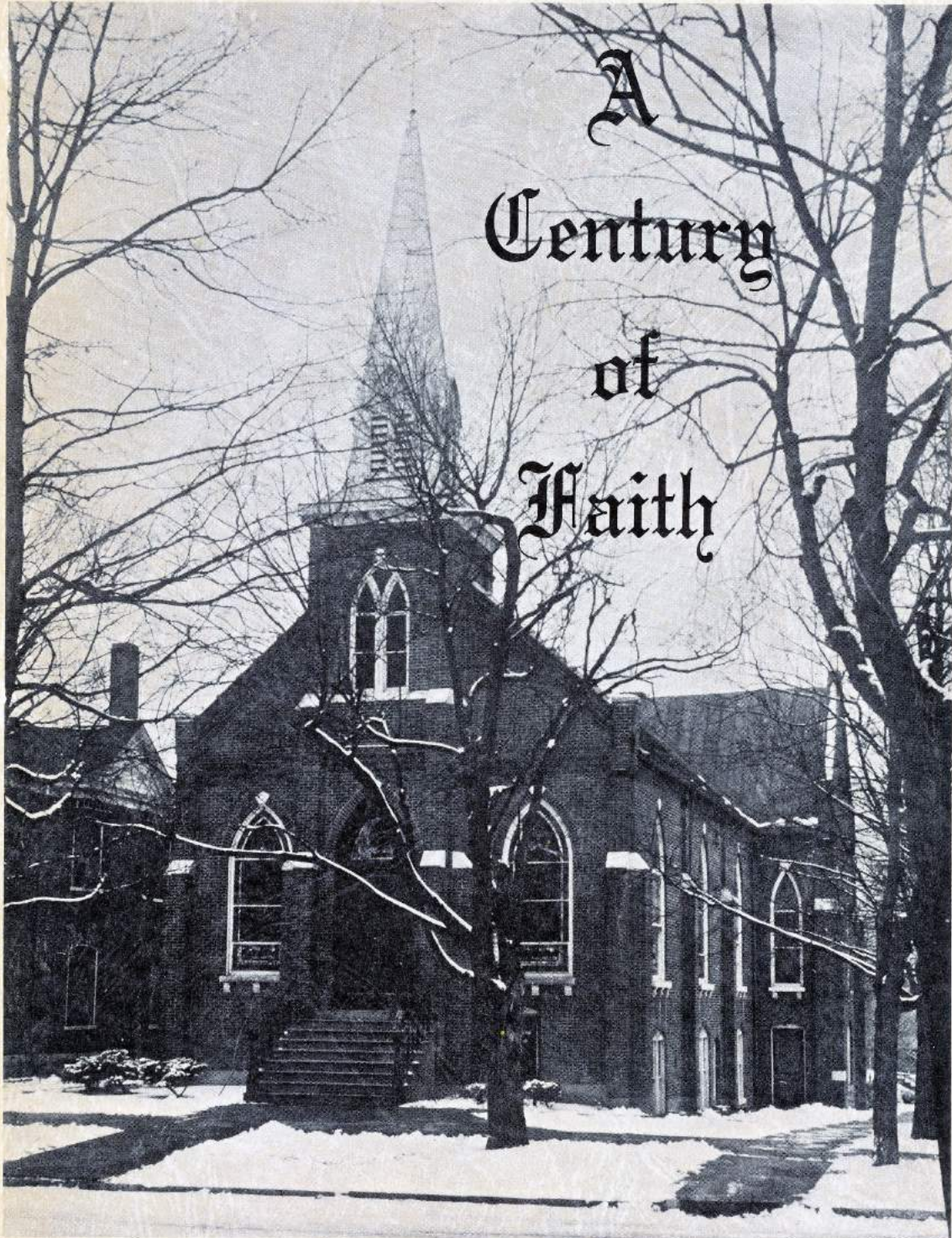
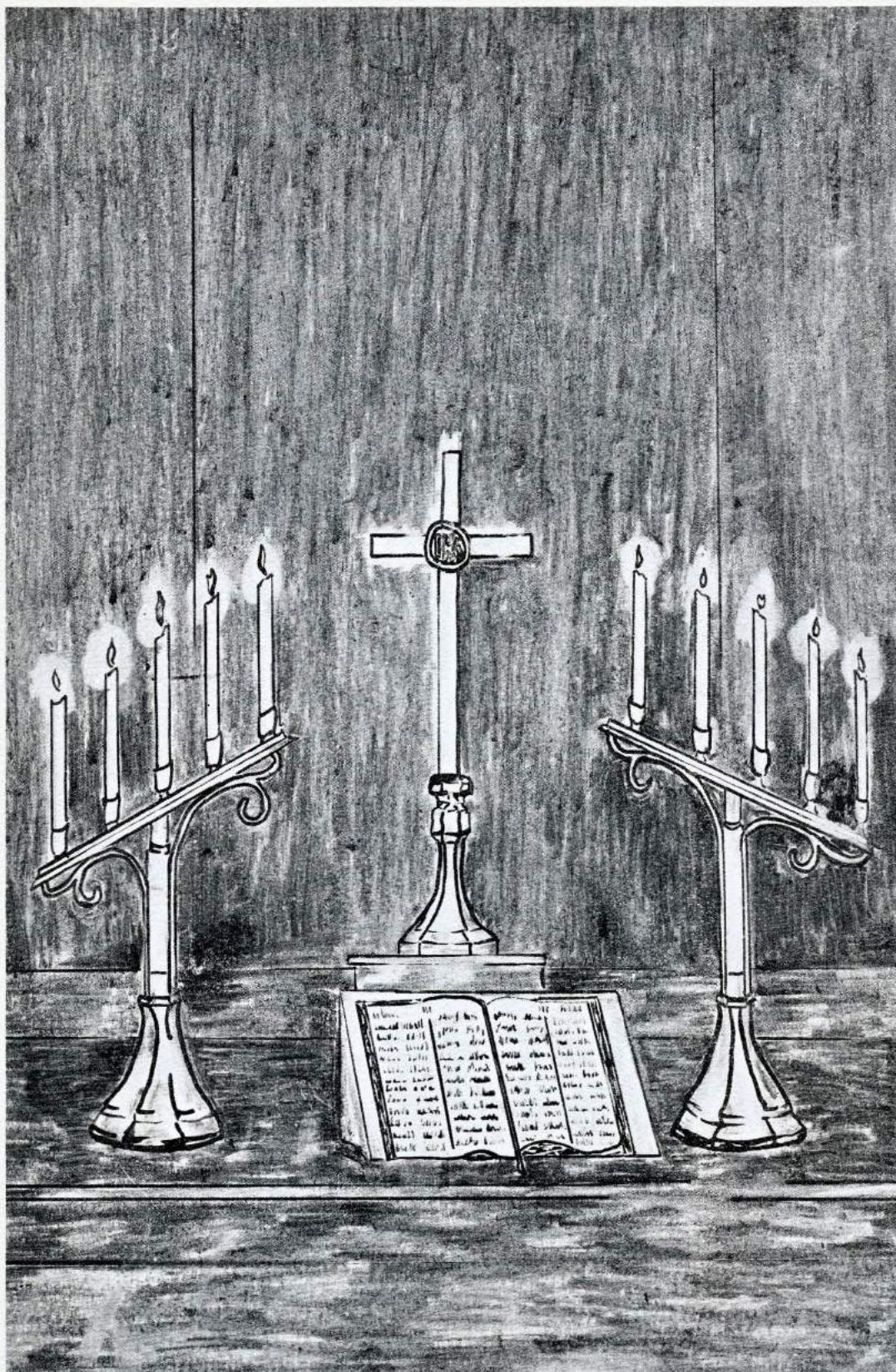


**1853-1953 Evangelical Church of Boonville, Missouri  
100th Anniversary Booklet: 'A Century of Faith'**



**The Evangelical Church of Boonville, Missouri ★ 1853-1953**





*"I will delight in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word." Psalm 119:16*



*"Other men have labored and you have entered into their labor."*

*John 4:38*

Our hearts thrill and our lips are tuned to prayers of thanksgiving when we consider one hundred years of work for Christ's Church. It is good to look back and see how the work progressed from a humble beginning. Today, the concerns of 1853 seem long ago and far away. The infant church and a relatively new community seem strangely unlike the world we see around us today. On the surface there is little similarity between the problems of 1853 and those of 1953, but the road we travel today winds out of the past and into the future. In our deepest hopes and fears, in our deepest needs and highest aspirations, we have kinship with all who labored before us.

Today we are challenged by the achievements of the past. Our fathers set out boldly in their undertaking. We celebrate this anniversary as a symbol of their courage and faith. We, who so often do so little with so much, may well take time to honor those who did so much with so little. A grateful church remembers their devotion and deeds.

But this is more than an occasion to honor the past. It is an opportunity to renew our resolve to do in our day as they did in theirs. We are challenged by the work still left undone. There is a great verse in the Bible, "Other men have labored and you have entered into their labor." John 4:38. It is impossible to say where our forefathers have left off and we have begun our labors to build the Kingdom of God. We are happy this is true. A bewildered world is a call to us to do more than celebrate. The Word of the Lord and the deep need of life join in a demand for a fresh consecration of life and talents that the world may be Christ's.

That is our purpose and hope in asking our members to unite in this celebration. May we make this observance an occasion of rededication to the never-ending task of Kingdom building. This occasion summons out of the shadows heroic figures, the story of their deeds is history. The future belongs to our youth. To them, as well, we dedicate this booklet. We pray that they, too, may confidently address themselves to the unfinished business of the present—and the future. So the deeper meaning of our anniversary is in rededication to the ideals and purposes that have made this history of the church significant and to the tasks that are ours to perform, if we would preserve and enrich this heritage for the coming generations.

EMIL F. ABELE



"If you put these instructions before the brethern, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words

of faith and of the good doctrine which you have followed.  
—I Timothy 4:6

In 1853 Boonville settlement was less than fifty years old and the needs for a spiritual ministry in this primitive area were great. These needs were recognized as early as 1849 by Pastors Rauschenbach and Kroenke, circuit riders. These two men brought the message of the Living God to groups of German-speaking citizens who, faced with the rigors of early development of this mid-western region, were hungry to hear of God's goodness and constant care.

In 1850 Pastor Hoffmeister, serving in or near California, Missouri, shared his time with the people in Boonville who desired an Evangelical worship service. Regular services were conducted on two Sundays a month. At this time the local Presbyterian Mission Board aided with financial support averaging two hundred fifty dollars yearly. This continued until 1856.

The first resident pastor was Johann Wettle, who moved here in 1853. The first worship services were conducted in a privately owned building located on a lot near the site of our church today. This business building was used for church purposes by both Protestants and Catholics.

From the record we learn that the first baptism is that of Frederick Adolph Neef, son of Jacob Neef and his wife, Elizabeth, nee Knorr, on June 12, 1853. On this same date is recorded the first marriage, John George Goller and Margaretha Barbara Walter. Pastor Wettle resigned in August, 1856, having served a period of three years, during which the groundwork for future religious growth was laid.



**PASTOR GREINER, 1856-77**

In October, 1856, the congregation called Pastor C. L. Greiner. He had served as missionary to India for twenty-three years. This new pastor was a kind man, a stern man with vision to meet the immediate needs and to plan for the larger program which gave promise to the future of our church. He served as teacher as well as pastor. He also carried God's message to the people residing in the area near Billingsville, Missouri. The end of his ministry shows a church membership of forty families. Pastor Greiner died January 14, 1877, and lies at rest in Walnut

Grove Cemetery. He is remembered as a pioneering soul whose devotion to his God made possible his steadfast adherence to the task of establishing our church.

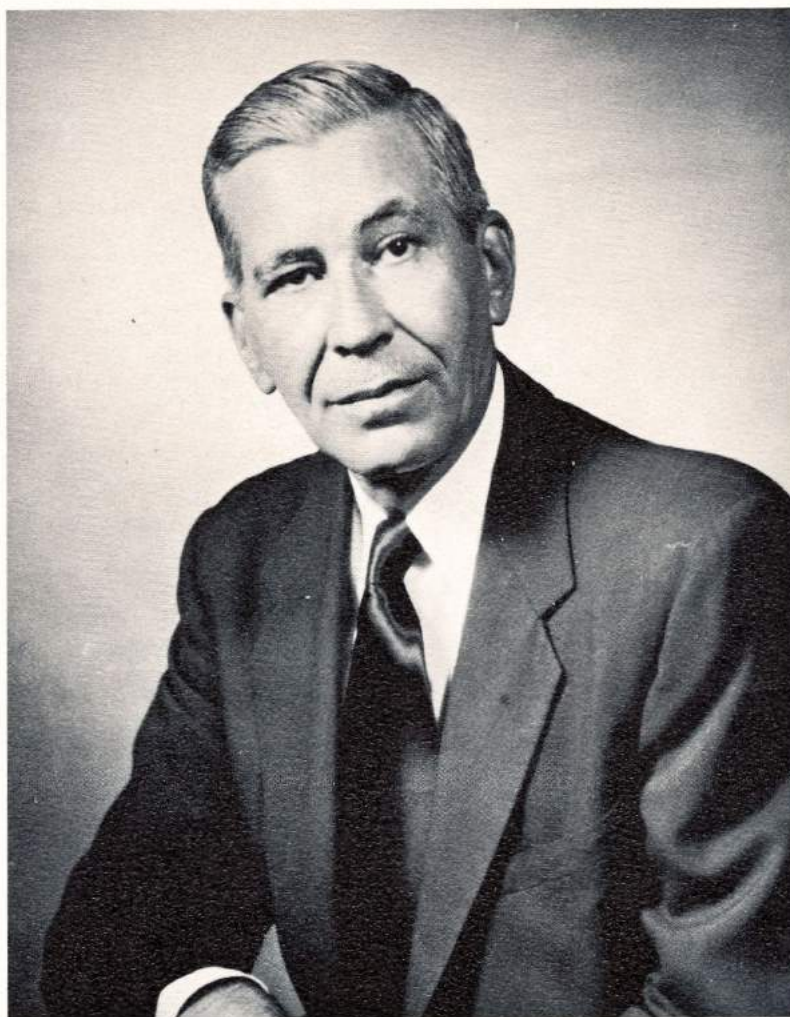
Pastor Lange served from 1877 until he resigned in October, 1879. He carried on the missionary endeavor of Pastor Greiner and also served both Billingsville and West Boonville. The church's growth permitted the assumption of her responsibilities in relation to other churches of our denomination in this region, and the first District Conference was held at Boonville in 1879. From 1879 until 1890 the church showed continuous growth under the direction of pastors who served for relatively short periods. Pastor H. E. Schneider served from 1880 until 1882. Pastor L. Kohlmann served from 1883 until January, 1886. In July, 1886, Pastor Pistor was called and served until January 24, 1890.

On April 13, 1890, Pastor B. H. Leesmann began his ministry and served until October 3, 1896. In that year the congregation decided that full-time service of the pastor was necessary to meet the growing needs of the church. Pastor H. Kamphausen served from January 3, 1897, until July 1, 1900. In 1899 the first English services were conducted one Sunday evening of each month. During this ministry, because of the need of Howard County families who found it difficult to attend meetings in Boonville, services were conducted whenever possible by Pastor Kamphausen in New Franklin, Missouri. This service was continued by Pastor E. L. Mueller and in addition he conducted confirmation instruction until his resignation November 11, 1906. During his ministry all evening services, as well as all meetings of youth organizations and confirmation instruction were conducted in English.

On January 6, 1907, R. M. Hinze became pastor of the church, serving until 1918. The church was served by Pastor F. Schlinkman from March 4, 1918. During his pastorate the congregation joined other Protestant congregations in union services, held on the court house lawn each Sunday evening during the summer months. Former Pastor Hinze was recalled to the church on August 31, 1919, and served until July, 1921.

A call was extended to Pastor Frederick Stoerker on November 20, 1921, and he served the church for nearly thirteen years, during which time progress in spiritual development was marked. All German services were discontinued. Participation in union activities on the community level was encouraged. On April 16, 1920, we agreed to participate in Union Good Friday Services with other Protestant churches in the city. This service has been held annually without interruption. Emphasis was placed upon the tradition of our church that a Living Church is a Mission Church. At the end of Pastor Stoerker's pastorate the membership of the church numbered 360, and, from 1853 until 1935 there had been 1630 baptisms, 641 confirmations, 571 weddings, 13,912 communicants and 688 funerals.





**PASTOR EMIL F. ABELE**

Emil F. Abele was installed as pastor April 17, 1935. His father, Pastor John Abele, and his father-in-law, Pastor John Sauer, officiated at the service. All of the progress of the past years has been directed into channels beneficial to God's work during Pastor Abele's pastorate and the foundation for continued growth made secure.

The church, in recognition of his invaluable service, held a special anniversary service June 15, 1947, commemorating his 25th year in the ministry. Pastors Fred Abele, and J. R. Gregg, Judge Roy D.

Williams, and Mr. G. F. Boller expressed the appreciation of the ministry, the community, and the church.

During his ministry here, Pastor Abele has served as Good Neighbor Pastor to charges at Blackwater, Pilot Grove, Bunceton, Speed, Little Rock, Arrow Rock, Billingsville, and Clear Creek. Under his guidance our membership has grown from 360 to 657. To his record thus far we list 445 baptisms, 143 confirmations, 301 weddings, 19,710 communicants, and 541 funerals.

We give devout thanksgiving to God that He did send to us these consecrated men to minister unto our needs.



*"Let us go into the House of the Lord." Psalm 122:12*

With full realization of the importance of saying to themselves and their children, "Let us go into the House of The Lord," the congregation of our church has discharged the responsibility of providing a place for group worship for themselves and for those who are to follow.

The congregation was first organized in August, 1853. On January 1, 1855, the first constitution was adopted and to this document thirty names were signed: Johann Wettle, pastor and secretary of organization; George Vollrath; J. H. Boller; Paul Stegner; Phillip Back; Wilhelm Gemmer; Peter Back; Jacob Seibel; L. N. Schmidt; Otto Koehnicke; Adam Stegner; John G. Blumenroeder; Ernest Stegner; George Debusmann; Gottfried Back; Jacob Dauer; J. E. Hofflaender; David Rau; Sophia Hain; Friedericke Reinhardt; Erhard Hirlinger; Jacob Neef; George Goller; J. J. Holzmueller; A. Sandrok; Friedrich Metz; Johann Mittameier; Phillip H. Stahl; Johann Fickel; and Johann Lotz.

In 1892 a revision of the constitution was completed, and the church was incorporated under the name of "The German Evangelical Congregation," which was later changed to "The Evangelical Church of Boonville, Missouri." We became a member of The Evangelical Synod in 1898. Our constitution was again rewritten and the revised document was adopted in 1924.

Out of the fullness of their hearts the church members have shared to meet the financial re-

sponsibilities in the form of current expenses and to fulfill the obligations for the Larger Program at home and abroad. In the first fifty years an incomplete record shows benevolent giving amounting to \$1,974. Although incomplete, the record of our church up to 1953 permits us to lay claim to benevolent giving amounting to, and in all probability exceeding, \$60,000. We have shared this sum through the Kingdom Fund, War Emergency Relief, World Service, Eden Seminary Fund, Pastors' Pension and Relief Fund, Missions at home and abroad, and our own denominational institutions.

In recognition of loyal devotion relatives and friends have placed in the church, memorials in memory of loved ones. Gifts in different forms have been presented to the church by those who so desired to share.

The congregation has ever been mindful of the devotion to the principle of Christian democracy, expressed through the patriotic service of our boys in the Armed Services throughout the history of the land. The congregation is ever mindful that such sacrifice shall not be in vain. Every resource at the church's command is directed toward establishing a universal approach for settlement of international and national problems on the basis of God's love for us and our fellowmen.

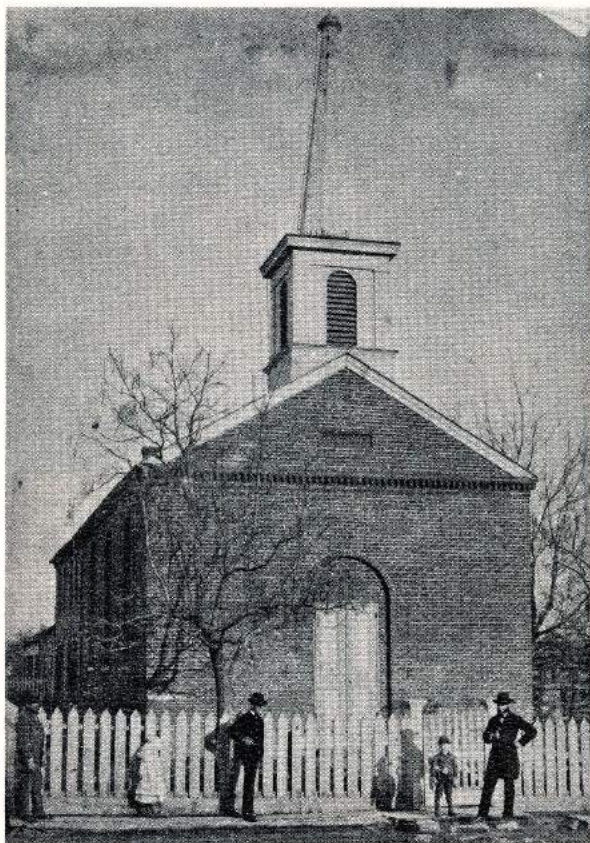
The members of the congregation in the Centennial Year 1953 humbly acknowledge their indebtedness to those who have labored in the past; mindful of their obligation to those who are to come, they pledge greater love to a just God and greater effort to Kingdom Work.





*"I will build my church." Matt. 6:18*

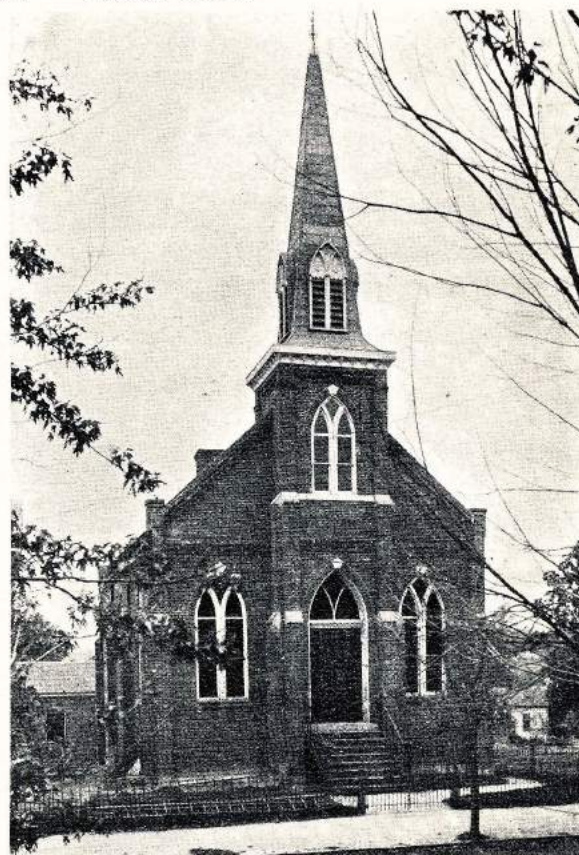
On January 1, 1855, the congregation met and selected the first Church Council in the history of our church. The members were George Vollrath, J. H. Boller, Stephen Weber, and Wilhelm Haas. To this Church Council and succeeding church councils the congregation has delegated the authority to conduct the mechanics of church organization and fiscal policy. To the Church Council has fallen the task of implementing the wishes of the congregation with regard to supplying the physical facilities for the church program.



**FIRST CHURCH, 1853**

The first church was built in 1853 and served as worship center until 1887. In 1884 a committee of Mr. Neef and Mr. Dengolesky was appointed to solicit funds for a new building. On March 30, 1887, the congregation decided to build a new church and appointed a building committee of four men: Messrs. Neef, Sombart, Gmelich and Arpe, and a secretary, Mr. Wenig. When Mr. Neef died, Mr. Dauwalter succeeded him. The old church building was razed in June, 1887, and the foundation for the new building was laid. On Sunday, August 16, 1887, the cornerstone was laid, according to Evangelical ritual. The building was completed in January, 1888, and on January 8, 1888, the church was consecrated to the service of God.

8



**1888**

In 1878, during Pastor Lange's pastorate, a decision was made to build a parsonage, which served until 1903, when the congregation built a new parsonage. The building committee was composed of Messrs. Gmelich, Mittelbach, Arpe, Schmidt, and Pastor Mueller. The parsonage was dedicated November 15, 1903, on the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the church.

In 1908 the church was renovated, and a ceremony to render thanks unto the Lord was conducted on July 5, 1908.

A growing concern was felt by the Church Council for the need of more space for religious education, and at the New Year's meeting in 1915 it was decided to build an addition to the church. The members of the committee designated to undertake this task were: Pastor Hinze, Messrs. John Krohn, William Rowe, Charles Hirlinger, LaRoy O. Schaumburg, Henry Efinger, Gus F. Boller, Dr. C. H. van Ravenswaay, Dr. William Mittelbach, Mrs. J. Deck, Mrs. J. Stammerjohn, Miss Emma Stegner, Miss Dora Hennicke and Miss Maude Pieper. The cornerstone for the addition was laid on October 17, 1915, and the building was completed January 6, 1916.

In 1920 the Church Council organized into committees, the better to conduct the growing affairs of the church. The Church Council membership was increased from seven to ten members. In 1946 the appointive post of Financial Secretary was created.



As the years go on, the church growth continues, and the addition proves inadequate to meet the increasing needs of the Church School. During the time of depression from 1929 to 1931 an effort was made to solicit funds for the erection of a building which would provide the needed space.

In 1941 the next phase of our building program took place. A complete redecoration of the entire church was accomplished. A formal chancel arrangement with the rebuilding and relocation of the organ, greatly enhanced the worshipful atmosphere of our church. The entire cost of this procedure was \$17,000, and the entire cost was met by bequests and money in the building fund started in 1929.

In 1947 the Church Council appointed a Cen-

tennial Committee to keep constantly in mind the hope of meeting the need for greater facilities by the time our church celebrates its 100th anniversary. The members of the committee were: Henry Neef, chairman; Mrs. Laura Stammerjohn; Mrs. J. E. Neubauer; Mrs. L. C. Davis; Miss Ina Emmel; J. E. Morrow; James Tucker; and Eugene Friedrich. Other members were later added to fill the vacancies on the committee and many sub-committees were named.

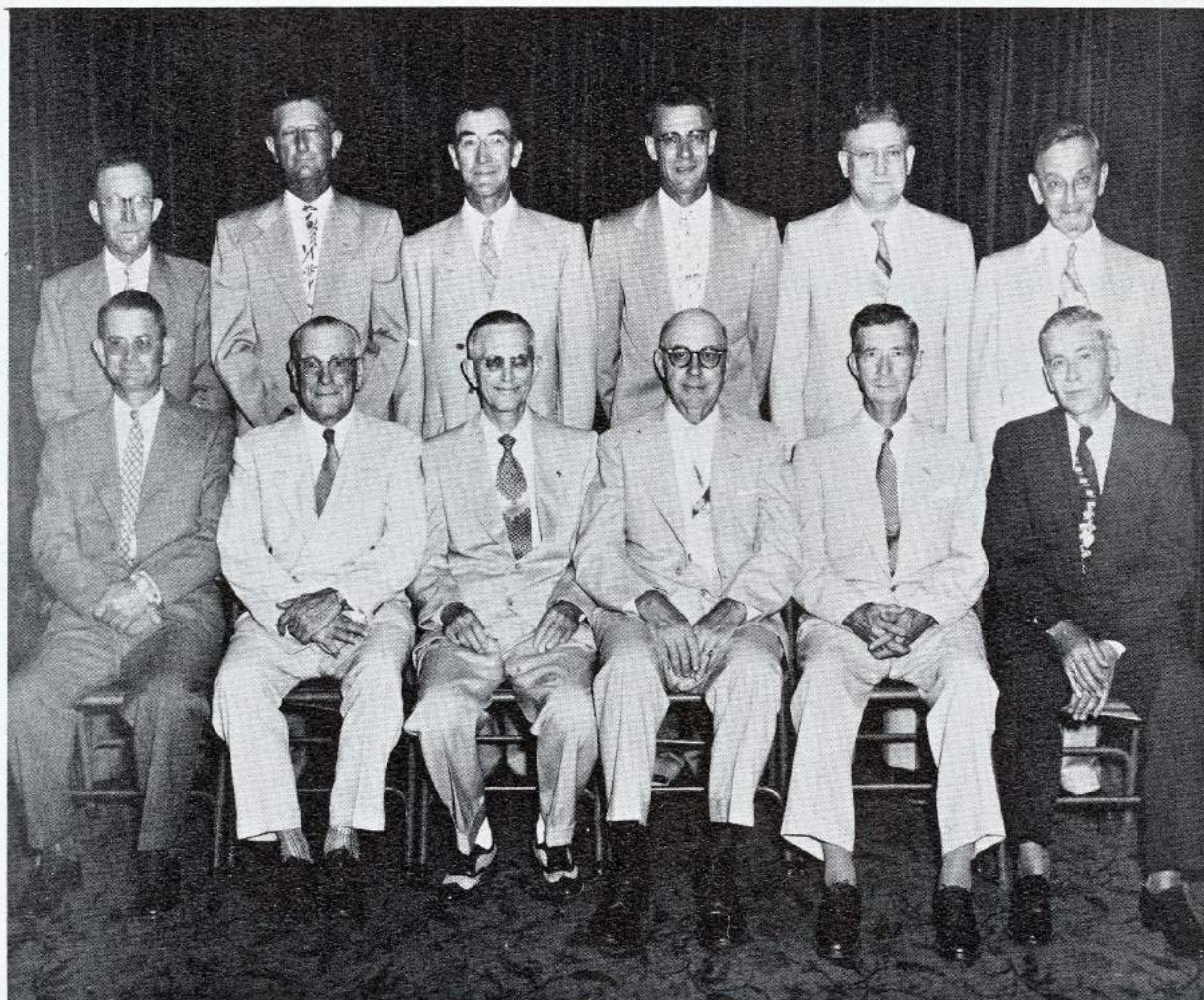
July 26, 1953, marked the first service held in our church since the redecoration of the church was undertaken the first of July, 1953. During this year the basement had been completely renovated by the members of the congregation volunteering their services.



CHURCH INTERIOR, 1953



To the members of the Church Councils of the past and to the members of the Church Council in this Centennial year of our church, we pay tribute. We recognize that their labor through all the years has indeed fulfilled the promises of Jesus, "I will build My Church."



**CHURCH COUNCIL, 1953**

The members of the Church Council in 1953 are: G. F. Boller, president; H. C. Neef, vice-president; L. O. Schamburg, secretary; H. J. Miller, treasurer; Emil Neubauer; Woodard B. Hopkins; Edwin Carl; H. W. Bueker; Dr. Alex van Ravenswaay; and Wilbur Warnhoff. Eugene Friedrich serves as Financial Secretary.



"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children."

Deut. 6:5-7



CHURCH SCHOOL, 1953

In the early years of our church the pastor was also a teacher. At that time there was no public school; so in the church school the three R's, German and the Bible were taught in a brick building, erected in 1857 just south of the present church. The brick school house was torn down to make room for an addition to the church in 1915. In July, 1892, the congregation decided to employ a teacher for the school at forty-five dollars a month. It was a real sacrifice on the part of the membership. Mr. G. Wiegmann taught for one year and then accepted a call to Chicago, Illinois. The pastors continued instruction through the summer months and even tried night sessions. This schooling ended with Pastor Kamphausen's departure.

In 1877 Pastor Lange first recognized the need of a period on Sunday morning, directed toward instruction of the Bible for the youth of all ages. In 1883 Charles Hirlinger became the first layman to serve as general superintendent; he served in this capacity for twenty-five years. He was succeeded by LaRoy O. Schaumburg in 1918, who served until 1936. Rudolph Stegner followed for the years 1936 to 1946, and J. E. Morrow served from 1946 to 1949. The post is now occupied by J. R. Moore.

The Church School became departmentalized under the administration of Mr. Schaumburg. There are the departments of Cradle Roll, Nursery, Primary, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Adult, and Home with lay people serving as head of each department. In 1946 the name "Sunday School" was changed by official sanction to "Church School."

In the 1935 annual report of Pastor Abele, we read these words, "The church dare not fail to note

the splendid work which was begun and carried on by a group of our people in what is known as 'Friendship Mission.' The first year of this work clearly shows that results are being achieved." Superintendent Schaumburg brought to the attention of church workers his concern for the youngsters living along the water front in the time of a acute depression. He felt it imperative that religious instruction should be taken to these youngsters. Those volunteering to help meet this need were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Bueker, Mrs. Katie Huber, and Mrs. Laura Stammerjohn. Mr. Bueker was designated superintendent. The Sand Company provided space rent-free, and wood for heating purposes, benches and chairs were donated. Mr. Joseph F. Memmel donated a piano. With these simple arrangements began a very important work which lasted for ten years. The Evangelical Sunday School supplied the literature needed and also the workers. Mrs. Laura Stammerjohn became general superintendent at the resignation of Mr. Bueker. Classes in religious instruction were organized for youth of all ages; a mothers' club was organized and held regular meetings. Entertainment in the form of Christmas and Easter programs and pageants was provided. All served the purpose of teaching about Christ and his love for man. In addition to those previously named those who helped directly in the work were Anita Spaete, pianist, Flora Pieper, Helen Early, Lilly Reimer and Clara Ruth Soph. Many others helped by way of furnishing supplies and giving encouragement. In Superintendent Stegner's annual report in 1945, we read, "During the course of the year it was found advisable to disband Friendship Mission after ten years



of usefulness. We pause to give special recognition to these faithful workers, one of whom, Mrs. Laura Stammerjohn, served the entire ten years. These workers gave their Sunday afternoons to bring Christian education to boys and girls who otherwise would have received no education in this field. The influence given these boys and girls will reach farther than we can see."

In 1922 the Daily Vacation Bible School was introduced. The first two years it was conducted by our own church, and the next two in unison with other Protestant churches in the community. In 1927 we conducted our own school for a period of five weeks. Then, with the exception of a few years when there was no school, the school again became a joint venture with other Protestant churches. The length of term became accepted as a two-weeks term.



**BIBLE SCHOOL, 1953**

In 1951 we organized our own Vacation Bible School, and each succeeding year the school has developed new and wondrous ways of presenting in story, in pageant, in handwork, and in play, the glorious truth of the Bible. The superintendents of the Nursery, Primary, and Junior Departments of the Church School, together with volunteer workers from the church membership form the faculty of the Vacation Bible School.



The Church School each year encourages youth to attend Leadership Training Courses and offers financial assistance to cover part of the expenses.

One of the cherished rites of the church is the rite of Confirmation. A period of instruction in the fundamentals of the Christian faith prepares the youthful Christian for a more meaningful acceptance of religion's obligations. It is a means of deepening the Christian consciousness, and all who kneel before the altar and make their vow of faithfulness to the teachings of the church, sense the importance of this holy act. Through the years 784 were thus prepared for church membership. It is a cherished heritage of the past—one which we shall always treasure and guard with zeal and devotion.



CONFIRMATION CLASS, 1953

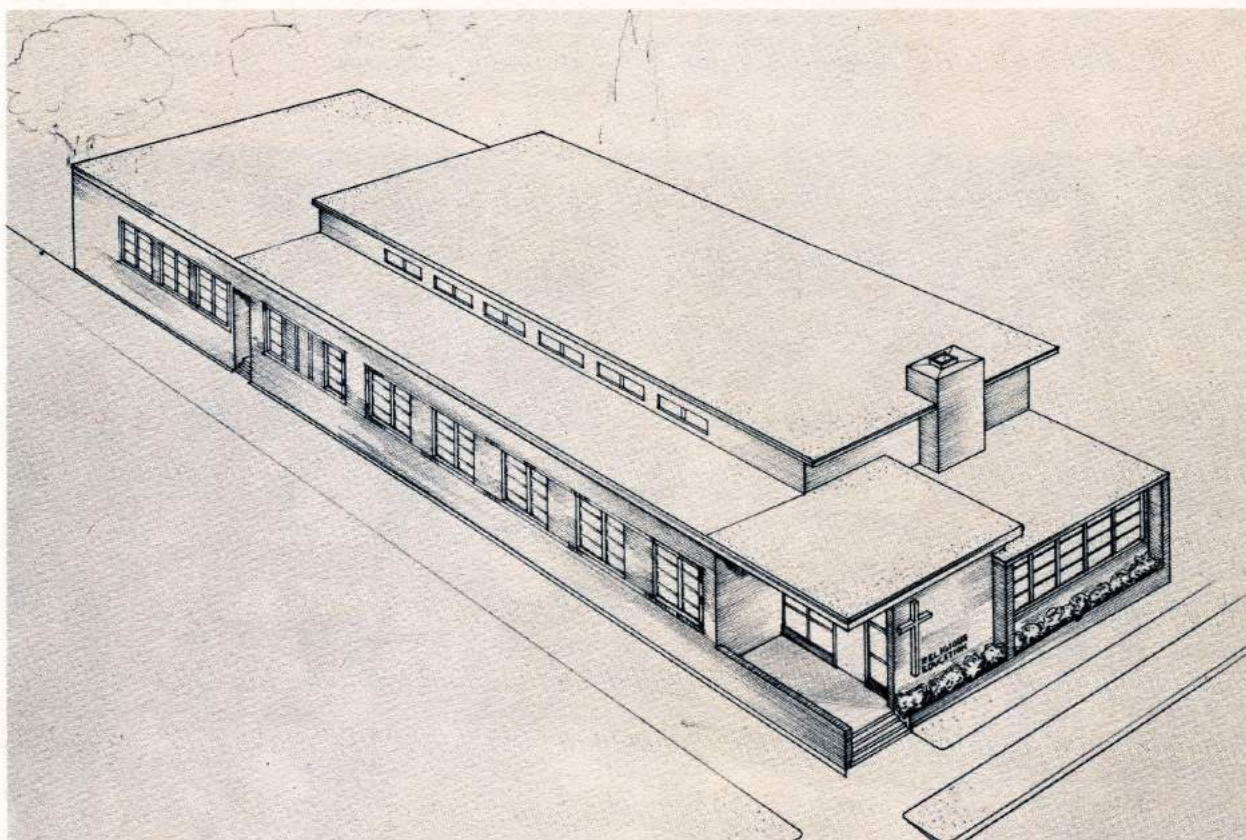


Ever mindful of duty to our youth the congregation approved plans for the construction of an educational annex to be located on church property directly south of the church, and instructed the church council to enter into contract for the erection of the building. The contract cost is \$95,673.

Ground breaking for the building will take place this fall, the year 1953. The building will pro-

vide assembly and class rooms for the Church School's Junior, Primary, Nursery, and Kindergarten departments. In addition there will be an auditorium with seating capacity for 300 people, a lounge with fireplace, an office, and a kitchen.

Through this action the congregation is meeting existing needs and preparing for the increasing needs of a growing church dedicated to further God's Kingdom.



**ARCHITECT'S SKETCH OF EDUCATION BUILDING, 1953**

The post of the church school worker may seem "unsung and unheralded" but the church recognizes the full measure of this devotion and devoutly thanks God for this service.

The officers and teachers in our Church School in 1953 are: J. R. Moore, Superintendent; F. W. Bege-man, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Henry Schler, Recording Secretary; Elmer Gerhardt, Statistical Secretary; Mrs. Pauline Beaman, Treasurer; Mrs. M. L. Diekroeger, Superintendent Junior Department; Mrs. A. T. Zeller, Superintendent Primary Department; Mrs. Elmer Gerhardt, Superintendent Nursery Department; Mrs. Albert Gerhardt and Mrs. William Rowe, Superintendents Home Department; and Mrs. Raymond Knabe, Mrs. Harold Schrader and Mrs. Randall Howell, Superintendents Cradle Roll; Miss

Joan Dusenberg, Teacher Nursery I; Mrs. Elmer Gerhardt, Teacher Nursery II; Mrs. H. F. Herfurth, Teacher Kindergarten; Mrs. Clarence Neckerman, Teacher Primary I; Mrs. J. E. Neubauer, Teacher Primary I; Miss Nona Begeman, Teacher Primary II; Mrs. William Branch, Teacher Primary III; Miss Corine Grathwohl, Teacher Junior I; Mrs. J. R. Moore, Teacher Junior II; Clarence Ahman, Teacher Sr. High Boys; Mrs. C. M. Skinner, Teacher Sr. High Girls; Clinton McClary, Teacher Jr. High Boys; Mrs. Paul Sombart, Teacher Jr. High Girls; Mrs. L. C. Davis, Teacher Golden Link Class; Rev. Mr. E. F. Abele, Teacher Men's Bible Class; Mrs. Laura Stammerjohn, Teacher K. D. Class. Pianists are Miss Sara Jane Hopkins, Miss Eula Stegner, Mrs. Clarence Ahman, and Miss Ida Marie Bueker.

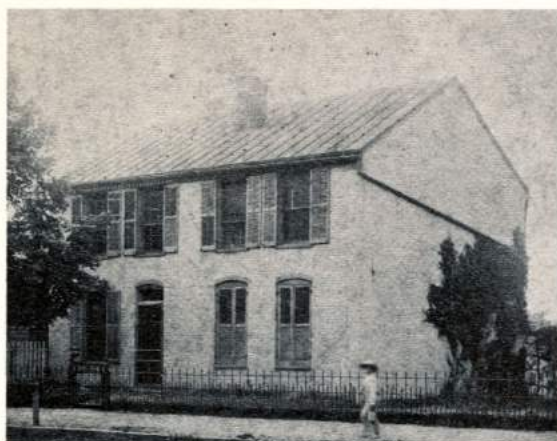


## *"This is my Task"*

The pictures on this page tell the story of the first parsonage and our present parsonage. The record of their building is noted on other pages.



**PARSONAGE, 1953**



**FIRST PARSONAGE, 1878**

A church program is dependent upon home life for its permanent entrance into the human heart. Surely through the years, we as a congregation have given silent thanks to the women who have occupied our parsonage and who have consecrated their lives to the building of Christian homes. They have demonstrated in an exemplary fashion devotion to their God, devotion to their mate, and devotion to their family. They have shared with us in every capacity in which they were able to serve.

Surely in this record we must pay loving tribute and grateful homage to "OUR LADIES OF OUR PARSONAGE." The words printed below are the words of Pastor Abele's favorite hymn sung by his wife, Emma Abele, at the ceremony of his ordination. They express simply and lovingly the consecration demanded of and given so generously by our pastors' wives.

"To love someone more dearly every day,  
To help a wandering child to find his way,  
To ponder o'er a noble thought and pray,  
And smile when evening falls,  
This is my task.

"To follow truth as blind men long for light,  
To do my best from dawn of day till night,  
To keep my heart fit for His holy sight,  
And answer when he calls,  
This is my task."

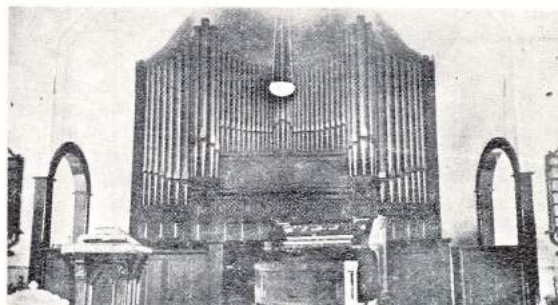


"I will praise the name of God with a song." Psalms 69:9.

Through the majesty of music God's world clearly unfolds to all who listen. Through the majesty of music we can send our praise and thanksgiving to our Lord.

In the earliest days of our church music was supplied by a reed organ which was replaced by another reed organ, presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gmelich about 1890. In 1894 a one-manual pipe organ was donated to the church by the Young Frauenverein. This organ served the needs until in 1916 Mrs. Gmelich, widow of a former Lieutenant Governor of Missouri, presented the church with an electric pipe organ in loving memory of her beloved husband. Our organ is considered a masterpiece of its kind.

In the annual report of the year of our 75th anniversary we read these words, written by Mrs. Robert Grebe, "As we look forward to our centennial we hope then to have an organ with chimes." This hope was realized in 1941 through the addition of chimes to the organ. These chimes were presented to the church by Dr. Alex van Ravenswaay.



**GMELICH MEMORIAL ORGAN**

Early organists of our church were the Misses Sophia and Louise Vollrath, G. Wiegmann, Mrs. B. H. Leesmann, Misses Anna and Laura Roeder, and Miss Katie Fuchs. They were followed by Miss Henrietta Zschirpe, Miss Adelle Walthers, J. L. Manson, Mrs. Eugene Blackwood, and Miss Margaret Eager. It has been the good fortune of the church to have many young talented pianists who have rendered faithful and untiring service to both the church school and the church.



**SENIOR CHOIR**

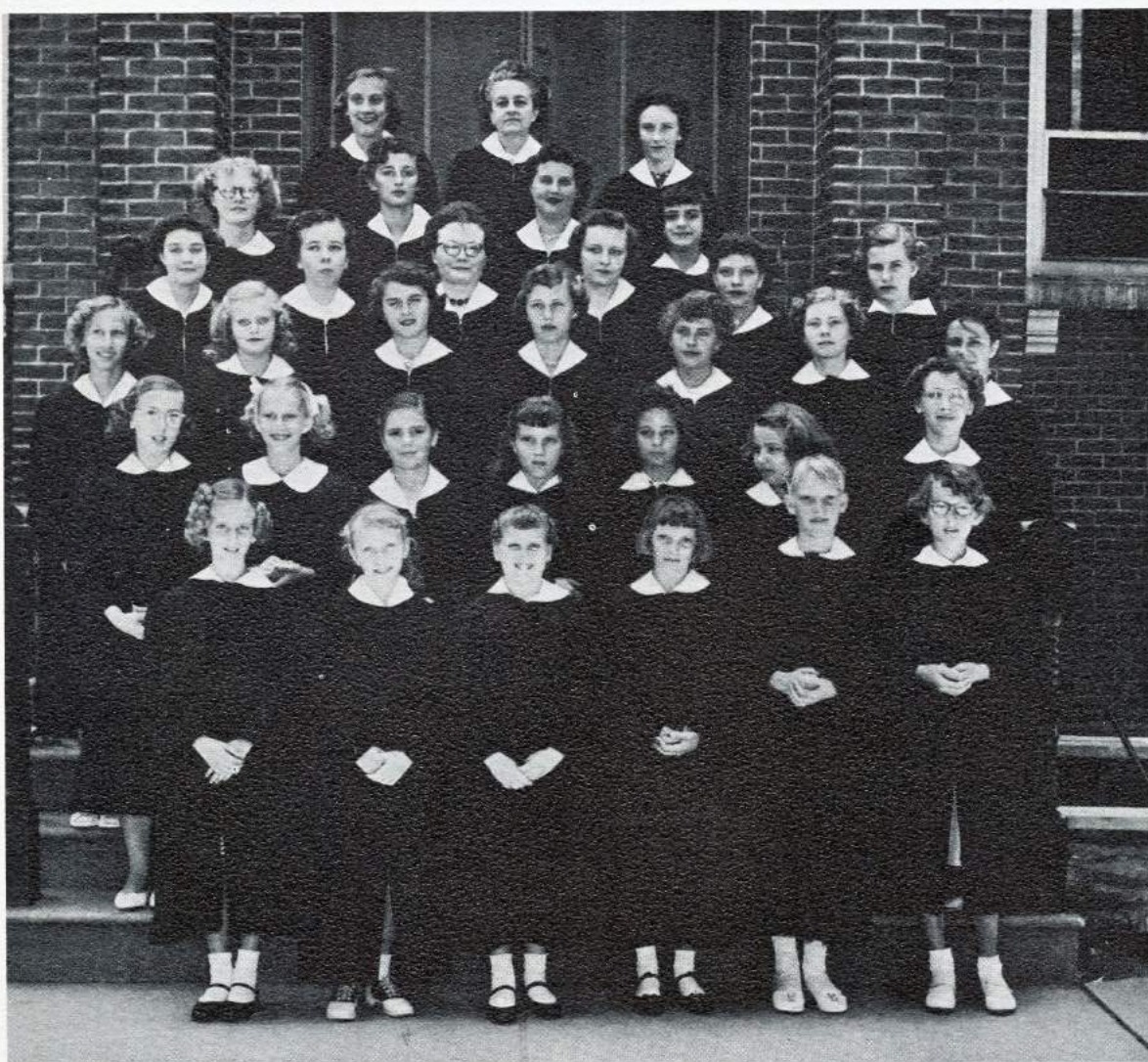


In 1878 Pastor Lange organized the first choir, which began its musical ministry at the Christmas Eve service. This choir disbanded in 1891 after having contributed greatly to the beauty of the services for nearly thirteen years. In 1890 Pastor Leesmann organized a "Young Choir" which formed the beginning of our present choir organization. Since 1923 we have been blessed with the services of two choirs—a Senior and a Junior Choir. The Junior Choir later became known as the Girls' Chorus

and is so called in the centennial year.

Our Girls' Chorus is directed by Mrs. Emma Abele; our Senior Choir by Woodard Hopkins; our organist is Miss Margaret Eager; our pianist is Miss Sara Jane Hopkins.

We pay homage to the willingness of the members of the choir to share so generously their talent in the praise of the Lord. To all in the past who have so served we pay tribute; to those of today we express sincere appreciation.



THE GIRLS' CHORUS



"For rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints, but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God."  
II Corinthians 9:13.

On April 5, 1880, assisted by Pastor Schneider, twenty-nine women banded together as the "Frau-  
enverein." with Frau Durr as president, to help carry out the program of the church. This organization together with that of a "Younger Frauenverein," organized on February 22, 1887, with Fraulein Marie Wenig as president, worked faithfully to provide some of the many necessary appointments of the church, such as organ for the church and a water system for the parsonage. They lent valuable service in finance campaigns and stood in constant readiness to help fulfill the mission of the church.

The younger group was disbanded in 1897 and the other formally disbanded in 1922. On May 11,

1916, the Dorcas Society was formed, and this organization absorbed the membership of previous groups and brought into activity a larger membership. The first officers of this Dorcas Society were: Mrs. A. H. Sauter, president; Mrs. Fred Henger, vice-president; Mrs. William Hirlinger, secretary; Mrs. Harry Colby, treasurer; and Mrs. Gus Boller, pianist.

In 1941 the Dorcas Society adopted a new constitution and began to function as the Women's Guild. The 1953 officers of the Guild are: Mrs. A. T. Zeller, president; Mrs. Louis Thomas, vice-president; Mrs. Henry Schler, secretary; Mrs. F. H. Korte, financial secretary; and Mrs. Clarence Neckerman, treasurer.



WOMEN'S GUILD





#### EVENING GUILD

In 1951, because some members found it impossible to attend afternoon meetings, an Evening Guild was organized. The 1953 officers of this Guild are: Mrs. Wesley Wohlt, president; Mrs. Mildred Vasche, vice-president; Mrs. Marie Stegner, secretary; and Mrs. F. L. Wendleton, treasurer. Both groups carry on the same program and function through the departments of Spiritual Life, Education, Christian Citizenship, Thank Offering, Stewardship, Social Service, and Membership. Standing committees execute all duties attendant to the social life of the church, such as the annual covered dish suppers at the annual meetings of the congregation, church picnics, workshop on regional basis, and missionary dinners. Meetings are held regularly with both groups observing jointly the birthday party of the Guild. Wards at Emmaus are furnished financial aid. The organization is a participating member of the Union Mission Society of Boonville, Missouri, which conducts two meetings a year, World Day of Prayer and World Community Day. The challenge allotted to these guilds has been met regularly, and emphasis has been given to an ever increasing Thank Offering for Greater Kingdom Work.

On September 24, 1929, a group of members of the Dorcas Society met at the parsonage for the purpose of organizing a Mission Study Group to delve deeper into the mission program of our church. These ladies were: Mesdames Katie Huber, Laura Stammerjohn, Anna Rippley, R. Falgout, and Louise Baumann. They were joined later by Mrs. William Rowe, Mrs. Howard King, Mrs. Albert Selck, and Mrs. Alice Spieler. Mrs. Stoerker was named teacher, and she served in this capacity until January 11, 1935, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Stammerjohn, who still serves. Meetings have been held regularly, and four of the first members are still active in 1953. Their free-will offering is directed toward participation in World Neighbor Project. Their more especial project has been the adoption of an Austrian family with whom they have shared prayers and material blessings. As a circle of the Guild devoting all time to mission study, this class has been able, through study of books and of the Messenger, to learn intimately of the mission program of our church and of other churches. Through years of devotion to a worthy purpose this class has developed a feeling of close kinship to the Larger Program of God's Kingdom.





#### SUNSHINE SOCIETY

In 1910 a Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Jacob Deck, banded together her class of ten girls into an organization having for its goal "Not Self But Others." The name of "The Sunshine Mission Society of The Evangelical Church" was given to this organization, and the larger program of aid to foreign missions was adopted. The first officers chosen were: Ella Soph, president; Esther Hennicke, secretary; Clara Toennes, treasurer; and Mrs. Deck and Pastor Hinze, advisors. An orphan from a mission in India was adopted and \$12.50 semi-annually was pledged to her support. Later home missions were added to the program and such projects as aid to Mercy Hospital, vacation for a crippled child

from Mercy, Christmas cheer for residents of Cooper County Home, remembrance of sick and shut-ins, care for a ward at Emmaus, sponsor of a World Neighbor and regular contribution to World Service have formed an important part of the program of the Sunshine Society. This organization has been motivated through its entire existence by the blessed privilege of sharing their many blessings to help meet the need of the world. The members have remained ever true to their goal of "Not Self But Others." The present officers are Mrs. Raymond Knabe, president; Mrs. Harold Schrader, vice-president; Mrs. Walter Knabe, secretary; and Miss Anna Friedrich, treasurer.

Throughout the history of our church woman's contribution to the fulfillment of our mission has been of untold value. Through organization of effort and individual prayer she has been able to meet any challenge the church presents. This has been done through consecrated effort and a Living Faith.



"Let no one despise your youth but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

I Timothy 4:12

These words of counsel exemplify the participation of the youth of our church in the church program through all the years of progress that lay behind. The records show that always there has been contribution made by our youth. This contribution has taken many forms of organization and has been called by many names—The Senior League, The Junior League, The Intermediate League, The Evangelical League, The Christian Endeavor, and the Youth Fellowship. Whichever ones you recall, you are aware of the value of their contribution. The youth point the way toward cooperation with other groups. Interdenominational Youth Movement and united effort with Billingsville, New Franklin, and Columbia youth groups in presenting religious drama are but two examples of such cooperation.

The youth point to expressions of love toward others such as carolling at Christmas time, visiting shut-ins, and decorating Christmas trees for the sick. Their pride in the church is manifest in their gift of the Lighted Cross for the chancel and in assuming the responsibility in 1953 of decorating the church for all services.

Their enthusiasm and their vigor do not permit them to grow weary in well-doing. So with confidence in their ability, faith in their goodness, we hand to the youth of our church,

"The Torch of God's love

We have known it to be ever present  
throughout the life of our church,

Hold it High! Guard it Always! Serve it Well!  
Therein Lies our Future."



#### YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The officers of Youth Fellowship for 1953 are: Mr. and Mrs. Allen Howell, sponsors; Bob Utlaut and Joan Dusenber, junior sponsors; Sara Jane Hopkins, president; Patsy Miller, first vice-president; Lyle Gene Dusenber, second vice-president; and Elizabeth Deuschle, secretary-treasurer.



"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.  
Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory."  
Revelations 19:6-7

Our centennial observance which has given us a review of the past, also challenges us for the years that lie ahead. "What's past is prologue." As we gratefully acknowledge the past achievements, we will be reminding ourselves that our Church can and will meet the challenge of tomorrow as boldly and successfully as it met the needs of days gone by.

As Chairman of our Church Council, it is my privilege to extend to all who so faithfully labored in the various committees arranging this celebration, the sincere thanks of our entire congregation. Many hours of thought and planning have made our celebration possible. There have been so many participating in this effort that space does not permit the listing of all their names. Their labors are thankfully acknowledged and are proof again that our people respond willingly to any task set before them.

With the story of the past all told, there remains with us a hope and a challenge for the years ahead. The greatest value of a milestone is to enable us to lay a course for our yet distant goal. With gratitude, giving honor to the past, we confidently address ourselves to the unfinished business of the future. May the Heavenly Father accept and bless our future labors as He has so richly blest us in the past. In His name we shall go forward.

G. F. Boller

*"Serve the Lord with gladness."  
Psalm 100:2a*

We, the members of the Publication committee appointed by the Centennial Committee to publish the first hundred years' history of our church, express our deep gratitude for the privilege of serving in this capacity.

We sincerely hope that we have imparted into this record a measure of the devotion, the joy, the consecration, and obedience to the will of God, that are so evident in the recorded annals of our church.

We earnestly pray that this spirit of Christian fellowship, good will, and consecrated stewardship will live on, in the years ahead.

Mrs. L. C. Davis  
Mrs. J. E. Neubauer  
J. R. Moore  
G. F. Boller  
Pastor E. F. Abele



## Centennial Month Program

- October 4    10:45 a. m. World-Wide Communion Sunday Observance.  
              7:30 p. m. Community service and reception.
- October 11    10:45 a. m. Main Anniversary Service.  
              The Rev. Mr. Frederick Stoerker, St. Joseph, Missouri,  
              Guest Speaker.  
              Basket Dinner at Noon.  
              2:00 p. m. Memorial Service at the graveside of Pastor  
              Greiner in Walnut Grove Cemetery.  
              3:00 p. m. Confirmation Reunion Service.
- October 18    10:45 a. m. Mission Day Service.  
              Mrs. Carl J. Madlinger, St. Louis, Missouri, Guest Speaker.  
              7:30 p. m. Stewardship Film "The Hidden Life."
- October 25    10:45 a. m. Religious Education Sunday.  
              Dr. Allen G. Wehrli, Webster Groves, Missouri, Guest  
              Speaker.  
              7:30 p. m. Historical Pageant at the High School Audi-  
              torium.



## **Notes on this scanned version of the 1853-1953 booklet**

This scanned version of the pages of the 1953 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet contains all of the pages of the original which had content. However, as the original had two blank pages (2 and 4) which were included in the number sequencing, the original scanned page numbers and the sequential page numbering of the PDF file do not match (the previous page 22 of the PDF file was page 23 in the printed booklet, for example). However, rest assured that all of the original content appears in this PDF file.

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This digital version was scanned and assembled by John D. Hopkins.

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