

OUR ST. LUKE'S

A narrative poem for the church dedication, Aug. 4, 1957

This is our St. Luke's,

This is our building year.

This is our church built to the
Glory of God in the year 1957--

Sixty six years ago it was started--with only a throb of
vitality--by only a few faithful and persevering, diligent
and patient--with no building of their own.

St. Luke's grew--more members joined. The first baptism, in
the Methodist church which we used---Clara Hoppe Sonn,
faithful and generous through the years.

Nov. 2, 1891 was the date of the first regular church meeting--
fourteen members signed the constitution-- Theodore Wessel,
Christan Cords, William Steinhaus, Carl Dornberg, Fred Collien,
John Weidenhoeft, John Otto, Fred Senser, Johann Schmidt, Edward
Greul, Ferdinand Hoppe, George Herman, Fred Schmidt and Karl Kutz--
note these names of our founders--the first election took
place, Theodore Wessel the first president.

Two acres of land bought on Second Street at a cost of \$300---
a church built shortly after, 40x26x16--a wood burning stove--
kerosene lamps--hitching posts---
a modest beginning
it was St. Luke's
"Be ye also doers of the Word"

A regular minister was needed---a shepherd for the flock--Rev
John Schultz, young and zealous was called---he served Van Dyne
and Oakfield diligently and faithfully seventeen years--
was well loved.

He had the first confirmation class-- Otto, Louise, Helene, and
Robert Mueller, August 28, 1892---
He had the first Communion, with fourteen participating, Nov. 5
1892.

the first marriage, the first funeral.
His early years were difficult--he came from Van Dyne by train,
by bicycle, by hand car, by horse and buggy--
St. Luke's increased its membership
And became self supporting--
Rev. Schultz, outstanding minister, well loved.

Rev. Sauer was called and served for a year. The members determined to keep their church, their St. Luke's.

Rev. Kammholz was called and served five years-- a family man, a parsonage was needed-- a house was bought two blocks away-- diligence and patience kept St. Luke's growing-- the throb of vitality was stronger.

In September, 1911, a Ladies Aid was organized-- Mary's and Martha's of the church, an integral part.

Notice those names of cradlehands who guided the faith for us-- the charter members-- Mesdames F. Kammholz, Frank Schoepke, Helen Krueger, Marie Lange, Karl Kutz, John Sonn, Fred Colliem, Karl Kollman, Robert Zuehlke, Ferdinand Guelzow, Mary Grabow, Carl Wiese, Carl Schroeder, William Krueger, Gust Parduhn, J. Zimmerman, J. Reichert.
(Now Mrs Karl Kollman the one remaining Charter member.)

Roots of faithfulness for posterity.

Loyal workers to salute.

Loyal workers to cherish in our memories

of St. Luke's.

1913. A tower with belfry, school addition, a chancel and sacristy-- a bell, chandeliers, furnace, improvements for St. Luke's.

Rev. Kammholz released after a call to Trenton.

Rev. Pohley installed Nov. 15, 1916.

Time of war. The German language in controversy.

1923 the first class confirmed in English-- Rev Sitz installed July 1, 1923, released after a year to teach at Watertown.

Rev. John Dowidat installed Nov. 12, 1924-- Rev Dowidat, loved and beloved shepherd-- faithful and conscientious to St. Luke's for twenty six years--

Ladies Aid and Young People(s) Society.

Young and old, Golden Years.

Time of Sunday School organization, Sunday School an integral part of church-- increased membership.

1941, the Golden Jubilee year for St. Luke's-- 1945, the fiftieth anniversary of Rev. Dowidat in the ministry-- retirement well deserved, after culmination of service in the Lord's Vineyard.

1949. Rev Clarence Koepsell installed Nov. 21st, young and vital-- descendants of the early faithful increasing-- Lutheran religion expanding-- absorbing sermons-- new families from other places with us-- the choir an infinite treasure.

Memorial wreaths and building funds established with one goal in sight, as yet unchartered--

Our minister loved and revered.

Peak of membership and inadequate space--other churches visited and compared--the question openly reverberating--a new church?

Yes, voted officially by members, April 4, 1954.

A Building Committee, painstaking and loyal, willing and undaunted-- executive and finance committees--other committees, equally enthusiastic, all men of integrity and good judgment.

All members co-operative, with eager hands to do their part.

Architect engaged and plans made.

Ground breaking, April 15, 1956--
Corner Stone laying, Oct. 7, 1956--
Both Glory Days.

Over a year of building--months of expectation--hours of work-- pledges fulfilled--harmony and fellowship in perseverance for a common cause--mutual pride in accomplishments.

Appreciation unbounded to all those who gave of themselves to accomplish the task--everlasting gratitude to Rev Koepsell for his patience and tact in the stupendous work.

Today we have St. Luke's--beautiful and spacious, dignified and modern--

the church itself indescribably beautiful--

With windows and furnishings in harmony--

complete with fellowship hall and kitchen, choir loft and entrance halls--

the grounds ingeniously and marvelously landscaped, a perfect and established setting.

All work a labor of love.

1891, fourteen members, planning with foresight--
And ready hands carried on unflinchingly.

1957, 500 members, the throb of vitality grown to wholesome health--
1957, our glory year, our epitome--
Our building year, dedicated to the Glory of God, Aug. 4, 1957.

This is St. Luke's.

"How amiable are Thy Tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts"

And may our loved ones in His Keeping be with us in spirit today and always here at St. Luke's.