

St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church:
A Written History

by

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Author's Preface

St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church will always be near and dear to my heart. I was baptized into the family of God and made a child of God there. I grew up singing in the Sunday School choir and attended every week. I diligently learned my part for the Christmas pageant every year, and was so proud to stand up and say it. I was in Boy pioneers and dartball there. I attended confirmation classes there. I confessed my faith in confirmation and kept coming to church. When I left St. John St. Peter because of college I knew it would never be the same. The church where I mowed lawn, went to VBS, and ate brats and hamburgers at the church picnic would never feel the same again.

I wrote this history because every page involved something personal to me. I was privileged to relive old memories, recall old friends and members, and remember those saints who have returned to glory. As I skimmed old minutes I saw the signature of my grandfather when he became a voting member, read about the first time my dad was president of the congregation, and even caught my own name mentioned as the official lawnmower. It was amazing to me to read through minutes of meetings 20, 30, even 50 years ago and recognize names of my family; people who were dedicated to their church, loved their Lord, and served him with gladness.

I often ask myself how I got to this point, a senior at the seminary ready to receive a divine call into the public ministry. My answer clearly rests on God's grace and the four generations of Lutherans I am blessed to call my family. If I want to know why I am Lutheran, I only have to look at the wonderful Lutheran role models he gave me; a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who all loved Christ their Savior and who loved me enough to pass that message of sins forgiven to me. For that I am forever grateful. God be praised and glorified because of what they did for me.

In the life of a church, what are the milestones? Often anniversaries like 25 or 50 years are observed. Pastors, teachers, and principals have milestones in ministry. We celebrate the buildings we worship in as well. What do all these milestones look back too? Significant dates in the churches history. Times when the people of the congregation under the guidance of God took a chance knowing their God was with them all the way. But more than looking back, milestones provide an opportunity to look forward to the future. On Pentecost Day in 1920 such a milestone type day happened. Using that day as the benchmark, we will do what the congregation undoubtedly did: look back at the 60 years that preceded to see how two churches became one. Then in detail they could have never known on that date in 1920 we will look ahead to examine where the congregation went under God's grace after that day and that merger.

On May 23rd, 1920 a joint meeting of St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, and St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Town of Centerville, Manitowoc County Wisconsin, was held in St. John's in Hika, Wisconsin. "The name of the Joint Congregation shall be: St. John's and St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation."¹ And with that two congregations and their histories became one. Two congregations, formally separated by only three miles, now were coming together to serve God and spread the Word in combined effort. It most certainly was for those that lived it a historical day unlike any other before. While this day was one that without a doubt had great importance for these congregations, the history didn't start there, nor did it end there.

History in this part of Wisconsin had seen Lutherans start a church before. For some there that day, this wasn't the only time they started a new church. In reality this was the third time that the area around and in the town of Centerville had seen a new Lutheran church start up. Sixty years before that Pentecost day, Lutherans in this little town of the new state of Wisconsin

¹ Copy of Resolution #157533 recorded in Manitowoc County Courthouse

decided they needed to start a church. In 1860 the Lutheran congregation of St. John was founded in Hika, Wisconsin. With 40 people listed as charter members the people decided to build their first church building. In September of 1860 the first church building was constructed and dedicated to the glory of God.²

Almost immediately the young church knew it had a need for full time pastor. They appreciated the part time pastor coming in from Manitowoc, 15 miles away, but the church had grown quickly and there was potential for even more growth. On November 2, 1862 the Lord brought them the full time pastor they needed. Pastor H. Quehl accepted the call to serve and the Lord brought success to Centerville.

Those successes lead to another major decision. For the second time in three years a Lutheran church began in Centerville, Wisconsin. In 1863 St. Peter Lutheran congregation was founded.³ Pastor Quehl agreed to serve both congregations. Neither congregation had of yet aligned themselves with any one synod. But Pastor Quehl was listed on the roster of the Wisconsin Synod. It was he who undoubtedly influenced the decision for these congregations to become members of the Wisconsin Synod, a blessing they enjoy to this day.

When Pastor Quehl accepted a call to serve the congregation in Manitowoc in 1868 the congregations were left without a full time pastor. In the spring of 1868, Candidate Charles Dowidat was assigned to serve the congregation and arrived in Centerville to begin his work. From 1868 until 1875 he served faithfully when he took a call to serve Fort Atkinson. God would again bless the congregation with another full time pastor. Though no one at the time knew the great things he would go on to do in his life, in 1875 the congregations of St. John and St. Peter called a future “somebody” in the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods. Franz Pieper at this

² See Appendix K

³ See Appendix K

time was simply a candidate attending the seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He arrived to serve the congregations in Centerville in 1875 and did so for two years. With historical perspective we can say that this was Centerville's touch with a dogmatic and theological giant.

After Pieper accepted a call to First German in Manitowoc, the brush with history in Centerville was over and they again were in need of a pastor. Pastor Julius Haase was called and accepted in 1877. Just six years later he left and Pastor C. Jaeger received a call. He served the congregation from 1883 until he left to go to Racine in 1887. After some major turnover in the pastor's office, four pastors in twenty years, the congregations of Centerville issued a call to another pastor. This time God had a special man in mind, one whose ministry would span 45 years plus.

Born only a short distance away in Newton, Wisconsin, Philip Sprengling was no stranger to this part of the country. In fact his father, Johannes Sprengling, was pastor of the Newton congregation, then town of Mosel, and finally Sheboygan. All of these meant that Sprengling was never more than ten miles away from Centerville's two congregations. Only five years after graduating from the seminary in Milwaukee of the Wisconsin Synod, Philip Sprengling was called to serve St. John congregation and St. Peter congregation. The relationship between pastor and flock that began in 1887 would last until for health reasons some 46 years later Pastor Sprengling had to resign.

Pastor Sprengling's time serving both congregations was a very fruitful one. St. John's records showed the following at the time of their 50th anniversary in 1910: 902 baptisms, 164 marriages, 625 confirmands, 298 burials, and 13,316 having attended Holy Communion.⁴ As the two churches continued to grow past their 50 year anniversary dates it seemed clear to Pastor Sprengling that the need was arising to address the issue of two competing churches locally so

⁴ 125th anniversary booklet and directory. Pg 7. 1985.

close. Sprengling then got an idea; combine the two into one. After bringing the idea to the councils and presenting it to the congregations the idea was brought to a vote. April 18th, 1920, marked the day that St. Peter congregation voted 27 to 6 in favor of uniting. St John congregation voted some three weeks later 23 to 1 in favor.⁵ In a combined meeting on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, 1920 it was resolved, the two would become one.

“Since the church building of each congregation had served its purpose for a long period of time, it was also decided to build a new church.”⁶ Immediately a committee was established to locate the new church building and parsonage. Only two months passed before a site was chosen along Washington Street in Cleveland. The building committee took over planning for the new structure and “the cornerstone was laid in the year 1922 and the dedication to the service of the Triune God was held on June 24th, 1923.”⁷ The structure they dedicated to the glory of God is the same structure that stands at that site today still glorifying God by the worship that occurs within its walls.

After 45 years of ministry serving two parishes and then the combined parish of St. John St. Peter Pastor Sprengling retired. Without a doubt Pastor Sprengling had served faithfully. For the first time in nearly a half a century the people of Cleveland were without a pastor. In contrast to the man who was leaving the parsonage, the man they called was just one year into his marriage and only three years out of the seminary. Pastor Martin Braun accepted the call and was installed in November of 1933.

Pastor Braun arrived in time to be present for a very special double anniversary. In 1935 St. John St. Peter celebrated 15 years as a combined congregation. They also celebrated 75 years for St. John congregation. “At the time of this anniversary, 421 individuals were listed as

⁵ Copy of Resolution #157533 recorded in Manitowoc County Courthouse

⁶ 25th anniversary booklet.

⁷ 50th anniversary booklet. Pg 4. 1960. See Appendices A and L

communicant members.”⁸ For a village the size of Cleveland with many of the members being farmers from the surrounding area it would seem that 421 was a fairly substantial figure for its time. God was surely blessing the people of St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church.

The people of the area around Centerville were mainly farmers. They were mostly descended from German immigrants. So it comes as no surprise that until this time all the services had been conducted in the language of the people, German. But an interesting thing is noted in the meeting minutes of the council on September 7th, 1947.

“Before going into our business transaction for this meeting like to mention that as old as the congregation exist up to this day we carried on our quarterly and yearly meetings of the church in the German language in which it was founded in the very beginning and not less to know the minutes of same written down in the same language. It is now the decision of the congregation at this day as it is going over in the English more and more to write the minutes in that language which is only good and proper.”⁹

It was also noted in this same meeting that on the fifth Sunday of the month they would try having more English services. After the Second World War, German was not as appreciated as it had been before. English was gaining wide acceptance. Later in 1959 it is mentioned that the preachers coming out of the seminary are being told they will not have to preach in German and therefore it would be wise to do away with all German services since candidates will no longer be trained as such.¹⁰ The time of German worship services in Cleveland was numbered. The members of St. John St. Peter still worked to maintain their German heritage in worship, but they began to realize that they needed to make a change.

The first of many major milestones for the young congregation was reached in 1948, although it almost went unnoticed. During one of the meetings it was mentioned that they had been worshiping in the present church building for 25 years. The secretary at the time made this

⁸ 50th anniversary booklet. Pg 4. 1960. See Appendix D

⁹ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. September 7, 1947.

¹⁰ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. November 17, 1959.

reference in the minutes, “we still sometimes call it our new church, don’t realize it could be that many years.”¹¹ Time seems to have flown by without much notice. But this was not an anniversary they wanted to miss so planning got underway for the big 25 year celebration.¹²

Pastor Braun received a call in April of 1950 to serve a congregation in Milwaukee. The call for his replacement was issued to Pastor Elden Bode. Pastor Bode preached his first sermon in September of that year to a great number of people and witnesses “to partake of the praise of God, spoken through this His meek and humble servant, the gracious Lord placed amongst our midst.”¹³ The people of the congregation really loved their new pastor as he brought them what their hearts needed most, the Word of God.

The history of Christian education in a parochial school in Cleveland is one that has many ups and downs. In the early years of the two churches St. John congregation maintained a parochial school. Numerous teachers served during the time it operated. Already in December of 1862 the school was instructing 45 students. A new school was built with the land being purchased for \$2.00 from members of the congregation. Teachers served in the school until 1888 when the last teacher left and no new teachers were called. After that “students came from several public school districts of our congregation for three months of religious training.”¹⁴ No mention is made as to why the school stopped operating, but it was likely a sad day. Concern for the education of the children was never in question, but history records that the school no longer operated.

It wasn’t until 1954 at the yearly congregational meeting that the issue of Christian education resurfaces and action was taken. After much discussion, a committee was formed that would

¹¹ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. March 7, 1948.

¹² See Appendices B and C

¹³ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. September 3, 1950.

¹⁴ 125th anniversary booklet and directory. Pg 7. 1985.

look at the viability of a Christian Day school operated by the church. The committee was later given some points to determine whether or not to proceed.

1. need of such a school in our midst
2. whether additional summer school or added classes during the week thru out the year would be sufficient
3. question of whether or not a regular Christian day school could be conducted in our church basement
4. Would it meet the requirements of the industrial commission with respect to sanitation, plumbing, fire hazards, exist, lighting, etc.
5. approximate number of children that might attend if a school were conducted in the basement, if a suitable school building were available, potential number of people
6. transportation of pupils
7. teachers: qualifications, salaries, number of teachers required
8. would redistricting or consolidation of public schools result from a Christian day school in our congregation
9. need and cost of an adequate library
10. by approximately what percentage would present local school taxes be reduced if a Christian day school were available
11. estimated cost of an adequate new school building, annual debt payment per communicant, annual maintenance quota including salaries, etc per communicant
12. Estimated number of families that might contribute towards such expenses.

It was clear that the congregation was not going to rush into any decision to start or restart a school. The points that they brought up to investigate further are smart and make a lot of sense. They were going to go into this potential project with their eyes wide open. Unfortunately one year after forming the committee to study the issue, the decision was made to dissolve the committee and take no further action. Apparently the congregation had looked at these factors and decided against the founding of a school.

During his time in Cleveland, Pastor Bode was a supporter of starting a Christian Day school. In the 1956 annual report he wrote,

“Here is the greatest need of our congregation. The more our children learn about God, the greater their love to God, the better their church and communion attendance, the more willingly they’ll give, the greater their peace and happiness on earth, the surer of their salvation. Greater efforts should be put forth to establish such a Christian day school.

The majority sees the need of such a program but fears the expenses. We need more courage and trust in God to go ahead and try. The Lord himself will show us the way.”¹⁵

It was clear that he valued Christian education and desired that the church start a school. He worked hard to encourage the majority that recognized the need for such a school but had too much fear to start one. While this was not the time for a day school, the idea of a Christian Day school in Cleveland would not so easily go away.

In 1959 Pastor Bode accepted a call to serve a congregation in Minnesota. The congregation in Cleveland had been served by three pastors over the last 73 years. They certainly had been blessed with continuity, and with that many milestones had been passed. But the biggest anniversary for this church was one year away.

Shortly after receiving and accepting the call to serve in Cleveland, Pastor G.F. Cares presided over the 100th anniversary of the congregation. Going all the way back to that day in 1860 when St. John congregation was inaugurated, God had blessed the area around Cleveland with sound orthodox Lutheran preaching and teaching. Now 100 years later the time had come to reflect on the blessings of God. 667 souls called St. John St. Peter their spiritual home in 1960. Records indicate 2019 people had been baptized in the 100 years of existence, 1618 confirmed, 507 married, and 754 buried. “It is with gratefulness to God in our hearts that we look at these figures—for it is He who has provided the congregation with His Word and Sacraments.”¹⁶

Pastor Cares wasted no time in getting down to the spiritual care of the congregation. For him that meant bringing up the issue of a Christian Day school. At the yearly congregational meeting of 1960 that was the major topic of discussion. The main point of view expressed was

¹⁵ Annual Report of St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church 1956.

¹⁶ 100th anniversary booklet. Pg 5. 1960. See Appendix G

that “the financial burden was too great.”¹⁷ The members recognized and conceded that the need was great for a day school though. In an effort to recognize the financial burden faced by those wishing to attend synod schools, the congregation adopted a policy to encourage the furthering of their education. The scholarship committee at the March 1961 quarterly meeting recommended “to grant a scholarship of \$50 per year for male or female members of our congregation who are preparing for the preaching or teaching ministry...”¹⁸ This was a definite move in a positive direction, but it turned out Pastor Cares felt the congregation needed to do more, and so did other members.

In June of 1961 Pastor Cares distributed a questionnaire asking for feedback on a potential Christian Day school. The response was positive, but it wasn't noted anywhere that a vote was taken. Pastor in a later meeting made the suggestion “of erecting a gymnasium or an all purpose room and two classrooms.”¹⁹ At a later meeting a resolution was suggested that they go forward with gathering funds for an educational unit, but start no construction. In conjunction with the purchase of the land for Manitowoc Lutheran High School, Pastor Cares again finds the opportunity to stress the need for a day school. In August of 1962 the congregation takes a look at purchasing the old Point River school building. While Pastor Cares reports the building is suitable and reasonable the vote comes back 16 to 38 not in favor of bidding to buy.

While the importance of a Christian Day school didn't seem to be completely lost on the congregation, there were some difficult things to understand. Not only do they avoid taking votes, pass on buying what Pastor Cares considered a suitable location, but in June of 1964 it was mentioned due to the 70-80 kids enrolled in Sunday School that “it was very crowded, and

¹⁷ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. December 7, 1960.

¹⁸ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. March 6, 1961.

¹⁹ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. June 1, 1961.

wished something could be done about it.”²⁰ Something needed to be done to ease the overcrowding being felt in the church building during Sunday School. The logical solution for some was to build a school. Only a couple of months later, Pastor Cares stressed that membership was dropping and that a school would help ease that problem. Month after month went by and still no major action was taken, even though almost without fail each meeting Pastor Cares brought it up for discussion. The council and congregation seemed to be willing to talk, but all talk focused on the financial ability of the congregation to support a school.

Finally in 1966, after returning a number of calls, Pastor Cares accepted a call to serve a congregation in Columbus, Wisconsin. Special note was made in the meeting minutes that the church in Columbus has 2007 souls and 253 students in the Christian Day school, while Cleveland has 672 souls but no Christian Day school. Could it be that Pastor Cares was leaving Cleveland because of their seeming unwillingness to open up a Christian Day school?

Just a short couple of months later in the early spring of 1967 a call was issued to Pastor Paul Knickelbein serving in the Negro Mission of Milwaukee. He accepted and was installed April 9th, 1967. His time in Cleveland was marked with some difficulty. It is unclear where the tension arose with Pastor Knickelbein but it could be that his fiery and pointed preaching was a contributing factor. Pastor Knickelbein was described as one who made you squirm in the pew. “I was so disgusted, he preached about me every Sunday. He hit the nail on the head every time. You had the feeling that you are guilty of this.”²¹ Preaching that hits at the heart and convicts sinners of their status before God without Christ can sting. But Pastor Knickelbein didn’t let that sting go un-soothed. He applied the balm of the gospel to wounded hearts. Preaching the law not only stings, but it can also cause uncomfortable feelings as well. To those comfortable in sin

²⁰ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. June 1, 1964.

²¹ Personal interview with current member

or those who just want to hear good things and not bad, the harshness of the law can rub the wrong way. Apparently in Cleveland that may have been what happened.

Curiously, after only a few months Pastor Knickelbein received two calls. In the September quarterly meeting the congregation was called to vote their recommendation on whether Pastor Knickelbein should stay in Cleveland or leave to serve elsewhere. Somewhat astonishingly more people voted for him to leave than voted for him to stay in Cleveland.²²

Pastor Knickelbein left in September of 1968 after serving only 17 months.

In short order the next pastor to hopefully serve St. John St. Peter was called. This time the call had to cross the border into Canada. Pastor Henry F. Koch had been sent to Canada with specific goals in mind. Since he had studied German in Germany for two years and had an extensive German background, it was thought that he might be able to minister to a huge German population moving into Sault Ste. Marie. He received the call to Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario in 1964. By the late 1960s the German population never materialized. He had done the best he could. Combined with the harsh Canadian climate taking its toll on his daughter's health there was only one solution. Get out. So in late 1968 when the call came from St. John St. Peter in Cleveland, Pastor Koch and his family had little to deliberate. They were moving to Cleveland, Wisconsin.

"Frankly I didn't have an understanding of where it was or what kind of congregation it was...I knew some of the people who were there before."²³ It isn't surprising that Pastor Koch had to check a map before he got in his car and drove to Wisconsin. Cleveland wasn't exactly a huge town and it didn't receive a lot of press. Pastor Koch, when asked about what made him decide to go to St. John St. Peter he simply responded "I come from a long line of pastors, the

²² St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. September 23, 1968.

²³ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

Lord told me to go there and I went.”²⁴ Thus began the time for another servant of the Lord in Cleveland, one that no one would have seen lasting for the next quarter century plus.

During the early years of Pastor Koch’s ministry in Cleveland the connection between the church and Christian education came up again. This time it was Manitowoc Lutheran High School that needed support. In 1975, a federation of churches in the area was starting in order to help the struggling school. For reasons unknown, or at least unrecorded, St. John St. Peter decided not to join the federation. A representative, Pastor Unke, of the federation came to make a presentation to the congregation asking for the members of St. John St. Peter to consider joining in this important work. Again the request was made because Manitowoc Lutheran High School was in need of more congregational support.

It wasn’t until the December annual voter’s meeting that the issue was brought up and discussed again. This time the motion to join the federation passed. It would appear that St. John St. Peter joining the federation was part of God’s plan, and an extremely good thing for the high school in Manitowoc. Pastor Koch remembers that the school was in trouble. The pastors in the conference didn’t know what to do anymore to make it run. It was as the pastors were about ready to throw up their hands in frustration that the lay people of the area got behind the school. Through this work of the lay people God brought success back to Manitowoc Lutheran High School.²⁵ The people of Cleveland joined the growing support for the high school in their area.

Living in a village that is miles from any larger city, situated in a state of the country that isn’t known for its foreign connections, and in a congregation made up mostly of farmers and local people it would not surprise anyone that St. John St. Peter didn’t participate actively in

²⁴ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

²⁵ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

foreign mission work. That doesn't mean that the heart for mission work wasn't there though. Not only did the congregation actively work to make their yearly contributions to the synod, they looked to find other ways to do the work of a mission.

Theodore Sauer, one the many missionaries to Zambia in Africa, was married to a cousin of Pastor Koch. She was a nurse serving with her husband on the mission fields of Zambia, and she would send letters to her cousin in Wisconsin. In these letters she would describe all the things happening in Africa, how her husband's mission work was going, and what it was like living in a foreign country. Pastor Koch would receive these letters and in turn read the portions that related to the mission work going on in Africa to his congregation. These reports generated interest in the congregation, and certain groups expressed a desire to support the African missionary. Money was gathered and sent along to Africa with the thanks of a grateful congregation in Wisconsin. As Pastor Koch recalls it, it was an "early forerunner to an "adopt a mission" program. They took a special interest in it because she was my cousin, saw that the Ladies Aid and the congregation took an interest too and made contributions for the cause."²⁶ While the congregation of Cleveland may have been thousands of miles away from Zambia in Africa, they found they had a connection to be able to participate in foreign mission work through their pastor.

While it could be said that the congregation had taken an active interest in participating with the local Christian high school and also an active role in foreign mission work, it was the matter of a Christian Day school that still hung around. In 1983 it was decided to have a Christian Education Sunday. Such a Sunday would work to encourage those thinking about starting a school within the congregation ~~that the idea was still there~~. It would also encourage those wishing to send their children to synod schools. The Sunday after Labor Day was decided

²⁶ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

upon for this purpose. Christian Education Sunday enjoyed some yearly significance until it was dropped later on.

In December of 1984 shortfalls in the congregation's general fund were commonplace. It seemed that money was always an issue each year. It didn't take long for people to look elsewhere to cover that amount. To that end, a motion was made at the yearly meeting to take some money from the still active education account and use that money to pay off debts from the general fund. The simple idea was that the church didn't have a school and therefore that money should be used for other purposes. One member stood up to oppose such an action.

Remembering the wishes of his deceased father, it had been his wishes that one day a school would start. To honor that wish the money should be left untouched in the future hopes that school would be started. The motion was denied and the money left alone. It was a small victory in a long line of defeats for Christian education at St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church.

Any church that survives even 10 or 20 years praises God for his lavish grace. A church that makes it to 50 years surely counts itself blessed by God. When a church tops 100 years they have extra special reason to give thanks and glory to God. In September of 1985 St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church offered up a celebration in honor of God's protection and grace for 125 years in the Cleveland area.²⁷

With an aging 65 year old building it was decided also to mark the celebration of 125 years with an interior remodeling of the sanctuary space. New painting, carpeting, and chancel renovations were considered. Extra lighting in the nave was also added. Potente Studios of Kenosha was hired to complete the renovations at a cost of around \$34,000. Pastor Koch remembers the designer from Potente coming into the sanctuary and simply sitting there for a

²⁷ See Appendices F and H

couple of hours, “soaking up the ambiance of the building.”²⁸ While this solidified for Pastor Koch that Potente would provide a beautiful remodel of an already beautiful space, Pastor Koch did recall one particular statement that shocked him a bit. The designer observed that St. John St. Peter wasn’t truly set up like a Lutheran church. To a good Lutheran pastor’s ears this stung a bit, so Pastor Koch inquired for more information. The designer went on to say that the church furniture didn’t reflect Lutheran doctrine. “Baptismal font was pushed aside and not prominent, not given importance.”²⁹ Needless to say as part of the renovation the congregation moved the baptismal font to its present location seeking to give it the importance that they always believed it had, but never showed in its placement.

In honor of the blessing they had received from God, the congregation planned an observance of the date to include two services and a sit down dinner later. Pastor Knickelbein returned to preach for the early morning service. Pastor Dale Klessig, a son of the congregation, preached for the later morning service in honor of the day. The day was capped off by a noon meal celebration at Bil-Mar Supper Club where people enjoyed a presentation on the history of the church as well as many pictures, mementos, and historical items from the 125 years of history.

With a history spanning over 125 years, it takes discipline to maintain doctrine and practice for that long in accord with biblical teaching. It certainly takes a pastor willing to speak up for the truth, as well as a congregation willing to be instructed by that same truth of Scriptures. Sometimes it is the littlest thing that when relaxed leads to doctrine being lost. One such example was a question raised of something the congregation and council obviously had to deal with. The question was raised as to why so many married couples left after they get

²⁸ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

²⁹ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

married, or didn't even get married in the church. After some discussion the main points that rose to the surface were singing, the soloists, and song selection. The council was raising a question about fellowship practices, and it was clear that the congregation held the same questions. Pastor Koch spoke up in order to remind the council of what the Bible had to say about fellowship practices. Pastor also reminded the council about the constitution and what it said with regard to wedding practices, as well as the oath he took to defend what the Bible has to say. He closed with "a warning to not become too liberal on allowing these things to happen."³⁰ It is just such kind of issues that can rise up and become dangerous for a congregation, but a pastor who loves the Scriptures and a congregation willing to be instructed by those Scriptures will stand against such errors with the Lord's help.

Already in 1979 it was recorded in the meeting minutes that a few people had mentioned having trouble getting up the flight of stairs into the church for worship. Discussion was had on a "step elevator," but nothing was determined. Then in 1986 a member specifically brought up an elevator as a need of the congregation. Almost from the start the reasons for such a need were defined as physical needs of members who could not get up steps as easily, building codes in the state required handicapped accessibility, as well as ease for getting caskets in and out. In an effort to get the ball rolling the member brought forward an offering to the Lord and started a memorial fund set aside specifically for a potential handicapped entrance. Later meetings in 1986 outlined potential uses for an addition, "a new church entrance, possible ramp, toilets on main level, and a new office for Pastor's use."³¹ At the June quarterly meeting the congregation resolved to continue to gather funds for such a cause.

³⁰ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. April 16, 1985.

³¹ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. April 9, 1986.

It isn't until 1989 that things really started to get rolling on a new potential addition. Stubenrauch Architects of Sheboygan was hired to do a preliminary study for a new handicapped addition. At the December congregational meeting of that year Stubenrauch presented the scheme and what it would look like on the front of the church. Not to rush into anything major without full discussion, the question was asked about paying for such an addition. Sensibly an idea was put forward that a capital campaign should be conducted for the period of one year. After that, Stubenrauch Architects would come back and a vote would be taken. Early in 1990 a ways and means committee was assembled to "determine possible financing options and to collect the pledges."³²

When anyone examines the time that passed from the first serious mention of a handicapped addition to the time that the architects presented their scheme it is hard to believe. Pastor Koch remembers, "It did come as somewhat of a surprise."³³ To see the church come together so quickly around this idea and move forward with it after taking ownership was a wonderful thing to see. Only three months after the pledge cards were sent out \$45,000 was pledged with only 12% of the pledge forms returned. St. John St. Peter was stepping up in a big way to say "go forward" with this project. After \$84,000 had been pledged with only 22% of pledge forms coming back it was decided to generate some more excitement. A concept sketch was put up with a thermometer to track the progress.

But by December things had slowed somewhat. In total 267 pledge forms had been sent out, but only 79 of those had been returned (29.5%). Disappointment was expressed to the congregation that more pledge forms hadn't been returned, even with "no" votes on them. While 69 of the pledges returned expressed positive feedback on the project, the committee charged

³² St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. March 12, 1990.

³³ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

with making the decision was looking for more feedback. A six month extension was given to continue reviewing and gather more information.

Stubenrauch Architects continued to work with St. John St. Peter in order to give accurate estimates for the project. The final estimate presented to the congregation was for \$220,000-225,000. In 1992, for a congregation the size of Cleveland, that was doable although there were skeptics. Given the membership of Cleveland being mostly farmers or senior citizens with fixed incomes some thought the figure was too high to accomplish without taking on serious debt. But in April of 1991 the committee recommended to the council to go forward with the project. By June of 1991 \$100,500 had been raised in pledges, about half of what would be needed.

People came out on both sides expressing both positive and negative comments at the June meeting. "Pastor's daughter addressed a letter to the committee stating that the money could be better used for mission work. Another letter was read from Howard and Selma Vogel stating that there was a need for this entrance."³⁴ The vote was called; the history of the church came to this crossroads. "Yes—22, no—15, pass—1."³⁵ The project would be built.

Immediately the plans were finalized, J.J. Schmidt and Sons was selected as the contractor for the project, and the pledge money was collected. By November of 1991, \$62,000 was in the books as collected. By December the project was on schedule with the rafters being hoisted that month. March of 1992 arrived with an astounding \$145,157 pledged, and \$125,807 received. God's people had responded with first fruits giving to the Lord.

On June 28th, 1992 God's grace to St. John St. Peter was displayed once again in a tangible way. The new handicapped addition with its new bathrooms on the main floor level,

³⁴ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. June 10, 1991.

³⁵ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. June 10, 1991.

new casket sized elevator going from the basement to the main sanctuary level, and new entrance was dedicated to the glory of God. This message was written in the minutes of the congregation:

“Once more we saw the truth of God’s Word in our own experience: ‘This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.’ Psalm 118:24. We saw our new entrance completed, we were able to dedicate it to our God in the company of many friends and we enjoyed beautiful weather throughout the day.”³⁶

A plaque hangs in the entryway for all future generations to remember the wonderful day and the great God who provided the means to make it happen.

When asked to recall the time surrounding the handicapped addition Pastor Koch remembers only the will of the people to move forward on the project. He also recalled the achievement of the architects with regards to the style of the architecture. Having a building almost 70 years old with unique architecture could have posed problems. “Too many other churches have ‘shoe boxes’ pushed up against the front” that don’t look like they belong. But Pastor Koch said the style of architecture, the brick all were the “perfect architectural development of that building.”³⁷ This letter of appreciation was sent to the Stubenrauch

Architects in response to the beautiful addition that they designed:

“We, the members of the church council, are very happy with the entrance you have designed for us. In its appearance the entrance fits the style of our church’s architecture perfectly. It does not look like a recent add-on.”³⁸

In the years that followed many members were amazed at the level of exactness the architects achieved, and many non-members were none the wiser that an addition ever was added. In Pastor Koch’s estimation, “Fine piece of work.”³⁹

Other projects arose in the years that followed the handicapped addition. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod introduced a new hymnal in 1993 synod wide. Touching many

³⁶ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. June 28, 1992. See Appendix L

³⁷ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

³⁸ St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Meeting minutes. June 28, 1992.

³⁹ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

emotions in people, some good some bad, the new hymnal could have been a sensitive subject in a small town church like Cleveland. Pastor Koch and the congregation introduced the new hymnal slowly using the Sampler provided by the synod as well as having the organists and pastor making correlations between the old and new. For as challenging as the hymnals could have been Pastor Koch was “impressed with the way the congregation went into without a major uproar.”⁴⁰ Some “old” ways of doing things were preserved, such as the old wording of the Lord’ Prayer. Pastor Koch’s reason why, “No point in ripping up people’s souls over some strange wording.”⁴¹ There it was, a pastor who cared about his flock and a flock willing to move forward. The story of St. John St. Peter hadn’t changed much in its long history.

Other areas of the church in need of some work were the huge stained glass windows that faced east, west, and north in the church. These massive windows were installed in 1922 when the building was being erected. Those windows had seen some minor repairs through the years, but by the late 1990s they were in desperate need of work. A major project was started to remove the panes of stained glass, re-lead them, and reinstall them. This would be the last major project that Pastor Koch would oversee while at St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church.

As the physical building that served the congregation was getting some work done to it, so to were the spiritual needs of the congregation being addressed. Bible class attendance in any church always leaves something to be desired. There are never as many as you wish you had. Pastor Koch does recall that “Those that came were very interested, wanted to be better informed, and they took an interest.”⁴² There was no questioning the Lutheran view of this congregation when it came to things like Bible study. The people wanted to be educated in the

⁴⁰ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

⁴¹ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

⁴² Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

Bible, they wanted to be taught the doctrines of the church, and they wanted to be informed about God.

Other supplementary groups were formed or tried throughout the years too. Girls and Boys Pioneers had existed for many years at St. John St. Peter. There always seemed to be those that were interested in joining or leading the group and those that participated enjoyed their time. Vacation Bible School started out in the earliest years of the history of the congregation. It started as a three week, half day program that ran in early summer. Slowly it had been cut back until it ran for one week half days. While the oldest generation may say this is too lax, the practical nature of VBS and the participation the congregation regularly saw indicated that this time frame worked. An active youth group was always something the church enjoyed as well. The yearly play the youth put on was a highlight. Pastor Koch remembers the time as one with fewer distractions, not as many jobs for the young people, and less demanding sports activities. Potentially because of these other activities in young Christians lives in 1987 the Young Lutherans Guild of St. John St. Peter was disbanded. It was likely a sad time for those that remembered with fondness the times they enjoyed in that group. But the spirit of that group was carried on in the Girl and Boy Pioneer groups that exist to this day.

In 1998 Pastor Henry Koch announced his retirement, and a 29 year history of one pastor serving the congregation came to a close. Mixed feelings on both sides naturally accompanied the retirement of such a long standing pastor. Pastor Koch mentioned having thoughts about going one more year and making it an even 30 years, but he believed “stop while you’re still ahead.”⁴³ Being such an integral part of the history of the congregation for that long certainly had an impact on Pastor Koch, but he took it in stride. With a grandfather in the ministry and a father in the ministry before him he reflected on it this way, “we are in history, it is no big deal,

⁴³ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

its life.”⁴⁴ Surely Pastor Koch was a true man of God who was always willing to move on when the Lord asked him to do so.

St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church has had two pastors serve in the time since. Both seminary graduates assigned to the church on call day, the youth in the pastors office has not diminished. It is usually said that it takes 50 years before perspective can be gained on history in order to make judgments, and so I will leave the recent history to another. I will close with the words from the 100th anniversary booklet published 47 years ago. They closed with a look forward that still holds true today as it did then.

“It is natural that after looking back, we also look ahead. The future of the congregation, of course, is known alone to God. Thus, we not only sing His praises for past blessings, but we also beseech Him to be with us during the years which lie before us. We pray His name continue to be hallowed in St. John-St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Wis., for then we are certain that His blessings will continue. He himself has told us: ‘For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but waterth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.’”⁴⁵

God bless the congregation of St. John St. Peter Cleveland, Wisconsin!

+ + +

Soli Deo Gloria

⁴⁴ Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

⁴⁵ 100th anniversary booklet. Pg 5. 1960.

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Personal interview with Pastor Henry F. Koch over the phone. November 26, 2007.

Resolution of St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church to consolidate. On file with register's office of Manitowoc County, WI. Resolution # 157533.

Appendix Contents

Appendix A – copy of the original program for the afternoon dedication service for the new building of St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church

Appendix B – cover of the 25th anniversary of the dedication of St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church

Appendix C – page copied from the 25th anniversary booklet of the dedication of St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church which has a brief history of the church

Appendix D – 75 year anniversary since founding of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church and 15 year anniversary of dedication of new church building service folder

Appendix E – copy of the 50th anniversary service of the dedication of St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church

Appendix F – cover page of the 125th anniversary service folder for St. John St. Peter Lutheran Church

Appendix G – picture of name tags worn on the date of the 100th anniversary of the congregation as well as the napkins used at the dinner for the 100th anniversary of the congregation

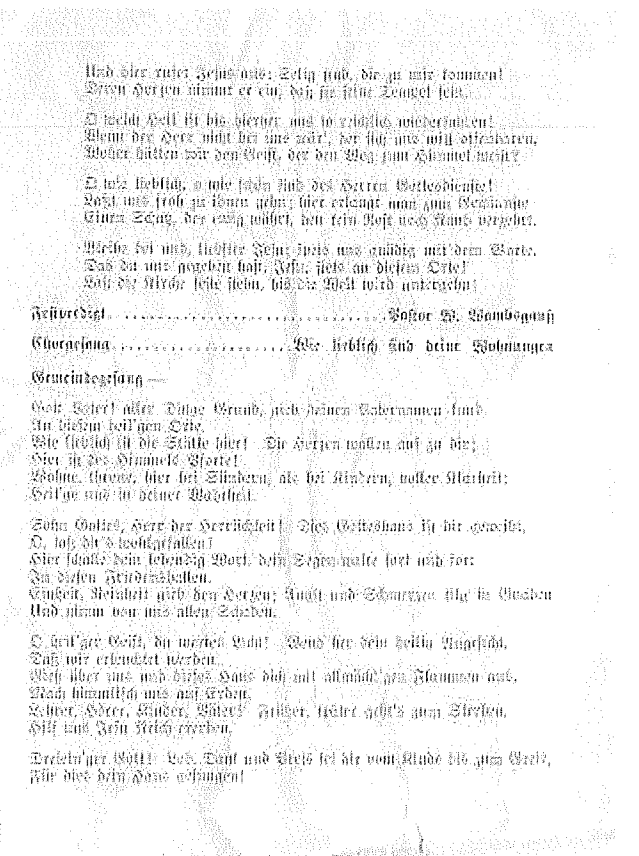
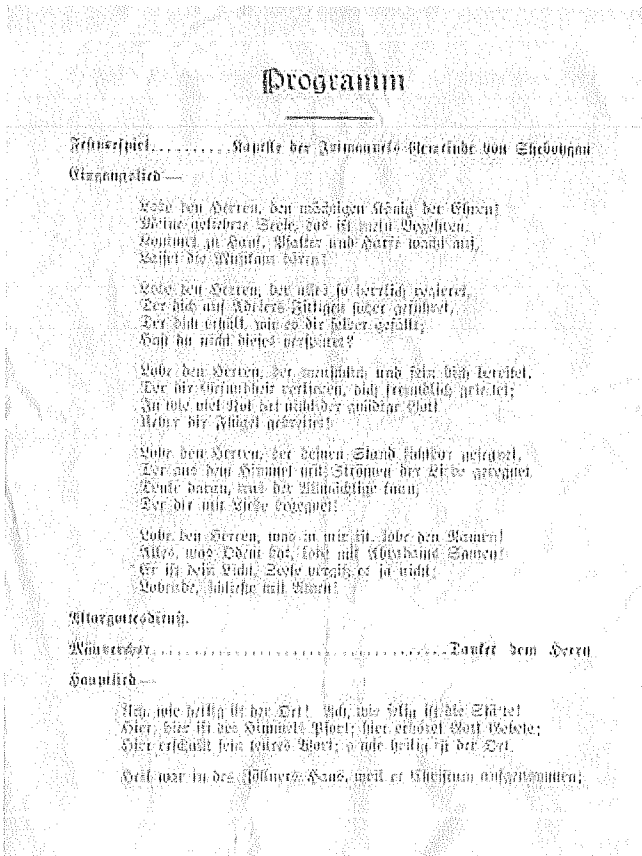
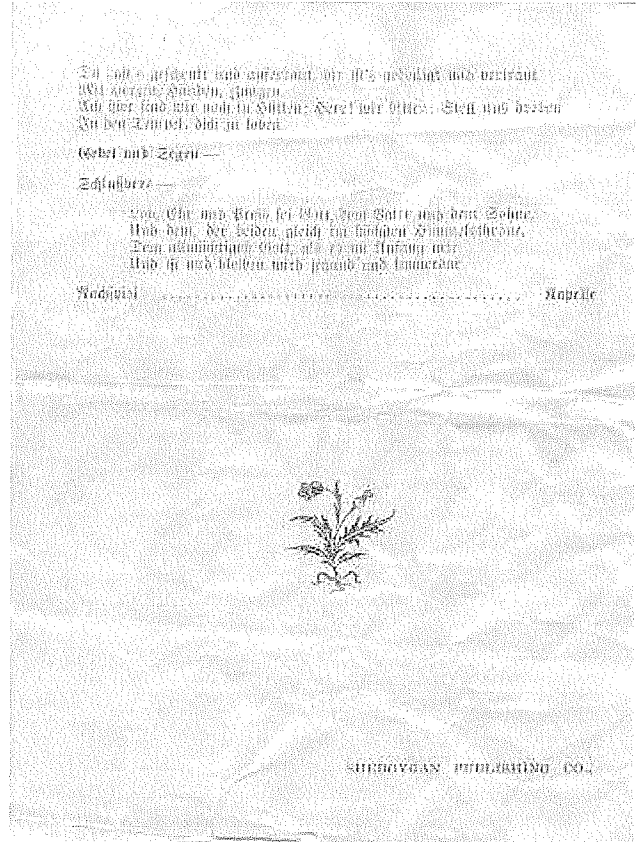
Appendix H – copy of the placemat used at the dinner for the 125th anniversary of the congregation

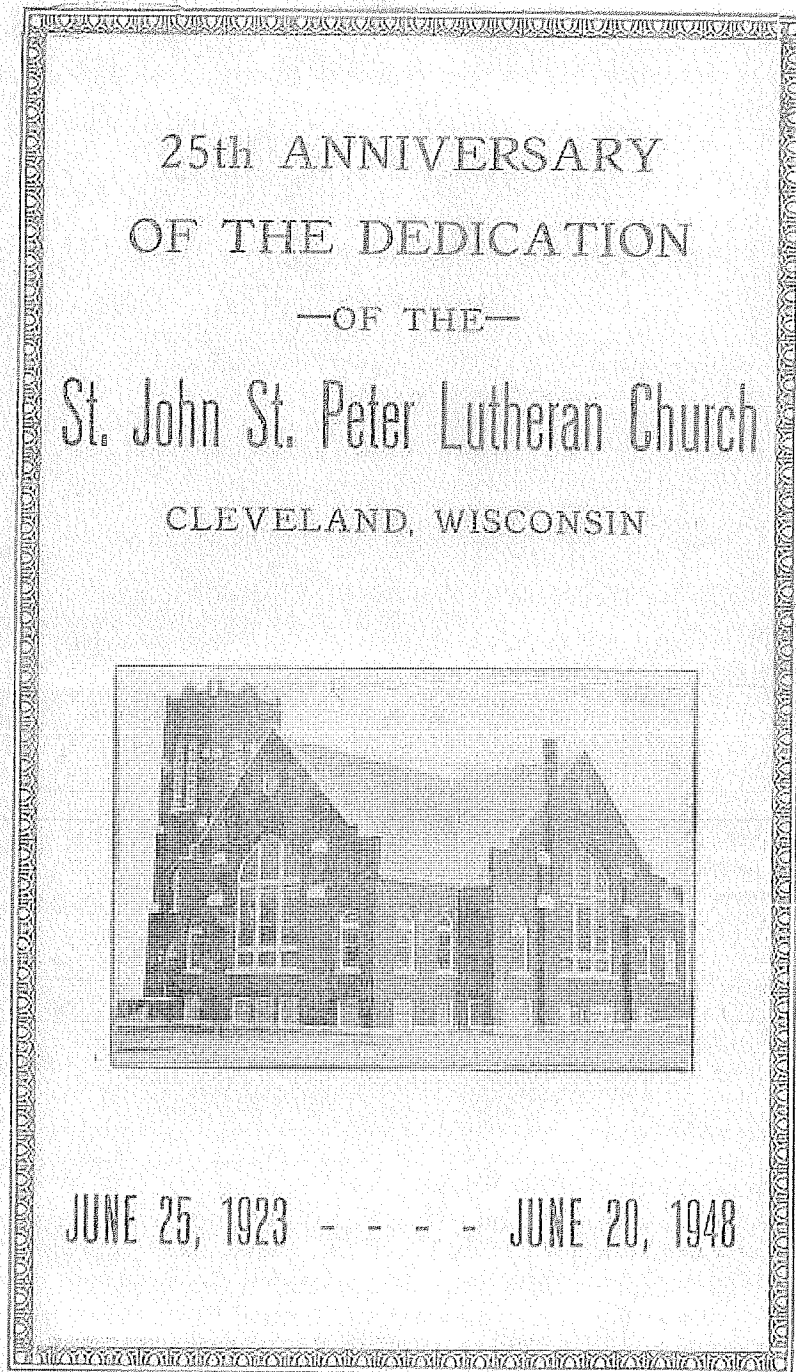
Appendix J – Pictures of the various pastors who have served at St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Appendix K – exterior pictures of St. John Church and St. Peter Church and interior pictures

Appendix L – exterior pictures of St. John St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1960, 1985, and 2001

Appendix A





Appendix C

Twenty-five Years of God's Gracious Guidance

Our congregation is comprised of what originally was two congregations, both located in the vicinity of Cleveland; St. John at Hika on the shores of Lake Michigan, organized in the year 1860, and St. Peter located on the Union road west of Cleveland, organized in the year 1863. The two congregations were separated by a distance of about three and one-half miles and were always served by one Pastor.

At a joint meeting, held on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 1920, a decision was reached whereby the two congregations were merged. The name of each was retained in-so-far that the new congregation was named St. John St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Congregation. Since the church building of each congregation had served its purpose for a long period of time, it was also decided to build a new church. A committee was elected at the same meeting for the purpose of selecting a suitable site for the erection of a new church building, and then report its findings to the newly organized congregation.

At a special meeting held July 4, 1920, the present site was voted upon and chosen. A Building Committee was elected and after considerable work and deliberation it was voted to erect the present building. The corner stone was laid in the year 1922 and the dedication to the service of the Triune God, was held on June 25, 1923. The original cost of the building was approximately \$40,000.00.

Since the dedication of the church building, 311 baptisms were performed, 343 were confirmed, 131 couples were united in marriage and 164 received Christian burial. The congregation at present consists of 477 communicants and 681 baptized members.

Services are conducted every Sunday in the English language and on the second and fourth Sunday of each month services are conducted in both the English and the German language. We conduct a Bible Class and Sunday School each Sunday. Our Sunday School at the present time consists of 11 teachers and 93 enrollees. A summer school is also conducted during the month of June of each year.

The following societies have been organized within the congregation to further Christian knowledge and Christian fellowship: A Ladies Aid; Young Lutherans' Guild; Married Society; and a Choir.

This occasion also marks the 25th anniversary of Mrs. Oscar C. Lutze, one of our organists, and Mr. Wm. Hubu, who has served the congregation as secretary at all congregational meetings for the same length of time.

We dedicate this congregation anew, together with our hearts, our hands and voices to the Service of the Triune God, the Father who has created us; the Son who has redeemed us; the Holy Spirit who has sanctified us.

Appendix D

1860 1935



GOTTESDIENST-ORDNUNG
ZUM
75-jaehrigen JUBILAEUM
UND
15-jaehrigen JUBILAEUM
DER
VEREINIGUNG
DER
EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHEN
ST. JOHANNIS - ST. PETRI GEMEINDE
CLEVELAND, WISCONSIN
den 22 Sept., 1935.

1920 1935

Der Sperrgang 1867-1933 - 46 Jahre

GOTTESDIENST AM VORMITTAG		GOTTESDIENST AM NACHMIDDAG	
VORBEREITUNG DER GEMEINDE - Stationen		VORBEREITUNG	
GEMEINDEGESANG		GEMEINDEGESANG	
<p>1. Nur Jesus dein Herz aber Welt Kannst du, es seine Dienst auch nicht Kannst du, es seine Dienst auch nicht Kannst du, es seine Dienst auch nicht</p>		<p>1. Ich hab' die ferne Welt bedacht Und nicht zu fernem Volk gemacht, Zu Sünden, die so oft befallen Zu Sünden, die so oft befallen</p>	
<p>2. Verkünd' die Welt die unser Herr, Der uns erschaffen hat zum Heil, Und nicht zu fernem Volk gemacht, Und nicht zu fernem Volk gemacht</p>		<p>2. An die unsere Gott, begehrt die Welt, Und nicht zu fernem Volk gemacht, Zu Sünden, die so oft befallen Zu Sünden, die so oft befallen</p>	
LEHRGEBET		LEHRGEBET	
ORGELGESANG		ORGELGESANG	
ZWISCHENSPIEL - HILFSGESANG		ZWISCHENSPIEL - HILFSGESANG	
<p>1. Worum dieses Zerschneiden wird Sinnlos, das ist die Kette, werden hier die Sinnlos, das ist die Kette, werden hier die</p>		<p>1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices Who through His mercy Have blessed us with His grace, And still are ours to-day</p>	
GEMEINDEGESANG		GEMEINDEGESANG	
<p>1. Leben des Herrn, o meine Seele, Ich will dir danken bis in Ewigkeit Weil du mich hast erlöst aus aller Not Weil du mich hast erlöst aus aller Not</p>		<p>1. All praise and thanks to God, The Father, now be given, To Son, and that who reigns With them in highest heaven, Who are praised and glorified always For ever, Amen</p>	
<p>2. Erhaben sind die Werke, die du hast Und nicht zu fernem Volk gemacht, Zu Sünden, die so oft befallen Zu Sünden, die so oft befallen</p>		<p>2. Praise to the Lord, The Almighty, the King of creation, Who hath visibly shown His power, Who hath visibly shown His power</p>	
JUBILAEUMSPRECHUNG - FÜRSTEN WILHELM SPRINGELING, der die Gemeinde des Herrn als Stifter der Gemeinde hat		OFFERTORIUM - HILFSGESANG	
VERBÜRGEN		OFFERTORIUM - HILFSGESANG	
GEMEINDEGESANG		OFFERTORIUM - HILFSGESANG	
<p>1. Ich hab' die ferne Welt bedacht Und nicht zu fernem Volk gemacht, Zu Sünden, die so oft befallen Zu Sünden, die so oft befallen</p>		<p>1. Praise to the Lord, The Almighty, the King of creation, Who hath visibly shown His power, Who hath visibly shown His power</p>	
<p>2. Ich hab' die ferne Welt bedacht Und nicht zu fernem Volk gemacht, Zu Sünden, die so oft befallen Zu Sünden, die so oft befallen</p>		<p>2. Praise to the Lord, The Almighty, the King of creation, Who hath visibly shown His power, Who hath visibly shown His power</p>	

Appendix E

50th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DEDICATION OF THE
ST. JOHN - ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CLEVELAND, WISCONSIN



W. Gurte	1862-1868	1850	St. John's founded
Chas. H. Hovatta	1869-1876	1873	St. Peter's founded
Francis Deppa	1878-1877		
A. Pausa	1877-1888		
C. Jaeger	1883-1887		
Philis Sorenson	1887-1888	1889 May 23, Congregation united. 1892 1893, June 20, Church Dedication	
Martha Braun	1893-1950	1898 75th Anniv. of the Congregation 1948 55th Anniv. of the Dedication	
Elmer Bode	1898-1926		
Georgette F. Care	1900-1957	1902 100th Anniv. of the Congregation	
Paul Knickorstein	1907-1938		
Henry F. Koch	1939		

June 28, 1923

June 24, 1973

ORDER OF SERVICE

9:30 am

Hymn 638

- In lead, onward stream
The King of Glory comes,
O'er head'n and earth He reigns
Through everlasting days;
But Zion, hush to night's hush,
At His might, His chosen seat.
- O King of Glory reign
And wash Thy lower realm
This people as Thy name,
This people as Thy name,
Rejoice this and hereafter to show
How God can dwell with men and us.
- Now let Thy love attend
Our supplication here;
Now let our praise ascend,
Accepted, to Thy throne;
Now let Thy Word, the Gospel, sound,
Spread Thy eternal blessing round.
- How may the Christian's prayer
Receive Thy trust and love,
Here Christians join the song
Of angels above
Till all who here may seek Thy face
Rejoice in Thy abundant grace.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a heart and confess
our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Pastor: Our sins is in the name of the Lord.

Congregation: Who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

Congregation: And Thou shalt forgive the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: The Confession of Sins

Congregation: O most merciful God, who have given Thyself together with
us for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us
remission of all our sins and by Thy Holy Spirit strengthen
in us true knowledge of Thyself and true confidence in Thy Word,
to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: The Absolution

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: The Blessing

Congregation: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen

Lord, have mercy upon us Christ, have mercy upon us!
Lord, have mercy upon us!

Hymn 440

- God our Father, Son, and Spirit,
Everlast'nd Trinity,
Lambly now our thanks we offer,
Worship Thy great will,
For Thy love and goodness blessing
Gathered us to Thy church's walls,
Building it and ever growing,
On the throne of our hearts.
- Grant that we Thy Word may cherish
And its unity cherish,
Lord, when found in the Bible,
All our labor is to gain
Word as from all parts and teaching,
Write and teach it true,
Knowing that our work without Thee
Lord will surely miscarry.
- These days give our Father's goodness
To the land we love to dwell,
Lengthening the days and comfort
Of both life and here,
Strengthening Thy people's faith
As these days draw to close,
Giving us, dear Lord and Father,
An abiding heritage.
- God of grace and love and blessing,
Thine alone shall be the praise,
Ever as here to us Thy Word,
Hark to us, Thy Word be true,
Lord, when Thy love be true,
Till we join the heavenly host,
There to praise and sing Thy name,
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Pastor: Prayer

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: The benediction

Hymn 26

Now thank we them that
With gifts and love and grace,
Who sanctified things both here,
In whom His work is done;
Who bring our mother's arm
Humbly in an our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father ever be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in high and low;
The one eternal God,
Whom heaven and earth adore!
For thus it was of old,
And shall be evermore.

Announcements

The Pastoral Assistant: Pastor Vaughn Magin, son of Mr. & Mrs.
Harry Magin of the congregation. He is
pastor of Westside Lutheran in Milwaukee,
WI.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: The Collect

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: The Scripture Lessons

Congregation: The Apostle's Creed

Choir:

Hymn 465

1. O Lord, Thou art the sure foundation,
Thou the Head and Cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and Paved,
Binding all the Church in one;
Thou Thy Word's Holy Sacrament
And Thy Confidence of Love.

2. To this temple where we call Thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts, abide;
With Thy sacred Holy Spirit
Hear Thy servants as they pray
And Thy full benediction
Shed upon these walls away.

3. Be ye merciful to all Thy servants
When they ask of Thee to give,
When they quit from Thee forever
With the blessed to receive,
And hereafter in Thy glory
Evermore with Thee to reign.

4. Peace and honor in the Father,
Peace and honor to the Son,
Peace and honor to the Holy
Spirit and ever One,
One to inhabit and to reign,
While eternity shall last.

The Sacrament: Pastor V. Vogel of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

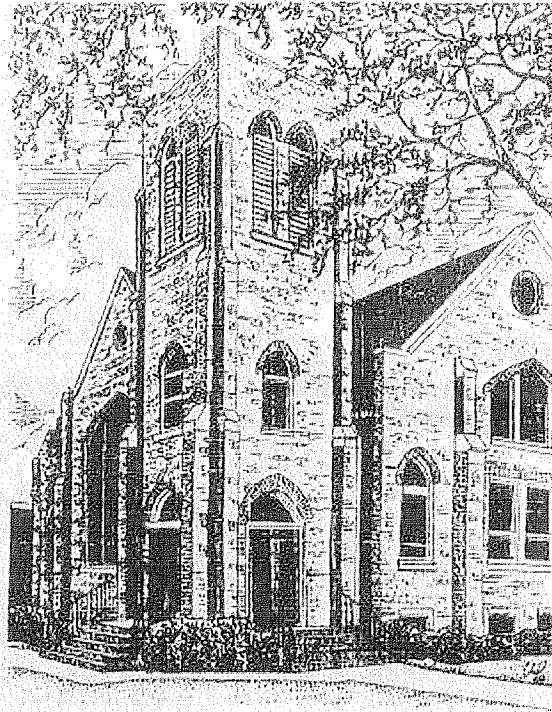
Congregation: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and a right spirit
within me; Give me not envy from Thy enemies; and take not
Thy Holy Spirit from me; Restore unto me the joy of Thy
salvation and uphold me with Thy Holy Spirit. Amen

The Offering: The offering offering will be given to Milwaukee Lutheran
High School and to the Church Extension Fund of the Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Pastor: The Closing Prayer

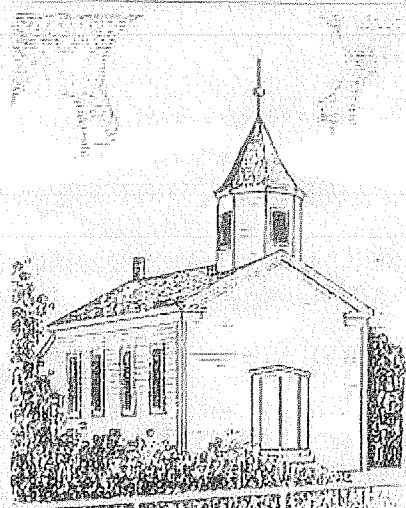
Congregation: The Lord's Prayer

Appendix F

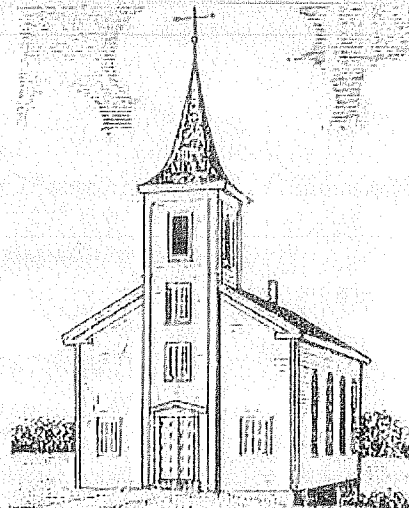


St. John-St. Peter Lutheran Church Cleveland, Wisconsin

125 Years



1860-1923
St. John Ev. Lutheran Church Hillsboro, Wis.



1863-1925
St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church Town of Centerville, Wis.

1860-1985

Cover of 125th anniversary service folder

Appendix G

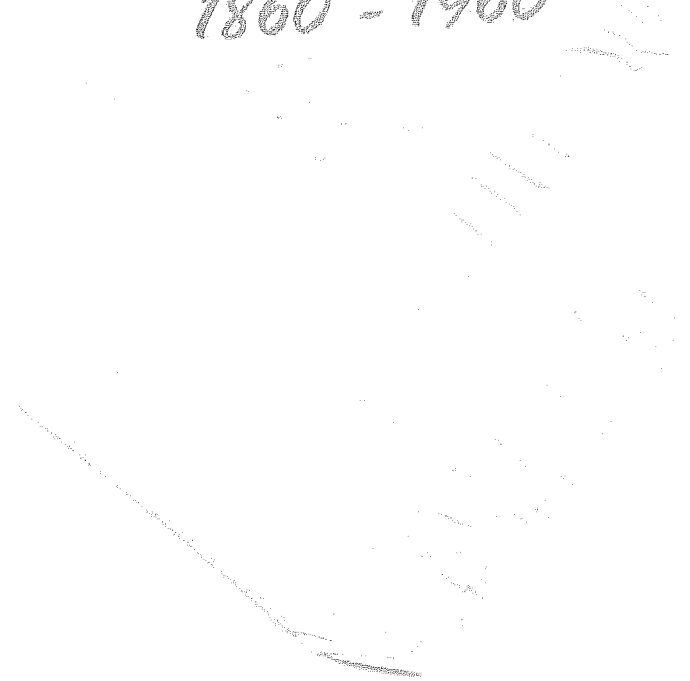


Nametag worn for 100th anniversary

St. John - St. Peter
Lutheran Congregation

Centennial

1860 - 1960



Napkin for 100th anniversary

Appendix H

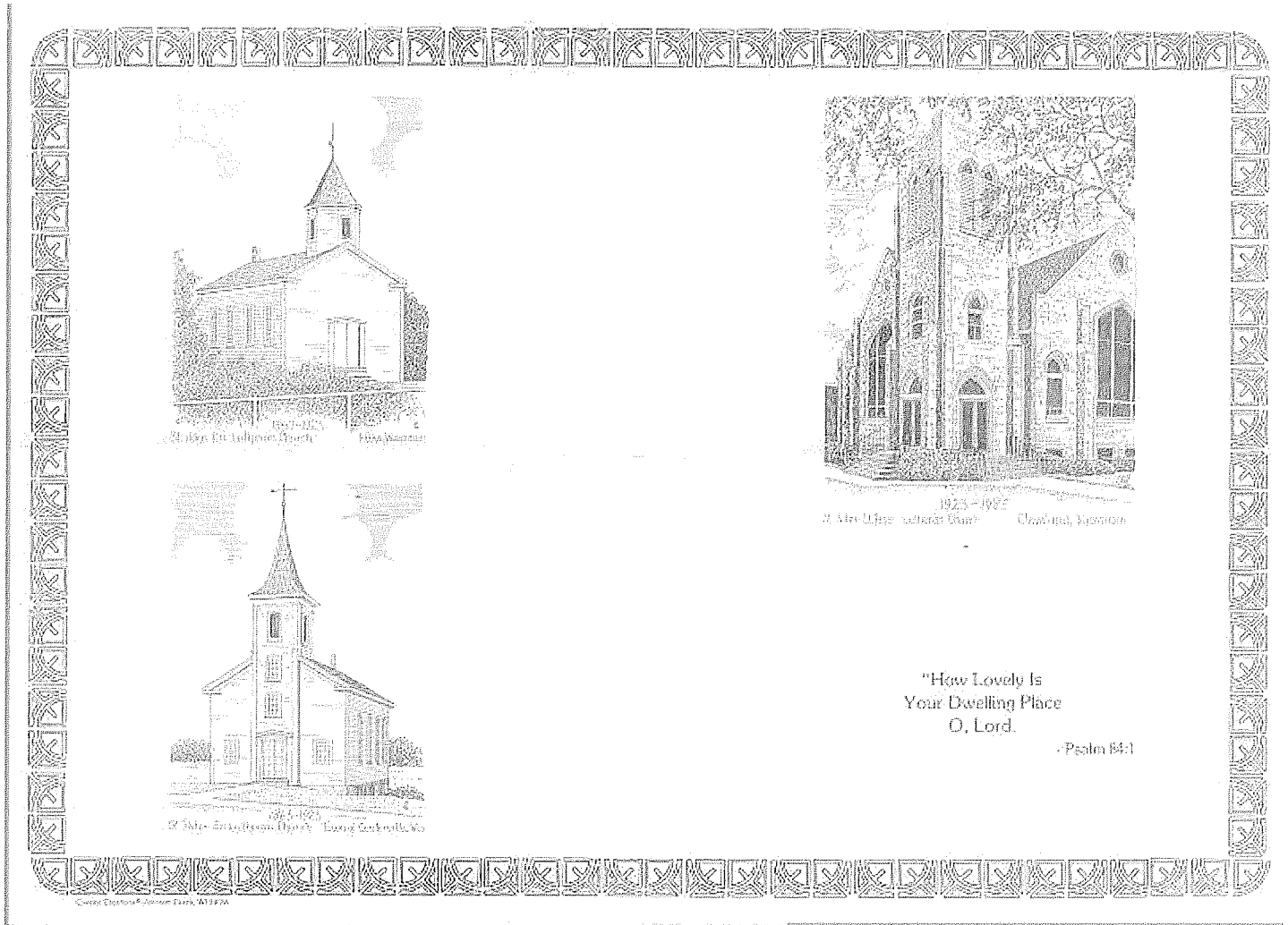
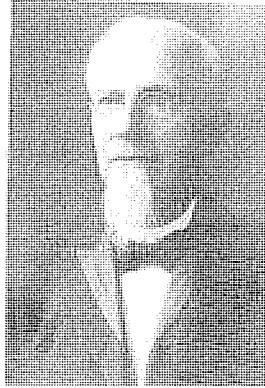


Table placemat 1985

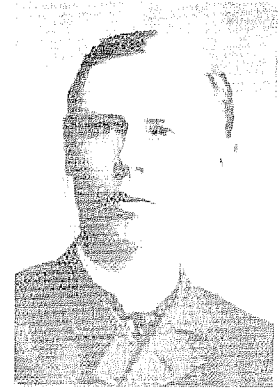
Appendix J



Quehl



Haase



Pieper



Sprengling



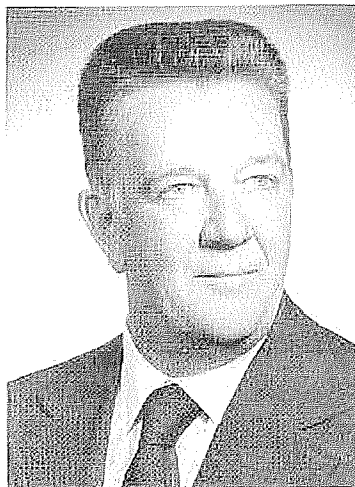
Braun



Bode



Cares

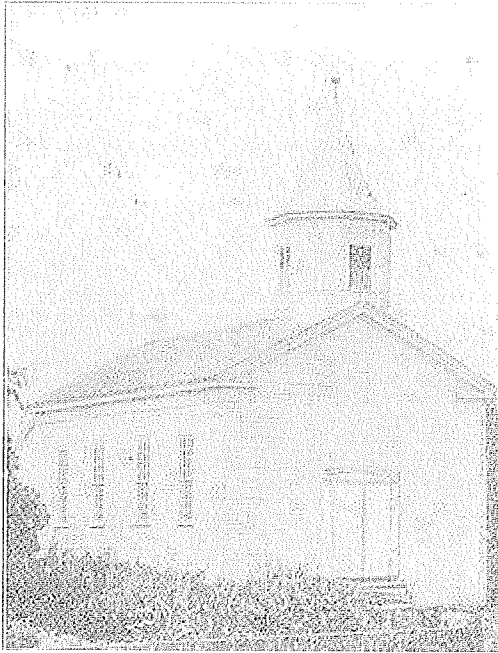


Knickelbein



Koch

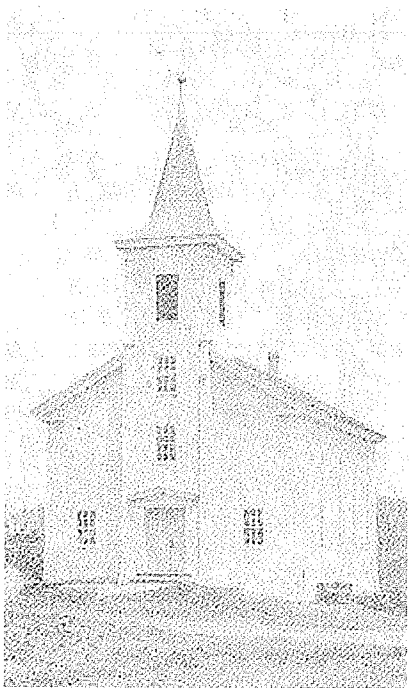
Appendix K



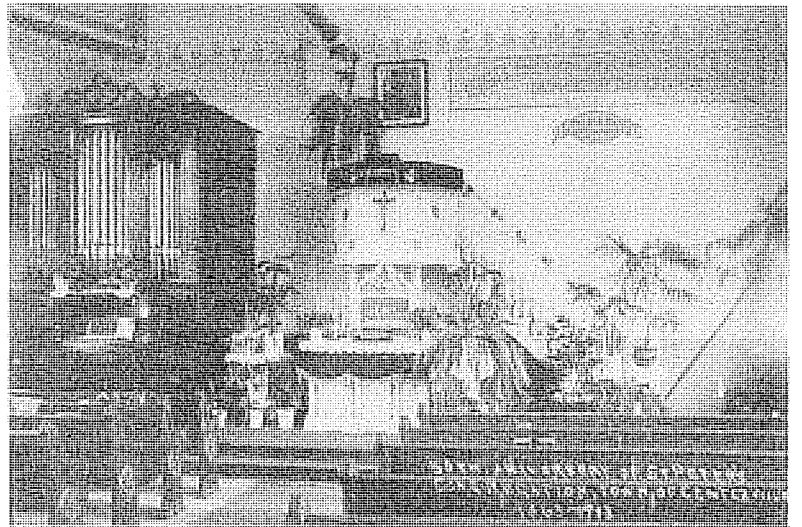
**St. John Lutheran Church 1860
Hika, Wisconsin**



Interior of St. John

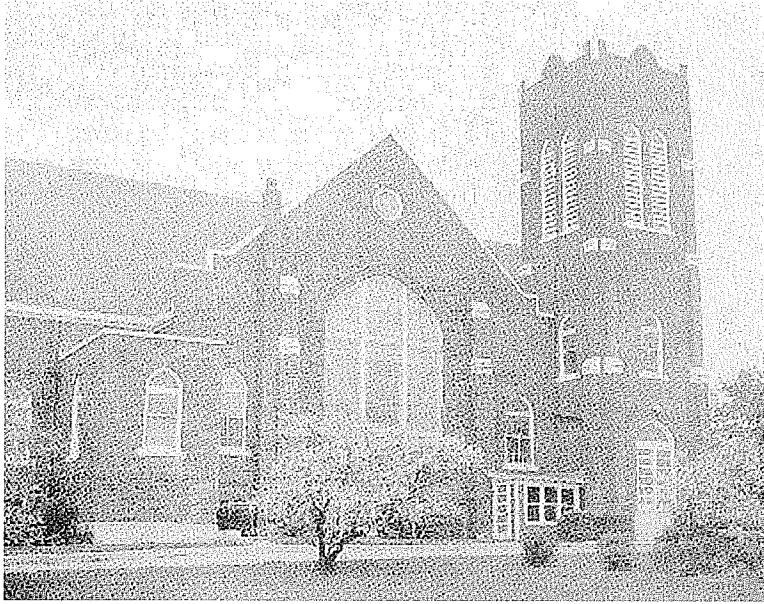


**St. Peter Lutheran Church 1863
Centerville, Wisconsin**

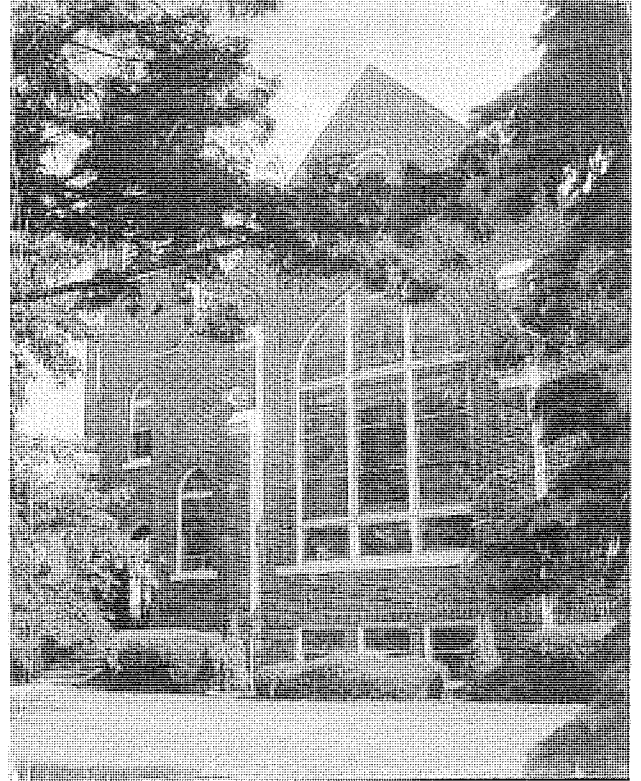


Interior of St. Peter

Appendix L



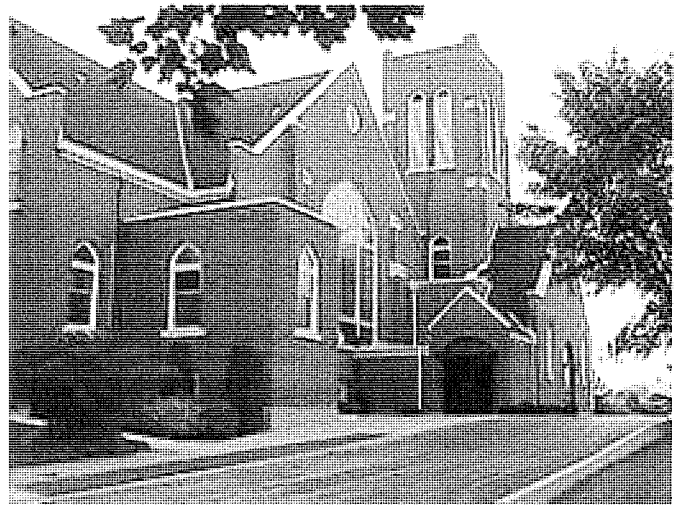
Exterior 1960



Exterior 1985



Exterior 2001



Exterior 2001