



Ferdinand Fleischer
Pastor 1871 – 1884

On May 14, 1871, Pastor Fleischer took over the pulpit. He was a friendly, traveled, and capable man who could show his success in that he was employed here for thirteen years, longer than any previous pastor.

He increased the number of ministrations and was viewed with respect in the city. At this time, Belleville had ten thousand residents and St. Paul's had approximately two hundred members.

He was paid a salary four hundred fifty dollars. He took up residence in an old house that had served as a hall.

In 1877, he lived in the newly -constructed parsonage built next to the St. Paul's Church. The building cost was two thousand eight hundred fifty-six dollars.

In conjunction with Dr. Neubert, the choir director, a bigger pipe organ was bought for one thousand two hundred fifty dollars.

During his tenure, there were three attempts to found a competing congregation in Belleville or West Belleville. They all failed.

Fleischer severed his connection with St. Paul's and accepted a call to the church at Columbus, Nebraska in February of 1884.

He died in Lebanon, Illinois April 15, 1895.

Information Sources:

1909 70th Jubilee Booklet of St. Paul's by Reverend Otto F. Pessel.
Translation from the German by Lynn C. Koehler of our congregation,
1973

Research by:

Carol Kirby of the Belleville Public Library, Main Branch,
Spring, 2016.

Belleville Weekly Advocate newspaper article, April 19, 1895