

# **History of St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

## **Ashland, KY.**

### **1866-2001**

It's the mid 1800's and the charcoal and iron furnaces of Greenup and Lawrence counties of Kentucky are going full blast, as well as those across the Ohio River at Lawrence and Perry counties in Ohio. Many Germans immigrants were led to settle in this area because of their skills in the Iron industry.

In 1854 Ashland was incorporated as a city, then in 1860 the county of Boyd was formed from parts of Greenup and Lawrence counties of Kentucky. In this county were several furnaces of which the Germans settled. These German immigrants were hungry and thirsty for the fellowship of worship, so they held meetings, as they were called, in the one-room schoolhouses, which were at each furnace settlement, or they held them out side in the open air.

The Kentucky Iron and Coal & Manufactory Co., recognizing the importance of religion to a city and it's people, offered free lots to any organized church. The only condition was that the organization was to have the capability to build a suitable house of worship within a reasonable period of time; Very reasonable terms for such a generous offer. Most of the lots chosen were on corners and were among the best in the incorporated area of Ashland.

In 1866 the last of the free lots was given to a small group of these Germans who had immigrated to this area. By this time there were no more choice corner lots, which accounts for the original location of St. Paul's Lutheran Church between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> streets of Winchester Avenue. The lot was 26 x 40 x 15. The smallness of its membership did not require a larger lot. While it was the smallest church built in Ashland it carried the largest name, "The German United Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession at Ashland, Kentucky and Vicinity". Then on May 2, 1875 the congregation, being composed of Lutheran and reformed people, resolved to join the Ohio Synod and changed their name to "The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation" ("Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische St. Paul's Gemeinde"); then in 1876 it was changed again back to the original name. Then on December 16, 1877 the name of the congregation permanently changed to read: "St. Paul's Evangical Lutheran Church", as it is still called today.

On February 25, 1866 a meeting was held in one of the schoolhouses at a furnace area. I believe it to be the Buena Vista Furnace as I have helped translate the old German Records which indicated that Rev. G. Baum visited all the German settlements, but most is recorded from Buena Vista and, according to my research, the original signers of the constitution lived and/or worked in that area of Boyd county, Kentucky. During this meeting the male members of the church resolved

to draft a constitution and elect church officers. The Rev. G. Baum acted as Chairman. This we may call the beginning of the original congregation now known as St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Constitution was adopted March 11, 1866 with fifty-two names beneath it. There are several descendants of the original signers that are active members today. The signers are thus:

FRIEDERICH GOESSLING, WILHELM KEIL, KARL OSTEN, GEORG BURGRAF, CHRISTIAN WITTMARSHAUSEN, LUDWIG RUNDE, FRIEDERICH NIERMANN, PETER MALSBERGER, JOHANNES GLEIM, FRIEDERICH MEIER, WILHELM WALTEMATH, HEINRICH HILGENBERG, FRIEDERICH PFANNKUCH, FRIEDRICH DOERNTTE, AARON OFFERT, GEORG SOHMER, HEINRICH GRONE, FRIEDERICH WIENECKE, HEINRICH WIENECK, FRIEDERICH SPRENGER, LUDWIG FUEHRING, WILHELM FUEHRING, HENRICK FAHRSON, CHRIST KOCH, FRIEDERICH WEBER, CHRIST MEIER, AUGUST MEIER, JACOB GOESELE, KASPAR HOEING, GEORG REIMLINER, FREDERICH HOSTMANN, KONRAD KEILM, JOHANN LAUTERBACH, GEORG HENNEMANN, HEINRICH STEIL, ANTON OSTER, CLEMENS BERTSCH, CHRISTOF RETTIKER, HEINRICH MAURER, CARL VENZ, JOHANN SCHLIMM, WILHELM THIELE, AUGUST NOLTE, HEINRICH HENZ, HEIRNRICH NOLTE, GUSTAV BAUM, PASTOR.

On April 23, 1866 the congregation met and resolved to erect a church, which took five months and cost \$1,800.00 to build. It was dedicated the following September 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a German-English congregation. The German services every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. and English at the 7 p.m. service. English was used exclusively in Sunday school, in catechumen instructions and nearly so in the Day School and in all meetings. The German speaking services were dropped in the fall of 1920.

In 1868 the lot next to the church on the west side was purchased for \$300.00, for future growth. The first Pastor to minister to this newly organized church was Rev. Gustav Baum who served from 1866 through 1871. Records show that he also shared God's Word with all the furnace settlements in Greenup and Boyd counties of Kentucky and in Lawrence and Perry counties of Ohio. It seems however, that Rev. Baum continued to serve the congregation at Buena Vista Furnace after he resigned.

The next meeting was 19 March 1871 and the Rev. J. Lautenschlager of the Lutheran Church in Ironton, Ohio, resided. At first Rev. Lautenschlager preached in Ashland every other Sunday, but later that year moved from Ironton to Ashland. He served until June 17, 1877. Rev. J. Schulze, of Ironton was the vacancy pastor, 1877-1878.

During Rev. Lautenschlager's pastorate on 2 May 1875 the congregation joined the Ohio Synod and about this time revised their constitution with fifty-six signers. The following did not appear on the first list:

JOHANN AUFRICHT, ANDREAS OYSTER, HY. HERBST, WM. LESEMANN, CONRAD GEHRINGER, HENRY KARNAP, ROBERT MUELLER, GEORG HILDEBRAND, CONRAD HEUMANN (HYMAN), AUGUST KOCH, HENRY FISCHER, HENRY HEUMANN (HYMAN), WM. SCHORMANN, HENRY GRONE, KARL KRAMER, WM. KLEYKAMP, AUGUST KAHNE, CONRAD MEIER, CASPER VAHRSON, AUGUST SIEMS, PHILLIP ROHRE, WM. KAHNE, LOUIS RONDE, WM. DIEDERICH, SR., HENRY KAHNE, JR.

It was about this time, in 1875, that a Ladies Society was formed. This later became know as the Ladies' Aid Society. The background of this organization is very interesting. According to reliable word of mouth history handed down from witnesses is that its forerunner was a choir made up of women who sang to cheer a young lady who was convalescing from a serious illness. This woman, as of 1941, was 85 years old and it was Mrs. Anna Fearing. Before a hospital was built in Ashland, member of the Ladies' Society volunteered to take turns sitting with the sick, giving relief to members of the stricken families. From the beginning, the Ladies' Society did much to aid the church and individuals. It was through its efforts that the lot for the first parsonage was purchased and the parsonage was built. The women of this society did much noble work, such as visiting the sick, helping the poor, and assisting the congregation in a general way. The last meeting I can find recorded for these ladies was 8 May 1951. As most things do, this also changed with the times. Other organizations like the Altar Guild, the Dorcas Society, Louvina Kob's Bible Class and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League have all done the work these pioneer ladies so graciously set forth the example for us to follow. *"In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."* – Matt.25: 40.

In January of 1878 Rev. G. Doepken was called and shortly afterwards was installed as Pastor. During his pastorate of about one year, the two factions that made up the congregation, the Lutherans and the Reformed, separated. Both parties concurrently held possession of the church property, but in the course of time an agreement was made after which the Lutherans continued as St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the Reformers affiliated with other churches, and some were lost to the church altogether. During Rev. Doepken's service his wife, Hinderine, died (1813-1880) and was buried in Ashland Cemetery in a grave lot that the church had purchased. Then on 18 September 1883 the church bought half of lot number twenty, section three and half of the lot number twenty-one in the same section. On February 26, 1888 Rev. Doepken resigned his office. Later, in 1902 he died and then in 1904 his daughter died. They both were buried in graves next to his wife that the church had purchased. He is the only Pastor that we have buried in Ashland, Kentucky.

After the resignation of Rev. Doepken, Rev. G. R. Herbst of Ironton, Ohio, was vacancy pastor. It was July 20<sup>th</sup> of 1888 a call was extended to Rev. Theodore

Horst of Florida, Ohio. He accepted the call and began serving the church on September 2, 1888. It was during his pastorate that the church was remodeled and enlarged by one-third its original size. He accepted another call to Hilliard, Ohio in 1891 but he did return to St. Paul's to marry a young woman of this congregation, Miss Mollie (Marie) Hyman, daughter of Benjamin Conrad Bernard Hyman, on February 8, 1893. They then moved to Toledo, Ohio and served the Lord for many more years and both are laid to rest there.

Rev. A. F. Sallmann took charge of the congregation in April of 1892. During his pastorate the congregation discussed the question of erecting a parochial school. It was in the year, 1896, that St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ashland, Kentucky became incorporated under the Statutes of Kentucky.

It was also under Rev. Sallmann's pastorate that on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 1896 that a Young People's Society was organized. This young people's group was started with 27 youth. At first they met every Wednesday evening, the first, second and third meetings being devoted to entertainment, the fourth to business. In the second meeting a resolution was adopted "that an inexcusable absence be fined the sum of twenty-five cents." Until 1922, this society functioned as an independent organization. In 1922 it was granted a charter by the International Walther League. Several years later, circumstances made it necessary to terminate this affiliation, but in 1936 the Young People's Society renewed its charter and resumed its affiliation with the International Walther League. They were active in numerous ways: they placed religious periodicals and books into the Ashland Public Library, Junior College and Y.M.C.A.; they assisted Wheat Ridge Sanatorium, which was owned and operated by the International Walther League; they contributed to missions and other worthy institutions and endeavors. The members were all Senior high school age. On November 10, 1940, Under their efforts as a part of its Unite The Youth Endeavor Program, whose mission was to train the newly confirmed and those too young for the Senior League for greater service to the church of today and for the leaders of the church tomorrow, a junior young people's society was formed. The first president was Ruth Haller, and secretary was Doris Miller. This program of two separate youth groups was continued until the 1950's, when it was decided to include all confirmed youth. The Walther League at St. Paul's continued until 1969 when it then took on a new name and became "St. Paul's Youth Group". At different times this group, according to how many youth there was in the church and/or what they decided to do at their meetings, has had little or lots of youth participation. For many years they still followed the general guidelines of meeting weekly with the fourth meeting for Bible study and business. Then they went to monthly meetings with alternated between bible study and entertainment. They are the one responsible for the Congregation Christmas Caroling to the shut-ins. They still do mission projects and reach out to others as well as study God's word and have fun. *"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."* –Eccl.12: 1.

Poor health forced Rev. Sallmann to resign in 1896 and Rev. S. Glaser of Buffalo, New York became his successor in that same year.

During Rev. Glaser's pastorate in 1899 the church was provided with a new furnace and new pews and other improvements. With the growing number of school age children and in obedience to God's divine command, "*And thou shalt teach them diligently unto they children*" (Deut. 6:7), their Sunday school was flourishing and thus the question about starting a parochial day school was again discussed. In a meeting on July 9, 1899 the congregation resolved to build a schoolhouse in the rear of the church, which thrived until 1917. Many children had the opportunity of enjoying the blessings of a Christian Day School.

In 1900 Rev. Glaser was granted a peaceful dismissal since he accepted a call to Meriden, Connecticut. A week later the congregation called Rev. J. Adam Rimbach of Zanesville, Ohio. He accepted and arrived in April of that year and served until 1906. During Rev. J. Adam Rimbach's service to the Lord in Ashland, Kentucky he translated the Hymn, "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus" into English in 1901, as it is known worldwide.

In 1901 a Christian Day School began with Mr. H. Kowert, the teacher in charge. In this same year the congregation joined the Missouri Synod. Teacher Kowert accepted a call to St. Louis in the summer of 1903. His successor was a lady teacher, Miss Helen Haase of Wisconsin, whom became Mrs. Henry Kahne.

In 1904 the congregation engaged Miss Margaret Hartwig of Bangor, Wisconsin, as teacher. She also taught the term of 1905-06.

In 1906 Rev. Reimbach accepted a call to Portland, Oregon, and Rev. W. F. Henkel of Norwalk, Ohio, became his successor. His installation was November 1906 by Rev. W.R. Henkel. He served until 1920.

1907 Mr. Otto Betz, a graduate of the Teachers' Seminary near Chicago, took charge of the school. He served two terms and was succeeded by Mr. Albert Holtmann, who likewise served two terms, from 1909-1911.

In 1908 the congregation purchased a lot on Carter Ave., one square south of the church, from John Means to build a parsonage. A brick parsonage of eight rooms was built in 1912 with the combined efforts of the Lady's Aid Society. The cost was about \$3,000.00.

In 1913 Miss Louise Kahne (later became Mrs. Joseph Thompson) taught the Parochial school until 1916. After Louise Kahne was Miss Bachus, 1916-1917, then at that time the school closed.

In early 1920 the original reader bulletin board, which hung on the front of the church building, was removed and a new freestanding one was placed on the front lawn, of the church, at the cost of \$55. It had a font of several hundred movable porcelain letters, which were legible at a good distance. Rev. W. F. Henkel's last sermon to the congregation was on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1920, as he had accepted a call to Van Wert, Ohio. In the fall of this same year a new furnace was installed in the church. After two callings without success, the congregation called Rev.

Walter Stock, who at the time was a resident in the Northwestern Mission Fields of Alberta, Canada. He was installed in February 1921 and served until May 1941, when he resigned in order to enter the service of the government as CCC Chaplain. From there he went on to serve with the Red Cross. He later went to serve a parish in Indian Head, Maryland.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 1934 a Confirmation Reunion Service was held, at 3 p.m., for every one confirmed in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, from the first class in 1867 to then.

In 1936 two new organizations took root, the Choral Union and the Men's Club.

The choral union's chief objective was to sponsor a sincere interest in and appreciation of good church music. This was first under the direction of Mrs. Esther McKay, Choir Director, and Miss Floris Weidenhiller as the president. When Mrs. McKay resigned in 1938, Mrs. Louise (Kahne) Thompson, the organist at the time, took charge and this choir improved remarkably. The choir furnished suitable music for every special occasion, as well as for the regular Sunday Service. This choir seemed to flourish with regular attendance until about 1945.

*"The righteous doth sing and rejoice."—Prv.29: 6.*

The Men's Club was organized after several of the men in the congregation decided that they should be affiliated with the national organization called the Lutheran Laymen's League. The purpose for the club was to bring a better spirit of fellowship among our men and to serve the church in its work. Because of its affiliation with the L. L. L., this group's special project was to promote the Lutheran Hour, particularly through local advertising and with financial help to defray the cost of the broadcasts. Their mission was to spread the Gospel as the welfare of the church and its member were always in the forefront. These men made special efforts to help and cheer the needy in our community. Their meetings concentrated on the business of the church work, furthering a mutual understanding, as well as some recreation for enjoyment and fellowship with one another. This organization lasted until about 1960's.

*"The work of our hands establish Thou it."—Ps. 90: 17.*

In those days it was custom that men and women did not attend the same bible class on Sunday morning. It was in June of 1937 that the ladies bible class decided that they would like to start meeting once a month in the homes of the members for bible study. The first meeting was in the home of the teacher of that class, Mrs. Louise Thompson. They voted that evening to call themselves the "Louvina Kobs Bible Class" in honor of Mrs. Kobs who was at the time, the oldest honorary member. The purpose of these monthly meetings was to promote a feeling of fellowship among the members, and to study God word with discussions at each meeting. For service these ladies reached out to the less fortunate throughout the year by donations of various kinds. Their aim was to strive to emulate the example of the wonderful Christian mother, who gave them permission to use her name, and

who inspired them in their work at all times. These ladies continued this bible class until 8 May 1951. *“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet.”—Ps. 119:105.*

In early 1938, a group of women decided to call a meeting to discuss plans for forming a society whose aim would be to beautify the church in every way possible, especially the Altar. On March 21, 1938, the first business meeting was held in the church annex and out of love for our Lord and the joy and delight derived from serving Him, the Altar Guild had been organized. Mrs. William (Paula) Wiedekamp served as the first president. They had a membership of thirty-two ladies, who were dedicated to assisting in the beautification of the church, especially the Altar. These ladies furnished the altar paraments, communion ware, flowers and the like for proper worship service along with charitable endeavors undertaken by the church. This organization is still going on today with the following officers: President: Nellis Haller; Vice-President: Margie Ramey; Secretary: Roberta Haller; Treasurer, Nancy Quade.

*“To beautify the place of My Sanctuary.”—Is. 60:13.*

After Rev. Stock left a request was made to Elmer E. Maschoff to serve as supply pastor. He had just completed a mission canvas of Charleston, West Virginia. He arrived on May 26, 1941. On July 3, a call was extended to Rev. Elmer E. Maschoff and he accepted on July 6. Then on July 27, 1941 he was ordained and installed by his father, the Rev. Theodore Maschoff, of Lincoln, Missouri. This is the first ordination, that I can find, that took place at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Ashland, Kentucky. His parsonage was at 1310 Maryland Court, Ashland, Kentucky. It was during his pastorate that the discussion and plans to build a new church were often held.

During Rev. Maschoff’s service it was wartime and several of the male members of the congregation served their country along with the rest of the world. People would send church bulletins and sermons to the service men. A young lady of the congregation, whom I cannot find a name for, as it was not mentioned in the paper I found, sent them to a friend stationed in the Pacific. A letter was returned to the young lady asking her to inform Rev. Maschoff that his sermon, emphasizing unity, was shown to the young man’s chaplain and then the chaplain gave it to the commanding officer who in turn put it on a bulletin board with orders that it was to be read by all men! The young man said that for quite a long time Rev. Mashcofff’s sermons were the only thing they had to read and that they all read them regularly. The war ended 14 August 1945 and a special Peace and Thanksgiving service was held.

It’s wintertime and in Kentucky that means basketball even in 1946 in Ashland. The two four man teams at St. Paul’s were the boys of the junior bible class vs. the men’s bible class. The games were held in the church annex. The list of players were: Men’s Bible class: Rev. E. E. Maschoff, Bernard C. Haller, Wm. “Bill” Schulz and they pick up young Bernie F. Haller (who by the way furnished his basketball for the games); the boys from the Junior Bible Class were: Jim

Fearing, Teddy Gesling, Charlie Cameron and John Krog. This was an on going thing all basketball season for these fellows. No the young boys did not always win, and this was a good healthy rivalry.

On 24 February 1946 a celebration was held in honor of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. A special worship service with communion was held in the morning at 10:30 a.m. and then in the evening a banquet was held at 6:00 p.m., in the church annex with guest speaker Rev. Walter A. Pohl from Zanesville, Ohio. The theme for this diamond jubilee was "Forward Through Faithfulness". Rev. Maschoff read a brief history of the church, special piano music was played and singing by the Sunday school children was all part of the program.

A sad but loving thing happened on 11 April 1946 and that was a name was stricken from the communicant list after repeated contacts and admonition from the pastor. This person was given a dismissal letter and it was the first excommunication I found in this research. It is sad when you try and bring souls back into the flock when Satan has hold of them and they won't let go of him and return, thus they choose not to be a part of the church.

On September 1, 1946 a dedication and a special thanks was done for a picture that had been donated by Mrs. Phyllis Geyer in memory of her husband, who was killed in action during WWII in France. It is the picture of Jesus knocking at the door, which hangs in the back of our nave today. May it remind us of our Lord Jesus knocking at the door of our hearts and lives, eager to come in to give us heaven's greatest blessing: forgiveness of sins thru faith in His atonement, eternal life, and heaven itself. This picture did hang in the old church's entrance. The Altar Guild did some beautification to that entrance by hanging drapes around the picture to enhance it and to make for an appealing church entrance.

A special 80<sup>th</sup> memorial service was held on 23 September 1946, as that was when the first church building was dedicated.

Rev. E. E. Maschoff resigned in the fall of 1946 to accept a call to Glendale, Missouri.

Rev. W. C. Schnute became pastor in February 1947 and served until 1949 when he took a call to Azusa, CA. It was early February 1947 that we acquired a new parsonage at 406 43<sup>rd</sup> St., Ashland, Kentucky. It was during Rev. Schnute's pastorate that the reality of building a new church took place.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 1947, Palm Sunday, the re-organized choir, under the leadership of, organist, Mrs. Louise Thompson, participated in the worship service; it's initial effort to beautify the service and to enhance the atmosphere in worship. The eleven members were Elizabeth Fearing, Mrs. George (Sue) Finney, Mrs. Theodore (Shirley) Gesling, Mrs. Phyllis Geyer, Miss Miriam Herbst, Mrs. Charles (Louise) Kahne, Mrs. C. Wilson, Theodore Gesling, Jr., Mr. W. P. (Bink) Haller, Jr., Mr. C. Wilson and Mr. Ray McDonald. It was at this time also that the church got a new paint job on the inside. On October 22, 1947 twelve ladies gathered to

start the organization called Dorcas Society. The following officers were elected: President: Mrs. Fred Kramer; Vice President: Mrs. Louise Krog; Secretary – Treasurer: Mrs. W.C. Schnute. This Society lasted through 1979. It was at this time also that the church got repainted on the inside.

On March 28, 1948 Mrs. Phyllis (Kahne) Geyer and Mrs. Betty (Kahne) Lewis donated a new silver communion service set, the same one we use today. It was November of 1948 that the Altar Guild was selling memorial plates with the etching of the original church on them. Mrs. Lois Kahne was in charge of this project.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 1949 Mrs. Phyllis (Kahne) Geyer gave a gift of two candlesticks for the altar, which took place of the menorah that was on the top of the Altar. They held wax candles topped with brass wax savers. These brass candlesticks are the ones on our altar today. The Rev. Theodore F. Siemon was vacancy pastor from 20 March 1949 till 16 October 1949.

Also in 1949 Louise Thompson retired, due to health problems, as our organist and Norma Hopkins took the position.

Rev. G. H. Hentschel accepted the call to come to Ashland, Kentucky from Hobart, Indiana to serve at St. Paul's. His installation was 30 October 1949. It was under this man's pastorate that a new church building was built at 1320 Bath Ave., the present location. It was announced on 29 January 1950 that the church and property at 1421 Winchester Ave. would be sold, for \$50,000.00, and that they had one year to vacate the premises. The sale was final on 6 December 1950. Property had been purchased at 17<sup>th</sup> and Central in 1925 for hopes of a future church building but was later sold in 1946 to O. L. Lazear. Property was bought at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Bath Avenue on April 26, 1947, from Minnie C. Haskell, of which became the location of the new building and it's present location today. The property was paid for and the deed was signed on 3 August 1950. The authorization to go ahead and build the new building for worship was given by the voters on 24 July 1950. Their original estimated cost had been \$88,000.00 but they knew it would cost about another \$20,000.00 by the time they got it completed. So they informed everyone and started to figure out means to raise the funds. The Lord provided and as of the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August 1950 W. B. Fosson & Sons contractors had begun construction.

The new church edifice was rapidly progressing and on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1950 the corner stone was laid at 1320 Bath Ave. A big ceremony was held and even the Mayor of Ashland, Will Simpson, was present to speak at the end of the service on behalf of the city. He was proud to represent the city in giving well wishes to a congregation of people that showed their courage enough to undertake the building of such a fine church at a time like that. Pastor G.H. Hentschel spoke on "Christ The Reliable Cornerstone of His Church," based on Isaiah 28:16. Copies of the Bible, the Lutheran Hymnal, Luther's Small Catechism, the Augsburg's Confession, the History of St. Paul's up to 1947, copy of the

constitution and by laws of the local church, a list of the present membership, the building committee, architect, builder, and officers of the congregation, and a copy of the Ashland Independent of October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1950 were all handed by the pastor to the builder, Mr. W. B. Fosson, and then placed into a copper box, which was sealed and placed into the cornerstone.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 1950 the last services were held at the original church at 1421 Winchester Ave. There were two services, 10:45 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., to accommodate all shift workers. This was a little short of their one year plan to vacate the premises but due to a plea from the new owner, who was afraid the government would put a halt to all business building, the congregation decided to leave a little earlier.

Starting the next Sunday, 19 November 1950, all meetings and services were held at the Ashland Junior College at 15<sup>th</sup> and Central Ave., (which now the Ashland Board of Education) until the basement of the new building was completed; Different members paid the rent to use the facility.

Before leaving the original church building a youth choir was organized, under the direction of Norma Hopkins and took its bow on 2 April 1950. The members were: Dolores and Lois Samson, Patsy Fowler, Sarah Lucy and Nancy Norris, Nancy and David Kahne, Danny Cameron, Janice Haller, Ann Krog, Sharon and Diane Weaver, Howard Smith, Sandra Horgen, and Mary Sue Ward. Mrs. Edgar (Janet) Kahne designed the new choir robes while Mrs. Clem (Mary) Stanley purchased the material and the following ladies sewed the robes: Mrs. Edna Damron, Mrs. Sterling Norris, Mrs. Patty Fowler, Mrs. Lloyd Fearing, Mrs. Dan Cameron, Mrs. Charles Kahne, and Mrs. Annetta Hentschel.

The first services to be held at Bath Avenue were in the basement of that new building on Pentecost Sunday, which also was Mother's Day, 13 May 1951. That day also was special as it was confirmation day. The evening services, at 7:30 p.m., nine adults were received into membership through the rite of confirmation. They were: Sgt. Clarence D. Burrow; Clarence Caudill, Clara Caudill; Eugene Marvin, Mary Marvin; Fred McIntyre, Mable McIntyre, Miss June McIntyre, and Mrs. Elizabeth McIntyre. All but the last one was also baptized. This was the first confirmation and baptism in our present building.

February 23, 1951 a special voters meeting was held in the Ashland Jr. College to revise the church constitution. The day before the Men's Group was re-organized.

It was the summer of 1951 that a gospel tent mission was planned. The services were originally planned to be held in the Sparks addition in Ashland but with a thorough investigation of the Flatwoods area they discovered that they needed to change the plans. The Gospel Tent Services were to be held in Flatwoods, Kentucky, nightly at 7:30 p.m. from August 6 - 17. Due to a truckers strike, in Cleveland, Ohio, the tent was late for arrival so this program was postponed until the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 1951 and then ten services were held. The tent

was located on Flatwoods Road and Powell Lane. The Rev. Wm. A. Gramlich of Maysville, Kentucky preached the sermon on the opening night. Our mixed Choir furnished the music. There was good attendance at all services but mostly our own congregation.

Finally on 16 December 1951, after going over on several projected deadline dates, the new church building, costing a total of \$100,000.00, was ready for dedication at a 4:00 p.m. service with the Rev. Walter Stock, Red Cross Chaplain, as guest speaker from Washington, D.C. He had served at St. Paul's from 1921–1941. Post-dedication services were held on the three succeeding evenings. With guest speakers: Rev. W.A. Pohl, Pastor, of Trinity Lutheran Church, Zanesville, Ohio on Monday evening; Rev. Wm. A. Gramlich, Pastor, of Trinity Lutheran Church, Maysville, Kentucky on Tuesday evening; and on Wednesday evening was Rev. Lorenz Blankenbuehler, Pastor, of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

All new items that had to be purchased were: pews, registry desk, a new baptismal font, lectern, pulpit, altar, hymnal boards and a Baldwin Electronic Organ. Some of these costs were not included in the total of the original cost. To keep the cost down on the building project a lot of labor was donated by the general, electrical, roofing and plumbing and heating contractors. The contractors were: W.B. Fosson and Sons, General Contractors; O.L. Weaver Electric Company, Electrical Contractors; C. F. Hencye and Sons, Roofing Contractors; and Smith Brothers Plumbing Co., with Ross Simpson, Proprietor; plumbing and heating contractors. All of these were from Ashland, Kentucky. The architect was Howard McClory from Cincinnati, Ohio. The church furniture was purchased from Joshephinum Church Furniture Co., Columbus, Ohio. The membership at the time was: Communicant members=213 and Baptized members = 273. The church officers looked like this:

Chairman	Clarence Clevenger
Secretary	A. W. Schulz
Treasurer	Paul Donta
Elders	Robert Kahne Hyman Herbst
Trustees	Herman McKenzie Clem Stanley O. L. Weaver, Sr.
Deacons	W.P. Haller, Jr. (Bink) Theo. Gesling
Financial Secretary	H. Wade Holt
Board of Christian Education	Bernard C. Haller Wm. Wiedekamp Ray McDonald

Several members donated special things to the glory of God for the new place of worship: Mrs. Phyllis (Kahne) Geyer had given the two communion candlesticks as a gift on 27 February 1949; Mr. Hyman Herbst donated 100 hymnals in 1949 a year before the last service; Mrs. W. B. Fosson carpeted the nave of the new church; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Todd gave the altar crucifix for the new altar; Mrs. Greta Todd Justus gave one floor Candelabra (Tenebra) that was dedicated on Easter Sunday 1952; the Altar Guild gave the other floor Candelabra (Tenebra) the same day. Then on 9 March 1952 Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Maze donated two altar vases in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Kramer and Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Todd. Altar Guild also gave the collections plates, carpeted the chancel and sanctuary (altar) areas and brought with them from the old church, that they had purchased and had dedicated on 27 February of 1949, the brass missal stand, a holder for the book of forms during the service that is on the altar; Mrs. Edna Damron paid for the light fixtures in the balcony; The Dorcas Society bought the two clergy chairs and the nursery furnishings; and as for the stain glass windows, many different people gave donations in memory of loved ones. There are ten windows but only nine were put in at first. It wasn't until February 8, 1962 that the tenth window was added. Dr. M. B. Ritter had died and the window was put in from a memorial left by his estate. The names on the windows read: Henry Herbst Family; Lloyd Sohmer Fearing; Charles & Caroline Gesling; Blaine Berkstresser; Albert L. Keil & Henrietta Herbst Keil; Dorcas Society; Wirt & Caroline Weidenhiller & George Henry Weidenhiller; Magdalena Herbst Meyers & Fred G. Meyers; Fred A. & Minnie Gesling Family; Dr. M.B. Ritter. The window for Blaine Berkstresser, who was killed in an airplane crash, has been moved to the new handicap accessible lobby, in order to make a doorway so that entrance to the church from that hallway was provided.

Mr. B. Conrad Hyman had bought the bell for the original church and it was brought over for use in the new building, along with a death toll bell that he had purchased in 1866. The original bell is still in use but the death toll bell is no longer used today, another sign of the times. Best I can find is that it was only used in the old church building.

As for the old artifacts of the original church are concerned, the original baptismal font has been found and refurbished by James Fredrick "Rick" and Nellis Haller in honor of the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and sets in the back of the church, as does a part of one of the stain glass windows that was salvaged, framed and donated by Charles "Bob" Riddle on 22 June 1997. We still have the menorah that used to sit on top of the original altar. I'm still looking to find what happened to the original altar. The original crucifix that was used on the old altar is now being used on our Sunday School Altar. The original pulpit was donated to the Salvation Army along with six light fixtures from the old church. The boot cleaner that was just outside the front door of the old building was removed and preserved by Ross Simpson and it is on display in our showcase. I found a newspaper article, in a

scrapbook with no date, about the steeple being removed from the old church, best I can tell it was between December 16, 1951 and early spring 1956. The first Baptism in the new sanctuary, after the dedication, was on 23 December 1951. It was James Llyod Holt, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Wade Holt, born November 4, 1951.

The first confirmation class in the new sanctuary, after the dedication, was on 30 December 1951. The members of this class were: Hanna K. Bourland, Mrs. Nellie K. Bourland, Mrs. Geneva Dysard, Richard L. McIntyre, Charles Marine Kell, Ernest E. Kell. Richard and Charles were also baptized at that time.

The first member to be wed in the new church after dedication was Nancy Kahne and Carl Quade on April 2, 1953.

On September 13, 1953 the Sunday evening services were started again. This lasted until the summer months then it was reinstated on 29 September 1954 for the next year. On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 1953 Pastor Hentschel baptized ten children and that is the largest number ever to be baptized at one time in the history of St. Paul.

Early services for the summer months, June – August, were inaugurated in May 1955 to be held at the Trail Drive In, on US Rt.60 at Summitt, Kentucky. This type of early summer services continued until a special voters meeting was held on 21 May 1967 and they decided to hold the early services at the church at 8:30 a.m. with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and the normal 10:45 a.m. worship service.

Permission was granted to the women of the congregation to organize a Lutheran Women's Missionary League, LWML, in December 1954. It was officially an organization on 26 July 1955. Synod approval was given in 1942 for anyone who wanted to start the organization we call the LWML. The organization was inconsistent with meetings at first until 12 February 1961 when it really got up and running with Lorena VanHoose as president. The reason for the hit and miss at first was that the ladies of the congregation were so involved with Altar Guild and Louvina Kobs Bible class that they didn't have enough women to do it all. After a while they realized that a lot of the projects these two organizations were undertaking were mission projects and probably should be under LWML, which sparked interest. The organization is still going great today.

In September of 1955 a Christian Day School was reinstated with a kindergarten class of 14 children, taught by Mrs. Robert (Lorena) Van Hoose. November 1955 the voter's approved buying a sound system, costing \$550.00, for the church. That same fall Mrs. Emanuel (Edna) Damron donated two new lights on the outside front of the church building.

From 5 February 1956 till 24 June 1956 Rev. Donald W. Buelow was vacancy pastor. He first filled in to help Pastor Hentschel, due to Mrs. Hentschels' illness and surgery. It was officially noted that in April 1956 Pastor Hentschel accepted a call as missionary at large in Florida. Then from 1 July 1956 till 16 September

1956 Rev. Carl Hoffmeyer, from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Huntington, West Virginia, was vacancy pastor. From the first of August till 16 September 1956 St. Paul's had to hold only an evening service to accommodate Rev. Hoffmeyer's busy schedule as he had his congregation in Huntington West Virginia, vacancy for South Charleston, West Virginia and vacancy for St. Paul's in Ashland, Kentucky.

Pastor Herbert Freiberg, officially accepted the call on 29 August 1956, and was installed on 16 September 1956. He served until the spring of 1966. During his pastorate, on 14 June 1959, the new church mortgage was paid off and we had a mortgage burning ceremony. The Rev. Hentschel came back as guest speaker for the occasion.

Also, in 1956, Miss Evelyn Schulz came to teach kindergarten and grades one and two in our Christian Day School. Also Mr. Gerald Kugath became the first Principal of our school and also our organist.

The organ and the choir pews were located up front, in the chancel, of the church until the first week of October 1956. At that time they relocated them to the balcony where the choir is today. The choir had grown and was in need of more seating, so longer pews were moved up to the balcony in March 2001 during our renovation and the shorter ones were brought down.

The pews that were originally used for the choir are the short pews, which are now used in the back of the nave to make room for a wheelchair on either side and one is in the chancel for the acolytes to sit on.

The first time a nativity scene was ever put on the front lawn of the church property was the Christmas season of 1956 when the youth of the congregation placed one there.

A third grade was added to our school in 1957, and Mrs. Clara Caudill was engaged to teach kindergarten. Mr. Gerald Kugath succeeded Miss Schulz in 1959 and he was our first principal and our organist. One grade was added to our Christian Day School each year until all six elementary grades were offered. By 1959, K-6 was taught with 55 students and 3 teachers in attendance; 79% of the students were from non-Lutheran homes.

In 1958 the parsonage got a little fix me up done to it. It got new steps. And of course then it had to have a face-lift. So Bernard C. and his son Bernard F. (Bernie) Haller took on the job of painting the outside of the house.

Miss Janet Schulz has the honor of being the first full-time church worker ever provided by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ashland, Kentucky. She got this title after graduation when she began teaching duties at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin in September 1960. As of date she is no longer teaching. She is the daughter of Mrs. Emma (Steinmann) Schulz and the late Adolph William "Bill" Schulz. There are two others that I know of that went into full-time church teaching work that attended St. Paul, Ashland and they are Ruth Van Hoose and her sister Allison Van Hoose. Ruth started at Seymour, IN and she is now

teaching in Ocala, Florida; Allison Van Hoose is no longer teaching in a Lutheran school but is teaching in a public school. These girls are the daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Van Hoose.

It was in 1960 that a playground was paved in the rear of the church for the school children. With the growth of the Christian Day School an educational building was needed and so started the process of trying to build one. In April 1961 the City Board of Zoning adjustment refused to grant the congregation permission to construct a Christian Education building. This decision was contested in the courts and Circuit Court Judge Chesley A. Lycan finally granted permission, in the spring of 1963, to build the school building.

It's Valentines day 1962 and a voters meeting was held and at that meeting it was decided to replace the glass in the light fixtures, in the church, at \$15.00 each (8x15=\$120.00) with white glass and also to take out the microphones in the bottom of the lights at the same time. It was also passed to get three (3) head sets at \$18.00 each for the hearing impaired and to get a loud speaker for the choir loft at the cost of \$28.00. Some one in the congregation was going to purchase the headsets. These were put on the right hand side, gospel side, of the church in three pews about one-third up the outside isle, window side.

In the early spring of 1962 people were noticing a mildew (fungus) problem in the church and they had someone to come and check it out. On April 12, 1962 it was voted to take the persons advice and purchase two motor driven ventilators and place them in the roof of the church at the cost of approximately \$1,200.00. Thus the hole behind the speaker, that was upfront at the time, in the bell tower area.

St. Paul's had it's first missionary, Miss Phyllis Meseke, in 1963. Miss Meseke is the daughter of Mrs. Irene (Berkmeier) Meseke and the late Mr. Norman Meseke. Phyllis, a nurse, married Mr. Elwyn Ewald after they finished their missionary schooling that summer. They went to New Guinea in September of 1963 and served there until coming back to the states in 1968. They returned to New Guinea for a second term in 1970 till 1973.

Sunday, May 17, 1964 was the ground breaking for the new education building. This modern Christian Education building was completed and dedicated, to the cost of approximately \$65,000.00, on 15 November 1964 at 3:00 p.m. with Rev. Otto Toelke, Ohio District Executive Secretary, as the guest speaker. The Faculty of St. Paul's Lutheran School was: Gerald Jugath (1959-1966), Principal and taught grades 4-6; Marva Kugath (1964-1965), Primary Teacher for grades 1-3; Clara Caudill (1957-1968), taught Kindergarten and Herbert H. Freiberg was Pastor. The building committee was: Mr. Gerald Kugath, Chairman; Mr. Otto E. Bufe, Secretary; Rev. Herbert H. Freiberg, Mr. Walter Gaye, Mr. Robert Van Hoose, Mr. Max Houser, Mr. Norman Meseke, Mr. O. L. Weaver, Jr., Mr. Henry Boettjer, Mr. W. R. Fosson and Mr. John Lewis. The Sunday school staff was as follows: Superintendent, Mr. Norman Meseke; Nursery class, Mrs. A. W. (Emma)

Schulz; Kindergarten class was Mrs. Eva Haines and Mrs. Bernard Ward; Primary class was Mrs. Margaret McIntosh; Junior Class was Mr. Hugh (Myrtle) Irwin, Jr.; Pre-Teen Class was Mr. E. L. Marvin; Sr. High Class was Mr. Max Houser and the Adult class was taught by Rev. Freiberg. The school took on an entirely new life by moving from the church basement facilities to our new education building. This building has two floors with four classrooms, an office and restrooms. It flourished until the school year of 1976-1977 when it was discontinued due to lack of funds. Some more of the teachers were: Miss Ada Bremer (1965-1969), Mr. Robert Werner (1966-1967) Principal, Mr. Urban R. Ewald (1968-1972) Principal, Mrs. Sue Daniels (1968-1969), Miss Anna Kumpf, who later became Anna Judd (1969-1975), Mrs. Joyce Pope (1969-1970), Mary Newman (1970-1971), Mrs. Lorraine Denny (1971-1977), Mr. Denny Carlton (1972-1975) Principal, Mrs. Jo Ann Carlton (1972-1975), Miss Sharlet Petersen who later became Sharlet Peffer (1975-1977), Bill Kamm (1975-1977) Principal and Mrs. Georgia Miller (1975-1977). These educational rooms are being used today for Sunday school classrooms, a Youth Room, a storage room, an office and a Lutherans For Life Room.

On 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1964 the Altar Guild asked it of the Trustees, to consider letting the room off the chancel, which had been previously used by the choir, to be redone as a “work room”. This project was approved. This “work-room” consists of a sink and cabinet to wash up communion ware so it wouldn’t have to be carried down to the kitchen in the basement for cleaning. Also, it consists of a closet type cabinet to store the paraments in. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ross (Ruby) Simpson, as they paid for this “work room” we now call the altar room.

From 1965-1967 St. Paul’s had a girls basketball team that played in the Ashland area church league. These young ladies were Linda Lively, Mary Haines, Phyllis Hencye, Karen Hall and Delanea Donta. It was the season of 1966-1967 that our girl’s team won the championship trophy.

A Couples Club was organized in 1965 and is still going on today only under a new name, The Fellowship Club. This name change took place in September of 1974. This group includes all family members instead of just the couples and everyone in the congregation is invited to attend a monthly event of fellowship and activities. To mention just a few of the things they would range from pot bless dinners, birthday dinners (where each table is a different month and you sit at your birth month table), talent shows, song fest night, bus trips, church picnic, pool parties, putt putt golf, to many many more.

The Centennial year for St. Paul’s was 1966. This was observed by several different events: April 24 – Christian education dinner; June 26- Fellowship picnic; August 14- Homecoming-Service and Dinner with Rev. D. Marshall Begley, Speaker; September 25- Centennial Jubilee –Service and Dinner with Dr. Otto E. Toelke, Executive Director, Ohio District, Speaker.

1966 also brought a new organist on board, Lorena Van Hoose.

In the spring of 1966 Rev. Freiberg accepted a call to Colorado. The parsonage was sold for \$14, 500 in September of 1966. The money from the sale of the parsonage was used to pay on the school building mortgage. The vacancy pastor was Rev. Ronald A. Fletcher from Huntington, West Virginia. He served from 14 August 1966 until 8 January 1967.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 1967, Rev. Robert L. Meyer became the Pastor and served until 4 June 1972. Pastor Meyer held a few services at Morehead State University Campus on Sunday afternoons, as there were about 90 Lutheran students enrolled there, until a campus ministry was there. In 1967 the Sanctuary Light, we call eternity candle, was given in memory of Mrs. John (Elizabeth) McIntyre, by her daughter Miss Alma (Tootie) McIntyre.

The flagpole in front by the educational building was dedicated on 19 April 1968, a Friday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

A new picture to beautify the Lord's house was donated by the members of the 1968 confirmation class and they were: Michael David Haller, Katherine Williams Ragsdale, Donald Ray Stewart, Amy Louise Van Hoose, Robert Witten Van Hoose Jr., Michael Steffen Willis, Richard Joe Willis, Carla Denise Worley, and Mark Edward Worley. The dedication and their Confirmation Day were held on 19 May 1968. This large picture that hangs on the rear wall of the church nave, was given in memory of their classmate, Steven Schaeffer, who would have been confirmed with them but the Lord called him home. It is the "Walk to Emmaus" picture. Steven and both his parents died in an auto accident and left one little sister, Lynn Wyndam-Quin. They were originally from Missouri and they were buried there.

It was July 16, 1969 that the property directly behind the church, known as the Brown property, was purchased for \$25,000.00 for future growth. A bust of Martin Luther, which rest on a shelf in the hallway from the church to the education building, was donated, 1969, in memory of Walter Gaye, Jr. (2 September 1925 to 21 July 1969). A newsletter was started under Pastor Meyer and called St. Paul's Sentinel. When Pastor Meyer left it went by the way side.

The vacancy pastor after Rev. Meyer left was Rev. C.A. Rantala from Huntington, West Virginia. He served from 11 June 1972 till 17 August 1972.

August 27, 1972 Rev. Frank H. Barbain took charge of the congregation. One of the first things he did was to start an evangelism team. During his pastorate the church had a "charismatic movement" and caused the congregation to split and on 15 November 1976 he resigned. With this split some of the members left with Pastor Barbain, whom started a church called Holy Trinity. Later when that church dissolved, they either went to another domination, returned to St. Paul's, or were lost to the church all together.

It was also in October of 1972 that new red carpet, to replace the rose colored, was ordered and it was installed in January of 1973. All areas of the nave, except

under the pew, the chancel, sanctuary, narthex, pastor's office and altar room were covered, where the old carpet only covered the isles of the nave, the sanctuary and the chancel areas. The material to cover the chancel chairs to match the new red carpet was furnished by Mr. & Mrs. Wm. "Bill" Wiedekamp. Julian DeZarn and Ruby Simpson did the work of the reupholstering. At the same time Julian furnished the fabric and made a new blue curtain for the rail in the choir loft.

In January 1973 a new pigeonhole mailbox, made by Bob Poore, was donated. The interesting thing behind this is that it was part of the platform that the President of the United States, Richard M. Nixon, stood on to give a speech to the people of Ashland, Kentucky at Paul G. Blazer High School in the fall of 1972. The pigeonhole mailbox was originally put in the hallway between the church and the educational building but later was moved to the little hall by the nursery.

St. Paul's had a Senior High Boys Basketball team that played in the area Church League in 1974. Mike Kasnick and Rick Haller coached the team. It was on February 18-22, 1974 that the final tournament for the season was held and our boys won Co-Champs of Group II. They were presented a trophy. They also received a trophy for the best sportsmanship. You can see both these if you look in the showcase in the narthex of the church.

In the spring of 1974 the front doors of the church were painted red.

In December 1974 the communion rails took on a new look. Mr. & Mrs. Ross Simpson was instrumental in this project. The communion rails used to sit down on the chancel floor and were solid wood. Talk of new rails and or something done to the ones we had, in order to enhance the beauty of the Sanctuary area, had been in discussion for some time when Bernard Haller thought that the little inset arches on the solid rail should be cut out instead of getting new rails. Bernard C. died before the project was done and so his widow, Margaret Haller, gave a donation for this. Ross Simpson took care of getting the insets cut out. Ross Simpson and John Barton reinstalled these rails on the step that is up from the chancel to the sanctuary area, thus leaving room for kneeling, the week of Christmas that year. This was done in memory of Bernard Conrad Fredrick Haller (31 May 1912 till 18 November 1974).

What better way to warm up on a cold winter day than to build a fire? Well, maybe not a big enough fire to warm by but we did have one. The final payment on our school building note was made in the fall of 1974 and we wanted to mark that special occasion by having a note burning ceremony. This was done on January 19, 1975. Any money that was left in the building fund, as of that date, was put into the organ fund, as we were in serious need of a new organ.

Then the first service conducted with our new Saville Custom Organ and Chimes was on 23 March 1975. The purchase price was \$15,350.00. At that time the organ speakers were put on the front walls of the nave. These speaker cabinets were custom made to match our wood in the church by Mr. J. B. Pontones of Grove City, Ohio. Mr. Robert Van Hoose was instrumental in getting this organ.

In October 1976 our dedicated organist Lorena Van Hoose moved to Florida with her family and was sadly missed but we were thankful we had them as long as we did. Mrs. James (Karen) Tackett, a member, filled in as organist until January of 1977, when Mr. Max Jackson took the position. Max and his family later became members of our congregation. What a blessing! Max played for us until 1992.

When the split occurred in the church, 1976, it became a financial strain to keep the Christian Day School going and thus the last graduation day at St. Paul's Lutheran School for grades K-6 was held on 1 June 1977.

The vacancy pastor after Rev. Barbain resigned was Rev. David R. Zachariah, from South Charleston, West Virginia. His vacancy was from 14 November 1976 till 26 June 1977. We had guest speakers during that time to help out Rev. Zachariah whom were Dr. Edward Hackman and Rev. Arthur Zielgler.

Finally on May 11, 1977 a call was extended to Rev. Robert O. Faga who was serving in Sedalia, Missouri and he accepted the call to serve at St. Paul. He was installed on 26 June 1977. He resigned, due to personal problems, 11 March of 1979. Rev. Peter R. Reetz of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Huntington, West Virginia filled in as vacancy pastor from the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1979 till April 1981. During his vacancy pastorate we had several visiting pastors to hold worship services and to give Pastor Reetz a break and vacation. One pastor was Rev. Erwin G. Meseke from Vandalia, IL, a brother to the late Mr. Norman Meseke, who was chairman of our congregation at the time. Another one was a retired minister from the Cincinnati, Ohio area, Rev. Arthur Scheidt, who passed away 27 November 1981.

A portable Altar was donated for the Sunday school openings and placed in the fellowship hall of the basement by Mr. & Mrs. Kerwin Fry in May 1978. Mr. and Mrs. Fry bought the materials and Fred McIntyre and Edgar Kahne built the altar.

David R. McIntyre, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Fred McIntyre, has the honor of being the first son from St. Paul's to be an ordained minister in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. With pride the congregation held the ordination on Sunday, 10 June 1979. The liturgist was Rev. Ronald C. Beers from The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Little Rock, Arkansas; Preacher was Rev. Herbert H. Freiberg from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Commerce City, Colorado; The Ordinator was Rev. Peter R. Reetz of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Huntington, West Virginia and vacancy Pastor for St. Paul. David R. McIntyre was born October 5, 1942 in Ashland, Kentucky. He received his elementary and high school education in Ashland, and graduated from Ashland Senior High School. He attended the University of Kentucky for two years. He worked at Armco Steel Corporation in Ashland for twelve years. While working at Armco he continued with his education by attending classes at the Ashland Community College. David began his training for the ministry in the fall of 1975 at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. While attending classes at the

Seminary, he served as Vacancy Pastor of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bonne Terre, Missouri. He also served his year of vicarage at that church. David is married to the former Marilyn Delores Baggett, who is a nurse. They have two daughters, Stacey and Melissa. David and Marilyn have two grandchildren. Rev. David McIntyre is currently serving the Dry Ridge Lutheran Mission Church in Dry Ridge, Kentucky. I find it a coincidence that the altar at Dry Ridge was made by his father, Fred, his brother, Richard, and several other men of St. Paul's, Ashland, Kentucky, Edgar Kahne and John Lewis. This altar was made for a mission church in Hurricane, West Virginia and about nine years before David went to service at Dry Ridge, Rev. Roland Bentrup moved the altar there. The Lord does work in mysterious ways.

1980 it was voted to let the Ashland Public Library use our educational building for a temporary home until the library building was expanded and remodeled. August 17, 1980 was the day that the large wooden resurrection cross, above our altar, was dedicated to the glory of God in memory of William Adolph "Bill" Schulz by his wife Emma and children, Bill, Janet and Jean. Emma engaged Edgar Kahne and Fred McIntyre to make the cross. It took four men to hang the cross, Glen Willis, Edgar Kahne, Richard and Fred McIntyre. Later in 1981 she gave Altar Guild money, in memory of Bill, to purchase a Chalice (Common Cup) for Communion, Flagon (pitcher) for refilling the Chalice and a baptismal shell. These were all used starting after December 10, 1981, as that was when the congregation voted to offer both individual and common cup at the Lord's Table.

In 1981 a call was extended to Rev. George T. Zoehl and he accepted. He was installed on 5 April 1981 and served until July 1986 when he went to Columbus, Ohio. During his pastorate the church building became a lot cooler in the summer months with the new air conditioning, which was dedicated on 11 September 1981. We started using the new hymnals, The Lutheran Worship, during Zoehl's pastorate and offering both individual and common cup at the Eucharist.

In 1981 it was voted to let the Anglican Church use our building on Sundays afternoons for their worship services. As of date they are still using it on occasion. Our first cordless microphone was a gift from these people.

A Harpsichord kit was purchased by the congregation and was built by our then organist, Mr. Max Jackson and member John Lewis, a woodworker. The Harpsichord was dedicated on 11 October 1982, with a special concert by Mr. Max Jackson. This was purchased from a fund set aside called Harpsichord Fund but later on March 10, 1984 it was voted to change the name to Artist Series Fund.

Also in the year 1982 on October 5<sup>th</sup> a Food Pantry was started by our LWML. This was later called the Food Bank, which is still helping to supply the needy with food through the CARES program in our community. To get this project off the ground some of the ladies had a rummage sell at the home of Mrs. June Fry and donated \$365.69 and then on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November our youth donated \$53.62.

Also the congregation gave and still gives to help with the food needed each month. The ladies of the LWML still give monthly to support this project.

. The Adopt a Seminary Student program was voted on in the December 8, 1983 meeting. It was voted for St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ashland, Kentucky to start the program in January 1984. This was a yearly decision until May 8, 1986, when it was voted to be a Perpetual Institution to support a seminary student at Concordia, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The ladies of the Altar Guild purchased and donated two new flags for the church in May 1983, a Christian flag and an American flag. They also started to use the flower charts, which gave members of the congregation an opportunity to have honorary or memorial flowers placed on the altar for a particular Sunday. They could sign the chart and pay the Altar Guild for the flowers, plus take the flowers home after the service.

The inside of the church and education building got a new clean look with fresh paint in the spring and summer of 1984. The youth, their parents and the youth leaders painted the inside of the education building. May 3, 1984 was the date our organist, Prof. Max Jackson, was given charge of getting a new or good used piano for the Sunday school. He did and it is still in use today.

In the summer of 1985 the choir members and the babies in the nursery, were cooler as new fans were installed. Then on 5 September 1985 it was voted to accept the offer that Shirley Gesling donate pew cushions in memory of her late husband, Ted. In November it was reported that the cushions were measured and ordered. Thus we had much softer pews that winter to sit on while we worshipped and gave praise to our Lord.

Zoebl had some firsts for St. Paul's and they included: Bringing children to Holy Communion for a blessing as well as blessing the unborn child in the mother's womb; A special Valentines Day Service was held for any married couple to renew their vows in 1985; Fourteen couples participated: William & Gloria Pankow, James (Rick) & Nellis Haller, Larry & Deborah Hovis, Kerwin & June Fry, William & Alice Hettinger, Larry & Carol Niemann, Bruce & Cindy Roe, Joe & Darlene Stevens, Tim & Sondra Ohlinger, Larry & Sabine Hall, David & Margie Ramey, Max & Lois Jackson, Elmer & Shirley Edinger, and Tom & Joan Meutsch (non-members). The first ever Sedar meal at St. Paul's was Maundy Thursday 1982. The ladies of the Altar Guild, under pastor's direction, prepared the meal.

Pastor Zoebl baptized five babies on Easter Sunday 1984 and at the time someone was quoted as saying that was the largest amount of children to be baptized at one time in the church's history **but not so**, as during my research I found ten children baptized at one time under Rev. Henschel's pastorate, on 4 October 1953.

The reader board on the front lawn received new letters and was revamped in January 1985.

Mr. Cornelius Hencye started a memorial fund in July 1985, in memory of his wife Hazel. On 23 August 1986, Shirley Gesling added to this fund in memory of her husband Theodore "Ted". This fund is now called the Hencye-Gesling Memorial fund. It may be used to help the Pastor purchase a house and the church can use the interest from it in any way they see fit. Also the church can borrow from it but has to pay it back.

It was 9 January 1986 when the youth of our church was given their own room to hold meetings and etc. in, instead of using a classroom or the fellowship hall.

St. Paul's made a contribution of money to the new King's Daughters' Hospital Medical Arts Building for the furnishing fund of their chapel in 1986.

Pastor George Zoehl and Pastor Peter R. Reetz, from Huntington, West Virginia, started a mission church in Paintsville, Kentucky in February 1986. Later Rev. Roland Bentrup took charge. That mission church closed December 1993.

On 11 July 1986 it was voted to give a room on the stage to the LWML for the food bank. It was the room to the left rear of the stage and is still being used for that purpose.

With the knowledge of Pastor Zoehl's resignation it was decided to call a seminary student at the June 8, 1986 voters meeting. A letter was sent to the Board of Assignments asking that consideration be given to Howard Derx Lyons as a candidate for Pastor. Mr. Howard Lyons was our adopted Seminary Student at the time. They did consider and appointed him the call and he was ordained and installed on 31 August 1986 here at St. Paul.

During Pastor Lyons service a newsletter was started and the congregation submitted names and it was finally voted on to give the newsletter the name St. Paul's Chronicles and it is still being published today for all members.

On 4 September 1988 Pastor Lyons announced that after much thought and prayer he had put his name on a call list. He felt that there was not a very good working relationship here at St. Paul's and that he needed to move on. Pastor Lyons did leave St. Paul's on 28 February 1989. During this man's pastorate a new sound system was installed in 1988. Also our youth were awarded two plaques, in consecutive years July 31, 1987 and July 27, 1988, from Oakmont Manor Nursing Home for the volunteer help with their annual luncheon.

In October of 1988 two gifts were given to the Sunday school and they were a television by Minnie Clevenger and Sue Finney and a VCR by Virginia and Dorothy Story in memory of their sister, Frances Story. In November of that year a new sound system was installed in the church.

After Pastor Lyons preached his last sermon at St. Paul's, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1989, our vacancy Pastor was Rev. Roland Bentrup from Paintsville, Kentucky. He filled the pulpit the follow Sunday and was there through 29 October 1989. Pastor Bentrup was a mission minister serving the Paintsville mission church, Our Redeemer and he had a radio program named "Pastors

Window” that aired over WMEJ. Pastor Bentrup made a request that his pay, during the vacancy, be sent to Our Redeemer and Our Savior Mission churches. Rev. Roland Bentrup and his wife Lou are now members of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ashland, Kentucky. He still serves the Lord from the pulpit at various congregations, of the LCMS, when needed.

After several months of calling a pastor it was on August 31, 1989 a letter was received from the Rev. Mark A. Kloha accepting the call to St. Paul’s Ashland from Illinois. He was installed 29 October 1989. He came to us with his wife Nancy, being eight months pregnant with our baby Ruth (no pun intended) ☺, and their two other daughters, Rachel, the oldest, and Rebecca.

One of the first issues Pastor Kloha faced was women’s suffrage. It had been in the discussion stage for sometime but only at the voters meetings since 17 August 1989. It was voted to give the women of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ashland, Kentucky, the right to vote and hold offices, with the exception of the office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Elder, at the November 9, 1989 meeting. The constitution was revised at this time and six women were present to sign. The first woman to sign the constitution was ALICE HETTINGER. The others that followed suite that evening were: CINDY ROE, DEBORAH HOVIS, MIRIAM HERBST, SABINE HALL, and SHARON MC DONALD, in that order. Many women followed suite after that meeting. The next year, 1990, the first women to serve in any office were: Shirley Edinger as Assistant Sunday School Superintendent and Sharon McDonald as a Trustee. From the very beginning I have found that the women of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Ashland, Kentucky have always been very active in this congregation and still are; From caring for the beauty of the church to making donuts and selling them and also by witnessing and helping others according to their needs.

Nancy Kloha started Girl Scout Troop 908 in 1990 and they held their meetings in the church educational building. We have two appreciation plaques in our showcase from this troop. Also that year in November the children’s choir was reinstated under the direction of Talitha Elsea. Talitha also played the keyboard for all the early summer service while she was a member at St. Paul’s.

October of 1990 started our annual October Fest. The first was held in the church fellowship hall and cloggers entertained us with a lot of Bavarian dancing and music. The fellowship club or the youth group hosted this annual event from then on with such events as masquerade parties (biblical characters), pot bless dinner with singing and/or skits for entertainment and then a fall carnival in 1996. In October 1997 we had a new host for the event, which is still going on today. We are blessed to have such a wonder host and hostess, George and Debbie Haines, as they so graciously hold this event at their home in Flatwoods, Kentucky. Games, food, singing, hayrides, bomb fires, fellowship and the like are always on the agenda.

Floodlights were temporary put in the rafters to give better lighting to the chancel and altar areas for worship in 1990. These lights were permanently put into place during our renovation in 2001.

During Kloha's pastorate the congregation celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1991. Lots of happenings for this celebration that lasted the whole year! The theme was "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus", which was a Hymn that had been translated into English, in 1901, by one of our former Pastors, Rev. J. A. Rimbach. David & Margie (Haller) Ramey made a banner to hang in the nave of the church and each month a new scene was hung in a special designated place on the banner to go with the theme that month. To kick the year off a community ministry was the first thing done. On January 2, 1991 the first set of 16 Christian VHS videos were placed in the Movie Warehouse store at the Summitt Plaza. At the end of that year those movies were checked out, free of charge, 575 times. The events for the rest of the year included: A first-ever Talent Show night on 19 January; Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, a well known International Lutheran Hour Speaker, was guest speaker on January 27, 1991; a special mother/ daughter Valentines Spaghetti Dinner was hostessed, February 16<sup>th</sup>, by the men of the congregation, who cooked, served, entertained and cleaned up; In the spring a church pictorial was compiled; A special worship service was held in Central Park with a picnic afterwards, on 14<sup>th</sup> of July; Bill & Gloria Pankow hostessed a pool party/cookout at their home; the first ever church cookbook was published; Memorial china plates with the picture of the church, at 1320 Bath Ave., etched on them were offered by the Anniversary committee for \$10.00 each; The youth hostessed a masquerade party for the congregation to attend that fall.

The confirmands that year were Erica Haller, Charly Jackson, Phillip Roe and Billy Kovacs.

All past Pastors and the District president, Rev. David Buegler, were invited to join in the celebration on 13 October 1991. Rev. David McIntyre and Rev. David Bueglar were guest speakers for the worship service. Professor Max Jackson was in charge of music and Miss Allison Van Hoose, a former member, returned to sing a solo entitled "Thank You". This was our worship service to celebrate the Lords blessing of 125 years. After the service a banquet was held at the Ashland Plaza.

For the first time ever a drama presentation was done under Pastor Kloha's pastorate. The drama was based on Leonardo Da Vinci's painting of "The Last Supper". Preparation for this included putting a new speaker in the rafters. This play was under the direction of Bill Pankow, elder, and first presented in 13 April 1992 with the following men: Steve Elsea, Elmer Edinger, Jerry Karlovsky, Fred Seger, Bruce Roe, Will Judd, Mark Zimmerman, Tim Ohlinger, Billy Grimes, Tom Hilgendorf, Kerwin Fry, Bill Pankow. The next time it was presented was on 5 April 1993, with the following men: Steve Elsea, Elmer Edinger, Jerry Karlovsky, David Hill, Bruce Roe, Will Judd, Dan Kovacs, Mark Zimmerman, Barry Grimm,

David Rogers, Mike Quade, Kerwin Fry, Bill Pankow. Then 1997 it was presented with the following men: Dan Kovacs, David Massie, Jerry Karlovsky, David Hill, Leo Schley, Jim Fry, Tim Martin, T. J. Martin, Jason Huber, Mike Quade, Brian Huber and Bill Pankow; and then it was presented in April 2001 with Ray Kleykamp, George Haines, Alf Lange, David Hill Leo Schley, Bill Welch, Jim Fry, Tim Martin, Barry Grimm, Larry Haller, Jr., Arnie Bradway, Bob McCanless, Bill Pankow. It took a lot of work by lots of people in the congregation to get the set built, painted and created to look like the picture that Da Vinci painted, as well as the props, the costumes according to the painting and the advertisement inviting the public to come free of charge; but it has been well worth the efforts.

In the late spring of 1992 a time capsule, containing: Video tape of “Last Supper Drama”, 1991 Pictorial of church, Church Constitution, a Bible, a Hymnal, a catechism, and a United States Flag flown over the White House donated by our state Representative Carl D. Perkins was buried in honor of the 125<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the church. This capsule is to be dug up on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in 2016.

Our faithful organist and choir director, Prof. Max Jackson, resigned in the summer of 1992 and Jane Hood Smith came on board that same summer. Jane played and directed the choir through the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 1996. By the end of Jane’s term the choir had gone down hill with very few members participating. Sad but true!

You could walk on steadier ground into the front of the church and educational building after October 1992, as new sidewalks were put in. Also the women’s restroom in the educational building was made handicap accessible that fall thanks to the ladies of the LWML and Mr. Ross Simpson.

The church had new candlelights ordered in November of 1992. We always used wax candles on our Altar and in the floor candelabras but with the new idea of oil candles, a sign of the times, the Altar Guild purchased the new candles and oil for the floor candelabras and Ken and Ada Gearhart purchased the Altar ones. They were in use December of that year and are still being enjoyed today.

Churches have visitors all the time but I do remember one that you might say was “unique”. You have heard of a church mouse, I’m sure, but have you heard of a “church squirrel”? Seems that during a weekday, in November of 1992, a door was propped open for one of the meeting and a squirrel decided to visit, unknown to anyone until that next Sunday morning (or if they did they didn’t tell anyone and/or try to get him out). I was in the nave of the church before the start of Sunday school and saw the little bushy-tailed thing on the Altar. Steve Greene came in shortly after me and we tried to get the visitor out but had no luck. Well, the children were now gathering to see the visitor. We decide to call the great hunter of the congregation, J. F. “Rick” Haller. He came with peanuts and like Hansel and Gretal made a trail leading the way home for the visitor right out the front door. He then opened all the doors and everyone stood back and held very

still so not to frighten our little bushy-tailed friend anymore than he was. Seems he had been there for several days and was hungry. Rick took one peanut close to him on the altar and then walked away. The squirrel got the nut and jumped to the pulpit area then another nut and he then seemed to fly over pews landing on one every so often. He followed the trail of peanuts through and out the front door and we said goodbye to our visitor. We decided afterwards that maybe he was the “Mississippi Squirrel” that Ray Stevens sang about. You know, they say that everyone who crosses your path in life leaves you with something; well it was so with our little bushy-tailed friend. He left us with some damage to our Altar paraments. The Altar curtain and the fair linen had to be replaced. The Altar Guild took care of this in January of 1993.

During Pastor Kloha’s pastorate a first for the congregation was to sing a welcoming Hymn after the ceremony to the new members, be them transferred, newly confirmed and/or baptized persons. This was to welcome them into the family of God at St. Paul. The official Hymn, as I call it, is “Welcome to the Family”. He is also the first Pastor to give a bidding of God’s Speed during the worship service when a member or members are moving away. He is also the first pastor to have a weekly radio ministry. His first aired broadcast was on November 6, 1994 and it is still going on. The name of the program is “When You Need a Friend”. This program started on WTCR, 1420 a m, at 7:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings; Later in 1999 it was switched to WBVB, 97.1 f m, at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. He is also the first pastor of St. Paul’s to serve as Police Chaplain (1991– present) for the Ashland Police Department. He is very active in the Ashland Area Ministerial Association. He sat on the Red Cross board from 1992-1998 then back again from 2001- present. He serves on the board of Safe Harbor.

In 1993 Anna (Kump) Judd donated a processional cross with the stand in memory of her father, William John Kump (9 September 06 – 20 February 93). Then in 1997 Anna and her sons John and Will Judd donated a document table, which is in the back of the church, in memory of her mother, Florence Kump (4 January 1915 – 30 Mar 1997).

In November of 1993 the anniversary committee completed their last project. That was a new brick reader board was installed on our front lawn.

The junior youth gatherings had never been attended by our youth, until during Pastor Kloha’s service and the confirmands had never been on a retreat until he started this annual event with them his first summer at St. Paul’s.

It was on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 1994 that the first chapter of “The Lutherans for Life” in Kentucky was established. This honor belongs to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ashland, Kentucky. As a result of this a clothes closet, for babies from newborn to 2T, was established, at the church, to help expectant mothers and/or already mothers cloth their babies.

In October of 1994 a project, that some of the men of our congregation undertook, was completed. The project was to renovate a large classroom so that we could have a proper storage room for the last supper and Sunday school props, and provide a better place for our youth to hold their meetings as well as their Sunday school class room.

During Pastor Kloha's service was the first time any of our young people attended a National Youth Gathering, which is held every three years. The first trip was to the River Walk in San Antonio, Texas in July 1995. They were: Erica Haller, Rachel Kloha, Lindsay Robinson, Melinda Peffer, Rebecca Welch, Andrea Sy (from IL) with chaperons Mary Robinson and Nancy Kloha. They were so moved by the spirit that they attended two others. In 1996 we had another first for our congregation and it was that a youth was elected as a delegate to the Ohio District Youth Board. Rachel Kloha holds this honor and while serving, 1996-1998, on this board she helped plan the Ohio District events that were to be held at the National Youth Gathering, in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1998. Those that attended that National Youth Gathering were Erica Haller, Rachel Kloha, Lindsay Robinson, Melinda, Elisa & Jennifer Peffer, Megan Ramey, Brittany & Brandy Ohlinger, Andrea Sy (from IL.) and Annie Murray (from IL), Jason Huber, Robert Schely (from Huntington, WV) along with chaperons Mary Robinson, David Hill and Lisa Huber. Will Judd was away at college, in Atlanta, and went as a young adult volunteer. The 2001 National Youth Gathering was held in New Orleans, Louisiana and this time Erica Haller, Rachel Kloha and Lindsay Robinson went as young adult volunteers, while the youth, that went from the church, were Rebecca Kloha and Stephanie Pankow along with Bill & Gloria Pankow as chaperons.

In 1996 we precipitated in the LCMS program, "A Week in the Life of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod". This was a pictorial book for all LCMS congregation. We were proud to have five pictures in the book.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 1997 we had a new organist, after Jane Hood Smith left, named Ellen Hutchinson from Huntington West Virginia. She served through February of that year. The first service that our very own talented member, Mr. Jim Fry, played for was on March 2, 1997 and he served as organist until 4 January 1998. He took on directing the choir that March of 1997. With his full time Physician Assistants teaching job and going back to school, to work on a Dr. degree, he decided just to direct the choir and does a beautiful job, I might add. The choir has flourished under his direction. It was after Christmas 1997 he decided to just direct the choir and so Thomas Conley became the organist from 11 January 1998 through 14 June 1998.

We had worked with the Social Services department of the community with our food bank from 1982 until 1997. At that time some changes took place with the Social Services Department and a program called CARES was instituted. In 1997 all the area churches were ask to donate \$1.00 per family, that was in their congregation, to help support this community outreach ministry. We voted to do

this and also to continue to take our turn in providing food through our food bank. The CARES program is to help feed the need in our community as well as to assist with utilities and/or shelter and clothing. This program is to ensure fairness to all who need the help.

The second pastor to come out of St. Paul's was Mr. Philip Gideon Houser on 9 March 1997. Phillip and his family had left St. Paul's in 1978 and he later became an ELCA pastor but after several years he wanted to go back to the Missouri Synod. He did and was endorsed by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod on 9 March 1997. He graduated from the Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1992. He is pastor of First Lutheran Church of Papillion, Nebraska and served as Chaplain, part time, on Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri but is now serving at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska along with his pastoring at Papillion. He is married to Jillene (nee Stubenberg), who is the protestant religion teacher at Boys & Girls Town in Omaha Nebraska. They have three children: Carl, Christopher and Claire.

The Fellowship Club organized the first ever bus trip for the congregation in 1997. The trip was to Cambridge, Ohio to see the Passion play in an outdoor drama called "The Living Word". A full bus went to enjoy a great play, then on the way home the bus broke down and we spent the night on the bus and/or in an all-night dinner. We got another bus to pick us up at about 9:00 am the next morning. Then following year (1998) when another bus trip was planned for August we were afraid no one would sign up. But they did and we had a full bus that went to visit the Amish country in Ohio. We visited an Amish furniture store in Loudonville, Lehman's Hardware store in Kidron, had lunch in an Amish home, ate dinner at Der Dutchman Restaurant, shopped in Berlin, and toured the Amish area with an on bus guide, who was very knowledgeable as she was from that area and had grandparents that were Amish.

The first ever-consecrated Deaconess from St. Paul's was Mrs. Sharon Jean (Horgan) McDonald. St. Paul's congregation was honored and proud! A Service of Consecration into the Diaconate and a celebration dinner was held on 3 May 1998. Sharon was born in Madison, Wisconsin, a daughter of the late Edmore and Nina Horgen. She married Charles McDonald in 1962. They have two sons and one daughter and five grandsons. After raising her children Sharon began to experience a call to serve others outside the family. In 1987 she responded to a request from the Chaplain of King's Daughters' Medical Center for volunteers to visit patients. For two years beginning in 1988 she was FIVCO Area Long term care Ombudsman and during this time began Clinical Pastoral Education at Cabell Huntington Hospital. In 1990 Sharon went to a position as volunteer coordinator at Community Hospice. A year later she accepted a position at Cabell as evening shift Emergency Room Chaplain and completed two more units of C.P.E. Sharon was accepted into the Plan Four Deaconess Program through the Lutheran Deaconess Association in Valparaiso, Indiana, in November of 1993 and began the

process in January 1994. Since March of that year Sharon has been employed at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital as chaplain.

June 21, 1998 the lord continued to bless us with yet another new organist named Mike Jones. A fine young high school man who played the organ for us until June 20, 1999 when after his graduation he went to travel Europe and then to return to the United States to attend college. The Sunday after Mike left we were blessed to have our very own Mrs. Noel (Quade) Davis to fill in and play for the service. The rest of the summer we were blessed to have our very own choir director Mr. Jim Fry fill in as organist. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1999 the Lord blessed us, as he always has, with a new organist by the name of Elizabeth (Berry) Wright. Elizabeth is still our organist as of today. During my research I found that we have been blessed with organists to fill in for us, be it an emergency situation and /or short notice and in between finding a regular organist, over the years, such as Lucy Kazez, Eileen Lockwood, Greta Justus and Thora Cooksey. I feel sure there were more I just didn't find them recorded.

The inside of the church got painted and the color was changed to a neutral cream color in July 1998. Also in 1998 it was voted to sponsor the Boy Scouts of America for their Cub Pack 102 to start holding their meetings at St. Paul. There are two plaques to the church in our showcase from the Boy Scouts of America.

It's 1999 and time for another congregational bus trip, this time to Michigan. We visited the Concordia College in Ann Arbor, toured and shopped in Frankenmuth, stopping at Bronners Christmas store, visiting the ST. Lorenz Lutheran Church and eating at the Bavarian Restaurant. We did a quick side trip to Saginaw to visit Pastor Kloha's home church. We finished our trip with a visit to either the Henry Ford Museum or the Greenfield Village in Dearborn, which ever each individual wanted to see.

There is always something going on at St. Paul's and on 7 November 1999 there most certainly was that day. The congregation let Pastor Kloha start the worship service as he always does with the greeting and then an Elder, Bill Pankow, came forward and ask him to please sit down as he was not doing the service today; The look on Pastor's face! A site to behold, I can tell ya. It was the element of surprise that the congregation had hoped for since they had kept this secret for quite sometime from he and Nancy. Pastor Kloha has a first cousin who also is in the ministry as the pastor at Pella Lutheran Church, Waupun, Wisconsin, Rev. James A. Herbolsheimer. We ask him to come and preach that day and surprise his cousin, Rev. Mark Kloha. He and his wife, Andrea, were more than glad to accommodate us. We kept them hid until the appropriate time. Yes we let pastor fully prepare for that day then gave him the day off. So sweet of us, huh? Pastor Kloha got to sit with Nancy during the worship service and then afterwards the congregation went to the Ashland Plaza for a buffet lunch. He was given a gift of a new hand woven stole with all the liturgical colors woven in it and he and Nancy together were given some nativity ornaments, since they collect nativities.

This was to celebrate the number “55” with the Kloha’s: 20 years in the ministry, 20 years of marriage, 10 years at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ashland, Kentucky, and 5 years in the radio ministry. What a blessing of faithful service and friendship God has given us in the Kloha’s!

With the summer of 2000 came another congregational bus trip organized by the fellowship club to Gatlinburg, Tennessee. There was lots of shopping in downtown Gatlinburg and at the Tanger Outlet Mall. Many of us visited Dollywood to see the arts and crafts, ride the rides and see the shows offered there. Most made a leisurely ride up the mountain in the cable car to ride the Alpine Slide, dinner at the Apple Barn and an evening at “The Louise Mandrell Theater”. On our ride back to Ashland we had a slight detour, as our bus was “hi-jacked” so that the mountain family could find a spouse for their daughter. Pastor will be able to tell you about that mock shotgun wedding! (hehe)

A committee was formed to research the possibility of opening a Preschool in 2000 and they are still working on it as of today.

The church was made handicap accessible under Pastor Kloha’s leadership. The elevator project was made possible, due to the handicap fund that had been established for several years and a bequest left to St. Paul’s from Mrs. Mara DeHart. Mrs. De Hart was not a member but Pastor visited her often and ministered to her. She had worshipped with us on occasion and her godson, Matthew Hause, was a member at St. Paul’s at one time. Ground breaking for this was 30 July 2000. The cost of making the church and educational building handicap accessible along with the refurbishing after the construction was \$250,000.00. The refurbishing started in January of 2001 and included removing the two old speakers from the front walls and covering the holes, redoing the hardwood floors and all wood in the church, cleaning out the bell tower, repainting the fellowship hall and just a major over all cleaning. The organ also got all new insides at this time. It was last refitted in the 1970’s at the cost of \$25,000.00. This time it was \$35,000.00. Also two new speakers were placed in the rear of the church instead of the front. At the same time Mr. W. B. Fosson had requested for the church to get new carpet at his expense and that was in the making but the Lord had other plans, as He called W. B. home before it was finished. He left the church a bequest and from part of that the new sapphire blue carpet was purchased and installed in his memory in March 2001. The church services were held in the basement Fellowship Hall for six weeks during the refurbishing. We moved back in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday that year.

The parking lot in the rear of the church was expanded and paved spring of 2001.

Dedication day for the organ, handicap accessibility, parking lot, carpet, old baptismal font and the new refurbishing of the church was 1 July 2001. There is still one project that goes with the refurbishing that is being completed and it is recovering the pew cushions and the chancel chairs.

The Haines family, in memory of their mother, Eva Savage Haines, also did the landscaping of a Rose Garden in the rear of the church to enhance the beauty of the handicap accessibility entrance. A son-in-law of Eva's, Mr. Joseph Robinson (husband of Mary Haines Robinson), also made a bench with the cross, which the Lutheran church uses as their logo, embossed in it. This, as of to date, has not been dedicated as the project has a few more items to complete.

Christmas season 2000 a nativity scene adorned our church front lawn; June Fry gave it in memory of he late husband, Kerwin Fry. Bill Pankow built the stable and David Bellville furnished the hay.

In late January 2001 all the old German records, of the church were finished being translated into English by Sabina (Dorn) Hall and Nellis (Ellis) Haller. At the May 2001 voters meeting it was approved for Nellis Haller to put part of these records, book 1 dating from 1866-1893, into a hardbound book and on CD for the computer. Donations of the book and a CD were made to Ashland Public Library; Briggs Library in Ironton, Ohio and one was sent to the Library of Congress. There is a book in the church office as well. The CD was made available to the public for a donation of \$16.00 each. The other records, book 2 from 1893-1941, were in half German and English and these were also translated and are being put into book form.

On 6 May 2001 Nellis E. Haller presented a book to Sabina Dorn Hall on behalf of the congregation for her hard work on the translation project.

The 2001 also denoted the reinstating of the Evangelism Committee. One of the first things this committee has been working very hard on is an every member visit program. They also have installed a computer system that contacts all the members by phone with a pre-recorded message about important happening at the church and about the worship service. Some great projects undertake by these teams of dedicated Christians.

We did not have a big celebration for our 135<sup>th</sup> as we did for the 125<sup>th</sup>. The confirmation class for 2001 of St. Paul's Lutheran Church Ashland, Kentucky, included Travis Ohlinger, Amanda Lang, and Jennifer Bellville. I believe we were all so busy with the handicap accessibility project and the refurbishing of the church that we felt that it was more important to keep the house of our Lord updated and in good working order. You might say that the 2001 Drama presentation was one of our ways of celebrating the 135 years at St. Paul's by bringing the Gospel to the community. We did, of course, acknowledge the dates of the first services that were held in the new building, the one we are currently in, and the dedication date, of that building, as they happened to fall on the same days in 2001 as they did fifty years ago.

In honor of the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church a pictorial is being compiled which will include this history research. Mary Haines Robinson is taking the photos and I have done this extensive history. I decided to do this history in order to try and preserve the past for the future so that people can see all

the dedication of the faithful saints that have gone on before them. May they see how the Lord has made it possible for us to be here to worship Him in truth and spirit.

The summer of 2001 came a bus trip to Bardstown, Kentucky to visit the Makers Mark Distillery and see “The Stephen Foster Story”. Lunch was in a very nice restaurant across the road from “My Old Kentucky Home State Park.”

The church was left a bequest from the Nolte family. This bequest was in August 2001 and it is the largest in the history of our congregation. It was the Nolte farm and estate. A second bequest was left to us that fall from Ray McDonald whom left an insurance policy with the church as the beneficiary.

The second time in the history of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church a member was excommunicated was in the fall of 2001. Again I say “SAD” but I also say that caring for people’s souls in a loving way is our number one priority and doing the right things for the betterment of God’s kingdom is truly our responsibility.

For this 135<sup>th</sup> year of our congregation the records show the follows reports as of Jan. 1, 2001: baptized members = 258 and communicate members = 198. **The**

**officers:**

Chairman	David Ramey
Vice Chairman	Charles McDonald
Treasurer	Charles McDonald
Recording Secretary	Linda Lange
Financial Secretary	Jim Meister
Sunday School Superintendent	Karen King

Trustees:

Bill Welch	3
David Massie	2
Mary Robinson	2
Delores Martin	2
Bernard Haller	1
Rick Haller	1

Elders:

Bill Pankow	3
David Hill	2
Bob McCanless	2
Jim Fry	1
W. P. Bink Haller	1

Deacons:

Glen Willis	3
Sharon McDonald	3
Roger Haines	2
Stephen Peffer	2
Tim Martin	1
Bernard Haller	1

Finance Committee:

Bill Welch	3
Ray Kleykamp	3
Mike Quade	2

Board of Auditors:

Bob McCannless	2
Larry Hall	2
Willard Chapman	1

(Note: numbers beside name denote years to serve)

We now have seen 135 years at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ashland, Kentucky, and I have to report that it has taken longer than I expected but it has been a **joy** to do. As I've interviewed members and former members I found that they were always so interested and glad that I was doing this. I feel I must add the latest historical events, since this publication has taken Mary Robinson and myself one year to get completed. Mary has done the photography work and layouts and myself the history. For the year 2002 the happenings thus far have been: The evangelism team has been making progress with their every member visit program and have taken on the task of the newsletter and mailing them again, as they were done but had not been mailed to members for about two years now due to lack of funds for postage; The pre-recorded messages have been well received. The voters meetings are now held monthly with council one week before. The pew cushions have been recovered to go with our new blue carpet and the chancel chairs are on their way to be recovered. It was in the making last year to get the men's restroom, in the educational building, completely handicap accessible and at the end of August 2002 it will be complete. Our Choir director, Mr. Jim Fry, and youth leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Jim (Belen) Fry are moving due to Mr. Fry's job. This couple will be greatly missed. Our new youth leaders are Mr. and Mrs. Ray (Cody) Kleykamp and Mrs. Mary Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Tim (Delores) Martin, they well do both senior and junior youths. Stephanie Pankow will direct the choir starting September of 2002.

As of 1 January 2002 we have 247 baptized members and 191 communicate members.

**The officers:**

Chairman	David Ramey
Vice Chairman	Charles McDonald
Treasurer	Charles McDonald
Recording Secretary	Sharon Haines (temp)
Financial Secretary	Jim Meister
Sunday School Superintendent	Margie Ramey

Trustees:

Bill Welch	2
David Massie	1
Mary Robinson	1
Delores Martin	1
Bernard Haller	3
Rick Haller	3

Elders:

Bill Pankow	2
David Hill	1
Jim Fry	3
W. P. Bink Haller	3

Deacons:

Glen Willis	2
Sharon McDonald	2
Roger Haines	1
Stephen Peffer	1
Tim Martin	3
Bernard Haller	3

Finance Committee:

Bill Welch	2
Ray Kleykamp	2
Mike Quade	1

Board of Auditors:

Larry Hall	1
Willard Chapman	3

(Note: numbers beside name denote years to serve)

I have not done this report for my own glory but to the glory of our Lord who has provided for us, all that we need and even more than we deserve.

I find it so awesome that the Lord has preserved us. Except for the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, for our redemption, is there any greater manifestation of His grace and mercy than that He has preserved our Church for these 135 years, although many of them were illed with rebellion, shameful murmuring and shocking disobedience? But that shows me just how loving and forgiving our God is and makes me even more thankful to Him than I was, before I started this project, that we celebrated this milestone in our church.

***The chief treasure of an Evangelical Lutheran congregation, whether this congregation is large or small, is the pure Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ, the only Savior of mankind.***

I have written this historical report from either finding recorded documentations, interviews of members and past members or having lived it for

the past, almost, 32 years that I've been a member of this congregation. For this reason I feel that the copyright had to be under "St. Paul's Lutheran Church Ashland, Kentucky", as this report is not all of my doing. Former Pastors recorded some of these reports, Mary (nee Nolte) Stanley left us some older bulletins that she had saved, with the help of Sabina (nee Dorn) Hall the old German records were translated into English, some are public records and the rest is mine, so I find that this report is not just my doing. Yes, I did the work and researched a lot but I believe in giving credit where credit is due. If you have any corrections or additions please feel free to talk to me about them.

Nellis (nee Ellis) Haller

Just for the record:

The first Baptism on record was Carl Christian Rahm, born 11 February 1866 and baptized on 11 March 1866 by Rev. G. Baum, son of Heinrich Rahm and his wife Wilhelmina (nee Wettmarshausen) from Ashland, Kentucky. The sponsors were Carl Klein, Christian Wettmarshausen, Heinrich Heinze, and Friedrich Dornte.

The first marriage recorded was Anton Schmauch and Sophie Miller from Ashland, Kentucky on 4 April 1866.

The first death recorded was Hanna Caroline Wilhelmina, daughter of Friedrich Dornte and wife Christina (nee Heipe) from near Ashland, Kentucky. She was born 1 September 1864 and died 3 May 1866 at evening 7 o'clock from pulmonary TB.

The first confirmation class recorded:

Easter Feast  
1867

21 Apr

Number	Name	Residence	Birth Date
1	Johann Heinrich Horstmann	from Bellefonte near Ashland, KY	27 Oct 1850
2	Friedrich Molsberger	from Bellefonte near Ashland, KY	19 Feb 1852
3	Johann Friedrich Horstmann	from Bellefonte near Ashland, KY	6 Oct 1853
4	Georg Robert Miller	from Ashland, KY	21 Apr 1851
5	Rosine Catharina Molsberger	from Bellefonte near Ashland, KY	16 Jan 1850
6	Louise Burgraf	from Ashland, KY	28 May

			1852
7	Catharina Burgraf	from Ashland, KY	20 Oct 1853
8	Louise Miller	from Ashland, KY	27 Jun 1854
	Elisabetha Margaretha		15 Nov
9	Weber	from Ashland, KY	1854
	Caroline	from Sherdon, Lawrence	15 May
10	Linbinger	Co., OH	1851
	Elisabetha	from Sherdon, Lawrence	
11	Linbinger	Co., OH	5 Mar 1852
			16 Feb
12	Johanna Kahne	from Ashland, KY	1852
	Maria	from Lawrence Furnace	24 Dec
13	Rodecker	Ohio	1853
	Maria Elisabetha		30 Mar
14	Maier	from Aetna Furnace Ohio	1853

The first to partake of communion recorded:  
The following members of this congregation took  
communion on 11 June 1871  
(First Sunday after  
Trinity)

1	Georg Heumann	Wilhelmina Sohmer
2	Friedrich Sprenger	Margaretha Muller
3	Friedrich Weber	Eliasabeth Rauh
4	Georg Ruf	Maria Reimlinger
5	Robert Muller	Margaretha Weber
6	August Koch	Caroline Steinle
7	Friedrich Pfannkuchen	Margaretha Heumann
8	Friedrich Gessling	Caroline Burgraf
9	Wilhelm Fuhring	Rosine Gramer

10	Christin Koch	Maria Honig
11	Johann Burgraf	Margaretha Keil
12	Friedrich Weimar	Sophia Fuhring
13	Johann Hospen	Louise Halt
14	Heinrich Koch	Mrs. Hunter
15	Leonhard Gramer	Johanna Gessling
16	Georg Burgraf	Hanna Sprenger
17	Georg Reimlinger	Sophia Fuhring
18	Casper Honig	Louise Koch
19	Conrad Keil	Wilhelmina Koch
20	Georg Rauh	Kathrina Burgraf