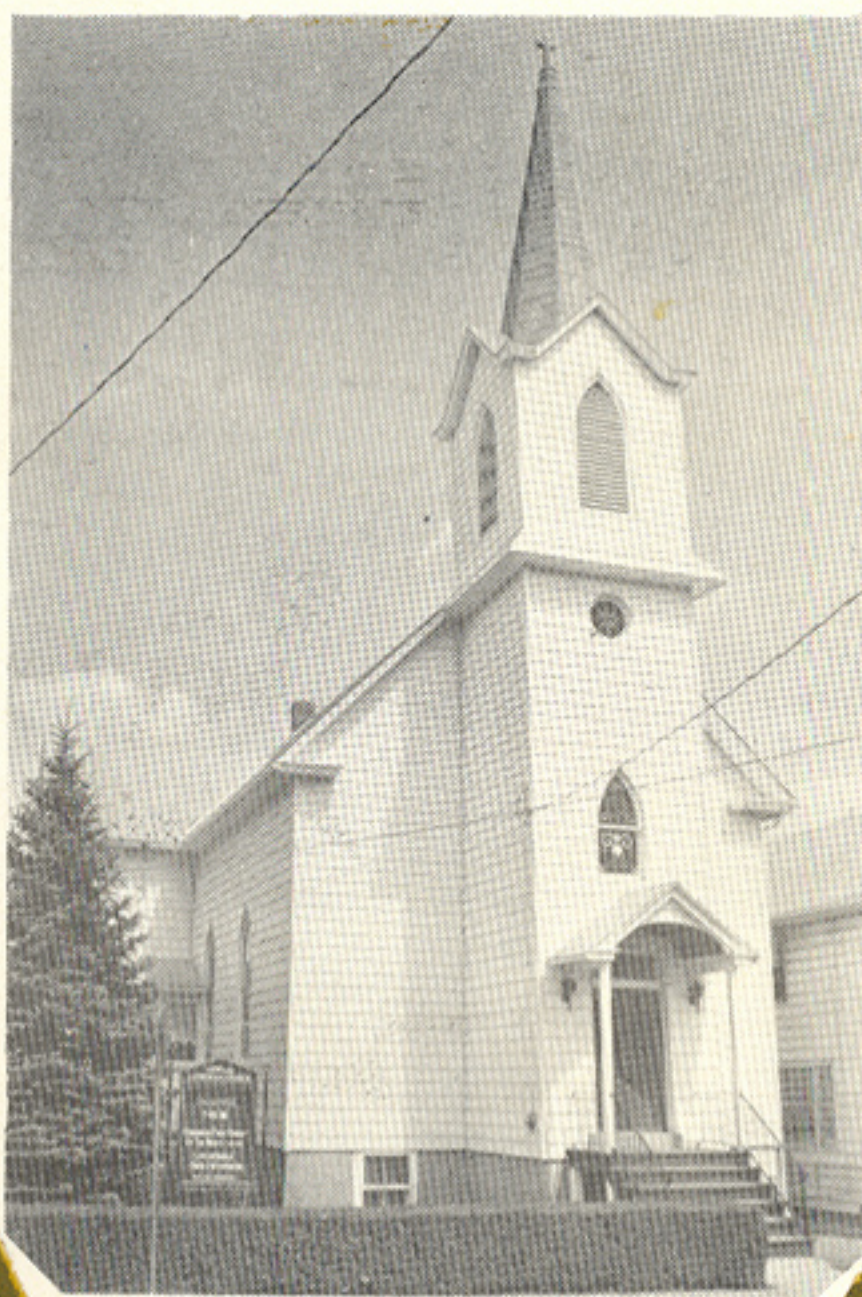


# OUR 100th ANNIVERSARY

1883

1983



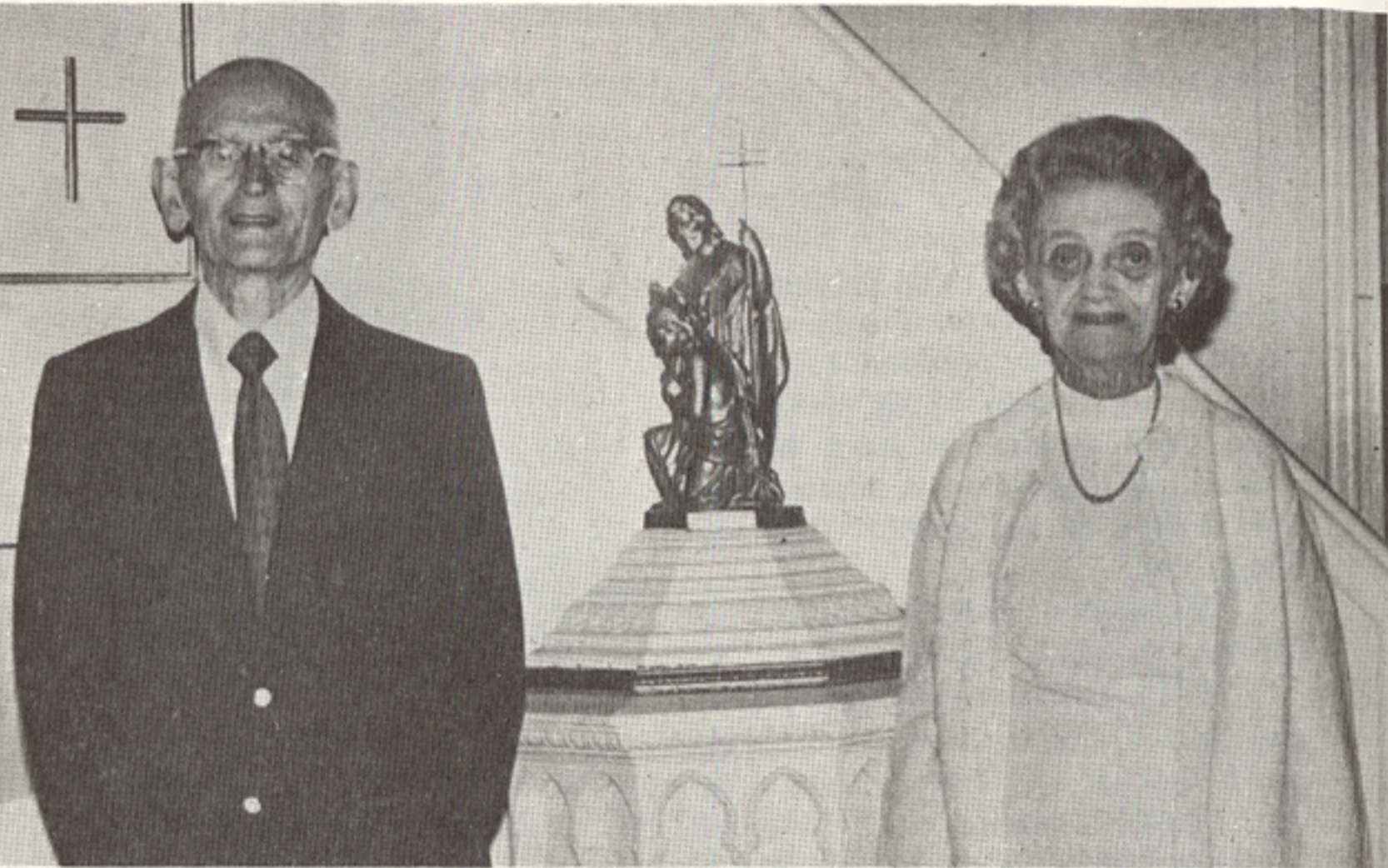
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Freeland, Pennsylvania

September 25, 1983



# DEDICATION



GEORGE KLEITZ

ANNA DUNA

This Anniversary Booklet is dedicated to the Glory of God, and to honor two of our faithful members. God's blessings upon you both and your families.

George Kleitz was born February 8, 1902 in Freeland. He was baptized, confirmed, and married at Ss. Peter and Paul. Over the years he worked for Jeddo-Highland Coal Co., Lehigh Valley Coal Co., and at the White Haven State School. While with Lehigh Valley, George worked as an electrician, and later used this same talent to do major electrical installations in our present church building. He served as sexton at Ss. Peter and Paul for about 40 years and was a caretaker of the Parish Cemetery for many years. He retired from the State School in 1969, but continued to serve as sexton until 1981. He and his wife the former Margaret Adomchick, continue as faithful members of the congregation.

Anna (nee Antolick) Duna was born April 8, 1904 in Eckley, Pa. She was baptized, confirmed, and married at Ss. Peter and Paul. Before her marriage in 1928 to John Duna, she worked for the Eckley General Store and Post Office. Although she had some lessons on the piano, Anna is a largely self-taught musician. She started playing an old foot-pump organ at Ss. Peter and Paul when only 16. At the same age she also joined the church choir, of which she is still a member. Anna is past-president and past-secretary of the Lutheran Church Women and taught Sunday School. During the pastorate of the Rev. Paul Faska, she also played the organ at Ss. Peter and Paul, Hazleton. Anna retired from playing the organ in 1980, but she and John continue as faithful members of the congregation.



## In Memorial To Our Founder Mr. Michael Zemany

This our forerunner is one of the first immigrants to America and the town of Freeland, Pa. Many Slovaks are greatly pleased that they have him among them. He is Mr. Michael Zemany, who was born June 11, 1849. He just celebrated his 81st birthday. (1930). His birthplace, where he first saw the light of the world, is Kucina, in the county of Sarisckej, where he was married to Anna Koscelnik, in 1872. He traveled to America in February, 1873. At first he settled in Mahanoy City, Pa., then moved to Upper Lehigh in 1877 and in 1880 came to Freeland and lived here from that time. For many years he worked in the coal mines and then lived in retirement as an old widower.

In the state of matrimony in which they lived through bitter and blessed times, the Lord blessed them with (7) seven children of whom one (1) died. The others have lived themselves to blessed ages and they were: Andrew, Anna, Michael, Karol, George, William, and Maria, who is married to Rev. Diavisha, pastor in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Zemany was a member of the National Slovak Society Union and a communicant at Ss. Peter and Paul's Slovak Evangelical Church, Freeland, Pa.

He was the founder, as of the National Slovak Society and the congregation of Ss. Peter and Paul's Church.

This honored age of 81 years in the year 1930, brings our dear old man happiness especially when he can still take a brisk walk and take pleasure in nature and oversee his property.

God granted him many summers among us.

(This is a translation from an article published by "The Slovak Union" in August, 1930).

## One Hundred Years In Retrospect

Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran Church of Freeland, Pennsylvania recounts with thanksgiving the many blessings it has received from its Lord. Through good times and difficult times God's hand has led it to the present in which it lives as a vital, active member of the Body of Christ.

Saints Peter and Paul Congregation was organized February 22, 1883 with 16 men and 2 women present at this first service. In addition to being the oldest Slovak Lutheran Parish in the country, it is also the oldest Slovak assembly in Freeland, predating both St. Mary's Greek Catholic Church and St. John's Roman Catholic Church.

Records indicate that from 1880 to 1883 Slovak Lutherans assembled for worship in private homes with laymen in charge of the Services, in the absence of clergy.

The guiding spirit in the organization of the church was the late Michael Zeman, a pioneer Slovak settler on the North Side. His home on Main Street, the site of the present Post Office, was the gathering place of many Slovak immigrants who came to this country between 1870 and 1880 to escape the hardships imposed by the Austro-Hungarian Hapsburg rulers. Educated and intelligent, and later the publisher of a Slovak language newspaper, Mr. Zeman was an articulate spokesman for his people.

When the Slovak Lutherans voiced a desire to hear the gospel in their native tongue, Mr. Zeman organized a meeting in his own home for the purpose of regularizing a local ministry. Those present at the meeting included: Michael Zeman, Andrew Hnida, George Cichy, Michael Wargo, George Dzurisin, George Kackos, George Roskos, John Kmetz, John Homulka, Andrew Zippay, Michael Lukacko, John Cndich, John Rokita, and Michael and John Lehet. This meeting, held on February 15, 1883, was followed by another a week later, on Washington's birthday, and Mr. Zeman was delegated to select a Slovak speaking minister.

It was through the assistance of Pastor Smith of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, who wrote to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in behalf of the Slovak group, that it was learned that two Seminarians from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, a Czech and a Pole, were available for interview. Ultimately selected was the Reverend Karol Horak who, though Czech, knew the Slovak language and accepted the call to Freeland, conducting his first service on March 11, 1883.

With a regular pastor the congregation increased and the home of Mr. Zeman became too small for its assembly; whereupon St. Luke's Church granted permission for the free use of its worship facility. This arrangement continued for three years. On February 25, 1886 a meeting was called to make plans for a congregation to build its own edifice. That very evening a financial committee raised \$151.75 among the members in Freeland and the surrounding mining town. The congregation secured a tract of land through a generous donation from the late Mr. Eckley B. Coxe and construction of the church was begun that spring.

On October 10, 1886 the Reverend Cyrill Droppa of Streator, Illinois became the second regularly called pastor. He was able to secure from Mr. Coxe two additional parcels of land for the erection of a parsonage, thus giving the congregation a total of four lots and a one hundred foot frontage on South Washington Street. The first directors and trustees of the congregation, whose names appear on the property deeds were: Michael Zeman, Michael Wargo, George Dzurisin, John Soltis, Michael Cervenak, George Cichy, John Kmetz, and John Homulko.

On June 20, 1887, to comply with the requirements of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Saints Peter and Paul Church was incorporated and in accordance with the constitution of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, was given the official name: "The Saint Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Slavonian Church of Freeland, Pa."

A parcel of ground for a parish cemetery was given the church by Mr. Eckley B. Coxe in 1905. This land was readied for use by the men of the parish and dedicated

by the then Pastor, the Rev. D. Albert Dianiska, It is maintained to the present through the efforts and endeavors of conscientious parishioners. 1926 saw the dedication, by the Reverend Paul Faska, of a fine Moeller pipe organ.

The Sunday Church School and Ladies Aid Society were organized under the Pastorate of the Rev. Joseph Abraham, and in the late 30's an extensive church property improvement program was initiated.

The first major renovation of the church proper was completed in 1940, and dedicated on May 30th, during the administration of the Reverend Louis Sanjek and Seminarian John Chalupa. Three years of unpaid taxes on the parsonage were satisfied, a metal sub-ceiling, new carpeting, new lighting fixtures, and cellotex wall paneling were installed, and a new crucifix and candelabra, gifts of the Mattis family, were dedicated. In 1954 a stoker furnace was installed.

During the pastorate of the Reverend Lawrence P. Delp (1955-62), who also served Christ Lutheran Church in Conyngham, altar super-frontals were purchased, new sidewalks and storm windows were installed, and stained glass front doors, the gift of Mrs. Henry Berger, were dedicated, as were new inner narthex doors given by the Chervenak family and a sacristy door given by the Mattis family. Other generous gifts and donations, too numerous to mention, were given by members of the parish during this time.

In the late 1940's and the 1950's, the anthracite industry went into a deep decline which persists to this day. The result was a considerable shift of population away from the area as people searched for work. This trend was felt in the congregation, and because of it, it became impossible for the congregation to call a full time minister. In the 1940's, the congregation entered into a practice of sharing pastoral services with other larger congregations, a practice which persists to the present.

In the Fall of 1958, Saints Peter and Paul Congregation observed the 75th Anniversary of its organization with Festival Services and a parish banquet. The Guest

preacher at this occasion was the Reverend Dr. Claude Schick, Secretary of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

With the coming of the Reverend John M. Brndjar in 1962, the relationship of sharing pastoral services with SS. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church in Hazleton was begun again. This relationship continues to the present.

During the tenure of Pastor Brndjar, improvements were made in several areas. With respect to the benevolences of the parish, the apportionment was met in full for four years, the yearly amount given over to the various ministries of the church-at-large being in excess of \$1,000. Also, the congregation's obligation to the Seminary Campaign was met in full, the quota being \$1,050.

In 1968, a major renovation of the church building and grounds was accomplished. A new roof replaced the disintegrating slate roof and the exterior of the church was covered with white aluminum siding. The church storehouse was resided and reroofed, a chain-link fence erected around the property and the church school auditorium refurbished with new paneling and fluorescent lighting fixtures. Also in 1968, the 85th anniversary of the parish's founding was held with a Festival Service of Thanksgiving and a banquet. Guest preacher for the service was the Reverend Lawrence P. Delp, and the main speaker for the banquet was the Reverend John Kovacik, then pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lansford, Pa.

During the pastorate of the Reverend Ivon P. Harris, many varied enhancements to the physical structure, both inside and out, were made, mainly through memorial donations and many hours of time and effort given by the members of the congregation. In 1972, a complete renovation of the pipe organ took place, involving its complete dismantling and removal from church for a month. In 1974, a sanctuary vigil light, which burns for seven days, was given. The Sacristy and Music Room were entirely redecorated and furnished through memorials in 1975, and in the same year the pews were provided with new cushions and kneelers. The year 1976 saw a complete enclosure of the side entrance and new steps installed. A complete carpeting of all exterior steps to the church was effected in 1977; also an Advent Wreath, and a Paschal Candle with seasonal hanging antependia, were memorialized.

In the year 1978, major renovations were completed to the kitchen with new facilities, the rest rooms completely redecorated, and the back entrance to the church's social room provided with completely new steps and fully enclosed.

Mention must also be made of the SS. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery, located on West Walnut Street. An association of the cemetery was begun in 1973 to oversee and realize the best care consistent with the desire of the congregation to beautify, enhance, and perpetually care for the property. Toward these ends, in the same year a new flag pole was dedicated, as were twenty-one new trees lining the drive, on Memorial Day. In the later 70's a new tractor was purchased to facilitate upkeep, and the maintenance shed was completely rebuilt.

On September 24, 1978, the congregation celebrated its 95th anniversary. Preaching at the Festival Service was the Reverend Dr. Wilson E. Touhsaent, President of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, and the speaker at the banquet was the Rev. John M. Brndjar, Executive Director of Lutheran Welfare Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Fall of 1978 also saw an important change in the worship life of the congregation as it voted to introduce the new Lutheran Book of Worship. The new hymnals were first used on Ash Wednesday, 1979.

1979 was a year for changes. The date of the congregation's annual meeting was changed from the poor-weather month of January to the second Sunday of November. Thus, the new fiscal year began on November 1st and ended on October 31st. Late in the year, the time of the morning service was changed from 7:45 to 8:30 A.M. The biggest change was the leaving of Pastor Harris to a call in Binghamton, N.Y. in the fall of that year.

During 1979, the congregation participated in the L.C.A.'s Strength for Mission Program. The 96th anniversary service in the Slovak language (English sermon) was broadcast over the radio station, WACM, in Freeland. Repairs were also made to the church boiler. In an historic occasion, the congregation was visited by the General Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Czechoslovakia in June 1979.

The Rev. Raymond E. Lorthioir, Jr. came to Freeland in 1980. During that year extensive discussions were held in preparation for adopting a new church constitution, this included updating the church roll. Questions concerning the congregation's incorporation delayed adoption until 1981. The attorney for the congregation could find no record of the previous incorporation. Upon the adoption of the constitution in November, 1981, the church then incorporated itself and the cemetery association in early 1982. The new official name for the congregation is Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Because of dramatic increases in energy costs in 1979-80, the congregation initiated a study to conserve fuel in 1980. This resulted in the entire building being thoroughly insulated in 1981. Corner markers for cemetery plots were installed in 1981. The congregation participated in the "Caring for All Without Reserve" program of Lutheran Welfare Service in the same year.

In 1982, by-laws for the congregation were adopted, and the congregation participated in a Lenten pulpit exchange of Hazleton area pastors.

The congregation is 100 years old in this year of 1983, and the occasion has been marked in a year-long celebration. A special service utilizing English and Slovak liturgies was held on February 20th with the Rev. John M. Brndjar preaching. A low-key banquet (because of the bad-weather month) was held following in the church social hall. A new cornerstone was dedicated on August 21st, and a new processional cross was dedicated as a memorial from Mrs. Joseph Mattis and daughter Anna Mae Fox. Former Pastors Kanyuch, Harris, Hurnyak, and Delp have or are coming to preach and celebrate 100th anniversary festivities on various Sundays. We look forward to today's special anniversary service, and a special service with other area Lutheran churches on Reformation Sunday in this year commemorating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth.

(Material for this historical summary comes, in great measure, from a treatise by Professor Andrew J. Stofan, prepared for the church's 85th Anniversary, with additions for the past 15 years by Pastors John M. Brndjar, Ivon P. Harris, and Raymond E. Lorthioir, Jr. The material was re-edited by Pastor Lorthioir.)



CONGREGATIONAL PICTURE OF 1922



CONGREGATIONAL PICTURE OF 1983

# THE FESTIVAL SERVICE OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Participating Clergy: Preacher: The Rev. William Fairchild,  
Assistant to the Bishop, Northeastern  
Pennsylvania Synod, Lutheran Church  
in America.

Assisting Minister: The Rev. Ivon P.  
Harris, Pastor Ascension Slovak Lutheran  
Church, Binghamton, N. Y.

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Raymond  
E. Lorthioir, Jr., Pastor Loci.

Organ Prelude Mrs. Anna Mae Fox, organist

## THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn "A Mighty Fortress" #229  
Apostolic Greeting P. 57  
Kyrie P. 57  
Hymn of Praise "How Great Thou Art" (in Slovak)

1. O, Bože, môj, stále rozvažujem  
predivné svety Tebou stvorené;  
vidím hviezdy, hromobitie čujem,  
Tvoje dielo je všade zjavené!
2. Keď cez lesy a polia prechádzam  
a počúvam spev vtákov veselý;  
keď sa z vrchu do dolín poďívam,  
čujem tok vôd, cítim vetrik jemný!
3. Keď pomyslím, že Boh svojho Syna  
vydal na smrť, aká to vec divná;  
že na kríži sa moje viny trpel,  
aby som ja v trápení neupel.
4. Keď sa vrátiš v celej svojej sláve  
vziat' ma domov, do vlasti nebeskej;  
skloním srdce k radostnej oslave  
hlas svoj pridám k pochvále vznešenej!

Refren (pripev)  
Spievaj, duša! Bohu, Spasiteľ'u,  
Velebnému, preslavnému;  
Spievaj, duša, Bohu, Spasiteľ'u,  
Velebnému, preslavnému!

Posl. J. Kovac

Prayer of the Day P. 39

# PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Lesson: 1 Kings 8:22-30 P. 253  
Psalmody: Psalm 84  
Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:1-9  
The Verse P. 62  
Gospel: John 10:22-30  
The Sermon  
Hymn of the Day # 365  
Nicene Creed P. 64  
Prayer of the Church P. 52  
Choir Anthem "Psalm 103" Robert Clatterback

## SHARING OF THE EUCHARISTIC MEAL

The Peace P. 66  
Offering  
Offertory P. 66  
Prayer P. 67  
Hymn # 197  
Preface Dialog P. 68  
Preface  
Eucharistic Prayer (rubric 31) P. 69  
Otče Naš (Lord's Prayer sung in Slovak)  
Lord's Prayer (traditional) P. 71  
Lamb of God P. 72  
Communion  
Blessing (rubric 38) P. 72  
Post-Communion Canticle P. 72  
Prayer P. 74  
Benediction P. 74  
Dismissal P. 74  
Recessional Hymn # 551  
Organ Postlude Mrs. Anna Mae Fox, organist





**IN THANKSGIVING TO ALL MEMBERS WHO  
HAVE SERVED OUR CHURCH IN ANY CAPACITY**

**We are unable to name all who have served in leadership positions because our records are incomplete, but this page is dedicated in memory of all past presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, treasurers, councilpersons and all other leaders who have faithfully served this congregation.**

**100th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET**

**(By Ticket Only)**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1983**

**GENETTI MOTOR LODGE**

**RT. 309 — HAZLETON, PA.**

**::: Program :::**

TOASTMASTER - Welcome ..... David Lucas

HYMN ..... "Beautiful Savior" (2 verses)

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, Truly  
I'd serve thee, Light of my soul,  
My joy, my crown.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God, and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be thine!

INVOCATION ..... Rev. Raymond E. Lorthioir, Jr.

SOLO ..... Anna Mae Fox

TOAST ..... Rev. Ivon Harris

— DINNER —

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Introduction of Main Speaker

The Rev. Dr. John W. Brndjar

REMARKS

Introductions of all Clergy and Guests

FAITH AND LIFE SINGERS

BENEDICTION ..... Rev. William Fairchild

Emil Kitlan at the Organ



### CHURCH COUNCIL

First row: Eleanor Sabo, Treasurer; Anna Gelezinsky, Lillian Chuckra, Secretary; Pastor Ray Lorthioir, Barbara Lucas, Margaret Mattis. Second row: Ray Sabo, George Lucas, President; Albert Dovan, Geo. Kleitz, John Mattis, Vice President.



### CHURCH CHOIR

First row: Anna Mattis, Margaret Clark, Margaret Mattis, Organist - Anna Mae Fox, Helen Domchick, Anna, Duna. Second row: Margaret Lechman, Lillian Chuchra, Alice Matriccino, Mary Sarosky, Anna Mae Sissock, Dorothy Hunsinger. Third row: Pastor Ray Lorthioir, Acolytes - Brian Lucas, Jeff Fox.



### LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMAN

First row: Anna Bakos, Anna Mattis, Treasurer; Anna Mae Fox, Vice President; Sharon Rish, Secretary; Pastor Ray Lorthioir, Margaret Clark, President; Helen Adamshick, Anna Duna. Second row: Anna Gelezinsky, Betty Kardisco, Mary Petruska, Elenor Sabo, Margaret Britcho, Margaret Mattis, Margaret Lechman, Barbara Lucas. Third row: Betty Dubick, Lillian Chuckra, Dorothy Hunsinger, Anna Mae Sissock, Mary Sarosky.

### THE PASTORS OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CONGREGATION

(Services by Lay Readers)	1880-1883
The Reverend Karol Horak	1883-1886
The Reverend Cyrill Droppa	1886-1889
The Reverend Ludwig Novomesky	1889-1891
The Reverend Drahotin Kvacala	1891-1894
The Reverend Karol Hauser	1894-1905
The Reverend Albert Dianiska	1905-1909
The Reverend Julius Cernicky	1909-
The Reverend Ludwig Havel	1909-1914
The Reverend Geza von Albrecht	}
The Reverend John Murcek	
The Reverend Dr. A.L. Ramer	
The Reverend A.B. Swasko	
The Reverend Daniel Droppa	
The Reverend A.B. Faska	1914-1922
The Reverend J.M. Bellan (Administrator)	1922-1926
The Reverend Joseph Abraham	1926-1927
The Reverend Martin Slabej	1927-1938
The Reverend Louis Sanjek (Administrator)	1938-1939
Seminarian John Chalupa, Assistant	1939-1943
The Reverend Stephen Hurnyak	1943-1950
The Reverend John Kanyuch	1950-1953
The Reverend Richard M. Rutter	1953-1955
The Reverend Lawrence P. Delp	1955-1962
The Reverend John M. Brndjar	1962-1971
The Reverend Ivon P. Harris	1971-1979
The Reverend Raymond E. Lorthioir, Jr.	1979-



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The Reverend Lawrence P. Delp	1938-1939
The Reverend John M. Brndjar	
The Reverend Ivon P. Harris	1939-1943
The Reverend Raymond E. Lorthioir, Jr.	1943-1950
	1950-1953
	1953-1955
	1955-1962
	1962-1971
	1971-1979
	1979-

# 100th Anniversary Committees

## CHAIRMAN

Chairpeople — Barbara Lucas and Dorothy Hunsinger

## BANQUET TICKETS

Margaret and Raymond Clark

## PATRONS

Albert Dovan, John Mattis, Paul Dubick,  
George Kleitz, Raymond Sabo

## CATERING

Barbara and George Lucas, Ann Cataldo, Dorothy Hunsinger

## PUBLICITY

Sharon Rish

## MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT

Anna Mae Fox

## PUBLICATIONS

Pastor Ray Lorthioir, George Lucas, Paul Dubick

## INVITATIONS

Lillian Chuckra, Sharon Rish

## PHYSICAL PLANT

Raymond Sabo

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Margaret Mattis

## MEMORABILIA

Anna Mattis, Mary Sarosky

## OTHER TASKS & HELP

Church Council, Lutheran Church Women,  
Church Choir, Men's Organization

**The processional cross used today, for the first time,  
is given in memory of Joseph Mattis by his wife,  
Anna and daughter, Anna Mae Fox.**

## Memorials

**Antolick Children: Anna, Emil,  
Irene, Thomas, Carl and Lillian  
Memory of Parents  
George and Anna Antolick**

**Mr. and Mrs. Michael Marencin  
Memory of Parents  
Mr. and Mrs. George Marencin**

**Mrs. Susan Tomasko  
Memory of Parents  
John and Anna Wargo Getsy  
Michael Z. Getsy (step-father)**

**Penna. Monument Co. for their donation of  
Our New Corner Stone**

# OUR PATRONS

*Our 100th Anniversary Celebration is made possible through the generous gifts of:*

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SUSAN BAKOS  
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EMIL CHERVENAK  
MRS. MARY CHERVENAK  
LILLIAN & THOMAS CHUCKRA  
MARGARET & RAY CLARK  
EMILE'S MENS SHOP - Emil A. Deddy  
JANICE DOVAN  
JULIA & ALBERT DOVAN  
BETTY & PAUL DUBICK  
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STEVEN LECHMAN  
STEVEN & MARGARET LECHMAN  
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MARY (RITOCK) PETRUSKA  
ANNA POLLAKUSKY  
MARY SAROSKY  
ELEANOR & RAY SABO  
LENNY STEWARD FLORIST  
MRS. MARY (Antolick) TKACIK & FAMILY  
ROBERT WHITEHEAD  
GEORGE YALCH  
ANNA & ANDREW ZELEZNOCK  
HENRY F. SCHEIG - President  
AID ASSOCIATION FOR LUTHERANS  
\$400.00

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has been issued  
through the courtesy of*

*MR. FRANCIS K. COTTERALL*

*Funeral Director*

*706 Birkbeck Street*

*Freeland, Pennsylvania*

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**80 Broad Street**

**Beaver Meadows, Pennsylvania**

*serving our church faithfully*