



150 YEARS
Walking
With
God

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1870 - 2020

*Precious
Memories*

Memories of St Paul Lutheran Church. (Daughters of Eugene and Donna Arndt)

Sunday School Goldy Wendland and a host of other teachers I admired: examples Jolene Henning, Sue Christiansen, Sue Ellen Siebert, Paul Albrecht, Pastor Pilgrim and others.

SS Pin and bars received for regular attendance. SS memory work of the small catechism, many fun songs, bible verses SS Christmas program on Xmas Eve, reciting out "pieces" with incredible fear and anxiety, then a sweet greeting from the gentlemen who handed out a bag of peanuts in the shell, fruit and hard candy at the close of the service. Many friends who remain friends to this day related to our SS connection. Green lake Bible camp, friends, songs, Thursday school with St Johns kids Confirmation...hours of learning, memorization, and fearful presentations

Bible School Movies in the big room of bible stories when Bible school changed to full day, and we got to take a sack lunch. Mom always gave fun snacks we never got at home otherwise. Fun art and activities Lots of choir directors, organists, hours of practice that we could never miss

Church and service Reverend Max, Pastor Pilgrim, Pastor Hagen, A dynamic Interim, then Pastor Bob and Mark Johnson Lenten service with choir practice on busy Wednesdays, putting stress to get the homework done. Lenten service w interim Pastor, when there was a nailing to the cross. The keepsake Cross with symbols of Lent...bag of gold, spike, purple shawl, sponge etc Walking down the aisle of the church with my dad for our wedding.

Remodels of the ramp entrance, front steps, elevator, I enjoy the model of St Paul in the Entrance Years of admiring the stained-glass windows, the stories they told and letting my imagination go Large Christmas trees The beautiful decorations for holidays. Coffee talk. I often tell people that "I was raised in a church basement". Many of my friends understand immediately what I mean by that.

The absolute BEAUTY of the church building, Inside and outside. I was always proud of my church in Springfield and even invited my minister in Rochester to stop and look at it, which he did. I sought a church like it in Austin and Round Rock, Texas, and Rochester Mn. I have never found a church with the beauty of St Paul's. But more than that, I have never felt as loved and supported by any church more than St Paul's. This congregation has followed me thru college, dating, marriage, motherhood and the loss of my parents and loved ones. It reminds me of the song:
"I am the church. You are the church, we are the church together.....The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the CHURCH IS THE PEOPLE" I guess this might be why I cannot find St Paul Lutheran Church away from Springfield.

AMEN, this is most certainly true.

Rev. Maurice E. Hagen
2655 Viola Heights Drive NE
Rochester, MN 55906-6954
507-208-4352
ptrmaury@hotmail.com

July 18, 2022

People of St. Paul Lutheran Church
303 North Cass Avenue
Springfield, Minnesota 56087

Dear Members and Friends at St. Paul's

Grace to you and peace from God, our Heavenly Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

How wonderful you are finally able to celebrate one hundred fifty years (plus two more) of ministry in Springfield and the Brown County area! Congratulations and many blessings to all of you in this milestone event.

Thank you for the invitation to join you and the community on July 31st. St. Paul Lutheran and Springfield will always be a precious memory for the Hagen Family. The thirteen and a half years with you were the longest time our three (now adult) children grew up together. Due to some health concerns presently, with deep regret Kathy and I will not be able to come for this celebration. You certainly will be in our thoughts and prayers, as you are daily in my prayers along with the other three congregations where I have had the joy of serving as pastor.

As you remember the rich history of St. Paul Lutheran, may the Holy Spirit lead and guide you for many more years to come in faithful service to the glory of God!

Yours in Christ,


Rev. Maurice E. Hagen

Memories by Emily Vogel Goblirsch

- Being taught by Jill and Tim Vogel, Mavis Erickson, Jenny Solmonson, and Corinna Erickson in Sunday School
- Helping out with the German Supper during confirmation
- Drinking the church kool-aid
- Sunday School music class with Jeff Krueger and his white poster board
- Painting the nativity set at Vacation Bible School
- Marriage classes with Pastor Tricia
- Getting married in my church during COVID

Memories of St. Paul Lutheran

by Jeff Krueger

- Singing in the Junior Choir in 4th-8th grades with the gowns with the big red bows. Muriel Renner and Gladys Pilgrim as directors.
- Singing a solo with the Senior Choir on Christmas morning when I was in the Junior Choir.
- Learning how to sing tenor in the Senior Choir with Garfield Bloedow, Norm Gatzlaff and Pastor Pilgrim.
- Dr. Tessien having me play his accordian on the big "Amazing Grace" anthem that always ended the choir season each year.
- A big mission dinner that was held at the old gym at Springfield Public School. Dave Graff had the confirmation boys haul tables from church to the school to use for the dinner.
- Sunday School teachers I had: Goldie Wendland, Judy Polkow, LeAnn Vogel, Janice Krebs, Carol Carlson, Alan Bloemke, Marvis Winkelmann, Mavis Erickson, Paul Albrecht and Bob Johnston.
- Vacation Bible School teachers I had: Goldie Wendland, Debbie Jenzen, Bonnie Wilstermann, Linda Wilstermann, Irene Krueger, Paul Krueger, Mavis Erickson and Eleanore Krueger.
- Teaching and helping with Vacation Bible School when it was all day and you brought a sack lunch.
- Sunday School openings and closings in the "Big Room"
- Sunday School picnics at Brown's Park.
- Esther Gatzlaff as the Parish Education Teacher-Trainer for Sunday School teachers.
- Confirmation classes using the learning packets and stations with Pastor Pilgrim.
- Reading our own creeds and singing class hymn on Confirmation Sunday.
- Release-Time each week at St. Johns Lutheran Church
- Luther League in the parsonage basement with JoAnne Wendt as the advisor.
- Luther League at Curt and Georganne Danielson's house across from the church. We met every Wednesday night and then all walked across the street for Senior Choir rehearsal.
- Attending the Luther League Youth Gathering in Kansas City with Don and Vicki Russell as our advisor chaperones.
- Serving Luther League chili suppers and Luther League car washes.
- The Luther League cleaning the church (all but the sanctuary) when we were without a janitor.
- Filling in for a week in the church office for Delores Wilson—trouble printing the bulletin. VerJean Luense from St. Johns Church coming over to help me do the printing on the mimeograph machine.
- Hearing the new, refurbished pipe organ for the first time at Carol Kettner's funeral in 1974.
- The big service and dedication of the organ with Dr. Gully in 1974. The church was full of people who attended the recital and dedication.
- Lay Witness Mission weekend in the late 1970s.
- Driving home in a blizzard from a Confirmation outing to the Twin Cities. Bob Kettner was driving the car I was in—everyone made it back to Springfield.
- Ed Meidl and I cooking all the sauerkraut and transporting it to the Park for Riverside Days Kids Against Hunger benefit supper during Riverside Days.
- Rally Sundays in Brown's Park and Riverside Park.
- Christmas Eve at church. Always big crowd for the Sunday School Christmas program. And the church was always decorated so beautifully. I remember there was always a big live Christmas tree that stood in the choir loft. Bob Johnston always directed the Christmas programs.

I remember coming to church at St. Paul's with my friend Krista Voge when we were about 12-14 years old. I used to beg my mom to join here because I loved the building and especially the red carpet! And that they gave out the wine in little cups!

Krista used to invite me to the Lock-Ins! I remember playing hide and seek in the dark church, the older kids would constantly try to scare us. One time we snuck up to the balcony and had a paper airplane contest in the dark to see whose plane would go the furthest. When the chaperones came looking for us we hid under the pews. When we were finally ready to "sleep" we slept in the little coat room in the narthex under the stairs!

When I was in high school, a group of friends and I filmed a music video at St. Paul's for a school project. The song was "How Do you Talk to an Angel" by The Heights.

Kathy Pederson was the one who invited John and I to St. Paul's when we were on the search for a new church to join. Little did I know that 6 years later I would begin working here. I am grateful for being called to work at St. Paul's for the past 8 years and for the friends that my family has made along the way!

Some of my greatest memories of St. Paul's since being a member have been Wyatt being baptized here, singing in the church choir, playing my trumpet for holidays, bowling parties, serving meals, learning and talking about the church's history with visitors, and most recently Noah's Confirmation. I look forward to many more years!

Memories by Katie Mueller

Memories by Josephine Muske

I have wonderful memories of our 44 years at St. Paul Lutheran. I have felt surrounded by love in all the activities, from singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, helping with dinners, picnics, funerals, and Bible School, and participating in adult classes. Every activity helps us get to know and appreciate each other in new ways. Acceptance and forgiveness allow us to have a good time, no matter what the task. We have seen so many changes with the "new" south entry addition; the "new" kitchen, twice we have had "new" carpet in the sanctuary; the "new" bathrooms; the "new" grand piano in the choir loft; "new" pastors; and "new" interim pastors, to name a few. Each change presents challenges and opportunities for our Christian growth.

Memories by Paul Muske

- Visiting Zion Lutheran Church in Chicago
- Sweet corn feeds at Pastor Tom's church in Minneapolis
- 44 years as part of the Senior Choir
- Congregational Bus Trip to Minneapolis for Martin Luther artifacts exhibit
- Moving all the pews to refinish sanctuary floor
- LCMC National gathering in Dallas, TX
- Participation on Church Council and Call Committees
- Salvaging all the stonework to reuse in front entrance
- Many special times and special relationships

Memories by Jeanette (Muske) Pidde

Growing up, St. Paul felt like a second home to me. I enjoyed visiting with Gene and Donna Arndt at coffee talk and Rita Tessien's annual performance of "The Old Rugged Cross." I remember when the "Senior" choir wore robes and sat together up front after marching into the sanctuary, singing the opening hymn. Following the service, they would march out during the closing hymn, and sing from behind the congregation to close out the service. As a small child, I would go with my parents to choir practice and spend the entire time sliding on my stomach under the pews from the back to the front. I can't imagine now, as a parent, how dirty I must have gotten doing that! I loved taking the back staircase to the kitchen from the narthex, because it felt like a secret passageway. I remember when we got the cushions for the backs of the pews and how great that was. I remember many Sundays serving as an acolyte and always trying to tie that belt the right way. During Luther League, we had a lock-in, and it seems like we spent the whole night awake, laying on the floor of the Sunday school room we were sleeping in, singing camp songs together. It was a privilege to get married in my home church, and I remember trying to choose a bridesmaid dress color that wouldn't clash with the red carpeting. Coming home for the holidays as an adult didn't feel right until going to church. Then, I knew I was home!

Memories by Ruth Potter

She remembers Marie Arndt being the Sunday School Principal for many years. Reverend Max baptized her, confirmed her, married her, and baptized her first child. She remembers having Confirmation on Saturday's and on Tuesday and Thursday before school. She remembers being late for school some of those mornings and having to go to the principal's office. Since they had to wear dresses at school, they had to put pants and boots on to walk to school. Most of the time they had to run to not be late.

Ruth's sister Doris Polkow says she was Reverend Max's "pet" because when a Sunday School Teacher was absent, he would come get Doris to teach the class.

Conformation class exam before the congregation on Conformation Sunday.

Full house on Christmas, Easter & Thanksgiving.

Conformation class Sat. mornings, and during the week.

Sunday School classes held in fellowship hall.

Organ key board was located in the choir loft. Organist had a mirror to see what was happening behind him.

Memories by Bob Rogotzke

Memories by Jill Vogel

55 Years of Memories as a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church

Vacation Bible School was held immediately after school ended for the year. It was held from 8:30 to early afternoon. Everyone bought a sack lunch to eat at noon. It was a treat if someone shared leftover graduation cake or punch with us. After VBS was done for the day, a lot of us walked to the swimming pool to go swimming.

Christmas Eve was the traditional children's Christmas program. We all had our Christmas parts to recite. The traditional brown Christmas treat bags are still given to the children today.

Christmas Eve today is a candlelight service...BREATH TAKING!

Easter morning SUNRISE services...Breathtaking as we rejoiced and sang Alleluias to our risen Lord. Can't say that I didn't mind the time change this past year...

I have enjoyed many memorable years of decorating our church for the holidays with Donna Arndt, Marie Weinberger, and Ed Meidl. I always considered it as my gift to the congregation and those who were visiting for the holidays.

Teaching Sunday School and having my husband Tim as a helper. Being my children's teacher, was one of the most rewarding parts of parenthood and sharing God's love to them and the other children of the congregation. My husband Tim was also able to better understand our Christian heritage.

Congratulations St. Paul Church Lutheran Church on 152 years of sharing God's Word. May we always be grateful to those members who have gone before us, current and future members who help to make our church a special congregation and "Church Family".

MEMORIES OF MY HOME CONGREGATION

Tom von Fischer

July 21, 2022

Greetings to all who have gathered on this historic occasion. I had hoped to be with you in person, but our long-planned and awaited family vacation, including our two children, spouses and four grandchildren, began yesterday in northern Wisconsin.

Paul Muske has encouraged me to share some of my memories in writing.

The Bigger Picture

It's impossible for me to share "my memories" without acknowledging the von Fischer family of which I am proudly a part. A few stories:

- My grandpa William was called to be pastor of *St. Paulus Evangelische Lutherische Kirche* (only German-speaking) in 1914, just as World War I was breaking out. He came from St. Paul, MN, where he was serving both as pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and as district president (now called bishop). In the latter role, he was a member of the Board of *St. Johannes Lutherisches Hospital* in Springfield. His call to St. Paul's included the responsibility to serve as the superintendent at St. John's.
- Over the next 85 years from 1914-1999, 34 members of our extended von Fischer family - spanning four generations - would call Springfield 'home' for at least a portion of their lives. (pp. 241-248, *Remembering Who We Are.*) This means that our family journeyed with this congregation during more than half of its 150 Years *Walking with God*. With the death of Margaret Ann (Marge) Weber in 1999, the residency of our family in Springfield came to a close.
- Other key family members who were community leaders include:
 - My father Rev. Max, who joined my grandpa as assistant pastor in 1927. In 1952, after losing his vision from detached retinas, Grandpa resigned and Dad took the reigns of leadership at both the church and hospital.
 - I have many childhood memories of tagging along with Dad when he would go to St. John's. A favorite was being the 'gopher' for the maintenance man Hans Wilsterman (St. Paul's member), running the tunnels back and forth to his workshop for tools to help him fix stuff.
 - My uncles Phil and Fred von Fischer owned and operated von Fischer Brothers Rexall Drug Store (the current location of Springfield Floral Shop) in 1924, which they operated for 47 years until 1971.
 - I was one of 14 members of our family who worked at the Drug Store during our high school and college years. We often said: "Everything we needed to know about life we learned by working at the Drug Store." Uncle Phil and Uncle Fred were great teachers, mentors and bosses (pp. 38-40).

- Uncle Phil was a member of the School Board for 37 years, serving as chair for most of those years. When he handed me my diploma as valedictorian of the Class of 1961, I'm not sure who was more proud!
- My cousin William (Phil and Vera's oldest child) was remarkable in many ways. Confined to a wheel chair for most of his life with muscular atrophy, William was not only the bookkeeper for the Drug Store, but also financial secretary (contribution record keeper) for St. Paul's for 48 years (1941-1989) (p. 245). If you do the math, that means St. Paul's was served by von Fischer leaders for 75 years, from 1914-1989.
 - William was one of my favorite cousins, as we spent countless hours together. I was his assistant as he embossed names on napkins for confirmations and weddings. He wanted to know all the details about my week at Bible Camp or Luther League trip. And I'll never forget his first trip to our house on his own after getting his first power wheel chair. What a great day that was for all of us!
- I'll conclude this section with a couple memories of my mother, Pauline. So many roles she played in my life!
 - She was my Sunday School teacher. Before the Education Building was built, one year she taught our class in the basement of the parsonage, next to the coal-burning furnace.
 - She sat on the piano bench next to me for endless hours, making sure I played every note correctly. When I became the assistant organist for day funerals when Mr. Coates (our organist and music teacher at school) couldn't get off work, I said thank you to mother for having been such a strict task-master, making music a joy for me.
 - Mother was my German teacher for two years at SHS, which gave me the skills to speak, read and write in the von Fischer 'mother tongue.' (Yes, that was part of the original plan for the 150th anniversary, to have me preach in German!)
 - Mother taught me the love of gardening, which I've shared with each church I've served as pastor, at each of the homes where we lived, including our current home at Folkestone, a senior community in greater Minneapolis.

Some Memorable Moments Over the Years

- As a young child (only child!) in the parsonage ...
 - Folding Sunday worship bulletins every Saturday night after Mom ran them off on the mimeograph. ("Be sure to fold them straight!")
 - Using a scissor to help my mother cut the Christmas memory pieces she had typed for each of us Sunday School students, which we had to memorize and recite on Christmas Eve.
 - Helping Dad water plants at the family graves at the cemetery, asking lots of questions about all the members of church who were buried there.

- Singing in the Children's Choir with Doc Tessien, my very first choir experience. (70 years and 16 choirs later, I'm still singing, thanks to my early training and experience at St. Paul's!)
- Having church leaders from all over the world visit St. Paul and stay overnight with us in the parsonage. As the only child, I was permitted to "listen in" to almost all of those fascinating conversations. I learned a lot!
- As a teen-ager ...
 - Confirmation and first communion, including the public examination in front of the entire congregation, with my Dad giving me the toughest question to answer. (He knew that I had everything memorized, so neither of us were worried!)
 - Going to American Lutheran Memorial Bible Camp (now Camp Onomia) near Onamia every summer.
 - Taking a charter train with 900 Luther Leaguers from southern Minnesota to the National Luther League Convention in Miami Beach in the summer of 1961. One of the speakers who inspired us was Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Since my cousin Chuck (Fred and Martha's son), who was three years older than I, went to St. Olaf and got to sing in the St. Olaf Choir, I followed in his footsteps and enjoyed 4 wonderful years there, working at the Drug Store each summer to help pay my expenses.
- As an adult ...
 - Got married to Becky Helgesen on July 20, 1968 at Minnetonka Lutheran Church in the Twin Cities. A van load of folks from St. Paul's came for the occasion, but because of a flat tire enroute, they arrived a few minutes late. Fortunately, the bride was also a few minutes late getting ready, so the van arrived 'just in time' for the procession.
 - Exactly one year to the day later, July 20, 1969, was my ordination day at St. Paul's. So many people at church had encouraged and supported me in my sense of call, the third-generation pastor (along with Chuck, 3 years earlier) from our von Fischer family. After the reception, we walked across the street to our home, turned on the TV and listened to these words from Neil Armstrong: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."
 - During my years (1984-1995) as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in south Chicago (a middle-class, African-American congregation), we formed a Mission Partner relationship between St. Paul and Zion, in which every other year a bus or van-load of people would travel from Chicago to Springfield or vice-versa to spend a weekend sharing our lives and ministries with each other. Some long-term relationships developed that continue to this day.

If you would like to read more about our von Fischer family in Springfield, you will find a copy of my book, *Remembering Who We Are: Reflections on the Bicentennial of the Family Name Fischer von Weikersthal* in both the church and the Springfield Public Library. Feel free to contact me with any comments or questions.
tomvonfischer@yahoo.com



Pastor August Kenter
1870 - ?

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church at Springfield, Minnesota, was organized by Pastor August Kenter. The first entry in the first church record book reads:

"Church book of St. Paul's congregation in Leavenworth, Brown County, Minnesota, founded on the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Anno D. 1870 by Pastor August Kenter. Founded in the year 1870 and organized on October 10, 1870."

Rev. Kenter resided on his own farm about ten miles west of Springfield. He organized and served several other congregations and mission stations. The records do not reveal any information concerning the time when his services with our congregation were terminated. It is known that Pastor Meyer and Pastor Verting from New Ulm and Sleepy Eye were supply pastors during the time our congregation was without a pastor.

In the summer of 1878 Pastor G. Kittel accepted a call to the congregation. During the term of his ministry the young congregation experienced some troublesome times. Strife, contentions and misunderstandings caused factions and frictions. As a result the membership of the congregation declined from thirty to thirteen.

Undaunted by the number thirteen, the faithful members under the leadership of Pastor Kittel worked zealously. The first church building was erected and paid for by these few members, among them several widows.

In November 1881 Pastor Kittel's ministry with our congregation ended when he followed a call to near Albert Lea, Minnesota.

A few of our older members today have fond memories of Pastor Kittel and his labors among them.

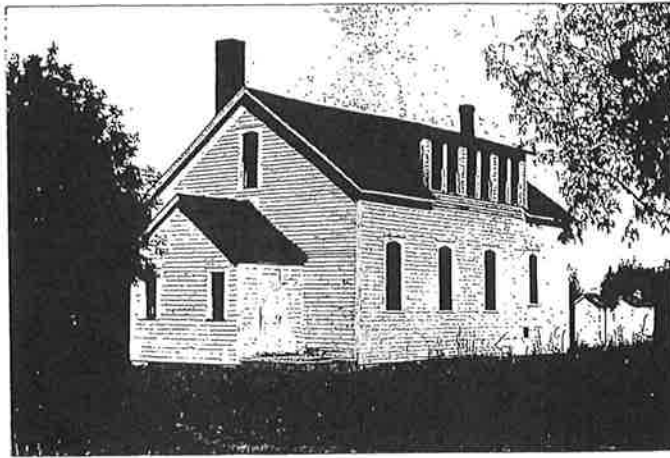
Pastor

G. Kittel

1878 - 1881

"Remember them . . . who have spoken unto you the Word of God."--Heb. 13:7

Page: Three



FIRST CHURCH BUILDING

In the fall of 1878 the above pictured first building was erected. Its size was 24x40 feet. It served a three-fold purpose: church, school house and parsonage. In those years this community experienced its most difficult times. For four consecutive years a grasshopper plague destroyed all crops and thereupon followed two years of draught. Many immigrants, convinced that this section of Minnesota would never yield a livelihood, moved to greener fields. The thirteen members who remained had faith in the fertility of the soil here and faith in God's goodness. The entire cost of the building, \$1200.00, was paid out of their meager income.

It has not been possible to learn who these staunch and faithful thirteen members were, else their names would be recorded here. On our seventy-fifth anniversary we salute these heroes in grateful memory.

Pastor Dietrich Lange was the next regularly called minister of the congregation. He was born and educated in Hermannsburg, Germany and had emigrated to the United States shortly before coming here.

Pastor Lange was a deeply spiritual and devout shepherd of souls. Under his guidance the congregation became well grounded in the principle teachings of Holy Scriptures as expressed in the Confessions of the Ev. Lutheran Church. The congregation was affiliated with the Minnesota Synod. Because of the doctrine of predestination, as it was taught at the time by the Missouri Synod, and the Minnesota Synod concurring with the former Synod in this doctrine, Pastor Lange severed his affiliation with the Minnesota Synod and joined the Ohio Synod. Without a single exception the entire membership of our congregation followed its pastor in this action. God blessed Pastor Lange's labors significantly so that the congregation grew spiritually steadfast and numerically strong.

This faithful shepherd and bishop of souls was not permitted to labor many years in the vineyard of the Lord. On February 22, 1889 God called His servant unto Himself. His body lies buried in our church cemetery.



Pastor Dietrich Lange
1881 - 1889

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . ."--Matt. 25:21-

Page Four



Second Church Building

The rapidly growing congregation outgrew the limited space in its first house of God. The second, larger and more appealing in appearance church building was erected in 1887 and dedicated on Palm Sunday 1888. In those days this building was a source of joy to the members and a cause of pride for the village of Springfield.

It was built by the contractors John Lau and E. Glock. The building committee consisted of A. Engel, secretary, Carl Kettner, Wm. Langhoff, treasurer, Carl Pautzke, August Sandmann, Lebrecht Schulz, Carl Wendt and Wm. Wendt.

For thirty-six years this building was the place of worship for large numbers. Memories never to be forgotten still linger in the minds of many members today which they associate with their large frame structure church building.

During the illness and following the death of Pastor D. Lange the congregation was

served by Schlueter and Groschupf, candidates of theology from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Pastor J. Geo. Appel, who had served as vicar to Pastor D. Lange while he was pastor of the churches in and near Lamberton, and who was now pastor in Decoria Township, south of Mankato, accepted a call to our congregation in the early summer of 1889. For fully twenty-five years, from 1889 to 1914, he discharged his duties here with faithfulness and energy.

During his years of ministry the congregation continued to grow on sound biblical basis. Under his direction the original church building was transformed into a religious day school. In 1892 the first parochial school teacher, H. Kilian, was called. In 1893 F. A. C. Remmert became the teacher and served in that capacity until 1903 and again from 1919 until 1929, when the Christian Day School was discontinued. During the years 1903 to 1919 Philip Scharmann was the teacher.

Pastor Appel terminated his services with the congregation in July 1914, accepting a call to St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota. He is still residing in that city, having retired from the active ministry in 1943 after having served the church of Jesus Christ for fifty-eight years. He will be a welcome guest speaker at the Historical Day services of our Anniversary Week, October 10, the exact day of our seventy-fifth anniversary.



Pastor J. Geo. Appel
1889 - 1914

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart."---Jer. 3:15

OUR PRESENT CHURCH



After many years the long cherished dream of the congregation was realized when this Gothic edifice was completed and dedicated to the service of the Triune God on June 1, 1924 on the ground which had been the church grounds from the time of St. Paul's first church building.

"The Lord is in His holy temple: His eyes behold the children of men."---Ps. 11:4

Page Six

ARNDT, Eugene, Donna; Lisa

Eugene- confirmed at St. Paul in 1942

Donna- transferred from St. John's, Redwood Falls, MN in 1956

Lisa- baptized at St. Paul in 1968

married Rick Van Fossen at St Paul in 1995

MESSAGE- We enjoyed our years as Luther League advisors together with Bob & Marilyn Kratz. Those were the days when hugging our young people meant "I love you and care about you" and no one thought about child molestation and sexual harrassment. We studied, worked, and played together.

The year we had the Lay Witness Mission, Lisa was 4 years old. She had a black kitten that she loved and nurtured. We tried to prepare her for the inevitable that it was a fall "stubble" cat and would never live through the winter. We went to the prayer vigil and were sitting in one of the very front pews. Lisa got up, went up to the altar rail, knelt, folded her hands and prayed. She prayed for her kitten and it grew up to be a beautiful black cat.

Another fond memory are the many years of teaching 6th grade Sunday School and Bible School, using all of the helps in the Audio Visual Room. I taught one class of 12 students as 5th graders, taught the same 12 as 6th graders, and had the same 12 in Bible School. Brenda and Kieth Wendland were my helpers for Bible School that year. One morning the class was very "high spirited" and I screamed "Shut Up". Even Kieth and Brenda stopped in their tracks. I will never forget Kieth's big brown eyes looking at me and you could have heard a pin drop. I went to Pastor Pilgrim later and told him I had lost my temper. "If this is any comfort", he told me, "that just shows you are human". Those years of teaching were the most rewarding of my life. My first class of students are now 40 years old.

I enjoyed taking part in the Messiah, together with members of all the churches in town. It was held in St. Paul when Pastor Hagen was here. We were to walk off the bleachers for intermission. We had stood so long our legs were like wood, and it was a struggle getting up the aisle.

Donna sang in the choir 39 years.

BAST, Edward
Baptized at St. Paul in 1904

MESSAGE- Remember going to church with horse and buggy. Couldn't go every Sunday because the buggy wasn't big enough for 10 children and 2 parents. Going to school with Professor Sharman as school teacher.

There were 40-50 children in school. In the mornings school was taught in English, and in the afternoon, confirmation was taught in high German. My family's main language was low German, so this made learning very difficult. I belonged to the Men's Brotherhood organization, which at one time had 60 members. There was a Bowling League. I remember team bowling with Garfield Bloedow, Ed Krueger, Herman Rogotzke, Sidney Schmidt, and Harold Wendt. I have 5 bowling trophies dating from 1963-1971. Remember black iron fence and big gate at the cemetery. The Brotherhood used to clean up the cemetery in the fall. Remember helping Harry Karow plant bushes at the cemetery. At that time cemetery lots sold for \$25.00. Those remaining from my 1918 confirmation class are Art Kieper, Elsie Peterson, and myself.

BENUSA, Darla (Wilstermann)
Transferred from Grace Lutheran, Westbrook, MN in 1964

MESSAGE- I remember going to church with my mom when she practiced and set up the organ for church services and having to sit quietly on the chair beside her, and Alvin Krause, the janitor at the time, feeling sorry for me and taking me with him and letting me put the numbers for the hymns in the hymn board. I also remember going with my dad when he was filling in for the janitor on Saturday nights to ring the bell at six o'clock as was custom at that time. I remember when the silver communion pieces were stolen. Also release time classes and having to walk back to school in the rain or very cold temperatures.

BEUSSMAN, Delwin, Beverly; David

MESSAGE- Delwin- I remember the reciting of memorized Catechism verses, etc. that our 8th grade class of 1950 had to do the Sunday before Palm Sunday. During that time, Confirmation was always on Palm Sunday. I also have fond memories of the Sunday school picnic at Brown's Park on the last day of Sunday School.
David- One of my favorite memories is performing in the Christmas programs as I grew up. Through each person memorizing a line or two, it made everyone feel a part of the telling of Christ's birth.

BIGOT, Mrs. Gladys
baptized at St. Paul in 1926

MESSAGE- I remember the wonderful chicken suppers at St. Paul.
Also remember the Christman Eve's. Mine were in the
20's and 30's - the girls, Constance and Carla, were
in the 50's. What excitement and joy.

BLOEMKE, Arthur
baptized at Cobden Lutheran
transferred from Cobden Lutheran, December 1954

MESSAGE- Remembers Professor Remmert playing the organ, and
that the men seemed to sing much louder than they do
now - also the reverent atmosphere in the church as
a whole back then.

BLOEMKE, Gerald
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember getting Sunday School pins for perfect
attendance and getting to add to them.

BLOEMKE, Mrs. Shirley; Kevin
Shirley- confirmed at St. Paul, 1949
Kevin- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Shirley- remember seeing inside of the church for the
first time and being in "awe". I came from a small
country church so it was a big difference.
Kevin- always was proud of my Sunday School
attendance pins.

ESSIG, Mrs. Ella
baptized at St. Paul, 1910

MESSAGE- I recall how disappointed my confirmation class of
1924 was to learn we were not to be confirmed in the
new church as promised. Instead we were the last
class confirmed in the old white church.

FLEISCHMANN, Helen
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- I remember teaching Sunday School in German after
I was confirmed in German in 1923. Later, Rev. Max
asked my sister and I to teach VBS. I remember
having Tommy (Rev. Tom), then a 2nd grader in my
class. Glorious Days!

FREEMAN, George and Norma
George- formerly of United Methodist, Walnut Grove, MN
Norma- transferred from St. John Lutheran, Morgan, MN

MESSAGE- Norma- remember being in Sunday School and
Confirmation with Rev. Wm. and Rev. Max.
Enjoyed choir and being President of Tabitha
Circle for 15 years.

GIESEKE, Bernhard and Esther
Ben- confirmed at St. Paul, 1926
Esther- joined St. Paul in 1939

MESSAGE- We thank God for our memories of St. Paul- Sunday School in Pauline Von Fischer's kitchen- 1984-1985 when we enjoyed representing St. Paul as "Grandparents" at Green Lake Bible Camp.

GROEBNER, James, Elsie; Kim, Krystal, Emily, Megan
Jim- formerly of St. Raphaels, Springfield, MN
Elsie- baptized at St. Paul
Kim- baptized at St. Paul
Krystal- baptized at St. Paul
Emily- baptized at St. Paul
Megan- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Jim- appreciates all the choices at St. Paul
Elsie- remembers Paul Albrecht at Sunday School telling everyone to sing, no matter how it sounds.
Kim- will always remember confirmation with Pastor Paul Martinson.

HAGERT, LeRoy
formerly of St. Raphaels, Springfield, MN

MESSAGE- all the changes that have taken place since I became a member. St. Paul is getting better all the time. Impressed by Christmas Eve presented by the children. They were always special.

JENSEN, Gerard, LeAnn; William, Heather, Linsey
Gerard- baptized at St. Paul
LeAnn- formerly of St. Raphaels, Springfield, MN
William- baptized at St. Paul
Heather- baptized at St. Paul
Linsey- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Gerard- remember good times with Luther League, pot lucks, and even having Luther League at Dad's farm.
William, Heather and Linsey- we like Christmas time at church.

JESKE, Mrs. Lydia
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember teaching Sunday School in the Social Room with many other classes also being held in the same room.

JOHNSON, Mrs. Marjorie; Terry Jr., Trent, Sommer
Marjorie- transferred from Zion Lutheran, Hawick, MN.
Terry Jr.- confirmed at St. Paul
Trent- baptized at St. Paul
Sommer- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- impressed by the beauty of the church, even before the remodeling. Coming from a small church, I liked the greeters at the door, and people were so friendly.

JOHNSTON, Doreen
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- will always remember the perfect attendance pins I got from Sunday School.

KAMOLZ, Emil and Gretchen
Emil- baptized at St. Paul
Gretchen- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember strict discipline in confirmation and Sunday School with Rev. Wm. and Rev. Max. Teaching Sunday School in small groups in what is now the Fellowship Hall. On the north end of that room there used to be a stage type altar that was used for Sunday School openings and closings. Behind that was a cloak room, and to the East was a confirmation room with double size desks, where confirmation classes were held. Like Coffee Talk and remember having a good time serving it.

KETTNER, Mrs. Edna
baptized at St. Paul, 1919

MESSAGE- I can remember a bit of the old church. My brother, Alvin Voge, and I are on the group picture of the new St. Paul church. I was about 5 years old. Grandpa Haselu was the church janitor at St. Paul after he retired from farming in Sundown Township. The coal furnace had to be started early, or stoked, the night before so it would be ready for Sunday services.

KETTNER, Jerome, Jerrine; Rondi, Jason, Jesse
Jerome- baptized at St. Paul
Jerrine- transferred from Our Savior's Lutheran, Lamberton, MN
Rondi- baptized at St. Paul
Jason- baptized at St. Paul
Jesse- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Jerome- remember confirmation with Rev. Max and having to know your lesson and catechism.
Jerrine- impressed with how large St. Paul was as compared to any small church, and the art windows- traditional style in comparison to modern style.

KETTNER, Robert and Janice
Robert- baptized at St. Paul
Janice- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember the huge group of Sunday School students gathered for openings before Sunday School in what is now Fellowship Hall. Jan remembers mother driving me to religious instructions on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday by 8:30am and then picking me up at church and taking me back to country school.

KETTNER, Virgil
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember the sad funerals of World War II soldiers from our congregation. Also working on the building of the educational wing of our church.

KIEPER, Erna
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember joining choir in 1936 with 40+ members. After much practice we sang our first number, "Beautiful Savior". The choir was directed by Dr. Tessien. Choir went to Northfield and sang at the St. Olaf Chapel. Rev. Max officiated at the service that was broadcast on WCAL. Really enjoyed those days. Also remember going to German services.

KLABUNDE, Mrs. Dailia
transferred from Zion Lutheran, Springfield, MN

MESSAGE- enjoyed German services. Joined Mary Martha Circle in 1925 and have really enjoyed it all these years.

KRATZ, Floyd and Rosalyn
Floyd- transferred from Faith Lutheran, Comfrey, MN
Rosalyn- transferred from Faith Lutheran, Comfrey, MN

MESSAGE- As a young child I remember coming over to inspect the building of our new church. It was early evening and mother and I walked up the incline (before the steps were built), to peer into this huge building. Probably the largest I had ever seen. I was very impressed. Confirmation year is a very strong memory as we were expected to be present every day of the week. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Pastor William would lecture and instruct the class. Tuesday and Thursday we reported for memorization to Pastor Max before public school started. Then there was Saturday School for all children and, of course, Sunday School on Sunday. No wonder we felt so close to our pastors and classmates. Tears were shed the last day of class.

KRATZ, Robert, Marilyn; Kieth

Robert- transferred from Faith Lutheran, Comfrey, MN
Marilyn- baptized at St. Paul, 1939
Kieth- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Marilyn- remember Christmas Eve program- standing on the top step to say my recitation and the tree seemed SO-O-O-O big. Tree stood where the lecturn is standing now.

KRUEGER, Lois; Kenneth

Lois- formerly of United Methodist, Springfield, MN
Kenneth- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Remember how St. Paul Church helped my son, Kenneth who had a learning problem. St. Paul is a beautiful building and I think about when I belonged to the Ruth Circle and the friendly people there.

MARZ, John, Dawn; Jacob, Lucas, Tyler

John- formerly of St. Raphael's, Springfield, MN
Dawn- baptized at St. Paul
Jacob- baptized at St. Paul
Lucas- baptized at St. Paul
Tyler- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Dawn- remember the red & white gowns the junior choir members used to wear. They always looked like angels.

MARZ, Michael and Barbara

Mike- transferred from Zion Lutheran, Springfield, MN
Barb- transferred from Zion Lutheran, Springfield, MN

MESSAGE- Most beautiful church there is- has a warm feeling and friendly. The old big steps outside were so inviting, but the new front is also very nice.

MEINE, Hattie

baptized at St. Paul, 1907
confirmed at St. Paul by Rev. Wm. Von Fischer, 1921

MESSAGE- remember the old church had no basement, heater was in the back entry. Organ was in the balcony, with Mr. Dahmer as pumper. The school was church at one time. School was held on the second floor, church on the main floor. Teacher was F.C. Remmert. Old building was moved north from present building. Pews from old church now in present balcony. Offering was taken with a collection bag- a velvet bag on the end of a long pole. Stayed with Gotlieb Arndt family during one year on confirmation instruction. Also had confirmation dinner there, as mother wasn't feeling up to it, as we waited for a new member to the family. Rev. Appel resigned in 1914.

MEIDL, Ed and Carol

Ed- transferred from St. Paul's Catholic Church,
Comfrey, MN, 1956
Carol- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Carol- remember lots of memory work for Rev. Max. Religion classes all Saturday mornings- Folding and putting together the bulletin during religion. Choir loft almost too small for junior choir when I was in it. Marie Birkmeyer directing junior choir. Sunday School in one large room with curtains dividing the classrooms. Sneaking upstairs to hear the German services that were held when we had Sunday School. Lots of kids in Luther League, and going to neighboring towns for rallies. The year of my confirmation going to Luther League Convention at Perdue University. Going to Bible Camp at Onamia. Dr. Remmert playing organ. Stopping at church for lunch after school when my mother served Ladies Aid; the chicken salad sandwiches. The chicken suppers that were served by the ladies circles. Examination Sunday the Sunday before Confirmation. The classes sat in chairs in front of church and answered questions on Bible History and Commandments. How nervous we were. The large crowds for Easter and Christmas. Chairs put up in the aisles. Teaching Bible School in the old library building. The kids coming from Christ Lutheran at Cobden for instruction Saturday mornings.

MEYER, Mrs. Elvira
confirmed at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember confirmation with Rev. Wm. in 1927, in the old confirmation room in the church basement. Before Confirmation Sunday, the class had to ask the congregation members for flowers to decorate church for the occasion. Was no flower committee. Helmuth Dahmer was janitor at the time.

NEWMAN, Charles and Elsie
Charles- transferred from Zion Lutheran, Springfield, MN
Elsie- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Elsie- remember when church services were all in German. A time later, English services were offered once a month. English became more prevalent and at that time German services were offered only once a month. This is how services evolved to all English that we have today.

OLSON, Rev. Robert, Bergit

Pastor Bob- transferred from Montevideo, MN, 1993

Bergit- transferred from Montevideo, MN, 1993

MESSAGE- Our first thoughts when coming into the church included thanks for the beautiful building and place of worship. Many generations of love and respect to God and one another are clearly represented by this place of worship. It has been a time of joy and thanksgiving to get to know many of you while living and serving here.

PINT, Mrs. Edna

baptized at St. Paul

passed away, May 1995

MESSAGE: (submitted in late 1994) Rev. Appel was my uncle. Mother and I sang in choir for 29 years. Confirmed with Rev. Max by Rev. Wm. Married in the church parsonage. Upstairs of old church was used for confirmation in 1918, in German. Professor Sharman was our organist, Labrerich Schultz was pumper. Spittoon sat beside organ. Lighting in old church was reflector lamps. Conrad Appel, my dad, was custodian in old church. On Saturday night, our whole family would clean church. Dusted with feather dusters and cleaned "straw" like carpet with broom and dust pan. Remember the 2 art windows, presently one on each side of the altar, being in old church. Remember present church being built of brick and it's dedication. Baptismal fount in present church is from old church. Remember the collection bag passed by a long stick. It had a bell on it just in case someone was sleeping, it would wake them. Men sat on left side and women in the middle in the old church.

PRECHEL, Mrs Hertha

baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember singing in 60 member Sr. Choir. I learned my confirmation in German, then the congregation decided it should be in English, so I had to learn it all over again in English.

RENNER, George

baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- I was a member of the choir for 63 years. All church services were conducted in the German language until the 1920's. I remember when men and women sat separately in church services. Only men voted at the annual meetings.

ROGOTZKE, Mrs. Laurene

transferred from St. John's Lutheran, Springfield, MN

MESSAGE- For several years, the church women made soap for World Missions in an old shop at my home. We melted the gallons of contributed lard on an old wood stove. We usually made about 70 batches of soap each fall.

ROGOTZKE, Russell, Elizabeth; Linda, David, Heidi
Russell- baptized at St. Paul
Betsy- transferred from Lake Hanska Lutheran, Hanska, MN,
1965
Linda- baptized at St. Paul
David- baptized at St. Paul
Heidi- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Russell- remember having Sunday School in the
boiler room!
We remember the large tree at Christmas time, which always
filled the choir loft.

SCHUBBE, Mrs. Mary Lou
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- enjoyed singing in choir, Luther League, teaching
Sunday School, my confirmation, and circle meetings.

SCHWARTZROCK, Mr. Marion
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Some of the first church services were held in my
Grandfather's log cabin, which was on the northwest corner of
Highway 14 and Jackson Street. When the new house was built
there, the log cabin was moved north about 250 feet, where it
stood until about the mid 40's.

SKARPHOL, Lloyd; Charlotte, Connie
Lloyd- transferred from Lake Hanska Lutheran, Hanska, MN
Charlotte- baptized at St. Paul
Connie- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Impressed by Mueller Organ Company being able to
remodel the organ 50 years after it was originally
installed by them. They are the largest organ company in the
U.S.

STARK, Bernard, Grace
Bernard- transferred from Stately Lutheran, Comfrey, MN, 1974
Grace- transferred from Stately Lutheran, Comfrey, MN, 1974

MESSAGE- Grace served on the Council with Marge Weber. They
were the first women to be on the Council. Enjoyed sewing
for missions.

STEER, Mrs. Clarice
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember Mr. Remmert playing the pump organ in back
of the balcony. Mr. Boettger, Roland Boettger's grandfather,
did the "pumping" so the organ would work.

STERN, Arthur
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember unruly confirmands had to stand in the dark
coal room so they could think about what they had or had not
done. Also the pump organ that was in the balcony, played
by Professor Remmert.

TESSIEN, Dr. R.M., Rita; Robert

Dr. R.M.- transferred from Salem Lutheran, Jackson, MN, 1935

Rita- originally a member of the Church of England, joined
St. Paul in 1963

Robert- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Doc- When I came here, I thought this the most
beautiful church in the world. I am most appreciative of
the opportunities to take part in many congregational affairs,
especially the opportunity to direct the choir.
Rita- I enjoy church activities.

TIMM, Clarence

baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Before I was confirmed, we rode the platform buggy
to church, and later the top buggy. Wm. Von Fischer was the
minister and teacher. We learned the catechism and Bible
passages in German. Church was about 2 hours- sermons were
an hour long and Sunday School and Catechism followed. I
remember getting volunteers to help with the building of the
Education Wing. Brotherhood was a strong men's organization
in the church.

TIMM, Ewald, Mildred

Ewald- baptized at St. Paul

Mildred- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- we remember strict discipline of past leadership.
Old fashioned Christmas Eve programs with children bringing
their money boxes up to the altar, children singing carols,
and doing recitations.

VAN OVERBEKE, Doug, Dee; Andrea, Adam, Dustin

Doug- transferred from Holy Trinity Lutheran, Shreveport,
LA, 1991

Dee- transferred from Holy Trinity Lutheran, Shreveport,
LA, 1991

Andrea- transferred from Holy Trinity Lutheran, Shreveport,
LA, 1991

Adam- transferred from Holy Trinity Lutheran, Shreveport,
LA, 1991

Dustin- transferred from Holy Trinity Lutheran, Shreveport,
LA, 1991

MESSAGE- remember the old front steps and the crooked way into
the basement.

VOGE, Russell, Karen (Buddensiek), Jared, Krista

Russ- baptized at St. Paul

Karen- formerly of St. Raphael's, Springfield, MN, 1979

Jared- baptized at St. Paul

Krista- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Karen- I have many memories. A few are: working at St. Paul for 11 1/2 years and the people I worked with- Pastor Maury, William Von Fischer, Elmer & Avis Churchill, Bob Johnston, Pastor Olson, and the many volunteers; the Saturday I got the call that the church had been broken into as well as the office. Thankfully nothing was taken but stamps; watching the stain glass windows being restored; the building and dedication of the new addition and painting of the sanctuary; being part of the group of Luther League and Congregation members who went to Zion Lutheran in Chicago and experiencing my first Pentecostal Service; working with the interims Pastor Paul and Pastor Cy; the quilters and their treats; the many kind, caring, generous, Christian people who make up St. Paul Church.

Jared- My most favorite memory of St. Paul Church is when I Affirmed my Baptism. In our confirmation class we worked HARD. We learned the Catechism front to back and studied a variety of other things such as Theology. On the Wednesday before Confirmation we had catechisation. We were called upon to recite from the Catechism and discuss our faith. On Confirmation Sunday or the Sundays before, we had to give our sermons that we had written. The whole class was kind of upset with all the work we had to do, but as I look back on it, it was well worth it. Interim Pastor Paul Martinson was our teacher and I will never forget the work we did to be confirmed, Confirmation Sunday, or Pastor Paul.

VON FISCHER, Mrs. Pauline

transferred from St. Paul's Lutheran, Winlock, WA

MESSAGE- Pauline and Rev. Max's regular bedtime prayers included verses of German hymns such as "Christi Blut und Gerechtigkiet, das ist mein Schmuck und Ehrenkied, damit will ich vor Gott bestehn, wenn ich zum Himmel werd eingehn." "Christ's blood and righteousness is my jewel and dress; that is how I will be before God when I enter heaven." Tom remembers the public examination of the confirmation class in front of the congregation on the Sunday before Confirmation Day, Palm Sunday, 1957. His father (Rev. Max) gave him the toughest question, 'recite Luther's Prayer of Confession from the Small Catechism.' Fortunately, Tom remembered... along with many other wonderful things his father taught him! Thanks be to God!

WEBER, Mrs. Margaret
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- I was baptized by my Grandfather (Rev. Wm.), confirmed and married at St. Paul by my Grandfather and Uncle Max. I remember going to Saturday School from 9am to 12pm and Sunday School, starting both at age 5. Confirmation classes were held every Monday and Wednesday, first hour of school, and on Saturdays from 8am-12pm. Recitation was before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. First one there recited and left. Therefore, many of us were there by 6:30am. Remember many changes throughout the years- having services in both English and German; Lenten Services on Sunday nights; men sitting on west side of church, women and children on east; Examination Sunday held 1 week before Palm Sunday; being in Junior Choir with Marie Birkemeyer directing; Mary Magdalene Circle starting the Library with it first being in what is now the Crying Room; Luther League was a big event of the month when I was in High School.

WEBER, Maurice, Shirley
Maurice- transferred from Zion Lutheran, Springfield, MN, 1943
Shirley- baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Shirley- I remember going to confirmation instructions on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings for lectures and questions, and on Tuesday and Thursday to recite memory work before the regular school started. Our four children were baptized and confirmed at St. Paul in the days when we had 240 students in Sunday School.

WENDLAND, Mrs. Goldia
transferred from St. John's Lutheran, Sleepy Eye, MN, 1932

MESSAGE- We moved here from Sleepy Eye and I heard so much concerning the Von Fischers and I thank God we were led to St. Paul Lutheran Church. My family was raised under the Von Fischers, Rev. Wm. and Rev. Max, Bless them. I believe my greatest memory of our time here at St. Paul would be the 32 years I spent teaching pre-school in Sunday School. The greatest bunch of kids on earth. They haven't learned to lie, they don't steal, and their greatest accomplishment is yelling, "Maaaaaaa...he hit me!", "I did not...he hit me first." Oh, to live over those days again.

WILKERSON, Mrs. Virginia
transferred from St. John's Lutheran, Springfield, MN

MESSAGE- enjoyed Ruth Circle and being a Sunday School teacher. Really enjoys being secretary at St. Paul. Perhaps the most memorable was breaking my glasses on a Thursday night. Tried super-gluing them so I could type the bulletin on Friday and I glued them crooked. It took me two hours extra to finish the bulletin after many mistakes.

WILSTERMANN, Mrs. Ardella
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- remember Sunday School in the big room; classes sat with teachers back to the wall and students in a semi-circle around them. Three teachers I remember are Hattie Meine, Lydia Jeske, and Arlene Bast. Remember having to be at church for confirmation by 7am. On Confirmation Sunday, walking down the center aisle and singing, "Take My Hand, Dear Father".

WILSTERMANN, Donald, Darlene

Don- transferred from Christ Lutheran, Wanda, MN, 1934
Darlene- transferred from Grace Lutheran, Westbrook, MN, 1964

MESSAGE- Don- I remember Rev. Max at Easter Sunrise Services when he would say, "He is Risen" with such conviction, it made you shiver with awe. All the memorizing for Saturday School and confirmation. Examination Sunday, scared stiff that you didn't want to make a mistake or forget anything. Three hour Christmas Eve programs, and when all the bow back chairs from the basement were carried upstairs and put in the aisle for extra seating. Black rubber runners with brass edging, in the aisles before carpeting. Tapestry of Peter and Jesus walking on water- it hung above the pulpit. Communion at the altar, 3 people at a time went up to receive bread on the west side of the altar, walked around back of the altar and received wine on the east side of the altar, and then back to the pew. Wire hat racks under the seat of the pews. Remember watching men put the water tank on the tower at the cemetery. It was made of wood. My dad hauling shrubbery for the landscaping of the cemetery from Rolls Nursery, on Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN. Work crews going to cemetery in the evening to straighten tombstones that were tipping. Buying and excavating land just north of the church for the parking lot. Short-sheeting Rev. Max's bed at Bible Camp at Onamia, MN., along with several other Luther Leaguers.
Darlene- going to Maundy Thursday services a half hour early and no room left to sit but in the front pew. Two services on Sunday morning. I remember April, 1970, helping to take the "Lutheran Centennial Players" to Glencoe to present "A few Skits and Songs about things right and wrong with the world, the church, and you." The players were a group of young people from St. Paul and St. John's Lutheran churches, in a joint effort, performing in celebration of both churches observing their 100th Anniversaries.

WILSTERMANN, Edward
baptized at St. Paul

MESSAGE- Going to Sunday School and having Goldy Wendland as my teacher. Being a helper at Vacation Bible School. Teaching third grade Sunday School with Gertie Rosenau. Enjoyed interim Pastor Paul as he talked with us and not at us.

WISDORF, Gordon

transferred from Zion Lutheran, Springfield, MN

MESSAGE- remember finally finding and fixing a leak in the roof on the north side of the bell tower that had been plaguing the church council for 20 years.

ZIHLKE, Richard, Lois

Richard- transferred from Evangelical United Brethern,
Springfield, MN, 1962

Lois- baptized at St. Paul, 1942

MESSAGE- Lois- I remember all the children's services on Christmas Eve. All the excitement of learning new pieces and the church being packed with people. It was a fun time.