

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1880

KOUTS, INDIANA

1980





INTERIOR OF CHURCH

*We may not know what the future holds,
but we do know Who holds the future.*



Pastor and Mrs. Luther P. Koepke

We, the members of St. Paul Church, fondly dedicate this booklet to Pastor and Mrs. Luther Koepke. Their patient understanding, love, and devotion for the Lord's work, has guided the growth of this congregation.



Seated front row, left to right, Paul Rommelman, Wendell Werner, Clarence Schreiner and Juanita (Roeske) Haman. Second row, Violette Martin, Kate Schnekenburger, Wm. Salzer, Sr., Ray Adam, James Stone and Hilbert Roeske. Standing, left to right, Pastor Koepke, Richard Dillon, Chris Pfladderer, Greg Wandrey, Willard Werner, Howard Wandrey, Bernard Kroft, Wm. Kuehl, Cliff Passuello, Robert Haman, Harold Chael, Elmer Werner and John Gottby.

Present Officers Of The Congregation

President - Paul Rommelmann
Vice President - Wendell Werner
Treasurer - Clarence Schreiner
Financial Secretary - Juanita (Roeske) Haman
Recording Secretary - A. Joseph Kraatz, Jr.
Trustees - Willard Werner, Ray Adam, John Gottby
Elders - Hilbert Roeske, Cliff Passuello, James Stone
Finance Board - Greg Wandrey, Wm. Kuehl, Richard Dillon, Robert Haman, Kate Schnekenburger, Clifford Hayes
Head Usher - Howard Wandrey
Assistant - Bernard Kroft
Cemetery Committee - Elmer Werner, Wm. Salzer, Sr., Harold Chael, Chris Pfladderer
Sunday School Superintendent - Violette Martin
Assistant - Sandra Kraatz

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Kouts, Ind.

1880 — 1980

Our congregation is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the building of a Lutheran church in Kouts. This booklet is being published in connection with this event.

As we open the door to the second century in the life of our congregation - we look ---

TO THE PAST

to those who have gone before and have given of their time, talents and dedication to establish a Lutheran congregation and to build a church structure in 1880 and also in 1908. Most of these persons have now received their eternal destiny in their heavenly home. The foundations which they laid in Christ were solid and we look ---

TO THE PRESENT

to those of us who are here now who have the privilege of continuing to build the congregation on the solid foundations of those who have gone before. Our time, talents and dedication should receive impetus from those who are now a memory. This should influence all of us to work, to give and to pray that we carry our responsibility with the understanding that to whom much is given much will be required. We are tied to the past as we carry on our work at present and we look ---

TO THE FUTURE

to those who will follow us. May we be such good and faithful servants of our Lord that those who will follow in subsequent generations will thank the Lord for having carried on His work through us and that future generations may benefit from our work for the Lord.

This we do know --- whether past - present - or future - our walk is heavenward all the way.

May a look at our history draw us a little closer together as a church family since we are all members of God's family.

THE COMMITTEE

Pastor Koepke
Harold Haman
Lila Rogowski
Freda Chael
William Salzer, Sr.
Ruth Jarnecke



**Thanksgiving
1977**



**Christmas
1979**



**Easter
1980**

History Of St. Paul Lutheran Church

Kouts, Indiana

Prior to 1873:

Prior to 1873 the first Lutherans in Kouts met in the homes of various members, often in the home of Mr. and Mrs. August Hofferth.

In summer they met out of doors. When the group became larger, they looked to a school building in which to hold meetings.

A pastor from a nearby community would conduct a service once a month, usually on a Sunday afternoon.

1873-1880

The first public Lutheran worship service held in Kouts, Indiana took place in August of 1873. This service was conducted in an old school building on what is now Highway 8 near the east end of Kouts.

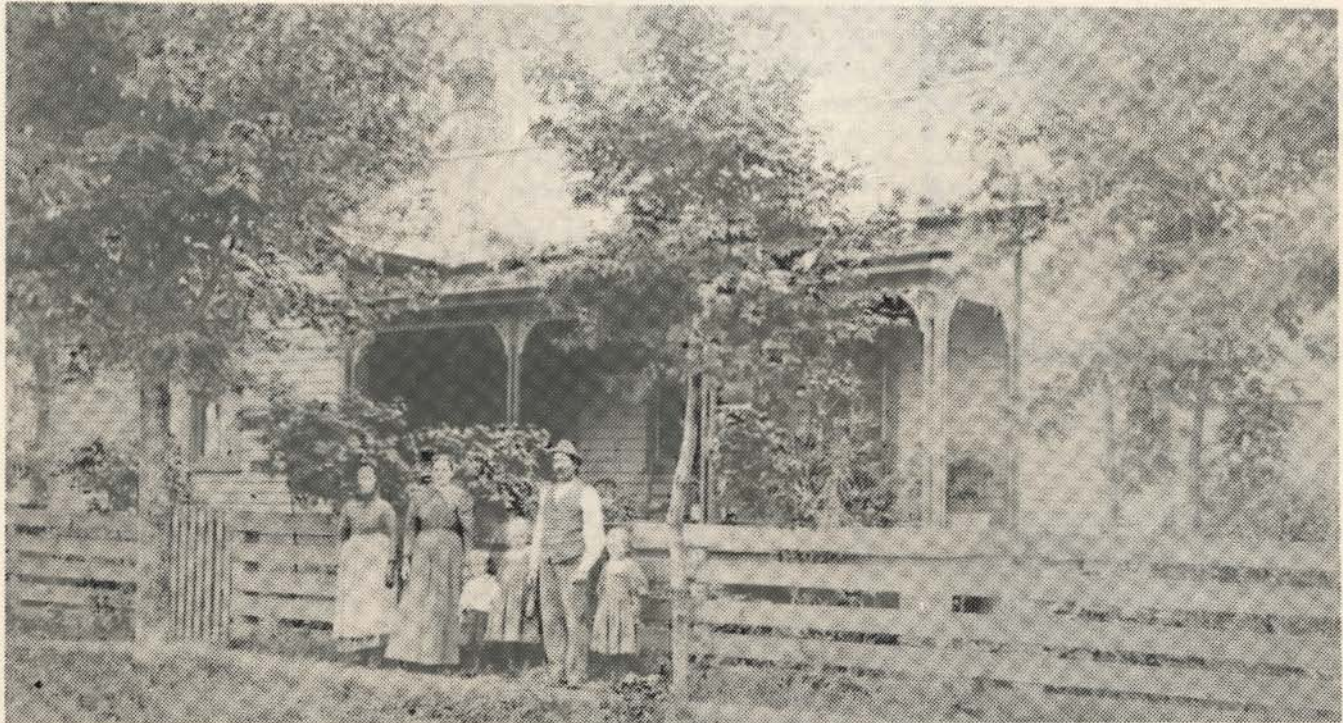
A reference to the early history of the Kouts Lutheran Church, officially known as "The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation", is found in the minutes of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Valparaiso. The quotation in the minutes reads as follows:

"In the year 1873 Pastor Lange established a branch in Kouts, twelve miles south of Valparaiso, and held services once a month in a dilapidated school house on Sunday afternoon. At the end of 1879 Pastor Lange gave up this pastorate (because of throat trouble). In January 1880 Pastor Ph. Schmidt near Wanatah took over this congregation. The use of the school house was investigated and thereupon the congregation built a church in Kouts in 1880."

The minutes of Immanuel congregation in Valparaiso dated September, 1873 also have the following quotation:

"Pastor W.J.B. Lange was given permission to preach once a month at Westville and at Coutsstation."

During the period from 1873 to 1880 there was no resident pastor to serve the Lutherans living in Kouts. The Lutherans were served at various times by the following pastors: Rev. Phillip Schmidt, Rev. W.J. Lange, and Rev. Adolph Dunzing.



The first services were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. August Hofferth. Their family left to right, his mother, Mrs. Augusta Hofferth, and their Children, Emil, Elta and Hattie.

The first members of the congregation who signed the original constitution are the following:

*Namen der ursprünglichen
am 2. 11. 1873*

1. F. Wolbrandt
2. Gottlieb Pontow
3. August Hofferth
4. Wm. Klemm
5. August Steinke
6. Fredrick Tight
7. Herman Pirlich
8. John Hofferth
9. Stephen Beck
10. Ludwig Pahl
11. Henrich Tedeis
12. Gottlieb Gesse
13. Ludwig Schultz
14. Gottlieb Wandrey
15. John Gielow

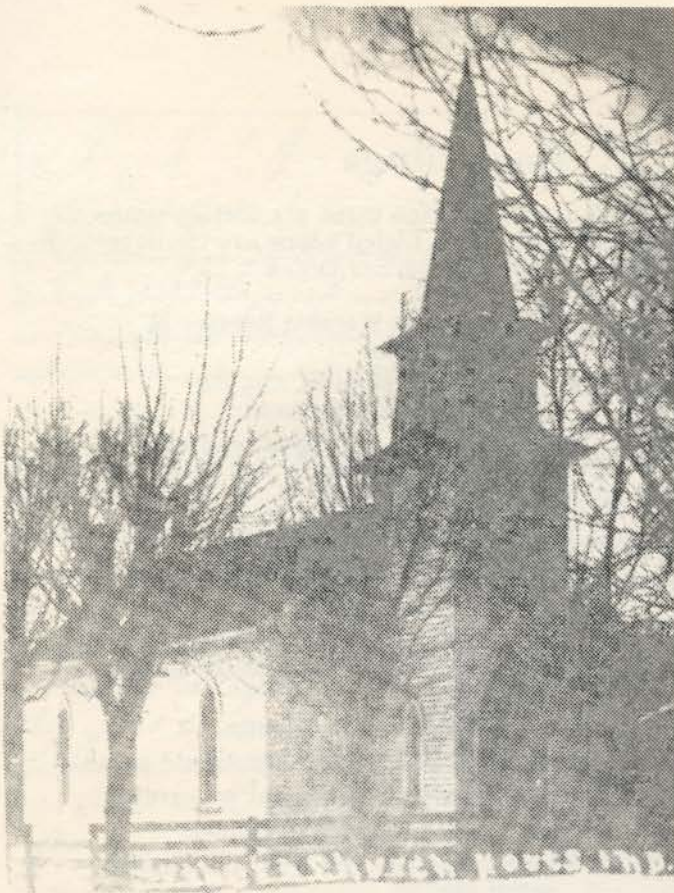
1. Fredrick Wolbrandt
2. Gottlieb Pontow
3. August Hofferth
4. Wm. Klemm
5. August Steinke
6. Fredrick Tight
7. Herman Pirlich
8. John Hofferth
9. Stephen Beck
10. Ludwig Pahl
11. Henrich Tedeis
12. Gottlieb Gesse
13. Ludwig Schultz
14. Gottlieb Wandrey
15. John Gielow

Beginnings

..In the history of a congregation there are certain times when an event first took place. Listed below are the dates for the first time certain approaches began.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------|---|
| August, 1873 | ----- | First Lutheran Worship Service in Kouts, Indiana. |
| May 5, 1918 | ----- | First child baptized in English language - Harold Chael. |
| September 19, 1882 | --- | First marriage in original church - Ferdinand Wittenberg and Irene Rosenbaum. |
| 1895 | ----- | First choir organized. |
| 1905 | ----- | First worship service in English language. |
| September, 1907 | ----- | First meeting for organizing a Ladies Aid Society. |
| May 12, 1931 | ----- | First Sunday School meeting. |
| 1948 | ----- | Lutheran Women's Missionary League organized. |
| September 5, 1948 | --- | First Sunday church bulletin. |
| May 3, 1953 | ----- | Dedication of Minshall Electronic organ. |
| April 11, 1954 | ----- | Communion announcement on cards. |
| May 19, 1954 | ----- | First Mother-Daughter banquet. |
| August 1, 1954 | ----- | Worshippers ushered from the church service. |
| December 5, 1954 | --- | Remaining debts of congregation retired. |
| January 9, 1955 | --- | Listing of altar flowers in memory of loved one. |
| July 3, 1955 | ----- | Monthly Parish Paper printed. |
| November 13, 1955 | --- | 75th Anniversary service and banquet. |
| May 17, 1955 | ----- | Pastor wears surplice and stole. |
| June 12, 1960 | ----- | Sunday Evening Social Group organized. |
| April 14, 1963 | ----- | First Easter breakfast. |
| August 9, 1964 | ----- | First church library |
| February 14, 1965 | --- | Dedication of Hammond Electronic organ. |
| June 16, 1968 | ----- | Air conditioning placed in church. |
| April 27, 1969 | ----- | First serving of coffee and rolls following church service. |
| September 7, 1969 | --- | Nursery service began. |
| July 14, 1971 | ----- | First Blueberry Social held. |
| July 22, 1971 | ----- | Sunday School Annex torn down. |
| July 25, 1971 | ----- | Ground breaking for Parish Hall |
| May 14, 1972 | ----- | Dedication of new Parish Hall. |
| September 24, 1972 | --- | Young Adult group organized. |
| March 25, 1973 | ----- | Old Parish Hall torn down. |
| December 24, 1974 | --- | First Christmas Eve Candlelight Service held. |
| September, 1975 | ----- | Two regular church services conducted. |
| April 9, 1978 | ----- | Debt on Parish Hall retired. |
| April 16, 1978 | ----- | Burning of Mortgage papers. |
| 1980 | ----- | Plans for celebration of 100th anniversary. |

The period from 1873 to 1880 was one of slow growth for the Lutherans in Kouts since they did not have the services of a full time pastor. However, the loyalty of these early Lutherans to their church laid the ground work for the calling of a pastor to serve the Lutherans in this area.



FIRST CHURCH BUILDING AROUND 1920



BACK VIEW OF CHURCH AROUND 1930



FIRST CHURCH BUILDING IN 1972

Pastors Who Served St. Paul Church

1880 — 1894

On the first Sunday in September, 1880 the Lutherans of Kouts dedicated a new church to the glory of God and for the welfare of the congregation. A small frame church was erected at a cost of \$600.00. This church served the congregation until 1908 as the place of worship.

At the time of the construction of the first church it was the only church building in Pleasant township.

Mrs. John Kneifel, a member of the congregation, donated an oak tree from her back yard with the understanding that this was to be used for making the altar and pulpit for the church. Mr. Sam Steiner was the carpenter who built the altar and pulpit from this tree.

Even though the Lutherans of Kouts now had their own church, they still were being served by pastors from the vicinity rather than having a resident pastor. During this period St. Paul was served by the Rev. Phillip Schmidt and by the Rev. Adolph Dunzing of Wanatah.

The record of the first confirmation class to be confirmed in 1880 was the following: Frederick Wandrey, Edward Steinke, Therese Wittenberg, Emma Rosenbaum, Mathilde Rosenbaum, Catherine Wolbrandt, Anna Wolbrandt, Wilhelmina Kruell, and Anna Rohr.

The first marriage performed in the new church was that of Ferdinand Wittenberg and Irene Rosenbaum on September 19, 1882.

During this period, St. Paul Church experienced a gradual growth, consisting chiefly of Lutheran immigrants who settled in the Kouts area.

Rev. Phillip Schmidt	
Rev. W.J. Lange	
Rev. Adolph Dunzing	
Rev. Albert Baumann	1894-1899
Rev. Otto Schumm	1899-1905
Rev. Arthur Both	1905-1906
Rev. Hicco Hicken	1907-1947
Rev. Walter Schwane	1947-1954
Rev. Luther P. Koepke	1954-Present



PASTOR AND MRS. ALBERT BAUMANN

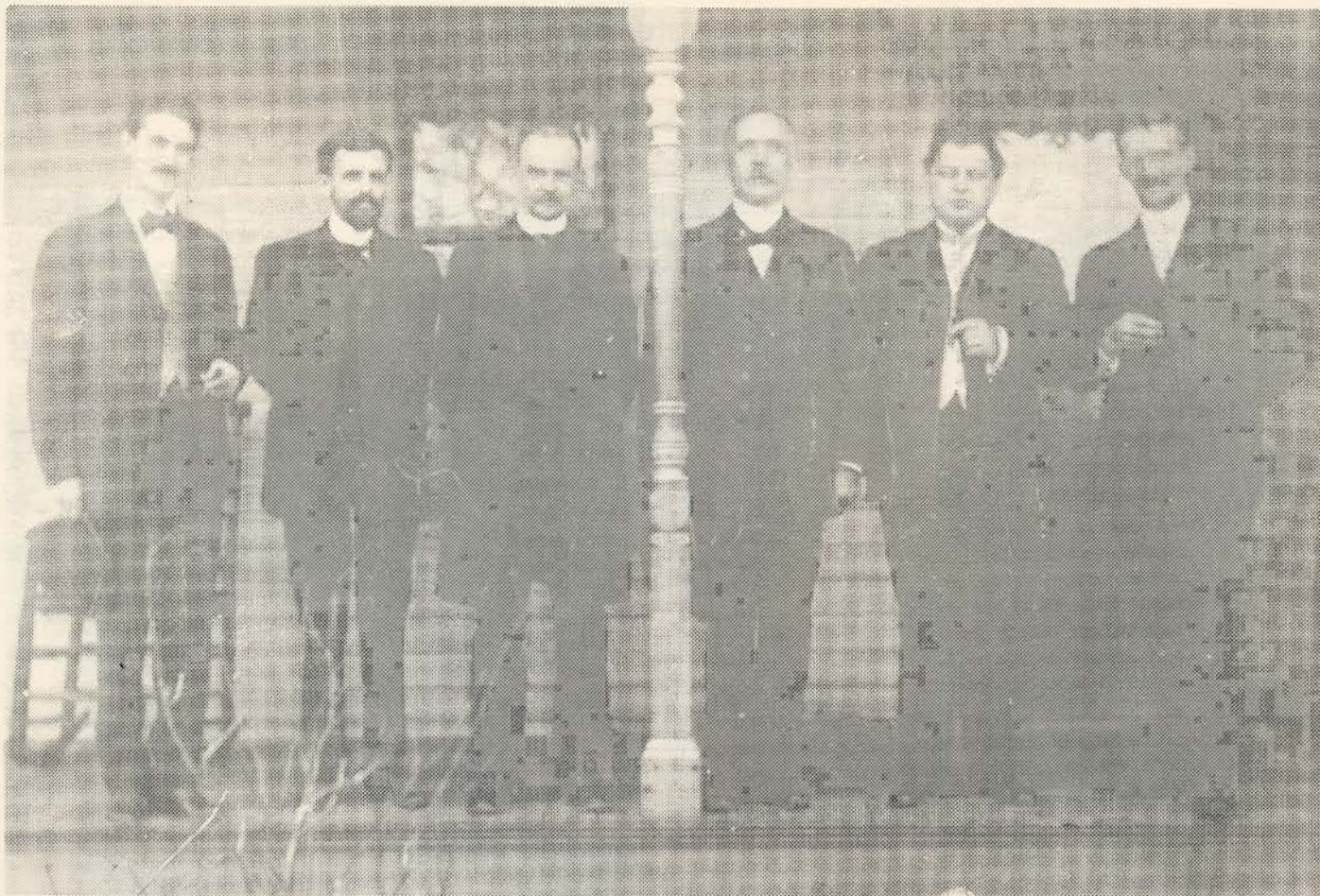
1894 - 1899 - The Rev. Albert Baumann

In 1894 the Rev. Albert Baumann became the first resident pastor of St. Paul congregation of Kouts. Pastor Baumann served the congregation until 1899.

The work of Pastor Baumann consisted primarily in getting the congregation organized for the various phases of church life. Regular services were now conducted in the church and regular instruction for confirmation took place.

During the pastorate of Rev. Baumann the first choir was organized in St. Paul congregation.

The congregation experienced a steady, gradual growth during the time that Rev. Baumann served as pastor.



Left to right: Pastors - Albert Baumann, Otto Schumm, Arthur Both, Hicco Hicken. Also in the picture - Rev. Vandrey and Prof. Herman Heimberg.

1899 - 1905 The Rev. Otto Schumm

In 1899 the Rev. Otto Schumm became pastor of St. Paul congregation. He served in Kouts until 1905.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Schumm a steeple was added to the church which had been built in 1880. A bell was placed into the steeple to be used as a call to worship. The bell was donated by Mrs. Thielen who purchased it from St. Peter Lutheran Church in North Judson.

During the time that Pastor Schumm served St. Paul Church, the congregation continued its gradual growth.

1905 - 1906 - The Rev. Arthur Both

During the relatively short period from 1905 to 1906 the Rev. Arthur Both served the Lutherans of Kouts. During the pastorate of Rev. Both the first English services were conducted in the church. Even though these English services were not conducted regularly they nevertheless served as the groundwork for the future change to the English language in conducting services.



PASTOR AND MRS. HICKO HICKEN

1907 - 1947 - THE REV. HICKO HICKEN

In 1907 Rev. Hicken became pastor of St. Paul Church and served the congregation for forty years.

Rev. Hicken was born in East Frisia, Germany where he received most of his education. He was a parochial school teacher in Dundee, Illinois. From 1888 until 1906 he taught at Crystal Lake, Illinois. In 1907 he entered the Lutheran ministry after passing a theological examination before the faculty at Springfield, Illinois. During 1906 and 1907 he taught school at Immanuel Church in Valparaiso.

After this he accepted a call to become pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Kouts and St. Mark, Medaryville. He served the latter congregation until 1946. He also served St. John congregation in LaCrosse for 10 years. His family consisted of his wife, Marie, and two sons, Paul and Adelbert.

In 1908 a new church was erected and dedicated on December 13, 1908. In connection with the building of the new church, the minutes of Immanuel Church in Valparaiso state that on August 2, 1908, "It was resolved to omit worship services inasmuch as the church in Kouts will have a cornerstone laying."

The brick church was built at a cost of \$3,500.00. The old frame church became the Parish Hall.

The first baby to be baptized by Rev. Hicken was William Salzer.

The first baby to be baptized in the new church was Ruth Bertha Zachert.

On June 15, 1943 St. Paul congregation celebrated the 61st anniversary of Pastor Hicken's service to the Lutheran church as well as the 60th anniversary of the wedding of Pastor and Mrs. Hicken.

On April 9, 1947 Pastor Hicken retired as pastor of St. Paul congregation after having served in Kouts for forty years. He had completed 65 years of service in the Lutheran Church and he retired at the age of 85. On April 1, 1948 Pastor Hicken was called to his eternal reward at the home of a niece in Barrington, Illinois.

THE HICKEN FAMILY



ADELBERT, PAUL, PASTOR AND MRS. HICKEN



PASTOR AND MRS. WALTER SCHWANE

1947 - 1954 THE REV. WALTER SCHWANE

Following the resignation of Pastor Hicken, the Rev. Walter Schwane became pastor of St. Paul congregation and served until 1954.

The Rev. Schwane came to Kouts from Ossian, Indiana. The installation rite for Pastor Schwane was performed by the Rev. Carl Sangers of Rensselaer.

Pastor Schwane and his wife, Helen, are the parents of seven children: Grace, Walter, John, Lois, James, Thomas and Helen.

The pastorate of Pastor Schwane was very important in the history of the congregation since many lasting improvements were made in the organization of the congregation.

During Pastor Schwane's time of service to St. Paul, the congregation was incorporated and the modern system of church officers was instituted. During this period a number of physical improvements also were made. The parsonage was remodeled; the church was redecorated; a new church organ was purchased in 1953; new furnaces were installed in the church and parish hall; new altar cloths were purchased and other minor improvements were made in the property of the congregation.

In May of 1952 the Voter's Assembly decided to discontinue services in the German language.

On May 7, 1954 Pastor Schwane left Kouts to serve the congregation at Warrentown, Missouri.



PASTOR AND MRS. LUTHER KOEPKE

1954 - THE REV. DR. LUTHER P. KOEPKE

After Pastor Schwane left Kouts, Rev. Luther P. Koepke was asked to serve as vacancy pastor. During this period of the vacancy several pastors were asked to serve the congregation. Since there was a shortage of pastors in Synod, none accepted.

Some six months passed and the congregation felt that the arrangement was satisfactory with Pastor Koepke serving the congregation in addition to his work at Valparaiso University. He was called to serve as pastor on Aug. 8, 1954. Rev. Koepke was installed on September 5, 1954 by the Rev. H.H. Kumnick of Valparaiso University.

Pastor Koepke received his education for the ministry in various schools, beginning with Christian Day School at State Center, Iowa. He attended High School and Junior College at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Valparaiso University in 1940. He received a Master of Divinity Degree from Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri and a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Texas in Austin, Texas. He obtained the Doctor of Theology Degree from Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1950.

Pastor Koepke was ordained into the ministry in Elkader, Iowa where he served as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church. During World War II he served as pastor of a Lutheran Service Center in Austin, Texas.

In 1945 he came to Valparaiso University to teach in the Department of Theology. During the years at Valparaiso University, he served as Professor of Theology, Dean of Men, Dean of Students, and as Assistant to the President for Church Relations. He also served as assistant to the pastor of Immanuel Church in Valparaiso for a number of years.

After accepting the call to serve St. Paul Congregation, Pastor Koepke continued to live in Valparaiso with his wife, Quinta, and four daughters, Marcia, Eileen, Sharon, and Judy.

During the years that he served as a Dean at Valparaiso University, Mrs. Lila Steffen Rogowski served as his secretary for 17 years. During these years Mrs. Rogowski did a great amount of work for St. Paul Church.

During the years that Pastor Koepke has served the congregation there has been a continuing growth in membership and changes and improvements have been made in many areas of the life of the congregation.

The membership has grown to over 400 communicant members with a total of some 525 including the children of pre-confirmation age.

Some of the physical improvements are the following: New pews and carpeting in the church as well as new lighting, sandblasting the exterior, window protection, and shrubbery around the church. Air conditioning was installed and a new organ purchased.

New property was obtained consisting of the lots on which the Parish Hall now stands as well as two acres for cemetery purposes on Highway 8.

In 1972 a new Parish Hall was constructed and the debt for construction retired in six years.

The increase in church attendance reached a point where it was necessary to conduct two services on Sunday morning.

The congregation has recognized Pastor Koepke and his family on various occasions with special gatherings and gifts. This included the observance of the 15th and 30th wedding anniversaries of Pastor and Mrs. Koepke, the 25th anniversary of Pastor Koepke's ordination into the ministry, also the 35th anniversary of the same event, and the 25th anniversary of Pastor Koepke serving St. Paul congregation. All of these events were carried out most graciously.

As the congregation celebrates its 100th anniversary, there is a fine spirit of mutual respect and consideration between congregation and pastor.

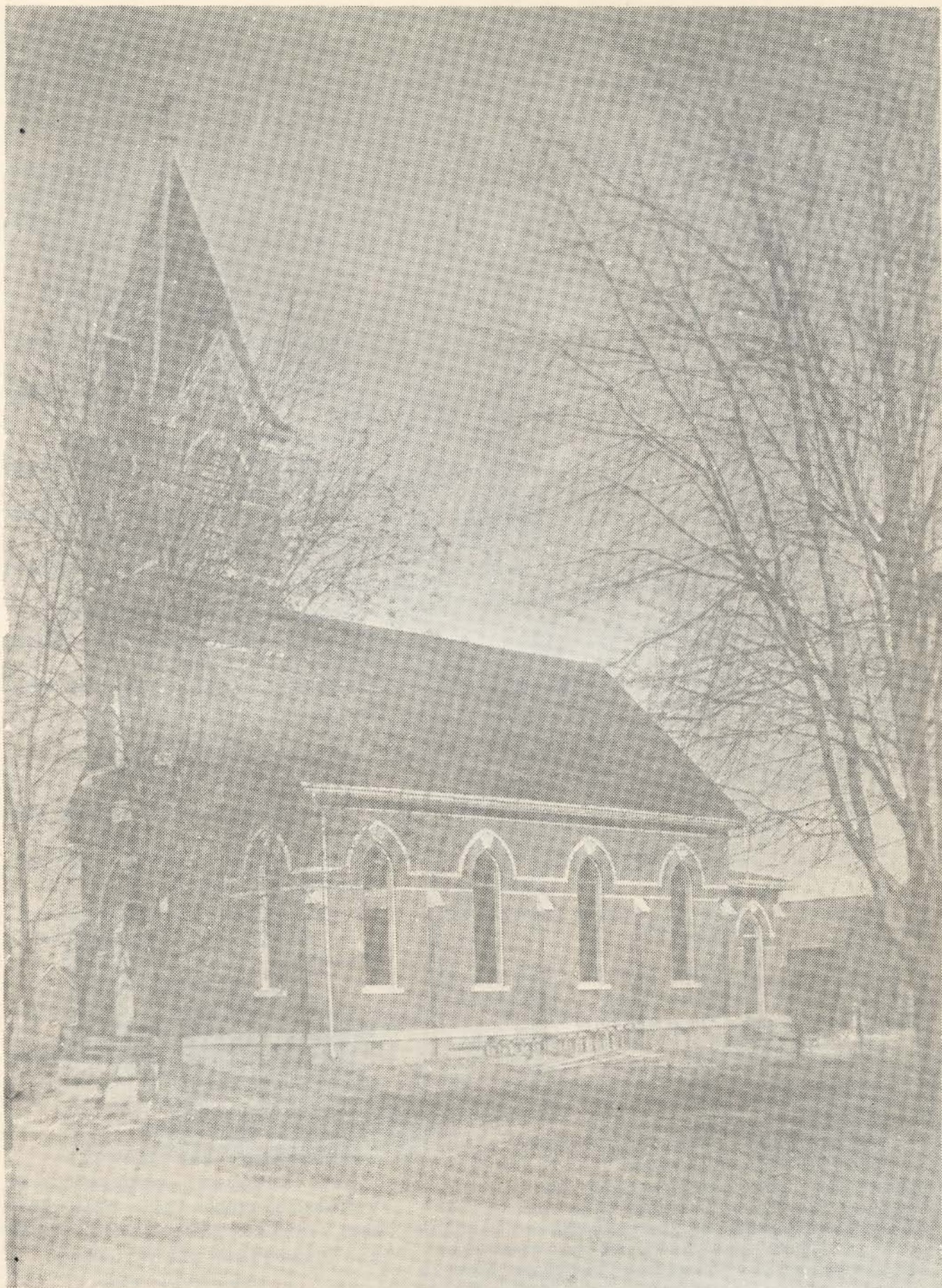


THE KOEPKE FAMILY
1957

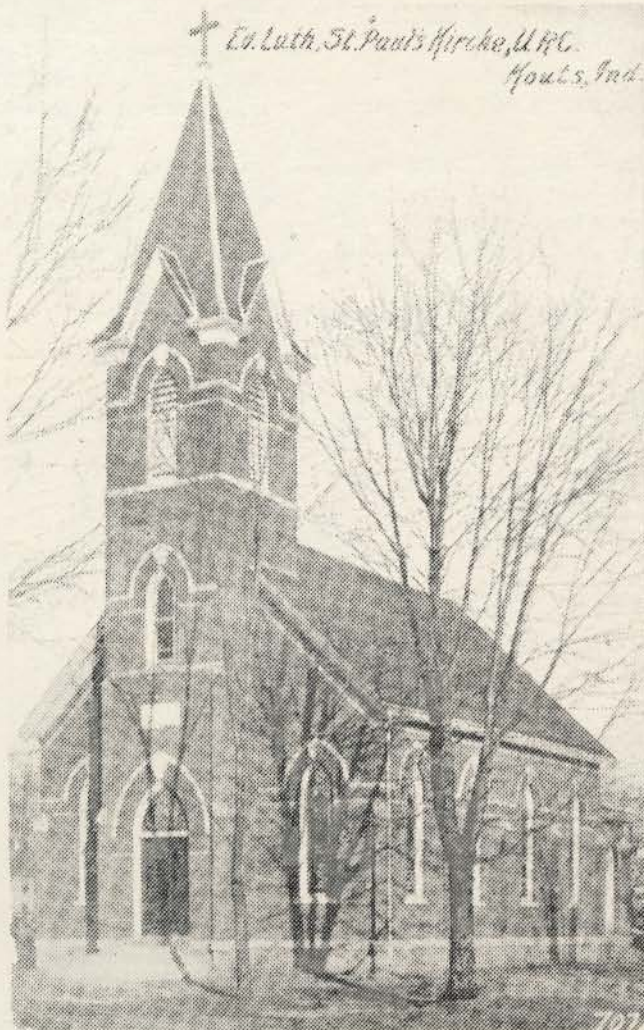


THE KOEPKE FAMILY
1971

Sharon, Judy, Eileen, Mrs. (Quinta) Koepke, Pastor Koepke and Marcia.



PRESENT CHURCH UNDER CONSTRUCTION 1908



The following article found in the Dec. 2, 1908 issue of the weekly Valparaiso newspaper.

The new German Lutheran church will be dedicated Sunday, Dec. 13. The Ladies' Aid will serve dinner. Adults twenty-five, and children ten cents.

This article found in Dec. 16 issue

CHURCH DEDICATION AT KOUTS

Valparaiso was well represented at the dedication of the German Lutheran St. Paul's Church in Kouts yesterday, Rev. P. Clausen and about thirty members of the local congregation being present. The dedication program, as published in the Vidette, was carried out. Delegations were also present from Crown Point, North Judson, Renham, Wanatah, LaCrosse and Medaryville, besides the large crowd from Kouts and vicinity. The new church starts out under the most auspicious circumstances and will be a credit to the community.

CHURCH DEDICATION.

The following is the program for the dedication of the German Lutheran St. Paul's church, Kouts, Ind., Sunday, December 13, 1908:

Forenoon.

- Song service—Congregation.
- Invocation—Rev. Hicken.
- Dedication prayer—Rev. Hicken.
- Choral song—Congregation.
- Prelude, pipe organ—Prof. Helmberg.
- Choral song—Congregation.
- Confession of the Apostles' Creed—Congregation.
- Choir song—Lutheran Choir, Valparaiso; Prof. Wolkenhauer.
- Sermon (German)—Rev. Bauman, Elmhurst, Ill.
- Song service—Congregation.
- Choir song—Concordia Choir, Kouts; Mica Rosenbaum.
- Benediction—Rev. Clausen, Valparaiso.

Afternoon.

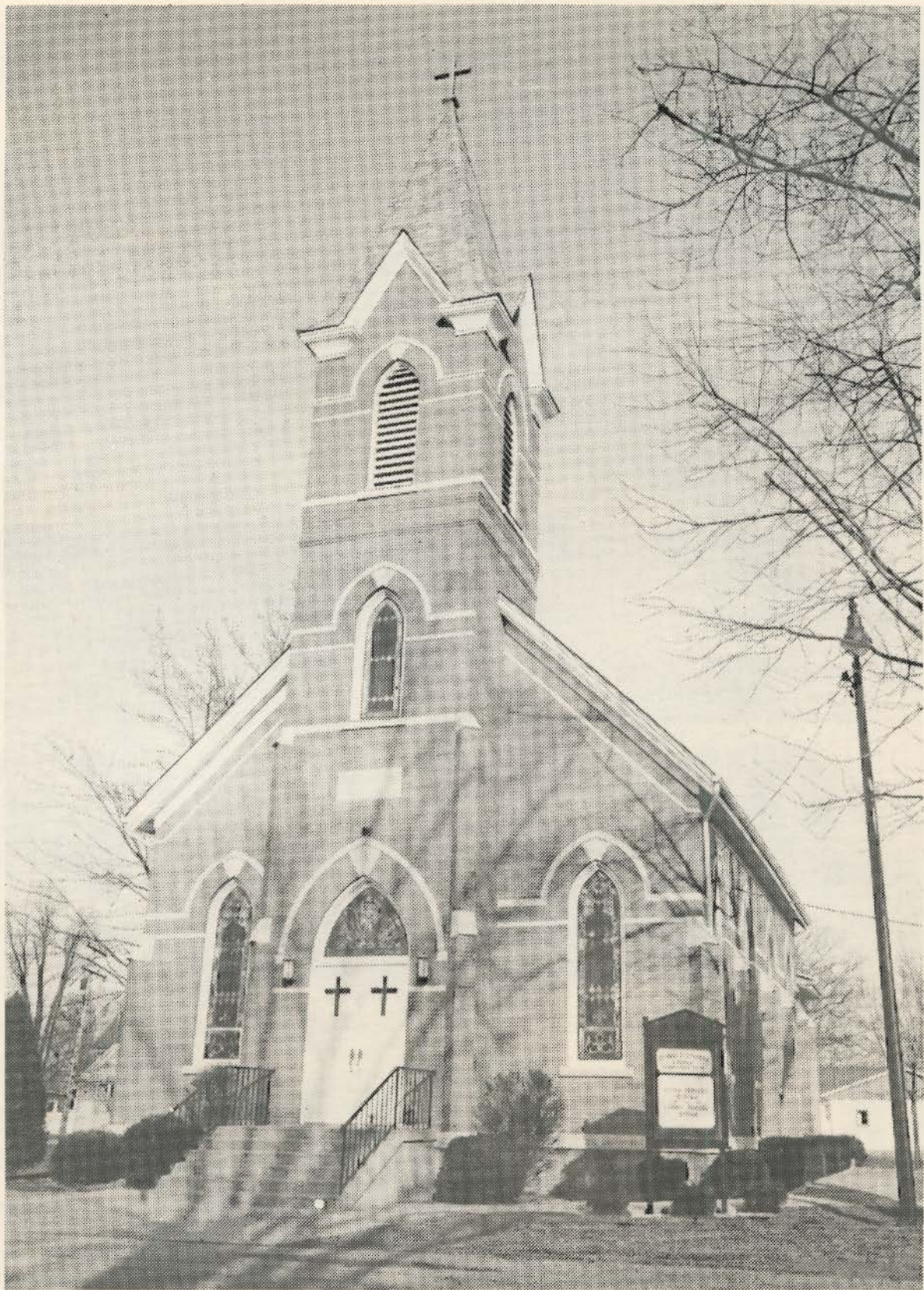
- Song service—Congregation.
- Prayer.
- Choir song—Lutheran Choir, Valparaiso.
- Sermon (German)—Rev. Shumm, Brownstown, Ind.
- Choral song—Congregation.
- Benediction — Rev. Lehmborg, Wanatah.

Evening.

- Opening prelude, organ—Prof. Helmberg.
- Sermon (English)—Rev. Both, Crown Point.
- Choral song—Congregation.
- Choir song.
- Benediction—Rev. Hicken.

The Lutheran congregations of Valparaiso, Crown Point, North Judson, Denham, Wanatah, LaCrosse and Medaryville will participate.

This found in the Dec. 9, 1908 issue



In 1908, a brick church was erected which still serves the congregation as its House of Worship. The church was erected at a cost of \$3,500.00. Since 1954, the church has been completely renovated. During this period the exterior brick was sandblasted, the floor was sanded, new light fixtures were installed with new electrical service, new pews and carpeting was acquired, new altar furnishings were given as a memorial as was a balcony railing, a new organ was purchased, communion ware was given as a memorial, the chancel was rebuilt, new steps for all entrances were built and all doors were replaced. New sidewalks have been added, shrubbery and blacktopping of parking area was completed. The church has had a new furnace installed and was air-conditioned. The roof was resingled, new eaves installed, and the basement was renovated. The church seats 200 people. On Dec. 5, 1954 the congregation retired the church debt.



*The
Building Of
A
Parish Hall*

1971 - 1972



With the growth of St. Paul congregation a pressing need was felt for some years for more adequate facilities for the Sunday School and a larger hall for meetings of larger groups.

Sporadic efforts were made during the previous years for better Sunday School rooms since classes were conducted in the church basement, in the Sunday School Annex and in the old Parish Hall.

In January of 1971 a Building Committee was appointed. In March of 1971 the Building Committee recommended to proceed with plans for a new Sunday School - Parish Hall building. This was dependent on the fact that some \$40,000.00 should be pledged toward the construction cost. On May 23 when the pledges were received the total amounted to \$70,000.00. Added to this was the \$50,000.00 which the Ladies Aid and congregation had saved toward a new building and it was decided to proceed with the construction. Construction was begun on August 1, 1971 and the building was completed and dedicated on May 14, 1972. The total cost including furnishings was \$185,000.00.

The Building Committee consisted of the following: Mr. Paul Rommelmann, chairman, Mr. Merle Schoon, Mr. Harold Rampke, Mr. Howard Wandrey, and Mr. Clifford Passuello. Mr. Richard Chael, President of the congregation and Pastor Koepke were ex officio members.

The building has been a blessing to the congregation serving the Sunday School with adequate facilities and the large hall being used by many groups for various activities.



Shown Is The Interior Of The Parish Hall





Members of the first choir were: Top row left to right: Wm. Hofferth, Gus Kruger, Wm. Rosenbaum, John Wandrey, Fred Rosenbaum, Christ Reinke, Gus Rosenbaum, Otto Kosanke. Second row: Bertha Klemm Rosenbaum, Tena Rosenbaum Shults, Lena Wiesjahn Wandrey, Minnie Chael Schreiner, Julia Steiner Rosenbaum. Lower row left to right: Emma Steiner Romboldt, Adeline Rosenbaum, Tillie Wojahn, Anna Wolbrandt Wandrey, and Emma Wandrey Young.

The Choir

In 1895 the first choir in St. Paul congregation was organized and directed by Pastor Baumann. There were 19 members and they sang for the first time in the Christmas service.

The members of the first choir were the following: Wm. Hofferth, Gus Kruger, Wm. Rosenbaum, John Wandrey, Fred Rosenbaum, Christ Reinke, Gus Rosenbaum, Otto Kosanke, Bertha Klemm Rosenbaum, Tena Rosenbaum Shults, Lena Wiesjahn Wandrey, Minnie Chael Schreiner, Julia Steiner Rosenbaum, Emma Steiner Rombolt, Adeline Rosenbaum, Tillie Wojahn, Anna Wolbrandt Wandrey, and Emma Wandrey Young.

Until 1948 the organists also directed the choir. Since 1948 the following persons have directed the choir: Mrs. Emil Hofferth, Mrs. Lois Bodamer, Mr. Norman Schnekenburger, Mrs. June Schmidt, Mrs. Barbara Tanner, and Mrs. Betty Werner.

The singing of the choir has added beauty to the worship services.

The following persons have served as organists for the congregation.

Miss Adeline Rosenbaum	1880-1906
Mrs. Martha Denzine	1906-1908
Mr. Herman Heimberg	1908-1924
Mrs. Ruth Wandrey	1924-1932
Mrs. Estrella Rosenbaum	1935-1939
Mrs. Lulu Schnekenburger	1931-1961
Mrs. Minnie Koepke	1954-1967
Mrs. Phyllis Misch	1967-present
Mrs. Betty Werner	1967-present



1932 CHOIR

CHOIR MEMBERS: Alta Hofferth, Ruth Wandrey, Mrs. Emil Hofferth, Lorena Heimberg, Lulu Rosenbaum, Minnie Koepke, Crystal Schroeder, Pearl Krug, Lois Mason, Herman Koepke, Wm. Koepke, Raymond Adams, Elbert Schnekenburger, Reine Klemz, Wm. Salzer, Leroy Heimberg, Carl Schnekenburger, Theodore Koepke, Albert Heimberg, Edward Klemz. **Not on picture:** Emil Hofferth, Caroline Haman, Lydia Prera, Anita Rosenbaum, Walter Krug, Hildegard Weise, Wm. Meonske, Agatha Heimberg, Althea Heimberg.



1980 CHOIR

Front row left to right: Organist Phyllis Misch, Jeanette Rommelmann, Joyce Snyder, Charlene Snyder, Julie Schmidt, Arlene Wilson, Phyllis Roeske, June Schmidt, and Betty Werner, choir director and organist. **Back row left to right:** Howard Wandrey, Carl Lippelt, Hilbert Roeske, Wes Birky, Jim Stone, and Wendell Werner. Lois Bodamer, not present.

The Ladies Aid Society

The Ladies Aid Society of St. Paul congregation was organized in September of 1907 by the Rev. Hicken. The group met in homes of members until 1930. Since then meetings have been held in the Parish Hall.

With twenty members present at the first meeting the officers elected were the following: President - Mrs. Ernstine Rosenbaum. Vice-President - Mrs. Charlotte Heimberg. Secretary - Mrs. Marie Hicken. Treasurer - Mrs. Minnie Denzine. Both Mrs. Hicken and Mrs. Denzine held office for thirty years.

The Ladies Aid Society has shown an active and energetic approach in all areas of the life of the congregation. They were active in the 25th anniversary celebration for Pastor Hicken, the 50th anniversary of the congregation in 1930, the 75th anniversary of the congregation in 1955 and in four celebrations for Pastor Koepke. For many years the Ladies Aid Society served a dinner in connection with Mission Sunday.

In the early years, the dues were five cents a month. In 1938 the women were instrumental in adding a kitchen to the Parish Hall. In 1953 the Aid raised funds for the building of rest rooms in the Parish Hall. In 1955 the members of the Aid purchased new carpeting for the church at a cost of \$1200.00.

On December 4 of 1957 the Ladies Aid celebrated the 50th anniversary of its organization. In 1960 the Ladies Aid gave \$300.00 for the purchase of furnishings for the Sunday School Annex. They gave \$10,000.00 for the new Parish Hall.

The Ladies Aid Society has been most helpful to the congregation in many areas of activity. In addition to the outstanding assistance to the church in the financial area, the Aid serves lunches following funerals, serves for wedding receptions, and provides the meals for such groups as the election board, the prayer breakfast, the Farm Finance Day and for other community groups as requested to do so.

Presently the Ladies Aid meets on the first Wednesday of the month with meetings devoted to Bible Study and business and ending with refreshments.

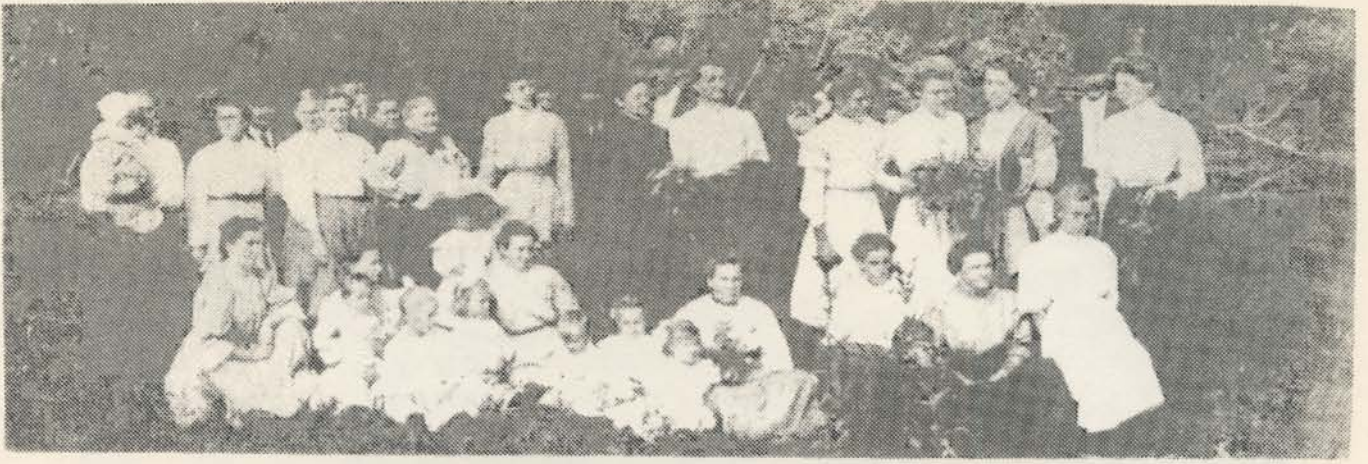
The Cheer and Sympathy Committee is active in visiting the members who are ill and hospitalized. At Christmas time all members who are 80 years of age and older are presented with a basket of fruit. The committee also contacts the family at the time of a death in the family to be of assistance in any way possible and especially in serving lunches following the funeral service.

Another committee of the Ladies Aid Society is the Altar Committee which takes care of the altar coverings and of the flowers for the altar and church. Beginning with the Easter service of 1959 the church was decorated with a large number of lilies and beginning in 1960 the church was decorated with the large number of poinsettia plants at Christmas. In 1961 the Advent Wreath was first used during the first Sunday in Advent. The Altar committee also is in charge of the paraments for the altar.

The Ladies Aid Society is the organization which has served the congregation longer than any other group. Through its dedication to the Lord's work and its active and energetic helpfulness in many area of the life of the congregation, it has a record of outstanding helpfulness in the history of St. Paul Church.



1908 LADIES AID PICNIC



THE LADIES AID - 1909



1980 LADIES AID

Front row seated left to right: Hulda Werner, Freda Chael, Flora Roeske and Marge Lippert. Standing left to right: Mabelle Hofferth, Muriel Grieger, Dora Krug, Ruth Jarnecke, Ethel Koepke, Ruth Wandrey, Frieda Schoon, Erna Lippert, Ida Cannon, Pastor Koepke, Marge Oehlman, Quinta Koepke, Louise Roeske, Hildegard Adam, Laureame Rampke and Frieda Koepke. Not present were Crystal Salzer, Thelma Haman, Lillian Pfladderer, Harriet Youngberg, Vera Gottby, Phyllis Roeske and Ann Mason.

1980 Ladies Aid Officers

President	Hulda Werner
Vice-President	Freda Chael
Secretary	Flora Roeske
Treasurer	Marge Lippert
Cheer & Sympathy Committee	Muriel Grieger
	Crystal Salzer
	Freda Chael
Altar Committee	Ruth Jarnecke
	Irene Claussen
	Beverly Lippelt
Social Committee	Hildegard Adam
L.W.M.L. Representative	Marge Lippert

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League was organized in 1948 for the purpose of discussing and contributing to the work of missions throughout the world. The first officers were the following: President - Mrs. Marge Lippert. Vice-President - Mrs. Ella Williams. Secretary - Mrs. Juanita Roeske and Treasurer - Mrs. Irene Haman.

Prior to 1964 the L.W.M.L. met once every three months. The meeting consisted of a topic study from the L.W.M.L. Quarterly. There also was a business session and a social hour.

During the early years of the organization the group appointed captains who would call at the homes of members, deliver the Quarterly and collect mite boxes. After 1960 the mite boxes were no longer used and mite envelopes were distributed with the Quarterly, and these envelopes were placed on the offering plate.

Since January of 1964 the Lutheran Women's Missionary League has not held separate meetings but carries on its functions in connection with meetings of the Ladies Aid Society.

The Sunday School

By early 1931 with a growing congregation and a larger number of children, a need was felt for a Sunday School for the church. Rev. Hicken with the assistance of Mrs. Emil Hofferth was instrumental in organizing the Sunday School. Together with the church council, Mr. Emil Grieger, Mr. Emil Hofferth and Mr. Gust Lippert were active in opening the Sunday School on May 12, 1931 with an attendance of 81.

Mrs. Emil Hofferth was the first superintendent and served in that capacity for 16 years. She also taught in the Sunday School for 19 years. Others among the first teachers were the following: Alma Rosenbaum, Henrietta Denzine, Doris Miller, and Margaret Rosenbaum.

Besides Mrs. Hofferth the following persons served as superintendent of the Sunday School: Mr. Wilbur Lippert, 1947-1952. Mr. Wm. Roeske, 1953. Mr. Ted Schroeder, 1954-1957. Mr. Martin Weise, 1957. Mr. Merle Schoon, 1958-1961. Mr. Howard Wandrey, 1962-1963. Mr. Paul Rommelmann, 1964-1968. Mr. Wilbur Lippert, 1969-1972. Mr. Dennis Miller, 1973-1975. Mrs. Violette Martin, 1976 to the present.

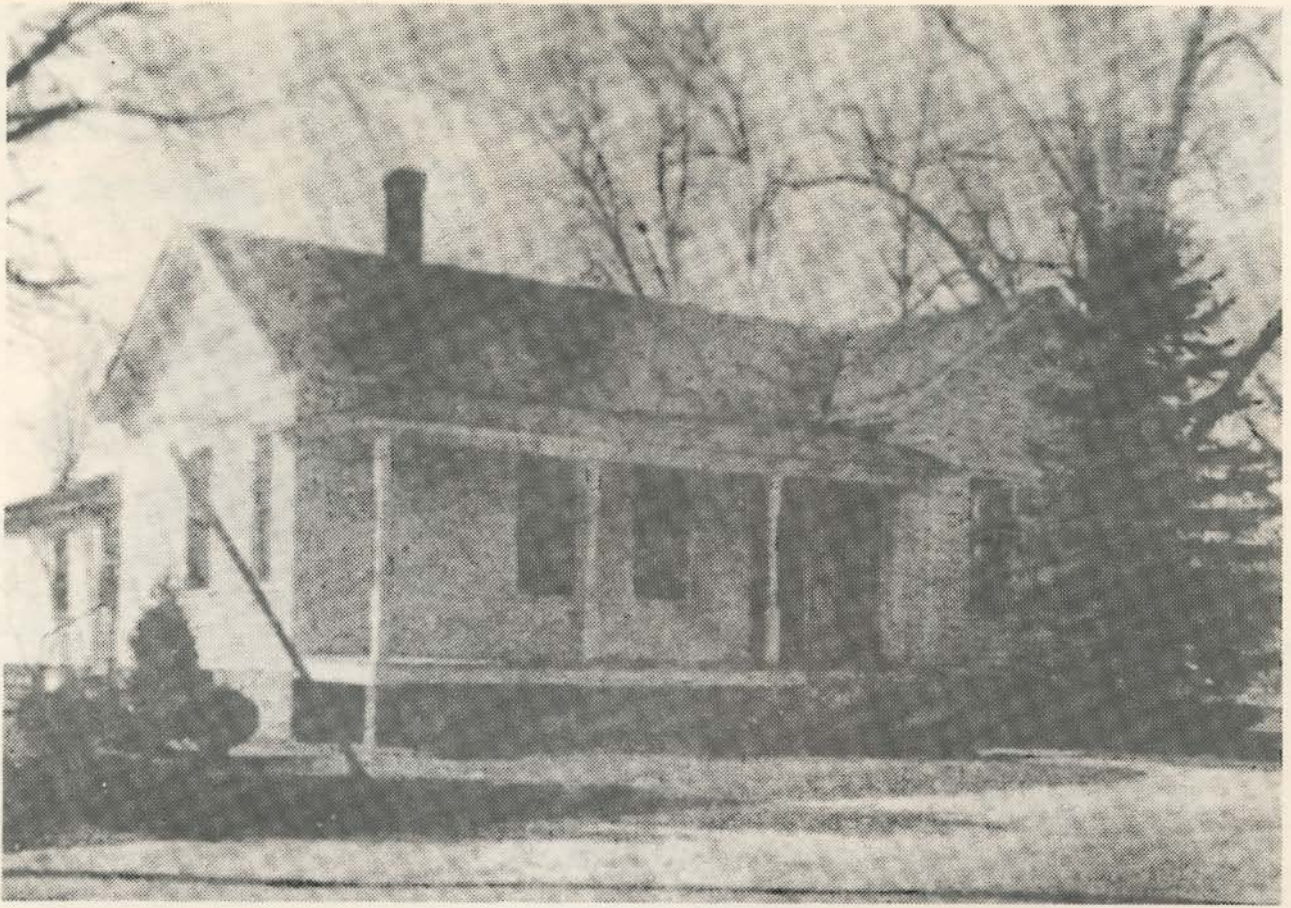
In February of 1956 the enrollment called for additional space and the basement of the church was renovated for Sunday School classes. In June of 1960 the Lena Wandrey property was purchased for additional Sunday School space and called the Sunday School Annex.

By 1971 a pressing need was felt for better Sunday School facilities which led to the building of the Sunday School-Parish Hall facility.

The significant work of the Sunday School is carried on by the Sunday School teachers on Sunday mornings when the Bible stories and Bible values are taught to the children. The Sunday School children present the Christmas Eve Children's service.

A Bible Class for those of High School age was organized in 1947 and an Adult Bible Class was started in 1949. In 1948 the first Vacation Bible School was held.

The important work of the Sunday School is still being carried on faithfully by a dedicated staff.



Sunday School Annex



1948 First Vacation

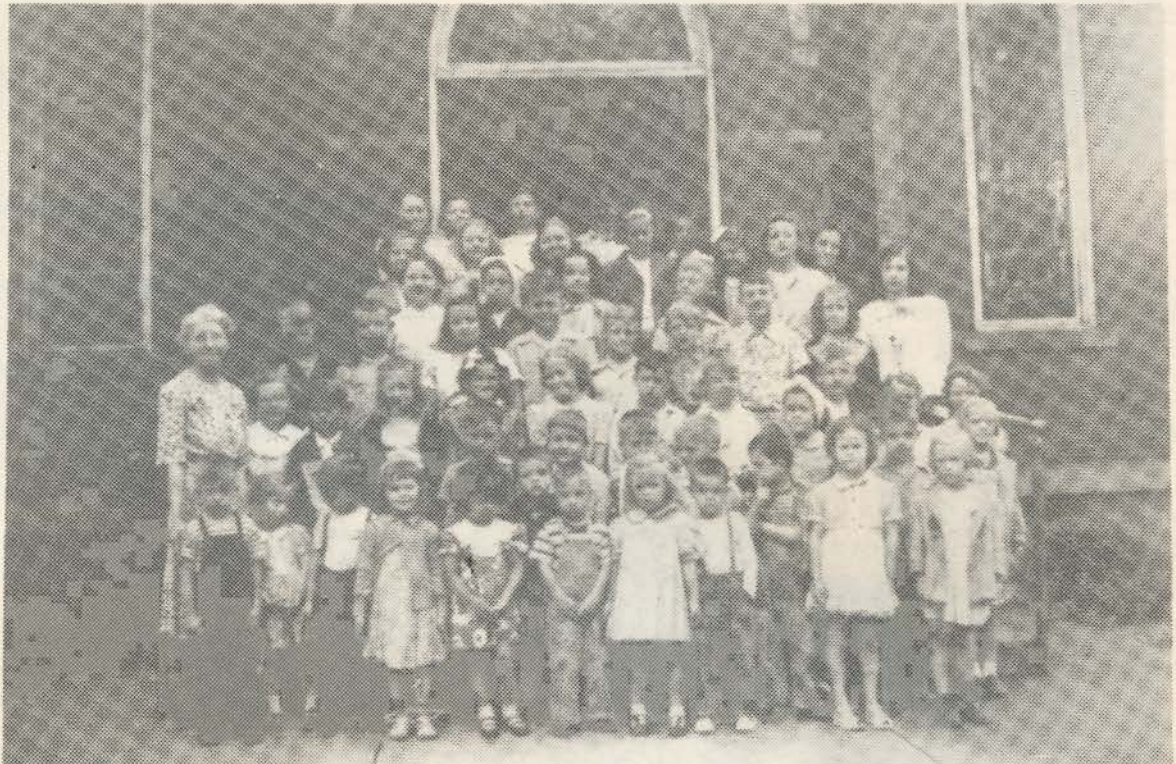
Bible School Staff

Front row: Betty Brietzke French,
Pastor Schwane, Vivian Schultz.
Back row: Ella Williams, Minnie
Denzine, Lulu Schneidenburger.



1980 SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Sunday School Staff seated left to right: Violette Martin, Sunday School Superintendent; Debbie Buechner, June Schmidt, Jane Gesse, Sharon Simons and Jesse Dillon. Standing left to right: Mary Werner, Vivian Schultz, Donna Werner, Wendy Wagner, Lee Ann Kneifel, Julie Schmidt and Judy Marshall. Not present Sandra Kraatz.



1948 - First Vacation Bible School



SUNDAY SCHOOL - 1980



SUNDAY SCHOOL - 1980

Lutheran Youth Fellowship Group

The first Young People's Society was organized by Pastor Hicken. The meetings as well as the social activities were held at the various homes for many years. This approach was followed until the early 1940's.

Since synod had a young peoples organization known as the Walther League, the young people of St. Paul Church invited Mr. Hilbert Roeske of Immanuel Church in Valparaiso to present information about the Walther League. In 1946 the youth of the congregation voted to join the Walther League.

In 1960 Mr. and Mrs. Phil Soliday became the first counselors to the group. Students from Valparaiso University who were in training as youth workers also assisted with the young people. Other counselors were Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kuehl, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schoon, Mr. and Mrs. Wes Birky, Mr. and Mrs. James Stone, Wendy Wagner, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Werner. The meetings consisted of Bible Study and social activities.

Since the Walther League organization of synod was disbanded for lack of interest, the local group took the name Lutheran Youth Fellowship Group. This name was later used by synod for its young people's organization.

In 1972 the young people published and sold cookbooks and are doing this again in connection with the 100th anniversary. The group meets each Sunday morning for Bible study and has a variety of social activities.



Lutheran Youth Group, front row seated, left to right and present officers, Pres. Julie Schmidt, Vice-Pres. Razona Butler, Treas. Sara Rommelmann, Sec. Julie Dillon. First row standing, left to right, Lisa Rommelmann, Donna Miller, sponsors Donna and Andy Werner, Lee Ann Kneifel and Chris Snow. Back row Kevin Birky, Michael Schmidt, Lester Passuello and Daryl Iseminger. Not present Brad Wandrey, Leslie Haman, Fred Martin, Julie Iseminger and Michelle Wallace.



Sunday Evening Social Group Officers, left to right, Marlene & Harold Haman, Sec.-Treas., June & James Schmidt, President.

The Sunday Evening Social Group

On June 12, 1960, a new organization was formed in the congregation called the Sunday Evening Social Group. This organization had as its purpose social activities so that members could become better acquainted due to the growing membership. At the meetings there also was to be religious discussions and Bible study.

The first officers were the following: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chael, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Schoon and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kroft.

The Sunday Evening Social Group has been most active and beneficial to the life of the congregation.

At the present time the group sponsors the Easter breakfast which started in 1963; decorating the church and Parish Hall for Christmas since 1963; serving coffee and rolls following the church service since 1969. They also sponsor the Blueberry Social and have done so since 1971. The Mother-Daughter banquet is sponsored by the group since 1972 and there was a Father-Son banquet held by this group for three years.

On September 5, 1965 the group sponsored a centennial float for the anniversary of the Town of Kouts and operated a food stand at this celebration.

The Sunday Evening Social Group has met its purposes of fostering contact among members to a greater degree and also has assisted the congregation a great deal in the financial area.

The Quilting Group

In the early 1950's a group of women who enjoy quilting met at the Parish Hall to quilt one afternoon a week. When the Sunday School Annex was acquired, they moved to this facility and now quilt in the new Parish Hall. The women enjoy this activity related to quilting as well as the social contact.

All monies received from quilting have been given to the church. They have purchased flags for the church and contributed generously to the money needed for the new Parish Hall and for special projects connected with the 100th anniversary.



Quilting Group, front seated from left to right, Esther Wray, Marge Rosenbaum and Ruth Wandrey. Back standing, Hulda Werner, Jeanette Rommelmann and Freda Chael. Not present, Augusta Lippert.



THE PARSONAGE

In February of 1896 St. Paul congregation acquired a parsonage to serve as a residence for its pastors. The parsonage was located one block north of the original church on the northwest corner of College and Rose streets.

The parsonage was occupied by pastors until September 1954 when it was sold. Since Pastor Koepke had his own residence in Valparaiso the parsonage was not needed.

The Cornerstone

When the second church building was erected in 1908, the minutes of Immanuel Church in Valparaiso have the following statement relating to the laying of the cornerstone for St. Paul Church.

"It was resolved to omit worship services on August 9, inasmuch as the church in Kouts will have a cornerstone laying."

The Centennial Committee of St. Paul church intended to open the cornerstone to see what information it contained. However, the cornerstone could not be located and it is assumed that it was covered by the cement steps that were installed in 1962.

The local branch of the Aid Association for Lutherans is furnishing a capsule which will contain information about this centennial celebration and other matters relating to the congregation.

No cornerstone was included in the building of the Parish Hall in 1972.

The Cemetery

St. Paul congregation established a cemetery in June of 1899. The cemetery is located on Highway 8 about two miles west of Kouts.

In October of 1967 an additional two acres of land was purchased to the east of the original cemetery and separated by the Catholic cemetery.

This area has been developed and is available for use. The cemetery is operated by a Cemetery Committee under the direction of the Voter's Assembly.



Miscellaneous Pictures



CONFIRMATION CLASS 1896 - Pastor Bauman, Amanda Steiner, Hulda Gesse, Etta Benkie, Minnie Krueger, Francis Krown, Julius Kosanke, Gust Klemm, Wm. Denzine, Otto Lippert, Frank Rosenbaum, Henry Chael, Otto Kronn, Ernest Wandrey, Christ Denzine, Fred Hofferth.



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 1908 - Front row, left to right - Harry Kruell, Gust Lippert, Herman Honehouse, Rev. Hicken, Pearl Trinkle, Mata Walters, and Fred Behrends. Second Row, left to right - Emil Hofferth, Henry Wandrey, Otto Walters, and Herman Wandrey.



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 1909 - Edward Wandrey, Albert Honehouse, Arthur Heimberg, Martin Walters, William Walters, Delbert Hicken, Henry Kechel, William Schultz, William Kechel, Arthur Bandemer. Girls: Idalene Trinkle, Alvina Schultz, Metha Miller, Mabel Kneifel, Mabelle Salzer, Bertha Wandrey, Tillie Wandrey.



1911 CONFIRMATION CLASS - Esther Kneifel Hall, Ruth Wandrey, Hulda Sommers Eddy, Pastor Hicken, Eva Rosenbaum Nelson, Adaline Schultz Manty and Ed Walter.



1914 CONFIRMATION CLASS - 1st row - Lydia Rosenbaum Jones, Erna Machler Lippert. 2nd row - Huldah Young Peterson, Leona Rosenbaum Wilson, Anna Hartman, Hattie Hartman.



1915 CONFIRMATION CLASS - left to right - Mabel Arndt Fitch, Minnie Klemz Sandberg, Laura Weisjahn Young, Martha Miller Yelton, Mildred Kneifel Hall, Eleanor Haman Stassen, the Rev. H. Hicken, Arthur Behrends, Kurt Spencer, Leonard Jahnz, Herman Koepke and George Arndt.



1934 CONFIRMATION CLASS - Back Row - Harold Luken, Leslie Gesse, John Chael, Ernest Moench, Raymond Gesse, Lester Mankin. Front Row - Orma Sandberg, Norma Lippert, Angeline Parthun, Alice Roeske.



1940 CONFIRMATION CLASS - Rev. H. Hicken, Lila Steffen Rogowski, Marjorie Reinke Wallwin, Charlotte Eggert Floersch, Thomas Chael and Donald Lippert.



1946 CONFIRMATION CLASS - Rev. Hicken's last class - 1st Row - Melvin Haman, Harold Haman, Pastor Hicken, Howard Florer. Second Row - Anita Adan Vaughn, Marlene Miller Skinner, Shirley Daumer Pfladderer, Marjorie Wadsworth Lippert, Althea Florer Williams, Ruth Krug Jarnecke, Betty Bodamer Wandrey. Back Row - Carl Florer, Howard Wandrey.



1948 CONFIRMATION CLASS - Rev. Schwane's First Class - Front Row - Eleanor Krug Peregrine, Pastor Schwane, Margaret Adam Ruge. Back Row - Paul Eggert, John Struve, Jeanette Eggert Ross, Robert Bodamer, Carl Schneidenburger.



1955 CONFIRMATION CLASS - Pastor Koepke's 1st Class - Front Row - Sandra Schnekenburger Good, Mary Jean Struve Martin, Gordon Roeske. Second Row - Edith Gilson Young, Phyllis Schoon Misch, Violette Brietzke Martin, Charles Mason. Back Row - Pastor Koepke, Ben Martin, Bernard Kroft.



1980 CONFIRMATION CLASS - Front Row, left to right - Danny Lawrence and Michelle Spriggs. Back Row, left to right - Lisa Sandberg, Pastor Koepke and Michael Schmidt.



1900 LADIES AID PICNIC



1908 LADIES AID PICNIC



1908 LADIES AID PICNIC



1908 MISSION FESTIVAL



1910 MISSION FESTIVAL



1910 MISSION FESTIVAL



Mission Festival at St Paul's Church, 1913
1913 MISSION FESTIVAL



EASTER SUNDAY 1980 - 1st Service



EASTER SUNDAY 1980 - 2nd Service



EASTER SUNDAY 1980 - 1st Service



EASTER SUNDAY 1980 - 2nd Service



Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Wandrey

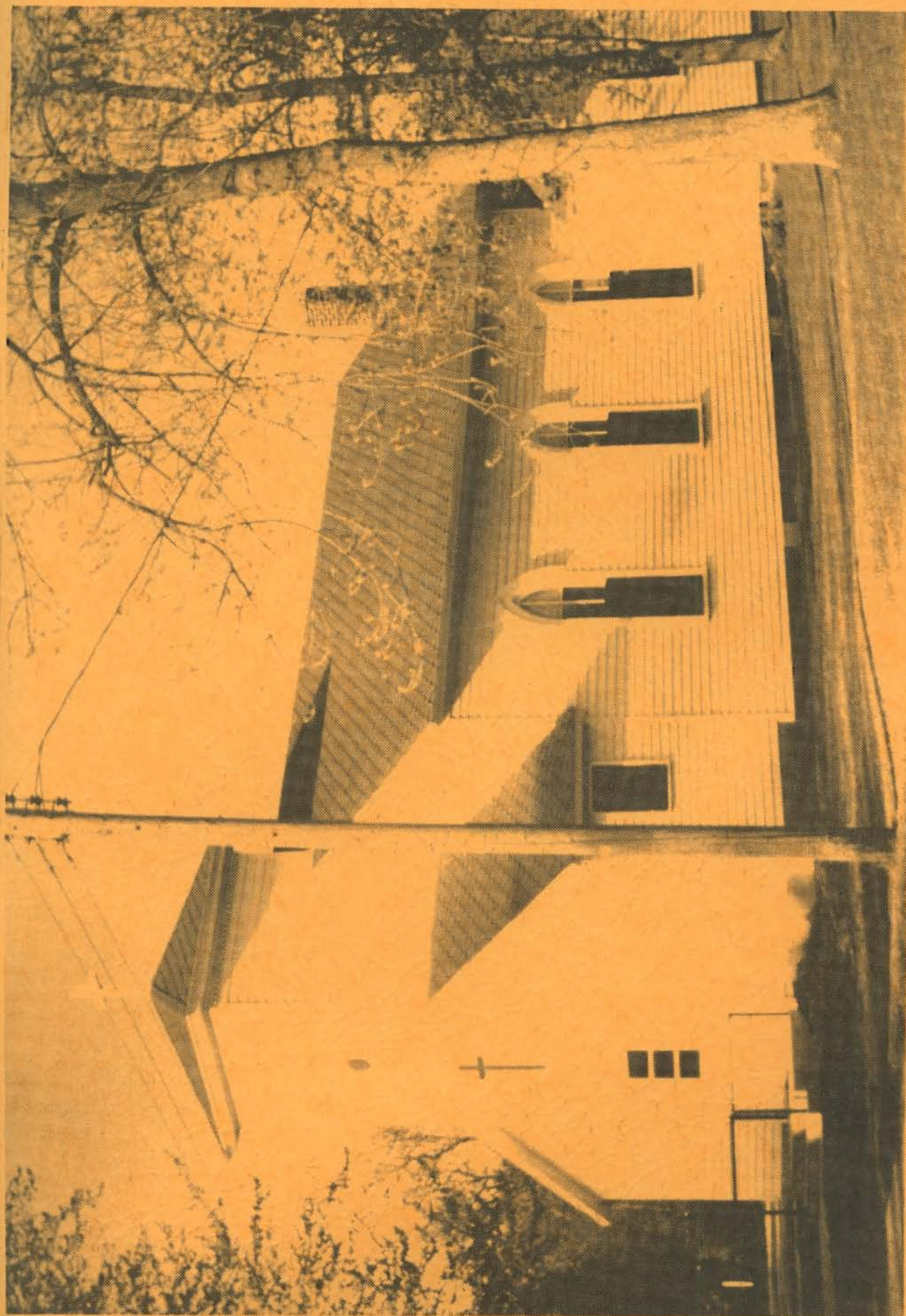


Mr. & Mrs. August Hofferth



Ludwig Schultz

**Pictures submitted of 3 men of the
15 who signed the constitution in 1873.**



1972 JUST BEFORE TAKEN DOWN

