

In 1894 the four-faced clock and chime mechanism was donated by the Bredeweg family at a cost of \$1500. The clock was manufactured by the E. Howard Company in Boston, Massachusetts and is wound by hand twice each week, the mechanism being 120 steps above the balcony level. Each clock face is 6 feet in diameter.

There are two very historic items in the church today. The baptismal font is from the old church and is approximately 130 years old. It was restored in 1952 after being in storage for many years. The altar bible was a gift to the church in 1898 upon its 50th Anniversary. It was printed in 1892 and was given to Salem by Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany.

The windows in the church today come from two periods. When the organ position was changed in 1910, the remaining space was filled with the window depicting "The Sermon on the Mount" and the rose window above the organ was installed. The windows along the side were dedicated on February 3, 1952 and replaced the originals that had become very old and brittle. It is said that when the old glass was removed from the frame it folded like thick cardboard.

The original organ was installed in the rear of the church in 1864 at a cost of \$2,000. In 1896 a new three-manual organ was purchased for \$6,000. This instrument had 40 stops and 2,200 pipes. It was moved in 1910 from the rear to the front of the church. The current organ was built and installed in 1927 by the M. P. Moller Company from Hagerstown, Maryland. It is a four-manual instrument that originally cost \$11,000. There are 29 ranks of pipes located behind the choir loft and in chambers on either side of the chancel. None of the pipework is visible. Pipes that are visible are from the old organ and are not functional. The organ is one of the larger instruments in Quincy and is a notable example of organs from the Romantic era and has been maintained to reflect its original form. Some organ restoration is being done at this time in anticipation of the congregation's 150th Anniversary in 1998.

During a 1980 Heritage Project the sanctuary was redecorated and a corridor connecting the church with Salem Hall was completed. In addition, the church received a new slate roof, an elevator was installed, the steeple was strengthened and Lexan storm windows were placed over the stained glass. Cost of this project was \$1 million.

In 1994 the church completed work on the exterior of the building. It was entirely cleaned, tuckpointed and painted. New metal work was installed on the steeple and thermal storm windows were installed. All surfaces were stripped and cleaned, trusses in the attic were strengthened and the cross on the steeple received new gold leaf. This project again cost \$1 million.

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Salem Evangelical United Church of Christ
Ninth and State Streets - Late Gothic (Victorian) Revival - 1876
John S. McKean, Architect

In February 1847 a group of "Lippers" who were liberal members of a German Congregation called "die Bereckirch" formed a missionary society known as "De evangelischem Missions-Verein in Quincy, Illinois." Around Easter Sunday, 1848 Rev. Christoph Jung and his group took the name "De Deutsche Evangelische Salem's Gemeinde" (The German Evangelical Salem's Congregation) The first meetings were held in his home at 725 Maine Street and later in the old Congregational Church building at Fifth and Jersey, present site of the Quincy Herald-Whig.

The group purchased lots from Governor John Wood on April 6, 1848 and in May the congregation started their first church building, a brick structure on the corner of Ninth and State Streets. The building was 36 feet wide and 48 feet long, faced south and had a modest steeple with one bell, made in 1850. A small parsonage was included in the project. Members of the congregation provided much of the labor. Most of the money, of the \$3,000 cost, came from Pastor Jung. Dedication of the church was on Thanksgiving Day, 1848. In 1852 the congregation was officially organized and first constitution was adopted. In 1863 the building was enlarged when 20 feet was added to the length.

In 1875 the congregation decided a larger church was needed and on January 31 of that year the plans for the present building were approved. During the time of construction a special "boards" church was used on the corner of Eleventh and State Streets. The cornerstone was laid in pouring rain on June 25, 1876. The original part of the building was 110 feet long and 60 feet wide with a spire of 237 feet. The building was dedicated on September 23, 1877, total cost being \$36,492.72.

The interior contains the magnificent sanctuary with a lower level and full balcony, seating a total of 800 people. In the front is the ornately carved walnut apse, a high pulpit and cathedral chairs. It is reported how members of the congregation worked on the building. The women carried bricks in their aprons to the men who carried them up the scaffolding and laid them in place. In 1910 a major redecoration took place. The organ, which had been in the rear of the building, was moved to the front and in its place was positioned a large stained-glass window. New carpeting was laid and the fresco was repainted. The sanctuary was again redecorated in the early 1950's and the early 1980's. As a part of the 1950's work, new side windows were dedicated, new pews and carpeting were installed and the center aisle was created.

In the tower of the church is a set of three bells, named James, Bertha and Peter. The smallest bell, James, weighing 1000 pounds, is the original bell taken from the previous building. It is 22" tall and 28" in diameter and was cast by C. W. Coffin in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1850 at the Buckeye Bell Foundry. The second bell, Bertha, weighs 1500 pounds and was cast by J. G. Stuckstede and Brother in St. Louis, Missouri in 1877. Bertha is 32" tall and 40" in diameter and is inscribed "Deutsche Ev Salems Gemeinde." The largest of the bells, Peter, weighs 3000 pounds and was cast in St. Louis at the same time as Bertha. This largest bell is 40" tall and 52" in diameter. The bells are rung by hand.