St. Paul's parish observes 125th anniversary

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cascade is celebrating its 125th anniversary year. On April 21, the congregation will observe “Our Present Sunday.” Dr. Edward A. Westcott Jr., retired executive director of the Board for Mission Services of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, will be the guest speaker at the 10 a.m. Communion Service.

The text of his sermon will be Corinthians 5:17-21. Westcott will use the visual theme “Tell Everyone What He Has Done.”

Westcott was formerly responsible for the mission thrust of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the world, including the United States, and supervision of the Armed Forces Chaplaincy program.

The Mission Circle of St. Paul’s will host a bra fry following the service until 2 p.m. The Board of Education and preschool will sponsor a bake and craft sale. The Aid Association for Lutherans will donate matching funds up to $500.

The public is invited to participate in all anniversary events.

The final program in observance of the congregation’s 125th anniversary, “Our Future Sunday,” is scheduled for Oct. 13.

In 1886 the congregation received its first pastor, the Rev. J. List. He served St. Paul’s congregation from Sherman Center until 1873. Services were held at the local school building and later at Ballhorn Harness Shop.

From 1874 to 1879, the Rev. Phillip Wambach served also for St. John’s in Sherman Center.

In 1874 the first church building was erected on the site of the present fire station.

The Rev. J. Herzer served from St. John’s, Plymouth, from 1879-83. Charter members were W.M. Kundo, W. Fiebelkorn, Carl Otto, Fred Fiebelkorn and Edward Plaster.

Reading services were conducted by Edward Plaster, John Pamprin, W. Fiebelkorn and W. Koepke.

On June 2, 1879, instructor Wunderscheben was hired to teach school. A building was rented to serve as the school and on Nov. 16, 1879, it was voted that parents of children attending school would pay the rent.

The Rev. Theodore P. Fink took charge of the church on June 16, 1886. A new school building was erected, and the church was remodeled and the cemetery was expanded.

In 1894-95, the Rev. Edmund Sfeor of Emmanuel Church, Adell, served as temporary pastor.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Reuben Otto, 1956-60, the parish hall was enlarged to accommodate the Sunday school and classrooms. A new kitchen and fellowship area was added.

In the Ladies Guild, altar guild and Walther League were started and the adult Bible class grew in number.

In October 1915, the cornerstone was laid in October 1915. The church was completed at a cost of $8,385 and dedicated to the service of God on July 8, 1906.

On July 8, 1906, the 125th anniversary was held three days a week. The Sunday school was started in 1919. Mrs. Halboth taught Bible class and played the organ for the school. In 1931, the church was closed due to poor health.

In 1931, the Rev. J.P. Boerger accepted a call from Coleman, Wis. The Young People’s Society was started at that time. Mrs. Boerger conducted a large junior and senior choir, and a Hammond organ was purchased.

The Mission Circle was organized. A new building was erected in the church. The parish hall was enlarged and Sunday School rooms were built in the church basement.

In 1954, the Rev. C. Kreuger of St. Stephen’s, Batavia, served as chaplain for the year. In 1955, the Rev. H.E. Naumann accepted the call for the year.

The Adult Bible Class was beginning and the Young People’s Society continued to be very strong.

In 1962, “Cottage Meetings” were held twice a month.

The new cornerstone was built by contractor Harvey Haaback at a cost of $16,000. The cornerstone was dedicated in July 1963. The church was reconstructed. A new altar, pulpit and balcony were purchased, and the pipe organ was ordered.

The Rev. Arthur Haupt of New Fane served as vacum pastor until June 1966 when the Rev. Howard Visser was installed. Visser served two years.

In 1968, the Rev. K.R. Going came to St. Paul’s.

The Schuyler Bell System was installed in 1969, and the old parsonage was replaced with the present Educational Building.

The new building had 10 classrooms, an assembly hall, kitchen and fellowship hall.

In August 1974, the Rev. Armin Proksch was installed.

The Rev. Robert A. Schmidt began serving with the help of his aide, Mr. H.A. Reeb. They created a prayer chain and reconstructed the school hall for the new entryway were drawn up and approved.

The church was decorated in 1954 and Mrs. Schmidt organized special singing sessions for the Sunday School.

In July 1988, the Rev. Richard Bledner was installed. The church was refinished, and a computer and printer were purchased.

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In May 1990, the Rev. Richard Bledner was installed. The new gym was completed, a computer and printer were purchased.

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As part of the 125th anniversary celebration, the Chippewa and St. Paul’s were purchased.

St. Paul’s is growing steadily and becoming more active. The congregation has a membership of 361 baptized souls, of which 468 are confirmed members. There are 60 children enrolled in the Sunday school program.