

# A Holy Celebration of 150 Years

## According to the Book of St. Paul

### Chapter III

And God said, "Let there be a building in which to worship for St. Paul Lutheran Church."

In 1879 the Rev. W. Buehring (1879-1886) became the first resident pastor. It was under his leadership that the first frame church, which was to stand at the corner of St. Lawrence Ave. and Eighth Street for nearly 60 years, was erected. The congregation originally met at various homes and then at the home of William Samp, stone quarry owner, at 412 Euclid Ave (now 554 Euclid Ave.). Later, the congregation rented Rogers Hall over a store on W. Bridge Street.

*In 1879 two lots were purchased at a cost of \$200 at the corner of Eighth and West E Street. Look at the Drawing of Beloit made in 1874, the year the church was organized. The spot where the edifice was to be erected 8 years later is indicated by the square to the left. (Exhibit 1-Map)*

On **January 8, 1881**, a Building Site committee was named consisting of F. Pohl, H. Scheibel, and A. Rodan. At a meeting on **February 5, 1882**, it was unanimously resolved to build the first church on 623 West E Street (now 617 St. Lawrence) at a cost of \$2,200. The building was 32 feet wide by 50 feet long by 18 feet high and had a niche in the back for an altar. The building dedication took place on **November 12, 1882**. The cement blocks for the foundation were hand-made by

William F. and August Guetschow and donated to the church. **(Exhibit 2 – First Church)**

Regarding the Altar and Pulpit, **(Exhibit 3)**, for the Pastor to enter the pulpit, he had to go outside, come through the back door to go up the steps to the pulpit. Not until the late 20's, was the pulpit lowered, steps removed, door closed, and wall plastered. The Pastor then ascended the pulpit directly from the altar.

On **March 4, 1883**, the congregation decided to start a Sunday School, with Henry Scheibel as Superintendent, A. Dietsch as Bible Teacher, and A. Reese as Treasurer.

St. Paul joined the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin on **January 20, 1878**. The St. Paul Constitution was adopted on **July 8, 1878**, at Rogers Hall and recorded on **September 14, 1878**. In May of 1883, the congregation decided to leave the Wisconsin Synod over the issue of predestination. In January 1885, they then joined the Ohio Synod.

At a meeting on **April 3, 1887**, C. Guetschow offered the congregation a house for the minister at \$6.00 a month rent. He state that he would put in a cellar, or the congregation could put it in and take the cost out of the rent. On **February 5, 1888**, it was decided to build a parsonage just east of the church. It was constructed during the summer of 1889 by Cunningham Brothers for \$1100. **(Exhibit 4)**. The note was retired in 1894.

On Sunday, **October 8, 1899**, St. Paul's German Lutheran Church celebrated its Silver Anniversary. The morning services were in German and conducted by the current pastor, Rev. A. W. Einsiedel, with the Rev. W. Buehring of Madison preaching the sermon. The evening service was in English with speakers Rev. F. W. Damrow of Burlington, Rev. E. O. Loe of Bethlehem Lutheran, and Prof. C. W. Pearson of Beloit College.

And God saw that the first 25 years were good.