

## *The Lost Is Found*

In February of 2015, East Koshkonong Lutheran Church, rural Cambridge, celebrated the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of their first church building, the Log Church. In re-searching various documents, it was discovered that a silver altar chalice had been given as a gift to the Koshkonong congregations from the children of the late Bishop Sorensen of Akershus Diocese in Christiania (Norway). The chalice was crafted in 1833 in Kongsberg, Norway and brought to America by the Rev. J. W. C. Dietrichson on his return from Norway to serve as their pastor. Rev. Dietrichson presented the altar chalice in the East Koshkonong Church on Sept. 28, 1846; and to the West Koshkonong Church on Oct. 4, 1846. The chalice was intended to serve the congregations on the Koshkonong Prairie as an altar chalice. It would have traveled with Rev. Dietrichson as he ministered to the people on the Koshkonong Prairie. The Rev. Dietrichson was instrumental in organizing many of the Norwegian Lutheran congregations in southern Wisconsin in the mid 1840s and 1850s.

One hundred years later, in the summer of 1956, this long-forgotten silver chalice was found behind the altar of the West Koshkonong Church. In April of 1958 it was on display at the West Church and in good condition with the Latin inscription being quite legible. Sometime later, it was used in a celebration service by a neighboring congregation. After this specific use of the silver chalice, no one knew where the chalice was stored.

When the altar chalice could not be found in time for the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February of 2015, help was later requested from area churches where Rev. Dietrichson would have conducted worship services in the mid-1850s. This included West Koshkonong (rural Stoughton), Christ Lutheran in DeForest, Norway Grove Memorial Church in rural DeForest, and Grace Lutheran Church in Cambridge. Lay people, staff and pastors searched storage areas and cup-boards and talked with older members of their congregations.

In August of 2015 ... some 50 (plus) years of last being seen ... the silver altar chalice was re-discovered! It was layered with dust and found in a dark corner of a lower cabinet. Thanks to a curious and persistent pastor ... Pastor Richard Dowling ... the lost has been found ... and the silver chalice is once again on display at the West Koshkonong Lutheran Church, rural Stoughton, Wisconsin.

We would like to thank West Koshkonong Lutheran Church Council for sharing the silver chalice with us today at East Koshkonong Church, for worship and celebration.

-This article was compiled by Bonnie Ehrke; 2<sup>nd</sup> great granddaughter of Amund Anderson who was one of the founding settlers on the Koshkonong Prairie. The people of East Koshkonong first met in the barn of Amund Anderson on September 1, 1844 under the leadership of the Rev. J. W. C. Dietrichson.