INTRODUCTION
The records of St. John's United Church of Christ include the constitution, minutes, and annual reports of the church. The records are in German. A translation of the records is included in the collection. These records are part of the German Heritage Archives.

DONOR INFORMATION
The St. John's Church records were loaned to the University of Missouri for copying by the church, through the church secretary, Don Dittmer, on 7 July 1993 (Accession No. 5327). The records are part of the German Heritage Archives.

HISTORICAL SKETCH
The German Evangelical church in Freedom township was organized in 1847 by F. Bohring who served as the first pastor until 1850. A succession of pastors followed until 1870 when H. Hoefer became pastor and served for seven years. The church was known as the Evangelical Johannes Congregation, in Freedom Township, Lafayette County, in the c. 1870 constitution and the German Evangelical Johannes Congregation at Concordia, Lafayette County, in the 1883 constitution. At some point in time the church became known as St. John's United Church of Christ.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
The records of St. John's United Church of Christ consists of minutes, constitutions, and annual reports. Volume 1 consists of the minutes of the church and date from 1863 to 1925. Volume 2 consists of a constitution, c. 1870, a revised constitution, 1883, and annual reports of the church dating from 1870 to 1933.

The translation of the records was done by Dr. Adolf E. Schroeder, Professor Emeritus of German at the University of Missouri-Columbia as part of his tenure as "Scholar-in-Residence" at Concordia, made possible by a grant from the Missouri Humanities Council to the Concordia Area Heritage Society for 1993/1994. The translation was recorded on audiotape and was then transcribed by Don Dittmer, secretary of the congregation. The transcription of the volumes is included on the microfilm and also available in hard copy in the reading room.

COLLECTION LIST
v. 1 Minutes, 1863-1925
v. 2 Constitution, c. 1870
Revised constitution, 1883
Annual reports, 1870-1933
f. 1 Minutes, 1893-1925 (translation)
f. 2 Constitution, c. 1870 (translation)
f. 3 Revised constitution, 1883 (translation)
f. 4 Annual reports, 1870-1933 (translation)

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