

Salem Church To Note 100th Year With Special Services This Week

Organized By First German Area Settlers

By MRS. CLARENCE NOTH
NORWALK, Wis. (Special)—Early history of the Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church, which is observing its 100th anniversary July 22, is closely woven with the beginning of the townships of Sheldon and Ridgville where the church had its beginning in the early 1830s.

In the Township of Sheldon the first settlers came up the Kickapoo River and then followed the valley of Moore's Creek north, working in the lumber areas and opening farms on land acquired from the U.S. government.

The Township of Ridgville, lying just north of Sheldon, was also settled by farming pioneers. Many of these came over the ridge from the Tomah area. Manuel Metzgar came direct from Germany settling on land just south of which is now the Village of Norwalk on the farm now owned by Harland Rusdell. This valley was known as Metzgar's Valley.

Many of these settlers were German people and spoke the German language. They had belonged to the Evangelical and Reformed churches there. Among this group who purchased land in 1835, was Jacob Menn. Coming here with the Menn family was their daughter, Mathilda and her husband, the Rev. Henry Esch.

The Rev. Mr. Esch had been a minister in the Illinois conference of the Evangelical Church. Because of falling health the Rev. Mr. Esch did not take an appointment but came to Wisconsin and purchased 280 acres of land across from the Menn farm.

As missionaries came through the valley, on foot or horseback, they found a sanctuary at the home of the Rev. Mr. Esch. Services were held at the Menn home and the Rev. Mr. Esch did some preaching.

Interest in the work grew rapidly and the first quarterly conference was held July 27, 1856 and it is the 100th anniversary of this meeting that the conference is observing Sunday.

George Escher was the presiding elder for the meeting and the Rev. C. A. Schnake and the Rev. Henry Esch were the pastors. Jacob Menn and Fred Magrath were the exhorters.

It was named the Kickapoo Mission of the Sauk Circuit and pastors of the circuit were sent to serve the new mission. The Rev. Mr. Esch was not an active minister but participated in all quarterly meetings until 1863 when he accepted a new charge. He gave much encouragement to the early pastors working in the area.

In 1861 land was donated and in 1862 a log church and parsonage were built. The early pastors covered a wide area as they held services in homes at Oil City, Ridgville, Rockton, La Farge, Brush Creek and Brecken Ridge near La Crosse in Vernon County. A cemetery was started near the church, known as Wanderer's Rest.

In 1875 Jacob Menn donated 1 1/4 acres of land to be used for a church and a pastor's home and stipulated that the land was to be surrounded by a board fence. The present, cream-colored, brick Salem church was built on the land. Each member worked to make a beautiful home of worship.

The Rev. C. Mueller was the first pastor. The bell was drawn to its place in the steeple by a horse. Its tones have announced each worship service, wedding or the departure from this life of a church member. The log church was razed and was used to build the G. Stecher home.

The Village of Norwalk was newly organized in 1878 and in that year a church was organized in a wagon shop in the village, which had been purchased for the purpose. It was given the name Immanuel. Work in the village grew and new space had to be added. In 1890 the new United Brethren Church of brick veneer with a large auditorium, Sunday school rooms, choir loft, electric organ and sound system was dedicated by Bishop L. H. Seager of Le Mars, Iowa. The present membership of the Immanuel Church is 185.

The two churches working together was given the name of the Norwalk Circuit. Quarterly meetings and Communion services were held jointly alternating between the two churches. The Rev. James M. Le Count serves both parishes.

In 1907 at the time the Rev. J. A. Stewart was pastor, a new parsonage was built in Norwalk. The old parsonage has been sold and is now the home of the Edwin Hoffman family.

Improvements have been made



Hills And Trees provide a beautiful natural setting for the Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church which will observe its 100th birthday beginning Friday, July 20.



The Remodeled Interior of the Salem Evangelical Church will greet visitors at the church's 100th anniversary observance to begin Friday. The painting above the organ and choir area was done by T. Dodd of Prairie du Chien.

In the Salem church building. In 1915 the Rev. C. Maves was the pastor and a new pulpit and new pews were installed. New stained glass windows of colored glass, each with blue circle at the top denoting a church symbol, the harp, commandments, open Bible, an anchor, the Communion cup, a crown, jeweled cross and crown and the IHS. In 1925 electric lights were installed to replace kerosene lamps.

In 1943 Nuwood was applied to the walls and a beautiful picture of Christ in Gethsemane was painted by T. Dodd of Prairie du Chien for the sanctuary.

Organizations have played a big part in the advancement of the church. The Sunday school, Fellowship and the Men of the Church are affiliated with the Norwalk organizations.

The Mission Society was organized in 1926 when the Rev. H. A. Block was the pastor. In 1948 the ladies joined the Immanuel Society in Norwalk. The Young Fellowship and the Men of the Church are affiliated with the Norwalk organizations.

The Norwalk Circuit held three annual conferences in 1938, 1918 and 1936. As conference of the Evangelical and United Brethren Church joined Nov. 16, 1946, the congregation is now a part of the enlarged Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Pastors who have served the Salem United Brethren Church are: Rev. H. Esch, 1835-41; C. A. Schnake and Peter Held, 1856-57; C. Pfeil, L. Seder and O. Ragatz, 1858-59; P. Mauseger, 1859-61; Andrew Tarnitzer, 1861-62; C. J. Schatz, 1862-63; F. W. Kaufman, 1863-64; G. Con Eschen, 1864-66; C. F. Zimmermann, 1866-67; G. Strobel, 1867-68; T. Umbreit, 1868-70; S. Kortemeyer, 1870-71.

F. Asuma, 1871-74; C. Mueller, 1874-77; J. Koch, 1877-79; F. T. Elbert, 1879-82; H. Best, 1882-85; L. Baehler, 1885-87; W. Kolander, 1887-90; W. A. Detert, 1890-91; P. A. Mundt, 1891-94; E. W. Gassman, 1894-97; H. Best, 1897-1901; G. H. Schaeble, 1901-04; J. J. Stummig, 1904-06; J. A. Stewart, 1906-11; C. E. Maves, 1911-16; O. A. Hillman, 1927-34; F. A. Trautman, 1934-35; W. H. Mehn, 1935-50; C. E. Olsen, 1945-50; S. A. Gutknecht, 1950-54 and James N. Le Count, 1954.

The Rev. Le Count serves the Salem and the Immanuel Evangelical United Brethren Churches.

Bishop To Give Major Addresses

NORWALK, Wis. (Special)—The Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church, located in Moore's Creek Valley, two miles southeast of Norwalk will observe its golden jubilee Sunday, July 22.

The opening service will be held Friday, July 20 at 8 p.m. when the Rev. Franklin E. Schuster of Appleton, former district superintendent will be the guest speaker.

Former pastors who will participate in the service are the Revs. C. E. Maves, H. A. Block and C. E. Olsen.

Bishop Harold R. Heinsinger of Minneapolis will be the guest speaker at the three dedicational services Sunday, July 22 at 10 a.m. and 2 and 8 p.m. He has chosen for his subjects, "The Frontiers of Faith Today," "A Good Name" and "The True Happiness Christ Brings."

Others appearing on the program will be the Rev. Melvin A. Simonsen of Eau Claire, conference superintendent, and former pastor, The Rev. James M. Le Count is the pastor of the Salem congregation.

Officers of the congregation include Clarence Noth, Fred Vierregge and Glen Hubbard, trustees; Glen Hubbard and John Wals, class leaders; Harvey Pfuhl, circuit trustee; Harvey Pfuhl, budget treasurer; Mae Falke, Edwin Hoffman, Edwin Hubbard, Erwin Vieth, Mrs. Melvin Vieth and Fred Vierregge, stewards; Mrs. Edwin Hoffman, pianist and Norbert Vierregge and Rupert Pfuhl, ushers.

Erwin Vieth is the Sunday school superintendent with John Wals as his assistant. Norbert Vierregge is secretary and Dale Noth, treasurer.

The Rev. J. M. LeCount heads the steering committee for the centennial arrangements. Serving with him are Mrs. Edwin Hoffman, Glen Hubbard and Erwin Vieth.

Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. Clarence Noth are arranging the program and music and general arrangements are in charge of Glen Hubbard, Edwin Hoffman, Robert Hoffman, John Wals, Melvin Vieth, Fred Vierregge and Edwin Hubbard.

A potluck dinner will be served at noon and in charge of refreshments are Mrs. Harvey Pfuhl, Erwin Vieth, and Norbert Vierregge. Joyce Hoffman will have charge of decorations and the publicity, invitations, centennial booklet and history were arranged by Mae Falke and Mrs. Clarence Noth.

Tomah School Votes Budget Of \$759,907

TOMAH, Wis. (Special)—Election of the Tomah school district sanctioned a \$759,907 school budget for 1956-57 at its budget hearing Tuesday. The amount of the budget to be raised by taxation in the district is \$190,263 and will provide the same mill rate as last year.

The City of Tomah will pay 69 per cent of the total tax, slightly over \$131,000, and the remainder will be raised in the rural section integrated with the Tomah district.

Supt. of Schools John Bjerge appeared at the meeting and a vote of appreciation was extended to the retiring superintendent E. J. McKean, who served the district for many years.

Dr. F. W. Weatherford was elected as the new president succeeding Lester Gordon, who was defeated by a vote of 4 to 3. Gordon was elected secretary, defeating the incumbent, Mrs. Maude K. Tomn also by a 4 to 3 vote. Other officers are Arden Hoels, vice president and William Fiesting, treasurer, both re-elected.

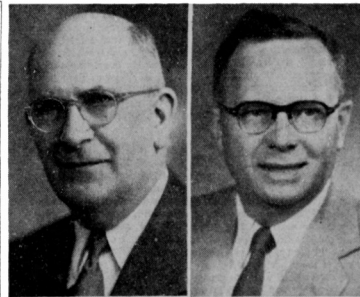
New Signs Top To 'Tobacco Capital'

VIROQUA, Wis. (Special)—The City of Viroqua is highlighted on the outskirts by two 14-foot signs on U.S. Highway 14.

The Chamber of Commerce sign reads in bold letters, "Viroqua, Wisconsin's Tobacco Capital." In smaller lettering are the words, "No mosquitoes," "noemic drives," and "enjoy our pool and parks."

Lutheran DOR To Meet Monday

SPARTA, Wis. (Special)—The Lutheran Daughters of the Restoration will meet at the home of Miss Hazel Gilbertson, 515 Walnut St., Monday at 7:30 p.m. Miss Helen Davis is the assisting business.



BISHOP W. R. HEININGER THE REV. JAMES Le COUNT

Four Seeking Crawford Coroner Post

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, Wis. (Special)—Most hotly contested Crawford County office race is that of coroner, with three men in the running, and the county clerk has competition for her office.

Seeking the office of coroner at closing time for filing papers were: Alfred W. Winters, Democrat; and Robert W. Armstrong, and Dr. J. H. Kettner, Republicans. Incumbent William J. Rieder did not seek re-election.

Candidates for county clerk are Republicans Ruth M. Daugherty, incumbent, and Claren L. Dunbar. Speculation ran high during the post-filing months as to the various candidates who would seek the office of sheriff. However, Democrat Bruce Hutchins, incumbent, was the only one who met the filing deadline.

Other uncontested positions are those of: Treasurer Anton E. Lasska, incumbent; register of deeds, Lyle T. Johnson, incumbent; circuit court clerk, Paul L. Paulson, incumbent; and district attorney, Elmer D. Queram, incumbent.

Start European Bicycle Journey

SPARTA, Wis. (Special)—David, a student at the University of Wisconsin, will make a bicycle tour through England, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy with other college students.

David crossed Lake Michigan from Milwaukee landing at Ludington, and then proceeded to Montreal, Canada for the ocean crossing, landing at Southampton, England.

Sheriff's Office Hires Radio Man

BLACK RIVER FALLS, Wis. (Special)—Ted Johnson has been hired as radio operator at the Sheriff's office. The other operator there is Don McCormick. While Don was at Fort Knox with the National Guard Earl Puls substituted for him.

Jackson County now—and at last—has 24 hour radio service each day. Following that assignment Puls substituted for County Traffic Officer Guy Hobart who took a two weeks' vacation. Now Puls is vacationing at his resort at Siren.

Returns To Camp

NEW ALBIN, Iowa (Special)—Pfc. Curtis Wild returned to Ft. Dix, N.J., after spending a 30-day furlough with his parents, the Kenneth Wilds here.

Whitehall KC To Meet

WHITEHALL, Wis. (Special)—The Knights of Columbus will meet Monday at 8 p.m. at St. John's Catholic Church.