

A CHRONICLE OF

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

MASSILLON, OHIO

LUTHERAN ROOTS

The Lutheran Church is one of the oldest and largest Protestant churches in the world.

It had its origin in Germany during the Reformation movement of the 1500s—a movement led by Martin Luther, who lived from 1483 to 1546. By the end of the 1500s, Lutheranism had become the established church in Germany and in all of the Scandinavian countries, and had gained influence in many other countries. Today, Lutherans form a worldwide religious community of seventy million members—over nine million of them in the United States.

Early in the 1600s Lutheranism spread to the New World. The earliest and largest groups of Lutherans came from Germany and the Scandinavian countries.

Henry Muhlenberg was considered the father of American Lutheranism. He arrived in Pennsylvania from Germany in 1742 to serve as pastor of several small Lutheran congregations.

By 1817, the 300th anniversary of the posting of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses on the Castle Church at Whittenberg, there were 650 Lutheran congregations as well as a theological seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

At one time there were 150 different Lutheran bodies in the United States. As Lutheran immigrants moved west, they organized new independent territorial synods. One of these, the Missouri Synod, was formed in 1847. Although several attempts to unify the various Lutheran synods were made from 1820 to 1886, the synods still remained divided by language, culture, and doctrine.

A common order of worship was published in English in 1888 at the Eastern General Synod, the Midwestern General Council, and the United Synod of the South.

The twentieth century brought increased growth toward church unity. In 1918, at the 400th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the United Lutheran Church in America was formed. The uniting bodies were the General Council, General Synod, and United Synod of the South, bridging the chasm caused by the Civil War.



In 1919 the National Lutheran Council was formed. American Lutherans rallied to support the Allies during World War I. The National Lutheran Council was an outgrowth of this effort. It was later replaced by The Lutheran Council of the U.S.A. After World War I, many Lutheran groups dropped their ethnic ties and words like German, Norwegian, Danish, and Finnish were dropped from their titles.

In 1930, the American Lutheran Conference was formed. It brought together several midwestern synods—namely the Iowa, Ohio, and Buffalo Synods. They became a part of the National Lutheran Council.

In 1960, The American Lutheran Church was formed. It was made up of several synods from the American Lutheran Conference—ALC (1930), Evangelical Lutheran Church (1917), and United Evangelical Lutheran Church (1896). In 1963, The Lutheran Free Church joined this group also.

In 1962, The Lutheran Church in America was combined with the United Lutheran Church in America, Augustana, The American Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Today, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, to which St. Paul's belongs, is the outcome of a merger in January, 1988. This merger combined The American Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church in America, and The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. This new church boasts of 11,022 congregations and a baptized membership of 5,349,952.

From "A Scriptographic Booklet" by Channing L. Bete Co. Inc.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The men and women who formed the first Lutheran congregation in Massillon worshipped originally with the members of the church we know as St. John's United Church of Christ. The practice of combining congregations was not uncommon in the 1800s. Until their memberships grew, many combined for survival. On September 5, 1863, the Lutherans in Massillon went their separate way, because St. John's Church did not adhere wholly to Lutheran beliefs and practices. At that time the Lutheran group had grown to seventeen families, and they were particularly interested in organizing their own parochial school.



THE REV. P. J. BUEHL

1864-1889

Plans for a Lutheran congregation proceeded under the leadership of the Rev. P. J. Buehl, pastor of Zion Church of Akron.

Formal organization of St. Paul's took place on January 1, 1864, when a constitution was adopted and a Church Council elected. The new Lutheran Church was incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio as The Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Church in the City of Massillon, Ohio. At the time of organization, St. Paul's numbered two hundred and ten souls, ninety communicants, and a Sunday School enrollment of sixty-five. Pastor Buehl accepted the call to serve as the congregation's first pastor and was installed early in 1864.

The following is a biographical sketch of Pastor Buehl from his grandson, Mr. Edward R. Buehl of Akron:

"Peter Jacob Buehl was born March 24, 1827, in Germany. He was confirmed in 1842 and attended school in Duesseldorf to study English. His aim was to become a missionary to the American Indians. His family objected to this career and he consented to become a minister.

Mr. Buehl left Germany March 25, 1849. After 28 days at sea, he arrived in New York City on May 19, 1849. He traveled to Albany on the steamer *Washington*, then by canal boat to Buffalo on the Erie Canal, then by sailboat to Cleveland. The journey continued on the Ohio and Erie Canal through Akron and Massillon to Winesburg, Ohio, where he had a cousin.

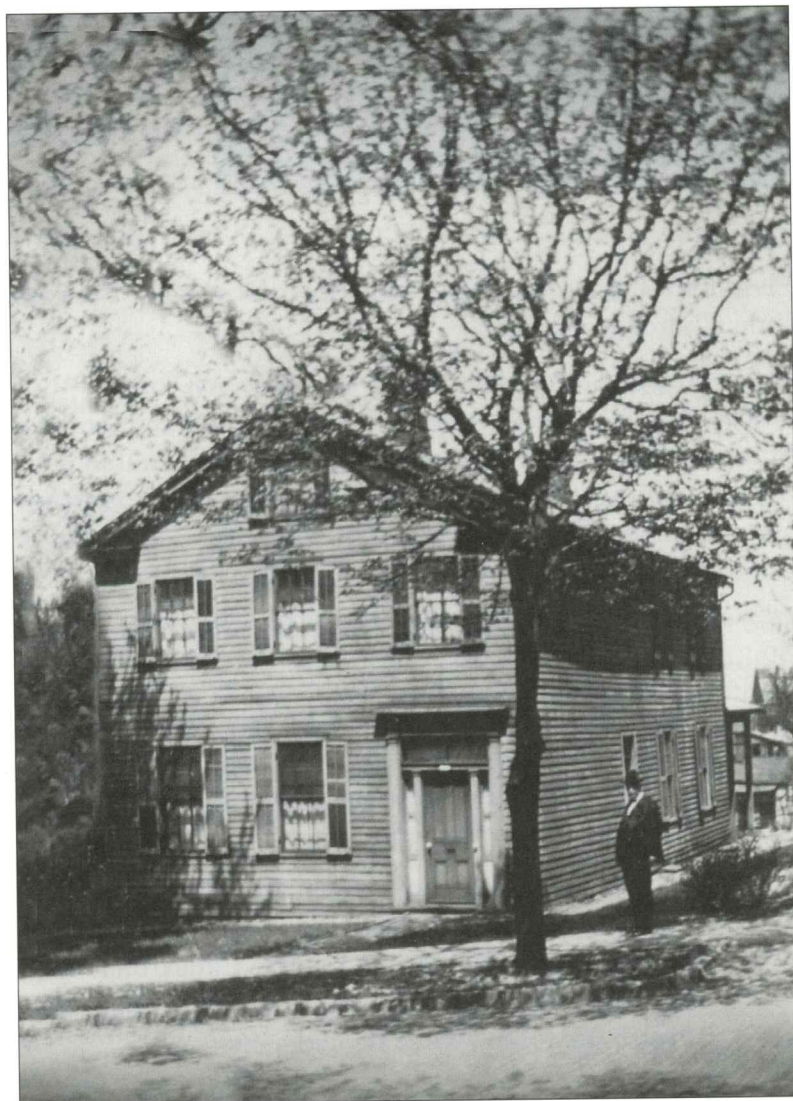
Mr. Buehl then moved to what is now Navarre and worked about one year in the famous Garver's Store. From there he went to Massillon to further his studies. He graduated from Massillon High School. He studied in his spare time under a minister in Massillon, Reverend Seuss of the Ohio Synod. Later he attended Mercersburg Prep School at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. He graduated in the spring of 1852.

In 1853 Reverend Buehl was married. He started a private school in 1853, and the school was moved three times due to increased growth. On the third move, in 1863, it became Zion Lutheran Day School in Akron.

Reverend Buehl was very favorably impressed with the doctrines of the Missouri Synod and joined that group. It was the Missouri Synod that suggested that Rev. Buehl come to Massillon."

The Massillon Lutherans met in Hoffman's Church from 1863 to 1865. It is interesting to note that Hoffman's Church originally had been the Presbyterian Church, and it had stood at the corner of Second and Federal on the site of the present Presbyterian Church. When the Presbyterians planned to construct a new church building, a Mr. Hoffman purchased their old place of worship and moved it to the 212 North Avenue location. It is presently used as a dwelling.

St. Paul's used the building until February 1, 1865. It was in Hoffman's Church that the congregation was organized on January 1, 1864, and where the first pastor, The Rev. P. J. Buehl, ministered. The congregation increased during the first year to ninety-seven communicant members.



Hoffman's Church

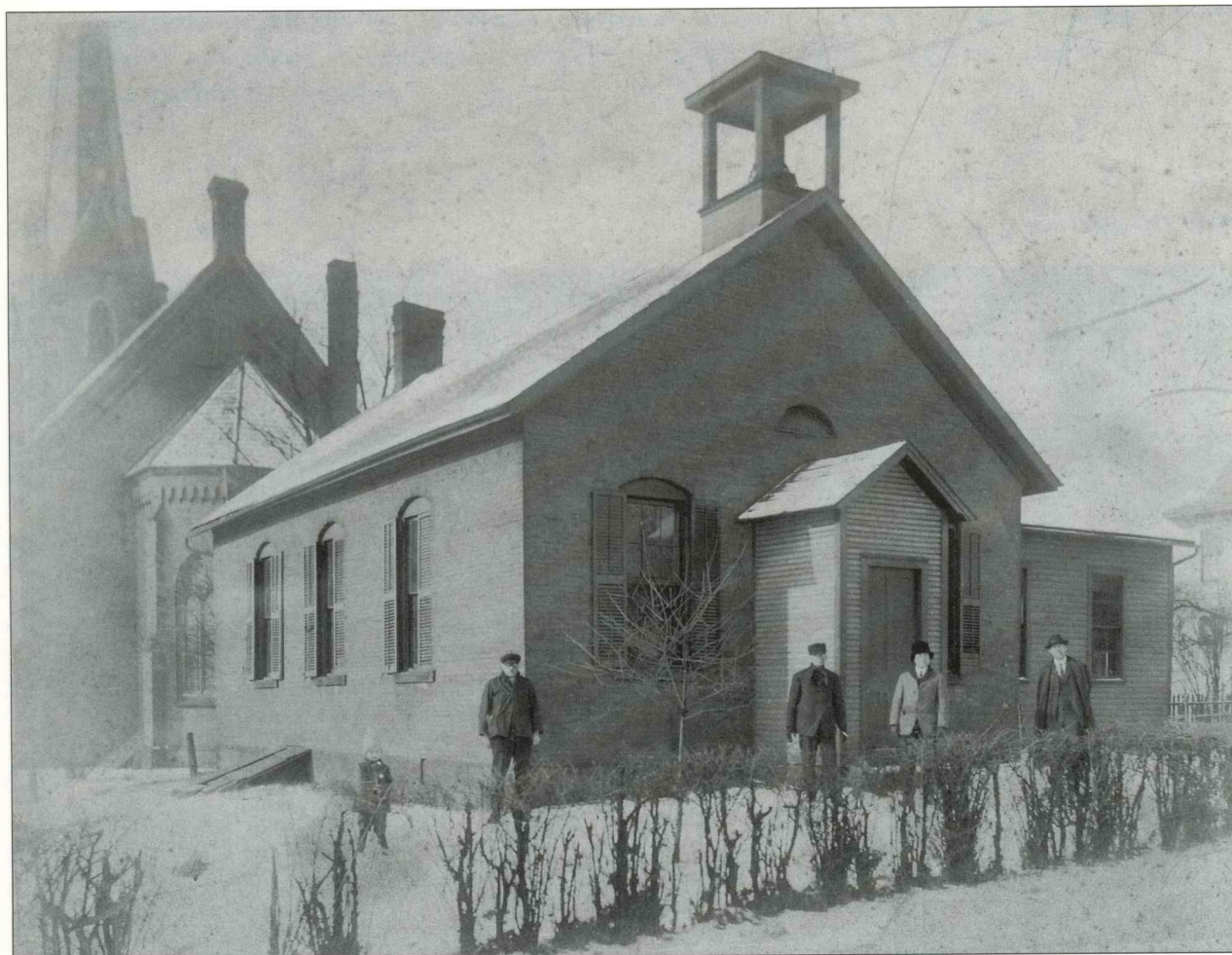
On May 12, 1864, St. Paul's congregation voted to purchase the present premises, bounded by Mill, Cherry, Hill, and Harvard Streets, from Arvine Wales and the estate of William S. Wetmore, for the sum of \$600.00. Grading the lot for use was a tremendous project. The back of the lot was as high as is the present east side of Second Street. The history reads: "With the will and a faith that moves mountains, the congregation set to work and the lot was graded."

On February 1, 1865, the congregation moved into the second temporary place of worship—the Masonic Building, located on Charles Street, on the site of Massillon's new City Hall. This building was used until the dedication of the first church at the present location on October 18, 1870.

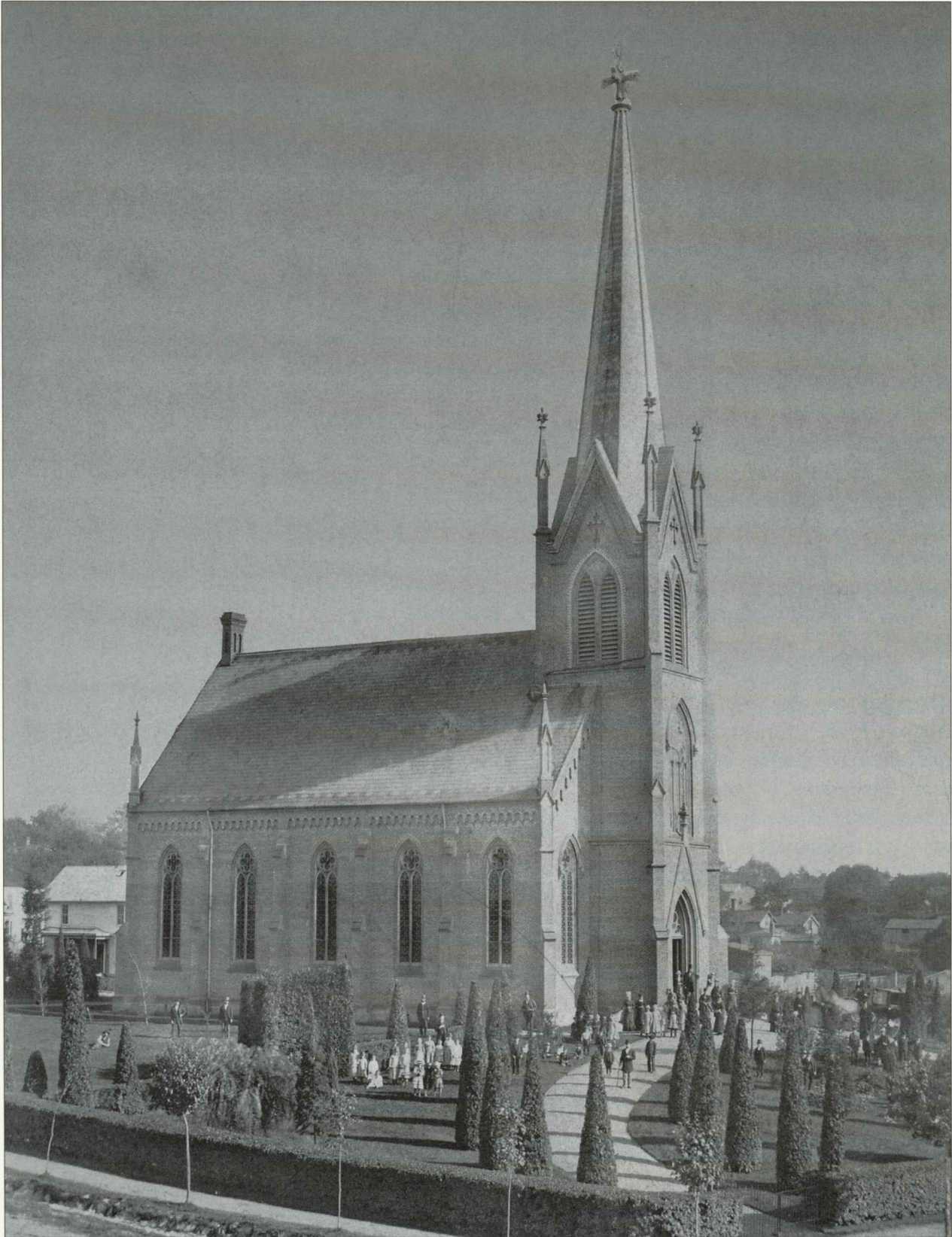
Masonic Building



The first building to be erected on the present site was a brick schoolhouse, dedicated January 1, 1865. This was in keeping with the congregation's concern for Christian education. On occasion as many as one hundred students were enrolled. The building was used as a school until 1895. In 1916, the building was demolished to make room for the present parish house.



1865 Schoolhouse



1870 Church

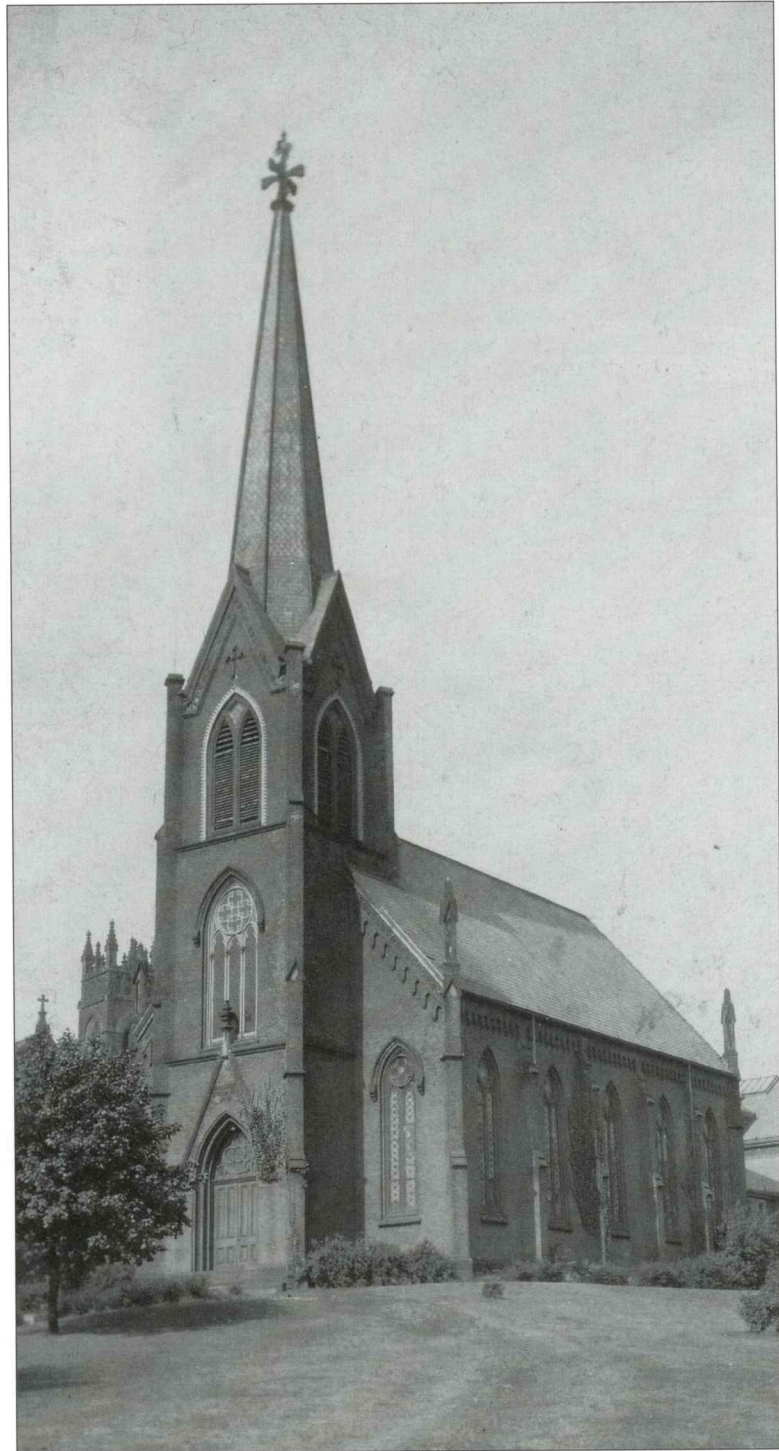
The 1870 Church Faced Mill Street (Now First Street)

THE 1870 CHURCH

Early in 1869, work on the new church was begun, and the cornerstone was laid on June 13 of that year. In this cornerstone were deposited copies of German and English Bibles and hymnals, catechism, confession of faith, brief history of the congregation, and copies of two German religious papers. When the box containing these articles was opened, at the time of the wrecking of this old church in August, 1926, to make way for the present new church, it was found that the seams of the box had sprung, thus admitting air and moisture. Consequently the contents were practically reduced to dust.

The German Bible and hymnal—the only articles intact—were in very bad condition. They were wrapped in heavy paper and deposited along with other articles in the box of the cornerstone of the new church.

The church was dedicated on October 16, 1870. It was an imposing edifice, Gothic in design. It was of brick construction and was surrounded by strong buttresses and stone ledges. The spire extended into the sky a full 170 feet.



The landscaping around the building was the result of the genius of Pastor Buehl. History records that carefully trimmed Osage orange hedges, flower beds, beautifully graveled walks, and paths made the scene a delight. The building was finished at a cost of \$40,000.00. In 1926, it was dismantled to make a place for the present church building.

The chancel of the first church included an impressive group of statues of Christ, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The statues were imported from France. When the church was dismantled, the statues were purchased by Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Akron, Ohio, and are presently in use there.



*1870 Church—
Decorated by Friends
for the Wedding
of Anna Nill and Otto
Snyder*



1870 Church Altar

The first impressions of the 1870 church were written by The Rev. Kronenwett of Wooster, Ohio, who was a speaker at the dedication of the church on October 16, 1870.

"The morning of the 18th Sunday after Trinity, the 16th of October, 1870, dawned in glory and proved to be a lovely and blessed Sabbath-day for the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation at Massillon, Ohio, and for the great throng of festival guests who came in great numbers by railroad-trains from Wooster and from Akron, and the surrounding territory. Many were present from the Canton congregation and even from the city of Cleveland. The occasion for this activity was the dedication (consecration) of the beautiful new church of Pastor Buehl of the Missouri Synod. Approximately eighty persons from the Wooster parish arrived with me (Pastor Kronenwett) in Massillon by railroad-train between 7:00 and 8:00 A.M. We approached the church, an edifice in Gothic architecture, built of brick and of imposing proportions and surrounded by strong buttresses and stone ledges; in addition, a strong tower with a high peak which again is surrounded by small towers. We also found the inside equally splendid. The church stands on a nicely planed knoll in the midst of two acres of ground, which is adorned on the outside with a beautiful hedge which is cut through with beautiful graveled walks and paths inward around which appear groupings of flower beds and clusters of bushes. In view of all these things before our eyes, the solemn feelings of the psalmist, who reflected upon the temple of the Holy City, took possession of our spirit: 'Mount Zion is like unto a small branch which comforts the whole land.'

Since we were guests from afar, we were permitted, by way of exception, to go into the church at this early hour to view the interior. We passed through the portal, then we quickly stood still, and with delightful amazement and wonder, we gazed upon the ecclesiastical, stately splendor, which greeted our view. It seemed as if we were transplanted into the land of Luther and the Reformation, rather than in the neighborhood of Massillon.

The painting in fresco of the interior is in the style of a cathedral; side passages on both sides with long rows of treble-twisted pillars with decorative knobs, beams, and arches pointing to the arched ceiling above. The church pews give the appearance of durability and are in accord with the style and solidity of the edifice. The windows are of painted glass of various color patterns and emblems which cast brilliant light of all imaginable colors into the church. Some of these, as well as the combining of the colors in the layout of the plans, were invented by Pastor Buehl himself. Above one of the chancel arches, between the altar and the nave where the pulpit stands at the corner, appear the words in large, colored letters on a gold background, similar to a banner, 'God's word and Luther's doctrine will (now and) never parish,' which indicated the key-note of the Lutheran Church. Life-sized angels stand atop high pillars on both sides of the chancel and this inscription, which point a finger to the inscription in order to direct the attention of church attendants. Farther down, on both sides of this church gallery, there stands a life-sized fresco painting, Luther, the talented Master and Preacher, and Melancthon, the scholar, as representatives of the Reformation. The pulpit is a little to the side, indeed right on the corner of

the chancel and projecting into the nave of the church. The altar stands back under the arch of the chancel on an elevation. The high altar itself is twenty feet wide, eighteen feet deep, and thirty-six feet high.

The background of the altar is a beautiful appearance of artful, beautiful work and stands high with delicately transparent carved and decorative work with Gothic ornamental pillars, small foliage coronets, and graceful, little towers. The whole of the altar background ends in the three largest, decorative small towers, the middle one of which reaches a height of twenty-five feet and with a gilded cross projecting into the vault of the ceiling. This open work (filigree) of pillars, ornaments, and towers through which the gleaming light of the three altar windows breaks in diverse colors, is richly gilded and forms five niches in the lower part between twelve pillars wherein later the figures of Christ in the middle, and on both sides four evangelists, life-size, will be erected, as is frequently found in the Evangelical Lutheran church in northern Germany, and also in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark.

In the middle window of the chancel in the round rosette window, a bust picture of Christ with the crown of thorns is painted in glass, while in the other two stand Moses, the Lawgiver, and Aaron, the High Priest of the old covenant. Directly above the middle chancel window upwards, are painted the two tablets of law (Ten Commandments) and above these, indeed in the vault, appears a flying angel who steps through the clouds out of the opened Heavens with the everlasting gospel. From the central point of the vault, on the point (peak) of the chancel ceiling, the all-seeing, compassionate eye of God looks down, surrounded by a bright beam of light. On the five smooth surfaces of the pulpit are the bust pictures of Christ and the four evangelists while an angel carries the Bible.

In the twelve nineteen-foot-high windows of the nave, the twelve apostles of the Lord, with their names, are likewise excellently painted in glass, on the top, in the rosettes of the windows. In this manner, the old and the new Covenant are portrayed, the center of which is the soul of Christ and his gospel, around whom all others are grouped as faithful witnesses.

Therefore, the believing Christians are not only surrounded, penetrated, and protected in their hopes and needs by the almighty Word of God, but wherever their view gazes, the paintings direct their minds and hearts upon Holiness.

It is surprising then, that in such environment, embraced by the streams of salvation which flow to the believers through the Holy Word and the Sacraments, our souls become conscious that we find ourselves in a sacred place and in good and godly company, and can cry out with St. Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration: 'Lord, it is good for us to be here,' and with the patriarch, Jacob: 'How holy is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

The celebration began in the old church at 9:30 a.m. after a prayer of thanksgiving and a song by the four-part choir of the congregation, and a song of praise by the congregation, the throng traveled in procession through the city, accompanied by thirteen brass instruments of the Cleveland choir, to the new church, led by the

twelve ministers present, carrying Bibles, liturgy books, etc., and followed by the officers of the Consistory with the holy vessels, and a great throng of people. During the procession, the three new bells of the new church rang and the trombones played. Arriving at the church, it was opened by the pastor of the congregation in the name of the Triune God, and with the mighty sound waves (music) of the great, new organ, the throng moved into the new church. Had the church been twice as large, not nearly all could have entered. After the consecration ceremony by the minister of the congregation, Pastor Buehl, who was helped by others to come forward, the Reverend Pastor Wynecken from Cleveland ascended the pulpit and preached the dedication sermon on Luke, Chapter 19, verses 1 through 10, in which he unfolded the ministry and work of our Lord Jesus in seeking sinners and bringing salvation, etc.

In addition to two, four-part choirs of the congregation and another from the Canton Lutheran congregation, and the above mentioned brass band, there was also an orchestra on hand, consisting of all kinds of instruments, which alternately glorified the occasion with beautiful harmonies. And over and above, the magnificent, powerful organ with its twenty-two registers and its sixteen-foot-high bass pipes helped to support the song of the people, who, as in one voice, praised God and filled the rooms of the church with a powerful ring.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, the three bells called to a divine service in the English language conducted by me, Pastor Kronenwett from Wooster, Ohio. In the evening the three bells rang for the third time to a divine service and namely in the German language where Pastor Husmann from East Cleveland preached to a filled church concerning the gospel relating to Sunday: Matthew 23: 34-46. The gas-illumination of the new church was magnificent. The two new chandeliers each have eighteen gas flames, consequently thirty-six together, and with the remaining ones made a wonderful light which was achieved in this manner: The gas flames reflected in the polished glass hangings which surrounded the chandeliers in larger and smaller rings and circles, and magnified the splendor. On Monday evening, Pastor Buechler preached in the English language on Matthew 16: 18; and on Tuesday evening, Pastor Rupprecht from North Dover preached again in the German language. In the daytime, the pastors present held a conference and on Tuesday evening, they celebrated the Lord's Supper.

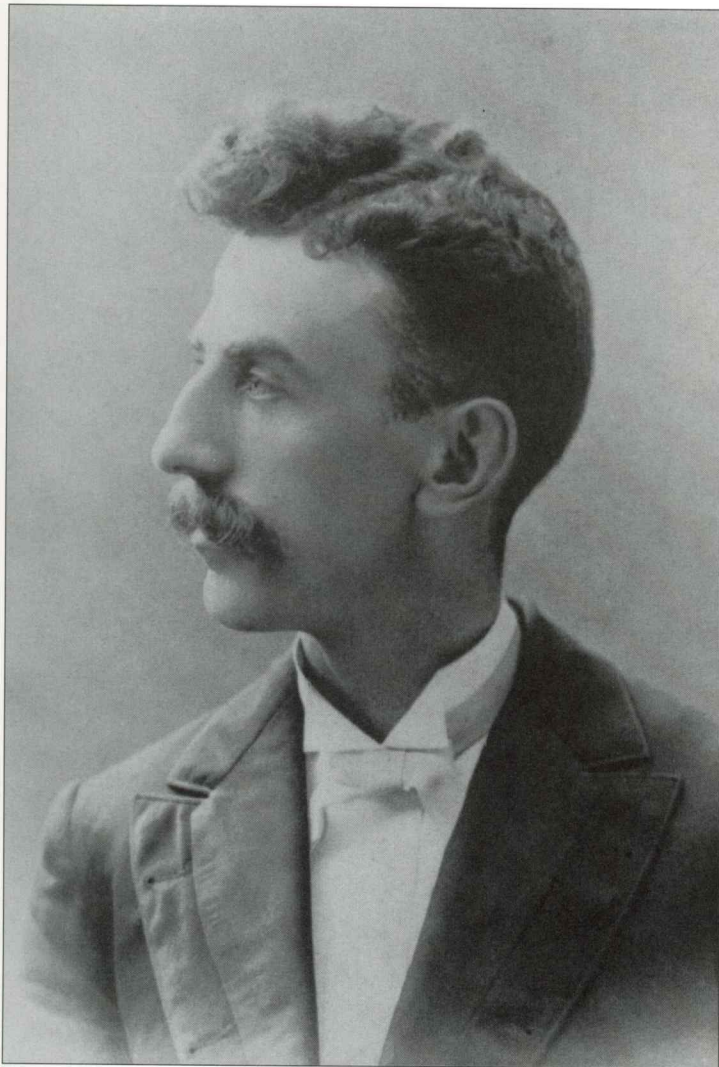
This short sketch is a description of the glorious festive days in Massillon. The precious seed of the soul-saving gospel was amply scattered at the time of this occasion. May it bring blessed fruits and lead to new zeal for the church to the Glory of God.

Here we cannot forget to make mention of the loving, generous hospitality of the Massillon congregation so that all guests were provided for so plentifully. The expenditure (of effort) and the provisions were so great, that in addition to providing for the mass of guests in the homes of the members of the congregation, and in the open hall where meals were prepared for 600 guests, there was enough left over for several hundred more, which was later distributed among the poor of the city."

During the first year the congregation included ninety-seven communicant members. By 1887, it was composed of three hundred adult members and one hundred thirty children of school age.

Near to the school and the church were built two dwelling houses. One served as a parsonage and the other a home for the congregational teacher and organist. These have since been demolished to make way for parking and the educational building.

Pastor Buehl served the congregation faithfully until 1889, when he resigned and returned to Akron.



THE REV. SIMON PETER LONG

1889-1893

On August 25, 1889, The Rev. Simon Peter Long of Loudonville, Ohio, was installed as St. Paul's second pastor. Noted as a preacher, administrator, and fundraiser, his ministry, though short, was active and fruitful. The congregation grew greatly in numbers. Pastor Long first introduced the English worship service. Until that time only German had been used.

He was also the prime mover behind the establishment of Faith Lutheran Church in the southwest section of the city. A branch Sunday School there grew so rapidly and soundly that Faith Church became inevitable.

Pastor Long served both congregations until Faith Church called its own pastor. Pastor Long's ministry ended here in 1893, when he accepted a call to a Columbus congregation.

THE REV. LEONARD HENRY BURRY

1893-1913

The Rev. L.H. Burry of Shelbyville, Illinois, accepted the call as pastor of St. Paul's and was installed on June 18, 1893. Pastor Burry had a satisfying ministry for twenty years, leaving Massillon in 1913. The congregation flourished in this period. The parochial school operation came to an end, however, in 1898.

Leonard Henry Burry was born at Evans City, Pennsylvania, on March 9, 1857. His boyhood days were spent in the city of Pittsburgh, where he was confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church. Following the desire of his mother that he should become a minister, he entered Capital University at the age of sixteen. He was graduated with the college class of 1878 and lived to be the third oldest living alumnus. Following his graduation from the Theological Seminary, he began missionary work at Perryman, Maryland. In addition to the twenty-year pastorate in Massillon and his eleven-year ministry in Charleston he served parishes at Gallipolis, Franklin, and Somerset, Ohio; Shelbyville, Illinois; and Greenock, Pennsylvania. For twenty years he served his Alma Mater faithfully in the office of secretary of its Board of Trustees.



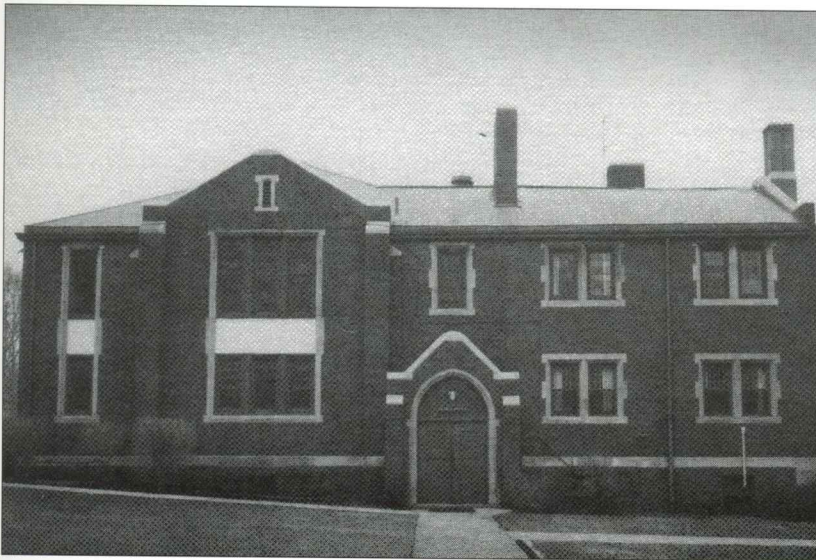


THE REV. FREDERICK BALSE HAX

1913-1944

For thirty-one years of its history, St. Paul's congregation was blessed with the pastorate of The Rev. F. B. Hax. Reverend Hax came to Massillon after serving St. Paul's in Pickaway County near Ashville, Ohio, and St. Mark's in Delaware, Ohio. He was installed as St. Paul's pastor on December 7, 1913. His ministry is the longest to date in the history of the congregation. He preached in both English and German with German being discontinued during World War I.

During this period, two major building programs were completed and two World Wars were experienced. One building was the construction of the parish hall getting underway on December 17, 1915. The cornerstone was laid February 20, 1916, and the building was completed and dedicated on October 1, 1916. The parish hall included an auditorium with adjacent classrooms, balcony, a lounge, kitchen, dining room, and offices.



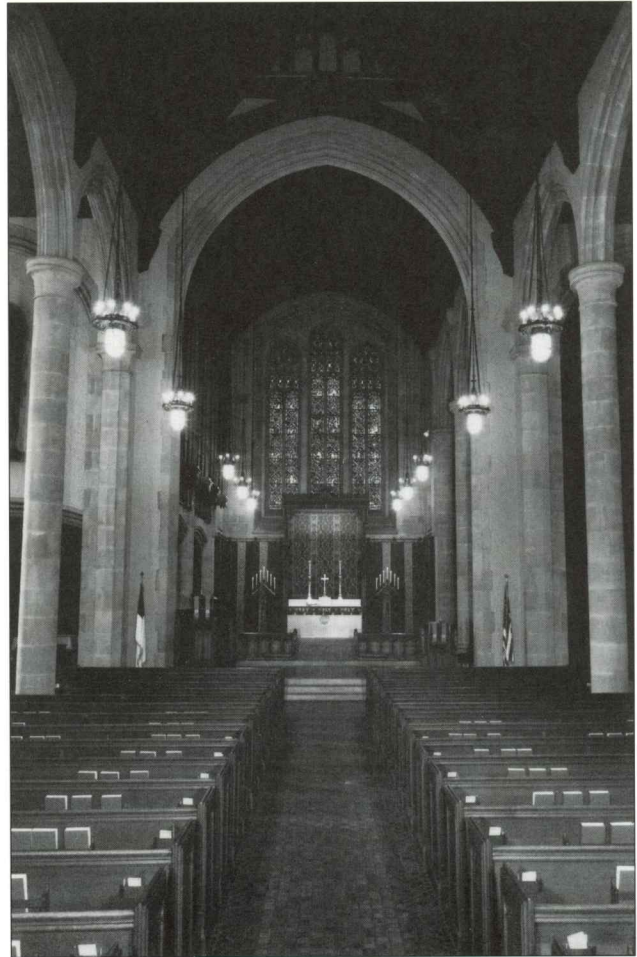
Parish Hall

ST. PAUL'S PRESENT CHURCH

On August 29, 1926, the last service was held in the old church and demolition began the following week.

The cornerstone for the present church was laid on February 27, 1927, with The Rev. Fred Poulson preaching the sermon. Articles placed in the cornerstone included:

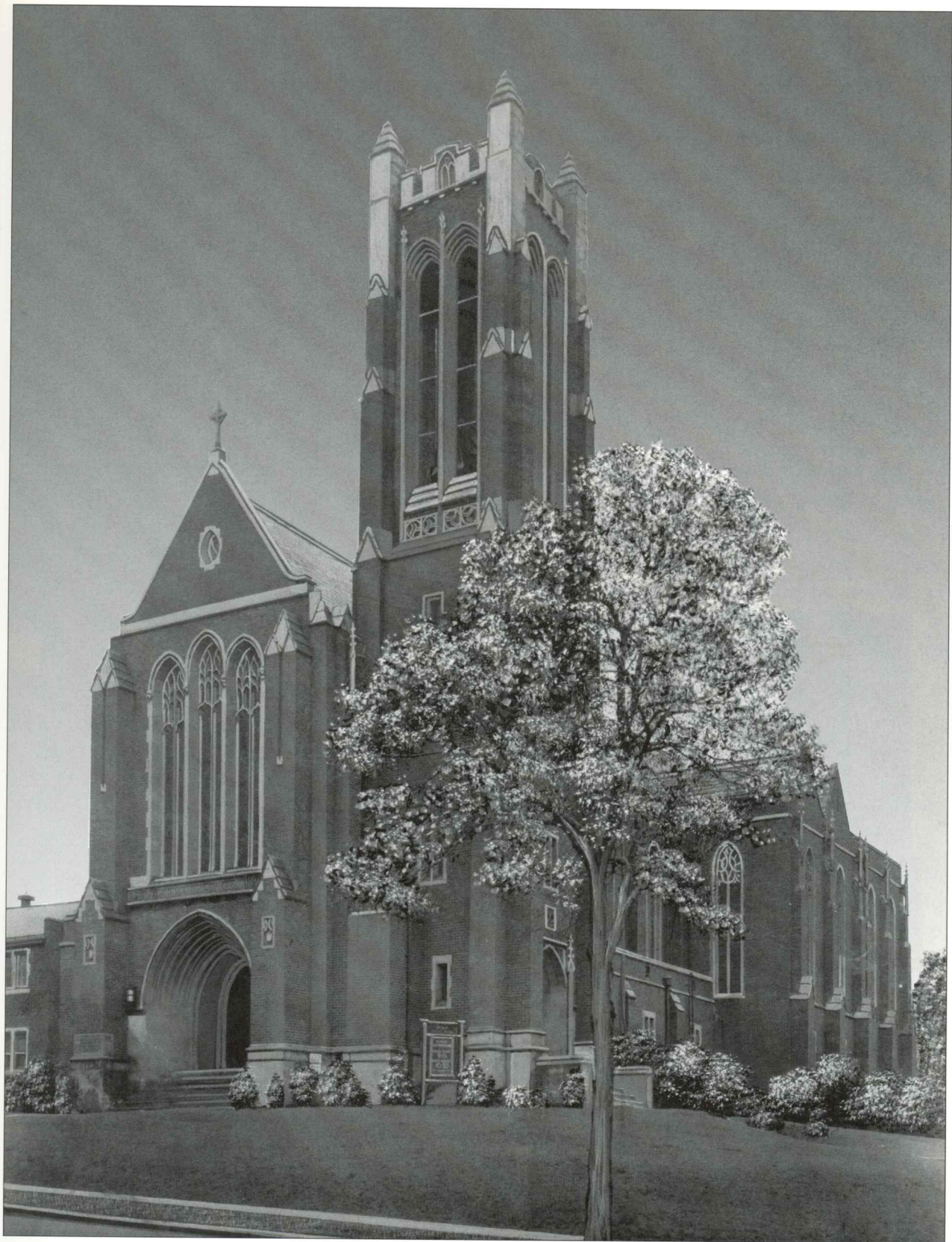
- German Bible and hymnal taken from cornerstone of old church
- Picture of the old church and old altar
- Bible, hymnal, catechism, Book of Concord
- History of St. Paul's Church
- Copies of church papers: Standard, Youth, and Kirchengzeitung
- Copy of the *Massillon Independent*
- Names of Vestry, building committee, Sunday School officers, and teachers
- Names of contractors and architects
- Roll of names of Mary-Martha Missionary Society
- Program of Cornerstone Laying Service



1928 Church Chancel

The Church was dedicated on May 6, 1928. The dedication service began with the congregation, visiting clergy, and friends assembling in the Sunday School auditorium for a farewell service. Following a prayer, a short address by Reverend Hax, and a parting hymn, "Let Our Going Out Be Blest," the procession formed and moved slowly toward the new church. The ministers led, followed by the church vestry bearing the Bible and sacred vessels, members of the congregation, and friends.

A short service was held at the door of the church during which time J.W.C. Corbusier, architect, handed the key to Reverend Hax. The doors were opened to the strains of "Open the Gates of the Temple," and the congregation followed the pastor into the new house of worship. The members of the vestry deposited the Bible and sacred vessels in their proper places. The dedication sermon was then preached by Reverend W.E. Schuette, D.D., followed by an afternoon sermon by Reverend L.H. Burry and an evening sermon by Reverend William Emch. Special services were held nightly throughout the following week and on Friday evening Frederick C. Mayer, A.A.G.O., Dean of Capital University School of Music, presented a recital of organ music. He was assisted by the choir of St. Paul's.



1928 Church

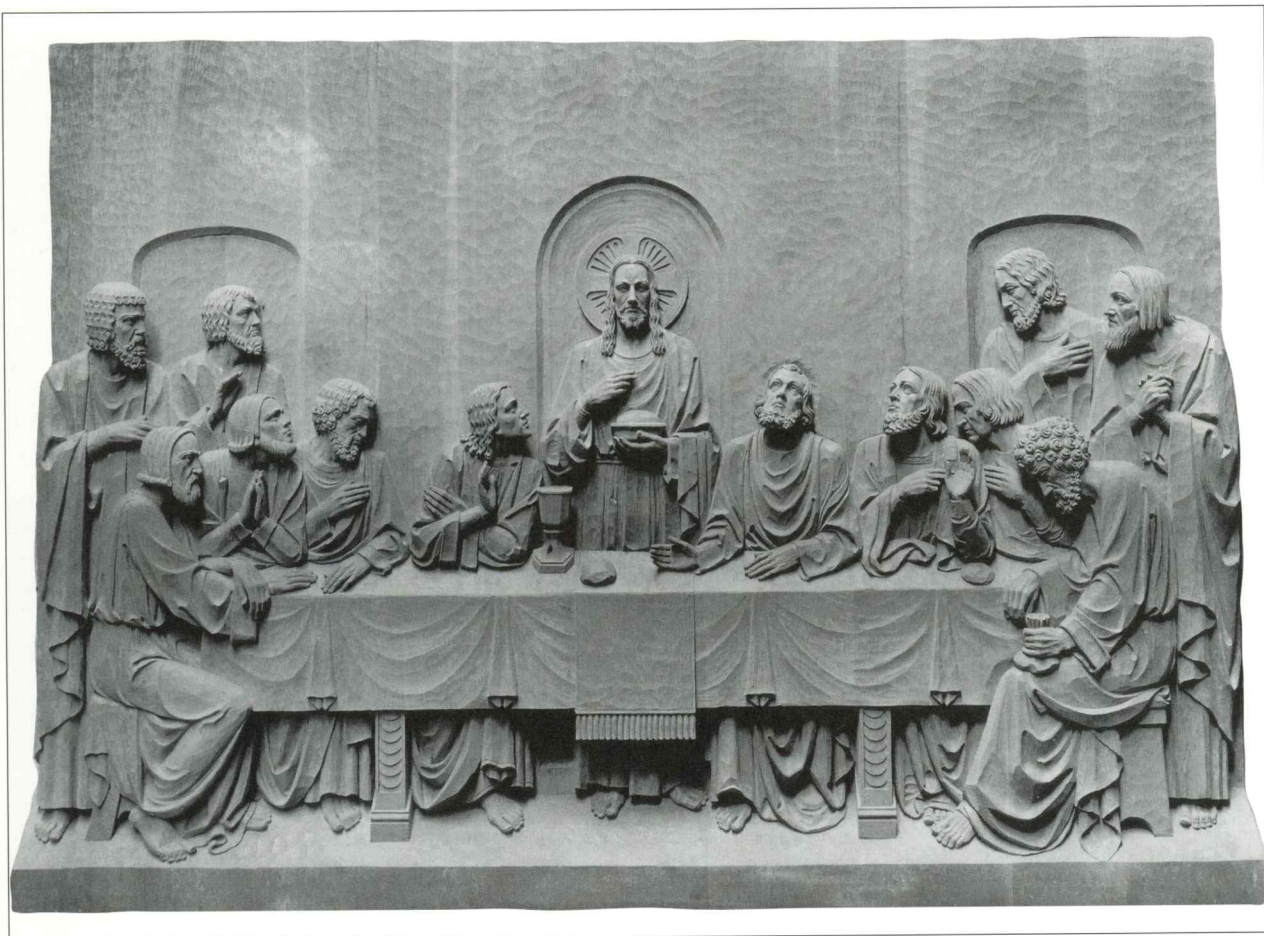
The church is a majestic structure of Gothic design. Outstanding features of the interior of the sanctuary are a beamed ceiling, Moravian tile floors, carved wood screens, a simple marble altar, and wonderful stained glass windows with very fine tracery. The church has some of the finest modern glass in this country, modeled on early ecclesiastical glass abroad. The marble baptismal font is from the original church. Estimated cost of the building was \$400,000.00.

Note: A description of windows, wood carvings, tile floors, and marble altar in the back of this book.

Reverend Hax worked tirelessly and effectively for his own congregation, and for several years he served as president of the old Joint Synod of Ohio. He was deeply concerned with the cause for Christian higher education. He served as president of the Board of Regents of Capital University for nearly twenty years, being elected to membership on this Board again at the convention of the A.L.C. He was one of the founders and for fifteen years a member of the Executive Committee of the Lakeside Lutheran Chautauqua. In 1928 Capital University honored Reverend Hax with a Doctor of Divinity Degree.

Dr. Hax served St. Paul's until his death in 1944. In 1949, the east transept of the church was refurbished as a chapel and dedicated to his memory.

Detail of the Altar in the Hax Chapel



THE REV. PAUL L. BAUMGARTNER

1945-1951



In 1945, the congregation called The Rev. Paul L. Baumgartner as pastor. He originally served as pastor at St. Andrews in Farmsville, Ohio, then at St. Paul's in Toledo, Ohio. Reverend Baumgartner served St. Paul's for five years, until 1951, when he accepted a call to California.

Under his guidance, in 1949, the east transept of the church was refurbished as a chapel and dedicated to the memory of Dr. F.B. Hax.

The chapel altar, kneeling rail, and woodwork were designed and made by the American Seating Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The front of the altar is carved with the Lamb of God, lying on the Book of Seven Seals, and has the three-rayed nimbus, signifying that it is a symbol of Divinity. The symbol of a lamb reclining on a book of seven seals is based on Revelation, Chapter 5. The lamb is Jesus Christ, and the book contains God's purpose for mankind.

Above the altar is a carving of the Lord's Supper, located in the triptych, which is a three-paneled painting or carving. The carving is the work of a famous wood carver by the name of Alois Lang, who came from Oberammergau, Germany.

The shield above the Lord's Supper has the *chi rho*, the first two letters of the word for Christ, and *alpha* and *omega*. The crown on the top signifies that the Lord is King.

With the leadership of Pastor Baumgartner the Luther League was reorganized. A young people's group known as "Quill-Keys" and a young married group known as "Yo-Mar-Cos" were formed. He also started a junior choir and hired the church's first secretary.



Altar in the Hax Chapel

THE REV. JAMES R. LONG

1951-1962

The Rev. James R. Long was installed as pastor in September, 1951. He started his ministry in Bethlehem Lutheran, Bronx, New York; then to Lutheran Service Center, New York City, U.S. Navy (Pacific); and Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Dundalk, Maryland; before coming to St. Paul's, Massillon. He served until 1962, when he accepted a call to Houston, Texas, and later served at an American Lutheran Church in Oslo, Norway, before returning to Houston.

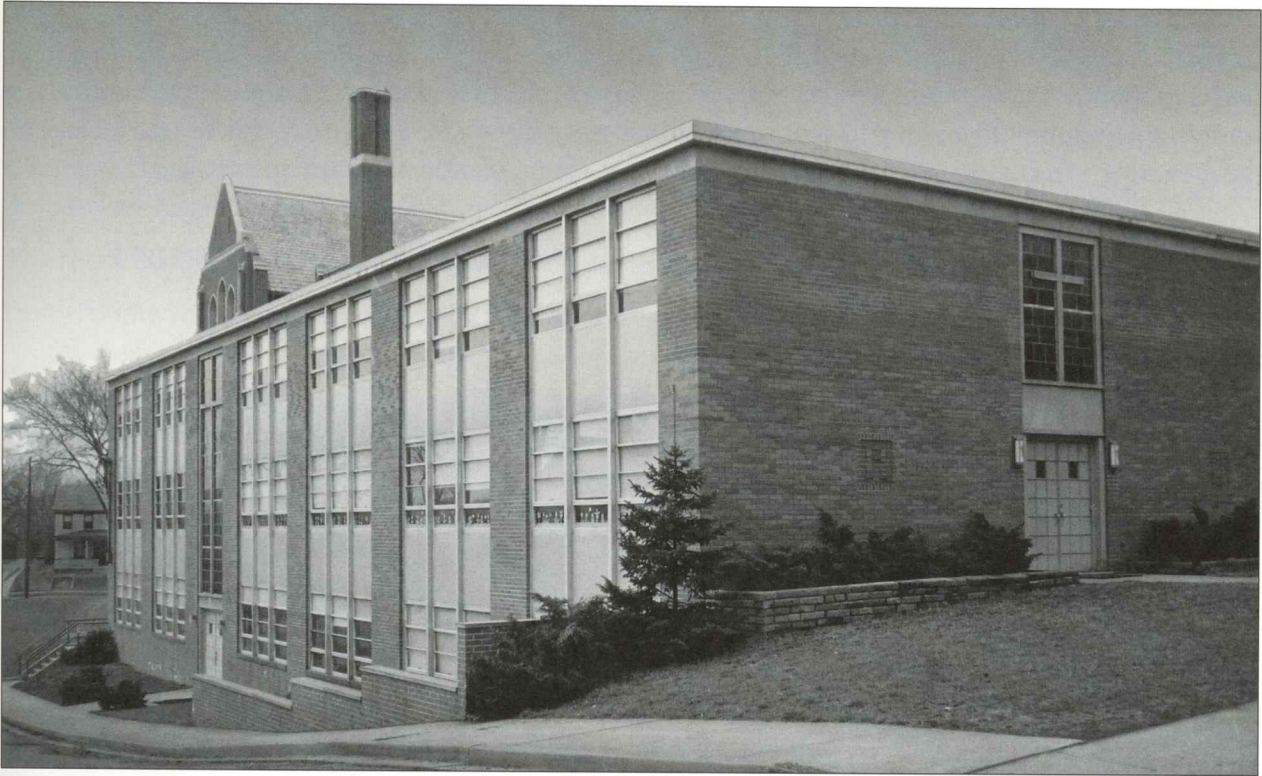
During Pastor Long's pastorate, in 1957, the present Educational Building was erected and dedicated. The fine modern structure with twenty class rooms, a children's chapel, a library, a conference room, and two offices was built at a cost of \$210,000.00.



The old parsonage was torn down to make space for more parking and Reverend Long purchased his own home.

St. Paul's second opportunity to "mother" a new congregation came in 1960. In cooperation with the Board of American Missions of The American Lutheran Church, St. Paul's and Faith Lutheran sponsored a mission congregation on the north side of Massillon. They also provided the nucleus membership and subsidy until Christ Lutheran Church became self-supporting. Today Christ Lutheran Church is well established and holds full promise for the future.

Pastor Long also started the intern program, which continued until 1966.



Educational Building

St. Paul's called The Reverend Maurice D. White and he was installed March, 1962. He had formerly served churches in Butler, Pennsylvania; Steubenville, Ohio; and Lima, Ohio.

St. Paul's celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding with a series of special services in 1964. Guest speakers included The Rev. Paul Moeller, D.D., President of the Ohio District, ALC; The Rev. Theodore B. Hax, and The Rev. Frederick T. Schmucker, sons of the congregation; and former pastors James R. Long and Paul L. Baumgartner. The celebration climaxed with a special Centennial Sunday worship service on October 18, with The Rev. Frederick A. Schietz, D.D., President of The American Lutheran Church and Lutheran World Federation, as guest speaker.

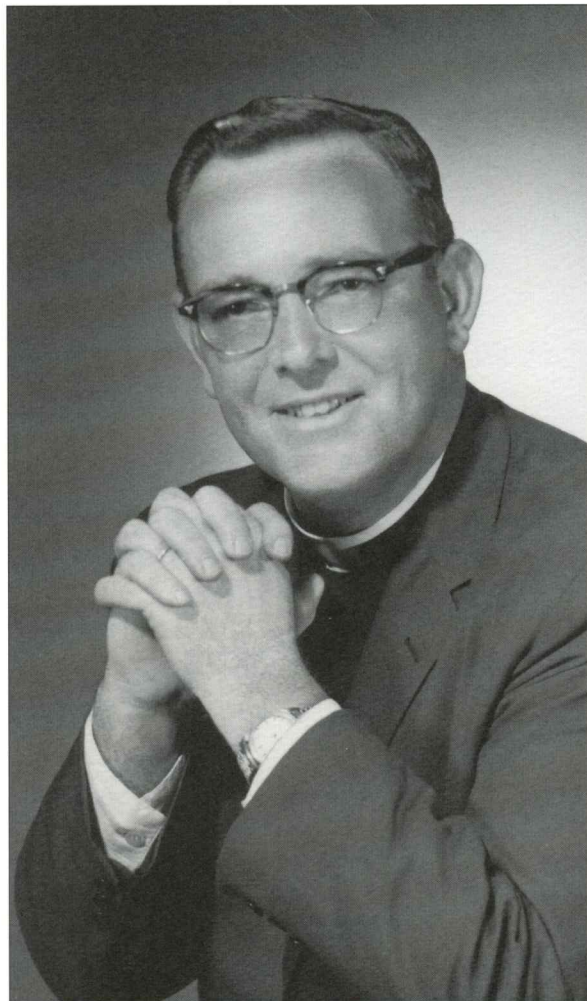
The first assistant pastor, Reverend Duane Nelson, was called, followed by Reverend David Gable, Reverend James Zingale, and Reverend George Schmidt.

In 1964, the chancel was renovated by Potente, replacing the backdrop of curtains with wood carved paneling.

A major renovation of the parish hall was undertaken in 1969. The effort provided attractive, functional, air-conditioned rooms for the congregation's activities, including a first floor lounge, three offices, and classrooms. The kitchen and dining room were modernized; a much-needed youth lounge, activities rooms, and classrooms were built on the second floor.

THE REV. MAURICE D. WHITE

1962-1983



In 1981, a new Schantz organ was installed at a cost of \$159,477.00. The 43-rank, 422-pipe instrument with four-manual, movable console containing more than 150 controls includes seven selected sets of pipes from the former organ and controls to permit the future addition of an antiphonal division at the rear of the church, a solo division containing four ranks of pipes with unique sounds from the previous instrument, festival trumpets, and a 32-foot rank of pipes. Two other ranks of pipes from the previous organ were saved for future installation in the great division.

The stained glass windows in the church were re-leaded and covered with Plexiglas.

Pastor White resigned in December, 1983, after an extended period of disability.



1964 Renovated Chancel

THE REV. THOMAS T. BAUMGARTNER

(Interim Pastor)

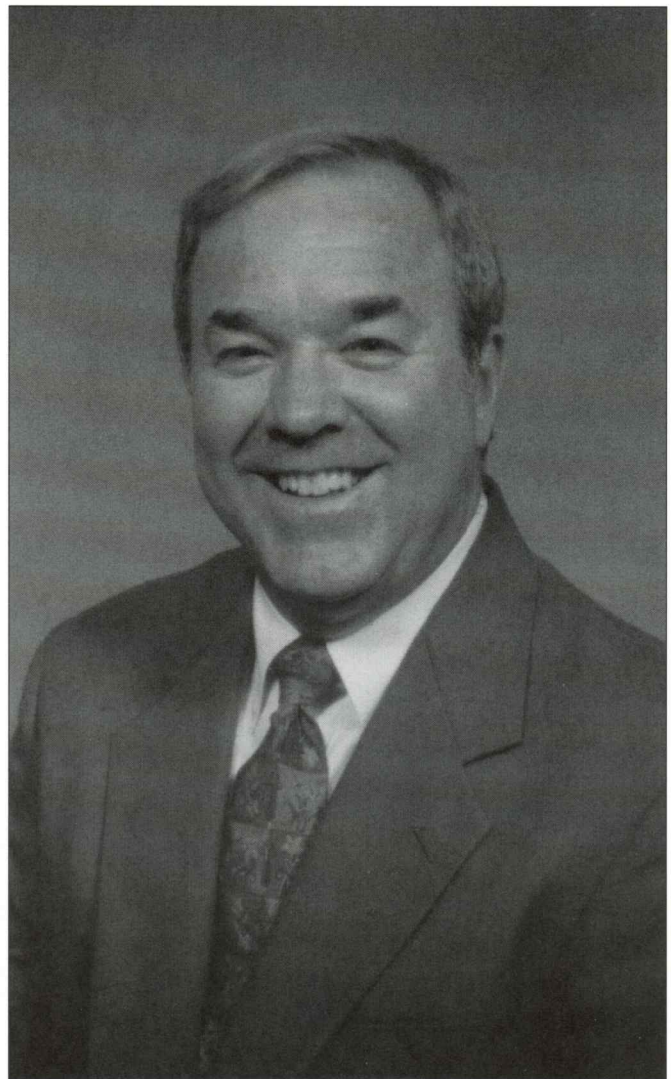
January 1984–August 1984

The Rev. Thomas T. Baumgartner served faithfully and competently during this time at St. Paul's.

**THE REV.
ROBERT J. GROENKE, JR.**

1984—

Currently, The Rev. Robert J. Groenke, Jr. serves as senior pastor of St. Paul's. Pastor Groenke is a native of Canton, Ohio. He attended Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Canton, graduated from Capital University in Columbus, and earned his Master of Divinity degree from the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary, now known as Trinity Lutheran Seminary also located in Columbus, Ohio.



Pastor Groenke began his ministry as an associate pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Lima, Ohio, and Good Hope Lutheran Church located in Youngstown, Ohio. He has also served Hope Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Peace Lutheran Church in Ashland, Ohio, as pastor.

Under Pastor Groenke's leadership, St. Paul's has experienced three different renovations programs totaling an approximate cost of \$1,000,000. These three programs occurred between 1985 and 1995.

The first renovation included sandblasting the exterior brick of the main sanctuary including the art stone and tuck pointing the mortar between the bricks.

The second renovation program included the building of a new handicap entrance on the east side of the sanctuary including the installation of a handicap-accessible elevator and restroom. A new boiler was installed in the main buildings as well as the removing of all Plexiglas from the stained glass windows. Many of the windows were then repaired and releaded. At the completion of the repair work, all of the stained glass was covered with Lexan-XL. Hauser Studio from Winonoa, Minnesota, was responsible for the work and today the beauty of the windows is enjoyed from both inside and outside the sanctuary.

Also during this second phase of renovation, the interior walls of the sanctuary were repainted and ceiling fans were installed in the nave.

The third and final renovation program involved a major renovation of the educational building. New windows were installed throughout the building as well as new dry wall on all exterior walls. The interior of the building was redecorated with the repainting and carpeting of the classrooms.

In 1996, the church organ project, begun under the direction of Pastor White, was completed under the guidance of Pastor Groenke. Twenty-two ranks of pipes were added to the existing organ for a total of sixty-five ranks. The additional pipes include the trumpets located in the chancel, the antiphonal pipes located in the balcony of the nave, the entire solo division, as well as the swell mixture and a 32-foot reed in the pedal.

Because the console was prepared when the organ was originally installed, the 1996 cost of the organ augmentation was kept at just over \$150,000, bringing the total cost of the instrument to just over \$300,000. Today, it is without a doubt the finest instrument of its type within the Massillon area.

Throughout Pastor Groenke's leadership the endowment program at St. Paul's has continued to grow. The recent bequeathment from the estate of Lucille Sonnhalter brought the endowment funds to almost 1.7 million dollars. All of the buildings have been recently re-roofed, and funding to re-institute the internship program was made available through Mrs. Sonnhalter's generosity.

Assistant pastors to serve with Pastor Groenke have been: The Rev. Kenneth Hacker, The Rev. Bradley J. Brauer, The Rev. Charles A. Woodward, and The Rev. Tyson J. Wood. The first intern to serve under the re-instituted intern program is James L. Friesner, Jr.

SONS OF THE CONGREGATION

The Rev. L. C. Burry	Son of The Rev. & Mrs. L. H. Burry
The Rev. Theodore B. Hax	Son of Dr. & Mrs. F. B. Hax
The Rev. Frederick T. Schmucker	Son of Mr. & Mrs. John Schmucker
The Rev. Ronald Stoner	Son of Mr. Paul Stoner & Mrs. Donna (Stoner) Speicher
Matthew W. Groenke	Son of The Rev. & Mrs. Robert J. Groenke, Jr. (He will graduate in Spring of 1998)

DAUGHTERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Connie Taylor—Deaconess	Daughter of Mr. George Taylor & Mrs. Geraldine (Taylor) Maxwell
Donna Jean Clokey—Associate in Ministry	Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William C. Clokey
Constance R. Nelson—Associate in Ministry	Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Eric H. Nelson
Ann Hopkins—Director of Education	Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Eggert
Margaret L. Rottman—Associate in Ministry	Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Y. Snyder

INTERNS

The Rev. John L. Kennedy	1952-1953	The Rev. Edward J. Naumann	1959-1960
The Rev. Kenneth D. Baar	1953-1954	The Rev. Frederick M. Shuman	1960-1961
The Rev. William P. Kamke	1954-1955	The Rev. Walter C. Huffman	1961-1962
The Rev. Calvin G. Frisch	1955-1956	The Rev. Darrel Gilbertson	1962-1963
The Rev. George H. Fisher	1956-1957	The Rev. Nick R. Bohmann	1963-1964
The Rev. Gerald T. Kort	1957-1958	The Rev. Ray Rosenthal	1964-1965
The Rev. Dwight L. Hedrick	1958-1959	The Rev. Dale Trautman	1965-1966
The Rev. James L. Friesner, Jr.		1997-1998	

ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PASTORS

The Rev. Duane J. Nelson	1966-1967
The Rev. David G. Gabel	1968-1973
The Rev. James F. Zingale	1974-1978
The Rev. George Schmidt	1978-1983
The Rev. Kenneth Hacker	
The Rev. Bradley J. Brauer	1985-1988
The Rev. Charles A. Woodward	1990-1995
The Rev. Tyson J. Wood	1996-1998