



*100 Years of God's Grace*

# St. John's Lutheran Church

Spencer, Wisconsin 54479



"One generation shall laud thy works to another,  
and shall declare thy mighty acts." Psalm 145:4

The more things change, the more they remain the same.

As you page through this book, you will undoubtedly notice how much things have changed. Styles of clothing, the assimilation from a basically German community into the mainstream of American life, patterns and practices in worship, all speak of change. And yet, those who were here before us were much like us. Their concerns and goals were the same. To make a living, to raise a family, to live with the Lord. It is that last item that we are celebrating in our centennial year. It is, of course, the most important thing to live with the Lord. As we look back, and remember those who first gathered around Word and Sacrament in this place, we praise God and give Him the glory, for it is our gracious God who gathers His people into congregations and condescends to dwell among us in grace and mercy. As we look forward to the generations that shall come after us, it is with the prayer that God will condescend to dwell with them in grace and mercy. As we look forward to the generations that shall come after us, it is with the prayer that God will condescend to dwell with them in grace and mercy. As we look forward to the generations that shall come after us, it is with the prayer that God will condescend to dwell with them in grace and mercy. As we look forward to the generations that shall come after us, it is with the prayer that God will condescend to dwell with them in grace and mercy. As we look forward to the generations that shall come after us, it is with the prayer that God will condescend to dwell with them in grace and mercy. As we look forward to the generations that shall come after us, it is with the prayer that God will condescend to dwell with them in grace and mercy.

Grace and peace,

David J. Ault  
Pastor Ault

# Commemorating 100 Years of God's Grace

## 1878 - 1978

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- July 1 . . . . . 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.    OPEN HOUSE  
8:00 p.m.    CONTEMPORARY FOLK MASS  
                  Pastor Richard Klein  
                  Music by John and Dave Yonker  
                  Refreshments served by Youth
- July 2 . . . . . 10:30 a.m.    COMMUNION SERVICE OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING  
                  Pastor Richard Scholz  
                  Pastor David Ault
- 12:00 noon    Cafeteria Style Dinner
- 2:00 p.m.    ANNIVERSARY SERVICE OF CELEBRATION  
                  Pastor Henry Simon  
                  Pastor Wilbur Neumann  
                  Pastor David Ault
- 8:00 p.m.    Fellowship and Song  
                  Slide Presentation of Israel by Pastor Klein  
                  Presentation of Awards  
                  Presentation of Quilt  
                  Refreshments

### PARTICIPANTS IN SERVICES



Rev. Richard Klein



Rev. Richard Scholz



Rev. Wilbur Neumann



Rev. Henry Simon



Rev. David Ault

# St. John's



Frank Krause



August Bruesewitz

As, according to God's Word, in every congregation (1 Cor. 14:40, Col. 2:5) everything should be done in decency and in proper order, so have we, a number of German Lutherans living in this locality, united to build a parish, and we lay down through this document the ordinances on which we as a congregation stand and with which we will carry out the business of our congregation.

## Article 2

Our congregation shall be named, The German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession at Spencer, Marathon county, Wisconsin.

## Article 3

In our congregation all the canonical books of the Old and the New Testament will be accepted as the inspired Word and these are found in the Symbolical books of the Ev. Lutheran Church as being taken from the Word of God in form and norm. These are the three Ecumenical Creeds, (Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds), The Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and the Apology to it, the Smalcald Articles, Luther's Small and Large Catechism and the Formula of Concord.

## Article 4

In our church services and in the instruction in the Christian doctrine, we may use such books which are in accord with our confession.

## Article 5

Only he can be a member of the congregation and can take part in the rights of a member who:

- a) is baptized.
- b) holds to all books of Old and New Testament and accepts them as a rule and guide in faith and life.
- c) knows at least the Small Catechism and professes it.
- d) does not live in open gross sins of the flesh (Gal. 5:19,20) but lives a Christian life.
- e) if he is an adult, takes holy communion often.
- f) supports the present and future ordinances of the church unless they are contrary to the Word of God, and lets himself be admonished in brotherly love if he errs.
- g) is not a member of a secret society.

## Article 6

Eligible voters are only those males who are 21 years of age who sign the constitution, and only those can be chosen for an office if they have reached the age of 25.

## Article 7

Every member is obligated to contribute to the needs of the congregation according to his ability.

# First Constitution

## Article 8

The business matters of the congregation should be considered in orderly meetings. A meeting is valid when it is announced previously. At least a 2/3 vote of those present at the meeting is necessary. Every member is obligated to attend the meetings. The absent ones have no right to vote.

## Article 9

If a member falls into open gross sin, he should be admonished in Christian love, according to Matthew 18:15-20.

An excommunication can only occur when the admonished one, in spite of all loving admonitions, still is openly unrepentant, and he loses all rights of the congregation until he repents and makes up with God and the congregation.

## Article 10

The position of the pastor in the congregation can only be assigned to such a preacher who holds to all the canonical books of the Old and New Testament, as God's inspired Word, and to the related Symbolical books of the Ev. Lutheran Church named in Article 3, which he is requested to uphold in his vocation.

## Article 11

The elders have no more, and only as far and for so long, power in the congregation as if given to them by the congregation. Instructions given by the congregation can also be changed by the congregation.

## Article 12

All officers can be taken out of office:

- a) by holding on to false teachings.
- b) through angry actions.
- c) by willful miscarriage of duties.

## Article 13

If a split develops in the congregation about doctrine, God forbid, then all property and what is connected with it goes to those in the congregation who hold to the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and who decide according to the Symbolic Books of the Ev. Lutheran Church

## Article 14

All property should be administered by the trustees in the name of the congregation. What the trustees do at the decision and order of the congregation stands. If they do things on their own without the permission of the congregation, they personally are responsible and have to answer to the congregation.

Signed by:

August Bruesewitz  
Herman Boeder  
Gustave Matter  
Carl Stoltnow  
August Luepke  
William Schwantes

William Mellenthin  
Frank Krause  
Frank Neumann  
Carl Lupke  
Christon Vouth  
William Brummer



Carl Luepke



Carl (Charles) Stoltnow





*William Mellenthin*



*August Luepke*



*Gustave Matter*



*William Schwantes*



*Frank Neumann*

# *A History of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Congregation 1878 - 1978*

The beginning of this congregation dates back to the early seventies of the former century.

Most of the charter members were poor and needy. They had settled in a primeval forest, and it required good courage and a strong faith to live with their families in such forbidding surroundings.

There were no real country roads, only the so called logging roads and it often was an arduous task to procure the mere necessities of life.

Only a very few pastors of our Synod were then located in the northern part of the State. But our Synod has been diligent in doing mission work from its very beginning and has sought to take care of the settlers. Serving them with Word and Sacrament, traveling missionaries gathered them into congregations which grew and increased until, in the course of time, they were able to call their own pastor.

The first attempt to bring a congregation into existence here was made about the year 1873. Rev. W. C. Schilling, then located at Stevens Point, came to Spencer on one of his mission trips. He was the first Lutheran pastor to serve the new settlers.

The first services were held in a log school house on the Naatz farm, two miles north-west of Spencer.



*Wm. Naatz family, taken in 1900. L to R: Clara, Anna, Bertha, John. Mrs. Naatz, Linda, Wm. Naatz, and Emil.*

It was Rev. Schilling whose efforts led to the founding of the congregation. The organization took place October 27, 1878, the minutes revealing this date, and speak of the existence of the congregation. For that reason we consider Rev. Schilling as the founder of the congregation.

In the first congregational meeting Rev. H. Erck of the town of Wien, Marathon County, Wis., was unanimously called as pastor. He was asked to hold a preaching service every fifth Sunday, and to give the necessary instructions in Christian doctrine to the children and young people. The congregation didn't decide what it would give for the bodily support of the pastor, but declared themselves ready to support him according to their means.



*Rev. H. Erck 1878 - 1880*

According to the minutes of December 21, 1878, Carl Stoltznow, Herman Boeder, and Gustave Matter were elected as deacons of the congregation. August Bruesewitz was the first secretary, and Rev. H. Erck acted as the first chairman.



The records available to us are not as clear as might be desired, but we believe the following to be the CHARTER MEMBERS:

August Bruesewitz	William Mellenthin
Herman Boeder	Frank Krause
Gustave Matter	Frank Neumann
Carl Stoltznow	Carl Luepke
August Luepke	Christon Vouth
William Schwantes	William Brummer

The constitution of the congregation was adopted at a meeting held February 13, 1879. February 16, 1879, the congregation resolved to buy a building place. Mr. Frank Mellenthin lent St. John's the money for two months with two dollars interest. Pastor's salary was set at \$50. August Bruesewitz and Franz Frankfurth were to conduct services when the pastor was not present.

In a meeting held September 5, 1880, Rev. Schuette was called jointly by St. John's and the Lutherans that lived in Spencer, to the Village of Spencer. It was decided to pay him a yearly sum of \$150, also half of the house rent; and to pay him 25 cents a month for each child as school money.

December 25, 1880, it was resolved to build a church. In the course of the winter, various members brought the necessary logs to the saw mill at Romeo, where they were sawed into lumber.



*The first St. John's Spencer - 1881*

The first church, a frame building, was built in 1881, by a Mr. Parker, for the sum of \$200.00 for his labor. The building site was the one on which the present church stands. The land was acquired from Mr. Frank Parrett.

On May 21, 1881, Trinity Congregation, Town of Spencer, was organized. The two congregations formed one parish and were served by one pastor. Rev. J. Schuette served from September 5, 1880 to 1884.

During the short vacancy, Pastor Buenger was called as a traveling pastor to serve our parish along with twelve others.

On April 14, 1884, Rev. F. Seibrant was called. He served well and efficiently until July 1893, when he accepted a call to trinity congregation at Merrill.



*Rev. J. Todt 1893 - 1899*

A call was then issued to and accepted by Rev. J. Todt. He labored faithfully in church and school for six years, then accepted a call to Trinity congregation at Manistee, Michigan.

In 1899, Rev. A. F. Imm was called to succeed Rev. J. Todt. He served both congregations here and at Spencer until 1909, when he left the parish.



*Rev. A. F. Imm 1899 - 1909*

A call was then sent to and accepted by Rev. K. E. J. Schmidt, pastor of St. Paul's Congregation of Stevens Point. During his pastorate the new church was built by Mr. Krasin, in 1910. Built on the old church site, the new building was of brick veneer, 32 x 56 feet, including the chancel, 72 feet long. The members of the building committee were:

H. Manthe

F. Neumann

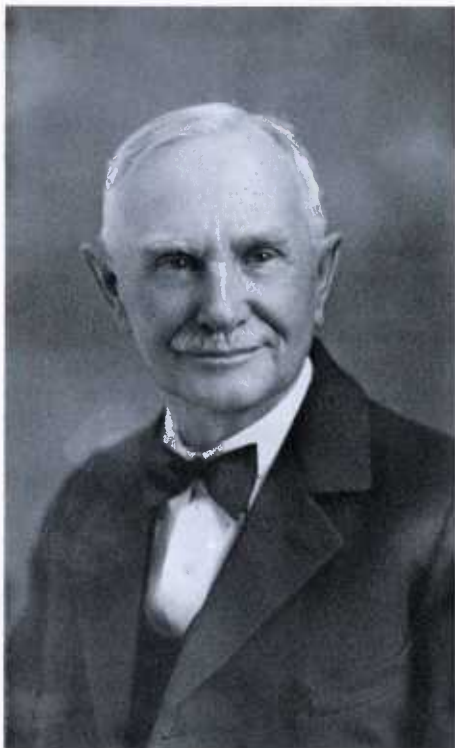
C. Andre

Pastor Schmidt

A. Bruesewitz

A. Voelker

A. Schulz



*Rev. K. E. J. Schmidt 1909 - 1912*

During the pastorate of Rev. Schmidt, St. John's Congregation resolved to terminate its union with Trinity as one parish and to call its own pastor.

The new church was dedicated to the service of God in January, 1911.



*St. John's Church, dedicated in 1910.*

On April 12, 1912, two acres of land were purchased from Mrs. Parrett. During a special meeting on June 2, 1912, it was resolved that the contract for the building of the school and parsonage, with the exception of the basement, be awarded to Mr. Herman Schwantes, who submitted a bid of \$2273. This contract included furnishing all material and also doing the frescoing. Both buildings, like the church are of brick veneer.

The basement of the parsonage was built by various members of the congregation. Those who came to work by hand or those who brought a team of horses for the excavation work received \$1.00 and \$2.00 a day respectively, also \$1.00 for a load of stone.

Rev. A. F. Ziehlsdorff, located at Swanville, Minnesota, accepted the call to come to St. John's and was installed by Rev. Schmidt, Nov. 4, 1912. The call included \$500 salary, free heat, free dwelling and 3 acres of land. As the congregation was not able to support a teacher, Rev. Ziehlsdorff taught school 8 or 9 months a year. A barn was built for the pastor in 1913.

On February 16, 1913, the members of St. John's voted to join the Missouri Synod. In June of the same year, William Marten was the first member to be elected as a delegate to a synodical convention. In 1916 the synod was divided into two districts.



*Rev. A. F. Ziehlendorff 1912 - 1930*

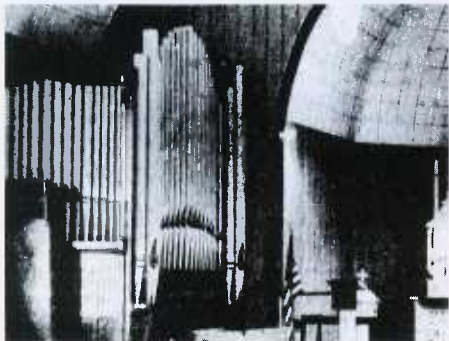
In 1918 flags were purchased for the church and the schoolhouse, the schoolhouse flag was to be put on a pole.

In 1919 it was resolved to have English services once a month.

In 1920 an eleven hundred pound bell was bought from Henry Struckstead of St. Louis, the church was painted, and other improvements were made at a cost of \$1500. An alter, pulpit, and baptismal font were purchased for \$570 and painted by Kavert and Son.

In 1921 it was resolved to buy the piece of land south of the church property for \$100. Each member was to pay \$2.00 towards it and the fence.

A Hinners pipe organ was purchased in 1923 for \$2200.



*The Pipe Organ purchased in 1923*

On September 9, 1928, St. John's celebrated its 50th Anniversary, glorifying God with praises and thanksgiving. Three festival services were held. Rev. Schmidt, Rev. Herman Daib, President of North Wisconsin District, and Rev. Todt delivered the sermons.

Rev. Ziehlendorff continued to serve the congregation until September, 1930, when he resigned. In the fall of 1931 he accepted a call to Charlotte Hall, Maryland.

During the brief vacancy, Rev. Arthur Staple of Spencer served the parish. After Rev. Ziehlendorff resigned, St. John's extended a call to Rev. H. C. Hinz, pastor of St. John's Congregation, Emerald, Wisconsin. He accepted the call and was installed by Rev. Staple November 23, 1930.



*Rev. H. C. Hinz 1930 - 1950*

From January 1931 to 1942, services were held alternately in English and German; from 1942 to 1945, German services were limited to one sermon a month, and in 1945, it was resolved to discontinue the German entirely.

Week-day school was discontinued when Pastor Hinz was called to serve the congregation. Confirmation instruction was to be held on Saturday forenoons, and after public schools closed, each week-day until time of Confirmation. It was at this time (1931), that the German instruction was discontinued and the confirmation instructions were given only in English.

In 1931 electricity was installed in the church, school and parsonage.

In 1932 lightning caused a fire which entirely consumed the altar. Considerable damage was done by smoke and necessitated the renovation and redecoration of the church, during which time services were held in the Spencer church.

In 1937 the church basement was deepened and fitted for meetings of the Ladies' Aid and Young People's Society. Most of the work was done by the members themselves.

On September 11, 1938, the congregation celebrated its 60th Anniversary services, also the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Saxony immigration. Services were held in the forenoon, afternoon and evening with the former pastors Rev. A. F. Imm, Rev. Karl Schmidt preaching, also Rev. Herman Daib, president of the North Wisconsin District.

Charles Neumann was voted to be the delegate to the district synodical convention in April of 1939.

A special collection was taken in May 1941 for the Army and Navy commission for the benefit of the boys in training camps who hadn't had the opportunity of receiving the Word of God otherwise.

During the same year it was decided to reshingle the roof of the school house. The work was to be volunteered and the trustees attained the needed supplies.

In April of 1945, authorization was given to the President and Secretary to have the church seal changed as a direct result of St. John's church voting to become incorporated. The purchase of a new furnace stoker and blower was also made. Other improvements were approved on the church properties, one being a parking lot on the south side of the church road.

1947 was the centennial year for the Missouri Synod. St. John's held a house to house collection. This drive resulted in the collection of \$92. The celebration services were scheduled for April 27th. Gifts of money were given to the Bible Society and the Lutheran Hour.

This year also saw the members of St. John's decide to buy the new Lutheran Hymnals. Each member was to pay for his own. The Lutheran Laymen's League of St. John's was granted the privilege of organization at this time.

In July 1949, lightning again struck the steeple of the church so it had to be taken down just above the belfry. The church was also reshingled and the interior walls were covered with composition wood. The total cost of this work was in excess of \$3000, of which the sum of \$1500 was received from insurance.

On July 9, 1950, at the voters meeting, Rev. Hinz made the announcement that he intended to retire from the active ministry because of old age and failing memory. He had served the congregation faithfully with Word and Sacrament for twenty years. His

resignation was to take effect the last of August.

Pastor Hinz preached his farewell sermon the first Sunday in September, 1950. The text was Luke 11:28. "Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it." The theme was: How blessed you will be if you continue to hear and keep God's Word.

A farewell service and social gathering was given for him with Rev. Otto Hoffman, Colby, and Rev. Randolph Mueller, Spencer, speaking. On September 15, 1950, Rev. Hinz and his daughter, Lydia, moved to Neillsville to make their future home. Mrs. Hinz had passed away in 1944.

During the vacancy following the departure of Rev. Hinz, considerable work was done in remodeling the parsonage. A new furnace was installed and a bathroom built. The kitchen was remodeled and most of the rooms redecorated with linoleum, rugs and carpeting put in three rooms. A new water system was also added.

A barn that had been used to house the former pastor's horse, cows, chickens, and car was sold and moved away. In its place a new garage was built.

After Pastor Hinz left, St. John's was now in need of a pastor. The congregation prayerfully sent out several calls without success. A call was now sent in for a seminary graduate, with Rev. Richard Scholz of Springfield, Illinois, accepting the call. Pastor Scholz arrived with his wife and family and was installed on June 17, 1951, by Rev. Mueller of Spencer, Wis.



Rev. Richard Scholz 1951 - 1954

After the installation services an open house was held at the parsonage, and a reception was given in honor of the pastor and his family in the church. As St. John's again had its own pastor, the church once more began to grow and flourish.



The North Wisconsin District held its convention at Clintonville in 1952. Gust Frank served as delegate from our congregation. At this time the North Wisconsin District had a membership of 54,000 and the membership of the Missouri Synod was 1.8 million. The average district communion attendance was 2.75 times per year.

While Rev. Scholz was pastor a number of additions were made to the church properties. Small tables and chairs were purchased for use by the Sunday School children, and hymnal racks were placed on the back of the benches.

1953 was a year of joy for this church. St. John's celebrated 75 years of existence through services of worship. Pastor Richard Scholz used his talents in producing a "75th Anniversary Commemoration Booklet" and leading our worship services.

In 1954 the parsonage furnace was converted to oil. At this time Pastor Scholz accepted a call to Mattoon, Wisconsin.

Pastor Mueller served as vacancy pastor as four calls were sent with three being returned. The fourth call was accepted by Pastor Saremba from Warren, Wisconsin. He was installed January 9, 1955 with "Ye are My Hands" as his sermon theme.



*Rev. August Saremba 1955 - 1959*

On May 1, 1955 the church services were scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. A porch was also added to the parsonage.

In 1956 Rev. Wilbur Neumann, the first son of the congregation to become a minister, preached his first sermon at his home congregation.



*Wilbur Neumann*

Several improvements and additions were made to the church property in 1957. A seven foot electric cross was ordered in December, and installed. New doors and windows were also purchased. The pipes for the organ were painted gray, and the school house and garage were given a coat of new paint. The north windows behind the altar were bricked in when it became apparent that numerous repairs would have to be made in the chancel area. A pancake supper was held with benefits to go for a power mower for the cemetery committee. It is interesting to note that our congregation was the highest district contributor for the first quarter in 1957.

Pastor Saremba passed away on September 25th, 1958. Four calls were sent before Pastor Milford Yonker accepted a temporary call. He was installed September 1, 1959.



*Rev. Milford Yonker 1959 - 1968*



A new well was drilled at a cost of \$717, and blueprints were drawn up for a parish hall and narthex. Many discussions were held, and in 1960 a building committee was named. This group consisted of Arnold Seefeldt, Arvin Podevels, Delbert Rinehart, George Oelrich, and Lester Bruesewitz. Wilbur Wilmer was awarded the building contract at a cost of \$21,453, the heating went to Mauer's of Marshfield for \$1640, and Abbotsford Hardware did the plumbing and wiring at a cost of \$2275. It was decided that one half of the estimate of \$25,368 be raised before the building would be started. As has been apparent in the past, the congregation soon had the amount raised. The new addition was completed in 1961.



*St. John's new addition dedicated in 1961.*

While Pastor Yonker was serving St. John's, he suffered the loss of both his daughter and his wife. A call was given to Pastor Yonker by St. John's of Riplinger on September 18, 1963. He accepted, and a cooperative arrangement was made between the two parishes where by Pastor Yonker would serve both churches. The Riplinger congregation shares in the cost of the pastor's salary, car allowances and other pastoral expenses. This satisfactory arrangement continues to the present time.

The balcony was sanded and varnished in 1964. The narthex was painted and a church sign was placed along the highway to announce the time of the church services.

In June of 1965 the Concordia Welfare Plan for ministers was voted on and accepted by the congregation, and in 1966 individual communion cups were first used.

A new organ was dedicated on May 7, 1967, and storm windows were purchased for the west side of the church.

During late 1967 and 1968 there were special meetings with the Riplinger congregation and also with the district President to deal with a very difficult problem. Pastor Yonker left the congregation September 1, 1968. Pastor Ruhbush served as interim pastor with Pastor Goetz leading the Sunday services until July 1969, when Pastor David Ault was installed.



*Rev. David J. Ault 1969 -*

In 1970 the church ceiling was insulated and the windows between the church and parish hall were closed off. A mail box for the members was placed in the narthex as a memorial. Communion cards were implemented as a means of replacing the personal communion announcement. An office for the pastor was also built in the south west corner of the basement.

A major issue of the Synod in 1970 was whether or not to accept fellowship with the ALC. In July our congregation voted to accept the option of having altar and pulpit fellowship.

Loudspeakers were purchased for the church in 1971 and also a church directory was made. St. John's voted to change the voting age of male members to 18 in all church meetings. The congregation's second son Richard Klein was ordained July 11, 1971 with former vacancy Pastor Krueger officiating.



*Richard Klein ordained by Pastor Krueger*

In 1973 another major synod option of woman suffrage was brought before the voters and was rejected. The voters also approved a standing resolution to borrow money to meet our mission pledges should our offerings fall short. More church repairs were also made. Tile was added to the church basement floor, the church pews were refinished, and trim on the church and parsonage was painted.

In 1975 the church windows were given a stained glass effect by covering them with a plastic covering. A memorial gift of a copier and mimeograph machine was received by the church. A new door was purchased for the parish hall.

A major remodeling of the chancel area was undertaken in 1976. Memorial contributions furnished the chancel area at no cost to the congregation. April 18, 1976, the dedication service was held. Memorials throughout the years have provided St. John's with many needed items which the church would not have been able to buy or would have taken a number of years to get.

At the 1977 annual meeting it was decided to remodel the upstairs of the parsonage. A building committee of Ron Seefeld, Norbert Schultz, and Art Kopp were asked to obtain bids and report on the progress of the remodeling. New windows were placed in all the upstairs rooms. Paneling, ceiling tile, and carpet were installed throughout. The job was completed in February of 1978. Women's suffrage was accepted by the voters in April, 1978.

In preparation for the hundred year celebration St. John's has voted to make a few improvements in the church facilities. The church basement floor has been painted along with the walls in the parish hall. A new door has been placed on the church entrance, and carpet was installed in the balcony.

The Lord has mercifully blessed our congregation during the past 100 years. From its beginning of 12 voters, it has increased to a present 239 voters. Our communicant membership totals 269, and we have 356 baptized souls. The history of St. John's has been varied and interesting over the past one hundred years. As we begin our second century, we look forward to serving our Lord and our fellow man.



*St. John's with new addition dedicated in 1961*



*Remodeled Chancel 1976*



*Backview of the church*

# *St. John's Sunday School*

The children of St. John's enroll in Sunday School soon after their third birthday or as soon as they will sit still and enjoy the Bible stories. They attend until they are confirmed. Before the parish hall was built the younger classes met in the little brick school. They then graduated to the church building where the older classes met. Now the upper grade classes meet in the church basement and the younger classes meet in the parish hall.

Our Christmas program practice always starts the first Sunday following Thanksgiving and ends with the last Sunday before Christmas. This practice is followed by a party given for the children. The program has been held on Christmas Eve since 1882. After the program the children are given a sack of candy. The church members donate money for the candy and the teachers pack the bags.

The children have had the opportunity to sing at a nursing home and to put on their Christmas program for the elderly. The children receive many smiles or even a squeeze of the hand to show how much the older people enjoy it. It is also a practice that the children sing in church each month on the fourth Sunday.

The Sunday School has taken part in many mission projects. Money from the last Sunday of each month is used for mission work. In February of each year, money is collected on the Sunday before Valentines Day. This is used for Hearts For Jesus, another mission project. The money has been used to help a

blind school and to help build a church in New Guinea. The children also brought articles to make up some Klenli-Kits to send to World Relief.

Sunday School teachers have many anxious, surprising, and rewarding moments. Usually the teachers are sure the Christmas program will be a flop, only to find that the children surprise them by doing their very best.

A teacher's time is interlaced with humorous things also. One Christmas program there were angels looking at a cross. One little boy had an itch, and he ended up with his wings tipped to the side and his garland over one eye, but he still looked up at the cross. There was the teacher who was teaching the word love. One of her little boys raised his hand to say, "I know what it is 'cause all the girls in school love me." One Easter morning during a film strip, one little girl surprised us. Most of the children would bring along something small to chew on, but this little girl opened her purse to pull out a dill pickle and ate it.

A Sunday School can only be successful through the efforts of many dedicated persons who serve Christ by teaching His little children. St. John's has been blessed with many workers who have given their time and talents to the Lord. It would be extremely hard to name all who have served as teachers and very easy to accidentally omit someone's name. St. John's thanks all who have served in the past and who now serve.



*St. John's first Bible School, June 1953*



**SUNDAY SCHOOL 1977 - 1978**

**Row 1:** Terry Hopfensperger, Stephanie Marden, Bryan Hopfensperger, Jenni Marten, Kimberly Ault, Craig Berger. **Row 2:** Michelle Marden, Carrie Seefeldt, Tami Hopfensperger, Troy Luepke, Neil Neumann, Jeana Mellenthin, Denise Neumann, Philann Neumann, Wendy Hopfensperger, Tricia Kilty, Valarie Jacobitz. **Row 3:** Pete Mellenthin, (superintendent), Virjean Mellenthin (teacher), Tim Gallion, Cory Seefeldt, Patrick Kilty, Janell Schwantes, Tim Ault, Dale Berger, Renee Mellenthin, Vickie Jacobitz, Kathryn Sundell. **Row 4:** Penny Miller, Jeffery Hanson, April Neumann, Denise Marden, John Ault, Chad Neumann, Richard Fraezy, Shane Vaughn, Jacqueline Hebert, Michelle Oelrich, Mrs. Alvera Klein (teacher). **Row 5:** Mrs. Dianne Vaughan (teacher), DeAnn Hanson, Steve Murphy, Jeffrey Day, Wade Vaughan, Terry Gallion, Todd Seefeldt, Steve Gallion, Sara Stroetz, Mrs. Irene Toltzman (teacher), Mrs. Leona Wachholz (teacher).



*Sunday School*





*Vacation Bible School Kindergarten Class of 1955*



*Sunday School*





# St. John's Youth Fellowship

St John's Lutheran Walther League was organized in 1935, however very little was recorded of their early activities. During the vacancy of 1968, the Walther League was inactive. Then in September an organizational meeting was held and the young people from St. John's, Riplinger, and St. John's, Spencer merged.

In 1970 the youth group changed their name to the present name, St. John's Youth Fellowship since they no longer belonged to the International Walther League. A new constitution was drawn up and signed by all members.

The first winter retreat was held in February of 1969 at Greystone Lodge in Rhinelander. Beginning in 1970 and continuing until 1973 the summer retreats were held at Lester Bruesewitz's cottage. Since 1975, both the summer and winter retreats are held at Alma Ault's cottage at Crivitz. Prior to each retreat a theme for Bible study is decided and we spend 2½ to 3 hours each day studying the Bible and having

devotions. A prayer vigil is also held and each person prays by himself for two ½ hour sessions. This continues for 24 hours and is climaxed by a communion service. Every member shares the cooking and clean-up chores.

For several years the group distributed Christmas seals and collected the money for the Wheatridge Foundation. During the Christmas season the youth group goes caroling to the homes of the elderly and shut-ins. For several years we also decorated the trees in both churches.

We send birthday cards to members of our congregation who are sixty-five years and older. We initiate the new confirmands, go on hayrides, bowl, hold bake sales, serve a chili dinner, and various other activities. Although we have a lot of fun, the main purpose of our meetings twice a month and our two retreats annually is to grow spiritually through Christian fellowship and studying God's Word.



ST. JOHN'S YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Row 1: Cindy Seefeld, Dawn Neumann, Shelly Neumann, Joy Miller, Lynette Wachholz, Lori Stroetz

Row 2: Paula Neumann, Terry Marten, Craig Neumann, Wayne Vaughan, Greg Seefeld, Dean Toltzman, Jesse Miller



*Youth Fellowship*



## *Youth Activities*



*Players at Stratford Circuit Volleyball games. Who won?*



*Initiation into the youth group*



*Janell, Cindy, and Penny practicing for Confirmation night.*



*Practicing? Lynette, Steve, Doug and Jeff.*





*Bible Study at Retreat*



*Shoestring Race*



# St. John's Ladies Aid

Das Frauen Komitee wurde organisiert am 28. September 1900 bei Frau Erving Neumann.

## Die folgenden Mitglieder

- (Mrs) Frau Frank Seefeld  
 " " August Voelker  
 " " Frank Neumann Sr  
 " " Gust Albrecht Sr. Herman Marten  
 " " Gottlieb Seefeldt " Herman Martke  
 " " Carl Brues " Herman Andre  
 " " Albert Marthe " Carl Krueger  
 " " August Luepke  
 " " Carl Andre  
 " " Mrs. Matz  
 " " Louis Justman  
 " " A. F. Imm  
 " " August Kopf  
 " " Fred Schroeder  
 " " Frank Krause

- Folgende wurden  
 als erste gewaehlt.  
 (Officers)  
 Praesidentin Frau  
 Postorin  
 (Secretary) Daffarmerin Frau  
 Carl Andre

# Charter Members of Ladies Aid

Am 31. July 1925, Das Komitee fuhr unter  
 Praesidentin bei Frau Carl Albrecht, Postorin und  
 fuhrten das Komitee No 280 und beschloegen  
 das 119 ten Protokoll einzureichen.  
 Es geschah in: Protokoll wurden von  
 und angenommen Frau des Komitee als  
 gleich angenommen, das unsere Praesidentin  
 fuhrten hier die Dinge geordnet jedem monatlich  
 unser Komitee seit organisieren zu werden be-  
 stehen das wir das 25 jaehrlige Bestehen  
 unser Komitee feiern am letzten Sonntag  
 im August, alle Komitee fuhrten das jeder  
 monatlich folgende Personen Frau Albert  
 Marthe, Sr. Emil Marten, Sr. Herman Seefeldt,  
 Frank Neumann, Sr. Carl Justman und Sr. Carl  
 Albrecht, eingefloegen das wir Postorin  
 fuhrten unser Komitee helfen und helfen  
 das wir unser Komitee geben und diese  
 das wir Postorin, und eingefloegen das wir  
 fuhrten unser Komitee folgende unser  
 Komitee unsere Komitee zu helfen  
 unserer Komitee von 5.00 zu helfen  
 unser Komitee unser Komitee fuhrten  
 das Komitee noch bei  
 Frau H. R. Neumann  
 Almina Albrecht  
 Sect.

# and Ladies Aid First Recorded Minutes

(Reproduced from the original manuscript)

# *St. John's Ladies Aid Society*

The St. John's Ladies Aid Society was founded in 1900 with 20 charter members. There were no written minutes until 1925. These were written in German and will be found in this book.

The function of the ladies aid was to provide an opportunity for the ladies of the congregation to have a day of fellowship, Bible study, and provide services to the church when needed. Throughout the years they have done a great many tasks and contributed to the welfare of this congregation. They have purchased many items such as Bibles, Sunday School hymnals, hymnals for the congregation, Bible Dictionaries, Good News for Shut-ins, all the kitchen appliances (of which most have been replaced at least one time) and utensils; gave toward the organ and building funds, repairs, remodeling and decorating the parsonage a number of times, and kept up the cleaning and repair of the school in cooperation with the congregation. It is of interest to note that the altar, pulpit and baptismal font were purchased by the Aid in 1910.

These were done with monthly dues, projects, donations and memorials from deceased member's families. Projects were dinners, bazaars, bake sales, cook

book sales, vanilla, spices, cards, wrapping paper, and napkin sales to mention a few. With proceeds from these, various mission and charitable organizations were sponsored along with home uses. The Lutheran Hour sponsorship plan was adopted in 1961. The Concordia Seminary Guild was supported starting in 1963. The Lutheran Medical Mission Society was helped from 1961 - 1976. The providing of Portals of Prayer free for member's home devotion was begun in 1958. Then in 1976 it was extended to include some large print Portals of Prayer. Altar flowers are funded by the Aid for special services and on communion Sunday. This has been done since 1955. The children in VBS have been given ice cream for the last day's treat since 1954. We have been providing Christmas gifts to servicemen and shut-ins since 1956. The circuit pastor's monthly study club is served lunch when it meets here. Members celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary are given devotional books. Pastor's vestment gowns have been given to the two sons of the congregation, Wilbur Neumann and Richard Klein. Richard was given stoles at his ordination celebrated here in 1971.



*Ladies Aid members in 1900 - 1910*



*Working for the Pancake Supper - 1977*

There are also annual functions such as serving the mission fest dinners or lunches. There is a Christmas party when visitors and/or spouses are asked to celebrate with us. A gift of money is sent to a charity such as Bethesda Lutheran Home, American Bible Society, Lutheran Children's Friend's Society or The Lutheran Hour. A clothing drive is also held in the fall and occasionally a quilting day or two is held for World Relief. This is done in cooperation with the LWML group. Last year 15 quilts and 13 layettes were sent.

Other services rendered are lunches or dinners served for ordination, dedications, funerals, installation receptions and any other special occasions. Gifts of food, money, and clothes were sent to Europe during the war period. Relief was given to a family who were victims of a tornado.

Activities that we have had include trips to Bethesda Lutheran Home in Watertown, Wisconsin, Northern Colony near Eau Claire, participation in a few World Day of Prayer services held in local churches. We also had the pleasure of viewing slides of Canada where Pastor Klein has been serving. A display of tracts and literature put out by the American Bible Society was put out at the Spencer Centennial and is now kept in the narthex for anyone who desires to help themselves.

Notes of interest are several. The first meetings were, of course, in the German language until 1933. Then a mixture of German and English until 1936. The meetings were held in homes and at the church, whichever the hostess preferred until sometime between 1936 - 1940. Sugar and coffee ration cards were sent for in 1942. Two pounds per month of sugar was our quota. Prices set for dinners served were subject to some inflation as the rest of our economy

has been. In 1941 25 cents and 15 cents, in 1961 25 cents per plate if the food was supplied, if not the price was \$1.50. It increased to \$2.50 in 1970 and to \$3.00 in 1976. One Mother-Daughter banquet was held in 1963. A father-son banquet was held the next year. The constitution was revised, in 1960 and 1976. One surprise baby shower was given for a pastor and his wife, in 1974. The fortieth anniversary was celebrated with a service and then a chicken dinner was served. All members were asked to donate and the Aid prepared and served the meal. At the 75th anniversary they had 2 special meals and sold anniversary plates. The Aid usually had some kind of welcoming shower or gift for a newly arriving pastor and his family. Pastor Ruhbusch served as a vacancy pastor 1968 - 1969 serving also the Aid. The flower beds beside the church entrance until the new addition was built on in 1961 was the responsibility of the Aid. The Aid was part of a committee to take care of the landscaping around the new building.

As this interested person went through the records to prepare this report she was amazed at what has been accomplished through this organization. I hope every person who has ever wondered what purpose or gain can be accomplished in being a member will read very carefully. It wasn't just one group that accomplished all this but several people over many years. It's not to be a glory seeking group but to serve. And that is what the Aid has done. The purpose of going into some length of the services rendered was not to brag but to be somewhat of a messenger to those who wonder how they can serve in their church. I feel it is quite apparent that our church would not be quite as blessed as it has been these 100 years had it not been for these many dedicated members of the Ladies Aid Society.



*Ladies Aid of 1953*



**LADIES AID**

*Row 1: Mrs. Leota Schwantes, Mrs. Olaf (Mildred) Manthe, Mrs. Alvina Seefeld, Mrs. Augusta Justman, Mrs. Emil (Norma) Luepke, Mrs. Paul (Francis) Seefeld, (Vice-president)*

*Row 2: Mrs. Dave (Barb) Ault, Mrs. Robert (Esther) Stroetz, Mrs. Gerhardt (Isabelle) Klein, (treasurer), Mrs. Eugene (Arlene) Marten, Mrs. Virgil (Gloria) Seefeld, (secretary), Mrs. John (Pat) Miller Jr., (President), Mrs. Bernard (Doris) Krause, Mrs. Maynard (Elda) Neuman*

*Not Pictured: Mrs. Ray Klein, Mrs. Lester Bruesewitz, Mrs. Gerald Schwantes, Mrs. Wilmer Hopfensperger, Mrs. Clarence Dean, Mrs. Gerald Neumann, Mrs. Wilbur Mellenthin, Mrs. Ron Seefeldt, Mrs. Ron Bruesewitz, Mrs. William Marten, Mrs. George Oelrich, Mrs. Dorothy Neumann, Mrs. Elsie Mellenthin, Mrs. Bertha Fischer*



# Lutheran Women's Missionary League

St. John's LWML was organized September 25, 1951 under Rev. R. J. Scholz with 38 members. Mrs. Herman Neumann served as its first chairman. Official membership in Zone 14 and the International LWML was made in 1952. Mrs. R. J. Scholz served as first zone chairman.

The first meetings were held every other month until 1957 when they were combined with the Ladies Aid. In 1969 under Pastor Ault it was decided to have quarterly meetings.

Organizations in the zone host spring and fall rallies each year where business is conducted and speakers, often missionaries, are heard. St. John's hosted the first spring rally in 1953; other rallies were held in 1956, 1962, and 1968 with Riplinger.

The main project of LWML has always been the Mite Box collections of which 75% is given to District mission projects and 25% is given to International mission projects.

St. John's ladies of the LWML have sponsored many mission projects of their own:

- 1952 - Christmas gifts of socks and handkerchiefs sent to boys at Wittenberg School.
- 1955 - Visit was made to the Veterans Hospital in Tomah; members purchased subscriptions for This Day magazines for the veterans.
- 1959 - Toys sent to Bethesda in Watertown, Wis.
- 1963 - Members wrote letters to wives of missionaries resulting in sending of bandages to the hospital in India and Sunday School materials and Portals of Prayer to the Philippines.
- 1966 - Collected items for the colony in Chippewa Falls and in 1968 toured the colony's facilities and took along Sunday School materials, magazines and clothing.
- 1968 - Collected eye glasses, old watches, jewelry, and dented silver to send to "Eyes for the Needy".



## LWML

Row 1: Mrs. Elsie Mellenthin, Mrs. Dorothy Neumann, Mrs. Alvina Seefeldt, Mrs. Maynard (Elda) Neumann, Mrs. Olaf (Mildred) Manthe, Mrs. David (Barb) Ault

Row 2: Mrs. Arnold (Muriel) Oelrich, Mrs. Arnold (Violet) Seefeldt, Mrs. Eugene (Arlene) Marten, Mrs. Gerald (Jane) Neumann, Mrs. Ron (Karen) Seefeldt, Mrs. Leota Schwantes, (Mission Hospice Chairman)

Row 3: Mrs. Ron (Eileen) Bruesewitz, (Chairman), Mrs. Frieda Hendrickson, Mrs. Emil (Norma) Luepke, (Christian Growth Chairman), Mrs. Gerhardt (Isabelle) Klein, Mrs. Herbert (Leona) Wachholz, Mrs. Ray (Marion) Klein

Row 4: Mrs. Bernard (Doris) Krause, Mrs. Delmar (Irene) Toltzman, Mrs. Donald (Karen) Hanson, Mrs. Paul (Francis) Seefeldt, Mrs. Lester (Delores) Bruesewitz

Not Pictured: Mrs. Walter Fischer, Mrs. Clarence Dean, Mrs. Wilmer Hopfensperger, Mrs. John Neumann, Mrs. Gerald Schwantes, Mrs. George Oelrich, Mrs. George Krueger, Mrs. Floyd Hopfensperger, Mrs. Robert Stroetz, Mrs. Wilbur Mellenthin



- 1969 - Bandages were made and sent to Medical Missions.
- 1971 - Bibs were sent to Bethesda; klenli-kits for World Relief.
- 1972 - Quilts and lap robes were made and sent to Bethesda.
- 1973 - Lap robes were made for elderly in the Colonial Home in Colby, Wis.
- 1975 - Donation was made to Rev. Seth Addy for pews for his congregation in Ghana.
- 1977 - Quilts and layettes for World Relief.

For many years members of LWML have saved coupons and postage stamps. Money from bake sales, May Basket fund raiser, LWML Sunday donations Christmas gifts have been sent to even more worthwhile mission projects including Bethesda, Medical Missions, Lutheran Children's Friend Society, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, Lutheran Braille Workers-Sight Saving, North Wisconsin District Mission to the Deaf, and Camp Luther.

St. John's has had three members who were sent by Zone 14 to International Conventions; Mrs. Milford Yonker in 1961 to Pittsburg, Mrs. Herman Neumann in 1967 to Washington D. C., and Mrs. Ronald Bruesewitz in 1975 to St. Paul.

Every other year two members attend district conventions held throughout Northern Wisconsin.

In 1973, the new office of Mission Hospice was formed with Mrs. Leota Schwantes as first Hospice chairman.



Convention Time!

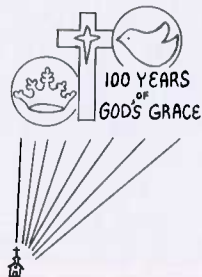


## LEAGUE PLEDGE:

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption, we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields we pledge Him our willing service, wherever and whenever He hath need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

## LEAGUE HYMN:

1. Lutheran Women, one and all,  
We have heard the Gospel call,  
We by faith have seen our Lord  
Crucified and then restored.  
We have seen Him pay the price  
For our sin a sacrifice.  
Him we Lord and Christ acclaim,  
And unite to praise his name.
2. Lutheran Women, young and old,  
Well we know His challenge bold;  
Help to take the Gospel light  
To a world in darkest night,  
By example in the home,  
By inviting those who roam,  
By your prayers for sinners lost  
By your gifts for missions' cost.
3. Lutheran Women, coast to coast,  
In the Lord, a mighty host,  
Let us all united be  
In the Holy Trinity.  
One in faith, in hope, and love,  
Working for the Lord above,  
Till, our earthly labors done,  
We, in heav'n shall all be one. Amen.



# St. John's Altar Guild

The guild was formed in March of 1953 as an auxiliary group of the Ladies Aid. Mrs. Walter Justman, Mrs. Herman Andre and Mrs. Henry Wachholz were the first committee. Their function was to care for and replace paraments as needed, set up for communion, care for the communion ware, order flowers for special services and the first communion Sunday of the month. These ladies had many other little items that kept them busy. Complete records of who made all the altar cloths have not been kept but there are some we know for sure. Mrs. Dora Voelker made the lace around the fair linen. Mrs. Walter Fischer and Mrs. Violet Seefeldt helped with some of the cloths. Mrs. Walter Neumann and Mrs. Vern Diethman also made cloths. Some of the cloths were given as memorials, again we don't know all of them but these are the ones we know for sure:

Mrs. Gust Frank - Red - 1969

Mr. Maynard Wachholz - White - 1971

The green cloths we use at this time were donated by the Ladies Aid for the new altar, in 1976. The blue contemporary cloth was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Neumann, in 1976.

Baptismal Napkins were also a part of this work. Mrs. Walter Justman made the first ones along with Mrs. Walter Fischer. Now, Mrs. Maynard Neumann makes them even though she is not on the committee.

The committee has changed somewhat over the past few years. In order for more women to have the opportunity to serve in this special area it was decided that each person serving ask another lady of the congregation to take her place each serving for one year and with another lady. We hope that when you are asked you will find it a privilege to say 'yes'.



## Recollections of St. John's Parochial School



**PUPILS:** 1st row, kneeling, L to R: Regina Ziehlisdorff, Emmie Brusewitz, Ernie Brusewitz, Harold Nitzlaff and Vernis Andre. 2nd row: Ruth Ziehlisdorff, Lauren Andre, Hilda Andre, Elsie Griepentrog, Lydia Damrow, Frances Nennian. 3rd row: Esther Justman, Ida Frank. 4th row: Elsie Hahn, Emma Damrow, Rosetta Seefeldt, Susie Martens, Leota Andre. Boys on the left: Walter Neunen, John Brewitz, John Frank. Right: Bill Frank, Alfred Griepentrog, Olaf Manthe. In front of the door: Myron Krause

The children generally attended school from age six until confirmation. They also participated in school programs, congregational picnics, and Christmas programs which often lasted two hours. The church pastor served as the school teacher, and his wife generally assisted, especially when the pastor was called away. Since money was very limited, and the pastor received little salary, the congregation provided him with what in German was called "love gifts". This included flour, sugar, meat, potatoes, and the like. The pastor also had a cow to provide him with additional support.

The emphasis of the old parochial school was of course on religious instructions, and the majority of the school's time was spent in this. A typical day began at 9:00 A.M. with song and prayer. This was followed by the recitation of memorized portions of the catechism and with instructions. At 10:30 a half hour recess was enjoyed. From 11:00 until noon the children studied reading and language. During the afternoons the students were instructed in Bible history, geography, arithmetic, and American history. School dismissed at 4:00 P.M. with singing and prayer. All of the early education was of course taught and learned in German.





*Norvel Justman, Verner Oelrich, Alvin Frank, Walter Luepke, Martin Griepentrog, Ervin Schweke, Maynard Schwantes, Bertha Neumann, Francis Neumann, Adalia Frank, Hilda Andre, Ruth Ziehlsdorff, Amanda Damrow, Emme Bruesewitz*



*August Siecke - teacher*

# Sons of the Congregation

## *Wilbur Neumann*

Wilbur was born August 9, 1933 to Walter and Arvilla (Oelrich) Neumann. He was baptized and confirmed at St. John's, Spencer by Pastor Hinz. He attended Concordia College, Milwaukee for high school and jr. college graduating in 1954. He then attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., graduating in 1959. His vicarage was in La Grange, Illinois, with his first call being to a dual parish in rural Nebraska. In 1963 he accepted a call as assistant pastor to Mitchel, South Dakota. There he served the youth until 1964 when he accepted the pastorship at the same church. While in Dakota he also served as the South Dakota District Director of Youth Work, Circuit Counselor, and on the District Board of Directors for two years. August of 1969 saw the Neumanns accepting a call to Perryville, Missouri. There he worked with five different vicars, and also had five retired pastors in the congregation. A new church was dedicated in 1974 with Dr. Hoffman as guest speaker for celebration. Wilbur had other responsibilities also in Missouri as Circuit Counselor, Chairman of East Mo. Pastor's Conference, and Vice-Chairman of the Mo. District Pastor's Conference. In July 1977 he accepted a call to Peoria, Ill. He has had the honor of attending three Synodical Conventions: New York, 1967; Denver, 1969; and Anaheim, 1975.

Wilbur married Elaine Hellwege of Stuttgart, Ark. in 1958. She is a graduate of Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing. They have been blessed with four healthy children - Mark, 19 (Jr. in college), Gary, 17 (Sr. in High School), Kari, 15 (So. in High School), and Carol, 12 (Seventh Grade).



## *Richard Klein*

Richard was born November 1, 1945, at Marshfield, Wisconsin. He was baptized on November 25, 1945 at St. John's Lutheran Church by Rev. H. Hinz and confirmed on May 24, 1959 by vacancy pastor W. R. Krueger. Richard has stated, "I believe it was my early Christian education and confirmation instruction which I received from this congregation that led me into the ministry along with the encouragement of my grandfather, the late Mr. Edward Klein".

Richard attended Concordia College High School from 1959 until 1963 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After that he attended Concordia Sr. College at Fort Wayne, Ind., graduating in 1967 with a B. A. degree. From this point Richard studied at Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Ill. Vicarage was served in Fruitvale, Trail, Castlegar, and Nelson, B.C. under Rev. H. Clark of Trail, B.C. Richard graduated from the seminary on May 21, 1971 and was ordained on July 11, 1971 at St. John's Lutheran Church by Rev. W. R. Krueger.

Since his ordination Richard has served the Klondike Trail Parish which included congregations at Mellowdale, Vega, Swan Hills, and a mission at Fort Assiniborne, Alberta. This parish was served from 1971 until March of 1973. He then served St. Peter Lutheran at Castlegar, St. John Lutheran at Nelson, and the Arrow Lakes Mission at Nakusp, B.C. Richard resigned from this position on May 21, 1978 so that he might study for his Dr. of Ministry degree at the Concordia Theological Seminary at Ft. Wayne, Indiana.





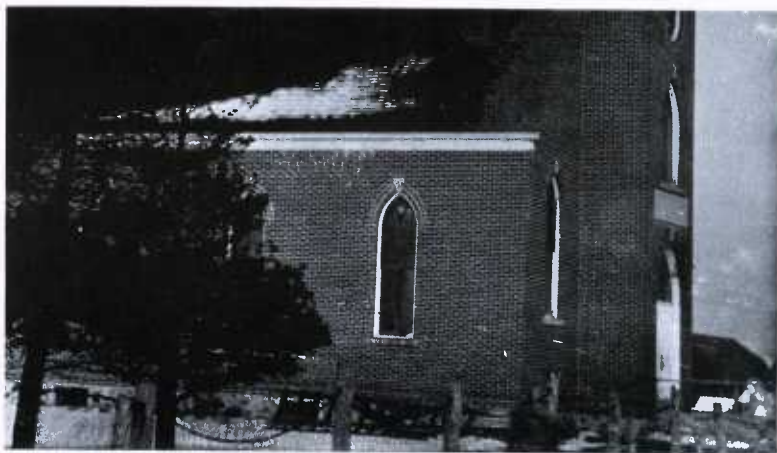
# Remember When . . .

- 1881 - Remember when cemetery lots were \$2 for Adults and \$1 for Children.
- 1882 - Remember when members were asked to provide a half cord of firewood for the church
- 1882 - Remember when everyone who wished to attend communion was to announce to the pastor personally.
- 1882 - Remember when the first outhouse was built, 6x4x8 with two compartments and two seats each.
- 1884 - Remember when members who were delinquent in dues were given a 25% reduction upon payment.
- 1886 - Remember when Pastor Siebrant had to be "fetched" and driven home to Wein.
- 1892 - Remember when the congregation built a barn for the Pastor.
- 1893 - Remember when it was voted that each member give the pastor two bushels of oats for his livestock.
- 1898 - Remember when an addition was built on to the parsonage and each member was asked to donate \$6.00 for it.
- 1913 - Remember when trees were planted on the parsonage lawn.
- 1914 - Remember when klingelbeutel were used for collections.
- 1914 - Remember when the OK was given for members to build a horse stall for the congregation if they were willing to do it free of charge.
- 1916 - Remember when the church and inventory was insured for \$4000.
- 1916 - Remember when the Pastor was paid \$2.00 a year for sweeping the church.
- 1924 - Remember when the church bell was rung between 11:00 and 12:00 p.m. after a death.
- 1924 - Remember when the elders were to take turns sitting in the choir loft to keep order.
- 1934 - Remember when the minutes of the voters meetings had to be read in both English and German.
- Remember when Mission Festivals were celebrated in Matter's woods.
- Remember when Pastor Ziehlsdorff pastured his cows in the road ditches.
- Remember when there was no basement under the church.
- Remember when the parochial school students spent the day chasing the pastor's cow.
- Remember when the ladies and men sat on opposite sides of the church.
- Remember when hot water had to be carried into the basement kitchen when dinners were held at the church, and the dish towels were dried in the cemetery.
- Remember when the organ had to be pumped.
- Remember when real candles were used on the Christmas tree and an elder stood nearby with a sponge on the end of a pole to extinguish small fires.
- Remember when the parochial school students husked corn for the chickens at noon.
- Remember when the minister preached here and took the horse to Abbotsford to preach.



*Mission Festival Celebration in Matter's Woods*

## *Days of Long Ago*



*Remember the Hitching Posts?*



*Remember the church band?*  
*Chs. Neumann, Willie Oelrich, Henry Wachholz, Emil Naatz, John Naatz, Frank Neumann, Walter Justman, Robert Andre, Charles Oelrich, Fred Luepke, Fred Bruesewitz, Emil Mellenthin, Herbert Gripentrog, Ray Parrett, Fred Wangarin*



*August Voelker 1851 - 1934*



*Mr. and Mrs. Herman Manthe*



*Pastor Imm and Wife*





*Mrs. Ziehlendorff and Ruth*



*Frank Seefeldt and Frank Neumann*



*1900 Confirmation*



# Statistics

## First Child Baptized

August Luepke Born August 3, 1878  
Baptized September 15, 1878  
by Rev. Erck

## First Marriage - October 18, 1880

John Schwantes and Minnie Mellenthin  
by Rev. J. Schutte

## First Death - February 2, 1881

Infant daughter of Karl and Minnie Luepke  
Emergency baptism administered by  
Christopher Voth  
Buried by Rev. J. Schutte

Total Baptisms - 580  
Total Marriages - 289  
Total Burials - 270  
Total Confirmed - 750

# Church Officers 1978



## CHURCH COUNCIL

Front Row: Steve Krause, Treasurer; Arnold Oelrich, Elder; Ronald Elmhurst, Secretary;  
Herbert Wachholz, Elder; Back Row: Emil Luepke, Elder; Ken Mellenthin, Trustee;  
Alvin Habeck, Chairman; Henry Bluhm, Trustee; Herman Neumann, Trustee

Chairman: Alvin Habeck

Vice Chairman: Ronald Seefeldt

Elders: Emil Luepke  
Arnold Oelrich  
Herbert Wachholz

Trustees: Ken Mellenthin  
Henry Bluhm  
Herman Neumann

Secretary: Ronald Elmhurst

Treasurer: Steve Krause

Financial Secretary: Robert Backus

Financial Committee:

John Miller Jr.  
David Toltzman  
Charles Bruesewitz  
Alan Seefeld  
Richard Wachholz

Sexton: Maynard Neumann

Cemetery Committee: Olaf Manthe  
Rudy Lynn  
Robert Schwantes

Organist: Marsha Martens

Custodians: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wachholz

Caretaker: James Bluhm

Centennial Committee:

Barb Ault  
Dave Ault  
Eileen Bruesewitz  
Ronald Bruesewitz  
Alvin Habeck  
Martha Kopp  
Isabelle Klein  
Elda Neumann  
Norma Luepke

Olaf Manthe  
Jane Neumann  
Jerry Neumann  
Arvin Podevels  
Leota Schwantes  
Lori Stroetz  
Leona Wachholz  
Lynette Wachholz



**CHOIR**

Row 1: Mrs. Donald (Karen) Hanson, director; Mrs. Dave (Barb) Ault, Sara Stroetz, DeAnn Hanson, Mrs. Bill (Marsha) Martens, organist. Row 2: Lynette Wachholz, Mrs. Ken (Lois) Mellenthin, Mrs. Ron (Karen) Seefeldt, Lori Stroetz, Penny Hanson. Not Pictured: Janell Mellenthin, Mrs. Ron (Eileen Bruesewitz)



**ORGANIST:** Mrs. William Martens



**CUSTODIANS:**  
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wachholz



**CARETAKER:** James Bluhm



**CEMETERY COMMITTEE:**  
Rudy Lynn, Olaf Manthe, Maynard Neumann (Sexton), Robert Schwantes