
On the Road to a Glorious and
God Filled Twentyfive Years:

The History of St. Mark Ev. Lutheran Church, *Green Bay, Wis.*

by

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Church History
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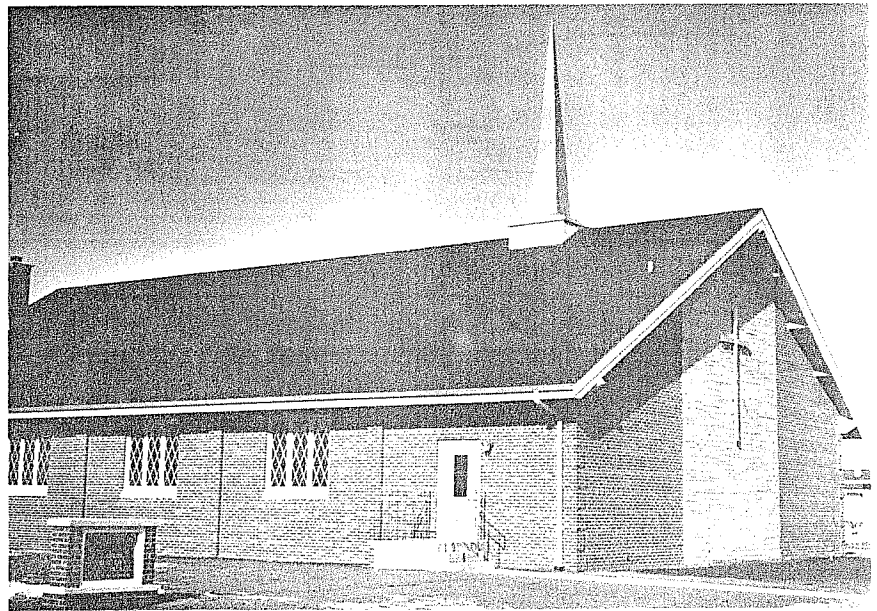
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First Church
1960 - 1967

*"In all places where I record My Name,
I will come unto thee,
and I will bless thee."*

Exodus 20:24



New Church

*"I have hallowed this house,
which thou hast built,
to put My Name there forever:
and Mine heart shall be there
perpetually."*

I Kings 9:3

On the Road to a Glorious and
God Filled Twentyfive Years:
The History of St. Mark Ev. Lutheran Church

Since the opening service on April 24, 1960 St. Mark Congregation of Green Bay, Wisconsin has been blessed by the Lord in so many wonderful ways. To begin with, this congregation which started with a membership role of 68 has now blossomed with the help of the Lord to a role of 1,061 members in just 22 short years. Not only has the Lord blessed this congregation spiritually, but also physically. The congregation has seen a new church, parsonage, and school erected in the past 16 years. But the most amazing blessing which the Lord has given us is Pastor Carl W. Voss. He was called in 1959 to start this congregation and as of today he continues to serve this church. Through the grace of God He has allowed Pastor Voss to be very instrumental in building up this church to where it stands today. Let us then look back over the past 22 years and see how the Lord has filled this congregation with His many blessings, and why I entitled this paper "On the Road to a Glorious and God filled 25 Years."

During the early 1950's, Green Bay started to expand quite rapidly west and south of the Fox River. With this expansion, individuals and even the Mission Board of the WELS began to show keen interest in starting a church on the West

side of Green Bay (At this time there was St. Paul and First Lutheran (WELS) both on the East side of Green Bay). One of the main reasons that interest was taken was that our people who moved to the West side started attending the Missouri Synod church, but felt uncomfortable there because of the rising problems between Missouri and the Wisconsin Synod. As a result, Pastor E. Krueger who was pastor at First Lutheran on the East side of Green Bay and also on the Mission Board gave a report to the Mission Board of the Northern Wis. District. After the report, the Mission Board became quite interested and decided in 1954 to bid for the purchase of land on the corner of West Mason and Locust Streets as the new site for the church. However, funds for a new mission church were at a minimum because other missions which were on a priority list were waiting for their funds to be released in order to purchase land. Nevertheless, even though things looked gloomy and we couldn't purchase land immediately it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. For it was learned by the Mission Board that more houses were being built farther south than they had originally intended to locate. This then gave the Board time to look for new land. Finally, in January of 1959, the Mission Board applied for a loan from the Church Extension Fund of the Synod in order to purchase the land, and through the grace of God they received the money. With the money, they purchased six lots on the corner of Oneida and Thorndale. The cost of the purchase was \$8800.00.

Later that year the Lord's blessings continued; in May of that same year, the Board was able to engage an architect by the name of Levi Geniesse to prepare plans for construction

of a chapel. The plans were completed in October and construction began immediately. The cost of the chapel was around \$36,000.00.

On October 14, 1959, Ground-breaking ceremonies were held with Pastor A. Voigt of Green Bay, the Chairman of the Mission Board, officiating. Construction began on the next day on October 15, and with the Lord granting favorable winter weather they were able to complete the building of it quite rapidly, enabling the congregation to hold its first service on April 24, 1960.

In the meantime, while the building was going on the Mission Board applied for a loan from the Parsonage-Teacherage Fund of the Synod in order to purchase a home for the new pastor. Through another blessing of the Lord, a two-year old home, just two doors west of the chapel, was being vacated at the time of the construction of the church. The home, located at 1176 Thorndale, was then purchased for \$15,250.00 on November 24, 1959.

Shortly after this in December, the Mission Board extended a call to Pastor Carl W. Voss who at the time was serving the congregation at Beatrice, Nebraska. On December 24, 1959, Pastor Voss received the call and by the guiding hand of the Lord he accepted the call to serve as resident pastor. On February 4, 1960, he and his family arrived in Green Bay and on Feb. 14, 1960, was installed at St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Green Bay, by Pastor A. Voigt.

After he was installed, he was unable to hold any services

as of yet because one - the church wasn't done, and secondly, he didn't have a congregation. The reason is that this is one of two churches built by the Synod before a nucleus of members were formed. So, between Feb. and April of 1960, his main work was wrapping on many doors looking for prospective members. During March and April after the construction was done Pastor Voss, and Otto Pagel a member of St. Paul at that time worked together in finishing the inside of the church.

Once, the work was finally completed, Pastor Voss was able to hold his first service on April 24, 1960. The attendance for this first service was a 147. In the services following the average attendance was around 97 souls. In these services half the people were from St. Paul Lutheran, Green Bay, and the other half were prospects.

On May 9, 1960, a meeting was held with those who were interested in organizing a congregation. Eighteen men were in attendance. A constitution committee was then elected to prepare a constitution for the church. Those elected to this committee were Mr Richard Meyer, Mr Otto Pagel, and Pastor Voss.

On May 23, a meeting was held concerning the constitution with Pastor E. Haberman of Kimberly, the Visitor of the Fox Valley Conference, and Pastor Voigt who gave the group valuable counsel and aid. At this meeting the name St. Mark Ev. Lutheran Church was also chosen as the official name of this Congregation. After a few changes in the constitution, it was adopted at the meeting held on June 8. With its adoption, the congregation was formally organized when 11 men signed their signatures to the constitution. They are: Otto Pagel, Kenneth Tagge, Richard Preller,

Charles Altergott, Walter Buchholz, Myron Bootz, Darrel Prue, Edward Meier, Daniel Tarkowski, Willard Wogsland, and Pastor Voss. After the signing of the constitution the Charter membership privilege was extended through August of that year. This enabled 20 voters, 58 communicants, and 104 baptized souls to be enrolled as charter members of the congregation. Most of the charter members were either from St. Paul Lutheran or Redeemer (LCMS) who had ties with the Wis. Synod.

Come June 12, 1960, the church was formally dedicated to the Glory of the Lord. The speaker for the services were Pastor Habermann of Kimberly for the morning, Pastor Voigt for the afternoon, with Pastor Pankow of New London as liturgist. The choir of St. Paul Church sang and Mr Quentin Albrecht, Principal of St. Paul, was the organist. In the evening, Pastor K. Gurgel of Fond du Lac delivered the sermon, with Pastor E. Krueger of Green Bay as liturgist. The choir of First Lutheran Green Bay, sang with Mrs Geo. Hildebrant, organist of First Luth. as organist. The total attendance for the day was 552. The offering money we received that day went towards the purchase of the Baldwin organ, purchased through the Don Poh Piano Co. of Green Bay.

However, in purchasing this organ there is quite a story behind it. For several weeks the church had been trying out a Baldwin organ and a Hammon organ. One week they would try one and the next week the other. Well, it just so happened that the salesman from Hamman organ expressed interest in joining the church and playing organ. He said it didn't make any difference what organ it was because he enjoyed playing. But when

the decision was made to buy the Baldwin organ he never showed up the following Sunday nor any of the Sunday's after that. So Pastor Voss wound up playing organ until Ruby Paul and Janet Peterson offered to take turns playing. Incidentally, this salesman still hasn't returned to play organ.

On August 9, 1960, the congregation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Wis.. The Incorporation was recorded in the Register's Office of the county Courthouse on Aug. 11, and can be found in Vol. 26 of Incorporations on page 571.

With the establishment of the church and a growing number of members, Christian education became a high priority on the minds of the people. Right from the start there was interest in starting a Christian Day School. But because of the mission statis there was no way that this could happen immediately. The reason for such interest in a parochial school is that most of the members were from St. Paul, Green Bay, who had a school. Therefore, since we couldn't start a school an agreement with St. Paul Lutheran was reached in that we could send our children there for their Christian education. So, when the constitution was written they made it the responsibility of the entire congregation to pay for any children going to St. Paul Lutheran School. Fortunetly, for us, St. Paul congregation offered a very generous tuition scale, since we were a mission congregation. The cost for the first two years (60-62) was half the rate charged others (\$40. for St. Mark; \$80. for others). With the 1962-63 school year, the full tuition charge was paid. However, at the beginning of the 63-64 school year, St. Paul increased the tuition to \$120. per child. In doing this,

the Mission Board offered to help us meet the cost by granting us a subsidy.

As for any controversies or problems inside the congregation in these early years there was none. The only major thing that came up with the congregation was the break with the Missouri Synod in 1963. In dealing with this break, Pastor Voss held sessions with the members to discuss the consequences of this break and what it required of us now as members of the Wis. Synod. Again, through the blessings of the Lord we didn't lose any members because of the break.

In the early years of the congregation from 1960 - 63, we see that the growth of the church was very encouraging. For the number of souls had risen from 68 to 261 by the fall of 1962. As a result of such a large increase of members, the voters decided that on the first Sunday in Advent, 1963, they would hold two services every Sunday morning rather than one. By doing this, it immediately produced a higher average attendance per Sunday and in addition a higher total of contributions per Sunday.

However, by 1964 it became quite apparent that the present facilities would soon be inadequate for holding services. So in July of 1964, a planning committee was formed with the instructions to give thorough study to our immediate and future needs. In the October meeting of 64, these men decided that there was immediate need for more Sunday School space. By means of a graph they showed that the Sunday School would increase to 145 pupils by 1970. However, they were off for by the fall of 1967 they already reached that number. At this

October Voters meeting it was decided that a request be made to the District Mission Board for a four-room school and a basement to be built on our present property. However, the request was turned down because even though we needed the facilities, yet the Board felt we should build a larger church first since we were experiencing a healthy growth. Then with the present church we could turn that building into Sunday School rooms along with the basement of the new church.

As a result of this decision by the Board, the voters in the January 65 meeting elected a Building Committee. This committee was instructed to determine how large a church we would need and to obtain cost estimates for a new church. In the April 65 meeting the committee presented a sketch of a 50'x100' church, seating 350-400, with a basement. The estimated cost was at \$67,000 which would provide a church building with no frills, very simple and basic. The congregation then resolved to ask permission from the Mission Board to engage an architect and to request consideration for a loan to cover the construction cost. In May of 1965, the Synod Board for Home Missions told the congregation that it would approve a \$45,000 CEL (Chapel Expansion Loan) loan for a new church, and that we could begin interviewing architects. During the next several months they interviewed many architects and finally decided on the architectural firm of Lefebvre, Wiggins, and Associates of Milwaukee, suggested by the Executive Secretary of the Synod's Board, Pastor Wiechmann. Since the firm made it a part of the contract to plan a church for \$75,000 the congregation signed the contract in January of 1966. In addition to signing the contract the voters also elected a

Finance Committee to be in charge of a Building Fund drive. Most of the year was then spent working on plans and in October of 1966, the congregation approved the plans and gave the Building Committee the authority to notify the architect of the same when the architect had made the necessary corrections and changes the committee felt were needed.

On February 2, 1967, the bids were opened with construction beginning March 1 and ending August 1 as the completion day. When the bids were opened, the lowest total for the three areas; building, plumbing, and heating was \$111,621. which was higher than the loan together with ^{the} anticipated contributions from the congregation. The Building Committee and Architect were then told to reduce the cost through the elimination of various items not absolutely needed at this time. In this process of reducing the cost, the contractors were very helpful and by February of 1967, the Mission Board and the Synod's Board of Trustees approved the reductions and on Feb. 20, 67 the contracts were signed.

By April 12, 1967 construction was underway. A ground-breaking service was held on Sunday morning of the 16th of April. Work on the building progressed quite rapidly so that on June 29 the congregation was able to hold a cornerstone - laying service that Thursday evening. Pastor A. Voigt delivered the sermon for that service. The items that went into the cornerstone were to give witness to the faith which was to be taught and practiced in this new church. The items were: a Bible, Dr. Luther's Small Catechism, a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the congregation, adopted in June 1960, as well

as a copy of the proposed revision, to be acted on in July of 1967; a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Ladies Guild; a membership list; copies of This We Believe, the Northwestern Lutheran of June 25, 1967; the 1967 April Theological Quarterly, current issue of Meditations, the 1966 annual report of the congregation, bulletins of the two previous Sundays, a copy of the Cornerstone-laying service, a list of the contractors and architect, and a June 28 copy of the local newspaper, Green Bay Press-Gazette, carrying an article of the service, and pictures of the present church, and parsonage. The cornerstone was constructed by Mr. Harley Buchholz himself and he also hand-chiseled the date on the stone.

By Mid-October the construction was substantially completed, so that the congregation could install the flooring and paint the interior with volunteer help. Then in December the pews were installed so that by Christmas Eve we were able to hold our first service in the new church.

Back in 1966 when the decision was made to build a new church the ladies of the congregation decided to form a society. On January 19, 1966, 31 ladies attended and since the attendance showed that there was great interest a committee was elected to draw up a constitution.

In the meantime, while all this was going on the congregation continued to grow by leaps and bounds through God's blessings. The membership rose from 261 in 1962 to 422 (Baptized Souls) by the end of 1966.

Finally, when February 18, 1968 rolled around the church

was dedicated to the Lord. In the morning service held at 9 A.M. Pastor Marlyn Schroeder of Mt. Olive, Appelton, Wis. was the speaker. There were 327 in attendance for the morning service. At the 4 P.M. service Pastor Theodore Sauer of Manitowac was the speaker with 433 in attendance. The evening service featured the singing of the Wisconsin Lutheran College choir under the direction of Professor Kurt Eggert, who also delivered the address. The attendance for this service was 431. The organists for the three services were Mrs Joseph Blaha, Mrs Alvin Paul, and Mr Timothy Albrecht, a senior from Wisconsin Lutheran High School for the evening service. The total offering of the day was \$2,032.72 of which \$1,658.92 was used to purchase the organ.

In 1969, the congregation was asked to sign a contract with the Civil Defense, which enabled them the use of the church basement as an emergency shelter in event of a nuclear attack. The congregation gladly consented and the basement was stocked with the necessary provisions that were needed.

During the next few years following 1969, the congregation turned their attention from building to that of Christian education once again. With the increasing enrollment at St. Paul School from St. Mark Congregation, it led the congregation to consider calling a male teacher to staff St. Paul School and to be in charge of activities and programs at St. Mark. In April of 1971, the congregation decided to place a call through the Assignment Committee of the Synod for a teacher. Mr. George Traucht of Arlington, Ohio was assigned and he accepted the call to serve. He was installed into his office

on Sunday September 12, 1971.

Then in 1972 the church^{members} once again turned their attention to building, but this time it was a new parsonage for Pastor Voss and his family. The reason was so that Mr. Traucht and his family could move into Pastor's old house. By January 13, 1973 the new parsonage was ready for occupancy and the teacherage was ready by January 27. Dedication of the parsonage was held on February 18, 1973 with Pastor Glenn Unke as guest speaker.

During the years 1967 through 1973 the congregation grew astronomically through the grace of God. for we saw that in 67 there was 474 souls, but now the numbered has increased to 860 souls in just 7 years. It almost seems unbelievable that a church could increase that quickly, but through the power of God anything is possible.

In June of 1973 a daughter congregation was started in Suamico, Wisconsin just north of Green Bay about 20 miles from our location. The congregation was called Mt. Olive Ev. Lutheran Church which was made up primarily of former members of St. Mark Congregation. Pastor Voss continued to serve this congregation as pastor until Pastor Kruschel was called as pastor.

During 1974 Pastor Voss was elected and accepted the Presidency of the Northern Wisconsin District of the Wisconsin Synod and continues to hold that office as of today (1982).

In 1975 there was once again a continuing concern for educating the youth of our congregation. The Planning Committee was reestablished and put back into action. They were instructed to give attention to the present and future needs of the church and to determine what should be built on the present property for educational purposes. The committee consulted various architects. Surplice and Associates submitted a proposal for a two floor building with nine class rooms between the church and the activity building (old church). The plan was presented to the congregation and discussed in a number of meetings. Then at the 1976 annual meeting it was voted on with the results being a 29-29 tie. As a result, the Building Committee was asked to look into the matter of building a school more deeply and give more consideration to the matter. At a open meeting several weeks later it was mentioned that the proposal sought to crowd too much building in the little space available and that additional property ought to be secured before any additional building was done. The Building Committee then acted on this by calling Mr. and Mrs. Milton Sommer who owned the house next to the church and Teacherage and asked if they would be willing to sell. The response the church received was an affirmative yes. Negotiations began and a selling price of \$29,000 was agreed upon. At a special church meeting on March 22, 1976 the congregation agreed to purchase the property for the agreed price and to conduct a fund drive to limit the amount of borrowed money to \$20,000.00. On May 19, 1976 the property was officially annexed as church property.

In the 1977 annual meeting it was agreed upon by the voters that Surplice Associates architectural firm prepare plans for

a Christian education building with which to begin our school by 1980. The men appointed to the Building Committee to help the Architect were: Richard Schneider, James Thunes, Rolland Lemke, David Wordell, James Glock, George Traucht, and Pastor Carl Voss.

In October of 1977 plans for a nine-room school and gymnasium were presented in a series of meetings to the entire congregation. A questionnaire was also distributed to the members to get their reaction and it proved quite favorable. A Finance Committee was then started to find out the current financial status of the congregation. Then from May 7 - 14, group meetings with members were held for presenting information on the school building project. At a July 20th meeting, the Building Committee was to work with the architect in lowering the expense from \$596,000 to \$375,000. Unfortunately, there was no way possible and the congregation tabled plans at an October 22 meeting until January to see if they could purchase Beaumont school a few blocks away for there Christian Day School. When it was learned that the Public School System wasn't going to close Beaumont school the congregation proceeded with there own plans. In taking up their own plans once again the members asked to drop the number of class rooms down to six plus a gym. In doing this, the plans were oked and soon they began taking bids. After all the bids were in and finalized the construction contracts were signed on June 29, 1979.

Construction on the new school began on July 12, 1979. The original church was sold for salvage for \$100.00; and a

\$4,000 bid was received for the annex (house that was sold to us). Construction of the school was completed by January 23, 1980 permitting members of the congregation to finish painting, installing shelves in closets, carpeting the offices, refinishing school desks, etc.. Dedication was then held on April 27, 1980; Pastor Carl Pagel of Hortenville, a son of the congregation preached in the morning and Pastor Ellenberger of Manitowac, chairman of the N.W.D.B.P.E. (Northern Wis. Dist. Board for Parish Education), delivered the sermon in the afternoon.

Divine Calls to serve as teachers beginning in September of 1980 were extended to Mr. George Traucht, Principal; Mrs. Richard Schneider, Kindergarten; Mrs. David Dumke, First Grade; Mrs. Roger Glaesor, Grades 2 & 3; DMLC graduate Roger Kramp, Grades 5 & 6. School opened on September 2, 1980 with 108 students, but in just a few weeks it increased to 116 students.

In the spring of 1981, Mrs. Dumke decided to resign in order to concentrate on music. The congregation then asked for a graduate from DMLC and Miss. Marie Uechler of Kenosha, Wis. was then assigned to teach grades one and two.

Finally, in an October meeting of 1981 the congregation voted to become a member of the Fox Valley Lutheran High School Federation.

As we saw a little earlier in the paper the congregation grew quite rapidly between the years of 1967 - 1973. Well, from 1974 to 1981 we see that the growth of church has continued on a torrid pace for the number of souls has jumped from 860 in 1973 to over a 1,100 in 1981. Again, it is a miracle of the Lord

that this church has grown as quickly and rapidly as it has.

So, by this brief history that I have presented concerning this congregation, we see that the Lord truly was present in building up this church. It is a congregation that has seen its ups and downs throughout the past 22 years, but it is a congregation that has seen more success than failure. Also, throughout the years it has been a congregation that has pulled together when things got tough. And probably one of the greatest blessings that the Lord could pour out on us is that there has not been any bad controversies or factions in this church. Possibly, one reason is that Pastor Voss has been the only Pastor here and we have no one to compare him to. But even at that there has been no one who has tried to cause trouble inside the congregation. I guess if you want, a person could possibly compare this congregation to that of the Thessalonians during the time of Paul. For that was a congregation that was talked about and praised because of their faithfulness to the Lord. Now, I'm not trying to say this is the greatest church in the Wisconsin Synod because I belong to it. But it's true in this respect that it is a congregation that is talked about and looked up to by many throughout the Wis. Synod. There are many pastors in this Synod who would love to have a growth record and attendance record like we do, but we can thank the Lord for that. It is the Lord Himself who has called this congregation together and permitted it to grow both spiritually and physically. God willing He will continue to bless this congregation by bringing more people together to hear His saving Gospel message and partake of the Sacraments which He has given us for strengthening our faith in Him.

Before I end this report there is one thing that ought to be mentioned and that concerns the Protestant movement which surfaced in Green Bay and Freedom Wis. during 1980 and 1981. The reason I mention this is that as District President, Pastor Voss had to contend with this and was probably the most the most difficult experience that he's encountered as being pastor here in Green Bay.

Let us then look back to the time of this controversy and see exactly what happened and how Pastor Voss became involved.

In 1974 shortly after Pastor Voss was elected District President, Pastor Christman from St. Paul Lutheran (WELS) Green Bay paid a visit to Pastor Voss asking him if it was ok if he (Christman) could attend Protestant meetings. Pastor Voss in reply told him it was ok to attend the meetings, but it was not to be in the framework of fellowship, namely worshipping with them and attending communion with them. During the next years Pastor Christman didn't make any propaganda for them, and neither did Pastor Voss quiz him concerning the Protestants.

The next time it surfaced was when Pastor Christman rejected the TAS (Talk About the Savior) Evangelism program put out by the Synod. At a District Pastoral Convention meeting he delivered a paper called "Why TAS type Programs are Contrary to Scripture." After some discussion was made on this paper the pastors who were there saw that Christman wasn't going to back down or recant on his position. Christman thought that Evangelism should just be a spontaneous response of the individual in his daily normal contact. He truly believed that

you couldn't have any structural program because that was inhibiting the work of the Spirit. By holding to this teaching he went along with the Protestant philosophy which denies any type of structural program. In his objection to the TAS program he was showing his loyalty to the Protestants and denying our Synod stand on structural programs like Catechism, Dogmatics, (Doctrine) etc..

This controversy then reached a climax when a meeting was called at East Bloomfield outside of Freedmont, Wisconsin. At the meeting in October 1980 Pastor Floyd Brand was the first to ask a question and he asked, "what is the stand of the Wis. Synod over and against the Protestants." By asking this question, he set the tone of the meeting. The reason he asked this is that he thought the District was trying to ruin his ministry. In fact, he charged the District of doing just that. However, that wasn't the case, the only reason Pastor Voss went to the meeting is that the congregation asked him to come and discuss some of the things that were going on in the church.

Well, as the meeting and discussions went on, Pastor Voss soon saw how enmeshed he was with the Protestants. Pastor Brand denounced Synod's stand on church fellowship and doctrine of repentance. The congregation then became quite concerned and asked, "if he would continue to practice Protestant teachings would it jepordize their membership in the Wis. Synod?" In response Pastor Voss said "yes." After that things started to happen. On the following Thursday this congregation had their Quarterly meeting and they asked Pastor Brand to quit being involved with the Protestants and to take an oath that he would.

However, he refused to take the oath and walked out of the meeting. After that the motion was made to withdraw Pastor Brand's call.

At this meeting, Pastor Christman showed up who was invited by Pastor Brand to be in attendance. Along with Pastor Christman there were many other Protestant pastors who were in attendance whom Pastor Voss didn't know nor was introduced to them. It was then that Pastor Christman accused Pastor Voss of not knowing that there were other Protestant pastors there. But Pastor Voss didn't know since he wasn't introduced to them. Then came the bombshell; Pastor Christman told Pastor Voss that he was in full hearted agreement with the Protestants and thought of them as his brothers.

Shortly, after that, Pastor Christman, after hearing that Pastor Brand's call was withdrawn wrote Pastor Voss and attacked him personally. In response, Pastor Voss told him that if he (Voss) hadn't conducted himself properly then he (Christman) had every right to file charges and bring it before the District (Dec. 1980). However, nothing seemed to be done concerning this response made by Pastor Voss.

After Pastor Christman wrote his first letter to Pastor Voss he wrote him another which contained a paper called, "Some Timely Questions Answered." In this paper he accused the Synod of not teaching repentance properly, displaying the spirit of the Antichrist, and using our own power to heal and bless above the real Christ. Pastor Voss then wrote a letter to St. Paul Congregation explaining to them that the Synod is not the way Pastor Christman sees it. He then met with the congregation and with Pastor Christman, but Pastor Christman would

not back down on what he believed. Pastor Voss then told the congregation that Pastor Christman was causing divisions and offences and they had the right to withdraw his call. They didn't want to take any action until the District Pr^{ae}sidium acted on the matter. In doing so in 1981, the Pr^{ae}sidium looked upon him as no longer being a member of the Wis. Lutheran Synod. After this, the congregation held a meeting and voted 91 to 87 to withdraw his call as pastor of their church. Since then he has been asking for a right of appeal, but he fails to recognize that you have to be a member in the Synod and he isn't since he is a Protestant. Now that he has left the Wis. Synod and St. Paul Lutheran Church he is conducting Services at the YWCA building in Green Bay. There church goes by the title of "St. James Ev. Lutheran Church" and they also have a school which is the old Norwood public school building.

Out of all of this, St. Paul lost 220 souls - some went with Pastor Christman and others to other Wis. Synod churches. However, St. Mark didn't take any of these members because Pastor Voss felt that they should stay and work things out. They now have a new Pastor and things are beginning to work out quite well.

This then is the Protestant Controversy which Pastor Voss had to deal with in the years 1980-81. In concluding this paper I would like to say that the first 22 years have been prosperous and blessed by the Lord. In the next three years alot can happen, but God willing come our 25th Anniversary we will truly be able to say that they have been a Glorious and God filled Twentyfive years.

Biography

On September 22, 1929 Pastor Carl Voss was born in Saginaw Michigan. After finishing his primary education (k - 8) he attended Michigan Lutheran Seminary for his four years of high school. When he graduated from there he entered Northwestern Lutheran College to continue his preparation for the ministry. After these fruitful years were completed he then went to the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. While going to the Seminary they decided that he was good tutor material and sent him back to Michigan Lutheran Seminary to tutor for a year. In 1955 he graduated from the Seminary and went to Beatrice, Nebraska to serve the congregation there. Shortly after he graduated he decided not to be a rock anymore and tied the wedding knot by marrying Margaret Peter from Sodus, Michigan. Since that great day the Lord has blessed them with four boys and they are: David born Sept. 20, 1956; Jonathan born April 17, 1958; Joel born Oct. 28, 1961; and Mark born June 24, 1964. Presently, David is vicaring in Illinois, John is at the Seminary, and Joel and Mark are both attending Northwestern College and Prep.. In the meantime, Pastor Voss continues to serve St. Mark Ev. Lutheran Congregation and holds the position of District President.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Baptized souls</u>	<u>Commun. Members</u>	<u>Bapt.</u>	<u>Wed.</u>	<u>Funerals</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
1960	172	88	1	0	0	0
1961	217	117	9	3	2	7
1962	261	139	7	1	0	4
1963	293	166	8	1	0	11
1964	327	180	13	2	0	5
1965	398	224	13	1	0	9
1966	422	243	11	1	2	11
1967	474	287				
1968	563	336	20	5	2	15
1969	651	389	17	2	0	13
1970	690	418	18	4	5	16
1971	770	476	20	3	2	18
1972	828	515	30	8	2	18
1973	860	539	32	11	1	20
1974	856	544	29	5	2	19
1975	888	590	15	10	2	19
1976	927	619	19	6	6	26
1977	909	625	29	5	3	27
1978	946	649	24	4	3	26
1979	1,018	709	25	7	5	18
1980	1,061	744	28	11	4	33
1981			38	8	3	27
1982						

As of 1982 these are the following organizations at St. Mark
ORGANIZATIONS Ev. Lutheran Church

VOTERS:

All men of the congregation are encouraged to participate in the Lord's work locally and in the world-at-large by attending the voters' meetings. Application for voting membership is made by making request for membership to one of the councilmen or to the pastor. Meetings are held quarterly.

BIBLE CLASSES:

For growth in knowledge and understanding of God's grace, Bible study and discussion classes are held Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour, 9:10 - 9:55 a.m. Take your Bible in hand and come! Join in the edifying and fruitful discussions!

SENIOR CHOIR:

All confirmed members of the congregation, youth on up, are eligible for singing in the choir, which meets Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Take advantage of the chance to sing harmonious praise to God, grateful for His blessings. Join the choir!

LADIES GUILD:

The organization meets the third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Each session has a devotional study with a business meeting and a program following. The Guild's activities include staffing the Red Cross Bloodmobile twice a year, arranging congregational fellowship functions, supporting the charitable agencies of our Synod, remembering the sick, making lap robes for distribution to the elderly, delivering Mobile Meals, etc. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend and are invited to join.

LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP:

This confirmed youth fellowship meets weekly for Christian growth, for discussion of youth's concerns, and for youth activities. It plans and arranges several outings during the course of the year.

CHRISTIANITES:

The Junior division for children in grades 1-4 meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Senior division for grades 5-8 meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 p.m. The Board of Education is in charge of planning and programming the meetings with youth projects, activities, and recreation which agree with our Scriptural confession of the Christian faith. This program depends upon adult volunteer help and can always use your interest and service. Please state your willingness to help.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Christ has given His Church a sacred trust, a precious privilege, and a high responsibility with the command, "Feed my lambs." Over the years the congregation has operated a well-equipped Sunday School with staffs of willing, dedicated teachers, for which we thank God. He has also granted us the blessing of our St. Mark Ev. Lutheran School where our children can receive daily instructions in the Word of God and in all other branches of learning taught from the Christian approach to life. Pupils whose parents are members of the congregation attend the school without

(Organizations cont.)

payment of tuition. We trust that the parents will show their appreciation for this privilege by contributing generously to the support of the school.

With its membership in the Fox Valley Lutheran High School Federation, the congregation has evidenced its support of Christian education on the secondary level. Accordingly, we encourage our youth of high school age to enroll at the school located in Appleton. Federation membership grants a lower tuition rate for students from our congregation. As federation members, we also take upon ourselves the obligation to give the school financial support according to a goal established each year.

We hope that our emphasis on Christian education will result in the fruit of having more of our sons and daughters prepare themselves for the full-time ministry of the Word as pastors and teachers. Our Synod owns and operates training schools for this purpose. Northwestern Preparatory School, Watertown and Martin Luther Preparatory School, Prairie du Chien are two such schools for youth of high school age. Northwestern College, Watertown trains men for entrance into our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon; Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN trains men and women for entering the teaching ministry. Students from our congregation attending these schools receive a nominal grant from the congregation toward tuition costs.

For a general college education our students are encouraged to enroll at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, owned and operated by a federation of congregations located throughout the Synod.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION:

This association is in its formative stages for members of the congregation and for parents of all pupils attending our dayschool. Its planned purposes are "to bring into closer relation the home and the school so that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child, to establish an interesting educational program for the members and a forum for exchanging ideas relative to the work of the school, and to support school programs and projects." It schedules meetings for the first Tuesday of October, December, February, and April at 7 p.m., to which all are invited.

CHRISTIAN RECREATION:

Ladies of the congregation are invited to exercise sessions in our school gym each Monday, 7 p.m. Volleyball for men and women is held on specified Wednesday evenings. Youth make use of the gym in connection with Lutheran Youth Group and Christianite activities. Our dayschool participates in sports competition with other parochial schools in the area.

OTHERS:

Individuals participate in such programs as the Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service Guild, a softball league, and a mixed couples bowling league.

CONSIDER HIS BLESSINGS.....CONSIDER YOUR RESPONSE

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

Voss, Carl, Notes on the history of St. Mark Ev. Lutheran
Church.

Dedication Booklet of 1968

1967 Booklet On our Cornerstone laying.

1960 through 1981 Congregational Report Booklets