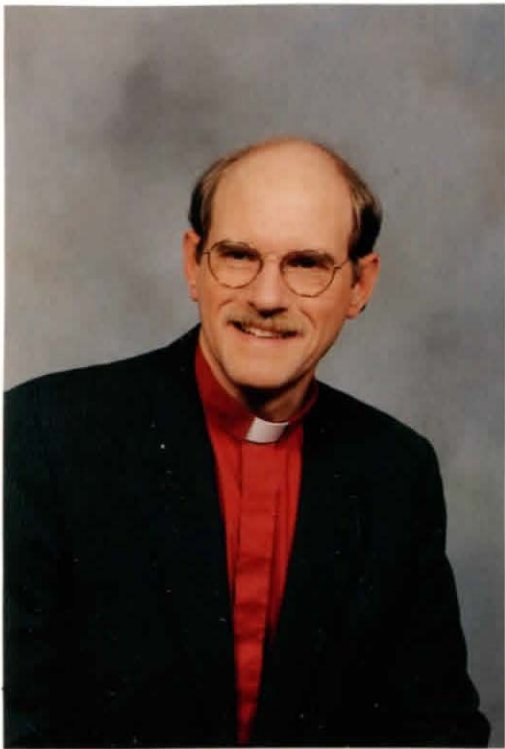


St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
150th Anniversary Celebration



1846 -- 1996

Leadership and Service



Pastor Schultz



Organists



WELCA



Choir

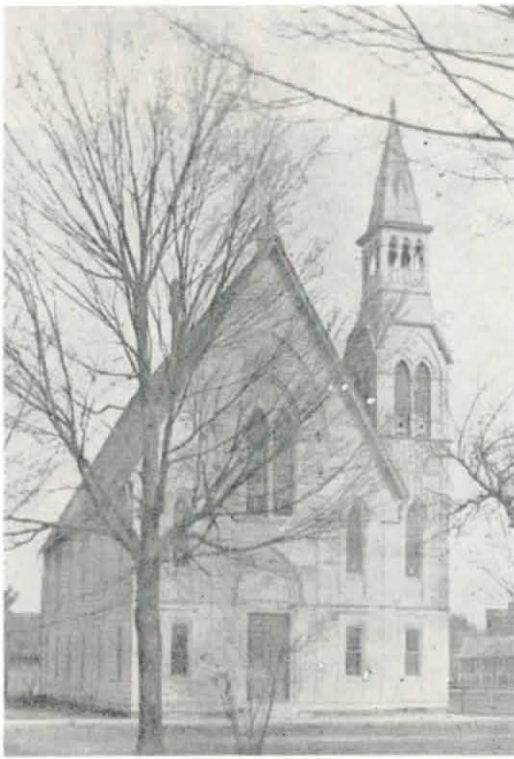


Lector



Church Council

History of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church was officially organized as a congregation in Camden, Indiana on August 26, 1846. Twenty-six individuals from Jackson Township in Carroll County drew up a constitution, selected the name, and signed the charter roll. Shortly afterward a church council was chosen, officers were elected, and the names of three men were recorded in the County Recorder's office as the Board of Trustees.

Through the years the congregation has experienced many changes in its historic life. The normal ups and downs in the interest and activity of any organized group of people could likewise be attributed to the life of St. Peter's Church. The recorded accounts of youth activity, women's groups, and children's organizations attest to that fact. The same could be said of other educational, worship, musical, and fellowship groups' endeavors. The bottom line would state that the successful life of service by the congregation over such a long period of time is due to the loyal and dedicated teaching and handing down of the faith from generation to generation.

The location and erection of various church buildings and parsonages as well as the changing of pastors and lay leaders through the years are examples of such transformations normally experienced by a congregation during its life time. Add to that list of alterations the changes occurring from time to time in synodical affiliation.

The first church building stood on the northwest corner of Water and Cumberland Streets in Camden. It had been built in the summer of 1849 after the congregation had worshiped in several other temporary locations for three years. Among those places was the local Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The second House of God was constructed for a cost of \$8,000 at the corner of Cumberland and Church Streets in 1873. It was a two-story structure featuring not only an inside winding stairway to the nave on the second floor but also an unusually tall bell tower which served as a historical landmark throughout the





area for several decades. The same bell is now located in a new tower dedicated in 1986. In 1965 the structure was torn down and replaced by the newly constructed edifice that now beautifully graces the same Cumberland and Church Streets site. Ground breaking ceremonies for the present building were conducted in July 1966 with dedication ceremonies occurring in November of 1967. Costs for the new structure totaled \$66,000.

A new parish hall had been constructed as an addition to the second church building in 1956. It still stands in the same spot adjacent to the new 1967 church building serving well the educational and social needs of the congregation as well as furnishing meeting places and fellowship locations for various congregational and community groups.

Parsonages tell the same story of movement and change. The initial parsonage, located at the southwest corner of Cumberland and Water Streets, was purchased for \$300 in 1861. In the late 1880's the house was moved to the north end of Church Street (west side of the street) and a new parsonage was built on the same site the old parsonage had stood for thirty years. This parsonage was sold in 1963 for \$5,000. The present parsonage was newly built on James Street east of the Camden Park at the north end of town for a cost of \$13,000. An additional \$5,000 was spent on the house in 1969. Put into place at that time was the construction of a winding driveway, a two-car garage, and a remodeling of a portion of the house. The parsonage now serves as a helpful rental for the congregation.

Thirty-five pastors have faithfully led the congregation during these 150 years of service we now celebrate. This figure does not include all of the interims and supplies who assisted during vacancy periods. Two of these pastors served the congregation for two different periods of time. They were Rev. H. C. Stuckenberg (1901-1906 and 1923-1929) and Rev. Richard C. Recher (1949-1953 and 1967-1985) who married a local girl in 1951 and is now retired living in Camden.





St. Peter's congregation has consistently remained a part of a larger Lutheran Church body throughout its history participating at district, state, and national levels. At the time of its chartering the initial group joined the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of North America. After being a member of the General Council of the Lutheran Church for a good part of fifty years, the group returned to the General Synod. The congregation became a member of the Lutheran Church in America (which was formed in 1962) previously being a member of the 1918 formed United

Lutheran Church. St. Peter's now belongs to the newly formed Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which was a merger of three larger national Lutheran Church bodies occurring in 1988. St. Peter's also remains a constituent part of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the ELCA as well as an active participant in its Lafayette District.

Six young people from the congregation have gone into full time church vocation during the past 150 years of service. Four young men were ordained into the Lutheran ministry, the fifth was a missionary in the world mission field, and a young lady served as a deaconess of the church in Liberia, Africa.

The dedication of many worshipful and useful items to the church as memorials by individuals and families has been a steady and continuous witness to the love, concern, and faith of the members through the decades. There are too many to mention here, but they do serve as reminders of the interest and loyalty characterizing the long line of persons connected with the life of the church.

Not only has the consecration of memorials and gifts, as well as the conduction of mortgage burnings (the latest as recent as 1980) and the dedications of church buildings and parsonages been the highlight events in the history of St. Peter's, but the celebrating of anniversaries could surely be considered as priority items in the reporting of the congregation's life occurrences. Such duly held celebrations included the 90th, the 100th, and the 110th in 1936, 1946, and 1956. The 125th anniversary conducted in the present new facility in 1971 entertained an unusually large group of attenders as well as recognized an unusually large number of memorial items given to the church. It is the hope and prayer of all interested parties that this present 150th year anniversary observance on this day, August 25, 1996, will attest to the same celebrative and loyal spirit that has been the mainstay of the members of St. Peter's for the past 150 years.

Richard Recher

*I Love
To Tell
The Story*



Church Sanctuary - 1800s



Mortgage Burning



Cherished Members



Parsonage - 1880s



New Church Dedication - 1967



New Acolytes



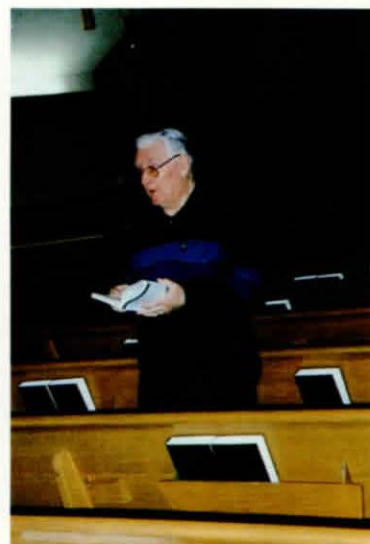
Building our future from the chimes of the familiar beehive.



The Mighty Few



Fine Wine Class



Vance Fincher



Forgiving Our Sins



Happy Children



Service Bound By Years



Joyful Fellowship

O God Our Help In Ages Past Our Hope For Years To Come



Our Heavenly Father

We thank you for the people, who 150 years ago founded this church.

We thank you for the people who have worked to keep the church together that today we have this place to worship.

We thank you for our homes where we get our rest, and awake in a land of abundance where we get our daily bread, and help feed hungry and homeless.

We pray that all the homes where there is sickness and sorrow may be comforted and live in love, peace, and happiness.

We ask for forgiveness of our sins, and in life we may have purpose - to be a christian.

Amen.

by Charlie Jones

And Our Eternal Home



**ADAMS, Fred & Jane
Carrie**



**ANDERSON, Beth
Andrew**



ARNOLD, Julia



ASHBY, Shawn & Rusty



ASHBY, Steven & Sharon



**BAKER, Rick & Denna
Trish & Hollie Trainer**



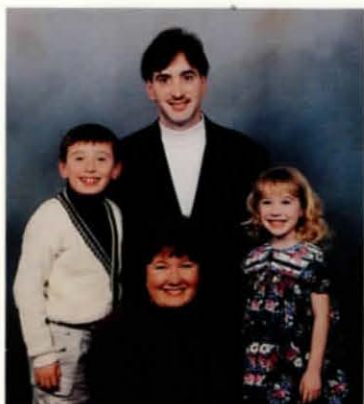
BIEGHLER, Howard & Donna



BOHANNON, Alta



CALDWELL, Francis



**CANEN, Timothy & Beth
Cody, Ali**



COHEE, Mary



CRIFE, Lawaine



DITTMAN, Robert & Joan



ELZBECK, Jim & Alice



FINCHER, Vance & Roberta



GARDNER, Charles



**ADAMS, Fred & Jane
Carrie**



**ANDERSON, Beth
Andrew**



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ELZBECK, Jim & Alice



FINCHER, Vance & Roberta



GARDNER, Charles



HANAWAY, George & Janis



JONES, Brian & Robin
Kaila, Bria, Austin



JONES, Charles & Eva



JONES, Joe & Barbara



KESNER, Madeline



LESLIE, Florence



LINN, Alice



LINN, Gary & Susan
Ryan, Amy



MULLIN, Mabel



MULLIN, Nancy



NANCE, Louis & Marilyn



PARRETT, Mildred



PENN, Gary & Jane



PORTER, Otis & Barbara



RECHER, Richard & Evetta



RICHTER, Bonnie



RICHTER, Marie



RINGER, George & Nancy



SACKMAN, Margaret



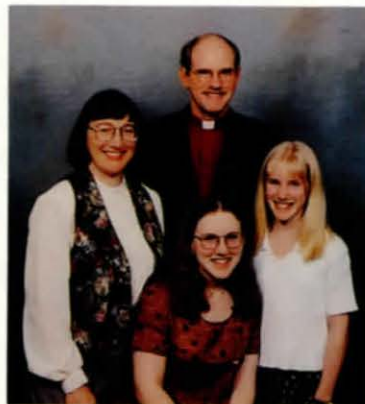
SANDERSON, Dean & Joyce



SCHOCK, Robert & Shirley



**SCHOCK, Todd & Rose
Lena, Lisa**



**SCHULTZ, Jerry & Kathy
Anna, Sara**



**SMITH, Merlin & Lynn
Levi, Ethan**



SPRINKLE, Walter & Kathryn



‡ASHBY, Stephanie



‡BARTON, Kim
Kayla, Chelsey Riemenschneider



‡BIEGHLER, Scott



‡CURTIS, Dorothy



‡JUDY, Bertha



‡MC CAIN, Adriene



‡MC CAIN, Don & Barbara
Kyle, Audrey



‡RINGER, Raymond & Opal

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Photographed April 1996

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