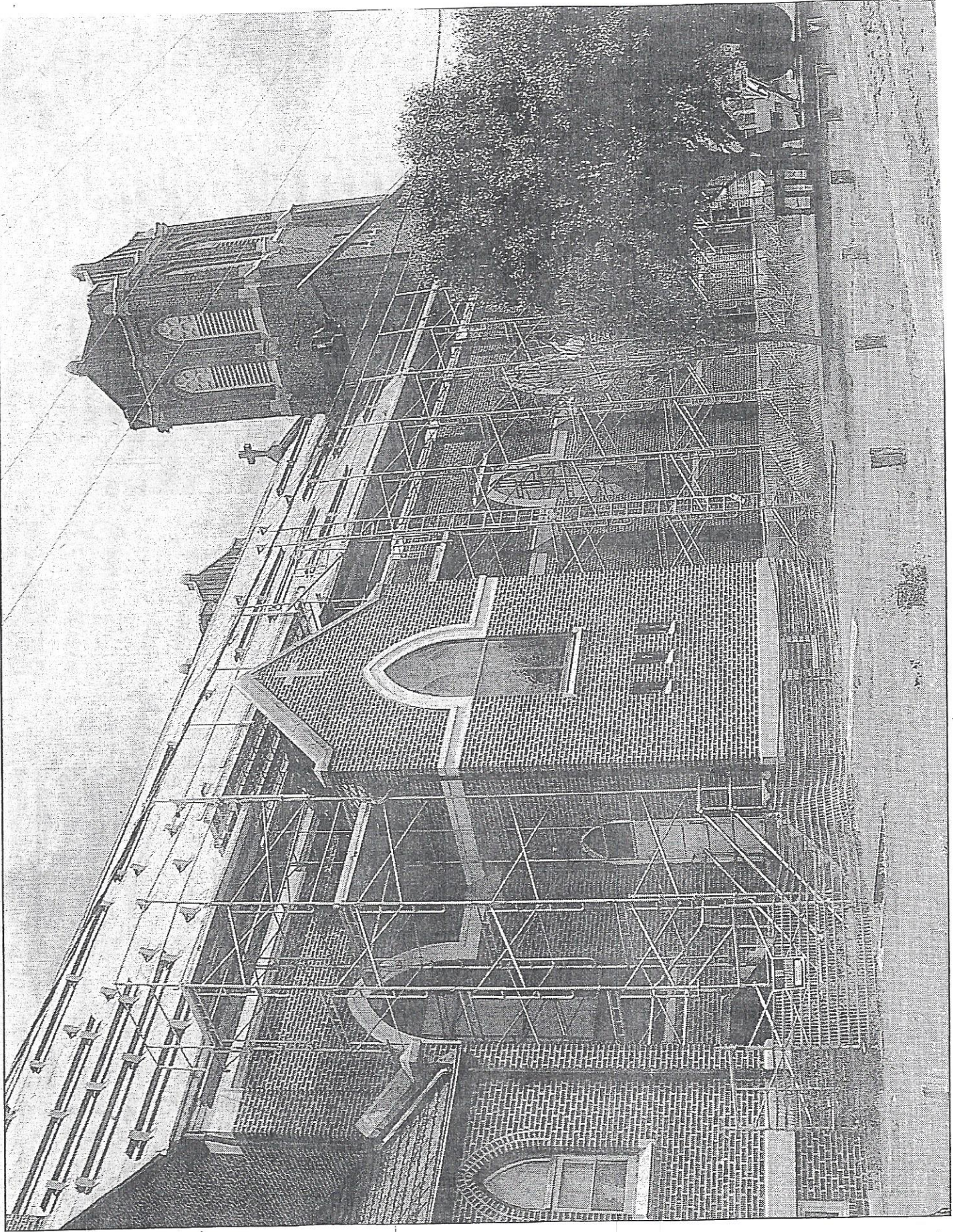


# Church

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# Church re-roofing 'massive job'

ing project for the church that occurred in the mid-1960s. Parishioners hope the current project will carry the church through about 2050.

The Ludiwici standard tile form-size, at 9 inches wide by 17 inches long, probably exposes just a little bit less than one square foot of exterior surface.

"So about 4,000 of these Ludiwici tiles should cover both sides of this roof," Grell said.

Masonry work, separate from Weathercraft's work, was done June 12-13 when contractors from Hastings were hoisted to the apexes of the 85- to 90-foot-tall bell towers.

Lightning struck the east tower in August 2008, but all the inspections and needed repairs related to that incident were completed in June, Grell said.

"There's a tremendous amount of work left to do," he said.

"Yeah, and it will certainly be quite a while before we get it all done," said one of Weathercraft's six scheduled on-site workers earlier this week.

While insurance is expected to cover the damage from last summer's lightning strike, the moisture-seal underlay beneath the temporarily removed tiles will have to be paid for by the parish. Estimated cost to the group is \$269,000.

"I have asked every one of Sacred Heart Church's 170 member families, if possible, to donate \$1,500," Grell said. "And I have made known that a family's circumstances and conditions can, and will, gladly be adapted to, including delayed receipts of donations."

"So if we can maximize the donation returns on (our) requests already made, as of today, we'll be only about \$80,000 short. Knowing that, though, I have made requests of Sacred Heart School alumni to help close that gap."

Grell said he has been pleased with parishioners' response to the fundraising appeal, which reflects the strength and depth of their faith as well as their commitment to the community.

"I must say the financial support that we receive in this area is tremendous," he said.

## DISTINCTIVE TILES AT SACRED HEART REMOVED SO UNDERLAY CAN BE REPLACED

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**LAWRENCE** — A tall order is being filled here this summer.

"Weathercraft, a roofing company out of Lincoln, is re-roofing our beloved church," said the Rev. Loras Grell, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church since 2005. "And theirs is a massive job."

Since Weathercraft workers started work on the project in May, the church's western roof slope has had all of its distinctive Ludiwici green-colored clay tiles carefully stripped to the apex of the roof, which stands about 75 feet off the ground.

"The Ludiwici tiles will be reused," Grell said, pointing toward a stack of them on the ground behind the church. "That is why they are being stacked over there."

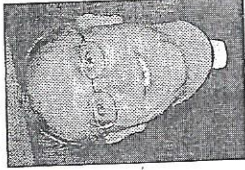
"The tiles are of French design. They are heat-fired clay, and contrary to what you are probably currently thinking, they were not, and need not, be imported from France or Italy. They are made right here in the good ole U.S.A."

In all, about 2,000 tiles have been taken off the roof's western half. Most date back to the construction of the church in 1924, the pastor said.

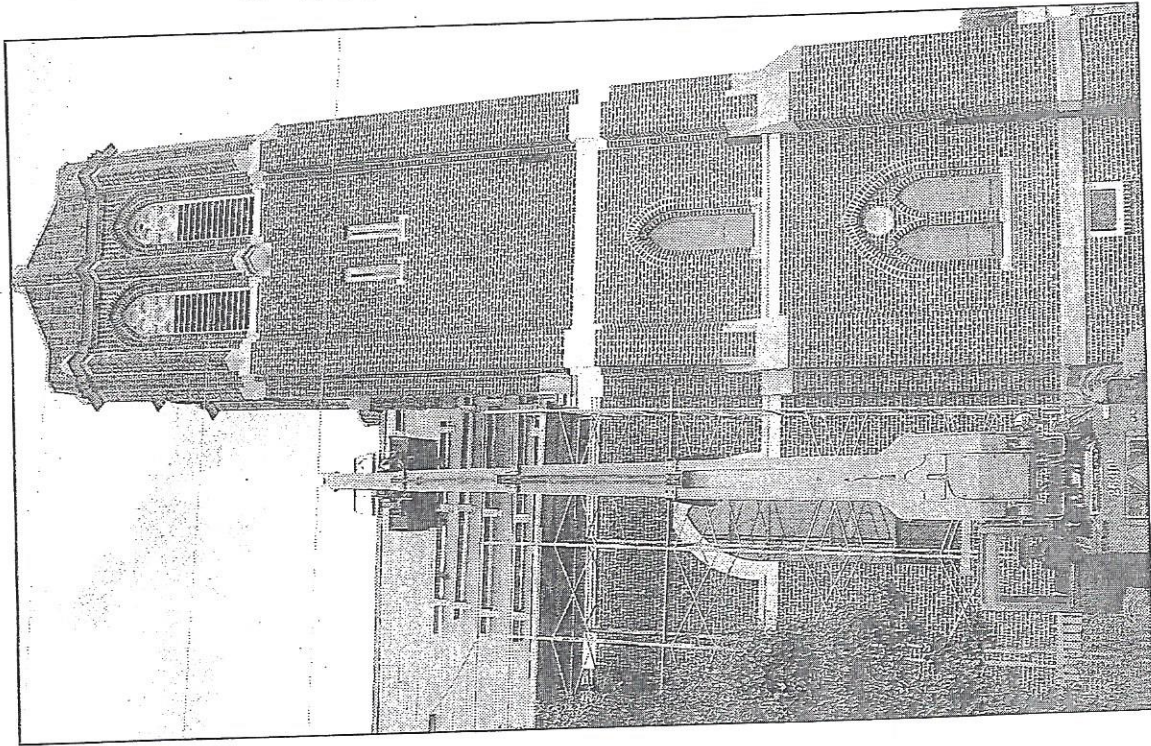
"We do have a few more identical tiles in our garage. Those were, and still are, to be saved to be used, as needed, for any spot repairs. But now we'll almost certainly use them for replacement needs within this job."

The 85-by-45-foot church building seats 500 people comfortably, the pastor said.

Elders in the community remember a re-roof-



Grell



LEONARD HABA/Tribune

**Weathercraft, a contractor based in Lincoln, is re-roofing Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Lawrence.**