

Golden Jubilee

of

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church



1887 - 1937

Parkersburg, W. Va.

Dedication

*To the Memory of those who for the
past half century have lived, served, sac-
rificed, and prayed, without thought of
self, for the Kingdom of God as it
manifests itself in the*

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN
CHURCH

This volume is affectionately dedicated.



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dedicated to the Service of the Triune God
in 1887

CONCORDIA
HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

JUL 1960
JWB 1691
801 DE MUN AVENUE
ST. LOUIS 5, MISSOURI

Present Church Council

President of the Congregation..... Roy DeViese
Secretary John Meyer
Treasurer..... Wm. Gustke, Sr.

Trustees

Louis Roth Carl Brethauer
Walter Gustke Carl Eckhardt, honorary

Wardens

Harold Stephenson Harry Rogers Roy DeViese

Jubilee Committee

Wm. Gustke, Sr. Louis Roth, Chairman Harold Stephenson



THE REV. WALTER A. POHL
Present Pastor of the Church, who came
to serve the congregation in 1923.

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Parsonage Built in 1922 by the Congregation

Roll Call of Pastors from 1887 to 1937

Rev. Otto Meerwein	} Due to lack of records we say these men served from 1887-1905.
Rev. A. A. Sallman	
Rev. H. Uhle	
Rev. H. W. F. Gerike, Vicar	
Rev. L. O. Hammer	
Rev. G. Stiegemeier	
Rev. Carl Hassold.....	1905-1909
Rev. Wm. Henkel.....	1909-1910
Rev. Theo. Gohlke, Vicar.....	1910-1911
Rev. O. F. Stolzenburg.....	1911-1914
Rev. A. F. Wegener, Vicar.....	1914-1915
Rev. W. F. Bode.....	1915-1916
Rev. O. F. Stolzenburg.....	1916-1917
Rev. T. L. Luft.....	1917-1920
Rev. R. E. Scaer, Vicar.....	1920-1921
Rev. E. H. Joost.....	1921-1922
Rev. Walter A. Pohl.....	1923-

"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God."—I Cor. 4:1.

"Remember them which have the rule of everyone, who have spoken unto you the Word of God."—Hebrews 13:7.

Morning Service

PRELUDE

Mrs. Willa Roth

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
The King of Creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
Join the full throng;
Wake, harp and psalter and song;
Sound forth in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, Who doth visibly
Bless and defend thee;
Who, from the heavens, the streams of
His mercy doth send thee;
Ponder anew,
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee!

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things
So wondrously reigneth,
Who, as on wings of an eagle uplifteth
Sustaineth,
Hast thou not seen,
How thy desires all have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord. O let all that is
Within me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, Come now
With praises before Him!
He is Thy light;
Soul, keep it always in sight,
Gladly, forever adore Him!

ALTAR SERVICE

Conducted by Rev. Elmer Bliss of Logan, Ohio

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

Congregation: Who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

Congregation: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee, by thought, word and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor and Congregation: O most merciful God, Who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee, and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us, and hath given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His Name, He giveth power to become the sons of God, and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Introit.

Congregation: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost! As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Pastor: Lord have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Glory be to God on High!

Congregation: Glory be to God on High: and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord, God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the

Morning Service (Continued)

Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Collect for the day.

Congregation: Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

SOLO Selection by Mr. Roy DeViese

HYMN

My Church! My Church! My dear old Church, My fathers' and my own. On Prophets and Apostles built, And Christ the Corner-stone! All else beside, by storm or tide, May yet be overthrown: But not my Church, my dear old Church, My fathers' and my own!	My Church! My Church! My dear old Church! I love her ancient name; And God forbid, a child of hers, Should ever do her shame. Her mother-care, I'll ever share; Her child I am alone, Till He Who gave me to her arms, Shall call me to His own.
--	---

My Church! My Church! My dear old Church! My glory and my pride! Firm in the Faith Immanuel taught, She holds no faith beside. Upon this rock, 'gainst every shock, Though gates of hell assail, She stands secure, with promise sure, "They never shall prevail."	'Then here, my Church! My dear old Church! Thy child would add a vow, To that whose token once was signed Upon his infant brow: Assault who may, kiss and betray, Dishonor and disown, My Church shall yet be dear to me, My fathers' and my own!
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SERMON Delivered by the Rev. O. F. Stolzenburg, Columbus, Ohio
Theme: "A Word of Encouragement to Renewed Zeal and Fidelity in the Work Which You Have Been Pursuing These Fifty Years." Text: 1 Cor. 15, 58.

OFFERTORY

HYMN

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new Creation
By water and the Word:
From heav'n He came and sought her,
To be His holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one Faith, one Birth;

One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy Food,
And to One Hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forever more;
Till with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blessed,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

PRAYER

CREED IN UNISON

BENEDICTION

DOXOLOGY

LORD'S PRAYER IN UNISON

POSTLUDE

Mrs. Willa Roth

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Christian Education

"Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," said the Lord Jesus. Like the Lutheran Church as a whole, our congregation emphasizes the teaching of the divine word to young and old. Any congregation, and the Church at Large, will be substantially and spiritually intelligent in the measure in which the Word of God is painstakingly taught. Our Church's teaching facilities comprise: Sunday School, which is held every Sunday with departments for children of all ages and an adult Bible Class conducted by the Pastor; children's catechetical classes and adult catechetical class both conducted by the pastor. Summer School is held each year, wherein the children are taught Bible History, Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism, Church History and Singing. The Sunday School is conducted by a staff of able and consecrated workers and teachers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

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

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

"Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

The Young People's Society of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church has played a very important part in the history of our church. It has ever been ready to assist the work of the church wherever possible. It also takes care of the fellowship part of our congregational life, sponsoring get-togethers among the members, covered-dish suppers, etc. Every fourth Friday in the month, the society sponsors a Bible Study program under the leadership of the pastor. It pays for the "Lutheran Messenger" which is a weekly parish paper edited by the congregation. Thus we could go on enumerating the many things which this organization has done for the church.

President	Walter A. Pohl
Secretary	Margaret Berg
Treasurer	Ray Gustke
Christian Knowledge	Edna Gustke
Christian Service	Charles Gustke

IN MEMORIAM

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."—Rev. 14, 13.

This little volume would hardly be complete without a word about those who have walked among us for many years, but who, because their mortal remains now slumber beneath the sod, do not celebrate this joyous festival with us here below. We need, however, not regret the fact, because they who have finished their course and have died in the Lord carry the palms of victory in the Church Triumphant. Yea, the very purpose of our church's existence and work is that men may find a blessed end and await a joyful day of resurrection. God bless their memory among us.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."—1 Pet. 1, 3-5.

Evening Service

PRELUDE.....Mrs. Willa Roth

HYMN

I love Thy Zion, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy Church, O God!
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
Engraven on Thy hand.

Should I with scoffers join
Her altars to abuse?
No! Better far my tongue were dumb,
My hand its skill should lose.

For her my tears shall fall;
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Jesus Thou Friend divine,
Our Saviour and our King,
Thy hand from every snare and foe
Shall great deliverance bring.

ALTAR SERVICE.....The Rev. Elmer Bliss, Logan, Ohio

Pastor: O Lord, open Thou my lips,

Congregation: And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Congregation: Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is
now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Responsive Reading of Psalm 122.

Pastor: I was glad when they said unto me:

Congregation: Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Pastor: Our feet shall stand within Thy gates:

Congregation: O Jerusalem.

Pastor: Jerusalem is builded:

Congregation: As a city that is compact together.

Pastor: Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord:

Congregation: Unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the
name of the Lord.

Pastor: For there are set thrones of judgement:

Congregation: The thrones of the house of David.

Pastor: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

Congregation: They shall prosper that love Thee.

Pastor: Peace be within Thy walls:

Congregation: And prosperity within Thy palaces.

Pastor: For my brethren and companions' sake

Congregation: I will now say, Peace be within Thee.

Pastor: Because of the house of the Lord our God:

Congregation: I will seek thy good. Amen.

Pastor: Glory be to God on High

Congregation: All Glory be to God on High,

Who hath our race befriended!

To us no harm shall now come nigh,

The strife at last is ended;

God show His goodwill to men,

And peace shall reign on earth again;

O Thank Him for His goodness.

Pastor: Prayer.

Congregation: Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Evening Service (Continued)

SOLO—Selection.....Mr. Roy DeViese

HYMN

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
Through every land, by every tongue.

Your lofty themes, ye mortals bring;
In songs of praise divinely sing;
The great salvation loud proclaim,
And shout for joy the Saviour's name.

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy Word,
Thy praise shall sound from shore to
shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

In every land begin the song;
To every land the strains belong;
In cheerful sounds all voices raise
And fill the world with loudest praise.

SERMON.....By the Rev. E. H. Joost, Amlin, Ohio

Theme: "Offer Unto God Thanksgiving on Your 50th Anniversary."

OFFERTORY

HYMN

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all this life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;

And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given
The Son, and Him Who reigns
With them in highest heaven;
The One eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore!

PRAYER

CREED IN UNISON

BENEDICTION

God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels, guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.

CHORUS:

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

LORD'S PRAYER IN UNISON

POSTLUDE.....Mrs. Willa Roth

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List of Souls--1937

Gus. Berg Margaret Berg	Ferd. Gerk Mary	Pauline Mitchell
Carl Brethauer Bertha Harold Freda Marie Alberta	Wm. Gustke, Sr. Anne William, Jr. Clarence Charles	Florence Pohl Norman
Sophia Brethauer	Walter Gustke Freda Paul Arthur	Louis Roth Anna Howard Doris
Henry Brethauer Blayne	Ruth Robert George	Albert Roth Willa Virginia Charles Lillian
Earl Brethauer Garnet Marvin Melvin	Ray Gustke Edna	Lyda Roth
Fanny Brethauer George	Cora May Elliot	Ed. Roth
Walter Burnett Grace Ethel	Flora Huffman Alfred Huffman Katherine Huffman James Edw. Huffman	E. C. Petty Mrs. E. Petty
Anna Burge	Ernest Haas	Harry Rogers Evelyn Louise
Victor Drain	Ella Kirsch	Lilly Otte
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Roy DeViese Dora	Menita Kellar Mrs. L. Little	Kathleen Thomas Buddy
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Historical Sketch

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

When our pioneering fathers and mothers immigrated from Europe to endure without complaint the hardships and privations of a new country, they were men and women in the true sense of the word. That there was in them a sustaining faith in an almighty, merciful God and Saviour, is realized by the fact that wherever they settled to rear homes, they also reared churches. They would not be without God. They followed the words of the Master, that "man does not live by bread alone." It was thus, that a half century ago, our St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church was built.

For several years, beginning in 1884, our spiritual forefathers held worship in what was called the old "Conoway House," a home below the site of the present church, and were served by ministers from the neighboring cities. In 1886, under the pastorate of Rev. Otto Meerwein, who lived in Parkersburg, W. Va., plans for the erection of a church building were proposed. The effects of these plans still endure in the existence of the St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, and shall endure to all eternity in the salvation of those souls saved through the ministrations of this congregation. The founding of this church has therefore borne fruits for time and eternity.

The records do not reveal the names of those who were present in the charter meeting of the congregation; nor the number of those that were present, but we know that among them were Brethauer, Roth, Otte, Schueler, Boern, Weber, Moeck, Holle, Affolter, Schockner and all the others whose interest in the work of the Lord urged them to be present. These men and their families went to work with willing hearts and untiring hands to build the house of God. Much of the lumber and stone was procured from the surrounding country. On September 25, 1887, the house of the Lord was finished, the dedicatory services were held and the building was dedicated by the Rev. O. Meerwein to the Triune God. The collection amounted to \$55.46. Very little debt remained on the building, only about \$200.00 which was liquidated in a few short years. The church was called "Die Evangelische Lutherische St. Paulus Gemeinde."

During the years that followed, the growth of the congregation was not very rapid. The tenure of office of the early pastors serving our congregation was usually brief, many of them were not resident pastors but served this church from Pomeroy, Ohio, and that all of course, may have somewhat retarded development. Services at the church were held infrequently, as the pastor usually preached at Pomeroy, Ohio, at this church, and also at the Sand Hill Church about twelve miles from St. Paul's Church.

In 1915, however, the Rev. Luft became a resident pastor here and only served the both congregations in West Virginia. It pleased God to give our congregation a new lease on life, and a measured but steady growth has been enjoyed since then.

In 1922, under the pastorate of Rev. Joost, a new parsonage was built for the pastor. The congregation has done itself an honor to provide thus for its pastor. May burdened and troubled hearts ever find its doors open and its occupant able and willing to give the spiritual counsel they come to seek.

In 1923 the present pastor came from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., to take over the work of the church. In the past fourteen years many changes have taken place. God has been good to us. The congregation which for many years had been helped along by our beloved Synod became self-supporting in 1936. The envelope system was introduced to meet the financial obligations. Even during the years of drought and depression the Church was in a position to meet its current obligations as they came due. We thank God for this grace, and we recognize the faithfulness of the members who have made their church obligation a household expense rather than rely on some scheme to provide for the necessary funds for its support. Then, too, the old German speaking members having joined the church triumphant, in 1936 the German services were dropped entirely and at the present all the work of the church is being carried on in the English language.

As we muse on the half century of the congregation's past history and note the fact that it has become a substantial congregation, let us beware of false pride and self-satisfaction. Whatever worthwhile we have come to be, we are that by the Grace of God vouchsafed to us by His Word and His ever-blessed Sacraments. In the measure in which these means were faithfully administered by the pastors, and diligently sought after by the members, the Church has thrived and grown. Whenever these holy means were not honored, our church has suffered.

It now behooves us to look to the future, and unless we have received the grace of God in vain we should learn from the past for the future. This is our Ebenezer! Hitherto hath the Lord helped us! From the past let us learn that the God of our Salvation is unwaveringly faithful and His promises reliable. He hath said: "Upon this Rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Our Jubilee slogan should be, therefore, the Word of the Lord: "To the Law and to the testimony!" Building upon the Word, the center of which is Christ, our Saviour, we shall build well for time and eternity. Let us therefore dedicate ourselves to a growing faithfulness in church attendance; to a more diligent use of the Word of God in our homes; to a frequent use of the holy Sacraments; to greater sacrifices for the instruction, indoctrination, and Christian training of our young; to a more fervent zeal to bring others to Christ and to our church; to receive the grace to adorn the blessed Gospel of Christ with truly godly lives.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

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