

Eight local Lutheran churches to be sold at auction

By Patrice D. Raia
SPECIAL TO THE LEADER

On Easter Sunday in 1998, eight Lutheran congregations with flagging membership consolidated into the United in Faith Lutheran Church. In December, all eight of the churches' properties will be

lease the St. Andrew property from its new owners for between three to five years. During that time, the congregation will locate a new site on the Northwest Side and construct a new church.

According to Jeffrey King, interim pastor of the United in Faith congregation, the consolida-

bid auction at its offices at 333 Wacker Drive. And according to Steven Good, the firm's chief executive officer, the eight properties are expected to draw a variety of bidders.

"The properties could be used as churches by other religions, schools, for residential development or even as single family homes," Good said. "In fact, the Holy Communion Church is a 2,798-square foot building that was a single family home before it was used as a church."

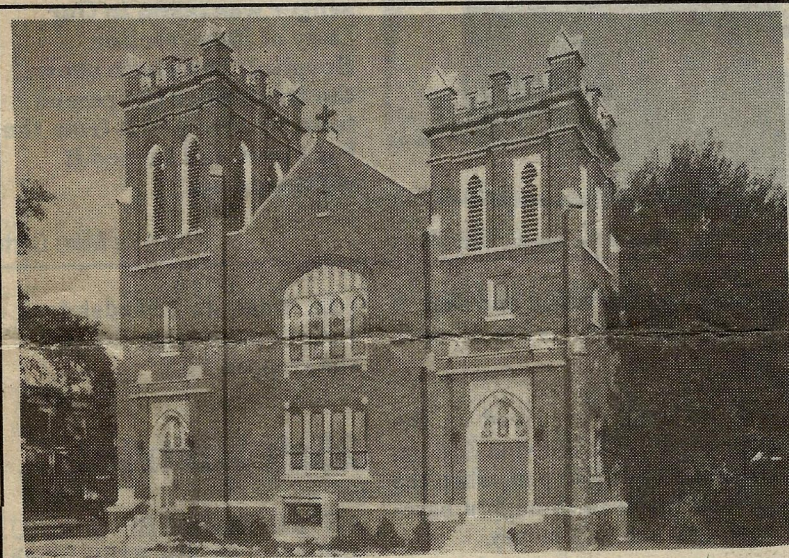
Though the design of each of the church buildings is different from the others, Good says none of the structures have landmark status. However, each of the churches — some of which also operated schools — were centers of their communities. St. Andrew, for example, was for many years the site of a Meals on Wheels program serving the neighborhood's elderly, and hosted several support groups attended by participants from the Northwest Side and beyond.

Good said large corporations and not-for-profits are increasingly using the auction method to sell real estate holdings from their portfolios. The technique not only expedites the properties' sale, but has longer range financial planning benefits.

"The churches being sold in this way allows the congregation to know how much money it will have to spend on the site and construction of the new church," Good pointed out.

The churches and auxiliary buildings may be purchased separately, altogether or in groups. A bidder's information kit is available and prescheduled inspections of all eight properties begins today, Wednesday, Oct. 28.

For an appointment, or to schedule an inspection, call Sheldon Good & Company, Auctions, 312-630-0915.



Our Savior's English Lutheran Church, 4159 N. Laramie, will be auctioned by Sheldon Good and Company along with seven other Northwest Side Lutheran churches.

sold in a sealed bid auction, among them a church that has long been a landmark to the Belmont and Central community.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 5447 W. Addison St. will be sold along with Nebo Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3914 N. Menard; Our Savior English Lutheran Church, 4159 N. Laramie; Medill Avenue Lutheran Church, 4917 W. Medill Ave.; Gladstone Park Lutheran Church, 6200 W. Foster Ave.; Our Lord Lutheran Church, 6224 W. Gunnison; Peace Lutheran Church, 5944 W. Cullom Ave. and Holy Communion Church, 3010 N. LaVergne Ave.

Though it will be sold during the auction slated for Dec. 10, the United in Faith congregation will

tion and the property auction reflect changing demographics on the Northwest Side.

"These congregations were all established and became the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," King said. "The churches served mostly Norwegians, Germans, Danes and Swedes."

"Eventually the congregations just moved away," he added. "Now we have eight churches within three miles of each other."

On Good Friday, 1998, final services were conducted in all eight of the churches. On Easter Sunday, the congregations from all eight combined to create the 400-member United in Faith congregation.

Sheldon Good & Company Auctions, will conduct the sealed