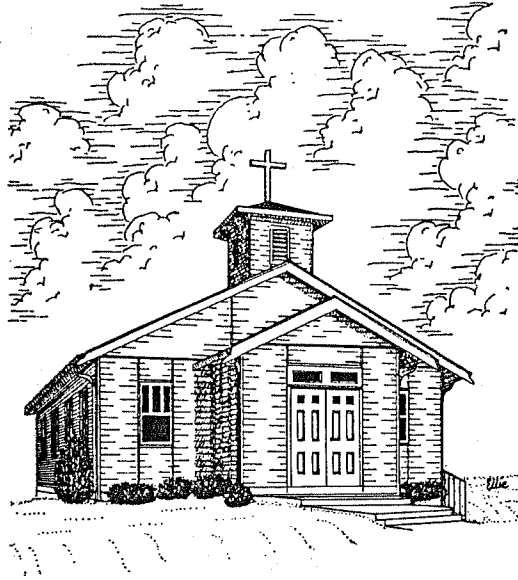


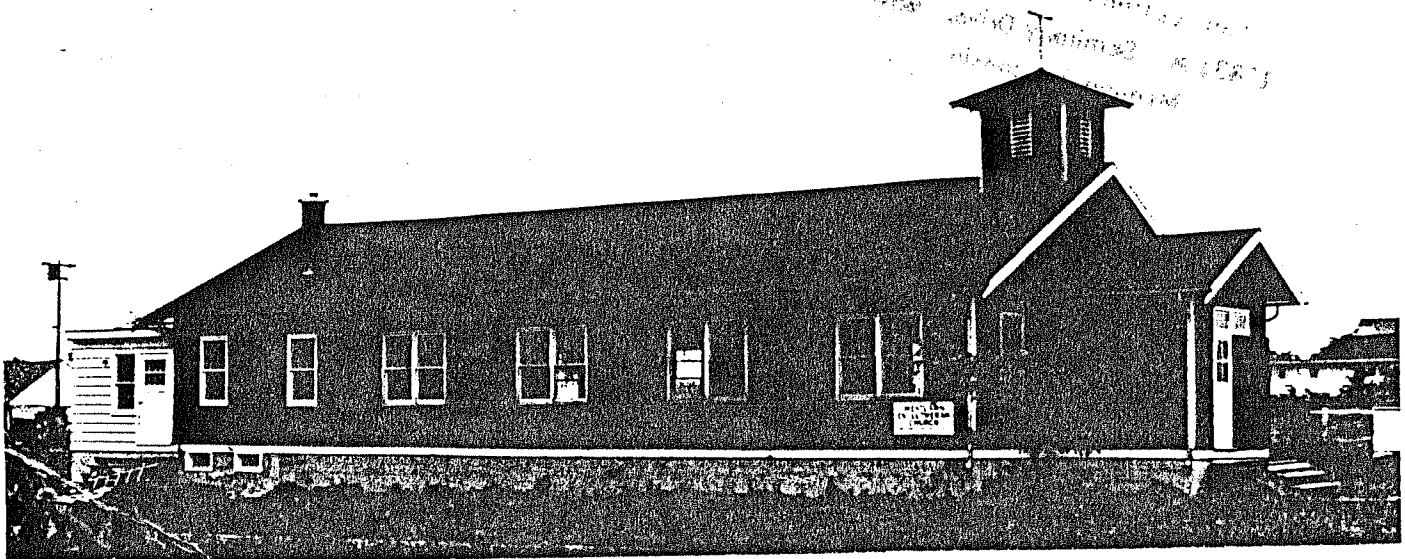
A Lutheran Tabernacle

by

Lon Kuether



Redemption Evangelical Lutheran Church ~ WELS
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



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How often doesn't a person hear it said to some child that the church building is God's house? To the children of Israel at the time of Moses, this was precisely what God also said. Shortly after the exodus from Egypt, God told Moses, "Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you" (Ex. 25:8,9). This tabernacle was a tent, set aside for the worship of our Lord. It, like every Christian church, had a two-fold purpose: 1) To assure all believers of God's continual presence and saving activity in their lives, and 2) To give those same believers the privilege and the opportunity to express their praise and thanks to our gracious God.

For the children of Israel, it was necessary that their sanctuary, or church if you will, be a tent rather than a permanent structure. They were wanderers and travelers in a foreign land. So wherever they went they took their church with them. It was not until the time of King Solomon that the tabernacle was finally replaced by the temple. This was approximately 450 years from the time Joshua had led the Israelites into the promised land of Canaan. In all their wanderings God made his presence known in connection with the tabernacle. God's presence was recognized by the children of Israel in the form of a cloud or of a pillar of fire. "In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not

lift, they did not set out--until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels" (Ex. 40:36-38).

As in the Old Testament, so also in the New Testament times God continues to make provisions to give his believers a church of their own. It does not have to be a cathedral, indeed it could be a tent. Regardless, it will accomplish that two-fold purpose by God's grace. This has proven to be true even among our midst. Here in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, three separate congregations have made use of a portable chapel as their first church building. So to speak, this chapel served as a Lutheran tabernacle. Each congregation had its own individual needs and used this portable structure to aid in fulfilling those needs at that particular time. No doubt, changes were made in the building itself, from the time of its early use in 1922 until the present time, 1990. As we now see how God used a seemingly "foolish" thing to aid in the preaching of our Savior's redemptive work, let us give all glory and credit to his Name. In Christ Jesus, we are daily reminded that with God all things are possible, and all events of history rely on God's good and perfect will. "For the foolishness of God is wiser than Man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength" (I Cor. 1:25).



Sparta

WISCONSIN

Grafton

Oconomowoc

Milwaukee

I. In Oconomowoc

From all indications, it appears that St. Paul Lutheran Church of Oconomowoc was affiliated with the Wisconsin Synod during the early 1900's. There was a succession of pastors which were Wisconsin Synod, not to mention the teachers of the Christian day school. For a period of time Rev. John Meyer served as one of these pastors of St. Paul (he later became a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary). Around 1920 a split in the congregation occurred. In fact, this split resulted in a court hearing to determine which side should have the church and its property. A former member of that congregation writes this:

The end result was that Rev. Hass and those who followed him were ousted from the church. That included my dad, H. A. Jaeger, and Edna Fritz, the lower grade teacher. The ousted group became the nucleus for the first St. Matthew's. For a time the services were held in various places such as above the old Welch's Hardware Store. We were still a part of the Wisconsin Synod, and I believe St. Paul's then had no synod affiliation immediately (by Elizabeth Jaeger Lind).

Since that time St. Paul's has joined the Missouri Synod. Yet, St. Matthew's did not begin and grow as a congregation without its difficulties.

In 1922, a new school was constructed on a piece of newly acquired property, located on the south bank of Fabbell Lake. Indeed, a school was top priority. Edna Fritz taught grades 1-4. Herman Jaeger taught grades 5-8. And Rev. Hass taught ninth grade along with Latin, Religion and History.

But in this same year, a need for worship facilities did not go unnoticed. In the congregational minutes of St. Matthew, we are told of a special meeting regarding this very matter of having a more permanent place of worship.

Oconomowoc, Wis., July 15, 1922. This special meeting of St. Matthew's Ev. Luth. congregation of Oconomowoc, Wis. was opened by Rev. W. P. Hass with prayer. Mr. Gust Timmel was elected to the chair. Mr. Shepherd of Alexander Lumber Co. was present. He explained prices and construction of their portable chapel to the congregation. Unanimously, resolved to empower the council, which may again empower a committee, to do the business themselves, to buy the portable chapel from the Alexander Lumber Co., or some other company.

It seems from all other recorded information regarding this chapel, that it was without a doubt first constructed and used at Camp McCoy in Sparta, Wisconsin. Perhaps a lumber company then served as a distributor of this building, since its use was no longer needed at the completion of World War I.

With these initial steps taken, members came together to help in the assembly of their chapel. This writer is also told that "those who had it helped with money and labor, others with willing hands, and the buildings were kept in shape by members and housecleaned by members."

Now let us take note of some details regarding the structure of this chapel. The building was without plumbing. Its walls were in approximately 10 foot by 10 foot units, a single layer of wood with narrow clapboard for the side facing outside. These units or slabs were then bolted to adjoining beams. These beams served as the frame

to which the walls were connected in a succession of about six slab-units to the length of the building and 3 for the alter-side of the chapel (the entrance was on the opposite side). Beams then extended above the top of the walls to form the frame of the roof. These rafters and beams gave the chapel its needed stability and support. One could readily compare this structure to that of a shed or barn with windows. The windows were double-width, without any screens or storms. Simply two single frosted-glass windows, side by side, could be drawn up or closed (See picture on the cover).

The chapel was hot on summer days and drafty during winter days. In fact, this writer was told of how, during hot summer days, the ushers would bring bottled water over from the school to help revive those suffering from the heat.

The chapel had no basement to speak of. There was, however, a small area beneath the alter area, in which was the furnace and minimal storage space. Restrooms were over in the school. Besides the nave of the chapel there were only two other rooms. One room was the sanctuary, to the right of the altar (as one faces it). And there was another room to the left of the altar, used for storage and as a meeting room.

Another interesting characteristic of this building includes its organ. Mr Herman Jaeger, teacher of St. Matthew's, "sold organs to churches during the summer in

those days to help support his family" (Elizabeth Lind). As a result, he was able to get a Schaefer pipe organ from the Schaefer Organ Company in Slinger, Wisconsin. This organ was a rebuilt second-hand model. Mr. Jaeger then also served as the organist.

The seating capacity of the chapel could accommodate about 200 people comfortably. There were no pews, but rather wooden seats. "These seats were like theater seats, and squeaked as they were lifted or set down" (Elizabeth Lind).

By 1930, things went awry in the congregation. Rev. Hass joined in the support of the Protestant movement, against the Wisconsin Synod. No doubt this is a topic for study in and of itself. But this faction did in fact cause the school to shut down and the congregation to break up. Some members joined other Lutheran churches in town. While at the same time a remnant of a faithful few still gathered together. For a while services were held in the chapel with members reading sermons. It seems that professors from Northwestern College in Watertown also gave some assistance in the service of the remnant. During this time the chapel was even used by organizations outside of the church, since it was not officially in use. One portion of the minutes states:

Mr. John Jaeger then called attention to the fact that no time had been set for Sunday's services and after a little discussion on the matter Mr. William Dally Jr. made a motion to allow the community Hall members to have services here in the chapel next Sunday at 10 o'clock and every

Sunday following. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Dally Jr. and was carried. The matter of a minister was brought up by Mr. William Dally Jr., and Mr. John Jaeger said arrangements in that line weren't necessary immediately, as they could perhaps be served from Watertown or elsewhere.

In 1932, many prayers were answered. A graduate, Robert Paustian, was assigned to St. Matthew's. This marked a new beginning for the newly organized congregation. Some details are recorded in an anniversary booklet of St. Matthew's.

The Reverend R. E. Paustian began his duties as Pastor and day school teacher in September of 1932. The small mission congregation and a day school of seven students grew steadily and by 1938 St. Matthew's became self-supporting.

In the twenty years to follow I am told that this simple country-style church became a treasured landmark in the community. It still is recalled with fond, nostalgic memories by those people. Indeed, a person at that time must have marveled at the turn-around he was witnessing. The Gospel of Christ Jesus preached in that chapel and the sacraments administered there brought about results only our loving God can take full credit for. By 1950, those members of St. Matthew's had outgrown the chapel. The anniversary booklet referred to earlier says, "Plans to start building a new church were under way in 1951. With a membership of 400 communicants and 530 souls, the new church was dedicated in 1952.

In conclusion of this chapter, allow the author to quote Elizabeth Lind again regarding the blessing that this small chapel did, in fact, share in. It was a tool of God,

or an egg, so to speak, from which this larger congregation hatches. In 1987, she writes:

We have these 55 years of the reorganized St. Matthew's to be thankful for after the horrible turbulence of our beginning . . . to be thankful for our pastors, Rev. Paustian and Rev. Schroeder, for the many faithful teachers we have and have had, including Rev. Paustian, for those staunch early members who considered it mightily important to continue worshiping, and for the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod which stood by us. For these and many other blessings we give thanks to God in the name of Christ, our Savior.

II. In Milwaukee

The northwest side of Milwaukee experienced some rapid growth, by the 1950's. Near 61st and Silver Spring new residential construction was underway. This was referred to as the Westlawn building district.

This part of Milwaukee was then rapidly expanding and the Mission Board of the Southeastern Wisconsin District of the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States (now WELS), decided it was a promising spot to locate a new mission. At this time Redemption members are canvassing the area. In April 1951 the canvass was made by seminary students. One seminary student, now Pastor William Fischer, a '51 graduate, was then assigned the call to begin the mission and serve as its first pastor (1987 Thirty-fifth Anniversary Directory of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church).

One interesting note is that John Metzger, later a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grafton, was a member of the Mission Board at this time. He also had a helping hand in moving some items from Oconomowoc to Redemption's site, shortly before the hired contractor moved the structure itself. Using a 1 1/2 ton Dodge truck, he helped move those wooden theater-like seats, the altar, the baptismal font and

some storage items back to Milwaukee. In Autumn of 1951, a half basement for the chapel was dug for Redemption, and was walled with cement block. Then vicar Martin Petermann, the brother-in-law of John Metzger, and pastor Fischer removed and salvaged the wooden floor of the chapel, in November 1951, while it was sitting in Oconomowoc. "In February 1952 the chapel, complete with furnishings, was moved to 5641 North 68th St." (1987 Directory of Redemption).

Professional building contractors completed the assembly of the transported building. By late March of that same year worship services began. As the Directory, earlier referred to, says:

Our first worship service was held on Easter Sunday 1952. The first Sunday School classes also began at this time. In the fall of that year on November 22, 1952, sixteen communicant members gathered and officially organized Redemption Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In appendix #1, one can see how the church looked in Oconomowoc, shortly before it was moved. St. Matthew's had moved this chapel to make room for the construction of their new super-structure, on that same site.

Pastor Fischer has made mention to this writer, that it would have been much wiser to have given the chapel a full-size basement. For already by June of 1952 there were over 50 Sunday school students. And shortly after the congregation was officially organized there were 120 to 200 students on any given Sunday. As things were, they worked it out, but knew it could be better with more space for class rooms. Five years later this problem was remedied by

the building of a new four-room school house.

Perhaps a few changes should be noted, in the chapel's transition from Oconomowoc to Milwaukee. First of all, at the Milwaukee location, plumbing and restrooms were made available. These restrooms and the furnace room were located in the half-basement. The basement staircase was located just behind the altar. A small wooden structure had been added at the back to house a stairway to the basement and boiler room (See appendix #2 to see Redemption as it was at that time, seemingly referred to as Westlawn Lutheran). Secondly, the color of the church's exterior was changed. The chapel had been brown with white trim. Now Redemption would paint it completely white. In the Summer of 1952 Pastor Fischer began scraping and repainting the entire outside of the building. He had the help of just one other gentleman. The narrow clapboard siding soaked up a couple of coats of paint (See again appendix #2 for the "before look" and see appendix #3 for the "after look").

Some interesting aspects about Redemption's chapel are found regarding the worship area of the chapel. For one thing, the Schaeffer organ that was in Oconomowoc also served Redemption very well. In fact, after their new church building was dedicated in 1974, they continued to use that same pipe organ in their new facility. This writer is also told that this organ has since been rebuilt at a cost of about \$6,000, and thus is still serving the congregation well. Finally, those same wooden theater seats were kept in

storage, and brought out of storage as they were needed. A WELS member with a barn kept them in storage (incidentally, that barn and surrounding land has since been bought by Evenrude Motors, and has a production plant on it). The chairs that were brought out of storage were connected with two long runner boards underneath, in order to form a complete row of seats. Since there were no hymnal racks behind these seats, all the hymnals were kept on a shelf near the entrance.

In regards to some of the specifications regarding this structure, one might keep in mind that the building codes at this time were much more lax than they presently are. For example no handicapped ramp was required then. Also during the early weeks of the chapel's first use, there were wooden pallets lined up to form a temporary walk way, so that one might not walk in the mud. As a result of this, not much change was required for the chapel itself right off the bat.

As one might guess, this congregation also found steady growth, by means of the same gospel that had been preached within the walls of this chapel for years in Oconomowoc.

In the spring of '68, Pastor Keith Kruck began his eight and one-half years of service to Redemption. Rapid growth continued under the blessing of the Lord. Need for more worship space and other facilities moved the congregation to enter its next major building project. In April, 1971, voters decided to construct a new church building. Plans were completed and ground was broken on March 25, 1973. The cornerstone was laid on December 9, 1973 and a happy congregation

dedicated the new structure on May 5, 1974 (1987 Directory of Redemption).

It becomes more and more apparent, as this particular history account continues, that this little chapel was not just coincidentally available at certain times. But God, the governor of history, made this chapel serve his purpose for his own predetermined period of time. One might have thought this to be the end of the story, but God knows better. In the article found in appendix #4 it reads, "Former military chapel to go into retirement . . . It is small and will have to be replaced. Another congregation might be able to use it, but church officials say another move would be too expensive" (The Milwaukee Journal, Sat. March 24, 1973). But again, as always, "With God all things are possible."

III. In Grafton

Unlike the two preceding congregations, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grafton, had worship facilities prior to the purchase of this chapel. Established in 1965, it became a self-supporting congregation of the WELS in 1971. It owned and operated a school, parsonage and teacherage on about six acres of land. Like the other two congregations, Christian education for the children was a high priority. The worship facility was really the basement of their two classroom school. As their enrollment was peaking 65 students in the early 70's, it became apparent that more room for educating the children properly was desperately needed. Since the basement of the school was designated for

the planned expansion, a new worship facility was recognized as the temporary answer to the growth given them by the Lord. In the midst of this need, it was learned that the chapel of Redemption Lutheran Church was available.

April 2, 1973--A discussion was then held on Redemption Lutheran Church. The present building is to be torn down upon the completion of their new church. The present church is a pre-fab construction and has a possibility of being moved. Pastor Winterstein will contact Redemption expressing interest in the building pending checking out further details (Council Minutes of Our Savior Lutheran Church).

At the following meeting in May, pastor Winterstein reported that there were now 175 communicant members in the congregation. The need for expansion was very real, and now also the possibility to fill that need was very real.

By 1974, the congregation had still not given an affirmative decision to go ahead with the chapel at Redemption. John Metzger is the president of Our Savior's congregation at this time, and he and Bill Wetzel served on the New Building Committee. Regarding the new building, professional advice was sought for plans, whether that be the remodeling of Redemption's chapel or the building of something else. The congregation's mind was still open as to what it should do.

January 20, 1974--John Metzger reported for the Building Committee. He reported that the committee was looking for an architect to draw up the plans for the new church. The committee also recommends to the congregation that we use the synod Una Loan plan for financing the church expansion providing a feasible loan arrangement can be worked out. He then gave a detailed explanation on the loan where synod would consolidate the new \$20,000 with our present debt

to synod. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion carried (Congregational Minutes).

By the middle of 1974, it becomes clear that Our Savior's decided to go with the chapel at Redemption, Milwaukee. In April of that same year, John Metzger reported that all plans were near complete. Then he mentioned that parts of the construction were out for bids, but that more bodies would be needed to help "do the block laying work." A special congregational meeting was assembled on June 30, 1974, for the calling of a new woman teacher and for discussion regarding the new building. "President Metzger reported on the progress of the new chapel, explaining the various alternatives and reasons for erecting the building from Redemption. It was moved, seconded, and carried to have a ground-breaking service on Sunday, July 7th following the regular service" (Congregational Minutes).

In the midst of what has already been mentioned, it is worth noting the actual transporting of the disassembled chapel. As was mentioned in chapter 2, Redemption dedicated their new church on May 5, 1974. It was now ready to be moved. So on Memorial day weekend, John Metzger rented a forty foot flat-rack semi-trailer and had it at the site. There at Redemption about 18 men from Our Savior's came to disassemble the building and stack all the salvageable parts onto the semi-trailer. The work was long and hard. This author recalls shaking hands with the blistered hands of

pastor Winterstein, on that Sunday morning.

Glen Antholtz of Our Savior's, then took a semi-tractor and brought the trailer to Grafton. One other trip was made with a rented truck, the following weekend, to clean up the debris and to bring the cement blocks to the Grafton site.

After pastor Herbert Winterstein left in June to serve a new call in the Japanese mission field, pastor Paul Sullivan was assigned from the seminary to serve as Our Savior's new pastor. With the recommendation of the voters, pastor Sullivan and president Metzger sent a formal letter of thanks to the members of Redemption Lutheran Church (see appendix #5). Whereas, Redemption paid some \$7,000 for the chapel, plus the contractor's fee, when it was bought from St. Matthews, Oconomowoc, Our Savior's was given the chapel, gratis. However, the Grafton congregation, spent upwards near \$30,000, by the time of its completion. Indeed this was still a small fee in comparison to all their other options.

In closing, let us look at the modifications and changes that were made in the restructuring of this chapel:

1. A full basement was given to the chapel, with provisions for a future kitchen. Its staircase was located in the narthex.
2. Restrooms and a "crying room" were also added to the narthex area. The "crying room" is small, so it has since become the usher's storage room. The addition of these three rooms were necessary because of stricter building codes. As a result its seating capacity was no longer 200, maybe now 175.
3. Insulation was added to all the walls and the ceiling. Since both the walls and the ceiling had

only a single-board thickness, the insulation was placed on the inside with dry wall over it for the walls, and knotty-wood pine boards over the ceiling. The ceiling area remained open with the rafters bare.

4. Wall-to-wall carpeting was placed over the floor, since the original floorboards were not saleable.

5. A used Allen electric organ replaced the pipe organ, since Redemption kept it and continued to use it in their new worship facility.

6. New windows and window sills were put in, to replace the double-windows (see picture on back cover).

7. New clapboard siding was placed over old narrow clapboard siding. The color, white, was retained.

8. The steeple was totally rebuilt and made higher than what was at Redemption, in Milwaukee. The reason for this is unknown to this writer.

9. When problems developed with the the basement wall cracking and leaning in, before the building was completed, it was decided to pour concrete down the holes in the cement block along with the metal strengthening rods. Thus the basement walls that run the length of the building are solid concrete.

10. To accommodate the handicapped, a concrete ramp was added near the entrance steps to the chapel itself. This was part of the strict building code, but a good code at that.

All of these developments in the construction of the chapel in Grafton, did not find smooth sailing. For a time, there was a lack of time or perhaps enthusiasm on the part of those volunteers. And no doubt, the cold months out of the year slowed things down. Finding affordable materials and equipment also proved to slow things down. On July 21, 1974, The Planning and Building Committee brought a report before the voters of the congregation.

John Metzger reported that excavating had started but the excavator machine broke down. He said he will contact the next highest machine bidder to complete the excavation. Ken Schultz reported that he received a bid on the blocks for \$1,600 less 10% donation for the complete job. He also had a bid for \$550 for the beams and columns, the

beam being heavier than was specified. Hopefully the footings will be poured on Saturday, August 3 (Congregational Minutes).

On July 20, 1975, at a quarterly congregational meeting, John Metzger reported, "The new church is about 90% completed, but they need additional help." By labor day of that same year the church was dedicated. From ground-breaking to dedication, it was nearly 15 months. Those 15 months gave many men, women and children wonderful opportunities to serve both their congregation and their Lord, in a blessed way, which does not come around too often. May that attitude of service for Jesus, continue to be fostered at Our Savior Lutheran Church, and at every church where "Christ crucified" is preached.

In the Old Testament we hear how the Tabernacle was the worship place of God's chosen people. God's chosen people no longer have that same tent structure as a place of worship. But our loving God has never limited himself to one place. He is with us where ever we go. For where ever two or three come together in his name he is there with them (Matt. 18:20).

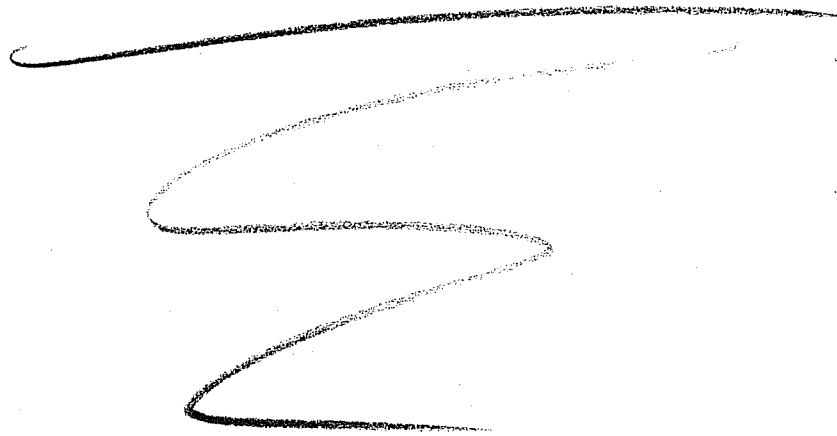
Although, this chapel, along with churches and even great cathedrals, serve as God's tools in which his word is taught, may the buildings themselves never take precedence over the message which is taught within their walls. May we never judge a church by its cover, but by its teaching. Remaining true and faithful to the teachings of Jesus remains the sole purpose and mark of the true church. How

wonderful it is that our Lord has chosen the foolish things of this world to shame the wise, and by one small Lutheran Tabernacle we have seen his kingdom come.

△ Concluding Note: My goal in this paper was to give forth accurate facts pertaining to the history of the portable chapel, first built during World War I. Corrections as well as criticism is welcome. Please address such comments and suggestions to:

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1632 Manchester Dr.
Grafton, WI 53024

APPENDICES



Cooney Parish Breaks Ground For New Church

OCONOMOWOC (Special) - A ground breaking ceremony followed the 10 a.m. service at St. Matthew's Lutheran church Sunday morning to symbolize the start of construction of a new \$150,000 house of worship for the parish.

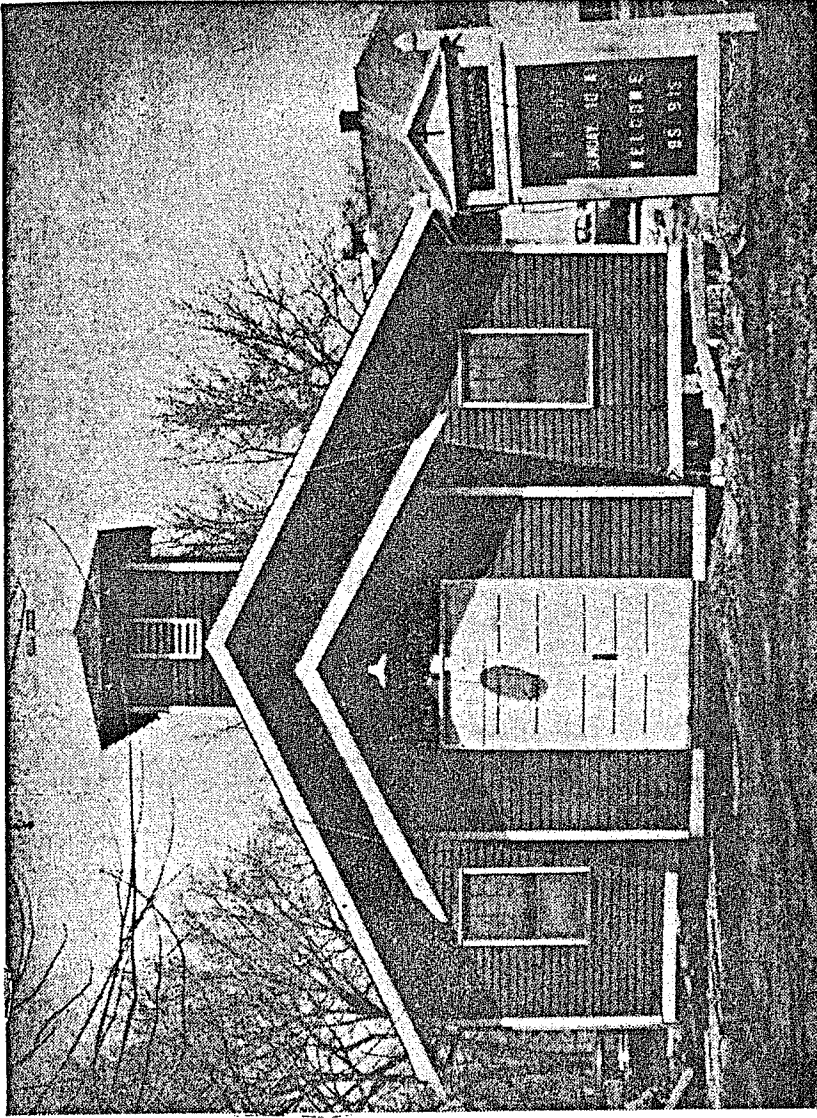
The Rev. N. E. Paustian, St. Matthews pastor, turned a shovelful of earth after the choir sang hymns and prayers were recited by the congregation.

The new church will replace the wooden chapel that has served St. Matthews parish for several years. The new structure will be built on the west Wisconsin avenue site of the chapel and will be attached to the parsonage.

THE ACTUAL construction of the church is scheduled to begin Tuesday. Today workmen will finish moving the chapel to the rear of the church property and next to the parish Christian day school.

Services were held in the school yesterday but when the chapel is in its new location it will be used for Sunday worship until the new church is completed.

The new church will be of Gothic architecture and will be constructed of Lannon stone. It will seat about 500 persons. The Palisades Construction co. of Appleton is the general contractor. Present plans call for the enclosure of the structure by October, according to Mr. Paustian.



LANDMARK MOVED — A familiar landmark in Oconomowoc, the wooden church of the St. Matthew's Lutheran congregation will be moved today from its present site to a location near the school. It is shown above on blocks ready to be moved. The wooden structure will make way for a new \$150,000 Lannon stone church which will seat 500 persons. At left the Rev. N. E. Paustian, pastor of the church is shown turning over the first shovel of dirt in ground breaking ceremonies yesterday. Work will begin on the new church tomorrow. The present schedule calls for completion of the new church, which will be attached to the parsonage, by October. The men in the picture at left are, a member of the finance committee of the church; Lester Bence, chairman of the building fund committee; Fred Roehl, chairman of the building committee; and Mr. Paustian.

1

II 2



REVIVED—An old church building that served the St. Matthew's Lutheran congregation at Oconomowoc for many years, and then was discarded with construction of a new building, is seeing use once again in Milwaukee. Cut into sections, the church was moved to Milwaukee to be reconstructed and is now serving as the gathering point for the newly organized Westlawn Lutheran congregation in that city. (Freeman staff photo)

A Bit of Oconomowoc Found in Milwaukee With Transfer of Lutheran Church Building

MILWAUKEE (Special)—There is a bit of Oconomowoc in the far northwest corner of Milwaukee.

The wooden chapel that served St. Matthew's Lutheran congregation in Cooney for nearly 30 years, until it was replaced with a new church, is now serving newly formed Westlawn Lutheran mission here.

The chapel was a familiar sight on West Wisconsin avenue in Oconomowoc until construction of the new St. Matthew's church, which was dedicated in May, was started in the spring of 1951. The wooden building was then moved to the rear of the church property. Last winter it was taken apart and moved in sections to Milwaukee to serve another congregation.

The chapel is currently located on north 68th street at Thurston road. It is just across the road from the Milwaukee city limits in the town of Granville.

The Rev. William Fischer is pastor of the Westlawn mission, which he expects to be an organized congregation by fall. He states that the name Westlawn is temporary. The name comes from a new housing development near the chapel.

The chapel now looks almost the same as it did in Oconomowoc, although a few changes have been made. It now has a base-

ment, which it did not have in Cooney, and a small wooden structure has been added at the back to house a stairway to the basement and boiler room. The building is still the dark brown color it was in Oconomowoc.

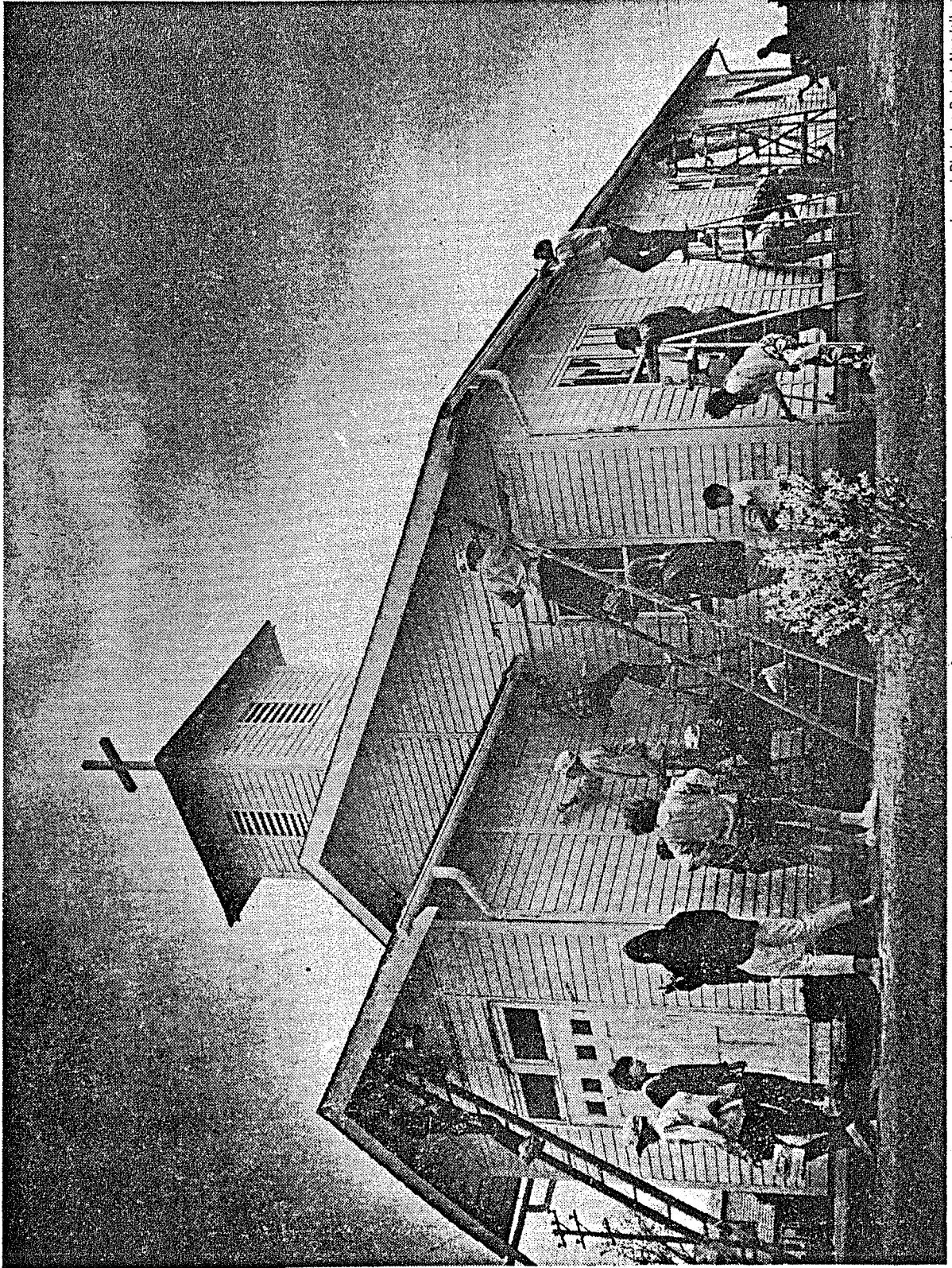
Being knocked into sections and moved about the country is nothing new to the wooden chapel, according to Mrs. N. E. Paustian, wife of the St. Matthew's pastor. She recalls that it was originally made in sections and brought to Oconomowoc that way about 30 years ago.

Local News, Women's Pages,
Business and Sports News

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Monday, May 5, 1969

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—Journal Photo by Robert Nandell

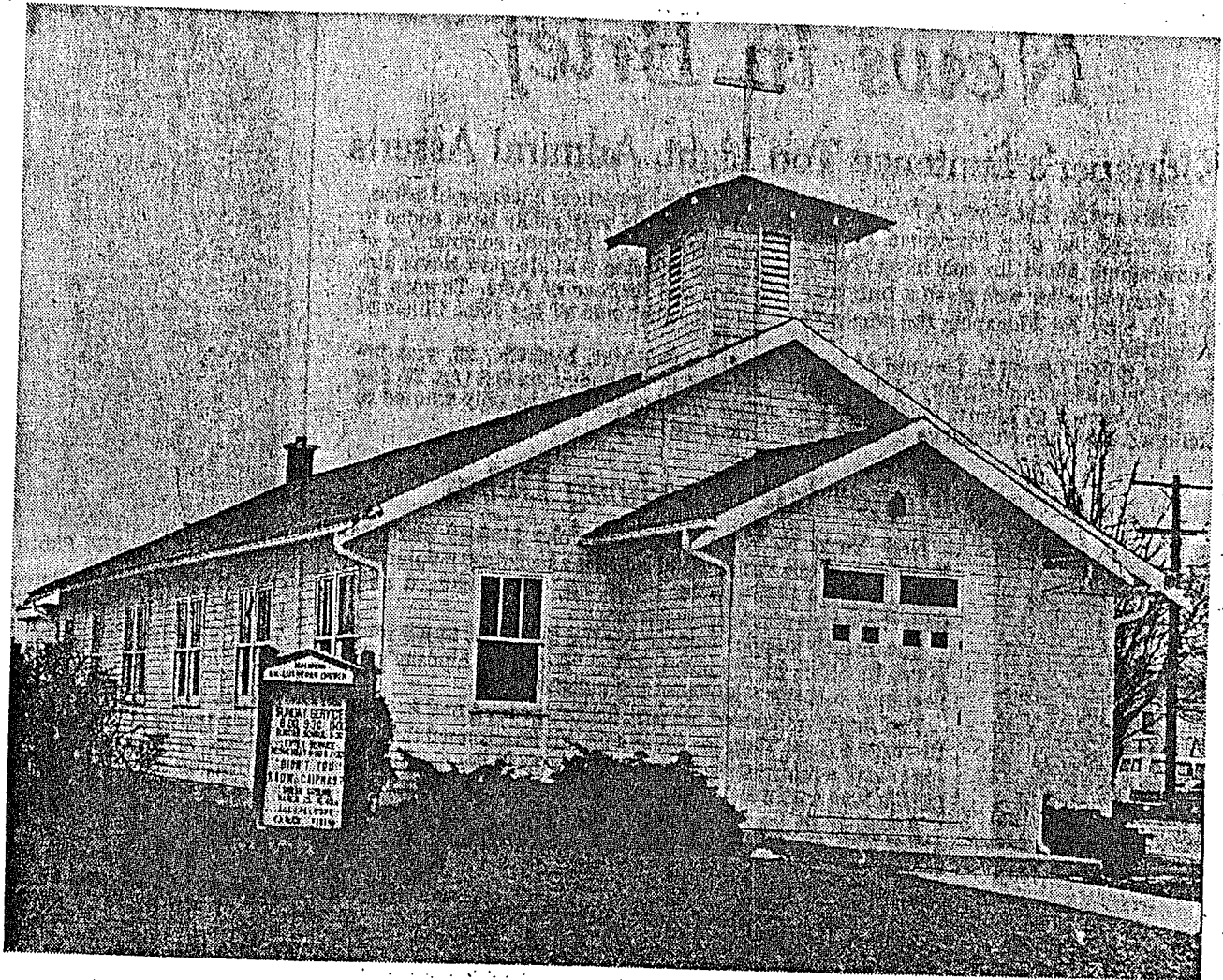
CHURCH SPRUCED UP — Members of the congregation of Redemption Evangelical Lutheran church swarmed about the building armed with rakes, brooms and paint

brushes over the weekend in observance of the church's annual arbor day. By midafternoon, the structure at 68th and Thurston had a new coat of white paint, some shrubs

had been planted and the surrounding yard had been cleaned up. The church, once a chapel at Camp McCoy, was moved to its present location in 1962.

#3

74



The building used for worship by the congregation of Redemption Lutheran Church was originally a chapel at Camp McCoy. —Journal Photo

Former Military Chapel to Go Into Retirement

A building put up during World War I as a chapel at Camp McCoy is going into retirement. Involuntarily.

Built with side panels that bolted together, the building was taken apart twice and transported, first to Oconomowoc in about 1920 as the first house of worship for St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, and here in 1952 as the first location for Redemption Lutheran Church, 68th and Thurston.

The interior has an open beam ceiling and a rustic charm that made it attractive. But it is small and will have to be replaced. Another congregation might be able to use it, but

church officials say another move would be too expensive.

The Redemption congregation will break ground at 10:40 a.m. Sunday for a new building just south of the chapel. It will be a modern, A-frame structure costing \$216,000, with seats for 350 persons. The congregation, of which the Rev. Keith C. Kruck is pastor, has more than 1,000 baptized members. The church is affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

A pipe organ that has served the chapel since it was built — unusual for a building its size — will be refurbished and installed in the new church.

Congregational Minutes

#5

OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Grafton, Wisconsin

October 23, 1974

REDEMPTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5641 N. 68th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53218

Dear fellow-redeemed members of our Savior Jesus Christ,

At our Fall Quarterly Congregational Meeting, held on the 20th of October, 1974, our congregation decided to send you a formal letter of thanks for your gracious gift of the church building which we are in the process of erecting to the glory of God.

We had had in mind to send you this letter of thanks along with a special invitation to our Dedication Service for the church building. Because of unforeseen delays in completing the construction, we decided to send this letter now, and invite you to the Dedication Service when God in His wisdom determines its date.

We extend heartfelt thanks to you in Christ Jesus, for giving us your church building as a gift, even as Christ forgives the world its sin as a free and gracious gift.

In the name of our congregation, and yours in our one Lord
and Savior,

Mr. John Metzger Pastor Sullivan
D...

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library
11831 W. Seminary Drive. 66W
Mequon, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Synod
1332 Arrowhead Road
Grafton, Wisconsin 53024

