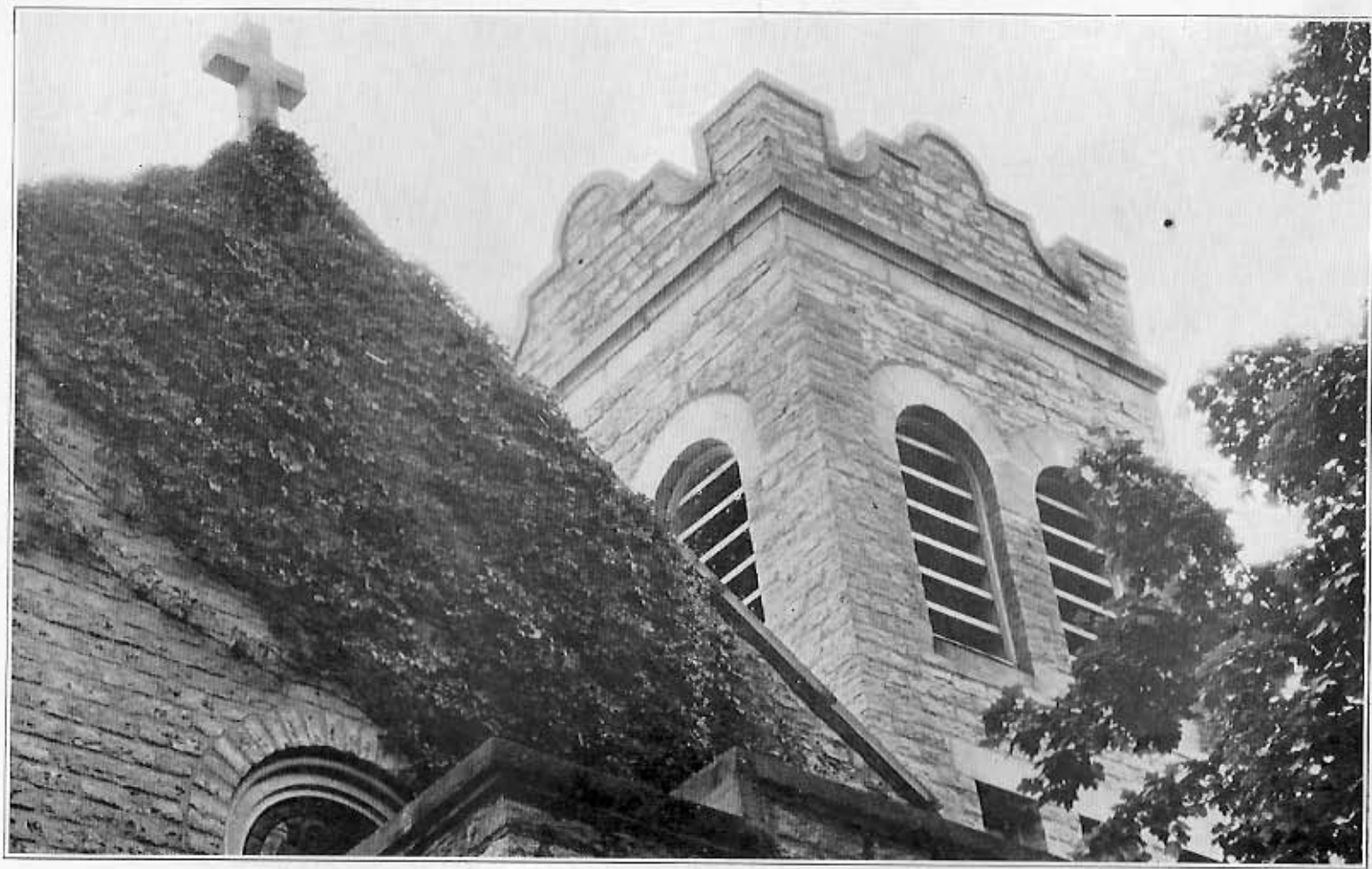


Seventy-Fifth Anniversary
of
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
1863-1938

Ripon, Wisconsin



"BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS"

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Ripon, Wisconsin

1863



1938

OCTOBER 16-17-18-19



First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Interior of the Church

✠ ————— Seventy-fifth Anniversary ————— ✠



Rev. P. C. Kehle
1923- 1938

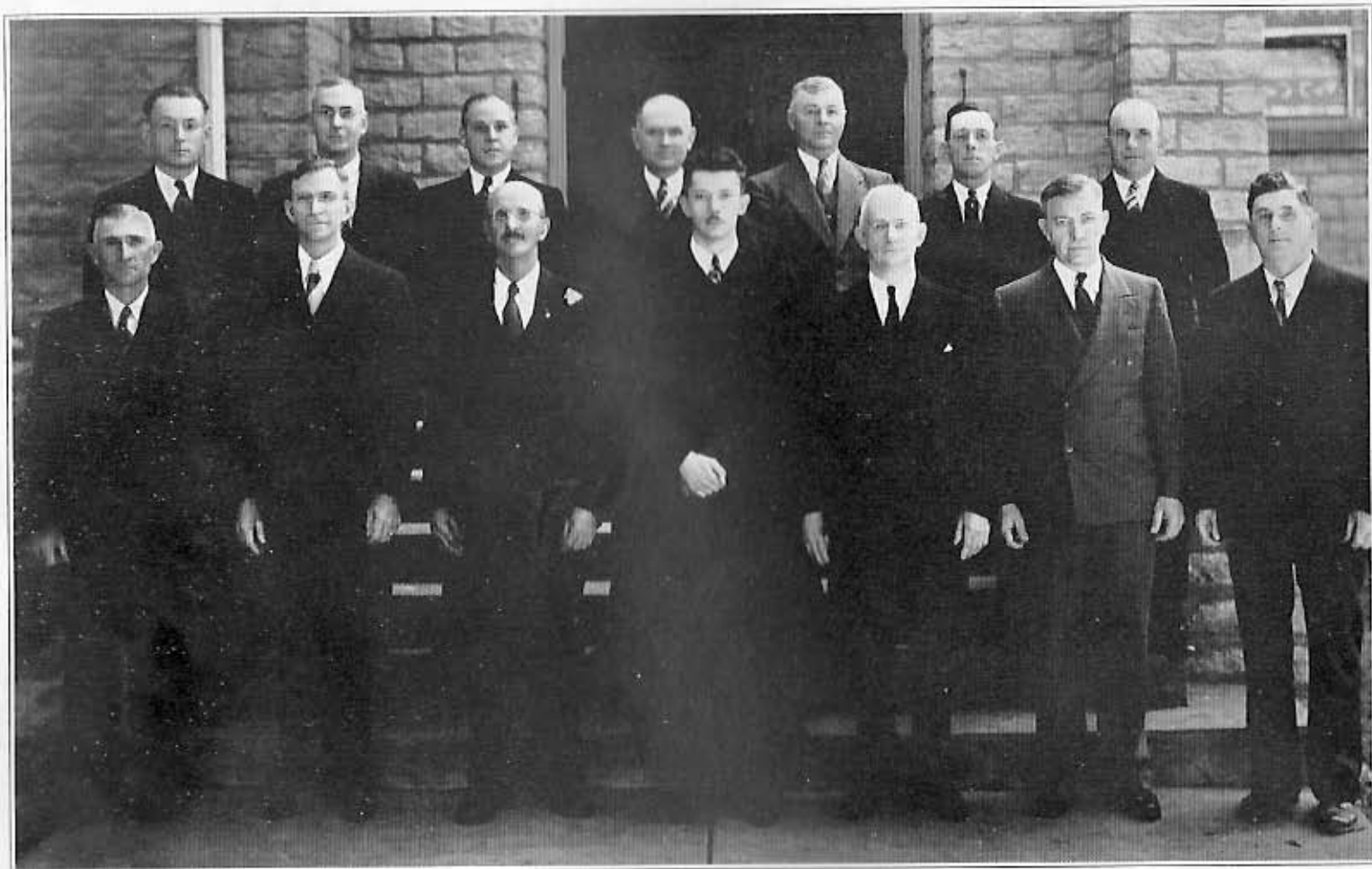


Rev. E. E. Schieler
Pastor



Rev. Fr. C. Kuether
1908-1923

✠ ————— *First Evangelical Lutheran Church* ————— ✠



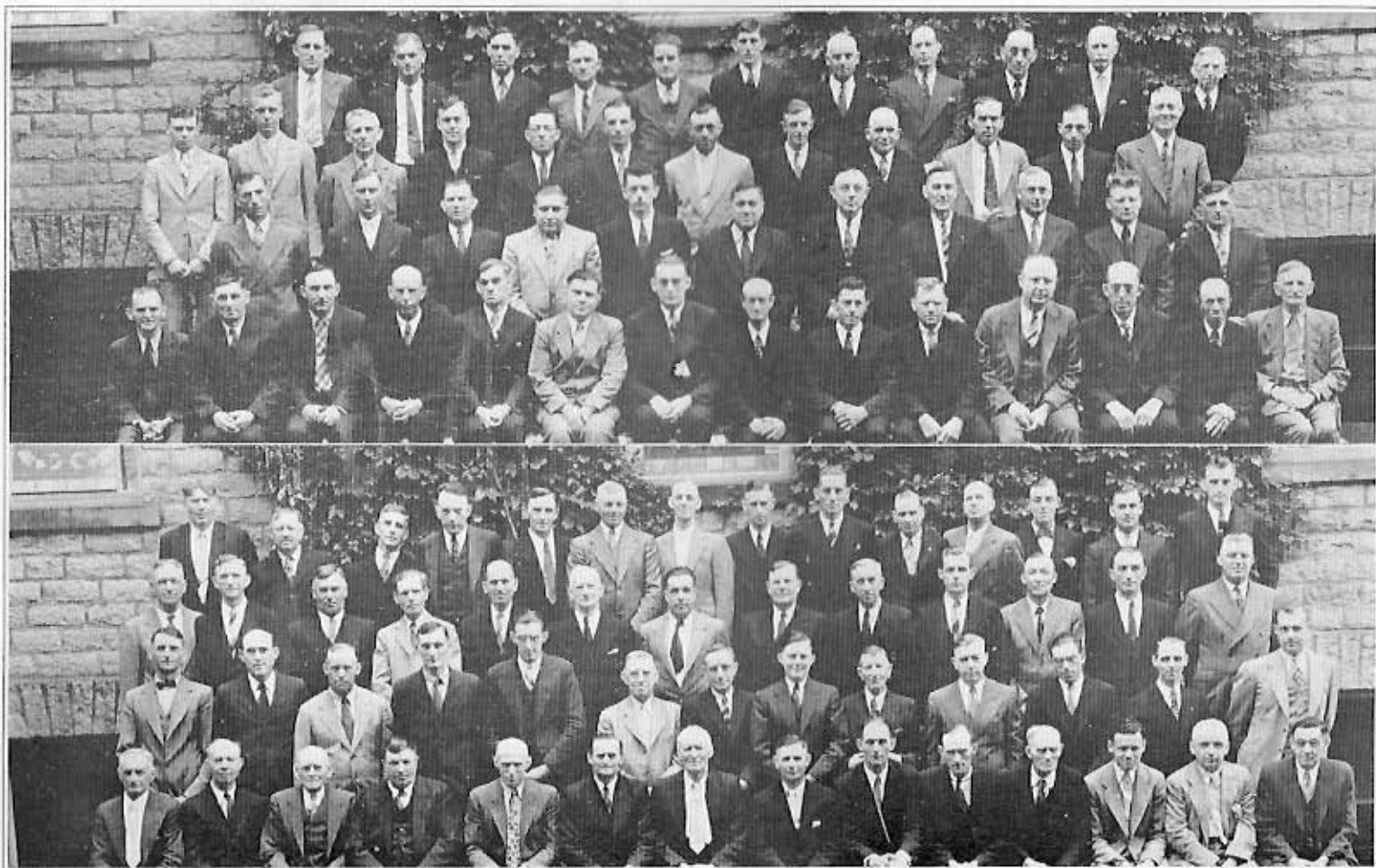
The Church Council



Women's Union



First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Men of the Church



Mission Society

✠ ————— *First Evangelical Lutheran Church* ————— ✠



Senior Young People



Junior Young People



First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sunday School Staff

Seventy-fifth Anniversary



Cradle Roll



Beginners' Department

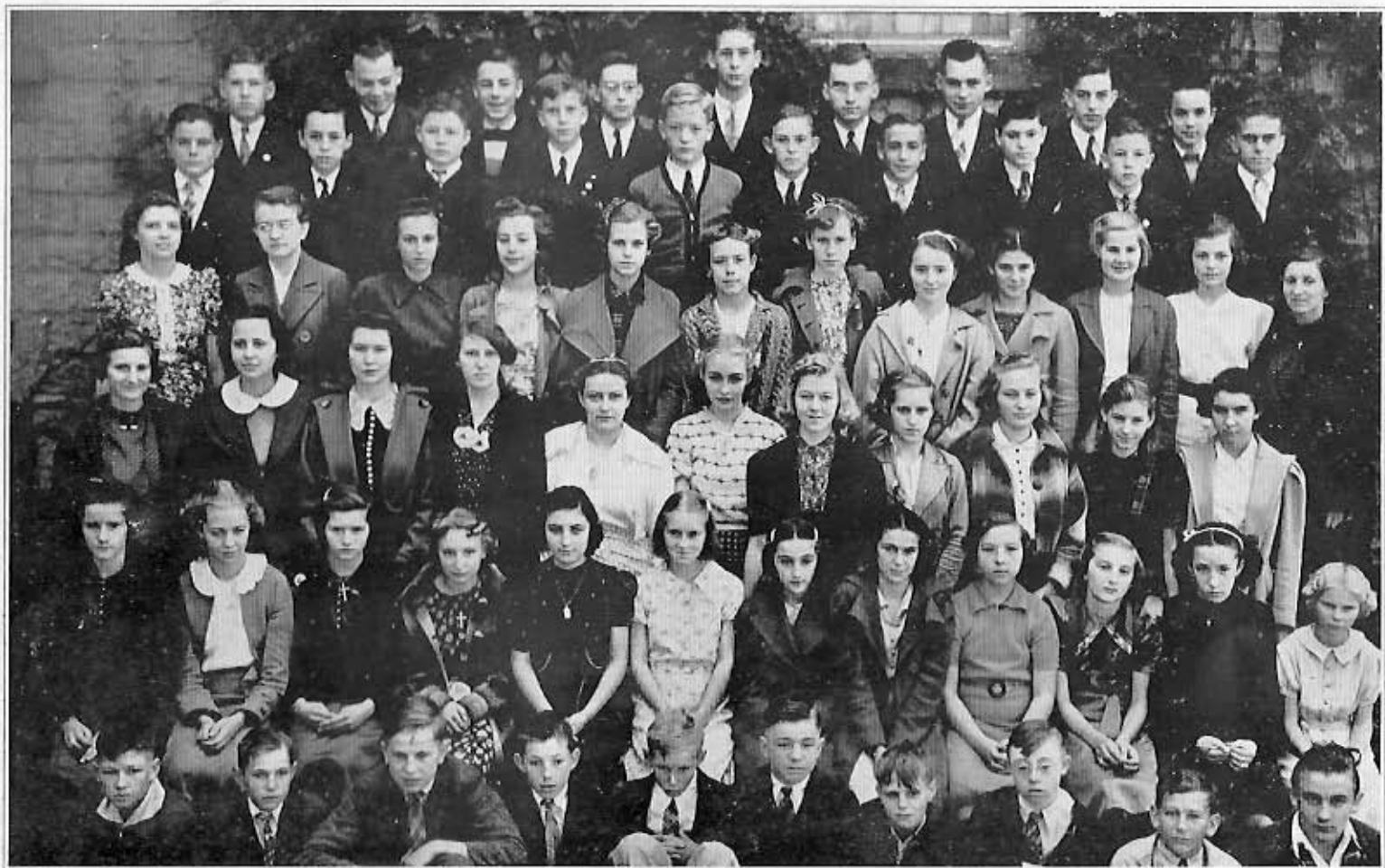


Primary Department

✠ ————— *First Evangelical Lutheran Church* ————— ✠



Junior Department



Intermediate, Senior Departments

✠ ————— First Evangelical Lutheran Church ————— ✠



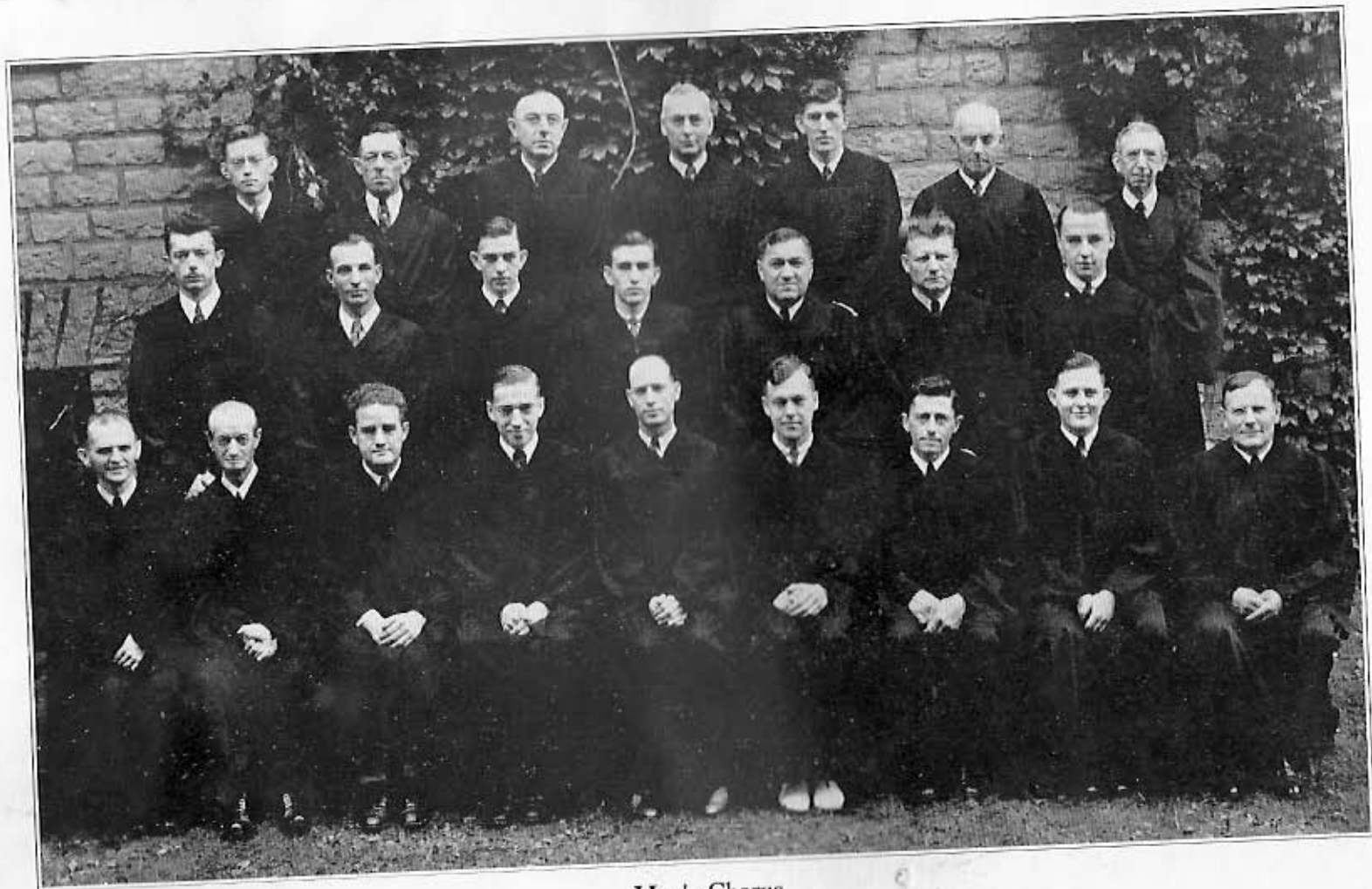
Mixed Choir

Seventy-fifth Anniversary



Frauenchor

✠ ————— First Evangelical Lutheran Church ————— ✠



Men's Chorus

Seventy-fifth Anniversary



Junior Girls' Choir

✠ ————— *First Evangelical Lutheran Church* ————— ✠



Parsonage, 1879

✱ ————— First Evangelical Lutheran Church ————— ✱



Mr. Fred Nohl, Sr.
Founder



Rev. C. Dalies
1878-1908



Rev. G. Thiele
1864-1866
First Resident Pastor



Organist's Residence, 1897



First Church, 1865



Enlarged Church, 1890

SON OF OUR CHURCH
in the Ministry



Rev. Clarence F. Hammen
Antigo, Wis.



Miss Ida Buchholz
Organist Since 1910

Sketches from the History of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ripon, Wisconsin



"Remember all the way which the Lord thy God hath led thee."—Deuteronomy 8:2.

Nineteen years after the "Wisconsin Phalanx," a communistic organization, under the leadership of Jesse Strong, settled at Ceresco (now a part of the city of Ripon) . . .

Ten years after the opening of Ripon College . . .

Nine years after the Republican Party was organized in the city of Ripon . . .

Five years after the city of Ripon, Wisconsin, was incorporated . . .

and During the trying days of the Civil War . . . in the summer of the year 1863, the FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH was founded!

The Rev. Mr. Vorberg of West Bend, Wisconsin, was sent by the Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin to organize a German Protestant church in Ripon. In the organizational meeting that followed these men were elected to the first church council: Herman Stempel, Frederick A. Klein, Frederick Luettke, and Adolph Wolf.

On February 1, 1864, Rev. G. Thiele became the first resident pastor and a second congregational meeting was held in which a constitution was discussed and steps were taken toward the erection of a church building. The building committee consisted of: Frederick Nohl, Sr., Henry Weishaar, G. Griese, C. Zobel, Adolph Wolf and Frederick Weishoff.

In January, 1865, the site for the church was chosen from among six available ones. It was purchased from Lawyer Seeley, was located at the eastern end of the city in Watson's addition, and comprised 65 square rods. The cost was \$475.

The building, 36 by 54, with full basement, was to be built of stone.

On May 11, 1865, ground was broken and by fall the stone work was completed and the roof was in place. During the course of the following winter the basement was fitted up for the holding of the worship services.

In the meeting of April 4, 1866, the constitution-committee was appointed, and in the meeting of April 21 the constitution was adopted and printed. The congregation was called: "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ripon." On September 21, 1866, the congregation was incorporated.

During this time the need for a German school was keenly felt, and the founders were instrumental in beginning this tradition which was upheld for many years. The mixed choir and the Sunday School trace their beginnings back to this period.

Since the Rev. G. Thiele refused to sanction the constitution and was not in harmony with the evangelical position of the founders he was dismissed. With some of his friends of this congregation he founded Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of this city.

In the following "Sturm und Drang" period a series of brief pastorates are to be noted. The Rev. H. W. Schmidt was installed Dec. 22, 1866; the Rev. Robert Conrad, April 2, 1869; Rev. David Ankele, June 25, 1870—it was during this pastorate that the church became acquainted with the Evangelical Synod of North America, which has supplied the congregation with pastors ever since. The year 1870 marks the completion of the church building for occupancy. In 1871, 33 rods of property were sold to the Sheboygan and Fond du

Lac Railroad Company for \$549, which was used in the building fund. In August, 1872, the church was dedicated. The cost of the church amounted to \$6,582.98; the tower \$600; total, \$7,182.98. On July 2, 1875, the Rev. Robert Conrad returned for the second time and served for one and one-half years.

On May 20, 1878, came the man whose record of achievements is indeed notable: The Rev. Carl Dalies. The many changes in pastorates, the weakening through division and debts, had discouraged the members so that everything depended on the right man. The results of his faithful service did not fail to appear. When after 30 years it became necessary for him to relinquish his position, he turned over to his successor a congregation of over 300 families, free from debt. When called to the triumphant life above on Nov. 7, 1911, not only the congregation but the entire city keenly felt his loss.

Though small at the time the Rev. Mr. Dalies came, the congregation rapidly outgrew its quarters and in 1890 it was found necessary to enlarge the church with an addition 38 feet wide and 28 feet long, plus an altar niche of 8 feet. New altar, pulpit and pews were installed. The Ladies' Aid provided for the refurnishing and redecorating of the interior. The confirmands supplied the round window toward the north portraying Christ and the children. This addition provided added space for school purposes in the basement. In 1878 the first pipe organ was installed for \$725. In September, 1889, the bells were procured amid great enthusiasm. The stained-glass windows, which have been retained in the present church building, were purchased in 1904. The parsonage was built in 1879. In 1888 the building west of the parsonage was purchased and used as residence for the teacher. In 1889, the parsonage was enlarged by the addition of the dining room. In 1897 the teacher's residence was completely rebuilt. All the various phases of the congregational life progressed and developed during this time. In 1908 because of advancing age the Rev. Dalies relinquished the reigns.

On Pentecost Monday, 1908, the Rev. Fr. C. Kuether was installed as pastor by his aged predecessor. During his pastorate of 15 years many changes occurred and the church life

was deepened and expanded. A time of transition set in, especially in regard to the use of the English language. Many improvements in equipment were made. In 1915 a fine pipe organ was purchased from the M. P. Moeller Co. for the sum of \$4,500. The steady growth of the congregation gradually impressed the idea that more adequate facilities be supplied, and even at this date the wish arose for a new modern church building. In 1909 the parsonage was rebuilt and refinished in modern manner. One of the changes made during this pastorate was in regard to the school activities. The first German parochial school teacher was Peter Schmidt. He received a salary of \$300 plus an additional \$50 as organist, and was furnished with several rooms and fire-wood. In January another teacher was added in the person of Miss Thecla Everss. Following teachers were: William Schaem, 1883 to 1884; Gottlieb Blankenhahn, 1888 to 1892; Wm. Ringeltaube, 1892 to 1894; Aug. Kraemer, 1894 to 1896; Adam Breitenbach, 1896 to 1901; Ad. Muehler, 1901 to 1904; Aug. Kraemer, 1904 to 1909. As with most parochial schools, this one, too, was finally discontinued, and in place of the teacher who also served as organist, Miss Ida Buchholz was engaged for this purpose and she has served faithfully these 28 years to the entire satisfaction of the congregation. The former teacher house became the organist's house. The Sunday School was developed from quite humble beginnings to such a position that it became a decided factor in the progressive development of the church, and assisted not only in its spiritual task, but also materially with gifts for various purposes.

In 1923 the Rev. Fr. C. Kuether resigned to take up duties as President of Oakwood Institute, at Cincinnati, Ohio. In November of the same year the Rev. P. C. Kehle took up the work, and under his able and energetic guidance the church advanced to its present heights of attainment. Under his personal direction the church building as it stands today was completed. In January, 1925, it was voted to rebuild and modernize the church building. In March of the same year the plan was presented to the congregation and received its almost unanimous approval. Excavation began the following May,

the cornerstone was laid July 19th. Dedication of the fine new plant took place April 18-22, 1926. Even though burdened with quite a debt the congregation and pastor labored faithfully and hard, and successfully weathered the depression years, reducing the debt materially and expanding the activity and influence of the church. The congregation was signally honored when the Rev. Kehle became District President. "The Messenger" was begun soon after his arrival and has continued its service these many years.

After 15 years of service, Rev. P. C. Kehle was called to the pastorate of our church in Monroe, Wisconsin, leaving amid the sorrow of church and townspeople. On July 1, 1938, Rev. Egon E. Schieler began his pastorate. For the occasion of the 75th Anniversary the church building was completely redecorated in the interior and repaired and refinished exteriorly wherever necessary. Nearly \$3,000 were spent for these purposes. The young people of the church sacrificed for the purchase of the beautiful new carpeting which cost nearly \$1,200.

Mr. Theo. Hamburger served our church in the capacity as janitor for 21 years, from 1917 to 1938. The present janitor is Mr. Victor Borchert.

OUR PASTORS

Rev. Mr. Vorberg	1863
Rev. G. Thiele	1863-1866
Rev. H. W. Schmidt	1866-1869
Rev. R. Conrad	1869-1870
Rev. D. Ankele	1870-1875
Rev. R. Conrad	1875-1878
Rev. Carl Dalies	1878-1908
Rev. Fr. C. Kuether	1908-1923
Rev. P. C. Kehle	1923-1938
Rev. E. E. Schieler	1938

One of the sons of the church has entered the ministry in our denomination: the Rev. Clarence Hammen, Unity Evangelical Church, Antigo, Wisconsin.

One of the daughters of the church, Elda Radke, "married

unto the ministry." She is the wife of the Rev. J. R. Kalwitz.

Among the ministry in our denomination the following are in some way related to our church: Rev. F. C. Kollath of Neenah, Wis.; Rev. Fred W. Kollath, Bucks, Ind.; Rev. Karl B. Kollath, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Rev. Fred C. Kuether, Jr., Chillicothe, Ohio; Rev. Ralph Kuether, Pomeroy, Ohio.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the present time the Sunday School has an enrollment of 353 and 35 teachers and officers. The members of the Sunday School meet every Sunday in three groups, as follows:

The Beginners and Primary Department with Lillie Redemann, superintendent; Carl Gatzke, secretary, and teachers: Mildred Buchholz, Alice Dahlke, Loretta Grahn, Eileen Luetke, Mrs. Leslie Lunde, Louise Manthei, Elsie Retzlaff, Mrs. Robert Rupnow, Mrs. Emil Thiel, Mrs. Richard Timm, Iona Zick.

The Junior and Intermediate Department with Mr. O. M. Redemann, superintendent; Norma Zick, secretary, and teachers: Dorothy Boers, Victor Borchert, Norman Buchholz, Elmer Dudzinske, Elsie Hagemann, Mrs. A. J. Hammen, Anna Hoffman, Mrs. Ben Kollath, Muriel Lehman, Roy Prellwitz, Robert Rupnow, Harold Smith, Ruth Wepner.

The Senior Department with Christine Krueger, superintendent; Ruth Diskowski, secretary, and teachers: Edna Blader, Mildred Daehn, Ella Dahlke, Florence Krueger.

The Treasurer of the Sunday School is Iona Zick, and Norma Zick is the General Secretary.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

President	A. E. Steinbring
Vice President	Herman Wilkes
Secretary	Robert Lehman
Treasurer	G. W. Lambert

William Behnke, Herbert Daehn, Emil Erdman, Charles Hazen, Walter Radke, Otto Schalow, Alex Schure, Herbert Tettborn, Herman Zweiger.

The following are the former presidents still with us: Chas. Haack, William F. Stolz, and A. F. Hinz.

THE WOMEN'S UNION

This society was organized during the pastorate of Rev. C. Dalies. Its object was and is to further Christian activities among the women of the church, to support projects of the church, community and demonination, and to do works of charity. The members have always willingly responded to any call for aid. Their contributions have amounted to thousands of dollars. There is at present a membership of 94. Mrs. Wm. Zanders is the oldest member. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays, the latter being a "welfare meeting," when sewing, etc., for benevolent causes is done. Present officers are:

President	Mrs. F. J. Umbreit
Vice President	Mrs. Alvin Wilkes
Secretary	Mrs. Ben Kollath
Treasurer	Mrs. Robert Gatzke

THE BROTHERHOOD

The Brotherhood was organized September 22, 1922, under the leadership of Rev. Fr. C. Kuether. It has always been willing and ready to assist the congregation. In the Spring of 1925 it made the financial drive which made the erection of our present church building possible. Its present officers are:

President	A. R. Buchholz
Vice President	C. H. Hansen
Secretary	Elmer Dudzinske
Treasurer	Walter Thiel

Other members of the executive committee include: Robert F. Lehman, O. M. C. Redemann, Allmen Hammen, Lester Gneiser.

THE MISSION SOCIETY

The Mission Society was organized Jan. 13, 1926, during the pastorate of the Rev. Kehle. The organization meets monthly, on the second Tuesday, at 8 o'clock in the evening, and is limited to women and older girls. Its aim is to study missions, foster missionary enthusiasm and to advance the mis-

sion cause with contributions, which are voluntary. At present there are 52 members. Officers are:

President	Miss Edna Blader
Vice President	Miss Erna Retzlaff
Secretary	Miss Ella Dahlke
Treasurer	Mrs. Thomas Dudzinske

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

There have been active Leagues for many years. Recently the young people's work was reorganized, and three fine groups have resulted:

Junior League, ages 14 and 15. The officers are:

President	Edward Prellwitz
Vice President	Robert Potter
Secretary	Daisy Schlender
Treasurer	Loretta Hinz

Intermediate League, ages 16 to 19, with the following officers:

President	Clarence Rupnow
Vice President	Mildred Buchholz
Secretary	Ethel Luetke
Treasurer	Carl Gatzke

Senior League, ages 20 and over. This group is still in formative stages, but quite a sizeable list of signatures have been obtained to form the organization.

OUR CHOIRS

Choirs have assisted the worship of the congregation for 75 years.

The Mixed Choir, our senior organization, carries on the early tradition. Its officers are:

Director	Mrs. C. H. Hanson
Organist	Miss Ida Buchholz
President	Mr. A. E. Steinbring
Secretary-Treasurer	Mr. N. C. Buchholz

At Intervals the choir presents some great cantata such as Stainer's Crucifixion.

The following serve at present:

Soprano—

Miss Clara Schultz
Mrs. Lloyd Schleicher
Miss Doris Wittstock
Miss Juno Ladwig
Miss Mildred Daehn
Mrs. Alvina Lunde
Miss Elnora Albright

Alto—

Miss Norma Zick
Miss Ruth Wepner
Miss Lorraine Kollath
Miss Muriel Lehman
Miss Ingeborge Fricke
Mrs. Carleton Lueck
Miss Margaret Clausen

Tenor—

Mr. Elmer Dudzinske
Mr. Clarence Rupnow
Mr. Harold Rupnow
Mr. Roy Prellwitz
Mr. Lloyd Marsh
Mr. Walter Thiel
Mr. Paul Krueger

Bass—

Mr. Howard Krueger
Mr. William Stolz
Mr. Arthur Steinbring
Mr. Carleton Lueck
Mr. Norman Buchholz

The Men's Chorus organized a few years ago, now sings regularly twice each month. Mr. Emil Rutz is president, and Mr. R. F. Lehman, secretary and treasurer. The following make up the personnel:

First Tenor—

Herman Eichstaedt
Paul Krueger
Walter Thiel
Fred Roeske
Lloyd Marsh
Helmuth Krueger

Second Tenor—

A. F. Hinz
Elmer Dudzinske
Harold Thorndike
Allmen Hammen
Adolph Denbrook
Hubert Kunde

First Bass—

Howard Krueger
Norman Buchholz
E. E. Schieler
R. F. Lehman
O. M. Redeman
Harold Rupnow
Clarence Rupnow

Second Bass—

Emil Rutz
Wm. F. Stolz
Herman Wittlief
Robert Rupnow
Roy Prellwitz
A. R. Buchholz
Alex Schure

The Frauenchor was organized years ago and since then Ida Buchholz is the

Soprano—

Mrs. William Streeb
Mrs. William Lamb
Mrs. O. H. Wepner
Mrs. Amanda Toboit
Mrs. Ben Kollath
Mrs. Paul Heiman
Mrs. Thomas Dudzinske
Mrs. Allmen Hammen

The Junior Girls' Chorus, led by Mrs. A. Buchholz with Mrs. A. Buchholz as first rehearsal, Sept. 1934, has already progressed to the point where the following include:

Soprano—

Hildegard Lietz
Gladys Liefke
Pearl Duzinske
Jean Kosanke
Arlene Zwick
Geraldine Hay
Bernice Han

This group will be in the fall. Audition

The following statistics are:

Baptisms
Confirmations
Marriages
Burials
Communion