

*Built on the Rock the Church doth stand,  
Even when steeples are falling;  
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
Bells still are chiming and calling,  
Calling the young and old to rest,  
But above all the soul distrest,  
Longing for rest everlasting.*

*Grant, then, O God, where'er men roam,  
That, when the church bells are ringing,  
Many in saving faith may come  
Where Christ His message is bringing:  
"I know Mine own, Mine own know Me;  
Ye, not the world, My face shall see.  
My peace I leave with you."*

*No. 467*

*Lutheran Hymnal*

## **FOUNDED ON THE FIRM FOUNDATION**



*St. Paul Lutheran Church*

*Port and Burgundy Streets*

*New Orleans, Louisiana*

# FOREWORD

*The following account of the first 135 years of St. Paul Lutheran Church is offered in an attempt to thank and praise our merciful God for His goodness in sustaining and preserving this congregation through its long and varied history. For the failures it reflects, we ask His forgiveness. For any successes, He alone deserves the praise.*

*The details of the first part of the account are taken almost completely from the many careful reports left by Pastor G. J. Wegener, who was blessed with an exceptional concern for the historical. Later developments have been documented as well as possible from various sources and the memory of those who lived through them. This does not presume to be absolutely accurate in every detail, nor complete. Any suggestions for corrections or additions will be appreciated for future revisions. It is especially regrettable that most of this account emphasizes the part the pastors and teachers have played. Certainly much more should be said about the role of individual lay leaders throughout the years. That, however, is more difficult to document.*

*Finally, however, all credit must be given to God alone who has been the Builder and Sustainer of His church, "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Chief Cornerstone."*

Richard Meyer  
July 14, 1975

## FOUNDED ON THE FIRM FOUNDATION

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Port and Burgundy, New Orleans, La.

### A New World

The first half of the 1800's was a time of upheaval in Europe. Famine, war and civil strife caused people to immigrate to the United States in millions. During this century over five million Germans left their fatherland to seek a new start in the United States. Many of these entered their new homeland through the bustling port of New Orleans. From 1820 to 1850, 53,909 German immigrants arrived at the port of New Orleans, many of them staying there. By the mid 1830's there were about 7,000 Germans living in the city.

New Orleans had existed for a century already, since 1718. It was French until 1762 when it became Spanish. In 1801 it was returned to France, but soon became part of the United States in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Culturally and economically it was in many ways far ahead of other cities in the new nation. In 1800 New Orleans, although it had only 9,650 inhabitants, was ten times as large as St. Louis. Between 1830 and 1840 New Orleans grew faster than any city in the United States. It was fourth in population in the nation—exceeded only by New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

After 1809 the area down-river adjacent to the old city was developed as the Faubourg-Marigny and in 1835 New Orleans incorporated the "third district (or municipality)" in addition to the old Vieux Carre (the French Quarter) and the "American Sector" (above Canal Street). Many of the new immigrants settled in this section of modest frame houses, many of them double dwellings.

### Religion in New Orleans

Religious toleration came to Louisiana with the transfer of the territory to the United States. Under French and Spanish rule only Catholic religious services were permitted, but only eighteen months after the Louisiana Purchase a group of Protestants met. This led to the first Protestant congregation. A Methodist church was built in 1826.

A group of Germans started regular "meetings" as early as 1819, and a German Protestant church was formed in the uptown sector (the present "First Evangelical Church" on South Claiborne Avenue) in 1825 with its first church building dedicated October 4, 1840.

### Lutheran Roots

In late 1838 and early 1839 four ships bringing a company of Saxon Lutherans under Martin Stefan arrived at New Orleans. This group was influential in founding of the Missouri Synod later. There is no evidence,

however, that any of the group stayed in New Orleans; the entire company promptly continued up river to St. Louis and later to Perry County, Missouri. There is no connection between the Missouri group and the founding of St. Paul Lutheran Church. This connection came much later.

Meanwhile, however, a pastor, Christian Sans, published a notice in the local German newspaper that on August 2, 1840 "the first Evangelical service" would be conducted in a fire engine house on Moreau (now Chartres) Street, between Clouet and Louisa. This is considered the beginning of St. Paul. Services were held at this fire house until it was destroyed by fire and then continued in a private residence on Chartres between Port and St. Ferdinand until the first church building was erected in 1843 at the present location, Port and Burgundy (at that time called "Craps" Street).\*



The first church building, erected in 1843, destroyed by fire in April, 1860, with school and parsonage.

Pastor Sans also served a group in Lafayette (presently "uptown" New Orleans). A school was started at both places taught in German by two brothers, Jacob and John Ueber and a Mr. Bremer. Therefore, when the church was legally incorporated on March 23, 1842, it was called "The German Evangelical Congregation of New Orleans and Lafayette."

In 1843 property was purchased at the corner of Port and Burgundy and a church was built. It was only 65 feet by 27 feet,

plainly built of unfinished lumber called "flatboards." There was a steeple 75 feet high. The church also served as the school.

### Through Stormy Struggles

Pastor Sans served the congregation until the end of 1843. After he left, the first of a number of divisions occurred in the congregation. One group of the congregation hired a Rev. R. Korndoerfer as its leader, while another part of the congregation called a preacher, J. E. Schneider, as pastor. Both factions claimed sole ownership of the church. Several times there were fierce encounters when each faction would come with its preacher and try to force its way into the church. Schneider's faction possessed the key, but when a vote was taken at a joint meeting Korndoerfer's party had a majority. Therefore they retained possession of the church building, and Schneider's followers separated themselves and organized "the German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans, Third Municipality," on December 2, 1843. The division was soon

\*In 1850, three churches on "Craps Street," the Second Methodist, Saint Peter and Paul Catholic and St. Paul's Lutheran, petitioned the city of New Orleans to change the name of the street named after the gambling game introduced to America by Baron Bernard Marigny who had developed the area called by his name [Faubourg-Marigny], in 1809 out of his plantation in order to pay debts, largely the result of his losses at the game. This ordinance changed the name of 75 other streets of New Orleans to connect with streets in the Vieux Carre even though most of the streets alter their direction at Esplanade Avenue, the border of the two areas.



Jacob Buehler

healed, however. After only a few months Schneider resigned and Rev. Christian Schrenk, pastor of "The First Evangelical Church," mentioned earlier, served the group. Soon afterward Korndoerfer left and the two parties were again united under Pastor Schrenk with the name now called "The German Evangelical Orthodox Church in New Orleans." Schrenk served the church a little over three years from 1844 to 1848. Pastor Jacob Buehler succeeded Schrenk in 1848 and continued through 1856, assisted for a time by Pastor E. Schoene.

These were years of tremendous growth. A second wave of German immigration began in the early 1840's and continued until the Civil War. Between 1848 and 1858, 227,247 Germans entered the United States through New Orleans, almost 60,000 of them remaining in the city. Yellow fever cut down almost half of these but the majority of the survivors were young, energetic people. In 1850 New Orleans was a thriving port city with a population of 116,375 of whom 11,425 were Germans, not counting the children born of them in their newly adopted country. This very active German colony received 126,006 additional German immigrants during the first five years of the 1850's, with the peak year, 1854, bringing 40,006 to the city. The church was open to all who were "German Protestant" without concern for confessional distinctions between Lutheran and Reformed beliefs. During one year, 1849, no fewer than 185 baptisms, 97 marriages, and 39 confirmations by Pastor Buehler were recorded.

### St. Paul Becomes "Lutheran"

With the end of Pastor Buehler's ministry, in the spring of 1856, St. Paul was to enter a new period in which it became clearly identified as Lutheran. This was largely the result of the energetic leadership of Christian Gottlieb Moedinger.



C. J. Moedinger

Moedinger came to New Orleans from Galveston in the late fall of 1855 to teach in the school and also to assist Pastor Buehler. He preached his first sermon on Christmas, 1855. After Buehler left the congregation in May, 1856, Moedinger was called as pastor and began his ministry June 28.

Unlike the six ministers who had served St. Paul during its first 16 years, Pastor Moedinger held strictly to the Lutheran confessions and practices and strongly opposed the doctrinal indifference which had prevailed up to that time. The same year, 1856, he joined the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas (presently the Texas District of the American Lutheran Church), and introduced practices in line with his Lutheran convictions, such as, wafers for Holy Communion, announcement before communing, and the "Pennsylvania Hymn Book" of Lutherans in the East (now the Lutheran Church in America). This led to sharp clashes and further division in the congregation. A number of members left the congregation. In 1858 the congregation adopted a new constitution and

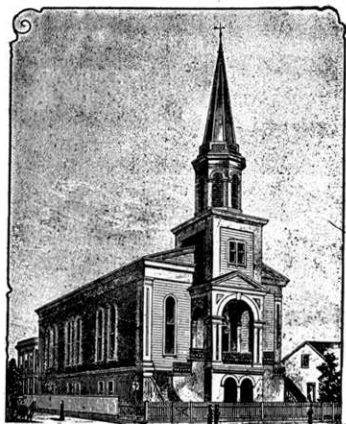
name, "The First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans, Louisiana."

In the new constitution the congregation for the first time expressly affirmed its allegiance "to all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as the form and norm drawn from the Word of God, according to which, because it is taken from God's Word, not only the teaching in our congregation must be performed and tested, but all eventual doctrinal and religious differences are to be judged and regulated." Heated battles occurred over the new constitution. At its first reading not more than two or three members were ready to sign it. Only gradually did the remaining members become ready to sign, but by 1860 the congregation joined the Texas Synod with their pastor. It had existed twenty years without any synodical affiliation.

Although many members left the congregation at this time, the Church continued to grow. In 1860 Pastor Moedinger baptized 286 children, confirmed 53, solemnized 108 marriages and buried 46 persons.

### Physical Tragedy Strikes

Hardly had the internal difficulties of the congregation been quieted when trouble of a different sort struck. In April, 1860, a fire originating in a wadding factory on Dauphine Street swept through the entire neighborhood, destroying the church, school and parsonage. In spite of numerical losses caused by the confessional struggle and still owing a debt on the building already destroyed by the fire, and with the gathering clouds of the Civil War soon to break out, the congregation in bold faith proceeded to rebuild the church on the same location. Larger than the first building, it measured 80 feet by 44 feet with the ground level for the school and a steeple 125 feet high. It had a seating capacity of about 800. At the



The second church building, dedicated December, 1860, was destroyed by fire December 5, 1889.

same time the congregation erected a two-story parsonage behind the church on Port Street (where the Educational Building with church offices now stands). The total cost, including the bells and organ, amounted to \$17,000. This was eventually paid off by annual house-to-house collections. Although the number of voting members of the congregation during this time remained small (around 40), the worship services were well-attended and the new church was sometimes more than filled. In 1867 a Sunday School was begun. In 1868 the congregation purchased the lot and building adjoining the church on Burgundy Street. For some years it served as a teacher's residence but later was converted into an additional school room.

### Further Controversy

Unfortunately, further internal turmoil disturbed the congregation. In 1869 an assistant pastor, O. Koelle, was called but left shortly thereafter to serve a group which became a Presbyterian church, taking a number of

members with him. The original teachers of the school from 1840 to 1850, John and Jacob Ueber, had left, partly because of opposition to the Lutheran emphasis introduced by Moedinger, and started an opposition school nearby. Throughout the years from 1850 to 1870 great difficulty was experienced in getting satisfactory teachers for the school until graduates of the teachers' seminary of the Missouri Synod at Addison, Illinois, began to fill positions, beginning with Mr. H. L. Huettmann in July, 1870. Later Mr. Huettmann became superintendent of the Bethlehem Orphans' Asylum.

### St. Paul and the Missouri Synod

The Missouri Synod had been founded in 1847. Its first president, C. F. W. Walther, seeking other like-minded Lutheran groups, came to New Orleans in 1853. The previous year St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (now on Canal Street) had been organized and was erecting a building, but was in need of a satisfactory pastor. Dr. Walther brought with him a young candidate for the Lutheran ministry, George Volck, who was ordained and installed by Walther three days later. By this act St. John came into official membership of the Missouri Synod.

A few months later a congregation which had first been gathered by Pastor Henry Kleinhagen in "St. Mariem Kirche" on St. Peters Street in 1847 and organized in 1848 as Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (now on St. Charles Avenue) requested a teacher for its school through the Missouri Synod. In 1854, Theodore Buenger arrived. A conflict followed between the new teacher and Pastor Kleinhagen over joining the Missouri Synod. Kleinhagen resigned; Zion voted to join the Synod and was served by a pastor of St. John until a Missouri Synod pastor was installed. Zion was accepted into membership of the Missouri Synod in 1856.

Meanwhile Pastor Moedinger had become less convinced of the soundness of the Texas Synod and more attracted to the strong Lutheran confessionalism of the new Missouri Synod. This source of teachers also made relations with the new synod appealing. In 1870 St. Paul withdrew from the Texas Synod, established fellowship with Zion and St. John, and in 1872 decided, in spite of strong objections which again produced hot battles in the congregation, to request membership in the Missouri Synod. Official reception was given at the Western District Convention in St. Louis, April 29-May 4, 1874. Before this, February 20, 1872, the congregation had revised its constitution and was incorporated anew as "The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, at New Orleans, Louisiana." A century of blessed association in the Missouri Synod was celebrated in June, 1974.

Together with St. John and Zion, St. Paul formed the "German Evangelical Mission Society of New Orleans, Louisiana" which sponsored a mission in Shreveport and organized Trinity Congregation in Algiers in 1875, largely with members from St. Paul. A congregation in Gretna (Salem) which had been Presbyterian also applied for membership in the Missouri Synod in 1880. These congregations in Louisiana together with those of the Missouri Synod in Texas petitioned for the organization of a separate district of the Synod. This came into being February 2, 1882.

### Orphanage

Pastor Moedinger was instrumental in organizing an "Orphans' Home Society of The First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Third District, New Orleans, Louisiana" already in 1866, but was unsuccessful in establishing a home. In 1881, however, St. Paul was joined by St. John and Zion congregations in the "Bethlehem Orphans' Asylum Association" which procured a site in 1883 for an institution which has continued until the present. Rev. J. M. Maisch was called as head of the home while also being employed by St. Paul as assistant to the pastor. Under his guidance the "Ladies Aid" (Frauenverein) was founded. It still continues. In 1884 Rev. Maisch followed another call, and Mr. J. Broders, who had been a school teacher at St. Paul became head of the orphan home.

### The Language Problem

The third and final wave of German immigration to the United States in the 1800's began about 1864 and continued to the middle of the 1890's after which time it slackened considerably. From 1870 to 1895 over 2¾ million Germans arrived. The peak year was 1882 when 250,630 Germans came to America. The German Lutheran churches of New Orleans were fed steadily by these additions and showed remarkable growth. Between the installation of Pastor Moedinger in 1856 and the fiftieth anniversary of the church, July, 1890, there were 7,560 baptisms, 2,770 confirmations, 2,060 marriages and 1,820 burials recorded. The largest confirmation class in the history of the church was in 1875 when 119 were confirmed.

During these years, however, most German immigrants moved on west, especially to Texas. Furthermore, St. Paul, as other churches, experienced a severe loss of members. In a historical summary of the first 50 years of the congregation written by Rev. G. J. Wegener in 1890, he lamented that although there were still near to 1,000 communicant members at that time the attendance at services was no longer what it had been and spoke of "regression in the last years." While the number of souls, according to Wegener, should have been "no less than 6,000" it was at the highest estimate only 1,800. One of the reasons was the changing language.

To meet the need of young people who no longer understood German, English services in the evening were introduced in 1883. The following year Pastor G. C. Franke, then serving the congregations of Algiers and Gretna, was given charge of the English services and in 1885 was called as Moedinger's assistant. The English services flourished and those who attended the English worship were organized with their own officers and a certain degree of independence, yet within the structure of the German mother church. This continued until 1887 when Pastor Franke left. At that time the English group was disbanded and St. Paul took a firm stand against further English services.

### Pastor G. J. Wegener



G. J. Wegener

At this time Pastor Moedinger, who had served so zealously for 31 years, was suffering poor health and requested that he be relieved of much of the difficult work and another pastor be called. On November 13, 1887, Pastor G. J. Wegener, formerly pastor in Altamont, Illinois, was installed as pastor. Three years later on January 24, 1890 at the age of 58 years Pastor Moedinger died. He is buried in St. Vincent de Paul's (Louisa Street) Cemetery. Under God, Pastor Moedinger had shaped St. Paul as a truly evangelical Lutheran Church, faithful to the Lutheran Confessions and heritage. His successor Pastor Wegener, was equally in his own way God's exceptional servant. A man of many and rare gifts, preacher, poet, churchman and kind friend, Pastor Wegener was to guide the destiny of St. Paul for the next 50 years. During 36 of these years, 1891-1927, Pastor Wegener also served as president of the Southern District of the Missouri Synod.

### A Daughter Congregation

Pastor Wegener was immediately confronted with the language problem. One of his first tasks was the instruction of children for confirmation. Of 79 children in the class, 41 desired to be confirmed in German, 38 in English. The congregation agreed to instructions in both languages but English services were not approved until after their confirmation and then only with the strict understanding that there would be no repetition of the "English congregation within the congregation," but rather that an independent congregation would be organized. On July 17, 1888 "the First English Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans, Louisiana" was organized with about 200 to 250 communicant members previously served by Pastor Franke and 38 newly confirmed by Wegener that year. Pastor Wegener conducted English services on Sunday evening until the new group had its own pastor, Candidate Theodore Huegeli, who was ordained and installed in October, 1888. Pastor Huegeli continued services at St. Paul until the new congregation could dedicate its own building, only two blocks from St. Paul, in January, 1889. The daughter congregation soon outgrew the parent. In three years it had grown to 400 members and by 1946 was the largest Lutheran congregation in the Southern District with 2,560 members.

### Fire Strikes Again

The daughter congregation's new building had been dedicated less than one month when disaster struck the mother church. On the evening of February 5, 1889 fire broke out in the basement of the church and it was reduced to ashes except for the foundation. Fortunately, the school and parsonage were unharmed. For seven months, until the church could be reconstructed, services were held on Sunday afternoon at the nearby Methodist Church. Since the foundation walls of the old building were still intact the new building was erected on the same foundation although



The appearance of our present church building, as it was when dedicated September 15, 1889. Its present appearance is the result of remodeling and renovation in 1915 and 1926.

somewhat raised, and was built on the same plan as the old one. The cornerstone which was laid April 14, 1889 was inscribed (in German): "St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Built upon the Prophets and Apostles, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone." The dedication of the church followed on September 15, 1889. Joyfully the congregation was able to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in the new house of worship August 3, 1890. The new edifice had been completely paid for by 1895. Although hurricanes and another disastrous fire necessitated future changes, the structure still serves the church to this day.

### No Longer a "German" Church

On October 1, 1893 regular English services were again introduced and in 1901 the word "German" was eliminated from the church's name. After 1902 confirmation instruction was given only in English. In 1898 the English services were rescheduled from the evening to 7:30 a.m. Gradually English was also used for special services during Advent, Christmas, New Year's Eve and Lent. By 1903 the number of English services exceeded German ones. From September 6, 1914 German services were held in the "chapel" established in the basement of the church. The last German service at St. Paul was conducted July 10, 1932 with only six or seven attending. After 1895 English was permitted to be used in congregation meetings, and in 1909 the English minutes of the congregational meetings became the official minutes, though minutes were still kept in both English and German.

St. Paul took the initiative in the opening of other churches in the city, encouraging members to transfer from St. Paul to form Christ Church in 1903, Mt. Calvary in 1910, Redeemer, 1919, and St. Matthew in 1924. Although St. Paul lost an estimated 500 members to these "daughter churches" the congregation enjoyed a period of comparative peace and internal growth for the next quarter century.

### Auxiliary Organizations

During this time auxiliary organizations of the congregation especially flourished. A "Young Men's Society" was organized November 11, 1888, followed by "The Young Ladies' Society" December 1, 1889. In April, 1892, the "Concordia Young Peoples' Society" was founded. A house and lot next to the old school building was purchased in December, 1895, for \$1,400, and in 1900 this was converted into a clubhouse and gymnasium for the Young Men's Society. A "Ladies Mission Society" was also established in 1898. St. Paul's Choir was organized during the 1890's, and the Adult Bible Class was begun in 1910. Around the turn of the century much of the social life of members of the congregation, both young and old, centered around the activities of the congregation.

### The Christian Day School

From the beginning the Day School had played an important role in the church's life. The number of classes and teachers fluctuated between two to four during the years 1871 to 1884, but thereafter the school had two teachers. The first lady teacher was employed in 1890. The school provided a focal point for many activities, not only of the church, but of the entire community. *The Daily Picayune* of December 26, 1898 carried a lengthy article concerning St. Paul's Children's Christmas program for which "an immense crowd assembled." The highlight of the program was an electrically illuminated Christmas tree — the first one in New Orleans!

### Teacher R. W. Wismar, Sr.



R. W. Wismar, Sr.

Alongside of exceptional pastors, God blessed St. Paul with outstanding teachers during this period of its growth. R. W. Wismar, Sr., was installed on September 3, 1911, and played a particularly important role in the further progress of the congregation. Mr. Wismar spent his entire professional career of over half a century serving the congregation as teacher, principal, organist and choir director.

### Property Gets Attention

St. Paul has always taken pride in the maintenance of its property. In 1898 the interior of the church was painted and frescoed. In 1904 the rear of the "clubhouse" was demolished and the schoolyard enlarged. At the same time a new basement floor was laid. The next year a second story was added to the rear of the parsonage to accommodate the growing family of Pastor Wegener. His beloved first wife, Julianne, had died October 14, 1903, of typhoid fever, at the age of 40, after twenty years of marriage, leaving seven children aged three to nineteen. He married Anna Elizabeth Klein, a teacher in the school, March 2, 1905. Of this marriage there were nine children. The fourteen room parsonage was filled with lively joy. In 1905 all the exteriors of the church property were painted, and the Sunday School donated a new altar and altar coverings. Candelabras also were contributed by a member. Most such improvements were paid by house-to-house collections, but in 1908 monthly envelopes were introduced for collecting the "church dues."

In connection with the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the church building, September 13, 1914, and in preparation for the 75th anniversary of the congregation, August, 1915, extensive renovations were undertaken: re-slatting and guttering the roof, further interior decorating, and fifteen memorial windows, as well as renovation and the installation of electricity in the parsonage. Total cost of the improvements was \$6,951.62. \$2,420.00 was donated for the windows by individuals or organizations.

Extensive celebrations with three services on Sunday, August 1, 1915, and a social program on Monday, August 2nd (which included a zither solo) marked the 75th anniversary of the congregation. Pastor Wegener's address for the occasion was entitled "Our Father's Faith, Our Children's Language" and the school's chorus sang "A Patriotic Medley" — both indications of the change that had occurred in the "German" church by the time America was approaching World War I. Fortunately the church was little affected by the war.

### A Stormy Anniversary

The sounds of the "Jubilee" had hardly ended, however, when one of the worst hurricanes in the history of New Orleans swept through the city, September 29, 1915, sending the 125 foot high church steeple crashing through the neighboring house. A large part of the new roof was demolished, and a great deal of damage was done to the organ and the interior decoration. The school building adjacent to the church was completely destroyed. Again with bold faith, the congregation took up the task of repairs. The steeple was not completed until 1917 and then only with a square shaped steeple much lower in height than the original. It is this steeple which is presently on the church.

### Moving Into The Twenties

Mr. Richard Wismar's energetic leadership began to be felt in numerous areas after he entered the congregation as teacher. In 1913 school tuition was abolished for children of members of the congregation, and all members were urged to enroll their children. Mr. Wismar was influential in developing the Sunday School, and instrumental in having the Young People's Leagues become affiliated with the International Walther League in 1918 and in starting a Junior Walther League in 1920. Beginning in 1919 he edited a monthly church paper, *The Visitor*, as a project of the Walther League. *The Visitor* is still issued monthly, currently 1975 as Volume LVII. A Men's Club was formally organized October 25, 1929, with Elmer Doerries as president. No phase of the church's life escaped Mr. Wismar's touch. He was deeply concerned with the stewardship life of the church and was instrumental in the introduction in 1913 of published annual reports and the use of monthly and, later, weekly offering envelopes which also included the Synod in the regular budget.

Mr. Wismar's influence extended far beyond St. Paul. He served on the Board of Bethlehem Orphans' Home, promoted the Crescent Zone Walther League, the Lutheran Publicity Organization for New Orleans and a United Men's Club in the city. Over three decades Mr. Wismar served on the Southern District Board of Directors and co-edited *The Bulletin* of the District. He was also president of the Dixie District of the Walther League and member of its executive board. Three times he was elected vice-president of the International Walther League. From 1927 to 1938 he and his wife spent their "vacations" directing Lutheran Summer Camps.



School Building, 1975

In 1918, the school, which heretofore had gone only to grade 6, added the 7th grade, and in 1921, also the 8th. A building fund was begun in the same year and a new 2-story stucco school building was dedicated June 29, 1924, at a cost of over \$15,000. The building housed three classrooms and a shelter ground. The enrollment in 1924 was 98. Although remodeled several times, the basic structure still serves the

upper grades of the school. In the late 1930's the stucco exterior was replaced by asbestos siding which in turn was replaced by brick facing in 1969. The first floor shelter ground was enclosed to form another room. It is presently the library and principal's office.

Mr. E. A. Groth, Sr. joined Mr. Wismar in 1925 and served the school 32 years. In 1941 the school became a joint venture with First English. A Kindergarten was added in 1951 with Mrs. Ruth (Brunig) Klotz teaching continuously until her retirement in 1972. Together these three dedicated educators provided 99 years of Christian example to the children of St. Paul.

In 1926 extensive repairs to the church and parsonage were again undertaken at a cost of \$10,478.00 and a service of "Rededication" was held October 27, 1926.

On October 20, 1927, the forty years of faithful and effective leadership of Pastor Wegener were fittingly observed by a "Grand Reunion Service" of the forty confirmation classes which he had confirmed. Never before had there been so large a gathering at St. Paul's. After the confirmation of the following year, however, April 22, 1928, Pastor Wegener was overcome with exhaustion and was granted a rest of several months. During this period Pastor E. H. Wildgrube served St. Paul. On November 6, 1929, Pastor Wegener suffered a second severe spell of weakness and the congregation relieved him of all work until his recovery. Several local pastors assisted during the emergency, but the congregation now decided the time had come to call a permanent assistant, and the Rev. H. B. Roepe of Garrison, North Dakota, was installed on February 16, 1930.

### Faithful Unto Death

After the arrival of Pastor Roepe, Pastor Wegener continued to serve the congregation on a limited basis, preaching occasionally until his last sermon on January 12, 1939. His last official act was the baptism of his own great-grandchild, Richard Wismar, III, September 8, 1940. It was a source of real joy to the congregation that Pastor Wegener was able to speak the benediction at the special service commemorating the 100th anniversary of the church in August, 1940, held at the Municipal Auditorium, with over 1,500 people attending. Their beloved pastor also deeply appreciated the loving concern of the congregation which permitted him and his family to remain in the parsonage until his death, November 25, 1946, at the age of 85. He is buried at St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, his tomb located back-to-back with that of his predecessor, Pastor Moedinger.

### Pastor H. B. Roepe



H. B. Roepe

Again God blessed St. Paul with an exceptional pastor. Herbert B. Roepe was born at Concordia, Missouri, February 21, 1900, the first pastor of St. Paul to be born in the United States. He was a child of the twentieth century and capable of leading St. Paul into a new era. A truly outstanding preacher with a booming voice, a man with an extremely engaging personality, possessing a sparkling wit with a wealth of stories for every occasion, he soon won his way into the hearts of the people and was able to introduce a number of changes from the style of the pastor's gown, individual communion cups, men and women receiving communion together and to the pastor's driving a car.

During his pastorate the membership of St. Paul almost doubled.

Pastor Roepe had vicared in New Orleans, teaching at Luther Institute. He met his future wife, Lydia Doescher, during this time. She shared fully in the activities and the social life of the congregation. Their parsonage at 2031 Desire Street was the scene of many a pleasant gathering.

Pastor Roepe was called and installed February 16, 1930 as "assistant pastor," but from April 1, 1933, he was made full pastor. He served the congregation 20 years to the middle of the century, 1950. During this time he was assisted by a number of vicars (seminary student-interns): Norman Gardels (1945), Elmer Sedory (1946), Victor Schulz (1947), and Paul Schmidt (1948). Victor Schulz was called as assistant pastor upon his graduation in 1949, and served until 1952.

### **Fire Claims Pipe Organ**

A splendid three-manual Hinners organ was dedicated October 11, 1931, the gift of one member of the congregation. It costs \$8,720.00 — a very expensive instrument in its time. The organ almost filled the balcony of the church and was the pride of the congregation. It was an extremely heart-breaking experience when the organ was destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1950.

### **Radio Broadcast**

Beginning with a broadcast from the studios of WJMR in the Jung Hotel on February 3, 1946, St. Paul's services were broadcast until 1969 although in later years there were station changes several times with attendant interruptions. These broadcasts not only served many of the older members of the congregation who could no longer attend services at the church but extended the outreach of the preaching of the Word throughout the New Orleans area. The expense was defrayed completely by special gifts.

### **St. Paul's Fourth Fire**

After Pastor Wegener's death in 1946, the church decided, in October, 1948, to utilize the old parsonage as a parish hall. The next year, September, 1949, however this plan was changed to completely remove the old parsonage and erect a new structure. A campaign to raise funds for this purpose was begun in May, 1950. These plans were suddenly altered when on May 19, 1950, around 11:10 p.m., about forty minutes after a children's party had ended in the church basement, fire was discovered, apparently originating beneath the belfry. The magnificent organ was completely destroyed and extensive damage to the church, especially to the belfry, occurred. Undaunted, the congregation conducted services in the school yard and church basement until the sanctuary was again able to be used.

During this time the possibility of re-locating the church was seriously considered, Pastor Roepe being in favor of moving closer to Lake Pontchartrain where more and more members of the congregation were establishing their homes. The congregation, however, determined to remain at the location where the church had existed for a century. This resolve has continued to guide the direction and activities of the

congregation. Whether this played into his decision is not clear, but soon thereafter Pastor Roepe accepted a call to First Trinity Lutheran Church in Washington, D. C. and left New Orleans in August, 1950.

### **Tragic Death**

Pastor and Mrs. Roepe continued to be closely related to St. Paul's members, however, and returned many times. He was guest preacher for the 125th Anniversary Reunion Service conducted at the Municipal Auditorium on May 2, 1965. The following New Year's they again visited New Orleans, but while returning to Washington on January 4, 1966, both Pastor and Mrs. Roepe were killed instantly in a tragic automobile collision near Greenville, Alabama. Their loss was felt not only by St. Paul, but throughout the Missouri Synod which Pastor Roepe had served in numerous ways.

Numerically speaking, Pastor Roepe's pastorate was the high watermark of St. Paul. During the 1950's New Orleans again experienced tremendous expansion and other Lutheran churches were opened in the areas to which members of St. Paul were quickly moving (Our Savior in 1950; Gethsemane in 1952 and Prince of Peace in 1958). The statistics for 1949 list 1,723 baptized members, the largest number ever. After this, there is a gradual but steady decline with only a few slight and temporary reversals to the trend in the years 1960 and 1974. The largest number of communicant members was reached in 1948 after which the decline set in already while Pastor Roepe was still on the scene. Only 1960, 1968, 1972 and 1974 showed an increase over the preceding year and these were only temporary halts in the gradual decline of numbers. In other respects, however, the years to come showed tremendous growth under the excellent leadership of William F. Wedig.

### **Pastor William F. Wedig**



**William F. Wedig**

After a few months vacancy, St. Paul called Pastor William F. Wedig, pastor in Jackson, Mississippi. He was installed December 3, 1950 at the age of 30 years, the same age Pastor Roepe was when he first came to St. Paul. Pastor Wedig was an extremely gifted organizer and administrator — gifts which were to be of tremendous importance during the building programs during the next decade. Pastor Wedig's talents were seen especially in the area of church finance. The first structured Every Member Visitation was undertaken in November, 1952, by 58 "willing workers."

Under Pastor Wedig a Board of Elders was organized in 1951. The Board of Christian Education was formed on July 23, 1954. These two boards, together with the Board of Trustees under the Voters' Assembly, still form the basic organizational structure of the congregation today. The Constitution and By Laws were revised and finally adopted September 21, 1960. The name was now officially "St. Paul Lutheran Church" (without the "'s"). With minor changes this constitution is still in effect.



Before Wedig's arrival a parsonage was purchased at 5417 Eads Street. Plans for additional facilities had been left hanging since before the fire. After considerable discussion a General Assembly on January 28, 1953 adopted an ambitious plan for improvements which included six large items: A Youth and Educational Building, an elevator, modernized plumbing, additional adjacent property, a second parsonage, and the retirement of the Eads Street parsonage's mortgage. The total program came to a whopping \$150,000 estimate. Within two years, however, most of the goals had been reached. With guidance from a professional fund raising organization, 98 men from the congregation solicited pledges during April and May, 1953 for the proposed improvements. The results were truly amazing.

The old parsonage on Port Street was removed and additional property purchased for the Educational and Youth Building. Ground-breaking was held October 3, 1954, and the dedication, May 15, 1955. The new building formed the bottom of a U-shaped complex connecting the church and the school and included church offices, Sunday School rooms, room for a library and a large recreation room. Central air-conditioning was installed in the church and basement in 1958.

A second parsonage was purchased at 5945 Arts Street for the assistant pastor. Pastor Schulz had left Palm Sunday, 1952. After numerous calls to fill the vacancy, Candidate Robert Wennerstrom, was installed as assistant pastor, July 11, 1954, and served until 1956 to be followed by David B. Joeckel from July 13, 1958.

Additional property was purchased in 1958 to provide playground and parking space. Two lots facing Franklin Avenue and one on Burgundy Street provided an additional 9,112 square feet. By 1961 this area was being used for summer recreation for children of the neighborhood and a six-week Vacation Bible School was conducted under the leadership of Mr. Melvin Zoch, who had joined the school faculty in 1958 and is still with St. Paul.

The school added the ninth grade in 1961, providing a full junior high school program to meet the plans of the public schools to move to a 6-3-3 system. Mr. Charles Laabs of First English became principal of the faculty of 11 with a record enrollment of 334. That year M. L. Miessler and David Adam also joined the staff of St. Paul teachers. The latter was to become principal in 1966 and continued to serve the church, in its total educational mission and ministry until June, 1975. In 1974 the ninth grade was discontinued because the plans for the public school system had again shifted and most students went on to four year high schools. In the meantime, a Lutheran High School had also been established.



David Adam

On the evening of January 3, 1962, a special voters' meeting of the congregation was jolted by the decision of both pastors to accept calls, Assistant Pastor Joeckel to California and Pastor Wedig to serve the Southern District as executive secretary. St. Paul was without a pastor until Candidate Gordon Albers was installed as assistant pastor, June 10, 1962. Although just out of the seminary, Pastor Albers carried the heavy load alone until Pastor A. Lorenz Grumm was installed March 17, 1963.

## 125th Anniversary

The president of the Missouri Synod, Dr. Oliver Harms, preached for the "Founders' Day Service" August 1, 1965, which also marked the first time a complete worship service at St. Paul was televised. A "School Homecoming" was held at First English September 8th and a "Service of Rededication" with former Pastor Wedig as preacher concluded the celebration on November 21, 1965.

The anniversary was also the occasion for launching a program of additional improvements for the sanctuary. There had been plans for the changes for several years already, but Hurricane Betsy, which wracked tremendous havoc in New Orleans that year made most of the renovations immediately necessary. About \$18,000 was also made available from insurance which covered some of the damage done by the hurricane.

During the next two years, the church, interior and exterior, was painted and extensive interior renovations carried out. The floor of the nave was leveled to remove the old step-up from the aisle to the benches, new pews replaced the notoriously uncomfortable wooden benches on which so many people had endured so many painful hours, and new lighting fixtures and wiring were installed. The largest single item was the installation of the beautiful stained-glass windows designed by Dr. A. R. Kretzmann of Chicago. The cost of the improvements was about \$65,000, of which \$13,000 was for the windows. Although essentially the same structure in which the congregation had worshipped since 1889, St. Paul is blessed with a beautiful, warm, worshipful House of God.

### Pastor Grumm as Educator



A. L. Grumm

Pastor Grumm is remembered even more for his leadership in Adult Education than for these physical improvements. An annual series of lectures called "The Open Forum" was begun in October, 1963. Originally a series of eight weeks, in later years the program took different formats, but always presented provocative and challenging topics with a number of stimulating speakers. The Open Forum has continued more than a dozen years up to the present.

With Pastor Grumm's encouragement a church library was begun by Mr. Lloyd Dietz who has continued to provide enthusiastic leadership for the library. The library is presently well-stocked with over 3,000 volumes and is conveniently located in the pleasantly outfitted room behind the church altar.

The Bethel Bible Series was another exciting venture in adult education. About 120 members completed the two-year course during the years 1967-1968. During these years a Young Couples' Club also existed under the leadership of the assistant pastors.

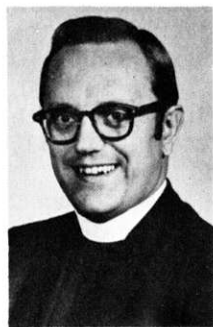
The 1960's were years of civil unrest throughout the nation and the City of New Orleans and its churches also struggled with the implications of integration. Fortunately, this never became a disruptive problem for St. Paul. The church's leadership took the position that this matter had

already been determined by God's Word and was not an issue to be decided by vote. The church has been open to people of all races and they have been welcomed. The school has enrolled blacks since 1968 and St. Paul employed a black teacher in the school during 1975. The Sunday School and Vacation Bible School have included a number of black children, and the enrollees of the tutoring and neighborhood recreation programs are predominantly black children.

Mr. David Adam, the principal of the school, was actively involved in the neighborhood outreach programs and together with Pastor Grumm gave much direction for the church's vision of a new and exciting mission in the changing neighborhood which set the pattern for the church's mission in the future.

An additional stimulant to the congregation's vision of mission came through a missionary-in-residence, the Rev. Victor Heinicke, and his family while on furlough, from September, 1968 to January 24, 1969.

### Pastor Wayne E. Rutz



Wayne Rutz

Pastor Albers had served as assistant pastor until August 21, 1966 when he left to serve a congregation in Bryan, Texas. A year later Candidate Wayne Rutz was installed as assistant pastor, July 16, 1967. Eight months after Pastor Grumm left, the congregation extended the call as pastor to the young assistant, and he was installed June 22, 1969.

Pastor Rutz was exceptionally gifted especially in the area of worship. During his time the early service was changed to 8:00. He led the congregation to introduce regular use of the Order of Matins when there was no communion, but later encouraged the practice of celebrating the Eucharist at both Sunday services and on Festivals. Since 1969 the communion attendance of the congregation has increased markedly. A study of the practice of permitting children to receive communion before confirmation was conducted and later implemented in 1972. Together with his wife, Evelyn, an accomplished musician, much beauty was added to the worship.

Since the disastrous fire of 1950 the congregation had relied on an electronic Baldwin Organ. After almost 20 years of use, it was no longer reliable in spite of the talented efforts of Mrs. Ed (Fern) Traugott, organist since 1967. With the encouragement of Pastor Rutz, Mr. and Mrs. Traugott spearheaded a campaign for a new Schlicker organ. Unfortunately, Pastor Rutz was not to see the completion of the organ project. In December 1970 it was necessary for him to leave the ministry temporarily for a rest.

The congregation was served by vicars again beginning in 1969: Ted Jannuska (1969-70) and Gerald le Feber (1970-71). The latter, with Campus Chaplain Willard Rinnert, assumed pastoral responsibilities until the next pastor, Richard Meyer arrived in September, 1971. Since 1969 retired Pastor E. H. Wildgrube was also engaged by the congregation to serve as an assistant to the pastor, especially assisting in the visiting of the many shut-ins of the congregation. Pastor Wildgrube continues to provide this much needed and deeply appreciated service. He has been instrumental in

bringing comfort and strength to hundreds during his years of "retirement" at St. Paul.

### Pastor Richard H. Meyer



Richard H. Meyer

With the strong sense of mission given to St. Paul by Pastors Grumm and Heinicke, Mr. David Adam and others, it is not strange that the congregation extended a call to Richard Meyer, who was concluding 22 years as missionary to China and Japan. After his return to the United States he was installed as pastor, September 12, 1971. The direction of the church's ministry and mission has continued by him with the assistance of Pastor Wildgrube and a series of exceptionally well qualified vicars: Don Little (1971-72), George Schelter (1972-73), Pat Carlson (1973-74) and Tim Hartner (1974-75). The faithful church secretary, Mrs. Lillian Stewart, has provided a great deal of continuity since she has served in that position since 1958.

Shortly before Pastor Meyer's arrival, the congregation sold the two parsonages previously owned, but much help was given him in purchasing and renovating a house near the church on the corner of Port and Dauphine so that he could satisfy his desire to be close to the church and closely associated with the neighborhood.

The programs of neighborhood outreach have been continued and expanded. Dr. Mary Good and Mr. Gerald Cooper have taken a very active role in organizing and promoting these programs together with Mr. Adam, the pastor and vicars.

### The New Organ



Organ Dedicated in 1972

The new organ was dedicated September 17, 1972, to the Glory of God and in the memory of Mr. Richard W. Wismar, Sr. Built according to carefully prepared specifications by the Schlicker Organ Company of Buffalo, New York, the organ is ideally suited to the needs of St. Paul. It is a free standing instrument with 16 stops, 19 ranks of pipes totalling 932 pipes. The cost of the organ, a little over \$40,000, was completely paid for by the time of the dedication through legacies and special offerings.

In addition to leading and inspiring the congregation in prayer and praise the organ has been used for a number of concerts by outstanding organists, especially Dr. Richard J. Heschke, who played for the Dedication Recital, September 17, 1972, and again for the (Synodical) Convention Organ Recital, July 10, 1973.

Electric bell ringers were installed in 1973 to replace the outdated process of pulling ropes to ring or toll the two steeple bells.

### Many Members, One Body

After having served the congregation since 1961 as teacher and later as principal, Mr. David Adam accepted a call to Denver in June 1975, but Mr. Zoch and Mr. Ray Borchelt, who came to St. Paul in 1968, still continue to serve the church as teachers together with Miss Rebecca Schwarz and Mrs. Kathleen Borchelt, who have joined the faculty more

recently. Other teachers of the 10 member faculty are called by First English. After 1974 the ninth grade was dropped, but St. Paul became a member of the Lutheran High School Association the same year. In 1975 it was decided to open an Early School for pre-schoolers, age 3 and 4, to begin with the new school year in September. The entire educational unit of the Church was air-conditioned in Spring of 1975.

It is impossible to list all those who have served in positions of special responsibility during these years, but the present Board of Trustees includes men who have provided much of the leadership throughout these years. They are: Donald J. Hellmers, Chairman; Louis F. Wilken, Vice President; John A. Stewart, Secretary; Theodore Schneider, Jr., Treasurer; Ronald R. Cooper, Financial Secretary; John B. Miceli, Property Chairman; and Clifford N. Hellmers, Member at Large. Mr. Melvin Daigrepoint served as chairman of the congregation a full 3 year term, 1972-74. Mr. E. L. Traugott has been Chairman of the Board of Elders for several years. Mr. Bruce Wismar served as Chairman of the Board of Christian Education until 1975, being succeeded by Mr. Gerald Cooper. Miss Cecile Felkner has been president of the Ladies Aid throughout this period, and the ladies have provided refreshments for many church functions and supplied much to beautify the church. For many years the care of the altar has been the special concern of William and Irma Friess. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League with Miss Mabel Madden as its current president has remained constantly active in carrying out many worthwhile mission projects. Other organizations of the congregation have also continued although the officers have changed from year to year. A Young Couples Club was started again in 1973. The youth have been very active with two (and for a while three) groups. Retreats and dramatic (?) productions have highlighted their activities. At the end of 1974 the church records reported 1,069 baptized members, 933 communing members.

#### Peace Amidst the Storm

These were years of conflict within the Missouri Synod. This came close to home when in July, 1973 the tension-packed Convention of the Synod was held in New Orleans. Throughout the struggle, however, the leadership of the congregation has attempted to respect the convictions of all and not disrupt the harmony of the church unnecessarily. The congregation has been blessed with a strong sense of common commitment to the on-going mission and ministry of the church, regardless of the pressures brought about by the Synodical situation.

"Project Compassion," which began with a training program for visitation of sick and shut-ins during August 1972, was the catalyst for a broader program of concern for total needs of people. A Committee for Christian Compassion was formed. Together with other congregations in New Orleans and with the support of the Lutheran Social Services of the South regular activities for Senior members have been carried on, including weekly "center" activities at First English. Mr. Lloyd Dietz and other members of the congregation have promoted a "Thrift Shop"; and Charles Schroeder and his associates have sponsored annual "50+ Camps" as well as children's and family camps.

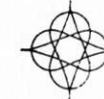
During May and June of 1975 the congregation carried out an exciting "Operation Contact" in which almost 90% of the members were contacted

personally by a group of 82 volunteers. All of this has been both evidence of, and a means for, increasing the exceptional sense of warm-hearted unity which prevails at St. Paul.

#### Facing the Future

The people of St. Paul celebrate the first 135 years of its history in a service of praise, August 10, 1975 with Lutheran Hour preacher, Dr. Oswald Hoffmann as guest speaker. The congregation enjoys the strength and stability which, with the blessings of God and through the power of His means of Grace, comes through long years of experience and struggle. Yet it remains remarkably young in vitality and outlook. Under the continued blessings of God it shall continue to witness to the grace and goodness of our Lord in the future with the same zeal and faithfulness as in the past.

+ All Glory Be to God +



#### PASTORS SERVING ST. PAUL OVER THE YEARS

C. SANS	1840-1843
R. KORNDORFER	1843-1844
J. E. SCHNEIDER	1843-1844
C. SCHRENK	1845-1848
J. BUEHLER	1848-1856
E. SCHOENE	-----
C. J. MOEDINGER	1855-1890
O. KOELLE	1869
P. J. MAISCH	1883-1884
G. C. FRANKE	1884-1887
G. J. WEGENER	1887-1946
H. B. ROEPE	1930-1950
V. SCHULZ	1949-1952
W. F. WEDIG	1950-1962
R. WENNERSTROM	1954-1956
D. JOECKEL	1958-1962
G. ALBERS	1962-1966
A. L. GRUMM	1963-1968
W. E. RUTZ	1967-1970
R. H. MEYER	1971-

## MEMBERS OF THE TEACHING STAFF SERVING THE SCHOOL THROUGHOUT THE 135 YEARS OF EXISTENCE

John & Jacob Ueber . . . . .	1840-1850	Rosemary Dietrich (Beck) . . . . .	1951-1952
Teachers Meyer, C. F. Schroeder and Herman Wilken . . . . .	1850-1870	Clifford Dietrich . . . . .	1951-1956
J. Jacob Broders . . . . .	1868-1884	Olga Seruntine (Gross) . . . . .	1952-1966
H. L. Huettmann . . . . .	1870-1871	Mrs. Parun . . . . .	1952
H. D. Schroeder . . . . .	1871-1875	Judith Hagstette . . . . .	1953-1954
C. F. K. Zeige . . . . .	1871-1879	Edwin Bode . . . . .	1954-1973
L. Wisbeck . . . . .	1873-1874	Robert House . . . . .	1954-1958
C. W. Sauer . . . . .	1878-1887	Melba Keller (Artigue) . . . . .	1955-1956
J. F. Thomson . . . . .	1879-1906	Mrs. M. Kurth . . . . .	1955
F. Doepke . . . . .	1887-1890	Lorraine Langhoff (Anderson) . . . . .	1956
Tob. Joeckel & Anna Wurthmann . . . . .	1890	R. Steinbach . . . . .	1956-1957
F. W. A. Beeskow . . . . .	1891-1894	Miss Walker . . . . .	1957
L. T. Knief . . . . .	1894-1902	Marilyn Orth (DeWint) . . . . .	1957-1968
Anna Wegener (Klein) . . . . .	1895-1899	Ewald Kane . . . . .	1957-1961
Theresia Thomson . . . . .	1905	Melvin Zoch . . . . .	1958-
Magdalena Kuppler (Brunig) . . . . .	1905-1907	Ann Mead (Krause) . . . . .	1959-1960
O. H. Burger . . . . .	1907-1909	Carolon Leonard (Koenig) . . . . .	1960-1965
F. W. Niermann . . . . .	1907-1911	Charles Laabs . . . . .	1961-1966
L. A. C. Huettmann . . . . .	1908-1909	M. L. Miessler . . . . .	1961-1967
Rosa Niermann . . . . .	1909-1911	David Adam . . . . .	1961-1975
R. W. Wismar, Sr. . . . .	1911-1957	Charlotte Albers (Weiss) . . . . .	1964
Richard Wenzel . . . . .	1911-1912	Bonnie Hartman . . . . .	1965-1967
Bertha Johansen . . . . .	1912-1913	Glenda Miessler (Borth) . . . . .	1967
Millie Edwards (Schubert) . . . . .	1913-1916 and 1917-1920	Allen Schuldt . . . . .	1965-1968
Students Fred Honold and Emile Wenzel . . . . .	1916-1917	Joyce Helmkamp (Zickler) . . . . .	1966-1968
Gertrude Gabriel (Wegener) . . . . .	1920-1922	Cynthia Chauhan (Levison) . . . . .	1966-1967
Lillian Wismar (Franke) . . . . .	1921-1944	Gay Osborn (Jungkuntz) . . . . .	1967-1970
Student E. A. Groth, Sr. . . . .	1922-1924	Ronald Wismar . . . . .	1967-1968
Student Henry Schaefer . . . . .	1924-1925	Robert Rogalski . . . . .	1967-1970
Elmer A. Groth, Sr. . . . .	1925-1947 and 1956-1964	Jaynell Linder (Bonham) . . . . .	1968-1970
Dorothy Groth (Kauffmann) . . . . .	1944-1947 and 1956-1973	Edward Heise . . . . .	1968-1969
Arthur Schaefer . . . . .	1946	Robert Freymark . . . . .	1968-1975
Students Sedory & Fiege . . . . .	1946	Ray Borchelt . . . . .	1968-
Annetta Veau (Gross) . . . . .	1946	Thomas Wolfe . . . . .	1969-1970
Mrs. E. Cooney . . . . .	1946	Gary Tate . . . . .	1970-
Ted Meyer . . . . .	1947-1949	Merna Ahlemeyer (Beckmann) . . . . .	1970-1973
Marjorie Homrighausen (Lesh) . . . . .	1948-1949	Ronald Ahlemeyer . . . . .	1970-1973
Paul Schmidt . . . . .	1948-1949	Rhoda Grewe (Schmidt) . . . . .	1970-1974
Student E. Homrighausen . . . . .	1949	Leta Sprecher (Vernon) . . . . .	1972-
Mary Schleef . . . . .	1949-1951	Janene Wolter (Wogahn) . . . . .	1973-1974
Robert Hintz . . . . .	1949-1950	Elise Carlson (Gutzke) . . . . .	1973-1974
Emile Robichaux . . . . .	1949-1955	Edna Hayman (Fank) . . . . .	1973-1974
Clyde Johnson . . . . .	1950-1951	Janet Tedesco (Roux) . . . . .	1973-1974
Ruth Klotz (Brunig) . . . . .	1951-1972	Rebecca Schwarz . . . . .	1974-
		Carol Watson . . . . .	1974
		Susan Birch . . . . .	1974-
		Lois Riske . . . . .	1974-
		Mrs. Brenda Reed . . . . .	1975
		Mrs. Kathy Borchelt . . . . .	1975-