

United Evangelical in Canton

Church Plans Centennial Fete

A Canton landmark for 100 years, United Evangelical Church, East Avenue and Dillon Street, in September will observe its centennial.

Varied events have been planned, with emphasis on "past, present and future of United Evangelical Church."

Opening event on Sept. 9 will feature special communion services at 7:45 a.m. and at 10:15 a.m.

Mardi Gras night, to which youth and families are invited, will be held at the church on Sept. 14 at 8 p.m.

Square dancing will be featured.

Homecoming and confirmation will highlight "Reunion Sunday" on Sept. 16.

Guest minister will be Dr. Ernest Press of Evansville, Ind.

The service also will be "homecoming" for Dr. Press who, as a seminary student, was interim pastor at United in 1934.

This year's confirmation

class will include more than 30 youths who have completed two years' preparation.

A feature of the Program will be the calling of communion classes from various years, with members of those classes standing for recognition.

Homecoming Sunday will be the first of three Sundays on which the "Past, Present, Future" theme will prevail.

On Sept. 23, "Anniversary Sunday," the speaker will be Dr. Paul Lehman, faculty member at Union Theological Seminary, New York City.

Dr. Lehman is a nephew of

the late Dr. Titus Lehmann, pastor at United from 1934-1961 and pastor emeritus from then until his death.

Anniversary banquet on Sept. 29 at the Eastwind, will be followed by the final event on Sept. 30.

Speaker at the 10 a.m. service will be the Rev. Edwin Werner, Mahanoy City, Pa.

Werner was youth minister at United in 1939.

The program also will include a chancel drama, "The Challenge of the Cross."

Continuing throughout the month-long observance will be

display of mementoes highlighting the church's history.

Included will be photographs, anniversary booklets, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia.

Founded by persons largely of German descent, United Church has been located for its entire history at East Avenue and Dillon Street.

Fire in 1885 destroyed the original sanctuary which had replaced a small schoolhouse in which services first were held.

The second building remained in use until 1957 when a new sanctuary was completed at a cost of approximately \$300,000.

The church school building was dedicated in 1936.

Present pastor, the Rev. Paul A. Rasche, was called in 1961.

Affiliated with the United Church of Christ, United Evangelical Church has approximately 800 communicants and a church school enrollment of about 300.

Membership in the inner city church is comprised, about half-and-half, of members who, respectively, live in the neighborhood and those who have moved to outlying sections but still retain their church ties in Canton.

Chairman of the centennial is Arthur A. Block. William Single, III, is publicity chairman.