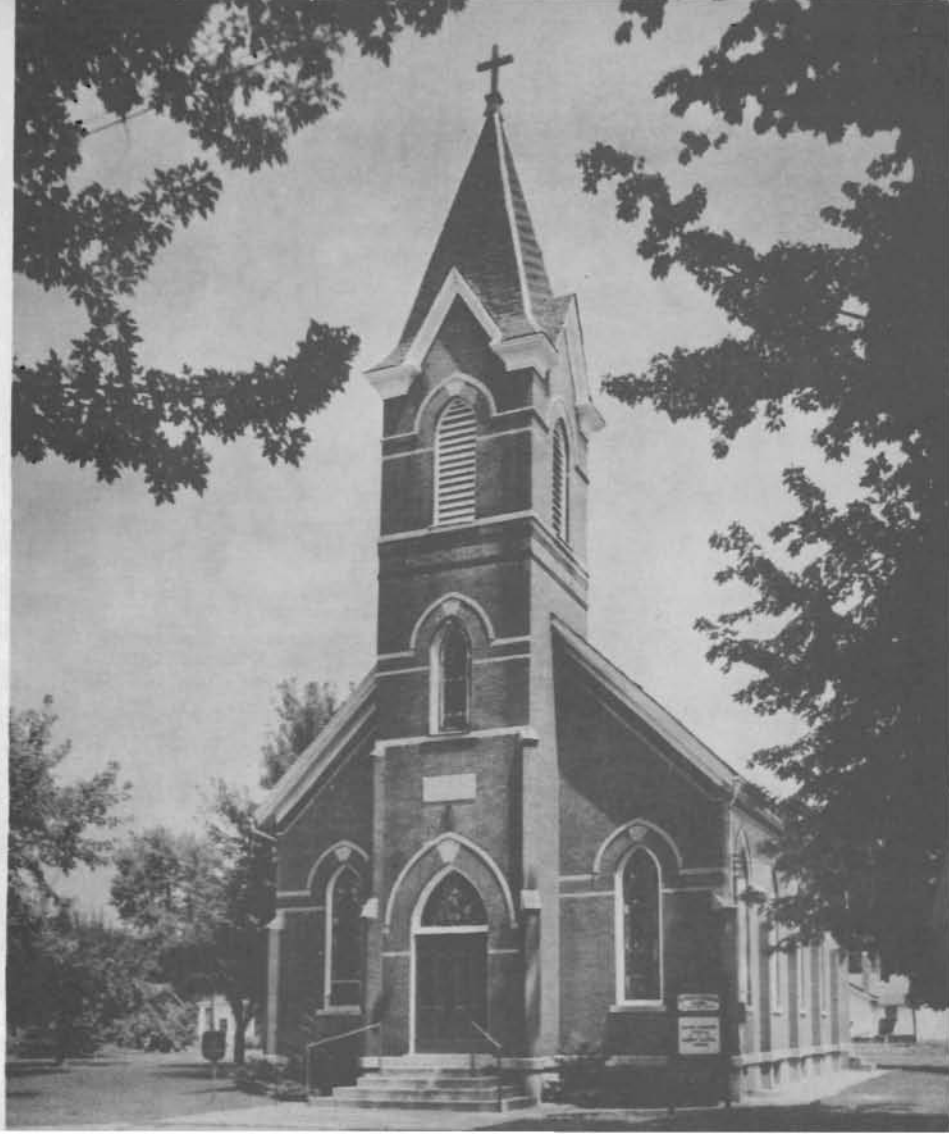


75th
Anniversary

1880-1955

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Kouts, Indiana





INTERIOR OF PRESENT CHURCH

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1873 - 1880

The first 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.

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 members of the congregation as nearly as can be ascertained from the minutes of the congregation were the following: F. Wolbrandt, Gottlieb Pontow, August Steinke, Frederick Tight, John Hoffurth, Stephen Beck, Ludwig Pahl, Gottlieb Wandrey, Wm. Klemm, Ludwig Schultz, and John Guelow.

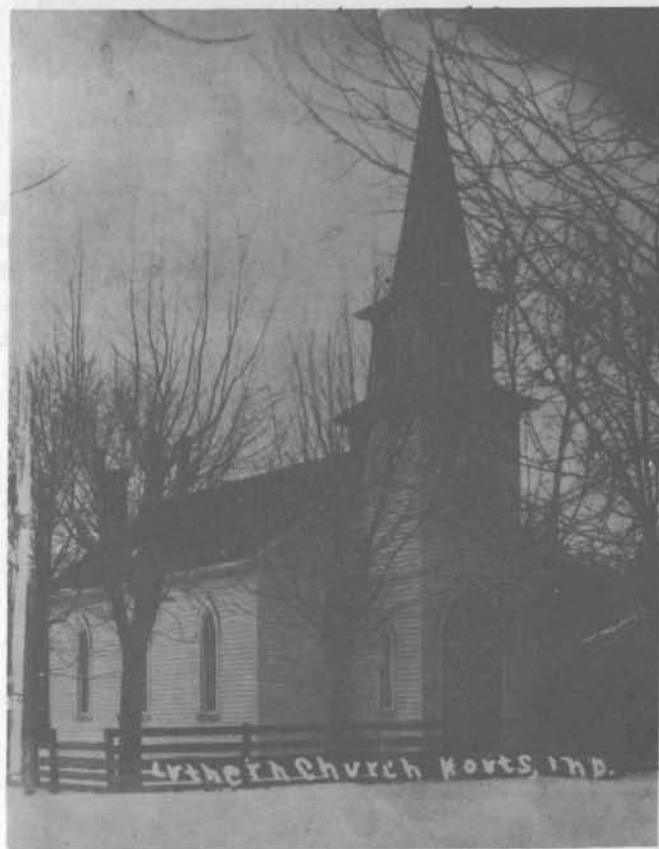
During this time divine services were conducted in the homes of the various members of the congregation, usually on Sunday afternoon when one of the pastors would come to Kouts from a nearby community to conduct the services.

The first organist to serve the congregation was Miss Adeline Rosenbaum who served as organist from 1880 to 1906.

The first child baptized was Carl August Huebner, baptized on July 15, 1873.

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

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. This building still stands and serves St. Paul's congregation as a Parish Hall.

Mrs. John Kneifl, 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's was served by the Rev. Philipp 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, Mathilide 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's church experienced a gradual growth, consisting chiefly of Lutheran immigrants who settled in the Kouts area.

1894 - 1899

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

The work of pastor Bauman 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. Bauman the first choir was organized in St. Paul's congregation.

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

1899 - 1905

In 1899 the Rev. Otto Schumm became pastor of St. Paul's 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. Thieln who purchased it from St. Peter's Lutheran Church in North Judson.

During the time that pastor Schumm served St. Paul's church, the congregation continued its gradual growth.

1905 - 1906

During the relatively short period from 1905 to 1906 the Rev. Arthur Both served the Lutherans in Kouts. During the pastorate of Rev. Both the first English services were conducted in the church. Even though these English ser-

vices were not conducted regularly they nevertheless served as the groundwork for the future change to the English language in conducting services.



PASTOR and MRS. BAUMAN

THE CHOIR

The first choir in St. Paul's congregation was organized and directed by Pastor Baumann and the twenty members sang for the first time during the Christmas services. Miss Adeline Rosenbaum was the organist for the choir and she also served as the director. When Mrs. Wm. Denzine became the organist she directed a small choir which sang during special services.

While Mr. Herman Heimberg served as organist he organized a men's choir.

Pastor Hicken was interested in having a young people's choir and he instructed the confirmation classes in singing the liturgy as well as singing in church services.

In 1924 the St. Paul's Lutheran Choir was organized. Mrs. Fred Wandrey was the organist and director of the choir for eight years. In 1932 Mrs. Lulu Schnekenburger became the organist and choir director. This choir presented three Easter and Lenten cantatas.

In 1938 Mrs. Emil Hofferth organized a Junior Choir of twelve members which she directed for a few years.

The present choir was organized in 1954 by Mrs. Robert Bodamer and Mrs. Minnie Koepke.



ST. PAUL'S CHOIR, 1895—From left to right top row: Wm. Hofferth (Huffert), Gus Krueger, Wm. Rosenbaum, John Wandrey, Fred Rosenbaum, Wm. Reinke, Gus Rosenbaum, Otto Kosanke. Second row: Bertha (Rosenbaum) Klemm, Tena (Shults) Rosenbaum, Rev. Bauman, Lena Wiesjahn Wandrey, Minnie Shreiner Chael, Julia (Rosenbaum) Steiner. Lower row: Emma (Romboldt) Steiner, Adeline Rosenbaum, Tillie Wojahn, Anna (Woolbrandt) (Wandrey), Emma (Young) Wandrey.

CHOIR MEMBERS: Alta Hofferth, Ruth Wandrew, 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.



1907 - 1947

In 1907 the Rev. Hicken became pastor of St. Paul's and served the congregation with distinction for forty years.

In 1908 the new church was erected and still serves as the place of worship for the congregation. The brick church was built at a cost of \$3500.00 and was constructed by the Foster Lumber Co. of Valparaiso. Mr. Charles Leidel was the chief carpenter.

The first baby to be baptized by the Rev. Hicken after coming to Kouts was William Salzer who serves as vice-president of our congregation today.

Rev. Hicken was born in Germany where he received his education. Rev. Hicken taught school at Crystal Lake, Illinois and in 1907 he taught in the parish school of Immanuel congregation in Valparaiso.

At the dedication of the new church building on Sunday, December 13, 1908 three services were conducted. In the morning service the liturgy was read by the Rev. Hicken and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Bauman of Elmhurst, Illinois. The choir was under the direction of Prof. Wolkenhauer of Valparaiso and the Concordia Choir of St. Paul's congregation was under the direction of Miss Adeline Rosenbaum. The benediction was given by the Rev. Clausen of Valparaiso.



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.

The afternoon service was conducted as a song service with the Rev. Shumm of Brownstown, Indiana as the preacher. The benediction was spoken by the Rev. Lehmberg of Wanatah.

The evening service opened with a prelude by Prof. Heimberg. The Rev. Both of Crown Point preached the sermon in the English language.

The Lutheran congregations of Valparaiso, Crown Point, North Judson, Wanatah, LaCrosse, and Medaryville participated in the dedication of the new church building.

On November 9, 1930 a new organ was dedicated at St. Paul's church. The newspaper clipping of this occasion reads in part as follows. "It's first sweet harmonious strains were heard in the beautiful prelude played by Mrs. Ruth Wandrey, the organist, after which the congregation joined in a number of hymns, among them the ever new reformation hymn, A Might Fortress Is Our God. Several Scripture readings were given by Rev. Hicken, pastor of the church.

"The choir sang two select numbers under the able leadership of Mrs. Ruth Wandrey who is to be complimented for her capability as an organist and leader.

"The congregation hopes to enjoy many more services throughout the years to come, accompanied by their new organ, which was installed by Lyon-Healy of Chicago."

In 1922 electric lights were installed in the church building.

In 1941 the vacant lot north of the church was purchased by the Ladies' Aid. A basement was added to the church and a kitchen was added to the parish hall during the time that pastor Hicken served St. Paul's.

On June 15, 1943 St. Paul's congregation celebrated the 61st anniversary of Pastor Hicken's service to the Luth-

eran church as well as the 60th anniversary of the marriage of pastor and Mrs. Hicken.

On April 9, 1947 pastor Hicken retired as pastor of St. Paul's congregation after having served in Kouts for forty years. Pastor Hicken had completed 65 years of service in the Missouri Synod 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.



PASTOR H. HICKEN

St. Paul's Ladies' Aid

The Ladies' Aid of St. Paul's congregation was organized in September 1907 by the Rev. Hicken. The organizational meeting took place in the parsonage. Since its organization, the Ladies' Aid has been an active and energetic group, helping the congregation in many ways.

At the first meeting of this group there were about 20 women present. The first officers were as follows: President: Mrs. Ernstine Rosenbaum, Vice-President: Mrs. Charlotte Heimberg, Secretary: Mrs. Marie Hicken, Treasurer: Mrs. Minnie Denzine. Mrs. Denzine held office in the Ladies' Aid for thirty years.

Until 1930 the meetings of the Ladies' Aid were held in the homes of the different members. Beginning in 1930 the meetings were conducted in the Parish Hall. Eleven of

the charter members of the Aid still are living and are active as members of St. Paul's and the Ladies' Aid.

In addition to the regular assistance which the Ladies' Aid has given to the congregation there were several examples of larger efforts for the welfare of the congregation. In 1938 the Ladies' Aid contributed \$1408.34 for the building of the kitchen which was added to the Parish Hall. In 1953 the Aid raised funds of \$800.00 toward 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.

The members of the Ladies' Aid continue to serve the congregation on many occasions by preparing meals and assisting at various functions. At the present time the membership of the Aid numbers fifty members.



THE LADIES' AID—1909

The Sunday School

In the early years of the congregation many of the Lutheran Children of St. Paul's were attending the Sunday School of other denominations. In noticing the need for a Sunday School in St. Paul's church, Mrs. Emil Hofferth was instrumental in starting this Sunday School. Mr. Emil Hofferth, together with Mr. Emil Grieger and Gust Lippert promoted the organization of the Sunday School through the Church Council. Together with Pastor Hicken, the Voter's Assembly decided to open a Sunday School and the first meeting of the Sunday School was held on May 12, 1931. At the first session there were 81 children in attendance.

The first teachers of the Sunday School were the following: Alma Rosenbaum, Henrietta Denzine, Doris Miller, Margaret Rosenbaum, and Mrs. Emil Hofferth who was appointed as the superintendent and who served in that office until 1947, and taught in the Sunday School until 1951.

The cost of the Sunday School's operation for the first year was \$36.20.

In 1938 the Sunday School donated one hundred dollars to the treasury of the congregation, and since that time has been donating regularly for mission projects of the church.

The following have served as Sunday School Superintendents: Mrs. Emil Hofferth, 1931-1947. Mr. Wilbur Lippert, 1947-1952. Mr. Wm. Roeske, 1953. Mr. Ted Schroeder, 1954 and still serving in this capacity. The organizers for the Sunday School at the present time are Miss Jeanette Werner and Miss Barbara Haman.

A Bible Class for those in High School was organized in 1947 and the Adult Bible Class was organized in 1949.

The Walther League

During the time that Pastor Hicken served St. Paul's congregation he met with an organization known as The Young Peoples Group. In 1946 the young people decided to join with the young people's organization of Synod and became known as the Walther League.

In order to get an understanding of the operation of the Walther League, Mr. Hilbert Roeske of Immanuel congregation in Valparaiso met with the young people of St. Paul's and discussed the Walther League organization. The young people of St. Paul's joined the International Walther League and this organization is functioning actively today.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League was organized in the congregation in 1948. Mrs. Gruenhagen of Crown Point, a district officer of the L.W.M.L. was present at the organizational meeting and gave an overview of the organization and its activity.

The first officers of the L.W.M.L. were the following: President: Mrs. Wilbur Lippert, Vice President: Mrs. Ella Williams, Secretary: Mrs. Herbert Roeske, Treasurer: Mrs. Robert Haman.

One of our members, Mrs. Harold Williams, has served as a Zone officer, being elected to the office of Vice-President of the Zone.

The L.W.M.L. meets four times a year for the purpose of discussing mission work and contributes to the work of missions through the mite boxes.

1947 - 1954

Following the resignation of pastor Hicken, the Rev. Walter Schwane became pastor of St. Paul's 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.

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's, the congregation was incorporated and the modern system of church officers was instituted. During this period a great number of physical improvements also were made. The parsonage was remodeled, the church was redecorated, a new church organ was purchased, 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.

The important organization of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League was begun during the time that pastor Schwane served in St. Paul's church.

On March 7, 1954 pastor Schwane left Kouts to serve the congregation at Warrenton, Missouri, and the members of St. Paul's are appreciative of the many important advances that were made during the pastorate of the Rev. Schwane.

1954 --

Following a vacancy of some six month, the Rev. Dr. Luther P. Koepke became pastor of St. Paul's congregation. Rev. Koepke had served as vacancy pastor in St. Paul's

congregation in addition to carrying on his work as Dean of Men at Valparaiso University. Since the congregation felt that this arrangement was satisfactory for the congregation, Rev. Koepke was called to serve as pastor and was installed on September 5, 1954 by the Rev. H. H. Kumnick of Valparaiso University.

During the past year new carpeting has been placed into the church, new altar furnishings have been acquired, new pews have been installed, and other improvements have been added.

The membership of the congregation at present is 273 communicants and 394 baptized members.

OFFICIAL ACTS-1873-1954

Baptisms	289
Confirmations	343
Marriages	132
Funerals	155

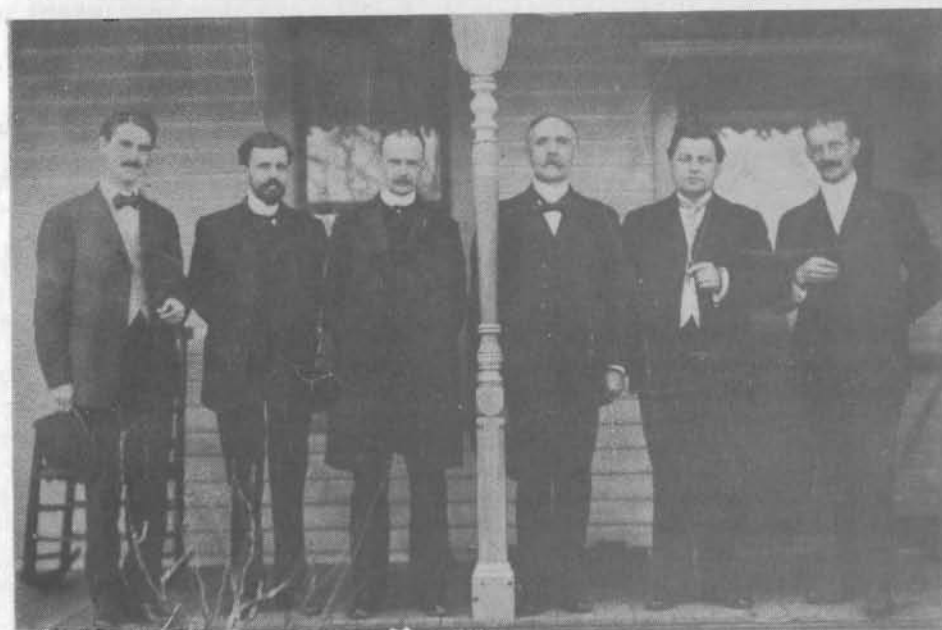
PASTORS WHO SERVED ST. PAUL'S

Rev. Phillip Schmidt	
Rev. W. J. Lange	
Rev. Adolph Dunzing	
Rev. Albert Baumann	1894-1899
Rev. Otto Schumm	1899-1903
Rev. Arthur Both	1905-1906
Rev. Hicco Hicken	1907-1947
Rev. Walter Schwane	1947-1954
Rev. Luther P. Koepke	1954-

ORGANISTS

Miss Adeline Rosenbaum	Mrs. Fred Wandrey
Mrs. Wm. Denzine	Mrs. Elbert Schnekenburger
Mr. Herman Heimberg	Mrs. Franklin Rosenbaum
Mrs. Minnie Koepke	

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





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 Hof-ferth.



MISSION FESTIVAL—1910

MISSION FESTIVAL—1910





LADIES' AID MEETING

THE ORIGINAL CHURCH



