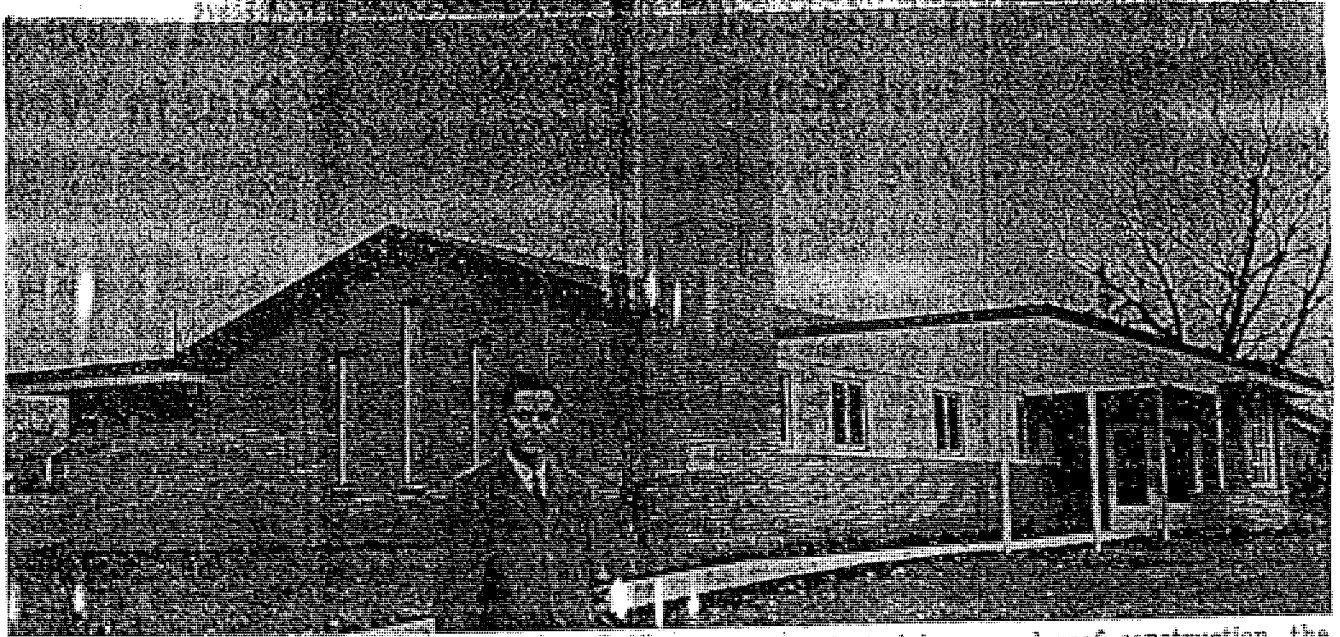
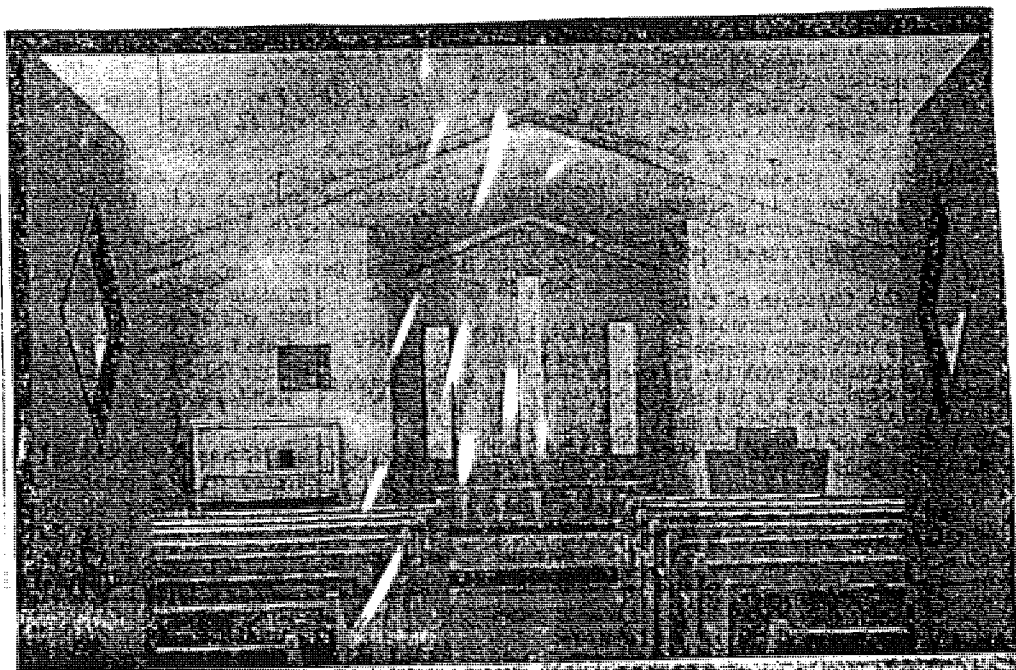


## **V. Scrapbook - The Peek into History**

# Dedication Is Sunday



DEDICATION SET — The Rev. John A. Moldstad, pastor of Central Heights Lutheran Church, stands before the church which will be dedicated Sunday. Although of steel beam and roof construction, the brickwork and open-beam awning conceal the fact.



INSIDE CHURCH — Except for the altar pews, which are ones formerly used in Richland Lutheran Church, Thornton, behind the altar, everything in sight. There is a store room to the left of the altar and room for a pastor's study at

## Churches in circuit set meeting

Pastors and delegates of the southern circuit of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday at Central Heights Lutheran Church, 19th S. Coolidge.

The Rev. M. E. Jewell, Iowa, former president of the ELS and currently visitor for the circuit, will be the guest speaker. He will speak on the fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer: "And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

The Rev. Paul Peterson, Waterloo, president of the circuit, will conduct the meeting.

Pastors of the circuit will also meet at 10 a.m. Friday at the church.

The southern circuit includes ELS churches south to Ames, north to Hartland, Minn., including Albert Lea, and east to Waukon. It was formerly known as the Albert Lea circuit.

The Rev. G.A.R. Gullixson, pastor of Central Heights Lutheran Church, anticipates about 90 people will attend the semi-annual meeting.

4

Sept. 20, 1969

GLOBE-GAZETTE  
Mason City, Iowa

# Central Heights Lutheran sets anniversary service

Central Heights Lutheran Church, 19th SW and S. Coolidge, will observe the 10th anniversary Sunday of the dedication of their building with festival services.

The sermon at the 10:30 a.m. service will be given by the Rev. Paul Anderson, field secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Belview, Minn. His sermon is entitled: "God's Blessing on His Chosen Home."

Pastor Anderson served as a missionary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference in Nigeria and has had parishes in Rochester, N.Y. and Lake

THE REV.  
JOHN  
MOLDSTAD

Guest  
speaker



professor at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minn., will preach at the 2:30 p.m. service which will follow the anniversary dinner at noon served by the

Church began as a mission venture of the Southern Circuit of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod about 13 years ago when the Rev. Paul Petersen was pastor of the Richland Lutheran Church, Thornton. Pastor Petersen helped the congregation organize. He is now at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Waterloo.

The present structure was dedicated in November, 1959, during the pastorate of Mr. Moldstad, pastor of the Richland Church.

The present pastor, the Rev. G.A.R. Gullixson, came in 1966.

# Our Tenth Anniversary

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

10:30 A.M. THE MORNING SERVICE

SPEAKER-THE REV. PAUL ANDERSON of BELVIEW, MINN.  
Field Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

12 M. THE NOON MEAL

The Anniversary Dinner Served by the Queen  
Esther Guild

2:30 P.M. THE AFTERNOON SERVICE

SPEAKER-THE PROFESSOR JOHN A. MOLDSTAD of MANIATO  
Dean of Bethany College and Former Pastor of Central  
Heights Lutheran Church

1969 is the year of the Tenth Anniversary of the  
Dedication of our House of Worship.

Let us set this day aside to rejoice in the message  
of God's Grace in Christ that He has permitted to be  
proclaimed here these ten years.

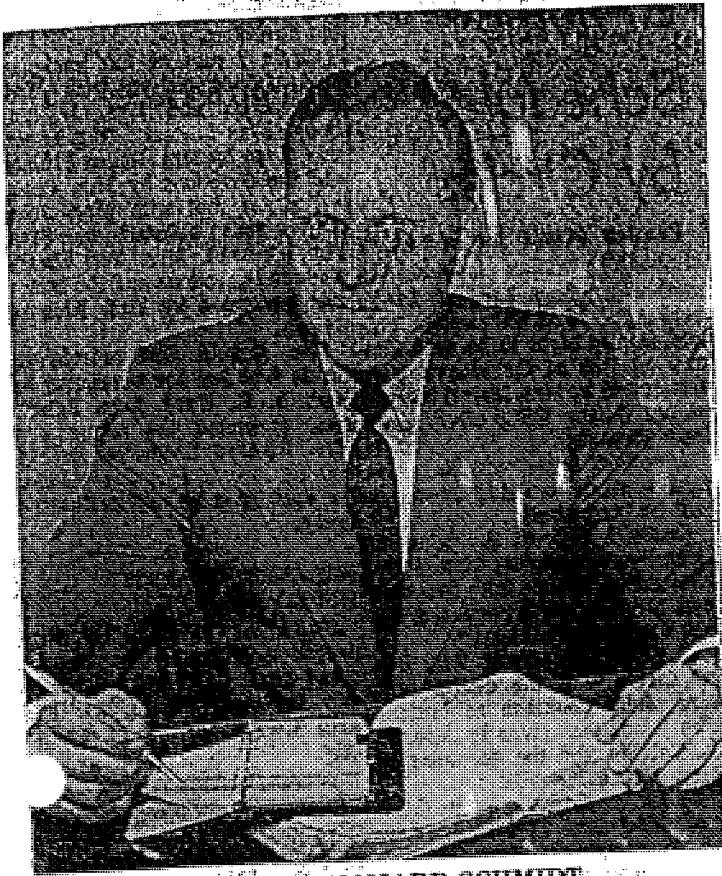
Let us show our gratitude by bringing an Offering  
for our Building Debt Fund on this day.

Let us be on hand to greet the friends who will come  
to rejoice with us from our sister Congregations.

Let us make it a day to remember for years to come!

BRING THE FAMILY - INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

PRAISE YE THE LORD. I WILL PRAISE THE LORD WITH MY  
WHOLE HEART, IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE UPRIGHT, AND IN THE  
CONGREGATION. HE HATH MADE HIS WONDERFUL WORKS TO BE



THE REV. LEONARD SCHMIDT  
—Gethsemane Lutheran Church

## MASON CITY'S SHEPHERDS

# Pastor Helped One Mission Grow; Now Serving Second

By JAMES OWENS

The Rev. Leonard Schmidt, a newcomer to Mason City, has begun his second pastorate in an almost memberless church. He was installed in February as pastor of the Gethsemane Lutheran Church, a mission church of the Minnesota-Iowa district of the Wisconsin Synod.

The congregation at present—what there is of it—meets in the basement of the parsonage at 1658 Meadowbrook Drive. There is no church building yet.

Mr. Schmidt came to Mason City from Newton where he had to deal with the same sort of problems. When he went to Newton in the summer of 1948 there were only two communicants—one family—in his parish. There was no housing or church for the young minister when he was first assigned there.

### Takes Time

How does a new church get started?

"There is an untold amount of discouragement in starting a mission from scratch," the minister said. "It takes time."

One of the pitfalls, he stated, is the fact that nobody wants to join a "fly-by-night" church. A common question about a mission group is: "Are they going to stay?"

Mr. Schmidt has an answer to that question. "It should arise here. We are determined to stay. This mission in Mason City was being planned for about three years before it was established."

### Slow Progress

At the best the progress in organizing a new congregation is slow.

"You just keep working," Mr. Schmidt said. "The first family or two means a lot. When they start coming, the mission is started."

An empty place of worship may make anyone who shows up for services nervous. Mr. Schmidt illustrates the problem in the words of his son David.

"Daddy, I don't like it when we're the only ones in church," the boy said. The adult response is much the same, the pastor observed.

### One Family

The mission here passed one landmark last Sunday. One family other than the Schmidts attended the services in the parsonage basement.

The Newton church came a long way from the one-family congregation Mr. Schmidt served at the beginning of his 7½ years of service there.

Today there is a church building and parsonage. About 45 families in the Newton parish make a total membership of approximately 150 persons, 88 of them communicants.

### 3 Cities

The Newton church serves members from nearby Grinnell and Colfax. Mr. Schmidt and his wife at first lived in Des Moines, then moved to a sleeping room in Newton and then to a sleeping room with kitchen privileges in Colfax.

Not only was there no housing available, but the synod mission group had not decided in what part of Newton to locate the church and parsonage.

Mr. Schmidt borrowed money and bought a home which the synod rented as a parsonage. Services at first were held in a rented church. Eventually a chapel was built. Mr. Schmidt wrestled with his finances a second time and purchased a house beside the church building. Before he left Newton the Synod bought the parsonage from him.

### From Seminary

Mr. Schmidt was assigned directly to the Newton church from the seminary of the Wisconsin Synod at Thiensville, Wis., where he received his theological train-

CITY OF MASON CITY  
IOWA

GEORGE E. MENDON  
MAYOR

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS  
F. C. DESART - - - -  
METTA HUGI - - - -  
RAY E. CLOUGH - - - -  
LEO RISACHER - - - -  
A. BOYD ARNOLD - - - -  
DR. J. W. LANNON - - HE  
C. W. HAMBLIN - - - -  
ROBERT T. ALLEN - BUILDING

T LARGE

TAD

FIRST WARD  
SECOND WARD  
THIRD WARD  
FOURTH WARD

February 21, 1956

Rev. Leonard Schmidt  
Gesthemane Lutheran Church  
1658 Meadowbrook Drive  
Mason City, Iowa

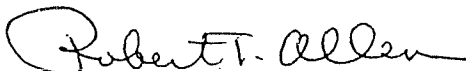
Dear Rev. Schmidt:

This letter confirms a conversation I had with the Rev. Arthur P.C. Kell of St. Clair, Minnesota regarding the use of the dwelling at 1658 Meadowbrook Drive as a public assembly building for church services.

Actually the certificate of occupancy covers only the use of these premises for dwelling purposes only. The building was not designed for church assembly and actually does not comply with the Building Code for this type of occupancy.

Since I desire not to work a hardship upon your new congregation, the city will be willing to give you enough time to find temporary quarters in which church services may be held. Therefore you are hereby given until April 1, 1956 to find temporary quarters for your church services. We certainly hope that you will cooperate to find a new location much sooner than April 1st., and that you will notify me of the same.

Yours truly,



Robert T. Allen  
Building Commissioner

RTA/vcd  
cc. Rev. Arthur P.C. Kell  
St. Clair, Minn.  
R.F. Clough  
319 Brick & Tile Bldg.  
Mason City, Iowa

April, 1956

United Home Bank & Trust Co.  
Mason City, Iowa

Gentlemen:

We inclose herewith our check in the sum of \$6,950.00 covering the balance due G. S. Randall and Helen L. Randall on property we are purchasing from them under an option dated April 20th, 1956, described as follows:

That portion of Lot 39 in the Subdivision of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 3, Township 36 North, Range 20, West of the 5th P.M., which is approximately 250 feet of frontage on 12th Street N.E., in Mason City, Iowa, and approximately 250 feet north and south, excepting from said tract the North 105 feet of the West 85 feet thereof, said tract being bounded on the South by 12th Street NE and the Northerly most portion thereof being bounded on the north by Lot 5 in Gilbert S. Randall's Second Addition to Mason City, Iowa, said tract being all of the real estate in said lot owned by the optionees fronting on 12th Street NE., in Mason City, Iowa.

You will kindly make payment to the sellers of the proceeds of the inclosed check on delivery to you for our account of the following documents;

A Warranty Deed conveying the above described realstate to EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN JOINT SYNOD OF WISCONSIN AND OTHER STATES, a Wisconsin religious corporation:

An Abstract of Title showing clear and merchantable title in the name of Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States, and so evidenced by an attorneys opinion. (Title Insurance policy is acceptable in lieu of Abstract and opinion).

When transaction has been closed as above kindly forward the deed and abstract and opinion to this office.

If you will inform us of your charges in handling this matter for us we will remit.

Sincerely yours

C. J. Niedfeldt  
Treasurer

Copy to Rev. L. Schmidt

son from the ground up, Mr. Schmidt said.

Speaking of the Mason City mission, he said, "I stepped into the same situation again, this time knowingly."

Mr. Schmidt grew up on his family farm, many miles north of Watertown. He attended Lutheran day schools in Watertown and received his college training at Northwestern College there.

#### Father's Farm

He worked on his father's farm to finance his college education. Although athletically built, the young man did not go out for extra-curricular sports while in school.

"Those were difficult times," Mr. Schmidt explained. "While others were out for basketball, baseball or football after school, I was working in the field."

His bright-eyed and talkative daughter, Rachel, 6, interrupted. "Did you like that?"

"I didn't have much choice," he told her.

#### Masonry Worked

While in the seminary at Thiensville the young man did cement and masonry work for a contracting firm in nearby Milwaukee. The firm did special jobs on private homes, and the minister-to-be helped install such items as a \$35,000 private swimming pool.

"Those were the days I always had money in my pocket," he said.

"A lot of money—2 hundred dollars?" asked the alert Rachel with interest.

"No, not that much money," Mr. Schmidt told his daughter.

After being graduated from the seminary and before moving to serve the Newton congregation, Mr. Schmidt married his wife, Doris, a Watertown girl. The Schmidts have three children, David, Rachel and three-year-old Stephen.

#### Second Church

The church Mr. Schmidt is serving now is the second Wisconsin-Synod Lutheran Church in Mason City. The Bethlehem Lutheran Church is the other. The Gethsemane Church will serve Lutherans of the Synodical Conference and others in the southwest part of town.

The exact location for a church building is not yet selected, Mr. Schmidt said. It will not be where the present parsonage is. The first move will be building of a combined chapel-parsonage. When a church eventually is built the chapel portion of the home will be converted into extra rooms for the parsonage. The chapel will be the big step forward, according to Mr. Schmidt.

"The greatest growth comes after the chapel is built," he said.

Gethsemane Lutheran Mission  
(Synodical Conference) 1658  
Meadowbrook Drive. First service  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. W. A. Geiger, pas-  
tor.

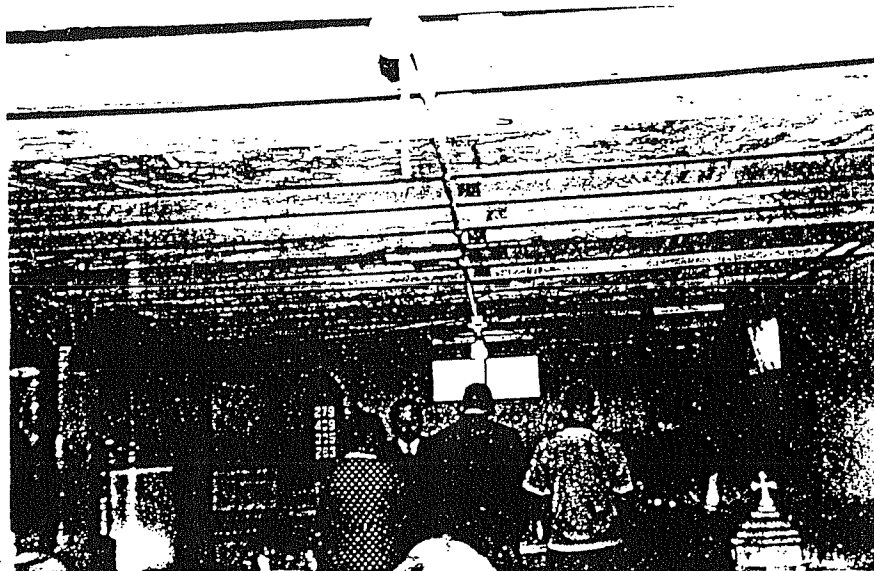
## Wisconsin Synod Lutheran Mission to Open Sunday

A new Lutheran mission, sponsored by the Wisconsin Synod of the Synodical Conference, will conduct its first service at 9 a.m. Sunday in the basement of a new residence at 1658 Meadowbrook Drive. This new mission, to be known as Gethsemane Lutheran Mission, has been planned for some time by the board of home missions of the Minnesota district.

Pastor W. A. Geiger, 310 1st Ave., Charles City, will be in charge of the service on Sunday as well as on the succeeding Sundays of this month. A resident pastor has been called by the mission board, however.

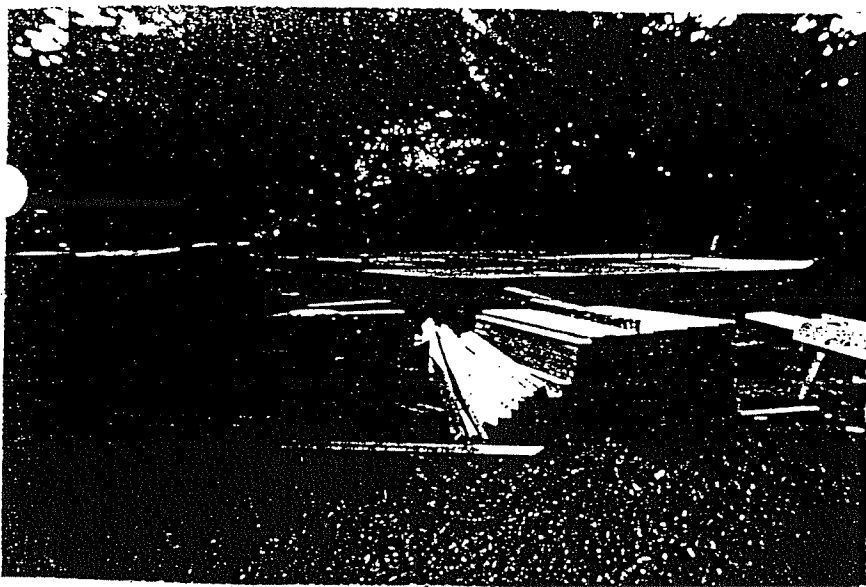
It is expected that the new pastor will move into the residence and take over services and Sunday school of the new mission as of next month. The call has been issued to the Rev. Leonard Schmidt of Newton, who has been active in the mission field of the Synodical Conference for some years.

Gethsemane Lutheran Mission will serve Synodical Conference Lutherans of that part of the growing city as well as reach out to the unchurched of Mason City. Lots are being acquired for the new mission.



Communion Service at  
1658 Meadowbrook Drive





Randall, G. S. and Helen to  
Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod  
of Wisconsin and other states,  
\$1.00 (WD) begn. at a pnt. on the  
E. line of Lot 39 in Sub. of NE $\frac{1}{4}$   
of T $\frac{1}{2}$ 6-N20 W. of 5th p.m. which

pnt. is 33 ft. N. of SE crnr. of Lot  
39 then N. 237 ft. along the E. line  
of Lot 39 then W. 161.2 ft. on a line  
paral. with S. line of Lot 39 then  
S. 105 ft. on a line paral. with E.  
line of Lot 39 then W. 87.05 ft. on  
a line paral. with the S. line of  
Lot 39 then S. 132 ft. on a line  
paral. with E. line of Lot 39 then  
E. 248.25 ft. to pnt. to begn., Rev.  
Stps., \$9.35, 5-10-56.

1956

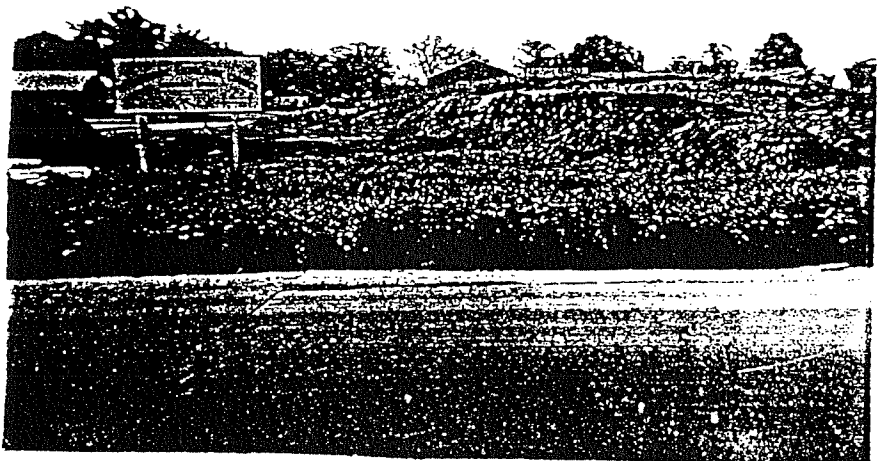


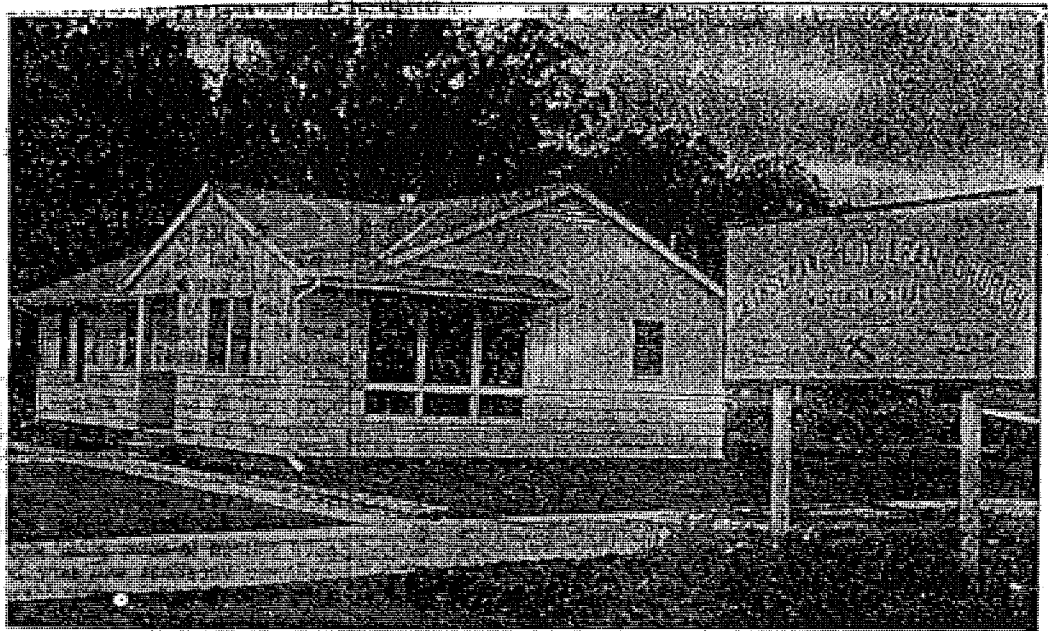
Summer-1956-658-12th St. N.E.  
Lots where Gethsemane Church  
and parsonage were to be built



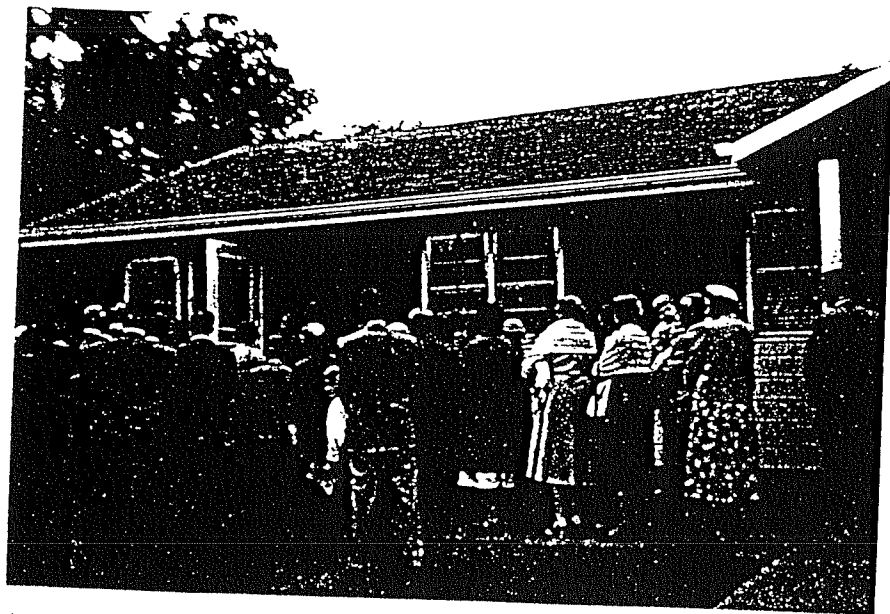
The Evangelical Lutheran Joint  
Synod of Wisconsin and other  
states was issued a permit to  
build a one story frame home,  
with church chapel attached, at  
658 12th N.E. John Riekens is  
the contractor. The permit valu-  
ation is \$10,000.

1956





**HOME OF NEW CHURCH** — This new home constructed at 658 12th N. E. will eventually be the parsonage of the new Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Synod, which will be constructed where the sign is. The Rev. Leonard R. Schmidt is the pastor. Part of this home will be used as the temporary chapel and services will start Sept. 9. At present they are being held at 1658 Meadowbrook Drive.



September, 1956  
Dedication Service

# GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

658 Twelfth Street N. E.  
(WISCONSIN SYNOD)



L. R. SCHMIDT, PASTOR

## Announces

### THE DEDICATION OF THE MISSION'S FIRST UNIT

### Sunday, Sept. 9 --- At 3 P. M.

THE REV. ARTHUR P. C. KELL, GUEST SPEAKER

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED!

NEW SERVICE SCHEDULE:

Hour of Worship—9 a. m.      Sunday School—10 a. m.



PICTURED ABOVE IS OUR PARSONAGE - CHAPEL

1958

# Gethsemane Pastor Going to Wisconsin

The Rev. Leonard Schmidt, who led the establishment of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Mason City, has accepted a call to become pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Fox Lake, Wis. His farewell service here will be Sunday.

Mr. Schmidt came to Mason City early in 1956 and was installed as pastor of Gethsemane, a mission church of the Minnesota-Iowa district of the Wisconsin Synod. The first services were held in the basement of the original parsonage at 1658 Meadowbrook Drive. The first few weeks the only ones attending were members of his family.

IN THE SUMMER of 1956 Gethsemane was formally organized as a congregation. Since then a 1 1/2-acre tract has been purchased at 658 12th N. E. and a combination parsonage-chapel constructed there. The church now has about 50 members.

A church building will be built on the tract owned by the church when a loan is available from the Wisconsin Synod's church extension fund.

The Fox Lake church to which Mr. Schmidt has been called has some 900 members. It will be the first church he will serve that is self-supporting on his arrival. He came to Mason City from Newton where he helped a church grow from a one-family membership with no parsonage or church to a membership of about 150 with its own parsonage and place of worship.

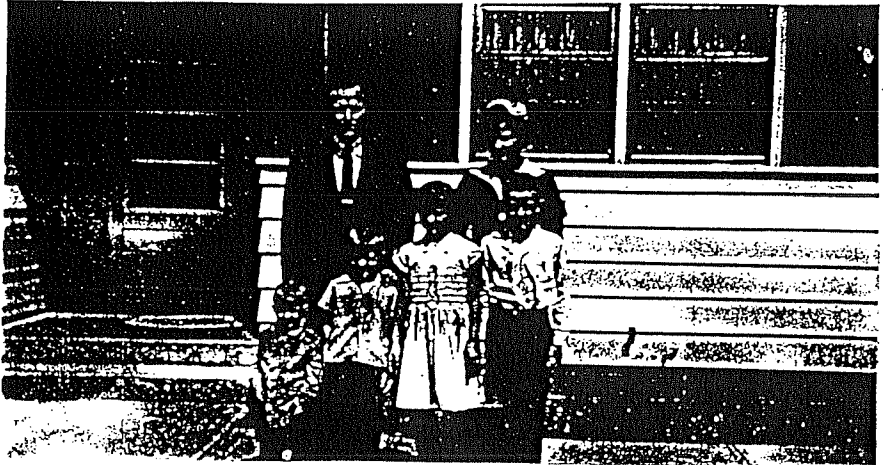
The Schmidt wife is Newton University and was graduated from the University of the West. She is a member of the Wisconsin Synod. She received her college training at North Western College.

A FAREWELL gathering will be held in the church on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The pastor and his family will be present. The gathering, including a potluck supper, is for members of the congregation and other friends of the Schmidts. The family will leave Mason City Monday.

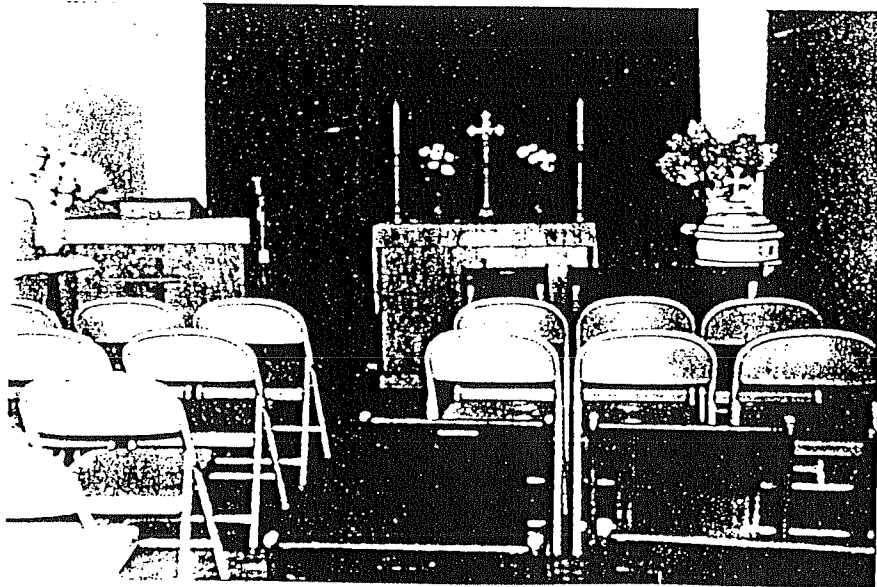
The Rev. Waldemar Geiger, of Charles City, will serve Gethsemane Church as vacancy pastor until a new resident pastor comes to Mason City. There will be a congregational meeting at the church Wednesday for consideration of obtaining a successor to Pastor Schmidt.



PASTOR LEONARD SCHMIDT



Dedication-1956-Chapel in parsonage



## New Gethsemane Pastor Will Be Ordained Sunday

John F. Chworousky of Milwaukee, Sunday will be ordained a minister and installed as pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 658 12th N. E. The service of ordination and installation will be conducted at 2:30 p. m. by the Rev. W. A. Geiger, Charles City, vacancy pastor of Gethsemane Church.

Guest speaker at the afternoon service will be the Rev. L. W. Schierenbeck of Austin, Minn., a member of the Minnesota-Iowa District mission board of the Wisconsin Synod. The local church's regular 8:30 a. m. service will be conducted by Mr. Geiger.

The candidate for ordination will be the second resident pastor of Gethsemane Church. He will succeed the Rev. Leonard Schmidt who left Mason City in April after accepting a call to become pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Fox Lake, Wis.

Candidate Chworousky was graduated from the seminary of the Wisconsin Synod at Thiensville, Wis., just North of Milwaukee in 1957. The last school year he taught at Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., where he acted as assistant to the dean, coached football players and gave instruction in Latin and United States history.

A native of Milwaukee, he attended elementary school there and then attended a church preparatory school and Northwestern College at Watertown, Wis. He and his wife, Johanna, were married June 29 this year.

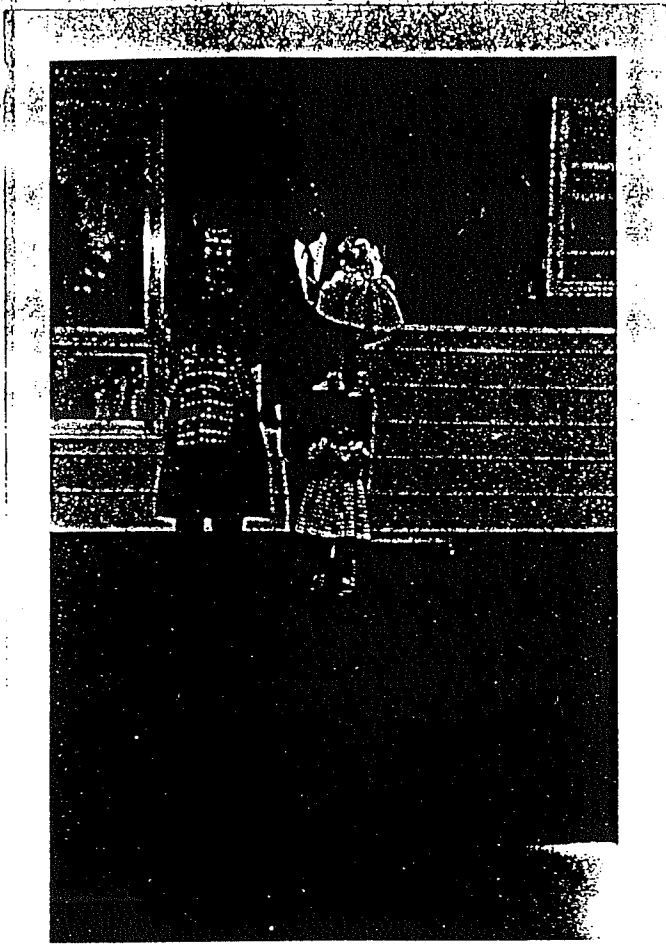
The two-year-old congregation which will be his first charge now has about 50 members. It was formally organized in the summer of 1956. Since then the 1 1/2-acre tract on which the combined parsonage-chapel is located was purchased and the building erected. Plans have been made for construction of a church building in the future.

7-20-58

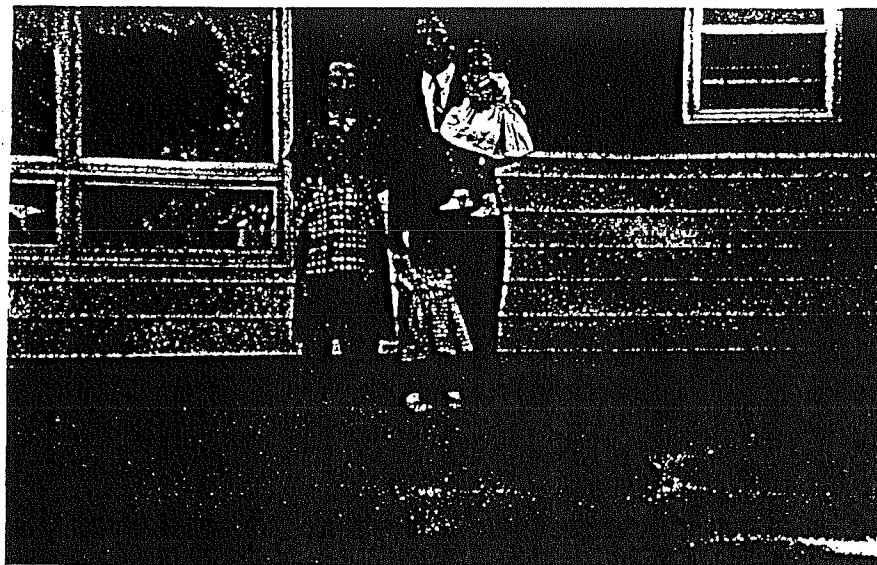


JOHN CHWOROUSKY

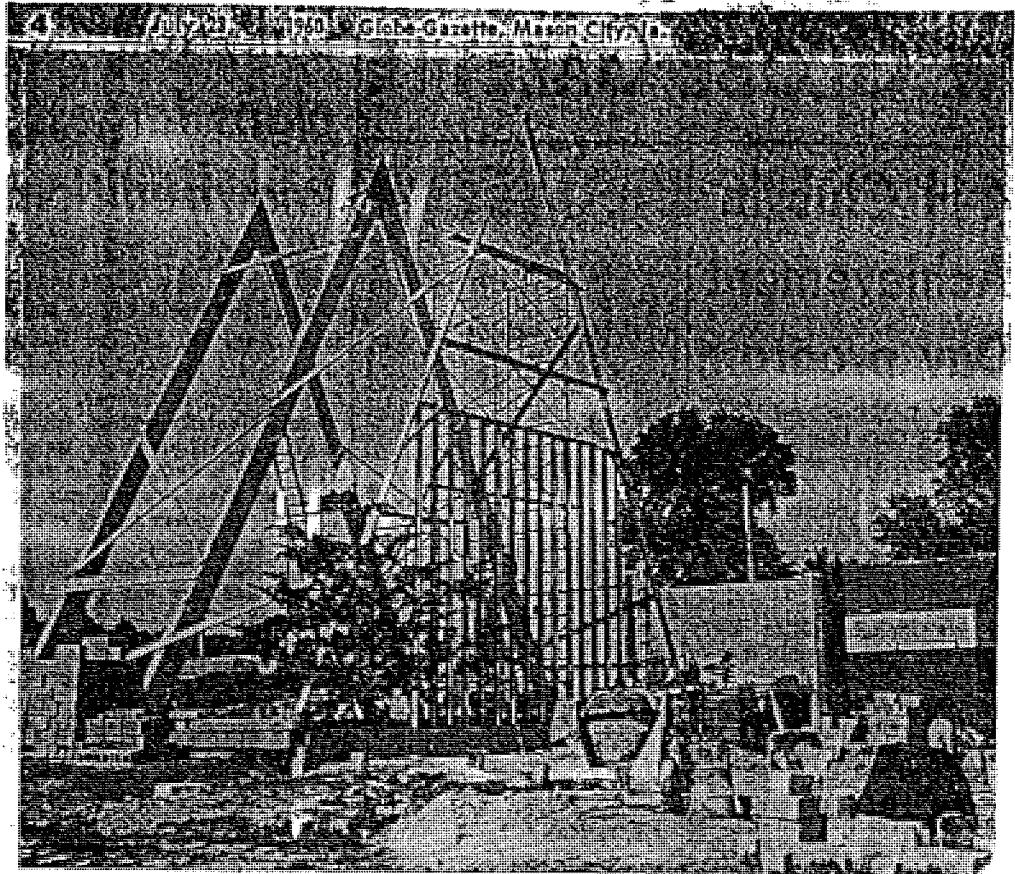




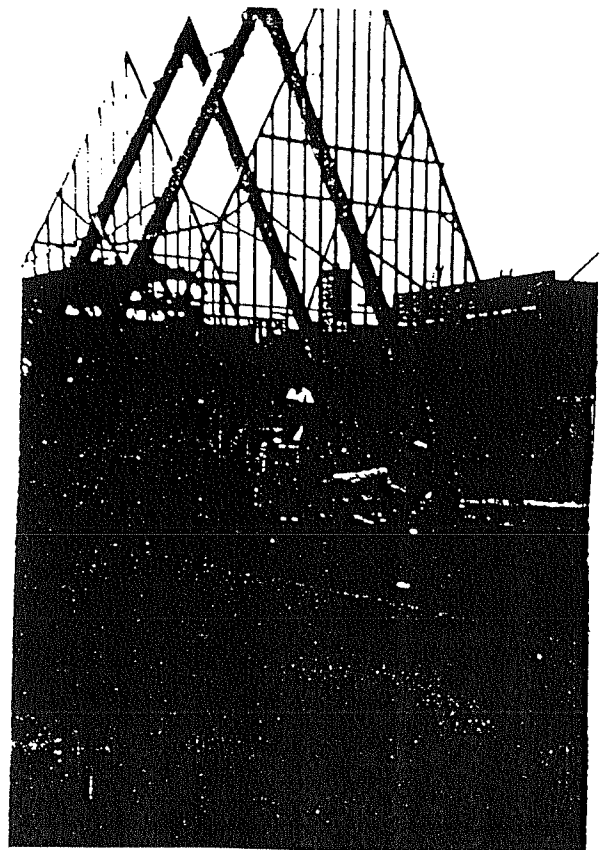
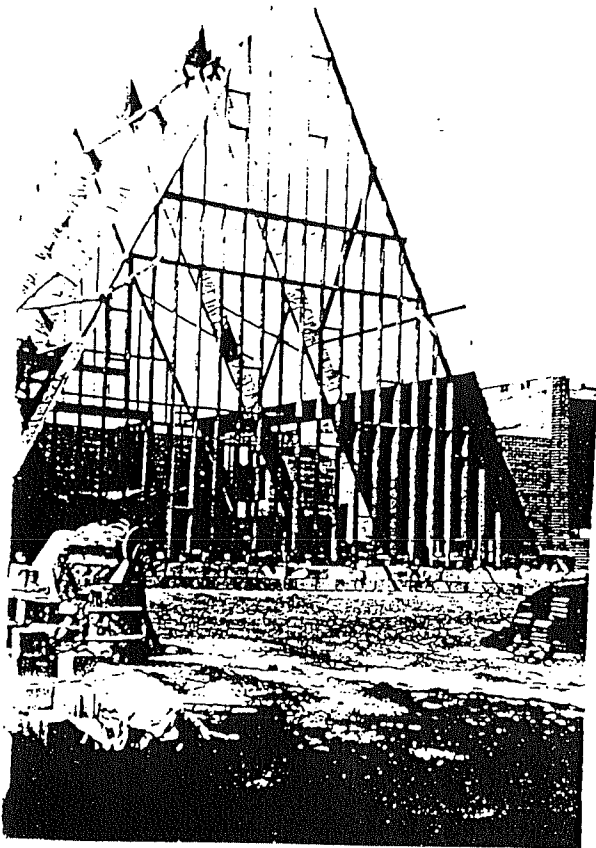
May-July, 1958 -Vacancy Pastor  
Rev. W. Gerger & family, Charles City







FAMEWORK OF GETHSEMANE CHURCH RISES



# Break ground Sunday at Gethsemane Church

A groundbreaking ceremony at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 658 12th N.E., will be held Sunday for a church building on the site. The new church is to be completed by about Sept. 1.

The congregation, organized in 1956, now worships in a chapel in the parsonage on the church land.

The groundbreaking ceremony will be during the regular 9 a. m. service, with the Rev. John F. Chworowsky, pastor, officiating. Others who will take part are Jack Helgren, congregation chairman, and Milton Martin, senior church trustee.

**THE NEW CHURCH**, to be erected at a contract cost of \$39,600, is different in design from the one originally planned. Contract arrangements here for building last fall did not meet Wisconsin Synod Board of Missions requirements, and the price from bidders who could immediately meet the requirements was prohibitive for the local congregation.

The most striking feature of the new church will be a peaked

roof above the nave, which will rise 36 feet from the ground. As seen from the front, looking north from 12th N.E., the end of the nave portion will appear as a huge triangle with the roof appearing to be on the ground.

**HOWEVER**, the sloping roof line actually will end above ground, meeting flat roofs which will extend out on either side to meet vertical walls in which windows will be set along the sides of the nave. The ends of those walls, of brick, will frame the bottom of the triangle as seen from the front.

The nave will lie north and south, with the chancel at the north end. Entrance to it will be from the east side. Just east of the nave will be central doors and narthex, and just east of that will be classroom area. The classroom space will be on two floors, one at half-basement level.

The nave and chancel portion of the church will be 36 by 48 feet in ground dimensions, and the classroom part of the building will cover 34 by 24 feet. Office space is designed on the

north side of the classroom area.

**THE FRONT** of the building will be 93 feet north of the street lot line. The combination of nave, narthex, and classroom space will run 93 feet parallel to the street.

The building is designed so that the narthex can be extended another 48 feet toward the street in the future. That would increase the seating from an original 150 to about 350. Classroom area can be expanded first to the east, then to the north, as needs arise.

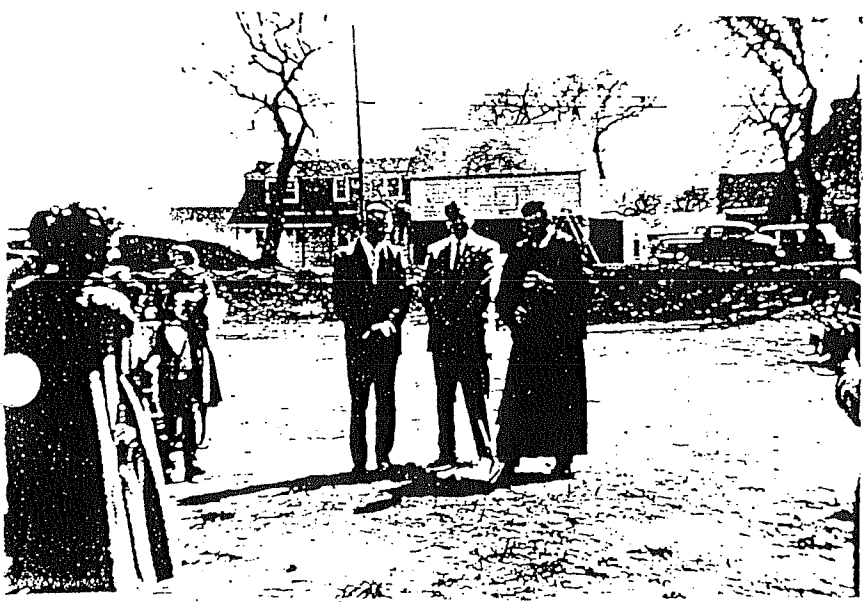
The huge triangle on the wall facing the street will have an outside wall of rough-sawn cedar set as vertical shiplap. A cross-extending to the roof peak will be set against it. Narrow, vertical windows of stained glass will be set at 10 points in the cedar wall.

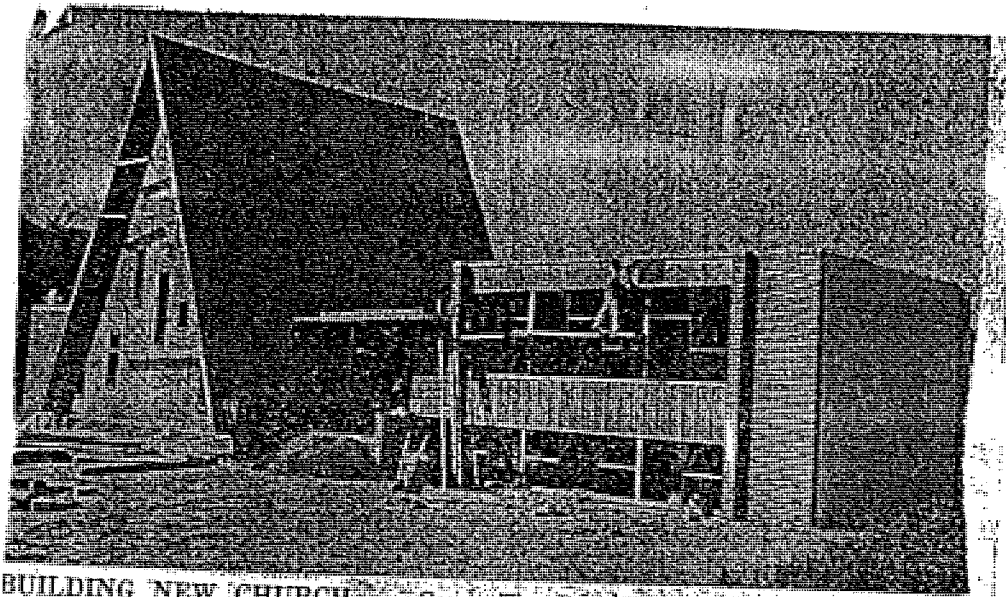
**ALL OTHER** outside walls in the entire building will be of brick.

The interior of the nave will be almost entirely of cedar. Ceiling beams will be exposed. The nave lights will be concealed near the bottom of the roof on each side, with spot and flood lights directed toward the high central peak. Used pews have been obtained for use at the outset. Not all the furnishings have been arranged for.

The R. & R. Construction Co. has the contract for general construction. The heating system will be installed by the Ray E. Pauley Co., and the electrical work contract has been awarded to the Babbitt & Sherman Electric Co. Bob McKiness Excavating, which will do utility line excavation for the church itself, also will do the general excavation for the R & R company.

The building plan being followed was designed for the Wisconsin Synod and is being used now in construction of a church in Wisconsin. The architect was Richard W. Scheife of Milwaukee. Supervising architects for the project here will be Waggoner and Waggoner of Mason City.





**BUILDING NEW CHURCH** — Construction of the new Gethsemane Lutheran Church (Wisconsin Synod) building at 658 12th NE, is under way. The Rev. John F. Chworowsky is the pastor. The building is of modern architecture, one of the first of its kind in this area. 9-24-60

# To dedicate Gethsemane

The new Gethsemane Lutheran Church in the 600 block of 12th NE will be dedicated Sunday in a special service at 3 p.m. It will be the first service held in the church.

The Rev. John Chworowsky,

pastor of the church, will conduct a service of thanksgiving at the usual 9 a.m. service time Sunday. That service will be in the chapel portion of the parsonage where the congregation has worshipped until now.

Pastor Chworowsky also plans to perform the act of dedication in the afternoon service. The dedication sermon will be by the Rev. John Raabe, Litchfield, Minn., chairman of the Minnesota District Mission Board of the Wisconsin Synod. Liturgist for the afternoon service will be the Rev. Waldemar Geiger, Charles City, who was interim pastor here before Pastor Chworowsky came to Mason City.

There also will be a 7 p.m. post-dedication service, with the message by the Rev. Gerhard Horn, Red Wing, Minn. Pastor Horn is secretary of the Minnesota District Mission Board.



**LAY CORNERSTONE**—The Rev. John Minn., who delivered the sermon during the cornerstone-laying service Sunday, Pastor Muenkel is chairman of the Red Wing Conference of the Wisconsin Synod's Minnesota District. Gethsemane Lutheran Church is in the Red Wing Conference. *8-7-60*

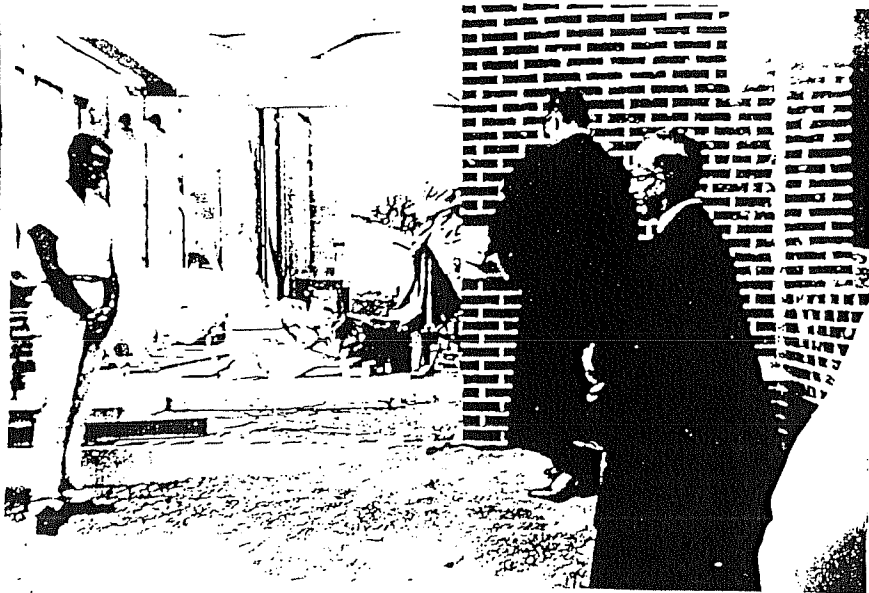
## Gethsemane to place cornerstone

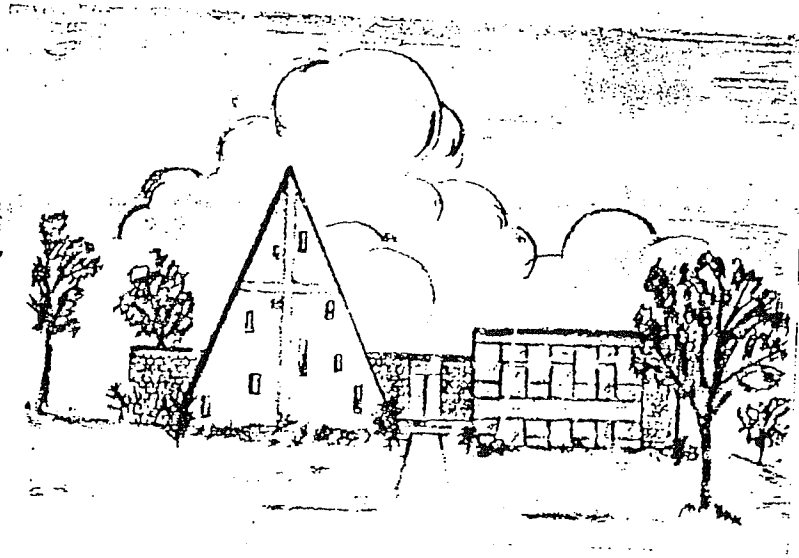
*8-7-60*

The cornerstone of the partially completed new Gethsemane Lutheran Church at 658 12th N. E. will be laid in a special service Sunday at 3 p. m.

The sermon for the service will be given by the Rev. Herbert Muenkel of Zumbota, Minn. He is chairman of the Red Wing Conference of the Wisconsin Synod's Minnesota District. Gethsemane Church is in that conference.

The service will begin in the parsonage chapel where the congregation now worships and will be concluded at the new church site. The actual laying of the cornerstone will be by the Gethsemane Church pastor, the Rev. John E. Chworowsky.



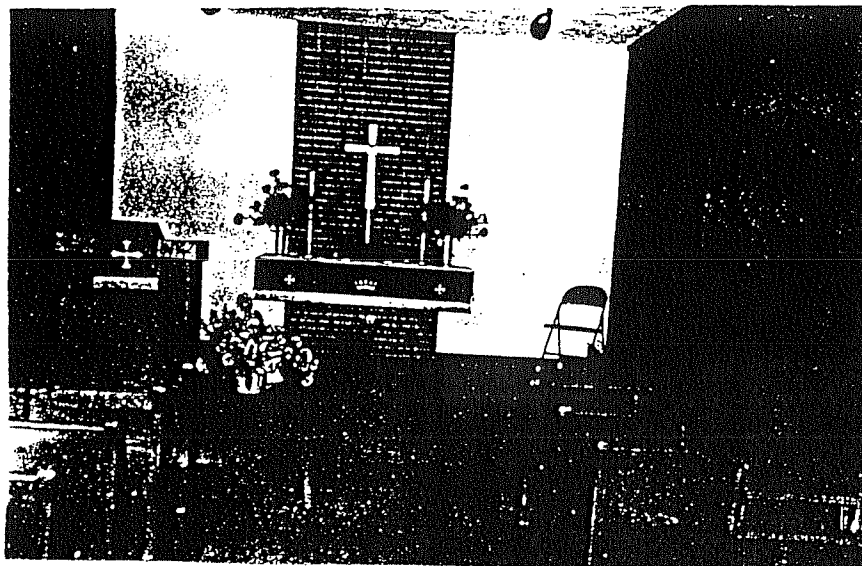


We invite you to the  
DEDICATION  
of  
GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
658 72th St. N.E. Mason City, Iowa  
October 23, 1960

Thanksgiving Service 9:00 a.m.  
Preacher: Pastor John Chworowsky

Dedication Service 3:00 p.m.  
Preacher: Pastor John Raabe

Post-dedication Service 7:00 p.m.  
Preacher: Pastor Gerhard Horn



You are Invited to Attend

# DEDICATION SERVICES

of  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church

666 12th St. N.E.

Mason City, Iowa

Sunday, October 23, 1960

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

9:00 A.M.

Rev. John F. Chworowsky, Pastor, Mason City

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

3:00 P.M.

Rev. John Raabe, Chairman, Minn., District Mission Board, Litchfield, Minn.

SERVICE OF POST DEDICATION

Rev. Gerhard Horn, Sec. Minn. District Mission Board, Red Wing, Minn.

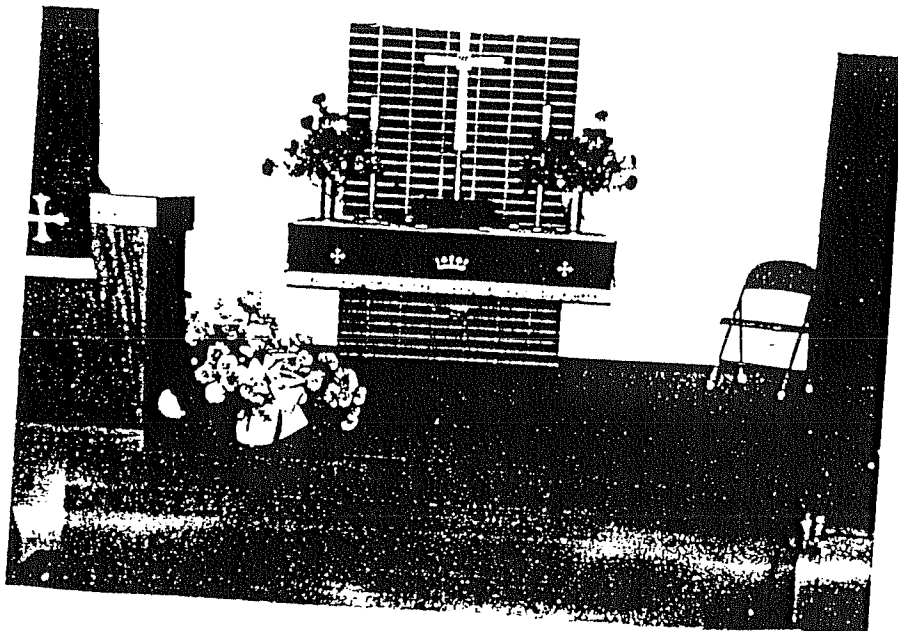
GUEST LITURGIST

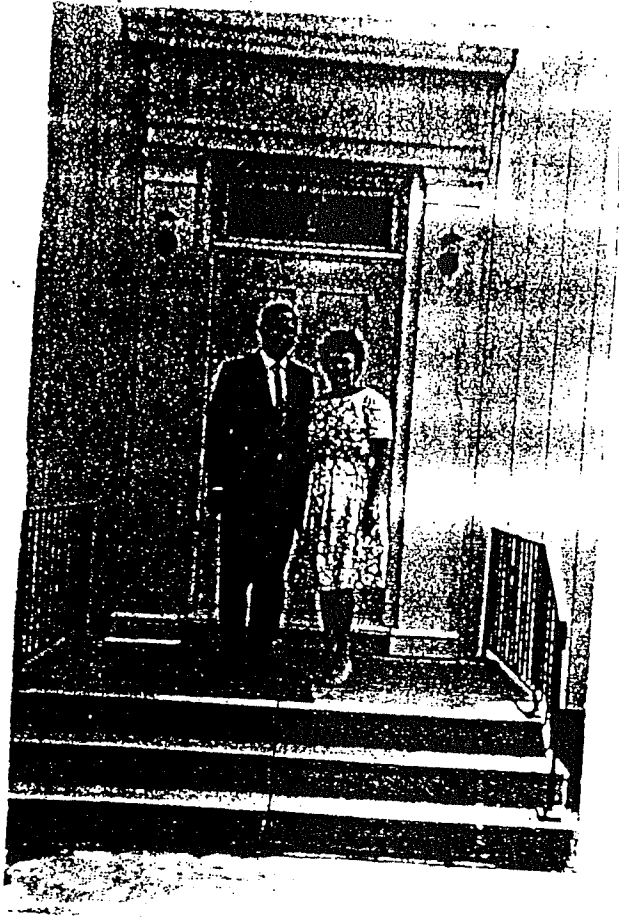
Rev. Waldemar Geiger, Charles City, Iowa

GUEST ORGANIST

Mr. G. H. Bunkowske, Lake City, Minn.

PUBLIC WELCOME





February-1963--Pastor & Mrs. Ronald Uhlorn,  
vacancy pastor



PASTOR BERGER  
April 1963

## To install new pastor on Sunday

The Rev. James C. Berger, formerly pastor of Grace Lutheran Church of Neenah, Wis., will be installed Sunday as pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran Church here.

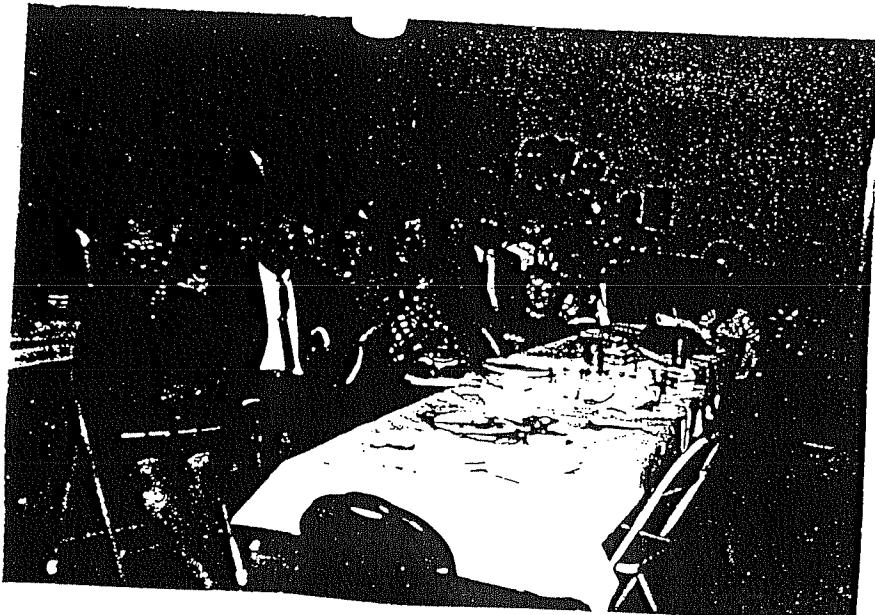
The installation service will be at 4 p.m. The Rev. Ronald Uhlorn, Charles City, interim pastor of Gethsemane Church for several months, will be the installing pastor. The Rev. John Parcher, Sanborn, Minn., will give the sermon.

A supper will be served after the service and a fellowship period will be held to welcome the new pastor who arrived here earlier this week.

Gethsemane Congregation is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and a mission church of the Minnesota District of that body. The church structure at 166 12th NE is new, built in 1960 and the parsonage where Pastor Berger and his family will make their home is adjacent at 658 12th NE.

Pastor Berger was graduated from the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at Mequon, Wis., in 1958. Immediately after his graduation he was ordained and installed as pastor of the Neenah Church where he has served until the present.

Pastor Berger is a native of Bay City, Mich., and attended high school at Michigan Lutheran at Saginaw, Mich. He served



**MARK OF PROGRESS**  
in a  
**Community of Faith**

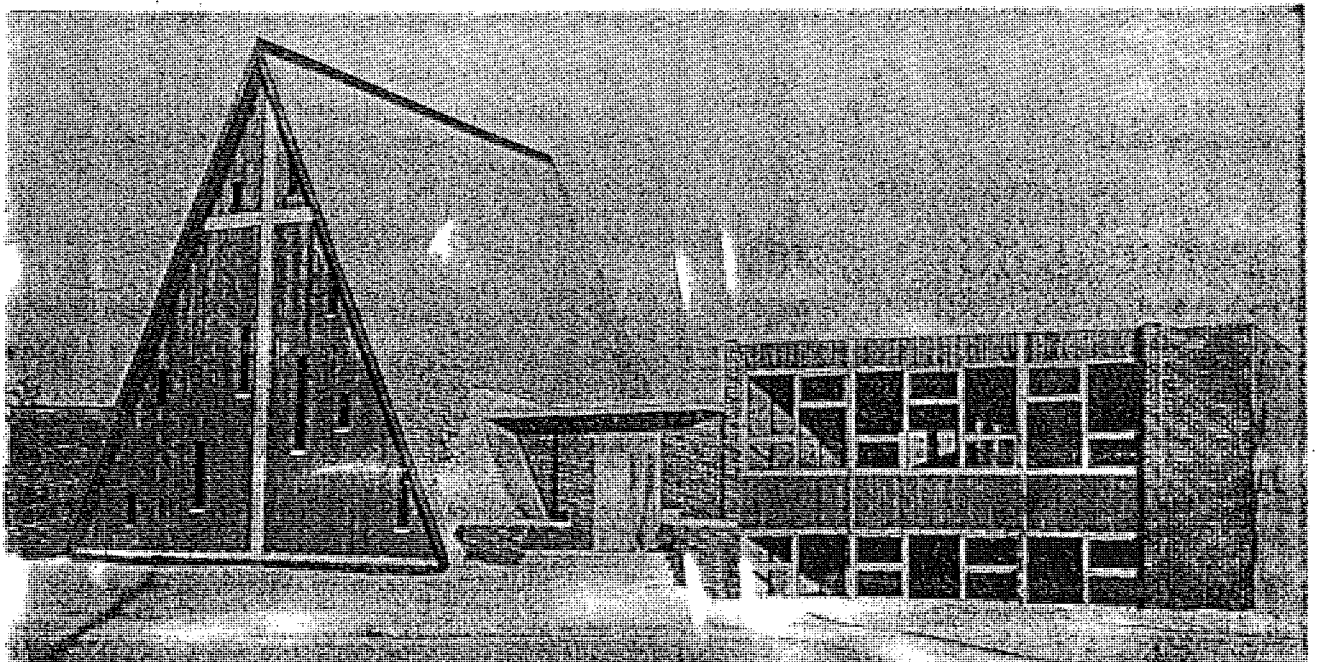


This modern facial of Christian belief has standardized itself in this growing community of Mason City. Through minds dedicated by Gods Grace in Christ this congregation shall strive to build a peaceful life in this world of turmoil.

**GETHSEMANE**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

666 12th N.E.

Wisconsin Synod







PASTOR BERGER

## Pastor J. Berger to leave city

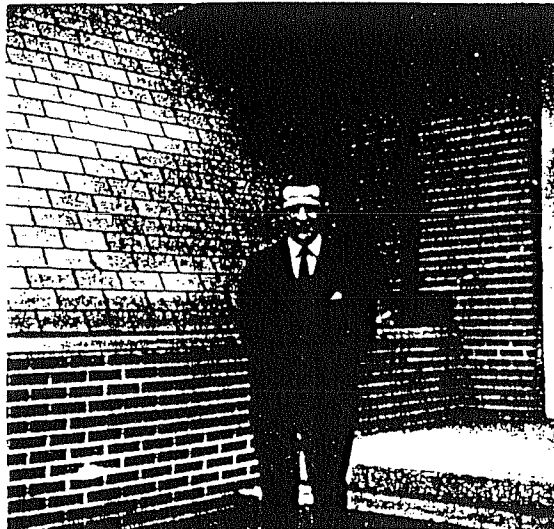
The Rev. James C. Berger, pastor of Bethesemane Lutheran Church here, has accepted a call to serve Ocean Drive Lutheran Church, Pompano Beach, Fla. He will conduct final services here on Easter.

A new pastor for the local church is being sought. The Rev. Ronald Uhlhorn, Charles City, will be interim pastor until a resident pastor is obtained to succeed Pastor Berger.

The Pompano Beach church is a mission congregation two years old. Besides serving it, Pastor Berger is to investigate possible establishment of congregations in the nearby areas of Palm Springs North and Homestead and at Leisure City. Two vicars will assist him during the summer months.

Pastor Berger came here in April 1963 after serving his first pastorate at Neenah, Wis. A native of Ely City, Mich., he is a 1958 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis.

He, his wife and children will be leaving Mason City immediately after this weekend.





SHARON BIESMANN

## Start new city church day school

Gethsemane Lutheran School will begin operation on Sept. 8 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 666 12th NE, as a day school for children from Kindergarten through sixth grade.

Enrollment is expected to be 20, but up to 30 pupils might be accommodated, according to the Rev. James C. Berger, pastor of the church.

Miss Sharon Biesmann will be teacher for the new school. She is a spring graduate of Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn. Daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. R. C. Biesmann, her family home now is at Huilsburg, Wis. Her high school education was received at Dr. Martin Luther High School at New Ulm.

The church school is accredited under Iowa standards. It was established particularly for children of the Gethsemane Lutheran Congregation, and the church has given a special invitation to members of the Central Heights Lutheran Church. However, children of other religious groups are not barred, if space is available.

The curriculum includes the usual elementary school subjects, plus an hour's religious study daily. All subjects are approached from a Christian context, Miss Biesmann emphasized. Standard textbooks are used.

The modern mathematics

# Day school at church is set

Gethsemane Lutheran Church next fall will open a day school for children from kindergarten through sixth grade. It will be the first day school established by a Wisconsin Synod Lutheran congregation in the North Iowa area.

It will be started on a small scale, according to the Rev. James C. Berger, pastor. It will be a one-room operation, with from 20 to 30 pupils and one teacher.

The first 20 pupils already have been committed. The congregation of Central Heights Lutheran Church has been invited to send pupils also. The Central Heights church is a body of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod which is in fellowship with the Wisconsin Synod.

In spite of the cautious start, Gethsemane Lutheran Church since building its church structure has looked forward to a possible full-scale school operation. Day schools have been a traditional church function within the Wisconsin Synod. The synod includes 225 such schools with 950 teachers.

The school will be in one of two classrooms in the educational section of Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Arrangements are being made to insure that it will be qualified for and receive state certification.

A teacher has been employed. She is Miss Sharon Biesmann of Abrams, Wis., who has just been graduated from Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minn. The college is the Wisconsin Synod's teacher training school. Miss Biesmann is to arrive here Aug. 12.

The school starting date has not been officially set. However, Pastor Berger said, there are advantages in following the public school system's calendar, and that may be done.

Congregational approval for establishing the school was given last year after a committee study showed desire for such a school. Because the local church still has mission status, the approval of the synod Mission Board was necessary. That has been given, and the board has agreed to pay the teacher's salary. Other costs are being borne by the congregation. Pupils will pay book rental fees that are designed to allow for periodic book replacement.

Except for one hour daily given to Bible and religious study, courses and materials are basically those used in public schools, Pastor Berger said. Wisconsin synod parish schools can be open to any children, although present space and teacher limitations here will restrict the number to about the 30 maximum pupils anticipated.

The first expansion may be as the original children progress to higher grades. At that time seventh and then eighth grades are expected to be added. In the seventh and eighth grades the daily hour of religious training would be given by the pastor, rather than the regular teacher, and would be devoted to pre-confirmation training.

The church building was designed so that present educational space can be enlarged. The lot contains space for a full school building, if that is found desirable in the future.

# Small churches

By TERRANCE J. McDONALD

Catholics are not the only Mason Cityans who support parochial schools.

A parochial school is operated in the city by Gethsemane Lutheran Church, and another is operated by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

The school at Gethsemane is within the combination church-school building at 658 12th NE. The school has 24 students from kindergarten through eighth grade.

"I believe, after a fashion, that the Catholics believe about parochial schools," said the Rev. Robert Uttech, pastor of Gethsemane Church. "Religion is more than a one-hour-a-week affair. We have no dislike for public schools. Religion is a matter of exposure. The more exposure you have, the better chance for religion should be."

The Wisconsin Synod, of which Gethsemane is a member, operates many parochial schools, including a number of large central high schools, comparable to the Catholic Newman High School in Mason City.

"We feel that we aren't the old ones. The churches that don't have schools seem different to us," Pastor Uttech said.

The school takes approximately 30 per cent of the church's budget. It is primarily financed by the congregation, but there is a \$10 charge for students, comparable to a book bill or activity fee at other schools.

"Parents don't send their children to the school because it is small. To us, it comes down to what is important to a person. We feel it is the word of God; that is why we

operate a school," said pastor Uttech.

The teacher at the school, Miss Ann Breikreutz, is "parochially trained" for teaching in Minnesota. She also holds an Iowa teaching certificate.

"We are careful to meet state minimum standards," Pastor Uttech said. "We have very little trouble, though, because we are a young school and have the latest equipment."

Gethsemane is a mission church, and as such is supported, in part, by the synod. The teacher's salary is paid by the synod.

The school day begins at 8:30 with religious instruction. Prayers are said several times a day, such as before and after lunch. A religious viewpoint is held throughout the normally secular subjects, the pastor said.

"We have been challenged by Christ himself in Matthew 28: 'Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you . . . It is the duty of the church to do this, and we try to do it through our school,'" added Pastor Uttech.

The Seventh-day Adventist School, a building separate from the church, is at 1125 1st SE. Currently, it has six students in grades one through four.

"We base our philosophy of education on the writings of Ellen White," said Elder Robert Boggess, minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mason City. "She states that 'true education means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.'"

The teacher is Marian Rhodes. Expenses for the school, according to Elder Boggess, take at least 75 per cent of the church's budget.

There is no charge to students, except for workbooks for the subjects that require them. Normal school supplies, pencils, paper, also are supplied.

"Most Seventh-day Adventist churches support schools," said Elder Boggess. "In places where there is no school, they often sponsor bus service to a centrally located school."

"We are the only Adventist school for a 30-mile radius, and we have students from as far as Osage and Nora Springs," Elder Boggess added.

A lay board, elected by members of the local church, makes policy for the school. The congregation, 75 members, supports the school entirely.

"We feel that the first 12 years are the formative years," said Mrs. Rhodes. "Religious education at this time is not only good for the religion, but also for the character of the students."

The school day starts at 9 and ends at 3. Religion is taught, in a large part, by weaving it throughout the other subjects.

"At the present time, we have plans to build a new school, which will allow us to take more students," Elder Boggess added. "The church school board has approved buying the property to build it on."

"We feel that the parochial school is an important part of practical education," Elder Boggess said. "Once a student starts school, he spends more time with his teachers and playmates than with his parents. It is important to have religion at this time."



PASTOR CHWOROWSKY

## Will observe anniversary

The congregation of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 668 12th NE, will mark its 10th anniversary Feb. 6, with a special worship service at 3:30 p.m.

The Rev. John Chworowsky, who served the group from 1958 to 1962, will be guest speaker. He now is at Caledonia, Wis.

Further details of the public observance will be announced

LUTHERAN CHAPEL OF THE AIR  
 KCHA . . . Charles City . . . 1580  
 SUNDAY MORNING - 10:05-10:20 a.m.  
 Presented By  
 Cross Lutheran Church of Charles City  
 and  
 Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
 of Mason City - 1965

June 5, 1965 7  
 GLOBE-GAZETTE  
 Mason City, Iowa



TO SEMINARY — LeRoy Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Martin, Route 4, Mason City, will continue preparation for the Lutheran ministry at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., next fall. He was graduated this week with a B.A. degree from Northwestern College, Watertown, Wis.



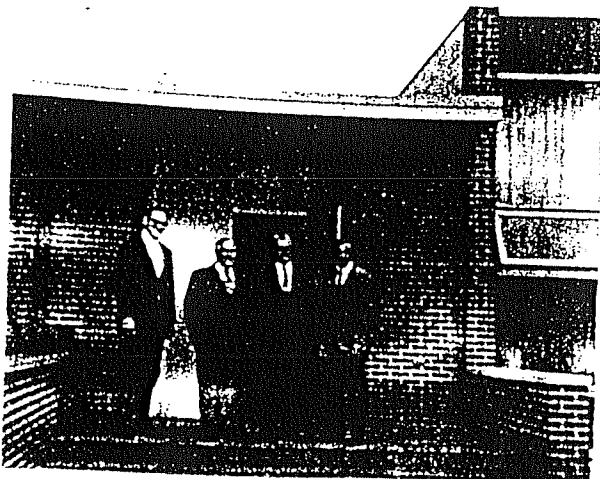
1965--Pastor W. H. H. Family



Pastor Gullixson-Central Heights  
Pastor Waldschmidt-Gethsemane

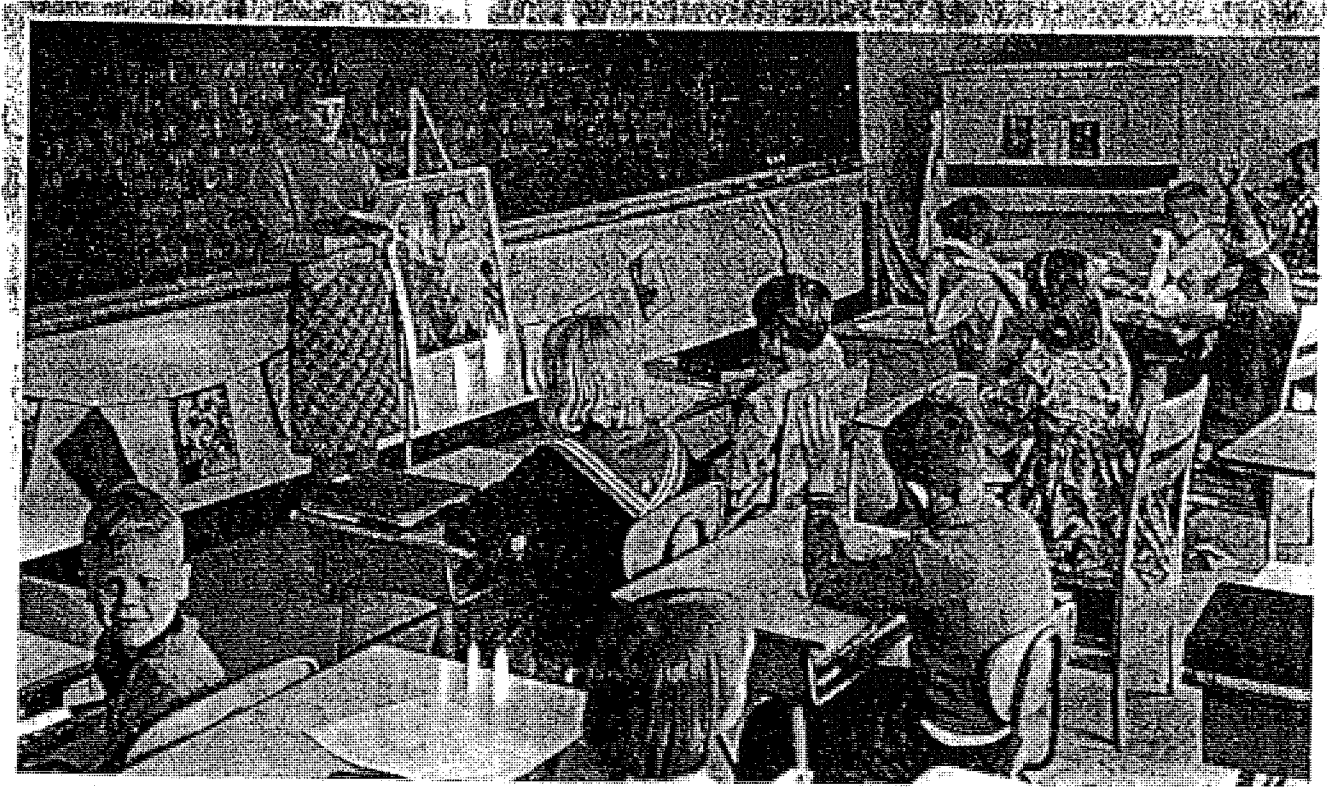


Aug-1971-Pastor Waldschmidt Family



Aug-1971-Left to right  
Pastor Henderson-vacancy pastor  
Pastor Gullixson-Central Heights  
Pastor Waldschmidt-new pastor Gethsemane  
Pastor Cross-CHARLES CITY

# support schools



## *Gethsemane Lutheran school classroom*

Religion is the first course of the day for these students at Gethsemane Lutheran Church

School. The teacher, Ann Breitzkreutz, leads a discussion on the Resurrection.

## Gethsemane to hear student

LeRoy Martin, a student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, will conduct the service Sunday

LeROY  
MARTIN



at 10:30 a.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Mason City. Mr. Martin has completed his second year at the seminary and will be preparing for the next year at Savannah, Ill., Moline, Ill. and Davenport.

April 24, 1972

Dear Gethsemane Members:

Your Church Council has called for a special meeting of the congregation for this coming Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. The women of the church are to be present. This meeting was unable to be held on either the 9th or 10th of April because the pastor was unable to secure assistance in Charles City and would have been absent, were the meeting to have been held at our Sunday morning service. His presence, for one reason or another, was requested in view of the importance of this meeting.

On Sunday, March 19th, Vicar Keith Kuechel conducted the Cross service which enabled the pastor to be present here for the first "open" meeting after our Sunday morning service. The meeting was occasioned by Miss Kathleen Barfknecht, our Teacher, having accepted the challenge of teaching grades 1-4 in Tempe, Arizona beginning this Fall and the question: What shall be done now at our Gethsemane School? Your pastor caused a second meeting to be held by suggesting that the membership of Gethsemane think of cutting the school back to grades one through four or one through five or one through six to determine whether this retreat will be helpful in causing confidence in the school and attract more pupils. The meeting this coming Sunday is for the purpose of weighing this suggestion, continuing with the eight grades or mulling another suggestion not yet made.

There are 12 pupils presently in grades one through eight. There will be one graduate this year. From the indications which we have presently, there will be ten pupils enrolled in the grades this Fall. The Executive Secretary of Synod schools assures us that a teacher would be assigned from this year's graduating class at Dr. Martin Luther College.

It has been no secret that both of us at the parsonage agree with those who have misgivings regarding one teacher adequately handling all eight grades. This has never been said to downgrade our present teacher. Both of us think that she has done adequately under the circumstances. Our own daughter is graduating from DMIC this Spring and, as much as we admire her and love her and respect her academic achievements, we do not feel that she could handle the eight grades adequately. Perhaps a teacher with much experience or a male teacher, also with much experience, would fill the bill. We feel that 8 grades for a graduating teacher is too big a task.

My suggestion that we retreat to perhaps grades 1-4 or 1-5 or even 1-6 has been suggested because the enrollment has been decreasing under the present setup, has not attracted new pupils or families and seems destined to cause the closing of the school sooner or later. My suggestion, however, has been interpreted as not promoting the school, as a neglect of duty and generally misinterpreted. I have tried to explain how, during my entire career in the ministry, I have favored and prayed for and worked for Christian education, both on the elementary as well as on the secondary level - even talking in favor of our Synod establishing a liberal arts college one day. In the Arizona-California District I served as Chairman of a Committee which proposed an academy for the district. The suggestion that we retreat to grades 1-4 or 1-5 or 1-6 was made in the spirit of extending the life of the school; not in the spirit of curtailing the school. Let everyone remember that we arrived at Gethsemane with the school as it presently exists. Indeed, the Lord who gave us twins moved to add those two to the school enrollment.

The Mission Board through its Chairman has written and urged that the school remain open, also adding that I am the key man in the situation. I have written to both the District President and the Mission Board requesting some concrete suggestions. We hope for a response before next Sunday.

It has been contended that either the reduction of the membership of Gethsemane

Lutheran or at least half of the membership of Gethsemane is either in favor of the school or supports the school directly or indirectly. Not because I want to be contentious but only because I want to be able to support the existence of the school before God and the members of the Synod who have financially supported this school for the most part, I have disputed the above contention. I insist that the majority of this congregation do not support this school, either directly or indirectly. I am not happy to make this observation or learn this perplexing fact now that we live here. I would gladly have it proven to me that this observation is very wrong. You can help.

You can be present Sunday evening at 7:00 P.M. Whether you are a man or woman, this is again to be an "open" meeting for the purpose of determining, as before stated, the future of Gethsemane School. Your presence with opinions, suggestions, questions, history, encouragement, discouragement - whatever it be - is urgently requested. If I might even plead that you be present, I gladly plead with you. Your continuing in membership with Gethsemane has been, whether recognized or not, a tacit endorsement of the school and indirect support of the school. Absence or presence at this special meeting could be interpreted in any way by one "side" or another. We do hope - I do hope - that you have enough interest in your church to attend.

I put it this way, that you have enough interest in your church to attend, because the school and the church are intimately associated and connected. The history of this church establishes and confirms this. Be assured, in these extremely critical days for Christian faith, no Christian church will long exist as a Christian church without adequate educational agencies. Christian children who are to grow up as Christians absolutely must receive Christian training. How this training will take place for the benefit of the children of Gethsemane must be a matter on the conscience of each parent and member.

Please note, I did not state categorically that no Christian church can continue to exist without an eight-grade Christian Day School. There are many congregations in our own Minnesota District which do not have schools - large congregations, too. How to best preserve our congregation of Gethsemane and how to establish or perpetuate whatever is necessary for the faith of our children is the basic question. You must help in answering this and other questions. Please be present.

Your pastor,

*R. Waldschmidt*

The critical question regarding our school must be resolved shortly because in order to have a teacher assigned to this church to teach in the church's school, the District President must have the "blank" assignment form filled out and in his hands by May 15th so that the Synod's Assignment Committee might do its responsible work properly.

I am mailing out this letter to all members at my own expense.

Bible Class next Sunday evening is cancelled.



Members of Gethsemane Lutheran: 5/18/'72

The meeting of the Gethsemane Church Council, pastor, District President, Mission Board Chairman and Visiting Elder has been held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Alma City, Minn. last Sunday, May 14th. Our church bulletin has, for the last two Sundays, carried the announcement that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss a peaceful dissolution of the call between congregation and pastor.

It was judged and determined, as a result of the meeting, that the differences between those who administrate Gethsemane Church and the pastor ( difference regarding the purpose, function and future of the congregation ) are irreconcilable.

After serious consultation, therefore, I have no option left but to submit my resignation, regretfully, from the office of pastor of Gethsemane Church, effective upon the installation of the new pastor of Cross Lutheran Church of Charles City.

I am doing so, not because I am convinced that I am the entire problem or even the major problem. This resignation is not a confession, lest I be misunderstood. The problems which exist here at Gethsemane will continue to exist and mount until the congregation by itself or with the assistance of the Mission Board takes a long, honest look at itself. This I believe. Introspection, I believe, is the first step in the direction of a God-pleasing cure. Also this is accomplished through the Word.

May God's mercy rest upon each of us in these very serious last days, to the end that God's kingdom truly come.

Cordially,

*A. Waldschmidt*

May I request: a. that a transfer of membership for my family and myself be delayed until our further residence be determined and b. that a public farewell of any form be discouraged and omitted, except for the teacher.

# New pastor at Gethsemane (1973)

Installation services will be at 10 a.m. Sunday for the Rev. Donald F. Hochmuth, newly appointed pastor of the Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 666-12th N.E. Pastor Hochmuth, 33, will replace the Rev. Samuel Kugler who has been interim pastor at Gethsemane for a year. Pastor Kugler will remain as pastor of the Cross Lutheran Church in Charles City, Iowa. Pastor Hochmuth was

The Rev. Donald F. Hochmuth Installation Sunday July 15, 1973



graduated May 30 from the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at Mequon, Wis., after four years of training. Included in his training was three years of residence and time as a vicar under an ordained pastor, and one year of study.

Pastor Kugler will be the officiant for the installation ceremonies Sunday. The Rev. Gary Kirchke of Cedar Rapids will deliver the sermon and the Rev. Carl Boley of St. Paul, Minn., is in charge of the installation.

Pastor Hochmuth, a native of St. Paul, is married and has four sons.



Donald F. Hochmuth, Jr.  
St. Paul, Minn.  
To: Gethsemane,  
Mason City, Iowa  
*as of June 15-73*

**GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Wis. Synod (WELS)  
666-12th Street N.E.  
Mason City, Iowa  
**OUR ONLY AIM:**  
To save sinners!  
**OUR ONLY MEANS:**  
The Gospel of Jesus Christ!  
Divine Services: 11 A.M.  
**VISITORS WELCOME**

*July 15 1973*  
Pastor C. F. Boller - Pastor D. F. Hochmuth  
at installation of  
Pastor Hochmuth



## PASTOR'S REPORT

### GETHSEMANE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

My Dear Friends in Christ;

The past year has been for you at Gethsemane a year of mixed emotions. The first six months were marked by a continuing pastoral vacancy. For these months you were faithfully and ably served by Pastor Samuel Kugler of our sister congregation, Cross Lutheran Church, of Charles City. Truly we ought to be grateful to God for having provided the services of Pastor Kugler when he was so needed here.

A call was extended by our congregation to the Synod's Assignment Committee. This call was extended to and accepted by Candidate Donald F. Hochmuth who was ordained and installed on July 15 of this year.

But the joy of receiving our own full time pastor was not the only emotion experienced in 1973. It was also a year of frustration, sadness, and some strife. It was this year which marked the closing of our Christian Day School. In the midst of our sorrow the question "why?" has been upon many lips. But in faith we go on, knowing that the Lord has not forsaken us, knowing that all things work together for good who truly love their Lord and trust in His gracious promises.

The closing of our Christian Day School has not meant the end of our program of Christian Education. We are still concerned that our lambs in our midst receive the "one thing needful."

Our Sunday School is staffed by four teachers and has an enrollment of 18 pupils. Our present staff consists of Superintendent Milton Martin and teachers; Mrs. E. Moritz, Mrs. D Hochmuth, Mrs. M. Floy, and Mrs. W. Dirksen. For their faithful and unselfish services we are truly grateful to our Lord.

We presently have one adult enrolled in our Adult Religious Information Class. Another class will begin next week, and there are prospects with whom the Pastor is working, for more in the not-too-distant future.

That our love for the Christian Day School has not been lost was demonstrated recently by our congregation. We saw a need and responded in unselfish Christian love to that need.

St. Mark Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, Wisconsin began a Christian Day School this year. They were in need of expensive wall maps but did not have the necessary funds to purchase them.

Since we were no longer using our maps, our Board of Education made a recommendation to the Church Council that we loan our maps to St. Mark's School. This was made into a motion by our Church Council and was passed unanimously. The maps were delivered to St. Mark's by Mr. E. Moritz, thus saving their congregation freight. Here is a letter received by your pastor in the name of Gethsemane, dated January 12, from the pastor of St. Mark's.

Dear Members of Gethsemane Congregation,

This letter is being written with something of mixed feelings. We of St. Mark Congregation know the great joy within a group of Christians that comes from opening a Christian Day School. You have experienced this joy in the past, and we have had the privilege with this current school term.

We pray for you, that the closing of Gethsemane School be only temporary; and that the Lord will lead you soon to the time when you will reopen your classroom for Christian training.

With this prayer comes our sincere thank-you for the loan of the maps of the world and the continents. Our thanks also to Mr. and Mrs. Moritz and family, who brought these maps to Eau Claire and visited with us. This loan represents a sizeable savings for us at this time. We truly appreciate it.

Remain true to the Word, and our God of grace and boundless mercy will bless you more than you dare imagine, even as He has promised.

Working with you and praying for you,

St. Mark Ev. Lutheran Congregation  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
(signed) Herbert H. Prahl, Pastor

This past year saw four of our young people renew their Baptismal vows through the rite of Confirmation. They were; LeAnn Wegner, Karla Moritz, Daniel Aswege, and Grant Buldhaupt.

This year finds five young people in Confirmation Classes. They are; Joel Dirksen, who, God willing, will take his Confirmation Vows this year. John Dirksen is in his second year of instruction. Kaylene Moritz, Kelly McKim, and Nancy Wegner are our first year students. We wish them all God's blessings upon their studies.

Our present communicant membership stands at 53, with 74 Baptized souls. Our membership losses, thankfully through transfers to sister congregations were heavy. Transferred out were Mr. and Mrs. D. Aswege and family, the Ken Scheffler family, the Ronald Besembres, and Dr. John Saur and Family, for a total loss of 19 Baptized souls.

With much joy Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schadt were welcomed into membership. Received into membership were Pastor D.F. Hochmuth and family.

Received into the family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was Ryan Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Hlavacek on September 2.

This past year we communed at our altar a total of 364, for an average of just under 7 times per communicant.

Looking ahead, only the Lord knows what the future holds for us and our congregation. One thing is very certain, and that is that we will have to be more aggressive in the future in reaching the unchurched than we have been in the past. For instance, looking at our last year's V.B.S., we only had one outside of our congregation enrolled. Considering the makeup of our neighborhood this is not good. There are many small children who we should reach with the Bread of Life in obedience to our Lord's command to "preach the Gospel."

Peace in our midst is a must. Our reputation in our neighborhood and actually throughout our city is anything but good. What is said about us in the community is much like the report Paul received of the condition of the church at Corinth (II Cor. 12:20) "For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not; lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

As long as we have such a reputation, we cannot hope to bring those who do not know Christ as their Savior into our midst. Such a reputation is a very real offence to the Gospel of Christ.

Let us work positively together to give a good <sup>unified</sup> witness to the Gospel in 1974 in all that we do.

Let us remember that "there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all." I Cor. 12:4-7

As we conduct ourselves as voters, councilmen, and the like, let us remember that we all confess the same Lord and have the same Spirit. Let us never confuse the Gospel with the method of presentation. If we ask in all that we do "what is best for the Kingdom of God", and not "what do I want", or "what have we done in the past", we shall have that peace which ought to be ours, and eventually, with the help of God, the community will know that too, and the proclamation of the Gospel will be helped because of it.

Indeed, dear Christian friends, let this be a year in which we live in the Spirit of the law and not according to the letter. For the letter kills but the Spirit gives life.

And the peace which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus.

*Pastor, Harold Hochmuth*

# Churches merging

08.28.78  
The congregations of Central Heights Lutheran Church and Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Mason City are merging.

Last Sunday marked the final service of Central Heights Church, which was located at 19th SW and Coolidge for many years.

Beginning this Sunday, the Central Heights congregation will worship with the Gethsemane Lutheran congregation at 658 12th NE. Worship is at 9 a.m., followed by Sunday school at 10.

The Rev. D.F. Hochmuth, who has served both congregations in the past, will continue to serve the merged group. The merged congregation will select a new name as its first order of business.

This Sunday's special Reformation Day service will follow the order of Luther's German Mass. The pastor will deliver one of Martin Luther's sermons for the special occasion.

The Central Heights congregation was affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Gethsemane has been a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The merged congregation will affiliate with the Wisconsin Synod, which has congregations in 47 states and many foreign countries.

Parsons, Inc. has been selected to handle the sale of the Coolidge Ave. property. The application with the final asking price was \$52,000.00. A bid was made in an offer of \$49,500.00 which was accepted by our Board. Happily, we received a check for the amount of \$49,500.00 which has been placed into a savings account. The difference between the amount offered and the check received goes to the lawyer's fees, abstract fee, revenue stamps and the realtor's fee. The Board compared the asking and actual prices of many other homes in the city and is satisfied that we received a very fair price for the property.

Merger

May, 1979

Your Pastor has been in touch with our lawyer and it looks as if things should be finalized within three weeks. We'll keep you posted.

# WISCONSIN Evangelical Lutheran SYNOD



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February 5, 1980

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Rev. D. F. Hochmuth, Pastor  
670 Twelfth St., NE  
Mason City, Iowa 50401

Dear Members of Prince of Peace:

Thank you very much for your check in the amount of \$46,303.79 representing payment in full of your Uniloan. This payment represents a blessing to your congregation and to your Synod. You surely thank God that He has permitted you to amortize your indebtedness well ahead of schedule. And you will surely rejoice with us that the \$46,303.79 may be placed into immediate use by still another mission congregation.

Although we are very grateful for the financial blessings from our Lord, we have even greater blessings for which we are thankful. I am referring to God's grace to us in Christ our Savior. May our Lord keep us all faithful to that Savior and give us an ever increasing zeal to share Him with others.

God bless each and every one of you!

In His Service,

*Pastor Elton H. Huebner*

Pastor Elton H. Huebner  
Executive Secretary - Board of Trustees

EHH/gb



## REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Peter M. Berg, Pastor  
13820 Old Jamestown Rd.  
Florissant, Mo 63033  
Member, Wisconsin Synod

Church: (314) 355-2882  
Parsonage: (314) 355-0928

April 24, 1980

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
670 Twelfth St., N.E.  
Mason City, Iowa 50401

Dear Friends:

It is with pleasure that we learn of your special day of celebration on May 4th. The merger of your two groups into Prince of Peace congregation is a God-pleasing venture. Although we cannot be with you on that special day we pray that the Lord of the Church richly bless your ministry!

We thank you for thinking of us and sharing your joy.

In Christ,

Peter M. Berg, pastor