

1846

1971

St. Peter's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



CAMDEN, INDIANA

PROGRAM

September 19, 1971

MORNING

- Sunday School - - - - - 9:30 a. m.
Worship Service - - - - - 10:30 a. m.
 Sermon by Dr. Walter M. Wick, President of the
 Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Lutheran Church in
 America
 Dedication of memorials

Basket Dinner

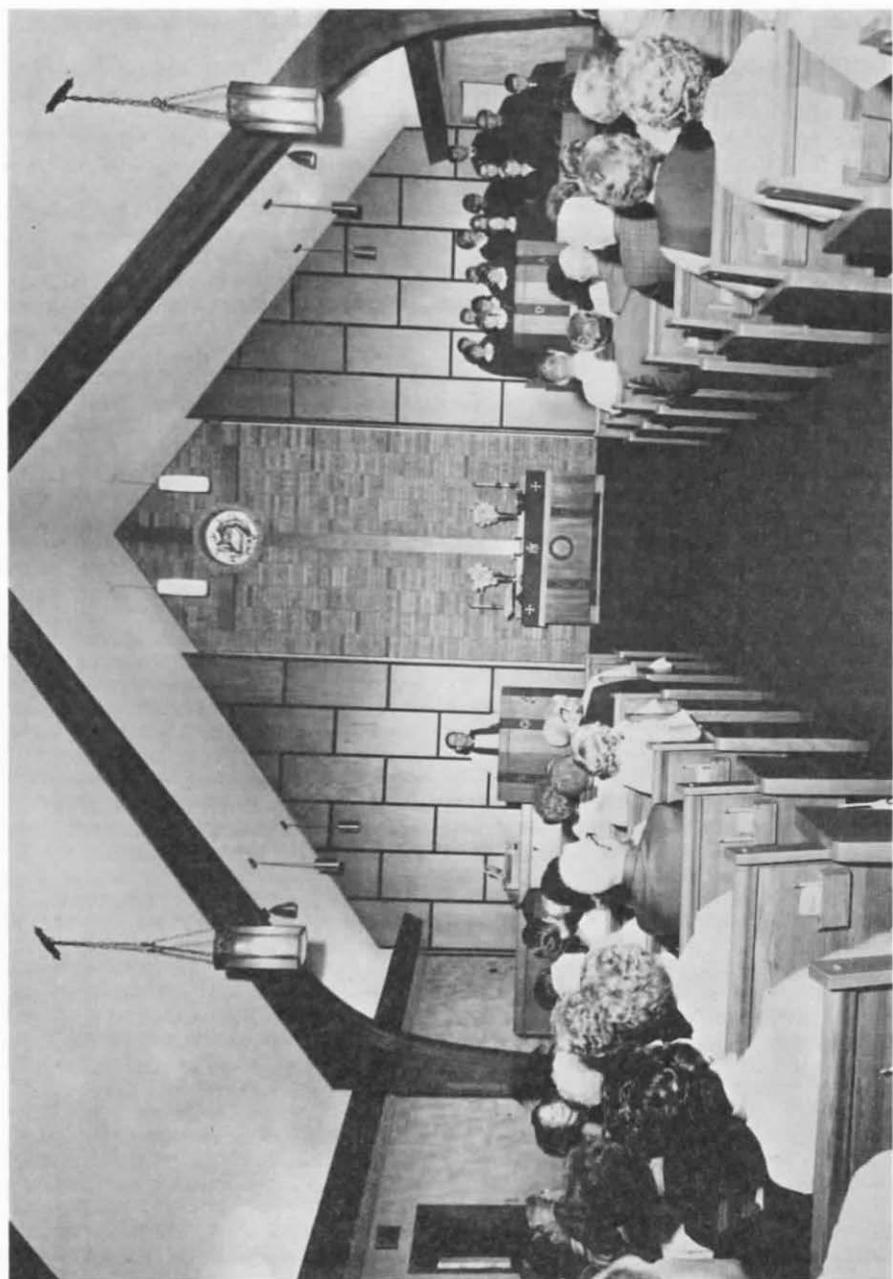
AFTERNOON — 2:00 p. m.

- Organ Prelude - - - - - Florence Baker
Hymn — "A Mighty Fortress" - - - - - Congregation
Emcee - - - - - Ray Myers
Letters from former members and friends
Trio - - - - Marilyn (McCain) Nance, Don McCain, Joe McCain
Remarks by visiting pastors, guests, dignitaries
Prayer and Benediction
Organ Postlude - - - - - Florence Baker

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Roy M. Gardiner, Chairman
 Frank Kesner
 Mrs. Dean McCain
 Mrs. Frank Stiles

A. Ray Myers, Vice Chairman
 Mrs. Claude Linn
 Miss Amanda Roth
 Richard Recher, Pastor



CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camden, Indiana, came into being on August 23, 1846, when 26 individuals of the Lutheran faith residing in Jackson Township, Carroll County, signed the charter roll and then received Holy Communion. On the previous day, an organizational meeting had been held in which a name had been selected and a constitution drawn up, designating the new group as an official Lutheran congregation.

During the following two months, the first infant baptism was performed, the first congregational meeting was held, with church officers being elected, and the first church council selected by those present. A Board of Trustees was also chosen, composed of three men whose names were then recorded at the Carroll County Recorder's Office.

The first 50 years of congregational life witnessed many encouraging developments. Two church buildings were constructed as well as two parsonages secured during this period. Building repairs were made periodically. Women's, youth, and children's organizations were formed and then maintained with cyclic degrees of zest. The congregation continued to remain a participant in a state or national Lutheran Church body. Membership in which church body depended upon changes occurring in situations at the time. St. Peter's, along with other neighboring Lutheran congregations, composed various parishes or charges, which also were altered from time to time according to local needs and desires. Fourteen pastors served the congregation in this duration.

The second half century of congregational life saw much transformation and renewal as well. Increased interest in building usage and equipment, both church and parsonage, was evident, as new items were added and used ones improved. The giving of "memorials" seemingly became much welcomed gestures. In addition, making provision for the church in last wills and testaments also turned into popular acts. The congregation maintained its active support in synodical affairs. A "Golden Jubilee," conducted as the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the church building, highlighted the early portion of this period. Another feat of accomplishment in the latter part of this period was the legal incorporation of the congregation under the laws of the State of Indiana. Observance of the congregation's 90th birthday was also held, as well as the very festive celebration of the congregation's centennial. Ten pastors were listed as servants of the congregation during these second 50 years.

Mention can be made of the many young men in the congregational membership who served in the military during both World War I and II, one of whom with his life made the supreme sacrifice in 1945. Fourteen men from St. Peter's were enrolled in World War II's affair.

Not to be omitted from the list of attainments was the sending forth of six young people from the congregation into full time church vocation. Four young men entered the ministry, all with the last name

of Thomas. E. E. Neibel entered the world mission field of the church, and Ruth Robeson, a deaconess, also served in Liberia, Africa.

The day St. Peter's membership celebrated its 100 years of service was a gala occasion. Former members, relatives, and friends of the congregation flooded the church building and grounds. The synod president spoke at the morning service of Holy Communion. An historical booklet, with pictures, was prepared, published, and distributed to interested individuals. Following the noon basket dinner, afternoon and evening sessions featured music, speeches, and memorials.

The 25 years immediately preceding this occasion (125th anniversary) were likewise very eventful. The construction of a parish hall for educational and fellowship purposes, the sale of the parsonage and the building of a new one at a newly purchased site, the installation of an altar in the church chancel, the razing of the church building and the erection of a new one, were among the building achievements of the congregation.

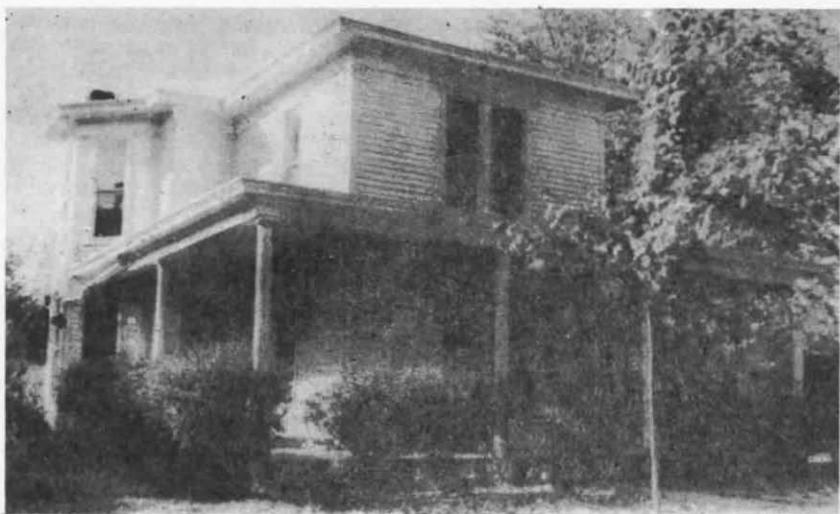
New furnishings, appliances, and supplies continued to be provided for by devoted parishioners. Several young pastors, recently ordained and graduated from seminary, with progressive concepts and approaches to congregational ministry, served the parish over the last two and one half decades. The congregation has grown, both in its belief in its Lord, its service to community and world, and in its number of constituents, during the course of this above mentioned sojourn. The congregation's success at deepening the faith of individuals, broadening and expanding the services and ministries of its organizations, increasing the number of its adherents, and intensifying its own Lutheran heritage, can be included among the items of congregational fruitage to be more specifically indicated in the following paragraphs.



PARSONAGES

Negotiations for the purchase of a parsonage were originally begun in 1858. A house was finally secured three years later (1861) for the sum of \$300. This first parsonage, owned by the congregation, was located on the southwest corner of Cumberland and Water Streets.

In the late 1880's the old parsonage was moved to the north end of Church Street (west side of the street) in Camden, and a new parsonage built at the same site on which the old parsonage had stood for nearly 30 years. In 1906 a new porch was built and extensive repairs



made on the congregation's second parsonage. Electric lights were added in 1915 and a furnace was installed the following year. The home was sold in 1963 for about \$5,000.

Present parsonage was constructed eight years ago for approximately \$13,000. It is located on James Street just east of the Camden Park at the north end of town. A \$5,000 remodeling program occurred in 1969, which included the construction of a family room, utility room, outside patio, 2-car garage, and winding driveway, as well as the installation of a new gas furnace and electric air conditioner. Its presence symbolizes congregational care and concern for the comfort and welfare of the pastor's family.



"NOW, I BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, BY THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT YOU ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING, AND THAT THERE BE NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU: BUT THAT YOU BE PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN THE SAME MIND AND IN THE SAME JUDGEMENT" . . .

I Corinthians 1:10

PASTORS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Rev. Samuel McReynolds 1846-1855 | Rev. Morgan L. Webb 1906-1916 |
| Rev. D. Smith 1855-1856 | Rev. D. P. Drawbaugh 1916-1921 |
| Rev. L. L. Bonnell 1856-1858 | Rev. G. P. Endy 1921-1922 |
| Rev. S. P. Snyder 1858-1867 | Rev. H. C. Stuckenberg 1923-1929 |
| Rev. M. L. Kunkleman 1867-1868 | Rev. Elmer Kahl 1930-1934 |
| Rev. J. M. Elder 1868-1869 | Rev. A. H. Fabianske 1935-1938 |
| Rev. S. B. Hyman 1869-1870 | Rev. G. L. Schroyer 1939-1943 |
| Rev. J. L. Guard 1870-1878 | Rev. George W. Schuette 1945-1948 |
| Rev. A. J. B. Kast 1878-1879 | Rev. Richard C. Recher 1949-1953 |
| Rev. G. L. Schafer 1879-1881 | Rev. Brady L. Stroup 1953-1954 (supply) |
| Rev. David H. Snowden 1881-1885 | Rev. L. C. Westenbarger 1954-1957 |
| Rev. C. J. Kiefer 1885-1889 | Rev. William Moschell 1957-1961 |
| Rev. F. L. Sigmund 1890-1892 | Rev. Thomas Richards 1962-1964 |
| Rev. B. F. Grenoble 1892-1897 | Rev. Paul Krebs 1964-1967 |
| Rev. W. S. Dysinger 1898-1900 | Rev. Otto Friedmann 1967-1967 (supply) |
| Rev. H. C. Stuckenberg 1901-1906 | Rev. Richard C. Recher 1967- |



Pastor Recher

SYNOD AFFILIATION

Since the inception of the organization, the congregation has remained a constituent part of a larger Lutheran Church body at district, state and national levels. A cordial and cooperative working relationship was also maintained with neighboring Lutheran congregations as well as with pastors of the Lutheran faith.

St. Peter's, at the time of its chartering in 1846, was a member of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of North America.

However, during a considerable portion of its first 50 years, the congregation was governed by a national church body known as the General Council. The congregation then later returned to the General Synod.

In recent years, St. Peter's has been listed as a congregation of the Lutheran Church in America, since its formation in 1962, and prior to that was a member of one of the LCA's predecessor bodies, the United Lutheran Church in America, formed in 1918.

The first church building was dedicated in 1849 by a pastor other than the one serving the parish at the time. He was Rev. A. H. Myers from the Olive Branch Synod. Second building's dedication was conducted by Rev. R. F. Delo, president of the Northern Indiana Synod in 1873. Among visiting pastors participating in the 50th building anniversary (second building) in 1923 were Rev. A. H. Keck, president of the Michigan Synod, and Rev. H. G. Davis, Weidner Institute professor at Mulberry, Indiana.

Between 1857 and 1925 St. Peter's entertained the synod's yearly conventions seven times. First lay delegate from the congregation was sent in 1849.

In 1933, the congregation withdrew from the Michigan Synod and united with the Indiana Synod. President of the Indiana Synod in 1936, Dr. H. E. Turney, along with Rev. C. R. Defenderfer, Frankfort, assisted in the 90th birthday festivities held at St. Peter's.

Speaker at the centennial celebration in 1946 was Dr. F. M. Hanes, president of the Indiana Synod. In 1952, when the second building had been remodeled, Rev. T. L. Hertenstein and Rev. P. S. Recher participated in the rededication ceremonies. At the 110th anniversary observance and the dedication of the parish hall in 1956, in attendance were Dr. F. M. Hanes, former president of the synod and Dr. W. M. Wick, president of the synod at the time, as well as several other neighboring Lutheran pastors. The present building was dedicated in 1967 by a synod official, Rev. G. E. Hoog, assistant to the president of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, formed in 1962, successor to the Indiana Synod.

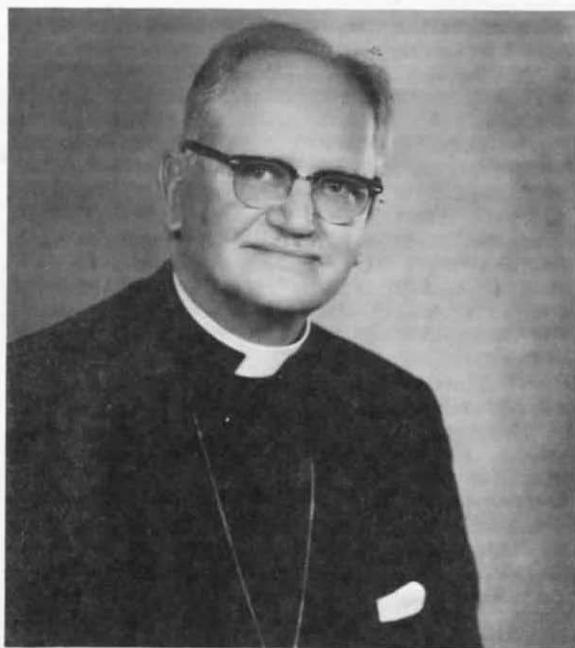
As an example of the cooperativeness occurring periodically through the years with neighboring congregations and ministers of other denominations, in 1933 several pastors in the local area joined in conducting an interdenominational funeral service held in St. Peter's for Rev. H. C. Stuckenberg, former pastor of the congregation. Sermon, entitled "The Best Robe," written and prepared by Rev. Stuckenberg himself for use at his own funeral, was read and presented by Dr. R. D. Wheadon, Lutheran pastor from Logansport.

In the early years of its history St. Peter's organized and fathered several congregations. Mt. Pisgah, to the northeast and St. Luke's to the southeast, together with St. Peter's made up the Camden charge, formed in 1850 and continuing as a charge until 1878. St. Luke's disbanded eventually, some of its members successfully organizing St. Paul's of Flora, which was joined with St. Peter's as a charge from 1878 to 1895, when St. Peter's petitioned the synod to "go it alone." St. Paul's closed up, subsequently, at a later date. In the meantime, Mt. Pisgah joined with Ebenezer, further to the north, in 1878 to form the Deer Creek charge.

Pastors as well as laymen from St. Peter's have served on synodical, as well as conference and district boards and committees, from time to time through the years. In addition, the congregation has been represented on a regular basis by both clerical and lay members at the annual synod conventions.

At the present time, St. Peter's congregation, along with St. Matthew's congregation at Delphi, are engaged in occasional cooperative ventures in worship, education, and youth work.

Keynote speaker at this 125th year anniversary event, Dr. Walter Wick, president of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, brings official felicitations and cordial best wishes from all sister congregations in the synod. Several other neighboring Lutheran pastors and dignitaries are in attendance and bring greetings.



Dr. Walter M. Wick

LAY LEADERSHIP

Laymen, during the course of congregational events, have enthusiastically taken part in the life of the church and assumed shares in the responsibilities of ministry and service. Church councils have faithfully served St. Peter's since first installed in 1846.

The men of the congregation were primarily responsible for the purchase, sale, and construction of the three parsonages, as well as for the continuing upkeep and maintenance of parish hall, church building, and church grounds. It was due to the capable supervisory talents of Walter Sprinkle that the parish hall was completed in 1956. The recent parsonage remodeling was nearly in its entirety carried out by many male members of the congregation, under the arrangement and administration of Roy Gardiner. Labors were donated to the project.

Lay people from the Camden charge have been especially loyal supporters of the Home For The Aged at Mulberry, Indiana, for the past several decades.

Delegates have been selected almost annually to represent the congregation at synod conventions. St. Peter's is proud to announce that one of its lay members, Mr. A. Ray Myers, has been elected by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod to represent its constituency at the national convention of the Lutheran Church in America to be held in Texas in 1972.



WOMEN TAKE PART

The functions women have shouldered in congregational activity have not been incidental but rather have been executed within the mainstream of the action. Music, teaching, fellowship, furnishings, and house-cleaning are among their list of contributory efforts. At one time, church suppers played a significant role in the agenda of church projects. Modernly, women now serve on every congregational committee and also accept their share in secretarial and administrative obligations.

First Women's Missionary Society was begun in 1885 and remained in existence until the LCW (Lutheran Church Women) came into being a few years ago. For a good many years the local WMS had been widely recognized as one of the best in the synod, contributing liberally to the general work of the church. At various periods of time the organization assisted in mission programs, supporting missionaries in India and Africa in its early years, and later giving aid to home mission congregations in Flora, Indiana, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and in California.

In 1945, the Friendship Circle was organized for the purpose of adding spiritual, social, and educational life to the women's program of the church, serving until it was absorbed with the Women's Missionary Society into the new LCW formed over a decade ago. The circle conducted annual clothing drives for overseas relief, prepared congregational Christmas programs, kept up the Communion materials, supplied flowers for worship services and funerals, assisted families in bereavement and sickness, among many other services performed for the church locally and otherwise.

Fulfillment of most of the above mentioned duties are now carried out by the LCW. In recent years, many parsonage payments have been made by the group. Church furnishings have also been among the items in which the auxiliary has provided with steady interest. Periodically the women have been responsible for re-decorating the parsonage and for cleaning the church building interiors.

The two oldest members of the congregation, who have personally witnessed and seen first hand many of the developments described in this booklet come to pass, are Amanda and Rosa Roth, ages 95 and 93, respectively.



GROWTH

In faith, in service, in numbers

Influencing, instilling, increasing, and intensifying development of the Christian faith and character of youth and children, as well as adults, has been the focus upon which many endeavors have been expended for one and one-fourth centuries. The conducting of Sunday School, Bible School, Leadership School, youth confirmation class, adult membership instruction class, choir, camp, and youth group are among the listing of those endeavors.

In addition, many activities and services have been performed, accomplishments executed, and projects completed, for church and community, by these auxiliary agencies of the church. Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor (1890), Luther League (1897), Children's Mission Band (1898), Sunday School Orchestra (1924), Junior Luther League (1946), and Junior Choir (1950), are also organizations which stand in the congregation's history as examples of such effort and attainment.

Even though most groups, during the course of their history, fluctuate in both quality and quantity, the up and down movement for the congregation, as a whole during this period, has grown significantly and sufficiently enough, as to be classified as progress, and as to be considered as a source of spiritual fulfillment and satisfaction, for the intended purposes of the time and interval needed.

The future of the congregation is now before us, illustrated by the representative group of children pictured here, as they intently listen to one of the present pastor's object lesson children's sermons, presented to them at each Sunday morning's worship service. They hold within their coming grasp and power, as instruments of an imminent God, the earthly destiny of the church.

The congregation has been devoted to preparing them for the confrontations ahead, and to equipping them for the propagation and perpetuation of the Christian faith and gospel. Let us continue to be given to these worthy aims and high ideals.

St. Peter's Church stands ready to face the future.



Early Memorials by Friends

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| George W. Cohee | Mr. and Mrs. David Steiff |
| Rev. John L. Guard | Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Plank |
| Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Rice | Mr. and Mrs. Philip Ray |
| Sarah A. Thomas | Mr. and Mrs. William Plank |
| The Jesse Plank Family | |

Later Memorials by Friends

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mary J. Binkley 1867-1943 | Fannie E. Leslie 1854-1942 |
| Rev. E. E. Neibel 1869-1912 | Maggie L. Gardner 1863-1937 |
| Nancy J. Mullin 1845-1929 | U. S. Gardner 1863-1934 |
| Edward M. Cripe 1874-1946 | Sarah Alice Leslie 1859-1934 |
| Mary Esther Gish 1919-1926 | Mary Alice L. Hedderick 1870-1941 |
| Lewis Wise 1883-1942 | George W. Judy 1859-1946 |
| Louis Theodore Dock 1853-1926 | Clarissa Rice 1865-1941 |
| Mary Alice Dock 1858-1923 | Margaret Ellen Robinson 1854-1942 |
| Tillman Howard A. Leslie 1845-1899 | Wright Humrickhouse 1851-1934 |

Past Memorials and Gifts

| Date | Gift | Given by | In Memory of |
|------|---|--|--|
| 1910 | Organ | Family Legacy Luther League Carnegie Foundation | John Gaylor |
| 1938 | Nave Lantern lights Brass Cross Missal Stand | by bequest from her and also by Women's Mis- sionary Society | Amanda Synder |
| 1939 | Baptismal Font | | Mr. & Mrs. John Bowman |
| 1940 | Church Plaque | Flora Cripe | |
| 1942 | Christian Flag United States Flag | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Martin | |
| 1942 | Red paraments | Flora Cripe | in honor of her chil- dren, Russell Cripe & Mrs. Paul Musselman |
| | Green paraments | Women's Missionary Society | |
| | Violet paraments | Philathea Class (Sunday School) | |
| | White paraments | Dr. & Mrs. C. L. Wise | |
| | Black paraments | Rev. & Mrs. G. L. Schroyer | |
| 1946 | Brass altar vases Red dossal curtain | Flora Cripe | in honor of her family Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Baker Mrs. W. G. Rice Mrs. Maud Mullin Mrs. Mary Penn Mr. Frank Sieber Mr. Will Sieber Dr. E. L. Sieber |
| 1955 | Brass altar candlesticks | Mr. & Mrs. Norwood Gentry | |
| 1955 | Church Altar | Louis Mayne | |
| 1955 | Red paraments | Mr. & Mrs. A. Ray Myers Mr. & Mrs. Howard Myers | |
| 1955 | Green, violet, white & black paraments (revised) | Friendship Circle | |

Recent Memorials

Pulpit

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Helve, Mrs. Mabel Rynearson,
in memory of Mr. Fred Jones

Organ

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jones in memory of Mrs. Evelyn Sprinkle
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Musselman in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cripe
Mrs. Lula Sanderson in memory of Mr. Charles Sanderson

Pews

Mrs. Bertha George in memory of Mr. Frank George
Eva, Ernest, and Everett Penn in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Otto Penn
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sanderson in memory of Mr. Charles Sanderson
Mrs. Alice Linn & family in memory of Mr. Claude Linn
Mrs. Bertha George, Rev. & Mrs. Richard Recher & family, Mr. & Mrs.
Bill George & family, Mr. & Mrs. Dean George & family, Mr. &
Mrs. Curtis George & family, in memory of Frank George

P. A. System

Mrs. Inah Caldwell, Mary Alice Caldwell, Curtis George family, Robert
Wyatt family in memory of Mr. Roy Caldwell

Palms

Mrs. Alice Linn, Rita & Gary Linn in memory of Mr. Claude Linn

Chancel Circular Window Spotlight

Adrienne McCain, Don & Joe McCain, Marilyn Nance in memory of
Mr. Dean McCain

Green Paraments

Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Johnson, Jr. in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ed Johnson, Sr.

Violet Paraments

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Ashby in memory of Mr. Alfred Ashby, Mr. Gottlieb
Graf, Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Gardner, Mrs. John Witter
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Bieghler in memory of David Bieghler and David
Cripe
Mrs. Gladys Caldwell in memory of Mr. Gerald Caldwell
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Judy in memory of Mr. & Mrs. George W. Judy
Mrs. Alice Linn, Rita & Gary Linn in memory of Mr. Claude Linn
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Nance in memory of Mr. Dean McCain and Mr. Charles
Nance
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sanderson in memory of Mr. Charles Sanderson
Mrs. Etta Jones in memory of Mr. Fred Jones

Hymnals

Gardner family in memory of Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Gardner
Given in memory of Ruth Groninger
Given in memory of Larry Dean McVay
Robert Dittman, Sr., family in memory of Carl and Jennie Dittman

White Paraments

- Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Bieghler in memory of parents, Mr. & Mrs. O. J. Bieghler & Mr. Raymond Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. David Mullin & family, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Mullin & family, Miss Nancy Mullin, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rice & family, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Snipes & family, Mrs. Dean McCain, Don McCain, Joe McCain, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Nance, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Spencer & family, in memory of parents & grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Mullin
Mrs. Dean McCain, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Nance, Don McCain, Joe McCain, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Roll McCain, Dora McCain, and Dean McCain
Mrs. Fren Musselman in memory of Fren Musselman

Acolytes' Cottas

Rev. & Mrs. Recher & family in memory of Larry Recher

Holy Communion Trays

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Penn in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Penn

In Honor

Pews

Mrs. Maude Jones in honor of Helen Flora and Mary Ellen Johnson

Hymnals

Mrs. Lula Sanderson in honor of Mr. Charles Sanderson

Recent Gifts

Altar

Given by Lewis Mayne, retained from former building

Baptismal Font, Nave Overhead Lights, Circular Window

Retained from former building

Pulpit Bible

Given by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sanderson

Guest Register

Given by Mr. & Mrs. Roy Gardiner

Altar Service Book

Given by Pastor & Mrs. Paul Krebs

Red Paraments (revised)

Given by Mr. & Mrs. A. Ray Myers

Violet Paraments

Donations given by Mr. & Mrs. Dick Foust

Donations given by Mr. & Mrs. Coy Shanks

Memorial Book

Given by Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ringer

Hymnals

Given by Mr. & Mrs. A. Ray Myers
Given by Mrs. Lillian Grant
Given by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sanderson
Given by Miss Georganna Leslie

Pews

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Bieghler
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gardner
Mrs. Sharon Ashby
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Jones
Mrs. Etta Jones
Mrs. Inah Caldwell
Miss Nancy Mullin

Contributions

Mr. A. D. Plank
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sieber
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. W. O. Pettiner
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pettiner
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Yeager
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Zock
Mr. & Mrs. Abner Sieber
Mr. & Mrs. Winfrey Lloyd
Mr. & Mrs. James Keller
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Young
Rev. & Mrs. Orland Gibbons
Rev. & Mrs. William Moschell
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ives
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Eikenberry
Mr. Calvin Gulden
Carroll County Farm Bureau Cooperative Association
Camden State Bank

White Paraments

Miss Georganna Leslie
Lutheran Church Women

Candlelighter

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reiffel

Two Holy Communion Stands

Mr. & Mrs. George Ringer & family

Lay Readers Robes

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Baker and family

Red Carpet

Mr. & Mrs. Roy M. Gardiner