

GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

THE FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS

by
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Church History
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INTRODUCTION

Every congregation has its own story about how it began. Some are rather long and complicated, others are short and sweet. This paper deals with part of the history of one congregation, Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Although 1982 will mark the twenty-ninth year since the organization of Good Shepherd, this paper will cover only the first fifteen years of that history. In fact, the history begins a couple of years before the organization date.

GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

THE FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS

In 1950 Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was a city of approximately 72,300 people. It is located in the east central part of the state, built up on the Cedar River. For many years it boasted of the world's largest cereal mill, the Quaker Oates Company, until Kellogg's took over that distinction. During the next several years, Cedar Rapids was to become Iowa's industrial leader.

It was to this city that Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. Fischer, with their daughter, Nancy, and Mrs. Fischer's sister, Miss Vera Kuether, moved in June, 1950. Mr. Fischer was employed as a sales representative for the Monarch Range Company of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. It was a change in territory that prompted the move. Cedar Rapids was more in the center of his new territory than was Des Moines, Iowa, the city they moved from. So a house at 125 17th Street, S.W., became home to them.

Even before moving in they began to look for a new church home. They were members at Lincoln Heights Ev. Lutheran Church in Des Moines and retained their membership there during this transition period (except for Miss Vera Kuether, who joined Bethany Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids since her husband-to-be, Mr. Howard Williams, was instructed and confirmed there.). At this time there was no Wisconsin Synod church in Cedar Rapids. So they visited at two Synodical Conference congregations there, both of which were affiliated with the Missouri Synod. The first church they attended was Trinity Lutheran Church. It

was located practically in their backyard--across a park and half a block down. The first and only service they attended there happened to fall on Memorial Day week-end. And as they remember, the sermon dealt primarily with the city's Memorial Day parade. Deciding they could just as well read that in the paper, the next Sunday they drove across town to Bethany Lutheran Church. And they then worshipped there regularly for the next couple of years. Still, once a month they drove to Des Moines to commune there. This monthly trek continued until Mrs. Fischer became uncomfortable traveling due to the fact that she was pregnant with their second child. Then they communed as guests at Bethany.

During this time they chose not to join Bethany because they were aware of the developing problems between the Missouri Synod and the Wisconsin Synod. They were kept informed on this by Mrs. Fischer's father, the Reverend Herman A. Kuether.

Since they were good friends with the Reverend Hugo Fritze, then the president of the Nebraska District and pastor in Des Moines, they were often visited by him as he drove through Cedar Rapids on his way to and from meetings in Milwaukee. Although they had spoken with him on different occasions about mission work in Cedar Rapids, it was during one such visit in 1951 that the comment was made about opening a Wisconsin Synod mission in Cedar Rapids. As a result Pastor Fritze got things started. This then was the seed that was to grow into Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Nebraska District Mission Board (hereafter to be referred

to by its initials, NDMB) began its work in relation to Cedar Rapids. Various pastors came and canvassed different areas of Cedar Rapids to determine what kind of mission field the city offered and what area might be best for locating. When word reached to the pastor of Bethany, the Reverend E.W. Wuggazer, he wrote a rather nasty letter to President Brenner protesting the establishment of another Synodical Conference church in Cedar Rapids.¹ Due to this letter and the feelings Pastor Wuggazer expressed concerning Mr. and Mrs. Fischer, they discontinued communing at Bethany. Although the protest was undoubtedly noted, nevertheless the NDMB reported in the 1952 Nebraska District Proceedings:

Your Board has decided to open a mission in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. No services have been held, but so far arrangements have been completed to hold services in a home. More definite decisions will be made by your Board during these sessions.²

The NDMB decided to begin by calling an experienced missionary. When this proved to be unsuccessful, they went to the Seminary for a candidate in 1953. On Call Day, 1953, Frederick T. Mueller was assigned to the mission.

Pastor Mueller was installed in August, 1953³, and began his work of canvassing and making calls and everything else necessary for so young a mission. Finally in October, 1953, the first service was held. Arrangements had been made to use a chapel in the basement of the local YMCA. Due to Pastor

1. For a copy of the content of the letter, see Appendix B.

2. Nebraska District Proceedings, 1952, p. 98.

3. See Appendix C.

Mueller's work, Good Shepherd was formally organized on December 13, 1953. There were four families that made up the nucleus: Mr. and Mrs. Fischer, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Kramer, and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson.

Indeed, the work in a new mission such as this is difficult. And it took its toll on Pastor Mueller. He was not married at this time, and he seemingly became disenchanted with the work. As a result he decided to leave the ministry for a while. Thankfully he did return to the pastoral ministry sometime later. His resignation went into effect on March 29, 1954. During the time of the vacancy, the Reverend C.P. Brenner served the congregation from Washington, Iowa. Again the congregation tried to call an experienced missionary, and this time the Holy Spirit moved the Reverend W.F. Sprengler to accept the call.

Pastor Sprengler was installed on September 9, 1954, and began his work in Cedar Rapids. Among his other duties, it fell on him to find a new place in which to worship. It seems that the YMCA would allow a group to use its facilities for a time, then other arrangements had to be made. And perhaps for other reasons the facilities proved inadequate. The result was that Pastor Sprengler came across a vacant store building which the congregation rented as their place to worship. Although the YMCA was pretty much downtown, the store was on the N.W. side on 10th Street. At this time the city was growing fastest on the N.W. side, so this seemed to be the side in which to work on locating. This building served the congregation from June 26, 1955 until June 23, 1957.

Although this building was a place to worship, it left much to be desired. It was somewhat of a dumpy looking place. Something more permanent and more conducive to worship was badly needed. And the store owner was seriously entertaining thoughts of converting the building into apartments. The 1956 Nebraska District Proceedings reflected this as they stated:

Our mission at Cedar Rapids is badly in need of a chapel. At present they are worshipping in a converted store building. However, the owner plans to convert it into an apartment building very soon. No other building can be rented for services. Thus far we have been unable to solve this problem ⁴ because of the very high cost of construction.

Another factor that entered the picture was that the rented house the Sprenglers lived in was very cramped. So the decision was made to build a parsonage-chapel. Property was purchased at 1703 E. Avenue, N.W., at that time a newly developing section of town. The parsonage-chapel was dedicated on June 23, 1957.⁵ At least the congregation now had its first permanent home, and it felt good to the members. The chapel was actually a modified garage. It measured 18 feet by 28 feet, and seated about 60 people. This structure was built with a loan from the Parsonage Fund of the Nebraska District for about \$16,700.⁶

For the next couple of years things went along fine. The congregation had its own home, a pastor was diligently working in its midst, and it was growing.⁷ Growth was slow, yet the chapel was starting to get small. As of yet nothing was being

4. Nebraska District Proceedings, 1956, p. 16.

5. See article, Appendix D.

6. Nebraska District Proceedings, 1958, p. 13.

7. See chart of growth, Appendix A.

done about relocating. That is, until one of Good Shepherd's members, Mr. Chuck Norton, came across an old Czech church. The church had been abandoned by a Czech congregation when it merged with another Reformed body. This church was then purchased in 1959 with a \$10,000 CEF (Church Extension Fund) loan. After much renovation by the congregation, with help from other congregations, the building was dedicated to the Lord on June 7, 1959. The new home of Good Shepherd was located at 1510 - 2nd Street, S.W.⁸

In retrospect, this move may have been a bad one for various reasons. First of all, because of the location. This section of the city was old. The neighborhood around the church was composed mainly of older people. If a younger couple moved in, it was usually a temporary stop to something better. So the chance for mission work in the area was not very good. Secondly, the church building was really no bargain. The only plumbing in the building was for one toilet. The kitchen sink was drained by hauling buckets of water out back. And both the exterior and interior of the building were quickly deteriorating. The following are excerpts from a survey taken of the building in connection with relocating plans less than six years later:

The church is located in the southwest part of the city. This is the oldest section of town, Bohemian (Catholic) settlement

Older class of people live here. Younger families remain only for awhile, until they can afford better residences.

8. See article, Appendix E.

The area is heavily penetrated with industrial plants. It is quite smelly.

The church building is of brick, constructed in the year 1910. The brick is in bad need of new pointing. The building is leaky. The plaster has separated from the walls throughout the building and repair plaster is falling off the front wall. The window frames are rotting.

Wiring is tremendously dangerous.

The basement is dingy.⁹

The author can remember various times bats had to be gotten out of the basement, as well as the old style pumper organ that was dying. Perhaps it would have been better to do things differently. Perhaps not. It makes no difference now.

In November, 1962, Pastor Sprengler accepted another call to Bowdel, S.D., and left Cedar Rapids. During the ensuing vacancy the Reverend Robert Michel from Newton, Iowa, served the congregation until July, 1963. During this time many of the weaker members left the congregation and only twelve families remained. Once again it was decided to go to the assignment committee of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, and on Call Day, 1963, Donald Seifert received the call to Good Shepherd. On July 7, 1963, he was ordained and installed by the Reverend Paul Eickmann.¹⁰

Not too long after Pastor Seifert's arrival, thoughts turned seriously toward relocation. With these thoughts in mind, Good Shepherd requested a transfer to the Minnesota District from the Nebraska District. As this was in keeping with the re-alignment of the mission areas as proposed by the 1963 Synod Convention, the transfer was effected on September 1, 1964.

9. Good Shepherd, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Relocation Syllabus.

10. See article, Appendix F.

The Minnesota District Mission Board (MDMB) then took up the question of relocation. In January, 1965, a survey team from the MDMB, composed of the Reverend David Kock and Mr. Elmer Bode, came to Cedar Rapids to look over the situation. As was stated earlier, they found the church to be in bad shape and located in a poor section of the city. This summary was given in the report:

The present location of Good Shepherd is felt to be inadequate for any kind of mission growth for the following reasons:

- 1.) Poor unattractive building, poor facilities.
- 2.) Neighborhood established in early 1900's. Presently made up mainly of elderly people. Very few children for Sunday School from area. Less than 7% of city growth settles in S.W. part of Cedar Rapids. Less than 2% in one mile radius of the church.
- 3.) Itinerant population in area of church.
- 4.) No new housing projects in area of church.
- 5.) Present members of congregation mainly from other areas of the city.

Poor locations (four), poor facilities, and lack of any concrete signs of permanency have all contributed to a stagnant situation in the congregation for 12 years.¹¹

The city was doing just the opposite of the church; it was growing rapidly. An estimated population figure for 1965 was 105,200. That is a growth of almost 33,000 people in fifteen years. In the Golden Jubilee History of the Minnesota District it states, "The city was experiencing fine growth and appeared to offer a great potential for a mission, providing that the congregation could secure a permanent location and erect a chapel in a suburban area."¹² Something needed to be done, and quickly. And something was going to be done.

11. Relocation Syllabus.

12. Golden Jubilee History of the Minnesota District, p. 91.

A special voters' meeting was call for Sunday, February 28, 1965. In it Pastor Seifert reported on his meeting with the MDMB on Monday, February 22. The MDMB recommended re-location and alloted \$20,000 for the purchase of property and \$50,000 for a chapel. This proposal was subject to approval by the General Board for Home Missions (GBHM).¹³

In the meantime, arrangements had been made to rent the auditorium of Pierce Elementary School, located at 2332 - 42nd Street, N.E., not far from the proposed site of the new chapel. (A survey indicated this to be one of the fastest growing sections of the city and a favorable location.) At the voters' meeting mentioned above, the motion was made and carried to hold the first service at the school on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1965. This proved to be none too soon. The last service at the old church was to have been on Good Friday. But on Maundy Thursday there was a funeral in the old church during which an electrical fire broke out due to overloaded wiring. That funeral was the death of the building--at least as far as Godd Shepherd's use was concerned.

On May 20, 1965, the GBHM met and honored the request of the MDMB. Good Shepherd could now go ahead with her building project. So on June 5, 1965, an offer and acceptance agreement was signed for a four acre tract located at 2900 - 42nd Street, N.E.¹⁴

In October, 1965, the congregation was authorized by Synod

13. Minutes from Special Voters' Meeting, Feb. 28, 1965, as printed in the bulletin of Sunday, March 7, 1965.

14. See article, Appendix G.

to select an architect. This process was completed on April 11, 1966, when they signed a contract with Church Builders, Inc., of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A Groundbreaking Service was then held on Sunday, April 17, 1966, just one day short of the first anniversary of the first service in Pierce School.

Perhaps a word should be inserted here concerning the worshipping at Pierce School. For every service this involved taking an altar, lecture, and organ out of the storage area they allowed the congregation to use and placing them where needed. Then chairs had to be set up for the congregation. Sunday School was conducted first, then the worship service. After the service, things were put away once again. The rental for the use of the auditorium was originally set at \$35.00 a Sunday. But because the janitor on duty reported that it took him longer for set up and clean up of the auditorium, the rental fee was raised to \$40.00 a Sunday. Along with this was the firm understanding that the use of the auditorium for religious service was intended only as a temporary rental service. And "temporary" had been interpreted by the Cedar Rapids Board of Education to mean that a church so renting the property must have broken ground for their building within one year after the initial service (one year was a maximum) and that the church must be out of the school within two years after the initial service (two years was a maximum).¹⁵ Good Shepherd had just made the first condition of that understanding. and made the second deadline with only about a month to spare.

15. Relocation Syllabus.

Although groundbreaking had taken place--and that happened literally in the middle of a field--still, construction waited. Road paving and sewer needed to be extended to and across the property. And that was not the only delay.

In late May, Good Shepherd was informed that Church Builders had gone into receivership. As a result, on June 17 and 18, the Reverend Harold Eckert (Executive Secretary of Synod's Board of Trustees) and the Reverend Ray Wiechmann (Executive Secretary of Synod's General Board of Home Missions) met with representatives of the congregation to decide what to do. At those meetings it was decided that the congregation would serve as the general contractor.

Finally, on July 18, 1966, excavation began. It took the next eight months to complete the construction sufficiently for dedication. And this was a time of rich blessing from the Lord. July saw the basement walls and floor poured. In mid August the span-deck was placed and the 40 foot arches lifted into place by crane. The roof decking arrived, so the congregation spent the latter part of August and the first part of September staining and varnishing it--one of the many jobs completed by the congregation. (Because the congregation was its own general contractor, it was able to do many of the jobs that usually have to be sub-contracted, thereby saving a large amount in the construction cost.) Also in the latter part of August the brick layers began their work, but they hit a snag. They quickly discovered that there were two sizes of brick mixed together--the one ordered, the other unusable. So in order to prevent further delay, the members of Good Shepherd

gathered one day to sort the brick. The unusable brick were shipped back then, and the layers had some brick to work with until the balance of the correct sized brick arrived.

September 11, 1966, marked the next big date, as the congregation celebrated with praises and thanksgiving to the Lord at the laying of the cornerstone. The construction of the shell continued throughout September and well into October. Then, in the latter part of October, the work concentrated on the interior, as the shell was completed.

Somewhere around this time the congregation turned its thoughts to chancel furnishings and pews. So representatives of the congregation visited a plant in Wisconsin where such furnishings were made, and they were somewhat taken aback by the prices they saw. After returning to Cedar Rapids, they spoke off-handedly about it to the carpenters, who, after seeing some pictures of chancel furniture, volunteered to make the necessary furniture. Mr. Tony Anthony, a cabinet maker in the employ of the Ed Chester Construction Company, was the one responsible for custom making the chancel furniture. Mr. Chester and Company also did all of the other carpentry work and proved very valuable in advising the congregation in the absence of a general contractor and architect. Mr. Chester, Mr. Anthony, and Company truly gave much of themselves in this project, over and above the monetary value they received. Although they were not members of Good Shepherd, they seemed like part of the family.

Not only did the carpenters give of themselves though, the whole congregation did. That was one of the most impressive

features of this project--the total dedication of the congregation. Although there were only about 12 families in the congregation at this time, those people donated some 8500 hours of labor. Some of the many projects they did included the digging (in clay), forming and pouring of the underground heat duct (basement); digging around the outside basement walls and tarring them; tiling around the building; all exterior and interior painting, staining and varnishing--including the arches; installation of heating pans on the main floor; glazing all windows and installation of the front stained glass window; trimming out of the windows; installation of floor tile and basement ceiling tile; assembly and installation of the pews; and much more. It was a busy congregation. And a congregation richly blessed by the Lord in this project.

Finally the work was completed, with the exception of landscaping. And on Sunday, March 12, 1967, the church building was dedicated to the glory of the Lord.¹⁶ On this festive occasion Pastor Sprengler returned to deliver a message from God's Word in the morning service, and Pastor Harold Eckert did likewise in the afternoon service. And the ladies of the congregation served an excellent meal at noon. Indeed, the congregation was happy and proud of the work they had done, and ever so thankful that the Lord enabled them to undertake and complete this project. The final statement of each service in the dedication booklet says it all though, "TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY!"

The members had a little time to rest now. When warmer weather rolled in, however, the landscaping was taken care of. Here again the members went to work laying the sod that was

¹⁶ See article Appendix H

trucked in.

In connection with the church planning, thoughts were given to building a parsonage next to the church. This was now given more serious consideration. There was no real problem with the parsonage on E Avenue. It was, however, located some distance from the church now, and the desire was to have the pastor living next to the church. This would seem to be especially true since the church was in a rather open area. Yet there was some opposition to the undertaking of this project so soon after the completion of the church. Probably the main reason behind the opposition was simply that the people were tired. They had given of themselves so much during the building of the church that they wanted to rest. Nevertheless, the project was begun yet in fall, 1967. Due to the nature of the building, the members were not as active as during the church building project. Still they did what they could, and on May 26, 1968, the parsonage was dedicated. Again the congregation did the landscaping. Only this time, they bought a field of sod and had to cut, roll and truck the sod before they could lay it. Now the congregation had their own permanent home, and they could concentrate on the spreading of the gospel since their time of building projects was over.

Although this paper is ending here, the Lord has continued to bless Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Cedar Rapids. The congregation has grown, become self-supporting, and even built an addition to the basement and opened a school there. Throughout Good Shepherd's history the Lord's gracious hand is evident. And undoubtedly that will be true until the end of its existence.

Finally, the opening words of the church dedication booklet are worth pondering here.

We dedicate this house of worship to the glory of the Triune God, for the proclamation of the Word of God and the administration of the Sacraments.

For the salvation of immortal souls is this beautiful new church of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran congregation dedicated, to be a house of worship where all those who enter shall see no one save Jesus only.

We bless the Lord who in these days has answered our every need and protected those who planned and raised these walls.

We pray that our faith may be strengthened and the grace here manifested may make us strong and zealous for the cause of Christ.¹⁷

May the Lord keep Good Shepherd true to these purposes for its existence and answer their prayers of strengthened faith and zeal for the cause of Christ.

17. Dedication Booklet of Good Shepherd, March 12, 1967.

Appendix A

CHART OF GROWTH

Year	Members			Baptisms		Confirmations		
	B	C	V	C	A	C	A	
1953*	20	7	4				1	
1954	25	13	4	1	-	-	2*	
1955*	27	13	6				-	
1956	30	16	6	3	-	3	-	
1957	32	16	6	-	-	-	-	
1958	40	19	6	1	-	-	-	
1959	50	22	7	3	-	-	2	
1960	59	23	6	2	1	1	1	
1961	69	33	11	6	2	2	7	
1962	36	15	8	1	-	-	2	
1963	36	14	7	-	-	1	-	
1964	46	25	9	5	2	-	7	
1965	53	27	9	3	-	3	3	
1966	62	32	11	4	-	3	5	
1967	75	42	15	3	-	1	3	
1968	105	51	20	6	-	1	4	
1969	98	50	19	8	1	1	5	
1970	108	70	29	7	2	2	7	Received by
1971	170	115	45	17	7	2	26	Affirmation
1972	180	115	43	12	3	1	5	of Faith
1973	213	136	51	12	4	3	19	
1974	271	167		14	4	3	15	22
1975	287	180		10	3	5	8	16
1976	297	200		6	1	12	7	23
1977	309	215		7	4	7	5	4
1978	286	201		14	1	4	8	5
1979	275	192		9	1	2	2	2
1980	276	195		9	-	4	3	8
1981	303	194		10	3	3	4	18

*These figures are taken from the Relocation Syllabus, the others from the Statistical Report, 1953-1981.

Appendix B

A Copy of Pastor Wussazer's Letter to President Brenner.

Dear Brother:

Jan. 30, 1952

Some time ago my attention was called to the fact that the establishing of a Wisconsin Synod Mission was being considered for Cedar Rapids. I want to voice my protest against such an undertaking.

The Synodical Conference is at present represented by three congregations in the greater Cedar Rapids area. There is also a preaching station with Sunday School in the North Cedar Rapids vicinity, which will soon be organized as a mission station. This, it seems to me, affords ample opportunity for affiliation to any and all Synodical Conference Lutherans who move into our community.

It has been pointed out to me that there are but two or three Wisconsin Synod families living in Cedar Rapids at the present time. That is pretty slim as a nucleus for establishing a congregation! One of these families, the H. Fischer family, though living on the West side of town, has been attending our services here at Bethany very regularly and faithfully for the better part of two years. They have been received as guests at our Lord's Table on a number of occasions. In short, they have made full use of our facilities but never once offered to support these facilities which they do not hesitate to use! Now they begin to show their true colors by underhandedly undertaking to instigate the founding of another Synodical Conference Lutheran congregation in our midst. I say "Underhandedly" because they themselves have avoided telling me about the proposition, while continuing to attend our services and Holy Communion, all the time appearing to be most cordial and friendly.

I am this week completing the instruction of Fischer's brother-in-law, and expect to confirm him this coming Sunday, Feb. 3. His wife, a sister of Mrs. Fischer, has transferred her membership to us. But I understand that she, too, will affiliate with the Wisconsin Synod mission if and when that is established. She, too, has said nothing to me about her plans. Where is anything ethical and truly Christian in such goings on?

It is lamentable that the Synods of the Synodical Conference cannot, seemingly, come to some better agreement of practice along these lines. I am not excusing Missouri! I believe that Missouri, too, has begun mission stations in localities where Wisconsin had one or more established congregations, and where there was really no necessity for opening a "counter-congregation". Such things pain me deeply. If we want to parade as brethren on the surface, why in the name of all that is holy, can't we do so in practice?

I feel that the Wisconsin Synod would gain nothing, but would lose much, financially and otherwise, if they were to go through with the proposition of trying to establish a congregation here.

May I ask you to have your people reconsider the matter, and at least have enough foresight and consideration to consult with the local Synodical Conference brethren before proceeding with plans?

E. W. Wuggazer.

Appendix C

New Lutheran Pastor in C.R.



FREDERICK MUELLER

The Rev. Frederick T. Mueller, newly-arrived to start a Wisconsin Synod Lutheran mission in Cedar Rapids, will conduct his first service Sunday in the chapel of the YMCA.

Sunday's service, and those on succeeding Sundays, is scheduled at 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday school for the time being.

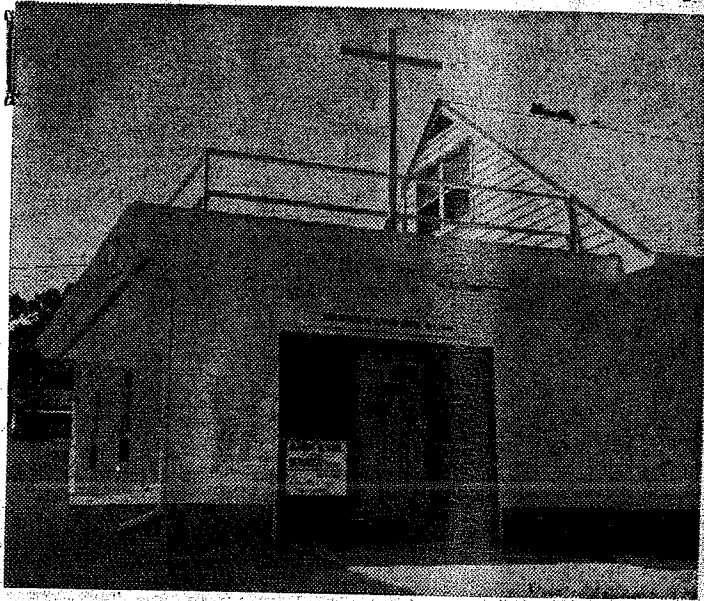
There is a nucleus of Cedar Rapids families who have belonged to Wisconsin Synod churches elsewhere, and it is hoped that the congregation will eventually locate on either the southwest or northwest side.

The new pastor, who is living at 702 Third avenue SW, is a native of Milwaukee and the son of a Lutheran minister. He was graduated in May from the Lutheran Theological seminary at Thiensville, Wis., and was ordained in August at Emmaus Lutheran church in Milwaukee. The Cedar Rapids mission will be his first pastorate.

The Wisconsin Synod has no churches in the Cedar Rapids area. It has more than 200,000 members in more than 800 congregations, the largest share of which are in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. Others are, however, scattered throughout the United States.

A member of the Lutheran Synodical Conference, it was founded in 1849 in Milwaukee by a group of pastors who had come from Germany to found congregations in the United States.

Good Shepherd Lutherans Dedicate Parsonage Sunday



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHAPEL

Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran church in Cedar Rapids will dedicate their new parsonage-chapel at 1703 E avenue NW Sunday afternoon.

The dedicatory service has been scheduled for 3 p.m. in the chapel. Speaker will be the Rev. Victor Schultz of Newton, pastor of a Lutheran church there. Other pastors in this area will be guests.

Following the service a lunch will be served for the visitors and the congregation.

Good Shepherd church is a

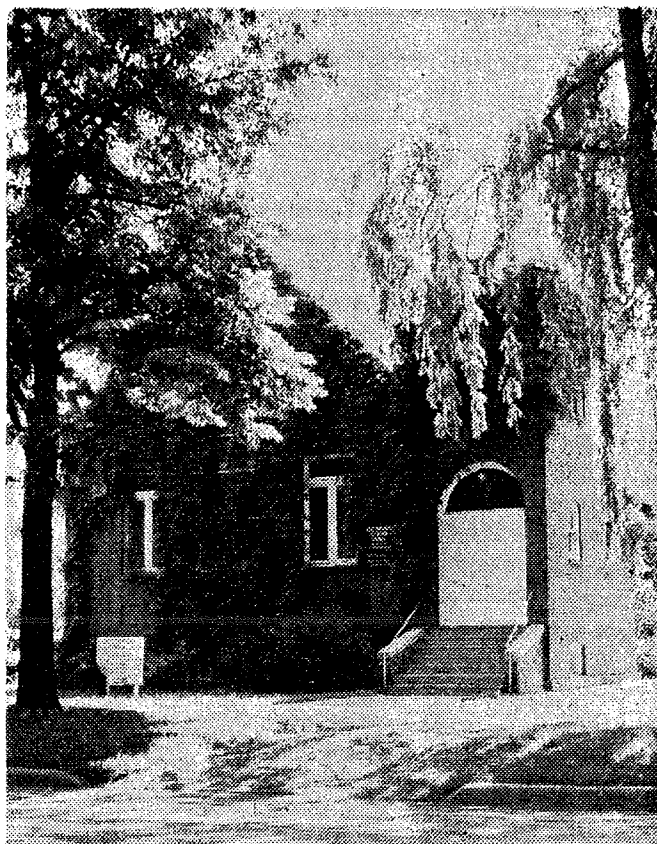
mission congregation affiliated with the Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States. Its first services were conducted nearly three years ago by the pastor, the Rev. W. F. Sprengeler.

Until last April, when the new chapel was put into use, services were conducted in a vacant store building on Tenth street NW. The chapel is expected to serve until a full-size church can be erected.

It measures 18 by 28 feet and seats about 60 persons.

Services are conducted each Sunday morning at 10. Sunday school is at 9.

To Be Dedicated Sunday



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Members of the Good Shepherd Lutheran church will dedicate their recently-acquired church building at 1510 Second st. SW Sunday afternoon.

Speaker for the service, at 3 p.m., will be the Rev. Milton Weishan of Des Moines. Officiant will be the pastor, the Rev. W. F. Sprengeler. Liturgists will be the Revs. V. Schultz of Newton and W. Wietzke of Oskaloosa.

The building was purchased recently by trustees of the Joint Synod of Wisconsin and other States. Good Shepherd congregation has occupied it for several weeks.

The interior has been re-decorated and pulpit, altar and other appointments have been installed.

The dedication is expected to draw visitors from Des Moines, Newton, Oskaloosa, Mason City and Charles City.

Saturday July 13, 1963

**New Pastor of
Good Shepherd**



DONALD A. SEIFERT

Donald A. Seifert was ordained and installed Sunday as pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran church in Cedar Rapids.

The ordination service was conducted by the Rev. Paul Eickmann of Crete, Ill. A lunch was served following the service.

A graduate of high school in Redwood Falls, Minn., in 1955, Pastor Seifert attended Northwestern college in

Watertown, Wis., Concordia college, Fort Wayne, Ind., Concordia seminary in Springfield, Ill., and Wisconsin Lutheran seminary in Mequon, Wis., from which he was graduated June 4.

His vicarage was served in Palos Heights, Ill. Pastor Seifert, his wife and son live at 1703 E avenue NW.

Good Shepherd church is a mission congregation of the Wisconsin synod. Beginning Sunday services will be at 9 a.m. Beginning Aug. 4 Sunday school will be at 10:15 a.m.

March 1965

Good Shepherd Lutheran Plans a New Location

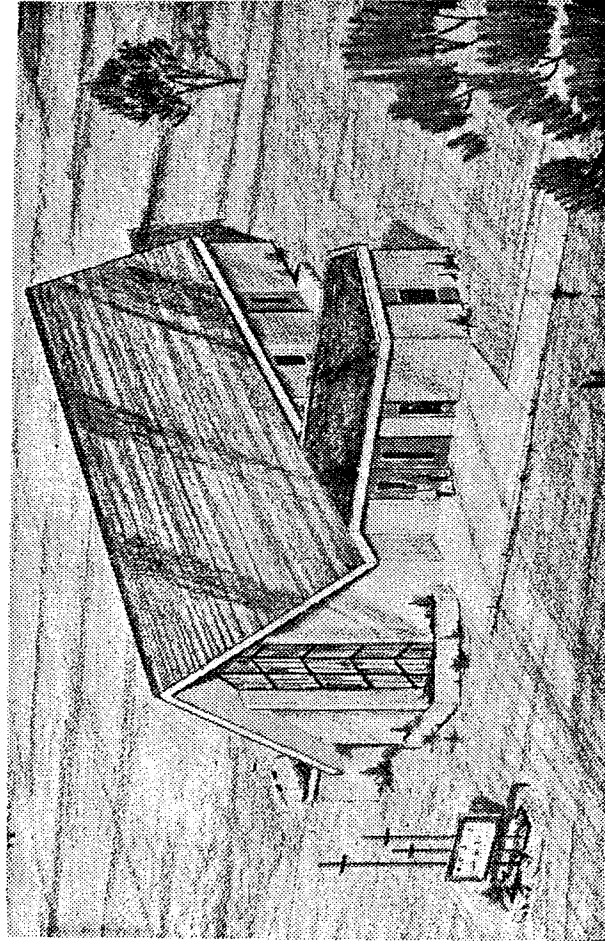
Good Shepherd Lutheran church, a mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran synod, has announced plans to relocate in the northeast area of Cedar Rapids.

Now using the former Czech Evangelical and Reformed church, at 1510 Second street SW, the congregation will meet starting Easter Sunday in the auditorium of Pierce elementary school, 2332 Forty-second street NE.

Service that day will be at 10:15 a.m. Sunday school will be in the school auditorium at 9 a.m.

According to the pastor, the Rev. Donald A. Seifert, the congregation hopes to break ground late this year or early next year for a new chapel in the same neighborhood. Cost is expected to be near the \$200,000 mark.

Present parsonage at 1703 E avenue NW will continue in use until one can be built in the new area. An increasing number of members of the church live in the northeast area, Pastor Seifert said.



Artist's sketch of future Good Shepherd Lutheran church

Good Shepherd Ground-Breaking Planned Sunday

Ground breaking for a building to house Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran church will take place Sunday morning following 10:15 worship.

Date for the ceremony falls one day short of the first anniversary of the congregation's initial worship service in Pierce school, where members have continued to meet.

The Rev. Donald A. Seifert is pastor of the congregation, affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran synod.

The new building will be located on a four-acre tract on Forty-second street NE, immediately west of the new John F. Kennedy high school.

Constructed in an L-shape, the church will have 6,500 square feet of floor space with seating for 180 in the nave and 40 in the balcony. It will be primarily of masonry construction.

A parsonage will also be built on the site, and both buildings are scheduled to be completed by fall. Cost of this phase of the building program is approximately \$125,000.

Church Builders, Inc., of Milwaukee is general contractor.

Good Shepherd Lutherans Will Dedicate New Church

DEDICATION of the newly constructed Good Shepherd Lutheran church will take place Sunday at 10:15 during a service at which a former pastor, the Rev. W. F. Sprengeler, Bowdel, S. D., will speak.

A service of praise will be conducted at 3:30 p.m., preceded by an organ recital. Afternoon speaker will be the Rev. Harold Eckert, executive secretary of the board of trustees for the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran synod.

Good Shepherd is affiliated with the Wisconsin synod and money for construction of the \$75,000 church was made available through the synod's church extension fund.

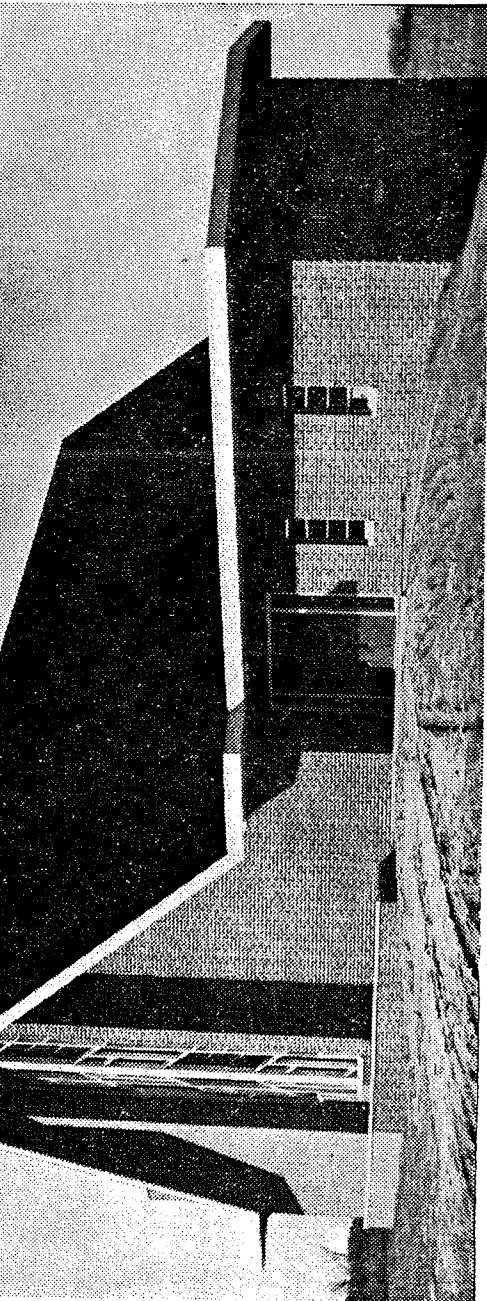
The congregation, which previously met at Pierce school, began construction of the 6,500 square-foot building last August at 2900 Forty-second street NE. Members of the church donated much of the labor.

Interior woodwork is oak and arches and decking are laminated and stained walnut.

Pre-stressed concrete was used in the basement ceiling, eliminating posts in the basement. There is seating for 210 in the nave and an additional 40 in the balcony.

The parsonage at 1703 E avenue NW will be sold and a new parsonage built east of the church.

The Rev. Donald A. Seifert is Good Shepherd's pastor.



You are invited

to attend

DEDICATION SERVICES

of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2900 42nd St. NE

(Just West of the New Kennedy High School)

This Sunday — March 12th

10:15 A.M. AND 3:30 P.M. 1967

Morning Speaker:

Pastor W. F. SPRENGELER

From Bowdel, South Dakota

Afternoon Speaker:

Pastor HAROLD ECKERT

Executive Secretary Board of trustees, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Rev. Donald Seifert - Pastor

RESOURCES

Golden Jubilee History of the Minnesota District. Minneapolis:
Ad Art Advertising Co., 1969.

Minnesota District Proceedings, 1966 and 1968.

Nebraska District Proceedings, 1952 - 1966.

Wisconsin Synod Statistical Report, 1953 - 1981.

Dedication Booklet, Good Shepherd, Cedar Rapids, IA., March 12, 1967.

Sunday Bulletin, Good Shepherd, Cedar Rapids, IA., March 7, 1965.

Welcome Booklet, Good Shepherd, Cedar Rapids, IA. (1982).

Newspaper articles from the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Relocation Syllabus, Good Shepherd, Cedar Rapids, IA. (1965).

Copy of the letter from Pastor Wuggazer to President Brenner,
Jan. 30, 1952.

Copy of the resignation letter of Pastor Mueller, March 24, 1954.

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. Fischer, Feb. 7, 1982.