

# Frankenlust History



The history of this community in Michigan dates back to Wilhelm Loehe of Neuendettelsau Bavaria, Germany. Loehe was the university-educated pastor of the church at Neuendettelsau Franconia (northern Bavaria). He publicized the need for funds to supply Lutheran workers to America and formed an organization to prepare workers and to continuously gather funds. He sent a small group of people together with their pastor to form a congregation at the place where they would settle. Over a seven-year period, several hundred colonists were delegated to establish a number of Bavarian settlements in Michigan, known as the Franconian colonies. Although Loehe himself never came to America, he is considered to be the founder of the Franconian colonies in the Saginaw Valley: Frankenmuth in 1845; Frankentrost in 1847; Frankenlust in 1848 and Frankenhilf (now Richville) in 1850.

Pastor George Ernst Christian Ferdinand Sievers was the leader of the Frankenlust congregation which settled not far from Bay City, on the banks of the Squoconning Creek. Sievers had preceded his congregation to Michigan. The other immigrants arrived in New York shortly after Sievers did, but none of this group reached Frankenlust. Some went to Monroe, others to Wisconsin, and the rest stayed in Frankenmuth. So the first attempt to establish Frankenlust failed. Sievers stayed in Frankenmuth with Pastor Craemer and preached to a few families near Saginaw during this time.

Pastor Loehe then gathered another group of emigrants which was to comprise the nucleus of the St. Paul congregation. Included were: Andreas Goetz and his bride; Johann Leonhard Hachtel and his bride; Mr. & Mrs. Albrecht Kuch and son;

Johann Georg Helmreich and his bride; Johann Georg Haeckel and his bride; Paulus Knoerr and his bride; Johann Georg Lang; Katharina Ziegler; Eva Barbara Enzer; and Johann Michael Lang. Arriving at the site of their settlement they built a small shanty in which they tried to escape the next 14 days of rain. When the rainy season was over a number of log cabins were erected and the land was divided by casting lots.

It was the custom of these colonists in the beginning to meet every morning and evening for joint devotion. Later, they met only on Wednesdays and Fridays. For their services they met at the home of Albrecht Kuch until the dedication of their log cabin church in November, 1849. Pastor Sievers wrote concerning the dedication of the church " . . . *above the altar the words, 'St. Paulus-Kirche', were spelled out in evergreens. St. Paul, the great apostle of the Gentiles, shall remain our constant pattern that we may not forget our call to build also among the pagans of Michigan a tabernacle unto the Lord*". This philosophy of doing mission work remained with the congregation under Pastor Siever's leadership.

Pastor Sievers was not only a faithful shepherd to his flock in Frankenlust, but he was always active in seeing and providing for the scattered sheep in the surrounding country. He was a missionary in the full sense of the term. Under his untiring and strenuous work, a number of sister congregations were founded in the neighborhood which now surrounds the mother congregation in Frankenlust. Congregations which Pastor Sievers helped form are: Holy Cross, Saginaw (1849), St. John, Amelith (1852), Immanuel Lutheran, Bay City (1861), Trinity Lutheran of Monitor Township (1880), and Zion Lutheran of Beaver Township (1887). Today the congregation numbers 1011 baptized members and has a school enrollment of about 107.



*Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge*  
*For copies of Family Histories go to [www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory](http://www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory)*