

St. Paul's
Lutheran Church

Concordia, Missouri

1840-1965



FOREWORD

To evaluate the blessings which our gracious Lord has poured out upon a community by permitting His Word of Life to be taught there for 125 years is far beyond the power of man. Historical facts as collected by most grateful recipients of God's grace say much, but also say so little. We can estimate, but only God knows how many people received life with Christ through the ministry of the Word as it was carried on by the called workers and membership of St. Paul's. We are confident that many souls whose names never appeared on the roster of St. Paul's found new life in Christ through the faithful day by day witnessing of St. Paul's people.

Christ's Gospel found expression in all the world through the mission concern of the faithful. As God kept the Gospel in our midst, it encouraged and strengthened hundreds of students who worshipped in our midst in the past many years. These are now in many parts of the world as co-workers together with the members of St. Paul's. Through these the circle of blessings grows continually larger. Nor can we overlook the witness that is being carried on even now by the many members of St. Paul's who have gone out from our midst and are now laboring faithfully for Christ in other communities. All these are the result, to a degree, of God blessing us with the grace to have the Word in our midst for 125 years. All this compels us to speak the Psalmist's word of gratitude, "I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember Thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all Thy work, and talk of Thy doing," Ps. 77: 11 - 12.

TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY! These are the words that must rest upon our review of the past 125 years. They must also rest upon the future of our work for Christ; for, it is God alone Who can enable us to do His will. It is God alone Who can bless us as a people laboring to bring our own heartfelt joy of forgiveness in Christ to succeeding generations. And God will bless; He will make His love and will known among us as the Word is cherished by us.

Therefore, the 125th anniversary of St. Paul's congregation challenges us to approach the future with a readiness to go forward with the Lord, laboring in His Kingdom confident that His blessing will accompany us all the way.

FIRST SETTLERS

The first German settlers, among whom were to be the founders of St. Paul's, arrived in the wilds of west Missouri about 1838. They were attracted to this territory by the fertile prairies, the wooded hillsides, and the creeks furnishing an ample water supply. These German pioneers, among them Heinrich Dierking, Friedrich Frerking, Friedrich Thiemann, and Christian Oetting, pleased with what they had found in Lafayette County, spread the good news to their friends and relatives both in America and Germany. Their letters in turn brought new immigrants to the area, especially from Hanover and Westphalia in Germany. Unlike the Saxons who came to Perry County mainly for religious freedom, the immigrants to this part of Missouri sought economic freedom. They were attracted mainly by the fertility of the soil and gladly left their small, worn-out farms behind them to seek richer and better land in western Missouri.

FIRST CHURCH SERVICES

These pioneers, however, did not forget their Lutheran heritage. They sincerely missed the public worship of God in song and prayer. The desire for worship led the early pioneers to engage one of their fellow settlers to conduct divine reading services. This man was Henry Chr. Liever, who had been a Lutheran school teacher in Germany. Among his duties were the reading of sermons, saying prayers, leading the singing of hymns, and performing baptisms. In the absence of an ordained minister, Mr. Liever served until 1847. The first child was baptized on May 1, 1840. This date is generally accepted as the date of the founding of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. During the seven years that Mr. Liever served the congregation, it grew steadily. During this period the first church building was erected. In 1844 John Henry Bruns gave the congregation an acre of land, on which the early settlers built a log church. The site of this building is located in the present St. Paul's cemetery and is marked by a monument. The first church was dedicated to the glory of God on the second Sunday after Easter, 1844.

EARLY PASTORATES

On January 1, 1847, St. Paul's congregation installed its first ordained minister. On that date the Rev. A. G. G. Franke, a young pastor from Germany and St. Louis, began to serve the pioneer congregation of Lafayette County. Pastor Franke had studied in Germany, and in 1846 was ordained into the ministry by Rev. C. F. W. Walther, first president of the synodical body. One of the first tasks undertaken by Pastor Franke was the opening of a day school for the children of the congregation. Pastor Franke served as teacher of this school in addition to his many other duties. Teaching the school was a monumental undertaking, since books were very scarce, and the teacher had to write out for the children what he wished them to study.

During the first period of service of Pastor Franke as minister of St. Paul's congregation, the Missouri Synod came into existence. At the second meeting of Synod in 1848 Pastor Franke was present. However, the young congregation did not join Synod officially until 1854 when the first lay delegate of the congregation, Charles Bergmann, attended the general meeting. The seemingly long delay in joining the synodical body was due chiefly to the difficulties incurred in traveling to its meetings. Roads and railroads in western Missouri were mostly non-existent.

Young Pastor Franke labored for four years in St. Paul's congregation before accepting a call to the state of New York. On April 27, 1851, he installed his successor, the Rev. Martin Quast. Pastor Franke, meanwhile, upon arriving in Buffalo, N. Y., found that the severe weather of the area greatly bothered his rheumatism, so much so that he was forced to resign from the ministry because of poor health. He then returned to Lafayette County to live with relatives until his health was restored.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Quast had become rather dissatisfied with his work in the congregation. After a short period of service he resigned as pastor of St. Paul's. It is a matter of historical note that during the pastorate of Rev. Quast the address of the congregation was given as Cook's Store, Lafayette County, for the first time.

Confronted with a vacant pastorate, the members of St. Paul's again turned to Rev. Franke, who by this time had recovered from his illness. He accepted the call of the congregation and was installed for the second time as pastor of St. Paul's on July 4, 1853. Two neighboring pastors, the Rev. Wege and the Rev. Johannes of Benton County, Missouri, participated in the installation, which was performed under the authorization of President F. C. D. Wyneken.

The second pastorate of Rev. Franke lasted until 1856. The young congregation continued its growth under his positive leadership. During this time, however, there occurred the only major controversy over doctrine in the history of the congregation. A number of members became dissatisfied with the Lutheran Confessions as a doctrinal statement. They began to hold views which were in conflict with the historic Lutheran position. The conflict which ensued resulted in their leaving St. Paul's congregation to organize St. John's Evangelical congregation of Emma. In the summer of 1856 Pastor Franke accepted a call to Addison, Illinois, once more leaving the flock without a shepherd. At Addison Rev. Franke was instrumental in founding the school for training teachers that was later to become Concordia Teachers College at River Forest.

The parish now undertook a long search for a new pastor. It was not until June of 1858 that a successor to Pastor Franke was found. At that time the Rev. N. Volkert of Cook County, Illinois, accepted the call of the congregation. He was installed by the Rev. J. M. Hahn of Benton County on June 20, 1858.

FIRST TEACHER — FIRST BRICK CHURCH

During these years the congregation continued to grow inwardly and outwardly, spiritually and numerically. Two events during the pastorate of the Rev. Volkert point to this growth. First, there was the calling of a teacher for the parish school. Since 1846 the various pastors had also taught the parish school. Now, however,

the church proceeded to secure the services of teacher M. Broening, a graduate of the synodical normal school at Fort Wayne. Secondly, there was the decision to build a new church. The old log church was by this time quite inadequate for the worship needs of the congregation, and the members decided that the time had come for a new building. Moreover, it was decided that the new building should



THE FIRST BRICK CHURCH

be made of brick. Cook's Store did not sell brick, and since the congregation was too far removed from any shipping point to buy brick made elsewhere, it was decided that the members would produce their own bricks. Accordingly, a Mr. Johannes from Benton County was engaged to come to the community and make bricks near the building site. Much lumber needed for the structure was sawed locally; the rest was shipped in from the nearest railroad terminal, which at that time was Syracuse, some sixty miles distant. Almost all of the construction work on the new church was done by members.

PASTOR BILTZ — WAR YEARS

The building activity was interrupted in September of 1859 when Pastor Volkert resigned. For the time being, the search for a new shepherd became the chief concern of the leaders of the congregation. After a vacancy of seven months, the congregation called into service the man who was to dominate Lutheranism in western Missouri for

almost half a century, the Rev. Julius F. Biltz. This man was to be the pastor of St. Paul's congregation for the next forty-one years. He would see the church through sadness and joy, shepherd it through a Civil War, bring it through a grasshopper plague, help it found a college, and establish several daughter congregations. Franz Julius Biltz came to St. Paul's congregation from Cumberland, Maryland, where he had served for five years. Prior to that, he had been pastor in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, and a student at the seminary established by Dr. C. F. W. Wather in Perry County, Missouri. Rev. Biltz originally hailed from Mittel-Frohna, Saxony, having come to America at the young age of fourteen. He was installed on April 29, 1860, by Pastor Hahn of Benton County.



PASTOR BILTZ

The new church building was completed soon after the arrival of Pastor Biltz and was dedicated in August of 1860. In October of that same year the general Synod met in St. Louis, where Pastor Biltz and lay delegate Mr. H. Bruns were in attendance at the sessions. At this time they gave the following statistical report to the synodical officials: souls: 325; voting members: 61; children in school: 80. Pastor Biltz further reported that he had baptized 17 children, married 5 couples, given Christian burial to 12 people, and communed 217 members since his arrival. Mr. M. Broening was listed as the teacher of the congregation.

Soon after the arrival of Pastor Biltz in Missouri, the gathering storm of the Civil War broke with all its fury. The years 1861-1865 saw the members of the congregation tested in the crucible of great tribulation. Lafayette County in 1861 was a center of support for the Southern cause in Missouri, and hence a location of great strategic military importance. The German community, however, held quite opposite loyalties. The Germans were opposed to slavery, and their loyalty to President Lincoln and the Union cause was well known. Surrounded by groups opposing their point of view, the German settlers found themselves in difficult relations with their neighbors, difficulties that were accentuated by their continued use of the German language and their adherence to distinctly German customs. The community found itself at the cross-roads of armed con-

flict and in the midst of strategic battle areas. Several young men of the community and the congregation fought in the armies of the North, including the famous Home Guard of Lexington, Missouri. By far the worst aspect of the war for the parish was the activity of the bushwhackers and their raids. When the anti-slavery views of the German community became known, the entire area became fair game for the guerilla bands which roamed over western Missouri. Three major incidents involving the Concordia congregation and the bushwhackers occurred during the course of the war.

The first of these occurred on October 5th, 1862. On that date several people from the parish had assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Vogt to celebrate the baptism of the couple's newly-born twin sons. During supper the home was surrounded by a mob of guerillas, who proceeded to plunder the home, subject all present to indecent treatment, and finally make eleven men present their prisoners. The captured men, Pastor Biltz among them, were forced to accompany the bushwhackers as they rode away with their plunder. Later, the captured men were released in small groups as the raiders rode away. Three of the hostages were killed, three were seriously wounded, while the five others, including Pastor Biltz, were spared.

The second major incident involving the settlement with the activity of the bushwhackers took place on July 13, 1863, when four young men from the community were killed by guerillas, supposedly because of their service in Company B, 71st Regiment of the Enrolled Missouri Militia.

The third incident was by far the worst. As the war drew to a close in the last months of 1864, a guerilla band engaged the settlers in a battle near Emma, Missouri. This battle, fought on October 10th, 1864, found the home guard badly outnumbered, and some 26 local men were killed, among whom were eleven members of St. Paul's congregation.

Finally the war was ended. It had left a terrible mark on community and congregation. Nearly fifty men had been killed, homes had been burned, stores had been looted, and a wave of resentment had engulfed the community. Yet, through it all, the congregation continued its steady growth. At the close of the war it numbered 576 souls, with 125 children enrolled in the parish school. Throughout the war the congregation was united in the face of tribulation by strong faith and continuing instant prayer. Pastor Biltz faithfully led his flock through the tribulations of war.

PASTOR BILTZ — LATER YEARS

Later in 1865 Pastor Biltz was named postmaster for the community, maintaining the post office and its services in his home. Many families received their mail when they came to church on Sunday morning. It was at this time the settlement became known as Concordia, the name given to the post office by Pastor Biltz. Whether this name was chosen by him in honor of his sister, who had borne that name, or whether it reflects a pastor's gratitude for a congregation that based its teachings on the Lutheran Confessions, is not clearly established, but from this time Concordia was the accepted name of the community.

The continued growth of the congregation is attested by the fact that in 1866 the congregation purchased twenty acres of land

at \$30.00 an acre for church purposes. The land was to be used by the pastor and the teacher and was to serve as a building site for a new school opposite the church. Continued building activities and growth in numbers marked the course of the congregation for the next thirty years.

After the Civil War the prospect of fertile farm land available in Lafayette County attracted many farmers of German extraction from eastern Missouri, from Illinois, and Indiana. These new settlers swelled the ranks of the faithful in the area adjacent to Concordia. As the new arrivals expressed longing for the Word of Life, St. Paul's congregation and its pastor responded to their desires. In a concerted missionary thrust headed by Rev. Brust, four new congregations were formed, beginning with Holy Cross church at Emma in 1865. Other communities where Rev. Biltz labored were Alma, Norborne, and Independence. These congregations in turn founded their own daughter congregations, and the spread of confessional Lutheranism in the area was rapid.

The first mission festival celebrated by the congregation was observed in 1867. In August of that year members of St. Paul's invited their Lutheran brethren to join them in a mass service devoted to missions, which was to last two days. Lutherans from such distant points as Benton County joined Concordians for the event. The great success of the undertaking led the congregation to make this an annual event.

A number of happenings of significance marked the post-war years. The village of Concordia was formally platted by a joint stock company in 1868. That same year saw the beginning of the observance of the Christmas festival with children's services, replete with a lighted Christmas tree, recitations of the Christmas story, gifts for the children, and congregational singing of Christmas hymns and carols. The worship of the congregation was greatly enhanced in 1868 by the purchase of a cabinet organ. The continuing interest of the congregation in religious instruction of the young was evident in the continued expansion of the parish school facilities. The extension of railroad operations to Concordia in 1871 was a great boon to the economic development of the area, as well as an aid to transportation of its people.

The fact that St. Paul's was considered a large and growing congregation is evidenced by the action of the Western District in choosing Concordia for its convention site in 1875. At this time the Western District was composed of all land west of the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. At this meeting, the Rev. Biltz was elected District President, a position in which he was to serve with distinction until 1891. In the years that followed, the Western District met often in Concordia. In all, the congregation was host to the district convention nine times. The year 1875 was remembered as a year of singular hardship because of a plague of grasshoppers that swept over the fields that year, destroying crops and leaving devastated fields in their wake.

Under the leadership of Pastor Biltz both district and local congregation continued a steady growth. By 1880 the parish at Concordia had outgrown its church building. The voters' assembly resolved to enlarge the old brick church by adding to its length and erecting a bell tower, in which was hung a new bell which had been presented by several members. The enlarged church was also beautified by a new organ, said to have been the largest in the county at that time.

FOUNDING OF A COLLEGE

As district president, Pastor Biltz became increasingly aware of the great need within the church for ministers and teachers. As the district became more populated and expanded westward through the great waves of immigration, pleas for more kingdom workers came from every corner of the district. It became increasingly evident that potential workers were being lost to the service of the church because no school for their training existed in the immediate area, the existing preparatory schools of the church being too remote for families living in the western regions. The Western District, meeting in Concordia in 1880, heard a plea by the St. Louis pastoral conference that a school of the prophets be established within its borders. To this plea Pastor Biltz added his own personal urgings. The convention formed a committee headed by Pastor Biltz to draw up plans for a school which the district hoped Synod would build. This committee labored through 1881, but without success, since Synod declared itself in no position to assume responsibility for an additional educational institution.

The next meeting of the Western District was held in St. Louis in 1882, where the need for a school was again earnestly discussed. St. Paul's congregation of Concordia presented a memorial that a school be established, whereupon the convention went on record as considering the opening of a school an urgent necessity. However, debate on the location of the proposed school brought the convention to a deadlock. Apparently, Pastor Biltz began to feel that founding of a school would be hampered by the indecision of the district. Accordingly, under his leadership the local congregation resolved to confront the next district convention with a definite proposition to establish a ministerial school in Concordia. At the Western District Convention of October, 1883, an offer was made by St. Paul's congregation and neighboring congregations to found such a school in their midst. After much debate, the district gave a qualified "yes" to the proposal.

Rev. Biltz and the local congregation proceeded to immediate action. In the same autumn a call was issued to the Rev. Andrew Baepler to become the first professor of the school which was henceforth appropriately named St. Paul's College. First classes were held on January 3, 1884, in the home of the Rev. Baepler, awaiting the erection of the first college building, known affectionately as the 1884 Building, and destroyed by fire in December, 1963. Classes began with four students. By Easter time two more had been added, and before the school year closed in summer, the original class had grown to sixteen.

From that point St. Paul's College enjoyed a steady growth. In 1885 the Western District, meeting in Concordia, resolved to assume responsibility for the school. Eleven years later, in 1896, St. Paul's became a member of the synodical school system. In the more than half a century since that time, the wisdom of the efforts of Pastor Biltz and St. Paul's congregation in founding this school has been attested by the long line of young men and women from the immediate area who through St. Paul's College have entered as laborers in the Lord's vineyard, and by the fact that the name of St. Paul's, Concordia, has become a household word in Synod, far beyond the expectations of the founding fathers. *Soli Deo Gloria!* Throughout the years the local congregation has exercised a special kind of ste-

wardship toward the college in its midst, by gifts in kind to its commissary needs, by generous monetary gifts to support its various building and expansion projects, and by continuing support of its auxiliary organizations.

In 1890, fifty years after the founding of the congregation, the church properties consisted of a church edifice and a parsonage, a school opposite the church with a dwelling for the teacher, a school and teacher's residence in the town proper, a school and house for the teacher northwest of town and north of Davis Creek, and a school west of town and south of Davis Creek, the problem of crossing the creek making it obviously impossible at that time to supply the needs of that part of the parish with only one school. At that time there were in the employ of the congregation one pastor, assisted by one of the professors of St. Paul's College three permanent teachers and one temporary teacher. In 1895 the congregation numbered 1500 souls in its midst.

As the pastorate of the venerable Rev. Biltz moved toward its close, in the year 1898, the passing of fifty years since his ordination was recognized with appropriate services of thanksgiving by St. Paul's Church and the neighboring congregations which Pastor Biltz had been instrumental in founding. Three years later, on September 1, 1901, he resigned from his pastorate. He had served the congregation for more than forty-one years, and he felt that the infirmities of old age would no longer permit him to labor effectively in the Lord's growing vineyard. A long and fruitful ministry had come to a close.

PASTOR BRUST

The vacancy caused by the resignation of Rev. Biltz was filled when the Rev. L. Frederick Brust accepted the call of the congregation. Pastor Brust was born March 12, 1858 in La Porte, Indiana. Confirmed in 1871, the following year he began ministerial studies in Fort Wayne, Indiana, graduating in 1878. He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., in 1881. His first charge was in



PASTOR BRUST

Dubuque, Iowa, where he served from 1881 to 1894. On August 17, 1882, he was united in holy matrimony with Louise Demzien of La Porte, Indiana. To this union four children were born. In 1894 Pastor Brust accepted a call to Horse Prairie, Illinois, where he served till 1901, when he accepted the call to Concordia, Missouri. While in the Iowa District he served as secretary and as president. While in Illinois he served as vice-president and president of the district and as chairman of the Mission Board.

The story of the pastorate of the Rev. Brust abounds in many items of genuine human interest. Pastor Brust and his family arrived in Concordia via the Lexington branch of the Missouri Pacific Railroad on December 13, 1901. At the station to greet him were Rev. Biltz, the elders, the school children, and many members. The first remark he heard upon disembarking was, "He can see, he isn't blind," setting at rest a current rumor regarding his poor eyesight. Upon arrival at the parsonage near the church north of town, the Brust family alighted from the horsedrawn carriage, together with the family white dog Rover, who immediately engaged the black canine of Rev. Biltz in furious combat. The fight was finally brought to an end when Rev. Biltz broke over the heads of the participants a gold handled cane, a gift from the choir. The families thereafter became well acquainted and a long and lasting friendship was established between them, each being of assistance to the other for many years.

A NEW CHURCH

One of the first projects under the new pastorate was the erection of a new house of worship. The old church, standing on the present cemetery near where the soldiers' monument now stands, was becoming too small and its walls were badly in need of repair. There was spirited division among the members as to the location of the new church, about half preferring the old cemetery location, while the rest held for a new location in town opposite the town school. After three years the congregation came to a unanimous decision to build the church in town.

The new church, the present structure standing on Main Street, was built during 1904 and dedicated to the glory of God on May 15, 1905. At the dedication service Pastor Emeritus Biltz gave the farewell sermon in the old church. Pastors J. J. Bernthal, Theodore Bundenthal, Ernest Runge, and F. A. Mehl were speakers in the morning, afternoon, and evening services in the new church. Special trains were run to Concordia from the east and west on the day of dedication. Over four thousand guests were served with dinner and supper under the shade trees of St. Paul's College campus by the ladies of the congregation. It is recalled that potatoes for the salad were cooked in a large iron kettle, and that the coffee was cooked in the boiler of Mr. Wm. Stratman's steam engine.

The present St. Paul's Church is a time honored and revered landmark in this area. It is built in an adaptation of the Gothic style found in many churches in Germany featuring a high pitched roof extending over the entire interior space. In its floor plan a wide nave contains most of the seating. Wide, shallow transepts extending on either side of the nave allow the seating plan to continue in slightly curved pews beyond two side aisles which, with the center aisle, run the length of the nave. The nave terminates in a chancel

area flanked by the sacristy and an elders' room. The transept walls are occupied by a large stained glass window with pointed arch tracery, flanked by tall, narrow windows with pointed arch frame. The Gothic influence is also seen in the arched portals, in the lofty spire with decorative motifs reaching 155 feet into the sky, and in the chancel opening, which follows the lines of a slightly flattened pointed arch framing the altar. The altar itself is impressive in its Gothic motifs, painted white with gold trim, with numerous pinnacles decorated with crockets and finials emphasizing the vertical aspect of the Gothic. Altar surfaces are enriched with decorative pointed and ogee arches, cusps, and other Gothic accents. Gothic decoration is also seen on the pulpit and pulpit canopy and in the repetition of pointed arches in the oak communion rail at the entrance to the chancel area. A balcony supported by pillars extends along the rear of the nave and the sides across the transept windows.

The present organ was built by the Moeller Organ Company and was installed in 1931. It features a two-manual console with electric action, 37 speaking stops, and 1,672 pipes in 25 ranks. The original cost was \$8,500. The cost of replacement has been estimated at five times that amount. Through a memorial gift of amplifiers in the church tower, it is possible to amplify the sound of the organ chimes. The approach of the Lord's Day is regularly heralded over the town and countryside by the playing of hymns on the chimes at six o'clock on Saturday evenings.

Returning to the history of the congregation, it is recalled that the first marriage ceremony performed by Pastor Brust was that of Mr. Herman Mueller and Miss Flora Kessner. The first baby to be baptized by him was Flora Pape. Mr. Henry Harms and Miss Hulda Bergmann were the first couple to be married in the new church, and the first baby baptized there was Edwin Cordes.

In 1906 a new parsonage was built next to the new church. The dwelling was a nine-room house with a large kitchen, a large attic on the third floor, and another attic above the kitchen. At that time the parsonage had many visitors, especially when synodical and conference meetings were held. Adult members recall this parsonage as the home where the children of Pastor Heilman grew to maturity.

THE LATER BRUST YEARS

Events from that date until 1922 included the death of Pastor Biltz, who was translated to the Church Triumphant in November of 1908. In his death the incumbent pastor, Rev. Brust, lost a staunch and loyal friend. Pastor Biltz was missed by congregation and college alike. The year 1921 saw the erection of the parish school on the property across from the church. Dedication services were held on February 5, 1922. Pastors L. Reith and Karl Niermann, both natives of Concordia, were speakers for the occasion. In 1922 the Walther League was host to the Missouri District league convention. For this occasion the church basement was renovated and decorated. Free meals were served to all delegates and guests, and free lodging was provided for all. A year or two later the congregation entertained the Western District convention, as it had done many times previously. Again, it is noted that free meals were served in the church basement, and free lodging was provided for all delegates and guests.

On September 6, 1931, the congregation celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the entrance of Rev. Brust into the ministry. The cele-

bration began at 6 a.m. when the church choir assembled at the parsonage and sang "Bis hierher hat mich Gott gebracht." The choir presented the pastor with a large pulpit Bible, whose surprise at the gift was matched only by that of seeing in the gathering his three sons, who had come from a distance to attend the celebration. The speaker for the morning service was the Rev. F. Pfotenhauer, president of Synod. The children's chorus sang "Nun danket alle Gott" and the choir rendered "Nun danket all und bringet Ehr." In the afternoon a special service was held to extend congratulations. Teacher Wukasch represented the congregation, Olinda Runge the school, and Rev. Richard Kretschmar all others who had sent congratulations. At the close of the service the congregation sang the pastor's favorite hymn, "Abide With Me." In the evening the Concordia Band rendered a concert on the school grounds to honor Pastor Brust, who was always a great admirer of that organization. In the following year the congregation celebrated the golden wedding of Pastor and Mrs. Brust. It is recalled that Mr. Brust was very active in working in the interest of the congregation, especially in the various ladies aid societies. It is mentioned that Mrs. Brust and "Tante Mollie," the daughter of Rev. Biltz, always made the ice cream for the school picnics held yearly in South Side Park. It was the hobby of Mrs. Brust to decorate the church on special occasions with flowers from her large flower garden on the parsonage lawn.

THE EARLY HEILMAN YEARS

After 32 years of faithful service to his congregation and more than 50 years in the ministry, Pastor Brust resigned from his office, together with his assistant, Prof. Lewis Spitz of St. Paul's College. A call was extended to the Rev. O. E. Heilman to be his successor, and he was installed by the retiring pastor on Nov. 5, 1933. Pastor Heilman graduated from Concordia College, Fort Wayne, in 1906 and from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1910. He served as an intern in Butte, Anaconda, and Missoula, Montana, and in Minot, N. D. He also served for five months at Westfield, Wis. He was ordained in the South Dakota District and was a circuit rider in the Black Hills, serving seventeen stations for two years. From 1912 to 1918 he was pastor at Helena, Montana, also serving as secretary of the Montana State Conference and as editor of the conference paper, the "Lutheran Watchman." From 1918 to 1933 he was pastor at Hastings, Nebr. During that period he served as circuit counsellor for nine years, as vice-president for two terms, and as chairman of the mission board for ten years. In his new pastorate he would serve St. Paul's College for many years as a member of the Board of Control, and he would be chairman of the West Missouri Pastoral Conference for twelve years.

When the new organ had been installed in the church in 1931, the chimes had been dedicated to the Rev. Brust, now made pastor emeritus after the coming of Rev. Heilman. It had long been a desire of Rev. Brust to have the well known organist, Dr. Edward Rechlin, present a recital on the church organ. This recital was finally arranged and was presented on March 19, 1936, but the Rev. Brust was not to hear it, for at noon on that very day the Lord called his weary servant home to rest from his labors. The concert became a memorial presentation.

Pastor Brust was laid to rest on Laetare Sunday, March 22.

Pastors O. E. Heilman, O. Krueger, and Lewis Spitz officiated; President R. Kretzschmar spoke for the Western District, Rev. L. Hermerding for the pastoral conference, and Rev. W. W. Schmidt for St. Paul's College. Mrs. Brust survived her husband by thirteen years. She was called home on October 16, 1949.

With the passing of Rev. Brust, as with the death of Rev. Biltz, a long and uninterrupted ministry came to a close. With the coming of the Rev. Heilman to the pastorate, a new era began to emerge, characterized by 1) the transition from the German to the English language, 2) the change from the darkest years of the depression to better times economically, 3) the disruptions of World War II, 4) growth and expansion of the activity in the parish and at St. Paul's College.

In 1933 the German language had been used in almost all morning services, in the voters' assembly, and in all aid societies but one. In the parish school there was German instruction in language and religion, with confirmation classes in German and in English. During the pastorate of Rev. Heilman a transition to the English language was effected, so that in the anniversary year of 1965 it can be reported that German services are held twice monthly, with German Communion services on alternate months and on Good Friday. The average attendance at German services is about 120.

Regarding the transition from the adverse economic situation of the 1930's, every adult member will recall vividly his own experiences during those years, the disastrously low farm prices, the drouth and grasshopper plague of 1934, the extremely wet weather of 1935, the grasshoppers and the heat waves of 1936 that parched the crops and consumed what was left, and broke all existing heat records. These conditions were reflected in the finances of the parish. The beginning salary of Pastor Heilman was \$1000 annually; the salaries of the three male teachers were reduced from \$1000 to \$800. There was no car allowance, no telephone allowance, no allowance for utilities.

Happily, it can be reported that ten years later the picture had by the grace of God brightened greatly. In October, 1943, it could be reported in the voters' assembly that in the month of September alone the members had contributed as much for synodical purposes as had been given in all of 1933. Still later, the pastor's and teachers' salaries were substantially increased, with allowances for car and utilities. Moreover, the contributions of the congregation for both home and synodical purposes under the evangelical admonitions of Rev. Heilman increased to the point where the congregation assumed a respected position in circuit and district levels in financial matters.

A number of varied activities, projects, and changes are noted during the pastorate of Rev. Heilman. The congregation voted to participate in the Pension System of Synod for its workers, in November, 1939. Vestments for the confirmation class were first used in 1941. Weekly duplex envelopes were introduced in 1944. The congregation, continuing its interest in the welfare of St. Paul's College, supported from its inception the activities of St. Paul's College Association, founded in 1943 at the suggestion of Dr. T. A. Weinhold of Kansas City, who, together with Dr. H. H. Scholle, Teacher H. H. Mueller, and President A. J. C. Moeller of St. Paul's College, drew up a constitution and by-laws to start the organization on its career of service to the college. First contact men were Dr. H. H. Scholle, H. H. Mueller, Leonard Kuecker, Alvin Luedeman, Adolph Runge, and Walter Frerking. A tower amplifying system was installed by

the family in memory of Sgt. Arnold Oetting, a casualty of World War II, who lies buried in the Pacific area. The amplifying system in the church auditorium was a memorial by the Brust family in memory of the sainted pastor. In 1947 the 1912 Ladies Aid joined the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, to be followed later by other organizations. Insurance on the church property was increased in 1948 to \$155,000 on an estimated evaluation of \$385,000. A large and attractive bulletin board was erected at the street corner near the church entrance in memory of Mrs. Ethel Heilman, wife of Pastor Heilman, whom the Lord called home to glory at Easter in 1947.

CELEBRATION — DEDICATION — REDEDICATION

The centennial of St. Paul's congregation was celebrated on November 3rd and 10th in 1940 with special observances. The festival speakers were Pastor Theodore Walther of St. Louis, a grandson of both Dr. Walther and Rev. Biltz; Pastor Paul Brust of Texas, son of Pastor F. Brust; Pastor Karl Nermann, at that time the oldest son of the church still in the active ministry; Professor Lewis Spitz, earlier assistant pastor of the congregation; Pastor Heilman; and Pastor Adolph Becker. The six festival services were attended by a total of 5469 people.

In 1942 the church was renovated in both interior and exterior at a cost of \$30,000. The Davis school property was sold to Albert Hinck for \$1,000; the cemetery buildings—house, summer kitchen, barn, and chicken house—were sold for \$515.50. In 1946 plumbing fixtures in the school were renovated at a cost of \$4,345. In 1950 the lot north of the school was bought for \$1,000, and a new gas furnace was installed in the school for \$2,500. In 1955 it became apparent that the school was outgrowing its facilities. Classrooms were crowded. The auditorium was becoming inadequate for larger gatherings. A study of projected future enrollment showed an expected sizable increase and a need for more teaching personnel. After much discussion and revision of plans, the congregation embarked on a program of enlargement which included construction of a new parish



THE PRESENT PARSONAGE

hall-gymnasium adjacent to the school structure, with extensive remodeling of the interior of the existing structure to provide additional classrooms, meeting rooms, library, and lunchroom facilities. The basic cost, excluding kitchen fixtures and the remodeling of the existing building, was \$86,430. The new facility was dedicated on April 22, 1956, with Dr. Lewis Spitz, now of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, preaching the dedicatory sermon. Another step in the improvement of the congregation's property was the decision to construct a new parsonage on the site of the existing parsonage. This dwelling, thoroughly adapted to the needs of a busy pastor, was built at a cost of about \$30,000. The cost included provision and furnishings for the pastor's office and study. Of red brick construction, with attached garage, breezeway, and dormer arrangement of the second story, it is a pleasing architectural complement to the nearby church. The dwelling was dedicated on Pentecost Sunday in 1957. Other improvements included the purchase of the residence occupied by Teacher H. H. Mueller. In 1954 Miss Lois Heilman was named full-time parish secretary, after having served her father earlier in that capacity on a part-time, informal basis. She continued in the church office until 1962. Establishment of the office of parish secretary relieved the pastor of extensive clerical duties, freed him for more truly pastoral activities, and provided a central point of communication for the entire parish.

Friday, June 13, 1958, was to be a black day in the history of the congregation, but one which was not without its ultimate blessing. After a day of threatening weather, a heavy tornado-like windstorm accompanied by rain and hail swept over the town, damaging several properties, in particular tearing off a portion of the church roof and sending one of the chimneys crashing down into the nave. The water driven into the building by the high winds caused extensive damage to the interior, the furnishings, and the organ. Disaster soon struck again, after the pews that could be salvaged had been stored in a nearby warehouse. The warehouse was destroyed by fire, dashing any hopes that the furnishings of the church could be restored. Stunned by the ruined state of their beloved church, the members nevertheless took heart and began immediate plans for



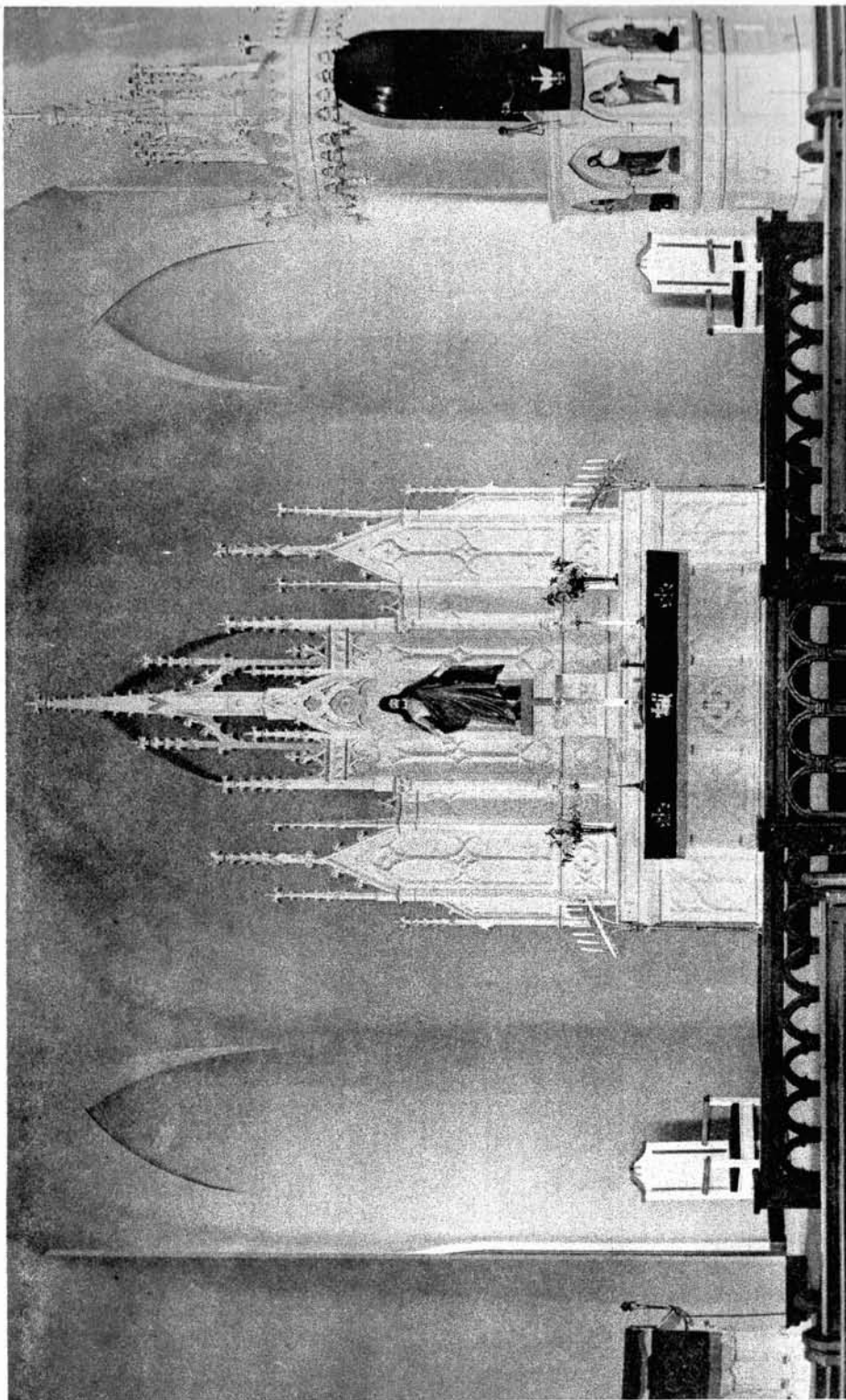
TORNADO DAMAGE

restoration. Services through the summer and autumn months were held in the new parish hall. The influx of college students at the start of the fall term necessitated arrangements for two services each Sunday, an arrangement that has been continued ever since. Favorable insurance settlements and contributions by members provided for complete re-roofing and re-plastering, as well as restoration of the chimney and complete renovation of the organ. New pews replaced the older benches, and the chancel furnishings were completely repainted. The total cost of repairs was \$75,000, of which the insurance adjustment totalled \$62,000. The rededication of the restored church was held on December 21, 1958. Pastor E. C. Peterson of East Detroit was the festival speaker. In the evening the annual Christmas concert was rendered by the choir under the direction of Teacher Robert Bruening. On the same day the congregation also observed the 25th anniversary of the ministry of Rev. Heilman at St. Paul's.

During the ministry of Pastor Heilman various men served as assistant pastors. The first was the Rev. Brust who served faithfully after his retirement. In 1935 Alvaro Carino, a student from the Philippines at Concordia Seminary, was sent to the congregation by Dean Fritz of the seminary "to observe the work of an old established congregation." His work was well received, for the minutes of the voters' assembly state that "the young student was very observant and a good instructor." During 1935 and 1936 Mr. Carino also taught at St. Paul's College, his Alma Mater. In 1958 James Schackel was assigned to the congregation as vicar, as was David Stuckmeyer in 1959. In 1960 Professor Randall Tonn served as assistant pastor, as did Prof. Stephen Korinko in 1961 and 1962.

The heavy hand of World War II laid its burden of service, tragedy, and loss of life also on St. Paul's congregation. During this war and the Korean conflict one hundred seventy-five men from the congregation served in the armed forces of their country. In token recognition of this service, double flags were installed in the sanctuary with a service flag in the narthex. In 1952 a Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Shaft, built at a cost of \$2,500, was unveiled on the cemetery. The members of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars were invited to attend. Speakers for the occasion were Chaplain Fred Stein and Pastor Heilman. To honor these who served and those who made the supreme sacrifice three bronze tablets were attached to the shaft, inscribed as follows:

- (Side One) "This monument was erected A. D. 1952
At the location of the first sanctuary
Of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.
First log church in 1844
Brick church in 1860
Present church (in town) in 1905.
- (Side two) This memorial is dedicated
To the 175 members of
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Who served our country in
World War II and in loving memory
Of the following who paid the Supreme Sacrifice:
Edward Green
Vernon Henning
Norbert Meyer
Arnold Oetting
Elmer Pape



THE RESTORED INTERIOR

(Side three) This memorial is dedicated
To the 65 members of
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Who served our country in
World War I and loving memory
of
Edward Lohman
Who gave his life for our country"

St. Paul's congregation has not been unmindful of the apostolic injunction, "We beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among, you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." (I Thess, 5, 12-13) The 25th and 50th anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Heilman into the ministry were duly observed, in 1935 and 1960 respectively. For the 25th anniversary of his ministry at St. Paul's, in 1958, the congregation presented him with a six weeks' trip to the Holy Land at its expense. Needless to say this gesture was greatly appreciated by him, and his experiences were richly reflected in his sermons and lectures in subsequent years.



PASTOR HEILMAN IN 1965

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Rev. Heilman, he was presented with a document bearing this legend:

"As public witness to our GRACIOUS GOD for having granted us a faithful shepherd these many years, St. Paul's Church has established

THE O. E. HEILMAN STUDENT AID FUND
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENCOURAGING AND ASSIST-
ING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF THE PARISH TO
PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR FULL TIME SERVICE AS
WORKERS IN OUR LORD'S VINEYARD.

In witness whereof St. Paul's Lutheran Church has caused this diploma to be signed by its duly constituted officers and has affixed thereunto its official seal.

Signed,

Herbert Fuchs, President
Lester E. Mahnken, Secretary
Kenneth W. J. Hinck, Treasurer

Elders:

Walter Reith
Erich Oetting
Theodore Holsten
Louis Pape
William H. Bokelman
Hugo Alewel

Other servants of the church were also recognized at appropriate times by the congregation. In 1943 the 25th anniversary of ordination was observed for three professors of St. Paul's College, A. Reese, E. Weis, and L. W. Spitz. On July 29, 1945, the congregation observed the 25th anniversary of Mr. H. H. Mueller as a teacher in the parish school. On June 4, 1950, a service was held in honor of the 50th year of teaching of Mr. J. Wukasch. The 50th anniversary of the ordination of Pastor Viets was observed in 1942, and that of the Rev. Henry Schreiner in 1951. Twenty-five years of teaching by Mr. H. F. Klinkermann were recognized on September 26th, 1948, and his 50th year of teaching on August 1, 1954. In November of 1960 the congregation recognized a half century of teaching by Miss Louise Baeppler. Since Miss Baeppler was ill on the occasion,

Two observations on activities of the congregation during the pastorate of the Rev. Heilman would appear to be in order. One is that the congregation followed the recent emphasis throughout Synod on Bible study by establishing a congregation-wide program of Sunday school and Bible classes, from primary levels through post-confirmation youth classes to adult study groups. The second is that the celebration of the Lord's Supper was so arranged that communion services were conducted more frequently, with increased attendance alike by members of the congregation and by the growing numbers of St. Paul's College students who made this their church home, and with fitting spiritual benefit by all who partook of the Sacrament.

COLLEGE EXPANSION

This period of the history of the congregation also saw the growth and development of St. Paul's College to the status of a modern school with an increased potential for effective service to the church. From its beginnings in 1884 through the efforts of the Rev. Biltz, and through the years of Western District sponsorship and Synodical ownership, the school experienced the vicissitudes of growth that are the lot of all small colleges. Synodical resolutions at the conventions of 1944 and 1947 determined that the school was a valuable asset to the Synodical training program and should be equipped with modern buildings. This was the beginning of a period of construction that saw successively the erection of a new administration and classroom building, appropriately named Baeppler Hall, a completely new heating plant, a new men's residence named Brust the anniversary gift of a television set was presented in absentia. Hall, a new gymnasium named after the sainted Professor E. C. Weis, a women's residence named Moeller Hall, after the sainted

S. P. C. president, a new dining hall, and, more recently, a second college men's residence hall and a fine arts center. During the years that proved critical for St. Paul's College, Rev. Heilman was a member of the Board of Control, and his persistence together with the loyal support of members of St. Paul's Church assured a future for St. Paul's College that presently appears bright with the prospect of increasing service to the Kingdom.

During these years the presidency of the college was held successively by Dr. Ottomar Krueger, Rev. Albert J. C. Moeller, Dr. W. F. Wolbrecht, and Dr. Lambert J. Mehl. Three faculty members died in retirement, Professors Lobeck, Schaller, and Schoede, the latter in his 97th year. Two professors were called home to glory while in active service, Prof. E. C. Weis and President Albert J. C. Moeller. Also during these years the Stuenkel property directly east of the original campus was acquired to provide room for the future needs of the expanding instructional and residential facilities. With the addition of approximately 55 acres adequate land holdings for all likely expansion in the foreseeable future are assured.

In 1954, to help meet the continuing demand for women teachers, St. Paul's College, with the approval of Synod, became a co-educational institution. This addition to the school program brought about a steady increase in enrollment, so that in the fall of 1964 the enrollment reached 315, and in the fall of 1965 the anticipated enrollment is a record 385. The year 1965 will also be remembered for the re-orientation of the campus, providing an entrance drive leading from Main Street, this in turn made possible by the removal of three older faculty residences and the clinic building from this area. Throughout the years St. Paul's congregation has furnished a goodly percentage of the total enrollment and has established a record for sending sons and daughters into the service of the church for which she may indeed be grateful. At present the congregation has 38 young people enrolled in various Synodical schools.

THE WOLLENBURG PASTORATE, 1961 AND 1962

After 50 years of service, Pastor Heilman requested retirement in June of 1960. It was granted with the proviso that he continue to serve until the installation of a successor and that he accept the rank of Pastor Emeritus. A vacancy of ten months was terminated when the Rev. William Wollenburg accepted the call of the congregation on April 5th, 1961. He was installed by Rev. Heilman on June 4 (the anniversary of his wedding), circuit counsellor Pastor Hellwege preaching the sermon.

Pastor William J. Wollenburg was born on November 5th, 1918, at DeWitt, Nebraska. He attended the Christian day school at Beatrice, Nebraska. In due time he began preparing for the holy ministry, graduating from St. Paul's College in 1938. He served as interne for two years at St. Paul's in Lakewood, Ohio. In 1944 he graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He served as assistant pastor and associate pastor at Emmaus Lutheran Church, St. Louis, from 1944 to 1949. In the years 1949 and 1950 he was pastor at Bethany, Covington, Kentucky. In 1950 he was called to found Faith Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, Mo., continuing as pastor there until he was called to Concordia in 1961. During his pastorate Faith congregation grew from 141 to 365 communicants.



PASTOR WOLLENBURG

A Christian day school was established in 1954. Pastor Wollenburg served the church beyond the confines of his parish as counsellor of the California Circuit from 1956 to 1961, as pastoral advisor of the Missouri District of the Lutheran Laymen's League from 1956 to 1960, and as a member of the Western District Mission Board since 1961. Pastor Wollenburg was united in holy wedlock to Mary Louise Fricke of Corder, Missouri, on June 4, 1944. The Wollenburgs have seven children. The four oldest sons are preparing for the holy ministry.

Pastor Wollenburg was the seventh pastor called to minister to the congregation in the first 125 years of its existence. He was assisted in his duties by Pastor Heilman, who conducted most of the German services held twice each month and assisted at many of the Communion services. The Lord's Supper was now celebrated each Sunday, alternately in the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. The congregation at this point numbered 1,620 souls and 1,222 communicants.

In March of 1961 the Lutheran Witness was placed in every home in the congregation. The Kindergarten, taught by Mrs. Leverage Baacke, now had 28 children enrolled, including several from non-Lutheran homes. The parents paid a tuition fee of \$80 per child per year. There were 244 children in the Christian day school, who contributed \$1,575 for home purposes, and prepared 162 Kiddie Kits for World Relief, as an evidence of their growing sense of Christian stewardship. The Sunday school administrative and teaching staff numbered 44 individuals, with Mr. Arnold Bodensstab acting as Sunday school superintendent and Prof. Larry Grothaus as assistant. Other auxiliary organizations of the church were the Men's Club, with a membership of 64, the Walther League, with a membership of 104, the Young Lutherans League, composed of seventh and eighth graders, six ladies aid societies, four of them members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, an Altar Guild, an ushering staff of 64 members, a senior choir of 48 voices, and a children's choir, both organizations under the direction of Mr. Arthur Fliege. An array of miscellaneous permanent committees indicated that the organizational structure of the congregation was becoming unwieldy

and was in need of revision. The committees listed included finance, collectors, cemetery, congregation officers (consisting of president, secretary, home treasurer, synodical treasurer), St. Paul's College contact men, the Heilman Student Aid Fund, board of elders, evangelism, education, and trustees. Accordingly, late in 1961 plans were made to revise the church constitution and administrative structure, a constitution revision committee being appointed for that activity. At the end of the year the voters' assembly adopted a budget of \$98,509 for 1962.

The pastor's annual report for 1962 lists a church membership of 1641 souls, with 1244 communicants. Church services were again conducted at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with Holy Communion celebrated each Sunday at alternate services. Some 25 services were conducted in the German language. The attendance at each English service averaged 625 souls, while the German services averaged 122 in attendance. Each of the Lenten services was attended by more than 1,000 worshippers. The Lutheran Witness was again sent into every home, unless the *Lutheraner* was requested. In 1962 the day school introduced the Joplin Reading Program. A major event of the school year was the first public concert of the newly organized school band under the direction of Mr. Arthur Fliege. The school basketball team wore new uniforms contributed by the Men's Club. Two hundred sixty-eight children were enrolled in the school. Their contributions for home purposes totalled \$1,500, with an almost equal amount given to missions. The school lunch program continued, with 36,421 meals being served to children and faculty members.

In 1962 St. Paul's congregation participated in the synodical Train Two program. Training sessions for this area were conducted at Warrensburg with 35 people from the congregation participating. The immediate result of this venture was the organization of several evening Bible classes and a Thursday afternoon Bible class in addition to the regular Sunday school program. Of the new classes formed, the Thursday afternoon class and a second adult Sunday morning class have continued regularly. However, the Sunday Bible classes and the Sunday school grew to the point where even the basement, hallways, and kitchen of the parish school, and the basement of the parsonage were occupied by various classes.

In 1962 the Senior Choir, under the direction of Mr. Fliege, in addition to regular appearances in worship services, sponsored the annual concert of the Concordia Circuit choirs at St. Paul's, and also presented its own annual Christmas concert. Also in 1962, and use of individual Communion cups was introduced in the 8 a.m. Communion services. It became the responsibility of the Altar Guild (made up of representatives of the No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, and 1912 Ladies Aid societies) to assist the elders in charge of the chancel in caring for the individual Communion ware. The use of individual cups in the 8 a.m. Communion service has continued to the present. The budget for the ensuing year was increased to \$117,768. Mrs. Marvin Petersen succeeded Miss Lois Heilman as parish secretary and has continued to serve until the present time.

1963 AND 1964

In May of 1963 the revised constitution of the congregation, after thorough discussion, was adopted by the voters' assembly, and in June it was approved by the Western District Convention. The

Rev. Theodore Jungkuntz, Th.D., was called as assistant pastor and was ordained and installed on March 7, 1963. He immediately assumed the duties of regular preaching, of directing the youth work, of visiting the sick and shut-ins, and of assisting Pastor Wollenburg in other activities. Dr. Jungkuntz continued to serve until June of 1964, when he was released to accept a teaching assignment for the summer at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, whereupon he accepted an appointment as assistant professor of Classical languages at St. Paul's College. In 1963 a custom of conducting evening services with: Holy Communion on every fifth Sunday of the month was discontinued by resolution of the voters' assembly. In July of 1963 Mr. Arthur Fliege, music director in the parish school, was given a peaceful release to accept an appointment as instructor in the music department at Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska. Under the auspices of the Men's Club, the Dial-a-prayer program was initiated in April of 1963. This was an arrangement with the telephone system whereby the pastor daily recorded a prayer which could be heard by dialing a special telephone number. This program was in operation until August, 1964, when it was discontinued.

In November of 1963 an every-member visit was conducted in the congregation. The annual report of the parish states that those making the calls enjoyed their mission and were generally well received. In the fall of 1963 some seventy children were singing in the children's choir under the direction of Mrs. Leckband. Modern mathematics was introduced into the Kindergarten and grades one and two. The Joplin Reading Program was continued, with Miss Evelyn Brandt in charge. In spite of the changes in the program, the pastor's annual report records that . . . "religion still occupies the most prominent place in our school." After the departure of Mr. Fliege, Mr. Paul Eickmann and Mr. Gerhardt Markworth, instructors at St. Paul's College, shared the directorship of the St. Paul's School Band until the summer of 1964, when Mr. Leroy Pabst was installed to fill the position of school music director and 6th grade teacher.

In 1963 two properties were purchased by the congregation. The Gruebbel residence directly east of the school was purchased for \$10,000. Shortly thereafter the house was razed and the grounds used to enlarge the playground of the school. In order to provide a parsonage for the assistant pastor the Kenneth Schnakenberg property at 1001 St. Louis Street was purchased for \$11,500.

The year 1963 marked the beginning of construction of a major facility to provide retirement living and nursing home care for the elderly. Conceived originally by St. Paul's Men's Club as a modest nursing home for the infirm, the project grew, by a unique combination of delays, governmental grants, and renegotiations, into an imposing dual service institution for senior citizens. A grant from the Hill-Burton Fund, matched with equal funds from local sources, made possible the Lutheran Nursing Home, providing modern nursing care for approximately 50 people. A loan from the Federal Home Finance and Housing Administration made possible the construction of a modern, air-conditioned retirement home for the elderly, with a capacity of approximately 100. Both of these are non-profit institutions, available to all qualifying persons without regard to race, creed, or color. Although Lutheran in name only and governed by a board of directors elected at random, both projects have enjoyed the generous support of St. Paul's congregation. Organizations of the church, especially the Men's Club, originally



THE LUTHERAN GOOD SHEPHERD HOME

contributed generously to the building fund, and the Men's Club has more recently provided for the amplification of St. Paul's church services into both facilities. At present many members of the congregation serve in various positions, auxiliary organizations, and avenues of voluntary service. Both homes began operation in 1964. Presently the Nursing Home is operating at capacity, while the home for senior citizens is gradually being filled. Residents have been provided with hymnals, and many of the residents participate actively in the church services. In another area of service, St. Paul's congregation has recently purchased three tape recorders which are used to bring the Sunday services to shut-ins of the congregation who are not residents of either home.

THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR

In the spring of 1965 Mr. Lloyd Haertling, teacher of grade 7 and athletic director in the parish school, was given a peaceful release to accept a position as counsellor in the high school department of Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska. During the summer Mr. Larry Noack accepted the call of the congregation to the position vacated by Mr. Haertling. Mr. Noack was installed on August 1, 1965. Mr. Luther Herman of Conover, North Carolina, was assigned to the congregation as vicar for the year, and was inducted into office on July 18, 1965.

A noteworthy event in the long association of St. Paul's with furnishing personnel for the service of the church occurred in the anniversary year of 1965 when two children of the same family were commissioned in the Lord's service. On March 21, 1965, Miss Lois Ann Voigt was commissioned as a missionary nurse to serve in Nigeria, Africa. On July 18 her brother, Candidate Arnold Voigt, was ordained into the holy ministry by Pastor Wollenburg. The Rev. Voigt was called to the pastorate of Faith Lutheran Church, Mobile, Alabama.

St. Paul's parish school opened the year with nine full-time teachers and one part-time instructor. The Kindergarten enrollment had increased to the point where it became necessary to conduct morning and afternoon sessions. The music program was changed to include all children in grades 5 through 8 in the children's choir.

On March 2, 1965, the voters' assembly resolved to observe the 125th anniversary of the congregation with appropriate services. Plans included the printing of an anniversary booklet and the commemoration of the occasion in five special services during October. The chairman of the Church Council, Prof. L. W. Baacke, headed the anniversary steering committee. Mr. Harry Voigt was appointed chairman of the anniversary booklet committee, Mr. Willard Stuenkel of the anniversary services committee, Mr. Leslie Kueck of the projects committee, Mr. L. W. Baacke of the fellowship committee, and Mr. Ralph Krause of the anniversary offering committee. The program for the anniversary services follows:

October 3—"The Mission Of The Church Is Mission"—Speaker: Dr. Walter Stuenkel, President of Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis.

October 10—"Services Of Praise And Thanksgiving"—Speaker: Dr. John W. Behnken, Honorary President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

October 17—"Christian Education And Youth"—Speaker: Dr. Ottomar Krueger, former president of St. Paul's College, President of the Ohio District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

October 24—"The Royal Priesthood Of All Believers"—Speaker: Rev. Wm. J. Wollenburg, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia.

October 31—"The Strength Of The Church Is The Word"—Speaker: Dr. L. W. Spitz, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

PARISH SCHOOL BEGINNINGS

Some time during the years 1858 and 1859, St. Paul's congregation called its first school teacher to assume the duties of teaching the children of the congregation. Previous to this time such school activities as were conducted were carried on by the pastor, in addition to his other duties. In 1860, the first statistical report of the parish to the synodical convention indicated that the school had enrolled 80 children, four of whom did not belong to the congregation. The report indicated that Teacher M. Broening was the first regularly called teacher.

From 1862 until 1865 Joseph Gruber, a graduate of Fort Wayne Normal School, served as teacher. He was succeeded in the fall of 1866 by Mr. H. Hamm, who had received his education at a German normal school.

The steady growth of the congregation necessitated the erection of various school buildings in the outlying districts of the congregation. One such building was erected near the Blackwater Creek. It was abandoned before 1900. A second was erected northwest of Concordia and north of the Davis Creek. This school, known as Jackson-



THE DAVIS SCHOOL

ville, was in session only three months of the year, usually from Easter until the end of June. It was abandoned in 1915. A third school was erected west of town and south of the Davis Creek. A fourth school was erected in town.

Until 1887, Teachers Boecher, Paar, Marr, and Kramer served in these schools. In 1888 R. Peters was called as a regular teacher in the school north of the Davis Creek. Two years later a new school and a teacher's dwelling were built there.



THE WILK SCHOOL

In 1887 the congregation decided to build a second school in Concordia. The upper grades were to attend the town school while the lower grades were to continue at the school near the church, then located on the present St. Paul's cemetery. Teacher W. Wilk, succeeding Teacher Boecher, took charge of the town school, opposite the present church, while Teacher Hamm continued at the school near the church which was then at the present cemetery site. The increasing number of children in the town school made it necessary to build an additional classroom in 1897. This classroom was temporarily located on the campus of St. Paul's College. In 1898 it was attached to the school in town. This additional classroom was taught by Miss Meta Hamm.



THE HAMM SCHOOL

PARISH SCHOOL, 1900—1950

With the resignation of Teacher Hamm in 1900 and his retirement to Sweet Springs, accompanied by Miss Hamm, the two vacancies were filled by R. Peters of the Davis school and by Miss Mary Wilk. Mr. Joseph Wukasch succeeded Mr. Peters at the Davis school in 1900. With the resignation of Mr. Peters, Mr. Wukasch succeeded him there, the Davis school being put in charge of Mr. J. L. Lindorfer.

In 1902 Mr. Wilk resigned because of failing health and was succeeded at the town school by Mr. Wukasch, the post he had vacated being filled by Mr. J. Sagehorn. With the death of Mr. Wilk in 1906, Miss Wilk left Concordia and her place in the town school across from the present St. Paul's Church was taken by Miss Louise Baepler, who had begun teaching in the old Jacksonville school during the previous March.

Other teachers who served in the schools of the congregation in this era were Teachers E. Hedeman, P. Meyer, I. Peterson, M. Ahlschwede in the Davis school, and K. Wyssmann and P. Noenning in or near town. In the following years others too numerous to mention taught in the schools of the parish by temporary appointment.

In 1921 the congregation resolved to expand its school facilities by building the present building across from the church. With the completion of this building the Hamm school was abandoned. At the first, five of the six rooms of the new building were in use.

In the early 1920's the congregation called two additional teachers who, along with Mr. Wukasch and Miss Baepler, were to serve the parish school long and faithfully. Mr. H. F. Klinkermann was called in 1923, and completed 31 years of uninterrupted service before he retired in 1954. Mr. H. H. Mueller joined the staff in 1926, and continued for 22 years, accepting a call to California in 1948. Mr. Wukasch resigned from his position as principal in 1950 but continued to serve as teacher until 1952, extending the length of his service to 52 years. Miss Baepler retired in 1959 but continued to serve another year because of a vacancy on the teaching staff,

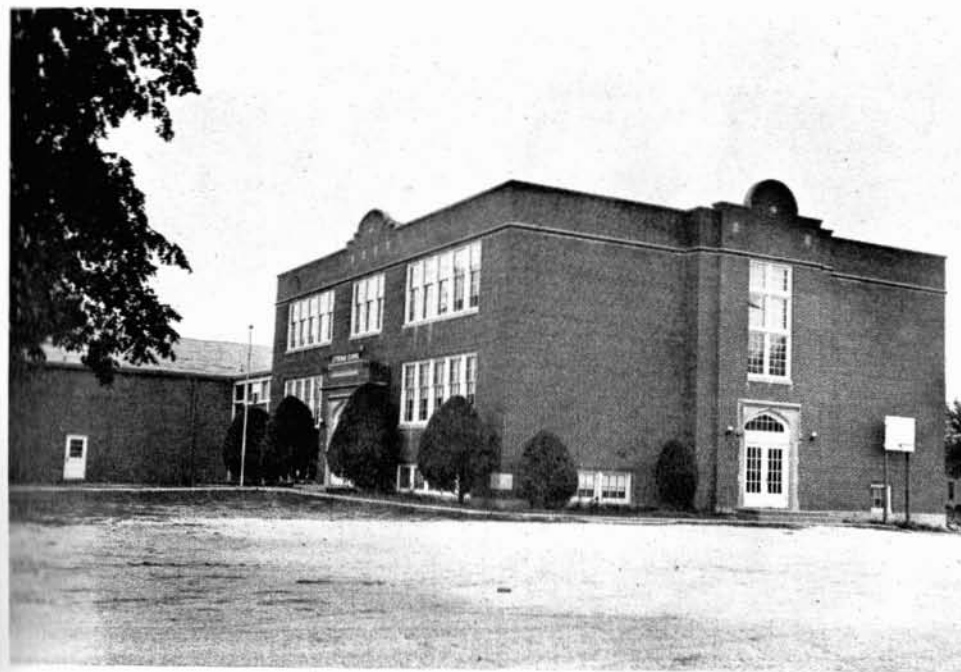
completing a remarkable record of 54 years of service. From 1900 until the retirement of the last one in 1960, these four teachers rendered a total of 157 years of service to the church.

Others taught at the various schools during the 1930's. Miss Theodora Runge was the fifth teacher of the town school in 1933. At the Davis school in that year the teacher was Mr. Schmieding. He resigned in 1935. Teaching after his resignation were candidate Lindeman, theological students Hans Bruss, Leonard Thaemert, and Glimmer, and candidate M. Schabacker. These men also assisted in the pulpit. In 1941 the Davis school was closed, and the 16 pupils were enrolled in the town school. Teacher Schmieding died in St. Louis on November 22, 1939, at the age of 51.

PARISH SCHOOL, 1950—1965

With the resignation of Mr. Wukasch in 1950, Mr. Herman Wentzel, who had previously served as assistant at St. Paul's College before joining the elementary school staff, was appointed principal. The assignment of River Forest graduate Robert Bruening to the congregation in 1952 made possible the addition of a sixth classroom. Following the retirement of Mr. Klinkermann in 1954, the congregation called Mr. Virgil Leckband to the staff.

In 1956 the congregation embarked on the expansion of the school plant alluded to earlier, adding a gymnasium-auditorium, kitchen, office, and library. By 1958, because of expanding enrollment and the demands of the state department of education, additional



THE PRESENT SCHOOL



GRADE 7 AND 8, 1964-65



GRADE 5 AND 6, 1964-65



GRADES 3 AND 4, 1964-65



KINDERGARTEN, GRADES 1 AND 2, 1964-65



SCHOOL FACULTY, 1965-66

classroom space became necessary. In that year the auditorium in the original building was converted into two classrooms and a hallway. Mrs. Viola Mieser became the seventh teacher of the staff. A year later, the second new classroom was occupied by the eighth member of the staff, Mrs. Esther Voigt.

In the spring of 1957 Mr. Wentzel accepted a call to the St. Louis area. Thereupon Mr. Leckband was appointed to the principalship. Mr. Lloyd Haertling was called to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Mr. Wentzel. Mr. Bruening left the staff in 1959 to accept a call to Saginaw, Michigan. The ensuing vacancy remained unfilled until the spring of 1960 when a teachers college graduate, Mr. Arthur Fliege, of Springfield, Illinois, was assigned to the congregation and accepted the call.

Other teachers currently serving on the staff are Miss Evelyn Brandt, who began serving the congregation in the fall of 1948; Mrs. Selma Lange, who joined the staff in 1957; and Miss Ann Wolters, who came in the fall of 1960. Others who served for shorter periods of time include Miss Helms, Miss Earleen Finnismeyer, Mrs. Richard Norris, Mrs. Lambert Schlueter, and Mrs. Esther Hartman.

The school year of 1961-62 was marked by significant developments for the school. In this year the Kindergarten was moved to the parish school from St. Paul's College, where it had been operated as a training school for women teachers on a tuition basis. Mrs. Leverne Baacke was engaged as teacher, and has continued in that capacity to the present time, with the Kindergarten conducting morning and afternoon sessions beginning in 1965. The tuition basis was maintained until the fall of 1964, when the Kindergarten was incorporated into the budget of the congregation. Also in this year Mr. Fliege organized a school band, with some 50 members from the upper grades. The organization made very creditable progress and gave several full-length concerts at the year's end. This expansion of extra-curricular activities was further augmented by a program of interscholastic basketball for boys and volleyball for girls, directed by Mr. Haertling. In addition, Mr. Haertling developed an intramural athletic program with general participation by all students.

Miss Ann Wolters discontinued teaching after the spring of 1963 to pursue further studies. Mrs. Esther Hartman of Alma, Missouri, was engaged to replace Miss Wolters, and Mrs. Lois Jungkuntz was employed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the departure of Mr. Fliege. The band program continued on a temporary basis under Professors Eickmann and Markworth of St. Paul's College, until Mr. Leroy Pabst of Hannibal was assigned to the congregation as teacher and band director in the spring of 1964.

During this time the congregation took recognition of the time-consuming character of the duties of school principal, and made arrangements to reduce the teaching load of Mr. Leckband. Accordingly, in the fall of 1963 Mrs. Janet Leckband was employed on a part-time basis, as was Mrs. Lois Jungkuntz in 1964, with Mrs. Leckband returning to the position in 1965.

Plans for a fourth male teacher for the congregation materialized in the spring of 1965 when graduate Larry Noack, of Lamesa, Texas, was assigned to the congregation and accepted his call. However, at the close of the school year Mr. Haertling received a peace-

ful dismissal to accept an appointment as high school counsellor at Concordia, Seward, Nebraska. Consequently, plans for a fourth male teacher were temporarily shelved. Mrs. Leroy Pabst was engaged to teach. The fall of 1965 also saw the return of Miss Ann Wolters to the classroom to replace Mrs. Hartman, who discontinued teaching in May of 1965, as did Mrs. Lois Jungkuntz.

An enrollment of 273 in September of 1965 reflects an increase over a ten-year period from 217 in September, 1955. Part of the increase is accounted for by the decision of St. Matthew's Church in 1955 to close its school and send its students to St. Paul's. Another part of the increased enrollment reflects the addition of the Kindergarten program.

THE CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Aid No. 1 is properly so named because it was the first such society to be formed in St. Paul's congregation. The group was organized in 1873 and is presently 92 years old. The first president was Mrs. Maria Vogt, who served in that capacity for more than 25 years. At the occasion of her 25th anniversary as president, members presented her with a chair, which is still in the possession of two granddaughters, Misses Anna and Freda Ehlers, presently members of the organization. No records can be found of the earliest years of activity, and it is believed that no records were kept. Later records show that meetings were conducted in German and that minutes were kept in the German language until 1949, when the difficulty of new members in understanding German brought the decision to use English. Some present-day members count their mothers or grandmothers among the charter members. Mrs. Ella Gieseke is the oldest active member, having joined the group in 1909. Among the honorary members, no longer able to attend meetings, are Mrs. Lena Gieseke and Mrs. Helena Gruebhel. Some of the projects and activities to the credit of Ladies Aid No. 1 are: contributions to the heating system of the school, toward the purchase of tables and chairs for the lower grades and coffee makers for the school kitchen. The society has assisted at the State Fair booth and contributed toward its expenses, set up a booth depicting World Relief activities at the Mission Fair, donated toward the new lights in the sanctuary, sent cards to visitors signing the congregation's guest register, provided linens for the Lutheran orphanage, and pitchers for the tables at the Good Shepherd Home. On the occasion of the society's 90th anniversary, hymnals were placed in the church as an expression of gratitude for the Lord's blessings. Mrs. Alvin Oetting serves as president. The group numbers 33 active and 4 honorary members.

Ladies Aid No. 2 was organized February 15, 1900. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Dietrich Gieschen with 12 members present. Mrs. Gieschen served as first president. Meetings were held in the homes of members until 1935, when the group began to meet in the Ladies Aid room of the school. The organization has as its stated purpose the encouragement and enjoyment of Christian fellowship and assistance in meeting the many needs of church and school. Over the years members have contributed to or themselves undertaken many projects. They have made regular donations to missions, baked cakes for St. Paul's College, and furnished eggs

and cookies for the Lutheran orphanage. They have assisted in furnishing the parsonage with a typewriter table and chair, and tile floor for the breezeway. They have assisted in furnishing the carpet and altar covers for the church, and tile floor for the elders' room. They have helped provide the electric stove, refrigerator, chairs, and chair cart for the school, and the table in the ladies' room. On their 60th anniversary they purchased six hymnals for the church. The group presently numbers 18 members. Mrs. Roy Schnakenberg serves as president.

Ladies Aid No. 3 was organized in January of 1921, when Mrs. Adolph Frerking invited a number of ladies to her home to organize a ladies aid society whose primary purpose would be to promote the work of the church. Starting with 16 members, the society was first named East District Ladies Aid. Mrs. Adolph Frerking and Mrs. Gust Wolpers were first president and vice-president, respectively. Meetings were held in various homes, until the fall of 1925, when meetings were held in the Ladies Aid room of the school. The first secretary was elected in 1928. At that time the rolls listed 32 members, who were engaged in various interesting areas of service: they donated a sum to the choir for a piano in the church; each member brought a chicken to St. Paul's College for Thanksgiving Day; they lent the congregation \$550 and donated the interest; One year each member was assessed 25c monthly in addition to the regular 10c monthly dues. The \$40 which thus accumulated was given to the congregation to help defray its debts.

In October, 1933, the group changed its name to Aid Society No. 3. After having declined to 25 in 1931, the membership total had now risen to 33. In 1934 the group resolved to have the minutes read at every meeting. In 1936 it was resolved to open each meeting with Bible reading. Projects at this time included assistance in liquidating the church debt, sending books to South America, and donating cookies to the orphanage at Christmas time. On their 30th anniversary the members presented the outdoor church lights at the east center doors. Other recent projects have been repeated donations to missions and providing dessert for the school lunch program once a month. The group is a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The membership presently totals 59. Mrs. Erwin Bergman currently serves as president.

Ladies Aid No. 4 marks its organization date as December 8, 1933. It began with 14 members, whose specific purpose was aiding and furthering church and mission work. Mrs. Martin F. Meyer was the first president. Over the years this group has participated in many projects of service and donations of money. Some of these include: donations to the Lutheran Children's Services in St. Louis, Mo., to the Good Shepherd Home, to St. Paul's College Guild, to mission projects, toward the purchase of parish furniture, recording facilities, and to the school lunch program. Members serve on the Kitchen Committee, assisting in replacing broken or damaged equipment. On special days cakes are baked for St. Paul's College. As a fund-raising project the group frequently serves lunch at farm sales. In 1958 the organization provided the pulpit with a lamp as its 25th anniversary gift. The group belongs to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Its membership totals 35. Mrs. Lawrence Fuchs serves as president.



SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

The 1912 Aid Society, as its name indicates, began its activities in 1912 with an organizational meeting on Dec. 6 at the home of Mrs. J. Wukasch, nine members being present. Two of these, Mrs. Adolph Runge and Mrs. Fred Cassing, are still members. Officers at first consisted of a president and secretary-treasurer. All minutes were written in the German language. Three years later the membership had increased to twenty. Donations were made to St. Paul's College and members helped cook apple butter for the college kitchen. This was an annual activity for many years. Within the next two years the membership increased to 56. A committee was appointed to visit the sick, contributions were made toward the purchase of organs for the school classrooms, and during the years of World War I the members regularly sewed for the Red Cross. Several years later, birthday and mission funds were established. In April, 1928, meetings began to be held in the school basement, and meetings in private homes were discontinued. Also in April, 1928, the organization presented a play that was so well received that it was repeated in Concordia and also given in Alma.

In more recent days the officers of the group have been a president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Meetings begin with a hymn, Scripture reading, prayer, and a topic discussion by a member or by the pastor. Among more recent activities, the group has made contributions to missionaries in foreign lands, awarded a scholarship to a Freshman high school student from the local community at St. Paul's College, contributed cakes annually to St. Paul's College and to the parish school, participated in the activities of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, and engaged in quilting as a fellowship project. The largest donation on record was a sum of \$800 toward the purchase of the church organ. As members reach the age of 70 they are honored with a social evening. Mrs. Walter Nierman is currently president of the group that now numbers 48 members.

The 1934 Ladies Aid Society, youngest of the ladies' groups, was organized on April 19, 1934, with 12 charter members and Mrs. Brust as an advisory member. Mrs. Wm. Luedeman served as the first president. Meetings were first conducted in German, then alternately in English, and finally in English exclusively. Four of the original charter members are still active in the work of the organization: Mrs. Wm. Luedeman, Mrs. Walter Schnakenberg, Mrs. Edwin Rehkop, and Mrs. Alfred Schnakenberg. The society has made donations to the cause of missions, contributed towards the needs of church and school, to the needs of Synod, to St. Paul's College, to the parsonage, and various civic organizations. Investments have been made in the Western District Church Extension Fund. Currently Mrs. Delmar Oetting serves as president for the group, whose membership totals 27.

St. Paul's Altar Guild was organized in the fall of 1949 and is composed of members of Ladies Aid Societies No. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 1912. Its purpose is to assist in every way possible in beautifying the church services. The Altar Guild has the responsible of placing and removing all flowers on the altar, of cleaning altar linens and paraments and pastors' robes, of assisting with the preparation and cleaning of the Communion ware, and of placing and removing trees and decorations at Christmas time. The Altar Guild is composed of twelve members. Mrs. Edwin Brackman is now serving as president.

St. Paul's Walther League adopted its name and joined the international organization in 1916. Organized young people's work, however, had been carried on for many years previous to that time. Records indicate that at the dedication of the new church in 1905 the young people bought the altar, pulpit, and baptismal font at a cost of \$1400. A formal organization came into being in 1911, with Henry Lueker as president. It was known as the "Jugendverein" or Young People's Society. Meetings were in charge of Mr. J. Wukasch and Mr. J. Sagehorn. The group met on Sunday afternoons in the hall above the old Farmers Bank, now known as the Gieseke Building. Programs consisted of topic discussions by professors of St. Paul's College, Rev. Brust, or Mr. Wukasch, and musical and dramatic selections. Many special programs were presented to the public. The regular admission charge was 10c. One of the first group projects was the purchase of a lawn mower for the cemetery. In 1914 the group organized a choir. In the same year the first ice cream social was held on the college campus and became an annual event for many years. The English language was adopted in all meetings after 1915.

During the years of World War I the League provided prayer books and hymnals for boys joining the armed forces and presented each member in the service with a wrist watch. A bronze plaque in memory of Edward Lohman, who was killed in action, was placed by the league in the vestibule of the church. By 1921 some members were serving as ushers in the church, a mixed choir had been organized, and a Bible class begun. During that year the League also purchased a player piano, collection baskets, and a bulletin board for the church. At this time the Junior Walther League was formed, with a membership of 19. In 1926 a basketball team was organized, and the group enjoyed baseball and tennis. In 1922 the League played host for the first time to the Missouri District Walther League Convention. The young people furnished food and lodging to those in attendance and completely renovated the church basement for the banquet.

Among the many projects of the Walther League have been Christmas caroling for the sick and shut-ins of the congregation; sponsoring a reunion service for former confirmation classes on Palm Sunday; preparation of sacred programs for Easter, Christmas, and Reformation Day; sponsoring the sale of Wheat Ridge Christmas seals, clothing drives, subscriptions to church periodicals, and promotion of the Lutheran Hour. Financial contributions include a generous donation toward the purchase of the organ dedicated in 1931, \$800 toward the purchase of stage curtains for the new parish hall, \$700 toward a new piano, purchase of new chairs and tables, and contributions toward various mission projects. League sponsors have been Mr. J. Wukasch, Mr. H. F. Klinkermann, Dr. Theodore Jungkuntz, and Miss Evelyn Brandt. Among them they have compiled an enviable record for lengthy and devoted service to the cause of youth in our congregation.

The Sunday School and Bible class Program had its beginning in January, 1950, when the Board of Education suggested that the following act as administrative officers of the family Bible study class program: Hugo Alewel, president; Arnold Bodenstab, secretary; Omar Beerman, treasurer. At the beginning of the program, Bible classes held regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday evening of each month. Meetings were discontinued during the

summer months. Beginning with January, 1954, the Wednesday evening Bible class meetings were transferred to Sunday morning classes. For several years an adult Bible class continued to meet on alternate Wednesday evenings. A Thursday afternoon Bible class begun in 1962 and attended by ladies of the congregation has continued to the present.

At the present time there are approximately 50 people participating in conducting 11 Sunday School classes with an average attendance of 280, 5 youth Bible classes averaging 80 in total attendance, and four adult classes with a total average attendance of 70.

The group joined the Sunday School Association of the Concordia Circuit in 1954. Since 1956 a large number of Sunday school and Bible class teachers have completed training courses made available to them, enriching the capabilities of the teachers to share the Word with the souls entrusted to them.

The Men's Club of St. Paul's Lutheran Church held an initial meeting on October 15, 1954. Twenty men in attendance at this initial meeting heard Mr. Ted Lindeman of Holy Cross Church in Emma give pertinent advice on the formation of a men's group. After thorough discussion they proceeded with plans for the organization of the men's club. Mr. Edwin Pape was elected temporary chairman, and Mr. Walter Reith temporary secretary. Later, on the 26th of October, the constitution of the club was formally adopted. At the next regular meeting the club elected the following officers: president, Raymond Holsten; vice president, Hobart Meyer; secretary, Alwin Stuenkel; treasurer, Walter Nierman; membership secretary, Arnold Bodenstab; board members, Marvin Neinhueser and Alvin Flandermeyer. From the beginning the activities of the club were divided into three major areas, education, projects, and recreation. The educational activities were carried out in topic presentations, discussions, and lectures on church-related subjects in regular meetings. Recreation in the club program included regular activities at meetings, the sponsorship of dartball and bowling teams, and fellowship programs. Projects included many financial contributions toward improvements in the church building and church properties, as well as many activities directed to the same end, the financing of scholarships for students entering church work, participation in the congregation reorganization, furnishing basketball uniforms, goal boards, and chair carts for the school, and supplying religious literature in motels and doctors' offices.

The chief project of the Men's Club, however, has been its initial efforts to found a nursing home that ultimately led to the establishment of the Lutheran Good Shepherd Home and the Lutheran Nursing Home. While both projects ultimately became civic matters under federal government support and non-sectarian management, the members of the Men's Club spent uncounted hours in preliminary organization, in drawing up plans, in negotiations with the government, in fund raising, in site selection and improvement, in incorporation and other activities. Before and after completion of the project, many men's club members served on the board of directors and in other capacities. The Home continues to be a favorite project of the Men's Club, where they have supplied many items for the benefit of the residents, including arrangements for the remote control transmission of the services of St. Paul's Church to all areas of the Home.



ST. PAUL'S SENIOR CHOIR

The Men's Club has from the beginning promoted the cause of the Lutheran Laymen's League, by participating in the membership drives of the League, by regular attendance at zone, district, and national meetings, and by promotion of the Lutheran Hour. The Men's Club has enjoyed a steady growth in membership, which now totals sixty. The present officers are: Alfred Nierman, president; Alwin Stuenkel, vice president; Kenneth Hinck, secretary; Lawrence Fuchs, treasurer; Hobart Meyer, Lutheran Hour representative; Warner Brackman, membership secretary; Lawrence Boesch, projects chairman; Omar Lohman, sports director; Erich Oetting, program chairman.

St. Paul's Senior Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Virgil Leckband, continues a long tradition of regularly beautifying the worship services with choral music in the best traditions of the Lutheran Church. Meetings in regular weekly rehearsals, the 40 members, in addition to preparing for Sunday worship services, prepare and present an annual Christmas concert and have for several years participated in the mass choir of the Concordia Circuit churches. The following officers serve the organization: Kenneth Nierman, president; Richard Brackman, vice-president; Vivian Brackman, secretary; Mrs. Richard Cordes, treasurer.

The Ushering Committee exists by provision of the revised constitution of the congregation. Four chief ushers are elected for a term of two years. It is their responsibility to recommend to the Board of Elders candidates for the ushering staff. Present chief ushers are Roger Brackman, Norman Luedeman, Omar Lohman, and Homer Petty. A large staff of ushers and collectors volunteers its services, each man regularly serving three months during the year. Officers of the group are: Richard Brackman, president; Robert Kuecker, vice-president; Edward Kuecker, secretary-treasurer. The staff of ushers has served the congregation well in maintaining dignity and good order in divine services.



THE OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

KINGDOM WORKERS FROM ST. PAUL'S

PASTORS

Frederick A. Baepler
Adolph Becker
Erwin Boeschen
Theodore Brackman
Melvin Cordes
Arnold Deke
Eldred Dierker
Louis Fuchs
Paul Glahn
Carl W. Heilman
Mark Heilman
Theodore Hinck
Erwin H. Holsten
Melvin Holsten
Oscar J. Klinkermann
Arthur Kuecker
Alvin Lange
Robert Lange
Wm. Lange

Gustav Lobeck
Norman Luecht
Hobart Meyer
Wilbur Maring
Clemens Mehl
Elmer J. Moeller
Edward Pardieck
Erich Peterson
Ferdinand Reith
Rudolph Reith
Herbert Roepe
Arnold Schaller
Robert Schaller
Albert Schroeder
Wm. Stratman
Omar Stuenkel
Walter Stuenkel
Arnold Voigt
Earl Weis

TEACHERS

Wm. H. Balke
Harlan Becker
Larry Becker
Otto H. Becker (Em.)
Ruth Borgelt
James Brackman
Sarah Brackman
Louise Baepler (Em.)
Bruce Cordes
Gerald Fuhrmann
Patricia (Goemann) Reddersdorf
Lois Heidorn
Richard Heilman
Eliese Kammeyer

Lloyd Holsten
James Lange
Dorothy Lobeck
Waldo F. Lohman
Barbara (Nierman) Hasz
Donald Pape
James Reith
Nelson Schnakenberg
Herbert Stuenkel
Harry Voigt
Ann Wolters
Carl Wolters
Paul Wolters

PARISH WORKER

Lois Ann Voigt