

A HISTORY OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

By

Dwane V. Norris
Redeemer Lutheran Church
3637 Spring Arbor Road
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Compiled 9 December 1997

Edited 2013

Table of Contents

BRIEF HISTORY OF MARTIN LUTHER	1
BRIEF HISTORY OF LUTHERANISM IN AMERICA.....	2
HISTORY OF MISSOURI SYNOD	4
A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF REDEEMER	12
APPENDIX A – GROWTH RECORD OF REDEEMER	18
APPENDIX B - BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PASTORS	19
APPENDIX C - BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF VICAR’S	22
APPENDIX D - BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF SON’S OF REDEEMER	24
APPENDIX E - BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MINISTER TO FAMILIES.....	25
APPENDIX F - CHARTER MEMERS	26
APPENDIX G - CHAIRMEN OF REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH	28

BRIEF HISTORY OF MARTIN LUTHER

Martin LUTHER was born in 1483 and died in 1546. As a monk in the Roman Catholic Church, he could not find peace of mind until he came to understand that men are not save by good deeds, but faith in God. He believed in the free mind under the inspiration of the Spirit of God.

LUTHER was aroused to protest when John TETZEL, sponsored by Pope Leo X, came to Germany to see Indulgences as substitutes for penances. On 31 October, 1517, LUTHER nailed on the church door at Wittenberg a debate, which has since been labeled The 95 Theses. This was the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. In a debate with Dr. ECK at Leipzig in 1519, LUTHER denied the infallible authority of the church over a man's conscience, and appealed to the individuals' own right to acknowledge and confess sins before God. The final break between LUTHER and Rome had come. LUTHER was excommunicated from the Catholic Church in 1520.

Such an act also involved political insubordination. The Emperor summoned LUTHER to a council at Worms in 1521. At this council, he uttered the famous words, "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me, Amen." He was condemned and ordered banned from the realm. But his friends stole him away from the officials and hid him in the castle at Warburg. Later, LUTHER settled down in Wittenberg and led the new movement to restore truth to the church.

The fundamentals of Protestant thinking stem from LUTHER. He opposed the traditional Catholic conception of the church which gave special privileges to the hierarchy. He was persuaded that these rights belonged to every Christian. He maintained that every Christian had the right to read and interpret the Bible for himself. To make this possible, he translated the Scriptures into the German language. His supreme contribution to the reformation movement was his re-emphasis upon the New Testament position that man is justified by faith alone and salvation is a free gift of God. We cannot work for our salvation or buy it through any acts of charity. We can only receive this gift of God by faith. Martin LUTHER was a courageous leader and the other reformers depended on him for inspiration, guidance and support.

BRIEF HISTORY OF LUTHERANISM IN AMERICA

The first Lutheran settlements in America can be traced to the year before the Mayflower sailed from England. Early Lutheran Church history shows that the Dutch established Lutheran Churches along the Hudson River dating as far back as the 1600's. In August of 1619, a colony of sixty-six (66) Danish Lutherans landed on the shores of Hudson Bay. Among the earlier settlers in the thirteen original States, were a number of Lutherans. In 1638, forty-four years before William PENN came and founded Philadelphia, early Lutheran Churches had been started by Swedish Lutherans who settled on the Upper Delaware and there built Fort Christins, which later became the City of Wilmington.

German Lutherans in America can first be traced to a few German Lutherans among the settlers in New York and Pennsylvania. Later, their numbers increased. As early as August 1642, we find a Lutheran settlement referred to as New Amsterdam and many other German settlements in the country west and north. In 1656 a Lutheran congregation was organized at New Amsterdam and another at Albany. In 1664, St. Matthew's Church in New York City was organized. This is the oldest Lutheran congregation in the United States which now is part of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

There was little found of Lutheran History in the colonies. Colonies of Lutherans had settled at Newburgh, on the banks of the Hudson, others at Germantown, and a settlement at Broad Bay in Maine. Heinrich Melchior MUHLENBERG, who came to America in the 1740s, helped organize many scattered flocks of Lutherans into the Pennsylvania Ministerium. Many German Lutherans settled in the Pennsylvania area. In 1746, a Lutheran colony at Waldsborough, Maine, was massacred by Indians.

Early Lutheranism in the Southland, especially in Georgia and the Carolinas, can be traced to 1733 when General OLGETHORPE arrived in Georgia and founded the City of Savannah. Only one year later, in 1734, we find a colony of Lutherans which had been driven from the Austrian province of Salzburg by Catholic archbishops. Many fled to Berlin, East Prussia, and Scandinavia. Many others came to America. The Salzburger that came to America were seeking a home and freedom in the New World. They settled at Ebenezer, about thirty miles up the Savannah River. The Catholic ruler of Salzburg wanted to rid his province of everyone who was not Catholic. But rather than deny their faith, the Lutherans were willing to suffer loss of home and property and endure loss of life itself. Expelled from their homeland, the English people invited them to accept a home in the province of Georgia. On January 8, 1734, their vessel sailed from Dover. When the ship arrived at Charleston, the immigrants were met by General OGLETHORPE. The first organized Church at Ebenezer was the Jerusalem Church.

In the old Lutheran Church of the South, the name of HEINKEL was highly honored. The HENKEL family gave to the Lutheran Church in North Carolina and Tennessee a number of its most faithful members. Paul HENKEL was a pioneer, who traveled among the mountains of North Carolina, West Virginia, and Tennessee seeking out the scattered Lutherans, preaching to them, baptizing their children, and celebrating Communion. His oldest son, Solomon, owned a printing press and through the books which he published, he exerted a great influence. Another son, Philip, was one of the organizers of the Tennessee Synod, as was also a David HENKEL. Polycarp, one of the grandsons of Paul HENKEL, came as far as Missouri on his mission journeys, and became one of the organizers of the first English Conference of the Missouri Synod.

HISTORY OF THE MISSOURI SYNOD

The origin of the Missouri Synod can be traced (the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States) to the immigration of Saxon Lutherans which took place in the year 1838. The reason these Saxons sought a new home in America was not the desire for riches or the love of adventure, but their love of the Gospel and the hope of finding a country in which they could establish a church on the basis of its pure teachings. This they were unable to do in Germany. The highest positions in the church at that time were occupied by men who hated the Gospel of Jesus Christ and tried everything to hinder its preaching. Wherever faithful pastors preached the Word of God, people would come many miles to hear them.

The Saxon immigration was the culmination of a plan that was born in the mind of one of these preachers, a Reverend Martin STEPHAN, pastor of St. John's Church at Dresden, Saxony, and under his leadership a plan was worked out for the establishment of a Lutheran colony in the State of Missouri. He was a staunch preacher of the orthodox Lutheran faith within the Saxon Church, which was strongly Rationalistic at the time. Difficulties and even persecutions arose against STEPHAN and his followers and he decided to emigrate. Many of his friends and supporters were ready to go with him, even though it meant breaking many precious ties to the homeland. A very detailed plan for emigration and colonization was drawn up. Finally, nearly 700 souls joined the emigration and is a testimony to STEPHAN's remarkable personality and great organizing ability, and to the deep confidence which these Lutherans had in their chosen leader. Pastor Martin STEPHAN, preacher of the old Lutheran congregation at Dresden, addressed a friend in 1836 stating, "Our time becomes ever more serious and decisive; matters cannot continue in the present state for any length of time. God will bring a decision for His Church, whether she is to continue to exist in Europe or to immigrate to North America." At that time, the pure Word of God was rarely heard in Germany. Especially not in Saxony, where unbelief had penetrated into all classes of the population.

Associated in this undertaking with Pastor STEPHAN, were the Pastors E.G. KEYL, G.H. LOEBER, C.F.W. WALTHER, and O.H. WALTHER. There were 668 persons in this company of immigrants. Most of them had pleasant homes and profitable businesses, and to leave Germany was a great sacrifice for them.

Five sailing vessels were chartered to convey the group of colonists across the Atlantic to the New World. The colonists began their voyage in November 1838, departing from Bremen, and on November 3, 1838, the first vessel chartered for the Saxon immigration, the "Copernicus," weighed anchor. On the last day of the year the "Copernicus" arrived in New Orleans. The second ship, the "Johann George" followed the "Copernicus" a few weeks later and entered the harbor in New Orleans on January 5, 1839, with Pastor KEYL and C.F.W. WALTHER aboard.

The "Republik," left Bremerhaven November 12, 1838, and arrived in New Orleans on January 12, 1839, with Pastor LOEBER as passenger.

The "Olbers" and "Amalia" at this time were still at the docks receiving passengers and left later. The "Olbers," a beautiful three mast schooner, was a new ship making its first voyage. The "Olbers" arrived in New Orleans on January 20, 1839, with Reverend Martin STEPHAN and Reverend Otto Herman WALTHER on board, along with 193 other passengers. One of these passengers was Mr. GUENTHER, who made entries in his diary during the journey, where he stated – "18 November at 10 O'clock A.M., the wind being favorable, the "Olbers" weighed anchor". The fifth vessel, the smallest of the ships, the "Amalia," had left Bremerhaven in company with the "Olbers," but she never made it to the harbor. It is almost certain that she went down with all on board, in the storms which swept the shores of France November 28 to 30 of 1838.

The pastors and candidates of theology that had accompanied Pastor STEPHAN, and served as leaders of the various groups during the voyage to our country, were Theodore BROHM, E.M. BURGER, O. FUERBRINGER, C.L. GEYER, Jacob GOENNER, E.G. KEYL, G.H. LOEBER, G.A. SCHIEFERDECKER, O.H. WALTHER, and C.F.W. WALTHER.

In New Orleans, the colonists continued their journey up the Mississippi River by four river steamers: the "Rienzi", the "Clyde", the "Knickerbocker", and the "Selma". The "Selma," the largest vessel, arrived in St. Louis, then a city of 16,000 inhabitants, on February 19, 1839. The colonists were kindly received by the habitants of St. Louis.

St. Louis was not the final objective of their journey. A group of the immigrants did remain in that city and founded a congregation later to be called the Trinity Church. It was served first by O.H. WALTHER, and after his untimely death, was served by his younger brother, C.F.W. WALTHER.

Soon after their arrival in St. Louis, the Saxon immigrants bought a tract of land, comprised of 4,472.6 acres in Perry County, Missouri, down river on the Mississippi River. This land was purchased by STEPHAN for the establishment of the colony that had long been planned, over which STEPHAN was to preside as the duly elected Bishop of the group. The majority of the Saxon group, after spending several months in St. Louis, moved down to Perry County on this tract of land purchased by STEPHAN.

With quiet days of development and growth, the entire colony, soon after the arrival at Perry County, had been divided into five small congregations served by the following pastors: BUERGER (Seelitz), KEYL (at Wittenberg and Frohna), LOEBER (Altenburg), and C.F.W. Walthers (Dresden). The congregation which had remained at St. Louis under Pastor O.H. WALTHER organized the Trinity Church, which may be called the mother church of the Missouri Synod.

During the first months of colonization, when the sufferings of the immigrants were at their height, several of the graduates of the theology residing in Perry County resolved to build a

school for the education of ministers. The men who fostered and executed this ambitious plan were Theodore BROHM, J.F. BUENGER, and O. FUERBRINGER.

They resolved to build a log cabin in order to house the institution. After clearing the ground, felling trees, they finally succeeded in completing their log-house, consisting of one room only. Three students were enrolled. This log cabin still stands. It became the mother institution of our Missouri Synod Colleges.

If we were to trace chronologically the sequence of events, which under God, worked together to bring about the organization of the Missouri Synod in 1847, we must begin with the coming to America of the Reverend Frederick Conrad Dietrich WYNEKEN. Among the pioneer missionaries who preached the Gospel to the inhabitants of the early Western settlements, none deserves more grateful remembrance than WYNEKEN. He was a man of powerful frame, well-educated, fiery and energetic, filled with a burning desire to carry the Gospel to his countrymen in the Western solitudes, of whose difficulties he had learned through missionary magazines in Germany.

WYNEKEN, born in 1810 in Verden, Hannover, studied theology at the Universities of Goettingen and Halle. He came to Baltimore in 1838 for the purpose of serving the scattered Lutherans on this side of the Atlantic. He had read in a missionary paper, concerning the American spiritual flight and many being without the services of the Lutheran Church. Landing at the port of Baltimore, he had been befriended by the Reverend J. HAEBERT, pastor to the Second Evangelical Lutheran Church; later known as the old St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Baltimore. He filled the pulpit of this church for a time in order to give HAEBERT the opportunity to take a much needed vacation. Later, he was extended a call to what was then the Village of Fort Wayne, Indiana, by the home missionary society of the Pennsylvania Ministerium to succeed Jesse HOOVER in Fort Wayne and to serve as home missionary in that territory. Reverend Jesse HOOVER had come from the East, in 1837, to serve in Fort Wayne. He organized a Lutheran congregation in Fort Wayne and another, at what is now Friedheim, in Adams County. Reverend HOOVER came to an untimely death on May 23, 1838, at the age of 28 years, as a result of a heart attack, probably aggravated by his arduous missionary travels in northern Indiana. HOOVER had written about his work as a field missionary before this death.

When WYNEKEN came to Indiana in the early fall of 1838, he began immediately to labor in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, traveling the forest and prairies on foot and on horseback, in fair and in foul weather, by day and by night. Everywhere, he sought out German Lutherans who were fast becoming heathens through lack of preachers.

After establishing himself in Fort Wayne and beginning his missionary journeys by both foot and horseback, WYNEKEN soon found himself faced with a Herculean task. The spiritual destitution of the scattered Lutheran settlers was so great that he finally lifted his voice, in 1841, like that of a prophet in the wilderness, in a cry for help that reached the Lutheran Church in Germany, which stirred up the Reverend William LOEHE and others, to come to his aid.

WYNEKEN returned to Germany late in the summer of 1841, and there he spoke before interested groups in various parts of Germany, including Bavaria, in a plea that more ministers be sent to America. His plea was taken up by a great preacher of Neuendettelsau in Bavaria, Pastor William LOEHE, who from that time onward was a resource for sending many faithful pastors and teachers to the United States. One of first of these was August CRAEMER, who founded the first colony (Frankenmuth) in the Saginaw Valley.

Other missionaries followed, many of which lead entire companies of colonists founding many a faithful Lutheran congregation. Here WYNEKEN first met the Reverend William LOEHE of Neuendettelsau, who had received WYNEKEN's "appeal" and had started the training of missionaries who would assist to relieve the spiritual needs of the scattered Lutheran settlers in the American Middle West. The first of these missionaries to be commissioned for the American field were George BURGER and Adam ERNST, who were sent out on July 11, 1842, for America.

When WYNEKEN left Fort Wayne, Dr. William SIHLER, who had also been associated with LOEHE, succeeded him as pastor. Dr. SIHLER became one of the founders of the Missouri Synod and its first Vice-President.

LOEHE did not only prepare men for the ministry in America, but he asked his friends to aid him in opening a seminary for the same purpose in the New World. For the site of this institution, he selected Fort Wayne, and in 1846, he sent eleven young men who were to be the first students. Dr. SIHLER taught for several years at this institution. It was later united with Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, and later still, moved to Springfield, Illinois.

The first Lutheran pastor and missionary in the Middle West was the famous "Father" C.F. HEYER. Later, the first foreign Missionary was established and American Lutherans were sent into the heathen land, sections of which had been explored in Indiana eighteen years before, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Ministerium, the oldest Lutheran Synod in our country. The Reverend Paul HENKEL, who had helped to organize the Ohio Synod in 1818, had traveled extensively as home missionary in Ohio. In fact, already before WYNEKEN's coming, there were two Lutheran Synods in Indiana. One was the Synod of the West, covering parts of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and the second was Illinois, organized in 1835 in Louisville, Kentucky. This Synod became a member of the General Synod in 1841. It was a somewhat lax body as far as Lutheran teaching and practice were concerned. WYNEKEN became a member of this synod after his arrival in Fort Wayne, and in the course of time, he headed a group of conservatives in that synod. Finally, he and his congregation withdrew in 1845.

The Synod of Indiana, also organized in 1835 in Johnson County, Indiana, under the leadership of the HENKELS and others from the Tennessee SYNOD, was a sound, conservative Lutheran group, but as far as this writer has been able to determine, WYNEKEN had no contacts with this group during his early stay in Indiana.

In the State of Michigan, as early as 1833, the Reverend F. SCHMID began an extensive mission work from his headquarters at Ann Arbor, where he had a church. He organized at least twenty congregations in Michigan. Then, in 1840, he organized the first Lutheran Synod in Michigan, which the LOEHE men, CRAMER of Frankenmuth, HATTSTAEDT of Monroe, LOCHNER of Toledo, Ohio, and TRAUTMANN of Adrian, had joined.

These men were the first-fruits of a harvest that was to reach remarkable proportions. The men sent out by LOEHE formed the majority of those who, in 1847, organized the Missouri Synod in Chicago.

It was LOEHE himself, in 1843, before the publication of "Der Lutheraner" by C.F.W. WALTHER, who conceived the idea of having missionaries approach the Saxons in Missouri for a possible union with them. He instructed William G.C. HATTSTAEDT to travel to St. Louis for that purpose.

WYNEKEN himself, after his return from Germany in 1843, continued his work in Fort Wayne until 1845, when he accepted the call to succeed the Reverend J. HAESBAERT at old St. Paul's Church in Baltimore. From there, after severing his connection with the General Synod and joining the Missouri Synod, he became pastor at the Old Trinity in St. Louis. He succeeded WALTHER as President of Missouri Synod in 1850 and served in that capacity during the critical formative years of the Synod's life, until 1864.

The Saxon immigration into Missouri was in no way related, at first, with the movement lead by F.C.D. WYNEKEN. The fact that these Saxons ultimately united with WYNEKEN and LOEHE men for the formation of a synod, must be put down as one of the gracious leadings of Providence.

Two events emerge from this period of doubt and confusion which lasted about two years, from 1839 to 1841, that we to have a far-reaching effect upon the subsequent history of the Lutheran Church in America. No one realized it at the time, least of all the perturbed Saxons themselves.

Incidentally, this was the period in which WYNEKEN was making his missionary journey in Indiana and Ohio. The Saxons knew nothing about him as yet, and if he knew of their immigration, which is likely, he surely did not dream that their paths would one day converge.

As previously stated, the first of those events was the erection, in 1839, of a little one-room log cabin college and seminary in Perry County, Missouri, for the training of ministers and teachers, by a group of the Saxon pastors: Theodore BROHM, J.F. BUENGER, O. FUERBRINGER, and C.F. WALTHER were assisted by a few laymen. This was the beginning of Concordia seminary, now located at St. Louis, one of the largest Protestant theological seminaries in the world, and of Concordia College, Fort Wayne, one of our Synod's preparatory schools for the training of ministers. This College is now the Seminary in Fort Wayne.

The other event, of far-reaching significance, was the public debate or disputation, held at Altenburg in Perry County, in April 1841, on the question, "Are we a Church of God or only a rabble?" It was C.F.W. WALTHER who at this time came forth as the real spiritual leader of the colony. He was only thirty years old at the time, and by no means the eldest among the clergy. In this debate, he showed, from the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, that the Church was indeed among them, that their pastors had been rightly called, and that the official acts of these pastors were valid. One man present at this historic debate, described the effect in these words: "More was not needed to take the pressure off our consciences and revive faith in the hearts of those who had all but despaired. It was the Easter morning of a severely stricken congregation."

C.F.W. WALTHER, in 1841, was called to be pastor of Trinity Church in St. Louis, and it was his activity in connection with this church that permitted him to develop further qualities of leadership, a leadership that meant so much to the movement that brought forth the organization of the Missouri Synod in 1847.

Another important development in WALTHER's work in St. Louis was the publication of "Der Lutheraner," a biweekly publication, which had as its editorial program the presentation of the doctrines of the Lutheran Church and the warding off of heretical teaching contrary to the Scriptures. Its tone was not belligerent but evangelical. Its stand was firm and unmistakable for sound, orthodox Lutheranism. The first issue of the German Lutheran Church paper, "Der Lutheraner," was published by the Saxon congregation at St. Louis, on September 7, 1844, and Dr. WALTHER was its editor.

The first mention made of forming a contract between the LOEHE missionaries and C.F.W. WALTHER with the Saxons in Missouri was by William LOEHE himself in his instructions to W.G.C. HATTSTAEDT, in 1843, preparatory to the latter's coming to America. LOEHE had instructed HATTSTAEDT to travel to St. Louis to confer with WALTHER, but after his arrival in America circumstances prevented HATTSTAEDT from doing so. The instructions, however, were not forgotten. LOEHE requested ERNST and HIHLER to write to WALTHER and ask his opinion about the plan of forming a new synodical organization. WALTHER's reply showed that he and his Saxon colleagues were favorable toward a union. In his letter, WALTHER briefly outlined his conception of how such a synod should be constituted, stressing that it must be advisory in character and that the laity must stand on an equal footing with the clergy.

The first definite step toward a new synodical organization was taken in 1845, when the LOEHE missionaries who had joined the Ohio Synod withdrew from that body. Others who were of the same mind and spirit discussed with them the question of a constitution for the new synodical body.

This took place at a meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio on September 13 to 18, 1845. Present at this meeting were the following pastors, members of the Ohio Synod: F. BECKER, G. BURGER, William SIHLER, F. WINKLER, while A. SAUPERT of Evansville, Indiana had been invited to attend but was unable to attend on account of the distance. In addition, others in attendance were WYNEKEN, who had recently moved from Fort Wayne to Baltimore and had severed his connection with the General Synod; W.G.C. HATTSTAEDT; F. HUSSMANN, who became the first secretary of the Synod; F. LOCHNER of the Michigan Synod; G.K. SCHUSTER; besides several teachers, candidates for the ministry, and theological students. Others who had been invited but were unable to attend were: WALTHER of St. Louis, and CRAEMER of Frankenmuth, who were ill at the time, and BROHM, one of the Saxons who had been called from Perry County to serve a congregation in New York City. BROHM and CRAEMER sent letters declaring their interest in the plan.

The meeting was held in the place of worship at the Cleveland Church, served by the Reverend A. SCHMIDT, later called the Zion Lutheran Church. In addition to the daily sessions, divine services were held in the evenings with HATTSTAEDT, ERNST, SIHLER, and WYNEKEN preaching the sermons.

The conference at Cleveland had cleared the air for those men who had been connected with the Ohio Synod. Two questions now were uppermost in their minds: What action would be taken by the Saxons in Missouri? What would happen in the Michigan Synod to which CRAEMER, HATTSTAEDT, LOCHNER, and SCHUSTER were members?

To determine the answers to the first question, it had been decided at Cleveland to send a delegation, composed of SIHLER and ERNST, to St. Louis to confer with the Saxons. LOCHNER of Toledo, invited by SIHLER and WALTHER, went along, as he wrote to LOEHE, "in order to gain something for the discussion of our Michigan Synod at Ann Arbor, and partly, following a sign from God, to seek help, he met in the home of pastor WALTHER." The journey to St. Louis was undertaken by these men in May of 1846.

On May 6, they met at Dayton (ERNST, LOCHNER, and SIHLER), and on the May 7, resumed their journey. On May 8, 120 miles from St. Louis at Wittenberg, they met on board, without knowing that GRUBER, LOEBER, and KEYL were also attending the conference at St. Louis.

From this meeting, a conference was planned to begin July 2 at Fort Wayne, and was to include other men who had left the Ohio Synod. This success of this conference was in drawing up the draft of a synodical constitution and, as stated, it was to be presented to all interested parties in a subsequent meeting at Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was adopted at Fort Wayne, and an organizational meeting was planned at Chicago in 1847.

It was the first meeting of most of these men with WALTHER, who was destined to become their great leader. It was at this meeting that CRAEMER and WALTHER—the two men who for years were to serve as heads of our two synodical theological institutions, first met face to face.

The Synod was formally organized, and pastors and congregational delegates assembled in Chicago, on Friday and Saturday, 23 and 24 of April 1847.

At this convention the synodical territory was divided into conference districts, as follows:

1. St. Louis, Missouri
2. Chicago, Illinois
3. Fort Wayne, Indiana
4. Monroe, Michigan
5. Fairfield, Ohio
6. New York, New York.

The first permanent elected officers were the following: President, C.F.W. WALTHER; Vice President, Dr. William SIHLER; Secretary, F.W. HUSMANN; Treasurer, Mr. F.W. BARTEL. The following standing committees were elected: Examiners and Collocutors, G.H. LOEBER; Chronologist, O. GUERBRINGER; Mission Board, C.J.H. FICK, F.A. CRAEMER, and F.W. BARTEL; Committee for the publication of "Der Lutheraner", J.F. BUENGER and F.W. BARTEL, Candidate C. FRICKE was appointed home missionary-at-large.

Another item discussed was the question of an official training school for ministers and teachers. Two institutions, both privately owned, were already in existence within the Synod. The older of them had been founded in Perry County by the Saxons in 1839. It was small and far removed from the geographical center. The other school in Fort Wayne, in contrast, established in 1846 by William LOEHE and William SIHLER, was already graduating candidates for the ministry and the teaching office in appreciable numbers. Synod deemed it advisable to obtain full control of both schools, and the respective owners were requested to relinquish their rights to them in favor of Synod. This was agreed upon and, in a few years, both schools were under synodical control.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF REDEEMER

The establishment of a mission congregation in Jackson, Michigan began to take shape in 1960 when Trinity Lutheran Church of Jackson laid plans for the construction of a parochial school on the western limits of Jackson. With the aid and encouragement of the Mission Board of the Michigan District of the Missouri Synod, plans were made for a new mission to begin by holding services in the auditorium of Trinity School at 4900 McCain Road in Jackson.

In December of 1960, a call was issued by the Mission Board to the Reverend J. Louis OETTING, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Island, Illinois. Accepting this call, Pastor OETTING arrived in Jackson, Michigan, in January of 1961. During the months of February, March, and April of 1961, Pastor OETTING conducted a house to house survey of around 2,200 homes in the area around the school.

On May 7, 1961 the first worship service was held with 163 in attendance. The following Sunday, the first session of the Sunday School was conducted. There were 17 pupils in attendance.

During the summer of 1962, the core members began working on a constitution for the congregation which was given the name "Redeemer" on May 25, 1961. The first chairman of Redeemer congregation was Mr. Ted CLAUS.

On September 24, 1962, Redeemer received its charter as a congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. On that date, Redeemer numbered forty-four charter communicant members and ninety-eight baptized members.

The Youth program of the church began in 1962 with Walther League, currently known as "STAR" for the confirmed youth of the church, "ICE" for those in Junior High, and "KIDS FOR CHRIST" for those in the lower grades. The Youth program in 1991 was under the direction of David BASCHAL, who served the congregation as Youth Director.

On November 18, 1963, a Planning Committee was elected to begin the preliminary work for the building of our first facility. After many meetings, the committee came to the congregation with its projections and recommendations on April 8, 1964. On April 15, 1964, the congregation resolved to construct a building and purchase the property on Spring Arbor Road for the site for the building. A Building Committee of seven members was elected. The architectural firm of *Kressbach & Dabbert* was selected for the building program. The final designs were approved and let for bids in October of 1965. After some adjustments, the main contract was signed with the A.C. Moeller Construction Company and the extensive grading of the site began in October 1965. The Ground Breaking service for the building was held on November 21, 1965, and the cornerstone was laid on April 3, 1966.

On the day of dedication of our first church facilities, September 25, 1966, Redeemer congregation celebrated its fifth anniversary. It was on September 24, 1961, that Redeemer received its charter as a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

In November of 1966, women of the church were approved as voting Members of the congregation.

November 1967, Redeemer Lutheran Church joined with Christ, Immanuel, St. James and Trinity Lutheran Churches of Jackson to form LCUSA of Jackson County.

At the beginning of 1967, the congregation numbered over 450 baptized members and 226 communicant members. Statistics alone cannot begin to measure the blessings of God or the liberality of His grace upon our congregation. The growth of the Redeemer Church is both inward and outward.

From November 1967 to the Spring of 1968, blacktop was installed in the parking lot.

On January 1, 1969, Redeemer Congregation became a self-sustaining body by declining to accept subsidy money from the Missions board, LCMS, Michigan District.

April 1969 landscaping was installed at Redeemer.

Pastor OETTING continued to serve the congregation until November 23, 1969. On November 23, 1969, Pastor OETTING preached his last sermon before leaving for Hope Lutheran Church in Granite City, Illinois. From November 24, 1969, to April 26, 1970, Pastor Warren L. PAULSON served as Interim Pastor.

February 25, 1970, at a Special Voters Assembly, a Call was extended to Pastor Richard Charles PFLIEGER, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church and Student Center in Auburn, Alabama. Accepting this call, Pastor Richard C. PFLIEGER was installed April 26, 1970.

October 1970 outdoor lighting was completed.

On May 2, 1971, Redeemer celebrated its Tenth Anniversary with Reverend Warren L. PAULSON (Chaplain, Department of Corrections) preaching the 10:00 AM Sermon and Reverend J. Louis OETTING the 4:00 PM Sermon. Music Director for the two services was Steven JONES. Richard VANDER VEEN was the organist.

The worship area of our church was enhanced, in September 1974, with the addition of pews and in July of 1975 with carpeting in the chancel area and down the center aisle of the nave of the church.

At the end of 1975, the congregation numbered 697 baptized members and 470 communicant members. As Redeemer continues its history, we were reminded that the Lord is with us and is active in our midst with His grace and love.

Pastor PFLIEGER served the congregation until June 1977, when he accepted a Call to Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska. Pastor PFLIEGER preached his last sermon at Redeemer in June 1977.

Reverend Warren L. PAULSON once again served as our Interim Pastor.

On July 1977, a Call was extended to Reverend William A. Gatz, pastor of Christ Our King Lutheran Church in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Pastor GATZ was installed on December 11, 1977, and continued to serve as Pastor of this congregation until April 28, 1996. The Lord moved Pastor GATZ to assist a troubled sister congregation and became a contract pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Adrian, Michigan. He remained as Circuit Counselor of the District.

Although plans for the educational addition were drawn by a committee in 1972, it was not until April 10, 1978 that the Voters Assembly accepted the recommendation of the Building Committee to proceed with the addition to the present building. The Groundbreaking Ceremony for this newest addition was held on April 2, 1978.

At the end of December 1978, the congregation numbered 699 baptized members and 487 communicant members.

Through the years, with God's help and blessing, Redeemer has grown in all areas. Many other major improvements and additions to the church facility have been made, including two pianos, an electric organ, handbells, and electronic chimes.

As Redeemer grew, the need for an assistant to Pastor GATZ was recognized.

From September 1982 through August 1983, Antonin Carl (Tony) TROUP served as our first vicar. Tony then became Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in New Haven, Michigan.

Ron GEBAUER served from 1983 through 1984 as our second vicar. Ron served as Missionary at large in Honaira, Solomon Islands, South Pacific. Ron has since left the ministry.

Roger Gene KNIEF served as third vicar from 1984 through 1985. Roger then became Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Scotland, South Dakota.

The vicarage program was discontinued September 1985.

Barry Lynn MUELLER, a student at Fort Wayne, Indiana Seminary, served as a field-worker in the congregation from September 1985 through May 1986. Barry then became the Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Timmins, Ontario, Canada.

Other workers at Redeemer include the following: Jane ATZINGER; David BASCHAL; David BROWN, Darlene EWERS, Debbie FALL; Julie FREIBERG; A.J. HUNTER, and Steve WILLIAMS.

The summer of 1991, Redeemer installed air conditioning in the church.

September 29, 1991, Redeemer Lutheran celebrated its Thirtieth Anniversary with Dr. John L. HEINS, President of the Michigan District preaching at the Service of Praise and Thanksgiving, which was followed by a Pig Roast and Potluck at 12:00 P.M.

In 1992, the Church Council considered a part-time parish staff position to assist the Pastor with some of his work. Particular areas of need were family and individual counseling and evangelism. Mr. John RATHJE was considered for this position and would work approximately ten hours a week. On November 5, 1992, the Voters Assembly was asked to hire a part-time staff member to work 10 hours per week to assist in the counseling. The job title was "Part-Time Parish Assistance," and John Roy RATHJE was contracted to be this counselor. John accepted this position. On March 14, 1993 a Call was extended to John RATHJE to be a full time "Minister to Families. John accepted the Call on March 28, 1993.

August 1992, the Senior High Youth attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans with over 20,000 other Missouri Synod Youth from around the country. This was the first time Redeemer was represented at such a gathering.

Sunday, October 2, 1994, Redeemer with other Missouri Synod Lutheran Churches of Zone 1 of the Southeast District of LLL, sponsored a "Lutheran Hour Rally" at the Western High School Auditorium at 1400 Dearing Road in Parma, Michigan. The theme was "Grace and Mission for the Whole Creation," with Dr. Wallace SCHULZ, Assistant Speaker for the Lutheran Hour, as the guest speaker.

Voters approved the appointment of the Building Feasibility Study Committee, which was formed in January 1995, with Rick SANDTVEIT as Chairman. The committee reported to the Annual Voters Meeting in November 1995 for further directions. The committee reported their summary of increasing from present 10,000 square feet of existing building to 33,538 square feet, to include Sanctuary, Teen Room, Education classrooms, music complex, office complex and meeting rooms, Library and Church Archives, and Fellowship Hall. The Voters approved the committee to obtain Preliminary Drawings.

July 1995, a Men's Fellowship was started with Breakfast and Bible Study.

On November 10, 1995 a new "Rodgers" organ arrived and was installed Wednesday, November 15, 1995. The first service with the organ was held on Saturday, November 18, for a wedding and the first Sunday Service was Sunday, November 19, 1995.

From 1st of May 1996 serving as worship leaders and delivering the message during the interim of the vacancy, Redeemer was served by Reverend William HILL, a retired minister from Lansing, Michigan; Reverend Dr. Jakob HECKERT, professor at Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Steven WILLIAMS, 3rd year Seminary Student from Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

At a Special Voters Assembly on September 21, 1996, a Call was extended to Pastor R. William ROPER, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Utica, Michigan. Pastor ROPER was installed on December 1, 1996. Lynette LUKSAN was hired as morning Secretary on March 17, 1997.

Redeemer congregation has had two of its members go into the Ministry. They were Dale Michael KLEIMOLA and Rick PRESKAR. Dale KLEIMOLA became pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wausau, Wisconsin. Rick PRESKAR has left the Ministry. Steven WILLIAMS will be our third member to enter the Ministry. He is deceased.

Many of Redeemer's dedicated members have served the church in various areas of church work including the Church Council, Chancel Guild, Women of Redeemer, LWML, and Lutheran Laymen's League. Others have served as ushers, greeters, organists, acolytes, Rebecca's, choir and handbell choir, instrumentalists, Prayer Chain links, and quilters. Committees offer additional areas of service such as Assimilation and Planning Committees. Redeemer has also been involved in Synodical Programs such as "FORWARD IN REMEMBRANCE and ALIVE IN CHRIST, HIS LOVE-OUR RESPONSE," and the Church Growth Program.

Redeemer has grown in its Education Program, offering Sunday School for ages three through adults, Confirmation, and Adult instruction for membership, weekly Bible Study groups, Home Bible groups, Bethel Bible Series, Vacation Bible School, Nursery School, Wednesday School, Cradle Roll, and support for students at Trinity Lutheran School. These programs fluctuate as needs change within the Community and membership.

Social Activities include a bi-weekly fellowship coffee after church services, fellowship meals before Advent and Lenten Services, an Easter Breakfast, often served by the youth, an annual Church Picnic, and monthly family activities. The "RECYCLED TEENAGERS," for members of the congregation who are 55 years plus, enjoy a potluck and fellowship once a month. There are active softball, volleyball, and bowling teams. (These programs vary as needs change.)

The congregation, concerned with community services, was active with the JALC (Jackson Association of Lutheran Churches) which no longer exists. The congregation is currently active in a monthly worship service at the Countryside Care Center, a summer campground ministry, and a weekly jail worship service one month a year.

Redeemer was blessed with a music program, under the direction of Annette SANDTVEIT, who was the Director of Music from 1978 to May of 2004. The services have been enriched by the choir and bells. The choir grew from a small choir of 10-15 members to a choir of 33 members by 1996. The choir sings at worship services about three times a month during the school year. They have sung with our sister congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church, for various services, as well as participating in the Lutheran Hour Rally held in Jackson in 1994. The choir sings a variety of music styles, but always keeping in mind sharing the gospel as their most important mission.

Redeemer has a three octave handbell choir which includes many of the youth of our church. The Handbell Choir meets every Wednesday night during the school year and plays about once a month. The Handbell Choir also has played at various festivals in the area.

Redeemer has many fine instrumentalists in the congregation who have blessed our church with their talents by accompanying the choir or congregation for church services.

Redeemer has many fine vocalists that consider their music a ministry. They serve the Lord through singing special music for church services and singing in the choir. Redeemer is blessed by their dedication to the Lord.

Again as Redeemer continued its history, we were always reminded that the Lord is with us and is active in our midst with His grace and love.

Statistics alone cannot begin to measure the blessing of God or of His grace upon our congregation. The accomplishments of Redeemer which are ultimately important are intangible: The impartation from God of life with Him, the strengthening of faith, the renewed confidence in God's love and mercy, the faith being made real and dynamic in one's life, the sharing of one's faith in daily acts of love to our fellowman. These signs of growth are beyond statistic measuring devices. Yet these blessings have also been abundantly bestowed.

During the years of Redeemer's history, several organizations have come into being and have been capably led by dedicated servants of our Lord. These are: Redeemer Youth Fellowship, Redeemer Guild (Women's Ministries), Adult Fellowship Group, and the Chancel Guild.

APPENDIX A – GROWTH RECORD OF REDEEMER

The record of growth throughout the years follows:

<u>END OF YEAR MEMBERS</u>	<u>BAPTIZED MEMBERS</u>	<u>COMMUNICANT</u>
1961	102	55
1962	193	98
1963	307	148
1964	348	171
1965	399	208
1966	426	226
1967	533	303
1968	575	338
1969	611	365
1970	609	382
1971	622	402
1972	653	417
1973	666	432
1974	671	449
1975	708	474
1976	721	486
1977	699	476
1978	692	487
1979	732	514
1980	743	529
1981	750	535
1982	734	484
1983	691	494
1984	676	484
1985	622	428
1986	622	431
1987	604	428
1988	590	429
1989	636	448
1990	629	438
1991	600	464
1992	617	435
1993	680	485
1994	542	396
1995	558	399
1996	575	417
1997		

APPENDIX B - BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PASTORS

J. Louis OETTING was born 17 March 1932 in Davenport, Scott, Iowa. Pastor OETTING attended the Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana, from 1950 to 1953; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, from 1953 to 1958; Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, from 1954 to 1958. He also received credit from Wartburg Seminary, Union Seminary (N.Y.C.), and Michigan State University. Pastor OETTING received a B.A. Degree in 1955 and Master of Divinity in 1958.

Pastor OETTING served Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Island, Illinois, from 1958 to 1961. He came to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan, in January 1961 to establish a congregation and served until November 1969, the date of his farewell sermon at Redeemer. Pastor OETTING left Redeemer to accept a call, in November 1969, to Hope Lutheran Church in Granite City, Illinois, where he was pastor until 1973. Pastor OETTING was later called to St. John Lutheran Church in Lombard, Illinois in 1973.

District Offices held by Pastor OETTING have been Circuit Counselor in the Michigan District from 1967 to 1969; Chairman of the Board of Missions in the Southern Illinois District from 1971 to 1973.

Pastor OETTING married Sharon Lea KRAHL and to this union, four children were born: Marie born 1962; Angela born 1963; Julie born 1965; and James born 1967.

Richard Charles PFLIEGER was born 6 August 1936 in Chicago, Cook, Illinois. Pastor PFLIEGER attended Concordia Junior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, from 1954 to 1956, and received an A.A. Degree in 1956; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri from 1956 to 1961 and earned a B.A. Degree in 1958; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri from 1966 to 1968 and earned a B.D. Degree in 1968, and Master of Divinity in 1971; Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) from 1980 to 1983, earning a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care in 1984.

Pastor PFLIEGER served as Pastor at the Lutheran Mission Church in Guntersville, Alabama from 1961 to 1963; Trinity Lutheran Church and Student Center in Auburn, Alabama from 1963 to 1970; called to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan, February 1970, and was installed in the summer of 1970. His farewell sermon was June 1977; called to Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska from 1977 to 1989; and Christ the King Lutheran Church in Altoona, Iowa in 1989.

Pastor PFLIEGER was Circuit Counselor in the Southern District of Michigan from 1974 to 1976.

Pastor PFLIEGER was married to Maxine Veronica CARE; they were divorced 20 September 1989. To this union four children were born: Richard Charles, Jr.; Paul; Daniel; and Timothy.

William A. GATZ was born 2 July 1932 in Port Edwards, Wood, Wisconsin. William was the third son of Avolt and Hannah GATZ. William served in the Coast Guard and then entered Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois in 1955. He graduated from Springfield in 1961. His seminary vicarage sent him to St. Peter Lutheran Church in Stratford, Ontario, Canada. William A. GATZ received his Call to Zion Lutheran Church in the rural community of Dashwood, Ontario, Canada in 1961, and served there until 1966; Zion Lutheran Church in Ashland, Wisconsin from 1966 to 1972; Christ Our King Lutheran Church in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada from 1972 to 1977; and accepted a call to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan, in July 1977. He was installed December 11, 1977, and served as pastor of Redeemer until April 28, 1996. Pastor GATZ's farewell sermon was on April 28, 1996, followed by a banquet held at the Potter Center Jackson Community College.

District Offices held by Pastor GATZ were: Circuit Counselor in the Ontario District from 1965 to 1966; Circuit Counselor in the Ontario District from 1972 to 1977; Evangelism Department in the Ontario District from 1973 to 1977; Circuit Counselor in the Michigan District from 1985 until his retirement.

Pastor GATZ married Gertrude M. SCHELLENBERGER in the summer of 1960 and to this union four children were born: William A.; Timothy John; Lynne; and Peter Robert.

In July 1994, Pastor had the special privilege of officiating at the wedding ceremony for his son Peter, and daughter-in-law Shawna.

R. William ROPER was born 10 June 1948 in Centralia, Marion, Illinois. He attended Trinity Lutheran School in Centralia, Illinois, and St. Paul High School in Concordia, Missouri. He attended St. Paul's College in Concordia, Missouri, from 1966 to 1968; Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, from 1968 to 1970, where in 1970, he received a B.A. Degree majoring in Social-Psychology; Concordia Seminary College in St. Louis Missouri, from September 1970 to May 24, 1974, receiving a Master of Divinity Degree.

His first parish was St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, New York, from 1974 to 1975; St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hardin, Illinois, 1975 to 1977; Bethel Lutheran Church in DuQuoin, Illinois, from 1977 to 1981; Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park, Illinois, from 1981 to 1983; Senior Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Forest Park, Illinois, from 1983 to 1993; Trinity Lutheran Church in Utica, Michigan, from 1993 to 1996.

District Offices held by Pastor ROPER were Circuit Counselor in the Northern Illinois District from 1991 to 1993. While in Southern Illinois, R. William ROPER served on the District Board of Evangelism and as leader of the District Youth Leader's Retreat. While in the Chicago

area, he was Pastoral Advisor for the LWML and led Witness Workshops for the District. He served on the District Board of Education and Adult Education Committee while in Utica, Michigan.

Pastor ROPER met his wife, Carol Marie HAAKE, while attending St. Paul's College in Concordia, Missouri, and they were married in 1971. Carol is a graduate of Concordia College in River Forest with a B.A. Degree. She has taught at Lutheran Schools in Wisconsin and Illinois and was a Director and Teacher of the preschool at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Eastpointe. To this union, four children were born: John Frederick ROPER, Michael Robert ROPER, Scott David ROPER, and Daniel William ROPER.

APPENDIX C - BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF VICARS

Antonin (Tony) Carl TROUP was born September 1, 1957 in St. Louis, Missouri. Pastor TROUP attended St. Paul School in Concordia, Missouri, from 1976 to 1978; Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan from 1978 to 1980; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri from 1980 to 1984. He obtained an A.A. Degree in 1978; B.A. Degree in 1980; and Master of Divinity in 1984.

Reverend TROUP served as first vicar of Redeemer from September 1982 to August 1983. He served at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Herington, Kansas, from 1984 to 1990; Trinity Lutheran Church in Ramona, Kansas from 1984 to 1990; and St. John Lutheran Church in New Haven, Michigan beginning in 1990.

Reverend TROUP held District Office on the Committee on Rural Ministry in the Kansas District from 1989 to 1990.

Reverend TROUP married Cindy Christina FOX, December 19, 1983, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan, by Reverend William A. GATZ. To this union, three children were born: Timothy; Christina; and Elizabeth. Pastor William A. GATZ preached at the ordination in Kansas of Reverend TROUP, and also at his installation in Michigan.

Ron GEBAUER served Redeemer as second vicar from 1983 through 1984. Ron served as Missionary at Large Honaira, Solomon Islands, South Pacific. Ron has since left the ministry.

Roger Gene KNIEF was born October 21, 1960 in Atlantic, Cass, Iowa. Roger attended St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas from September 1978 to May 1980; Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan from September 1980 to December 1981; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri from March 1982 to May 1987. He earned a B.A. Degree in 1982 at Concordia College and Master of Divinity Degree in 1987 at Concordia Seminary. Reverend KNIEF served Zion Lutheran Church in Wessington Springs, South Dakota with a dual parish at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Woonsocket, South Dakota for two years; St. Pau Lutheran Church in Scotland, South Dakota with dual parish at St. John Lutheran Church in Kaylor, South Dakota for two years; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Springfield, South Dakota for two years.

Reverend KNIEF is not married.

Barry Lynn MUELLER was born 23 February 1955 in Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan. Reverend MUELLER attended Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan from 1974 to 1977 earning a B.A. Degree in 1977; Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana from 1984 to 1988 earning a Master of Divinity Degree in 1988. Reverend MUELLER served Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan as a Seminary Student at Fort Wayne, Indiana serving as field-worker in the congregation from 20 September 1985 to 1 May 1986; serving Ontario, Canada District (LCC) and St. Mark Lutheran church in Val Caron, Ontario, Canada from 1988 to 1992; Christ Lutheran Church in Timmin, Ontario, Canada from 1992 to present.

Reverend MUELLER married Janel Louise KLEIMOLA and to this union two children were born: Kristina and Melissa.

APPENDIX D – BIOGRAPHIES OF REDEEMER MEMBERS IN THE MINISTRY

Dale Michael KLEIMOLA was born 13 November 1952 in Joliet, Will, Illinois. Reverend KLEIMOLA attended Jackson Community College from 1970 to 1972; Concordia Junior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana from 1972 to 1975 earning a B.A. Degree in 1975; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri earning a Master of Divinity Degree in 1979. Reverend KLEIMOLA was ordained at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan 17 June 1979 and has served congregations at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cissna Park, Illinois four and a half years; Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dansville, Illinois six years; and Trinity Lutheran Church in Wausau, Wisconsin, and is currently a pastor in Michigan.

Reverend KLEIMOLA married Paula Dianne BURK and to this union five children were born: Tanya; Kevin; Ryan; Nathan; and Nicholas.

Rick PRESKAR was another Redeemer member who entered the Ministry. He did not respond with biographical information and has left the Ministry.

APPENDIX E - BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MINISTER TO FAMILIES

John Roy RATHE was born December 17, 1961, in Saginaw, Michigan. John attended Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, from 1981 to 1983; Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, Michigan, from 1983 to 1985 earning a B.A. in Elementary Education in 1985; Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan, from 1983 to 1988, earning a Lutheran Teaching Diploma in 1988; and Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, from 1989 to 1992, earning a M.A. in Agency Counseling in 1992. John was purchasing Manager at Euclid Industries, Inc. in Bay City, Michigan, from August 1985 to April 1986; Captain, U.S. Army Reserve in Saginaw and Livonia, Michigan, from August 1985 to 1989; Teacher, Youth Director, and Athletic Director at St. John Lutheran School and Church in Amelith, Bay City, Michigan, from August 1986 to July 1988; Teacher and Youth Minister at Our Shepherd Lutheran School and Church in Birmingham, Michigan, from August 1988 to July 1991; Substitute Teacher at Coldwater Community Schools in Coldwater, Michigan, from August 1991 to February 1992; Counselor Practicum at Jennings Elementary in Qunicy, Michigan, from January 1992 to March 1992; and Counselor Internship, Dove Counseling, Inc. in Jackson, Michigan, from March 1992 to July 1992. Contracted Part-Time Staff member November 5, 1992, and accepted to serve as Counselor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan, for 10 hours per week. Called March 14, 1993, and accepted the Call at Redeemer March 28, 1993 as "Minister to Families," serving full time.

John married Jennifer Lee SYLVESTER in 1984, divorced in 1987. To this union one son was born: John Roy, Jr. born in 1985. In 1990, John married Kristen Lee KOLB and to this union three children were born: Anna, Stephen, and Sarah.

APPENDIX F - CHARTER MEMERS

Mr. Glen ANDERSON

Mrs. Glen ANDERSON

Ms. Jean BALCOFF

Mr. Robert BURKHARDT

Mrs. Lois BURKHARDT

Mr. Richard CASPERSEN

Mr. Ted CLAUS

Mrs. Annabel CLAUS

Mrs. Rose CLEMONS

Mr. Arthur ELLIS

Mrs. Sybil ELLIS

Mrs. Robert ENGLE

Mr. Don GIROUX

Mrs. Bernice GIROUX

Mrs. Winifred IUNI

Miss Karen JOHNSON

Mrs. Kathryn JOHNSON

Miss Karen KRING

Mr. Norman MARKS

Mrs. Norman MARKS

Mr. Robert MCCOLLEY

Mrs. Joan MCCOLLEY

Rev. J. Louis OETTING

Mrs. Shirley PANGLE

Mr. Floyd PIERCE
Mrs. Gertrude PIERCE
Mr. Allyn SAYLOR
Mrs. Sandra SAYLOR
Mr. Henry SCHELLING
Mr. Karl SCHELLING
Mrs. Judy SCHELLING
Mr. LeRoy SCHMIDT
Mrs. Grace SLAYBAUGH
Ms. Cara TISCH
Mr. Emmanuel TISCH
Mr. James TISCH
Mr. Richard VANDERVEEN
Mrs. Alice VANDERVEEN
Mr. Carsten WEGMAN
Mrs. Betty WEGMAN
Mr. Donald WRIGHT
Mrs. Phyllis WRIGHT
Miss Lorilei WRIGHT
Mr. Ivan ZAHN
Mrs. Martha ZAHN

APPENDIX G - CHAIRMEN OF REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH

Ted CLAUSE	1961-1963
Seward SLOAN	1964-1965
Donald GOTSCH	1966-1967
Fred JANKE	1968-1969
Karl SCHELLING	1970-1971
Ron JONES	1972-1973
Roger FULLER	1974
Henry SCHELLING	1975-1976
Albert SCHLENKER	1977-1978
Henry ZAVISLAK	1979
Lee MILES	1980-1981
Roger FULLER	1982-1983
Carl FAHLING	1984
Thomas ALLSTEADT	1985
Richard SANDTVEIT	1986
Henry ZAVISLAK	1987
Jerry SMITH	1988-1989
Paul RUMOHR	1990
Dale LUKSAN	1991-1992
Tom SIMONSEN	1993-1994
John HIGHLEN	1995-1997
Paul RUMOHR	1998