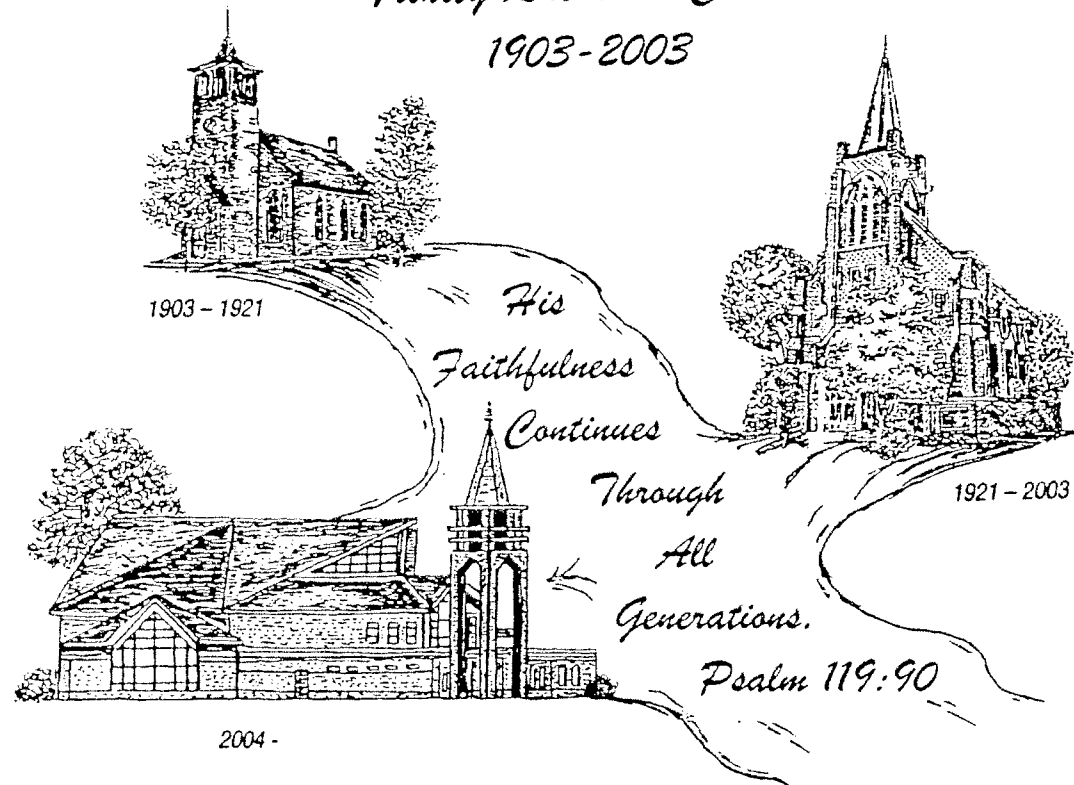


100 Years of Heritage & Blessings

Trinity Lutheran Church
1903-2003



Trinity Lutheran Church
Reese, Michigan
2003

“The purpose of this history is not to eulogize men, or to extol their achievements. Neither is it to dwell upon political events or to inquire into the causes of the rise and fall of nations. These are fields properly explored by writers of another purpose. This is a history of a church congregation. The present aim is therefore, to recount the vicissitudes of the past life of a body of worshippers, as ordered by One; and to do honor to Him, the Almighty God.”

(from Dedication Souvenir, September 11, 1921)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Previous historical books:
Dedication of Church
25th Anniversary
50th Anniversary
75th Anniversary
Church Pictorial Directories
Church Records

A special thanks to all who gave us help and encouragement; and to those who contributed information and pictures.

Compiled by:
Ruth Beyerlein
Marie Krieger

HISTORY

In the early '60's of the nineteenth century, the greater part of Saginaw Valley of the State of Michigan was covered by marshy morasses, and dense forests which were inhabited by Indians and wild animals. A stage coach road spanned the lonely distance between the city of Caro, on the east and that of Saginaw, on the west. On this plank road about midway between the two cities was a place which became a traveler's resting place. An observer of this time would have declared this place and the surrounding region to be irreclaimable and condemned. But such was not the destiny of the little station and its surroundings. For it was not long before the woodsman began to wield his axe; the ditch digger to heave his shovel; men, women and children of many nationalities, tongues, and creeds to move onto this apparently untillable land. What was once part of a forest now became a hamlet, and the quagmire around it was changed into fields of flowing grain: the garden spot of Michigan. The hamlet is Reese. This village was the center of trade of Denmark Township. Its banks, its grain elevators, its mercantile stores, kept in perpetual motion the wheels of commerce, and held it high as the market-place of the western section of Tuscola County.

The nineteenth century stands out in the history of both the State of Michigan and the Lutheran Church in America. For this period witnessed a great influx of immigrants into the Middle West. Many came across the sea, some to find in America their Eldorado, others to follow the command of their Savior to preach the Gospel to all creatures.

Among the latter were several groups of Franconians and Bavarians. Their plan was to establish German Lutheran congregations in the vicinity of Indian villages. The pastor of each congregation was to be, at the same time, a missionary to the Ojibway Indians.

For various reasons, the State of Michigan had been chosen as the mission territory best suited for this venture, and the Saginaw Valley became the permanent home of these purposeful settlers. The fact that, due to adverse conditions, their efforts to convert the tribes about them,



OJIBWAY INDIANS

proved futile, cannot blind us to the magnificent results that sprung from the laudable projects of these early pioneers, for out of this seed has developed the splendid flower of Lutheranism in Michigan.

Some may term it coincidence that at the time this immigration attained its peak, the village of Reese had its genesis. Reese became not only a center of trade, but also a town of four religious denominations, each with a church building of its own. Among these was a Lutheran Congregation.

This congregation was begun in 1886 by Pastor Frederick Volz, who at that time was assistant to his father at St. John's Lutheran Church in Saginaw. On April 11, 1887, he organized Christ Lutheran Church of Reese. Rev. Frank W. Wittfaut, then a pastor of the Wisconsin Synod, was called as Pastor to Christ Lutheran Church on January 8, 1899. His pastorate in Christ Lutheran Church was, however, short-lived, for shortly after having assumed his new duties, a heated controversy arose concerning the Lodge. The Pastor and nine faithful followers were in conflict with the remainder of the congregation. Neither would yield to the other, and schism resulted. With the Biblical admonition from 2 Corinthians 6: 14-15, 17, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Beliel? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel. --- Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive



CARL KOSS



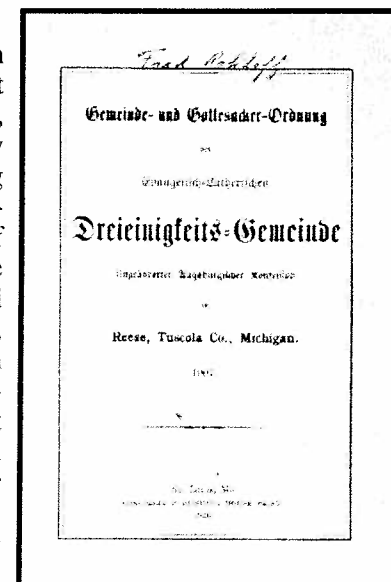
ANDREW REIF, Sr.



FRED KRACH



DAVID MOSER



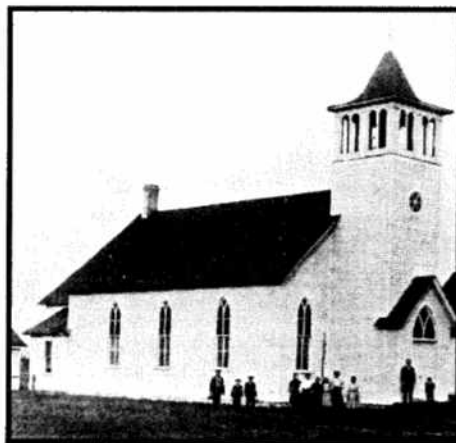
CONSTITUTION

you.”

The only course, therefore, open to Rev. Wittfaut was to sever his connection with the recalcitrant flock, and in peace to go his way. He and his nine adherents (Carl Arndt, Sr., August Knack, Carl Koss, Fred Krach, David Moser, Andrew Reif, Sr., John Kopischke, Michael Zollman, and Alfred Bublitz) severed connections with Christ Church. These were the circumstances under which Trinity Lutheran Congregation of Reese was born on June 13, 1903.

On the very next Sunday, these nine, along with Pastor Wittfaut, gathered to worship. Shortly afterward, they organized a new church congregation, founded on principles as they are revealed in scripture, and formulated in the Augsburg Confession. At this meeting, a constitution was adopted; and a name was chosen, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church U. A. C. (Unaltered Augsburg Confession).

Soon after its organization, the little congregation purchased for the sum of nine hundred dollars the building which had once served as place of worship for a Baptist Church. (The remaining Baptists had joined with the Methodists.) The purchase price was partly defrayed by the kind and liberal donations of co-believers of Richville, Frankenmuth, and Town Merritt; and partly by the large contributions ungrudgingly made by the purchasers themselves. Thus, Trinity had a church building. Here the Lutheran members gathered in humble devotion to their Christ and God. Yet that was not to be all.



FIRST CHURCH BUILDING

There were children to be educated in sound Christian principles. Therefore a building must be had. The need of the infant congregation was recognized by the older and mature Michaelis Lutheran Church of Richville. This congregation gave to Trinity, the little frame school-house, which was placed behind the church and used for confirmation instruction. Trinity had no school of its own and arrangements were made with St. Michael's to have our children attend their school in their northern district (on M-81, near Quanicassie Rd.).



CONFIRMATION CLASS BUILDING

Soon Trinity began to draw up plans for a renovation of the church building, and for the erection of a parsonage. Consequently, the remodeled house of worship, and the newly erected parsonage were dedicated to the Lord on the second Sunday of September, 1905. Prior to the building of the parsonage, the pastor stayed with various members. On this occasion the Rev. Theodore Wuggazer of Millington delivered the dedicatory sermon in the English language, and the Rev. P. Andres, in the German. These indications of the growth of Trinity filled the congregation with joy, and gave her much pride.



NEW PARSONAGE

Still, the joy was not unmixed with sorrow. For three months after the day of dedication, namely, on December 3, 1905, Pastor Wittfaut tendered his resignation for reasons of health.

Thus closed the most eventful and momentous chapter in the history of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Within the confines of this chapter, the congregation was conceived in faith and loyalty; born amidst the hissing and contempt of its enemies; yet, grew to pulsing youth. For, during this pastorate of two and one half years: 26 persons were baptized; 10 confirmed; 4 couples married; and 29 enrolled as charter members of the church. These family names appeared on the congregational roster: Arndt, Krach, Koss, Zollman, Knack, Kopischke, Schemm, Schroeder, Ranke, Mauer, Reif, Gugel, Walt, Moser, Kischnick, Redwanz, Bublitz, Rufertshoefer, and Reinsch.

The vacancy left by the departing pastor was filled by the Rev. Theodore Wuggazer of Millington, MI. He accepted the call of Trinity on December 3, 1905, and was installed in his new ministerial office by the late Rev. George Bernthal in January in the following year.

Under the care and ministrations of its new pastor, Trinity successfully weathered the storm of adolescence, and entered upon a period of vigor and prosperity. A new organ was purchased for \$86; additions were made to the parsonage; lots were purchased,



MARY & FRED KERN,
PASTOR THEODORE WUGGAZER AND
WIFE, LOUISE

bounding the old church site on the east and on the west for the contemplated church building and school house; and a tract of land was bought and consecrated as a final resting place for the departed. The tenth anniversary of Trinity was celebrated on June 15, 1913.

If, indeed, men had rejoiced before, their hearts were no less jubilant now. They were celebrating the birthday of their church. They knew of the sea which their church had sailed. They knew, that from the rage of the conflicting elements, battering and howling it down, the little ship proved invincible, and on June 15, 1913, emerged unscarred. Veterans of the battle, pioneers of the church, surrounded by members of subsequent enrollment, were absorbed in the reminiscences of those forbidding days.

At this 10th anniversary date, the role bore the following: 178 communicants, 265 souls, 60 charter members, and 34 school children. The totals for the ten years were: 144 baptisms, 57 confirmations, 24 marriages, and 21 burials. How eloquently it testified to the truth of the Divine assertion: "My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I rent it." Isaiah 55:11.

In September, 1917, Pastor Wuggazer received a call from the Lutheran congregation at Fraser, MI. He considered the call and returned it. However, upon receiving the call a second time, he felt it was the Lord's will that he accept the call. During his pastorate, lasting nearly twelve years, the following ministerial acts were performed: 144 baptisms, 80 confirmations, 89 marriages, 31 burials, 35 charter members admitted, and 4045 communions administered.

Then for a period of five months during World War I, namely from October, 1917, to March, 1918, Trinity was without a resident pastor. Rev. Bekemeier of the neighboring congregation at Richville consented to fill the vacancy until a new pastor could be inducted into this office.

Pastor Otto Rupprecht, serving a congregation in Centreville, MI, accepted a call from Trinity in January, 1918, and arrived at Reese in the following March. He was inducted into the ministry of the congregation by Pastor Bekemeier. One can note the trend of the time and the beginning of a new age when the congregational record showed that "the horse barn was torn down and a chicken coop erected in its place." The horse and buggy were no longer the means of conveyance for the pastor.

Our country was involved in World War I. Trinity supported the war effort through the purchase of Liberty Bonds, sending its young men into military service and helping to provide for their spiritual welfare by supporting our



FASHIONS OF THE DAY
EMMA & HELENE
NUERMINGER
(MRS. MATT SCHEMM &
MRS. ED REINBOLD SR.)

Synod's Army and Navy Board.

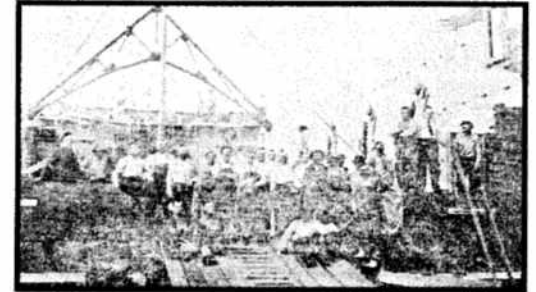
In those abnormal times, when men were continually reminded of death, there was, doubtless, in all lands a general quickening of religious sentiment. Owing to this cause, though, perhaps, not entirely, church attendance at Trinity grew at an unprecedented rate; grew, in fact, to such proportions that it became impossible safely to accommodate the devotees. Faced with this condition, there remained but one thing for the congregation to do: provide more room.

It had long been the purpose of Trinity to build a new church edifice in keeping with her prosperity and mature age. The stimulus was now afforded. Fostered and promoted by the energetic clergyman, and supported by the unanimous opinion of the congregation, that which was once but an idea, assumed the proportions of reality. A building committee, composed of Carl Arndt, Sr., Adolf Arndt, Adolf Kamm, Michael Rogner, Michael Veitengruber, Wm. Rau, Matt Schemm, and Fred Sigelko, was formed; architects employed; and contractors engaged. The vacant lot, adjoining the site of the old church building became the scene of an excavation. Slowly arose the solid foundations of the structure; and the laying of the cornerstone was at hand.

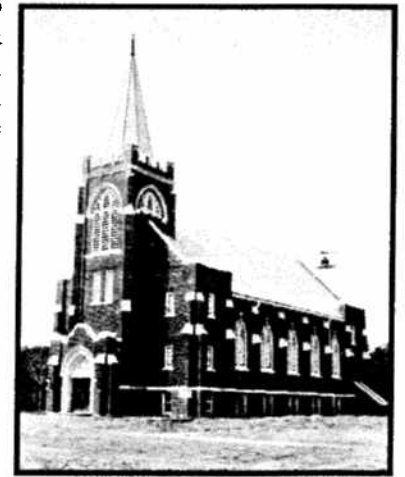
The laying of the cornerstone occurred on July 18, 1920, the Rev. Messrs. Mayer and Wilkening delivering the dedicatory sermons in the German and English languages, respectively. In the stone was deposited for preservation to posterity a brief history of the congregation, a hymn book, a catechism, book of Concord, copies of the "Lutheraner", "Lutheran Witness", "Missions Taube", and "The Reese Review."

Work was resumed; carpenters and masons applied themselves to their tasks; and members of the congregation offered their services. One of these was Albert Kopsischke, who walked each day from his farm to the building site in Reese. There his team of horses pulled a scraper to excavate for the basement.

No wonder that higher and higher the structure reared, till at length there stood in view of the admiring observer, a church edifice, built of red brick, wrought in massive Gothic style,



THE FIRST TRUSS BEAM
OF THE NEW CHURCH



NEW CHURCH

embellished with ingenious devices of architecture; yet, magnificent in its simplicity. Inside, the ornately painted pulpit, which was in the middle, was outlined with gold leaf. The arch around the chancel was painted in a veined, marbled pattern. The center panel of the altar had a painting of the ascending Lord. The two side panels contained the words of the institution in German taken from Matthew 26:26-27: "NEHMET HIN UND ESSET DAS IST MEIN LEIB." (Take and eat, this is my body.); "TRINKET ALLE DARAUS DAS IST MEIN BLUT." (Drink of it all of you, this is my blood.) It is interesting to note that in 1921 most services were conducted in German, the Bible and hymnbooks were in German script; and yet, the German words on the altar were not in German script, but in English capital letters! The subdued tone of illumination, the inclining floor, the balcony, the pipe organ, the ceiling and walls, garnished with exquisite paintings of the artist---all awaited the three chimes to proclaim the day of the Lord.

The church dedication took place on September 11, 1921. The preachers in German were

Rev. J. Shinnerer and Rev. Theodore Wuggazer, and the preachers in English were Rev. L. List and Rev. F. Brunn. A dinner followed the dedication service for which 30 bushels of potatoes and 300 chickens were prepared. Nine hundred and sixty-nine people were served. They charged 50c for the meal.

Even while the new church building was but a skeleton, Pastor Rupprecht's unbounded energy was seeking to formulate new projects to which the congrega-

tion might apply itself. For the present Trinity was safe. But what of the future? Could it be trusted to take care of itself? That was fatalism. For Trinity to endure, new fields must be cultivated. And what fields more fertile or nearer at hand than the hearts of its youth? The answer took concrete form with the establishment of Trinity Lutheran School.

Before 1921, Trinity had no school of its own. Arrangements had been made with the Lutheran congregation at Richville to have its children attend their school. Many parents of Trinity declined to take advantage of this arrangement because of the distance to this school; so that in the year preceding 1921, Trinity had but fifteen children attending a parochial school.

This condition was rectified after the completion of the new church building. Willing hearts and hands generously contributed their services, and in a brief time the old church building was converted into a school house. The altar section was partitioned off for a small room for confirmation instruction. Paul Rohloff recalls that the steeple and school bell were removed by him and his father, Fred, and the school bell was donated to the mission congregation at Houghton Lake.

A call for assistance was dispatched to Concordia Teachers College at River Forest and Mr. Emil Schultz was sent to Reese to assume the duties of instructor to Trinity's children. The remodeled one room school was opened in October, 1921, and the school records of that year show an enrollment of sixty-five children for the seven grades: truly a promising beginning. This event removed a dragging weight from the heart of many of Trinity's parents, for now they were in a position to follow their Lord's command, "Feed my lambs." John 21:15.

Mr. Schultz only stayed for one year and returned to college. Mr. Herman



PULPIT IN MIDDLE
(CLASS PIC OF 1931)



FIRST ALTAR



COVER OF
DEDICATION BOOK



NORTHERN DISTRICT SCHOOL

Glawe was then called.

The first wedding to take place in the new church united Otto and Hulda Roth (Norm Roth's mother and father) on June 25, 1922.

On June 17, 1928, Trinity celebrated its 25th anniversary. The 25th anniversary booklet concludes with, "Let us then, for this anniversary and for each succeeding anniversary, adopt as our slogan, 'Ebenezer---Hitherto hath the Lord helped us'".

I Samuel 7:12.

Four years after the dedication of the church (1925), the building fund debt was \$22,000 with interest accumulation to \$6,000. In 1928, the debt was \$11,000, which was owed to church members. At this time, the nation and members of Trinity experienced the serious challenge of a financial depression. The Concordia Ladies' Aid proved to be a real blessing to the church, spiritually and financially, especially during the lean years of the depression. For many years, the interest on the church debt and much of the principal were paid by the Ladies' Aid. In 1935, the debt was still \$10,500.

On February 7, 1943, the congregation took constructive action with its indebtedness when it resolved, "Because of the great uncertainty of financial conditions in our country due to the great war effort (World War II) and because of the present high wages and good prices paid for produce, the congregation is urged to liquidate its entire church indebtedness." By January 1, 1944, this was accomplished. An eighteen year-old strife with finances had been weathered.

During World War II, the American flag was displayed in the church for the first time. This was done to demonstrate our allegiance to the war effort, even though we were fighting against Germany, a country from which our ancestors had come. Thirty-four young men from Trinity served and returned safely home! Trinity honored their homecoming with two celebration banquets. One banquet, at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth, on December 28, 1945, honored 23 servicemen who had returned. Another banquet, held at The Fischer Hotel of Frankenmuth, on December 16, 1946, honored the remaining veterans. Pastor Otto Rupprecht spoke at the first and Pastor Clarence Golisch at the second. With the cessation of hostilities, Trinity supported the Peace Thank Offering of Synod to the amount of \$3,600.

In the summer of 1949, Trinity sponsored a refugee family from Estonia, the Ounapuu family: Juhann and his wife, Salme; and two daughters, Mare and



FIRST WEDDING IN NEW CHURCH

Maria Roth, Hildegard Kern, Hulda Veitengruber,
Ottomar Roth, Hilda Roth, Agnes Matzke,
Bernhard Roth, Dorothy Arndt, Caroline Arndt.

Ene. As a result of World War II, the family had lost their country. Refugees from Estonia and Lativa had been relocated in Germany. All was chaotic until the Americans helped them. The Americans placed the displaced persons in camps which were really houses crowded by many families sharing one house with just one bathroom. The Americans let the refugees choose where they wanted to relocate. The Ounapuu's first choice was America and their second choice was Australia. They got their first choice and arrived in America on August 17, 1949. A congregation in Vermont was willing to sponsor them, but the girls got the chicken pox and they had to wait a month before moving on. By that time, another family had gone to Vermont. It was at that time that Trinity stepped forth to welcome them. Mr. Ounapuu had been a judge in Estonia but needed to attend the Univ. of Michigan in Ann Arbor to continue a career in law in America. Being without a car and money, he was unable to attend the university and he did manual labor here. He worked in the fields here until Pastor Rupprecht arranged for him to get a job at Universal Engineering in Frankenmuth. Although he worked in the heat-treating part of the plant, he went to work each day wearing a suit. The workers there called him "The Judge." Ene lives with her husband, Jack Simon at Higgins Lake. They have three daughters and six grandchildren. She said her family had chosen America because they thought it was untouchable. She continued to believe that until 9/11! She said, "I am thankful to Trinity for bringing my family over."

In the summer of 1946, Trinity found herself without a Pastor or a teacher; for Mr. Glawe had accepted a call to Midland, and pastor Rupprecht resigned after 28 years of service.

The Rev. Clarence Golisch, a former chaplain, accepted a call in November of 1946. Mr. Luther Kaemming was installed as principal on June 8, 1947, by Pastor Golisch. In that same year, a second teacher was hired and the Kindergarten, eighth grade and Sunday School were added. The T.I.L./P.T.L. was organized. A new teacherage was built, and Herman Roth, Alvin Reif, and Ed Marshall served as the



MARE OUNAPUU,
RUTH KUCK, CAROLYN REIF,
RAY BERNTHAL,
KATHERINE BIERLEIN



TEACHERAGE

building committee. Pastor Golisch accepted a call to Bethesda Lutheran Home in Watertown, WI, in 1949.

Pastor Kurt Voss, a missionary from China, served Trinity for the next two years and then accepted a call to Springfield, PA.

Pastor Carl Heilman came to Trinity from Lawton, OK. He was installed by Pastor William Schoenow, of Richville, in October, 1952.

On June 7, 1953, Trinity celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Rev. G. Krach delivered the sermon in the morning services (8:30 in German), and Rev. Clarence Golisch (former pastor) delivered the afternoon sermon.

On August 30, 1953, Trinity dedicated its new school, which had cost \$63,000. S. J. Roth, Supt. of Michigan Lutheran Schools delivered the festival address. Guest speakers were: J. Leddicat, Supt. of Schools, Tuscola County; William Scott, Supt. Reese Public Schools; M. C. Mahn, Mayor of Reese; and E. Klammer, Chairman of Saginaw Valley Lutheran Teachers Conference. Ninety-two students were enrolled.

In 1957, a new parsonage was built and the old parsonage torn down.

By 1961, the enrollment had reached 130 children and



50TH ANNIVERSARY PICTURE OF ENTIRE CONGREGATION



DEDICATION OF NEW SCHOOL PASTOR HEILMAN



NEW PARSONAGE

the school added two classrooms, an auditorium, a kitchen, lobby, and storage rooms at a cost of \$92,000. The brick on the exterior of the building matched the original structure; and the auditorium featured laminated beams.

On January 30, 1967, Pastor Carl Heilman accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield, MO. His farewell on February 12, 1967, ended a pastorate that extended over 15 years.

Pastor Ralph Fischer was installed by his father on October, 15, 1967. In 1970 Trinity held joint Reformation services with Christ Lutheran Church. Pastor Fischer accepted a call to Westland in June of 1972.

Pastor Vern Hinz was installed on September 17, 1972, by Pastor John Deterding of Frankenmuth.

In the fall of 1972, a new constitution was adopted, bringing a new organization to the workings of the church. No longer would the voters' assembly, but a new Board of Directors, composed of 12 people elected by the congregation, plan and administer the day by day operation of the congregation. Major decisions would be presented to the voters' assembly for action.

In 1973, (30 years ago) an architect was hired to study the possibility of remodeling the church. After studying the financial cost of such a venture the congregation voted to discontinue such thoughts and to look into the possibility of building a new church. In 1973, the congregation passed the motion: "Make plans for a new church and discontinue any further consideration of a remodeling project." In 1974, the planning of a new church continued with architectural drawings and estimated costs being made. The plan was to build the new church north of the school. The plan did not reach fruition.

1976 was the Bicentennial year for our nation, the year of the great ice storm, and the year women were given the right to vote at Trinity. After four months of discussion at the Board of Directors' meetings, they voted 19-5 to recommend to the voters' assembly to give women voting privileges. That year, our congregation sponsored a Laotian refugee family. We helped them to become established in America.



VOTERS' MEETING (MEN ONLY)

The need for more space in the school was evident as: kindergarten was held in the church basement, the library was in the lobby, Sunday School had expanded to the lobby and hallways, and the School Board wanted the classroom limit to be 30-35 students. On May 6, 1979, Trinity dedicated the second addition to the school. It included a music room, kindergarten, media center, faculty workroom and locker rooms at a cost of \$218,073. At that time; the

enrollment was 174 students, 149 in kindergarten through the eighth grade, and 25 preschoolers. The staff included 5 teachers and a preschool/kindergarten teacher.

In April of 1980, a special organ concert featured the newly refurbished organ at Trinity. This organ was purchased from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saginaw.

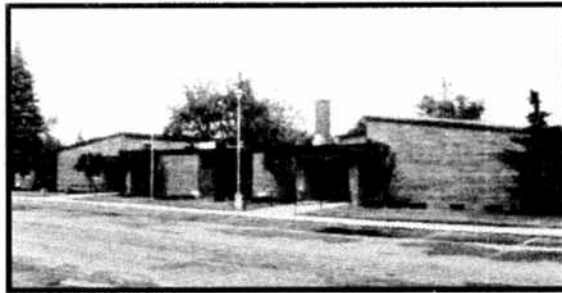
The sanctuary was redecorated for the second time in 1981. The church services were held in the school during this project which cost \$39,000. This included new pews with padded seats. The old pews were donated to St. Peters, Rockford, MI.

In 1986 there was a "Big Flood." Twenty inches of water were in the church basement and 3 feet in the vicarage basement. A Disaster Relief fund was established to help those who suffered financial loss. Five families requested and received help.

During Pastor Vern Hinz's pastorate, Trinity became a training field for new pastors, having seven vicars from the seminaries participating in pastoral duties for one year periods. This program ended upon the calling of Pastor Daniel Meckes as Assistant Pastor. Pastor Hinz became the Administrative Pastor. This was the first time in Trinity's history to have two full-time pastors.

Pastor Daniel Meckes was ordained and installed on June 11, 1989. Pastor Vern Hinz was the Liturgist and Pastor Theodore Zeile was the Preacher. Pastor Hinz retired in 1990. Upon his retirement, Pastor Meckes was named Administrative Pastor, and Pastor Paul Hinz was called to become Assistant Pastor.

On January 5, 1992, Pastor Paul Hinz was ordained and installed by his father, the Rev. Dr. Richard P. Hinz, President of the South Eastern District.



SECOND ADDITION OF SCHOOL



MR. DOHRMANN AT NEW ORGAN



ORIGINAL DECOR OF CHURCH



FIRST REDECORATION OF CHURCH



SECOND REDECORATION OF CHURCH



THIRD ADDITION TO SCHOOL

On October 18, 1992, ground was broken for the third addition to the school. By the spring of 1993, it was ready for occupancy. It included offices for the pastors, the principal, and the secretarial staff. Prior to this time, the pastors' offices had been in the parsonage and the church basement.

Trinity celebrated its 90th Anniversary in June, 1993. Former and present pastors and teachers were guests of honor.

Pastor Paul Hinz accepted a call to Valley Lutheran High School as Pastor and teacher in 1997. The congregation applied to the Seminary for a candidate and Steven Siegel became the Associate Pastor. He was ordained and installed at Trinity in 1998, by Rev. Dale Ahleschwede from St. Lorenz.

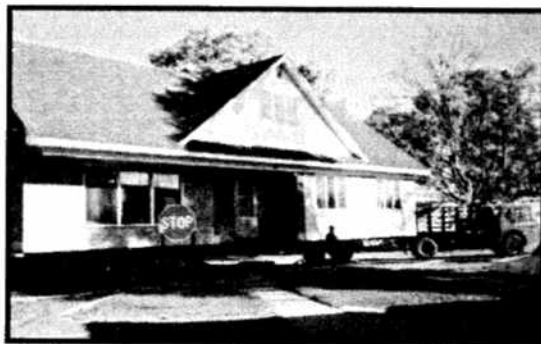
Since Pastor Meckes accepted a call to Walled Lake in 1999, the parsonage was unoccupied during that first winter. A water pipe broke upstairs and severe water damage occurred before the break was discovered. It was decided not to repair the damage and to sell the house to be moved. This would provide additional space for expansion. The lot was vacated almost two years later. After this, the old fish shanty which was behind the parsonage, was removed. Stories

are still told that a one-lane bowling alley also occupied space near the fish shanty.

After Pastor Meckes left, the congregation called Steven Siegel as Administrative Pastor. He accepted the call and the congregation was in need of an Associate Pastor. They again applied to the Seminary for a candidate. Pastor Matthew Garred accepted the call and was ordained at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Aloha, Oregon, on June 9, 2001. He was installed as Associate Pastor of Trinity on June 24, 2001, by Pastor Peter Larsen from the Michigan District-LCMS.

In the spring of 1999, Pastor Peter Larsen, of the Michigan District, led the congregation in a Mission Renewal Study. A Mission Statement, Core Values, and a logo were developed. The findings of this Mission Study became the catalyst for the congregation to explore needed changes in the existing facilities.

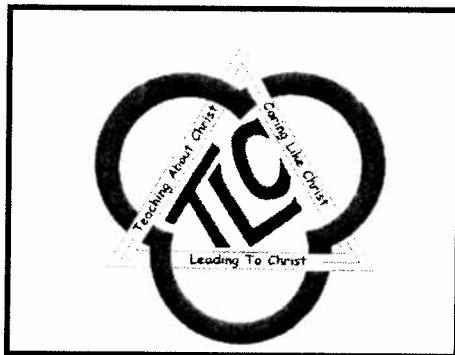
Pastor Siegel wrote in the 2000 Annual Report: "Years from now we will look back on the year 2000 as a crossroads. For many years Trinity was sitting at the intersection wondering which road to take. In 2000, we made a decision to leave the intersection. For the first time in many years, we have, together, decided to form a Mission Statement and follow it. We have picked a road that will have us much more involved in ministry to people and families. We will be taking seriously our mission statement: Teaching about Christ, Leading to Christ, Caring like Christ. Needless to say, this road we're on will not be without challenges, but it's so much better than sitting in the intersection!"



MOVING OF PARSONAGE



FISH SHANTY



LOGO OF MISSION STATEMENT

Although our sanctuary had fulfilled Trinity's worship needs for over 80 years, the congregation recognized that either renovation or construction of a new building was necessary to serve us for the next hundred years. The structure was in need of major repairs: for years, the minutes of the Board of Directors show the Trustees reporting a leaking roof and flaking paint; many sections of the bricks had cracks and had to be removed and remortared. More space, convenient bathrooms, a cry room, and a barrier-free access were also needed. The Building Committee presented two options: renovation or a new sanctuary. The voters' assembly voted to build a new church. A Building Committee was formed: Chairman Roy Krauss, Tina Beyerlein, Steve Rohloff, Keith Stockmeyer, Mark Gruber, Chris Conachan, and Carol Pickell.

In June of 2001, under the leadership of Gene and Cathy Mueller and Dan and Kamie Pike, 39 members met to implement a massive Stewardship Campaign to raise money for a new church. The name of the campaign was "Building Our Future-Hand in Hand" and its theme was "Not Equal Gifts but Equal Sacrifice."

More than 200 members became involved in the 15 committees which organized activities for the campaign. The great culmination was "Special Event" Sunday, October 28, 2001. Under a tent on Rhodes Street, the very ground on which the new church would be built, the worship service, communion, dinner, and program were attended by over 550 Trinity members and guests. During the service an announcement was made that advance commitments had reached \$816,000. Over half of our three-year goal had already been reached! There was tearful thanksgiving as the congregation came forward with additional commitment cards.

It was hoped to break ground for the new church in the fall of 2002; however, there were hurdles to overcome with the Reese Village Council. The Building Committee and architects met many times to convince the Village to close Rhodes Street and permit us to build our new church on this street. In August,



SPECIAL EVENT IN THE TENT

2000, we got approval, only to find that the village felt there was not an adequate storm sewer for water drainage. It was again months before that was resolved. Only then, when we were assured that our building site was approved, could the architects draw up the plans.

On October 10, 2002, the final plans were presented and approved at a special voters' meeting attended by 108 members. It was anticipated to have groundbreaking in April of 2003; however, when bids were opened in March, the congregation was surprised to find that the architects had not estimated costs accurately and our project was suddenly over budget.

The building committee searched for ways to cut costs and bring our project within budget. On Sunday, May 18, they, along with the Board of Directors, submitted a recommendation to begin construction of the new church at a projected cost of \$3,082,468.56. The motion passed overwhelmingly.

Five hundred and ninety-seven people attended the Decommissioning Services of the church which took place on Saturday, June 7th, and Sunday, June 8th, 2003. Pastor Steven Seigel's sermon topic was "Endings and Beginnings." Favorite hymns were sung: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," "How Great Thou Art," "The Church's One Foundation," "Beautiful Savior," "Onward Christian Soldiers," and "Abide With Me". The Junior and Senior choirs and brass instruments provided special music.

Communion was celebrated at all three services. There was barely a dry eye in the congregation as they bid farewell to the church building that had served them so well and contained so many memories: of worship, of bap-



DECOMMISSIONING SUNDAY



LEADING PROCESSION TO GYM



MEMBERS CARRY HYMNALS TO GYM



CONGREGATIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

tisms, of weddings, and of funerals. Many a parishioner commented that it was just like a funeral. Pastor Siegel explained, "That was as it should be: an ending and a beginning. We were putting our old building to rest, and continuing with our worship services in the gym, while building the new church." After each service, acolytes, pastors, elders, and ushers carried the banners, altar Bible, communion ware, candles, and flags from the church sanctuary to the school gymnasium where worship services would be held for the next year. Congregation members carried the hymnals from the church to the gymnasium where the Doxology was sung. Between the Sunday services, the congregation gathered by the church for a congregational photograph.

On the very next day, scores of volunteers began to remove items from the church. By the end of the day, the pews had been removed, the altar area was empty, the organ console was gone, and many of the organ pipes had been removed, wrapped, packaged, and stored. Volunteers continued removing all valuable items. Soon all the interior wood was gone, and the stained glass windows had been carefully removed.

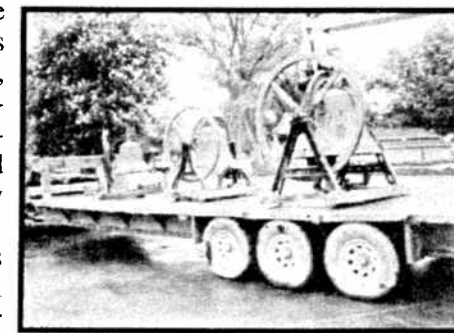
On Thursday, June 12, the bell ropes were pulled for a final time. This final ringing of the bells was recorded for our use in all our church services until they



ALTAR AREA EMPTY



ORGAN PIPES



BELLS ON WAY TO STORAGE

will ring in the new bell tower. The bells were carefully removed and stored. By the time of our 100th Anniversary Celebration on June 22, 2003, only a skeleton of our former church remained.

Groundbreaking was scheduled for noon, on June 15, 2003. Before groundbreaking, the church cornerstone from 1921 was opened. The congregation waited with great anticipation to view the contents as Tim Bauer chiseled away the mortar and opened the box. He

exclaimed, "It's all wet!" Pastor Siegel looked in as Tim pulled out the dark brown soaked pages that had been a



OPENING THE CORNERSTONE



TOP OF STEEPLE

brief history of the congregation, a hymn book, a catechism, book of Concord, copies of the "Lutheraner", "Lutheran Witness", "Missions Taube", and "The Reese Review". A sigh of disappointment arose from the crowd. The cornerstone from the 1952 school construction was also opened and was in good condition.

Following this, the groundbreaking took place. The first shovelful was turned over by Roy Krauss, the chairman of the building committee. The rest of the building committee each turned over a shovelful, as did both Pastor Siegel and Pastor Garred. Glen Roth also turned over a shovelful to symbolize one of our goals in building a new sanctuary, that is, a barrier free facility.



GROUNDBREAKING

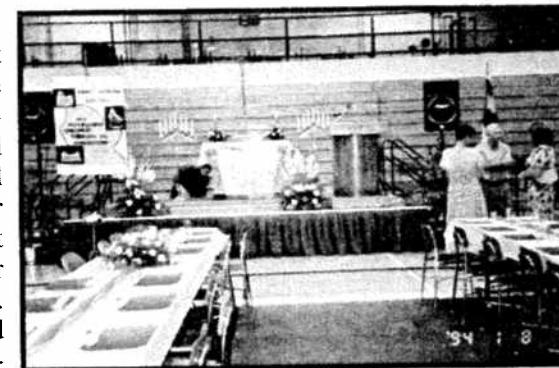
To begin our anniversary year, the 100th Anniversary Celebration was held on June 22, 2003, at the Reese High School Gymnasium. Dr. Oswald Hoffman, who was speaker for the "Lutheran Hour" for 33 years, was our guest speaker. He spoke on our Anniversary theme: Psalm 119:90 "His faithful-

ness continues through all generations." Despite the fact that he was near 90 years old, he delivered an inspirational message, spoken with power and humor. He recalled that he had been our guest speaker at our 75th Anniversary and didn't know if he would be back for our next celebration. Communion was celebrated and special music was provided by the senior choir, brass, and flute.

After the service, a delicious beef and chicken dinner was served. A collection of Trinity photos and memorabilia were on display and

commemorative items with the 100th Anniversary logo were for sale. A puppet show and games entertained the children. A highlight of the afternoon was a softball game between the Trinity Ladies' Softball Team and the Elders. Many were surprised that the Elders won!

Two days later, June 24, 2003, the demolition crew arrived, and shortly after 9:00 a.m., began to demolish the church. Crowds from the congregation and community gathered to watch, and around 2:30 p.m. the steeple toppled. Just before the steeple came down, Trinity school, across the street, was ordered to vacate. There was a possibility that the steeple might fall towards the school. Fortunately, the steeple just fell down into itself and all that was left was a basement full of rubble to be hauled away. One member said,



CELEBRATION SET UP



PASTORS MATTHEW GARRED, OSWALD HOFFMANN & STEVEN SIEGEL



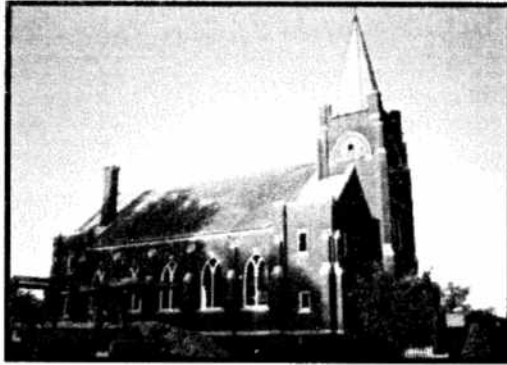
DR. OSWALD HOFFMANN GREETING PAUL ROHLOFF



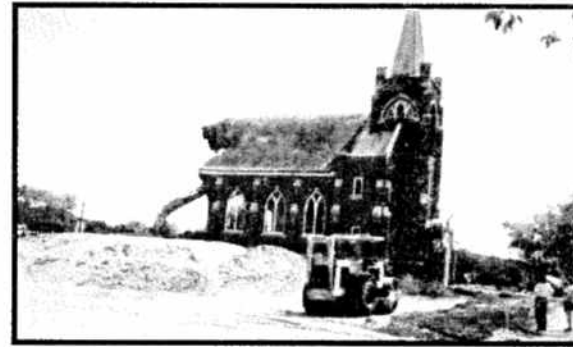
SOFTBALL GAME ELDERS UP TO BAT HENRY GRUBER, ED BEYERLEIN

“When the steeple fell, it was like a knife going through my heart!”

As we look back over 100 years, we see in Trinity a congregation that has been interested in attending the worship services. We also see a congregation that has been interested in Christian education: from the early beginnings, Christian education has been provided for the children of the congregation; and the congregation’s members have become involved in many Bible Study groups. As we celebrate our 100th Anniversary, we do so remembering that all blessings have come to us from God. We thank God for the opportunities for service that He has provided for us. We rejoice over the past blessings and then pray for God’s continued help and guidance as we meet the opportunities and challenges that God places before us in the future. Pastor Siegel said it for all of us when he said, “Today, Trinity stands poised and ready to take on the challenges of ministry in the 21st Century.”



DEMOLITION



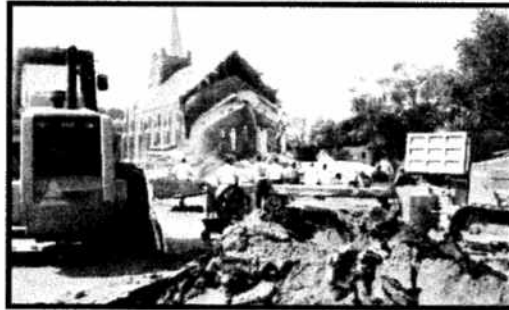
DEMOLITION



DEMOLITION



DEMOLITION



DEMOLITION



DEMOLITION



DEMOLITION



DEMOLITION

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1887, **April 11** - Christ Lutheran Church, Reese, organized
- 1903, **June 13** - Trinity Lutheran Church organized, church building purchased for \$900.00, building for confirmation instruction given to us by Richville
- 1903 - Ladies' Aid organized
- 1904 - First choir
- 1905, **September** - Dedicated parsonage
- 1906 - New organ purchased for \$86.00
- 1906 - Cemetery property and additional lots purchased
- 1919-1961 - Gradual transition from German to English begun
- 1920, **July 18** - Cornerstone laid for church
- 1921, **September 11** - Dedication of new church
- 1921, **October** - Trinity School opens.
- 1926 - Organized Young People's Society.
- 1942 - New English hymnals
- 1944, **Jan 1** - Church debt paid off
- 1944, **May** - Oak altar rail installed in chancel
- World War II - 34 young men served and returned safely home!
- 1946, **November** - Altar Guild organized
- 1946, **December** - Sunday School organized
- 1946 - First artificial Christmas tree
- 1947 - Kindergarten and eighth grade added
- 1947 - New teacherage built
- 1947, **April** - Men's Club affiliated with Lutheran Laymen's League
- 1947, **October** - Trinity Improvement League organized (later P.T.L.)
- 1948, **April** - Quarterly, rather than monthly, congregational meetings
- 1949 - Sponsored an Estonian family
- 1953, **Feb.2** - Cornerstone laid for new school
- 1953, **March** - Adult Bible Study begins
- 1953, **June** - Hired first full-time custodian and bought a bus
- 1953, **June 7** - Golden Jubilee Services
- 1953, **August 30** - Dedication of new school. Cost \$63,000
- 1957 - Parsonage built
- 1958 - First Easter sunrise service
- 1959 - Bought Marie Buckley property, north of church
- 1960's - Trinity Tidings started by Walter Willman, with the assistance of Elmer Goetz, Alma and Lois Willman.
- 1961 - Mary Martha Guild started
- 1960 - Dropped the German service except for Christmas, New Year's Day, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Ascension, and Thanksgiving
- 1961-1962 - School addition: 2 classrooms, multi-purpose room and kitchen. Cost \$91,733.00
- 1963 - Church organ electrified, trumpet pipes added
- 1963, **September** - Trinity Improvement League became Parent Teacher League
- 1965 - Communion served twice a month rather than once a month
- 1966 - Exterior refurbishing, cost \$7,620.00
- 1966 - Mary-Martha joined Frankenmuth Lutheran Home Auxiliary
- 1969 - Paneling added to church basement and public water
- 1970 - Joint Reformation Services with Christ Lutheran Church
- 1970 - Guisbert property north of church purchased and church tower lighted
- 1971 - New P.A. system installed in church
- 1971 - Chair lift installed
- 1972, **Sept.** - New constitution adopted
- 1973 - Dropped the tradition of ringing the bells one-half hour before church
- 1973 - New garage for teacherage
- 1973 - Trinity participated in a community Singspiration.
- 1974 - Bethel Bible Study Program began
- 1974 - Bathrooms were added to the church basement
- 1975 - Vacation Bible School started
- 1976 - Women were given the voting privilege at Trinity
- 1976 - Sponsored a Laotian refugee family.
- 1976 - Saturday night services, on a trial basis, during summer months only
- 1976 - Only artificial Christmas trees allowed
- 1977 - Trinity joined the Lutheran High School Association
- 1977 - Second school addition proposed: kindergarten room, music room, media center and library, office workroom, and shower facilities
- 1978 - Preschool was started
- 1979, **May 6** - Dedication of school addition. Cost \$218,073
- 1979 - Ceiling fans were installed in the church
- 1980, **April 9** - Dedication of refurbished Schantz organ, purchased from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saginaw
- 1980, **Dec.** - Vicar Program started
- 1981 - Greeters welcomed worshippers at the door.
- 1981 - Church redecorated with new pews with padded seats
- 1981 - Rudy Gottschall property acquired, granting him life lease on the house

1981 - Church gets locked at night
1981 - Communion celebrated 4 times a month, new hymnals purchased
1985 - Church campout begun
1985, **May** - Mrs. Perry property acquired and made into the parking lot
1986 - Big flood
1987 - Year-round Saturday night service
1987 - Began Lutheran Brotherhood matching funds
1991, **Sept. 8** - 'Counting Our Blessings' Observance: preacher,
Pastor Ralph Fischer
1992 - Ruth Freudenstein house inherited (now used as youth house)
1993 - School addition: staff offices, media center
1993 - Annual golf outing begun
1994 - Singles organized
1999 - Mission Renewal Study
2000, **winter** - Water damage to parsonage
2001 - MOPS organized
2001 - Vote to build new church
2001, **June - October** - Stewardship Campaign to raise money to build
new church
2002, **October** - Parsonage removed from property
2002, **Christmas** - first time in over 40 years that all the congregation's
children were in one Christmas program.
2003, **May 18** - Voted to begin construction of new church
2003, **June 7 & 8** - Decommissioning of the church
2003, **June 15** - Groundbreaking for new church
2003, **June 22** - 100th Anniversary Celebration
2003, **June 24** - Demolition of church

*Ask the former generations and find out what their
fathers learned, for we were born only yesterday and
know nothing. Job 8:8-9*

*Let it be written for future generations that a people
not yet created may praise the Lord. Ps 102:8*

*There is a time for everything and a season for every
activity under heaven...a time to tear down and a
time to build... Ecc 3:1,3*

CELEBRATIONS

10th Anniversary

Sunday, **June 15, 1913**

Preacher in German: Pastor Voss of Frankenmuth

Dedication of Church

2nd Sunday in **September, 1921**

Preachers in German: Rev. J. Shinnerer and Rev. Theodore Wuggazer

Preachers in English: Rev. L. List and Rev. F. Brunn



NEW CHURCH

25th Anniversary

June 17, 1928

Morning services conducted by Pastor Otto Rupprecht

Afternoon services, Rev. Bernhardt Roth

Evening concert by the Young People's Society

45th Anniversary Celebration

June 13, 1948

50th - Golden Jubilee Services

Sunday June 7, 1953

Preacher in German: Rev. Theodore Wuggazer, Sr.

Preacher in English: Rev. G. Krach

Preacher at 3:00 pm: Rev. Clarence Golisch

Organists: L.W. Kaemming and Wilmer Kamm

Choir Director: Roland Rupprecht

60th Anniversary

1963 - Dr. Oliver Harms, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, guest speaker.

75th Anniversary Service

June 18, 1978 - Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, The Lutheran Hour.

Confirmation Reunions for 1903-1938.

June 25, 1978 - Speaker: Rev Kurt Voss, Pastor of Trinity from 1950-1952.

Confirmation Reunions from 1939-1952.

July 2, 1978 - Speaker: Rev. Carl W. Heilman, Pastor of Trinity from 1952-1967. Confirmation Reunions from 1953-1966.

July 9, 1978 - Speaker: Rev. Ralph Fischer, Pastor of Trinity from 1967-1972. Confirmation Reunion from 1967-1972.

July 18, 1978 - Speaker: Dr. Richard L. Schlecht, President of the Michigan District.

Confirmation Reunions from 1973-1978.



60TH ANNIVERSARY: HENRY KAMM, WILLIAM RAU, ALVIN REIF, DR. OTTO VON RENNER, WALTER WILLMAN, THEODORE KNACK, DR. OLIVER HARMS, REV. KRACH, FLORENCE DIENER, REV. CARL HEILMAN, HELEN KOPISCHKE, MAGGIE RAU, MIKE DAENZER, ALBERT HECHT, JOHN DIENER, ALBERT GRUBER. FR. ROW: ROLAND RUPPRECHT, ALBERT BAUER, ED MARSHALL

**90th Anniversary
Celebration**

June, 1993

Former and present pastors and teachers that attended were: Sylvia Buetow, Cindy Krumnauer, Betty Reinbold, Marie Krieger, Kamie Pike, Lorna Kline, Julie Wheeler, Aaron Dohrman, Peggy Lett, Norine Hinz, Pastor Vern Hinz, Robert Schluckbier, Phyllis Grimpo, Pastor Daniel Meckes, Pastor Paul Hinz, Pastor Randy Lett, Dwain Grimpo, and Ron Keup.



90TH ANNIVERSARY

Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again. Ecc. 11:1

It is not the remembered past but the forgotten past that enslaves us. C. S. Lewis

If we ignore history, we are like the sailor who placed a lantern on the bow of the ship, and followed it and ended up in the wrong direction.

100th Anniversary - 2003-2004

June 22, 2003 - Anniversary Kick-off

Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffman, former Lutheran Hour speaker
Held at Reese Public School Gymnasium.

September 13 & 14, 2003

Speaker: Pastor Randy Lett (Vicar at Trinity, 1981-82)

October 5, 2003 - Confirmation Reunion

Speaker: Pastor Daniel Meckes (Pastor at Trinity 1989-1999)
Held at Reese Public School Gymnasium

January 10 & 11, 2004

Speaker: Pastor Thomas Marcis (Vicar at Trinity, 1984-85)

March 6 & 7, 2004

Speaker: Pastor Vern Hinz (Pastor at Trinity, 1972-1990)

March, 2004 - Lutheran Schools Week

May 1 & 2, 2004

Speaker: Pastor Paul Hinz (Pastor at Trinity, 1991-1997)

June 20, 2004 - Finale/ Mission Festival

Speaker: Pastor Peter Larsen (Michigan District-LCMS)

Cumulative Statistics

1903-1913: 10th Anniversary		Marriages	208
Baptisms	144	Burials	192
Confirmations	57		
Marriages	24	1903-1978: 75th Anniversary	
Burials	21	Baptisms	1184
		Confirmed	1021
1903-1928: 25th Anniversary		Marriages	349
Baptisms	333	Burials	338
Confirmed	242		
Marriages	76	1903-2003: 100th Anniversary	
Burials	77	Baptisms	1634
		Confirmed	1558
1903-1953: 50th Anniversary		Marriages	559
Baptisms	613	Burials	512
Confirmed	521		

Yearly Statistics

1913		1978	
Communicants	179	Communicants	778
Baptized members	256	Baptized members	1024
School children	34	School children	148
		Preschool	21
1928		2002	
Communicants	332	Communicants	899
Baptized members	530	Baptized members	1125
School children	82	School children	94
		Preschool	16
1950			
Communicants	399		
Baptized members	546		
School children	99		

Budget Information

1933 - Receipts	\$2371.68	1978 - Budget	\$183,786.00
Debt on new church	\$11,476.79	Contributions for 1977	
\$11,000. borrowed from members		Incl. bldg. fund	\$213,295.00
1941 - Budget	\$4000.00	1984 - Budget	\$258,687.00
Pastor's salary	\$1150.00		
Teacher/principal	\$1070.00	2002 - Contributions:	
		General Fund & Missions	\$662,152.00
1947 - Budget	\$11,269.00	Building Fund	\$461,611.00
		Total	\$1,123,763.00

TRINITY'S GOVERNING BOARDS

Board of Directors
Jeff Sommerfield, Chairman
Kris Beyerlein, Secretary
Clara Roth, Treasurer
Board of Evangelism
Charles Bender, Chairman
Board of Elders
Stan Draher, Chairman
Board of Worship
Josh Hairnes, Chairman
Board of Education
Mike Sahr, Chairman

Board of Stewardship
Gary Kaufman, Chairman
Board of Trustees
Mel Volz, Chairman
Board of Social Ministry
Connie Ackerman, Chairperson
Cemetery Board
Keith Stockmeyer, Chairman
Board of Finance
Jason Reinbold, Chairman

TRINITY'S STAFF

Church and School Professional Staff

Rev. Steven Siegel, Administrative Pastor
Rev. Matthew Garred, Associate Pastor
Scott Schumacher, Principal & Teacher
Robert Schluckbier, Music Director & Teacher
Debra Bierlein, Teacher
Karen Keup, Teacher, Organist, & Jr. Choir Director
Ronald Keup, Teacher & Athletic Director
Jane Dohrmann, Teacher
Kamie Pike, Teacher
Marylou Morin, Teacher

Support Staff

Lynn Hecht Gilchrist, Office Coordinator
Melissa Spencer, Church Secretary
Sharol Brechtelsbauer, School Secretary
Greg Wright, Custodian
Sondra Sylvester, Custodian
Janet Jones & Carolyn Kamm, Cooks
Phyllis Grimpo, Learning Aide
Eric Rupprecht & Kelly Bull, Youth Advisors

The man who knows his history knows something about the future.

To know nothing of the past is to understand little of the present, and to have no conception of the future.

PASTORS

Rev. Frank W. Wittfaut: 1903-1905
 Rev. Theodore Wuggazer: 1906-1917
 Rev. Otto Rupprecht: 1918-1946
 Rev. Clarence Golisch: 1946-1949
 Rev. Kurt Voss: 1950-1952
 Rev. Carl Heilman: 1952-1967
 Rev. Ralph Fischer: 1967-1972
 Rev. Vern D. Hinz: 1972-1990
 Rev. Daniel Meckes: 1989-1999
 Rev. Paul Hinz 1992-1997
 Rev. Steven Siegel:
 1998-present
 Rev. Matthew Garred:
 2001-present

*Unless the Lord builds the
 house, they labor in vain that
 build it. Ps 127:1*

Pastor Frank W. Wittfaut

Pastor Wittfaut was a pastor in the Wisconsin Synod, and had been called to Christ Lutheran Church, Reese in January, 1899. After his resignation, in 1903, as Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, he and nine families formed the new congregation of Trinity. During his tenure, Trinity was organized, a church building was purchased, the Ladies' Aid was organized, and a new parsonage was built. He resigned on December 3, 1905, for reasons of health.



PASTOR
WITTFAUT

Pastor Theodore Wuggazer

Pastor Wuggazer was a graduate of Concordia College, Milwaukee, WI, and of the Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO. He accepted the call of Trinity and was installed by the late Rev. George Bernthal in January, 1906. In the year of the church's 10th anniversary, 1913, a sad bereavement placed a temporary pall on all rejoicing and exultation. This was the death of the pastor's helpmeet, Louise Wuggazer. This bereavement was a staggering blow to Pastor Wuggazer and his five children. He continued his commendable work at Trinity and with the passage of time found another helpmeet, Miss Emma Schmidt of Monroe, MI. to share his joys and to encourage him. His tenure saw a new organ, cemetery property and additional lots purchased. In 1917, he accepted a call to a Lutheran congregation in Fraser, MI. In 1921, he preached at the dedication of the new church; and in 1953, he preached in German for the congregation's 50th Anniversary. At that time he was still "helping out" as a pastor in the Bay City area. Pastor Wuggazer died in 1954 and was buried in Trinity's cemetery next to his first wife, Louise. In 1965, his second wife, Emma, died and was buried on the other side of him.



PASTOR
WUGGAZER

Pastor Otto Rupprecht

Pastor Rupprecht was educated at Concordia College, and the Theological Seminary of Milwaukee, WI, and St. Louis, MO. Conscientious and charitable, he did not turn from the cries of the needy, nor refuse shelter to the helpless. He was modest in demeanor, yet, was endowed with a temperament which certified him a promoter. His organizing ability, and his buoyant enthusiasm, impelled him to grapple troubling difficulties, and to solve them, electrifying the congregation, and making it zealous. Hence his talents fit him to his position in a prosperous congregation. His tenure began a gradual transition from German to English. A new church was built, the old church was transformed into a Christian day school, the Young People's Society



PASTOR
RUPPRECHT

and Men's Club were organized, and the church debt paid off. He resigned in 1946 because of ill health.

He and his wife, Theresa, had five children: Roland, Ottomar, Emanuel, Theresa Reinhardt, and Louella Rutledge. He died November 9, 1955, in Frankenmuth.

Pastor Clarence Golisch

Pastor Golisch was a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, IL. He served with distinction in the armed forces as a chaplain. He was installed in 1946 at Trinity. During that time, the Sunday School was organized, Kindergarten and the eighth grade were added, a new teacherage was built, and the T.I.L./P.T.L. was organized. In November, 1949, he accepted a call to Bethesda Lutheran Home in Watertown, WI, where he served for an additional 22 years. Under his leadership Bethesda Lutheran Home achieved national and international recognition for its unique services in caring for the mentally and physically impaired. In 1953, he came back to Trinity to preach at one of the 50th Anniversary services. He and his wife Catherine had six children. He died August 23, 1982.



PASTOR
GOLISCH

Pastor Kurt Voss

Pastor Voss graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary and served as a missionary in China for seven years before coming to Trinity in 1950. He accepted a call to Springfield, PA, and then was with the first group to do mission work to Korea. His wife, Eli, and children accompanied him. They were there in 1960, when there was great danger from political unrest and change in government. He came back to Trinity in 1978 to preach at one of the 75th Anniversary services.



PASTOR
VOSS

Pastor Carl W. Heilman

Pastor Heilman attended the University of Texas and Concordia Seminary at St. Louis. He was pastor at Lawton, OK, and chaplain at Fort Sill, OK, before accepting the call to Trinity. He was installed in October, 1952, by Rev. William Schoenow of Richville. During his tenure, a new school and its first addition were built, Adult Bible study was begun, a new parsonage was built, Easter Sunrise services started, the Mary-Martha Guild was started, and the exterior of the church was refurbished. He then accepted a call to Springfield, MO, and served for 18 more years until his retirement. He came back to Trinity in 1978 to preach at one of the 75th



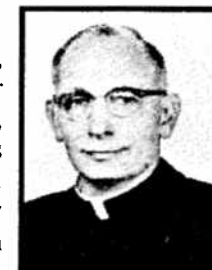
PASTOR
HEILMAN

Anniversary services. He and his wife, Betty, had four children: Jon, of Springfield, MO; Paul, of Duncan, OK; Elizabeth, of Middleton, WI; and Miriam. He died August 25, 1997. His widow resides in a nursing home in Springfield.

Pastor Ralph F. Fischer

Pastor Fischer attended Concordia College at Ft. Wayne, Indiana; and Concordia Seminary at St. Louis. Pastor Fischer had served St. Paul Lutheran Church at Mountain View, CA, for 16 years before accepting the call to Trinity. He was installed here on October 15, 1967, by his father the Rev. Frederick O. Fischer. While at Trinity he had responsibility for one of the largest Lutheran Bible Study programs with more than 150 adults participating. An additional 111 adults joined Trinity during his tenure. In 1972, he accepted a call to Westland, MI. He came back to Trinity to preach at one of the 75th Anniversary services.

He and his wife Erna had 3 children: Kristi, Timothy, and Thomas. Erna died on November 29, 1994; Pastor Fischer died on August 15, 1998.



PASTOR
FISCHER

Pastor Vern D. Hinz

Pastor Hinz attended his freshman year at Northwestern College in Watertown, WI. He spent 1945-1947 in the U. S. Army. From 1947-1950, he attended Concordia Teachers' college in River Forest, IL. From 1950-1956 he was principal, teacher, organist, and music director at Fort Wayne, IN. In 1957 he got his Master's Degree from the University of Michigan. From 1957-1961, he attended Concordia Seminary, Springfield, IL. From 1961-1972, he served as pastor at two congregations in Iowa until he accepted a call to Trinity.

Pastor Hinz was installed at Trinity by Rev. John G. Deterding on September 17, 1972. While serving Trinity, he started the Bethel Bible Study, Life Light Bible Study, and Vacation Bible School; Saturday evening services were begun; women were given the right to vote at Trinity; the school had its second addition; the organ was replaced; the church was refurbished, remodeled, and new furniture installed; and the vicar program was put in place. For the first time, Trinity had two pastors, as an Assistant Pastor was called. Pastor Hinz retired in 1990 and moved to Tecumseh, MI. In retirement he has served a number of congregations.

He and his wife, Norine, were blessed with six children: Eunice Woldt, a nurse and lactician at Children's Hospital, Detroit; Elaine (Rev. Dr. Justin) Kollmeyer, an Emergency room nurse at Fayetteville, GA; Dr. William (Carol) Hinz, Superintendent of Lutheran Schools, Texas District, Pflugerville, TX; Sharon



PASTOR HINZ

(Rev. Don) Fraker, a teacher at Braunfels, TX; Karen (Dr. David) Murdy, an exercise physiologist in Janesville, WI; and Janele (Dr. Jon) Ehrman, an exercise physiologist at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit. They also were blessed with 18 grandchildren.

Pastor Hinz's wife, Norine, died on August 12, 2002.

Pastor Daniel C. Meckes

Pastor Meckes attended Concordia College, Ann Arbor, and Concordia College at River Forest, IL. He served as a called DCE before entering Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne. He accepted a call to Trinity and was installed as assistant pastor by Pastor Vern D. Hinz on June 11, 1989. The preacher was Rev. Theodore Zeile, who had served at Hope Lutheran Church in Bradenton, FL, where Pastor Meckes had done his vicarage. Upon Pastor Hinz's retirement in 1990, Pastor Meckes took over the duties of Administrative Pastor. In 1999, Pastor Meckes accepted a call to Walled Lake.

Pastor Meckes is presently serving at Faith Lutheran, Bay City.

He and his wife Janelle have five children: Nathanael, Joshua, Aaron, Matthias, and Michaela.



PASTOR
MECKES

Pastor Paul Hinz

Pastor Paul graduated from Concordia, Bronxville, NY with a B.A., and attended Concordia Theological Seminary. Paul worked in a variety of fields before his ordination at Trinity. On January 5, 1992, he was ordained and installed by his father, the Rev. Dr. Richard P. Hinz, President of the South Eastern District.

He accepted a call to Valley Lutheran High School as pastor and teacher in 1997. He is presently serving at Peace Lutheran Church in Saginaw.

He and his wife Sally have five children: Christopher, Seth, Peter, James, and Rachel.



PASTOR HINZ

Pastor Steven Siegel

Pastor Siegel's first career was in radio broadcasting, progressing from morning announcer to Program Director. After 12 years, he re-evaluated his career and decided to return to school to become a pastor. He completed a B.A. at Concordia University, Mequon, and graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1998. He was ordained and installed at Trinity by Rev. Dale Ahlechwede from St. Lorenz on June 21, 1998.

He and his wife Karen have two children: Zachary and Rachel.



PASTOR
SIEGEL

Pastor Matthew Garred

Pastor Garred graduated from Portland State University. Ten years later he returned to college at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He accepted a call as Associate Pastor to Trinity and was installed on June 24, 2001, by Rev. Peter Larsen.

He and his wife Kim have four children: Kaely, Emily, Abigail, and Noah.



PASTOR GARRED

MISSIONARIES

Daniel Conrad to Venezuela

VICARS

Randy Lett: 1981-1982

David Wilshek: 1982-1983

Timothy Sowers: 1983-1984

Thomas Marcis: 1984-1985

Thomas Slater: 1985-1986

Robert Barber Jr.: 1986-1987

Stephen Linck: 1987-1988



PASTOR RANDY LETT WITH PASTOR PAUL HINZ

SCHOOL

Before 1921, Trinity had no school of its own. Previous to this time, arrangements had been made with St. Michael's of Richville to accommodate Trinity's children in her area school (Northeast District) which was located east of Reese's village limits, on the corner of M-81 and Quanicassee Rd. Children either walked there or were brought by their parents by horse and buggy or sleigh. At that time the congregation could claim only fifteen of her children in parochial school.

In 1921, after the erection of the new church building, the old house of worship became available for other purposes. With volunteer help, the old building was soon converted into suitable quarters for a school. The school opened in October, 1921, with one teacher, Mr. Emil Schultz, and 65 students in seven grades.



TRINITY SCHOOL 1924



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL 1936-37: HERMAN GLAWE, TEACHER. Row 1: Harold Beyerlein, Fred Beyerlein, Norm Roth, Walter Schrader, Bill Freudenstein, Waldo Schluckbier, Ray Hecht, Wilmer Kamm, Edwin Beyerlein; Row 2: Earl Schluckbier, Don Rummel, Bob Willman, Charles Bender, Betty Bierlein, Marge Kamm, Don Willman, Arlene Marshall, Ray Roth, Marion Kern; Row 3: Don Hurford, Herb Beyerlein, Lorraine Roddamer, Chet Buerkel, Arnold Schrader, Lillian Willman, Dolly Freudenstein, Bob Reinbold, Ed Reinbold, Don Kamm, Roland Roth; Row 4: Pete Bierlein, Ida Reinhardt, Viola Kopschke, Ray Hurford, Wilmer Sigelko, Bob Kamm.

After one year, Mr. Schultz left to return to college, and Mr. Herman Glawe assumed the teaching duties. For several years, Pastor Rupprecht taught first and second grades. Prior to 1953, Trinity had no full time custodian. Early records show that Mrs. Rupprecht, the pastor's wife, was paid to clean the church. The school was another matter. The school board cleaned the school each summer. The students returned each fall to clean windows, re-blackened blackboards, and the strong smell of freshly oiled wooden floors. During the school year the teacher, Mr. Glawe, assigned upper grade students to daily sweep the floors, wash the boards, and pound out the erasers. The bigger boys were in charge of get-

ting the coal from the coal bin and carrying it into the school room next to the pot-bellied stove. The teacher tended to the pot-bellied stove. This stove heated the entire room: extremely hot next to the stove and cold at the perimeters. There was no running water and the outdoor toilets were behind the school. No lunches were served and students from the country brought their lunches in tin lunch buckets; while others, from the village, walked home for lunch.

In 1947, the congregation made plans to introduce the Kindergarten and eighth grade and hire a second teacher. Bathrooms were added to the school and the instruction room became the additional classroom.

In 1952, Trinity authorized the erection of a new school building. In the fall of 1955, the school enrollment had reached 99 students.

On September 17, 1961, the congregation voted to add two classrooms, a multi-purpose room and kitchen at a cost of \$91,733.

The next addition was approved by the congregation in 1977 at a construction cost of \$218,073. In 1979, the new facility being dedicated included a kindergarten and pre-school room, music room, small group meeting room, library/media center, and boys and girls showers.

Preschool was added in 1978 with an enrollment of 21. It was also the year that flag football changed to soccer.

In 1993, a third addition was added to the school. The first classroom on the west was changed into an office and workroom for the school and church; a



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL 1953: Row 1: Richard Sigelko, Allan Kern, Ronald Reinhardt, Roy Reif, Ruth Ann Reif, Barbara Elbers, Robert Kern, Alan Steffe, Robert Valeck. Row 2: Raymond Bernthal, Terry Greenleaf, John Bittner, Garie Greenleaf, Duane Massoll, Paul Melcheck, Larry Pickell. Row 3: Robert Bernthal, Terry Schemm, James Reif, Vernon Mueller, David Melcheck, Billy Schluckbier, Paul Pickell, Daniel Rohloff. Row 4: Ruth Ann Steck, Nancy Bernthal, Marilyn Rohloff, Sally Hartman, Mary Ann Elbers, Jean Kern, Sandra Bernthal, Virginia Kuck, Mary Ann Weiss, Sandra Rummel, Yvonne Gruber. Row 5: Katherine Bierlein, Ruth Kuck, Carolyn Reif, Janet Goetz, Norlene Goetz, Joanne Rau.

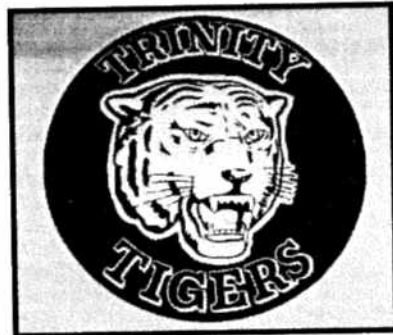


TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL 1953: Row 1: James Valeck, George Weiss, James Kern, Nathan Rupprecht, Ronald Valeck, James Marshall. Row 2: Virginia Reinbold, Pamela Reinhardt, William Rohloff, Betty Lou Weiss, Sherry Brechtelsbauer, Pamela Mueller, John DeWar. Row 3: Gail Browne, Bonnie Schemm, Shirley Reif, Clark Rummel, Michael Rummel, Sharon Rupprecht, Beverly Steck.

classroom was added on the east end to replace this one. To the north, a rest-room, two pastors' offices, a principal's office, and a meeting room were added. A roof and wall enclosed the courtyard which became the library.

In August of 2000, after a year long self-study, carried out by many members of Trinity, Trinity Lutheran School became accredited by the National Lutheran School Accreditation Association.

Ron Keup, Athletic Director, coordinates Trinity's athletic teams, which are coached by volunteers: girls' and boys' basketball; volleyball; soccer; cheerleading; and track. The school also has a very successful chess club. The church has adult teams: men's basketball, co-ed volleyball, and women's softball.



TEAM LOGO

Enrollment figures

1913 - 34 students to St. Michaels
1920 - 15 students to St. Michaels
1921 - 65 students as Trinity opened
1957 - 111 students
1968 - 163 students
1974-76 - 135 students

1979 - 149 + 50 preschoolers
five teachers and a pre-school
teacher
1982 - 152 + 60 preschoolers
1987 - 96 + 38 preschoolers
2000 - 108 + 8 preschoolers
2003 - 94 + 16 preschoolers

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Mt 28:19

TEACHERS

Emil Schultz: 1921-1922
Herman Glawe: 1922-1946
Mrs. Albert Heinrich: 1946-1947
Luther W. Kaemming: 1947-1972
Marjorie Kamm Spiekerman:
1947-1949
Betty Bragganzer Reinbold:
1949-1950,
1953-1954, Fall 1962, 1962-1963
Marie Findlay Krieger: 1950-1954,
Dec. '62-'63, 1963-1964
1966-1967
Frieda Reinsch: 1953-1954,
1956-1958
L. E. Schultz: 1954-1955
Don Bremer: 1955-1956
Paul Umback: 1956-1957
L. R. Oelke: 1956-1957
Darwin Dubke: 1957-1958
Luella Rupprecht Rutledge:
1958-1969
Sylvia Buetow: 1958-1959
Aaron Dohrman: 1959-1991
Denise Hinman: 1964-1971
Joan Bauer Bowen: 1966-1967
Helen Nierman: 1967-1968
Virgil Pamperin: 1967-1973

Paulette Krueger: 1969-1969
Kathy Dietlein Burke: 1969-1970
Janet Bauer Rangranont: 1970-1971
Eileen Piphoo: 1970-1971
Carol Lillo: 1971-1974
Lorna Bernthal Kline: 1971-1986
John Okonski: 1972-1977
R. Dwain Grimpo: 1973-1998
Ann Ayres Bass: 1975-1986
Jane Bergman Dohrmann:
1976-present
Cynthia Mertz Krumnauer:
1977-1979
Audene Cormendy: 1979-1982
Ronald Keup: 1982-present
Robert Schluckbier: 1986-present
Julie Wheeler: 1988-2000
Karen Keup: 1990-present
Cheryl Gilbert: 1991-1992
Kamie Reinbold Pike: 1992-present
Kent Kern: 1998-2002
Beverly Sherouri: 1998-2000
Sharon Schutzler: 2000-2002
Ann Garske: 2000-2002
Mary Lou Morin: 2000-present
Debra Bierlein: 2002-present
Scott Schumacher: 2002-present

PRINCIPALS

Herman Glawe

Mr. Glawe graduated from River Forest College. He taught 48 years: 24 at Trinity, and 24 at St. John's of Midland. He married Viola Buetow of Reese. They had three children: Glen, Carol, and JoAnne; five grandsons; and six great-grandchildren. He died February 8, 1995, and was buried in Trinity's cemetery. His wife Viola died July 11, 2003.



HERMAN GLAWE

Luther Kaemming

Mr. Kaemming graduated from River Forest Teachers' College. He taught nineteen years before coming to Trinity in 1947, and taught 25 more years here. During his first 40 years, Mr. Kaemming taught 853 children. He married Lydia Claycamp. Upon retirement, they moved to Seymour, IN. Mr. Kaemming died on Thanksgiving Day in 1994; his wife, Lydia died on June 2, 2002.



LUTHER
KAEMMING

Aaron Dohrmann

Mr. Dohrmann graduated from River Forest College. Prior to coming to Trinity, he taught eight years at Broken Arrow, OK, and Cheney, KS. He was called to Trinity as a teacher, youth director, and assistant organist. He also served as basketball coach, Bible class teacher, male choir and hand bell director. He served as principal from 1963-1980. He received his Master's Degree from Central Michigan University in 1984. He taught 41 years, 33 at Trinity. He married Miranda Hessler and they celebrated their 50th Anniversary during Trinity's Centennial Year. They have three children: John, Janice, and Jim, and eight grandchildren.



AARON
DOHRMANN

R. Dwain Grimpo

Mr. Grimpo graduated from Concordia University, Seward, NE. He began teaching at Trinity in 1973 and became principal in 1980. He resigned in 1998 after 25 years at Trinity. He is presently teaching at Faith, Bay City. He married Phyllis Bowman of St Louis, MO. They have four sons: Philip, Kevin, Michael, and Timothy.



R. DWAIN
GRIMPO

Kent Kern

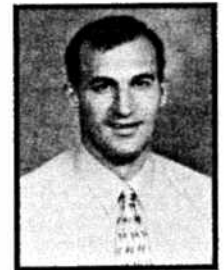
Mr. Kern graduated from Concordia College, Ann Arbor, in 1990. He received his Master of Education Degree from S.V.S.U. in 2000. He taught 12 years, four of them as principal at Trinity. He married Heidi Loesel in 1991. They have two children: Alex and Brady.



KENT KERN

Scott Schumacker

Mr. Schumacker graduated from Concordia University, River Forest in 1993 with a B.A. in Elementary Education, and from Butler University in 2001, with a M.S. in elementary educational administration. He taught nine years at Immanuel Lutheran School in Seymour, IN, before accepting the call to become principal at Trinity. He married Anita Davis in 1998. They have three children: Mackenzie Ahlbrand, Lauren, and Alex.



SCOTT
SCHUMACKER

MUSIC

In 1906, records show that "George Schemm, the church organist, was instructed to gather funds for the purchase of a new organ." A new organ was purchased for \$86.

In 1963, the organ was electrified and trumpets were added.

In 1980, an organ was purchased from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saginaw. Trinity had it totally rebuilt by the Fowler Organ Company of Lansing, under the direction of its original builder, and with the assistance of members of Trinity. It took a total of nineteen men to bring the wind chest to Trinity. This instrument could have cost the congregation up to \$90,000, but had been secured for \$40,000. It was carefully removed, packed, and stored before the demolition of the church. The intent is to repair it and use it in the new church.

Over time, some of the organists have been: George Schemm, Herman Glawe, Roland Rupprecht, Wilmer Kamm, Luther Kaemming, Aaron Dohrmann, Ann Ayres Bass, Karen Keup, Robert Schluckbier, Karyn Crabtree, and Pam Bernreuter.

Arnold and Esther Bader donated the hand bells to Trinity in commemoration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Special music for worship is provided by: organists and accompanists; the adult and junior choirs; the adult and junior hand bell choirs; the men's chorus; adult instrumentalists; the praise and worship team; the school band; and classrooms singing at worship services.

Trinity's first choir was begun in 1904. It has continued to enhance worship to this day. Some of its directors were: Herman Glawe, Roland Rupprecht, Luther Kaemming, John Okonski, Ann Ayres Bass, and Robert Schluckbier.



FIRST CHOIR (1904)



CHOIR IN THE 90's

CEMETERY

In 1906, a tract of land was bought and consecrated as a final resting place for members and families of Trinity. Mrs. Barbara Reif, the wife of one of the founders, was the first to be buried in Trinity's Cemetery. When walking through the cemetery one can visit the graves of Pastor Wuggazer who is buried between his two wives; the family graves of six of the nine founders: Carl Arndt Sr., August Knack, Carl Koss, Fred Krach, David Moser, Andrew Reif Sr., and Michael Zollman; and Teacher Herman Glawe and his wife, Viola.

In 1907, a constitution for governing the cemetery was included along with the congregation's constitution. It has been revised several times, the last in the 70's.

A Perpetual Fund was established in 1966, which required \$200 deposited, when possible, in the Perpetual Care Fund for each burial. It has now been raised to \$250. The money is invested in Church Extension, with interest to be used in the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

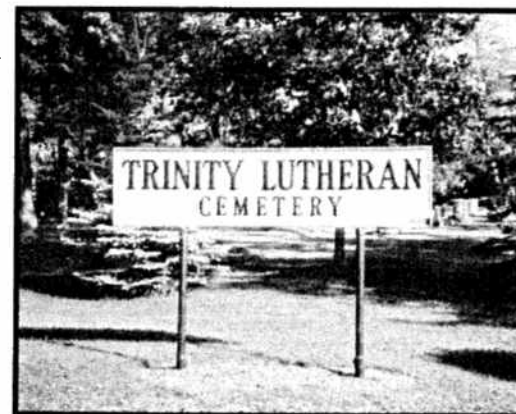
In 1976, 2.89 acres was purchased by Walter and Alvina Bemthal and donated to enlarge the cemetery.

In 1979, a landscaper was hired to suggest improvements for the cemetery. The William Jr. (Tiny) and Marian Zehnder Foundation donated \$1,000 for trees for the cemetery.

Blue Spruce trees were planted along the west boundary of the cemetery by the Cemetery Board and volunteers. They had been donated by Arthella Bauer, as a memorial to her husband, Elmer.

It has been told by early sextons and others that unmarked wooden graves lie along the northeast boundary of the cemetery, just behind the hedge. Indians, early settlers and stillborn children may be buried there.

The sexton for the cemetery is Tom Bauer. He, along with his family, maintains a well-kept, attractive resting place for Trinity's departed.



PUBLICATIONS

The **Weekly Bulletin** contains the Order of Service for all the church services. It also contains the readings of the week and current items of news and upcoming events. It is run off and assembled by volunteers.

Trinity Tidings is a monthly newsletter sent to all members of the congregation. It contains: minutes from the Board of Directors and Voters' Assembly; news from the school and all the organizations; a letter from the pastors; calendars of events; memorials; and many other items.

The Tidings was started in the '60's by Walter Willman, who typed the stencils and drew pictures on them with a stylus. He ran them off on a drum. His wife, Alma, daughter, Lois, and Elmer Goetz helped him. They bought the materials, put it together, purchased the stamps, and mailed it. Today, it is printed, assembled, and mailed by many volunteers.

The **Son Times** is a publication begun by the Evangelism Committee in 2001. It is sent to all the households in the Reese area. It contains updates by the pastors and principal of Trinity, but mostly community news. The Summer, 2003, edition contained items about the Reese Railroad Days, Little League Champs, golf lessons for kids, and library programs.

Tidings from Home is an alumni newsletter designed to keep confirmands who have moved away informed about and connected to Trinity Church and School. The first edition, published in the spring of 2003, featured the 100th Anniversary calendar of events.



FOLDING BULLETINS -
MARIE BOWMAN, LAVERNE BOLZMAN



WALTER WILLMAN

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund was established in 1993. It was established to benefit pastors, teachers, the school, and other worthy causes and organizations of the church. The present value of the fund is \$114,000. This money has been contributed as memorials by various donors. Only the interest is distributed by the five member board. They review the requests and allocate funds accordingly. Annual distributions have varied from \$3,500. to \$5,000.



Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened unto you. Lk 11:9

ORGANIZATIONS

CONCORDIA LADIES' AID

One hundred years ago when the nine founders met to conduct the business of the church, their wives went with them and they formed a Ladies' Aid to assist in every way possible to make the founding a success. It was the first society of the church.

The first meetings were held at the church parsonage on Sunday. During the course of the first year of activity, fifteen members were listed. Membership dues were 15 cents per month until 1913, when they were raised to \$.20, and again raised to \$.25 in 1920. The meetings were conducted and recorded in the German language. According to the record, a fine was imposed if otherwise conducted. It remained this way until July, 1934. Then the by-laws were changed to have the minutes and order of business given in both German and English to accommodate new members who were not versed in the German language. Today everything is in English and has been since the death of the last remaining member who could not understand English.

The meeting place was changed in 1915, when Mrs. Wm. Rau joined and invited the ladies to meet in her home. Thereafter other ladies did likewise and all the meetings were held in the homes until August, 1940. The church basement was then remodeled and meetings were held there.

The Concordia Ladies' Aid proved to be a real blessing to the church, spiritually and financially, especially during the lean years of the depression. For many years the interest on the church debt was paid by the Aid and also much of the principal. From 1921 to 1949, the Ladies' Aid raised almost \$5,000 to pay off the balance of the church debt.

In addition, the Ladies' Aid has worked faithfully to contribute to the needs of the church, school, and the members of Trinity. When the new school was built, the Ladies' Aid borrowed \$4,600 from several members to pay for all the kitchen equipment. The next year, they added the cupboards for \$1,000. They bought a dishwasher for \$2,200; and ovens for \$3,094. In 1929, carpeting for the church was \$620; in 1959, it was \$1,589. In 1957, when the parsonage was built, they furnished all the carpeting, floor covering, drapes and sheers for \$1,132. They furnished the mothers' room in the church for \$255. In 1955, they bought 10 square tables and 40 chairs for the meeting room for \$1,500.



EARLY LADIES' AID WITH
PASTOR AND MRS. RUPPRECHT

They bought a chair lift for the church. They contributed \$500 to both the gym bleachers and the organ fund.

Over the years, the Ladies' Aid held bake sales, bazaars, chicken dinners, card parties, sauerkraut suppers, mother-daughter dinners, wedding and anniversary dinners, Christmas parties, and meals for Mueller Elevator for seven years. In 1926, the Ladies' Aid and Men's Club began serving fish fries. In 1971, the Mary-Martha Group joined in and fish fries are still an annual event. Before the Altar Guild was formed, the Ladies' Aid made the altar linens and the pastor's gown. At Christmas, they gave a box of cookies and fruit to the congregation's shut-ins, and during World War II, they sent cards and postage stamps to our servicemen.

In 1965, the group had its largest membership of 62. Over the period of forty years, the ladies enjoyed many trips around Michigan by bus and car. Now they have six active members: Ruth Steck, Florence Elbers, Shirley Bass, Donna Poineau, Marion Knack, and Joanne Buchinger. The honorary members are: Helen Dauer, Alma Schlink, and Ann Schrader. They lost their oldest member, Mrs. Helen Hecht, in 2001 at the age of 103. She couldn't see for several years, but her mind was very sharp. The active members meet the first Thursday of the month for a potluck dinner, visiting, and socializing, inviting the pastors and bulletin assembly team. They have kept the same officers since the last program book was printed in 1999. They have no income anymore and are about ready to call it quits. What they have left in their account may go to charity and the new church. The congregation is indebted to these hard-working, dedicated women who gave so much of themselves for us. Theirs was truly an investment in the future!



FRYING FISH INSIDE THE FISH SHANTY -
EMMA SCHEMM, LOTTIE BUERKEL,
AGNES BEYERLEIN.



PRESENT LADIES' AID

MEN'S CLUB

Trinity Men's Club was re-organized in May, 1941. Herman Roth, Jacob Buerkel, and Roland Rupprecht were instrumental in re-organizing this Club. In April, 1947, the Men's Club became affiliated with the Lutheran Laymen's League and since that time has followed its program of service to the local congregation, to synod and the League projects. It lists as some of its important projects since its beginning: financial assistance on debt retirement, landscaping church property, improvements in church basement, and school equipment. This Men's Club group has been disbanded.

In the spring of 2003, a group of men got together and resurrected this once proud organization. Seventeen men have joined the group and meet monthly at Mark Bauer's. They are dedicated to fellowship and service to the church, and plan to have fundraisers for various purposes.



MIKE DAENZER, HELEN BENDER, HULDA ROTH,
ESTHER BADER



ESTHER BADER, ED MARSHALL, LIZ RAU, ALMA
REDWANZ, MIKE DAENZER, FROHNA MAR-
SHALL, ANITA DIETLEIN.

YOUTH GROUPS

Organized youth groups were first formed at Trinity, when on June 18, 1926, a group of young folks met with Pastor Rupprecht and Teacher Glawe to organize the Young People's Society of Trinity Church. Its first president was Ruth Freudenstein. During the ensuing years this organization kept up an active program of study and fellowship.

In 1945, the young group of confirmands was called the Young People's Society. They were reorganized by Wally Bronner and became members of the Walther League and the Bayside Zone. Among other things, this society has assisted the congregation with: its church debt, hymnals, church windows, chairs, and school desks. During the years of World War II, it was responsible for the service flag. This flag hung in the church and contained a star for each serviceman from Trinity.

The present Junior Youth group was formed in 1988, by Georgia Rupprecht. Presently, the Pastors, Eric Rupprecht, Kelly Bull, and the Youth Committee give their time and advice to the program. Their meetings are held in the Youth House, formerly the home of Ruth Freudenstein (the first president), which she donated to Trinity upon her death in 1992.

The youth raise money to be able to attend church youth conventions. They donate time to help the less fortunate; and enjoy sociability with other groups.

*All things work together for good to those
who love God, to those who are called
according to His purpose. Ro 8:28*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Trinity Sunday School was organized in December, 1946, under the leadership of Pastor Clarence Golisch. Enrollment in 1953 was 70. The first Superintendent was Harvey Reif assisted by Edward Schluckbier.

Throughout the years, many faithful teachers taught the Word of God to Trinity's children, and also, to many non-members. Attendance records and a Cradle Roll of all the babies born into the congregation were kept by secretaries.

Lillian French was Cradle Roll secretary for over 30 years.

In 2002, a new format was begun, called "Faith Explorers", which emphasizes having fun while learning Bible stories.

The present superintendent is Cindy Reszke. The student enrollment is 84, served by eighteen teachers and helpers.

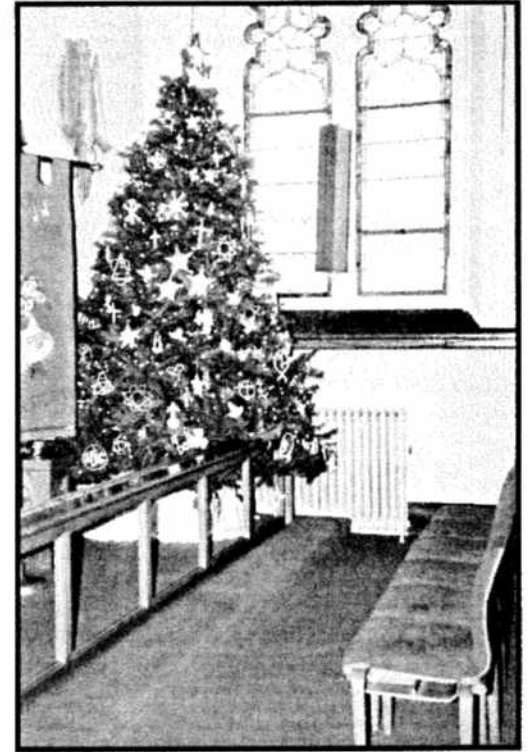


SUNDAY SCHOOL IN 1949

If God is for us, who can be against us? Ro 8:31

ALTAR GUILD

Under the leadership of Pastor Heilman, Trinity's Altar Guild was organized in November, 1946, by nine members of the Ladies' Aid who had completed new coverings for the altar. By 1950, the membership had increased to 16. Presently there are 16 members. The objectives of the group are: to care for and decorate the sanctuary, to furnish suitable vestments for the altar, to act as custodian of altar linens and furnishings in the sanctuary and to foster a better understanding of the liturgical and symbolical heritages of the Lutheran Church.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

MAKING BANNERS -
BELLE FELSKÉ,
ELLEN SOMMERFIELD,
LAVERNE BOLZMAN



TRINITY LUTHERAN QUILTERS

The Ladies' Aid was the first group of quilters, led by Esther Bader. They made quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Later Doris Mc Gee re-started the Quilting Bee. In the beginning, they sent away 80-90 quilts. Now they make around 125 per year. Approximately 15 women participate in the multi-step process: some women cut squares; some sew the squares together; some measure and fit the layers; some tie; and some finish by hemming the quilts.

Now in addition to Lutheran World Relief, the quilts are shared with the Crisis Assault Center in Caro, Social Services with the Christmas baskets, AMEAS House in Saginaw, City Rescue Mission, Underground Railroad, and the Red Cross.



FIRST GROUP OF QUILTERS

TRINITY IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE/ PARENT TEACHER LEAGUE

Trinity Improvement League was organized at the recommendation of Pastor Golisch in October, 1947. Its function is to foster the improvement and advancement of the Christian Day School, as well as supply opportunity for discussion on educational and religious topics. In September, 1963, Trinity Improvement League changed its name to Parent Teacher League and affiliated with the National Organization. Its achievements are: hot lunch program and equipment, playground equipment, school equipment, hymn books, encyclopedias, desks, and band equipment. Its present officers are: Vickie Durkee, pres.; Denise Wright, treas.; Pat Reif, sec.; Jennifer Kuehnemund, pres. elect; and Beth Dankert, program and planning.

BIBLE STUDY

The first Adult Bible study began in 1953, under Pastor Carl Heilman. Bible study continued to grow so that in the late 1960's, under Pastor Ralph Fischer, more than 150 adults attended each Sunday.

In addition to Sunday morning Bible studies, additional studies and times were offered. In 1974, under Pastor Vern Hinz, the Bethel Bible Study series began. In 1989, under Pastors Vern Hinz and Daniel Meckes, the present Life Light series began. Two sections of Life Light continue to meet on Wednesday, a morning and evening session. Presently, one of our Sunday Bible classes 'Two Year Read through the Bible' has 80-100 participants. Another Sunday Bible Class offers a variety of topics. 'Bible and Bacon', a study for men, and 'Mug and Muffin', a study for women, meet on Saturday mornings. Many other topics are offered on week nights. Pair-ables is a Bible study for parents. It is attended by around 25 married couples. They meet in small groups depending on the ages of their children, but meet as a whole group periodically.

*Suffer the little children to come unto
Me and forbid them not, for of such is
the Kingdom of God. Mk 10:14*

MARY MARTHA GUILD

The Mary Martha group was started on November 2, 1961, when Rev. Heilman realized the need for an evening arm of the Ladies' Aid. His vision was to unite these capable and talented women for fellowship and Bible study. They met in the church basement, elected officers, chose the name Mary Martha Guild, and assessed dues of 25c per month. In February of the next year, they became affiliated with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.



This group has done a variety of services: painting school rooms, cleaning the parsonage, telephoning and setting appointments for the church pictorial directory, sewing ditty bags for servicemen and tote bags for delegates at church-related conventions, planting flowers around the school, and making tray favors for hospitals and nursing homes.

The Mary Martha Group willingly has contributed money to many groups: American Cancer Society, Child Guidance Clinic, individual members, the Walther League, Altar Guild, Concordia College, Lutheran Hour, Lutheran Children's Home, the Frankenmuth Lutheran Home, Missionary Kempff, students, pastors, teachers, and vicars.

For the school, Mary Martha contributed to the bleachers, lights, microphone system, tables, lobby furnishings, refurbishing of the statue, furniture for the library, drapes, kitchen equipment, and hymnals.

For the church, they contributed to paint and carpeting, collection plates, acolyte gowns, the cost of piping water into the building and installing the bathrooms, the choir gowns, and the new organ fund.

Recently, the Mary Martha Guild took over the responsibility of providing funeral dinners for families and friends. They have over 35 volunteers who help with these dinners.

U. C. C. S.

United Christian Community Service (U.C.C.S.) consists of five area churches: St. Elizabeth's, Methodist, Christ Lutheran, Crossway, and Trinity Lutheran.

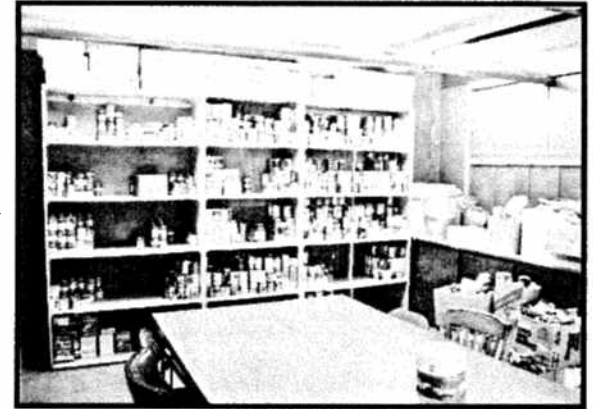
U.C.C.S. was the start of curbside recycling in Reese. Jim Forbes conceived the idea in 1989 as a way to get the community into recycling. Recycling started in Jan., 1990, at the fire station, and continued for 4 1/2 years.

People brought their recyclables and volunteers from the churches sorted the items, and then hauled them to Saginaw, Caro, or Millington for paper for the cows.

For 3 years U.C.C.S. did Welcome Packets for new families moving into Reese. They included fliers advertising the services of all the businesses in Reese.

U.C.C.S. also participated in M-DOT'S Adopt a Highway program. Their area was a two mile strip on M-81, both sides of the road. This was done three times a year resulting in 700-1000 pounds of trash.

Their pride and joy is the food pantry, providing 80-100 food baskets at Christmas, 20 at Easter, and other emergency help as needed. 2002 was the 13th year for Christmas baskets and the 9th year for Easter baskets, serving over 1200 families (4000 people). Year long food is donated from all the church families from the community. From September to Christmas over 500 hours are spent behind the scenes getting ready for the packaging and delivery days.



FOOD PANTRY

SINGLES

Singles was organized on September 19, 1994, by Pastor Paul Hinz for widows and single women. They meet monthly, mostly for sociability. Some very good friendships have developed from the get-togethers. Several trips have been taken and some mission projects have been funded by the members. Presently there are 17 members.

Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you. Mt 28:20

Grow in the knowledge of Christ. II Pe 3: 18

MOPS

In 2001, Pastor Siegel encouraged several young mothers to investigate the possibility of forming a MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers) group at Trinity. The purpose of MOPS is to nurture every mother of preschoolers by meeting her distinct needs to the glory of Jesus Christ.

MOPS held its first meeting in September of 2001, under the leadership of co-coordinators, Patti Bittner and Tina Beyerlein. The group meets twice monthly on Friday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The meetings consist of prayer, breakfast, Bible study, topics of interest, and crafts.

Child care for infants and toddlers is provided by "Moppets", an organized program carried out by over 20 faithful volunteers. Our older children are accompanied by one of our volunteers at the St. Elizabeth Day Care site.

The 2002-2003 group consisted of nineteen mothers and 29 preschoolers. The members of the steering committee for 2003-2004 are: Tina Beyerlein and Bonnie Trombley, co-coordinators; Ruth Beyerlein, mentor mom; Lisa Greenia, finance; Stephanie Bremer, hospitality; Aileen Stuart, publicity; Amy Wendland, crafts; Linda Houthoofd, Moppets; and Krista Hirschman, discussion group leader.