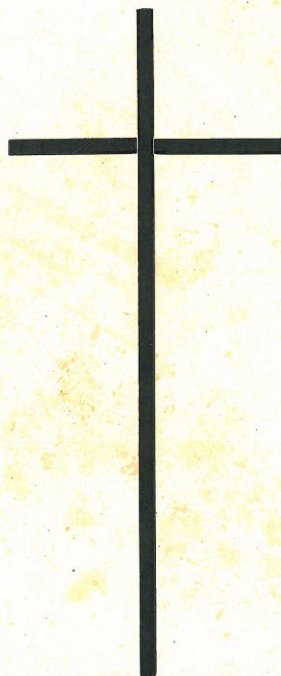


SEVENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY

1887-1962



ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Winchester, Texas

Property of Mary Lehmann

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS
of
GRACE AND BLESSING
1887-1962

"THE LORD HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US;
WHEREOF WE ARE GLAD" — *Psalm 126,3*

"ALL THE PATHS OF THE LORD ARE MERCY AND TRUTH
UNTO SUCH AS KEEP HIS COVENANT
AND HIS TESTIMONIES."

Psalm 25,10

*Onto the triune God Who has led His Church in the paths
in which it should go, we the members of
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
dedicate this booklet.*

September 30, 1962

St. Michael's Lutheran Church
Winchester, Texas

HISTORY OF ST. MICHAEL'S



The history of St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation dates back to the year 1876. In that year the Rev. Simon Suess came to Winchester and gathered together and served the Lutherans living in this community for one year. At the end of that time he followed a call to Salem Lutheran Church of Freyburg, Texas. No authentic records are available of the next eleven years except that Rev. Stuemke, and later the Rev. G. Buchschacher, both from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warda, Texas, preached here occasionally.

On St. Michael's Day, September 29, 1887, under the leadership of the Rev. G. Buchschacher the group of Lutherans in the Winchester community organized into a congregation, choosing the name of the festive day as the name of their congregation, St. Michael Evangelical Lutheran Church. At the time of the organization there were twenty members. The first e'lders were Fritz Poppelz, John Kieschik, and Ernst Noack. A former saloon building which stood on that corner which is now the vacant lot belonging to Mrs. Eunice Karisch, was bought and arranged to serve as a house of worship and school for the next 19 years. Later two rooms were added to that building to serve as parsonage.

From the very beginning the members of St. Michael's saw to it that their children were to be thoroughly instructed not only in secular knowledge, but also firmly rooted in the Christian fundamentals and for that reason Pastor Stark as well as his successor, the Rev. L. Gresens, faithfully taught school besides their regular pastoral duties to perform. After seven years Pastor Gresens was relieved of the task of teaching in the class room, and the congregation called its first regular Christian Day School teacher, Mr. Karl Dube, who served here six years. However, even before a full time teacher was called, Pastor Gresens had to have some assistants because of the increasing number of pupils combined with the greater number of pastoral duties of a young and growing congregation.

It is told that the Rev. Buchschacher was advised, when he first went to preach here, not to spend his efforts in Winchester because it would never result in anything worth while; however, God blessed this undertaking and the little flock grew to the extent that more room was required. In the year 1893 St. Michael's purchased 15 acres of land, the present church property. This land was to be used for

church and school, parsonage and teacherage, and a cemetery. Early in March of 1906 a cornerstone was laid for a new church building, and on July 29 of the same year the new house of worship was dedicated to the glory of the Triune God. This same building is still in use by the members of St. Michael's for worship every Lord's Day.

In the same year a separate school house,

- 1) Dec. 9, 1888 to August 8, 1889, Pastor Stark
- 2) June 5, 1891 to Sept. 25, 1904, Pastor A. L. Gresens
- 3) Nov. 13, 1904 to Oct. 10, 1909, Pastor H. Hüge
- 4) Feb. 13, 1910 to Dec. 1, 1918, Pastor F. W. Siebelitz
- 5) January 1919 to April 1926, Pastor Alfred Bohot
- 6) May 2, 1926 to March 4, 1934, Pastor Erich Moebus
- 7) June 17, 1934 to Feb. 23, 1939, Pastor Louis A. Trinklein
- 8) July 30, 1939 to Aug. 24, 1947, Pastor Edward R. Rathgeber
- 9) Dec. 25, 1947 to April 22, 1951, Pastor George W. Heinemcier
- 10) Feb. 10, 1952 to Dec. 4, 1960, Pastor Walter E. Streicher
- 11) July 30, 1961 to present Pastor W. B. Gummelt

St. Michael's has given to the Lord from its membership three sons to serve the Lord in the holy ministry and two to the teaching profession. They are the Rev. Gustav A. Tschatschula, The Rev. W. Hannusch, The Rev. Hugo Hannusch, Mr. Leroy Tschatschula, and Mr. Fred T. Zoch. Besides the following children of pastors and teachers from Winchester are serving as pastors and teachers in the church. They are the Rev. Edgar Trinklein, The Rev. Charles Rathgeber, The Rev. James Heinemeier, The Rev. John Heinemeier, Mr. Roland Trinklein, Mr. Howard Schuetze, Mr. Ralph Streicher, Mrs. Lillian (Eifert) Deterling, and Mrs. Helga (Streicher) Doctor.

Under God's continuing blessing St. Michael's Lutheran Church has developed into a large and flourishing congregation of 345 souls and 272 communicants. Although St. Michael's membership has during the last several years become fewer, many of her sons and daughters living in the far-flung corners of our country have their

which today is part of the present school house, was built and dedicated on October 21, 1906. Later the present parsonage and teacherage were built, and still later the school house was remodeled and enlarged, and another teacherage was built.

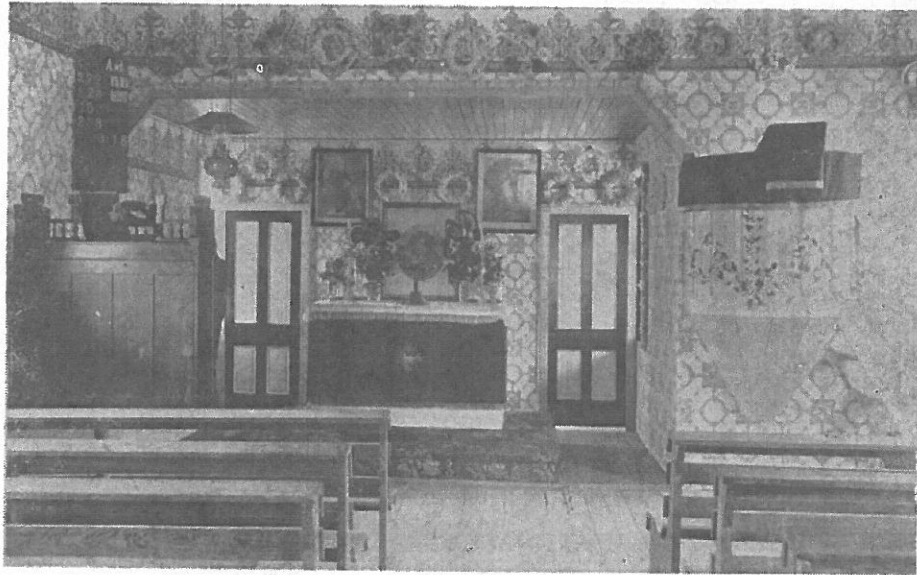
During the 75 years now passed eleven pastors have served St. Michael's. They are as follows:

roots in Winchester and owe their early education to St. Michael's Lutheran School.

St. Michael's has a complete program of Christian Education from the cradle to the grave. It has a Sunday School, organized in 1949, with an enrollment of 61 pupils, a Christian Day School, since its beginning, with an enrollment of 44 pupils, and two teachers. It cares for the spiritual needs of its youth through the Walther League with a membership of 40, and with a Junior Bible Class conducted every Sunday morning. It offers to the ladies of the congregation an opportunity to learn and to serve through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League consisting of 35 members. It offers to all who may come every Sunday morning besides the regular worship an opportunity to grow in Christian knowledge through the adult Bible Class.

Truly God has showered St. Michael's with abundant blessings; therefore, "Let us give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endureth forever."

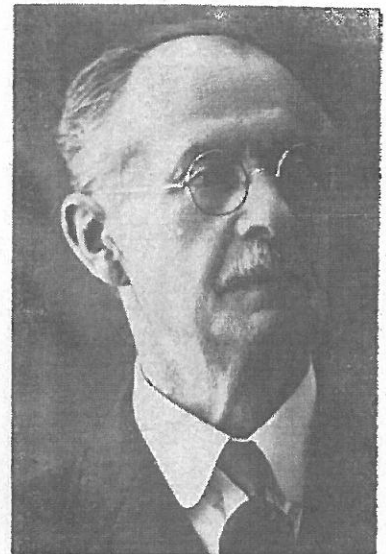
SOLI DEO GLORIA



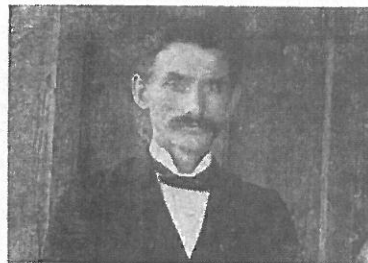
INTERIOR OF THE FIRST CHURCH



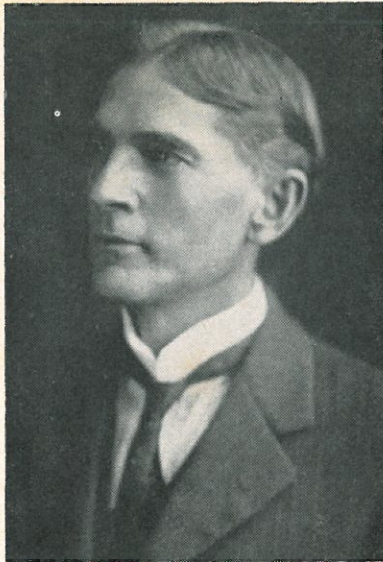
Rev. Simon Suess
Pioneer pastor who preached
for one year before the con-
gregation was organized,
1876



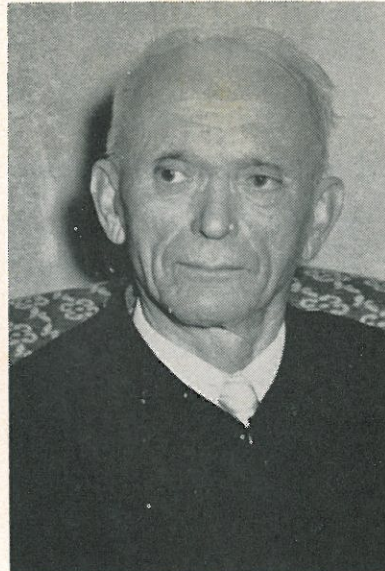
Rev. G. Buchschacher
He organized St. Michael's
in 1887



Rev. L. Gresens
Pastor, 1891-1904



Rev. F. W. Ziebelitz
Pastor, 1910-1918



Rev. Alfred Bohot
Pastor, 1919-1926



Pastor Erich Moebus
Pastor, 1926-1934



Rev. Louis Trinklein
Pastor, 1934-1939



Rev. Edward R. Rathgeber
Pastor, 1939-1947



Rev. G. W. Heinemeier
Pastor, 1947-1951



Rev. Walter Streicher
Pastor, 1952-1960



Rev. W. B. Gummelt
Pastor since 1961



THE CONGREGATION AT WORSHIP

OUR SCHOOL



From the beginning St. Michael's congregation was concerned with giving its children a Christian education through a parochial school. As soon as the first pastor arrived such a school was founded. In spite of many difficulties, our fathers maintained the school and the Lord blessed their efforts. When the enrollment reached the 100 mark and the one-room building, erected in 1906, became overcrowded, the congregation erected a branch school west of the Pin Oak Creek. This school existed for twenty-one years. When bus transportation became available, it was discontinued. Here follows a list of the workers who so faithfully taught in these schools. Those who taught in the main school are as follows:

Pastor Stark taught school in 1889.

Mr. Bernhard Kessel, 1890 as an emergency teacher.

Pastor Gresens, 1891-1896, assisted by Miss Alma Peter, 1895-1896.

Student Karl Dube, 1896-1897.

Pastor Gresens, 1897-1898, assisted by Mr. W. Vogel.

Teacher Karl Dube, 1898-1904.

Pastor Huges, 1904-1905.

Teacher Richard A. Siegel, 1905-1907.

Pastor Huges, 1907-1908, assisted by Mr. Steglich.

Teacher Theodore Preusser, 1908-1925, assisted by Rev. Alfred Bohot, 1919-1924 and Miss Adeline Schulze, 1924-1925.

Miss Bertha Lehmann, 1925-1926 as an emergency teacher.

Mr. Rudolf G. Boerger, 1926-1928.

Teacher Alwin O. Waiser, 1928-1962
Teacher Erich G. Eifert, 1936-1946 for the upper grades

Teacher Elmer Dautenhahn, 1946-1949

Teacher Martin Schuetze, 1949 to the present time as teacher for the upper grades and principal.

Since Mr. Waiser resigned at the end of the term on account of his age, Miss Lydia Puder, an undergraduate, has been engaged for the primary grades.

The teachers serving the branch school are as follows:

Vicar Martin Oberndorfer, 1915-1916

Vicar Max Kunde, 1916-1917

Vicar Alex Guebert, 1917-1918

Vicar Arno Scholz, 1918-1919

Vicar Ed Hattstaedt, 1919-1920

Miss Agnes Hielscher, 1920-1921 as an emergency teacher

Mr. Albert E. Gruetzner, 1921-1922

Teacher Albert E. Gruetzner, 1922-1927 assisted by Miss Martha Benedix, 1924-1925

Teacher Erich G. Eifert, 1927-1946.

Mr. Gruetzner, who had been a ministerial student, became a teacher by a colloquy of the Texas District in 1922. Also, Mr. Boerger prepared for that but was compelled to resign on account of ill health.

By the grace of God this school became a blessing to the congregation and to the Lutheran Church as well, for many of these children, as they went elsewhere, joined other Lutheran congregations or helped to establish new ones, like in Houston, Austin, Port Arthur, Corpus Christi, and other

places. Our fathers supported this school at great costs and we, their children, must not shun the extra burden of maintaining a parochial school. The Lord Jesus Christ,

our Great Shepherd, will surely bless also our efforts. Let us carry our school in our prayers to the throne of the Almighty for Jesus sake. Amen.



SCHOOL CHILDREN OF 1896 and 1897



SCHOOL CHILDREN
1961-1962 Term

CHILDREN'S
CHOIR

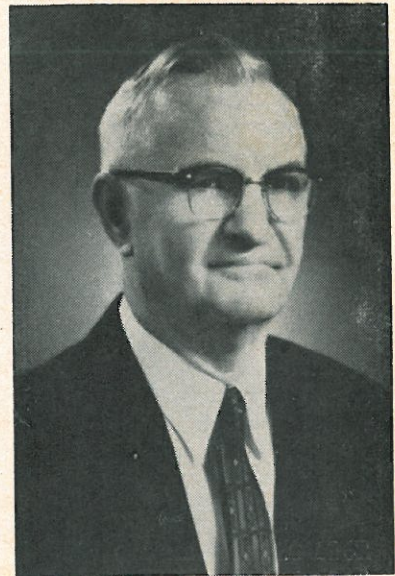




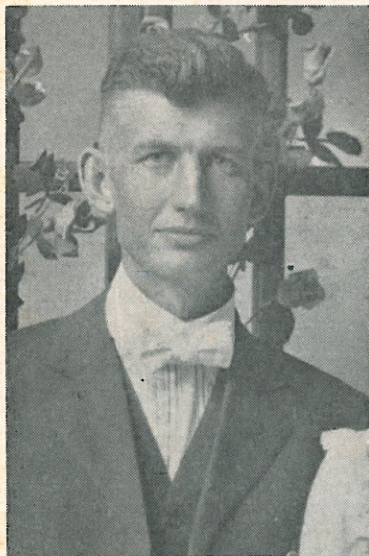
Mr. Karl Dube
Our first called teacher
1898 to 1904



Mr. Richard A. Siegel
Teacher, 1905 to 1907



Mr. Theodore Preusser
Teacher, 1908 to 1925



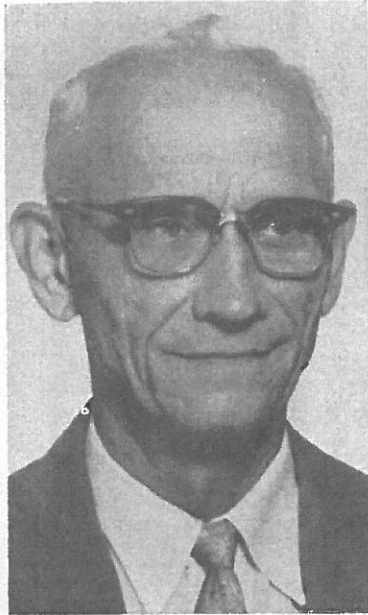
Mr. Rudolph Boerger
Teacher, 1926 to 1928



Mr. Albert E. Gruetzner
Teacher, 1922 to 1927



Mr. Erich G. Eifert
Teacher, 1927 to 1946



Mr. Alvin O. Waiser
Teacher, 1928 to 1962



Mr. Elmer Dautenhahn
Teacher, 1946 to 1949



Mr. Martin Schuetze
Teacher since 1949



Miss Lydia Puder
Teacher since 1962

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

In keeping with the Lord's command to teach the Word diligently, St. Michael's Ev. Lutheran Church saw fit to enlarge its program of Christian Education and on Nov. 6, 1949, the first Sunday School was conducted. On the Sunday of its organization we had an enrollment of 72 pupils in all departments from the kindergarten class

through the senior department. Nine teachers conducted these classes. Of these one, Mr. Alford Zech, is still serving at the present time. Our present enrollment is 82 through Junior Bible Class. We have at the present time fourteen teachers and six officers.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF



OUR JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS



OUR SENIOR BIBLE CLASS

WALTHER LEAGUE HISTORY

The forerunner of the Walther League was the Bible Class which was organized in about 1934 with Rev. Louis Trinklein as its founder. This group of young people had Bible Class in church every Sunday evening. It was conducted similarly to today's Walther League meeting excepting the group didn't belong to the International League. Some of the Bible Class activity was planting shrubbery and trees around the Church.

On April 26, 1940, the young people of

St. Michael's Church, under the leadership of Rev. E. R. Rathgebar, organized a Walther League. However, the Bible Class was continued for a number of years after the Walther League was organized. At each Walther League meeting, topics were discussed and regular business meetings were held. All the meetings were closed by praying the Lord's Prayer. For entertainment, volleyball was usually played. Various trophies were won by Talent Quest entries and

Volleyball Tournaments. The Walther League helped in the upkeep of the church property and donated money to various causes for the furtherance of Christ's kingdom. — Throughout these many years, the pastors and teachers contributed much to the wel-

fare of the Walther League. Mr. Waiser, being one of the first leaders of the Bible Class, was still very active in League work until the time of his retirement. The present League is now under the supervision of Pastor Gummelt and Teacher Schuetze.



OUR WALTHER LEAGUE

HISTORY OF THE LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid Society of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, came into being on Sunday, April 28, 1940, when 11 women of the Church met with Pastor E. R. Rathgeber in the Church.

At the first meeting the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. E. R. Rathgeber; V. Pres., Mrs. L. A. Trinklein; Secretary, Mrs. E. G. Eifert; and Treasurer, Mrs. Fred Kaiser. At this meeting, a constitution was read and adopted. In the May meeting, this constitution was signed by the 11 charter members, Mrs. Wm. Wenke, Mrs. Fred Kaiser, Mrs. Joe Pampell, Mrs. A. O. Waiser, Mrs. P. M. Hannusch, Mrs. Hy. Wehmeyer, Mrs. W. B. Kaiser, Mrs. Herm. Jentho, Mrs August Noack, Mrs. E. R. Rathgeber and Mrs. E. G. Eifert.

In compliance with the second article of the Society's constitution the Ladies Aid Society, through the years, has contributed much to the growth of St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

The ladies meet on the third Sunday of the month, and six times a year have a social in connection with their business meeting.

In July 1942 a motion was brought to the attention of the members to join the National Women's League. In October of that year, the motion was voted down. In 1943, the ladies were asked if they wished to join the L.W.M.L. At that time, they decided not to. But in 1949 they did join the L.W.M.L. and have been active since. The Winchester Society were hostesses at the Fall Zone Rally on Oct. 24, 1950, and for the Spring Zone Rally on April 28, 1959.

The first Memorial Wreath given by the Ladies Aid was purchased on July 19, 1942, in memory of Mr. Ad. Riewe, father of Mrs. A. O. Waiser. It was in the amount of \$8.00 and given to the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau.

In 1952, the amount for Memorial Wreaths was set at \$5.00; and since that

time, the society has purchased many wreaths in memory of deceased church members, and the immediate families of Ladies Aid members.

During the Second World War, the Ladies Aid made service flags with a star for each congregation member in the service. They also had an honor roll, listing their names.

In 1943 and 1944 the ladies helped make up and mail Christmas packages to St. Michael's service men overseas. They also mailed Christmas cards to men in service from 1942 to 1945.

During the war years, the Ladies Aid also did some sewing for the Red Cross.

At the annual school picnic in June 1949, the Ladies Aid had a bake sale. Every year since then, they have a bake sale at the School picnic.

In 1951 they began the practice of giving Christmas gifts to the handicapped children of the congregation.

Among some of the gifts which the society has presented to the congregation of St. Michael's are:

The Lutheran Hour sign in front of the Church — 1942; Hymnals for use in Church and for the school — 1943, 1953 & 1959; Rubber runner and floor mats for the Church — 1943 and 51; varnish to refinish school furniture — 1943; 12 folding chairs — 1943; shades for school — 1946; repaired and resilvered communion set — 1948; new linen covers made for altar — 1948 and 1954; altar rug purchased — 1950; table made for Sunday School class 1951; Bibles for use in Church — 1956; visitors registration book for Church — 1959; helped purchase choir robes for Children's Choir — 1960.

The Ladies Aid have also been in charge of serving refreshments at many congregation affairs — Pastors' and Teachers' anniversary celebrations, farewell and welcome parties; and they have also helped serve meals to the families of deceased on the day of the funerals.

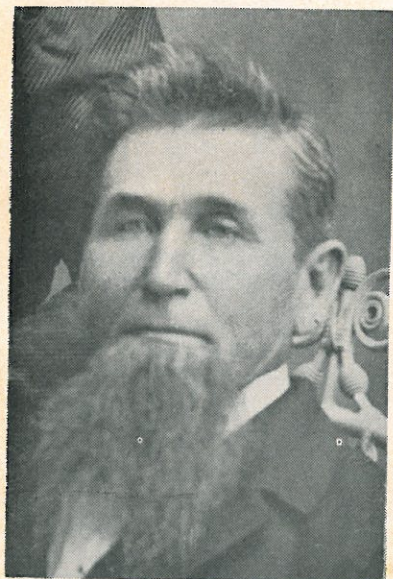
From a start of 11 members, the St. Michael's L.W.M.L. has grown to 37 members. They have been assisted by four pastors: E. R. Rathgeber, Geo. Heinemeier, Walter Streicher and W. B. Gummelt.



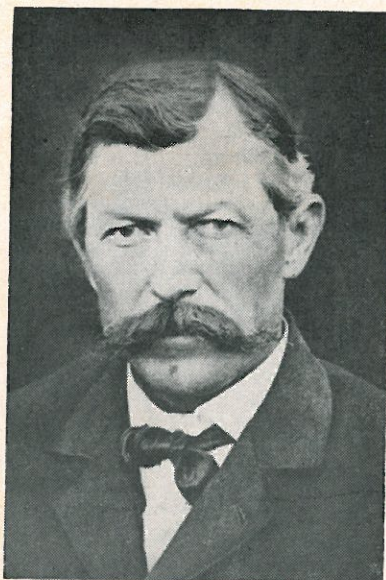
OUR LADIES AID



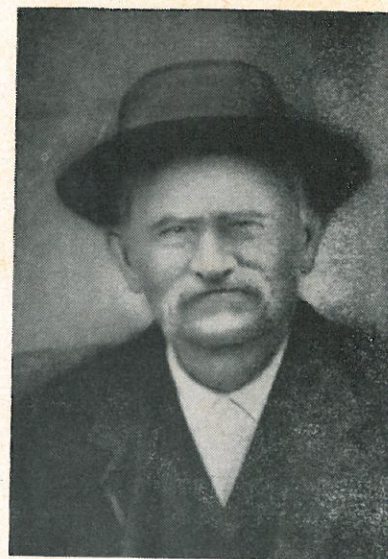
**THE LARGEST CONFIRMATION CLASS IN THE HISTORY
OF ST. MICHAEL'S, CLASS OF 1922**



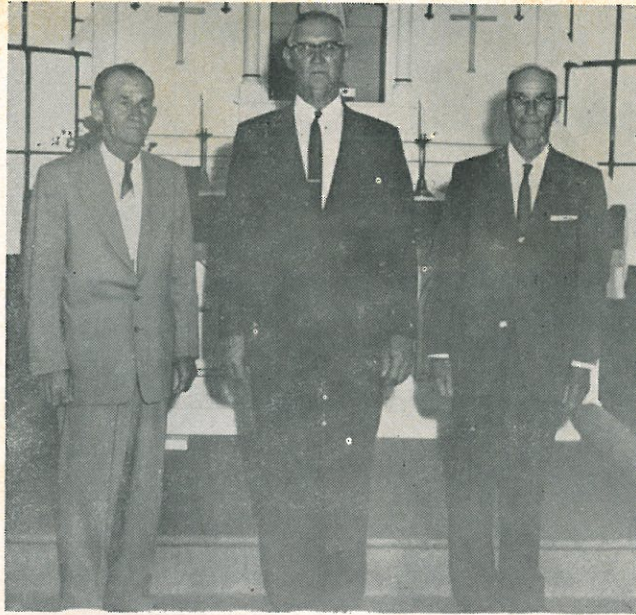
**Mr. Fritz Poppelz
First Elder of St. Michael's**



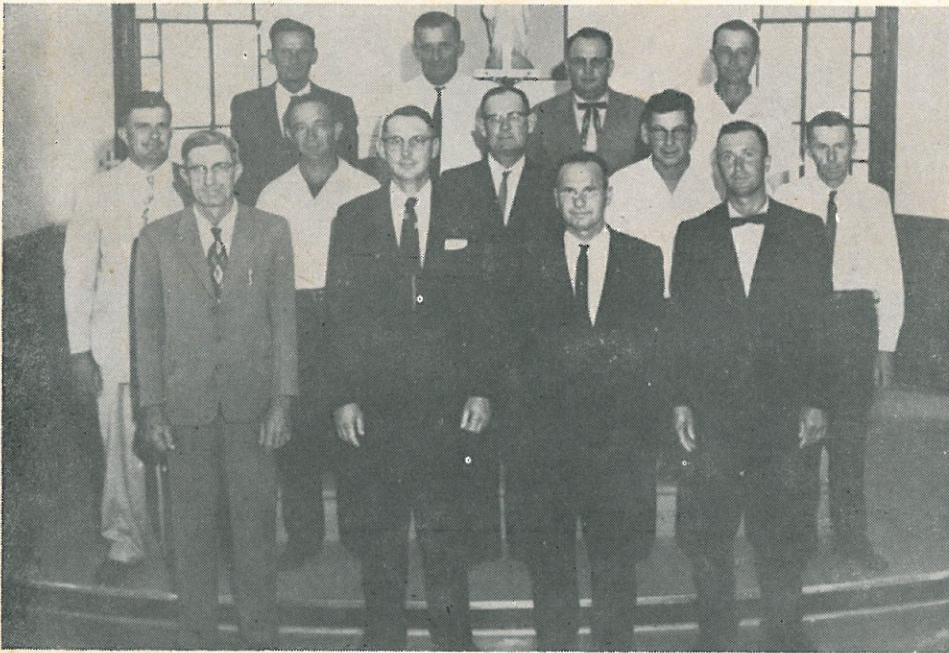
**Mr. Ernst Noack
Another first Elder
of St. Michael's**



**Mr. Moritz Benedix
First Treasurer of
St. Michael's**



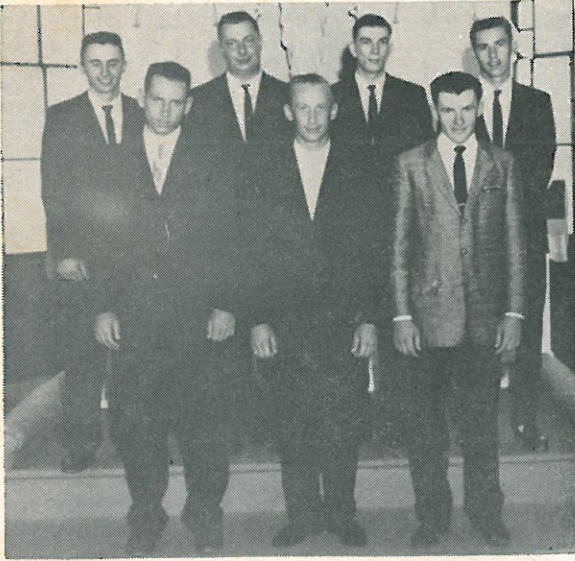
OUR PRESENT BOARD OF ELDERS



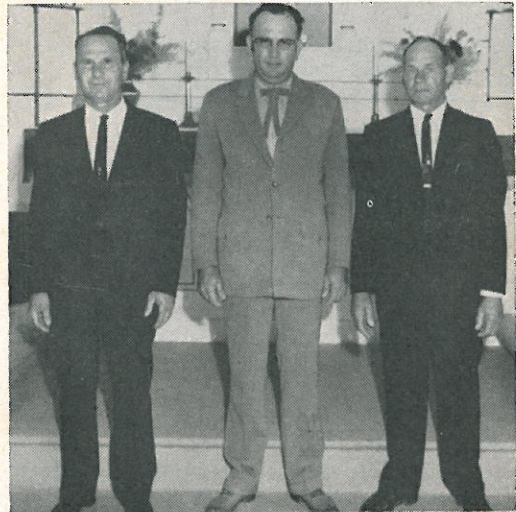
THE BOARD OF FINANCE



**Mr. Milton Pampell
Chairman of the
Board of Finance**



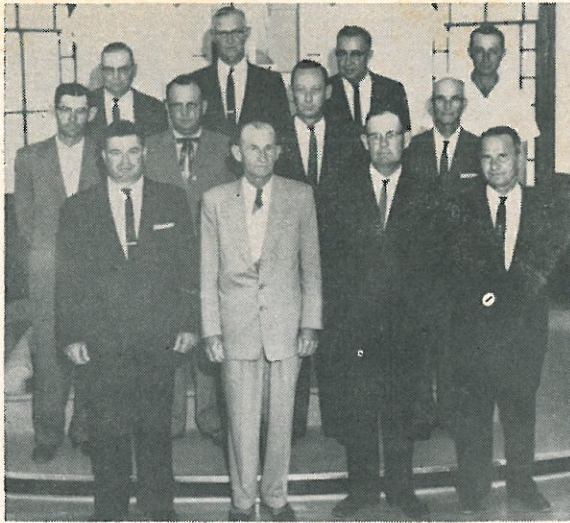
OUR STAFF OF USHERS



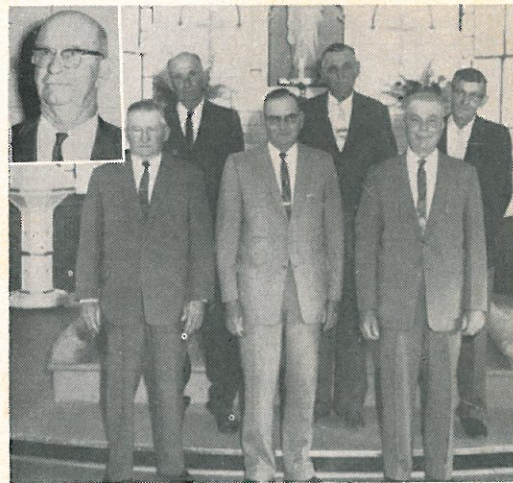
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



BOARD FOR PARISH EDUCATION



THE CHURCH COUNCIL



THE ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

All Praise to God Who Reigns Above!