#### **UNCHANGING WORD TO**

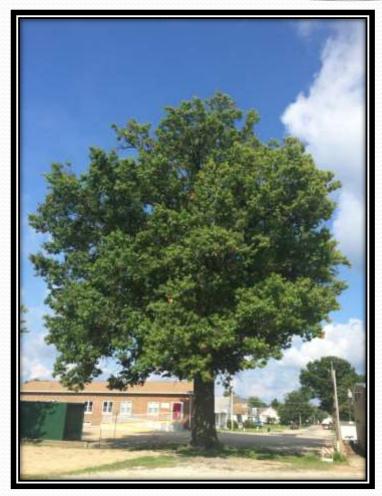


A CHANGING WORLD

1866-2016

PROCLAIMING GOD'S

In the early 1860's a seed was planted and by the will of GOD it grew into a mighty tree.



The Witness Tree . . .

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree . . ."

In the early 1860's a tiny mustard seed of faith was planted AND by the GRACE OF GOD it has grown in to a mighty tree . . . Known today as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Effingham, Illinois

# History of St. John's 1866 - 2016

A record of a family of God working for the Kingdom of Christ according to conscience, faith and God's Word...sometimes struggling with overwhelming difficulties and challengences.

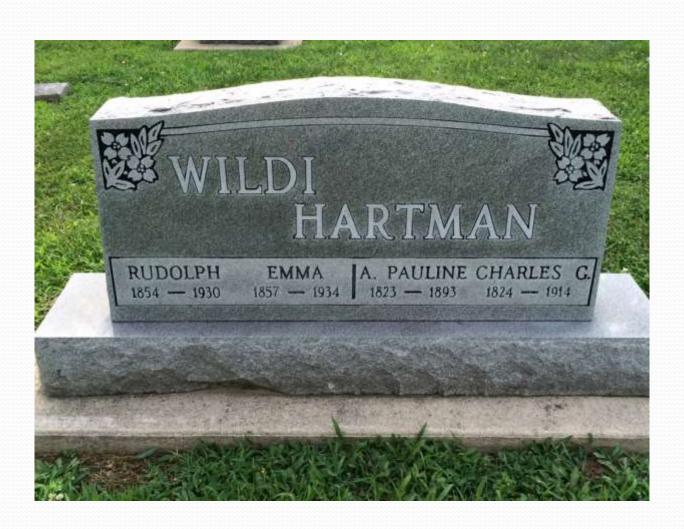
BY THE GRACE OF GOD, great things were accomplished for God's Kingdom!

# Historic times: Abraham Lincoln & Civil War

- Early sixties of the 19<sup>th</sup> century,
- Lutherans moving into the Effingham area had four goals:
- Preaching of the Gospel
- Administration of the Sacraments
- Instruction of Children
- Establishing of a Lutheran Church

#### Charles G. Hartman

- Came to Effingham from Shelbyville, Illinois
- Searched for Lutheran families and invited them to his house.
- A weaver by trade
- Later they met at his workshop





# Early Beginnings

- Christian Alt granted use of their home. (corner of Fayette & Mulberry )
- Rev. Theo Mertens of Champaign, services once a month 1863-1866
- Rev. Carl Meier of Kankakee once a month
- Worshipers increased . . .services held in Court House

## How they ministered to each other

- Mr. Hartman: older children Catechism
- Mr. Noller: Bible History
- Mrs. Hartman: Reading and Bible stories
- A number of children walked 3 to 5 miles from the country.
- As membership increased. . .
- Vacant Store rooms, Court House

#### In the fall of 1866 . . .

- A group of men met and resolved to organize a Lutheran congregation here.
- The exact date when this was decided is not known.
- On DECEMBER 10, 1866, a constitution was adopted and signed by the following charter members:
- Gottlieb F. Noller
- Charles G. Hartman
- Christian Alt
- Jacob Bauer
- John Lunow
- Henry Schulte
- John Jahns
- and (probably) Fred Kooplen spelled Koeplin in some documents.

# And the name chosen for the new congregation . . . ?

# Meutsche Evangelisch Lutherische St. Johannis Gemeinde Ungeaenderter Augsburgischer Confession in Effingham, Illinois

St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church of the **Unaltered Augsburg Confession** Effingham, Illinois

# Why was "UNALTERED AUGSBURG CONFESSION" so important?

# Brief history of the U.A.C.

- Written in 1530 as a concise statement of belief of the "Evangelicals (Gospel People) as the early followers of Martin Luther were called.
- Separated Evangelical (Lutheran) theology from the Church of Rome
- Divided Lutherans from other reformer's teachings
- Written by Phillip Melanchton (with direct input from Luther)
- Presented to Charles V June 25, 1530 by Phillip Melanchton
- Lutherans were required again and again to <u>explain</u>, <u>tell</u> and <u>CONFESS</u> just what they believed . . .

#### Later "rewritten" in 1540

- More palatable to other reformers who wanted to make peace with Rome. Was written by Phillip Melanchton.
- Especially having to do with the elements in Holy Communion
- UNALTERED Augsburg Confession means the congregation has declared that the <u>original document of 1530...</u>
- Is a true exposition of Holy Scripture and any "Variata" is incorrect or imprecise and to be rejected.
- The body and blood of Christ is in, with and under the bread and wine.
- 1 Cor. 10:16 "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"

# Problems in Germany . . . 1800's

- King Frederick William III of Prussia ordered
   Lutheran and Reformed (Calvinist) to unite 1817
- Evangelical Church of the Prussian Union
- Lutherans DISSENTED-formed independent churches
- Reformed and Lutheran doctrine are contradictory
  - \*Real Presence of Christ in Lord's Supper
  - \*Predestination and other doctrines
- Such differences precluded altar and pulpit fellowship

# What happened then?

- Defiance of the decree to "Union Church"
- Lutheran Pastors continued using the old liturgical agenda and sacramental rites of the Lutheran church. (OLD LUTHERANS)
- Officials sought out those who acted against decree
- Pastors caught were suspended from their ministry
- If Pastors persisted . . .they were imprisoned.

#### There was no religious freedom...

- If church members dissented . . .then in the eyes of the state:
- one could not get married even if married in Lutheran churches . . (only marriages in the Union church were valid.)
- Children were then illegitimate
- Could not join a craft guild or attend a university
- Able to obtain certain jobs with only a Prussian Union baptism certificate . . . a Lutheran Baptism certificate did not suffice . . .

# Some areas of Germany . . .

- It took decades until the Confessional Lutherans were granted religious freedom.
- Living under these conditions was not pleasant . . .
- because all were living under suppression. . .

THIS WAS THE REASON why many Lutherans emigrated to Australia, Canada and the United States. They wanted religious freedom and the equal opportunity for all to obtain jobs and live in freedom, now and for their children's future.

#### THIS EXPLAINS WHY

- St. John's Lutheran ancestors were determined <u>not to</u> <u>have any connection</u> with non-scriptural beliefs.
- America allowed full religious freedom
- They had had direct experience with the loss of religious freedom . .
- Many settled in Buffalo, New York area, some lived in Indiana and then came west . .

#### CHARTER MEMBERS

- What did they do for a living?
- Where did they come from?
- How many children were in their home?
- Was there a high infant mortality rate?

#### **CENSUS 1870**

- Gotlieb F. Noller, 35, Wurtenburg, Shoe Maker
- Amelia (wife), 30, Pennsylvania
- 4 children (1880 census Amelia is widowed with 8 children)

Charles G. Hartman, 46, Saxony, Weaver

Pauline (wife), 46 Saxony 4 children

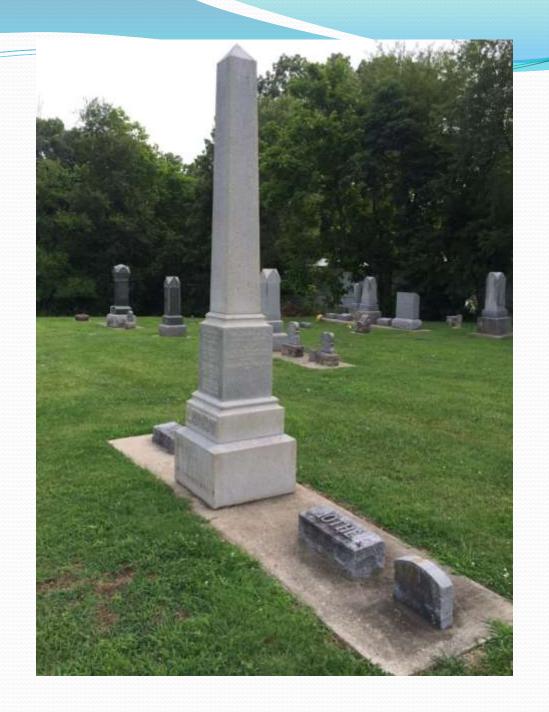
Christian Alt, 48, Prussia, Flour Mill

Anna, 38, Hesse Darmstadt, 7 children

Jacob Bauer, 34, Prussia, farmer

Elizabeth, 30, Prussia, 5 children

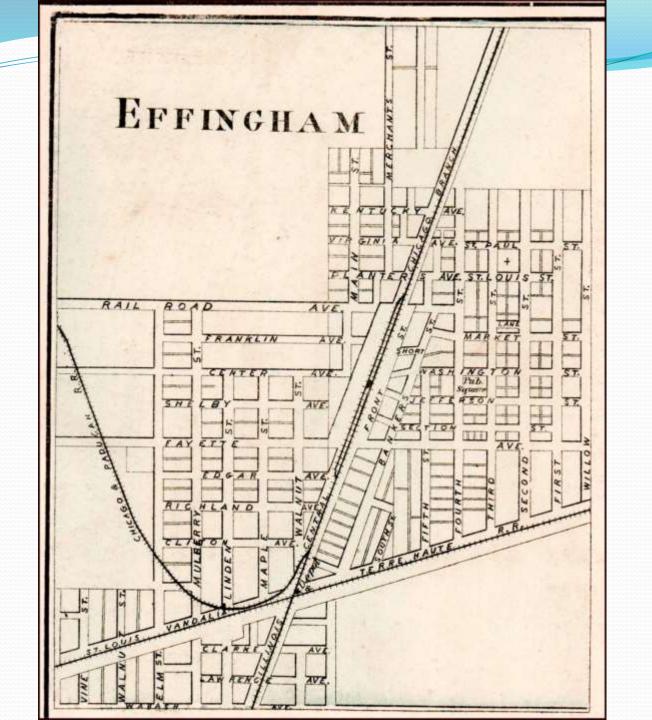
- John Lunow, 33, Mecklenburg, wagon maker
- Matilda P. Lunow (nee Hartman)
- Theodore born 1871 infant death
- Wilhelm L. 1873 infant death
- Frieda 1882 (from 1900 census)
- Paul 1882 (from 1900 census)
- Anna 1887 (from 1900 census)
- Heinrick W. 1889 infant death



- Henry Schulte, 28, Prussia, farmer
- Mary (wife) 28, Illinois, 1 child
- John Jahns no information could be found in the census record
- Fred Koeplin (Kooplin) no accurate information could be found in the census record

### The "tiny mustard seed" grows...

 Mr. and Mrs. Alt donate land "at the northeast corner of Mr. Alt's farm". – July 1, 1868



# RESOLVED . . . January, 1868

- Church building 50 feet long
- 30 feet wide
- 12 feet high ceiling
- Contracted all carpenter work for \$350.00
- To be completed BEFORE Advent .

#### Realizing the uncertainties of life . .

• Property was acquired for a cemetery . . .

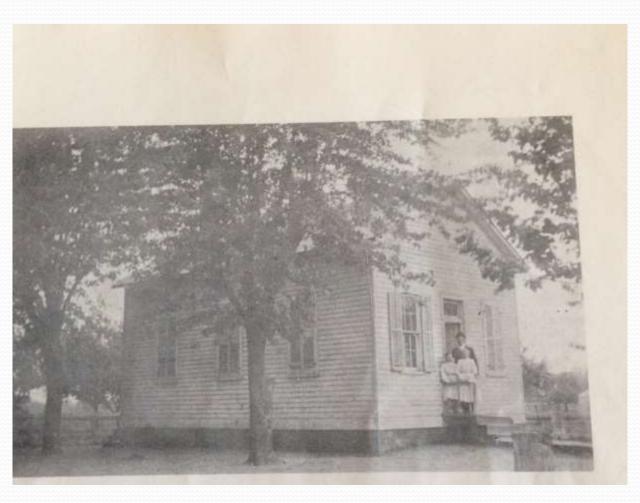


"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on . . . That they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" Revelation 14:13

# RESOLVED . . . July 1869

- Congregation resolved to build a school
- 30 feet long, 20 feet wide, 12 feet high
- \$5.00

## St. John's Lutheran School . . .



## Finally . . . St. John's own Pastor

- The Rev. G.A. Feustel, recently arrived from Germany
- The congregation continued to grow
- Pastor Feustel, "having taken unto himself a wife. . ."
- The congregation proceeded, in 1872, to build a parsonage.
- Increased the pastor's salary from \$300 to \$400 a year.
   ... "in spite of difficult times and not insignificant church debt.
- Rev. Feustel accepted a call to another field in May of 1876



## Cost of living . . .

- Church janitor received 50 cents a year from every voting member. . . Later flat sum of \$15
- 50 cents for digging a child's grave, \$1.00 for an adult's
- ANNUAL contributions: \$6 (the minimum set by the congregation) \$20
- Parents paid 50 cents a month tuition for each school child

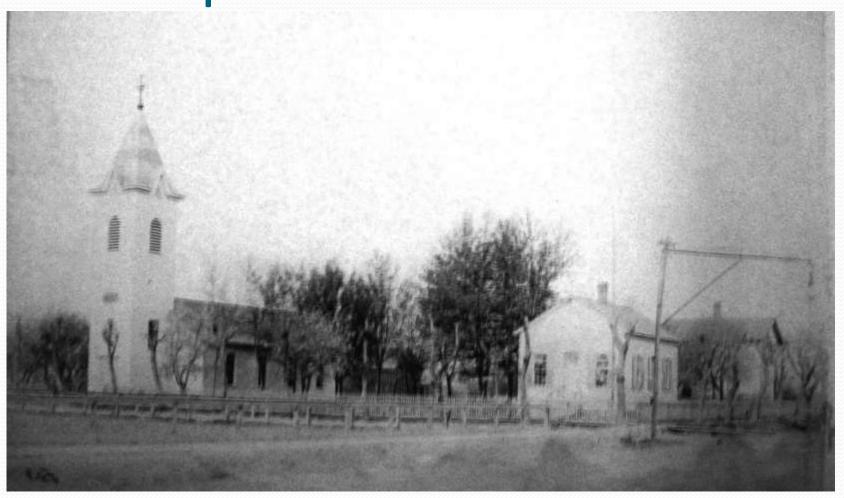
## Money in 1870's

- The Pastor was to be paid:
- \$2.50 for each marriage performed
- \$2.00 for each funeral
- \$1.00 for each baptism
- Special offering for missions was taken at each Communion Service
- Totals: \$3.75 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents or \$4.88  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents . . .

### Outstanding features of early years

- Willingness of these people to bring sacrifices for the sake of the Lord's Kingdom and . . .
- Insistence upon the thorough Christian training of their children.

# Fitch postcard: circa 1880's



# Rev. J.C. Frese – from North Tonawanda, N.Y.

- Rev. Frese Served 1877 1881
- Accepted a call to Champaign in 1881
- A few years later the congregation was saddened by the news . . .
- His five children had all perished in an epidemic of Diphtheria .



## "Missouri Synod"

- 1873 congregation resolved to be come affiliated with
- "The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States . . .

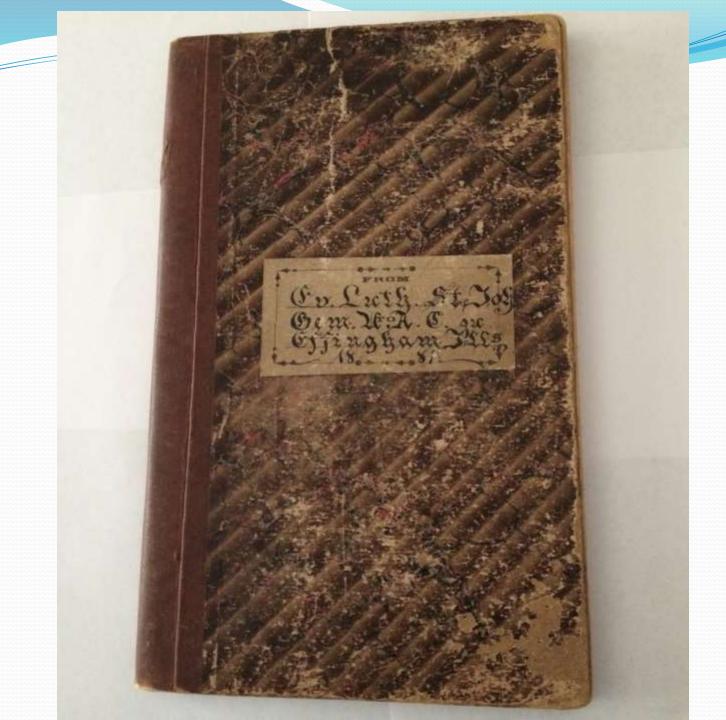
# Ladies Aid Society org. 1872



## The GERMAN language...

- 1880's resolution...
- 1) Bring your own hymn books to church. Six are available for visitors .
- 2) Pastor given permission to receive into the school
- "Children of German parents not belonging to the congregation, but it was expressly stipulated that no English children were to be admitted."

- All was in GERMAN language
- Worship services
- Hymns
- School lessons (secular and religious)
- All communication (verbal and written)



Intellation (1) July Jin Tronga, spon

160 Exfingham Illinois 1896 Jan 1-st Wilhelm Witt Kranken ind armen Vor Stehn Der ev läth St Johann Lemeinde ger Effingham Ills Erhalten von Jo Ehert den 1 gan 1846 annen Rasse Geld 19.46 Mai 1877 Surah Kalsete 3.60 2.60 July 30, 1377 2.84 Charges 27, 1379 3. 22 Det 24 1891 Por 26 1997 De 31 1877 1. 80 July 1-07 1700 38 18 Buch 25 proc

april 30 1899 Durch Kaleete Mai 28 1899 July 30., 1899 August 27, 1899 Set 24 1899 Nov 26 1899 Lec 31 1899

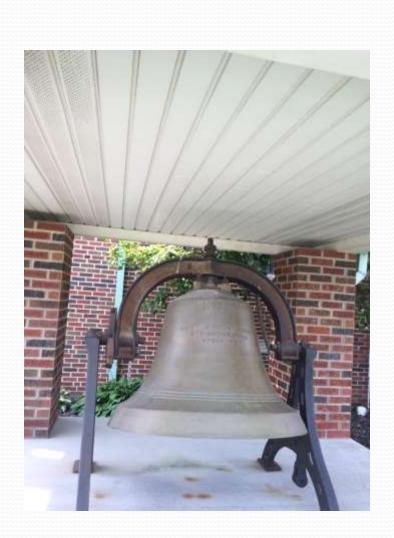
#### Rev. Wm. Lewerenz

- Installed January, 1882
- With the congregation's permission, the pastor immediately began to hold occasional services in the English language..
- The last of the \$200 of the old church debt was paid by January 1, 1883.
- St. John's was a financially independent congregation.
- He remained until 1892.
- By this time the congregation numbered 55 voting members and nearly 200 communicants.

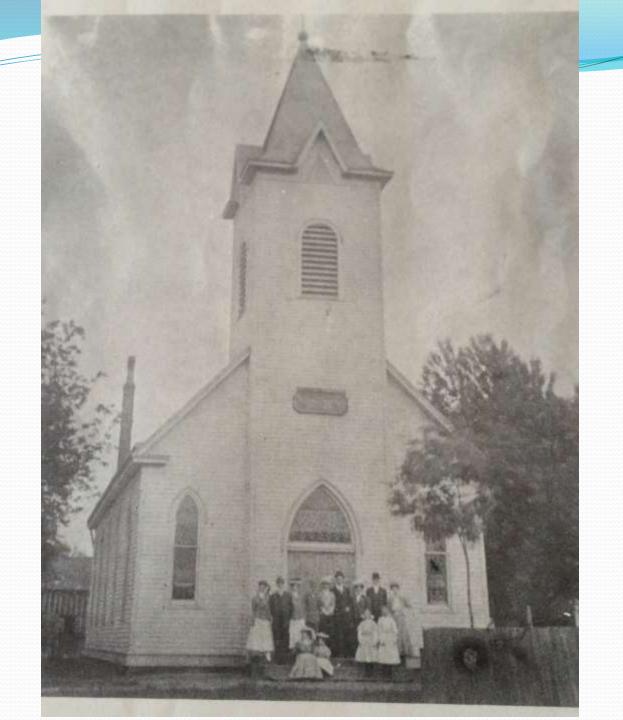
#### Rev. C.C. Koessel served 1882-1894



In 1896 a tower was added to the church and a bell purchased. The Church remodeled and enlarged 1903-1904



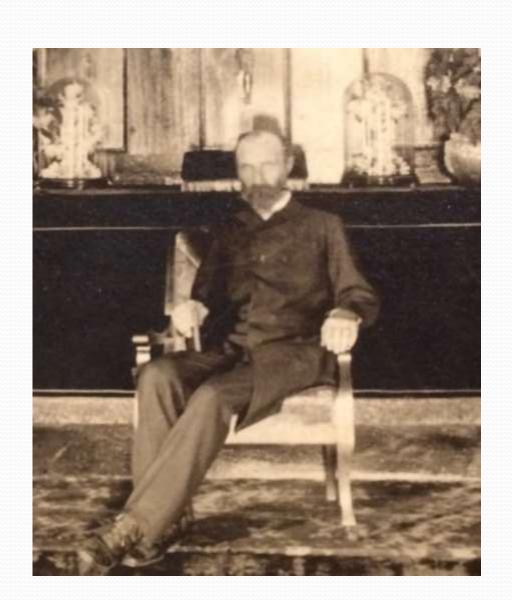




## Pastor Frederick Zagel –

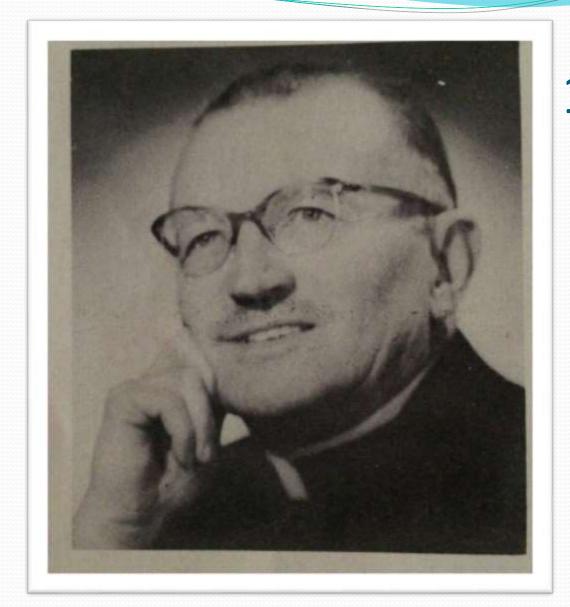
- Served St. John's 1894 1911
- Serious difficulties
- Railroad shops were moved to Terre Haute in 1897
- Population of Effingham reduced by nearly a third.
- The congregation suffered a corresponding loss in membership

## **Pastor Zagel**









#### Rev. Herman Pfotenhauer

- Served St. John's from 1911 1917
- Congregation again made rapid strides
- English language was given its place beside the German language in Church services
- An English Bible Class was organized
- Pastor relieved of his labors in the school room
- "Competent young lady hired to teach secular subjects"
- Church wired for electricity, lighting fixtures purchased.
- Pipe organ installed, new altar, pulpit and pews were purchased. Ladies Aid Society provided valuable assistance.

# Golden Jubilee - 50 Years September 10, 1916

Vol. No. 2, No. 34.

#### Over 2000 in attendance at De Lutheran Golden Jubilee.



Et. John's Lutheran Church and School.

St. John's Evangel Leither ed the congregation in a great Dong an Congregation of the city, cele- many ways, and at one time when Dong brated their Go'den Anniversary they had no teacher, Inst Sunday. The weather was taught an entire year. He lived to Doug ideal and assisted materially in the ripe old age of 90 years, and Teute the large attendance. The special two years ago was laid to rest. train on the Wabash arrived about ten o clock with 427 passengers. Representatives from other adjoining counties arrived prin- John's Evangelie Lutheran church cipally via automobile, and at one There were seven charter memtme over 150 autos were parked bers: Carl Bartmann, G. Noller, around the Melzer Bros. mill, Jacob Bauer, Christian Alt, Hein

On the 10th of December 1866, the members got together and formed the congregaton of St.

West Mount Liber

Jacks Summ Wats Wats he Dong ALC:N Bish

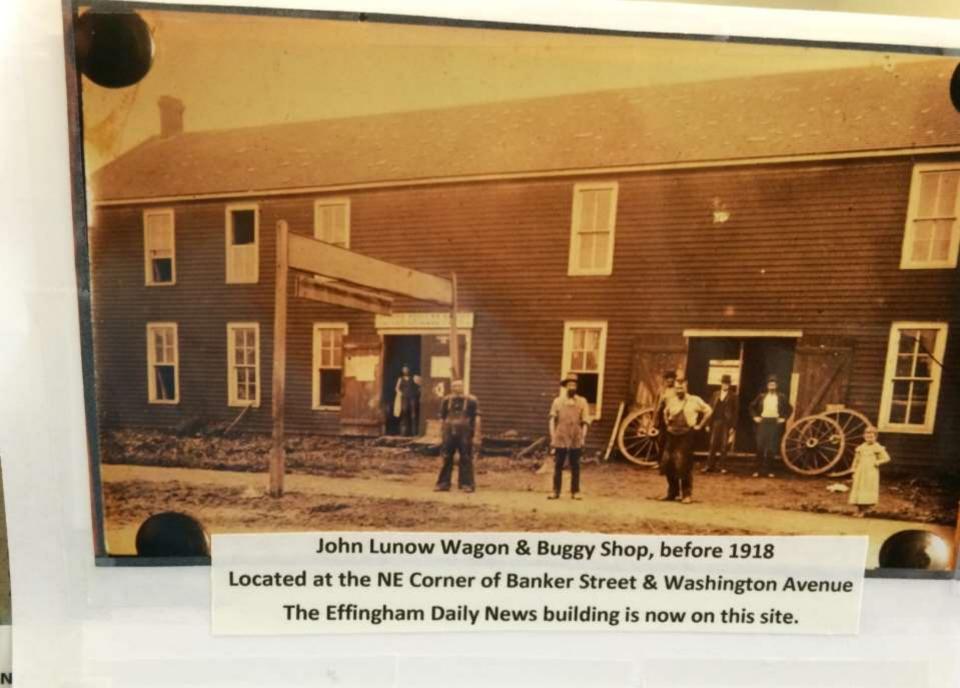
#### John Lunow 1837 - 1916

- Pastor Pfotenhauer wrote a history in the <u>County</u> <u>Review</u> newspaper for the 1916, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- John Lunow died September 6, with burial Sept. 8, 1916
- The Golden Jubilee was held on September 10

"As I wrote this history, one member survived, John Lunow, but God also called him, and two days ago we buried the last member of the original seven founders of the congregation. He did not live to celebrate this Golden Jubilee, but was called to participate in the eternal jubilee."

-Pastor Pfotenhauer September 1916





## Rev. Paul Roehrs



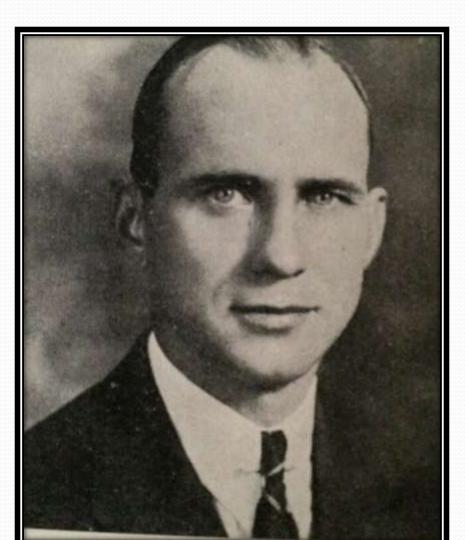
#### Rev. Paul Roehrs 1917-1920

- Pastor Pfotenhauer called to Kankakee, Illinois in 1917
- Congregation had again grown 170 communicants
- The congregation prospered in spite of war-time conditions
- and
- Some differences of opinion arising from the increasing prevalence of English language in church work.
- Sunday School organized in 1917 with enrollment of 100.

Pastor Roehrs succeeded by Rev. Theo. J. Mehl who served 1920-1925

In 1925 Rev. P.F. Plunkett was installed.

### Rev. P.F. Plunkett 1925 - 1943



#### New Parsonage was built 1926

Built with funds provided by the Ladies Aid Society.



# Old Parsonage was moved to 807 W. Jefferson Ave. where is still stands



## The Lutheran Day School

- Great depression encompassed the country
- 1933 -Voter's Meeting records, motion were made and approved to "delay the start of the school for one year due to severe economic conditions".
- 1934 same conditions
- Oct. 6, 1935, the Voter's approved the Council be authorized to sell the present school building to "best and highest bidder".
- Sold to Phil Deibel and moved to Shelby Street.
- Today the building, at the corner of Shelby and Maple, is believed to be the old school.

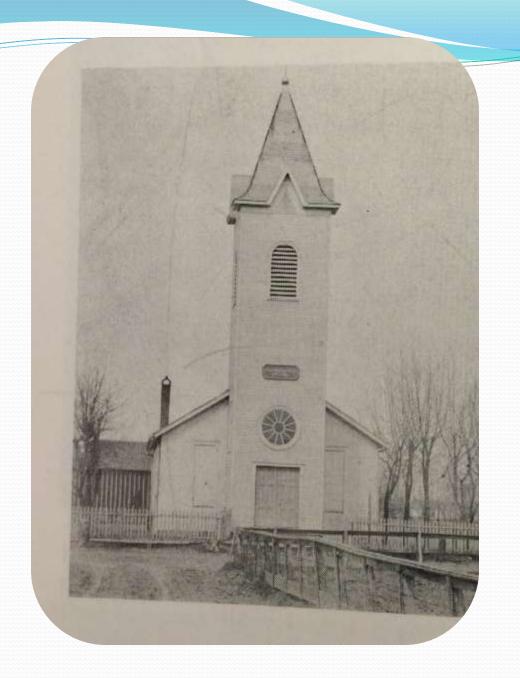




## "they encouraged the building of a new church . . ."

. . .it wasn't feasible to fix up the old building any longer. The streets were dusty and the dust blew in through the windows and cracks so that one could see on the pew where the worshipper had been sitting. The roof leaked and was in bad shape. The board met in the Sacristy of the old frame church and discussed these matters.

-Notes from Mr. Emil Wenthe



#### EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 21, 1935

- The last service was held in the old church building.
- Immediately afterward ground was broken for the new church.
- The cornerstone was laid Sunday, June 16, 1935.

#### PROGRAM

#### Laying of the Cornerstone

St. John's Tutheran Church

Effingham, Illinois



SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 1935 2:30 P. M.





"...so it was the largest attended wedding in the history of the congregation..."

-notes from Mr. Emil Wenthe







#### RITES WILL BE HELD MATTOON 16: PASTOR WILL PREACH

#### **Historic Sketch**

Church Got Its Start Here Shortly After Civil War On Present Site

As early as 1863 Lutheran services Rev. Theo. Martens of Champaign, Ill. In 1865 the Rev. Karl Meyer of Kankakee took charge of the mission here. coming once a month to conduct ser-(the new vices and perform other pastoral acts. Mr. C. G. Hartman of Effingham or ganized a Lutheran Sunday School for the children in 1864, instructing them in his home,

> The first confirmation class, numbering eleven, was confirmed in 1867 in the Court House, where services were being conducted at that time.

> was organized Dec. 10, 1866, with the following charter members: C. G. Hart-Bauer, John Lanow, Henry Schulte,

The cornerstone for the new churck being creeted by St. John's Lutheran Congregation of this city will be inid at a divine service to be held Sunday June 16, at 2:30 P. M.

The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. E. T. J. Birner, paster of St. John's Lutheran church in Matteon. Ill. Special music will be rendered by were conducted in Effingham by the the Mixed Choir under the direction of Mr. Walter Muclier,

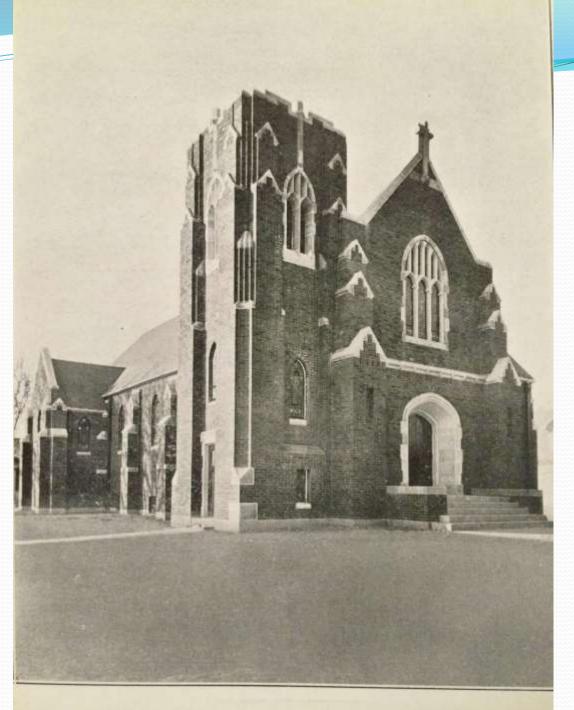
> The church, which is to be finished early this fall, was designed by Geo. E. Ramey and Co. Architects, of Charppaign, Ili. It is in a modified Got destyle, of brick construction, with Bedford stone trim, and will have a scating capacity of about 260 in the nave and balcony, and about 20 in the choir transept.

There will be a basement under the entire building, providing space for the furnace and fuel room, a large kitchen St. John's Lutheran Congregation a stage, and a social room capable of seating 250 people.

The church will have beautiful stainman, G. F. Noller, Christian Alt, Jacob ed glass windows; the principal ones will probably be presented as memori-

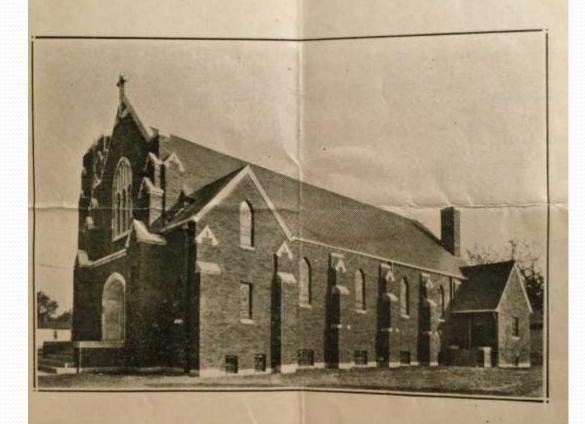
# Dedicated to the service of the Lord - October 27, 1935 – Reformation Sunday

- Erected at a cost of about \$22,000.
- It was at this time that all use of the German language for services was discontinued.



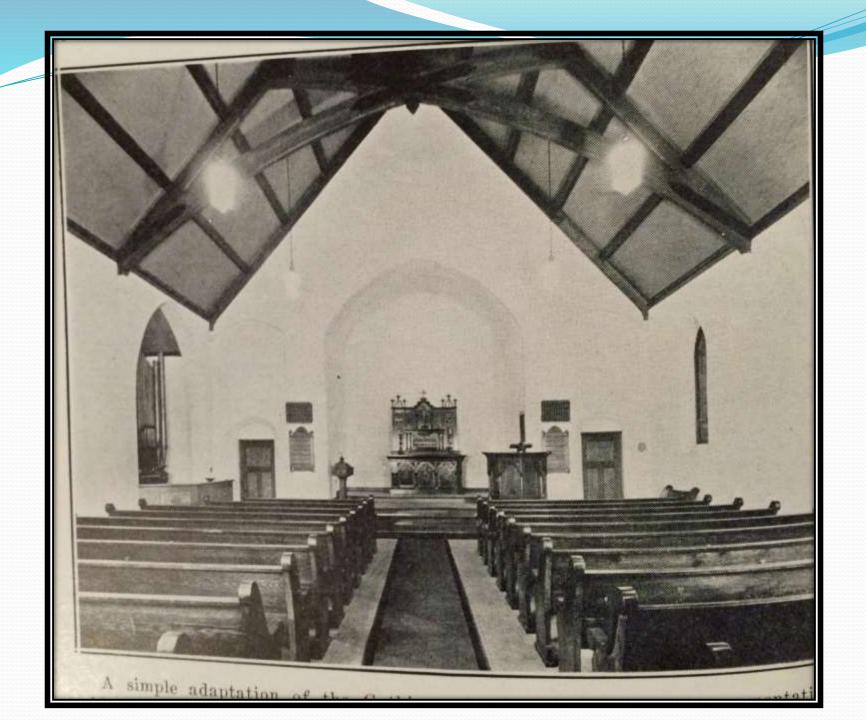
## St. John's Lutheran Church

Effingham, Illinois



Dedicatory Service

Sunday, October 27, 1935







REV. P. P. PLUNKETT, Paster



A. GOEBEL



W. WACHTEL



A. GRAVENHORST



W. J. WENTHE, Chairman W. MELZER, Secretary
BUILDING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### The New

### St. John's Lutheran Church

is not only a high tribute to the spiritual culture of its membership, but also a contribution to the religious edifices of distinction in Effingham.

We rejoice with and extend our hearty congratulations to Reverend Plunkett; to his parishioners, and, to all others who in any way helped to make occasion for the dedication of your imposing shrine of worship.

We also wish to express our appreciation for the privilege we enjoyed in supplying quality building materials used in the construction of your new church, including masonry, concrete, lumber, insulation, VULCANITE JUMBO SHING-LES, plaster, hardware, paints, etc., etc.

May you enjoy greater blessings for having caused the erection of a lasting monument to your FAITH.

## Wenthe Bros. Company

Sec

## The New 1936 DODGE and PLYMOUTH Wente=Noot Motor Co.

Phone 22

Effingham, III.

Dedicated to the Memory of

#### **Emil F. Melzer**

Deacon of St. John's Lutheran Church for more than 20 consecutive years.

#### Melzer Mill Co.

Manufacturers, Jobbers and Retailers of Flour, Corn Meal, Rye Meal, Grain and Feeds

EFFINGHAM ILLINOIS

Buy your Meats

at our Market

Stortzum Brothers

Effingham, Illinois



## 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee 1866 - 1941

### DIAMOND

### JUBILEE

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

EFFINGHAM

ILLINOIS

1866 - 1941

## Celebrated September 21, 1941

- Festival Services held 10:00 a.m.
- Two services, 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. held at the newly constructed Effingham High School
- Speakers were: President Rev. J.W. Behnken and Prof. Walter A. Maier, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis – Lutheran Hour Speaker
- Other services held featured former Pastors of St. John's.

#### December 7, 1941

- •The United States became involved in World War II
- More than 40 young men of the congregation participated.

 Pastor Plunkett was granted a peaceful dismissal in October of 1943 to become pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church - Evansville, Indiana

## Rev. H. E. Zimmermann installed Feb. 20, 1944



#### V-J DAY SERVICES ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS



Private First Class Albert Hammer (August 11, 1943)



Corporal Olen Marten (February 25, 1945)



Lieutenant Garrett W. Loy (October 20, 1944)



Chaplain Markus E. Lohrmann (March 6, 1944)

To the memory of those who gave their lives for their country's freedom and to those who served their country in the cause of victory and peace we prayerfully dedicate this hour of worship. To our God be all glory.

- Attendance in Sunday School and Church showed a steady increase.
- It soon became apparent the Church, erected in 1935, would not be adequate for the growing congregation.

# Post-War Planning Committee

- 1945 Congregation appointed committee to consider ways and means to provide adequate accommodations for the congregation.
- 1947 Adopted plans for the enlarging of the Church.
- "after strenuous opposition" and "considerable delay"
- Addition to the nave, and the addition of transepts and chancel, doubling the seating capacity of the building

Ground breaking July 10, 1949



and a Emet Hammer, chairman at the congregation. In the background left to right are William Laskowship Popper, Offic Berg, Emil Wenthe, Alfred Potts, and Rev. Zimmermann.

# Dedicated July 16, 1950

 Entire project, including new furnishings and a new organ, 15 ranks of pipes and chimes, cost approximately \$80,000. The dept was retired by October 1952.

### DEDICATION

of

## St. John's Lutheran Church

903 W. Jefferson Avenue EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS



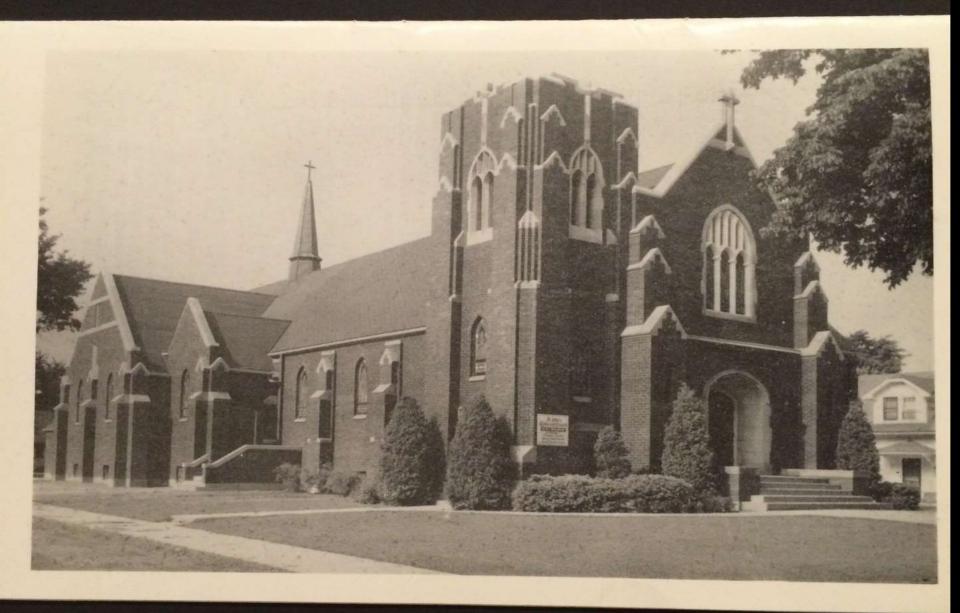
"Peace be within thy walls." Psalm 1227

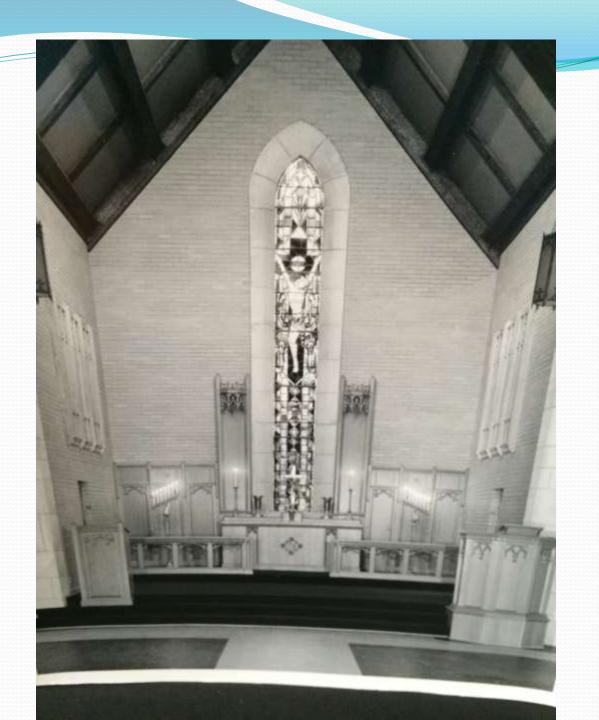
Sixth Sunday after Trinity

July sixteenth, Nineteen hundred fifty

# St. John's - 1950 - after Addition

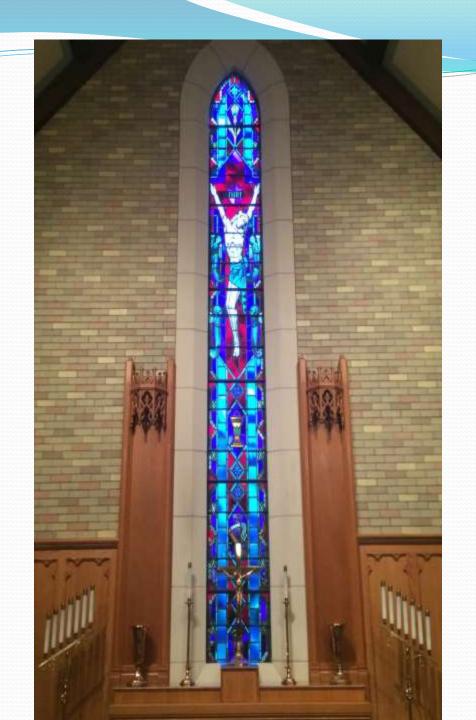






# The focal point of the entire interior is the "Redemption Window" . . .

. . . A memorial window donated by Mrs. Garrett Loy and Mrs. Markus Lohrmann in memory of their husbands who met death in World War II . . .





Lieutenant Garrett W. Loy (October 20, 1944)



Chaplain Markus E. Lohrmann (March 6, 1944)

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

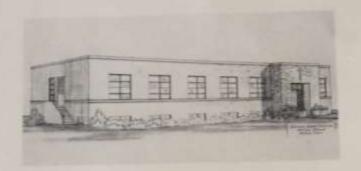
- On July 6, 1952, 29 communicant members from Immanuel Lutheran Church southwest of Effingham (Dutch Lane) were received into membership with St. John's.
- The Church property and cemetery were turned over to the Effingham congregation.
- Immanuel Lutheran Church became a part of St. John's Lutheran Church.

# A growing Sunday School and Bible Classes . . .

- A planning committee was appointed in October, 1953 to study the matter . . .
- Resolved May 2, 1954 to erect an Education Building, 21 classrooms, church offices, furnishings, restrooms, and parking lot south of the Church at a cost of about \$65,000.
- Ground breaking ceremonies held on May 9.
- The building dedicated to the glory of God and the cause of Christian education on Jan. 9, 1955.
- Final payment was made on August 1959.

### DEDICATION SERVICE

The First Sunday after Epiphany January 9, 1955



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BUILDING

St. John's Lutheran Church

H. E. Zimmermann, Pastor

Effingham, Illinois

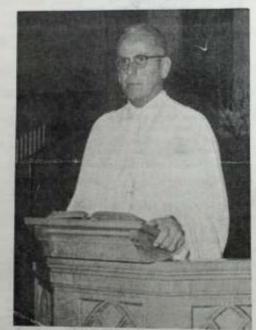




In Grateful Observance of

## The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

# ORDINATION



6

9

3

THE REV. HERBERT E. ZIMMERMANN

4

St. John's Lutheran Church

Sunday, August 19, 7:00 p.m. EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS

- Additional property purchased for more parking.
- Melzer property, two lots adjacent to the Church property for \$10,000. One of the lots was turned into a parking lot.
- An addition to the Education building was approved in February 1962. Ground breaking held on Sunday, March 28
- Seven additional classrooms dedicated August 5, 1962
- Cost with furnishings was about \$20,000

• Approved- January 1965 to install air conditioning in the Church. The parsonage was air conditioned in 1961.

# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1866 - 1966 The Centennial Theme: "Continue in My Word": John 8:31

# St. John Lutheran Centennial Year Ends With Sunday Program

cinees Sunday with special services during the day, followed by a reception.

St. John Lutheran church with 700 communiteant members had its beginning 100 years ago through the efforts of Lutheran laymen who adopted a resolution Latheran congregation in Effingham.

The constitution was adopted and signed on Dec. 10, 1866, naming the newly organized congregation, "St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Unaltared Auguburg Confession in Effingham, Illinois."

Rev. H. Holtsrmann answered the call for a pastor and was installed on Feb. P. 1568, as pastor to several Lutheran congregations

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Alt dopresent corner of West Jefferson 1903-54. avenue and Cherry street.

were Rev. J. C. Frese in 1877; tober, 1952. man Protendance, 1911; Rev. Paul including furnishings. The build-changes and improvements.

and Rev. H. E. Zimmermann, 1944, gust, 1959.

The children of the congregaa graduate of Lutheran Teaches erty, for \$10,00 for parking. College, Addison, was hired. Mr. Krueger was replaced in 1894, by Schrueder was called elsewhere, cluding furnishings, of \$20,000. in the full of 1866, to organize a Rev. Zagel assumed the teaching duties at the school Rev. Zagel was succeeded by Rev. Pftenhauer, who bired a lady teacher to teach the secular subjects.

> In 1917, a Sunday School was organized with an enrollment of about 100 pupils. Because of a shortage of teachers the day school was closed for one year. 1930. The congregation resolved to discontinue the school in 1933.

The congregation appointed a The youngest organization in The first Lutheran church in building committee for a new the congregation is Leeds Penstel, who had recently arrived Get. 27, 1935. In 1947, new plans League since 1956. in this country from Germay, called for an addition to the nave, In observance of the centennial

A year of centennial ceremonies | Rochrs. 1917; Rev. Theo. J. Mehl, ing was dedicated on Jan. 9, 1955. at St. John Lutheran church 1920; Rev. P. P. Plunkett, 1925 Final payment was made by Au-

> In 1961, the congregation purtion were taught by the paster chased the Melzer property, two until 1886, when William Krueger, lots adjacent to the church prop-

> An addition was added to the Educational Building and dedicat-Henry Schroeder. When Mr. ed on Aug. 5, 1982, at a cost, in-

The church maintains two cemeteries. In 1869, property was acquired west of Effingham, just north of West Fayette Road, for use as the church cemetery. Since 1982, it has taken over Immanuel Lotheran Cemetery, southwest of Effingham.

The oldest organization in the congregation is the Ladies' Aid, Gerhard Wiebel was hired as a The group is responsible for building a new parsonage in 1928.

During the 1920's the young people organized a Young Peo-A tower, donated by C. H. Wen- ple's Spristy, which was reorganmaised the land necessary for the the, was added to the church in jand in 1928 and became affiliated election of a church, school and 1896, and a bell was purchased by with the International Walther parsonage and on July 1, 1868, the the congregation. The bell is now League. The Men's Chib was orcongregation accepted the deed to in the present church. The church ganized in 1941, and is affiliated the land, 150 feet square, the was remodeled and enlarged in with the International Lutheran Laymen's League.

Effingham was dedicated on Dec. church in January of 1935, and which was started on Nov. 5, 1948. 20, 1868. The first full time pas- the new brick building, costing and has been affiliated with the tor of the church was Rev. G. A. about \$22,000 was dedicated on Lutheran Women's Missionary

The congregation became affili- addition to transcepts and chancel, the following improvements have ated with the Evangelical Luther- doubling the scating capacity. The been made: air conditioning of the an Synod of Missouri, Ohio and project, including new furnishings church, painting of the exterior Other States, today known as and a new organ, 15 ranks of and interior of the church, new the Lutheran Missouri Synod, in pipes and chimca coat about \$80,- carpeting, new pews and hymnals 000 and was dedicated on July 16, in the balcony, rebuilding of wash-Pastors following Rev. Fenstel 1950. The debt was paid by Oc. rooms, reinstallation of the heating system, new collings, in all Her, William Lewerenz, 1882; The Educational Building and basement rooms new furnishings Rev. C. C. Koessel, 1892, Rev. parking lot was erented south of for the Mothers Room, resurfac-Prederick Zagel 1894; Rev. Her- the church at a cost of \$65,000, lng of the parking lots and other

So a century of God's grace and mercy on Lutheranism in Effingham came to a close with thanksgiving and praise . . .

at the close of the century . . . [1966] 700 communicants 158 voting members 960 baptized members Sunday School had an enrollment of 430

... It is our fervent prayer that the Triune God, the loving Father, the gracious Savior and the sanctifying Spirit, will be with His people and abundantly bless and prosper the Lutheran Church in its second century in Effingham....

from the Centennial book, 1966

# 38-YEAR MINISTRY CELEBRATED WITH A 25th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Members of St. John's, Effingham, celebrated the 25th anniversary of Rev. H. E. Zimmermann as their pastor. After 13 years as pastor at Lawrenceville and Flora, Ill., Pastor

Zimmermann was installed in the Effingham congregation on Feb. 20, 1944. The congregation numbered about 300 communicant members then. Today's membership figures flirt with the 750-communicant level.

In a Sunday evening vesper service of recognition, Rev. George Williams preached to approximately 400 members, friends, and guest pastors. The service included selections by the junior and senior choirs.

At the social reception, each of the church organizations and the congregation presented the pastor and his wife with cash gifts



Pastor and Mrs. H. E. Zimmermann. He's the secretary of our CID

pastor and his wife with cash gifts. The Sunday school teachers and children presented a special gift, a color TV set.

### In Memoriam



1944

THE REVEREND HERBERT E. ZIMMERMANN

Pastor

St. John's Tutheran Church

EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1970

1970

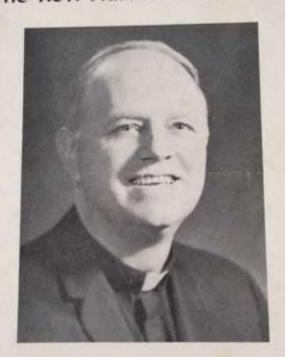
# 674 Baptisms 593 Confirmations

IN MEMORIAM
THE REV. H. E. ZIMMERMANN
BELOVED PASTOR OF ST. JOHN'S
FROM

FEBRUARY 20, 1944 TO JUNE 23, 1970
THIS CARILLON WAS GIVEN BY MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION
SOLI DEO GLORIA
CHRISTMAS 1973

1970

Installation of The Rev. Harlan C. Wendler



St. John's Lutheran Church

September 13, 1970 • 2 p.m.

901 Jefferson Avenue

Effingham, Illinois

1987

### St. John Lutheran To Install Pastor Sunday

Rev Harlan C Wendler will be installed as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, 901 West Jefferson, at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Rev. Arthur Kuenhnert of Pana, second vice president of the Central Illinois District, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, will be the preacher and the Rev. Kenneth Wegener of Strasburg, circuit counselor of the Effingham Circuit, will officiate at the service.

A reception for Pastor and Mrs. Wendler and family will be held in the church social rooms following the service.

Pastor Wendler was born at Collinsville. He received his education in Holy Cross Lutheran elementary school, St. Paul Junior College, and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, from which he graduated in 1946. He received a master of sacred theology degree from the seminary in 1966.

He has served the church at large on various boards and committees, pastoral conference, secretary of the District Fiscal Committee, pastoral advisor to various zones of the Walther League and Lutheran Layman's League and as the synod representative for all of Illinois in the All Lutheran Fund Appeal in 1953-1954.

In Oklahoma, he served on the district evangeism committee and board of appeals. In Northern Illinois he was on the District Evangelism Committee, vice-president of the district pastoral conference and recently was elected circuit counselor.

He begins his 25th year in the ministry his first Sunday at



Rev. Harlan C. Wendler

moved into the parsonage at 905 West Jefferson this week. Mrs. Wendler, formerly Dorothy Bustadt, is also of Collinsville. In addition to being a pastor's wife and the mother of five children: Douglas, student at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale Julaine, student at River Forest Concordia Teacher College: Bruce, freshman at the University of Illinois, Champaign; Marcella, a high school junior; and Brain, a 7th grader, Mrs. Wendler served as church secretary at St. Paul, Addison, in the past four years where he



# 1930-1972

### Church To Honor Walter Mueller For 45 Years In Music Ministry 1972

St. John Lutheran Church will the 7:45 a.m. service and 10:15 Music in Chicago. service in the music ministry. Chicago graduated from the

Walter Mueller on a.m. service on Sunday.

He will be recognized at both American Conservatory of Chicago area.

His first three years of organ Sunday for his 45 years of Mr. Mueller who was born in ministry was spent in the Lutheran Churches in the

> Mr. and Mrs. Mueller moved to Effingham 42 years ago and he became organist and chair director for St. John Lutheran

church.

Mr. Mueller says the greatest pleasure in the 45 years of service has been the close harmony and teamwork with which he has worked with the pastors of St. John Lutheran church in Effingham; Rev. P. F. Plunkett was pastor of the church for 15 years; Rev. H. E. Zimmerman, 26 years and Rev. H. C. Wendler since July of

Mr. Mueller has conducted the Mueller School of Music since his arrival in Effingham 42 years ago. The school was located on West Jefferson avenue for 40 years and now is at his residence, 400 North Second.

Mr. and Mrs. Mueller are the parents of four children. Mrs. Carroll (Ruth) Bennett, Marshall; Walter Jr., Mattoon; John, Michigan City, Ind. and Tom, formerly of Chicago who is spending some time with his parents now



Walter Mueller

 July 1972, Mr. John Krueger served as the first "Director of Christian Education, Youth and Music" He served until 1975.

Mr. John Bakinski served as the next D.C.E.Y. & M. from 1975 – 1980

Rev. Michael A. Koschmann – Assistant Pastor 1981-1987

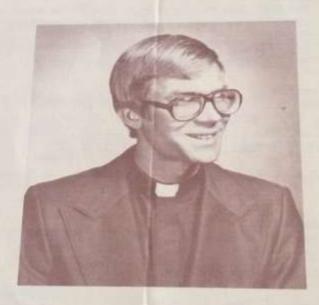
#### INSTALLATION

of

Rev. Michael A. Koschmann, M. Div.

BIS

Assistant Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church Effingham, Illinois



- Following Pastor Wendler's retirement in 1987 a call was extended to Rev. Robert Backhus.
- On February 7, 1988 the call was accepted by Rev. Backhus.
- The era of the parsonage came to an end as Pastor Backhus was the first of the pastors at St. John's to own his own home.

HASTOR DACKHUS

The Installation of the Rev. Robert J. Backhus

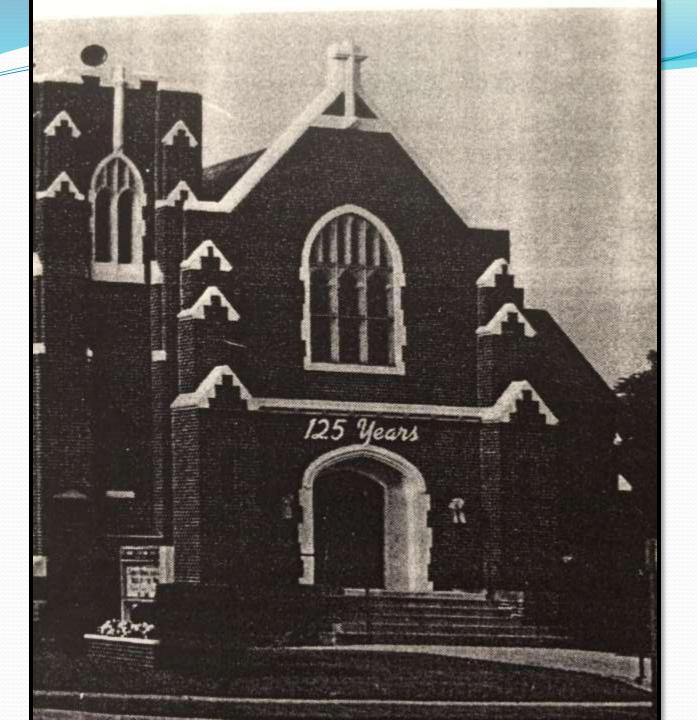


as Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church

Effingham, Illinois

Sunday, February 7, 1988 at 7:00 p.m.

# 1866 125 YEARS 1991 Praise for Past! Faith for the Future!



The Service of Installation of Mr. Larry L. Brandt



25

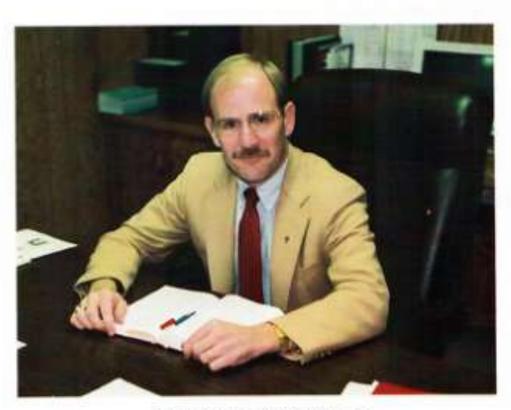
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

of

St. John's Lutheran Church Effingham, Illinois

Sunday, January 15, 1989 2:00 P.M.

### Rev. Paul Zimmermann installed as Assistant Pastor June 1992



Rev. Paul S. Zimmermann Associate Pastor

### **Building For Tomorrow**

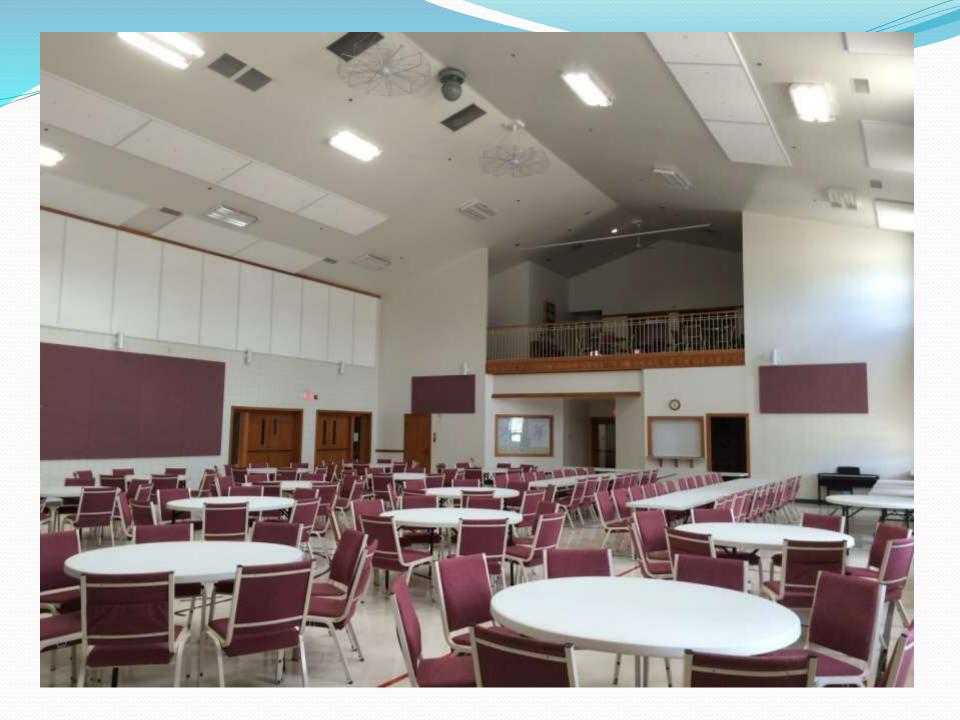
- Building fund campaign begins October 1992
- May 23, 1993 Ground Breaking Ceremony for the fellowship hall was held.
- Dedication Services for the Atrium connecting the church proper and fellowship hall, meeting rooms, offices and furnishing was held on Sunday, August 28, 1994.





#### Parish Hall Dedicated August 28, 1994







Even children become tired and need to rest, and young people trip and fall. But the people who trust in the Lord will become strong again. They will rise up as an eagle in the sky; they will run and not need rest; they will walk and not become tired. <u>Isaiah 40:30-31</u>

#### **EAGLES NEST PRE-SCHOOL**

- Fall of 1995 survey of interest
- Open house held in April of 1997
- First preschool begins with 33 students Sept. 1997
- Current Director/Teacher is Sandy Esker 70 students



1997

The Service of Worship and Praise At The Ordination and Installation Of The Reverend David E. Wiist as Assistant Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church Effingham, Illinois July 27, 1997 2:00 p.m.

1999

Pastor Backhus preaches farewell sermon – April 28, 2002 "As always in the Church, to God alone be all the glory."

#### **Pastor Theodore Gall**

The sixteenth pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Installed June 2, 2002

The Service of Worship And Praise At

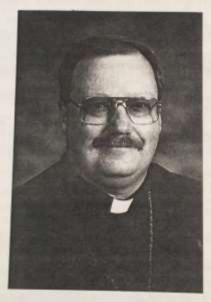
The Installation of

The Reverend Theodore Gall

as Senior Pastor of

St. John's Lutheran Church

Effingham, Illinois



June 02, 2002 3:00 P.M.

# Larry Brandt, Director of Christian Education - Retires Jan. 1, 2003

- Larry went to his Lord in Heaven on May 27, 2003
- He was adept at obtaining volunteers ... "putting them to work for the Lord".
- Larry set the example of the "worker in the vineyard" for all .

### A Light for Our Path

Renovation to the interior of the church Dedicated to the Glory of God at all three services, on September 6-7, 2003.











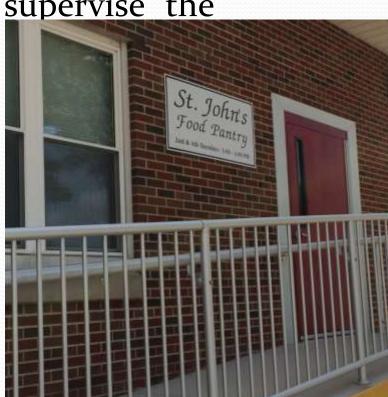
# ... I was hungry and you gave me food...

• St. John's Food Pantry began 2003. Faye Tomkins and Anna Mae Gibson were in charge of the pantry.

Today Jerry and Matilda Niccum supervise "the

pantry". Over 217 families

are assisted every three months.



# Twenty-five Years in the Holy Ministry June 27, 2004

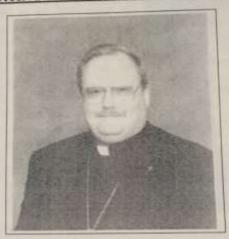
"In church we are all family. We are in the Lord's ministry together. It has been my please to be with you all- to live, work, play, laugh, and cry together. Now I thank you for sharing in my life and the celebration of twenty-five years administering God's Word and Sacrament

-Pastor Ted Gall

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like engles: they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

- Isaiah 40:31.

#### CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN PASTORAL MINISTRY



1979 ~ 2004

In the church we are all family. We are in the Lord's ministry together. It has been my pleasure to be with you all – to live, work, play, laugh & cry together.

Now I thank you for sharing in my life and the celebration of 25 years administering God's Word and Sacrament.

~ Pastor Ted Gall ~

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, And I am sure that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel thus about you all, because I hold you in my heart."

- Philippians 1:3-7a

## Pastor Earl Brown installed June 25, 2006 – Assistant Pastor



### Chris Imes D.C.E. 2007 - 2015



# The Lutheran Church – The Singing Church

- Bell Choir
- Choirs
- Organ Piano
- St. John's Brass
- St. John's Praise Band

#### St. John's Orchestra circa 1937

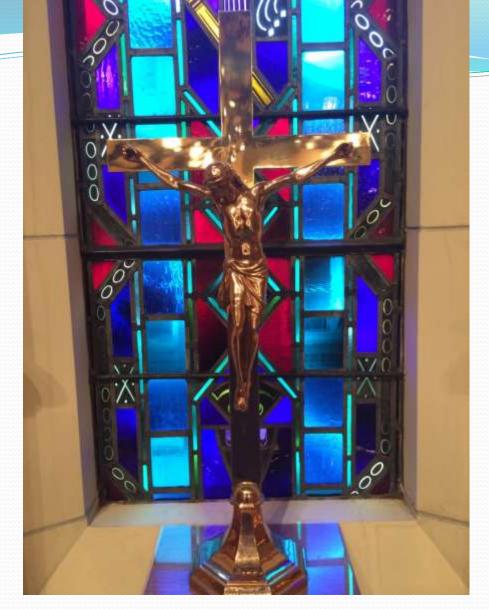






For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

"... and they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer . . . " **Acts 2:42** 



...but we preach Christ crucified ... 1 Corinthians 1:23

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believed in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

1866 2016

for 150 years

Proclaiming God's

Unchanging WORD to a

Changing World.

To God Alone Be The Glory!
+ Amen! +