

## **Information Sheet**

**R Morgan County (Mo.).**  
**429 Church histories, 1917-1979.**  
**Nine folders, photocopies.**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

These are printed histories and programs for nine churches in Morgan and Moniteau counties of Missouri. Included are Baptist, Methodist, United Church of Christ, Lutheran, and Mennonite congregations in or near Versailles, Fortuna, Florence, Glensted, and Pymont.

Generally these histories were produced for important historical milestones, such as anniversaries, dedications, building campaigns, and celebrations. Each church has been assigned an individual folder; some folders contain more than one item. The churches included are:

### **Folder 1: First Baptist Church of Versailles**

This folder contains four items: A 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary program and history (1943); a promotional booklet for a major building campaign (1948); a centennial program (1968); and a centennial history (1968).

The First Baptist Church of Versailles was organized in 1868 as a member of the Concord Association. In 1872 it joined the Lamine Baptist Association, where it has remained, except for 1934-1937, when it affiliated with the Miller County Association. The congregation erected an auditorium in 1877, an educational building in 1929, and dedicated a new auditorium in 1950.

The centennial history (1968) contains a wealth of information, including a description of Versailles and its businesses in 1868; a list of charter members, with photographic portraits and brief biographies; excerpts from early minutes of the governing board; photographs of all church buildings; names and photographs of pastors and church officers; and a comprehensive list of current (1968) members, with many pictured.

Of interest are accounts of periods when church services were suspended due to disease in 1873 (cholera), 1918 (Spanish influenza), and 1946 (poliomyelitis). The original congregational "covenant" of 1868 is reprinted.

### **Folder 2: Saint John United Church of Christ (Florence, Mo.)**

This folder contains a small booklet which describes the church's chancel (altar, pulpit, and lectern). The chancel was a gift of the Carl C. Siegel family, and was hand-carved by Peter V. Siegel. It was dedicated on 16 September 1979. The booklet explains the Christian symbols incorporated into the carvings.

### **Folder 3: Glensted Methodist Church**

This folder contains a booklet issued for the church's centennial on 13 May 1962. Included are unattributed reminiscences, as well as a letter of 4 May 1962 from Thruston Hanks, a former member then living in California, to Alma Kerr. The "present" Glensted church building was dedicated on 24 June 1904. An affiliate of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Glensted absorbed the nearby Rock Spring congregation about 1912.

### **Folder 4: Versailles Methodist Church**

This folder contains four items: a program for the worship service on 24 December 1933; a program for morning services on 31 July 1949; a church history published in 1951; and a program for the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church building on 12 October 1958.

The Methodist Church in Versailles was organized in 1836, erected a building in 1842, and completed a brick auditorium in 1908. The 1951 history includes a list of pastors, extracts from newspaper items (1886-1951), and a membership roll. Prior to the Civil War the congregation affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, but during the war the pastor left Versailles and the building was

used by the “northern” Methodist Episcopal Church. After the war, however, the previous pastor returned and the building was reclaimed by the “southern” adherents, but not without considerable acrimony.

**Folder 5: Grace Lutheran Church (Versailles, Mo.)**

This folder contains a booklet for the services dedicating the new church auditorium on 27 November 1960. Included are photographs, a physical description of the building, and a brief history of the congregation, which was formed in 1949 and officially organized as a member of the Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) on 29 July 1951.

**Folder 6: Fortuna United Methodist Church**

Included here is a booklet marking the 75th anniversary of the congregation on 13 November 1977. There is a list of charter members, photographs of the church building under construction and newly completed (1902), lists of pastors and church officers, and a list of weddings performed at the church, 1950-1977. The church building is located in Moniteau County, although many of the members reside in Morgan County.

**Folder 7: Trinity Lutheran Church of Pymont**

This folder has one item, a booklet celebrating the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation on 1 September 1968. Pymont is a small community a few miles north of Stover in western Morgan County. This church, an affiliate of the American Lutheran Church (“Iowa Synod”) was formed in 1848. It became a dual charge with the Brauersville Immanuel Lutheran Church in 1961. A picture of the church building (1895) is on the cover. Included is a history of the congregation.

**Folder 8: Mount Zion Mennonite Church**

This folder contains one item, a centennial booklet published in 1971. Mount Zion church is located near Fortuna on the border between Morgan and Moniteau counties. The congregation was formed by splitting off from nearby Bethel Mennonite Church after a doctrinal dispute in 1871. There are lists of charter members, “ordained men,” and past and present members, including birth and death dates when known. Of particular interest are a map of the area, with names of residents, in 1870, and an account of the difficult year of 1917-1918, when “our people refused to support any of the war measures.” There is a centennial program for activities on 17-18 July 1971.

**Folder 9: Bethel Mennonite Church (Fortuna, Mo.)**

This folder includes two items: A “Souvenir Album” for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation (1917), and a book published for the church's centennial in 1967.

The “souvenir album” (1917) was printed by the Berne Witness Company of Berne, Ind. It has complementary German and English texts, the program for the Golden Anniversary observance on 22 April 1917, and a list of current officers. Of particular importance are full pages devoted to surviving charter members, including portrait photographs and biographies, similar pages devoted to previous pastors, photographs of the “old” (1870) and “new” (1909) church buildings, and a history of the congregation.

The centennial book includes the program for the centennial observances, 18-25 June 1967, photographs of members and previous pastors, with biographies of the latter, and a complete list of past and present members, with birth and death dates when available.

Formed by settlers from Wayne County, Ohio, Bethel Mennonite Church celebrated its first holy communion service on 21 April 1867. Members were drawn from both Morgan and Moniteau counties to the church near Fortuna.

r488 16 October 1990

Morgan County Historical Society

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**Shelf List**

These are printed histories and programs for nine churches in Morgan and Moniteau counties of Missouri. Included are Baptist, Methodist, United Church of Christ, Lutheran, and Mennonite congregations in or near Versailles, Fortuna, Florence, Glensted, and Pymont.

**Folder 1: First Baptist Church of Versailles**

- Booklet, "Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, 1868-1943, The First Baptist Church of Versailles, Missouri. Program and History," 24 January 1943.  
Booklet, description of building program, 1948.  
Booklet, "1868-1968, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, First Baptist Church, Versailles, Mo." Program, 1968.  
Book, "1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church Centennial History, 1868-1968, Versailles, Missouri," 1968.

**Folder 2: Saint John United Church of Christ (Florence, Mo.)**

- Booklet, "The Chancel of Saint John United Church of Christ, Florence, Mo.," ca. 1979.

**Folder 3: Glensted Methodist Church**

- Booklet, "Glensted Methodist Church, organized 1862, Centennial May 13, 1962," 1962.

**Folder 4: Versailles Methodist Church**

- Program, "The Methodist Messenger, M. E. Church, South, Versailles, Missouri," 24 December 1933.  
Program, Versailles Methodist Church, morning services, 31 July 1949.  
"History of the Methodist Church, Versailles, Missouri, 1836-1951."  
Program, The Methodist Church, Versailles, Mo., 12 October 1958 (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of building dedication), with newspaper clipping concerning the event.

**Folder 5: Grace Lutheran Church (Versailles, Mo.)**

- Booklet, "Dedication Services, Grace Lutheran Church, November 27, 1960, Versailles, Missouri," 1960.

**Folder 6: Fortuna United Methodist Church (Fortuna, Mo.)**

- Booklet, "75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, United Methodist Church, Fortuna, Missouri, 1902-1977, Sunday, November 13, 1977," 1977.

**Folder 7: Trinity Lutheran Church of Pymont**

- Booklet, "120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Trinity Lutheran Church of Pymont, Stover, Missouri, 1848-1968, Sunday, September 1, 1968," 1968.

**Folder 8: Mount Zion Mennonite Church (Morgan County, Mo.)**

- Booklet, "1871-1971, Mt. Zion Mennonite Church, Versailles, Missouri," 1971.

**Folder 9: Bethel Mennonite Church (Fortuna, Mo.)**

- Book, "Souvenir Album," 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary publication, 1917 Book, "1867-1967, Bethel Mennonite Church, Fortuna, Missouri," 1967

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