

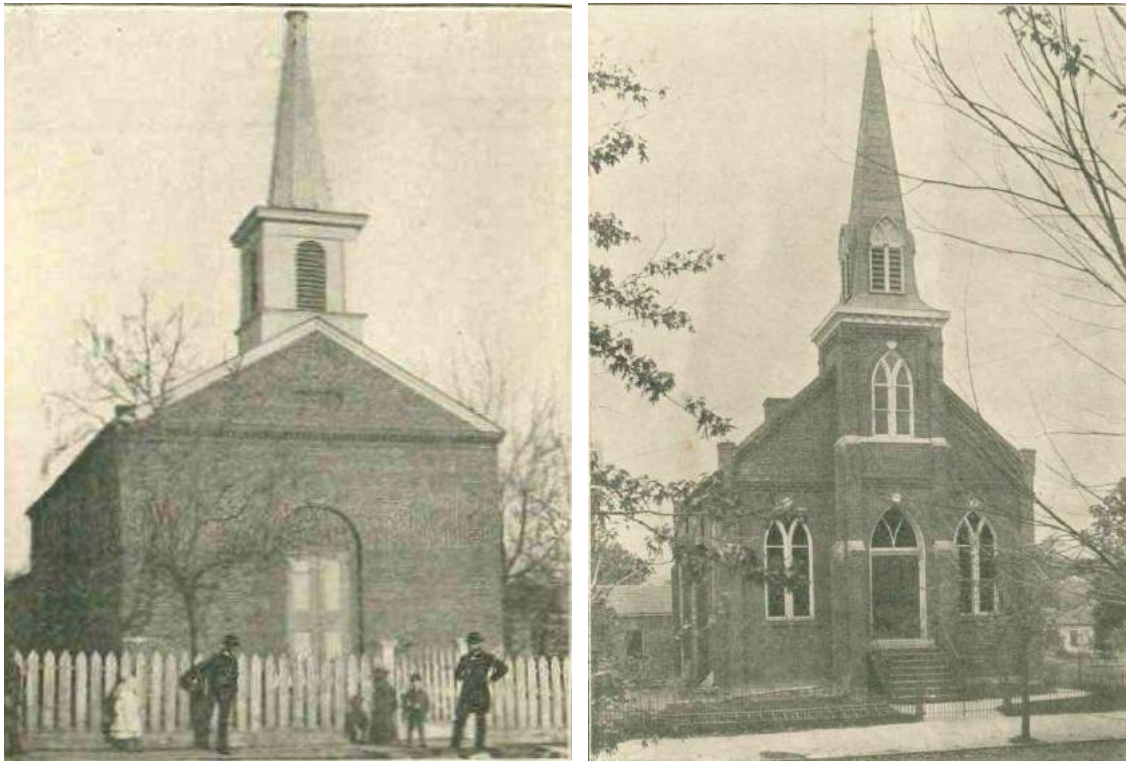
**1853-1903 Commemorative Account
On the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary
of the German Evangelical Congregation of Boonville**



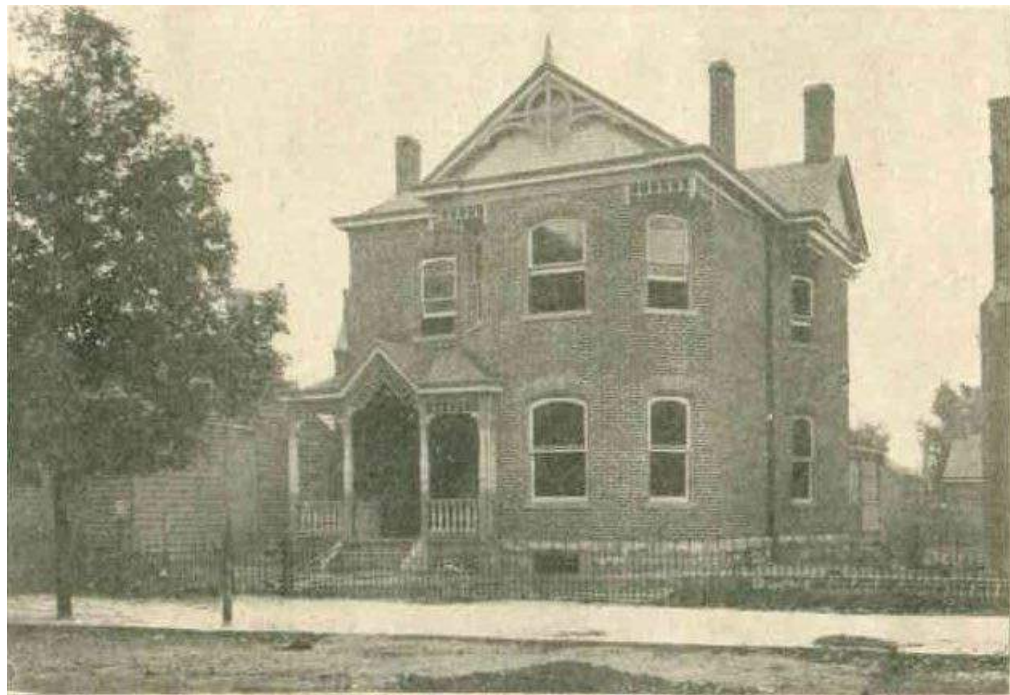
**Pastor E. L. Mueller
Boonville, Cooper County, Missouri
Celebrated on Sunday, the 15th of November 1903
Published by the Congregation for its Members and Friends**

[2018 English Translation by Heli Mäntyranta, Tampere, Finland]

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On the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of
The German Evangelical Congregation of Boonville, Missouri**



The Original Church from 1854 (left) and Present Church (1887)



The Church Parsonage, Constructed in 1903

History of the Congregation

“Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.” (1 Samuel 7, 12)

Now let us briefly collect our thoughts and feelings as a celebrating congregation. For fifty years the congregation has existed, and during that time has lived through many things of great variety. The fifty years are a clear and powerful testimony of the constancy of our God, which is new every morning, and whose truth reaches as far as the sky is wide. The congregation has experienced many things that it may rejoice over; many things which cause us to say in humility and obedience: *“Lord, do not go to law with us, your mercy shall be our consolation.”*

May this day of celebration arouse feelings and thoughts of joy and reverence to shake every heart and to end with the words: *“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.”*

As in so many localities in our blessed land, so also took place the founding of the Evangelical Congregation in Boonville, Mo. After the Germans had to some extent established themselves in the town and around it, there arose in them after long deprivation the yearning after German Evangelical services and the blessings of a Christian congregation as well as a Christian parish school. The founding of these institutions was very dear to the hearts of the first settlers. At first, they had to be content with little. Before 1853, according to one account as early as in 1840, the preachers Rauschenbusch and Krönke occasionally came to Boonville to hold divine services. Pastor Hoffmeister from California, Mo., made regular, bimonthly visits to Boonville around and after 1850, and preached on Sundays.

After having been served by preachers from afar for some time, the Germans received in 1853 a permanent pastor in the person of Johann Wettle. During his incumbency, according to information from long-term members, the congregation was organized in August 1858. Starting from halfway through 1853, a congregation register is available, in which Pastor Wettle entered baptisms and marriages. The first baptism is recorded as having taken place on 12 June 1853, the child's name was Friedrich Adolf Neef, son of Jakob Neef and his wife Elisabeth, née Knorr. The first recorded marriage is also from 12 June 1853. The couple were John George Goller and Margaretha Barbara Walter.

The divine services of the congregation were first held in a private building. After that, [they were held] in a house located near the present church. The building was used by both Catholics and Protestants, and during the week it served as a school, though not as a public school. In 1854 a church was built on the plot of the present parsonage. There is no information about its cost or other details. According to a note based on word of mouth, the generosity and energy of Mr. George Vollrath was particularly appreciated. There exists a list from August 1, in which the signatories commit themselves: *“To pay the following sums to support Evangelical divine services in the [German] Evangelical Church of Boonville, Missouri.”*

According to the congregation records, the first constitution of the congregation was

adopted at a congregation meeting on January 1, 1855. It was signed by the following, with 30 signatures in all:

John Wettle, Pastor and Secretary; George Vollrath; J. H. Boller; Paul Stegner; Philipp Bach; Wilhelm Gemmer; Peter Back; Jacob Seibel; L. R. Schmidt; Otto Köhnicke; Adam Stegner; John G. Blumenröder; Ernst Stegner; George Debusmann; Gottfried Back; Jacob Dauer; J. E. Hofländer; David Rau; Sophia Hain; Friedericke Reinhart; Erhard Hirlinger; Jacob Neef; George Goller; J. J. Holzmüller; A. Sandrock; Friedrich Wetz; Johann Wittameier; Philipp H. Stahl; Johann Fickel; Johann Lotz. The names of the first councilors (according to a later account) were George Vollrath, J. H. Boller, Stephan Weber and Wilhelm Haas.

Pastor Wettle received an annual stipend of \$250.00 from the Presbyterians, until the emergence of the temperance question caused relations to be broken from the English side. Soon after this commotion, which excited minds throughout the town, Pastor Wettle resigned from office in August 1856.

The next pastor to serve the congregation was Pastor C. L. Greiner. He had earlier served for 23 years as missionary in East India, where he had also had to bury his beloved wife. He moved to Boonville with his two daughters in October 1856. He led the congregation as its Pastor for twenty years, until January 17, 1877. He was called 'Grandpa Greiner' by everybody and was loved by young and old alike. His tasks were extremely manifold. One of the most important among them was schoolteaching. Even today, many old Americans say, "I went to school at old 'Grandpa Greiner'." During his incumbency in 1857, the congregation built a schoolhouse, considered beautiful in its time and still standing, at a cost of \$725.66. A debt of \$284.00 remained for the construction, which was redeemed by taking out a church loan of \$300.00 in the year 1864.

In 1860 a bell was acquired for the church in St Louis for \$160.00. During Pastor Greiner's service the Billingsville Mission was started. Pastor Greiner traveled the five miles' distance on foot, or used the gray from the livery stables, "the Pastor's gray". Neither gold nor good words would have got you, dear Reader, to use this gray on a Mission Sunday. Yes, even the mission horses of our congregation must be remembered! They may have had many tricks and bad habits, but despite them we hold them in great respect, the mission horses, that is to say.

Following a request by Mr. Paul Hofländer, representing Billingsville, the congregation allowed Pastor Greiner from 1 January 1869 to preach in Billingsville in the morning of the first Sunday of every month, "bearing in mind that the congregation members there have supported our church until now and that it is no more than our Christian duty to serve that community with God's Word."

Due to the local conditions of Boonville, the population of the town, as well as the membership of the various congregations, remain stable. At that time, the number of families supporting our congregation was 40 and 50, as it continues to be today.

Pastor Greiner died in Boonville on January 17, 1877. Pastoral services during his incumbency: Baptisms 710; Confirmands 133 (records only kept from 1863 onwards);

Funerals 56 (records only cover 1873); Donations to congregation finances and construction work \$7,126.00; Charitable gifts to mission work and seminary \$393.00.

Pastor C. L. Greiner was succeeded by J. J. Lange from Acley, Iowa. He was appointed Pastor of Boonville, West Boonville and Billingsville with a stipend of \$500.00. At that time it was found necessary to improve the organization of the congregation. The old constitution was revised and adopted with 61 signatures, some representing private individuals, others entire families.

During Pastor Lange's incumbency the school was assiduously kept up. A choir was established. The Sunday school was started at the beginning of Pastor Lange's incumbency. During his time, there was a conflict of opinions between him and the council and congregation regarding the baptizing of children and role of godparents. However, these were resolved charitably. In 1879, the congregation decided to invite the 7th District of the Evangelical Synod of North America to a conference. That same year it was decided to build a parsonage, as the preacher had lived in rented accommodation until then. The construction committee consisted of Christian Schach, Friedrich Mittelbach, Caspar Kirchner and Geo. Röder. The committee spent a great deal of time and effort at its task. The cost of the house was \$900.00, of which \$500.00 was collected by subscription. Interest was paid on the remainder. On October 18, Pastor Lange handed in his resignation and moved to the North.

Baptisms 52. - Confirmands 29. - Marriages 11. - Funerals 22. - Communion participants 228. - Handed over for congregation purposes \$1,134.72. No record of charitable donations is available.

At a congregation meeting on March 8, 1880, Pastor H. E. Schneider (known as the poet Satorius) was called to office. During his incumbency the debts from construction projects were paid off. At a council meeting in August 1882 it is mentioned "that Pastor Schneider intends to leave the congregation."

Baptisms 59. - Marriages 10. - Confirmands 42. - Funerals 24. - Communion participants 508. - The congregation raised \$1,648.17 for its economy. Charitable donations, as far as records show, \$87.45.

In January 1883, the call of the Boonville congregation was answered by Pastor L. Kohlman,, currently Treasurer of the General Synod. During his incumbency, West Boonville and Billingsville received an independent external administration. Their affairs were no longer managed through the main congregation; they paid their own stipends, etc.

At the beginning of this year, Pastor Kohlmann was approached by the Ladies' and Young Ladies' Society with a view to acquiring a new organ. A committee was set up consisting of Mistresses Dauwalter, Dürr and Bernard, and of Misses Sophie Reinhard, Anna Röder and Laura Mittelbach, to collect subscriptions. By October the committee had already collected \$127.25. In the meantime, Mr. Gmelich had donated a reed organ to the congregation, and the sum collected was set aside for later use as the congregation's pipe organ fund. In recognition for the loyal services of their Pastor, the congregation increased his stipend by \$50.00 on January 1, 1884.

In the same year, the construction of a new church was also proposed. Messrs. Neef, Gmelich and Dengolesky were appointed as a committee to collect subscriptions for the building of the church. At the annual meeting on January 4, 1885, Mr. J. P. Neef presented the following account on behalf of the committee: "The sum of \$1700.00 has been subscribed to for the construction; though not all members have participated as yet. On behalf of the committee, however, he would request letting the matter lie for a while, and as soon as the stagnation of business activity is over, the matter can be taken up again." At the same time, the loyal service of our long-term church servant, Mr. Charles Hirlinger, Sr., was recognized. Various construction-related improvements were also undertaken this year at the parsonage.

On January 1, 1886, Pastor Kohlmann resigned from his post as the spiritual leader of the congregation, having accepted the call to serve as an itinerant preacher in the 7th District of the Evangelical Synod in North America.

Pastoral offices: Baptisms 62. - Confirmands 46. - Marriages 26. - Funerals 29. - Communion participants 310. - For congregation finances \$1,129.00. - West Boonville and Billingsville have separate economies. No record is available of charitable donations for this period.

Pastor Pistor from Lexington, Mo., succeeded Pastor Kohlmann on July 6, 1886. In the fall of that year, the matter of the new church building was taken up again. At a meeting on March 30, 1887, the matter was brought before the congregation. It was decided to proceed with the construction, and the management was handed over to a committee consisting of Messrs. Neef, Sombart, Gmelich and Arpe.

As has been the case in all major endeavors of our congregation, even here the ladies shouldered a significant part of the work. Mistresses Gmelich and Friederike Reinhard are particularly mentioned for their industry and success in collecting subscriptions. During this period of joy, the congregation suffered a great loss. Mr. J. P. Neef, long-term member of the church council and the construction committee, was called away by the Lord. The congregation recognized the considerable service of Mr. Neef to the congregation in a sincere letter of condolence to his esteemed spouse.

To replace Mr. Neef, Mr. John S. Dauwalter was elected to the committee. The committee studied the designs presented and took considerable trouble to achieve a building that would be appropriate in all respects. The design by Mr. B. F. Jones, Architect, was approved, and the work was awarded to Contractor Roberts for the sum of \$4,150.00. With new furnishings and an iron fence around the plot, the cost of the church came to \$5,998.25. This sum was collected, with a surplus of \$50.00.

Thanks to the notes delivered by Mr. C. F. Wenitz, Secretary of the construction committee, it is possible to report the following: "On June 29, 1887, the old church was emptied and the dismantling of it was started. On August 16, 1887, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone took place. Pastor Klimpke from Sedalia gave the ceremonial address, and Pastor Pistor laid the foundation stone. On January 8, 1888, the church was joyfully consecrated. On that day, the address was given by Pastor C. A. Richter from Jefferson City, Mo. In addition, speeches during the several divine

services were given by Pastor Umbeck from California, Pastor Klimpke from Sedalia, Pastor Senn from Florence, as well as Rev. Morton from the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Hawkins from the English Methodist Church and the Pastor of the German Methodist Church.”

And so the congregation now has a charming, elegant house of God, which appears welcoming to everyone entering it. The church basement is furnished comfortably and beautifully for the Sunday school. As congregation members, we should always be able to say, Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth.

On January 1, 1889, the congregation augmented the pastor's stipend to \$350.00. Further, at the initiative of Mr. C. F. Wenig, the organ fund, up till then combined with the general funds, was again separated.

On January 24, 1890, Pastor Pistor handed in his resignation, as his conscience could no longer support the baptizing of children. He joined the Baptists and became a preacher in that church. This move caused quite an upheaval, but even this time, the Lord caused everything to turn for the best.

Pastoral offices: Baptisms 82. - Confirmands, only for the year 1888: 7. - Marriages 26. - Funerals 40. - Communion participants 485. - For running expenses \$1,834.00, with church construction included \$7,832.00. Charitable donations not recorded.

On April 13, 1890, Pastor B. H. Leesmann from the Nebraska District took over the Boonville pastorate. In 1891 the existing constitution of the congregation was revised, and in 1892, the congregation was reincorporated. At the New Year meeting in 1892, the stipend was augmented from \$350.00 to \$400.00.

As both pastor and the congregation recognized the necessity of instructing the young in the fear of God and devotion, and also that keeping up the German language was of critical importance for the congregation, the congregation decided on July 9, 1893, to employ a teacher, for whom they decided to pay the monthly stipend of \$45.00. Teacher G. Wiegmann from Wyandotte, Mich., responded to the call. With great sacrifices, the school was maintained, and the sacrifices appeared not to correspond to the success. At a meeting held on April 21, it was decided, with only 23 votes for and 14 against, to continue with the school. However, when Teacher Wiegmann decided to move to the Congregation of Peace in Chicago, it was decided not to employ another teacher. Despite the efforts of subsequent pastors, neither a Saturday school nor a summer school could take root.

During Pastor Leesmann's incumbency, the congregation decided in 1894 to acquire a pipe organ. The monies for that were mainly collected by the Young Ladies' Society. The organ cost \$825.95. The organ was consecrated in an uplifting ceremony on Pentecost Monday, May 14, 1894. After payment of all the costs, a surplus of \$25.00 remained in the organ fund of the Young Ladies. On January 1, 1895, the congregation decided to join the Evangelical Synod. For reasons not known, however, this decision was only implemented in 1898 during the incumbency of Pastor Kamphausen. In 1895, the Ladies' Society paid for an extension to the parsonage,

and the Young Ladies' Society paid for plumbing in the house.

In 1896 the congregation decided to change the employment of the congregation pastor, so that he would serve the main congregation alone for a stipend of \$600.00. This was quite an achievement, with regard to the comparably small membership. Billingsville and West Boonville received their first pastor with Pastor Hermann, after Pastor Leemann had caused a beautiful church to be built in West Boonville. In the midst of this activity, Pastor Leemann tendered his resignation on June 20, 1896 and in September moved to Washington, Mo.

Pastoral offices: Baptisms 106. - Confirmands 58. - Marriages 45. - Funerals 58. - Communion participants 781. - Running expenses and improvements \$4,587.00. Charitable donations 438.60. (From now on, the figures for the daughter congregations are no longer entered in the Boonville church records.)

On December 6, 1896, Pastor H. Kamphausen was elected pastor to the congregation; he preached his inauguration sermon on January 3, after having been inducted by Pastor J. Hermann. At a meeting on March 13, 1898, it was decided that the congregation would join the Synod, and this time the decision was implemented.

In 1899 the West Missouri District held a session in our church. Both pastor and congregation had made a great effort to make the visit as pleasant as possible, a fact that was duly recognized. Many improvements were made to church property, and the Ladies' Society surprised their pastor, on his return from Germany, by having adopted an orphan child in India. (See the section on the Ladies' and Young Ladies' Society.)

In 1899, Pastor Kamphausen preached one evening sermon in English every month. At this time, Pastor Kamphausen also began to work a new mission field in New Franklin, Mo. As far as possible he preached in the English Methodist Church there every two weeks, on Sunday afternoon. In 1898 the congregation allowed Pastor Kamphausen to take a four-month holiday with full pay, to enable him to visit his relatives in Germany.

On July 1, 1900, Pastor H. Kamphausen tendered his resignation, as he wished to continue his English studies at the McCormick Seminary in Chicago and also to serve a congregation there.

Pastoral offices: Baptisms 43. - Confirmands 16 - Marriages 19 - Funerals 43 - Communion participants 601 - Running expenses \$3,175.00. Charitable donations \$633.00.

On October 3, 1900, the newly appointed Pastor E. L. Müller moved in from Union. He was advised to use the English language more than previously, because of the young people. Consequently, all the congregation's evening services are now held in English. The language of the Endeavor Society, established in 1902, is also English. As of last year, the confirmation instruction must also be given in English. With the exception of Bible classes, the language of the Sunday school is also English.

On October 4, 1903, it was decided to arrange a celebration of the 50th anniversary of

the congregation. As a celebration gift, the congregation constructed a new, spacious parsonage with all modern conveniences, which will cost almost \$3,000.00. This is the best proof that despite its years, the congregation has not become old and tired, but continues to be lively and vigorous. The construction committee consists of J. F. Gmelich, Wm. Mittelbach, Christ. Arpe, Hermann Schmidt and Pastor E. L. Müller. The subscription committee consists of the council: H. Schmidt, C. Hirlinger Jr., M. Haller and Pastor E. L. Müller. The house will be consecrated as part of the festivities. The other work of the congregation here and in New Franklin, Mo., continues with the Lord's blessing. - Running expenses and new construction \$5,024.00, of which \$2,150.00 was collected for the parsonage. - Charitable donations \$422.20.

Pastoral offices: Baptisms 35. - Confirmands 26. - Marriages 15. - Funerals 32. - Communion participants 436.

So much for the outward history of the congregation. As for describing the inward history, that lies beyond our competence. What the pastors and the congregation members have done during the past 50 years and continue to do for the inner edification is only known to God. Still, we wish to thank God for having supported the congregation for fifty years, and his faith will be an incentive to us to carry on his work with even greater faith than so far. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us; he will even continue to show his mercy.

Summary of the past 50 years:

Baptisms	1,149
Confirmands(Records from 1863 onwards)	357
Marriages	327
Funerals (Records from 1878 onwards)	304
Communion participants (Records from 1877 onwards)	3,299
Cost of congregation economy and construction during 50 years	\$31,646.00
Charitable donations (Incomplete records)	\$1,974.00

Current [1903] officers of the congregation

Council: Mr. Hermann Schmidt, President. Mr. Martin J. Haller, Secretary. Mr. Charles Hirlinger, Treasurer. Pastor E. L. Müller.

Ladies' Society: Mrs. J. F. Gmelich, President. Mrs. Sombart, Vice President. Mrs. J. P. Neef, Secretary. Mrs. Wilhelmine Manger, Treasurer.

Sunday School: Pastor E. L. Müller, Superintendent. Mr. Charles Hirlinger, Vice Superintendent. Miss Louise Oberfeld, Secretary. Miss Henriette Zschirpe, Treasurer. - Teachers: Miss Marie Arpe; Miss Laura Boller and Miss Bertha Dauwalter.

Endeavor Society: Miss Emma Stegner, President. Miss Kate Heiberger, Vice President. Miss Annie Heiberger, Secretary. Mrs. Nellie Schotte, Treasurer. Miss Josie Schmidt, Organist.

Congregation Organist and Choir Leader: Miss Henriette Zschirpe.

The Sunday School

"Ask me what is to happen to my sons, and instruct me about the work of my hands" (Isaiah 45:11)

In addition to the weekday school, the Sunday school has been active since the incumbency of Pastor Lange. When it was no longer possible to maintain the parish school due to the circumstances then obtaining, the Sunday school became even more important for ensuring that the young would receive at least some instruction in Christian knowledge before attending their confirmation instruction.

Unfortunately, systematic records are only available from July 15, 1892 onwards. From this point on, everything of interest related to the Sunday school is recorded. At that time a Sunday School Teachers' Association was set up, which convened once every month to discuss the interests and success of the Sunday school. The number of registered pupils is 100 almost every year. The average annual number of pupils attending has varied during this period between 60 and 72, while the monthly average has been 58 and 79.

During the past 13 years, the contributions collected at the Sunday school come up to \$1,135.00, most of which has been used for the benefit of the Sunday school. In addition, there is a mission box, which brings in about \$6.00–\$8.00 annually, as far as can be ascertained from the records. From time to time, the Sunday school has also supported other activities of our church from its proceeds. Last year, the Sunday school's sale of 'bricks' brought in the sum of \$109.00 towards the building of the new parsonage. The festival programs, which the teachers and children perform on high holidays and on Children's Day, bring great enjoyment to the congregation and serve to keep people interested in the Sunday school. The school is a true ally of our congregation. May God allow our cherished Sunday school to continue to flourish and bring in a rich reward from its work in His Realm.

The Ladies' Society

The Ladies' and Young Ladies' Society was organized by Pastor Schneider on April 15, 1880, and consisted of 29 members. The following officials were elected: Mrs. Dürr, President; Mrs. Hain, Vice President; Mrs. Anna Röder, Secretary; Mrs. Fuchs, Treasurer. The purpose of the society was to support the sick and those in need of assistance, orphanages and the preacher seminary; and to assist in keeping the church property in good condition. In July 1884, seven young ladies resigned from the society.

The existing constitution of the Ladies' Society was revised in 1892, and since then a lot was also done for internal and external missionary work and for synodal institutions. Substantial sums were given to renovating the school house. In 1895, the Ladies' Society undertook to finance an extension to the parsonage from its own resources and through extra contributions from the membership. On April 16, 1900, the 20th anniversary of the Ladies' Society was celebrated. Pastor Sauer from Kansas City and Pastor Th. L. Müller from Jefferson City conducted two services in celebration. The

society's achievements during its 20 years of activity were praised, all of which spurred and encouraged everyone to all the good works that the society would undertake in the time to come. Since the monthly contribution was only 10 cents, many things could only be achieved through extra contributions by the membership. Up to 1892, the membership was quite small, and has since grown to 50 members.

The total amount of assistance given by the society during the 20 years is \$1,310.00. Every year since 1891, a large coffer of garments and bed linen has been sent for Christmas to orphanages in Lincoln, Hoyleton or St. Louis.

Since 1898, the society has adopted an Indian orphan, for whom an annual sum of \$12.00 has been remitted. Other donations include: mission work \$71.20; charitable institutions \$160.55; cleaning of church and pumping of organ \$241.10; construction of new church \$191.90; improvement of church **property \$454.00; miscellaneous \$10.75; support to poor families \$83.55; charitable gifts \$62.50; libraries \$33.85.

Offerings from the two festival services were \$40.00, out of which, after the deduction of costs, \$30.00 were sent to India, then suffering from a dreadful famine. A festival meal brought all together in joyful community, the feast was beautiful and, God willing, will be repeated at the 25th anniversary. After the festival, \$311.50 were donated to charitable purposes. The Ladies' Society donated \$150.00 for the new parsonage. A construction fund had already been set up by the society some years before.

(Submitted by Mrs. Doris Gmelich, President)

The Young Ladies' Society

As agreed beforehand, on February 22, 1887, eighteen young ladies of the German Evangelical congregation convened, and a society was established under the name: "Young Ladies' Society of the German Evangelical Church in Boonville, Mo.", which was to have the purpose, among other things, to support the construction of the new church. The society's officials were: President: Miss Marie Wenig; Vice President: Miss Katie Gross; Secretary: Miss Sophie Reinhard; Treasurer: Miss Bertha Weyrich.

Within a short time, the society had collected \$167.75 for the church building. After the church was completed and consecrated, the society continued its existence without a dedicated purpose, until it reorganized itself on November 30, 1891, deciding to work for internal and external missionary work to the extent of its capabilities; also to augment the \$131.00 collected the previous year for the Reed Organ Fund, in order to enable us to acquire a pipe organ for the church.

They worked industriously, and after Prof. A. Lauter had presented a plan and cost estimate from the organ builder Geo. Kilgen, it became our goal to acquire this organ. At a meeting on January 1, 1894, it was established that we disposed over the sum of \$560.00. It was decided to request the assistance of congregation members for the Organ Fund, so that we would be able to conclude a contract for acquiring the organ. The society members and members of the congregation were kind enough to make

good the sum outstanding. A committee, consisting of the three members of our society: Misses Sophie Reinhard, Marie Wenig and Henriette Zschirpe, as well as Mr. Gmelich and Pastor Leemann for the congregation, concluded the contract with Mr. Geo. Kilgen for \$800.00.

On May 14, 1894, the organ was consecrated. In addition, the society commissioned the construction of the platform on which the organ was placed, as well as the installation of plumbing in the parsonage. In June 1897, the society spent about \$100.00 on wallpapering and otherwise refurbishing the church. Later, it found itself in possession of a surplus of \$75.00, which it was decided to set aside for an eventual later need for a rug for the church.

(Submitted by Miss Marie Wenig)

The Endeavor Society

In the beginning of 1902, Pastor E. L. Müller brought up the establishment of a Youth Society. A meeting of the young people in the congregation was convened. The meeting elected a committee to draft a constitution for the society to be established. The committee immediately began its work. As a basis, it used the constitution of the National Christian Endeavor Union. On the basis of this, the committee drafted a constitution corresponding to our circumstances. The Endeavor Pledge was included at its beginning, followed by a number of articles which the committee considered appropriate. On March 9, 1902, the draft, prepared with great industry, was presented to a meeting of the young people of our congregation. After a lengthy discussion it was adopted unanimously. The meeting decided to establish a society to be called the "Evangelical Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor" and governed by the constitution presented. Nine young people present at the meeting signed the constitution. The language used by the society would be English, as the young people of our congregation are not able to use the German language.

Since its inception, the society has enjoyed a healthy growth. Its membership today numbers 50. The society has donated \$205.00 for the construction of the new parsonage. In addition, it has endeavored to be active in good works in various ways.

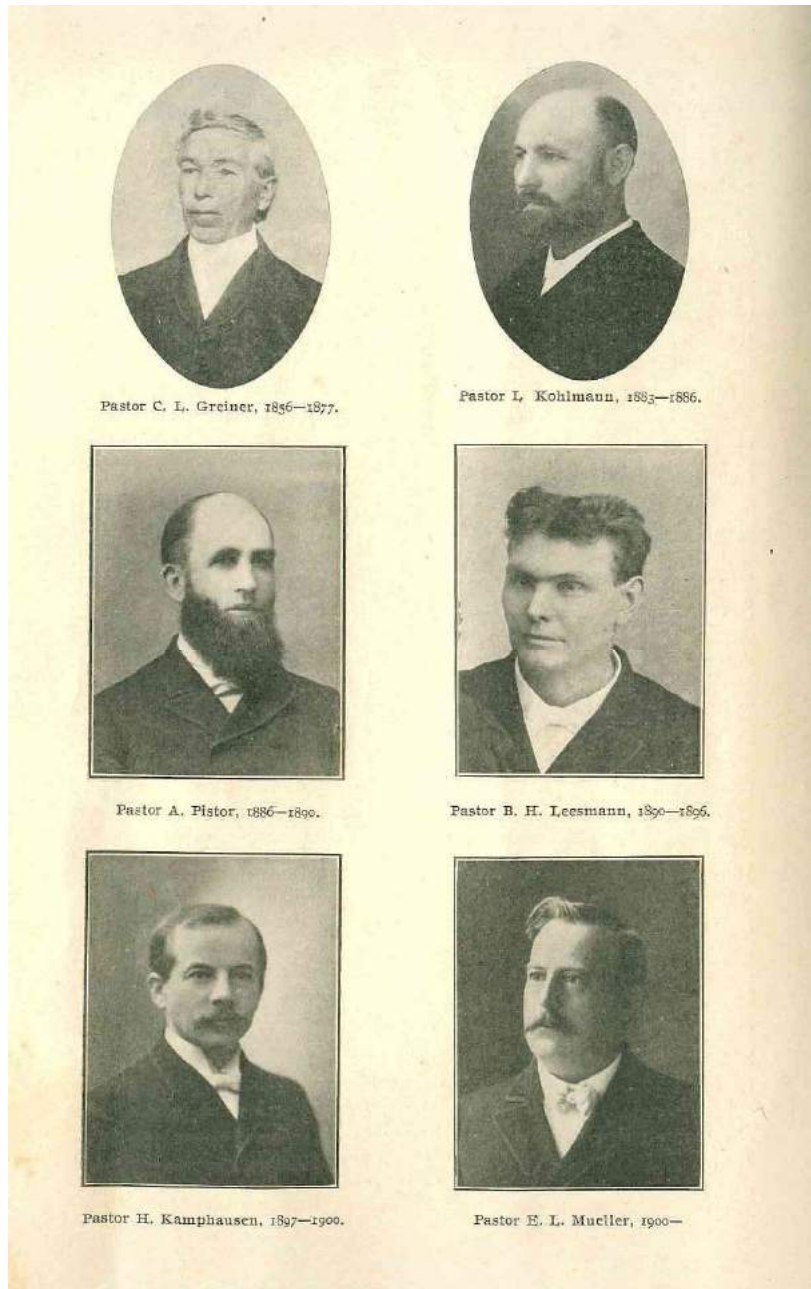
On September 28, 1902, the society celebrated a divine service in the church, which brought great blessing to the society and the congregation, and greatly increased interest in the society.

Trusting in the help of God our Lord, the society will always consider its principal task to be: To promote Christian life among its members and to call the youth of the congregation to work in the realm of God and to further mutual contacts between its members. Our banner is red and white, symbolizing love and purity. This society has four membership categories: active, associated, affiliated and honorary members. Our officials are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Organist, and five standing committees.

Our prayer meetings are held every Sunday evening; the consecration meetings on the last Sunday of the month. The business meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. These meetings are closed with the following words. *"The Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent from another."* Amen. (Genesis 31, 49)

On this the fiftieth anniversary of our congregation, we invite you to join our society under the guidance of our highly praised Lord and Savior; help us to raise the banner of our society high, so high that it will only be overshadowed by the Cross on Calvary.

(Submitted by Louise Debusmann)



(Pastors of the German Evangelical Church of Boonville, 1856-1903)

Notes on the 2018 English Translation

The text in this digital publication of the 1903 50th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet of the German Evangelical Church of Boonville, Missouri (now the 'United Church of Christ of Boonville') was translated from scanned pages of the 1903 booklet which was donated to the Boonville church archives by Reverend Emil Abele, whose handwritten name is on the top of the booklet's cover. Rev. Abele was the longest-serving (1935 to 1965) of any of the church's pastors.

The booklet's pages were scanned in Boonville by Kurt Grathwohl. They were translated from the 1903 German (which differs from modern German) by (Ms.) Heli Mäntyranta of Tampere, Finland, a licensed professional translator who was a long-time teaching colleague of John Hopkins at the University of Tampere. The final digital version of the booklet was edited and compiled by John D. Hopkins.

For easier reading, the text of this English translation uses the Arial font with blocked paragraphing. Rather than attempt to match the translated pages exactly with the original page numbering, the translation employs a consecutive flow of text. However, if one wishes to compare the German and English versions, it is easy to see from the names, numbers and sections which parts correspond to each other.

In the translation, several wordings from the 'literal' German have been shortened into simpler, modern-English 'equivalents' (with the meaning remaining the same).

Possible additions or corrections to this digital version will be made to the current online file, with the revision history indicated by the 'update' field below.

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John D. Hopkins
Lielahdenkatu 40 E 19
33410 Tampere, Finland
<John.David.Hopkins@gmail.com>