

# St. John's Lutheran Congregation Was Organized Back in 1868

St. John's Church is the outgrowth of the "United Sunday School Club," organized on Sept. 13, 1868. The need of church services became evident, and a meeting of all interested persons was called for October 18, 1868, when Messrs. Christian Danner, Henry Vonderlieth, Jacob Starr and John Krieg were authorized to draft a constitution and report on the following Sunday, Oct. 25, 1868, when the new constitution was unanimously adopted, and the name of the new congregation was established as "The United Evangelical Congregation."

The Rev. William W. Deininger became the first pastor. The Holy Communion was celebrated for the first time on Easter Sunday, March 28, 1869, and the first Catechetical Class was confirmed on April 16, 1871.

The congregation worshipped until 1873 in the old Unitarian Church which stood on the site of the present home of John Tendick. The first church building was built at that time on the site of the present church and was dedicated on Sept. 28, 1873.

In 1874 a Parochial school was built which remained at the east portion of the congregation's rent house occupied by the Herman Hahn family. The school continued for three years when the building was enlarged to its present condition and used as a parsonage. In 1910 the present parsonage was purchased.

The original church building was rebuilt and remodeled during the year 1905, at which time a furnace and electricity were installed as well as new carpets, stained windows and new pews. This was accomplished at a cost of \$2,000.00 and was re-dedicated on Feb. 4, 1906.

The building was again remod-

## PRESENT PASTOR



REV. RAY O. ZUMSTEIN

eled in 1921-22 at a cost of \$20,000. The former building was extended to the rear, a wing added to the west, a complete basement provided, the pipe-organ, altar, pulpit and lectern installed.

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED IN 1943

The 75th anniversary of the founding of the congregation of the St. John's Lutheran Church in Mount Pulaski, was observed in October 1943 with special services of worship and an anniversary banquet with former pastors W. N. King and F. R. Ludwig as speakers. An anniversary thank-offering of \$1,500 was given for improvements to the church and parsonage.

On June 11, 1960, a 21-note Maas Cathedral Organ Chime was dedicated; a gift from former member Albert Suedmeier of

Peoria, in memory of his parents.

An oil fired hot water heating system was installed in 1950; the exterior of the church was covered with asbestos shingles and the interior was redecorated in 1951. Dedication services were held on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 28, 1951, with the President of the Illinois Synod, the Rev. H. J. McGuire, as the preacher.

Because of structural weaknesses of the belfry, it was necessary to remove the bell and belfry in 1955. At this time the organ chimes were amplified, enabling them to sound from four speakers installed on the roof of the church; and the bell was mounted on a stone pedestal at the back of the

church. A new Silver Communion Service, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Uriah Tendick, was dedicated on July 1, 1956. Many other fine memorials have been contributed and dedicated through the years to add to the comfort and beauty of our worship. Not the least of these have been substantial cash endowments from Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Jenner, Miss Anna Schafer and Mrs. George Suedmeier.

New carpeting was installed in 1957, and the church was completely repaired following the tank-car explosion June 1, 1958. At this time the church was redecorated in time for rededication at the Ninetieth Anniversary observance on Oct. 19, 1958, at which service the Rev. Paul Erickson, the Secretary for Parish Education of the Illinois Synod, was the preacher. An open house was held that afternoon when Mr. Uriah Tendick, the only surviving member of the Committee in charge of the remodeling in 1921-22, told highlights of that ex-

perience and otherwise reminisced about the past history of the church. The new Hymnal, published jointly by eight Lutheran bodies in America, was introduced at this time.

The present membership of the congregation is 475 baptized and 300 confirmed members. It is a member of the Illinois Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America, which will become The Lutheran Church in America on Jan. 1, 1963, following its merger with the Augustana, the Finnish, and the American Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

The congregation is looking forward to its 100th Anniversary in 1968.

## PASTORS SERVING CHURCH

Pastors who have served the congregation are:

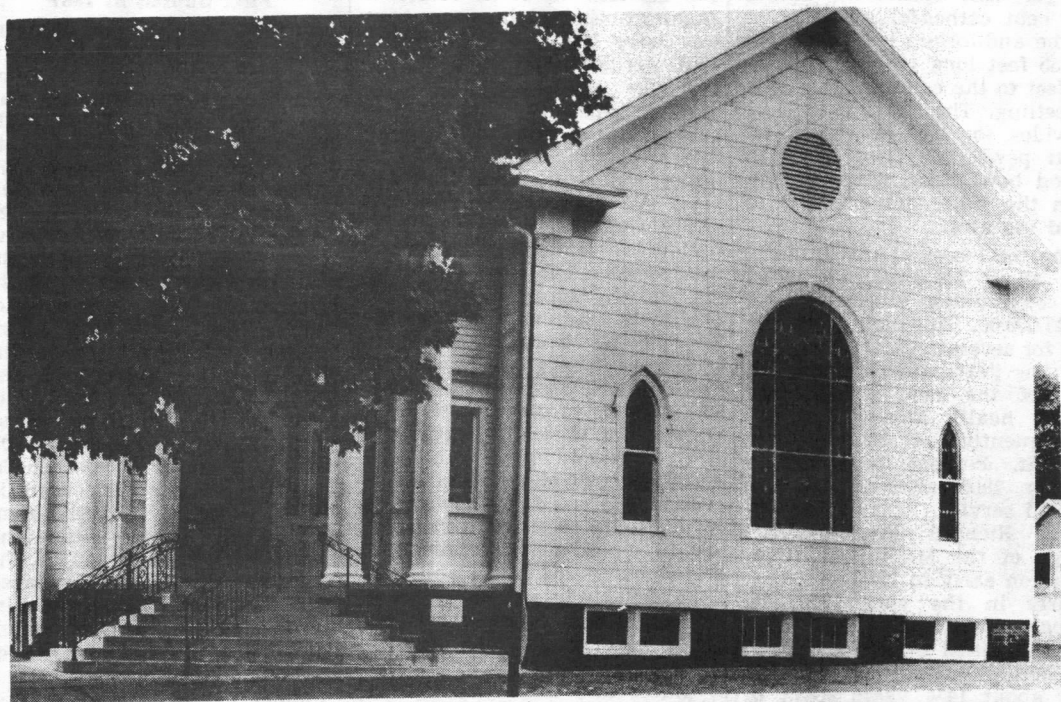
The Rev. William W. Deininger, 1868-1871.

The Rev. Otto Pracht, 1871-1872.

The Rev. O. F. Ebert, 1872 to 1875.

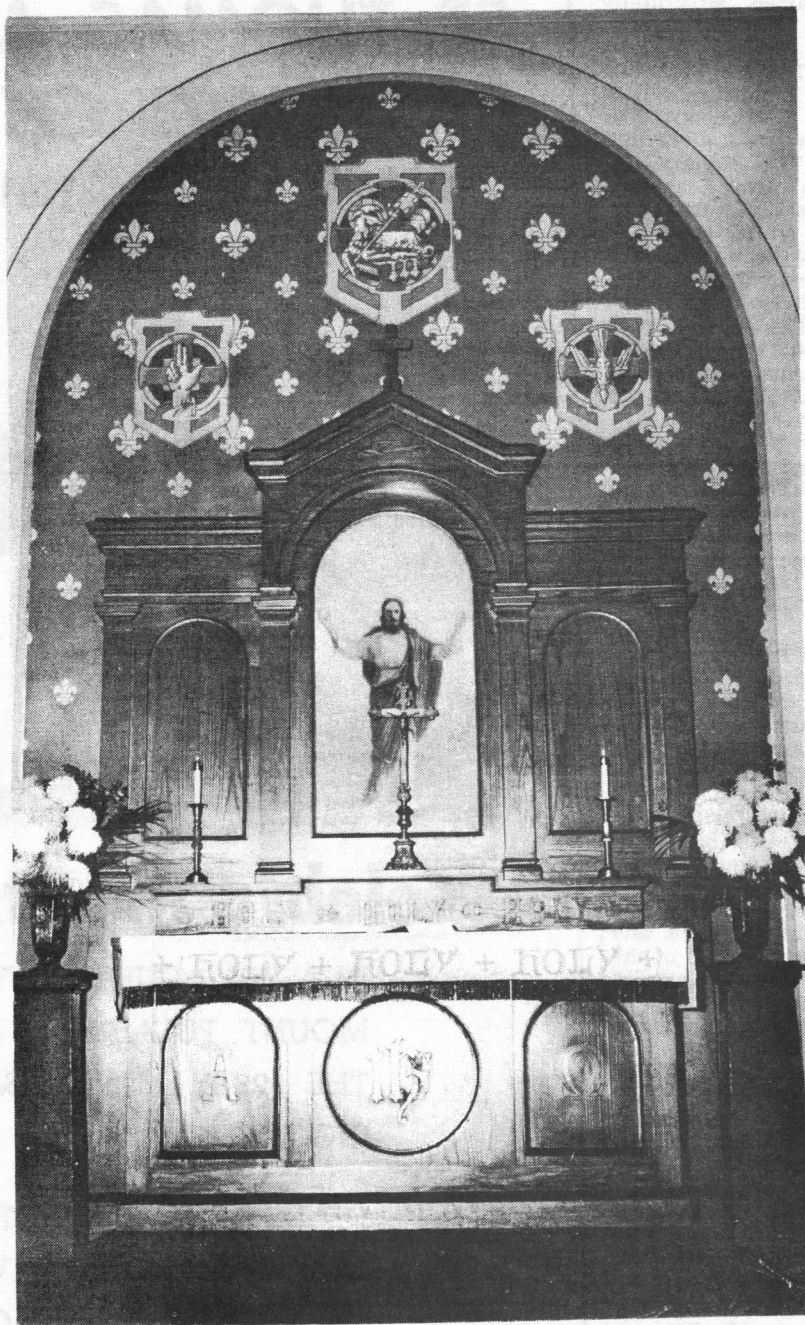
(Continued on next page)

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ON WEST COOKE STREET



WORSHIPING  
WITNESSING  
WORKING

STUDYING  
SERVING  
SHARING



From century to century the Lutheran Church proclaims her unchanging faith that Jesus Christ died for all.

SAINT JOHN'S  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

Cooke and Spring Streets