



History of St. Paul

The Beginning 1855

Buildings

1. 1858-1890
2. 1890-1915

Events

- In 1846 the port of Sheboygan had been granted a village charter by the territorial legislature and several thousand Germans had passed through the port.
- The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States was organized on the 26th of April, 1847 in Chicago. This group became the forerunner of our present Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.
- On May 29, 1848 Wisconsin became the thirtieth state to join the Union. Nelson Dewey was chosen to serve as Wisconsin's first governor succeeding Henry Dodge, the last of the territorial governors.
- In 1849 the year of gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California and the rush of the "Forty-Niners" was on. Not everyone was caught up the search for gold. An example is the Rev. C. August T. Selle who left Chicago, not to seek gold but souls. He headed north and when he arrived in Sheboygan it reported that "he found not a single church building in the village of some 3,000 inhabitants".

World Events

- WWI
 - June 28, 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary was assassinated as he rode through the streets. Our congregation sent forty young men into the military to "make the world safe for democracy". We also saw two of our young ladies, Miss Cora Habighorst and Miss Lorrie Mallmann, enter the military as nurses.

"Our Shepherds" Reverend

- **Reverend F. Steinbach 1855-1857**
- **Reverend Daniel Stecher 1858**
- Reverend Ernest Henry Rolf 1858-1860
- Reverend Edmund Multanowski 1860-1862
- Reverend Friedrich Ottman 1863-1872
- Reverend J. Jacob Hoffmann 1873-1878
- Reverend John M. Hieber 1879-1894
- Reverend George Wildermuth 1894-1913

The 1900s

Buildings

1. 1915-1994/1995

Sheboygan Falls Events

- Congregation meeting was held on January 18, 1914, for concerning the church building and the state it was in. The state of the building would be in repairs of new wall, pews, roof and windows, the installation of electric lights, painting and some cement work. (Page 4)
- February 15, 1914, special meeting was called, and the final decision was decided on a 21 to 12 to build a new, modern, convenient building which would answer both present and future needs. (Page 4)
- The laying of Cornerstone on July 4, 1915, the cost of the new foundation of the project was just under \$2,500. *"It is interesting to note that those members who had made a pledge and did not have the money were asked to borrow the money and pay what they had pledged."* (Page 4)
- Stained glass windows were created in 1915 for a new church building at 621 Broadway in downtown Sheboygan Falls. Eighty years later (1995) the congregation relocated to 730 County Road PPP, and the windows from the Broadway church were refitted into the new sanctuary.
- From German to English
 - Due to the World War many churches of the Missouri Synod began switching to English much sooner than they might have under normal conditions. Several state governors, Wisconsin not among them, declared that German could not be used at any public gathering within their states. (Page 11)
 - At a congregation meeting, our congregation made its first attempt at change in this regard on October 7, 1917; that evening it was decided that the services should be conducted in English. A second motion was made to purchase 100 English hymnals for this purpose. (Page 11)
- June 18, 1972, our congregation had the privilege of witnessing the commissioning of Ray and Meta Born as missionaries to South America.

World Events

- WWI
 - The entire World War I period was a different time for Lutherans in general, large areas of the nation just assumed Lutherans would be pro-Germans. Acts of violence were committed against numerous churches within the Missouri

Synod, none of which occurred against St. Paul. However, members of our congregation had difficulties being accepted into the community during these years. (Page 9)

- WWII
 - Pastor Albertin and members of our congregation made every effort to keep in contact with our service men and women. The congregation sponsored a monthly publication, "Across The Ways," which was sent to each individual. The purpose of the newsletter was set forth in the dedication which appeared on page one of the first issue published in February of 1943: "To you, who are serving our beloved country as members of the armed forces, we respectfully dedicate 'Across the Ways.' Your spirit and your courage is an inspiration to us here at home, and it is our hope and prayer that through these humble efforts, we may, in a small way, show our appreciation to you for the sacrifices you are making in our behalf."

"Our Shepherds" Reverend

- Reverend John Biehusen 1913-1939
- Reverend Edward W. Albertin 1939-1976 1977-1982 Pastor Emeritus
- Reverend Alfred F. Nicolaus 1959-1964 Assistant Pastor
- Reverend Charles Borcharding 1965-1969 Associate Pastor
- Reverend Leroy C. Rittenbach 1969-1973 Associate Pastor
- Reverend Paul W. Krause 1977-1980 1973-1976 Associate Pastor
- Reverend Dale A. Hauser, Jr 1981-1984 Associate Pastor
- Reverend Randall F. Mueller 1981-1987
- Vicar John Rutz 1985
- Reverend Richard Nack 1986-1997 Assistant Pastor
- Reverend Donald E. Hasse 1987-2000 Senior Pastor 2000-2004 Associate Pastor 2004 Pastor Emeritus
- Reverend Thomas Gudmundson 1998-2000 Associate Pastor 2000-2021 Senior Pastor 2021 Pastor Emeritus

The 2000s

***Building Updates / Building**

1. 1995 Current Building 730 County Road PPP

Sheboygan Falls Events

- Pastor Tom's Mission Tour of India

- September 30, 2004, the 150 Anniversary Celebration Committee met for the first time. January 16, 2005, was chosen for the kickoff weekend. "St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 150 Years of Blessings, Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus Christ is Lord."
- Trash N Treasure Rummage Sale
- The Gathering Place (two churches)
- Mission Trips (Youth & Adults)
- Pr. Mark introduces Love INC.
- Celebrate Recovery
- Hiring Worship Director
- Night To Shine events

World Events

- 2001 9/11 Attack in New York & Washington
- Hurricanes - 2005 Katrina Devastates Gulf Coast, 2012 Sandy
- Shootings & Bombings – 2012 Sandy Hook School Shooting, 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing *Not all listed
- Refugees come to America

"Our Shepherds" Reverend

- Reverend Thomas W. Vanderbilt 2001-2004 Associate Pastor
- Reverend Mark Janzen 2005-2018

2020-2022

***Building Updates**

Sheboygan Falls Events

- Attendance Drops / Church goes online / Shut-Ins
- Mission Ministries had to cancel events, fundraisers, and trips

World Events

- Covid-19
 - The World Health Organization estimated in October that as much as 10 percent of the world's population had already contracted Covid-19; by year's end some 1.7 million people had died from it.
- Climate Disruptions Continue
 - Catastrophic wildfires, bigger and more frequent storms, and more intense droughts all around the world.

- Oil Prices Tank
 - 2020 was not a good year for oil producers or oil companies. The Covid-19 outbreak sent economies around the world into a tailspin, depressing the demand for oil.
- Insurrection in Washington
 - 2021 The Capitol is Attacked after Pres. Trump tries to overturn election results after Pres. Joe Biden wins the election

“Our Shepherds” Reverend

- **Reverend Kyle Backhaus 2018- Current Senior Pastor**
- **Reverend Robert Schrader 2021- Current Associate Pastor**
- **Emeritus Pastor Donald Hasse 2004**
- **Emeritus Tom Gudmundson 2021**

Fun Facts of St. Paul

- Our church was the first in the area to break with tradition by not having Confirmation on Palm Sunday.
- The 1960 attendance at Lenten services were 4,002.
- The total church budget for 1987, was \$204, 892 and the church budget for 2006, was \$782,166.
- The Ladies’ Auxiliary sponsored a pancake supper on April 24, 1941. Adults were charged 35 cents and children 25 cents. For this price you were able to eat as much as you desired.
- In 1972 was the 125 anniversary of the Missouri Synod.
- In the summer of 1974, Thursday evening services were held for the benefit of those who would be out of town on weekends. After a trial of three years the practice was abandoned because of poor attendance.
- Ours was the first area Lutheran church to have its pastors wear surpluses.

For more information, please contact the Church Office for the *St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church 150 Anniversary 1855-2005.*