

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Lavelle, Pennsylvania
The Rev. Lars B. Staaby, Pastor

Sixtieth Anniversary

1904 - 1964

Anniversary Services

Sunday, October 18, 9:15 A. M. The Service with the dedication of The Service Book and Hymnal, and Memorial Gifts.

Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 P. M. *Community Night.*
Sermon: The Rev. Richard K. Guistwite, Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church, Frackville, Pa.
Participating: The Rev. Vernon W. Jones, The Church of the Nazarene, Lavelle, Pa.

Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 P. M. *Anniversary Night*
Sermon: The Rev. Charles E. Rudy, Retired. Pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church 1926-1951. Refreshments after the service by St. Peter's Lutheran Church Women.

Thursday, October 22, 7:30 P. M. *Musical Night*
Sermonette: The Rev. Burlington B. Latshaw, Jr., Dean Trinity Lutheran Church, Valley View, Pa.
Choir participating, Solos, and Piano Duets.

Sunday, October 25, 9:15 A. M. *Reformation Service*

Special music will be rendered by the choir in each of these services.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

"The Lord hath done great things for us Whereof we are glad." . . . Psalm 126:3

An anniversary celebration is always filled with a sense of pride and joy. It is a time when our hearts overflow with the spirit of gladness. This is our attitude here in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lavelle, as we have anticipated the week of October 18, 1964. We have looked forward to the Service of Dedication of the new Service Book and Hymnal and have planned special evening services throughout the anniversary week with guest pastors to fill our pulpit and enrich us with their message. Pictures have been taken and a brochure has been printed. Years from now, browsing through the brochure and looking at the pictures, we shall be able to re-live the years gone by with all the accomplishments.



The Rev. Lars B. Staaby 1961 -

This is actually what is involved in celebrating an anniversary. It is looking forward to events and looking back upon achievements. It is a period of time when we realize what great things God is doing for us, and our eyes are open to the fact that God has always done great things for us — whereof we are glad. How true the words of Christ are: "Without me, ye can do nothing." We are dependent upon God for all things in life, and gratitude to God becomes then the keynote in our anniversary celebration.

In 1902, when The Rev. Paul E. Bergeman came and took charge of the old Zion's Lutheran Church, Ashland, he supplied a group of people in the Lavelle-Huntersville-Mowry area, whom he described as "a homeless, unorganized flock of Lutherans". In 1904 this flock of Lutherans was no more homeless and unorganized, for on February of that year St. Peter's Lutheran congregation of Huntersville was organized. On April 11, a committee consisting of Andrew J. Wetzel, Ferdinand Klager, Fred Heyer, Fred Luth, Charles Schuertfeger and William Runge, Secretary, signed an agreement with J. C. Reiner of Mt. Carmel for the building of a church. Writes Pastor Bergeman: "October 2, 1904, the complete edifice was dedicated to the service of Almighty God."

Though there are no accurate records for the first three

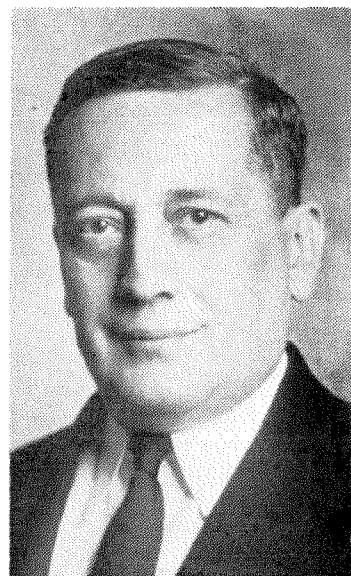
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

years, as to the number of members at the time of the organization, we do find that at the two Communion services, in May and October, 1907, a total number of sixty individuals participated. During that period nineteen persons were buried, eleven marriages performed and fifty-five children were baptized. St. Peter's congregation was already in its infancy a growing church. However, the year 1907 is a significant one, for in October, 1907, "the last cent of indebtedness had been paid." Pastor Bergeman ended his ministry in St. Peter's February 15, 1908.

The only annual summary, though undated, seems to be the year 1906 with the following entries:

19 Infant Baptisms, 9 Confirmations, 4 Deaths, 2 Removals, 4 Excommunications, 12 S.S. Teachers, 135 S.S. Scholars, and 18 Catechumens.

Benevolent Contributions — \$3
 Synodical Treasury, \$4 Home Missions,
 \$5 Foreign Missions, \$9 Orphans Home, \$1 General Synod, \$593
 Local Objects, and \$615 Total.



Rev. Charles E. Rudy
 1926 - 1951

At this sixtieth anniversary we have the honor of the presence of The Rev. Charles E. Rudy, who accepted the call to serve the old St. James Lutheran congregation in Ashland on September 15, 1926. With this call he assumed the pastorate of St. Peter's Church as well. Pastor Rudy served faithfully for twenty-five years, resigning March 30, 1951. This is the third anniversary he celebrates with St. Peter's congregation. He was the pastor at the Silver Anniversary in September, 1929, and was present at the Golden Anniversary in October, 1954. Though the congregation was organized and the church built during the pastorate of Pastor Bergemen, Pastor Charles E. Rudy nevertheless has the distinction of installing and dedicating almost every piece of furniture, liturgical symbols, paraments, altar brassware and other memorial gifts which adorn the church at present. Throughout his years of ministry he saw the 1904 church interior change to what it is today. He has a special place in the hearts of this congregation. He is known by them — but he also knows them and writes: "I think St. Peter's is the sweetest church I ever served". Pastor Rudy will preach on the evening of Wednesday, October 21, 10 days before his 83rd birthday. At present he lives with his wife at 631 North Fifth Street, Reading, Pa. 19601.

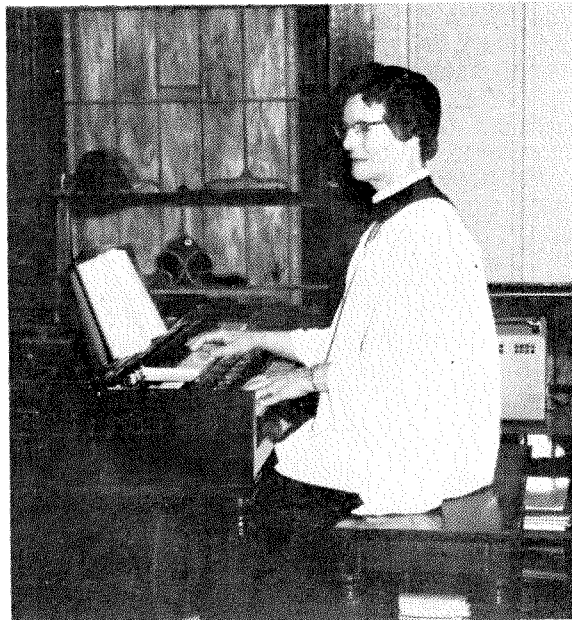
Throughout the 1950's St. Peter's Lutheran congregation was served by The Rev. Howard W. Boch, August, 1951, to October, 1953; The Rev. Bernard F. Engelhardt, June, 1954 to 1957. The present pastor, The Rev. Lars B. Staaby, served his first pastorate

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THE CHURCH CHOIR



First Row, left to right: Mrs. James Reiner, Miss Nancy Wolfgang, Mrs. Evert Welker. Second Row: Mrs. Robert Boehmer, Miss Darlene Mattern, Mrs. Esther Klauger. Third Row: Mrs. Alma Walter, Organist; Lars B. Staaby, Pastor and Mr. Forrest L. Shadle. Not present: Mr. James Hepler.



THE ORGANIST

Mrs. Alma Walter served as Church Organist for over 45 years.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL



First Row, left to right: Mrs. Leon Reichwein, Mr. Paul Wolfgang, Mrs. Alma Walter, Secretary. Second Row: Mr. Forrest Shadle, President; Mr. Clair Wolfgang, Mr. Ralph Wolfgang, Mr. William Dillman. Not present: Mr. Jere Snyder, in military service; Mr. Robert Boehmer, Treasurer; Mr. Ralph Wetzel, Mr. William Mattern, Mr. Virgil Smith.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



Left to Right: Alma Walter, Lorene Reiner, Jean Reiner, Helen Staaby, Teresa Fegley, Marie Reichwein, Constance Welker, Secretary; Rita Kesh, Opal Newton, Vice President; Shirley Boehmer. Not present: Dolores Smith, President; Jean Klase, Treasurer; Eva Fegley, Patricia Hepler, Larae Klinger, Donna Kramer, Ida Leib, Jane Pennypacker, Martha Reismiller, Opal Schwamlein, Fay Snyder, Ruby Snyder, Marie Fegley, Margaret Leib, Geraldine Seiler.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS and OFFICERS



First Row, left to right: James Reiner, Superintendent, Jean Reiner, Geraldine Dillman, Alma Walter, James Hepler. Second Row: Forrest Shadle, Vinona Knock, Helen Staaby, Esther Klauger, Charles Reiner, Glenn Pennypacker. Absent: Calvin Cook, Treasurer; Jane Pennypacker, Rita Kesh, Jean Klase, and Rhea Troutman.

LUTHER LEAGUE



First Row, left to right: Glenn Pennypacker, Jr., Dale Bolich, Kay Kimmel, Cindy Marquardt, Donna Reiner, David Pennypacker, Marshall Smith. Second Row: William Dillman, Jr., Suzanne Dillman, Joy Pennypacker, Karen Magdeburg, Kathy Welker, Doris Reiner, Mrs. Evert Welker, Advisor. Third Row: Lewis Pennypacker, Lars Staaby, Jr., Charles Bendinsky, Virgil Smith, Jr., and Terry Leib.

HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

The following is the original contract for the erection of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lavelle, Pa.

"First Part. Huntersville, Pa., Apr. 11, 1904

We the undersigned Committee agreed to erect a church as per sketch. The intearer to be finished in Y. P. We to furnish all material. and to give the work out by Contract, to erect the church as per sketch, to be completed in and out, in a neat and good workmanship manner. Dimensions of Church 30x45x16 ft. high. Rocf 12" pitch covered with shingles. Box cornice, ceiling joists to be supported to the rafters. Sheeting to be put on Diagnel papered and sided with 6" lap siding. Shutters and weights put on windows and Glass puttyed in.

Inside

Flooring to be laid neat and level. Platforms to be finished as per sketch. Sccting 4'0" high. Scoting and Casing to be smoothed and dressed before put on. All proposels subject to except or reject.

Andrew J. Wetzel, Ferdinand Klager, Fred Heyer,
Fred Luth, Chas. Scheurtfeger, William Runge, Secretary

Second Part.

I J. C. Reiner agree to erect and complete the Lutheran Church at Huntersville as prescribed in the first part, for the Approximate price of Three Hundred Fifty five. Work to begin as soon as the wall is finished. Work to continue right on till completed. Committee to furnish all material."

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Continued from Page Three)

here from June, 1958, to August, 1959. While serving in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lansdowne, Pa., he accepted a call from the Twin Valley Lutheran Parish in June, 1961. St. Peter's Church had by that time been realigned with this Parish. Pastor Staaby dedicated the first Lutheran parsonage in Lavelle for the Twin Valley Lutheran Parish on November 5, 1961.

Looking back upon the years gone by, it is certainly appropriate to recall the words of the psalmist: "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Yet, looking toward the future, St. Peter's cngregation must take to heart the words of Christ: "Without me ye can do nothing."

At this anniversary celebration we lift our hearts to God in gratitude and praise, with pride and joy. While we look backward with thanksgiving, we also look forward with a sense of God-given mission. We look forward with a sense of duty toward Him who has called us into service. We look fcrward with the spirit of anticipation — that God who has led us in the past will continue to lead us.

May God bless us and strengthen us by His mighty power.
Lavelle, Pa., October 7, 1964, Lars Birger Staaby, Pastor.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL GIFTS

One hundred copies of The Service Book and Hymnal, a gift by members of St. Peter's congregation.

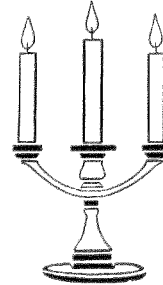
The Altar Book, dedicated in memory of Mrs. Charles Wagner by the Charles Wagner Family.

The Organist's Edition of The Service Book and Hymnal, dedicated in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Fetterolf by Mrs. Alma Walter.

The Receiving Basin, dedicated in memory of Mrs. Effie Krah by the Raymond Krah Family.

The Host Box, a gift by the Lutheran Church Women.

The refinishing of the altar brassware, a gift by the Sunshine Sunday School Class.



The Sixtieth Anniversary Brochure

sponsored by

St. Peter's Luther Leagues

In Memory of

Helen Ida Hunter

1896-1964

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

I Thessalonians 4:14