Father Emil Schmitt succeeded Father Letz as pastor in 1927 and served until 1934. In 1930 a new Sister's house was erected. Rev. H. Halinde served the parish from 1933-1937, Rev. Theodore Kersten from 1937-1940, and Rev. Joseph Schaefer from 1940-1950. During Father Schaefer's term as pastor, extensive work was again done on the church and the church property. In 1947 considerable work was again done on the cemetery and the church basement was completely done over and a kitchen installed.

Father Lawrence Loerke followed Father Schaefer in 1950 and 1951. Rev. Richard Keller served the parish from 1951 to 1957. Early in 1952 St. George's Church in Hika closed with the members of that parish being transferred to St. Wendel's parish. At a meeting of the members of that parish in 1952, it was decided to construct a new school to overcome the crowded conditions of the present school and plans were approved for new construction. A building fund was set up and in 1956 the new school was built. During Father Kellers tenure, in 1955, the 100th anniversary of St. Wendel was celebrated.

From 1957 to 1965 Rev. Leo Ott was at St. Wendel. He was succeeded in 1965 by Rev. Jerome Watry, who remained until February of 1970 when Father Tom Peeters came to St. Wendel. In 1972 St. Wendel School closed, and Father Peeters moved into the vacated Sister's house. With the vacation of the priest's house, the building was sold and moved to another site south of the church where it was converted into a two family dwelling.

**ST. JOHN ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The double name of St. John and St. Peter tells the early history of the congregation. Two congregations existed prior to 1920, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hika and St. Peter's on the Union Road west of Cleveland. For sixty years both churches, separated by approximately three miles, were served by the same pastor.

St. John Evangelical Church of Hika began in 1860 with the first church council elected in September. A new church building was planned immediately, and on September 5, 1861, the new building was dedicated. The first resident pastor was Pastor H. Quehl, who arrived in 1862 from Naperville, Illinois.

Shortly after Pastor Quehl's arrival, St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized on June 14, 1863. Until completion of the church building, services were held in District #3 School. The congregation affiliated with the Wisconsin Synod in 1868, and membership in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod has continued until the present time.

Pastor Quehl was succeeded by Candidate C. Dowidat in 1868. He remained until 1875. From 1875 to 1877 Pastor Peiper served. Pastor Haase served from 1877 to 1883. Pastor Jaeger stayed until 1887, when Pastor Sprengling came and served the congregation for forty-six years.
On May 23, 1920 the decision was made to merge the two congregations and build a new church building. A site committee was selected and on July 4, 1920, it was decided to build the new church on the present location. The cornerstone was laid in 1922 and dedication was held on June 25, 1923.

Pastor Sprengling resigned in 1933 because of ill health, ending a ministry of forty-six years in the congregation.

Pastor Braun was installed in November of 1933. On September 22, 1935 the congregation celebrated a double anniversary. Seventy-five years had passed since the organization of the congregation; fifteen years had passed since the merger of the original two congregations.

In 1948 the congregation commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the church building.

Pastor Braun accepted a call to Milwaukee in 1950 and his successor was Pastor E. Bode, who was installed August 27, 1950. Pastor Bode remained until October 1959, and Pastor Gerhard F. Cares was installed as pastor in May, 1960. During this year the congregation celebrated its 100th anniversary. Pastor Cares served the congregation until 1967. He was followed by Pastor Paul Knichelbein who remained until 1969 when the present Pastor Henry F. Koch was installed.