

Collection of Local Church Records

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

June 12, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Ida Public Library

02/04/2014

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Summary Information

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| Repository | Ida Public Library |
| Title | Collection of Local Church Records |
| Date [inclusive] | 1840-2012 |
| Extent | 0.7 Cubic feet 11 microfilm reels, 1 pamphlet box, 2 legal-size folders |
| Location note | All materials are located in the Local History Room. The Records series are located in Drawer 1 of the microfilm cabinet, designated as Cabinet 9. The Publications & Ephemera series are in two locations. A majority of the materials are located in P-Box 1, Shelf 1d. One file folder from the series is located in Box 3, Shelf 1e. |
| Language | English |
| Language of Materials note | The collection is primarily in English, particularly the materials in the Publications series. Some of the Records for the Swedish Covenant Church, the Kirkland First Lutheran Church, and the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church are in Swedish. Most of the Records for the Long Prairie Lutheran Church, Jefferson Prairie Lutheran Church, Rock Run Church, and Hamilton Settlement are in Norwegian. |
| Abstract | This collection consists of church records and publications, dating from 1840-2012, that were compiled and kept by the various churches of Boone County, as well as several churches in neighboring Illinois and Wisconsin churches. The collection is of special interest primarily because it documents church members and their activities in the form of ministerial records and membership lists. The collection also documents the business, history, and activities of the churches through meeting minutes, church histories, directories, and programs. |

Scope and Contents note

This collection of church materials provides an intimate look at the daily and yearly activities of many churches in Boone County and in neighboring areas. The records also show how the churches have changed and developed over time. Membership information for individuals and families are especially beneficial to family researchers. The collection contains primarily church records documenting the church's activities and members from 1840-1986 and publications issued by the churches from 1853-2012.

The materials in the first series, Congregation Records, document church business, activities and membership information. This includes ministerial records, such as baptism, confirmation, marriage, and funeral records; membership lists; congregational minutes; and financial records. Lists of pastors, elders, and trustees are also common in the records. The pages are handwritten and many are in either Swedish or Norwegian. Some of the reels contain the records of multiple churches on them. All of the records have been indexed to facilitate access.

The Congregation Records series is arranged into two subseries: Boone County Church Records and Neighboring County Church Records. The Boone County subseries date from 1840-1986 and includes records from Belvidere, Capron, and Argyle churches. The Neighboring County subseries dates from the 1840s-1974 but primarily the 1840s-1880s. The churches whose records are included in this subseries are located in Davis, Illinois; Kirkland, Illinois; Marengo, Illinois; Clinton, Wisconsin; and Wiota, Wisconsin. Davis and Wiota's records were included, it is assumed, because C.L. Clausen, who served both Jefferson Prairie and Long Prairie Lutheran churches from 1846 until the 1850s, also served the Davis and Wiota churches at that time. Other records were presumably acquired because of the proximity of their locations to Boone County and thus their connection to Boone County families.

The Church Publications & Ephemera series provides background information on the development and growth of Boone County and other local churches, as perceived by the church bodies themselves. The series is arranged alphabetically by church name. Most churches in this series have only one or two documents in this collection. The most documentation in this series is for the First Presbyterian Church, the Capron Lutheran Church, the First Presbyterian Church, and the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

One of the primary types of publications in this series is church histories, which were mostly published in conjunction with church anniversaries. Overall, the histories discuss the founding of the churches and their growth throughout the following decades, including the various events, activities, and organization of the churches. The histories also often include photographs, lists of charter members, past ministers, and current administrators and committee members. Congregation directories are also included in this series, which contain photographs and addresses of church members, as well as brief church histories, photographs and lists of church administrators, and pictures of church activities. The series also contains programs from the consecrations or dedications of church buildings and renovations, photographs, and other items including a cookbook, a communicant manual, and several church bulletins.

The church bodies represented in this series are: Calvary Baptist Church, Belvidere; First Baptist Church, Belvidere; First Methodist Church, Harvard; First Presbyterian Church, Belvidere; First United Methodist

Church, Belvidere; Garden Prairie United Church of Christ; Garden Prairie United Methodist Church; Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Belvidere; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Belvidere; Capron Lutheran Church, Belvidere; Poplar Grove United Methodist Church; St. James Catholic Church, Belvidere; Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, Argyle; Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Belvidere; and Zion Lutheran Church, Marengo.

Arrangement note

The collection is arranged into two series: Congregation Records and Church Publications & Ephemera. The Congregation Records series is further arranged into two sub-series: Boone County Church Records and Neighboring County Church Records.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Ida Public Library 02/04/2014

Conditions Governing Access note

No restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

A majority of the collection was amassed over the years by the Ida Public Library and most specific donors are not known. A few items, notably the microfilm reels, were donated by Martin W. Johnson in unknown years (though some are noted as being donated in 1993) and were originally purchased by him from church archives, such as the Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America located in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Other items, such as the Zion Lutheran Church publications, were received directly from the church.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

For further research, see the Boone County Subject Files for area churches, which are located in the Local History Room's Research Files, Cabinet 2, Drawer 1.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Church records
- Directories

Geographic Name(s)

- Belvidere (Ill.)- History
 - Boone County (Ill.)- History
 - Capron (Ill.)
 - Marengo (Ill.)
 - Poplar Grove (Boone County, Ill.)
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Other Finding Aids note

Index of each microfilm reel's contents are available in Local History Room to facilitate access and use of church records.

See catalog record.

Congregation Records

Collection Inventory

Congregation Records 1840-1986 0.2 Cubic feet

Boone County Church Records 1840-1986 0.1 Cubic feet 7.5 microfilm reels

Roll C-1: Willow Creek Presbyterian Church 1845-1966 1 microfilm reel

Roll C-2: Willow Creek Presbyterian Church 1862-1986 1 microfilm reel

Roll C-5: St. James Catholic Church 1965-1985 1 microfilm reel Pages are very blurry and barely legible.

Roll U: Swedish Covenant Church 1909-1940 1 microfilm reel

Biographical/Historical note

The Swedish Covenant Church is now the Evangelical Covenant Church in Belvidere, Illinois.

Roll V: Long Prairie Lutheran Church 1849-1915 (Bulk, 1870-1891) 1 microfilm reel

Roll W: Long Prairie Lutheran Church 1845-1856 1 microfilm reel

Roll X: Jefferson Prairie-West (Poplar Grove); Long Prairie Lutheran Church (Capron) 1844-1856 1 microfilm reel

Existence and Location of Copies note

Neighboring County Church Records

The Long Prairie Church section is an exact duplicate of the information on Roll W, except this copy is clearer.

Roll Y: Long Prairie Lutheran Church 1840-1888 1 microfilm reel

Roll Z: Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church 1894-1945 1 microfilm reel

Biographical/Historical note

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church is now Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belvidere, Illinois.

Neighboring County Church Records 1840-1974 (Bulk, 1840-1880) 0.1 Cubic feet 3.5 microfilm reels

Roll C-3: First Lutheran Church (Kirkland, Illinois) 1850-1948 1 microfilm reel

Roll C-4: Sacred Heart Parish (Marengo, Illinois) 1902-1974 1 microfilm reel

Roll X: Rock Run Church (Davis, Illinois); Hamilton Settlement (Wiota, Wisconsin) 1844-1855 1 microfilm reel

Roll Y: Jefferson Prairie Lutheran Church (Clinton, Wisconsin); Rock Run Church (Davis, Illinois) 1840s-1924, 1944 1 microfilm reel

Church Publications & Ephemera 1853-2012 (Bulk, 1961-2012) 0.5 Cubic feet

Arrangement note

Church Publications & Ephemera

In both locations, documents in this series are arranged alphabetically by the name of the church.