

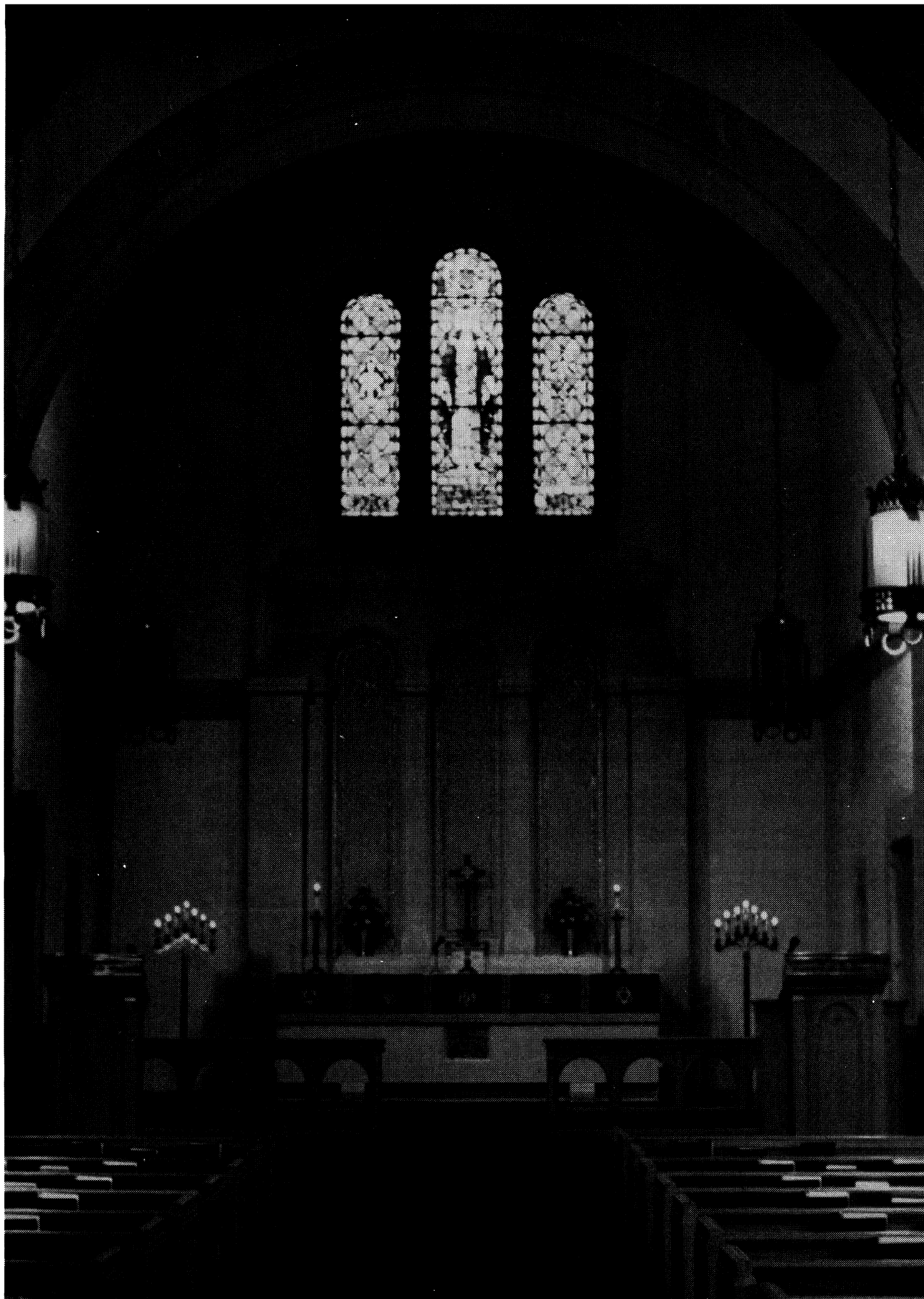
Looking Back
Over 125 Years of God's Grace
at
St. John Lutheran Church
State Center, Iowa

Including
Ten Years of History
of
Clemons Lutheran School

June 1990

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NOT TO BE TAKEN
FROM THE LIBRARY



*Presented to Gutekunst
Public Library
1990*

Members
of the committee who have
prepared this historical book:

Mr. and Mrs. August Armbrecht
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Bangtson
Pastor and Mrs. Flanscha
Elaine Robins
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Severidt

The committee offers a special
"thank you" to everyone who has
provided articles, information,
and pictures to make this pub-
lication possible.

A History of St. John Lutheran Church - 125 Years of God's Grace

The population of the State of Iowa grew with many immigrants coming from other states as well as foreign countries. A group that settled north of State Center found that conditions were ideal for establishing their homes and in due season they prospered as God showered His blessings upon them. But earthly prosperity alone does not satisfy the longing of the soul. Our Lord Jesus says, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," also, "What is a man profited if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?" These pioneer German Lutherans were brought up in the fear of God and they longed for the courts of the Lord, and were anxious to do their God given duty also toward their children.

This longing was satisfied when a few Lutheran families were placed under the shepherding care of a circuit riding missionary, the Rev. Lossner, and later under the spiritual care of the Rev. F. Doescher, who was residing at Ft. Dodge, Iowa. These pioneer missionaries were willing to make great sacrifices in order to bring the Bread of Life to the scattered Lutherans in the state of Iowa. One of Rev. Doescher's assistants reported to his mission board that he had traveled over 6,000 miles in saddle and buckboard during a year.

WARRANTY DEED.

Filed for record the ^{14th} day of December, A. D. 1865, at
2 o'clock, ^P_P M.

John Sumner

Recorder, Marshall County, Iowa.

By _____ Deputy

This Deed of Bargain and Sale,

This Deed of Bargain and Sale, Made and executed the 14 day of November, A. D. 1865, by and between George Brown @ Barber Brown his wife, of the County of Marshall and State of Dorset party of the first part, and Charles H. Perkins Academy Perkins Academy Perkins Academy Perkins of the County of Marshall and State of Dorset party of the second part. Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One thousand & twenty five Dollars, to be paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have Granted and Sold, and do by these presents, **Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey and Confirm,** unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, the certain tract or parcel of Real Estate, situated in the County of Mar-

shall, and State of Iowa, to-wit: commencing at the South West corner of the South East quarter of South West quarter of Section (22) in Township (4N) Range (10E) Eighty four rods East of Range Twenty West Thence running East forty (40) rods thence South twenty (20) rods thence forty (40) rods west thence South twenty rods (20) rods to the place beginning containing five acres.

Special agreement is expressly agreed to by the second party that whenever this land with the improvements thereon should be for sale Mr George German or the owner of his farm of which this land is a part no chance or opportunity to buy it again =

To have and to hold the premises above described, with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, unto the said second party, and to their heirs and assigns forever. The said George German hereby covenanting for him heirs executors, and administrators, that the above described premises are free from any incumbrance, that he has full right, power and authority to sell the same, and he will Warrant and Defend the Title unto the said party of the second part, their heirs and assigns, against all persons whomsoever lawfully claiming the same. And Ranby German wife of the said George German hereby relinquishes all her right of dower, in and to the foregoing described premises.

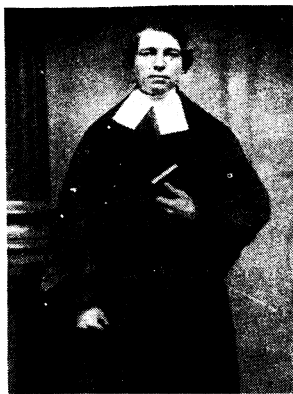
In Witness Whereof, the said party of the first part, have hereunto set their hand and Seal the day and year

George to me personally known to be the identical person whose name George subscribed to the foregoing Deed as grantor and acknowledged the Instrument to be their voluntary act and deed, and that he executed the same for the purposes therein mentioned.

Witness my hand Abraham the day and year last above written.

Abraham

One hundred and twenty-five years ago on the 17th of April, 1865, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized by Missionary Doescher. It was also known as French Grove Lutheran Church. The constitution that was adopted at that time was signed by nine members. The charter members of the church were: Louis Hartwig, Henry Oehlsen, Louis Frohwein, Henry Schaper, Fred Bader, August German, August Eckhardt, George German, and Fred Oehlsen. These families were content for the time being to worship in the Old Center School House. (present address, 1895 Davidson) In the fall of the same year the plot of ground was bought on which later a church building, a school building, and a parsonage were erected. These five acres of ground were purchased for \$125 from George German, one of the founding fathers. It is also recorded that the cornerstone cost the sum of twelve dollars. The church of today, 1990, stands on this same piece of land.



Rev. Doescher

This little flock was then ministered to by Missionary Lossner, and later by The Rev. Mertens. After Rev. Mertens, The Rev. Doescher, then stationed at Timber Creek, took charge, and was finally called by the congregation as its resident pastor. He was succeeded by the Rev. C. Wuensch. After Rev. Wuensch a certain Dr. Kugland, by profession a veterinary surgeon, offered his services as pastor to the congregation on the basis of his being well versed in the Scriptures. During his short tenure of the ministerial office the first parsonage was destroyed by fire, causing also the loss of many of the church records. The records were then begun by

the Rev. P. Studt, then pastor at Luzerne, Iowa, who ministered to the congregation during its pastoral vacancies.

On April 17, 1870, the Rev. Doescher, then living at Boone, Iowa, was privileged to confirm the first class consisting of the following catechumens: Katy Schaper, Minnie Schaper, Vena Eckhardt, Hanna Eckhardt, Caroline Eckhardt, Mary Bader, Tillie Bader, Fred Hilleman, August Tops, Mary Rafeld, Caroline Tops, Hanna German, Mary Eckhardt, and Edward Rafeld.

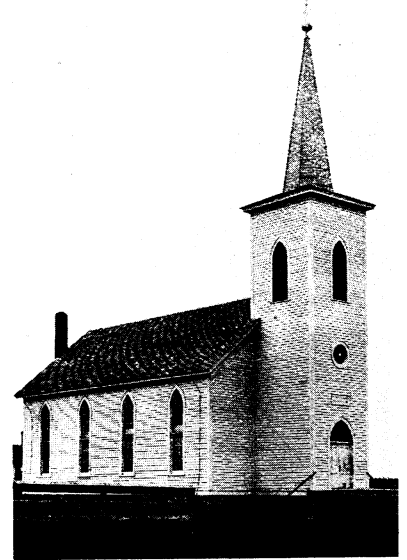
In the year 1872 the Rev. C. F. Herman was called and for twelve years, from August 4, 1872, to Easter 1885, he faithfully ministered to the congregation. A receipt has been found in the old

State Centre Feb 11th 1893

Received of L. Hennrich Three Hundred
and Fifty ⁷²/₁₀₀ Dollars this being payment
in full for lumber for School House
J. M. Smith

State Centre, Marshall Co., Iowa, Jan 6th 1877

Received of Henry L. Smith Esq
Thirty Four ~~70~~ Dollars this being
payment in full to this date for
German Church, account 342
Rev G. F. Hermanns account 31.34
John W. Fulkhill 34.76



First Church

The Rev. C. F. Herman



tar and to hear of all His wondrous works. At this early stage of St. John's history the congregation showed a healthy sign by being interested not only



Interior of first church

in its own welfare, but also in the development and extension of God's Kingdom in other localities. That the congregation was mission minded at that time can be seen from a paragraph gleaned from the fiftieth anniversary booklet of our sister congregation at Hubbard, Iowa. The paragraph reads, "A debt incurred through the building of the church soon caused great concern. The congregation was poor and the members few. Payment of the note was due. In their great distress the members appealed to the sister congregation at State Center. The fellow Christians at that place granted the Hubbard parish the right to solicit funds. A committee canvassed the French Grove congregation and raised sufficient money to liquidate the indebtedness. To this day St. John's congregation is indebted to the church at State Center for having helped to save the church. Humanly speaking, it was the support of these friends in Marshall County that saved the Lutheran cause at Hubbard."



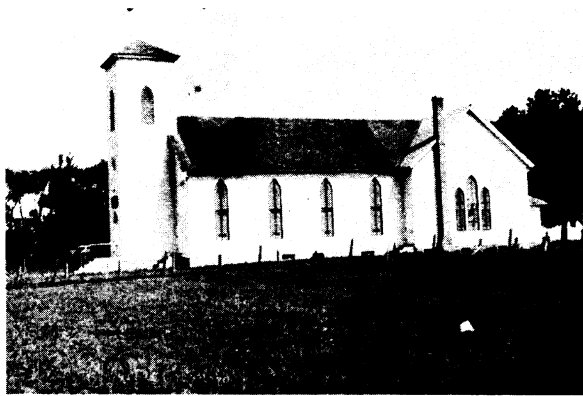
Second Parsonage



Rev. A. J. Boehm

The Rev. A. J. Boehm was the next pastor to serve as our shepherd. He was installed November 6, 1892. He also taught in the school along with his pastoral duties. School was not held on Friday and the

...ing 1911, was ... Sunday in Advent. The pipe organ was located on the north side of the old church and was operated by a hand pump bellows. When Pastor Boehm, who was also an organist, was ready to play, he would tap a little black pedal on the organ. This was the signal for an older boy assigned to the job, to pump the two-foot long handle which filled the bellows with air in order to obtain sound from the pipe organ. The church was also lit by kerosene lamps for evening services. During Pastor Boehm's tenure, a furnace was installed and only the older members who remembered the long line of stove pipes could fully appreciate this improvement. A new parsonage was built in 1900. During Pastor Boehm's shepherding the services were changed to English. Toward the close of 1911, after nineteen years of faithful and successful service, Rev. Boehm accepted a call to the Lutheran congregation at Ogden, Iowa.



Remodeled Church

The Rev. H. Markworth became St. John's next pastor, being installed in January of 1912. He was a true shepherd and the work of the Lord prospered under his faithful ministrations. He was instrumental in organizing our present Ladies Aid Society. While Rev. Markworth was pastor of this congregation the membership had grown to such an extent that an addition had to be built in 1917. This addition to the church increased the seating capacity considerably. The pipe organ was moved to the south side of the new addition and was now operated by an electric powered pump since it celebrated its

Design

The Rev. A. Brauer was called to be Rev. Markworth's successor. He faithfully served the congregation from 1920-1924. He was a good sermonizer. All those who have heard him will testify to the fact that he could really give you a heart to heart talk. It was with reluctance that the congregation gave him a peaceful release to take up a charge at Keystone, Iowa. The Luther League was organized while Rev. Brauer was here. This organization later became the Walther League.



Rev. A. Brauer

The Rev. H. C. Koepke became the pastor in 1924. Being mission minded himself he had the gift of persuading others to give and live to extend the Savior's Kingdom. Mission treasuries, charities and other worthy causes had an ardent and enthusiastic advocate in Rev. Koepke. It was he who prevailed upon the congregation to organize and establish a Sunday School in 1928. It was also Pastor Koepke who saw the need and possibility of a congregation at Marshalltown. The growth and progress of our sister congregation shows the wisdom of his vision and labor. Also three of his sons entered the ministry of our Lord. Although in failing health Rev. Koepke labored faithfully until the Lord called him home, and thus he reaped the end of faith, which is the soul's salvation. This faith, with the aid of God's Holy Spirit, he planted and nourished in the hearts of others through his preaching and teaching.

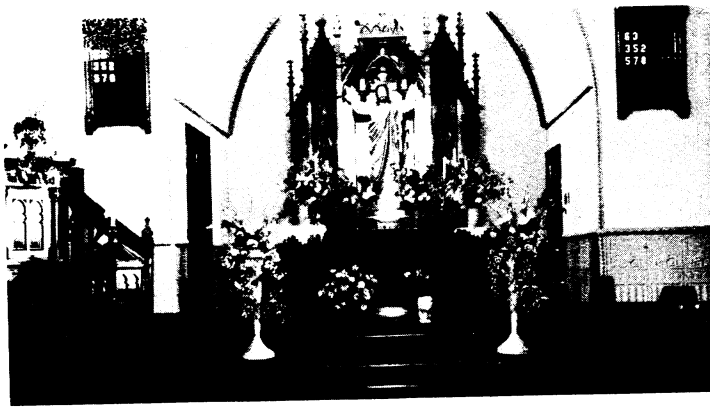
The Rev. William J. F. Zabel was installed as our pastor on May 3, 1931 and served until October 1940. St. John's celebrated its Diamond Jubilee during his pastorage. He was given a peaceful release to become pastor at Charlotte, Iowa.



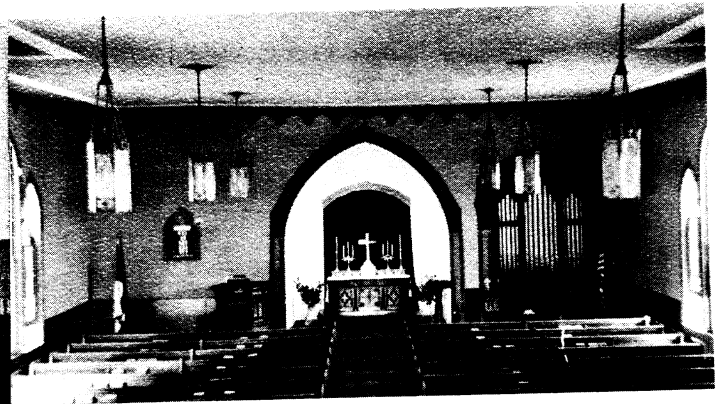
Rev. Perlich became the shepherd of St. John's in January, 1941. He came from Keokuk, Iowa. He served us faithfully for fifteen years. The German services were discontinued entirely in 1941. The order of service was changed also. The constitution was revised in 1942.

The church was completely remodeled, refurnished, and rededicated at a cost of \$10,000. This rededication of the interior was held on June 27, 1943. The basement was remodeled in 1944. The highest membership was attained under the leadership of Rev. Perlich. It was 740 baptized souls, 536 communicants, and 133 voters.

Then God in His wisdom allowed a disastrous fire on the night of January 1, 1945. The fire was discovered by the custodian, Henry Oehlsen, about 8:20 in the evening. Attempts to enter the church to save the church Bible and other records proved futile and St. John's church was completely destroyed. Most all the records were lost. The loss was about \$35,000. This fire caused many conscientious decisions to be made. Many meetings were held and many prayers were spoken asking for the Lord's guidance. Some wanted the church to remain at the country location. Some wanted to build a church in town. A peaceful release was granted 164 communicants, 220 souls, on April 8, 1945. This group formed Trinity Lutheran Church, State Center, which was organized on April 11, 1945.



Old Interior



Remodeled Interior

St. John's held services in the State Center High School gym, now the Middle School, until April, 1947. Weddings and funerals were held in other Lutheran churches in the area. Organizations of the church had their meetings in the homes of the members. After many delays by the architect, the ground breaking for the present church edifice was held on June 23, 1946. We began to have church services in the basement of the new church in April, 1947. The cornerstone for the church was laid in a special Thanksgiving Day service, 1948. At that time thank offering gifts in the amount of \$27,000 were placed on the Lord's altar.

The dedication of our present church building was held April 16, 1950, along with a celebration of the 85th anniversary of the church's organization. More than one thousand persons attended the dedication service. Friends and relatives came from all parts of the state to share in the joy of St. John's consecration of its new house of worship. The cost was set at \$225,000 plus many, many hours of labor by members. Indeed, God was gracious and blessed all the members as He had for so many years, for the church building was paid for soon after. In May 1955, lightning struck the steeple and caused a small fire. The damage was about \$5,000. Also, at this time Rev. Perlich was very reluctantly released to accept a call to Janesville, Minnesota, and preached his farewell sermon on January 8, 1956. The vacancy was served by The Rev. E. L. Runge of Redeemer Lutheran Church at Marshalltown, Iowa.



CHURCH AND PARSONAGE BUILDING COMMITTEES: Back row, left to right; Edwin Jensen, William Mehlisch, Harley Smith, Eldon Edler, Karl Bangtson, Theobald Ambrecht, Duane Conkin. Front row; Arthur Riese, Ralph Riese, William Ambrecht, Arthur Pfantz, Elmer Hartwig, Roland Wengert, Sr. (Not shown, Carl Davis), (Deceased, Arnold Riese).

Page 3

Marshalltown, Iowa, Times-Republican

1,000 Crowd Into St. John's For Dedication

By Royal Ackerman
(T.-R. Staff Writer)

State Center—(Special)—More than 1,000 persons were at St. John's Lutheran church north of State Center Sunday morning to attend the dedication of the new church.

Friends of the church came from all parts of the state to see the ceremonies and take part in the first services there.

Veterans Are Honored

The American Legion color guard raised the flag at 10 a. m. and Rev. George H. Perlich, pastor of the church, gave a short talk honoring members of the church who served in the armed forces in World War II.

This was followed by a brief ceremony at the front door of the church at which the doors were officially unlocked. Members of the church council gave the minister the bible and sacred vessels to be placed in the sanctuary.

Oetting Gives Sermon

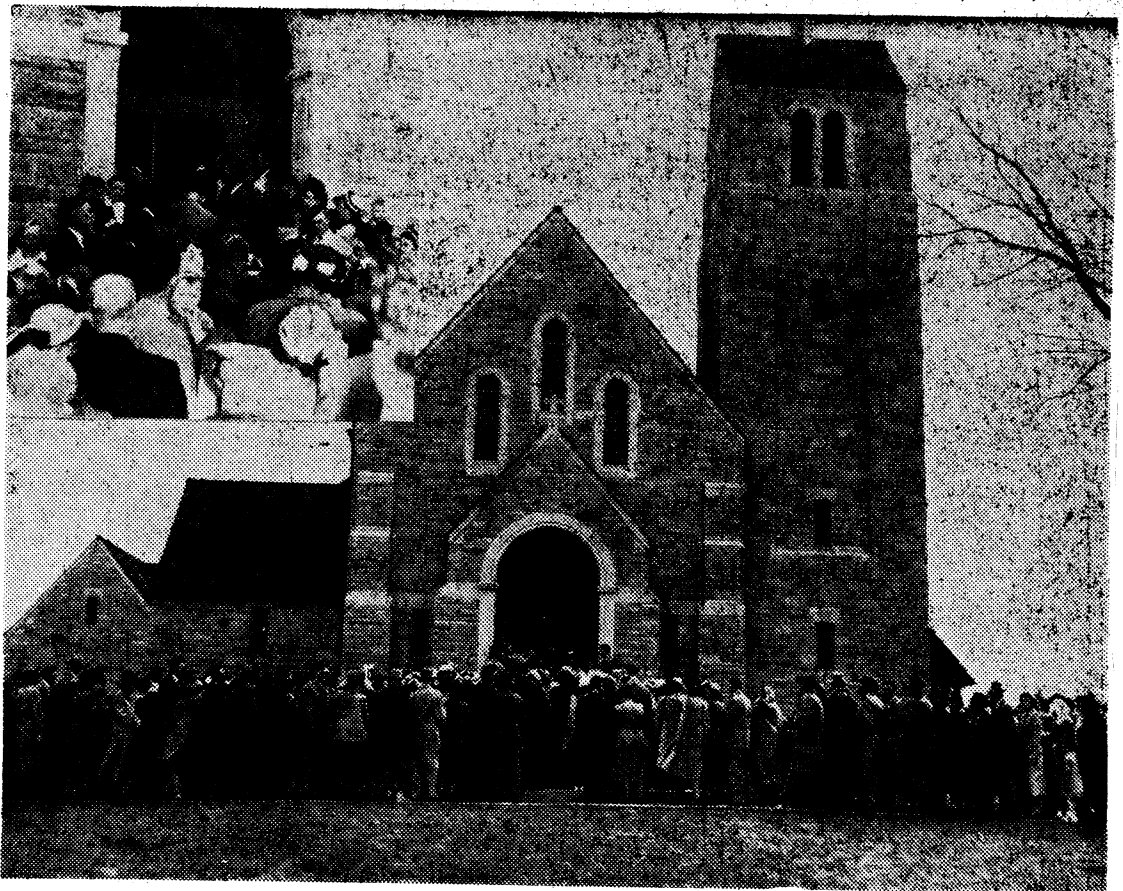
Rev. W. D. Oetting, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran church of Waterloo and president of Iowa District East, gave the dedicatory sermon.

The overflowing congregation filled the church including the private chapel, the auditorium in the basement and even into the school class rooms. They were able to hear the services thru the sound speaker system with speakers in each room.

Community Dinner Held

After the services most of the congregation stayed for a community dinner at the church and inspected the features of the new structure at their leisure.

At the evening service the organ, chimes and carillon were dedicated. The service for the evening was given by Rev. Mr. Perlich.



—T.-R. Staff Photo

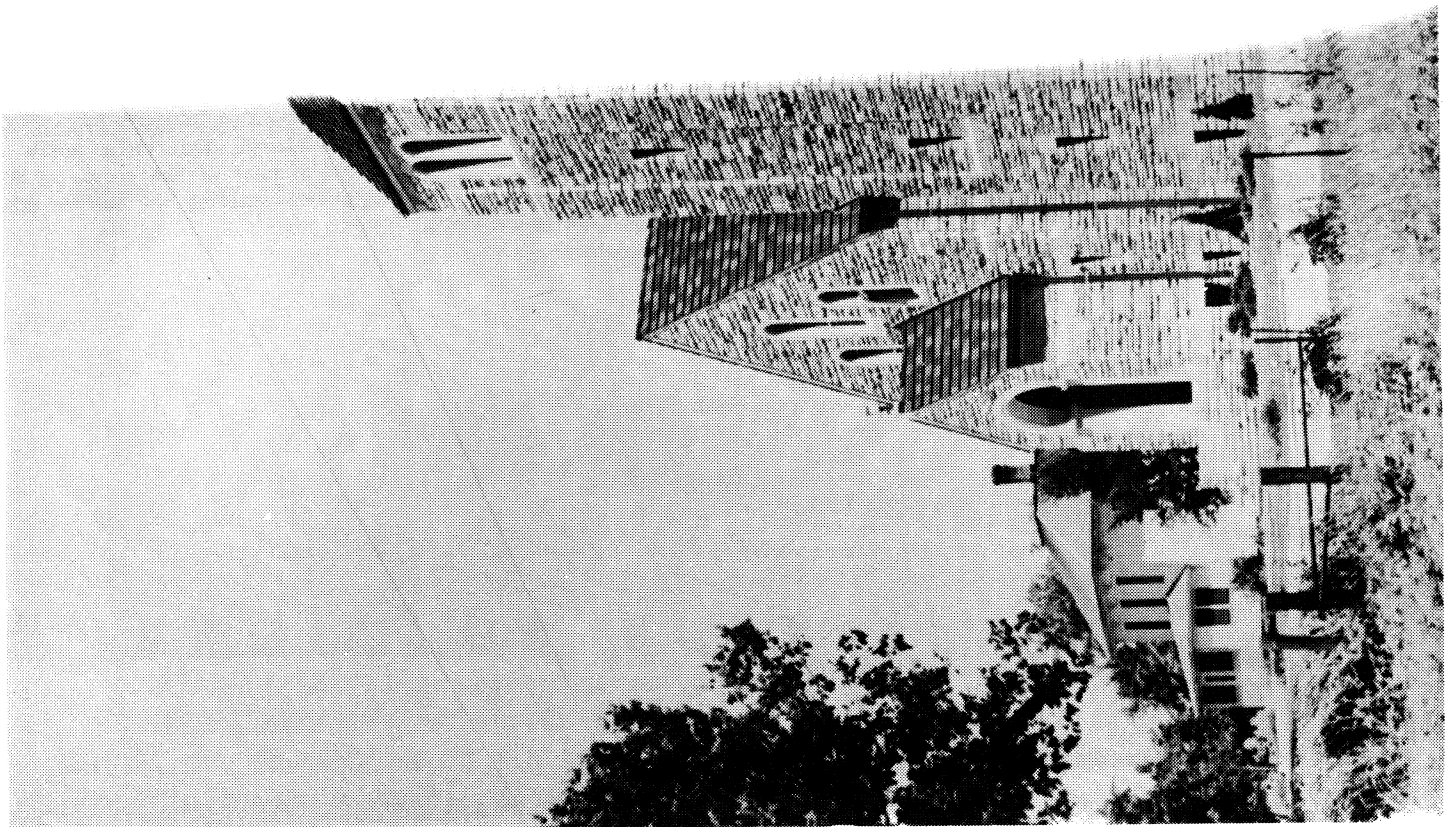
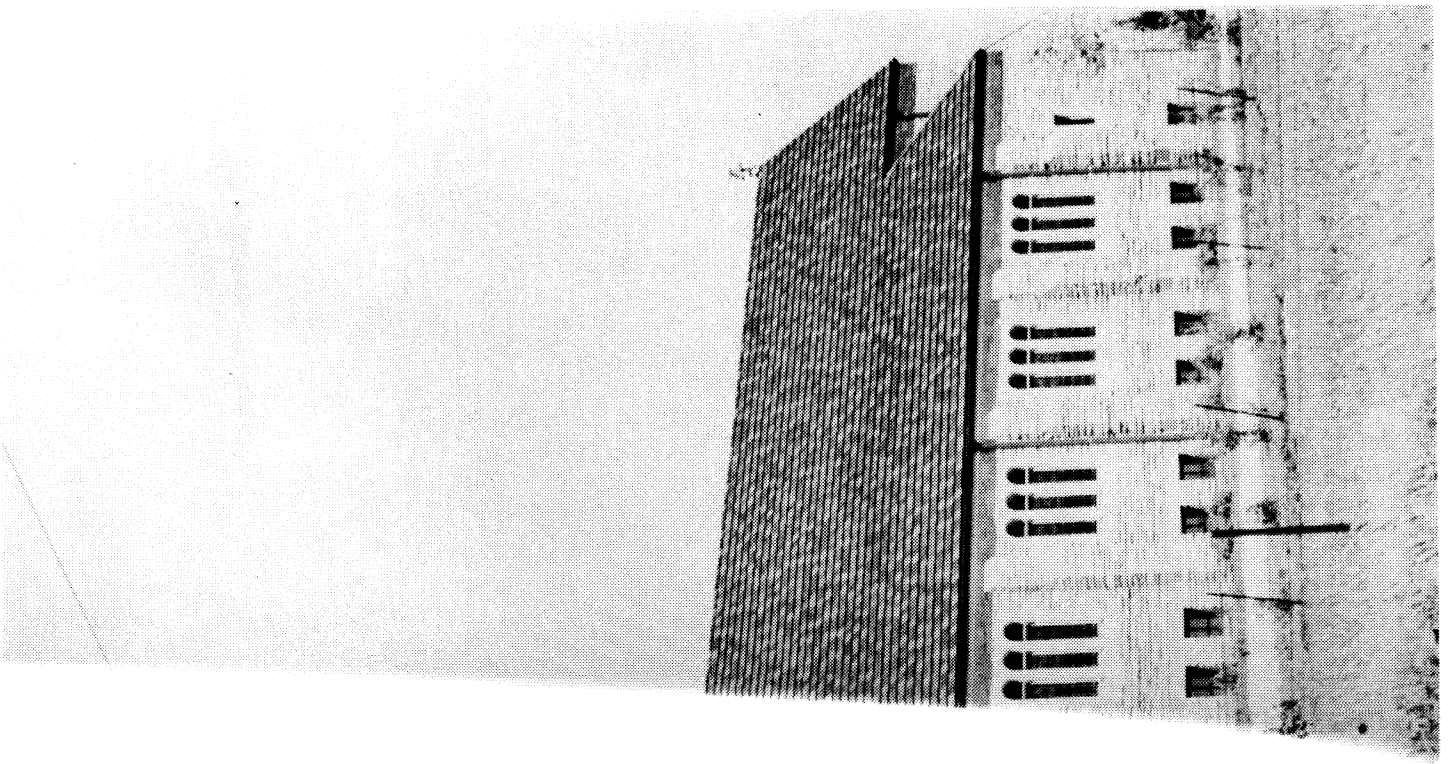
CROWD SWARMS INTO CHURCH — When St. John's Lutheran church, four miles north of State Center, was dedicated Sunday morning the congregation filled most of the rooms of the church including the basement auditorium. Part of the crowd is shown entering the church after the door-opening ceremonies pictured in the inset photo.

Jaeger Plays Organ

Prof. John A. Jaeger, principal of Bethlehem Lutheran school, Evanston, Ill., was guest organist for the day. Following the organ dedication services, Prof. Jaeger played an organ recital.

The \$225,000 church replaces the church which burned Jan. 1, 1945. Ground was broken for it June 23, 1946, and the cornerstone was laid Thanksgiving day, 1948.

St. John's congregation was organized April 17, 1865, and is celebrating its 85th anniversary together with the dedication of the new church in six days of special services ending with a dinner Friday night.



THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME FOUNDING FATHERS ---



Henry Oehlsen



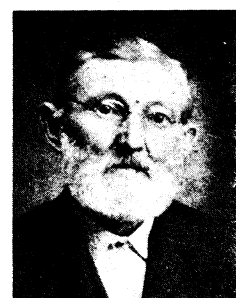
August German



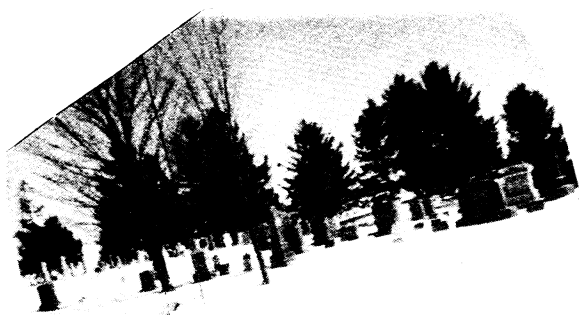
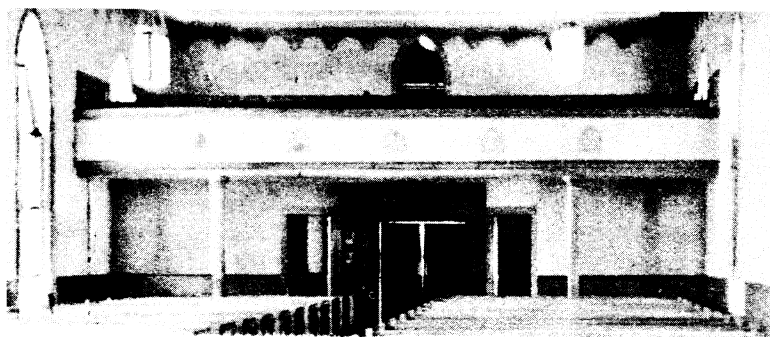
George German



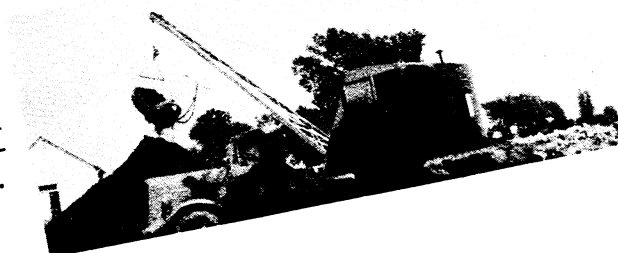
Louis Hartwig



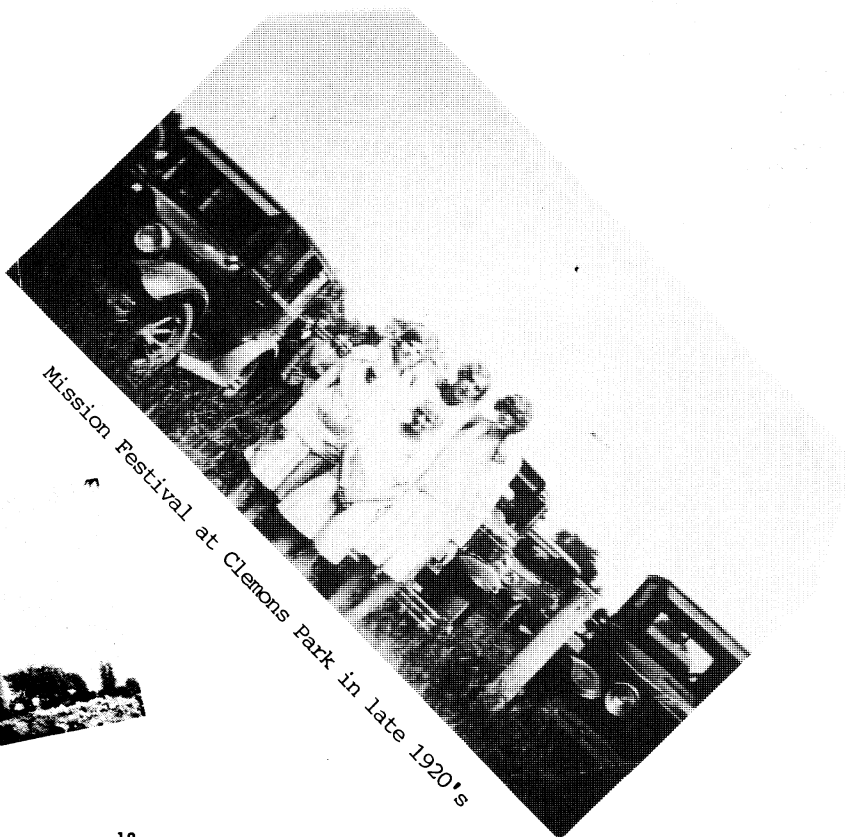
Louis Frohwein



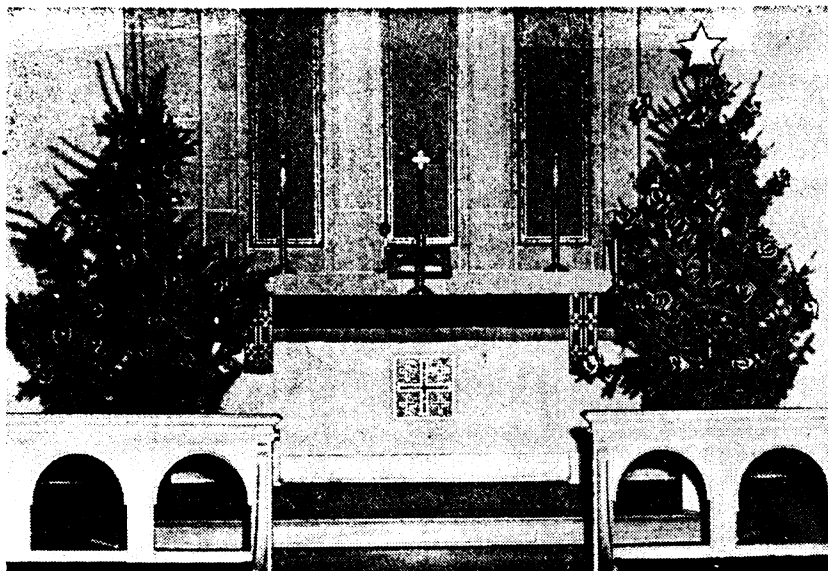
St. John's Cemetery



Construction of the present church.



Mission Festival at Clemons Park in late 1920's



St. John's Church Revives Ancient Christmas Custom

—T.-R. Staff Photo

Yule Custom From Middle Ages Is Observed At State Center

St. John's Lutheran church, four blocks from the State Center, is observing a custom from the middle ages this Christmas in the use of the tree symbolic of the fall of man and the tree of salvation in the chancel of the church.

The only decoration on the tree symbolic of the fall of man is 33 apples. The apple traditionally represents the fruit with which Satan tempted Eve and 33 are used because Christ was on earth 33 years. The base of this tree is scarlet to remind worshippers of the passage in Isaiah, "Thou your sins be as scarlet."

The tree of salvation is topped with a five-pointed star representing the head, shoulders and feet of Christ. The 33 roses fastened to this tree symbolize life coming out of death. The 33 candles on this tree are representative of Christ, the light of the world.

The base of this tree is white in contrast to the scarlet of the first tree for Isaiah says, "Thou your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow."

In addition to these symbolic trees, a large Christmas tree has been placed outside the chancel with the usual Christmas decorations. The altar guild was in charge of these decorations.

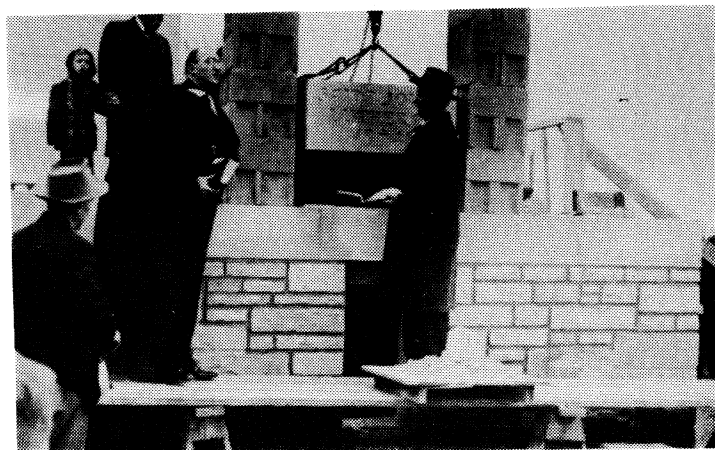
The Walther league has had charge of the outdoor decorations of the new church. The west wing of the church is decorated with a seven-foot high nativity scene and the church is illuminated by multicolored floodlights concealed beneath the buttresses. The lights are turned on from 7 to 9 p. m. each evening during the Christmas season and Christmas carols are played from the tower from 7 to 8 p. m.

Committee members in charge of this work were Donald Hunzelman, Richard Armbrecht and Mrs. Lois Riese.



Groundbreaking for parsonage 1964

Cornerstone Laying November 1948

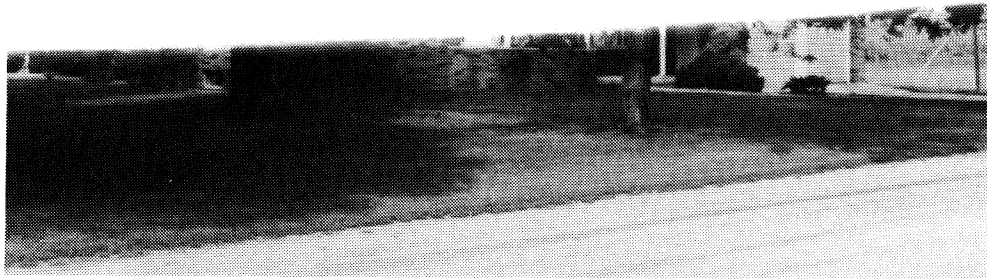
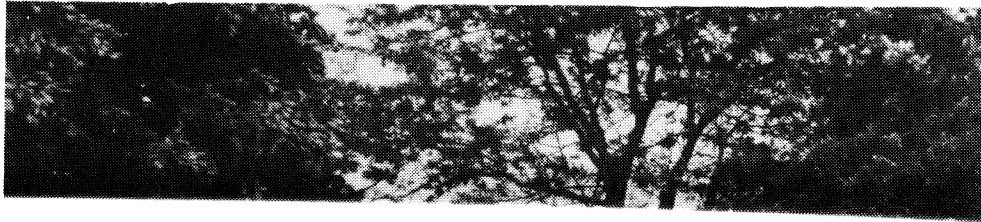


Rosalie Krueger taught parochial classes in this basement room before schoolroom was finished.



The Rev. Walter B.L. Strandes was called to succeed Rev. Perlich. He faithfully administered to all, especially to the aged and shutins. He was installed on September 23, 1956 and went to Elma, Iowa in August 1961. Pastor Haerther from Trinity, State Center served as vacancy pastor.

The Rev. Robert L. Thaelke was called from Idaho, and was installed on June 3, 1962. He was our pastor until November 15, 1964. Pastor Thaelke manifested a deep interest in the music of the church and added much to our Communion Service by chanting the liturgy. He was especially helpful to the young people of our congregation. Near the end of 1962 the church constitution and by-laws were recorded at the County Recorders Office. Ground breaking for a new parsonage was held April, 1964. The old parsonage was razed by the local members the week before. It was finished early in 1965 at a cost of about \$30,000, and dedicated May 9, 1965. During the building of the new parsonage Rev. Thaelke was released to begin his new position in Kewanee, Illinois. The Rev. Erwin Wiedbush from Trinity, State Center served as vacancy pastor following his release. Pastor Thaelke is presently located at Veneta, Oregon serving the congregation of Christ Lutheran.



Rev. R. L. Thaelke



Rev. Walter B. L. Strandes

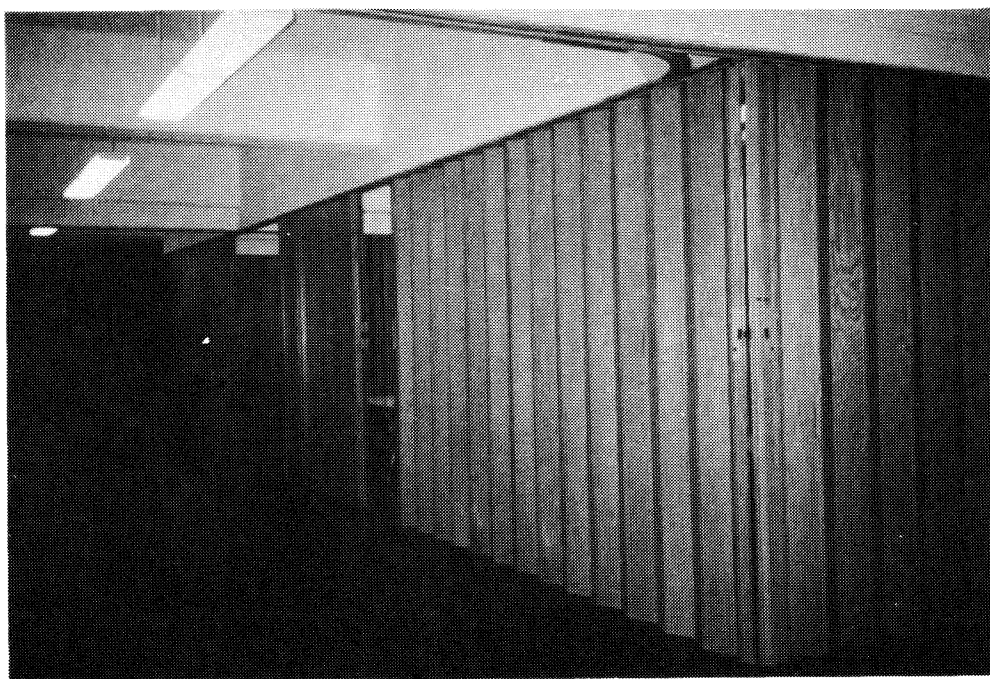
The Rev. E. L. Stuempfig, who had served as pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Iowa, became St. John's seventeenth pastor. He was installed on April 25, 1965. On May 16, 1965, shortly after the arrival of Pastor Stuempfig, St. John's celebrated its 100th anniversary with a Centennial Festival Service featuring former pastors the Rev. George H. Perlich as speaker and the Rev. Robert L. Thielke as liturgist. Five hundred, eighty-nine people gathered for this service. The Centennial Confirmation Reunion Service held in the afternoon and attended by 474 people featured 3 sons of the congregation as speakers. They were: the Rev. Rodney Riese, the Rev. Charles Bell, and the Rev. Ross Schuler.

Beginning the year of Pastor Stuempfig's tenure in 1965 the Saturday school of religion was expanded to include grades 5 and 6 taught by Mrs. Ruth Stuempfig and grades 7 and 8 taught by Pastor Stuempfig. Also during the years Pastor Stuempfig served our congregation, the Ladies Aid funded the carpeting of the church aisles and the chancel, and organized a church library. The Christian and American flags were displayed for the first time. The Walther League donated new Bibles for the church pews in 1968.

A youth organization was originally organized under the guidance of the Rev. A. Brauer who served the congregation from 1920-1924. It was first called Luther League. This group later became the Walther League on October 1, 1978, with the Inter-

which
ts
in
League
In 1978, a
The object of the
group is to promote Christian fellowship, to provide a program which will increase the Christian knowledge of the confirmed, and to prepare the youth of our congregation for a more consecrated service of Him who died for them and arose again.

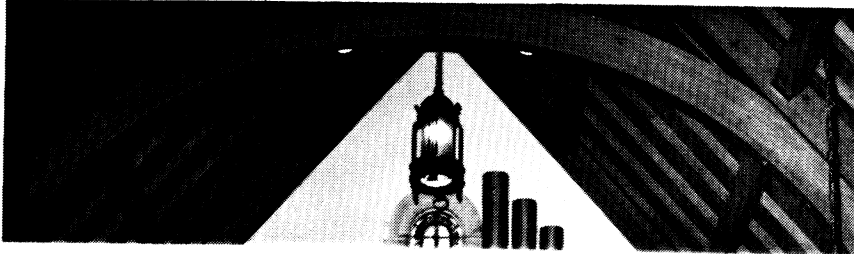
Also in 1969, room dividers were installed in the church auditorium at a cost of a little over \$7,000.



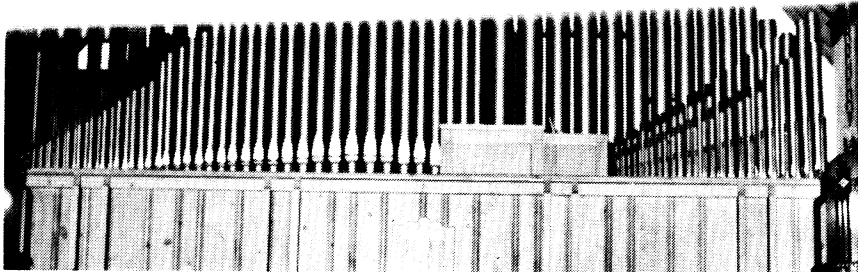
Rev. E. L. Stuempfig

Memorial money was used to construct a bulletin board in front of the church in 1970. This same year the guidelines for a student aid fund were adopted which were later restructured in 1979. A Couples Club was formed in 1970 which eventually became involved with Clemons Lutheran School and blended in with school activities. In 1965 and 1971 new pianos were given as gifts through memorials. Provisions for the Iowa Non-Profit Corporations Act were adopted in 1972. Completion of the blacktop road north of the church occurred in 1973. The congregation affirmed their support of a doctrinal statement by Dr. J. A. O. Preus, "A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles", with a signed document. On May 5, 1973 the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod observed its 125th anniversary with a "Celebration Sunday" marking its humble beginnings of sixteen congregations in 1847 expanding to over 6000 congregations in 1972. In conjunction with Synod's anniversary, St. John's also participated in the "Key 73" evangelism effort which concluded in 1975 and involved congregations in both the United States and Canada.

In April of 1974 a contract was entered with the Möller Pipe Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland for an 18 rank organ at a total cost of \$48,313.42 complete with installation by February of 1975. It has 1081 pipes, ranging in size from 16 foot principals to



a small piccolo. The console has two manuals with 61 notes each and a 32 note pedal. It is operated by electro-pneumatic action and has drawknob controls, similar to larger concert organs. The organ was



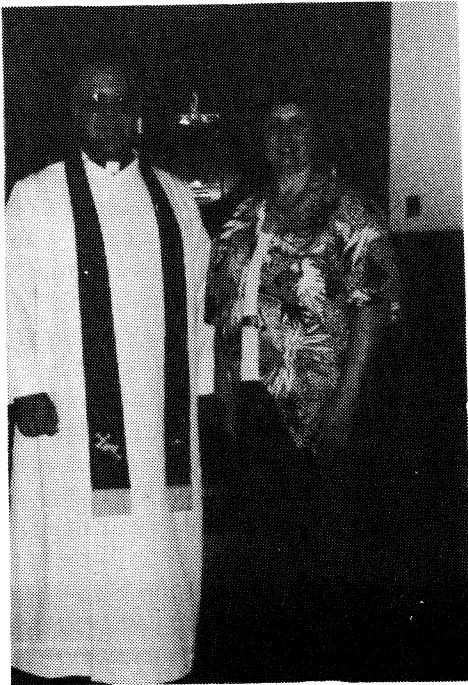
played music at St. Paul's College in Concordia, Missouri as the guest organist.

The church celebrated its 110th anniversary May 25, 1975. Dr. J. A. O. Preus was the guest speaker. Dr. Preus had been president of the Concordia Theological Seminary at Springfield, Illinois and became our new Synodical president in 1969.



After ten years of faithful service to our congregation, Pastor Stuempfig retired from full-time ministerial duties effective July 31, 1975 and the Rev. Thomas Wegener from St. John Lutheran Church at Hubbard, Iowa served as our vacancy pastor.

The Rev. Lyle Klemz was called from Covington, Michigan and was installed November 16, 1975 at 7:30 P.M. During his tenure, cushions for nave pews and chancel chairs were purchased through memorials. Many will remember his weekly column in the State Center Enterprise known as "Klergy Klatter" by Klemz. Pastor Klemz served the congregation until April 20, 1977 when he was released to Trinity at Merrill, Wisconsin. The Rev. Richard Pierson from Trinity at State Center filled in as vacancy pastor. Pastor Klemz is currently serving at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Rocky Road, Colorado.



Pastor & Mrs. Klemz



Pastor Flanscha

The Rev. Marvin L. Flanscha was called from Lake Park, Iowa and installed August 21, 1977 at 7 P.M. In June, prior to Pastor Flanscha's arrival, new radiators were purchased in an attempt to alleviate the heating problems in the church building. In October Pastor Flanscha presented to the voters possible alternatives which he had discussed with a heating contractor. An entire new heating system was installed the following year. The contract was let to E. F. Mack of Marshalltown for the approximate cost of \$22,000. In connection with the new furnace installation, the old fuel oil storage tank was replaced at an approximate cost of \$2,500. A Corporate Authorization Resolution required by Central State Bank made provisions for the trustees to borrow money whenever necessary to pay the heating contractor on time at various stages of completion. In 1979 two large ceiling fans furnished by the heating contractor, were installed in the church. The congregation paid the cost of installation. This same year, because the heating was inadequate, four new larger fan-forced heating units were replaced by the furnace suppliers at their cost.

During 1978 church records were reorganized and updated. Clara Andresen, Estella Bell, and Frieda Gerke began the task of translating the old handwritten German church records into English. A daughter of the congregation, Jean Armbricht, was commissioned for missionary service with Lutheran Bible Translators July 16, 1978 and left for Sierra Leone, West Africa, in early August to also serve as a teacher for children of the missionaries. Beginning January 1, 1979, the voters began working under the new rules of the Constitution and By-laws which had been revised and adopted the preceding year. It was at this time through the revision of the constitution that after 114 years the name "St. John's" officially became "St. John." This was done so that it would be grammatically correct to speak about those entities of St. John as being St. John's. (As examples: St. John's Ladies Aid or St. John's church building. When the name of our church was St. John's proper grammar would require that one would have to speak of St. John's' Ladies Aid or St. John's' church building). In the remainder of this history "St. John's" will be used when referring to anything belonging to or a part of St. John. In the fall of 1979 the Clemons school property was purchased to be operated as "our parochial school" teaching both academic and religious subjects. (See following chapter.)

In 1980 Pastor Flanscha constructed a model for plex-i-glass storm windows to conserve heat. This model was accepted by the voters resulting in the building of 27 windows in the church proper at a cost of \$36 each. In addition small storm windows were also constructed. In 1984 storm windows were constructed for the upper classroom. In 1982 the Ladies Aid purchased two air conditioning units for installation in two windows of the auditorium. The remaining windows were replaced with glass block at approximately \$15 per window in 1983. Carpeting was installed in the auditorium replacing the tile. St. John signed with the Jasper County Water Association for rural water. The actual hook-up occurred in 1985.



Moving old schoolhouse

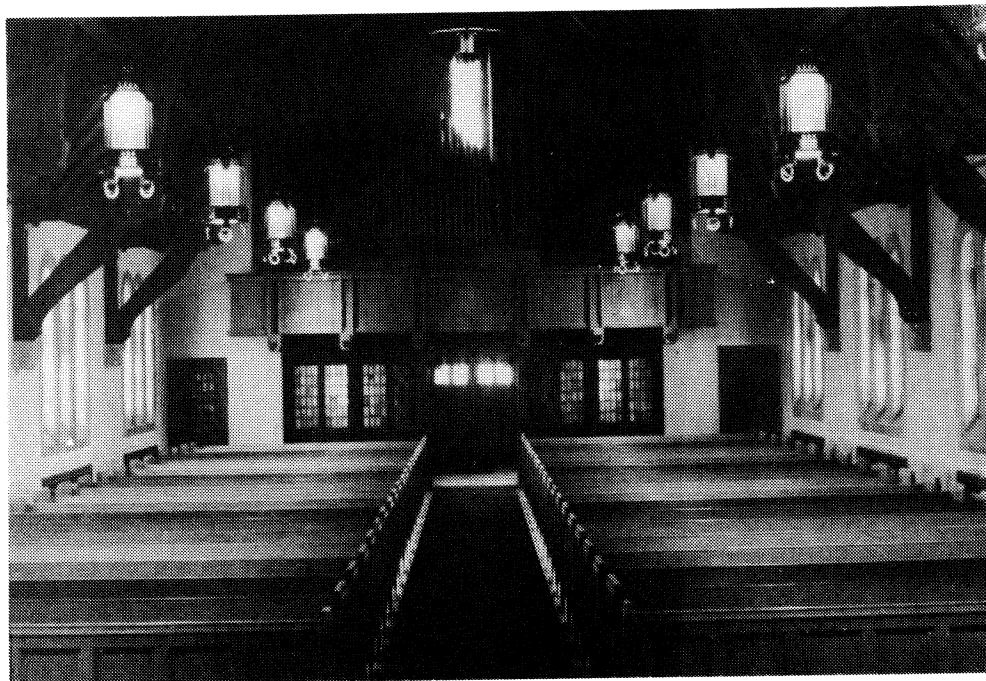


Photo on the right shows
School Children in 1915

The Vesper Circle was organized in 1981 by a group of ladies whose initial goal was to establish and organize the present library at our Clemons Lutheran School. Other goals of the group include Bible study, church and school projects and sharing each other's concerns. One of their major endeavors involves the annual August rummage sale in conjunction with a bake sale held at Clemons Lutheran School.

In 1981 Iowa District West established a mission church at Nevada to become known as Faith Lutheran with Pastor Flanscha serving as its first pastor. The first worship service was held 8 A.M. November 29, 1981 at an academy previously operated by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. On November 28, 1982 the Nevada mission marked its first anniversary with 60 baptized members and Pastor Flanscha continuing to serve the fledgeling congregation. Mrs. John Maddick served as organist. In February of 1983 the voters of Faith Lutheran issued a call for a full-time pastor from the 1983 seminary graduating class. The congregation also received notice at that time to vacate the academy. The Farm Bureau Building in Nevada was temporarily obtained for worship and operation of their pre-school. In April word was received that the Rev. Dale Huelsman from Mayfield Heights, Ohio, would serve as pastor, and he was installed June 3, 1983 at 7 P.M. Meanwhile, Iowa District West approved the building site for Faith Lutheran on three acres of property behind the Federal Land Bank located on "new" 30. A new church building was constructed in 1984, the third year of Faith's existence, and was dedicated February 10, 1985.

On May 5, 1982, St. John had their first "practice" with the 200 new hymnals which had been purchased through a memorial. Dedication of the new hymnals was observed June 6, 1982 which also included the first opportunity to use the new communion liturgy. Previous approval of the new hymnals had occurred at the Synodical Convention at St. Louis in 1979.

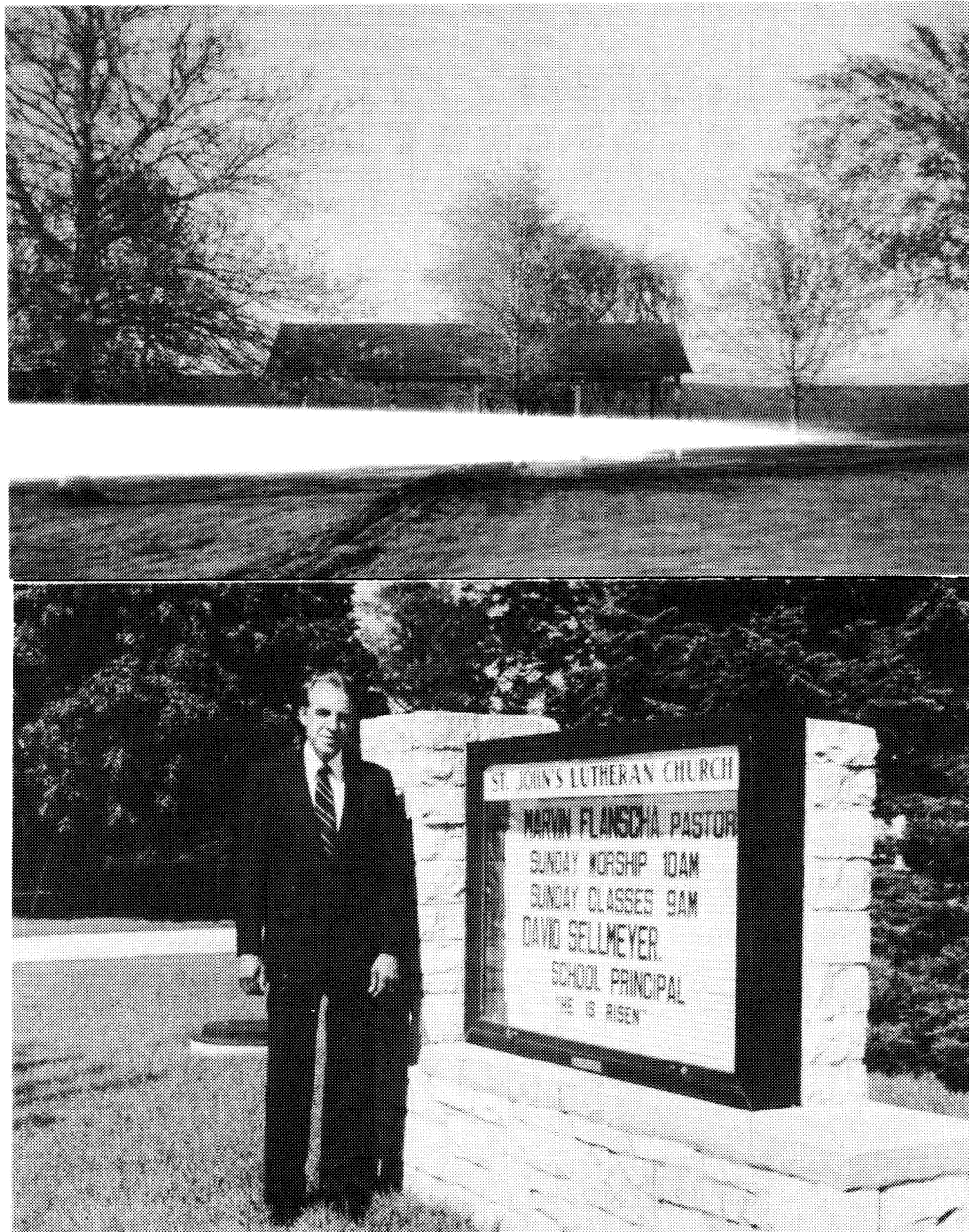


In the following fall on September 27, 1983, the teacherage occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Levenhagen burned. (More information in the chapter about Clemons Lutheran School)

In 1984 our school principal, Mr. Levenhagen, who was also an organist, had discovered defects in our organ and as a result approximately 2000 places where plastic was used to control air movement were replaced with the "old stand by" leather. This was done by the Moller Pipe Organ Company at no cost to St. John.

Also in 1984 the "Y'S" began building a shelter house on the northeast section of the church property which they finished in 1985 complete with water, electricity, picnic tables and a barbecue pit. Improvements have been made on this project up to the present. They also purchased a secretary's desk in 1985.

The New International Version of Bibles were placed in the church pews through memorials in 1985. On June 23, 1985, a son of the congregation, Michael Maddick, was ordained into the ministry at a special service at St. John at 7 P.M. with Pastor E. L. Stuempfig as speaker. The following Sunday, "Mike" preached his first sermon as an ordained minister at his "home" church.



On January 19, 1986, designated as "Life Sunday" by our Synod, St. John formed a local chapter of "Lutherans for Life" with the constitution being adopted in August. In October a "Lutherans for Life" convention was held in Des Moines with Iowa's Governor Terry Branstad and Missouri Synod President Ralph Bohlmann featured as speakers. A Lutherans for Life rally was hosted by St. John in April of 1989. A daughter of our congregation, Kathryn Moore, composed words and music to a beautiful copyrighted song entitled "A Prayer for the Unborn" in 1988 which was first sung at St. John by the Ladies Choir on Life Sunday, January 22, 1989. Again on Life Sunday, January 21, 1990, the entire congregation was privileged to sing this lovely lullaby dedicated to the million of slain infants in our nation through the horrors of abortion.

A PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN

Music and Words by Kathryn A. Moore

1. Dear Lord of Life to you we pray for those who need to - day,
2. Bold Back the hand of those who dare to take this li-fe a - way.

1. Thy gen-tle hand to guide them as they tra-vel down lifes way.
2. And fill their hearts with love for you so they may kn-ow each day.

1. Help them to know that ti - my child who lies there sa-fe and warm,
2. That ti - my life they dare to slay be- longs to on - ly you

1. De - serves a cha-nce to see your world and has a right to be born.
2. And let them know these in-fants small are all your chil-dren too.

Ending: Verse 2 only.

2. These little ba - bies yet un - born are all God's children too.

© 1988 Kathryn A. Moore

In 1988 four communion services were added per year. This also marked the beginning use of individual cups for six communion services during the year.

One of the most active organizations in the history of the church and still in existence has been the St. John's Ladies Aid, organized on July 19, 1914, under the leadership of the Rev. H. Markworth. Prior to this time a Ladies Aid and a Young Ladies Aid had been organized in 1887 with the merger of both groups in 1914. Throughout the years the ladies have served the congregation by countless improvements in the church, parsonage, teacherage (no longer in existence), and most recently the Clemons Lutheran School. Substantial contributions for missions and charitable organizations have been donated and along the way many banquets plus meals for funerals have also been provided. St. John's Ladies Aid is a member of and takes an active part in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, an auxiliary organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, which provides a threefold program of missionary education, missionary inspiration, and missionary service for the women of our synod.

Throughout its 125 year history, the members of St. John have given many generous memorials and outright individual donations for further enhancement and beautification of its church facilities. St. John also continues to generously contribute to numerous Christian charities and has always been very supportive of expansion programs set forth by Synod.

In June of 1989, the congregation chairman appointed committees for preparation of the 125th anniversary of St. John to be celebrated June 10, 1990. Photographs for a pictorial directory were taken in August of 1989. The ten year history of Clemons Lutheran School was written and the 125 year history of St. John was updated.

As this book is being printed final plans are being made for a music festival is to be held the Sun-
day, June 10, 1990, in the church at the regular time with the Rev. Michael Maddick being the guest speaker. Following a dinner the congregation will gather in the tent for a special afternoon service of praise with Iowa-East District President, the Rev. Alvin Barry, being the guest speaker.

125 years! Truly God has been good! To Him be the glory!

Present Statistics, January 1, 1990

Baptized Members 444

Communicant Members 338

Voting Members 57

Sunday School Enrollment 69

There are three former pastor still living, namely, Rev. Ewald Stuempfig, Rev. Lyle Klemz, and Rev. Robert L. Thaelke.

The Lord also went with our members who served in the Armed Services of our country. Approximately nineteen served in World War I and some 50 men and women served in World War II. The supreme sacrifice was paid by Harland Pfantz in World War I and by Morris Fricke in World War II. Later, Kenneth Schuler died while serving his country. A number of members served in the Korean and Viet Nam Wars but by God's grace no lives were lost.

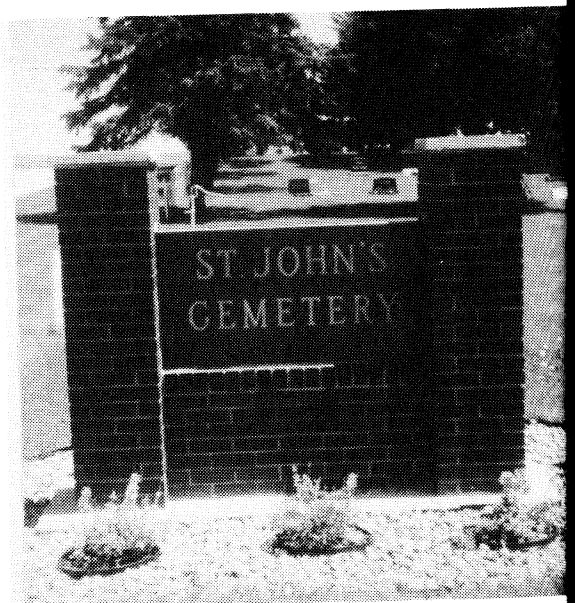
Cemetery

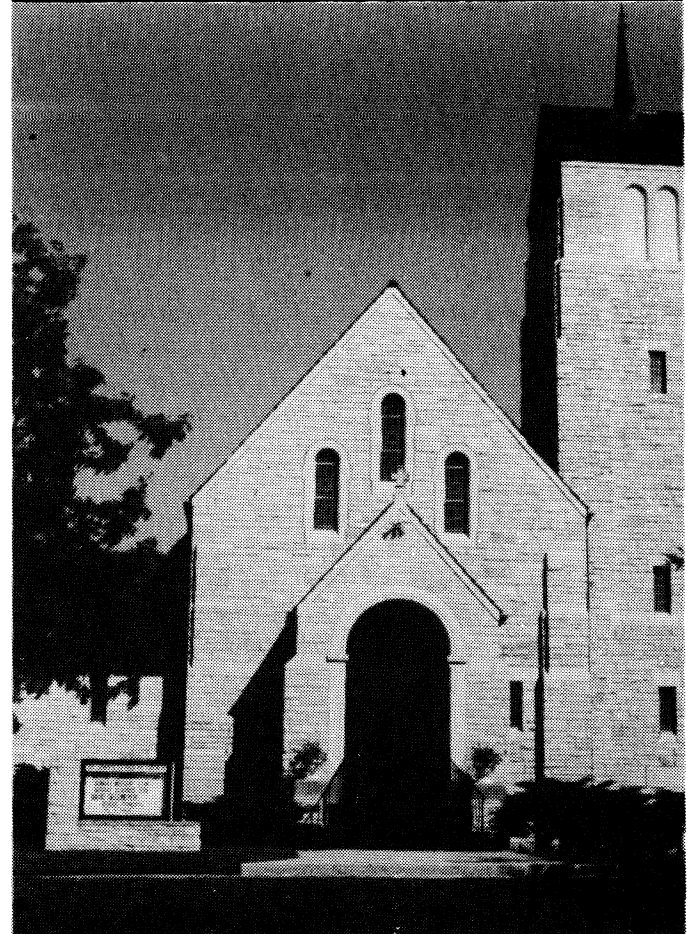
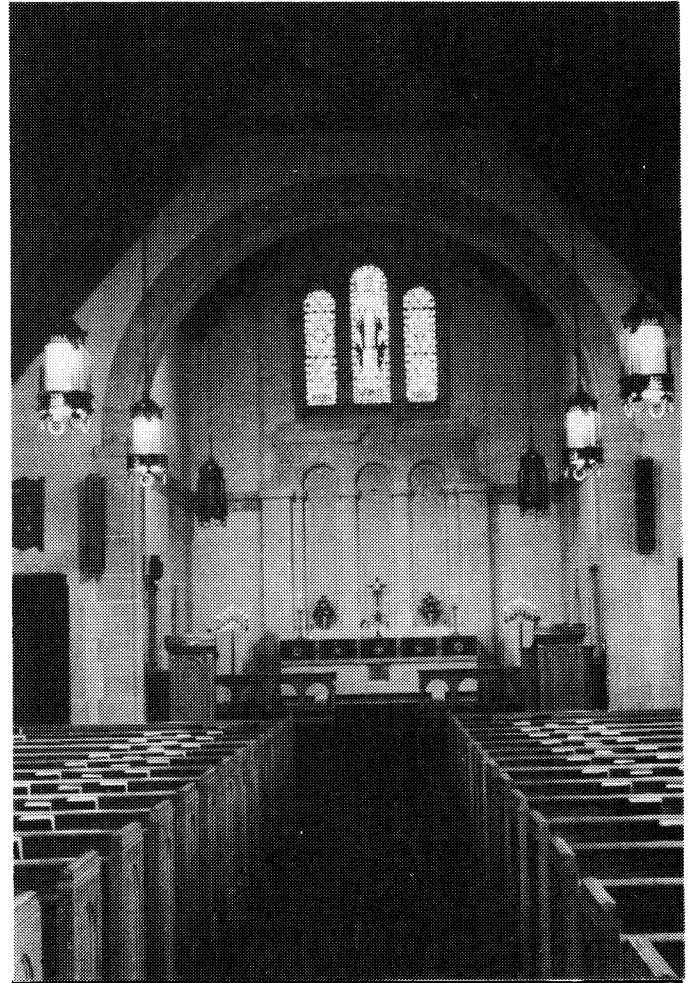
St. John has maintained a cemetery from almost its beginning for our departed brothers and sisters.

The first grave sites were placed near the gate extending in a row to the south. Fredricka Kuhlmann, who died in 1874, was the first burial in St. John's Cemetery and the second was George A. Wengert in 1875. Christian Hoberland, 1815-1881 is the earliest

placed at a cost of \$2044.70. Memorial Day, 1972, was chosen for the dedication of the marker.

A cluster of flags (several flags were given as memorials) was obtained for the cemetery in 1976. A year later, a permanent brick sign was erected at an approximate cost of \$750 on which was engraved in marble, "St. John's Cemetery."





Deed Record No. 94, Marshall County.

Garner, Hesser & Ourl, Manufacturers, Des Moines

Gustav Stähler wife
TO
The German Evangelical Lutheran
Saint John Congregation

Entered for taxation 28th Feb - 1879

W. French Auditor.

Filed for Record the 28th day of Feb -

A. D. 1879, at 12 o'clock M.

H. H. Hammond Recorder.

This Deed of Bargain and Sale, made and executed the 31st day of October
A. D. 1878, by and between Gustav Stähler and Sophia M Stähler his wife
of the County of Marshall and State of Iowa part 1st of the first part, and
The German Evangelical Lutheran Saint John Congregation of Marshall County and State of
Iowa of the second part, Witnesseth, that the said part 1st of the first part, for and in consideration of the
sum of One (\$1.00) DOLLARS,

to be paid by the said part 1st of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted and sold, and do by
these presents GRANT, BARGAIN, SELL, CONVEY AND CONFIRM unto the said part 1st of the second part, its heirs and assigns

forever, the certain tract or parcel of real estate situated in the County of Marshall and State of Iowa, to-wit:

Commencing at the North West Corner of the North East quarter of
Section Number Twenty Seven 1/2 in Township Number Eighty Four 1/2
North Range Number Twenty 1/2 West of the 5th R.R. Iowa running thence
East Twenty Four 1/2 rods thence South Fourteen 1/4 rods thence West Twenty

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the premises above described, with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, unto the said second party, and
to his heirs and assigns forever. The said Gustav Stähler and Sophia M Stähler
hereby covenanting for themselves their heirs, executors and administrators, that the above described premises are free from
any incumbrance, that they have full right, power and authority to sell the same, and they will Warrant and Defend the Title unto
the said part 1st of the second part, its heirs and assigns, against all persons whomsoever lawfully claiming the same.

And Sophia M Stähler wife of the said Gustav Stähler
hereby relinquishes all her right of Dower in and to the foregoing described premises.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said part 1st of the first part has hereunto set their hand and seal the day and year above written.

at

H. H. Hammond

Gustav Stähler (Seal.)

Sophia M Stähler (Seal.)

STATE OF IOWA, Marshall County--ss:

Be it Remembered, that on this 22 day of Jan - A. D. 1879, before the undersigned, a
Notary Public in and for said County, came Gustav Stähler & Sophia M Stähler

to me personally known to be the identical persons whose names are subscribed

to the foregoing deed as grantor and acknowledged the instrument to be their voluntary act and deed, and

that they executed the same for the purposes therein mentioned.

WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal the day and year above written.

H. H. Hammond
Notary Public

Those Who Entered Professional Church Work

During its first century of existence, St. John had numerous young people enter into the service of our Lord and Savior. Among them were three sons of former Pastor H. C. Koepke who served St. John from 1924-1931. The first son to enter the ministry was the Rev. T. Victor (Vic) Koepke, a 1939 graduate of St. Louis, Missouri seminary. Victor served as a Lt. Col. Chaplain in the U.S. Army, Ft. Meade, Maryland during World War II, started two congregations, filled vacancies, retired in 1978 and now preaches only on an emergency basis. The second son, The Rev. Luther Koepke, a 1941 St. Louis graduate, was dean at Valparaiso University, Indiana, retired in Austin, Texas and is currently teaching part-time at Concordia College in Austin. The third son, the Rev. Theodore R. (Ted) Koepke, who departed this life May 21, 1973, was a 1945 St. Louis graduate and dedicated his service to the Lord as a missionary in India.

Another son of a former pastor to enter church work was Teacher William R. (Bill) Zabel, son of the Rev. William J. F. Zabel, who served our congregation from 1931-1940. William, a 1949 graduate of River Forest, Illinois, is currently teaching grades 7 and 8 at Unionville, Michigan.

Deceased members who have served are the Rev. Rodney (Rod) Riese, a 1944 graduate of St. Louis, who died in 1979; Teacher Louis Armbricht, a 1953 graduate of River Forest, Illinois, who died in 1976, and the Rev. Charles Bell, a 1957 graduate of Springfield, Illinois, who departed this life February 22, 1973.

Ross Schuler, a 1956 graduate of St. Louis seminary, is no longer in the ministry and Teacher Dean Wengert, a 1956 graduate of

are

of Watertown, Minnesota; Evelyn Riese Lutz; Janet Jessen Komarchuk, currently teaching in the public school system in Houston, Texas; Dorothy Hunzelman Vaughn; Martin Riese and Dolores Smith Meadows.

Among the children of the congregation entering into the service of the Lord within the last 25 years are the two sons of our departed brother in Christ, the Rev. Charles Bell and his wife, Harriet Happel Bell. They are the Rev. Randall (Randy) Bell, a 1986 graduate of Fort Wayne, Indiana, who is currently serving Christ Lutheran Church in Woodburn, Indiana, and the Rev. Monte Bell, a 1987 Fort Wayne graduate, who is pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, a mission church located in Middleville, Michigan.

Another member of the congregation entering into the ministry is the son of John and Helen Beaty Maddick, Michael Maddick, a 1985 Fort Wayne graduate. He is presently serving the dual parish at Oxford and Packwaukee, Wisconsin.

Those who have entered the teaching field are the two daughters of Hugo and Muriel Wengert Armbricht. Daughter Joyce Norrington, a 1974 graduate of Seward, Nebraska succumbed as a victim of cancer in January 1984. Her younger sister, Jean Rupp, a 1976 graduate of Seward, is serving with her husband, Larry, in The Missionary Church at Sierra Leone, West Africa.



Luther Koepke,



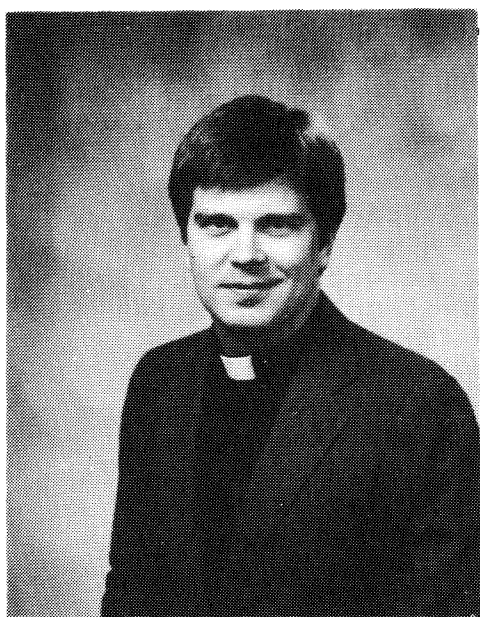
T. Victor Koepke



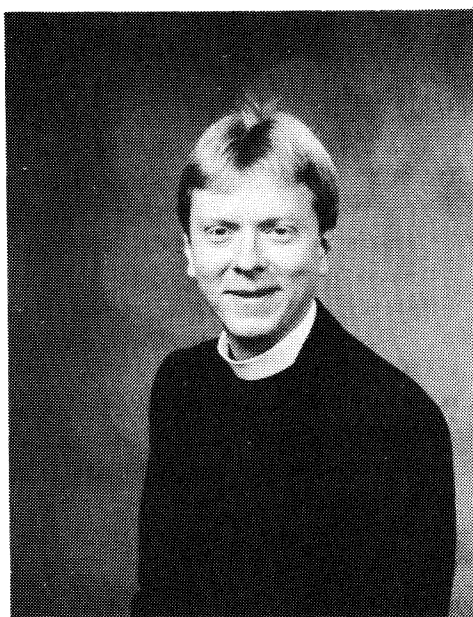
R. Theodore Koepke,



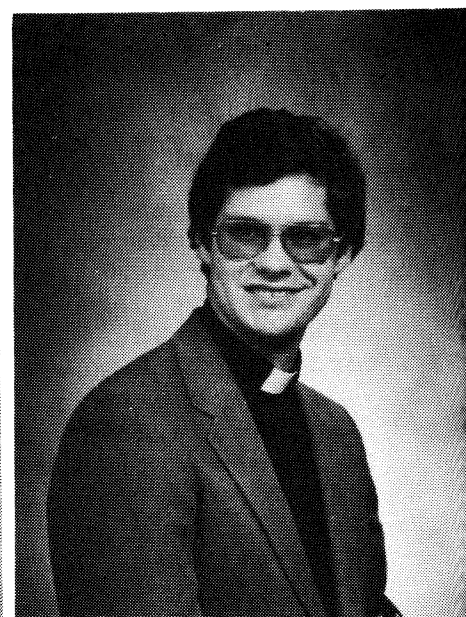
Helen Riese Bunge,



Randall Bell



Monte Ball



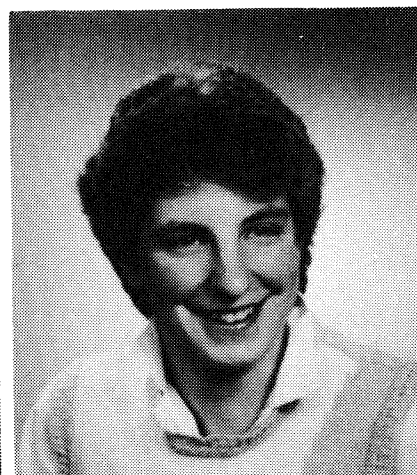
Michael Maddick



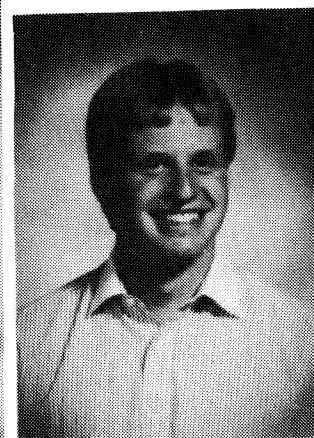
Edith Ambrecht



Ruth Ambrecht



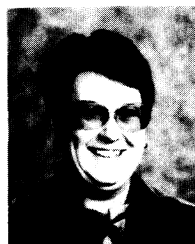
Rhoda Ambrecht



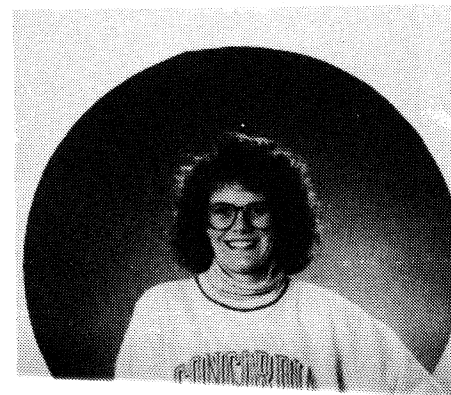
Andy Ambrecht



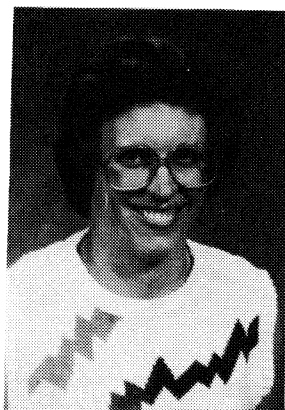
Joyce Ambrecht Norrington



Jean Ambrecht Rupp



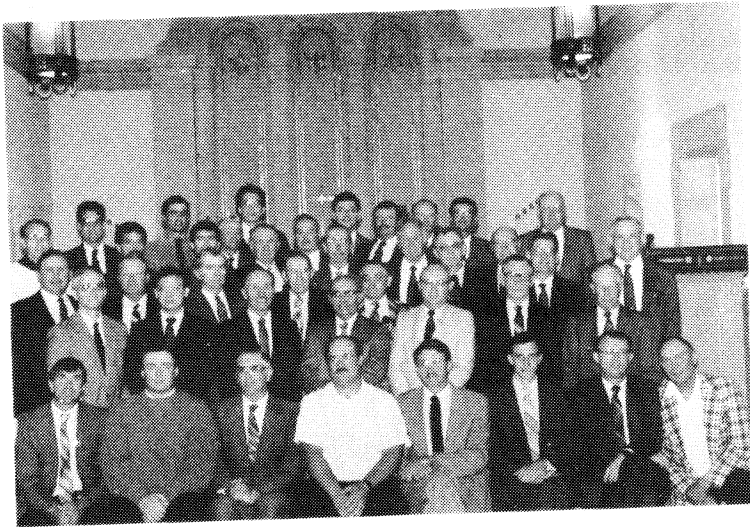
Mary Riese Schmidt



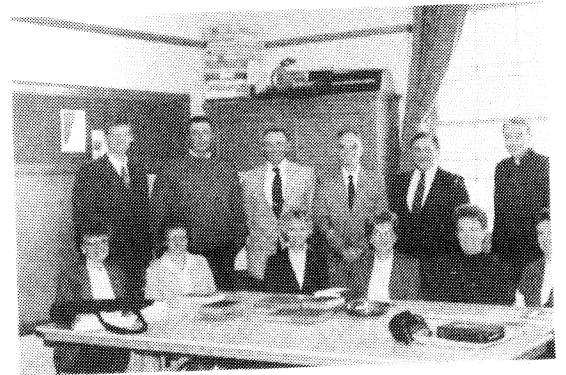
Lynne Riese Pfantz



Voters



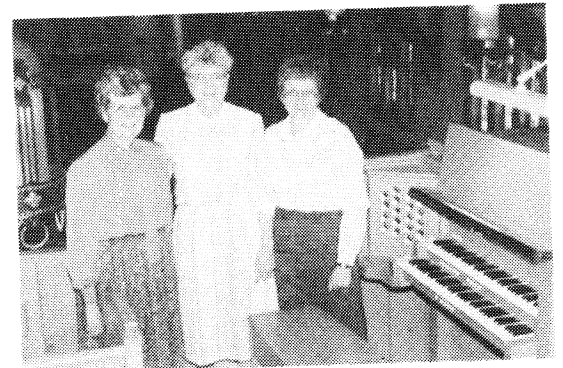
Officers



Lutherans For Life



Choir



Organists



Ladies Aid



Bible Study



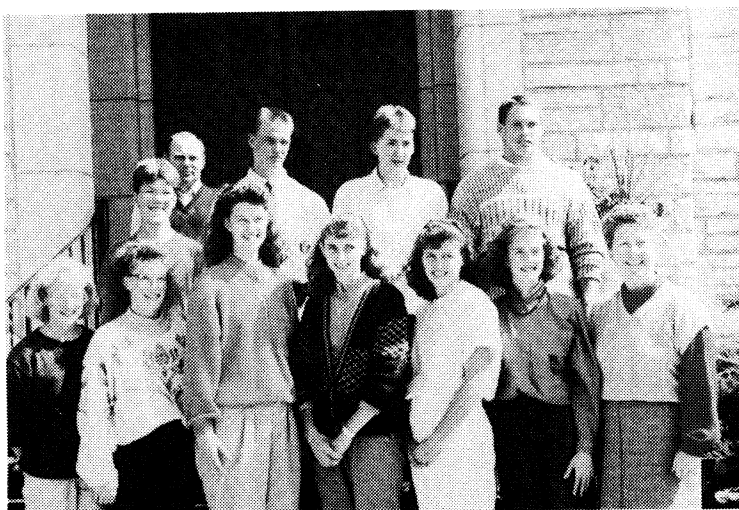
Vesper Circle



Sunday School Teachers



Beata Circle



Young Saints

Howard and Marcella Probst Riese also have two daughters who are Seward graduates. Lynne Pfantz, a 1980 graduate is currently teaching preschool at our Clemons Lutheran School. Mary, a 1985 graduate, is married to the Rev. Edward Schmidt, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church at Franklin, Nebraska.

Sherwood and Edith Armbrecht have three Seward graduates in their family. Ruth graduated in 1985 and is teaching grades 1 and 2 at Perham, Minnesota. Andy, a 1989 graduate, is teaching 5th grade at Williamsburg, Iowa, and Rhoda is a 1990 graduate. Edith also finished her degree from River Forest, Illinois in 1988 and is currently teaching kindergarten at our Clemons Lutheran School.

The most recent one working to join this elite group is Kellie Berrey, daughter of Gilbert and Bonnie Berrey, who is enrolled to begin her studies at Seward the autumn of 1990. Bonnie, herself, participated in the rigorous colloquy program at Seward comprised of 19 hours involving summer sessions over a five year period in order to qualify for the high standards set forth by Synod for our parochial school teachers. Having fulfilled all the religious requirements, Bonnie received her degree in 1989 and is now teaching grades 3 and 4 at our Clemons Lutheran School.

Our Clemons Lutheran School has been a strong influence on younger members of our congregation in regard to their decision to dedicate their lives to the service of our crucified Lord and Savior.

School picture at the time of the 75th Anniversary of St. John (1940)



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

State Centre, Iowa, Dec 7 1877

M L Henis

To O. J. WHITSON, Dr.,

DEALER IN

Coal, Lime, Stone, Salt, Stucco, &c.

Nov 26 To 5 Bu Lime	25 00
	7 75
Apr 28 " 12 " "	6 00
" " 32 # Hais	3 20
May 5 " 3 Bu Lime	1 50
	<u>\$ 13 20</u>

Repayment
O. J. Whitson

\$ 13.20



Received of

James Henris

1877

Twenty six & 63/100

DOLLARS,

to apply

for Paid over to me

\$ 26.63

S. C. Griggs & Co., Booksellers and Stationers, Chicago.

State Centre April 16th 1873
 Louis Hennis Bought of
 Trelove & West for Parsonage
 Oct-30th Nails 2.25-
 Nov 1st " .55-
 " 2 " Bill Nails 17.73
 " 11 " " House Trimming 6.70
 " 12 " Nails 1.10
 " 13 " Butts Thumb Nails Hat Hooks .80
 " 25 " Glass & Putty .15-
 Dec 11 " Nails & Elbows 1.55-
 " 13 " " 25-
 " 14 " Stove Pipe & nails 1.90
 " 23 " 2 Pr Butts .40
 March 11 " Nails .65-
 April 15 " Coat & Hat Hooks 25-
 \$34.28
 April 15- 1873 Received Payment
 for same
 Trelove & West

\$7000

State Centre Iowa
 July 5 1873

Recd of Louis Hennis Seventy dollars
 for work on Minister's House

Mittler & Hansen

THE LEGRAND STONE & LIME COMPANY

G. F. KIRBY, } PROPRIETORS
I. B. HOWE, }

WOULD respectfully announce to the Architects and Builders of the North-West, that they are fully prepared to supply all kinds of Building, Foundation and Dimension Stone, Iowa Marble, etc. Also, Fresh Quick-Lime in any quantity—either by Car-Load or Barrel. In connection is an establishment for Manufacturing Mantles, Table, Bureau, Sink, Wash-Stand and Counter Tops, Door and Window Caps and Sills, Water Tables, Bases, Columns, Ashler Fronts for Buildings, etc. In fact all kinds of Building Stone finished in any style desired.

For particulars, prices, etc., address

SILAS STEINBECK,
Superintendent.

Quarry, Iowa, *June 24 1874.*

Mr Christian Frick

BOUGHT OF

The LeGrand Quarry Company

2 Corner Stones 2' X 1' X 4'

12 00

Rec^d Payment

To the Committee of Rev. Hermanns Church

De.

Metten & Hansen

July

17. To. Ling. 95 Dutch Stone

a. 1.00. per set — \$ 95.00

Donat to the Church — 10.00

\$ 85.00

Received Payment

Metten & Hansen

Recd Sept 18th 1874
 from G. Pehlson Secy
 Hundred seventy eight
 Dollars for work on St John
 Lutheran Church in full
 J. L. Myers
 J L Myers

State Centre Sep 7/74

Received of Fred Olsen
 Twenty four (24) Dollars in full
 payment for Two Thousand
 Brick
 E & Swift

Freight and Charges Payable on Delivery of Goods. Current Funds only Received.

State Centre Station, Sept 14 1874

From Henry Olson } Consignee. Fredrick Consignor.
 Marshall To Chicago & North-Western Railway Co. Dr.

Car No. 6166

W. B. No. 367

Car Initials C 722

Date of W. B. Sep 14

CLAIMS FOR OVERCHARGE and
 LOSS or DAMAGE must be sent to General
 Freight Agent, with expense bill and particulars—
 immediately.

Agents will be careful to fill out this expense
 bill properly.

For Transportation and Charges on

36 Iron Lash Nails

WEIGHT.	RATE.	LOCAL CHARGES.
6.52	11.78	73

Advanced Charges, - - -

Drayage, - - -

Received Payment.

Folio

J. W. Shaler Agent.

\$ 73

PROPERTY TO BE REMOVED WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

State Centre, Iowa, Oct 16 1874.

St Thomas Church

To O. J. WHITSON, Jr.

Coal, Lime, Stone, Salt, Stucco. &c., &c.

June 6 To 19 Bu Lime	8.55
10 " 14 1/2 " "	6.55
12 " 3 " "	1.35
July 30 " 32 Bu 30# Lime	14.60
56 # Hard	5.60

Oct 1 " 2 Brk Stucco	12.
8 " 1 Bu Lime	<u>47</u>
	\$64.92

Aug 21 By Cash Colsten	35.
Oct 15 " 1/2 Brk Stucco	3.
" 16 " Bal due	<u>26.92</u>
	\$64.92

And I have received a statement of your account which, if correct, you will please call for from the date.

O. J. Whitson

Minerva, October, the 8th 1874

Received of Fred Colsten
a certain sum in full
for building mason
on the Church.

Henry Freeze

Centre Iowa January 21 1875
Henry Freeze of the
building stone & lime
one the & I want

Freeze
Gather &

ESTABLISHED IN 1860

Marshalltown, Iowa, Oct 20 1874

Mr Fred Olsen

BOUGHT
OF

ABBOTT & KNISELY,

—DEALERS IN—

Hardware, Stoves and Tinware,

Iron, Steel and Nails, Wagon and Carriage Material.

Agent Rock River Building Paper.

1 Stove Complete 26.00

Rec Payment

Abbott & Kniseley

Watson

Received of Fred Olsen and Henry Smith 400.00
to apply on lumber for the Church
One Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Four 91/100
Dollars - Recd at various times in 1874 & 5
State Clerk Iowa
September 4th 1875 John W. Fithill

Balance due on Note about \$210.00
Balance due on Account 43.66
\$253.66

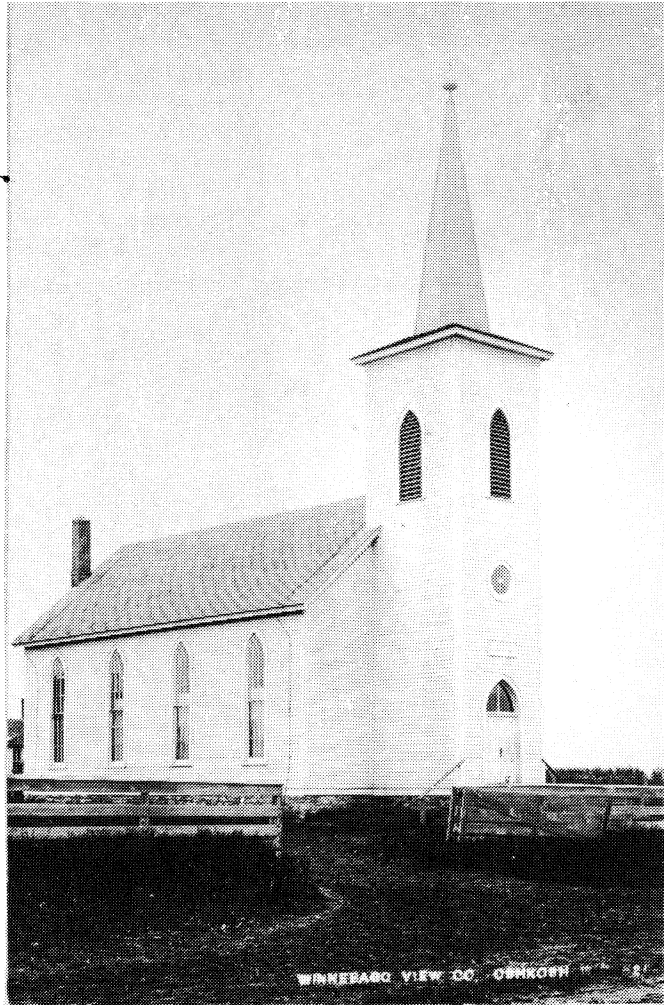
State Centre Iowa
 Dec 24 1878
 Received from Frederick
 Olsen Fourteen Dollars
 in full on all demand
 for work on St. John's
 Lutheran Church
 D. L. Myers

Airbanks' Standard Scale.	
State, Iowa,	Aug 31 1878
CANFIELD'S Lower Vein Coal,	
r to H. Cleaver for delivery	
lbs.	
lbs.	
lbs. @	\$ 4.10
Paid Jan 4 1879	

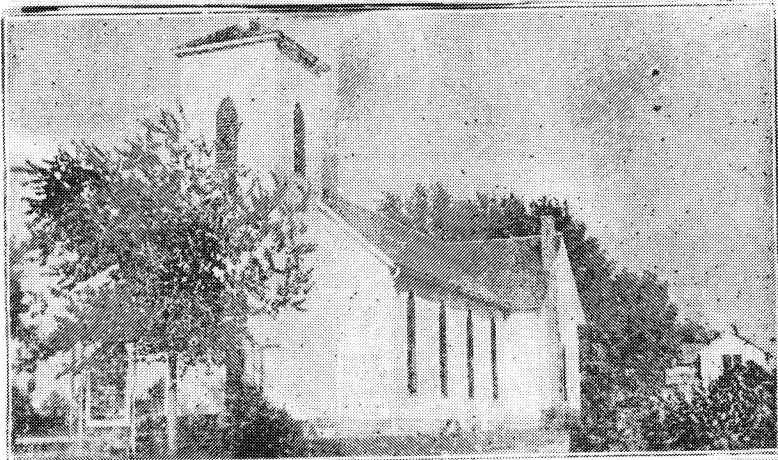
Lightning Rod on St. John's
 Lutheran Church
 D. L. Myers

Loua	From	Gr	To
------	------	----	----

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT		
State Centre, Iowa, July 1st 1878		
St. German Church		
To BRIMHALL & HUNT, Dr.		
Dealers in		
Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, Varnishes,		
CUTLERY, WALL PAPER, BRUSHES, &c.		
Aug 8 to	150 th Lead	16 12
Aug 8 to	3 gal Turpentine	2 25
Aug 8 to	5 gal Boiled Oil	5 00
Aug 8 to	2 th Pull	20
June 10	75 th Lead	8 08
		31.65
Recd Payment		
Oct 25 th 1878		



WINNEBAGO VIEW CO. OSKOSH WIS.



CHURCHES
 Upper Left -
 built in 1874
 Upper right -
 addition in 1917
 Above - as it
 appeared in 1940
 At right -
 built in 1950
 On Back side of
 this page -
 Taken from Frieda
 Ambrecht's scrap-
 book.



St. John's Lutheran Church - State Center, Ia. - 1957

1928

St. John's Lutheran Church

STATE CENTER, IOWA

H. C. KOEPKE
 Pastor

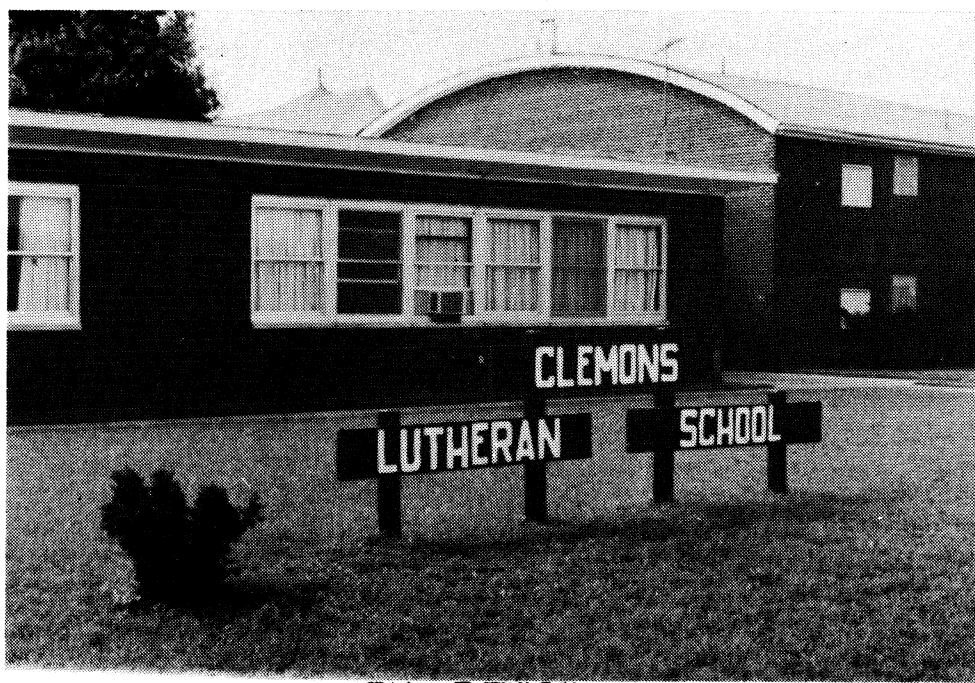
R. L. GEORGE
 Teacher



Our Only Aim: To Save Souls
Our Only Means:
The Gospel of Christ Crucified

"Every Day will I bless thee"

1928		JANUARY						1928
THE MONTH		31 DAYS						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30	31	1 st FULL M	14 th LAST Q	22 nd NEW M	29 th FIRST Q		



time. A receipt dated February 11, 1873 shows that lumber was purchased to build a school one year prior to building the first church building. A receipt for the lumber bought to build the first church is dated 1874.

St. John's Parochial School was first taught in the parsonage, then in a school built in 1873. This building was used until the basement school annex was built in the new church in 1947 and expanded in 1950. The parish school was faithfully conducted by the pastors until 1880. The first teacher was J. A. Wiedman (1880-1882). J. Thoma served from 1882-1893. Rev. A. J. Boehm conducted classes from 1893-1911. Louis Pozehl was teacher from 1911-1915.

A teacherage was built in 1914. C. F. Jessen taught from 1915-1922. R. L. George served faithfully as the teacher of the congregational lambs for the longest time. He came in 1922 and retired in 1944 when he went into social welfare work in Marshalltown. Myra Potratz served from 1944-1945. Herbert Beer taught from 1945-47. Louis Armbrrecht taught 1947-1949. Rosalie Krueger served from 1949-1950. Martin Riese taught from 1950-1952. E. T. Mueller was here from 1952-1954. Rosemary Schultz taught from 1954-1955. Joseph House taught from 1955-1958. Jerome Carlson taught from 1958 to January 1962, being released from teaching duties to pursue a career in Civil Service at Kansas City, Missouri. This resulted in closure of the school after nearly 90 years of teaching the lambs of the congregation.

What Was Being Said in 1872*

"For us it is a settled matter that we shall not send our children to the public schools, but maintain parish schools for them. To have only a Sunday School does not satisfy our requirements . . . Our parish schools are the nurseries of the church out of which young trees well started are transplanted into the orchard of the church.

No congregation should deplore the expenses connected with the establishment of a parochial school. But not only must schools be established -- they must also be improved. If we fail to do this, we must not be surprised if some parents who are members take their children out of the parochial school and send them to the public school. Congregations must be intent on improving their schools also in the areas that pertain only to temporal life. They have the means from God to improve their schools; although people arriving in this country were at first poor, many have now become wealthy . . . A school is the concern of the whole congregation, not only of those who have children of school age. Those who have no children or whose children have already been confirmed, should gladly help along.

Next to the pure doctrine, our schools are the greatest treasure we have. The greatest evil in the American churches, besides the false doctrine, is the fact that they have no parochial schools, are sending their children to the public schools, and have discarded their own schools. In the beginning this was not as bad as it is now, because at first there was a greater religious spirit among the people, and the people still read the Bible diligently; but now Godless, unbelieving, and unprincipled people are often employed in the schools.

The improvement of our schools does not consist mainly in stuffing the children with a mass of knowledge for this life, even if such knowledge is of great value for this earthly life, but primarily in improvement of religious instruction. It is wrong if our schools, at the expense of religion, try to run competition with other schools in all possible subjects. Better that we train simple children of God than smart children of the devil."

*From a Summary of proceedings, 1872 Synodical Convention.



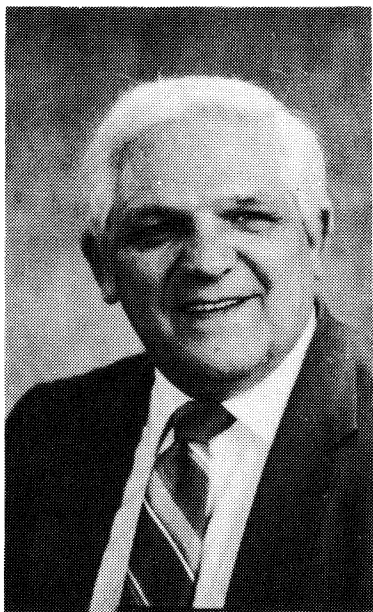
School children,

Interest was shown in a new beginning of the parochial school in 1978. However no action resulted from this interest until it became known that the public school building at Clemons, Iowa would

building and subsequently title to the property was transferred to these two men. Working with them was Karl Freiberg who became involved behind the scenes in the many aspects of possibly opening a parochial school.

The property was in private ownership at this time. If a school was to be opened it would be most practical if ownership of the property could be transferred to the church. This was done at a meeting of St. John's voters December 23, 1979 after the desire to begin a Lutheran parochial school sponsored by St. John was explained to them by several interested persons.

With ownership of the Clemons building now in the name of the church, the voters also gave Pastor Flansch the right to explore the beginning of a school. To also involve the congregation the voters authorized St. John's Board of Education (minutes of voters, January 20, 1980) to appoint four committees to gather information and make plans for the opening of a school. The four committees were to work in the areas of enrollment (John Maddick, Chairman), curriculum (Richard Hartwig, Chairman), finance (Larry Westphal, Chairman), and building (Karl Freiberg, Chairman).



Mr. William Levenhagen

In gathering information on the "how to" of starting a Lutheran school, printed materials were received from our Synod's office in St. Louis. On the district level Mr. William Levenhagen of Newhall, Iowa was designated as a good resource person. It was during this time that a pamphlet entitled, "In Response to the Great Commission, Clemmons Lutheran School" was printed for distribution. After several trips to Newhall to confer with Mr. Levenhagen, and when it became time to call a principal, it was decided by

the voters on March 23, 1980 to extend a Call to our district resource person, Mr. Levenhagen. His acceptance of the Call shortly after would allow very positive steps to be taken. Mr. Levenhagen would give ample evidence of this expertise in the area of Lutheran Christian Education in the following months. He was installed as Principal for Clemmons Lutheran School at a worship service at St. John June 8, 1980.

In Response To The Great Commission

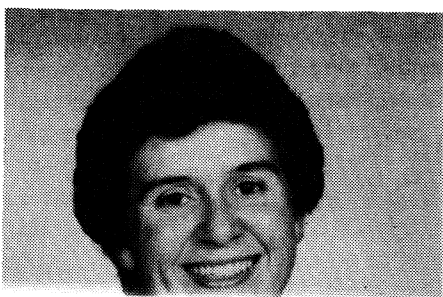


"Go ye therefore and teach all nations..."

CLEMONS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

CLEMONS, IOWA

To keep the members of St. John interested in the opening of the school it was decided to begin a monthly newsletter. With the school now to become a reality thought was given to a teaching staff as well. Because of the interest shown it was deemed advisable to have two additional teachers. With the planned opening date of fall, 1980, there was little time to waste. At a meeting April 15, 1980, an additional teacher was called who was Miss Laurie Frey of West Allis, Wisconsin. In early August Miss Sandra Giertz of Marengo, Illinois also was called. God led both teachers to accept teaching positions at the soon to be opened Clemons Lutheran School. (The name was officially adopted at this same meeting.)



the message of the new school, or "CLS", as it would soon be called. Two school buses were purchased, one to be retained by St. John to transport children from the "west end" and the other to be purchased by Redeemer of Marshalltown for transporting children from the Marshalltown area.

During this time many decisions had to be made, items had to be purchased, and certainly an important part, approval was requested by the principal from the State of Iowa. This "approval" would entitle the new school to receive some benefits through the Area Education Association (AEA 6), and possible even more importantly it would grant children within the local public school district (West Marshall) transportation to the school at Clemons and parents outside the district a partial monetary reimbursement in lieu of busing.

Although this approval was tentatively granted by the State in the summer of 1980, as the new term approached it seemed the State was going to put the school on somewhat of a probation status with "approval" (and therefore the benefits) to be granted at the beginning of the second semester. With the "promissary" letter in hand, Mr. Levenhagen and representatives of the new "school board" requested a hearing before the Iowa State Board of Education in Des Moines. This was granted and after sharing with the State Board of Education their plans, goals, and the letter from the president of the State Board of Education promising immediate approval the board granted "approved" status to Clemons Lutheran School.

As plans unfolded for the opening of CLS it was decided to start with a hot lunch program and Bonnie Berrey was hired as the first cook. Confirmation class would be taught at CLS by St. John's pastor and children enrolled at CLS would not be asked to attend the midweek class at St. John. During this time changes at the school were taking place. Much cleanup and painting was done. The classroom nearest the east entrance was subdivided into a secretary's office, principal's office and a teachers' work room. Initial grades at CLS were to be preschool through 6th.

Clemons Lutheran School officially opened August 25, 1980 at 9 A.M. with a chapel service conducted by Pastor Flanscha for 52 children enrolled and also parents in attendance. Although the school building had not yet been formally dedicated, or given, to the glory of God through Christian education, this big day was planned for September 7, 1980. Pastor John Domsch of Redeemer, Marshalltown would be the main speaker with Pastor Flanscha as liturgist. In this service Miss Frey and Miss Giertz were officially installed as teachers.

The enrollment at CLS that first year shows 7 in preschool, 3 in kindergarten, 7 in grade 1, 8 in grade 2, 5 in grade 3, 9 in grade 4, 5 in grade 5, 6 in grade 6, and, surprisingly, 1 in grade 7. Miss Frey taught preschool and kindergarten and also helped with first grade. Miss Giertz taught grades 1-3 and Mr. Levenhagen taught grades 4-7. Of the 52 children enrolled 44 were from Missouri Synod churches including St. John, Trinity in State Center, and Redeemer at Marshalltown.

In addition to the full time teaching staff and Mrs. Berrey on a part-time basis, Mrs. Levenhagen was hired to serve as the school secretary. Mr. Kenneth Nason of Melbourne was to be the band instructor. He served in this capacity for one year and then was replaced by his wife, Mrs. Nason. In addition to these, CLS was blessed to have had many volunteers. Mrs. Duane (Sharon) Zobel of rural New Providence was the first volunteer teacher's aide.

The opening of CLS brought many challenges. During this first year a school constitution was formulated and adopted. A policy manual covering all aspects of the school was drawn up and adopted as well. This policy manual would go through many changes to keep it a "working" manual as well as to meet requirements by the State of Iowa. These required changes would be numerous, especially in the late 80's and in fact are still being made at the time of this historical booklet.

Beginning in January of 1981, following the annual election at St. John, the organizational committees of CLS were phased out and St. John elected the following to serve on the School Board of Clemons Lutheran School: President, Richard Hartwig; Vice-President, Kenneth Armbricht; Secretary, Howard Hennis; Treasurer, Karl Freiberg; and trustees, Dan Freiberg and Joe Armbricht.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FOR
CLEMONS LUTHERAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

Mindful of the Lord's will that children be taught the Word of God diligently (Deut. 6:4-9), and recognize the necessity and the advantages of a Christian Day School education, and firmly believing that this can best be accomplished by the cooperation of the various Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations of this vicinity, we, the undersigned, do, herewith form, for and in the name of our respective congregations, and association for the establishment and the maintenance of an interparish Christian Day School and in lawful assembly, do, herewith, adopt the following constitution and its by-laws, whereby this Association shall be governed.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name by which this Association shall be known is: CLEMONS LUTHERAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, Clemons, Iowa, located in Marshall County, Iowa.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association shall be:

1. To establish and maintain a Lutheran Elementary School for all children of congregations holding membership in the CLEMONS LUTHERAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION and for such other children as may
2. To teach the fundamentals of the Christian religion as derived from God's Word, the distinctive Lutheran doctrines as given in the Lutheran Confessions, and such elementary and secondary secular subjects as conform to the accepted standards of education in the State of Iowa and the accepted course of study of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

1. Any congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod may be admitted to membership in the CLEMONS LUTHERAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION upon recommendation of the School Board subject to the approval of all member congregations.

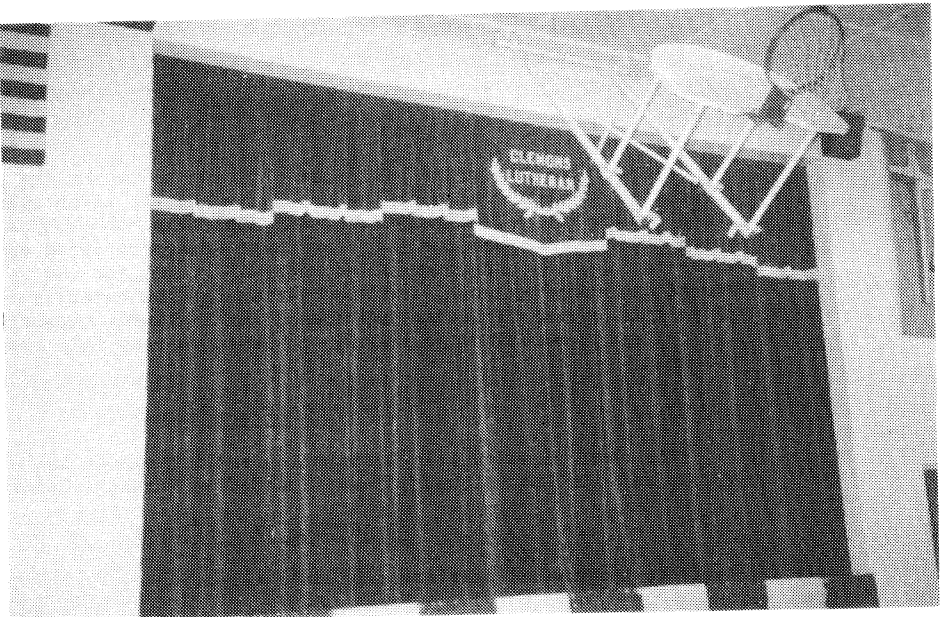
Clemons Lutheran School opened in late summer of 1981 with a new teacher, Mrs. Lawrence (Lynne) Pfantz. The new school year would also show the results of much hard work and dedication by many during the summer months. The west wing was opened for use with much cleanup and painting necessary. The original library was again to be used for that purpose. The gym was renovated with a new stage curtain, new windows, and repainting. During this year Mrs. Philip (Jean) Affeldt served as cook and Mrs. Berrey became a teacher's aide. Many others continued in the devotion to CLS by their willing voluntary support.

News from Clemons School

10/17/83

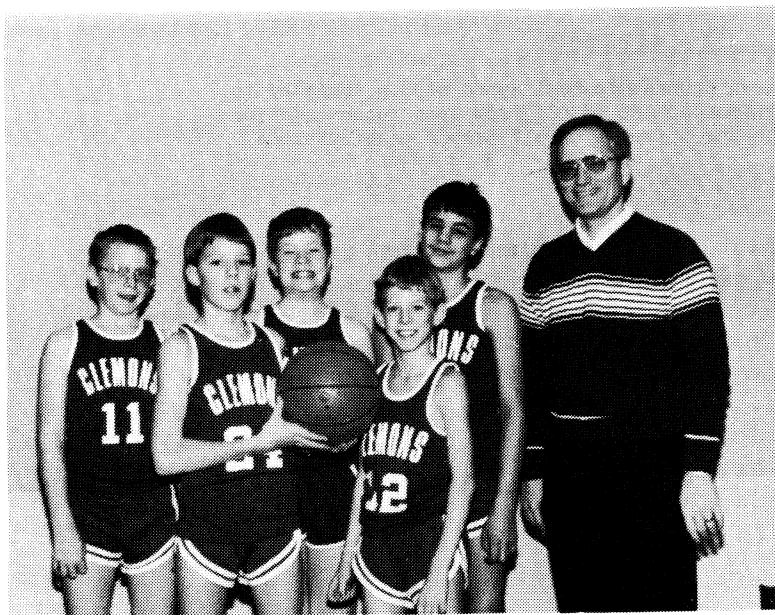
William Levenhagen, principal, attended the Lutheran Principals' Conference in Des Moines on Thursday, October 13, and then the Iowa Association of Non-Public School Administrators on Friday, October 14. IANPSA represents and speaks for the approved non-public schools of Iowa. Levenhagen is presently the president of the organization. He also has been chosen to represent the State of Iowa on the Council For American Private Education and will meet with other state representatives in Washington, D.C. on October 24. While there he will attend a reception at the White House.

-0-



This school year also saw the first fund raising activity of the Parents, Teachers and Friends of CLS. A ham and beef dinner was held in the fall with about 400 people being served with a profit of \$1251 raised to help meet school expenditures. This group would continue to meet regularly and serve as a great support group for the school.

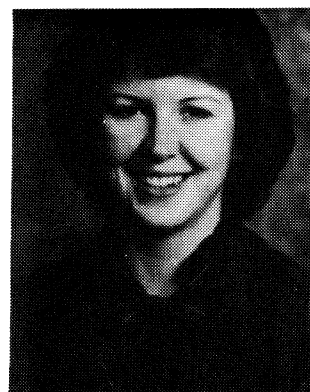
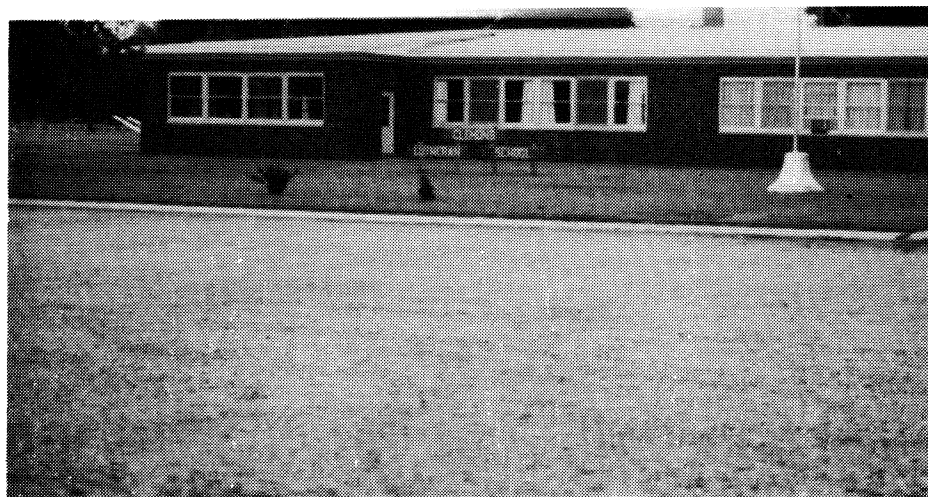
During this year the students elected to call themselves the "Crusaders" and new uniforms for sporting events were donated by the "PTF" with profits from the ham and beef dinner.



With the beginning of the new school year in 1982 CLS reached out and began a preschool at Nevada, Iowa. This was an opportunity that was afforded by St. John's pastor's involvement in the start of a mission church at Nevada. Faith Lutheran Church, which the congregation chose as a name, had a successful program during the year with 13 children enrolled. Facilities were rented from the "Academy" in Nevada. Miss Laurie Frey served as the teacher.

This school year also was the first year for the west wing to be under the new "pitched" roof. With the work being done by volunteers the west wing section of the roof was constructed with a material cost of about \$6,500.

The next year, during the summer of 1983, this project was to be continued with the new roof to be built over the north-south wing of the school. Prior to the beginning of construction, one year earlier, bids had been received from local builders who were interested in doing the work in this major project. Bids, which covered labor and material costs, ranged from a low of \$55,000 to a high of \$75,000. Through the willingness of many volunteers the project was completed at an approximate cost of \$17,500. This new roof not only took care of roof leakage problems, it also improved the appearance of the school building. The cost of this project was paid by [unclear] from several sources including donations from Trinity in State

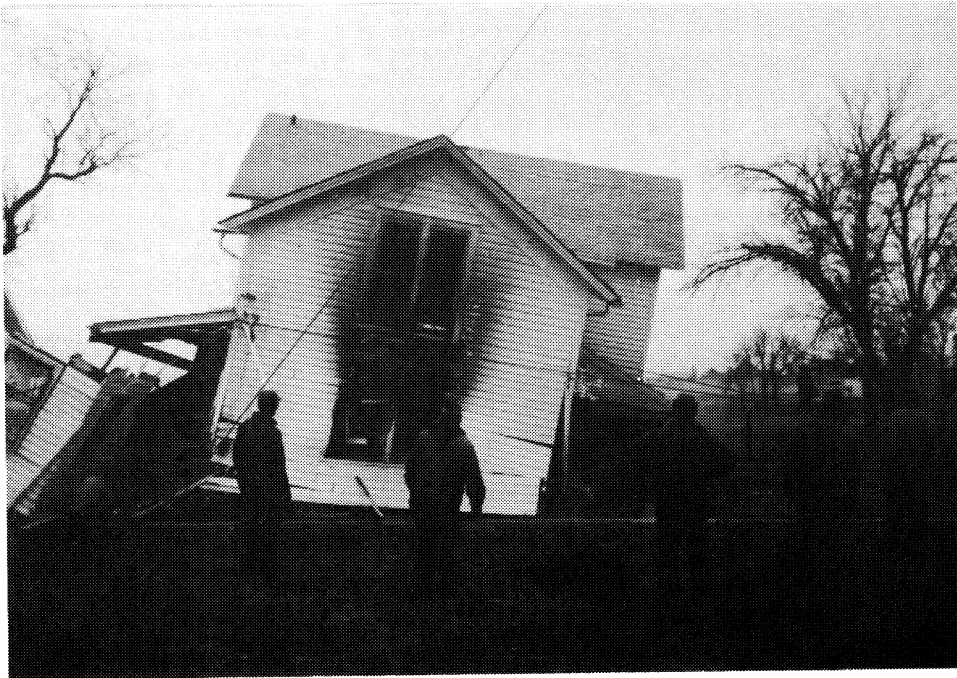


Miss Janelle Woodward

While building changes were being made for the 1983-84 school year, other changes were taking place as well. A request for an additional teacher from our synodical schools (a male graduate with piano-organ experience was requested) brought Miss Janelle Woodward to CLS (with her guitar). Miss Woodward was to teach in the 5-6 grade classroom and also develop a music program.

September 27, 1983, also brought a change of residence for Mr. and Mrs. Levenhagen. Fire broke out in the teacherage, in the kitchen, during the night with intense smoke and heat throughout the house. Although the fire was contained in that area the resulting damage was so wide spread the insurance adjuster did not recommend repair of the structure.

Most of all it was an opportunity to see God's mighty hand in taking care of the Levenhagen's. Mrs. Levenhagen was not at home at the time. Mr. Levenhagen was awakened by the smoke (about 1:30 A.M.) but could not stand up because of its intensity. He crawled on hands and knees to a rear window above the back porch and crawling through the window he slid over the edge of the porch roof, dropping from there to the ground. Later inspection showed such smoke discoloration of all surfaces that the outline of the bed where Mr. Levenhagen had been sleeping was plainly marked on the floor. It was truly an occasion to praise the Lord.



After the loss of the teacherage Mr. and Mrs. Levenhagen rented a home in Clemons. But it was to be a short stay there for Mr. Levenhagen accepted a Call to Hinsdale, Illinois and left CLS during the month of March, 1984.

During the nine weeks remaining in the school year Miss Sandra Giertz served as acting principal and Mrs. Gilbert (Bonnie) Berrey became a staff member teaching grades 6,7, and 8.

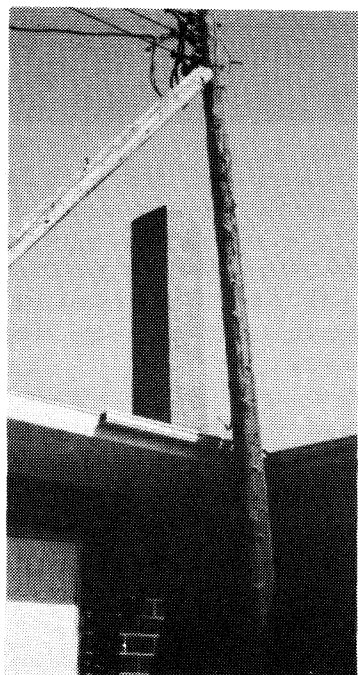
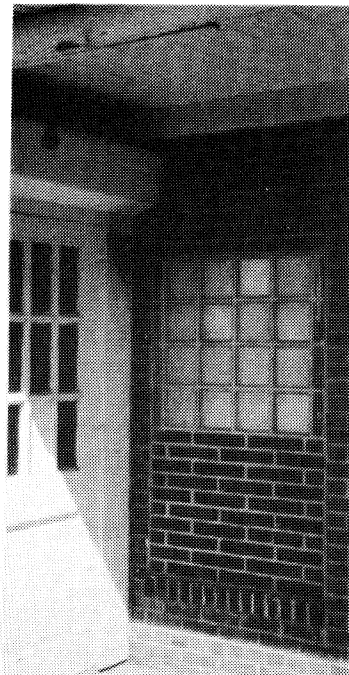
The end of the school year brought with it a change in policy. It was decided to begin charging tuition for the new school year beginning in the fall of 1984. Tuition would be charged for all students who were not members of an "association" church. The original constitution of CLS had been set up in such a way that our sister LCMS churches could join the "association". This meant that each church would assume the per pupil cost of each of their member children attending CLS. Because St. John was the only "member" church, not only paying the per pupil cost of each of their own children but over and above this amount, it was decided by the school board and the many parents that were present at a special meeting that St. John's parents would not be required to pay tuition.

The summer of 1984 brought a major staff change. Mr. David Sellmeyer was called to serve as principal and teacher for grades 6-8. The Lord led him to accept and Mr. Sellmeyer moved to Clemons from Aurora, Illinois with his wife, Vivian and their four children, Jennifer, Kathy, LeAnn, and Daniel. He was installed as principal of CLS August 19, 1984.

Mrs. Berrey was hired as a full time teacher with the understanding that she would pursue

MR.
SELLMEYER

MRS.
BERREY



new staff members would be coming to replace Mr. Levenhagen and also Miss Laurie Frey who had accepted a teaching position at Portage, Wisconsin.

The fall of 1984 brought the above changes along with many new "face-lifts" for the building. Several rooms had been painted, the hallways were painted with an epoxy enamel, and a new roof on the gymnasium. Many other appearance items were done such as the "blocking in" of unused windows. Mr. Ed Eller, a skilled mason, spent much time in this project. Mr. Eller had previously built a brick chimney for CLS to replace the existing metal chimney.

With the building looking much better CLS was ready to host the All-Iowa (Missouri Synod) Teachers' Conference. October 18-19 were the dates for this event and 150 teachers came from throughout the state to worship and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The fall of 1985 school year began with the same teaching staff as the previous year. Having been hired the previous year, Mrs. Lowell (Sharon) Kasischke again served as part time secretary. Mrs. James (Donna) Riese would continue as well providing piano and guitar lessons. In addition to these workers, many volunteers gave much time in assisting as aides and helpers.

A happy event took place August 2, 1986. Miss Sandra Giertz became the bride of Dr. Richard Riese. The "new" Mrs. Riese continued to serve as a teacher, however, at CLS.



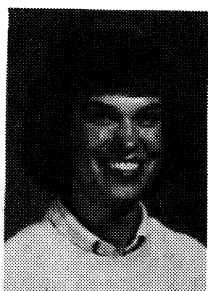
With the beginning of the 1986-87 school year new play equipment was added to the playground. This slide-swing-climbing addition was given to CLS by the Sellmeyer family in memory of Mrs. Sellmeyer's brother, Leon Kellermeier.

As the school term moved to a close Miss Woodward announced her engagement to Daniel Flansch with a fall wedding planned. With the announcement Miss Woodward also informed the school board that she would be leaving CLS to live at Adair, Iowa.

The 1986-87 school year also brought the news that Dr. and Mrs. Riese were expecting a child, and June 23, Nathan Howard was born. Because of her new responsibility, Mrs. Riese also would not return for the new school year.

Because of these staff losses it was necessary to call additional teachers. Through the regular calling process Miss Deann Hauch, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin was called and with her acceptance the position of teacher for grades K-1 was filled. Because of the lack of time before the 1987-88 school term began it was also apparent it would be difficult to fill the 4-5 grades position left by Miss Woodward. It was then that Mrs. Sellmeyer, an experienced teacher, graciously agreed to teach in that classroom for a contract period of one year.

MISS
HAUCH



Mrs.
Sellmeyer



The new school year would also bring new faces to the "part-time" positions. Mrs. Dwight (Julie) Wengert took the job as school secretary learning the many tasks to be done from Sharon Kasischke who left for other employment. A new cook, Mrs. Lee (Mary) Tollefson took over the position left by Mrs. Affeldt.

During the school year one of the attractions in the art department was the pottery wheel of Mrs. Barbara Schickel, the sister-in-law of Mrs. Berrey. With Mrs. Schickel's guidance children of various grade levels had good learning experiences with hands-on involvement.

When the spring of 1988 came a Call was sent through the Synodical Board of Assignments for a graduate teacher. This resulted in Miss Mary Bauman of Merrill, Wisconsin being called and upon her acceptance she would become the new teacher of grades 5-6. Class realignment for 1988 resulted in Mr. Sellmeyer teaching grades 7-8, Miss Bauman grades 5-6, Mrs. Berrey grades 3-4, Miss Hauch grades 1-2, Mrs. Sherwood Armbrecht for Kindergarten, and Mrs. Larry Pfantz for pre-school.

Edith Armbrecht, having completed all necessary requirements for graduation, had just a short time before received her teaching degree from Concordia at River Forest, Illinois.

As usual, during the summer months, many projects were completed to renovate and improve the appearance of CLS. Work was done in the kitchen to improve the plumbing as well as ceiling and painting improvements.

The fall season (1988) was to bring with the cooler days some cool classrooms. Major repairs were necessary to the "new" boiler. This repair was not completed until October. Small heaters and "togetherness" helped keep away the cold, but everyone was extremely happy when the repairs were completed. The boiler repair, along with extensive pipe replacement in the west wing resulted in a more efficient heating unit and certainly much more trouble free operation. Over the years Karl and Dan Freiberg had devoted much time to the care and servicing of both steam systems used at the school.



**MISS
BAUMAN**



**MRS.
ARMBRECHT**

Along with the repairs a new caretaker was coming to assist in this work. He was Sherwood Armbrecht, and he continues to help in that area up to the present time serving also on the CLS board.

The 1989-90 school year opened with the same teaching staff members. Two changes, however, were to take place. In September, Mrs. Gilbert Berrey completed the "colloquy" program to be certified as a LC-MS teacher. This was the fruit of many hours of study on and off campus at Concordia College at Seward, Nebraska. Her completion of all required courses in Bible history, religion, and doctrine resulted in a real "hallelujah" day for her and many others who rejoiced with her. In October another change took place with the marriage of Miss Deann Huach to Michael Montgomery. The "new" Mrs. Montgomery would continue to teach with her home to be within a short distance of the school.

Because of their family's move to another area, Mrs. Nason could no longer serve as band teacher and director. After several years of service CLS was very reluctant to see her leave. But God provided a replacement in the person of Miss Julie Bartelson from Altoona, Iowa.

This year also brought a new cook in the person of Mrs. Richard (Marge) Pierson the wife of Pastor Pierson of Trinity Lutheran Church in State Center. With her help the hot lunch program stayed on schedule.

Because a leak was discovered in the "old" boiler which heated the kitchen and gym, a new heating system was installed in the gym before 1989-90 heating season. Much credit is deserved by Howard Hennis for the time spent in the installation of this heating unit. It was also Howard, who, several years earlier, built the very fine trophy case which is mounted by the main entrance to the school.

Near the beginning of the 1989 -90 school year sadness came to the members of St. John and the CLS family by the death of Mr. Charles Mathison. Chuck was an active supporter of CLS and was serving on the CLS Board at the time of his death.

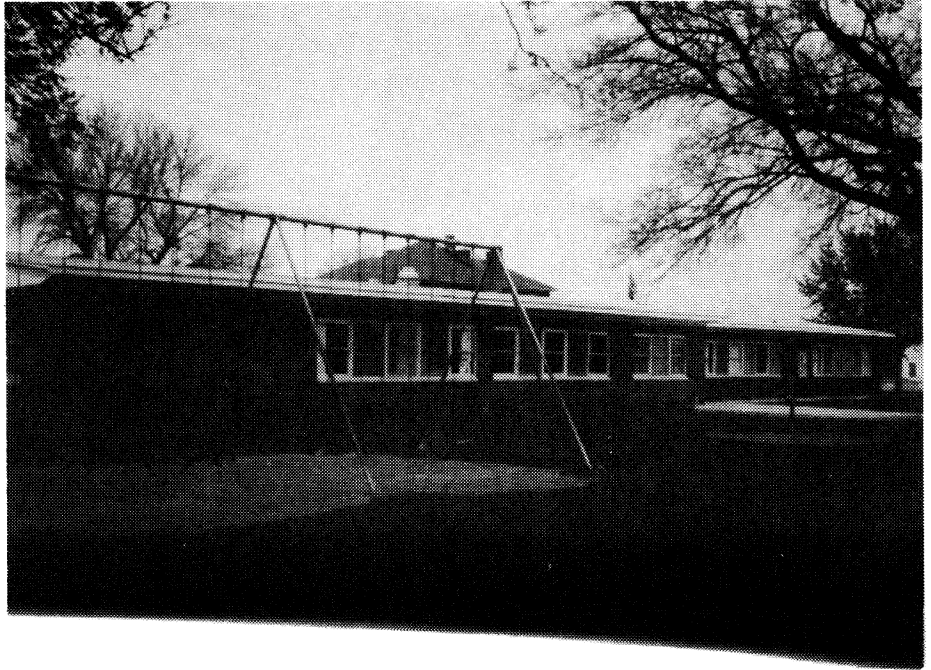
This year also brought CLS to its 10th year of operation. Those who had started in pre-school in 1980 (*) would be the first to go from start to finish at CLS. The 1990 graduating class includes:

Betsy Berrey *
Kerry Hartwig *
Regan Hennis

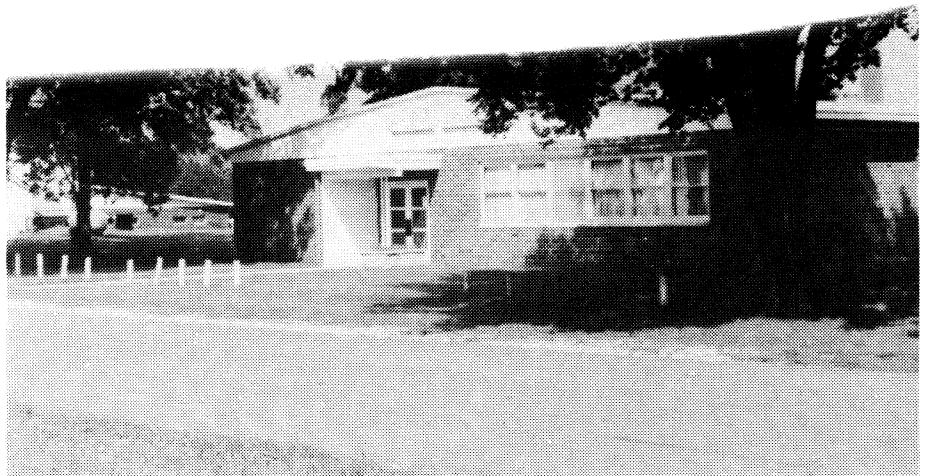
Ryan Hennis
Holle Hilleman *
Nathan Pierson

Graduates of Clemons Lutheran School

Rhoda Armbricht
John Bethel
Kevin Cross
Bruce Van Horn
Steve Allen
Mark Armbricht
Nettie Baetsle
Laura Domsch
Mike Olson
Jacob Berrey
Galen Davis
Tracy Freiberg
Brenda Hilleman
Michele Long
Brian Martin
Randy Tollefson
Nicole Affeldt
Diana Barnard
Jeanine Hilleman



Kallie Moore
Jenni Sellmeyer
Betsy Berrey
Kerry Hartwig
Regan Hennis
Ryan Hennis
Holle Hilleman
Nathan Pierson



Members of St. John
who have volunteered much time
as school aides during the
ten year history of
Clemons Lutheran School

Jean Affeldt
Philip Affeldt
Edith Armbrecht
Irene Armbrecht
Muriel Armbrecht
Gerry Barnard
Debra Behr
Bonnie Berrey
Nancy Davis
Joyce Flanscha
Rowena Freiberg
Gretchen Hartwig

Tammy Heller
Merikay Hennis
Veronica Long
Helen Maddick
DeMaris Mathison
Claudia Riese
Donna Riese
Ellen Riese
Marcella Riese
Elaine Robins
Vivian Sellmeyer
Mary Tollefson
Pat Von Ahnen

Many others have done much volunteer work in the
maintenance and improvements of Clemons Lutheran
School. To them we are grateful.



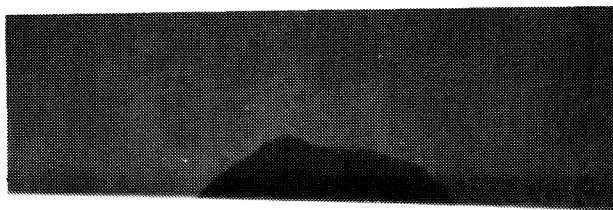
Mrs. Berrey



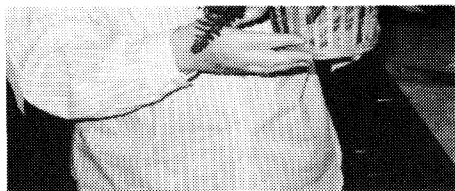
Mrs. Affeldt



Mrs. Pierson



Mrs. Tollefson



Mrs. Kasischke



Mrs. Levenhagen



Mrs. Wengert

