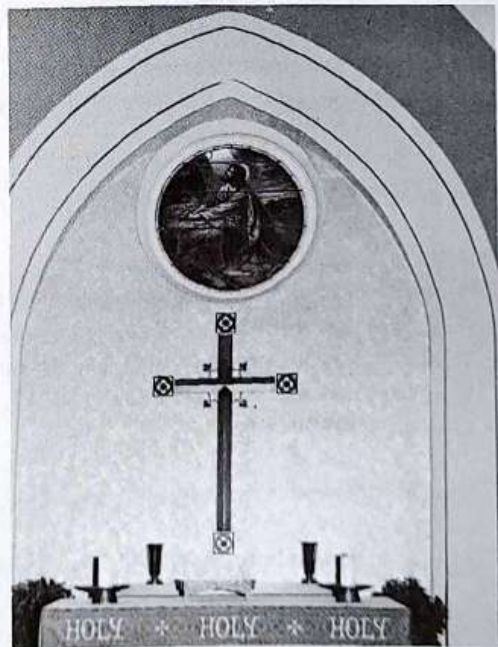
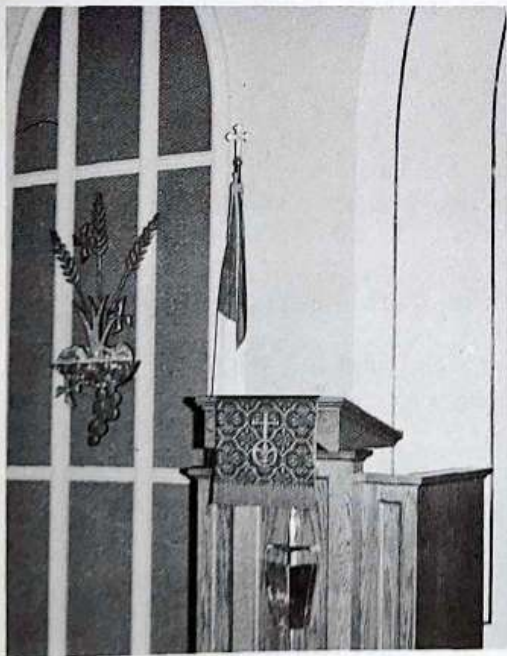
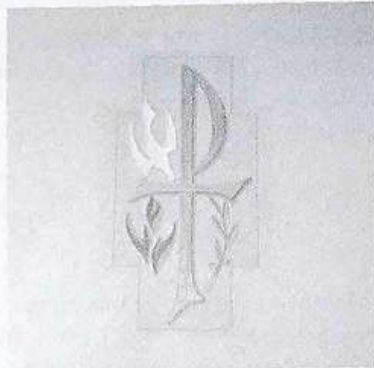
REDECORATED IN 1954



REDECORATED IN 1971



OUR
PLACE
OF
WORSHIP





THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Back row: Marilyn Brown, Max Nolting, Catherine Nolting, Bernice Krieg
 Front row: Pastor Stache, Kathy Hackmah, Mary Scheidt
 Not pictured: Judy Helt

OUR SPECIAL THANKS

- To ■ The 125th Anniversary Committee for making preparations
 - To Max Nolting for working on Invitations, Publicity, and the Beef Barbeque Dinner.
 - To Bernice Krieg for working on our congregation's history via narration and pictures.
 - To Judy Helt and Marilyn Brown for working up our 25 year congregation history for booklet.
 - To Pastor Stache for working on services, arranging speakers, and organizing booklet.

- To ■ Gary Brown and Richard Wilcox for taking pictures for booklet
- To ■ Ken Christopher for help in getting booklet printed.

- To ■ Wayne Coy and Herb Boeschen for preparing meat for noon meal.
- To ■ The Tri-W Society, The Ladies Aid, and other people who donated and served the food for our dinner.

- To ■ Rev. Kenneth Schroer and Rev. Carl Geist, our speakers, for their messages on this day.
- To ■ Alma Schulz for organizing and leading the Choir.
- To ■ The 125th Anniversary Choir for making our services more joyful with their music.
- To ■ Our Organists - Don Schwartzkopf, Doreen Stache, and Virginia Burbrink for playing at our services.

- To ■ Mary Forster for preparing our Anniversary Dedication parchment.

- To ■ Everyone who cooperated to make this occasion Joy-filled and pleasant.

NOTES



