

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Richwood, Dodge County, Wisconsin

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Translated and compiled

by

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A Brief History of St. Mark's Congregation

Although our congregation was organized in 1906, we must really go back further than that to get a full picture of the background of our congregation.

The early settlers to this area were mostly of Irish and German heritage. Although education of the children in general seems to have been a concern of the people from the beginning, it seems that there was an equal concern that the children receive an education in the language of their ancestral origin. In the case of the forefathers of our congregation that origin was German.

The first German school came into being through the efforts of Mr. Fredrick Uehling some time after 1849 (1849 was the year that Mr. Uehling immigrated to the United States from Germany and settled in this area). The first teacher was Pastor Engelhardt from Watertown who taught in the Uehling home. After Pastor Engelhardt took another charge, a teacher named Bush was hired to carry on with the education of the children. At this time the school was moved to its first official school building, a log building, in the village of Richwood on what is now First Street.

Although there was concern that the children receive a basic education, there was an overriding concern that the children also receive sound religious instruction. There seems to have been a problem in this area; either the religious instruction was completely neglected or it was not of a nature that was satisfactory to the Lutheran families of the community. For that reason the Lutheran families decided to build their own school and hire their own teacher. Before this time the school was basically a public school in that it was open to all children, although it seems that there was a predominance of Lutherans. The school building that was built by those Lutheran families is the same that served as the fellowship hall. The school building was moved to Hwy. Q in Richwood and is now a private residence. Although an exact date for this building is uncertain, it is approximately 138 years old. This would place the date of the building at about 1868.

Once the school building was built, it also served as the place of worship for the Lutheran families of the area. Since there was no organized congregation at that time, the duties of preaching and caring for the pastoral needs of the people were shared by a man from the Missouri Synod and a man from the Wisconsin Synod who visited one Sunday each month on alternating months.

We see that almost fifty years before there was a formally organized congregation in this area, the Lutheran families were blessed by being able to hear the Gospel and receive the Sacraments with some regularity.

It was in 1906 that the Lutherans decided to organize a congregation in this area. Although, as has been said, services had been conducted in the schoolhouse for some time. If the people wished to hold membership in a congregation, it had to be with one of the Lutheran churches in Watertown. On April 11, 1906, with the assistance of Pastor Klingman of St. Mark's in Watertown, Louis Streblov, William Kube and Henry Hoefs formed the organization of the congregation under the name "Deutsche Evangelische Luthernische St. Marcus Gemeinde". Charter members of the congregation were: Carl Kube Sr., Carl Kube Jr., Emil Kube, Carl Ebert, Henry Hoefs, Louis Volkert, Carl Hoppe, Henry Hoppe, Louis Streblov, Christian Buedler, Casper Eichel, William Lenius, Fred Wuestenberg, William Kube Sr., William Kube Jr. and Gustav May. Dr. Arthur Hoeman, a professor at Northwestern College, was installed as interim pastor until a regular pastor could be called and arrive to serve the congregation.

Baptisms

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Baptisms Richwood, Dodge Co., Wisconsin

DEERING

Walther Heinrich Ludwig Deering
Parents: Karl Deering and Ernestina Heller
Born: April 18, 1906 in Town of Shields, Dodge Co., Wisconsin
Baptised: July 22, 1906
Sponsors: Heinrich Kuhn, Hertha Wuestenberg, Ludwig Ihde
Baptised by G. Speerbrecher

EGGERT

Frieda Augusta Eggert
Parents: Karl Eggert Jr. and Augusta Kelm
Born: April 17, 1906 in Town of Shields, Dodge Co., Wisconsin
Baptised: October 21, 1906
Sponsors: Fritz Ihde, Rinka Ihde, Augusta Kufka
Baptised by G. Speerbrecher

HOPPE

Clara Josephine Hoppe
Parents: Heinrich Hoppe and Emma Godfrey
Born: December 29, 1906 in Town of Shields, Dodge Co., Wisconsin
Baptised: January 13, 1907
Sponsors: Heinrich Kurshner, Louisa Nickels, Karolina Kufal
Baptised by G. Speerbrecher

MAY

Herbert Oskar Gustave May
Parents: Otto May and Paulina Wahl
Born: February 8, 1907 in Town of Shields, Dodge Co., Wisconsin
Baptised: February 25, 1907
Sponsors: Gustave May, Otto Bergmann, Ella Wahl
Baptised by G. Speerbrecher

MELCHERT

Ida Wuestenberg nee Melchert
Parents: Ludwig Melchert and Ernestina
Born: May 15, 1864 in Town of Emmet, Dodge Co., Wisconsin
Baptised: April 27, 1907
Sponsors: Heinrich Wuestenberg, Elenora Wuestenberg
Baptised by G. Speerbrecher

KUHN

Franziska Frieda Kuhn
Parents: Heinrich Kuhn
Born: June 30, 1907 in Town of Shields, Dodge Co., Wisconsin
Baptised: July 14, 1907
Sponsors: Emilia Ihde, Emma Butler, Wilhelm Kuhn Sr.
Baptised by G. Speerbrecher