

**St Paul German Evangelical Lutheran Church
St Paul Evangelical and Reformed Church
St Paul United Church of Christ
Pilot Grove Community Protestant Church**

*12344 Highway N
Pilot Grove, Missouri 65276
Phone: (660) 834-3780*

*Rev. Steven Richardson, Pastor
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service*

Township:	T-47-N	Organized:	
Range:	R-19-W	Disbanded:	
Section:	2	Active:	
Map:		Updated:	March 8, 2020

Cemetery: There is a cemetery associated with this church.

Area: Southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the section about four miles and one half miles west of Pilot Grove, Missouri in Clear Creek, Missouri

Records: The records for St. Paul German Evangelical Lutheran Church do not reside at the church site, but are in the hands of a private individual. A copy of the records through the year 1914 have been transcribed and are available at the CoMoGen web site.

[St Paul German Evangelical Lutheran Church Baptism Records](#)

[St Paul German Evangelical Lutheran Church Confirmation Records](#)

[St Paul German Evangelical Lutheran Church Marriage Records](#)

[St Paul German Evangelical Lutheran Church Death Records](#)

History:

**St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed Church
From "Pilot Grove Centennial 1873 - 1973"**

St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church was formed to meet the spiritual needs of the many German immigrants, who settled in the Clear Creek area in the 1840's and 50's. In 1850, Rev. C. Hofmeister, pastor at California, Mo., conducted services for the Evangelical people here in private homes. In 1865, under the guidance of Rev. E. Pfeiffer, the first resident pastor, a log building was erected as the first church building on land donated by Christian Schupp. This was south of N Route where the old cemetery is.

Soon plans were made to build a new church, and one half acre north of the road, where the present church stands was bought from Henry Schlotzhauer, a trustee of the Methodist Church. The new

church was to be built of bricks, which were to be made on the premises. However, since the bricks were not made as scientifically as today, the bricks and the brick church turned out to be a sad failure, and heart-breaking disappointment to all St. Paul's members. All able-bodied men gathered together, felled trees, prepared them, and built a neat little church, using the spoiled bricks between the walls. They were able to dedicate their new church building on September 25, 1870. In 1898, they were able to purchase an adjoining one-half acre for two dollars from the Catholic Church, the Right Rev. Joseph Hogan being the Catholic bishop in Kansas City at the time.

During the pastorate of Rev. H. E. Mueller, the members decided to build a new church; the cornerstone of the new brick edifice was laid May 19, 1929, and the church was dedicated September 15, 1929. More ground was bought by the trustees, John Friess, Oscar Meisenheimer, and Adolph Selback, from the Consolidated School District #4 in 1948.

Through various mergers with other churches, the name was changed to St. Paul's United Church of Christ in 1957.

Two members of the congregation have entered the Evangelical ministry: P. W. Meisenheimer, ordained July 8, 1917, and Eugene Schupp, June 12, 1951.

Clear Creek Township is Interesting Area of Cooper County by Mrs. A. J. Hayes, "Daily News Correspondent"

"In the year 1866, an acre of ground was donated by Mr. Christian Schupp for a church site, beside the burial ground and a log structure was built there. This church was formed to meet the spiritual needs of the many German immigrants who had settled in the Clear Creek area in the 1840's and the 1850's Rev. E. Pfeiffer was the first resident pastor.

Soon plans were made to build a new church, and a one-half acre plot north of the road, was bought from Henry Schlotzhauer, Sr.; a trustee of the Methodist Church. The new church was to be built of bricks, which were to be made on the premises. But the bricks, being of poor quality, were a sad failure and the building a heart-breaking disappointment to the members. All the able bodied men, gathered together, felled trees, prepared them and built a neat little church, using the spoiled bricks between the walls. The building was dedicated Sept 25, 189?.

In 1898, they were able to purchase an adjoining one half acre for two dollars from the St. John's Catholic Church, the Right Rev. Joseph Hogan being the Catholic Bishop in Kansas City, at the time.

During the pastorate of Rev. H. E. Mueller, a new church was built the cornerstone was laid May 19, 1929 and the church dedicated Sept. 15, 1929. More ground was bought from the school district in 1948.

Through various mergers with other denominations, the name was changed to St. Paul's United Church of Christ in 1957.

St. Paul's Evangelical Church From "Memorabilia of Cooper County", 1990

Clear Creek Church Started In 1850

The St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed church of this community is an old landmark of Cooper County and was started by the German immigrants who settled here about 100 years ago.

The beginning of this church dates about 1850 when the Rev. C. Hoffmeister of California, Mo., conducted services for the Evangelical people here.

In 1854 the Rev. Jacob Wettle of Boonville served this group and the Rev. G.L. Greiner was pastor from 1857 until 1865 and worked among this group from his field in Boonville. Services were held in the home of a Mr. Schupp.

In 1865 the Rev. F. Pfeiffer became the first resident pastor and on April 6, 1866, the church was organized when 25 charter members adopted the first constitution. The first church building was of logs. Christian Schupp donated one acre of land for the site and the church was erected where the old cemetery is. This building served until 1870 when it proved inadequate and was replaced by a frame structure which was erected upon the site of the present church.

Mr. Pfeiffer served until 1875 and since then the congregation has had the following ministers: George Guebner 1876-81; F. Frankenfeld 1881-87; C. Kautz 1887-90; G. Kitterer 1890-98; H. Juchhoff 1895-1900; A. Huesser 1900-05; C. Gabler 1901-12; J. Doellefeld 1913-18; E.J. Moritz 1918-19; H.E. Mueller 1919-41; Aug. L. Brueggemann 1942-44; Edward Winnecke 1944-47; Carl Schmidt 1948-50; and J.P. Kaiser, the present pastor, who came in April 1951.

It was during the pastorate of Mr. Mueller that the members decided to build a new church. The old one was razed and while the new one was being built services were held in the parochial school house. The cornerstone for the new brick edifice was laid May 19, 1929, and the church was completed, and dedication services were Sept. 15, 1929.

Two members of the congregation have entered the Evangelical ministry: P.W. Meisenheimer was ordained July 8, 1917, and now has a pastorate in New York City, and Eugene Schupp was ordained June 12, 1951, and is pastor of the church at Newton, Kans.

Sunday school is held every Sunday. Clarence Bergman is superintendent and the average attendance is 58. Preaching services are held every Sunday morning. Harold Reis is president of the Youth Fellowship and Mrs. Louis Schupp is president of the Woman's Guild.

The church has about 100 members representing 40 families, which are mostly rural residents, and they are planning a centennial celebration to be held in September.

Data for this article was furnished by the Rev. J.P. Kaiser.

by Mrs. A.J. Hayes

The Community Protestant Church of Pilot Grove, Missouri
From "Cooper County Church Sketches" by F. Chesnutt, 1993

The beginning of steamboat traffic on the Missouri in the 1840-50s brought change to Cooper County. The greatest change to the rural area was the arrival of German immigrants. In the Clear Creek area where the prairie meets the Lamine River German Methodists, Catholics, and Evangelicals settled in large numbers. All practiced their faith and schooled their children in their native language.

From California, Missouri, Rev. C. Hofmeister periodically conducted home services for the Evangelical Reformed group. A small Methodist Church on Henry Schlotzhauer's land became their schoolhouse with a log building on land donated by Christian Schupp used as a church. In 1865, having obtained Rev. E. Pfeifer as resident minister, it was decided to build a new church across the road.

Brick-making took place in the church yard. Water, clay, and timber were available nearby and the job was completed before it was realized that due to insufficient firing or faulty clay the bricks were not strong enough. Undismayed, the congregation felled trees and built the church using the spoiled

brick between the posts, a method used by the French. Dedication of St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church took place September 25, 1870.

Art glass windows and a reed organ were added as the Church grew. The 50th anniversary in 1915 was a celebrated occasion. Two ministers were ordained from this congregation: Rev. P.W. Meisenheimer and Rev. Eugene Schupp.

The present brick building dates from 1929, and was built at the same location under Rev. H. E. Mueller, to accommodate the stained glass windows from the old church. The altar and pulpit light were gifts of the Mueller family. In 1957 a new parsonage was built for Rev. W.H. Sabbert. The Church exterior features patterned brick with limestone trim and metal turrets and bell tower. The steeple cross includes a weather vane of pierced metal and a star.

In 1960, in a spirit of ecumenism the congregation became the St. Paul's United Church of Christ and joined with local Methodists and Presbyterians to share the services of Rev. Robert Scholes as leader of the union. Recent reorganization resulted in the name being changed to the Community Protestant Church of Pilot Grove. The combining of denominations has been successful and has helped preserve this unique building and cemetery. Across the road (Highway N) where the original Church stood is the old cemetery of the early settlers with many of the tombstones inscribed in German.
