

HISTORY OF THE  
EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION  
LAONA, NEW YORK



THE FIRST  
ONE HUNDRED YEARS  
1868-1968

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## INTRODUCTION

In April 1912, the Erie Conference convened in Dunkirk at which session the Laona Mission was separated from Dunkirk charge the second time. This made Laona an English Mission independent of Dunkirk and Rev. H. E. Dornheim was stationed as preacher in charge at Laona (the first RESIDENT pastor in 22 years). This was the answer conference gave Laona after receiving a list of petitioners pledging \$400 salary support and hearty cooperation for a resident pastor.

On taking charge Rev. Dornheim found the old church record, started by Rev. George Ott (January 26, 1880), in such torn condition that pages were beginning to fall out, which made a new record imperative. From the brief history record as given in the German language in the old book, as far as it was kept or "unkept" by the preachers who labored here since 1879, Rev. Dornheim submitted the following sketch of history of Emmanuel Evangelical Church of Laona under the date of September 12, 1912.

Hereafter, the history was compiled by Mr. Elmer Thies and Mrs. Ellis Bouquin, the present historian.

The picture on this booklet cover is that of the first preacher of the Evangelical Association in 1868, Reverend Phillip J. Miller. A picture of the church in April 1968 is displayed on the inside of the back cover. (Photo by Leslie Straight)

## THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION

Chapter 1: Meetings in Dunkirk  
1862-1867

During the year 1862 Rev. J. Bernhardt, pastor of our church at Erie, Pa., made visits among the Dunkirk people who had Evangelical inclinations. Arrangements were made to hold services every two weeks.

On March 9, 1863 the Pittsburg Conference, in session at Beach Stark County, Ohio, assigned Rev. Martin Zirkel as a missionary to Dunkirk. Throughout his ministry, which was 1863-1867, Rev. Zirkel was assisted at times by Rev. Bernhardt. An organization was effected with 18 charter members and 9 probationers. In 1865 it was called the Zion Evangelical Association.

During the years 1864-65 they purchased a site for their church at the cost of \$300.

At the 1866 Conference the membership of the church was reported to be 30. In the spring of that year Bishop Esher dedicated the new building to the Service of God. The church was built at a cost of \$800 and seated 250 persons. It stood on the same site until the summer of 1959, (Park Avenue, Dunkirk).

About the year 1860 a large number of immigrants came into the vicinity of Leona from Germany and settled on the farm lands near the village. Some of them took up residence in the town. These German folk had no religious worship of record in this new country of their choice until 1868. In this year Phillip Miller, a preacher of the Dunkirk Mission of the Evangelical Church, held meetings in the farm homes and in the homes in the village. The worship services were given in the German language.

Chapter 2: Laona Mission Started  
1868-1878

Phillip J. Miller was the first preacher of our denomination who preached the Gospel in Laona. In 1868 while preacher in charge of the Dunkirk Church (then belonging to the New York Conference) he began to visit Laona and preached there several times. He reported John Goldberg and his wife, Sophia, as the first members of the Laona Mission.

During 1869 and 1870 Rev. C. F. Boller served Dunkirk and also preached the gospel in Laona. God so blessed his efforts that a number of his listeners accepted Christ, were converted and organized a mission congregation to be henceforth served with Dunkirk by order of the Conference. Thirty-six members were reported to the Conference in 1870.

The membership list as of March 7, 1870:

- |                   |                    |                       |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| *John Goldberg    | Augusta Gens       | John Draggett         |
| Sophia Goldberg   | Henry Muller       | Wilhelmina Draggett   |
| Frederic Goldberg | Anna Muller        | Christ Draggett       |
| Christ Ahrens     | *John Hahn         | Frederick Wagner      |
| Henrietta Ahrens  | Dorothy Hahn       | Wilhelmina Younghouse |
| *Fritz Thies      | Mary Hahn          | Carl Neuman           |
| Sophia Thies      | John Hahn, Jr.     | Michael Wohlgenuth    |
| Fred Thies        | Carl Zentner       | John Stohlmacher      |
| John Thies        | Mary Zentner       | Martin Gerster        |
| Ernst Gens        | William Richter    | Anna Marie Gerster    |
| Mary Gens         | Sophia Richter     | William Sager         |
| Christ Gens       | Dorothea Wiedmaier | Anna Sager            |

\* First Trustees

By 1872 the Dunkirk Mission membership totalled 97, 29 of whom were from Laona. This seemed odd but it is assumed these 29 became a part of the Dunkirk Mission several years prior to the Laona Mission. We assume they joined the Laona congregation at a later date, but we have no names to substantiate this as a fact.

Phillip J. Miller died March 17, 1900. In his Conference lost a useful and successful minister through whose labors many souls were brought to Christ. When he served on the Buffalo Circuit he came to the annual Conference one year reporting 110 conversions. Following is a Resolution printed in a 1900 Conference Journal:

"Inasmuch as it has pleased Him in whose power are life and death to call our dear brother Phillip J. Miller to his eternal home in heaven therefore resolved, that in Brother Miller we have lost a useful and successful minister, through whose labors many souls were brought from the darkness of sin to the marvelous light of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We sincerely regret that we no longer have the dear brother in our midst, but we rejoice that in his sufferings he resigned

and died happy. So that our loss is his eternal gain.

Resolved, that we herewith extend to the bereaved widow, sons and daughters of our departed brother our sincere sympathy and that we will remember them in prayer."

The Rev. Martin Jauch served Laona in 1871-1874.

The Rev. J. J. Lang served in 1874-1877.

The Rev. G. Heinrich served Laona in 1877-1878.

Early history of Sunday School activities in Laona begins before 1879. These meetings were held in the district schools of Laona. They met at one time in the school building that stood in Thies' grove and that was later moved to the highway intersection for a store building.

In the year 1876 under the pastorate of Rev. Lang, the Association was given to the care and keeping of the then newly-formed Erie Conference. Henceforth, we were associated within this Conference for the next 48 years.

### Chapter 3: Church Building Erected 1879-1882

In March 1879 the conference sent Rev. George Ott to Laona. The congregation at that time consisted of 41 discouraged and careless members. But 14 people came to hear the new preacher's first sermon and Rev. Ott himself reports that the absent church members had in his opinion no reasonable cause for staying away. The Sunday School had disappeared and this new missionary found himself confronted with 'a charge' in the real sense of the word.

Nevertheless, undaunted, this faithful servant of God at once studied the causes and intelligently discovered one of the causes of this unpromising condition to be, the lack of a church home, where meetings might regularly be held. For up to this time services were conducted every two weeks in one or another of the farm homes, or in the village.

Fully realizing the mission's greatest need, Rev. Ott soon after beginning his ministry here, decided with God's help to build a church as soon as possible. This was in the third week of April 1879.

The little congregation enthusiastically brought their offering—a little more than \$300. The energetic pastor collected more from the German and English friends in the village. Mr. Clothier donated the building site, and soon the ground was broken for the Laona Evangelical Church. Already on the 18th of May the cornerstone was laid.

An appropriate service was held for this occasion. Rev. Pfitzinger of Buffalo and Rev. Ott preached to a large congregation. The former in the English and the latter in the German language. The Dunkirk church choir furnished inspiring music. The weather was ideal and the entire service was richly blessed and one long to be remembered.

The building operations were exceptionally rapid and the gathering of funds (for which the bounds of the congregation alone were canvassed) kept pace with the building of God's house, so that at the early date of August 3, 1879 the church edifice was ready for dedication to the services of the Triune God.

Both Ott reported the following: "That day of dedication was indeed a day of rejoicing for the pastor, the congregation and all who had assembled." It was a perfect day.

Rev. R. Mott, at that time the popular pastor of the First Church in Allegheny, Pa., preached powerful sermons in both languages and dedicated the new edifice to the Lord God under the name of "Emmanuel Church of the Evangelical Association of North America at Laona, Chautauqua County, New York." About \$200 more was secured in cash and subscriptions at this dedicatory service so that the entire indebtedness of the undertaking was fully covered.

Beside Rev. R. Mott, the brethren J. Lang and A. Merchant assisted in the Service. Rev. J. Lang offered the opening prayer and Rev. Merchant delivered a masterly address in the English language. The entire service was accompanied by God's choicest blessings and beyond all expectations. He adds that the church was beautifully decorated for this festive occasion, -Especially the altar and pulpit.

The dimensions of the building are as follows: It is 50 feet long and 31 feet wide. The tower or belfry is 40 feet high. The cost was nigh unto \$1200. Surely this was a signal victory for this man of God and faithful Laonians.

On August 10, 1879 a week after the dedication, a new Sunday School was organized with over 50 scholars\* and it grew like a healthy plant in God's vineyard. At this time the prayer meetings began anew. The congregation had taken on new life and September 21, 1879 when Rev. G. F. Spreng, the presiding elder, came to officiate at the communion service, he found receptive hearts and God showered rich blessings upon all.

A real revival began with the series of meetings: January 1, 1880 to January 26th. Eighteen souls were converted and on January 25, 15 of these converts joined church fellowship. Brother Ott opened the service with these words: "We hope and believe, that soon others will say, we will go with you for we have heard that God is with you". Zech. 8:23.

The Laona Mission paid \$80.50 toward Rev. Ott's support in 1879-1880 and \$133 during the following year.

Recorded Members**	1880	Pastor - Received by
Fred Knoll		George Ott
Mrs. Fred Knoll	(withdrew 1913)	George Ott
Fred Schmidt	(withdrew 1913)	George Ott
Fred Thies		George Ott
Mrs. Fred Thies	(Lena Edler)	George Ott
Miss Ida "Dorothea" Thies	(Mrs. Wm. Mau)	George Ott

\*\*Other persons held offices at this time to 1910 but no records state they were church members. A group of people from the Fredonia churches assembled and were transported to and from Laona by a horse and rig furnished by T. S. Hubbard. Among these people was Henry Leworthy who became the Superintendent of the First English Sunday School.

\* The Alexanders: Clifford, P.B., Virginia, William; The Clarkes: Ed, John, Will; Mary Cornell; the Dietzens: Matthias, Nicholas; the Ellis family: Dilla, Emma; Will Graham; the Hales: Edna, Leah; the Page Family; Miss Schwan; the Smiths: Bert, Carrie, Fay, George, Gertrude; the Smith Family, Lafayette; the Sprague Family; the Whites: Carrie, Nettie; the Wilson Family; Edith Wollert; Carlton Wright



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Chapter 4: German Minutes Interpreted  
1883-1912

March 20, 1883 Rev. G. Berstecher reported the congregation at Laona was taken from Dunkirk and with Mayville mission formed into the Laona circuit by the conference, which met at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1883. C. Wohlgemuth succeeded Berstecher but Wohlgemuth left no record of his services. The pastors resided in Laona until 1892. Fred J. Thies was appointed Sunday School Supt. in 1884 and served for seventeen years.

New members received by Pastor Wohlgemuth in 1884:

Miss Anna Ahrens (Mrs. Mathias Dietzen)  
William Gens  
Miss Emma Thies (Mrs. Fred Gens)  
Charles F. Thies ("Carl")  
Miss Elisa Bruegmann (Mrs. Chas. "Carl" Thies)

April 1885 Rev. C. W. Neuendorf reported that Rev. Wohlgemuth served two years and the conference which met in Allegheny in 1885 stationed Rev. J. Vogel to succeed Wohlgemuth. However, on account of family circumstances Rev. Vogel could not take charge of the work. Thus, Neuendorf was transferred from the Independence Circuit to Laona.

New members received by Pastor Neuendorf in 1885:

Charles Ahrens  
Mrs. Charles Ahrens (Mary Gens)

Rev. A. E. Wendt served Laona in 1887-1888. He received Fred Gens as a new member in 1887.

Rev. B. F. Snyder served Laona in 1889-1890. Mrs. Fred Schmidt was received by Pastor Snyder as a new member in 1889.

Rev. J. Wahl served Laona 1890-1892

Rev. E. Koehne\*\* served Laona 1893-1894

Rev. J. G. Ziegler served in 1894-1897. Pastor Ziegler received Mrs. William Gens and Mrs. Eda Stonefoot as new members in 1894, and John Stonefoot in 1895.

These above mentioned preachers left no record of their services but it seems that in 1892 Laona-Mission was again served with the Dunkirk Church. Until 1912 this mission was served as best the Dunkirk pastor could in the work at Laona. The mission at Mayville was discontinued in 1892.

The extent of services rendered was a preaching service in German and English every Sunday afternoon. Several preachers started a catechetical class but no scholars were ever graduated. The Sunday School was kept up by a faithful few; and revival services were held at various times with success. But the subtle work suffered loss. Then Satan planted seed of discontent among the German element, who opposed the

\*We assume there were other members who joined the church at this time but the records that are available to us mentioned only these few.

\*\*Pastor Koehne was a minister in the Ohio Conference who served the Dunkirk Church 1890-1897 including Laona for one year.

inevitable crowding in of the English language through their own children and others and more or less discord gradually disrupted the good work so nobly and propitiously begun in 1879. Thus the field suffered a gradual decline numerically and spiritually until the faithful few who had held the Sunday School together and probably had paid the larger share of the \$150 given toward the Dunkirk pastors' support annually, were about ready to disband anxiously awaiting the decision of the Erie Conference, which convened in Dunkirk April 1912.

In a Quarterly Conference Book registered for the Emmanuel Evangelical Church of Laona, the following summarization in German was interpreted thus:

- 1883 - First report: the first meeting was held in the afternoon, all following conferences took place in the evening after evening service (in Laona Church).  
In the meeting they would take attendance first, elect a secretary, read the last meeting's report, examine conference and church members and hear the reports from the different trustees. The trustees must each have been in charge of one of the church's activities, the conference members were team-workers, each having his special realm. There were no women in the board. The secretaries' capacities to write German varied greatly, some of them made quite a number of spelling mistakes or used an English sentence structure. The Dollar was - at least in the early reports - still called "Thaler". The conference would adjourn with a final prayer by one of its members.
- 1889 - April 3rd - The brothers discussed the question whether non-church members who were members of other churches should be allowed to use Laona church for their meetings. They decided to put this question in front of a meeting of the congregation. The outcome is not mentioned.
- 1889 - July 6th - The examinations of Conference and Congregation members must have been a thorough examination of their moral conduct. The only time that charges were made was on this date. It said that "some members of the congregation were found guilty of having let themselves be seduced to the sinful enjoyment of dancing". They were admonished never to do it again "with the help of God".
- 1891 - 1893 there are no reports
- 1893 - Reference is made for the first time to the provision for bread and wine from now on the provision of both is mentioned always.
- 1898 - April 27th - The brothers came to the decision that both English and German should be allowed to be used for preaching, not German only.
- 1897 - 1899 The church must have had serious troubles of survival at

this period, reports are incomplete, sometimes only three members were in the Conference. It was under the leadership of Pastor Hetcher. Sunday School reached the low mark at that time. After 1900 the church thrived again, numbers increased, income increased. Pastor Hetcher left.

1900 - Pastor Handke was absent because he must have been on the verge of breakdown, his daughter having died shortly before. The brothers prayed for him. This was mentioned as it seems to be the only time that some kind of personal concern appears in the reports.

Dec. 27 - point 4 - no catechism classes were held during winter  
7 - fathers could not find a candidate for the office of Pastor, as Pastor Handke resigned or being too dejected for office.

1907 - March 20 - Youth Club was founded - "Young Peoples Alliance"  
June 13 - Catechism classes - 14 pupils

1908 - Dec. 10 - point 13: "Decided, that we shall unite with Dunkirk to elect a representative for the annual Conference at Linnau."  
Sunday School

The first time a full report on Sunday School is given is in 1885 it says: "Officers-5, teachers-9, students-60, average attendance -45, library: 80 books; magazine "Kinderfreund" (Child's Friend) 30 copies, "Lammerweide" (another journal for children called "Lambs' Pasture") 15 copies; quarterlies-40; 1 blackboard. Furthermore the report states that singing-seemingly the main activity-was good and that some of the students had turned to God.

The reports are very much alike each other, they were handed in always on the fourth annual conference. Slowly the number of students declines, books become scarce, too.

The lowest point was reached in 1899, when on January 12, Pastor Hetcher put down "Point 5: Sunday School Report, no school". A year later, on July 26 it sounds more optimistic, when secretary Schuster notes "The Sunday School report indicated that the school is small but that efforts are made to enlarge it". From then on, the school thrived again, reaching its culmination in 1910 with 100 pupils. (Refer to the Chart on Page 14)

The 1968 Anniversary Committee, in a conversation with Mrs. John Stonefoot, the oldest member of the church, received the following information from her concerning the years 1893-1900:

At Prayer meetings only prayers were said. They were led by the pastor and others followed. When Christ Ahrens offered prayer he looked heavenward and prayed bolsterously, sometimes pounding his fists on the altar or table.

When a person joined the church, they were asked to kneel at the altar while the pastor prayed for them.

When the church picnic was held in the grove on McAllister Rd.

near Stone Quarry Rd. (presently the site of Leonard Aldrich's home) each year, persons brought their food in a box, placed it on the center of the table, where everyone had a choice variety. (Moore's Grove)

Organist of the church was Emma Gens (nee Thies) and occasionally Mrs. Fred Ahrens (nee Thies; Emma's sister). The hymns were sung in German and were serious, not lively, songs. Eda Wiedenbeck was the Sunday School Treasurer prior to her marriage to John Stonefoot of Laona in 1896.

Rev. Charles J. Holliger was pastor from 1903-06 but he left no record of his ministry. He is remembered by present members as a jolly man, short in stature, receding dark hair, sparkling eyes and wore a mustache. Sunday School was held at 1:00 p.m. and preaching services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Every other Sunday, services alternated between the English and German language.

In 1906 Rev. George Gratz was named to serve the Laona and Dunkirk churches and it was during his ministry here that all the church services were held in the English language. This was a real benefit to the church. During his ministry 17 new members were added. It was also in the year 1906 that the Ladies' Aid was organized and Mrs. Aure Padden elected president. A Young People's Alliance was organized and Mildred Ellis elected president.

During August, 1908, it was decided by the church board, at the request of the Ladies' Aid which agreed to supply the funds, that basement rooms be made under the church. These were completed at a cost of \$407.00 and added a great deal to the Sunday School facilities. These rooms could also be used for social activities as well as for class rooms.

The annual Conference of the Evangelical Church was held in Dunkirk in 1912 during the pastorate of Rev. W. H. Herkner. At that session of Conference a petition of the Laona congregation, requesting a resident pastor, was favorably acted upon.

Records show the largest Sunday School picnic was held at Point Gratiot in 1913. One new Maxwell, 3 teams and the "horse and buggy" were needed to transport the 150 picnickers.

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LIST OF QUARTERLY CONFERENCE MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Offices Held</u>	<u>First Mentioning</u>
C. F. Negeb	Presiding Elder	1883
C. Wohlgemuth	Pastor, Secretary	1883
John Goldberg	class-leader, Sunday School Supt.	1883
Christ Ahrens	Pres. trustee, trustee	1883
Friedrich Thies, Jr.	Trustee, Secretary	1883
Carl Neumann	Trustee	1883
Berstecker	(counselling member, once)	1883
Friedrich Thies, Sr.	Trustee	1883
G. S. Spreng	(counselling member, trustee)	1883
C. L. Witt	Presiding Elder	1884
C. W. Neundorf	Trustee	1884
Fred Knoll	Trustee	1885
F. Don	Trustee	1885
A. H. Wendt	Pastor, Secretary	1887
C. F. Negele	Presiding Elder	1888
D. F. Snyder	Pastor	1888
Jacob Wahl	Pastor	1889
Ed Dregert	Trustee (mentioned once)	1889
Oth	Pastor	1889
Christ Gens	Trustee	1891
J. G. Ziegler	Pastor	1893
H. Mau	Trustee	1893
Seig	Presiding Elder	1893
E. Koehne	Dunkirk Pastor, counselling visitor	1893
Theo. Wiedenbeck	Trustee	1896
W. Lingelbach	Presiding Elder	1897
J. A. Hetcher	Pastor	1897
S. B. Götze	Trustee	1899
J. Lang	Presiding Elder, Trustee	1900
W. H. Schuster	Secretary	1900
Finkbeiner		1900
F. Kratz		1900
Gens	President of Youth Club	1902
Chas. Holliger	Trustee, Pastor	1903
C. F. Thies	Sunday School Superintendent	1904-32
Fred Schmidt	Trustee	1904
Ernst Koehne*	Presiding Elder	1906
Gustave Gratz	Pastor, Trustee, Secretary	1906
John Rabin	Trustee	1907
George Daacke	Trustee	1907
Hallin Holland	Trustee	1907
Mildred Ellis	Trustee	1909
A. Kucheln	Trustee	1910

\*Presiding Elder Districts and their Superintendents

Conference District - ERIE

Pittsburg: 1906-10 - E. Koehne

Cleveland: 1910-11 - E. Koehne

1911-14 - E. Koehne (Came from Sandusky, Ohio quarterly)

1914-22 - W. L. Seith

1922-23 - John Hoffman

Δ "presiding elder" was equal to a Conference Superintendent today.

## MARRIAGES PERFORMED BETWEEN 1893 AND 1919

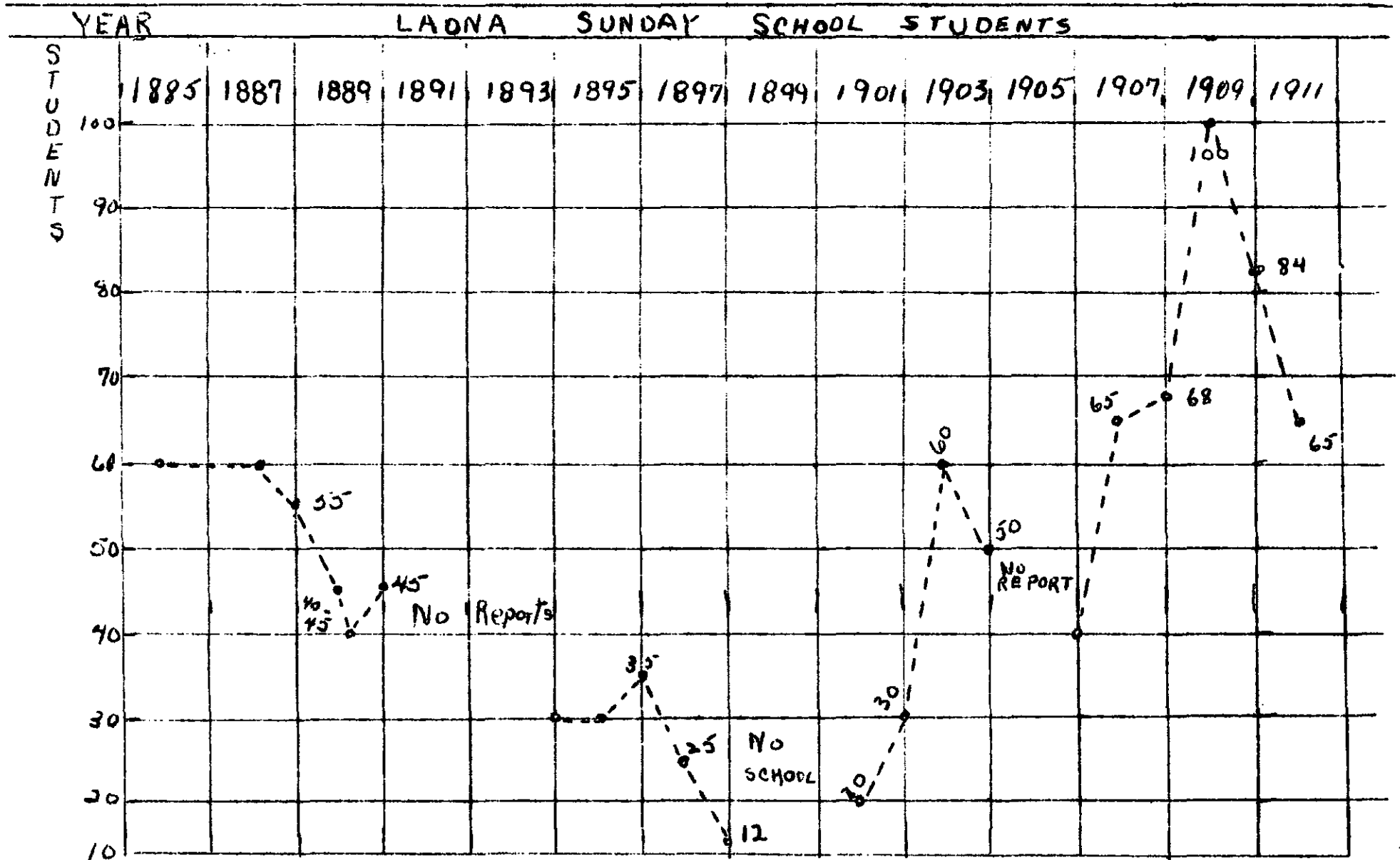
<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of Couples</u>	
J. G. Ziegler	Aug. 1, 1893	Herman Stecker of Dk to Minnie Boye* of Dk	
	Sept 27, 1893	Fritz Ranz of Mt Vernon to Minnie Goldberg of Arkwright	
	May 1, 1894	Fred Weus of Laona to Emma Richter of Sheridan and Laona	
	May 8, 1894	John Husch of Laona to Catherine Weire Stachee of Laona	
	Nov. 7, 1894	John Boye of Dk to Mary Ahrens of Laona	
	Nov. 22, 1894	Louis Schnieder of Dk to Minnie Cordt of Pomfret	
	Oct. 1, 1895	Carl Neumann of Laona to Sophia Hoffmann of Dk (his third wife)	
	Feb. 6, 1896	John Stonefoot of Laona to Eda Wiedenbeck of Laona	
	Nov. 3, 1896	Christian Gens of Laona to Christina Boye of Dk	
	G. S. Gratz	Oct. 13, 1907	Matthias Dietzen to Anna Ahrens, both of Laona
		Feb. 25, 1908	William Mau to Ida Thies, both of Germany
		Oct. 8, 1908	Geo. Plank of Cherry Creek to Anna Salhoff of Pomfret
		Nov. 12, 1908	Geo. Ramsdell to Florence Ellis, both Laona
		Dec. 12, 1908	Fred Kuebrick of Pomfret to Minnie Von Daacke of Laona
Feb. 10, 1909		Frederick Kasbohn to Dora LaGrenade, both of Pomfret	
May 12, 1909		Myron Griswold of Arkwright to Eva Ahrens of Pomfret	
June 10, 1909		Allie Schonfeldt of Erie to Elenora Mau of Pomfret	
Oct. 14, 1910		Manley Johnson of Fredonia to Grace Neff of Pomfret	
Apr. 11, 1911		**Rev. Geo. Ott of Geneva to Mary Graff of Dunkirk	
J. A. Hetche		June 17, 1914	F. L. Davison of Titusville, Pa. to Maude Ahrens of Laona & Dk
		June 24, 1914	Herman Lounsbury of Jamestown to Alice Elmore of Laona
H. E. Dornheim		Nov. 11, 1914	Clinton Davis of Arkwright to Flossie Towne of Fredonia
	Dec. 16, 1914	Thomas Horton of Arkwright to Mildred Colson of Pomfret	
	Oct. 14, 1915	Harry Straight of Laona to Elsie Dietzen of Laona	
	Oct. 30, 1915	Wallace Horton of Villanova to Mildred Davis of Arkwright	
	Dec. 15, 1915	Elmer Mill of Pomfret to Ruth Blackman of Arkwright	
	Mar. 11, 1916	Geo. Lutgen of Fredonia to Anna Bourquin of Pomfret	
	Aug. 13, 1916	Geo. Douglas of Dk to Minnie Washburn / Dk	
	Oct. 21, 1916	Stephen LaGrenade of Laona to Ethel Tickner of Burnham	
	Apr. 30, 1917	Adam Hartner of Pittsburg to Ruth Thies, Laona	

## MARRIAGES (Cont.)

<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of Couples</u>
J. A. Hetcher	Sept. 5, 1917	Leigh Duck of Cassadaga to Mildred Sprague of Laona
J. V. Beglinger	Feb. 18, 1919	Orlin Draggett of Arkwright to Des Demona Bourquin of Arkwright

\* Minnie Boye was a member of the Laona Church Choir when a teenager and was married in the Dunkirk Church.

\*\* Rev. Ott was our pastor 1879 to early 1883 and was also married in the Dunkirk Church.





Chapter 5: Ministry of H. E. Dornheim  
1912-1917  
Part I - First Resident Pastor

In words written by Rev. Dornheim: "It seems the people of the village about 1908 to 1912 began to realize that a village without a resident pastor would naturally not grow in righteousness, especially when the liquor and immoral element had taken up its haunts in the heart of the village almost opposite the church. The road house referred to had been running for many years, possibly longer than the church - under various managements. Sometimes bad and oftentimes worse. Yet this place grew to be an air-hole of hell, defying all law and order, and a real menace to the village. At this time the people began to earnestly desire a resident pastor who under Almighty God would build up a plant of righteousness in the old Leona mission church and earnestly appealed to Conference for a missionary in 1911. Fortunately or unfortunately the Conference could not send them a minister and Rev. Wm. Harkner worked Sundays as best he could, urging the people to address Conference with a signed petition and a substantial list of salary pledges."

This was done as noted in the introduction and on May 10, 1912 Rev. H. E. Dornheim and wife arrived in Leona. For a record of the reception they received as follows: A public reception to the new pastor was given by the town under the auspices of the Leona Ladies Aid at the home of Mr. Fred Ahrens. Rev. Dornheim was the first resident pastor in 22 years. The house was crowded. There was a fine program with the welcome address by C. F. Thies. An envelope containing \$20 was handed to the pastor to help defray moving expenses. It was a fine social and a fine lunch among happy and promising people. "God is with us". They lived in the Ahrens home (across from cemetery entrance on Webster Rd. near corner of Rt. 60) until the parsonage was ready. The parsonage was located behind church building and presently owned by Leonard Rowley.

Part II - Special Worship Services

June 16, 1912 - Very successful Children's Day with 150 present and \$15 received for Missions.

January 12, 1913 - Song and praise service unto God for giving us new oak pews to take the place of the "backbreakers" (commonly so called and justly so) and for the splendid gas lighting system throughout the church. 'Twas a happy occasion and all pronounced it a practical improvement on the church and the service appropriate.

Jan. 15 to Feb. 2, 1913 - Revival series. First week alone (excepting God who is with us) in the work. Yet only one soul forward (Hellen Merchant the first to start) God keep her ever faithful! 2nd week some backslidden souls renewed. A little more help and at the close, sixteen souls claimed conversion and 5 renewals for which we thank The Lord.

## Part II (cont.)

June 22, 1913 - Another successful Children's Day. 155 present. \$13.50 received for Missions.

March 14, 1913 - Choir Concert (all sacred except 2 numbers in lighter vein yet permissible in church) 20 numbers rendered. People pronounced it right, but possibly I expected more than I should. It was good but did not altogether meet my expectations. However the first attempt has been made and this will help our young people out a little.

June 28, 1914 - The Children's Day was the best yet. 156 present and \$16.70 received for Missions.

Feb. 9, 1914 - Revival efforts in 1913-1914 for three and a half weeks. Two weeks alone Nov. 30 to Dec. 14, 1913. Rev. A. G. Dornheim of Beaver Falls, Pa. and Rev. R. Fassinger of Pitts, Pa. assisted me for one week, Feb. 1 to 8th, 1914, and we did have some services, but few results. In all, our work resulted in one convert and three renewals this year. Yet we know much precious seed has been sown and the harvest is coming.

Feb. 26, 1915 - Big Sunday School Social at home of Chas. F. Thies with 110 present.

April 4, 1915 - Largest Communion services in three years: 45 communed in morning service at Laona and 15 in afternoon service at Willoughby.

Feb. 28-April 11, 1915 - Conn-Ogden Revival in specially built tabernacle in Fredonia. Laona church cooperated in the campaign, but had its own Decision Day and Sunday morning services.

Laona Decision Day March 28th was surely A Day of Victory. Altar more than crowded. Twelve accepted Christ there and others were renewed. The Holy Ghost Power filled us. For six weeks we attended meetings at Fredonia tabernacle, leading many souls to Christ and at the close we found that 45 converts and 15 renewals (a conservative figure) among the five hundred reported saved were Laonians. Twelve baptised, 20 united with the church (including our decision day victory).

June 1915 - Children's Day was celebrated at Laona and at the mission school at Willoughby. At both services the chapels were crowded. The programs were good. The collections "best ever" Laona \$17.30 - Willoughby \$6.80.

Nov. 5-19, 1916 - The revival campaign with evangelist F. W. Cox and wife of Ashtabula, Ohio, was indeed a season of blessing. Six souls were converted, as many more were renewed and twenty-eight began to seek "the full victory in Christ Jesus" or "entire sanctification" as our church expresses it. God grant full salvation to all. The pastor and his wife found this full victory and confessed it during these meetings.

The Sunday School through the years has constantly aided in the maintenance of this church in Laona and at times provided the only service held on Sunday. The membership of the church is largely made up of former scholars and much credit goes to the teaching staffs, which have sown the Word.

### Part III - Catechetical Schools

A promising beginning was made on May 25, 1912. Sixteen children enrolled. Seven boys and nine girls. For two months lessons were well learned, but soon I noticed a lack of interest on the part of parents, and when the children began to realize that we would study more than play during school sessions, they preferred the outdoor games as children would, and not being encouraged to continue by parents, the attendance grew gradually smaller. Nevertheless the 1913 year began with ten scholars who did pretty fair work until the first term ended - when many came often and admitted that parents not even heard their lessons nor helped them. This occasioned a postponement of graduating exercises and only with hard work and some tears - five of the original class of sixteen graduated in a special service. Children's Day June 28, 1914. Those receiving diplomas were - Elsie Gens, Clara Gens, Lena Gens, Beatrice Wiedmaier and Esther Ahrens.

Several attempts have been made to organize a new class this year but without success thus far. Our dear parents do not yet realize the need for biblical instruction to children of adolescent years. 12/20/14

The Conference year 1914-15 is ended, and we have not had a catechetical class in Laona, which I much deplore.

This work is now being done in the Sunday School by the use of the "Graded System of Lessons," and, until we can make ours a graded school, we are endeavoring to have our teachers of Junior Classes 9 to 12 yrs. to impart supplemental lessons including as much of the former catechetical course as possible. Thus we must change our methods of introduction without forfeiting the principles and facts of gospel truth. April 18, 1915

The supplemental lessons referred to above have been found to be inadequate. We have therefore decided as a school - to begin the graded lessons in our Beginners Department in October 1916 and as quickly as workable to make our Laona school - A Graded School - in the full sense of the term. In this way alone can we hope to instruct our children according to their needs and ability for receiving biblical knowledge.  
March 20, 1916

### Part IV - Quarterly Conference Reports July 1912 - April 1917

Each quarterly conference opened with the roll call and minutes being read, after which an examination of the congregation and conference members was made according to the questions of our Church Discipline, no charges were preferred. (Refer to chart on page 20).

Prayer meetings were held regularly once a week with an average attendance from 10 to 15 people.

During the years from July 1912 through April 1917 the Sunday School flourished. The membership grew 100% at Laona. As of April

#### Part IV (cont.)

1917 the total membership was 116. The Willoughby School had a total membership of 64. The Shumla School had 30. Regular preaching services were held at these two schools also.

The Young Peoples Alliance did well in their endeavors for the church. They contributed cement steps, gas chandeliers and a gas system. Membership of the Alliance was from 20 to 35 young people.

The Sunday School, as well as individual classes, and the Ladies Aid contributed greatly in the work for their church, including new gas heaters, pews and the cost of painting the church.

In the Conference Report of April 1917 the first mention of an every member canvass was discussed and planned and the church stewards assured support for the new pastor. Stewards were: Chas. F. Thies, H. E. Straight, Christ Ahrens and Fred Thies. Mrs. Christ Ahrens, Mrs. H. E. Straight and Miss Ruth Thies were appointed to assist the stewards in the every member canvass. The pastor's salary for the new pastor remained the same being \$400.

#### Part V - Five Year Review

On May 7, 1917 at the conference held at Loraine, Ohio on April 26-29, Rev. Dornheim was sent to Sarver, Pa. after successfully serving Laona for 5 years. Rev. J. V. Beglinger, a graduate of Evangelical Theological Seminary was appointed to Laona. Rev. Dornheim closed this history report with the following summary:

In reviewing the work of these five busy years, many helpful experiences came to both pastor and people through gracious revivals as well as the antagonism of the power of evil using some of our own and of our good neighbors and fellowtownsmen whom we endeavored to tell of the love of God through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. Many believed and were sweetly saved."

During this time the "liquor gang" was successfully defeated at the polls in 1913 and 1915;

Nov. 2, 1913 - By means of special effort on part of Laona Church people with their pastor Laona, district No. 2 of Pomfret town, had such a majority of votes against saloons on all of the four Raines law exise questions, that the whole town went dry for two years at least. And after a year's work under cover - The notorious Laona Hotel - house of shame, owned and run by a certain Emma J. Ludwig, was closed; license and license bond forfeited and \$350.00 fine paid. She now lives under a suspended jail sentence, conditioned on good behavior and her house is under surveillance and this all has been done despite the general reports when we came here, that this dive could not be closed, since too many "big" men protected it. Nothing is impossible for God, or those in league with him!

Nov. 2, 1915 - Voted Pomfret dry by overwhelming majority. Although Pomfret was voted dry two years ago, the "Wets" succeeded so

Part V - (cont.)

well in selling illegally that they brought up the issue again, and surely did put up a hard fight. It did look against us for awhile, until we got our "Personal Workers Machine" assembled and running smoothly. Yes, it did cost us all "some work" but the victory completely covered all that.

The Laona Ladies Aid had been requested to furnish a supper that night and the "second supper" for the Fredonia preachers and laymen, who came out for Laona returns and to rejoice with us, will not soon be forgotten. Again God answered our prayers. No doubt because they were backed up by much hard work and wholehearted Christian service.

Two new mission Sunday Schools have been organized at Willoughby in Arkwright and Shumla, N.Y. The latter school at that time was very weak but by a faithful Laona Christian girl, Alta Link, it again prospered.

The church membership had grown to 52, the Laona school had become a 100% school, over \$900 was raised on this field (for all purposes) each year of the five that Dornheim served here and the name "THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH IN LAONA" was watched, appreciated and loved by folks in and around Laona as never before reported. While the field is still "an unfinished task" for the new man of God, we know that under God and through Christ and by the Holy Ghost, THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH IN LAONA will prosper much more than has been in the past.

So may it be, May 10, 1917 by H. E. Dornheim

(Additional highlights from Quarterly Conference Reports) - Part IV

The summer of 1916 the Y.P.A. started a Bible reading circle in place of their devotional meetings, which would resume after the summer months.

It was reported on Jan. 30, 1917 at the Conference meeting that the Y.P.A. had begun work in the "One Win One" campaign. Each Sunday evening the members meet for a season of prayer and to report answered prayers at 6:50 p.m. for ten minutes.

In April 1917 the Sunday School reported that Bible verses learned numbered 483 for the year. Also 70% of the school over twelve years of age had accepted Christ, at Laona. Ten per cent had accepted Christ at Willoughby School, Arkwright and 50% at the Shumla School had accepted Christ.

## A SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY CONFERENCES HELD 1912-1917

Date	Catechism Class Ave	Bible Sch. Ave. Att.	YPA Ave	Prayer Leaders	Prayer Meet. Ave, Attend.	Annual Summary	Improvements	Presiding Elder	
July 1912	12	75		F. Thies				Rev. Ernst Koehne	
Oct. 1912	7	-		-			New fuel system given by		
Jan. 1913	7	60		-			Chandaliers Y.P.A. 19 New pews given by Ladies Att		
Apr 1913	9	90	31	Wm Gens	12				
July 1913	10	70		F. Thies	8				
Oct. 1913	7	60		Wm Schnabel	6		3 gas heaters		
Jan. 1914	6	60		Chas Thies	8				
Mar. 1914	6	60	29	F. Thies	6	104 en- rolled in S.S.			
July 1914	5	70		C. Thies	10				John Hoffman, Rev.
Oct. 1914	0	66		C. Thies	11		Graded lawn		Rev. W. L. Seith
Jan. 1915	0	67		-	6		New pulpit & - built by Busy altar rail & - Bee S.S. class		
Apr. 1915	0	-	27	C. Thies	12	115 total for SS	Church painted Cement steps- given by YPA for church		
July 1915	0	71	25	C. Thies	16				
Nov. 1915	0	69	-	Rev Hotohe	10		church interior redecorated		
Jan. 1916	0	68		C. F. Thies	7				
Apr. 1916	0	?	20	-	7	120 SS	Table & 2 Chairs given by the Gleaners S.S. class		
July 1916	0	71	-	C. Thies	9				
Nov. 1916	0	57	-	C. Thies	6				
Jan. 1917	0	59	-	Fred Thies	15	114 SS			
Apr. 1917	0	?	20	C. Thies	10	116 SS	Hymn books purchased		

## Chapter 6: Ministry of J. V. Beglinger

Rev. J. V. Beglinger was appointed pastor in 1917. He served 2 years.

During his ministry the Shunla Sunday School was discontinued (Jan. 1918) because of lack of interest and severe winter weather. Miss Ruth Thies moved away during the summer of 1917 and Mrs. Ella Wilson was elected as assistant steward in her place. In 1918 Mrs. Hattie Rhodes was elected Ladies Aid President and the Society was considered to be in good working order. Mrs. George Smith was Y.P.A. President and reported the organization was in normal condition, with 15 active members.

In April 1918 the Sunday School membership was 126 with an average attendance reported as 60. Willoughby Sunday School's membership was 38. Also this month, Harry Straight was elected as delegate to the Laymen's and minister's missionary conference at Northeast, Pa., plus Fred Thies and Christ Ahrens were appointed as stewards for the forthcoming conference year.

During a quarterly conference on August 3, 1918, presided over by Rev. W. L. Smith, from Ohio, one of the members of the church was charged against according to rules set down in the Discipline of the Church. She was unworthy of partaking of communion and it was suggested that some brother or sister speak to her and that all pray for her.

A Sunday School rally and Dedication of a service flag was held on Sept. 29, 1918, in honor of the men of Laona who are in the service of their country.

After a lapse of four years a catechetical class was organized with good interest being manifested by the five pupils. For several years a Woman's Missionary Society was hoped for but the prayer was not answered until the summer of 1918, when the Ladies Aid Society began such a society and it met along with the Ladies Aid each month hereafter.

The Sunday School at Willoughby was reported as being rather uncertain in its desire to pledge their willingness to carry on their work and thus was closed. In December, the Y.P.A. was compelled to stop for a time owing to lack of attendance and interest. In Feb. 1919 a Laymen's Missionary Movement was formed to get the people interested in the midweek prayer meetings of the church.

The Sunday School enrollment was down in 1919 with a reported 105; average - 49. The Women's Missionary Society has 15 members and Ladies Aid Society, 16 members. The church membership was revised leaving a total of 44. New Stewards for 1919 were: Fred Thies, Christ Ahrens, Mrs. Christ Ahrens (Grace), and Mrs. Lulu Thies.

Rev. Beglinger left Laona a few months before his year ended and he was succeeded by Rev. Harold Held.

## Chapter 7: Woman Pastor Appointed in 1919

Miss Esther Limburg, as a young girl was a social worker in a New York City Mission. She went on to being ordained by the United Brethren Church and came to Chautauqua County to minister in a church in Cassadaga and Kabob. While there she met Reginald Brunson, who resided on Moon Station Road and they were married on November 29, 1917. During 1919 she was appointed to serve the Laona Church with its 46 members.

She and her husband and one son moved into the Thies home for the first six months and then to an apartment in the Ellis home until early in 1922 when she left this charge and moved to Fredonia. Two more boys and two girls were born to them after leaving Laona.

During her ministry here no assistance was received from the Conference Missionary Fund. She conducted a children's church at the opening of the Sunday morning service. The Young People's Alliance and the Sunday School gave a piano. After Rev. Brunson left in 1922, the Sunday School was the only service on Sunday. On occasion Mr. Alfred Wolfe supplied the pulpit for a church service. Mrs. Hattie Rhodes was President of Ladies Aid (1917-21).

The following members were taken into the church during her service: Esther Ahrens, Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Cranston, Cecile Conroe, Edmund Dierdorf, Esther and Lena Gens, Leonard Goldberg, Randall Thies, Nelda and Sanford Niebel. Under a special program called "Watch Care" the following ten children, aged 9 and 10 years old, were received by the church on April 4, 1920:

Leigh Conroe	Margaret Hunt
May DuBois	Floris Niebel
Mildred Gens	Kenneth Thies
Cecile Goldberg	Edith Glasier
Edith Goldberg	Charles Spade Goulding

However, these names were never carried forward with the regular church membership roll after Rev. Brunson left. No reason for this has been uncovered throughout the church records.

The first member of the Evangelical Association in 1868, Sophia Goldberg, died on July 9, 1921, and Esther Brunson performed the funeral service. Marriages performed during and after her appointment here (1920-24) include these couples:

Dolos Ramsdell & Esther Gustus	Nelson Thies & Beatrice Wiedmaier
Fay Francis & Mildred Ellis	Benjamin Sprague & Irene Damon
Donald DuBois & Ruth Aldrich	Alfred Whitaker & Jesse Goldberg
Elmer Abell & Clara Gens	

In November 1967 Esther and Reginald Brunson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in their home at 125 East Hudson Street, Elmira, New York.

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REVEREND MICHAEL SALMEN (1923-1926) - served the Dunkirk and Laona Charges during his years here and this arrangement of one minister for both churches continued until the summer of 1959 when the Dunkirk Church was discontinued. In April 1924 the



Erie Conference was dissolved and Laona and Dunkirk were again placed in the New York Conference. During Salmen's ministry he recorded 37 members on the roll and 33 at the end of his service. The former figure included 15 males and 22 females. Sunday School enrollment was 85; average attendance was 39.

REVEREND WILLIAM WAGNER (1926-28) - started his ministry here with 30 recorded members. Another first member died and he conducted the funeral for Fred Thies, Jr. on October 26, 1926. Improvements included: frosted glass windows installed, building was wired for electricity, lighting fixtures bought by the S.S., basement rooms were redecorated and improved by the Ladies Aid.

REVEREND GEORGE FOX (1928-35) - Church interior and exterior was painted and repaired. A bequest from Mrs. John Thies was used for this in part payment. Eight members were added to the roll. Deaths included: Mr & Mrs Charles Thies, active members since 1884. Membership recorded at the close of ministry was 26.

REVEREND LESTER W. DRIFTMEYER (1935-38) - When they were appointed to here they were told that Laona was on its last legs. If there were ten persons in church, that would be excellent. In a sense, he was pastor here "when the tide began to turn the other way". Sixteen new members were added. Their first child, Janet, was born in January 1937. There hadn't been a baby in the parsonage for a quarter of a century. Average church attendance was 36. There was a large Youth Fellowship and two good catechism groups. New floor covering was laid on the rostrum which was paid out by the bequest of Charles Thies.

REVEREND HENRY DUTE (1938-40) - New gas heating stoves were installed as a gift from the Sunday School. Mrs. Fred Gons was President of the Ladies Aid (1921-43). The pastor's health began to fail and many times his very capable wife took over the Sunday service. On January 13, 1940 he died. Mrs. Dute supplied for a short time thereafter. Rev. Wagner journeyed from Buffalo to supply too.

REVEREND FRED DREW (1940-43) - Religious instruction classes for school children, in conformity with State Education Law, was begun. A choir was started for worship services. An organ was given by Mrs. Lewis Dailey for the Sunday School and a piano by Mrs. Chas. Miller. American and Christian flags were presented by the Ladies Aid Society and were dedicated in a special service on December 21, 1941. Prayer meetings began in June 1940, as were the men in the church who organized a Men's Club with A. Straight as its first President. The same year a Mission Band was led by the pastor's wife once each month during Sunday morning worship. Easter 1941 Sunrise Service was held on the lawn of Elmer Thies' home with 83 persons attending. Two week Evangelistic services were held and 50 individuals went forth to accept Christ or to be dedicated. The Ladies Aid, Mrs. Oscar Snow and Thies Welding Co. gave an outdoor bulletin board and it was dedicated to the memory of Rev. Henry Dute. 100 new hymnals were purchased; a young people's Bible Study group organized. Seventeen new members were added to the church roll. Main achievement during these years was the redecorating of the church nave by Peter Klein, architect. This wall-design remained until 25 years later. A balcony was added for additional classrooms. A week-long dedication was held with many former pastors taking part beginning March 22nd, 1942.

## Chapter 8: Remodeling and Decorating of Church

During the year 1941 there was felt a definite need for additional Sunday School facilities and a need for redecoration of the church auditorium. This need resulted in action in January, 1942, when work was started in the vestibule of the church, lowering the ceiling and making four class rooms, three of which form a balcony opening into the auditorium. The walls and ceilings were covered with carved and painted NuWood and all the woodwork was refinished. Mr. Peter Klein of Dunkirk was the contractor and designer. Pastor at this time was Fred Drew.

Total cost of this project was \$1,907.74 and all expenses were completely covered at the time of rededication. On Sunday, March 22, 1942, Reverend William Wagner, District Superintendent, dedicated the newly remodeled church and preached to a large congregation. During the following week special services were held every night with the Reverends L. W. Driftmyer, M. Salmen, and G. S. Gratz (pastor 34 years ago), former pastors, and Reverend Harold Sloan of the Fredonia M. E. Church, filling the pulpit. The services were concluded on Friday evening with a banquet and informal program in the auditorium in which church organization members took part.

This entire project was a great achievement for the members of the church and the people of Laona who so liberally gave their support to the LORD'S work. As a result of the fine cooperation given throughout the work, the House of Worship is today one for which the community can be thankful.

Chapter 9: Diamond Anniversary

Reverend Wilbur Seeley served 1943-48. Sunday School rooms in the balcony were carpeted by the Sunday School at a cost of \$80.00. Fluorescent lighting was installed in the basement room by the Sunday School, costing \$60.00. Cupboards were built-in downstairs for the Junior Department. The basement rooms were repainted by a group from the Sunday School. In 1943 there were 26 scholars who had perfect attendance, in Sunday School. Twenty-one gold pins were given those from one to sixteen years old. In 1943 the Sunday School picnic was held at Point Gratiot and the picknickers were transported to the Point by team and hayrack.

The Emmanuel Woman's Missionary Society was organized on March 28, 1944 with Lauralee Hunt as President. (This was later called the Woman's Society of World Service.)

On November 16, 1946 the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church united to form THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH. Laona Church changed their name to Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Evangelistic Services were held on Nov. 11, 12, 1943 with the Rev. John Addy of Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 30, 1945 with Myrle Fuller of Geneva, N.Y. and Sept. 15-29, 1946 by Rev. Claud Moore of Jamestown, N.Y.

The 75th Anniversary of our church was held with three services - April 13, 14 and 16, 1944.

Thursday, April 13, 1944 - the opening service was held under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. Wilbur Seeley. The message was given by Reverend Edwin C. Clark, a former resident of this area and known to many in this area. He was founder of the Buffalo City Mission in 1922. The number present at this service was 110.

Friday, April 14, 1944 - The young people conducted a gospel Song Service. It followed the outline of Christian experiences. Short messages were given by members of the Young Peoples Bible Class. Many of the old favorite gospel-hymns were sung. The number present at this service was 72.

Sunday, April 16, 1944 - At the 10:30 a.m. service, Bishop John S. Stamm, D.D.L. L.D., preached the Anniversary Sermon. His message was on the subject, "The Fellowship of Service." Special music was provided by the Choir. Awards were made in recognition of sixty years of membership to Mrs. Matthias Dietzen and Mrs. Fred Gens. For fifty years or over in membership - to Fred Gens (57 years), Mrs. William Gens and Mrs. John Stonefoot. The number present at this service was 220.

(The membership of the church at this time was sixty. At the Easter Service there were 116 in attendance.)

- Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gens received a Schofield Reference Bible.
- Mrs. Matthias Dietzen, a Bible with large type print.
- Mrs. William Gens and Mrs. John Stonefoot, each, a framed picture of Christ.

## Chapter 10: The Last Twenty Years

Reverend Lloyd Crall

1948-50

Mrs. Olive Dailey-elected Director of Childrens Work; Mrs. Edithe Nasca-elected Counselor of Youth Fellowship; Mrs. Dorothy Bouquin-Music Director. Daily Vacation Bible School was held for a week in August 1948 and two weeks in August 1949.

One new stove was purchased for the basement. Two new pulpit chairs were also purchased.

Seven new members were added.

Rev. Crall resigned as pastor from the New York Conference of the E.U.B. Church. The following supplied the pulpit on Sundays from August 1950 to June 1951: The Harmony Trio (Miss Louise Lear, Evangelist; Miss Ilene Niebel and Miss Irene Barroth) - Rev. William Wagner, Rev. Robert Kryman (Buffalo), Rev. Herbert Erbele. - Easter Service 1951. George Sprague was elected Superintendent of the Sunday School on May 1951 to succeed Elmer Thies, who had held that office uninterrupted since 1932.

Reverend Herbert Erbele

1951-53

Prayer Services were held Thursday evenings. Sunday evening services were held beginning Oct. 5, 1952. Beginning Aug. 20, 1951 Vacation Bible School classes were held for two weeks. Evangelistic Services were held at the church March 2-9, 1952, with Rev. Roy Dunn of Demascus, Ohio.

Two brass candlesticks and two brass collection plates were purchased as a memorial for Miss Sylvia Parsell (sister of Mrs. Lyvenus Ellis of Laona and missionary in the Belgian Congo for 27 years). A thank offering service and a dedication of the memorial was held Nov. 23, 1952 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday evening services were discontinued. Two new members were added.

Reverend Byron Esch

1953-59

Elmer Thies was elected Sunday School Superintendent to succeed George Sprague, May 1955. Mrs. Mary Esch was elected Director of Youth Fellowship; also, as Choir Director.

The 75th Anniversary of the dedication of the church was celebrated with three services, the first one being a Childrens and Young Peoples program on July 31, 1955. There was a Lighting of the Anniversary Candles on the Cake. A marble cornerstone was unveiled. The Stone was

Chapter 10 (cont.)

presented by Mr. Fred C. Ahrens, in memory of his wife, Mary Thies Ahrens. A fellowship hour followed.

A missionary program was presented on August 23, 1955 by Miss Cecile Goldberg of Laona, who had spent three years in Korea and Hak-kadio, Japan as recreational superintendent of the United States Air Force.

A home-coming service was held on October 23, 1955 at 7:30 p.m. Six former ministers attended.

Florence Bouquin was elected Director of Weekday Religious Education and Amy Thies, Assistant, in May 1957.

Thirty-five new members were received into the church on Easter Sunday.

New hymnals were given to the church by Mrs. Bentrice Cookson in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dailey. Also, a picture of Jesus with children, to be placed in the worship center of the Sunday School (Children's Dept.) in memory of her mother, Olive Dailey (former Children's Director). A brass offering plate was given by the teachers of the Children's Dept. in memory of Mrs. Olive Dailey on October 1957.

Alice Straight was elected Director of Children's Work in May, 1958 to succeed Mary Chase who was appointed in 1957.

Church will sponsor Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies.

Basement renovation project - 1957-58. Ed Schulenburg, Architect, of Dunkirk, N.Y.; Fredonia Builders Supply, Builders:

Church was raised to give more ceiling room, new walls were cemented, tile floors, sound-proof ceiling, completely modern birch cupboards installed. Two restrooms, storage space and a central gas-fired heating system for the entire building were also installed. Draperies divide the general social area into several classrooms, yet draw back to give complete freedom for larger one-room use.

Outside - covering a draining ditch, grading of parking areas, new cement steps and walks and a natural stone wall have made the location more accessible.

The following were donated for the new basement and by whom:

- Electric stove - W.S.W.S.
- Drapes & hangars - Sunday School
- Dishes & Silverware - Ladies Aid
- Refrigerator - Youth Fellowship

The dedication service for the reconstructed educational and fellowship room was held on November 17, 1957. The message was given by Dr. John D. Rein (Supt. of the New York Conference).

Laona received the Conference Mission Day offering for 1958 totaling \$1,758.66.

## Chapter 10 (cont.)

The Women's Missionary Society discontinued February 1957. (After Mrs. Olive Dailey, Pres. died January 14, 1957.)

William Baker was elected Sunday School Superintendent to succeed Elmer Thies in May, 1959. 46 members were added.

Reverend Harold J. Wood  
1959-63

Mrs. Irna Wood was elected Director of Senior Choir; Mrs. Dorothy Bouquin was elected Director of Children's Choir; Daniel Damon elected Director of Youth Work and Lay Leader.

The purchase of the Bert Beebe house located at the four corners was made for a parsonage. The cost of the property was \$17,000 and improvements - \$2,500. Reverend and Mrs. Wood moved into it on Oct. 29, 1959. The sum of \$19,500 was received from Conference - \$17,000 for the purchase of the parsonage and \$2,500 for improvements. The funds were made available by the sales of the Dunkirk Church through Conference by the request of the members of the Dunkirk Church.

Dedication services for the parsonage were held May 15, 1960 with Dr. John D. Rein as guest speaker. Delegations came from Grand Island Trinity, Grand Island Emanuel, Buffalo Seneca, Buffalo Memorial, Buffalo St. Paul, Tonawanda and Rochester Calvary. Guests included two former pastors: Rev. Byron Esch and Reverend Lester Driftmeyer.

Following the service, which took place on the parsonage lawn, the people were invited into the parsonage to see the improvements that had been made. From the parsonage the guests went to the church where they were entertained by Rev. David P. Lubba, pastor of the Tonawanda Church, with an organ recital. The organ was given to the church by the Dunkirk congregation. A fellowship hour followed in the fellowship room.

The weekday Religious Classes were discontinued because of School Centralization.

E.U.B. Men's Brotherhood was organized with Sherman Glasier, Pres.

Leona reported in first place among seventeen E.U.B. Churches of the area in percentage of membership financial pledges.

Communion urn and cups from the Dunkirk Church were encased in the northeast wall of the sanctuary as a remembrance of the Dunkirk Church. (After 96 years of service the Dunkirk Church decided to close 1863-1959).

Family night suppers were held every other month.

A Memorial Fund was started with the following appointed as Committee: Harry Aldrich, Lottie Straight & Glendolyn Styborski. A Memorial Book and cards were purchased.

Harry Aldrich (Memorial Fund Secretary) built a repository to hold our Memorial Book.

## Chapter 10 (cont.)

Mid-week services were held beginning October 12, 1960. Choir gowns were purchased. We joined the Fredonia Council of Churches.

A church publication called "The Challenge" was distributed to 200 families and friends of Laona. Mrs. Jessimae Rathman, Daniel Damon and Rev. Wood were authorized to put out this periodical.

Leslie Straight was elected President of the New York Conference of E.U.B. Men and Treasurer of the New York Conference Board of Missions in June 1960.

A fellowship supper and farewell for Rev. and Mrs. Gregorio Gonzales and son, Joel was held Sunday evening September 25, 1960 in the church basement. Rev. Gonzales was Chaplain for the South-western Area Migrant Committee in charge of migrant work in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties.

A permanent Evangelism Committee was appointed by Rev. Wood to start working after the first of the year.

Church road signs were erected by the E.U.B. Men.

A special meeting was held March 12, 1961 with Rev. Norman Klump, Secretary of the Department of Urban Churches Evaluation from Dayton, Ohio, to review a future for our church.

Dan Damon resigned effective April 30, 1961 from Director of Youth Fellowship, Lay leader, and Church Organist. He enlisted in the United States Air Force. Sherman Glasier was appointed temporary Y.F. Director. A farewell program was given Dan with Sherman Glasier as Master of Ceremonies.

Miss Louise Lear was guest speaker at the 11 o'clock Sunday church service on April 30, 1961. She also led group singing at Dan's party. Everyone paid tribute to Dan's outstanding contribution to the church activities.

A Mother and Daughter Banquet was held on May 16th at 6 p.m. in the church basement with the W.S.W.S. in charge. Mrs. Elmo Pascale was guest speaker and her message was entitled "The World Is The Church." There were 75 persons in attendance.

Dedication of the Sunday School worship center in the basement was held on Sunday morning, May 21, 1961 at 10:35 with Rev. Wood officiating. He spoke on the meaning of the Symbol, the Cross, candles and open Bible. The Altar and bookcases were designed by Rev. Wood and Leslie Straight. The E.U.B. Men did the sanding and finishing. It was built and donated by Leslie Straight.

Children's Day was observed with a program by the Children on Conference Sunday June 18, 1961. The program was entitled, "We Are Disciples Too."

Reverend and Mrs. Harold J. Wood were seriously injured in an auto accident at Byron, Ohio, on July 13, 1961, after attending a Historical

Chapter 10 (cont.)

Society Convention at Dayton, Ohio. While they were hospitalized, the pulpit was supplied by many.

A Church Census was taken in September 1961 with William Baker as Chairman.

Mid-week services changed to a bible study class led by Elmer Thies (Sept. 1961).

Two new pulpit chairs and a memorial book were purchased in Memory of John Watt. Seven new bulletin boards were installed in the basement classrooms.

"Focus on Faith" was the title given to the advance program of the New York Conference - a program of sharing with other churches the building of a conference program. Several members of our church were involved in this worthwhile endeavor. Four Fellowship Conference dinners were held for Focus on Faith. 11 attended.

It was voted to have a picture of our church on the front of our church bulletins and the names of the church officers and presidents of organizations printed on the back in October 1961.

The Committee in charge of the Every Member Canvass are: Lewis Langhans, Jr., General Chairman; Carl Harder, Resources Chairman; Richard Bentley, Program Chairman; and Quintin Hadley and Leslie Straight, Visitation Co-Chairmen. Wednesday, Nov. 1, 1961, at 6:30 p.m. the members of the Laona congregation and families attended a dinner at the Grange Hall, Fredonia. The program was provided by this E.M.C. Committee.

The Every Member Canvass took place on December 3, 1961. A budget of \$12,554 for 1962 was presented and accepted after visitations were completed.

The Tower Chimes were given in memory of the Kling Family by Carl and Helen Harder and shall be known as the Kling Memorial Chimes. This was given on Dec. 18, 1961.

It was decided to have no more fund-raising suppers by any church organization.

The Church Historian, Florence Bouquin and the Church Secretary, Barbara Best (New Offices) were voted to be members of the Council of Administration. Sherman Glasier resigned from the office of Youth Director and President of the E.U.B. Men due to his new work in Buffalo, N.Y. Doris Glasier was appointed Youth Director. Carlton Harder, newly-elected Church Treasurer. Dorothy Bouquin resigned as assistant Choir Director.

Our church suffered a great loss in the death of a life-long member, Elmer C. Thies on March 24, 1962. He was for many years the Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School teacher and a Trustee. He also served as Church Treasurer and was a Lay leader at the time of his death.



The dedication of the two new pulpit chairs, the Memorial Book, and its Repository was held on April 8, 1962. The chairs and Book were given by Mrs. Margarette Watt in memory of her husband, John. The Repository, built by Harry Aldrich, was given in memory of Mr. Aldrich's parents - Byron G. and Kate O. Aldrich. The printing in the book was done by Mrs. Glendolyn (Kathman) Styborski.

Robert Glasier, Janet Straight, Sally Wise and Thelma Elliott attended the Youth Convention at Syracuse, N.Y., April 26-28, 1962. Rev. Wood attended as Adult Counselor.

A Mother-Daughter Banquet was held at the church on May 15, 1962 sponsored by the W.S.W.S. 80 persons attended.

June 24, 1962 at eleven o'clock service a Children's Day Program was given. The theme was "The Bible Is Our Guide."

The church was painted on the outside by the Trustees. The paint was donated by Carlton Harder for the exterior and the interior, donated by the W.S.W.S. (The interior was not done at this time.)

A mimeograph machine was purchased at a cost of \$226.00.

The church year was changed to the calendar year and Council was established as the ruling body of the church.

Men's Day was observed with Leslie Straight, Pres. of the New York Conference EUB Men, as guest speaker on Nov. 11, 1962. He reported on his recent trip to General Conference.

A Stereo General Electric Record player, in memory of Mrs. Hazel Morse who died September 22, 1962, was installed in the Children's Department. Mrs. Morse had been an active member of our church and Sunday School. Her major interests were the children in the Sunday School.

A Christmas program entitled "Why Christmas" was given on Sunday evening, Dec. 23, 1962. The Adult Choir under the direction of Mrs. Irma S. Wood gave a cantata entitled, "Good Tidings of Joy" following the children's program. 125 persons attended. By special requests, the Christmas Cantata was repeated Sunday evening, Feb. 10, 1963. The Junior Choir also had a part in the program. Total attendance for both performances (Dec. & Feb.) was 195.

Visitation Sunday was on February 17, 1963. Dinner was served following the worship service for the workers going out on visitation during the afternoon. Budget goal was \$11,945.50.

Evangelistic services were held February 20-24 with Rev. E. Loye Donelson from the Erie Conference in Sherman, N.Y. as guest evangelist. Stormy, winter weather hampered the attendance which averaged 43 persons for the five services. Result: one conversion.

A red velvet altar cloth and a cover for the communion table was

Chapter 10 (cont.)

made and presented to the church by Mrs. Walter (Marie) Bloor. A guest book for the church was purchased by the Ladies Aid Society and is displayed in the vestibule each Sunday for signatures of all guests.

Our church cooperated with the Fredonia Council of Churches for services in observance of Holy Week. A Union Lenten Service was held in our church on Sunday evening, April 9, 1963. Rev. Russell Proffitt from the First Presbyterian Church of Fredonia was guest preacher.

A Children's Day program was held Sunday morning, June 9, 1963 during the church hour. The theme was "Now Wider and Wider." The narrator of the program was Kenny Rathman.

A Mother-Daughter banquet was held on May 21, 1963, sponsored by the W.S.W.S. Guest speaker was Mrs. Joseph Short of Fredonia who gave three monologs. They were: mother at a Children's Day Program; a grandmother at a football game; and a School picnic. Honored as the oldest grandmother and great-grandmother was Mrs. Anna Wasmund and Mrs. Bertha Dietzen, respectively. Mrs. Richard (Irene Goulding) Bentley was the youngest mother. 78 persons attended.

The Church and Sunday School picnic for 1961, 1962 and 1963 were all held at Point Gratiot in Dunkirk, N.Y.

A farewell gathering honoring Rev. and Mrs. Harold J. Wood was held on June 17. They were with us four successful and growing years. Songs were sung by a children's group, remarks were given by many. A gift of money was presented to them. 75 attended.

During the ministry of the Woods a total of 68 members were received into the church.

\* \* \*

Rev. William Kulp was appointed pastor until a full-time one can be found. (There were none available to the time the New York Conference met in June.) Brother Kulp is a retired minister from the Church of the Brethren in Pennsylvania, who resides with his wife, Alma, in Fredonia.

A filing cabinet was purchased for the church office by Fred Albrecht and the Ladies Aid Society. A desk, chair and typewriter was donated by Aubrey C. Baldwin.

The Council of Administration voted to increase the pastor's salary from \$4500 to \$5000 when a full-time one is secured.

Mrs. Alma Kulp was appointed Adult Choir Director and Mrs. Harold (Winifred) Pangborn and Miss June Millonzi as Directors of the Junior Choir.

The average attendance in August last year was 55 - this year -60.

Rev. and Mrs. Kulp were honored by the church on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 1963 at a dinner and reception in the fellowship room on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

## Chapter 10 (cont.)

Our W.S.W.S. was host to the Area Fall Missionary Institute on Monday evening, Oct. 14, 1963. Dr. Mabel Silver, medical missionary from Sierra Leone, Africa was guest speaker and showed slides. The service was followed by a fellowship hour. 83 attended.

Sunday, October 20, 1963, was Laymen's Day in our church. Short talks were given by Sherman Glasier, Lewis Langhans, Jr., and William Baker. There was special music - a solo by Leslie Straight, accompanied by his son, John.

The average attendance for August, September and October of last year was 61 as compared to 67 this year.

Reverend Frederick A. Wood  
1963-67

Rev. Frederick A. Wood, pastor, of the United Christian Church in West Carthage, N.Y., was appointed full-time pastor here by Bishop J. Gordon Howard in consultation with Dr. John D. Rein, Conference Superintendent of New York State. A get-acquainted gathering was held for them on Friday evening, November 8, 1963. 56 persons attended. He and his wife, Genevieve moved into the parsonage over Thanksgiving weekend and he assumed his pastoral duties as of December 1, 1963. Before they moved into the parsonage, five rooms and a hallway were newly painted by several ladies and men of the church. The Woods have two daughters - Dianne, aged 19 and Janet aged 17.

December 1 was also Loyalty Sunday. During the worship service each family presented their commitment for the coming year at the altar. Visitors called on those that were absent.

The Sunday School Christmas program was held on Sunday evening, December 22. It was entitled, "Christmas Around the World." 131 persons attended - the largest in many years.

The first New Years Eve Watchnight Service was held on December 31 from nine o'clock until two. 34 persons attended. Old-time hymns were sung, slides of vacation trips and travels were shown by Leslie Straight and Fred Albrecht. Rev. Wood played his accordion. The old year closed with a play arranged by Rev. Wm. Kulp which covered the 12 months ahead and was portrayed by several children and adults. At midnight all joined hands in a circle of prayer. Refreshments followed.

As of January 1, 1964 the Council of Administration shall be known as the Local Conference.

Rev. Frederick Wood reported that 34 calls were made by him at homes and the hospital during December 1963. The average morning attendance for five Sundays in December was 87. The average for two evening services that month was 82.

The communion service for Sunday, Jan. 5 was the largest ever held with 103 in attendance and 77 receiving Holy Communion. The

first Adult Membership Class was held by our pastor on January 19.

Thirty Bibles and twenty hymnals for primary worship were purchased. They were paid with money in the Memorial Fund in the memory of Elmer C. Thies. The dedication of them was given by Rev. Wood on January 26 during the Sunday School hour.

A church fellowship supper was held January 30 called Family night. The 85 persons who attended listened to guest preacher, Rev. Robert Leach of our West Seneca Church. Mrs. William Kulp, Director of our Adult Choir, and all members of the Choir, plus the two organists, June Millonzi and Barbara Best, were the honored guests. There were songs by a local quintet and moving pictures shown of our Watchnight Service.

A new junior Fellowship for boys and girls in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades was organized in February under the leadership of Mrs. Lewis Langhans, Jr. It shall be known as JOY FELLOWSHIP, meaning "Jesus First, Others Second, and Yourself Last." Four alternating helpers to Mrs. Langhans are Mrs. Kenneth Snyder, Mrs. Leslie Straight, Mrs. Fredrick Wood, and Mrs. Harold Pangborn. They will guide the worship and serve refreshments.

The W.S.W.S. had charge of the church service on February 2. Guest speaker was Dr. Mario Saquil of Santiago, Chile, who is presently teaching Spanish in the local high school. He spoke on his native country. The attendance was 110.

Five special Lenten Bible Classes were conducted by our pastor on Sunday evenings beginning on February 16. Average attendance for the five classes was 25.

Baptism and Boy Scout Day was observed on February 9. Fifteen children were baptized. 175 attended the service.

One hundred-ten attended the Family Night Fellowship Supper in February. The Rev. Ward Hamenway, associate minister of the Fredonia Methodist Church, showed slides of his trip to the Holy Land. Mrs. Bertha Dietzen, Mrs. Elsie Straight, and Rev. William Kulp were honored on their birthdays. Their favorite hymns were sung and a large decorated cake was made by Mrs. Millard Chase.

Lewis Langhans, Jr. was appointed Chairman of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

The wall between the vestibule and pastor's study was taken out and a sliding-folding door was put in. This can be opened when we have a large crowd and gives two entrances and exits for the sanctuary. An extra clothes rack was placed in the study also.

Our church cooperated with the Fredonia Council of Churches for Union Holy Week services. On Wednesday evening, the service was held in our church. Rev. Ronald Vallet was guest preacher. 72 attended.

Palm Sunday evening, a cantata entitled, "The Cross of Christ" was presented by the Adult Choir. Fourteen members in the choir were directed by Mrs. William Kulp, accompanied by Miss June Millonzi on the organ. Solos were sung by Leslie Straight, Genevieve Wood and Barbara Best. The Junior Choir also rendered songs prior to the Cantata. Scripture text that was included in the Cantata were read by the twelve girls in the Junior Choir. Attendance was 119.

Attendance for the Palm Sunday morning service was 131. Attendance for the Easter Sunday Service was the largest in 19 years - 183.

Robert Glasier and Barbara Narraway of our Jr.-Sr. Youth Fellowship attended the Youth Convention in Grand Island on April 2,3.

Beginning Sunday evening April 5, Rev. William Kulp gave a series of six messages on marriage for single and married folks. Average attendance at these programs was 28.

The Ladies Aid Society conducted their first church worship service April 12. Guest preacher was Rev. William Kulp, who spoke on "Serving Your Generation by the Will of God." The Society was organized 58 years ago on August 22, 1906.

Young adults, ten couples met at the church on Saturday evening April 14 for fellowship. Games were played and colored slides were shown by Cecil Mahle. This was preceded by a roller skating party at the Roller Rink in Dunkirk.

The Family Night Fellowship Supper in April was attended by 85. Richard A. Harborth, a German exchange student at Cassadaga Valley Central School, was speaker. He showed slides and spoke about Germany.

Two ladies choir robes and 2 men's robes were purchased. Eighteen members make up the present Adult Choir.

The Fredonia Council of Church Women held a May Fellowship dessert luncheon at our church on Friday, May 1, 1964. 70 persons attended.

The attendance at the morning worship service for Mothers Day, May 10 was 139. Seven children were baptized.

In observance of the 20th Anniversary of the W.S.W.S. of our church, a Mother and Daughter Tea was held on May 19. 82 past and present members and guests attended. The program was under the direction of Mrs. Earl Wise. Refreshments followed the program.

A cover for the organ was made by Mrs. Clyde Mays. Eleven Bibles were purchased to give to those being promoted to the Sunday School Adult Department.

A Family Night Fellowship Supper was held on May 28 with the Rev. Donald Rothfus, pastor of Gage Chapel, Smith Mills, N.Y. as special guest. He displayed his talents as chalk-artist using a music background. 82 attended and requested him to return.

## Chapter 10 (cont.)

The annual Children's Day program was held during the morning worship hour on Sunday, June 14. The attendance was the largest on record for this type of program - 164. The theme was "Jesus, the Man."

Promotion Sunday was held during the evening of June 28 following a Family Night Fellowship Supper. Eleven children graduated to the Adult Dept. as Intermediates. Children in the Church School presented a program of music. Attendance was 70.

On July 5, Communion Sunday, another record was set with attendance being 101 and 87 receiving the Sacraments.

Our first Program Council meeting was held on July 16 at Leslie Straight's cottage on Cassadaga Lake. Plans were made for the rest of the year's program to be approved by the Local Conference of our Church.

Seventy persons attended the annual church picnic held for the first time at the Stockton Firemen's Grounds, Stockton, N.Y. on July 29. Guests were present from Georgia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

Due to the increase in membership of the church and the rapid growth in the Sunday School, it is necessary to make available more room for classes. All properties for sale were investigated and serious consideration was given to building onto the Sunday School and sanctuary. The three prospects were voted down by the congregation with Dr. John D. Rein, Conference Supt., presiding. As a result two 38 x 10 foot aluminum trailers at the cost of \$5204.09 were purchased and set side-by-side behind the church. They are being used for four classrooms: Nursery Class and Kindergarten Class; Intermediate Class and Senior High Class. Our church has achieved a "first" in being the only church in the United States using trailers for Sunday School needs. Pictures and articles have been displayed in many newspapers throughout the country and in our denomination New York Conference News (Nov. 1964 issue). The trailers were first used on Sunday, September 6, 1964, by 40 pupils.

Mrs. Sherman Glasier resigned as Director of Youth Work and Mrs. William Baker was appointed to fill out her term. A retreat was held for all Junior-Senior High Youth on September 12 at the Fredonia College Lodge in Brocton, N.Y. Thirteen young people and their advisors attended. The time was spent in worshipping, planning programs, recreation, and Christian fellowship.

A Family Night Fellowship Supper was held on September 24 with Rev. Chester Beebe, pastor of the Methodist Church of Dunkirk, as guest speaker. His talk was on "The Church." Colored slides of Florida were shown by Lewis and Jeanette Langhans. 65 attended.

Catechism Classes were begun by our pastor for all youth between the ages of 12 and 14 on alternate Wednesday evenings, beginning Oct. 14 through Easter 1965. This was a program preparing them for church membership. Six girls started the course.

Forty new folding chairs were purchased for the Sunday School rooms.

The October Family Night Fellowship Supper highlighted special guest, Mr. Joseph Keyser, Director of Athletics at the Fredonia College. He showed slides of his Alaska trip. Miss Ruth Weinbaum, Freshman student at the college, rendered special music, in her native tongue (Hebrew). 83 attended.

Beginning Sunday, November 8 at 2:00 p.m. the pastor held the first in a series of three Fall Church Membership Classes.

The Boys and Girls JOY Fellowship decorated the altar of our church for the Thanksgiving service held on Sunday, Nov. 22. They used corn husks, wheat, pumpkins, squash, etc. The Sunday School classes put both fresh and canned fruits and vegetables in. The food items were then delivered to the WCA Home in Fredonia. The winter weather was so severe this day that only 33 persons were able to get out for the church service.

The annual Children's Christmas program was held on Sunday evening, December 20. A playlet, "The Meaning of Christmas" began with a narration on the creation and led up to the birth of Jesus. Mrs. Lewis Loughans was the narrator and all classes took part. 150 were in attendance. A candlelighting service closed the program which was followed by a fellowship tea in the social rooms.

The second New Year's Eve Watchnight Service was held from 9:00 to midnight. Rev. William Kulp was chairman of the event, assisted by Mrs. Roger Best. There was a dialogue between the minister and a layman - Wm. Kulp and Sherman Glasier. Colored slides of Scotland were shown on the screen by Robert and Mary Bartholomew from their August trip. Hymns of different faiths were narrated by Robert Glasier and sung or rendered on instruments by several persons. Prayer Hymns for the coming year were narrated by William Baker and sung or rendered on instrument by other persons. Two poems were recited by Miss Leota Niebel. At midnight a Friendship Circle and then benediction by Rev. Wood. 47 attended this service.

An Adult Fellowship group for single and married persons over eighteen years of age was organized in January 1965 by the pastor. The first meeting was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Straight, Fredonia on Saturday evening, the 16th. Twelve persons enjoyed an evening of entertainment, followed by refreshments served by the host and hostess. Four more such evenings were held during the remainder of the year.

A "Trailer Fund" was set up with its first treasurer being Mrs. Eleanor Straight.

A Memorial Committee was appointed by the pastor: Harry Aldrich, Leota Niebel, Alice Straight, Barbara Best and Rev. Wood. A tabulation of memorials received up to December 1964 was made and names recorded for the items.

Special services held on Sunday mornings in January included Men's Day on January 17 and Youth Sunday on the 31st. The theme for the

## Chapter 10 (cont.)

first program was "Witnessing" and five-minute talks were given by four laymen: William Baker, Alfred Narraway, Lewis Langhans, Jr. and Sherman Glasier. As an extra treat, all men in the program sang a hymn "Rise Up, O Men of God." For Youth Sunday, special speaker was Dr. Robert Boenig, professor of biology and science education at the local college. The entire Youth Fellowship sang "Open My Eyes."

Family Night Fellowship Suppers this year numbered four. On January 28 our guest speaker was Dr. Robert Nossen, Dean of Arts and Sciences at the local college. Student at the college, Miss Ruth Weinbaum from Israel, rendered accordion selections. 54 attended. On April 29, Mr. Joseph Keyser and his wife (he is Director of Athletics at the college), were our guests and they showed slides of a Wyoming camping trip. Other college guests were Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gilman, who played and sang folk music. 69 attended. On June 26 a farewell party was given the Sherman Glasier family who are moving to Orchard Park, N.Y. This family contributed much to the work of our Lord in two churches - our former Dunkirk Church (1952-1959) and Leona from that time forth. 80 attended. The final Supper of the year was combined with our Annual Congregational Meeting on December 29 when the annual election of officers took place. 36 attended. A rising ovation was given Carl Harder, retiring, for service to our church as Treasurer for four years and as Trustee. A special recognition certificate was presented him on Jan. 2, 1966. Our budget was revised at this meeting and \$12,165.00 was accepted by the congregation present.

World Service Day was held on February 7 with members of the W.S. W.S. conducting the worship service at 11:00. From Jamestown, as guest speaker, was Rev. Charles Aldrich, District Superintendent of the Methodist Churches.

Six Lenten Bible Classes were conducted by our pastor on Wednesday evenings beginning on Ash Wednesday. Theme for the messages were "God in the Hands of Men." The average attendance for the classes was 22.

A series of three membership classes were taught by our pastor beginning March 7.

Our church cooperated with the Fredonia Council of Churches during Holy Week and held a Union Service on Wednesday evening attended by 91 persons. Speaker was the Rev. Kenneth Lescalleet, pastor of the Free Methodist Church.

For the first time in the history of our church, two services were offered on Easter morning - 9:30 and 11:00. Attendance was 103 and 91 respectively. Music was provided by our two choirs: Junior and Adult. No Sunday School was held this day, but was held on Saturday instead.

Also in April, the Ladies Aid Society members conducted their second church service with guest speaker, the Rev. William Kulp. 95 attended.

The annual Mother-Daughter Get-together was held on May 18 in the church, sponsored by the W.S.W.S. A surprise tribute was given to



## Chapter 10 (cont.)

the eldest mother, who is also the oldest member of our church - Mrs. Eda Stonefoot, age 88 and a church member for 70 years. She also represented the mother present who was born the farthest away-Germany. A corsage, made by Mrs. Harold Pangborn, was pinned on her and the pastor gave her a plant of african violets, a gift from the Society. Second and third oldest mothers who were given gifts were Mrs. Anna Wasmund and Mrs. Habel Smith. Special guest speaker was Mrs. Grace Abbey of Forestville who gave a humorous monologue. The attendance was our largest - 101.

Another "first" was established by the giving a Family Fellowship Tea for parents and friends of our Sunday School children, who came to view the various classrooms and the handwork done by the students. 70 attended.

The annual Children's Day program was held on June 12 with the theme "This is God's World" presented by 72 boys and girls in our Sunday School. Another attendance record was established this day by 171 persons for this program.

Our pastor began another series of membership classes on May 2 and after conducting another two classes, new members joined our church on Holy Communion Sunday, June 27 and received the Sacrament in a body. A reception was held following the service, at which time our graduates were also honored: Misses Una Chase, Nancy Straight; Verland Cooper, Jr., from Fredonia Central School; James Schroeder, Industrial High School and Miss Janet Mahle, Jamestown Community College.

Promotion Sunday was held on the last Sunday in June by the Sunday School during their worship hour prior to church services. James and John Glasier, Patrick Deering, Robert Eddy and Douglas Madley graduated into the Adult Sunday School and they were each given a Bible.

During the first six months of this year we have noted a total of 108 persons as visitors to our worship services on Sunday mornings.

It was voted by members of the church, following a Sunday worship service to hold two services each Sunday during July and August, 1965, another First. The results were excellent by comparing the attendance with the previous year. July 1964 average was 80-this year, it was 101. August 1964 average was 64-this year, it was 80. The first service was from 8:30 to 9:30, second service from 11:00 to noon with Sunday School in-between.

Our church has been growing rapidly and the Sunday School rooms are crowded even though two shell trailers gave us four extra classrooms. The kitchen had to be used again a few times as a classroom and the pastor moved his study from the church to the parsonage to provide another classroom. Total Sunday School enrollment is 125 with an average attendance of 85.

This summer the New York Conference Board of Trustees, approached by our Planning Comm., acting upon the recommendation of the Board of Missions, purchased a site of approximately 3½ acres on Liberty St.

for a future relocation of an EUB Church. The property is located at the end of Liberty St., next to the Canadaway Bridge, along side the Canadaway Creek.

Miss June Millonzi, organist-Junior Choir Director-soloist, who has attended our church and Sunday School ever since she was a small child, resigned her positions to marry George Kelly, Jr. of Silver Creek and Connecticut in September. An all-church shower was given her by the Adult Choir. Following the wedding, they moved to Union City, Conn. Mrs. Roger (Barbara Baldwin) Best was appointed Church Organist, Mrs. Kenneth Thies, Jr. (Rita Pangborn) and Mrs. Harold Pangborn were appointed Junior Choir Directors. Mrs. William Kulp resigned as Adult Choir Director and Mr. Alfred Narraway was appointed in her place. A new Youth Choir, consisting of Youth Fellowship members, was organized and directed by Mrs. Alfred Narraway.

A fall retreat was held at the Fredonia Policemen's Grounds in Arkwright by the Youth Fellowship, September 11 and 12. Twenty of our young people attended and participated in a very inspiring program and activities. Special guests were Robert Esch (a former pastor's son) and Kai Burtner of Webster.

For the first time in many years Rally Day was celebrated and very successfully on September 26 with 90 attending the Sunday School hour.

Men's Day was observed on October 17 before a congregation numbering 85. Guest speaker was Donald Reinhoudt, a layman from the Methodist Church, in Fredonia.

Also in November Rev. Wood conducted two weekly "Bible Study Hour" teachings on the Book of Philippians and two in December. Attendance was poor, so they were discontinued. Singspiration during the hour was led by Alfred Narraway.

The United Thanksgiving Service was held in our church this year with Rev. Chester Beebe, pastor of the Dunkirk Methodist Church, as speaker. 109 attended the service.

Another first in the history of our church—a Father-Son Banquet was held on Saturday, Dec. 4 under the Chairmanship of Victor Richardson. The 56 attending were served a turcen dinner at 6:30 p.m. and were entertained with magic tricks and musical numbers by many of those men and boys present. A movie was also shown.

On Sunday evening December 19 the annual Children's Christmas Program was put on. A spotlight was centered on a large cardboard book, which was in the center of the stage. It was entitled "Let There Be Songs." Twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Richard DuBois, Dale and Dean, held the sides of the large book and pages were turned by Brent Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Baker, Sunday School Supt. A candlelighting service closed the program and was followed with a fellowship tea in the social rooms. 125 persons attended the program.

Chapt. 10 (cont.)

During July and August the interior of the church was painted for the first time in 23 years with honey dew green walls and a white ceiling. Carl Harder donated all the paint and the trustees and other members did the work.

The last week in December a green carpet was laid on the chancel by Bates Furniture Co., Dunkirk, at a cost of \$250.00. It was paid from the Memorial Fund. The project was promoted by the W.S.W.S. and Ladies Aid Society.

The average Sunday morning worship hour attendance for 1965 was 92.

Youth Sunday was held on the last Sunday in January and 83 attended. The President, Lori Snyder, was received into the membership of our church this day.

Eighty-seven attended the morning worship service conducted by the members of the W.S.W.S. on February 6, 1966. They told of the early founding of the church, the beginning years of the Missionary Society, and the works and workers in the mission fields today.

Alfred Narraway was elected Chairman of Church Membership Commission. This Commission will study the membership of the church and try to encourage better attendance by those persons who have not attended during the past several months or years.

Donald Straight resigned as trustee and Lewis Langhans, Jr. was voted to fill his term-December 1967. Eleanor Straight accepted the position of Church Treasurer and William Baker was appointed as 1966 BMS Director.

A family night fellowship supper was held on February 22 at 6:30 p.m. It was followed by a Talent Show entitled "A Tribute to George Washington," which was adapted by Mrs. Roger East, presented by a total of thirty persons within the church body. 64 persons attended.

Four open bookcases, one for each class in the Children's Department in the Sunday School, were made to display reading books. They were used for the first time on February 27 and donated by Leslie Straight.

Beginning March 20-24, each evening, a denominational wide program entitled the 4-C Evangelistic Mission Services, were held in our church with guest missionary, Rev. David Derk, pastor of Findley Lake EUB Church. He told of his many experiences while living fourteen years in Tibet and also displayed articles from that country, plus showed slides. 265 persons attended the five-day mission, averaging 53 per meeting. The messages were very inspiring and our members accepted a higher commitment.

Two brass offering plates were dedicated in memory of Emma E. Niebel at a Sunday worship service on March 27. A total of 112 persons attended this service including members of her family. The plates

were used in taking the offering that day.

During Holy Week, in cooperation with the Fredonia Council of Churches, a Union Lenten Service was held in our church on Tuesday evening with 79 in attendance. Two church services were held on Easter Sunday with 86 at the 9:30 service and 117 at the 11:00 service. This was the largest attendance total for this special day in our history. No Sunday School was held this day, but the entire families were urged to attend services together.

The Ladies Aid Society members had charge of the service on April 24. Guest speaker was Rev. Ernest Bolling of Jamestown, a retired minister who served the Ripley and Sheridan Churches in the past. 90 attended.

Ten members of the Fredonia Kiwanis Club were welcomed to our worship service on May 15 as they observed "Go To Church Sunday". The wife of one member present noticed we displayed many Christian symbols within our church and also on the exterior. Going into it further, she (Mrs. William Spicer) presented a program on Symbolism to our W.S.W.S. in September. Mrs. Roger Best presented Part II on the same subject following many consultations with Mrs. Spicer.

Fifty-seven members and guests were present at the annual Mother-Daughter Tea held on the third Tuesday in April. The program was under the direction of Mrs. Frederick Wood. Guest speaker was Mrs. Nelson Merritt from Sheridan, who talked about her bell collection, which she displayed.

A Family Fellowship Tea was given by the teachers for parents and friends of Sunday School children on May 1, beginning Christian Family Week from 3 to 4 p.m. Displays of handwork done by the students was on view in the various classrooms. Refreshments were served to the 50 that attended.

Public cafeteria-style suppers were started again this year after a lapse of five years. Wednesday, May 25, the supper was sponsored by the W.S.W.S. for the purpose of reducing the debt on the trailers. 170 persons were served. A chicken bar-b-q was put on by the men in the church in June with 140 being served. The last one of the year was held on November 9 and 120 were in attendance.

One child was baptized during the Mother's Day service attended by 129 in May. June 26 there were eight more baptized - one infant dedicated on Men's Day, Oct. 17.

Annual Children's Day program was held on June 12 with the theme, "Our Church". It was patterned as a Sunday worship service with Richard Lewis as "pastor for the hour". 55 pupils participated and 175 attended the program.

Promotion Day by the Sunday School was preceded by a Family Night Supper on Monday, June 27. The following six students graduated into the Adult Dept. - Terry Bennett, Suzanne Bentley, Ronald Rathman, John Narraway, Richard Lewis and James Thompson. They were each presented a Bible. Two High School and one college graduate were also honored

Chapt. 10 (cont.)

and presented a gift - Mrs. Penhollow and Rex Souter (not present); and Penny Penhollow. 95 attended the affair.

During the summer months the pastor attempted something new during the morning worship hour - having the children come to the altar for prayer. The boys and girls responded very well to this and it was continued weekly throughout the year.

For the first time in our Church School a Summer Christmas Tree program was held for five mornings from July 11-15. The theme was "Children in Cities Around the World" with time spent singing, study, play and activity. Average attendance was 50; perfect attendance by 28 pupils, with ten teachers and six helpers.

Double services were held during the month of August only this year with an average attendance of 75 reported for the eight services. Rev. Wm. Kulp preached while Pastor Wood was on vacation, July 24-July 31.

A special service of dedication was held on October 9 in honor of Elmer C. Thies, deceased, who gave lifelong service to the church. The New Chancel Rug (Green) was dedicated from funds in the Memorial Fund that were given in his memory. A special tribute was read by layman, Harry Aldrich and music throughout the service featured favorite hymns of the deceased. All contributors to the Memorial Fund in Mr. Thies' memory were written a special invitation to the service. 80 attended. Organist was Mrs. Roger Best.

Men's Day was held on Sunday, Oct. 16 the theme being "Is Our Church What It Should Be?" Attendance was 78.

For the first time, coin folders were given to 100 families to fill with dimes for Thanksgiving. The receipts will pay the balance of the 1966 Pastor's Fund. Commitment Sunday was held on the 13th, attended by 90, with a special dedication service for the pledges as they were brought to the altar, in offering plates, by the ushers.

The Northern Chautauqua Inter-faith group sponsored a "Your Neighbor's Faith" program this fall through spring of next year and our church was one of the many churches chosen for an Open House for the public on Nov. 20 from 2-4 o'clock. This program was in conjunction with ecumenical movements throughout the world. A bus from Holy Cross Seminary in Dunkirk provided the transportation. Within our church, stations were set up and groups of persons were escorted from station to station where designated persons in our church explained the program of our church and its facilities. Station #1 - Rev. Wood welcomed everyone and Mrs. Florence Bouquin gave a history of the Laona Church. Rev. Wood told about the founders of the EUB Church and he explained the Harvest Booth made by the JOY Fellowship. Station #2 - Miss Leota Niebel explained the Holy Communion and baptism procedures used and gave the symbolic meaning of our Chancel cross and commented on the Communion Set gift encased in the wall. Station #3 - Mrs.

Alice Straight spoke on the Church School educational program and showed a display of materials used. She directed the group to the Trailers where Mrs. Patricia Wood and Miss Linda Straight toured the groups. Total attendance by persons of all faiths was 90. The greatest majority represented the Roman Catholic faith. Refreshments were served. Ushers

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Chapt. 10 (cont.)

were James Thompson and Gilbert Bouquin. Registration was in charge of Barbara Marraway and Gloria Thompson.

A Father-Son Banquet was held on Saturday, Dec. 5 under the chairmanship of Merle Kyser. Dinner was served by the wives at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment during the program was provided by Rev. Wood-Walter White duo including piano, banjo and accordion. All men sang "We Three Kings" and "Silent Night". Slides of trips throughout Canada, Michigan, and Florida were shown by Lewis Lenghans, Jr. Mr. Kyser showed slides of Viet Nam, courtesy of Mrs. Richard Jackson of Fredonia whose husband is serving in that country. 37 men and boys attended this affair.

The annual Children's Christmas program was given on December 18 at 7:00 called "The Song of Christmas". It was adapted by Mrs. Genevieve Wood and featured an evening of music by all. Narrator was Miss Branda Lenghans. Colored slides were used to illustrate the hymns. A candle-lighting service closed the program. A Tea followed in the social hall. Attendance was 143.

On January 2, 1957 Holy Communion was served in the pews for the first time in the history of the church. There were 79 in attendance and 74 took Communion. It was the largest attendance for a Communion Service since July 1964.

Victor Richardson was appointed Sunday School Superintendent to succeed William Baker who has held that office since 1959.

Joan Baker resigned as director of the Youth Fellowship. Co-directors, Lily Marraway and Mary Kyser, will finish out this year.

A presentation of Founders of our EUB Church was presented by Suzanne Bentley, Terry Bennett, and Kathleen Wise (members of the pastor's Catechism class) during the worship Service Jan. 15.

Youth Sunday was held on Jan. 29. The theme of the service was "A Song in My Heart". The program included an enjoyable hour of musical entertainment of folk songs, hymns and spirituals. Besides our own talent, special selections were given by the Tesch sisters (Donna, Martha and Barbara) and Charles James from Fredonia. The Sermonette was given by Lori Snyder. It was the largest Youth Service we ever had. 130 attended.

Our annual talent show entitled, "Walk through February" was held on Feb. 2. Master of ceremonies was Richard Lewis, who paid a tribute to each holiday and special days of famous statesmen and women. Musical selections were presented by "The Straight Shooters". Twenty others in our church either played on instruments, sang or recited. The program was adapted by Mrs. Harold Pangborn and Mrs. Barbara Best. 100 persons attended. A tureen supper preceded the show.

JOY Fellowship held their World Day of Prayer Service at the Church Feb. 10. The theme of the service was, "Of His Kingdom Shall Be No End"; Luke 1:33. 27 adults and children attended the service which was presented by the children.

Chapt. 10 (cont.)

Our WSWs and the Dunkirk Methodist Church sponsored 4 fellowship and discussion meetings during Lent, and studied the current Mission theme, "Affluence and Poverty". Meetings were held twice in each church with an average attendance of 25. Rev. Chester Beebe and our own pastor, Rev. Frederick Wood, attended all meetings.

Five Lenten Religious Conversation meetings were held during February at 7:30 p.m. They were held at the homes of Miss Leota Niebel, Mr. & Mrs. William Baker, Rev. & Mrs. Frederick, Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Straight and Mr. & Mrs. Harry Aldrich.

One hundred thirty-seven attended the Easter morning Sunrise Service held at our church. Pastors from the churches in Fredonia took part. Special music was provided by a band ensemble, girls trio and organ music by Mrs. Harold Pangborn. Rev. William Kulp spoke on "My Lord, What a Morning". 65 attended breakfast immediately following the service downstairs in the Fellowship Room. This was sponsored by the Junior-Senior YF of our Church.

Two Church Worship Services were held also this day: one at 8:30 and 11:00. Special music for the first service was provided by Leslie Straight and John Straight, accompanist, Brenda Lughans on flute and the adult choir for the second service. Attendance for the two services was 175.

During the month of April, Sunday worship services were held in the fellowship room where the pews were placed while our Sanctuary was renovated. The balcony, ceiling and walls were painted. Green paint on the walls to match our green rug. Window casings and wainscoting were cleaned and varnished, Cross revarnished. A new tile floor was laid throughout the vestibule, office and Nave. Linoleum was placed on the balcony floor, and pews were scrubbed and cleaned. This was all accomplished by a large group of men, women and youth who worked diligently to give our interior a much brighter look. The paint and supplies were purchased by the Ladies Aid Society and the WSWs. The sub-flooring, tile and linoleum were bought with money in the Memorial Fund. Attendance for services were low this month averaging 68 for 4 Sundays.

Mrs. Amy Thies, widow of Elmer Thies, was honored Wednesday evening April 26 by members and friends of our church during a Family Night fellowship supper and farewell party. Mrs. Thies has been a member of our church for 37 years and has resided in this area for 40 years. She is moving to Clarence, N.Y. Mrs. Thies was presented an engraved silver dish by William Baker representing the church body. Rev. Frederick Wood gave her a Certificate of Service for her work in the church. Many persons gave impromptu talks relating their past experiences under her leadership. Her favorite hymns were sung and a special heart-shaped cake was made for her. The supper and program was attended by 75 members and friends.

The Ladies Aid had charge of the service on Sunday morning, May 7. Rev. William Kulp spoke on "Christianity, Woman's Blessing". 81 attended.

Chapt. 10 (cont.)

A Mother-Daughter get together was held on Tuesday evening, May 16 at the church with 74 persons attending. "The honored daughter of the hour," which was drawn, was Miss Robin Morse. "Mother of the hour" - Mrs. Nelson Ball. Theme for the program included hats, flowers and May baskets. A history of hats (furnished by Jamestown Little Theatre) and how they were made from 1863 to the late 1900s was described by Miss Rose Marie Best. Hat molds were shown by Mrs. Harold Pangborn, dated 1867. Miss Rose Marie Best served as commentator for the fashion show of period hats modelled by members of the WWS and Kathleen Wise. Hats of tomorrow were modelled by Mrs. Barbara Wise and her daughter, Kathleen. A parade of hats made by the mothers followed by everyone singing a special song written by Mrs. Pangborn completed the program.

A public spaghetti supper was sponsored by the YF on June 7. The proceeds were \$76.00 which went towards a floor scrubber for the church. 97 were served.

Instead of a May Fellowship Tea for parents as in previous years, beginning on May 7, and continuing through Sundays in June, the classes took turns inviting the parents to sit in on a Sunday School class in session. They had a chance to meet their children's teacher and to see first-hand the work of our Sunday School. This proved very successful for both parents and teachers.

The annual Children's Day program was held on Sunday morning, June 11. The program entitled "Bridges of Friendship" was based on the mission study in January. 128 attended.

A Church Fellowship supper was held on June 28 at 6:30 p.m. to honor our graduates. Barbara Narraway, Linda Straight, John Straight from High School and Iain Narraway from Fredonia State University College. Each graduate was presented a gift from the church followed by a prayer by Rev. Wood.

A summer Christmas Tree program was held for two hours each morning, July 5-7, and was learning about the Philippines, with a time spent in singing, worship, classes, crafts and games. Mrs. Byron Esch of Buffalo supplied materials made in the Philippines, from her sister Miss Ruth Rauch, who is a nurse there. 146 attended the three day study.

The Adult Choir members honored Mrs. Genevieve Wood at a party held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Straight on Aug. 21 to show their grateful appreciation for the many years she has helped them during the past four years. A gift was presented to Mrs. Wood. 17 attended.

A farewell party for Reverend and Mrs. Wood was given following a fellowship supper on Aug. 28. Master of Ceremonies was Leslie Straight. Music for the evening was furnished by the Mad-Hatters composed of John Straight and three fellow graduates. Song - A Lament to the tune, "Somebody Else is Taking My Place" written and sung by Leslie Straight. The program closed with everyone joining hands and singing, "Now is the Hour". Rev. Harland West, Protestant Chaplin at the Fredonia



College offered the benediction. 93 attended the supper program.

During the four years of Rev. Wood's Ministry here 67 new members were added to the church roll, and numerous improvements were made in the church interior. We wish him God's richest blessings. (62 Baptisms were among his credits)

The Annual Church picnic was held at the Stockton Firemen's Grounds in 1964 and 1965 and at Point Gratiot, Dunkirk, in 1966 and 1967. Seventy-two (72) attended the 1967 picnic and was the largest attendance for a picnic in many years.

Reverend Richard M. Ricker  
1967-

Reverend Richard M. Ricker is the newly appointed pastor of our church. He was ordained while attending the New York Conference Session in June, by Bishop J. Gordon Howard of Pittsburgh Pa.

During his schooling he served the following churches, Grove and Swain EUB Churches in New York State, Scarboro EUB Church in Illinois, Geneva EUB Church and Lyons First EUB Church in New York State.

Rev. Ricker and his wife, Mary, have three children: Deborah Lynn, 5 yrs.; David William, 4 yrs.; and Dana Louise, 1½ yrs. old. Also residing with them is Mrs. Ricker's mother, Mrs. Mildred Wilson of Johnstown, Pa.

A get-acquainted reception and luncheon to honor our new pastor and his family was held on Sept. 10 from noon until 1:00 following the worship hour. 85 attended.

A youth retreat was held at the Fredonia policemen's grounds in Arkwright on Sat., Sept. 23. Rev. Ricker spoke on, "Why Are We Here?". Miss Barbara Lesch from Fredonia entertained on her guitar for group singing. 26 youth attended plus 4 adults.

Promotion Day was held on Sunday, Sept. 24. Three boys were promoted to adult Sunday School: Brian DuBois, John Conti and Steven Bentley. Rev. Ricker presented them each with a Bible during the Sunday School worship time.

Sunday evening, Oct. 8 at 7:00 p.m. "Fall Institute" was held at our church with Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Trebes. Mr. Trebes is mission interpreter and the tour director of the Board of Missions of the EUB Denomination. He spoke and showed slides on the mission fields of Puerto Rico. Mrs. Trebes had a display of articles from different countries where they had been stationed. 55 attended.

Men's Day was held on Oct. 15. Taking part in the service were Clarence Wood, Lewis Langhans and Alfred Warraway. The sermon was in two parts. "If I Were a Minister," by Victor Richardson and "If I Were a Layman," by Rev. Ricker. 84 attended.

Chapt. 10 (cont.)

During November a new tile floor was laid in the balcony and the stairs leading to the balcony were covered with rubber. This was paid from money received from Mrs. Amy Thies requesting that it be used for that purpose.

Elma Mays was appointed Chairman of the Every Member Enlistment. Visitation week began Nov. 12. The approved budget for 1967-68 is \$14,155.50.

The Married Couples Club has been reorganized after a lapse of two years. They will meet the first Sat. evening in each month under the direction of Merle Kyser, Adult Council Leader. Bowling proved to be the main interest to the group except for one snow party and one game night. One time 14 couples went bowling at Central Lanes in Dunkirk. Refreshments were served later in the church social room or at Alleys.

For the first time Advent Candles were lit during the Church Worship Service, one each Sunday. Three purple candles representing Darkness, one pink, representing Light.

The annual Christmas program was held on Sunday evening, Dec. 17. Five adults and children took part in a six-part play, "The World Needs a Saviour", with Rev. Ricker as narrator.

Following the program refreshments were served downstairs in the fellowship room. 117 attended.

One hundred thirteen attended the Christmas Worship Service Sunday morning, Dec. 24.

Due to the large attendance in Youth Fellowship it was decided in January to split the group thereby forming a Junior High and a Senior High group, each having a membership of between 20 and 24 youth. The Junior group leaders were Mrs. Alfred Narraway and Victor Richardson; the Senior group was led by the pastor and Mrs. Merle Kyser.

Easter planning began early by the Adult Choir, who began rehearsing for a Cantata entitled, "This Is The King". Under the direction of Alfred Narraway it was presented twice: Good Friday evening and Easter Sunday morning (second service) to a total of 200 persons.

Bible Study classes began in January and March. The latter series covered The Parables and was well-received. Teaching training classes began in April for five weeks and were taught by the pastor. The 12 participants learned much from the discussions and suggested such classes begin again in the Fall.

Palm Sunday new members were received. Among the ten youthful members, three were also baptized before a congregation numbering 129. Two Easter services totaled 180 persons.

The Lewis Langhans Jr. family were honored at a farewell supper party in the church on March 21 prior to their moving to Tonawanda. Each member of this family served His church well in Laona. Jeanette began the JOY Fellowship for the younger boys and girls and upon her resignation as its head, the pastor's wife, Mary, was appointed.

## Chapter 10 continued

During the first four months of this year we lost two dedicated members: Lula Thies and Winifred Pangborn. Mrs. Thies had been a member of our church since 1915 and had served the Ladies Aid Society in many ways for 49 years. Mrs. Pangborn served the church with her musical ability, as Junior Choir Director, Adult Choir accompanist and assistant Organist. A special tribute was given in her memory on March 24 by Leslie Straight, Richard and Mary Ricker, who read and sang "It Is No Secret".

Leslie Straight was a New York Conference delegate to the General Conference in Dallas, Texas in April when the Methodist and E.U.B. denominations were united into the United Methodist Church. Ironically, this came about exactly 100 years after local ancestors formed the Evangelical Association in the community of Leona. Thus, bringing to a close the history of the Leona Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church.

THE END

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE LAONA CHURCH

as of April, 1968

Name and Date Joined

Albrecht, Fred	1962	Ehler, G. Ponny	1965
Albrecht, Lottie	1936	Eccles, Donna	1957
Ahrens, Esther	1920	Eddy, Leland	1965
Aldrich, Harry	1960	Eddy, Bertha	1965
Aldrich, Gladys	1960	Eddy, Nancy	1964
Baker, William	1959	Eddy, Robert	1966
Baker, Joan	1959	Frick, Shirley	1957
Baldwin, Aubroy	1957	Glazier, Richard	1957
Baldwin, Henrietta	1949	Gloff, Mary Louise	1959
Bartholomow, Robert	1964	Gloff, Robert V.	1960
Bartholomow, Mary	1960	Gonzales, Gregorio	1960
Becker, Olive	1955	Gonzales, Paciencia	1960
Bonnett, Myrtle	1966	Gonzales, Joel	1960
Bennett, Torry	1967	Goulding, Daniel	1955
Bentley, Genova	1961	Hadley, Quintin	1961
Bentley, Richard	1957	Hadley, Frances	1960
Bentley, Irene	1948	Hadley, Timothy	1968
Bentley, Susanne	1967	Hanor, Walter	1964
Bentley, Steven	1968	Hanor, Doris	1964
Best, Barbara	1949	Hardor, Carl	1962
Best, Rosemarie	1965	Harder, Helen	1962
Bouquin, Florence	1937	Hotchkiss, May	1960
Bouquin, Gilbert	1957	Hopp, Marilyn	1957
Bloor, Marie	1960	Hunt, Vivian	1957
Bolling, Florence	1958	Johnson, Donald	1957
Brown, Warren	1962	Johnson, Fannie	1955
Brown, Anita	1962	Kelly, June	1957
Brown, Randall	1967	Kruse, Carrie	1944
Brillian, Judy	1957	Kyser, Morle	1966
Buck, Mildred	1936	Kyser, Mary	1966
Buck, Larry	1946	Langhans, Lewis, Jr	1961
Buck, Jean	1961	Langhans, Joannette	1961
Buckley, James	1957	Langhans, Brenda	1965
Buckley, Marilyn	1946	Langhans, Daniel	1968
Bull, Sheldon	1960	Luczkowiak, Janet	1947
Carlstrom, Anna	1965	Mahle, Cecil	1957
Carpenter, Iris	1960	Mahle, Lois	1957
Chase, Mary	1952	Mahle, Janet	1957
Chase, Una	1961	Markham, Richard	1964
Conti, John	1968	Markham, Sharon	1964
Coon, Carlton	1965	Mays, Bortha	1962
Coon, Celestino	1965	Mays, Clyde	1962
Cooper, Gerald	1964	Mays, Elma	1962
Cooper, Lenora	1964	Morse, Robert	1957
Cooper, Verland	1964	Narraway, Alfred	1964
Cooper, Dorothy	1964	Narraway, Lily	1964
Cooper, Verland Jr	1964	Narraway, Iain	1964
Deering, Richard	1957	Narraway, Barbara	1964
Deering, Louella	1946	Narraway, John	1967
DuBois, Richard	1961	Nasca, Frank	1949
DuBois, Evelyn	1946	Nasca, Lauralee	1936
DuBois, Brian	1968	Newton, Paul	1961
DuBois, Richard, Jr	1968	Niebel, Leota	1959
Dunning, James	1957	Pangborn, Harold	1960
Dunning, Marylou	1959	Pangborn, Patricia	1965
		Penhollow, William	1965

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Penhollow, Betty	1965	Thompson, Gloria	1968
Prince, Rogor	1965	Thompson, James, Jr	1968
Prince, Elsie	1965	Thompson, Robert	1968
Rathman, Kenneth	1960	Thios, Randall	1920
Roid, Marjorie	1946	Town, Helen	1962
Richardson, Victor	1961	Vincent, Keith	1968
Richardson, Kay	1955	Wasmund, Anna	1946
Ricker, Richard (Row)	1967	Watrous, Lynn	1964
Ricker, Mary	1967	Watrous, Marjorie	1964
Rowloy, MaryLou	1957	Webster, Edward	1966
Schaich, Edna	1964	Webster, Isabelle	1966
Salhoff, Grace	1964	Wise, Kenneth	1957
Salhoff, Harvov	1964	Wise, Patricia	1955
Salhoff, Lucille	1964	Wise, Earl	1964
Schroeder, Leola	1946	Wise, Barbara	1964
Snyder, Kenneth	1957	Wise, Robert	1967
Snyder, Jeanine	1957	Wise, Kathleen	1967
Snyder, Lori	1966	Wise, Sally	1957
Snyder, Bonnie	1966	Wood, Clarence	1964
Smith, Mabel	1937	Wood, Patricia	1964
Smith, Edgar	1963		
Smith, Marilyn	1963		
Sprague, George	1941		
Sprague, Daris	1957		
Sprague, James	1957		
Sprague, Phyllis	1964		
Sperry, Lorraine	1965		
Soutor, Walter	1962		
Soutor, Ellen	1962		
Soutor, Ronald	1962		
Soutor, Rex	1962		
Soutor, Doreen	1962		
Stevens, Harold	1964		
Stevens, Jewel	1964		
Stevens, Danny	1964		
Stevens, David	1964		
Stonofoot, Eda	1894		
Straight, Elsie	1959		
Straight, Ellis	1961		
Straight, Eleanor	1961		
Straight, Janet	1961		
Straight, Nancy	1961		
Straight, Linda S.	1965		
Straight, Allison	1965		
Straight, Elizabeth	1965		
Straight, Linda E.	1964		
Straight, Sharon	1964		
Straight, Leslie	1957		
Straight, Alice	1957		
Straight, John	1961		
Straight, Juanita	1965		
Styborski, Glendolyn	1940		
Tadt, Harold	1957		
Thies, Amy	1930		
Thies, Kenneth Jr	1963		
Thies, Rita	1963		
Thies, Dorien	1965		
Thompson, James	1963		
Thompson, Concoetta	1953		

## APPENDIX

In preparing this history booklet, the Committee in charge was able to locate, in part, the birthdates, deaths and places of burial of the first thirty-six members. Also a map showing where some of them lived (some lived in many locations in the area).

<u>Name of Member</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Place of Burial</u>
John Goldberg	1834	April 28, 1904	Laona Cemetery
Sophia (Ahrons) Goldberg	1835	July 9, 1921	Laona Cemetery
Fredoric Goldberg	1799	1875	Laona Cemetery
Christ Ahrons	1833	April 24, 1910	Laona Cemetery
Henrietta Ahrons	1836	April 21, 1907	Laona Cemetery
Friedrich Thies	1823	Sept. 29, 1906	Laona Cemetery
Sophia (Ahrons) Thies	1828	Dec. 10, 1888	Laona Cemetery
Friedrich Thies Jr.	1850	Oct. 26, 1926	Laona Cemetery
Christ Gens	1839	Sept. 18, 1902	Laona Cemetery
Augusta Gens	1842	July 8, 1895	Laona Cemetery
Christ Draggott	1832	Mar. 26, 1906	Laona Cemetery
John Draggott	1826	April 8, 1906	Laona Cemetery
Frederick Wagner	1869	Mar. 30, 1872	Laona Cemetery
John C. Thies	1852	1919	Forest Hill " Fredonia "
John Hahn	1849	July 22, 1926	Laona Cemetery
Dorothea Hahn	1824	Sept. 21, 1893	Laona Cemetery
William Richter	1837	Feb. 8, 1919	Sheridan "
Sophia (Edler) Richter	1845	Aug. 27, 1903	Sheridan "
Dorothea Wiedmaier (Dora)	1827	Dec. 13, 1899	Laona Cemetery
Carl Neumann	1831	1906	Ebenezer "

The above information was not available on the remainder of the first membership. Anyone who is able to give us such information may contact the Laona United Methodist Church.

Ernst and Mary Gens	Henry and Anna Muller
John Hahn, Jr	Mary Hahn
Carl and Mary Zentner	Wilhemina Draggott (John's first wife)
Wilhemina Younghouse	Michael Wohlgenuth
John Stahlmacher	Martin and Anna Marie Gorster
William and Anna Sager	

Following is the guide for the map on the next page. "Homes"

1. William & Sophia Ricktor
2. John & Sophia Goldberg
3. Christ & Henrietta Ahrens
4. Fred Thies, Jr.
5. Christ & Augusta Gens
6. Carl Neumann
7. Dora Wiedmaier
8. Friedrich Thies Sr.
9. John Hahn family

