A Holy Celebration of 150 Years

According to the Book of St. Paul

Chapter IV

And God said, "Let there be enhancements to the St. Paul church building to further the congregation's ability to worship the Lord."

January 7, 1900 – Electric lights were installed on the altar.

April 29, 1900 – Inauguration of the first bell at St. Paul. During the leadership of Rev. Richard Einsiedel (1894-1900), the first bell for St. Paul was purchased at the cost of $283.97 including freight. The weight of the bell was 1,450 pounds. A total of 90 individuals contributed toward the bell with 80 of those being between $1 and $5. (Exhibit 1)

July 1, 1900 – Telephone is installed in the parsonage.

July 9, 1900 – Rev. Einsiedel leaves for a four-month vacation to travel to Germany to visit his home and parents.

October 9, 1900 – During his absence, July to November, a friend originally from Germany, Rev. Giering, will fill in as Pastor. Once he arrives, he discovers 900 empty whiskey bottles in the house, bills that were not paid, and the bell was not paid for. Einsiedel also only bought a one-way ticket to Germany. It appears he has taken the money and run. Charges are filed and the search for a new minister begins.

November 19, 1900 – Rev. Einsiedel returns to St. Paul and appears to prove that charges against him are false. However, on July 8, 1901, a letter was received from Pastor Einsiedel asking for a list of people who contributed through the sale of his piano to cover the bill for the bell.

January 1901 – The Rev. J. Mittermier (1900-1903) becomes Pastor at St. Paul.

August 3, 1902 – The congregation votes to drop out of the Ohio synod. Rev. Mittermier protests and the Synod President comes to Beloit. The congregation was provoked and dismissed Rev. Mittermier as of Jan. 1, 1903. (Exhibit 2)

January 11, 1903 – St. Paul joins the Iowa synod. The Rev. Peter Pichler (1903-1918) is called. During his 15 years many improvements are made.

July 22, 1905 – Work begins on this day at St. Paul as the building will be raised and an entire new basement will be constructed under the building and the interior will be reconstructed. The basement will be used for a school room and furnace rooms. The estimated cost is $2,000.

September 3, 1905 – Dedication services of the extensive improvements to St. Paul church. Speakers were the Rev. Strassburger, president of the Wisconsin District of Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa; Rev. Augustin, vice-pres.; and Rev. Kleven. The service was in English. Improvements include adding pews, so the seating capacity is fully 300. Cement sidewalks around the church and in front of pastor's house were added. The church was repainted and has the appearance of a new building. (Exhibit 3 – Note the basement windows)

January 7, 1906 – Men and women stopped sitting on opposite sides of the church during worship with mixed seating.

March 14, 1909 – A new pipe organ was installed, replacing the old pump organ. The organ was paid for by the Ladies Aid and Young People's Society at a cost of $665. (Exhibit 4 – Compare to Original)

And God saw that the extensive improvements to the church were good.