

# SUSANNA KERN SIHLER

## *Tireless Servant of Church and Seminary*

BORN: **SEPTEMBER 30, 1829** *Bavaria, Germany*

DIED: **AUGUST 18, 1918** *Fort Wayne, Ind.*

**T**HOUGH STILL A YOUNG WOMAN in 1846, Susanna Kern of Union County, Ohio, found her life taking a new and unexpected turn. Bachelor Wilhelm Sihler had arrived as the third pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne in 1845. The congregational leadership thought their pastor should be married, and he agreed. Being a newcomer to the area, however, he was unaware of any potential candidates. One colleague suggested that Sihler consider Miss Kern and, as the story goes, he traveled to the area of Marysville, Ohio, in the spring of 1846. There, having observed her working hard in the fields, he stated, “She’ll do.” They were married the following day!

The newlyweds set up housekeeping in the parsonage of St. Paul — but not only for themselves. They were soon joined by the first of their nine children, but they were also quickly joined by the first class of Concordia Theological Seminary in the fall of 1846 — eleven students who had come to the United States to study at the Lutheran seminary at Fort Wayne. Classes were held in St. Paul’s parsonage, and Mrs. Sihler, though younger than some of the students she served, proved to be indispensable to the seminary’s success. Susanna Kern Sihler was widowed in 1885 and died August 18, 1918.

Susanna Kern Sihler was just one of the many women who served quietly and selflessly out of gratefulness to God for His grace and mercy. She shared the Gospel of Christ in word and in deed as Jesus enabled her not only to her children but also to the seminarians at Fort Wayne during the first 15 years of the seminary’s history. And for that, we, the recipients of her faithful service, are deeply thankful.

**For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit [lcms.org/175](https://lcms.org/175).**

### DISCOVER MORE

*“Pioneer Woman Prominent in History of Local Lutheranism,” Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, March 12, 1911.*



# SUSANNA KERN SIHLER

## *Tireless Servant of Church and Seminary*

BORN: **SEPTEMBER 30, 1829** *Bavaria, Germany*

DIED: **AUGUST 18, 1918** *Fort Wayne, Ind.*

**T**HOUGH STILL A YOUNG WOMAN in 1846, Susanna Kern of Union County, Ohio, found her life taking a new and unexpected turn. Bachelor Wilhelm Sihler had arrived as the third pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne in 1845. The congregational leadership thought their pastor should be married, and he agreed. Being a newcomer to the area, however, he was unaware of any potential candidates. One colleague suggested that Sihler consider Miss Kern and, as the story goes, he traveled to the area of Marysville, Ohio, in the spring of 1846. There, having observed her working hard in the fields, he stated, “She’ll do.” They were married the following day!

The newlyweds set up housekeeping in the parsonage of St. Paul — but not only for themselves. They were soon joined by the first of their nine children, but they were also quickly joined by the first class of Concordia Theological Seminary in the fall of 1846 — eleven students who had come to the United States to study at the Lutheran seminary at Fort Wayne. Classes were held in St. Paul’s parsonage, and Mrs. Sihler, though younger than some of the students she served, proved to be indispensable to the seminary’s success. Susanna Kern Sihler was widowed in 1885 and died August 18, 1918.

Susanna Kern Sihler was just one of the many women who served quietly and selflessly out of gratefulness to God for His grace and mercy. She shared the Gospel of Christ in word and in deed as Jesus enabled her not only to her children but also to the seminarians at Fort Wayne during the first 15 years of the seminary’s history. And for that, we, the recipients of her faithful service, are deeply thankful.

**For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit [lcms.org/175](https://lcms.org/175).**

### DISCOVER MORE

*“Pioneer Woman Prominent in History of Local Lutheranism,”  
Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette,  
March 12, 1911.*



1847  2022

**ONLY JESUS**  
NO OTHER NAME

— 175 YEARS —

