

The Oldest Evangelical Church in Wisconsin

Established in 1840 ... eight years before Wisconsin became a state.

175 years ago a love of God, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit gathered together a group of tough adventurous immigrant farm families on this our own little holy hill to form the oldest Evangelical Synod Church of North America in Wisconsin. Originally a log church where Native Americans peeked in the windows to marvel at the strange customs of their new neighbors, within 40 years the German-speaking congregation built the traditional white clapboard church which stands today.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Erin (Colgate)

This sense of community, mutual love and service to others continues to thrive today, only with the continued reliance on God and belief in Him and His abounding unconditional love for us ... witnessed in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ who died for our sins.

Now known as St. Paul's United Church of Christ – Erin, located at the intersection of two rustic roads in Southeastern Wisconsin's beautiful Kettle Moraine we have been celebrating since the beginning of 2015 with many historical presentations by members of the St. Paul's UCC – Erin 175th Anniversary Committee, culminating on October 11, 2015 with a special 9:30 AM Jubilee Service of Celebration followed by a celebratory luncheon.



Site of the original log St. Paul's Church

175th Anniversary Celebration this year is a big event for our congregation, especially as several descendants of the original founders are still active members, including the church organist. At St. Paul's Church we treasure tradition. The church bell, installed in 1907, has since then rung at the beginning and end of each Sunday service and tolled out the years of life when a church member dies. Just before WWI the men of the congregation hand dug a basement to provide space for the Sunday School and a furnace. It's been modernized since but the Sunday School still meets there. There still isn't enough headroom for the tallest members to stand up straight, and a furnace is still down there too. The Women's Guild which donated the church's very fine stained glass windows in 1923, is celebrating both the anniversary of their 100 years of service to the church this year and the church's 175th Anniversary by doing what they do best, cooking a turkey dinner as a gift to the St. Paul's congregation.

Although St. Paul's is 175 years old, we try to keep up with the times. Four years ago the congregation took advantage of the church's hilltop location to install solar panels beyond the cemetery which provide most of the church's electrical needs and twelve years ago a major addition has made the church completely handicap accessible.

We are proud of our beautiful church and its history. It is a welcoming place. We are a welcoming congregation. Should you drive, bike or walk past St. Paul's, you will find a drinking fountain in the yard on the

north side of the church. Please stop and refresh yourself, walk about our grounds and cemetery and perhaps take a little rest under one of our shade trees.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ –Erin is located in Washington County, Town of Erin, at 495 S. Augustine Road, Colgate, WI 53017. Put us into your GPS and make a day trip of it. Regular Sunday services are held at 9:30 AM.

St. Paul's UCC – Erin 175th Anniversary Committee

Barb, Charmaine, Jim, Kathy, Kay, LouAnn, Marilyn, Polly and Steve