

## **August 21, 100 Year Celebration of Center Church**

**New Release by Robin & Joan Rolfs**

On Sunday, August 21 we will step back in time as Center Emmanuel United Methodist Church celebrates 100 years. The cornerstone was laid in 1916 and we hope you notice it as you enter this beautiful church. Our nation was facing a Great War, now known as World War I and praying for peace. In the Town of Center, a three day celebration was being held to welcome the community to the new church. All services were in German at the time. The Community Preacher was Goe. Nickell, 1074 Ryan St., Appleton, WI.

The stained glass window above the entry states in German: "Emanuel Church The Evangelical Community". The present church building was erected in 1916 at the alarming cost of \$4000.00. This church was special to the members of the farming community and reinforced their love of God and Christian values. They installed the most beautiful stained glass windows. The north side stained glass window cost \$175.00, the west side stained window cost \$150.00, and each window in the Sunday school room cost \$15.00. The church service will take you back 100 years when the congregation celebrated the opening of their new church.

The congregation members will celebrate the 100 year history of the building of the church with an historical service. Dennis Matuszak is the Lay Leader for Center Emmanuel UMC. He will share the history of the church through the eyes of community preacher, Geo. Nickell who served the church from 1913-1919.

Robin & Joan Rolfs, authors and historians will play an early Edison cylinder of scripture recorded by Rev. William H. Morgan in 1916 on an old Edison phonograph as it may have been played in 1916 for the celebration of the church building. Dr. Morgan was the pastor of Central Methodist Episcopal Church of Newark, N.J., near the home of the great inventor Thomas A. Edison. The Edison cylinder would have cost 35 cents in 1916.

The Sunday school children will sing and make a recording of "Jesus Loves Me" on an Edison phonograph from 1916.

Everyone is invited to this grand celebration. A pot-luck will follow this special church service and everyone in the community is invited to attend and enjoy the history of this 100 year old place of worship located at N3896 Hample Rd., Black Creek, WI 54106.