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## **St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church diamond jubilee 1864-1939 Waterford, Wisconsin featuring the dedication of the memorial organ.**

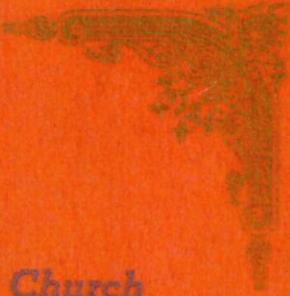

Waterford, Wisconsin: [s.n.], [s.d.]

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*St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church*



*Diamond Jubilee*

1864-1939

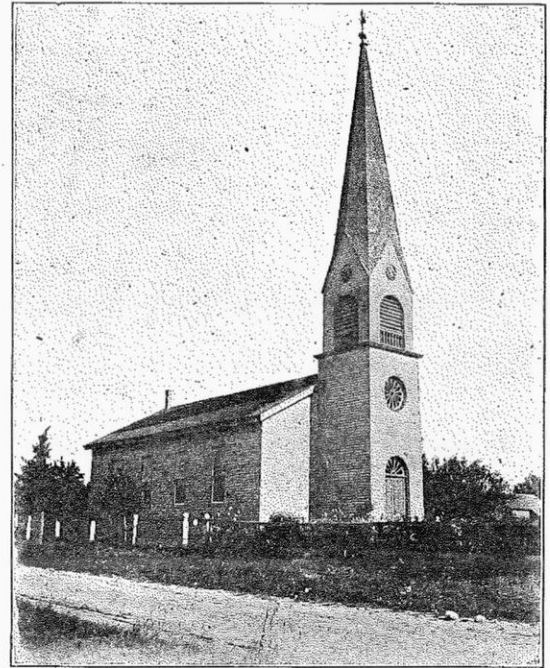
*Waterford, Wisconsin*

FEATURING DEDICATION OF THE  
MEMORIAL ORGAN



*"In The Beginning--"*

GEN. 1-1



1864--1928

# Prologue

This year, 1939, which marks the centennial of the immigration of the Saxon fathers to the United States, is the year in which the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran congregation by the Grace of God is privileged to observe the seventy-fifth anniversary of its organization and the dedication of its first church.

Looking back over the seventy-five years we have indeed great reason to praise and thank the gracious and merciful God on this diamond jubilee. Seventy-five years have passed since the congregation dedicated its first church to the service and glory of the Triune God. For seventy-five years the gospel of Jesus the Saviour has been proclaimed in all its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered according to the institution of Christ. Today we must exclaim, "Oh, great is the love of God and His mercies are everlasting." But do we fully realize the great love and the unspeakable mercy which He has revealed to us through His Word as it was proclaimed at regular and special services? Or, have we been indifferent toward the spiritual things which God has granted us through His means of Grace? Only when we realize our sinful condition will we appreciate the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is the power unto salvation, and also appreciate with a thankful heart His Goodness for enjoying the Gospel uninterruptedly for seventy-five years.

The danger is great that this precious spiritual possession might be lost. The constant striving after earthly goods and pleasures so dominates the heart of man today that it greatly threatens to destroy the spiritual life even in the children of God. The indifference of man toward God's gifts provokes God's wrath as it provoked His anger against the children of Israel when they despised the heaven-sent manna. As God has punished Israel for loathing and despising this earthly gift how much more severely will He not punish those who indifferently and obstinately reject His heavenly gift of divine love and

grace. For God through His apostle Paul warns "Be not deceived, God is not mocked." It is by God's love and grace alone that we have enjoyed His word in our midst for the past seventy-five years. This treasure we may easily lose by ingratitude, satiety and indifference. Therefore let us ever watch and pray that we may not forfeit our salvation.

May the gracious and Faithful God retain unto us and our children His Word and Sacraments pure and true and fill our hearts with true gratitude and fervent love toward Him for His Grace which He has thus far bestowed upon us. May the following brief history of our church move and encourage us and our posterity unto cordial gratitude for His great blessings.



## THE PASTOR

Rev. A. J. Schulz

Arthur John August Schulz was born May 2, 1892, at Merrill, Wis., the son of Carl Schulz and Augusta Burmeister.

Theological training was obtained in Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Ill.

First pastorate was in Franklake, Sask., Can., Ordained Sept., 1916

Rev. Mr. Schulz has been pastor of St. Peters since October 10, 1920.

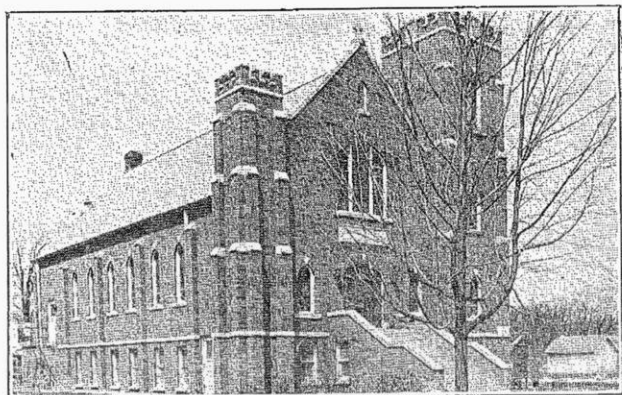


## CANDIDATE FOR MINISTRY

Victor Craft, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Craft, of Waterford, is the only theological graduate ever trained from St. Peter's. Theological training was in Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. Victor is now a candidate for the ministry.



# Sanctum



Constructed in 1928, during the pastorate of  
Rev. A. J. Schulz.  
Cost of Construction was \$26,000.00

## Chronicles

The St. Peter's congregation was born in the days of great civil and religious strife and stress. The Civil War was on. The controversy between the Missouri and the Wisconsin synods was at its height. In order to get the full view and understanding of the congregation we must go back to the year 1847. When at a convention held in Chicago on April 24-30, 1847, and attended by 23 Lutheran pastors, 6 laymen, one candidate of theology, and one theological student, the synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states was organized. Wisconsin was then a territory. Two laymen, J. D. Beversdorf and C. Kauffung, representing Trinity congregation in Milwaukee and Trinity congregation in Freistadt, (North of Mil.) at the

convention, asked for a Lutheran pastor to serve them. Their petition was granted. Their congregation called and received Pastor E. G. P. Keyl, who was the first pastor of the Missouri Synod in the territory of Wisconsin, that same year. But more was done. After hearing that there were many Lutheran settlements in Wisconsin without pastors, the convention at once sent out a so-called explorer to visit the shepherdless and forsaken Lutheran colonies, scattered throughout the territory. The man chosen for the task who carried out the mission on horseback was the candidate present at the convention, C. Frincke. (Wisconsin became a state in 1848.) On Dec. 8, 1849, the Ev. Luth. Ministerium of Wisconsin, (Wisconsin Synod) was founded at Milwaukee. It was formally organized in May, 1850, at Granville, a village near Milwaukee. While the Missouri Synod was working in other parts of the state, this vicinity, including Waterford, was being served by the Wisconsin Synod.

Ten years prior to the organization little groups of people of Lutheran faith living in and near Waterford began holding divine services. It is known that since 1857 Rev. Goldhammer, then pastor of St. John's congregation of Burlington, (Wisconsin Synod) occasionally came to the village and took charge of these services.

Just where the first services were held is not definitely known. It might have been in the home of one of the early Lutheran settlers or in the old public school building where the Waterford graded school now stands.

The school house is known to have been used as the regular place for some time with services being held once a month. About this time German Lutheran pastors from Milwaukee held divine services in the Norwegian Lutheran log church at Norway Hill for the German Lutherans in that vicinity. The message brought to those people was just as full of spiritual truth, and the words sung were just as inspiring to those pioneers as messages and hymns are to the congregations in the more modern churches of today. No record was left of the names of those faithful pastors who made the long journey in the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter, to bring the good news to the people in a language they could understand. But the influence of their work is seen even now in the lives of their children and grand-children. After the Rev. Goldhammer left Burlington, the Rev. Titze came to St.

John's congregation. He, like his predecessor, took charge of Waterford services. The place of meeting was changed from the school house to the Congregational church that stood where the High School building now stands. Services were held once and frequently twice a month, only in the German language.

The Waterford group grew in number and in interest under the pastorate of Rev. Titze, and early in the year of 1863 plans were made for the erection of a church building. The fall of the same year saw the building started; the following spring saw it completed. The lot on which the church was erected, which includes that on which the church and the parsonage now stand, was purchased from Bemis and Witney of Janesville for something less than \$50.00, it having been bought by the St. Peter's congregation at one of the early Wisconsin landsales.

The church was ready for dedication in the late spring of 1864. But before the Rev. Titze would dedicate the church, he urged the congregation to join the synod. A paragraph in the synodical constitution stated that if a pastor served a congregation for two years and at the end of that time had not convinced the congregation that it should unite with the synod, the pastor would lose his voting privilege in that body, or he would have to discontinue the services. The Waterford congregation could not at that time see its way clear to join. The Rev. Titze left, compelled to discontinue his work as pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Waterford, as it was then called. The church was not dedicated then as planned. This pastorless people was finally directed to the Rev. W. P. Engelbert of St. John's Ev. Lutheran congregation of Racine, a pastor of the Ev. Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States. He was asked to come to Waterford to take charge of the dedication of the church and of other regular services. After a consultation with the Rev. Titze, he decided to comply with the request of the people. The church building, as shown in the frontispiece, was dedicated in September, 1864, with appropriate ceremonies, as: Evangelisch-lutherische St. Peter's Kirche U. A. C. (Ungeaendeter Augsburgischen Confession) zu Waterford, Racine Co., Wisconsin (THE ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, U. A. C., (Unaltered Augsburg Confession) OF WATERFORD, RACINE CO., WISCONSIN). The charter members were: Carl

Koehn, John Hofer, Friedrich Stalbaum, Carl Beilfuss, Joachim Benzien, John Redlin, Christoph Koehn, John Roenicke, Christian Bauer, Heinrich Habekost, Friedrich Ladwig, Heinrich Weltzien, Johann Wiegert, Christoph Gauer, Charles Buchholtz, Wilhelm Voss, Heinrich Stalbaum, Johann Mueller, Johann Kroeplin, Christoph Magemann, Wilhelm Kolbam, Ludwig Schulz, Friedrich Albrecht, Herman Meinicke, Friedrich Korup, Johann Theidi, John Buss, Friedrich Baustian, Martin Haas, Ludwig Luedke, Friedrich Dobler, Ludwig Hefenbruck, Wilhelm Iange, Johann Schulz, Joachim Weltzien, Friedrich Stalbaum, and Friedrich Kruch. The first trustees of the church were: Carl Koehn, Heinrich Habekost, Sr., and Karl Buchholtz.

Because of the abundance of work in his congregation in Racine, Rev. Engelbert was unable to continue his work with the new church as had been planned, so the members were advised to call a pastor of their own. The question was carefully considered. The result was that in the summer of 1865 a call was sent to Rev. Eduard Georgii, a candidate of the Theological Seminary in St. Louis, who accepted. To Rev. Georgii belongs the honor of being the first resident pastor of St. Peter's church. He was ordained and installed by Rev. Engelbert of Racine, and assisted by the Rev. F. Lochner, of Milwaukee, on July 23, 1865.

Since the St. Peter's congregation owned no parsonage, a house was rented on the west side of the river for the pastor and his family. A parochial school was opened in the fall. This was held during the winter in the pastor's home and during the summer months in the church. This arrangement was continued until a schoolhouse was built at the rear of the church in 1872.

During the first year of Rev. Georgii's pastorate the suit which was pending against the church property before his coming, was removed by the court. The parsonage was erected in the second year of Rev. Georgii's ministry. The parsonage, which was improved in 1906, is still occupied by the pastors of the St. Peter's Ev. Luth. church. Rev. Georgii left the church in August, 1867, having served as pastor for two years. Pastor Georgii accepted a call to Horicon in August, 1867.

For a period of eight months after Rev. Georgii left, the congregation was without a regular pastor. Rev. Engelbert again took over the responsibilities. Early in the year 1868 the church extended a call to candidate W. Denke. The call was accepted and in February, on the



Rev. W. P. Engelbert  
Founder of St. Peter's



Rev. Eduard Georgii  
1865 - 1867

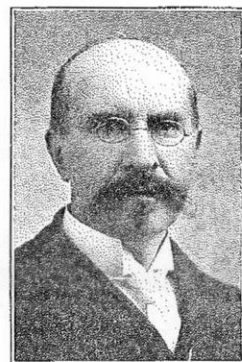
second Sunday in Lent, the new pastor was ordained and installed by the Rev. Engelbert. Pastor Denke remained with the congregation a year and a half. In October, 1869, he accepted a call to another church. A call was extended to the Rev. Edmund Multanowski of Woodland, Wis. He accepted the call, and on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1869, he was installed by Rev. Engelbert. It was during this pastorate that a number of the members severed their connection with the Lutheran church and affiliated with the German Methodist church on the west side. This weakened the Lutheran church to some extent, and after six years, during which Rev. Multanowski served his people faithfully and to the best of his ability, he accepted a call to a church at Wollcottsburg, N. Y. After a year of service in Wollcottsburg he found it necessary to resign because of ill health. He, with his family, moved to Carl-onville, Ill., his first congregation, where he entered the garden and nursery work to restore his health. There, on April 23, 1893, he departed this life.

Again the congregation was without a pastor, this time for ten months. In the spring of 1876, Rev. Fried. Schneider accepted the call extended to him by this congregation, and on the Sunday after Easter he was inducted into office by Pastor Engelbert. During his pastorate,

Rev. W. Denke served as minister 1½ years, 1868-1869  
Photo of Rev. Mr. Denke is not available



Rev. E. Multanowski  
1869 - 1875



Rev. F. Schneider  
1876 -1880

discouragement was replaced by hopefulness and the church enjoyed a period of growth and prosperity. Many new members were added, the debts, which had been accumulating for some years, were paid, and the pastor was permitted to assist other congregations. Rev. Schneider also regularly served congregations in Beloit and East Troy. At the latter place he organized a congregation where his predecessor, Rev. Multanowski, had conducted services occasionally. In July, 1880, Rev. F. Schneider was compelled to resign from his work in Waterford because of illness. On July 17 he left the church which he had served so faithfully, for Germany, the home of his childhood. After his health was restored, he took up the study of medicine. After his return from Germany he accepted a call to Wayside, Wis., where he served the congregation for eight years. From there he was called to



serve as the superintendent of the orphanage at Wittenberg, Wis. After several years he resigned from this position and entered upon the practice of medicine exclusively, opening an office at New London, Wis.

The Rev. Friedrich Schumann, of Freistadt, Wis.,



Rev. F. Schumann  
1880 - 1889

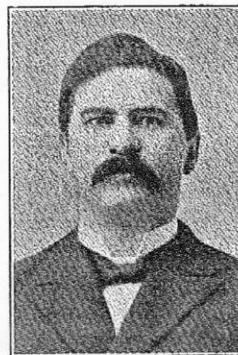


Rev. A. Winter  
1889 - 1895

succeeded Rev. Schneider. He was installed on the second Christmas Day, Dec. 26, 1880, by Pastor Sievers, of St. Stephen's Ev. Lutheran church of Milwaukee. It was during his pastorate of nine years that the steeple was built and the bell installed. There was also considerable unrest in the church during these years, and in October, 1889, Pastor Schumann resigned and moved to Kendallville, Ind., where he accepted the call to serve a small congregation. Rev. A. Winter was the next pastor. He was installed by Rev. Schlerf of Milwaukee in November, 1889. Rev. A. Winter served the St. John's Ev. Lutheran congregation of North Prairie as pastor in addition to his work at Waterford. When the congregation at North Prairie became self-supporting he was called to be its pastor, leaving St. Peter's after six years of faithful service.

At the special meeting held Aug. 11, 1895, the Rev. Albert Bartling, of Chicago, was unanimously selected for the next pastor. He accepted the call and was installed

by Rev. Rcehrs Sept. 15, 1895. On the following Sunday he delivered his initial sermon on the Text: 1 Thess. 2, 13. For fourteen years Rev. Bartling faithfully served the congregation. It was during his pastorate in 1904 that services were first held in the English language. A change



Rev. A. Bartling  
1895 - 1909



Rev. August Lossner  
1909 - 1920

Rev. Mr. Lossner is the only ex-pastor of St. Peters who is still living. His home is in Franksville

was made in the constitution of the congregation which permitted the innovation. These services were first held once a month on Sunday afternoon. Later, in keeping with the trend of the times and demands of the younger members of the congregation the English service was held once a month in the morning in place of the regular German service. While Rev. Bartling was with the congregation the Ladies Aid was organized in 1901. A new organ was purchased for the church in 1904. The northern addition was built to the parsonage in 1906, and improvements were made to the schoolhouse. In 1909, Rev. Bartling accepted a call to Laurium, Mich., and the Rev. August Lossner of Amboy, Minn., was the next pastor to be called to the congregation. He accepted, was inducted into his new charge on October 24, 1909, and preached his initial sermon on October 31, on the text: John 10, 12-16. Rev. Lossner faithfully served the congregation for

eleven years. He accepted a call to Trinity congregation in Franksville, Wis., with the addition of the Paris congregation, where he is still successfully and faithfully laboring.

The congregation was again without a pastor for nearly three months. At a special meeting August 22, 1920, it was unanimously decided to send a call to the present pastor, Rev. A. J. Schulz of Watertown, Wis. He accepted the call and was installed by Prof. O. Hattstaedt, Sr., Concordia College, of Milwaukee, October 10, 1920. He preached his initial sermon on the 17th of October on the text: Rom. 1, 16.

## Miscellanea

Soon after its organization the congregation joined the Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States, and has, as a member thereof, contributed its part toward the maintenance of the Institutions of the synod and toward supporting its various missions. The congregation also annually celebrates its Missicn Festival to foster the Mission spirit, thus furthering the work of the Synod.

Immediately after the organization of the congregation arrangements were made for the Christian training of the youth. The pastors who have, in the course of time, served the congregation, have diligently and conscientiously observed the command of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, "Feed My Lambs." For a number of years a parochial school was maintained with a regular teacher. This parochial school arrangement was given up a number of years ago. The religious instructions of the young people is not neglected, however, as a church school is held on Saturday forenoons, during the summer several days a week, Sunday school, and confirmation instructions. The Sunday school is being taken care of by the pastor and several teachers, and the other schools are conducted by the pastor. The children are carefully instructed in the Bible, Catechism, church history, and church music. These departments of Christian education are proving to be not only interesting but profitable. So the words of St. Paul to Timothy here apply: 2 Tim. 3, 15-17: "And that from a child thou hast known the

Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The present Ladies' Aid Society of St. Peter's congregation (St. Peter's Frauenverein) was organized in October, 1901, in the St. Peter's parsonage. Until about 1912 the meetings were held in the homes of the members of the society, after that, for a period of years, in the school house, and now in the basement of the church. The first officials were: President: Mrs. Frank Wiegert; secretary, Mrs. Maria Zerneck; treasurer, Mrs. Albert Bartling. The present officials are: president, Mrs. Rud. Neubauer, since 1921; vice-president, Mrs. Linda Huckstorf; secretary, Mrs. Carl Neske, and treasurer, Mrs. Wm. Rieck. This society has rendered wonderful service to the congregation in the improvement of the church and its property, and in doing charitable work.

The young people's society, at first known as the St. Peter's Luther League, and since 1936 changed to Walther League, was organized in May, 1924. The first officials were: president, Martin Clausen; vice-president, John Lunow; secretary, Lillian Buss (Meyer); treasurer, Mrs. Fred Habecost. The present officials are: president, Walter Fregien; vice-president, Theodore Storm; secretary-treasurer, Gilbert Weidemann. Besides doing charitable work and helping improve the church and its property, this organization has been the founder and for a number of years the sponsor of the Sunday School.

The St. Peter's Sunday School was organized on May 8, 1927, with 48 pupils in attendance. The first teachers were: Bible class, Rev. Schulz; Bible class, W. G. Plass; Senior, Mrs. L. Bullmore; Intermediate, Rud. Rosenau; Junior, Mrs. Fred Habecost; A Primer, Mrs. Chas. Guschl; B. Primer, Mrs. A. J. Schulz. The present teachers are: Bible class, Ruth Schulz; Senior, Mrs. A. J. Schulz; Intermediate, Mrs. Linda Huckstorf; Junior, Carl Neske; A. Primer, Mrs. Wm. Craft; B. Primer, Mrs. Carl Neske.

In regards to a choir, there are no records up to 1920, but it is generally known that one existed occasionally, usually directed by the organist. Since 1921 the present pastor was in charge of the choir until about nine months

ago when the directorship was transferred to a member of the congregation, Mrs. Edmund Peterson, a music instructor. At the present time there are about 16 members. The accompanist is Miss Ruth Schulz and the treasurer is Miss Annabelle Huckstorf.

### OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- 1921—March 3. Flower fund was created.  
 1923—Western addition to the parsonage built.  
 1924—Mimeograph was purchased.  
 1926—Altar and pulpit were built.  
 1926—September: Ladies' Aid Society celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary.  
 1928—June 3: The building of a church was decided.  
     June 24—Farewell for the old church was held in the evening. Rev. A. Lossner preached the German sermon. Prof. V. Bartling, of Concordia College, preached the English sermon.  
     June 25-29—The old stone church which had served for 66 years was removed.  
     September 2—Sunday, at 2 p. m., the corner stone for the new church was laid by the local pastor, assisted by Rev. Wm. Grother, Milwaukee, who delivered the German sermon, and Rev. Frank Giese, Milwaukee, who spoke in the English language.  
     December 23—At 10 a. m. the new church was dedicated. Rev. J. F. Boerger of Racine delivered the English Sermon, followed by a German sermonette. At 2:30 p. m., Prof. Max Albrecht preached the German sermon and the president of the South Wis. District, Pastor Henry Grueber, of Milwaukee, was the speaker of the English evening services. The total cost of the church was \$26,000.00.  
 1929—A safety vault was purchased.  
 1933—November, a new furnace was installed in the church.  
 1935—August, parsonage furnace was installed.  
 1937—10th anniversary of the Sunday School, in May. Parsonage porch was built.  
     L. A. S. Decoration fund created.  
 1938—Church interior decorated.  
 1938—August 28—10th anniversary celebration of the new church. The speaker in both languages for

the morning services was the Rev. Wm. Grother of Milwaukee, and in the afternoon services, Pastor E. Hoffmann, of Milwaukee, delivered the English sermon.

1939—June—At a special meeting the congregation decided to purchase a Wangerin pipe organ. Miss Bertha Hillger offered to pay one-half the cost of an organ, and this offer provided the impetus for the decision to purchase it.

August 27—75th anniversary or Diamond Jubilee of the congregation was observed. The dedicatory services for the new pipe organ were held at 9:30 a. m., conducted by the local pastor, A. J. Schulz. Immediately thereafter the Diamond Jubilee services were held. Both the English and German sermons were given by the President of the South Wis. District, Rev. F. Schwertfeger, of Horicon, Wis. During the afternoon services Victor Craft, candidate for the ministry, delivered the English sermon. Mr. Victor Craft is the only theological graduate (1938) proceeding from this congregation. In the evening, special organ dedicatory services were held. Pastor W. Schaefer, of Milwaukee, preached the English sermon followed by a sacred concert with Prof. W. J. Brockmann, of Milwaukee, at the console. (The ladies of the congregation served a chicken dinner at noon, and a luncheon in the evening.)

Herewith the most important facts in the history of the congregation are stated. The following are the statistics of the congregation:

#### Present Membership:

Voting members .....	70
Communicants .....	231
Souls .....	314

#### Ministerial Acts Performed During 75 Years:

Baptisms .....	825
Confirmations .....	606
Marriages .....	214
Burials .....	299

The present officials of the congregation are:

Pastor—A. J. Schulz.

President—Adolph Paulsen.

Vice-President—Emil Hillger.

Elders—Wm. Heidenbluth, Wm. Rader, C. Neske.

Trustees—L. Davis, E. Meyer, Wm. Rieck.

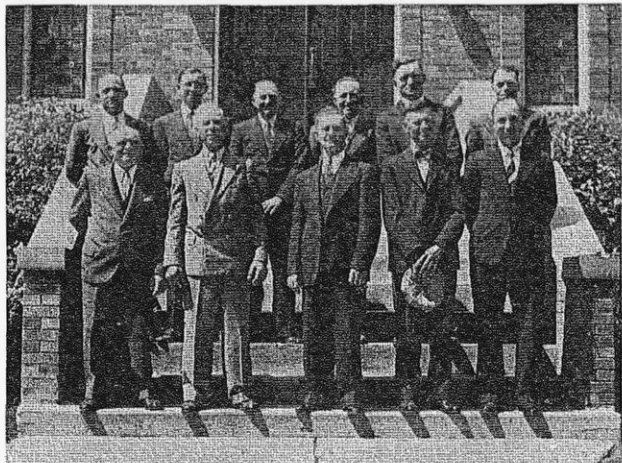
Secretary—Ralph Baumgart.

Treasurer—Arthur C. Butke.

Financial Secretaries—C. Neske, and Rev. A. J. Schulz.

Organist—Mrs. Chr. Storm.

Janitor—Henry Nehls.



Pictured above is the church council of St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran church in Waterford in 1939. Reading from the left, they are: Front row, Emil Hillger, vice-pres.; A. Paulsen, president; Rev. A. J. Schulz, pastor; Arthur Butke, treasurer; Ralph Baumgart, secretary.

Back row: E. Meyer, Wm. Rieck, Leonard Davis, trustees; Carl Neske, Wm. Heidenbluth, and Wm. Rader, elders.

#### Finance Committee

Neske, Carl

Rieck, Wm.

Rader, Wm.

Fregien, Walter

Baumgart, Ralph

Johnson, Frank

Kerkman, Cyril

Hillger, Emil

#### Ushers:

Storm, Theodore

Weidemann, Gilbert

Schrank, Wilbert

Butke, Delmer

Baumgart, Robert

Storm, Russell

Alby, Robert

Keller, James

From 1920 until 1934 services were alternated in German and English. Since 1935 beginning with the second Sunday in May until the first Sunday in October, English Services were held every Sunday preceded by the German service every other Sunday. Since May, 1938, English services have been conducted every Sunday throughout the entire year, with German services preceding the English services every other Sunday.

Since 1922 the monthly mission envelopes were used, but in 1935 the complete envelope system was introduced. At first it was taken care of by the church council, since 1936 a finance committee was appointed.

THE LORD OUR GOD BE WITH US, AS HE WAS  
WITH OUR FATHERS; LET HIM NOT LEAVE US, NOR  
FORSAKE US.—1 Kings 8, 57.