

## The Building of the New Church

In St. Paul's 1952 Annual Report, Pastor Salstrom described where the church stood in its goal of the \$68,000 needed before ground-breaking for the new church could begin. They had \$22,000 cash on hand, stocks worth \$16,000, government bonds worth \$2,000, and \$4,500 spent to date on construction plans and specifications. To accomplish their goal, temporary loans from the Mission board and the Cheltenham National Bank and Equitable Reserve Association of Neenah, Wisconsin were obtained.

### Ground-Breaking Service



On Sunday, June 28, 1953, at the 4:00 p.m. ground-breaking service, ceremonies began with Pastor Salstrom and former Pastor Wesley Gallup leading the choirs and council members processing from the little white church to the new site at 824 N. Lewis Avenue. Actual construction didn't begin until late 1953.



Pastors Salstrom and Gallup turn the first shovel at the ground-breaking service.

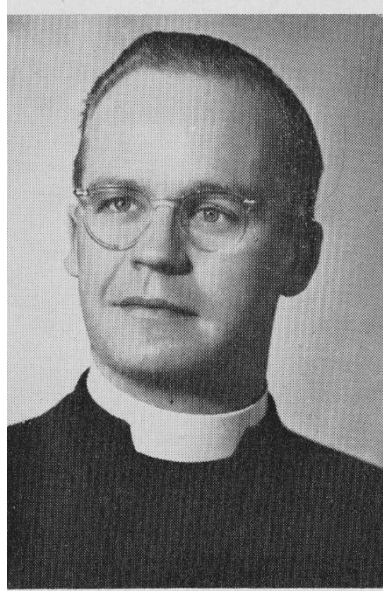


Participants in Ground Breaking were Pastor Alden Salstrom, Pastor Wesley Gallup, William Seidemann, Herbert Seyring, Albert Gudmestad, Dr. Rudolph Ewig, Frank Jelava, Robin Aeschlimann, Henry Roberts, Rowland Kilburn, Joseph Schneider, George Perl, Marvin Fasse, Fred Graf, J. D. Murray, H. D. Olson, Robert Bousson, Richard Dixon, Merl Peterson, and Fred Reckling.

**Members of the New Church Building Committee**



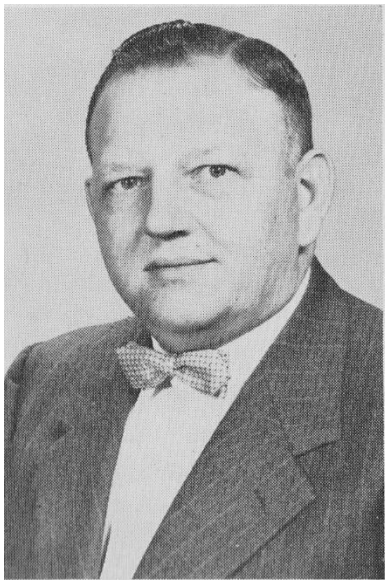
**Herbert Seyring**



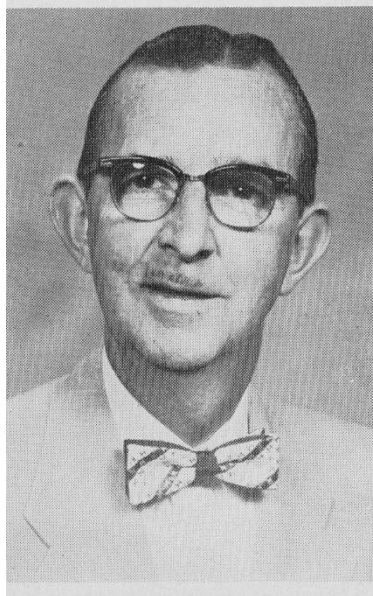
**Pastor Alden Salstrom**



**Jens Otteson**



**Marvin H. Fasse**



**Henry Roberts**



**Albert Gudmestad**

The men on the New Church Building Committee worked with the local supervising architects, Ekstrand, Schad and West, and the designing architect, T. Norman Mansell, of Philadelphia. An estimated cost to build the new church was \$176,000. At the time, St. Paul's lacked the required \$20,000 to build a basement under the Nave. At the start, two major decisions helped enhance the present beauty of the building. First, to move the entrance 10 feet west in line with the houses to the south; this really became apparent when Lewis Avenue was widened from two to four lanes. Second, to raise the floor level 18 inches which later facilitated installation of sewer drainage from the washrooms.

## **Financing**

Permanent financing for construction was as follows: The first mortgage was obtained from the Equitable Reserve Association of Neenah, Wisconsin totaling \$48,000 at 5% for 15 years, payable monthly; and five other mortgages totaling \$40,650 was obtained from the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church, to be spread in repayment over some twenty-four years, with interest rates that figure out at about 2%. An additional amount of some \$52,500 was represented in the initial church escrow account (bills paid to date and cash on hand) meant that the difference between the estimated cost of the New Church, \$176,000, and the sum of these amounts, \$141,750, of about \$25,000 was to be derived from pledges paid over the next eighteen months.

## **Cornerstone Laying Service**

The cornerstone Laying Service was held in the afternoon ceremonies of May 16, 1954. All the choirs as well as the membership of the church participated. Dr. Arthur M. Knudson, Divisional Director of the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church, was the featured speaker. Dr. Samuel L. Keller placed a copper box containing memorable items at the site of the cornerstone.



The list of items includes a Bible, a Common Service Book, Luther's Small Catechism, and copies of the following: the constitution of the Untied Lutheran Church, the constitution of the Illinois Synod of the United Lutheran Church, the constitution of St. Paul's church, a United Lutheran Church year book for 1954, and the minutes of the Illinois Synod, UCA, for 1954.

Also included were The Lutheran, a church publication of the United Lutheran Church; the Gleaner, the Synodical monthly publication; and the Advocate, the congregation's monthly publication. On the cover of the Advocate was a picture of the new church. In addition, were schedules of meetings of services and organizations, a listing of organizations and their officers, a history of the congregation, and a letter to those who someday may open the box behind the cornerstone.

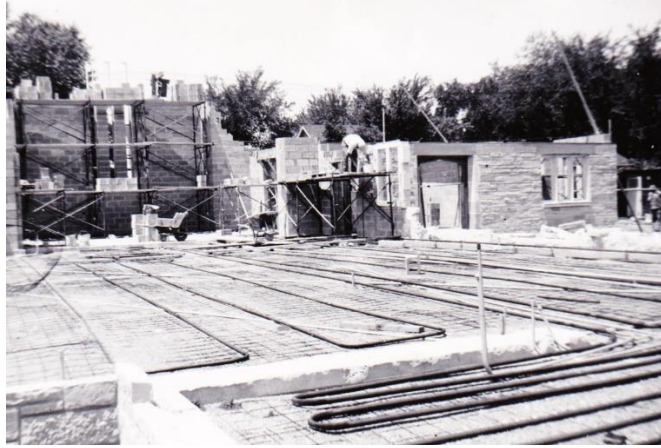
Also, added to the box were several Sunday bulletins of services, a Church calendar, Sunday School materials, a copy of Saturday's Waukegan News-Sun, pennies dated 1930, the year of the congregation's organizations, a program of the service of ground breaking, and a program of this service.

A picture of the present church, a picture of the former parsonage, a picture of the new parsonage, a picture of the service of ground-breaking, a listing of the Cradle Roll, the signatures on small crosses of all the members of the Sunday School, the roll of the membership of the church, a roll of the charter members of the congregation, a list of all those who have contributed to the new church up to the present time, and a list of the architects and contractors participating in this new church building were also placed in the box.

### **Construction**

In November 1954, Pastor Salstrom described how far our New Church building had progressed! "The area excavated for basement purposes is at the western extremity of the property, beneath the chancel, sacristy, office, and foyer of the church. In this basement area will be housed men's and women's washrooms, the heating unit for the entire church, seven storage closets, and two fairly good-sized meeting rooms, which may be used as choir rooms, as well as Sunday school class rooms. Not only outside walls, but also inside walls are up now, window glass is in; and it is expected that heat, radiant heat embedded in the concrete floor will be turned on later this week.

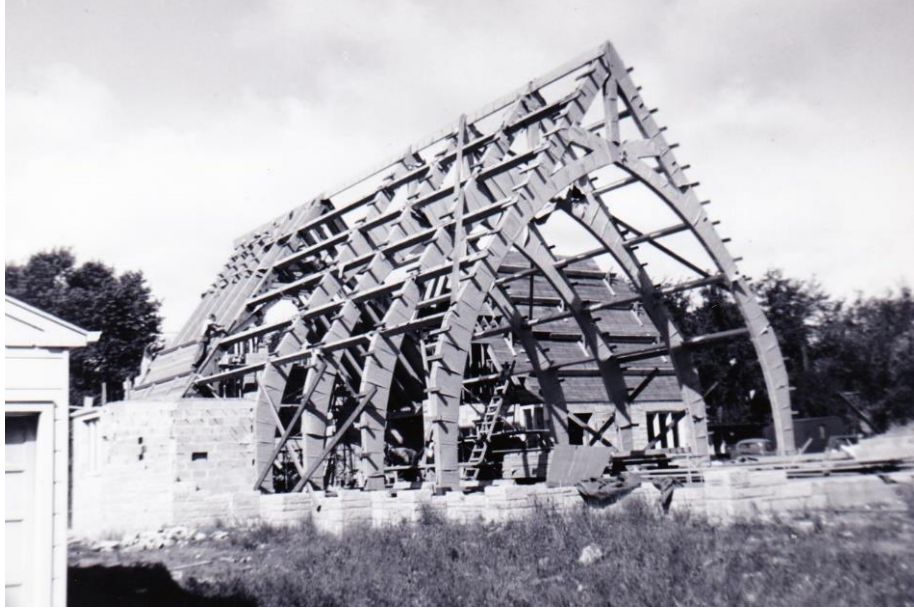




On the first floor, the room at the north, to be used for office space, is enclosed, with the exception of the windows. The floor throughout the first floor is cement. Such walls as are to be, have all been erected. A side door opening into the foyer leads on the south into the church proper, on the west into the stairways both up and down and into the sacristy (where altar supplies will be stored), and on the north to the north wall of the wing.



In the church proper, exposed laminated trusses arch in their places. Most of the purlins, cross members, are in place. The roof-deck, to be exposed inside the church, is in place above the chancel. Chancel, narthex, and front walls are about ninety-nine percent complete; and radiant heating in the church floor and narthex floor, too, will be turned on late this week.



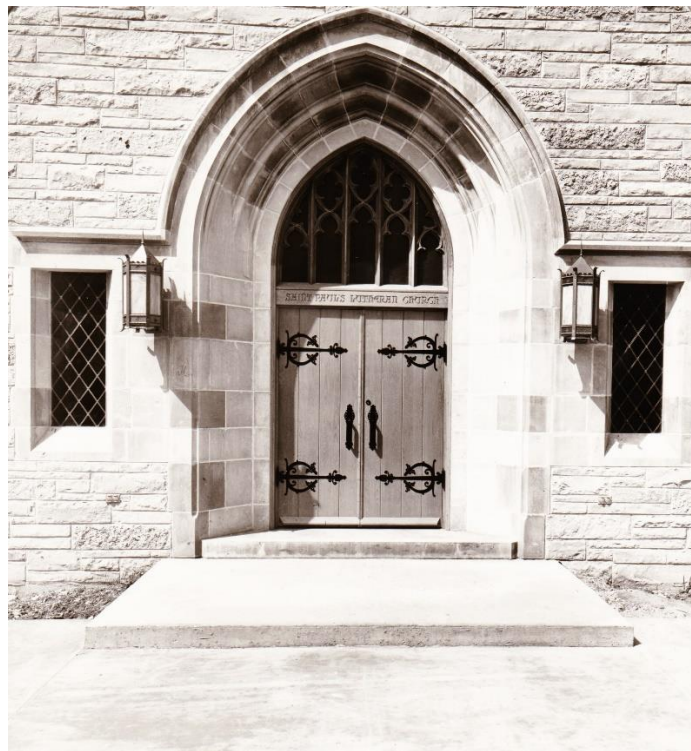
The second floor has roof deck above it; and it is about as complete as it is going to be for entry into the building. Water and heat sources are stubbed in to the second floor.



Outside one sees the stonework about ninety-five per cent complete. Rising above the chancel roof deck about thirty feet, half the planned distance, is the scaffolding for the sixty-foot steeple. Ornate Indiana limestone work adds another distinctive note. One of Waukegan's most beautiful churches becomes more and more a reality day by day.



The new church of modern Gothic design with a lannon stone exterior was soon ready for its first service. Considerable work still remained to be done in office, basement and second floor rooms; but the narthex, nave, chancel and foyer were almost complete. The beautiful front entrance was done in Gothic design of oak and leaded glass.



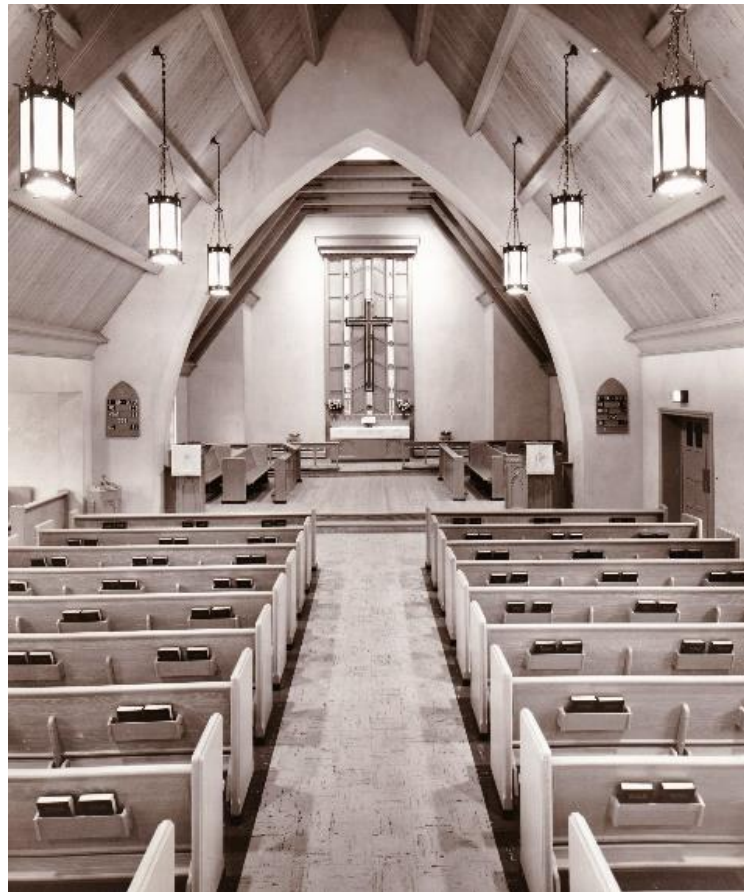
The interior reveals the consistent plan of the architect. Graceful scissor-like trusses of red fir rise from the asphalt tiled floor (with its imbedded radiant heat) to the thirty-foot ridge



of the blond wood ceiling. Twelve 32-inch lanterns of Gothic design are wrought of Swedish iron, equipped to adequately light every portion of the nave and be dimmed with rheostat controls. Forty-three Cushion-Eze pews were installed with matching cushioned kneelers. A baptistery located adjacent to the nave of the church brought nave seating to two hundred thirty, and a total of two hundred seventy with chancel choir seating.

Chancel furniture, provided by the pew manufactures, is of matching red oak and design with pews and other wooden portions of the church. The recessed organ console at the Northside of the chancel includes controls for the chancel. Maas Cathedral Chimes, electronically equipped to be transmitted through four speakers installed in the spire, as well as within the church.

Focal point of the entire church is a beautifully carved seven-foot red oak altar, the paraments of which follow the church year. Rising above it are three bands of stained glass, blue and red, each fifteen feet high, six inches wide, set in a red oak reredos, and an eight-foot reredos cross of wood, burnished brass and wrought iron placed against the reredos.



## St. Paul's Has a New Home

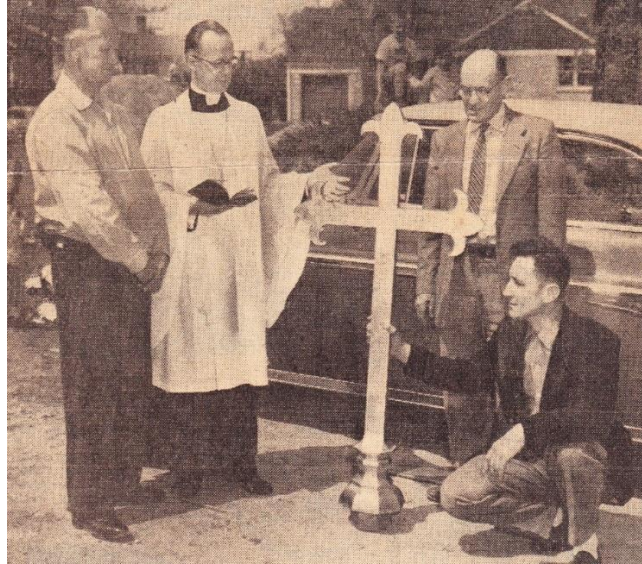
Insert picture of 1955 church

With the construction of the new church near completion, the first service in the new building was held on Palm Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1955 with Margaret Sneesby unlocking the door and leading the Sunday School children into the Sanctuary. The Maundy Thursday Communion service held on April 7<sup>th</sup> was the largest in the history of the congregation with 242 communicants.



### Steeple and Cross

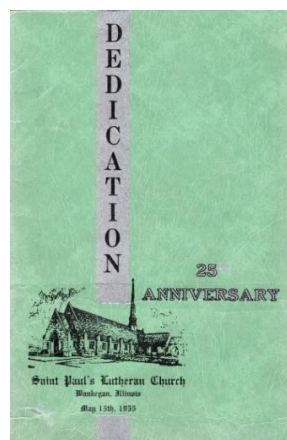
The sixty-foot steeple, steel framed and copper sheathed, rose ninety feet above the ground. On May 1, 1955, the foot high, 300 pound, Gold-Leafed bronze cross, was erected atop the new St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 2 p.m. Inside of it is four speakers to serve in amplifying those Maas Cathedral Chimes purchased some years back. Just prior to the lifting into place, Pastor Salstrom held services and blessed the cross. The steeple and cross were the work of one man, Mr. Al Kraus of Kraus Sheet Metal of North Chicago. The total cost of the steeple and cross was \$11,800. The cross alone was approximately \$1,000.



From left to right are Herbert Seyring, building chairman, Pastor Salstrom, And cross builders Joseph Krause, Sr. and Walter Krause.

## Dedication of New Church

Dedication of the new church was held on May 15, 1955; the same day of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its organization as a congregation. The Dedication Committee compiled material for a book to be distributed during the services of Dedication. The book gave high-lights in St. Paul's history, facts and description of the new church architecture and appointments. Also, equally important they provided a complete list of all Memorial Gifts, with donors' names.



Dr. H. J. McGuire, President of the Illinois Synod, officiated at the 4 p.m. New Church Dedication Service. Following the service, a buffet supper served by the Lydia Aid, was held at Whittier School.

## **Pastor Salstrom's Pastoral Message on May 15, 1955**

The New Church we humbly and reverently dedicate upon the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of this congregation's organization is the fulfilment of dreams and labors of a long, long roll of devout followers of Christ. Some have been called to a heavenly home, some have moved away from us, some remain active in this new building. Fool's folly would be any effort to name them. Pastors and laymen and women and children have given sacrificially, labored faithfully, side by side. Upon twenty-five years of past effort ours has been the unmerited privilege of setting the capstone, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year of our Lord, 1955.

"We thank Thee the Thou has enabled us to build this House to thy praise; and we beseech Thee, accept the labors of our hands to Thy glory; and grant that in this holy and beautiful House we and our children may know Thee truly, love Thee purely, and worship Thee sincerely; through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. – Amen."

### **Memorial Gifts**

New Church Memorial Gifts were dedicated at services the next Sunday morning with Dr. Armin George Weng, president of the Chicago Lutheran Seminary, Maywood, preaching at both service. The following week, our new audio system connected to our chimes and organ were dedicated with an organ recital held in the afternoon by a staff concert organist, Mr. Steven Baranoski, from Lyon and Healy, Incorporated.

Some of the gifts that were dedicated are listed below:

Steeple and Cross – The price complete for steeple and cross was \$11,800. The cross alone was approximately \$1,000.

Audio System – The Maas Cathedral Chimes was adapted for broadcasting from the steeple, as well as within the church. It included an amplification system for the chimes and for the organ, as well as a public address system and recordings. It also included the installation of speakers to face north, east, south and west, mounted behind louvered steeple sections. Price was \$1,500.

Altar – The altar, seven feet long, carved with attractive simplicity. Cost \$150.

Pulpit and Lectern – The pulpit and matching Lectern, magnificently done to harmonize with the Altar. The pulpit cost \$375 and the lectern, \$150.

43 Pews – These pews for the nave, baptistery, and chancel choir, of red oak with Gothic design, and equipped with Cushion-Eze seating. Each at \$140 for a total price of \$6,020.



Baptismal Font – The font selected to match the altar, pulpit, and lectern to be set between the choir and baptistery. Price was \$135.

Two Communion Chairs – The chairs were set behind the chancel arch, to provide seating for the clergy. Each at \$50. The total price was \$100.

The Reredos Cross – Placed against the reredos, above the altar, this eight-foot cross of wood, burnished brass, and wrought iron, was designed by T. Norman Mansell, the designing architect. The price was \$50.

### **Church Attendance Expanded**

In spite of the expanded seating capacity of the Church, attendances required the addition of a third Sunday Service at 8 a.m. to begin in February, 1956. From the beginning of 1952 to the end of 1955, church attendance increased from 357 to 644. Sunday School was held in the crowded area downstairs, underneath the northern wing of the church and chancel, were two large classrooms. By November 1956, the overcrowded conditions in many of the departments of the Sunday School compelled St. Paul's to install a second Sunday school session each Sunday, separately staffed, the first at 9:30 and the second at 11:00 a.m.



The church was built at a cost of \$180,000. Generous memorial gifts enabled the total cost to be paid off in eight years. The original mortgage was for twenty-four years.

## **Noteworthy Trivia**

When Lewis Avenue expanded from two to four lanes in the Fall of 1963, the grade line on Lewis dropped 5 inches. On October 3, 1963, council approved to build a new arrangement of walks in front of the church as presented by architect, Mr. West.

In December, 1963, the Educational Unit Committee began to consider whether to tear down and restore the site of the Parish house (Old Church). The city tore down the Old Church in the week of May 7, 1964.