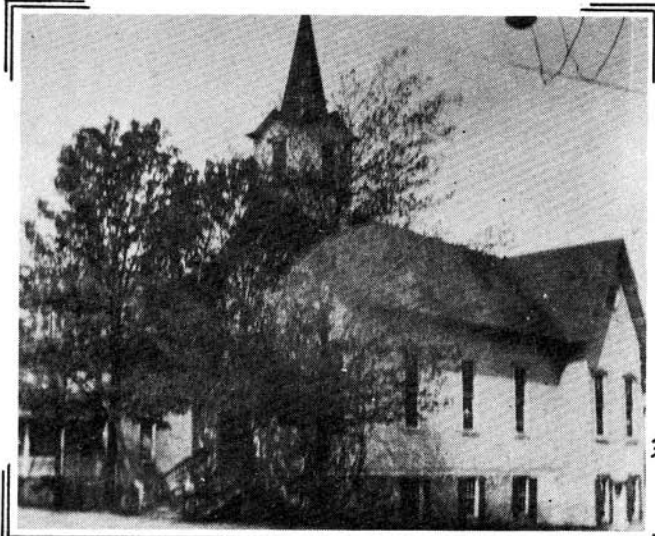


**SAINT LUKE'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Freeland, Pennsylvania

1876 — 1976

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lies*



— OLD CHURCH —



— NEW CHURCH —

100th ANNIVERSARY

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NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA / 13 East Main Street, Wescosville, Penna. 18106 / Phone 215-395-6891

The Rev. Wilson E. Touhsaent, D.D.
President

June, 1976

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Freeland, Pennsylvania 18224

Dear Members of St. Luke's Church,

Personally, and on behalf of your sister congregations of our synod, we congratulate you on the century of ministry represented by the organized life of St. Luke's Church.

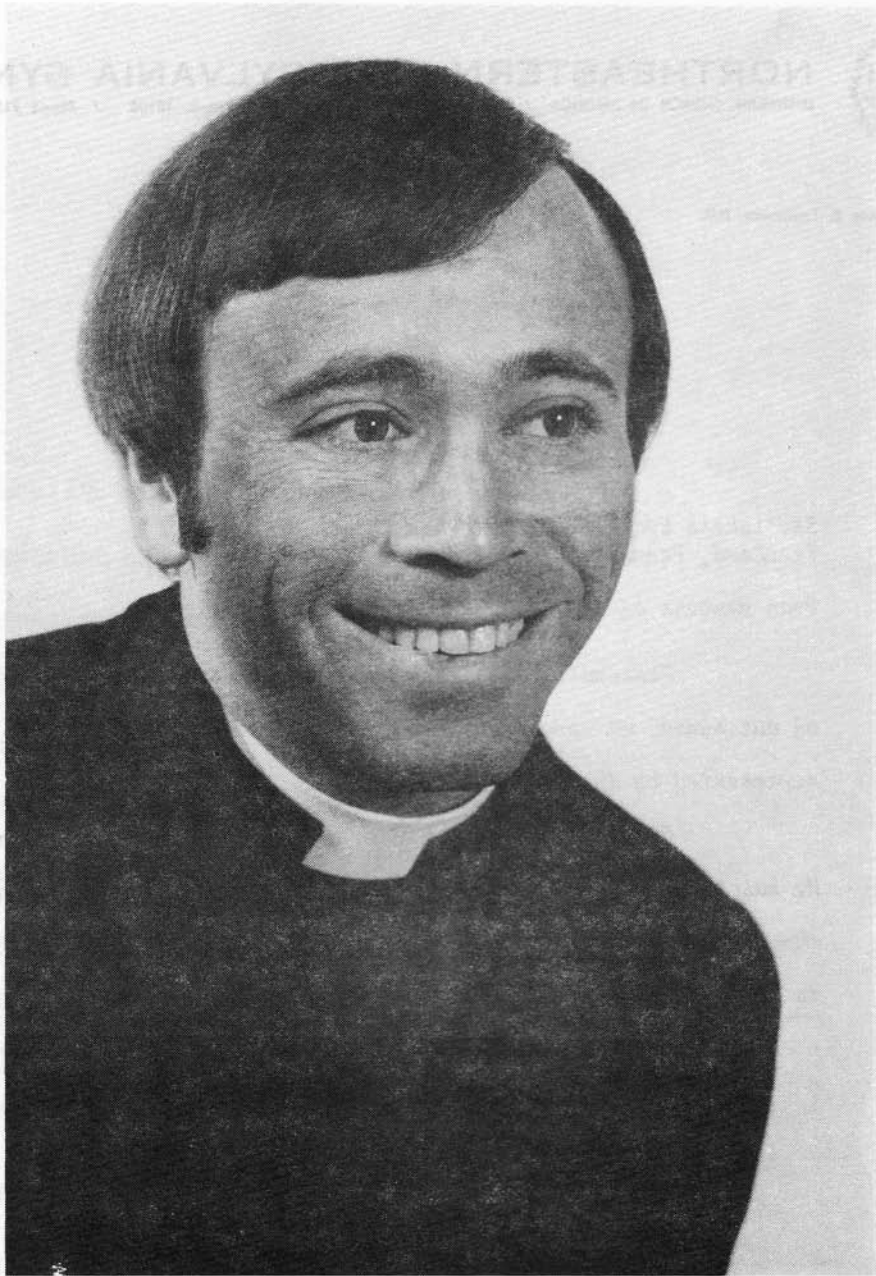
God has blessed you with continued growth and vigor. He has honored you by making your congregation a blessing to others who have been associated with you and those who have been ministered to by your outreach.

May you continue to grow in God's grace and service.

Ever faithfully yours,

Wilson E. Touhsaent

WET/e



REV. WILLIAM W. FAIRCHILD

June 2, 1974

Graduated 1970 from Muhlenberg College. Graduated May 17, 1974 from the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. Ordained May 21, 1974 in Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Easton, Pennsylvania.

AN INTRODUCTION

Greetings to all of you who are my partners in ministry at St. Luke's and to all others who read this booklet and celebrate this great event.

It seems to me unusual that after only two short years in the ministry I should be involved in celebrating a century of service to Jesus Christ. Yet this is the rare privilege I now enjoy.

It is staggering to think of all the hopes and fears, sweat and tears, disappointments and cheers, that have gone into these one hundred years of ministry as a congregation of God's people. How can we truly pay tribute and gratitude to all who gave so passionately and unselfishly of themselves to keep God's name and work alive at St. Luke's? How can we adequately thank God for providing the opportunity, guidance, and power over the years?

It is indeed a joyous time for us as we recall the firm foundations on which our congregation is built. It is satisfying to look to the past and see the many seeds that were planted and the rich fruits those seeds have yielded. Memories are one of the miracles of life, and how enjoyable it is to remember good times and special happenings that life at St. Luke's has brought to many. It is at a time such as this that we unlock the doors of the storehouse which holds these memories and make them once again come to life. We hope this little booklet and the celebrations of this year will be a kind of key to unlock those doors for each of us. Our heritage and history are rich and interesting. We have much to be proud of and even more for which to give thanks.

But while we find a sense of peace and joy in looking to the past, we cannot forget the future. Time does not stand still, and the accomplishments of the past never fully assure our future. And so we must remain with one eye on yesterday and the other on tomorrow. The tasks of our congregation are far from over. Work in God's vineyard has not suddenly come to an end after one hundred years. The ground must still be tilled, seeds still be planted and nourished, and good fruits harvested in due time.

It is for this reason our anniversary year should be two-dimensional in nature. The one dimension is filled with great shouts of thanksgiving to God for what has already taken place here. The other dimension concerns hope--hope for what is yet to happen in and through our congregation. It is so important for us to be a people of vision, and not a people which is nearsighted. We must continue to look ahead and plan ahead, always seeking new ways to minister to others. In a world which is constantly and rapidly changing, we must pray for the wisdom to know where to change with it and where to be unchanging. Let our celebration this year, then, be one of hope for increased service to God in the next century.

I feel great happiness to be the Pastor of St. Luke's and to share in this glad year. I am so grateful for the kindness and support and love you have shown to Sandy, Laura, and me since I have been here, and I look forward to all the many good times we will share as time goes on. Thanks to all of you and a special thanks to the anniversary committee who worked hard and diligently to make this year extremely special. May the God who is our help in ages past be our help for all time.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Fairchild

ST. LUKE'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FREELAND, PENNSYLVANIA

In 1868 Rev. J. R. Schmidt, the founder and first pastor of St. Luke's was urged by the Rev. C. F. Welden, D.D., then Superintendent of Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, to take charge of the White Haven Mission. This charge consisted of White Haven and Eckley, with a number of preaching points in the coal region.

He preached for the first time on June 29, 1868 and was elected pastor. He moved to White Haven in September and services were held there every other week. The intervening Sundays were given to Eckley and other points - there being four and sometimes five services in number.

The condition of the mission was discouraging. The congregation at White Haven had its own house of worship. It stood on an unimproved lot surrounded by rocks and stones, no fence enclosing it and with a debt of \$900.00. The congregation was small and the largest number of communicants at any one time did not exceed 40 members. The future looked dim but with a trust in the Lord work was begun and this trust verified. During the next seven years lots were cleaned, fences made, church debt liquidated and a parsonage built. The congregation increased in such measure that it felt itself able to call its own pastor so as to have services every Sunday morning and evening, thus becoming self-sustaining.

This necessitated a division of the charge, and the pastor giving up White Haven, retained the other part of the field, preaching regularly at Upper Lehigh, Eckley and Jeddo with occasional services at other points. On August 25, 1875, he moved to Freehold (later changed to Freeland).

Freehold was a small village with a few homes. The post office was Woodside, a little mining town to the south. One schoolhouse with a single room served the children of Woodside and Freehold as well as of South Herberton. The teacher, Luther T. Dodson did all in his power for the advancement of the people. He conducted a Sunday School every Sunday morning and a Bible Class every Sunday evening. The evening meetings, though union in character, were attended by Rev. Schmidt, and eventually developed into regular evening services with him preaching. Thus was God in his providence directing the course of events in such a way as to lead to the erection of a house of worship in Freeland.

In February of 1876, one of the founders of Freehold, Mr. August Donop, Sr., asked the pastor as to the advisability of building a church. The village was small and all the inhabitants combined would scarcely fill a church of modest proportions. A number of denominations were represented and with the thought in mind of a union church, Rev. Schmidt said he would undertake the erection of a Lutheran Church.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

Shortly afterward at a meeting of the citizens at Donop's Hall, it was decided to build a Lutheran Church and at a later meeting a congregation was organized under the name of St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Freeland and Highland, Luzerne County, Pa. Trustees were elected and installed at the next regular service.

A purely English church was favored but when the lack of material for such a church was felt it was decided to build a German-English Church. It is a mistake to say that the church was built by the Germans and should be for a purely German congregation when the truth of the matter is that the great bulk of the money collected throughout the Synod came from English speaking people.

The congregation, with the pastor as president of the church council, was now in a position to transact business in its own name. On April 7, 1876, a congregational meeting was held in Donop's Hall, when the subject of Synodical affiliation was considered and the following action taken: "Be it resolved that we unite with the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and adjacent states and be subject to all its rules and regulations." All necessary action looking toward the beginning of work was taken. The lot was bought and paid for immediately. The work was pushed with zeal and vigor. Money was collected as rapidly as possible, and while the daily progress was being watched with unabated interest, the contractor announced that all things would be in readiness for the laying of the cornerstone by June 25. How appropriate that the cornerstone of the church of the Augsburg Confession should be laid on the anniversary of that day, upon which there was given to the world the greatest confessions of faith at Augsburg, in the year 1530.

Rev. E. Greenwald, D.D., president of the Synod, was called upon to take part in the services but declined due to ill health. He appointed The Rev. F. W. Weiskotten of Bethlehem and The Rev. E. A. Bauer of Hazleton to represent him at the laying of the cornerstone. When the day arrived, God, as though smiling upon the work of His providence, permitted the sun to shine in all his glory, making it an ideal day. The services were held in a grove north of the foundation with a large turnout of people congregating from far and near for the morning services when The Rev. E. A. Bauer preached an eloquent sermon on I. Peter 2:6: "Behold I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded." The sermon made a deep impression upon the audience, who in turn contributed liberally when the offerings were lifted.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

In the afternoon, The Rev. F. W. Weiskotten preached a powerful English sermon to even a larger audience. At the conclusion the pastor laid the cornerstone which contained the Bible; Luther's Smaller Catechism, with the Augsburg Confession; two Lutheran Hymnbooks, one English and the other German; an English and German Paper; an English and a German secular paper published in the county; the names of the trustees; a list of the contributors, and a medal in honor of Dr. Martin Luther, struck off by the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the seventh jubilee of the Reformation in 1867 bearing the inscription: "Nomen Domini Turis Fortissima." The service closed with the singing of the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God," in both languages, the Lord's Prayer and the benediction.

The work of building the church, which was a frame structure, was pushed as rapidly as possible but it could not keep pace with the enthusiastic expectation of those interested. The consecration took place on April 22, 1877. The Rev. A. Spaeth, D.D., L.L.D., professor in the Theological Seminary, Mt. Airy, Pa., preached the sermon in the afternoon and The Rev. M. H. Richards, D.D., of Muhlenberg College, the sermon in the evening. The consecration was conducted by the pastor, when the church was set apart to the worship of God according to the Lutheran faith. The church, when completed, cost about \$2400.00 and the bell \$165.00 more.

The congregation grew and prospered until the year 1882, when there arose a great disturbance on account of the union element. In order that the difficulties might be settled beyond all dispute, the congregation was incorporated as a Lutheran body, the charter connecting it perpetually with the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

Through the disturbance which had arisen, the congregation became weakened and it was only by hard and constant watching that it kept intact. By 1887, however, the dark clouds had disappeared and the sun of prosperity once more shone upon it. By November of 1891, Rev. Schmidt, due to failing health, was obliged to retire from active ministry and left the congregation a self-sustaining charge free of debt.

A Sunday School has been in existence since the organization of the congregation and a Luther League was organized May 10, 1894, one of the earliest in the region. A womens organization called the Frauen-Verein was formed, which partly engaged in mission work, though its object was principally to aid the congregation. From this group comes the Lutheran Church Women of today.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

The original church was enlarged in 1893 at a cost of about \$700.00, increasing the seating capacity of the church and Sunday School.

The cornerstone for the present stone structure was laid August 31, 1924 and was completed in 1926.

The pastors supplying the church have been Rev. J. H. Schmidt 1876-1891, Rev. G. Biemueller 1892-1893, Rev. J. J. Kuntz 1893-1909, Rev. D. A. Roth 1910-1926, Rev. Fred D. Haffner 1927-1963, Rev. H. Raymond Jones 1963-1973 and Rev. William W. Fairchild 1974 to the present time. There were five sons of the congregation that entered the ministry: Rev. Nelson Schmidt, Rev. Frank Kuntz, Rev. Charles Holland, Rev. Allen Roth, and Rev. Clarence Walck.

The Village of Freehold was registered on August 31, 1870 by Thomas Buckley and by 1876 a movement was started to organize the community into a borough. Thus on September 11, 1876, the Village of Freehold became the Borough of Freeland; the name Freehold being changed to Freeland due to the fact that there was another Freehold in the postal district. On October 10, 1876, the first officers of Freeland Borough were elected. Thus St. Luke's congregation and Freeland Borough are both celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year.



ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SOCIETIES

CHURCH

St. Luke's Lutheran Church was founded in 1868 with a traveling minister out of White Haven. It was a mission church with all faiths but mostly German Lutheran. The first minister came on August 25, 1875. The town was known as Freehold (with German and English people). A Mr. Luther T. Dodson, a pious Christian gentleman, conducted a Sunday School every Sunday morning and a Bible Class every Sunday evening. The services were union in character. Rev. Schmidt attended one of these services and they then developed into regular services held in the evening. The Bible Class then moved to a week day evening, held in Dunlop Hall.

In February 1876, the citizens met and a congregation was organized known as "The St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Freeland and Highland, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania."

In April 1876 the congregation united with the Synod known as the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In 1875 Sunday School was first held as a union Sunday School in Dunlop's Hall under the supervision of Mr. Luther Dodson. Both German and English languages were used. There were two Superintendents - one for the German Sunday School and one for the English School. It had 225 in membership and the Beginners Department had 80 scholars from the age of three. The Bible Class had 25 and was taught by the Pastor.

The German Superintendent was Mr. Charles Grossman and Mr. Charles Brauch was the English Superintendent and the longest one to serve. He was followed by a Mr. Zeisloft who was followed by many others with Mr. William Fisher serving for 20 years in the thirties and forties. The Beginners Department was formed into the Primary Department by Miss Amanda Bressler in the year 1905. This department met in the balcony of the old church and was later moved downstairs in 1910 because of the many steps for the smaller children to climb and the council had a fear of the younger children falling. The Beginners Class had a little hand organ which was used for the songs, so when they moved downstairs the organ also was moved. The Department then had a corner where the Ladies Class is now. When the new church was built the Department moved to their present room.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

Mrs. Roth started the Cradle Roll of St. Luke's in the year of 1916. This was to take care of the newly baptized children until they were able to attend Sunday School at the age of three.

The Sunday School increased and decreased but always managed to keep on top to the present time when we are coming back to a very active and busy Sunday School. Some of the chairs being used in the Primary are the original chairs from when the Primary organized. The baby grand piano was purchased by the hard work of all classes. The Primary is still using the Little Man for collections. This Little Man has been in use since 1905. The Sunday School was a going thing in 1868 and still is going and growing at St. Luke's.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

The orchestra was formed back in the early thirties by Mr. Raymond Nagel and was very active for many years. They played for the opening of Sunday School and for the services and at all social functions. They had 15 active members and rehearsed every Monday evening at Mr. Nagel's home and later in the basement of the church. The orchestra was disbanded when the war years in 1941 came and a lot of the boys were drafted and others left to work elsewhere. There weren't as many interested in playing in the orchestra and the talent wasn't to be found so Mr. Nagel disbanded the orchestra in 1941.

WOMENS OR LADIES BIBLE CLASS

This class started around the same time as the Men's Class in 1926. Up until that time the Men and Women were all in the one Bible Class. They had a large enrollment of women and were taught by the Pastor. They had Mrs. Ethel Kester as a substitute teacher until Mrs. A. J. Brannigan became their teacher in the thirties and taught for many years, retiring in the sixties due to ill health. The class is still going strong and has managed to keep ahead when the membership dwindled to a few. The class welcomes members to join the 9:15 A.M. services.

LIBERTY SEWING CIRCLE

This group was composed of women of the church who did fancy work. They met every week at one another's home. They did sewing, embroidery, tatting, crocheting and made many items that were sold to individuals at suppers and bazaars. Many happy memories remain and many fancy works are still being used by people who were fortunate to purchase them. This Society disbanded during the forties.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scouts were part of the church back in the early thirties (or late twenties) and had Mr. Samuel Miller and Mr. Alvin Zimmerman as leaders. They had many field trips over the Northside area. They had a nice enrollment of young boys of the church. After the Boy Scouts were dropped no Boy Scouts were formed in St. Luke's until 1963 when, under the leadership of Pastor Jones, the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts became active for a few years but had to be dropped when leadership became hard to come by.

SUNSHINE CLASS

This class of girls from age 16 to 20 years was a Sunday School Class on a Sunday and a social group during the week when they met to do sewing, etc. and have a social hour later. They sent cards to the shut-in members and visited the older members of the church. This class was taught by Miss Reumah Zemany and was active until 1940, when the class was disbanded and Miss Zemany became a teacher in the Primary Department.

ERNEST WORKERS CLUB

This was formed by Miss Zemany and had young girls who met every Thursday evening and did fancy work. They later ran merchandise clubs and raised money for church. This club stayed together until after the war. Most of the group married and some moved away. Miss Zemany also had to retire because of ill health and was unable to keep the club together.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

This group was formed by Pastor Haffner in the early forties and had young single people and young married couples. They met at each other's homes once every two weeks. It was a social group and had a short business meeting with games following and light refreshments served by the host or hostess. The group grew as time passed. The war took the boys but the girls and few young men kept the Society together until the young men left and the group was kept together by women until 1965. They took over the merchandise clubs and helped out in the church wherever they could and were asked to. They held a lot of socials and donated a lot of items to the church. The members no longer were young but they still felt young and had many happy times together. The proceeds of their labors were donated to the church and to the Ladies Society.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

DRAMATIC CLUB

This club was formed by Mr. Oscar Fairchild and presented plays on the religious side and had men, women, boys and girls from St. Luke's in the cast. They met every week for rehearsals whenever the club had a play to be presented. Otherwise they met once a month for a business meeting.

QUILTERS

The quilters were formed by members of the Ladies Missionary Society in the year 1919. Many beautiful products of their needles were sent to all corners of the United States, Italy and to Ireland. At the Century of Progress Exhibition in Chicago in 1933, a quilt made by the ladies won a Blue Ribbon. This group was small in strength. They were active until 1969 when one by one the members met with ill health and retirement due to age. They had a total of 50 years of hard, but enjoyable, labor.

JUNIOR CHOIR

This choir was formed in 1928 by Mrs. Lyda Schaub and had an enrollment of boys and girls from the age of 8 to 18. They sang at the morning worship service and in 1931 they were able to purchase the first Junior Choir robes which were a black underskirt and a white overtop. The Junior Choir was taken over by Miss Marguerite Hausknecht after Mrs. Schaub retired. Miss Hausknecht directed the choir until 1963 and upon her resignation the choir was taken over by Mrs. Jan Whitehead. At present the Junior Choir is composed of all girls from the age of 12 to 18. The younger members from age 7 to 11 have the honor of singing in the 'Childrens Choir'. This choir has boys and girls singing at one service a month. This group are the eager beavers of the choir.

SENIOR CHOIR

There was always a choir in St. Luke's composed of both men and women. The early choir sang mostly for the German Service until English Services were started. Mr. Solt was the first choir director and organist. After Mr. Solt resigned the organist and choir director was a Miss Cassie Fisher followed by Mr. Riffinberger. Miss Emily Goeppert followed Mr. Riffinberger as organist and had many of the young boys pumping the organ for the services and for the mixed choir. Miss Cora Griffith was the next organist and choir director and she was followed by Mrs. Bessie Nagel and Miss Mary Lukac. It was during this time that Mr. Albert Goeppert became choir

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

director, relieving the organist of that extra job. After these organists resigned the organ was taken over by Miss Marguerite Hausknecht. The choir became very active when the English Services were used and the Senior Choir sang at the Vesper Services every Sunday and for special occasions. They were noted for the special anthems and cantatas that were given at the special holiday services.

The choir had their business meetings on the first Friday of the month and collected dues or collections. They also had many picnics and get-togethers. They sold candy and baked goods to help to pay for the new organ. Rehearsals were always held on a Friday night. Mr. Goeppert was director for many years. After his retirement in the early forties the choir directing went back once again to the organist who was Miss Hausknecht. She directed and was organist until 1963 when she felt, due to health reasons, she had better retire. Her duties were then turned over to the present organist and choir director, Mrs. Jan Whitehead. The Senior Choir is still very active and after a few slump years the male section of the choir has increased in volume and strength. There are 20 members belonging and as some retire new ones come forth to carry on. The Senior Choir now sings at the 8:00 A.M. Worship Service.

LADIES SOCIETY

The Frau Frauline was the first organized ladies group of St. Luke's. It was started in 1875 and had as its president Mrs. Charles Brauch. It consisted mostly of German speaking women. They met at the church on a Sunday afternoon.

The first Women's Sewing and Missionary Society was started in 1895. There were 14 members at the first meeting with Mrs. Brauch acting as President. The dues were 5¢ a month. The Minutes were written by Mrs. J.J. Kuntz, who was the minister's wife, and Secretary of the Society.

On April 10, 1919 the Society re-organized and functioned as the Sewing and Missionary Society. The Society continued to meet on Sundays until in the late twenties. At that time, dues were raised to 10¢ a month. The meetings were changed to the first Wednesday of the month. In 1947 the name was once again changed to Ladies Aid and Missionary Society, then supporting the Missionary Society of Synod by monthly collections in mite boxes.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST' LUKE'S (continued)

In 1961 the name changed once again to Lutheran Church Women but St. Luke's ladies decided to keep their society as a society within the church and support the L. C. W. with envelopes which every woman receives and the proceeds are sent to the Synodical Treasurer every three months. The ladies served many suppers, had bazaars and many other social functions. Whenever a crisis arose, the ladies were there to pitch in and do whatever they could, contributing to the support of many expenses and repairs of the church.

At present the society is not as active as it had been due to illness and Senior Citizen retirements. The spirit is still there as dues are collected and church activities supported. Calendars are still sold and have been sold since 1905. In a way, the society is a silent partner of the church. Sick cards are furnished and sent to the sick of the church. The Lutheran Home is also remembered by this inactive society.

JUNIOR LUTHER LEAGUE

This league was formed in 1910 and had the youth of pre-confirmation age. This group was active until the changing of pastors in the twenties and then under the supervision of Susan McAfee, it was reorganized and functioned for a few years, meeting on a weekday when Senior Luther League met on a Sunday. When the lack of membership and interest decreased the Junior League was dropped.

LUTHER LEAGUE

This group was organized May 10, 1894. One of the earliest in the region, it had a membership of 45. It met every Sunday evening for 45 minutes before Vesper's service. It also held a business meeting once a month on a weekday night. The League went strong for a good many years as it had as its membership both young and old, married and single people. The League was very strong until in the twenties when it was voted on that League members would be taken in right after confirmation and no one had to be voted on to be a member. The free will of joining was put into practice and joining became very lax after a few years.

The League supported the early church with many cash donations and support of projects. In the later years they had representatives going to Muhlenberg College for a seminar session. In the fall of the year they also took part in Epsy Day. The Youth Groups have replaced the Luther League and the various groups are carrying on the many projects of the League.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

These groups of youth are of different ages. They take part in the services for Sunday Worship, take care of the shut-in members at holidays and also visit the guests at the Lutheran Home. Our youth are still growing as we go ahead to celebrate the 100th year of St. Luke's.

GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts of St. Luke's, in the early thirties, had a very large enrollment of young girls of the scouting age. They met at the church and had Miss Kathryn Poltrok as it's leader. Once again, however, as time passed and girls advanced out of the troop, new ones were slow to follow. While it was active, many happy moments were spent learning all about Girl Scouting.

MENS BIBLE CLASS

Before the start of a church in 1875 there was a Bible Class for men and women. They met in Dunlop's Hall until a church was built. They had Bible study on a Sunday evening even when the church was started. It was in 1926 when the Bible Class started a Men's class and a Ladies class. The Men's class was large in its enrollment. They had the former basketball team, the young high school men graduates and the men of the parish along with their friends. Mr. August Mitke was the leader and teacher of the class. They met on a Sunday morning at 9:15. They first met in the kitchen while the present church was being built. When the class became too large they moved up to the unfinished church, sitting on planks and nail bags.

When the church was finished the Men's class had the pleasure of having the Hoch Orchestra play for their opening services. Many of our local talent played with this orchestra.

When the class was organized it had an enrollment of 200 or more. During the peak of this class the men made several motor trips to Lewisburg, meeting with the Men's Class at Bucknell University. They also entertained the Lewisburg Class here in Freeland. The class was very active and had many banquets and supported many projects. However, the War Years of 1940 thru 1945 were not good for the class as many men were either called to serve or found employment elsewhere in the war industries. Mr. Mitke also left this area due to his work and the class was kept together by Mr. William Nagel and Mr. Albert Goeppert. Even if the numbers dwindled the few faithful ones kept the class going. They later acquired a very good teacher in Mr. Robert Zullick and he taught until 1975 when he was transferred

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

because of his work. At present the class is being taught by Mr. Alfred Stiller and is strong in body with its faithful members. The Bible Class has helped in contributions to the church and recently helped to purchase the new piano for the Primary Department of St. Luke's.

MINISTERS OF ST. LUKES

The congregation of St. Luke's was very fortunate in getting and keeping pastors for years. Rev. Schmidt was the first pastor and served the Freeland church from 1875 until 1891. He was followed by a Pastor Biemueller who had the shortest term as pastor in St. Lukes due to his unbecoming actions. His term only lasted from 1892-1893. During this time the church had visiting pastors until Pastor Kuntz came in 1894. Pastor Kuntz served until 1910 when we then called Pastor Roth, who served St. Luke's until 1927. In 1928 we had Pastor Haffner accept the charge and he served until 1962. We then had Pastor Jones who came in 1963 and served until his retirement in 1973. It was at this time that St. Luke's accepted a change as we voted upon and accepted a young Seminarian, the first in the history of St. Lukes. Pastor Fairchild accepted his charge in 1974 and is now going into his third year at St. Luke's. As he grows, so does St. Lukes.

The following son's of the congregation have entered the Ministry: Rev. Nelson Schmidt, Rev. Frank Kuntz, Rev. Allen Roth, Rev. Charles Holland and Rev. Clarence Walck.

St. Lukes has grown during the 1974-1975 years in membership, Youth Groups, Senior Citizens Group and active Committees of the Parish.

Starting with the Youth Groups, we have two groups which are very active in many ways. The Youth are taking part in church programs, church services, serving at congregational meetings, remembering the Shut-In-Members of the church and attending many youth retreats that the Synod has for the youth. These retreats are held on the week-ends in the Poconos and are very beneficial to the ones that attend.

We also have started the Fifth Grade children receiving instructions for the receiving of Holy Communion. All the youth being prepared for communion and confirmation are required to attend Sunday Church School and Church Services on a Sunday morning. This requirement has increased our Sunday Church School attendance. We find new faces every Sunday morning.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

The youth are represented on Church Council since one of the twelve councilmen is a high school student.

As our youth are active, so are all the age groups who serve on the various committees that have taken the place of Societies. Our committees are very active and are working hard at their assignments.

The Christian Education Committee has seen to the working of a well run Sunday Church School. We have substitute teachers for the regular Sunday School Teachers. This committee has also had successful Bible Studies before Christmas and Easter. These Studies have been well attended by both young and older members of the church. Rally Day is held on the second Sunday of September. A program is arranged and the children of the Church School are promoted to different classes. Attendance awards are also given to the members of the Church School who had perfect attendance for the Sunday Church School year. There are two other fun days held for the Sunday Church School during the year; films are shown for the entire school and songs are sung and then the teachers hold a short lesson period. This is some of the planning that is planned by the Christian Education Committee.

The Music and Worship Committee has been the most active committee since all the committees were formed. This Committee arranges the services and checks out the worship services of the church. It is always up on the latest church services and music that the church at large has to offer. Several new ideas and changes have taken place in our church. Everything is presented to the congregation on a trial basis before it is fully accepted. The Music and Worship Committee arranges the Usher and Acolyte schedules. These schedules are planned weeks ahead so the ones who volunteer to serve will know well in advance the days and months they will be called upon to perform such duties. This Committee is faithful in keeping their meetings and works hard to plan for successful services.

The Altar Guild was formed by Pastor Fairchild. The women serving on this committee work in teams. Four people serve on a team. There are three teams and they serve four months out of the year. These teams change altar cloths and keep candle holders and other altar supplies polished and cleaned. They attend to the communion and get it ready for the Sundays that communion is given. They attend to all communion supplies. They meet twice a year for a clean-up evening where everything is polished and shined. At a recent meeting of the Guild it was decided that it was necessary to meet at least every two months in order to keep all altar

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

supplies polished and shined. Everyone on this committee does their part as it takes the four on a team to remove and change the cloths for the different seasons of the Church Year.

The Memorial and Endowment Fund was formed in 1969 as a long term Trust Fund. It was first proposed at the Congregational Meeting by Mr. Albert E. Goepfert. At this meeting it was approved and Mr. Goepfert, Mr. Frank Cotterall and Mr. Robert Zullick were the first three (3) directors of the Fund. The monies received in the fund come from contributions and memorials received from the members and friends of the church. With successful investments the fund has grown large enough so that it has now been turned over for professional investments with the approval of the Directors and the Church Council. The present Directors are Mr. William Nagel, Mr. Julius Herbener, Sr. and Mrs. Victor Dei Tos.

The Social Action Committee has the job of planning the social part of the church such as a Mother and Daughter Banquet prepared by the men, the Father and Son Banquet, Family Night Events and the Advent Calendars that were made by families that attended the special event on the First Sunday of Advent. The Sunday Church School Picnic has been revived and for the past two years has been a great success. A good time is had by all who attend.

The Stewardship Committee has planned and had a very successful Commitment Sunday. It was called the 'Day of the Apple' and had a very good meaning and thought behind it.

The Evangelism Committee is hard at work and has plans on erecting church signs and markers at the edge of the highways approaching Freeland.

Once a month we have a children and family worship service at which time the Childrens Choir sings and the sermons pertain to the children. This service is usually the third Sunday of the month at the 10:30 A.M. worship service. We at present have a lot of new members and families coming into the church. These people are coming from the surrounding Trailer Parks and areas around Freeland.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

A Simeon Society has been formed in the fall of 1975 that takes in the Senior citizens of 65 and over from St. Luke's and also friends of the parish. This society meets on Wednesdays at 11:00 A.M. and the members have lunch together and socialize with games or other activities. They leave for home at 2:00 P.M. At the present every two weeks they are having a motion picture film shown and they are a series of 12 films based on this country of ours and the BiCentennial. These films are loaned thru the library and paper. There are usually twenty men and women that get together and enjoy the hours spent together. Transportation is provided by Pastor Jones, Alvin Zimmerman and Pastor Fairchild.

So it is with the people who work on the committees at St. Luke's, St. Luke's is advancing and not standing still. New pews for the church were purchased in 1975 under the Pew Committee headed by Mr. Albert Goeppert. Each pew was donated to the church by members or families of the church in memory of Loved Ones. There were 28 new pews purchased. The old pews were sold or given away. Some were kept to be made into crosses cut from the wood and are to be given to each member when the 100th Anniversary of St. Luke's will be on June 26, 1976. These crosses are being made by Mr. William (Rover) Schaub and helpers from the parish.

The Shut-In-Members and members that cannot get out to church are remembered at Christmas time with a poinsetta and at Easter time with a lily. The altar flowers from church on Sunday are given to the shut-ins. Cards and Daily Devotion Booklets are sent out every three months. Starting in January 1976 we will have shut-in-members who will be 'Shut-In-Members of the Month' and these people will be remembered in some way by as many of the congregation that will be thoughtful enough to take time to send a card, make a phone call or visit with the shut-ins.

As we are approaching the 100th Anniversary, we are finding by searching into the past records that St. Luke's has living members of the congregation in their 80's who have been baptized, confirmed, married and have remained members of St. Luke's as continuous members. These few remaining members were born around 1888 thru 1891. We do have older members in St. Luke's in age than in the eighties, but these members came from other areas and other churches and joined St. Luke's as their church. So as we at St. Luke's have our older members we find that we are growing with a lot of new members.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. LUKE'S (continued)

Our church is also active in the Inter Faith Council composed of delegates from the various churches of Freeland. We, at St. Luke's, have two representatives. A Christmas Cantata on January 4, 1976 was the first affair presented by the choir members and other singers of the churches in Freeland under the sponsorship of the Inter Faith Council. This project was a great success. There were 45 mixed voices and had Mrs. Naomi Warner as the Directress. The choir made another appearance on January 25, 1976 when the Bicentennial Church Service was held at the St. John's Reformed United Church of Christ.

Another new society was started on January 30, 1976 at St. Luke's when the In-Between Club held its first meeting. This is for people who are too old for the youth groups and too young for the Simeon Society.

So as the Country celebrates its 200th Anniversary, St. Luke's and its congregation moves ahead to celebrate its 100 years as one of the pillars of the town of Freeland. As Freeland prepares to celebrate its 100th Anniversary as a town and St. Luke's its 100th Anniversary as a Church of God, we can only look forward to them both advancing for another 100 years with God's help and God's people working together.



SUNDAY

COMMUNITY NIGHT
June 20, 1976

7:30 P.M.

Prelude

Processional Hymn - - - - - (Joachim Neander 1650-1680) - - - - - No. 408

The Invocation

Scripture Reading

Anthem - - - - -The Battle Hymn of the Republic - - - - -Peter J. Wilhousky
(The Interfaith Choir of Freeland)

Welcome to Neighboring Christians

Hymn - - (Rev. William Williams - 1717-1791 . Wales . Methodist) - - No. 520

Greetings from Local Parishes

Greetings from Borough Officials

Greetings from Area Cluster No. 2

Greetings from LINC

Greetings from Hazleton-Lehighon District

Hymn - - - - - (Samuel John Stone 1839-1900) - - - - - No. 149

Greetings from Local Organizations

Anthem - - - - - The Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah - - - - - Handel
(The Interfaith Choir of Freeland)

Prayer

Lord's Prayer and Benediction

Recessional Hymn - - - - - (Martin Luther 1483-1546) - - - - - No. 150

Postlude

Refreshments will be served in the Sunday School Rooms
following the service.

TUESDAY

ADULT ORGANIZATIONS NIGHT
June 22, 1976

7:30 P.M.

Entertainment for this evening will be as follows:

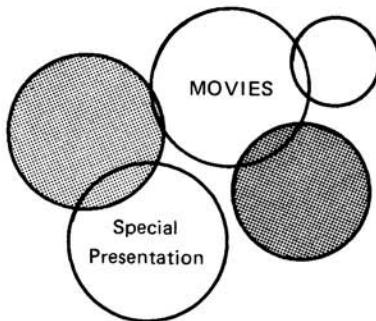
MOVIES

Church Activities taken during the 30's and 40's

Following the showing of the films there will be a presentation entitled:

'THE FAMILY ALBUM'

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program.



A covered dish supper will be served at 6:00 P.M. and the entertainment following will be presented by the Youth of the church.



FRIDAY

CORNERSTONE LAYING SERVICE
June 25, 1976

7:30 P.M.

Prelude

Hymn No. 158
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord:

R: Who made heaven and earth.

How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!

R: My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord.
His foundation is in the holy mountains.

R: The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all dwellings of
Jacob.

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the
Lord.

R: Our feet shall stand within Thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

R: Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in
vain.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 28:16; Extra 3:10,11;
Ephesians 2:19-22

Apostles Creed

Anthem Senior Choir

Sermon Rev. H. Raymond Jones
(*Pastor Emeritus, St. Luke's Lutheran Church*)

Hymn No. 242

The Lord be with you.

R: And with thy Spirit.

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn No. 443

The Benediction

Postlude

SATURDAY

100th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

June 26, 1976

St. John's Recreation Center
Main and Fern Sts.
Freeland, Pa.

PROGRAM

Toastmaster - - - - - William Schaub
Song - - - - - God Bless America
Invocation - - - - - Rev. William W. Fairchild
Hymn - - - - - A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

DINNER

Introduction of Guests
Introduction of Main Speaker - - - - - The Reverend Richard Hadfield
Remarks
Benediction - - - - - Rev. William W. Fairchild

Emil Kitlan at the organ

MENU

Celery & Assorted Relishes
Fresh Fruit Cup
Tossed Salad
Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes
French Cut Beans Almondine
Assorted Pies
Rolls & Butter
Coffee and Assorted Pastries

SUNDAY

SERVICE OF RE-DEDICATION
June 27, 1976

10:30 A.M.

Prelude

Processional Hymn - - - - - Hymn 172

The Invocation

Confession of Sins

The Psalmody

The Kyrie

The Gloria in Excelsis

The Prayer of the Day

Choir Anthem: Bless The Lord, My Soul - - - - - J.S. Bach

The First Lesson, Second Lesson, Alleluia

The Gospel

The Nicene Creed

Announcements

The Hymn - - - - - Hymn 150

The Sermon - - - - - Dr. Wilson Touhsaent, President of the
Northeastern Pa. Synod of the Lutheran Church in America

Response

Offering and The Offertory - Anthem: Behold, Praise Ye The Lord - Prutting

The Order of Re-dedication of the Church - - - - - Hymn 151

The Prayer

The Lord's Prayer and Benediction

Recessional Hymn - - - - - Hymn 168

Postlude

There will be a time to share fellowship, coffee, and other refreshments at a reception in the basement of the church following the service.

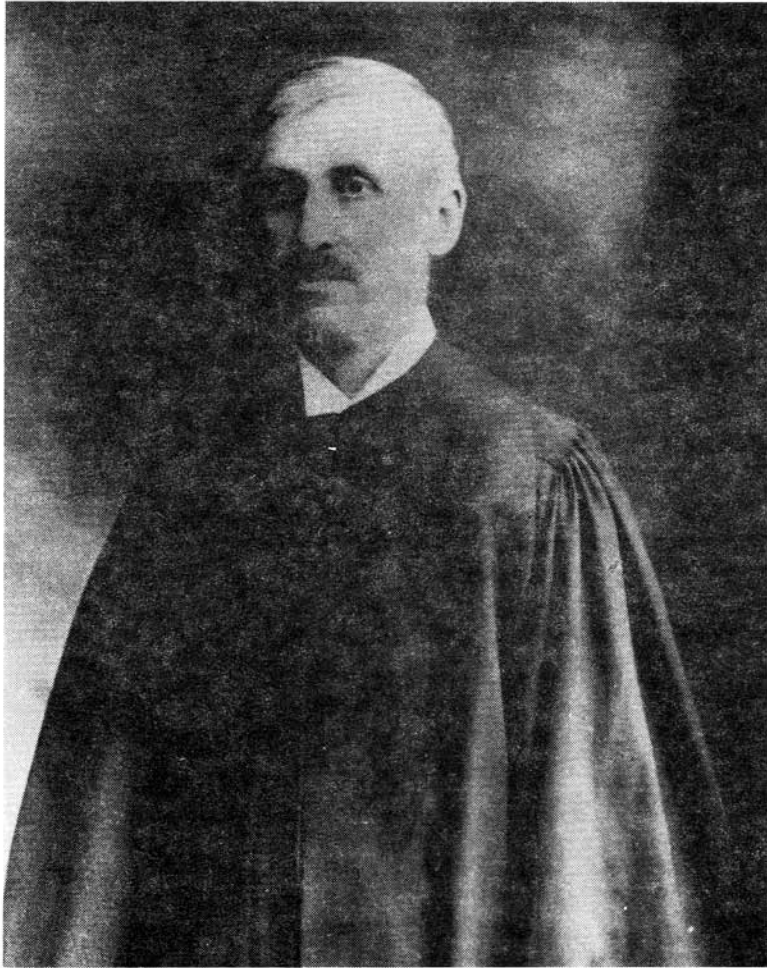


Rev. J. H. Schmidt
1876 to 1891



Rev. G. Biemüller
1892 to August 1893





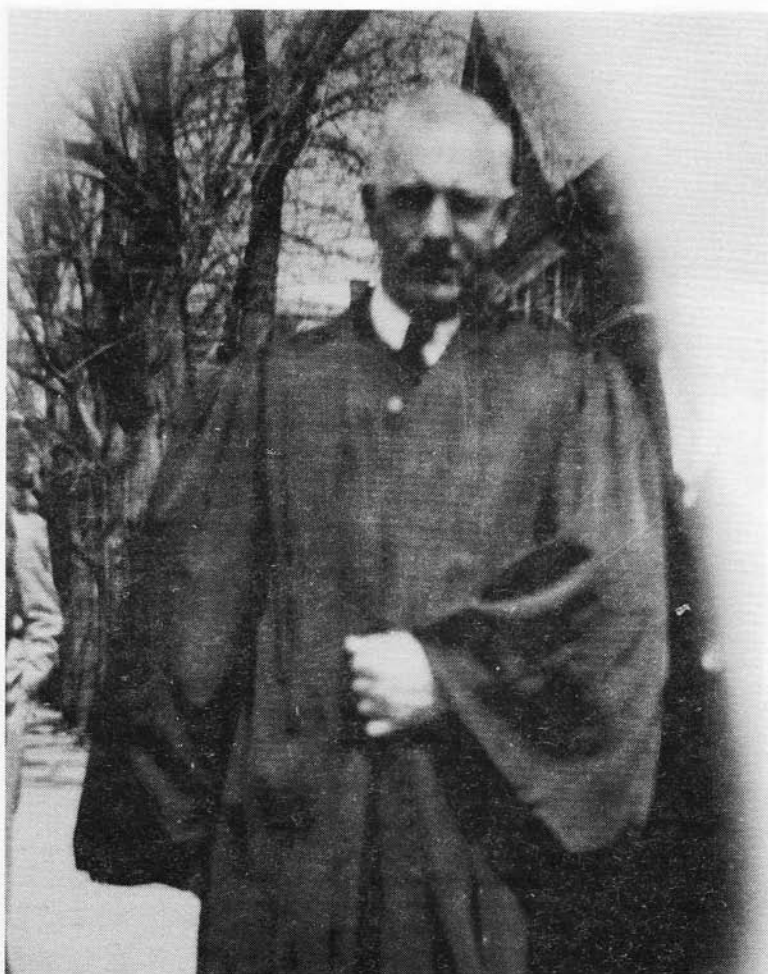
Rev. John J. Kuntz
December 10, 1893 to 1909

Funerals - 337 Marriages - 140



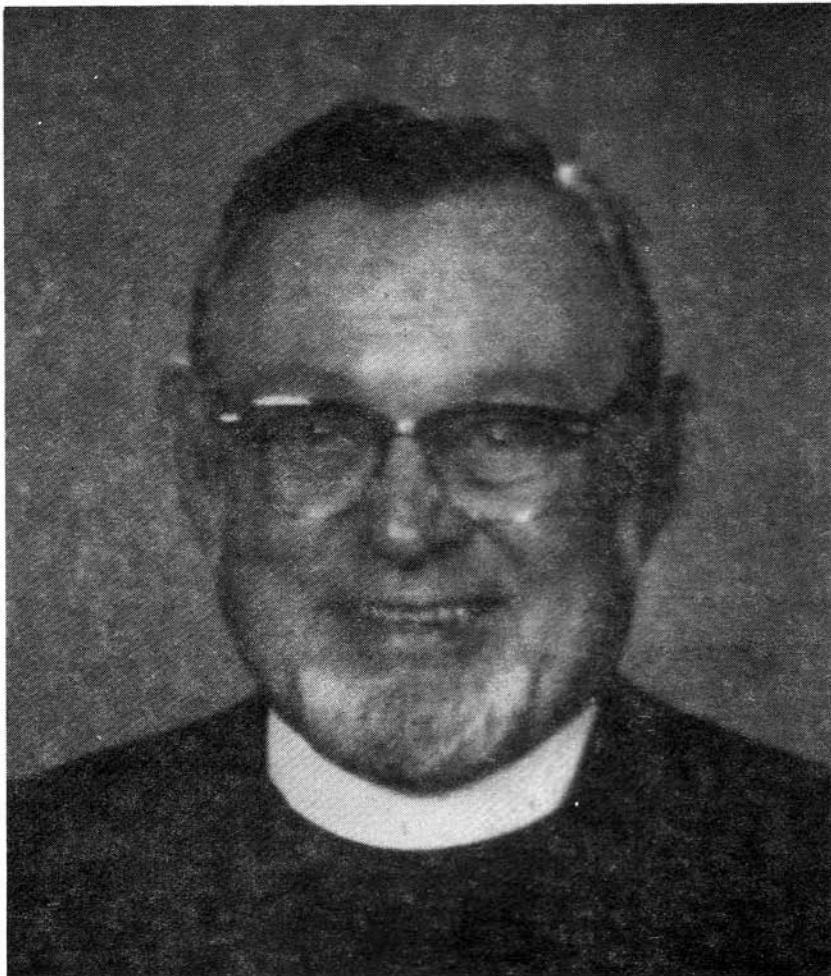
Rev. David A. Roth
March 1, 1910 to October 31, 1926

Funerals - 240 Marriages - 168



Rev. Fred D. Haffner
June 1, 1927 to 1963
Graduated from Wagner College

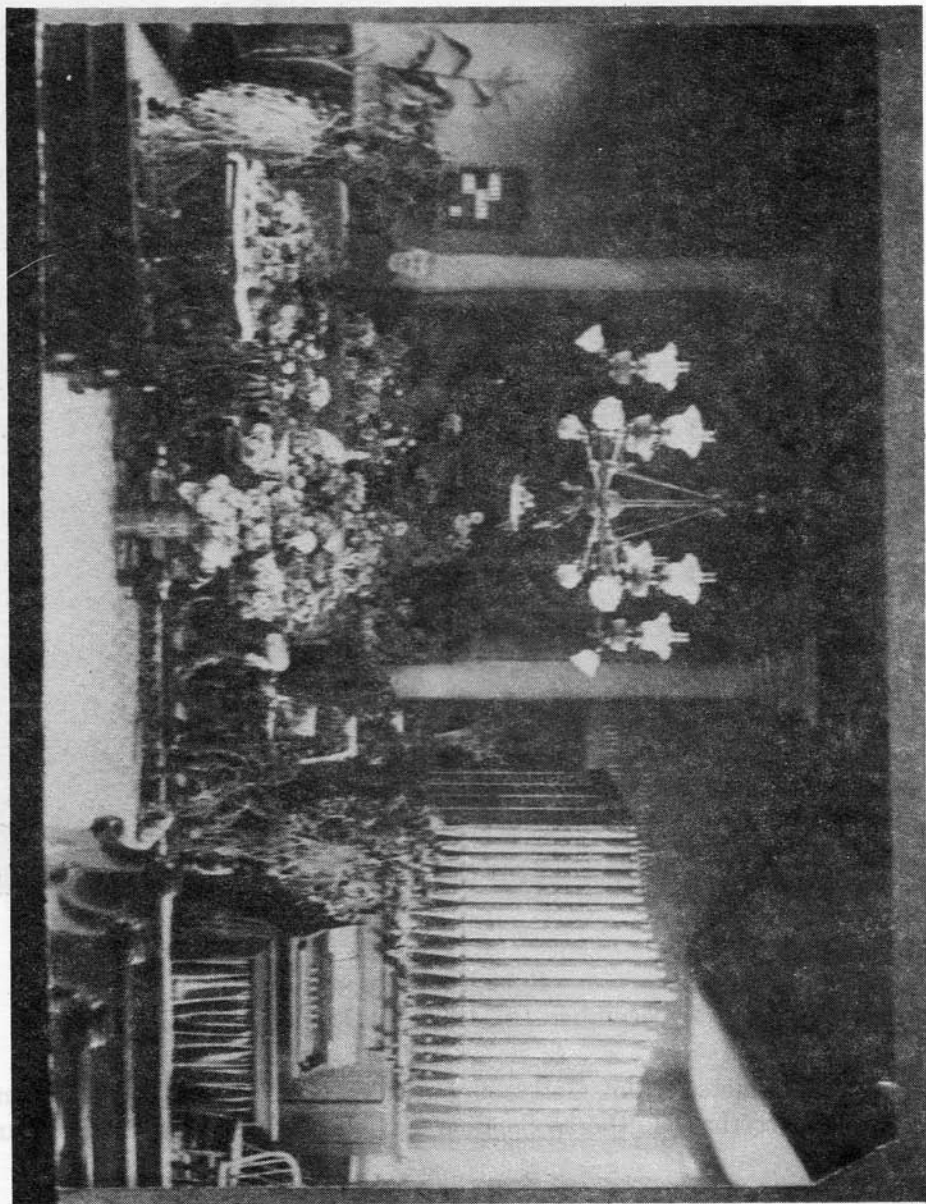
Baptized - 592	Confirmed - 656
Funerals - 314	Marriages - 266



Rev. H. Raymond Jones
December 15, 1964 to December 31, 1974

Graduated from Gettysburg Academy - Gettysburg College and
Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary. He served the Ministry 35 years.

New members - 136 Confirmed - 55 Adults - 81
Transferred 52 to other churches
Child members received with families - 25
Infant Baptisms - 73 Marriages - 36
Funerals - 102 Members - 73 Non-members - 29



Inside of church for Harvest Home
Rev. Kuntz (1893 - 1909)

Transferred 53 to other churches
Child members received with families - 25
Infant baptisms - 72 Marriages - 84
Funerals - 102 Members - 73 Non-members - 39



Present Parsonage - 627 Main Street

100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Jean DeiTos)
Alberta Brueningsen) Co-Chairmen
June Lukac (Deceased)
Elva Bach
Arlene Yefchak
Emma McElwee
Arlene Poltrok
Pastor William Fairchild
Robert Whitehead
Harold F. Brueningsen
Thomas Lloyd
Alvin Zimmerman

VARIOUS COMMITTEES

Community Night

Rev. William Fairchild
Adolph Peters, Jr.
Grace Bredbenner
Eleanor Jones
Janice Whitehead

Family Night

Ilene Hollick
Charles Sheaman
Barbara Fairchild
Tony Hartman
Janet Hartman

Ticket Committee

Alfred Stiller
Thomas Lloyd
Joseph Sabo
Edward Poltrok
Robert Whitehead
Alvin Zimmerman
Pastor Jones

Organizations Night

Albert E. Goeppert
Elena Billman
Dorothy Goeppert
Veronica Miller

Cornerstone Laying Night

100th Anniversary
Committee

Booklet Committee

Robert Whitehead
Pastor William Fairchild
William Schaub
Adolph Peters, Jr.
Alberta Brueningsen
Ilene Hollick

Bar

Samuel Budge
Joseph Sabo
Thomas Lloyd