

Church/Organization: St. John's Lutheran Church
800 RIDGE ROAD EAST
Rochester, NY 14621

<http://www.stjohnsrochester.org/>

Years of Operation 1873 – present

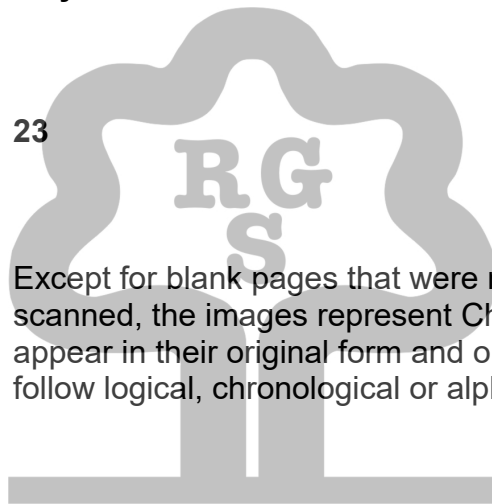
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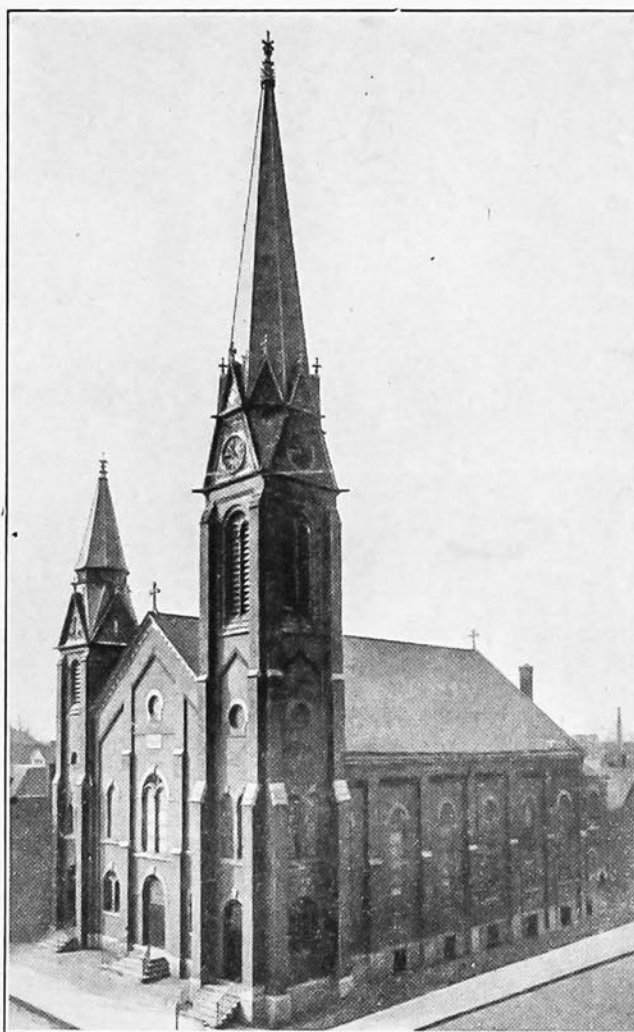
75 Years
1948

1873 *75th Anniversary* 1948

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

JOSEPH AVENUE AND BUCHAN PARK

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK



MY CHURCH, MY CHURCH,
MY DEAR OLD CHURCH,
MY FATHERS' AND MY OWN—

September 26 to October 3, 1948

The Anniversary Program



Sunday, September 26th

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

8:45 a. m. The German Festival Service, with Holy Communion. Sermon by the Rev. J. Christian Krahmer.

11:00 a. m. The English Festival Service. Sermon by the Rev. J. Christian Krahmer.

3:00 p. m. Pilgrimage to Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Monday, September 27th

8:00 p. m. German Birthday Social.

Wednesday, September 29th

DAY OF REUNION

7:45 p. m. English Service, to which St. John's Confirmands and fellow Lutherans of Rochester are especially invited. The Rev. Paul A. Kirsch, D.D., Guest Preacher.

Friday, October 1st

8:00 p. m. English Birthday Social.

Sunday, October 3rd

DAY OF REDEDICATION

9:30 a. m. Church School Jubilee Service.

10:30 a. m. The English Festival Service, with Holy Communion. The Rev. Frederick R. Knubel, D.D., President of the United Lutheran Synod of New York, Anniversary Preacher.

OUR PRESENT PASTOR



REV. JOHN A. W. KIRSCH
1945-



To the members and friends of St. Johns—

This little booklet is offered to you as a token of remembrance at this milestone in St. John's history. As we **remember gratefully** what God has wrought in and through His Church in the past 75 years, let us **face courageously** the challenge of the present and **prayerfully dedicate** ourselves to the building of a greater St. John's in the future.

With sincere jubilee greetings,

John A. W. Kirsch

Pastor



OUR ALTAR

OUR FORMER PASTORS



Rev. E. Heydler
1873-1877



Rev. J. Muehlhauser
1878-1884



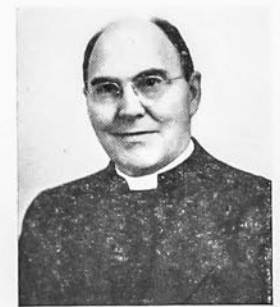
Rev. J. Rechtssteiner
1884-1887



Dr. J. Nicum
1887-1909



Rev. A. Blum
1910-1930



Rev. P. Schmieder
1931-1944

THE HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S

1873 - 1948

In the fall of 1872, Zion Lutheran Church—the Mother Church of Rochester Lutheranism—saw the need of providing for its expanding membership in the northern part of the city. Consequently, a mission congregation was projected. The property at Joseph Avenue and Buchan Park was duly purchased and the Chapel, formerly used by the Methodists, became the first home of the mission. The Rev. Ernst Heydler, assistant pastor of Zion's Church, was placed in charge. The following year, on August 18, 1873, the congregation was formally organized with 69 members and adopted the name "Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische St. Johannis Gemeinde." Rev. Heydler was elected as the first pastor. In January, 1874, the building lot and the chapel were donated to the newly organized congregation by Zion's Church and the building of the new church was begun. A parochial school, with 131 children enrolled, was established.

In June, 1874, during the meeting of the Synod at Zion's Church, the corner-stone was laid. Pastors Von Rosenberg, Grotel, Stahlschmidt, Kuss and Erhardt officiated at the well-attended service. Enthusiasm for the new work was great and the membership grew rapidly. The members, all of whom were of the immigrant working class, labored industriously and brought many sacrifices. The Synod encouraged the young congregation and gave every assistance possible. The basement of the new building was occupied for the first time on November 29, 1874 and the dedication of the completed church was held on June 27, 1875. Pastors Halfman and Gomph preached at the dedication services. It was a time of great joy and the congregation now grew in numbers. Reports show that at the time of dedication there were over 500 families affiliated with St. John's. But the wave of prosperity and enthusiasm soon began to wane. Large bills became due and payments could not be met. Many of the members became discouraged; pledges were not paid and the membership began to dwindle. The outlook was dark and it appeared that this new venture, begun so gloriously, was doomed to failure. In September, 1877, Pastor Heydler resigned and with his leaving many more members left the congregation. The faithful few remained and this group became the nucleus of the St. John's which we know today.

In September, 1878, the Rev. John Muehlhauser was called as pastor and now again the future looked brighter. Addition of two rooms was made to the school house and a second-hand organ was purchased. Pastor Muehlhauser remained only six years, resigning in 1884. He had organized St. Matthew's Church on Morris Street and with it joined the Missouri Lutheran Synod.

The Rev. John Rechtsteiner was then called as pastor. His was a short pastorate of only three years. During those years, however, there was a real increase in membership and improvements in decorating and lighting the interior of the church were made. Pastor Rechtsteiner resigned in 1887 in order to assume the Presidency of Wagner College, then in its early years in Rochester.

In August of that same year, the Rev. Dr. John Nicum of Syracuse, N. Y. was called as pastor and assumed his office on October 16, 1887. A great task faced the new pastor. Much work needed to be done; the indebtedness of the congregation amounted to nearly \$30,000—truly a large sum for those

days. This was the period of reorganization for the developing congregation. St. John's had called the right man. Under the energetic leadership of Dr. Nicum much was accomplished. In the year 1891 the beautiful spires were added to complete the church building, the clock was installed and three bells were hung, a new cement walk was laid around the entire property. The parochial school, which had been discontinued, was begun again. By 1896 the good news could be proclaimed that through the self-sacrifice of its members and the excellent cooperation of the organizations the entire debt of St. John's had been paid. The year 1897 beheld further improvements in the church by the installation of a new gas reflector and the redecoration of the interior. 1898 was marked by the meeting of the Synod in St. John's. On August 21st a fitting celebration of the 25th Anniversary was held at which Pastors Richter, Hartman, Rechtsteiner and Junge preached. In 1904 the installation and dedication of the new pipe organ and the beautiful altar were possible. The weekly envelope system was introduced at this time.

After 22 years of leadership at St. John's, Dr. Nicum died on November 1, 1909. In his will he bequeathed the Morris Street Parsonage to St. John's Church. The Rev. Edward Quade, a son of St. John's, served as supply pastor until April 1, 1910 when the Rev. Andrew Blum of Lancaster, N. Y. entered upon his duties as the new pastor.

The church basement was renovated in 1911. In the same year regular evening English Services were introduced. On November 30, 1913 the congregation celebrated the 40th Anniversary with appropriate services. The following year the English Service was made a part of the morning schedule. The year 1914 saw the addition of two figured windows, given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. C. Schnackel. Other new windows followed in 1918, gifts of individual members and organizations. During the Golden Jubilee year—1923—the renovated church, together with a most beautiful pulpit and lectern, given by Mrs. J. Nicum in memory of Dr. Nicum, as well as chimes, organ stops and other gifts were dedicated. The Jubilee was fittingly celebrated on October 14th.

The title to the church property was cleared by Zion's Church in 1925. This fact encouraged the congregation and made possible the project of relocating the parsonage. In order to provide a more congenial environment for the pastor, a modern home was built at 39 Alcazar Street, two miles north of the church. Pastor and Mrs. Blum moved in on August 11, 1925.

In 1928 the new church doors were installed and a clarinet stop added to the organ. The basement of the church was again remodeled in 1929 and improvements made to the kitchen. The Birthday Bank offerings of the Church School made possible also the addition of the Baptismal Font.

After a severe illness, Pastor Blum, who had served faithfully for twenty years, was called to eternal life on July 1, 1930. Pastors Reichert and Lampe served as supply pastors during most of the year 1930. On January 1, 1931, Pastor Paul Schmieder, who had been called from Philadelphia, Pa., entered upon the duties of the new pastor. During that year, a new roof was put on the church and the choir was vested. In 1932 considerable damage was wrought upon the church by lightning. This proved to be a blessing for not only was the damage completely covered by insurance, but it made possible the complete redecoration of the interior. A new lightning system was also installed. The famous "Diamond Chart" was used with great success to raise the necessary funds. Rededication Services were held on November 6th at which the Rev. H. C. Schmieder (father of the pastor) and the Rev. Paul A.

Kirsch (brother of our present pastor) preached. At the evening service, greetings were brought by Pastors F. Knubel and E. Heyd.

In 1933, the Women's Missionary Society was organized and shortly thereafter the Luther League came into existence.

Pastor Schmieder's zeal for beauty and his appreciation for the best in church worship inspired many new features in the Church Services. The system of a rotating church council was introduced. The Building Fund and the Endowment Fund were established. The 60th Anniversary was observed on November 5, 1933, at which time an Historical Booklet was issued. Pastor John Schmieder (brother of the pastor) and Dr. Samuel Trexler were the anniversary preachers.

For a few months during 1943 St. John's benefitted by the services of Pastor Harold Haas who assisted the pastor and organized the youth work of the congregation.

After a ministry of almost 14 years, Pastor Schmieder offered his resignation in order to accept the pastorate of the Bethanien Lutheran Church in Roxborough, Philadelphia, Pa. where his father had served for almost 30 years. Pastor Schmieder left on November 1, 1944. For the next nine months the congregation was supplied by various pastors, chief among them Pastors A. Roeder and E. Goetz.

On August 1, 1945 the present pastor—John A. W. Kirsch—who had been called from St. Mark's Church in Elizabeth, New Jersey, assumed his duties. It is significant to note that our present pastor is the first in 58 years to have a family. In the brief period of three years Pastor Kirsch and his family have endeared themselves to all of us.

A most significant decision was reached by the congregation at its annual meeting in December, 1946 when, after a year's study had been made, it was voted to re-locate the church property. It was felt that the future development of the congregational life and service could be best served in a new location and that expansion and improvement of the church's facilities required a more desirable location. In order to prepare for the time of re-location and building a New Building Fund Program was begun. The Kirby-Smith Associates were engaged to conduct a complete visitation of the congregation and to solicit pledges. This was done during the weeks of January 26th to February 6, 1948 and proved a great success. Over \$42,000 was pledged over a period of three years. A special Building Committee was appointed. This committee has made prolonged and earnest efforts to obtain the proper site. As we await the time for the new building operations, we look to the members of the congregation to fulfill their promises by sacrificial sharing.

The 75th Anniversary, which we celebrate in a year of great national and international tensions, finds us grateful to God who has guided and blessed our beloved church on its journey. We seek to be loyal and confident as we face the challenge of this generation. We thank God for the noble souls who have labored here before us and we salute the stalwart and faithful ones of today. As we share the fruits of their labors may we be worthy sons and daughters of a Greater St. John's!

Charles W. Kosbab.



Pulpit



Lectern

The Memorial Pulpit and Lectern given by Mrs. J. Nicum in memory of Dr. J. Nicum



The Brass Orchestra (Posaunenchor) of the Nineties

Front Row (L to R): Fred Schlottman, Mr. Schmidt, John Henn, Albert Weiss
Back Row (L to R): Bernard June, Edward Klix, John Lang, John Schlottman

Our First Church Council

1873

Elders

Matthias Nothacker	Adam Schnell
Hellmuth Krapp	J. Michael Lang
Friedrich Seith	Carl Mass

Trustees

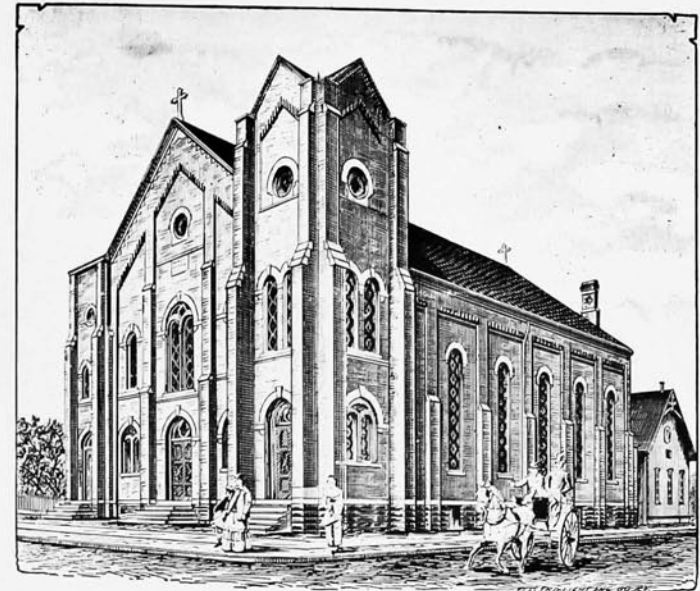
F. C. Lauer	Friedrich Schmidt
Johann Krautwurst	Andreas Burkhard
Johann Wellner	

Our Present Church Council

Pastor Kirsch	President	Carl Buholtz	Financial Secretary
Albert Kosbab	Vice-President	Frank Schutte, Jr.	Envelope Secretary
William Beuthling	Secretary	Roy Sharp	Treasurer
Carl Adamek		Herbert Horler	
Otto Albrecht		Leonard Karweick	
Horst Bruns		Clifford Pitt	
Robert Dense		Charles Reisig	
Edward H. Dreier		Carl Zollweg	
Albert Fedrau			

Our Organizations

Women's Missionary Society	Church School Teachers Association
Ladies' Aid Society	The Altar Guild
Dorcas Society	League of Young Adult Lutherans
Brotherhood	Youth Choir
Luther League (Intermediate, Senior and Young People)	Adult Choir
	Dramatic Club



Our Church Prior to 1891



Our First Church
and School House

PASTORAL ACTS DURING 75 YEARS

Baptisms	3,608
Confirmations—	
76 Classes:	
Girls	1,022
Boys	937
	<hr/>
	1,959
Marriages	1,158
Burials	2,003

MEMBERSHIP IN 1948

Baptized	1,080
Confirmed	821
Communing	528

75th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The Church Council
and
Miss Elsie Eggert
Mr. Fred Keller
Mrs. Charles Klem
Miss Wilma Klem
Mr. Charles Kosbab
Mr. Harvey Meyer
Mr. Paul Muckstadt
Mrs. Paul Muckstadt
Mr. Arthur Plotzker
Mrs. William Schindler
Mr. Edward Wenke

Organist and Choir Director
Mr. Paul Schaefer

Sexton
Mr. Alexander Kirstein

SERVICES OF REMEMBRANCE

Diamond Jubilee

1873 - 1948



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Joseph Avenue at Buchan Park

Rochester, New York

JOHN A. W. KIRSCH, Pastor

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

SEPTEMBER 26, 1948

Deutscher Festgottesdienst

Morgens, 8:45 Uhr



Prelude	"Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne" Paul Schaefer, Organist	Buxtehude
Lied—No. 9	"Thut mir auf die schoene Pforte"	
Die Oeffentliche Beichte		Seite 220
Der Introitus		Seite 126
Das Gloria Patri		
Das Kyrie		
Die Kollekte		Seite 126
Die Epistel	I Corinther 1:4-9	
Das Evangelium	Matthaeus 22:34-46	
Das Nicaenische Glaubensbekenntnis		Seite 8
Das Hauptlied—No. 448	"Nun danket alle Gott"	
Die Predigt	Herrn Pastor J. Christian Krahmer aus Islip Terrace, L. I.	
Das Offertorium		
Das Jubilaums-Opfer		
Gebet		
Abendmahlslied—No. 241, v. 1-3	"Ich komm jetzt als ein armer Gast"	
Das Heilige Abendmahl		Seite 13
Schlusslied—No. 337	"Jesu, geh voran"	
Postlude		

English Festival Service

11:00 A. M.



Prelude	"Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne"	Buxtehude
Processional Hymn—No. 286	"Praise to the Lord"	
The Order of Worship	Word Edition, p. 7; Music Edition, p. 9	
The Introit and Collect	Word Edition, p. 152; Music Edition, p. 108	
The Epistle	I Corinthians 3:1-23	
The Gradual		
The Gospel	Matthew 16:13-19	
The Apostles' Creed		
Choir Anthem	"Give to Our God Immortal Praise" Paul Schaefer, Director	Ross
Hymn—No. 283	"Now thank we all our God"	
The Sermon	The Reverend J. Christian Krahmer, Islip Terrace, L. I.	
The Offertory		
The Anniversary Offering		
Choir Anthem	"O Praise the Name of the Lord"	Tschaikovsky
Announcements		
Prayer and the Lord's Prayer		
The Benediction		
Recessional Hymn—No. 197	"Glorious things of thee are spoken"	
Prayer and the Sevenfold Amen		
Postlude		

WELCOME

To all who have come to God's House on this Anniversary Sunday we say a hearty welcome! May these Services of Remembrance inspire in you **sincere gratitude** for the blessings of God upon our dear St. John's Church, during the past 75 years, and **deeper consecration** for the work of the Lord.

We rejoice to have our friend of many years—Pastor J. Christian Krahmer—as our Anniversary Preacher today. We thank him for sharing this Jubilee with us.

THE PILGRIMAGE

This afternoon the congregation will conduct a Pilgrimage to Mt. Hope Cemetery where tribute will be paid to Dr. John Nicum and to all of our pastors and members who have gone on to Eternity. Everyone is cordially invited to participate and requested to meet at the Cemetery Chapel at 3:00 o'clock.

ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

Monday, September 27th, 8:00 p. m.

Birthday Social, in the German Language. All are cordially invited!

Wednesday, September 29th, 7:45 p. m.

SERVICE OF REUNION

St. John's Confirmands are especially urged to attend. Rochester and vicinity Churches have been invited to participate with us in this great Service. The Rev. Paul Andrew Kirsch, D.D., will preach.

Friday, October 1st, 8:00 p. m.

Birthday Social, in the English Language, for all. Do not fail to attend.

Sunday, October 3rd—

DAY OF RE-DEDICATION

Church School Festival Program—9:30 a. m.

English Festival Service, with Holy Communion—10:30 a. m. The Rev. Frederick R. Knubel, D.D., President of the United Lutheran Synod of New York, will be our Anniversary Preacher.

This will be our closing service to which all are expected to come.

There will be no German Service.

75TH ANNIVERSARY - MEMORIAL CANDLES

Albrecht Family	In Memory of	Mr. Carl J. Albrecht Mrs. Threasa Albrecht Mr. Robert Albrecht Mr. Rheinhold Albrecht Mr. William Albrecht Mr. Charles Albrecht
Mrs. Martha Albrecht	In Memory of	Charles Albrecht
Mrs. Basch & Family	In Memory of	Margaret Ketchum Andrew Basch
Mrs. Marie Berghouse	In Memory of	Elrich Fleisher
Mr. & Mrs. William Beuthling, Sr.	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Helmuth Krapp
Miss Matilda Burbott	In Memory of	Mrs. Edith Buholtz Mrs. Helen Schmeider
Mrs. F. Pohl and Mrs. A. Braun	In Memory of	Loved Ones
Mrs. John Butz & Family	In Memory of	John Butz
Mr. Edward H. Dreier	In Memory of	Loved Ones
Miss Henrietta Dreier	In Memory of	Loved Ones
Miss Evelyn W. Dreier	In Memory of	Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. Edw.G. Dreier	In Memory of	Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dense	In Memory of	Mother
Elsie & Clara Deuter	In Memory of	Father, Mother, Sister Mary
Miss Elsie Eggert	In Memory of	Mrs. Augusta Zahn Mrs. Caroline Felgner
Mr. Herman Eggiman	In Memory of	Father
Flora Engel	In Memory of	Arthur Engel
Mrs. T. Epps & Family	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde E. Ott
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Fedrau	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. N. Schaefer Mr. & Mrs. E. Fedrau
Grandchildren	In Memory of	Mrs. Edith Buholtz
Grandchildren	In Memory of	Mrs. Stella Gibbs
Mrs. William Gawer	In Memory of	Mrs. Johanna Gawer Mrs. E. Nunnold
Hennrich Family	In Memory of	Hennrich Parents
Mrs. Paul Knitter	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. William Abel Mr. Henry Kircher, Sr. Eleanor Dreier Mrs. Anna Knitter

75th Anniversary - Memorial Candles - 2

Miss Ruth Karweick	In Memory of	Loved Ones
Charles Keller	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. L. Keller Minnie Keller
Clara and Mrs. & Mrs. A. Krause	In Memory of	Mrs. Augusta Krause
Mrs. George Koepplin	In Memory of	Mr. George Koepplin
Miss Alma Kubitz	In Memory of	Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kircher	In Memory of	Carol Jean Schultz
Emma Klein	In Memory of	Brother
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kosbab	In Memory of	Parents
Kenneth A. Kosbab	In Memory of	Grandparents
Kruse Family and Sisters and Brother of Robert	In Memory of	Mr. Frank Kruse Mrs. Minnie Kruse Robert Kruse
Larker Family	In Memory of	Norman Larker George Larker Fred Larker Edward Larker
Mrs. Alice Lamb	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Carl Wusnick
Donald Lamb	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Carl Wusnick
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred LeVan	In Memory of	Parents
Mrs. Merriman and Jeanne and Betty Bailey	In Memory of	Robert Kruse Mr. Raymond J. Merriman
Miss Marion M. Mardon	In Memory of	Parents
Mr. William Markwitz	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. August Markwitz Mrs. Fredericka Noffke
Mr. & Mrs. R. Mikel Family	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Gustav Dreier
Mrs. Frank E. McAvinney	In Memory of	Father and Mother
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Northrup	In Memory of	Charles Balk, Sr.
Mrs. Anna O'Flynn	In Memory of	Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. C. Offerman	In Memory of	Charles Balk, Jr. Mrs. Bertha Balk
Mr. & Mrs. E. O'Neil	In Memory of	Miss Olga Balk
Mrs. William Plotzker	In Memory of	Mrs. H. Kritch
Mrs. Marie Pease and Family	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Yantz Mr. & Mrs. William Pease and Brother John

75th Anniversary - Memorial Candles 3

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Pirr	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Albert Pirr
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Pirr	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Sohn
Mr. & Mrs. C. Reisig	In Memory of	Mr. Charles Zollweg
Mr. William Ruthenberg Roy and Albert Ruthenberg	In Memory of	Alma Ruthenberg
Mr. & Mrs. G. Ruthenberg	In Memory of	Son
Mr. & Mrs. F. Schnackel	In Memory of	Father and Mother
Mr. & Mrs. Schultz and Brother	In Memory of	Carol Jean Schultz
Mr. & Mrs. F. Schutte, Jr.	In Memory of	Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Scheible	In Memory of	Loved Ones
The Schlageter Family	In Memory of	Lena Dreier Gust Dreier Donald Schlageter Pfc Earl Pasch
Emelia Schuth	In Memory of	Carl & Amelia Burbott
Mr. & Mrs. H. Stein	In Memory of	Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Sharp	In Memory of	Mr. Charles Albrecht
Carol Ann Sharp	In Memory of	Mr. Charles Albrecht
Mr. & Mrs. H. Steuerwald	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Sohn
Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Salyeards	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Martin Steuerwa.
Mr. R. Thaler	In Memory of	Husband and Daughter
Miss Marie Vick	In Memory of	Parents
Virkus Family	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Virkus Mr. & Mrs. P. Kleinhammer
Wehner Family	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wehner Mr. Philip Koch Mrs. Margaret Wehner Gauger
Miss Elsa Walter	In Memory of	Brother, Elmer W. Walter Parents, August and Augusta Walter
Mrs. A. Zollweg	In Memory of	Mr. Charles Zollweg
Mrs. A. Zilinski	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Ernst Fedrau
Mrs. Wanda Smith	In Memory of	Earl Smith
Mr. & Mrs. C. Zeitvogel	In Memory of	Mr. & Mrs. Albert Pirr
Mrs. Augusta Klem	In Memory of	Theodore Klem
Mr. & Mrs. C. T. Klem	In Memory of	Parents
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Kosbab	In Memory of	Parents











Doris Steen

Elizabeth Schlageter
William J Schlageter
William G. Schlageter
Jean Street

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