



*St. John's Lutheran Church At Pomaria*

## St. John's Grew From Log Cabin Structure

Although the congregation of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church moved into its present Gothic style building in June of 1950, two miles southeast of Pomaria, the old "White Church" still stands as time's witness to the Lutheran faith in South Carolina.

The church is described as the oldest frame Lutheran church in the state, with a record of worship services going back 141 years.

It is probably the only structure depicting its particular style of architecture and is being preserved as a historic church shrine.

In 1809, the church was built under the guidance of the Rev. Frederick Joseph Wallern. All the nails and hinges were handmade by John Summer.

Old as the building is, it was the third church for the congregation's 196 years of history.

A history of St. John's by Dr. E.B. Hallman, goes back to the days when John Gasser, a Reformed minister who had left Switzerland in 1752, decided to come from Pennsylvania to

Santee Fork, S.C., to preach and to teach.

The first church for St. John's was a log cabin. By 1763, the second church, had been built with logs hewn 6 by 10 inches, the corners dovetailed in the old German style. This building later became the community schoolhouse. It occupies land which is today part of the church cemetery.

While St. John's has a continuous existence back to 1754, this has not been as a Lutheran church, according to Dr. Hallman.

The small group of the earliest comers were largely Swiss and Swiss Reformed in their faith. The church was officially listed at the organization of the Corpus Evangelicum on Nov. 13, 1787, as the "German Calvinistic church of St. John's in the Fork".

Between this date and 1826, the church became Lutheran, so that by that year it was described as "The Protestant Lutheran St. John's church."

There were probably both Re-

formed and Lutheran members from the very beginning, the members of the two faiths worshipping together in apparently beautiful harmony.

As emigration from Switzerland largely ceased and more and more Germans came in, most of the Germans being Lutherans, the church gradually

### Communist Fund Fete Earns Jail Terms

LA PLATA, Argentina (AP) — A federal judge sentenced one man to two years and his companion to 18 months in prison for sponsoring a dance to raise money for a Communist party group. The party is outlawed under Argentina's tough suppression-of-communism law.

The first United States automobile road map is believed to have been published by a Chicago newspaper in 1895.

became Lutheran. Even in 1763 when the land (100 acres) on which St. John's is located was granted, of the two elders to whom the warrant was issued, one, Hans Adam Epting, was a Lutheran, the other, Peter Dick-

ert, German Reformed. Dr. Hallman said, "In the development of St. John's church there was a unifying of religious efforts by Reformed and Lutheran that constitutes a beautiful and noble heritage."

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Various Christian sects have chapels in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The major portion of the shrine is held by the Greek Orthodox Church, but the Roman Catholic, Armenian, Syrian and Coptic churches are all represented.

## Merry Christmas

Doorways wear garlands welcome... candles be with a hearty glow. The season of good cheer arrives, in all its friendly warmth. May the joys of Christmas be yours.

