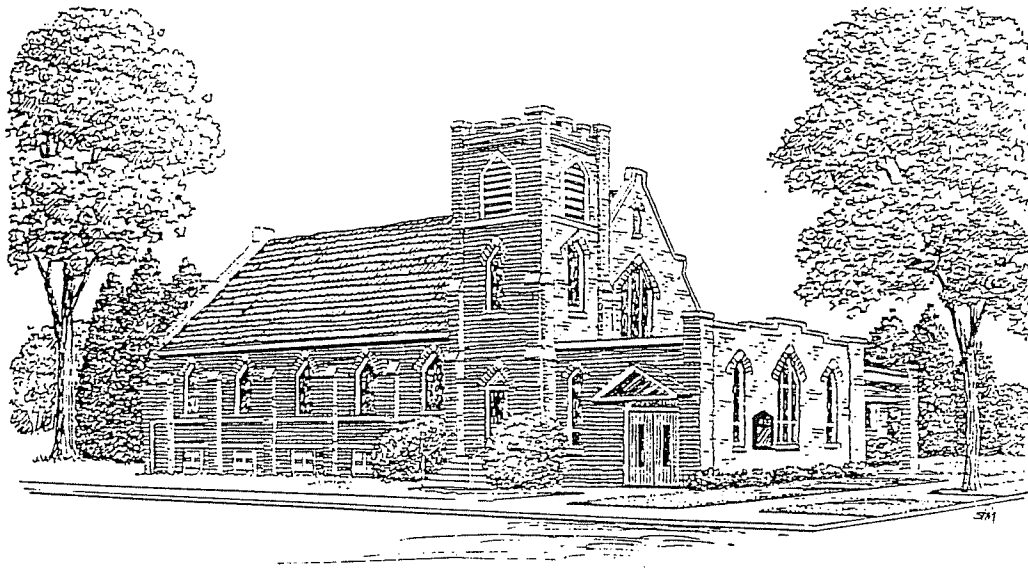


A Century of Grace:
A Centennial History
of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Eagle River, Wisconsin



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One hundred years can seem to be a long time. Yet we all know that time is a relative thing. If a person reaches the age of 100, they are said to have lived a long life. But when it comes to the annals of history, a century is but a moment. Yet to those who have been a part of these past one hundred years, the time has gone fast. But whether the time has seemed long or short, or fast or slow, one thing is indeed certain. God has showered His grace on Christ Lutheran Church. That is what this history is all about. It is an account of how God has blessed this body through His Word. It is also an account of how this church has been a blessing to the community of Eagle River by being a "city standing on a hill" which has let the light of God's love through Jesus shine for all to see. With the sole purpose of bringing glory to our gracious God, I now present a history of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

In presenting this history, it would be foolish and presumptuous to say that I am bringing anything new to light which has not already been recorded. Histories have been written for previous anniversaries of the church. I have

relied heavily on these, on minutes of meetings, and on personal conversations with those who are the history of this church. In order to bring order to this task, I have decided to divide the history of the church into five different time periods. Those periods will roughly follow the men who have served as pastors. Therefore, we will have the era of the early years of the congregation. Next will come the era of Rev. Joseph Krubsack, which is followed by the era of Rev. Walter Schumann. The Schumann era is followed by the era of Rev. Marvin Radtke. Finally, we come to the era of Rev. Eugene Ahlswede which will bring us to the present time.

The Early Years

The North Woods became a mission field of our Wisconsin Synod in 1886. It was known as the Lake Shore Mission Field. In this area, Eagle River became the starting point for mission efforts. The community was the oldest of several preaching stations in the area. Other cities included in the field were Rhinelander, Three Lakes, Monico, Gagen, and Pelican in Wisconsin, and Wakefield, Michigan.

1.

The first Wisconsin Synod worship service held in Eagle River took place in November of 1886. That service was a marriage ceremony performed by Rev. R. Pieper. After Rev.

Pieper returned to his home, he reported that there were many towns which were ripe fields for mission work. Acting on Rev. Pieper's comments, Pastor J. Ziebell was sent to explore the North Woods for possible missions. In February of 1887, Rev. Ziebell preached in Eagle River. However, no canvass of the area was done. 2.

From May 31 to June 11, Pastor Ad. Hoyer did extensive work in canvassing to find out if prospects were good for starting churches in this region. The result of Rev. Hoyer's work was the Lake Shore Mission Field. By August of the same year, preaching stations were established, and monthly services began. Pastors E. Haese, C. Jaeger, E. Mayerhoff, and Prof. J.P. Koehler served the congregation on a rotating basis. At Christmas and in January and February of 1888 student W. Kistemann also joined the rotation. 3. In an interesting sidelight of the time: Eagle River was the center of this mission field. The main rail line ran through town. The city of Rhinelander was only a spur off the main line.

After graduation in 1888, Candidate Kistemann was called to serve the North. He moved to Rhinelander on April 1. On April 22, Rev. Mayerhoff installed Kistemann as pastor of the entire field of twelve cities. An 1889 article in the Gemeindeblatt states that an organization took place in Eagle River under the name of "Christus Gemeinde". 4. During this time the people met in various

homes for worship. Eagle River was only one to two cities which always had the privilege of having Sunday worship services.

In the fall of 1888 Rev. Kistemann took a call to serve a congregation in Florence, Wisconsin. On January 22, 1889, Student C. Rutzen was ordained in Fond du Lac. He was then sent to the Lake Shore Mission Field with instructions to live in Eagle River. Pastor Rutzen only served until the fall of that year when he accepted a call elsewhere. 5.

Rev. John DeJung, Sr. was the next pastor who came into the area. His personal notes record that he baptized a child from the Scheribel family on November 27, 1889, in Eagle River. While serving in the area, Pastor DeJung's field grew to include fifteen preaching stations. 6.

The milestone for Christ Lutheran was reached in 1890. Definite reasons are not known as to why, but a reorganization took place. On November 11, a constitution was adopted and the congregation was reorganized and incorporated. This meeting took place in the home of Ed. Frederich. Thus the "Germanische Evangelische Lutherische Christus Gemeinde at Eagle River, Oneida County, Wisconsin" began. Aug. Ziemke, Carl Ewald, and F. W. Prill signed as charter members. On December 7, a meeting was held in which the following joined the church: Aug. Meihack, Chas. Holpap, Ed. Frederich, F. W. Waudry, C. Kovalesky, H. Nedden, F. W. Prill, Aug. Koeppen, Aug. Radke, Mrs. Wm.

Persohn, Mrs. Matt. Scheribel, Aug. Martin, Albert Selke, Herman Maves, Herman Ziebell, and John Bowers. The preceding should also be considered as charter members. One line of the constitution is interesting. Paragraph three states, "The church and school language is and shall remain for all future time exclusively German." This sentence is interesting for two reasons. One is that already at this time a great emphasis was placed on education. The other is that this shows that there is a need to be flexible and willing to change when the time comes. 7. (The entire original constitution is included in Appendix A.)

1891 was a year of testing for the church. There was a loss in membership due to the church's firm stand on the lodge question. Yet the Lord blessed His flock and allowed them to build a house of worship. This church was located on the corner of Pine and Third Streets where the current Christian Science building is located. The cost of this house of worship was around \$300. Being in a lumbering area, the lumber was donated. This fact combined with cheap labor helped to keep the costs down. 8.

Rev. DeJung, Sr. continued to labor in the field until he retired in 1897. In 1896 Pastor DeJung's son, John, Jr. was called to assist his father. A heavy work load had begun to take its toll on the older man's health. Pastor DeJung, Jr. was installed on July 13, 1896. He took over Eagle River and several other stations until his father's

retirement. After the elder DeJung retired, his son took charge of the entire field which had now grown to twenty-one preaching stations. During this time the blessed Christ congregation as its people grew in numbers and in the Word of God. 9.

This arrangement continued until the mission field was divided in 1905. Eagle River became a part of the new Eagle River Field. Pastor A. Herzfeldt was installed on July 23, 1905 to serve this new area. The field included the towns of Eagle River, State Line (now Land O'Lakes), Three Lakes, Monico, Pelican Lake, Enterprise, Parrish, Wisconsin, and Watersmeet, Michigan. Rev. Herzfeldt was the church's first permanent residing pastor. To provide a place to live, the congregation bought its first parsonage at a cost of \$400. Pastor Herzfeldt served the church until 1909 when he took a call to Black Creek, Wisconsin. 10.

On July 25, 1909, the new pastor, Rev. H. Mueller, was installed. The year 1910 brought two major events to the church. A new parsonage was purchased from Mr. Aug. Radke for \$1,700. Also Pastor Mueller started a Christian Day School in his own home. In order to have the time to run the school, Rev. Mueller was relieved of most of his preaching stations. At this time he began to serve only Eagle River and Three Lakes regularly. He continued as pastor until April 15, 1912. 11.

The vacancy left by Rev. Mueller was filled by Pastor H. Schmitt. Rev. Schmitt was installed on August 20, 1912. The parochial school petered out and was discontinued for now. Instead, Pastor Schmitt began exploring for new preaching stations. As a direct result of his work, Pastor B. Rupp was placed as a missionary to serve Phelps, Conover, State Line, and Watersmeet. 12. During this period there were some hard times. The American involvement in WWI brought persecution upon the "German" Lutherans. People of the community looked down upon the members as unpatriotic, even though two of its boys served in the army. Partially as a result of the times and partially as a concession to reality, the use of English began to creep into the congregation's worship and teaching. The first class to be confirmed in English was the class of 1920. English services were also introduced. In June of 1920 Pastor Schmitt took a call. His departure brings us to the end of the first era. It was a time in which the congregation grew from a small gathering of people to a group which had its own house of worship. It was a time of growth and a time of our wonderful Lord's blessings.

The Krubsack Era

Pastor Joseph Krubsack was installed on May 30, 1920. For several years Rev. Krubsack served Eagle River and Three Lakes. He opened a preaching station in the Tamarack

District and took over the Phelps stations which had been left vacant by Pastor Rupp. However, the efforts in these areas did not work out and were soon discontinued leaving only Eagle River and Three Lakes with the services of a pastor. 13. Pastor Krubsack served faithfully even long without monetary pay once in awhile.

The year 1923 was another milestone. After thirty-five years, the congregation ceased to be a mission parish and went self-supporting. This was announced at the first meeting of the year held on January 7. Also at this meeting it was advised to build a new church. Mr. Emil Zwicker and Mr. Herman Ketz were appointed as a committee to solicit subscriptions for a building fund. On March 11, in a special meeting the congregation decided to buy the lots where the present church is located. The lots were purchased from Mr. Aug. Ziebell. Mr. Weyland, an architect from Milwaukee, was engaged to draw up a plan. While the plan was being drawn up, excavation began. The only problem was that the plan was not accepted. Nor was it approved by the Industrial committee. So the lot remained with the beginnings of a hole, but the plan was not dead. 14.

In Bowler, Wisconsin they were building a new church. Through the president, Louis Zimpelmann, the congregation was introduced to the Schoenrock & Sons Company of New London. On October 5, the congregation gave the contract to Schoenrock at a figure of \$14,500. Mr. Herman Korth of

Eagle River was brought in to lay footings and forms. During the year, the Young People's Society was begun. 15.

The winter of 1924-1925 ended early. It ended so early that the cornerstone of the church was laid on April 26. At the special ceremony, a Bible, a hymnal, a Catechism, a Constitution, a Gemeindeblatt, a copy of the Vilas County News, and a copy of the Eagle River Review were placed in a coffer in the cornerstone. It was a day of great rejoicing. 16.

The Lord continued to guide and keep the members through the years. Evidence of this is the fact that the work went on even though the bank crashed that year. The congregation had \$12,000 tied up in the Farmers and Merchants Bank. \$8,000 of that amount was borrowed money. Yet, through the Lord's providence not a dime was lost. 17.

On April 5, the old church was sold to Mr. Everett of the Everett Resort for \$1,500. He in turn put it into the hands of the Christian Science Society. 18. The old building is still around today east of town on Highway 70.

There was a day of great rejoicing of November 22, 1925. Rev. A Herzfeldt, Rev. F. Dornfeld, and Rev. R. Ziesemer all preached as the congregation dedicated its new church. The church was all brick with a seating capacity of 300. The Ladies Aid contributed \$4,000 toward the building. They also donated all of the carpets and the altar and pulpit hangings. The art glass windows, the statue of

Christ, and the baptismal font were donations of individual members. Those donations amounted to \$800. The whole church completed cost \$22,000. 19. After all was said and done, the congregation was left with a debt of \$8,000.

Further evidence of the change to English comes from the fact that on April 4 of 1926 the congregation authorized the purchase of two dozen English hymnals.

A potentially devastating sight greeted the eyes of members early on the morning of January 29, 1928. On a forty degree below morning the church caught on fire. The culprit was a faultily constructed furnace room. Ironically only three weeks before it had been resolved to line the furnace room with fireproof material. However, the Lord was still keeping a watchful eye on His flock. The church did not completely burn. \$2,000 worth of damage was done. But out of the ashes a beautiful new phoenix of a church grew. The interior was decorated. The sacristy and kitchen were made larger by adding a side entrance. And this time the furnace room was properly lined. All the improvement came at no cost. The members donated their time and labor while insurance money covered the cost of replacement and improvement. 20.

The depression years brought hard times to Eagle River also. Yet, the Lord blessed His congregation here with growth in the Word and in size. The church body revised its constitution in 1932. In 1933 the name was officially

changed from "Evangelische Lutherische Christus Gemeinde" to "The Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church". On January 15, this change was legally certified at the Vilas County Courthouse. 21.

In 1934 the congregation moved one service a month to Sunday evening. This freed up Pastor Krubsack and allowed him to bring services to the C.C.C. boys in Three Lakes.

1935 brought about the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the new church building. A festival was held on October 20 for this purpose. This festival was to be named the Harvest Festival in 1936. The Harvest Festival has continued every fall through the present time. 22.

During the year the Evening Guild was formed. This group was an organization for the younger ladies. It was originally called the Organ Club following the lines of its first major project, a new church organ. This group helped raise \$400 for the organ. The ladies of the guild also won the contest in 1938 to name the city's new park Riverview Park.

On November 12, Pastor Krubsack and his wife were given a surprise anniversary party. The party was cosponsored by the congregation and by the pastors of the Land O'Lakes conference. The celebration was for both the Krubsack's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary and for Pastor Krubsack's twenty-fifth anniversary in the ministry. 23.

On September 15, 1940, a meeting was held to decide on what kind of organ the congregation should buy. The women of the congregation were asked for their opinion. Their husbands, being wise men, followed their wives' advice and chose an Orgatron. The organ cost \$1,500 and was part of the jubilee to celebrate Christ Church's fiftieth anniversary. The anniversary was celebrated and the organ was dedicated on October 27. 24.

In 1941 we have an example of the progressive nature of this church. The congregation on January 31, voted to go ahead and purchase the new hymnal which the Synod had come out with. They sent out an order for 125 hymnals at eighty-one cents a piece.

1942 found the church making more progress. In January the council decided to hold regular monthly meetings. In October the council decided to send Christmas cards to all of the summer visitors. Discussion was brought up to discontinue the German services due to poor attendance and anti-German feelings caused by WWII. The decision was to not discontinue. In December it was announced that the church debt was \$1,500. The church would try to pay off \$500 by January 1, 1943, and the remaining \$1,000 in the calendar year of 1943. 25.

The congregation made good on its plan in 1943. As of June 1 the building fund had \$125. The Ladies Aid donated \$175. The Organ Society donated \$325 for a total of \$725.

The council hoped to pay off the \$1,000 by July 1. They accomplished their goal. Pastor Krubsack wrote, "Our church history can't very well be written without recognizing also our Ladies Aid Society. To their members perhaps chiefly goes the credit of having a new church as early as we did." 26. All of the descendants, both physical and spiritual, of those ladies echo those same sentiments today.

During 1944 the congregation raised Pastor Krubsack's salary to \$1,500 a year. The council recommended that the congregation insulate the church roof, partition off the balcony, and put a door in the first floor entrance to the church tower to save fuel, and to start a study for a new heating plant. 27. This year also gave ample evidence of the church's mission spirit as it was one of just forty-three congregations to pay its share of Synod debt. In a spirit of hope, it was suggested on May 31 that there be a special service for the end of WWII.

In the year of 1945 the War did end. The congregation turned its attention to raising funds for the Synod's Million Dollar Drive. The congregation would attempt to raise \$1,100 for the project. 28. A good will offering was also taken up for the Gorz family after a fire.

In 1946 there was a motion made and carried to start a Memorial Fund. The insurance on the church was raised from \$16,000 to \$26,000. 29. The insurance on the contents was raised from \$500 to \$800. The church continued to grow as

in July twenty-five more hymnals were ordered. A new furnace was installed at the cost of \$2,600.

1947 brought more improvements. At the annual meeting the church authorized the spending of \$4,500 for redecorating. The projects included strom windows, plastic plaster faceting with textural finish, moving the altar back, adding a communion rail, remodeling and moving the pulpit, a new wood ceiling with wood stripping and felt paper, and a new roof. 30. The project was done through C. F. Trautau Company of Wisconsin Rapids. Mr. Ed Polzin and Mrs. Herb Winkle lent the church \$3,000 for the project. In April the congregation adopted two families in Poland. They set up a relief fund and sent food and clothing. The pastor's wages were raised twenty-five dollars a month. In December \$270 worth of carpeting was approved. A special collection was taken for Polish relief.

The church body decided to add a second Sunday service at 8:00 A.M. from the last Sunday in June until the first Sunday in September. This decision was made in 1948. The council decided to keep the lot between the church and the parsonage. German services were discontinued. In November Pastor Krubsack received a call to Goodrich, Wisconsin. After twenty-eight years of faithful service, Pastor chose to accept the call. On December 20 the congregation gave Rev. Krubsack a peaceful release. 31. Pastor Irwin Scharf of Zion, Rhinelander would serve as vacancy pastor until a

new man could be called. Thus ended the second era of the congregation's history. During this time many great strides were made. But through it all one thing stood out, God's Word was preached to the salvation of many souls.

The Schumann Era

Events continued although there was no permanent pastor at the beginning of 1949. A study was to be carried out to look into the cost of repairing the old parsonage or to build new. It was decided later in the year to repair. Fifty more hymnals were ordered. The church insurance was raised to \$45,000. The contents' insurance was raised to \$5,000.

On May 1 the new pastor, Rev. Walter Schumann, was installed. He was called to the congregation from Lemon, South Dakota. Men's Club was started in November.

During the April 16 meeting in 1950 members decided that the church needed more pews. This need could very easily be correlated with the fact that seventeen people were baptized that year. 32. The Men's Club project for the year was to make a parking lot. A report from the district convention showed that a storm was brewing on the horizon over the union with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

1951 began with the authorization to spend up to \$1,000 to make improvements on the kitchen. Pastor Schumann was given twenty-five dollars a month for car expenses. 33. A

public address system was installed in the Mother's Room for \$200.

In 1952 the church paid off the final \$1,000 of its debt. 34. In another aggressive and progressive move at the annual meeting in January, the members voted fifteen to nine to start a Christian Day School Fund. In the fall Rudy Spiess, Harvy Fleming, Willard Johnson, Walter Gorz, and Herb Garbisch were appointed to a committee to obtain information on the cost, plans, requirements, and upkeep of a Christian day school in a comparable congregation.

The committee reported in 1953 that around forty children would be enrolled in a day school. The committee was given the authorization to purchase the lots adjoining the church property if they could be bought for less than \$500 per lot. At that time such a purchase could not be worked out. It was moved that twenty-five percent of the loose offering during the two service Sundays be placed in the school fund. 35. When the school fund would reach \$10,000 the building would start.

During this time, \$1,450 had been raised for a new organ. The new organ was approved. Pastor Schumann's salary was raised \$300 for the year. Pastor Schumann returned a call to Saginaw, Michigan.

1954 brought continued work on the organ and school projects. The congregation borrowed the money for full payment on the organ from the school fund. Also,

twenty-five percent of the loose offering every week was to go into the organ fund. 36. These activities culminated in the purchase and dedication of a new Schaefer pipe organ.

The school fund continued to receive twenty-five percent of the loose offering during the summer services. In the fall a School Fund Drive was started with the goal of building the next spring. The Harvest Festival collection also went into the school fund.

Congregations declared open season on Pastor Schumann in October as he received three calls at the same time. Pastor Schumann turned down opportunities to do the Lord's work in Sparta, Morbridge, South Dakota, and Los Angeles, California to continue in Eagle River.

As the rift between the Missouri and the Wisconsin Synods grew, Pastor Schumann conducted a series of Monday evening classes to explain the tracts which described the differences between the two bodies.

The goal of a school came one step closer to reality in 1955. The congregation voted to secure an architect for the school. 37. On August 21, the motion was passed to go ahead with the school plans. The estimated cost of the new two-room school was \$47,000.

The church increased Pastor Schumann's car allowance to fifty dollars a month. The congregation also began to pay for his Social Security. Rev. Schumann returned a call to be pastor at Silloah congregation in Milwaukee. Also during

the year the insurance value on the church was increased to \$73,268. 38.

1956 brought frustration and exultation with the school project. The frustration started when the plans for the school were sent back to the contractor to look for a way to reduce costs. This process began as the bids came in at \$49,113. The plans came back with ideas which reduced the costs by \$7,000. One thing which made the process more difficult was the fact that Pastor Schumann had accepted a call to Watertown, South Dakota. He preached his farewell sermon on April 8. Thus the third era of Christ Lutheran history came to an end rather abruptly in the middle of the building planning. But throughout this time God continued to bless His flock. It was an era of growth in God's Word and in His love.

The Radtke Era

On March 27, 1956, Rev. Marvin Radtke was called from Ann Arbor, Michigan to serve the congregation. He accepted the call and was installed on May 6. Following on the heels of the installation, the plans for the school began to fall into place. Pastor Radtke encouraged the congregation to change the site for the school. He suggested building across the street from the church instead of adding on to the back. Once again an attempt was made to purchase the adjoining lots. This time the church found success. The

lots were purchased for \$2,100. On July 22, the following motions were passed. The school would be built on its present site. The old plans would be scrapped. The congregation accepted the bids of E. Korth, E. Young, and E. Melhack for \$42,585. The School Building Financing Committee was authorized to procure monies for building and furnishing. The congregation also authorized the Building Committee to bring the program to completion.

With the school under construction, the congregation called its first teacher in 1957. Mr. Gerald Bunkowske accepted the call to be the teacher of grades 1-8. The final cost of the school came to \$48,000. 39. Another milestone was passed as the school was dedicated and Mr. Bunkowske installed on June 16.

Signs of the congregations growth appeared in 1958. The church council was increased from six members to nine. The church also established Elder and Trustee boards. The congregation bought the Numrich property which was next to the church. It was decided that the council would no longer buy beer for the church picnic. 40. Of a more serious nature, the storm between the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods broke out with a rage. The congregation filed a letter to protest the actions taken at the 1957 Synod convention.

The Louis Numrich farm was once again the site of the church picnic in 1959. 41. Mr. Bunkowske returned a call to St. Jacobi School in Milwaukee.

In 1960 Mr. Bunkowske accepted a call to St. John's School in Lake City, Minnesota. The congregation called unsuccessfully nine times. To fill the gap, Mr. Karl Blauert served as an emergency teacher for the 1960-1961 school year. 42. The congregation updated and changed the constitution. Wednesday evening Vesper services began for the summer months.

Finally in March of 1961, Mr. John Falck accepted the call to teach in our school. 43. The church purchased a gas-fired hot water system at a cost of \$1,039. Four years previous to the event, a committee was established to prepare for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the congregation. Pastor Radtke presented information from the Eagle River radio station. The congregation could broadcast live at a rate of twenty-four dollars and hour. The council felt that the church could not afford such an expense at the time. 44.

The budget for 1962 was set at \$20,650.81. Pastor Radtke returned a call and sighted that the congregation had been lax in sending people to train for the ministry. Growth in numbers brought the need to buy 130 new hymnals. Thirty-seven students enrolled in the school this year. To relieve the load, Mrs. Radtke offered to teach the upper grades for three hours a week at a wage of five dollars a week. 45.

Mrs. Radtke was called to teach grades 1-3 three-quarter time in 1963. 46. The congregation had a pre-budget subscription of \$3,000. The 7:00 A.M. summer service was dropped. Double services were held from the third Sunday in June until the third Sunday in September. May 26 was set aside as a day to celebrate the Centennial of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. A Thank Offering of \$373 was presented at this service.

In 1964 Mrs. Radtke was called full time to teach. Pastor Radtke returned a call from St. John's in Caledonia, Minnesota. 47. A new heating system was installed at a cost of \$4,500. The church decided to hold Easter services at 6:00 and 10:30 A.M. with coffee and doughnuts served after the sunrise service. 48. Forty-one students were enrolled for school.

Pastor Radtke returned a call as a missionary in Brown Deer and Grafton in 1965. Mr. Falck became ill and was not able to finish the year. Pastor Radtke taught his classes for the remainder of the year. The congregation joyfully celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. Forty-nine students were enrolled for the 1965-1966 school year.

In 1966 the church began to pay for Pastor Radtke's hospital insurance. Discussions began on whether to start a fund for the church basement or a new parsonage. The congregation voted sixteen to five to refuse to allow the AAL branch to use the church basement for its meetings.

Curb and gutter service came to the church. Pastor Radtke returned a call to a church in Columbus, Wisconsin. Fifty students were enrolled in the school. Miss Arlene Blauert was called as a student teacher. 49. She taught the lower grades. Mrs. Radtke taught the upper grades.

Mr. Myron Fluegge accepted the call as upper grade teacher in 1967. Fifty-six students were enrolled. 50. A total of three pupils were interested in attending Dr. Martin Luther College. Double Sunday services were extended into the first two weeks of October. A building committee was elected and a "parsonage fund" was started.

Pastor Radtke returned calls to St. John's in Two Rivers and St. John's in Lynden, Wisconsin, in 1968. Plans were approved to build a new parsonage at the cost of approximately \$40,000. 51. The school enrollment went up to fifty-seven.

The new parsonage was completed in 1969. The old parsonage was sold for \$1,000. 52. The church was insured for \$85,000. The church furnace was converted from oil to natural gas. A Stewardship Committee was formed. Sixty-two students were expected. It cost fifty-five dollars a month for the new weekly radio broadcasts.

A new decade brought new growth in members and continued growth in God's Word. A budget of \$32,668 was passed for 1970. Mr. Fluegge returned a call from Zion

School in Monroe, Michigan. The teacherage was moved to its present location in Illinois Street.

As the school expanded to sixty-nine students, Mrs. Fluegge was called to teach part-time in 1971. Pastor Radtke returned calls to congregations in Hartland and Wautoma, Wisconsin. 53.

The school celebrated its fifteenth anniversary on June 24, 1972. Fifty-two of the eighty-five graduates were present. The mission commitment for the year was \$5,300. The Men's Club bought an IBM typewriter for the church office. 54. The Men's Club also changed its name to the Father/Son Banquet. There was also some discussion brought to the fathers' attention about the advisability of smoking during the banquet. As can be seen, the congregation even took a leading role in the health movement. Pastor Radtke returned a call to Grace in Portland, Oregon. In the fall, Elaine Otterstatter was hired as a part-time teacher.

In 1973 the teacherage was paid off. A master plan was ordered to be developed for the redecorating of the church. Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hahlbeck were called as teachers. 55.

Mr. Hahlbeck accepted a call in 1974. No teachers accepted calls before the school year began. Miss Terri Spittlemeister and Miss Lenette Stoltenburg were called from Dr. Martin Luther College to emergency teach for the year. 56. The congregation voted to raise \$4,000 as a thank offering for the 125th anniversary of the Synod.

Resolutions were passed to increase the chancel seating, change the entryway, move the chimney stack, and re-roof the church.

The church celebrated its eighty-fifth anniversary in 1975. 57. A motion was defeated to call three full-time teachers. It was decided to call a male principal and a full-time female teacher. Mrs. Radtke would serve as a part-time teacher. A project to build a front entryway and a carport was taken up. The cost of the project would be \$44,086. 58. Miss Karen Scheiber accepted a call to teach. Ms. Leona Eickelmann also taught for the 1975-1976 school year.

1976 brought Mr. George Radloff to Eagle River as the new principal. 59. It was decided to call a third full-time teacher. Pastor Radtke returned a call to St. Paul's in Dale, Wisconsin. The council recommended that the church reject a request by the Northland Lutheran High School Association to solicit members. The congregation adopted a new constitution.

In 1977 forty-three children were enrolled in the school. It was felt that two teachers could handle the situation with a grade breakdown of 1-4 and 5-8. Miss Sharon Wolter accepted the call to teach the lower grades. 60. On June 19 the school celebrated its twentieth anniversary. Also in June, Pastor Radtke accepted a call to serve as Mission Counselor of the South Atlantic District.

61. So closed the fourth era of the church's saga. Great strides were made during these twenty-one years. The school had come from the planning stage to a smooth operating facility. The blessings it has brought are many. And once again the Lord blessed His flock with both physical and spiritual growth.

The Ahlswede Era

On August 9, 1977, a call was extended to Pastor Eugene Ahlswede of Colorado Springs. He was installed in the fall of the same year. 62.

New things came about in 1978. The congregation decided to go to two services a Sunday throughout the entire year. The congregation agreed on a trial basis to begin Saturday evening services from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. Approval was given to start a kindergarten in the fall of 1979. 63. An invitation was also extended to St. John's Church in Phelps to make use of the school. A canvass of Eagle River revealed forty unchurched families. Projects included re-roofing the teacherage and garage and connecting chimes to the organ. A committee was also set up to look into the possibility of a multi-purpose building. During the New Year's Eve service, the advent wreath caught fire. Quick action resulted in minimal damage.

Most of the action in 1979 centered around the proposed multi-purpose building. A study committee presented its report. Permission was granted to get an architect's drawing. The matter was tabled when a \$180,000 price tag was placed on the project. However, planning began for the celebration of the church's ninetieth anniversary in 1980.

The anniversary was celebrated on November 9, 1980. A pictorial directory of the congregation was made for the occasion. On October 29, the congregation rededicated itself by joining in a repetition of the confirmation vows. Miss Wolter returned a call to Good Shepherd School in West Allis. However, Mr. Radloff accepted a call to East Brunswick, New Jersey. Mr. Gregory Miller accepted the call to serve as principal. During the year the teacherage was remodeled and a hot water heating system was installed in the school. 64. The Stewardship Committee divided the congregation into ten zones for visitation by the committee. It was reported that thirty non-member children attended the Sunday School. The mission mind of the congregation was showing itself. The approved budget was \$64,403.68. The mission commitment was \$15,000.

1981 brought more changes. Miss Wolter took a call to Trinity School in Nicolet, Minnesota. In May Rebecca Henke was called from Dr. Martin Luther College to be the lower grade teacher. The mortgage was burned in a ceremony at the church picnic. A new evangelism program, "An Evening with

the Pastor", was begun. Also, a mailer was sent out to area residents informing them about the church and its services. A Girl Pioneers program was started. A study was made on the New International Version of the Bible. A motion to use only the King James Version for church and school purposes was defeated fourteen to five. Once again the congregation was making bold steps into the future.

By a vote of twenty-six to nineteen, a motion was passed to build a multi-purpose building at an estimated cost of \$183,000. A fund drive began on August 15, 1982. Ceiling fans were installed in the church. Quarterly meetings were brought back. Another step forward was the beginning of a Family Vacation Bible School. The purpose was to bring the whole family in for a week of study every night from 6:30-8:00. The turn out was good. In February Miss Henke resigned her call in order to marry. In May Miss Gayle Sharpen was called from Dr. Martin Luther College to teach the lower grades.

On June 5, 1983, the school celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. The Boy Pioneers program was started. The council also passed a resolution giving a three week vacation each year to any full-time worker with fifteen plus years of experience.

Another major step was taken in 1984. Pastor Ahlswede was called to serve St. John's Church in Phelps along with Christ Lutheran. This work was to be accomplished with the

assistance of a vicar. In May Mr. Matthew Crass was called as the first vicar. Service times were changed to 8:00 A.M. and 10:45 A.M. in Eagle River. The Phelps service was scheduled for 9:15 A.M. An Apple computer was purchased for the school at a cost of \$1,506. The Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service was permitted to use a church room for counseling purposes.

Planning began on the new multi-purpose building in 1985. Pastor Ahlswede returned a call to Resurrection Church in Milwaukee. Miss Sharpen returned a call to Trinity School in Marshfield. Mr. Todd Goldschmidt was called as the new vicar. Thirty-eight students were enrolled in the school. The congregation decided to lend \$5,000 interest free to Northland Lutheran High School which was payable May 1, 1986.

In 1986 construction began on the multi-purpose building. The ground breaking was June 1. The congregation would try to raise \$40,500 for the Synod's Reaching Out offering. A fund was set up for the purchase of a Rear Screen Video Projector (RSVP). The RSVP is a tool to help with evangelism work. Pastor Ahlswede returned a call to do exploratory mission work in Spokane, Washington. Miss Sharpen announced that she would marry after the 1986-1987 school year. Mr. Peter Leyer was called as the church's next vicar. The multi-purpose building was usable for the Harvest Festival.

More new projects happened in 1987. The multi-purpose building was dedicated on the weekend of May 16 and 17. The church decided to call a half-time teacher for Kindergarten. The call was accepted by Lenette Spiess, nee Stoltenburg. In May, Elizabeth Bauer was called from Dr. Martin Luther College to teach the lower grades. Mr. Ethan Steinbrenner was called as the vicar. During this year, individual cups were used for communion on a trial basis. Wednesday afternoon Advent services were begun in the multi-purpose building. A women's Bible class was authorized under Pastor Ahlswede's supervision. The Stewardship Committee was divided into Stewardship and Evangelism Committees. In an evangelism effort, the focus of the Harvest Festival was changed to one of a friendship service to bring in unchurched friends to hear the Gospel.

Again in 1988 new activities were being tried. Mr. Larry Favorite was named the boy's basketball coach. A ladies' retreat was organized at Seven Mile Pinecrest Resort in rural Eagle River. Witness teams were being trained to do evangelism work. A Friday evening Couples' Study Club was started. Pastor Paul Kelm guest taught at the family Vacation Bible School. As far as additions go, the individual cup was adopted for all communion services. A stage was built for the multi-purpose building. \$1,250 worth of pew cushions were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Herb Garblisch. \$260 was approved for carpeting in the parsonage

family room. A committee was formed to prepare for the 100 year anniversary in 1990. Miss Bauer resigned her call on June 30. She was planning to marry. In May Miss Rebecca John was called from Dr. Martin Luther College to teach the lower grades. Mr. Jon Hadler was called to be the new vicar.

1989 saw many advances in the area of evangelism. The Rear Screen Video Projector was purchased. A Festival of Friendship was held with forty to fifty guests attending. A public relations committee was formed to let the area know just what the church was doing. The congregation decided to join in the Gospel Outreach '90. GO '90 is a mass media campaign intended to let the area know just who the church is and what it teaches. Care Circles were formed so that the people could get to know each other a little better and to be there for each other with spiritual support. On a trial basis the congregation decided to extend the Saturday evening services from Memorial Day Weekend until the end of Daylight Savings Time. A Christ Lutheran Student Fund was established to financially assist those who are training for the preaching and teaching ministry. In May Mr. Brian Ewings was called to be the new vicar. School enrollment for 1990-1991 is expected to be near fifty. In October it was approved to call a part-time teacher.

With that we come to the present. The 1990 budget is \$123,369. That is a larger sum than the first members maybe

ever dreamed of. The congregation committed itself to a goal of \$32,000 for missions. The church has grown to a congregation of about 450 members. Continuing in a progressive spirit, it was decided in April to field test two new liturgies which may be part of the new hymnal in a couple of years. Mr. Ross Else has been called to be the new vicar for the coming year. Mrs. Elaine Otterstatter and Mrs. Lisa Dunsmoor were called to fill the part-time teacher position.

What lies ahead for the church? Only God knows. Maybe He will grant it many new souls to shepherd through the GO '90 effort. Maybe a third full time teacher will be needed with the fifteen Kindergarten students beginning this fall. Maybe Judgment Day will come. We just do not know. But come what may, God has indeed blessed Christ Lutheran through these past 100 years. The church had His Word to guide it through hard times and easy times. We pray that God would keep the members and staff faithful to that Word. If we fall away from God's Word, all this celebration and retelling is worthless. But if God keeps us faithful, the next century of existence will be as good as, if not better than, the first 100 years. God grant this to all!

Endnotes

1. A Brlief Hlstory of Christ Ev. Lutheran Church.
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2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Gemeindeblatt.
5. Brief History. pg. 2.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid, pg. 3.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid, pgs. 3-4.
16. Ibid, pg. 4.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid, pg. 5.
24. Ibid.

25. Ibid.
26. Northwestern Lutheran.
27. Brief History. pg. 5.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.
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32. Ibid, pg, 6.
33. Ibid.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
37. Ibid.
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39. Ibid.
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45. Ibid.
46. Ibid.
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58. Ibid.
59. Ibid.
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63. Ibid.
64. Ibid, pg. 9.

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A Brief History of Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, 1980.

Gemeindeblatt.

Minutes of Church Council Meetings of Christ Ev. Lutheran
Church, October 17, 1926 through April 16, 1990.

Northwestern Lutheran.

Appendix A

Congregational Bylaws for the German Evangelical Lutheran Christ Congregation at Eagle River, Oneida County, Wisconsin.

(Organized on November 11, 1890.)

In accordance with God's Word (I Corinthians 14: 40) - "Let all things be done decently and in order." - in every Christian congregation everything should be done honestly and orderly. Therefore, we are setting down in this document the bylaws, signed by each of us, under which we as a congregational unit agree to the administration of the inner and outer affairs of our congregation.

PARAGRAPH 1

Our congregational should bear the title: "German Evangelical Lutheran Christ Congregation at Eagle River, Oneida County, Wisconsin".

PARAGRAPH 2

All educational and religious disputes, as they come up, should be judged and regulated in our congregation by all canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, recognized as the true Word of God; and the entire symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as they show the same form and norm as taken from the Word of God, because they were taken from the Word of God. These are the main symbols: The unchanged Augsburg Confession and the Apologie, The Schmalkald Articles, Dr. Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord.

PARAGRAPH 3

The church and school language is and shall remain for all future time exclusively German.

PARAGRAPH 4

Noone can be a member, still less an officer of this congregation, or have the rights of a member except one who:

- a. is baptized
- b. recognizes all canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the only standard and rule of conduct of religious faith and life; and
- c. at present does not have a complete knowledge of the previously mentioned symbolic books but, at least, is familiar with the Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism and professes them;

- d. does not scorn the Means of Grace^r or openly live in sin (Galations 5: 19-20) but leads a Christian life;
- e. pledges himself to bear the burdens of the congregation to the best of his ability and to diligently attend congregational meetings;
- f. submits himself to the rules, which are mutally^l set forth, and still will be set forth, insofar as they are not contrary to the Word of God, and will accept admonition in brotherly love.

PARAGRAPH 5

Members of the congregation eligible to vote are men who have reached their twenty-first birthday and have signed their names to the church membership list. Only those who have reached their twenty-fifth birthday and have been members of the congregation for one year are eligible to serve as an officer.

PARAGRAPH 6

A member, after refusing to hear God's Word in admonition, is to be dropped from the congregation as soon as possible. He will lose all the rights of a member and will be deprived of all possessions of the congregation unless he is reinstated. The same is true of those church members who, of their own free will, remove themselves from the church assemblage or bring about their release by their departure from the area.

PARAGRAPH 7

The congregation has the absolute right to choose and to call a pastor, teacher, or special officer and may not renounce this right.

PARAGRAPH 8

The congregation will choose a board of trustees consisting of three members of whom one will retire every year and be replaced by election. These officers form a board of directors. The election of the president will be by ballot. The meetings of the trustees may take place at any time, according to the best judgement of the members. The duties of the president are as follows:

- 1) to handle his office in a Christian manner;
- 2) to support the pastor in the performance of his ministry;
- 3) to see that services are carried out in good order;
- 4) to take upon himself the care of the poor, the sick, the widows, and the orphans;
- 5) to conscientiously manage the property of the congregation according to its collective will.

Should a president; in spite of an admonition, wantonly neglect his duties, the congregation has the right and duty to remove him and to elect another person in his place. The council should submit in its yearly congregational meeting a financial and business report of the current year, which should begin with the first of November and close with thirty-first of October.

PARAGRAPH 9

If well-grounded causes are shown, any officer of the congregation can be released in the same manner as stated in paragraph 8. Well-grounded causes for the release of the pastor or teacher are: persistent holding fast to false teachings, wanton unfaithfulness in administration of duties, or shameful lifestyle.

PARAGRAPH 10

On the first Sunday of every month the congregation will hold an orderly congregational meeting which will be announced in the previous service. On the first Sunday in December the congregation will gather for the annual meeting in which necessary officer elections will take place and the annual report of the council can be received and examined. Extra meetings are justified and can be called by the church council if they are announced in two previous services with a statement of their purpose. The chairman of the church council presides over the church meeting; in the event that the chairman is absent, the congregation will elect a chairman for that meeting. The secretary of the council must keep the minutes of the congregational meeting; in the event that the secretary is absent, the congregation will elect a secretary for that particular meeting. At a congregational meeting the quorum makes the final decision. The members who take part in these meetings have the power to pass resolutions. Voting cannot take place by absentee ballot. If the vote is tied, the chairman will decide the issue.

PARAGRAPH 11

Should there be a division in the congregation, all the property and the benefits remain with those members who hold fast to the congregational bylaws.

PARAGRAPH 12

Those who wish to be admitted as members must go to the pastor and explain their beliefs. The pastor must notify the congregation of the request for admission, and if no reason exists to refuse their admission, the applicants, if they are male persons of age, can be signed into the congregational list before a congregational meeting and will be entered by the chairman into the congregational membership list.

PARAGRAPH 13

From these paragraphs the following should not be changed:
the third, fourth, sixth, seventh, ninth, eleventh, and thirteenth.

TRANSLATED BY:

BETTE-JO HENDRICKSON

JOSEPHINE PIECHOTTA

CLARICE SEIFERT

Appendix B



Pastor W. Kristmann



Pastor C. Rutzen



Pastor J. DeJung, Sr.



Pastor J. DeJung, Jr.



Pastor A. Herzfeldt



H. Schmidt



Pastor J. Krubsack



Pastor Walter Schumann



Pastor Marvin Radtke



Pastor Eugene Ahlswede