



6 ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, at the corner of Division and Center Streets, began as a small German congregation of 23 families in 1875. Religion was a very important part of German family life, resulting in building a first church organized as Evangelical St. Paul's German Society. The building faced on Center Street. The cornerstone was laid on Reformation Day, October 31, 1875. With thankful hearts the members sang "Until God Brought Us Here." The local weekly newspaper, "The Advocate," recorded the event. A parochial school was maintained until 1912.

In 1890 the women organized under the name "Frauen Verein," many being actively engaged in the Sunday School as teachers and leaders.

As Elgin grew, its membership also grew and English replaced the German language.

In 1905 it was evident that a larger place for worship was needed. A new church building was built on the same site, but facing Division Street, and it is the present building today. Bricks were "sold" as a fund raising project.



A Brotherhood was organized in 1930, being helpful in all church endeavors. A project was aiding the Bensenville Home Society for orphaned children and the aged.

For 27 years a living portrait of DaVinci's Last Supper has been presented in the Lenten season.

Through a merger with the Reformed Church in 1934, it became St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church. Through another merger with the Congregational Church in 1954, it became St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

In 1956 ground was broken for an educational and office building west of the church. It includes a beautiful small chapel.

The 100th anniversary was observed in October, 1975.

Fourteen pastors and ten assistants have served this congregation.

The church is proud to be a part of Elgin's heritage.