

1852

1952

# *Mount Pisgah*

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# *Centennial*

August 28th-31st, 1952



**THEODORE L. HERTENSTEIN, Pastor**

# HISTORY

The Mount Pisgah Evangelical Lutheran Church dates its history back to 1837 when groups met together with "circuit riders" who came through this territory to preach. For several years the services were held in private residences and in the old log Plank School house where the Rock Creek Cemetery is presently located.

The church was formally organized by the Rev. Samuel McReynolds on the Twenty-eighth day of August, 1852, with a membership of twenty-nine charter members, namely: Henry Plank, John Guthrie, Henry A. Plank, Mary J. Hinkle, Elizabeth Plank, Abraham F. Miller, Anna E. Plank, Anna Ray, Rebecca M. Miller, Sarah Best, Elizabeth Cohee, Amanda Hinkle, Christian Best, Thomas J. DeFord, Caroline DeFord, Michael Reed, Sarah Reed, Barbara Mosey, Sarah A. Hinkle, Margaret Guthrie, David Reed, Margaret Ramsey, Agnes Reed, Eliza Harper Mahala Attwood, Anna M. M. Plank, Jane Guthrie, Daniel Hankee, and Matilda Hankee. The church was at once attached to the Camden Charge, in connection with the Synod of Northern Indiana of the General Synod of the Lutheran Church.

Rev. McReynolds came to the Camden Charge in 1846 and resigned on May 28, 1855. He was succeeded on October 1, 1855 by the Rev. David Smith who resigned about one year later. He was immediately succeeded by the Rev. L. L. Bonnell, who preached his first sermon as the regular pastor on October 12, 1856 and continued to serve for 16 months.

The Rev. Bonnell preached the first Sabbath at Shirer's, the second Sabbath at Mt. Pisgah, the third Sabbath at Miller's and Long's and the fourth Sabbath at Camden. The churches of the Camden Charge requested that he visit the Poundstone Schoolhouse and "Pipe Creek" in regard to supplying there also. The work of the pioneer pastors reached into many territories. Weekly prayer meetings were held and whenever the pastor visited the church he frequently held services on Saturdays as well as Sundays. Rev. Bonnell served until February 1858, when he was compelled to resign because of failing health. He was succeeded by the Rev. Simon P. Snyder, who began his duties on the first of October, 1858.

On February 26th, 1859 a meeting of the laymen was called to elect trustees for the purpose of building a church. Henry Plank was elected president of the trustees and John Hinkle and George Spangler were the other trustees elected. It was voted to begin building. A white frame church was constructed and it was a one room building 30 feet by 45 feet. Logs for the church were hauled with oxen by Anthony Hinkle. The church was located on an acre of ground donated by John Hinkle from a portion of his farm located in Washington Township, Carroll County, Indiana, in the southeast corner of the west half of the southeast quarter of Section number 27, township number 26 north, range number 1 east,

the said tract conveyed being square in form. This land was given by John and Mary J. Hinkle for \$1.00 and was deeded to Daniel Ray, David Reed and John Hinkle, trustees, and their successors in office as long as needed for said church purposes by their church. The deed was dated August 30, 1859 and recorded January 16, 1860 on page 456 of Deed Record "U" in the Carroll County Recorder's office. The church was dedicated unto the Lord by the Rev. S. P. Snyder and the Rev. D. D. Smith on the 6th day of November 1859. This was the first church in Washington Township.

The church was heated by two wood-box stoves. The original lights were kerosene lamps. The first seats were straight back wooden seats and these were later replaced with more comfortable ones. The pulpit and chairs were on a raised platform which extended across the front of the church. The men sat on one side of the church and the women on the other.

Rev. Snyder was the pastor when the second constitution was read by the secretary, James B. Cohee, and adopted on Saturday, August 17, 1859. It was recorded in the Carroll County Recorder's office on April 15th, 1868 in Mortgage record "O" on pages 196-7.

When the Rev. Snyder took charge, the membership had diminished to about twenty-five. He continued as pastor for nine years and added to the church over 100 members. Pastor Snyder resigned on September 15, 1867. The Rev. M. L. Kunkleman followed for a brief pastorate. He was followed by the Rev. J. W. Elser, who preached his first sermon on March 29, 1868 and served the pastorate for about a year. The Rev. S. B. Hyman entered upon his duties as pastor on June 1, 1869 and owing to ill health, resigned on March 1, 1870.

In the spring of 1870, the Rev. John Luther Guard, of Kickapoo, Peoria County, Illinois, was invited to visit the charge and preach for the churches. A call was subsequently extended to him and on the first Sunday in June of 1870, he began his pastoral duties. The charge was then composed of three churches—St. Peter's, located in Camden; St. Luke's, 7 miles southeast of Camden in Monroe Township, and Mt. Pisgah. Each church had a plain but comfortable house of worship. Rev. Guard's salary was \$750 and free use of the parsonage which was in Camden. Often times his salary was delinquent. He had been settled in his new home but a few weeks when his entire family was seized with fever and ague and for more than two years suffered from the terrible disease. There were seven in the family and some days not one was able to wait on the others. But they were surrounded by kind people and help was never wanted when needed. Rev. Guard's first wife died in 1868 when the children were very young. In 1872, his second wife was stricken with spotted fever and died. The family of children were yet a great care and he was suffering from rheumatic difficulties. He married Miss Anna Frances Edschker of Camden in 1873.



The territory occupied by the Camden Pastorate was full of Lutheran material. Many points could be taken up and made of great advantage to the Lutheran Church. It was not long until, instead of three regular churches, Rev. Guard had five other preaching places. Every other week he would leave home on Saturday morning, ride twenty miles, preach that evening and three times on the following Sunday. This he did for nearly eight years. This work resulted in new congregations. So, after preaching services on May 16, 1874, Rev. Guard asked to have the Camden Charge divided and pointed out the necessity of it and the opportunity that it would provide to serve new fields. The division was not realized until three years later.

On July 31, 1875, the members of Mt. Pisgah met for the purpose of taking action on building a church to be located in Clinton Township of Cass County at the crossroads of Shidlers and Dodds, to belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Church but to be free for all other denominations to use when not occupied by the Lutherans. Solomon Rice, Jacob Slaybaugh, and Michael Reed were the committee appointed to solicit funds. On October 23, 1875, after services were held at the Yost Schoolhouse for the new church, Abraham Shidler, Michael Reed, Andrew Dodds, Jacob Slaybaugh and Henry Whipperman were appointed on the building committee. On January 1, 1876, this church was organized with 29 members by the Rev. Guard and was named Ebenezer. During the summer a very beautiful brick church was erected at a cost of about \$2,000. The building was dedicated in the fall of the same year, with the Rev. Joshua Crouse preaching the sermon.

On June 10th, 1876 the Rev. Guard insisted upon the reorganization and establishment of the Sabbath School at Mt. Pisgah.

St. John's Lutheran Church was built northwest of Ebenezer in the fall of 1877. The congregation was organized March 22, 1878 with 22 charter members by the Rev. Guard. Their building was dedicated on March 24, 1878.

It now became very apparent that the Camden Charge would have to be divided. On December 21, 1877, the Council of Mt. Pisgah and Ebenezer met in joint session to seek a parsonage for the new charge. A committee composed of Daniel Rey, Jacob Slaybaugh, Charles Whipperman, and John Hinkle were appointed to ascertain the best place for a lot on which to build a parsonage. Two weeks later the committee reported three propositions and after some deliberations accepted the offer of Robert McCain. He proposed to lease ten acres of land on the Old Michigan Road for ten years and furnish timber on the ground for the parsonage, if the church would build the house. H. Plank and John Hinkle were appointed from Mt. Pisgah and Andrew Dodds and Charles Whipperman from Ebenezer to secure funds to build. The parsonage was built by Joseph Hankee at a cost of \$535. Mt. Pisgah received \$100 as their share of the Camden parsonage and the division of the Camden Charge went into effect on June 1, 1878. It was a mutual agreement, both sides being willing to have the division made in order to lessen the burdens of the pastor and give opportunity to occupy several new points which needed attention.

The new charge known as the Rock Creek Parish, composed of the Mt. Pisgah, Ebenezer and St. John's churches, called the Rev. Guard to be their pastor. He and his family moved into the new parsonage on June 4, 1878.

The Mt. Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized on March 26, 1880 by the Rev. Guard in the village of West Sonora (Deer Creek) with a membership of forty-two. This made four churches in the Rock Creek Parish. As the lease on the McCain property expired, Rev. Guard moved to a rented house on the south end of Deer Creek. He resigned the parish on October 27, 1889.

The Rev. Guard spent nearly twenty years of labor as pastor of the Lutheran Churches in Carroll County, Indiana, during which time he preached 2,020 sermons, besides frequent lectures and addresses, received into the churches nearly 600 new members, organized four congregations, built five new churches and one parsonage, married 175 couples, baptized 122 children and preached 251 funerals. During Rev. Guard's ministry, our oldest living member, Mrs. Mahala Hinkle Stephen, was received into the church by the rite of Baptism at a "protracted meeting" session. The date was January 1, 1875.

The Rev. G. V. Walker came on June 1, 1890 and continued a profitable ministry until December 1, 1891. Rev. T. A. Pattee came to the parish on May 1, 1892 but due to ill health had to relinquish the field in October

of that same year. Rev. Divens (or Diverse?) served the parish in 1893 and the Rev. Emil Schultz supplied for a period of three months. He was a bachelor and resided in a log house north of the John A. Downham residence.

About this time the St. John's and Ebenezer congregations had a considerable loss in membership which was caused by their nearness to Logansport and they finally closed. Many members of these two congregations joined St. Luke's in Logansport, while others returned to the fold of Mt. Pisgah.

In 1896, the Rev. M. L. Exline came to the parish. During his pastorate Mrs. Daniel McCloskey and Mrs. Samuel Zeck came from Mt. Olive to help organize a Ladies Aid Society. Mrs. Exline had just recently organized one at Mt. Olive. Mrs. Mahala Stephen was elected president. It is uncertain how long this organization functioned. The Western Conference of the Northern Synod of Indiana met at our church on May 18-20, 1897, and the Ladies Aid served the dinners at this meeting. Rev. Exline resigned in 1897.

The Rock Creek Parish and the Walton Parish were united in about 1898, probably because of financial reasons. This again made four congregations in the charge. The ministers covered the field by horse and buggy, often times spending the night at the home of members of these congregations, namely: Mt. Pisgah, Mt. Olive, St. Paul's and Shiloh. The parsonage was located at Walton.

The Rev. J. A. Burkett came in February of 1898. He was the first pastor of this united parish. During his pastorate it became necessary to make repairs to Mt. Pisgah. In 1901, funds were secured through the efforts of Daniel Ray, F. C. Fiedler, Bruce McCain and Charles Rice. These repairs consisted of underpinning the church, the building of a belfry annex and belfry and the filling in of the church yard. The belfry was built by James Cohee. Rev. Burkett resigned in 1902.

The Rev. George O. Ritter served the parish from November 2, 1902 until 1906. He held the first catechetical class that is known in the church. Anna Downham, Erasma Downham, Lillie Huston, and Leroy Robeson were confirmed from this class on August 2, 1903. Mt. Pisgah's share of Pastor Ritter's salary was \$150.

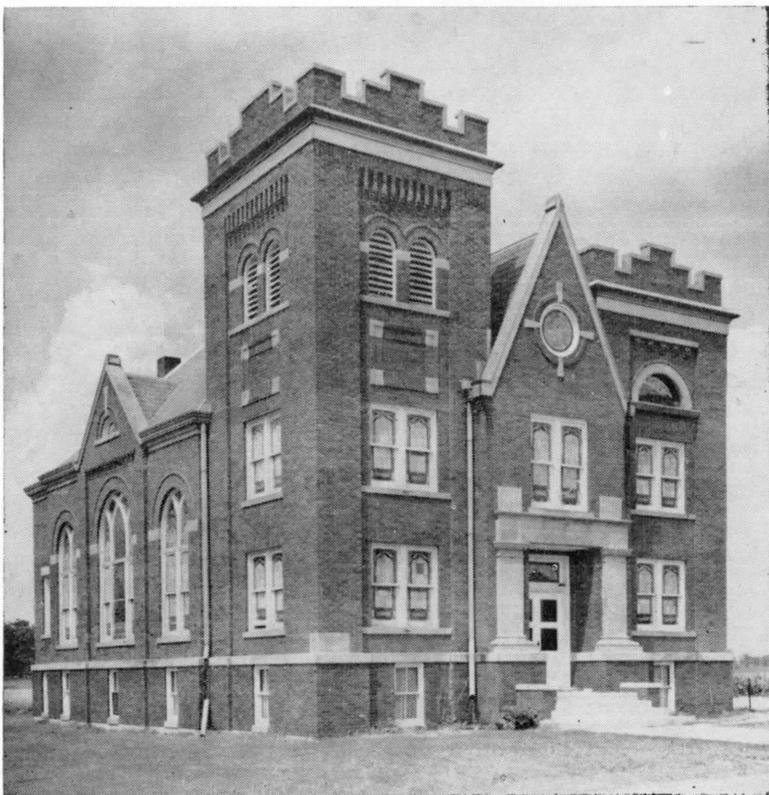
The Rev. Courtland Miller preached his first sermon on May 19, 1907. "The Book of Worship," the official Hymn book of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States was purchased during his pastorate and also the first set of individual Communion glasses were purchased and used. Pastor Miller served until 1911.

In 1912, the Walton Parish was again divided into the Walton Parish and the Rock Creek Parish. Mt. Pisgah and Mt. Olive felt able to support a pastor. The Rev. J. A. Burkett returned as a supply pastor during the

years of 1912 and 1913. He was retired at that time and lived in Logansport. Rev. W. W. Horn of Walton Parish supplied occasionally. The Rev. Morgan L. Webb of St. Peter's Church in Camden supplied for a few services in 1914.

The Rev. C. M. Wachter came to serve the parish on May 1, 1914 and remained until 1917. On June 15, 1915 he moved into the rented house of Mahlon Robeson which was next to the Mt. Olive Church.

The Old Frame Church was in need of repairs and the congregation was growing and so in about the year of 1914, under the leadership of Pastor Wachter, solicitors were appointed to raise funds for a new church building. On the evening of October 21, 1914 the solicitors reported a total of \$3,811. A motion was made that a new church be built and this met with unanimous approval but it was decided that the solicitors would be given additional time to raise funds to bring the total up to \$4,500. It was also decided that the new building should not exceed \$8,000 and that the old church should be sold before the contract for the new one



was let. The old church was to remain intact until the new church was ready for use. The Building Committee visited various churches and looked at their plans. On January 15, 1915, the building committee met with the contractor, Mr. Turner, and decided to erect a church on the plan of the Center United Brethren Church (east of Deer Creek) with a slate roof and a belfry. Mr. Turner's sketch for the new church was accepted and Mr. Rosenbush, an architect, drew up the plans.

Before the new church was built an agreement was reached with Jerry Kerns to give him \$40 for repossession of the part of the acre in his field that had been donated to the church but had through the years been taken from the church by land owners who had crowded their rail fences on to the church property. A quit-claim deed was given by Mr. Kerns to the church. It was recorded April 27, 1915 in deed record 75, page 88 at the Carroll County Recorder's office.

On March 10, 1915 the trustees and the building committee opened and examined the bids on the new church. W. H. Turner's bid of \$9,800 for the new church and \$200 for the old church was accepted.

On May 16, 1915, the cornerstone was laid for the new church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Morgan L. Webb and the Rev. W. W. Horn assisted in the service. The cornerstone ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Wachter. In the cornerstone were placed a tin box containing a Holy Bible, five dollar gold piece, daily newspapers, and clippings and advertisements of the bid.

On October 31, 1915, the new church was dedicated to the Worship of God with services in the morning and sermon by the Rev. Yarger, basket dinner at noon, afternoon service with address by the Reverends M. L. Webb, Lotus Aspy, Milo Wood, and W. W. Ziegler, and the dedication service in the evening with the Rev. W. W. Horn bringing the message.

Church officers and committees at the time the church was built were: Rev. C. M. Wachter, pastor; Isaac W. Cohee and Charles A. Dietz, elders; Samuel D. Smith and Earl A. Downham, deacons; Isaac W. Cohee, Mahlon D. Robeson, John P. Hinkle, trustees; Isaac W. Cohee, Mahlon D. Robeson, John P. Hinkle, Leroy Robeson, Charles A. Dietz (treasurer), Charles Best, Jacob Yeakley and Samuel Stephen, building committee. Mahlon D. Robeson was appointed superintendent for the new church building and Leroy Robeson the recording and financial secretary.

During the construction of the new church, the contractor kept his supplies in the old church and made it necessary for services to be held in the one room Rock Creek School Building. The old church was moved to the northwest corner of the church yard, after the new church was completed, and was eventually torn down.

The pews for the new church were purchased from the American Seating Co. (\$465), Rollo Paden did the interior decorating, (\$165), John

West installed the gasoline lights (\$115), Bruce Martin drilled the well (\$111), and the first furnace was installed (\$115). But the first furnace would not heat the building and so the dealer removed it and a double furnace was installed in the center of the church basement (\$300).

It was in 1919, about five or six years after the idea of the new church had originated that all debts were completely liquidated and the notes were burnt. The estimated total cost of the building was \$15,000, including donations of time and materials.

The first funeral in the new church was that of Mrs. Mary Hunter Wright on January 21, 1916.

The Rev. H. B. Shank accepted a call and was installed on the first Sunday in July in 1918 and preached his farewell sermon on September 20, 1920. He lived in a rented house on the south end of Deer Creek.

It was in 1920, that the General Synod and the General Council and the United Synod of the South were united to form the United Lutheran Church in America. Our church, Mt. Pisgah, became a part of the merger of the Synod of Northern Indiana, The Olive Branch Synod and the Chicago Synod which formed the Michigan Synod.

The Rev. F. L. Lineberger preached his first sermon on June 5, 1921 and served until 1924. He lived in a rented house known as the Wright property on the east end of Deer Creek. Later this house was purchased for the parsonage.

It was during these years that all the dishes, silverware, and cooking utensils were stolen from the church kitchen and the rugs donated by Mrs. Riley Stephen were stolen from the chancel.

The Rev. S. D. Steffey came on April 4, 1926 and served until April 28, 1932. He died suddenly at his home after delivering the baccalaureate sermon for the graduating class of Deer Creek High School. While here, Rev. Steffey had shade trees placed in the church yard and also peonies, roses and shrubs. He conducted the first Daily Vacation Bible School at Mt. Pisgah in June of 1927. About 87 children were in attendance at this school. Our Sunday School attendance reached 100 many times while he was here. The church was redecorated in 1928 and the gasoline lights were replaced with electric lights. Mrs. Steffey remained in Deer Creek until the time of her death and both have been laid to rest in Rock Creek Cemetery.

In 1934 the Michigan Synod and the Indiana Synod agreed to limit their boundaries to the state boundaries and therefore Mt. Pisgah became a member of the Indiana Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America.

The Rev. Ralph D. Wheadon, D. D., of Logansport, supplied the parish occasionally during this vacancy until the Rev. Albert C. Burger

came to his first pastorate here on July 29, 1934. He preached his farewell sermon on July 25, 1937.

The Rev. Carl Sorensen served the parish from November 18, 1937 until October 20, 1940. The first couple to be married in the new church were Hazel Rice and Ray Gilbert and they were married following the Children's Day Exercises in the evening of June 12, 1938 by the Rev. Sorensen. On Easter Sunday, 1939, "The Common Service Book" was used in The Service. Fifty of these hymnals were purchased and the cost of each hymnal was paid by individual families. About 15 years had elapsed since the Lutheran Liturgy had been used. Pastor Sorensen was the first pastor to wear a robe and this he began in June of 1939. A new constitution was adopted January 29, 1939 and an effort was made to place the names of all church members in a New Church Register because the old record book had been lost. Easter Sunrise Services were held at Mt. Pisgah for the first time with the joint parish choir singing from the balcony. Janet Smith and Anna Florence Downham were the first pupils to attend the Lutheran Summer School at Lake Wawasee and they shared a cottage with the Walton Parish.

During the vacancy after Pastor Sorensen had left, the Rev. G. Charles Goering, D. D., supplied a few times and it was during this period that the chancel was changed. The railing around the chancel was opened at the center and the art glass cross was raised and an altar and lectern were installed. The materials for the altar were donated by Omer Gangloff from materials and seats from the St. John's Church building which he had purchased. The altar was constructed by Earl A. Downham and Roy Yeakley and was completed February 15, 1941. Then the church was redecorated. The table which served for the Sunday School Secretary's Desk and Communion Table was refinished and is now used as the Secretary's desk. A new furnace was purchased and installed at the rear of the church basement.

The Rev. H. L. Greenawalt came to the parish July 1, 1941 and served faithfully until his health failed and he died in August 1946. Through the interests of Pastor Greenawalt, our church entertained the Central Conference of the Indiana Synod. At the Laymen's Banquet, September 15, 1942, the Rev. Franklin Clark Fry, D. D., of Akron, Ohio, spoke. Later this same Dr. Fry became president of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Fred Fiedler started his preparation for the Gospel ministry in September of 1947 when he entered Wittenberg College. He is the first member of our church to enter the full time service of Christ. Last year, 1951, Fred entered the Hamma Divinity School, Springfield, Ohio, and now is a Middler in that school. At present he is doing field work in Western Canada.

Miss Helen Huston, another member, left in 1946 to spend 5 years as a teacher at the Konnarock Training School, which is a Lutheran Mountain mission.

The Rev. George W. Schuette of St. Peter's in Camden served as a supply pastor for a brief time during this vacancy.

In June of 1947, the Parish purchased the property of Pauline Cornell, located on State Road 29 at the north end of Deer Creek, and remodeled the house for a parsonage. The old parsonage was sold. The unneeded acreage of the new property was sold to Ross Fry and this left the Parish with parsonage property of 212 feet by 175 feet.

The Rev. T. L. Hertenstein accepted his first pastorate here in July of 1948. During his pastorate the envelope system was again reinstated after a lapse of about 30 years.

The preparation for the celebration of the Centennial was begun with the appointment of a financial committee to secure funds for a thorough reconditioning program. This committee consisted of Samuel Sinn, Cleon Smith, Eldon D. Robeson and Evadue Campbell. This committee was very successful in their efforts and the reconditioning program got under way. The basement was given a coat of waterproof paint, the floors were sanded and finished, the interior of the church was redecorated, a new carpet was laid, the roof was repaired, the outside windows and doors were repaired and painted, a parking area and drive was added to the church yard and the general landscaping of the church grounds was begun. There are many steps in the reconditioning program that will have to be taken as additional funds come in. These steps include pointing of the outside of the building, and a continuing repair program.

The Indiana Synod purchased her own church camp, Camp Lutherwald, on South Twin Lake near Howe, Indiana, in 1949. Wayne Downham was the first person to attend this camp in 1951 from Mt. Pisgah. Mrs. Janet Hertenstein attended the first Women's Missionary Retreat held at this camp in 1950. Miss Pauline E. Robeson and Mrs. Mary Shriver attended the first Church Music Conference at Camp Lutherwald in 1951 and Miss Helen Huston was the first from our Sunday School to teach at Camp Lutherwald in 1951.

At the time of this writing there are to the knowledge of the historian five pastors still living who have served this parish, namely; The Reverends C. M. Wachter, Indianapolis, Ind.; Carl Sorensen, Syracuse, Ind.; F. L. Lineberger, Wilson, N. C.; Albert C. Burger, Vanatta, Ohio, and T. L. Hertenstein, the present pastor.

The present membership at the close of the one hundred years is 155 baptized, 106 confirmed and 87 communing. The church enters the second hundred years with a prayer that God may continue to richly bless her as He has in the past and that Mt. Pisgah may be fruitful and multiply.

# REMINISCENCES

For a long time there were no musical instruments and no church choir. Talented men, like George Spangler and Daniel Ray were the song leaders. The day finally came when Alice Robeson (Hinkle) and Jesse Ray (Tripps) traveled with horse and buggy to raise money to purchase an organ. The funds were raised in one day. The organ was first played by Alice Robeson (Hinkle) and Jessie Ray (Tripps). Sometime before 1915, the present Church Piano replaced the organ. The first hymn books were words only with the meter given. The first pulpit Bible used in the church was stolen and had to be replaced. This Bible is worn but is still stored in the church.

A glass bowl with stem and cover was used as a baptismal font and was filled with water from a glass pitcher. The font is still in the possession of the church. The wine at Communion Services was first served from a single Chalice similar to a Goblet. The bread for the Communion was home-made and cut into small squares. The bread was later replaced with the wafer.

In times passed, people walked, rode horseback, or came to church in a springwagon or buggy. A wooden platform with three steps was built at the southeast of the church along the road. The buggies and wagons would drive up and let the occupants out and also pick them up from this platform. Often times the boys would sit on these steps until called in for Sunday School. Hitch racks for horses were at a distance around the church. Socials were held in the Old Plank School across the road to the southwest.

The well was not drilled on the church grounds until the new church was begun and so in order to scrub the church, water was hauled in a barrel on a sled from the Daniel Ray farm.

In looking over the records it was interesting to note the difference in the way the church business was carried on then and now. The council of the church took a very prominent part and met often. If a member of the church neglected church attendance, attended dances or places of amusements, used profane language, gambled or denied any doctrine of the church, or did not attend Communion, they were summoned to appear before the council of the church to answer to the charges. Upon the decision of the council, the accused was either allowed to remain in the church or was expelled for a period of time.

At the last service in the old church, Easter Sunday, April 4, 1915, twenty-three persons were received into membership and two children were Baptized by Rev. Wachter.

Charles Dietz and Emma Vernon were the only couple known to have been married in the first church.

# ORGANIZATIONS

## THE CHURCH CHOIR

The Choir is a volunteer group who meet regularly to provide our church with musical leadership. Mrs. Mary Shriver directs the choir and Pauline Robeson is the pianist. Regular members include Earline Shriver, Charline Robeson, Phyllis Huston, Suzanne Fiedler, Emma Frances Dietz, Patricia Downham, Carolyn Downham, Janet Hertenstein, Cathryn Dietz and Mary Louise Yeakley.

## THE CHURCH SCHOOL

The Sunday School meets following the Church Services at the present time, formerly it had met prior to the Service. The School has always used the Lutheran Publication materials and in 1941 began to study the use of the "Parish School Hymnal." In 1947, this hymnal was adopted as the hymn book for the school. In the history of the Sunday School we find that in the Thirties the Sunday School had an orchestra which played for the School and on special occasions. George Spangler, Daniel Ray and Leroy Robeson are the superintendents that have served the longest periods of time. In 1950, Mr. Robeson was presented with a gift in recognition of 25 years of continuous service.

There are seven classes and a cradle roll in the school and their teachers are as follows: Lorene Knight, Charline Robeson, Pauline Robeson, Beulah Dietz, Eldon Robeson, Lewis Fiedler and Hazel Yeakley. The Cradle Roll Superintendent is Joyce Smith.

The Sunday School has purchased tables, chairs, maps, Bibles, Commentaries, Dictionary, Blackboards and other supplies for its own use and also makes a contribution to the Carroll County Religious Education School.

## THE LADIES AID SOCIETY

The present organization of the Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Ladies Aid Society was organized at the home of Mrs. Emma Dietz in April, 1914. The officers elected were Mrs. Emma Dietz, president; Mrs. Alice Hinkle, vice-president; Mrs. Lulu Cunningham, treasurer; Miss Neva Downham, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Rice and Mrs. Minnie Cripe, Outlook Committee. Charter members besides the above officers were: Mrs. Mahala Stephen, Mrs. Ollie Stephen, Mrs. Laurie Stephen, Mrs. Sarah Stephen, Mrs. Daniel Downham, Mrs. John Downham, Mrs. Armintha Deel, Mrs. John Dietz, Mrs. Mary Stephen, Mrs. Flossie Cunningham, Mrs. Lucy Cunningham, Miss Lillie Huston, Mrs. Golda Hankee, Miss Maggie Hummel, Mrs. Alta Rice, Mrs. Anna Robeson, Mrs. Mahlon Robeson, Mrs. Charles McCain, Mrs. S. C. Foster, Mrs. Ora Smith, Mrs. Ida Jones, Mrs. Henry Yeakley, Mrs. Isaac Cohee, Mrs. C. M. Wachter, and Mrs. Charles Best.

The Society has purchased many articles for the church and has paid many of its bills. Some of these include: The first carpet and cork floor covering for the halls and stairs (\$250), Pulpit and furniture (\$110), Communion tray and glasses (\$14), Communion wafer tray (\$100), Redecoration of the church in 1928 (\$316), Electric wiring and light fixtures (\$250). Recently they have added the Coffee Urns, Gas Stove, Gas Water Heater, Folding Chairs, and Silverware. The Aid Society now makes a yearly contribution to the Church treasury and other contributions and purchases as needed. Outlined yearly programs are given to each member and The Society meets on the First Thursday of every month.

### THE LUTHER LEAGUE

There have probably been four Young People or Luther League Organizations in the history of Mt. Pisgah. There was one during the Nineties and another in 1903. A Luther League was organized on July 4, 1921 with a membership of 40. Mrs. Vernie Stephens served as president; Mrs. Omer Gangloff, secretary, and Miss Gladys Deel as treasurer. This League continued for only a few years.

The present Luther League was organized on September 9, 1945 with the young people from Mt. Pisgah and Mt. Olive meeting at Mt. Pisgah Church. The officers elected were Margaret Ruth Huston, president; Joe Starkey, vice-president; Rita Deitz, secretary-treasurer; Helen Huston as adult advisor and Pastor Greenawalt as pastoral advisor. Because of the lack of interest in the Mt. Olive group, the League became known as the Mt. Pisgah Luther League. The organization meets on the first and third Sunday evenings of each month. The local league is a part of the State and National Luther League of America, having become a member in July of 1946 at the Lake Wawasee Convention.

### THE ROCK CREEK PARISH WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Rock Creek Parish Women's Missionary Society was organized on October 19, 1948 at the parsonage to include the ladies of both Mt. Pisgah and Mt. Olive. The first officers elected were: Mrs. Janet Hertenstein, president; Mrs. Charline Robeson, vice-president; Mrs. Frieda Campbell, recording secretary; Mrs. Ellen Herr, statistical secretary, and Mrs. Evadue Campbell, treasurer. Membership is open to any lady over sixteen years of age. There are no dues but free-will offerings are received at each meeting. The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the homes of its members and studies the topics of the Mission Field. Life memberships have been given to Mrs. H. L. Greenawalt, Mrs. Janet Hertenstein, and Mrs. Charline Robeson. The Society was received into the State and National Society in October of 1948 at the convention in LaGrange, Indiana.

The Charter Members are: Evadue Campbell, Frieda Campbell, Helen Chapman, Elizabeth Downham, Lillie Downham, Euna Fiedler, Ellen Herr, Janet Hertenstein, Charline Robeson, Pauline Robeson, Eva Sidenbender, Irene Sinn, Ruth Smith, and Mary Yeakley.

# Memorials and Gifts to the Church

The Stained Art Glass Windows (purchased from Flanagan and Beidenweg for \$410) were donated by the following: "The Good Shepherd" window by the Sunday School; "Christ in Gethsemane" window by the Ladies Aid Society; Rev. C. M. Wachter; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Downham and family; Mr. and Mrs. John P. Hinkle and family; Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Horn; Andrew and Eleanor Hunter; Henry and Leah Stovever; Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Robeson; Mr. and Mrs. George Hummel; Mr. and Mrs. John Bowman; In memory of J. B. Cohee and wife by C. L. Cohee and family; In memory of Rev. John L. Guard by his sons; In memory of George Spangler and family; In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Plank; and In memory of Daniel Margaret Ray, and In memory of Henry Spangler and family.

An American Standard Version Pulpit Bible was given in Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Fry.

The Candelabra were given by Irene Downham (Sinn).

The Pulpit and Lectern Lamps were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Cohee by Mr. and Mrs. Luther Cohee.

The Piano (for church basement) was given by John L. Bowman.

The Tract Rack was given by the Willing Workers Sunday School Class.

The American and Christian Flags were given by the Sunday School and the Memorial Day Committee.

The Stand for the Offering Plates was given by Mrs. Ruth Stephen.

The Throw Rugs (formerly used in the chancel now in a Sunday School room) were given by Mrs. Ollie Stephen and Mrs. Estaline Farrer.

The Green Paraments were a gift to the church from the Ladies Aid Society.

The Lutheran Road Marker was a gift from the Sunday School.

The Baptismal Font was given by Charles and Emma Dietz.

The Lectern Bible was a gift from the Rock Creek Cemetery Memorial Day Committee.

Contribution for Rest Room by Mrs. Mahala Stephen.

Rug for Basement Sunday School Class Room was donated by Mrs. Charline Robeson.

The Bulletin Board was donated by the Sunday School.

The Hat and Coat Rack was made and donated by Earl A. Downham.  
The Kitchen Sink was a gift by Mr. and Mrs. Luther Cohee.  
The Bookcase was given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Yeakley.  
The White Paraments were a gift to the church by the Truth Seekers,  
Bible Class, and Pastor and Mrs. Hertenstein.  
The Missal Stand was given in memory of Mrs. Ollie Stephen by Mrs.  
Estaline Farrer.  
The Altar Service Book was given in memory of Mr. Riley Stephen by  
Mrs. Estaline Farrer.  
The Stained Glass Windows in the church doors were given by Ernest  
Farrer.  
The Sanctuary Lighting Fixtures were a donation from the Smith family—  
Samuel D. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Cleon Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Howard  
Smith and daughters.  
A Baptismal Bowl was given in memory of Charles Alan Campbell by  
Mr. and Mrs. Leighton Osborne.  
The Floor Covering for Narthex is a gift from Mrs. Mahala Stephen.  
The Hall and Sacristy Carpet were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd L.  
Stephen.  
The Electric Sweeper was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Luther Cohee.  
The Altar Vases and Candlelighter were a gift from the Luther League.

# PRESENT OFFICERS

## of Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church and Its Organization

Rev. Theodore L. Hertenstein	Pastor
Miss Pauline E. Robeson	Church Pianist
Mrs. Mary Shriver	Choir Director
Jerry Deitz	Acolyte

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Trustees	Deacons	Elders
Earl Downham	J. T. Downham	Robert Gangloff
Nathaniel Starkey	Leroy Robeson, Jr.	Louis Fiedler
Raymond Shriver		

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Samuel Sinn	Superintendent
Carl Dietz, Leroy Robeson, Sr.	Assistant Superintendent
Patricia Downham	Secretary
Eldon Robeson	Treasurer
Earline Shriver	Chorister
Mary Shriver	Pianist

### WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Ruth Smith	President
Frieda Campbell	Vice-President
Pauline Robeson	Secretary
Amy Boyer	Statistical Secretary
Caroline Updegraff	Treasurer

### LADIES' AID SOCIETY

Ruth Smith	President
Lillie Downham	Vice-President
Hazel Yeakley	Secretary
Pauline Robeson	Treasurer

### LUTHER LEAGUE

Delbert Shriver	President
Richard Fiedler	Vice-President
Earline Shriver	Secretary
Suzanne Fiedler	Treasurer
Pauline Robeson	Advisor