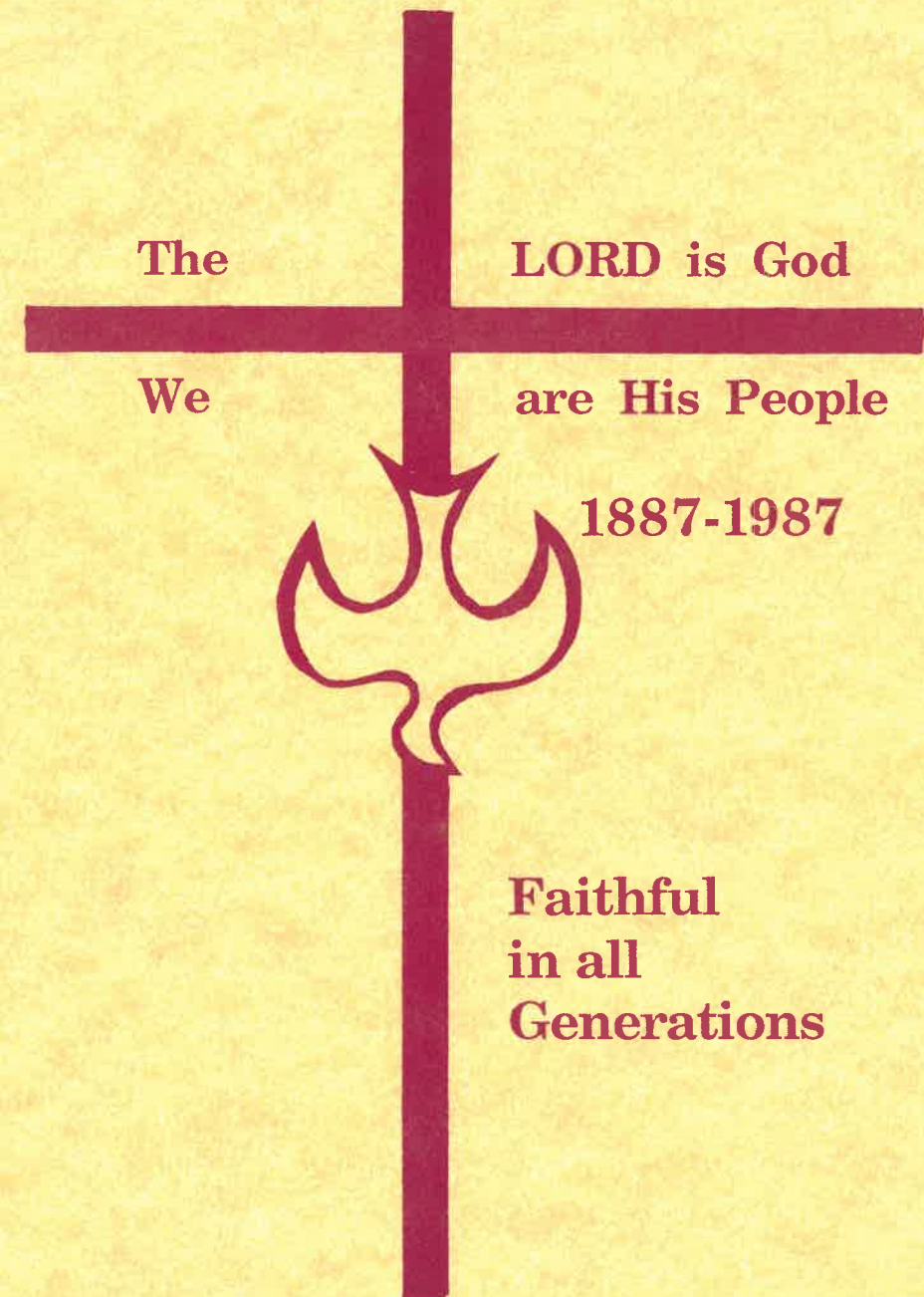


100th Anniversary

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The

LORD is God

We

are His People

1887-1987

Faithful  
in all  
Generations

3500 Broad Street

Parkersburg, WV

CONCORDIA  
HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

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FAITHFUL IN ALL GENERATIONS

A History of

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
of Parkersburg, West Virginia

1887-1987

DEDICATION OF THIS CENTENNIAL HISTORY BOOK

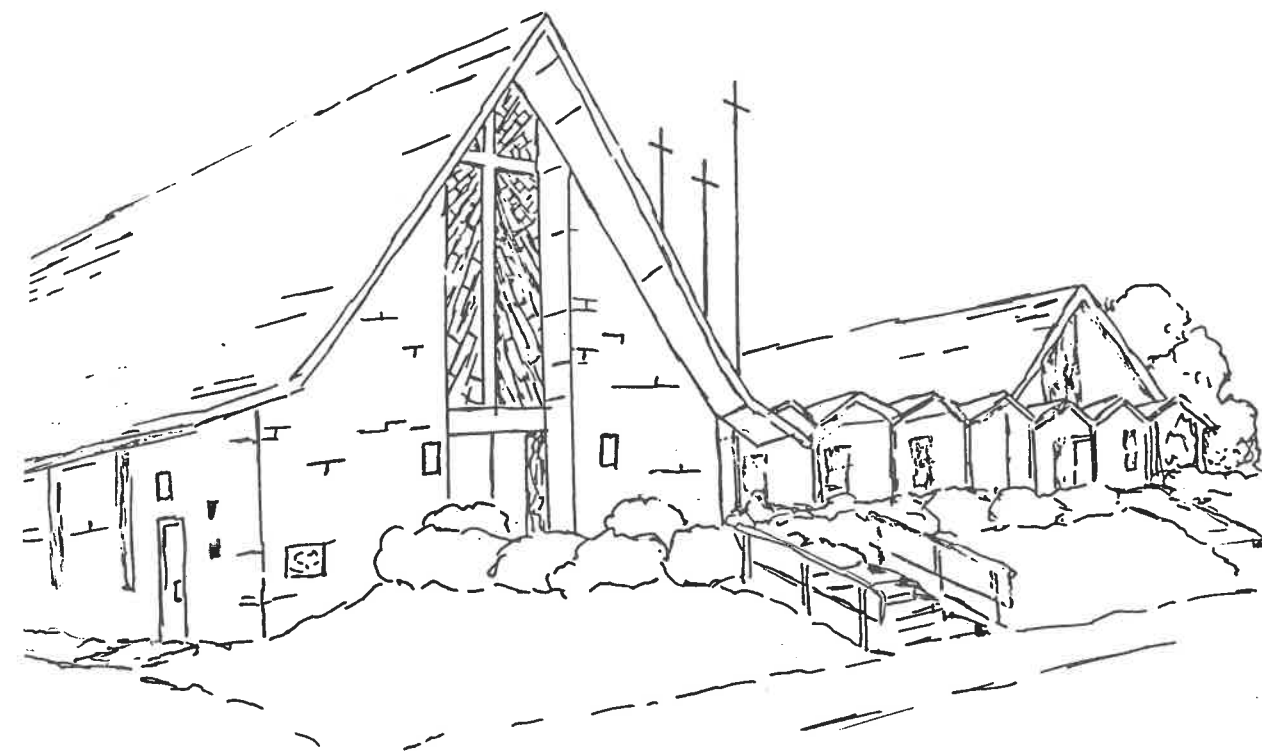
This book is dedicated to the glory of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

And to the founders of St. Paul Lutheran Church whose love of God inspired them to start a congregation;

And to all those whose time and talents, generous gifts and devoted labors have supported this congregation in its endeavors for Christ and His Kingdom;

And to those who love and serve St. Paul today, to the generations to come, and to those who will be called on to carry out the Lord's commission in the future;

For God is FAITHFUL IN ALL GENERATIONS.



COME! LET US "ENTER INTO HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING  
AND INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE."

PSALM 100:4

#### CENTENNIAL EVENTS

January 25	Epiphany Celebration: sharing of dinner and memories
May 17	St. Paul Centennial Concert
June 21	LWML and AAL Dinner: Slides and Movies of Past Events
August 2	Old-fashioned Homecoming Picnic: outdoor worship service, games and vespers.
September 13	Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Lutheran Hour Speaker: guest preacher
September 20	Memorial Sunday: Early service at Red Hill, site of first church building
September 27	Centennial Sunday: Catered family dinner; Handbell Concert; Vesper Service
November 15	Don Wharton, Music and Youth minister: service and concert
December 13	Festival of Faith: Worship, Church life display, entertainment, handicrafts and dinner.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Centennial History Book is the result of the Centennial Committee's request that Ruth Weber and Linda Nicholson compile a history book covering the first century of growth at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Many members contributed historical stories about the rich past and present events of our congregation. All articles were appreciated, with special thanks to Howard Roth, Doris Caltrider and Les Weber. Ruth and Linda organized and edited the materials, with the Centennial Committee's help in editing. Photographers were Gary Frye, Ken Nicholson and Bob Hinde. Ed Albrecht's slides were really helpful in the historical section. The drawings were sketched by Doris Caltrider.

The Centennial Committee gratefully acknowledges and thanks Ruth and Linda for their tireless efforts and many hours of work and all others who contributed to this excellent publication. We are sure that the book will be a valuable asset in years to come and will be enjoyed by fellow members. God given talents surely shine throughout the text and the first 100 years of St. Paul. Pray for His continued blessings as we are His people -- FAITHFUL IN ALL GENERATIONS.

The Centennial Committee

#### CENTENNIAL HISTORY BOOK

Published by  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
3500 Broad Street  
Parkersburg, West Virginia 26104

Editors: Ruth Weber and Linda Nicholson

#### PASTOR'S MESSAGE



REV. KEVIN P. ELSEROAD

For 100 years this Body of Christ known as St. Paul Lutheran Church has been living, breathing, working, growing, striving, and serving. From all indications it doesn't appear that this Body is feeling any of the signs which normally accompany old age as it celebrates living these past 100 years. How can a church body be 100 years old and still enjoy such vigor and energy? The answer lies in God's grace and God's faithfulness. St. Paul Lutheran has fed on the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament for 100 years and such a diet has well-sustained it into this Centennial year. Add to that God's faithfulness which includes the Spirit's guidance, protection, and deliverance, and one can see how 100 years blend into the past 2000 years in which God has sustained and preserved the Christian Church on earth.

We at St. Paul Lutheran are part of something big that God is doing in our world through Jesus Christ, who brings life and immortality to light through the forgiveness of sins. Our Centennial transcends space and time and becomes part of the universal celebration which takes place wherever and whenever people join together for worship, service and mission in the Name of Jesus Christ.

When a milestone like a Centennial is reached it is good to take a look at what has taken place. It is interesting to see how things have changed. It is important to see why some things had to change. Much can be learned from our past which can help us as we move into our future. A glance into our past is provided in these pages which will show that though our customs, buildings, language, and faces change, Jesus Christ remains the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow --- FAITHFUL IN ALL GENERATIONS.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL

1884	First services held at "Conoway House" Red Hill
1887	Congregation organized and church building dedicated
1913	First Sunday School classes
1914	Joined the Missouri Synod
1915	First resident pastor
1922	New parsonage built
1923-1937	Congregation stabilized and grew under leadership of Rev. Walter Pohl
1937	50th Anniversary
1936	Congregation became self-supporting; Last service in German language
1943	Property and parsonage on Broad Street purchased.
1949	New Church on Broad Street dedicated.
1950	Kindergarten organized
1962	75th Anniversary
1968	Present Church dedicated
1971	Women became voting members and eligible to hold offices.
1972	Transition made from Kindergarten to Pre-School
1975	New Allen Electronic Organ dedicated.
1977	Bell Tower dedicated; 90th Anniversary
1986	Mortgage paid off; New constitution adopted
1987	100th Anniversary



CENTENNIAL YEAR SIGN

Pastor Elseroad, Paul Pashkevich, and Freda McGirr

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PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Otto Meerwein, St. John's Parkersburg...1884-1889  
 The Rev. A. S. Sallman.....1889-1890  
 The Rev. Henry Uhle  
 The Rev. H. W. F. Gericke  
 The Rev. L. O. Hammer  
 The Rev. G. Stiegemeier, Trinity Lutheran, Poweroy  
 These men served 1890-1904  
 The Rev. Carl Hassold.....1905-1909  
 The Rev. Wm. F. Henkel, Ashland.....1909-1911  
 Vicar Theo. Gohlke.....1910-1911  
 The Rev. O. F. Stolzenburg, Trinity, Poweroy.....1911-1914  
 Vicar A. F. Wegener.....1914-1915  
 The Rev. W. F. Bode.....1915-1916  
 The Rev. O. F. Stolzenburg, Trinity, Poweroy.....1916-1917  
 The Rev. T. L. Luft.....1917-1920  
 Vicar R. E. Scaer.....1920-1921  
 The Rev. Ernest Joost.....1921-1922  
 The Rev. Walter Pohl.....1923-1937  
 The Rev. Martin Vogelsang.....1938-1942  
 The Rev. H. T. Rosenberg.....1942-1945  
 The Rev. Lorenz Blankenbuehler.....1946-1955  
 The Rev. Hugo Fickenscher.....1955-1958  
 The Rev. Carl Haller (Vacancy).....1958  
 The Rev. R. F. Steffen.....1958-1963  
 The Rev. W. O. Neisch.....1963-1971  
 The Rev. F. Bellin (Vacancy).....1971-1972  
 The Rev. Gilbert J. Duchow.....1972-1980  
 The Rev. John Choitz (Vacancy).....1980-1981  
 The Rev. Paul Gerlach (Vacancy).....1981  
 The Rev. Kevin P. Elseroad.....1981



CENTENNIAL YEAR COMMITTEE

Charlie Alt, Freda McGirr, Doris Caltrider and Pastor Elseroad

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST CHURCH AT RED HILL

Early in the 1880's a group of about thirteen German families settled just east of Parkersburg, West Virginia, in an area known as Red Hill. They were all Lutheran Christians with a strong faith in an Almighty merciful God and Savior. They wanted to continue their worship, praise and service to their God in their new home. Beginning in 1884 they gathered together for worship in homes and were served by ministers from neighboring cities. One of the homes used for worship services was the "Conoway House" on Dutch Ridge Road, just behind where the cemetery is still located. The desire to build a separate building dedicated to the worship of God grew in their midst.

Under the pastoral guidance of Rev. Otto W. Meerwein plans were made for building a church. He was the pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Pennsylvania Synod, in Parkersburg, presently known as First Lutheran Church. A site was established when George Beorn deeded one acre of land at Red Hill for the church and cemetery. The members built the church by their own labor, with most of the lumber and stone coming from the surrounding countryside.



The church was dedicated as a house of the Lord on September 25, 1887, by Rev. Meerwein. It's official name was "Die Evangelische Lutherische St. Paulus Gemeinde." The offering amounted to \$55.46 and a debt of \$200 was paid off in a few short years.

Some of the early members were Gottlieb Roth, a winemaker, and his wife Mary King Roth; John C. Roth, from Ulm, Germany, a shoemaker, who later married Louise Brinker, also from Germany; Werner and Sophie Meyer Otte, and their children Freda and Sophie, from Bergen, Germany, a blacksmith; Heinrich Brethauer, a farmer, and his wife Katharine Fisch Brethauer and her mother Mrs. Martha Woelling Fisch; Heinrich Schueler, a carpenter; and his wife Anna Fisch Schueler; Ferdinand Meyer, a horseman, and brother of Sophie Otte and their mother, Dorothea Steding Meyer, and his wife Mary Meyer; and John Eckhart, a stonemason. In 1899 William Gustke moved to Parkersburg to work at the Parkersburg Iron and Steel Works. His wife Anna Brinker Gustke and small son Walter joined him in 1901.



ST. PAUL AT RED HILL

Typical of the country church architecture of that era, the building was a white frame structure on a foundation of stone, with a spire-topped belfry that housed the church bell. The bell had a clear resonant sound. After the spire was struck by lightning, the base of the spire was roofed and finished with a lattice work trim. Years later, when electricity came to the area, a cross of electric lights was donated and erected by the Gustke family.

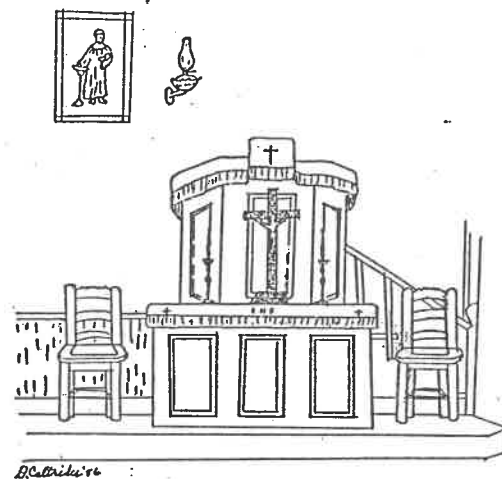
The interior of the one-room building had windows on two sides. The windows had white frosted diamond patterns with clear glass between the diamonds. In the wintertime, the outside snow made the whole window look white, but in the summer the green of the outside grass and trees shined through the clear glass between the diamonds. The church had a center

aisle that divided the plain brown pews into two sections, separating the men from the women and children, as was the custom of the day.

The altar and pulpit were beautifully hand crafted of wood by the members and adorned by maroon velvet altar and pulpit paraments. The high pulpit was reached by stairs on the right hand side of the altar, and a picture of Martin Luther was on the wall behind the pulpit.

Lighting was provided by four oil lamps, with large reflectors, hanging from the ceiling. Later these were replaced with gasoline lanterns hung by chains above the aisle. They worked by air pressure, and someone had to climb a stepladder and pump them up before they could be lighted.

A pot-bellied stove, fired with coal, sat in the center of



ALTAR AT RED HILL

one side, providing heat for the worshippers in the wintertime. Those who sat near the stove were so warm their faces were red, while those in the back corners of the church shivered all through the service, because it was so cold.

FIRST CONSTITUTION

Several years after the dedication of the Church, the congregation officially organized under the guidance of the Rev. A. F. A. Sallman of Trinity Lutheran Church, Pomeroy, Ohio. In flowing German handwritten script the (translated) title of the Constitution read: "Constitution and Regulations of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul Congregation, Unaltered Augsburg Confession, of Red Hill, Wood County, West Virginia." Nineteen names were proudly affixed to the Article of Confession, signed in German Script or in the newly learned English.

ARTICLE OF CONFESSIOIN

We, this congregation, believe and confess that all the books of the Old and New Testament are the revealed Word of God, by which everyone who believes them shall be saved and to which everyone should give heed;

and that the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, because they are derived from God's Word, shall both guide and govern the teaching of the congregation and also shall decide and resolve all questions of faith and life.

SIGNATURES ON THE CONSTITUTION OF 1890

*Unterschriften*

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| John G. G. Roff    | Johannes Erb         |
| Werner Otte        | Jakob Fiskeisen      |
| Eduardus Hollen    | Groovyn Lontfornas   |
| Gottlieb Roff      | Lynnraf Rifulom      |
| Heinrich Spethauer | Rawl Ekjinn          |
| Ferdinand Meyer    | Henry Schueler, Jun. |
| Henry Brinker      | Lionnraf Dierroff    |
| George Weber       | Lewbouwer Rifin      |
| Johannes EkLenn    | Winnor Lenffn        |
| Eduardus (Fuffen)  |                      |

## THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED--SACRAMENTS CELEBRATED

The house of the Lord was built. Its frame structure was to serve the fledgling congregation for more than fifty years. The Word of God was proclaimed from its high pulpit and the people responded to it. The sacraments were celebrated; children were baptized and communion was distributed. Couples were married and the dead were given Christian burial in the small adjacent cemetery, all in the German native tongue of the founders.

## RECORDS OF OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE CONGREGATION

Records of the early official acts of the congregation, in handwritten German, are contained in an old ledger, presently kept in the Centennial cabinet at Church. It is believed they do not reflect the earliest events since, typical of the times, visiting pastors often recorded official acts, such as baptisms and marriages, in their own journals, not available as far as we know. The following records are from the ledger we have.

### BAPTISMS

The earliest baptisms recorded were on August 11, 1889, for four children. Those baptised were:

Katharine and Leunne Harriette, daughters of John and Catherine Schachtuer;

Gertrud Beorn, daughter of George and Elizabeth Beorn;

Albert Affolter, son of Fr. and M. Affolter.

Two other baptisms followed in 1890. Then none were recorded until 1900. If there were any baptisms during 1890 to 1900, perhaps they were recorded in the records of the visiting pastors. In 1900 there were three baptisms and one or two each of the years from 1903 to 1912.

### DEATHS

The first death recorded was a young man, Adam Eckhardt, born July 11, 1883, died May 12, 1900. Also recorded was the death of Martha Elisabeth Fisch nee Woelling, born Feb. 18, 1822 and died January 26, 1901. Both funerals were conducted by Rev. L. O. Hammer.

### MARRIAGES

Three early marriages were performed by Rev. L. O. Hammer:

Karl Eckhardt and Anna Elisabeth Stephan, married Nov. 3, 1898

Georg Heinrich Brethauer and Fanny Elisabeth Burge married Sept. 24, 1899

John C. Stephenson and Mary A. Brethauer married Jan. 8, 1903.

## CONFIRMATION

Rev. Hammer confirmed Karl Brethauer on October 21, 1906, the first confirmation listed.

## COMMUNION

The earliest available communion records kept for the members start in 1903 when on September 20th 18 people took communion. There were four Schuelers, five Brethauers, five Eckhardts, two Stephans, one Holle and one Wolf. The records show that communion was held about twice a year for the years 1903 through 1912, with an average of 19 people communing each time.

## SLOW GROWTH OF CONGREGATION

The growth of the congregation was not very rapid in the early years. Use of the German language and the lack of resident pastors were thought to be contributing factors to the slow growth. The tenure of office of the early pastors was usually brief; many of them were not resident ministers but served this congregation from their home parishes in Pomeroy, Ohio or Ashland, Kentucky. Services at the new church were held infrequently, as the pastor usually preached at three locations, Pomeroy, here and also at St. John's Lutheran at Sand Hill, about twelve miles east of Red Hill at the present entrance to Mountwood Park.

A period of division occurred in the early years where one group met in the Church building and another group met in the homes. The issue is no longer remembered and under the blessing of God the wounds were healed.

## 1911-1914 REV. O. F. STOLZENBURG

Rev. O. F. Stolzenburg, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Pomeroy, a young man full of vigor, visited Red Hill once a month to conduct worship services and administer the Sacraments. He crossed the Ohio River by boat at Pomeroy where he took a train to Parkersburg, arriving at the Ann Street Station. He then walked to the 6th Street Station, caught the train to Stewart Station, located on Staunton Pike (now Route 47) at Dry Run Road, east of town, where he was met by someone from the Church.

On Saturday evenings once a month, young people met; not only members but non-members, to have good fellowship with each other. On Sunday mornings young and old alike attended the Church services and communion and baptisms. Then everyone had a big Sunday dinner together. Pastor Stolzenburg had a wife, Nettie, and two children.



SOME OF THE ST. PAUL MEMBERS IN SEPTEMBER, 1913  
AT THE JOHN ROTH RESIDENCE

Back Row: Eda Burger, Anna Otte, Dora Otte, Aunt Mary Roth,  
L to R Ed Roth, Lydia Roth, Lily Otte, Albert Roth Mary Meyer

Middle Row: Johnny Meyer, Mrs. Mary Meyer, Sophie Meyer, Mr. & Mrs.  
L to R John Roth, Mr. & Mrs. Werner Otte, Gottlieb Roth

Front: Rev. O. F. STOLZENBURG

#### 1914--NEW CONSTITUTION--JOINED THE MISSOURI SYNOD

During the Easter week of 1914, under Pastor Stolzenburg's guidance, the congregation re-organized with a new Constitution. They resolved to form a parish with St. John Lutheran Church at Sand Hill and to endeavor to secure a pastor who would devote his entire time to the upbuilding of these two congregations. To this end the twelve members signing the Constitution agreed to pay \$200 (total) per year for the pastor's salary.

The congregation also resolved to join the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states and to ask the Central District of the Synod for aid in supporting the pastor they proposed to call.

Not able to secure a pastor at once, the two congregations at Red Hill and Sand Hill were served by Vicar Arthur Wegener, of Springfield, Illinois, together with Rev. Stolzenburg for the year from mid 1914 to mid 1915. He married a young lady from the Sand Hill Church, Lena Leonhart.

#### 1915-1916 REV. W. F. BODE

In the spring of 1915, with financial help provided by the District, a call was extended to Rev. Wm. E. Bode from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. He accepted the call and was installed in July 1915. After one year's hard work and faithful labor he died of typhoid fever on July 26, 1916, at the age of 24 years. He was mourned

by his bride, family from Cleveland, Ohio, and the members of his congregations who had learned to love him during the year of his ministry.

#### 1916-1917 REV. O. F. STOLZENBURG VACANCY PASTOR AGAIN

Rev. Stolzenburg, the pastor from Pomeroy, again served the congregations during this vacancy in 1916 and 1917, again making it difficult to hold services regularly.

#### GERMAN LANGUAGE FOR PREACHING, TEACHING AND ADMINISTERING THE SACRAMENTS

The Lutheran pastors in the early days of the Red Hill St. Paul Church all needed to be able to teach, preach, administer the sacraments, and converse in the German language. Because of this, when the United States entered World War I in 1917, the Red Hill community was subjected to prejudice and hostility. This hostility culminated in a cross-burning near the church. Following the armistice, life in the community returned to normal.

#### 1917-1920 REV. THEODORE L. LUFT

Rev. T. L. Luft, from Canada, became a resident pastor here in 1917, serving both congregations, and under his guidance God blessed the St. Paul congregation with a measured and steady growth.

The "Lutheran News", a publication by the Central District of the Missouri Synod, in their January 1, 1918 issue had an article about the Sand Hill congregation deciding to have Pastor Luft come out only every third Sunday in the month during the winter months when roads were almost impassible. They had held Christmas Day services on the afternoon of the second Sunday in December, 1917, with nine guests attending the Lord's Supper.



Parsonage Built in 1922 by the Congregation

Rev. Luft returned to Canada in 1920. In a letter written in 1933 to the Gustke's, Pastor Luft said he had his first opportunity to serve the "Bread of Life" at Red Hill, and his short years at Red Hill would never be forgotten because of wonderful remembrances.



1920-1921 VICAR R. E. SCAER

Vicar Rev. R. E. Scaer served from 1920 to 1921.

1921-1922 REV. ERNEST JOOST

Rev. Joost served St. Paul in 1921 and 1922. In 1922 the congregation built a parsonage to be used by Rev. Joost with his wife and son, Adelbert, and succeeding pastors. It was located on Routh 50 near Loomis Ridge Road on property donated by Gottlieb and Mary Roth.

Since there was no water at the church and no baptismal font, when a child was baptized each baby's parents brought their own bowl of water. In the wintertime the water had to be hot when it left the home; hopefully, it was still warm when it was used. Doris Caltrider still has the bowl that held the water Rev. Joost baptized her with.

1923-1937 REV. WALTER A. POHL

In 1923 Rev. Walter Pohl, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, arrived from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri to minister to the congregation. Since he was young and lived in the parsonage alone, the Gottlieb Roths often invited him for a home cooked meal. Rev. Pohl owned a model T Ford, but in late winter and spring the roads became impossible to travel over with his Ford, so he visited many of his parishioners on a borrowed horse. Later Rev. Pohl married Florence Gustke, a young lady from the congregation. They had one son, Norman.



REV. WALTER A. POHL

PARKING LOT AT RED HILL

Volunteer work by many members helped the congregation survive. Walking or riding in horse drawn carriages were the main means of getting to church in the early years. Then members started driving their new automobiles. Howard Roth remembers when his father, Louis Roth, and John Meyer worked to enlarge the Church parking lot to accommodate the automobiles of the members. A huge Chestnut tree stump



PARKING LOT AT RED HILL

was removed by blasting it with dynamite. The stump blew about six feet straight up but landed right back in the same hole. Later Carl Brethauer pulled it out with his horses. The stump remained beside the parking lot for years because it was too large to be moved easily.

ORGANIZATIONS

Some auxiliary organizations of the church began during the period Rev. Pohl served. He started Bible School in the old Kraft school building on Staunton Pike, where public school was still being held at that time. The public school was later closed and St. Paul congregation used the building year round for meetings as well as for Bible School. Members did a lot of repair to the building to make it usable. Since the Church building at Red Hill was used only on Sundays, partly because it had limited facilities for any activities except worship services, other meetings and social activities were held in peoples homes or in the Kraft School.

Church picnics were enjoyed by the members during Rev. Pohl's ministry. More about the location of these and other church picnics can be found in a separate article on "Picnics."

GERMAN TO ENGLISH TRANSITION COMPLETED IN 1936

As time passed, many of the old German speaking members "joined the Church triumphant" and were laid to rest in the cemetery behind the church. Services in English for the younger members replaced the ones in German, starting in the 1920's it is believed. However, once a month the English service was followed by a shorter service of hymns with a sermon in German for the remaining older German speaking members. In 1936 the difficult, complete transition from the German language to English was accomplished.

CONGREGATION BECAME SELF-SUPPORTING

Another milestone in St. Paul's history was reached in 1936, when the congregation became self-supporting, no longer needing the financial support of the Synod which had helped during the early years. The envelope system was introduced to meet the financial obligations. Even during the Great Depression years, the drought of 1930, and World War II, the Church was in a position to meet its current obligations as they came due.

GOLDEN JUBILEE - 1937 - REV. WALTER A. POHL, PASTOR

In 1937 St. Paul celebrated its Golden Jubilee at Red Hill. The program for the day's services had the following dedications: "To the Memory of those who for the past half century have lived, served, sacrificed, and prayed, without thought of self, for the Kingdom of God as it manifests itself in the ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH."

The sermon in the morning service was delivered by the Rev. O. F. Stolzenburg, at that time a pastor in Columbus, Ohio. Rev. E. H. Joost, Amlin, Ohio, give the sermon at the evening service.



THE REV. WALTER A. POHL

Members of the Church Council in 1937 were: President, Roy DeViese; Secretary, John Meyer; Treasurer, Wm. Gustke, Sr.; Trustees, Louis Roth, Carl Brethauer, Walter Gustke. Carl Eckhardt was an honorary member. Wardens were Harold Stephenson, Harry Rogers and Roy DeViese. The Jubilee Committee consisted of: Louis Roth, Chairman, and Wm. Gustke, Sr. and Harold Stephenson.

The Sunday School Officers were: Superintendent, Ray Gustke; Assistant Supt., Roy DeViese; Secretary, Dora DeViese; Treasurer, Albert Roth. Teachers were: Bible Class, Walter A. Pohl; Senior, Ella Kirsch; Intermediate, Edna Gustke; Juniors, Edna Meyer; Beginners, Florence Pohl.

The Young People's Society had Walter A. Pohl as President; Margaret Berg, Secretary; Ray Gustke, Treasurer; Christian Knowledge, Edna Gustke; Christian Service, Charles Gustke.



1937 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Kathleen Thomas, Freda Brethauer McGirr, Katharine Huffman Kelley, and Doris Roth Caltrider

LIST OF SOULS -- 1937

Gus Berg	Anna Burge	Walter Gustke	Mrs. L. Little	Lyda Roth
Margaret Berg	Victor Drain	Freda Paul	John Meyer	Ed Roth
Carl Brethauer	Carl Eckhardt, Sr.	Arthur Ruth	Edna	E. C. Petty
Bertha Harold	Elizabeth Adam	Robert George	Walter Meyer	Mrs. E. Petty
Freda Marie	Katherine Carl, Jr.	Ray Gustke	Wm. Meyer	Harry Rogers
Alberta	Walter	Edna	Shirley William Craig	Evelyn Louise
Sophia Brethauer	Roy DeViese	Cora May Elliot	Pauline Mitchell	Lilly Otte
Henry Brethauer	Dora	Flora Huffman	Florence Pohl	Harold Stephenson
Blayne	W. H. Finke	Alfred Katherine	Norman	John Wade
Earl Brethauer	L. Finke	James Edw.	Louis Roth	Kathleen Thomas
Garnet Marvin	Ben Finke	Ernest Haas	Anna Howard	Buddy
Melvin	Ferd. Gerk	Mary	Doris	Katherine Winans
Fanny Brethauer	Wm. Gustke, Sr.	Ella Kirsch	Albert Roth	Lulu
George	Anne	Dorothy Kibler	Willa	Mary Whitehead
Walter Burnett	William, Jr.	Ann Kibler	Virginia	Carl
Grace	Clarence	Mineta Kellar	Charles	Mary Francis
Ethel	Charles		Lillian	

## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MOVES TO PARKERSBURG IN THE 1940's

1938-1942 REV. MARTIN VOGELSANG

During the early years of Rev. Pohl's ministry, there was already talk of moving the church from Dutch Ridge Road to Parkersburg. As most of the original members passed away or left the Red Hill area, a vision of a church in town started the slow road to realization. With improved transportation, most members saw the opportunity to move to growing Parkersburg so in 1940 a Building Fund was started under the Rev. Martin Vogelsang who was Pastor from 1938 to 1942. Pastor Vogelsang and his wife Florence had two sons.

The Christian Young People Organization, called the "CYPO Club" was started when Rev. Vogelsang was pastor.

1942-1945 REV. HILMER T. ROSENBERG

Rev. H. T. Rosenberg was St. Paul's next Pastor, serving the church for three years. During his pastorate three lots with the parsonage were purchased in the 3500 block of Broad Street at Foley Ave., for \$7,600. This was in 1943, and at that time Broad Street was cindered and the street car tracks were still in place. During the summer months outdoor vespers were held at the new church property while morning services were still being held at the Church at Red Hill. These vesper services made the neighbors aware that a new church was moving to their area.



During the World War II years the American Flag and the Christian Flag were used in the church to signify loyalty to God and Country. The Pastor and parishioners prayed throughout the war for their sons in the service who were, Clarence Gustke, Charles Gustke, Howard Roth, Jim Duvall, Harold Stephenson and Franklin McGirr. Praise the Lord that all returned with no injuries!

Gasoline and tire rationing made it difficult for members, but they made church attendance their first priority so the church continued to serve its members and grow. Quite a few of the members at that time still lived in the vicinity of the old Kraft School building on Staunton Pike near Dry Run Road, where Vacation Bible School and organizational activities were held, so many children and adults were able to attend by walking.

Under Pastor Rosenberg's vigorous leadership the congregation grew to seventy five communicant members in thirty-plus families. His wife's name was Roma and they had three children.

1946-1955 REV. LORENZ BLANKENBUEHLER

Rev. Lorenz Blankenbuehler succeeded Rev. Rosenberg as pastor. He was installed on October 27, 1946, by the Rev. Walter Pohl, then serving Trinity Lutheran Church, Zanesville, Ohio.

The dream of St. Paul members to move from Red Hill to Parkersburg resulted in engaging an architect, Mr. M. J. Folwell, in 1947, to design a new church building for the property on Broad Street. Folwell's plans were approved and on August 23, 1948, the contract was signed with Mr. H. Dowling, for the construction of the building.



ST. PAUL ON BROAD STREET

The congregation listed about 45 families with 127 baptized members when the cornerstone was laid Nov. 7, 1948. The total cost of the building was \$45,000. \$5,000 was donated by the Central (later Ohio) District of the Lutheran Womens Missionary League. The Church Extension Board of the Central District gave St. Paul a non-interest bearing loan of \$19,800. The remainder of the funds came from the Building Fund.

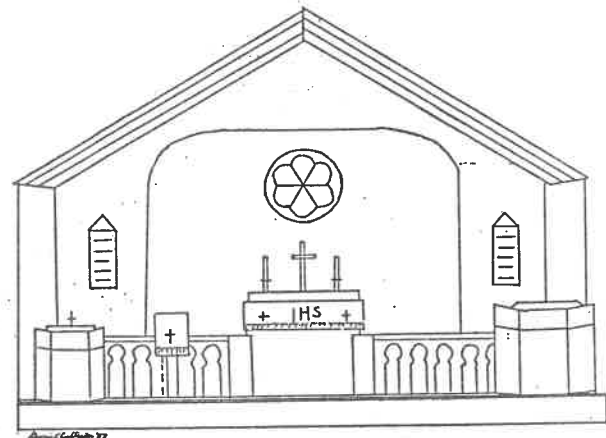
The building was completed and the first service was held on Palm Sunday, April 19, 1949.

The dedication service was held on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th, 1949. It was preceded by an organ concert played by former pastor Rev. Rosenberg, of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio. The service was broadcast on local radio station WCOM. The Dedication Program Committee consisted of Pastor Blankenbuehler, Roy DeViese, Clarence Gustke, and Willa Roth with Freda Gustke, Marie Gustke, Phyllis Roth and Dora DeViese on the Menu and Serving Committee.

The Church Officers at the time of the dedication in 1949 were Clarence Gustke, Chairman of the Congregation; Alfred Huffman, Secretary; Charles Gustke, Treasurer; Franklin McGirr, Financial Secretary; Albert Roth, Building Fund Custodian; Trustees: Louis Roth, Alfred Huffman, Harold Stephenson; Elders: Roy DeViese, John Meyer, Harold Stephenson.

Alfred Huffman was Sunday School Superintendent. Teachers were Rev. Blankenbuehler, Clarence Gustke, Willa Roth, Florence Huffman and Freda Gustke. Ruth Ann Gustke was Treasurer and Charles Roth Secretary. The Christian Young People's Organization had Alfred Huffman as President, George Gustke, Vice President and Phyllis Roth, Secretary-Treasurer. Willa Roth was Chairman of the LWML, Phyllis Roth, Vice President, Dorothy Blankenbuehler, Secretary and Florence Huffman, Treasurer.

The new church, which is the present fellowship hall, was built of red brick. The interior had a ceiling of beautiful exposed wood beams. The pulpit, the baptismal font, the guest register, the missal stand, and the altar railing were of walnut wood, hand crafted by talented members of the congregation.



ALTAR OF CHURCH ON BROAD STREET

The organ was on the right side of the altar and the choir sat in the room to the right, which is our present kitchen. Doris Roth Caltrider was the organist. The lights, which are still used today, were moved from the church at Red Hill.

Many members of the congregation contributed their time and talents to the completion and maintenance of the new Church on Broad Street.

The greatest concern of the older members was that the original church at Red Hill would be forgotten. Alfred Huffman promised that he would never forget the old church and cemetery and that, as long as he was able, he would see that the property was taken care of. Alfred, Walter Baker and Franklin McGirr have been the primary caretakers of the cemetery these past 40 years. Fearing that the empty church would fall victim to vandalism, the congregation eventually decided to raze the building. The steps were left standing to provide access to the cemetery, which is still being used.

Once in town St. Paul congregation was immediately surrounded by the growing city. New industry was discovering the Ohio Valley and its opportunities. DuPont was transferring many workers into the city to work in its new plant. Vacant lots and farm land gave way to houses and developments. The streetcars had been replaced by buses and Broad Street was paved. Clarence Gustke was president of the congregation at this time, when he advised the purchase of the lots which we now use for our parking lot.

#### 1950 ST. PAUL LUTHERAN KINDERGARTEN OPENED

The congregation was actively reaching out to spread the good news about Jesus to those in the new neighborhood, and a kindergarten was begun as a mission outreach and community service in 1950. Pastor and his wife Dorothy Blankenbuehler were the first teachers, teaching for five years. It allowed about 40-50 children from the congregation and community to experience education in a Christ centered classroom. The two daily sessions of instruction were centered on Biblical teachings. The students were also introduced to reading, math and music. Students were encouraged through activities to develop both socially and physically. Many of the former students and their families became members of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Kindergarten teachers after the Blankenbuehler's were Deaconess Eleman, Jean Stukert, Doris Caltrider, Lottie Warner, Jo Siebel and Judy Marshall and Betty Hardman.

In 1972 when Parkersburg public schools started providing kindergarten classes for children, the congregation decided to start St. Paul preschool for three and four year old children. The preschool continues today with a full time teacher, Mrs. Mable Thompson, who has been the teacher since 1972. (More information about the present pre-school can be found in the section on Education.)



1976 PRE-SCHOOL CLASS

Teacher Mable Thompson; Aide, Karen Smith  
St. Paul Members:

Back row: 2nd child from left, Sandra Morrison  
Middle row: 3rd child from left, Jennifer Nicholson



PRE-SCHOOL AT HUFFMAN'S FARM  
PICKING UP APPLES

Rev. Blankenbuehler accepted another call in 1955. He and his wife had four children: Connie, John, Marla and June. John is an ordained pastor presently service a congregation in Ohio.

#### 1955-1958 REV. HUGO FICKENSCHER

Rev. Hugo Fickenschler was Pastor of St. Paul's congregation from 1955 to 1958. He was of retirement age when he came. While here he devoted much time to counseling members in need of spiritual care. A Sunday School census was taken in the North End of Parkersburg in 1958. The area was marked off in sections and teams visited every home in the area inviting the unchurched children to St. Paul's Sunday School. If the calls indicated any adults were in need of spiritual help, follow up teams revisited, then the Pastor called on the families.

Rev. Fickenschler organized the Altar Guild while he was here. Mrs. Fickenschler, who excelled in needlework, made all the paraments for the altar and pastor by hand. She also made green velvet kneeling cushions for communion.

#### 1958 REV. CARL HALLER, VACANCY PASTOR

In 1958, Rev. Carl Haller, a retired pastor from Kankakee, Illinois, served the congregation as a vacancy pastor. He was the father of Roberta Strom, a members of St. Paul at that time with her husband Rudy and family.

#### 1958-1963 REV. ROGER F. STEFFEN

Rev. Roger F. Steffen was installed as St. Paul's next Pastor in 1958. He introduced liturgical chanting into the service for the first time in the congregation's history. He worked with the youth of the congregation, taking them to camps in Bridgewater, Virginia and Logan, Ohio. Howard Roth was president during the time Rev. Steffen was here. Rev. Steffen and his wife Fern had five children, John, Lora, Rachel, Anna and Paul.

In 1959 a ministry to the deaf began, which would last for 15 years, when St. Paul became the Church and meeting place for the deaf in the Parkersburg area. Once a month a Deaf Leader from Columbus, Ohio assembled the group in our church for worship and fellowship. The group became very active and many were baptised.

In 1959-60 under Pastor Steffen, a Nursery Guild was started. At that time the congregation had many young mothers with small children, so the monthly meetings were held to help the mothers learn about Christian child training methods. At Christmas a special "Birthday Party for Jesus" was started for children from babies to age six. Some members who were in the original group were Hannah Dukas, Betty Hardman, Della Hastings, Lucille McCauley, Hettie Reed, Lola Schmutzer and Dorothy Swanson. Later the Nursery Guild was incorporated into the LWML.

One son of St. Paul chose to enter the ministry. George Gustke, son of Walter and Freda Gustke, graduated from Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. He was ordained here and served parishes in Oklahoma, Washington and Missouri.

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1962



Howard Roth, President and  
Pastor Steffen

By 1962, at the 75th anniversary of the founding of St. Paul, the congregation numbered sixty families with 140 communicants. Sunday School attendance grew to nearly 180 due to the influence of the postwar "Baby Boom." Classes were being held in every available place, including the parsonage and outdoors in the summertime.

#### 1963-1971 REV. W. O. NEISCH

Rev. W. O. Neisch accepted our call in 1963, partly because he was interested in deaf ministry; he had the ability to preach in both words and signs for the hearing impaired at the same time, a rare gift. The active deaf ministry was then several years old with an active attendance.

#### NEW SANCTUARY PLANNED

Plans for building the new sanctuary continued under Pastor Neisch. Studies of the growth potential of the city helped define the scope of the proposed expansion. As the overall expansion became clear, Charles Ross was commissioned as the architect. Alan Archer drew the blueprints and the construction contract was let to Grimm Construction Company to build the sanctuary. The contract was for \$125,000. Remodeling done, by the members, of the existing facilities was valued at a total of \$75,000, including the memorial furnishings. The total value of the entire project reached \$200,000, with a debt of only \$85,000.

Groundbreaking was an exciting day as the congregation assembled on the site of the new church and several members turned over the ground with the shovel. It was with the assurance of God's blessings that they were doing His will.

Observing construction progress of the new building was



GROUNDBREAKING

Pastor Neisch and Lilly Otte



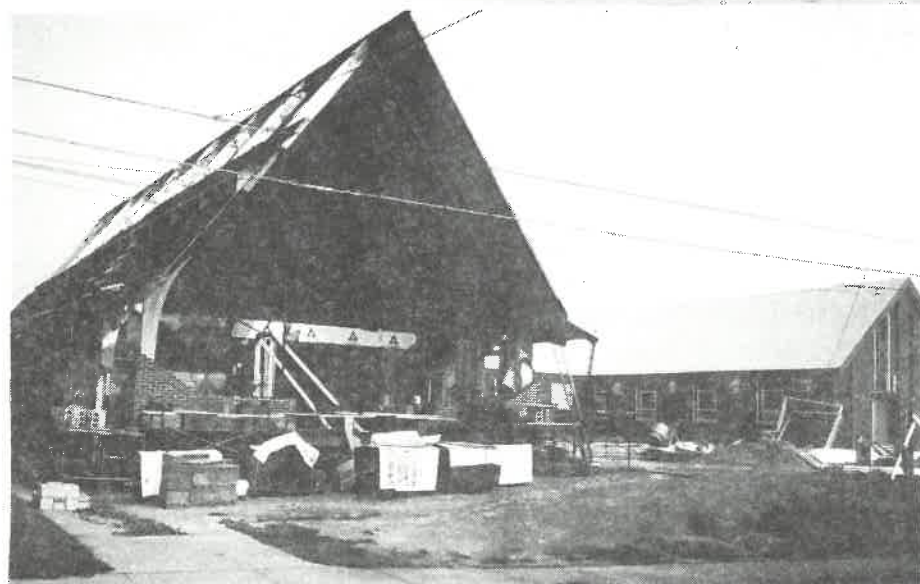
PRESIDENT  
Ed Albrecht

CHOIR DIRECTOR  
Joyce Albrecht



CORNERSTONE LAYING

Pastor Neisch



CONSTRUCTION OF

CURRENT CHURCH

fascinating for all the members, and especially so for the members of the building committee.

The cornerstone laying was another occasion for celebration and praise to God. The articles preserved in the stone were hermetically sealed in a 9x12x6 inch copper box crafted by John Huffman of sheet cooper salvaged from the laminated cross of the old Red Hill church.

While the contractor's men were building the sanctuary, men, women and children of the congregation were refurbishing, repairing, and remodeling the Parish Hall and Fellowship Hall.

George Hastings recalls that his son Harry, Don Schmutzer, and the Huffman boys were of great help to him in the remodeled. The value of their labor was estimated as saving the church about \$60,000.

An example of the cooperative nature of the members can be seen in how the new building's basement was made into eight classrooms and a Sunday School supply room. John Meyer put up the concrete block partitions, Chuck Caltrider hung the doors and did all the drywall, and Doris Caltrider cleaned up the drywall dust and painted the rooms. Hattie Hughes donated the ceiling materials and George Hastings, Slim Hardman, Walt Baker and other members installed the ceilings. There was nearly a 100% turnout of members participating in all this work



BUILDING KITCHEN CABINETS

George Hastings, Slim Hardman,  
Harold Thompson, Lou Eifert, and Roy DeViese

DESCRIPTION OF NEW SANCTUARY

The nave was built with high vaulted ceilings with exposed wooden beams. The chancel has a free standing altar with a communion rail on three sides. A large, slim silver cross hangs behind the altar, clearly seen in contrast to the wall of black volcanic rocks behind it. Above the rear of the church and narthex are the organ and choir loft.

The faceted art glass windows of the church were designed by the Sacred Art Committee, and executed by an artist and artisans of Franklin Art Glass Studios, Columbus, Ohio, using Blenko glass, a product of Milton, West Virginia. The windows were designed to reflect the teachings of the Apostle Paul for whom our congregation was named.

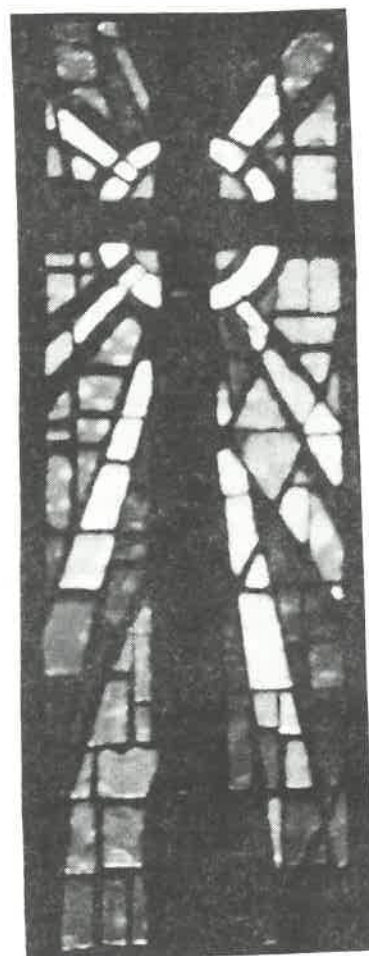
The largest window is in the balcony and was designed to portray "In the cross of Christ I glory." It is called THE VICTORIOUS CROSS WINDOW. It exhibits the empty cross with radiating shafts of glory. A special treatment of the interior surface of this window and special lighting make the radiating glory effect evident both inside and out at night.

GOD, THE FATHER and the DESCENDING SPIRIT, with a dove and flames of Pentecost, are portrayed in the panels on either side of the main doors. Also in the Narthex is the ENTRANCE TO THE KINGDOM window, the ship of the Church plowing through the sea of life to the crown of eternal life, ours by faith, depicted by the cross.

At the pulpit end of the altar is THE WORD WINDOW and across from it is the HOLY COMMUNION WINDOW. Near the font is the window of HOLY BAPTISM. The next windows on that side of the nave are the ADAM WINDOW, THE PATRIARCHS, THE MARIAN, and THE DAVID WINDOW. The next one on this north side is the MOTHER AND CHILD WINDOW in the mothers' room.

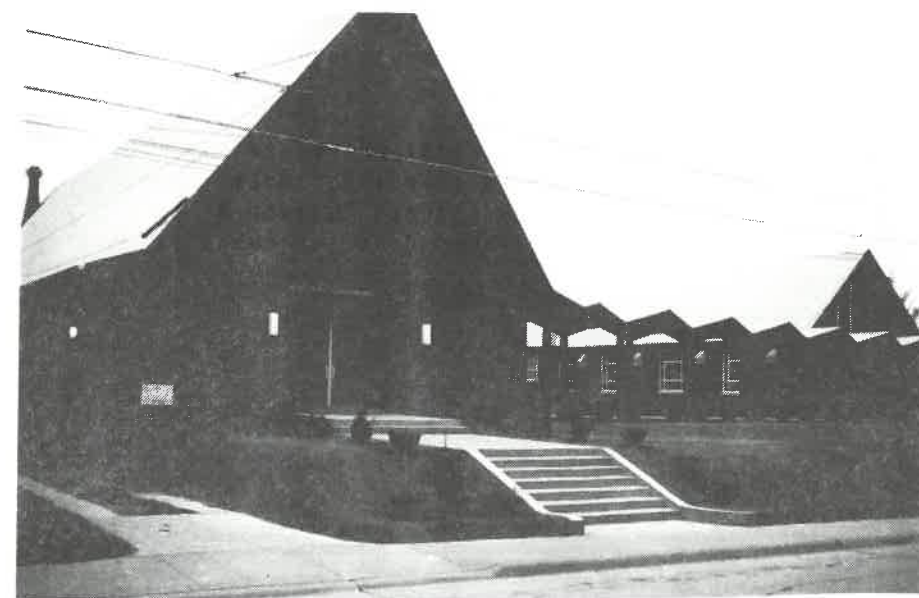
The three nave windows on the south wall of our sanctuary carry us briefly through the life of Christ with THE EPIPHANY WINDOW, THE MIRACLES, AND THE RESURRECTION, noted by the cross in glory. Being on the sunny side of the building, these windows especially shine with an extra brilliance, as would seem appropriate. And yet, the beauty of faceted art glass is partly in how colorful and brilliant its hues even on the dreary or cloudy days.

The stories and the Scriptural truths we see in the art work and the beauty of these gifts to God in His house strengthen our faith while extolling His glory. SOLI DEO GLORIA!



THE RESURRECTION WINDOW

DEDICATION SERVICES FOR THE PRESENT SANCTUARY  
OCTOBER 6, 1968



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN AT THE DEDICATION IN 1968

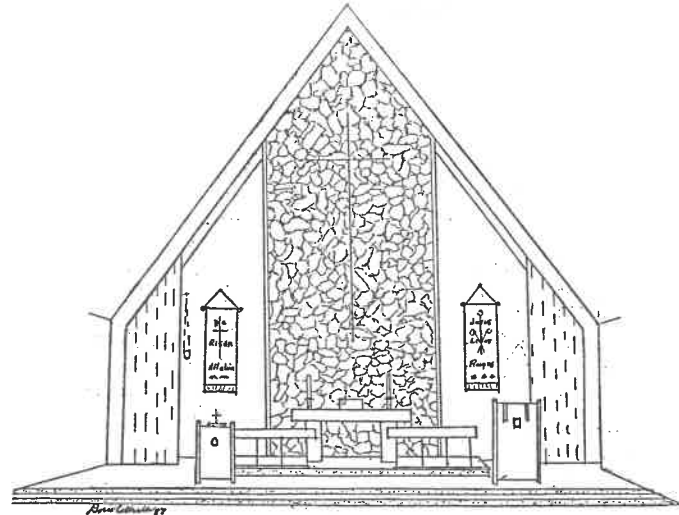
The service of dedication for the new church was an impressive one. The congregation gathered on the front sidewalk before the church doors for the opening ceremony of presentation of the key and ribbon cutting by the builder and architect. The chairman of the Board of Elders, D. H. Heckman, and President of the Congregation, Ed Albrecht unlocked and opened the doors. Mr. Heckman extended the invitation to the congregation saying: "Whereas by the grace of God we are permitted this day to dedicate this building to God, we hereby open the doors for the preaching of the saving Word of God in accordance with our Lutheran Confessions, for the administration of the Sacrament according to our Lord's institution, for the offering to God of the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, and for the teaching of His Word to the children and adults of this congregation."

The congregation and officiants then entered the church reverently and quietly. Rev. Paul Stanko, Second Vice President of the Ohio District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod gave the sermon. The Adult and Children's Choirs sang and Doris Caltrider was the organist. The trumpeters were Jolea Hastings and Robert Baker. Tom Huffman was the Acolyte.

The week was a full one with Services each evening. The Kindergarten Service was held on Monday, October 7, 1968 with Rev. Lorenz Blankenbuehler as Preacher, since he was the founder of St.

Paul's Kindergarten. He was at that time Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On Tuesday evening the Concert of Sacred Music was held. The Parkersburg Choral Society presented a fine concert.



The Church and Sacred Art service was held on Wednesday. Rev. Robert Beyer, Pastor, Buckhannon Lutheran Church, Buckhannon, WV gave the sermon. St. Paul's Adult Choir, Mrs. Joyce Albrecht, Director, sang a number of anthems.

The Church and Missions service was on Thursday with a sermon by Rev. E. C. Kruse, Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, South Charleston, WV.

Rev. W. O. Neisch, Pastor St. Paul Lutheran Church and Minister to Parkersburg Area Deaf signed the sermon for the Friday evening service, The Deaf Service of Praise in the Sign Language.

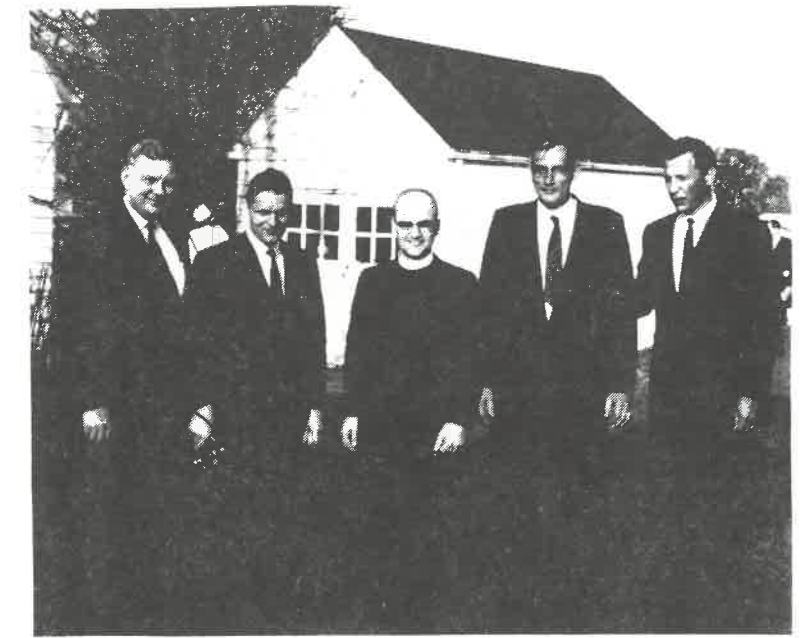
A Youth Rally was held Saturday evening sponsored by the St. Paul Walther League. It included youths from Ashland, Ky.; Waverly and Chillicothe, Ohio; Huntington and South Charleston, WV.

The Service of Praise on Sunday, October 13, 1968, concluded the week's dedication services and included the infant baptism of Mary Heather Heckman.

Ed Albrecht, Congregation President, stated in the Dedication folder: "We thank everyone, young and old, who has given time and effort for the remodeling and painting in the old part of our building. Many, many hands have helped. Obviously, without this effort, we could not have these excellent facilities. May it all rebound to our Lord's praise and honor and glory!"



DESCENDING SPIRIT WINDOW



BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW CHURCH

Ed Albrecht, Art Gustke, Pastor Neisch, Howard Roth, and Frank Siebel

The Building Committee for the new Church was: E. H. Albrecht, Sacred Art Chairman; A. N. Gustke, Landscaping Chairman; L. H. Roth, Painting Chairman; Frank Siebel, Organ Selection Chairman; Rev. W. O. Neisch, Gifts and Memorials Consultant.

The 1968 Officers of Congregation were: E. H. Albrecht, President; K. L. Lemley, Secretary; L. H. Roth, Treasurer; D. H. Heckman, W. A. Swanson and H. G. Thompson, Elders; D. F. Robinson, Chairman of Stewardship; C. G. Caltrider, R. D. DeViese and H. G. Hastings, Board of Maintenance; A. N. Gustke, A. H. Huffman, and H. Stephenson, Trustees; Frank Siebel, Chairman of Board of Education; L. C. Smith, Sunday School Superintendent; F. G. McGirr and E. C. Hardman, Financial Secretaries.

The LWML Officers in 1968 were: Mrs. Walter (Freda) Gustke, President; Mrs. Charles (Marie) Gustke, Vice President; Mrs. Franklin (Freda) McGirr, Secretary; Mrs. William (Mineta) Gustke, Treasurer. The Nursery Guild Officers were: Mrs. George (Della) Hastings, President; Mrs. Kenneth (Linda) Nicholson, Secretary; Mrs. Don (Lola) Schmutzer, Cradle Roll Secretary.

Walther League Officers were: Randy Hardman, President; Paul Huffman, Vice-President; Kathy Robinson, Secretary; Linda Caltrider, Treasurer; Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hardman, Advisers; Robert Baker, Asst. Adviser.



Pastor Neisch assumed the duties as Circuit Counselor for our area while he was here. He continued to serve us until 1971, when he accepted a call to St. Paul Deaf Lutheran Church in Flint, Michigan. Mrs. Neisch's name was Elaine. Their children were Jonathan, Susan, Karen and Kimberly. The ministry to the deaf continued after he left for another couple years until poor attendance, because of a lack of someone to sign, caused it to be discontinued.

#### 1971-1972 VACANCY

During this vacancy Rev. Don Tubesing from Athens, Ohio, preached for a month. Rev. Tom Klason, from Pleasant City, Ohio helped on Communion Sundays during a period when the laymen of our congregation filled the pulpit.

Rev. F. Bellin, a Pastor from Germany, served St. Paul for about four months, from August 29, 1971 to January 9, 1972. He and his family, a wife and four children, were already in the United States and were glad to come to Parkersburg to help during the vacancy. Rev. Bellin, with the help of the elders, visited every family in the congregation.

#### 1972-1980 REV. GILBERT J. DUCHOW

Rev. Gilbert J. Duchow became Pastor on January 31, 1972, coming here from Faith Lutheran Church, Rome, New York. During the eight years Pastor Duchow served St. Paul, a number of worship and study opportunities were started. Cottage meetings were held in three or four homes each January and February for Bible study.

The Kennedy Evangelism Program was offered during this period of time. Lenten suppers were held prior to the Lenten services, resulting in good attendance at the services. Retreats at Cedar Lakes were held, usually during February, and included men and women. The Fellowship Club, which helped members become better acquainted, was organized and well attended.

Pastor Duchow took a course in crisis counseling for Chaplains which was helpful to our congregation and community. He counseled at Camden Clark Hospital. When the Willow Island cooling tower accident occurred, killing 37 men, Pastor Duchow counseled one of the grieving families and conducted the funeral for their loved one.

In addition to the confirmation classes for the 7th and 8th graders, after school religion classes were held for the younger school children, while Pastor Duchow was here.

#### 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED 1977

At the time of the 90th Anniversary St. Paul had grown to 136 families with 338 souls. To celebrate the Anniversary year the LWML had a Mother Daughter Banquet with a style show featuring old clothing



90TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Pastor Duchow at Altar  
Rev. Neisch and Rev. Blankenbuehler



Rev. Neisch, Pastor Duchow, Al Huffman and  
Rev. Blankenbuehler at Red Hill Cemetery

and wedding gowns, modeled by the youth of the congregation.

The 90th Anniversary Service was held on September 25, 1977. Two former pastors returned for the service. Rev. Lorenz W. Blankenbuehler, First Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., gave the sermon and Rev. W. O. Neisch, St. Paul Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Flint, Michigan, was Liturgist. Our resident pastor, Rev. Gilbert J. Duchow, was the Lector. Music was provided by the Adult Choir and musicians Jolea Frye, Lori Dexter and Kim Nicholson.

As part of the church's 90th anniversary celebration, the congregation gathered at St. Paul's cemetery at Red Hill for a memorial service commemorating those early German pioneers, "whose faith in a merciful God and Savior saw them through the many days of hardship and privation in a new country." As a tribute to their heritage, the Lord's Prayer was said in German.

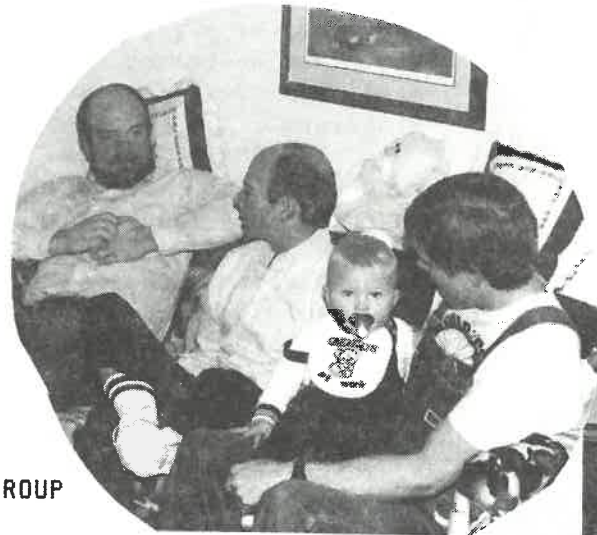
Rev. Duchow accepted a call to Hamilton, Ohio and left St. Paul on June 19, 1980. Rev. Duchow's wife was Linda and the children were Julie, Cheryl, Sarah and Rachel.

1980-1981 VACANCY PASTORS: REV. PAUL GERLACH AND REV. JOHN CHOITZ

Again there was a period of time between pastors. Our congregation was fortunate to have two able ministers serve us during 1980 and 1981. Rev. Paul Gerlach, a retired pastor from Tupper Plains, Ohio preached many of the Sundays. Rev. John Choitz, a retired pastor from Newark, Ohio, conducted the Sunday services and also taught the confirmation class on Saturdays during the 1980-1981 school year.

1981-TO PRESENT REV. KEVIN P. ELSEROAD

Rev. Kevin P. Elseroad was installed as Pastor on July 12, 1981, his first ministry after graduating from Concordia Lutheran Seminary in St. Louis. During his ministry Wednesday evening services, called Power Boost, were initiated and held several years. During 1986-87 a two year study of the entire Bible, called Crossways!, written by Rev. Harry Wendt, was started, with Pastor Elseroad as teacher. Seder meals for the congregation have been featured during Lent. Cell groups, the name for Sunday evening Bible study and support groups were organized in 1986 and continue in four or five homes.



CELL GROUP

Dave Scudder, Paul Nielsen,

Daniel and Jim Ingraham

On November 2, 1986, a great milestone was reached when the mortgage was entirely paid off. A mortgage burning ceremony was held to celebrate this happy occasion. The following prayer was offered: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We now burn the mortgage responsibilities of St.

A new constitution and by-laws were adopted in November, 1985, completely reorganizing the administration of the business matters of the congregation. It was based on a constitution proposed by Rev. Don Abdon who presented a workshop here in 1983.



MORTGAGE BURNING CEREMONY

Pastor Elseroad and Charles Alt,

President of Congregation

Paul Lutheran Church. May this building continue to serve as a center for missionary work and worship in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Volunteer help and contributions from many members of the congregation have continued to keep the property in an excellent fashion. Air conditioning was installed in the sanctuary a few years ago, a fence was put up around the yard the pre-school children use as their outdoor playground. and the church parking lot was recently paved. In the planning stage is a ramp to allow better access to the sanctuary by the handicapped, a new sign and sanctuary pews.

Because of increased attendance, the congregation elected to have two services each Sunday. They started in November 1986, and attendance has continued to increase. The membership during this Centennial Year is: 146 families with 362 baptised members and 281 confirmed members.

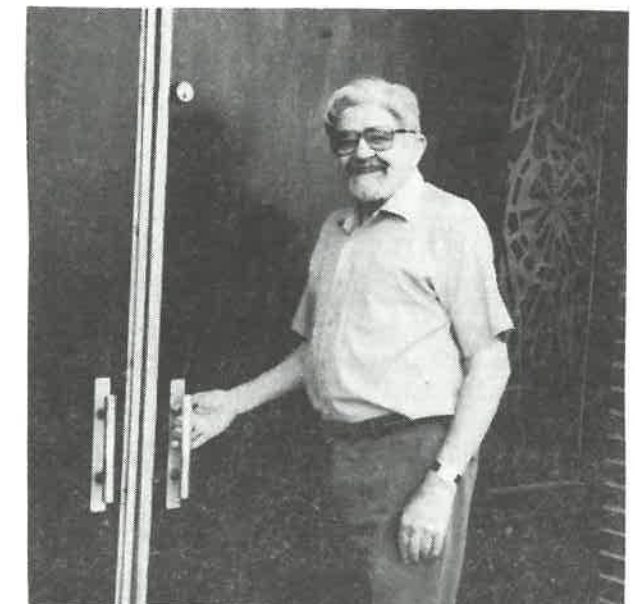
Pastor Elseroad and his wife Bonnie have three children: Daniel, Benjamin and Bethany.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The church has had the capable services of Martha Delany as Church Secretary for 20 years. She provides many services for the pastor, pre-school and the congregation.



MARTHA DELANY



GEORGE STOUT

George Stout has been caretaker of the church since 1978, with his wife Betty's help, keeping the sanctuary, preschool, and other rooms in a clean and orderly fashion. He also provides the valuable service of keeping the doors of the church open or closed at necessary times.

The Church Newsletter is sent out monthly to members of our congregation to communicate messages from the pastor and the various boards, church workers list for the month and a calendar of meeting dates and worship and study opportunities. Beverly Clevenger was newsletter editor for a number of years, writing and editing in a most informative and entertaining manner. Pastor Elseroad has been serving as editor recently. Martha Delany has done the typing and many members of the congregation have helped her in assembling the pages and preparing them for sending.

A Church Library for the use of the members, both young and old, is maintained by volunteers. The committee members are Anne Sonderman, Yvonne Ritchie and Becky Ingraham.

#### CENTENNIAL YEAR PREPARATIONS

Plans for celebrating this centennial year began many years ago. The official Centennial Committee consisted of Charles Alt, President of the congregation, Doris Caltrider, Freda McGirr and Pastor Elseroad.

Many other members of the congregation contributed their time and talents toward making the centennial year a very special one.

Photographs were taken of all the members during the fall of 1986 for a Centennial Church Directory. Carole Schimke was chairman; Diane Morrison handled the appointments; and Freda McGirr wrote the history and layout of the pictures, all in color.

The logo for the Centennial year was designed by Doris Caltrider. It reminds us that "The Lord is God. We are His people." The dove of the Holy Spirit was on a gold cross.

Freda McGirr made two beautiful banners for our sanctuary, emphasizing the theme that our God is FAITHFUL IN ALL GENERATIONS.

A large Centennial sign graced our front lawn and announced to all who passed by that we were Celebrating 100 years of God's Grace. The sign was designed by Freda McGirr and constructed and painted by Olga and Paul Pashkevich.

Publicity for the events during the year was written by Betty Stout for the newspaper; Vivian Baker and JoLea Frye sent letters to previous pastors and members.

Archivists were Linda Dennis, Lucille McCauley and Doris Caltrider who have assembled many priceless old records and photographs. Many of the photographs were framed and identified by Doris Caltrider and were on display on the Fellowship and Parish Hall walls during the year.

To preserve the old books and records in a safe and attractive way, a Centennial Cabinet was designed by George Hastings. Walt Baker, Franklin McGirr and Alfred Huffman built and finished the cabinet, of

beautiful oak. The cabinet will remain in the Parish Hall and allow present and future members a glimpse into the past.



CENTENNIAL CABINET



CENTENNIAL CABINET COMMITTEE

George Hastings, Designer: Walter Baker, Franklin McGirr and Alfred Huffman, builder.



Centennial Plates were produced by Fenton Art Glass Company, Williamstown, WV. Charlie Alt and Hazel Wamsley handled the details.

To preserve the history of the congregation this Centennial History Book was prepared by Ruth Weber and Linda Nicholson.

"Memories" were gathered from members as they came for the photographer last fall. Many members contributed historical stories about the rich past and present events of our congregation. Especially appreciated were articles by Howard Roth, Doris Caltrider and Les Weber. The Centennial Committee was most helpful in editing the book. The photographers were Gary Frye, Ken Nicholson and Bob Hinde. The drawings were sketched by Doris Caltrider.

A Centennial Cook Book was prepared by Betty Stout, Phyllis Roth, Grace Arrowood and Ruth Gustke.

#### CENTENNIAL YEAR SERVICES

An Epiphany Celebration on January 25, 1987, started the year's activities. After the two Sunday services, the congregation shared dinner and memories of the past, up to the present, of the events that brought us to this time and place in history. The Youth Choir, Cherub Choir and an Old Fashioned Kitchen Band were featured.



EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

YOUTH CHOIR

The "Homegrown" Centennial Concert was held on May 17, following a spaghetti supper served by the Youth Group. Suzanne Dietz was coordinator and Bob Goers served as Master of Ceremonies. All the choirs participated and solos were sung by Jan Gustke, Bonnie Elseroad, Bob Baker and Darin McCauley. The organists were Suzanne Dietz and Bob Lock; the pianist was Jennifer Nicholson.

On August 2nd an Old Fashioned Homecoming Service and Picnic was held at the Tom Huffman's place on Old St. Marys Pike. The outdoor morning worship service included Holy Communion. A noon dinner, planned by the Social Ministries and Parish Fellowship Committee, was followed by an afternoon of "Games of Yesteryear," enjoyed by the many members and friends of St. Paul who attended. Jan Gustke planned the games and Bob Goers was Master of Ceremonies.

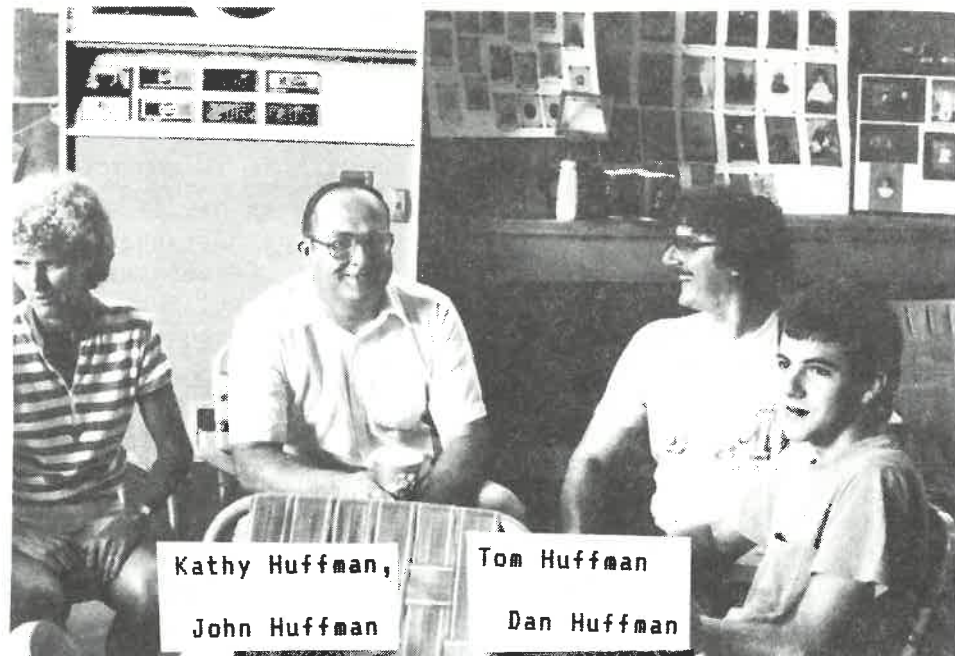


SENIOR MEMBERS  
Hazel Gustke and  
Edna Meyer

HOMECOMING SERVICE



PICNIC



Kathy Huffman, Tom Huffman  
John Huffman Dan Huffman



Bob Goers  
MC for Picnic  
and Concert

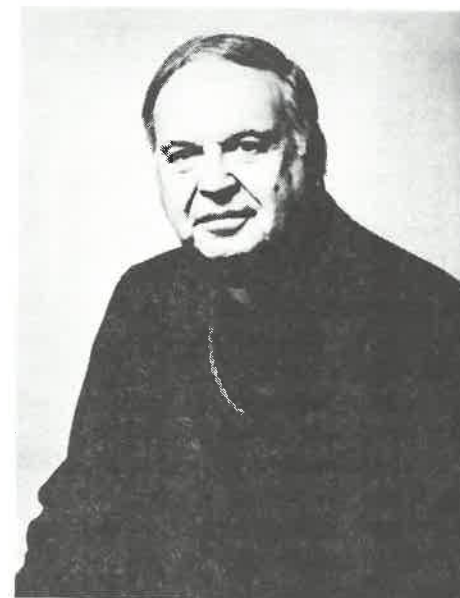


OLD-FASHIONED BALLOON TOSS



Bonnie Elseroad, Art Gustke

DR. OSWALD HOFFMANN, LUTHERAN HOUR SPEAKER, GUEST PREACHER



St. Paul was privileged to have Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, the Lutheran Hour Speaker, as guest pastor on September 13. His inspirational message and singing will be remembered by all who heard him for a long time. The Board of Lay Ministers was in charge of this service.

As at the 90th Anniversary, a Memorial Service, on Sunday September 20, was held at the site of the first church building at Red Hill at the present cemetery. The Centennial Committee planned a fitting service to honor those past members who contributed so much to the building up of our congregation, to the Glory of God.

Centennial Sunday was held on September 27. Our members were honored that four of our previous pastors, Rev. Waldemar O. Neisch, Rev. Ferdinand Bellin, Rev. Gilbert Duchow, and Rev. John F. Choitz, came to take part in the services that day. The Ohio District was represented by District President Rev. Paul Weber and Honorary District President Rev. Arthur Ziegler.

Les Weber was planner and coordinator of the Centennial Sunday activities held on September 27. His committee consisted of Diana Skinner, chairman of the dinner committee, along with Edna Meyer, Betty Wiseman, Denise Scudder, Anne Noller and John Hazelton, the Caterer of the meal. Stout Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall, one block from St. Paul, was the site of our dinner held following the services, planned by Pastor and Suzanne Dietz. Shirley Rion coordinated housing arrangements for the visiting pastors. A Handbell Concert and Evening Vesper Service concluded a wonderful day.

The two youth groups of our congregation planned the November 15th services. Don Wharton, minister of Music and Youth from St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Walled Lake, Michigan, incorporated his talents in the morning worship services and gave a Christian musical in the evening.

The December 13th Festival of Faith was a wonderful ending to the year's Centennial activities. Worship services were followed by an open house where all aspects of our church life were on display throughout the church building. Entertainment, handicrafts and food were also enjoyed. This day's activities were planned by the LWML.

The Lord has indeed been FAITHFUL IN ALL GENERATIONS

CENTENNIAL MEMBERS OF ST. PAUL  
DESCENDED FROM THE FOUNDERS AND EARLY MEMBERS

WERNER OTTE-SOPHIE MEYER OTTE  
AND JOHN ROTH-LOUISE BRINKER

Howard Roth-Phyllis Lockney Roth  
Heather Harrell  
(great-granddaughter)  
7th generation

Jane Roth Dailey  
Bill Dailey  
Stephen Dailey  
Susan Roth Lowe-Tom Lowe  
Susan Andrea Lowe

Doris Roth Caltrider  
Jason Caltrider (grandson)  
Linda Caltrider Dennis  
Carlton Lauderman  
John Caltrider-Gina Shively Caltrider  
Joshua Caltrider  
Melanie Caltrider

Alfred Huffman-Florence Duval Huffman  
John Huffman-Cathy Leasure Huffman  
Becky Huffman Richards  
Christina Richards  
Bill Huffman  
Dan Huffman  
Joseph Huffman  
Thomas Huffman-Vicky Roberts Huffman  
Adam Huffman  
Mark Huffman

Katherine Huffman Kelly  
Mike Parkansky (grandson)

Evelyn Rogers Roth

HENRY BRETHAUER-KATHARINE FISCH

Freda Brethauer McGirr-Franklin McGirr  
Carol McGirr  
Rita McGirr Burns  
Tina Burns  
David Burns  
Denise Burns  
Lois McGirr DeLashautt  
Timothy DeLashautt  
Allen DeLashautt  
Anita McGirr Beene  
Clayton Beene  
Allison Beene

Marie Brethauer Gustke-Charles Gustke  
Janis Gustke

Ethel Burroughs Stephenson

Eric Stephenson  
(son of John Stephenson)

FRED MEYER AND MARY STEPHENS MEYER

(Freda Meyer Gustke)-Walter Gustke  
Arthur Gustke-Mary Jo Radcliffe Gustke  
David Gustke  
James Gustke  
Beth Ann Gustke

Ruth  
Robert

Edna Prince Meyer  
(wife of John Meyer)

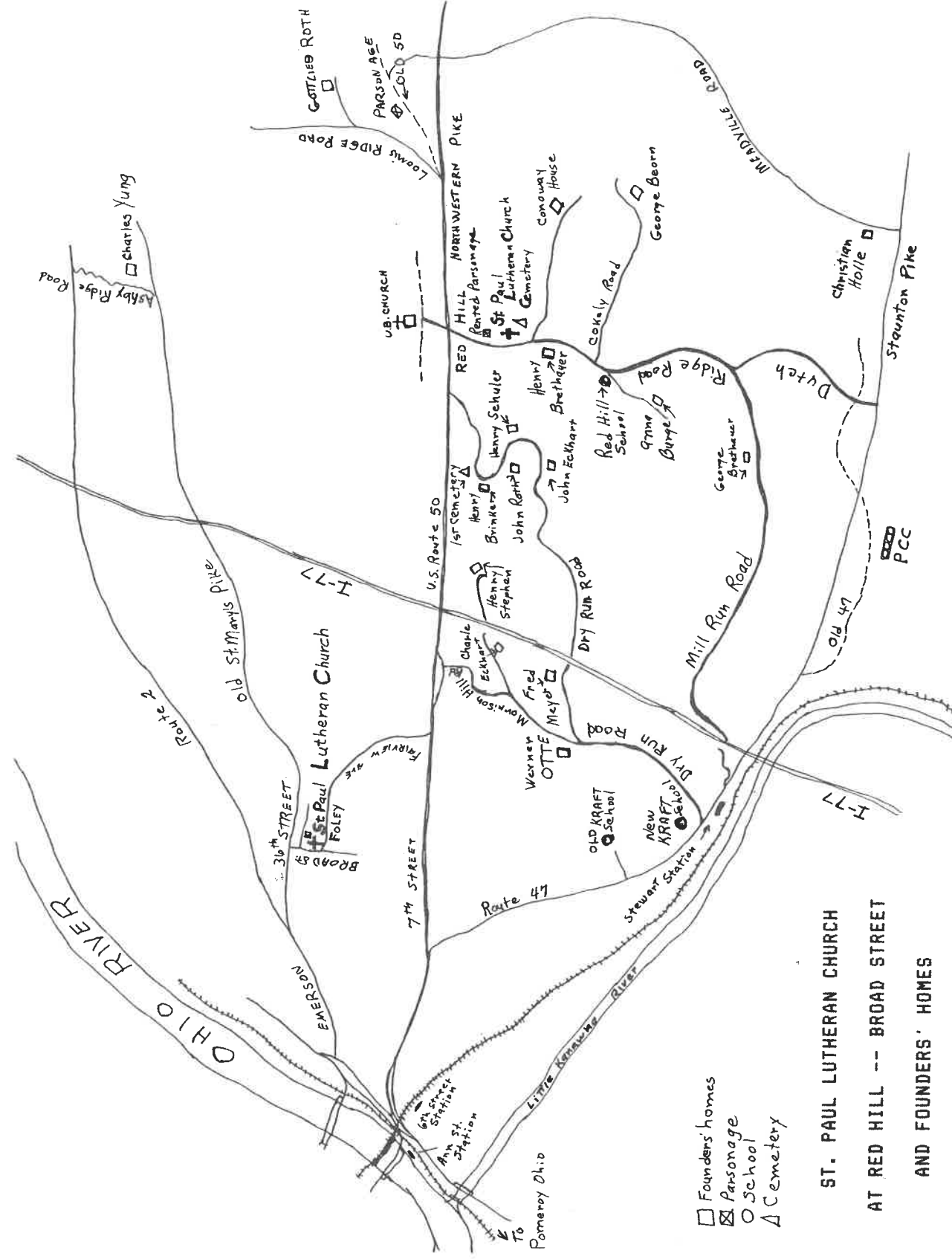
WILLIAM GUSTKE-ANNA BRINKER GUSTKE

Walter Gustke-Hazel Barnum Gustke  
Children of Walter Gustke-Freda Meyer Gustke  
Arthur Gustke-Mary Jo Radcliffe Gustke  
David Gustke  
James Gustke  
Beth Ann Gustke

Ruth  
Robert

Clairence Gustke

Charles Gustke-Marie Brethauer Gustke  
Janis Gustke



## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CEMETERY

Just off Route 50 east of Parkersburg, on Dutch Ridge Road, is St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery. One acre of land was deeded to the church by George Beorn in 1887 for a church building and cemetery. The old church building was torn down in 1949, but the cemetery remains with the steps still in place which used to lead to the church.

The boundary has been changed several times. Not all the land was needed, so part of it was fenced off for pasture. A sturdy woven wire fence with metal posts set in concrete was erected about 1930 with money from the Gephart estate. In the 1970's, an exchange of some space at the back of the property was made with the owner of the adjoining land and a new fence was built.



ST PAUL LUTHERAN CEMETERY AT RED HILL

Counting the marked graves and a few others we know about, there are 49 people buried at Red Hill. The earliest date is 1896 when two children, one a still born infant, and a two year old were buried. The oldest person buried was 108 and eight were over 80 years old at the time they died.

If you have ever tried to work in red clay you have some idea of how hard it was to dig a grave six feet deep, and that's the depth it had to be, in the Red Hill Cemetery.

They say there are only about two days a year you can easily work in red clay. Otherwise, it is hard as rock or sticky as glue. In the early days, friends and neighbors usually did the digging and water and caving in were sometimes a problem, but death didn't wait for good weather.

Burial vaults were unheard of in the early days and bodies were placed in caskets, usually cloth covered, and the casket was put in a "rough box", the pine box mentioned so often in folk songs and early accounts. If the family could not afford a casket, the body was placed on a bier furnished by the undertaker, and then buried in the pine box. If bodies were embalmed, the undertaker came to the house with his equipment and did it there. Home and church funerals were the rule, and seldom if ever were they held at a funeral home as they are now. In summer the casket was draped with a thin curtain to keep off the flies, and a few people held a wake, staying up all night, keeping a lamp lit, to be sure mice didn't disturb the body. A spray of flowers was hung on the wall beside the front door when there was a death in the family, the color of the flowers denoting whether the deceased was a child, middle aged, or an elderly person.

Grown-ups did not wear bright colors in the early 1900's and this was especially true at funerals. A widow was not properly attired if she did not wear a black dress and hat, and a heavy black veil over her face. She even carried a special handkerief which was white with a black border. She was expected to wear black or gray for several months after her husband's death indicating she was in mourning.

The tolling bell, the same bell we hear every Sunday morning, told those in hearing distance that a funeral was about to take place. The rope was pulled and held a few moments to slow the tempo and then released. Roy DeViese, who many of us remember, was an expert at this.

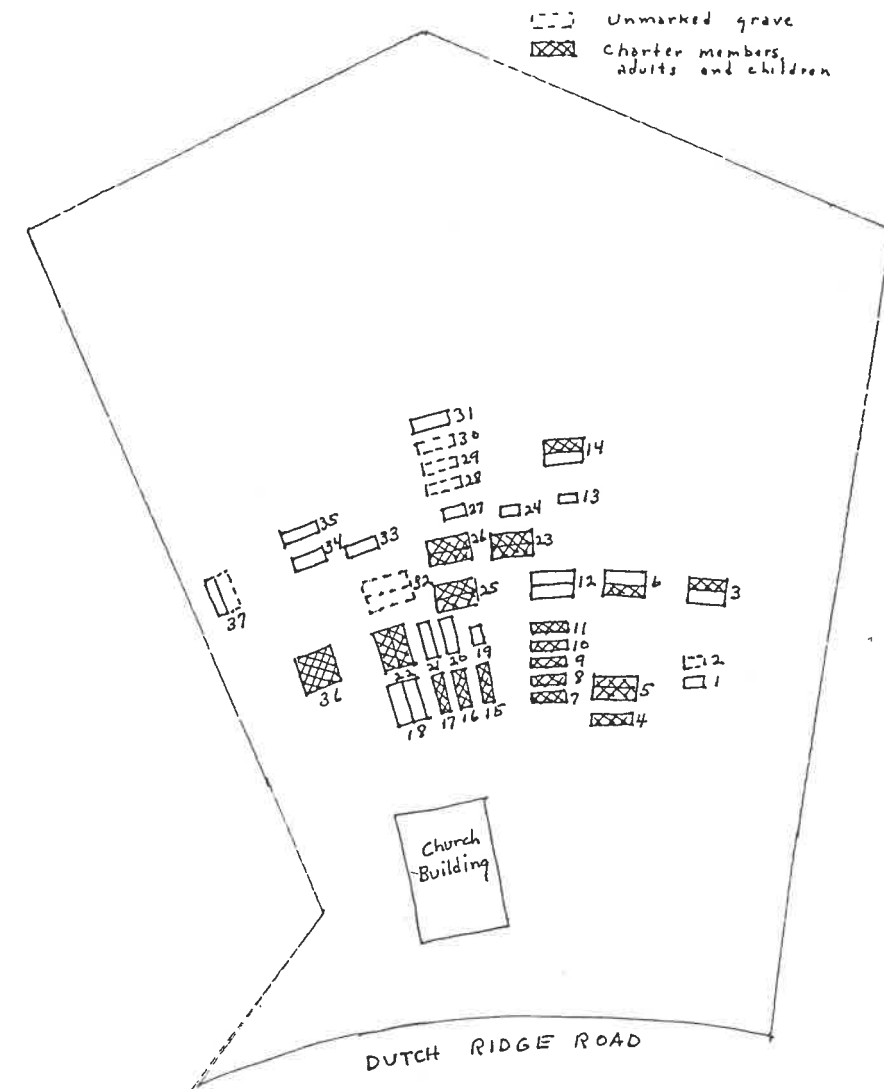
When we had made the decision to build a church in Parkersburg, some of the older members expressed concern that the cemetery would be abandoned and grow up in weeds. That was when Alfred Huffman promised to keep it mowed and in good repair as long as he was able. He has kept that promise and recruited others to help, primarily Franklin McGirr and Walt Baker. Three or four times each summer they bring their mowers and their lunch and have the cemetery neatly trimmed in a couple of hours.

The cemetery will remain as a reminder of our humble beginning and of the blessings we have received for 100 years.

NAMES AND INSCRIPTIONS ON MARKERS  
AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CEMETERY AT RED HILL

1. Infant son of H. and C. Brethauer b. and d. Aug. 3, 1896
2. (unn) Arnold Stephenson b 6-9-1904 d 8-2-1904  
(son of John and Mary)
3. Stephenson, John C. 1864-1935  
Mary C. (Brethauer) 1880-1964
4. Fische, Martha Elizabeth, wife of George H.  
Feb. 18, 1822, Jan. 23, 1901  
(Mother of Katharine Brethauer)
5. Brethauer, Henry C. 1846 1918  
Katharine E. 1854 1935 (Fisch)  
(Grandparents of Freda McGirr and Marie Gustke)
6. Brethauer, George H. 1874 1923  
Fannie E. (Burge) 1877 1965  
(Son of Henry and Katharine)
7. Schuler, Anna E. (Fisch) 1846 1927
8. Schuler, Henry 1845 1927
9. Schueler, George August 20, 1871 Sept. 18, 1911
10. Schueler, Eliza Mar. 27, 1879 Sept. 28, 1919
11. Schuler, John H. 1883 1935  
(children of Henry and Anna)
12. Gebhart, Philip 1850 1929  
Elizabeth (Leonhart) 1852 1930  
(Grandparents of Freda McGirr and Marie Gustke)
13. Gustke, Ethel A. Aug. 25, 1904 Oct. 2, 1905  
(twin dau. of Wm. and Anna)  
(twin sister of Florence Gustke Pohl)  
(sister of Walter, Clarence and Charles)
14. McFee, Frederick 1888 1956  
Elizabeth (Eckhart) 1886 1971
15. Eckhart, John Nov. 7 1826 Dec. 11, 1913
16. Eckhart, Mother Anna Elizabeth 1850 1933
17. Eckhardt, Adam July 11, 1883 May 12, 1900  
(son of John and Elizabeth)
18. Whitehead, John H. Feb. 25, 1908 Sept. 23, 1981  
Mary E. (Eckhart) Jan. 4, 1908 Jan. 9, 1970  
(married May 18, 1927) (dau. of Carl and Elizabeth Eckhart)
19. Eckhardt, Edward 1916 1918 ) Children of
20. Eckhart, Fred 1911 1936 ) Carl and Elizabeth
21. Smith, Anna Eckhart 1900 1956 ) Eckhart
22. Eckhart, Carl 1873 1950  
Elizabeth (Stephan) 1883 1970
23. Stephens, J. E. 1855 1924  
Anna M. 1850 19--
24. Stephan, H. F. 1894 1896
25. Roth, Gottlieb 1854 1930  
Mary (King) 1855 1931  
(Great-uncle of Doris Caltrider, Howard Roth,  
Katharine Kelly and Alfred Huffman)
26. Meyer, H. F. 1849 1924  
Mary (Stephan) (later Gerk) 1874 1955  
(buried by second husband, #32)  
(Grandparents of Ruth, Arthur, Robert Gustke,  
and parents in law of Edna Meyer)

27. Meyer, Carl Oct. 1898 Nov. 1906 )
28. unmarked, probably Meyer ) Children of
29. " " " " ) H. F. and Mary Meyer
30. " " " " )
31. Meyer, Walter Otto 1914 1984 )
32. unmarked Gerk, Ferdinand  
Mary Stephan Meyer Gerk
33. Mitchell, Homer McKinley 1897 1938  
(husband of Pauline Eckhart, later Rogers)
34. Stout, Gerald Frederick Jan. 2, 1949 Jan. 23, 1984  
(son of George and Betty)
35. Gaydac, Paul S. April 14, 1915 Aug. 31, 1984  
Sgt. U. S. Army W.W.II  
(husband of Helen)
36. Affolter, Stephen 3-20-1814 - 1922  
Elizabeth 7-21-1811 - 1902
37. Gnoth, Susannah, June 27, 1827 Nov. 19, 1896  
(wife of Laslo Gnoth, also buried here but grave unmarked.)





## WORSHIP

Recognizing the grace of God in Jesus Christ, the response of the Christian community is worship! It is the central reason for our being a Christian community. In worship, God speaks to us in Word and Sacraments and we respond with prayers and praise to Him. Throughout the past century, many Christians have gathered together in this Lutheran community to praise their Maker and to be instructed and strengthened by Him. Today, we enjoy gathering together every Sunday but in earlier times, this was not so and services were conducted whenever it was possible.

A cycle of lessons is presented to us through a period of years (now 3 years) that lead us through the major teachings of the Holy Bible and on which the preaching from the pulpit is frequently based. Thus we are reminded of what God has done for us. We come to Him, confessing our burden of sins, of commission and of omission, and, because of His mercy in Jesus Christ, He forgives our sins and wipes the slate clean!! A giant weight is lifted from us! We respond with songs of praise and with prayers of thanks!! We make that tangible in our offerings, the result of our labors, that His work might prosper and continue, both in our midst and in those distant places we support through our assistance.

We meet our Savior in Holy Communion where the eating and drinking of His body and blood helps us to remember His death for us!! He wants us to do that!! In fact, He asks us to do that until He comes again.

He also wants us to ask for blessings for others who are in need and that we do in our prayers of intercession, for all manner of needs. He asks us then to dedicate our lives to service to Him and to others. All sorts of opportunities are presented to us to use those unique talents that God has blessed each of us with, so that others might be helped in some way.

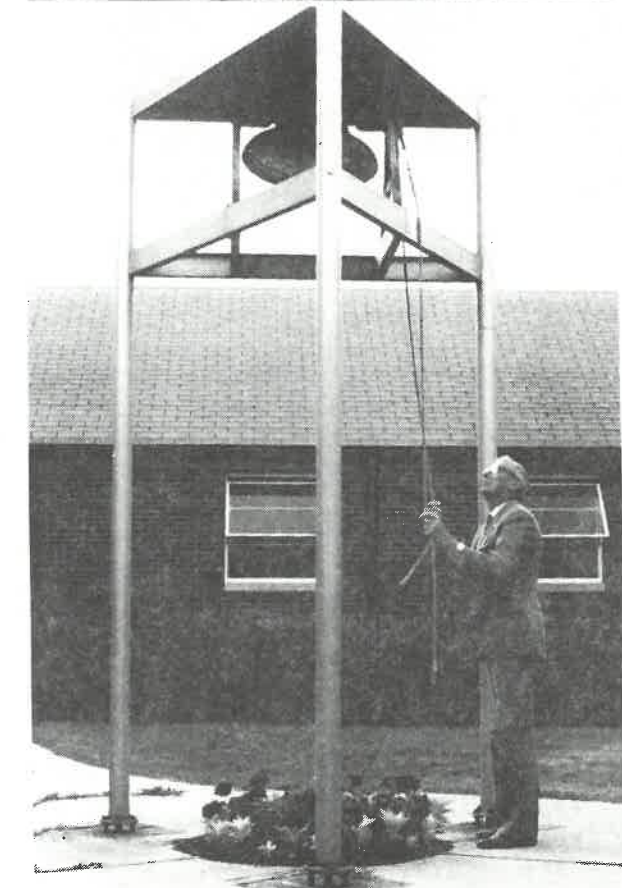
Our worship is enriched in many beautiful ways such as art, music, an organized liturgy, and participation, but most of all by the fellowship we enjoy with our God and with one another.

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP - THE CHURCH BELL

The church bell was made by the C. S. Bell Company in their foundry in Hillsboro, Ohio. It hung in the church belfry at Red Hill and could be heard for miles around. Freda McGirr recalls one of her earliest memories was of the clear resonant sound of the church bell. It was rung 15 minutes before the time of the service and again at the beginning of worship. Freda said, "If you lived close, as we did, you could wait for the first bell before leaving home, but if you lived farther away you knew just how far down the path you had to be to get there on time." The official "bell ringers" were Roy DeViese and Alfred Huffman.

There is an art to ringing the church bell properly for different occasions. For festive occasions, such as Easter, it is rung loud and long and the bell ringer needs to be careful not to turn the bell over. For funerals the bell is tolled, that is it is rung softly and at a slower tempo. The ringer pulls the rope and holds it down a second or two before letting it rise again; at Red Hill it was tolled the number of years the person lived.

When the congregation moved to town, the bell was removed from the old church tower and stored until 1977. At the 90th Anniversary of St. Paul's founding, a free-standing bell tower was constructed by John Huffman. It is designed with three crosses, representing where Jesus paid for our sins. The bell tower was dedicated in memory of Rev. Pohl, the pastor who served our congregation for the longest period of time. His only son, Norman, and his family were present for the ceremony. At last, after a silence of nearly 30 years, the original bell from Red Hill was in service again. The clear tones again signal the start of worship to the congregation and the surrounding community. Alfred Huffman is again official bell ringer.



ALFRED HUFFMAN

## BEAUTIFICATION OF THE LORD'S HOUSE



In recognition that all things good and all things beautiful come from the Lord, Christians use these gifts to make His House a place of beauty. Art in many forms makes our hearts glad as we enter into His portals. The altar is graced with fresh flowers in prize arrangements. The light shines through the brilliant contemporary art glass windows in a series of scenes depicting the teachings of our apostolic namesake, St. Paul. Colorful and skillfully prepared banners adorn the walls announcing seasonal themes. Paraments on the altar and pulpit and pastor's stoles are coordinated with the seasons of the Church Year. An eternal light glistens quietly above the altar and processions are led by a gleaming processional cross.

Many talented hands, quietly at work, provide these colorful additions, all to the Glory of God.

Flowers for the altar at Red Hill were brought and arranged by Ella Kirsch from her large, beautiful flower garden. As a girl Freda Brethauer McGirr watched and soon learned to arrange the flowers herself. Freda has provided the flowers for the altar nearly every Sunday for many years. Her beautiful and inspirational arrangements of the flowers she grows in her garden or the weeds she gathers along the roadside, still adorn our sanctuary. Clarence Gustke's lilies and poinsettias at Easter and Christmas bring us closer to God through seeing His beautiful handiwork.



FREDA Mc GIRR

## MUSIC - LITURGY

The Lutheran Church has a rich musical heritage. Lutherans have long been known for congregational singing as well as the use of instrumental and choral music. Music is a form of mutual edification even for those who "can't sing." Throughout this past century, the Lord has always blessed us with people of musical talent so that we have been able to lift up our hearts to Him, "in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs."

The availability of a musical instrument in the early years of this century of grace we celebrate is lost in the memories of today's members. It is remembered that the Red Hill Church had a piano which provided musical accompaniment for singing during the services. About 1907 a manually pumped reed organ was obtained. The organist had to pump and play the organ at the same time, but years later when Doris Roth Caltrider played this organ, Alfred Huffman designed and built an engine to pump the air for the bellows.

Special recognition must be made of the musical talent and dedication to voluntarily playing in God's house of worship by the Roth family. Willa Roth was the organist at Red Hill for many years, until, in 1939, her niece Doris Roth Caltrider became church organist, a position she filled for the next 39 years. Doris had played for the Sunday School for the preceding five years, starting at age 12. Other family members who played for worship services were Lydia Roth, Virginia Roth and Margie Roth.



DORIS CALTRIDER

The first church on Broad Street used an army field organ initially. This was a pump organ which looked like a piano. That was followed by a Hammond Spinnet Organ, a memorial gift from the Edward Roth estate. It was moved to the new sanctuary in 1968, and an added speaker amplifier gave it a very nice sound. Our present Allen electronic Organ was purchased in 1975, with new amplifiers added in 1986. Its flexibility adds musical variety to the worship services.

For the past eight years Suzanne Dietz has been our full time organist, leading us in congregational singing and inspirational preludes, voluntaries and postludes coordinated with the lessons for the day. In 1986 she became Church Music Director, a newly created

SUZANNE DIETZ



position in which she oversees all the musical activities of the church. Her innovative ideas involve all ages in the congregation.

Other members who have played for our church services have been: Mildred Fischer, Willa Trainer, Edith Gross, Lola Burkey, Mrs. William (Anna) Gustke, Roma Rosenburg, Audrea Munding, Anne Scott, Betty Stout, Janis Gustke, Bob Lock, Grace Arrowood and Kathy Hamrick. Jennifer Nicholson, one of our teenagers, recently started playing the organ, also.

Our services have been enriched by choral music provided by our adult and childrens choirs. Mr. Werner Otte led the singing at the services at Red Hill before the choirs were organized. In the January 1, 1918 "Parish Letter" Rev. Luft said, "Our newly organized choir made its debut on Christmas morning and sang again in the evening. The sacred chorus, "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" was rendered successfully." Other pastors who were musically blessed also organized and directed choirs: Rev. Vogelsang, Rev. Rosenberg, and Rev. Blankenbuehler. Joyce Albrecht led the adult choir for many years in musical anthems uplifting the congregation.



JENNIFER NICHOLSON

Our present Adult Choir director is Grace Arrowood who began in 1980. Grace's excellence in leading the choir members has resulted in music reflecting the joy of God's presence. There are 16 members in the choir this centennial year. Other choir directors have been: George Gustke, Richard Munding and Betty Stout. All the choir directors have the task of selecting suitable music and scheduling it to coordinate with the liturgical year.

The beautiful voices of our children have sung about Jesus and His love throughout the years. The Sunday School children sang together in the early years. An organized Youth Choir was directed by Ruth Gustke for many years with Janice Gustke playing the organ. This centennial year we have two children's choirs. Grace Arrowood directs the 4th

through 8th grade Youth Choir, accompanied by Kathy Hamrick. Bonnie Elseroad leads the Cherub Choir with Jennifer Nicholson accompanying them on the piano. Twenty three little children from age three to eight sing in this choir. The congregation truly enjoys hearing the sweet voices of our young singers.

ADULT CHOIR MEMBERS

BACK ROW: Les Weber, Doug Sonderman and Dave Moore  
Ruth Weber, Shirley Rion, Ann Sonderman, Norma Moore, Carlene Welker, Grace Arrowood, Director



OTHER CHOIR MEMBERS

Marie Gustke, Dave Scudder, Kay Goers, Bob Goers  
Missing: Lisa Goers, Lucille McCauley, Dave Petty, Ellen and Roy Kanitz



Bob Baker, Cantor



CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
Bonnie Elseroad, Director

Recently, Suzanne Dietz organized and now directs a group of men in the congregation -- a singing group, called "The King's Men." The full deep voices of these 10 men add joy to our services.

The St. Paul Youth Group also has a group of ten singers who sing exciting new songs accompanied by Mike Wade on his guitar.

Individuals blessed with exceptionally pleasing voices have shared in the services by singing solos. Johnny Meyer sang many solos with his wonderful tenor voice.

The person many members recall as a soloist and choir member is Roy DeViese. In 1983 our congregation honored him for 60 years of service in the church's music program. He began singing in 1923 and was a member of the bass section of the adult choir until 1980. He sang "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord" at Good Friday services, (this tradition has been continued by Grace Arrowood) composed and wrote the words to an Easter anthem, which the choir sang, "Rejoice With Me."

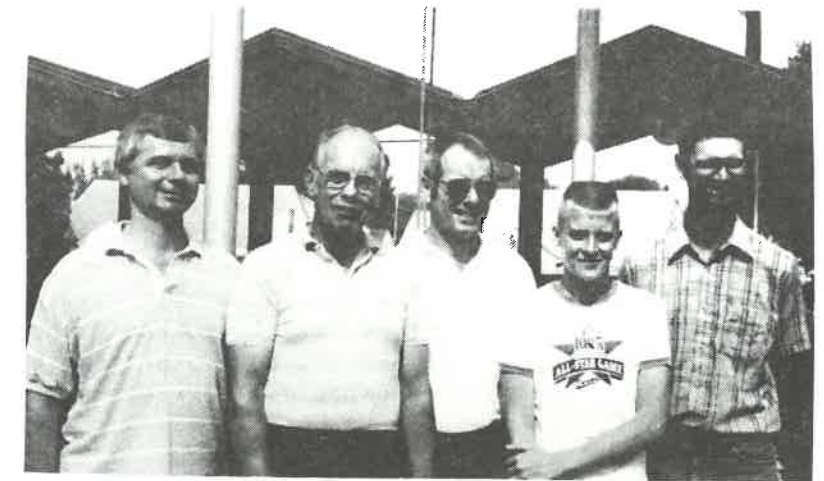
Also once a month he accompanied his pastor to the Parkview Healthcare Center for services where the residents were treated to a solo, or on occasion he joined with three others from the church to form a quartet. Roy is missed since his death in February 1986, not only for his beautiful singing but for his warm, friendly greetings.

We have many other excellent soloists including: Bob Baker, George Stout, Dave Scudder, Rick Noller, Les Weber, Bonnie Elseroad, Norma Moore, Grace Arrowood, Ruth Gustke, Marie Gustke, Jan Gustke, Darin McCauley, Lucille McCauley, Bob Goers, Kay Goers, Steve Goers, and Roy Kanitz.

Members who have musical talent in playing instruments have also contributed to our worship services. In 1928 Alfred Huffman played "Silent Night" as a violin solo. Trumpeters JoLea Frye and Bob Baker added much joy and excitement to the music at the 90th Anniversary Celebration service. Cheryl Nicholson has organized thirteen of our present young members who play musical instruments into a group called "A Joyful Noise." Their special numbers and accompaniment for hymns is outstanding, adding a special verve to the music.



Roy DeViese



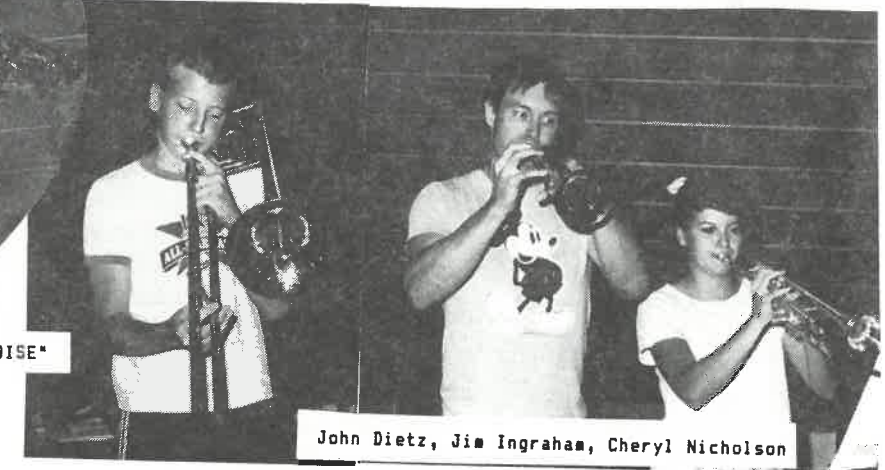
KING'S MEN

Ken Hoelscher, Bill Rion, Dave Moore, John Dietz, Jim Morrison.  
Not pictured: Jim Ingraham, Dave Petty, Roy Kanitz, Ray Meeker, Rick Noeller, Dave Scudder



"A JOYFUL NOISE"

Steve Goodwin, Dianna Long  
Cheryl Nicholson, Mark Urban



John Dietz, Jim Ingraham, Cheryl Nicholson

Not pictured: Carey Clevenger, Angela & Holly Mestemacher, Christie Alt, Heather & David Hoelscher, JoLea Frye, Sandra Morrison.

#### CHURCH HYMNALS AND LITURGY

Since German was the language of our early founders, the church's first hymn books were little ones without musical notes, just the German words to the hymns. The organist had the only copy with the music. A Sunday School songbook was also used in the early days.

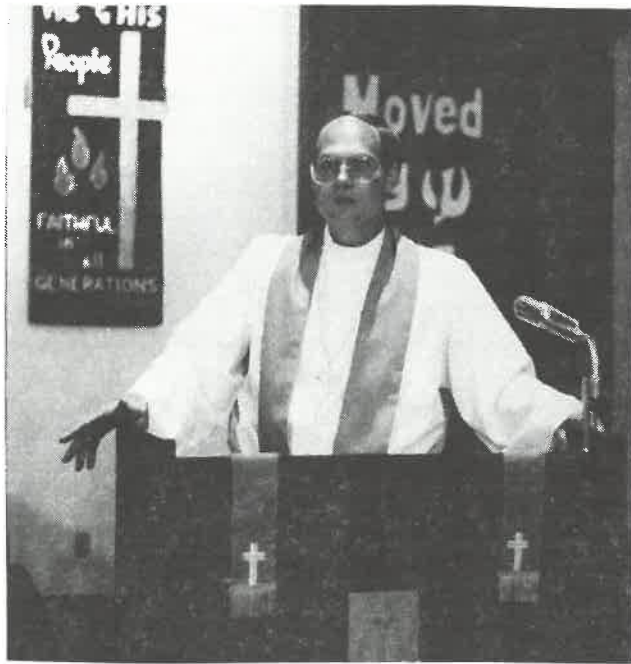
The first hymnals in English were the green books, also containing the liturgy. Liturgy was not used here until Rev. Vogelsang, pastor from 1938 to 1942, introduced it to the congregation.

"The Lutheran Hymnal" came into use here in the early 1940's. A formal liturgy, including the music, was included in this hymnal and provided an orderly format to our worship services for 40 years.

About five years ago a new hymnal, called "Lutheran Worship," was adopted by the congregation. The formal worship liturgy continues to be used in services today, but with a variety of service forms in "Lutheran Worship."

## PREACHING

Every worship service contains some kind of teaching, usually a sermon presented by the "preacher." To "preach" means: 1. To advocate in speech or writing; 2. to proclaim or make known (the good tidings) by sermon; or 3. to give earnest advice on religious or moral subjects. Our ministers have "preached" the Word of God to the people, explained it, proclaimed it, gave practical examples of its application to our lives and exhorted us (gave earnest advice) to pay attention to God's will throughout our history.



Lutheran ministers are college and seminary educated men who have studied and continue to study God's Word so that they may make it known to their people truly, effectively and in their own times. Their examples mirror their environment and the culture of their day but their message is timeless and eternal; their vision of the cosmic battle between the Great "I Am" and Satan rises above the din and clamor of daily life. They have continuously pointed us to Jesus Christ as Savior, Redeemer and Incarnate Lord, in whom God has revealed Himself to mankind, and Who gave us His new command: That You Love One Another.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

by Norma Moore



Some of our Pastors have gathered the little ones before the altar, during the service, and taught them in a "Children's Message." Currently children in our services look forward to Norma Moore giving them a message and object lesson twice a month in both services. Her messages are based on the lessons for the day and benefit the adults, as well as the children, by preparing them to listen to the message from the Pastor.

## THE SACRAMENTS

### HOLY BAPTISM

In baptism we renounce the Devil and his wicked ways and confess our faith in our personal and Triune God. We invite the Holy Spirit into our lives and become a child of God. This simple act of washing with water is empowered by the Word of God to become a washing of regeneration. Infants are represented by parents and sponsors who accept the responsibility to nurture that child's faith as he grows. A lighted candle is presented to the child's parents to encourage them to remember the new Light in their child's life. The vows made for a child at baptism are "confirmed" by the young adult after suitable training and exposure to what being a disciple of Jesus Christ is all about.



Bill, Anita, Clayton  
and Allison Beene

Marjorie Allen, Natalie and  
Heather Harrell

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Lutheran Christians take Jesus at His word when He says (of bread) "Take, eat; this is My body...given for you" and (of the wine) "Drink of it, all of you, this is My blood...shed for you." When our Lord commands "This do...in remembrance of Me," we obey. In our centennial year, the Lord's Supper is celebrated almost every Sunday by alternating between early and late Sunday morning services. When the congregation was young and had no resident pastor, communion was celebrated on much less frequent occasions. From 1903 to 1912, this was only twice a year.



Minor changes in communion practices have occurred during the last century. For the first 70 years, both elements of the Lord's Supper were served by the Pastor and the wine was served in the common cup. The use of individual cups began in 1955 when Vivian and Walt Baker presented the individual cup communion ware to the congregation. In 1971, the elders of the church started communing the pastor. Later in the 1970's lay assistants began helping the pastor by distribution of the communion wafers. In recent years, the acolyte for the day also assists the pastor by offering the individual cups to those members so desiring.

## FUNERALS

The death of a loved one brings sadness to the survivors, but the assurance of resurrection and reunion in Heaven tempers their grief. Christians find hope amid their tears as they are comforted by their friends and their pastor with the realization that Jesus died too, but three days later He rose again and has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father's house.

Earlier this year our congregation mourned the loss of Walter Gustke from our midst; but we rejoice in his finding that promised place of peace where pain and tears are gone and he can enjoy seeing his Savior face to face.

## WEDDINGS

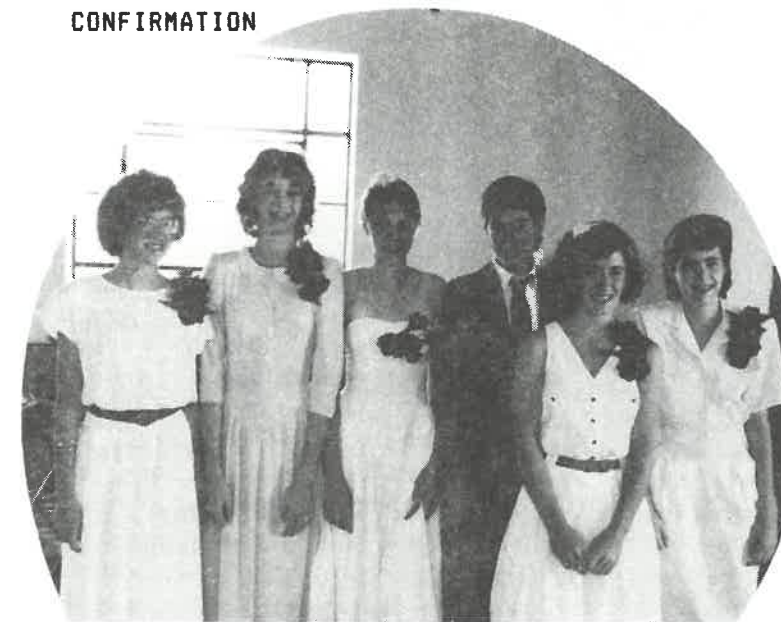
Weddings are a joyful time for the pastor as he joins two people before God, to begin their life together. There have been many weddings performed at St. Paul these past 100 years. Most of them were members marrying persons not members at the time, but joining with their spouses in worship and membership later one. Some of the weddings where both persons were members of St. Paul were Freda Meyer and Walter Gustke; Marie Brethauer and Charles Gustke; Vonnie Albrecht and Virg Torbert and Kim Nicholson and Mark Urban.



Jim Gustke and Cynthia Santaro

The most recent wedding this Centennial year was held on Blennerhassett Island when Jim Gustke married Cynthia Santaro.

## CONFIRMATION



When a young person reaches his early teen age years he is deemed old enough to understand the Scriptures and the Lutheran Catechism and learn what being a disciple of Jesus Christ is all about. The young people study with pastor for two years in "Confirmation Class" and then are confirmed on a special Sunday before God and the congregation.

Dianna Long, Jennifer Nicholson, Rochelle St. Peter, Dan Huffman, Rachel David, Sandra Morrison

Some members of the church needed to travel considerable distances in order to attend the weekly study sessions with the pastor. Marie Brethauer Gustke recalls that she walked a mile from Belpre High School and another mile over the bridge crossing the Ohio River, where Rev. Vogelsang met her to take her to Kraft School for Confirmation Class. Marie's father met her at the Belpre end of the bridge after her return trip.

Confirmation this year was on Pentecost Sunday, June 7, 1987. The special Bible passage for each confirmand has been treasured for a lifetime by many members. A special banner with symbols pertaining to their own Bible verse was made for each confirmand this year by Diana Skinner.

#### PARTICIPATION

Members participate in the worship services in a variety of ways. Young boys and girls in the Confirmation class serve as acolytes, lighting the candles and assisting in the communion service. This practice began in 1956, when the boys began to serve. In 1973 the girls also began to serve. Younger boys and girls assist the ushers in taking the offering.

The women who serve in the Altar Guild set up the communion table. Traditionally, the communion wine has been made from the members own grapes; Albert Roth furnished the wine for many years (1940's through 1967). In recent years the Gustke family arbor has produced the grapes for "wine making" socials among the members, a project of AAL for the past several years.



Olga Pashkevich

#### EDUCATION

Education has been an important part of St. Paul Lutheran Church throughout the years. Members felt a need to teach the children about God and Jesus through Bible Stories. The first Sunday School was organized May 4, 1913. Anna Otte taught the Primary Class and Albert Roth taught the Catechism Class. The adults also felt a need to study God's Word so a Bible Class was organized with Mr. Schueler as the teacher. The Officers were: Albert Roth, Sunday School Superintendent; H. F. Brethauer, Secretary; and Louis Roth, Treasurer.

Memory work was stressed so the children learned a Bible verse with each Bible story lesson. The Catechism Classes studied and memorized passages from Luther's Small Catechism. Before being confirmed the students needed to answer more than 100 questions during a Sunday morning service, so the congregation could be assured that the young people were well trained in their faith.

Some of the Sunday School superintendents when the church was at Red Hill were Ray Gustke, Walter Gustke, Johnny Meyer, Roy DeViese and Alfred Huffman, who was superintendent for the longest time.



Christmastime has been the highlight of the year for children throughout all the years, because that was when they could participate in the service by telling the congregation the story of the birth of Baby Jesus and the angels, shepherds and wise men. Some of our present members remember Christmas services at Red Hill, with such crowds of people attending that some even had to stand outside and listen to the singing through the

windows and open doors. Our present Christmas Children's Service is a joyful time for both the children and the congregation.

A Sunday School Mission Festival has been held a number of years, with the children studying about Lutheran missionaries in many foreign lands.

Some of the Sunday School Superintendents after the church moved to Broad Street were Walter Gustke, Alfred Huffman, Paul Huffman, and Ruth Weber, Carolyn Hoelscher and Kathy Hamrick. The present Sunday School Superintendent is Joan Alt.

The teachers during this Centennial year are: Bonnie Elseroad, Bill Goodwin, Yvonne Ritchie, Joan Alt, Carolyn Hoelscher, Kathy Hamrick, Joyce Mestemacher and Jim Ingraham. Bev Clevenger is the attendance secretary and treasurer.

The Bible Classes on Sunday morning have been taught by many members of the congregation. The present Bible Class teachers are: Ken Hoelscher, Bob Lock and Pastor Elseroad.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT.  
Joan Alt



SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING

1987 BIBLE CLASSES



1987 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES





The Pastor teaches an Adult Information Class a couple times each year for those desiring to know more about Christian and Lutheran teachings. It is normally attended before becoming a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Other educational opportunities are offered during the week, with daytime Bible studies or Sunday evening studies. The Crossways! Class has been held on Wednesday evenings during this past year will continue unto 1988. During the summers Pastor usually conducts a special course. During 1987 a five part seminar on "The New Age Movement" was presented.

Our Kindergarten and Pre-School classes have been filled to capacity since 1950 when the kindergarten was begun, with Pastor and Mrs. Blankenbuhler as the first teachers. In 1972 the congregation decided to start St. Paul preschool for three and four year old children.

Mable Thompson, who has been the teacher since 1972, continues today as the full time teacher of the four classes of children. A number of church members have acted as aides and music teachers. At present her aide is Barbara Anderson.



1986 PRE-SCHOOL CLASS  
Mable Thompson, Teacher

The quality of Christian training received by children in these classes is well known in the community. In the 1986-87 school year there were a total of 73 pupils in four classes.

God's continuing Grace is very evident at St. Paul's preschool. We are celebrating 37 years of Christian education, allowing our teachers to teach God's Word and to bring many to the knowledge of the Grace of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus.

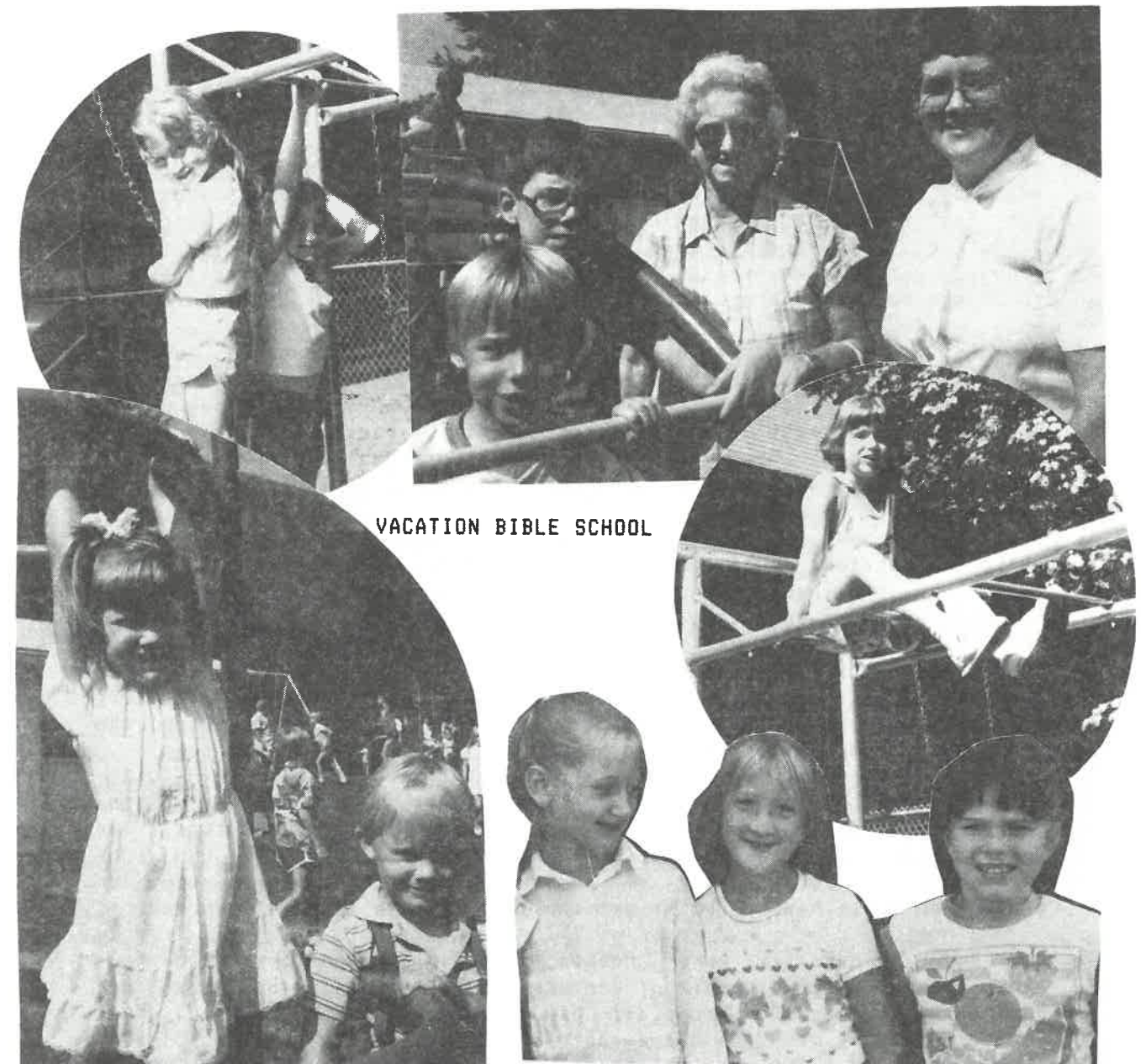
Vacation Bible School, a one or two week program with sessions each day of the week, has been popular. It has been a period of joyful learning about Jesus through songs, stories and crafts.

A big tent set up in the parking lot was a favorite location for VBS for a number of years along with a little teepee, a popular place for small learning groups.

In the last three years a video on witnessing has been used along with the stories, crafts and featured puppets named Nanny and Isaiah.

1987's Vacation Bible School theme was PROMISES! PROMISES! PROMISES!. Sixty children participated under the able leadership provided by Joan Alt, Director and Yvonne Ritchie, Assistant, and the following teachers: Preschool: Joan Alt, Debbie Baker, Jenny Hamrick, Ellen Brookover, Sandra Morrison; 4 Year Olds and Kindergarten: Doris Caltrider, Carole Schimke, David Burns; 1st and 2nd Grade: Phyllis Roth, Ruth Gustke, Tina Burns; 3rd and 4th Grade: Mary Slater, Hilda Wade; 5th and 6th Grade: Kathy Hamrick; Music: Bonnie Elseroad. Grace Arrowood handled the videos and refreshments were headed up by Becky Ingraham and Ann Sonderman.

The congregation, in the Sunday Service following VBS, is usually treated to hearing all the children as they are led by their teachers in songs they have learned during the week.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## MISSION OUTREACH

St. Paul, as a Christian congregation and consistent with the Great Commission of Christ, has reached out beyond this community to work with the Missouri Synod in spreading and advancing the Kingdom of God. In 1958, with the help of Pastor Steffen, our church explored the possibility of establishing a mission in Bridgeport and Buckhannon, West Virginia. The Missouri Synod provided the young congregation at Buckhannon with a pastor and a struggling Catholic Church provided the mission with time in their building. With prayers and hard work members of St. Paul, Parkersburg tried to help the people of Buckhannon establish their Church. Carloads of young people from Parkersburg went to Buckhannon to ring door bells, pass out tracts, and help in the worship. The mission, however, could not be sustained and ended in late 1970.

Since many Lutherans attended school at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, their parents desired a Lutheran Chapel or meeting place to supply the spiritual needs of the students. Pastor R. F. Steffen, our pastor from 1958 to 1963, established a mission there. The Mission Board of LCMS bought a house near the University for student meetings. For two years Pastor Steffen conducted services there every Sunday at 9:00 A.M. and services here at St. Paul at 11:00 A.M. The tight schedule with Pastor Steffen driving the 40 miles between services got to be too much so the ALC accepted the responsibility of the mission.

As our congregation grew, foreign missions became a concern. During the period 1958 to 1971 a missionary in the Philippines was adopted and offerings were sent to further the work. The Sunday School supported a variety of mission activities, including support for Bethesda Lutheran Home, LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots) and gave supplies for services among American Indians.

Our present mission giving supports Jeanette Lietzau, a Lutheran Bible Translator in Africa. Jeanette came to St. Paul to show us slides of the people she ministers to, helping us understand the importance of the work she and the other missionaries there are doing. For the last three years we have sponsored seminary students at Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. This past year we have been supporting two young men. The Lutheran Hour, Lutheran World Relief, Bethesda Lutheran Home, and Jews for Jesus have also been the recipients of our direct giving.

A program of Membership Responsibility was held during the sixties to help the congregation with spiritual and physical matters. The congregation was divided into groups and a team of two took responsibility for a group of members. Visitations were made for prayer and Bible reading. The personal visits were spiritual in nature.

Radio broadcasts were another means of spreading the Good News about Jesus to the people of our area. In 1947 during Holy Week our Pastor Blankenbuehler broadcast his message each morning on WPAR Radio. For many years we had a month of broadcasts worked out through the Parkersburg Ministerial Alliance.

An evangelism committee calls on newcomers and unchurched in our area to share with them their love of Jesus and welcome them to attend our services.

Recently Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hurricane, West Virginia was established as a mission and has been supported by the Synod and fellow Lutheran congregations, including St. Paul. During the coming year we plan to contribute support for their first resident pastor for a one month period, with 11 other congregations in our district providing support for the rest of the months.

## RETREATS

A retreat for men from our congregation and several sister churches in our area was established in 1959, and similar retreats were held for many years at a Methodist Camp near Spencer, West Virginia. Top notch speakers and instructors led the retreats. Well remembered was one session concerning Church and State relationships conducted by a Fort Wayne Concordia Seminary professor. Meditation, prayer, worship and study contributed to the Christian atmosphere at these retreats. Retreats for all adult members were also held at Jennie Wiley Park in February of 1968, and for a number of years during the 1970's and 1980's at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, West Virginia. Some members of sister WV congregations were also in attendance at the Cedar Lakes Retreats.

During the late fifties and early sixties St. Paul held luncheons with speakers from the Synod. They shared information about their various fields, such as education, missions, and architecture.

## NURSING HOME VISITS

The Word also is spread through the visits of our pastors and members to the elderly at residences such as Arlington Personal Care Home, Shady Rest, and Parkview Nursing Home. Some of the members who helped Rev. Duchow and Rev. Elseroad with these services were little Rachel Duchow and Bethany Elseroad along with their mothers Linda Duchow and Bonnie Elseroad. Others who sang and visited were Betty and George Stout, Lucille McCauley, Roy DeViese and Linda Nicholson.

The Vacation Bible School children also have visited, bringing the folks little favors made in crafts and smiles and songs about Jesus.

## EVANGELISM CALLS

An Evangelism Committee calls on people who have visited our services, newcomers and unchurched in the Parkersburg area.

HISTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) as the official women's auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is a willing instrument of God's great mission to the whole world, the whole Church, and all of society. Knowing that Jesus Christ used the service and devotion of women during His earthly ministry, the women of the LWML are united to rededicate their love and service to the ministry of today, in knowing and doing His will in -- mission education, inspiration, and service.

The LWML of St. Paul formed in May, 1949 about the time St. Paul moved from Red Hill. They received their charter from the Ohio District on June 5, 1949. Willa Roth was the first president, with Vivian Baker, Dorothy Blankenbuehler and Phyllis Roth as the other officers. St. Paul received a gift of \$5,000 from the LWML for building the new church on Broad Street. The money had been collected through the mites of other LWML groups in our district.

The MITE BOX is the means for gathering the voluntary freewill offerings of the members. It is more than just a coin holder, it is a reminder of the widow who gave her all to the Lord. It is a challenge to join other women in doing great things for the Lord. The International LWML mite box projects have included sponsoring television evangelism for children and mission work in Korea, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Brazil and New Guinea.



LWML 1974  
1st Row: Vonnie McDaniel, Florence Huffman, Linda Nicholson  
2nd Row: Joyce Albrecht, Linda Duchow, Vivian Baker, Carol Schimke



LWML 1987  
Marie Gustke, Carlene Welker, Doris Caltrider, Betty Stout

The women in our branch of the LWML have served the church in many ways both locally and at large. They have throughout the years served as the hostess committee for all events, such as dinners, coffee socials, receptions, and meetings. Under the new constitution these events are now sponsored by the Social Ministry and Fellowship Committee.



COFFEE HOUR HOBBY SHOW  
Sarah Dietz



COFFEE HOUR

Members serve on the Altar Guild, preparing communion on communion Sundays.

They also share in providing helpers in the Nursery to care for the little ones, which allows the parents to attend the services.

The LWML has sponsored the tape ministry, so that shut in members are visited regularly and provided with a tape of the Sunday services.

Meals have been provided for families when there is illness, sometimes for long periods of time. The LWML has gathered health kits for migrant workers and school kits for needy children. They have made items for Bethesda Lutheran Home, a home for the mentally retarded in Watertown, Wisconsin. They have collected food and clothing for various needs, both locally and for world relief. The cancelled postage stamps which they collected have contributed to help missionaries.

Marie Gustke is LWML President for this Centennial Year. Linda Nicholson is Vice President; Shirley Rion, Secretary and Freda McGirr is Treasurer.

## YOUTH GROUPS

The young people of our church have enjoyed Christian fellowship with each other through the years. It is believed that the first organization of the Church was the M.S.Y.P.S., the Mountain State Young Peoples' Society. As time went on it became an organization for any age.

When Rev. Vogelsang came in 1938, he started the CYPD Club, the Christian Young Peoples' Organization. It met once a month usually in the form of a picnic after church at Florence and Alfred Huffmans, Freda and Walter Gustkes, George Winans, or Howard Roth's homes..

During World War II the members often wrote to their church friends in the service and sent them home made cookies.

The Young Lutheran Organization was formed in 1949, with Clarence Gustke and Pastor Blankenbuehler as leaders. As the membership grew in numbers they joined the Walther League, which was the organization the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod sponsored for the youth of the congregations.

Some of the leaders of the Walther League have been: Betty and Slim Hardman, Ruth Gustke, Bob Baker, Susan and Tom Lowe and Carol McGirr and Randy Weaver.

The present Senior High Youth Group advisors are Hilda and Mike Wade. The highlight event for the group in 1986 was a trip to Washington, DC to the National Youth Rally. It was an exciting and inspirational gathering of thousands of Lutheran Youth, all sharing



WASHINGTON, D. C. NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY

Hilda Wade, Kim Skinner, John Dietz

their faith in Christ. The time spent at Hilda Wade's parent's farm in Maryland on the way to Washington was also a delightful experience for the group.

During this Centennial Year John Dietz, Alan Siebel and their advisors, Hilda and Mike, attended training sessions and were certified to provide respite care for family members with mentally retarded folks at home. Service to the mentally retarded will continue as a project for this coming year.

In 1984, recognizing a need for the Junior High youth to have Christian companionship, several parents started providing different activities for those in 5th to 8th grades.

Steve and Joyce Mestemacher became advisors of the Younger Youth Group in 1985. A cookout at Mountwood Park was a grand opening for the year's activities. In January, Pastor took the group skating at the Athens Ice Arena at Ohio University, which is now a January tradition! Socials are held every month for the purpose of Christian fellowship, support and sharing.



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

With adoption of the new constitution, in 1986, the Youth Board was formed. Mike Wade remained in charge of the Senior High group and Joyce Mestemacher stayed with the Junior High Group, 7th to 9th grades. Other parents who have helped have been Hoelschers, Dietzs, Hamiltons, and others.

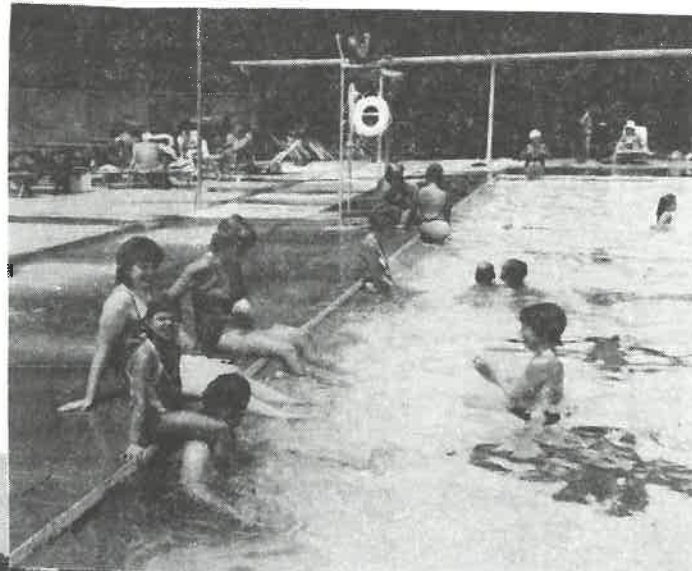
The goal for both groups is to provide Christian support and guidance to our youth at a time in their lives when other influences pull them away from the Church and Jesus.

Activities this past year included visiting St. Michael's Catholic Church folk music mass, cookouts, and participating in our church's "Joyful Noise." The youth enjoy using their talents to praise God with music. They also attended an Actor's Guild musical and decorated the Fellowship and Parish Halls for Christmas and other exciting events.

Super Sundays, for Junior and Senior Highs combined, are now offered once a month. Devotionals during Sunday School are presented by different members of the congregation, which is a great way to share with our youth, followed by church service, lunch, then a fun activity.

Next season starts off with a canoe over-night retreat. The highlight of the fall will come in November when, as part of the Centennial celebration, Don Wharton, a music and youth minister, will visit to conduct the service, present a concert and share his love of Christ with the entire congregation.

Look for great things to come from the great kids in our youth groups.



SUPER SUNDAY OUTING AT  
NORTH HILLS POOL

## SPORTS

The women's softball team was started in the spring of 1982 through the initial efforts of Lorna Hardman. Lorna and Beth Gustke signed the team to play in the Women's Christian Softball League of Parkersburg, got Hazel Gustke to be their first coach, who drafted Ken Nicholson. Then they set about learning all the rules of softball.

Lorna remembers when she was guarding home plate and was knocked flat, when practically the whole infield consisted of George and Della Hastings' daughters and granddaughters, and how Beth always used her whole body to stop the ball. The team didn't win any games that first year but ended up 4th in Tournaments.

The team has come a long way over the years thanks to the good coaching of Ken Nicholson, Frank Siebel, Dave Petty, Rick Hastings, Mark Urban, Bob Hinde and Ray Meeker. We wish them good luck and a great season this centennial year.

There are also men's and women's volleyball teams.



1986 WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

## AID ASSOCIATION FOR LUTHERANS

Aid Association for Lutherans, a fraternal insurance organization with "a common concern for human worth," organized Branch #1479 in Parkersburg in the early 1930's. Carl Brethauer and Rev. Pohl served for many years as officers. When Charles Gustke returned from military service in 1945, he became the secretary/treasurer, a job he held for over 40 years. He continues as treasurer now with his wife Marie as the current secretary. Freda McGirr is the current President and Charlie Alt the Vice-President.

The AAL has sponsored many projects benefiting St. Paul Church and the community. Following are some of them: provided flags for the Pre-school, a stove for the kitchen, office equipment, a light for the parking lot, new floor tile in the rest rooms and Pre-school room, painted a house for a needy family, provided appliances for a family in eastern West Virginia, flooded out in the 1985 flood. Many of these projects were accomplished through the efforts of Jim Morrison.

Providing food baskets for needy families at Christmas has become an annual project as well as conducting regular blood pressure clinics and CPR training for members of St. Paul. The AAL Branch has held



PAINTING THE CHURCH

Jim Morrison

receptions for the newly confirmed members of the congregation. \$500 from the AAL Treasury will help toward the cost of the ramp for the handicapped to be built later this year.

A special Centennial dinner was provided by the AAL this year with the LWML's help. All who attended enjoyed viewing movies, taken by Walter Gustke, and slides, taken by Ed Albrecht. We saw many past events of our congregation, such as farewell receptions and the building and dedication of the new sanctuary.

Contributions from this dinner will be matched by AAL and given to the local Meals for One Project.

## PICNICS

The once a year event officially known as "The Church Picnic" was almost always held on the first Sunday in August. These were started in the early 1920's, and for the first 25 years or so, they were all day affairs with worship service in the morning, picnic dinner at noon, and games in the afternoon. Coffee, ice cream and lemonade were served by a committee. Family groups ate at separate tables, but those with no relatives were always made welcome by one family or another. Some of the groups were: Roth-Otte, Roth-Huffman, Eckhart-McFee, Gustke-Meyer, and Brethauer-Stephenson.



PICNIC AT Mc GIRR'S FARM

There were always a number of visitors, friends and family of members. One regular guest was "Uncle Wig" Bickel, a relative of the Huffmans. He was a well known philanthropist in Parkersburg and would entertain the children by standing on his head, even though he must have been 60 years old.

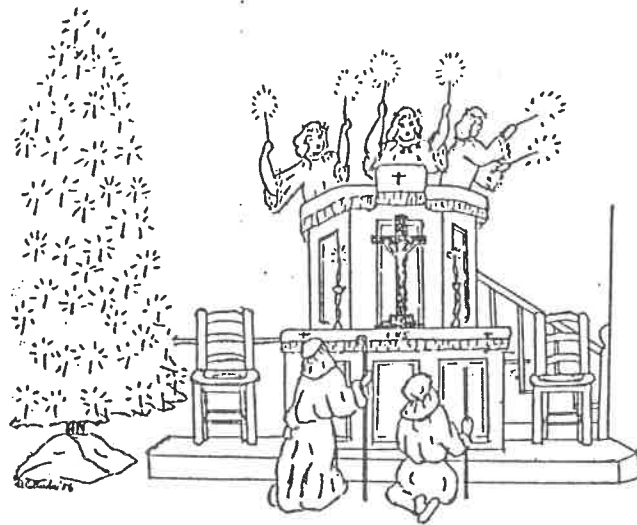
"The Picnic" has been held at the following locations: Pine Grove at the end of Dutch Ridge on Route 47, Brethauer's orchard on Dutch Ridge, Fries Park on Parkersburg's south side, Lilly Otte's "Green Cabin" on Dry Run Road, McGirr's Farm at Little Hocking, Marbon and DuPont Parks, and Tom Huffman's shop on Old St. Mary's Pike, where this year's Centennial Picnic was held.

MEMORIES OF ST. PAUL MEMBERS

Doris Caltrider:

.....The Christmas tree at Church was like something from heaven -- all aglow with light and warmth from real candles in little snap-on holders.

.....Christmas and the angels singing. The big girls got to be the angels with sparklers. They stooped down out of sight in the pulpit until the reading of Luke 2:13 from the Bible. When they heard "Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying" the girls jumped up, singing "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."



Walter Gustke:

.....Walter remembers how he and Freda worked together repairing and painting the church. Walter put a ladder against the church to paint, but put it on too much of a slant and it slipped. The bucket of paint fell on top of his head! Walter Gustke and Freda Meyer were married New Year's Eve 1924.

Charles Gustke:

.....Charles remembers driving Rev. Pohl, who didn't like to drive, to Pomeroy every Sunday evening to conduct the services there, from the time Charles was 13 until when Rev. Pohl left in 1937.

Marie Brethauer Gustke:

.....Marie remembers that her father made her and her sister sit through both the English and the German services while other kids were allowed to go outside after the early service. One Sunday, however, she persuaded her father to let them go outside, too. They soon had a lively game of 'tag' going. They made the side of the church base, and the people inside could hear the thump every time they touched base. Her father came out and put an end to the game in a hurry.

.....Marie also has fond memories of Rev. Pohl's coupe with a rumble seat and the many times he took her and the other children to Vacation

Bible School -- especially the time the coupe went in a ditch and a farmer with a mule had to pull them out.

Hazel Barnum Gustke:



Walter and Hazel Gustke

.....The Barnum family came to Parkersburg in 1901, at the same time the Gustke family, moving from the Pittsburg area when Mr. Neiman brought his steel mill here.

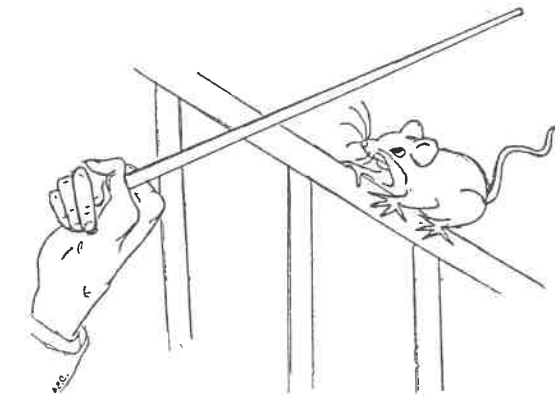
..... Hazel remembers John Roth (Doris Caltrider's grandfather) when he came to town to sell butter, eggs, milk, cottage cheese, etc. and would stop at Gustke's for lunch. (John C. Roth was Mrs. Gustke's uncle by marriage. He was married to sister of John Brinker.) Hazel joined St. Paul when she married Walter in 1978 because he had been a member so long she felt it better for him not to make a change.

Frank and Jo Siebel:

.....We came to Church here at St. Paul and Roy DeViese shook my hand in such a warm friendly way. Jo remembers with fondness the three years she taught Kindergarten here at St. Paul. They moved here from Baltimore so Frank could establish a Boy's Club here in Parkersburg. It has grown to be one of the largest and best in the nation under Frank's able leadership.

Art Gustke:

.....In the Church at Red Hill a stairway, with a railing, led up to the pulpit. One day a mouse was running up and down the railing until an old gentleman, Mr. Schueler, went up and whacked it with his cane.



Linda Nicholson:

.....We brought food to the Altar for our Thanksgiving offerings. Also, I fondly remember when the Christmas programs were on Christmas Eve.

Della Hastings:



Della Hastings, Linda Nicholson,  
Kim and Jonathan Urban

.....The first time my family and I saw the church was on the evening of June 9, 1958, when we just discovered the church by driving around. We said, "The Good Lord must be guiding us." Several members of the church greeted us enthusiastically as their new Pastor and family, whom they were expecting! Charles Gustke helped us find a place to live. George was transferred here from McFarland, Kansas to help build the new DuPont Plant. "The Lord has been very good to us. We have children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who attend church here regularly."

Roberta Smith:

.....the fun get togethers with the youth group at Royal Oaks Park.

Edna Prince Meyer:

.....Edna remembers that she started to St. Paul out at Red Hill with Harry, Louise, and Evelyn Rogers (Roth.) Later Walter Gustke would take her and Dorothy Kibler to Church in the back of his truck. That's when she met Johnny (Freda's brother) who became her husband. She went to Bible school on Saturday for two years before she was confirmed.

David and Laura McCauley Greathouse:

.....Laura remembers being president of the youth group. David joined when they married and now their daughter Melissa has been baptised here.

Grace Arrowood:

.....On a trip to Germany with Ruth and Beth Ann Gustke in 1984 I will never forget singing "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" with 40 other Lutherans in Martin Luther's home. We were thrilled to see where

Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German from Greek.

Barbara Deem Cranfield:

.....I remember being an officer and real active in Walther League.

Mike and Hilda Wade:

.....the first few times we attended St. Paul and how so many people talked to us and made us feel so welcome. We joined because we liked the atmosphere of excited believers in Christ.

Ruth Weber:



Jenny Parsons, Cheryl Nicholson and Elli Gasser

.....I remember Elli Gasser, the young Swiss friend of the Pashkevich family, who came here to live with Rev. Elseroad's family for six months. She delighted everyone with her charming ways.

Judy Ery:

.....I remember when Don and I were married by Pastor Duchow at St. Paul's in 1976. My 12 year old daughter, Kathy, and I transferred our membership from Christ Lutheran in Vienna at that time. I remember Karl Schimke's warm handshake and friendly greeting on Sunday mornings at St.

Paul. Kathy developed a special affection for Karl, and all of us continue to cherish the memory of his friendship.

Jane Dailey and William and Stephen:

.....I and my children were baptised here.

Tomi Hudson:

.....The warm and friendly way in which I was received into the Congregation.

Dianna Long:

.....the youth group went ice skating at the ice rink at Ohio



University in Athens, Ohio, and we all played tag around the rink. Everyone at St. Paul's was so friendly, so I kept coming to Church.

Diane and Jim Morrison:



JESUS BIRTHDAY PARTY  
AT SWANSONS

.....We had a Jesus Birthday Party at the Swansons. We joined St. Paul because we felt at home here.

Cheryl Nicholson:

.....The Youth organized one of the most inspirational outings I have ever attended.



YOUTH GROUP AT SENECA ROCKS

One summer we went to Seneca Rocks and we all learned as teens what God meant to us in our lives and how important He was to us and how important we were to each other ... being friends in Christ. It's nice to know that that experience and those friends will be a part of me for the rest of my life. I'm very thankful that I was fortunate enough to be blessed by God that night and every day in my life.

#### MEMORIES OF 'WHY I AM A MEMBER OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH'

Carleton Lauderman, age 11:

.....I'm a member because my Great-great Grandmother Sophie Otte came from Germany and settled here in Parkersburg.

Warren and Dorothy Swanson:

.....It was a mistake! Vivian Baker and Joyce Albrecht visited us in 1957 when we transferred here with Public Debt. We understood from them that this was the only Lutheran Church in the area--and we had NO choice but to join it, even though we were LCA. After we found out about First Lutheran, we had already joined and have been very glad for that mistake. The whole family was in the Christmas program that first year.

Phyllis Roth:

.....I joined the Lutheran Church when I married Howard. We raised our family in the church. I wanted a place to worship where the truth of the Bible was taught and I believe the Lutheran Church is where one will find the true worship of Christ.

Joseph and Marie Shomers:

.....We moved here from Niagara Falls to work for Union Carbide in 1952. Since we were Lutherans we sought out St. Paul as our church home.

Harold and Hazel Wamsley:

.....Harold and Hazel moved here to work for Corning Glass Co. They joined St. Paul because when their son Ron was seriously ill with leukemia Rev. Duchow was so compassionate with his prayers and visits to their son and to them.

Rick and Anne Noller:

.....St. Paul was a Missouri Synod Church and the people were friendly and involved.

Jean and Larry Long:

.....We moved to Parkersburg in 1981, transferred by DuPont. St. Paul was our choice for a church home since we've been members of Missouri Synod churches, and fellow members with our friends Ruth and Les Weber at churches in Iowa and Delaware. Nathan started pre-school here.

ST. PAUL MEMBERS SHARED CHRIST'S MESSAGE WITH OTHERS:

Cora May Welker:

.....When I was 4 or 5 years old Albert and Lydia Roth brought me and my sister Catherine to Sunday School at Red Hill. After my family moved to Dry Run Freda and Walter Gustke took us.

.....Cora May Welker brought Frank and Betty Deem to St. Paul more than 25 years ago, so all of their children were born and baptised here. Betty brought her sister Wanda Goodwin here about 15 years ago.



NURSERY HELPERS

Becky Ingraham  
Daniel Ingraham

Kathy Deem Elliott  
Jonathan Urban  
Gregory Elliott

Christine Goodwin Oliver:

.....Christine remembers that her Dad retired from the service and since Parkersburg was home they moved back here. Aunt Betty Deem belonged to St. Paul and brought them to Church with her.

Don Lowe:

.....Don came by invitation of his Junior High School Principal, Clarence Gustke.

Carol Schimke:

....."Olga Pashkevich brought my boys to Sunday School with her sons, and then I came. Vivian Baker was always so friendly to me."

Alan Paskevich:

.....Alan has been witnessing about the Kingdom of God to people in Mexico, Indonesia and Sri Lanka--as a layman while working as a mechanical engineer on projects which improve their water supplies.

CENTENNIAL YEAR CHURCH OFFICERS

President.....Charles Alt  
Treasurer.....Loretta Knight  
Secretary.....Ruth Gustke

CENTENNIAL YEAR BOARDS

Lay Ministry (Elders).....Ken Hoelscher  
Jim Ingraham  
Paul Townsend  
Jim Morrison  
Bill Rion



LAY MINISTERS

Front: Ken Hoelscher, Bill Rion, Paul Townsend  
Standing: Jim Ingraham, Jim Morrison

Christian Education.....Steve Mestemacher  
Sunday School Supt.....Joan Alt

Kaye Allen  
Grace Arrowood  
Becky Ingraham  
Paul Nielsen  
Ann Sonderman  
Yvonne Ritchie

Church Properties.....Bob Baker

Hugh Byers  
Mary Jo Gustke  
Kaye Morrison  
Nick Nicholson  
Tom Welker

Trustees.....Walter Baker

Arthur Gustke  
Charles Gustke

Evangelism.....JoLea Frye

Carolyn Hoelscher  
Bob Lock  
Diane Morrison  
Carole Schimke

Social Ministry and  
 Parish Fellowship.....Joette Siebel  
 LWML President.....Marie Gustke  
                                   Doris Caltrider  
                                   Bev Clevenger  
                                   Bob Goers  
                                   Kay Goers  
                                   Jean Long  
                                   Vonnie McDaniel  
                                   Dave Moore  
                                   Betty Stout

Stewardship.....Dave Skinner  
 Financial Secretary.....Jim Dietz  
                                   Marie Gustke  
                                   Larry Long  
                                   Ann Noller  
                                   Shirley Rion  
                                   Diana Skinner

Youth Ministry.....Mike Wade  
                                   Joe David  
                                   Wanda Goodwin  
                                   Marsha Hinde  
                                   Bob Hinde  
                                   Joyce Mestemacher  
                                   Hilda Wade

Music Director/Organist...Suzanne Dietz

Choir Director.....Grace Arrowood  
 Accompanist.....Suzanne Dietz  
 Youth Choir Director.....Grace Arrowood  
 Accompanist.....Kathy Hamrick  
 Cherub Choir Director.....Bonnie Elseroad  
 Accompanist.....Jennifer Nicholson

Church Custodian.....George Stout

Church Secretary.....Martha Delany

Senior High Youth Group  
 Advisor.....Mike Wade

Junior High Youth Group  
 Advisor.....Joyce Mestemacher

LWML Officers:  
 President.....Marie Gustke  
 Vice-President.....Linda Nicholson  
 Secretary.....Shirley Rion  
 Treasurer.....Freda McGirr

Centennial Year Sunday School Teachers:  
 Bonnie Elseroad, Bill Goodwin, Yvonne Ritchie, Joan Alt,  
 Carolyn Hoelscher, Kathy Hamrick, Joyce Mestemacher and  
 Jim Ingraham.

Sunday School Attendance Secretary and Treasurer....Bev Clevenger

Adult Bible Class Teachers:  
 Ken Hoelscher, Bob Lock and Pastor Elseroad.

Pre-School Teacher.....Mable Thompson  
 Pre-School Asst.....Barbara Anderson

CENTENNIAL MEMBERS OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Allen, Kay	Dailey, Jane William Stephen	Gaydac, Timothy	Hastings, George Della
Alt, Charles Joan Chuck Chris Christi	David, Joseph Charlotte Nathan Rachael	Goers, Robert Kay Stephen Lisa	Hazelton, John Sue Jenna William
Arrowood, Grace	Deem, Dennis	Goodwin, Garnett	Held, William
Baker, Robert Debra Adrienne Sommers Whitney Baker	Deem, Franklin Betty Darren	Goodwin, James Goodwin, Janet Goodwin, Wanda Janet Vickey Steven	Hinde, Robert Marsha R.J. Lisa
Baker, Walter Vivian	Deem, Pamela Susan Dennis	Goodwin, William Debra Chad Brandy	Hoelscher, Kenneth Carolyn David Heather
Beene, Anita Clayton Allison Jane	Dennis, Linda Carlton	Green, Lori Jerry Jerry, Linzy	Hudson, Thelma
Bindemann, Helen	Dexter, Thomas Doris LeaAnn	Greathouse, David Laura Melissa	Huffman, Alfred Florence
Boso, Lorna	Dietz, James Suzanne John Sarah	Huffman, John Dan	Huffman, Joseph
Boyce, Deloris	Dukas, Hannah Emily	Huffman, Thomas Vicky Mark	Ingraham, James Rebecca Daniel
Burns, Rita Tina David Denise	Dukas, Thomas	Gustke, Charles Marie	Kanitz, Roy Ellen Edwin Cheryl Stephanie
Buck, Patricia	Elliott, Kathaleen Angela Craig Gregory	Gustke, Janis	Kelly, Katherine
Byers, Hugh Patti	Elliott, Roy D. Iona	Gustke, Robert	King, Paul Donna Vivian Paul Becky
Cain, Cynthia Nathaniel Nicholas Justin	Elseroad, Rev. Kevin Bonnie Daniel Benjamin Bethany	Gustke, Ruth Ann Gustke, Walter Hazel	Knight, Loretta
Caltrider, Doris	Emerick, Larry Nancy Angel Kelly Jo	Hamilton, Samuel Dianne Jay Jennifer	Lock, Robert
Caltrider, John Gina Joshua	Ery, Donald Judith Denise Kathy Smith	Hamrick, Katherine Jennifer Kelley Joanna	Long, Lawrence Jean Diana Rebecca Nathan
Carpenter, Mary	Frye, Gary JoLea	Hardman, Emery C. Betty	Lowe, Donald Susan
Clevenger, Dean Beverly Carey Carny	Gajderowicz, Larry Joan	Harmon, Billie Lisa Jerry Ron	Lowe, Thomas Susan Susan Andrea
Cranfield, Barbara Amanda Franklin	Gaydac, Helen David		
Cranfield, Boyd			
Crews, James Sue Raymond Robby			
Cullum, Amy			

Lydick, Brian	Nicholson, Harold Patricia Jennifer	Schautzer, Donald Lola Tim Douglas	Thomas, Deborah
Marks, Donald Debra	Nicholson, Kenneth Linda Cheryl	Schautzer, Michael	Townsend, Paul Karen Jennifer
Marks, Richard Debra Christopher	Nielsen, Paul Deborah Eric Sarah	Schroeder, Mary Beth	Urban, Mark Kimberly Jonathan
Marks, Vivian	Noller, Rick Anne	Scott, James Carolyn Julia Thomas	Wade, Michael Hilda
McCauley, Lucille Darin	O'Donnell, Shirley	Scudder, David Denise Joshua Michael	Wamsley, Harold Hazel
McDaniel, Jennifer	Oliver, Christine David	Sheff, William III Sharon Scott John	Ward, Frankie B.
McDaniel, Joseph E.	Parsons, Jenny	Shomers, Joseph Marie	Ward, Carol Kimberly Ronald
McDaniel, Ronald Vonnie Joshua	Pashkevich, David	Siebel, Frank Joette Alan	Weaver, Randall Carol McGirr
McBirr, Franklin Freda	Pashkevich, Olga	Siebel, James	Waugaman, Jack Trudi Amanda
Meeker, Ray Kim	Petty, David Shelley David Brandon, <i>Darin</i>	Skinner, David Diana Wayne Kimberly Heather	Weber, Lester Ruth
Mestemacher, Steve Joyce Angela Holly Rebecca	Pickens, Lottie	Slate, Edythe	Welker, Carlene
Meyer, Edna	Price, Kathleen	Slater, Tom Mary Elizabeth Kerry	Welker, Corlene
Meyer, Lee Trudi Sarah Benjamin	Reed, Hettie Kelley Melody Hughes Lucinda Malinda	Smith, Roberta Wendy Jessica	Welker, Phillip Cora May
Miller, Christy	Richards, Rebecca Christiana	Sonderman, Douglas Ann	Welker, Thomas Charlene Amanda
Moore, David Norma Danny	Rion, William Jr. Shirley	St. Peter, Carol Rochelle Nicole	Wiseman, Betty
Morris, June	Ritchie, Douglas Yvonne Jill Adam Holly	Stadler, Marilyn	Wiseman, Susan
Morrison, Douglas	Roth, Evelyn	Stephenson, Eric	OUT OF TOWN MEMBERS
Morrison, James Diane Carol Sandra	Roth, Howard Phyllis	Stephenson, Ethel	Burns, Joyce
Morrison, Michael	Salisbury, Don Sharon	Stout, George Betty	Caltrider, Melanie
Morrison, William Kay Jeffery	Schlake, Carole Brian	Swanson, Warren Dorothy Thomas	Carpenter, Paula
Morrison, Dale J.	Schimke, Douglas		DeLashmatt, Lois Timothy Allen
Morrison, William Jr. William			Gustke, David
Newell, Rebecca			Jacobs, Teresa
			Johnson, Kristy
			Pih, Norman
			Schimke, Greg
			Siebel, Cheryl
			Tappan, Linda