A Holy Celebration of 150 Years

According to the Book of St. Paul

Chapter XI

And God said, "Let the St. Paul Lutheran congregation expand their programs and staff."

On September 19, 1965, the Rev. Thomas G. Christensen and his wife, the former Sharon Lee Purcell, daughter of the John Purcells, are commissioned to serve as missionaries of the ALC. They will spend a year in Paris, France, to concentrate on language study before serving in the Cameroon, Africa. In the 1970's St. Paul raised $6,000 to purchase a tractor to be used by the Christensens in Cameroon.

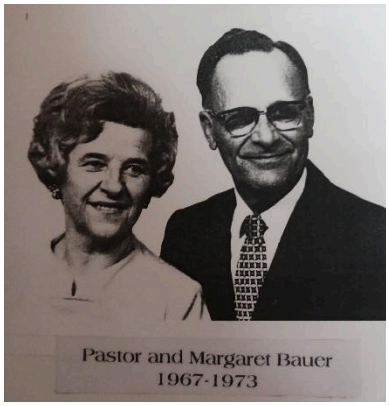

aries to Be Commissioned

Rev. and Mrs. Thomas G. Christensen


This Self-Helper tractor is similar to one which St. Paul Lutheran Church has purchased to send to its missionary, Thom Christensen, right, in the Cameroons in Africa. This tractor was en route to another mission. Christensen's daughter, Nyla, left, watched the demonstation at the mission. A Self-Helper tractor will be on display in St. Paul Church parking lot on Sunday.

Church Property: Two houses on lots adjacent to the church propeety on 8th St. were purchased in 1951 to 1954. One was used as rental property and the other used to house various Interns and also Rev. George Durkop when he returned to Beloit and became Pastor Emeritus on July 10, 1963. In 1963 a house at 716 Elm St. was purchased and in 1966, these houses were torn down and a parking lot was installed.

In June of 1967, Rev. Paul G. Bauer, Sr., began serving as Associate Pastor at St. Paul. His son, Paul G. Bauer, is currently serving as Treasurer on the St. Paul council. Pastor Bauer retires on May 27, 1973 after 39 years in the ministry. He and his wife Margaret will retire in Beloit. They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.


Pastor and Margaret Bauer
1967-1973

Later in 1973, St. Paul expands its staff with two new members. On August 19, 1973, St. Paul welcomes Rev. Raymond Reinholtzen as a part-time Assisting Pastor. He is also employed full time as audio visual librarian at Rockford Public Library.

On August 26, Larry Froemming begins as an Intern. He is a graduate of the Universary of Wisconsin at Whitewater. He has completed two years at Wartburg Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Rosann Kersten, who is a teacher at Aldrich school.

With this staff, St. Paul has many very active programs and groups. They are: Golden Agers (retired); Mar-co (married couples); Family Club; Women of the Church with 6 circles; Men of the Church; and four Dartball teams; Youth activities; and Sunday coffee hour. Service to the church include choirs, Sunday school staff, ushers, acolytes, altar servers, and kitchen servers. Mrs. Dorothy Rohr is secretary, Dorothy and Doris Mishler assistant secretaries, Herb Dinkel, Mrs. Henry Paugel and Mrs. Charles Heck, custodians, David Jensen, organist and choir director. Congregational president is Willard Rodermel, Board of Education chairman, Merlin Kenitzer, president of the Women of the Church, Mrs. Billie Kenitzer, and Sunday School superintendent, Don Ueland.

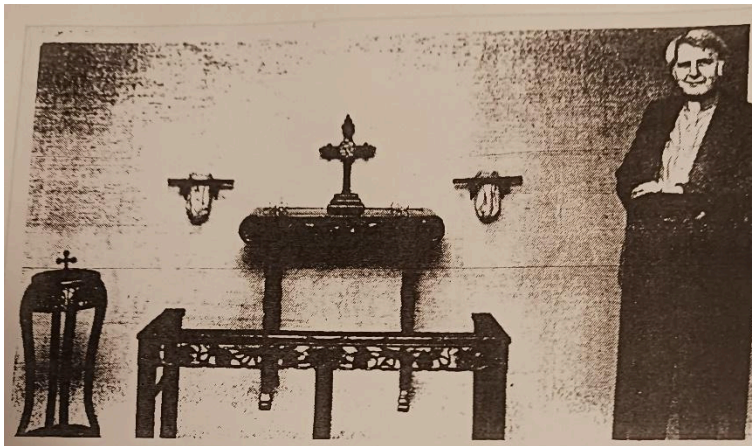

Church dartballers ignore c
Time out!

One of the exciting activities during this time was the Dartball teams in a Beloit church league. Men ranging from 5 to 9 on a team take their "at-bats" and toss darts at a large diagram of a baseball diamond. Areas are labeled "strike", "out", "single", etc. See Ron Josh signaling "Time Out".

The Penquins of St. Paul were the 1970-71 dartball champs of the city of Beloit. Team members were (left to right) Art Wienke, Art Engel, Jerry Murray, Ed Swatek, Don Kennedy, Bill Rau, and Bert Mills. The Penquins won the crown by four games over their nearest rival, PT 615 of St. Paul.

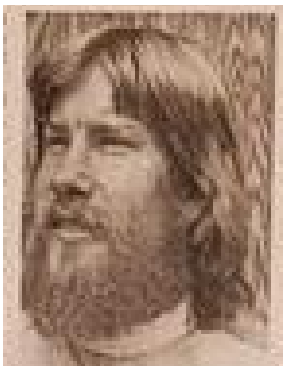


In 1969 3 rooms of the Parish Hall were converted into a "Michael Chapel". The chapel was dedicated on St. Michael's Day, in September, 1969, in memory of Michael Louis Wong, 6, son of Mr. & Mrs. Gim Wong. Altar furnishings used were from Hong Kong, giving an Oriental motif.



Michael Chapel has Oriental Motif

St. Paul welcomes another intern, Gordon Putnam, on September 1, 1974. He is a student at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. Putnam is originally from Sidney, Montana but raised in California. He is a 1971 graduate of Dana College, Blair, Nebraska, with a bachler degree in art.



Then he spent a year as director of a Half-Way house for drug abusers in Omaha, Nebraska before entering seminary.

St. Paul celebrates its 100 Year Centennial in 1974. A Festival is held on October 6 with Dr. A. P, Nassen, Bishop of the Southeran Wisconsin District delivering the message. An open house was held from 2-5 pm. A Vesper Memorial Service was held at 5:30. An art display was held of the works of Harry Nurmet of Oregon, Illinois. See the photo of Jane Svennevig, left, who arranged the show and church secretary, Dorothy Rohr who assisted, view the piece titled "The Gospel – The Word of the Cross".



Art in the church

St. Paul Lutheran Church is having another of its art displays, this one in connection with the anniversary celebration. The works are by Harry Nurmet of Oregon, Ill. This piece is titled "The Gospel – The Word of the Cross." Mrs. Jane Svennevig, left, arranged the show, and the church secretary, Dorothy Rohr, assisted her. (Daily News photo by Mark Hertzberg)

As part of the year-long centennial celebration, a bridal fashion show from the turn of the century to present day were modeled by daughters and grand-daughters of the original brides when possible. Every decade from 1905 was represented. Jan Knutson, secretary of education for the Women of the Church, was the general chairperson. Wedding Style Show participants follows.

And God saw that it was good.