



September 20, 1987

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Celebrates

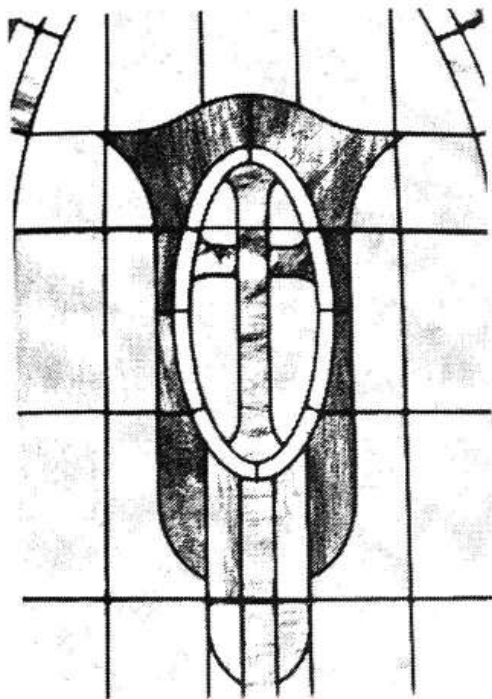
The

One Hundredth Anniversary

Of Its

Church





Committees

Co-ordinators:	Max & Catherine Nolting
Host Committee:	Charlie & Etta Faye Forster Nathan & Joan Scheidt
Special Services:	Walter Arnholt Dan Schroer Myron Glick
Music:	Doreen Stache
Dinner Committee	Dale & Marianne Arnholt
Booklet:	Veda Eddy Debi Gutenberger (With special thanks to Kevin Gossett)

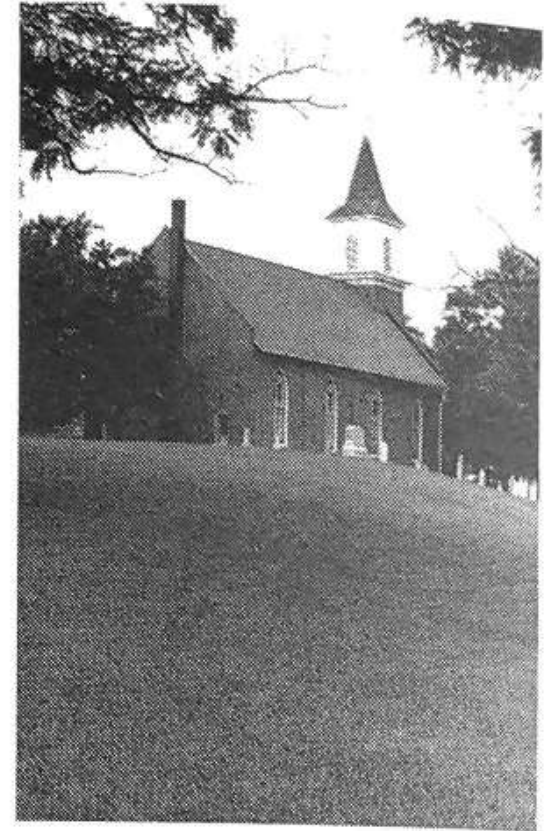
"Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house and the place where thine honour dwelleth."

Psalm 26:8



Compared to many of our nation's cathedrals, St. Paul's Gothic design is plain and simple. Perhaps that is its most endearing quality. It is a country church. A church that, some might say, looks the way a church should look. The unpretentiousness of its beauty has stood the test of time. Within its walls countless have sung Easter anthems at dawn and Christmas carols by candlelight. They have known the joys of baptisms, confirmations and weddings; the sorrow of burial-day farewells. Through triumphs and tragedies they have gathered on Sunday mornings to receive God's benediction.

Today we commemorate this gracious building where truly the Lord does dwell.





A Message From The Pastor

The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" He was so glad to go to church. We are glad to go to church. Why?

Is it because we like to sit in a lovely building? Is it because we come to see our friends? No, it's because we are so glad to come to a building where God comes to meet us. He comes to us whenever two or three are gathered in his name. So also He comes when 170 of His people gather in his name.

He'd come to us even if we gathered in a barn or a garage. So the building, as such, doesn't mean all that much. Yet, when we come to love to worship God in His presence, He delights in coming to a beautiful church building.

So, we give thanks to God on this one hundredth anniversary for the gift of this grand house of worship that our earlier brothers and sisters in Christ have left to us.

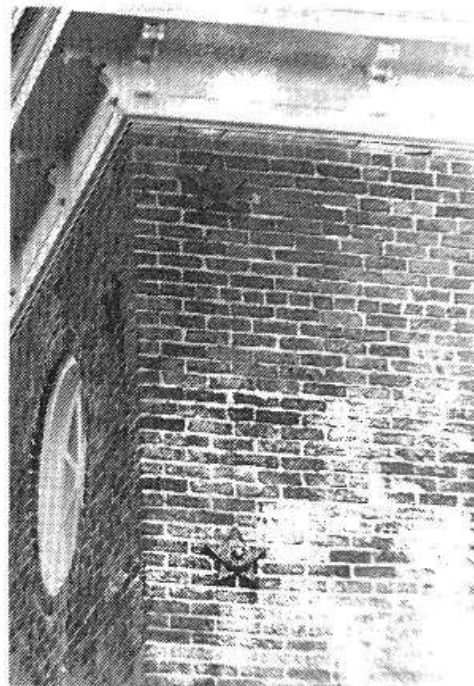
To God be praise and glory!

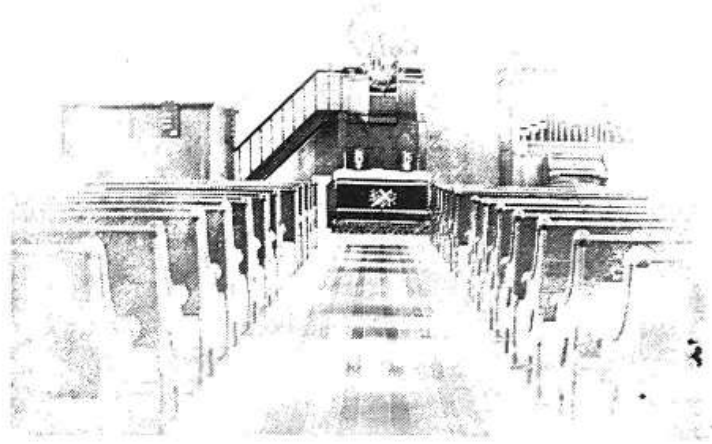
Pastor William Stache

In the fall of 1886, the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran (then known as St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran Church on the Clifty) met with a grand plan - the building of a new church. "As the dear Lord had richly blessed many of the members with earthly goods, they felt in their hearts they had the means to build a new house of God," states the minutes of that meeting.

It should be noted that by 1886 this thriving Lutheran body had been in existence for 38 years, having been organized by the Rev. C. Frinke, pastor of the White Creek congregation. At first worship services were held in homes, a Baptist church, or a nearby school house. In 1852, however, the congregation paid \$100 for 14 acres of land, called its first pastor, and dedicated its first house of worship, a log cabin located on the site of the present church. In 1857, the congregation joined the Missouri Synod.

On May 30, 1858, after three additional acres of land were purchased for \$25, a spacious frame church was built to replace the log cabin. Interestingly, that same year a new congregation - St. Peter's - was formed "in town." Prior to its organization, members of St. Paul's living in Columbus had to cross Clifty River to attend church. The crossing was so dangerous it became known as "Fatal Ford," and, according to newspaper accounts of the day, "several lives were lost in the treacherous waters of the ford before the church was founded at Columbus."





"early interior - circa 1900"

Despite the loss of members to St. Peter's, the congregation continued to grow, due in part to the large number of German Lutherans immigrating to America. And thus, in 1886, the idea of a new church took root.

Initially, an architect was consulted and a building committee formed. Pledges were taken with a goal of \$3000 set. The pastor was elected to collect the subscriptions! After several months, the committee, backed by the architect's recommendation, decided the new church should be built of brick, the cost of frame and brick being virtually the same. After inspecting churches at Edinburgh, Taylorsville, and Waymansville, the committee picked the Waymansville church as a pattern.

Other decisions were made. The new

church would be built on the same site as the existing one. It would be 36 x 60 with a height of 18 feet from floor to ceiling, and the steeple would be copied after "the Lutheran church in town." Rough stone, rather than brick, would be used for a foundation. After considerable debate, it was agreed there would be three aisles instead of two. No doubt with great jubilation the committee announced that one third of the cost of the building would be paid when the structure was under roof and the balance paid on October 1, 1887. On September 1, the church would be completed!

In May the first bids for the church were opened, and the well-respected Columbus firm of Brockman and Keller emerged low bidder. But the figure was \$4200, significantly higher than the congregation had expected. There was no choice but to modify the plans: a choir loft would be omitted and the stone foundation would be reduced from five feet to four.

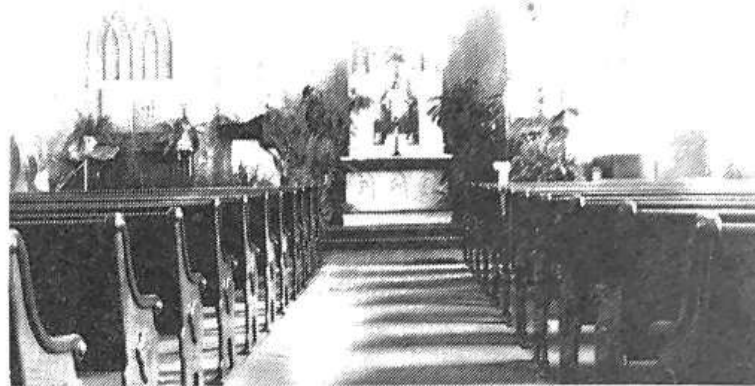
Unfortunately, little is known about the actual construction of the church. One church member recalls hearing that the bricks (between 2,500 and 3,500 were used) were made in Columbus and hauled to the building site by horse and wagon. It is also a good guess that the majestic bell, the arrow weathervane, the ornate altar and pipe organ arrived from "out east." As for color scheme, the steeple was painted white, the shutters green and the interior ceiling gray. Shortly after its completion, two stoves

were installed. On dedication day, Rev. Trautman and Rev. Eirich conducted the service in German and in English.

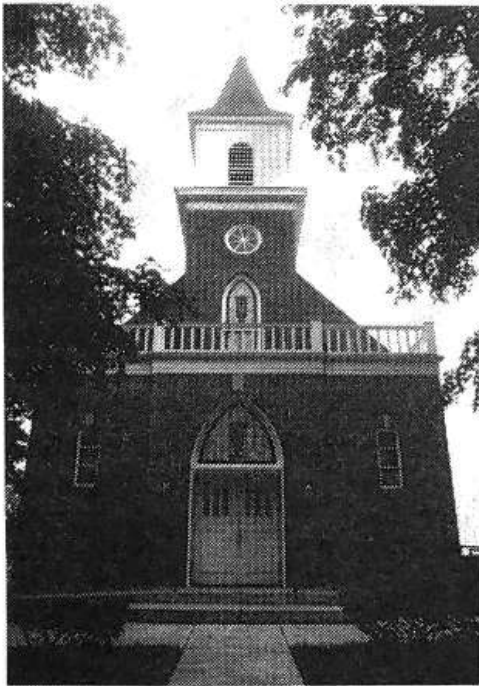
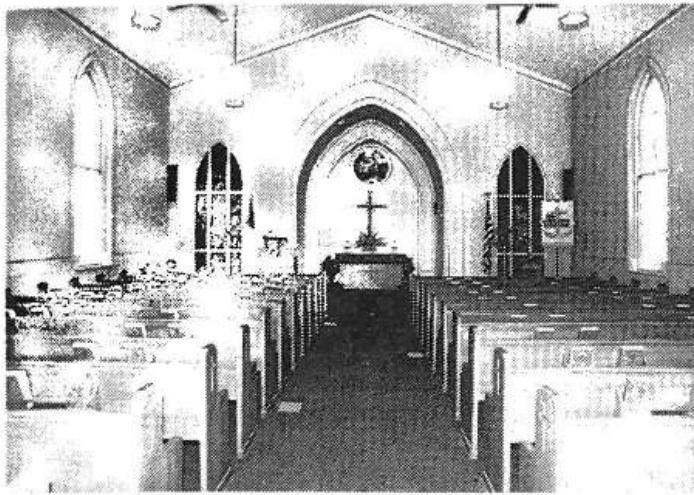
The congregation's changover from German to English did not come overnight. For years the lion's share of services were in German with an English service held perhaps once a month. In 1919, a serious discussion took place regarding which language the confirmation class should use with German winning out. Still, in 1921, the voters asked that English services be conducted more often. Finally, in 1938, with the imminence of World War II no doubt a factor, church minutes declared, "it was decided to have English every Sunday - forever."

Through the years, church-goers have seen other changes too. The building was only a few months old when then Pastor Mertz found it necessary to admonish his flock about the use of tobacco. Those who wanted to chew during services could do so, he announced, but spitting in church was no longer allowed!

Many can still remember when children 16 and under sat in the front pews. And when women sat on the left, men on the right. One life-long member reminisces that when he was a little boy the women would find a seat as soon as they arrived. Their mates, on the other hand, would gather in the basement, visiting and smoking until the service was scheduled to begin, then filing into church at the last minute.



"interior - circa 1938"



The first remodeling of the church building took place in 1920. At that time the voters decided to lower the pulpit, rebuild the altar and improve the windows. The work cost about \$250. A year later some minor renovation took place including painting and the purchase of a stove.

The stained glass windows were installed in September of 1928 to salute the congregation's eightieth anniversary. The next year saw another major improvement - electricity. Wires were run from the church building to the newly erected Interstate (Public Service Co.) power lines, and lights were installed at a cost of \$319. Electricity paved the way for a new Hammond Electric organ in 1937, and the church interior was featured in a newspaper ad touting this musical marvel.

By 1954 the time had come for some major redecorating and repair work, the most noticeable being the construction of a new entry and cloak room. Since then, several redecorating projects have taken place, including a recent undertaking finished just in time for today's celebration.

The Redecorating Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and families for their contributions and financial support for the beautification of our church.

Monetary contributions were given by:

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Arnholt
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Arnholt
Gayla Arnholt
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Arnholt
Taletha Arnholt
Vicki Arnholt
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Arnholt
Norma Jean Beaman
Mr. and Mrs. James Brock
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Curry
Veda Eddy
Bob and Alberta Eggersman
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur England
Dora Fischer
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Forster
Helen I. Forster
Karl and Eileen Forster
Paul and Mary Forster
Myron and Marybeth Glick, Lisa, Trevor, and Brett
Michael and Janet Hackman, Lisa and Brian
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Helt and family
Bernice and Edward Herr
Anna C. Krieg
Hubert and Alverta Lange
Glenn and Emma Linke
Judy McCain
William and Patricia McKale, Lisa and Nina
Alma Meier
Minnie Meier
Lydia A. Miller
Thelma and Woodrow Newkirk
Evelyn Newsom
Curtis Nolting
Donald and Lucille Nolting
Mr. and Mrs. Earl S. Nolting
H. Max and Catherine Nolting
Keith Nolting
Mr. and Mrs. Marcus F. Nolting
Nina Nolting
Mr. and Mrs. Victor F. Nolting
William Nolting
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur H. Petering
Dennis J. Peters
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Peters
Bob and Judy Pitman

Bruce and Natalie Pollert, York and Taylor
Mrs Ethel Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Colin Scheidt, Matthew, Elizabeth, and Katherine
Nathan and Joan Scheidt
Tim and Janice Scheidt and Adam
Warren and Molly Scheidt, Travis and Allison
Dan and Taffy Schroer, Ryan and Clint
Harold and Isabelle Schroer
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Schuette, Alex and Amy Schuette
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Schurman
Gayle Sefcik, Brent and Bryan
Elsie and Florence Siekman
Gail Snyder
Jill Stache
Mark Stache
Pastor and Doreen Stache
Thomas and Gayle Tertocha
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Urbahns
Henry and Alice Weichman
Verna Whipker
Tri W Guild

The following contributions were given as memorials:

In memory of Clara Schulz Armuth, Lena Schulz Winter and Martin Schulz
Given by Nettie Boxman, Dorothea Fiesbeck, Charles and Etta Ray Forster

In memory of Adalia Fischer
Given by Marcus and Bertha Nolting

In memory of Euel Huffman
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Victor Nolting

In memory of Loretta Reinking
Given by Walter Reinking

In memory of Carolyn Runge
Given by Edward and Bernice Herr

In memory of Bessie Scheidt
Given by Harold and Isabelle Schroer

In memory of Elmer and Clara Zurbrugg
Given by Milton and Helen Pollert

Also, the Redecorating Committee thanks Debi Gutenberger for the construction of the banners in the Narthex, and Wilbur England for the construction of the wall-mounted communion card stands also in the Narthex.



