

McLean County Museum of History

**German Evangelical United Friedens/
St. Luke Union Church Collection**

Collection Information

Volume	One box.
Dates	1893-1979
Provenance	None
Restrictions	None
Reproduction Rights	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History.
Alternative Formats	None
Other Finding Aids	See Also: Church Record Books Collection Box 4, Box 5, Box 6, Box 7, Box 8
Notes:	See Also: Library Stacks -- <i>Church Book for German Evangelical Lutheran Combined Friedens Church: Bloomington, Illinois: Baptisms, Marriages, & Burials (1884-1897), includes History of the Church, Index of Names, and Index of Places of Births;</i> IL (McLEAN) GER EV

Brief History

A group of local Germans met on 24 April 1884 in the schoolhouse of the German-American School Assn at Front & West (now Roosevelt) Streets in Bloomington. To create the German Evangelical United Friedens Church, they adopted a constitution and called A. Aronet of Dewey, IL, as pastor. Initially the schoolhouse served for meetings and worship services. In Aug 1884, they purchased a building site at Front and Lee Streets. Lacking enough funding to build a stately church edifice, they instead erected a new schoolhouse which also

would be used for worship and an upstairs parsonage. Later, in September 1902, they finally dedicated a new church building.

The Friedens Church remained independent until 1916, when it joined the Evangelical Synod of North America. In the late 1930s, despite the Depression, the congregation paid off their debts. They also discontinued use of German language.

The Evangelical Synod in North American merged with the Reformed Church in US in 1934 to become the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The resulting church merged again in 1957, this time with the Congregational Christian Church, to become the United Church of Christ.

Locally, the Friedens Evangelical Church adopted a new name and a new constitution in about the late 1940s, becoming St. Luke's Evangelical and Reformed Church.

In 1968-69, St. Luke United Church of Christ (as they were now named) purchased nearly two acres at the corner of Oakland and Mercer, intending to construct a new church edifice some day.

And, in Sept 1975, following a couple years of discussion, the St. Luke United Church of Christ merged with Union Presbyterian Church to become St. Luke Union Church of Bloomington. They moved to a new location on East Washington Street about 1976.

Scope

This collection includes newsletters, bulletins, anniversary booklets with church histories, newspaper articles, budgets and annual meeting publications, merger documents and more.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Church Newsletters (Evangelical & Reformed Church)

- 1.1 The Memorials-list of church memorials and announcements, July 25, 1948
- 1.2 Weekly bulletin/announcements, December 12, 1948

Folder 2: Church Newsletters (St. Luke UCC-The Parish Herald)

- 2.1 Planned Gifts Program, undated
- 2.2 Partial Newsletter (mentions 85th Anniversary, etc.), February 26, 1969
- 2.3 Partial Newsletter (mentions Confirmation Reunion), 1970
- 2.4 Partial Newsletter (mentions Confirmation Reunion Service), April, 1972
- 2.5 Newsletter, October, 1974
- 2.6 Newsletter, February, 1975
- 2.7 Newsletter, March, 1975
- 2.8 Newsletter, Saturday, April 6, 1975

- 2.9 Newsletter, April, 1975
- 2.10 Newsletter, June, 1975

Folder 3: Church Bulletins, 1943-1975

- 3.1 Bulletin, St. Luke United Church of Christ, undated
- 3.2 "The Weekly Bulletin"-Evangelical and Reformed Church, December 12, 1943
- 3.3 Notice of gift of Pew Bibles, December 12, 1943
- 3.4 Bulletin, St. Luke United Church of Christ, September 13, 1964
- 3.5 Bulletin, St. Luke United Church of Christ, December 2, 1973
- 3.6 Church Invitation to the 45th Anniversary of the Home Bible Class, March 17, 1974
- 3.7 Church Invitation to the 45th Anniversary of the Home Bible Class, March 17, 1974, c.2
- 3.8 Partial bulletin, Thank You from Home Bible Class members, April, 1974
- 3.9 Bulletin, St. Luke United Church of Christ, April 28, 1974
- 3.10 Combined Services Bulletin-St. Luke United Church of Christ and Union Presbyterian Church, April 6, 1975
- 3.11 Bulletin, St. Luke United Church of Christ, May 25, 1975
- 3.12 Bulletin, St. Luke United Church of Christ, June 15, 1975

Folder 4: Newspaper Articles, 1969-1975 (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 4.1 "Church Reunion Sunday," 1969
- 4.2 "St. Luke Church Observes 85th Anniversary," September 21, 1969
- 4.3 "Church Acquisition Top Property Transfer," October 26, 1969
- 4.4 "Reunion," April 26, 1970
- 4.5 "How Time Flies-25 Years Ago," June 27, 1971
- 4.6 "Church Cutback on Social Action," March 21, 1972
- 4.7 "How Time Flies-75 Years Ago," September 17, 1972
- 4.8 "How Time Flies-75 Years Ago," September 30, 1973
- 4.9 "Chicago Minister to Take Post Here," October 28, 1973
- 4.10 "Church Sets Installation of Pastor," December 2, 1973
- 4.11 "New Pastor," undated
- 4.12 "How Time Flies, 75 Years Ago," April 13, 1974
- 4.13 "How Time Flies, 75 Years Ago," March 20, 1975
- 4.14 "Coming "ALIVE" in '75," *The Illinois Conference NEWS*, June 1, 1975
- 4.15 "2 Twin Cities Churches to Vote on Merger," ?June, 1975
- 4.16 "Merger-Two churchs' [sic] Members Vote to Approve Combining," ?June, 1975
- 4.17 "Churches Join," September 14, 1975
- 4.18 "How Time Flies-25 Years Ago," June 6, 1974
- 4.19 "Controversy Yields to Condos," January 14, 1979
- 4.20 "How Time Flies-25 Years Ago," May 23, 1979
- 4.21 "How Time Flies-75 Years Ago," May 28, 1979

Folder 5: Church History

- 5.1 Typed Copy of "The German Evangelical Lutheran United Friedens Church In Bloomington, Illinois," from Bloomington's Germans in Word and Picture, Volume One; By Julius Dietrich, Editor, July, 1893. (Says copy is written by Pastor Suter.)

- 5.2 Photocopy of article titled "Church of Peace History is Twenty Years Old" from the Daily Bulletin, May 30, 1904.
- 5.3 Booklet: Souvenir and Program for 20th Anniversary, 1904. In German. 64 pp.
- 5.3 Bulletin reprint of an article which appeared in The Daily Bulletin, April 25, 1909. (Marking the 25th Anniversary of The Church of Peace.)
- 5.4 Booklet for the 70th Anniversary of St. Luke's Evangelical and Reformed Church, September 26, 1954.
- 5.5 Booklet for the 75th Anniversary of St. Luke Evangelical and Reformed Church, September 20, 1959. 3 copies.
- 5.6 Constitution and By-Laws for St. Luke United Church of Christ Evangelical and Reformed, September 13, 1964.

Folder 6: Pastoral Letters

- 6.1 "Notcie (sic) of Special Congregational Meeting," September 24, 1969.
- 6.2 Reminder of the Annual Confirmation Reunion Day, 1970
- 6.3 Resignation Letter from Pastor Joseph C. Cronenberg, April 10, 1973
- 6.4 Letter from the President of the Board addressing the resignation of the pastor, etc., May 1, 1973.
- 6.5 Letter from the President of the Board updating congregation on the Pulpit Committee, May 19, 1973.
- 6.6 Notice of Special Congregational Meeting to choose new pastor, July 25, 1973.
- 6.7 Letter regarding Capital Fund Drive, September 12, 1974.

Folder 7: Church Financial Business

- 7.1 Annual Report, 1967
- 7.2 Annual Report, 1968
- 7.3 A Special Study Report, October, 1968
- 7.4 Proposed Budget, January 12, 1969
- 7.5 Financial Summery for January-June, 1969 (includes information from Home Bible Class)
- 7.6 Annual Report, 1969
- 7.7 Board of Christian Education Report for 1970
- 7.8 Six Month Financial Report (January-June) 1970
- 7.9 Annual Meeting and Annual Financial Report, January 17, 1971
- 7.10 Proposed Budget, 1971
- 7.11 Annual Meeting, January 16, 1972
- 7.12 Annual Meeting, January 21, 1973
- 7.13 Letter regarding general funds, mission funds, and capital funds for 1973, May 18, 1973
- 7.14 Annual Congregational Meeting, January 20, 1974
- 7.15 Financial Secretary-Comparative Report of Giving, January 1, 1974-June 30, 1974 (compared to January 1, 1973-June 30, 1973.)
- 7.16 Financial Secretary and Treasurer's Report, First Quarter, 1974
- 7.17 Financial Secretary's Report, Summary for 1974
- 7.18 Annual Congregational Meeting, January 19, 1975, c.1
- 7.19 Annual Congregational Meeting, January 19, 1975, c.2

7.20 Financial Statement for the Month of Jan 1976 for Miss Elsa Schilling.

Folder 8: Church Merger Business

- 8.1 Annual Congregational Meeting, January 19, 1975
- 8.2 A Pastoral Letter to the members and Friends of St. Luke United Church of Christ, February 10, 1975, c.1.
- 8.3 A Pastoral Letter to the members and Friends of St. Luke United Church of Christ, February 10, 1975, c. 2.
- 8.4 Background Paper Regarding the merger Talks with Union Presbyterian Church, undated
- 8.5 Letter regarding Plan of Union with Union Presbyterian Church, May 6, 1975
- 8.6 Notice: vote authorizing the preparation of a Plan of Union, May 4, 1975.
- 8.7 Letter advising of PLAN OF UNION, CONSITUTION, and other papers, May 13, 1975 (papers referred to not included)
- 8.8 Merger Study update and vote proxy, May 26, 1975.
- 8.9 Proxy request from Robert Scott, President of the Church Board, St. Luke United Church of Christ and typed "no" vote, unsigned.

Folder 9: Church Membership Lists

- 9.1 Partial church membership lists "Ws-Ys," undated
- 9.2 Bible Class Membership, 1929-1974 (includes Fete Charter members list, dated April 11, 1974-notice from newspaper attached to membership list)
- 9.3 St. Luke United Church of Christ, Bloomington, Illinois, Church Directory, 1973.
- 9.4 St. Luke United Church of Christ, Church Directory, June 3, 1974.

Folder 10: Misc.

- 10.1 "A Woman's Conversation with God"---by Marjorie Holmes, not dated
- 10.2 Letter from Miss Lydia H. Suter, Columbus, Ohio, not dated
- 10.3 Newsletter in German, January 30 1955. pp 7-10 only.
- 10.4 "In Quest of Unity," by Marshall J. Leggett, January 8, 1966
- 10.5 Letters to "Elsa," dated January 30, 1969 and March 1, 1969 from "Lydia" and postcard to Elsa Schilling, 1956.
- 10.6 St. Luke Church 85th Anniversary Banquet Program, September 26, 1969.
- 10.7 St. Luke Church 85th Anniversary 1969 Table favor.
- 10.8 Martha Circle Notice, 1969
- 10.9 Expanding Horizons-The Illinois Conference News, Volume 8, No. 1, Summer, 1971.
- 10.10 Typed list of confirmation class members, March 20, 1910. Probably related to a photo?

Folder 11: Home Bible Class of St. Luke United Church

- 11.1 Home Bible class of St. Luke United Church of Christ, 45th Anniversary Program, April 11, 1974.
- 11.2 Minutes for the Home Bible Class meeting submitted by Elsa E. Schilling, Secretary, April 11, 1974.
- 11.3 Invitation letter for 45th Anniversary, March 17, 1974. 2 versions.

- 11.4 “The Story of the Church – German Heritage”: 3 notecards with typed info for 45th anniversary
- 11.5 TS of original poem written by Mrs. Mary Cowan for the 25th anniversary of the Home Bible class. 2 copies, nd.
- 11.6 Typed member list, nd.
- 11.7 Bible class prayer, 2 copies, nd.

Folder 12: St. Luke Union Church

*Note: Affiliated with **both** United Church of Christ and Presbyterian Church USA.*

- 12.1 Brochure, nd. 2 copies.
- 12.2 Photocopy of church directory, May 2013. 10 sheets.
- 12.3 Postcard, 2021.
- 12.4 Flier for Christmas Dinner plus other holiday activities, Dec 2022.