

# CELEBRATING THE 160<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF



## Trinity Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Missouri—Synod

Founded 1848

3700 County Road 415, Friedheim, MO 63747 (Dyssen and Sudheim)

Pastor Roger Steinbrueck

Church Phone 573-788-2536 Parsonage Phone 573-788-2677

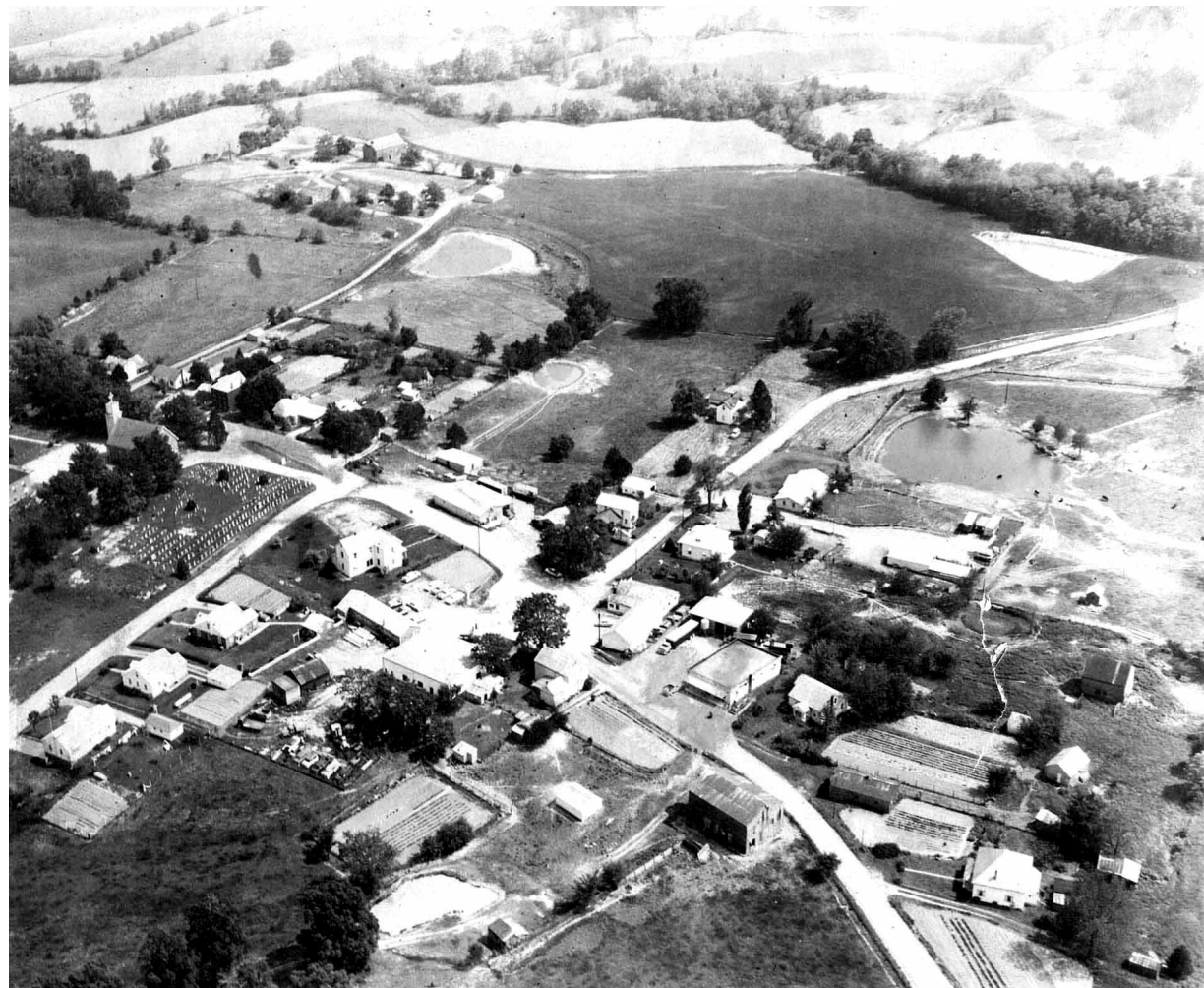
Sunday School 8:30 am. Worship 9:30 am.

Saturday Worship 1st and 3rd Saturday 5:30 pm.

*Dedicated May 6, 1857*

*"Built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets,  
Jesus Christ, Himself, being the Chief Cornerstone."-Eph. 2:20.*

*(April 22, 2008)*



*An areal view of Friedheim from the 1960's*



*Areal view of Trinity from the 1970's*

## PASTOR'S PAGES



*May 6, 2007 – Celebrating 150 years of service of our building.*

160<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1848-2008  
Reverend. Roger Steinbrueck

*Built on the Rock the Church shall stand Even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spires in every land; Bells still are chiming and calling,  
Calling the young and old to rest, But above all the souls distressed,  
Longing for rest everlasting. LSB 645, v1.*

I enjoy reminiscing about the past – listening to stories and looking at photos -- because they connect me with the with the people who have walked this way before me. I can share their joys and sorrows.

I also enjoy dreaming about the future – I like to imagine what might be. What will the future bring? Will Friedheim have stop lights and traffic jams? Will the surrounding fields be planted with houses instead of corn? Maybe Trinity will need to add a second Sunday morning service to accommodate all the people. While we don't know what changes one-hundred, ten, or even the next year will bring, we know that our heavenly Father who never changes will guide and protect us.

Christians spend much of our time looking backwards. We study God's word and see how our heavenly Father has blessed His creation. We gather together and sing of all God has done for us. And we keep our eyes focused on the cross and the empty tomb.

But being a Christian is not to live in the past. God continues to bless his creation through His people today. Our heavenly Father continues to make new children in Baptism. He continues to give forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in his body and blood. And He continues to feed His people with His word. And all this he does out of Fatherly divine goodness and mercy without any merit or worthiness in us.

Because of God's Son, Jesus Christ, we have a future. And as God gives us breath, He has given us the task of sharing the Good News of Jesus with those around us. We can invite them to join us here at Trinity, where they too can be fed with God's word, and receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation from our Lord.

Yes, eternal life is our future. And He has given us that future today. Our eternal future began when our heavenly Father made us His children and it will continue forever, with Him in heaven. So, regardless whether Friedheim ever has stop lights or traffic jams or not, we pray that our Lord will use us to share the Good News of Jesus with everyone we meet because we have one thing the world needs – Jesus Christ.

Yes, we enjoy looking backwards to see God's hand at work in the lives of His people and to hear His promises. And we enjoy looking forward to life in heaven. But we live today. Today, we do the the work God has given to us -- to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all the world. That is our blessing.

Rev. Roger Steinbrueck

*Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the church bells are ringing,  
Many in saving faith may come Where Christ His message is bringing:  
"I know My own; My own know Me. You, not the world, My face shall see.  
My peace I leave with you. Amen." LSB 645, v 6*

150TH ANNIVERSARY 1848-1998  
Reverend Wayne Palmer

In one-hundred and fifty years of existence, Trinity has enjoyed the service of nineteen pastors. More to the point, Trinity has been blessed by Jesus Christ, whose ministry these men served.

When we consider the humble beginnings of this congregation, the financial hardships of the founders, the disagreements and conflicts which nearly split the congregation in the years when our beautiful house of worship was being built, we can truly see the grace of God guiding us to forgive and love one another.

But the ministry of Trinity has always been larger than the men who filled the pastoral office here. For Jesus Christ serves our congregation and community through pastor and people alike. He serves us through faithful Sunday School teachers, Vacation Bible School Teachers, faithful members who shared their faith with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, fellow servants and anyone else who crossed their path in life.

God's blessings have been richly showered upon Trinity for one-hundred and fifty years. What does the future hold for us? As for God's faithfulness, there is no question. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. He will continue to work through His powerful Word and Sacraments to gather believers together into His holy family. And as long as Trinity's pastors and people continue to faithfully cling to these powerful tools of God, our future is bright.

As we look back with joy and thanksgiving on our congregation's past, and actively seek God in His house, He will empower us to remain faithful and steadfast as we serve side by side, furthering our Lord's ministry in our community and world. Let us look back together, that we may move forward together.

Rev. Wayne Palmer

125TH ANNIVERSARY -- 1848-1973 -- MAY 6, 1973  
Reverend Adam Mueller

*Let each man take care how he builds ... for no other foundation can anyone lay  
than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. St. Paul to the Corinthian Congregation*

The Lord has been in our presence since the beginning of our congregation in 1848. God has blessed us to this very day. If it wouldn't have been for Him and His love, we certainly would not be able to celebrate our 125th anniversary. It is therefore only appropriate that the congregation resolved to place a bronze custom unitype name plate on the outside of our church to commemorate this unique historical event and God's blessings throughout the years. The inscription of the plaque reads as follows: *Unto the glory of God and in loving memory of His blessings in the past 125 Years. May 6, 1973. By the congregation.*





*Photo of the congregation May 6, 1973, 125th Anniversary -- 1848-1973*

We are quite fortunate of having had forefathers with a strong desire and vision, who established a Christian congregation for their own spiritual well-being, as well as their children's and descendants. A man once spoke the following wise words: *"What from the fathers has come down to you, be sure to earn it, that you may possess it." It is dangerous to rest or rely on accomplishments and/or people, just as it is a grave sin to take God's grace for granted. Salvation is free for anyone that believes, but not "cheap." It is not the faith of the fathers and their performance we today can take credit for. Only a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ has the promise of eternal life. Let us rejoice in His salvation. It is YOU and ME that are invited to "benefit from the rich blessings (our Lord Jesus Christ has) brought to us."* -John 1 :16 (Living Bible)

Our heavenly Father has been the source of all the blessings. God continues to be. Therefore, only as much as we are recipients of His fullness, will we be able to pass on by his grace.

God will continue to be our source in the future as long as we remember to "lay no other foundation ... than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." This we must never forget!

In our Lord's Service, Reverend Adam Mueller

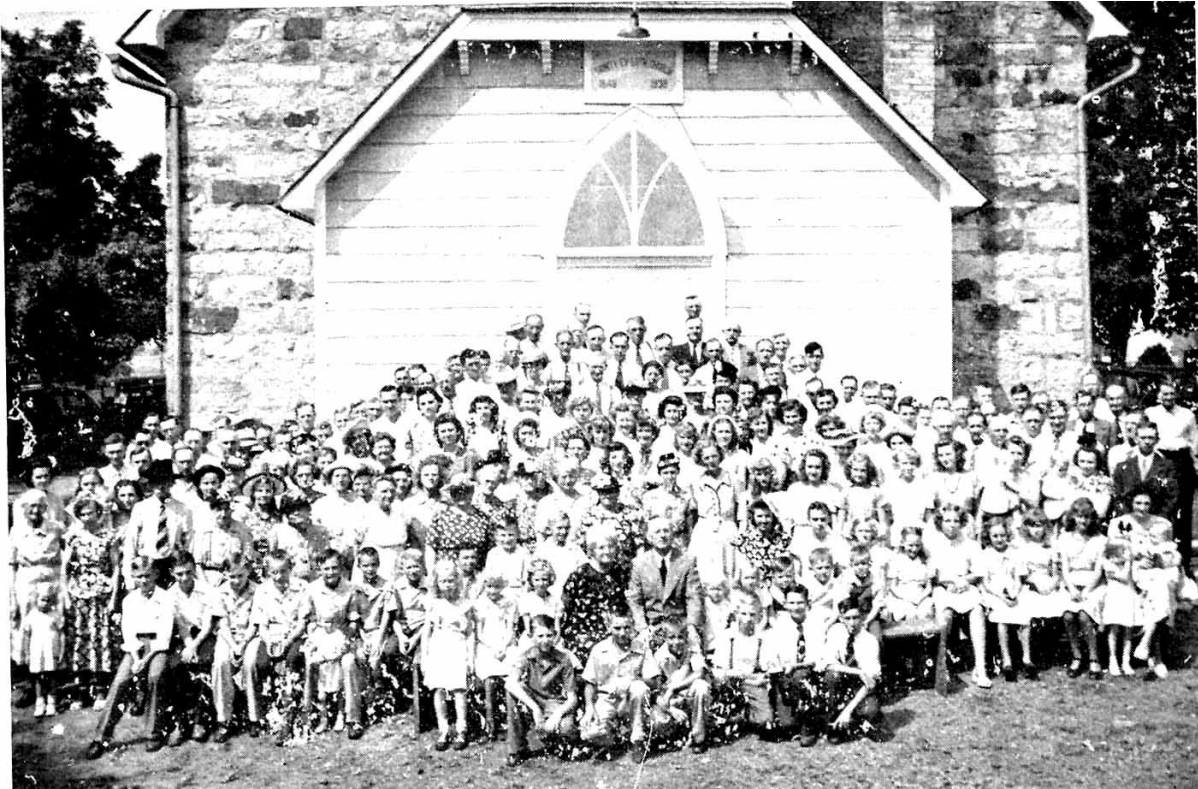
#### ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

For one hundred twenty-five years Trinity Lutheran Congregation of Friedheim has been privileged to have the precious Word of God and the Sacraments in its midst. This is indeed reason enough for reflection as well as rejoicing in God's mercy. We should feel very humble realizing that we have not deserved such kindness and privileges. If God were to deal with us according to our deeds, we would long since have had His Word and Sacraments taken away from us. We have not always properly appreciated His kindness. Since God, in spite of our unworthiness, has seen fit to keep Word and Sacraments in our midst, we have reason to rejoice and to express our gratitude and thanks to Him.

For this reason, Trinity Lutheran Congregation of Friedheim resolved to observe this unusual milestone in its history on May 6, 1973, one hundred twenty-five years after organizing the congregation. In special memory of this occasion, it is publishing this Anniversary Booklet which is to present in word and picture the history of the congregation according to the records that are still preserved. The greater the span of time which is to be reviewed, the more chance for some of the incidents to be forgotten, and the greater

the possibility for records to be incomplete. However, it is appropriate at this time to express our thanks and appreciation to the former pastors, who have conscientiously kept record of all official acts, and to the secretaries of the congregation serving, whose minutes contain much valuable information of the various resolutions, showing likewise that the congregation was concerned about keeping its doctrinal position, as well as seeing its members lead a more God-pleasing life in accordance therewith. Hallelujah thank you, Lord! How good you are.

*Your Love for us continues on forever. Psalm 106:1 (Living Bible)*



*Congregation 1948*

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY 1848 - 1948 OCTOBER 10TH, 1948  
Reverend William O. Schmidt

For one hundred years this congregation has been privileged to have in its midst the precious treasure of the Word and Sacraments. Indeed, great reason for special celebration to give opportunity for reflection as well as rejoicing. First of all we should feel very humble, realizing that we have not deserved such consideration. If God were to deal with us according to our merit, we would long since have had His Word and Sacraments taken away from us, since we have not always properly appreciated His kindness. Then, too, since God in spite of our unworthiness has seen fit to keep Word and Sacrament within our midst, we have reason to rejoice and express unto Him our thanks.

Therefore, Trinity Lutheran congregation of Friedheim, Mo. has decided to observe this unusual milestone in its history and has invited all former members and friends to take part in the special services arranged for October 10th, 1948. In memory of this day it is publishing this Centennial booklet which is to present by word and picture the past history of the congregation in as far as this was possible from the records obtainable. The greater the span of time which is to be reviewed, the more chance for some of the incidents to be forgotten, and the greater the possibility for records to be incomplete. Due recognition and thanks, however, should at this time be given to the former pastors, who have conscientiously kept record of an official acts and to the secretaries serving, whose minutes contain much valuable information of all the various resolutions, showing likewise that the congregation was very much concerned about keeping its doctrinal position as well as being concerned about its membership leading a Godly life in accordance therewith.

This is a comforting and scriptural description of those who have now joined the church triumphant, who by a blessed death are enjoying to the full the glories of everlasting life. These former members of Trinity, who endured the hardships and difficulties of organizing and building up a Christian congregation deserve to be remembered by us. Next to God we owe it to them that a congregation has been established in our midst. Some of their pictures were made available to us and so you find them in this booklet (1948).

The following list, according to available records, were the organizers. Listed alphabetically they are: John Karl Beck, Heinrich Eisenberg, Edward Engelman, Casper Grossheider, Heinrich Grossheider, Hendrig Kaiser, Casper Klaus, Gottlieb, Krause, Harman H. Pohlmann, Henrich Puntmann, Fred Sewing, Heinrich Wehmüller, and Joh. Ch. Weise. To the Grossheiders, Kaisers, Klauses and Sewings, whose descendants have increased, is added to our membership the Brunes, the Bangerts, the Dickmanns, the Frieses, the Hobecks, the Kesters, the Leines, the Oehls, the Ruppels, the Pohlmanns, the Ruesslers, the Thomases, the Tuschhoffs, the Wilkes, and the Emdes, which families have branched out and become interwoven through marriage with one another.

In a centennial booklet of this kind, it is self-understood, that due mention is made of the pastors, who have served. The mere picture found on the printed page should recall to the membership the many acts-publicly and privately performed-by these individuals. This family will recall the comfort and encouragement given by the one or the other pastor. Another family is reminded of the well meant words of admonition and correction, which perhaps at the time were criticized, yes, even rejected, but in later years properly evaluated and appreciated. The sermons delivered, the baptisms, confirmations, weddings performed, and funerals conducted.

Let us not overlook the fact that it was the Lord himself, who, through the congregation, placed these men in this field of labor. He permitted the one to serve a longer span of years while another was allotted to serve for a shorter period of time. And if you will review their work you will have to admit, that the Lord had his special reasons why he selected just a certain individual at a specified time. Not all were equally gifted. Not all met with the same success, but the important thing, which should be acknowledged and recognized, is that all remained true to the confessions of the church, that each one was faithful to the charge entrusted to him. Here are the words of St. Paul, which he at one time addressed to the Corinthians, and are very much in place:

"I have planted, Apollo has watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward, according to his own labor. For we are all laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

Acknowledging the ministers to be God's messengers sent to us to proclaim God's will to us, we will receive their word not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God. We will duly respect and honor them, and be ready and willing to properly care for their support.

CENTENNIAL SERVICES

According to the records the anniversary date is the first Sunday in May or the month of May. However, on account of a number of delays beyond the control of the committee, the renovations planned could not be completed any sooner. Hence the celebration took place on the second Sunday in October, the 10th. By resolution of the congregation this was also to be our annual mission festival, the collection of both services to be set aside for missions. In order, however, to give an opportunity for former members, friends and visitors to show their gratitude to the Lord at this time, a separate collection box was placed for this purpose, it being understood, that this should be an entirely voluntary matter.

The visitors were served a noon meal by the church membership. The speakers invited: The Rev. G. Meyr, son of Franz Meyr, a former Friedheim pastor; E. Scharlemann, one of the former pastors; and pastor Deye, who had left Friedheim in November, 1947 to accept a call to Knobnoster, Mo. The latter was privileged to serve the congregation 22 years, the longest time of any preceding pastors.

The dedication of the new church fixtures, altar, pulpit, baptismal font, etc., took place in the morning services, conducted by the present pastor.

FORWARD LOOK

A new century is beginning for our congregation. Our booklet has given us opportunity to reflect, to look back, and by doing so, we have been reminded of the grace and mercy of the Lord, who has for this long span of time, provided us with spiritual food and has so guided and directed the affairs of the congregation that all has turned out to His glory and to the benefit of many souls.

What about the future? What about the new century? Confidently, we may look forward, knowing that the same gracious and merciful Lord will be with us. With the hymn writer let us say: "God of grace and love and blessing, Thine alone shall be the praise; Give us hearts to trust Thee truly, hands to serve Thee all our days. Lord, bestow Thy future blessing till we join the heav'nly host, thine to praise and serve Thee ever, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Not unto us, not unto us, but unto Thy name be glory."

A HISTORY

The following information has been taken from one of the former record books. The original was in the German language, with the translation as follows:

*While looking over some old papers of the congregation, which consisted mostly of financial records besides a few minutes, a page fell into my hands which might be well worth copying for preservation. It contains some important facts concerning the beginning or origin of this congregation. It is my conviction that this material is a copy of the material which lies in the cornerstone of the church building. This material is partly unreadable, so that at times it becomes difficult and even impossible, to make out certain words. Here follows this material reproduced as faithfully as possible:*

BRIEF HISTORY OF CONGREGATION

*It is about 16-18 years ago, that several members of this congregation settled in this neighborhood as immigrants from Germany, seeking a new home. Although they found sufficient bodily sustenance, they did not meet up with a congregation of its confession, the Lutheran, in which and by which they could have the pure Word and the unadulterated sacraments. There was, indeed, existing at that time already our neighbor congregation in Paitzdorf, whose members of that time mostly consisted of Saxon-Altenburgers from Germany and with their pastor, C. F. Gruber, had been mislead by the "Renown" Stephan as if the pure doctrine, yea the church itself, could only be saved by leaving Germany, and founding a new home here. These first members made use of this congregation, whenever they had children to be baptized, to be instructed and confirmed. Here they also attended the public services and partook of Holy Communion.*

*About July 1843, Pastor Gruber came once a month, if weather and circumstances permitted, upon the request of the scattered Lutherans living in this territory, serving them with Word and Sacrament. The services were held in the Gussenberg home (location unknown), since the few families were not in a position to build their own church. This, however, took place by the end of the year 1847, when the congregation succeeded in calling as their own pastor, candidate of theology, F. J. Biltz. On the 12th of March, 1848, he was ordained by pastor G. Loeber of Altenburg and pastor C. F. Gruber from Paitzdorf in the home of Gussenberg in an old log house called Dr. Erlein's place (location unknown). Because of the few members, which consisted only of approximately 20 families, and also because they were poor, Pastor Biltz was also asked to accept the position as a teacher and to instruct the youth. One year later they built the church, which included a classroom, and the parsonage. All testify, especially the church building, of the poor circumstances at the time. The church is built of logs and until today is not yet completed. (This was written after 1854.) Also, because of the circumstances, the salary for the preacher and his family was not sufficient to make a living. The pastor had to use partly his own limited means to support himself and his family. Many times he did manual work to provide for himself and his family's livelihood. Little by little the congregation grew, mostly through immigrants from Germany of the same faith. Some, at the beginning, participated in the congregation. Because of the increase in membership, mostly through immigrants, the congregation was able to provide an increased salary for the pastor. In spite of better living conditions it was not possible for the congregation to release the pastor from the teaching position and to call a qualified man for this purpose.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This history is a compilation of the histories of Trinity Friedheim, lovingly joined together and updated. I have built on the work of those who have come before. With such a long time span it is impossible to verify the facts, so where the histories disagreed, either a best guess was made on which to include or both accounts were included. The history of Trinity Friedheim is not complete -- your additions and/or corrections are welcomed.

I thank all who have contributed photos, stories, and helped in assembling this booklet.

Pastor Roger Steinbrueck 2008

MILITARY HONOR ROLL

Lowell Mangels	army 1971-72 in Germany
Percy Mangels	
Ronnie Mangels	
Christian Moeller**	Missouri Militia during the Civil War
Gerald Niederstadt	army
Dorothy O'Leary	
Richie O'Leary	
Sean O'Leary,	marines
Marlen Eugene Oehl	army, WWII
Alfred H. Pohlman	
Arthur Pohlman	air force
Alvin Pohlmann	Pfc., army, WWII
Charles Pohlmann +	WWI
Christian Pohlmann +	WWI
Milton Ralph Pohlmann +	army state-side at Forth Smith Arkansas
Pearl Pohlman +	army
William Clarence Pohlmann	army, WWII
John Riehn +	
Ed. Roenicke *	
Harry Roenicke	
Cletus Rohde	army
Edgar Otto Rohde	Pfc., army, WWII
Clemen Ruesler	
Darwin Ruesler	marines
Delmar Erlis Ruesler	army, WWII
Harold Ruesler	army
Norman Alvin Ruesler	Sgt., army, WWII
Rupert Earl Ruesler	navy, WWII
Wilbert Herbert Ruesler	Pfc., army, WWII
Lester Walter Ruppel	navy, WWII
Percy John Ruppel	
Ronald Ervin Ruppel	
Herman K. Sewing +	WWI
Nelson Sewing	Cpl marines
Wilbert Royal Sewing	navy, WWII
Arnold Schubert +	WWI killed in action
Otto Schubert	
Lymann Stearns	army
Mortiz Thomas +	Pvt., WWI
Roger Thomas	
Harlan Tuschhoff	army
Harlold Tuschhoff	army
Loren Wharton +	WWII
Henry Wilke +	WWI
Pearl Henry Wilke	army, WWII
Raymond Wilke	
Roy Wilke	army
Wilbert Wilke	army

\* Gold Cross  
\*\* Became member later  
+ Burried at Friedheim

(Approximately 20 families were the organizers, (while we don't have the complete list of all the names) these names are known to us from Church Record Book I pages 6, 7 and 8: Friedrich Sewing, Edward Engelmann, Friedrich Hendrig Kaiser, Gottlieb Krause, Heinrich Grossheider, Casper Grossheider, Johann Weise, Hermann Pohlmann, Wilhelm Pohlmann, Conrad Kester, Heinrich Kester, Johann Beck, Casper Klaus, Heinrich Eisenberg, Heinrich Puntmann, Heinrich Brune, Julius Suhr and Bernhardt Guessenberg.)

In the fall of 1853, Pastor Biltz received a call to Cumberland in Maryland, and the congregation, after seeing in this call the will of God, released him with their blessing, whereupon the pastor, E. Riedel, of the Ebenezer congregation in Franklin county, Mo., was called, and on a Sunday in July, was installed by Pastor Gruber of Paitzdorf. In the year 1855 the congregation prepared a written constitution, which in addition to various regulations, according to which the congregation regulates its affairs, contained the present and future confessions.

As a testimony of its confession for our descendants follow here the particular points: (Here the paragraphs 2, 7, 9, 13 and 14 of the constitution are quoted, then it goes on: For some time the congregation recognized the great need to possess a new, better, and larger church, since frequently in the winter season it had to seek refuge in the school building or parsonage for its services as well as its school.

The cornerstone laying was held on May 6, with the following word and prayer.  
'May the triune God, unto whom this house is to be dedicated, grant further courage, patience and willingness to sacrifice, to carry on and to complete the work begun. The same triune God keep and protect also this house and let the light of the pure divine word not be taken away from us, so that among our descendants a congregation of the true faith be established and flourish, until the last day. Amen.'--

Dissen, Cape Girardeau County, Mo., May 6, by E. Riedel.

Culling from the records we find that the first place in which the few members of this territory worshiped was the home of a certain Gussenberg and an old log house known as Dr. Erlein's property. A year later, in the year 1849, a church with a school room was built besides a parsonage upon the present church property. This church building was built of rough logs. After overcoming many hindrances and difficulties the congregation finally agreed to erect a massive building of rough-hewn sandstones. August and Michael Mueller took care of the masonry or stone work, properly mortaring inside and outside, including the two gable ends. The wall was to be twenty-two feet from the ground up. This work they did for the sum of \$500. The congregation furnished all building material. According to Mr. Fr. Grossheider, now living in Cape and one of the oldest living members, the erection of this building was quite a task. The huge stones were hauled 1/4 mile by the Ignatz family to the building site by a yoke of oxen, and if two could not haul them, they would take four. The stones themselves were put into place by planks being placed against the walls and long poles used to lift them into place. This work certainly took patience and determination. It meant the working together of all members, who no doubt spent a number of days before completing this work. Mr. Schmidt was given the carpenter work for the price of \$175. Cabinet and other work was not included.

The cornerstone laying of this building took place on May 6. The exterior of this building with the exception of the steeple and a change in the pitch of the roof, stands firm, hardly showing any wear. It reminds us of the firmness and lasting qualities of the very God who is worshipped in this house today and of the unmovableness of God's Holy Word, which shall abide forever, though heaven and earth do pass away.

In 1902 it was resolved to take down the steeple, and in 1906 a new steeple was built. This second steeple was to be 75 feet high and 8 feet wide, where the bell is placed. It was to be made of pine wood, covered with galvanized shingles, and milk-glass windows. Some repairs were also made of the church building proper; the old balcony was replaced with a new one; the church ceiling was covered with tin and painted blue; the roof was to be half pitch. Mr. Ade of Jackson was given the contract for the amount of \$587.50. This steeple was built in front of the church.

In 1918 a new bell weighing 600 lbs. was purchased, costing \$432.50. It arrived here April 30th. and was placed May 1st. and dedicated May 5th. The church roof was shingled in 1926; the organ was repaired, and a number of benches bought from the disbanded Lixville congregation. In 1927 the steeple was rebuilt and the top part of it removed; the tin ceiling within the church was replaced with sheet rock; the walls





A photo of Trinity Lutheran Church and the school.

were repaired and painted; the church was wired for electric lights; new benches were bought from the Garnett Furniture Company in 1942. A new Kilgen organ installed in 1946 for \$2100. Hearing apparatus at a cost of \$205, installed by paster A. Bruss of Crosstown, Mo. Wm. Crites offered to loan the balance of the money not on hand for this purchase.

THE LAND

To this day, it has been held that the land on which the church stands was donated to the congregation by one of its members, a Mr. Grossheider. The records, however, give no indication to that effect. This understanding might have come from an article carried by the Jackson Bureau of The Missourian in 1938 on behalf of Trinity's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The paper states, "After the church had been erected it was found that the property on which it stands had not been Grossheider's land at all, and there was some exchange of real estate to give proper title."

The records do not give any hint that an exchange of real estate took place. However, since the first log church with school room and a parsonage were built in 1849; and the first recorded deeds of real estate transfer to the congregation took place in 1861; someone must have owned the land before the congregation legally took possession of it. Limited time for further research and lack of patience leaves this section incomplete.

These are the records. Two deeds are recorded in Book W on pages 630 and 631 of the County land records in the Court House in Jackson, Missouri. According to these two official sealed and signed documents we find that a Mr. Friedrich Sewing and his wife Miena, sold to the congregation sixteen acres, more or less, for the amount of \$80.00. The deed was accepted by Mr. Henry Kester and Mr. William Bangert, who represented the congregation as trustees. The second deed recorded mentions Mr. Wm. Bangert and his wife Fredricke, who sold to the congregation 4 acres, more or less, for the sum of \$20.00. Both documents were written and signed on April 12, 1861.

The assessors office of the County Court House in Jackson, Mo. has on its records and file since 1935 only 14 acres. Tracing back in the Books of Records, we found that in the year 1902, Section 3, Township 33, Range 11, again only 14 acres are recorded. Since the congregation had to pay some property taxes, it is assumed that these 14 acres are considered as farmland.

MILITARY HONOR ROLL

Robert Ahrens	army
Ervin Walter Bangert	
Irvin Bangert	army
Lonnie Robert Bangert	
Tony Delmar Bangert	
Gary Bogenpohl	
Leonard Bogenpohl +	
Alfred Edwin Bruene	army, WWII
Alvin Harry Bruene	navy, WWII
Carl James Brune +	army, WWII
John Henry Brune +	army, WWII
Mary Del Brune	WACS, WWII
Leo P. Brune	
Les Brune	army
Donnie Cairns	
Nathan Cairns	
Wm. Crites**	
Herman Dickmann	
Nelson Elbrecht	army
Gilbert Friedrich Emde	Sgt., army, WWII
Henry Emde +	civil war
Alfred Fluegel +	Pvt. WWI killed in action
Paul Frieze	
Roy Norbert Frieze	Pfc., army, WWII
Fred. Grossheider	
Wilbert A. A. Grossheider	army, WWII
Erna Hoppe	
Ruby Lorena Hoppe	
Ottomar Huettig	
Paul Wilbert Kaiser	Pvt., army, WWII
Alfred Joseph Kester	Lt., army, WWII
Bobby Kester	
Dale Kester	
Eugine Kester	army
George Kester J +	civil war
Harold Wilbert Kester	Pfc., army, WWII
Heinrich Kester +	civil war
LeRoy Kester	
Mike Kester	national guard
Ralph Alfred Kester	army, WWII
Richard Kester	
Truman Kester	
William C. Kester +	WWII
Clyde Klaus	
Donald Klaus +	army
Milford Weldon Klaus	army, WWII
Willard Kranawetter	
Arthur Henry Kutscher	army, WWII
Gina (Niederstadt) Lee	navy
Eugene Florence Leine +	army, WWII
Robert Lohman	
Harold Lowes	

MUSIC

***The Bells of Friedheim***

*Come, come! Come, come!  
To God's house, come His word to hear.  
Come, come! Come, come!  
To hear the Gospel, sweet and clear.*

*Come, come! Hear, hear!  
God's good and gracious Word recall.  
Come, come! Hear, hear!  
He offers rest to one and all.*

*Come, come! Pray, pray!  
And leave a while your toil and care.  
Come, come! Pray, pray!  
With God above your burdens share.*

*Come, come! Pray, pray!  
For ev'ry gift you would receive.  
Come, come! Pray, pray!  
Your God will hear, if you believe.*

*Come, come! Sing, sing!  
Your thanks now bring by fervent song.  
Come, come! Sing, sing!  
For all His gifts His praise prolong.*

*Come, come! Come, come!*

*To Friedheim, now our "Home of Peace!"  
Until the day when you attain  
The Home above, where joy shall reign,  
And rest and peace shall never cease.  
Come, come! Come, come!*

- Norman V. Abbott
- 

"Bells of Friedheim," was composed by the Rev. Norman V. Abbott of San Antonio, Texas. He composed this poem while walking alone on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kester at sunset on Jan. 14, 1939 and hearing the distant bells of Friedheim, Mo. Rev Abbott is a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Kester. His poem was set to music by Prof. E. V. Nolte of Northwestern University, a member of the faculty in the music department. Prof Nolte is a son-in-Law of the Rev. and Mrs. Wm. O. Schmidt. We appreciate and thank both author and composer for these efforts in our behalf.

In connection with the incorporation of the congregation a survey by the county surveyor was made. According to this latest survey the land owned by the church contains 20.32 acres, more or less. This was duly filed for record in the Recorder's Office in the County Court House in Jackson, Missouri, in book 177 at page 250 on February 15, 1958.

**EARLY RECORDED EVENTS**

The following list, according to available records, were the organizers. Listed alphabetically they are: John Karl Beck, Heinrich Eisenberg, Edward Engelmann, Casper Grossheider, Heinrich Grossheider, Hendrig Kaiser, Casper Klaus, Gottlieb Krause, Herman H. Pohlmann, Henrick Puntmann, Fred Sewing, Heinrich Wehmueeller, and Joh. Ch. Weise.

While the minutes of the first 25 years are incomplete, the records of official acts, such as baptisms, confirmations, communion attendance, weddings and deaths are to be still found from the very beginning, in 1848. These records also show that the name of the location at that time was not Friedheim, but Dyssen and that the pastors of this congregation for years also served the congregation of Sudheim, now known as Kurreville. Also, Lixville church was for a time taken care of by the Friedheim pastors.

BAPTISMS IN 1848: April 9, Wilhelm Friedrich, Heinrich Christian Haupt, Sudheim; April 16, Louis Wilhelm Sewing, Dyssen; April 23, Marie Puntmann, Dyssen; July 9, August Friedrich Landmann, Dyssen; Sept. 3, Marie Hermann, Sudheim; Oct. 22, Mathilda Schatte, Sudheim; Dec. 26, Auguste Kurre, Sudhelm.

MARRIAGES IN 1848: August 17, Johann Heinrich Grossheider and Friedericke Engelmann; September 12: Johann Heinrich Schweppe and Amalie Kurre; December 6: Heinrich Kester and Catherine Wilhelmine Grossheider.

CONFIRMATION CLASS IN 1849: John Rudolph Gussenberg, August Grossheider, Friedrich Brune, Karl Gottlob Sittner, August Hillemann, Friedrich Puntmann, Wilhelmine Haupt, Wilhelmine Gussenberg, Charlotte Grossheider.

BURIALS IN 1847: October 10 Bernhardt Gussenberg, June 3, 1848 Catherine Brune 2 1/2 years old, July 7 Wilhelm Bohle, 1 year, 5 months, September 10, Catherine Damme 32 years, October 4 Friedrich Bell Bruegge 58 years, August 23 Joanetta Eisenberg 13 years old, December 27 Auguste Kurre 19 days old.

**NOTABLE DATES, FRIEDHEIM TRINITY CHURCH  
(DYSSSEN AND SUDHEIM)**

Between 1830-1832 several members of this congregation settled in this neighborhood as immigrants from Germany, seeking a new home. Although they found sufficient bodily sustenance, they did not meet up with a congregation of its confession, the Lutherans, in which and by which they could have the pure word and the unadulterated sacraments. These first members made use of Uniontown congregation, whenever they had children to be baptized, instructed, and confirmed. Here they also attended the public services and partook of Holy Communion.

About July 1843, Uniontown pastor, Reverend Theodor Carl Friedrich Gruber, of "the old Lutheran Church of Paitzdorf in Perry County came once a month, if weather and circumstances permitted, upon the request of the scattered Lutherans living in this territory, serving them with the Word and Sacrament. The services were held in the Bernhardt Gussenberg home, since the few families were not in a position to build their own church.

1847 - Called first Pastor - candidate of theology Friedrich Julius Biltz at the end of the year 1847. Rev. F. J. Biltz was among the first pupils at "The Old Log Cabin," the first Concordia built by the Saxon Immigrants in 1839 in Perry County MO.

1848 – Trinity congregation organized and the first parsonage was built.

1848 - On the 12th of March, our first resident pastor, Rev. Biltz was ordained by pastor Golthod Heinrich Loeber of Altenburg and pastor T.C.F. Gruber of Uniontown, in the home of Bernhardt Gussenberg in an old log house called Dr. Erlein's place. Because of the few members, which consisted only of approximately 20 families, and also because they were poor, Pastor Biltz was also asked to accept the position as a teacher and to instruct the youth. One year later they built the church, which also included a classroom. The church was built of logs, showing the poverty of its first members. Because of these circumstances, the salary for the preacher and his family was not sufficient to make a living. The pastor had to use partly his own limited means to support himself and his family. Many times he did manual work to provide for himself and his family's livelihood. Little by little the congregation grew, mostly through immigrants from Germany of the same faith. Some, at the beginning, participated in the congregation. Because of the increase in membership the congregation was able to provide an increased salary for the pastor. In spite of better living conditions it was not possible for the congregation to release the pastor from the teaching position and to call a qualified man for this purpose.

1849 - First Log Church, School Room and Parsonage Built.

1853 - In the fall of 1853, Pastor Biltz received a call to Cumberland in Maryland. The congregation, after seeing in this call the will of God, released him with their blessing.

1854 - The pastor, Erhard Riedel, of Ebenezer congregation in Franklin county, Missouri, was called and on a Sunday in July 1854, was installed by Pastor Gruber of Uniontown.

1855 - In the year 1855 the congregation prepared a written constitution, which in addition to various regulations, according to which the congregation regulates its affairs, contained the present and future confessions.

For some time the congregation recognized the great need to possess a new, better, and larger church, since frequently in the winter season it had to seek refuge in the parsonage for its services as well as its school.

The first church building of the congregation was built of rough logs in 1849. After overcoming many hindrances and difficulties the congregation finally agreed to erect a massive building of rough-hewn sandstone. August and Michael Mueller took care of the masonry or stone work, properly mortaring inside and outside, including the two gable ends. The wall was to be twenty-two feet from the ground up. This work they did for the sum of \$500. The congregation furnished all building material. According to Mr. Fr. Grossheider, a deceased former member, the erection of this building was quite a task. The huge stones were hauled a quarter mile by the Ignatz family to the building site by a yoke of oxen, and if two could not haul them, they would take four. The location where the sand stones were taken from, still shows the marks of that time. The property is located southwest from the church on the right side of County Road 419. Approximately 100 feet forward thrust, where the rocks were located, was needed to get the necessary stones. The stones themselves were put into place by planks being placed against the walls and long poles used to lift them into place. This work certainly took patience and determination. It meant the working together of all members, who no doubt spent a number of days before completing this work. Mr. Schmidt was given the carpenter work for the price of \$175. Cabinet and other work was not included.

1857 - The cornerstone laying was held on May 6, 1857, with the following word and prayer: "*May the Triune God, unto whom this house is to be dedicated, grant further courage, patience and willingness to sacrifice, to carry on and to complete the work begun. The same Triune God keep and protect also this house and let the light of the pure divine word not be taken away from us, so that among our descendants a congregation of the true faith be established and flourish, until the last day. Amen.*" Dissen, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, May 6, 1857, by Erhard Riedel. Rev. Gotthold Gruber was installed.

1864 - Rev. Friedrich Wilhelm John was installed.

1869 - Rev. Heinrich Harmening was installed.

1873 -.Rev. Heinrich Hunsicker was installed.

1875 - Rev. Otto F. Voigt was installed.



Live Christmas Nativity

GAME NIGHT

We (adults and youth) have been gathering (2008) once a month for fellowship and games. We play cards, share stories, fellowship, and snacks.

TRINITY FRIEDHEIM PICNIC

The Church Picnic had long been a tradition at Friedheim and the surrounding congregations. Each taking a weekend and everyone visiting the other's picnic. It was a time of fellowship for all. But times changed, government enacted stricter regulations, and peoples reschedules filled with the demands of life, and in the early 1970's the Church Picnic was canceled. Even though it has been more than 35 years ago, stories and memories of the hard work as well as the fun of the picnic still are told.



Friedheim picnic

YOUTH

Christian education does not end with confirmation and the church realizes the need for further instruction and bible study for our youth.

Over the years, the church has endeavored to meet this need in various ways. In years gone by, it was the "Christen-Iehre," Sunday School classes, and Bible Classes, conducted separately or included in the program of the Young People's Society or Walther League.

The Friedheim Young People's Society (YPS), was formed on November 6, 1925, with 26 confirmed youth. Its first officers were: Walter Moeller, president; Elmer Sewing, vice-president; Wilma Sewing, secretary; Alvin Sewing, treasurer. The pastor was Rev. John H. Deye.

In 1952 the YPS joined the Missouri District of The International Walther League, but decided to withdraw from the Walther League in 1956 and changed the name back to Friedheim Young People's Society.

The goals were to keep the young people within the church; to promote systematic study of the Bible and constant growth in Christian knowledge; to assist in training every individual member for a life of Christian service; to foster Christian love and fellowship; to provide material for wholesome recreation; and to promote loyalty to the Christian home.

The Society has carried out many activities throughout the years. It has purchased various items for the church's use; presented many plays during the years; and sponsored annual socials for the congregation, such as an annual party for the senior members, a children's play day, annual clean-up day of the church grounds, and Christmas caroling for the elderly.

Our Youth Group continues to change as the needs of the children change. Today (2008) our Youth Group spans grades 6 through 12. We have monthly meetings and our activities include: playing ping-pong, going on hay rides, and bowling.

USHERS'

Who finds a seat for visitors? Who passes out the bulletins and takes up the offering each Sunday? Who takes attendance at each service? The Ushers.

The first two ushers were elected by the voters of the congregation on July 2, 1950 and two more ushers were appointed by the elders. This four-man team consisted of Nelson Sewing, Harold Ruesler, Cletus Rhode, and Wilbert Wilke.

In the congregational meeting held October 10, 1958, the first complete list of ushers was voted on by the congregation. This list consisted of 20 names selected by the nominating committee and 10 ushers are chosen every year for a term of two years. This procedure is still followed today.

ACTIVITIES

TRINITY'S CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Trinity has held many Christmas open houses over the years. Most recently (2007) we have participated with the area's congregations in a Country Church Christmas tour.

Over the years we have had a live nativity held in a homemade stable located outside of the parish hall where one could reflect on the birth of our Lord Jesus and sing Christmas songs with the participants.

Inside our beautifully decorated church, visitors are invited to listen to the Christmas story and Christmas music. Fellowship and refreshments follow in the parish hall.

1875 - FIRST RECORDED MINUTES - The fourth quarterly Meeting November 25, 1875: Meeting was opened with Prayer by the Pastor Voigt. Heinrich Kester was chosen as President to conduct the meeting. Minutes were read from the August meeting. The following applied and were accepted as voting members: Ernst Schulze and George Kester. After some discussion it was decided that the Elders contact delinquent members on the work list, and have them cut and make fire wood for the winter's use for the Church and Parsonage. The meeting was adjourned with Prayer by the Pastor. Accepted by Elder Heinrich Kester and Pastor O. F. Voigt.

1878 - In the month of October 1878 the first steeple, 70' high from roof gable, a bell, and 12' high cross were completed and dedicated. At the same time the congregation celebrated their mission festival. Fr. Grossheider, Heinrich Kester and Christian Brune made possible the purchase of a bell for this costing \$157.10. The cost of the bell, steeple and additional 12 feet high cross amounted to \$394.60.



Mission Sunday, 1878

1879 - The confirmation class of 1879 presented the congregation with an Altar Bible and agenda.

1880 – The confirmation class of 1880 gave a gold framed picture of Christ on the cross.

1883 - Rev. Franz Meyer installed. First Christmas tree.

1884 - Second parsonage built.

1889 - The interior of the church was painted white with gray trimmings around the altar and pulpit at a cost of \$110. The ladies of the church purchased pulpit and altar coverings.

1890 - Introduction of Salary Signing in Meeting.

1895 - Introduced teaching of English in school.

1898 - The 50th Anniversary was observed and celebrated. Even though we have no further notes, it is quite probable that this was a great event for the members of the congregation. Rev. August H. Gassner was installed.



1902 - Second balcony was built and church ceiling was covered with tin and painted blue. It was resolved to take down the steeple.

1903 - New school was built.

1906 - A second steeple was built 75 feet high and 8 feet wide in front of the church. The second steeple was 75 feet high and 8 feet wide, where the bell is placed. It was made of pine wood, covered with galvanized shingles, and milk-glass windows. Mr. Ade of Jackson was given the contract for the amount of \$587.50.

1912 - Rev. W. C. Borchers was installed.

1913 - First English church service held once each month.

1918 - A new bell, weighing 600 pounds, was purchased, costing \$432.50. It arrived here April 30th and was placed May 1st and dedicated May 5th. (still in use).

1919 - Revised our Constitution.

1920 - Rev. Ernst K. Scharlemann was installed.

1923 – A wood furnace was placed under the church.

1925 - Rev. John H. Deye was installed.

1925 - Envelope System Introduced for Synodical Purposes.

1926 - Church roof was shingled; the organ was repaired, and a number of benches were bought from the disbanded Lixville congregation.

1927 - The tin ceiling within the church was replaced with sheet rock. The walls were repaired and painted. And the church was wired for electrical lights.

1928 - On October 25th the Ladies Aid was organized.

1935 - Church donated land for the new Farm to Market road to be built through Friedheim.

1936 - Present parsonage was built.

1937 the steeple was rebuilt and the top part of it removed, and in 1938 completed. Old tin ceiling in church replaced with sheet rock. First telephone was installed. Church was wired for electricity.

1938 – The 90th Anniversary brought people together in great numbers. The congregation celebrated this day on the last Sunday in May 1938. The Jackson Bureau of The Missourian took note of this event and wrote on May 27, 1938: *"On Sunday the placidly contented village of Friedheim will be host to a number of Lutherans and others who will gather to attend the all-day services in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the organization of the congregation. The remodeled and redecorated church edifice has been furnished with new, heavy oak pews but its ancient walls of rough sandstone will not hold the greater part of the crowd that will assemble if the weather is anything like favorable. Services will begin at 10 am and at this service Rev. G. W. Hafner of Frohna will be the speaker. At the afternoon services, beginning at 2:30 Rev. John Gassner of Lockwood, son of a former pastor at Friedheim, Rev. August Gassner, will deliver a sermon. And at 7:30 that night, Rev. Martin Cook, great grandson of a former pastor will speak."* The pastor during the 90th anniversary was the Rev. John H. Deye.

1940 - Parsonage was painted.

1941 - Sound system installed.

1942 - The Garnett Furniture Company sold us new benches.

MEN'S CLUB

The Trinity Lutheran Men's Club of Friedheim was organized on December 17, 1948, for the purpose of carrying out the objectives of the National Lutheran Layman's League as well as supporting the church. This organization has continued in existence since that first meeting.

The Men's Club was founded with 16 members. In 1973 it numbered 14 members. The first officers were the following: R. J. Thomas, president; Alfred Ruppel, vice-president; Herb Brune, secretary-treasurer. Rev. Wm. Schmidt was the pastor.

A few of the projects completed by the Men's Club over years were the construction of an outdoor bulletin board, construction of a playground and terrace on church property, purchase of chairs, financing of scholarships, gifts of money to the church for the well, gifts of money for 120th Anniversary, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the new LSB hymnals, and for repairs to the parsonage and garage. The Mens Club holds an annual Pancake breakfast to raise money as well as for fellowship.

The Men's Club also has its time for recreation. They started playing in League Dart ball in 1949 and have won many trophies.



Champion Dart ball team 1956



Champion Softball team 2007





*Ladies Aid*

From its beginning, the Aid's purpose has been to assist the congregation in procuring necessary items and to help in whatever way possible. The beautification of the local church, school, and other congregational property has been a main object. Yet, it is left to the ladies of the Aid to do other God-pleasing work that is not directly related to the local congregation and its very needs.

The faithfully kept minutes of the Aid are an indication of the activities and its blessing to the congregation and the Lord's work at large.

Good homemade meals for conferences, anniversaries, and other activities are always enjoyed and appreciated. Together with other women from the congregation, our ladies are helping out wherever their help is needed. The Ladies Aid has also been a great help to the local congregation financially. The floor covering in the church with linoleum in 1930 to the present carpeting was made possible through generous gifts by the Aid. Pulpit hangings and varnishing of the altar was provided by the members of the Aid. Other necessary items within the congregation, like the furnace for the parsonage, the purchasing of folding chairs, typewriting and duplicating machines were partly financed by the Aid. When our present school was built in 1958, the Ladies Aid furnished the cabinets and two stoves for the kitchen and made a donation for the purchase of the freezer.

By looking for opportunities in using their God-given talents and other means, the Aid is also channeling funds to organizations such as mite box for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), the Lutheran Family and Children Services (LFCS), The American Bible Society, Red Cross and others. The fields of opportunities are great and are extending rapidly. Only a God-given divine love and eyes that are opened by the Holy Spirit will be able to see the many needs where help can be provided.

The Ladies Aid met every Wednesday for fellowship, relaxation from their household chores, embroidering, crocheting, quilting and other activities. Quilting at this time was a major handiwork. Business meetings were held the first Wednesday of the month, where discussions and decisions pertaining to the Aid were worked out together by the group. Twice a year, in April and November, birthday parties were held. A special Christmas party was held in December with the exchange of gifts. Such fellowship was enjoyed by all and gave the feeling of belonging together for the purpose of serving God as a group.

The constitution of the Ladies Aid was rewritten once since the organization was founded in 1928. Since then, a number of revisions have been made and added to the minutes.

The membership of the Ladies Aid in our 125th Anniversary year is 23. Officers were elected in November for a term of two years.

1944 – The school bus purchased.

1946 - We installed a New Kilgen Harmonic Ensemble Organ costing \$2100 and also a hearing apparatus costing \$205. Bathroom fixtures and a compression pump for the water system were placed in parsonage.

1947 - Discontinued with German church services. Rev. William O. Schmidt was installed.

1948 - 100th Anniversary Celebration. It certainly was commendable and praiseworthy that the congregation resolved to observe in a special way the 100th anniversary of its existence. In behalf of this observance a booklet entitled "Centennial Anniversary 1848- 1948" was printed. Under the heading "Centennial Services" we read: *"According to the records the anniversary date is the first Sunday in May or the month of May. However, on account of a number of delays beyond the control of the committee, the renovations planned could not be completed any sooner. Hence the celebration took place on the second Sunday in October, the 10th."*

By resolution of the congregation, this was also the annual fall mission festival. The speakers were: The Rev. G. Meyr, son of pastor Franz Meyr, a former Friedheim pastor; Rev. E. Scharlemann, one of the former pastors; and pastor John H. Deye, who had left Friedheim in November 1947 to accept a call to Knobnoster, Missouri. Many memorial and special centennial gifts were made by members, church organizations, and former members. A dedication of new church fixtures, altar pulpit, baptismal font, etc., took place in the morning service conducted by the late Rev. Wm. O. Schmidt, who was the pastor at that time. A mixed chorus consisting of 16 voices rendered several selections for the Centennial service, among them the song entitled, "Bells of Friedheim," composed by the Rev. Norman V. Abbott. He is a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Kester. This song was set to music by Prof. E. V. Nolte of Northwestern University, a member of the faculty in the music department. He is a son-in-law of the late Rev. and Mrs. Wm. O. Schmidt, a former pastor of Friedheim. Today, we are quite fortunate, not only for the fine church fixtures in our church, but also for the "Bells of Friedheim," that remind us of God's call into His presence.

#### OFFICIAL ACTS - 1948 from CHURCH RECORDS

Souls	289
Communicants	235
Voting Members	73
School Enrollment	36
Y. P. S.	16
Ladies Aid	16

#### OFFICIAL ACTS – from 1848 to 1948

Baptisms	1366
Confirmations	900
Weddings	279
Burials	416

New sanctuary and church furnitures were purchased and extensive repairs made on the interior of church. Gifts included: Cross Crucifix, candle holders, lectern bible, Baptismal font, vestry chairs and Last Supper picture, a new agenda or prayer book, a kneeling hassock, a new hymn book, microphone, a vestibule circulator. A neon cross was donated and installed.

In preparation for the 100th Anniversary Celebration the congregation had been planning repairs. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brune had some time previously set aside a certain amount of money to be used for a new altar and pulpit, so the congregation widened the scope of the repairs to include additional improvements. The committee's suggested taking care of the interior of the church, to include a suitable chancel for the new church fixtures. In addition, it was found advisable to remove the plaster from the walls down to the rock and replace it. The floors were sanded, the benches were waxed, and the vestibule was repainted. The work was done by the following: Architect for the fixtures, Rev. Hilmer of Barnhardt, Mo.; the interior decorator, Wm. Pepmueller of Washington, Mo.; the plasterers, Hunt and McCully of this community, (Perryville and Daisy); the carpenters, Hy. and Rudolph Sewing of Jackson, and Fritz Moeller, one of the members; the painting of the exterior, sanding of floors, waxing of benches, etc., by John Kaiser, a member. The committee is entitled to special thanks for its efforts, in particular, Mr. R. Thomas, who spent much time and effort in order to bring this renovation project to a successful conclusion.

1949 - A new roof was placed on the church during the summer. Cost: \$1373.64 and the outside of the church was tuck pointed at a cost of \$795.

1950 - English church services completely replaced the German services. Rev. W.F. Krahn was installed.

1951 - First board of trustees elected.

1952 - Trinity Lutheran Sunday School was officially started under Rev. W. Krahn.

1953 - Rev. Arthur Rasch was installed.

1955 - Present teacher house was built. A rectory door was installed.

1956 - Congregation incorporated.

1958 - Present school built and well dug.

1960 - New garage at parsonage built.

1962 - Rev. Keith Kiihne was installed.

1965 - Concordia retirement and welfare plan for pastors accepted.

1966 - New gas furnace installed in parsonage.

1967 - Rev. Walter Schmid was installed.

1968 - The 120th Anniversary was observed on May 5, 1968. Two services were held. In the morning service the Rev. W. Krahn from Jackson, Mo., a former Friedheim pastor, spoke on the topic, "To God Alone All Glory," based on Ps. 115:1. The afternoon service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Wiederanders, First Vice President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He spoke on the theme, "For Such A Time As This," Esther 4:14. A 120th anniversary thank offering fund was launched with the goal of \$5,000. This money was used to renovate the inside of the church and to make our place of worship more comfortable according to today's requirements. A special anniversary plate with a picture of the church on the front and important data on the back was made available by the Parent Teacher League of Trinity Lutheran School. Serving the congregation as pastor during this time was the late Rev. Walter Schmid.

In observance of our 120th anniversary in 1968, the entrance to the church was repaired; the ceiling lowered; the entrance wall paneled; and new flooring and carpeting in the vestibule and church installed. The outside door of the church was replaced. New and larger concrete steps were poured over the old ones leading into the church. To give protection to the entrance of the church, a new canopy was installed. The church benches were sanded and refinished to a beautiful natural look. The inside walls of the church received a new coat of paint. A new gas furnace replaced a wooden furnace making it more comfortable and convenient. Parent-teacher league organized. The Christian Day School was closed.

1969 - Beautiful art glass medallion picture windows replace the old milk-glass windows in the church and colored glass windows in the steeple. With the exception of one window, all were donated as an appreciation in memory or honor by either individuals, families, or an organization. During the same year the outside of the church was waterproofed.

1970 - Parsonage was redecorated.

1971 - Church school closed on permanent basis. Rev. Adam Mueller was installed. A practical shelf and counter, a special gift by the Men's Club of the congregation, was built in the vestibule.

OFFICIAL ACTS from 1848 to 1972

Baptism	1527
Confirmations	985
Weddings	352
Burials	509

one had his own gifts and served accordingly. Only eternity will give full account and reveal unto us the measure of spiritual fruit each individual was able to bear by the grace of God. To our Lord belongs all glory who said, "for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15: 5)

THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY

PASTORS 1848-2007

1	Friedrich Julius Biltz	March 12, 1848-	1853
2	Erhard Riedel	July 1854-	1862
3	Gotthold Gruber	1862-	1863
4	Friedrich Wilhelm John	1864-	1869
5	Heinrich Harmening	1869-	1873
6	Heinrich Hunsicker	1873-	1875
7	Otto F. Voigt	1875-	1883
8	Franz Meyer	1883-	1897
9	August H. Gassner	1898-	1912
10	W. C. Borchers	1912-	1920
11	Ernst K. Scharlemann	1920-	1925
12	John H. Deye	1925-	1947
13	William O. Schmidt	1947-	October 1949
14	W.F. Krahn	April 1950-	May 1953
15	Arthur Rasch	December 1953-	April 1961
16	Keith Kiihne	July 1962-	July 1965
17	Walter Schmid	January 1967-	September 1969
18	Adam Mueller	January 1, 1971-	September 1991
19	Wayne H. Palmer	July 19, 1992-	July 1999
20	David M. Burge	November21, 1999-	June 28, 2004
21	Roger C Steinbrueck	July 17, 2005-	

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Today, society urges us to find ourselves, and it is increasingly important to put ourselves into the tasks that God had given us to do. All Christian are obligated to obey the principles our Creator has intended for us. And Christian men and women need to find our way in our society and in service to God. To serve and please God in the role Almighty God has placed us is the greatest contribution to the world we can make.

THE LADIES AID

The church recognizes and appreciates the part which women play in the life of the church. The Ladies Aid has done so much for the congregation. In addition to preparing meals for occasions, such as mission festivals, anniversaries, conferences, picnics, funerals, etc., they have at various times assisted the congregation through gifts for the church. Their generous sacrifice of time has been a blessing to Trinity.

A history of the Ladies Aid at Trinity - On October 25, 1928, several ladies of the congregation came together at the Friedheim parsonage with the Rev. John H. Deye for the purpose of forming an organization for fellowship and assisting the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Friedheim. The minutes of this very first meeting are still preserved and state that the meeting was opened with scripture reading, prayer and singing of a hymn. Since the new organized Aid didn't have adequate room for informal meetings at the local church-owned property, its members met alternately in homes of the members. The following ladies were elected and served as first officers of the Aid: Mrs. Ben Kayser, president; Mrs. Norbert Sewing, vice-president; Mrs. Edgar Klaus, secretary; Mrs. J. H. Deye, treasurer. Soon after the Aid had organized, four ladies joined the Aid. They are as follows: Mrs. Walter Ruppel (1929), Mrs. Charles Schmidt (1930), Mrs. Henry Oehl (1930), Mrs. William Kester (1934).

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV) The church has endeavored to obey Jesus' command in various ways. On Sunday morning we offer Sunday School and youth Bible study. During the week we offer Confirmation class.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

And confirmation is only the beginning of a Christian's discipleship training. Nothing is more important than growing in the precious Word of God. Our Bible Class affords the opportunity to search, to discuss its meaning, and to apply the truth of God's Word to our lives. Through exploring the Scriptures God's word comes to life in our lives. God gives us insight, guidance and strength we need for daily Christian lives. All are welcome and encouraged and encouraged to attend.

PASTORS

PARSONAGES

In 1849, the first parsonage was built where the present garden now is.

In 1882, it was decided to build a new parsonage. The building committee consisted of the following men: Fr. Grcsssheider, Fr. Moeller, Christian Schroeder, Wilhelm Ruessler, Carl Elbrecht, and Karl Bangert. Not until 1884, however, was this parsonage actually ,built. It was a brick structure, 40 x 18 x ,20, and dedicated March 10. It consisted of two rooms above and two below. It also had a cellar under the north half, which cost \$1,137.65. In 1904 the parsonage received a coat of ,paint and another in 1917.

In 1936 the present parsonage was built, consisting of kitchen, dining room, front room, sleeping room, bath and study. It also has a basement with a cistern. The second floor has three more bed rooms. A furnace in the basement heats the parsonage. In 1940 the parsonage was painted and in 1948 the bath room fixtures were added, together with a compression pump at a cost of \$500. In a special meeting on August 31, 1958 the congregation resolved to dig a well for the purpose of having sufficient water for the parsonage, the teacherage, and the school. A new two car garage was built during the fall of 1960. In 1966 a new gas furnace was installed for the amount of \$500.00. In the fall of 1970, before the arrival of Rev. Mueller and his family, the living and dining room were paneled. and brought up-to-date. Thanks to the generosity of the Ladies Aid and the Men's Club of the congregation, the kitchen in the parsonage was remodeled and new cabinets and a counter top installed. The closet in the master bedroom was remodeled and a small door replaced by a modern sliding door. This is the latest improvement and was done in 1973. The Pastor's study was moved from the parsonage to the school building. The furnace was replaced. In 2005 the bathroom was updated. In 2007 the septic system was replaced. In 2008 the south west corner of the foundation was mud jacked to correct a serious settling problem and the electric fuse panel was replaced with breakers.

MINISTRY OFFICE

We cannot write the history of a Christian congregation without mentioning the men whom God has called to serve at a particular time. Besides our Heavenly Father we owe it to each one of these men who have labored in the vineyard of our Lord and served the congregation to the best of their knowledge and abilities. From the year 1848, when the first residential pastor was installed, to this 160th anniversary year 21 men have been called and were privileged to make the claims of Christ known to the people of this congregation, and have served in the realms of their God-given talents.

Let us not overlook the fact that it was the Lord himself, who, through the congregation, placed each one in this field of labor. He permitted the one to serve a longer span of years while another was allotted to serve a shorter period of time. (The Rev. John H. Deye served the congregation for 22 years from 1925-1947, the longest time of any pastor. The Rev. Wm. O. Schmidt, pastor from 1947-1949 was called to be with the Lord while serving the congregation.) If we would review their work, we would have to admit, that the Lord had his special reasons why He selected just a certain individual at a specified time. Each

1973 - The 125th Anniversary was observed on May 6th. A bronze plaque was place on the front of church. The church floors were refinished and carpet installed and central air conditioning installed. Ladies Aid remodeled kitchen in parsonage.

CHURCH RECORDS (Feb. 1973)

Souls	286
Communicants	211
Voting Members	66
Y.P.S	8
Ladies Aid	23
Men's Club	14

1974 - Youth group placed fifteen letters on back of church to identify our church.

1975 - In the new section of the cemetery, it was decided to use flat tombstones.

1976 - Exterior woodwork of parsonage and teacher house was painted. Roof replaced on parish hall.

1979 - Some new folding chairs and tables were purchased. And new typewriter purchased.

1980 - Purchased new microphone and light for the pulpit. Parish hall has some renovation done. The baseball field was constructed.

1982 - New Lutheran hymnals were purchased. Church interior walls painted and P.A. system repaired.

1983 - 135th Anniversary observed. A new piano was given as a memorial. Church was re-carpeted.

1984 - Cemetery rules amended: (I) Vaults required, (2) Graves to be 41/2' deep, (3) Tombstone grave marker be required within one year after burial. Roof replaced on the parsonage and garage.

1985 - Replaced P.A. system, put carpet in front of church and parish hall. Air conditioner donated for parish hall basement.

1987 - Parsonage furnace replaced with gas furnace. A patio 15' x 48' was constructed on the north side of parish hall.

1988 - New kitchen cabinets built in parsonage.

1991 - Remodeled interior of parsonage. Granted permission to translate church records from German to English. Permission to make and display banners in church.

1992 - Rev. Wayne Palmer was installed. Rev. Palmer began children's messages. A wheel chair ramp and steps were constructed. Permission was granted to have printed "Baptism-Confirmation-Marriages and Deaths 1848-1992" book. People were now allowed to put grave markers in cemetery while they are still alive. Trinity Lutheran Church-Friedheim joined the Altenburg Circuit.

1993 - First Pictorial Directory was produced. Installed a new 5' x 10' cross and the old cross was placed in the cemetery. Reroofed the teacher house. Three ceiling fans were installed in church. Concrete benches were placed in cemetery as a memorial.

1994 - Teacher house and parsonage were remodeled. New furnaces were donated as memorial in parish hall. Installed central air conditioning in parish hall.

1995 - Landscaping around the parish hall (to be completed by 150th Anniversary). A new kitchen stove and refrigerator were purchased for parish hall kitchen. Vinyl windows were installed in parsonage.

1996 - Built storage cabinet in parish hall. Black top church parking area. Built a new wall behind altar.

1997 - Tuck pointing repairs were made on the exterior of church. Second pictorial directory was made. Eternal light was placed in church as a memorial.

1998 -150th Anniversary observed. Pew cushions were installed, carpet replaced in church as well as in front of parish hall, interior of church painted. Memorials include: pew cushions, piano cushion, bronze plaque on front of church, cemetery directory, some new hymnals, floor length candelabras for the altar and canopy over side entrance to church.

1999 - November 21 Rev. David M Burge installed as pastor. Rev. Burge started Saturday evening services

2005 - July 17, Rev. Roger Steinbrueck installed. We began leading the congregational singing on the Saturday Evening worship services with fiddle and guitar. The musicians include Doug Zoellner, Pastor Roger Steinbrueck, Elaine Hoffman, Terry Bogenpohl.

2007 - May 6, The 150th year of our church building was celebrated with a party following the service with President Ray Mirly as the guest preacher.

New steel roof installed on church, Steeple resided and re roofed. December 1, New hymnals, LSB, dedicated. All the hymnals were donated by parishioners. A new Christmas tree given to the congregation by the Ladies Aid.

2008 – May 4, Celebrated the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

OFFICIAL ACTS from 1973 – 2008 (March)

Baptisms	176
Confirmations	160
Weddings	65
Burials	113

CHURCH RECORDS (March 2008)

Souls	282
Communicants	240

OFFICIAL ACTS Total from 1848 – 2008 (March)

Baptisms	1703
Confirmations	1145
Weddings	417
Burials	622

OUR ORGANISTS

Joyce Bock	Jessica Braeuner
Joy Brauener	Dian Burge
Delma (Grossheider) Frentzel	Eddie Fiehler
E. B. Fiekler	Donald Israel
Terry Klaus	Mrs Keith Kiihne
Erma Lorenz	Berniece Lorenz
Sheila Miller	Becky Mueller
Magdeline Mueller	Elisabeth Mueller – piano
Susan Meyr	Karen Mirly
Sharon (Meyer) Ludwig	Emma Hoffsteder Mirly
Edwin Pietsch	Hilda Pohlman
Bill Rasch	Irna Rasche
Ronald Ruppel	Paul Schmandt
Mrs Paul Theiss	



Sunday School Opening 2007



VBS 2007

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION CLASS

This is a three-year course for children in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. It offers a thorough instructions in God's Word and the teachings of the Christian Church, leading to communicate membership in the congregation. However, Christian Education begins at birth and continues till death. Jesus commanded,





*Trinity Lutheran School outing to Grant's Farm, 1968*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

A Christian Congregation's educational program must have a specific goal. The aim is to present Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord. To plant the Good Word about Jesus in the hearts of our children is our God-given responsibility and at the same time a great privilege. Since children do not only learn from what they hear, but also from what they see, it becomes evident that the person that teaches has not only some kind of influence on a child's life, but also a great responsibility. Trinity Lutheran Sunday School, in the form we have it today, was officially started in 1952 under Rev. W. Krahn. The first Sunday School Superintendent was Mr. Wilbert Ruesler.

Our Sunday School is for all children. The lessons at each age-level focus on life situations and point out how God's Word and God's people answer the basic questions of life. The materials encourage Christian living and service at home, at church, at school, and in the community. Not only is the home-life of great importance to a child, but also encouragement should be given by the parents to attend Sunday School and practice what is taught.

## RALLY DAY

The first day of Sunday School in the fall is celebrated during the Sunday school period and the worship service and is followed by the Sunday school / Church picnic.

## VBS

We take time in the summer to study God's word in an alternative format -- Vacation Bible School. Because of the extensive planning and preparation by all involved the program is a continuing blessing to this congregation and the surrounding communities.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### PARISH EDUCATION

Trinity Lutheran Church has been engaged in the Christian education of its children since the fall of 1848. That year the Rev. J. F. Biltz, first pastor of Trinity, taught school in one room of the original log church. By doing so, he and the congregation followed God's command as stated in the words of the apostle: "*Ye parents bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*"

Rev. Biltz later became pastor of the church at Concordia, Missouri and was instrumental in establishing St. Paul's College, one of Synods preparatory schools. In 1875, when Rev. Hunsicker left and Rev. Voigt was arriving, a school building for specified educational purposes was erected. The second school building was 36 x 24 x 12, built in the year 1903, and dedicated December 6, 1903. In 1915 this school was painted inside and outside. In 1929 a basement was put under this school with a furnace at a cost of \$250.00, with the members doing the work. This school stood in front of our present school and served until the new one was ready for service.

In 1935, Alfred Ruppel and Walter Ruppel fitted a Model T pickup with boards and a tarp on top for a school bus. Teacher Pietch drove the bus from Violet's home, where he lived. When the pickup broke down, Rev. Deye drove a Maxwell car and picked children up at the Old Apple Creek bridge. Teacher Pietch bought a car with a rumble seat and he picked up children for school. Later, he stayed with the Harlen Ruppel's family. In 1946, a school bus was purchased for the sum of \$1,345.



*1948 School Bus – Driver: Robert Sewing. Busing started during Pastor Deye's time*

### OUR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Wilma Bogenpohl  
E. B. Fiehler  
Edwin Pietch  
Robert Sewing

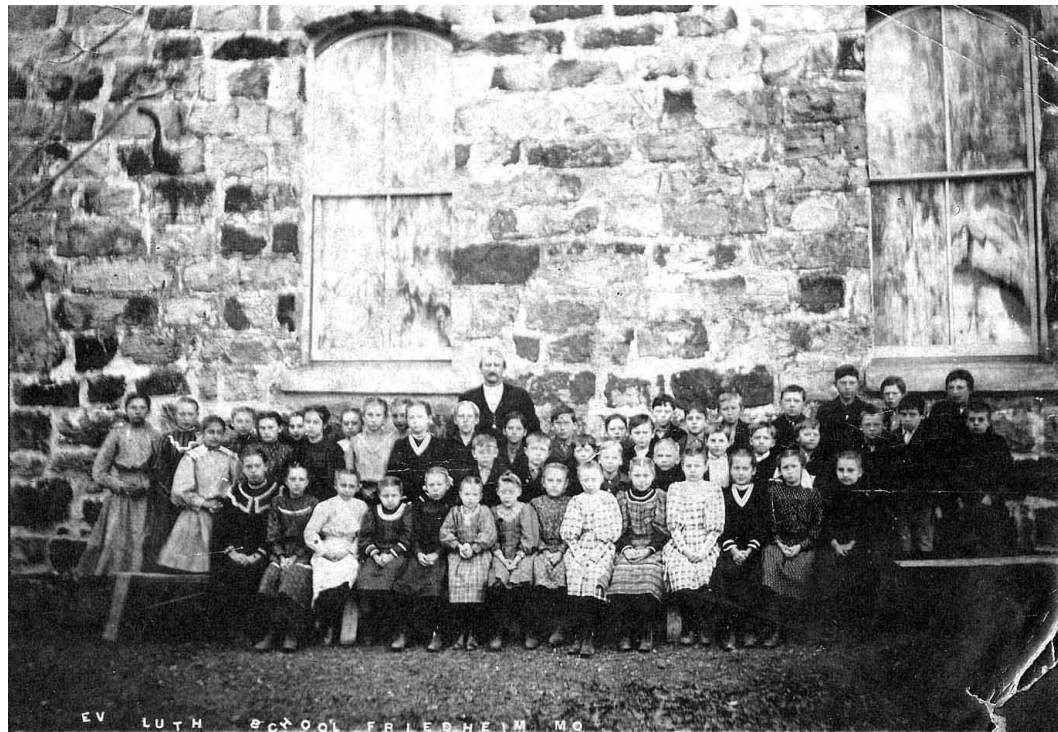
Rev. John H. Deye  
Elmer Friese  
Robert Rasche

Norbert Elbrecht  
Harold Kester  
Adolph Rohde

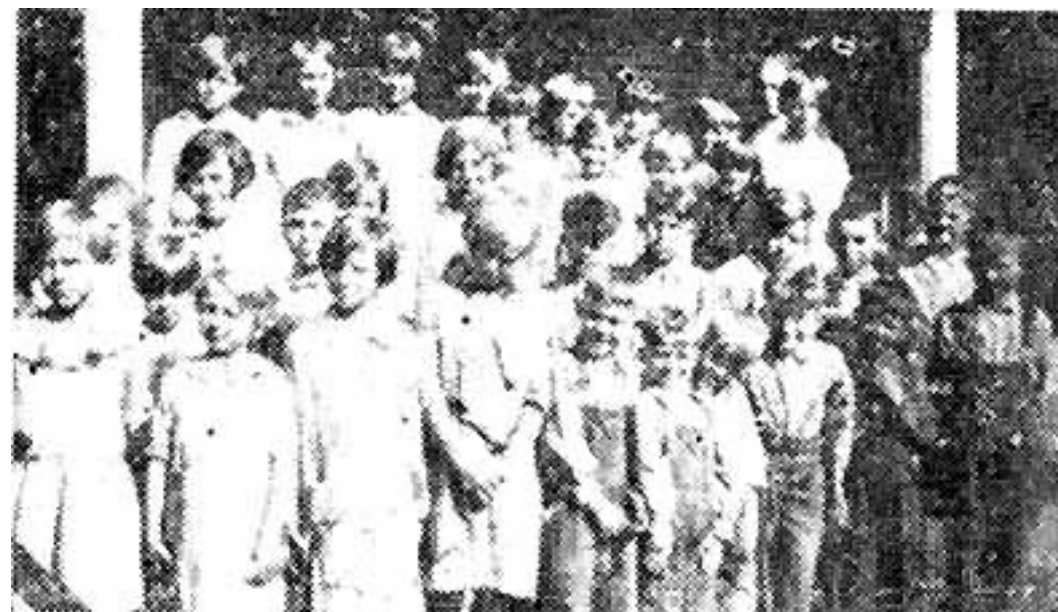
### TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

According to the minutes of the congregation of July 7, 1953 the resolution was made to construct an educational building complying to legal specifications. The decision to build a new school, however, does not mean that the building was started immediately. Spring 1958 can be cited as the starting time of our present 30' 8" x 80' 6" school building. This new and modern two story building consists of cement blocks on the inside and bricks on the outside. With some exceptions the building was completed and dedicated September 1958. The cost was approximately \$30,000.00, certainly no minor task for the congregation. The school served as a Christian day school until the spring term of 1968 when it was decided to close the school temporarily. In its October meeting of 1971 the Voting Members of the congregation came to the conclusion to establish the school closed on a permanent basis.





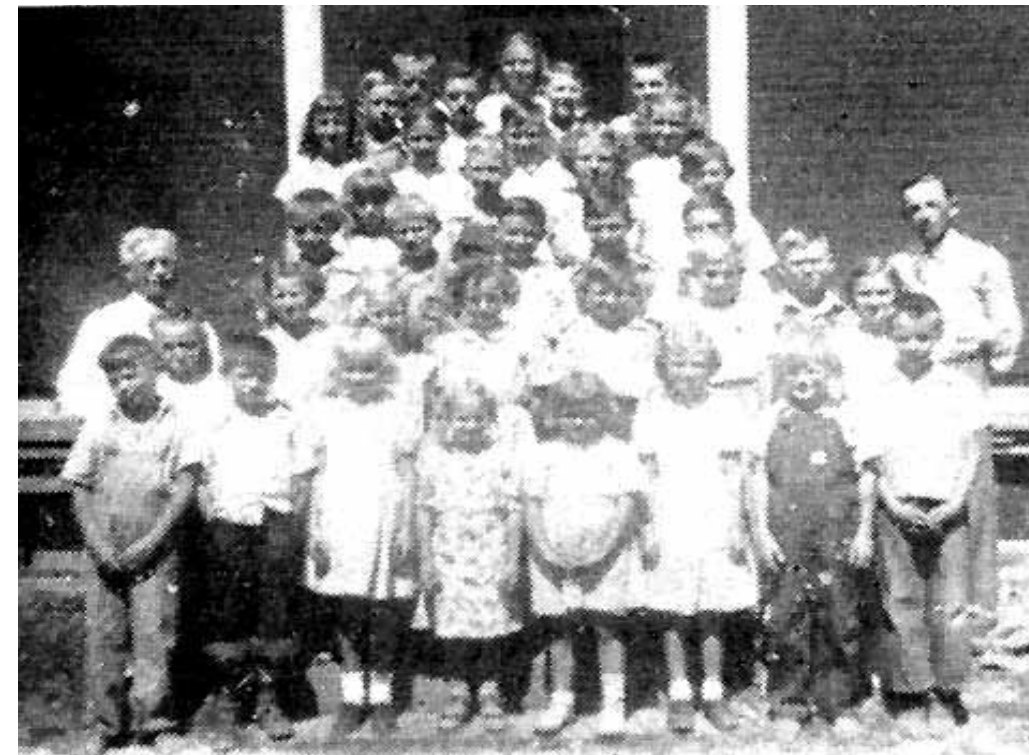
*Trinity Lutheran School 1908*



*Trinity Lutheran School 1928*

Today, the building is used throughout the week as a meeting place by church organizations, by individuals for family gatherings and festivities, and by other groups as well. On Sundays it is the meeting place for our Sunday School and Bible Class.

In July 1967 it became necessary to re-roof the building and the amount for doing this job was \$850.00. On May 1, 1955 the congregation resolved to build a house for its teachers. This home was constructed during the summer months of 1955 and is located where a barn used to be. The price for this teacherage was not to exceed the amount of \$6728.00. The teachers, D. Israel and R. Rasch were the only ones that lived in the home. Teacher Rasch left in 1959 and the home has since been rented.



*Trinity Lutheran School 1948 with Supt. Bade*

#### TEACHERS

From the beginning of this congregation the pastors were in charge of Christian education until it became possible for the congregation to call a qualified teacher for this position.

March 12, 1848-53	Rev. Friedrich Julius Biltz
July 1854-62	Rev. Erhard Riedel
1862-63	Rev. Gotthold Gruber
1864-69	Rev. Friedrich Wilhelm John
1869-73	Rev. Harmening was pastor; student Wiegner taught school.
1911	Teacher Droegmueller
1916-28	Teachers Fischer and Jones
1928-42	Teacher Peitsch
1942-45	Teacher Schmandt
1946-47	Teacher Velma Kayser (Mrs. Edgar Statler)
1947-48	Teacher Sarah Ann Fritz (Mrs. Ronald Lurk)
1948-51	Teacher Herbert Brune
1951-53	Mr. E. B. Fiehler
1953-54	Miss Olida Lange (Mrs. Gene Bartels)
1954, March & April	Mrs. Trula Mouser finished the school term
1954-57	Teacher Donald Israel
1957-59	Teacher Robert Rasch.
1959, fall - 1958	Mrs. Trula Mouser again became the teacher and served until Trinity discontinued its Christian Parochial Day School.

For several years, the parent teacher league was active during the existence of school.