

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-HUILSBURG, WIS.

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## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF TRINITY---HUILSBURG, WISCONSIN

In 1850, a young but energetic pastor named Carl Frederick Goldammer came from Germany to America and Wisconsin. He began spreading the Kingdom of God by his mission work in Town Herman of Dodge County. By preaching the Word in its truth and purity, God blessed his efforts at Huilsburg, and soon a nucleus of over forty souls began gathering regularly in homes. On May 23, 1852, this group of Christians organized Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Huilsburg, Town Herman. A small log church was erected, however a detailed, ~~accurate~~ description of it could scarcely be given anymore. These early forefathers of Trinity had experienced difficult times with the state church in Germany causing them to leave their homeland and to emigrate to America, beginning a new life for themselves. After wandering and searching for a place to settle, these weary but God-fearing individuals chose the rolling hills and fertile land of Dodge County to become their new home.

These early Christians did not hesitate to begin assembling themselves for worship to their God. The following introduction is written in the Constitution and by-laws of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church:

" This congregation was founded May 23, 1852. We, the undersigned, a local group of Evangelical Lutheran Christians, together form a Christian Congregation of Town Herman, Dodge County, Wisconsin."

A new constitution was adopted in 1863, and more by-laws were added on Nov. 19, 1865. The constitution and by-laws were revised in May of 1915. In the year 1865, the congregation became a member of the Wisconsin Synod.

It appears that soon after this congregation was organized, Pastor Goldammer departed for work that needed to be done in another area. Pastor F.A. Beckel then emerged as leader in helping to relieve some of Trinity's early developmental difficulties. Where this man came from and resided is difficult to determine. He had served a congregation in Town Hubbard, between Woodland and Hustisford.

In 1862, a family named Stambaum became instrumental in developing the mission outreach in the Huilsburg area. There are however, no records of the secretaries books in the first ten years of this congregation's existence.

Trinity's first resident pastor did not come until 1892. For forty years it was served by non-resident pastors. These early non-resident pastors were:

F.A. Beckel 1852-1863  
 E. Giese 1863-1865  
 P. Otto 1865-1866  
 A. Opitz 1866-1867  
 J. Hofmann 1867-1868  
 A. Denninger 1868-1874  
 C. Wagner 1874-1875  
 A. Opitz 1875-1880  
 T. Gensicke 1880-1887  
 A. Toepel 1887-1892

For many of these years Trinity formed one parish with Emmanuel and Zum Krippelein Christi, both also of Town Herman. 1892 was an exciting year for Trinity. On May 8 of that year, candidate F.J. Bliefertnicht was ordained and installed by Pastor F.W.A. Toepel. He became Trinity's first resident pastor. <sup>Being</sup> A very conscientious and dedicated pastor, great strides were made in the advancement of a school at Trinity. It was during this pastor's ministry that Trinity weathered its most severe problems in its history. The problem of the lodge began to show its ugly face among its members. Although it never gained a real strong foothold at Trinity, it was not by any means a small or insignificant matter. It never is. God-fearing, concerned members of Trinity joined with their pastor in suppressing the influence of the lodge in its midst. It appears that the influence of the lodge hit its peak around the turn of the century and the immediately following years. For in speaking with some of the oldest remaining members of Trinity, I was told that none of them remember it nor do they know much about it. In speaking with Pastor Schink, who came to Woodland in 1943, I was told that He had heard nothing of the problem in his early years at that

sister congregation only four miles away. We also know that Pastor W. Reinemann who came to Trinity in 1934 had no problems with the lodge or its influence. This lodge problem as well as a concern for worldliness (A constant concern for any congregation) seem to be the biggest struggles that Trinity had to overcome. But Pastor Bliefert's ministry was not all struggle at Trinity. An interesting event took place on May 8, 1917, his 25th anniversary in the ministry. The congregation purchased their pastor a Model T Ford, and also erected a garage to protect it. After preaching on Christmas Day, 1923, members of the church council carried their pastor from the church to the parsonage. He died only three months later on March 21, 1924. He was buried in the church cemetery with the congregation erecting a monument in the shape of a cross with these words inscribed, "CHRISTUS IST MEIN LEBEN."

Following Pastor Bliefert's memorable years at Trinity, several pastors have served this congregation. Pastor T. Gieschen from 1924-1928, Pastor T.C. Voges 1929-1934, Pastor W. Reinemann 1934-1964, Pastor R.C. Biesmann 1964-1966, Pastor H.W. Schwertfeger 1966-1975, and D.F. Kannenberg since 1975. Pastor Reinemann's ministry was a long but relatively quiet one in which the congregation grew and became increasingly stable despite rough financial problems which affected everyone during those years. Pastor Biesmann served only 18 months when the Lord called him from Trinity to Himself on March 14, 1966. In August of that same year, Pastor H.W. Schwertfeger accepted Trinity's call extended to him. His ministry there is remembered as a productive one. In 1967 the resolution was passed to dig out from under the church structure and provide a basement with kitchen facilities and a fellowship hall. Much of the work was voluntarily done. It is very interesting to note that the writer of this paper also contributed with the sweat of his brow in digging out under the church

structure at the command of his father. In 1968 Trinity began sharing its pastor with Zum Kripplein Christi, an arrangement which remains to this day. Also in 1968 Trinity started its Sunday School for the Christian training of its children. In 1973 the interior of the church was completely remodeled and painted, with new carpeting and light fixtures installed. That same year an outdoor bulletin board and communion rail were also installed. Pastor Schwertfeger remained at Trinity until July of 1975 when he accepted a call to serve at another congregation of our synod. Pastor D.F. Kannenberg, a Seminary graduate in 1975 was ordained and installed as Trinity's next pastor.

God has richly blessed the work done at Trinity for the past 125 years. In 1952 it paused to celebrate its centennial anniversary. In 1977 it once again gave honor and praise to God by observing its 125th year of experiencing the grace of God as a congregation. Trinity has weathered many storms in its history, further evidence of God's presence. This congregation will always be considered as this writers "home church". May God continue to bless it in the future as He has so abundantly in the past.

We wish to acknowledge the following:

The History of the Wisconsin Synod--Koehler  
 The Northwestern Lutheran 1970--Armin Engel  
 Synod Archives--Pastor Wm. Schink  
 Pastor H.W. Schwertfeger  
 Pastor D.F. Kannenberg  
 Rev. Oswald  
 Various elderly members of Trinity, Huilsburg

Because there were no records kept from 1852-1862, limited materials were available for this paper.



Pastor H. W. Schwertfeger



Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church