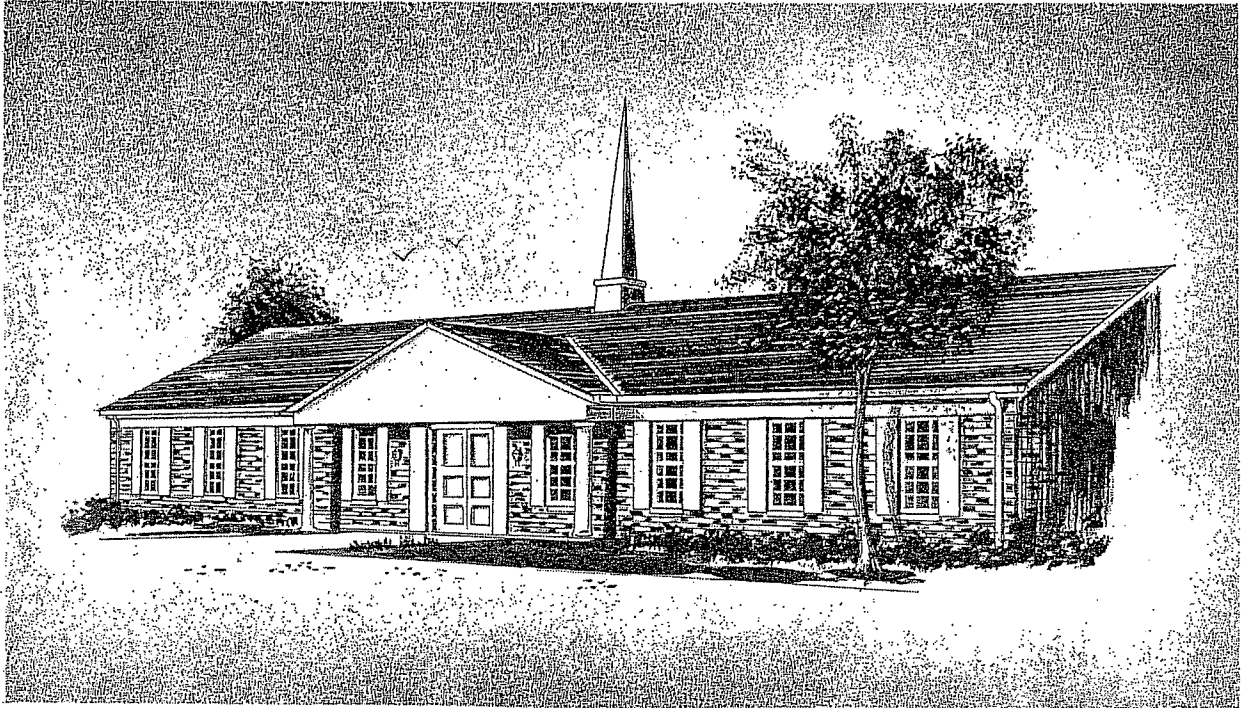


CONFESSIONAL CONCERNS IN CEDARBURG:

**The Initial Years and Events Leading to the Founding of
Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cedarburg, WI**



**Johnold J. Strey
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JOHNOLD J. STREY

Introduction

During the decades that followed the dissolution of the Synodical Conference, it was not unusual to hear about congregations, lay people, or pastors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod seeking membership in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. As the liberal element of the Missouri Synod of that era exerted its force, many confessional-minded members of the LC-MS believed that it was time to break away from their former synod and establish fellowship with like-minded confessional Lutherans. Today, four decades after the Wisconsin Synod suspended fellowship with Missouri¹, our Seminary still receives the occasional request from a former pastor of the LC-MS to undergo a colloquy and become a member of the WELS ministerium.

While it is not uncommon for people or congregations in the Missouri Synod to seek fellowship within the Wisconsin Synod, it would come as a huge surprise if a group within the liberal Evangelical Lutheran Church in America desired to leave that church body and join our Wisconsin Synod. Perhaps this is the most intriguing aspect in the early history of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. Redeemer Church found its beginning in a small group of concerned Lutherans who had recently resigned their membership at Advent Lutheran Church in Cedarburg². Advent Church was a member of the Lutheran Church in

¹ The WELS suspended fellowship with the LC-MS in 1961; the Synodical Conference disbanded in 1963.

² Advent Lutheran Church is located in downtown Cedarburg, WI, at W63 N642 Washington Avenue.

America, the most liberal among the Lutheran denominations of that time. (The LCA³ would eventually find its way into the 1984 formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America⁴.) By the grace of God, a small group from Advent congregation was led to recognize the errors that were being proclaimed in their church. That same group would be instrumental in the establishment of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church⁵ in Cedarburg, WI. The purpose of this essay will be to examine the events which led to the formation of Redeemer Church and to record the early years of the congregation's history, until the time when its first permanent house of worship was built in 1973.

I. Confessionalism Crumbling

It is strange how things can seemingly go along well and then one day an individual or group of individuals sees that all is not well, in fact that very little is well. But even so many people take no action to counter what they know in their hearts to be wrong, they live with it, perhaps even become accustomed to it and may even become resigned to the fact. Yet there are some who when they see the wrong determine to fight it. And if they cannot overcome the evil in their midst, if they are not able to change the course of things, they take a stand. They must say what needs to be said and then follow up by definite and decisive action.

The founding fathers of Redeemer were men who faced a similar situation. These men, who in 1968 were all members in good standing with another Lutheran church in the area, saw that in that congregation the gospel of Jesus Christ in all its truth and purity was not being proclaimed. This does not imply that the individuals involved knew immediately everything that was wrong with their former affiliation. It does though, most strongly assert, however, that even when

³ WELS and Other Lutherans (© 1995 Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee) includes the following summary of the LCA as a predecessor to ELCA: "The Lutheran Church in America was the largest contributor to ELCA. Its 3 million members and 6,000 congregations were most heavily concentrated in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Illinois. The LCA was more liberal in doctrine and had a longer heritage of liberalism than the other merging bodies. Its predecessor, the United Lutheran Church in America (ULCA), pioneered the acceptance of negative criticism of the Bible and the undermining of the doctrine of Scripture in American Lutheranism. The LCA merely carried on what the ULCA had begun. The LCA was the greatest contributor to the feminist, gay-rights, liberation theology lobbies which often hold ELCA hostage" (p. 33).

⁴ The other Lutheran bodies that merged into the ELCA included the more moderate 2.5 million member American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the 100,000 member Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC), a liberal break-off group from the LC-MS.

⁵ Redeemer Church is located at 607 N. Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg, WI.

the pure and true doctrines of Scripture have been beclouded that yet by the working of the Holy Ghost through the little Word that does remain, a real sense of Christian awareness can be developed.⁶

The preceding paragraphs are one founder's view of the situation at Advent Church and the impetus to establish Redeemer. An interview with some of the founding members of Redeemer Church⁷ revealed some of the unfortunate doctrinal laxity to which the preceding excerpt refers. The books produced for Sunday School classes completely lost any focus on the gospel. Founding member John Van Sickle recalled the content of the Sunday School material: "I was superintendent of Sunday School, and at that time I remember the lessons didn't teach religion. They were teaching current events in other countries – nothing about religion."⁸ The pastor of Advent Church at that time (late 1960's), Rev. John Sell, was teaching the confirmation class that the universe came into existence not through creation, but evolution. He told that same confirmation class that if an opportunity for sex presented itself, they should feel free to take advantage of it. Some of the basic truths of the Christian faith recorded in the Apostles' Creed, such as the virgin birth of Christ, were being denied right in the Sunday sermon. In addition, the pastor was also "denying the existence of the soul, the life after death," and was accused of "neglect of his pastoral duties of visiting the sick and the dying."⁹

⁶ The preceding two paragraphs are taken from a written history of the early years of Redeemer congregation written by Richard Grossman, one of the original thirteen founding members of Redeemer Church. The complete script of Mr. Grossman's history is found in the 25th Anniversary booklet of Redeemer Church (excerpt from pp. 1-2). There is no indication of a specific date that this history summary was prepared; however, based on the closing paragraphs, it was written sometime between the winter of 1972-73 and the summer of 1973.

⁷ Interview conducted and recorded at Redeemer Church on Monday, April 23, 2001. Those present for the interview were Redeemer charter members Ed and Ruth Wolf, Lorraine Halloran, John Van Sickle, and Lloyd Verhaalen. The author's father, Johnold E. Strey, was also present at the interview; he was not one of the charter members of Redeemer, but was a former member of Advent Church. The author's parents joined Redeemer Church within the first year of its formation. The five charter members listed above are the remaining original members at Redeemer Church at the time this essay was written.

⁸ Quotation from John Van Sickle at the April 23, 2001 interview.

⁹ Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, p. 3

Perhaps the most controversial event that occurred and that led to the eventual break from Advent was the Sunday on which Father Groppe, a Roman Catholic priest and controversial civil rights advocate, was invited to preach. Pastor Sell suggested to the Advent Church council that Father Groppe be invited to preach at one of Advent's regular services.¹⁰ The suggestion met with very strong disapproval; all but one of the council members rejected Sell's proposal. Despite the council's rejection, Sell invited Groppe to preach.¹¹ As one might expect, the Sunday Groppe preached provoked strong protests from various members of Advent. Several people walked out of church in protest that morning. Needless to say, this incident strengthened the determination of the more conservative members of Advent that something must be done.

The events described in the previous two paragraphs led to a special congregational meeting held in January 1969. The various complaints and charges of false doctrine were presented before the district president, Dr. Mattson. The concerned members of the congregation were hoping to restore doctrinal purity to their church. A congregational survey indicated that a clear majority of the congregation wanted Rev. Sell to be removed from his position at Advent. Unfortunately, Dr. Mattson would leave the many in the congregation as disappointed after the meeting as they were before it.

After hearing the complaints from those who wanted disciplinary action taken against the pastor's false teaching, Dr. Mattson's response infuriated the conservative members at Advent even more. Mattson scolded the Advent Church council "for stirring up trouble."¹² "He also

¹⁰ The date Father Groppe preached is uncertain. Based on the April 23, 2001 interview with the founding members, this event took place at the same time as the other problems came to light in the late 1960's, probably in 1968.

¹¹ At the April 23, 2001 interview, founding member Ed Wolf speculated as to the reasons Sell invited Graape to preach in spite of the Council's rejection of the idea: "I think that [the reason Sell invited Graape] was because at that time Father Graape was a major player in the goings-on in the inner city of Milwaukee. He was front-page news, he was front radio, the whole business. He was a controversial figure that was touting certain 'wacko' ideas. I think Sell thought that that would be great to bring that personality out here to expose Cedarburg to that type of thinking – and he hit a brick wall!"

¹² Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, p. 3

said that he would not abide by any survey [to remove the pastor]. He would not even enter or consider the fact that [a vast majority] of the congregation voted to get rid of Sell. 'We won't even consider that. It's irrelevant.'"¹³ This meeting produced the realization that Sell's "theology" was not simply a novelty in the LCA. Sell was only preaching and teaching what the LCA was teaching in its seminaries. The synod was behind their man, and the congregation's hands were tied. "What recourse do you have, when it wasn't just this [one] congregation? They told us, 'That's what's coming from the seminary.' What recourse do you have? You might be able to fight it at first with one particular pastor, but you can't when the synod stood up for it."¹⁴

If there was any incident that one could label, "the straw that broke the camel's back," this meeting was that incident.¹⁵ The pastor would not retract. The synod would not discipline the pastor. The congregation was forbidden to take any action in the matter. Advent Church was in tremendous turmoil. All but one of the twelve council members resigned in protest. Three kept their membership at Advent. Three joined other local Lutheran congregations. The remaining five, together with other frustrated members of the congregation, began to pursue a different course of action.¹⁶

¹³ Quotation from Ed Wolf at the April 23, 2001 interview.

¹⁴ Quotation from Lloyd Verhaalen at the April 23, 2001 interview.

¹⁵ It should be noted that this was not the last controversial incident at Advent that affected the future founders of Redeemer Church. Loraine Halloran, one of the charter members of Redeemer, recalled at the April 23 interview that her son was confirmed at Advent prior to her family leaving the congregation for Redeemer. The confirmation class that year was confirmed sometime in the second half of 1969, after the meeting with Mattson but before Redeemer began exploratory services in December. The confirmation Sunday sermon was another event that solidified the Redeemer founders' resolve to establish a confessional Lutheran congregation in Cedarburg. Mrs. Halloran stated in the interview, "I remember there being a big poster of a clown in front [of the church]. To this day I remember the words [of the confirmation sermon]: 'Christ was a clown for you. Will you be a clown for him?'" Richard Grossman's history of the congregation printed in the 25th Anniversary booklet (p. 3) also recalls some of the elements of that day's sermon: "In that sermon, [Sell] told the confirmands that they need no longer respect the wishes and decisions of their parents as being final, that in fact the parents do not any longer have any right to have their children submit to their guidance and corrections."

¹⁶ Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, p. 3

II. Confessionalism Sought

During the summer of 1969, a group of former Advent members, known among themselves as “the thirteen,” began to hold informal meetings on the back porch at the home of Ed and Ruth Wolf. The goal of this group and of these meetings was “to find a confessionally, doctrinally, practically sound church body and join it. If that church body was not in Cedarburg already, they, these laymen, with the help of God, were going to see to it that Cedarburg would have a church no matter how much it would cost them in their own time and their own money.”¹⁷

This group, which served as the initial core of Redeemer’s membership, included:

Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Ruth Wolf (and family)
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Merilyn Grossman (and family)
Mr. and Mrs. John and Nadine Van Sickle (and family)
Mr. Lloyd Verhaalen
Mrs. Lorraine Halloran
Mrs. Lydia Kopp
Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Mabel Verhaalen
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick and Anna Stein (and family)¹⁸

During the several “back porch sessions” that began early in the summer of 1969, the group discussed its possibilities. Would they join an existing congregation? Would they establish a new congregation? Which denomination would they join? In order to see which church body or bodies proclaimed and taught the Word of God faithfully, the proposal was made that each of them would attend various local congregations and report what they had heard. While this idea had been discussed, it seems that it was never formally executed, probably for the reasons that will follow in the next paragraph.¹⁹

¹⁷ Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, p. 4

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ The history recorded in the 25th Anniversary booklet indicates that this formal procedure actually took place. However, the founding members at the April 23 interview did not recall that this plan was formally set into motion, only that it was proposed.

Several people in “the thirteen” had some background in the Wisconsin Synod and were aware of its solid confessional Lutheran position. As the group’s discussions continued, they eventually decided that they would join the WELS. Despite the Wisconsin Synod’s strong presence in southeastern Wisconsin, there were no WELS congregations in the city of Cedarburg. Their desired course of action, then, became clear. It was time to establish a WELS congregation in Cedarburg, and “the thirteen” made this task their personal assignment.²⁰

In July of 1969, the group contacted Synod headquarters. They explained their situation and were put in contact with Pastor Norman Berg, the WELS Executive Secretary of Home Missions. This telephone call would eventually lead to another “back porch session” with Pastor Berg and “the thirteen” a few weeks later.²¹ Richard Grossman’s written history of the first years of Redeemer provides a good summary of that significant meeting:

Pastor Berg²² came looking for a commitment to the cause of Jesus Christ. He found that. Pastor Berg came looking for a nucleus around which a congregation might be built. He found that. Pastor Berg came looking for the assurance that, humbly speaking, there would be growth in a new mission in the community. This he was not sure of. There were a number of practical factors involved. Cedarburg already had a number of Lutheran churches, some of which, although they were not of the Wisconsin Synod, yet might be considered supporting at least in principle the conservative, confessional stand of the Synod. Secondly, there was a question of future growth in the community as a whole. Was the Cedarburg area growing or declining in population? Then there were questions as to the degree of commitment to go out into the community and actively make the community aware of the mission if one were started. These were the harsh facts. In the immediate Cedarburg area there were already a number of Wisconsin Synod congregations such as Grafton, Jackson, and [four] in the Mequon-Thiensville area.²³ All of these were within reasonable driving distance. Then, too, there was the ever-present problem of funding such a mission when there were already a large backlog of nuclei in other parts of the country who were

²⁰ Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, p. 4, and April 23, 2001 interview.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Pastor D.H. Kuehl of Peace Lutheran Church in Hartford was also at this meeting. Kuehl was on the District Board for Home Missions and would later be instrumental in the start of exploratory services.

²³ This was a major point of dispute between Pastor Berg and “the thirteen” as the group sought establishment of a new church. Ed Wolf noted at the April 23 interview, “Norm Berg told us, ‘Why would you want to start a church when there are five Wisconsin Synod churches within five miles? Why do you want one here?’ And Duke (i.e. Richard Grossman) said, ‘We want our own church. It’s as simple as that.’”

already waiting for mission status. And then there was the problem of finding a pastor to serve them.²⁴

In order to investigate the feasibility of establishing a new WELS mission church in Cedarburg, Pastor Berg hosted an informal meeting in the basement of Cedarburg State Bank²⁵ in early August. The group was encouraged to spread the news of this upcoming meeting by word of mouth and by placing an advertisement in the local newspaper, which they did. The evening of that meeting seemed to speak well for the establishment of a mission congregation. Approximately forty²⁶ interested people from the community attended.

The successful informational meeting made the possibility of establishing a mission congregation seem more like a probability. Unfortunately, Pastor Berg informed “the thirteen” shortly after that meeting that the Synod would not establish a mission congregation in Cedarburg at that time. Money and manpower were needed throughout the country, particularly at this time in WELS history.²⁷ The establishment of a congregation in this area and at this time did not seem feasible to the Board.

²⁴ Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, p. 5

²⁵ Cedarburg State Bank is now Firststar Bank and is located at N61 W6312 Turner Street, Cedarburg, WI. Ironically, the bank is situated just down the street from Advent Lutheran Church.

²⁶ At the April 23 interview, Ed Wolf emphasized that these forty people were not students or faculty from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI. This point needs to be made because after exploratory services were begun, several students from the Seminary were regular worshipers at Redeemer, and some of those students also assisted Dr. Becker with the pastoral responsibilities of the congregation. The people at this informational meeting represented interested people from the Cedarburg community.

²⁷ It is helpful to understand the situation that the Synod was in during the 1960's and 1970's, which led to the initial rejection of the request to begin a WELS mission congregation in Cedarburg. From the synod's standpoint, it would have been difficult to fund a mission in a region with several WELS congregations while the synod was trying to establish churches in parts of the country in which WELS was not represented at all. The following comments from Prof. John Brenner's *Anniversary Reflections* Bible study (© 1999 Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee), explain the Synod's home mission situation at that time: “After we terminated fellowship with the Missouri Synod, we had to consider how we might serve our people in states where we were not represented and through our people reach out to the unchurched in those areas. The 1960's and 1970's proved to be decades of rapid home mission expansion. More and more, the Board for Home Missions began to look for fruitful fields without first looking to see if there was a nucleus of Wisconsin Synod transplants in the area” (*Anniversary Reflections*, Leader's Guide, p. 36).

The initial rejection for a mission congregation did not stop this group from pursuing its goal. In fact, it only strengthened their determination even more.

The laymen accepted this decision of Pastor Berg's not in a spirit of anger or childish pouting over not getting what they wanted, but rather in the mature Christian spirit of a challenge. These laymen were totally committed to the Lord and totally convinced that the Lord wanted Cedarburg to have its own Wisconsin Synod mission. They simply would not take "no" for an answer. If Pastor Berg and the Home Mission Board wanted proof of their personal commitment, if they wanted proof of their conviction that Cedarburg would be the ideal place for a new mission, they were going to get that proof. In short, for the sake of the cause of Jesus Christ in Cedarburg, they were going to see to it that Pastor Berg ate a morsel of crow.²⁸

Stepping their campaign up to the next level, the group formed a petition to be presented to the Board for Home Missions at their next meeting. The petition appealed to the rapid growth projected for Ozaukee County and town of Cedarburg by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The county was expected to almost double in population between 1960 and 1970, and again between 1970 and 1980.²⁹ Secondly, the petition appealed to the religious conservatism of the area and the need for a confessional Lutheran presence.

Although there are other Lutheran churches within the city of Cedarburg (there are none in the town of Cedarburg), we in the group whose signatures are affixed hereto have an acute awareness that there is much displeasure among Lutherans in our area at the continuing dilution of doctrine and erosion of basic religious foundations, among many members of these churches, which are Missouri Synod, LCA, and ALC. The Cedarburg area has a heritage of primarily German conservatism, and what many church members now see as a significant abandonment of basic religious principles has disturbed what we estimate to be a large number of people. Some of these people have joined the Wisconsin Synod churches in either Grafton³⁰, Kirchayn³¹, or Mequon³². We feel, however, that it is important that one's church be located in one's own community. We

²⁸ Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, pp. 5-6

²⁹ The 1960 Ozaukee County population was listed at 38,400. The projected population for 1970 was 64,800, and for 1980 the population was projected to be 127,200. These were the largest percentage increases in population projected among the eleven counties in the southeastern Wisconsin area.

³⁰ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grafton, WI.

³¹ David's Star Lutheran Church, Jackson, WI. Kirchayn is a small, unincorporated town southwest of Jackson.

³² St. John Lutheran Church, Mequon, WI; Trinity Lutheran Church, (South) Mequon, WI; Trinity Lutheran Church, (West) Mequon, WI; Calvary Lutheran Church, Thiensville, WI.

consequently feel the distinct need for a new Wisconsin Synod church within the Town of Cedarburg, near the city limits of Cedarburg.³³

The group's first attempt to establish a mission congregation was not approved. The group's second attempt, by means of this petition, met with partial approval. The Board for Home Missions approved the start of exploratory services in Cedarburg at their November meeting.³⁴ Pastor D. H. Kuehl, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Hartford and a member of the District Mission Board, was assigned by Pastor Berg to work with the Cedarburg group as it began exploratory services.

Pastor Kuehl suggested that Dr. Siegbert Becker, from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, be called as the congregation's first pastor. Dr. Becker had recently accepted a call to serve as a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary; this was his first year of teaching at the Seminary. "[Kuehl] was a good friend of Dr. Becker's, and Pastor Kuehl, recognizing the problems with trying to find a pastor to take over a small mission congregation, ...asked Dr. Becker if he would be interested in serving it."³⁵ Becker himself had left the faculty of one of the Missouri Synod's colleges because of increasing liberal tendencies there. In a sense, Becker and "the thirteen" shared a similar experience in that they both left church bodies that were slipping away from confessional Lutheranism and joined the Wisconsin Synod.

³³ Quoted from the first petition to the WELS Board for Home Missions, dated November 5, 1969. A copy of the full petition is kept in the Redeemer Church council minutes. A copy of the last page of the petition, with signatures, was printed in the 10th Anniversary booklet of Redeemer Church.

³⁴ The history summary in the 25th Anniversary booklet states that the approval from the Board for Home Missions came in September, but a September approval is not possible. The petition to the synod was signed November 5, 1969. A subsequent letter from Pastor Kuehl, a member of the District Mission Board, indicated that he was in the process of talking to Dr. Becker to see if he would be willing to serve as the interim pastor of Redeemer congregation. This letter is dated November 25, 1969. Therefore, the Board for Home Mission's meeting approving exploratory services must have been held sometime between November 5 and 25, 2001.

³⁵ Quotation from Ed Wolf at the April 23, 2001 interview.

Kuehl and Becker met on Monday, December 1, 1969 to discuss the Cedarburg mission congregation. Dr. Becker accepted the call to serve the exploratory³⁶, and he met with the group later that week. Among the items on the first “agenda” were: (1) what name will we give this congregation and (2) where will we conduct our services? After some brief discussion about the name of the new congregation, Becker suggested the name “Redeemer,” and the committee quickly agreed. The committee would seek permission to use the Cedarburg Town Hall³⁷ for worship and Sunday School. Two Sundays after the initial meeting with Dr. Becker, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, became a reality.

III. Confessionalism Founded

On Sunday morning, December 14, 1969, at 10:15 a.m., Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church conducted its first service with Dr. Siegbert Becker presiding. More than sixty people seated themselves in the small 38’ by 38’ room in the Cedarburg Town Hall. The founding members remember that first service quite well. John Van Sickle recalled how he and another member constructed the temporary worship furnishings in the Town Hall: “We didn’t have any furniture, so Fred Stein and myself made the lectern and the pulpit in his basement. It was collapsible so you could fold it down, because they wouldn’t allow us to keep a lot of furniture in the Town Hall.”³⁸ Ed Wolf jokingly commented about the “singing support” that Dr. Becker provided Redeemer church that morning: “I think that in order [for the Seminary students] to pass his particular class, they had to be there!”³⁹ Since Seminary students have never been

³⁶ Becker agreed to serve the congregation for its first few months of operation, but his service to Redeemer Church would last for three years.

³⁷ The Cedarburg Town Hall is located at the intersection of Highway 143 and 60, also known as “Five corners.”

³⁸ Quotation from April 23, 2001 interview.

³⁹ Ibid.

accused of singing too quietly, the additional singing voices were much appreciated by the other worshippers that morning. In addition to the founders and the Seminary students, several other interested families in the community attended the new Redeemer Church for its first service.

Now that Redeemer Lutheran Church was officially up and running, there was a great deal of work to be done! A committee of five men, Fred Stein, John Van Sickle, Lloyd Verhaalen, Richard Grossman and Ed Wolf, served as the unofficial church council for Redeemer. The group met every few weeks at the home of Dr. Becker to discuss and carry out the ongoing work and responsibilities of the new congregation.

Obviously, for a new congregation to grow, its presence needs to be made known in the local community. Fred Stein took on the responsibility "to call on all new families moving into the community to make them aware of Wisconsin Synod services being held in the community."⁴⁰ Redeemer was very fortunate to have many Seminary students assist in its early years. Students from the Seminary conducted a house to house canvass in the city and town of Cedarburg on January 31 and February 1, 1970. Seminarian Wayne Vogt coordinated the canvass effort.⁴¹ The canvass effort, visitors to services, word of mouth, and advertisements in the local newspaper produced a prospect list of approximately 50 families.⁴²

Christian Education for all ages was another important responsibility in the new congregation. Seminarian John Mittelstaedt⁴³ was called upon to conduct Sunday School teachers' meetings and to instruct the confirmation class. Catechism classes were initially held

⁴⁰ Progress Report and Committee Minutes, December 23, 1969

⁴¹ Progress Report and Committee Minutes, January 12, 1970

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Incidentally, during the pastoral vacancy between Pastors Curtis Jahn and Joseph Radsek (1992-1993), Pastor John Mittelstaedt was one of the men who was extended the call to serve as pastor of Redeemer.

in the basement of the Van Sickle home. John Van Sickle also served as the superintendent of the new Sunday School.⁴⁴

The adults were also receiving instruction at this time. Thursday, January 22, Pastor Becker began instructional meetings for the unofficial members of Redeemer so that they might become official members of Redeemer and partake of the Lord's Supper. Instructions were completed by the end of the Lenten season. (During this time, John Thusius joined the Redeemer family and was accepted "into membership in the committee of laymen in charge of providing services through Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church."⁴⁵) After the instructions had been completed, a special council meeting was held after the Good Friday service on March 27, 1970. The minutes of that meeting were simple, yet significant:

A motion was made and seconded that the following people be granted membership in Redeemer Lutheran Church: Mrs. Lorraine Halloran, Mrs. Lydia Kopp, Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Stein, Mr. John Thusius, Mr. Richard Thusius, Mr. & Mrs. John Van Sickle, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Verhaalen, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wolf, and Mr. Lloyd Verhaalen. Motion carried. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.⁴⁶

These new communicant members of Redeemer Lutheran Church first received the Lord's Supper⁴⁷ as Redeemer members on Easter Sunday morning, March 29, 1970.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ Sunday School Report, February 9, 1970

⁴⁵ Progress Report and Committee Minutes, March 8, 1970

⁴⁶ Church Council Minutes, March 27, 1970. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grossman are not included in this motion as they were not able to be present at the Good Friday service. They were brought into membership one month later in a special council meeting following the Sunday April 26, 1970 service. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Belstner were also granted membership at the April 26 meeting (cf. Church Council Minutes for that date).

⁴⁷ Communion services were held on the first Sunday of the month thereafter, beginning in May.

⁴⁸ The history recorded in the Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet indicates that the first communion service was held on April 1. The first year's annual report and the council minutes indicate March 29. March 29 was in fact the date of Easter Sunday in 1970. The April 1 date may have been mistakenly recorded in the history because of a letter dated April 1 sent by Ed Wolf to Pastor Kuehl in Hartford, thanking him for the use of his congregation's communion vessels for Redeemer's first communion service on the previous Sunday. A copy of the letter is included in the Redeemer Church Council minutes.

During the next month, the committee drew up another petition from the synod requesting that their exploratory be granted mission status. This eleven-page document,⁴⁹ dated April 13, 1970, and expanded from the original November 5, 1969 petition, includes some of the activities of the new exploratory congregation as well as arguments in favor of the Board granting this young congregation mission status. This was the third attempt to achieve mission status, and the third time was indeed a charm. At its April meeting, the Board for Home Missions approved Redeemer congregation for mission status in the Wisconsin Synod.⁵⁰ Two months later, the delegates of the Southeastern Wisconsin District Convention approved Redeemer's constitution and the congregation was accepted into membership in the WELS.⁵¹

IV. Confessionalism Grows

Between Redeemer's acceptance into the Synod and District in 1970 and the dedication of its first (and current) house of worship in 1973, the Lord of the Church blessed young Redeemer congregation with tremendous growth and blessings in so many aspects of the congregation's life. It would be difficult to follow the various areas of growth if these years were treated chronologically. Therefore, as we examine these three years of the congregation's history, we will examine them categorically instead of chronologically. The four areas we will consider are Redeemer's (1) staff, (2) membership, (3) congregational organizations and activities, and (4) the land acquisition and building project.

⁴⁹ A copy of the petition is included in the Redeemer Church Council minutes.

⁵⁰ "A Year of Grace" – 1970 Annual Report, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cedarburg, WI, p. 12

⁵¹ Ibid.

Staff

From its beginning, Redeemer was blessed with the service of two professors and several students from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon. We have already noted that Dr. Becker was called to be the first pastor of Redeemer while also carrying out his full-time duties as a professor at the Seminary. Dr. Becker balanced an amazing workload as seminary professor, as an author of several published books (one of which he was working on at this time⁵²), and as Redeemer's pastor. Becker personally took on the specific responsibilities of regular preaching, adult instruction and Bible classes, regular meetings with the council, and visitation of prospects and guests who had attended the Sunday services.

With this tremendous workload, it would not have been possible for Dr. Becker to adequately handle all of Redeemer's ministry responsibilities. Fortunately, Dr. Becker was able to enlist the assistance of several Seminary students during this time in Redeemer's history. The students occasionally preached for Dr. Becker, they assisted with the Sunday School program, they carried out the Catechism instructions, and were involved in some limited teaching of the adult Bible classes.⁵³ Among the Seminary students who assisted to a greater or lesser degree during these first years were John Mittelstaedt, Harlyn Kuschel, William Stuebs, Douglas Engelbrecht, and Richard Stadler.⁵⁴

As the congregation grew and the responsibilities of the congregation's ministry also grew, Dr. Becker suggested to the church council that another Seminary professor be called as an associate pastor until such time that the congregation called its first permanent, resident pastor.

⁵² At the April 23, interview, Lloyd Verhaalen noted that the Church Council would finish its meetings at Becker's home around 10:00 p.m., and then Becker stated that he was going to stay up to work on the book he was authoring. Among his published books are The Scriptures, Inspired by God, The Holy Ghost and His Work, Wizards That Peep: A Journey into the Occult, and Revelation: The Distant Triumph Song.

⁵³ Based on an interview with Pastor and former Seminary Professor Joel Gerlach on Thursday, April 19, 2001.

⁵⁴ Redeemer 10th Anniversary booklet, p. 6; Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, pp. 10-11

That professor would be Joel Gerlach who, like Becker, would begin to assist Redeemer during his first year on the faculty of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

Professor Gerlach and his family visited Redeemer Church only a few Sundays prior to the time that he was extended the call to assist Dr. Becker. Gerlach knew about Becker's involvement at the Cedarburg mission congregation. It was a well-known fact on the Seminary campus that Dr. Becker was a superb preacher, so Prof. Gerlach decided to visit Redeemer in order to hear Becker preach. It was around that same time that Dr. Becker suggested to the church council that it might be wise to call a second interim pastor for the time, and that Gerlach would be the man to fit the assignment. Gerlach had prior ministry experience in mission congregations of the WELS Arizona-California district, making him a well-qualified man to assist this young mission congregation.

About two weeks after Gerlach's visit to Redeemer, Ed Wolf was knocking at his doorstep, asking Prof. Gerlach if he would be willing to serve as Redeemer's second pastor.⁵⁵ In a letter dated March 25, 1970, Gerlach accepted Redeemer's request with the understanding that, if his duties and preparation time as a new professor prevented him from properly carrying out his work at Redeemer, he could be released from his call to Redeemer and the congregation would be free to seek the assistance of another man. The church council unanimously agreed to this arrangement, and in a letter dated April 26, 1970, Ed Wolf, president of the congregation, formally welcomed Gerlach into the congregation's midst:

Dear Professor Gerlach,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you of our church council's unanimous decision to accept your services in assisting Dr. Becker as a pastor of our congregation under the conditions in your letter of March 25, 1971. The council

⁵⁵ Interview with Joel Gerlach on Thursday, April 19, 2001.

fully understands the importance of your teaching commitment, and is appreciative of working with a man of your capabilities.⁵⁶

Gerlach's duties as the associate pastor included preaching for half of the services, conducting the Catechism classes, and following up on visitors to the congregation's services.⁵⁷

Approximately one year later, the Redeemer church council decided that the time had come for Redeemer to extend a call for its first permanent pastor. A special voters' meeting was held on Monday, May 15, 1972 at the Seminary to discuss whether or not Redeemer should call a pastor from the field or ask for a Seminary graduate to be assigned to the congregation. The congregation decided to ask for an assignment, but due to the many vacancies in the synod, the Synod's Assignment Committee was not able to fill the congregation's position.⁵⁸

Redeemer held its first call meeting for a full-time pastor on Monday, June 19, 1972 in the Seminary's multi-purpose room.⁵⁹ Pastor John Kurth of Bay City, Michigan, was extended the call to serve as Redeemer's pastor, but would later decline the call.

The next call meeting took place on Sunday, July 30 at the Cedarburg Town Hall, during the regularly scheduled quarterly voters' meeting. At this meeting, Pastor Howard Kaiser, pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Oakfield, Wisconsin, was extended the call.⁶⁰ Less than one month later, in a letter dated August 20, 1972, Pastor Kaiser indicated that he had accepted Redeemer's call.⁶¹ Redeemer congregation would move another step forward in its history as it looked forward to the installation of its first, full-time resident pastor. The installation took place on Sunday afternoon, October 8, 1972, in the chapel of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

⁵⁶ Both the letter from Gerlach and the letter from Wolf are kept with the Redeemer Church Council minutes.

⁵⁷ Interview with Joel Gerlach on April 19, 2001.

⁵⁸ Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, p. 12

⁵⁹ Redeemer Church council minutes, June 19, 1972.

⁶⁰ Redeemer Church council minutes, July 30, 1972.

⁶¹ Kaiser's letter is kept in the Church council minutes.

Professors Becker and Gerlach conducted the service, bringing a formal end to their service to Redeemer congregation and passing the torch on to Pastor Kaiser.⁶²

Pastor Kaiser would serve the congregation during the rest of the 1970's. His previous ministry experience included serving congregations in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Seminole, Florida, and Oakfield, Wisconsin. The first two of those congregations were mission settings, so Kaiser was very familiar and well experienced in handling a new congregation like Redeemer.⁶³ Kaiser would lead the congregation through the remainder of its building project and the dedication of Redeemer's first church facility one year after his installation. His family resided in the parsonage that the congregation initially purchased in Cedarburg.⁶⁴ The Kaiser family would later be the first to occupy the on-site parsonage that the congregation completed in 1975.⁶⁵

Membership

While it is never wise to measure the success of a congregation solely on membership numbers and other statistics, the Lord of the Church saw fit to bless Redeemer congregation with tremendous membership growth during its first few years of existence. It is nothing short of phenomenal to see how the congregation grew so rapidly. The following chart indicates a few of the congregation's statistics from its first years:

Year	Average Attendance	Communicants	Baptized Membership
1969*	55		
1970	63	40	64
1971	80	61	88
1972	91	89	130
1973	111	119	188

* Exploratory services began in December 1969; four services were held during Redeemer's first month of existence.

⁶² Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, p. 13

⁶³ Telephone interview with Howard Kaiser on Wednesday, April 25, 2001.

⁶⁴ 1201 North Washington Avenue, Cedarburg, WI. The city uses a different address system today from the system used in 1972, so this is not the home's current address today. The information is contained on p. 13 of the 25th Anniversary booklet.

⁶⁵ Redeemer 10th Anniversary booklet, p. 8

Through the faithful use of the means of grace, the Lord blessed Redeemer with substantial spiritual growth in its infant years. The Lord also blessed Redeemer with a number of internal and external factors that encouraged the rapid growth of the new congregation.

- As the founders anticipated, Cedarburg attracted a large influx of new residents during the 1970's. Redeemer member Donald Belstner, a public school teacher in Cedarburg at that time, recalled how the Cedarburg schools would continue to receive many new students during the course of the school year as a result of the many families that were moving into the area.⁶⁶ The same influx of families that affected the Cedarburg schools very likely encouraged the growth of Redeemer congregation also.
- Redeemer's conservative, confessional stance likely played a role in attracting people from the community to the congregation. Pastor Gerlach recalled that many "mainline" churches were becoming more and more liberal at this time. Religious-minded families would have been looking for churches that offered biblical stability instead of the flux that was occurring in some denominations. Redeemer's confessional Lutheranism was an attractive selling point.⁶⁷
- Article XXIV of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession states, "There is nothing that so attaches people to the church as good preaching."⁶⁸ The founding members of Redeemer agreed that their first pastors, Dr. Becker and Prof. Gerlach, were among the finest Lutheran preachers they have heard. No doubt the word spread in the community that this new mission congregation could boast of two gifted preachers and Seminary professors who were serving as the church's first pastors.⁶⁹
- Redeemer enjoyed the influx of several Wisconsin Synod families to the area. Several of these families were previously from Atonement Lutheran Church, a WELS congregation located at 4500 N. Sherman Blvd. in Milwaukee. In fact, Redeemer eventually earned the nickname "Atonement North," because approximately six or seven families transferred their membership from Atonement to Redeemer during its first several years of existence.⁷⁰

Congregational Organizations and Activities

It is hard to imagine a congregation without all the usual functions, activities, classes, meetings, boards and organizations. In a mission setting, these organizations and programs don't

⁶⁶ Interview with Don and Kay Belstner on April 19, 2001.

⁶⁷ Interview with Joel Gerlach on April 19, 2001.

⁶⁸ *Concordia Triglotta*, p. 401, paragraph 50

⁶⁹ Interview with the founding members on April 23, 2001.

⁷⁰ Interview with Don and Kay Belstner on April 19, 2001; Interview with Joel Gerlach on April 19, 2001.

just automatically come with the establishment of the new church. The organizations must be founded just as the congregation was founded. The events must be organized just as the congregation was organized. The first members of Redeemer congregation spent a good deal of their time and energy establishing the "routine" of their new church home.

Voters' Meetings and Church Council

Shortly after its acceptance into the synod, Redeemer congregation held its initial voters' meeting on Monday, July 20, 1970. The voting men present at this first voters' assembly included the six men on the informal church council, plus Ed Verhaalen, Richard Thusius, Donald Belstner, Wesley Schultz, and Robert Frea. Ed Wolf was elected chairman pro-tem of the meeting and Richard Grossman, secretary pro-tem.⁷¹

There were several important items of business on the agenda. Following Dr. Becker's suggestion, the voters' accepted these 29 communicant members of Redeemer Church as charter members of the congregation.⁷²

Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Shirley Frea
Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Kathryn Belstner, and Dennis
Dr. and Mrs. Siegbert and Helen Becker, and James
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Marilyn Grossman
Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Ruth Wolf
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick and Anna Stein, and Stuart
Mr. Lloyd Verhaalen
Mr. and Mrs. John and Nadine Van Sickle
Mrs. Lydia Kopp
Mrs. Lorraine Halloran, and Michael
Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Mabel Verhaalen
Mr. John Thusius
Mr. Richard Thusius
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley and Audrey Schultz
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Elaine Hostettler⁷³

⁷¹ Redeemer Church Council minutes, July 20, 1970.

⁷² This is the voters' meeting acceptance of the first members, and should not be confused with the council's March 27, 1970 meeting which accepted the first thirteen members. Several others had joined Redeemer congregation between the March 27 Council meeting and the first voters' meeting on July 20.

⁷³ Redeemer Church Council minutes, July 20, 1970.

Another important agenda item was the voters' formal (and unanimous) acceptance of the Redeemer Constitution and By-laws. The Board for Home Missions and the Southeastern Wisconsin District of the WELS had already approved the constitution and by-laws proposed by the informal church council earlier that summer; now the congregation also accepted the proposed constitution.

A third important item was Lloyd Verhaalen's report on the search for a property site to purchase and then build Redeemer's first church home. This will be discussed later in this paper.

Finally, the voters' also unanimously approved that the existing informal church council be elected to serve as Redeemer's official, but still interim, council until the annual voters' meeting in January 1971.

Perhaps it is also worth noting the first annual voters' assembly, held on January 1971. A glance at the minutes reveals a fully operational, well-organized Redeemer congregation at this time. The minutes, budget report, treasurer's report, pastor's report, Sunday School report, council recommendations, elections, and other business appear to have been carried out in an efficient and organized manner. Most importantly, the first official, non-interim church council was elected at the meeting. It was agreed beforehand that six men would be elected: the two receiving the most votes would be elected to three year terms, the third and fourth highest vote-receivers would be elected to two year terms, and the fifth and sixth highest vote-receivers would be elected to one-year terms.⁷⁴ At its next meeting, the council would organize themselves into officers of the congregation.⁷⁵ That first organized council included the following men:

Edward Wolf, President (3 year term)
Richard Grossman, Secretary/Treasurer (3 year term)

⁷⁴ Redeemer Church Council minutes, January 12, 1971.

⁷⁵ Redeemer Church Council minutes, February 15, 1971.

Carl Klug, Financial Secretary⁷⁶ (1 year term)
Wesley Schultz, Trustee (2 year term)
John Thusius, Trustee (1 year term)
Lloyd Verhaalen, Trustee (2 year term)⁷⁷

Christian Education

We have already seen that Christian Education for Redeemer's youth was important to the founding members. Sunday School and Catechism instruction were part of Redeemer's ministry from the beginning of its history. The members also realized that there were still other ways they could provide a Christian Education for their children. At the October 12, 1970 Voters' meeting, the congregation unanimously approved a resolution to pay the tuition for its member children to attend one of the WELS elementary schools operated by Redeemer's near-by sister congregations. The following summer, the council would meet with Pastor Winterstein of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grafton⁷⁸ and Pastor Lyle Lindloff of Calvary Lutheran School in Thiensville⁷⁹ to discuss and agree upon arrangements⁷⁹ by which Redeemer's grade-school age children could attend these area Lutheran schools. The members of Redeemer hoped to eventually establish an elementary school of their own for the congregation's children.⁸⁰

Recognizing that Christian education for children doesn't stop at eighth grade, Redeemer also voted to join the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Conference, "enabling the high school children of our congregation who wish to attend our synod's high school to do so at a reduced tuition." This motion also passed unanimously.⁸¹

⁷⁶ Mr. Klug moved from the Cedarburg area later that year and his position was filled by John Van Sickle.

⁷⁷ Redeemer Voters' Assembly minutes, January 31, 1971; Redeemer 10th Anniversary booklet, p. 19

⁷⁸ Redeemer Church council minutes, June 14, 1971.

⁷⁹ Redeemer Church council minutes, August 9, 1971.

⁸⁰ "General Growth Goals for Redeemer Lutheran Church," 10th Anniversary booklet, p. 20

⁸¹ Redeemer Voters' Assembly minutes, July 25, 1971; Letter to the high school conference dated October 13, 1971.

Christian education does not stop at the eighth grade level, nor does it stop at the high school level. Within its first year of operation, Redeemer established a regular adult Bible study conducted by Dr. Becker. Because of the limited facilities of the Cedarburg Town Hall, it was not practical to conduct the classes Sunday morning. The congregation made arrangements to use a room in Cedarburg High School every first and third Wednesday⁸² of the month, beginning on October 21, 1970.⁸³ The congregation's use of the room was initially free, although in future years a nominal fee of \$3.00 per hour was charged all organizations using the school facility.⁸⁴ The classes continued at the high school under Dr. Becker and then Pastor Kaiser, until the church building was completed in 1973.

Midweek Lenten Services

Redeemer congregation was not able to host its own Lenten services during its first year, but in 1971 arrangement were made for the congregation to host its first set of midweek Lenten services, a common custom among our Lutheran congregations. The Cedarburg Town Hall was unavailable for those services. Members of the congregation were able to secure the chapel of the new Lasata Nursing Home for services during 1971 and 1972. Not only were the members of Redeemer enriched by this special opportunity to meditate on the passion history of our Lord Jesus, but many of the residents of the nursing home also expressed their appreciation for these special opportunities to worship. Little did those who attended the first Lenten service know that two years later the congregation would have its own church building right next door to Lasata. Pastor Winterstein of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grafton and two seminary students

⁸² The day of the week would be changed to Tuesdays in the future (cf. September 24, 1971 application kept in Church Council minutes).

⁸³ Redeemer Church Council minutes, October 5, 1970

⁸⁴ The various contracts with the high school are kept in the Redeemer Church Council minutes.

conducted the 1971 set of services; Professors Becker and Gerlach conducted the 1972 Lenten services, again with the assistance of seminary students.⁸⁵

Ladies' Guild

At the first voters' meeting on January 31, 1971, the assembly unanimously approved a motion to allow the women of Redeemer congregation to form their own guild within the congregation.⁸⁶ The 1971 Redeemer Annual Report provides a listing of the Guild's first officers and the first activities of the group:

The Ladies' Guild of Redeemer was organized on February 8 at the home of Mrs. Fred Stein. Barbara Vaccarella was elected president, Midge Stein vice-president, Nadine Van Sickle secretary, and Mabel Verhaalen treasurer. The first project of the Ladies' Guild was to make a communion veil and baptismal napkins.⁸⁷

Stewardship Program

One of Prof. Gerlach's important contributions to the beginning of Redeemer congregation was the organization of its first stewardship program. Gerlach stated that the program was initiated not because Redeemer was experiencing stewardship problems (actually, it was quite the opposite!). The program was instituted because of its value to the congregation's overall life of Christian sanctification. The founding members of Redeemer understood that stewardship is more than just one's financial commitment to the church. However, as the congregation grew larger, it could become easy for newer members to think that their obligation to the congregation was only financial.⁸⁸

⁸⁵ Redeemer 25th Anniversary booklet, p. 11-12

⁸⁶ Redeemer Voters' Assembly minutes, January 31, 1971.

⁸⁷ A Year of Grace – 1970 Annual Report, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cedarburg, WI, p. 15

⁸⁸ Interview with Joel Gerlach on Thursday, April 19, 2001.

Pastor Gerlach met with John Van Sickle and Don Belstner to discuss a possible stewardship program at Redeemer prior to the August 9, 1971 council meeting. At the August 9 meeting, Van Sickle shared the discussions from this stewardship meeting with the council.

John Van Sickle gave a very interesting summation of his recent stewardship meeting with Don Belstner and Professor Gerlach. They recommended that the stewardship program in Redeemer church begin with the understanding that the meaning of stewardship should be to encourage our members to make responsible use of their money, time and talents, and that this program should be projected as far as 20 years from now. This can be done by encouraging home devotions, Bible study, serving, giving, and witnessing.⁸⁹

At the next month's council meeting, the council established Redeemer's first Stewardship Committee. Prof. Gerlach, Wes Schultz, and Ed Seigworth were appointed to the committee.⁹⁰ The group presented the following three-fold proposal at the October 24, 1971 Voters' meeting. The voters, allowing the committee to implement the actual timing of the program at their discretion, approved the proposal.

1. Proposed: A series of family meetings be held on a quarterly basis to draw families in the congregation together and to create a forum for study and discussion of things of common interest to all members (synodical programs, missions, doctrinal matters, etc.).
2. Proposed: A series of stewardship mailings and bulletin inserts be undertaken to be followed by cottage meetings to share and to discuss congregational matters of common interest.
3. Proposed: That a time be set aside each fall to emphasize stewardship in our services. We suggest that this be done during October, 1972. We also suggest that evangelism be promoted through the stewardship program of the congregation.⁹¹

⁸⁹ Redeemer Church Council minutes, August 9, 1971.

⁹⁰ Redeemer Church Council minutes, September 13, 1971.

⁹¹ Redeemer Voters' Assembly minutes, October 24, 1971.

Land Acquisition and Building Project

A history of the early years of Redeemer congregation would be incomplete without a chronology of the land acquisition and building project which would eventually lead to the congregation's first house of worship. Although the process was not without its disappointments and struggles, the 1973 dedication of Redeemer Church would bring a sense of stability and accomplishment to the many people who worked so hard to make this congregation a reality.

Redeemer obtained mission status from the synod in April, 1970. Now it could move forward with its property search. At its June meeting, the church council appointed a committee consisting of Lloyd Verhaalen (chairman), Richard Grossman, and Ed Wolf "to investigate the availability of vacant land in the Cedarburg area that may be suitable for building a church."⁹² Already at the next meeting on July 6, the committee had a list of nine potential sites that it was investigating. This list of properties was also presented to the entire congregation at the July 20 voters' meeting. The current location of Redeemer Church was not among the potential sites listed at that time.

Disappointing news came to Redeemer congregation in letters dated November 5, 1970. Pastor Norman Berg's letter to the congregation stated, "We regret to inform you that your request for a land loan allocation had to be deferred for consideration at a later date because of the limitation of funds at our disposal."⁹³ A letter to Dr. Becker, prepared by Pastor Reinhart Pope, the WELS Southeastern Wisconsin District Mission Board chairman, sheds a little more light on the Board's situation:

Dear Dr. Becker,

You will be disappointed to hear that the General Board at its meeting this week decided not to make any land purchases. First of all, there was not much money

⁹² Redeemer Church Council minutes, June 2, 1970.

⁹³ The letter is kept in the Redeemer Church Council minutes.

available, because of overruns on building costs. Then there is a need to catch up and assimilate the many projects that are still awaiting completion. I cannot say whether any monies will become available before the May meeting. That would be the next time that requests are considered.⁹⁴

Another letter from Pope to Becker, dated March 10, 1971,⁹⁵ indicates that Ed Wolf had a dinner meeting with Pope during February to discuss matters pertaining to Redeemer congregation. Pope encouraged Wolf to have the congregation submit a land purchase request again, even though no land grants were distributed at the previous meeting of the Board. "It doesn't hurt to try," Pope wrote. Unfortunately for Redeemer, the second request was also turned down.

Recall from the beginning of this essay that Redeemer congregation was founded by a group of bold, determined Christians. That rugged individualism became apparent in another bold move that the congregation took without formal approval from the Board for Home Missions. The July 25, 1971 meeting indicated that if funds were not available through the synod, the congregation was ready to purchase property with its own funds.

The following motion was presented to the voters' assembly upon recommendation of the Church Council: "Moved that the Church Council of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, having previously viewed and investigated several parcels of land in the Cedarburg area as possible acquisitions by our congregation, be and hereby is authorized and instructed to proceed on behalf of the congregation with serious negotiations for the purchase of a parcel of land for the ultimate location of our church building. It is understood that the parcels to be negotiated for will be no smaller than 3 acres or no larger than 15 acres, and that the purchase price will not exceed \$35,000.00. The Church Council is further authorized, on behalf of the congregation, to submit an offer-to-purchase or to enter into an option-to-purchase agreement at a cost not to exceed \$100.00, relative to that parcel which they deem to be most appropriate for the above stated purpose. It is understood, however, that any offer-to-purchase submitted shall be done so expressly subject to the subsequent approval of the Voters' Assembly of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, and also no option-

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

to-purchase may be exercised by the council without the prior approval of the Voters' Assembly." The motion was unanimously carried.⁹⁶

With the green light from the voters, the committee went into high gear in its search for land. They came across a local resident by the name of John Kasten. Mr. Kasten owned the large area of property on the west side of Wauwatosa Road in Cedarburg, between Bridge Street to the north and Western Avenue to the south. The northern portion of that large section of land had already been sold, and Lasata nursing home was built there. When the Redeemer leadership met with Mr. Kasten, it was only a matter of time before an agreement had been made between the congregation and Kasten. A resolution was presented to the voters on October 3, 1971, to purchase a twelve-acre section of land from Mr. Kasten for \$24,000.00. In another unanimous decision, the voters approved this purchase.⁹⁷

The voters realized that this decision, made without the advice or approval of the Board for Home Missions, might cause some friction between Redeemer and the synod: "The Voters' Assembly also instructed Mr. Wolf to meet with the Chairman of the Southeastern District Council and members of the Synod to discuss any misunderstandings that might have arisen as a result of the action taken by our congregation."⁹⁸ Ed Wolf recalled how that meeting went:

Duke and I were called down to meet with the Board for Home Missions to get our hands slapped. ... We were told that we could not make these kinds of moves outside of open communication with the Synod. We said, "It didn't cost you anything. What's the complaint? We're paying for it."⁹⁹

Despite the Mission Board's initial disapproval of Redeemer's move, they accepted it and "advised that the pending land purchase be completed as proposed."¹⁰⁰

⁹⁶ Redeemer Voters' Assembly minutes, July 25, 1971.

⁹⁷ Redeemer Voters' Assembly minutes, October 3, 1971.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ Quotation from the April 23, 2001 interview.

¹⁰⁰ Redeemer Voters' Assembly minutes, October 24, 1971.

With the land purchase under their belts, the men of the committee could move forward to the next phase: the building project. In a letter dated February 7, 1972, Pastor Berg informed the congregation that they could move ahead with preliminary plans for their building.¹⁰¹ A \$1,000.00 loan was granted to pay for the architect's work. Thern Associates of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, were hired as the architectural firm to design the new Redeemer Church building.¹⁰²

The following May, the congregation received another letter from Pastor Berg, announcing an allocation of \$112,000.00 from the Synod to Redeemer for its building project. The funding turned out to be \$10,000 less than the congregation had requested, and subsequent alterations to the original building plans had to be made to meet the smaller figure.¹⁰³ After finding some ways to cut costs, the long-anticipated building project could finally begin.

Pastor Howard Kaiser was pastor of Redeemer by this time. After the Sunday service on November 19, 1972, the congregation's members drove from the Town Hall to the site of Redeemer's future house of worship for the groundbreaking ceremony. Pastor Kaiser, Lloyd Verhaalen, Richard Grossman, John Thusius, Wes Schultz, and Ed Seigworth took part in the groundbreaking ceremony on that very cold November day.¹⁰⁴

Almost one year later, on October 7, 1973, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church held its first services in its very own facility. The date was actually delayed about a month; the originally scheduled date for the church dedication was September 9, but the extra month's wait

¹⁰¹ The letter is kept with the Redeemer Church Council minutes.

¹⁰² Based on a telephone interview with Pastor Kaiser on April 25, 2001, and the Redeemer Church Council minutes, June 12, 1972.

¹⁰³ In the April 23 interview, Lloyd Verhaalen mentioned that the overall building height was lowered a few feet to reduce the total cost. It may also be worth noting that the congregation originally wanted a basement in its facility, but mission churches would not be able to receive the funding that would have also paid for a lower, basement level. It should also be noted that the original plans called for a future "phase two" in which the present worship area would be turned into an education wing, and a new sanctuary would be added to the church extending west from the present building.

¹⁰⁴ Pictures of the ceremony are found in the Redeemer 10th Anniversary booklet, page 25.

did not damper the joy on that festive occasion in Redeemer's history.¹⁰⁵ Redeemer's new facility was filled with people for two services that day; the church sanctuary seating capacity provided space for approximately 120 worshippers,¹⁰⁶ and the narthex provided sufficient room for overflow seating for the large crowd that day. Dr. Becker served as the guest preacher for the morning service, and Pastor Gerlach in the afternoon service. The Redeemer Ladies' Guild hosted a luncheon after each of the services. The founding members of Redeemer congregation could finally take a moment to enjoy the fruits of their hard labors over the past several years. Most importantly, a congregation had been founded and a church building had been constructed in Cedarburg where the gospel of our Lord Jesus would, and still does, remain the central message of all preaching, teaching, and ministry.

Conclusion

One can not begin to estimate the importance of this little congregation. It is true that Redeemer Church has not always enjoyed the amazing growth it experienced in its initial years. It is not within the scope of this paper to speculate the reasons for that lack of external growth. Rather, we conclude by looking forward and focusing on the positive blessings our God has given through this assembly of believers. The Lord of the Church has graciously allowed Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church to stand as a voice for confessional, biblical Lutheranism for over thirty years in the Cedarburg community. Redeemer has enjoyed the blessings of faithful pastors and warm Christian fellowship. The gospel of Jesus Christ

¹⁰⁵ Pastor Kaiser noted in the April 25 telephone interview that the plaque in the narthex of the church, thanking Dr. Becker and Prof. Gerlach for their aid and assistance in the first years of the congregation, has the wrong dedication date printed because the dedication services were delayed.

¹⁰⁶ The architect's description stated that the church sanctuary could seat 160 people, but in this author's opinion, that is a highly unrealistic figure. Even the 120-person estimated capacity is a bit generous. The congregation recently removed two pews from the sanctuary to allow for more room between the pews, so the current seating capacity today is approximately 100.

continues to be our strength and our song. In an age of spiritual doubt and uncertainty, these are blessings that cannot be emphasized enough. In view of these blessings...

Soli Deo Gloria!

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Appendices

- I. Original Petition requesting a Mission Congregation
November 5, 1969
- II. Minutes of the First Meeting of the Unofficial Church Council
December 23, 1969
- III. First Published Bulletin
February 22, 1970
- IV. Second Petition requesting Mission Status
April 13, 1970
- V. Church Dedication Services
October 7, 1973

P E T I T I O N

FOR MISSION CHURCH

CEDARBURG, WISCONSIN AREA

PETITION TO THE WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

We the undersigned do hereby respectfully petition the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the establishment of a new church in the Town of Cedarburg, under Mission status.

We feel that the location of the new church should be immediately northwest of the City of Cedarburg, in the Town of Cedarburg, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

Ozaukee County and the Town of Cedarburg are completing a decade of great growth and apparently are on the threshold of another decade of even greater growth. We are already seeing industrial employment, in the City of Cedarburg and environs, expanding more rapidly than population, thus generating the growth in housing that typically parallels such expansion.

It is an established fact that perhaps as much as 80% of the national population growth is taking place in urban regions, and the great bulk of that amount is taking place in the rural-urban fringe areas such as that of Ozaukee County. Modern transportation, rising income levels, government-supported mortgage credit, and a common desire to live in an open country or rural village setting while enjoying the economic, social and cultural opportunities of the metropolis have all combined to overcome the barriers of time and distance that once kept large cities compact.

Ozaukee County is in a good position to benefit from the increased migration to the country. Firstly, many of the choice outlying Milwaukee suburbs are nearly or completely filled to capacity, which has helped to create premium prices for existing lots. Secondly, relatively lower tax rates, in the short run, seem to entice the prospective suburban dweller beyond the Milwaukee County border. Thirdly, the existence of State Trunk Highway 57 and State Highway 141 substantially reduces travel time between Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties, making Ozaukee County a more desirable residential area. Also, a proposed new extension of the Zoo Freeway to the north will run through Ozaukee County approximately along the present route of Highway 181 (76th St.).

The accompanying table on the following page shows historical population figures and projections to 1980, for the eleven counties comprising the southeastern portion of Wisconsin.

POPULATION OF ELEVEN WISCONSIN COUNTIES
 BY DECADE, 1900 TO 1980
 (Thousands)

<u>County</u>	<u>1900</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>(Projected)</u>	
								<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>
Dodge	46.6	47.4	49.7	52.1	54.3	57.5	63.2	71.8	82.4
Fond du Lac	47.6	51.6	56.1	59.9	62.4	67.8	75.1	85.3	97.3
Jefferson	34.8	34.3	35.0	36.3	38.9	43.1	50.1	60.2	75.8
Kenosha	21.7	32.9	51.3	63.3	63.5	75.2	100.6	138.4	188.6
Milwaukee	330.0	433.2	539.4	725.3	766.9	871.0	1036.0	1172.1	1246.7
Ozaukee	16.4	17.1	16.3	17.4	19.0	23.4	38.4	64.8	127.2
Racine	45.6	57.4	79.0	90.2	94.0	109.6	141.8	185.5	246.7
Sheboygan	50.3	54.9	59.9	71.2	76.2	80.6	86.5	91.1	96.6
Walworth	29.3	29.6	29.3	31.1	33.1	41.6	52.4	73.6	110.4
Washington	23.6	23.8	25.7	26.6	28.4	33.9	46.1	66.5	106.5
Waukesha	35.2	37.1	42.6	52.4	62.7	85.9	158.2	252.0	379.0
Total	681.1	819.3	984.3	1226.3	1299.4	1489.7	1848.4	2261.3	2757.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1970 and 1980 projections made by the Business Research Division, Milwaukee Association of Commerce.

It can be seen that Ozaukee County is expected to far outstrip the average growth rate and also that of the next fastest growing county, Waukesha, regardless of whether we consider the periods from 1960-1970, from 1960-1980, or 1970-1980. The Ozaukee county population in 1980 is projected to be 331% of that in 1960, as opposed to 240% for Waukesha, the next fastest growing county, and 149% for the total eleven county area. It is also interesting to note that the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has estimated that the Town of Cedarburg will be the fastest growing township within Ozaukee County in the decade 1970-1980.

We have discussed the unusual growth prospects for Ozaukee County and for the Town of Cedarburg, as they reflect the anticipated inflow of new residents to the area. It must also be emphasized that, with a new mission church, we would anticipate welcoming a great number of members from among existing residents of the City of Cedarburg and the Town of Cedarburg. The combined population of the city and the town of Cedarburg is currently approximately 11,000. Although there are other Lutheran churches within the city of Cedarburg (there are none in the Town of Cedarburg), we in the group whose signatures are affixed hereto, have an acute awareness that there is much displeasure among Lutherans in our area at the continuing dilution of doctrine and erosion of basic religious foundations, among many members of these churches, which are Missouri Synod, LCA, and ALC. The Cedarburg area has a heritage of primarily German conservatism, and what many church members now see as a significant abandonment of basic religious principles has disturbed what we estimate to be a large number of people. Some of these people have joined the Wisconsin Synod churches either in Grafton, Kirchayn, or Mequon. We feel, however, that it is important that one's church be located in one's own community. We consequently feel the distinct need for a new Wisconsin Synod church within the Town of Cedarburg, near the city limits of Cedarburg.


None of the individuals whose signatures are affixed hereto is currently a member of a Wisconsin Synod Lutheran Church. All, however, hereby indicate total support of the confessional position of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and have resigned, or are in the process of resigning, from any other church membership. Initial written commitments from this group indicate that the average annual pledge will amount to in excess of \$260.00 per year per member.

We feel that we have a healthy variety of backgrounds, ages and characteristics within our group. Our original religious backgrounds run the gamut, although the majority of our group are former church council-men in the L.C.A.

We feel that with this experience in our group, and with the strong concurrence which we all have with the confessional position of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, that we might not only be able to achieve the privilege of membership in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, but that you gentlemen, with the help of the Holy Spirit, will see fit to grant to our group mission status so that we might help extend the True Word of the Lord to those in this growing area who are now essentially without it.

We appreciate your kind consideration of our petition and pray that your decision will be favorable to our request.

Respectfully submitted
This fifth day of November, 1969.


Marilyn M. Grossman
Edward C. Wolf
Ruth J. Wolf
Fred Stein
Anna B. Stein
Lorraine Hallaran
Lydia Kopp
Lloyd Verhaar
Rudine J. Van Sickle
John W. Van Sickle



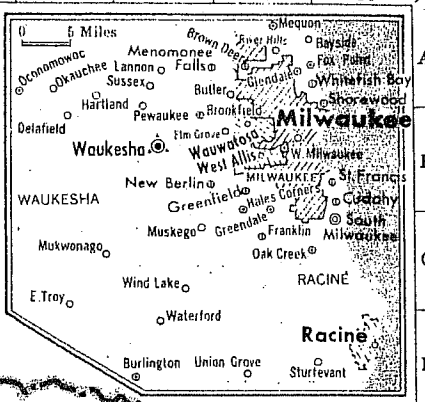
LEGEND

- State Capital
- County Seats
- County Names

POPULATION KEY

- Over 100,000
- 50,000 to 100,000
- 25,000 to 50,000
- 20,000 to 25,000
- 10,000 to 20,000
- 5,000 to 10,000
- 1,000 to 5,000
- Under 1,000

CLEARTYPE
 COUNTY-TOWN
 WISCONSIN



Population classification based on the Federal Census of 1960, corrected to latest state report.

PROGRESS REPORT AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

The committee of laymen in charge of providing Wisconsin Synod Services in the Cedarburg Wisconsin area, has been working diligently for the establishment of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cedarburg. Services were begun December 14, 1969 at the Cedarburg Town Hall. Dr. Siegbert W. Becker is serving as Pastor of this new venture.

The committee comprised of Mr. Fred Stein, John Vansickle, Lloyd Verhaulen, Dick Grossman and Ed. Wolf, met at the home of Pastor Becker at 2401 No. Grant Blvd., Milwaukee Wisconsin on December 23, 1969, to discuss the needs and problems of this new mission. Mr. Grossman was absent from this meeting.

It was agreed that no action pertaining to this church be taken unless the committee and the Pastor are involved.

Discussion was held as to whether contributions should be made to Wisconsin Synod Mission Fund from offerings collected at our services. Decision was delayed until the next meeting, pending a Treasurers Report from Mr. Grossman.

Mr. Stein agreed to call on all new families moving into the community to make them aware of Wisconsin Synod services being held in the community.

Pastor Becker suggested that the committee make available, to the people attending the Sunday service, copies of the Wisconsin Synod Catechism, This We Believe, and Catechism of Differences. Twenty Four copies of each were purchased and made available to those attending services. Twenty-Four Hymnals were also purchased.

Pastor Becker informed the group that he will conduct classes and hold discussions to determine who will qualify to participate in communion.

John Vansickle gave a report on the starting of our Sunday School program. Teachers for all grades have been obtained and registration was to be held after the church service on December 28th.

Pastor Becker informed the group that the Cedarburg area would be included in a house to house canvas by the Seminary Students. The committee agreed to provide a brochure on the Wisconsin Synod to be left at every home by the students. It is hoped that this will stimulate further interest in the growth of this church. This canvas will probably be conducted near the end of January.

The committee and Pastor Becker agreed that the sum of \$25.00 per service be paid to Pastor Becker and \$.10 per mile for all traveling relative to Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church. All phone calls relative to the church would also be paid by the congregation.

The committee also agreed to pay the organist \$5.00 per service.

Payment to the Seminary student to instruct the Sunday School teachers once a month, two and one-half hours of confirmation instruction each week, and preaching for one Sunday per month, was deferred until a recommendation from the Mission Board was given to the committee.

Pastor Becker and the committee will meet approximately every two weeks, and copies of the Treasurers Report, attendance figures and minutes of these meetings will be sent to Pastor Kuehl.

Respectfully submitted

Ed. C. Wolf

ECW-lw

REDEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 Town Hall, Cedarburg, Wisconsin
 Highway 143, near Highway 60.

The Second Sunday in Lent, called Reminiscence
 February 22, 1970

Sunday School Sunday Service
 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.

The order of worship for this morning's service will be found on page 5 of The Lutheran Hymnal.

Hymns for this morning's worship:

140 149 144 179

The Epistle for this day: I Thess. 4: 1-7

The Gospel: Matt. 15: 21-28

The Sermon Text: Luke 23: 37-41

The Sermon Theme: THE ROAD TO CALVARY

Preaching this morning: The Rev. Prof. Siegfried W. Becker, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon.

To Our Visitors: We welcome you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, who has established His church on earth so that men may find in Him forgiveness for their sins and eternal life with Him in heaven.

Before you leave, will you please sign our guest book?

Our members would like to become acquainted with you and we ask you to remain for a few moments after the service for that purpose. Because we do not have a full-time pastor, it may be some time before our pastor can visit you. We want you to know, however, that you are always welcome in our midst, and we hope that you will come again.

Because many of our visitors are not familiar with the doctrinal position of the Wisconsin Synod, our mission offers a Wisconsin Synod Catechism without charge to every family attending our services. If you are interested in studying the teachings of our church, we invite you to take your free copy from the table at the rear of the hall.

On the same table you will also find copies of This We Believe, a summary statement of the doctrinal stand of the Wisconsin Synod. We invite you to take a copy of this pamphlet also.

Some of our visitors have indicated a desire to pay for their copies of these books. If you desire to do so, the price of the Catechism is one dollar and the price of This We Believe is twenty-five cents.

Church Attendance last Sunday.....67
 Total Attendance this year to date.....360
 Average Attendance.....51
 Offering last Sunday.....\$94.84

LENTEN SERVICES: Since it was impossible to arrange for Lenten services of our own this year, we urge all those who would attend such services here to attend the services which are conducted every Wednesday during Lent at Our Savior's in Grafton, Trinity, West Mequon, David's Star, Kirchhayn, or Calvary, Thiensville. All these services begin at 7:30 p.m.

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION for children in the upper grades is being conducted by Mr. John Mittelstaedt, a student at our seminary in Mequon. If you have children in this age group and would like to enroll them, please speak to Pastor Becker.

REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Our services are conducted under the auspices of the mission board of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. It is our hope to establish a congregation in Cedarburg affiliated with that Synod.

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is recognized as a "bulwark of conservative Lutheranism" in America. While it is called the Wisconsin Synod because it was organized in Wisconsin more than a hundred years ago, it is today carrying on church work from coast to coast and in many foreign mission fields.

The Wisconsin Synod holds unreservedly to the whole Bible as the inspired and inerrant Word of God. It believes that the duty of the church is not to make this world a heaven on earth through social legislation and political pressure, but that God has given His church the commission to preach the Law in all its severity, so that men may recognize their need of a Savior and to proclaim the Gospel in all its fulness, so that men may know that in the Lord Jesus Christ God offers them certain and eternal salvation as a free gift of His gracious love.

If you have no church home, or if you are not receiving the spiritual message proclaimed in the Word of God, we invite you to share in these gracious gifts of the heavenly Father by attending our services regularly.

At present we do not have a full-time pastor of our own and it is therefore not always possible for us to render all the service that we would like to offer. However, if you are in need of spiritual counsel, the Rev. Prof. Siegbert W. Becker, professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, who is in charge of our services, will be glad to render such service as he is able to work into his schedule at the Seminary. His teley ve number is 242-4854.



REDEEMER EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

P E T I T I O N

FOR MISSION STATUS

REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CEDARBURG, WISCONSIN AREA

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

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BY DECADE, 1900 to 1980
(Thousands)

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Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1970 and 1980 projections made by the Business Research Division, Milwaukee Association of Commerce.



LEGEND

- ☆ State Capital
- △ County Seats

RICHLAND...County Names

POPULATION KEY

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- 5,000 to 10,000
- 1,000 to 5,000
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CLEARTYPE
TRADE MARK REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.
COUNTY-TOWN
WISCONSIN

Scale of Miles
0 20 40 60

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Population classification based on the Federal Census of 1960, corrected to latest state report.

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We have discussed the unusual growth prospects for Ozaukee County and for the Town of Cedarburg, as they reflect the anticipated inflow of new residents to the area. It must also be emphasized that, with a new mission church, we would anticipate welcoming a great number of members from among existing residents of the City of Cedarburg and the Town of Cedarburg. The combined population of the City and the Town of Cedarburg is currently approximately 11,000. Although there are other Lutheran churches within the City of Cedarburg (there are none in the Town of Cedarburg), we have an acute awareness that there is much displeasure in our area at the continuing dilution of doctrine and erosion of basic religious foundations, among many members of these churches, which are Missouri Synod, LCA, and ALC. The Cedarburg area has a heritage of primarily German conservatism, and what many church members now see as a significant abandonment of basic religious doctrine has disturbed what we estimate to be a large number of people. Some of these people have joined the

Wisconsin Synod churches either in Grafton, Kirshayn, or Mequon. We feel, however, that it is important that one's church be located in one's own community. We consequently feel the distinct need for a new Wisconsin Synod church within the Town of Cedarburg, near the city limits of Cedarburg.

Since our initial appearance before the District Mission Board in November of 1969, our group has been conducting exploratory services (beginning on December 14) on a regular basis at the Cedarburg Town Hall. We have taken the name Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church. Dr. Siegbert W. Becker, Professor at the Wisconsin Synod Seminary in Mequon, has been acting as our interim Pastor and has supervised our programs. Mr. John Mittelstaedt, a senior student at the Seminary, is serving us as Dr. Becker's assistant, administering our Christian education programs, making some prospect calls and preaching on those occasions when Dr. Becker has other commitments (generally once a month).

Realizing fully that Dr. Becker's primary commitment is to his work at the Seminary, we are reluctant to impose upon his time to too great a degree between Sundays, although he has graciously consented to make some calls for us, in addition to his conducting a recently completed weekly adult instruction course for our group and inter-

ested acquaintances.

Our group has organized its evangelism efforts so that all visitors who attend our church services, plus new residents to the community, plus all other appropriate prospects for membership, are now being visited promptly on a regular basis. In addition to the lay callers within our group, four Seminary students have agreed to assist in this effort on a continuing basis.

Exhibit III attached provides a condensed summary of our progress during the first three full months of operation, relative to our finances and our church attendance. At our services on Easter Sunday, seven families were accepted into membership at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a result of their having been granted membership in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod through the cooperation of various neighboring congregations. Since that time, eight additional families have indicated that they are now also ready for membership. In addition four more families of Seminary students have indicated that they are now interested in membership at Redeemer. Numerous other families have indicated that they also will be ready to join at such time as we achieve Mission status. The healthy growth trend in our church attendance would certainly seem to attest to the existence of considerably more interest within the community.

REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Condensed Summary of Progress

First Three Full Months of Operation

January, February, March, 1970

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March*</u>	<u>3 months Cumulative*</u>
<u>Receipts</u> (primarily Sunday Offerings)	\$ <u>378.17</u>	\$ <u>475.31</u>	\$ <u>894.79</u>	\$ 1,748.27
<u>Disbursements</u> Salaries (Pastor, assistant, organist)	155.00	174.21	273.35	602.56
Building Rental	40.00	40.00	60.00	140.00
Synod Offering	-	35.00	45.00	80.00
Other expenses	<u>106.54</u>	<u>37.27</u>	<u>391.34</u>	<u>535.15</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ <u>301.54</u>	<u>286.48</u>	<u>769.69</u>	<u>1,357.17</u>
Church Attendance	171	248	374	793

*March figures include an additional service on Good Friday

Note: These attendance figures include seminary students, who generally total from 5 to 12 individuals at any given service.

We currently are serving twelve youngsters in our regular Sunday School, and we anticipate that this number will be increasing greatly. Twenty-two persons partook of the Lord's Supper on Easter Sunday, the first time it has been offered in our church. Subject to the wishes of the entire congregation, we tentatively plan to administer Holy Communion on a once a month basis.

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church is currently remunerating Dr. Becker at the rate of \$30.00 per church service, plus 10¢ per mile and out-of-pocket expenses. Mr. Mittelstaedt, his assistant, receives \$70.00 per month, which covers his time with occasional preaching, calling, preparation and administration of the Sunday School program and continuing education of the lay Sunday School teachers. The four seminary students, who assist with the evangelism calling, are being reimbursed for mileage costs at the rate of 10¢ per mile.

If the Mission Board determines that our church is worthy of Mission status at this time, we would respectfully request that we be permitted to continue with this same administrative structure for another year. We have approached Dr. Becker with the proposal, and he has graciously consented to serve us on this basis until June of 1971, subject, of course, to the approval of the Synod.

We feel that this "team pastorate" approach will

provide considerable benefits. It will allow our church to continue an active association with a man whom we feel is a truly extraordinary Christian, Dr. Becker. It will permit us to operate on a more modest budget for this period of time, so that when the time eventually comes that we must pay for a full-time pastor's salary, housing, etc., in addition to principal and interest payments on a mortgage, plus the many other operating expenses, we will hopefully be much closer to financial self-sufficiency with our total budget. This "team pastorate" arrangement would also obviously postpone, for its duration, the need for us to call a full time pastor, thus freeing up, for the moment, one man to be available to serve another congregation.

We feel that we have a healthy variety of backgrounds, ages and characteristics within our group. Although the majority of the original small nucleus of organizers were individuals who had recently left the L.C.A. for doctrinal reasons, our group has now swelled to the point where we are drawing from our entire Protestant religious community, in addition to the un-churched.

We feel that, even in its early infancy, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church is showing very healthy signs of growth. We are a group totally committed to the confessional position of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran

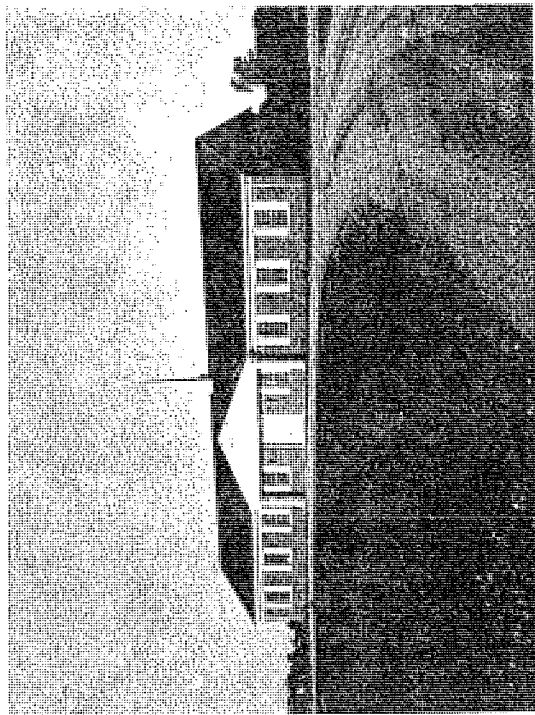
Synod and eager to put forth our God-given wherewithal, tangible and intangible, in order to make our church grow and prosper the way He would want it to. We are confident this can be accomplished. We hope that the Mission Board will deem our church worthy of Mission status at this time, so that we may proceed and grow in our ability to extend the True Word of the Lord to those in this growing area, so many of whom are now essentially without it.

We appreciate your kind consideration of our petition and pray that your decision will be favorable to our request.

Respectfully submitted
This thirteenth day of April, 1970

Edward C. Wolf, President,
and on behalf of, Committee of laymen in charge of providing Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran services through the Congregation Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

Dedication



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 N. Wauwatosa Road
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Sunday, October 7, 1973

WELCOME

In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, we welcome you on this joyful day of the dedication of our new church building.

In deepest reverence and with heartfelt gratitude we dedicate this House of Worship to the glory of the Triune God, for the proclamation of the Word of God and the administration of the Sacraments.

May He who has been with us in the past and has so richly blessed us on our way be with us in the years that lie ahead. May His House be a haven for the weary and may all who enter therein drink freely of the Living Water which alone is able to quench their thirst and give them strength unto everlasting life.

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is His also. The sea is His, and He made it: and His hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand." Psalm 95:1-7.

Howard W. Kaiser, Pastor

THE FESTIVAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION

October 7, 1973, 10:30 A.M.

The Congregation shall assemble at the front door of the new church together with the Pastors, the members of the Church Council, and the Building Committee.

THE KEY CEREMONY

Prayer: O eternal God, who dwellest in the high and holy place, and with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, we beseech Thee graciously look upon us and let us enter this Thy House with Thy blessing. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Whereas, by the grace of God, we are permitted this day to dedicate this house of God, we herewith open the door to this sanctuary for the preaching of the saving Word of God in accordance with the Confessions of our Church, for the administration and use of the Holy Sacraments according to the institution of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for offering to God's glorious majesty the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

Mr. Lloyd Verhaalen, Chairman of the Building Committee, will hand the key of the new church to Mr. Edward Wolf, President of the Congregation who shall open the church door, and the Congregation shall follow the Pastors into the church. While the Congregation is being seated, the members of the Church Council will come forward to the chancel and hand the Bible, the Service Books, and the Sacred Vessels of the church to the Pastor, who will set them in their proper places.

(The Congregation shall rise)

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Pastor: Albeit the Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands, but with His glory doth fill the heavens and the earth, He hath yet been pleased to reveal His gracious presence wherever His holy Word and Sacraments are in use. For thus He spake through Moses: In all places where I record My name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee; and again, through Christ, His Son: Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them. Whereas, then, this house hath been built for the manifestation of the grace of God on Word and Sacrament and we are for the first time gathered together here in His name, let us, therefore, hear the Word of the Lord and by our prayer commend this place to Him, knowing that all things are sanctified by the Word of God and

Pastor: To the glory of God our Father, Creator of heaven and earth, whose favor hath brought us to this hour; To Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior and Redeemer; to God the Holy Spirit, our Sanctifier and Comforter; to the glory and honor of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost:

Cong: *We dedicate this church.*

Pastor: For the worship of God in prayer and praise;
For the preaching of the everlasting Gospel;
For the celebration of the Holy Sacraments:

Cong: *We dedicate this church.*

Pastor: For the comfort of all who mourn;
For strength to those who are tempted;
For light to those who seek the Way:

Cong: *We dedicate this church.*

Pastor: For the hallowing of family life;
For the teaching and the guiding of the young;
For the edifying of the saints:

Cong: *We dedicate this church.*

Pastor: For the conversion of sinners;
For the promotion of righteousness;
For the extension of the Kingdom of God:

Cong: *We dedicate this church.*

Pastor: For our growth in faith and sanctification;
For our greater service and consecration;
For our blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord:

Cong: *We dedicate this Redeemer Lutheran Church and all appointments, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.*

HYMN BY CHOIR

Christ is Our Cornerstone

HYMN BY CONGREGATION

1. *Built on the Rock the Church doth stand,
Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in every land,
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.*
2. *Surely in temples made with hands,
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands
All earthly temples excelling.*

Yet He whom heav'n's cannot contain
Chose to abide on earth with men,
Built in our bodies His temple.

3. We are God's house of living stones,
Built for His habitation,
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell,
With all His grace and His favor.

4. Grant, then, O God, where'er men roam,
That, when the church-bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:
"I know Mine own, Mine own know Me;
Ye, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you." Amen.

THE ALTAR SERVICE

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Cong: Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Cong: *Who made heaven and earth.*

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

Cong: *And Thou forgiveest the iniquity of my sin.*

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor and Cong: *O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us

and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. Do them that believe on His name. He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Cong: Amen.

THE INTROIT

THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Cong: *And with thy spirit.*

THE COLLECT

Cong: Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Cong: *Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

THE GOSPEL

Cong: *Glory be to Thee, O Lord!
Praise be to Thee, O Christ!*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting.
 Amen.*

HYMN BY CONGREGATION

1. Here in Thy name, eternal God,
 We dedicate this house to Thee.
 Oh, choose it for Thy fixed abode
 And keep it from all error free!
2. Here, when Thy people seek Thy face
 And dying sinners pray to live,
 Hear Thou in heav'n, Thy dwelling-place;
 And when Thou hearest, Lord, forgive.
3. Here, when Thy messengers proclaim
 The blessed Gospel of Thy Son,
 Still by the pow'r of His great name
 By mighty signs and wonders done.
4. When children's voices raise the song,
 "Hosanna to the heavenly King!"
 Let heaven with earth the strain prolong.
 Hosanna! let the angels sing.
5. Thy glory never hence depart.
 Yet choose not, Lord, this house alone;
 Thy kingdom come to every heart,
 In every bosom fix Thy throne. Amen.

THE FESTIVAL SERMON

Dr. Siegbert W. Becker Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

THE OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

THE DEDICATION OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

**THE DEDICATION PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
 HYMN BY CONGREGATION**

1. Christ, Thou art the sure Foundation,
 Thou the Head and Cornerstone;
 Chosen of the Lord and precious,
 Binding all the Church in one;
 Thou Thy Zion's Help forever
 And her Confidence alone,
2. To this temple, where we call Thee,
 Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
 With Thy wonted loving kindness
 Hear Thy servants as they pray
 And Thy fullest benediction
 Shed within these walls always.
3. Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants,
 What they ask of Thee to gain,
 What they gain from Thee forever
 With the blessed to retain,
 And hereafter in Thy glory
 Evermore with Thee to reign.
4. Praise and honor to the Father,
 Praise and honor to the Son,
 Praise and honor to the Spirit,
 Ever Three and ever One,
 One in might and one in glory,
 While unending ages run. Amen.

Pastor: Prayer
 Cong: Amen.
 Pastor: The Benediction.
 Cong: Amen! Amen! Amen!

THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

We are happy that you have joined us on this memorable occasion. We invite you to inspect our facilities. The officers and ushers will be pleased to assist you and answer your questions. You are also invited to remain and enjoy the buffet dinner prepared by the ladies of Redeemer.

THE AFTERNOON SERVICE OF PRAISE

October 7, 1973, 3:00 P.M.

HYMN BY CONGREGATION

1. In loud, exalted strains
The King of Glory praise.
O'er heav'n and earth He reigns
Thro' everlasting days;
But, Zion, thou, so richly blest,
Art His delight, His chosen rest.
2. O King of Glory, come,
And with Thy favor crown
This temple as Thy home,
This people as Thine own,
Beneath this roof, vouchsafe to show
How God can dwell with men below.
3. Now let Thine ear attend
Our supplicating cries;
Now let our praise ascend,
Accepted to the skies,
Now let Thy Word, the Gospel, sound,
Spread Thy celestial blessing round.

4. Here may the list'ning throng
Receive Thy truth and love;
Here Christians join the song
Of seraphim above
Till all who here may seek Thy face
Rejoice in Thy abounding grace. Amen.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Cong: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Cong: And with thy spirit.

THE COLLECT

Cong: Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 84

Cong: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who as conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN BY CHOIR

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

HYMN BY CONGREGATION

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.
2. My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim;
To spread thro' all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.
4. Look unto Him, ye nations; own
Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.
5. See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain;
His soul was once an offering made
For every soul of man.
6. Glory to God and praise and love
Be ever, ever given
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heaven. Amen.

THE SERMON

Professor Joel C. Gerlach

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

THE OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN BY CONGREGATION

1. *Founded on Thee, our only Lord,
On Thee, the everlasting Rock,
Thy Church shall stand as stands Thy Word
Nor fear the storm nor dread the shock.*
2. *For Thee our waiting spirits yearn,
For Thee this house of praises rear,
To Thee with longing hearts we turn;
Come, fix Thy glorious presence here.*
3. *Come with Thy Spirit and Thy pow'r,
The Conqueror, once the Crucified.
Our God, our Strength, Our King, our Tow'r
Here plant Thy throne and here abide.*

4. *Accept the work our hands have wrought;
Accept, O God, this earthly shrine.
Be Thou our Rock, our Life, our Thought,
And we, as living temples, Thine. Amen.*

THE COLLECT FOR THE CHURCH

Cong: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Cong: Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

We are pleased that you have joined us at this afternoon service of praise. You are invited to inspect our facilities. If you have any questions, the officers and ushers will be happy to be of assistance. You are also invited to remain and enjoy a light lunch served by the ladies of Redeemer.

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Liturgist: Pastor Howard W. Kaiser

Organist: Miss Rachel Gerlach

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

Redeemer congregation is deeply grateful to the Lord who has abundantly supplied her with members of many skills and talents. Thousands of hours of labor were donated by members in the planning, construction and supervising of the church building. To our all-knowing Lord we commend their labor of love, realizing that such labor in the Lord is not in vain.

We also express our appreciation to all, both members and friends of Redeemer, whose offerings and donations have made it possible to appoint the church so beautifully.

To all, both known and unknown, who helped in various ways to make possible this day of Dedication, we offer our grateful appreciation. May God's benediction rest upon us all.

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Thern Associates, Inc. - Designer and Engineer
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Henry Torke & Son - General Contractor
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

J. J. Neuman - Heating
Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

Illingworth Corp. - Plumbing
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Schilling Electric - Electrical
Hartford, Wisconsin

H. F. Prah1 Corp. - Grading and Excavating
Mequon, Wisconsin

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CHURCH COUNCIL

Edward Wolf.....President
Edward Seigworth...Secretary
Wesley Schultz....Treasurer
Richard Grossman
John Thusius
Donald Belstner

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Lloyd Verhallen, Chairman
Raymond Maas
Richard Grossman
Edward Wolf
John Van Sickle, Interior Decorating

HISTORY OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the last months of 1969, a group of Lutheran laymen, who were troubled by the decay of Lutheranism, were able to persuade the District Mission Board of the WELS that it was desirable to have a conservative Lutheran Gospel witness in the Cedarburg area, and that the founding of a congregation here would not unduly hamper the mission efforts in other areas of our country. Redeemer congregation owes a debt of gratitude to these men, Richard Grossman, Fred Stein, John Van Sickle, Lloyd Verhaalen, and Ed Wolf.

Exploratory services were begun in the Cedarburg Town Hall on December 16, 1969. In 1970 the average monthly attendance grew from 42 in January to 73 in December. After a series of lectures in which the doctrinal position of the WELS in relation to other Lutheran synods was explained, the first communion service was held on March 29, 1970, with 16 people receiving the Lord's Supper. On December 6, 31 people partook of the sacrament. The congregation grew from 16 communicants in March to 40 in December.

In January of 1970, a Sunday School was organized with five teachers and 11 children. By December of that year 19 children were enrolled. In October a Bible class, meeting in Cedarburg high school, was organized.

The enthusiasm of the members and the evident blessing of the Lord on the work being carried on prompted the Home Mission Board of the WELS to grant "mission status" to Redeemer in April of 1970, and in June the constitution of the congregation was approved and Redeemer was accepted into membership in the Wisconsin Synod at the convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District.

The first annual voters' meeting was held in January of 1971 and a permanent church council was elected. The Ladies Guild was organized in February of that year. Lenten services were held for the first time in 1971. The administrators of the Lasata Home graciously granted the congregation the use of their chapel facilities for that purpose. The congregation continued to grow and at the close of 1971 the number of communicant members stood at 61.

The site on which our new church has been built, approximately 12 acres in area, was purchased from Mr. John Kasten in December of 1971 for \$24,000. The Board of Trustees of the WELS approved the building plans of the congregation in May of 1972 and granted the mission a loan of \$117,700 from the Church Extension Fund. We are grateful to our fellow-Christians throughout the Synod who made this loan possible. Ground was broken for our new church on November 19, 1972.

During its brief history, the ministry of Redeemer has been carried on by a number of men. Dr. Siegbert W. Becker, professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, served as pastor from

December of 1969 to October of 1972. During the first two years, he was assisted by students of the seminary, Mr. John Mittelstaedt, who is now pastor at Landover, Maryland, and Mr. Harlyn Kuschel, who is now pastor at Reedsville, Wisconsin. In September of 1971 Professor Joel Gerlach became co-pastor. The present pastor, the Rev. Howard Kaiser, was called as the first resident pastor in July of 1972, and was installed on October 8.

Redeemer has been richly blessed by the Lord. During its brief history 19 children have been baptized, 7 children and 5 adults have been confirmed. The present communicant membership is 102. With a fulltime pastor and its own church home, the congregation faces the future with the hope and the prayer that the Lord of the Church, to whose glory the present church is being dedicated, may bless Redeemer congregation and make it a blessing to many through the proclamation of the saving Gospel of our Savior in all its truth and purity.

May God keep this congregation always faithful to His Word in these days of widespread apostasy from the Christian faith.

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Redeemer congregation extends the invitation to you to worship with us regularly.

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

O King of Glory, come
And with Thy favor crown
This temple as Thy home,
This people as Thine own.
Beneath this roof vouchsafe to show
How God can dwell with men below.

Dedication booklets courtesy of Schramka-Densow Funeral Home
Thiensville-Mequon