ST. JOHN'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The congregation of St. John was organized in 1848, the same year that Wisconsin became a state. At first, religious meetings were held in a log house upon a piece of land on which our present church stands, the land was purchased from Julius Schleisinger for the sum of one dollar. St. John's United Evangelical Lutheran Church was adopted as the name of this congregation in 1854.

Records of the very early years were destroyed by fire. The earliest pastors were no doubt of the "circuit rider" type who came at irregular intervals to hold services and to take care of weddings and baptisms.

Prior to 1850 the Reverend Fuchs and Reverend Sauer served as pastors. Reverend Meiss was our first resident pastor in 1850. The Gospel was preached entirely in the German language during these times.

The Civil War was at its height when teams of oxen hauled stones to the top of the hill for the erection of a substantial stone building at a cost of $3,000. This church, which is still our house of worship, was dedicated on September 14, 1864.

Friction arose between the Lutheran and Reformed groups within the congregation and several families severed their membership with St. John's and organized St. Paul Lutheran Church here in Slinger in 1875.

In 1889 St. John's congregation became a member of the Evangelical Synod of North America.

It was in 1891 the Ladies Aid was organized and today it is known as the Women's Fellowship. Around 1896 the Hartford and Slinger congregations were served by one pastor who resided in Hartford.


The interior of the church was completely renovated in 1899. This included painting of the walls, a new altar and pulpit, new pews and new windows at a total cost of $1,353.15.
We elected our own resident pastor, Reverend H. Mueller, in 1908. At that time a new parsonage was built at a cost of $2,200.

In 1923 a Schaefer pipe organ was purchased by the Ladies Aid. That same year a basement was excavated under the church.

The building adjacent to the church serves as our education facility and houses Sunday church school rooms, the office of the church secretary as well as the Pastor's study.

The various changes and mergers which have occurred over the past 146 years have been important steps in our Christian history at St. John's United Church of Christ.

### ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The history of Lutheranism in Slinger goes back to the 1840's. On December 8, 1849, five pastors met at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Milwaukee to make plans for the formation of the "First Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin." One of those in attendance was a Pastor Paul Meiss. He was serving German immigrants in Schleisingerville (Slinger) and the surrounding area.

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, however, was not organized as a congregation until May 19, 1873. It immediately joined the First Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin, now called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Rev. Albert Opitz of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hartford served the congregation as its first pastor. He served from 1873 to 1880. He was succeeded by Pastor C. Probst who served Peace in Hartford and St. Paul in Slinger from 1881-1909.

The congregation purchased the so-called "Doctor's House" in February of 1875 for $1,200. This served as the house of worship until 1886. In that year the congregation built the church at 204 Kettle Moraine Dr. S. This served St. Paul as a house of worship for nearly 100 years. It is still being used by St. Athanasius Anglican Mission.

Remodeling of St. John's was begun in 1949, and on December 10, 1950, the rededication of the church took place. In 1953 the present parsonage just behind the church was purchased and the original parsonage was sold.

During the early years several pastors served the congregation for short periods of time. Later pastors included the following persons:

- 1920-1927: Reverend Eugene Wilking
- 1927-1930: Reverend Carl Eller
- 1930-1941: Reverend E. Roth
- 1941-1946: Reverend Curt Schmeichen
- 1946-1953: Reverend Robert Volkert
- 1953-1960: Reverend Robert Kasper
- 1960-1964: Reverend William Schwemmer
- 1964-1985: Reverend Donald Priestaf
- 1985-1987: Reverend Roy Alberswerth
- 1987-1993: Reverend Vernon Clausing
- 1993-1994: Reverend Sandra Palmer
- 1994-: Reverend David Borglum

It was in 1948 we became members of the United Church of Christ, which is a union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical Reformed Church.

A children's choir, senior choir and English Handbell choir enhance our worship services.
In 1979 the congregation erected the present building at 799 St. Paul Drive. A bell tower/office/classroom complex was added in 1990.

When St. Paul moved from 204 Kettle Moraine Dr. S. it removed the bells from the steeple. The bells remained silent for 12 years until the Bell Tower was built. St. Paul first used the bells in 1889 to call worshippers to Easter services. The bells were put into service for the second time on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1991. The total cost of the bells in 1889 was $324.45.

By 1909 the congregation was strong enough to support a pastor on its own. Pastor L. Ave Lallemand served for one year. During his pastorate, a parsonage was built at 215 Kettle Moraine Dr. S.

After the death of Pastor L. Ave Lallemand, the congregation was served by Pastors C. Auerswald (1910-1916), Rudolph Bergfield (1916-1922), and Arthur Lengling (1924-1937).

On August 9, 1925, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cedar Lake (Town of West Bend) called Pastor Lengling to serve them also. Since that time the two St. Pauls have been served by the same pastor. St. Paul of Cedar Lake is located at the corner of Highway Z and German Village Road.

Pastor Erwin Scharf followed Pastor Lengling. He served from 1937 to 1944. He interrupted his pastorate during the second World War to serve as a civilian chaplain. During his absence the congregation was served by Pastor Norbert Reim.

Pastor Frederick Gilbert followed Pastor Scharf. He served from 1944-1957. It was during his pastorate that the congregation purchased an organ built by the Schaefer Organ Company of Slinger. This is another item the congregation took with it when it moved to its present location in 1979.

There was talk of enlarging the church during the 50's and 60's. A temporary solution to the space problem was found when the congregation purchased the "Hausfeldt property" at 206 Kettle Moraine Dr. S. in 1957. This was used for Sunday School classes.

Pastor John Ruege served the congregation from 1957-1961. He was followed by Pastor Lester Groth who served from 1962-1971.

During these years sentiment shifted from addition to relocation. This came to fruition during the pastorate of Theodore Horneber who served from 1971-1980. As a part of this relocation, the congregation sold the old parsonage and bought a new one at 509 Highview Drive and developed the Churchview Estates subdivision.

Pastor George Enderle followed Pastor Horneber. He is still serving the two St. Pauls.

In the fall of 1985 the congregation opened a preschool, St. Paul Little Learners' Smile Center. Mrs. Sharon Burow served as administrator from 1985-1989. Mr. Dale Marquardt took over in the fall of 1990 and served through the 1992-1993 school year. The present administrator is Mrs. Angela Weber.

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The beautiful, rolling green hills and fields of the Kettle Moraine attracted many settlers from Germany to this area in the mid-1800's, especially since the similarity of the terrain to their native land made them feel at home.

Establishing farms and businesses around the developing commercial hub of Schlesingerville, these early people of faith welcomed missionary priests on horseback into their homes for prayers of worship and thanksgiving.

Father Casper Rehrl was one of those great "circuit-rider" missionaries who established St. Peter's in 1856.

With the creation of St. Peter Parish, a small log church was built on or near the present site on land that had been the Engelhardt farm, and was served as a mission of St. Lawrence, from Barton, for nine years.

In 1865, Father Deisenrieder became the first resident pastor of the ever-growing Catholic community, increasing to 154 families by 1899.

A two-story brick school was built near the church in 1881/82, heated with pot bellied stoves. Fr. Paul Geyer arranged for the School Sisters of St. Francis to teach at the new school, where they continued their service for 110 years until 1991. The rectory was built in 1912 at a cost of $7,000 by Fr. William Bruecker. A new school was built under the direction of Fr. George Jentges in 1949. Also under his
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direction, a convent was built in 1959 and a second floor was added to the school.

The exterior of the present St. Peter's Church has remained largely unchanged for the past 100 years. The 113 x 49 foot, cream city brick structure was built in 1892 at the direction of Fr. Carl Grobschmidt, at a cost of $19,300, and was blessed by Archbishop Katzer on May 1, 1893, while confirming 78 parishioners.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the building of the present church, and looking ahead to the next 100 years, the Parish of St. Peter's embarked on a program of renovation and change under the direction of Fr. Robert Bales beginning the fall of 1992 and happily concluding in the summer of 1993.

While taking pride in the accomplishments, hard work, and sacrifice needed for the renewal and renovation of our beloved church building, we remember that "Church" is more than brick and paint, wood and plaster. It is the 1,075 families of St. Peter's today, the thousands of faithful parishioners over the past 100 years, and the people of the future who will worship here.

ST. ATHANASIUS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Long recognized as a local landmark, the four-sided steeple clock and bell tower rises 138 feet above the town. Three melodious bells sound from the tower. The large bell and the middle bell were installed in 1886; the small bell was added in 1915. They were cast by the Henry Stuckstede Bell Foundry located in St. Louis, Missouri. Now newly restored, the bells and bell tower are illuminated at night and truly enhance the classic beauty of the building.

Designed to inspire awe and a sense of spiritual uplifting, three majestic altars grace the Sanctuary, surrounding the focal point, the altar of Sacrifice. Hand carved of cherry and walnut woods, beautifully and artistically frescoed in a style reminiscent of the lovely churches of Europe, they remain treasured works of art.

Two of the ten original stained glass windows were replaced to accommodate the new exit on the north front elevation, and opposite on the south elevation.

Music has always been a part of prayer and worship at St. Peter's, and since the summer of 1919, the people have enjoyed the sound of a wonderful romantic pipe organ. It was made and installed by the B. Schaefer and Sons Organ Co. of Schleisingerville for the sum of $2,900, minus a $400 allowance for the old original organ, and a $500 donation from the Schaefer Organ Co. (Coincidentally, the first wedding in the new church in the fall of 1892 was between Mary Merten and Frank Schaefer of that family.)

For 50 years, 1941-1991, the organ was joyfully and ably played by Sr. Romilda Simon, SSSF, teacher, conductor, liturgist. Included in the 1993 renovation, the organ has been completely restored and rejuvenated with the addition of a new console, wind chests, and three new ranks of pipes, giving it a more classical sound, all for considerably more than the cost of the original instrument!

A small group of people purchased the former St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church building in June, 1980. They renamed it as St. Athanasius Anglican Mission. The Rt. Rev. Roland Randolph from the Diocese of The Holy Cross, Consecrated and Dedicated the building for Catholic Sacramental use during Holy Week 1981 A.D.

Father Wilfred Benzing has served St. Athanasius as Pastor to the present. St. Athanasius Church is a Parish for those who are longing for The Sacramental Life and the beauty of liturgical worship.

The building has remained predominately the same except for some minor changes with the communion rail.
Happy Anniversary Slinger!

We are proud to be a part of this community --

"It takes the whole village to raise a child"

Slinger Education Association