

1908

St. Martin Evangelical Lutheran Church, Basehor Kansas

100th Anniversary Celebration

2008

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father— and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. John 10:14-16



Reverend Carl Hafner

1894-1907

Sometime in the mid-1890's Reverend Carl Hafner began conducting services in the Wallula Public School and Wallula Christian Church for a group of German Lutherans. In 1900 this group would number 36 and become the Wallula Mission Church. By 1907 membership was 80 and the group began discussions about forming a congregation.

1908

April 7 - Twelve men meet in the rectory of the Wallula Christian Church and formally organize St. Martin. They are: Rev. Carl Demetrio, William Baker, August Borchardt, Ernst F. Ebert, Henry Griessel, Ferdinand Hein, Frederick Knetter, Asmus Marxen, Charles F. Meyer, Charles Robker, William Robker and Oscar Yunghans.

April 1908 - Moses C. Harvey, cattleman, County Commissioner, old-time cowboy, 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and alleged bootlegger, donates an acre of land for the church to be built on and \$150 towards its construction. The members accept his donations because it's "a good deal".

April 1908 - Members decide to build a parsonage and stable as well as a church. Total cost for all three structures is \$2700; \$2199.84 is collected. Charles Robker gets a \$500 loan at 4% to pay for the buildings. Construction begins mid-May.

May 8, 1908 - The Constitution is complete and seven men sign becoming the congregation's first charter members: Rev. Carl Demetrio, August Borchardt, Ernst F. Ebert, Ferdinand Hein, Frederick Knetter, Asmus Marxen, and Charles F. Meyer. Henry Griessel will sign on October 15, becoming the eighth charter member. The Congregation is named "St. Martin Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession at Usher in Wyandotte County, Kansas."

1908 - English and German services are conducted on alternating weeks; communion is held two times a year; communion wine costs \$4.70 a case. English and German Hymnals are purchased for 35 cents each.

1908 - The Pastor is paid \$200 a year, provided a parsonage to live in, a barn for his horse, and approximately 1.5 tons of coal for the parsonage stove. Water comes from an outdoor pump.

1908 - Fred Knetter, Ferd Hein and Asmus Marxen are elected as the first Elders. Ernst Eberth is elected the first Treasurer.

October, 1908 - The parsonage is complete and the Demetrio's move in.

November 1, 1908 - The Church building is dedicated after a 2 week delay as the congregation waits for the pews to be finished.

1910 - On February 4, Pastor Demetrio dies in the church parsonage from typhoid and pneumonia. Nine days later his wife, Ida, succumbs to the same disease.

1912 - The first Sunday School is started; it is taught by Pastor G. Hafner; there are three students.

1913 - The Congregation begins taking weekly offerings for the first time. A *Klingelbeutel*, an offering bag attached to a pole, is purchased.

1913 - After Pastor G. Hafner's departure, the parsonage was rented for \$5.00 a month with three stipulations for the renter: 1. The renter was entitled to have only one horse on the property; 2. No more than four head of cattle can be kept on the property, one of which could be a milk cow, and kept in one stall of the barn; 3. The renter must vacate within 14 days notice.

1917-1918 - Because of America's entry in WWI the Congregation begins receiving threats from people in the local area. The church doors are damaged after being struck by a number of large rocks. On May 5, 1918, the members of St. Martin decided that in the best interest of the church and community to stop holding worship services in German due to the threats and actions taking place.

1918 - A *Frauenverein*, Ladies Aid Society, is organized.

1919 - German language worship services begin again; alternating with English services.

1921 - Envelopes are used for the first time to collect funds.

1925 - Pastor Juengel arrives. He is the first non-newly graduated seminarian to be called. A Lutheran Minister for over 30 years he arrives with so much household furniture it can not fit in the 672 square foot parsonage and must be stored in the attic and barn. He asks that the parsonage be expanded. The members do not approve due to cost. It will be 27 years before the parsonage is expanded

1933 - The organists are paid for the first time - whenever money is available.

1921 - St Martin's barn becomes a garage. Pastor Boehne arrives with an automobile rather than a horse.

1924 - Membership goes over 100 for the first time. By years end St. Martin has 106 souls registered as baptized members.

1927 - Pastor Juengel translates the Constitution to English.

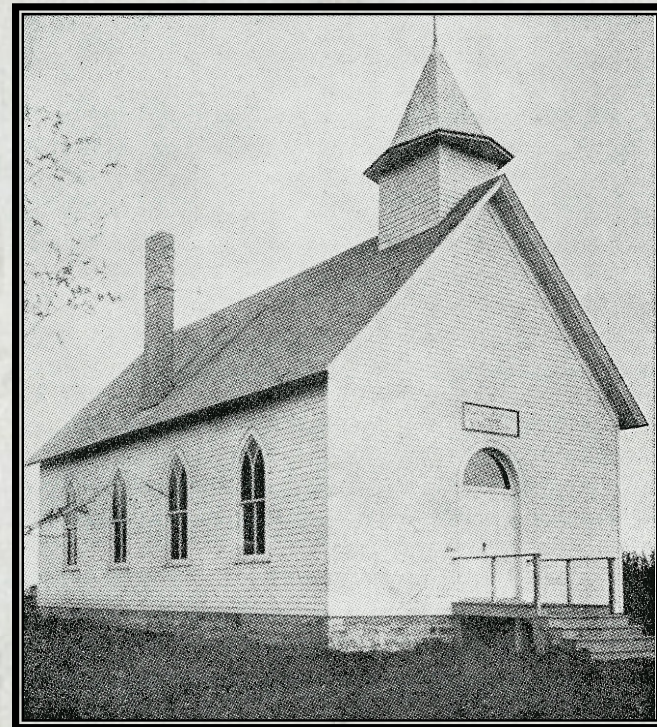
1929 - The Congregation stops conducting Sunday services in the German Language.

1925 - The parsonage gets electricity.

1926 - The Congregation Chairman (President) position is established. Edward G. Eberth Sr. is elected.

1927 - The Church gets electricity.

1928 - The barn burns down.



1931 - Pastor Miller arrives. He will be the longest serving called Pastor in St. Martin's first 100 years; 9 years, 4 months. His salary would be the same as Pastor Juengel, \$75 per month, but due to the economic depression the Kansas District would provide \$30 per month of his salary. District subsidies between \$5 and \$30 per month would continue until 1937.

August 20, 1933 - The congregation celebrates it's 25th Anniversary. The last German language service on record takes place.

1941-1944 - The church goes through some major renovations including the removal and replacement of the Alter and raised pulpit.

1935 - A Church Council is formed for the first time. It consists of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Elders, Sunday School Superintendent and the Pastor. Edward G. Eberth Sr. is elected as the congregations first Vice Chairman

1942 - The Ladies Aid joins the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML).

1942-1945 - Men and women begin sitting together in the same pew.

August 1, 1948 - The congregation celebrates it's 40th Anniversary.

1950 - Two rooms are added to the parsonage.

1951 - Pastor Berner arrives. Because he is also serving as the District's Institutional Chaplain, the District funds a major renovation of the parsonage including the addition of two more rooms.

1954 - St. Martin purchases the land the church buildings sit on.

October 1, 1958 - The congregation celebrates it's 50th Anniversary.

1960 - Membership tops 200 for the first time. The church records 203 baptized members by year end.

September 29, 1963 - The the new church building is dedicated.

1970 - Membership reached an all time high of 260 baptized members. This is the largest number of baptized members at one time in the church's 100 years.

October 10, 1974 - Over 20 members of St. Martin who disagree with the SEMINEX graduate's installation meet and form a St. Martin LCMS Church Council they elect as officers: Elders, Donald Wiehe, John Treff, and Marion Lawrence; Chairman, Robert Klinkenburg; Vice-Chairman, Edward Scheller; Treasurer, Richard Tice; and Secretary, Catherine Wiehe. They formally notify the President of St. Martin (SEMINEX) of this on October 15, and inform him they are protesting the ordination and installation because it violates Article V of St. Martin's Constitution and they would begin conducting their own services on Sunday, 27 October, at 2 p.m.

November 17, 1974 - The LCMS members find the church doors locked. The LCMS members would not agree to forfeit their property rights in accordance with the constitution.

1974 - The LCMS group begins conducting services in member homes and local facilities when available, and repeatedly ask for assistance from the District and Synod.

1980 - St. Martin takes the SEMINEX church to civil court in one final attempt to regain the church property. the congregation is represented by Eleanor Lenahan. In December, the court rules in favor of the SEMINEX church.

January 1981 - The members meet and unanimously decide to rebuild the church. Edward Eberth Jr. donates 2.3 acres of his farm, property originally owned by his grandfather Charles Roebker, an original organizer. Rev. Berner loans the congregation \$18,000. A design is approved and construction begins by February.

May 12, 1981 - The church is incorporated and registered in the State of Kansas as "St. Martin Evangelical Lutheran Church of Basehor, Kansas".

1988 - A 1,900 square foot manufactured home is purchased for \$36,460 to serve as the parsonage.

1995 - Rev. Arlin Holtz is called from retirement to serve as St. Martin's first called ordained pastor since 1974. Including the five years he served as interim pastor. Rev. Holtz served in St. Martin's pulpit longer than any other minister; over 13 years.

2007 - 99 years after the first German and English hymnals were purchased for 35 cents each, the congregation purchases the 2006 Lutheran Service Book for \$18.95 per copy - English version only.

1962 - St. Martin and St. Johns Lutheran in Easton, Kansas form a dual parish to share pastoral costs.

May 7, 1961 - An F4 tornado damages the church. Almost all the damage was repairable, but the church had been shifted off its foundation. For this reason the decision was made to demolish the church building and rebuild. When Pastor Pera checked the church he found the alter hymnal still in place, but blown open to the hymn "That Day of Wrath, That Dreadful Day".

April 1962 - A building design is approved, a contractor is hired and work begins on the new building in June. The first service in the new church was held on January 13, 1963.

1974 - Doctrinal and Theological issues within the LCMS come to a head and a schism is created within the Synod which causes the removal of the majority of professors at the St. Louis seminary. The students walk out in support of the professors and a seminary-in-exile is formed (SEMINEX). SEMINEX graduates do not become certified by the LCMS, but many are placed in vacant LCMS parishes. On May 21, St. Martin is notified that a SEMINEX student had been appointed to St. Martin. A number of members protest this appointment, but the voter's assembly approves. He is installed in September.

June 1976 - The District Board of Adjudication announces a hearing will take place on July 18, to decide property rights. The SEMINEX church meets and votes to leave the LCMS and become an independent Lutheran congregation. The constitution is amended and all references to the LCMS are removed. There is one dissenting vote. The District notifies St. Martin that it is unable to adjudicate the dispute since the SEMINEX church is no longer part of the Synod.

May 31, 1981 - The new Church building is dedicated.

1983 - St. Martin celebrates it's 75th Anniversary.

1983-1995 - The Congregation is unable to afford an ordained minister so they call lay ministers and interim pastors.

1995-2003 The church undergoes a number of renovations designed to increase space for worship, fellowship and administration.

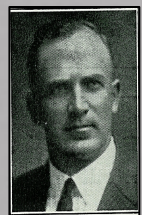
2008

June 1, St. Martin celebrates it's 100th Anniversary.

Called Pastors



Reverend Carl Demetrio 1908 - 1910



Reverend Gustav Hafner 1911 - 1913



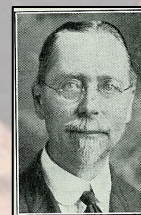
Reverend Rudolf Rook 1913 - 1915



Reverend Henry Camin 1917 - 1920



Reverend Walter Boehne 1921 - 1925



Reverend Theodor Juengel 1925 - 1929



Reverend Ray Miller 1931 - 1941



Reverend Wilson Maurer 1941 - 1945



Reverend Karl Kuebler 1947 - 1949



Reverend Edwin Berner 1951 - 1956



Reverend Victor Pera 1957 - 1962



Reverend James Nelesen 1963 - 1966



Reverend Clement Haberman 1967 - 1969



Reverend Lee Clark 1969 - 1974



Reverend Arlin Holtz 1995 - 2003



Reverend Robert Weinkauff 2007 - Today