

St. Michael's Founder's Day

History of early St. Michael's settlers – Wayne Hecht

Location of settlers gravesites from 1850 – 1853

Biographies of the four pastors who are buried in our cemetery

History and location of the first log church

Hymn accompanied by Audrey VanDeVeer

“Holy God We Praise Thy Name”

Holy God we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite, Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign

Placing the flowers on the Founders' gravesites

You are invited to visit the pastors' graves and the log church site where committee members are standing

Thanks to Bill Marsrow & Weber Steel for the pastors' gravesite plaques.
Thank You to Jan Hecht for the flowers.

Original Frankenhilf Settlers

Karl Gottlieb Amman, Michael Schwarz, J. Paulus Popp, Michael Gruber, Carl Glave, Friedrich H. Dahl, J. Michael Huber, Paulus Kress
Johann George Bauer, John Georg Kamm, Andreas Heinlein, Leonhard Sippel, J. Martin Bruegel, Kaspar Wurflein,
Johann Leonhard Trump, Johann Schwab, Friedriche Schultz, Johann Hunold, J. Schemm, Rev. Johannes Deindoerfer

FOUNDERS' DAY 9:00 a.m. Aug. 16, 2016
St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Richville, Michigan

1. Welcome to Founders' Day, in this 175th year of our Congregation and Village.

Intro: I am Wayne Hecht.

Members of the Anniversary committee are wearing these T-shirts today.

2. Note: Be very careful walking on the cemetery grounds. The grassy surface is very uneven.

3. Early History

In the early 1800's, a large migration of German people to wilderness areas in the states of OH, IN, MO, MI and other states, began. The Lutheran synods in the east, like in PA, could not keep up in serving these pioneers. Friedrich Wyneken was a pastor trained in Germany. He became a circuit rider missionary in IN, OH, and southern MI. He sent strong pleas back to Germany for help to minister to these American Lutherans.

This need came to the attention of Pastor Wilhelm Loehe of the village of Neuendettelsau, very near to Gunzenhausen, in the region of Franconia, Kingdom of Bavaria. This man had a heart for missions. He began to train men for the ministry and he sent them to the frontier areas of America.

This led to the sending of Christian families to live among the native peoples, and to mission to them, in what became Frankenmuth in 1845.

In 1847 the community of Frankentrost was begun with the concept to gather German Lutherans together.

And in 1848, Frankenlust, near Bay City was started. There Pastor Ferdinand Siever's work later resulted in the founding of several Lutheran congregations in the Bay area.

Then, Pastor Loehe conceived the idea of a colony that would provide an opportunity for the poor. A chance for them to make their way in life. The possibility to marry and lead Christian lives.

In 1849, Pastor Sievers along with Pastor Craemer of Frankenmuth looked at several areas of state land. When this site was chosen, Pastor Sievers bought 2 ½ sq. miles bordering the Cheboygening River. 1592 acres for \$1.25 per acre with money from the revolving Colonization Capital Fund.

Pastor Loehe imagined that this new settlement would become an industry town that would provide employment. A Sulphur match factory was an idea.

When the 1st group of settlers came in 1850, a number of them stayed in Monroe, Detroit and Saginaw. They did not continue on.

Only Gottlieb (or Gottlob) Ammon, and his wife, and cousin Michael Schwarz came with Pastor Kuehn to Frankenhilf.

In 1851, 4 more families came.

In 1852, 8 families came.

In 1853, 7 families came.

In 1856, there were 24 families.

Pastor Diendorfer was here from 1851 to 1853.

A bit later in this program, you will hear the history of the 1st church building.

At that time, the route taken between Frankenhilf and Frankenmuth was by way of Frankentrost. Pastor Diendorfer suggested that the colonists work together to clear a path to shorten the route to Frankenmuth. This crude connection became known as the Diendorfer Road.

When the disagreement in church authority and doctrine, that had begun with the Saxon Lutherans in Missouri, led to a break with Pastor Loehe, Pastor Diendorfer left for Iowa. That was the beginning of the Iowa Synod.

The Ammon family went with him.

St. Michael's was helped for several years by pastors from the neighboring Franken settlements.

So, as you can see, Frankenhilf got off to a slow start. They were isolated and in need of basic resources, like flour. The nearest place to get them was Frankenmuth.

Although Frankenhilf had many businesses and shops in the years to follow, it did not become a factory town.

The Founders had landed on some of the best agricultural land in the rich Saginaw Valley that we know today.

4. (Ask the committee members to stand at the Founders' gravesites.)

Now we Honor the memory of the Settlers of the 1st four years

Read the Family Names and recognize families here today.

Point out the Locations of the Founders' gravesites

5. At this time we Honor the faithful ministry of our former pastors through the generations.

Members of the Anniversary Committee will now read biographies of pastors Bernthal, Bekemeier, Schoenow, and Spiekerman. They are buried here in this cemetery.

Point out locations.

Later there will be committee members at those sites.

6. History and location of the first Log Church. Al Rodammer will read.

Models of the churches are under the blue canopy, at the flagpole, at the site of the log church.

7. Point out location of the Frame Church on East side of the street.

Dedicated 1875 on the day of St. Michael's and all Angels.

Scott Wenzel will read the history of the frame church.

8. We have an exceptional **"Story to Tell."**

For a colony that was conceived as a home for the poor.

When Pastor Cloeter of Saginaw was sent to look at this place, he wrote, "From what should these people live, the tree bark? There is nothing here but forests, swamps and water holes."

In later years, the community was asked to change the name of Frankenhilf.

They looked around and saw the blessings that surrounded them.

They had built homes. They had built churches. They had built farms.

This small hamlet had been part of the defining process of our understanding of church doctrine and order embodied in the **Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.**

They called this place **“RICHVILLE.”**

TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR 175 YEARS

9. On these grounds, the Founders first worshiped their Lord together.

It is fitting that we now sing a hymn of praise. Refer to program.

Note: Audrey VanDeVeer will give us a short intro, and then we will loudly sing “Holy God We Praise Thy Name.”

10. This concludes our program this morning.

We wish to thank all those who worked to make this event possible.

We thank all of you for coming.

We especially want to thank Tim Kern for his dedication in keeping these grounds in such beautiful condition.

We the committee have drawn information from various sources.

A lot of this information is on the St. Michael’s Lutheran Church website.

Pam Mossner has entered a great deal of this, even to the point of translating with Google Translate into English, so that now these first Anniversary history booklets are available for us to read.

One great booklet on the history of the Frankonian settlements is “Church Bells In the Forest.” They are on sale here for \$12 ea.

German Service: Sunday Sept. 13th 3:00 p.m.

Pastor Loest of Frankentrost will be our pastor for the service.

It will be translated in the program.

Experience how our ancestors, our forebearers worshipped. You will enjoy it.

11. Flowers will now be placed on the Founders’ gravesites.

Committee members and those families who can associate with the various gravesites can place the flowers that are on the table on the grave of the founders.

12. Now feel free to walk through the cemetery. Be very careful walking on these burial grounds. The grassy surface is very uneven.

Thank you very much. Have a wonderful day. And may God Bless.