

DIAMOND JUBILEE

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1872 + 1947

A Brief History

AND OTHER INTERESTING
AND PERTINENT FACTS
ABOUT

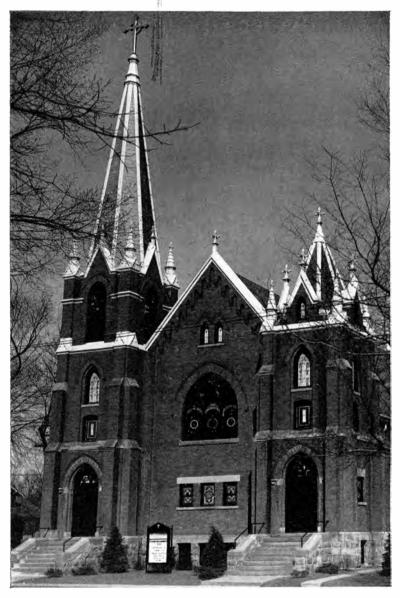
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

WAVERLY, IOWA

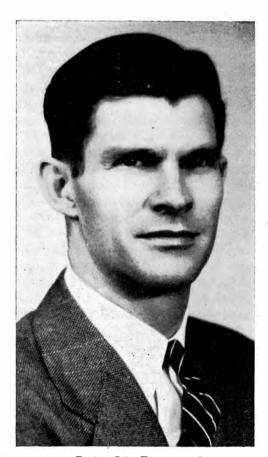
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE MAY 9, 1947

Otto Fangmeyer, Pastor

1872 + 1947



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



Pastor Otto Fangmeyer

Early History

The first white settler arrived in Bremer County in the year 1845, a year before Iowa became a state. Five years later, the first settler arrived on the spot where Waverly is now located. Others soon followed, among them a certain W. P. Harmon, who bought the site, had it surveyed and plotted. He had a dam built across the Cedar River and built a sawmill on the east side. Soon other establishments and block houses were erected, and a bridge was built in 1855. Four years later the town was incorporated, and by 1864 had its first connection with the outside world by rail. From that time on the town grew, and today is a prosperous city of about 5,000 inhabitants and the County Seat of Bremer County. It is fast becoming an industrial city. Furthermore it boasts eight churches, a public library, two elementary schools, a large high school, and two Lutheran parish schools, besides Wartburg College with a present enrollment of almost 500 students, a hospital, a Lutheran Children's Home, and the home office of the Lutheran Mutual Life Insurance Company.

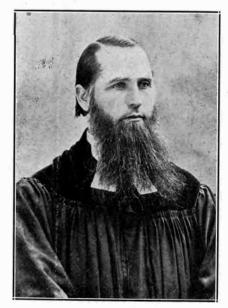
Among the early settlers there were many Germans of the Lutheran faith. St. John's Lutheran Church of Maxfield, the mother church of Lutheranism in this area, was organized in 1856. It was not until the late sixties, however, that any work was done among the Lutherans in and around Waverly. The first Lutheran sermon in Waverly was delivered by Dr. G. Fritschel, who was a professor at Wartburg Seminary then located at St. Sebald, Iowa. The first regular services were conducted by Pastor L. Schorr of Maxfield, but his successor, Pastor A. Preller, did not continue the work. When Pastor Paul Bredow came to Maxfield in January of 1872 he again took up the work in Waverly, and a few months later, on May 9, 1872, he organized a small congregation with eight men signing the first constitution: Henry Maas, E. Seybold, M. Koeberle, Carl Boedecker, John and August Friedmann, John Voight, and John Mahnke. Among others who soon affiliated with the congregation there were the following: F. Krumwiede, A. F. Kretschmar, Mrs. Hagen, Mrs. Schaefer, J. H. Oltrogge, August and Henry Boedecker, L. Haase, W. Rathe, F. Behrens, Chr. Barten, H. Hartmann, Henry and Fred Leege. That was the Mustard Seed which has grown into a veritable tree by 1947, loved by us all as our church, St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation.



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, PARISH HOUSE AND PARSONAGE FROM THE AIR

The First Years

Pastor Bredow continued in charge of the new congregation until the arrival of its first regular pastor, the Rev. M. Gerlach, a graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary, who came August 1, 1872. Not only was the congregation small in numbers but poor in this world's goods, so that the salary was insufficient for the young pastor to make ends



Pastor Paul Bredow

meet. He therefore was forced to give private instruction to supplement his meager salary. Pastor Gerlach is characterized as a very earnest and zealous man who devoted himself wholeheartedly to his pastoral work and especially the regular instruction of his flock. Before the end of the first year of his pastorate he had already prepared a class of sixteen for confirmation.

Poor as the people were and weak in numbers it is not surprising that they should have no place of worship, which they could call their own, nor were they able to acquire one. The first services were held in a brick school building on the east side

of the river, then for a while on the upper floor of a wagon and paint shop on the west side, just two blocks south of the present church. The need of a church of their own was keenly felt. In order to secure and save the first funds to meet this need a women's society was organized, one of whose prime functions it was, to work for a church building. And this society did succeed after a while in saving up \$300, a considerable amount of money under the conditions. But now unfortunately a split occurred in the congregation, a number of families seceding and trying to organize a rival church. This left the congregation weaker than ever, besides engendering much bitterness of feeling, and the prospect of securing a church property of their own, however modest, was more remote than ever. There was even legal action by

the seceding group to get the \$300 but the court ruled that inasmuch as they had left the congregation they had no right to these funds. The money saved thus far was invested in a parcel of land for a cemetery, St. Paul's Cemetery, southeast of the city.

Pastor Gerlach accepted a call to Franklin Mills, Iowa, in 1876, and was followed in rapid succession by several pastors, M. Eberhard, D. M. Ficken, and a Pastor Sommerlad, all of whom remained only a short time, however. When Wartburg Teacher's Seminary was moved to Waverly in 1879 one of the members of the faculty, Prof. F. Eichler, was called to take charge of the congregation in addition to his other work. This he did until 1884, when due to a chronic ailment he was forced to retire from active work, and again the congregation was left vacant. In 1885 Wartburg College of Mendota, Illinois, was also moved to Waverly and united with the Teacher's Seminary. The congrega-





Pastor F. Lutz

Prof. F. Eichler

tion again called one of the faculty members, Prof. F. Lutz, to discharge the duties as its pastor. Meanwhile the congregation had grown stronger and saw its way clear to support a pastor of its own, and extended a call to Pastor F. Zimmermann of Monona, Iowa, who came in the early fall of 1886.



ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S SOCIETY

Mrs. Louise Vogt, President; Mrs. Kurt Weltner, Vice-President; Mrs. Carl Muench, Secretary; Mrs. Harold Hartmann, Treasurer

Pastor J. Zimmermann

THE ADVENT OF Pastor Zimmermann marks the beginning of a new era for the congregation. Altogether he served St. Paul's for seventeen years, and next to the grace of God, it is due to his leadership and efficiency as pastor, preacher and teacher, that the congregation owes its rapid growth and development during the next years. Pastor Zim-

mermann passed to his reward in March, 1917, during his pastorate at Oelwein. His body was brought to Waverly for burial, being laid to rest on St. Paul's Cemetery.

The new pastor found a struggling congregation still worshipping in rented quarters. The little brick church of the defunct Presbyterian congregation had some years before been secured for this purpose. This church was located in what was known as Curtis Grove in southeast Waverly, near the present Post Office. It was a neat brick structure with a small white tower, and was entirely adequate for the needs of the congregation,



Pastor F. Zimmermann

but it was not their own. Meanwhile the church property of the Universalist Church on the west side was offered for sale. Pastor Zimmermann immediately took up the matter with the congregation, with the result, that it was unanimously decided to purchase it. The congregation thus for the first time came into possession of its own church building. The purchase price was \$1,000. This occurred in 1886, fourteen years after the organization of the congregation. Now the congregation began to grow, indeed, to such an extent that it became necessary to enlarge the building only two years later. This was done by adding a thirty-foot addition. The days of want and poverty were past. God had signally blessed his people. At the time of the silver jubilee, 1897, the pastor could report that the congregation now numbered

approximately 130 families, owned a valuable church property, including a spacious church, a large school building to accommodate its flourishing parish school, and a parsonage, and all property unencumbered by any debt.

The former school building, located immediately south of the parsonage, was erected in 1890, enlarged in 1901, and again improved in 1911. The present parsonage was built in 1900, an addition added in 1914, and extensively improved in 1922.

During Pastor Zimmermann's pastorate the congregation was privileged to observe the silver anniversary of its organization. This was done May 9, 1897. The speakers for the occasion were Pastors Lutz,



THE OLD CHURCH

Adix, Schedtler and Prof. W. Proehl, D.D. The congregation at the time numbered 115 voting members, 381 communicants, and 639 souls. The jubilee report shows that the following ministerial acts were performed during the first 25 years of its existence: 440 baptisms, 255 confirmed, 109 marriages, and 109 burials. Altogether it was a wonderful showing especially in view of the struggles of the early part of that period.

In 1899 the Orphan's Home, now known as the Children's Home, was moved from Andrew, Iowa, to Waverly, and ever since has been an integral part of the congregation.

Pastor Zimmermann's ministry ceased in June, 1903, when he accepted a call to become president of the Lutheran College, Brenham, Texas. The congregation accepted his resignation, however, reluctantly, and gave him a vote of grateful appreciation for his zealous and consecrated ministry.



CONFIRMATION SCENE

The Parish School

IT WILL BE WELL at this time to add a few words on the educational work of the congregation. From the beginning great stress was laid by the congregation and its pastors on the proper instruction and indoctrination of the young. The first resident pastor, the Rev. M. Gerlach, immediately took up this work and gave it much attention and

prayer. But here again it was Pastor Zimmermann who placed the school on a solid foundation. Since it was impossible for him to devote as much time to the school as its upbuilding required, and the time had not yet come for the congregation to call and support a trained teacher of its own, he secured assistants, paying them largely out of his own meager means so that the school might in no wise suffer.



Mrs. Edna Wessel Teacher



Miss Ethel Pothast Teacher

The congregation recognized the blessings of a Christian Day School as the nursery of the church, and finally in 1891 resolved to call a regular teacher to take charge of this work. Various men were engaged but served only a short time. The names are the following: Illing, Gosse, Nothnagel, and Hecker. In June of 1894, Mr. O. Hardwig, a graduate of Wartburg

Teacher's Seminary, took charge and served the congregation as teacher and organist until the spring of 1903, when he took up his new duties as professor of music at Wartburg. When Prof. Hardwig entered upon his duties the school numbered some 40 pupils. Due to his indefatigable and efficient work the number at one time reached 89. Mr. Hardwig was suc-



Miss Ruth Goodemann Teacher



 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Miss} \ \ {\rm Mae} \ \ {\rm Schmidt} \\ {\it Teacher} \end{array}$

ceeded by C. F. Liefeld, who held the position for the next ten years, until the spring of 1913, filling the position with credit. Indeed, the work of the school had meanwhile increased to such an extent that it became necessary to call an assistant. Miss Lydia Ide was engaged for this position. She was followed in 1907 by Miss Mathilda Kraushaar, who taught until December, 1910. Her successor was Miss

Emma Goppelt. Meanwhile Mr. Liefeld accepted a call to the faculty of Eureka Lutheran College, Eureka, S. D., and was succeeded by Mr. Em. Isaak. The latter continued in office until the winter of 1917, when he accepted a call to Benson, Ill. During his time it became necessary to call a second assistant. Miss Goppelt had meanwhile also resigned (1916), so the congregation called two new teachers in the persons of Miss Ida Goeken and Miss Laura Grube, the former to take the place of Miss Goppelt, the latter to take charge of the kindergarten and first grades. Additional property was also secured and

arrangement was made for a kindergarten and primary room on the site of our present Parish House. When Mr. Isaak left in the early spring of 1917 Miss Goeken was made principal and Miss Helen Becker was engaged to take her place and also to serve as organist and choir director. Miss Goeken was followed in 1920 by Miss Augusta Topping, who later became principal. In 1921 both Misses Grube and Becker resigned their positions. The school had meanwhile also decreased in enrollment and the congregation resolved to engage only two teachers. Miss Selma Klein took charge of the lower grades in 1921.

Prof. E. G. Heist assumed the duties as organist and choir director in 1921, a position which he still holds today.

Coming back to the school, both Miss Topping and Miss Klein resigned in the spring of 1923. Miss Alma Schoebel was engaged as principal for the next four years, and Mrs. Doralina Zelle taught the lower grades for the following three years. She was succeeded in 1923 by Miss Elsie Mueller who served in the school for the next nineteen years, and since the summer of 1945 has been engaged by the congregation as full time Parish Worker, in which capacity she continues to serve as principal of the school.

In 1927 Miss Charlotte Becker was called as principal and successor to Miss Schoebel. She taught the upper grades for the next ten years and from 1937 to 1940, when a third teacher was again added, she was in charge of the Junior High Room. Miss Marvel Childers was engaged as the third teacher. She taught grades 4 to 6 from 1937 to 1939. She was succeeded by Miss Marie Zink in 1939. When Miss Becker left in the spring of 1940 Miss Zink took charge of the Junior High Room and Mrs. Alma Nelson was engaged to take her place. At this time Miss Mueller became principal. In 1941 two new teachers were engaged, Miss Frances Tweito for 7th and 8th, and Miss Esther Karsten for the Intermediate Room. Miss Tweito, however, resigned that same fall and was replaced for the balance of the year by Miss Delores Prior.

In the fall of 1942 Mrs. Edna Wessel was called to teach the Primary Room, a position which she still holds today. In addition she serves as director of the Junior Choir which was organized some years previously by Miss Becker, and which annually on the second Sunday in Advent presents a beautiful candlelight service.

Miss Ethel Pothast was engaged in 1943 to take charge of the Intermediate Room, a position which she also continues to fill to the present time.

When Miss Mueller became Parish Worker at St. Paul's, Miss Ruth

Goodemann was called to become Junior High teacher. She served in this capacity for one year. In the fall of 1946 there was such a marked increase in enrollment, that the Church Council felt it advisable to add a fourth teacher. This necessitated some shifting of classes so as to have two grades in each room. Mrs. Wessel now has the first and second grade room, Miss Pothast is in charge of third and fourth, Miss Goodemann took over the fifth and sixth grade room, and Miss Helene Matthias was engaged temporarily to teach the Junior High Room, but after the first six weeks she asked to be replaced. A replacement was found in the person of Mrs. Walter Tillmanns, who, however, also found it necessary to resign at the end of the first semester. Miss Mae Schmidt, a student at Wartburg College and a former teacher, has been engaged to finish the year.

The Parish School was housed in the building now owned by the Drape Construction Company from 1891 to 1941, but in February of that year the classes were moved into the beautiful and spacious school rooms of the newly constructed Parish House. With renewed interest in the Parish School our enrollment has risen to 103 at the present time.

In conclusion be it said, that from the beginning St. Paul's Church fully recognized the importance of careful instruction of the young and the value of a full-fledged Christian Day School as the best means to accomplish this purpose—a fact which subsequent events amply confirmed and justified. May St. Paul's Lutheran School continue to be a source of blessing to the youth of the congregation.

At the same time the congregation also conducted a regular Sunday School with an efficient corps of teachers. This was organized during the ministry of Pastor Zimmermann. It is at the present time under the efficient leadership of Prof. Alf W. Swenson with an enrollment of 518 and a regular staff of 41 workers. In addition the congregation has for a number of years been conducting classes in the local public schools through Junior High on released time. This latter program is now entirely in the hands of our Parish Worker. Since 1944 the congregation has also conducted a two weeks Daily Vacation Bible School taught by our regular Parish School teachers and several assistants.



ST. PAUL'S TABITHA CIRCLE

Mrs. C. Carstensen, President; Mrs. Ed. Liemohn, Vice-President; Mrs. E. L. Mueller, Secretary; Mrs. Louis Oltrogge, Treasurer

Pastor John Weyrauch

PASTOR JOHN WEYRAUCH was called as the successor of Pastor Zimmermann. He came to Waverly from Rock Falls, Ill., in the early fall of 1903. The outstanding feature of his pastorate was the erection of our present church building, which at that time was one of the finest and largest churches in this section of the state. The matter of a new

church building had been agitated and discussed for some time. The congregation had grown to such a degree that the old church was hopelessly too small. The question took its first definite shape in July, 1905, in a resolution to find and purchase a building site. After a year's delay for one reason or another, the so-called Tanner property was purchased, the site of the present church, which adjoined the old church property on the south side. A building committee was appointed consisting of Prof. A. Engelbrecht, chairman, Messrs. F. P. Hagemann, (Rev.) C. Ide, H. Kasemeier, G. A. Grossmann, John Schoof, August Friedemann and H. Claus-



Pastor John Weyrauch

ing. The cornerstone of the new church was laid July 15, 1907. In it was placed a Bible, a copy of the Kirchenblatt and the Waverly Phoenix, a history of the congregation, as well as a copy of its constitution, a copy of the subscriptions to the building fund, and several coins donated for this purpose. Buechner and Orth of St. Paul, Minn., were engaged as architects and Anton Zwack of Dubuque, Iowa, was given the contract to build the church. The new church was built according to a modified cruciform Gothic style and has a seating capacity of 650 to 700. The building cost \$32,548.54 including the building site, but exclusive of the organ and baptismal font. The former had been purchased during the time of Pastor Zimmermann and was moved over

from the old church. The baptismal font was given by the Luther League during the pastorate of Dr. Rausch.

The new church was dedicated on March 1, 1908, with the following program: a farewell service in the old church; a procession to the new church with the pastors carrying the sacred vessels, followed by the Church Council, school board, building committee, and congregation, and then a dedicatory service in the new church. The speakers were Pastors Zimmermann and Lutz, both former pastors, Pres. F. Richter, D.D., and Pastor Otto Wilke, the latter giving an English address, probably the first ever held in St. Paul's Church.

Pastor Weyrauch was a very earnest and zealous man, a splendid preacher and pastor, who is still remembered for his truly evangelical preaching. During the latter part of his ministry it was apparent that his health was failing. In spite of this, however, he headed the committee which solicited the funds in cash and pledges to make the building of the new church possible. Though the new church meant so much to him he was privileged to preach in it but four times. His weakened physical condition forced him to retire from active work and he resigned in May, 1908. The congregation accepted his resignation with many regrets, but resolved that he should continue as pastor until the coming of his successor. At the same time it voted him a vacation until the end of his ministry. After a stay in Texas did not improve his health he returned to Waverly where he passed to his reward in April, 1910. His body was taken to his former home in

Menomonie, Wis., where it was laid to rest awaiting the great day of resurrection.

Meanwhile the congregation had called a successor in the person of Pastor Emil H. Rausch of Marine City, Mich., who assumed his duties on Sept. 9, 1908.



OLD ORGAN



THE PARSONAGE



INTERIOR OF PARISH HOUSE

Pastor Emil H. Rausch

THE NEW PASTOR found a strong and church-going congregation of 170 voting members, approximately 500 communicants and 789 souls, with a flourishing Parish School and Sunday School, an active Women's Society and Young People's Organization, and a fine church property. But there were two outstanding problems from the beginning which

demanded attention: a heavy indebtedness of over \$13,000 with a financial system which barely met the current expenses, and the

language problem.

The first of these, the matter of the debt, was solved with relative ease. By January, 1910, the debt including interest amounted to \$15,000. The campaign to liquidate this indebtedness and do so at once was started by the sainted Mr. Frederick Schack, who offered \$1,000 provided the entire indebtedness would be wiped away. The congregation took the matter up without delay and resolved with the help of God to have the debt cleared away by the first Sunday in April. An every member canvass was imme-



Pastor Emil H. Rausch, D.D.

diately staged by the Church Council and its indefatigable treasurer, Mr. Wm. Weiditschka, no funds, however, being solicited outside the congregation, and when the appointed time came the pastor could announce after worship, that the moneys were secured. Like one man the whole congregation arose and sang the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God!"

The matter of the financial system, however, was not so easily disposed of. It had been customary in the congregation for every head of a family to contribute a stated amount, theoretically according to ability, for the entire family. But even the strictest economy could not always keep the necessary disbursements within the limits of the income. And as a result the congregation was always more or less forced to struggle with overdrafts at the bank, to borrow money to pay these, and to pay interest. After many spasmodic attempts to remedy the situation had failed the congregation in the annual meeting of 1921 adopted the every member canvass and weekly envelope system. The debt which had meanwhile accumulated was liquidated through the special jubilee fund which was raised for the golden jubilee, and which netted over \$10,000 in cash and pledges in addition to the \$1,000 raised by the Women's Society.

The second of the problems which was beginning to make itself felt was the language problem. The congregation had been organized as a strictly German language congregation, which was well and good and the only proper thing to do at the time. It continued to use the German language only for worship and for the religious instruction of the young, though the secular branches in the Parish School were taught in English. But the younger generation began to grow away from the German language more and more and threatened to grow away from the church also unless the English language was introduced. In the spring of 1909 regular English work was introduced, although German continued to be the main language used for some time to come. It met with opposition at first, as was to be expected, but gradually the English became the main language. For some years now all the religious instruction has been conducted in the English language, and though there is still a regular German service every Sunday in addition to the two English services, the average attendance at the German service for 1946 was only 124 compared with 877 per Sunday at the two English services. Thus the language problem which at one time was a real problem has found a natural and peaceful solution. It is only a question now of how long the congregation will deem it necessary to continue German services at all.

During Pastor Rausch's pastorate several other things need to be mentioned, such as the gift of a pure Carrara marble baptismal font by the Luther League in 1914. In 1910 and again in 1920 the congregation was host to the convention of the Iowa Synod. Over 60 young men from the congregation were called to the colors in World War No. 1 and the pastor served on various national Lutheran war boards, and in later years became a commissioner of the National Lutheran Council.

The golden jubilee of the congregation was observed from May 21 to 24, 1922. A \$10,000 fund had been raised for the occasion. Out of this fund the church was redecorated, the congregational indebtedness liquidated, and other improvements were made. The Women's Society had gathered \$1,000 for the occasion and presented new altar

and pulpit hangings, a new crucifix of solid brass with a silver corpus, a new rug for the sacristy and a cabinet for the altar vestments. The Luther League together with the Orphan's Home Society presented two new number boards to the church.

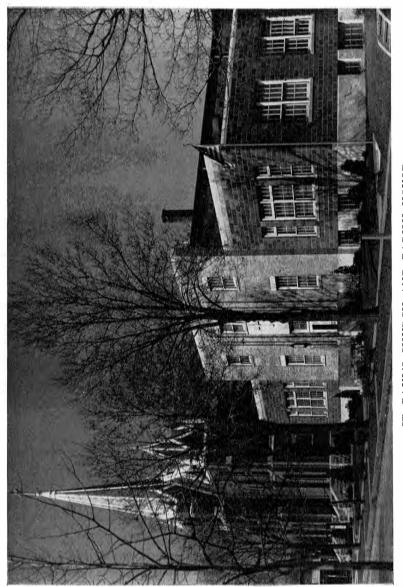
The parochial report of Jan. 1, 1922, shows the following statistics: voting membership 243; communicant membership 886; souls or baptized membership 1,283.

The summary of the official acts in the congregation during the first fifty years of its existence showed the following: baptisms 1180; confirmed 1015; communed 38,822; marriages 425; burials 413.

For some years Pastor Rausch also served as president of the Iowa District and as editor of the Lutheran Herold, official English Church Paper of the former Iowa Synod. Two institutions of higher learning honored him with honorary doctor's degrees. He distinguished himself as a linguist, translator, and administrator. He served the congregation faithfully for almost 25 years, shepherding the congregation for almost a third of its entire history. In 1932 he accepted the call to become President of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, a position which he ably filled until his untimely death in the summer of 1937. After a service in the Seminary Chapel his body was brought to Waverly for burial, where it was laid to rest on Harlington Cemetery awaiting the great day when it too shall be called forth from the grave to the resurrection of life.



INTERIOR OF CHURCH



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE

Pastor Roland C. Schlueter

PASTOR R. C. SCHLUETER, a young and energetic pastor from Oconomowoc, Wis., who had distinguished himself in young people's work, was called to succeed Dr. Rausch. He arrived in May of 1932 on the day that his predecessor was installed as president of Wartburg Seminary, and was installed on June 5 by Pastor H. Siefkes.

One of the first things to be undertaken during his pastorate was the revision and adoption of new Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws on Jan. 22, 1933. The congregation at the time of his arrival had grown to number 974 communicants and 1,329 souls.

In 1934 the congregation entertained the Biennial Convention of the American Lutheran Church. At this convention it was decided to move Wartburg College back to Waverly, a move which was completed in the fall of 1935.

At the annual meeting in 1934 the congregation adopted and introduced the new American Lutheran Hymnal. The cemetery was also put on a solid footing by a resolution according to which no



Pastor R. C. Schlueter

lots could be sold in the future except with perpetual care. That same year the Women's Society redecorated the parsonage.

Late in 1935 it was reported that the Women's Society had started a Parish House building fund. The congregation had often talked and dreamed about a Parish House but now for the first time something concrete was beginning to happen. At the annual meeting in 1936 the congregation ordered the Church Council to study plans and make preliminary sketches for a new Parish House. A year later, in January, 1937, the Church Council was empowered to create a Building Finance Committee to proceed with the raising of necessary funds. The committee appointed consisted of Messrs. E. G. Engelbrecht, Fred Fedeler, (Dr.) C. H. Graening, W. Voecks, Otto Walthers, Fred Wolf,

and Arthur Zelle. On June 6, 1937, their plans were approved by the congregation at a special meeting, and Director August Engelbrecht was engaged to solicit the membership for pledges. Several more years elapsed, however, before the building itself became a reality. In April, 1940, Mr. Carl Drape was engaged to build the Parish House, it having been previously resolved by the congregation that the Building Committee be empowered to borrow funds for this purpose not to exceed \$20,000 to cover the cost which was not secured by pledges. The contract was let on the basis of cost, plus an amount not exceeding 11½%. On Sunday, Aug. 25, 1940, the cornerstone was laid with appropriate services. The building was completed and equipped that winter at a cost of around \$50,000 and could be dedicated with special services on Feb. 23, 24 and 25, 1941.

Meanwhile other improvements were made such as the installation of hearing aids in 1937, and in 1940 the congregation voted to enter the Pension Plan for the pastor.

The question regarding an assistant pastor had been discussed for some time. In 1939 a special committee was appointed to study the matter. In January, 1941, the congregation voted to call an ordained assistant pastor, and on Sept. 14 of the same year a call was extended to Pastor Otto Fangmeyer of Beeville, Texas, who accepted the call and was installed for a two year term on Nov. 9, 1941, as assistant pastor of St. Paul's congregation. For the next 15 months the congregation had two pastors, until the end of January in 1943 when Pastor Schlueter was given an honorable dismissal to accept the call tendered him by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Monona, Iowa. At a farewell service the congregation handed Pastor Schlueter and his wife a generous purse, wishing him God's blessing in his new field of labor.

The congregation upon recommendation of the Church Council empowered Pastor Fangmeyer to take full charge until a successor to Pastor Schlueter would be found.



Back row: H. F. Grube, Financial Secretary, F. C. Koch, J. K. Lynes, E. G. Engelbrecht, E. Wedeking, Wm. Schoof Middle row: G. Shipman, E. Koopmann, O. Fangmeyer, A. A. Aardal, A. Prottengeier Front row: E. H. Meyer, A. Zelle, F. Hesse, H. Fritschel. E. Bodeker. A. A. Zahn, not pictured CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Otto Fangmeyer

ON February 22, 1943, the Church Council passed the following recommendation: "We recommend Pastor Fangmeyer as the first pastor of St. Paul's Church, at an annual salary of \$2,400 plus free parsonage." At a special call meeting held on March 7, 1943, Pastor Fangmeyer was called, and the matter of an assistant pastor was referred to the Church Council for recommendation in the future. The congregation at this time numbered 1,412 communicants and 1,930 souls.

At the beginning of 1943 the congregation was still burdened with an indebtedness of over \$18,000 on the Parish House, but through sale of the old school property and a large free will offering on Thanksgiving Day the debt was reduced to \$8,200 by the end of the year. This indebtedness was reduced still further through free will offerings so that by the beginning of 1945 it had been reduced to \$3,500, of which amount at least \$1,500 was covered by Government Bonds. The remaining indebtedness is to be liquidated out of the special jubilee fund of \$18,000 which was gathered in 1946.

In the summer of 1945 Miss Elsie Mueller was called by the congregation to serve in the capacity of Parish Worker. This has been of

great assistance to the pastor, and has relieved him of many of the details of his office.

Much emphasis has been placed on church attendance. In the fall of 1945 a Church Loyalty Month was held, and since that time the attendance has been steadily climbing, so that it often happens that our two English servicies are taxed for space. During the year 1946 the congregation had an average attendance of 1,001 per Sunday.

By resolution of the congregation the week of May 4 to 11 was set aside for the proper observance of the diamond jubilee. In May of 1946 the congregation was divided into 12 areas with one councilman assigned to each area. He was to



Pastor Fangmeyer

select his own workers and strive to secure pledges in the neighborhood of \$1,500 from each area or a total of \$18,000. A workers' dinner was served and when all the reports had come in a total of \$18,681.50 had been pledged. This together with \$1,666.53 in the Organ Fund gave the congregation over \$20,000 for the improvements to be made for the diamond jubilee. The improvements consist of rebuilding the organ, redecorating the church, new light fixtures, repairing the windows, wiping out the Parish House indebtedness, new rest rooms for the church, redecorating the chancel, new doors, refinishing of floors, and giving a copy of this anniversary booklet to every member who made a subscription to the jubilee fund. In addition \$3,000 was set aside to be given to Lutheran World Action.

The societies are also all giving some gift for the occasion. The Tabitha Circle installed a public address system. The Women's Society is recarpeting the chancel, sacristy, aisles, and recovering the steps leading to the balcony and basement. The Brotherhood is taking care of the lighting in the chancel, the Daughters of the Reformation are placing a missal stand on the altar and a guest book in the foyer. The Luther Leagues are placing bulletin boards in the church and Parish House, while the Parish School is installing a Victor Sound Projector in the Parish House. These are all valuable additions to our physical

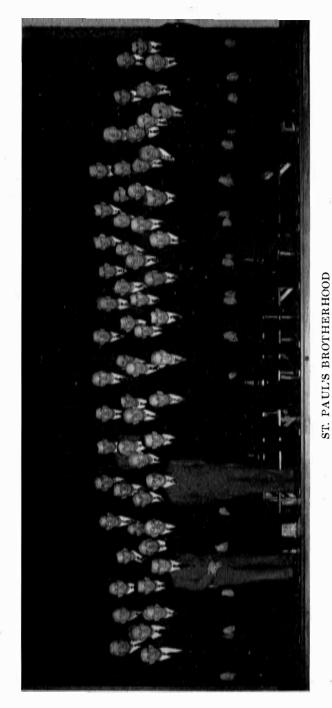
PARISH WORKER Miss Elsie Mueller

property which is now worth in the neighborhood of \$175,000.

The most immediate problem facing the congregation as it rounds out the first 75 years of its existence is the matter of room. The congregation has again outgrown its building, so that either the church must be enlarged or additional services be provided. We look into the future with confidence.

We conclude this brief history of the congregation with the earnest prayer that the congregation may grow in grace as it has grown in numbers and influence, and that God may make it a power for good for many.

Soli Deo Gloria!



William Bodeker, President; Luvern Luloff, Vice-President; Verne Ressler, Secretary; Fritz Dettmer, Treasurer

Statistics

The last parochial report of Jan. 1, 1947, shows the following statistics:

Communicant members	
Baptized members	
Pupils in the parochial school)3
Pupils in the Children's Home school	36
Sunday School enrollment	18
Teachers and Officers in Sunday School	41
Women's Society	1 9
Tabitha Circle	98
Daughters of Reformation	25
Parent-Teacher Association	68
Senior Luther League	51
	60
	03
	90
20	
PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED THE CONGREGATION	
M. Gerlach	76
Martin Eberhard	
Prof. F. Eichler	
Prof. F. Lutz	
Fredrick Zimmermann 1886-19	-
John Weyrauch	
Emil H. Rausch	
Roland C. Schlueter 1932-19	
Otto Fangmeyer	
Otto Fangineyer	-
SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL ACTS	
May 9, 1872 - Jan. 1, 1947	
Baptisms	69
Confirmed 2,9	
•	03
17141114500	50

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Alf W. Swenson, Superintendent; Mrs. Henry Biermann, Secretary; E. H. Kohlmann, Treasurer; Margaret Kehe, Superintendent of Beginner's Department

Staff of St. Paul's Church

Pastor Rev. Otto Fangmeyer
Parish Worker Miss Elsie Mueller
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tary; E. T. Koopmann, Treasurer; Trustees-E. H. Meyer, Wm.
Schoof, Fred Hesse; Deacons—E. Wedeking, Arthur Zelle, J. Ken-
dall Lynes, Vice-Chairman; School Board-August Prottengeier,
H. F. Grube, Gordon Shipman.
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Organist and Choir Director Prof. E. G. Heist
Head Usher Mr. Robert Mensing
Financial Secretary Mr. H. F. Grube
Custodian Mr. Wm. H. Muehling

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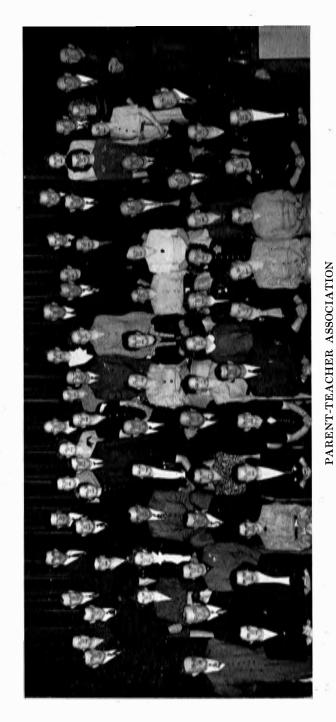
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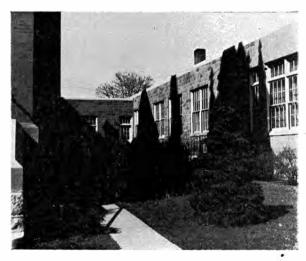
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