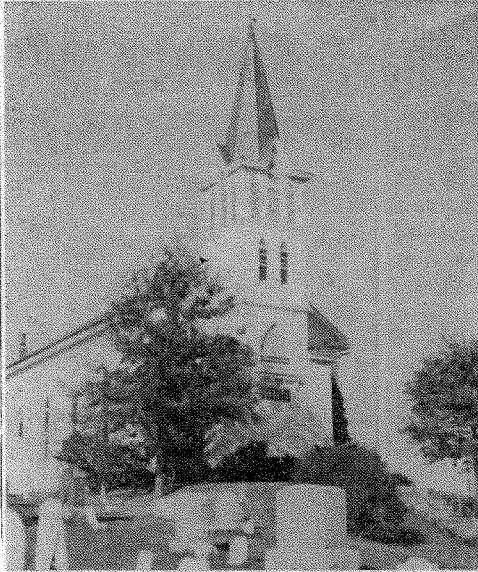


## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



The history of the Lutherans in the Kimmel's area goes back to the early 1800's. Apparently our forefathers may have overlooked the importance of keeping detailed church records, or those which were kept may have been lost or mislaid; however, we still know some important facts regarding the beginning of our congregation. There was the "old school house near the site of what is now known as the Union Church" which was built in 1816. It was in this place the first German immigrants worshipped. The Rev. George Eyster, a Lutheran pastor, organized the church and faithfully ministered to its people for ten years.

In 1850, during the ministry of The Rev. John Felty, a new church building, St. Johannis Kirche, was erected on the "South side of the Road to Ashland". It was made of wood with white weather boards. Plain glass windows provided adequate lighting. At the time of worship the minister would ascend a winding stairway to mount the traditional German-style elevated pulpit, also known as the "minister's balcony". One of the first Lutheran pastors in this church was The Rev. Augustus Bergner, 1853-1863, who was noted for his fine musical ability.

Another pastor particularly remembered was The Rev. Henry Weicksel. Father Weicksel, as he was called, was an elderly man when he resigned from St. Johannis Kirche in 1893, loved and revered by his people. Living in Mahantongo, he came over the mountain in horse and buggy to preach. One of our members recalls that this building was later given to Lewis Kimmel and torn down. Mr. Kimmel had faithfully served as the church sexton for a number of years.

On April 5, 1894, the older members of our congregation remember the laying of the cornerstone and the subsequent building of our present place of worship. On December 9, 1894, the church was dedicated. At this time we note the name of the church was changed to St. John's Church. The Rev. Jeremiah Ritter was pastor at that time but was soon succeeded by The Rev. C. A. Kerschner (1894-1900). In spite of the steps which had to be climbed to attend services, our fathers chose a magnificent place for the new church. Elevated, it could be seen from afar. The bell was removed from the old church and installed in the spire of the new. It is still calling "young and old" from all over Kimmel's and the Deep Creek Valley to attend services in God's house. The nave is spacious, with a seating capacity of well over 300 people, and the stained glass windows which beautifully adorn the walls were donated.

During the years of its history, St. John's Church has been a place of worship both for the Lutheran and the Reformed congregations. This jointure made our church by tradition a union church. The second pastor to serve here was The Rev. Isaac Steely of the Reformed Church, who served for fifteen years. On July 1, 1850, a joint constitution was written in beautiful German script on the front pages in *Das Kirchen Buch für die Beiden Gemeinden der St. Johannis Kirche in Barry Township*. This certainly indicates that during the years there has always existed a spirit of sharing, understanding and cooperation between the worshippers.

For a period of years St. John's Lutheran was united with Friedens Lutheran congregation, Hegins and Christ Lutheran congregations, Fountain, in a joint pastorate. This jointure, formed March 2, 1912, as the "Pine Valley Parish", was dissolved in Spring of 1957.

As with all church buildings, additions and alterations became essential in time. Hence, in 1936 the basement was dug out and made into a Sunday School room. The following year the interior of the church was completely renovated and the front of the bell tower was extended. In 1958 the well was drilled and new bathroom facilities were furnished and at present new storm windows are being installed.

Throughout the years many fine memorials have been dedicated to the memory of loved ones. The worship of the church was enhanced by the new Allen organ, dedicated on May 14, 1961, as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Green by their daughter, Miss Carrie Green.

At the threshold of a new era, St. John's Lutherans look to the future with a renewed spirit and dedicated loyalty to Christ and His Church.

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Before the formation of St. Peter's congregation the Lutheran people of Lavelle went to Ashland to worship in the German language with Zion's Lutheran Church. The Rev. J. Weber was pastor at that time. In 1891 Rev. G. W. Fritsch began his pastorate at Zion's and organized a small congregation in Huntersville (now Lavelle). Services were first held in the old church in Taylorsville, later in the public school house in Huntersville, and following that, in the church building of the Evangelical Association. The small group worshipped every third Sunday in the German language.

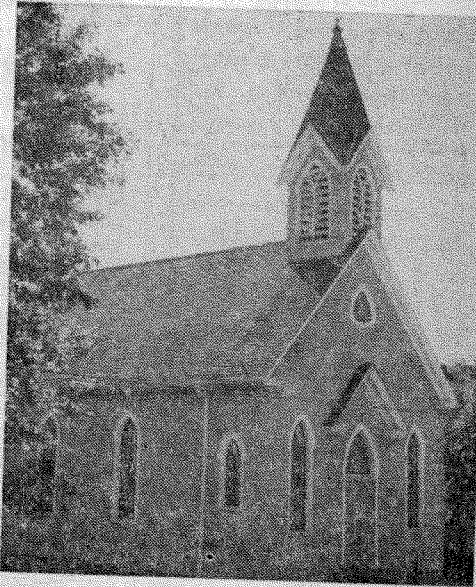
In 1904, while the congregation was being supplied by The Rev. Paul E. Bergman of Zion's, Ashland, a charter was secured and a movement began to erect a church home. The plot of ground was purchased from Mrs. Charles Lexo, a member of the congregation. The cornerstone was laid on May 1, 1904, and the building was erected during the summer with the Dedication Service on October 2. Total cost of building was approximately \$2,500. About this time the Sunday School, Ladies Aid Society and Young People's Society were organized.

By October, 1907, the debt was paid, and about this time English was introduced to alternate each week with the German. Around 1915 the German language services were discontinued entirely, and all worship was in English.

Improvements were steadily added; some of the most noteworthy were the installation of electric lights in 1920; the building of the Primary Room in 1928, and the dedication of the beautiful stained glass windows in 1934. An Altar was purchased and dedicated in 1940, and the following year brass Altar furnishings were provided. In 1942 the chancel was completed with the addition of paraments and chancel furnishings.

The church property was enlarged in 1939 with the purchase of the picnic grove, where an artesian well was drilled in 1941. Next, the exterior of the building was renovated in 1948 with the present siding, and in 1950 the interior was renovated. In November of the same year the Hammond Electric Organ was donated and dedicated. In 1951, the present heating system was installed and in 1952 a modern kitchen was completed.

A few years later the front exterior was renovated, adding the cloak room and stairway leading down to the Sunday School room, as well as modern bathroom facilities. During the years of its existence, St. Peter's congregation has always been noted for the very fine spirit of cooperation and fellowship. Its organizational life is healthy — vigorous leadership has been available. These factors have contributed greatly to the spiritual welfare of the people.





## Twin Valley Lutheran Parsonage Dedication

The Twin Valley Lutheran Parish, organized in 1959, and consisting of St. Peter's Church in Lavelle and St. John's (Kimmel's) Church, Ashland R. D. 1, will hold parsonage dedication ceremonies on Sunday, November 5. The service will be held in St. Peter's Church, Lavelle, starting at 10:30 a.m.

The new parsonage, located in Lavelle, was purchased from Earl Ziegenfuss on July 21, 1961, and remodeling work was done by Melvin Minnich, Klingerstown R. D. 1, and Charles Kopp.

The Rev. Mr. Lars B. Staaby accepted the call to the new parish and began his ministerial duties on August 1, 1961. Installation ceremonies were conducted on August 6 in St. John's Church by the Rev. Mr. F. L. Hemmig, Dean of the Hegins District.

### HISTORY OF

#### TWIN VALLEY PARISH

The Twin Valley Lutheran Parish was organized during the fall of 1959 with the approval of the Executive Board of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. An opportunity for closer relationship between St. John's Lutheran Congregation, Kimmel's, and St. Peter's Lutheran congregation, Lavelle, resulted from the dissolution of the Pine Valley Parish in the Spring of 1957, of which St. John's was a part, and the breaking of the ties between St. Peter's and the former St. James Lutheran congregation in Ashland on September 1, 1959.

At a joint council meeting held at St. Peter's, Lavelle, on July 2, 1959, the alignment of the two congregations was determined as most desirable and a resolution was drawn up in order that this matter could be properly presented and voted upon by each congregation. The approval for this move was given at specially called congregational meetings on August 9, 1959.

The immediate problems facing the newly established parish were two-fold: there was the matter of securing a parsonage and the calling of a minister. These problems occupied the better part of the next two years. On July 25, 1961, at special congregational meetings, the two churches voted to purchase a home on Main Street, Lavelle, from Mr. Earl Ziegenfuss of Mowry, and to renovate the dwelling. This property was a two-story, ten room house formerly occupied by the Weikel family. Contracts were let for the renovation of the parsonage and work began early in August and continued until early in October.

On July 2, the parish took a second important step and called a pastor, The Rev. Mr. Lars Birger Staaby, who began his ministry August 1, and was installed by the Rev. Mr. Freeland L. Hemmig, Dean of the Hegins District, on August 6 at a joint service held in St. John's, Kimmel's.

With these two important decisions the most pressing problems were solved. However, there exists at present a desire for further relationship and spiritual growth. The immediate future summons the members of The Parish to extend the hand of fellowship to one another for the strengthening of faith and growth in grace. Both young and old realize that the Kingdom of God, His Church and the furtherance of His Holy Work in this locality will suffer greatly without the spirit of unity—a conviction that we are one in Christ; we belong to God! As the pages of history are turned one by one, "we the people" of the Twin Valley Lutheran Parish quite naturally look toward the future with encouragement and great expectations.

Pictures and more history on page 6.

## THE FIRST PARSONAGE FAMILY

The Rev. Lars B. Staaby was born in Norway and immigrated to the United States from Buenos Aires, Argentina, in January, 1941, after having served in the Norwegian Merchant Marine for a period of two years. Arriving in Philadelphia he was associated with the Norwegian Seamen's Church there, and was later employed in wartime industry until he joined the U. S. Army in 1943. He received U. S. citizenship while serving.

In 1946 he graduated from Temple University Evening High School, Philadelphia, and in the subsequent years attended various colleges, graduating in 1956 from Wagner College, Staten Island, N. Y.

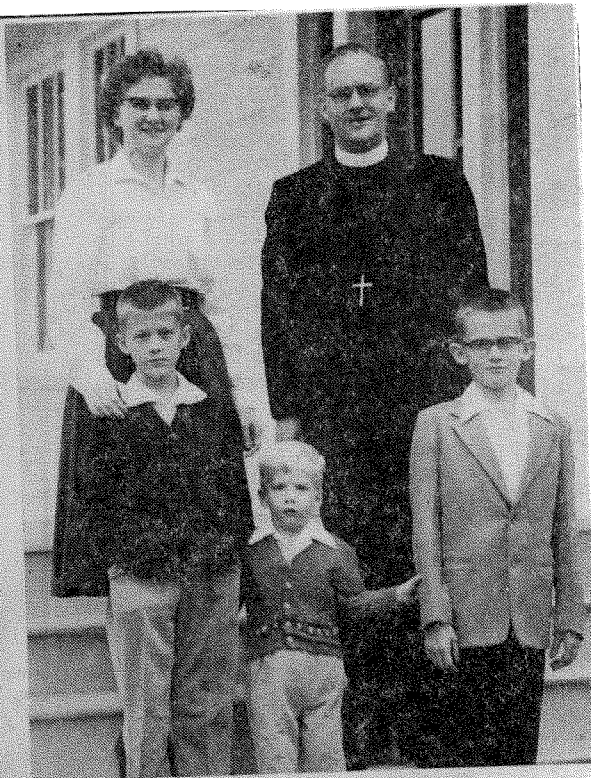
From 1955-1958 Pastor Staaby attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Germantown, Philadelphia, and was ordained May 25, 1958. He accepted a call to the joint parish of St. James Lutheran Church, Ashland and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lavelle, and served there until the two Ashland Lutheran Churches merged as of September 1, 1959. He then served as Associate Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lansdowne, Pa., until accepting the pastorate of the Twin Valley Lutheran Parish on August 1, 1961.

In 1945 Pastor Staaby married Miss Helen Louisa Brem, of Drexel Hill, Pa. Mrs. Staaby has served as organist in several Lutheran churches including churches in which the German and Scandinavian languages were used. Since about 1956 she has been actively engaged in the U. L. C. W. unified plan, organizing women in several churches and serving as chairman of committees both on the congregational and district level. In 1957 she attended the Synodical convention in Reading as a delegate of Grace Lutheran Church, Drexel Hill, and last year she was present at the convention in Buck Hill Falls. She has often appeared as guest speaker on various church programs presenting women's work.

Mrs. Staaby has also been active in the educational work of the church, teaching in Sunday School and Bible Schools, as well as leadership training school.

Pastor and Mrs. Staaby have three sons, Lars Birger, Jr., 10, and Eric Richard, 8, born while the family resided in Brooklyn, N. Y., and David Luther, 3, an original "coal cracker", born in the Ashland State Hospital.

We extend the greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Parish to the parsonage family.



REV. and MRS. LARS B. STAABY and FAMILY

The Dedication Committee

## ST. PETER'S JUNIOR CHOIR



First Row: Karen Magdeburg, Suzanne Dillman, Cynthia Boehmer, Robert Fertig, Robert Snyder.  
 Second Row: Mrs. Eva Fegley, Darlene Mattern, Doris Reiner, Marsha Fertig, Dale Reiner, Mrs. Constance Welker.  
 Third Row: Richard Hornung, Kathleen Welker, Nancy Wolfgang, Ruby Artman.

## COMBINED CHOIR



First Row: Mrs. Alma Walters, Carol Ann Lucas, Bonnie Klinger, Emily Shuey, Linda Lucas, Mrs. Mary Wintersteen, Cheryl Klinger, Judy Klinger, Harold Reber. Second Row: Mrs. Shirley Boehmer, Mrs. Esther Klauger, Mrs. Vinona Knock, Mrs. Constance Welker, Mrs. Mabel Hepler, Mrs. Jean Reiner, Mrs. Ruby Snyder, Mrs. Leoma Schwinehart, Mrs. Alma Slotterback, David Schwinehart. Third Row: Forrest Shadle, Howard Mattern, Earl Kimmel, William Mattern, Raymond Snyder, Charles Reiner, James Hepler, Harold Kimmel, John Ebert, Elmer Schwinehart. Organist and Directors — St. John's - David Schwinehart; St. Peter's - Mrs. Alma Walters.

## JOINT COUNCIL



First Row: James Hepler, Harold Hepler, Joel Wintersteen, Mrs. Vinona Knock, Mrs. Opal Newton, Robert C. Ludwig, Carl Penny- packer, Ray Kimmel.

Second Row: James M. Berner, Forrest Shadle, Elmer Schwine- hart, Roger Neumeister, Earl Kimmel, Robert Boehmer.

Third Row: Charles Reiner, Warren Klase, Clair Wolfgang, H. Allen Merwine, Lloyd Snyder, Harold Kimmel.

Not Present: Palmer Merwine, Roy Hunter., Marshall Fegley.  
Officers of Joint Council — Ray Kimmel, President and Harold Kimmel, Secretary-Treasurer.

St. John's  
James M. Berner, V. Pres.  
Harold Kimmel, Sec'y  
Robert Ludwig, Treas.  
Roger Neumeister, Financial Sec'y

St. Peter's  
Robert Boehmer, V. Pres.  
Warren Klase, Sec'y  
Charles Reiner, Treas.  
Warren Klase, Financial Sec'y

## SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS and TEACHERS



First Row: Forrest Shadle, Carol Ann Lucas, Mrs. Anna Kopp, Mrs. Geraldine Dillman, Mrs. Jean Reiner, Mrs. Esther Warcola, Mrs. Mary Wintersteen, Harold Kimmel.  
Second Row: John Ebert, Mrs. Constance Welker, Mrs. Marion Brennan, Mrs. Vinona Knock, Mrs. Alma Walters, Miss Margaret Ludwig, Miss Iva Derr. Third Row: James Hepler, Mrs. Shirley Boehmer, Mrs. Jane Pennypacker, Charles Reiner, James M. Berner, Mrs. Catherine Berner.

St. John's — Harold Kimmel, Supt., James Berner, Asst. Supt., Carol Ann Lucas, Sec'y, Harry Wedde, Treas. St. Peter's — Forrest Shadle, Supt., Charles Reiner, Asst. Supt., Mrs. Shirley Boehmer, Sec'y, Mrs. Vinona Knock, Treas.

## THE DEDICATION COMMITTEE



First Row: Mrs. Geraldine Wolfgang, Mrs. Alice Derr, Mrs. Anna Loris Neumeister, Mrs. Constance Welker, Mrs. Vinona Knock.  
 Second Row: Pastor Lars B. Staaby, Robert Boehmer, James M. Berner, Ray Kimmel.

## COMBINED LUTHER LEAGUE



First Row: Mrs. Geraldine Dillman, Advisor, Mary Jane Pascal, Bonnie Klinger, Bonnie Dillman, Suzanne Dillman, Linda Lucas, Robert Fertig, Marsha Fertig, Robert Snyder, James Reiner, Jackie Kesh.  
 Second Row: Pastor Staaby, Mrs. Rita Kesh, Advisor, Richard Hornung, Carol Ann Lucas, Karen Magdeburg, Doris Reiner, Emily Shuey, Cheryl Klinger, Judy Klinger, Maynard Merwine, Mrs. Anna Merwine, Advisor.  
 Third Row: Terry Leib, Louis Penneypacker, Miss Teresa Fegley, Advisor, Patsy Green, David Schwinehart, Ruby Artman, Nancy Wolfgang, Darlene Mattern, Dale Reiner, Kathleen Welker, Mrs. Marie Reichwein, Advisor, Mrs. Shirley Boehmer, Advisor.

### O F F I C E R S

St. John's  
 Linda Lucas, Pres.  
 Cheryl Klinger, V. Pres.  
 Patsy Green, Sec'y  
 David Schwinehart, Treas.

St. Peter's  
 Suzanne Dillman, Pres.  
 Marsha Fertig, V. Pres.  
 Ruby Artman, Sec'y  
 Terry Leib, Treas.

LADIES AID SOCIETY and  
 UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

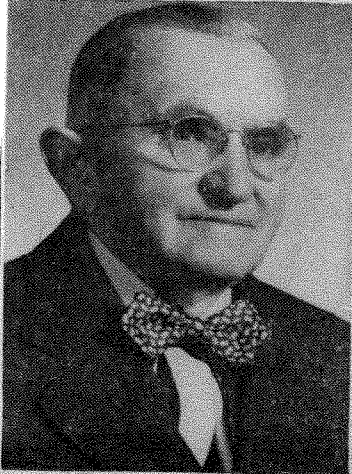


First Row: Mrs. Rita Kesh, Mrs. Marie Reichwein, Mrs. Eva Fegley, Mrs. Leona Tesno, Mrs. Alice Derr, Mrs. Jean Reiner, Mrs. Jean Klase, Mrs. Mary Wintersteen.  
 Second Row: Mrs. Geraldine Wolfgang, Mrs. Lorene Reiner, Mrs. Anna Kopp, Mrs. Mazie McDermott, Mrs. Ida Leib, Mrs. Leoma Schwinehart, Mrs. Opal Newton, Mrs. Shirley Boehmer. Third Row: Mrs. Alma Walters, Mrs. Vinona Knock, Mrs. Esther Klauger, Mrs. Jane Pennypacker, Mrs. Edith Snyder, Miss Margaret Ludwig, Mrs. Clara Ludwig.

Officers — St. John's - Mrs. Alice Derr, Pres., Mrs. Leoma Schwinehart, V. Pres., Miss Margaret Ludwig, Sec'y, Mrs. Edith Snyder, Treas. St. Peter's - Mrs. Geraldine Wolfgang, Pres., Mrs. Lorene Reiner, V. Pres., Mrs. Jean Reiner, Sec'y, Mrs. Jean Klase, Treas.



## OUR OLDEST LIVING MEMBERS



MR. HARVEY BEURY

Mr. Harvey Beury, born in Barry Township on September 5, 1871, the son of John and Sara Heiser Beury. His mother was formerly from New Ringgold, his father from Cumbola.

Mr. Beury was born in a log cabin on a farm near Beury's Grove.

He was educated in "Green's" School House. He attended Church and Sunday School in the Old Lutheran and Reformed Church. He recalls a large flat stone laid at the entrance to the door. Water had washed a ditch in front of this stone making about an 18 inch step. He also recalls the services conducted by Rev. Weicksel, making his appearance through the winding stairway to the balcony, where he stood peering over the top of his glasses.

He was with John Wagner when he sawed the logs used to build the present church.

Mr. Beury's grandfather built and operated the canal from Port Clinton to Port Carbon. He recalls the boats being pulled by mules on this canal. His grandfather originated from England.

In 1890 he married Mary Alice Hubler. They were blessed with eleven children, nine of whom are still living.

Mrs. Minnie Runge, daughter of John and Augusta Gearhart, was born in Ashland, May 1, 1874. As a child she went to public school there and attended Church and Sunday School in the former Zion's Lutheran Church, commonly referred to as the "German Lutheran" by the older generation. Her parents were immigrants from Germany, the father a miner and the mother a housewife.

At the age of 11, Mrs. Runge moved with her parents to Lavelle, where she has since resided. She remembers the days when all the Lutherans in Lavelle had to walk to Ashland to attend church, and the beginning of Lutheran services locally. At first the preacher would come out every so often and hold services in German, later a more regular schedule was arranged and the English language gradually introduced. The old schoolhouse in Huntersville was the first gathering place for the worshippers, and permission was also given to use the old church building of the Evangelical Association on the Lower Road. Mrs. Runge is a charter member of St. Peter's.

On March 3, 1893, she married Mr. Charles Runge, now deceased. Together with her husband, who was a miner, she tended a 10 acre farm on the Lower Road, where she lived until moving into the home of her daughter, Mrs. Victoria Fey, on Main Street, Lavelle, about a year ago.

Her family consists of three children, of whom two are living, nine grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren and three great great-grandchildren. We greet our oldest members on this day and wish them God's blessing in the years to come.



MRS. MINNIE RUNGE