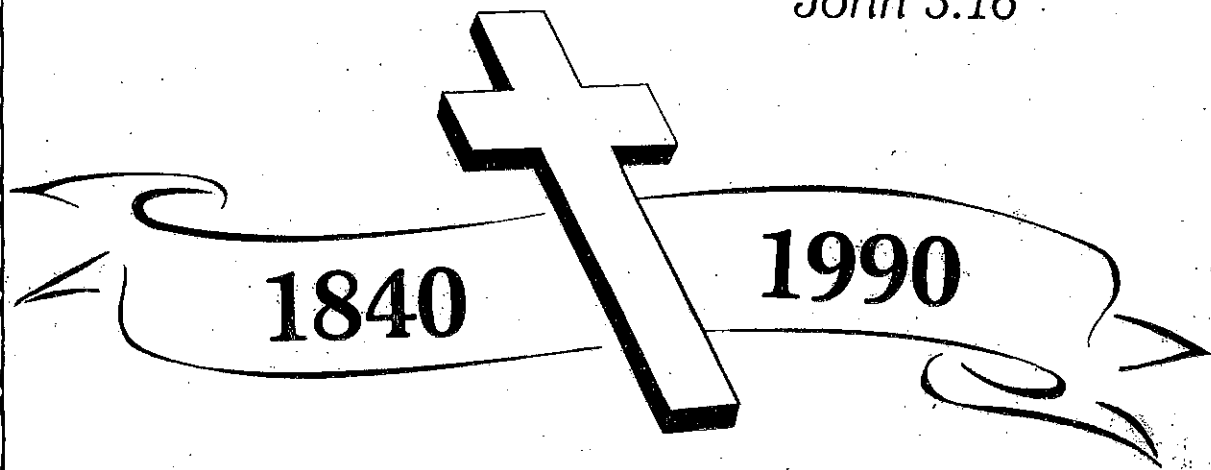


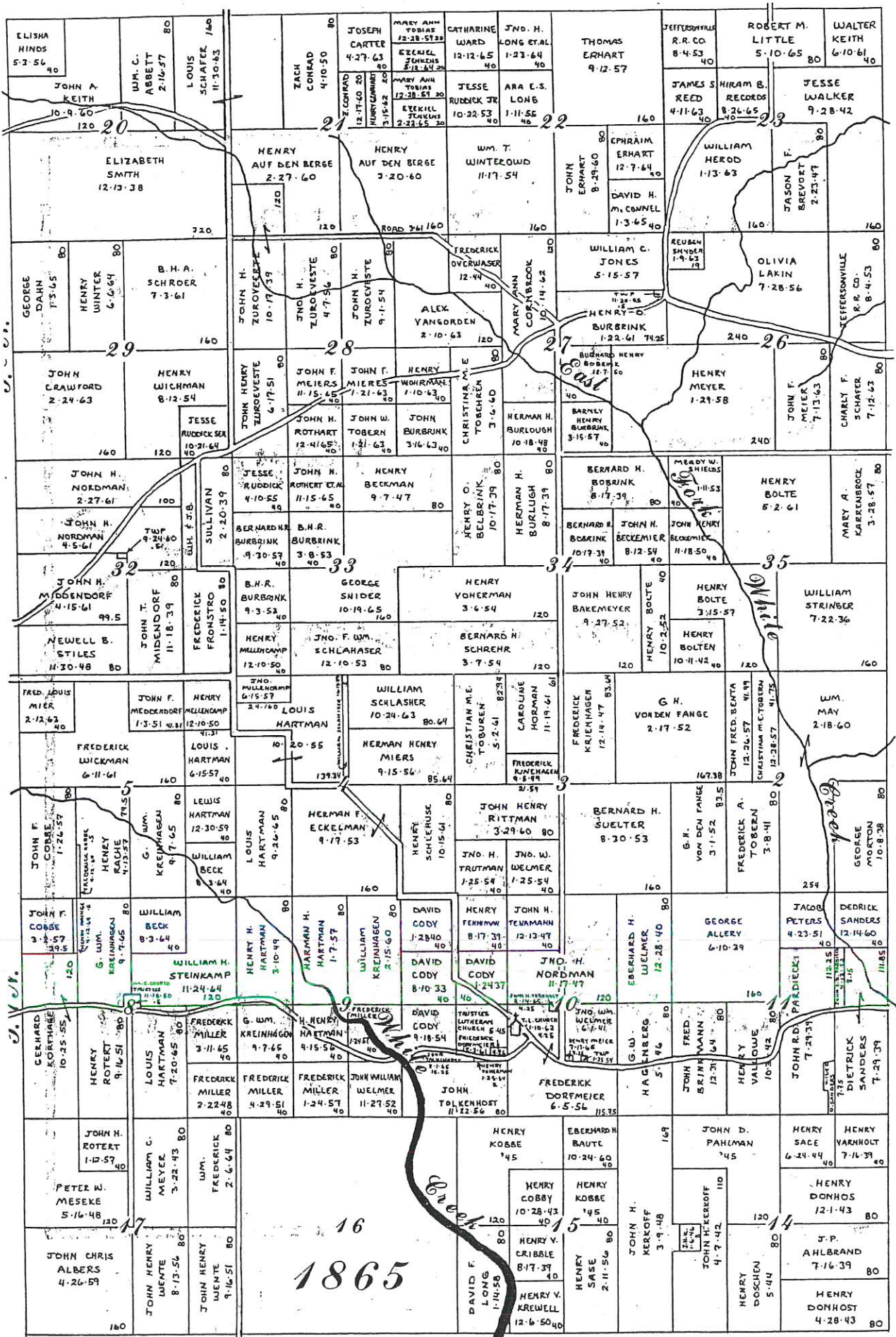
*For God So Loved...*

*John 3:16*



**Commemorating  
the  
150th  
Anniversary  
of  
St. John's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

White Creek, Indiana

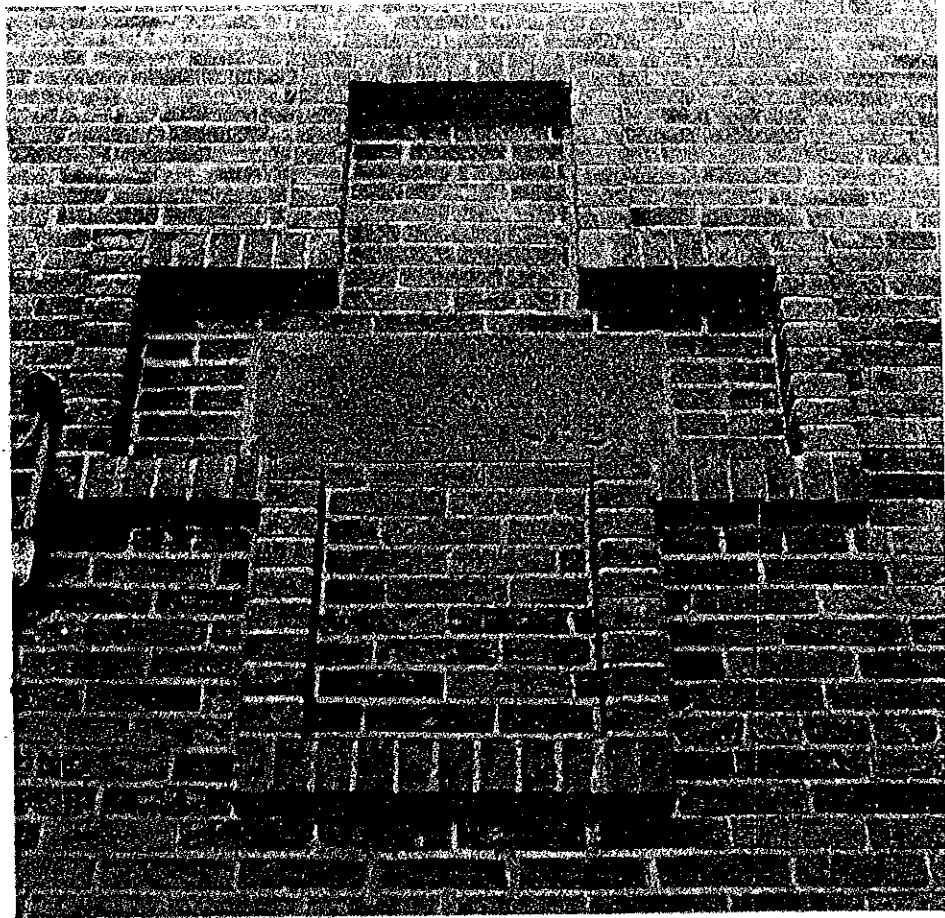


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# White Creek Area

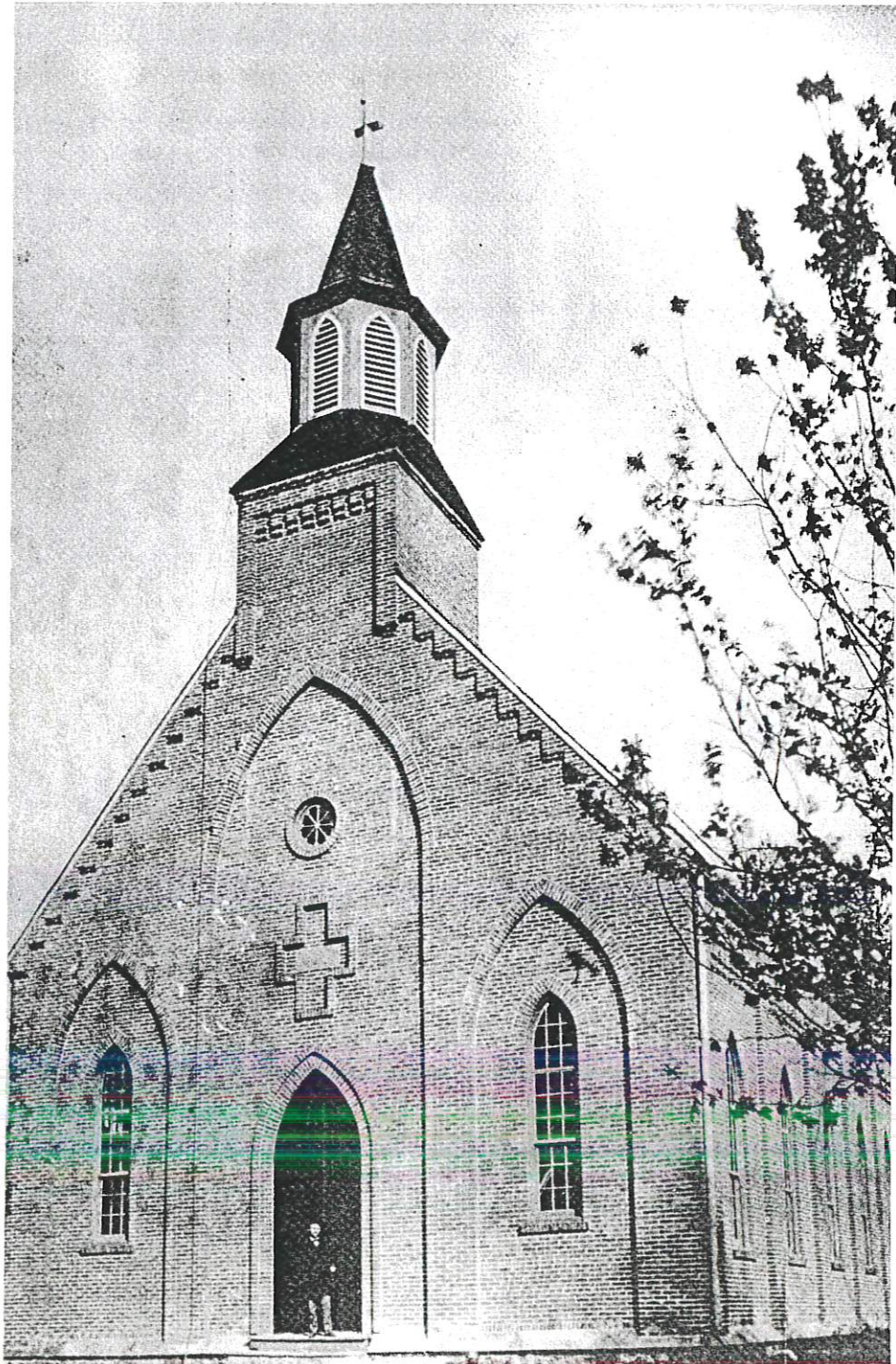
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Deutsche Ev. Lutherische  
St. Joh. Gemeinde  
A. D. 1862



My Church! my Church! my dear old Church!  
My father's and my own!  
On Prophets and Apostles built,  
And Christ the Cornerstone.





St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Erected 1862

# History of the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church WHITE CREEK, INDIANA

1840-1990

During the years 1836-1838 a large number of people left Hannover, Germany and found their way westward to Cincinnati, Ohio. Presumably they were drawn to that city by the knowledge that others of their nationality and even their own parishes had already settled there. These men arrived in Cincinnati with very little except their sense of freedom from spiritual, economic and military pressure of their Fatherland. It was their intention to earn enough money in Cincinnati to buy land in the Indiana territory upon which they hoped to settle. The United States Government was urging people to enter the new country and in an effort to draw settlers to the territory, it passed the act of April 24, 1820 called "An Act Making Further Provisions for the Sale of Public Lands," which made it possible for men of little means to build their future on cheaply-bought land.

Already before 1840 a number of the fathers and founders of St. John's had settled there, among whom were: G. Vornholt, H. Zur Oeweste, D. Sanders, J. H. Kerkhof, D. Pardieck, B. Burbrink, F. Becker, G. F. Rittman, G. Von dem Fange, and others. Though apparently no organization of any kind had been effected, these early settlers met in private for divine worship, which was usually the nature of a "Reading Service," (Lesegottesdienst). But in 1840, presumably in the late fall of that year, St. John's was formally organized. Eighty acres of land to be used for church purposes was purchased. This plot of land was located near the county line on the present road leading to Seymour. Since it soon became apparent that this property would not be centrally located, it was sold. In 1844 the present church site then consisting of 40 acres was purchased for the nominal sum of \$100.00.

The first six years of St. John's history was a period of dark spiritual confusion. Lutheran ministers were a scarcity in the land. Pastors from a German Settlement in Jackson County served this congregation from time to time with Word and Sacrament. But these pastors were for the most part rationalists, i.e., such as placed reason above the Word of God. For a time it seemed as though all the members would be won over with their fanaticism by a revivalistic group.

But God had planned a different history for this congregation. Some of the settlers here had known a certain minister in Germany whose name was Schuerman. He was now located in Hunesburg, Indiana. Mr. D. Pardieck went to him for information as to where one might obtain a truly Lutheran pastor. Pastor Schuerman wrote to Dr. Sihler in Fort Wayne, informing him of the plight and the earnest wish of the White Creek congregation. Before Dr. Sihler had responded to St. John's appeal, the Rev. Suhr, pastor of North German Lutheran Church on Walnut Street in Cincinnati, of whose church most of the people here had been members during their brief stay in Cincinnati, sent to the troubled group a certain Candidate Fick who had just come over from Germany.

Candidate Fick was a sincere Christian and a consecrated Lutheran Pastor. In addition to the troubles referred to before, the following should be mentioned. Some who had settled here were of the Reformed persuasion. These had threatened to withdraw from the congregation if it were to be strictly Lutheran. Since no one seems to have been sufficiently acquainted with the Scriptures nor with the differentiating doctrines of

these two churches to be able to convince the one or the other group of the errors of their faith, and since the number of the members of the congregation was necessarily small, it was agreed to have a combination Lutheran and Reformed church. This congregation's first name accordingly was: "The St. John's Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Congregation of White Creek, Indiana." Candidate Fick testified fearlessly against the dangers threatening the fledgling flock from without and within. He pointed out the Scriptural impossibility of being both a Lutheran and a Reformed congregation at the same time. So successful was he in convincing the members of the Scriptural correctness of the Lutheran doctrines, that after six weeks of his ministry the congregation resolved henceforth to call itself, "The St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of White Creek, Indiana."

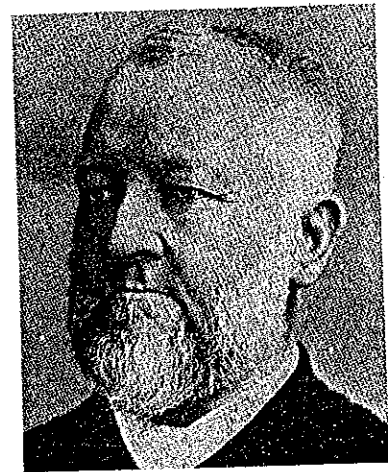
In 1844 a log house was built where the present parsonage stands, and was used as a place of worship. With the population of this community increasing rapidly during those years, the erection of a church soon became necessary. The congregation, therefore, erected its first house of worship in 1847. It stood near where the present school building stands. It measured 28 by 38 feet. It was furnished with altar and pulpit. Candidate Fick preached the sermon on the occasion of the cornerstone laying of this building.

1847-1851

For some unknown reason Candidate Fick could not remain after completing his total of six weeks at White Creek. As Pastor Schuerman had done before him, Candidate Fick informed Dr. William Sihler of the dire need and earnest wish of this congregation. In response to this appeal, Dr. Sihler directed to White Creek the "Circuit Rider" Pastor Carl Fricke.

After having preached several trial sermons, the Rev. Carl Fricke became St. John's first resident pastor. He was installed in the fall of 1847 and resided in the log hut which had been used for church purposes.

During his pastorate the congregation adopted its first constitution which contained, among others, the following paragraph: "This congregation declares unreserved acceptance and adherence to all canonical books of the Old and New Testament as the inspired and revealed Word of God and the only rule of faith and life; and to all Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as the true and sound exhibition of the Word of God." As the paragraph clearly indicates, the congregation at last secured a pastor who was not Lutheran in name only, but also at heart.



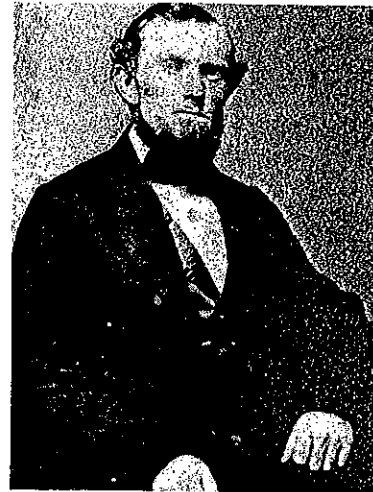
Rev. Carl Fricke  
1847-1851

On August 13, 1848 Pastor Fricke officiated the marriage of Rev. Johann Georg Sauer and Johanna Rapp of Rockford. Just a month prior to the marriage, Rev. Sauer had become pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church (Sauers) in Jackson County. The couple's grandson, Rev. Geo. Baumgart served St. John's (White Creek) congregation 1912-1923. After but little more than three years of ministry here, Pastor Fricke followed a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation in Indianapolis. It is reported that he walked to Indianapolis, his new field of labor.

1851-1866

Pastor Fricke's immediate successor was the Rev. Rudolph Klinkenberg. After having preached trial sermons on the Sunday after Christmas and on January 1, 1851, R. Klinkenberg was called by the congregation to be its pastor. That same year the congregation resolved to build a new parsonage. Due to general dissatisfaction some twelve members, together with their families, withdrew and organized a congregation of their own. But in spite of this withdrawal, the congregation still numbered thirty-two voting members, and by the year 1862 it had over sixty members and more than 400 souls.

Pastor Klinkenberg, as well as Pastor Fricke before him, were advisory members of the Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States. Privately and publicly they urged the congregation to affiliate with this synod. Although at first the members had their misgivings about such an association, these with God's help were soon removed. The assembly applied for membership in this great church body and was received into membership by it at the Cleveland convention in June 1853. Little did these fathers realize what an important step they were taking at that time, and what blessings such an affiliation would bring to their church in future years.



Rev. R. Klinkenberg  
1851-1866

The old log church built in 1847 became too small to accommodate the worshippers. Accordingly, St. John's in 1860 resolved to build a new church. At first it was to be a frame structure. Contractor Greise of Indianapolis, whom the fathers had consulted, assured that it would be much better to erect a brick building and that the additional cost would be negligible. His suggestions were heeded. F. W. Meier approached all members to solicit contributions and subscriptions for the new church. When results were not sufficient, Henry Schlehuser was sent around a second time. The following were elected to serve on the Building Committee: Fred Dorfmeier, Gerhard Von dem Fange, Fred W. Meier, Henry Schlehuser, Henry Kuhlman, William Welmer, and R. Klinkenberg. A little more than \$2,500 was subscribed. The rest was borrowed, for the most part from members. The cornerstone was laid April 27, 1862. Pastor Folf of Clifty preached on the occasion on I Corinthians 3:11. Most of the lumber as well as most of the work was donated by the members. Much of the brick was prepared on the Henry Wohrman farm adjoining that of Fred Dorfmeier.

A discussion arose as to whether or not a cross should be placed on top of the church tower. Some held this to be too "Catholic". After Pastor Klinkenberg spoke for more than an hour explaining the significance and appropriateness of Christian symbols, the congregation by a vote of 39 to 8 resolved to have the cross grace the tower of the church. The new church measuring 72 feet by 40 feet by 47 feet, with tower measuring 72 feet in height, was dedicated to the glory and service of the Lord on September 14, 1862. One cannot help marveling at the faith, the courage, and the devotion to the Lord of these fathers. For though the cost of our present church in actual cash was no more than \$4,432.98, this was no small sum to raise in those times. And then, too, these fathers resolved to build our present church at a time when they had difficulty in raising enough to meet current local expenses. In fact, annual reports showed constant deficits. Furthermore rather primitive conditions prevailed at that time, for during the course of the building of our church William Welmer was instructed to find a better route to Columbus where some of the bricks were made. After the new church was finished, the old one was reconditioned and used for school purposes.

Pastor Klinkenberg remained pastor of St. John's congregation until 1866. During his pastorate he seems at no time to have received more salary than \$350.00 per year. It might also be mentioned that during the last year of his ministry here he began preaching services at Rockford which were continued by his successor. Due to the swamps nearby, Pastor, his wife Caroline and children were among many who became ill. Two of their children died and are buried in the church cemetery. They were told for him to live, he must seek a different climate. In the fall of 1866 the Klinkenbergs traveled to Minnesota by ox cart caravan. There Rev. Klinkenberg served two parishes, one in Blumenthal (now Flower Valley) and one in Hay Creek, five miles away. After only two years, because of continued poor health, he resigned from his pastorate. They then lived in Red Wing where he worked in a hardware store and later in Minneapolis where Caroline managed their candy and grocery store. The aggressive leader, through whom the Lord so visibly blessed this congregation was called to his heavenly home April 17, 1893. His earthly remains were laid to rest in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis.



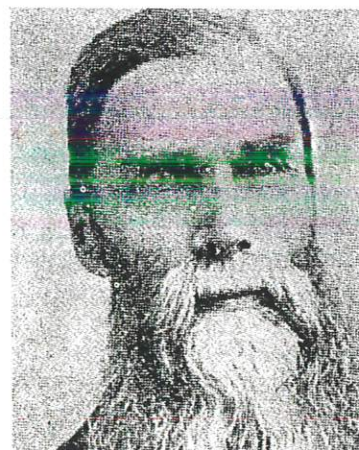
1867-1887

The Rev. Klinkenberg having left, St. John's was confronted with the necessity of calling another man to take his place. They first tried to get a certain Pastor Engelbert but were not successful. On November 18, 1866 they called the Rev. H. J. Juengel. Pastor Juengel accepted, and seems to have taken charge of his pastoral duties in this new field January 1, 1867. With the coming of Pastor Juengel, a new era began in the history of St. John's. His was a remarkable spiritual leadership. Anti-Scriptural practices hitherto tolerated were abolished. For many years those who desired to become members of this church were required to pay an entry fee ("Eintrittsgeld") of \$3.00. Whenever funds were needed the motion was simply passed that everyone pay a stipulated amount by a designated time. But in the very first meeting attended by Pastor Juengel the resolution was passed: "Henceforth contributions for the support of the congregation are to be made willingly. Subscriptions are to be solicited from the individual members. Thereafter, if one does not change his pledge before January 1st his contribution of the previous year is regarded as his promise for the following year." Members not redeeming their pledges were invited to appear before the Voters' Assembly for an explanation. Church discipline cases were very common and, in most instances effective. Calls received by the pastor (or teacher) were given due consideration. The congregation in most instances considered the matter at length as to whether the call could be considered a divine one. Three questions were regarded as important consideration in such deliberations: (1) Is the field to which our pastor (or teacher) called a more important one, and can he with his talents serve God and his neighbors more and better than here? (2) Is it probable that more harm will be caused by his leaving than good will be accomplished in his new field of labor? (3) Are the needs of the calling congregation of such nature that they may not be supplied in some other way?

The congregation vehemently opposed dancing among its members. It resolved that none of its members were to tolerate this evil in their homes. Parents were not to permit their children to attend dances. Those who stubbornly refused to heed these resolutions were to be taken into church discipline. From these few observations it is apparent that Scriptural teachings and principles received due consideration at this time.

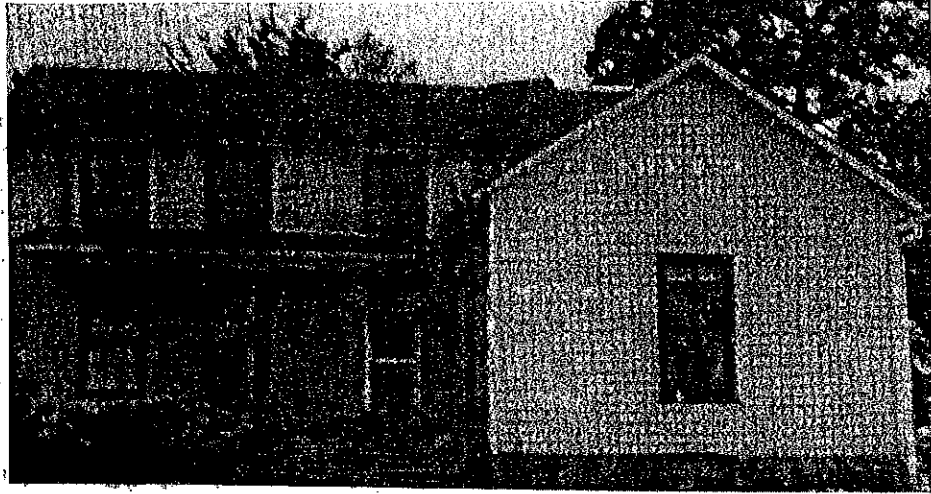
During Pastor Juengel's regime the congregation also might be termed "Synod minded". This was evidenced not so much by the contributions for synodical purposes for these were negligible, as by discussions in meetings of synodical affairs. At one time when the names of such had been proposed for the presidency of one of our colleges were published in the "Lutheraner", the congregation went on record as being well satisfied with all but one person. They vigorously protested against his being elected. They sent their protest, together with the reason for it, to the Rev. Brohm of St. Louis, Secretary of the Electoral Board of that college. Not until they had been assured that a change of heart had taken place in the man in question did the congregation withdraw its protest. On another occasion the congregation went on record as favoring the proposition the the Missouri Synod, the Ohio Synod, and the Norwegian Synod jointly have but one seminary for the training of future pastors. In 1869 and again in 1871, a house-to-house solicitation was made to secure contributions for the "Synodical Building Fund".

It was said, and rightly so, that a congregation's attitude toward its property is an evidence of the inward estimation of its faith. In October 1867 the first organ was purchased for \$1179.00. That same year church bells were secured for \$360.35. In 1868 the church balcony was enlarged. In the summer of 1869 the first school was built at the cost of \$1232.54. In 1874 a new parsonage was erected for \$840.00. In 1875 a new teacher's dwelling was built for the sum of \$925.00 by Henry Auf dem Berge, William Toburen, and Henry Schlehuser. This dwelling still stands today, the property and home of Ralph and Esther Peters. In 1885 the congregation put a new floor in its church.



Rev. H J. Juengel  
1867-1887





St. John's Teacherage Built 1875

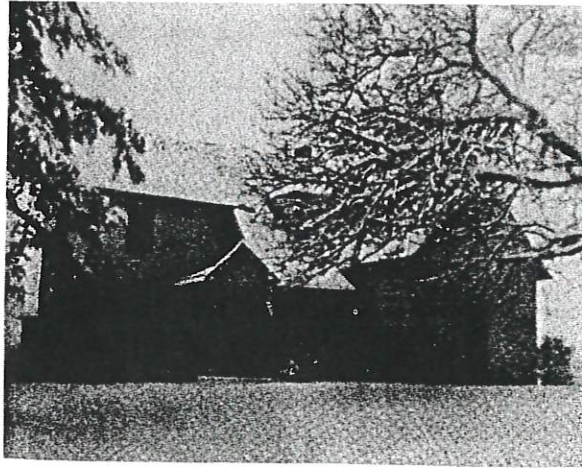
In 1877 a number of members residing in or near Jonesville secured their release from this congregation and established a church of their own. Pastor Juengel at first ministered to this little flock of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

On December 5, 1886 Pastor Juengel received a call from Zion's congregation in Fort Wayne. Having been persuaded to do so by the local congregation, he returned this call. But in January 1887 the call was sent to him for a second time. A certain Pastor Sauer, serving St. John's Lutheran Church in Jackson County at that time, was sent here by the Fort Wayne congregation to represent it in the meeting in which the matter of Pastor Juengel's call was to be considered. When Pastor Juengel and the congregation finally became convinced that the Lord was calling him to a new field of labor, St. John's granted him a peaceful dismissal. As Pastor Juengel bade farewell to this congregation he could look back upon twenty years of fruitful and blessed ministry. His was a successful ministry here, not because of wealth gotten, for he at no time received more than \$600.00 per year salary, but in the sense that he was privileged to lead a struggling congregation to much higher spiritual levels and attainments. That St. John's had dearly loved its now departing minister was evidenced by the fact that she presented him with a purse at the time of his leaving. After his departure from here, he was privileged to serve Zion's congregation for twelve years before his retirement. His mortal remains lie buried in Concordia Cemetery in Fort Wayne to await the joyful Resurrection morn.

#### 1887-1903

Confronted with the necessity of securing a new pastor, St. John's February 26, 1887, resolved to call the Rev. Gottfried Markworth of Wyandotte, Michigan. Under his consecrated and able leadership she continued in a comparatively flourishing spiritual condition. The history of this congregation during the pastorate of Rev. Markworth is to a large extent a repetition or continuation of the history of the previous regime. Church discipline was diligently practiced. Those in arrears with the payment of their church obligations were called before the Voters' Assembly to give an account. Resolutions were passed urging all members to live up to certain Scriptural precepts and principles. They were asked to attend the preparatory services even though they did not wish to commune. They were fearlessly reprov'd for remaining outside for even a part of the services.

During this time contributions for both home and outside purposes increased noticeably. Collections for the indigent students were common. On October 28, 1888 the congregation resolved that every member bring one bushel of wheat or its equivalent in cash for support of students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The total of



St. John's Parsonage Built 1900

\$47.70 was thus collected. The custom of having an annual Mission Festival was introduced, the first one having been held September 12, 1886. A total of \$41.53 was collected on that Sunday. By 1896 the amount collected for mission purposes on the Mission Festival Sunday had increased to the sum of \$142.73. As early as 1899 an English mission service was held on the afternoon of the Mission Festival.

Between Christmas and New Year's Day of 1900 the parsonage burned to the ground. Immediate steps were taken to build a new one. H. Westermeier, Jr., Ben Steinker, Ernest Steinker, August Eickbush, H. F. Eckelman, and Henry Zur Oeweste served on the building committee. The contract for the building of the parsonage was let to the Steinker brothers for the sum of \$350.00, the congregation obligating itself to furnish all necessary materials.

After a blessed and fruitful ministry here of more than sixteen years, Pastor Markworth, whom it seems, was beloved by all who knew him, lived for a time at Seymour, and later at New Palestine, Indiana. He departed this life April 3, 1919 at the age of 78 years, 8 months and seven days. He and Mrs. Markworth lie buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at New Palestine to await the Savior's joyful summons.

#### 1903-1940

The history of St. John's covering this period of time shall of necessity have to be brief and very fragmentary since the minutes of the meetings held between 1904 and 1929 are no longer available. In general, it may be said that this was a season of quiet development. Additions to the congregation through the emigrations from Germany had come to an end. A goodly number of families moved to Kansas and elsewhere. However, additions were made from time to time. The congregation enjoyed a normal growth from within and was able to maintain itself.

Pastor M. C. Baade steered the ship of the congregation from August 1903 until April 1912. Regular Sunday evening services in the English language were introduced October 1903. The voters resolved January 1905 that corpses be taken into the



Rev. G. Markworth  
1887-1903

church for funeral services. Among the improvements made, the interior of the church was beautifully decorated for the first time April 1909, the work having been done by G. H. Schanbacher & Son for the sum of \$500.00. After having served St. John's for eight and one-half years, the Rev. Baade followed a call to Madisonville, Ohio. His last charge was in Norwalk, Ohio where he labored until his death in 1934. His body together with that of Mrs. Baade, rests in Concordia Cemetery in Fort Wayne and awaits the joyful summons of the Last Day.



Rev. M. C. Baade  
1903-1912

Pastor Baade's successor was the Rev. G. Baumgart installed April 1912. During his pastorate here regular Sunday morning services in the English language were introduced. After having labored here faithfully more than eleven years, he accepted the call extended to him by the St. John's congregation, Lanesville, Indiana.

Pastor Baumgart was followed in April 1924 by the Rev. R. Koch who remained a little more than one year. In May 1926 Rev. W. Wurl became St. John's next pastor and served the congregation for a period of two years. In November 1926 a Sunday School was organized which met with gratifying

success. Otto Meyer was its first superintendent. Otto Meyer, Hilda Meyer, Myrtle Nordman, Mary Burbrink, and Luella Schlehuser were its first teachers.



Rev. Geo. Baumgart  
1912-1923

On July 28, 1929 Rev. Louis Schulenburg was ordained and installed as Pastor, thus beginning 15 years of dedicated faithful service. Under his able guidance, the organizations in which the activities of our church are carried on were started. In May 1930 the Ladies' Aid and the Young People's Society (in

October) were organized. In October 1939 the Men's Club got its start. In January 1932 the interior of the church building was re-decorated. In November 1935 new pews were placed in the church. The school was remodeled in 1937. Cement walks were built on church premises September 1938. A furnace was installed in the church August 1939. In 1942 the present beautiful stained glass windows replaced the original plain ones.



Rev. R. Koch  
1924-1925

From 1931 through 1935, the congregation along with most



other churches, businesses, and industries found itself in financial difficulty. By the Grace of God through the sacrificial giving of the members and donations of the organizations did the congregation manage to function adequately. The pastor himself volunteered to take a cut in salary to aid the financial situation.

1940-1957

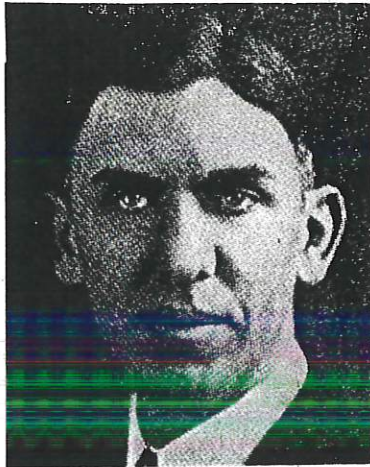
In August of 1940, St. John's held a service of praise and thanksgiving on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. Over 600 people attended the service and heard Rev. Ottomar Krueger of Toledo, Ohio, then president of the Ohio District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, deliver the sermon. In 1942, due to the unsettled conditions in the world at the time it was decided to discontinue all German services. Also at this time, a church flag and a national flag were purchased for use in the church. On October 15, 1944 Rev. Schulenburg accepted a call to Christ Lutheran at Woodburn, IN. Pastor Schulenburg retired October 1970 from St. Paul's, Chesterton, IN. He has returned to preach several times and his last visit was in September of 1987. His wife, Martha, is buried at Woodburn, IN and he is presently living in a Fort Wayne nursing home.



Rev. W. Wurl  
1926-1928

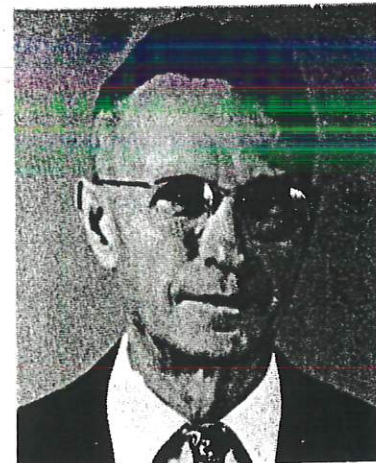
In November of 1944, the call of St. John's congregation was accepted by the Rev. Randolph Mueller who remained at White Creek for a little more than one year before he accepted a call to Western Springs, Illinois. For the next year Rev. Hoferkamp of Jonesville was vacancy pastor.

In October of 1946, the call of St. John's was accepted by Rev. O. W. Linnemeier of Hammond, IN. Rev. Linnemeier faithfully served 11 years, during that time many improvements were made. In 1949 the present teacher's house was built by



Rev. L. Schulenburg  
1928-1944

Zumhingst Construction Co. at the cost of \$7800.95. Many years earlier the voters had sold the teacher's dwelling built in 1875 which needed extensive repairs. Only single men were then hired to teach the children and were boarded in the homes of the members. In 1950 a new organ was placed in the church. In 1951 the church was again re-decorated at a cost of \$2,300.00. In 1953 it was decided to build a new school and



Rev. O. W. Linnemeier  
1946-1957

parish hall. The building committee appointed for this task was composed of Walter Burbrink, Walter Meyer, Orren Schlehuser, Carl Niemoeller, Carl Wichman, and William Copple. The bid was given to Bode Brothers Construction Co. and in 1955 a beautiful stone combination school and parish hall was built at the cost of \$41,422.20 almost ten times the cost of the church building constructed in 1862.

In October of 1955, the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of White Creek incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana. On January 1, 1957 Rev. Linnemeier retired from the preaching ministry but remained at White Creek as a teacher of the lower grades until September of 1961. Rev. Linnemeier then served St. Peter's, Columbus, as assistant pastor. He entered eternal life on September 23, 1974. He and his wife Luella are laid to rest, as he would say, in God's acre here at St. John's.



1957-1968

Rev. William A. Gramlich  
1957-1964

On February 10, 1957 Rev. William Gramlich was installed as pastor. At a special voters' meeting on December 18, 1960 it was decided to discontinue the confessional services on communion Sundays and instead be incorporated into the

regular worship services. It was during Pastor Gramlich's ministry that Sunday Bible Class was reintroduced and has continued to this day.



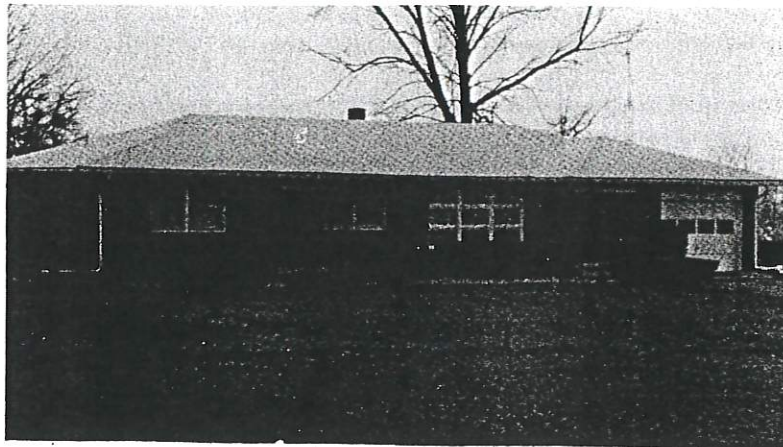
Rev. Donald G. Matzat  
1965-1968

In 1962 the congregation celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church building. To commemorate this event, many improvements were made. New lights were installed. New carpeting was laid. A new roof, new floor, new furnace, new church steps, insulation, new church flags, new hymnals, new altar vases and decoration of the walls and church furniture was completed at a cost of close to \$5000. On September 16 the church anniversary was celebrated in a morning and afternoon service. Rev. Louis Schulenburg preached at the morning service on the theme, "Why Christians Celebrate Anniversaries" based on Romans 15:13. Rev. Linnemeier preached at the afternoon service on the theme, "One Hundred Years Versus Eternity" based on Matthew 24:25.

In February of 1964, Pastor Gramlich retired from the full time ministry after serving St. John's congregation faithfully seven years. Pastor Gramlich then served the spiritual needs of Lutherans in Madison, IN. He was called to his heavenly home on October 28, 1976 in Versailles, IN. His wife Alma, presently lives in California with her granddaughter.

For the next 17 months, Rev. Richard Hasz of Jonesville





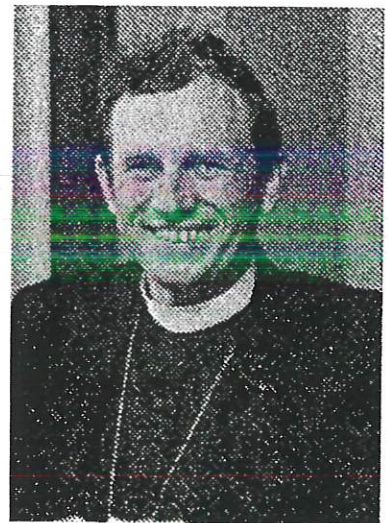
St. John's Parsonage 1990

served the congregation as their vacancy pastor. In January of 1965 a building committee was chosen to make plans for the building of a new parsonage. After calling several men to fill the vacancy without success, the voters decided to call a candidate from one of our seminaries. On July 11, 1965 Rev. Donald G. Matzat began his ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church at White Creek. Pastor Matzat served here for three years. During this time the congregation celebrated its 125th anniversary, and in 1966 Pastor and his wife Diane were the first occupants of the new brick parsonage. It was built by Andrew Claycamp at the cost of \$22,289.31. In 1966 Pastor Matzat started an acolyte program of the eighth grade boys taking turns lighting altar candles. Mrs. Matzat constructed the white robe to be worn over white shirts and dark-colored trousers with dark dress shoes. Because of just two boys in the 1977 class, eighth grade girls then began serving and the practice continued. Also in 1966, Bible Study for women began, offering small-group study during the week in the homes of the participants.

On June 16, 1968 Pastor Matzat preached his farewell sermon and moved with wife Diane and new daughter, Cynthia to Howard City, Michigan. He is presently serving Messiah Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. The four and one-half month vacancy was filled by Rev. Hasz of Jonesville and Rev. Bernath of Waymansville.

1968-1977

In August St. John's called Rev. Loren Boettcher of Trinity, Westville, IN. He was installed on October 29, 1968, a humble and dedicated servant of our Lord in our midst. Over the next few years, several noteworthy events took place. In 1969 Otto Meyer was honored for 43 continuous years of Sunday School teaching. In 1972 the Voters' Assembly resolved to entitle 18-year old male members to all privileges of voting members and subject to obligations of the same. In 1973 the church interior was decorated at the cost of \$3,776.50. In 1974 a vote of 29 to 26 approved plans for a church addition, but insufficient pledges tabled the plans and that same year the lower step in front of the altar was extended for communion use. In 1975 based on a congregational questionnaire, the voters decided to raze the "one room" school building and replaced it with a concrete basketball/volleyball court. However the bell tower



Rev. Loren Boettcher  
1968-1976

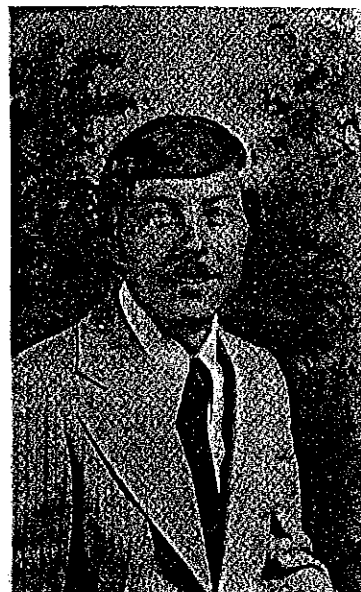


was saved and placed on the roof of our present school building. In 1976 early German congregational minutes were translated to English by Rev. Mueller of Columbus and typed for permanent record.

In August of 1976 after eight years of serving St. John's, Pastor and Norma Boettcher with children Mark, Joel, Hope, and Joy moved to Darmstadt, IN where he accepted a call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church. He is presently serving Immanuel Lutheran of Van Buren, Missouri. During the one year vacancy filled by Rev. Walter Ullman of Waymansville, the voters accepted in May of 1977, the \$145,219 bid of Force Construction Co. for a school addition. During June \$54,535 was collected. The new addition was dedicated on October 23, 1977 and by December only a \$50,000 debt remained.

1977-1990

In July of 1977, Rev. Edward May of Beaverton, Oregon accepted the call to St. John's and was installed in August. January of 1978 began with a blizzard and energy crisis. Because of the required reduction in energy use, many church and school programs were postponed or cancelled during the winter months. In 1979 a new Conn organ was installed and new speakers provided increased volume. In 1980 the Bartholomew County Historical Society presented St. John's Lutheran Church with an award for the historical preservation of our church building. In 1982 a prayer chain was begun by several women with Seymour telephone numbers during special times of joy or sorrow. Another prayer chain began in 1983 with Columbus phone prefixes. In January of 1984, Pastor May left with family Diane, Mark, Peter, and Philip for Goshen, IN where he still serves Prince of Peace.



Rev. Edward May  
1977-1984

After a seven month vacancy filled by Rev. Carl Cloeter of Waymansville, seminary graduate Rev. Marcus Jauss was ordained and installed in July of 1984. Our 16th pastor and wife Lanett have two daughters, Nicole and Natalie.

On August 4, 1985 the school debt retirement was celebrated with a mortgage burning ceremony after church services. Immediately after the ceremony the voters accepted a \$9,153 bid of Goecker Lumber Co. for a 12-ft entrance platform with steps, wheelchair ramp and sidewalks. Also approved was \$2008 for new gutters, downspouts, and window frame painting. Then during the Advent season in 1985, practice began on an annual Christmas Cantata with combined members of St. John's, White Creek, St. Paul's, Jonesville, and St. Peter's, Waymansville under the direction of Mrs. Lanett Jauss.

Beginning in 1986 individual cup communion was offered in addition to the common cup. In 1987 a high school age Bible Class was revitalized and a second adult Bible Class was begun on Sunday mornings. "Rejoice in Mercy" was the September 1987 theme for the celebration of the 125th anniversary of our church building. Rev. Donald Matzat was the guest speaker in the morning service which was followed by a basket dinner and hymn sing. In 1988 a monthly congregational newsletter was started. Early 1990 a congregational brochure was published to be given to visitors at worship service and on outreach calls in the community. This spring of 1990 the sidewalks on the north side of the church building were replaced.

In Praise to God, the celebration for 150 years since the church was organized begins! On April 1, 1990 twenty-five West German visitors and local interpreters attended Sunday morning service and were honored with a congregational basket dinner. Also in celebration of our sesquicentennial on April 29, the church cornerstone laid April 27, 1862 was opened following the worship service. Found inside was a hand-blown

glass jar; although sealed the contents had deteriorated. Other activities are planned for former members, with final October celebrations of worship services, pageant, German guests and dinners.

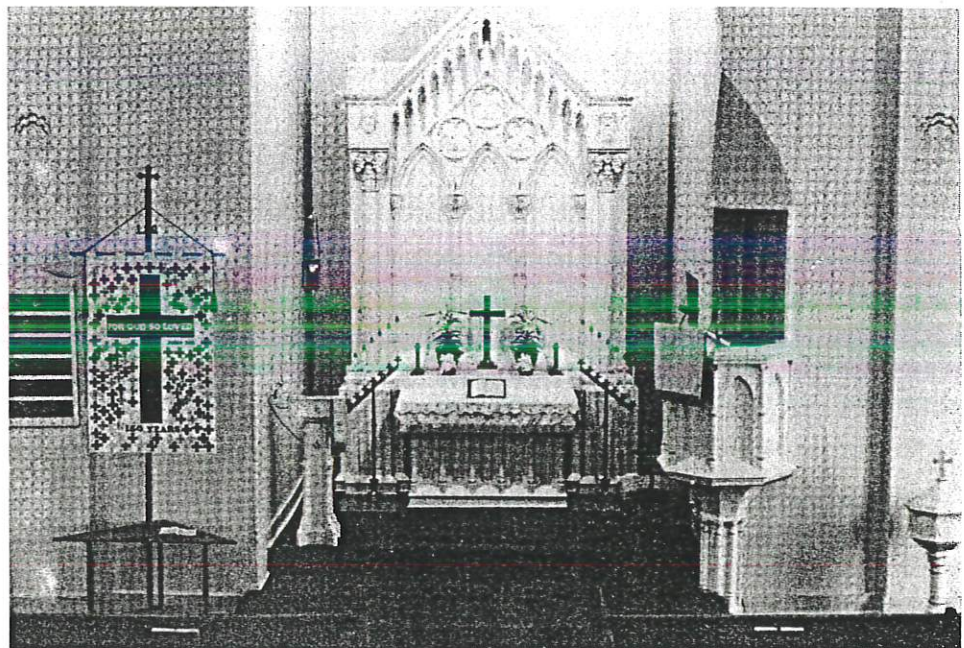
During these past several years many memorials and thankofferings provided beautification and aid to our church and worship. They include: carillon, kneeling bench, banners, entrance doors, eternal light, paraments, vestibule doors, carpeting, communion cloth, ceiling fans, communion table, recepticals and stands, oak podium, two candle lighters, flag stands, communion storage, additional member mailboxes, altar chairs and banner stand. Recent donations to church property include playground equipment, cemetery map board, trees and shrubs.

Acknowledgement is here given to the known living church organists who faithfully served Sunday after Sunday and on other occasions. They are Myrtle Borgman, C. J. Nicol, Ethel Meyer, Ed Selke, Donald Voelker, Nola Lillie, Joyce Meyer, Imogene Mensendiek and Ruthann Stam.



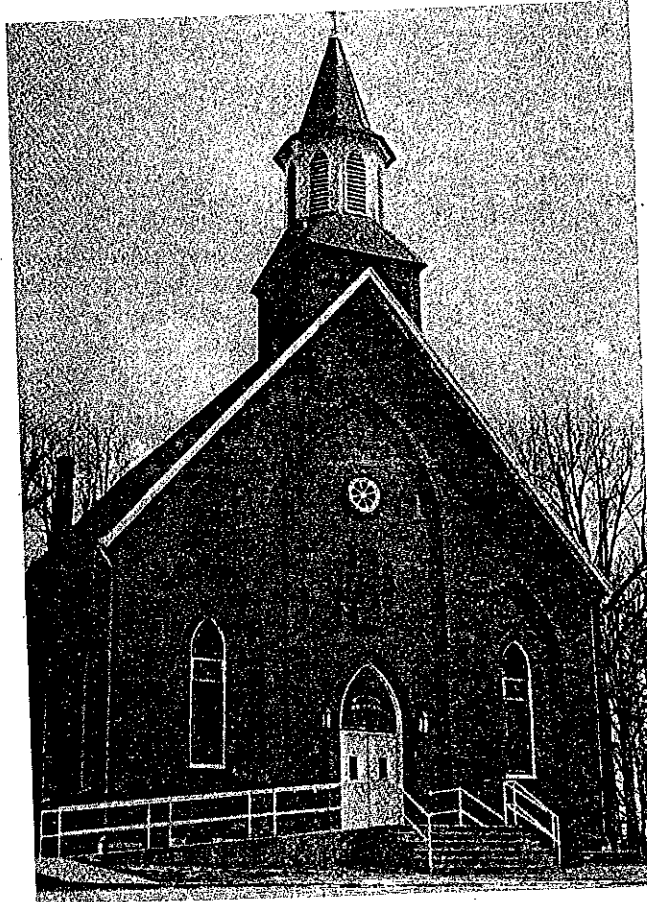
Rev. Marcus Jauss  
1984-

In the history of the first 150 years of St. John's Lutheran Church, many events have been mentioned but we could never record or recall them all. Yet we must always remember it's not what we have done, but what



Chancel of St. John's Lutheran Church 1990

blessings God had given us. Certainly the greatest gift of all is our Savior, Jesus Christ and our faith is focused on the anniversary theme of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Our Lord has guided the members of St. John's to fulfill the Biblical image of the church as a body with all the parts serving together. Until our Lord's return, we will continue to teach and preach the pure Word of God from the history book of all times.



St. John's Lutheran Church-1990

### CHURCH STATISTICS

Baptized Members .....	462
Communicant Members .....	368
Voting Members .....	103
Number baptized 1840-1990.....	1,962

### 1990 CONFIRMANDS

Carrie Elaine Dettmer	Christopher Matthew Herbert
Heidi Gail Dunn	Michael Christopher May,
Michael Todd Heckman	St. Peter's (Waymansville)



# 1990 Church Officers

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Charles Schroer, Chairman  
Ernie Dettmer, Sec.  
Robert Burbrink, Treas.  
Dale Burbrink, Synodical Treas.  
Joseph Kerkhof, Elder  
John Schroer, Elder  
Larry Dyer, Elder  
Harold Meyer, Trustee  
Richard Noblitt, Trustee  
Clifford Bode, Trustee

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Glen Meyer  
Lloyd Meyer  
Larry Claycamp  
Doyce Eckelman  
Larry Barkes  
Mike Ross

## BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Ed Niemoeller  
Jack Taulman  
Robert Manley  
Paul Walker

## BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

David Koberlein  
Walter Meyer  
Mark Mensendiek

## BUILDING FUND

Dallas Kreinhagen

## MISSION FEDERATION

Orville Meyer

## CONVENTION DELEGATE

Herbert Meyer

## USHERS

Tim Kreinhagen  
Ben Peters  
Terry Schlehuser  
Jaison Acton  
Rex Enzinger  
Jon Voelker

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Wayne and Melanie Meyer, Supt.  
Glen and Linda Meyer  
Matilda Bode  
Darlene Eckelman  
Kathy Kahlenbeck  
Connie Meyer  
Vickie Meyer  
Kathy Ross  
Jean Voelker

## BIBLE CLASS LEADERS

Pastor Jauss  
Timothy Hoene  
Herbert Meyer

## LADIES' AID SOCIETY

Matilda Bode, Pres.  
Virginia Luckey, Vice-Pres.  
Karen Burbrink, Sec.  
Mildred Behrman, Treas.

## ST. JOHN'S GUILD

Connie Meyer, Pres.  
Kathy Kerkhof, Vice-Pres.  
Carol Wheeler, Sec.  
Mary Herbert, Treas.

## SENIOR LEAGUE

Martin Hoffman, Pres.  
Herbert Meyer, Vice-Pres.  
Jane Hoffman, Sec.-Treas.

## YOUTH GROUP

Philip Burbrink, Pres.  
Gretchen Dettmer, Sec.  
Angela Condra, Treas.

## YOUTH LEADERS

Tim and Judy Hoene  
Terry and Connie Meyer

## 150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

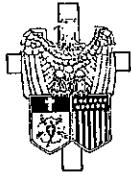
Jack and Ellen Dunn, Chairman  
Joseph and Kathy Kerkhof  
Lloyd and Jean Meyer  
Orren and Helen Schlehuser  
Terry and Ruth Schlehuser  
John and Carolyn Schroer

## 150th BOOKLET COMMITTEE

Orren and Helen Schlehuser, Chairman  
Ernie and Donna Dettmer  
Norman and Mary Louise Schroer  
Louis and Jean Voelker

## 150th PAGEANT COMMITTEE

Pastor and Lanett Jauss, Chairman  
Karen Burbrink  
Kathy Kahlenbeck  
Carol Wheeler



## LOYALTY TO GOD AND COUNTRY

Alfred Bollman†  
Theodore Burbrink  
Carl Eckelman†  
Daniel Eckelman, Jr.

Glen Behrman  
Carl Bode  
Clifford Bode  
Dennis Bode  
Francis Bode  
Hershel Bode  
Everett Burbrink  
Richard Condra  
Edwin Dettmer  
Harris Dettmer  
Gerald Eckelman†  
Herschel Eckelman†

Glen Bode  
Jerry Bode  
Kenneth Bode  
Paul Ferguson  
David Lange

James Behrman  
Charles Bode  
David Bode  
Richard Bode  
Steven Bode  
Fred Condra  
James Dettmer

Keith Bode  
Gary Burbrink  
Kenneth Claycamp  
Keith Dunn  
Russell Heckman  
Richard Hercamp

Brian Bramble  
Russell Coy

### WORLD WAR I

Otto Enzinger  
Edward Horman  
Franklin Kreinop  
Otto Kreinhagen

### WORLD WAR II

Norval Eckelman  
Harold Eickbush  
Herbert Eickbush  
Edwin Ellis  
Paul Kerkhof  
Leonard Kreinop, Sr.†  
Donald Lauster  
Paul Luckey  
Erven Meyer†  
Herbert Meyer  
Walter Meyer  
Alvin Niemoeller

### KOREAN WAR

William Robert Manley  
Richard Meadows  
Donald Niemoeller  
John Noblitt  
Robert Noblitt

### VIETNAM WAR

Kenneth Dettmer  
Paul Dettmer  
Doyce Eckelman  
Larry Geilker  
Ronald Heckman  
Joseph Kerkhof

### NATIONAL GUARD

Nola Lillie  
Louis Mensendiek  
Delbert Peters  
Gerald Peters  
Donn Schlehuser  
James Schlehuser

### PRESENTLY SERVING

Gregory Hancock  
Margaret Luckey

Edward Moorman  
Martin Schneider  
Theodore Schroer  
Harry Taylor

Clifford Noblitt  
Wilbur Noblitt  
Homer Rueter  
Burr Schlehuser  
Norma Schlehuser  
Orren Schlehuser  
Norman Schroer  
William Snyder  
Franklin Strohe  
Robert Tatlock  
Paul Walker

Leon Peters  
Leon Schlehuser  
John Schroer  
James Simmons  
Robert Sims, Sr.

Delbert Kinsey  
Stanley Meyer  
Glen Schlehuser  
William Schroer  
Randolph Sims  
Glenn Strietelmeier

Roger Strohe  
Ronald Torburen  
Herbert Warren, Jr.  
Dillard Whittymore  
Donald Wichman

Robert Nagel, Reserves  
Douglas Reinbolt

## History of St. John's White Creek Lutheran School



St. John's Lutheran School Erected 1869

St. John's congregation has always recognized the importance of a Christian Day School, where the lambs of Christ are instructed in the One Thing Needful, namely the Word of God. In addition to this, the school also gives a thorough training in secular subjects and patriotic citizenship.

Our school was organized before 1850. Children were first instructed in a log cabin and then in the old church building after the present church building was completed in 1862. A handsome brick school building was erected at a cost of \$1232.54 in 1869.

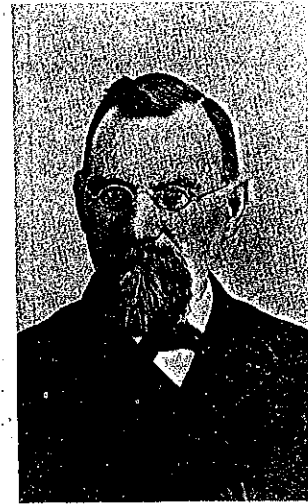
In the earlier days of our school history, parents were forced to pay tuition for every child in school to help meet teachers' salaries. In 1857 the tuition fee was 50 cents a child per year. This tuition was increased from time to time. Pastor Juengel advised against this taxation system since it became increasingly burdensome for parents to send their children to school. Therefore in 1879 it was resolved that the school too, should be maintained from the congregational treasury.

Over the years, many pastors and teachers have taught in our school. Until the year 1856 the pastors had taken care of the school also. Since the enrollment had rapidly increased to eighty students, the pastor no longer felt able to take care of both school and congregation. Teacher Theodore Gotsch, St. John's first



teacher, was therefore called and arrived August 22, 1856. After having labored here for about five years, he accepted a call to Ripley County, Indiana and became pastor of a small congregation in that county. Teacher Steinbach assumed charge of the school in 1862 and taught for five years. Teacher Zinke was his immediate successor and remained but two years.

It was at this time that "the brick school" as affectionately called, was built complete with a bell tower. Mr. H. F. Bollman became the next instructor of St. John's children. He served until 1874, when he accepted a call extended to him by the neighboring congregation at Columbus. His successor was Candidate Christian Gotsch. In 1879 Teacher Gotsch accepted a call to Kankakee, Illinois. The same year Teacher Lotz from Peoria, Illinois was called and taught until 1880 when he resigned because of ill health. Next Teacher Weichman of Farmers' Retreat was secured and labored until 1883 when he, for health's sake accepted a call of the congregation in a different climate. In 1882 the school enrollment had reached a probable all-time high of 112 pupils. In September 1883 John Von der Au was called as teacher, who was active until April 1888 when he accepted a call to Cleveland.



H. F. Bollman  
1868-1874



Christian Gotsch  
1874-1879

Mr. C. J. Nicol began serving as teacher of our school in 1931 and was formally called in 1935. After giving faithful service for 11 years he accepted a call to New Palestine, Indiana. Rev. Schulenburg volunteered to teach school the next term until some other arrangement could be made.

The 1943-44 term was taught by Mr. Erwin Bauer. In July of 1944, Teacher Erwin Lux of Saginaw, Michigan accepted the call to teach at St. John's and served until 1948. Student Wilbur Gronewald filled our vacancy briefly from September until December of 1948. At this time Mr. Norman Linnemeier (son

A period of constancy began in June 1888, when Candidate Rossman was called from old Addison, Illinois Seminary. He labored here for thirty-two years and was succeeded by Teacher Karl Lueders. After Mr. Lueders left in 1924, the active pastors of the congregation took charge of the school for several terms. From 1927 until 1931 each of the following had charge of the school for one term: Student Schulenburg Student Kleidon, Pastor Schulenburg assisted by Miss Martha Schulenburg and Candidate Wirth.



John Von der Au  
1883-1888

of Rev. O. W. Linnemeier) was hired and in April 1949, Mr. Linnemeier was given a two-year contract to teach. Also in 1949 the present teacher's house was built and the Linnemeier family were the first occupants. In October of 1949, Clarence Burbrink, Ed Hoffman, and Otto Meyer were chosen to serve on a school consolidation committee. Supt. of Schools W. J. Gernand was invited to a joint meeting of St. Paul's (Jonesville) and St. John's congregations. However, no further action was taken at that time. Mr. Linnemeier continued teaching until 1952 and in March of 1952, Teacher Donald Voelker accepted the call to White Creek. Early summer Teacher Voelker, wife Wilma and children Lorene, John and James moved into the teacherage.

In 1955 the congregation saw the need for better teaching facilities and the students marched into new classrooms that September. The floor was lowered in the old brick school and used for basketball and recreation in bad weather.

Since the school enrollment had increased again to a total of 60 for the 1956-57 school year, Pastor O. W. Linnemeier agreed to teach the lower grades for half day, in case a full-time local teacher could not be secured. He began teaching full-time in



Karl Lueders  
1921-1924

1957 after retiring from the pastoral ministry and served through 1961. The school standards and the quality of instruction were brought to higher levels as the second teacher was added.

Mrs. Fred Turmail of Vallonia began teaching grades 1-4 during the 1961-62 school year and faithfully served for eight years before retiring from active teaching.

Upon suggestion of Supt. Amt, consolidation of St. Paul's

and St. John's was discussed again during the 1964-65 term with no action taken. It was not until May 1968 that "an overwhelming majority" voted to enter a school consolidation with St. Paul's to begin operation in September 1968. The consolidation was in effect until the end of the 1976-77 school year.

The following teachers taught at Jonesville-White Creek Lutheran School: Mrs. Fred Turmail, 1968-1970; Mrs.



A.W. Rossman  
1888-1920



C. J. Nicol  
1931-1942

Helen Johnston, 1968-1970; Teacher James Johnston, 1968-1971; Principal/Teacher Donald Voelker, 1968-1972; Teacher Louis Voelker (not related to the previous named teacher), 1970-1977; Mrs. Selma Finke, 1970-1977; Teacher Marvin Kelm, 1971-1975; Teacher James Lillie, 1972-1977; Teacher Greg Rubin, 1975-1977.

In June 1971, a surprise celebration was held to honor Teacher Donald Voelker for his 25 years in the teaching ministry. In early 1972 after twenty faithful years as principal, teacher and organist, Teacher Voelker, Wilma and son Steve moved to Woodburn, IN, where he accepted a call to be principal of Lutheran Central School. He is presently serving as teacher there, having retired from the principalship.

Teacher Louis Voelker then became principal and continued to serve in that capacity when, "due to the declining enrollment of children from St. Paul's", they decided to withdraw from the consolidation.



Norman Linnemeier  
1948-1952



Donald Voelker  
1952-1972

St. John's then faced new decisions and invited all members to a meeting, when it was decided to have three teachers for the 1977-78 school year. In April the congregation extended a contract to Mrs. Nola Lillie to teach grades one and two. Force Construction Company was given a contract to build proposed additions to the school. The school year started with Principal/Teacher Voelker, Teacher James Lillie and Nola Lillie, 66 pupils, two new classrooms and a new gymnasium.

In May of 1978, Teacher Lillie accepted a call to Bethany Lutheran School in University City, MO and he, Nola, James and Heather moved in August. Mr. Lillie now teaches in a public school in the Louisville, KY area.

Teachers Mark and Janice Buss then accepted our calls to serve as teachers for grades 6, 7, 8, and 1 & 2, respectively. They arrived in the summer of 1978 and moved into St. John's teacherage. In 1979 Mrs. Shirley Flohr of Waymansville began teaching two days per week, allowing some departmentalization. Mrs. Nell Darlage served two days per week as tutor, through the federally funded TITLE I program.



Louis Voelker  
1970-1988



During 1980-81, our Mrs. Becky Eckelman taught the first semester with Mrs. Flohr returning for a second semester.

Mrs. Buss left teaching to be a full-time mother and Mrs. Darlene Cooley of Seymour taught grades 1-2 for one year. Mrs. Darlage was then contracted to teach the two days per week and continued as TITLE I tutor. In 1982 Mrs. Kay Clow was called to teach grades 1-2. Mrs. Darlage was called to teach four days each week and became 3rd and 4th grade teacher in 1987. Mrs. Darlage and family are members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Waymansville, and Mrs. Clow and family are members of St. Paul's at Jonesville.

Teacher Voelker resigned as principal in 1987 but agreed to teach one more year. He was honored in June 1988 for 20 years in the teaching ministry, 18 of them being at St. John's. He and wife Jean, and sons Louis, Aaron, Jon, and daughter Lindsey remained active members of the congregation.

Teacher Buss accepted the position of principal and continues in that capacity as well as 7th and 8th grade teacher.

Mrs. Buss serves as part-time church-school secretary. They have daughter Jael, and sons Jordan and Micah.

Mrs. Lanett Jauss was then called and continues to teach grades 5-6 and serves as school-church choir director, relieving Mr. Buss and Mrs. Joyce Meyer, who was volunteer choir director for many years.

A daily hot lunch program was started before consolidation. It is supervised by Mrs. Kathryn Taulman, who also serves as head cook, assisted by Mrs. Karen Schlehuser. Through a United States Government subsidized program, the students are provided with nutritious meals at a reasonable cost.



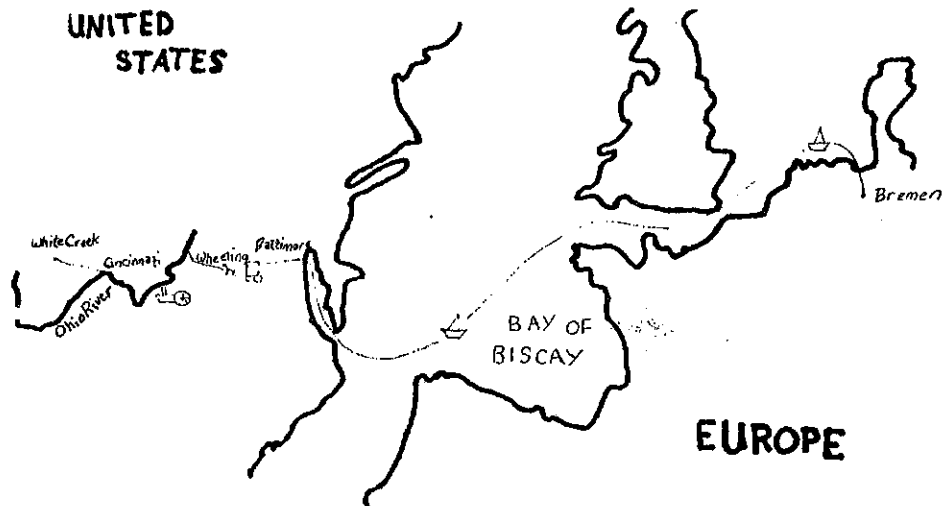
Mark Buss  
1978-



St. John's Teacherage, 1990



## FAMILY HISTORIES



A hand drawn map outlines the immigration route, from the papers of Johann Heinrich Zur Oeweste.

### BODE

Gerhard (George) Heinrich Bode (Bohde) and Sophie Dorothea Engelau were both born in Germany. St. John's Marriage Register records their marriage date as August 21, 1850 and his occupation as farmer. They had four sons: Julius, Friedrich, Karl and Heinrich, who was born in Jackson County, Hamilton Township.

Heinrich Geist and Joharina Friedenborg also were of German descent. They had four daughters: Wilhelmine Dringenburg, Rosine Elise Vornholt, Louis Christine Bode and Emma Maria Spray. They, too, immigrated to southern Indiana and Louise was born at Sunman, Indiana in Ripley County, fifteen miles west of the Indiana-Ohio border. It's interesting to note that Sunman is slightly north of being due west from Cincinnati.

Henry was born November 17, 1856, confirmed April 10, 1870 in St. Paul's Lutheran Church by Pastor Borchers. He died January 27, 1930. Burial was at St. John's Cemetery, service conducted by Pastor Schulenburg.

Louise was born June 21, 1861, confirmed March 21, 1875 at St. John's Lutheran Church by Pastor Juengel. She died April 20, 1920. Burial was at St. John's Cemetery, service by Pastor Baumgardt.

After their marriage on November 17, 1881 Henry and Louise built a log house in Jackson County near Bobtown and had nine children, seven lived to marry.

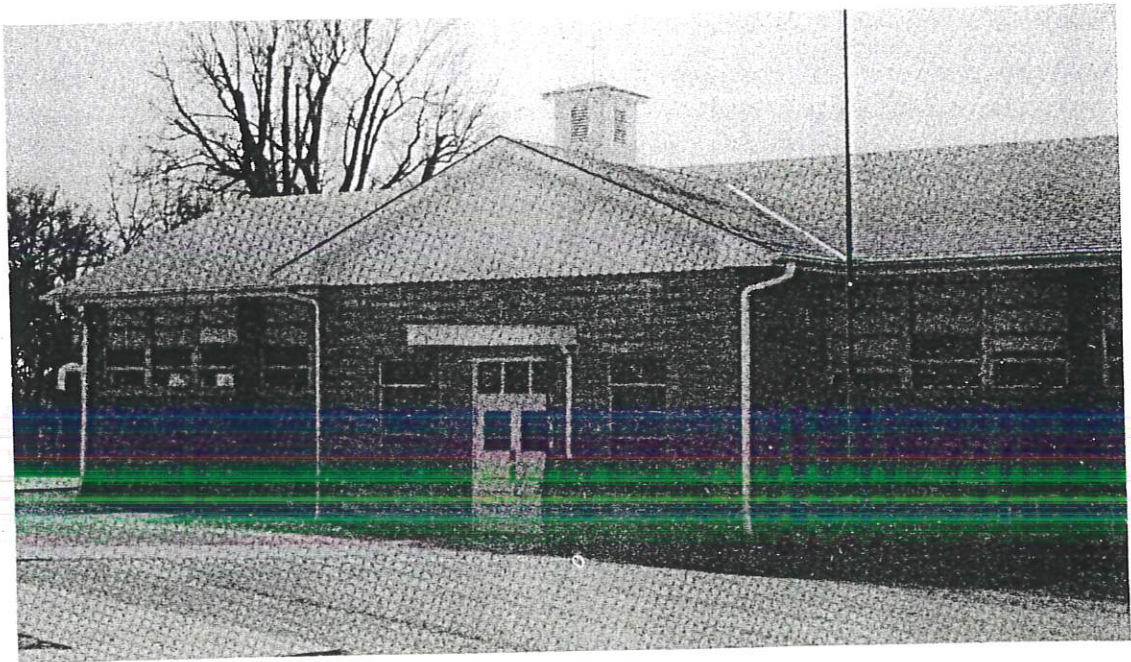
William married Marie Otte and their children were Erma, Verna Colvin, Orville, Esther Peters (see Peter history) Louise Sage, Violet, Clifford, Dennis and Herschel married to Emogene Voss and their son Terry Gene is buried in St. John's Cemetery. Erma married Walter Horman and their three children were Mildred, Geneva Kerkhof (see Kerkhof history), and John. Mildred married Glen Behrman and their children are James, Dale, Lou Ann Hoeverner, Linda Newkirk and Lori married to David Koberlein and their children are Matthew, Edward and Beth. Orville married Edna Selfridge and they had children Bettie Burbrink (see Burbrink history), Glen and Steve. Violet married Donald Lauster and have one son Ronald. Clifford married Matilda

Over the years, individuals, families, and church groups have provided many extras including: basketball goals and backboards (outside court), new copy machine, opaque projector, bleachers and scoreboards, room fans, sound system, computer and science equipment, new desks, shelves, bookcases and library books, podium, tables and chairs, inside/outside playground equipment, keyboard, storage facilities and office equipment.

The W.C.A. school parent organization has provided funds for equipment and uniforms, and volunteers for the active athletic program. Sports offered are girls volleyball, cheerleading, and girls and boys basketball.

In 1990, after more than 140 years, St. John's is the oldest school in Bartholomew County in continuous existence with enrollment of 60 students. Several of the pupils are and have been tuition students from neighboring churches and the community.

The maintenance of our school can be a fine aid to reach the high goal of spiritual well-being of each future adult. It will aid in this respect to the extent that it will use every opportunity to teach the Word of God thoroughly, apply the Word to all subjects and all situations, provide Christian training in fostering Christian attitudes and behavior, and provide Christian fellowship in the association between Christian teachers and pupils. May God help us achieve these ends through our blessed Savior, Jesus Christ.



St. John's White Creek Lutheran School-1990

Stuckwisch and their children are Jerry, Richard, Diane Isaacs and David.

Edward married Mayme Kuhlman and their children were Ralph, Cora Heideman, Chester, Earl married to Vera Peters and their son Louis Earl is buried in St. John's Cemetery, Edna Peters (see Peters history), Carl, Francis, Robert, Irene Koop and Mildred Bobb. Chester married Edna Burbrink and their sons are Kenneth and Keith. Kenneth married Bernice Schroer 1937-1986 and they had children Kathy, Max, Michelle and Melissa. Kathy married James Kahlenbeck and have son Scott. Max married Robin Hurq and have daughter Kendra. Kenneth is now married to Kyra Seegers Carothers.

Sophia married Edward Zaenglein and moved to Indianapolis. Emma married Harry Eickbush and their children were Mabel Burbrink (see Burbrink history), Harold and Herbert. Louis married Freida Klinge and they had no children. Matilda married Otto Enzinger (see Enzinger history). Herman married Lillian Kleffman and they had one child born after his father died.

#### BURBRINK

Bernhard Heinrich Burbrink (Buhrbring) 1810-1862 was one of the founders of St. John's Lutheran Church, born in Prussia, and came to America settling first in Pittsburg where son Heinrich O. 1836-1905 was born. Bernhard and Maria Elisabeth Beckemeier 1810-1845 also had children Heinrich Adolph 1838, Maria Elisabeth 1840, Rudolph Wilhelm and Johann Heinrich 1845-1921. His second wife Katharine Wilhelmine Laumering (Laumbring) 1816-1877 had a daughter Engel Bolte born in Germany. To them were born Christina Andrews 1846, Friedrich 1848, Maria Elisabeth Stuckemeier 1850, Louise Sophie Schneider 1852, Maria Dorothea Seele 1854, Friedrich Bernhard 1856, Louise Katherine Wissman 1858 and Heinrich Louis 1860.

Johann Heinrich married Hannah Seeger 1852-1938. Their children were Emilie Tellman, Emma 1877-1958 who married John Mellencamp and had daughter Irene (current church member) married to Fred White and their sons were Irvin John (lived three days) and Marvin, Lena Peters (see Peters history),

Theodore 1894-1985 married Mary Sager and they had children Emma (died in infancy), Betty Tatlock, Glen and Billy, and Martin 1898-1970 married to Marie Siefker and they adopted Harry.

Heinrich O. married Maria Elisabeth Bunte 1843-1916. Their children include: Louise and Frederick (both died young), John Henry 1869-1918, Emma Runge, August 1874-1938, Edward 1877-1934, Emilie Toburen (see Toburen history) and Clara Kobbe. Rudolph Wilhelm married Sophia Schepmann and moved to Jonesville.

John Henry married Lena Kobbe 1876-1949 and died at the age of forty-nine leaving his widow with eight children: Elnora, Walter, Franklin (died young), Elmer, Alfred, Everett, Benjamin, Selma (died young) and Ethel. August married Anna Vogt 1875-1955 and their children were Irene Schroer (see Schroer history), Clarence, Mary Hoffman (see Hoffman history) and Franklin. Edward married Ida Boxman 1884-1956 and were parents of Edna Bode (see Bode history), Elsie Hoffman (see Hoffman history), and Henry (died young).

Elnora married Oscar Schneider and had children Mariagnes Meyer (see Meyer history) and Betty McCrory and grandchildren Danny and Becky Hamilton. Elmer married Irma Meyer and moved to Columbus. Ben married Mabel Eickbush and they had sons Gary and Robert who married Karen Loper and they have sons Douglas and Philip. Clarence married Adella Hoffman and were parents of David Wayne 1940-1952, Karen Feisbeck, Judith and Sandra. Franklin married Frances Nicol and they were parents of Dale and Jane Meyer. Dale married Bettie Bode and their children are Nancy Meyer and Scott married to Beth Thomas.

Two brothers followed Bernhard here, Heinrich Rudolph 1805-1880 with wife Maria Dorothea Maring 1805-1891 and Heinrich Adolph 1816-1852 with wife Anna Maria Schulte 1815-1883. They had several children, only two lived to marry. Catharine Louise Woessner 1843 and Johann Heinrich 1844-1873 who married Louise Schepmann 1849-1929. They had daughters Anna Fortmeyer and Louise who lived five months. Johann

contracted smallpox and died along with the younger daughter. Anna survived when sent to live with relatives. The mother was born in Germany and vaccinated to make the ocean crossing, which saved her life.

#### CLAYCAMP

In June 1838, brothers Heinrich, Friedrich and Bernhard Kleekamp emigrated from Germany to Baltimore then down the Ohio River and settled in a German community in Hamilton County, Ohio. Fred married Anna Marie Surenkemper (Surenkamp). Henry married Elisabeth Schepman and Barney married Elisa Katharine Linchtemburg, also while in Ohio. All three families moved to Wegan (Euchretown) in Jackson County, Indiana in 1845.

They became members of St. John's Lutheran Church at White Creek, instead of nearby St. John's Lutheran Church at Sauers, which remains a mystery to this day. The family currently in the White Creek area is descended from Fred born January 6, 1817 and Anna Marie born November 13, 1822. The family eventually moved to the Borchers community and left St. John's to become members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

At the time of World War I, the community was very hostile toward the German ancestry, so the descendents of Henry and Fred changed the spelling of their name to Claycamp. The descendents of Barney changed the spelling to Klakamp and many are living in the Seymour area.

Fred and Anna Marie had nine children; Louisa Rittman and John Fred born in Ohio, Henry, Anna Marie (Mary) Mellenbruch, John Gerhard (George), William, Caroline Wolters, Sophia Miller and Wilhelmine (Minnie) Moorman. Henry married Dorothea Baute and they had seven children: Mary Quade, Elisabeth (Lizzie) Quade, Sophia Kemp, Emma Kuhlman, Fred, John, and George. Fred married Mathilda Mellenbruch and they had ten children; Clara Peters, Clarence, Elmer, Lydia Kaemming, Edna (died young), Marie Koester, Raymond, Andrew, James, and Dorothy Hehman.

Elmer married Lillie Holle and adopted one child Jane who married Ervin Newkirk and they

have three children; Judy, James and Connie. Judy married to Timothy Hoene and children Jennifer, Bradley, and Ryan, are members of St. John's as are James Newkirk and wife Christine Meyer.

Raymond married Mabel Kobbe, daughter of Franklin and Clara Burbrink Kobbe, only son of seven children born to Benjamin and Anna Alfeis Kobbe. Ben was a very active church member, farmer and school teacher at Kobbe's School (Public School No. 5) located across the road where Ben lived and great, great granddaughter Rhonda Dunn presently resides. Many descendents of Ben have been and are members of St. John's.

Raymond and Mabel had six sons: Dean married Clara Anderson and have children Barbara, David, and Linda married to Dana Reedy and have children Brent and Stacie. Donald married to Wilma Guinn and have children Pamela (a member of St. John's), Troy, Robin and Aaron. Their twins Sherry and Shelly died at birth and are buried in the church cemetery. Lawrence married to Judy Borgman and have sons Gary, John and Steven married to Sherry Thorne and have daughter Heather. Larry married to Janice Weddell and have three children Lisa, Brian and Lora. Terry and Jerry (twins) died at birth and are buried in the church cemetery.

Andrew married Gladys Toburen and they have two children, Kenneth and Carol. James married Verna Schroer and they have daughters Shirley Darlage and Donna, married to Ernie Dettmer (see Dettmer history).

#### DETTMER

Gerhard Heinrich Dettmer came to America from Badbergen, Bersenbruck, Kingdom of Hannover, Germany. He married Anna Catharine Adelheid Esselman on April 12, 1853 in Louisville, Kentucky. Pastor Danbert officiated at the ceremony. Gerhard and Anna then settled in Jackson Township, Bartholomew County, Indiana. Records show that Gerhard was born January 9, 1825 in Germany and died March 24, 1881. Anna was born November 12, 1833 in Germany and died April 10, 1891. Both are buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Borchers) Cemetery.



Gerhard and Anna had nine children: Anna Maria, Heinrich, Maria, Hermann, Anna Charlotte, Adeline, Wilhelm, Sophia, and Emma.

Heinrich was born February 27, 1856 in Jackson Township, Bartholomew County. He married Julianna Rothert on February 25, 1882 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. They had three children: Henry William, William Henry and Harry William. Julianna died December 18, 1892. Heinrich then married Louise Meyer. He died December 28, 1945. Henry and William are buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery.

Henry William, who was born on January 24, 1883 in Jackson Township, married Sophia Pottschmidt on February 20, 1905. She died October 28, 1933. He then married Eva Wanning Pottschmidt (his sister-in-law) on March 10, 1943 in Seymour, Indiana. Henry and Sophia had three children: Louise, Raymond, and Omer. Louise died in infancy. Raymond 1911-1975 married Willaminie Tormehlen on April 20, 1941. They had one daughter, Carolyn Alberring. Omer was born January 18, 1915. He married Hilda Kiewitt on June 11, 1939 and they had five children: Linda Gardiner, Sharon, Ernie, Elizabeth Jean Jack, and Kathy Kettler. Sharon lived only seventeen days. Ernie married Donna Claycamp on June 27, 1970. They have two daughters, Carrie and Jill.

William Henry married Caroline Dickbush Diecamp (widow) on January 5, 1910 and they had three children: Edwin, Harris, and Lela. Edwin 1911-1982 married Alma Hoevener on June 14, 1942. They had three children: Paul, Kenneth, and James. Paul married Barbara Luenebrink on March 23, 1968. They had two children: Joshua and Jennifer. Paul later married Gloria Essex on April 27, 1985. Kenneth married Sharon Nentrup on February 23, 1968. They have three children: Clinton, Matthew and Gretchen. James married Cheryl Lockard on January 21, 1978. They had one son Zachary. He later married Sherry Mead on August 4, 1984. Harris 1914-1988 married Virginia Mellencamp on November 4, 1945. They had two children, Marsha and Ellen. Marsha married Lester Otte on July 24, 1966. They have four children: Beth, Cindy, Darren, and Eric. Ellen married Jack Dunn on April 24,

1971. They have two children, Jeremie and Rachel. Lela married Harvey Nordman on December 20, 1936. They had four children: Lillian Gilbert, Diane O'Connor, Kathy Humbarger, and Max. They lived in the White Creek community awhile before moving to Columbus.

Harry William married Ida Eickbush on February 23, 1911. They had four children: Edna, Helen, Hazel Meyer, and Carl. They lived in the White Creek area briefly before moving to Columbus.

#### ECKELMAN

Hermann Friedrich Eckelmann came to America in 1837 from Rieste, Bramsche, Germany. Maria Hovene came two years later. They were married in Cincinnati, Ohio and blessed with eight children. Mary died in 1876 and is buried in St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery. Hermann died in 1888 at Seymour.

Herman and Mary's living children in 1888 were Alvina 1840 married to Wm. Hoffman (see Hoffman history), Hermann Friedrich 1842, Louise Maria Fosbrink Pottschmidt 1847, Caroline Meier Fosbrink, and Daniel Wilhelm.

Friedrich was born in Cincinnati and attended schools there. He came to Bartholomew County, Indiana, in 1863, continued his education by going to school during the winter and working on farms in the summer. After receiving his license in 1869, Fritz taught at Eckelman's School (Public School No. 4) which stood east of Eldor Peters' present home. He was an active member of St. John's. In 1876 he married Mary Wentz and they were blessed with at least six children before moving to Lincoln, Kansas. Their children were Walter 1878, Alfred 1880, Alvina 1885, Gertrude 1882 who married Dean Bottorff and resided in Columbus, and Clarence 1894. A son lived only five days.

Daniel 1854-1929 was a farmer and part-time carpenter. He married Maria Elise Schlehuser 1862-1927 and they reared eight boys in their home located west of Eldor Peters' present home. Their sons were Otto married to Lydia Schneider, John married to Louise Ballage, Elmer (see next paragraph), William married

Lydia Kobbe and their son Gerald 1917-1944 was killed in World War II in Germany and buried in the U. S. Military Cemetery at Normandy, France. William and Lydia's daughter is Anna Marie Pollert. Carl married to Esther Kiel, died in Fort McLellan, Alabama of influenza during World War I, Daniel married Hilda Rossman (daughter of Teacher Rossman), Omer married Alma Scheidt and Harvey married Erma Snyder. After leaving the White Creek community, Daniel and Lizzie lived with son Daniel in Columbus and are buried in Garland Brook Cemetery.

Elmer 1888-1969 married Clara Kobbe 1890-1958 and they were blessed with four children. Herschel 1914-1945 married Electa Manuel and they had one son, Larry. Herschel was killed in Belgium in World War II and is buried in St. John's Cemetery. Edell lived at home and worked for Noblitt-Sparks until the Lord took her before her fortieth birthday.

Norval married Hulda Enzinger and their children and grandchildren are Doyce married to Rebecca Kerkhof with children Tenille, Ashley, and Travis; Rhonda married to Keith Dunn with children Heather, Heidi, and Brandi; Randall married to Darleen Napier with children Lorna and Randall Jennifer; Duane married to Rebecca Scott with children Nathan, Matthew, and Brennan; Deryl born March 15, 1959, died in a hunting accident at the age of eleven.

Helen married Paul Walker and their children and grandchildren are Sue Ann married to Larry Geilker with daughter Laura; Vickie married to Shawn Shafer with son Seth; and Shari at home.

#### ENZINGER

Joseph Enzinger, son of Michael Enzinger and Anna Marie Wanner was born February 4, 1859 in Ripley County, Indiana. Joseph came to the White Creek community from Cincinnati, Ohio. Joseph married Katherine Louise Jdda (Ida) Brinkman. She was born November 9, 1867 and confirmed April 2, 1882 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Joseph died June 8, 1951 and Ida died August 10, 1949. Their children were Amelia; William, Otto, Richard, Anita, Albert and unnamed baby girl.

Amelia 1886-1968 married John Diggs who died in 1920. Their children were George (lived two months), Walter (died at 38 years), Irene (lived six years), Laura Brunow, Avis (lived two years), Anita Johnson, Ruth and Josephine Ellis. Ruth 1915-1987 married Charles Heckman September 6, 1936 and he remains a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. Their children were Charlene Meadors, Russell, Ronald, Michael, Cheryl, Linda Penner and Ruth Ann. Michael married Cheryl Gorbett and with children Stacey and Todd reside in Jackson County. Cheryl lives next door to her father at Bobtown in Jackson County. Ruth Ann married George DeVoe of Indianapolis and have two sons, Benjamin and Andrew.

William was born in 1890 and died shortly after his confirmation. Richard born 1899 lived less than six months.

Otto 1894-1938 served in World War I. He married Matilda Bode 1897-1978 and their children were Opal Ortstadt, Milton who died in 1985, Hulda Eckelman (see Eckelman history), and Lester. Lester married Velma Schroer who died in 1959. Lester's second marriage to Shirley Harrell was blessed with children Luanne, Rex married to Jerri Cox, and Nancy.

Anita 1901-1983 married Jacob Noblitt 1900-1976 and their children were Richard and Joan. Richard married Bettie Griffin and their son Dale married Rhonda Monroe, now divorced and had one child, Christopher. Dale later married Pamela Spencer and have daughter Natasha. Joan married Richard Hercamp and their children were Kimberly (lived less than one year), Gregory and Tamara. Greg married Cari Cummings and have one child Jacob. Tammy married Clifford McCrory, now divorced and have one child Justin. In 1989 Tammy married Larry Taylor, Jr.

Albert 1904-1938 married Sarah Kovener born 1906 in Jackson County and had daughters Virginia and Delores. Sarah remains a faithful member of St. John's congregation. Virginia married Paul Luckey 1925-1988 and their children were Kathy Zigler, Marilyn 1956-1977, and Margaret. Paul served in the United States Coast Guard during World War II. 1st Lt. Margaret Luckey R.N. is presently serving

at Scott Air Base, Illinois. Delores married Glen Nierman April 28, 1973 and they are members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Wegan) in Jackson County.

The Enzingers were primarily a farming family. After the Depression and World War II, they began working in the industrialized labor force. A shock to the people of the White Creek area was the death of Otto and Albert in a stock vehicle accident in the Franklin area. Family members remained within a short distance of their homeplace.

#### HOFFMAN

Wilhelm Hoffmann 1830-1915 was born in Nordhausen (near the East-West German border), Germany. He was one of seven children including Willimine Krause, Louise Krack, Ferdinand, Karl, August and Bose Kracken. Wilhelm served in the Prussian Army, entering in 1850, discharged to the reserves in 1853 and from the army 1856. In Nordhausen, he trained and was awarded the certificate of Master Tailor in 1860. That same year he immigrated to the United States and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio where he worked in a tailoring shop. Wilhelm became a United States citizen in 1866 and in September 1866 married Alvina Eckelmann 1840-1932, a seamstress in the tailoring shop.

To this union were born a son who died in childhood, Ida Zur Oeweste Aufdenberg 1878-1944 born in Cincinnati before the family left in September 1878 for the White Creek settlement, George Frederick 1881-1967 and Louise Schlehuser 1883-1966 (see Schlehuser history). Ida married Edward Zur Oeweste, grandson of Johann Heinrich Zur Oeweste, one of St. John's Lutheran Church founders.

Wilhelm bought and took over the farm which belonged to his wife's parents, Hermann Friedrich and Mary Hovene Eckelmann, and continued tailoring shirts, coats and pants for the people in the neighborhood.

George Frederick 1881-1967 lived on the family farm his entire life. In 1909 he married Anna Sophie Elise Schneider 1877-1941 and both are buried in the church cemetery. They

had five children, Edwin 1908-1979, Willard 1909-1968, Adella 1911-1967, Martin 1913, and Luella 1921.

Edwin married Mary Burbrink 1908-1956 and they are buried in the church cemetery. They had four children; Max, Paul, Eva and Richard who died in infancy 1945. Max remains a bachelor. Paul married Janice Peters and they have five children; Melissa, Kathleen, Tiffany, Amberly, and Andrew who died in infancy in 1971. Kathleen is married to Michael Ross and they have a son Tyler. Eva married Max Middendorf DDS and they have three children.

Willard married Elise Burbrink 1913-1944. To this union were born two children Robert and Janice married to Stephen Hoevener and they have three children.

Willard never married living on the home place, which is currently owned by Max and Paul Hoffman. Adella married Clarence Burbrink in 1935 (see Burbrink history). Luella married Herschel Bolte and they had two children, Kay Clow and Ricky who died in a farm accident. Kay is presently a teacher at St. John's Lutheran School.

Martin married Elsie Burbrink 1913-1944. To this union were born two children, Robert and Janice married to Stephen Hoevener and they have three children. Elsie died in a household accident. In 1950 Martin married Tressa Jane Ott. They had one child, Ronald who married Becky Smith Acton. Becky had three children from a previous marriage; Mark, Matt, and Jaison. Ronald and Becky have three children; Douglas, Andrew and Tressa.

Robert married Phyllis Hopkins and they have children Lori, Ben, Ann and Ted Willard who died in infancy and is buried in St. John's Cemetery.

#### KERKHOF

St. John's Lutheran Church records on page 14 of the Death Register: Maria Elisabeth Siltmann married to J. H. Kerkhoff died September 25, 1845, date of birth 1772. Then entered on page 15 as follows: Johann Heinrich Kerkhoff born Gehrde church parish, Bersenbruck, Hannover died September 5, 1847, age 73 years. Although no gravestones have been found, surely we can assume they are buried in the church cemetery.

Johann Heinrich Kerkhof born December 25, 1809, filed an Intention for Citizenship October 10, 1840 in Hamilton County, Ohio. His citizenship was granted August 16, 1843 in Bartholomew County.

According to tax records, Johann paid one poll tax on 150 acres in Wayne Township in 1845. It is believed he farmed and set up a saw mill on a strong stream running through his property.

Johann and wife, Maria Elsabein vor dem Brock, brought five children to St. John's Lutheran Church to be baptized Hermann Heinrich June 23, 1835, Johann Heinrich Wilhelm April 25, 1837, Gerhard Heinrich Ludwig August 30, 1840, Maria Elisabeth September 16, 1842, and Heinrich Christian October 14, 1844. Maria Elsabein died at the age of forty-five and is buried in the cemetery at White Creek Methodist Church.

Johann and son Wilhelm served their communities as lay ministers and circuit riders. In the late 1840's Johann disagreed with his fellow Lutherans as to the service format-he feeling the need for a less stylized and more informal service. Having helped to organize St. John's Lutheran Church at White Creek, he then became a leader in the German Methodist Church.

Having lost his wife, Johann and a widowed friend traveled to Cincinnati to find wives and mothers for their small children. Johann returned with Julia A. born May 8, 1826 and died November 14, 1895. According to the census taken in 1860, John and Julia numbered in their household Christian age 15, John 5, Daniel 3, Mary 1, and William 10 months.

As listed in the census and written in the family Bible, John Henry William and Eliza Malinda Stockhoyer were married April 15, 1858. And their union produced eight children: Charles, Edward, Albert, Daniel, Joseph, William, Elizabeth, and Sarah. William died in October of 1876. His will was filed in Bartholomew County on February 5, 1877 leaving Eliza eighty acres in Wayne Township. This property is still in the family, located south of road 1050S and west of road 180W.

Albert 1864-1941 married Elizabeth Kruwell and had children Esther, Martin, Emma, Leonard 1893-1961 and Bertha.

Leonard married Margaret VonHoene 1895-1950 and had children Robert, Opal, Paul, Wilma, Leroy and Vern.

It is at this point that the Kerkhof name re-enters St. John's Lutheran Church records. Paul married Geneva Horman on August 2, 1944. After his service in World War II, Paul and Geneva established their home in southern Bartholomew County and their church membership at St. John's Lutheran. Their children are Joyce married to Dennis Meyer (see Meyer history), Joseph married to Kathleen Christopher with children Kyle, Kendra 1976-1979, Eric, and Emily, and Rebecca married to Doyce Eckelman (see Eckelman history).

#### KREINHAGEN

The Kreyenhagen (original spelling) family started in 1200's in the area of Engter north of Osnabruck in the Kingdom of Hannover, Germany. The earliest known descendent is Maria Catharine Kreyenhagen born July 21, 1792. She married Gerhard Wilhelm Meier on November 24, 1810. They retained the name Kreyenhagen as was the custom now and then. When the man lives on his wife's farm, he takes on her family name. They had nine children: Gerhard Wilhelm born September 10, 1811; Johann Friedrich born December 6, 1813; Catharine Elisabeth Stockhowe born January 4, 1818; Anna Marie Catharine Tobrock born March 23, 1821; Christian Ludwig born August 24, 1823; Marie Wilhelmina Wellmer born October 24, 1825; Gerhard Heinrich born 1828; Christine Louise born February 1, 1832 and Hermann Heinrich born July 13, 1834.

The earliest known date of this family migrating to the United States is 1836. It is told they came across the Atlantic Ocean with a boat and came down the streams to Cincinnati, Ohio. They then came and settled in the White Creek-Waymansville area. During the early years here in the United States many of them came down with the fever and died. Gerhard Wilhelm died July 18, 1848 and Maria Catharine died August 24, 1848. They are



buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery. The family name first appeared on page 5 in St. John's Baptismal Register: Friedrich Wilhelm born January 2, 1843, son of Gerhard Wilhelm Kreyenhagen and Wilhelmina Charlotte Gardtschmidt.

Anna Marie Catharine was married to J. F. W. Tobrock, a native of Germany. They purchased more than 640 acres of land from time to time. They had a flour mill and saw mill near Waymansville.

Johann Friedrich married Anna Maria Stockhove 1826-1852. They had four children: Maria Sophie, Caroline Adelheid, Lisette Marie Louise and Johann Heinrich. The last two died shortly after birth, and the mother died after the last birth. Then Johann Friedrich married Caroline Renzemann. They had two children: Maria Wilhelmine, who lived not even a month and Johann Heinrich Gerhard born September 9, 1855. The father died October 16, 1855 (a month and a week later). Henry Gerhard married Caroline Wohrman on April 26, 1876. They had two children: Heinrich Wilh. Edward born September 7, 1878 and Hanna Miria Clara born July 29, 1881. Caroline died and Henry married Alvina Kiel. They had five children: Wilh. Heinrich August born February 5, 1884, Caroline Anna Mathilda born May 24, 1886, Friedrich confirmed in 1902, Anna born in 1891, and John Otto born September 1, 1894. He married Freida Steinkamp on February 10, 1944 and they had no children.

August married Laura Schneider. They had three children: Edna, Mildred, and Dallas. Edna married Everd Luenebrink (see Luenebrink history). Mildred married Paul Mensendiek (see Mensendiek history). Dallas married Hazel Tormoehlen. They had three children: Timothy, Mark Allen (stillborn), and Janet. Present members are Dallas, Hazel, Timothy and Janet.

### KREINOP

The earliest information available at this time is that Friedrich Kreinop was born on December 26, 1859 in Ripley County, Indiana. According to the 1900 census, his parents were

born in Germany.

St. John's Lutheran Church records include Margaretha Dorothea Kreinop born September 11, 1861 and confirmed March 21, 1875 (perhaps younger sister of Friedrich). The church records also indicate she never married and died before 1900.

Friedrich married Mary Wilhelmine Kruse born March 31, 1864 and died March 13, 1917. She was one of nine Kruse children confirmed from 1865 to 1881. The couple settled in Wayne Township, Bartholomew County on what is known now as Road 700S. He was a farmer and worked at horse trading. His grandson Everd Luenebrink presently resides on the farm. Fred died on November 28, 1929 and is buried with Mary in the church cemetery. They had seven children: Wilhelmine, Bertha, Clara, Franklin, Karl, Walter and Irene.

Walter died at four months and Irene at age 26 and both are buried in the church cemetery. Minnie 1885-1972 married August Mensendiek (see Mensendiek history).

Bertha 1888-1967 married Friedrich Luenebrink 1877-1938. They had children Ralph, Everd, Franklin, and Mary Selke (see Luenebrink history). Ralph married Thresa Finley, now divorced. They had children Doyle who died at birth, Norma Barnett, Patty Wischmeier, Robert, Fred, and Carolyn Meiers. Everd married Edna Kreinhagen (see Luenebrink history). Franklin married Viola Toburen (see Luenebrink history).

Clara 1891-1989 married Heinrich Herm. Ferd. Schlehuser 1884-1972 on October 11, 1913. They had sons Lester and Fred. Lester married Lolus Stuckey and they had children David killed in Spain while serving in the military, Stephen, Charles, Sue Ann Chaffin, and Sarah Mayfield. Fred married Helen Boite and had no children.

Franklin 1894-1972 married Esther Kobbe 1895-1953. They had children Mildren Toburen (see Toburen history), Leonard, Robert Wilfred and Adelbert. Leonard married Ruth Woodard Meyer and raised their son Leonard Kreinop, Jr. along with Ruth's daughter

Emmylou whom Leonard adopted. Emmylou married John Wischmeier and their sons are John, Jr., married to Kimberly Emmans and Jerry. Leonard Jr. married Janice Gallion and their children are Lenny and Amanda. Robert 1928-1966 married Phyllis Rittman and they had children Carol Schneider, Karen, Connie Schneider, Christy, Robert and Richard. Adelbert never married.

Karl 1897-1981 married Clara Merriman 1897-1980. They had children Delores Wedan, Donald and Harold. Their grandchildren are Kevin Wedan, Eric Wedan, Mark Wedan, Jessie Kreinop, Harold Kreinop, Jr., Pam Kreinop and Greg Kreinop.

#### LUENEBRINK

Johann Heinrich Luenebrink was born June 3, 1825 in Wittenberg, Germany, and died November 5, 1906. Tradition relates he came to America with Heinrich Mensendiek and Wilhelm Tormoehlen. They bought farms near each other in the White Creek community. He married Wilhelmine Burbrink (Buhrbring) born March 21, 1844 and died November 28, 1878. She was the youngest daughter of Bernhard Heinrich Burbrink (one of St. John's Lutheran Church founders) and Mary Elisabeth Beckemeier. Johann Heinrich and Wilhelmine were parents of Elise Wilhelmine Wanning, Marie Sophie Louise Strietelmeier, Anna Marie Sophie Hibbler, Bernhard Heinrich Friedrich and Heinrich Gustoff Adolph. The death of Minnie at the early age of 34, leaving him with five small children, Johann remarried around 1880, but soon separated. Johann Heinrich and Wilhelmine are buried in church cemetery.

Bernard Heinrich Friedrich was born April 18, 1877 and died February 19, 1938. He married Bertha Kreinop born June 1, 1888 and died September 13, 1967. They were parents of Ralph, Everd, Franklin and Mary Selke. Friedrich and Bertha are buried in the church cemetery.

Everd married Edna Kreinhagen and are parents of Ingelvie Ann and Jerry Lee. Jerry Lee married Vivian Fish and are the parents of Annette Dawn, Anthony D. and April Denise. Ingelvie married Robert Rav Sims and are the

parents of Randolph Lynn, Robert Dale, Twila Ann Romine, Gary Lee and Keith Alan. Randolph married Joyce Huntley and are parents of Renee Whitney, William Malachi, and Jacob Michael. Robert married Peggy Lee Eickelberry and are parents of Chad Allen, Kevin Ray, Amanda Gail (deceased), and Justin Scott. Gary married Michelle Louise Henney and are parents of Brandon Lee and Laura Christin.

Franklin married Viola Toburen, who died April 20, 1959 and is buried in the church cemetery. They were parents of Pauline Carolyn, Linda Lou, Barbara Ann and Rodger Dez. Pauline married Leon Schlehuser (see Schlehuser history). Linda married Robert Nagel and are the parents of Kevin and Kelli. Barbara married Paul Dettmer, now divorced. They are the parents of Josh and Jennifer. Barbara later married Hubert Warren, Jr.

Mary married Edward Selke, former school teacher at Jonesville and they are faithful members of St. John's congregation.

Louise born January 13, 1871 - died September 27, 1928 married Friedrich Strietelmeier born January 27, 1867 - died January 31, 1955. They were parents of Alfred William Henry, Harvey Frederick Henry, Mabel Henrietta Marie Franke and Ralph John Henry.

Harvey was born March 26, 1905 and died May 27, 1986. He married Gertrude Toburen born October 28, 1905 - died January 27, 1962 and were parents of Mary Louise and Glenn Leon. Harvey later married Maglean Herron Perkins. She survives. Harvey and Gertrude are buried in the church cemetery. Mary Louise married Norman August Schroer (see Schroer history) Glenn married Marlene Louise Peters and are the parents of Micheal Leon, Beth Ann and Dana Kay. Beth married Brian Bramble and are the parents of Ashley Nicole and Amanda Michelle.

#### MENSENDIEK

Bernhard Heinrich Mensendiek, born in 1838 in Prussia married Christine Niemoeller also born in 1838. They came to America in 1867, settling in the White Creek community. In the

Recorder's Office of Bartholomew County, Indiana Deed Book 7 Page 403. Bernhard bought forty acres for the sum of \$500 from John W. Tobern (Toburen) recorded January 3, 1868. They were the parents of Heinrich Friedrich born July 28, 1865 in Wersen, Prussia, died June 26, 1906, Maria Wilhelmine 1868-1898, W. H. August, Marie Sophia Rossman 1875-1932, Herman Edward 1878-1957 (unmarried and buried in Garland Brook Cemetery) and Louise died in infancy. Bernhard died November 1, 1919 and Christine died in 1916. Both are buried in St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Sophia's husband, Albert Rossman was a teacher at St. John's Lutheran School. Tradition tells us that he was her school teacher. After they were married he continued to teach for some years. He later received a call to teach at Bingen, Indiana. While enroute to visit relatives in the Mineral Springs area, Sophia, Albert, son Carl and wife Marie with their son John Albert were all killed instantly the evening of July 27, 1932 at the South Gladstone Pennsylvania railroad crossing south of Columbus. All are buried in the Garland Brook Cemetery.

On December 31, 1908 W. H. August Mensendiek 1873-1948 married Wilhelmina (Minnie) Kreinop 1885-1972. They were the parents of Paul Frederick. August and Minnie are buried in the church cemetery. According to family tradition, the Mensendiek and Tormohlen families were neighbors/friends in the old country. The Mensendieks came to the United States first. Later the Tormohlens came and bought property bordering the Mensendiek farm. Paul remembers it was common for the Tormohlens to walk over to the Mensendiek farm and sit on the front porch and talk over old times in Germany.

Paul Frederick born January 4, 1910 married Mildred Viola Kreinhagen, born November 28, 1914-died August 21, 1989. Mildred is buried in the church cemetery and Paul remains a faithful member of St. John's congregation. They are the parents of Louis August and David Paul. Louis married Imogene Ilene Kellermeier. They are the parents of Mark Paul, Michael David, Max Edward and Linda

Ilene. Mark Paul married Deborah Kay Meyer. David Paul married Cheryl Larue Darlage. They are the parents of Keith Alan and Kevin David.

It is interesting to note that August's family settled at White Creek and his older brother at Clifty. Heinrich Friedrich was a teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran School and married Regina Scheidt of the Clifty neighborhood. After her death in 1894 he again married in 1896. Many descendents are buried in St. Paul's Cemetery with names other than Mensendiek, such as Arnholt, Armuth, Runge and Von Fange.

#### HARMON H. W. MEYER

Harmon Heinrich Wilhelm Meyer (Mejer) was born July 11, 1802 in Hunteburg, Kingdom of Hannover, Germany. His wife Maria Elisabeth Lambring was born March 25, 1804.

On November 3, 1836 they embarked at Bremer, Germany for America with their three-year-old son, Louis Heinrich, born October 8, 1833. After having been on the ocean for some seven weeks, they arrived in Baltimore, Maryland the second last week in December.

They traveled to Hamilton County, Cincinnati, Ohio where a second son Johann was born and a daughter Mary was born in 1841. That same year they moved from Cincinnati to the Sauers community in Jackson County where another daughter Louise was born October 20, 1843.

On the first day of August 1844, they homesteaded 80 acres in Hamilton Township, Jackson County, south of St. John's Lutheran Church for the sum of \$100. It was deeded to Louis Heinrich on August 29, 1853. This farm is still in the same family ownership.

Louise married C. Fred Schaefer April 16, 1863 and moved to Jonesville. She died at 90 years leaving four sons and five daughters. The sons were John, Charles, Edward, and Alfred, who willed St. John's the large sum of \$50,000. Their daughters were Mary Burbrink, Lizzie Ehlers, Emma Setser, Anna Weber, and Minnie Schwartzkopf.

On November 2, 1855 Louis Henry married Mary Louise Aufdemberge born September 7,



1838 in Cincinnati. Brothers married sisters when on April 21, 1861 John married Minnie Aufdemberge. Louis Henry and Mary's children were Hannah Mellenbruch, William (who died young), Elisa, (Lizzie) Nordman, twins Mary Rotherth and Minnie Moorman, Louise Dettmer, Henry, George and Sophia Meier Meyer.

On December 21, 1902 Louis Henry was kicked by a horse and died that same day. He lies buried in the church cemetery. Even though neighbors of this Meyer family, such as Winter, Bergsieker, Vornholt and Mellenbruch left St. John's, this family remained members to this day.

On April 24, 1904 George 1877-1969 married Sophia Moorman 1879-1950 of St. Paul's Lutheran (Borchers) congregation and both were members of St. John's Lutheran Church until their deaths. George served the congregation several times as trustee and treasurer. George and Sophia were parents of Irma Burbrink, Carl 1908-1951, Edwin who died at age 2, Walter, Orville, Ethel, and Earl who died in infancy.

Walter is now serving on the Board of Stewardship and has served the congregation as chairman, secretary, treasurer and building committee member for the present school.

Orville has also served the church. He taught Sunday School for nine years, was fuel trustee and served on the Board of Stewardship and was AAL secretary 1944-1964.

Ethel served as church organist when needed since 1933. Through the years this congregation has been blessed with organists by this Meyer family. In 1924 Myrtle Borgman, daughter of Lizzie Meyer Nordman, began serving as organist. In 1989 Ruthann Stam was hired as organist and plays two Sundays a month. She is the great-granddaughter of Louise Meyer Schaefer.

#### HERMAN HEIRNRICH MEYER

Hermann Heinrich Meyer (Meier) 1821-1906 and Anna Catharine Terkamp 1827-1899 emigrated from near Osnabruck, Kingdom of Hannover, Germany as a young married couple. Their three older children were born in

Ohio. In 1856 he purchased land in Wayne Township, Bartholomew County, Indiana. Theodore Meyer, grandson, lives there today.

Their children were Hermann born 1849, Heinrich 1852-1879, Wilhelmine born 1853, Anna Catharine 1857-1927, Wilhelm 1859-1955, Anna Maria Boxmann 1861-1904, Caroline 1863-1877, Friedrich born 1865 and Johann 1870-1926.

Henry and wife Anna had sons Emil, three years old and William, seven weeks old, when their mother died and their father soon after. They were raised by their grandparents. Emil married Emma Schlehuser and died before their child was born. Granny Schlehuser raised Emil, Jr. while Emma worked in Cincinnati, Ohio. He married Dorothy Kobbe and they had sons: Roland, Lloyd, Dennis and Stanley. Lloyd married Jean Gay and their children are Gregory, William, and Sandra Franke. Greg married Jane Maschino and their children are John, David and Dawn Marie. Dennis married Joyce Kerkhof and are the parents of Kimberly married to Mark Ross, Christine married to James Newkirk, Joan, Mindy and they are grandparents to Lindsay Ross.

Bill married Elise Toburen and raised their children where Gary Meyer, great-grandson, now lives. Their three oldest, Alvina, Herman and Frank died young. These followed: Otto, Emma Legan, Lydia Weekly, Carl, Edward, Hilda, and Martin. Otto life-long teacher, was the first Sunday School superintendent at St. John's Lutheran Church and taught Sunday classes of youths many years.

John married Dina Toburen, a sister of his brother Bill's wife. Their children were Frank, Theodore, Clarence, Alfred, Olga Behrman, Esther Fleetwood and Erven. John Albert, Melinda and Gertrude died as children. Theodore married Hazel Vornholt and lived near Cortland for a time. Their children Herbert, Harold and Marguerite were born in Jackson County. Five years after his father's death they moved back to the homeplace. Alfred married Loretta Beckemeyer and they had no children. He is buried in the church cemetery and she remains a member of the church. Erven married Ruth Woodard and they had daughter Emmylou Wischmeier (see

## PETERS

Ernest Peters was born in 1834 at Schuttorf, Prussia near Bad Bentheim and the Netherlands border. His wife Sophia Elisabeth Krumme, daughter of Ernest Krumme, was born in 1837 in Berlin, Germany. They were married June 18, 1861. They were blessed with seven children, who were all born in Indiana. According to age they are: Elizabeth Rodenberg, Horman Peters, Carolina Beineke, William Peters, August Peters, Anna Baringer, and Fred Peters.

After their marriage they moved to Dudleytown on a small farm. They were members of the St. Paul's United Church of Christ on Walnut Street in Seymour. It was the first German Lutheran Church in Seymour before the Missouri Synod was organized. Fred was baptized at this church. Later they moved to the White Creek community across from the Ballman place where they had a small store and a shoemaking place. Ernest was a shoemaker by trade and his son Horman later took over the business. They became members of St. John's Lutheran Church at White Creek, where Anna was confirmed in 1887 and Fred was confirmed in 1893. Ernest and Sophia are buried in the church cemetery. He died August 6, 1908 at the age of seventy-four, and she died December 9, 1930 at the age of ninety-three years.

Fred was born December 5, 1879 and on May 20, 1908 he married Lena Burbrink, granddaughter of church founder Bernhard Burbrink. They were blessed with six children. According to age they are: Ralph, Richard, Eldor, Vera Bode, Selma Claycamp, and Leona Klosterman Stahl. Fred was a carpenter, and he ran a threshing machine and a silo filler. He died June 30, 1970 at the age of ninety-one. Lena died September 27, 1940 and both are buried in the church cemetery.

Ralph was born April 7, 1909. He married Esther Bode April 21, 1935. They have four children: Leon, now living in Jackson County, Marlene, Janice and Trudy Shelton with family now living in Florida. Marlene married Glenn Strietelmeier (see Luenebrink history). Janice married Paul Hoffman (see Hoffman history).

Richard was born March 28, 1911. On November 17, 1940 he married Edna Bode, a first cousin to Ralph's wife Esther. They have one daughter, Shirley, married to Kenneth Runge of

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Borchers).

Eldor was born April 3, 1913. He married Erna Hoeltke January 3, 1943. They have five children: Delbert, twins Geraldine Otte and Gerald, Carlos, and Diane Woods. Delbert married Carolyn Droege and they have two children, Benjamin and Betsy. Gerald married Madalyn Carol Wayman and they have two children, Kevin and Gail. Carlos married Barbara Huber and they have two children, Angela and Steven.

Eldor was custodian for the congregation for many years. He remembers building fires in five wood stoves on Sunday mornings. He started this job as a young man and was paid twenty-five dollars a year for the first few years.

## SCHLEHUSER

J. F. Wilhelm Schlehuser 1803-1866 and wife A. Scharlotte Kramer 1806-1885 came to America from Oppendorf, Germany with five children and settled on a 165-acre farm in Bartholomew County in Indiana in December, 1853.

Religion was important in their lives and the couple became members of St. John's Lutheran Church, White Creek, in 1854. Sons Heinrich Johann 1832-1892 and Wilhelm Heinrich 1834-1904 became members the following year. Adopted daughter Wilhelmine 1841-1912 and Heinrich Friedrich 1844-1892 attended the parochial school. Charlotte 1848-1917 being deaf and dumb, never attended school or married; however, "Lottie" was a quick-handed worker in homes with children.

In 1856 Heinrich, remembered as a kindly man, married widow Anna Nordmann Trentmann 1820-1906. Their children were Louise Welmer, Amelia Welmer, Elise Eckelman (see Eckelman history), and Johann Friedrich 1864-1942. In 1862 Heinrich served on the building committee for a new brick church still in use today.

Wilhelm married Lueise Newman 1845-1930 and were the parents of Wilhelm, Jr. married to Lisette Termollen (one daughter Hilda), Elise, Anna, and Lina all died young, Emma Meyer (see Meyer history), Katherine Borneman and Louise Middendorf moved to Cincinnati, and Heinrich married Clara Kreinop (see Kreinop history).

Kreinop history). Erven was killed in Belgium during World War II. His body was brought back and is buried in the church cemetery.

Herbert married Mariagnes Schneider and have four sons. Glen married Linda Silence and are parents of Vickie, Cathy, Bradley, and Kevin. Steven married Cindy Krummel and have children Christopher and Angela. Terry married Connie Wampler and have children Matthew and Stephanie. Wayne married Melanie Blackburn and are parents of Brian and Jessica.

Harold married Harriett Casey and they have Michael and Barbara Lewis. Michael is married to Linda Taylor and have son David.

Marguerite has worked at various offices in or near Columbus, Indiana. Presently she is caring for her elderly parents in their home. These families have been and are active in the church, willingly serving as presidents, secretaries, treasurers, trustees and other duties it takes for a viable congregation.

#### NIEMOELLER

Hermann Heinrich Adolph Niemoeller was born in Weisen, Prussia on February 4, 1834. His wife, Maria Elisabeth Schallenberg, was also born in Prussia on March 18, 1839. They were married in Prussia. In 1873 they emigrated to America and were sponsored by Heinrich Wilhelm Tormoehlen who resided in the White Creek, Indiana area. They stayed with this family for a short period of time.

They bought a farm in this southern Bartholomew County community in 1873 and had a total of five children: Maria Louise Rueter, Wilhelmine Christina Scheidt, Hermann Friedrich, Sophia Louise Arnholt, and Friedrich Heinrich. The three older children were born in Prussia, and Sophia was born six weeks after their arrival in America. Friedrich was born a few years later.

Hermann Heinrich Adolph died June 3, 1879 of pneumonia, which he contracted after falling off a horse into White Creek. Maria Elisabeth died November 6, 1906. Both are buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery.

Hermann Friedrich was born April 9, 1871 in

Prussia and was a year and a half old when the family arrived in America. He married Alvina Catharine Schroer (see Schroer history) April 10, 1904. They were the parents of nine children: Maria Christina Moorman, Elmer John, Carl Friedrich William, Benjamin Theodore John, Alvin Herman, Margaret Louise, Edward Wilmer, Mary Elisabeth, and Walter Robert. Hermann died November 18, 1932 and Alvina died May 2, 1961. Both are buried in the church cemetery, as is Margaret Louise who died January 7, 1933 at twelve years of age.

Elmer married Frieda Ida Elizabeth Middendorf of February 23, 1936. They are parents of Betty Ann Quillen and twin sons Glenn Elmer and Robert Albert. Elmer died December 2, 1939 and is buried in the church cemetery.

Carl married Agnes Magdalena Lohr June 19, 1932. They are the parents of Donald Eugene and Lois Bertha Shoemaker. Carl died December 12, 1978 and is buried in the church cemetery. Agnes remains a member of St. John's congregation.

Benjamin, who died July 18, 1940, is also buried in the church cemetery.

Alvin married Louanna Ella Harry Jordan June 8, 1957. They are members of St. John's congregation. Louanna's son Morris Edward Jordan attended St. John's school and is a confirmed member.

Edward lives on and farms the original family farm which is located at 10180S 200W. He also is a member of St. John's congregation.

Mary Elizabeth also lives in the original family home and attends St. John's Lutheran Church. She worked many years at Cummins Engine Company, Columbus, Indiana.

Walter married Donna Lee Wallace Miller February 12, 1965. They are parents of two adopted children, Barbara Lynn and Dennis Ray. Barbara married Gregory Hancock and they have a son named Chad Odell and live in South Carolina at this time. The Niemoeller family has been very active and faithful church members.

parents of William and Robert Eric. William married Debra Ferrie and he has a daughter, Leah Nicole. Florence married James Simmons and are parents of Cynthia Wehmiller, David Wayne and Lori Ann. David married Vera Jones and have son Cory James.

Sophie 1886-1957 married Henry Beckemeyer 1872-1939 and were the parents of Lawrence 1906-1909, Goldie Louise, Clarence and Loretta Ruby. Goldie 1908-1980 married Albert Tiemeyer and were the parents of Robert (stillborn), Dorothy Laverne, Lawrence and Donald 1943-1981. Dorothy married Robert Manley and are parents of David Wayne, Carol Ann 1956-1963, Judy Brown, Joyce Sipes and Robert Dean. David married Susan Boyle and have son Thomas William.

Loretta married Alfred Meyer (see Meyer history). All persons with death dates are buried in St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

#### BERNHARD SCHROER

Bernhard Schroer was born in Germany in 1803 and died October 29, 1869. He married Charlotte Busch, born 1815 in Germany and died December 6, 1880. They were parents of Heinrich A. and Bernhard Heinrich Rudolph. They are possibly buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery.

Rudolph was born in 1839 in Germany and married Maria Louisa Boulton (Bolte) in 1867. He came to this country in 1853, settling in the White Creek area. His family was industrious and full of enterprise. They were the parents of Heinrich A., Caroline W. and August Heinrich and are buried in the church cemetery.

August born October 29, 1871-died February 5, 1951, married Lizette Josephine Marie Meyer born May, 1877-died March 4, 1958 and are buried in the church cemetery. They were parents of Clara Otte, Arthur, Gertrude 1905-1924, Emma Charlotte 1907-1909, Albert Henry Theodore, Louise Tormoehlen and Edward.

Albert was born July 14, 1910 and died

August 26, 1984. He married Mary Anna Tormoehlen from Wegan in Jackson County and she remains a member of St. John's. Mary's brother Arthur married Albert's sister Louise.

#### TOBUREN

Friedrich Adolph Toburen (Tobuhren) was born December 3, 1810 and died November 3, 1849, three years before his oldest child was confirmed. He married Christine Maria Elise Beckemeier born November 28, 1815 and died September 7, 1891. Both were born in Germany as was their oldest son. They were the parents of Johann Heinrich born January 16, 1839, Wilhelm born April 13, 1842, Christina Maria Geist born January 11, 1845, Katharine Wilhelmine Elise born October 28, 1847 and died young, and Johann Friedrich born January 29, 1850 and also died young.

In a double wedding on June 2, 1864, Johann Heinrich married Louisa Sophia Von dem Fange and his sister Christina Maria married Wilhelm Geist. Louisa born July 1, 1842 was the daughter of Gerhrd Von dem Fange, one of St. John's Lutheran Church founders, and Wilhelmine Marie Margaretha Ohmann. Heinrich and Louise were parents of Christina Wilhelmine Elisa Meyer 1865, possibly Heinrich Wilhelm 1868, Maria Katharine Alwine Vogt 1871, Johann Wilhelm 1873, Dina Wilhelmine Meyer 1876 and Maria Louise Ahlbrand 1882. Heinrich died October 8, 1911 and Louisa February 19, 1929.

Johann Wilhelm was born September 7, 1873 and died September 2, 1947. He married Maria Christine Emilie Burbrink who was born November 9, 1879 and died March 18, 1919. She was the daughter of Henry O. and Mary E. Bunte Burbrink. They were the parents of Maria Louisa Gertrude Strietelmeier, Emma Elise Lorene Schroef, Clara Alwine Gladys Claycamp, Paul John William, and Viola Dina Magdalena Luenebrink. Emilie contracted influenza in the 1918-1919 epidemic and passed away leaving young children thirteen to two years of age.

Gertrude, born October 28, 1905 and died January 27, 1962, married Harvey Frederick



Wilhelmine married Heinrich Winter born 1840 at Hanover, Pennsylvania. They were parents to William, John and Frank before moving to Kansas. Heinrich married Engel Sanders 1847-1926 and their daughters were "Lilly" Nordman and Amelia Steinker. Leaving a good job in Indianapolis to return to the family farm (in those days adult children were told, not asked), Hank's health broke and he died at 48 years.

The next generations start with John who married small, sweet Emma Overwieser in 1886. They were the parents of thirteen children: "Uncle Hein" married Louise Hoffman and their son lived seven hours; Lydia married Otto Knoke and moved to Seymour; William married Clara Boxman and were parents of Lora Wehmeier; Alma married Otto VonStrohe and had daughter Mildred (deceased); Karl married Idella Rittman and moved to Jonesville; Clara married Elmer Zurbrugg and resided at Clifty; Oscar married Reah Robertson (deceased) and their children were Donald and Linda Arnholt. He married Lucille Reeves and lives in Columbus and also Luella who married Arthur Taylor and they had sons Bob and Bill; Franz and Edward died when young men and Gertrud lived forty days.

Walter married Cora Dringenburg and were parents of Orren (Purple Heart veteran of World War II) married to Helen Kuehn and their children are Jalyann Whittymore, Donn, Ann Clouse and Glen; Norma Burbrink; Evelyn (died in infancy); Burr; Janet Day; Carol married to William Thompson are the parents of Jeffrey, Scott, Jennifer married to Douglas Borcherding and David.

Robert married Erna Taylor and were parents of Roleen Rother; Leon married Pauline Luenebrink and their children are Deena Schengrund and Terry, and now married to Joan Linnemeier; James married Karen Foster and they have children Lori Smith and Bradley. Terry married Ruth Roettger and have one son Alan Ryan.

#### HEINRICH WILHELM SCHROER

Heinrich Wilhelm Schroer was born January 17, 1822 in Westerkappeln near Osnabruck, Germany. He married Catharine Louise Schruer born January 18, 1834 also in

Germany. They were parents of Johann, Elizabeth Herkamp, Child Schroer, Wilhelm, Heinrich, Child Schroer, and Sophie Brandt. The family settled in Jackson County, Indiana. According to oral tradition, Heinrich Wilhelm was thrown from a horse on his way to church and died of a broken neck March 3, 1874. Catharine died March 5, 1911. They are buried in Emanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery in Dudleytown.

Johann born October 29, 1858 married Christine Elise Westermeier born April 19, 1862 in Germany. Christine's parents sailed from Hamburg about 1875, then down the Ohio River to Madison and by railroad to the Columbus vicinity. There had been a major flood of the Ohio that spring and her father wondered what he had brought upon his family where cornstalks hung from trees.

John and Christine were parents of Alvina Niemoeller, Sophie Beckemeier, William, Mollie Wonning, Theodore, Alma Bieckman, Elmer and Edward. John died July 27, 1914. He was the first traffic fatality in Bartholomew County when the accident happened in front of Vorwald's Grocery. There was a wagon drawn by runaway mules and John stepped into the street to get a better view. He was struck by an automobile as it turned the corner and died later from a ruptured spleen. Christine died November 25, 1949.

Theodore 1895-1981 served in World War I and married Irene Burbrink 1901-1985. They were parents of Norman August, Velma Dortha Enzinger 1928-1959 and John Lee.

Norman married Mary Louise Strietelmeier and are the parents of Donald Lynn and Sharon Ann. Donald married Deborah Clark and are the parents of Kristie Jo, Tracey Lynn, and Jeannie Irene. Sharon married Delbert Kinsey and are parents of Jason Scott and Amanda Michelle. John married Carolyn Durkes and are parents of Bryan John, Joyce Ellen and Susan Marie. Bryan married Linda Howard and are the parents of Abigail Rose and Thomas Henry.

Edward 1901-1980 married Lorene Toburen and were the parents of Geneva Kelley, Charles Edward, Florence Simmons, and Elsie Mae Pollert. Charles married Vivian Pearson and are



## Current Members Not Included In Histories

Barkes, Dennis and Mildred  
Glenn and Amy

Barkes, Larry

Barkes, Sue  
Theresa and Shelly

Condra, Fred and Anna  
Angela and Amy

Condra, Kevin

Condra, Richard and Dorothy

Coy, Russell and Lisa  
Shanna

Deckard, Sondra  
Kimberlea

Dobbs, Karen  
Bradley

Dunn, Curt and Kathy  
Hillary  
Matthew Steinwedel  
Shannon Steinwedel

Dyer, Larry and Nancy

Ferguson, Paul and Nancy  
Leon

Ferguson, Thomas  
Ryan, Matthew and Kyle

Fosbrink, Jerry and Jaynie  
Jay and Jessie

Herbert, Mary  
Chris and Ben

Hubbard, Nickie and Vickie  
Nicole and Jessie

Kelley, Brenda

Lange, Ruby

Lockherd, Judy  
Crystal  
Corey Greenlee

McGuire, Shirley

Reinbold, Douglas

Shroyer, Jackie  
Staci and Nicole

Snyder, Maxine

Snyder, Roger

Strohe, Josephine

Thompson, Dale and Sonia  
Jessica

Thompson, Ruth  
Carrol and Angela

Walthery, Robin

Warren, Sharon  
Greg, Jason and Carla

Wheeler, Carol  
Bryan and Bethany

Wilkerson, Connie  
Tammy and Faith





