

# CHURCH IN NEW HOME GIVES ITS OLD ONE AWAY

## Methodist Edifice Goes to Lutherans

BY THE REV. JOHN EVANS

First Methodist church, St. Charles, has given away its former \$85,000 edifice and parsonage to St. Mark's Lutheran church, Missouri synod. Recently the Methodist congregation moved into its newly dedicated \$1,250,000 edifice, gift of Col. Edward J. Baker, 86, St. Charles philanthropist.

Giving away a church, said the Rev. Dr. Milton J. Bayly, pastor of First Methodist, is not like dropping a quarter in the Sunday collection plate. He said there are complications. Fortunately in Methodism, he said, the local congregation holds title to property. First, the quarterly conference [governing body] of the congregation has to approve the transaction. Then the congregation must vote on it. This has been done.

### Retain Parsonage for Time

On the receiving end, the trustees and elders of a Missouri synod Lutheran church must vote to accept the gift, and the voting congregation must approve. Beyond these actions are legal problems of transfer of title. This process, Dr. Bayly said, is now under way. The 10 room parsonage will be retained by the Methodists until a new one is built or obtained for Dr. Bayly. The Lutheran congregation will move into its new quarters as soon as title is established.

Dr. Bayly said the transaction is unusual if not unique in inter-church relations. "I have been around quite a lot," said Dr. Bayly, "but I have never heard of such a gift before." Dr. Bayly was superintendent of the Rockford district of the Rock River [Northern Illinois] conference, from 1947 to 1953.

### Outgrows Old Church

He said the Lutheran congregation had outgrown its old frame church and was considering construction of a new edifice. Then members of the Methodist congregation casually talked with members of

CH  
F  
vad  
cre  
clas  
fort

cr  
his  
pla  
Str  
par  
voit

I  
tel  
bo  
did  
Ser

sen  
ho  
che  
in  
Go  
hir

lic  
ar  
th  
to

cla  
tri  
te  
Irv  
de

Wi  
tac  
tion  
CIC  
uni  
stri

P  
nor  
weel  
mate  
more  
part

dollars a year. Ft. S. P.

the Lutheran group. The Methodists had received the Baker gift, and spoke of passing their good fortune on by giving their edifice to the Lutherans as an act of Christian charity.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Wilbur Zielke, of the Lutheran congregation has resigned to take charge of Trinity congregation, Lansing. Until St. Mark's calls a new pastor, the Rev. I. T. Droegemuell of West Chicago will take charge of the congregation.

