

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
Waverly, Iowa

125th Anniversary 1872-1997

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Waverly, Iowa

1872-1997



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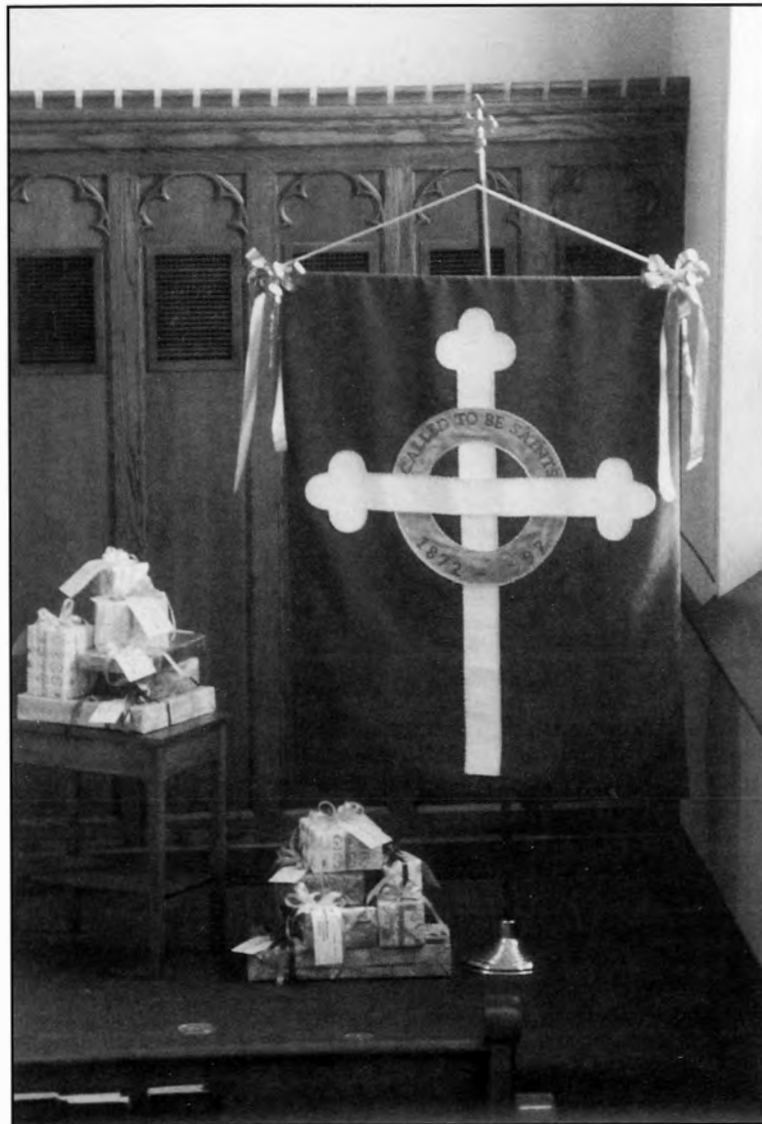
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DEDICATION

This history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1972-1997, is dedicated to the glory of God in loving memory of Pastor Arnold Jahr by his wife, Lillian, and his family—whose generous gift together with other memorial gifts made possible this 125th Anniversary project.



125th Anniversary Banner
Theme: "Called to Be Saints"

INTRODUCTION

This history has been prepared as part of a year-long observance of the 125th anniversary of the founding of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waverly, Iowa. Dr. Gerhard Ottersberg wrote a detailed history of the congregation published during the 1972 centennial. The pages that follow focus on the life of the congregation during the first 25 years of its second century.

For anyone without access to or interest in Dr. Ottersberg's centennial history of St. Paul's (1972), the following brief summary may be useful.

Iowa became a state in 1846. At that time Bremer County was still a wilderness untouched by the plow, one sixth of its land covered with forests which had not yet felt the blow of an ax. Native Americans still lived and hunted on the land.

A few white settlers moved into Bremer County in the 1840s, but rapid development did not begin until the 1850s. In 1853, William Harmon came to the Waverly area, purchased land, surveyed lots, and began the establishment of a town. Early settlers came from New England and other states east of Iowa. They were soon joined by a steady stream of German immigrants, most of whom had originally settled in Illinois.

Waverly obtained its first railroad connection in 1864. This, together with the end of the Civil War in 1865, brought rapid development. By 1872, when St. Paul's Lutheran Church was organized, Waverly was a community of 2,300 people with numerous churches: Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Evangelical Association, and Catholic.

The Lutherans who immigrated to Bremer County had roots in Germany. Some of their kinfolk in the motherland were concerned about the lack of pastors to minister to the people in the New World. With few pastors willing to leave Germany for ministry in America, Pastor William Loehe, who lived in the small village of Neuendettlesau, Bavaria, called for working-class volunteers willing to prepare for ministry. The many who responded were trained and sent to America, working with the recently organized Missouri Synod and organizing a seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Pastor Loehe subscribed to the Lutheran Confessions but believed that in some areas of doctrine not essential for salvation there could be differing interpretations and thus openness to growth in enlightenment. Dr. C. F.W. Walther of the Missouri Synod, who supported a rigid interpretation of the confessions, challenged Loehe on grounds of laxness in Lutheran doctrine. Many of Loehe's emissaries in America accepted Walther's view, but two of them, John Deindoerfer and George Grossmann, remained loyal to Loehe's views. Under pressure from others, they left Saginaw, Mich., in 1853 and came to Dubuque, where they established a seminary. In 1857, the seminary moved to St. Sebald in Clayton County—headquarters for the Iowa Synod, which had been founded in 1854 to provide spiritual care for German Lutherans in the area.

ST. PAUL'S EARLY DAYS

Bremer County's first Lutheran congregation, located in Maxfield Township, was founded in 1856 by the Missouri Synod in Illinois. When the congregation was without pastoral care, it was served by Iowa Synod pastors from St. Sebald, and it eventually came to be identified with the Iowa Synod. Pastors from Maxfield conducted services for Lutherans in Waverly every other Sunday afternoon, beginning in 1867. Rev. Paul Bredow, who became pastor of the Maxfield congregation in December 1871, conducted the organizational meeting for St. Paul's congregation on May 9, 1872. Pastors from Maxfield and Buck Creek continued leading every-other-week services until the fall, when M. Gerlach, a recent seminary graduate, was ordained and installed as St. Paul's first resident pastor. On Sept. 1, 1872, St. Paul's opened a school, and the new pastor served as its teacher.

In the fall of 1875, when the Ladies Aid planned a community fair to raise money for purchase of congregational property, disagreement arose about whether the congregation should have such a

fair and whether dancing would be part of the event. Although many Lutherans of German descent loved dancing, the Iowa Synod was opposed. It was agreed that a fair could be held but that there would be no dancing. When dancing nevertheless occurred, Pastor Gerlach went there to break it up. The violent reaction to Pastor Gerlach's decision led to his request for another call. Some members rallied to support their pastor; those opposed withdrew to organize another congregation, including the president of the Ladies Aid. Since the Ladies Aid had raised \$450 for the church building fund, the opposition church to which the president now belonged laid claim to the fund. However, in the law suit that followed, the decision went in favor of St. Paul's.

Pastor Martin Eberhard came to St. Paul's in April 1876. He, too, was without congregational experience and remained at St. Paul's only until late 1877. During this time, the congregation acquired its first real estate, purchasing land for \$125 from Peter Fosselmann for a cemetery in southeast Waverly. Shortly thereafter, a house, east of the Court House, and in need of considerable repair, was purchased to be used as a parsonage. A school house was built on a portion of the parsonage lot.

Pastor D. M. Ficken served St. Paul's in 1878-79 but left when the congregation could not support him. He was replaced by a young man named Sommerlad, who served for a brief time. By 1879, essentially leaderless, heavily in debt, and worshipping in a rented vacant Presbyterian church on the east side, the congregation had reached a low point.

Events in the Iowa Synod, however, were soon to impact the congregation. The synod was growing and needed teachers for its schools. In 1879, it endorsed George Grossmann's efforts to gather a class and establish a synodical education program to train teachers for mission outreach. A committee formed to select a site for the school and to begin the work. The community of Waverly offered two blocks of property and a considerable sum of money if the school would settle in Waverly. Old Main was built the following year and formed the nucleus of what is now Wartburg College. Grossmann, who was also president of the Iowa Synod, needed help in teaching. Professor Franz Eichler was called as Grossmann's assistant and agreed to share his time as pastor of the struggling St. Paul's congregation. Later, Pastor Friederich Lutz continued the part-time pastoral relationship with St. Paul's while teaching at Wartburg.

ST. PAUL'S FIRST CHURCH AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS

In 1886, the congregation decided to call Pastor F. Zimmermann as its full-time pastor. Born in Germany, Zimmermann also had two years of parish experience in Monona, Iowa, before coming to Waverly. That same year, the congregation acquired its own church building, buying a structure formerly occupied by a Universalist congregation. The building was located on a lot behind what is now St. Paul's present building.

A frame school building was erected in 1890 near the site of the present education building. It was enlarged 10 years later. [This building was subsequently moved and is now the home of Avenue of the Saints Animal Hospital on Highway 218 South in Waverly.] In 1900 a modern parsonage [now Diers House at Wartburg College] was built on that site. With later enlargements and improvements, the building, along with a Parish Hall built in 1941, served the congregation's educational needs until the present Education Center was dedicated in September 1964.



Old church, purchased in 1886 for \$800 from a defunct Universalist Church, was located north of the present church.



St. Paul's School building erected in 1890 near present school (Bldg. located on Hwy. 218 South)

The Christian Day School program was developed and expanded with the hiring of full-time teachers. Professor O. Hardwig and C. F. Liefeld are early examples of the many dedicated and skilled teachers who gave so much of themselves, in long hours and with meager salaries, and who left life-changing impressions for Christian living in many of their pupils. The finances necessary for the Christian Day School were often a matter of concern and debate among members, but its continued presence has made a vital contribution through the lives of pupils who have remained in the congregation and those who have gone out to serve elsewhere.

Although the school originally provided

classes through eighth grade, financial concerns and changing circumstances for junior high pupils led to St. Paul's decision to drop seventh and eighth grades in the summer of 1969.

With Pastor Zimmermann's leadership, the struggling congregation grew and became strong, constantly meeting new challenges, acquiring necessary facilities, and building a strong foundation for education. The congregation was debt-free by 1903, when he was released to become president of Texas Lutheran College. In later years, he returned to ministry in Iowa. He was buried at St. Paul's Cemetery in Waverly.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Pastor John Weyrauch came to St. Paul's in 1903, and the current church building was completed during his tenure. It was dedicated on March 1, 1908. That evening, Pastor O. Wilke of Madison, Wis., preached what is believed to be the first sermon in English at St. Paul's. Pastor Weyrauch's health permitted him to preach in the new building only four times. He resigned in March 1908, unsuccessfully sought recuperation in Texas, then returned to Waverly, where he died in 1910.

Pastor Emil H. Rausch served the congregation from 1908 to 1932. Benevolence offerings for many causes increased under his leadership, even though financial difficulties continued. Pastor Rausch left St. Paul's to become president of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque. He died in 1936 and is buried in Waverly's Harlington Cemetery.

The German language continued to be used exclusively in all church functions, but since more and more children were fluent only in English, the congregation faced the need for change, especially in the school. In response to a demand for English services, Sunday evening services in English were offered every other week, beginning in 1909. During World War I, U.S. animosity toward Germany and the use of the German language hastened the transition to English at St. Paul's. Gradually, more and more congregational functions were carried out in English. German services were held every Sunday morning until the late 1960s, when the German service was moved to the afternoon and eventually discontinued.

Rev. R. C. Schlueter, pastor from 1932 to 1943, carried out a vital youth ministry-during the difficult days of the Great Depression. Wartburg College's move from Waverly to Clinton and its return in 1935 brought new challenges and new opportunities to St. Paul's. Ordained members of the college staff served as supply pastors for a Matins service, which was added to the continuing German and English services. The Day School was maintained during the Depression by the sacrificial devotion of teachers Elsie Mueller and Charlotte Becker, who accepted cuts in already low salaries.

St. Paul's added a second pastor when Pastor Otto Fangmeyer was installed for a two-year term in 1941. Plans were made to renew his call; however, at the same time Pastor Schlueter asked for a release to accept another call. Since wartime shortages made calling another pastor difficult; Pastor Fangmeyer was called to serve as the congregation's only pastor, with the understanding he would

receive pastoral assistance from ordained members of the congregation. Provision was also made for a part-time secretary. In 1945, Elsie Mueller became the congregation's parish worker and continued to serve as principal of the school. By 1947, the Sunday School, under Superintendent Swensen had a volunteer staff of 41 and an enrollment of 518. Pastor Fangmeyer left in 1948 to serve a parish in Canton, Ohio.

Dr. William F. Schmidt [1948-63], active in the national church and a former president of St. Paul Luther College [which merged with Wartburg in 1935], accepted a call to serve the congregation and was installed in 1948. Three English services were held each Sunday with a strong emphasis on adult Bible study following the middle service. Four associate pastors worked with Dr. Schmidt over the years. Pastor Dean Kilgust, a Wartburg College professor ordained at St. Paul's, served for a year-and-a-half. Pastor William Weiblen, who was installed in 1953, served St. Paul's until accepting a call to become a professor at Wartburg Seminary in 1958. He later served as seminary president. Three seminary interns, Wayne Stumme, Glen Gronlund and Loren Bliesse, also worked with Dr. Schmidt. Pastor Gerald Nerenhausen served with Dr. Schmidt from 1959 to 1961, when he accepted a call to a parish in Oshkosh, Wis. Pastor Glen Gronlund served from 1962 to 1968.



**Dr. William and Ann Schmidt,
at St. Paul's 1948-1963**

Many efforts were made to nurture membership with Bible study, to reach out with evangelism, and to serve through the larger church. Following a legacy from Mrs. A. Bartels, St. Paul's acquired a large home in northwest Waverly, which opened in 1964 as Bartels Lutheran Home.

BUILDING CONCERNS

The need for expanded facilities resulted in a self-study of congregation needs. The question of establishing another congregation in Waverly was debated, and the national church studied possibilities for establishing congregations in Shell Rock, Janesville, and Plainfield. St. Paul's decided to remain one strong congregation. After several meetings in 1954 and 1955, the congregation reached two decisions: It would retain the present church location and buy surrounding property, and it would build an educational unit rather than a church. However, no commitments were made for either project.

A building committee was appointed in 1957 and after several years, the group asked to be discharged and a new committee was appointed. In 1963, the congregation granted the Church Council authority to let bids on an architect's plans for the Education Center. That this was the decision of a split congregation became clear when a portion of the membership let it be known they wanted to establish a second congregation in Waverly. This caused some initial bitterness, but when Redeemer Lutheran Church was organized in 1965, a working relationship between the congregations had been achieved. A dispirited Pastor Schmidt resigned on Sept. 1, 1963. The Education Center was dedicated on September 27, 1964.

Pastor Gronlund was offered a promotion from associate pastor to head pastor after the resignation of Dr. Schmidt in 1963. Schmidt departed to his native Ohio, where he had been offered a position as a visitation pastor. Procedures were set in motion at St. Paul's for calling another associate pastor and creating a team ministry. Gronlund worked with Pastor Richard Rehfeldt [1964-69] and Pastor Wayne Stumme [1966-68]. Upon the resignations of Pastor Gronlund, who accepted a call to staff service with the American Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and Pastor Stumme, who left to serve as associate pastor of an east Waterloo parish, St. Paul's called Pastor Durwood Buchheim [1968-73] and Pastor George Hanusa [1968-76]. With the call of Pastor Larry Trachte [1970-74], the pastoral staff of "team ministers" was again complete.

During the first hundred years, St. Paul's synodical affiliation underwent several changes. The congregation began its life affiliated with the Iowa Synod. In 1930, the Iowa, Buffalo, and Ohio Synods merged to form the American Lutheran Church. In 1960-62, the American Lutheran Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lutheran Free Church, and United Evangelical Lutheran Church joined to form The American Lutheran Church.

As the first century of St. Paul's history drew to a close, the congregation and society were in transition for entry into a new phase of life. The pages which follow recount the saga of the first quarter of St. Paul's second century.



**From left: Pastor Glen and Shirley Gronlund,
Pastor Wayne and Carolann Stumme, Pastor Richard and Kathy Rehfeldt**



MISSION AND GOALS, 1973-1997

The annual pastors' report to the congregation in February 1973 discussed the future of St. Paul's and stated that to think of the future of this congregation is to think of its mission. In its broadest terms, that mission is to live by and for the Gospel. More specifically, that means a concern for both the unchurched in the community and the inactive or indifferent members, the giving of ourselves and our financial resources, and a consciousness of the church's world-wide mission outreach. Besides the outreach, mission involves "inreach"—a concern for the spiritual growth of our members in terms of worship, prayer, education, and service.

In 1984, the church council looked at what the congregation was doing and what it ought to be doing in an attempt to establish ministry priorities for the coming years. The following statements represent the congregation's response to the questions of "Who are we?" and "What are we called to do?"

"Our Identity (who we are): We are a called people of God, sustained and nourished by His grace in Christ, sent and empowered to use our diverse gifts in mission as His Church. Our Mission (what we do): Our mission is to proclaim the good news of God's love, as revealed in Christ, that all might live. We do this by reaching out through Word- and Sacrament-centered worship, lifelong learning, and witness and service to all people."



The street between the church and school flooded in August 1993.

The 1993 pastoral report reflected a painful and difficult year. In addition to coping with damage from two floods of the Cedar River, the congregation instituted significant budget and program cuts. Staff positions were reduced or eliminated, and salaries were frozen. Despite these setbacks, ministry flourished, along with a new spirit and commitment to mission.



Volunteers sandbagged in front of the church during the early stages of the flood of 1993.

In September 1997, St. Paul's adopted a new mission statement: "To grow in faith, through Christian community for Christ's service."

GOALS

Congregational goals 25 years ago were directed toward growth in numbers, in giving, in worship participation, in education on all levels, in service, and in fellowship. A few years later, and as an aid in fulfilling its goals and mission, St. Paul's established a Long-Range Planning Committee. This committee challenged the

congregation to use its resources for significant extensions of the Gospel beyond the local community.

In 1986 and 1987, the congregation aimed for a six percent increase in regular giving and a 10 percent increase in active giving units. Other goals were to encourage 25 percent of members to get involved in one area of volunteer service beyond worship and to reach out to those not actively involved in the Christian community through personal contacts, education, worship, and relationships with other congregations.

A Vision 2000 Committee developed a plan of action to guide the congregation during the 1990s. The plan was approved by the church council and shared with the congregation at a number of open hearings. A resolution at the 1991 annual meeting recommended that the congregation "adopt the Purpose, Focus, and Directives for Action of the Vision 2000 report, and charge the congregational council with responsibility for implementing it, evaluating progress, and reporting to the congregation at least annually."

IMPLEMENTATION OF MISSION AND GOALS, 1973-1997

Board of Evangelism

In 1973, the Board of Evangelism initiated the Litany of Fellowship, a welcome sign-up sheet distributed during worship, to help St. Paul's members become better acquainted with one another and to welcome visitors. The board also developed a brochure to acquaint prospective members with St. Paul's and continued the tradition of new member dinners that began in the 1950s.

During the next few years, the board refined and implemented procedures for contacting new Waverly residents and identified a core of St. Paul's members willing to call upon prospective members. The board also reestablished a program of using greeters before church services and during the coffee hour. The need to establish a regular calling program resulted in the formation of the Friendship Callers, who met twice a month to pick up names for calling and give each other support.

The 1980 pastoral report singled out evangelism or "outreach" for special attention and effort, stating that "a faithful corps of Friendship Callers have been about this, but they and others, and we, feel that we should be doing more." Consequently, one of the pastors received special training in this area and then trained others to more effectively reach out and share the Gospel with those around them.

In the late 1970s, the board coordinated publication of a devotional booklet to be used by the congregation during Lent. According to the 1980 report, 42 members shared their talent in writing devotionals for that year's booklet, and more than 900 copies of the booklet were distributed.

In 1981, the Board of Evangelism developed and implemented a Teaching, Learning, Caring (TLC) program. This visitation program reached out to members and non-members alike and invited them to participate in the Adult Inquiry Class. At the conclusion of the class, participants were invited to reaffirm their baptism or to be baptized into the faith. A Shepherding Plan was initiated to help newer members become fully integrated into the community of St. Paul's. A colorful bulletin board in the Parish Hall entryway introduced new members through photos and biographical information.

The board's stated goals in 1982 were (1) to develop and implement programs to tell the Good News of Jesus; (2) to continue educating the congregation about evangelism, so that members see themselves as witnesses in their daily lives as well as in specific visitation programs; (3) to promote a climate within St. Paul's that makes members and non-members feel accepted. That year, a total of 25 persons participated in a 10-week Witnesses for Christ course. The church sent postcards to all visitors and called those from the Waverly area. The congregation welcomed 40 Wartburg students to the parish at a supper, followed by a brief program.

In 1987, St. Paul's members affirmed the importance of mission by designating part of a fund-raising campaign for mission. The congregation passed a resolution that up to \$50,000 of the mission outreach portion of the "Faith for the Future" campaign be allocated according to the following priority sequence: \$9,000 for tuition at Wartburg College for Mary Laiser of Tanzania; \$15,000 for assistance to the Christian Day School of Holy Family Lutheran Church in Chicago; \$15,000 to an Iowa Mission Partner Congregation;

\$11,000 over four years toward room and board for a Namibian student at Wartburg College; \$15,000 to Mission Partner San Pablo Lutheran Church, Weslaco, Texas.

That same year, the board made 30 Activator Calls in an effort to increase worship and communion attendance. Approximately 200 members received postcards encouraging them to attend a special service on October 4, 1987. The effort was successful. Several previously inactive members were among the 800 persons who attended and the 600 persons who communed that day.

A Welcome Home service and reception and monthly new member/host family/sponsor gatherings were held in the early 1990s. The 1996 Evangelism Board report informed the congregation of a new task force, which would study a book and attend a workshop on hospitality. This task force recommended new ministry initiatives to create a welcoming environment at St. Paul's.

Board of Social Concerns

As one way of responding to the challenge of American Lutheran Church President Kent Knutson in his centennial celebration sermon (1971), St. Paul's Church Council established a Board of Social Concerns. It was to be a board of strategy, coordinating the various congregational efforts to accept responsibility for our neighbor's well-being. The board was subdivided into three committees: social concerns within St. Paul's congregation, community social concerns, and Christian social education. During the first year, the board set up a food pantry, sponsored a Feast of the Missing Meal (rice meal) in connection with the World Hunger Conference, helped organize an area Bread for the World group, and participated in a national day of fasting. Board members also met with social concerns groups from other congregations and visited with community leaders, offering help if it should be needed.

In its initial years, the board applied and received two grants, one from the Iowa District and the other from TALC, for awareness study of Native American concerns. The board sponsored a "One World, Two Ways" weekend at St. Paul's and hosted a workshop for Northeast congregations. The board also assisted local Lutheran churches in bringing a Vietnamese family to Waverly, and also served Sunday dinners for many of the Vietnamese persons living in the area.

During the middle and late 1970s, St. Paul's was involved in a Self-Help Tractor project and sent several small tractors overseas. Tractors went to the Marshall Islands and to the South Korean island of Jeju-do. An unassembled Self-Help tractor was sent to Honduras for use in a program that taught Hondurans how to build their own farming equipment. Later, St. Paul's worked in conjunction with the Wartburg College UJAAMA Week program to send two Self-Help tractors to Honduras. A bazaar netted \$3,800 for a tractor for the Cameroons.

During this same period, the Board of Social Concerns and the Church Council approved a resolution calling upon the Iowa District to join with concerned Christians throughout the world in recommending a boycott of products produced by the Nestlé Corporation. The resolution stemmed from concerns that Nestle was promoting the use of infant formula as an alternative to mother's milk—especially in areas of the world where poverty and contaminated water might result in deaths from unsafe bottle feeding. The resolution passed at the District Convention.

St. Paul's also assisted the Vans, a refugee family from Viet Nam sponsored by Redeemer Lutheran Church, with monies for rent and utilities. Several members provided transportation, gifts, and support to the family.



Fran and J. Howard Mueller, Ray Howland, and Vern Schield with a Self-Help tractor in the 1970s.

The Board of Social Concerns placed a container in the narthex for food contributions to Northeast Iowa Action Corps, which provides food and clothes to needy families awaiting food stamps and welfare payments.

Early in the 1980s, St. Paul's, as a Bread for the World covenant church, sponsored an area ecumenical Bread for the World event, followed by regular meetings. The church also sponsored a Vietnamese refugee, Hoa, who lived in her own apartment and had a full-time job until she moved from Waverly to enroll in college. German-style dinners raised money for beds in a Nigerian hospital and for Operation Bootstrap. In response to the economic downturn during the 1980s, the board organized an unemployment support group that met weekly. The board also promoted the Misedeebe School Project in Uganda. Youth participated by helping with Habitat for Humanity building projects.

By 1991, the Board of Social Concerns was renamed the Board of Missions. That year's annual report stated the board's responsibility as "assisting the membership of St. Paul's to understand the issues which concern the Christian faith in relationship to human need and social problems within the congregation, in the community, and beyond."

In 1992, the board collected children's books for San Pablo Lutheran, our mission partner in Weslaco, Texas, and promoted recognition of Soil Stewardship Week. An October Global Missions event included visiting missionaries Tom and Sharon Christensen from Cameroon, displays from mission fields involving St. Paul's members, and a fellowship lunch. The board coordinated collection of donated medical supplies and equipment from area hospitals for distribution through Global Health Ministries, Minneapolis, to Lutheran hospitals in Africa. One load was sent to Madagascar and one to Tanzania. In March 1993, Pastor Don Johnson, director of the ELCA Mission Partner Program, preached at an American Mission Sunday observation at St. Paul's.

In recent years, the board jointly sponsored with other Waverly churches a local host site for food distribution through World Self Help and Resource Exchange (SHARE). A Mission Board subcommittee recommended in July of 1993 that St. Paul's become a sister congregation of St. Georg's church of Eisenach, Germany. This arrangement was approved by both churches. Following the board's initiation of this program in April 1994, St. Georg's pastor, Wolfgang Robscheit, and his wife visited St. Paul's. Later Robscheit's two sons and St. Georg's music director also visited. Eisenach and Waverly have developed a Sister City relationship.

St. Paul's celebrated its first Global Mission Festival April 9-10, 1994. Guest speakers were the Rev. John and Gordeen Gorder, former missionaries to Nigeria and the Central African Republic. A special offering of nearly \$2,000 from the event was designated for missionary sponsorship under the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship program. The church council and the ELCA Division for Global Missions approved and signed a "covenant" to the effect that St. Paul's will provide partial ongoing support for Gretchen Mueller, missionary to Papua New Guinea. At the second annual Global Mission Festival Feb. 25-26, 1995, Pastor Jack Reents spoke about his work in Papua New Guinea and the ELCA Volunteer Missionary Program. A total of \$2,700 was collected for the ELCA program. Missionary Gretchen Mueller visited St. Paul's the weekend of Nov. 5, 1995, and spoke at all three services. The board was one of many sponsors of the first Waverly area Christian Response to Overseas Programs (CROP) walk—a program dating back to 1949.



Gretchen Mueller, New Guinea missionary, spoke at St. Paul's in 1995.

The CROS structure, adopted in 1996, created a Mission Board with responsibilities for evangelism (now referred to as outreach), mission, and stewardship. Its primary goal is to help members act their faith in mission to others. This new Mission Board created three work groups. Local Outreach encompasses evangelistic and mission components and works with individuals and organizations within a 25-mile radius of Waverly that are not St. Paul's members. Global Outreach deals with evangelism and mission work beyond a 25-mile radius. Financial Stewardship deals with financial and other types of stewardship.

Fellowship Committee

A Fellowship Committee, established in 1990, promotes and plans regular fellowship activities involving families, singles, and young couples. The group also plans and coordinates special activities and receptions. A list of 1995 activities included a Sunday-afternoon movie, *Schindler's List*, followed by a meal and discussion; an afternoon of games and social interaction for all ages at the Parish Hall; and the hosting of several receptions and events. Fellowship Connections, small groups that met monthly for a simple meal and Christian fellowship, were also established in 1995. The committee built upon relationships established by St. Paul's School, Vacation Bible School, women's circles, and the youth by organizing events to celebrate special occasions and hosting residents of the Larrabee Center, a Bremer County care facility. For instance, Larrabee Center residents were invited to a Sunday School Christmas program, where the guests received Christmas bags from St. Paul's members.

Fellowship/Friends in Faith

The Double or Nothing Club, organized as a couples club in 1949 for the purpose of fostering in its members a spirit of Christian fellowship and volunteering, has regularly provided dependable volunteers to assist in making improvements to church facilities. The reception held between the 1997 ecumenical services at St. Paul's was served by this group. In 1979, the club voted to open its membership to single persons; in 1987 its name became Friends in Faith.

American Lutheran Church Women

In 1974, the American Lutheran Church Women (ALCW) took a major step and became a voluntary organization, rather than automatically including in its membership all of the women of St. Paul's.

The group had been involved in a number of activities, including monthly circle meetings that involved Bible studies outlined in *Scope*, the ALCW publication. The ALCW actively supported the Waverly convalescent and county homes; visited circle shut-in friends; supervised the Altar Guild; served lunches for St. Paul's funerals; and provided financial support to Bartels Lutheran Home, Bremwood, the Good Will Society, and Church Women United.

Following the 1974 organizational change, the ALCW began scheduling monthly group meetings to which all women of the church were invited. The circles continued to meet on a monthly basis. The ALCW undertook a number of diverse activities, including monetary support of an Indian child and the John Bowman missionary family in Japan; monthly do-days; installation of a sound system in the Parish House; and the purchase of new books for the ALCW library, which was relocated to the newly renovated Social Room in 1990.



Fellowship Connection group met for a Christmas meal and fellowship.

A prominent activity throughout the '70s, '80s, and '90s was packing and shipping items to Lutheran World Relief (LWF), much of which was accomplished during monthly do-days. A mid-1980s annual report indicated that the organization had provided LWF with some 253 quilts, 17 health kits, 40 school kits, 112 layettes, and 625 pounds of homemade soap—all in one year. The ALCW also gave money to women from African countries to fund cultural exchanges with ALC women, clothing to the Navajo Indians, and sent many pounds of used postage stamps to German organizations to be resold by people handicapped with epilepsy.

In 1988, as part of the creation of a new Lutheran church, the ALCW received a new name, Women of the ELCA (WELCA). Its purpose statement read, "As a community of women **created** in the image of God, **called** to be disciples in Jesus Christ, and **empowered** by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to: **grow** in faith, **affirm** our gifts, **support** one another in our callings, **engage** in ministry and action, and **promote** healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world." In the same year, and in addition to its previous activities, WELCA gave \$1,000 toward a piano in the church proper and purchased new tablecloths for the Parish Hall.

Reports during the '90s indicate that WELCA undertook additional activities, donating quilts to Bremwood, Lutheran Social Services, EWALU auctions, Des Moines flood victims, the local human services organization, and Holy Family Church in Chicago. The group gave 53 layettes to a women's shelter in Waterloo. November thank-offerings were designated for the total outreach of the ELCA. St. Paul's WELCA gave a 125th anniversary gift of \$1,500 for purchase of a fireproof file to house the church archives. Monthly Bible studies continue in the circles, using *Lutheran Woman Today* (formerly *Scope*) as a guide.

Not all was work, committee meetings, and Bible studies. The women enjoyed mother-daughter banquets, salad luncheons, and other planned social gatherings and conventions.

In March 1997, WELCA passed a resolution supporting establishment of a Women's Ministries Workgroup to promote participation in and oversee a variety of women's ministries at St. Paul's. The group consists of five people, appointed by the Parish Life Board for two-year terms. One of the five is the contact person between Synod and Churchwide WELCA and St. Paul's women.

Youth

Youth programs and philosophies regarding St. Paul's youth have changed over the years. Perhaps most significant have been those changes resulting in additional responsibility for younger members of the congregation. The story of these changes is told in the "Youth" section of this history.





Quilting ladies from St. Paul's and Redeemer

Former St. Paul's Women of the ELCA presidents, front row from left: Joan Koch, 1960, 1961; Jan Striepe, 1966; Elsie Winter, 1964, 1965; Lois Coonradt, 1970. Back row: Leola Harms, 1979; Alice Grawe, 1983; Betty Dienst, 1977; Louise Liebau, 1967; Barbara Zemke, 1987; Hiltrude Gronewold, 1981.



St. Paul's representatives at a Task Force Retreat regarding Outreach and Growth at EWALU included, front row from left, Fran Mueller, Interim Pastor Laurel Nordin, Jo Groth, Kim Fox. Back row: Barbara Zemke, Linda Keeter-Schulz, Deloris Laube, Kathy Folkers, Jill Groth, Mandy Fox, Dorothy Loots, Laura Kruse Krueger, Jill Gremmels, and the retreat adviser.



Loading Supplies for
Global Missions



ALCW Do-Day



WORSHIP

St. Paul's congregation has witnessed significant changes in its worship life in the years following its centennial celebration. These changes are best understood in the context of the history of St. Paul's and its relationship to Lutheranism in America.

THE FIRST 100 YEARS

Throughout the 19th century, Lutherans from various ethnic traditions settled across the North American continent and soon established their small congregations. In 1872, St. Paul's congregation was founded by families from a growing group of German settlers in the Waverly area. In the early years, St. Paul's members worshipped in German and sang traditional German hymns.

St. Paul's congregation appears to have followed a typical pathway in its worship life. Gradually, English supplanted German, although an occasional service in German was still held as recently as 1980. The service books found in the pews of the church were the same as those used by other Lutheran synods.

Little has been recorded of specific worship practices at St. Paul's during the first 100 years, perhaps because there was little deviation from the traditional service. Minimal variations came with the introduction of a new service book or hymnal. In contrast, the 25 years since St. Paul's centennial have been characterized by changing worship practices. However, the foundations of the past have remained strong and have provided a framework of traditional Lutheranism that has firmly supported a broadening understanding of the liturgy of the laity.

THE PAST 25 YEARS (1973-1997)

Lay participation and diversity are perhaps the terms which best describe change in worship practices at St. Paul's during the last 25 years. These changes have reflected major movements taking place in the church at large toward liturgical reform, ecumenism, and further merging of Lutheran synods.

Lay Leadership

In the early 1970s, many voices called for more participation by the laity in congregational life and leadership. St. Paul's pastors, in their annual report for 1972, wrote:

"Other areas of apparent 'impasse' include lay leadership, music, and worship. Though lay leadership has been impressive in some areas, and though the potential for really dynamic leadership exists, we still have not found the key to really 'turning loose' the lay people in a way that would find them using their abilities to bring about some real changes and new life in the congregation."

Incorporating lay readers for the lessons began at St. Paul's in 1974. However, it was a new hymnal/service book, *The Lutheran Book of Worship* that opened the way for greater lay involvement in worship services. The LBW offered three new settings of Holy Communion and also called for participation of lay assisting ministers. St. Paul's adopted the LBW in 1978. The meaning of this event is described in the pastors' annual report for that year:

"One thing, above all others, affects our life together in the Gospel. It is the introduction of *The Lutheran Book of Worship*. Nothing is so central as our life of worship. While it gives us new setting for our liturgies, it also bequeaths to us a treasury of hymnody from many different traditions."

By 1981, the congregation had learned and was using all three settings. A trained core of lay assisting ministers participated at all services. By the 1990s, youth were also trained and involved as assisting ministers. Communion assistance came from the laity, both adult and youth.

Change in Communion Practices

The 1978 Pastors' Report reveals a further impact of the LBW:

"The most dramatic change, of course, is that of emphasizing both the Word and Sacrament as the focal points of worship. Many of us have come out of a tradition where the frequency of participation has not been so great."

Many members of the congregation regarded Holy Communion as a sacrament to be taken only when they were well prepared by reflection, prayer, and, at times, consultation with a pastor.

In 1973, fifth grade children were invited to commune. Sixteen years later, in 1989, third graders were also invited.

Early in 1978, the Board of Deacons undertook an in-depth study of communion practices throughout church history. The Deacons then proposed a trial period of two months (September, October) during which communion would be held at every service. Following the trial period, a resolution to continue the practice was defeated at the annual congregational meeting. Gradually in succeeding years, members accepted a compromise whereby communion was held at least once a Sunday at alternate services, a practice that has continued to the present.

Continuous standing communion was introduced in 1981 as a way to offer the Eucharist at the earlier services and assure that the worship and Sunday School schedules would be maintained. Kneeling communion is still practiced, but on a less frequent basis.

The position of the communion table, the altar at St. Paul's, has not been exempt from change. In 1981, a separate free-standing communion table was introduced on a trial basis. However, it was not until major refurbishing in 1992 that the altar table was moved forward permanently, allowing pastors to face the congregation while conducting worship services.



Outdoor Worship

Diversity in Worship

As the liturgies of the LBW became familiar, many in the congregation expressed a need for further diversity in their worship experience. In response, the contemporary Chicago Folk Service was introduced in 1980 and was used several times a year throughout the next decade.

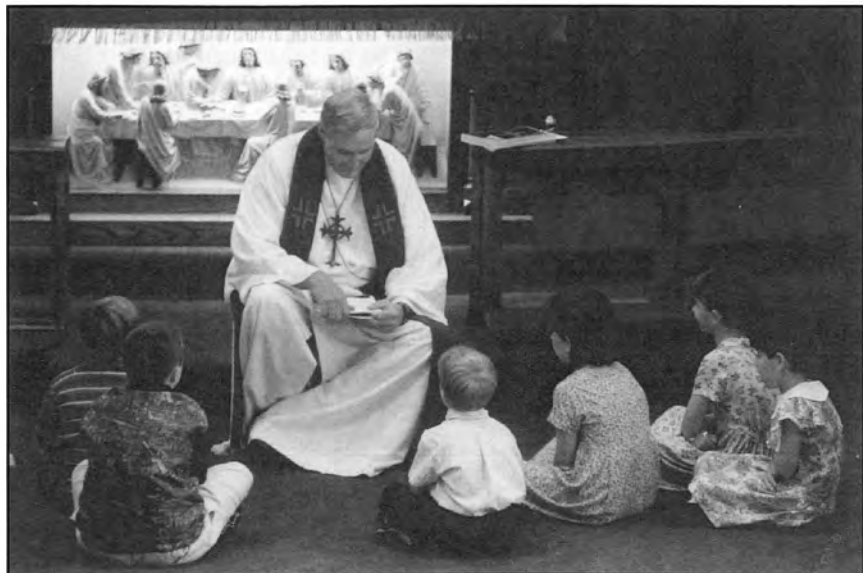
Another new musical setting of the liturgy was introduced in 1993

when St. Paul's purchased *Marty Haugen Hymnal Supplements*. The Haugen service is now used at least once a month.

In recent years, John Ylvisaker, a noted creator of contemporary hymns and worship services and a member of St. Paul's, has accepted the congregation's invitation to arrange and lead services several times a year. The Cherub Choir, under the direction of Karen Dickman, presented the premier performance of Ylvisaker's commissioned anniversary song, *Saints on the Avenue*, in January 1997.

During Lent, the congregation has used other LBW liturgies, including the Compline Service and the Service of Light.

A major congregational goal in 1991 was to establish a less formal worship service that would appeal to members and provide worship opportunities to people with conflicting Sunday schedules. Saturday services



Pastor Glen Wheeler with children during a children's sermon

at 5:30 p.m. were introduced July 31. During the first year, a steady group of 60 to 70 attended. The format included spoken liturgy with contemporary hymns. Piano and guitar replaced the organ, and dress was casual. In 1994, Pastors Dickman and Burk wrote a new liturgy for this service. Attendance has continued to grow.

Another innovation for St. Paul's has been the children's sermon. It was introduced during Lent on Feb. 2, 1992, and became a regular part of the service. Children come forward to sit at the pastor's feet for a brief, often illustrated explanation of the sermon's central theme. The children's sermon has been well received by both children and adults.

A children's worship bulletin, "Windows of Worship," was introduced during Advent 1992 and is available for children to pick up before worship services.

Ecumenical Worship

A spirit of ecumenism has grown in the Waverly community during the past quarter century. Most local churches participate in occasional joint services. An ecumenical Thanksgiving service, now usually held at Wartburg College to better accommodate the large number of worshippers, was first held in 1962 at Peace United Church of Christ. Pastors and priests share in leading worship, while church choirs join in special music for this regular event.

The 1997 ecumenical thanksgiving service was held at St. Paul's in honor of our anniversary year. Pastor Larry Trachte, a member of St. Paul's, served as the guest preacher for the two services at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. A reception was held between the services.

In November 1983, on the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Waverly presented a \$500 gift to St. Paul's in honor of the occasion. This special gift was used to purchase new vestments for the pastors.

In October 1997, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly presented a gift in honor of St. Paul's 125th anniversary.

Radio Ministry

St. Paul's has broadcast the final Sunday morning worship service live over Waverly station KWAY since September 1959. This radio ministry is viewed as both a responsibility to the sick and shut-in members of our congregation and as outreach to the unchurched and uncommitted in our community. There is no way of easily measuring the effectiveness of this kind of communication, but it is undertaken in the assurance that the Holy Spirit stimulates faith in many ways—and most certainly through the proclamation of the Word.

Initially funded by St. Paul's Brotherhood, this ministry is now supported by personal gifts and memorials.

Ministry of Music

"In its highest sense, this is the function of music in worship: the praise of Almighty God and the edification of His people. This in essence is the guiding philosophy of the Ministry of Music here at St. Paul's."

– Dr. Warren Schmidt, 1973

Following a long tradition of expressing praise through choirs and musical instruments, St. Paul's has continued to expand its ministry of music. A new organ, installed in 1976, symbolizes the congregation's dedication to music as a vital part of worship. Many choirs, soloists, and ensembles, instrumental and vocal, enhance St. Paul's reputation as a church with excellent music.

Music Leadership

Dr. Warren Schmidt served as organist for 36 years, until his retirement in 1986. Roy Carroll was church organist in 1987-88. Patricia Hagen was named to the position in 1988. She serves as director of music, and leads several youth choirs. In addition, she performs organ mini-concerts and leads congregational hymnfests.

Alan Hagen succeeded Dr. C. Robert Larson as Chancel Choir director in 1973 and has led that group for nearly 25 years. He also directs the Bells of Praise. Using his carpentry skills, Alan has contributed to the music program by remodeling Parish Hall space to create a rehearsal room, a music office, a sound closet, and music storage.

Although many choir directors, including Edna Wessel and Laura Kruse, have worked with the children's choirs in the past 25 years, Karen Dickman has perhaps the longest tenure. She re-organized the Cherub Choir in 1980, opened its membership to all primary grade children in the congregation, and directed it until 1997. Jill Lammers now directs the group. Currently Ael Suhr directs the 4-6 Grade Choir and Nancy Dreyer directs the St. Paul's School Choir.

Choirs

People of all ages sing in St. Paul's choirs, which include the Chancel Choir (adults and high school students), New Creation Singers (grades 7-12, mixed), Shalom Singers (grades 7-12, girls), Singers for Christ (grades 7-12, mixed), St. Paul's School Choir (grades 4-6), Ael Suhr's 4-6 Grade Choir, and the Cherub Choir (grades 1-3).

Two bell choirs regularly participate in worship at St. Paul's. In the early 1980s, a gift to St. Paul's School funded three octaves of handbells, and Jean Gammelin organized a sixth grade handbell choir. In the late '80s, Joe Eagen and Kathy Book were instrumental in development of an adult bell choir, Bells of Praise. Gifts from church members enabled purchase of a fourth octave of handbells in 1993.

All the choirs join in presenting special concerts at Christmas and in the spring. They also lead the congregation in a fall hymnfest.

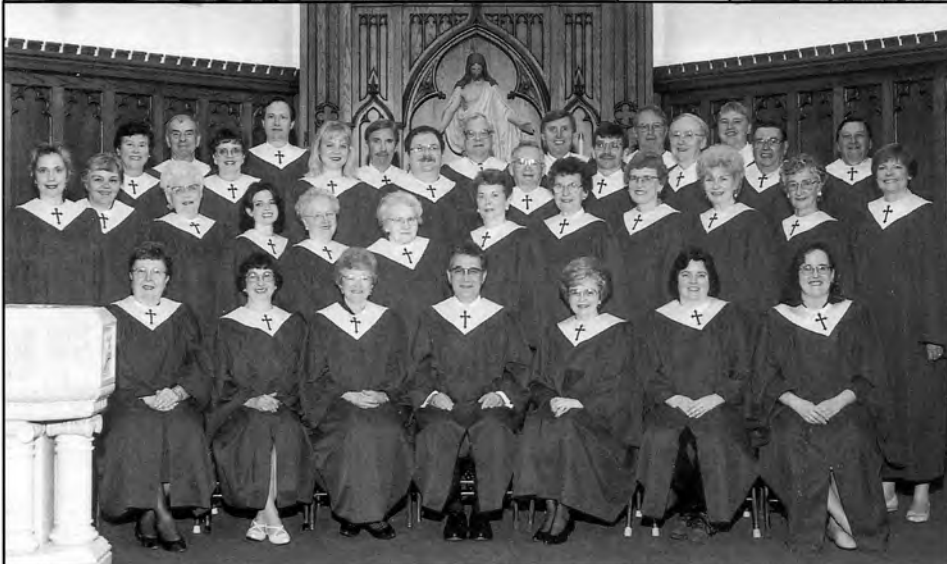
Occasionally, guest musicians join the congregation in worship. The Wartburg Choir is especially welcomed. In 1995, Kantor/Organist Ekkehard Knechtel from St. George's Church in Eisenach, Germany, spent a week participating in the music program at St. Paul's.

Organ

During the 1960s, it became apparent that the old organ was in need of replacement. Repairs had become frequent and expensive. In 1964, the Church Council contracted with the Schlicker Organ Company to build a new organ and made a \$5,000 downpayment. However, final plans awaited a congregational decision on whether to build a new church. Schlicker agreed to place the \$5,000 in trust to be applied to a future contract. At a special meeting in May 1971, the congregation firmly rejected the proposal for a new church building, ending a discussion that had occupied members for several years. However, support for a new organ continued.



Top to bottom, left to right: Dr. Warren Schmidt, organist, 1950-1986; Dr. C. Robert Larson, choir director, 1949-1973; Karen Dickman, Cherub Choir; Ael Suhr, director, 4-6 Grade Choir; Patricia Hagen, director of music, organist, director of youth choirs; Alan Hagen, director, Chancel Choir, Bells of Praise; 1997 Chancel Choir; New Creation Singers, Grades 7-12



Bids for a new organ were submitted in November 1974, and the contract was awarded to W. Zimmer and Sons of North Carolina as low bidders at a price of \$79,400. Schlicker's bid was high enough to justify forfeiting the \$5 000. Additional costs of a designer's fee and balcony modifications were estimated at \$4,000. A contract with Zimmer was signed in January 1975.

Funding for the new organ came from several sources. Unsolicited donations toward the project had been accumulating for a few years. Members who had placed contributions in a fund to go toward a new church agreed to transfer the money to an organ fund, making a total of nearly \$35,000. A fund drive in 1976 raised another \$35,000 in pledges. The Church Council borrowed the remaining \$14,000 needed to complete the project.

It took almost two years to build the organ. Chimes from the old organ were removed and sent to North Carolina to be included in the new instrument. Wartburg College loaned a practice organ to the church for the interim.

The new organ was in place by September 1976. The congregation celebrated with two organ concerts by Dr. Warren Schmidt and a dinner between concerts.

125th Anniversary Commissioned Music

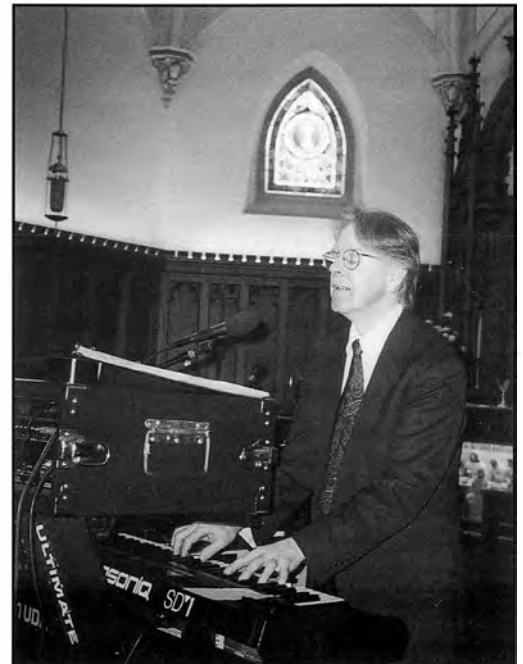
In gratitude to God for 125 years of ministry, the family of Arthur F. Droste commissioned anniversary-year musical works by two distinguished composers who have ties to the congregation: John Ylvisaker, a current member, and Dr. James Fritschel, a former member.

The Cherub Choir presented Ylvisaker's work, *Saints on the Avenue*, in January 1997.

Alan and Patricia Hagen directed the premiere performance of Fritschel's choral work, *Blooms of Grace*, on Founders Day, May 4, 1997.



Barbara and Dr. James Fritschel returned to St. Paul's for the premiere of *Blooms of Grace*, Fritschel's commissioned choral work for the anniversary celebration.



Composer John Ylvisaker leads a St. Paul's worship service. He wrote an anniversary-year commissioned work, *Saints on the Avenue*, for the Cherub Choir.



Bells of Praise



4-6 Grade Choir



Cherub Choir



Pat Hagen, organist

STEWARDSHIP

The word "stewardship" has many meanings. Because congregations often talk about stewardship in connection with financial support of the church's mission, we may have a mental image of this as stewardship. In its broadest sense, biblical stewardship is what we do with what has been entrusted to us. It is a call to use our lives and everything within our sphere of influence for the kingdom of God. In this broad sense, stewardship is about our life and mission as individuals and as a congregation. It is thus a call for faithfulness to our Lord and his church in each new day and in each new opportunity.

Evidence of this faithfulness is evident in the life of St. Paul's congregation. In 1972, the congregation celebrated its centennial: 100 years of worship services, of faithful pastors proclaiming the Gospel, of Christian Day School classes taught by dedicated pastors and teachers. Over the course of those years, sons and daughters were inspired to become missionaries, teachers, and pastors, and members were nurtured in faith and life. These emphases continue.

Stewardship is apparent at St. Paul's during the past 25 years. A number of groups have organized to nurture and care for our members. Service projects have reached out to people in our community, our country, and our world in such places as Papua New Guinea, Mexico, Japan, and Africa. We have established relationships with other congregations and service agencies.

And always, the congregation's stewardship of financial resources has undergirded its life and mission.

The German immigrants who came to Waverly and formed St. Paul's Lutheran Church came, for the most part, from a state church background where churches were tax supported. In the midst of the economic struggle to establish homes and communities in a new land, they formed a church community dependent for its support upon contributions of its members. The result was a continuing pattern of monetary struggle—a pattern that continued to plague the congregation for many of its first 100 years. Again and again, needs arose for which funds were not readily available; yet the essentials were provided, facilities were purchased or built, pastors and teachers served with dedication (though often with meager salaries), and spiritual care and nurture were evident. The congregation was often in debt, not only because of major projects, but often because of insufficient funds for the operational budget. Sometimes this was because of a lack of consensus about the congregation's mission.

Positive experiences in the quarter-century since 1972 bode well for the future. It could well be that the congregation has made a transition from a troubled financial past to a time of renewed commitment, financial planning, and faithful stewardship of money that will energize members for living and serving. Adding a church business manager who is responsible for finance and planning has been a positive step. Continued education about the meaning of discipleship and its relationship to money is another.

The congregation undertook several special capital fund drives and mission efforts during these years, enabling enhancement and repair of facilities, debt retirement, and mission outreach.

- Project Uplift, undertaken in the fall of 1974, financed construction of a new narthex; sandblasting, tuckpointing, and sealing of the church exterior; and liquidation of the Education Center debt.
- In 1976, a new organ was installed at a cost of \$80,000.
- Members of St. Paul's participated in special appeals for Bremwood, Wartburg, Camp EWALU, and the national church.
- In 1982, the congregation raised funds for structural repairs and a new copper roof for the church.
- Faith for the Future, a \$250,000 fund drive in 1986, included debt retirement, restoration of stained glass windows, installation of an elevator in the narthex for handicapped access to the church and Parish Hall, and \$50,000 for mission outreach.
- Established a \$15,000 Mission Partnership with San Pablo Lutheran in Weslaco, Texas.
- In 1992, the most recent effort, Renewal, raised \$300,000 in pledges toward debt retirement, refurbishing the sanctuary, and \$25,000 for Lutheran Social Service.

- Over the past 25 years, volunteers have undertaken many other capital improvement and updating projects funded by special gifts from individuals and groups.
- 125th Anniversary Love Gift of \$16,000 to Messiah Lutheran, Janesville, Iowa to assist in building a new church.

The congregation has continued to face ongoing shortages in the annual operating budget, evidenced by the debt repayments incorporated into special campaigns. To address growing costs associated with the school, the church council established a set amount for the school in the congregational budget. The School Board also identified other funding sources, including an annual fund, scholarship fund, individual gifts, interest from endowments, and increased tuition.

For many years, the congregation did not deal with the reality that its budgeted commitments to mission outreach (benevolence) were only partially met. Many members knew this was a self-defeating attitude, and at the annual meeting in November 1987, the congregation passed a motion that "benevolence" would be given as "first-fruits" on a monthly basis. However, when money was short and the council had reached the assigned debt limit of \$30,000, it was reported at the November 1989 annual meeting that no benevolence had been paid since June of that year. Another motion was passed to remove the debt limit and to borrow the money to pay the budgeted benevolence.

Finally, it seemed, the congregation had learned a stewardship principle: when we neglect outreach toward others, we diminish ourselves. At the end of 1996, the congregation had an indebtedness of \$84,500 and payments were scheduled through budgeted funds. Most significantly, the congregation incurred no new indebtedness for current operating expenses during the last two years.

Pastor Dennis Dickman wrote in the April 1997 *Epistle* : "Signs of new life are visible here at St. Paul's: the anniversary offering designated for Messiah Lutheran in Janesville, Iowa. This is the first time, in my memory, that we have had a special fund appeal solely for the purpose of helping others rather than ourselves. We are getting serious about 'reaching out'—being a blessing as we have been blessed."

St. Paul's members have the capabilities to offer leadership and resources for significant mission as we move to the close of the century and enter the new millennium.



ST. PAUL'S TEAM MINISTRY

The general concept of team ministry was introduced to St. Paul's in 1963, following the resignation of Pastor William Schmidt. When Pastor Durwood Buchheim was called as senior pastor in 1968, he arrived with a new and enhanced plan for team ministry and introduced it to the Church Council. The council expressed concern that "nobody would be in charge and that the buck would not stop anywhere." Buchheim responded that his concern was about "where the buck started, not where it stopped." In that spirit, the council accepted the plan. By 1970, the team of Pastors Buchheim, Larry Trachte, and George Hanusa was in place.

At various times over the years, congregational understanding of the team ministry included pastors, St. Paul's School principal, youth director, director of music, and business manager as team members. Since the reorganization of the congregational structure in 1996, team ministry has been defined to include only the three pastors. The Parish Management Staff includes the three pastors, school principal, organist and director of music, and the business manager.



Durwood Buchheim
1968 - 1973



George Hanusa
1968 - 1976



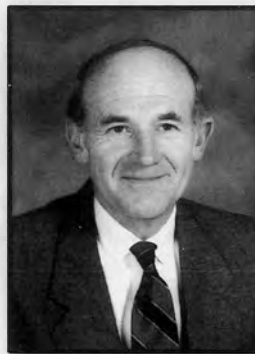
Larry Trachte
1970 - 1974



L. David Brown
1973 - 1979



Michael Burk
1994 -



Dennis Dickman
1980 -



Joyce Sandberg
1996 -



Glen Wheeler
1975 - 1994



David Solberg
1977 - 1984



Evon Flesberg
1985 - 1990



Debra Von Fischer
1991 - 1994

According to Pastor Dennis Dickman, 30 years after its inception at St. Paul's, the concept of team ministry is still somewhat unusual in the United States, especially in the equality of responsibilities shared by St. Paul's pastors. Each team member has distinct responsibilities relating to individual strengths and interests. As a member of the team, each pastor is involved and informed regarding the responsibilities and activities of the others through informal meetings and regularly scheduled staff meetings. There, they can focus on current and future activities, priorities, and issues.

LEADERSHIP

The German pioneers of Bremer County would have been amazed to know that a century later, St. Paul's congregation would be served by three full-time pastors. St. Paul's pastors over the past 25 years have brought to the congregation their own personalities and diverse talents and left their own legacies.

Durwood Buchheim

Like many men of his generation, Durwood Buchheim's career was sidelined before it started by military service. It was not until after three years as a Naval Air Corps pilot that he entered Wartburg College and then Wartburg Seminary. Following his ordination in 1956, he served Trinity Lutheran in Waterloo, first as assistant and then as senior pastor.

When Pastor Buchheim accepted the call to St. Paul's in 1968, he brought with him not only his wife Dona and their family but his vision of a true team ministry. By 1972, he and Pastors Hanusa and Trachte had nurtured and developed the idea, which has been practiced successfully by our pastors for the past 25 years.

During Buchheim's tenure, the congregation was trying to decide whether to build a new church or begin a major renovation of the existing building. Feelings ran high on both sides of the issue, with the pastors remaining neutral. Progress toward a decision was slow and finally reached an impasse. With need for repairs reaching a critical stage, Pastor Buchheim broke his silence. He managed to convince the congregation that it must come together and move forward, whatever the decision might be. The impasse was breached, and the crisis was resolved. The final outcome was a beautifully restored house of worship.

Buchheim's pastorate at St. Paul's ended in 1973, when he left to accept the position of executive assistant of the Iowa District. He later became bishop of the same district. From 1979 until his retirement in 1992, he served as a professor of homiletics at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

George Hanusa

After graduating from Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary, George Hanusa served several Iowa congregations. He also spent a year studying in Germany. After accepting a call from St. Paul's, he was installed on July 28, 1968.

Pastor Hanusa had a special affinity for the youth of the congregation and the community. In addition to his church duties, he served as board president of JZY II, a group which operated a drop-in house where Waverly youth could participate in educational programs and art and drama workshops. The center established a crisis line and made counseling referrals as needed. For this, as well as his work with establishing a recreational program for local residents of all ages, Hanusa received a distinguished service award from the Waverly Jaycees.

At least one former member of the Board of Trustees remembers with a smile that Pastor Hanusa always had an extra little project for the Trustees' consideration and action. Whenever the congregation completed a project, be it in a week or in three months, Pastor Hanusa was right there with another. His projects, like the loaves and fishes by the Sea of Galilee, kept multiplying.

Pastor Hanusa and his wife Janet left St. Paul's in 1976 to become assistant to Iowa District Bishop Buchheim, his former co-pastor. For a decade before his retirement in September 1997, he was director of public relations and church relations for Lutheran Social Service of Iowa. He also wrote a book, *Hope for All Seasons*, which chronicles the history of LSS.

Larry Trachte

Coming to St. Paul's as a newly ordained minister in 1970, Larry Trachte and his wife Lois were no strangers to Waverly. They had attended Wartburg College, where he pursued majors in history and German. During his college years, he was also a Bonn University exchange student in Germany. After earning his B.A., he entered Wartburg Seminary and served his internship in Berlin, Germany.

Pastor Trachte had been at St. Paul's only one month before the congregation sent him packing. His entourage included two busloads of young people and several adult sponsors, all headed to a National Youth Conference in New York. It was the beginning of an active commitment to the youth of St. Paul's. The following summer, the first group from St. Paul's spent a week at Luther Village near Kenora, Canada, accompanied by Pastor Trachte and a number of other sponsors. The success of that effort led to two camps the next year, one for the youth and one for families.

Pastor Trachte made so many trips to Luther Village that St. Paul's presence was once noted in the local Kenora newspaper. The reporter teasingly declared that since he'd seen a canoe traveling sideways across the lake, "the Iowa pastor and his group" must have arrived. The camp tradition begun by Pastor Trachte in 1971 continued until 1992. Another Trachte tradition was monthly visits between the youth of St. Paul's and residents of the Bremer County Home—one of the local responses to the New York conference theme, "We Say We Care."

Pastor Trachte left St. Paul's in 1975 to accept a call as college pastor and assistant professor of religion at Wartburg College. He and his family remain members of St. Paul's congregation.

L. David Brown

A promise to visit every St. Paul's family within a short time following installation is not a vow that many new pastors would care to make. L. David Brown (1973-1979) not only promised, but he and his wife Ginnie kept a weekly schedule of visits to fulfill his promise.

Brown's sermons and pastoral activities reflected his strong Gospel-oriented theology. He also inspired the congregation to new heights of awareness about global concerns. During his ministry, St. Paul's members helped people in South Africa, Tanzania, and Namibia. The congregation financed two Self-Help tractors for Third World countries. Together with members of Redeemer and St. John's Lutheran churches, St. Paul's sponsored 12 Vietnamese refugees displaced by war. The congregation became aware of Native American concerns through a variety of activities, including guest speakers and exchange visits with residents of the Meskwaki Settlement at Tama and visitors from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.

Pastor Brown also published a book during his years at St. Paul's. *Take Care* discusses ways in which people can minister to one another in their daily lives.

Pastor Brown served St. Paul's until June 1979, when he was elected to succeed Durwood Buchheim as bishop for the Iowa District of the American Lutheran Church. When a merger of several Lutheran bodies created the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1988, Pastor Brown became bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod and moved from Des Moines to Waverly, where the synod headquarters were located. Now retired, he still actively serves congregations in Minneapolis.

Glen Wheeler

Glen Wheeler began his work at St. Paul's at the beginning of July 1975. Because the other pastors were on leave or vacation, his installation did not take place until August 3. Pastor Wheeler was on special assignment to the Ecumenical Institute in Newark, N. J., when he received the call from St. Paul's. After graduation from Concordia College, he had attended Luther Theological Seminary. He also served St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, Wis., for eight years before moving to Newark.

Pastor Wheeler filled the vacancy left by Pastor Trachte's resignation. He continued the work with Luther Village and the Holy Family visitations that had begun several years earlier. The last annual family trip to



Pastor Glen Wheeler offered fishing tips during a St. Paul's School Outdoor Education Week at EWALU.

Luther Village took place in the summer of 1992. Exchange visits between the youth of St. Paul's and Holy Family continue.

Seventeen St. Paul's members representing different age groups joined the "Caring Community" in 1990. This first group, led by Pastor Wheeler and Verona Zelle, studied how the Word of God can empower ministry through life in the everyday world.

Part of the ministry in the world for St. Paul's pastors includes serving as chaperones and instructors for St. Paul's School's annual outdoor education week at Camp EWALU. Pastor Wheeler, an avid hunter and fisherman since his boyhood in Montana, was well qualified for this role, and his enthusiasm for the program was well known. His wife Jane,

a fifth grade teacher at St. Paul's School, participated in these outdoor education events. In 1985, Pastor Wheeler served as chair of the Camp EWALU board during the search for a new camp director and the launching of a capital funds campaign.

After 19 years at St. Paul's, Pastor Wheeler left in 1994 for a parish in Minneapolis.

David Solberg

Following the resignation of Pastor Hanusa, a letter of call went to David Solberg. A graduate of Wisconsin State University and Wartburg Seminary, he was then serving a church at Elk Horn, Wis. Pastor Solberg accepted the call and was installed on August 28, 1977. While serving St. Paul's he married his wife Diane and combined their families.

His leadership and creative approaches were especially helpful in the area of stewardship. Because his two sons were enrolled in St. Paul's School, he was especially active in school affairs as both a parent and a pastor.

During Pastor Solberg's tenure at St. Paul's, the steeple cross was regilded as part of a roof renovation project. On the day the regilded cross was returned to its position atop the steeple, Pastor Solberg led a memorable service highlighted by the St. Paul's School children singing, *Lift High the Cross*. Pastor Solberg resigned in 1984 to accept a development position at Wartburg Seminary. On leaving Waverly, he expressed his feelings about St. Paul's:

"Worship at St. Paul's is a power-filled and empowering experience. The significance of



Christmas 1981: Pastors Dennis Dickman, David Solberg, and Glen Wheeler and families, school principal Glenn Bracht and family, youth director Mary Rowland.

all means of God's grace, His word, and sacraments is unsurpassed in the whole church. It is undergirded by exceptional theological, liturgical, and pastoral perceptions, which serve the people of God well and in the best of traditions."

Dennis Dickman

The year 1980 began at St. Paul's with the installation of Dennis Dickman. After completing his studies at Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary, Pastor Dickman was ordained on September 1, 1963. He began his ministry in Ohio and later served a congregation in Colorado. In 1975, he joined the faculty of Wartburg Seminary House of Studies in Denver, Colo. Returning to the role of parish pastor several years later, he accepted the call to St. Paul's. Almost immediately after his installation here, he began Old Testament classes. He continued to teach the annual six-week course, attended by members of St. Paul's and the community at large, for 17 years. As an enhancement to the Old Testament classes, Pastor Dickman and Erna Moehl organized a class in Hebrew.

Realizing the value of continuing education for the pastors, the congregation created the opportunity for each pastor to take a study sabbatical after every seven years of service. Pastor Dickman, the first to benefit from this decision, spent a month studying in England. He and his wife Karen spent a subsequent sabbatical in Israel. His interest in education went beyond the walls of St. Paul's. He served on the Wartburg College Board of Regents and chaired the board of L'Chaim, an ELCA regional continuing education program, and the ELCA Board of Education. Granted an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Wartburg Seminary in 1988, he also served on the ELCA Church Council and the Iowa District Council.

In the 1990s, the ties between Wartburg College and Eisenach, Germany, home of the Wartburg Castle, were renewed by the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification. As a result, Waverly and Eisenach formalized a Sister City agreement. In a parallel relationship, St. Paul's became a sister congregation to St. Georg's in Eisenach. Pastors Dickman and Burk visited St. Georg Church in 1995. Since that time, both the cities and congregations have maintained an active relationship.

Several members suggested to Pastor Dickman the possibility of producing a children's worship bulletin. He favored the idea and put the project in motion. *Windows for Worship*, a bulletin with activities based on the text for the day, has been given to each child attending worship services since Advent 1992.

When flood waters ravaged much of Iowa in the summer of 1993, Pastor Dickman found new meaning to the phrase, "If the creeks don't rise." The rising Cedar River posed a double threat, since both his church and home were within a block of the river. Unfortunately, neither structure escaped misfortune. St. Paul's suffered considerable damage, especially to the new elevator shaft, and the basement of the Dickman home was flooded.

Pastor Dickman accepted a call to Faith Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Iowa, in the summer of 1997. During his years at St. Paul's, the church experienced many changes and celebrated a multitude of blessings. Children now are allowed to take communion beginning in the third grade, and a Saturday evening service has been added. A regilded cross, restored stained glass windows, a new elevator, and a refurbished sanctuary are a few of the material signs of vitality and renewal within the church. Less tangible, but no less vital, is the increased leadership by members through such innovations as Vision 2000, a revised constitution, and CROS (Committee for the Review of Organization and Structure). One blessing Pastor Dickman especially appreciated was the many ordinations, commissionings, and consecrations of nearly thirty members of St. Paul's during the past quarter-century.

Evon Flesberg

The pastoral staff was at full strength again when St. Paul's installed its first woman pastor, Evon Flesberg, on April 21, 1985. Professor Gerhard Ottersberg, who wrote an earlier account of St. Paul's history, later recalled that it was a day in which he felt great pride in his congregation. He reminded the members that St. Paul's had been on the leading edge of change before. The church had undertaken the conversion to services conducted in the English language rather than in German earlier than many area congregations. St. Paul's women had also been given the vote and elected to church councils long before many of their contemporaries. In calling Pastor Flesberg, Ottersberg said St. Paul's had again exhibited its pioneer spirit. Pastor Flesberg was a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., and Wartburg Seminary in

Dubuque. She had served a congregation in Dubuque before moving to Waverly. She was interested in women's studies and was often asked to speak at women's gatherings. She also worked with women in leadership roles, both secular and within the church. During her years at St. Paul's, she continued to provide leadership for Search Bible Studies at the district level and also served on the boards of Bremwood and Lutheran Social Service. The congregation sadly bid her farewell in June 1990, when she left to pursue graduate studies at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., where she is now on staff.

Debra von Fischer

To succeed Pastor Flesberg, St. Paul's called Debra von Fischer, who was then serving as a co-pastor with her husband Peter at Lansing and Waterville. A graduate of St. Olaf College and Luther Northwestern Seminary, Pastor von Fischer was also a professional harpist. Her installation service was held on June 23, 1991. She fostered a number of initiatives during her four years at St. Paul's: children's sermons, Cool Christians (a youth group for grades 4-6), and the Wednesday Witnesses (an after-school gathering for children aged 3 through grade 6). Her concerns were not limited to youth, nor to St. Paul's members, but extended to the welfare of all people. She said, "Community outreach is very much tied to our wellness, which includes physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual issues." In 1995, for the second consecutive year, St. Paul's experienced a pastoral vacancy when Pastor von Fischer left to accept a call to a parish in Atlanta, Ga.

Michael Burk

Pastor Burk first came to Waverly to attend Wartburg College. Upon graduation in 1977, he taught high school math for a number of years at Solon. He again made Waverly his home when he became a member of the Actuarial Department of Lutheran Mutual Life Insurance Company. He and his wife Diane were members of St. Paul's congregation during those years when he made the decision to enroll at Wartburg Seminary. After graduation, he assumed his first pastorate at Zion Lutheran Church in Dysart. Several months after Pastor Wheeler's departure, Pastor Burk returned to Waverly and was installed November 12-13, 1994 to serve the congregation where he had been ordained by Pastor Dickman in 1987. He characterized his arrival as "less a return than a step forward—not so much a going back, as a moving into the future in faith."

Pastor Burk has served as pastor-in-residence and on the Development Council at Wartburg Seminary, as voting delegate at the 1997 Churchwide Assembly in Philadelphia, and as a representative of the Northeast Iowa Synod on the Justice Commission of Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa. He is a doctoral candidate in the School of Religion at the University of Iowa. His wife, Diane, is an elementary teacher in Waverly.

Joyce Sandberg

Joyce Sandberg, a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Luther Seminary, was installed at St. Paul's March 23-24, 1996. One of the earliest women ordained in the Lutheran traditions that became the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, she came to Waverly with parish ministry experience in Cumberland and Waupaca, Wis., and New London, Minn. She had previous Bible study leadership experience and had written curriculum materials for junior high students.

Pastor Sandberg presently serves on the Lutheran Campus Ministry board at the University of Northern Iowa and is a member of the Northeastern Iowa Synod Consultation Committee. She is involved in Doctor of Ministry studies at Luther Seminary. Her husband, Rev. Irving Sandberg is a writer of biblical studies and currently serves as pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. Pastor Joyce Sandberg's 20th ordination anniversary in 1997 coincided with the 125th anniversary of St. Paul's founding.

Business Managers

As early as 1973, the Church Council realized that the business aspects of the congregation and the overall management of the staff called for the services of a business manager. Adding another salary to the budget was a major hurdle, and it was not until 1991 that Ron Heth was hired to fill the position. Lois Lindell took over the responsibilities in 1992. Sally Schneider, who had served as parish office coordinator from 1989 to 1996, is the current business manager.

CROS

As a new century approached, it was a logical time to look at the organizational structure of St. Paul's. With the adoption of a new mission statement, a number of changes were necessary to better fit and equip St. Paul's for its mission of "proclaiming and living the life-changing love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ." A Committee for the Review of Organization and Structure (CROS) began meeting to explore better ways of providing vision and long-term planning, to clarify the roles of the boards and committees, to simplify the congregation's organizational structure, and to arrange all these changes to make more efficient use of congregational resources of time and talent.

CROS, chaired by Kathy Olson, evaluated the organizational structure of the congregation, recommended appropriate changes, and created plans for implementation. The committee presented proposed constitutional changes to the council and the congregation in December 1995. Feeling that the CROS plan would enable St. Paul's to strengthen its mission and ministry, the congregation approved it, together with appropriate constitutional changes, at the January 1996 annual meeting.

Central to the recommended changes was a new concept of the Church Council's role. The council had traditionally tried to coordinate and balance all actions and activities by the various boards. Rather than originating ideas, the council sometimes seemed to function as a rubber stamp for the ideas of others. CROS proposed that the council set the overall vision and goals for the congregation and that these directives be implemented and carried out by the boards. To emphasize this reversal of roles, the Church Council was renamed the Parish Planning Council (PPC).

The Church Council had grown to an unwieldy number of 21 persons. Despite, or perhaps because of, such a large membership, attendance at meetings sometimes reached only 50 percent. To permit more flexibility and to expedite responses, PPC membership was set at 12: congregational officers (president, president-elect, and secretary/treasurer), board chairs, the three pastors, and the business manager. The pastors, who previously had no vote, have one vote apiece. The business manager has no vote. All officers, board chairs, and board members are elected to staggered two-year terms, with the president serving the first year as president-elect and the second year as president of the congregation.

The number of boards was reduced to six: Worship, Parish Life, Mission, Parish Education, School, and Finance and Property. The chairs of each board, as well as five additional members on each board, are elected by the congregation. Boards can make programming decisions and develop activities to implement and accomplish the goals established by the PPC without asking council approval for each action. Boards may also delegate work to committees, which are accountable to the board rather than the council. Lines of accountability are maintained through the board chairs, who serve on the PPC.



Kathy Olson chaired CROS, Committee for the Review of Organization and Structure at St. Paul's.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has continued to provide our younger members with increased Biblical knowledge and spiritual growth opportunities. Dedicated volunteers have served as teacher-aides, curriculum coordinators, administrators, and perhaps most important, as role models.

As St. Paul's perception of the needs and interests of youth change, so have the materials and methods used to help reveal God's unchanging love.

The Sunday School has used *Mission Life*, *Rejoice*, *Wings*, and *Good News* curriculum materials, with the latter now extending from third through seventh grades. In 1978, an inner-generational Sunday School was held in the church basement, focusing on the parables of Jesus. The following year, 1979, Summer Sunday School classes were discontinued. On opening day in 1985, the Sunday School reached a record (for recent years) enrollment of 225. A new class for post-confirmation-age youth began that same year, was later discontinued, and has now developed into a Sunday evening group. In 1989, Sunday School classes for special education students began again.

As the 21st century nears, St. Paul's Sunday School will continue to evolve. Its call remains to spread the Good News through word and example, to remind students of their baptisms as they walk daily in the same baptismal covenant with the assurance that nothing can separate them from the love of God through Christ Jesus.

ADVENT, LENTEN PRESCHOOL

Under the leadership of Barbara Zemke, St. Paul's established an Advent preschool in 1976, followed by a Lenten preschool in 1980. These one-week classes for 3-5-year-olds are open to the public.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School has undergone several transitions over the past 25 years in order to better meet family needs and time constraints. A traditional Bible school during the last week of July was offered until 1978, at which time it was changed to the first week in June. After four years, this was replaced by a two-week family vacation Bible school, which met in the evening. As part of that plan, children met Wednesday evenings during June and July. Between 1984 and 1993, St. Paul's Church sometimes joined with Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly to offer Bible School. In a one-year experiment in 1995, Bible School met one full day in the winter and another full day in late summer. An intergenerational Bible School, open to members of all ages, was introduced in 1996. It met evenings for one week at the beginning of summer vacation.



1976 Sunday School Staff from left: Orval Serfoss, Catharine Folkers, Ed Kohlmann.



1997 Sunday School Superintendents Barb Schmidt and Dave Gade.



Ed Kohlmann spoke during a gathering to recognize his 50-plus years of service as Sunday School treasurer.

ADULT EDUCATION

In 1973, an Adult Education Committee organized to plan and oversee Sunday morning adult education offerings. The classes give adults an opportunity to focus on Bible studies or important social, political, economic, religious, or daily living issues from a Christian perspective.

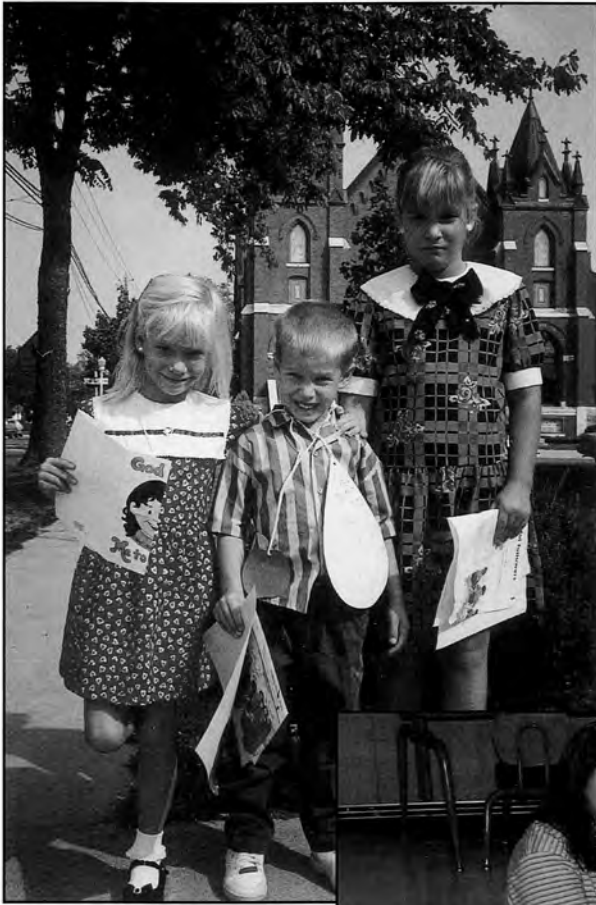
Search, a five-year weekly Wednesday evening Bible study, began in 1982. In 1991, St. Paul's offered *Crossways*, a two-year Bible study.

A 16-week session in 1991 focused on *Caring Community*, an intergenerational group whose purpose was to empower people to focus on everyday life as ministry to others. Another group, *Couples Communicating*, started in 1992 to meet the changing needs of married couples. In the 1970s, Pastor Trachte began a series of men's Lenten breakfast discussions, which in turn led to Pastor Wheeler's weekly morning Bible study. Later, Pastor Dickman led a men's breakfast Bible study group in monthly meetings.

Adult education has become much more than just adult Sunday School classes. Real efforts have been made to meet our congregation's needs through groups that meet throughout the week to nourish the Christian spirit and to help members reach out and make a difference in the lives of others. Pastor Dennis Dickman's Old Testament classes, which began in 1980 and continued until his leaving in 1997, were open to the public.



Pastor Dennis Dickman initiated a popular Old Testament class



Sunday School
Vacation Bible School



ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

St. Paul's Lutheran School has been in existence as long as the church itself. When the first community of Lutheran believers in Waverly met on May 9, 1872, to consider starting a new church and school, they called a pastor who was also teacher for the classes that began on Sept. 1, 1872.

St. Paul's Lutheran School is the oldest ELCA elementary school west of the Mississippi. It is the only ELCA elementary school in the state of Iowa. The school is committed "to offering a quality education to all children in a caring environment which provides Christian nurture and enables Christian outreach." This mission statement, adopted in 1984, continues to serve as the school's guide.

Enrollment during the last quarter-century has fluctuated from a low of 110 students during the 1972-73 school year to a high of 174 students in 1975. The 1996-97 enrollment was 131, with 71 students from St. Paul's parish, 26 from other Lutheran congregations, and 34 from other denominations. These figures do not include the preschool, which had a 1996-97 enrollment of 85 students. During the 1972-73 school year, 36 percent of the students were not members of St. Paul's. During the 1996-97 school year that number had risen to 46 percent.

School funding comes from four main sources: St. Paul's church budget, tuition, the endowment fund, and the annual fund. In addition to these sources, a scholarship fund was established in 1973 so that all students who wish to attend are financially able to do so. In 1996-97, 23 percent of the students received financial help.



QUALITY EDUCATION

St. Paul's School has always been concerned with quality education. During the past 25 years, many new programs have been implemented toward achieving that goal. In 1979, the school hired its first trained and certified media specialist. That same year saw the establishment of the Talented and Gifted Program, which has taken several forms over the years. The present program consists of identification in the early grades and a pull-out program in grades 4-6.

Until 1980, the school principal also held teaching responsibilities. That year, Principal Glenn Bracht, was relieved of his teaching responsibilities to implement the Talented and Gifted Program and to administer the increased enrollment of the school. Dr. Bracht became the first person to serve as a full-time administrator, an arrangement that has been continued with his successors as well. The qualifications of Principal Wanda Lightfield enabled St. Paul's to meet a new state standard requiring elementary schools to have a guidance counselor.



St. Paul's School teaching staff, 1997

Technology arrived when the sixth graders, their parents and teacher Judi Langholz raised funds to purchase the school's first computer in 1980. The addition of many computers, monitors, VCRs, and camcorders over the ensuing 17 years has made possible a well-rounded computer program at the school.

The uniqueness of St. Paul's School can best be exemplified by a statement from the 1981 annual report, which quoted a local Area VII educational specialist, who said, "There's a warm and caring atmosphere here that I don't feel in any of the other schools."

Over these years, St. Paul's school was blessed with caring teachers. Edna Wessel retired in May of 1974 after 32 years as a teacher and principal. Deloris Laube retired in 1991 after 33 years of teaching. Other teachers and staff have given long years of service to the school. During the 125th anniversary year, we honored these people, including Dorelina Zelle, our oldest continuous member who is also a former St. Paul's School teacher. The school welcomed back former teacher Kathryn Koob at a reception on Feb. 12, 1981, following her release from 444 days of captivity as a hostage in Iran.

In addition to the regular classroom teachers at the school, part-time teachers and teacher aides provide instruction for all students in art, music, physical education, and computer and media skills. The School Board has offered continuing education stipends to teachers for graduate course work. In addition, the pastoral staff has provided training in theological and doctrinal matters. In 1985, 11 staff members were ALC-certified; now there are five. In March 1997, the School Board recommended that the Principal Wanda Lightfield be commissioned as an Associate in Ministry.

FACILITIES

School facilities have seen several improvements during the past quarter-century. The media center was renovated in 1988 to incorporate a reading loft and additional shelving. In 1987, the graduating sixth graders funded construction of a basketball court on the playground. New playground equipment is designed to promote both safety and creative play. A wood-chip playing surface and fenced play area also contribute to safety. As an added improvement in 1997, the school parking lot was blacktopped.

ACTIVITIES

Students continue to participate in weekly worship services. Each class has four turns during the year to provide leadership for the services. St. Paul's pastors and ministers from other congregations in the community help school children prepare and share the message at weekly worship. At monthly baptismal remembrance services, students whose baptismal dates are being recognized receive a special blessing. Monthly offerings go to projects chosen by the students, providing an opportunity for the children to reach out to others.

Students continue to present a musical each year, with the sixth graders filling the major roles. The school leads the congregation in the first midweek Advent service. Bartels Lutheran Home is St. Paul's Partner in Education. Students, residents, and staff work together to provide an opportunity to share with and learn from people of a different generation. Outdoor education continues to be a highlight for fifth and sixth graders. Principal Richard Pinkley initiated this popular program in 1971. Students spend a week at Camp EWALU learning about the environment and the glory of God's creation in a first-hand way. In 1996, an additional winter overnight experience was added for sixth graders. Since 1977, the school has enjoyed an affiliation with Bisai School in Japan. This was initiated by Vera Poppen, St. Paul's teacher, and John and Vernita Bowman, missionaries to Japan with ties to St. Paul's.

The past 25 years have produced changes in the way the school operates that reflect changes in society. One thing has not changed—the commitment to live and proclaim the life-changing love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.



St. Paul's School Choirs





Vera Poppen

Former St. Paul's School Teachers

Edna Wessel



Judi Langholz with 1986 sixth-grade graduates

YOUTH

St. Paul's interest in youth is reflected not only in its school and Sunday School, but in confirmation instruction, in a host of activities and programs for young people, and in the congregation's communion practices. The past quarter-century has seen a number of changes. Many of them resulted in encouraging greater involvement and responsibility on the part of younger members.

COMMUNION

The concept that children not yet confirmed could take communion became reality in 1976, when fifth graders began taking communion instruction. In 1991, believing that children at the third-grade level could also understand the acceptance that comes with communion, the church decided to offer these children the opportunity to share the bread and wine.

CONFIRMATION

St. Paul's has always been committed to having a strong confirmation program. Traditionally the pastors were the confirmation teachers, using a lecture style and requiring students to memorize Luther's Small Catechism and related Bible verses. In 1976 the confirmation program was revised to become a more individualized type of instruction and learning. Pastors Hanusa and Wheeler, along with Fran Mueller, developed packets that covered the traditional Bible study and catechism. Students worked through the packets individually or with small groups, and then discussed their work with a pastor or lay catechist. Parents monitored progress by checking a chart and by helping the students with memorization work.

Perhaps the most devoted lay catechist was Erna Moehl. Her gentle guidance and example inspired many young people to love and understand the Bible and the catechism. Confirmation students were encouraged to be involved in the life of the congregation as Sunday School teachers, ushers, acolytes, choir members, janitorial assistants—and in other ways as agreed upon by the pastors and the students. Erna provided lessons on how to prepare and teach younger children in the Sunday School.



Class of 1981



Class of 1977

During the implementation of the individualized confirmation program, two members of St. Paul's, Betty Smith and Barbara Zelle Anderson, began a program to ensure that students with learning disabilities would also have opportunity to learn to love and understand the Bible and the catechism. With the support of the pastors, catechists, and parents, this program has endured, and students with learning disabilities continue to enjoy the opportunity for the rite of confirmation.



Confirmation students and families experienced a traditional Passover meal

The current confirmation program includes practices adopted from both the traditional type of confirmation instruction and the individualized

program. Students meet in large groups for worship and for instruction, often led by a pastor. Then they divide into small groups with parents or St. Paul's members as leaders. The small groups discuss the lessons and plan service projects. This new program is designed to give students a strong foundation in their Lutheran heritage, to develop Christian community, and to encourage the students to apply their faith to daily life.

ACTIVITIES

A quarter-century ago, pastors served as youth advisers, assisted by adult counselors. Activities often involved visits to the Waverly Convalescent Home, the Bremer County Home, and Bartels Home. These visits were followed by some type of recreation. Sunday study-discussion-rap sessions and biweekly Bible study groups were also offered.

On the national level, St. Paul's youth continue to attend the National Youth Conventions. In 1973, the convention was held at the Astrodome in Houston, Texas. In July 1997, 28 young people and five adults traveled to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Other unique activities during the years 1970-1992 included Family Week at Luther Village, Kenora, Canada.

A Board of Youth, including one youth member, was established in 1979. Its mission was to support youth and involve them in the life and mission of the congregation. After screening and interviewing applicants, the board employed Mary Rowland in 1980 as the church's first youth coordinator.

A Youth Council, consisting only of youth members, was formed in 1984. Its purpose was to encourage young people to become more self-directed and aware of how to plan and organize their own activities. The youth coordinator served as facilitator for this group.

The following mission statement for the youth of St. Paul's was adopted in 1994 to give direction to their purpose as Christians:

To assist youth in knowing Christ's unconditional love and finding the courage to share God's blessing with all creation as called servants of God.

Youth activities during the late '80s included participation in two different Habitat for Humanity projects, a Harvest Soup Supper for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and the creation of Youth Room library with pamphlets and books of specific interest to youth. In the early 1990s, several young people from St. Paul's went to Chicago to help repair apartments in the Cabrini Green neighborhood.

In 1989, a decision to permit confirmed youth to serve with full status on congregational boards allowed St. Paul's youth to take a greater role in the congregational decision-making process. Beginning in 1991, youth began serving on the Fellowship and Education Committees. By 1996, however, youth no longer served on church boards and the Board of Youth and the Youth Council had dissolved. These changes appear to have resulted from time demands of school work and other activities rather than a decision to exclude youth. However, youth have continued to serve on call committees. They were also represented on the 125th Anniversary Committee and were involved in anniversary events, including the New Year's Eve worship service and reception and in building a float for the Waverly Heritage Parade. Youth participate as leaders in regular weekly worship services as well as offering both vocal and instrumental music. They also continue to serve as teachers in Sunday School and Wednesday Witnesses and assume a variety of volunteer roles during the course of each year.

Various youth programs have been established through the years, including the following:

1974 – Pre-confirmation program for seventh graders

1976 – Advent Preschool for 3–5 year olds

1980 – Lenten Preschool for 3–5 year olds

Wednesday evening programs have included:

1988 – WINGS program for age 3 through 6th grade



Youth volunteers at a Habitat for Humanity project.

- 1993 – Cool Christians for 4th through 6th graders
- 1994 – Wednesday Witnesses for age 3 through 6th grade, an ongoing after-school group first established by Pastor von Fischer
- 1995 – Cruisin' Christians for 7th graders
- 199 – Prime Time, a follow-up to youth Bible study
- 199 – The ROCK (Reaching Out as Christ's Kingdom), Sunday youth gatherings for 7th graders
- 199 – Breakfast Club, a morning group for high school youth
- 199 – TGIF (Teens Gather in Faith), a Sunday night gathering of high school youth
- 199 – Sunday Morning Live!, an 8th grade version of Breakfast Club

In order to assist graduating seniors, St. Paul's has established an EPIC (Educational Partners in Covenant)scholarship fund. Graduating seniors who are active members of the church and who attend an ELCA college receive \$50 per semester, which is matched by the college of their choice. The congregation continues to provide scholarships to seminary students and has helped support a number of seminarians in the past 25 years.

YOUTH DIRECTORS

Mary Rowland

Because the Lutheran Church emphasizes both ministry to children and to education, a strong youth program has always been a goal at St. Paul's. To firmly establish such a program requires a great commitment of time and talents. Recognizing this, the congregation hired Mary Rowland in 1980 as its first youth coordinator. Through her leadership, more youth became active in the life of the congregation. It was during this time that the youth board began publication of the monthly newsletter *SPARK* (St. Paul's Activities Regarding Kids).

In 1984, Rowland was commissioned as a church staff minister at St. Paul's, a position she held until 1987, when she resigned to enroll at Wartburg Seminary. She was ordained in 1992.

The struggle by other staff members to absorb Rowland's duties created a significant challenge. On the other hand, financial considerations in supporting a youth director had to be addressed. The same question that had been raised several years earlier surfaced again: How can we afford this ministry? As before, the same answer was put forth: Can we afford NOT to make this investment in the future of the church?

Gloria Strickert

Gloria Strickert, a member of St. Paul's congregation, was installed as youth director in the summer of 1988. Peer ministry, a program in which teens minister to other teens, was implemented in the summer of 1992. About this time, she resigned to pursue further studies at Wartburg Seminary. In December 1996, she was consecrated in a service at St. Paul's as the synod's first—and the nation's seventh—ELCA diaconal minister. She currently serves as chaplain of Cedar Falls Lutheran Home.

Suz Smolik-Hagen

Following Gloria Strickert's departure, the Youth Board and volunteers took charge of youth programming. After a year's time, funding was granted for a part-time youth director. Suz Smolik-Hagen, a Wartburg graduate, began work in early 1994. She assisted in the growth of a new high school ministry program, a continuation of the peer ministry concept.

Linda Keeter-Schultz

When Smolik-Hagen left in 1996 to attend graduate school, Linda Keeter-Schultz filled the position for several months, balancing her time at St. Paul's with that of part-time youth director at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls and volunteer work.

Justin Boeding and Sara Larson

During the 1997 anniversary year, two Wartburg students, Justin Boeding and Sara Larson, assumed leadership of the youth program.

FACILITIES

The Church is not a building and a congregation is more than its property, but the community of saints needs a place to gather for worship and nurture, as well as a base from which to carry out its mission to the community and the world. Buildings also give visibility to the existence of a people committed to follow Jesus Christ and the rule which he came to establish. The buildings of St. Paul's are a witness to the faith of the members. The gilded cross on our steeple proclaims to all who see it the source of our hope: a God who submitted to ridicule and death so that humans could be brought back to God and enabled to live for God.

The first hundred years of congregational life prepared the congregation for entry into its second century by providing three significant structures: the church sanctuary, dedicated in 1908; the Parish Hall, dedicated in 1941; and the Education Center, dedicated in 1964.

Buildings require constant care, repair, and renovation in order to remain useful and to meet changing circumstances. Following the 1971 decision not to build a new church adjacent to the new Educational Center, St. Paul's was faced with needed property improvements. The last 25 years have required significant expenditures for maintenance, repair, and refurbishing of facilities.

The sanctuary and Parish Hall exteriors were tuckpointed, cleaned, and seal coated in 1984. The same work was completed at the Education Center in 1995. Roof repairs have included undergirding the structural support of the roof and installing a new copper roof in 1983 at a cost of \$130,000. The Education Center and the Parish Hall were re-roofed in 1994 at a total cost of \$93,000. Asbestos was removed from the Education Center.



Dave and Alan Hamilton worked with thin sheets of gold leaf as they regilded St. Paul's steeple cross

Several projects have resulted in significantly improved energy efficiency. The Education Center ceiling was insulated and additional insulation was added to the church ceiling in 1983. The Parish Hall ceiling was insulated in 1987. New furnaces were installed in the church in 1984, followed by a new air-conditioning system in 1992. New heating and air-conditioning units were installed in the Parish Hall in 1992.

A new narthex joining the church and the Parish Hall was dedicated on Pentecost Sunday, June 2, 1974. Built at a cost of about \$100,000, the addition greatly enhanced access to both structures and provided an area where members can meet and mingle when coming to worship or other activities. An elevator added to the narthex in 1988 at a cost of \$70,000 provides access to the main and lower levels of the church and the main level of the Parish Hall.

Numerous changes have been made to the church interior. A bride's room was created by the Friends in Faith on the lower level in 1967 and completely refurbished in 1975 and 1992. A new Zimmer organ was installed in 1976 at a cost of \$80,000 and extensively refurbished in 1993. A new sound system was installed in 1978 and replaced in 1993 in conjunction with the refurbishing of the sanctuary. The stained glass windows were removed, cleaned, repaired, and reinstalled in 1986, at a cost of \$62,500. The lower level of the church was remodeled in 1978 to create the Confirmation Center and to provide a reception/meeting area known later as Fellowship Hall.

The sanctuary was completely refurbished in 1992 at a cost of approximately \$212,000. The project involved:

- Repairing the walls with a "Gildwalling" process that seals the surface and helps prevent future cracking.
- Creating additional arches molding and gold striping to help define the separation between walls and ceiling.
- Installing decorative trim around the stained glass windows and adding painted highlights to enhance decorative details throughout the sanctuary.
- Repairing and refinishing the altar and pews.
- Rewiring the attic and installing new electrical service, rearranging lights, and adding new lights.
- Extending the chancel wainscoting to cover the area behind the lectern and pulpit, where ventilation ducts were reconfigured.
- Installing a new sound system.
- Carpeting the aisles and chancel floor, refinishing the nave floors, and rebuilding the balcony floor with new risers.
- Replacing balcony pews and rear pews in the sanctuary with chairs.
- Extending the chancel and moving the altar table forward, so worship leaders face the congregation during the liturgy.

The Parish Hall also was renovated during last 25 years. Offices were remodeled in 1973 and refurbished in 1988, and new windows were installed in 1978. The west classroom was refurbished in 1987 by reducing the size of the nursery. This allowed for the creation of the Luther Room, which is used for choir rehearsals and meetings. The nursery was refurbished in 1994. A downstairs classroom was converted to a Youth Room in 1987. The Social Room became an access route to the church after the completion of the narthex, severely limiting its usefulness. The room was remodeled in 1989 by creating a defined hallway and extending the room eastward into a former cloak room. New coat closets were built in rear of the Parish Hall auditorium.

Convenient parking became available when the congregation purchased the home east of the Parish Hall, removed the house, and made the area into a parking lot in 1976. The former parsonage east of the Education Center was removed in the late 1980s. The congregation voted down a motion to purchase the property on the corner north of the church in 1996. In 1996, a new sign identifying the church and the school was placed on the site along First Street. A new stage curtain was hung in the Parish Hall in time for 125th Anniversary events, thanks to the quilting ladies.

Much time, energy, and considerable financial commitment went into maintaining and improving the congregation's physical facilities during the last 25 years. The congregation has practiced good stewardship in development of its physical resources. The buildings and grounds are now in a good state of repair, adequate to enhance and enable the congregation's life and mission for many years to come.



Work on the sanctuary refurbishing was under way in 1992

What happens in buildings, and the mission that goes out from them, expresses the faithfulness and stewardship of a congregation. In and out of these buildings, St. Paul's can continue to focus on its mission.

CEMETERY

When St. Paul's was established, one of the early actions of its founders was to purchase land for a church cemetery. Over the years, the cemetery was enlarged several times with the most recent land purchase coming in 1978. A new fence was installed along the west edge of the property, and the fence separating St. Joseph's and St. Paul's cemeteries was removed. The cemetery roadway was extended in 1997. St. Paul's Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 750 people, including nearly three dozen pastors, one of whom, Friedrich Zimmermann, was pastor of St. Paul's. A special section of the cemetery recognizes young boys and girls from the Waverly Children's Home (now Bremwood) whose lives were taken by accident or disease after only a few years on this earth. During the anniversary year (1997) an early morning Memorial Day service, similar to those held annually in the past, was held at the cemetery.



St. Paul's Church Cemetery



RETROSPECTIVE

St. Paul's has seen many changes, large and small, between 1972 and 1997.

The size of the congregation has decreased. Baptized membership declined from 2,613 in 1972 to 2,086 in 1997. Confirmed membership fell from 2,018 in 1972 to 1,550 in 1997. Yet during this same period, the number of lay persons actively involved in the church has increased and their responsibilities have widened. During these 25 years nearly 30 members were ordained, commissioned or consecrated into church-related careers. Pastor Dennis Dickman said lay involvement indicates that members see St. Paul's as "their" church and that their participation is a manifestation of their commitment.

Organizational changes resulting from the CROS study rank as definitive actions of the past 25 years. Also significant was lowering the congregational voting age to 10th grade. Realizing that the opportunity for further study was valuable for pastors, the congregation also initiated a program granting a sabbatical leave following seven years of service.

During the past 25 years, the role of women in the congregation became more diverse and led to the calling of the church's first woman pastor, Evon Flesburg, in 1985. That same year Lois Coonradt was named St. Paul's first woman council president. Women continue to be active on the Parish Planning Council, boards, and a host of other new roles within St. Paul's.



Pastor Michael Burk visited with Pastor Evon Flesburg after she preached at the first service of the anniversary year.

Erna Moehl and Lois Coonradt at work in the church kitchen.



Members of the Parish Planning Council, 1997

VOLUNTEERS AT ST. PAUL'S



Helena Meyer and Elsie Pröttengier, Altar Guild



Henry Hay



Bethel and Leonard Schmidt in the Courtyard

Mabel Orth, Florence Rubenow, Lucy Infelt peeling potatoes for German Supper preparations



125TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR CELEBRATION

“Called to be Saints” was the theme for St. Paul’s 125th Anniversary Celebration. Some of its goals were: to honor pastors who served during the past 25 years; to create meaningful events involving all members; to thank and praise God for giving St. Paul’s 125 years of blessings. We also sought to bring encouragement and support for the ministry of Messiah Lutheran Church in Janesville by giving them a love gift to help build a new sanctuary in 1998. Nette Bahlmann and Howard Mueller co-chaired the 125th Anniversary Committee.

The congregation was reminded of the year-long celebration in many ways. A 1997 calendar, listing events to come throughout the year as well as significant events from St. Paul’s past, was created and presented as a gift to each family and to friends of St. Paul’s. This calendar was given by the families of Edna Wessel and Elsie Winter to honor their many years of service as faithful teachers of our children; by the family of Marvin Zelle in thanksgiving for the ministry of St. Paul’s School; and by Deloris Laube as a tribute to her school co-workers. A special logo was designed by Jon Liebau for use on the calendar, stationery, bulletins, history and other printed material. A banner, given in memory of Arlene Koehler by her family, was crafted by Karol Simmer. Trivia questions written by Bob Gremmels and Mel Kramer appeared in weekly bulletins, challenging the congregation to recall significant events in St. Paul’s history.

The anniversary celebration began on New Year’s Eve with a service planned and executed by the youth in coordination with Pastor Mike Burk and John Ylvisaker. St. Paul’s first woman pastor, Evon Flesburg of Nashville, Tenn., was guest preacher. The church bell, originally a gift of the youth many years ago, rang in the new year. The festive service was a grand prelude to our year of thanksgiving. Pastor Dickman later wrote, “The musical leadership of our youthful members brought us all hope and joy.” A total of 435 members and friends of St. Paul’s worshipped at this service and later gathered in the Parish Hall for a joyful reception. Out of the \$1,788 offering from that service, the Parish Planning Council designated \$1,500 for the Love Offering to Messiah Lutheran. It was a grand way to bring in 1997!

The celebration continued on January 19, when the Cherub Choir, under the direction of Karen Dickman, presented the premiere of the commissioned anniversary piece, *Saints on the Avenue*, written by John Ylvisaker, a member of the congregation. The work was commissioned in memory of Arthur F. Droste by his family.

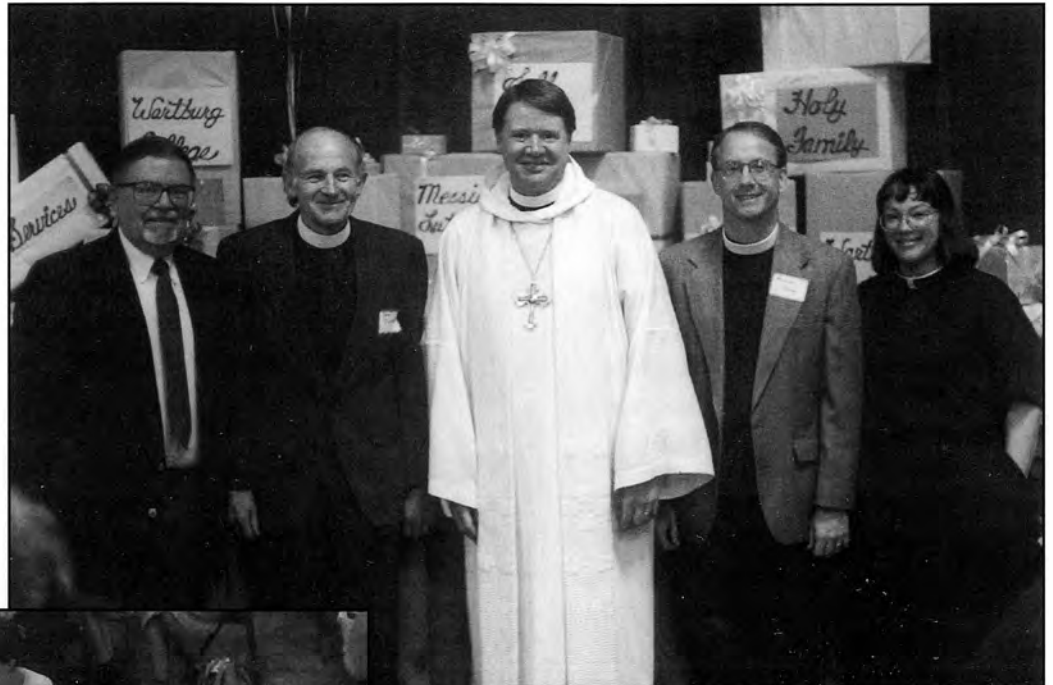
Former Pastor L. David Brown and his wife Ginnie joined us February 16 for Global Mission Sunday. The Browns, who reside in Minneapolis, were pleased to share David’s birthday as we hosted them at a congregational potluck meal on Sunday noon.

With spring weather and April showers, we welcomed former Pastor Durwood “Bud” Buchheim and Dona from Arkansas on April 20. Buchheim was joined for the day by his other team pastors and their wives: George and Janet Hanusa from Des Moines and Larry and Lois Trachte from Waverly. Pastor Buchheim preached at the services, and all three pastors and their families were honored at a congregational brunch at Wartburg College. The weekend theme, “Reflection Time,” set the spirit for a brunch gathering of more than 200 people. The Brunch Bunch (Chancel Choir) entertained the group with Linda Moeller’s rendition of “Rise Up, O Saints of God—Our birthday year is here—Where e’re we gather in God’s name—His spirit will be near.”

Bishop Steven Ullestad preached at all services May 4, Founders Day. Several choirs and the bell choir, under the direction of Alan and Pat Hagen, performed *Blooms of Grace*, a choral work written by James Fritschel and commissioned in memory of Arthur Droste by his family. A Founders Day Birthday Party was celebrated in the Parish Hall between the Sunday services. A surprise guest was the “ghost” of Rev. Johannes Graening, a former pastor of our mother church, St. John Lutheran in Maxfield Township. (He bore a remarkable resemblance to a great-great grandson, Cal Corson.) It was a festive day with music, activities, displays, and photos that lined the Parish Hall walls. The occasion was steeped with history and laced with memories of our congregation’s struggles through the years even as it reached out in service to others.

FOUNDERS DAY

Jim Fritschel, Dennis Dickman, Bishop Steven Ullestad, Pastor Mike Burk, Pastor Joyce Sandberg



Birthday cake!

Cal Corson portrayed his pastoral ancestor.



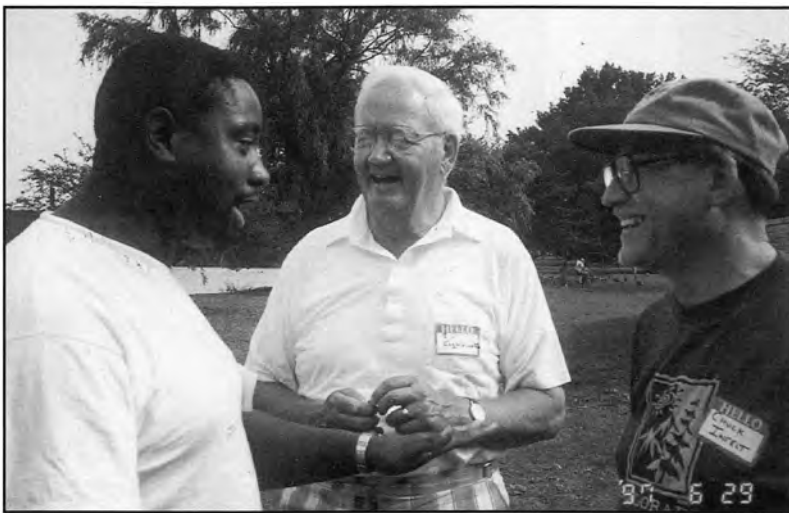
Anniversary display

Members of a history committee began writing a 25-year update of the history of St. Paul's congregation. The printing of this history was made possible by a gift in mormory of Pastor Arnold Jahr and by other memorial gifts.

On a cold and blustery Memorial Day, many members gathered at our church cemetery to remember saints of old and hear the word of guest speaker Ron Matthias. Pastor Dickman conducted the service, and Pastor Beth Olson of Messiah Lutheran in Janesville led the group in song. "This cemetery calls on us, the living, not only to remember, but to accept our calling as saints, to live out our lives in Christ for God's service, to continue the work of those who have gone before us," said Matthias. "We can do this in the sure and certain confidence that if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His." During a walk-about the cemetery following the service, the group remembered many of St. Paul's saints buried there.



Ron Matthias spoke at an anniversary event at St. Paul's Cemetery on Memorial Day 1997



Holy Family Visit 1997 included picnic fellowship with Holy Family member Johnney Hill, St. Paul's member Bill Engelbrecht, and Holy Family Pastor Chuck Infelt

With the arrival of children from Holy Family Church in Chicago at the end of June, we welcomed former pastor Debra von Fischer and her family from Atlanta, Ga. Following the outdoor worship service, the congregation gathered for a picnic in Kohlmann Park to reacquaint ourselves with Debra, Peter, and their children. Later in the afternoon, we enjoyed an ice cream social held in honor of the Holy Family children.

An anniversary video, which centered around the calling of St. Paul's down through the years, was produced by Jim Infelt, who donated his time as a gift to St. Paul's. Costs for this project were underwritten by memorials given by loved ones in memory of August Niewohner and Raymond Norheim, plus a generous gift from a member who

wishes to remain anonymous. Copies of this tape were made available to those wishing to purchase them for a cost of \$5.

Mid-July brought Waverly's Heritage Days. St. Paul's entered a float in the Heritage parade. The youth who built the float won first place in their division. St. Paul's School children were also in the parade, guiding their large physical education parachute along the parade route.

On "Back to School Sunday," August 24, our guests were Pastor Glen and Jane Wheeler from Minneapolis and Pastor David and Diane Solberg from Dubuque. Pastor Wheeler preached, and Pastor Solberg gave an

update on Wartburg Seminary. Also invited for the weekend were all past and present teachers and principals of St. Paul's School. A noon potluck meal and a short program to honor the guest teachers was followed by opportunity to recall Wheeler/Solberg stories, some fanciful, some true.

This event completed the plan to honor all eight of the former pastors as they revisited St. Paul's during our 125th Anniversary year. Each was presented with a gift hand-crafted by Gerald Becker.

In keeping with our heritage, a sit-down German supper was held in October—a delicious pork roast meal with “kraut” and all the trimmings. More than 200 were served by wait-persons from Redeemer Lutheran Church who volunteered to help us celebrate the anniversary year.

The 1997 Ecumenical Thanksgiving service was held at St. Paul's in honor of our anniversary year. Thanks to the help from St. Paul's Friends in Faith, we hosted a reception between services, inviting the community to join us as an extension of our gratitude and thanksgiving for 125 years of worship in Waverly.

A Christmas custom from decades past was revived for the anniversary year. Each of our Sunday School children received a special bag of treats following the Christmas program at Neumann Auditorium on the Wartburg College campus.

The anniversary celebration was allotted \$6,600, which included a \$1,000 gift from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL). The celebration expenses came in under budget thanks to the generosity of many. The Anniversary Committee raised over \$15,000 from solicited gifts and memorials. These funds helped underwrite such costly items as music commissions, calendars, pencils, banner, videos, and printing of the 25-year history update. The love gift collected for Messiah Lutheran in Janesville totaling \$16,000 was presented to Messiah congregation early in 1998.



St. Paul's youth won first prize in their category for a 125th anniversary float in the July 1997 Waverly Heritage Days Parade



Back-to-School Anniversary Potluck honored former Pastors Glen Wheeler and David Solberg and St. Paul's School teachers past and present



Friends in Faith hosted a reception following the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's in November 1997

Several needs surfaced during anniversary preparations. The committee discovered that for more than 25 years, records of births, baptisms, weddings, and deaths, as well as pictures and other archival material, have not been microfilmed for historical preservation. Rather than trying to microfilm, the committee recommended that St. Paul's purchase a computer scanner for recording these items. In 1996, Women of the ELCA gave \$1,500 toward the purchase of a fireproof file for storing archival items. The purchase of a used fire file for \$90 leaves the balance of this gift for another purchase, such as a scanner.

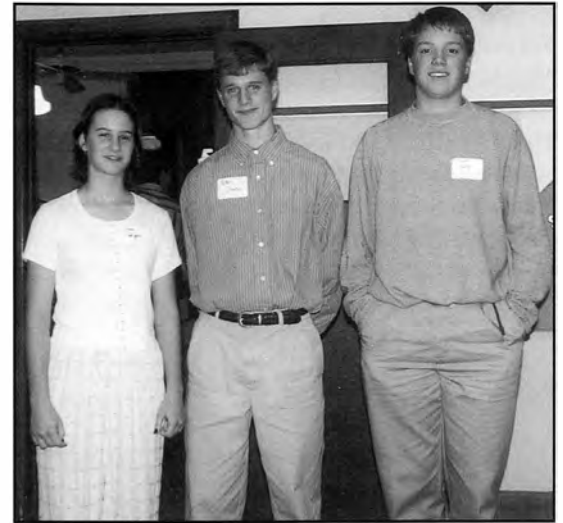
The Anniversary Committee strongly recommended the following actions to the staff and budget committee in October 1997:

1. Establish a line item in the 1998 budget and future budgets for costs associated with preservation of St. Paul's records. This would include purchasing necessary equipment (scanner, etc.) and engaging staff necessary to accomplish this work.
2. Make the business manager responsible for arranging an annual archiving of records.
3. Appoint an Archival Committee to carry out the ongoing maintenance of St. Paul's archival materials in accordance with accepted preservation standards.





St. Paul's 125th Anniversary Committee, front row from left: Louise Liebau, Nette Bahlmann, Lois Denner, Deloris Laube. Back row: Howard Mueller, Jim Corson, Roger Bishop, Ed Droste. Not present: Randy Groth, Richard Schrupp, Lois Coonradt.



Youth members of the 125th Anniversary Committee included, from left, Inger Bergom, Peter Drenkow, and Scott Suhr. Not present: Callie Leisinger.

125TH ANNIVERSARY VOLUNTEERS

Committee Co-Chairs
Committee Secretary
Committee Members

Jeannette Bahlmann, J. Howard Mueller
 Lois Denner

Inger Bergom, Roger Bishop, Lois Coonradt, James Corson, Peter Drenkow, Edward Droste, Randy Groth, Deloris Laube, Callie Leisinger, Louise Liebau, Richard Schrupp, Scott Suhr

Advisers
Anniversary Theme
Anniversary Logo
Anniversary Banner
Music

Pastors Dennis Dickman and Joyce Sandberg

"Called to be Saints" (suggested by Fran Mueller)

Designed by Jon Liebau, Bonnie Graeser, and Sue Orth

Created by Karol Simmer, commissioned in memory of Arlene Koehler by her family
 Commissioned in memory of Arthur Droste by his family:

Saints on the Avenue by John Ylvisaker, dedicated to the Cherub Choir

Blooms of Grace by James Fritschel, for St. Paul's choirs and bells

To Messiah Lutheran Church, Janesville

Lois Denner, Hiltrude Gronewold, Deloris Laube

Bob Gremmels and Mel Kramer

Jack Dahlby, chair; Frank Flickinger, Ardis Gaylor, Scot Simpson

Marion Fruehling, chair; Don Freeman, photography; Linda Moeller, editor; Terry Goetzing, Julie Drewes, Timothy Kretzmann, Ed Droste, Deloris Laube. Calendar given as a gift to the congregation in honor of former teachers.

Mary Cheville, Sue Hagemann, Ray Harms, Dale and Sandy Johnson, Bill Lynes,

Fran Mueller, Ed Zelle; Ron Matthias and Linda Moeller, editors

Jean Buckingham, chair; Jana Bruns, Jean Byl

Cyndi Ecker, Geneva Liebau, Lisa Liebau, Lynnette Schreen

Gerald Becker

Lee Hinrichs, Larry Judisch

Ardell Banker, Larry Judisch, Don Freeman

Duane Schroeder, Carolyn Eggers

Jon Tehven, Dale Johnson, Jean Byl, Greg Scholtz, Jon Liebau, Jim Infelt. Production costs underwritten in memory of August Niewohner and Ray Norheim, and by an anonymous gift

Anniversary Love Gift
Archives Inventory
Bulletin Trivia Questions
Finance
Anniversary Calendar

History Update

Christmas Window on Main
Special Decorations
Handcrafted Gifts
Video
Photos
Publicity
Anniversary-sponsored Video

New Year's Eve Service
New Year's Eve Reception
Potluck for Pastor Brown

Inger Bergom, Peter Drenkow, Randy Groth, Patricia Hagen, Pastor Burk

Becky McRobie

Jan Johnson

Brunch at Wartburg
Founders Day Reception
Memorial Day at Cemetery
Strawberry Fest,
Holy Family
Anniversary Float
"Back to School" Potluck
Program for Pastors
Wheeler, Solberg
German Supper
Ecumenical Thanksgiving
Reception
Christmas Treat Boxes

Jan and Bill Striepe
 Lois Coonradt
 Virgil Hartman, Lavern Moeller, John Laube

Kim Folkerts, Cindi Ecker
 Kathy Book, Cindi Ecker, Larry Salvas, youth of St. Paul's
 Ael and Julie Suhr

Lowell and Sue Syverson, Ed and Rosie Bahlmann, Lowell and Bonnie Granneman
 Judy Engelbrecht, Grace Westendorf

Friends in Faith, Janet Dotseth
 Brenda Schmidt

ST. PAUL'S PASTORS

1872-1876	M. Gerlach
1876-1877	Martin Eberhard
1877-1879	D. M Ficken
1879-1884	Prof. T. Eichler
1885-1886	Prof. F. Lutz
1886-1903	Frederick Zimmermann
1903-1908	John Weyrauch
1908-1932	Dr. Emil H. Rausch
1932-1943	Roland C. Schlueter
1941-1948	Otto Fangmeyer
1948-1963	Dr. William F. Schmidt
1951-1954	Dean Kilgust
1953-1958	William Weiblen
1958-1959	Herman Diers
1959-1960	Sig Sandrock
1959-1961	Gerald Nerenhausen
1962-1968	Glen Gronlund
1964-1969	Richard Rehfeldt
1966-1968	Wayne Stumme
1968-1973	Durwood Buchheim
1968-1976	George Hanusa
1970-1974	Larry Trachte
1973-1979	L. David Brown
1975-1994	Glen Wheeler
1977-1984	David Solberg
1980-1997	Dennis Dickman
1985-1990	Evon Flesberg
1991-1995	Debra von Fischer
1994-	Michael Burk
1996-	Joyce Sandberg
1998-	Kathleen Hesterberg

INTERN PASTORS

June 1956-1957	Wayne Stumme
Sept. 1957-1958	Glen Gronlund
Aug. 1958-May 1959	Loren Bliesse
May 1959-1960	Donald Oberdorfer (also at Wartburg College)
Aug. 1971-1972	Richard Rouse (also at Wartburg College)
June 1972-1973	John Clauson (also at Wartburg College)
Aug. 1973-June 1974	David D. Doerfler (also at Wartburg College)
Oct. 1984-Dec. 1984	Michael Buerger from Schaumburg, Germany
April 1992-July 1992	Stephan Strottman from Petzen,



Church Office Staff

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

MUSIC COORDINATORS

1950-1972 Warren Schmidt
 1972-1973 C. Robert Larson
 1973-1985 Warren Schmidt
 1986- Patricia Hagen

ORGANISTS

1950-1985 Warren Schmidt
 1972-1973 Nancy Houston
 1987-1988 Roy Carroll
 1988- Patricia Hagen

CHOIR DIRECTORS

1926-1951 Elsie Mueller - parish junior choir (first children's choir was established at St. Paul's School)
 1938-1942 Charlotte Becker - school junior choir
 1942-1974 Edna Wessel - school cherub choir, school-parish junior choir
 1953-1973 C. Robert Larson - chancel choir
 1953-1954 Leora Pries - school cherub choir
 1954-1957 Nadine Eske Mong - parish junior choir, school cherub choir
 1957-1961 Eunice Keller - parish junior choir, school cherub choir
 1961-1966 Laura Kruse - parish junior choir, school cherub choir
 1962-1963 Doris Anderson - parish junior choir
 1963-1964 Betty Baccarini - school choir, school cherub choir
 1964-1968 Lois Philippi - school choir
 1968-1969 Ruth Sletten - school choir
 1969-1976 & Marilyn Kumm Pinkley - school choir
 1973- Alan Hagen - chancel choir
 1976-1977 Phil Wangberg - school choir
 1976-1978 Marilyn Michaelson - school choir, school cherub choir
 1980-1997 Karen Dickman - parish cherub choir
 1981-1986 Jean Gammelmin - school choir, school bell choir
 1986-1992 Mary Mason - school choir, school bell choir
 1992-1995 Robin Myren - school choir, school bell choir
 1995- Nancy Dreyer - school choir, school bell choir
 1997- Jill Lammers - parish cherub choir

CUSTODIANS

1965-1973 Lloyd Pothast
 1965-1973 Hilda Pothast (part-time)
 1973-1974 George Adams
 1974-1974 Earl Schroeder (part-time)

1974-1974 Earl Janssen, Jr. (part time)
 1974-1981 JoAnn Love Fuoss
 1977-1981 Alfred Mueller (part-time)
 1980-1984 Vera Bunger
 1981-1984 Bill Bunger (part-time)
 1984- Larry Keeran
 1987-1994 Wilbert Brase (part-time)
 1985-1986, 1994 Jeff Hemingson (part-time)
 1997-1998 Darren Westendorf (part-time)

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

1963-1983 Dorothy Meyer - office coordinator
 1961-1981 Emma Kruger - financial secretary
 1966-1993 Lois Denner - receptionist, secretary
 1980-1986 Charlotte Westpfahl - volunteer services coordinator
 1986-1990 Jeri Steere - volunteer services coordinator
 1990-1992 Connie Van Laningham, volunteer services coordinator
 1983-1988 Terri Edman - office coordinator
 1988-1988 Barbara Bishop - office coordinator
 1981-1991 Ardis Gaylor - financial secretary
 1989- Sally Schneider - office coordinator, business manager (effective July 1, 1996)
 1991-1992 Ron Heth - business manager (first for St. Paul's)
 1992-1996 Lois Lindell - business manager
 1993- Joyce Williams - receptionist
 1996- Kate Mackey - secretary
 1996-1997 Denise Case - office coordinator
 1998- Lynda Mulder - office coordinator

YOUTH COORDINATORS

1980-1987 Mary Rowland - commissioned as Associate in Ministry, later ordained as clergy
 1988-1992 Gloria Strickert - commissioned as Associate in Ministry, consecrated as Diaconal Minister, now serving as a chaplain
 1994-1996 Suz Smolik-Hagen
 1996-1997 Linda Keeter Schultz
 1997-1998 Justin Boeding, Sara Larson (Wartburg students)
 1998- Kirsten Nelson, Tobi Reinert, Lisa Smith (Wartburg students)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

1925	Louis Braun	1950	Elmer Knief	1975	James Hansen
1926	Louis Braun	1951	S. Wayne Jones	1976	J. O. Chellevoid
1927	Louis Braun	1952	C. F. Carstensen	1977	Russell Solheim
1928	Louis Braun	1953	Meinhardt Kettner	1978	Russell Solheim
1929	Louis Braun	1954	Arthur F. Droste	1979	Leo Johnson
1930	Ernest Roloff	1955	John Meyer	1980	C. Arthur Christiansen
1931	William Koch	1956	W. H. Engelbrecht	1981	Harvey Holleman
1932	Otto Hardwig	1957	J. O. Chellevoid	1982	Lowell Syverson
1933		1958	J. O. Chellevoid	1983	Roger Bishop
1934		1959	A. H. Niewohner	1984	David Hampton
1935	C. H. Graening	1960	Laurence J. Carver	1985	Lois Coonradt
1936	Fred W. Studier	1961	Earnest Oppermann	1986	William Striepe
1937	F. V Culbertson	1962	David Hamilton	1987	Don Heltner
1938		1963	Ed Droste	1988	Don Heltner
1939	Walter G. Voecks	1964	Chet Fraker	1989	Jerry Vallem
1940	Walter G. Voecks	1965	G. R. Bjorgan	1990	J. Howard Mueller
1941	O. C. Hardwig	1966	Virgil Hartman	1991	Randy Bruns
1942	G. J. Neumann	1967	David Hampton	1992	Richard Schrupp
1943		1968	Mel Nannen	1993	Randy Groth
1944	John Hiltner	1969	Ivan Ackerman	1994	Jon Tehven
1945	John Hiltner	1970	William Striepe	1995	Jon Tehven
1946	F. C. Koch	1971	Al Bahlmann	1996	Al Bahlmann
1947	E. G. Engelbrecht	1972	Earl Janssen	1997	Jill Gremmels
1948	E. G. Engelbrecht	1973	David Ellefson	1998	Kim Folkers
1949	Ernest T. Koopmann	1974	Merritt Bomhoff		

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ALCW, WOMEN OF ELCA PRESIDENTS

1960	Joan Koch	1981	Hiltrude Gronewold
1961	Joan Koch	1982	Sandy Holleman
1962	Marty Thompson	1983	Alice Grawe
1963	Marty Thompson	1984	Velda Hamilton
1964	Elsie Winter	1985	Barb Vossel
1965	Elsie Winter	1986	Gracia Harms
1966	Janet Striepe	1987	Barbara Zemke
1967	Louise Liebau	1988	Dorothy Hertel
1968	Judy Engelbrecht	1989	Linda Kramer, Marie Zelle
1969	Fran Mueller	1990	Linda Kramer
1970	Lois Coonradt	1991	Karol Simmer
1971	Viola Schmidt	1992	Karol Simmer
1972	Jeannette Bahlmann	1993	Lois Denner, Deloris Laube
1973	Randy Ellefson	1994	Bonnie Granneman, Fran Mueller
1974	Sandy Hagemann		
1975	Charlotte Smith		
1976	Geneva Liebau		
1977	Betty Dienst		
1978	Gracia Harms		
1979	Leola Harms		
1980	Mary Schmidt		

TEACHERS, ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, 1972-1997

1942-1974	Edna Wessel - Grades 1, 2, music and choir director, principal
1950-1954	Deloris Laube - Grades 3, 4
1962-1991	Deloris Laube - Grades 6, 2
1959-1974	Edna Strike - Grades 5, 4
1965-1974	Marion Anderson - orchestra, cooperative plan with Waverly-Shell Rock
1966-1988	Vera Poppen - kindergarten, preschool director
1968-1976	Louise Frelund - preschool aide
1969-1976	Marilyn Kumm - Grade 3, music and choir
1978-1981	Marilyn Kumm Pinkley - Grade 3, music teacher, music and choir
1969-1974	Janice Ott - Grades 1-4
1976-1989	Janice Ott - Grades 1-6, physical education
1969-1971	Elinore Zelle - preschool
1974-1990	Elinore Zelle - Grades 4, 3
1970-1977	Richard Pinkley - Grade 6, principal
1971-1981	Gloria (Tedi) Fredrick - preschool associate
1972-1976	Fran Mueller - physical education co-teacher
1970-1976	Jan Striepe - physical education co-teacher
1971-1973	Marilyn Severson - Grade 5
1971-1974	Lavonne Winkler - preschool aide
1974-1989	Judi Langholz - Grades 3, 6, library, computer lab
1973-1974	Terry Napper - Grade 5
1975-1976	Judy Engelbrecht - preschool associate
1973-1979	Arvella Piphon - library
1974-	Susan Garbes - Grade 1
1974-1980	Janet Dotseth - kindergarten, preschool co-teacher
1974-	Sandra Johnson - Grades 5, 4
1975-1984	Judy Meyer - Grades 1-4
1975-1991	Sue Syverson - Grades 3, 2, preschool, kindergarten
1976-1977	Phil Wangberg - Grade 3, music and choir director
1976-1991	Carolyn Hampton - preschool associate
1976-1982	Frieda Ottersberg - kindergarten and preschool aide
1976-1977	Helene Stadtmueller - physical education
1976-1979	Ginne Brown - preschool aide
1977-1978	Ruth Stedtfeld - Grade 2 aide
1977-1978	Ellen Schnabel - library aide
1977-1978	Christi Long - art (part-time)
1977-1978	Marilyn Michaelson - music (part-time), choir director
1977-1984	Glenn Bracht - Grade 6, principal
1977-1984	Ellen Wedeking - preschool, kindergarten, Grade 2 aide
1978-1979	Aida Frick - art (part-time)
1979-1985	Margery Hibbard - art (part-time)
1978-	Marianne Beck - library (part-time)
1979-1994	Jane Jaspers Wheeler - Grades 1, 5
1980-1981	Karen Dickman - Grade 2
1981-1989	Sally Strottman - Grades 1, 2
1981-	Connie Jo Van Laningham - preschool teacher (1981-1984), director (1994-)
1981-1986	Jean Gammel - music, choir director (part-time)
1982-	Carol Rasmussen - Grade 2 and preschool associate
1984-1995	Gladys Beninga - Grades 1-4 and library aide
1984-1985	Sandra Buhrow - physical education (part-time)
1985-1986	Elaine Duecker - preschool
1985-1988	Suzi Morrison - art (part-time)
1986-1992	Mary Mason - music and choir director (part-time)
1985-1995	Micky Kingery - physical education, curriculum coordinator (part-time)
1988-	Janice Miller - preschool director (1988-1994), Grade 3 (1994-)
1988-1989	Nancy Jordet - art (part-time)
1989-1998	Wanda Lightfield - principal, guidance counselor

1989-1993 Sue Orth - art (part-time)
 1989-1992 Jennifer Chittenden - Grade 6
 1990-1997 Kathy Book - Grade 3 (1990-1994),
 Grade 6 (1994-)
 1991- Eliza Rohde - Grade 2
 1991-1992 Kate Mackey - kindergarden aide
 1991-1993 Kathy Harms - kindergarten
 1992-1994 Beth Mehmen - Grade 6
 1992-1996 Robin Myren - music and choir
 director (part-time)
 1993-1996 Tammy Uhlenhopp - kindergarten
 1993-1994 Karen Bubb - art (part-time)
 1994- Jennifer Wipperman - kindergarten
 associate
 1994- Kathy Hobert - aide
 1994- Diane Troutman - library aide
 1995- Wendy Reiff - art (part-time)
 1995- Carolyn Duncalf - physical education
 (part-time)
 1994-1997 Lori Bowman - Grade 5
 1995-1998 Nancy Dreyer - music and choir
 director (part-time)
 1995-1996 Janet Hurley - talented and gifted (part-
 time)
 1996- Marilynn Buxton - talented and gifted
 (part-time)
 1996- Deann Bowman - kindergarten
 1997- Erika Ott - Grade 5

St. Paul's School Principals

1872-1891 Pastors: M. Gerlach, F. Zimmermann
 1894-1903 Otto Hartwig
 1903-1913 C. F. Liefeld
 1916-1920 Ida Goeken
 1920-1927 Alma Schnoebel
 1927-1940 Charlotte Becker
 1940-1951 Elsie Mueller
 1951-1961 Edna Wessel
 1961-1965 Laura Kruse
 1965-1970 Ray Knitt
 1970-1977 Richard Pinkley
 1977-1984 Glenn Bracht
 1984-1988 Jan Ott
 1988-1989 Joel Rutledge
 1989-1998 Wanda Lightfield
 1998- Christi Lines

St. Paul's School Secretaries

1961-1981 Emma Kruger (church and school)
 1966-1993 Lois Denner (church and school)
 1974-1993 Bonnie Granneman
 1993- Mary Graeser

St. Paul' Lutheran Church Sunday School Superintendents

192_-1930 Alf W. Swensen
 1930-1934 A. F. Schoenoff
 1935-1937 E. L. Hahn
 1938-1940 Ernest Koopmann
 1941-1943 The Pastors
 1943-1944 G. J. Neumann
 1944-1960 Alf W. Swensen
 1960-1964 Wilmut Fruehling
 1964-1965 Wilmut Fruehling, Harold Salge
 1965-1967 Wilmut Fruehling
 1967-1970 Ron Matthias
 1970-1971 Glen Swanson
 1971-1972 Alan Hagen
 1972-1973 Alan Hagen
 1973-1974 Sandra Johnson, Erna Moehl
 1974-1975 Sandra Johnson, Erna Moehl
 1975-1976 Erna Moehl, Deloris Laube
 1976-1977 Deloris Laube, Hiltrude Gronewold
 1977-1978 Hiltrude Gronewold, David Morgan
 1978-1979 David Morgan, Paul Liebau
 1979-1980 Paul Liebau, Warren Zemke
 1980-1981 Paul Liebau, Warren Zemke
 1981-1982 Warren Zemke, Rod Drenkow
 1982-1983 Rod Drenkow, Sally Strottman
 1983-1984 Sally Strottman, Paul Gammelin
 1984-1985 Paul Gammelin, Barb Dahlby
 1985-1986 Barb Dahlby, Dick Magnall
 1986-1987 Dick Magnall, Susan Allbee
 1987-1988 Susan Allbee, Randy Bruns
 1988-1989 Randy Bruns, Deann Bruns
 1989-1990 Deann Bruns, Ael Suhr
 1990-1991 Ael Suhr, Jane Juchems
 1991-1992 Jane Juchems, Judi Langholz
 1992-1993 Judi Langholz, John Wuertz
 1993-1994 John Wuertz, Kim Fox
 1994-1995 Kim Fox, Sue Rediske
 1995-1996 Kim Fox, Sue Rediske
 1996-1997 Sue Rediske, Dave Gade
 1997-1998 Dave Gade, Barb Schmidt



Richard and Robert Salge ordained, May 1972

ORDINATIONS, COMMISSIONS, CONSECRATIONS OF CHURCH MEMBERS 1972-1997

AT ST. PAUL'S

1972	May 28	Richard Salge ordained
	May 28	Robert Salge ordained
1981	June 14	Val Gies ordained
	June 28	Douglas Mathison ordained (spouse of Mary Engelbrecht)
1984	Feb. 5	Mary Rowland, youth director, commissioned Associate in Ministry
1985	June 12	St. Paul's School staff commissioned Associates in Ministry: Marianne Beck, school librarian Sandra Johnson, teacher Judi Langholz, teacher Jan Ott, principal Sue Syverson, teacher Connie Jo Van Laningham, teacher Elinore Zelle, teacher Susan Garbes, teacher
	Aug. 18	Phil Wangberg (former teacher St. Paul's School) ordained
	Aug. 18	Pat Homan Wangberg ordained
1987	Feb. 1	Michael Burk ordained
1989 1	July 9	Paul Gammelín ordained
	Aug. 13	Paul Stumme-Diers ordained
	Aug. 13	Laurie Stumme-Diers ordained
1991	June 30	William Sladek ordained
1992	July 5	Carolyn Engelbrecht ordained
	July 19	Mary Rowland (Associate in Ministry) ordained
1996	Dec. 22	Gloria Strickert (Associate in Ministry) consecrated Diaconal Minister
1997	March 2	Wanda Lightfield, school principal, commissioned Associate in Ministry

ELSEWHERE

1985	Oct. 6	Aprille Stedtfeld and Bruce Thomas (spouse) ordained at Dubuque
1987	May 10	Paul Kelly ordained
	May 10	Sandy Kelly ordained
1989	May 14	Jean Gammelín (Associate in Ministry) ordained Minister of Music at Dubuque
1993	April 25	Beth Olson ordained at Menomonie, Wis.



**Pastor Wolfgang Robscheit of St. George Church, Eisenach,
met with Parish Planning Council, October 1997**

CONNECTIONS WITH GERMANY

- 1984** Oct. 7-8 Johannes Kraner, organist from Berlin, visits
Oct.-Dec. Michael Buerger, Schaumburg, intern at St. Paul's
- 1992** Spring-July Stephan Strottman, Petzen, intern at St. Paul's
- 1993** July 15 Sister Congregation agreement, St. Paul's and St. Georg, Eisenach
Sept. Mayor of Eisenach visits Waverly, Wartburg College opening convocation
- 1994** April Pastor and Mrs. Wolfgang Robscheit, St. Georg, Eisenach, visit
- 1995** Sons of Pastor and Mrs. Robscheit visit Waverly
Kantor/Organist Ekkehard Knechtel of St. Georg Church, Eisenach, visits St. Paul's and Wartburg
April 30 Pastor Dickman and Pastor Burk visit Eisenach; Pastor Dickman preaches at St. Georg Church
- 1996-97** Waverly-Shell Rock High School Choir, directed by Alan Hagen and accompanied by Patricia Hagen, sings at the Wartburg Castle, Eisenach
Wartburg Alumni Tour to Eisenach, led by Pastor Larry Trachte and Jan Striepe
Wartburg Choir sings at St. Georg Church and Wartburg Castle, Eisenach

MEMORABLE EVENTS DURING 25 YEARS 1972-1997

(1972 Centennial events listed on page 87 of Ottersberg's centennial history)

1971	Dec. 31	Youth led New Year's Eve service to "Ring In" the Centennial Year
1972	May 28	Robert and Richard Salge, twin brothers, ordained at St. Paul's
	Sept.	Bartels Home-St. Paul's School "Old Friends" Visits initiated by Esther K. Karsten
	Nov. 19	Congregation gathered for one worship service, Neumann Auditorium
1973	May 20	St. Paul's School Scholarship Fund established
	June 24	"Project Uplift" launched to fund Narthex
	July 1	Pastor L. David Brown installed
	Aug. 19	Narthex groundbreaking
	Aug. 26	Dr. C. Robert Larson, Chancel Choir director, 20 years of service
	Sept. 2	Alan Hagen named Chancel Choir director
		Open house for remodeled offices
	Sept. 4	St. Paul's youth attended National Gathering, Houston Astrodome
	Oct. 9	Fifth graders invited to commune
1974	May 5	Edna Wessel, principal and teacher, 32 years of service
	June 2	Narthex dedicated
1975	June 24	Lot east of Parish House purchased
	Aug. 3	Pastor Glen Wheeler installed
1976	Feb. 29	"I Am the Vine" Narthex sculpture presented
	April 23	Annual visits to Holy Family, Chicago, began
	July 4	Ed Kohlmann, Sunday School treasurer, 50 years of service
	Oct. 3	Pastor Durwood Buchheim installed as Iowa District (ALC) bishop
	Oct. 17	Present organ dedicated
	Nov. 2	Class for 3-year-olds added to St. Paul's School
	Nov. 7	Parking lot east of Parish House opened
	Nov. 28	Pastor George Hanusa named assistant to Iowa District (ALC) bishop
	Dec. 13	Advent Preschool initiated by Barbara Zemke
1977	July 16	Pastor Joyce Sandberg ordained
	Aug. 28	Pastor David Solberg installed
	Nov. 12	Bremwood awarded recognition citation to St. Paul's
1978	Aug.	Additional cemetery property purchased
	Aug. 28	Japanese educators visited St. Paul's School
	Sept. 10	Groundbreaking for NE Iowa Synod Office in Waverly
	Oct.	Confirmation Resource Study Center established
	Nov. 23	<i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i> first used
1979	Sept. 16	Pastor L. David Brown installed as Iowa District (ALC) bishop
1980	Jan. 6	Pastor Dennis Dickman installed
	Jan. 16	Pastor Dennis Dickman began Old Testament class
	Feb. 15	Arlene Haven, choir member, 50 years of service
	March 24	Lenten Preschool initiated by Barbara Zemke
	Sept. 17	Cherub Choir re-established by Karen Dickman
	Sept. 28	Mary Rowland installed as first youth director
1981	Feb. 12	St. Paul's School welcomed former teacher Kathryn Koob, released Iranian hostage
	June 14	Val Gies ordained at St. Paul's
	June 28	Douglas Mathison ordained at St. Paul's
	Sept. 20	Emma Kruger, financial secretary, 20 years of service
	Dec. 6	Blue Advent paraments introduced
1982		Good Samaritan Fund established, officiated by Waverly Ministerium
		Missionaries John and Verneda Bowman, sponsored by St. Paul's, visited
	Aug. 1	Pastor Glen Wheeler and Jane Jaspers married at 8 a.m. worship
		ALC General Convention voted to form ELCA
1983	May 12	Regilded steeple cross raised
	July 31	Dorothy Meyer, office coordinator, 20 years of service
	Oct. 2	Sanctuary copper roof dedicated

- 1984 Jan. 9 "Search," five-year Bible study, began
Feb. 5 Mary Rowland, youth director, commissioned Associate in Ministry
Feb. 26 "Angels with Trumpets" added to organ
June 4 St. Paul's and Redeemer combined Vacation Bible Schools
- 1985 April 21 Pastor Evon Flesberg installed
June 12 Members of St. Paul's School staff commissioned Associates in Ministry: Jan Ott, Marianne Beck, Sandra Johnson, Judi Langholz, Sue Syverson, Connie Van Laningham, Elinore Zelle, Susan Garbes (June 19)
Aug. 18 Phil Wangberg, former St. Paul's School teacher, and wife, Pat Homan Wangberg, ordained at St. Paul's
Sept. 21 Dr. Warren Schmidt, organist and music coordinator, 35 years of service
Oct. 6 Aprille Stedtfeld, member of St. Paul's, and husband Bruce Thomas ordained at Dubuque
- 1986 April 27 "Faith for Future" campaign launched (tuckpointing, elevator, etc.)
Aug. First annual St. Paul's Golf Outing
Aug. 2 Patricia Hagen named music coordinator
- 1987 Feb. 1 Michael Burk ordained at St. Paul's
April 18 Sanctuary window restoration completed
May 10 Sandy Kelly and Paul Kelly, husband and wife, ordained
July Pastor Dickman elected chair, ELCA Board of Education
Aug. Youth Room refurbished
Nov. 18 First Midweek Hymn Festival
- 1988 May 15 Pastor Dickman awarded honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Wartburg Seminary
July 31 900 NE Iowa youth attended ELCA Gathering, San Antonio, Texas
Oct. 16 Music coordinator Patricia Hagen named organist
Nov. Nursery remodeled into nursery and Luther Room for music
- 1989 Feb. 5 Elevator dedicated
Feb. 27 Third-graders invited to commune
May 14 Jean Gammelin (formerly Associate in Ministry) ordained as Minister of Music
July 9 Paul Gammelin ordained at St. Paul's
July 22 Youth first participated in Habitat for Humanity
Aug. 13 Paul Stumme-Diers and Laurie Stumme-Diers, husband and wife, ordained at St. Paul's
- 1990 Feb. 22 "Vision 2000" Retreat
Remodeled Social Room dedicated
Aug. Support gift sent to Mission Partner, San Pablo Lutheran Church, Weslaco, Texas
Oct. 7 Caring Community Core Group commissioned
Oct. 15 Bremwood Lutheran Children's Home observed 125th year
- 1991 May 26 Deloris Laube, teacher, 33 years of service
June 23 Pastor Debra von Fischer installed
June 30 William Sladek ordained at St. Paul's
July 13 Saturday evening services began
Sept. 5 "Crossways" two-year Bible study began
Nov. 17 Ardis Gaylor, financial secretary, 10 years of service
- 1992 Feb. 2 Children's message added to worship
Bride's Room refurbished (established 1967, refurbished 1975)
July 5 Carolyn Engelbrecht ordained at St. Paul's
July 19 Mary Rowland, St. Paul's first youth director and Associate in Ministry, ordained
Nov. 29 "Windows of Worship," children's bulletin, first issued
- 1993 April 25 Beth Olson ordained at Menomonie, Wis.
May 16 Refurbished sanctuary dedicated
July 15 Sister-Congregation Agreement established with St. Georg Church, Eisenach, Germany
Sept. 26 Lois Denner, receptionist, 27 years of service
Sept. St. Paul's members organized into 13 monthly volunteer groups
Dec. 1 Men's Bible Study Breakfast initiated by Pastor Dickman
Dec. 23 Chrismons presented, designed by Betty McKee, crafted by women of the congregation
- 1994 Sept. 28 President Jon Tehven appointed committee to plan and prepare for 125th anniversary
Nov. 12 Wednesday Witnesses, after-school program, established by Pastor von Fischer
Pastor Michael Burk installed
- 1995 April 30 Pastors Dickman and Burk guests of St. Georg Church, Eisenach, Germany
Oct. 29 Pastor Burk "Pastor in Residence" at Wartburg Seminary

- 1996 Jan. 28 CROS church council and board reorganization implemented
 March 24 Pastor Joyce Sandberg installed
 Dec. 22 Chaplain Gloria Strickert, Associate in Ministry and former St. Paul's youth director, consecrated as NE Iowa Synod's first Diaconal Minister

Events of the 125th Anniversary Year

- 1996 Logo for anniversary year designed and presented; anniversary calendar gift to members and friends of St. Paul's underwritten by the families of Edna Wessel and Elsie Winter, former teachers, the Marvin Zelle family, and Deloris Laube; Anniversary Banner commissioned by Eugene Koehler as a memorial to his wife, Arlene; crafted by Karol Simmer; first used New Year's Eve
- 1996 Dec. 31 Youth led "Ring in" of 125th year; Pastor Evon Flesberg, guest preacher
- 1997 Jan. 19 *Saints on the Avenue*, commissioned by Ed Droste, Dorothy Hertel, and Margaret Braulick as a memorial to their father, Arthur F. Droste. Music and text by John Ylvisaker, dedicated to and performed by Cherub Choir under direction of Karen Dickman
- Feb. 5 Organ Mini-Concert, presented by music coordinator Patricia Hagen
- Feb. 15-16 "Global Mission Fest," Pastor L. David Brown, guest preacher
- March 2 Wanda Lightfield, St. Paul's School principal, commissioned as Associate in Ministry
- March 2-8 Christian Education Week
- March 12 Lenten service featuring Wartburg Choir
- March 17-21 Lenten Preschool
- March 29-30 Easter services
- April 6 St. Paul's Spring Concert directed by Patricia Hagen
- April 19-20 "Reflection Time" worship, Pastor Durwood Buchheim, guest preacher; Pastor David Solberg, update on Wartburg Seminary; brunch, Pastors Durwood Buchheim, Larry Trachte, and George Hanusa, guests
- May 4 Display case constructed by Alan Hagen, presented by Stanley and Geraldine Busching as a memorial to Stanley's parents; first viewed on "Founders' Day" weekend, May 3-4
 "Founders' Day," NE Iowa Synod Bishop Steven Ullestad, guest preacher; premiere of *Blooms of Grace* for choirs and bells by Dr. James Fritschel, commissioned in honor of Arthur F. Droste by his children
- May 26 Memorial Day service at St. Paul's Cemetery, Dr. Ron Matthias, guest speaker
- June 15 Farewell for Pastor Dennis and Karen Dickman
- June 28-29 Outdoor service with Sugar Daddies and "Strawberry Fest" picnic with Holy Family friends and guests Pastor Debra von Fischer and family
- July 17 Youth and St. Paul's School children participate in Waverly Heritage Days Parade
- July 23-27 Youth attend "River of Hope," ELCA Youth Gathering, New Orleans
- Aug. 13 Organ Mini-Concert presented by Patricia Hagen
- Aug 23-25 "Back to School," Pastor Glen Wheeler, guest preacher; Wartburg Seminary update by Pastor David Solberg; School open house and congregational potluck with former teachers and pastors
- Sept. 6 Sunday School opened; teachers and staff installed; Bibles presented to third-graders
- Oct. 15 St. Paul's Hymnfest
 German supper; "Remembering our Heritage" and sister congregation, St. Georg in Eisenach, Germany
- Oct. 26 Confirmands' Affirmation of Faith
- Nov. 19 Organ Mini-Concert presented by Patricia Hagen
- Nov. 26 St. Paul's welcomed Waverly community to Ecumenical Service, followed by reception hosted by Friends in Faith
- Dec. 3 Advent worship service led by St. Paul's School
- Dec. 15-19 Advent Preschool led by Barbara Zemke
- Dec. 17 Christmas Choir Concert directed by Patricia and Alan Hagen
- Dec. 21 Children's Christmas Service followed with treats, Neumann Auditorium
- Dec. 21 Christmas tree memorial gift presented
- Dec. 24-25 Christmas services

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1997 PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL AND BOARDS

OFFICERS

President	Jill Gremmels
President-Elect	Kim Folkers
Secretary/Treasurer	Richard Pinkley

PARISH LIFE BOARD

Chair	Mike Cooley
Members	Norm Herman Brent Hobert Ruth Mick Carolyn Sievers Herb Zelle
Consultants	Pastor Sandberg Youth Coordinator

MISSION BOARD

Chair	Gary Wipperman
Members	Chip Bouzard Amber Downing Marion Hille Laura Krueger Gloria Strickert
Consultant	Pastor Burk

WORSHIP BOARD

Chair	Lynn Olson
Members	Jill Lammers Marilyn Pinkley Jerry Vallem Genevieve Weisbrodt Jennifer Wipperman
Consultants	Pastor Burk

PARISH EDUCATION BOARD

Chair	Kim Fox
Members	Jean Buckingham Dave Gade Jo Groth Greg Hovden Marietta Sargeant
Consultants	Pastor Dickman Wanda Lightfield

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

Chair	Betty Westmeyer
Members	Roger Bauer Reid Koenig David Mulder Dick Oberheu Dean Zelle
Consultant	Sally Schneider

SCHOOL BOARD

Chair	Karol Simmer
Members	Jane Juchems Rose Kramer Sandy Plagge* Scot Simpson Ael Suhr
Consultants	Pastor Dickman Wanda Lightfield

*Non-member representative



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

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