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Blessed to be a Blessing

150th
Anniversary
1868 - 2018



*St. John Lutheran Church
Woodbury, Minnesota*

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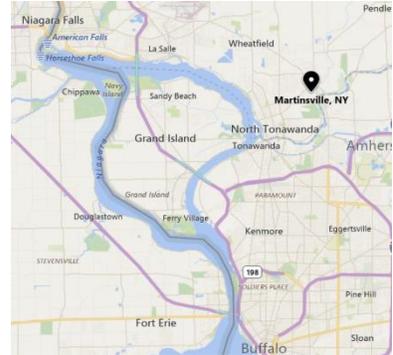


THE HISTORY OF SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

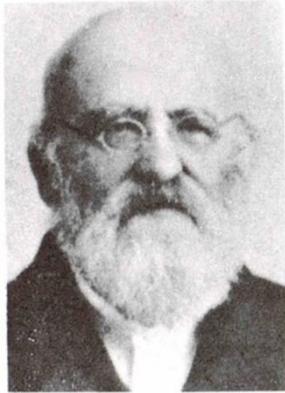
The City of Woodbury is a direct descendant of one of the congressional townships into which the Minnesota Territory (established on March 3, 1849) was divided when the region was ceded by the Native Americans and “opened to settlement”. Woodbury Township was originally known as Red Rock (after a sacred stone supposedly painted by the famous Dakota Chief Little Crow), but in 1859 (Minnesota became a state on May 11, 1858), when the state legislature discovered another township in Minnesota with the same name, it was renamed Woodbury (for Judge Levi Woodbury of New Hampshire, a friend of the first town board chairman).

Establishment of Saint John

The first settlers came to the Woodbury area in 1844. Most of them migrated from the eastern states and from Germany. In the years of 1863~1868 (at the close of the Civil War) a number of ethnic German families migrated from Martinsville and St. Johnsbury, New York, which is near Buffalo. This group was called the “Buffalo Germans” to distinguish them from other Germans who were moving into the area. They settled in Woodbury and Afton Townships, which, though wooded and hilly, gave promise of good things to come. As was characteristic of these early settlers, all were very poor, yet ambitious, and especially concerned about being faithful to the Word of God.



The history of St. John Lutheran Church is intimately interwoven with that of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Afton, located about four miles to the northeast. In those early years the new settlers were first served by the Rev. Ernst Heinrich Rolf, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Saint Paul, who walked through the woods and hills to find Lutheran families. This led to the formation of a congregation in 1863, which was called St. Peter Church. Pastor Rolf took care of the spiritual needs of the people for the next three years.



Pastor Cloeter

In 1866 the members of St. Peter Church (which at that time included the founders of St. John) called the Rev. Johann Karrer to be the first resident pastor; he served only two years. In the fall of 1868, a well-known missionary to the Ojibwe Indians in Minnesota (1857~1868), the Rev. Ernst Ottomar Cloeter, was called as pastor and installed on August 9. (In 1882 he was a delegate to the organizing convention of the then Minnesota-Dakota District and was elected as its first president.)

Shortly thereafter, citing difficult travel by horse and carriage on bad roads and by horse and sleigh on cold winter days, the members living in Woodbury Township petitioned St. Peter Church to release them in order to form a separate congregation. This request for a peaceful dismissal was granted at a meeting on the first Sunday in Advent, **November 29, 1868**, and St. John Lutheran Church was organized. The congregation joined the Missouri Synod on December 31, 1868 (it joined the Minnesota-Dakota District of the Missouri Synod in 1883, a year after its formation).

One week after the release from St. Peter Church was granted, on **December 6, 1868**, the second Sunday in Advent, the formed congregation of St. John Number 26, also known as Fish site of the former church and was one of the first to be conducted in the public called by the congregation, pastoral duties of St. John Church until 1893—twenty-five years.



very first worship service of the newly was held in Public School, District Lake School (across the road from the the current cemetery). Caroline Risch baptized during these first services schoolhouse. Though not officially Pastor Cloeter looked after the

Construction and Dedication of a Church Building

Immediately after organizing as a separate parish, resolutions were adopted to build a church. After only two years, the men of the congregation took on the task by cutting sturdy oak timbers with axes and finishing them with axes. In the church records it was noted that “their faith was as strong as the timbers used to construct the building!” This first church, located across the road (the present-day St. John’s Drive) from the public school, was dedicated in 1870. Since the parents were concerned about the religious instruction of the children, two laymen, Gottfried Stabenow and William Sahnaw, were appointed by the congregation to meet with the children for religious instruction during the winter months.

Three years after the first church was dedicated, in 1873 the first log school was built. This was a one-room parochial school in which the students wrote their lessons on small slates. Children had to carry in wood, so that the teacher could maintain a fire in the stove that would last until morning. Water was carried from a pump located by the church. Christian Roloff was engaged as the first teacher and served for three years. Ernst Koenig was the second resident teacher and served from 1878~1889. In February 1889 Julius Trapp was called as teacher and taught for three years.

It wasn’t until the year 1893 that St. John Lutheran Church became an independent parish, calling the Rev. Theodore Maesse of Fulda, Minnesota, to be its first resident pastor. As was common in those days, he also taught parochial school. Church records indicate that the pastor’s annual salary was \$488 and that on January 6, 1895, the congregation decided to give the pastor an additional \$25 in order to buy hay for his horse.



In 1896 the Rev. Gustav Rosenwinkel (his legal name was ‘Jahn’; ‘Rosenwinkel’ was the name of his foster parents) became the second pastor and continued his ministry until he was called to his eternal home in September 1901. His body was laid to rest in the church cemetery. The congregation built a parsonage in 1895~1896 during his pastorate. Pastor Rosenwinkel also taught in the school. Church records state that the pastor’s annual salary was \$438.

Construction and Dedication of a Second Church Building

In the spring of 1902, the Rev. William Schneider took charge of the pastorate. Under his leadership a second church was built in 1903. When the cornerstone was laid on June 28, 1903, the following information was placed into it:



With the help of God we have come so far that we can lay the cornerstone for our new church building. God be praised for His past mercies. May he help us also in the future. If we look back at the founding and development of our congregation, we find little in the line of documentation, except that which is entered in the Churchbook of St. Peter Church. We are told about our founding, the reason for it, and are also given the date of founding. On November 29, 1868, the First Sunday in Advent, the St. Peter Congregation held a regular business meeting in which some men from the present Woodbury area requested their peaceful release from the St. Peter Congregation so that they could organize a new congregation in Woodbury Township. They said the distance to St. Peter Church and school, as well as bad roads and bad weather, prompted them to make the request. Their request for peaceful dismissal was granted, as was the request that Pastor Ottomar Cloeter serve them in their new parish. The very next Sunday, December 6, 1868, the Second Sunday in Advent, the first service was conducted here. (translated from German)

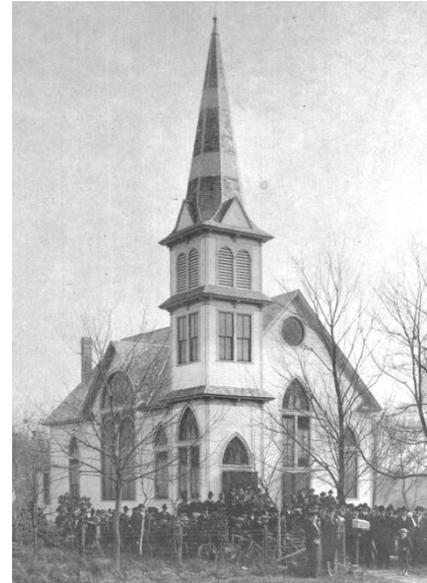
With the blessing of God St. John Church joyfully dedicated its new church edifice on November 1, 1903, the Twenty first Sunday after Trinity. The account of the dedication tells us that the building was “built with peace and lack of accident”. The total cost for construction was about \$5,000. Its dimensions were 56 x 34 x 20 feet high; the tower was 86 feet tall. A bell, with the inscription “HENRY STUCKSTEDE B F CO – ST LOUIS MO - 1903” (“B F CO” stands



for Bell Foundry Company), was hung in the steeple (currently located in the bell tower at the present church). Also inscribed on this bell are these words: “EV LUTH JOHANNIS KIRCHE – EHRE SEI GOTT IN DER HOEHE UND FRIEDE AUF ERDE” (English translation from German: “Ev[angelical] Luth[eran] John Church - Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth”). The congregation placed a beautiful altar with a statue of Jesus in the sanctuary.

Many people from neighboring parishes were present for the dedication. The weather was ideal—a real gift of God. Pastor William F. G. Schneider officiated at the transfer of the keys, the door opening, and the dedication ceremonies. The Rev. Henry Schulz, Vice President of the Minnesota-Dakota District, of Faribault preached in German in the morning. The Rev. A. H. Kuntz of St. Stephanus in Saint Paul preached in German in the afternoon, and Dr. Carl Abbetmeyer of Concordia College preached in English. The Rev. Herman Meyer of St. Paul conducted a German service in the evening.

The church was lit by gas (not gasoline) lights. One large fixture hung over the sanctuary and another over the chancel. The annual Christmas tree was decorated with real candles. On the grounds around the church there were open stables (in which were kept supplies of hay and oats) in which the parishioners could tie up their horses while at church. It is reported that after automobiles replaced the animals, people parked their cars in the stalls.



The following year St. John had the joy of dedicating to the glory of God a new school building in which its children could be trained to live as children of God and to be useful citizens of this glorious country. What made the accomplishment especially thrilling was the fact that the members did most of the construction work themselves. Dimensions of the building were 22 x 38 x 12 feet high. It even had a small tower. The building was officially dedicated in the afternoon of September 25, 1904, at which service Professor Carl J. Heuer of Concordia College, St. Paul, preached the dedication sermon on Christian education. The dedication rite itself was performed by the Rev. William F. G. Schneider, who was also the school teacher. On the day following dedication the school day opened with a devotion, consisting of a hymn, a Scripture reading, and a prayer, as was the daily custom.



In August of 1905 a very destructive hailstorm swept through the area, doing severe damage to the new church building. Because of that occurrence and an economic recession, the year following was especially trying for the parish. However, the congregation “rejoiced and grew in the blessing of peace and harmony.”

On June 4, 1911, Pastor Schneider was given his peaceful release to accept the divine call to Trinity Church, Waconia. He preached his farewell sermon on July 16th of that same year.

In the fall of 1911 the Rev. Carl W. Nickels of Rochester, Minnesota, became the fifth pastor, serving in that capacity and as school teacher for the fifteen years. During this time, on April 18, 1918, a group of dedicated women met at the home of Mrs. Henry Goerss for the purpose of organizing a Ladies Aid (now the Lutheran Women's Missionary League). For many years (100 years in 2018) this organization has met regularly and engaged in many acts of service within our church and community and supported mission work worldwide.

After the death of Pastor Nickels, a call was extended to Pastor R. Paul Jank, who accepted and served from 1926 until the spring of 1929. He also taught in the school. The English language was first introduced in worship services during this period.

The Rev. Paul Zitzman of Lipton, Saskatchewan, was installed as pastor on June 2, 1929, and served until 1948, also as school teacher. The congregation closed its school in 1948. The St. John's Young People Society was organized by Pastor Zitzman and continues to this day as the Youth Group. Religious instruction for the children of the congregation during release time from the public school was introduced.

Renovation and Rededication of the Second Church Building

1940 was an eventful year. During the summer a powerful hail storm severely damaged the church. It was decided to completely renovate the building. The following is an account of the event from an issue of the *Lutheran Home Journal*:

The second Sunday in October [the 13th] brought particular joy to the members of St. John Congregation in Washington County as they gathered with friends and relatives to re-dedicate their church after a complete renovation of the interior. By a severe hail storm all the glass on the north side had been broken. Two large windows whose frames were in need of repair were replaced by four windows of the same size as the other windows in the church. This improvement necessitated a refinishing of the walls and ceiling. The ceiling was covered with Nu-wood in white tile and the walls were finished with sheet rock. The Ladies Aid furnished a carpet for the chancel and the main aisle and the Young People's Society two electric candelabra. A new furnace also was installed in the church and the church, the school and the parsonage were wired for electric light.

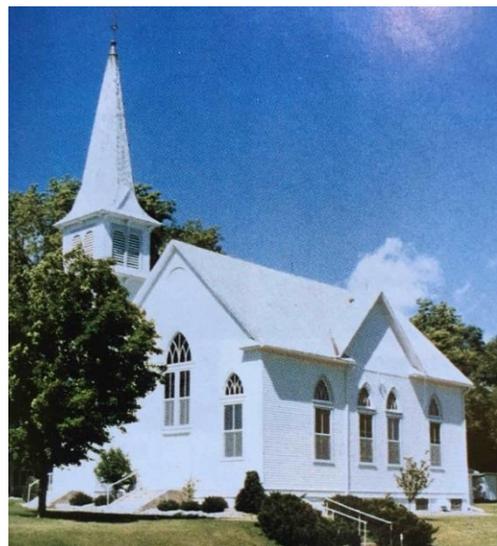
Three services were conducted. Pastor Wm. Schneider, during whose pastorate the church was built in 1902, preached in the morning service. The Pastors Herbert Lietzau and W. Stolper spoke in the afternoon service, English and German respectively, and Pastor E. Schmidt delivered an English sermon at the evening service.

At the annual meeting in 1944, it was decided to tear down the barn and build a double garage onto the house. It is also noted that in July 1944 Mr. Fred Stabenow retired as church organist after nearly fifty years of service. Mr. Clarence "Bud" Urtel followed as church organist and served in that position until 1979. The salary for the organist was raised from \$40 to \$60 a year.

Pastor Carl J. Nuernberg, who was pastor of St. Peter in Afton (1945-1964), served as vacancy pastor of St. John from 1948 until his retirement in 1964.

The publication of a monthly newsletter was begun in January 1950.

It was in 1951 that men of our congregation became interested in the work of the Lutheran Laymen's League. They joined, not as a Men's Club but as individuals, to help further the work of the kingdom.



In February of that year an organ was purchased at the cost of \$2,611.

In 1952 worship services in the German language were discontinued. In 1955 the use of an envelope offering system was initiated.

In 1956 a new basement was completed and equipped with kitchen facilities. The excavation was done by horses. The secretary book records the following: "It was decided to have a congregational Christmas party to initiate the new basement on Sunday, December 23, 1956."

In May 1958 the schoolhouse was sold and moved to 3714 Brookview Road. During the years of 1960-1961 the interior of the church was painted, a tile floor and carpet were laid, and a communion rail was installed.

On July 12, 1964, Pastor Ernest H. Kanning, from Ontario, Canada, became the pastor and served until 1970. He also served concurrently as pastor of St. Peter in Afton.

In 1967 the steeple was lighted as a memorial to Orville Heins.

100th Anniversary

The Centennial of St. John, together with the 65th anniversary of the building of church, was celebrated on November 3, 1968. The 50th anniversary of the founding of the Ladies' Aid was also commemorated. The Rev. Paul Jank, a former pastor residing in Shawano, Wisconsin, preached in the morning worship service, and the Rev. Arnold Meyer of the District Office delivered the sermon in the afternoon. At the time of the 100th anniversary the congregation numbered 125 members, consisting of 71 adults and 54 dependent children.

The motto for the celebration was Psalm 90, verse 1: "LORD, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations." The anniversary booklet for the centennial celebration closes with these words:

Even though served by various pastors, and going through its periods of weal and woe, as is common to individual Christians, the tender plant known as St. John Church grew into a mighty tree under whose shade many precious souls, under the blessings of God, were privileged to find comfort, strength, and edification. It is our privilege, by the grace of God, to be able to mark this year of nineteen hundred sixty eight as the Centennial Anniversary of St. John Congregation.

The postal address of the church changed from Route 1, Lake Elmo, to 1975 St. John's Drive, Woodbury, about this time.

The Rev. Traugott Rehwaldt was the pastor from 1970 to 1974. He was followed by the Rev. William Wenger, who served from 1974 to 1982. His son John and his wife Pam are currently members of St. John. From 1983 to 1984 the Rev. Roger Drews was pastor. Vacancy pastors between were the Rev. Maurice Ellwein and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Trapp. The Rev. Norman Steinke became pastor in 1985, serving until 1994. After that, the Rev. John Strohschein served as vacancy pastor for almost two years.

In 1987 the church and cemetery were one of the locations for the movie *Rachel River*, a comedy-drama film about a young journalist who returns to her Minnesota home town to re-examine her life. It starred Pamela Reed, Ailene Cole, Don Cosgove, and Craig Nelson. (The church can be seen in the trailer for the film, which can be accessed on YouTube.)

Relocation and Dedication of the Third Church Building

By the early 1980s it was evident that St. John needed to expand to meet the needs of the growing and changing congregation. At the annual meeting of the congregation in January 1988 a planning committee was appointed. It was authorized to hire an architect/consultant to do a feasibility study on expansion of the worship facilities at its present location or if that was not feasible, then to look into the possibility of relocating.

In 1989 plans were made to erect a new church building on nine acres of land on the northeast corner of Valley Creek Road and St. John's Drive. This choice piece of property (once

a part of the Lindeman farm) had been generously donated by a member of the congregation, Maryldine "Scoop" Lindeman (who later married Allen Stoltzmann). The new building included a sanctuary, a narthex, a fellowship hall, Sunday School classrooms, a nursery, and offices. The cost was \$682,000. The bell from the steeple of the old church was moved to a free-standing tower at the new location; the statue of Jesus from altar was placed in the narthex in an alcove above the entry to the sanctuary and the altar was placed in temporary storage until 2001 (at which time both were relocated to the chapel). This church building was dedicated to the Glory of God on December 10, 1989. The Rev. Norman Steinke



was the officiant. The Rev. Dr. Dr. Ottomar H. Cloeter, President of the Minnesota South District and grandson of the first pastor of St. John, preached at the morning service. The Rev. Jeffrey Miller, Assistant to the District President for Missions, preached in the afternoon. In addition to the choir, the Urtel Quartet (Clarence "Bud" and sons Steven, Rodney, and Randall) provided special music. Don Lindeman was the president of the congregation, and Bruce Lindeman was the chairman of the building committee.

The 125th Anniversary of St. John was celebrated on December 5, 1993. The Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, Lutheran Hour Speaker, preached at the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services.

The Rev. Jonathan Marxhausen was installed as pastor in 1996, serving until 2004. The Rev. Guy Vogel was engaged as visitation pastor during 2002. Aimee (Bruening) Schutz was installed as Director of Christian Education in 2002. She served in that position until 2008.

In August 1996 a house at 2432 Lamplight Drive in Woodbury was purchased for \$130,500 to be used as a parsonage. Pastor Marxhausen and his family lived there, followed by DCE Aimee Schutz and her family. It was sold in 2008.

In 1997 stained glass windows were placed in the sanctuary.

In August 1999 the congregation authorized an exploratory committee to consider organizing a Christian day school together with St. Peter Lutheran in Afton, Woodbury Lutheran, and Risen Christ Lutheran in Stillwater. A feasibility study was completed in 2001. The proposal was to open Living Word Academy in 2002. The plan was never implemented.

Addition of the Education Wing

The year 2000 brought more changes. The congregation had grown to about 400 communicant members. Classroom space was needed, so an 8,000-square-foot addition was built at a cost of about \$600,000. Beside classrooms, it included a fireside room, a youth room, a chapel, and more office space. It was built by Laborers for Christ, a ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod which serves as a contractor and provides volunteer workers for building projects. The altar from the former church building was placed in the chapel. The addition was dedicated on January 14, 2001. The Rev. Dr. Lane Seitz, President of the Minnesota South District preached the sermon. An open house for the community was held in the afternoon. With the construction of the new wing, the Metropolitan Council required connection to city water and sewer, which cost an additional \$150,000.

The Rev. Vic Meyr was the interim pastor from 2004 through 2006. On September 24, 2006, the Rev. Neldo Schmidt, who had been born, raised, and trained in Brazil, was installed as pastor. He served until the summer of 2017, having taken a call to San Antonio, Texas.

On September 30, 2007, the congregation dedicated the "Welcoming Christ" bronze statue in the narthex in the alcove. Cast in Ortisei, Italy, it was given in memory of Ronald Naatz. It replaced the statue of Jesus, which in 2001 had been moved to its original location in the old

altar in the chapel.

A screen and projector were installed in the sanctuary in the summer of 2008. The Welcome Center in the narthex was dedicated in October 2008. It was designed by Dave Bruder, who built it, and by John Wenger, who made the cross. A new church sign facing Valley Creek Road was installed in November of the same year.

St. John celebrated its 140th Anniversary on December 7, 2008. The guest preacher was the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Klaus, Lutheran Hour Speaker. At noon a catered lunch was served.

A new Rogers Organ was installed May 3 through 7 in 2010 and dedicated on September 12, 2010.

The weather-worn tombstones in St. John Cemetery, located on the site of the old church building, date back to 1871. On October 26, 2014, the congregation dedicated a Gathering Plaza and a Columbarium at the cemetery. Family and friends can now gather beneath a nine-foot tall cross for the committal service or for quiet reflection of those interred there.

After serving as vacancy pastor, the Rev. David Larson was installed as pastor on April 8, 2018. Others on the staff are Mary Jo Mehrl, Director of Music and Worship, who began her service on September 11, 2011, and Kristie Bulhuis, Secretary, who was hired in 2007.

150th Anniversary

The year 2018 marks the 150th Anniversary of the founding of St. John Lutheran Church. The theme for the yearlong celebration is “Blessed to be a Blessing”. A banner was dedicated on January 14. “Blessed to be a Blessing to the Nations” was the focus during the worship service on January 28. The preacher was the Rev. Dr. Brent Smith of LCMS Mission Development. Members of the congregation pledged their support of two missionaries, Kayla Hoem, who is serving in Spain, and Sarah Kanoy, who is serving in Africa. April 29th was Founders Day; the emphasis was “Blessed to be a Blessing by Our Forefathers”. The guest preacher was the Rev. Norman Steinke, a former pastor. On June 3rd the congregation recognized its involvement in community activities and ministries under the theme of “Blessed to be a Blessing to our Community”. On September 9th the spotlight was on the future, emphasizing that St. John is “Blessed to be a Blessing to our Children”. On December 8th and 9th the members engaged in a “Celebration of 150 Years of Blessings”. On Saturday evening there was a banquet at the Red Barn in Cottage Grove, with Kevin Bonine as speaker. The guest preacher for the Sunday morning worship services was the Rev. Neldo Schmidt, a former pastor.

Wilmer Schmidt has been a member of St. John for the longest period of time. Born in 1928 he was baptized by Pastor Jank and confirmed by Pastor Zitzman. He and Tillie were married by Pastor Nuernberg. Next in longevity was Don Lindeman, who had been a member since his birth in 1933; he entered his eternal home on June 17, 2018.

December 9, 2018

SOLA DEI GLORIA

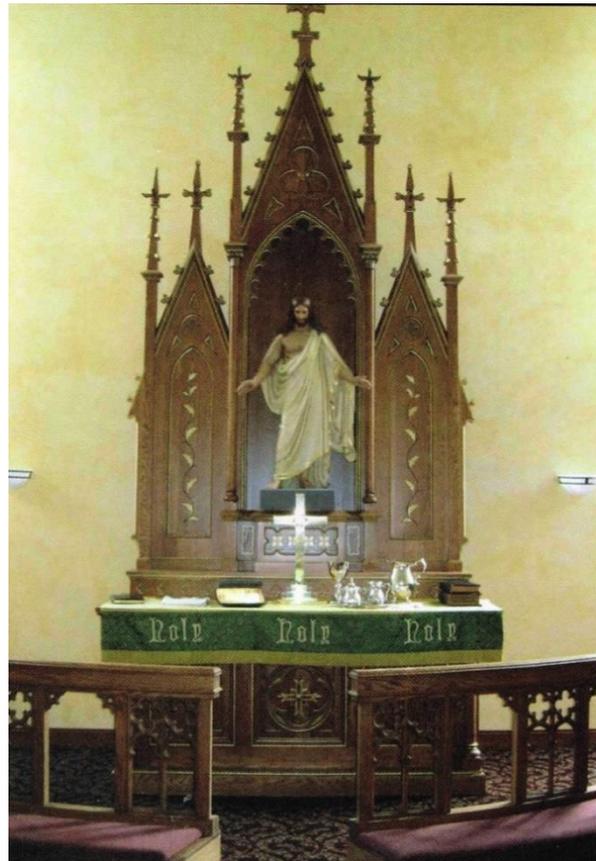
THE OLD ALTAR AT ST. JOHN

In 1903, when the second church for St. John Lutheran Church was built, the congregation installed a beautiful altar with a statue of Jesus. The congregation worshipped God at that altar and countless special services of baptism, confirmation, communion, marriage, and burial were performed there for the following 86 years.

In 1989, after the current church building had been built, the congregation placed the statue of Jesus in the narthex in the alcove above the entry to the sanctuary and put the altar in storage in the Miller Barn (now a historical landmark located in the Valley Creek Open Space near the junction of Valley Creek Road and Settler's Ridge Parkway). No one knew with certainty when or how the altar would be used in the future, but all acknowledged its importance in the congregation's life and the need to preserve it.

In 2001, when the church was remodeled and expanded for additional education space, a chapel was added to accommodate the old altar and reconnect the congregation to its earlier history. The pews, the communion rail, and the baptismal font, as well as the paraments and the altar from the 1903 building, were also placed in the chapel. The statue of Jesus was returned to its original location. Members who had purchased antiquated pews in 1989 donated them back to the church. Before placement in the chapel, they were shortened and refinished.

In 2008, in time for the celebration of the 140th Anniversary of St. John, a group of members lovingly and beautifully restored the altar to almost better than new condition. They removed old varnish, repaired seams damaged by age, replaced broken ornamental wood parts, refinished the altar in a beautiful natural wood color, and repainted the gold trim. Their efforts again showed the congregation's love for God and dedication to His word.



THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS OF ST. JOHN

The stain glass windows were dedicated to the Glory of God in loving memory of Pastor Bill and Berniece Wenger on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 1998. Funding was provided by monies from Pastor Bill and Berniece's bequest to the church and generous support from Don Lindeman, Gladys Heins, and Bob and Kay Meyers.

The windows depict six of the I AM quotations as recorded in the Gospel according to the apostle St. John. The panels of the east windows from the left to the right reflect the statements, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD", "I AM THE DOOR", "I AM THE VINE". The panels of the west windows from left to right reflect the statements, "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE", "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD", "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE".

After discussing the possibilities, Pastor Wenger's son John and the Wenger family agreed with the suggestion that stained glass windows could be purchased to replace the six windows that existed, three on each side of the sanctuary. Cost comparisons and workmanship were obtained from two companies. It was decided to use the Liturgical Environments Company, based in Hayward, WI.

It was made known that Pastor Wenger's favorite verse was taken from Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Pastor Jon Marxhausen guided both John and wife Pam in focusing on the "I Am" verses so prominent in John's gospel. It was felt the chosen verses spoke to Pastor's Wenger's love for the verse from Ephesians. The stain glass company chosen had much to offer to obtain the "I AM" meaning in art to each window.

The explanation of the window panels from left to right is as follows:

- "I AM the Light of the world." John 8:12
 - The two candles symbolize the two-fold nature of Jesus—the human and the Godly.
- "I AM the Good Shepherd" John 10-11
 - The grass and flowers depict the 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures." The dove is a well-known symbol of the Holy Spirit, who is one with the Father and the Son in the Trinity.
- "I AM the bread of life." John 6:48
 - The wheat/bread is pictured with the chalice of Communion, as recorded in Luke 22. "This is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me. This cup is the New Testament in my blood which is shed for you."
- "I AM the vine." John 15:5
 - "And you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit."
- "I AM the resurrection and the life." John 11:25
 - There is no finer symbol of the resurrection than the butterfly. From the larval stage, which signifies the mortal life of mankind, it becomes chrysalis, to all appearance without life. Then suddenly it bursts the cocoon in which it was sealed and comes forth to soar into the sky with a new body and beautiful wings. The lily, as a symbol of Easter, refers to the fact that a bulb decaying in the soil produces a new bulb, stem, leaves, and flowers, all rising in glory above the dark soil in which the process of death and the release of new life are inseparable, thus signifying the attainment of immortal life though the body perishes.
- "I AM the living water." John 4:10
 - The living water is an assumed "I AM" from the account of Jesus talking with the woman at the well John 4. In verses 10 and 14 Jesus states, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water... Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The upper center windows display the Alpha and the Omega from Rev. 22:13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

PASTORS OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

1868~1893	25 years	The Rev. Ottomar Cloeter (dual parish with St. Peter, Afton)
1893~1896	3 years	The Rev. Theodore Maesse (from Fulda, MN) The Rev. F. R. Sievers (vacancy pastor)
1896~1901	5 years	The Rev. Gustav Rosenwinkel The Rev. Franics Schoknecht (vacancy pastor)
1902~1911	9 years	The Rev. William Schneider
1911~1926	15 years	The Rev. Carl W. Nickels
1926~1929	3 years	The Rev. R. Paul Jank
1929~1948	19 years	The Rev. Paul Zitzman The Rev. Carl J. Nuernberg (vacancy pastor)
1948~1964	16 years	The Rev. Carl J. Nuernberg (dual parish with St. Peter, Afton) The Rev. Nuernberg (vacancy pastor)
1964~1970	6 years	The Rev. Ernest H. Kanning (dual parish with St. Peter, Afton) The Rev. Traugott Rehwaldt (vacancy pastor)
1970~1974	4 years	The Rev. Traugott Rehwaldt The Rev. Traugott Rehwaldt (vacancy pastor)
1974~1982	8 years	The Rev. William A. Wenger The Rev. Maury Ellwein, then the Rev. Dr. Thomas Trapp (vacancy pastors)
1983~1984	1 year	The Rev. Roger Drews The Rev. Maury Ellwein (vacancy pastor)
1985~1994	9 years	The Rev. Norman Steinke The Rev. John Strohschein (vacancy pastor)
1996~2004	8 years	The Rev. Jonathan Marxhausen The Rev. Guy Vogel (visitation pastor, 2002) The Rev. Vic Meyr (interim pastor)
2006~2017	11 years	The Rev. Neldo Schmidt The Rev. David Larson (vacancy pastor)
2018~present		The Rev. David Larson

SCHOOL TEACHERS OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

1873~1876	Christian Roloff
1878~1889	Ernst Koenig
1889~1892	Julius Trapp
1893~1896	The Rev. Theodore Maesse
1896~1901	The Rev. Gustav Rosenwinkel (assisted by Mrs. Rosenwinkel)
1902~1911	The Rev. William Schneider
1911~1926	The Rev. Carl W. Nickels

1926~1929 The Rev. R. Paul Jank
1929~1948 The Rev. Paul Zitzman

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2002~2008 Aimee (Bruening) Schutz

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

2011~present Mary Jo Mehrl

EXPLANATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY LOGO

In the center of the banner is the Luther Rose, which proclaims our Lutheran identity.

The sunburst is a ray of liturgical colors. The colors direct us to see the light of life, Jesus Christ. They serve to communicate the message of salvation.

GOLD signifies the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Who gives our lives meaning and worth. Jesus is worthy of our praise as we adorn His altar with the color of splendor.

The color RED communicates the strength and power given to us by the Holy Spirit. It is used on Pentecost Sunday, Reformation Sunday, dedications and anniversaries, and celebrations of ordinations and installations.

PURPLE is a penitential season of Lent to represent penitence and prayer.

The color GREEN is used Pentecost seasons, the year. Epiphany focuses on revelation to the Gentiles and Gospel. Green is also a color life. Growing in faith and love Pentecost cycle.

BLUE is used during the waiting and watching, and hope—hope fixated on the

BLACK is the absence of Wednesday call for sober redemption. Without Christ's would be no bright light of new life in Christ to enjoy and

WHITE is the color of purity and completeness. It is used from Christmas Eve through Epiphany Sunday, on Transfiguration Sunday, and during the Sundays of Easter.



color. It is used during the somberness and solemnity,

during the Epiphany and longest seasons of the church the message of Christ's our mission to spread the symbolic of growth and new is the emphasis during the

season of Advent, a time of communicates the message of Promised Messiah.

light. Good Friday and Ash reflection on the cost of our sacrifice on Good Friday, there Christ to in which to live, nor to share.

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