V. Emmanuel Evangelical Church, Rantoul Township, Calumet County (1869-1967)

The ninth annual session of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association of America was held on May 9, 1860, at which time the Chilton Mission was established. As recorded in the minutes of the annual session, “The northern part of the Sheboygan Circuit and the six preaching places on the east side of Lake Winnebago shall be named the Chilton Mission.” The boundaries and names of circuits and missions included in the Wisconsin Conference were often changed at each annual session. In 1863, the Chilton Mission was called the Chilton-Sheboygan Mission; in 1864, the Sheboygan-Chilton Mission; in 1866, the Chilton Mission; in 1867, the Sheboygan-Chilton Mission; in 1868, the Chilton Mission; and in 1869, the Calumet County Mission. At the fourteenth annual session of the Wisconsin Conference in 1870, the Calumet Circuit was created as part of the Fond du Lac District. (Fritsche, G., The Evangelical Association in Wisconsin, 1840-1920)

The Rev. William Horn, who was ordained bishop in 1891, served as pastor of the Chilton Mission and Calumet County Mission from April 1868 to April 1870. By 1869, Rev. Horn had established a congregation of German-speaking Christians in the southeast corner of Rantoul Township in Calumet County. The first meeting of the new congregation was held on January 5, 1869, at which time the first trustees elected were: Carl Teege, 3 years; Lebrecht Zahn, 2 years; and Christian Pingel, 1 year. The trustees were responsible for managing the finances of the church, maintaining church property and buildings, hiring the church janitor and the church organist. On January 25, 1869, a parcel of land, which was located in section 35 of Rantoul Township, was given by Adolph and Ida Martinsen to the Emmanuel Evangelical Congregation of Rantoul for the sum of fifty cents for the purpose of building a church and cemetery. The trustees of the congregation, Carl Teege, Lebrecht Zahn and Christian Pingel, received the building site, which contained about three quarters of an acre, on behalf of the new congregation. It is believed that the first church of the Emmanuel Evangelical Congregation of Rantoul was completed in 1869 and was being used for worship services that year. (Emmanuel Evangelical Church of Rantoul, unpublished minutes, 1869-1967)

The minutes of the meetings of the Emmanuel Evangelical Church congregation in Rantoul were recorded in German from January 5, 1869 through March 26, 1923. All minutes after that date were written in English. At the annual meetings, a financial report was given by the treasurer, who was one of the three trustees of the church, and the congregation elected one trustee for a three year term. The church member, who submitted the lowest bid, was hired by the trustees as janitor for the next church year.

The charter members of the Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Rantoul, as reported by Rev. Kenneth S. Knoespel in 1946, were: Christian Pingel, Fred Bringman, L. Zahn, Carl Bringman, Ferdinand Rusch, August Hillman, Gottlieb Piepenburg, John Bruening and Carl
Teege. The minutes of the first congregational meeting held on January 5, 1869 reveal the names of Carl Teege, Lebrecht Zahn, Christian Pingel and Friedrich Brinkmann, all of whom were charter members. Friedrich Brinkmann’s name was also written in later church minutes as Fritz Bringmann. Three other names included in the minutes of congregational meetings up through April 17, 1876 were Johann Bruning, Ferdinand Rusch and August Hillmann, who were also charter members. Although Rev. Knoespel included the names of Carl Bringman and Gottlieb Piepenburg on the list of charter members, their names were not written into any of the minutes of meetings of the congregation. Census records and church records were searched to learn about the charter members and their families. The reader should allow for variations in the spellings of both the first names and the last names, which are shown below as found in the records.

Charles “Carl” Teege was farming in Rantoul Township in June 1870 when the U.S. Census was taken. Charles Teege, as did most of his neighbors and fellow church members, received his mail through the U.S. Post Office at Potter Mills, which is now known as Potter. There was no rural free delivery in 1870, so Carl and his neighbors would have had to pick up their own mail at the Potter Mills Post Office, which was about three miles northwest from where they lived. An 1893 plat map of Rantoul Township shows Emmanuel Evangelical Church and Cemetery located in the northwest corner of section 35, and on the west side of the church, there was a cheese factory. Across the road from the north side of the church was an elementary school, and a few houses were located nearby. Fritz Bringmann and his son owned 160 acres of farm land about one half mile east from the church. This area may have been called Bringham, although the church historians have not discovered a map of Rantoul Township showing that name. If the area was called Bringham, it could have been named for the Bringmann family, or Bringham could be a variation of Brinkum, which is a small town in northern Germany located a few miles south from Bremen.

In the 1870 census, Charles Teege was reported as age 51 and born in Mecklenburg, which was in Prussia. His wife, Hannah was age 48 and born about 1822 in Mecklenburg, Prussia. Their children living with them at that time were: daughter, Barbara, age 16, born about 1854 in New York; daughter, Mina, age 13, born about 1857 in Wisconsin; daughter, Onica, age 11, born about 1859 in Wisconsin; son, Charles, age 9, born about 1861 in Wisconsin; daughter, Lenia, age 7, born about 1863 in Wisconsin; son, Frederic, age 5, born about 1865 in Wisconsin; and daughter, Hannah, age 3, born about 1867 in Wisconsin. Carl Teege, whose age was reported as 57, was still farming in Rantoul Township when the 1880 U.S. Census was taken. Living with Carl in 1880 were his children: daughter, Fredricka (Onica), age 21; son, Fritz (Frederic), age 16; and Johanna (Hannah), age 13. His wife, Hannah was probably deceased before June 2, 1880. When the U.S. Census was taken on June 26, 1900, Carl was still farming in Rantoul Township. His age was reported as 78 and his date of birth was given as June 1821. Living with Carl in 1900 was his daughter, Alma, age 16, born October 1883 in Wisconsin. It
appears that Carl Teege married again sometime after June 26, 1880, and that the wife who was Alma’s mother was deceased before June 26, 1900.

Lebrecht Zahn and his wife, Mina were farming in Rantoul Township in June 1870 when the U.S. Census was taken. Lebrecht, reported as age 30, was born May 19, 1840 in Prussia, and his wife, Mina, age 26, was born April 16, 1844 in Prussia. In 1870, Lebrecht and Mina had one daughter, Mary, age 5, born about 1865. As reported in the U.S. Census in June 1880, Lebrecht Zahn was age 39, his wife, Wilhelmine was age 34, and living with them were their children, daughter, Mary, age 16 and son, Bernard, age 9, born about 1871. Lebrecht Zahn, who served at the rank of private in Company K, 6th Infantry in the Union Army, was deceased on July 11, 1898 and was buried in Emmanuel Evangelical Cemetery in Rantoul Township. Wilhelmine Zahn, wife of Lebrecht Zahn, died on November 21, 1921 and was buried in the Rantoul Cemetery. Bernhardt Zahn, son of Lebrecht and Wilhelmine Zahn, was married on May 25, 1892 to Emma Krueger, who was born about 1870 in Rockland Township, Manitowoc County.

In the 1870 U.S. Census, two “Pingle” families were residing in Rantoul Township, where both families were engaged in farming. The two men in these families were “Christopher Pingle” and “Christian Pingle”. In later records, the surname is spelled “Pingel”. Research to date has not established whether or not Christopher Pingel and Christian Pingel were related.

The 1870 Census reported Christopher Pingle as age 51, born (October 1819) in Mecklenburg, Prussia and his wife, Mary, age 45, was born (about 1825) in Mecklenburg, Prussia. Living with them at that time were daughter, Mary, age 11, born (about 1859) in Wisconsin and son, Henry, age 8, born (January 1862) in Wisconsin. In the 1880 census, Christopher and his wife, Mary were both reported to have been age 55. Their children living them in 1880 were: son, Henry, age 19; son, Fritz, age 16, born about 1864 in Wisconsin; and son, Otto, age 10, born about 1870 in Wisconsin. It is not known why neither Fritz nor Otto was reported in the 1870 Census.

When the U.S. Census was taken in June 1900, Christopher Pingel was living in Rantoul Township with his son and daughter-in-law, Henry and Augusta Pingel. Henry’s wife, Augusta was born May 1864 in Germany. The children of Henry and Augusta Pingel were: son, William, born March 1885; son, Herman, born August 1887; son, Otto, born August 1889; son, Walter, born June 1893; daughter, Hilda, born February 1897; and son, Carl, born December 1898. All of their children were born in Wisconsin.

As reported in the 1870 Census, “Christian Pingle”, age 25 and his wife, “Stena”, age 28 were farming in Rantoul Township. Christian Henry Pingel, who was the son of Hans and Sophia Pingel, was born March 26, 1845 in Mecklenburg, Prussia. In 1854, Christian Pingel came to America with his oldest brother, Jacob, who was born about 1830 in Dammerow, Prussia, his mother; brothers, Hans and Joachim; and sister, Dorothy. Hans Pingel, father of Christian Pingel, died on February 9, 1853 in Dammerow, Prussia. Christian Pingel was married
to Ernstine S.H. Zahn on December 7, 1869. Ernstine was born April 29, 1843 in Wollin, Pomerania. Ernstine had immigrated to the United States in 1869. In his booklet, Many Years of Progress, which was written in 1946, Rev. Kenneth S. Knoespel stated that “Mr. and Mrs. Christian Pingel were the first to be married in (the Rantoul) church. The church was not yet completed as they repeated their marriage vows.”

By June 11, 1880, when the U.S. Census was taken, Christian and Ernstine Pingel had five children: son, Louis William, age 9, born October 14, 1870; daughter, Emilie Marie, age 7, born January 31, 1873; daughter, Selma Caroline Marie, age 6, born March 19, 1874; son, Herman Friedrich, age 4, born May 28, 1876; and son, William Emil, age 2, born March 11, 1879. Two other children born to Christian and Ernstine Pingel were their son, Robert John, born January 27, 1881 and daughter, Bertha Ella Johanna, who was born May 26, 1886 and baptized on July 4, 1886 by Rev. C. Wiegand. Christian and Ernstine Pingel continued to live in Rantoul Township, where their children grew to adulthood. (Clark, Arlene, unpublished notes on Christian Henry Pingel)

Selma Pingel, daughter of Christian and Ernstine Pingel was married to Ernest Hein on May 25, 1893 by Rev. M. Gaurke. Emilie Pingel was married on October 18, 1895 to Albert Wilhelm Fischer by Rev. C.W. Wellso. William Pingel was married to Alma Teege, daughter of Carl Teege, on March 14, 1905 by Rev. H.W. Lutz. Robert Pingel was married on January 21, 1909 to Bertha Rusch by Rev. J.J. Stuempffig. Bertha Pingel was married to William Schluchter on February 2, 1909 by Rev. J.J. Stuempffig. Herman Pingel was married to Ella Bartz on February 17, 1911 by Rev. W.A. Detert. (Calumet Circuit records)

Christian and Ernstine Pingel were living with their son and daughter-in-law, Robert J. and Bertha M. Pingel on January 11, 1920 when the U.S. Census was taken. Robert and Bertha had four children: son, Roland, age 6, born about 1914; son, Earl, age 4, born about 1916; son, Harold, age 2, born about 1918; and daughter, Viola, age 9 months, born in 1919. Ernstine Pingel, wife of Christian Pingel was deceased January 27, 1922, and Christian Pingel died on March 15, 1925. Both were buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery.

“Fred and Gustine Brinkman” were operating their farm in Rantoul Township when the 1870 Census was taken. Friedrich “Fritz” Bringmann, whose age was reported as 37, was born March 1, 1832 in Prussia and immigrated to the United States in 1851. His wife, Anna Gustine, who was age 35 and born April 28, 1835 in Prussia, immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1853. Living with Fritz and Gustine Bringmann in 1870 were their children: daughter, Anna, age 13, born about 1857; son, Friedrich, age 10, born May 1860; son Ernest, age 8, born about 1862; daughter, Amelia, age 6, born about 1864; son, William, age 4, born October 1866; daughter, Ida, age 2, born about 1868; and daughter, Ellen, age 9 months, born 1869. Also residing with the Bringmann family in 1870 was Anna Mahnke, who was teaching school. She was age 23, born about 1847 in Prussia. Other children born later to Fritz and Gustine Bringmann were: son,
Peter, born about 1878; daughter, Ella, born about 1870; daughter, Augusta, born July 1871; and daughter, “Libbia”, born about 1874. All of the Bringmann children were born in Wisconsin.

When the U.S. Census was taken on June 12, 1900, Fritz Bringmann, Sr., age 68, and his wife, “Anna”, age 65, had been married 44 years, which means that they were married about 1856. Anna G. Bringmann’s name appears in various records as Gustine, Gustina, Gusta, Augusta and Anna. In 1900, Fritz and Anna G. Bringmann were residing with their son, William, who was then age 33 and unmarried. Augusta Bringmann, age 28, was also living with her parents and her brother. Friedrich “Fritz” Bringmann, Sr. died on December 2, 1908, and his wife, Anna G. Bringmann was deceased August 20, 1914. They were both buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery.

Carl and Ernestina Bringman were farming in Rantoul Township in June 1880 when the U.S. Census was taken. Carl Bringman, age 50, was born about 1830 in Prussia, and his wife, Ernestine, age 59, was born in Prussia. Their son, Carl, age 17, who was born about 1863 in Wisconsin, was living with them. An 1893 plat map of Rantoul Township shows that C. Bringman owned 20 acres of land in the southeast corner of section 26 near the farms of Fritz Bringman, Sr. and Fritz Bringman, Jr. Carl Bringman, who was born February 1, 1830 and died November 29, 1905, was buried in the Rockland Evangelical Cemetery in Manitowoc County.

“John Bruning”, age “41” and his wife, Dora, age “30”, were farming in Rantoul Township in 1870, as reported in the U.S. Census that year. Johann Bruning, who was born December 1830 in Prussia, immigrated to the United States of America in 1852. His wife, Dorothea was born about 1828 in Prussia. Living with them in 1870 were their children: son, Friedrich, age 14, born August 1855 in Wisconsin; daughter, Marg (Martha), age 8, born about 1862 in Wisconsin; and son, Matthew, age 6, born about 1864 in Wisconsin. Dorothea Bruning, wife of Johann Bruning, was deceased on May 29, 1885 and was buried in the Rantoul Cemetery. Friedrich Bruning, son of Johann and Dorothea Bruning, was married to Sara Wirchmann on May 20, 1886 by Rev. C. Wiegand. Sara Wirchmann was born June 1865 in Wisconsin to German born parents. Friedrich and Sara Bruning were farming in Rantoul Township in June 1900 and had no children. Martha Bruning, daughter of Johann and Dorothea Bruning, was married to Johann H. Schiltz on May 24, 1889 by Rev. T. Schauer.

In about 1886, Johann Bruning was married to Louise “Louisa”, who was born January 1860 in Germany. Louise and her son, Edward immigrated to the United States in 1884. Johann, who was age 69 when the census was taken in June 1900, was still farming in Rantoul Township. Living with Johann Bruning in 1900 were his wife, Louise and her son, Edward, who was born January 1884 in Germany. Johann Bruning was deceased on September 18, 1906 and was buried in the Rantoul Cemetery. Edward Bruning was married to Louise “Louisa” Enneper on June 30, 1910 by Rev. W.A. Detert. Edward Bruning’s wife, Louisa and his mother, Louisa were both present for the laying of the cornerstone of the new Emmanuel Evangelical Church in
Brillion on June 14, 1920. Louisa Bruening, wife of Johann Bruening died in 1945 and was buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Church Cemetery.

Friedrich "Fritz" Zahn and his wife Johanna, who married about 1866, were farming in Rantoul Township when the 1870 Census was taken. Friedrich Zahn was born November 21, 1847 in Prussia, and his wife, Johanna was born June 16, 1849 in Prussia. The children born to Friedrich and Johanna Zahn were: daughter, Hulda, born about 1868; son, Edward, born January 1870; son, Richard, born August 2, 1874; son, Anton, born August 1876; son, Theodore, born January 1879; and daughter, Meta, born September 1889. All of their children were born in Wisconsin. Friedrich and Johanna Zahn continued to operate their farm until about 1910, when their son, Theodore took over ownership of the farm. As reported in the 1910 Census, Friedrich and Johanna were living with their son, Theodore. Theodore's sister, Meta, age 20, was also living there. Friedrich Zahn died December 24, 1928, and his wife, Johanna Zahn was deceased June 18, 1934. Both were buried in Rantoul Township in the German Cemetery, which is located east of Potter at the intersection of County PP and County JJ.

The marriages of some of the children of Friedrich and Johanna Zahn were recorded in the Calumet Circuit records. Hulda Zahn was married to Wilhelm Draheim on January 31, 1887 by Rev. C. Wiegand. Edward Zahn was married to Emma Rusch on May 29, 1891 by Rev. T. Schauer. On October 21, 1894, Richard Zahn was married to Emilie Rusch by Rev. C.W. Wells. Rev. H.W. Lutz presided over the marriage of Anton Zahn to Laura Zahn on December 12, 1903.

Ferdinand and Maria Rusch were farming in Rantoul Township in 1870 when the census was taken. Ferdinand Rusch was born November 27, 1846 in Prussia, and his wife, Maria was born September 1845 in Prussia. When the 1880 Census was taken, Ferdinand and Maria had five sons: Henry, born about 1865 in Prussia; August born about 1869 in Wisconsin; Ferdinand, born about 1871 in Wisconsin; Louis, born July 12, 1873 in Wisconsin; and Adolph, born about 1876 in Wisconsin. Ferdinand's older brother, John was living with the family of Ferdinand and Maria Rusch in June 1880 and continued to live with them after that year. John Rusch's age varies from the 1880 Census record to the 1900 Census from one year older to eleven years older than his brother, Ferdinand. The 1900 Census shows John's birth date as October 1835, however that date is questionable. Residing with Ferdinand and Maria Rusch in 1900 were: son, William, born September 1881; son, Albert, born November 1883; son, Otto, born May 31, 1886; and daughter, Bertha, born February 10, 1890. Ferdinand's brother, John, whose age was reported as 64, was still living with the family. Ferdinand Rusch died on July 25, 1922, and his wife Maria was deceased on October 1, 1935. Both were buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery.

Church records show the following marriages of the children of Ferdinand and Maria Rusch. Louis Rusch was married to Bertha Streckert on December 31, 1895 by Rev. C.W. Wells. On November 6, 1902, William Rusch was married to Bertha Piepenburg by Rev. H.W. Lutz. The Rev. J.J. Stuempfig was the pastor who performed the marriage of Otto Rusch to
Emma Piepenburg on October 29, 1908. On June 21, 1909, Rev. J.J. Stuempfig presided over the marriage of Bertha Rusch to Robert Pingel, who was the son of Christian and Ernestine Pingel.

August Hillmann was born September 1831 in Prussia, and his wife, Emilie was born September 1835 in Prussia. August immigrated to the United States in 1847, and Emilie immigrated to the U.S. in 1855. August and Emilie Hillmann, who were married in 1860, were residing in Rantoul Township where they were farming in 1870 when the U.S. Census was taken. Their children living with them in 1870 were: son, Heinrich “Henry”, age 9, born February 1861; son, Charles “Carl”, age 7, born about 1863; son, Frederick, age 4, born about 1866; daughter, Anna, age 2, born March 1868; and son, Edwin, age 1 month, born May 1870. The 1880 Census shows two more children born to August and Emilie Hillmann were son, William, born about 1873 and son, Otto, born about 1876. All of the Hillmann children were born in Wisconsin. Frederick and Eduard “Edwin” Hillmann, who were not shown on the 1880 Census, were both deceased on March 28, 1872 and were buried in the Rantoul Cemetery. When the 1900 Census was taken, August and Emilie Hillmann were living with their son and daughter-in-law, Henry and Mary Hillmann. Henry and Mary Hillmann, who were farming in Rantoul Township in 1900, had one daughter, Anna, age 6 months, born November 1899. Anna Hillmann, age 22, sister of Henry Hillmann, was also living with her brother’s family.

The earliest known list of members of the Rantoul Emmanuel Evangelical Church dates back to as early as 1887 and was recorded in the Calumet Circuit records, which are unpublished. The members are listed below in the order as shown in the Calumet Circuit records:

*Fritz Bringmann  
*Augusta Bringmann  
Ernst Bringmann  
Emilie Bringmann  
*Carl Bringmann  
*Ernstina Bringmann  
*Carl Teege  
Henrietta Teege  
*Christian Pingel  
*Ernstine Pingel  
Fritz Bruning  
Sarah Bruning  
*Johann Bruning  
Louisa Bruning  
*August Hillmann  
*Emilie Hillmann  
Heinrich Hillmann  
Carl Hillmann (moved 1889)  
Anna Hillmann  
Carl Hillmann

*Ferdinand Rusch  
*Maria Rusch  
Heinrich Ninmann (moved Aug. 1887)  
Mutter Dahn  
*Lebrecht Zahn  
*Wilhelminne Zahn  
Robert Piepenburg  
Maria Piepenburg  
Maria Baartz  
George Gebhart  
Ernstina Gebhart  
Mutter Justina Pomerenke  
August Baartz  
Emilie Baartz  
Franz Piepenburg  
Mina Piepenburg (Died June 1891)  
Gottfried Fischer  
Johanna Fischer  
Wilhelm Schwabe  
Bertha Schwabe
Mina Hillmann       Carl Kosmoski
Albert Hillmann    Anna Kosmoski
Gustav Hillmann   Otto Lerche
Augusta Hillmann  Albertina Lerche (Died Feb. 1890)
Emma Hillmann (moved 1890)  Augusta Lerche
*Friedrich Zahn    Heinrich Lerche
*Johanna Zahn     Johanna Lerche (Died 1887)
Theresa Zahn       Wilhelmine Lemke

Note: The names, which are preceded by an *asterisk on the list above, are considered charter members of the congregation.

On the 1887 membership list of the Rantoul congregation shown above are others who may have been charter members but who were not included as charter members by the church historians because their names were not written into the minutes of the meetings of the congregation held between 1869 and 1879. Any members shown on the 1887 list may have actually been charter members if they were reported as residents in the area near the Rantoul Evangelical Church in the 1870 Census.

The family of Charles and Wilhelmina Hillmann was farming in Chilton Township in 1880 when the U.S. Census was taken. Charles “Carl” Hillmann, age 48, was born about 1832 in Prussia, and his wife, Wilhelmina “Mina”, age 37, was born about 1843 in Prussia. Their children were: daughter, Emma A., age 16, born about 1864; son, Albert H., age 14, born about 1866; son, Gustav A., age 12, born about 1868; daughter, Augusta L., age 10, born about 1870; son, William C., age 8, born about 1872; and son, Edward R., age 4, born about 1876. All of the children were born in Wisconsin. With the exception of sons, William and Edward, all of the family of Carl and Mina were members of Rantoul Emmanuel Evangelical Church in 1887.

“Five men were called to the ministry from this field (Rantoul Congregation): Anton Piepenburg, Henry Ninnemann, Carl Hillman, William Hillman and Otto Hillman.” (Knoespel, Kenneth S., p. 7, 1946)

Anton F. Piepenburg, who was born December 15, 1845 in Prussia, was licensed as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1869, which was the same year that the Rantoul Emmanuel Evangelical Church was founded. Rev. Piepenburg was ordained Deacon in 1871 and Elder in 1873. The family of Anton and Philepine Piepenburg were residents of Clayton, Iowa in June 1880 when the U.S. Census was taken. Anton’s wife, Philepine, was born July 10, 1851 in Prussia. The children of Anton and Philipine Piepenburg were: son, Eddie, age 8; daughter, Lynia, age 6; daughter, Clara, age 5; son, Albert, age 3; daughter, Emma, age 2; and adopted daughter, Dora, age 1 month. Rev. Anton Piepenburg died in Clayton, Iowa on August 27, 1881, and Philipine Piepenburg was deceased on August 4, 1911. Both were buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery. (Fritsche, G., p. 3-6, October 2003 edition)
Henry Ninnemann, who was born May 19, 1865 in Wisconsin to German American parents, was licensed as an Evangelical Association preacher in 1888. He was ordained Deacon in 1890 and Elder in 1891. Rev. Ninnemann and his wife, Lydia, who was born about 1872 in Wisconsin to German American parents, were married in about 1892. In June 1905 when the Wisconsin Census was taken, the family of Henry and Lydia Ninnemann was residing in Ripon, Fond du Lac County, where Rev. Ninnemann was preaching. Their son, Arthur, age 13, was living with them. In 1910, the Ninnemann family was living in Marshfield, Wood County, where Rev. Ninnemann was a minister of the Evangelical Church. (Fritsche, G., p. 7, October 2003 edition)

Carl Hillman, born about 1863, William J. Hillman, born July 14, 1873 and Otto A. Hillman, born March 6, 1876, were all three sons of August and Emilie Hillman, who were introduced earlier in this chapter. No information was given by G. Fritsche about the licensing or ordination of Carl Hillman as an Evangelical preacher. William J. Hillmann, was licensed as preacher in 1896, ordained Deacon in 1898 and ordained Elder in 1900. Otto A. Hillmann became a licensed pastor of the Evangelical Association in 1904. He was ordained Deacon in 1906 and was ordained Elder in 1908. (Fritsche, G., p.8, October 2003 edition)

When the 1905 Wisconsin Census was taken, the family of William J. and Victoria Hillman was living in Prairie du Sac, Sauk County, where the Rev. William Hillman was pastor. They had a daughter, Ruth, age 2, born about 1903, and a son, Nathan, age 1, born about 1904. A third child born to William and Victoria Hillman was a daughter, Emilie, who was born about 1908. In 1910, Rev. William J. Hillman and his three children were living in Arcadia, Trempealeau County, where Rev. William Hillman was preaching. Ann Joos, age 60 was taking care of the children and the household. Victoria Hillman, wife of Rev. William Hillman, was probably deceased about 1908.

In 1910, Otto A. Hillman and his wife, Isabel were living in Mazomanie, Dane county, where the Rev. Otto Hillmann was pastor of an Evangelical Church. When the 1920 U.S. Census was taken, the family of Otto and Isabel Hillman was residing in Eau Claire, where Rev. Otto Hillman was preaching. Otto and Isabel Hillman had two sons: Earl, born about 1910 and Charles, born about 1915.

George Gephart and his wife, Ernestine were engaged in farming in Rantoul Township in June 1870 when the U.S. Census was taken. George J. Gephart, who was born September 24, 1824 in Bavaria, was age 45, and his wife, Ernestine (Pomrenke) Gephart, who was born November 23, 1840 in Prussia, was age 29. Their children living with them in 1870 were: daughter, Emma, age 11, born about 1859; daughter, Augusta, age 9, born about 1861; daughter, “Delia” Atilia, age 7, born about 1863; daughter, Matilda, age 3, born about 1867; and daughter, Ida, age 3 months, born April 1870. Other children born to George and Ernestine Gephart were: daughter, Helena, born about 1871; son, Frank, born about 1875; and daughter, Ida, born April 1877. All of the children were born in Wisconsin. George and Ernestine were still farming in
Rantoul Township when the 1880 Census was taken, however by 1900, George and Ernestine "Gebhardt" were living on a farm in Chilton Township. Their daughter, Ida, then age 23, was residing with them in 1900. George Ge phart died on March 6, 1910 and was buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery. A grave stone with the name and date of birth of Ernestine Ge phart is located in the Rantoul Cemetery, but no date of death is shown on the stone.

Residing in Rantoul Township near George and Ernestine Ge phart in 1870 were Michael and Gustina Pomrenke, who were the parents of Ernestine Ge phart. Michael Pomrenke, age 60, was born about 1810 in Prussia, and his wife, Gustina, age 55, was born November 9, 1815 in Prussia. Gustina Pomrenke's name appears on the 1887 membership list as "Mutter" (Mother) Pomrenke, but her husband, Michael's name is not on the membership list. Gustina Pomrenke was deceased on August 31, 1893 and was buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Church Cemetery.

The family of Gottlieb and Bertha "Pipenburg" was farming in Rantoul Township in June 1870 when the U.S. Census was taken. Gottlieb Pipenburg was reported as age 62, which would mean that he was born about 1808, and his wife, Bertha was reported as age 59, which would mean that she was born about 1811. Both were reported as born in Prussia. (Gottlieb Pipengu bottled as been born July 25, 1797 and deceased on December 19, 1879, as shown on the list of transcriptions from the gravestones for the Rantoul E.U.B. Cemetery found on the internet at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wicalume/. Gottlieb Pipenburg's wife may have been named Bertha Henrietta and may have been born about 1820.) Children living with Gottlieb and Bertha Pipenburg in 1870 were: son, Robert, age 17; son, Frank, age 14; son, Albert, age 12; and daughter, Bertha, age 8. Robert and Frank Pipenburg, sons of Gottlieb and Bertha Pipenburg appear to be the same Robert and Franz Pipenburg, who were shown on the 1887 list of members of the congregation of Rantoul.

In June 1880, Robert Pipenburg and his wife, Mary, who were married about 1875, were residing in Rantoul Township, where they were engaged in farming. Robert Pipenburg, who was born November 15, 1854 in Prussia, came to the United States of America with his parents in 1856. His wife, Maria F. was born October 2, 1852 in Wisconsin to German American parents. Living with Robert and Maria in 1880 were: son, Wilhelm, age 2, born September 17, 1877 in Wisconsin; adopted son, Albert Blew, age 1 month, born 1880 in Wisconsin; and Robert's mother, Henrietta, age 60, born about 1820 in Prussia. Robert and Maria Pipenburg continued to farm in Rantoul Township, where they were residing in June 1900. Their children living with them in 1900 were: son, William, age 22; daughter, Emilie, age 20, born July 1879 in Wisconsin; and daughter, Emma, age 16, born May 1884 in Wisconsin. William Pipenburg, son of Robert and Maria Pipenburg, was married to Bertha Reinke on May 26, 1909 by Rev. J.J. Stuempfig. When the U.S. Census was taken in January 1920, Robert and Maria Pipenburg were living with their daughter and son-in-law, Emma and Otto Rusch in Charlestown, Calumet County. Maria Pipenburg was deceased on June 5, 1920, and Robert Pipenburg died on August 13, 1938. Both were buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery.
Franz or Frank Piepenburg was born March 15, 1856 in Prussia and came to America with his parents in the year that he was born. His first wife, Wilhelmina was born December 25, 1857 in Wisconsin. When the census was taken in June 1880, Franz and Wilhelmina Piepenburg were farming in Rantoul Township, and their niece, Ella Otto, age 7, was living with them. The State of Wisconsin Census, which was taken in June 1895, reports that there were 4 males and 2 females residing in the household of Frank Piepenburg. Only the name of the head of the household is given in the 1895 State of Wisconsin Census. Church records show the births and baptisms of the following children of Franz and Wilhelmina Piepenburg: daughter, Mathilda Augustina, born April 7, 1887 and baptized April 16, 1887 by Rev. C. Wiegand; and son, Louie Alfred, born May 4, 1891 and baptized on May 29, 1891 by Rev. J.E. Klein. The cemetery transcriptions for the Rantoul E.U.B. Cemetery mentioned above show that Robert’s first wife, Wilhelmina Piepenburg was deceased on March 27, 1896; however a note on the 1887 membership list for the Rantoul Evangelical Church shows that she died June 1891, which is believed by the church historians to be correct.

Calumet Circuit records show that Franz Piepenburg was married to “Lehna” Krueger on November 13, 1891 by Rev. T. Schauer. Franz and Lena Piepenburg had a son, Arthur Wilhelm Heinrich, who was born January 18, 1893 and was baptized on January 22, 1893 by Rev. J.W. Dorau. Lena Piepenburg, second wife of Franz Piepenburg, who was born November 7, 1868, died on January 19, 1893, probably due to complications from childbirth. She was buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Church cemetery. Arthur Wilhelm Heinrich Piepenburg, son of Franz and Lena Piepenburg, died on July 15, 1893 and was buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery.

Franz Piepenburg’s third marriage was to Wilhelmina Behnke on March 15, 1894 by Rev. M. Gauerke. Wilhelmina Behnke was born January 4, 1872 in Rockland Township. As shown in church records, the children born to Franz and Wilhelmina (Behnke) Piepenburg were: son, Leonhard Albert Wilhelm, who was born May 31, 1895 and baptized on June 23, 1895 by Rev. C.W. Wellso; son, Gustav Albert Emil, born June 10, 1897 and baptized July 4, 1897 by Rev. J. Weihsing; and daughter, Ella Ida Martha, born January 31, 1902 and baptized March 2, 1902 by Rev. G. Reichart. Franz and Wilhelmina Piepenburg were farming in Rantoul Township when the U.S. Census was taken on June 1, 1900. Living with the Piepenburg family in 1900 were Franz’s children from his first marriage: daughter, Bertha, age 17, born September 1882; and son, Reinhold, age 15, born January 1885. Two other children, who were born to Franz and Wilhelmina (Behnke) Piepenburg were also living with the family: son, Leonhard, age 5 and son, Gustav, age 2. As mentioned above, Bertha Piepenburg, daughter of Franz Piepenburg, was married in November 1902 to William Rusch. Reinhold Piepenburg, son of Franz Piepenburg, was married to Esther Otto on June 12, 1912 by Rev. W.A. Detert.

Frank and Minnie Piepenburg continued to farm in Rantoul Township, where they were residing on April 1, 1910 when the U.S. Census was taken. The children living with them in 1910 were: Leonhard age 14; Gustav, age 12; and Ella, age 8. Franz “Frank” Piepenburg died on
May 11, 1942, and his third wife, Wilhelmina (Benhke) Piepenburg was deceased on May 19, 1948. Both were buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery.

August and Emilie Bartz were farming in Rantoul Township when the 1880 U.S. Census was taken. August Bartz, who was at that time age 55, was born February 10, 1825 in Prussia, and his wife, Emilie, age 56, was born April 19, 1824 in Prussia. They had immigrated with their family to America in 1867. Their son, Carl, age 21, who was born November 22, 1858 in Prussia, was living with them in 1880. Franz Bartz, who was the son of August and Emilie Bartz, was living on his farm near his parents. Franz Bartz, age 24, and his wife, Maria, age 20, who were married in 1878, had a son, Rudolph, age 1. An 1893 plat map of Rockland Township, Manitowoc County shows 80 acres of land, which was located next to the border of Calumet County, owned by August Bartz in the southwest corner of section 30. In 1893, Franz Bartz owned 80 acres of land, which was located near his father’s land but was situated in the northeast corner of section 36 and the southeast corner of section 25 of Rantoul Township, Calumet County. Carl Bartz, son of August and Emilie Bartz, died on December 29, 1888, and he was buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery. Emilie Ernestine Bartz, wife of August Bartz, was deceased on September 5, 1896 and was buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery.

When the U.S. Census was taken on June 1, 1900, August Bartz was living with the family of his son and daughter-in-law, Franz and Maria Bartz, on their farm in Rantoul Township. Franz Bartz was born April 16, 1855 in Prussia, and his wife, Maria was born March 7, 1860 in Wisconsin to German born parents. The children of Franz and Maria Bartz living with them in 1900 were: son, Rudolph, born November 1878; daughter, Emma, born December 3, 1881; daughter, Laura, born April 2, 1885; son, Ira, born July 1889; daughter, Frieda “Fritze”, born February 2, 1892; and daughter, Esther, born August 1895. All of the children were born in Wisconsin. August Bartz died on June 18, 1904 and was buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Church Cemetery.

Gottfried D. Fischer, who was born December 16, 1842 in Niederhagen, Germany, was married to Johanna Karolina Mueller on March 3, 1868. Johanna was born February 26, 1841 in Oberhagen, Germany. They immigrated to the United States of America in 1868. An 1872 plat map index for Manitowoc County shows that G.D. Fischer owned land in section 30 in the southwest corner of Rockland Township near the village of Wells. The 1872 plat map index also shows that G.F. Fischer owned land located just north of Wells in section 19 of Rockland Township. An 1893 plat map of Manitowoc County shows that G.D. Fischer owned about 80 acres of land, which was located between Wells and Bull Head Lake in the southwest corner of section 19 of Rockland Township. Children born to Gottfried Fischer include: son, Albert Wilhelm, born March 24, 1869 in Rockland Township; son, Robert F., born October 27, 1870 and died January 23, 1877; son, Heinrich F.W., born April 13, 1872 and died February 1, 1884; son, Emil R., born December 9, 1876; and son, Leonhard W., born March 23, 1880. When the U.S. Census was taken on June 7, 1900, Gottfried D. Fischer, age 57, and his wife, Johanna Fischer, age 59, were farming in Rockland Township. Living with them and helping with the
farm work were: son, Emil, age 23; son, Leonhard, age 20; and adopted son, Henry J. Schultz, age 23, born January 1877 in Brazil, South America. Also living with Gottfried and Johanna Fischer in 1900, was Martha Fischer, who was helping with domestic duties.

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, Albert W. Fischer, son of Gottfried Fischer, was married to Emilie Pingel, daughter of Christian and Ernstine Pingel on October 10, 1895. On December 18, 1902, Emil R. Fischer, son of Gottfried and Johanna Fischer, was married to Emma Haelsfrisch by Rev. H.W. Lutz. Leonhard Fischer, son of Gottfried and Johanna Fischer, was united in marriage to Emilie Piepenburg on June 17, 1904 by Rev. H.W. Lutz.

When the U.S. Census was taken on May 3, 1910, Gottfried and Johanna Fischer were living with their son and daughter-in-law, Leonhard and Emilie Fischer, who were engaged in farming in Rockland Township. Leonhard and Emilie had one son, Roland Gottfried Robert, age 4, born December 14, 1905. Gottfried D. Fischer died on June 9, 1914, and his wife, Johanna Fischer was deceased on June 12, 1919. Both were buried in the Rantoul Evangelical Cemetery.

Wilhelm and Bertha Schwabe transferred to Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Brillion in 1893. (See Chapter 1.)

Charles “Carl” and Anna Kosmoske were farming in Rockland Township, Manitowoc County in June 1880 when the U.S. Census was taken. Charles Kosmoske, age 49, was born about 1831 in Prussia, and his wife, Anna, age 38, was born about 1842 in Prussia. The children of Charles and Anna Kosmoske were: daughter, Matilda, age 16, born about 1864 in Prussia; daughter, Amilia, age 13, born about 1867 in Prussia; daughter, Elizabeth, age 11, born about 1869 in Wisconsin; son, John, age 8, born about 1872 in Wisconsin; daughter, Anna, age 6, born about 1874 in Wisconsin; daughter, Agnes, age 4, born about 1876; daughter, Bertha, age 3, born about 1877; and son, Charles, age 1, born about 1879 in Wisconsin. An 1893 plat map of Manitowoc County shows that C. Kosmoske owned 80 acres of land located about one-quarter of a mile east from Wells in Rockland Township. Of the 80 acres, 40 acres were in the south central part of section 19, and 40 acres were on the north central edge of section 30. Carl and Anna “Kosmoski”, as their family name was spelled on the 1887 membership list of the Rantoul congregation, were neighbors to Gottfried Fischer.

Christian and Augustine Lerche were engaged in farming in Rantoul Township in 1880 when the U.S. Census was taken. Christian Lerche, age 54, was born November 10, 1825 in Prussia, and his wife, Augustine, age 40, was born March 20, 1840 in Prussia. Their children were: son, Otto, age 18; son, Heinrich, age 16, daughter, Bertha, age 14; daughter, Mathilda, age 12; and daughter, Lida, age 4. All of their children were born in Wisconsin. Johanna Lerche, age 75, who was born September 15, 1804 in Prussia, was living in her own home next to the family of Christian and Augustine Lerche. Johanna Lerche, who was probably the mother of Christian Lerche, was deceased on November 2, 1882, as shown on the cemetery transcription, or 1887 as shown on the 1887 membership list for the congregation of the Rantoul Evangelical
Church. Christian Lerche was deceased on September 14, 1899. Johanna Lerche and Christian Lerche were both buried in the German/Rantoul Township Cemetery.

Otto Lerche and Albertina Rusch were married about 1884. Church records show that Otto and Albertina Lerche had a daughter, Paulina Arella Alvina, who was born August 6, 1889 and baptized on September 21, 1889 by Rev. T. Schauer. Albertina Lerche, wife of Otto Lerche, was born January 10, 1861 and deceased on March 6, 1890; however the 1887 church membership list shows that she was deceased in February 1890. Their daughter, Paulina died on February 18, 1899. Albertina Lerche and daughter, Paulina Lerche were buried in the German/Rantoul Township Cemetery.

Otto Lerche was married to Wilhelmina Praeger on July 24, 1890 by Rev. T. Schauer. The family of Otto and Minnie Lerche was farming in Rantoul Township on June 21, 1900 when the U.S. Census was taken. Otto Lerche, age 38, was born September 1861 in Wisconsin, and his wife, Minnie, age 31, was born June 1869 in Wisconsin to German American parents. In 1900, Otto and Minnie Lerche, had three children: son, Eddie Louis Henry, age 8, who was born December 2, 1891 and baptized on February 22, 1892 by Rev. J.E. Klein; daughter, Ida Lydia Frieda, age 5, who was born May 26, 1895 and baptized on July 21, 1895 by Rev. C.W. Welslo; and daughter, Esther Katie Wilhelmina, age 2, born December 29, 1897 and baptized on March 13, 1898 by Rev. J. Weiing. Also living with the Lerche family were Otto's mother, Augustine Lerche, age 60, and Otto's brother, William Lerche, age 16, born March 1884. Church records show that George Gustav Robert, son of Otto and Minnie Lerche was born on May 10, 1903 in Rantoul Township and was baptized on May 11, 1903 by Rev. H.W. Lutz.

Augustine Lerche died on February 8, 1920. Minnie Lerche, wife of Otto Lerche, was deceased in December 1929, and Otto Lerche died in March 1930. All were buried in the German/Rantoul Township Cemetery.

Research by the church historians did not lead to any information about Mutter Dahn (Mother Daehn), Maria Bartz, Theresa Zahn or Wilhelmine Lemke that would reveal their identities or relationship to other members of the Rantoul congregation in 1887.

Clara Fischer Enneper, who was the daughter of Albert W. and Emilie Fischer, translated and summarized the minutes from German to English for the meetings of the Rantoul congregation held during the years 1869 to 1923. At each annual meeting, one trustee was elected and financial reports were given. Some of the issues discussed and decisions made are summarized below.

In 1881, a decision was made to ask each family to pay $1.00 to cover the cost of painting the church.

In 1886, it was decided that each family was to provide one-half cord of firewood for heating the church or pay $1.00.
In 1890, a decision was made to build a new fence around the church property. The fence posts were to be at least 4 inches in diameter at the top and set in the ground 8 feet apart. Wood scabbing, which would be 2 inches by 4 inches, was to be nailed on the tops of the posts.

In 1898, the members decided that the posts and rails for hitching the horses were to be replaced.

In 1899, a decision was made to build a stable where the minister could keep his horse and buggy during worship services.

In 1906, the members decided that the wooden sidewalk and platform in front of the church were to be replaced.

In 1912, a decision was made to build a woodshed, which would be 12 feet by 7 feet.

In 1914, Clara Fischer was elected as church organist for one year.

In 1915, a building committee was established to investigate the possibility of building a new church. The members of the building committee were: William Rusch, Otto Piepenburg, Robert Pingel, Leonhard Fischer and Otto Lerche. At a special meeting of the congregation held on December 13, 1915, the congregation approved a contract with Rudolph C. Zorn to build a new church for the sum of $5,240.00, as reported in the church minutes. A warranty deed shows that William Rusch, Otto Piepenburg and Robert Pingel, who were the trustees of Emmanuel Evangelical Church, purchased land, which adjoined the site of the first church and extended eastward for 20 rods (110 yards). The additional land was purchased from Arnold P. Schatz and his wife, Rosa Schatz for the sum of $125.00 on March 18, 1916. Construction of the new church was begun on the east side of the old church in the spring of that year.

Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Rantoul Township had continued to be part of the Calumet Circuit from 1870 to 1902, when the Calumet Circuit was disbanded by the Wisconsin Conference. In 1902, the congregations at Rantoul and Stockbridge were attached to the Rockland Circuit, which was centered at Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Rockland Township, Manitowoc County.

During the 60th annual session of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Church, which was held April 26 to May 1, 1916, the congregations at Rantoul and Stockbridge were detached from the Rockland Circuit and added to the Brillion Mission. At that same time, Reedsville was detached from the Brillion-Reedsville Mission and added to the Rockland Circuit. (Fritsche, G., The Evangelical Association in Wisconsin, 1840-1920, p. 331, Oct. 2003 edition)

The congregation continued to hold worship services in the old church until after the new Rantoul Emmanuel Evangelical Church was completed in September 1916. The quarterly meeting of the Brillion Mission was combined with the service of dedication of the new Rantoul
church during a three day period in September of that same year. At 7 p.m., Friday, September 22nd, the Rev. J.C. Klein, presiding elder of the Appleton District of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Church, conducted the opening worship service in German, and the Rantoul choir sang, Der Herr Ist Mein Herte, (The Lord Is My Shepherd).

The quarterly meeting of the Brillion Mission began in the old church at 2 p.m., Saturday, the 23rd of September, when the Rantoul choir sang, Ich Bin Froh, (I Am Happy). Rev. J.C. Klein presided over the quarterly meeting and was assisted by Rev. J.C. Sippel, pastor of the Brillion Mission. Church officers representing the Brillion congregation were: Rudolph Zorn, trustee; Heinrich Isack; and Mrs. Otto (Edna) Zorn. The Rantoul congregation was represented by Otto Piepenburg, Otto Lerche, Otto Rusch, Leonhard Fischer, Wilhelm Rusch and Christian Pingel. Albert Pingel and Ernst Hehn represented the Stockbridge congregation.

Worship service in the old church began on Sunday, September 24th at 9:30 a.m. with Rev. J.C. Sippel leading the German service. At 10 a.m., the congregation marched next door into the new Rantoul Emmanuel Evangelical Church, where Bishop S.P. Spreng from Naperville, Illinois, conducted the service of dedication in German. The Rantoul choir sang two anthems during the dedication service.

The three day meeting concluded after a worship service at 2 p.m. on Sunday, when Bishop Spreng delivered his sermon in English, and the Brillion choir sang two anthems, On Mountain High, and I Shall Be No Stranger There.

After the new church was dedicated, the old church was razed, and in 1917, the salvaged lumber was used to build a stable where church members could keep their horses during worship services.

Storm windows were put on the new church in 1923.

The first time that the minutes were written in English for the annual meeting of the congregation of Rantoul Emmanuel Evangelical Church was December 28, 1923. From that date on, all of the minutes for meetings of the congregation were written in English. However, German continued to be used for the worship services.

Some of the topics discussed and decisions made at the annual meetings and special meetings of the congregation are summarized below.

At the annual meeting held in December 1923, the question was raised as to whether “the congregation is willing to build a parsonage or not.” The parsonage in question was the one which was to be built next to Emmanuel Evangelical Church on West Water Street in Brillion. The parsonage would be used by the family of the pastor, whose time was shared between the two congregations. Of the 9 ballots cast by the Rantoul congregation, 5 voted yes and 4 voted
no. The members of the Rantoul congregation were faithful to that decision, and they helped with the cost and maintenance of the parsonage constructed in Brillion.

In December 1924, the congregation discussed the need to improve the furnace and heating for the church.

In July 1925, the decision was made to insure the church for $7,000.00. Also, it was decided "to have a supper to cover conference fund expenses."

In December 1926, the trustees were authorized to purchase land to extend the cemetery up 80 feet south from its present boundary.

In December 1927, the trustees, William Rusch, Robert Pingel and Leonhard Fischer reported that land was purchased to enlarge the cemetery on January 12, 1927 for the sum of $135.00 from Sophia Dietz. The land, which measured 40 feet by 19 rods and 2 feet (315.5 feet), extended the cemetery 40 feet south from its previous boundary.

At that same annual meeting, a decision was made by the congregation to have the church wired for electricity.

In December 1928, a decision was made to trade the organ in the Sunday school classroom for a piano.

In December 1929, a decision was made to purchase a pulpit Bible printed in the English language.

In December 1930, the congregation authorized the minister to have one worship service each month in English.

The congregation approved a payment of $3.00 toward the mowing of the Brillion Mission parsonage lawn.

In March 1934, a decision was made to build a fence around the church cemetery.

In October 1934, the congregation decided to decorate the church and established a committee to carry out the project. The members of the committee were: Rev. W.H. Mehn, Leonhard W. Fischer, Leonhard Piepenburg, Adolph Duchow and William Rusch.

In December 1934, it was reported that the total cost of $519.00 for decorating the church had been paid in full.

The trustees reported that a set of rules had been established for the church janitor to follow.
In December 1935, the trustees were directed to check into the possibility of moving the furnace to a different location in the basement to improve the heating of the church and Sunday school room.

The trustees were also asked to check on the condition of the church roofing.

In December 1936, the trustees were instructed to sell the barn that had been used to stable horses of church members during worship services.

In September 1937, the trustees reported that a new furnace was needed. The congregation authorized the trustees to borrow money for the new furnace if needed.

In December 1938, the congregation authorized the trustees to have the church painted.

In December 1940, the trustees were requested to have the fence around the church cemetery repaired.

In March 1943, the congregation was informed that it was required by conference rules to establish a church administrative council.

In April 1943, a decision was made to have carpeting installed in the altar area of the sanctuary and to have linoleum installed in the aisles.

In May 1945, the trustees reported that at the quarterly conference the congregation was advised to incorporate as provided under State of Wisconsin Law.

A decision was made to request that the Town of Rantoul blacktop the road in front of the church.

It was also decided that a tool shed should be built next to the outdoor toilets.

In the spring of 1946, Rev. Kenneth S. Knoespel followed Rev. Harvey T. Bandt as pastor of Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Rantoul Township and Emmanuel Evangelical Church in the City of Brillion. Both churches became Evangelical United Brethren churches in November of that year when the general conferences of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren in Christ Church merged into one denomination. (See Chapter IV.)

The past and future of both the Rantoul and the Brillion congregations was celebrated in November 1946 through “A History of Many Years of Progress Program”. A church family fellowship night was held on Thursday, November 21st at the Rantoul church. Following a dinner served by the church ladies, Leonhard Fischer gave a brief talk on the history of the church, and Albert Enneper gave a talk on a future church project. On Friday, November 22nd, a church family fellowship night was held at the Brillion church. A combined worship service was held on Saturday evening, November 23rd, when the combined choirs provided the music. Two sermons were given: the first by Rev. W.H. Mehn whose theme was “Christ Is Calling”,

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Matthew 4:19; and the second by Rev. A.H. Nickell whose theme was “Go Forward”, Exodus 14:15. On Sunday, November 24th, there were worship services in the morning, afternoon and evening. At 9 a.m., Rev. Mehne preached his sermon on “The Christian Church” at Rantoul Emmanuel Evangelical Church, and at 10:30 a.m., Rev. Nickell delivered his sermon entitled “Strength and Beauty Are in His Sanctuary” at the Brillion Emmanuel Evangelical Church. At 2:30 p.m., a combined worship service was held at the Rantoul church, and at 8 p.m. a combined service was held at the Brillion church. The pastors assisting with the combined worship services included: Rev. Kenneth S. Knoespel; Rev. Bernhardt, Lark; Rev. W.H. Mehne, North Fond du Lac; Rev. A.H. Nickell, Beaver Dam; and Rev. Bursack, Forest Junction.

Members of the Rantoul Congregation in 1946

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Brandenburg
Roman Brandenburg
Elroy Brandenburg
Norbert Brandenburg
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Behnke
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Behnke
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Enneper
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Enneper
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Fischer
Mr. & Mrs. August Fischer
Mr. & Mrs. Emil Fischer
Carmen Fischer
Mr. & Mrs. Helmuth Fischer
Leonhard W. Fischer
Roland Fischer
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Fischer
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Fischer
Mrs. Selma Heyn
Mrs. Fred Krueger
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Miller
Mrs. Franz Piepenburg
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Piepenburg
Evelyn Piepenburg
Mr. & Mrs. Otto Piepenburg
Mr. & Mrs. Merlin Piepenburg
Mrs. William Piepenburg
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Pingel

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pingel
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Pingel
Armin Pingel
Mr. & Mrs. William Pingel
Richard Pingel
Adolph Pingel
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Rusch
Mr. & Mrs. Merlin Rusch
Arthur Rusch, Jr.
Merlin Rusch
Mrs. Bertha Rusch
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Rusch
Mrs. Emma Rusch
Arnold Rusch
Reuben Rusch
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Rusch
Dorothy Rusch
William Rusch
Wilmer Rusch
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Wesener
Iva Wesener
Norma Wesener
Mrs. Ella Pingel
Glenroy Pingel
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Zahn
Merlin Zahn
Leslie Zahn

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Carol Fischer Matzke, who is the daughter of Milton and Lydia Piepenburg Fischer, describes Rantoul Evangelical United Brethren Church as she remembers how it was during the years of her youth in the 1940's and 1950's. "I always thought it was a beautiful country church. Large concrete steps with a small porch led into the little (foyer, which) had one of the many stained glass windows. There was a place for bulletins and the rope to ring the (church) bell. Straight through the double doors was the (sanctuary). It had three (sections of pews with aisles separating them). In the front (of the sanctuary) to the left was the choir. Clara (Fischer) Enneper was the organist. On the opposite side (each) December was what always seemed like the biggest Christmas tree ever. In the back (of the sanctuary) was the Sunday school room, which was also (used for) storage and a coat room.

Downstairs was where the dinners, banquets and the yearly successful ice cream socials were held. The kitchen was the full length of the building. The cooks made everything homemade and a lot of German food.

The cemetery was alongside (the church) and is (now) all that remains. The older tombstones bear the names of the early (church) leaders, (some of whose descendants with family names like Pingel, Rusch, Piepenburg and Fischer are now members of Faith United Methodist Church in Brillion). Some (of these) members are Shirley Rusch Schwartz, Florence Fischer Behnke, Carol Fischer Matzke, and Orvis and Amy Rusch Genske."

Soon after Rev. Kenneth Knoespel arrived in 1946, a special meeting of the congregation was held. At that meeting, Ray Rusch reported on the "progress of the church." After considering the history of their church and contemplating its future, the congregation approved a motion to have the basement walls and ceilings finished. That decision was affirmed again at the annual meeting of the congregation in April 1947. In April 1952, the congregation directed the trustees to have the basement floor painted or tiled. The minutes of the annual meetings did not show whether the basement improvements were completed, however some of the former members of the Rantoul congregation remember that some improvements had been made to give the basement hall and kitchen a more finished appearance.

The minutes of the congregational meetings record decisions to maintain and improve the exterior of the church. In April 1949, the congregation approved the hiring of painters to paint the exterior of the church and out buildings. A decision was made in April 1950 to extend the sidewalks from the sidewalk in the front of the church to the west entrance and to gravel walkways to the out buildings. At the annual meeting in January 1959, the trustees were requested to have the church storm windows repaired, and at the annual meeting in January 1960, the trustees reported that the storm windows had been repaired.

In April 1950, Albert Enneper purchased the old church organ, which could only be played while the organist pumped air into the organ bellows by working the foot pedals. At the annual meeting in January 1957, the congregation established a committee to investigate the possibility of purchasing a new church organ. The members of the committee were: Marjorie Pingel, Alice Piepenburg, Ted Fischer and Rev. Gordon Core. When a special meeting was held in March 1957, the congregation approved the purchase of a Baldwin electronic organ. The minutes of the Administrative Council meeting held on April 14, 1957 show that $925.00 had
been raised for the purchase of the new organ and that about $400.00 more was needed to complete the full payment. In May 1957, the Administrative Council made plans for a special day to dedicate the new organ. In addition to the worship service, there would be a dinner in the church basement hall. Although the date of the dedication service was not recorded in the minutes of the meetings of the church Administrative Council, it can be determined that the dedication of the new organ took place sometime between September 3 and October 10, 1957. The minutes of the meeting held on September 3rd show that the Administrative Council would ask the trustees to have an electrical outlet installed in the church for the new electronic organ, and the minutes of the meeting on October 10th report that the bills for the new organ dedication were paid out of the church improvement fund.

On January 12, 1956, the congregation made the decision to install handrails in both stairways leading to the basement for safety reasons. At the annual meeting on January 9, 1958, the congregation approved a motion to remodel the basement walls. At a special meeting on February 2, 1958, the congregation passed a motion to panel the basement walls. When the annual meeting was held on January 4, 1960, the congregation requested that the trustees have the basement floor painted. The possibility of remodeling the church was also discussed, but was tabled because of concerns about a building inspection, which might require the church to meet contemporary building codes. At the annual meeting on January 14, 1963, the congregation directed the trustees to investigate the cost of drilling a well as compared to piping water to the church from the Art Rusch, Senior place.

Rev. Herbert E. Zebarth, Conference Superintendent, met twice with the Rantoul congregation in 1963. At the first meeting on March 29th, Rev. Zebarth opened the meeting with a reading from Psalms, which was followed by prayer. Rev. Zebarth discussed the uncertain future of small rural churches, especially when the membership becomes too small to pay the expenses for pastoral support and maintaining the church building. He stated that “if the Brillion congregation would build a new church, it may (want) a pastor of its own,” rather than sharing a pastor with another church. Rev. Zebarth also reported that the Wisconsin Conference was at that time short by about nine pastors from the number needed. Rev. Zebarth said that if the Rantoul congregation decided in favor of remodeling their church, the conference wanted assurance that the congregation could pay for the project. (Note: Rev. Herbert E. Zebarth served as one of three Superintendents of the Wisconsin Conference from 1962 to 1970. His residence at that time was in Fond du Lac.)

At the second meeting, which was held on September 27th, Rev. Zebarth opened the meeting with the “reading of the 139th Psalm followed by a (devotional message) stressing the love of God at work in and through our lives.” Following devotions, “There was a discussion on water works for the church. The trustees indicated that some were opposed to the expense, and that there was confusion as to what the future of the (Rantoul) church may be.” Rev. Zebarth made the statement that “The conference has no desire to close the (Rantoul) church as long as it is active.” Rev. Zebarth also discussed the pending merger of the Evangelical United Brethren
Denomination and the Methodist Denomination. The General Conference of the Methodist Denomination was scheduled to vote on the merger in 1964, and the E.U.B. General Conference was scheduled to vote on the merger in 1966. If approved by three-fourths majority at both General Conferences, the merger would officially take place in 1968. Rev. Zebarth suggested that the congregation vote on the question of remodeling at a Sunday morning worship service. There was much discussion about what other Industrial Commission codes would have to be met if the remodeling of the basement should occur. A motion was then made and approved to have the congregation vote on Sunday, October 13, 1963 as to whether or not they wanted to pipe water into the church at a cost of approximately $4,000.00, not including other costs to satisfy Industrial Commission building codes. (Note: The results of the congregational vote taken on October 13, 1963 were not recorded in the book where the minutes of congregational meetings were typically written.)

A building inspection report was read and discussed at the annual meeting of the congregation on January 13, 1964. The congregation voted for Merlin Piepenburg to continue serving on the committee, which was responsible to get a water system for the church. The church water system was expected to provide a fresh water supply and a waste water system for the church kitchen and for indoor restrooms, which would be constructed. A suggestion was made that the project should be completed in steps rather than all at once. A motion was made and passed to have the church stewards seek pledges from the members of the congregation to cover the entire cost of the remodeling project.

At the annual meeting in January 1965, a decision was made by the congregation “to have the Board of Missions come and survey the needs of the church.” On June 21, 1965, Rev. Zebarth opened the special meeting of the congregation with scripture reading and prayer. The members of the Board of Missions present were: Elroy Fischer, Rev. Roy Bosserman, and Mrs. H. Schoss. The expressed purpose of the meeting was to determine the future of the Rantoul Evangelical United Brethren congregation. During the meeting, Merlin Piepenburg reported that all of the necessary changes to the church building needed to comply with the regulations of the Industrial Commission would cost approximately $10,000.00. The building improvement fund had only $313.00 at that time. When Rev. Bosserman asked about population trends in the area, Rev. Willard Albertus, local pastor, answered that according to a recent study the population had not declined. Margaret Guenther reported that the Sunday school classes ranged in size from three to twenty five members, with the younger age classes having the lowest enrollment and the adult classes having the highest enrollment. Because the Brillion E.U.B. congregation had begun the construction of their new church, a discussion ensued as to how long it would be before the Brillion congregation would need its own full-time pastor thus creating the need for the Rantoul church to share a pastor with another congregation in the area. There was also discussion as to what would happen to the Rantoul church structure if the church were closed. At the end of the meeting, Rev. Zebarth summarized the discussion that had taken place and informed the
congregation that he and the Board of Missions would study the situation and report back to the congregation with their recommendations.

During the annual meeting on February 24, 1966, Rev. Albertus gave his report to the congregation. In his report, he said, “The church is the people of God. What we are today is (formed) from our heritage of yesteryear.” He stated that he was available to the members of the Rantoul congregation in his office at Faith E.U.B. Church in Brillion whenever anyone needed to contact him or talk with him. He informed the congregation that he would attend a seminar in Holland during the last two weeks of July. Following Rev. Albertus’ report, the congregation approved a motion to have a union worship service with Faith E.U.B. Church on July 31st, at which time the Methodist minister would be the guest pastor.

On April 18, 1966, Ray Frisby, who was chair of the building committee for Faith E.U.B. Church, met with the Administrative Council of Rantoul E.U.B. Church. He talked with them about the first two wings of the new church structure in Brillion that had been completed and about the future plans of the Brillion congregation to build the third wing, which would be the fellowship hall. He indicated that the fellowship hall would be used by the congregation and by organizations in the community as well.

Election of church officers took place as usual at the annual meeting of the Rantoul congregation on January 11, 1967. During the meeting, there was some discussion concerning the future of the Rantoul church. It was decided that any further discussion on the topic should be delayed until March 5th when Rev. Bosserman from the Board of Missions was scheduled to meet with their congregation. In other business, the congregation decided to insure the church structure for $7,000.00 and the church contents for $3,000.00. (It is interesting to note that the sum of these two figures was equal to the estimated $10,000.00 needed to make the improvements to the church structure required to satisfy the regulations of the Industrial Commission.)

A special meeting of the congregation of the Rantoul E.U.B. Church was called to order by Rev. Roy Bosserman on March 5, 1967 to consider the future of their church. He spoke briefly about how our spirits are uplifted through worship; then he led the congregation in prayer. He talked about how churches in America were being affected by change including: population shifts; improvements in transportation; and new demands on what a church should be. He also discussed the needs and challenges of local churches to upgrade church buildings, partner with the conference and other congregations, church membership, and location of church structures.

Following Rev. Bosserman’s presentation, a motion was made and passed to continue the meeting as a meeting of the local Administrative Council. Topics discussed included options to continue or disband, what would be done with church furnishings, the church structure, the church cemetery, and the church membership. The question was brought up, “What are we going to do? Disband May 31st or December 31st?” A motion was made and seconded to request
that the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church discontinue the Rantoul Emmanuel E.U.B. Church on May 31, 1967. The vote on the motion was taken by ballot. The members of the local Administrative Council voted 8 yes and 3 no. The vote by the congregation was 10 yes votes and 2 no votes. Next, a motion was made and passed to transfer the members of the Rantoul congregation as a body to Faith E.U.B. Church in Brillion.

The Rantoul congregation was informed that the disposition of church property and church funds was to be taken care by the local Administrative Council, whose chair was Armin Pingel. Rev. Bosserman would send a letter to Armin Pingel concerning the things that would need to be taken care of by the council.

The Rantoul E.U.B. church structure was razed not long after it was closed. Wallace Krueger of Potter helped to take the bell from the church steeple and to raze the building. The bell, which was left on the ground near to where the church had stood, was stolen before plans could be made as to what to do with it.

The Rantoul E.U.B. Cemetery was cared for by the cemetery association for many years, until the cemetery funds and responsibility for care were taken over by the congregation of Faith United Methodist Church.

Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church was closed in the 98th year after it was founded. However, although the Rantoul church structure is gone, the congregation of Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church from Rantoul Township, now in its 140th year, is alive and well as a vital part of Faith United Methodist Church in Brillion. Many of the members of Faith United Methodist Church in Brillion are descendants of the charter members of Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Rantoul Township.

The following list of the members of the congregation of Emmanuel E.U.B. Church in Rantoul was compiled from the minutes of congregational meetings in the years 1957 through 1967:

Ira and Hertha Bartz
Albert & Clara Enneper
Arnold Enneper
Milton & Lydia Fischer
Carol Fischer
Florence Fischer
Ellen Fischer
Roy & Hilda Fischer
Richard "Dick" Fischer
Roy "Bud" Fischer
Ted Fischer
James Fischer
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Genske

Armin & Marjorie Pingel
Adolph Pingel
Beverly Pingel
Dean & Beatrice Pingel
Eugene Pingel
Harold & LaVerne Pingel
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Pingel
Arnold Rusch
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Rusch, Sr.
Arthur, Jr. & Nancy Rusch
Juliann Rusch
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Rusch
Rosella Rusch
Cheryl Genske
Orvis & Amy (Rusch) Genske
Ray & Margaret Guenther
Charles & Marvis Hansen
David Miller
Pat Norton
Merlin & Alice Piepenburg
Dennis Piepenburg
Stanley Piepenburg
Ruben & Eva Rusch
Harlan & Shirley (Rusch) Schwartz
Donald & Ruth Steege
John “Jack” & Dorothy (Rusch) Voight
Walter Wesener
Beverly Zahn
Harley Zahn
Wayne Piepenburg

Emmanuel Evangelical Church, Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church in Rantoul Township, Calumet County, Wisconsin never had its own resident pastor. The circuit ministers and Brillion Mission ministers who served the Rantoul congregation were:

Calumet County Mission

William Horn 1869-1870

Calumet Circuit

Friedrich Moser 1870-1873
Heinrich Schlep & Emil Rhode 1873-1875
William Zickerick & William Kolander 1875-1876
William Zickerick & F. Illian 1876-1877
William Zickerick & G. Friedrich 1877-1878
E.L. Runkel & G. Friedrich 1878-1879
E.L. Runkel & August Heinhaus 1879-1880
E.L. Runkel & John Schneller 1880-1881
William Zickerick & John Schneller 1881-1882
William Zickerick & G.F. Kiekhoefe 1882-1883
F. Nickell & G.F. Kiekhoefe 1883-1884
F. Nickell & G. Reichert 1884-1885
F. Nickell & C.W. Wellso 1885-1886
C. Wiegand & H.H. Brockhaus 1886-1887
F. Eilert & H.H. Brockhaus 1887-1888
F. Eilert & J.C. Hoffman 1888-1889
T. Schauer & H. Goetz 1889-1891
M. Gauerke & J.P. Dorau 1892-1894
C.W. Wellso & F. Reichert 1894-1896
J.G. Weihing 1896-1899
George Reichert 1899-1902

Rockland Circuit

H.W. Lutz 1902-1906
J.J. Stuempfig 1906-1910

93
W.A. Detert 1910-1913
Jacob Schneller 1913-1916

Brillion Mission

J.C. Sippel 1916-1918
George Reichert 1918-1923
H.P. Jordan 1923-1930
R. Eilert 1930-1932
Philip Schneider 1932-1933
William H. Mehn 1933-1935
A.H. Nickell 1935-1939
Harvey T. Bandt 1939-1946
Kenneth S. Knospel 1946-1951
Herman W. Siedschlag 1951-1954
Gordon C. Core 1954-1958
Vernon R. Miller 1958-1961
Willard V. Albertus 1961-1967

Calumet County Mission & Calumet Circuit Ministers 1869-1902

Rev. William Horn, son of Jacob and Anna Horn, was born May 7, 1839 near Siegen, Westphalia, Germany. In 1855 at the age of 16, he came to America with his mother. They settled in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, where William attended school and learned the English language. He was received as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1862, ordained Deacon in 1864 and ordained Elder in 1866. His ministerial service in Wisconsin included: Two Rivers Circuit, assistant preacher, 1862-1863; Chilton-Sheboygan Mission, 1863-1864; Ozaukee Circuit, 1864-1865; Washington Circuit, 1865-1866; Fond du Lac Mission, 1866-1868; Chilton Mission, 1868-1869; Calumet County Mission, 1869-1870; and Washington Circuit, 1870-1871. In 1871 at the annual session of the General Conference in Naperville, Illinois, Rev Horn was elected editor of "Das Evangelische Magazin". He was a gifted author and poet, and he composed more than 300 songs and hymns in German. In 1891 at General Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, he was ordained Bishop and resided in Cleveland, Ohio. (Block, Herman A., 1971, p. 90)

Rev. William Horn was united in marriage with Mary Fishbach of Hartford, Wisconsin on May 19, 1864. Their marriage was blessed with seven children: sons, Willie, Edward, Oscar and Frank; and daughters, Ella, Linda (Mrs. Lamb) and Clara (Mrs. George Bellamy). Bishop William Horn died in Cleveland, Ohio on April 27, 1917, and his wife, Mary was deceased on July 26, 1920. Both were buried in Cleveland, Ohio. (Block, Herman A., 1971, p. 90)

Rev. Friedrich F.H. Moser was born March 17, 1828 in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, where he studied architecture. After arriving in America in 1852, he lived in Two Rivers,
Wisconsin. In 1864, he enlisted in the Union Army and served for 16 months to the end of the Civil War. During his time in the Army, he conducted worship services with his fellow soldiers. Friedrich Moser was licensed as a minister of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1867. In 1869, he was ordained Deacon and was ordained Elder in 1871.

Rev. Heinrich Schlep was born February 15, 1830. He became a licensed preacher of the Illinois Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1853, was ordained Deacon in 1855 and ordained Elder in 1858.

Rev. Emil Rhode was born April 25, 1852. He was accepted as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1873. He was ordained Deacon in 1875 and ordained Elder in 1877.

Rev. William Zickerick was born September 8, 1825 in Brandenburg, Prussia. He was received as a preacher of the Illinois Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1855. In 1857, he was ordained Deacon in the Wisconsin Conference, and in 1859, he was ordained Elder in the Wisconsin Conference. He was deceased on November 19, 1906 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. (See Chapter I.)

Rev. William Kolander was born March 25, 1852. He was licensed as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1875. He was ordained Deacon in 1878 and Elder in 1880.

Rev. F. Illian was born July 1, 1849. He was accepted as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1875, ordained Deacon in 1877 and ordained Elder in 1879.

Rev. G. Friedrich was born October 18, 1852. He became a licensed preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1876. He was ordained Deacon in 1879 and ordained Elder in 1881.

Rev. J.L. Runkel was born August 2, 1843. He was accepted as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1868, ordained Deacon in 1870 and ordained Elder in 1872. Rev. J.L. Runkel was deceased in Milwaukee in 1920. (J.L. Runkel was the only Rev. Runkel shown in the Wisconsin Conference, Evangelical Association records.)

Rev. August Heinhaus was born May 3, 1851. He was received as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1879. In 1881, he was ordained Deacon and in 1883, was ordained Elder.

Rev. John Schneller was born May 26, 1854. He was approved as a minister of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1879, ordained Deacon in 1881 and ordained Elder in 1883.
Rev. G.F. Kiekhoefe was born December 1, 1853. He was received as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1882. He was ordained Deacon in 1884 and was ordained Elder in 1886.

Rev. F. Nickell was born January 7, 1850. He was licensed as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1871, ordained Deacon in 1873 and ordained Elder in 1875.

(Note: See Chapter II for more information on the Calumet Circuit ministers who served the Rantoul Church from 1884 to 1896.)

Rev. J.G. Weihiing was born October 16, 1865. He was approved as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1889. He was ordained Deacon in 1893 and ordained Elder in 1894.

Rev. George Reichert was born May 19, 1852. He was received as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1883, ordained Deacon in 1885 and ordained Elder in 1888.

**Rockland Circuit Ministers 1902-1916**

Rev. H.W. Lutz was born October 8, 1856. He was licensed as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1887. In 1889, he was ordained Deacon, and in 1891, he was ordained Elder.

Rev. J.J. Stuemphig was born April 4, 1855. He was accepted as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1888, ordained Deacon in 1890 and ordained Elder in 1892.

Rev. W.A. Detert was born February 12, 1853. He became a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1877. He was ordained Deacon in 1879 and ordained Elder in 1882.

Rev. Jacob Schneller was born February 6, 1844. He was approved as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1870, was ordained Deacon in 1872 and ordained Elder in 1874.

**Brillion Mission Ministers 1916-1967**

(See Chapters I, II and IV for information about the ministers who served the Rantoul church from the Brillion Mission for the years 1916 to 1967.)
### Trustees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carl Teege</td>
<td>1869-1871, 1876-1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebrecht Zahn</td>
<td>1869-1873, 1878-1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Pingel</td>
<td>1869, 1875-1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friedrich Bringmann</td>
<td>1870-1872, 1874-1875, 1879-1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johann Bruning</td>
<td>1872-1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fritz Zahn</td>
<td>1874-1876, 1891-1904, 1910-1912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferdinand Rusch</td>
<td>1873-1877, 1881-1886, 1888-1890, 1893-1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>August Hillmann</td>
<td>1876-1879</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Fischer</td>
<td>1887-1889</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gottfried Fischer</td>
<td>1890-1892, 1899-1913</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otto Lerche</td>
<td>1899-1908</td>
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<td>Heinrich Hillmann</td>
<td>1899-1901</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernhard Zahn</td>
<td>1902-1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Piepenburg</td>
<td>1905-1909</td>
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<td>R Zahn</td>
<td>1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franz Piepenburg</td>
<td>1909-1914</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Rusch</td>
<td>1913-1918, 1922-1935, 1937-1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otto Piepenburg</td>
<td>1914-1922</td>
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<td>Robert Pingel</td>
<td>1915-1928, 1930-1935</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leonhard Fischer</td>
<td>1923-1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leonhard Piepenburg</td>
<td>1936-1938, 1943-1953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert Enneper</td>
<td>1941-1946</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen Zahn</td>
<td>1944-1946</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthur Rusch</td>
<td>1946-1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Rusch</td>
<td>1947-1952</td>
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<td>Arnold Rusch</td>
<td>1953-1955</td>
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<td>Roy Fischer</td>
<td>1954-1957</td>
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<td>Ruben Rusch</td>
<td>1957-1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold Pingel</td>
<td>1958-1960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merlin Piepenburg</td>
<td>1961-1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dean Pingel</td>
<td>1962-1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Genske</td>
<td>1963-1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Geunther</td>
<td>1964-1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orvis Genske</td>
<td>1965-1967</td>
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### Church Janitors

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian Pingel</td>
<td>1906-1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Pingel</td>
<td>1911-14, 1926, 1928-1930, 1932-1934, 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Enneper</td>
<td>1915, 1931, 1937-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emil Enneper</td>
<td>1919</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
William Rusch 1920, 1922-1924, 1926-1928
Elmer Piepenburg 1934 (Lowest bid was $61 per year.)
Orlando Krueger 1935
Roland Pingel 1941, 1943-1945, 1947-1948
Harold Pingel 1945-1947

Organists and Pianists

Bernice Fischer Piepenburg 1929-1931, 1943 (Assistant)
Lily Fischer 1932-1935, 1936-1941 (Assistant)
Alice Enneper Piepenburg 1936-1941, 1957
Marjorie Pingel 1957

Musical Director

Albert Enneper 1935, 1936 (Assistant), 1937-1938, 1943-1945
Lily Fischer 1936
Orlando Krueger 1939-1941, 1944

(Note: One trustee was elected for a three year term at each annual meeting of the congregation, and the names of the trustees were shown each year in the minutes of the annual meetings. The trustees were responsible for hiring the church janitor and organist each year, usually based on the lowest bid. Therefore the names of the church janitor and the organist were not always available when the annual meeting took place. The names of the trustees, janitors, organists and music directors, which are shown in the lists above, were recorded in the minutes of the annual meetings.)