

Sunday School Picnic of 1956:

I posted the photo of the St, Paul Lutheran Church members worshipping on the Sunday School Picnic Day at Lilly Otte's property. That was in 1956. What you cannot see is a portable organ that looked like a large piece of luggage that Pastor Blankenbuhler introduced to the service. It had no electricity and just was pumped by the organist.



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Now growing up for us, Sunday was an important day. Saturday night we got ready for Sunday morning. We polished our shoes and set out clothes out and of course took a bath. There were no stores open on Sunday. There were no organized sorts of teams for kids, and we were free of that sort of life. So going to church was our event.

The Sunday School Picnic was the greatest event. We had an outdoor service. Then tables were set up with boards and sawhorses. Everyone brought food. I remember fried chicken seemed to be a main item, but potato salad and other good food was there too. The tables seemed to be long and large. There were crocks of lemonade near a little building there.



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In the afternoon there would be games. They had been organized by someone. The games seemed to be in the order of the Sunday school classes. The babies called the Cradle Roll were given little gifts, like rattles and then the game were on. I remember one game where balloons were tied to string and tied to legs of the participants, and they were given rolled newspapers to swat the balloon to eliminate each other. One the game was to unwind a spool of thread and rewind. These games were fun and there was a lot of laughter.

I am adding two pictures, all I have of the fun and games of 1956. The Sunday School Picnic.

Founding Members of St. Paul Gottlieb & Mary Roth



Gustke & Roth Picnic c. 1987:



A memoir of College, a Pastor, and St. Paul:

Dear Family and Friends;

I want to share this story with you because it is the one I have.

When I was in high school I had a car to drive. It was a blue dodge. It was not mine but I did drive it to school and recently I found that my classmates thought I was rich because I had that car. It was one that was at my parents house that I had the use of. I will post a photo of it and another car that they had. I am uncertain which one I used. When I left home it stayed there.

I would do after school activities with it. Most often I hung out with my friend Carolin Hendershot. She first lived on the south side and later lived out near the now I 50 interchange. I loved her as a friend and still do. Her family was wonderful. Her father and uncle loved to fish. One day they told me that they would have a fish fry for me. That day arrived. I was dropping Carolin off and they had a mess of fish. Her mother fried them up and I loved it. It was a highlight of my growing up years. It was her father and Uncle Sid who caught the fish..

Now we both wanted a higher education like crazy. I wanted to go to nurse training. My father seemed to oppose that. I wanted to go to Grant Hospital in Columbus Ohio. Before I could even try for Grant Hospital, my father insisted I test at Camden Clark Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital; I had to pass their tests first before he would even consider Grant hospital.

Pastor Roger Steffin got behind me and supported me. I had used that car to go to Walther league events. and his wife Fern had been a nurse instructor at Barnes Hospital at St. Louis. They were good friends to me. Pastor told me he would talk to my parents . I did pass the tests at the local hospitals. Once I got the OK to go to Grant Hospital, Pastor Steffin asked me to go to the Lutheran Campus Church at Ohio State. Pastor Ken Fruecking(spelling) was the minister there.

I did keep my word and I did go to the Campus church(June, it was the one that Lue and Ruth were married in) Now where I lived in training, was a bit on the dangerous side. We were to walk with another person. I would walk to the bus stop on Sunday morning alone in front of the Capitol building. I mean How dangerous could it be on Sunday morning? I found out one morning and from then on I took another girl with me. This girl I was using, I just wanted to be safe. She was a quiet person and one day when we were riding along she said " Mary Louise, I want to join your church." The Holy Spirit had arrived ..She became Lutheran and later married one of the young men at the center .

I graduated and returned to Parkerburg. I had not planned to do that but someone else made that decision. Pastor Steffin was still there. The first week I worked at Camden Clark on Aug 20th I was asked to go with a patient back to Columbus in an ambulance. I was asked because they knew that I knew Columbus. I will tell you though that back then ambulances did not have much but an IV pole. The patient was very ill and I was hoping that we would make it to Columbus AOK.

It took me a long time to put this all together but the patient was the man, the uncle that caught those fish for that wonderful fish fry they had for me. He did live and my father talked about him working at DuPont in later years.

Now here is another unique thing that happened that day. Dave (my husband and his wife Alice) had given birth to John that morning. What do you think about a birth mother and the future adopted mother being in the same building on the same day? That was Aug 20, 1962

A my sister in law sent me her fathers pictures a couple of years ago. I have one picture of Pastor Steffin following John's Baptism . Lue is holding John and his other sponsor Ray Avers (now deceased) With post Photo.



A year later, about two weeks before Aug 26 1963, I had moved to Marietta Ohio to work at Selby General Hospital. I had been working in Obstetrics. My mother called me

that day to tell me that Alice Heckman had died in childbirth. I did not know who Alice Heckman was because we did not have a minister. We had been having Sunday evening services with ministers coming over from Ohio. That was the day Tim was born. He was so ill that Dr. Crooks told me that he had only had one other baby that was ill and lived. Dave had an engineer friend named Harry Groots, who was Methodist. Harry's minister came to the hospital and baptized Tim. Tim lived and is now a grandfather.

There was a memorial fund taken up at St. Paul Lutheran Church for Alice. A colored glass window was made and installed in the minister's office. It later had to be moved to another office. I think it is lighted and I can not recall what the subject matter is. It might be the symbol of St. Paul but I was not involved.

I think this story is unique enough and I am tired. Talk to God. Be nice to everyone, and stop for stop lights.

Love and Peace

MeeMaw

I am sending you three confirmation pictures taken at St. Paul's Lutheran for your history book. You may have them already. The first is B/W and it may be the first class confirmed in town church, but I do not know for sure.. These are the people in it. Shirley Mc Fee, Juanita Winians, NormaJean Welker, James Edward Huffman, Wade Stephenson, Mike Roth (now deceased) one girl name left out
Color picture confirmation class Pastor W.O. Neisch, Joe Huffman, Two turned girls, Blonde girl might be Susan Roth(Lowe), the Welker Twins. year unknown
Confirmation of Lorna Jane Hardman with Sponsors. Margie Roth Dutton Alfred, (deceased) Lorna Jane Hardman and Mary Huffman Heckman.
Enjoy. Mary Heckman

P.S. Photo of Lorna Jane Hardman --reverse Margie and Myself names in Photo. I am the brunette and Magie is Blonde. I have the names backwards Mary Heckman





