

UNVEILING SERVICE OF PLAQUE
FIRST LUTHERAN PASTOR — UPPER CANADA
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH,
RIVERSIDE HEIGHTS

**Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29,
1972**



FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH

Sponsored by St. John's Congregation 1784. Riverside Heights

Archives of Ontario, Historical Branch
Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario

THE REV. JOHANN SAMUEL SCHWERDTFEGER

1734 — 1803

“The first Lutheran minister to settle in this province, The Rev. Schwerdtfeger, was born in Burgbernheim, Bavaria, and studied theology at the University of Erlangen. Emigrating to America in 1753, he served as Pastor of the congregations in Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York. Much persecuted for his allegiance to the Crown during the American Revolution, Rev. Schwerdtfeger moved to Canada in 1791. He settled here in Williamsburg Township and became Pastor of the German congregation of German Loyalists, who, by 1790, had constructed the first Lutheran Church in what is now Ontario. The congregation was organized in 1784. Its site is now beneath Lake St. Lawrence. Within a few years he organized Lutheran congregations in the neighbouring Townships. He died in 1803 and was buried in the old church cemetery.”

Service and Programme = 2 p.m.

A Brief Reformation Service in the Parish Hall

MR. JOHN WHITTEKER, Chairman
Reeve, Township of Williamsburg

MR. CARLTON McINNIS, B.A.
Lawyer. Also Reeve of Morrisburg, Ont., and
Warden of the Three United Counties

MR L. D. BARKLEY

Vice Pres. of the Daughter Congregation of the Parish

Pastors of the Nearby Daughter Congregations

Rev. J. Boemer, St. Peter's, Williamsburg.

Rev. A. Conrad, St. Peter's, Ottawa.

Rev. K. Crouse, The Good Shepherd, Brockville

PROFESSOR J. K. JOHNSON, Ottawa

Speaking on behalf of the Archaeological and Historic Sites
Board of Ontario

MR. DONALD IRVINE, M.P.P.
The Province of Ontario

Historical and Living Values

X MISS HAZEL SCHWERTFEGER, Carleton Place
Author of Book on First Pastor

Our Guest:

THE HONOURABLE L. LAMOUREUX, M.P.
Speaker of The House of Commons, Dominion of Canada
Cornwall, Ontario

Ps. 46. Unbeiling of Plaque

Mr. Frank Schwerdtfeger,
A Direct Descendant of the First Pastor

Dedication of Plaque

The Pastor, The Rev. F. L. Howald

BENEDICTION

In Case of Rain: The Parish Hall

Brief History of St. John's

Many faithful and loyal people came from the United States (Mohawk Valley and area). They remained faithful and loyal to their faith and to the Crown of England. They were and are known as the United Empire Loyalists. Many of them are here. These first settlers soon gathered and organized, 1784, as best possible in a congregation led by Lutherans. Many of them brought their Bibles and hymn book. From our church records we observe that all the people gathered in the one and only "Meeting House of God". After a few years they were pleased to have a regular Pastor who administered to everyone's needs in church and spiritual matters as best possible. In a few years he was able to gather groups and congregations in this entire area of Canada. Our present day development and progress must be attributed to these faithful and loyal Christians. Had they forsaken Faith in God and His Church and loyal devotion as good citizens, could we today rejoice? "LEST WE FORGET"

TO HIM BE ALL HONOUR AND GLORY

"BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH"