

No Other Foundation But Jesus Christ Our Ascended Lord.

June 2, 2019 – I Corinthians 3:10-15 (NIV)

*“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. **For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.** If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because The Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.”*

When St. John’s – Northfield Twp. was organized it was 1869 - 4 years after the Civil War.

The Pastor who was involved was Pastor Friederich Schmid. By the time St. John’s was organized Pastor Schmid was 62 years old. He came to America in 1833 and was instrumental in organizing numerous congregations in the Ann Arbor area, and beyond including the following areas: Salem - Monroe – Freedom – Waterloo – Sebewaing (Indian Mission field) Saginaw – Bridgwater – Lansing – Marshall – Chelsea – Northfield (St. John’s The last founded by Pastor Schmid) – Saline – Ypsilanti – Plymouth – Jackson – Genova.

Rather than joining the Missouri Synod, Pastor Schmid also was instrumental in the beginning of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Michigan in 1860.

Pastor Schmid came to The Ann Arbor area because he was called by God through a group of believers in the Ann Arbor Area.

**** A few Quotes from *The Life and Labors of Pastor Friedrich Schmid* written by Frederick Schmid Jr. Translated by Emerson E. Hutzel.

“The early German Settlers in the southern part of Michigan, most of whom came from Wurttemberg, found in Ann Arbor an ideal location. Although hardship was encountered, the future looked promising, and the settlers went to work with assurance of God’s help. They were a religious people who longed for spiritual help. They decided to organize a church and have a minister.”

“In The Year 1832 the need for a pastor among the settlers in Ann Arbor and Scio became more and more pressing until it was finally decided to send a request to the Basel Mission Institute which promised to send Pastor Schmid as a Missionary at the earliest moment possible.”

“In the Spring of 1833, Jonathan Henry Mann was asked to write to Inspector O. G. Blumhardt of the Basler Mission Institute, in Basel, Switzerland, urging him to send them a pastor. The Mission Committee decided to send a young Wurttemberger – Pastor Friedrich Schmid. After prayerful meditation, he accepted the call: “I accept with joy the call, as it were from my Jesus Christ through His servants in America.”

And so the journey of the lifetime began for Pastor Friederich Schmid.

Pastor Friedrich Schmid lived from September 6, 1807 – August 30, 1883. He was a Native of Wurttemberg, Germany. On **April 8, 1833** he graduated from Basler Mission Institute, Basel Switzerland. On **June 8, 1833** he sailed from Le Havre, France on a ship named “*Florida*” and on **August 10, 1833** he arrived in Detroit.

August 20, 1833 he arrived in Ann Arbor and stayed with the Jonathan Henry Mann family. Then on **August 26, 1833** he conducted the first service in the Ann Arbor area in a log school house on Territorial approx. 4 miles west of Ann Arbor. The Sermon was based upon I Corinthians 3:11.

September 3, 1834 Pastor Schmid and Louise Sophia Mann were united in Holy Matrimony.

Some people do not like to hear about the history of Pastor Schmid because they feel that to speak of a man, takes away from the focus of a sermon, which is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But it is important to keep in mind that God uses people to do His Work.

It was from Adam and Eve that God brought forth all the peoples of the Earth.

It was through Noah that God preserved the human race so that God could fulfill His promise to send a Savior through the seed of the Woman.

It was from the line of Abraham – Isaac and Jacob and the line of David from the tribe of Judah that God provided that Savior.

It was through men such as Peter, and Paul, and Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John that God recorded His Holy Word and proclaimed the Word to the World.

One more person whom God used is Pastor Schmid.

God knew all people before the Creation of the World (Ephesians 1:4ff), and God knew Pastor Schmid.

When Pastor Schmid was born in the area of Wurttemberg Germany to a Friederich and Katharine Schmid, he would have been like all of us, a baby in the arms of his parents. He would have had no idea that he was going to be a Pastor who would study at the Basel Mission Society in Switzerland, much less to become a Missionary in Ann Arbor Michigan. But God Knew.

Pastor Schmid spent his entire ministry in Ann Arbor area. If you did not notice, when St. John's was established, Pastor Schmid was 62 years old. At an age when many Americans are considering retiring, Pastor Schmid was still at work.

This text for today from I Corinthians 3:10-15 includes the verse which Pastor Schmid first preached on, in Ann Arbor. This verse demonstrates where Pastor Schmid placed his faith. The Foundation, Who is Jesus Christ, our Risen and Ascended Savior.

Vs. 11 – For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians is the Word of the Lord God, as Penned by the Apostle Paul. In these opening chapters the Apostle Paul is addressing a danger in the congregation.

There were divisions in the congregation. There were those who said, I follow Paul – I follow Peter (Cephas) I follow Apollos – and some who smugly said, I follow Christ.

As St. John's celebrates 150 years of God's Grace, we need to be careful that we do not get carried away with which Pastor we like the most.

Instead we are to focus on what the message is. The message of St. John's needs to be a message of value, such as gold – silver – and costly stones, not of hay or wood or straw. No watered down theology. No decision theology denial of baptism, etc.

To preach a message of hay or wood or straw, causes the hearers to be burned up on the Last Day.

Instead we need to continue to preach a message of gold – silver and costly stones.

A message that saves souls, a message that on The Last Day will demonstrate that the hearers have heaven.

What is that precious Message? It is Christ Jesus the God / Man who took on flesh and blood, who lived the perfect life and fulfilled all righteousness in our place and Who bore our sins in His body on the cross of Calvary.

The precious message is that on the cross Jesus suffered the hell that we deserve so that we can look forward to heaven. The precious and valuable message is that Jesus defeated Sin – Death and the Devil and on the 3rd day rose from the dead - Victoriously. The Valuable message is that you are forgiven and have heaven where there is not more sin or death or sorrow and you will have that new glorified body because of the foundation of Jesus Christ.
AMEN