



Foreward

Looking Back, Looking Forward . . .

75 years! That's a lot of history to look back on. How many have been baptized into God's family by this congregation? How many confirmed into our Christian Faith? How many have come to the Lord's Supper here and received His body and blood? How many have heard the saving Gospel here? We don't know, only God does; but we can be sure those numbers are large, and we thank God for that. It's all His doing, and we praise and thank Him alone for what He has worked in this congregation these many years. and the blessing St. Peter's Lutheran Church has been to Estevan for 3/4ths of a century.

As wonderful as those memories are, we're not here to just look back. The work of Christ's church is always more about the future than it is about the past — we seek to extend the Kingdom for as long as we have life and breath, and then pass the mission on to the next generation. As the present pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran, I am therefore, thankful to God for those who have gone on before and paved the way for us; but I am much more grateful that the future for this congregation looks even brighter than the past: I look forward to being a part of that future.

Pastor G. Kuenzel

HISTORY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH

St. Peter's Lutheran Church has a history which dates to the pioneer days of Saskatchewan. It is a history of growth along with the town and the province. That growth has been made possible through the grace of God, who has given the members of St. Peter's the strength and foresight to take advantage of the opportunities which the Lord has placed before them. The history of the congregation can be roughly divided into three sections: its early formation and development; the work done during the years 1930 - 60, and its present situation.

EARLY FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Much of the early development of the church can be traced back to the time even before work was done in Estevan. Small groups of Lutherans in the Roche Percee and Outram areas had met together for worship as far back as 1900. Many of the descendants of these early pioneers still form an important part of St. Peter's. The pastors which served these areas came mainly from parishes in North Dakota and held services in the homes of various Lutherans. The group at and around Outram formed St. John's Lutheran Church.

St. Peter's had its beginning in the fall of 1918 as a mission project with Rev. William Reitz as the first pastor. A flu epidemic prevented services from being held as public gatherings were forbidden. Regular services began in 1919 with four families. The first confirmation class was held on April 11, 1920. All services were conducted in German, with the first English services beginning in 1920. Rev. Reitz left Estevan in 1926 to take up duties in Regina as full-time mission secretary for newly formed Man.-Sask. District. At the time of his departure, there were 101 souls and 41 communicants.

Candidate K. F. Eisele was installed as pastor, serving until 1928.

In December of 1928, H. C. Wolters was installed. He left Estevan in December 1929.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING THIS PERIOD:

First recorded baptism:	Sabrina Kolke, daughter of Edward and Adelphine, baptized on September 15, 1904.
First baptism at Roche Percee:	Adela Jahn, daughter of Agust and Magdalene Jahn on December 26, 1905.
First baptism at Estevan:	Josephine Preikshot on December 4, 1917.
First recorded funeral:	Emilie Krueger on March 24, 1921. She died at the age of 17 and was buried in the Estevan cemetery.
First Budget of St. Peter's:	\$34.00 for home purposes, \$5.00 for missions.
Sunday School:	Begun in 1921 at the Baptist Church, where services were being held.
Constitution adoption:	January 29, 1928, also becoming a member of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod.

1930 - 1960

This was a period of tremendous growth for the congregation. Beginning already in 1929, plans were made for the construction of a church building. The church building was dedicated in June of 1930. on the same day that Rev. D. R. Ludwig was installed as pastor. The debt of the church was paid off and a manse purchased near the church on 3rd Street.

Rev. A. E. Koslowsky was installed as the new pastor in 1935 and served until April 1939.