

CHARTER MEMBERS

August Schoepper	Ferdinand Klempen	Edward Jolitz	Martin Kerwin
Julius Orthmann, Sr.	Fred Wegner, Jr.	Julius Orthmann, Jr.	Herman Schwan, Sr.
Fred Wegner, Sr.			

PASTORS

Samuel Gonser 1907-1909	Johann Kusch 1921-1922	Samuel Gonser 1928-1939
G. Zimmer 1909-1912	Frank Klinshewsky 1923-1926	Paul J. Kaiser 1940-1969
A. Blankenagel 1912-1921	H.W. Rath 1927-	Herbert Feierabend 1970-1980
Richard K. Stenzel 1981-2008	Beth (Cheney) Abbott 2009-2019	Peter Haskins 2025-

SERVING DURING VACANCIES

R. Assman 1922	H. Greuter 1926	B. Howe 1928	R. Grunewald
Jeannie Douglas 2008-2010	Lisa Irwin 2019-2020	M. Carlin 2020-2023	P. Haskins 2024-2025

Denominational ties:

Evangelical Synod of North America, Evangelical & Reformed, United Church of Christ

HISTORY

- 1907 Rev. Gonser began preliminary work to establish church in South Milwaukee. Charter members drew up papers and chose name – May 4th. Evangelical St. Lucas Church. Under the leadership of Julius Orthmann, Sunday School was started in German. 909 Michigan Church dedicated – October 13th. Erected for \$2400.00. Ladies Aid organized Guild.
- 1921 Formed joint church with Christ Evangelical Church of Cudahy.
- 1923 Purchased church on 9th and Madison – May 21st for \$6000.00. Farewell service held and service of dedication of redecorated church held July 18th. Service held for laying corner stone September 30th.
- 1927 Rev. Rath introduced English services. Also, introduced to Sunday School and Young Peoples League.
- 1931 Albert Gonser ordination held June 28th.
- 1940 Organized Brotherhood. Dropped all German services. Used individual Communion cups for the first time.
- 1941 Neon Cross dedicated December 15th.
- 1942 Merged. Changed Constitution January 11th changing to Evangelical and Reformed Church instead of Evangelical Synod of North America. 35th Anniversary service held September 20th.
- 1943 Burnt mortgage for 9th and Madison Church in January.
- 1946 Women's Guild presented Hammond Electric Organ, dedicated November 3rd.
- 1947 Christ Church of Cudahy merged with St. Luke's. January 12th union service held. 40th Anniversary service held September 28th.
- 1948 Dedicated Chancel furniture on December 12th.
- 1953 Purchased approximately 4 acres at 18th and Madison for \$3000.00 on September 28th.
- 1955 April 4th architects chosen, Steffen & Kemp, to design new church.
- 1957 50th Anniversary.
- 1959 Broke ground for new church on May 17th. Sold old church to Church of Nazarene. Received lot on Oak, \$5000.00 and property at 1829 Oak. Laid corner stone on October 18th.

- 1960 Last service held in old church on January 17th. First service held in Fellowship Hall of new church on January 24th. Church completed on May 15th. Dedicated church on September 18th.
- 1961 Voted to change name to include United Church of Christ.
- 1962 Sunday School altar built by D. Sonnenbend, bulletin board added and cross donated by Mr. Riniker.
- 1963 Terrance McCreedy ordained here on June 30th. Black top, circle drive and lights added to parking lot.
- 1972 Ground breaking for addition on April 16th. Addition – Sunday School, lounge and offices completed. Built by Marino Construction, designed by Boswell Associates. 65th Anniversary service held in October. Kiva Hayen presented Anniversary and Communion banners at 65th anniversary celebration.
- 1973 Sunday School addition dedicated on April 1st.
- 1977 70th anniversary service held on October 16th.
- 1981 New organ dedicated on September 13th.
- 1982 75th Anniversary service held on April 25th. St. Luke banner presented to church
- 1983 New Parsonage started in July and completed in November.
- 1990 Carillon dedicated in April. New sound system added.
- 1991 Eternal light installed in February – donated by family of Rev. Kaiser.
- 2007 New stain glass windows installed.
- 2007 100th Anniversary Celebration. Dinner celebration held on May 2007
- 2008 Altar cross hung – donated by 100th anniversary committee.
- 2008 Rev. Stenzel retires and parsonage sold to him. Rev. Jeannie Douglas becomes interim pastor.
- 2009 New roof, new air conditioning units and new water heater installed.
- 2009 Rev. Beth (Cheney) Abbott was installed as new pastor.
- 2009 Rev. Stenzel passes away.
- 2019 Pastor Beth resigns. Pastor Lisa Irwin becomes interim pastor.
- 2020 At Annual Meeting the Congregation agrees to sell the church building but to stay together as a church.
- 2020 Pastor Lisa resigns and Rev. Mary Carlin becomes new interim pastor.
- 2020 Coronavirus pandemic infects people around the world. In person services halted. Virtual becomes the new norm in businesses, schools and churches.
- 2021 Church building is sold to Missio Dei Fellowship, which later becomes The Vine Community Church.
- 2021 St. Luke's starts using St. Mark's Episcopal Church to hold services starting with one Sunday a month and increasing to every other Sunday and eventually to every week as the Covid19 pandemic starts to wane.
- 2022 St. Luke's changes location and starts to use South Milwaukee United Methodist Church for services.
- 2023 Pastor Mary Carlin resigns. We use Pulpit Supply to have Sunday Services. Rev. Peter Haskins becomes our new interim pastor.
- 2025 Rev. Peter Haskins becomes our new settled pastor.

Revised February 2025