

St. John
Lutheran Church
Ingomar
75th Anniversary

1904-1979



WEST ALEXANDRIA

OHIO

THE SERVICE

St. John Lutheran Church of Ingomar 75th Anniversary

Sunday, April 29, 1979

PRELUDE

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R/ Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

R/Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

R/ we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

R/ Amen

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE HYMN - O God, Our Help in Ages Past #320

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;

Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Continued

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

NEW TESTAMENT GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R/ And also with you

THE KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord

R/ Lord have mercy

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let
us pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord have mercy

For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of
the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray
to the Lord.

R/ Lord have mercy

For this holy House, and for all who offer here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord have mercy

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord

R/ Amen

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

R/ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God;
power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Continued

Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
"Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen."
This is the feast of victory for our God,
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.
Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
R/ and with thy spirit

Let us pray:

O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your Church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make us worthy of our heritage. Knit us together in the communion of saints, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON First Kings 8:22-30

THE PSALMODY - Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

They will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the Lord God is both sun and shield;

He will give grace and glory;

no good thing will the Lord withhold

From those who walk with integrity.

O Lord of hosts,

Happy are they who put their trust in you!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM

THE SECOND LESSON First Peter 2:1-9

R/ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

ANTHEM - Adult Choir "The Lord is Risen Today"

THE HOLY GOSPEL St. John 10:22-30

Response before the Gospel:

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Response following the Gospel:

Praise be to Thee, O Christ

HYMN OF THE DAY - "Built on a Rock" #365

Built on a rock the Church shall stand,
Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
Bells still are chiming and calling.
Calling the young and old to rest,
Calling the souls of those distressed,
Longing for life everlasting.

Not in our temples made with hands
God, the Almighty, is dwelling.
High in the heav'ns his temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
Deigns to abide with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.

We are God's house of living stones,
Built for his own habitation;
He fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
Granting us life and salvation.
Were two or three to seek his face,
He in their midst would show his grace,
Blessings upon them bestowing.

Yet in this house, an earthly frame,
Jesus the children is blessing;
Hither we come to praise his name,
Faith in our Savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,
Making with us his covenant,
Granting his children the kingdom.

Through all the passing years, O Lord,
Grant that, when church bells are ringing,
Many may come to hear God's Word
Where he this promise is bringing:
I know my own, my own know me;
You, not the world, my face shall see;
My peace I leave with you. Amen

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made: Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

THE SHARING OF PEACE

Greet one another with "the peace of the Lord".

THE OFFERING

THE BELLCHOIR ANTHEM "Ein Feste Burg ist Unser Gott"

THE OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you

R/ And with thy spirit

Lift up your hearts

R/We lift them up unto the Lord

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God

R/ It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly meet, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God;

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious Resurrection of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

R/ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy art thou, Almighty and Merciful God. Holy art thou, and great is the Majesty of thy glory.

Thou didst so love the world as to give thine only-begotten Son, that who-soever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life; Who, having come into the world to fulfill for us thy holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation, IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED, TOOK BREAD; AND, WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE BROKE IT AND GAVE IT TO HIS DISCIPLES, SAYING, TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU; THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

AFTER THE SAME MANNER ALSO, HE TOOK THE CUP, WHEN HE HAD SUPPED, AND, WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE GAVE IT TO THEM, SAYING, DRINK YE ALL OF IT; THIS CUP IS THE NEW TESTAMENT IN MY BLOOD, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU, AND FOR MANY, FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS; THIS DO, AS OFT AS YE DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary precept, his life-giving Passion and Death, his glorious Resurrection and Ascension and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to thee O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we beseech thee mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and with thy Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, thy servants, and these thine own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who partake thereof may be filled with heavenly benediction and grace, and, receiving the remission of sins, be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all thy saints.

And unto thee, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in thy holy Church, world without end. Amen.

R/ Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed by thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R/ And with thy spirit.

O Christ, thou Lamb of God, that takest away
the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, thou Lamb of God, that takest away
the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, thou Lamb of God, that takest away
the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen.

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(We invite to the Communion table those baptized Christians
who believe with us that in the bread and wine of the
Sacrament the Lord gives us his Body to eat and his Blood
to drink for the strengthening of our faith.)

(When all have communed, the celebrant will indicate
that all are to rise and will say:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and his precious Blood,
strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life.

R/ Amen

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good.

R/ And his mercy endureth forever.

Almighty God, who givest the true Bread which cometh
down from heaven, even thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
Grant, we beseech thee, that we who have received the
Sacrament of his Body and Blood may abide in him and he
in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless
life; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy
Ghost, one God, world without end.

R/ Amen.

The Lord be with you.

R/ And with thy spirit.

Bless we the Lord

R/ Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious
unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you
peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
Holy Ghost.

R/ Amen

THE CLOSING HYMN "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" #367

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever And our confidence alone.

1 To this temple, where we call you,
Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come, with all your loving kindness,
Hear your people as they pray;
And your fullest benediction
Shed within these walls today.

Grant, we pray, to all your faithful
All the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from you forever
With the blessed to retain;
And here-after in your glory
Evermore with you to reign.

Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one:
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run!

POSTLUDE

* * *

OFFICIANTS

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Sauer, President of the Ohio
Synod of the Lutheran Church in America
Celebrant and preacher

The Rev. Donald R. Brewer, pastor loci
Deacon

Mr. William Henry, Organist

Mrs. Floyd Spitler, Jr. Choir directress

Mrs. Bruce Studebaker, Choir directress

Debbie Combs and Marsha Kingsley, Acolytes

Altar Flowers are given in memory of Donald Campbell
and Walter Suggs by the families.

Special flowers:

- + in memory of William and Janie Suggs by
Beverly Smith and Harry Campbell
- + from the funeral of John Cotterman

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF INGOMAR

- 1891 March 18. A small group of Lutherans met at the home of D.W. Summers and decided to organize a Lutheran congregation.
- May 17. First (?) communion service in the newly rented Methodist church building between Ingomar and Enterprise. Twenty-four people communed at the service with the Pastor G. C. Smith of Salem Lutheran Church, Lewisburg, officiating.
- 1894 September 16. A congregational meeting was held and the Methodist church building was purchased for \$250.
- 1904 January 21. First meeting of the Willing Workers, the Ladies Aid Society for our congregation. Seventeen ladies formed the group, and elected Mrs. Ephraim Eby as president.
- August. State officials examined the building and found it unsafe for a place of worship.
- November 2. A congregational meeting was held and decided to "move to Ingomar".
- November 19. The present site was purchased from John Unger for \$150.
- December 3. The congregation was formally organized as the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingomar, and a constitution adopted in keeping with the teaching and practice of the General Council. It is this date that marks our formal status as a congregation, and which we are celebrating in this Seventy-Fifth Anniversary. The constitution was signed by seventeen members.
- December 17. The Rev. E. M. Potts, Ph.D. of the Lewisburg church was formally called as the first official pastor of the new congregation. At that meeting also a building committee was appointed.
- 1905 Early Spring. The basement was dug by hand by members and friends.
- August 27. The cornerstone laying ceremony.
- 1906 During this year the auditorium of the present nave was constructed. It is 36 feet wide and 56 feet long. Contractor was B. C. Grouse. The cost was \$54.00. The old bell from the church on the hill was incorporated into the bell tower, and is the one still in use today.
- December 16. Dedication services were officiated over by the Rev. V.V. Christy, pastor at Ellerton and president of the District Synod of Ohio. Membership 32. Indebtedness \$750.
- 1907 Up until this time the congregation was officially independent, but in 1907 was received into the District Synod of Ohio of the General Council as a mission congregation, receiving financial help from the Synod for several years until it was able to be self-supporting. Several nearby congregations had also given individual help in the construction of the church building, especially in the purchase of windows.
- A parish was formed of the Ingomar church and Grace church of West Carrollton. Later the congregation of St. John's (Gebhart) of Miamisburg was added to the parish (1922).

- 1919 The church building was wired for electrical lights, lamps having formerly been used.
- 1920 With the formation of the United Lutheran Church in America, St. John's became a part of the Southern Conference of the Synod of Ohio of the United Lutheran Church in America.
- 1921 An addition was made to the southwest corner of the nave to be used as a Sunday School room. That addition is presently used for church offices. The cost was \$2000. At the time the church statistics were: 129 baptized, 67 confirmed, 62 communing. Total budget for 1921, \$732.
- 1931 October 25. The congregation celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Pastor Potts came from Upper Sandusky to preach the Service, with a noon dinner in the basement and services in the afternoon and evening.
- 1941 Grace Church, West Carrollton went on its own and Ingomar remained in connection with the Gebhart church as a parish.
- 1945 Raymond L. Nickel was ordained into the Gospel Ministry of the Lutheran Church, the only son of the congregation to become a pastor.
- 1950 January 1. St. John's Lutheran Church of Ingomar decided to become self-supporting and called the Rev. H. F. Hamburger, who had served the parish since 1946, as its first full time pastor. In preparation for this, the parsonage two houses south of the church was purchased from R. O. Klepinger.
- 1958 July. Preparation for the parish hall was begun with appointment of an Executive Building Committee and subcommittees.
- 1959 September 27. The cornerstone was laid.
- 1960 April 3. The new Parish Education Building was dedicated to the glory of God, with the sermon delivered by the Rev. Herbert Veler, president of the Ohio Synod.
- 1972 Under the leadership of Pastor John Bispala, the congregation formed a joint parish with the Shiloh Lutheran Church of Lewisburg, an arrangement which continued for about five years.
- 1976 The old parsonage was sold and the new one immediately north of the church was purchased, putting all the congregation's properties on adjoining land.
- 1979 Lent. St. John's Lutheran Church of Ingomar and St. John's Lutheran Church of Enterprise hold joint Wednesday Evening Lenten Services. After ninety years these, sister congregations, separate branches from the same root, are once again meeting their Lord together in worship. May the future see a closer relationship between them as they offer the community a common Christian witness.

PASTORS SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Before organization of 1904:

G. C. Smith - March 1, 1891 to February 1, 1894

J. H. Smith - April 1, 1895 to July 1, 1902

E. M. Potts, Ph.D. - Supply 1903 - 1904

After organization:

E. M. Potts, Ph.D. - December 17, 1904 to November 10, 1907

L. P. Pence - November 24, 1907 to June 1, 1922

H. C. TerVehn - October 1, 1923 to October 1, 1931

Charles W. Cassel, S.T.M. - February 1, 1932 to 1942

William H. Kibler - May 8, 1942 to April 23, 1945

H. F. Hamburger - February 1, 1946 to June 30, 1957

Larry E. Kettlehake - January 12, 1958 to April 9, 1961

Dean C. Cheek - December 10, 1961 to December 31, 1965

Nicholas K. Mays - April 3, 1966 to December 31, 1968

John K. Bispala - August 25, 1969 to December 1, 1973

Donald Rings Brewer - April 1, 1974 to present

CURRENT ORGANIZATION

The Church Council

The Rev. Donald R. Brewer, pastor and President
Floyd Spitler, Jr., Vice President
Helen Comer, Secretary (appointed)
John Herald, Treasurer (appointed)
Loni Amos
John Cotterman, Jr.
Jackie Degler
Marshall Kingsley
Keith Paulus
Charles Rhodus
William Sams
William Suggs

The Luther League

Todd Baker, President
Vickie Humphrey, Vice President
Steve Combs, Secretary
Mark Degler, Treasurer
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Stockslager and
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hickey, advisors

The Lutheran Church Women

Karen Bliss, President
Dorothy Hall, Vice President
Myrna Suggs, Secretary
Darlene Combs, Treasurer

The Sunday School

Alice Sams, Superintendent
Bill Sams, Treasurer
Helen Comer, Pre-school
Jackie Degler, grades 1 & 2
Carolyn Tackett, grades 3 & 4
Kathy Sams, grades 5 & 6
Carolyn Studebaker, grades 7 & 8
Bill Sams, high school
Pastor Brewer, adult

The Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Committee

Kenneth Duncan, Chairman
Karen Bliss
Marie Campbell
Robert Combs
Jackie Degler
Dorothy Hall
George Suggs, Sr.



REV. PENCE AND WIFE

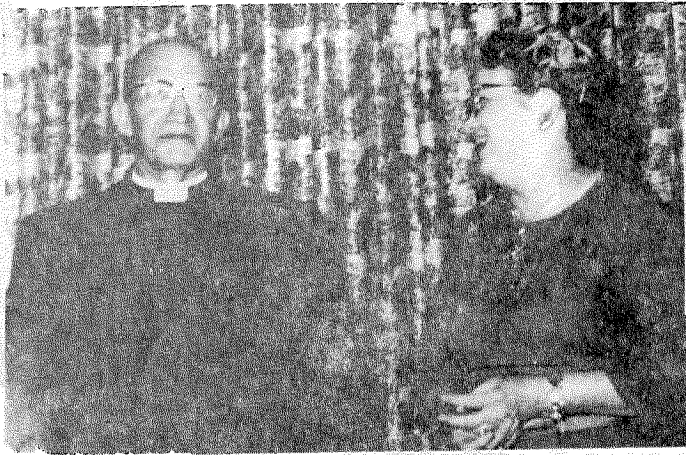
WILLING WORKERS



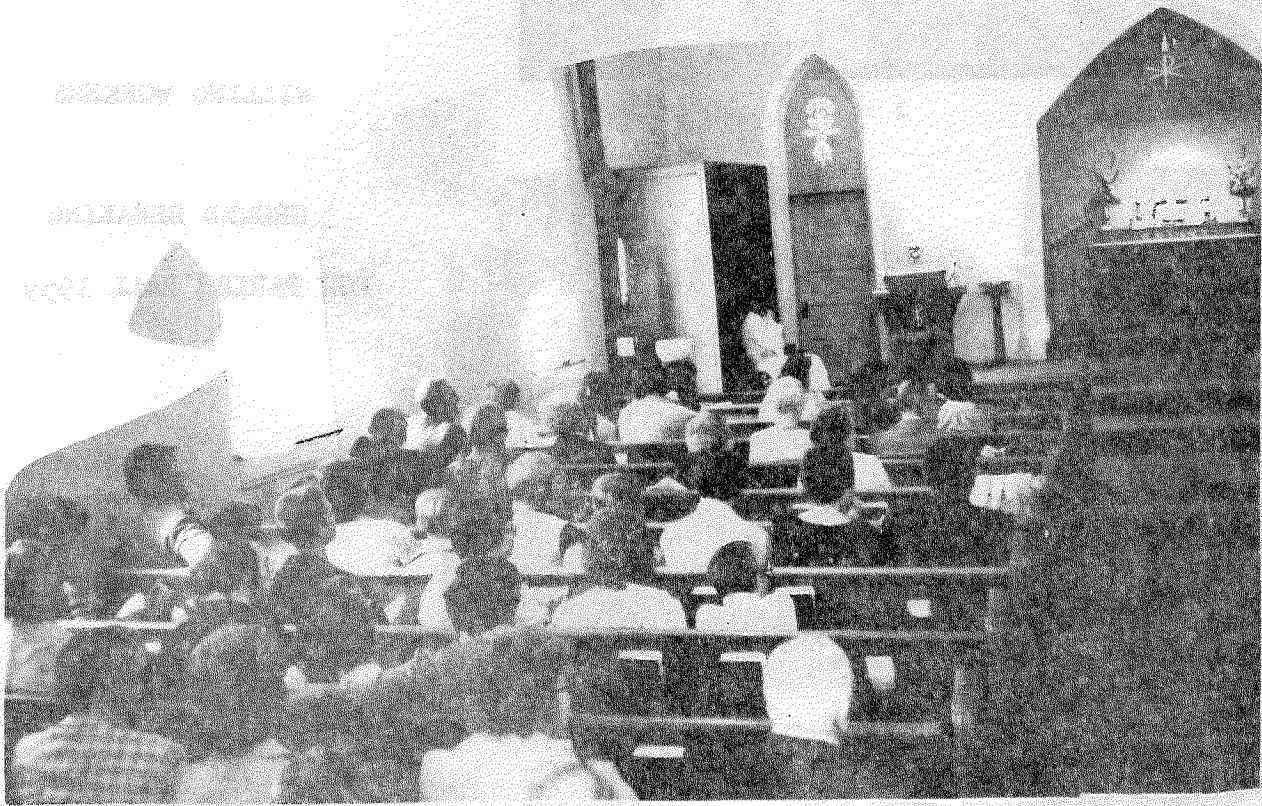
GROUND BREAKING
FOR PARISH HALL 1959

REV. KIBLER





REV. CASSEL AND WIFE





1947 BIBLE SCHOOL



REV. MAYS
AND CONFIRMATION CLASS



CHURCH IN 1906

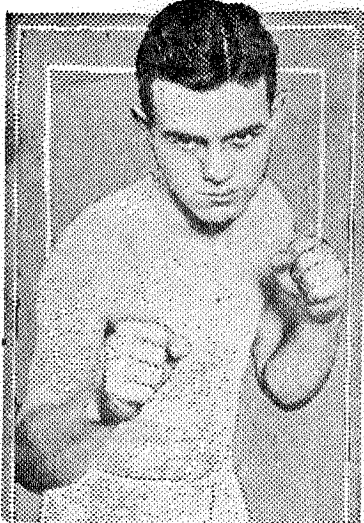


REV. BISPALA AND FAMILY



REV. NICKEL

**WAY TO MINISTRY
MADE BY BOXING**



HERBERT HAMBURGER

"Herb" Hamburger, a sophomore, who is thought to be the only student in the United States boxing his way to the ministry.



REV. BREWER