

# A Holy Celebration of 150 Years

## According to the Book of St. Paul

### Chapter VII

And God said, “Let there be a new church building for the St. Paul Lutheran congregation to further the congregation’s ability to worship the Lord.”

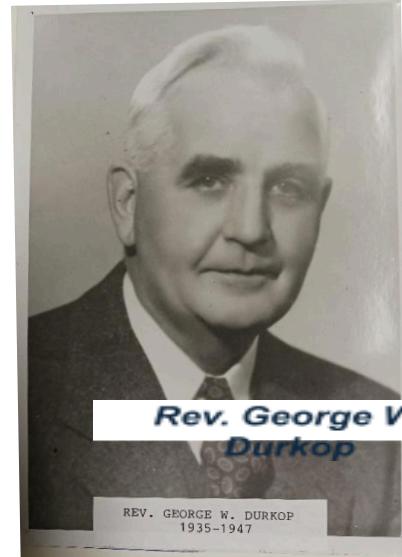
During the prosperous years of the 1920’s, during Rev. Musall’s leadership (1926-1935), plans were being made to construct a new church building. But after the stock market crash in 1929 and the Great Depression of the 1930’s, the project was put on hold.

On May 1, 1935, **Rev. George W. Durkop (1935-1947)** became pastor of St. Paul. He served for 12 years before accepting call to Elgin, North Dakota, preaching his farewell sermon on January 25, 1947.

In July, 1935, a Revised Constitution was adopted. The framed Constitution is on display in the hallway. (**Exhibit 1**)

In April of 1937, the Building Finance Committee was given the privilege of financing the church edifice. In October they voted to build an entire new edifice and to call an architect to formulate plans, not to exceed \$35,000. In December it was voted on unanimously.

Ground was broken for this building in **April, 1938**. The church cornerstone was laid on **June 26, 1938**. The Rev. Durkop presided over the ceremony of



**Rev. George W.  
Durkop**

REV. GEORGE W. DURKOP  
1935-1947



the church's new \$50,000 home with over 500 persons in attendance. Those participating were: Rev. H. J. Brede, Cederburg, guest preacher; Architect, H. C. Hauser of Milwaukee; Leo and Al Schoenrock, contractors of the New London Construction Co., New London; and Walter Plaches, Milwaukee, stone mason foreman. The Rev. Durkop stated, "I lay this cornerstone in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost", striking the stone three times with a polished mallet. The copper cornerstone box contained the Holy Bible, Articles of Lutheran Confession & Belief, a used hymnal, a catechism, membership roll, Sunday School roll, history of the church, along with many other items, was sealed, soldered tight and placed in the cornerstone.



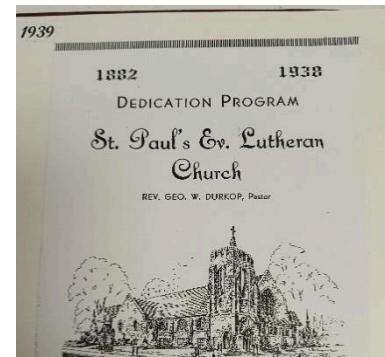
**Cornerstone** The building measures 102 feet long by 59 feet wide and is reinforced by steel beams and designed to be fireproof. The exterior is constructed of 210 tons of gray Lannon Limestone brought in 35 carloads. The 1,450 pound bell from the old frame church was saved and installed in the bell tower of the new building. During the interim of construction the congregation worshiped at the Lincoln Junior High School.



**Construction 1938**

## February 12, 1939 – St. Paul Dedication

The church was dedicated in 1939 with special services all week, February 12-17. The Sunday morning sermon was preached by the Rev. Jahr, Strawberry Point, Iowa and the evening sermon was preached by the Rev. Hoessels, president of the Wisconsin District of

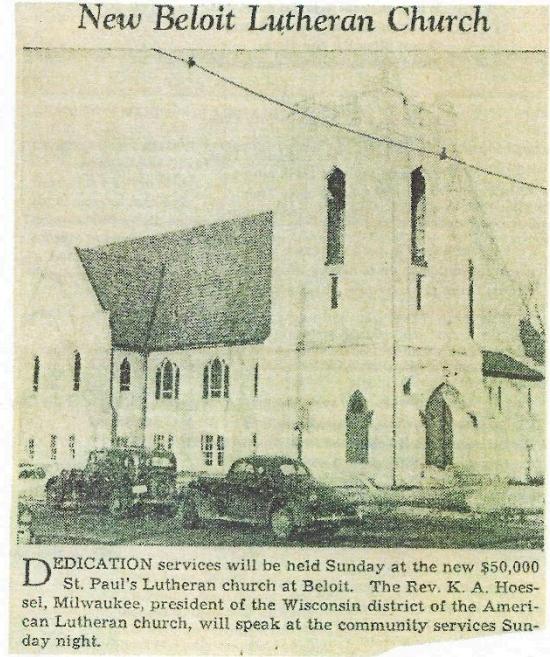


Lutheran Churches. His text from Psalms was "I will Dwell in the House of the Lord Forever". The City Manager, A. D. Telfer, brought greetings from city officials. See the actual February 10, 1939, Beloit Daily Newspaper display in the hallway. (Exhibit 2)

A service was held each evening the following week honoring Charter members, Ladies Aid and Mission Society members, Brotherhood members, Sunday School children and teachers, and a musical program dedicating the new organ and honoring choir members.

### The Story of the Stained Glass Windows

It is said that the windows of St. Paul were intended for another church which discovered they could not afford them at a time when the nation was still suffering from the Great Depression. The priestly vestments of the figures over the altar suggest that they were designed for a Roman Catholic Church. They were offered to St. Paul at a reduced price and were approved for installation by Pastor George Durkop. They were dedicated along with the church building in 1939. Window tour follows.



### The Windows of St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Windows around the nave trace the life of Christ.

1. The Bethlehem Window – As you look to the left you will see a window that has as its unique feature the five point star of Bethlehem and an abstract design of the manger and swaddling cloths of the Infant Christ.
2. The Israel Window – Next on the left is a window that features the six-point star of David, the symbol of Israel's faith. This reminds us that our Lord comes as the Messiah in fulfillment of the Old Testament witness, that we share the faith of Israel in the One God, and that "salvation is from the Jews."

3. The Baptism of Christ Window – On the next window is a design that combines a baptismal shell from which pours baptismal waters with the descending dove. We remember that Jesus was called to his public ministry as he was baptized by John in the Jordan and the Holy Spirit descended as a dove from heaven.
4. The Ministry of Jesus Window – Now we move to the right side of the church beginning with the window towards the front of the nave. On this window you will see loaves and fish. It reminds us of the miraculous feeding of the multitude. It also reminds us that Jesus' entire ministry of teaching and healing nourished many with words and deeds of compassion and power. Jesus' word and deeds are still our bread.
5. The Passion Window – The window just behind the last window carries the thorns and nails of Jesus' suffering. The Gospel accounts of Jesus' life lead to the cross, so do the windows of St. Paul as we are reminded of Jesus' suffering for us.
6. The Crucifixion Window – The next window has as its symbol the three crosses of calvary with the grave clothes of Jesus draped over the central cross. We are reminded that the ministry of our Lord led to his death on a cross and his burial in a tomb.
7. The Resurrection Window – The window on the right of the back of the nave has as its theme the empty tomb with the stone which had closed its entrance lying in front of the tomb's opening. Christ is risen and we have a living Lord.

## The Chancel Windows

1. The Transfiguration Window – The large window above the altar has the figures of Moses and Elijah on it. Moses carries the tablets of the law in his hands. Elijah points to the witness of the prophets in Holy Scripture. Both law and prophets point to and are fulfilled by the Christ whose cross is upon the altar and who is now in the word proclaimed and the sacraments celebrated in this place.
2. The Scripture Windows – The two small windows on either side of the altar point to the centrality of the Word which is “a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

## The Choir Loft Windows

These small windows portray the place of music in the life of God's people with the churchly organ, the biblical harp, and musical notes.

## The Baptistry Windows

A baptismal font and the dove and flame of the Holy Spirit are portrayed in these small windows.

## The Balcony Window

If you are in front of the church, turn around and look above the rear balcony. There you will see a large window which has a city symbolizing Jerusalem with its temple and Noah's Ark. These are symbols for the church, which like an ark gives shelter to God's people on the rough storms of life and moves towards the new Jerusalem, the heavenly city of God's people. You will need to go up into the balcony to see a cross and orb (or globe), and a sailing ship beneath the city and ark. The cross and orb symbolize the hidden rule of Christ over our world. The sailing ship carries the same theme as the ark. Many churches in Northern Europe have a model sailing ship hanging from the ceiling as a symbol for the church as it makes its way through the sea of life.

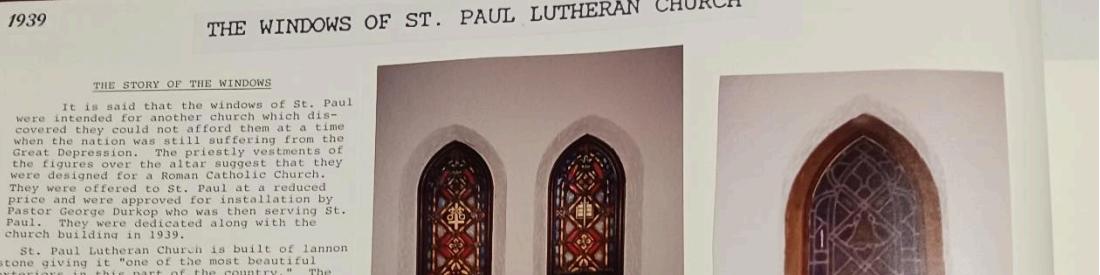
## The Narthex Windows

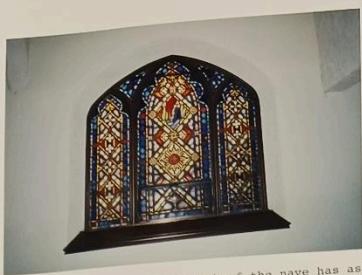
The small windows across the back of the narthex (church entrance) symbolize the New Testament witness of Christ. The four outer windows portray the winged creatures of the prophets and the Book of Revelation. In Christian tradition they symbolize the authors of the four gospels: the man, Matthew; the lion, Mark; the ox, Luke; the eagle, John. The central windows are for Peter and Paul: Peter, the keys of the kingdom and the up-side-down cross (in Christian tradition Peter was crucified with his head towards the ground); and Paul, the sword and the Latin inscription "Spiritus Gladius" which means "sword of the Spirit" (Paul's preaching began the conquest of the world for Christ).

## Other Windows

Scattered in various other places in church are smaller windows, most of which have floral designs. Flowers are ancient symbols for the resurrection of Christ.

*The next page shows a brief view of the various Stained Glass Windows.*





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