

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

NORFOLK, NEBRASKA
1866-2016

IN MEMORY OF
THE
PIONEERS
WHO SETTLED
NORFOLK, NEBR.
IN 1866

JACOB BARNHARDT	AUGUST WACHTER
FREDERICK BOCHÉ	HERMAN WACHTER
WILHELM C. BOCHÉ	LUDWIG WACHTER
HERMAN BRAASCH	FRIEDRICH WAGNER
JOHAN BRAASCH	JULUS WICHERT
WILLIAM BRAASCH	CARL WICHMAN
JOHANN BUETTOW	FRANK WICHMAN
FERDINAND CONRAD	GOTTFRIED WINTER
FREDERICK DEDERMAN	WILHELM WINTER
WILLIAM DUEHRING	
WILLIAM F. FISCHER	
CHRISTIAN HAASE	
FERDINAND HAASE	
FREDERICK HAASE	
FREDERICK HECKENDORF	
LEWIS HECKENDORF	
CARL HILLE	
JACOB KAUN	
WILHELM KLUG	
FRIEDRICH W. LEHMAN	
AUGUST LENZ	
J. MARTIN MACHMULLER	
MARTIN MACHMULLER	
AUGUST MELCHER	
AUGUST NENOW	
CARL NENOW	
AUGUST RAASCH	
MARTIN RAASCH	
GOTTLIEB ROHRKE	
WILLIAM RUIHLOW	
WILLIAM SEIFFERT	
TRAUGOTT F. SPORN	
CARL UECKER	

CELEBRATING
150 YEARS
SHARING JESUS
SINCE 1866

DEDICATED SEPT. 6, 1976



WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NORFOLK, NEBRASKA

COMMEMORATING 150 YEARS
OF
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CONGREGATION
WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
AT
NORFOLK, NEBRASKA
1866 - 2016

Printed by Gillette Printing
Norfolk, Nebraska



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church & Elementary School
North 11th Street & Georgia Avenue
Norfolk, Nebraska 68701

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor's Office: (402) 371-1654
Secretary's Office: (402) 371-1233
Fax: (402) 379-3646

www.stpls.com

From 1904 to 1943 St. Paul's Lutheran Church enjoyed the ministry of Pastor John Witt. A giant in our congregation's history that seems so long past, what he wrote at our 50th anniversary still rings true a century later:

"We find reasons for rejoicing without boasting. We can see how our congregation in general was faithful in hearing the Word and partaking of the Sacraments. We can see how they were concerned about the Christian education of their children. We can see how the congregation used Christian discipline upon the impenitent. We can see how the congregation was concerned about the work of missions and about the upkeep of our schools of higher learning.

"We must not overlook the weaknesses of the congregation during the first fifty years. Repeated quarrels shook the congregation to its very foundations. If the sinful will of the congregation had been victorious, our congregation would be no more. This is said partly to lead us to repentance, and partly to warn our descendants that they do not forget to thank our heavenly Father for his almighty guidance. Let us learn from our forefathers to avoid the sins and weaknesses in congregational life. Everything depends on our humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God."

Always in this world God's people wage a war against evils outside of the church and inside of it, outside of them and inside of them. The work our congregation has undertaken together has borne much fruit, and we still have many reasons to rejoice for the souls that our congregation has been privileged to help usher into heaven. On the other hand, our weaknesses are still very apparent. Our congregation has made for itself a reputation in our community and our synod for bickering and apathy and arrogant pride, as well as disrespect for the ministry and selfishness in stewardship. These are hard truths that still now threaten to rip this congregation apart – if the devil has his way.

It's a tremendous celebration for a Christian congregation full of sinful people to reach 150 years of God's grace in this community. Will we make it to 200? To 300? Will Jesus come back first? Will the devil's plans succeed? These are questions no one can answer but our Lord himself. We can only do what we have done all along – love God's Word and Sacraments. Preach Law and Gospel. Repent and forgive. Gather together for fellowship, prayer, and service. Put ourselves fully in the hands of our gracious God and entrust ourselves solely to his continued blessings and promises, because we know with certainty that the devil can never stand against them.

Every day we have together as St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School is a day to thank God for and a day to use faithfully to the glory of his Name. At this 150th Anniversary, let's remember how we got here and recommit to moving forward in the same way: Jesus lived for us, Jesus died for us, Jesus rose for us – and if that weren't enough, Jesus gives us as gifts to each other and to this world for Christian love, service, and outreach. It's all about Jesus – always has been, always will be. To him alone be all glory!

Blessed to serve with you and for you,

Pastor Mark D. Reichert



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church & Elementary School
North 11th Street & Georgia Avenue
Norfolk, Nebraska 68701

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor's Office: (402) 371-1654
Secretary's Office: (402) 371-1233
Fax: (402) 379-3646

www.stpls.com

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

The celebration of any anniversary becomes a time for reflection, a time to glance backward and consider our numerous blessings, and a time to look forward to God's direction and guidance.

What began with a wagon train in 1866, the Lord in His grace has grown to over 700 souls. At the same time He has provided us with a beautiful house of worship and Lutheran Elementary School. How true the Savior's words, *"Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them,"* Matthew 18:20.

Our highest reason for praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, however, is echoed in the words from Isaiah 54:10. *"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,"* says the LORD, who has compassion on you. One hundred fifty years have seen much change in the world, in our country, in Norfolk, and in St. Paul's; but one thing has not changed. The LORD's abiding presence and kindness have not departed, His covenant of peace has not been removed. We shall never be able to measure the strength, comfort, peace and countless other spiritual blessings which we have received from His means of grace. We can and do join together at this time to thank and praise our God and Savior Jesus Christ for one hundred fifty years of grace and favor, and pray for His continued blessings.

At this anniversary may we say, *"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory for ever and ever!"* Revelation 5:13.

Happy Anniversary,

Pastor Richard B. Schlieve

THE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND NORFOLK, NEBRASKA

In the book Conquering the Great American Desert, author Everett Dick writes that the Americans thought that the entire territory of Nebraska was worthless. It was called "The Great American Desert". How did this area get settled? Who were the settlers? Why did they settle here? Where did they come from?

To find the answers to these questions, let's go back to around 1840. Germany was seething in unrest. Fredrick William IV was the King at that time. The general conditions in Europe were bad. It was overcrowded. A young person had no hope of ever being able to settle down and make a living on land he could call his own. A man skilled in a trade had to stay with that trade even though no work was to be had. Jobs were not available for many tradesmen.

The King did not want religious differences to separate his country, and at that time the churches were divided into two camps – one of them was loyal to the doctrines of Luther and the scriptures. The other gave its loyalty to the doctrines of Calvin and Zwingli and the Reformed Church. To remedy this, Frederick William IV forcibly combined the Lutheran and Reformed Church into a single body. In reality, the Liturgy they were to use, the hymnals from which they were to sing, the man who they were to accept and love as their pastor, the church they were to attend – all of these things were fixed by law! Conditions in the church and the country had now become unbearable.

In 1848, there was a Revolution. During one of the battles, to keep from being captured by the enemy, a young German soldier was hiding in a haystack. As he lay there he couldn't help but think of the young girl that had hidden him and saved his life. After the war he found her again, and they were married. This couple (Wilhelm and Wilhelmina Winter) was like many other young couples in Germany that were facing grave economic conditions. Reports were coming from America – a land that offered freedom and unlimited opportunities and a chance to worship God as they had been taught. (In the years to come, 90,000 immigrants a year came to the United States.). This young couple left Prussia in 1856 with their two small sons. They left Hamburg in a sailboat. (Some of the people left from Stettin.) Other immigrants came from Brandenburg, Austria, Pommerin, Oderbruch and Altitzegoerike. After eleven weeks at sea, this little family landed in New York. There were only three of them now – the baby had died at sea. They immediately started for the West and located near Ixonia, Wisconsin where they lived for nine years. Why did they settle in Wisconsin? It had advantages over the other states that strongly appealed to them. The climate and soil were very similar to the land they had left, and they could raise the crops that were familiar to them.

In the early 1860's, the population of Wisconsin was increasing. New immigrants were arriving in such numbers that the group of Germans around Ixonia were very discontented. They had found the land to be unproductive and covered with a dense forest. Also, the winters were too damp and severe to suit them. Land was then selling for \$35 an acre, and, although thrifty, most of these families had spent all their funds for passage to America. The density of the timber kept them too far from the schools. The general sentiment was for moving on.

On May 20, 1862, an Act of Congress granted any citizen of the United States who was the head of a family, or any foreign born resident who had declared his intent to become a citizen, the right to settle upon public land, not to exceed 160 acres, and, after having resided upon it for five years, should receive a patent for the land. This provision included land in the Territory of Nebraska. The Rev. John Hoeckendorf, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ixonia, Wisconsin, had a cousin, Mr. Steifer, who had settled near West Point, Nebraska. They reported many advantages of the good land still to be had.

In 1865, the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Ixonia, Wisconsin decided to send three men of stern character and of integrity to investigate the reports that they had received about the good land near West Point, Nebraska. In the summer of 1865, Ferdinand Wagner, Herman Braasch, and John Gensmer were delegated to seek out the land near West Point and report back their findings. From Chicago to St. Joseph, MO, they traveled by train, and from there to Omaha on the Missouri River in a ferry boat. From Omaha they walked west until they came to the Elkhorn River. They followed this until they came to West Point, Nebraska, the farthest northwest settlement in the territory at that time. Since the area surrounding West Point was already more or less settled, and the whole group from Ixonia couldn't possibly settle there, the three men with Mr. T. F. Sporn, an advanced settler near West Point as their guide, ventured on. On September 15, 1865 this advance unit camped at the junction of the North Fork and Elkhorn Rivers. At this place they found good land and wood, such as elm, cottonwood, ash, box elder and willow trees, excellent drinking water and plenty of grass. Several hundred Winnebago and Omaha Indians were camping about a quarter of mile away. The men found the Indians friendly. Although when the Indians came to their camp, Mr. Gensmer was on guard, and it frightened him so much that he hid in the brush by the river until they left. Mr. Gensmer returned to Ixonia, and he never came back to Nebraska. The other men found the Indians friendly. Mr. Wagner overlooked the site and said, "This will be my homestead. Here we will build a town." After a few weeks, they returned to Ixonia with favorable reports about this location.

The report which the men brought back to Ixonia was so pleasing that on May 14, 1866, a number of families left for the Territory of Nebraska. A congregation was organized before they left. All of the children who could be instructed were confirmed before the journey began. Once they reached their new home, the boys would have to work. Those who wished to leave had to dispose of their real estate and other possessions to get cash. Strong wagons had to be made for the prairie schooners. Horses, oxen, cows, sheep, and poultry had to be taken along and provisions had to be prepared for the long journey and for an extended period of time because they would be a settlement far from any town. It was a very busy and trying time for parents as it was a great risk to take so many children on such a long and dangerous journey. They had a great responsibility. They put their trust in the Lord that He would guide them safely to their destination.

On May 14, 1866, fifty-three wagons with forty-two families consisting of about one hundred twenty-five people started for Nebraska, saying farewell to their many friends and dear ones. They came in three different caravans. Mr. Herman Braasch led the first one, the second was by Mr. Lewis Heckendorf, and the third was composed of farmers north of Watertown. There were also six single men.

Members of this original colony included Jacob Barnhardt, Frederick Boche, Wilhelm C. Boche, Herman Braasch, Johan Braasch, William Braasch, Johann Buettow, Ferdinand Conrad, Frederick Dederman, William Duehring, William F. Fischer, Christian Haase, Ferdinand Haase, Frederick Haase, Frederick Heckendorf, Lewis Heckendorf, Carl Hille, Jacob Kaun, Wilhelm Klug, Friedrich W. Lehman, August Lenz, J. Martin Machmuller, Martin Machmuller, August Melcher, August Nenow, Carl Nenow, August Raasch, Martin Raasch, Gottlieb Rohrke, William Ruhlown, William Seiffert, Traugott F. Sporn, Carl Uecker, August Wachter, Herman Wachter, Ludwig Wachter, Friedrich Wagner, Julius Wichert, Carl Wichman, Frank Wichman, Gottfried Winter, Wilhelm Winter and Karl Winter.

Each family had a wagon drawn by four oxen. Each had two cows and some sheep. The men walked tirelessly, leading their sturdy oxen. The women and small children rode in the wagons while the older boys and girls walked beside the wagons and herded the cattle and sheep. They always slept out in the open. Only a few of them had horses - the Machmuellers, Rohrkes, Raasches and Braasches. The wagon trains moved slowly. Every Sunday they paused for regular worship. Once a week they halted to allow the women folks to do the necessary washing, ironing and baking. The women made their own starch by grating potatoes and letting them stand in water, until the starch would settle to the bottom.

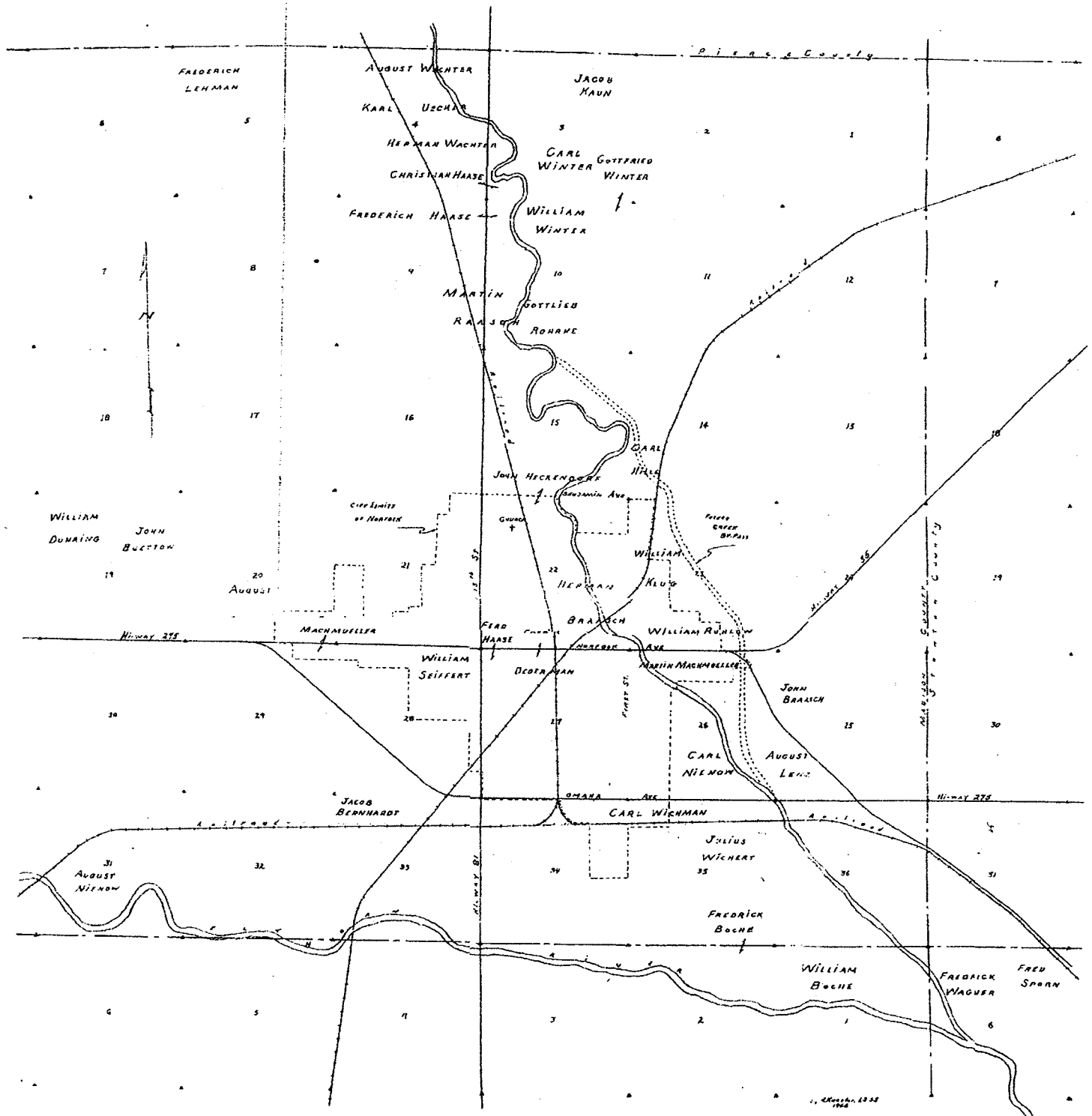
After many weeks, the group reached Omaha where they stopped to stock up with flour and other necessary provisions. They organized a mile long train of "prairie schooners" for the final lap of the journey. They wanted to reach West Point by the 4th of July, but they missed the town and had to turn back. West Point at that time consisted only of a saw mill, a little store built of perpendicular slats and a few huts. Herman Braasch planted potatoes just north of West Point so they might bear that year.

When the party reached Humboldt, the Humbug Creek as it was called, proved too muddy to risk fording, so a bridge had to be built. They cut trees, hewed them into logs, laid them on sills of mud and laid split willows for a floor. Nails were whittled out of ash wood. This delayed them four days. They reached their destination July 12, 1866 (some stories give the date as July 15 and/or July 17). It was thirteen days after they had left West Point and the entire journey had taken them seven weeks and four days. The entire company joined in prayer on the banks of the river. They thanked God for having brought them safely to their new home. "GOD MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS HIS WONDERS TO PERFORM." In two giant leaps, he had moved the gospel from the land of Reformation to the frontier plains of the central United States.

Madison County had been set-aside for an Indian Reservation and had not yet been surveyed. They brought William Sharpe of Cuming County with them, and he made the first crude survey, using harness lines and August Raasch's pocket compass. The colonists found a small party of young men from Illinois that had already settled there. These five Americans, William A Barnes, L.D. Barnes, William H. Bradshaw, D. L. Allen and Matthias Kerr, had been there since May, but they didn't care to live with the Germans so moved on. Mr. Kerr had a claim along the North Fork near the present site of King's Park containing one hundred sixty acres in the form of a rectangle four times as long as wide. Herman Braasch paid two hundred dollars for the claim to the quarter section, fifteen acres of which was broken and seeded to wheat. The purchase included a sixteen by seven foot log house with a dirt floor that was thatched with sod. His fellow colonists thought him reckless, but the wheat yield more than paid for the claim. The Braashes were not satisfied with spring wells at the creek, so they dug the first real well in Madison County.

The colonists felt it more advantageous to have their homes near together in case of Indian trouble or prairie fire. They arranged their quarter sections on either side of the river so that one end was near the river. This also afforded easy access to water. After the laying out of the claims, the head of each family was blindfolded and drew lots out of a hat, the 160 acres corresponding in number to the number on the slip of paper drawn. Thus did this colony of honest pioneers recognize the

HOMESTEAD SETTLEMENT By WISCONSIN CARAVAN In NORFOLK VICINITY 1866



equality of each, and thus were many possible future quarrels prevented. Those drawing sites north of the township line twenty-three had to make trips seventy-five miles northeast to Dakota City to establish their claims at the landoffice. Those living south established their claims in the land office in Omaha. With this settlement was established what was probably the first true Lutheran Congregation in our state.

Most of the families lived in their wagons until their log houses were built. A few men built sod houses or seven by eight dugouts, but most of them took advantage of the plentiful timber along the river and constructed one-room log huts. Cottonwood or oak logs served as corner posts. Slabs were nailed across for walls, and yellow clay was mixed with grass or straw for mortar. It was covered with sod and whitewashed on the interior. Nails and window glass came from Omaha. Most huts had only a half window. Several cabins had an extra half story, the loft, reached by a crude ladder. Roofs were thatched with reeds, which grew in abundance to one-half inch in thickness in the low land along the river. The reeds were lashed together with willow thongs and covered the cottonwood rafters. A box for a table and tree stumps for chairs furnished the houses. Dishes, knives, forks and cooking utensils had been brought from their old homes. Barns were little more than open shelters with slough grass roofs. It is said that Grandma Hille cut down some trees along the Spring Branch and made herself a log hut.

By now their supply of food was getting short. There was plenty of grass for the oxen, cattle, and sheep, but the supply of potatoes, flour, etc., brought from Wisconsin or bought at Omaha was rapidly disappearing. Only direst necessity brought the settlers to buy at the tiny dugout on the North Fork which was located near what is now Stanton. It was managed by Trapper Erastus Jones, then by Barney Barnes and a Dane by the name of Nelson. The stock in the Indian trading post, unattractively displayed and priced high, consisted of a poor grade of brown sugar, tobacco, brooms, overalls, matches, coffee, tea, two pieces of calico, and darning needles that cost 5 cents each. Money used for purchases was in paper of varying denominations from five to fifty cents, to three-cent copper pieces or gold.

It was necessary for the settlers to travel long distances for their supplies. Wheat could be purchased for \$2.00 a bushel in Wisner, 35 miles east; Columbus, 50 miles to the south; Fremont, 80 miles to the southeast; and Sioux City, 80 miles to the northeast. Flour meant a three-day trip to West Point. Fording the streams with loads was hazardous. Sometimes there was a wait of a week or two before a farmer could get his wheat into the mill. The toll was six bushels per wagonload. From one bushel of wheat came 40 pounds of flour, ten of bran and ten of shorts. Hauling grain was a tedious task. The roads were so poor that the wagons had to

be unloaded and reloaded many times during a single trip. Barley hauled to Sioux City sold for fifty cents a bushel. At two bushels to a bag, and twenty-two bags to a load, a trip brought over twenty dollars. Wheat ran about thirty-five bushels to the acre, and sold for \$1.18 a bushel at Dakota City. Eggs brought two or three cents a dozen, butter eight cents a pound, and hens \$2.50 a hundred dressed.

The large herds of antelope, deer, and buffalo that roamed the unbroken prairie provided a source of meat for the pioneers. Prairie chickens were plentiful and tasty. The men used nets to get fish, and the children angled for them with bent pins. When the farmers first started breaking the prairie land with their cast iron stump plows, they found they were useless. They could not break the hard prairie with these plows. Mr. Gottlieb Rohrke opened the first blacksmith shop near the present Isaac Walton Park. Although the German farmers had been taught never to break land after the Fourth of July, a few of them did in the hope that it would yield a crop. The Braasch men broke ground with three yoke of oxen on the plow and planted corn and wheat. Their corn was good for little more than fodder, but the yield from the fifteen acres of wheat which had been planted by Mr. Kerr sold as seed for \$2.25 that first year. Others planted potatoes, corn, and beans, but the crop was far from sufficient to last throughout the winter. The pioneers met the situation bravely. Many men found work in brickyards east of here or in mills, and others worked in the railroad yards in Omaha. Some of the older girls did housework in some of the homes in Omaha. Those at home managed as best they could. They took turns making the long trips for supplies. For flour, they went to Logan Creek near Fremont. One woman who was left with a little boy and two tiny girls had only wild plums for food for four weeks. When her neighbors found out about it, they helped her out until her men folks returned from Omaha. When one man had money and food, everyone had money and food. Neighbors were neighbors indeed in those days.

Dry timber, usually cottonwood, was used for fuel. When that was gone they gathered sunflower stalks, corn stalks, and green willow. There was coal in the northeastern part of the state, but at \$9 a ton it was much too expensive. One woman was forced to chop up a treasured table and chair for fuel during a blizzard.

Wild fruit, grapes and plums were picked in preparation for the coming winter. The fruit was boiled and dumped into barrels to keep until the sorghum was ready. In the fall it was made into butter in the huge iron kettles, sweetened with cheap molasses and stored in jars. Over at the Spring Branch the Hille family operated a sorghum factory. So many people came from miles away that the factory had to keep running day and night for three months. Making sorghum was a slow and tedious process. It took six or seven hours to cook and required constant

attention. Within a few years both August Raasch and Fred Boche had presses with which they made molasses for others on shares. Having this sorghum and molasses helped those who were used to getting their maple syrup and sugar from maple trees.

At the beginning of the winter, hundreds of Indians passed through this little settlement, scaring the women and children who were alone in their houses. Even the settler's watchdogs disappeared into the Indian pots. The Poncas, Omahas and Pawnees camped near the present location of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The settlers tried their best to share what they had with these destitute Indians. The Indians would do odd jobs for food. They would turn a washing machine or chop wood for a cake or a piece of bread spread with unsalted lard. Most of them begged or stole what they could. One of Herman Braasch's cows was carried off and eaten and dead dogs were taken; three weeks after the white men had killed some timber wolves, the red men stripped the carcasses. They snatched a dead lamb from a kettle of boiling soap that Mrs. Lehman had thrown in for fat.

Religion played an important part in the lives of these German people. The shed along the river, which had been abandoned by the squatters was selected as a gathering place where the people could assemble to worship. The shed had a dirt floor and was covered with hay. They used shrubs and branches for the roof. In October of 1866 their own minister, the Rev. John Heckendorf, came. He built his log house near the Braasch homestead. Before he arrived, a simple church service was held which was not any different from their other services. They had continued their services after arriving here with reading from prayer books in their simple homes under the leadership of father Herman Braasch or Ferdinand Wagner.

The first Christmas for the pioneers was not a happy one. They were too poor to celebrate and many of the households were without a father. Blizzards increased the hardships. The treeless prairie offered no resistance. The loss of livestock was frequently heavy. Deaths due to exposure were occasionally reported. When spring came the rivers flooded. This caused long delays for travelers and haulers. Property near the river was in danger and stock had to be moved to higher ground. During the long, hard winter, the Rev. Heckendorf kept the hearts of his people close to God, who had guided them there so wonderfully.

The spring, though, that year was unbelievably welcome and beautiful. The settlers thanked God that, somehow, by His goodness they had all survived that first heartbreaking winter. Husbands, fathers and older sisters all came home from their work in Omaha and in Fremont. They brought home money and much needed



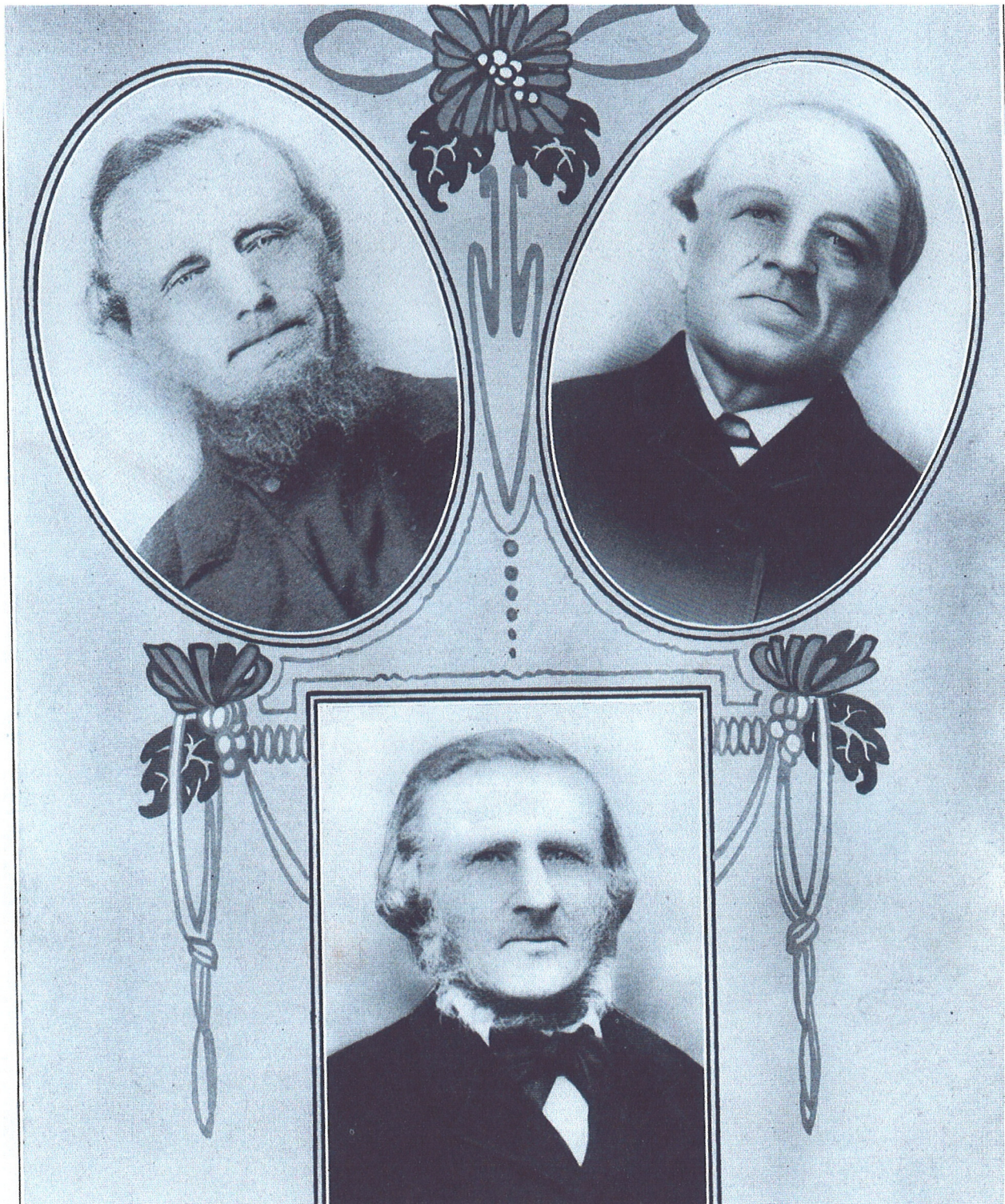
K. Winter

H. Wachter

A. Raasch

A. Melcher

Four of the congregation's founders.



The first elders of the Congregations

Fr. Wagner, G. Rohrke, H. Braasch

supplies. The pioneers planted wheat, sorghum, beans, potatoes, corn barley and tobacco. Everyone was happy and busy.

In the fall of 1867, a 24x30 foot church and school building, the first of any kind in Madison County, was erected. It was built of pine logs (to which Herman Braasch contributed \$40), purchased at Fremont and sawed at West Point. Some native cottonwood was used. The church members used nearly two hundred oxen to pull the logs from Battle Creek to the church site. The roof had a loose cover of green willow branches and sod. The floor was made of native willow and covered with straw. There was no altar or chancel. The benches consisted of boards which were laid on tree stumps or wooden blocks which occasionally would fall over when the people rose during the service. Frederick Wagner, Herman Braasch and Gottlieb Roehrke were the first elders of this congregation and always maintained a great influence on it. Pastor Hoeckendorf opened and taught the first school in Madison County in this building. It was open to the public, but was conducted in the German language since that was the tongue of the people. This church was used until 1878.

The first wedding in the county was performed in St. Paul's church in 1867. William Wagner married his cousin, Louisa Wagner. August Raasch was the first postmaster at the newly established post office. People appreciated the Postal Service, but it could be weeks before they could spare the few cents to buy a stamp. A mill was opened. Madison County was organized in December of 1867 and named after the capital of Wisconsin. Norfolk was named the county seat. At this time the name "Norfork", a compound of North Fork (after the North Fork River) was decided on, but postal authorities, thinking the word had been misspelled, changed it to "Norfolk" and so it remains to this day. New comers to Norfolk like to pronounce it "Norfolk" but those who have lived here a good many years still pronounce it "Norfork".

The first election was held in 1868. It was held in a small hut on Taylor Creek. Thirty-two pioneers of the new county met and elected their first county officers: Friederich Wagner - probate judge, August Raasch and Hy Thatch - clerk; Frederick Heckendorf - treasurer; August Lentz - surveyor; F. Bradshaw - sheriff, H..J. Severance - coroner; Frederick Boche - county assessor; J. Allison and Wm. Bickley - justices of the peace; Thomas Bickley and Ferdinand Haase - constables.

By 1867, the colonists were confronted with a different problem - where to get adequate clothing. The clothing they had brought from Wisconsin became worn and threadbare. The men sheared the sheep, and the women carded the wool, spun the yarn and used handlooms to weave the material needed for clothing. The

cloth was spread on the ground and a child lay on it for a pattern. The women knit the stockings needed for the family. Mr. C. Hille was the first cobbler for the community. He fashioned wooden shoes from native trees and used bits of leather from worn out boots for the strings. With plenty of wheat straw inside and heavy woolen stockings, the feet kept warm and dry. The men wore no underwear and no overcoats. Overalls or homemade trousers, shirts, high boots and raincoats made up their simple dress. The Braasches owned a loom that had cost them \$75, and the women wove cloth and blankets.

The settlers were healthy and free from most diseases. Dr. F. Verges, who had homesteaded in Pierce County, was the nearest doctor. He stayed in the Braasch home when he came to Norfolk to help the sick. Without a doctor a teaspoonful of black pepper seemed to be an effective remedy and more popular with most of the pioneers than those suggested and sold by traveling "quack" doctors. They were helpless against contagious diseases. Wilhelmina Winter gave medical advice and assistance in the settlement when there was no doctor.

For entertainment the pioneers played a few card games, "High Five" and "Black Peter," a game that depended upon a sooty stove lid. When they went visiting, it was for a whole day. In the summer the young people set an accordion player on a stump and danced around him. In the winter they skated on the river or danced in the schoolhouse.

Farming was changing from hand labor to the use of machines. Herman Braasch, who was the first to have any small grain, and August Raasch got an eight-horse-power threshing machine from Omaha in 1868. Then a company brought in the first reaper. It was like a holiday. Everyone attended the demonstration that took place in a field just north of what was the Granada block. The ladies dressed in white and provided food for the spectators.

The farmers began cutting wheat before the middle of July, and by the end of the month, they had the grain all cut and stacked. The weather was so hot, and the wheat was so full of smut that the men were discouraged. The month of August was spent in threshing but there were so many people wanting the one machine that they did not get finished before November seventh.

The first death was Mrs. Ferdinand Pasewalk and son. On September 20, 1867 Mrs. Herman Braasch died. Her grave is in the first west part of St. Paul's cemetery.

The colonists were in constant fear of prairie fires. The first prairie fire that the settlers experienced was on October 6, 1868. They had never seen anything like it and were very frightened. They fought it with the plows and counter-fires. The women worked with the men pumping tubs full of water and fighting with water-soaked gunnysacks and blankets. The fire came nearer and nearer. It burned all of the buildings, except one at the Dederman place. It also destroyed 100 bushels of stacked wheat and two fat hogs. They saved the house by hard work. The next day another fire flared up, destroying nearly all of Karl Uecker's wheat. He managed to save scarcely enough feed for his stock.

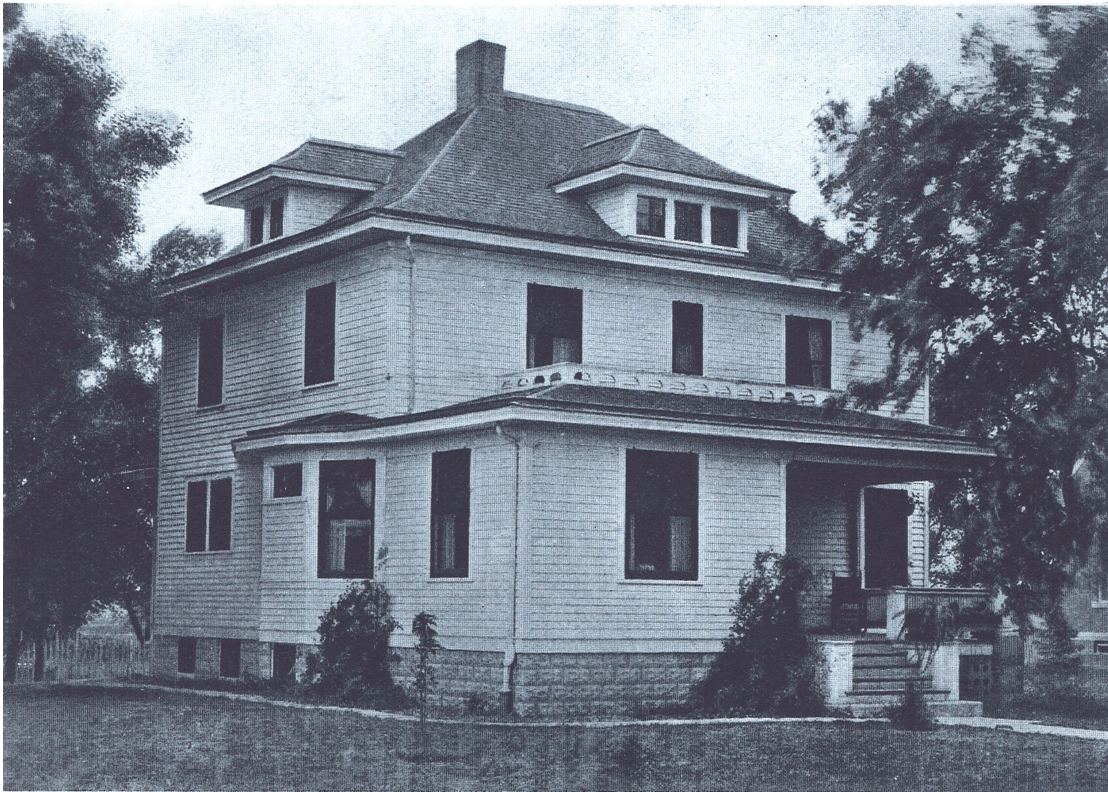
Besides the prairie fires and blizzards, the settlers were also plagued by grasshoppers. They came to this part of the country seven times. The worse invasion was in 1874. Suddenly, between 1:00 and 2:00 in the afternoon on July 2, farmers noticed great clouds piling up in the west. They expected a thunderstorm, but soon discovered that the roaring was caused by millions of grasshoppers. The grasshoppers dropped to earth and began to eat all the plants. By 5:00 that evening, there was not a head of wheat left or anything green. The grasshoppers had eaten the barks off the trees, along with the potatoes and onions. The only crops left were sorghum and cane. They even chewed the fork handles left in the fields.

In 1876, the congregation bought 12 acres of land that was located at 11th and Georgia from Pastor Hoekendorf for \$120. This purchase required the congregation to become incorporated which then happened in August of the same year. They built the first parsonage here. Mr. Karl Uecker, a member of the congregation, undertook the construction. This parsonage, 16x16, with a wing of 14x18, was a stately building for this area at that time. In 1895 the congregation decided to enlarge the parsonage. They added a wing to the main building. It was described as a two-story building, 22x32 and a middle building 16x16. The present parsonage was erected in 1911 at the cost of \$4000. In 1878, they built a new church. It was 36x50 and cost approximately \$1405. In 1904, it was planned to have a street running along the south side of the church property. It would be a public street with the buildings properly lined up and facing south. This is now called Georgia Ave

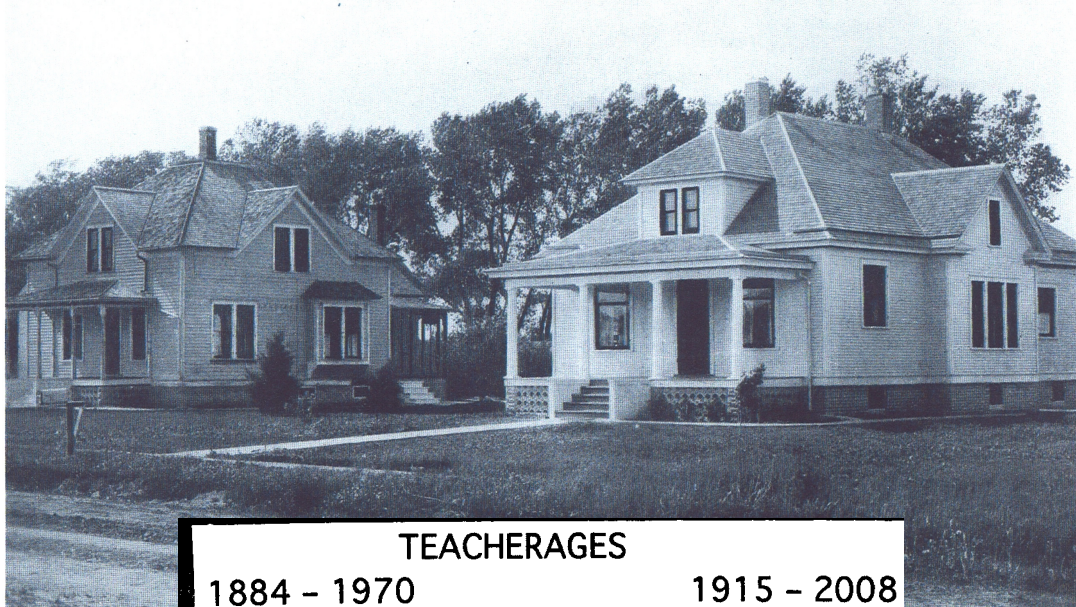
Pastor Hoekendorf had died in 1877 after a long and difficult illness. Pastor Pankow was called to be their pastor. He was installed on August 18, 1878 and at the same time they also happily celebrated the dedication of the church. At that time there were about 50 voting members. The interior of the church was still bare - no chancel, altar, benches, organ etc. - until Herman Braasch donated the altar and



The first parsonage – built in 1876 and enlarged in 1895



PARSONAGE BUILT IN 1911



TEACHERAGES

1884 – 1970

1915 – 2008

pulpit, and the congregation purchased the pews. In 1884 a pipe organ was installed and dedicated. It was used until 1921.

Pastor Pankow was here for 14 years, and during that time the membership had risen to around 100. During those years he also served the congregations in Stanton, Hadar and Hoskins. Since a great number of our members settled near Hadar, he was called by the existing MO Synod there, and our members who lived near Hadar joined with them, and that is how the current congregation in Hadar was founded. The congregation in Hoskins was gathered and founded by Rev. Pankow in 1886.

In 1883 a new frame school building, 22x40 was erected. Mr. J. Eiselmeyer, a regularly trained teacher, was called. Up until then, Mrs. Kidder, the wife of the Congregationalist minister, had been teaching the children in the building of St. Paul's school. Pastor Hoeckendorf taught German classes in the morning, and Mrs. Kidder taught English in the afternoon. The two Hoeckendorf girls served as interpreters because they could speak both languages.

Since they had a teacher now, a house for him was required. This was constructed in 1884. The main house measured 16x24, which was later enlarged. This teacherage was sold in 1970. A second teacherage was built in 1915 at the cost of \$2000. This was sold in 2008 and moved.

In April 1882, Pastor Pankow received a call to Lake Mills, Wisconsin. The day he was released the congregation extended a call to Pastor A.F. Siegler of Two Rivers, Wisconsin. He accepted the call and remained here until 1899. Pastor Phil Holzel was called on October 8, 1899 and served until his death on April 30, 1904 after a serious illness. During this time, in 1903, the congregation was moved to join the Nebraska District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. A long, and at times, bitter battle, which involved name-calling and ridicule, had been brought to a victorious end by God Himself. In 1904 Pastor John Witt was installed beginning an entirely new era—The Witt Era—that lasted for nearly 40 years.

Since the church, built in 1878, did not have enough seating for its members and the school needed another classroom, the congregation voted unanimously to build a new church on January 21, 1907.



30-II

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Norfolk, Neb

(Some of the following was taken from an article in the Norfolk Weekly News Journal on May 8, 1908)

Architect Stitt created the plan for a beautiful brick building. It was designed in the gothic style of the 13th century. Kellner and Woerthy were the contractors. The exterior is in red-brown Kaybee press brick with limestone trimmings, metal cornices and stained shingle roof. The main entrance was located in the center of the south facade and flanked on either side by towers. The large tower rises to a height of ninety-five feet and within it is hung a 2100-pound bell of rich deep tone. This bell was made in West Troy, New Jersey. It is four feet across the bottom and has a rope 90 feet long that is pulled when it is rung. A smaller rope is used for tolling the bell when just the hammer hits the inside of the bell. Instead of having steps in the main entrance leading from the ground up to the main floor, easy inclines (or ramps) were substituted. There is a wide and spacious vestibule extending the full width of the front of the building and terminating at both ends in handsome stairways leading to the balcony. Two wide doorways lead to the audience room. A "bowled" floor and circular pews provide comfortable seating for 450 people below, while in the balcony above, 200 are equally well accommodated. The arch and vaulted ceiling of the sanctuary is a striking feature of this room. Instead of putting a window in the rear wall, admitting light directly into the faces of the audience, a concealed skylight was placed overhead. The altar, pulpit and stained glass windows are all products of expert artists. The altar was built by E. Hackner from LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The stained glass windows came from Germany. The woodwork is pine that was given a golden oak stain. Above the dark green wainscoting the walls are buff-colored with the metal ceiling a dead white. The high altar and pulpit that opened off the sacristy are of white enamel and burnished gold. The entire building is heated with steam and is supplied with a modern and highly efficient system of ventilation that provides for a liberal supply of fresh air in both summer and winter. A wood tunnel was built from the front of the church to the back, above the ceiling and connected to the three openings in the ceiling. The openings had covers that could be opened in the summer to let the hot air out. They were closed in the winter. The covers were operated by a series of pulleys and ropes. (The ropes are still hanging upstairs in the back of the church.) There was a rope for each of the three vents. A private gas plant is used for lighting. The building is wired for electric light which they eventually got in 1918.. The building is 52x84 and rests on a massive concrete foundation that required about 200 barrels of Portland cement. The cost of the building and interior came to about \$24,000 and was entirely paid for in three years.

The old church that was built in 1878, was moved east across the street and served as a school until 1950.

After electricity came to the church, the hanging light fixtures were installed. To change the bulbs, one person has to go up in the attic above the ceiling and unhook the chains that hold the fixtures and lower them to the floor below so that the bulbs can be changed. When the replacements are made the person calls up to the man in the attic to pull the light up until it is tight against the ceiling. He then hooks the chain back over the hook and goes on to the next light to do the same thing again.

(The following was taken from the NORFOLK PRESS, Thursday, July 6, 1916)

CHURCH DECORATED

St. Paul's , Norfolk's First Lutheran Church, Made Beautiful FOR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Milwaukee Artist Here to do the Work. It is Very Handsome

The Saint Paul's Lutheran church has been newly decorated in honor of it's golden anniversary which will be celebrated here July sixteenth and the visitor to that splendid edifice which marks not only the history of the Lutheran church here but also the career of the community can not help but sense the perfection of the color harmony, the master hand that was responsible for the wonderful work.

The work is that of a Milwaukee artist. It is done throughout in white lead and oil colors that are the best and most durable known. Words cannot express the beauty of the soft, mellow colors and tones. Then, too, there are the pictures painted by Carl Reimann in his studio in Milwaukee. They adorn the whole front wall of the church. They may be said to be the crowning glory of the decoration. On the left is the angel announcing the birth of Christ to the shepherds in the field and on the opposite side is the angel appearing to the women at the tomb of Christ and announcing that he is arisen, and in the center and combining the two, a soft clouded effect and appearing there from three crosses as they appeared on Easter morning. Below this picture in the triangle niche and opposite to the pulpit is a picture of Christ in Gethsemane, and in the niche above the organ on opposite side are the Ten Commandments treated in the mellow, clouded effect. The sanctuary is done in sunset shades. The ceiling is shaded from a very light tint to deep rich amber at the walls. At the arches and molding there is a border of olive leaves, these being symbolic of the early faith of the Christians. The sidewalls are done in pale tints, beautifully mottled. Each wall is treated individually and panels done in conventionalized roses are very beautiful. The rose is said to be symbolic of the zeal of Luther. There is a new art glass in the dome of the sanctuary which throws a soft, golden glow, alike on dark and bright days. The triumphal arch, which separates the sanctuary from the auditorium, also reflects the subdued gold, having a border of foliage running to the centre in autumn colors. The stucco has been lighted with gold leaf. The auditorium ceiling is carried out in a light ivory scheme. The frieze and the other prominent parts are glazed with a transparent color, handwork giving it a soft velvety character. The sidewalls are blended from a light amber to a deep, warm gray. An appropriate border of leaves is around each window and at the top is a cross of gold leaf. A large border worked out in semi-mosaic style with severe colors runs above around the church. Below the choir rail a deep, neutral brown mottled. Entrance is mottled also with a mosaic border paneling each wall.

German language was used in the worship service until 1914. Then by order of the Federal Government, English had to be included, so an English service was held once a month. German and English services were held every Sunday in the 1920's. The German services were dropped in 1944 except for very special occasions. In 1954 two English services were held each Sunday, and a Saturday eve service was added in 1990.

Men always sat in the pews on the west side. Women and children sat in the center section, young ladies in the east section and young men in the balcony. The Elders sat in the near front pew in the west section. They did the ushering, including ushering the people to the Lord's Table for communion, and passed the collection plates. These collection plates had a long handle with a dark, probably



1916

Interior of church - Carl Reimann, Decorator

maroon or black velvet cone shaped bag at the end, with a gold braided edging around the top and a gold tassel hanging from it. Later this was replaced with a round wooden plate on the end of the handle. After a few years the handles were discontinued and just the wooden plates were passed. Then they used wicker baskets until they were replaced with the larger brass plates that we still use today.

In the earlier years, all the men were ushered to the Lord's Table first, and then the women and the younger people, who were confirmed, were ushered. This changed in 1940 to how we do it now.

The first choir was organized in 1884. In 1921 the present organ was installed at the cost of \$8,850. Organists were some of the female teachers and female organists from the congregation.

(This is the description of the organ --- probably written in the 1970's)

The organ at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska, is a Reuter 3 manual pipe organ. It has about 20 ranks of pipes. It was given a very complete overhaul in 1957. At that time the Great chest was put in new along with a new console. The swell and great chambers of the organ are found in the front of the church. The choir chamber is found in the balcony.

An organ maintenance contract has been signed by the trustees with the Snyder Neymann Organ Company that has its headquarters in Omaha. The instrument has been kept in good repair. The pipes and the selection of the ranks of pipes would probably not be recommended in this day and age, but St. Paul's Congregation and the teachers who have played it have been very happy with it. It does a fine job of leading the congregation in singing praises to Lord God Almighty, and when it does that it has served it's purpose, whether it has the most modern ranks of pipes or not.

Some of the pipes in the front of the church and in the balcony that can be seen are not being used. The ranks of pipes are in the room behind the large pipes. The organ was updated with new technology in 2007.

Up until 1939, all members of a wedding party sat on chairs in front of the pews, and then at the proper time they proceeded to the altar. Now the wedding party stands through the entire ceremony.

At the time of a death in the 1920's and 1930's, the casket was in the home of the deceased, with a member of the family sitting up all night before the funeral. Generally a relative or close friend would sit with them. A prayer service was held in the home by the Pastor right before the funeral service, and then the mourners proceeded to the church.

The first Sunday Bulletin was printed on October 19, 1941.

The blue hymnals were introduced at the cost of \$1.00 each in 1942. They were replaced in 1994 by the red hymnals.

One of the oldest organizations of the church is the Ladies Aid. It was organized on a March afternoon in 1908 at the home of Mrs. Julius Haase by 13 ladies of the congregation. Mrs. John Witt, the pastor's wife, was chosen president. She held this office for 20 years. Meetings were held in the homes, at the City Auditorium, Grace Lutheran Church, etc., until December, 1949, when they were able to meet in our own school building. Meetings are now held the first Thursday of every month. Each lady becomes an honorary member when she reaches 75 years of age and is then exempt from all duties if she so wishes. Their purpose has always been "To grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To create and increase interest in the work of our congregation and of the Kingdom of Christ at large. To create a close fellowship and sociability among the ladies in the charitable endeavors of the church."

LWMS or Lutheran Women's Missionary Society is affiliated with the National society, and its purpose is to promote missionary work, learn what our Missionaries are doing and where they are. All ladies in the congregation are members.

WICS or Women in Christian Service was started by the young women in the congregation, that are employed during the week, and can serve church functions on the week ends.

The Adult Fellowship Group was formerly called the Couples Club. It is open to all adult members of the congregation, married or single. They meet on the 4th Sunday of each month with a potluck meal. The Group sponsors the coffee and rolls between services on the third Sunday of each month.

The Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 10:15 (except the summer months). Mrs. Katie Brown is the Sunday School Coordinator.

In 1947-48 the church was again redecorated, this time by the Schettler Studios of Carroll, Iowa, for \$3000. The altar was moved back, a communion rail and lectern were installed, pulpit was moved, a new organ was installed and the pipes repaired. (The original organ was in front on the east side. There was a raised platform and railing. This was where the choir sat.) The organ was moved to the balcony, but faced the south so the organist used a mirror to see the congregation. A new wooden font replaced the angel baptismal font, and the angel font now stands in a small church at Harold Warp's Village at Minden, Nebraska.

A new school complex was completed in 1950. It contained four classrooms, an auditorium, kitchen and office area. Sixteen years later, in 1966, three more class rooms, a principal's office and faculty lounge were added. To give the children a better chance of avoiding injury while playing in the auditorium the floor was covered with torginal in 1968. In 1981 the kitchen and auditorium were air-conditioned. The kitchen was remodeled in 1984-85. New vertical blinds were installed in the auditorium in 1991. The block windows were removed in 2011 and replaced with brick. Cable TV was installed in the school in 1980, followed by computers, copying machines, and microwaves and air conditioning in a few other rooms.

St. Paul's Lutheran School not only has the distinction of being the oldest school in Norfolk but also of being the first school of any kind in Madison County. Its beginnings are synonymous with the founding of Norfolk itself. It is operated by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a congregation in affiliation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a worldwide Lutheran Church body.

The school's curriculum is constantly being revised and updated. Most importantly, however, is that after almost 150 years, St. Paul's Lutheran School continues to hold to its real heritage---a philosophy of sound, academic, education based on and directed toward Christ crucified.

In 1974 the church was carpeted and painted throughout, the large four manual Reuter pipe organ which is air operated was cleaned and tuned and plexiglass storm windows were installed over the large stain glass window. The stained glass windows had been re-leaded and re-set in 1970. Air conditioning was also put into the church at this time. New pews and carpet had been installed in the balcony in 1971. The Tower Carillon (chimes) was installed in 1976. Railings on the steps were added in front of the altar in 1988.

A memorial honoring the founding fathers of St. Paul's and Norfolk was erected in Liberty Bell Park in 1976. The memorial measures six and one half feet high and is about the same width at the bottom. The memorial design shows a family in a covered wagon drawn by oxen with a list of those who settled here. Karl Winter's name should have been on this list.

The congregation began broadcasting its Sunday morning worship service over KNEN-FM radio in 1979.

The church was entered in the vicarship program from 1976 to 1990. The vicars were:

1976 - Richard Starr
1977 - Richard Kanzenbach
1978 - Charles Potosnyak
1979 - Mark Schroeder
1980 - Stuart Zak
1981 - Dennis Himm
1982 - Christopher Kruschel
1983 - Philip Wilde
1984 - William Zeitler

1985 - Roger Knepperath
1986 - Dennis Klatt
1987 - Joseph Schlawin
1988 - Christopher Oehlke
1989 - Stephen Raddatz
1990 - Luke Werre
1991 - Jeff Mittelstadt
1992 - David Bitter
1993 - Joel Pankow

To celebrate the 125th anniversary in 1991 the interior of the church was completely redecorated again. It was carpeted and painted throughout, the ends and tops of the pews were refinished with the backs and seats being upholstered.

A large new addition to the church was dedicated on February 2, 1996. This new addition has a full basement and first floor. The first floor, measuring 40 by 90 feet, includes a fellowship area, cry room/nursery/multiple purpose room, library and conference room and pastors' offices. In the basement are a 38 x 50 foot dining area, a kitchen, another meeting room and mechanical room. There are rest rooms on both floors. An elevator was installed so that the church could be handicapped-accessible. With the construction of the addition, the entrance to the church was changed and is now in the new building. The former church entrance was walled up with a large stained glass window which was moved from another church location and installed there. Kurt Aaberg drew up plans for this building. The builder was Loren Bloomquist. The cost was approximately \$430,000.00. It was built for about two-thirds of its value because of the large amount of donated labor.

In 2009 the interior of the church was once again refurbished, going back to the traditional look as it was in 1916. Karl Reeder of Reeder Originals in Norfolk and Custom Paint and Design did the work. This is the first in a series of projects that the parish hopes to complete before celebrating its 150th year, which will be in 2016.

The 150th anniversary will be observed on July 15th, 16th, and 17th of July 2016. The theme is "Forward in Christ with Hope". Invitations have been sent to all past vicars, pastors, teachers and confirmands. A church pictorial is being made. Some of the activities include a picnic in the park, a cemetery walk, an antique display, bonfire, and getting together with old friends. A history of the church and school is being published.

VICARS



Richard Starr
1976-1977



Richard Kanzenbach
1977-1978



Charles Potosnyak
1978-1979



Mark Schroeder
1979-1980



Stuart Zak
1980-1981



Dennis Himn
1981-1982



Christopher Kruschel
1982-1983



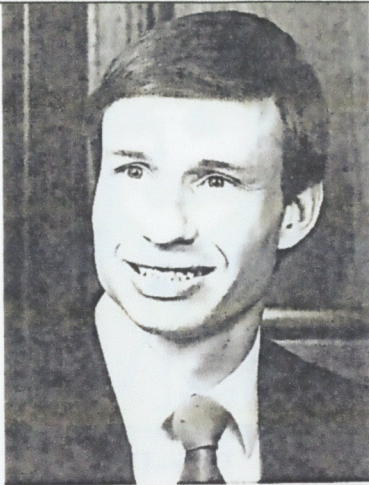
Philip Wilde
1983-1984



William Zeitler
1984-1985



Roger Knepperath
1985-1986



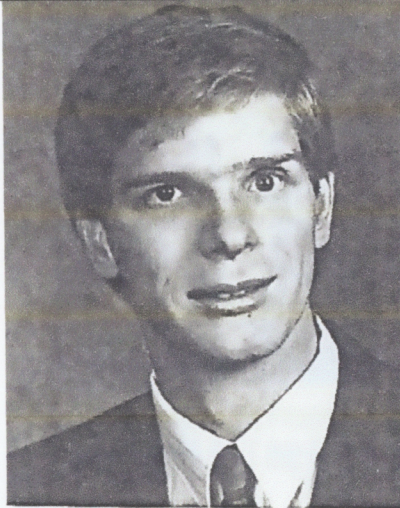
Dennis Klatt
1986-1987



Joseph Schlawin
1987-1988



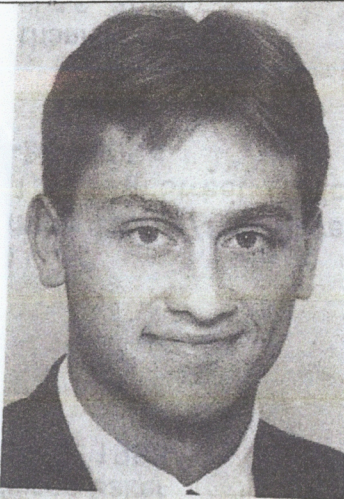
Christopher Oehlke
1988-1989



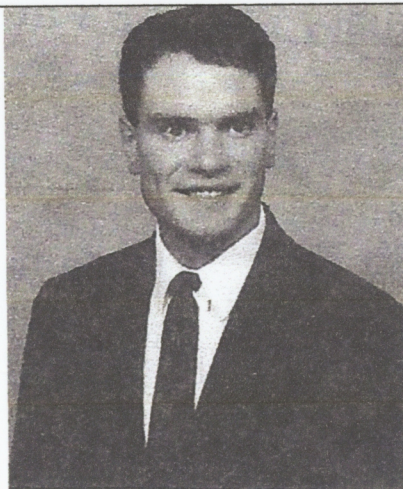
Stephen Raddatz
1989-1990



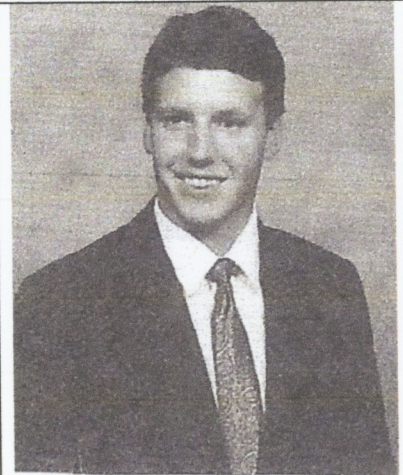
Luke Werre
1990-1991



Jeff Mittelstadt
1991-1992



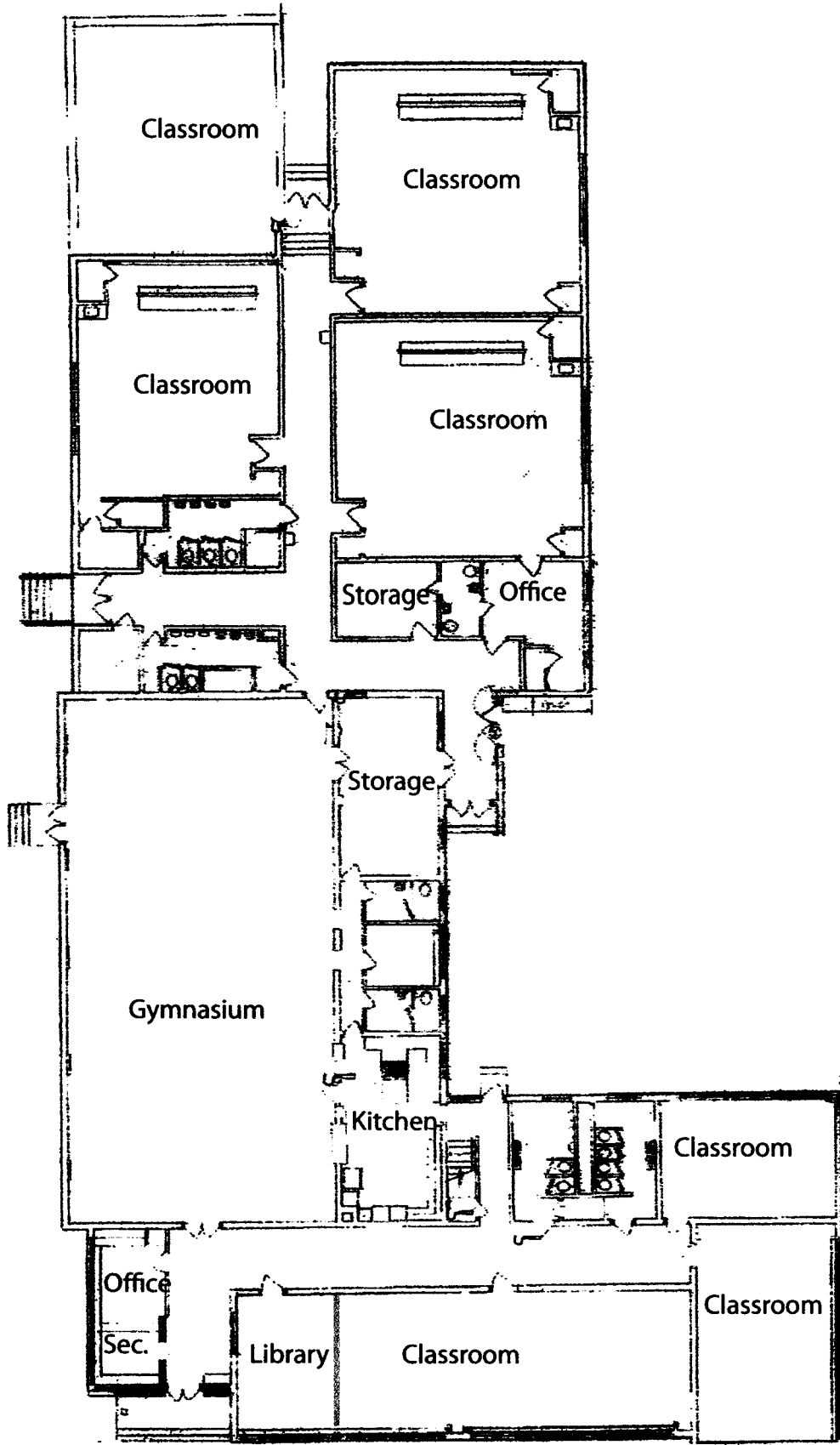
BITTER, David
1992-1993



Joel Pankow
1993-1994



SAINT PAUL'S LUTERAN SCHOOL





CHURCH BUILT IN 1878 - - LATER USED AS A SCHOOL



NEW SCHOOL BUILDING BUILT IN 1883

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL by Carol Wachter

Members of our congregation have maintained a school since the fall of 1866. They put much importance on the words of Psalm 78: 1-10 and other words of scripture that admonish parents to train up their children in accordance to God's words.

The settlers arrived at the junction of the Elkhorn and North Fork River on July 12, 1866. Upon arrival they found five young men had already settled here but they had decided to move on; Herman Braasch purchased one of the men's claims for \$200.00. It was a quarter section near the present site of King's Lanes. There was also a 16x16x7 foot log house with a dirt floor and thatched with sod. This building became the first place of worship and school for the congregation.

Pastor Hoeckendorf arrived on October of 1866 and became not only pastor but also teacher. In the fall of 1867, a 24x30 foot building was erected and used as a church, the first of any of its kind in Madison County. It was built of pine lumber, purchased at Fremont and sawed at West Point. The roof had a loose cover of green willow branches and sod. The floor was made of native willow and covered with straw. It was in this building that Pastor Hoeckendorf taught the first school in Madison County. It was open to the public and the German language was used. At first he taught alone and later women were hired as aides to help him. In 1870 Mrs. Kidder, the wife of the Congregationalist minister, was hired to teach secular subjects in English in the afternoons. Pastor Hoeckendorf taught Bible History and Catechism in German in the mornings. The two Hoeckendorf girls served as interpreters as they could speak both languages. This arrangement continued until 1883 when a qualified teacher was called.

When the Indians looked through the window of this first school and saw all the children with one lady teacher, they were astounded that one "squaw" could have so many papooses.

In 1876 the congregation purchased 12 acres for \$120.00 from Pastor Hoeckendorf which is where our church is located today. In April, 1878 they built a new church, 36x50 foot at 11th and Georgia Avenue at a cost of \$1,405.00. It was dedicated in August of that same year. School continued to be held in this building and taught by the next called Pastor.

In 1883 it was decided to call a qualified teacher and also to build a school building. The congregation decided to hold school five days a week for six hours a day year-

round except for one month during harvest. A frame building, 22x40 foot, was erected where our school is today. This building was used until 1950 when our present school was ready for use. It was later moved to Prospect Ave. and 7th St. and used as a warehouse. It was then moved to 1005 N. 8th, remodeled as a house and is still there.

In 1906 a second classroom opened. Two women served as teachers until 1910 when the second male teacher was called. As enrollment increased more classroom space was needed. The congregation decided to build a new church and convert the present one into a school. In 1907 the church cornerstone was laid and dedicated on May 3, 1908. The old church was moved to the east side of 11th Street and served as a school until 1950. It was then torn down and hauled to Stanton where the lumber was used to build another church.

From 1910 until 1918 two male teachers taught all eight grades and then a female teacher was called. She taught in the back room of the old church, which was known as the confirmation room of the "Big School". Then in 1919 a third school was built one block north of the parsonage at the corner of Roosevelt Ave. and Colwell St. It was known as the "Little School". From 1919 to 1927 there were three schools. Classes started at 9:00 AM with the teachers of their respective school building ringing their hand bell. Classes ended at 4:00 PM. A tap bell was used to signify the beginning of each class session. The schools were divided this way: Little School--Beginners, 1st and 2nd grades, Middle School--3rd, 4th, and 5th grades, Big School--6th, 7th and 8th grades. In 1927 the Little School was sold. It still stands where it was built and renovated into a house. The 6th grade was moved to the Middle School and Kindergarten 1st and 2nd grades moved to the Big School. The back room of this school was used as the Instruction Room where the Pastors taught confirmation classes. The next 16 years the Big School became known as Mr. Fuhrmann's school and the Middle School as Mr. Egger's school as they were the teachers during these years.

In 1944 plans were drawn and money was gathered for a new school, but it was 1948 before the cornerstone was laid. On June 4, 1950 dedication services were held. This school was 60 x 80 foot and cost \$102,000.00 and still is in use today. A third female teacher was also called to serve at this time. This new building contained 3 classrooms, an instruction room, library, auditorium, kitchen and student restrooms. East of the auditorium there were two single restrooms, a Ladies Aid storeroom and a storage room, also called janitor's room or sports equipment room. This room was used as the kindergarten room from 1955 to 1966 because of the large enrollment at that time.

This building also had a full basement for the furnace and storage. It also had a playground with the original teeter-totters. In 1951 a slide was added. In 1952 Kindergarten was moved to a separate room. A female teacher was called to teach half days. At first it was held in the instruction room and moved to the sports equipment room. In 1954 the fourth full time teacher was called. From 1959 to 1964 the Kindergarten staff was unstable. Changes occurred regularly with six different teachers filling this position.

In 1963 six teeter-totters were replaced with a jungle gym.

More classrooms were needed so in 1966 an addition was added to the northeast of the existing school at a cost of \$65,500. It contained three classrooms, principal's office, faculty lounge, faculty restrooms, student restrooms, janitor's closet and a hallway with west and north entry doors. In 1968 the gym floor was covered with torginal and the upper grades began competing in sports with other schools. In 1971 girl's volleyball was added to inter-scholastic sports. In 1974 shower facilities were installed in each of the student restrooms of the 1966 addition. The girl's basketball team was organized in 1977. In 1978 a part-time school and church secretary was hired and in 1979 the school dress code was revised. The Parent Support group was organized in 1983.

In 1991 there was another new beginning. "Little Lambs" pre-school was opened and it has had a full enrollment every year. A wheel chair ramp was installed at the south entrance and the secretary office enlarged in 1991.

In 2000 the gym floor was tiled. A fifth full time teacher was added to the faculty in 2002. In 2006 new playground equipment with rubber matting was added to the playground. A hot lunch program was started around this time with food being brought in from the public school and served by volunteers. Students could also bring their own lunch if they choose. In 2008 the large tree in front of the school was removed. A computerized sign was put up south of the school. In 2010 the men's restroom and the room used for Sunday school on the east side of the gym were made into a media room.

In 2011 the wall between the two south classrooms was moved west to make a bigger room. The smaller room is now being used as the library. Once again more space was needed, so in 2012 a 30x30 foot room was built on the northwest corner of the school. Also that year, the two faculty restrooms in the 1966 addition were made into a handicap restroom and land east of the school east of the school to Queen City Boulevard was purchased from the city.

In 2013 the door locking system began and the south entrance was remodeled with two sets of locking doors and the secretary office was made into two offices. In 2014 a roll-up door was installed at the top of the basement stairs. Accreditation of the school was also completed with a 98% compliance. In 2015 a chain link fence was installed around the playground and on both street sides of the soccer field west of the parsonage.

The Lord has truly blessed St. Paul's members with many gifts.

The first teacherage was built in 1884 after the first regular trained teacher was called in 1883. It was east of the first school built in 1883 facing Georgia Avenue. It was later enlarged with an addition. In 1970 it was sold for \$1,000.00 and moved. Another teacherage was built in 1915 for \$2,000.00 east of the first one after the second trained teacher was called. It was sold in 2008 and moved to Queen City Boulevard about one block north from where it was. A third teacherage was bought in 1970 at 912 Maple Ave. and was sold in 1998 for \$70,000.00. From 1994 until it was sold it was used as a second parsonage. Since 1998 the parsonage west of the church has been used as a teacherage.

Our school has certainly prospered from its many blessings over the last 150 years. The school that began as a one-room dirt floor with the pastor as teacher is now a modern seven-room school staffed by eight full time and two part time teachers.

It is our goal that children receive a quality, Christ-based education, the same goal as that of the first settlers 150 years ago.



The staff in 2016 is:

Mr. Jacob Unke - (7 & 8) Principal

Mr. Scott Brown - (5 & 6) Choir Director

Mrs. Heidi Rixe - (3 & 4)

Mrs. Sarah Nelson - Grade 1 Mornings

Mrs. Tiffany Winkel - Grade 2 Mornings

Mrs. Shannon Spreeman - Grades 1 & 2 Afternoons

Mrs. Karen Pufahl - Teacher's Aide Afternoons

Miss Nicole Beglinger - Kindergarten

Mrs. Linda Mullen - (Little Lambs Preschool)

Mrs. Kristin Bauer - Teacher's Aide

LADY TEACHERS AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Mrs. Kidder (wife of Congregational minister)		
Christine Hamann	1906	
Ella Raasch	- 1910	
Edna Eckert (Michaelson)	1919 - 1922	
Freda Hille (Fowler)	1922 - 1925	
Esther Dommer (Trettin)	1925 - 1927	
Ione Strege	1950 - 1955	
Marian Isaacson	1952	
Ruby Herbst	1954 - 1960	
Gwen Rauschke	1955 - 1957	
Jeanette Backer	1957 - 1960	
Lucille Brei	1959	
Avis Sieg	1960 - 1961	
Dorothy Vogel	1961 - 1962	
LaVerna Everts	1960 - 1981	Grades 1 - 2
Faye Taecker	1962 - 1963	
JoAnn Grebe	1962 & 1970	
Linda Haberman	1963 - 1967	
Doretta Meyer	1963	
E. Menk	1964	
Corrine Swogger	1964 - 1967	Kindergarten
Joan Stuebs	1967 - 1971	
Kindergarten		
Beverlee Haar	1967	Grades 3 - 4
Karen Marohl	1970	
Elaine Callies	1970	
Norma Schmidt	1971	Kindergarten
Jean Dickinson	1972	Kindergarten and Remedial
Lynda Zahn	1972	Grades 3 - 4
Carol Pfeil	1973	K., Grades 4 - 5
Christine Albrecht	1973	Grades 3 - 4
Judy Noeldner	1974 - 1978	Grades 2 - 3
Mary Streiter	1975 - 1978	Grades 4 - 5
Mary Schmal	1978	Kindergarten
Nancy Enter	1978 - 1984	
Ruan Pohlman	1979	
Kris Swogger	1979 - 1981	
Susan Vetter	1983 - 1986	
Cindy Most	1981 - 1989	Grades 1 - 2
Karen Eickhoff	1984 - 1990	
Jennifer Meyer	1986 - 1992	Grades 3 - 4
Carol Reichow	1988 - 1990	Grades 1 - 2
Karen Wolff	1989 - 1992	
Amy Schultz (Bretschneider)	1990 - 2002	Grades 1 - 2
Linda Mullen	1991 -	Preschool
Tania Jacobs	1992 - 1996	Grades 3 - 4
Maria Seybold	1992 - 1995	Kindergarten

Amy Schaumberg	1995 - 1996	Kindergarten
Danielle Stein	1996 - 1999	Kindergarten
Ellen Seidl	1996 - 1998	Grades 3 - 4
Lisa Tauscher	1998 - 1999	Grades 3 - 4
Shannon Spreeman	1999 - 2000	Grades 3 - 4
Shannon Spreeman	2000 - 2011	Kindergarten
Connie Hille	2010 - 2011	Kindergarten Aide
Laura Frick	2000 - 2001	Grades 3 - 4
Heidi Rixe	2000 -	EAP/Art/Reading
	2012 -	Grades 3 -4
Sarah Lindke	2002 - 2006	Grades 1 - 2
Becky Reils	2006 - 2007	Grades 1 - 2
Tammie Kassulke	2007 - 2008	Grades 1 - 2
Nicole Beglinger	2011 - 2016	Kindergarten
Connie Hille	2010 - 2011	Kindergarten Aide
Kristin Bauer	2014 -	Kindergarten Aide
Sarah (Lindke) Nelson	2008 -	Grades 1 - 2
	2014 -	Afternoons
Karen Pufahl	2014 -	Afternoon Aide
Anne Gumm	2013 - 2014	Grades 5 - 8
		Science & PhyEd
Tiffany Winkel	2014 -	Morning 2 nd grade
Shannon Spreeman	2014 -	Morning 1 st grade
Rachel Reichert	2015 -	Tacher's Aide
		Tues, Wed, & Thur
Karen Stromquist	2014 -	Teacher's Aide
Kinzie Paulsen	2016 -	Kindergarten

MEN TEACHERS

J. Eiselmeyer	1883 - 1886	
W. Henkel	1885 - 1886	
L. Zuelow	1886 - 1893	
F. Siegler	1893 - 1894	
Candidate Wicke	1894 - 1895	
W. Schroeder	1895 - 1901	
H. Nimmer	1901 - 1906	
J. Bartz	1906 - 1916	
C. Quandt	1910 - 1916	
Mr. Meinke	1916 - 1917	
J. M. Krampien	1916 - 1920	
C. G. Fuhrman	1917 - 1943	
F. Eggers	1920 - 1951	
F. Scharleman	1944 - 1944	
Mr. Kruske	1944 - 1945	
Henry Krenz	1945 - 1952	
Eldon Hirsch	1952 - 1964	
Raymond Brei	1951 - 1960	Grades 7 - 8 Principal
Robert Meyer	1960 - 1965	
Martin Roehler	1964 - 1969	Grades 7 - 8 Principal
Wm. Nolte	1965 - 1966	Grades 5 - 6
Gerald Bunkowske	1966 - 1969	Grades 5 - 6
Daniel Hennig	1970 - 1973	Grades 7 - 8 Principal
James Marshall	1970 - 1977	
James Klug	1973 - 1974	Grades 7 - 8-Principal
Danial Schmal	1974 - 1979	Grades 7 - 8 Principal
Rodney Bollinger	1977 - 1983	Grades 7 - 8-Principal
Robert Adrian	1979 - 1983	
Daryl Weber	1983 - 1993	Grades 7 - 8 Principal
David Hosbach	1983 - 1985	
Tim Kassulke	1985 - 2008	Grades 5 - 6 Principal 1993
Dennis Sukow	1993 - Nov. 1994	Grades 7 - 8
Dale Rungren	Jan. 1995 - 2004	Grades 7 - 8
Joshua Gregovich	2001 - 2003	Grades 3 - 4
Jim Corona	2004 - 2005	Grades 6 - 7 - 8
Seth Fitzsimmons	2006 - 2015	Grades 7 - 8 & Principal
Scott Brown	2008 -	Grades 5 - 6 & Music
Jacob Unke	2015 - 2016	Grades 7 - 8 Principal Apprentice
Mike Paulsen	2016 -	Grades 7 - 8 Principal Apprentice

REED ORGAN

A reed organ works by pushing the pedals of the organ, compressing a set of billows. When a key is pressed, the air is sucked in to the billow through a small metal reed, producing a note. This organ sat in the church basement for many years until it was sold to a member when the basement was cleaned out. In the summer of 2015, the reed organ was donated back to the church and was repaired. Many of the congregation members' time and talents were used to repair it. With the help of these talented people they were able to take the playing pieces (billows, reeds, keys, etc.) of another organ and make it play again. They had to piece some of it together, and create some new pieces, but with all of their help they have a beautiful playing instrument.

Those donating their time and talents were Brock and Gary Bretschneider, JoAnn Winter, Loren Bloomquist and Jim Herbolsheimer. Thanks to our organists: Diane Herbolsheimer, Alicia Moyer, Karen Pufahl, and Shannon Spreemen we can hear the beautiful music that our congregation heard years ago.



Our Fore Father's Christmas Trees

As the planning for our anniversary progressed, the question came up, "Is there anything we could do at Christmas?" As discussions continued, we realized that there were 29 different family names that came in the first wagon train in July 1866. "Could we set up 29 Christmas trees in Church?" "Can we make ornaments for those trees?" "Can we use materials that they might have had available to them in 1866?" "Let's give it a try!"

Over a period of three months volunteers met weekly to make ornaments. We used materials that may have been available to these early settlers such as: wood, buttons, ribbon, milk weed pods, tin cans and lids, paper, lace, thread, weeds and grasses, corn cobs and husks, cloth, pine cones, etc. When enough ornaments were made that each tree could be decorated with its own ornaments, the process of setting them up began. It took a whole week to decorate the 29 trees. Lights were added that had small pieces of PVC pipe placed over the bulbs so it looked like candles. The trees ranged in height from 3 feet to 12 feet. We even had a decorated plum thicket. We were told by members that there were years when they could not get an evergreen and used a plum thicket. What a marvelous way to celebrate our Saviors birth as we were preparing for our anniversary.

We held two open houses for the community to view our Christmas display. It was decided to add a Nativity display in our basement. Members were asked to bring their Nativity sets. We displayed 96 Nativity sets from around the world, no duplicates.

If there was a comment we heard again and again, it was, "You know, you don't have to buy an ornament, do you. Look at what you can make, really out of nothing."

The birth of Jesus has been proclaimed for 150 years here in Norfolk. What a marvelous way we proclaimed His birth in December 2015.



2100 Pound Bell Circa 1907 from Troy N.J.



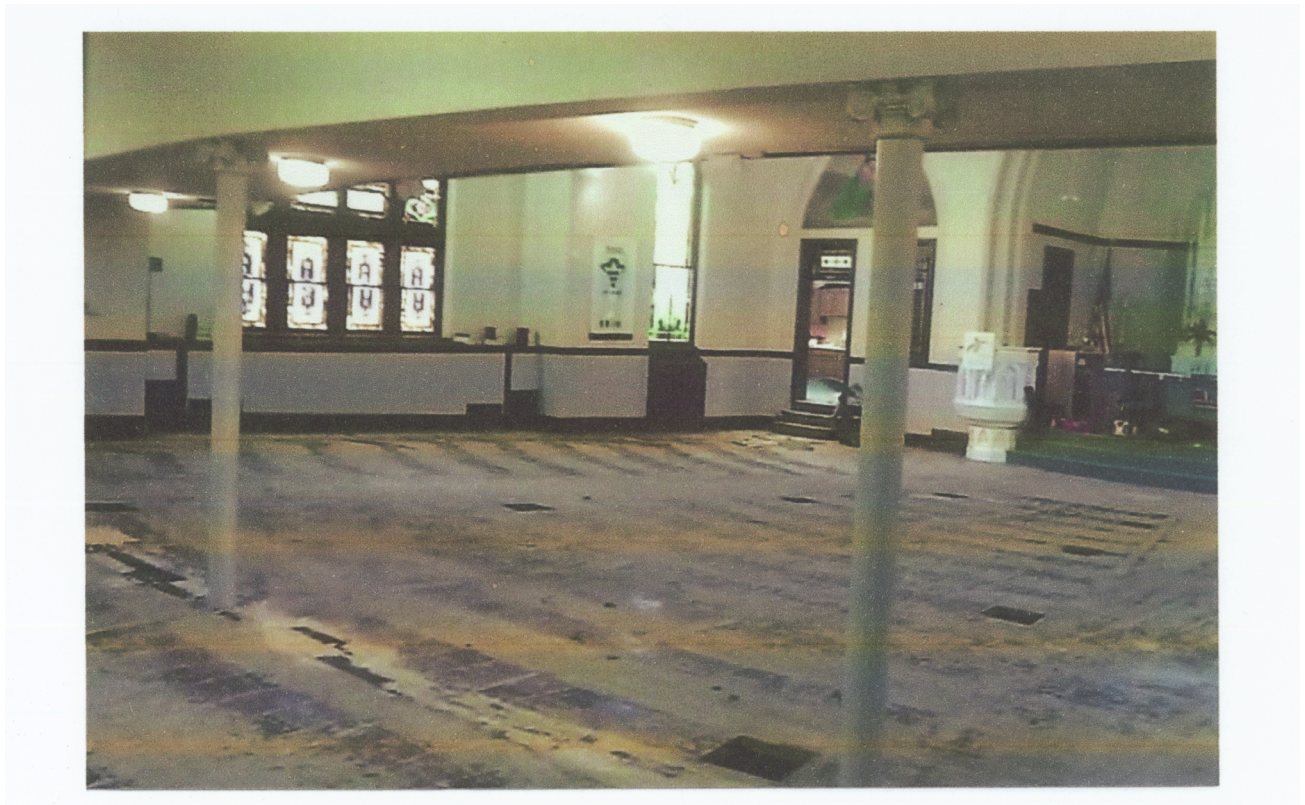
New Mural in Church Feb. 2012 by Karl Reeder





Original Baptismal Font

**Donated to Pioneer
Village in Minden, NE**



Getting Church ready for new carpet in April of 2016

**CHRONICLE ORDER OF THE MANY BLESSINGS RECEIVED AND THE
FAITHFUL SERVANTS WHO HAVE SERVED HERE
1866 – 2016**

PASTOR J.M. HOECKENDORF

- 1866 - Pastor Hoeckendorf arrived in October to serve St. Paul's
- 1867 - A log church 24x30 was erected
- 1876 - Twelve acres of land was bought for \$120 from Pastor Hoeckendorf
First parsonage was built 16x26 with a wing 14x18 (built by Karl Uecker)
Congregation was incorporated with the State of Nebraska
- 1877 - Pastor Hoeckendorf passed away
- 1878 - Decided to erect a church 35x50 for \$1405
The congregation numbered 50 voting members

PASTOR M. PANKOW

- 1878 - Candidate M. Pankow was installed on August 18
The new church was dedicated on the same day
- 1883 - The first school 22x40 was erected
Mr. J. Eiselmeyer accepted as the first regular teacher
- 1884 - First teacherage 16x24 was erected, sold in 1970
The church was furnished with pews and an altar replacing tree stumps and planks
First pipe organ was installed, which served until 1921
During these years Pastor Pankow founded congregation in Stanton, Hoskins
and Hadar
First choir was organized by J. Eiselmeyer
- 1885 - Candidate W. Henkel taught for one year
- 1886 - L. Zuelow was installed as the regular teacher
- 1892 - Pastor Pankow was released to accept a call to Lake Mills, Wisconsin

PASTOR A.F. SIEGLER

- 1892 - Pastor Siegler was installed on Ascension Day
- 1893 - Mr. L. Zuelow accepted a call to Minneapolis
Candidate F. Siegler taught for one year
- 1894 - Candidate Wicke taught for one year
- 1895 - Candidate W. Schroeder became the regular teacher
- 1899 - Pastor Siegler accepts call to Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

PASTOR TH. HOELZEL

- 1899 - Pastor Hoelzel installed on November 12
- 1901 - Mr. H. Nimmer accepted as teacher in place of W. Schroeder
- 1903 - Congregation became a member of the Nebraska District of the Wisconsin Synod
- 1904 - Pastor Hoelzel passed away on April 30

PASTOR JOHN WITT

- 1904 – Pastor Witt was installed on July 3
- 1905 – Constitution revised
 - Constitution for school and cemetery adopted
- 1906 – Mr. J. Bartz installed as teacher in the place of Mr. Nimmer
 - Second classroom in school opened
 - Mrs. Hamann and Miss Ella Raasch served until 1910 as second teacher
- 1907 – Present church built at a cost of \$24,000 (it was wired for electricity as this time even though it had its own gas plant at the time)
- 1908 – Old church moved across the street and served as a school until 1950
 - The Ladies Aid was organized
- 1910 – Mr. C. Quandt was called as the second teacher
- 1911 – Present parsonage erected for \$4,000
- 1913 – Male Chorus organized
- 1914 – English services conducted once a month in the evening
- 1915 – Second teacherage erected for \$2,000
 - Interior of the church redecorated at a cost of \$1,110 (This is when the murals above the altar were painted by Carl Reiman)
- 1916 – Mr. Meinke and Mr. Krampien accepted as teachers
 - 50th Anniversary of the founding of the congregation was celebrated
 - Congregation numbered 760 souls and 559 communicants
- 1917 – Mr. C. G. Fuhrman accepted as teacher in place of Mr. Meinke
- 1918 – Electric lights were installed in the church, parsonage and the two teacherages
 - Because of the enrollment a third teacher was hired
 - Edna Ecker (Michaelson) taught in the back room (known as the confirmation room) of the “Big School” until Easter 1919
- 1919 – Running water was installed in the parsonage
 - Because of the large enrollment a third school (known as the “Little School”) was built, Miss Ecker continued as the teacher
 - Three German and one English service held per month
- 1920 – Mr. F. Eggers was installed as a teacher in place of Mr. Krampien
 - One German-English service bi-weekly
- 1921 – Present pipe organ dedicated on June 27 at a cost of \$8,850
- 1922 – Frieda Hille (Fowler) became the third teacher
- 1924 – City water installed in the church, parsonage and teacherages
- 1925 – The envelope system, for offerings was introduced
 - Esther Dommer (Trettin) became the third teacher
- 1927 – The third school at Colwell and Roosevelt Ave. was sold
- 1928 – English services at 10:55 a.m. and German services at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday
- 1929 – Furnace installed in both teacherages
- 1930 – The church was re-shingled
 - The thirties were drought years; very little repairing done on the property; salaries were continually decreasing

- 1936 – 70th Anniversary of congregation celebrated
- 1939 – Men's Club organized
- 1940 – Parsonage was re-painted
- 1941 – Teacherages were re-painted
Sunday Bulletin printed
- 1942 – New furnace installed in the church
New blue hard cover hymnals introduced at a cost of \$1.00 each
- 1943 – On March 9th Pastor Witt addressed the voting membership with the following words: “Just as the Lord moved my heart almost 39 years ago to accept the call to this congregation, so also now the Lord has moved my heart to resign my pastorate, which I love so well, on account of my ill health. It is impossible for me to perform the duties necessary for the welfare of the congregation. What God ordains is always good; His will abideth holy. As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.” With an equally heavy heart his resignation was accepted by the congregation.

PASTOR W.W. GIESCHEN

- 1943 – Pastor W. Gieschen of Wautoma, Wisconsin was installed on June 20
A new furnace and blower was installed in the parsonage plus other repairs were made
The present form of liturgy was adopted
- 1943 – Mr. C. G. Fuhrman resigned as teacher because of ill health after 26 years of faithful service
The minutes are to be taken in the English language
- 1944 – Mr. F. Scharleman was installed as teacher in January and resigned in October because of ill health
Mr. Kruske a seminary student finished out the school year
Plans were drawn and money being gathered for a new school which should contain three classrooms, an instruction room, a library, and auditorium and a kitchen. Total cost to be about \$35,000
- 1945 – Mr. Henry Krenz was installed as teacher
Money is being gathered to re-decorate the interior of the church
- 1946 – The pipe organ is to be inspected annually
Pastor Gieschen was released to accept a call to Manitowoc, Wisconsin

PASTOR E.J. DREYER

- 1947 - Pastor Dreyer was installed on June 8th
Extensive repairs were made on the parsonage
The church was re-decorated at a cost of \$3,000, the pulpit was lowered, the altar moved back, a communion rail and lectern added.
The steeple was re-shingled
The organ was overhauled at a cost of \$1,097
Re-dedication of church on September 14
- 1948 - The congregation decided to erect a new school 60x80 at a cost of \$50,000-\$60,000
- 1949 - The church roof was re-shingled
- 1950 - The new school was dedicated on June 4th. Pastor W. Gieschen delivered the sermon. Total cost of school was about \$102,000
Miss Ione Strege was called as the third regular teacher
The parsonage was insulated
- 1951 - Mr. F. Eggers resigned as the teacher because of ill health after serving faithfully for 31 years. He also served as Secretary of the congregation for 27 years.
Mr. Raymond Brei of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin was installed as teacher and principal
There are about 90 pupils in the school
Slide added to playground equipment
Ladies Aid allotted \$100 to build cupboards in the school office
Membership totals are 936 souls and 730 communicants
- 1952- Mr. Henry Krenz was released as teacher to accept a call to Reedsville, Wisconsin
Candidate Eldon Hirsch was installed as teacher
Since the Kindergarten class had increased the size of the enrollment in the school Mrs. Marion Isaacson was asked to teach this class
Curb and gutter were installed on Georgia Avenue and one block north on 11th Street along the church property
- 1953 - Pastor Dreyer was released to accept a call to Omaha, Nebraska
Pastor W. Sprengeler of Hoskins served as the vacancy pastor
On September 2nd it was decided to insist that children must attend instructions with the pastor during the 7th and 8th grades

PASTOR HUGO FRITZE

- 1953 - Pastor Fritze of Des Moines, Iowa was installed on December 6
School enrollment was 113 students
- 1954 - On March 2nd the voting members decided to conduct two English services on each Sunday
Miss Ruby Herbst was called as the fourth full-time teacher
The Constitution was revised and adopted
The parsonage and teacherages were repainted
- 1955 - Miss Strege was released to accept a call to Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin
Miss Gwendolyn Rauschke of Bangor, Wisconsin accepted our call
The parsonage and teacherages were given a second coat of paint

- 1956 – It was decided to completely overhaul the pipe organ and also purchase a new console and the Great Chest. Total cost \$7,075
 There are 137 children in our school
 The congregation numbers 767 communicants and 1086 souls
 The 90th Anniversary of the founding of our congregation celebrated July 15
- 1957 – Miss Jeanette Backer replaces Miss Rauschke
- 1959 – The Kindergarten staff was unstable. Changes occurred regularly with Mrs. Raymond Breik, Mrs. Eldon Hirsch, Mrs. Robert Meyer, Mrs. Gordon Grebe and Mrs. R. Menk filling this position until 1964
- 1960 – Mr. Raymond Brei was released to accept a professorship at D.M.L.C.
 Mr. Robert Meyer accepted our call
 Miss Jeanette Backer and Miss Ruby Herbst resign
 Miss LaVerna Everts (1st and 2nd) and Miss Avis Sieg (3rd and 4th) replace Them
- 1961 – Miss Sieg resigns and is replaced by Miss Dorothy Vogel
- 1962 – Miss Vogel resigns and is replaced by Miss Faye Taecker
 Pastor Hugo Fritze accepts a call to Council Bluffs, Iowa

PASTOR ELWOOD HABERMANN

- 1962 – Pastor E. Habermann of Kimberly, Wisconsin was installed on August 19
- 1963 – Miss Taecker resigns and Mrs. Linda Habermann accepts the call to teach 3rd and 4th grades
- 1963 - Membership total 1,080 souls and 795 communicants
 School enrollment 154
 Six of the 12 teeter-totters were removed and replaced with a jungle gym
- 1964 – Mr. Eldon Hirsch accepts a call to a Professorship in music at D.M.L.H.S. at New Ulm, Minnesota
 Mr. Martin Roehler of South Milwaukee, Wisconsin replaces him as teacher (7th and 8th) and principal
 Mrs. Corrine Swogger accepts the call to teach Kindergarten
 First parent-teacher consultations conducted
 Junior Choir organized
 Couples Club (now known as Adult Fellowship Group) organized in September
 School enrollment 163
 Major hail and storm damage to church property on June 16
 Paving from Sunnydell Avenue to 13th St. completed
 Assessment of \$6,532.00 paid for the paving of 11th St. between the church and school and Georgia Avenue from Sunnydell Avenue east to the railroad
 Teacherage renovated at an estimated cost of \$800.00
 Ladies Aid paid for glare screens on auditorium windows replacing the drapes
- 1965 – Mr. Robert Meyer accepts a principalship of our mission school in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin
 Mr. William Nolte (5th and 6th) replaces him

- 1966 – School addition built at a cost of \$65,500
 Mr. Nolte resigns and is replaced by Mr. Gerald Bunkowske from
 Lake City, Minnesota
 School enrollment 147
 Mrs. Rose Schmiedeke becomes Sunday School Superintendent
 Church parking lot graded and graveled
- 1967 – Pastor E. Habermann accepts a call
 Pastors E.L. Lindemann, E. Lindquist and H. Russow are vacancy Pastors
 for 9 months

PASTOR MILTON WEISHAHN

- 1967 - Pastor M. Weishahn is installed October 1
 Miss Joan Stuebs replaces Mrs. Swogger
 Miss Beverly Haar replaces Mrs. Habermann
- 1968 – Auditorium floor covered with torginal
- 1969 – Communion handrail installed
 Upper grade students began participation in sports with other schools
 New kneeling pads were made by the Welfare committee
- 1970 – Re-leading and re-setting church stained glass windows was finished
 Teacherage at 912 Maple Avenue acquired
 80 year old teacherage (first one built) was sold for \$1000
 Narthex, balcony steps and front steps carpeted (by Ladies Aid)
 Mr. Daniel Hennig, Mr. James Marshall, Miss Karen Marohl and Miss Elaine Callies
 all accept calls to teach
- 1971 - Girl's volleyball added to inter-scholastic sports
 Carpet and new pews installed in the balcony
 Protective storm glass installed on the west windows of the church
 Miss Norma Schmidt replaces Miss Stuebs (Kindergarten)
 School enrollment 138
- 1972 – Six new gas furnaces replace old stoker furnace in old part of school
 Miss Deickinson and Miss Lynda Zahn accept calls to teach
- 1973 – Mr. James Klug replaces Mr. Hennig (7th-8th and principal)
 Miss Carol Pfeil accepts a call to teach Kindergarten
 Miss Christine Albrecht accepts a call to teach 3rd and 4th grades
 Milk program introduced in the school
- 1974 – Junior Choir started – grades 5-8
 Storm glass on east window of church installed
 Church re-decorated and air-conditioned
 Shower facilities installed in school
 Mr. Daniel Schmal replaces Mr. Klug
 Miss Judy Noeldner accepts a call to teach
- 1975 – New furnaces installed in the church
 Miss Mary Strieter accepts a call to teach
 Lutheran Women's Missionary Society started in our church

- 1976 – Chimes in the church were installed
 Vicarship started
 Mr. Richard Starr becomes 1st vicar
 Pioneer Monument at Liberty Bell Park was dedicated September 6
- 1977 – Girl's basketball started
 Mr. Rodney Bollinger replaces Mr. Marshall
 Mr. Richard Kanzenbach is the new vicar
- 1978 – Part time church and school secretary hired, Mrs. LuAnn Wattles
 Mrs. Mary Schmal and Miss Nancy Enter replace Miss Noeldner and Miss Strieter
 Mr. Charles Potosnyak is new vicar
- 1979 – Dress code at school changed
 Broadcasting of 8:30 a.m. worship service on KNEN-FM begins
 Ruan Pohlman spring and Mrs. Kris Swogger fall Kindergarten teacher
 Mr. Robert Adrian replaces Mr. Schmal
 Mr. Mark Schroeder is new vicar
 Pastor M. Weishahn takes a call, Pastor Richard Schlieve accepts the call
 to be the vacancy pastor
- 1980 – Cable TV installed in school
 Mr. Stuart Zak is new vicar
 Pastor R. Schlieve is vacancy pastor

PASTOR PHILIP ZARLING

- 1981 – Pastor Philip Zarling is installed in February
 New heating and air conditioning systems installed in parsonage and
 Georgia Ave. teacherage
 Miss LaVerna Everts retires after 21 years here
 Miss Cindy Most replaces Miss Everts
 Miss Susan Vetter replaces Mrs. Swogger
 Mr. Dennis Himm is vicar
- 1982 – Mr. Christopher Kruschel is vicar
- 1983 – Installed new carpet on the outside front steps of the church
 Auction of unused items stored in church basement
 Parent support group organized
 Trees trimmed in the cemetery
 Mr. Philip Wilde is vicar
 Miss Susan Vetter replaces Mrs. Swogger as kindergarten teacher
 First cookbook printed
- 1984 – Steeple on the church re-shingled with special aluminum shingles –
 guaranteed to last 50 years
 Kitchen remodeled
 Mr. William Zeitler is vicar
 Mr. Daryl Weber replaces Mr. Adrian, Mr. Dave Hosbach replaces Mr. Bollinger,
 Miss Karen Eichoff replaces Mrs. Nancy (Enter) Zanders
- 1985 – Auditorium floor resurfaced

- New tile flooring in entrance of school
 Sprinkler system around church and parsonage put in
 Steel siding was installed on Georgia Ave. teacherage
 Church roof was shingled with shingles made of fiberglass and guaranteed to
 25 years. Total cost of replacing shingles on steeple and roof-\$21, 565.25
 Mr. Roger Knepperath is vicar
- 1986 – Finished silverware project for kitchen
 Mr. Dennis Klatt is vicar
 Mr. Tim Kassulke replaces Mr. Hosbach and Miss Jenny Meyer replaces Miss Vetter
 Mrs. Diane Ellenberger replaces Mrs. Wattles as secretary in December
- 1987 – Mr. Joe Schlawin is vicar
- 1988 – Mr. Christopher Oehlke is vicar
 New railings were added in front of the altar
 Siding on parsonage - \$12, 867
 Miss Eichaff becomes Mrs. Daniel Pufahl
- 1989 – New carpet installed on the front steps of the church
 Mr. Stephen Raddatz is vicar
 Miss Carol Reichow replaces Miss Most
- 1990 – Mr. Luke Were is vicar
 Mrs. Karen Pufahl resigns, Miss Amy Schultz accepts the call
 Miss Karen Wolff replaces Miss Reichow
 Pastor Philip Zarling accepts a call to Overland Park, Kansas
 Pastor James Nelson from Hoskins is vacancy pastor
- 1991 – Pastor Elton Huebner, a retired pastor, accepts a call to be vacancy pastor in
 place of Pastor Nelson
 All church interior was painted, carpeted, pews downstairs refinished and padded
 New vertical blinds installed in auditorium windows
 Wheelchair ramp installed at entrance of school
 Office in school enlarged
 “Little Lambs” Pre-school started with Mrs. Linda Mullen as teacher
 Mr. Jeff Mittelstädt is vicar

PASTOR THOMAS SCHMIDT

- 1991 – Pastor Thomas Schmidt from Tulsa, Oklahoma installed on November 24
- 1992 – Support beam in ceiling of church repaired
 Church ceiling painted
 Mr. David Bitter is vicar
- 1993 – New shingles on church
 Miss Tania Jacobs replaces Miss Meyer and Miss Maria Sebald replaces
 Miss Wolff
 Mr. Joel Pankow is vicar
 Women in Christ’s Service (WICS) organized
- 1994 – New red hymnbooks dedicated
 Mr. Dennis Sukow replaces Mr. Weber

PASTOR THOMAS SCHMIDT/PASTOR DAVID ROCKOFF

- 1994 – Pastor David Rockoff is installed as Associate Pastor on June 19
Pastor Rockoff moves into Maple Ave. house
- 1995 – New communion ware cover made by Lynn Kirkwold, St. Paul, Minnesota
granddaughter of Rose Schmiedeke
Mrs. Jeanette Leuthold replaces Mrs. Ellenberger as church secretary
- 1996 – Ground breaking for new church addition March 24 - April 13 basement is dug
Pastor Schmidt accepts a call to Kenai, Alaska
Mr. Dale Rundgren replace Mr. Sukow and Mrs. Amy Schaumberg replaces
Miss Sebald
Miss Amy Schultz becomes Mrs. Amy Bretschnieder
Pastor Rockhoff moves to parsonage
Two Christmas trees purchased and decorated. Artificial Poinsettias potted.

PASTOR DAVID ROCKOFF/PASTOR RANDY BADER

- 1997 – Pastor Randy Bader, Vista, Minnesota, installed November 16
Pastor Bader moves in to Maple Ave. house
New addition dedicated February 2
Miss Danielle Stein replaces Mrs. Schaumberg and Miss Ellen Seidl replaces
Miss Jacobs
Pastor Bader moves to parsonage, Pastor Rockhoff buys own home
- 1998 – Church steeple and cross painted
New sign outside of church
New concrete parking lot
Television Broadcasting started
Pastor Bader buys own home
Maple Ave. house sold for \$70,000
Teacher Tim Kassulke moves into parsonage
Mrs. Schmiedke resigns as Sunday School superintendent – Mrs. Terry Weinrich
and Mrs. Karen Pufahl replace her.
- 1999 – Tuck Pointing of church
Inside of church walls repaired and painted
New sidewalk and retaining wall along 11th street
Miss Lisa Tauscher replaces Miss Siedl
- 2000 – Tile floor laid in auditorium
Lawn sprinkler system completed
Mrs. Shannon Spreeman replaces Miss Tauscher
Pastor Rockoff accepts a call to Brillion, Wisconsin

PASTOR RANDY BADER/PASTOR HOWARD MOHLKE

- 2001 – Pastor Howard Mohlke from Zambia, Africa installed January 7
Pastor Mohlke buys his own home
Miss Laura Frick replaces Miss Stein
- 2002 - New doors on west side of the school auditorium
Inside of both Communion Chalices refinished (paid for by Ladies Aid)
Crocheted wall hanging of the Lord's Prayer made by Iona Carstens
framed and hung in church entryway
New roof and new windows – school auditorium
Mr. Joshua Gregovich replaces Miss Frick and Mrs. Heidi Rixe added to faculty
- 2003 - Miss Sarah Lindke replaces Mrs. Bretschnieder
- 2004 – Mr. Gregovich resigns
Mr. Dale Rundgren and family moves
Loren and Marianne Bloomquist go to Camaroon, Africa as Kingdom Workers
- 2005 – Furnaces replaced in both teacherages
Bat removal from the church and houses
The sound system was installed after Christmas
Mr. James Corona replaces Mr. Rundgren
- 2006 – School roof replaced
Church steeple is now visible at night thanks to a gift of a floodlight
Church cleaning is being done by volunteers
Tuck pointing of the school was completed
New playground equipment installed with rubber matting
Miss Becky Reils replaces Miss Lindke who accepted a call to Florida
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons replaces Mr. Corona
Fitzsimmons family moves into teacherage
- 2007 - Mr. Fitzsimmons buys a home and moves out of teacherage
The organ was updated with new technology
Mrs. Tim Kassulke replaces Miss Reils
Pastor Mohlke accepts call to Messiah Lutheran, Nampa, Idaho
New garage built
Large projection screen put in school
Terri Weinrich and Karen Pufahl retired as Sunday School Superintendents
Barb Haase coordinates the Sunday school
Celebrated 140th Anniversary of the church
658 souls and 528 communicants
- 2008 – Mr. Tim Kassulke accepts call (after 23 years) to Mt. Calvary Church and School
in Waukeesha, WI
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons accepts call to assume the principal duties at St. Paul's
Tree removed on the corner in front of the school
Teacherage at 1000 Georgia was sold and moved to Queen City Boulevard
Bell tower staircase repaired and painted
New sign installed in front of school

Mr. Scott Brown accepts call for teaching and music ministry
Miss Sarah Lindke accepts call to replace Mrs. Tammie Kassulke
School enrollment 41

Church roof and church walls repaired
New light was installed to match other church light fixtures.

2009 - 636 souls and 497 communicants

Interior of church painted. Altar area redecorated by Karl Reeder
School enrollment 52

Large projection screen put in church
Mrs. Chad Moyer accepts job as Sunday school Superintendent
Church members start using new system to clean church

2010 - 624 souls and 497 communicants

Underground drainage system, concrete work, heated steps, and handrail
and sprinkler system completed

Men's bathroom and old Sunday school room on east side of gym renovated
into a media room

Open house for public for "Preserve Norfolk"
Pictures taken for church pictorial

School enrollment 74

New school logo by James Mullen

2011- Pastor Randy Bader accepts call to Great Plains Lutheran High School in
Watertown, South Dakota

Mrs. Shannon Spreeman retires to be a "full time Mom"

Church roof, teacherage & 3 garages shingled after hailstorm

New air conditioner at church and 2 at school.

Boys & girls bathrooms in south end of the school received a major remodel

Upper fellowship hall was painted to match the church interior color.

Windows in the gym removed and then bricked in to prohibit any further leakage.

New light installed to provide more light in the church parking lot.

Wall between 1st and 2nd grade and Mrs. Rixe's room torn down to make 1st and 2nd
grade room larger. A new wall was then constructed to make a smaller room
to be used for meetings or office space.

Rewiring and upgrading of the church and school's computer network is complete.

Nicole Beglinger becomes Kindergarten teacher.

Executive Council formed

Phase one for Classroom addition.....\$80,000

Jamie Jameson--Business Manager of St. Paul's

Pastor's Rixe, Winkler and Kiecker served as vacancy pastors.

PASTOR EMERITUS JON MAHNKE accepts call to serve St. Paul's as vacancy
pastor from April 15 - July 15, 2011

PASTOR EMERITUS DAVID VALLESKEY accepts call to serve St. Paul's as vacancy
Pastor from July 15 - to October 15, 2011

PASTOR RANDY RIXE served as vacancy pastor through 2012 to July 2013.

2012 -30x30 foot classroom added on northwest corner of building and dedicated
 New west entry doors at the school
 Replaced south entry door to school playground (Ladies Aid)
 Bought land east of the school
 School library was moved into the room adjacent to 1st-2nd-grade room
 Renner Cleaning taking on the janitorial needs of the school
 "Little Lambs" sign installed on west side of building
 Handicap bathroom completed
 Mural in Fellowship Hall in church
 Remodeled west end of balcony
 PASTOR EMERITUS JAMES WESTONDORF accepts call to serve St. Paul's as
 vacancy Pastor from September 2012 - April 15, 2013

PASTOR MARK REICHERT

2013 - Door locking system for school started
 Started school accreditation through the WELSSA Process
 PASTOR MARK RIECHERT ordained and installed July 7, 2013...will live in Sunnydell
 property
 Mrs. Annie Gumm starts as teacher of 5 - 8, Science & PhyEd
 Remodeling of south entrance completed.
 Secretary's office made into two separate offices.
 New doors to the gymnasium (purchased by Ladies Aid)

2014 - Roll up door installed into the entrance of the basement steps in school
 Accreditation for our school completed with 98% compliance
 84 new hymnbooks provided through Hymnal Replacement program
 Center handrail installed on Georgia Ave. steps
 Hand rails installed on steps of school west gym double doors.
 Katie Brown made Sunday school coordinator
 Mrs. Tiffany Winkel teaching 2nd grade in the mornings
 Mrs. Shannon Spreeman teaching 1st grade in the mornings
 Mrs. Rachel Reichert teaching partime in the afternoon Tuesday, Wednesday &
 Thursday
 Pastor Richard Schliewe starts working as part of the ministerial staff
 A new Paschal candle and stand and a pall cloth donated to church

2015 - Seth Fitzsimmons accepted call to Muskogee, WI
 Simple Giving program introduced
 Cemetery map revised and updated
 Jamie Jamison retired as Business Manager--Jeff Jensen replaces him
 Jacob Unke replaces Seth Fitzsimmons
 Theme "Forward in Christ with Hope" for the 150th celebration was accepted
 The roofs of the church, school, Brown's house and garage replaced because of
 hail damage. New siding was installed on the Brown's house and garage as
 well as the Reichert's Sunnydell house.

New more energy efficient light bulbs were installed in the church main chandeliers

A chain link fence was installed around the playground and at the ends of the Soccer field

The first organ, purchased in 1884, was renovated and can now be played

Twenty-nine Christmas trees were decorated with old ornaments in honor of the twenty-nine original pioneer families

2016 - Nicole Beglinger accepts a call to Mt. Olive, Appleton, Wisconsin

Jacob Unke will be married this summer and moving to Chicago

Men's Leadership Group organized

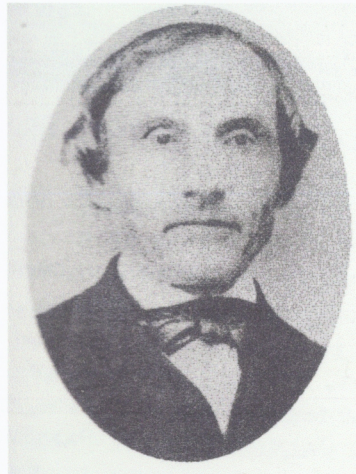
New carpet installed throughout church

Pastor Paul Hirsch accepts call to serve as associate pastor of youth and outreach in conjunction with Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in O'Neill

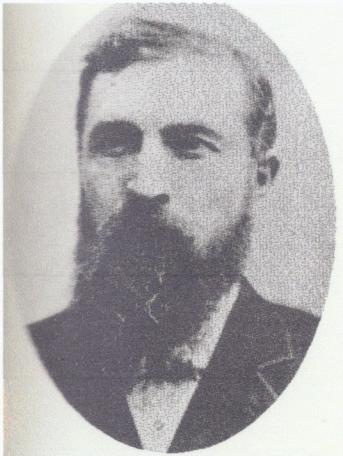
Mike and Kinzie Paulsen from Martin Luther College to teach 7th & 8th and Kindergarten. Mike will also be Principal Apprentice

Tempered glass installed over stained glass windows in church

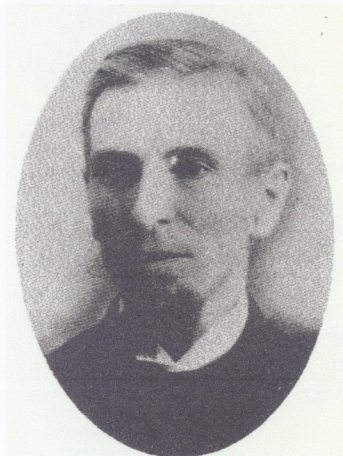
150th Anniversary of the church celebrated on July 15, 16 and 17, 2016



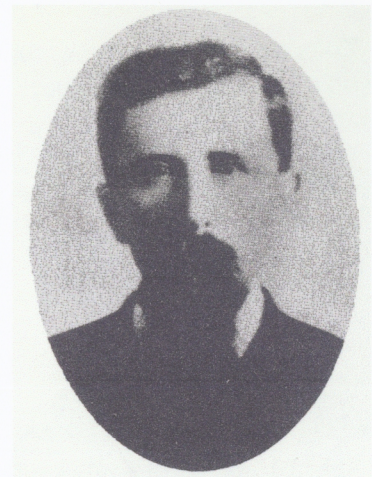
J. M. Hoeckendorf
1866-1877



M. Pankow
1878-1892



A. F. Siegler
1892-1899



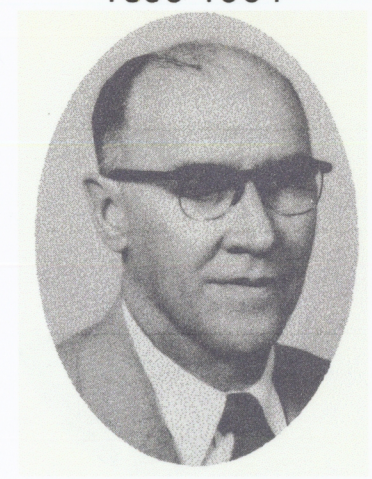
Th. Hoelzel
1899-1904



John Witt
1904-1943



W. W. Gieschen
1943-1947



E. J. Dreyer
1947-1953



Hugo Fritze
1953-1962



Elwood Haberman
1962-1967



Milton Weishahn
1967-1979



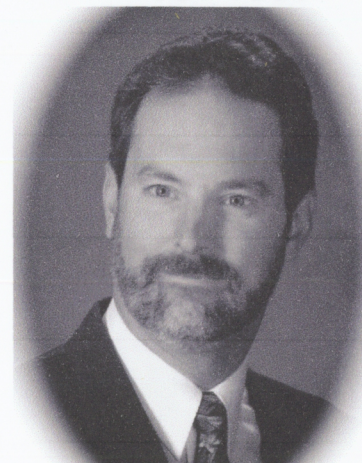
Philip Zarling
1981-1991



Thomas Schmidt
1991-1996



David Rockoff
1994-2000



Randy Bader
1997-2011



Howard Mohlke
2001-2006



Jon Mahnke
2011



David Valleskey
2011



James Westondorf
2012-2013



Mark Reichert
2013-



Richard Schlieve
2014-



Paul Hirsch
2016-

We are thankful to our Lord and Savior for the sturdy, honest, thrifty, energetic and God-fearing people who first started this congregation. We are thankful for the dedicated Pastors that have led this congregation through the past years:

Pastor J. M. Hoeckendorf 1866 - 1877
Pastor M. Pankow 1878 - 1892
Pastor A. F. Siegler 1892 - 1899
Pastor Th. Hoelzel 1899 - 1904
Pastor John Witt 1904 - 1943
Pastor W. W. Gieschen 1943 - 1947
Pastor E. J. Dreyer 1947 - 1953
Pastor Hugo Fritze 1953 - 1962
Pastor Elwood Haberman 1962 - 1967
Pastor Milton Weishahn 1967 - 1979
Pastor Philip Zarling 1981 - 1991
Pastor Thomas Schmidt 1991 - 1996
Pastor David Rockoff 1994 - 2000
Pastor Randy Bader 1997 - 2011
Pastor Howard Mohlke 2001 - 2006
Pastor emeritus Jon Mahnke - April 15 - July 15, 2011
Pastor emeritus David Valleskey - July 15 - Oct.15, 2011
Pastor emeritus James Westondorf - Sept. 2012 - April 15,
2013
Pastor Mark Reichert ordained & installed - July 7, 2013
Pastor Richard Schlieve 2014
Pastor Paul Hirsch 2016

We must remember that this is not the history of the accomplishments of men, but rather it is the history of a faithful and gracious God at work in the midst of sinful men.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
SEE MARK SCORFER
HELPS PRESIDENT PREACHES
HERE JULY 1ST