A century of spiritual service to Lutherans in the Cascade area is being observed this week and next Sunday by St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.

The congregation of nearly 600 members is marking its centennial with special services Wednesday and Friday nights and a two-fold program on Sunday.

The Rev. Charles Boerger, a son of the Rev. J. F. Boerger, Jr., former pastor of St. Paul’s, will be the speaker at the 8 p.m. service on Wednesday. The younger Rev. Boerger now serves two parishes in Sheboygan and Onaway, Mich.

The Friday service at 8 p.m. will feature the Lutheran Men’s Chorus of Sheboygan. Sunday activities start with services at 7:30 and 10 a.m. The Rev. Carl Ladewig of Mayville will speak at both of them. He is a native of Plymouth and married to a daughter of a former St. Paul pastor, the Rev. J. W. Halboth.

There will be a centennial dinner starting at 11 a.m., and an evening service at 8 p.m. The Rev. Donald Werchan of Union, Mo., pastor of St. Paul’s from 1960 to 1965, will speak.

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The nucleus for the present St. Paul’s church was formed back in 1866 when the Rev. List of Sherman Center established a mission congregation in Cascade. The first church was built in 1874 at the site of the present Cascade village hall.

The Rev. Theodore Fink became the first resident pastor for the church in 1883. He was succeeded in 1887 by the Rev. C. G. Haenel. The church school was erected during his ministry in 1888, to which additions were made in 1932 and 1958.

During the 31-year ministry of Rev. Halboth from 1900 to 1931, the church experienced a period of growth and moved into its present house of worship. The tall brick church was started in the summer of 1905 and completed the following year at a cost of $8,385. William Runge of Plymouth was the contractor.

Formation of the church’s Mission Circle, enlargement of the parish hall and completion of the first Sunday School rooms in the church basement were accomplished during the ministry of Rev. Boerger from 1931 to 1945.

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The Rev. H. L. Naumann of Richland Center succeeded him in 1945 and served until 1954. During Rev. Naumann’s period, the adult Bible class was formed and the vacation Bible school begun. The parish cemetery association was also organized.


In 1963 a new parsonage was built by Harvey Habeck of Cascade at a cost of about $16,000. The church was fully redecorated in 1965 in anticipation of the centennial observance. A new altar, pulpit, lectern and pews were installed. The new pipe organ arrived this August to replace the old Hammond organ.

The Rev. Howard Visser of Blair, Nebr., became the eighth resident minister of the church when he accepted a call to Cascade this summer. He has close ties to Sheboygan County, having been born in Sheboygan, and married to the former Betty Jane Spannagle of Sheboygan.